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THE NEW FACE OF NEW YORK'S SENIORS

Planning for New York City's Rapidly Aging Immigrant Population

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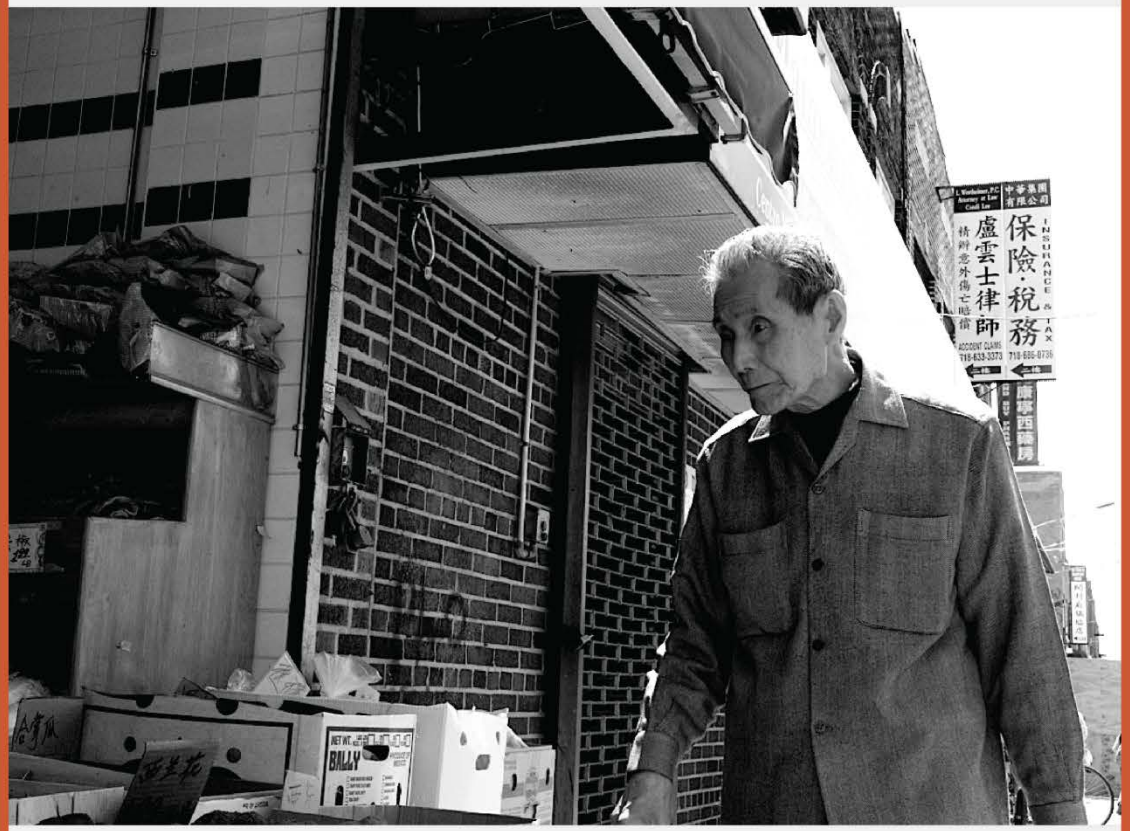
www.nycfuture.org JULY 2013



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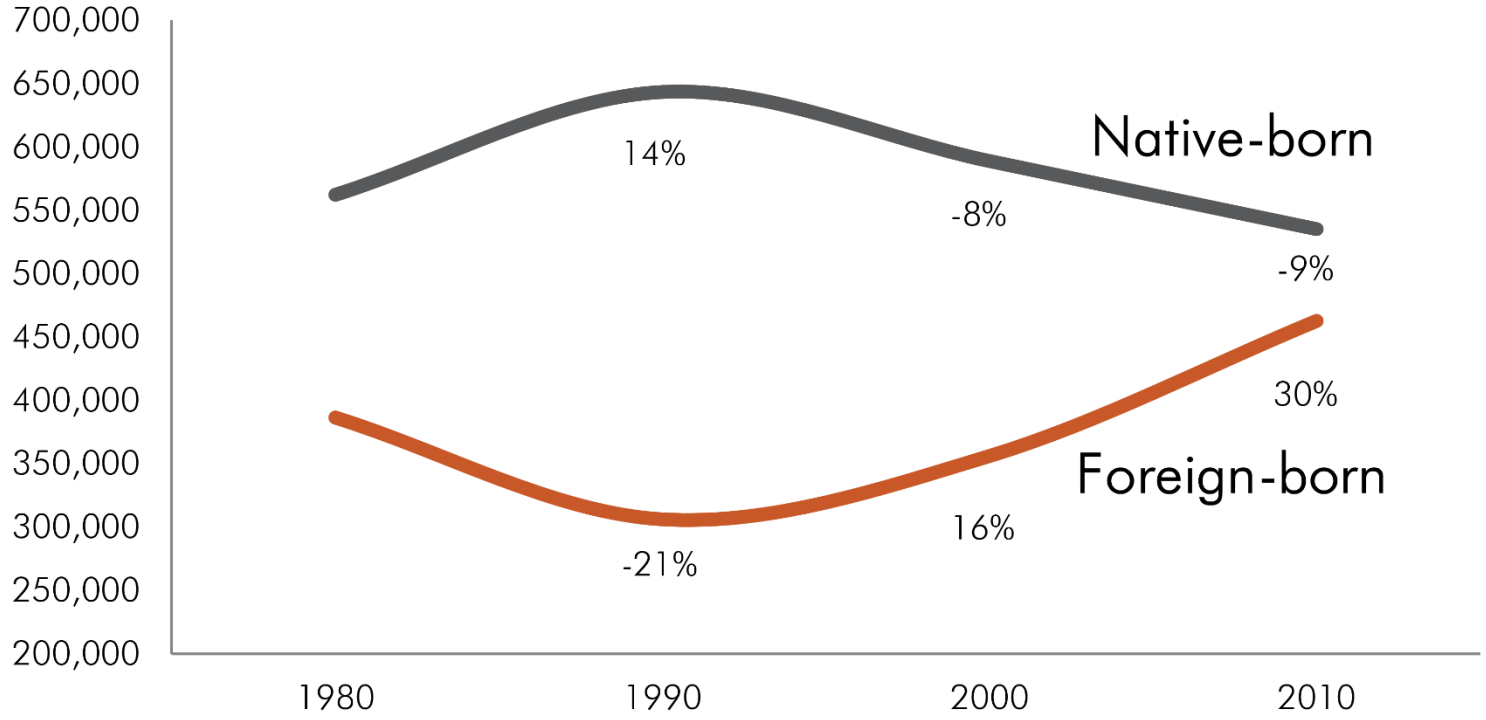
New Yorkers are getting older and almost half of the city's older adults are immigrants. While the city has taken initial steps to plan for this rapidly diversifying population, not nearly enough attention has been paid to this particularly vulnerable subset of the city's seniors.

Older Immigrant Population in NYC is Growing Faster than Native-Born



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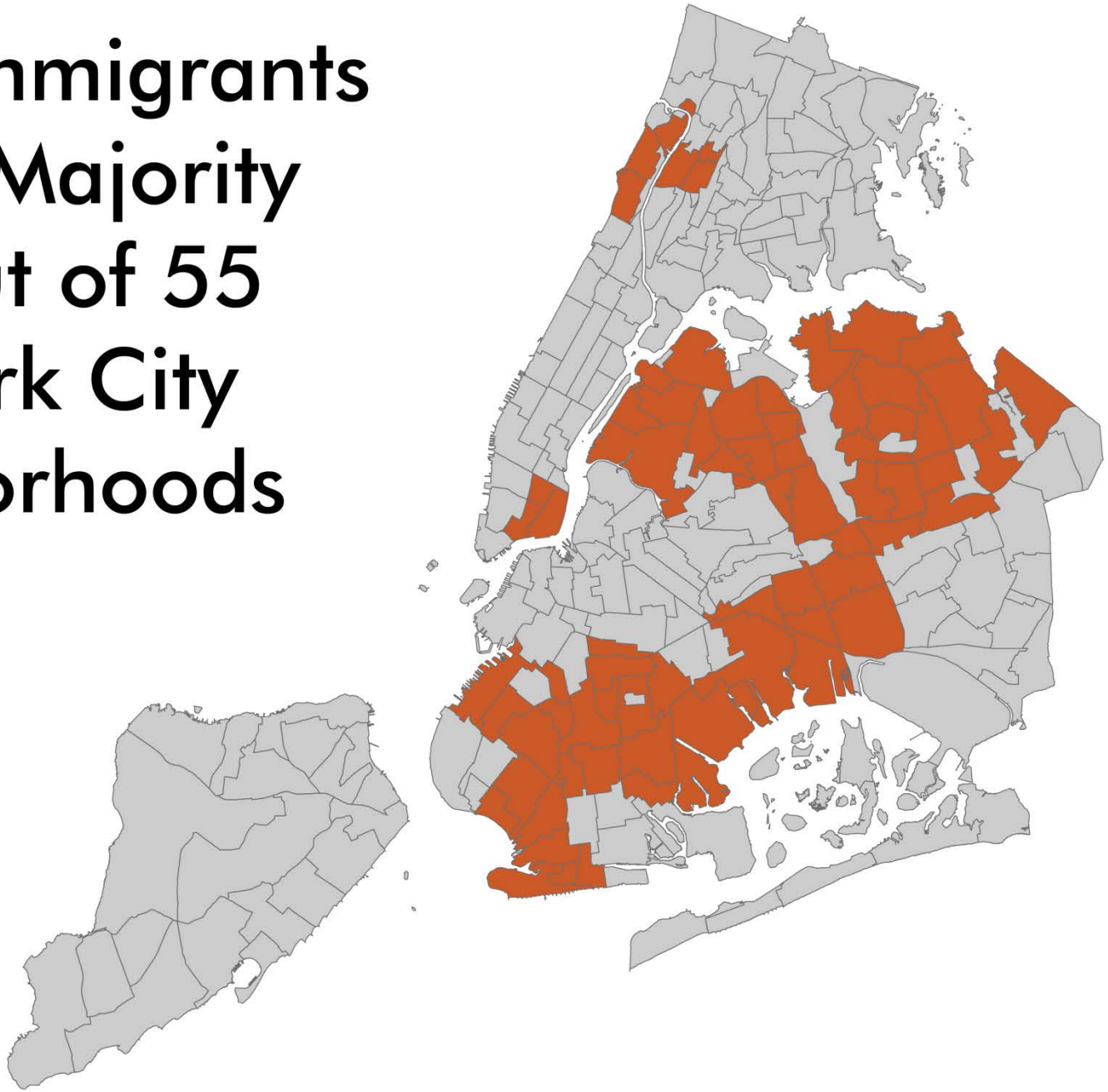
Older Immigrants are the Majority in 21 out of 55 New York City Neighborhoods



Older Immigrants Have Higher Levels of Poverty

24%

of older immigrants live below the poverty line versus

15%

of native-born seniors

The median income for immigrant seniors in New York is

$9,900

compared to the native-born senior median income of

$18,300

31%

of older immigrants do not receive Social Security benefits compared to only

16%

of native-born seniors

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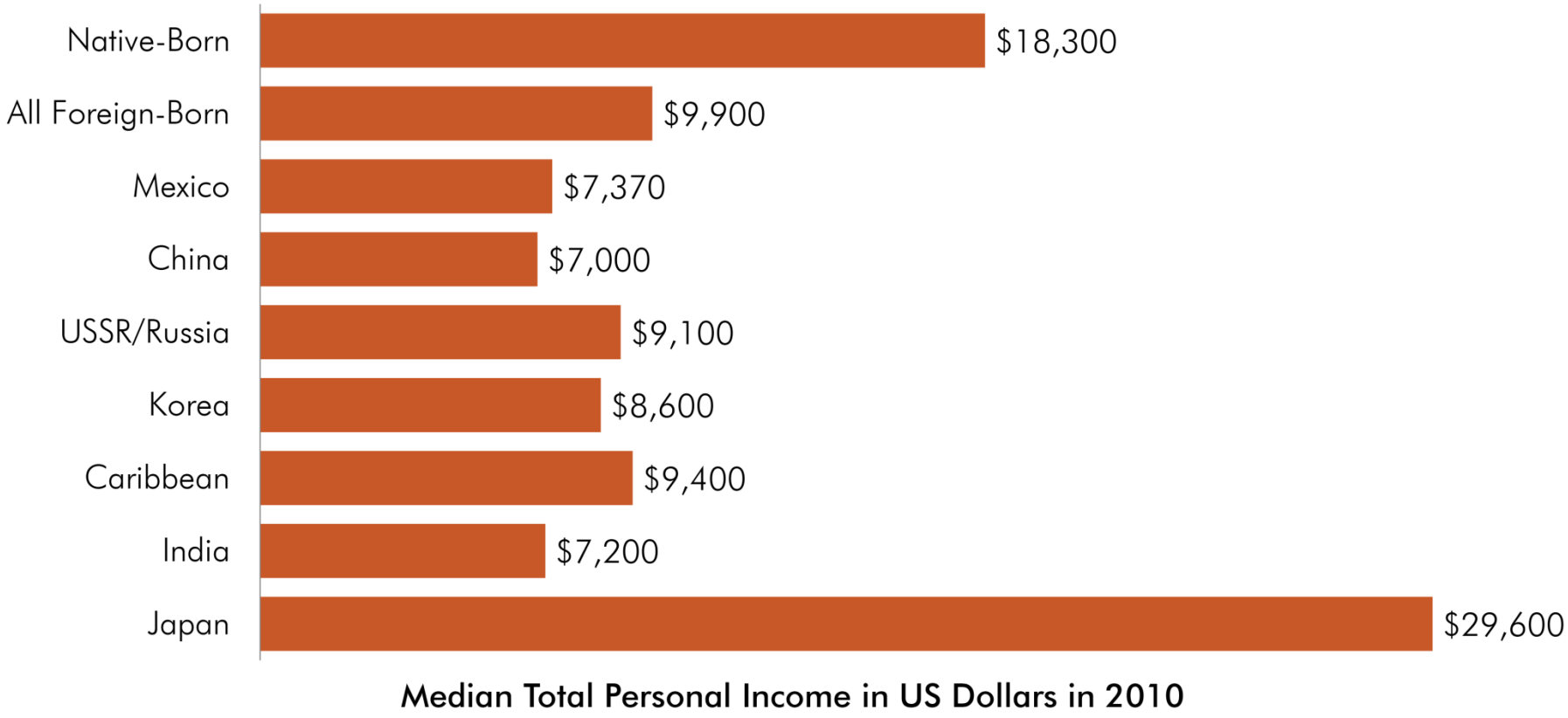
Poverty Rates Vary by Origin Group



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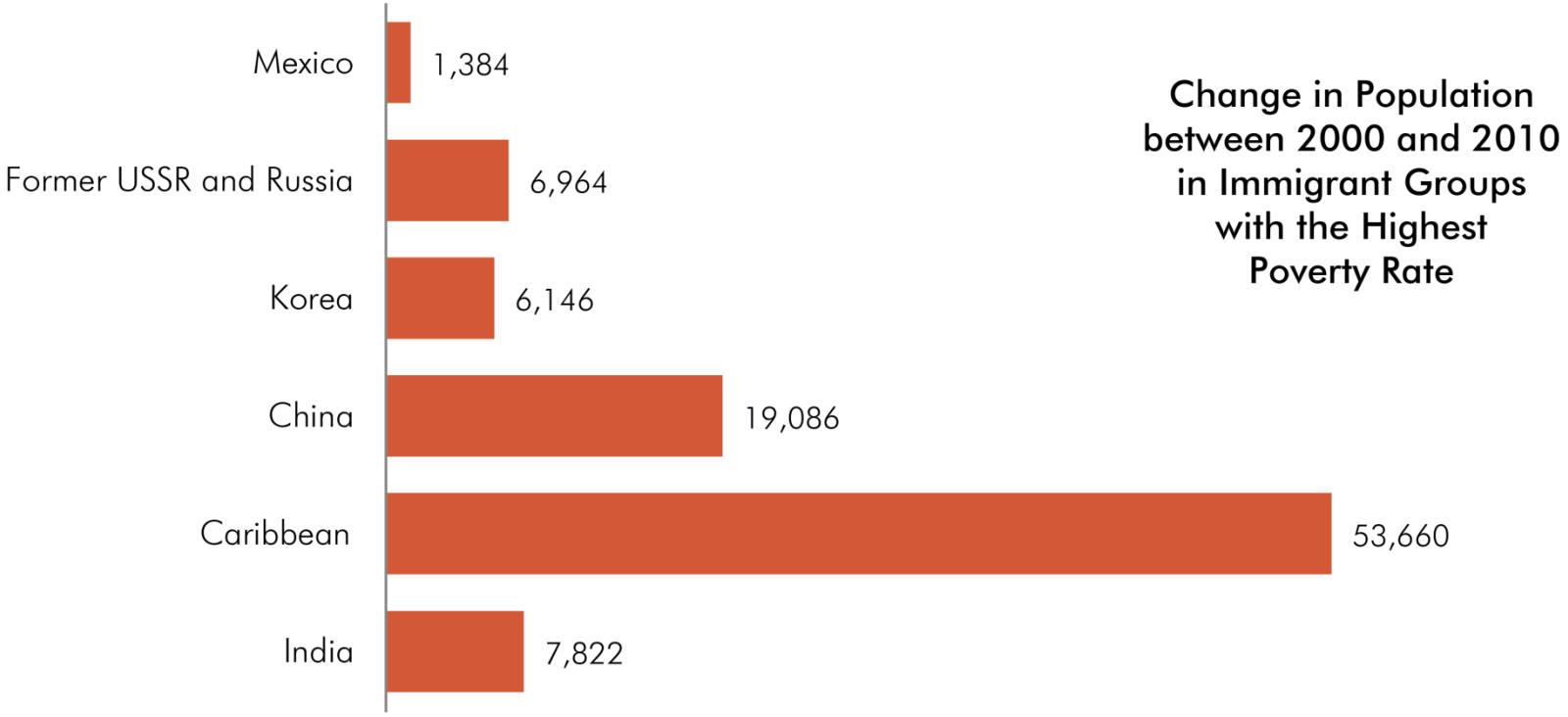
Poorer Immigrant Groups are Growing the Most



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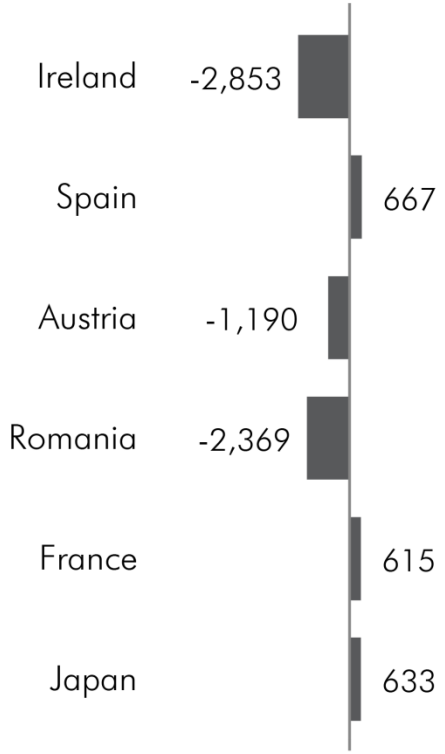

Change in Population between 2000 and 2010 in Immigrant Groups with the Lowest Poverty Rate

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Older Immigrants Have Low Levels of English Proficiency

60%

of NYC's older immigrants are limited-English proficient (LEP)

37%

of NYC's older immigrants live in linguistically-isolated households

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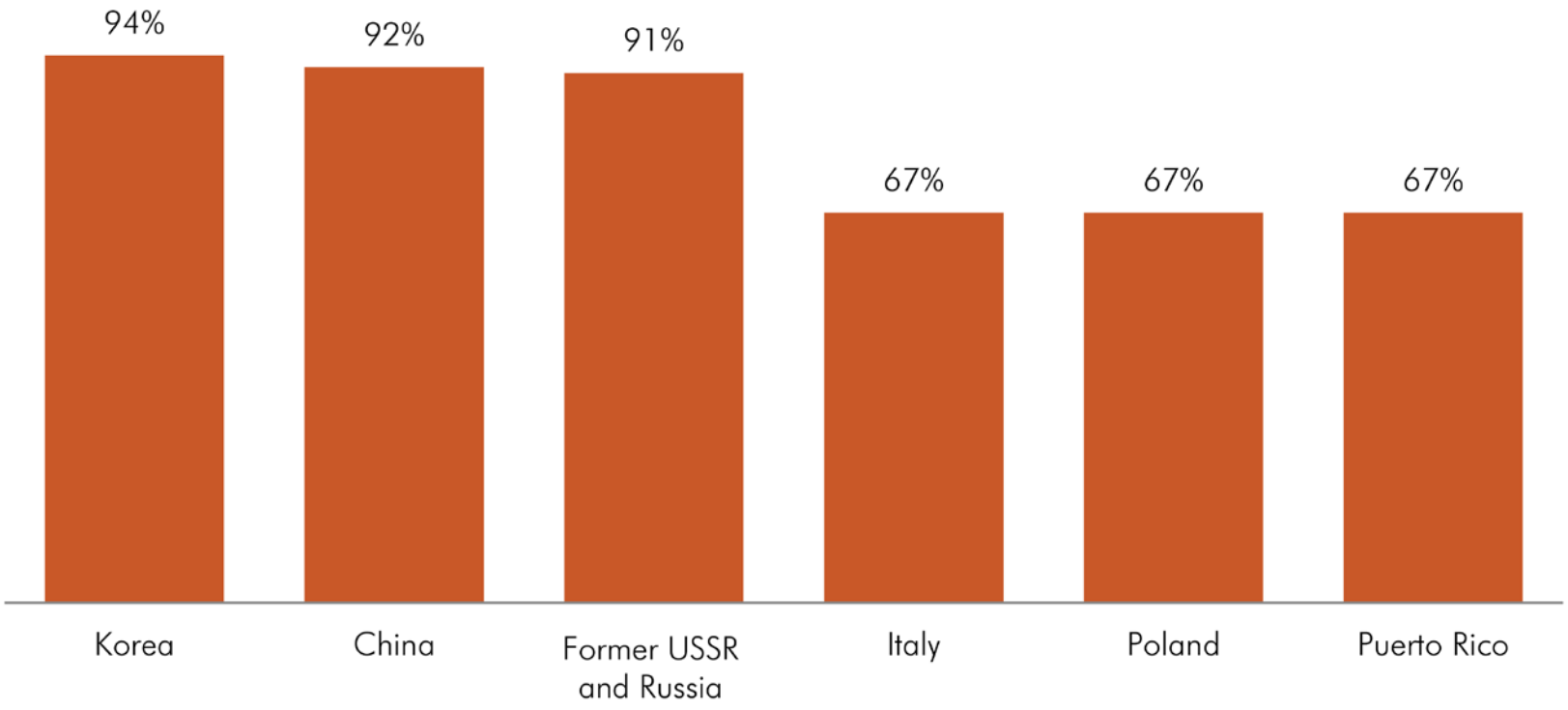

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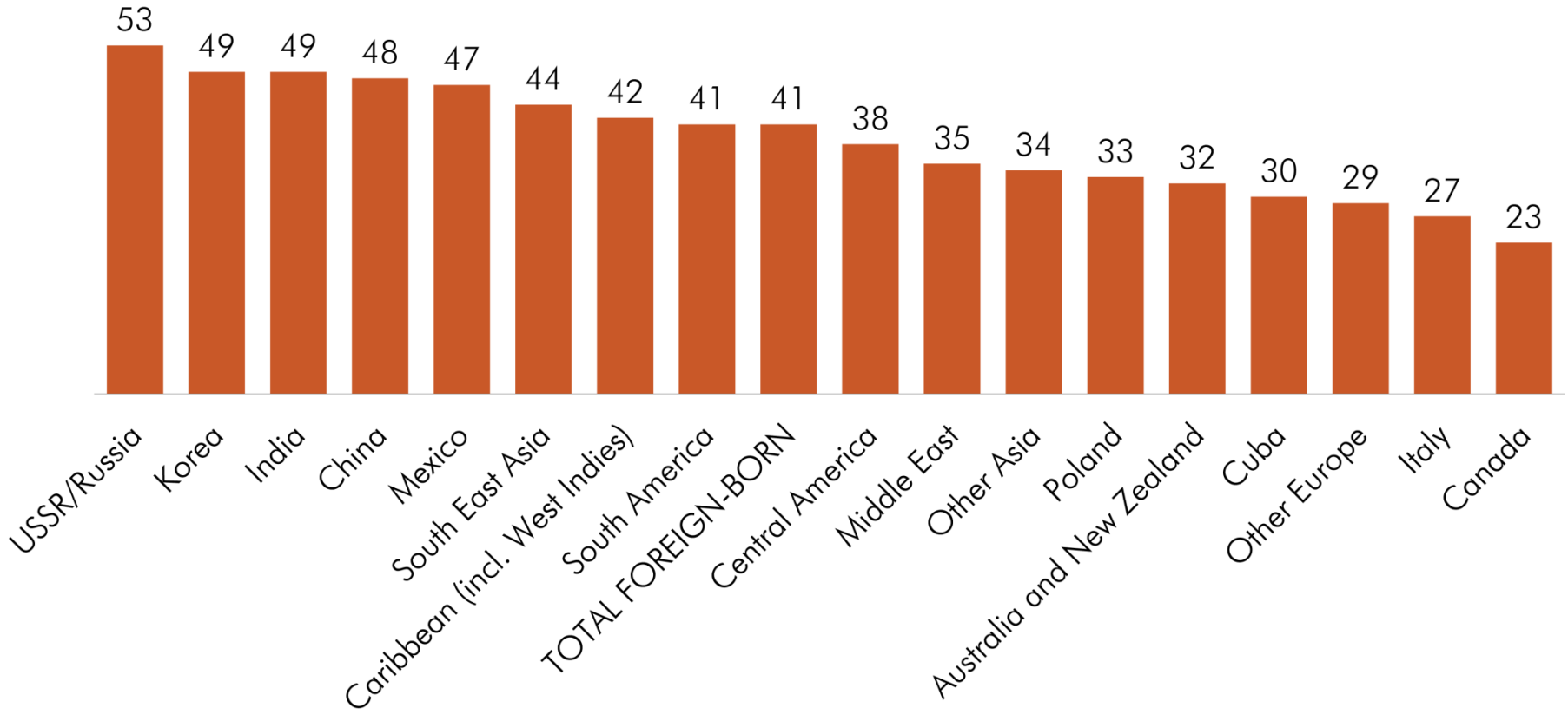
Average Age at Immigration



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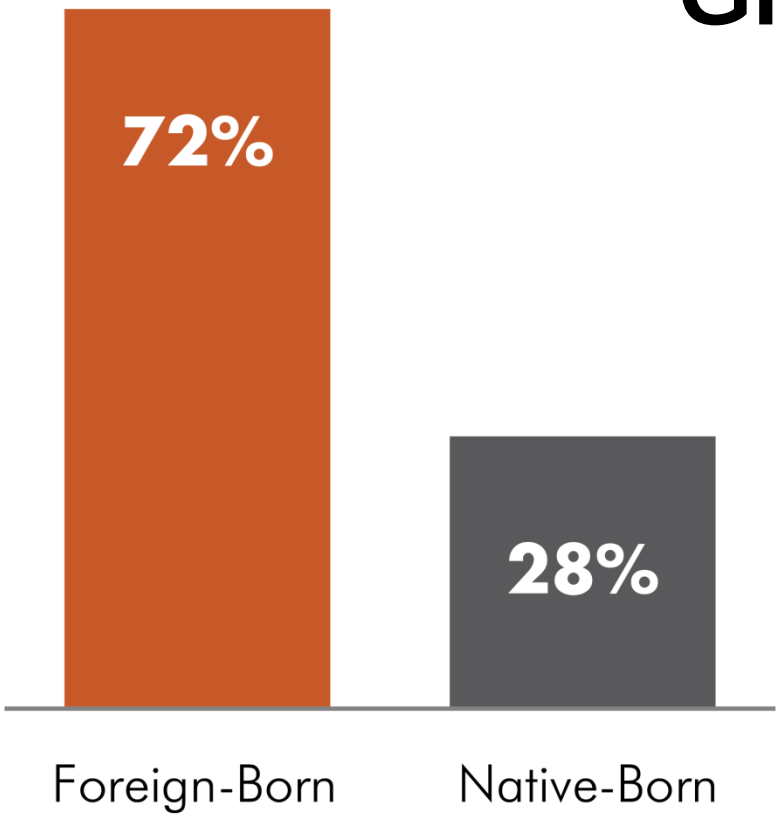
Grandparents at Home



Immigrant grandparents are more likely to live with their grandchildren than their native-born counterparts

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Challenges

- Language and cultural barriers
- Greater need for services due to poverty
- Less capacity to serve immigrant seniors

Key Takeaways

- Senior population is becoming more diverse
- Services for immigrant seniors need to be linguistically AND culturally relevant
- Service starts in the neighborhood
- Support grassroots senior centers

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