

## Introduction

- Foreign-born Latin American migrants to the United States and their foreign- and US-born children represent one of the fastest growing populations in the USA
- While there is increasing research on Latin American migrant health, most studies lump these populations into one homogenous group rather than investigating health outcomes by nativity
- The Boston-Cambridge-Quincy Metropolitan Statistical Area is home to the second largest population of Brazilian (~48,000) and Dominican migrants (~66,000) in the USA
- The Dominican migrant stream to Boston began in the 1980s while the Brazilian migrant stream began in the 2000s
- Approximately 10% of Dominican migrants in Boston are unauthorized to reside in the USA compared to 71% of Brazilians
- Past evidence suggests that the longer migrants remain in the USA, the worse their health behaviors and outcomes become
- Alcohol and tobacco use – low prevalence outcomes in the countries of origin – may increase with longer time in the USA as means of coping with precarious status and acculturative stress
- Studying two migrant populations in the same area with different average durations in the USA may provide health insight

## Methods

### 2007 Harvard-UMASS Boston Metro Immigrant Health & Legal Status Survey (BM-IHLSS)

Probabilistic sample survey of foreign-born Brazilian and Dominican migrants in Greater Boston (n=606).

**Statistical Analyses:** Descriptive analysis of BM-IHLSS and American Community Survey (ACS) data; Logistic regression analysis:

- Analyzed and mapped ACS data illustrating population distribution of foreign-born Brazilians and Dominicans in the USA
- Bivariate analysis of associations between alcohol use, tobacco use and time in the USA
- Logistic regression analyses of 1) alcohol use; and 2) tobacco use on time in the USA, social support, legal status and other sociodemographic and health measures

#### Primary Explanatory Factors:

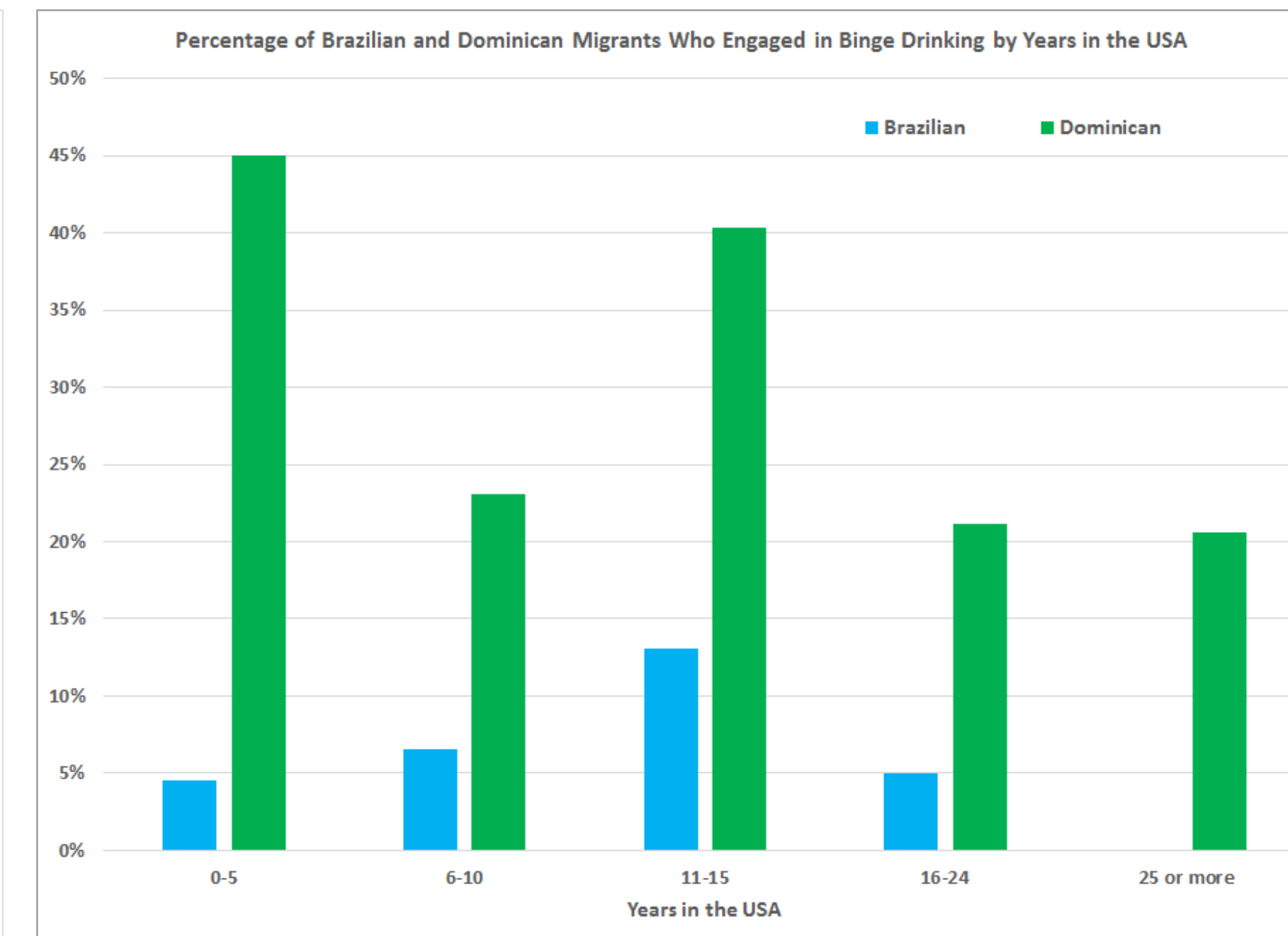
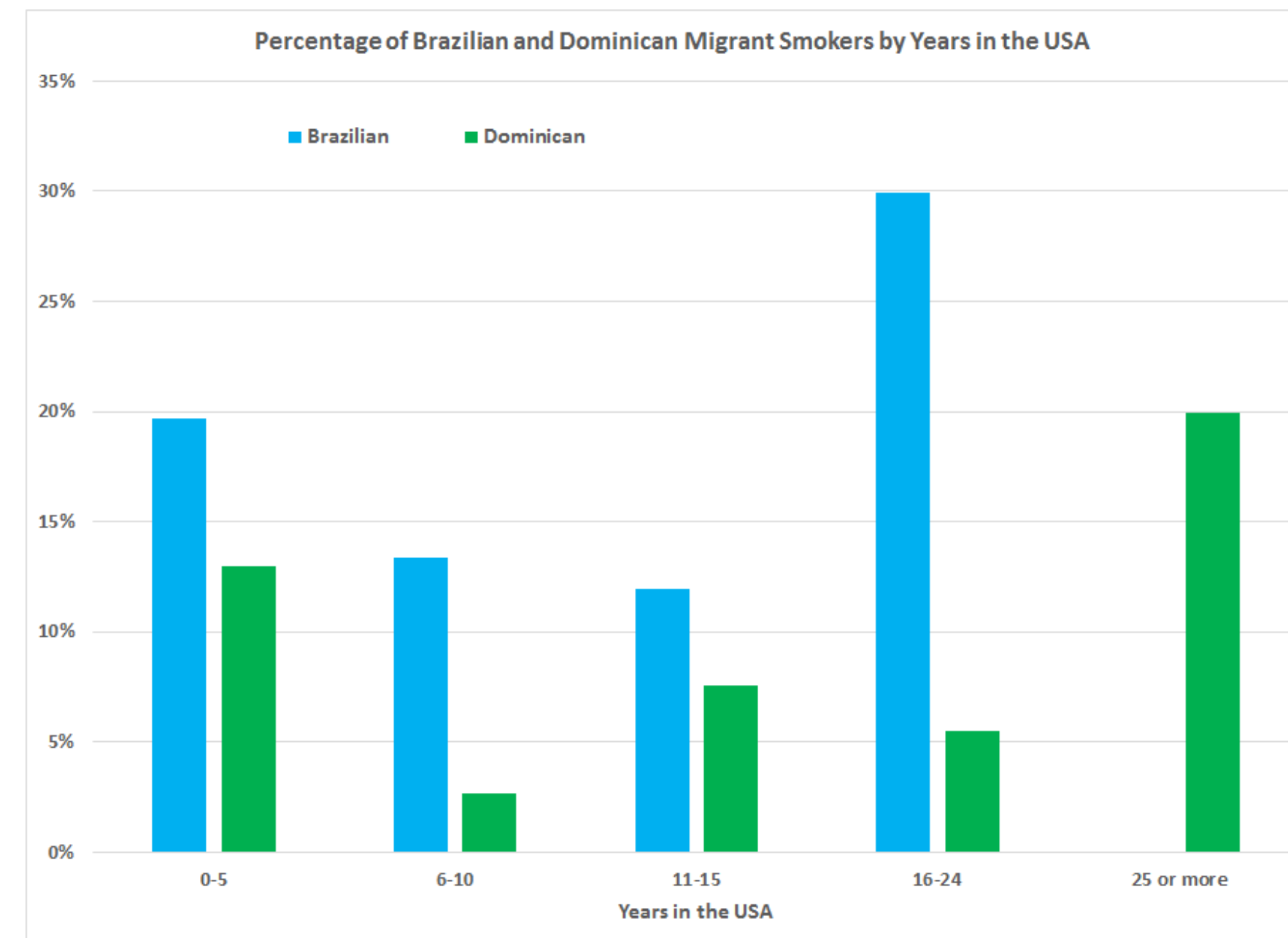
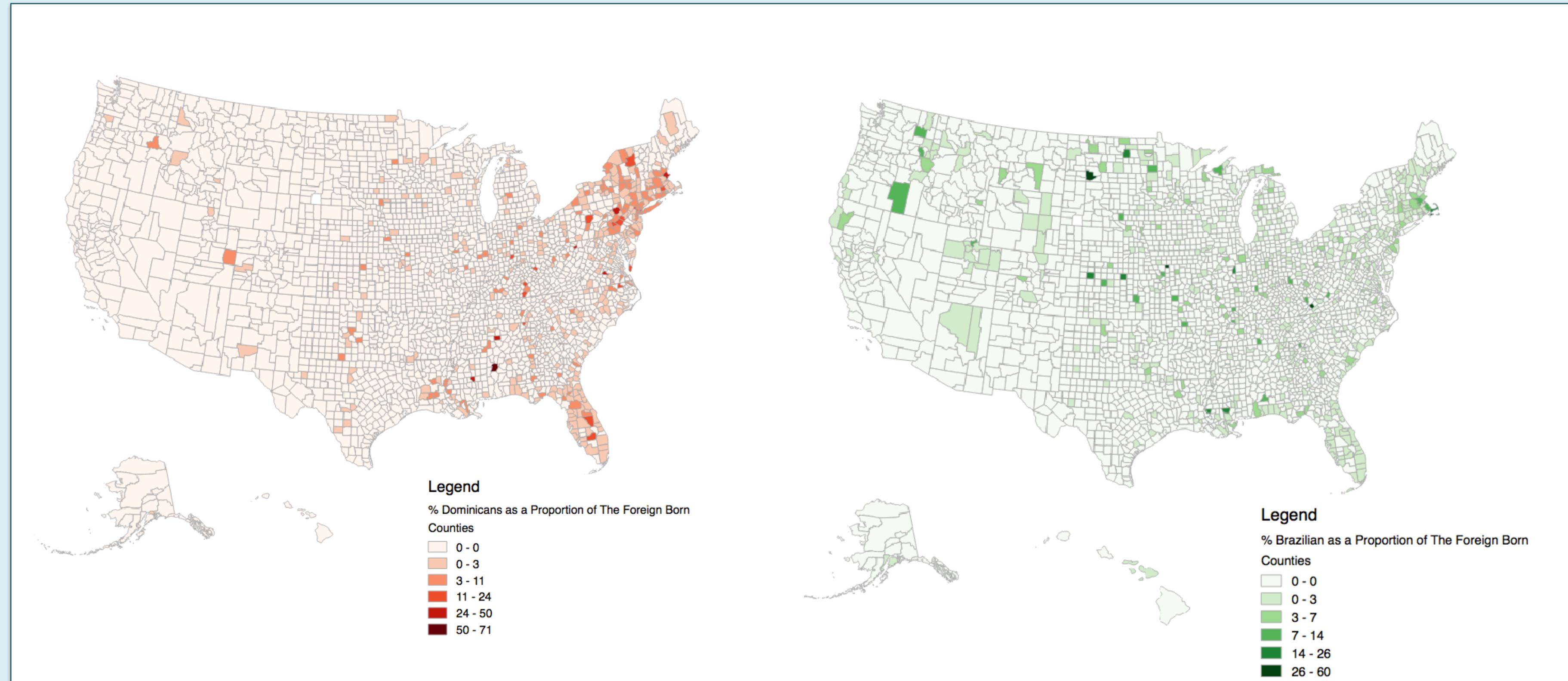
- Duration of time residing in the USA
- Social support
- Unauthorized legal status, nativity (Dominican or Brazilian)

#### Other Factors:

- Age, sex, skin color, educational attainment, self-rated health, sleep quality

#### Outcome Measures

- Alcohol use: number of times respondent consumed an alcoholic beverage in the 30 days prior
- Tobacco use: whether respondent currently smokes “some days” or “every day”



## Hypotheses

- Alcohol use will be positively associated with time spent in the USA
- Current smoking will be positively associated with time spent in the USA
- Foreign-born Dominicans, who have resided in the USA longer than Brazilian migrants on average, will have higher rates of alcohol and tobacco use
- Social support will moderate associations between alcohol & tobacco use and acculturation (time in the USA, unauthorized status)

## Results

- Dominicans are primarily migrating to the Northeast and Florida, with other significant concentrations scattered in the Southeast
- Brazilians are mostly prominently situated in the Northeast, Florida the Midwest, and Northwest
- Descriptively, alcohol and tobacco use do not have a linear trajectory with duration of stay in the USA contrary to expectation
- Rather than a linear progression of higher alcohol and tobacco use, smoking and binge drinking were most significant in the beginning of US residence (0-5 years) and latter years (16-24 & 25 or more)
- Dominicans are at much higher risk for binge drinking, whereas Brazilians demonstrate greater risk for smoking

## Discussion

- With high risk for alcohol and smoking abuse being at 0-5 years, government integration service efforts should focus on early migration process
- Increasing US atmosphere of xenophobia in past decade may contribute the use of alcohol and smoking as coping mechanisms
- High rates of binge drinking among Dominican migrants deserve more attention
- More research is needed for tobacco/alcohol abuse within specific Latino groups to improve treatment outcomes and cultural adjustment