

Ohio Population News: Nativity and Citizenship in Ohio

This Ohio Population News provides information on nativity and citizenship status across the State of Ohio and highlights key demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of Ohio's foreign-born population. The foreign-born population consists of residents who were born outside of the United States and its territories and are not U.S. citizens by birth (Grieco 2009). This includes naturalized citizens, legal permanent residents, refugees and asylees, unauthorized immigrants, and those on student or work visas. Recent estimates suggest that 13% of the U.S. population is foreign-born. Whereas **less than 4% of Ohio's residents are foreign-born, there has been a marked increase of foreign-born residents in the state.** Between 2000 and 2008, Ohio gained 87,761 foreign-born residents resulting in a 26% increase in the foreign-born population.

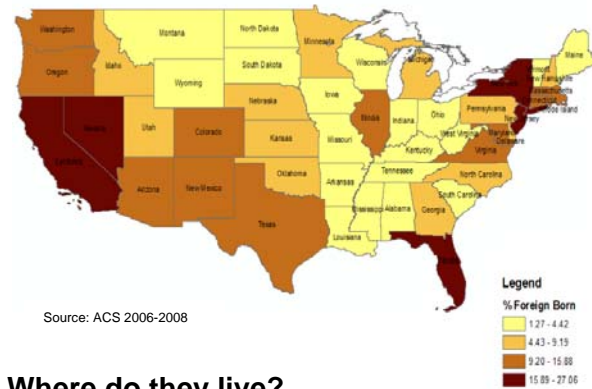
Who is a citizen?

A **native-born citizen** is someone who was born in the United States, Puerto Rico, U.S. Island area (such as Guam), or born to American citizen parents on foreign soil. This definition is based on the concept of *jus soli*—or birthright citizenship. In contrast, there are countries around the world which practice *jus sanguinis* in which citizenship is not determined by place of birth but by the citizenship status of the parent.

In contrast, a **naturalized citizen** is someone who has been granted U.S. citizenship after fulfilling eligibility criteria established by the Immigration and Nationality Act (1952). These criteria involve continuous residence for at least 5 years (3 years for spouses of citizens), establishing proof of good moral character, demonstrating the ability to read, write, and speak English and have an understanding of U.S. history and government.

Almost half (48.7%) of Ohio's foreign-born have become naturalized citizens. In fact, Ohio's foreign-born seek citizenship more often than those residing in other states, such as North Carolina, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas where less than a third of the foreign-born seek citizenship.

Figure 2. Distribution of Foreign-Born by State, 2006-08



Where do they live?

Five states that have the highest concentration of foreign-born are California, Florida, Nevada, New Jersey, and New York (Figure 2). Recent estimates from the American Community Survey suggest that well over a quarter of California's residents are foreign-born. There are only eleven states with a lower proportion of foreign-born than Ohio at 3.7%, including West Virginia, which is the lowest at 1.3%. **The foreign-born population within Ohio is concentrated in metropolitan areas, such as Franklin (8.4%), Cuyahoga (6.9%), and Lake (5.9%) counties.**

Where do they come from?

While the majority of the foreign-born population in the U.S. comes from Latin America (53%), most of Ohio's foreign-born populations originate in Asia (36%) or Europe (30%) (Table 1).

Table 1: Place of Birth for the Foreign-Born Population, Ohio and the United States 2006-08.

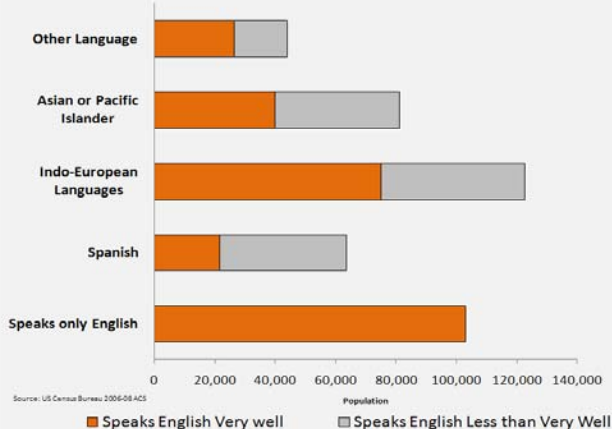
Region Origin of Foreign-Born	OHIO		US	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
Europe	128,725	30.6	4,986,881	13.2
Asia	152,167	36.1	10,123,585	26.9
Africa	40,966	9.7	1,408,487	3.7
Oceania (Australia and New Zealand)	2,269	0.5	209,852	0.6
Latin America	80,647	19.2	20,108,021	53.4
North America (Canada)	16,213	3.9	842,523	2.2
Total	420,987	100.0	37,679,349	100.0

Source: US Census Bureau 2006-2008 ACS

The single largest sending countries for Ohio's foreign-born residents are Mexico (42,200), India (40,388), China (27,711), Germany (20,711), the United Kingdom (16,679) and Canada (16,146). A majority (41%) of Ohio's foreign-born arrived in the state prior to 1990, with 27% arriving between 1990 and 1999. The remaining 33% composed of more recent arrivals coming to the U.S. in the year 2000 or later.

Somalis in Ohio—the United States grants protection to refugees or asylees who are unable or unwilling to return to their home countries for fear of persecution on account of race, nationality, or political opinion. **Franklin County (Columbus) is a popular destination for Somali war refugees with an estimated 15,000 in residence.** This influx has made Ohio the home of the second-largest Somali community in the United States behind Minneapolis-St. Paul (CRP 2009).

Figure 1. Ability to Speak English by Language Spoken at Home, Ohio's Foreign-Born (ages 5 and over), 2006-08



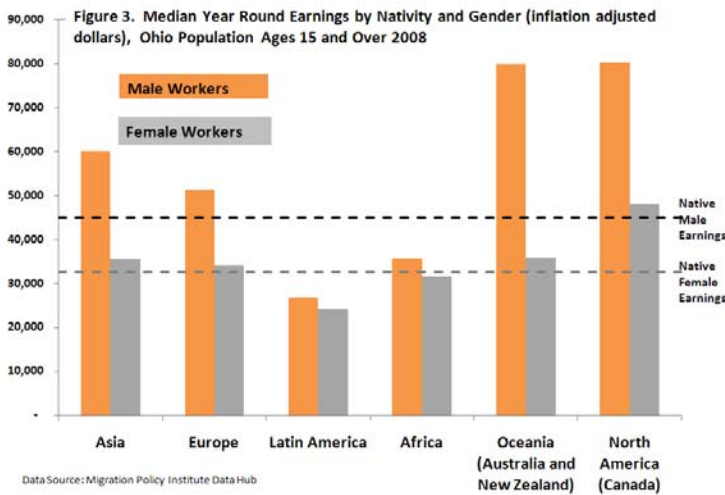
Among Ohio's foreign-born population ages 5 and older, a quarter speak only English (Figure 1). Among those who speak a language other than English in their homes, **over half (52%) speak English 'very well.'** Just over 1% of all Ohio households (native and foreign-born) were linguistically isolated, meaning that all members ages 14 and over do not speak English 'very well'; including 15.7% of Spanish speaking households, 14.4% of households speaking Indo-European languages, 25.8% of Asian language households, and 18.6% of households speaking other languages.

What are the socioeconomic characteristics of Ohio's foreign-born?

Whereas labor force participation rates are similar between the foreign-born population and the native-born population (63.3% and 64.9%) in Ohio, the two groups show distinct patterns of educational attainment. **Roughly 20% of foreign-born over the age of 25 have no high school degree compared to 13% of Ohio's native born; whereas an additional 20% of the foreign-born have a graduate or professional degree compared to just 8% of Ohio's native born.**

Earnings vary by nativity status, country of origin and gender. Among full-time, year-round foreign-born workers in Ohio in 2008, median annual earnings were \$32,469 for women and \$45,007 for men. Comparable figures for native-born in 2008 were \$33,659 for women and \$45,222 for men.

Figure 3 displays the median year-round earnings for male and female by region of birth for foreign-born residents in Ohio. (The dashed line represents average earnings for native-born residents). Women consistently earn less than men among the native and foreign-born groups. Those from North America and Oceania have the highest estimated male earnings.



Who are the children of the foreign-born?

Children of the foreign-born represent the fastest growing segment of U.S. society under age 18 (Hernandez 1999), currently making up about a quarter of all U.S. children. However, **in 2008 just 6.3 percent of Ohio children under age 18 resided in an immigrant family.** It is important to note that the majority of children residing in immigrant families are native-born U.S. citizens both nationally (85.6%) and in Ohio (81.9%).

Table 2: Distribution of Child Population by Ratio of Income to Poverty Level and Nativity Status of Parents, Ohio 2006-08

Ratio of Income to Poverty	Children living with two parents			Children living with one parent	
	2 native-born parents	2 foreign-born parents	1 foreign-born, 1 native	1 native-born parent	1 foreign-born
Under 1.00	6.2%	14.9%	7.7%	40.3%	39.4%
1.00 to 1.99	16.3%	24.5%	13.3%	27.6%	31.6%
2.0 and over	77.6%	60.6%	79.0%	32.2%	29.1%

Source: US Census Bureau 2006-2008 ACS; Children ages 0 to 17.

Conditions of poverty and low income vary by parental nativity status and family structure (Table 2). **Nearly 15% of all children living with two foreign-born parents live below poverty (i.e., under 1.00 of the ratio of income to poverty) in Ohio,** whereas just 6.2% of children living with two native born parents live below the poverty line. Among children living with just one parent, roughly equal proportions of children of natives and children of immigrants (40.3 and 39.4) reside below the poverty line.

Sources Used:

Grieco, Elizabeth M. 2009. *Race and Hispanic Origin of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 2007*, American Community Survey Reports, ACS-11. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

Hernandez, D. J. 1999. Children of Immigrants: Health, Adjustment, and Public Assistance, pp. 1-18 in *Children of Immigrants: Health Adjustment and Public Assistance*. National Research Council and Institute of Medicine. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press.

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Community Research Partners. Spring 2009. Counting the Franklin County Somali Population. CRP Data Byte No. 2

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