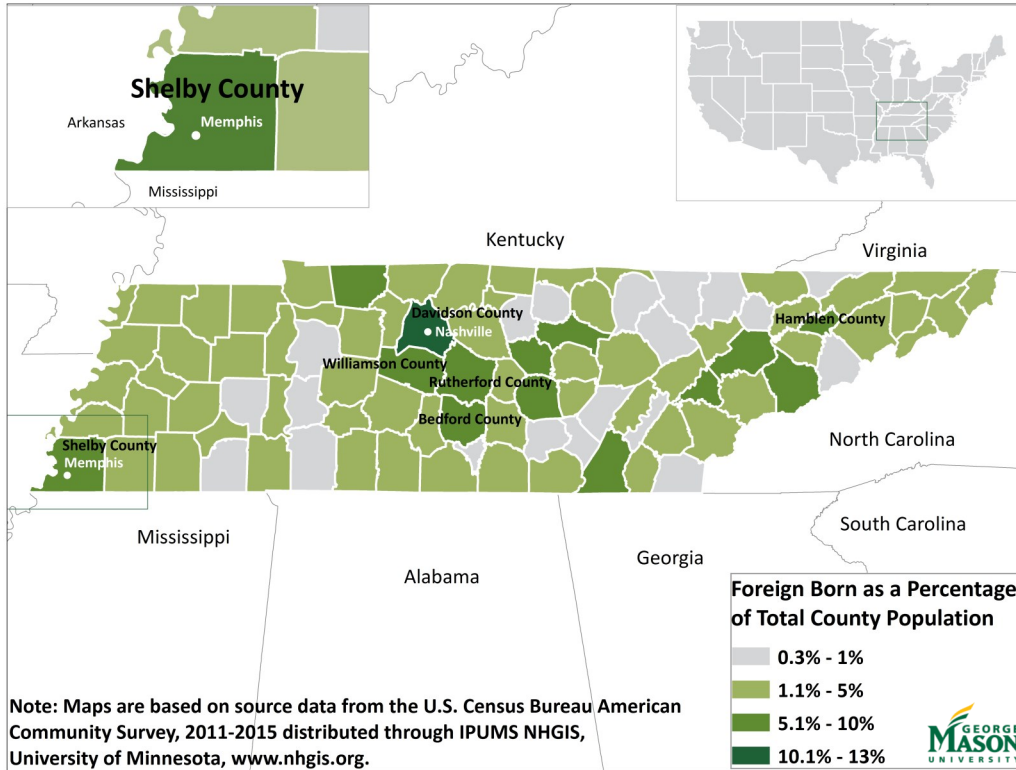


The Foreign-Born Population in Shelby County, Tennessee

Figure 1. Foreign Born in Tennessee
Foreign Born as a Percentage of Total County Population



2015 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **41,757,000:** Approximate number of immigrants* living in the U.S. (13% of the population)
- **310,000:** Approximate number of immigrants living in Tennessee (5% of the state's population)
- **56,000:** Approximate number of immigrants living in Shelby County (6% of the population)
- **36th:** Rank of Tennessee among the 50 states and Washington, D.C. in terms of immigrants as a percentage of the state's population

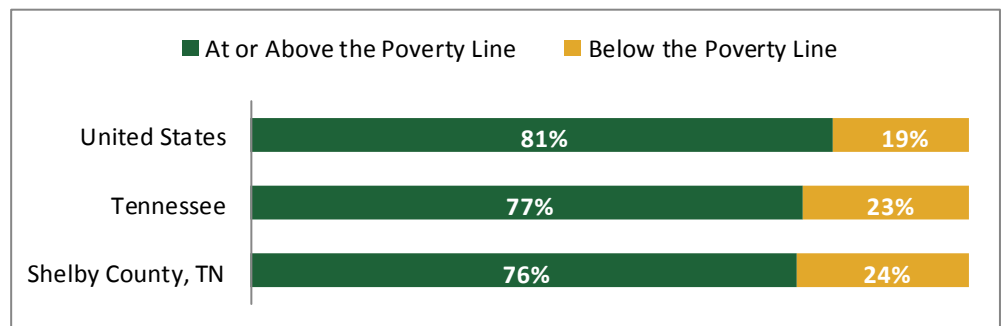
Foreign Born in Tennessee

Figure 1 shows how immigrants are distributed across the state of Tennessee. Davidson, Rutherford, Bedford, Hamblen, Williamson, and Shelby Counties are the counties with the six highest percentages of foreign-born residents.

Poverty

Figure 2 shows that 76 percent of immigrants living in Shelby County and 77 percent of immigrants living in Tennessee live at or above the poverty line, percentages that are slightly lower compared to immigrants living in the United States (81 percent).

Figure 2. Poverty Status among Immigrants Living in Shelby County, Tennessee, and in the U.S.



All analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2011-2015 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org.

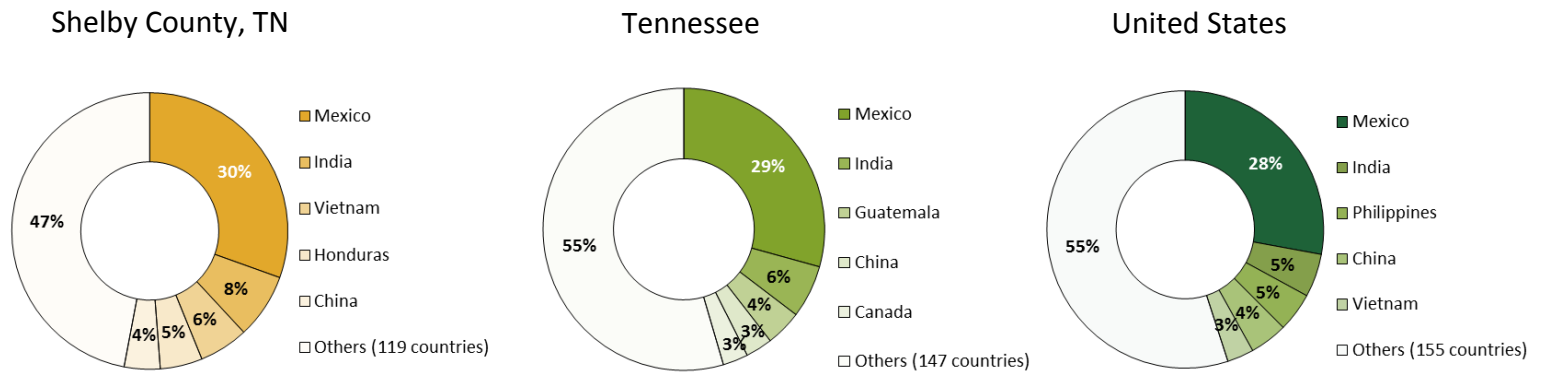
*Please note that the terms "immigrant" and "foreign born" are used interchangeably throughout this fact sheet. Foreign born refers to individuals who are not a U.S. citizen at birth or who were born outside the U.S., Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and whose parents are not U.S. citizens. The foreign born may include naturalized U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, temporary residents, refugees and asylees, and others. Additionally, native born includes those who are U.S. citizens at birth, those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territories, and those born abroad to a parent who is a U.S. citizen.

The Foreign-Born Population in Shelby County, Tennessee

Country of Birth

Figure 3 shows that foreign-born individuals living in Shelby County, Tennessee, and in the United States come from a variety of countries. Thirty-eight percent of foreign-born individuals living in the Shelby County and 35 percent in Tennessee came from Mexico and India, numbers that are slightly higher compared to the United States as a whole (33 percent). However, five percent of immigrants living in Shelby County come from Honduras; in Tennessee, four percent of immigrants come from Guatemala and three percent come from Canada. These three countries do not fall within the top five nationally.

Figure 3. Top Five Birthplaces among Immigrants Living in Shelby County, Tennessee, and in the U.S.

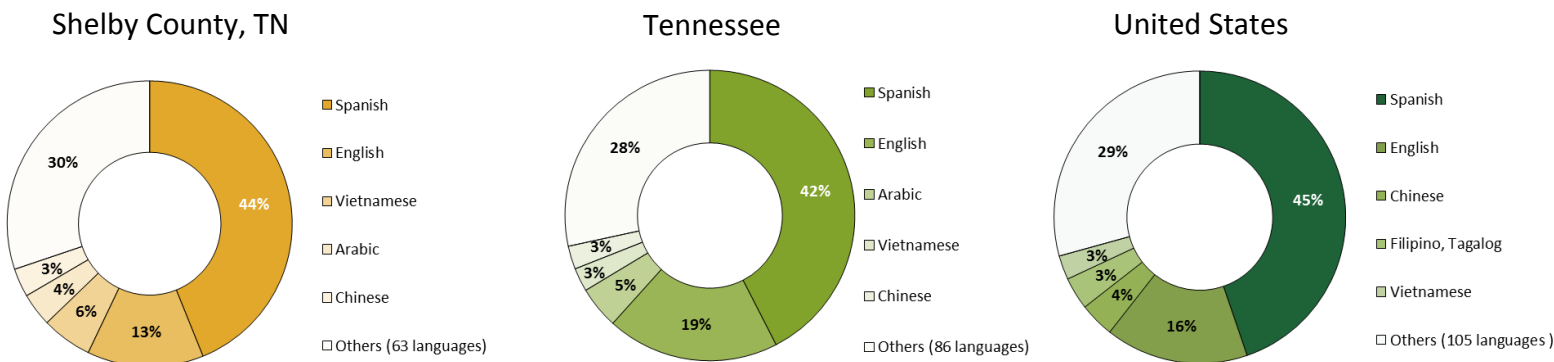


Languages Spoken at Home

Figure 4 shows that immigrants living in Shelby County, Tennessee, and in the United States speak a range of languages at home. Overall, a majority speak Spanish, English, Chinese or Vietnamese at home. However, compared to immigrants nationwide, there are greater percentages of immigrants living in Shelby County and in Tennessee who speak Arabic at home.

Figure 4. Top Five Languages Spoken at Home in Shelby County, Tennessee and in the U.S

Share of Immigrants Age 5 and Older, by Language Spoken at Home



The Foreign-Born Population in Shelby County, Tennessee

Occupational Group

Figure 5 shows that immigrant heads of households living in Shelby County, Tennessee, and in the U.S. are employed in a variety of occupational groups. Immigrant heads of households living in Shelby County and Tennessee are more likely to be employed in construction jobs (such as carpenters, electricians, tile installers, and finishers) compared to those living in the United States.

Figure 5. Top Five Occupational Groups among Household Heads in Shelby County, Tennessee and in the U.S.

Share of Immigrants Age 16 or Older, By Occupational Group

Shelby County, TN		Tennessee		United States	
Construction	11%	Construction	13%	Management, Business, Science, and Arts	9%
Sales and Related	10%	Production	10%	Production	8%
Production	9%	Sales and Related	8%	Office and Administrative Support	8%
Management, Business, Science, and Arts	8%	Management, Business, Science, and Arts	8%	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	8%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	8%	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	7%	Sales and Related	8%
All Other Occupational Groups (n=19)	54%	All Other Occupational Groups (n=20)	54%	All Other Occupational Groups (n=20)	59%
Estimated Immigrant Population (Ages 16+)	17,788	Estimated Immigrant Population (Ages 16+)	92,796	Estimated Immigrant Population (Ages 16+)	11,890,462

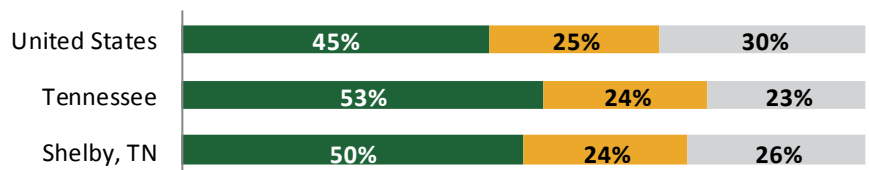
Household Income

Figure 6 highlights the differences in household income among immigrant households in Shelby County, Tennessee, and in the U.S. Overall, immigrant households in Shelby County and Tennessee are more likely to earn less than \$40,000 and report lower median household incomes (\$40,046 and \$36,886) compared to immigrant households in the United States (\$45,052).

Figure 6. Household Income in Shelby County, Tennessee and in the U.S.

Share of Immigrant Household, by Income Level

■ Less than \$40,000 ■ \$40,000 to \$74,999 ■ \$75,000 and greater



ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR IMMIGRATION RESEARCH

The IIR works to refocus the immigration conversation among academics, policy-makers and the public, including the business community and media, by producing and disseminating unbiased and objective, interdisciplinary academic research related to immigrants and immigration to the United States. The Institute for Immigration Research is a joint venture between George Mason University and the Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Massachusetts. To learn more about the Institute for Immigration Research call (703) 993-5833, email iir@gmu.edu, or visit us online at iir.gmu.edu.