IMMIGRANTS IN CHARLOTTE: A STATISTICAL AND SPATIAL OVERVIEW

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UNC CHARLOTTE

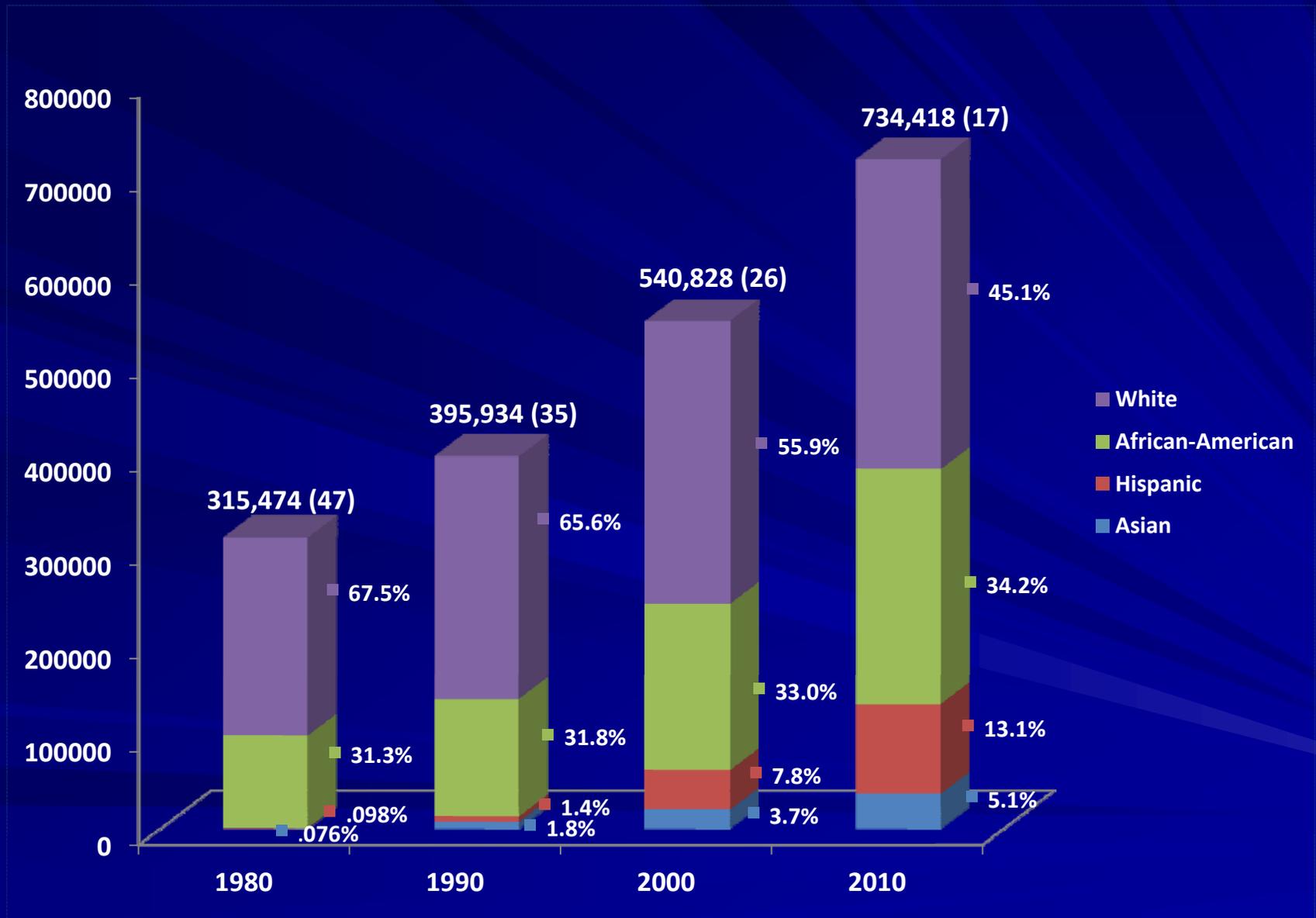*Mayor's Immigrant Integration Taskforce*

February 27, 2014

Outline

- 21st century immigration geography in the U.S.

- Traditional vs. New Immigrant Gateway model

- Charlotte's immigrant landscape: issues and policy implications affecting immigrant integration

America's 21ˢᵗ Century Demographic Frame

- 2005-2050, U.S. population growth (48%) 438 million

- 82% growth immigrants and their descendants

- Foreign-Born Population in 2011
  Mexico (29%)
  India (4.6%)
  Philippines (4.5%)
  China (4.1%)
  Vietnam (3.1%)
  El Salvador (3.1%)
  Korea (2.7%)

- In 2000, Hispanics largest minority group in the U.S. (15.1%); African-Americans 12.1% (2005-2009 estimates)

Charlotte's Transformation from Old South to New South

Legend:
- White
- African-American
- Hispanic
- Asian

1980: 315,474 (47)
- White 67.5%
- African-American 31.3%
- Hispanic .098%
- Asian .076%

1990: 395,934 (35)
- White 65.6%
- African-American 31.8%
- Hispanic 1.4%
- Asian 1.8%

2000: 540,828 (26)
- White 55.9%
- African-American 33.0%
- Hispanic 7.8%
- Asian 3.7%

2010: 734,418 (17)
- White 45.1%
- African-American 34.2%
- Hispanic 13.1%
- Asian 5.1%

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Classic Immigrant Settlement Geography (The Chicago School)

- Immigrant "Gateway Cities" key entry points for people and goods moving into the U.S.

- Immigrants settle in the poorest and least desirable neighborhoods

- Immigrants settle in the City Center close to job opportunities

- Immigrants are attracted to pre-existing immigrant communities

- Urban immigrant settlement leads to ethnic enclaves

21st Century Immigrant Gateways: New Settlement Model

- New gateway cities – rapidly growing, new economies, interior locations

- Little or no immigration traditions

- Suburban settlement – housing costs, job location, successional change

- Highly diffused immigrant populations

Rise of New Immigrant Gateways: Why Charlotte?

Economy

- growing service-based economy
- need for workers across occupational spectrum
- Bank of America phenomenon (early 1990s turning point)

Landscape of Opportunity

- entrepreneurship encouraged
- year-round employment
- female employment opportunities

Welcoming

- little immigration history or experience = less prejudice
- expansive labor market
- immigration non-political issue

Immigrant Overview for Mecklenburg County
(Foreign-Born equals immigrant)

Total Foreign-Born	13.6% (128,879)
Citizenship Status	32.2%

Entered U.S.

Before 2000	50.7%
2000-2009	43.4%
2010 or later	5.9%

Region of Birth

Latin America	51.5%
Asia	27.3%
Europe	10.9%
Africa	8.4%
North America (Canada)	1.4%
Oceania	0.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 3-year estimates (2010-2012).

Immigrant Overview for Mecklenburg County: Economics and Labor Market

Median Household Income	$54,417 (U.S. Born: $56,602)

Income and Benefits
(2012 inflation adjusted)

$200,000 or more	6.1%
$150,000 - $199,000	5.4%
$100,000 - $149,000	12.5%
$75,000 - $99,000	11.5%
$50,000 - $74,999	18.3%
$35,000 - $49,999	14.3%
$25,000 - $34,999	10.3%
$15,000 - $24,999	10.0%
$10,000 - $14,999	4.9%
$10,000	6.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 3-year estimates (2010-2012).

Immigrant Overview for Mecklenburg County: Economics and Labor Market

Occupation

Occupation	Percent
Management, Business, Science and Arts Occupations	26.9%
Service Occupations	23.1%
Natural Resources, Construction and Maintenance Occupations	19.6%
Sales and Office Occupations	15.9%
Production, Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	14.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 3-year estimates (2010-2012).

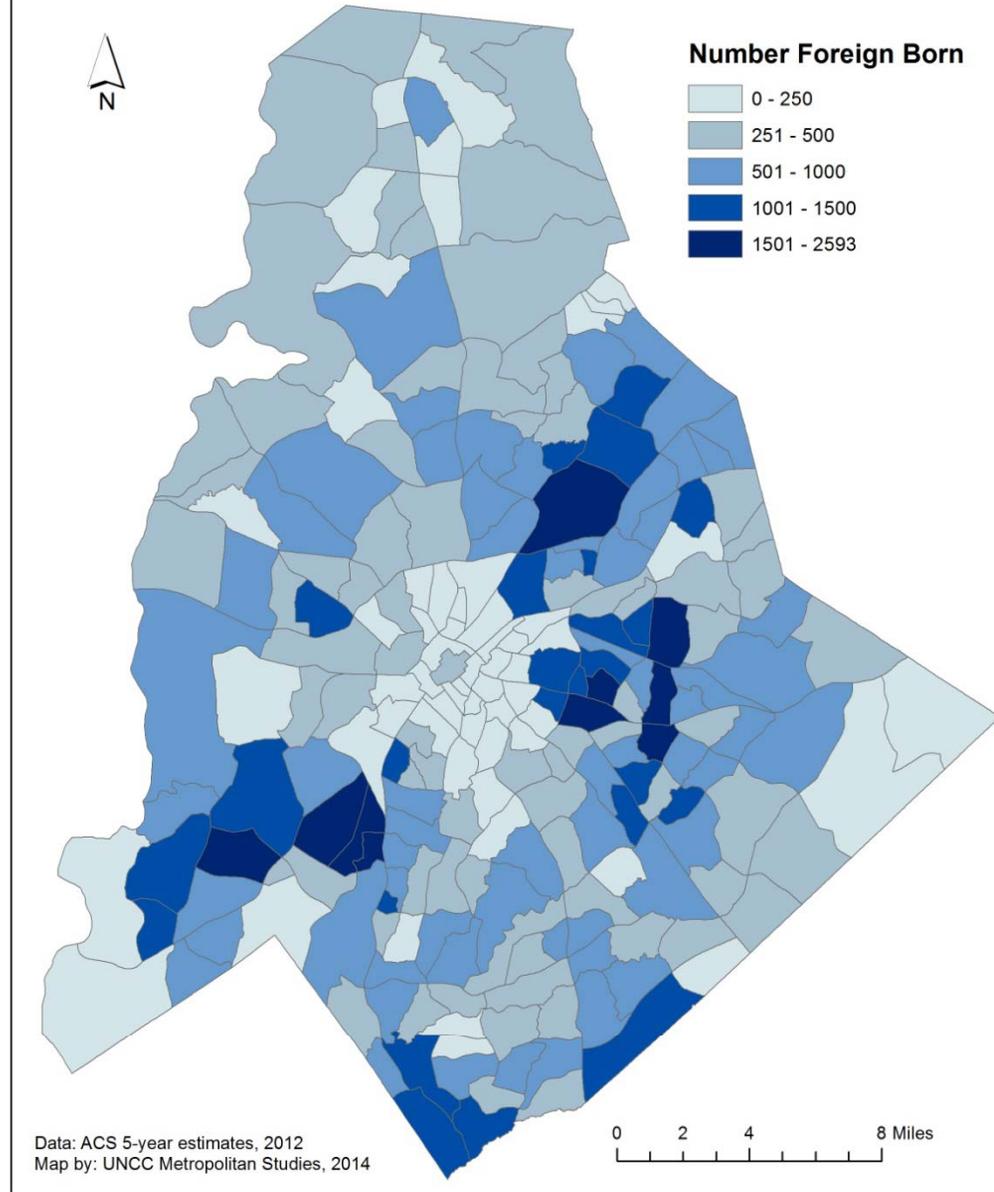# Metrics Affecting Immigrant Receptivity and Quality of Life

	All Foreign-Born	Latin America	Asia	Europe	Africa
Citizenship	32.2%	18.7%	44.2%	56.3%	41.7%
Entered U.S. before 2000, Not Citizen	23.4%	30.6%	13.2%	18.4%	15.4%
Language Spoken at Home					
English Only	15.2%	7.9%	12.5%	35.9%	26.1%
Speak English Less than "Very Well"	49.5%	63.7%	45.8%	20.9%	22.8%
English Language Isolated Households	29.0%	40.7%	24.6%	11.7%	9.8%
Educational Attainment					
< High School Graduate	30.1%	47.0%	15.6%	9.8%	7.3%
Graduate or Professional Degree	11.4%	3.6%	21.7%	20.5%	12.8%
Mean Household Income Past 12 Months (2012 inflation adjusted)	$63,165	$46,257	$81,007	$98,885	$55,709
Families Below Poverty Level	19.6%	26.9%	12.2%	4.7%	18.7%
Unemployed in Labor Force	7.1%	7.5%	5.9%	5.0%	9.5%

Metrics Affecting Immigrant Receptivity and Quality of Life (continued)

	All Foreign-Born	Latin America	Asia	Europe	Africa
Self-employed Workers	6.9%	8.2%	3.5%	11.0%	3.0%
Occupation Concentrations					
Management, Business, Science and Arts Occupations	26.9%	10.7%	48.4%	49.7%	36.0%
Service Occupations	23.1%	29.5%	14.0%	11.9%	22.9%
Natural Resources, Construction and Maintenance Occupations	19.6%	32.5%	2.6%	8.1%	9.4%
Home Ownership	48.7%	38.4%	59.8%	74.8%	42.5%
"At-Risk" Home Ownership	42.0%	51.5%	38.9%	28.4%	40.4%
No Automobile Available	7.4%	7.5%	6.8%	4.5%	10.3%

Foreign Born Population
Mecklenburg County Census Tracts, 2012

Number Foreign Born
- 0 - 250
- 251 - 500
- 501 - 1000
- 1001 - 1500
- 1501 - 2593

N

Data: ACS 5-year estimates, 2012
Map by: UNCC Metropolitan Studies, 2014

0   2   4   8 Miles

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Foreign Born from Latin America
Mecklenburg County Census Tracts, 2012
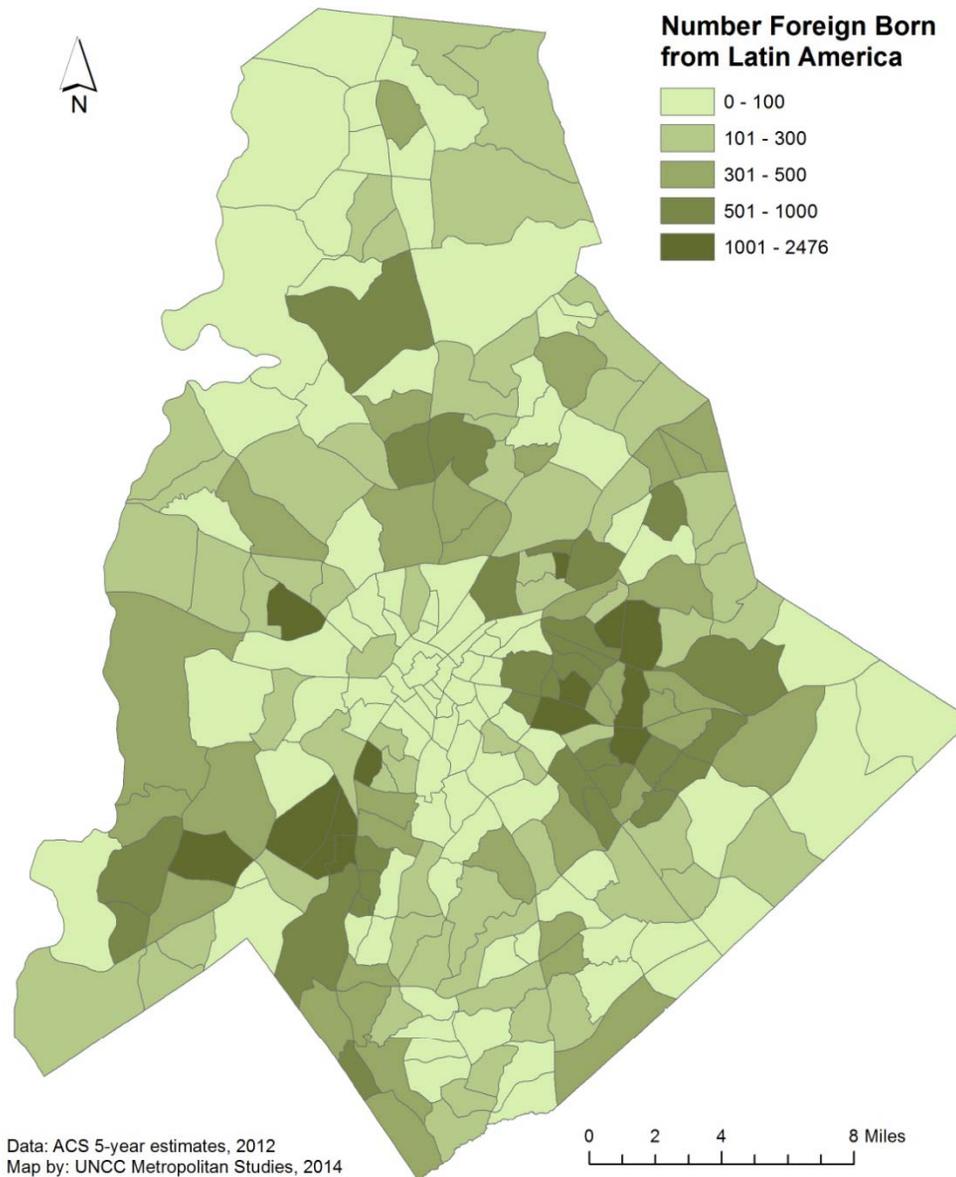
Number Foreign Born from Latin America

0 - 100
101 - 300
301 - 500
501 - 1000
1001 - 2476

Data: ACS 5-year estimates, 2012
Map by: UNCC Metropolitan Studies, 2014

0   2   4   8 Miles

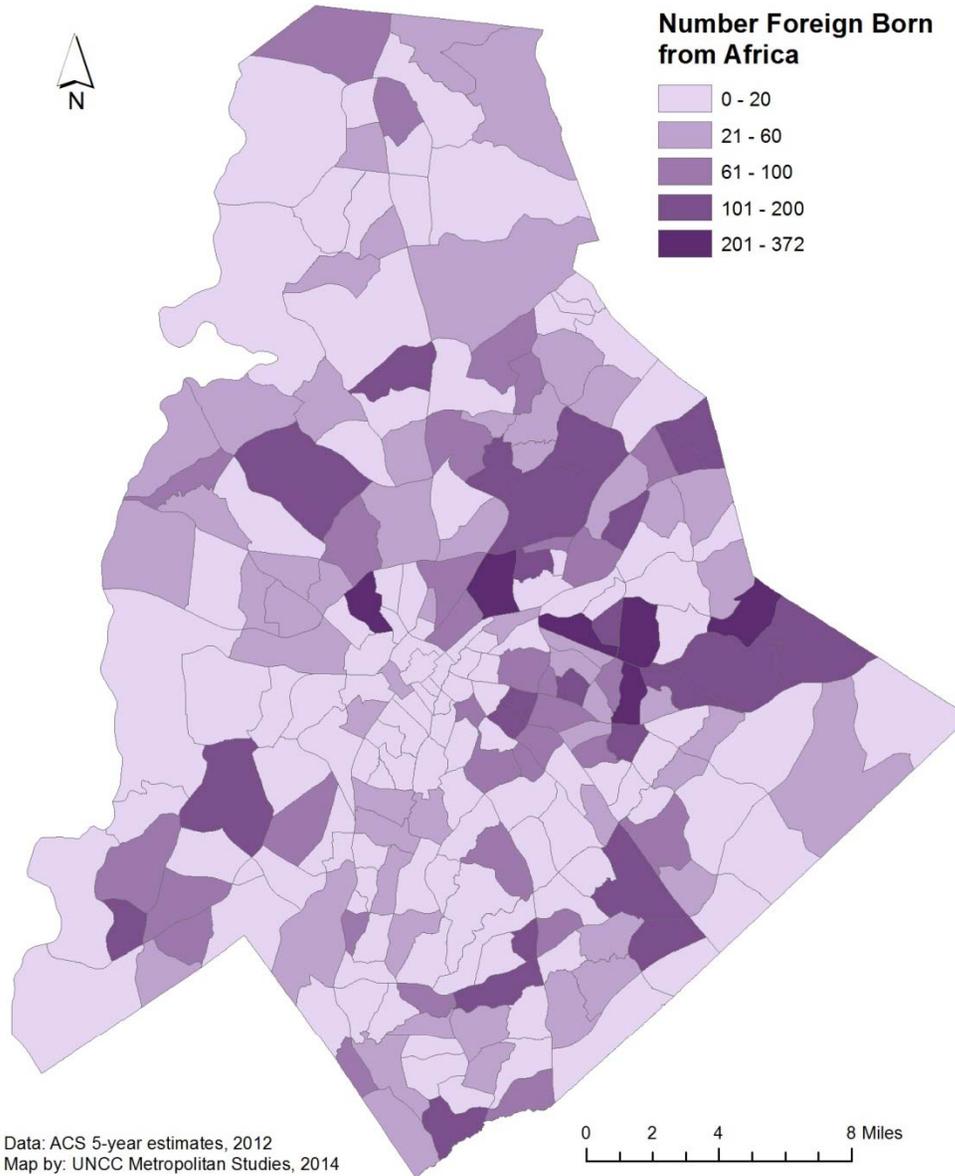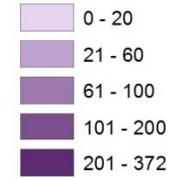Foreign Born from Asia
Mecklenburg County Census Tracts, 2012
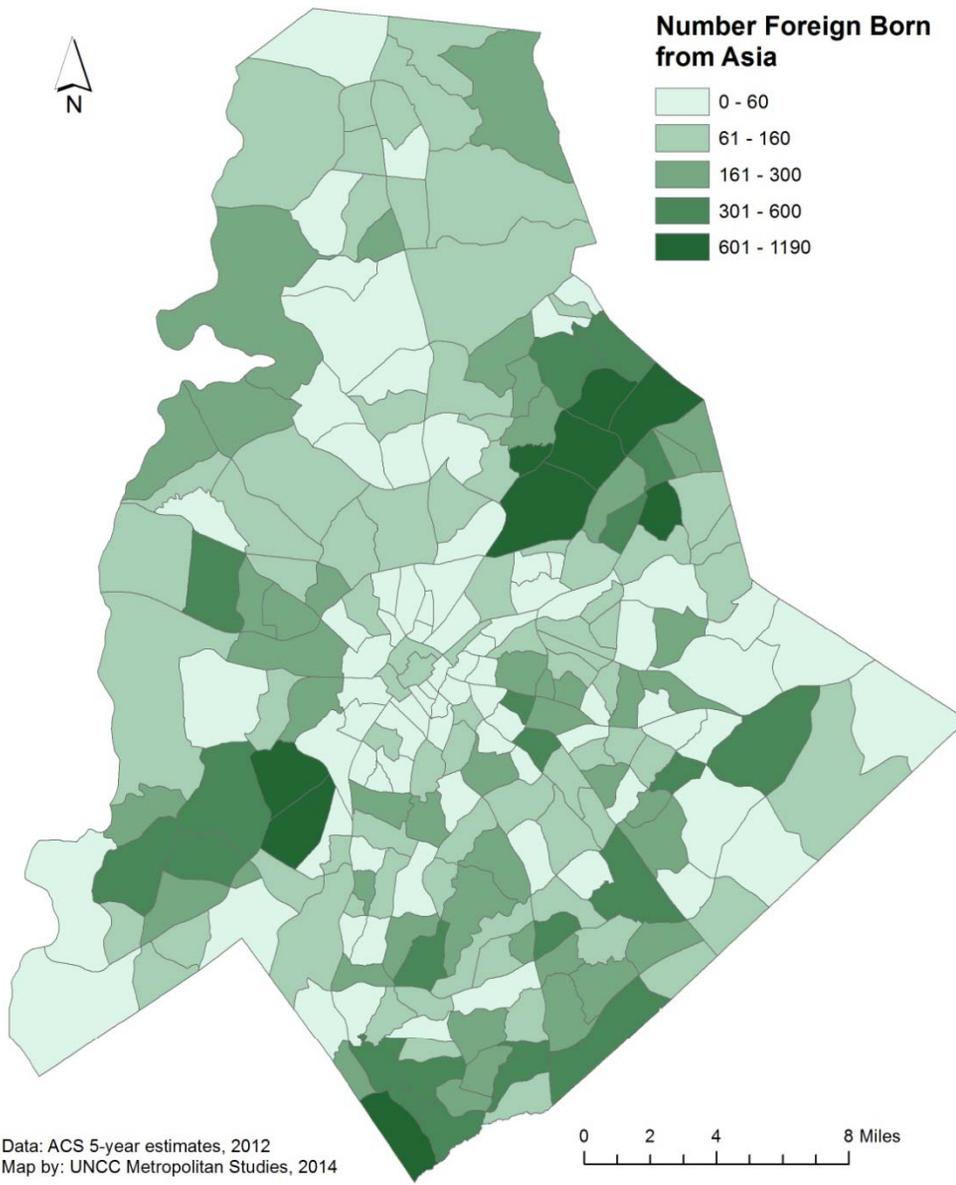
Number Foreign Born from Asia
- 0 - 60
- 61 - 160
- 161 - 300
- 301 - 600
- 601 - 1190

Data: ACS 5-year estimates, 2012
Map by: UNCC Metropolitan Studies, 2014

0   2   4   8 Miles

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Foreign Born from Africa
Mecklenburg County Census Tracts, 2012

Number Foreign Born from Africa

- 0 - 20
- 21 - 60
- 61 - 100
- 101 - 200
- 201 - 372

N

Data: ACS 5-year estimates, 2012
Map by: UNCC Metropolitan Studies, 2014

0   2   4   8 Miles

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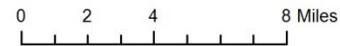
Foreign Born from Europe
Mecklenburg County Census Tracts, 2012

Number Foreign Born from Europe

- 0 - 20
- 21 - 60
- 61 - 100
- 101 - 200
- 201 - 431

N

Data: ACS 5-year estimates, 2012
Map by: UNCC Metropolitan Studies, 2014

0   2   4   8 Miles