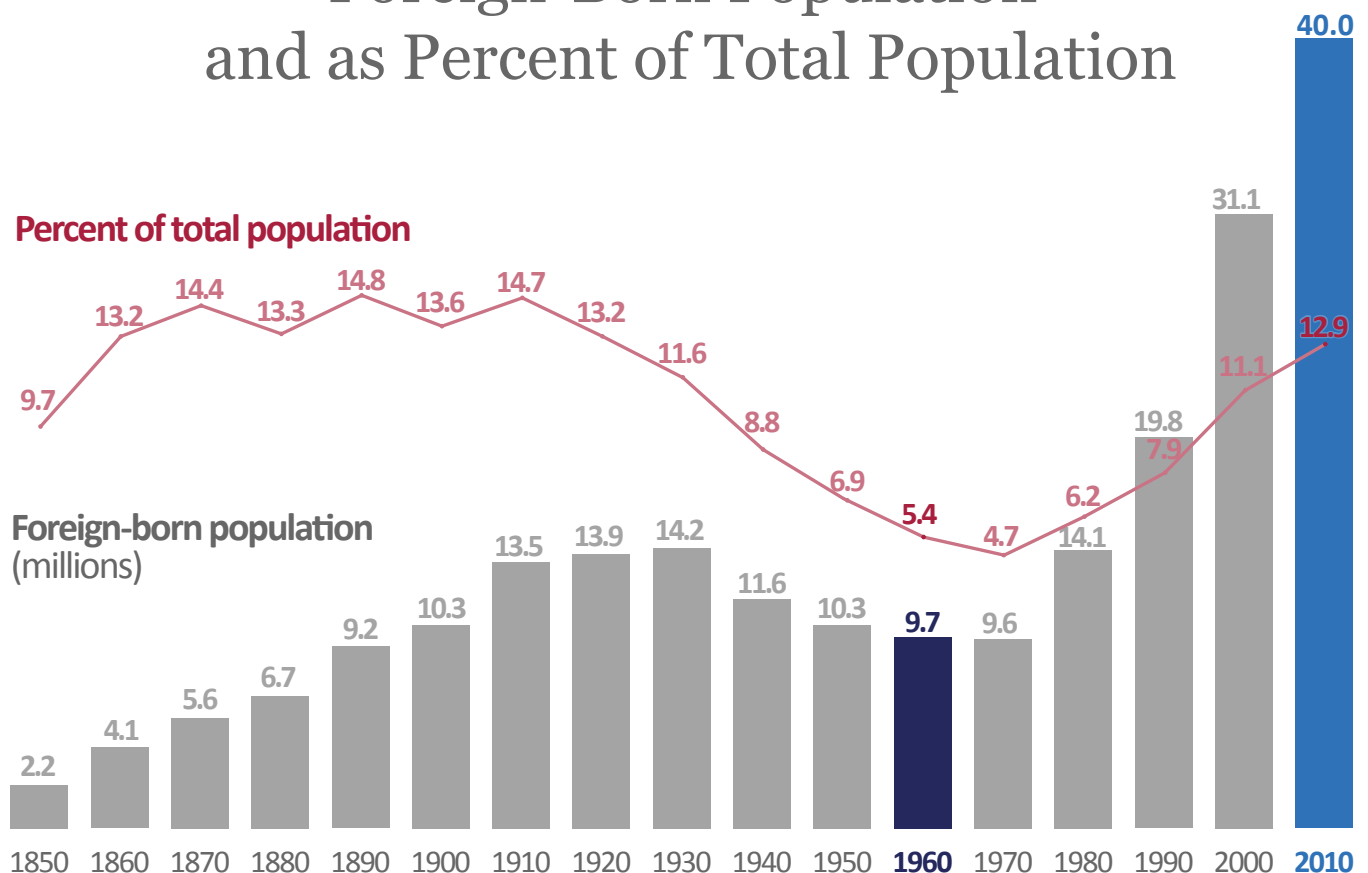


America's Foreign Born in the Last 50 Years

During the last 50 years, the foreign-born population of the United States has undergone dramatic changes in size, origins, and geographic distribution. This population represented about 1 in 20 residents in 1960, mostly from countries in Europe who settled in the Northeast and Midwest. Today's foreign-born population makes up about one in eight U.S. residents, mostly immigrants from Latin America and Asia who have settled in the West and South. The Decennial Census and the annual American Community Survey allow us to trace the changes in the foreign-born population over time.

Long-term trends

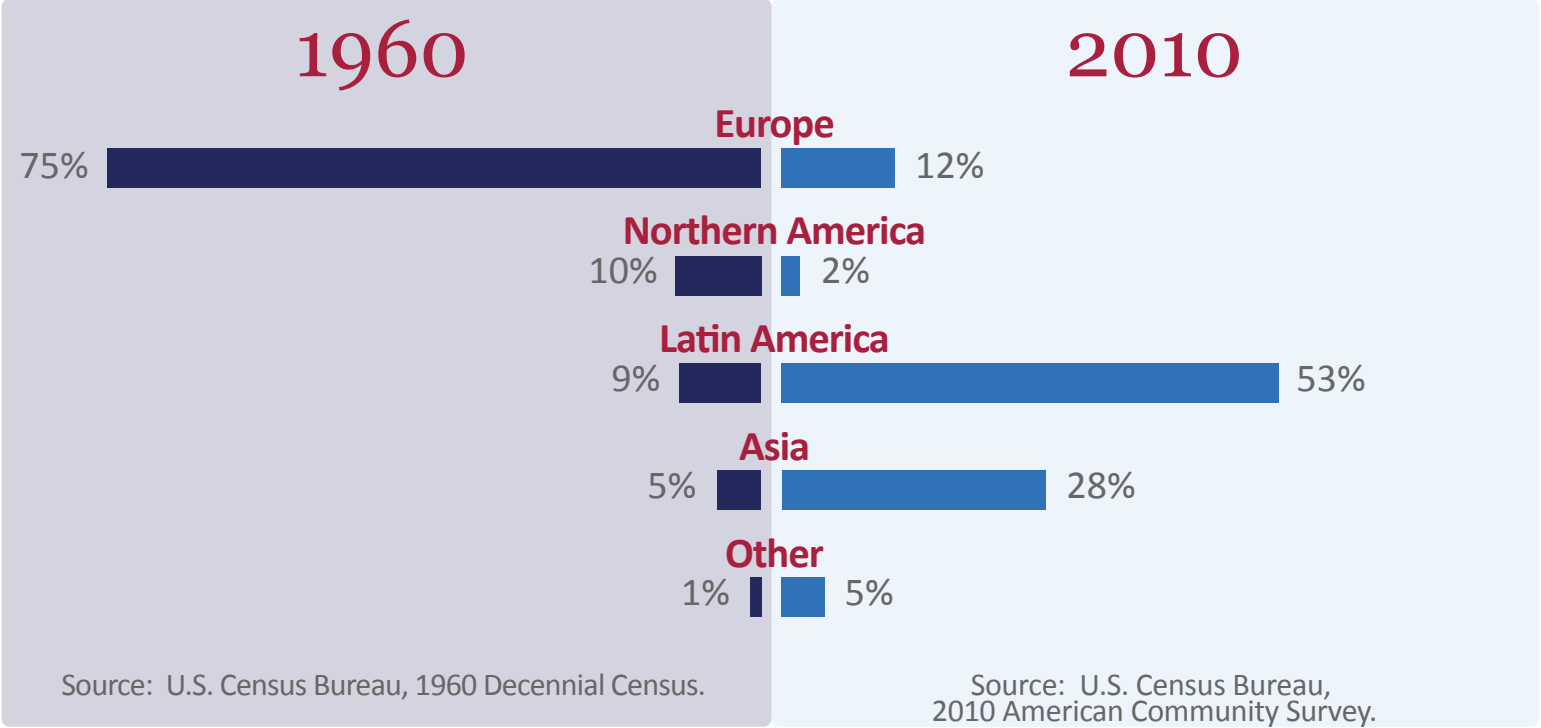
Foreign-Born Population and as Percent of Total Population



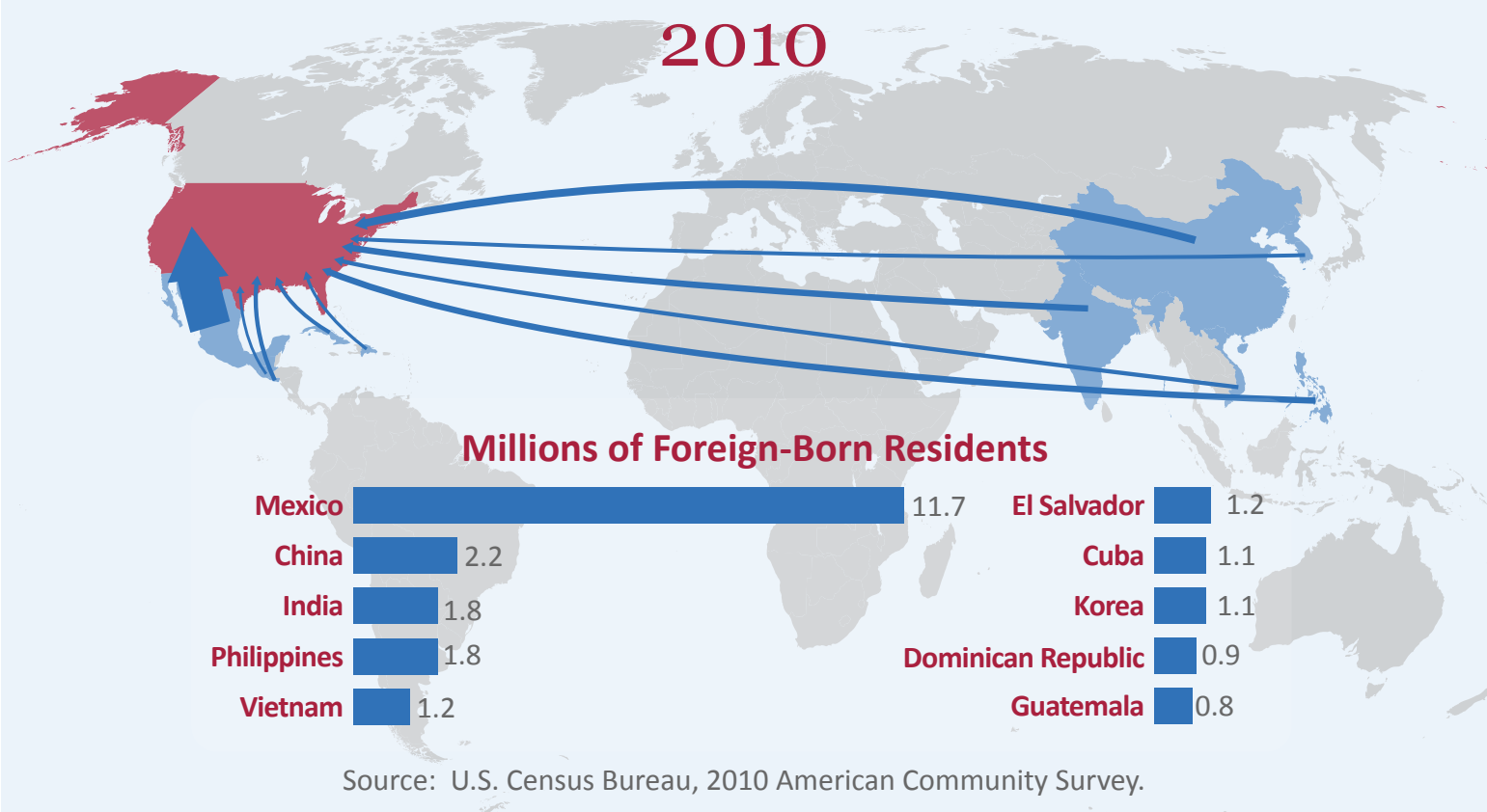
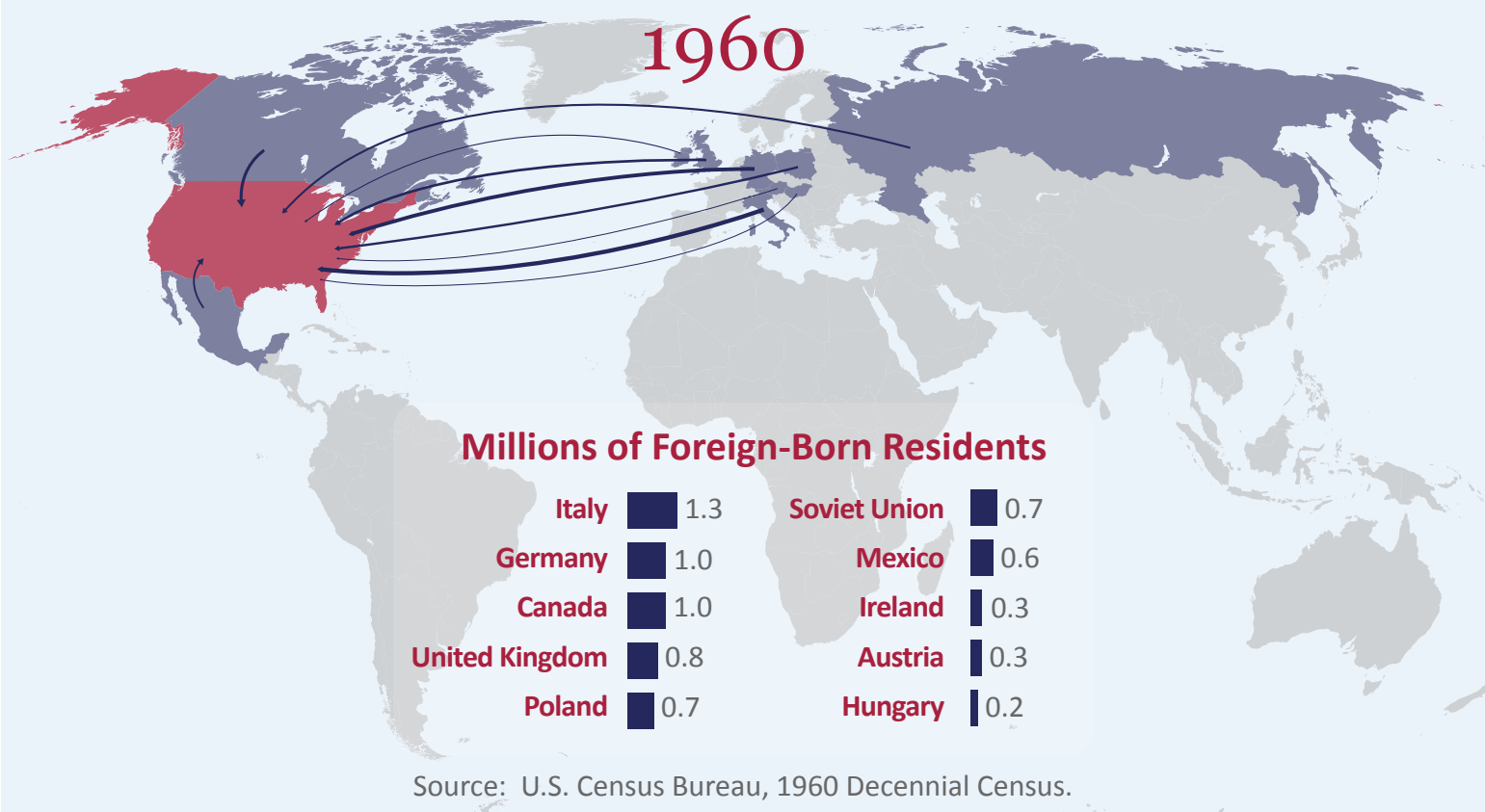
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1850–2000 Decennial Census; 2010 American Community Survey.

Where they come from

Change in Foreign-Born Population by Region of Birth



Top 10 Countries of Birth

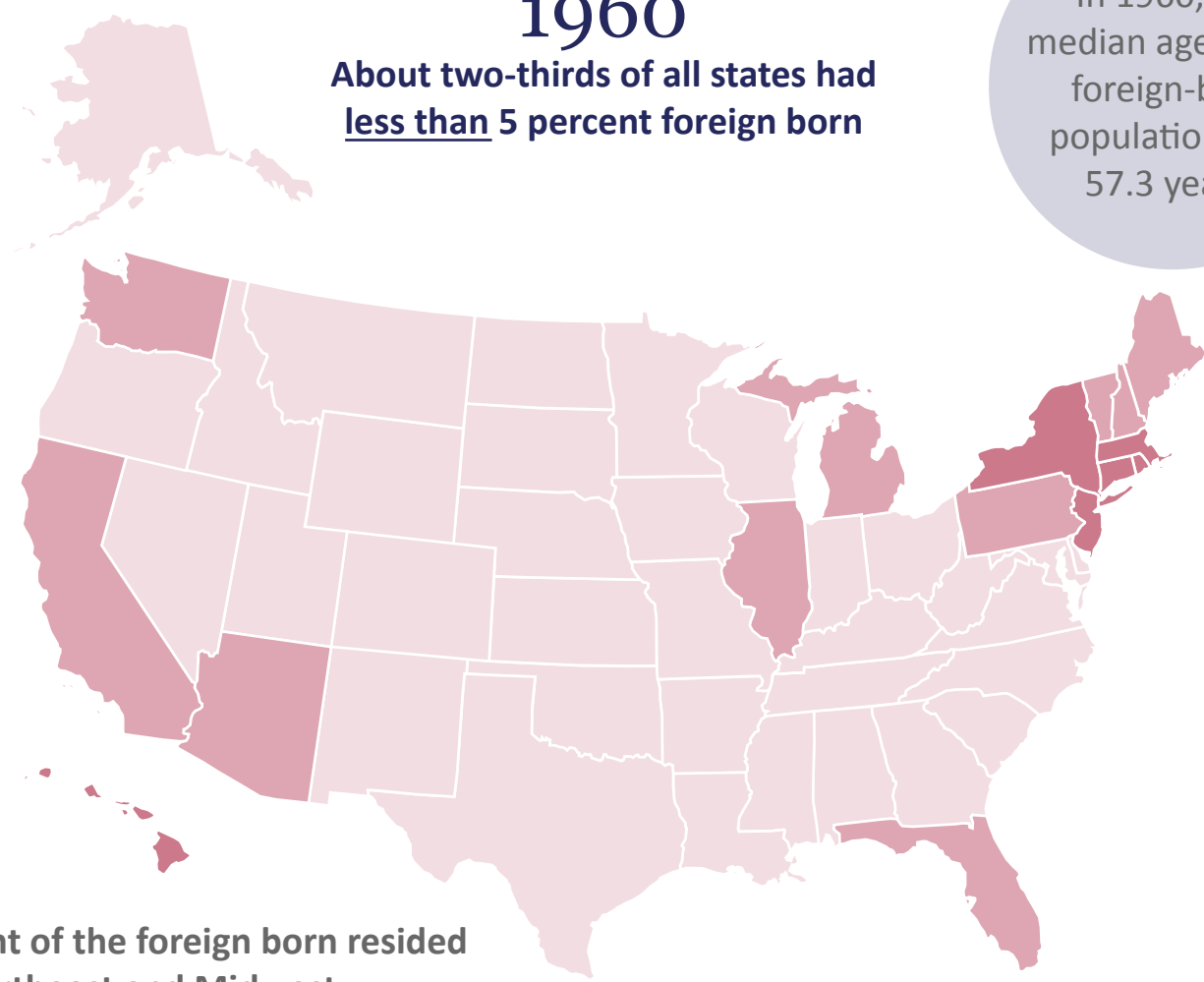


Foreign-Born Population as a Percent of State Population

1960

About two-thirds of all states had less than 5 percent foreign born

In 1960, the median age of the foreign-born population was 57.3 years.



70 percent of the foreign born resided in the Northeast and Midwest.

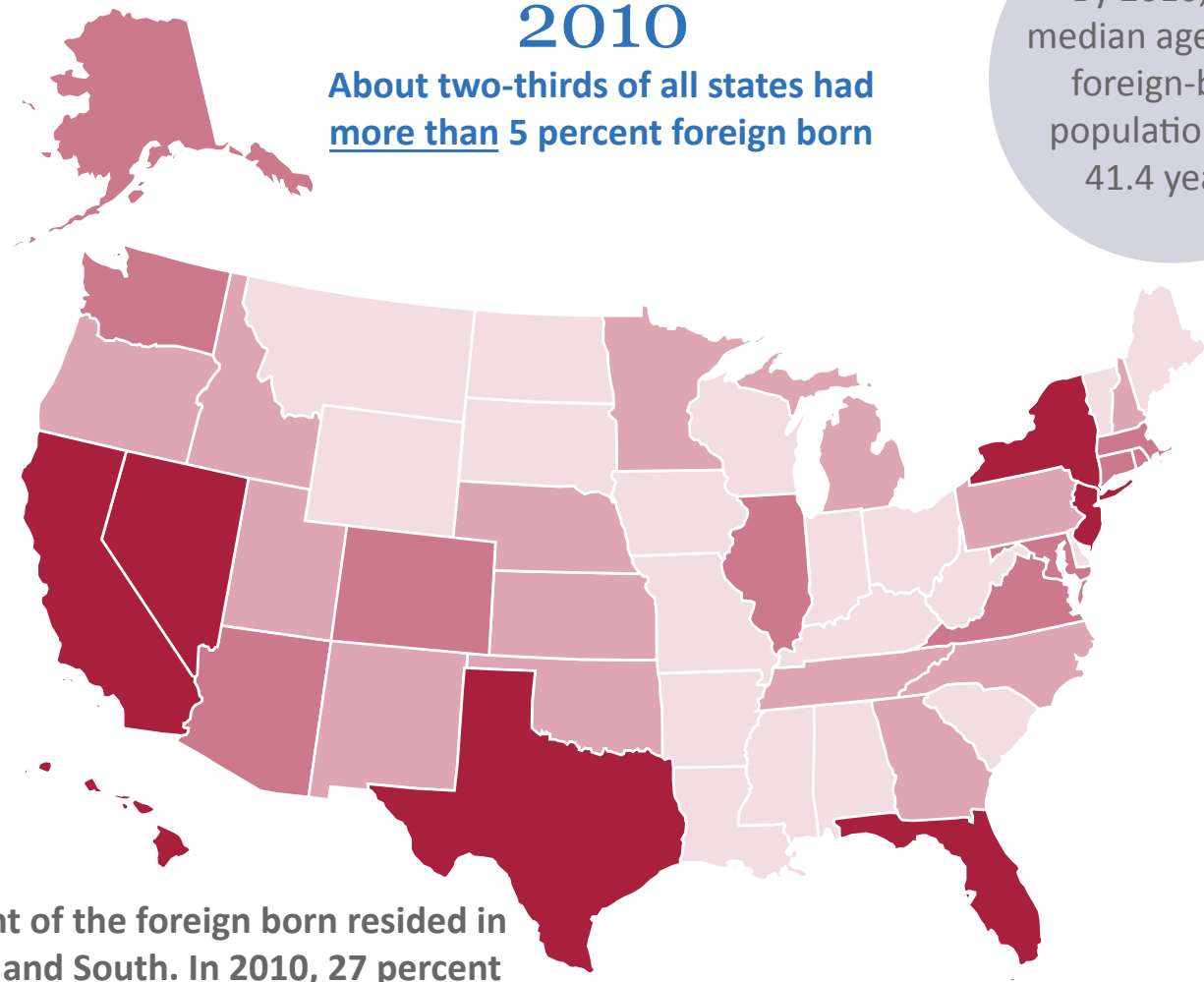


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1960 Decennial Census.

2010

About two-thirds of all states had more than 5 percent foreign born

By 2010, the median age of the foreign-born population was 41.4 years.



67 percent of the foreign born resided in the West and South. In 2010, 27 percent of California's population was foreign born, highest in the nation.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey.

Source: The Size, Place of Birth, and Geographic Distribution of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 1960 to 2010

<http://www.census.gov/population/foreign/files/WorkingPaper96.pdf>