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PART 1:

FOREIGN-BORN IN NEW YORK STATE

Ellis Island, New York



From 1892 to 1954, over 12 million immigrants entered the United States through the portal of Ellis Island. A small island in New York Harbor, Ellis Island is located in the upper bay just off the New Jersey coast, near the Statue of Liberty. With the New York Harbor being the most popular destination of steamship companies, most immigrants entered the United States through this gateway to the new world during this time. Other ports of entry included Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, San Francisco, Savannah, Miami and New Orleans.

Today, Ellis Island is part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument and the museum receives nearly two million visitors annually. While Ellis Island is no longer an entry point, New York City remains a leading port of entry among the 317 official ports of entry into the United States – including, seaports, airports and land border locations.

Sources: National Park Service, 2006 (Ellis Island); U.S. Customs, 2006 (current ports of entry)

The onset of the twenty-first century, similar to the beginning of the twentieth century, is ushering an era of increasing immigration to the United States. New York City continues to be a leading port of entry and New York State continues to be a leading destination state for immigrants. Today, more than half of all people living in America are descended from immigrants who entered this country through New York (NYC 100, 1997). As the New York State **Touchstones/KIDS COUNT** project aims to monitor and promote the health and well-being of children and families and as the proportion of immigrants continues to grow, it is increasingly important to consider nativity.

This brief covers:

I. Foreign-born Defined

- a. Current scale of immigration

II. Waves of Immigration

- a. Four waves and origins of people
- b. Foreign-born by race and Hispanic origin

III. Foreign-born Characteristics

- a. Leading countries of birth
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- a. Fertility by nativity
- b. Children of immigrants are the fastest growing segment of the child population in the United States
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V. Foreign-born in New York State

- a. Foreign-born increased between 1990 and 2000 in New York State
- b. Place of birth among New York State foreign-born

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The diversity of the foreign-born population in New York State is observable by the residents' self-reported ancestry. In 2000, 85.1 percent of New Yorkers reported a first ancestry. There were over 40 countries or regions represented with at least 10,000 New Yorkers. The "Other groups" category, largely driven by residents reporting Hispanic origins, accounted for 32.9 percent of the reported first ancestries. Italian (14.7%), Irish (10.2%), and German (8.0%) followed with large percentages of first ancestries reported.

First Ancestry Reported: New York State, 2000

	Total:	Percent Reporting
First ancestry reported:	18,976,457	100.0%
Albanian	30,623	0.2%
Arab	104,169	0.6%
Armenian	20,443	0.1%
Austrian	55,855	0.3%
Brazilian	17,086	0.1%
British	42,519	0.3%
Canadian	30,743	0.2%
Croatian	19,045	0.1%
Czech	23,955	0.1%
Czechoslovakian	21,457	0.1%
Danish	22,764	0.1%
Dutch	135,648	0.8%
Eastern European	58,067	0.4%
English	692,897	4.3%
European	83,697	0.5%
Finnish	10,799	0.1%
French (except Basque)	269,914	1.7%
French Canadian	111,582	0.7%
German	1,292,557	8.0%
Greek	137,051	0.8%
Guyanese	101,799	0.6%
Hungarian	89,572	0.6%
Iranian	21,604	0.1%
Irish	1,641,802	10.2%
Israeli	27,556	0.2%
Italian	2,371,292	14.7%
Lithuanian	30,882	0.2%
Norwegian	60,346	0.4%
Polish	704,516	4.4%
Portuguese	34,282	0.2%
Romanian	37,233	0.2%
Russian	365,673	2.3%
Scotch-Irish	100,382	0.6%
Scottish	127,815	0.8%
Slovak	24,377	0.2%
Subsaharan African	158,175	1.0%
Swedish	78,901	0.5%
Swiss	22,755	0.1%
Turkish	20,436	0.1%
Ukrainian	117,123	0.7%
United States or American	717,234	4.4%
Welsh	40,713	0.3%
West Indian (not Hispanic)	650,910	4.0%
Yugoslavian	25,674	0.2%
Other groups	5,317,010	32.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census (SF3)

Foreign-born Defined

During a typical day, New Yorkers could have quiche for breakfast, wonton soup for lunch, tortillas for dinner, and espresso and black forest cake for dessert. The familiarity with these foods from assorted countries of origin is but one example of how immigrants contribute to New York State's richness and diversity. New York State, like the United States, reflects the countless influences of immigrants—from food, to attire, to the arts and sciences, to religion and architecture. The history, composition and future of New York State are all directly related to immigration as New York City continues to be a leading port of entry and New York State continues to be a leading destination state for immigrants. Further, the onset of the twenty-first century, similar to the beginning of the twentieth century, is ushering an era of increasing immigration to the United States.

As the New York State **Touchstones/KIDS COUNT** project aims to monitor and promote the health and well-being of children and families and as the proportion of immigrants continues to grow, it is imperative to consider nativity. While the indicators used in New York State **Touchstones/KIDS COUNT** are not generally available by nativity, this piece intends to bring attention to the importance of immigration for the future growth and well-being of New York State. To understand the current status of the foreign-born in New York State, this summary examines the waves of immigration into the United States and compares the characteristics of the current wave to past waves. Using Census data, New York State data are presented in relation to the overall national status of the foreign-born population.

As defined by United States immigration law, immigrants are persons lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence, called legal permanent residents¹ (LPRs). America's foreign-born population is largely composed of immigrants (72%) but also includes undocumented aliens (more than 20%), and nonimmigrants—those temporarily admitted for specific purposes such as tourists, business travelers and students (approximately 4%) (Martin & Midgley, 1999). In 2004, there were 34.3 million foreign-born in the United States, representing 12.0 percent of the population (U.S. Census, 2004). In New York State, the 3.9 million foreign-born represented 21.0 percent of the population in 2004 (U.S. Census, 2004).

The numbers and percentages reflect the progressively large-scale immigration that has occurred since the enactment of the Immigration Act of 1965 in 1968. Of the foreign-born in 2004, the majority entered the United States since 1990, with 18.3 percent entering the United States since 2000, 32.9 percent entering during the 1990s, 22.9 percent entering in the 1980s, and 25.9 percent entering before 1980 (U.S. Census, 2004). In comparison, a larger percentage of the foreign-born in New York State entered the country before 1990 and a smaller percentage entered since 2000 (see Figure 1).

In New York State, like the U.S. as a whole, the largest percentage of foreign-born in 2004, entered the U.S. between 1990 and 1999 (33.0% and 32.9%, respectively).

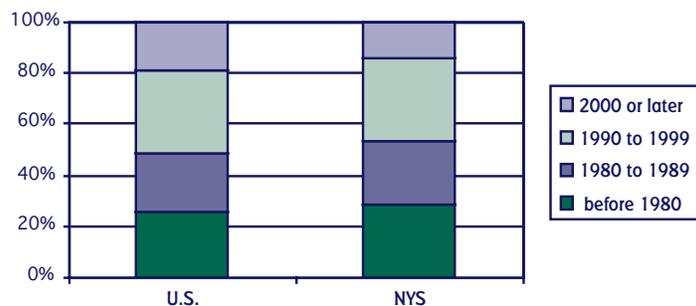


Figure 1. Percentage of Foreign-born Population by Entry Date: United States and New York State, 2004

Source: U.S. Census, 2004 American Community Survey

¹Permanent resident status confers certain rights and responsibilities. For example, LPRs may live and work permanently anywhere in the United States. They may own property in the United States. They may attend public schools, colleges, and universities. They may join certain branches of the Armed Forces. They may also apply to become U.S. citizens if they meet certain eligibility requirements.

Waves of Immigration

As a percentage of the total population, the foreign-born population has steadily increased during this current wave of immigration: from 4.7 percent in 1970 to 6.2 percent in 1980 to 7.9 percent in 1990 (Gibson & Lennon, 1999), to 12.0 percent in 2004. Yet, 100 years earlier, the foreign-born population made up higher percentages of the total population: 14.4 percent in 1870, 14.8 percent in 1890 and 14.7 percent in 1910 (Gibson & Lennon, 1999). The foreign-born population has consistently contributed to a larger portion of the population in New York State compared to the United States (see Figure 2).

While the New York State rate is driven by the large percentage of foreign-born in New York City, Rest of State (New York State minus New York City) also has a sizeable foreign-born population (almost one million in 2000). Even though the number and percentage of foreign-born in Rest of State increased between 1970 and 2000, the proportion dropped below the national proportion as of 1990. In comparison, the difference between the proportion of foreign-born in New York City and the proportion of foreign-born in the United States, in 2000, is greater than at any other decennial point during the twentieth century.

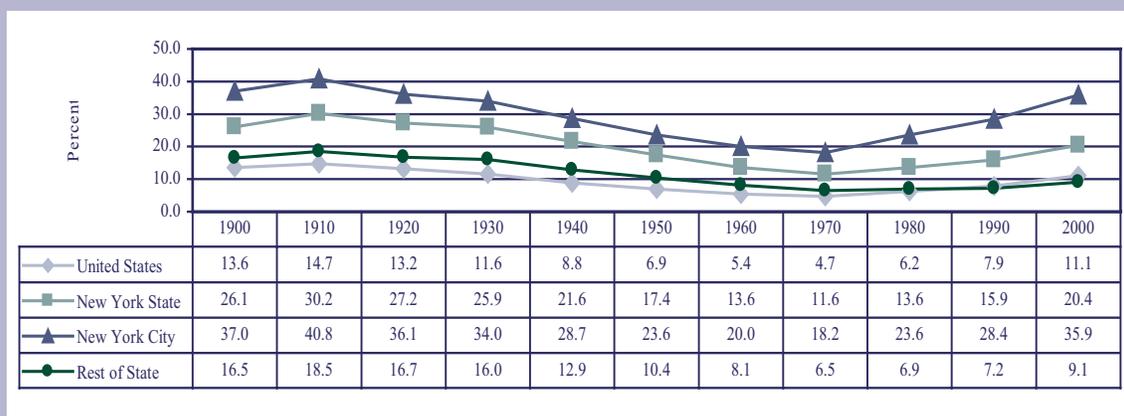


Figure 2. Percentage of Population that is Foreign-born: United States, New York State, New York City and Rest of State, 1900 to 2000

Source: Gibson and Lennon, 2001 (1900 to 1990 data); U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 (2000 data)

During the “book end” decades of the twentieth century, the peak numbers of immigrants reached or neared one million per year. The current wave of immigrants is considered the fourth largest influx of immigrants in U.S. history, and beyond its sheer numbers, it has some unique characteristics. With the current emphasis on family reunification and the elimination of the ban on Asian entry and nationality quotas, immigrants from “new” nations, nations that had been previously limited, restricted or underrepresented, began entering the United States in record numbers. The composition of immigrants has shifted away from the predominant European origins of past waves to Latin American and Asian countries.

The first wave of immigrants, prior to 1820, was largely English but also included Scots, Scots-Irish, Germans, and people from the Netherlands, France, and Spain (Martin & Midgley, 1999). The second wave of immigrants, arriving between 1820 and 1860, were still predominantly from Northern Europe and Great Britain, including German, British, and Irish immigrants. The third wave, between 1880 and 1914, introduced southern and eastern European countries of origins. In 1907, only 19 percent of immigrants were from northern and western Europe and 81 percent were from southern and eastern Europe with the first large numbers of people of Jewish and Eastern Orthodox religions (Martin & Midgley, 1999). In total, more than 20 million southern and eastern Europeans entered the U.S. during this wave and most settled in the eastern and midwestern states and several hundred thousand Chinese, Japanese, and other Asian laborers entered and settled in the western states (Martin & Midgley, 1999). By the 1970s, less than 20 percent of U.S. immigrants were from any part of Europe (Martin & Midgley, 1999).

Foreign-born Race and Hispanic Origin

By 2000, nearly half of the foreign-born population in the U.S. was Hispanic (46%), compared with 8.4 percent of native-born population (Malone et al., 2003). (see Figure 3 for NYS breakdown). Entering the twenty-first century, the number of Hispanics surpassed the number of blacks, making Hispanics the largest minority population in the United States. While the number of Asians entering the country is dwarfed by the number of Hispanics entering the country, Asians experienced the largest relative gain between 1990 and 2000. By 2000, 69 percent of Asians in the U.S. were foreign-born (Malone et al., 2003). (see Figure 4 for NYS race breakdown).

Compared to the United States, New York State has a smaller percentage of foreign-born with Hispanic origin but a larger percentage of natives with Hispanic origin.

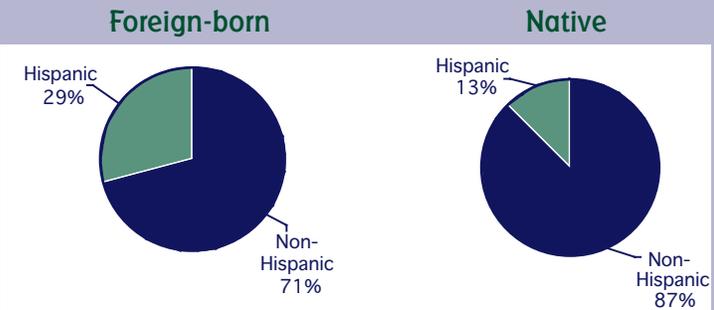


Figure 3. Hispanic Origin by Nativity: New York State, 2004

Source: U. S. Census, 2004 American Community Survey

In 2004, the foreign-born in New York State were less likely than natives to report that they were non-Hispanic white (27.0% vs. 70.0%), but nearly 10 times more likely than natives to report being Asian (22.0% vs. 2.4%, respectively). Foreign-born were also more likely than natives to report that they were some other race (16.0% vs. 5.7%, respectively).

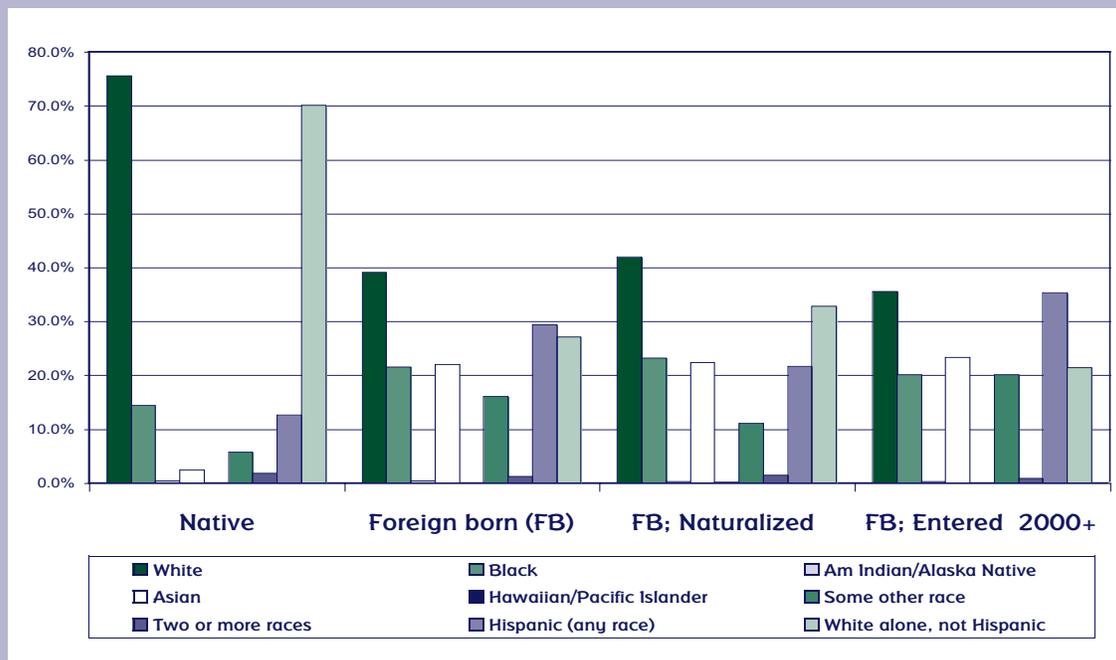


Figure 4. Race² and Hispanic Origin by Nativity: New York State, 2004

Source: U. S. Census, 2004 American Community Survey

²Census 2000 asked respondents to choose one or more races. With the exception of the "Two or more races" group, all race groups discussed in this report refer to people who indicated only one racial identity among the six major categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific, and some other race.

Leading Countries of Birth and Characteristics

Massey (1995) suggests the 1965 Immigration Act was not responsible for the drop in European immigrants or the increase in Latin American immigrants but was directly responsible for the increase in Asian immigrants. Prior to the Act, the magnitude of European immigrants had already shown signs of dwindling. On the other hand, the Act eliminated racial and ethnic discrimination from American immigration law and treated Asians like other immigrants and thereby opened the gates for massive migration (Martin & Midgley, 1999).

In 2004, 946,142 immigrants were admitted for lawful permanent residence in the United States, including 362,221 aliens previously living abroad who obtained immigrant visas through the U.S. Department of State and became lawful permanent residents upon entry into the United States and 583,921 legal immigrants, including former undocumented immigrants, refugees, and asylees, who had been living in the United States and adjusted status through United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The leading five countries of birth for immigrants granted lawful permanent residence in 2004, accounting for 40.8 percent of all U.S. immigrants granted LPRs in 2004, were Mexico (175,364), India (70,116), the Philippines (57,827), China (51,156) and El Salvador (31,514) (USDHS, 2006). Following a similar pattern since 1971, nearly two-thirds (65%) of all legal immigrants, in 2004, had six primary destination states: California (252,920), New York (102,390), Texas (91,799), Florida (75,644), New Jersey (50,303), and Illinois (46,314) (USDHS, 2006).

Leading Countries of Birth

In 2004, more than one-in-four (26.5%) immigrants granted LPRs indicated New York State as their intended state of residence and, unlike the U.S. as a whole, the New York-bound immigrants reported the following five countries of birth:

China (9,262)
Jamaica (5,064)
India (4,872)
Guyana (4,396)
Bangladesh (3,560).

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2006

Undocumented Population

Undocumented or unauthorized migrants are foreigners in the United States with no valid visa. According to estimates developed by the Pew Hispanic Center, using March 2004 Current Population Survey data, approximately 29 percent or 10.3 million of foreign-born residents currently in the United States are undocumented with Mexico being the largest contributing country (57%), followed by other Latin American countries (24%), Asia (9%), Europe and Canada (6%), and other countries (4%) (Passel, 2005). In recent years, approximately 80 to 85 percent of the Mexican migrants are undocumented and as a result, more than half (53%) of Mexicans in the United States, in 2004, were undocumented (Passel, 2005). New York State, with roughly 700,000 undocumented immigrants at the turn of the century, ranks third among the states with the largest undocumented immigrant population (Passel, 2002).

Immigrant Characteristics

Today's immigrants differ from their predecessors, differ among themselves by region of origin, and differ from their native peers. While immigrants are more likely to be working than native-born Americans, as a whole, they have lower-paying jobs and higher poverty rates, especially the more recent immigrants. Average earnings tend to reflect the overall educational level of immigrants and therefore tend to be lower than native-born wages (see Figure 5 for average earnings in NYS by nativity). Upon entry, immigrants tend to earn low salaries (see Figure 6 for poverty levels in NYS by nativity) that do increase as they gain work experience and English language skills (see Figure 7 for ability to speak English in NYS by nativity) (Martin & Midgley, 1999).

Median Earnings, Poverty Levels, and Language Spoken at Home Other than English

In New York State, the median earnings for full-time, year-round workers are lower for both foreign-born men and women compared to their native counterparts.

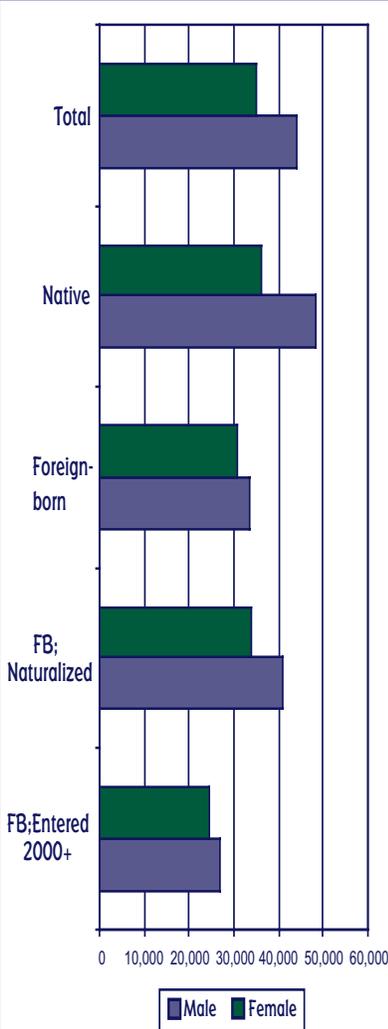


Figure 5. Median Earnings by Nativity and Sex: New York State, 2004

Source: U. S. Census, 2004 American Community Survey

In New York State, native and naturalized foreign-born populations have the same percentage with incomes at or above 150 percent of the poverty rate (79%). Foreign-born entering 2000 or later has the largest percentage of incomes below poverty (22.8%).

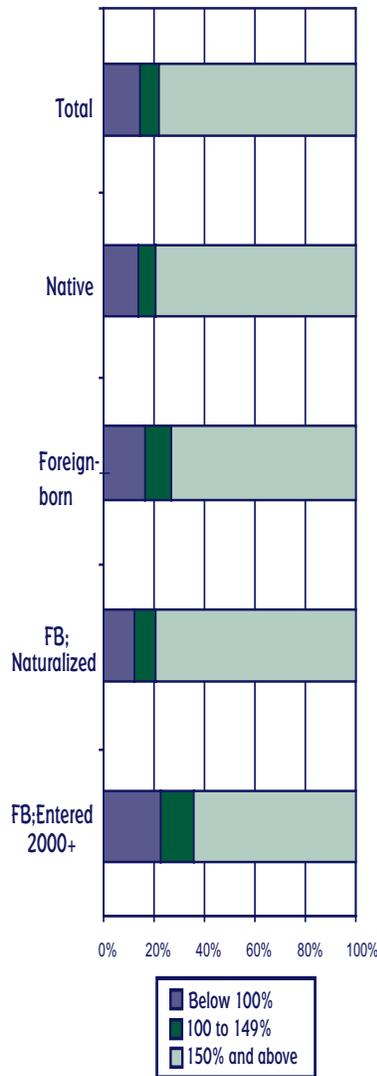


Figure 6. Poverty Levels by Nativity: New York State, 2004

Source: U. S. Census, 2004 American Community Survey

In New York State, 78.8 percent of foreign-born entering the country during or after 2000 spoke a language other than English at home. More than half (56.5%) of these newcomers spoke English less than "very well."

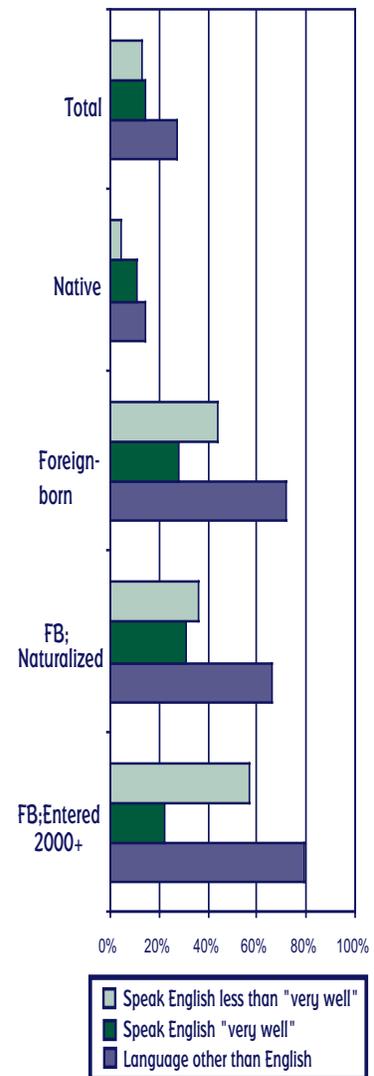


Figure 7. Language Spoken at Home Other than English and Ability to Speak English by Nativity: New York State, 2004

Source: U. S. Census, 2004 American Community Survey

Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment

Overall, the level of educational attainment of immigrants has decreased throughout this current wave. Of the foreign-born 16 years and older who entered the U.S. before 1970, 19 percent had not finished high school compared to 29 percent for those who entered during the 1970s and 35 percent for those who entered between 1990 and 1998 (Martin & Midgley, 1999). The foreign-born population tends to stand out in both the top and bottom educational levels. In 2004, a larger percentage of foreign-born adults over 24 years in the U.S. had graduate or professional degrees compared with native-born Americans (11.1% vs. 9.6%, respectively) but at the same time, more than twice as many foreign-born adults had not finished high school compared to native-born Americans (32.4% vs. 13.2%) (U.S. Census, 2004) (see Figure 8).

In New York State, unlike the U.S. as a whole, the native population has a larger percentage of adults with graduate or professional degrees compared to foreign-born (13.8% vs. 11.3%, respectively) but like the nation, the percentage with less than a high school diploma is significantly greater among foreign-born adults compared to their native peers (30.0% vs. 12.5%, respectively). The foreign-born in New York State entering the U.S. in 2000 or later, however, has a larger percentage of adults with graduate or professional degrees (17.0%) compared to the native population (data not shown).

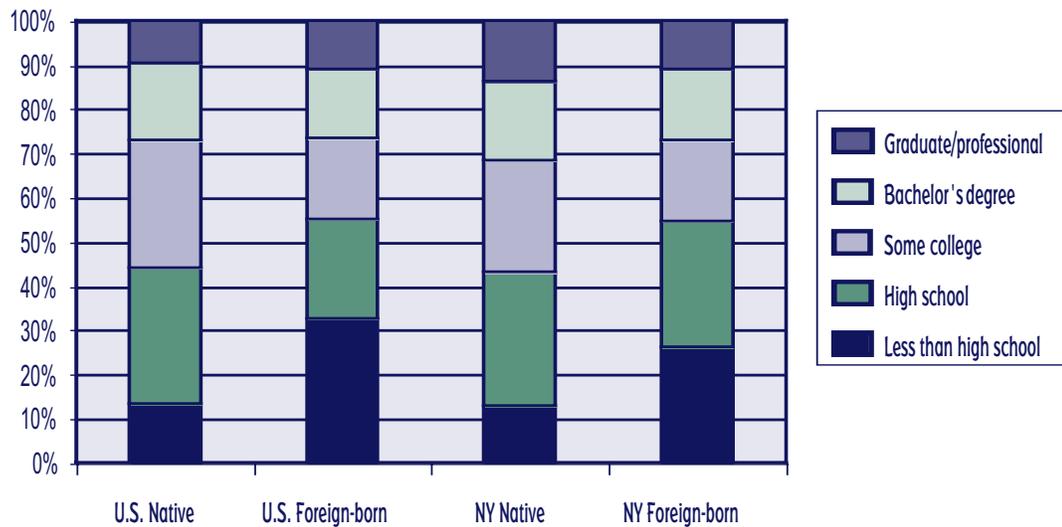


Figure 8. Educational Attainment of Population 25 years and older by Nativity: United States and New York State, 2004

Source: U.S. Census, 2004 American Community Survey

Educational attainment levels vary considerably across places of origin. For instance, foreign-born from Asia, Europe, and Other Regions (87.4%, 84.9%, and 83.5%, respectively) had the highest percentages of high school graduates while the percentage of high school graduates from Latin America was much lower (49.1%), in 2003 (Larson, 2004). Among the foreign-born from Latin America, the percentage of high school graduates ranged from 79.3 percent for those from South America to 37.7 percent for those from Central America (Larson, 2004). Among those that had attained a bachelor's degree or more, the percentage ranged from 50.0 percent for those from Asia to 11.6 percent for those from Latin America, in 2003 (Larson, 2004). Asians have the highest percentage of high educational attainment among the foreign-born and their percentage exceeds that of the native-born (Larsen, 2004).

Age Structure

Age Structure

The age structure of immigrants differs from that of the native population. Of the foreign-born population, in 2003, 80.1 percent were 18 to 64 years of age, whereas 62.4 percent of natives were in this age group (Larsen, 2004). The proportion of foreign-born aged 65 and over was similar to that of the native population (11.0% vs. 12.0%, respectively) (see Figure 9 and 10). In contrast, 8.9 percent of the foreign-born were less than 18 years of age compared to 25.6 percent of the native population (see Figure 9 and 10) (Larsen, 2004).

The small proportion of foreign-born in the youngest age group reflects that most of the children of foreign-born parents are born in the United States and therefore are natives. In fact, almost all (93%) children of immigrants under 6 years are citizens (Capps et al., 2005).

Foreign-born

The aging native-born population exhibits a bulge in the mid-life years, an increasing presence of older age groups and a decreasing presence of younger age groups. The longer life expectancy for women is exhibited in wider bars for women at the older age groups.

Native

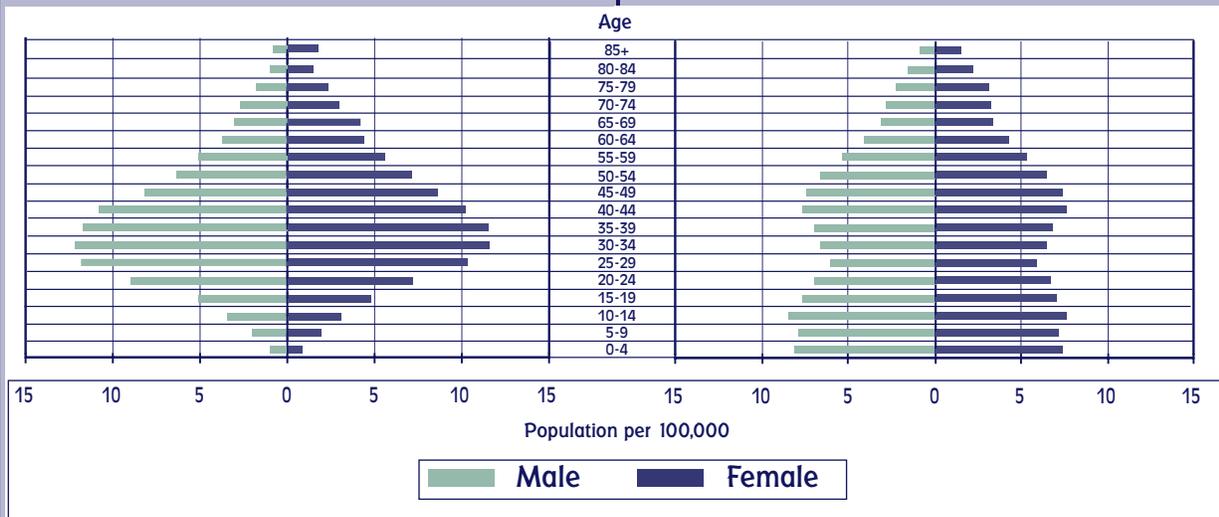


Figure 9. Foreign-born Population Pyramid: United States, 2003

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2003

Figure 10. Native Population Pyramid: United States, 2003

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2003

Future Considerations

This brief demographic summary demonstrates that today's immigrants differ from their predecessors, differ among themselves by region of origin, and differ from their native peers. The earnings, educational attainment, ability to speak English and age structure of immigrants are not only interrelated but also have substantial implications for the future of foreign-born children and families and for children with foreign-born parents in New York State and in the United States as a whole. As an example, the following examines the implications of having a larger proportion of immigrant women in their childbearing years compared to their native counterparts (see Figures 9 and 10).

Fertility by Nativity

Twenty-nine percent of foreign-born women are between the ages of 20 and 34 years, 50.8 percent are between 20 and 44 years and 55.6 percent are between 15 and 44 years, a commonly used age group to measure fertility. In comparison, 20.3 percent, 35.6 percent, and 42.4 percent of native women are between 20 and 34 years, 20 and 44 years and 15 to 44 years, respectively. Immigrant women also tend to have higher fertility rates than natives. According to Hernandez (1999), children of immigrants are the fastest growing segment of the child population in the United States. Children of immigrants make up 22 percent of the population under the age of six years while immigrants are 11 percent of the total population.

Following the baby boom, the U.S. population growth slowed down as a result of the declining fertility rates in the 1960s and 1970s and the sluggish pace of immigration. However, with the existing and anticipated levels of immigration and their slightly higher fertility, the absolute number and relative size of the new immigrant groups have played, and are expected to play, a role in the composition and size of the U.S. population. Since most immigrants are Asians and Hispanics, immigration will have little effect on the steady aging of non-Hispanic white or black populations but will slow the aging of the U.S. Hispanic and Asian populations and will ultimately do little to slow the overall aging of the U.S. population (Martin & Midgley, 1999).

The fertility-related influence of immigration on population size and composition depends on the gap between the immigrant and native-born fertility levels, as well as the persistence of that gap. Immigrant women tend to adjust their fertility levels upon arrival in the destination country (De Vita, 1996). This would thereby decrease the demographic fertility-related impact of immigration.

Fertility Rates By Nativity

In 2004, the fertility rate for foreign-born women was 84 births per 1,000 women 15 to 44 years and 31 first births per 1,000 women. In comparison, the fertility rate for native women was 57 births per 1,000 women 15 to 44 years and 23 first births per 1,000 women (Dye, 2005). Hispanic foreign-born women ages 15 to 44 years had a higher fertility rate (94 births per 1,000 women) than those of non-Hispanic foreign-born women (74 births per 1,000 women). Hispanic foreign-born women are less apt to be childless than non-Hispanic foreign-born (26% vs. 42%) and accounted for 55 percent of births to foreign-born women while representing only 49 percent of foreign-born women in childbearing ages (Dye, 2005). Fertility rates among native Hispanic women were also higher than those of native non-Hispanic women (77 births per 1,000 and 55 births per 1,000, respectively), while their levels of childlessness were not different (Dye, 2005). The relatively higher fertility among Hispanic women ages 20 to 24 years contributed to the difference in overall fertility rates between Hispanic and non-Hispanic native women.

Source: Dye, 2005

Child Dependency Ratio

Since immigration expands both the working-age and child populations, the projected child dependency ratio (the number of people under 18 years per 100 people ages 18-64 years) would be slightly lower in 2050 without immigration than with immigration (42 vs. 44, respectively); but whatever the scenario, the ratio is apt to remain similar to the child dependency ratio in 1995.

Source: Martin & Midgley, 1999

Well-being by Nativity

Well-being by Nativity

Research has demonstrated that the health and well-being of children and families with foreign-born parents are not necessarily explained by the socioeconomic or socio-demographic characteristics of the foreign-born population. For example, foreign-born mothers tend to have lower infant mortality rates compared to their racial or ethnic native-born counterparts (Hummer et al., 1999; Landale, Oropesa & Gorman, 1999). This relationship exists even though foreign-born mothers are at greater socioeconomic risk compared to native-born mothers.

There are, however, serious consequences, such as low performance in school, that are associated with the low earnings, low educational attainment and the limited ability to speak English among the foreign-born population (Capps et al., 2004). Children of immigrants are more likely to be in poor health than children of natives, even when controlling for the greater likelihood of family poverty. Further, the health of children of immigrants has been found to decline more rapidly as they age than does the health of children of natives (Reardon-Anderson, Capps & Fix, 2002).

Research has also demonstrated that children of immigrants fare as well or better than their native peers in behavioral measures but at the same time participate in fewer extracurricular activities and are less likely to work after school (Reardon-Anderson, Capps & Fix, 2002). Immigrant parents tend to be less involved in community activities and are less able to draw on food, health, mental health, and housing assistance in times of need compared to native parents (Reardon-Anderson, Capps & Fix, 2002).

Infant Mortality by Nativity

In 2002, the infant mortality rate for native-born mothers (7.3/1,000 live births) was 43 percent higher than the rate for foreign-born mothers (5.1/1,000 live births). The foreign-born advantage was evident among all race and Hispanic-origin groups for whom infant mortality rates could be calculated (the difference was not significant for Puerto Rican, Cuban, and Central and South American mothers).

Source: Mathews et al., 2004

Challenges for Child Well-being

- ❖ Young children of immigrants have higher levels of economic hardship but lower use of benefits than children of natives.
- ❖ Children of immigrants are more likely to have fair or poor health.
- ❖ Children of immigrants are more likely to lack health insurance or a usual source of health care.
- ❖ Children of immigrants are more often in parental care and less often in center-based child care.

Source: Capps et al., 2004

Some Good News

According to National Survey of America's Family (NSAF) data, children of immigrants fare as well or better than their native peers in measures of behavioral problems, parental aggravation, school engagement, lessons taken after school, and the likelihood of being disciplined at school.

Source: Reardon-Anderson, Capps & Fix, 2002

Foreign-born Population by New York State Counties

Foreign-born in New York State

The number of foreign-born increased 35.6 percent between 1990 and 2000 in New York State (from 2,851,861 in 1990 to 3,868,133 in 2000). As in 1990, the majority of the New York State foreign-born population resided in New York City in 2000 (73% vs. 74%, respectively). Yet, with the growing number of foreign-born, the number of foreign-born has increased across the state (37.8% in NYC and 29.7% in Rest of State). Between 1990 and 2000, the foreign-born population increased by 10 percent or more in 31 counties (see Appendix 1, page 26). Twenty-one counties had an increase greater than 20 percent. By 2000, Oneida, Broome, Schenectady and Onondaga Counties joined the 18 counties with the foreign-born population contributing to five percent or more of the total population in 1990, including Ulster, Greene, Albany, Monroe, Sullivan, Orange, Dutchess, Putnam, Tompkins, Suffolk, Richmond, Nassau, Rockland, Westchester, Bronx, New York, Kings, and Queens Counties. Queens County, with over one million foreign-born in 2000, continues to have the largest number and proportion (46%) of foreign-born by county in New York State.

In Bronx, Kings, New York and Queens Counties, the majority of foreign-born reported Latin America as their place of birth (see Appendix 2, page 27). In fact, three-quarters of the foreign-born in Bronx County reported Latin America as their place of birth in 2000. In comparison, only one-quarter of foreign-born in Richmond County, the remaining New York City county, reported Latin America and more than one-third (36%) reported Europe as their place of birth. In 34 counties (55% of all counties), Europe was reported as the place of birth for 40 percent or more of the foreign-born population. The foreign-born in Tompkins County reported the largest proportion of Asians (48.9%), followed by Allegany (43.4%), Broome (40.7%), and Rensselaer (39.5%) Counties. The vast array of countries and regions of origin is but one of the many facets that contributes to the diversity in New York State.

Conclusion

Immigrants have been, are currently and will continue to be an integral component in the demographic composition of New York State. The growth in population between 1990 and 2000 is a direct result of the increase in the foreign-born population. Without the influx of foreign-born, the state would have experienced a decrease in population (Appendix 1). Immigrants contribute to the labor force to the extent that in New York State, immigration is one of two major demographic forces affecting the labor force. The New York State Department of Labor reports that between 2005 and 2020 the labor force will experience slow growth in its overall working-age population (15-64³ years) and a dramatic increase in its population of 55 to 64 years (Jack & Nardone, 2004). The expected continued out-migration by New York residents to other states is a major driving force behind this projected slow labor force growth. While international immigration is expected to help offset this loss, projections estimate that between 2005 and 2020 the state will experience a net loss of more than 375,000 residents due to out-migration (Jack & Nardone, 2004).

In today's economy, educational attainment is directly linked to employment opportunities and wages earned, as the average earnings for New Yorkers (and U.S. residents in general) consistently increase with each level of attainment (Jack, 2004). As stated earlier, the level of educational attainment of immigrants has decreased throughout this current wave. In New York State, 19 percent of children in immigrant families had parents with less than a high school degree compared with nine percent of children in native-born families in 2002-2004 (AECF, 2006).

For children living in immigrant families, limited language skills and socioeconomic disadvantage compound the cumulative educational challenges. Nearly one out of five children in immigrant families (19%) have difficulty

³While the working-age population is generally reported as 16-64 years, the format used in this research conducted at Cornell University required the analysis of the 15-64 year age group.

Conclusion

speaking English and one out of four (25%) lived in linguistically isolated households in New York State in 2002-2004 (AECF, 2006). Today, there are over 200,000 “Limited English Proficiency” (LEP) students in New York State schools. These students come from a home where a language other than English is spoken and score at or below the 40th percentile on an English language assessment instrument. There are over 160 languages (see Students with Limited English Proficiency, pp. 90-91) spoken by LEP students in New York State, with the majority speaking Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Haitian-Creole and Urdu.

Of the 8,239 Grade 8 LEP students taking the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) in the 2003/04 school year, the performance of nearly one-quarter (1,615 students) of the students demonstrated serious academic deficiencies in their English Language Arts achievement. Another 13.5 percent of these students demonstrated that they needed extra help to meet the standards and pass the Regents examination. Over half (63%) met or exceeded the standards (University of the State of NY, 2005).

In summary, New York State has always been a primary entry point for immigrants and the people of New York State have always reflected the diverse places of birth and magnitude of the immigrant waves. Today, children of immigrants are the fastest growing population of children (Hernandez, 1999). Children of recent immigrants are distinctly different from earlier children of immigrants in a number of demographic characteristics, including parental employment and education, family structure, and race and ethnicity (Elmelech et al., 2002). Compared to native-born children, children of immigrant families are more likely to have parents with low educational attainment, to be poor even if their parents have more than a high school education, to live in families with incomes below poverty even if parents work full-time, and to live in two-parent families with incomes below poverty (Elmelech et al., 2002). While there is substantial variability among immigrant families, many children face economic hardships and language barriers. Despite these disadvantages, children in immigrant families experience some health and adjustment advantages but the advantage tends to deteriorate through time and across generations (Elmelech et al., 2002). As the New York State *Touchstones/KIDS COUNT* project aims to advance the use of children’s health, education and well-being indicators as a tool for policy development, planning and accountability, it is important to bring attention to nativity when considering the future growth and well-being of children and families in New York State.

Next Steps

Clearly, many children in immigrant families are vulnerable and this could be complicated by low enrollment in early care and education programs – the vehicle that could narrow the opportunity and achievement gaps between these children and their peers with native-born parents. Participation in early care and education programs could help these children develop important literacy skills necessary for success in school and help familiarize families with their communities. Given the importance of early care and education programs to the success of low-income children, particularly children in immigrant families, the Council intends to learn more about preschool enrollment rates of children in immigrant families to determine how they vary among immigrant groups as well as how they compare to children in non-immigrant families. Specifically, the Council, with funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT project, will be conducting research to learn about the Pre-K/nursery school enrollment rates of New York’s young children in immigrant families, examine system capacity in areas having low enrollment rates, and learn more about how families make decisions to enroll their children, in order to identify any policy or program barriers that influence participation in early care and education as well as to determine effective outreach strategies that could be employed. This information will be used to develop a set of recommendations that will be shared with the Governor, Commissioners of state agencies, state child advocacy groups and others.

Appendix I. Total, Foreign-born, and Native Population Change between 1990 and 2000: New York State, New York City and Counties

Region	1990			2000			Percent Change		
	Total	Native	Foreign-born	Total	Native	Foreign-born	Total	Native	Foreign-born
New York State	17,990,455	15,138,594	2,851,861	18,976,457	15,108,324	3,868,133	5.5%	-0.2%	35.6%
New York City	7,322,564	5,239,633	2,082,931	8,008,278	5,137,246	2,871,032	9.4%	-2.0%	37.8%
Bronx	1,203,789	928,996	274,793	1,332,650	946,823	385,827	10.7%	1.9%	40.4%
Kings	2,300,664	1,628,095	672,569	2,465,326	1,533,557	931,769	7.2%	-5.8%	38.5%
New York	1,487,536	1,103,670	383,866	1,537,195	1,084,755	452,440	3.3%	-1.7%	17.9%
Queens	1,951,598	1,244,445	707,153	2,229,379	1,201,040	1,028,339	14.2%	-3.5%	45.4%
Richmond	378,977	334,427	44,550	443,728	371,071	72,657	17.1%	11.0%	63.1%
Rest of State	10,667,891	9,898,961	768,930	10,968,179	9,971,078	997,101	2.8%	0.7%	29.7%
Albany	292,594	276,467	16,127	294,565	275,337	19,228	0.7%	-0.4%	19.2%
Allegany	50,470	49,683	787	49,927	49,007	920	-1.1%	-1.4%	16.9%
Broome	212,160	203,055	9,105	200,536	190,000	10,536	-5.5%	-6.4%	15.7%
Cattaraugus	84,234	83,061	1,173	83,955	82,772	1,183	-0.3%	-0.3%	0.9%
Cayuga	82,313	80,040	2,273	81,963	80,107	1,856	-0.4%	0.1%	-18.3%
Chautauqua	141,895	138,697	3,198	139,750	137,107	2,643	-1.5%	-1.1%	-17.4%
Chemung	95,195	92,994	2,201	91,070	89,098	1,972	-4.3%	-4.2%	-10.4%
Chenango	51,768	50,947	821	51,401	50,514	887	-0.7%	-0.8%	8.0%
Clinton	85,969	82,557	3,412	79,894	76,266	3,628	-7.1%	-7.6%	6.3%
Columbia	62,982	60,402	2,580	63,094	60,315	2,779	0.2%	-0.1%	7.7%
Cortland	48,963	47,890	1,073	48,599	47,518	1,081	-0.7%	-0.8%	0.7%
Delaware	47,225	45,917	1,308	48,055	46,407	1,648	1.8%	1.1%	26.0%
Dutchess	259,462	241,443	18,019	280,150	256,550	23,600	8.0%	6.3%	31.0%
Erie	968,532	925,582	42,950	950,265	907,379	42,886	-1.9%	-2.0%	-0.1%
Essex	37,152	35,856	1,296	38,851	37,541	1,310	4.6%	4.7%	1.1%
Franklin	46,540	44,630	1,910	51,134	49,229	1,905	9.9%	10.3%	-0.3%
Fulton	54,191	52,981	1,210	55,073	54,003	1,070	1.6%	1.9%	-11.6%
Genesee	60,060	58,859	1,201	60,370	59,065	1,305	0.5%	0.3%	8.7%
Greene	44,739	41,845	2,894	48,195	45,131	3,064	7.7%	7.9%	5.9%
Hamilton	5,279	5,168	111	5,379	5,297	82	1.9%	2.5%	-26.1%
Herkimer	65,797	64,382	1,415	64,427	63,130	1,297	-2.1%	-1.9%	-8.3%
Jefferson	110,943	107,797	3,146	111,738	107,622	4,116	0.7%	-0.2%	30.8%
Lewis	26,796	26,459	337	26,944	26,639	305	0.6%	0.7%	-9.5%
Livingston	62,372	61,063	1,309	64,328	62,660	1,668	3.1%	2.6%	27.4%
Madison	69,120	67,672	1,448	69,441	67,883	1,558	0.5%	0.3%	7.6%
Monroe	713,968	668,395	45,573	735,343	681,600	53,743	3.0%	2.0%	17.9%
Montgomery	51,981	50,133	1,848	49,708	48,134	1,574	-4.4%	-4.0%	-14.8%
Nassau	1,287,348	1,118,037	169,311	1,334,544	1,096,130	238,414	3.7%	-2.0%	40.8%
Niagara	220,756	211,486	9,270	219,846	211,351	8,495	-0.4%	-0.1%	-8.4%
Oneida	250,836	241,779	9,057	235,469	223,122	12,347	-6.1%	-7.7%	36.3%
Onondaga	468,973	447,376	21,597	458,336	432,407	25,929	-2.3%	-3.3%	20.1%
Ontario	95,101	93,141	1,960	100,224	97,475	2,749	5.4%	4.7%	40.3%
Orange	307,647	285,574	22,073	341,367	312,657	28,710	11.0%	9.5%	30.1%
Orleans	41,846	40,947	899	44,171	42,999	1,172	5.6%	5.0%	30.4%
Oswego	121,771	119,633	2,138	122,377	120,419	1,958	0.5%	0.7%	-8.4%
Otsego	60,517	58,951	1,566	61,676	60,260	1,416	1.9%	2.2%	-9.6%
Putnam	83,941	78,271	5,670	95,745	87,325	8,420	14.1%	11.6%	48.5%
Rensselaer	154,429	148,514	5,915	152,538	146,829	5,709	-1.2%	-1.1%	-3.5%
Rockland	265,475	226,677	38,798	286,753	231,987	54,766	8.0%	2.3%	41.2%
St. Lawrence	111,974	108,107	3,867	111,931	108,131	3,800	0.0%	0.0%	-1.7%
Saratoga	181,276	176,630	4,646	200,635	194,447	6,188	10.7%	10.1%	33.2%
Schenectady	149,285	141,853	7,432	146,555	138,744	7,811	-1.8%	-2.2%	5.1%
Schoharie	31,859	30,948	911	31,582	30,833	749	-0.9%	-0.4%	-17.8%
Schuyler	18,662	18,364	298	19,224	18,994	230	3.0%	3.4%	-22.8%
Seneca	33,683	32,941	742	33,342	32,526	816	-1.0%	-1.3%	10.0%
Steuben	99,088	97,425	1,663	98,726	96,881	1,845	-0.4%	-0.6%	10.9%
Suffolk	1,321,864	1,217,653	104,211	1,419,369	1,260,844	158,525	7.4%	3.5%	52.1%
Sullivan	69,277	64,234	5,043	73,966	68,091	5,875	6.8%	6.0%	16.5%
Tioga	52,337	51,347	990	51,784	50,912	872	-1.1%	-0.8%	-11.9%
Tompkins	94,097	86,097	8,000	96,501	86,335	10,166	2.6%	0.3%	27.1%
Ulster	165,304	155,731	9,573	177,749	167,281	10,468	7.5%	7.4%	9.3%
Warren	59,209	57,563	1,646	63,303	61,762	1,541	6.9%	7.3%	-6.4%
Washington	59,330	58,046	1,284	61,042	59,889	1,153	2.9%	3.2%	-10.2%
Wayne	89,123	87,308	1,815	93,765	91,608	2,157	5.2%	4.9%	18.8%
Westchester	874,866	716,269	158,597	923,459	718,030	205,429	5.6%	0.2%	29.5%
Wyoming	42,507	41,579	928	43,424	42,442	982	2.2%	2.1%	5.8%
Yates	22,810	22,505	305	24,621	24,056	565	7.9%	6.9%	85.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census (SF3); 1990 Decennial Census (STF 3)

Appendix 2. Foreign-born by Percentage of Place of Birth: United States, New York State, New York Counties, 2000

	Total Foreign-born	Europe	Asia	Africa	Oceania	Latin America	North America
United States	31,107,889	15.8	26.4	2.8	0.5	51.7	2.7
New York State	3,868,133	22.7	23.7	3.0	0.2	48.9	1.4
New York City	2,871,032	19.4	23.9	3.2	0.2	52.6	0.6
Bronx	385,827	10.5	7.4	6.7	0.0	75.1	0.3
Kings	931,769	25.6	19.7	2.5	0.1	51.6	0.5
New York	452,440	18.4	27.1	3.5	0.7	48.4	1.9
Queens	1,028,339	16.4	32.2	2.0	0.1	49.0	0.3
Richmond	72,657	36.0	27.9	9.8	0.2	25.3	0.8
Rest of State	997,101	32.3	23.1	2.5	0.3	38.1	3.8
Albany	19,228	35.4	34.6	6.2	0.4	17.7	5.7
Allegany	920	30.1	43.4	3.2	0.0	11.3	12.1
Broome	10,536	40.0	40.7	3.8	0.4	11.2	3.9
Cattaraugus	1,183	42.5	28.5	2.3	0.2	6.7	19.9
Cayuga	1,856	48.9	18.0	1.4	0.9	21.8	9.0
Chautauqua	2,643	49.9	15.5	0.7	1.6	21.1	11.3
Chemung	1,972	42.5	33.2	0.9	0.4	17.0	6.0
Chenango	887	59.3	20.2	0.2	0.0	6.7	13.6
Clinton	3,628	22.6	17.8	2.4	0.5	18.7	38.1
Columbia	2,779	55.2	14.5	1.1	0.8	22.3	6.1
Cortland	1,081	69.8	8.3	0.0	0.6	10.1	11.1
Delaware	1,648	67.7	14.5	0.7	0.2	12.1	4.9
Dutchess	23,600	36.9	24.3	2.8	0.2	33.5	2.3
Erie	42,886	44.8	28.1	4.2	0.3	9.4	13.2
Essex	1,310	39.9	12.7	0.0	0.7	27.6	19.1
Franklin	1,905	16.3	3.9	0.4	0.0	36.3	43.1
Fulton	1,070	62.5	21.9	0.7	0.0	5.5	9.4
Genesee	1,305	40.2	19.1	1.6	0.0	22.1	17.0
Greene	3,064	67.7	7.5	1.4	0.4	19.2	3.8
Hamilton	82	64.6	6.1	0.0	0.0	6.1	23.2
Herkimer	1,297	70.2	17.7	2.9	0.5	2.3	6.4
Jefferson	4,116	28.1	19.5	2.8	0.8	30.1	18.8
Lewis	305	32.8	13.8	2.0	1.3	9.8	40.3
Livingston	1,668	30.1	30.9	2.0	0.0	25.4	11.6
Madison	1,558	38.2	32.5	1.7	0.5	13.0	14.1
Monroe	53,743	42.5	30.7	4.1	0.3	15.5	6.9
Montgomery	1,574	51.1	16.4	0.3	0.2	28.2	3.7
Nassau	238,414	26.1	24.5	2.1	0.1	46.2	0.9
Niagara	8,495	44.3	12.2	1.6	0.6	7.3	34.0
Oneida	12,347	60.3	21.0	1.3	0.2	12.8	4.3
Onondaga	25,929	41.0	37.6	3.4	0.4	10.2	7.5
Ontario	2,749	47.7	20.4	0.6	0.2	17.1	14.0
Orange	28,710	34.1	16.4	1.5	0.2	45.2	2.5
Orleans	1,172	23.6	6.1	2.5	0.0	56.7	11.2
Oswego	1,958	42.5	21.5	1.7	1.0	17.2	16.1
Otsego	1,416	53.9	15.9	2.8	0.7	15.7	11.0
Putnam	8,420	56.8	11.9	1.1	0.3	27.1	2.9
Rensselaer	5,709	36.8	39.5	3.7	0.4	13.9	5.8
Rockland	54,766	26.4	26.1	2.2	0.1	43.8	1.4
St. Lawrence	3,800	26.4	16.1	1.3	0.8	17.8	37.5
Saratoga	6,188	39.6	32.3	1.6	0.9	12.8	12.8
Schenectady	7,811	46.7	28.6	3.5	0.4	16.7	4.0
Schoharie	749	65.6	10.5	3.1	0.7	15.0	5.2
Schuyler	230	70.9	11.7	0.0	0.9	7.8	8.7
Seneca	816	32.5	22.4	0.5	0.0	14.1	30.5
Steuben	1,845	45.6	31.9	3.4	0.8	10.0	8.3
Suffolk	158,525	29.0	19.7	1.7	0.2	48.0	1.4
Sullivan	5,875	46.1	12.4	1.2	0.7	37.8	1.8
Tioga	872	49.5	28.9	1.0	0.0	13.0	7.6
Tompkins	10,166	27.9	48.9	4.6	0.8	11.6	6.2
Ulster	10,468	47.4	16.9	1.5	1.0	30.2	3.0
Warren	1,541	49.4	23.4	0.1	0.1	7.1	19.9
Washington	1,153	38.8	15.2	0.0	3.1	33.6	9.4
Wayne	2,157	43.2	17.7	0.4	0.4	21.0	17.3
Westchester	205,429	27.5	17.8	2.6	0.3	50.4	1.4
Wyoming	982	23.2	13.1	1.4	0.2	50.9	11.1
Yates	565	55.2	11.7	0.0	1.6	16.6	14.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census (SF3)

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