

# Maine Office of New Americans

Overview of Maine's Immigrant Community



# Maine Demographics

According to American Community Survey, the Census Bureau's in 2024 Maine's total population was 1,405,012 and about 53,627 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 3.8 % of the population

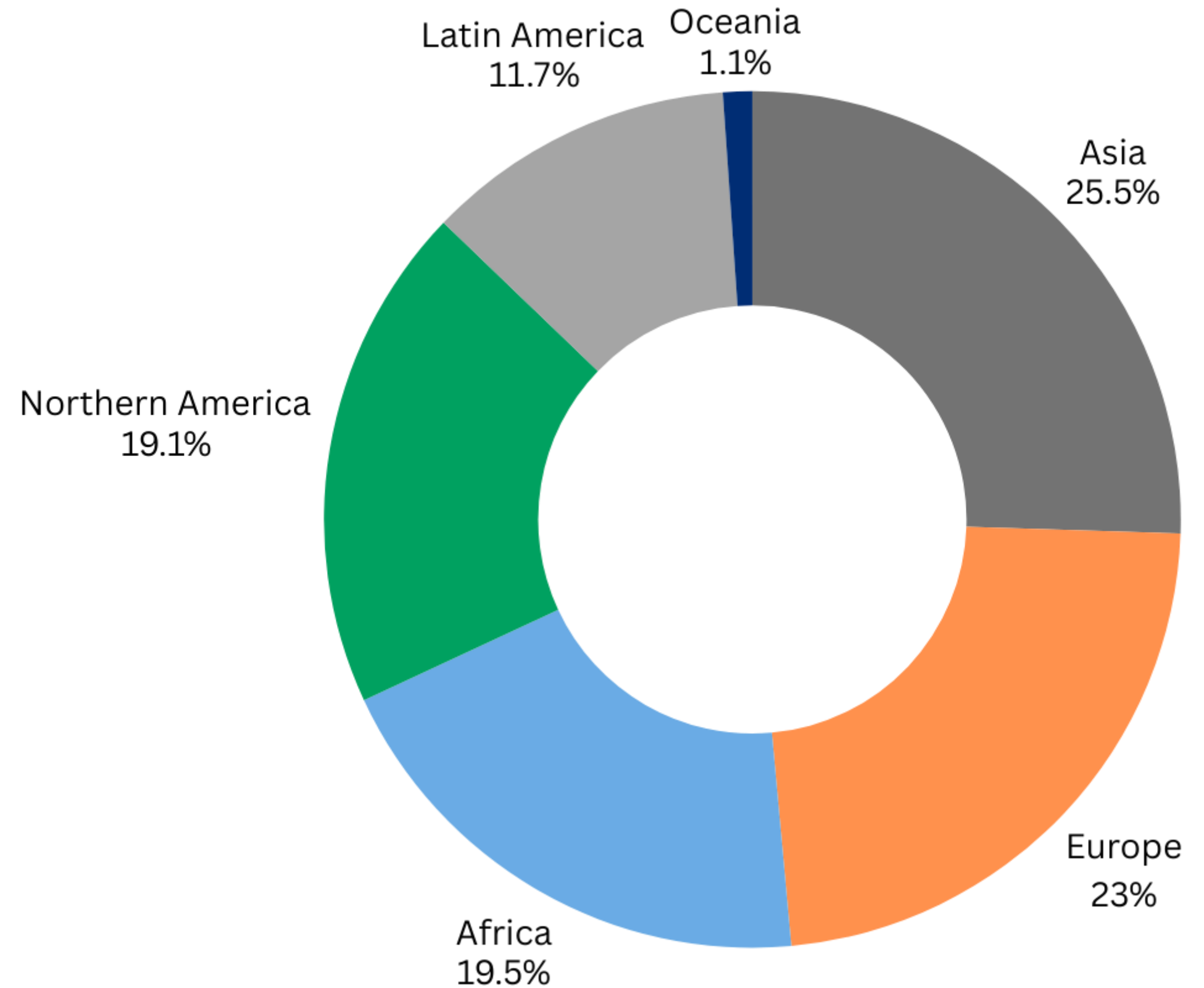
According American Immigration Council in 2018  
Maine has :

- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Canada (18 % of immigrants), the Philippines (9 %), Germany (7 %), India (6 %), and Korea (5 %).
- 90,635 people in Maine (7 % of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent



# Region of Birth

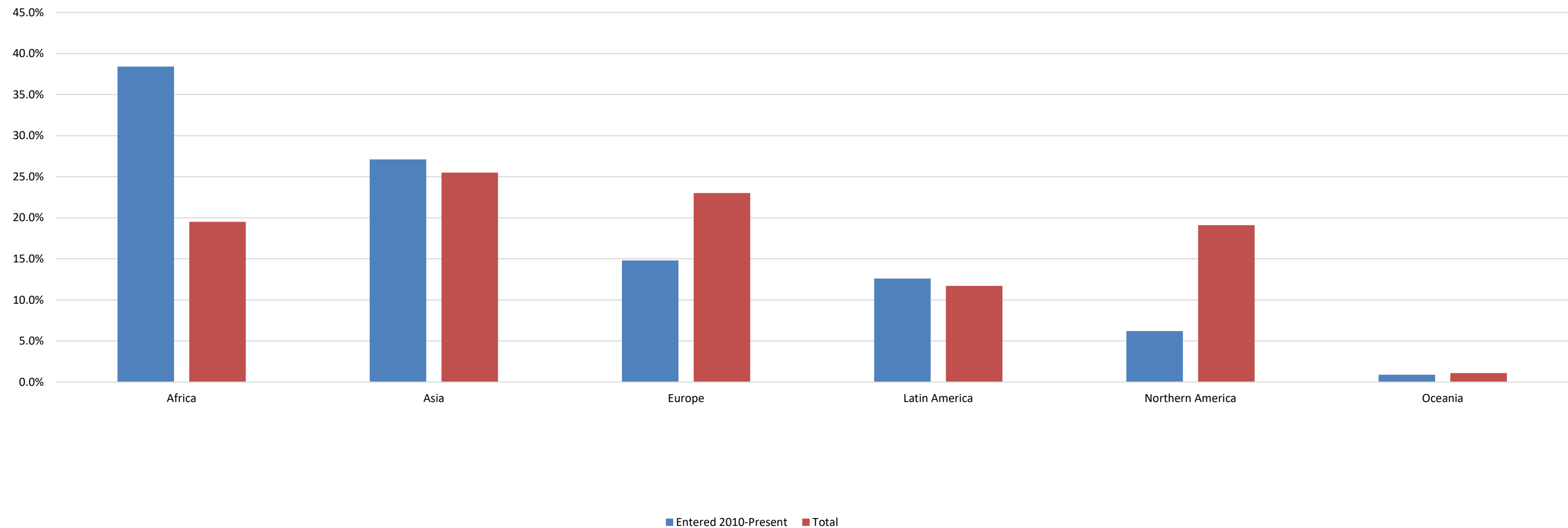
% of Total Foreign-Born Population in Maine 2023



# Region of Birth in Maine 2023

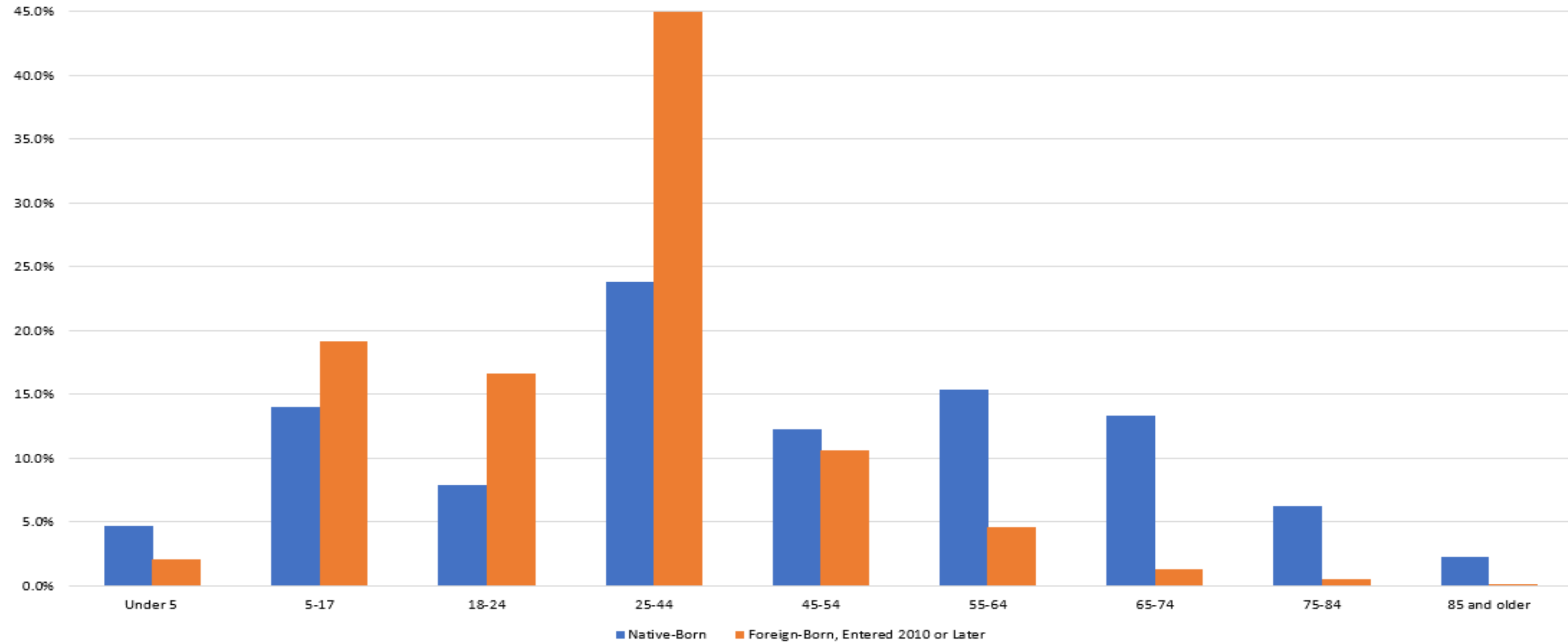
## % of Total Foreign-Born Population

Region of Birth, % of Foreign-Born Population in Maine, 2023

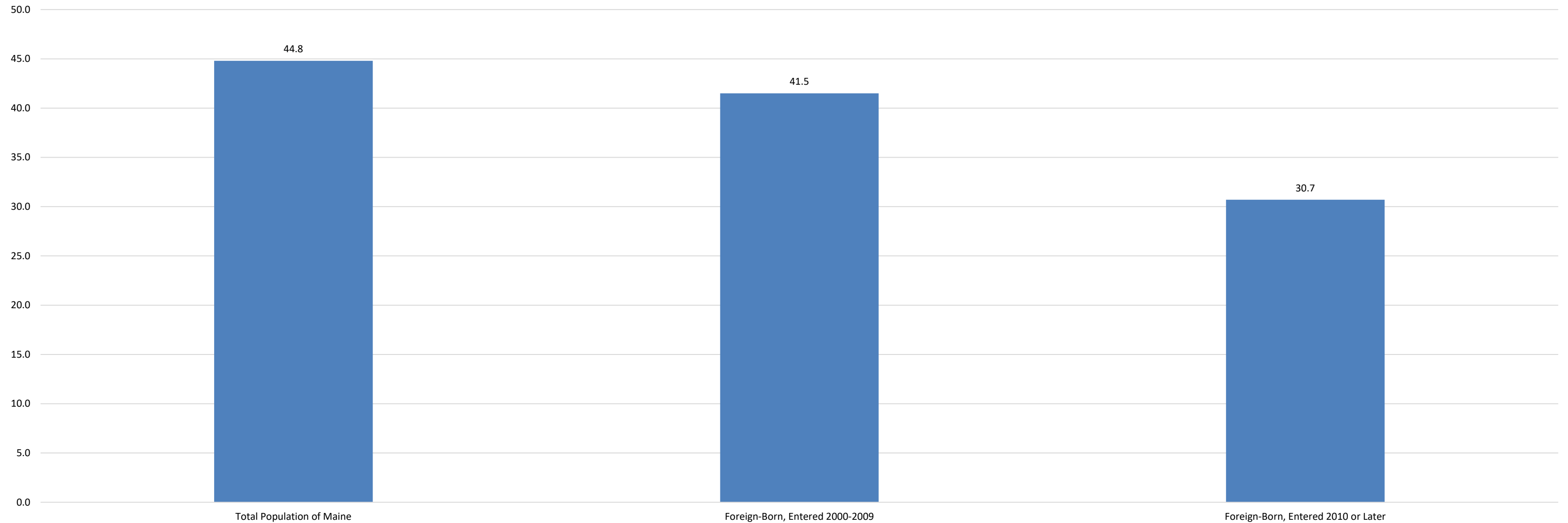


# Maine Population 2023

By age group

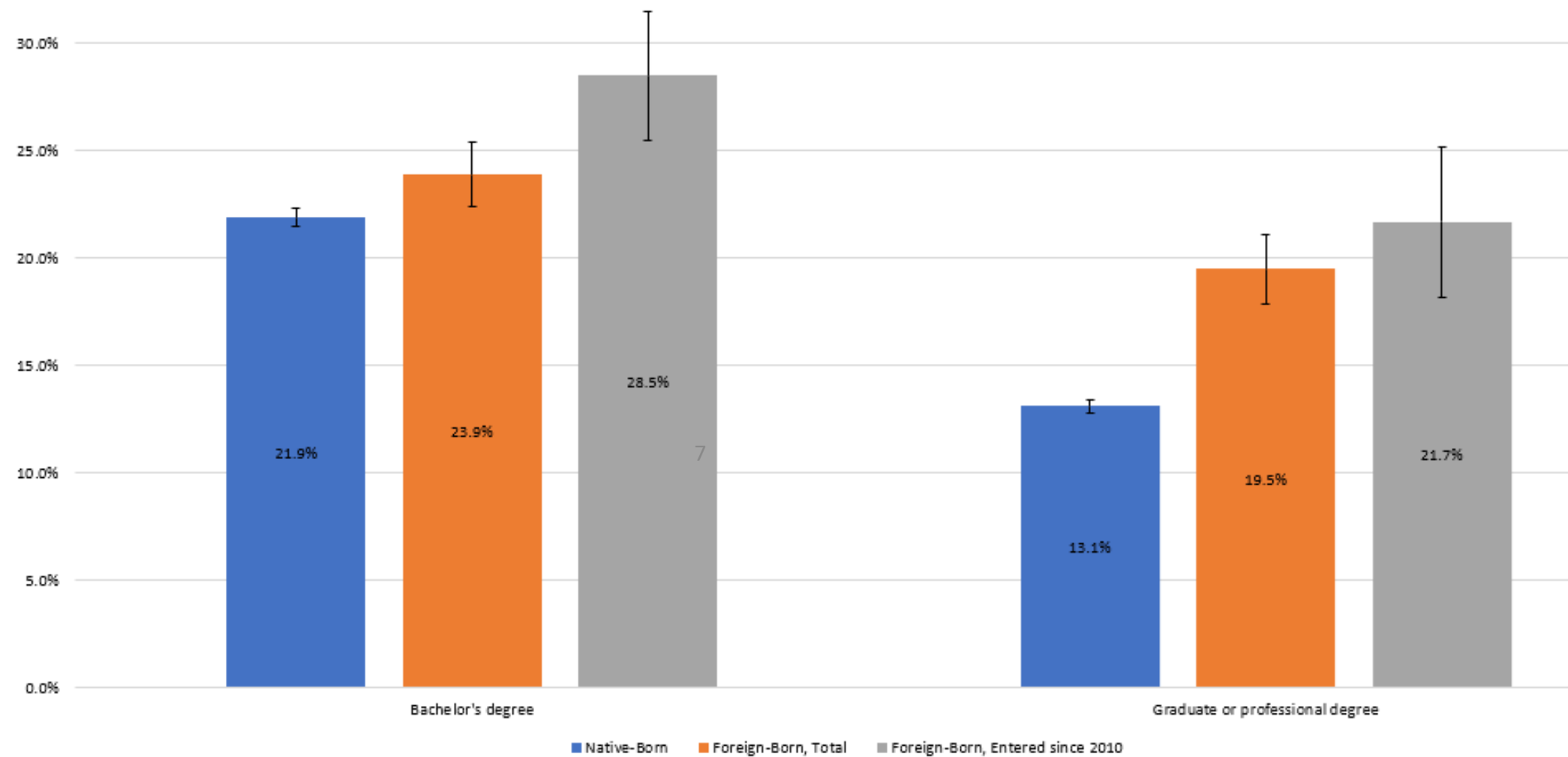


# Median Age in Maine 2023



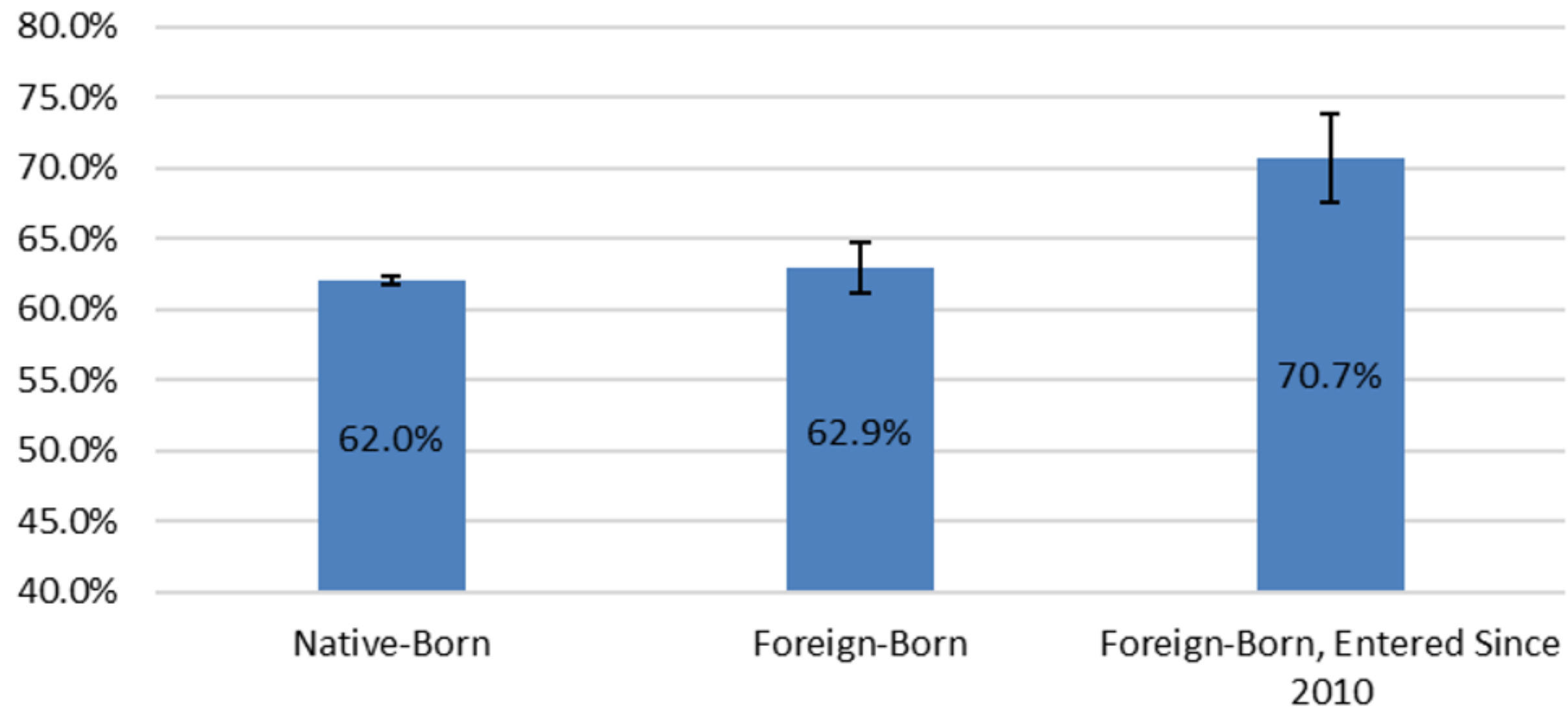
# Bachelor's & Graduate Degree Attainment in Maine 2023

Population age 25+



# Population in the Labor Force in Maine 2023

Population age 16+



# Definitions: Who is an Immigrant?

**Immigrants in Maine include those here Green Card holders (e.g. spouse of a U.S. Citizen or on Work Visa), Diversity Lottery Visa holders, Refugees and Asylees, on Temporary Protected Status (TPS), non-immigrants (visitors and students), and U.S. citizens.**

(Note: You can be a citizen but still be an immigrant to the country.)



# Definitions: Who is an Immigrant?

## Examples:

- Refugees/Asylees
- Green Card holders (e.g. spouse of a U.S. Citizen)
- Afghan Evacuees
- Diversity Lottery Visa
- Asylum Seekers
- Cuban/Haitian Entrants/Afghan Parolees
- Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers
- U Visa (for crime victims)
- T Visa (victims of human trafficking)
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)
- Undocumented
- United4Ukraine
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), those applying for status who are in removal proceedings



# Language Matters

**Migrant**

**Refugee**

**Asylum Seeker**



# Language Matters

## Migrant

A migrant is a generic term for anyone moving to another country with the intention to stay for a minimum period of time, excluding tourists and business visitors. It includes both permanent and temporary migrants with a valid residence permit or visa, asylum seekers, and undocumented migrants who do not belong to any of the three mentioned groups.



# Language Matters

## Refugee

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries.

A 'refugee' refers to persons who have completed the asylum process with a positive outcome and have been granted protection by obtaining refugee status.



# Language Matters

## Asylum Seeker

'Asylum seekers' are persons who have formally submitted a request for asylum but have not yet completed the asylum procedure, including those whose request for asylum is pending. If people remain after being denied such status they become undocumented migrants.



Columbia University defines forced migration as “the movements of refugees and internally displaced people (those displaced by conflicts within their own country of origin) as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects.



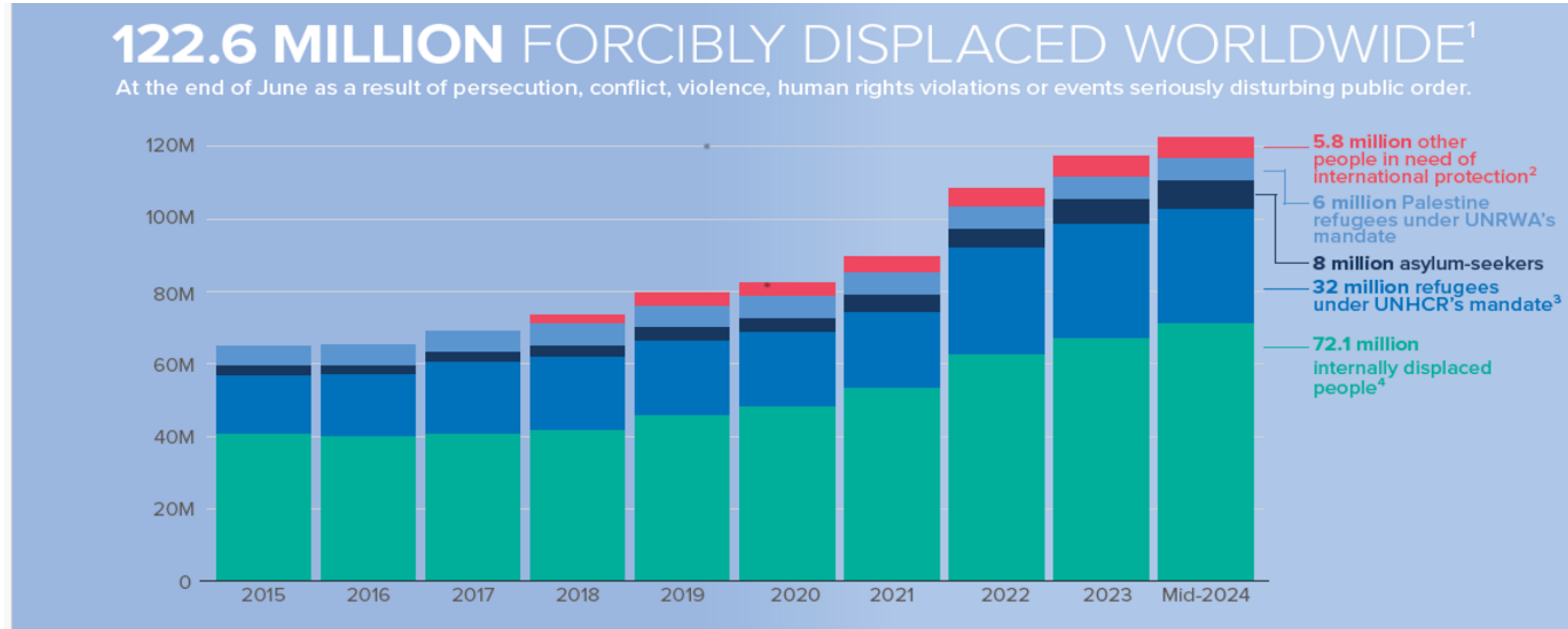
# Global Trends

## Forced displacement in 2023



# Global Trends

## Forced displacement in mid-year 2024



# Global Trends

## Forced displacement in mid-year 2024

**83%**  
HOSTED IN LOW-  
AND MIDDLE-INCOME  
COUNTRIES

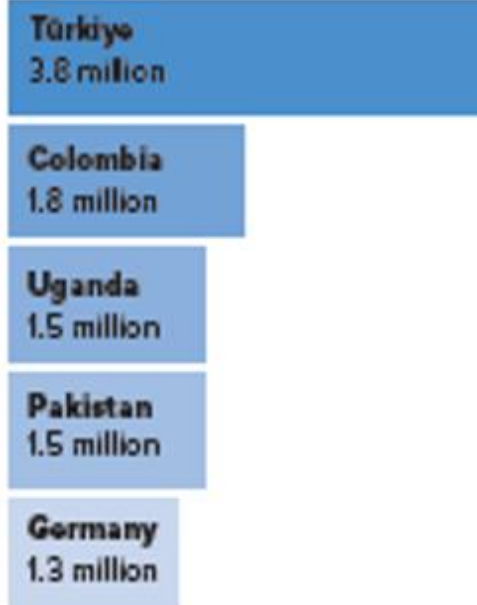
Low- and middle-income countries hosted 83 per cent of the world's refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad.<sup>2</sup> The Least Developed Countries provided asylum to 27 per cent of the total.

**72%**  
HOSTED IN  
NEIGHBOURING  
COUNTRIES

72 per cent of refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad lived in countries neighbouring their countries of origin.

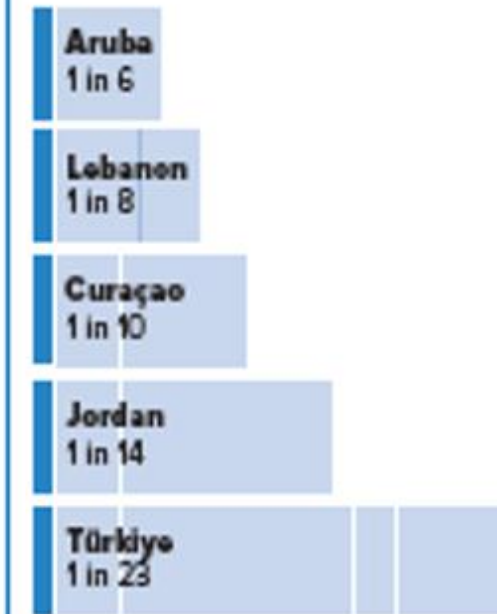
**3.8** MILLION  
REFUGEES HOSTED  
IN TÜRKIYE

Türkiye hosted nearly 3.8 million refugees, the largest population worldwide. Colombia was second with more than 1.8 million, including Venezuelans displaced abroad.



**1 IN 6**  
ARE DISPLACED

Relative to their national populations, the island of Aruba hosted the largest number of Venezuelans displaced abroad (1 in 6) while Lebanon hosted the largest number of refugees (1 in 8),<sup>4</sup> followed by Curaçao (1 in 10), Jordan (1 in 14) and Türkiye (1 in 23).<sup>4</sup>



# Asylum Seekers

Asylum is a part of U.S. immigration law that allows people fleeing persecution or violence in their home country to **live and work** in the United States.

Fear of persecution in their home country due to:

- Race
- Religion
- Nationality
- Political opinion
- Membership in a particular social group

1-23

19



# Asylum Seekers

It's important to note the difference in terms.

**Asylum Seeker  $\neq$  Asylee**

An asylee is a person granted asylum that is protected against deportation and can remain in the U.S., can work, and has a pathway to permanent residence (green card.)



# Asylum Seekers

If an asylum application remains pending after 150 days, the applicant may apply for employment authorization (a work permit), but the application must be pending for 180 to receive a work permit. Any applicant-caused delays during the 180 days after applying for asylum could stop an applicants "clock" making them have to wait longer to apply for or obtain work authorization.





**"Every aspect of the American economy has profited from the contributions of immigrants."**

**--President John F. Kennedy**

# Thank you

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