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Demographic Characteristics of Immigrant Workers in the United States

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Demographic Study

The objective of this study is to analyze the demographic characteristics of foreign born workers in the United States at the county level.

County level estimates will be presented by world region of birth, educational attainment and occupation of the foreign born population.

Using data from the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS), 480 counties out of the total 3,142 US counties were identified as having foreign born individuals. Those 480 counties comprise more than 93% of the total foreign born population living in the US.

Figure 1: Distribution of the foreign born population by county

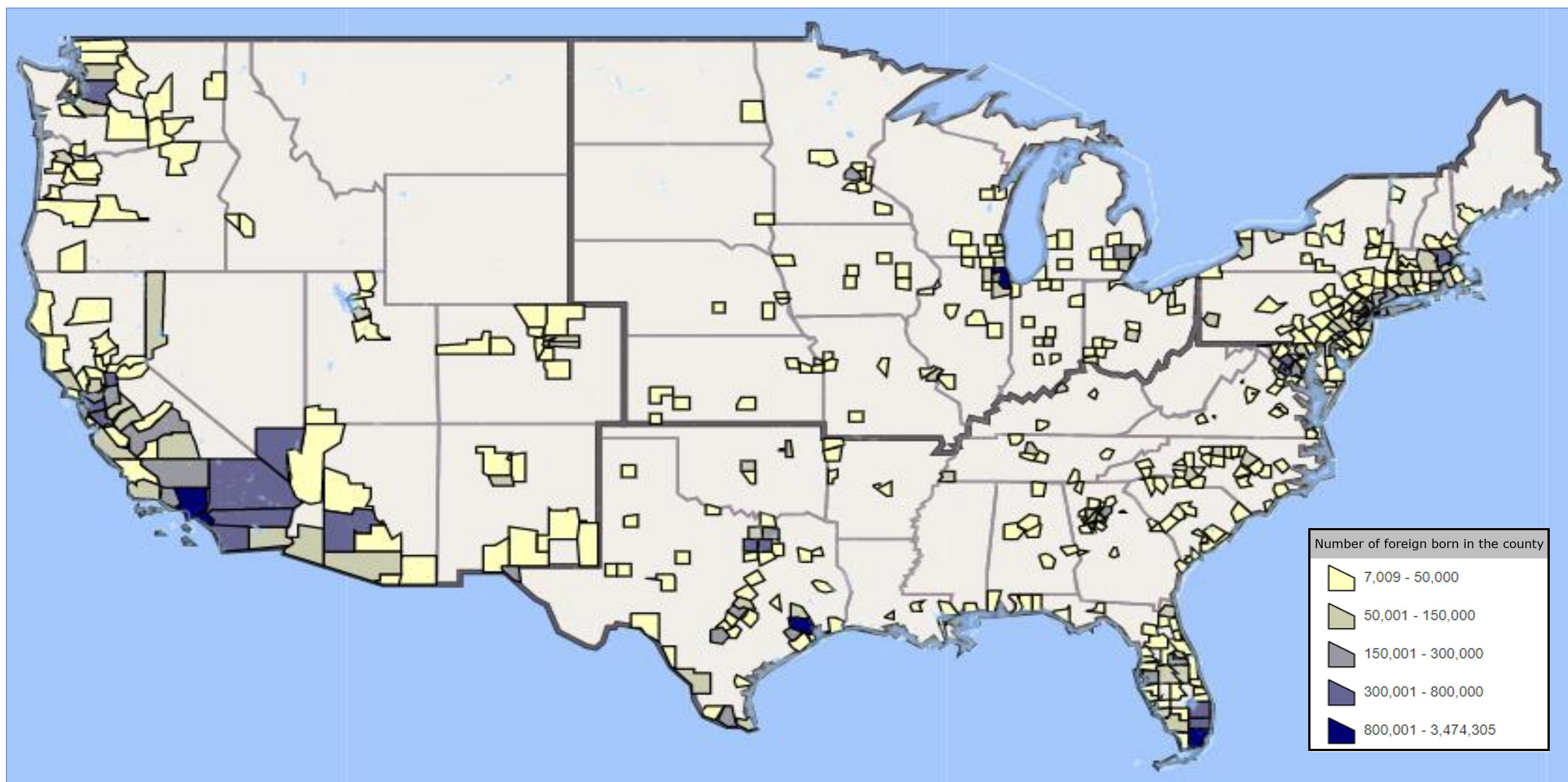


Figure 2: Percent global region of origin per number of counties

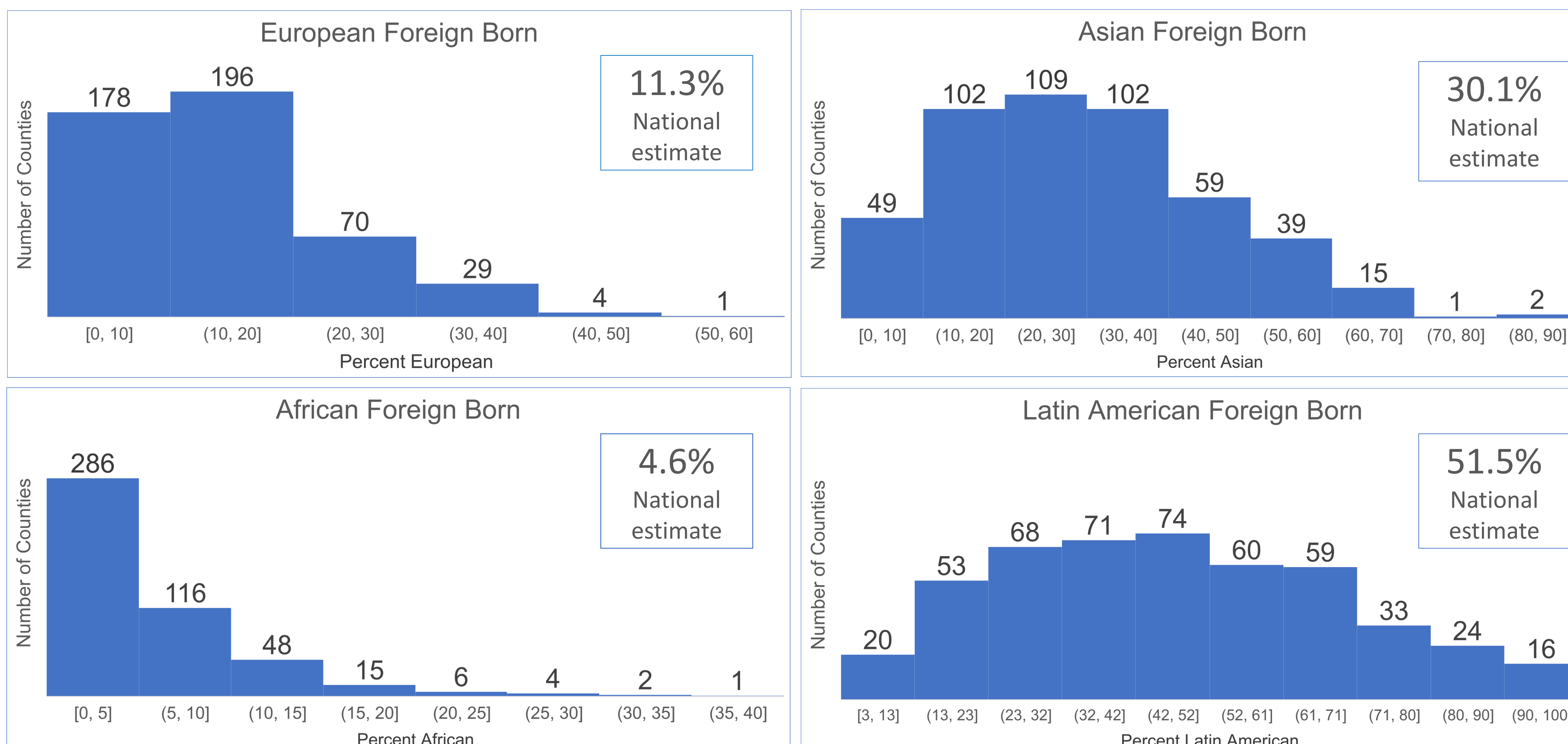


Figure 3: Share of educational attainment of the foreign born population per county

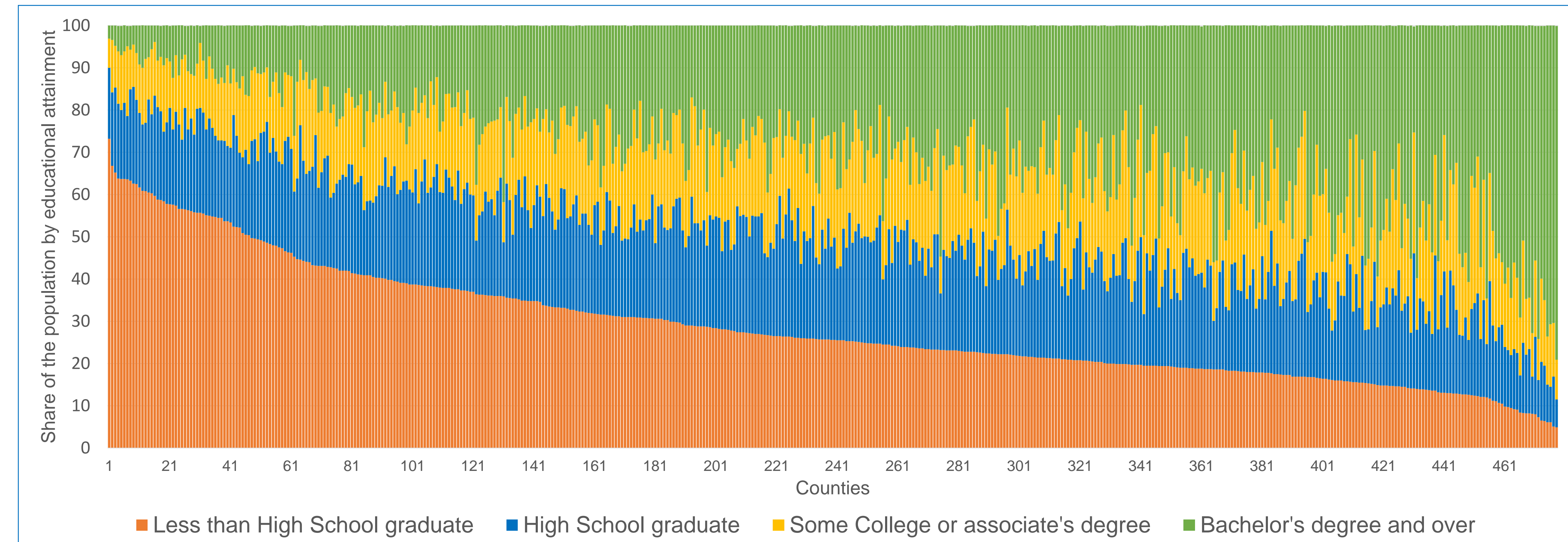
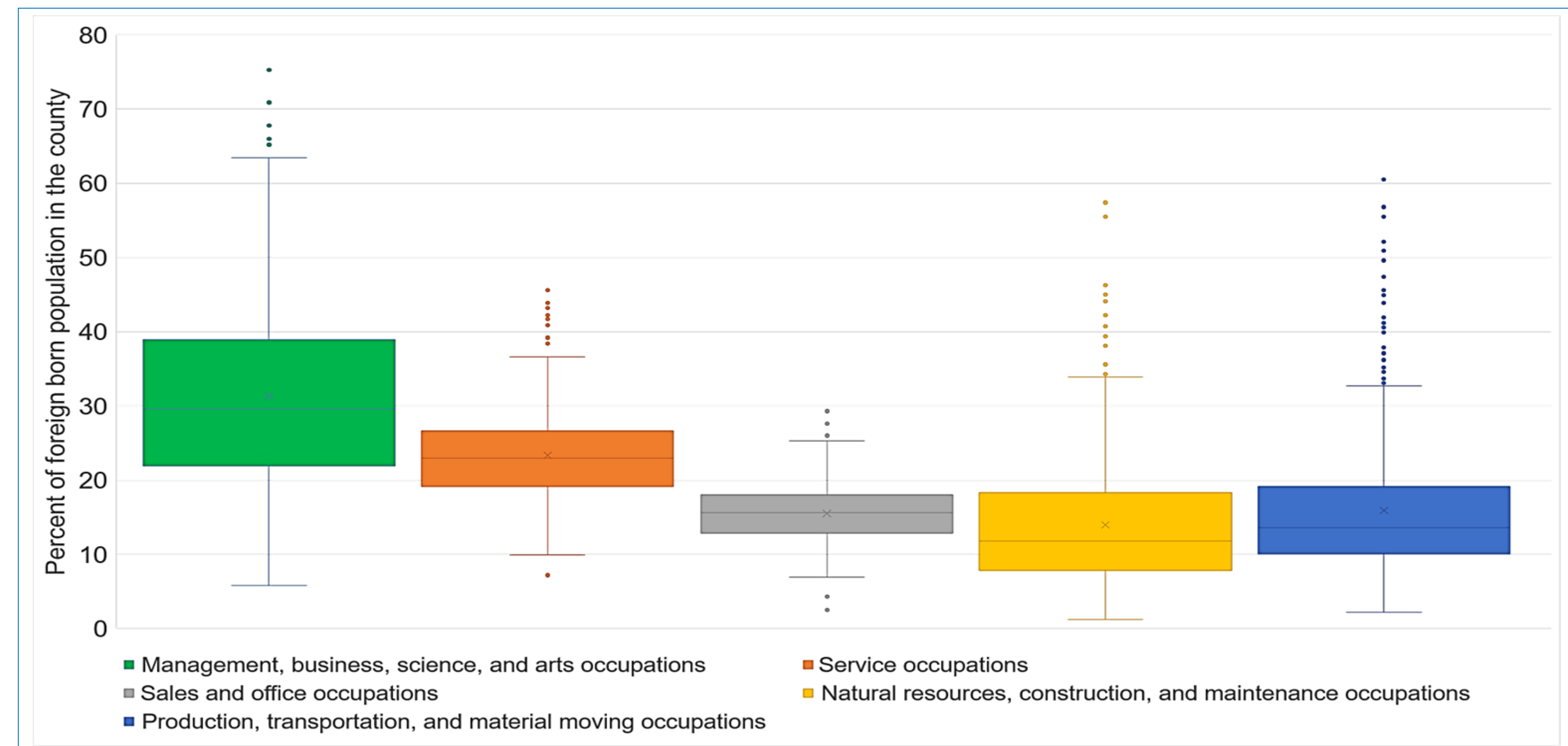


Figure 4: Distribution of occupation categories of the foreign born population



Major Findings

In 2,662 US counties, the number of foreign born is nearly zero. Those counties account for less than 7% of the total foreign born population living in the US.

The foreign born population is mainly distributed in metropolitan areas and counties with distinguished US universities.

The foreign born population have distinct demographic characteristics in different counties.

- i. In at least 30% of the counties, Latin America is not the predominant origin of the foreign born population.
- ii. In at least 40% of the counties, Bachelor's degree and over is the predominant level of education attainment by the foreign born population against 36% with less than High School education.
- iii. In the majority of US counties, at least 30% of the foreign born hold management, business, science, and arts occupations.