

The Immigrant Community in North Carolina

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Funded by: Kate B. Reynolds Foundation in collaboration with
the Urban Institute (MPI: Jenny Haley and Hamutal Bernstein)

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CAROLINA
POPULATION CENTER

CAROLINA
DEMOGRAPHY

About Carolina Demography: What We Do



Data Acquisition

We know where to find relevant data and can translate complex information based on the questions you need to answer. (We can also help you determine what questions to answer.)



Custom Population Estimates and Projections

Using Stata, SAS and R, we can project populations or school enrollments that give insight into how your community will shift in the coming years.



Data Analysis and Interpretation

We can identify potential policy responses to demographic change and analyze the impact of current or proposed policies on specific populations.



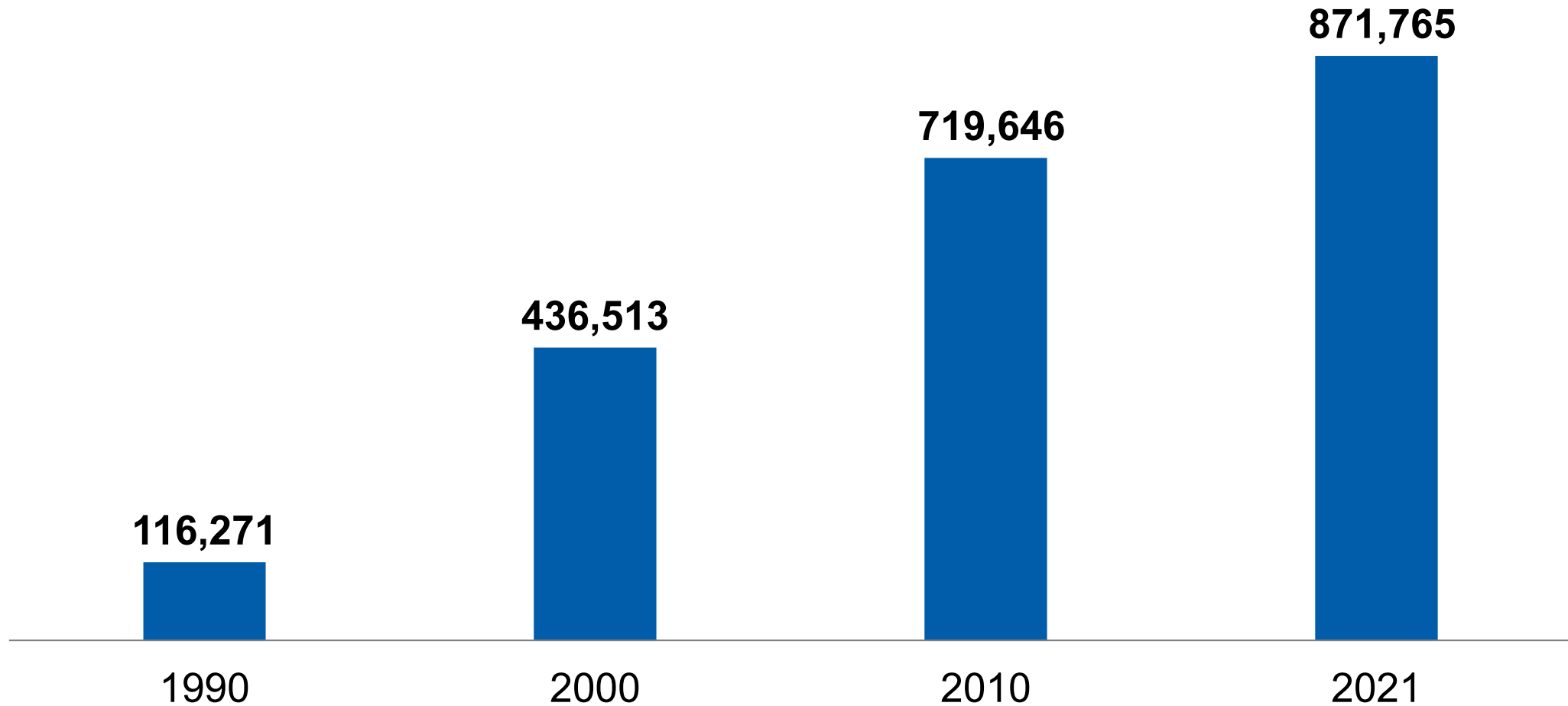
Workshops, Trainings and Presentations

We convene and engage your stakeholders and decision-makers to facilitate understanding and dialogue and strengthen the capacity of your organization to communicate data-driven ideas.

Immigrant population, by the numbers

NC immigrant population over 850K

Number of foreign-born residents in North Carolina, 1990-2021



871,765

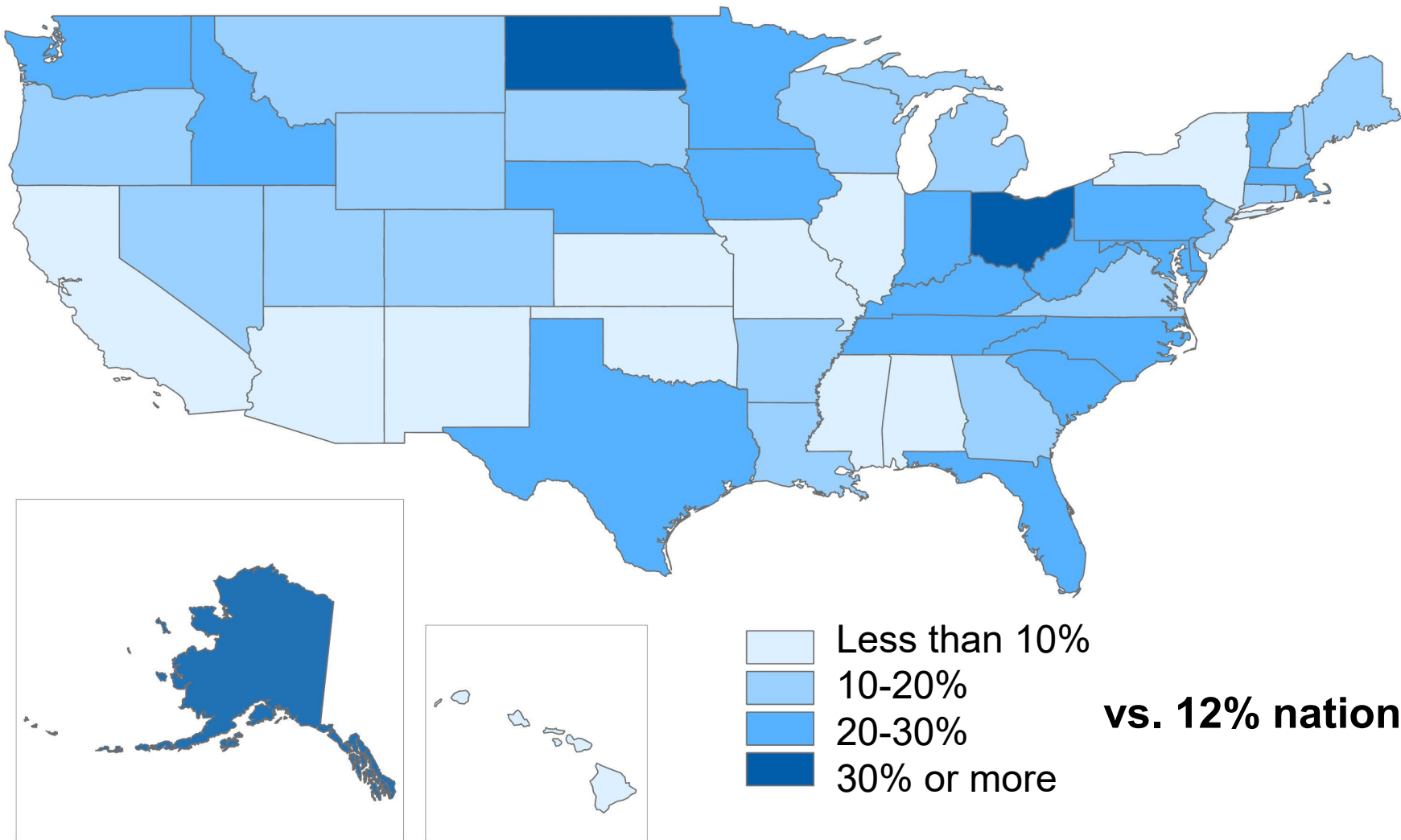
Foreign-born residents in 2021

20%

NC children (ages 0-17) in 2021 who have a foreign-born parent.

NC immigrant population growth above US nationwide

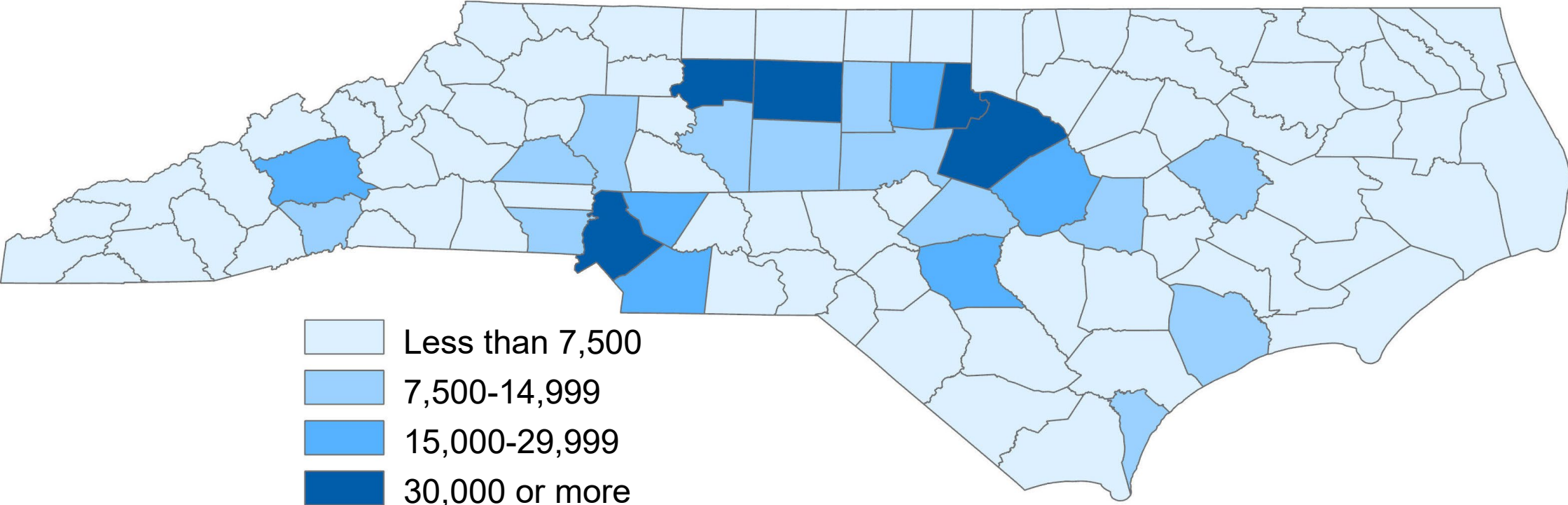
Growth of foreign-born population by state, 2011-2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, IPUMS-USA

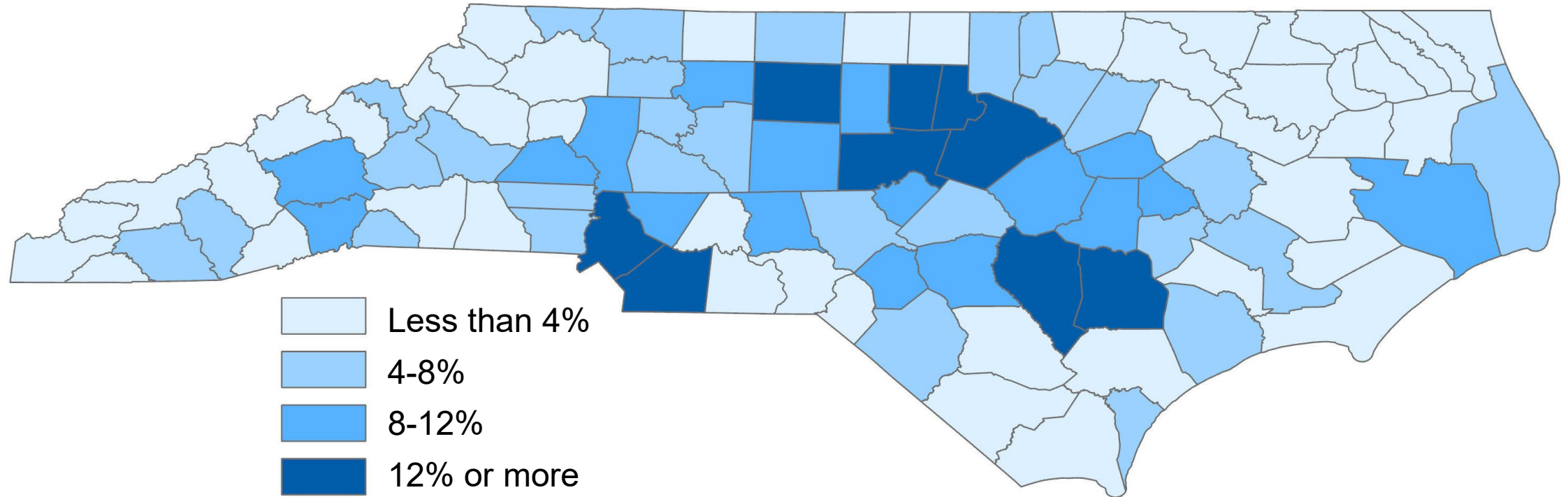
Metro areas home to largest immigrant populations

Total number of foreign-born residents, by county, in 2021



Foreign-born impact felt in both urban and rural areas

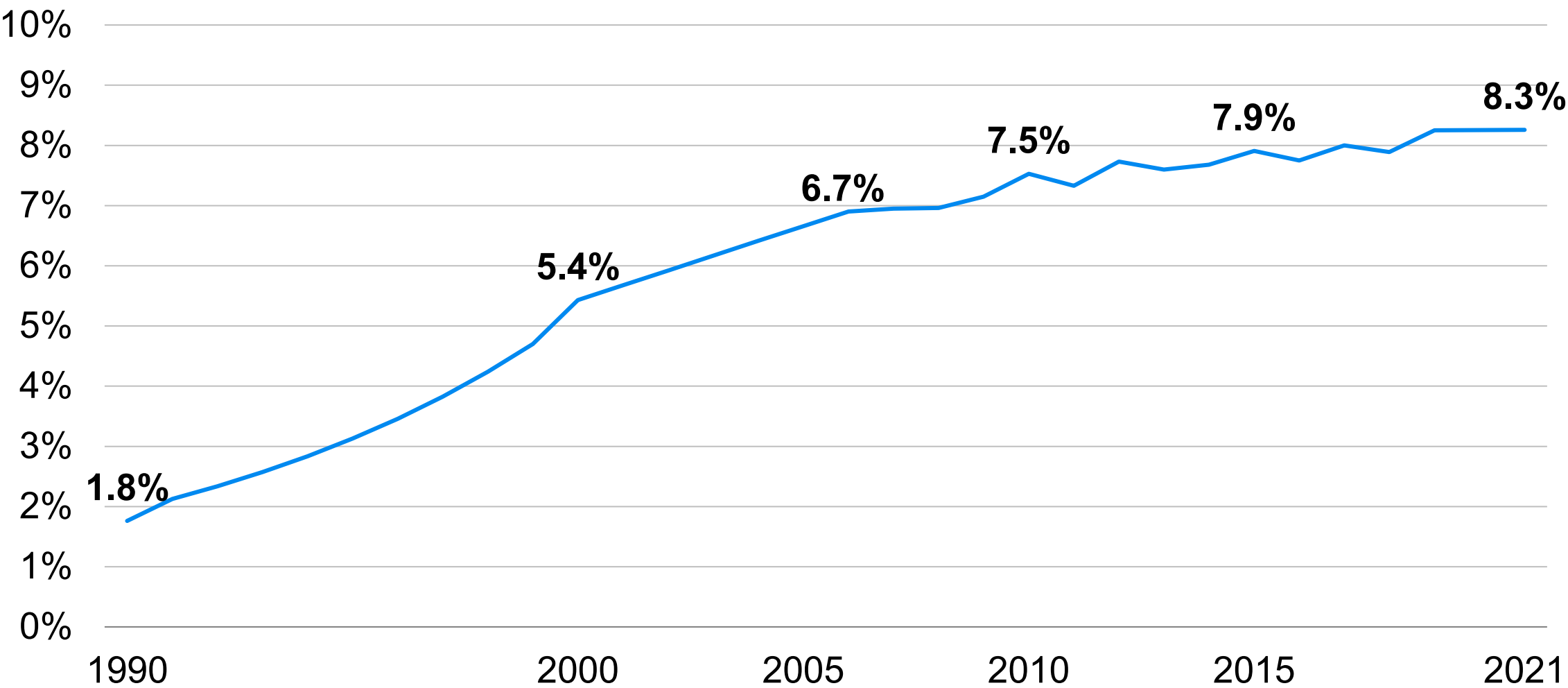
Foreign-born as a share of total population, by county, 2021



vs. 8.3% statewide

8.3% of NC population is foreign-born

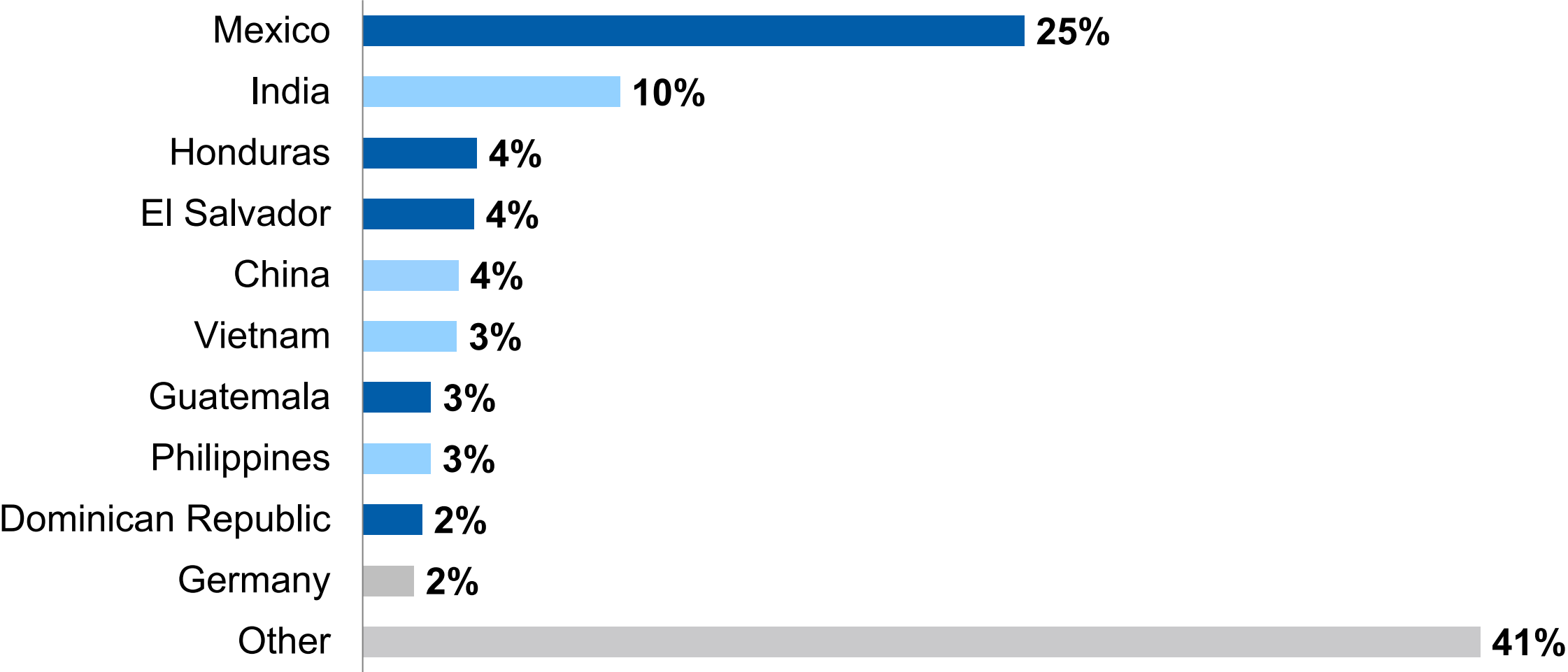
Growth of immigrant Share of NC population, 1990-2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, IPUMS-USA

NC foreign-born population is diverse

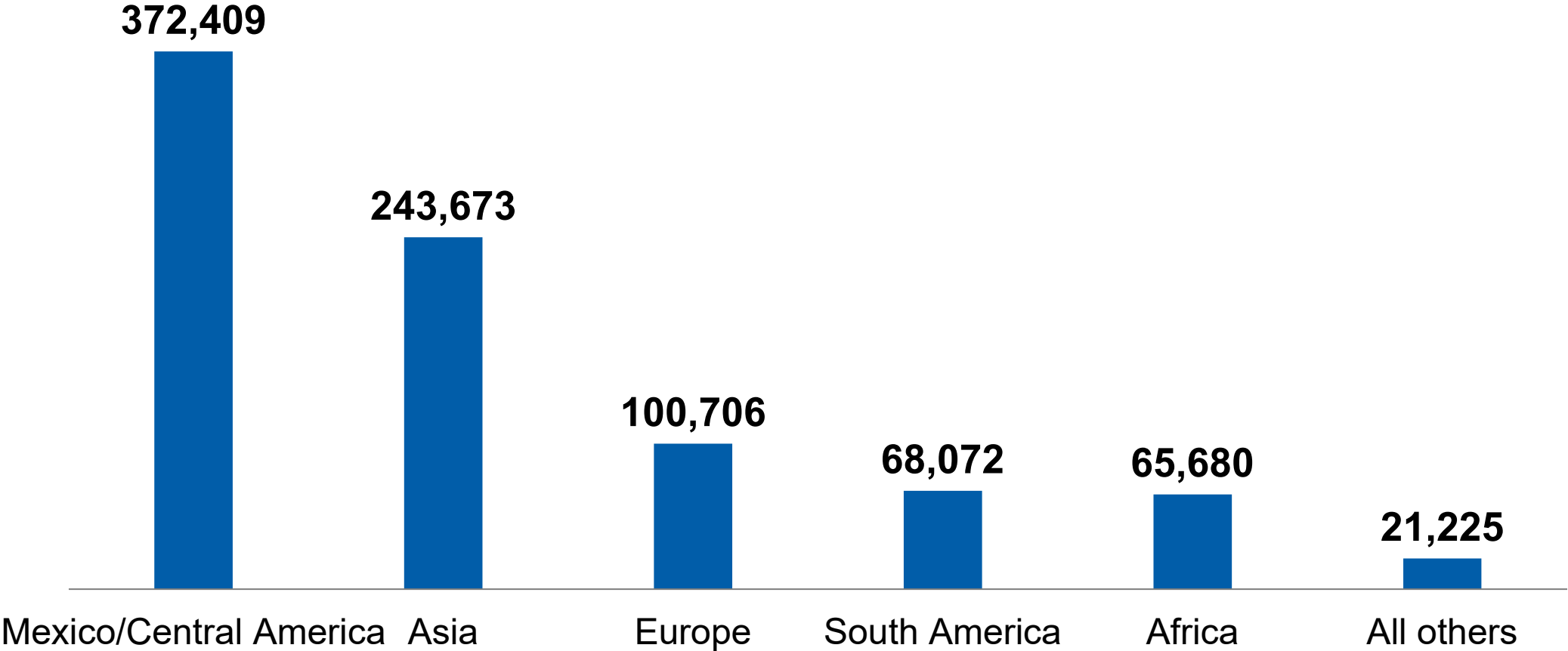
North Carolina foreign-born residents by country of birth, 2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, IPUMS-USA

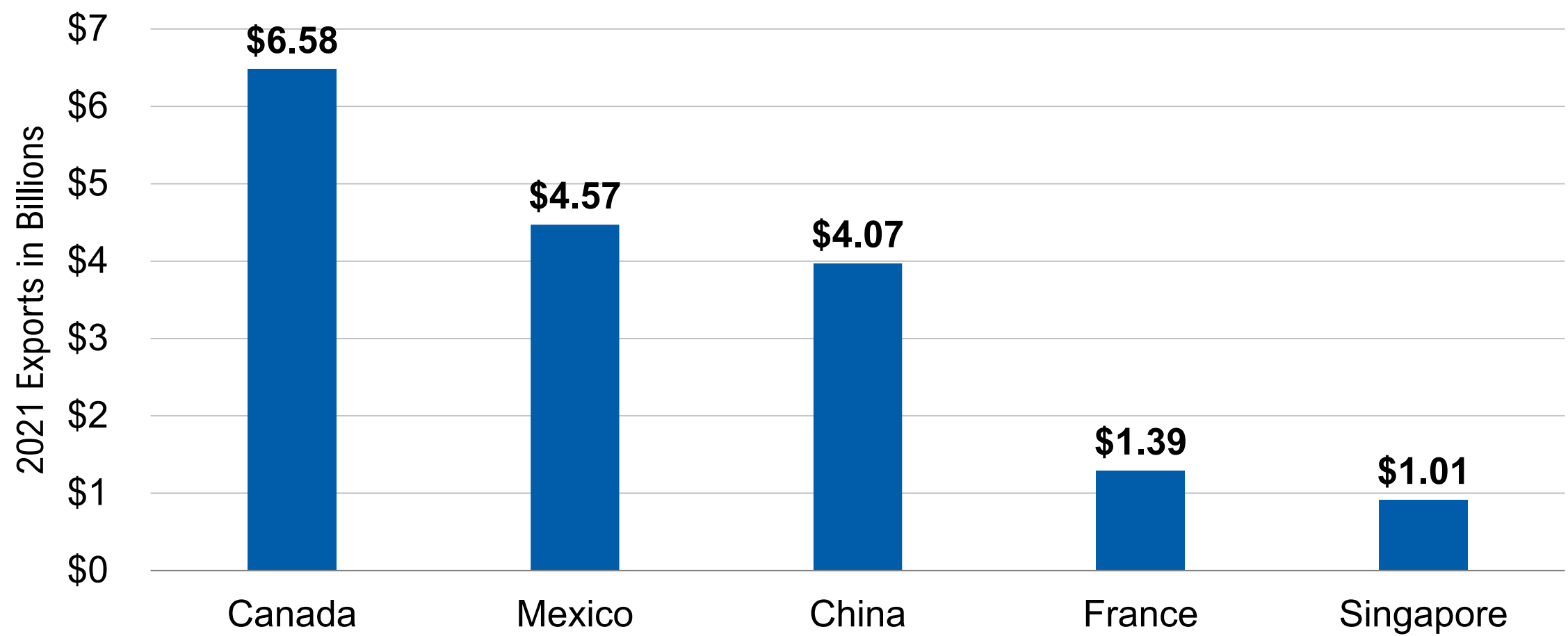
Mexico, Central America, and Asia most common origins

NC foreign-born population by world region of birth, 2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, IPUMS-USA

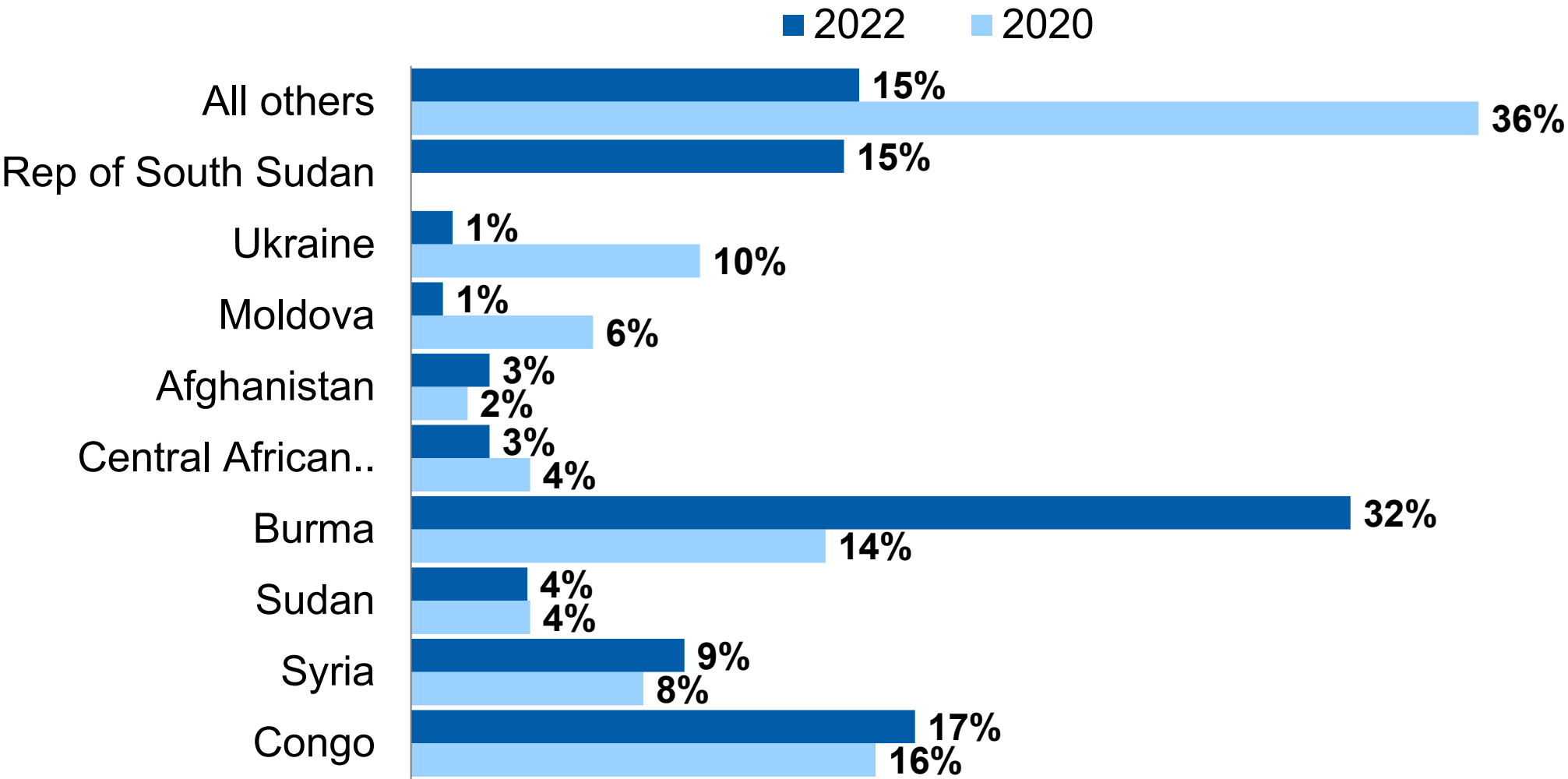
Immigrants come from countries that are our trading partners



Source: 2021 NC Annual Trade Report

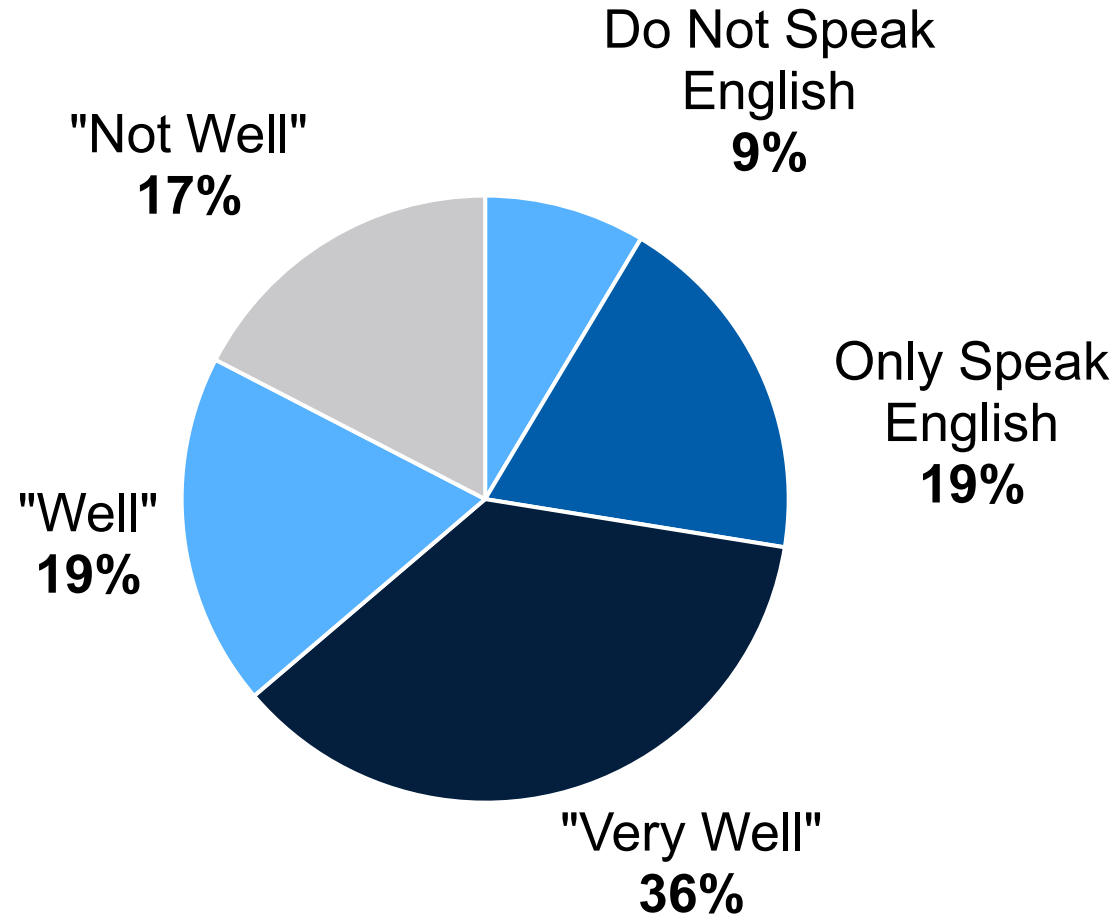
Immigrants come to NC as refugees each year

NC helped settled 469 refugees in FY2020 and 1,163 refugees in FY2022



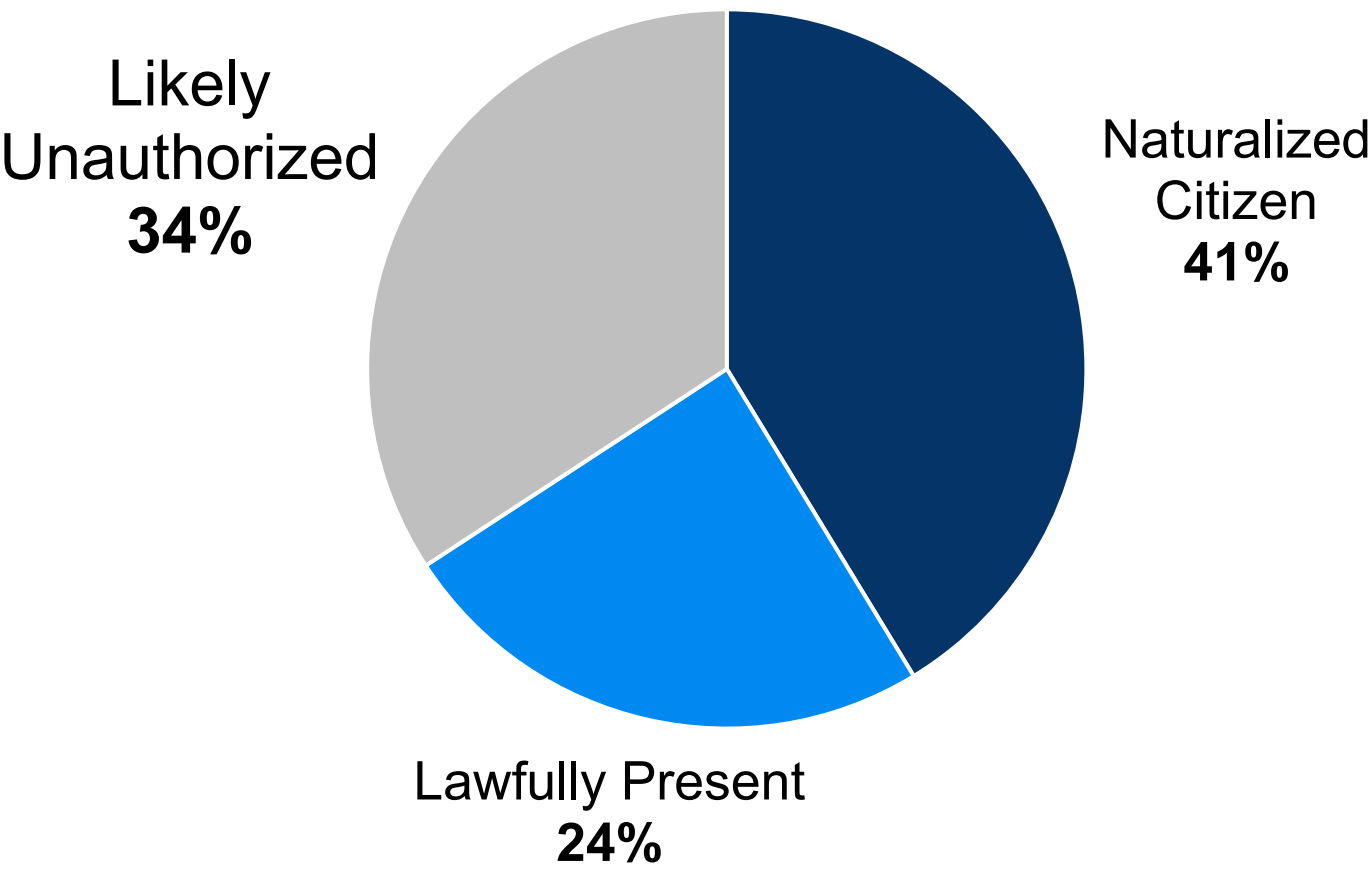
Only 26% of NC Immigrants Do not Speak English Well or Very Well

Ability to speak English among NC foreign-born adults (18+), 2021



Most NC immigrants are Legal Residents

NC immigrants by estimated legal status, 2019



Note: 2019 is the latest year of data from Migration Policy Institute

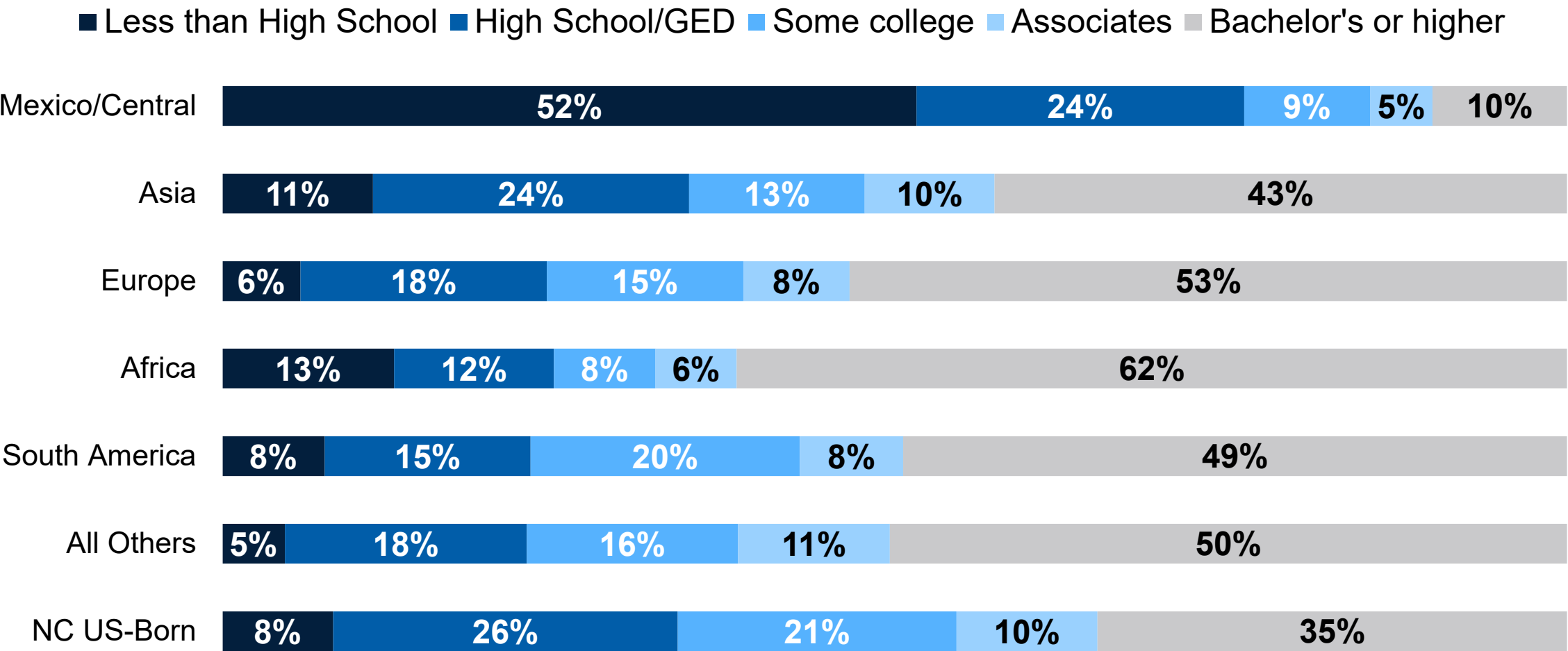
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, IPUMS-USA, Migration Policy Institute



Education

Education varies by world region of origin

Educational attainment of NC immigrant population (age 25+) by world region of birth, 2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, IPUMS-USA

37%

postsecondary enrollment
rate of NC foreign-born
young adults in 2021 (18-24)

versus 43% nationally

Immigrants come to attend our colleges and universities

UNC Chapel Hill (2020)

- 1,848 international students
- 6.1% of student body
- Top 3 countries of origin
China, India, and South Korea

Duke University (2020)

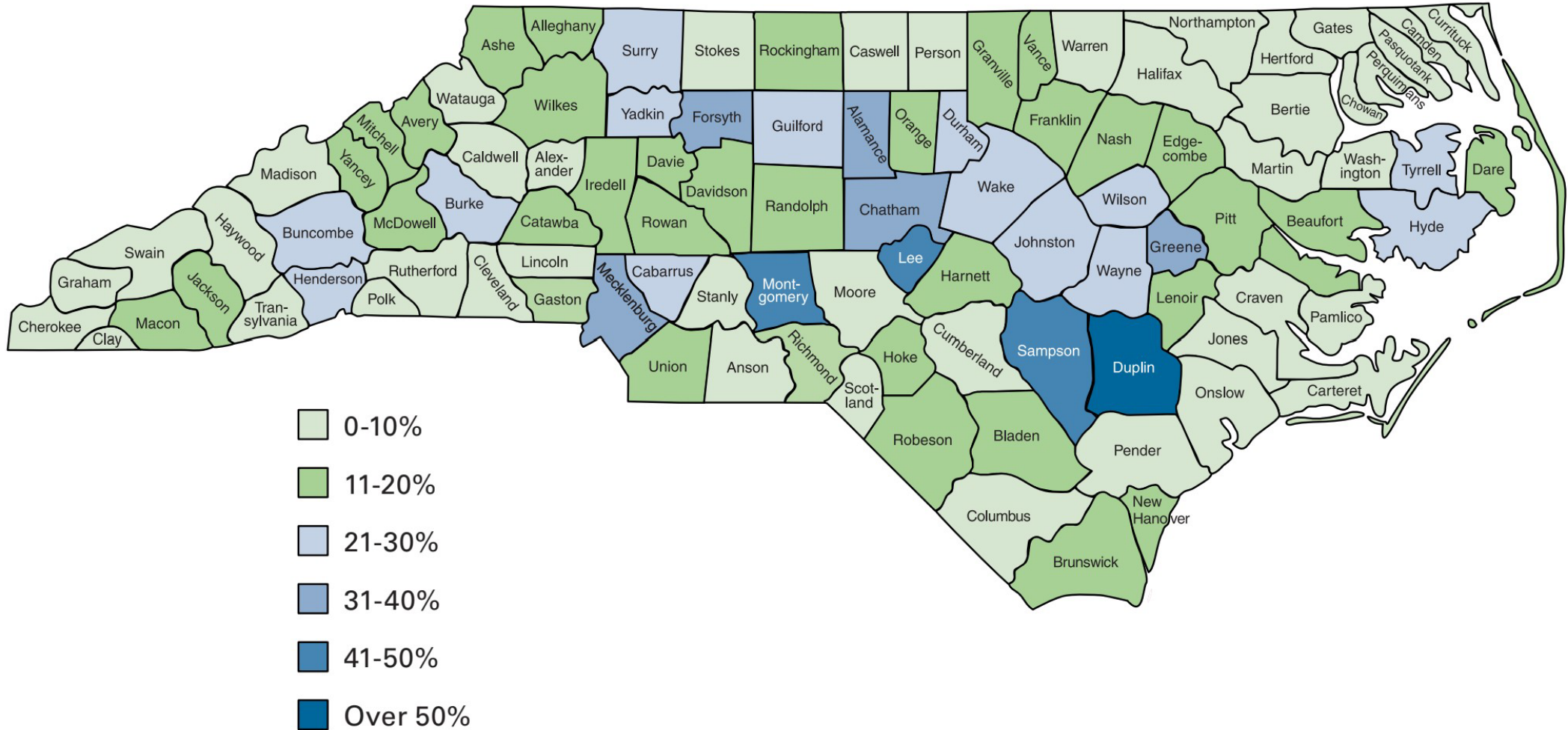
- 2,954 international students
- 18.3% of student body
- Top 3 countries of origin
China, India, and South Korea

146,141

English Learners in NC public
schools in 2022

In 2020, 8% of NC public school students were English Learners

% of NC public school students with non-English home language by county, 2020



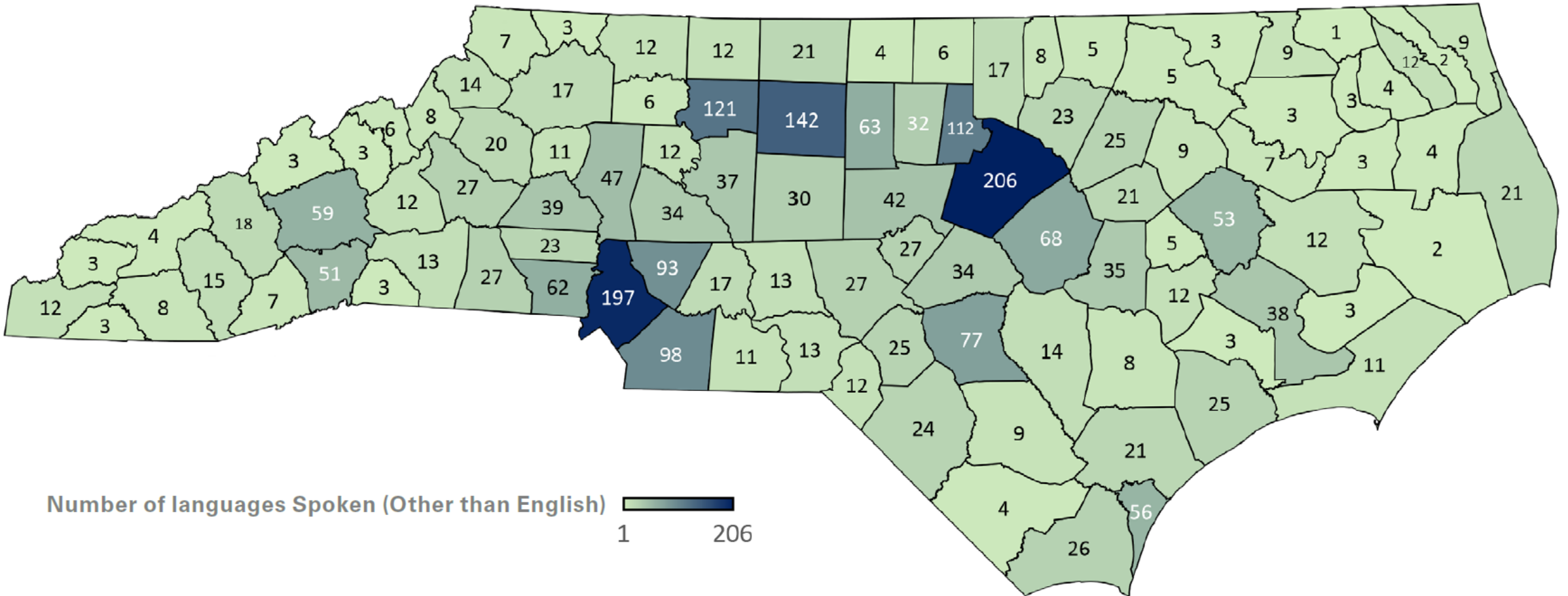
Source: NC DPI

270,000

Students attending NC public schools in 2021 speak a primary language other than English at home

334 languages spoken in homes of NC students

Number of languages other than English spoken in homes of NC public school students by county, 2021



The Majority of NC Immigrants Speak Spanish

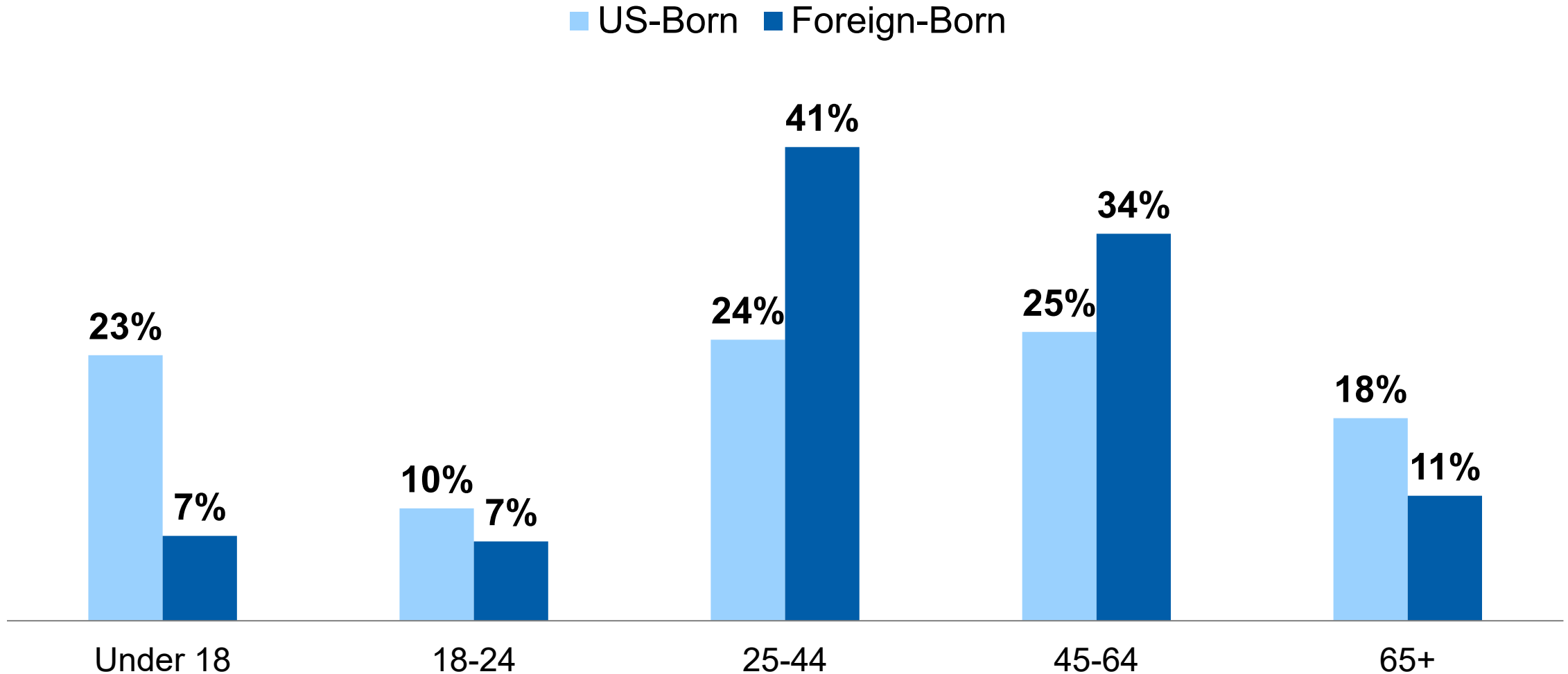
Top five languages among NC Foreign-Born, 2021



Labor Force

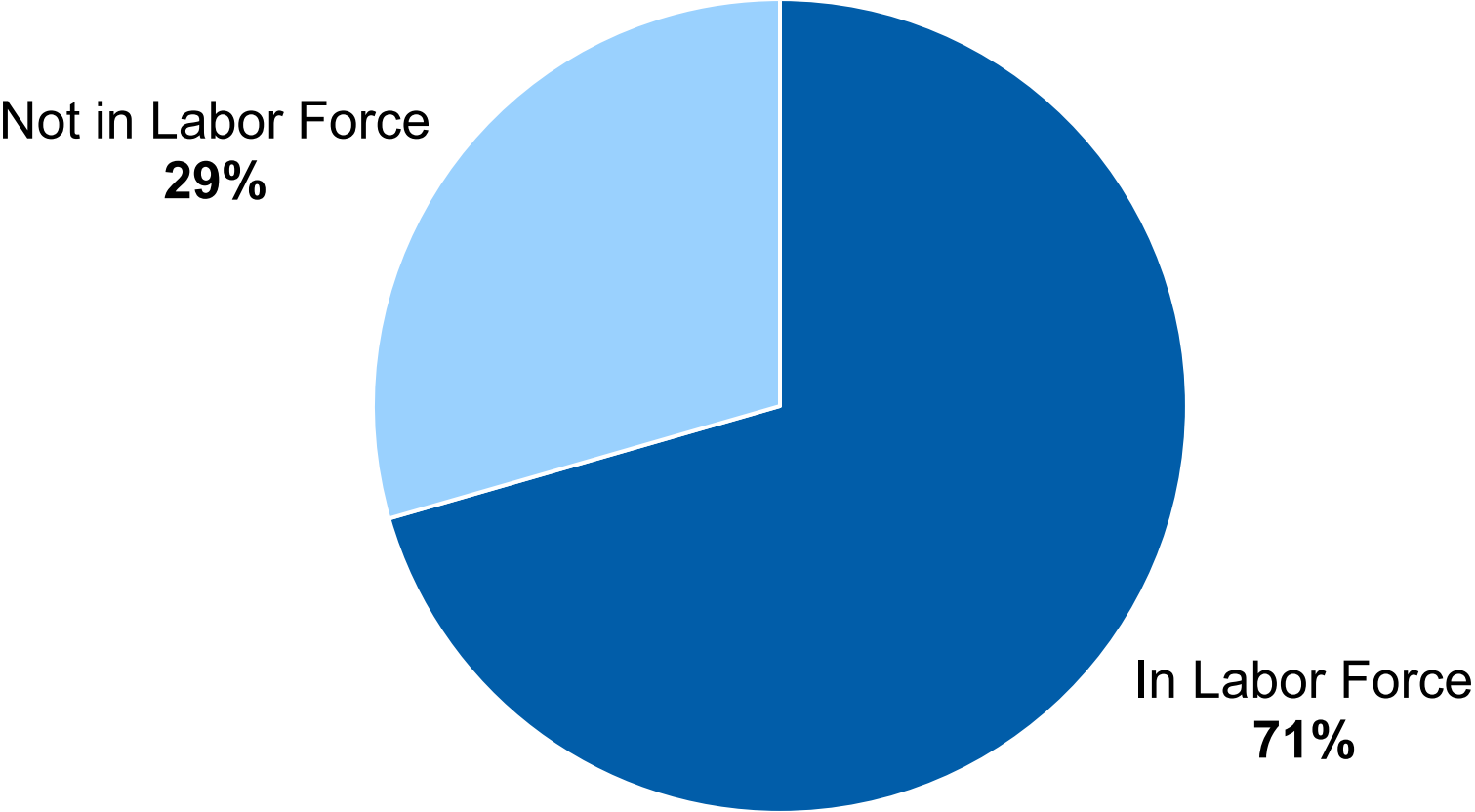
3 in 4 immigrants are prime working-age (25-64)

Age structure of U.S.-born vs. foreign-born, NC, 2021



NC immigrants are engaged in the labor market

Labor force participation rate by foreign-born NC residents age 16+, 2021



5%

Unemployment rate of NC
foreign-born in 2021

versus 5.6% for the total NC population

Top 10 Industries of Employment for NC Foreign-Born

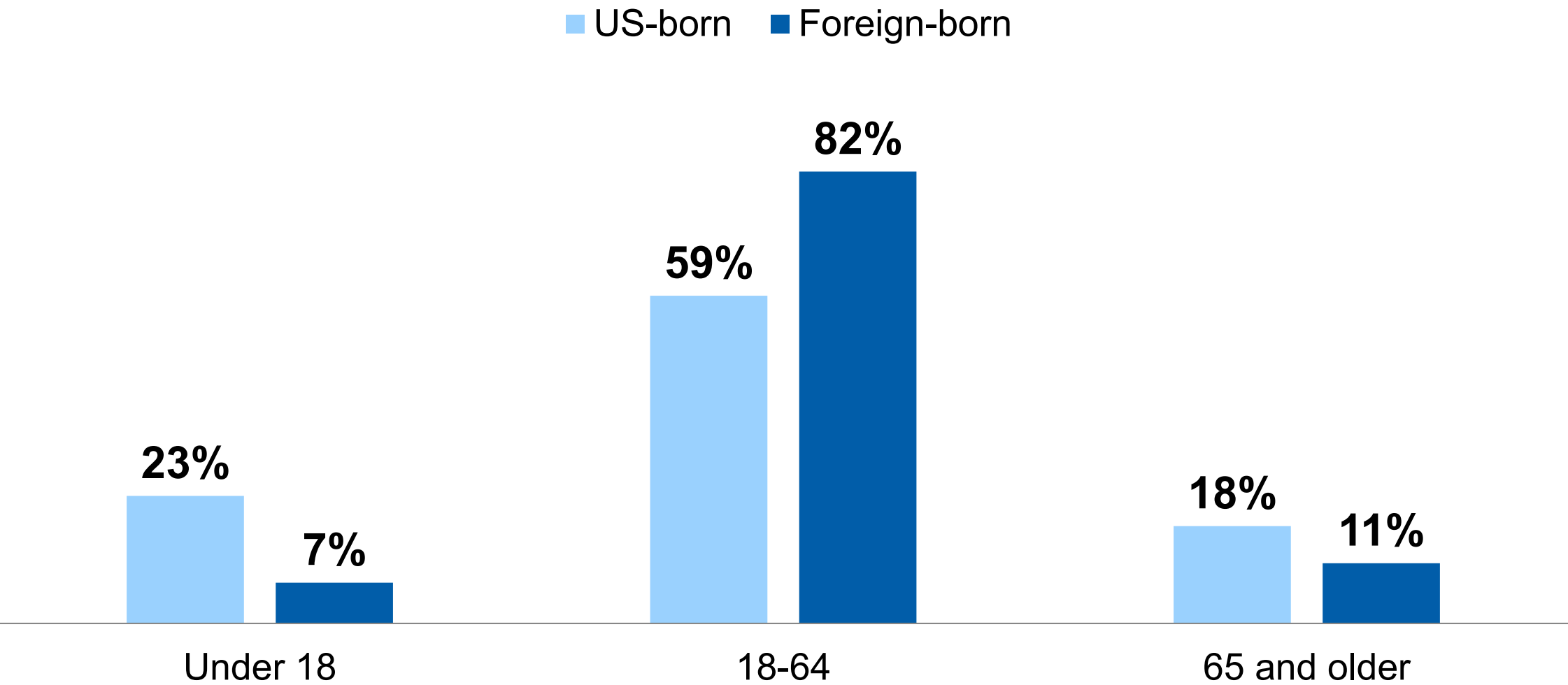
% of workers employed in top 10 industries of employment, NC foreign-born age 16+, 2021

Rank	Industry	% Employed
1	Construction	16%
2	Restaurants & other food services	7%
3	Computer systems design & related services	4%
4	Hospitals	4%
5	Colleges & universities	3%
6	Elementary & secondary schools	3%
7	Banking	2%
8	Services to buildings & dwellings	2%
9	Landscaping services	2%
10	Traveler accommodation	1%

Income, Food, and Health Security

NC immigrant population is young

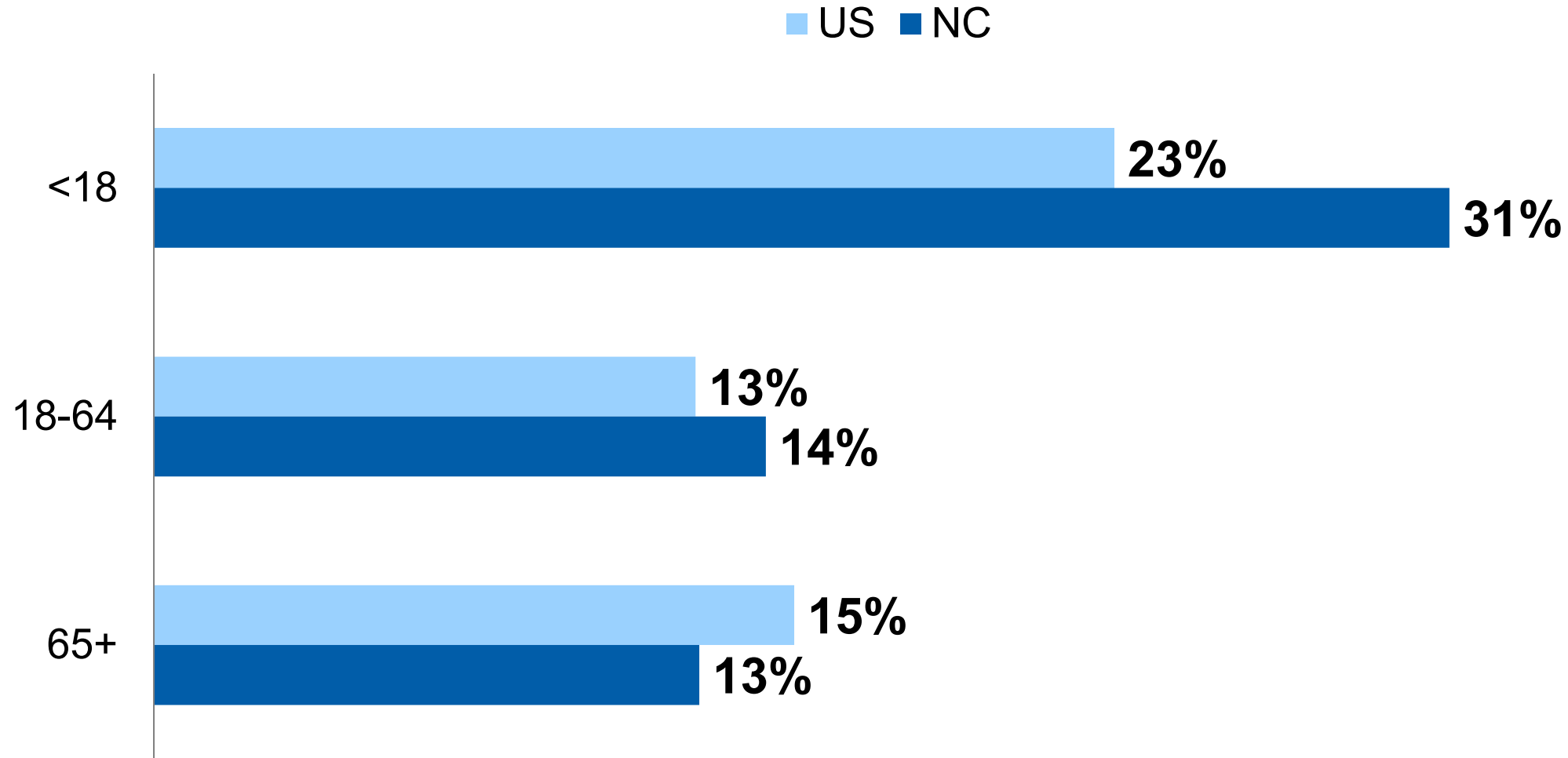
Age structure of U.S.-born vs. foreign-born, NC, 2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, IPUMS-USA

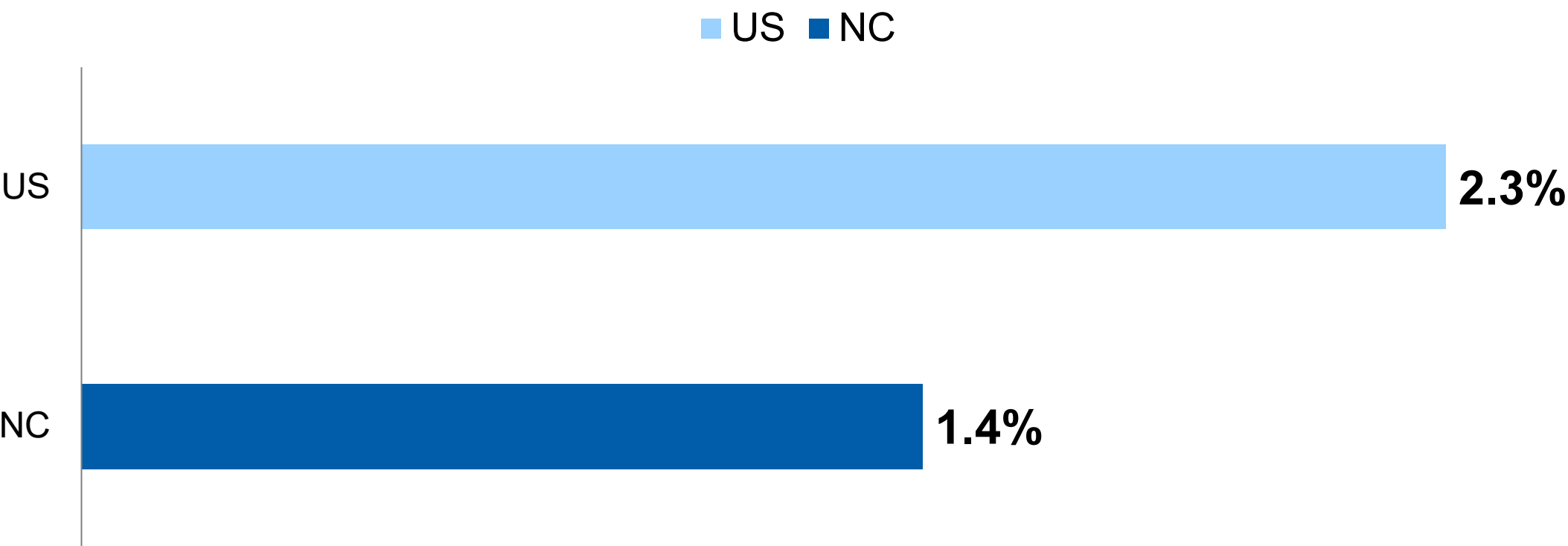
Almost 1/3 NC immigrant children live in poverty

Foreign-born population below 100% of the federal poverty line by age in NC and US, 2021



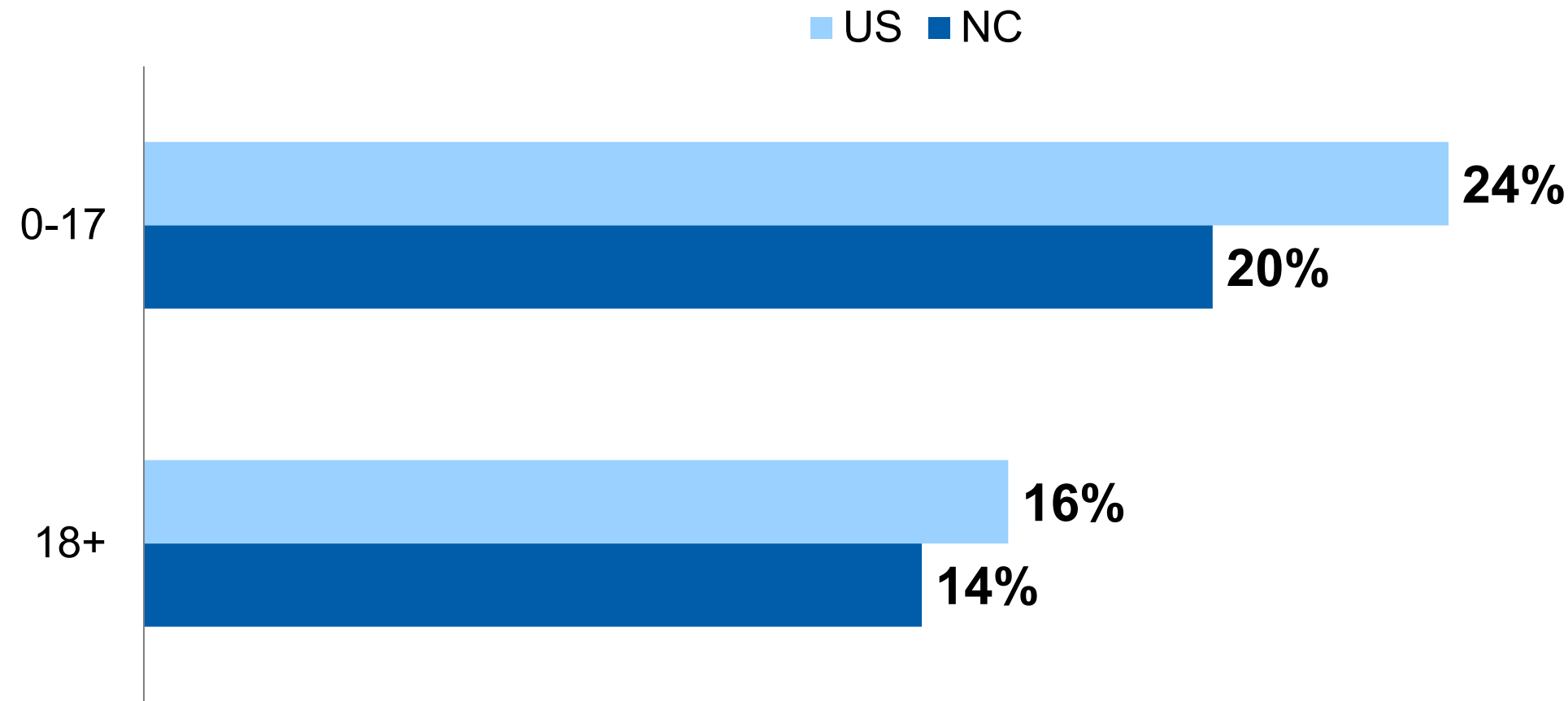
NC immigrants less likely to receive cash assistance

% foreign-born ages 15+ receiving cash assistance, by age, NC vs. US, 2021



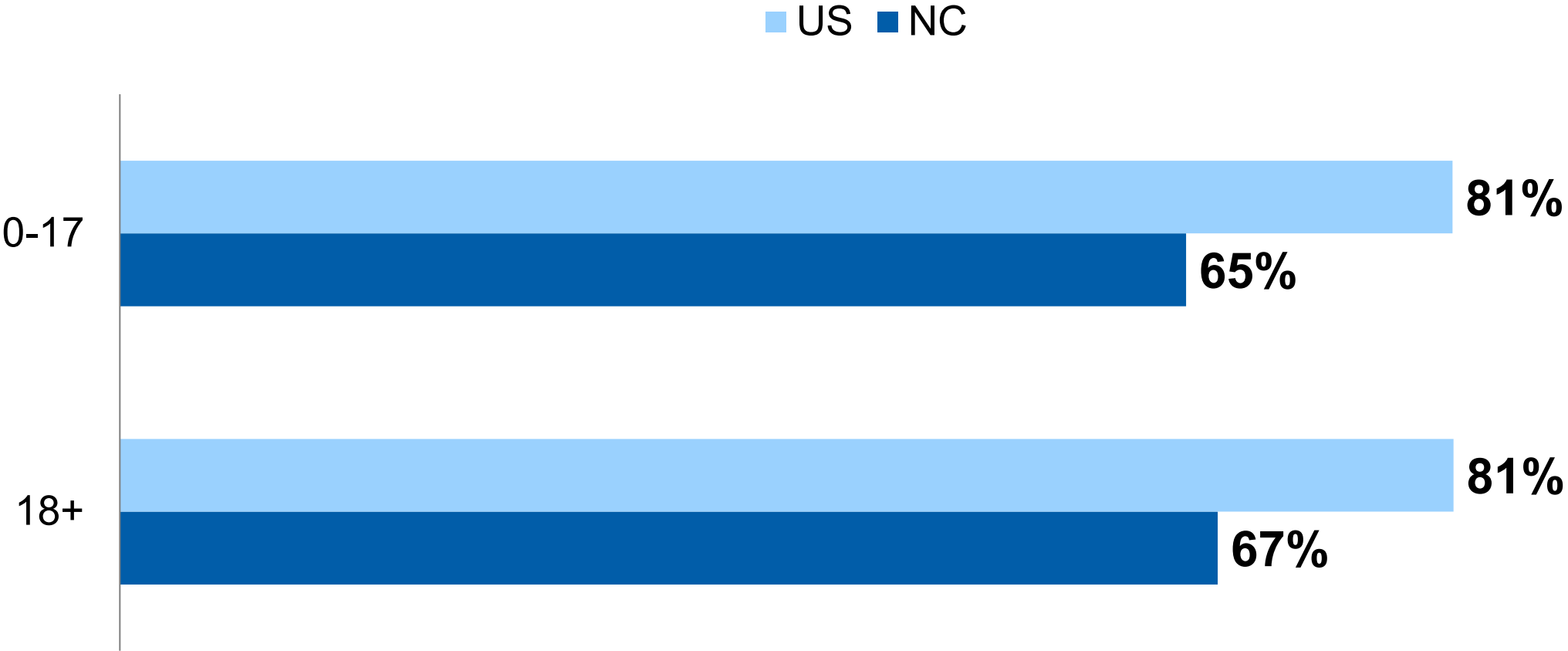
NC immigrants less likely to receive SNAP benefits

% foreign-born receiving SNAP benefits by age in NC and US, 2021



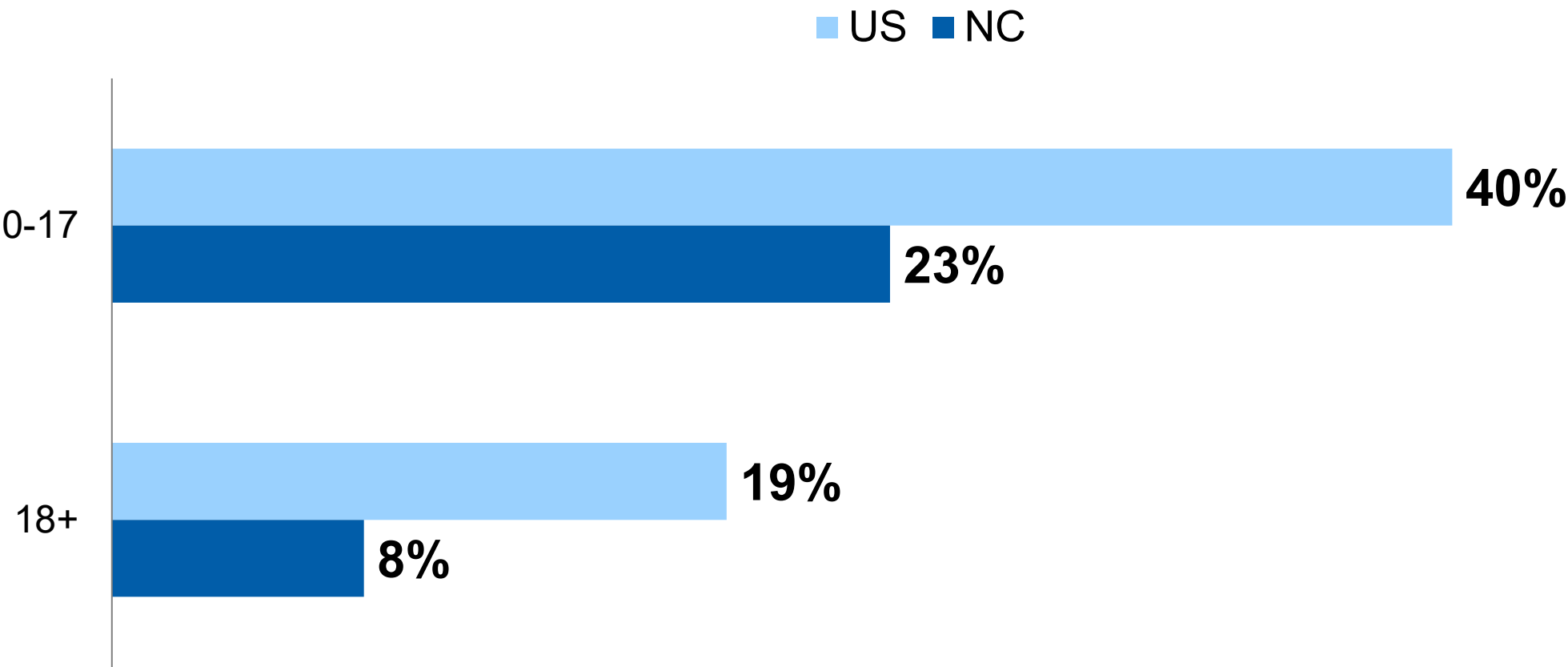
NC immigrants less likely to have health insurance

% foreign-born with health insurance, by age in NC and US, 2021



NC immigrants less likely to have Medicaid

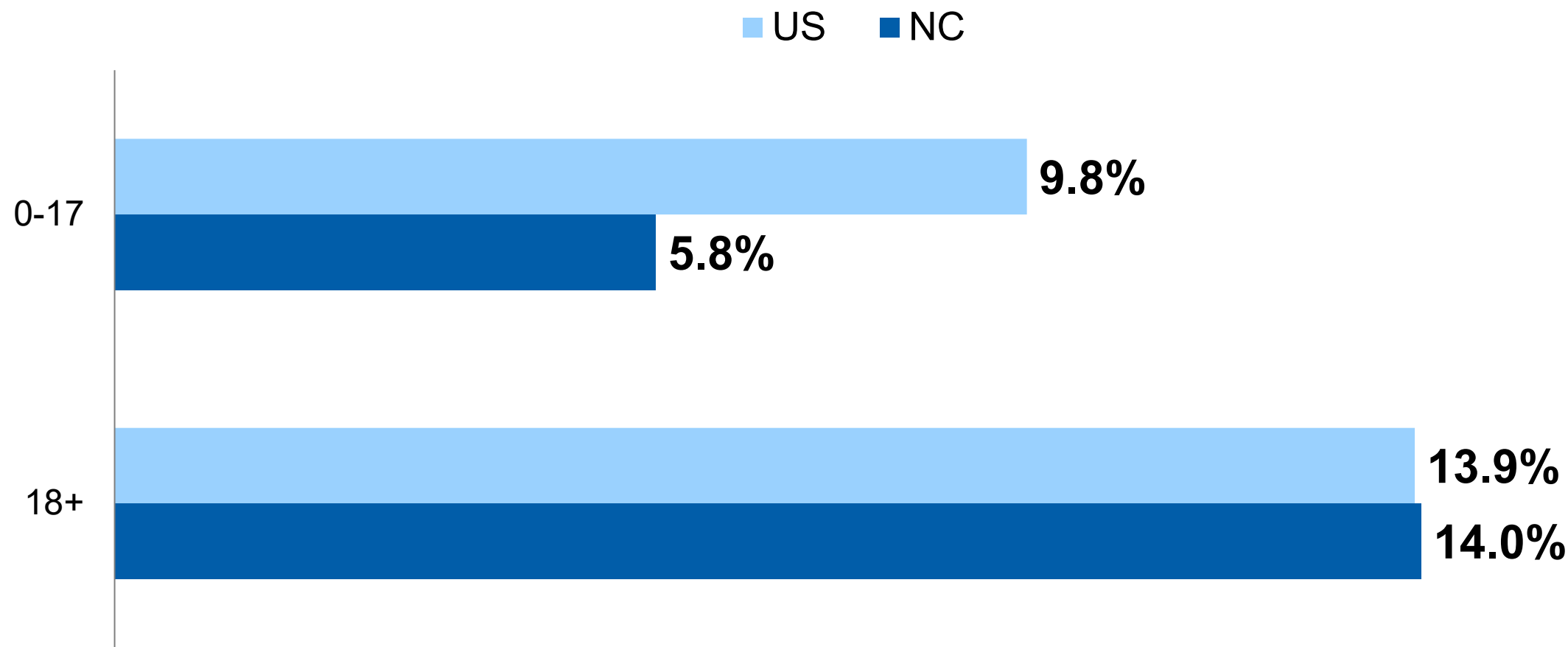
% foreign-born with health insurance through Medicaid by age in NC and US, 2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, IPUMS-USA

NC immigrant children less likely to have health insurance through Marketplace

% foreign-born with health insurance through Marketplace by age in NC and US, 2021



Thank you!

For questions, please contact Krista Perreira, perreira@email.unc.edu

Work With Us

What questions do you have
about your community?

What data do you need to
make better decisions?



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