

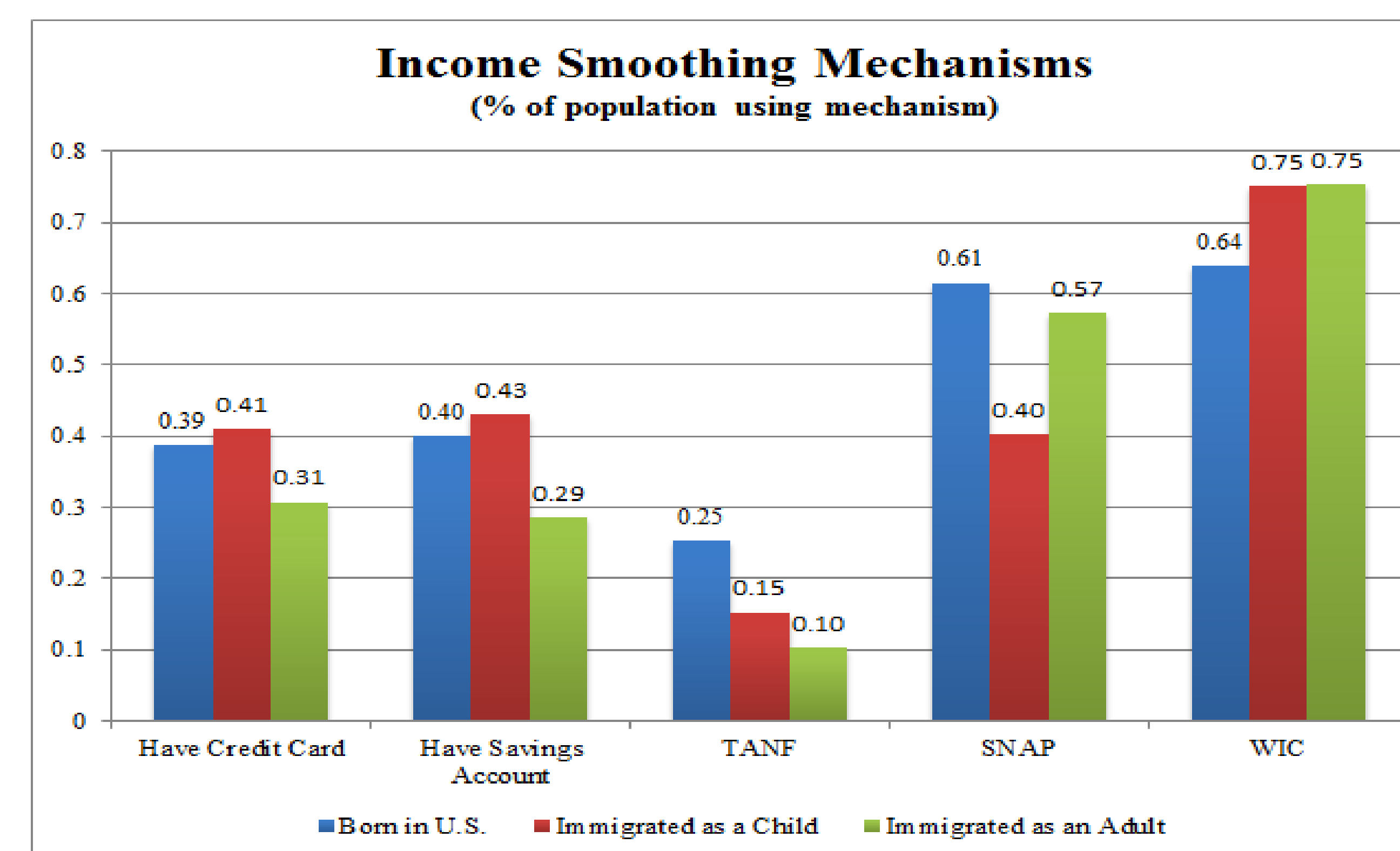
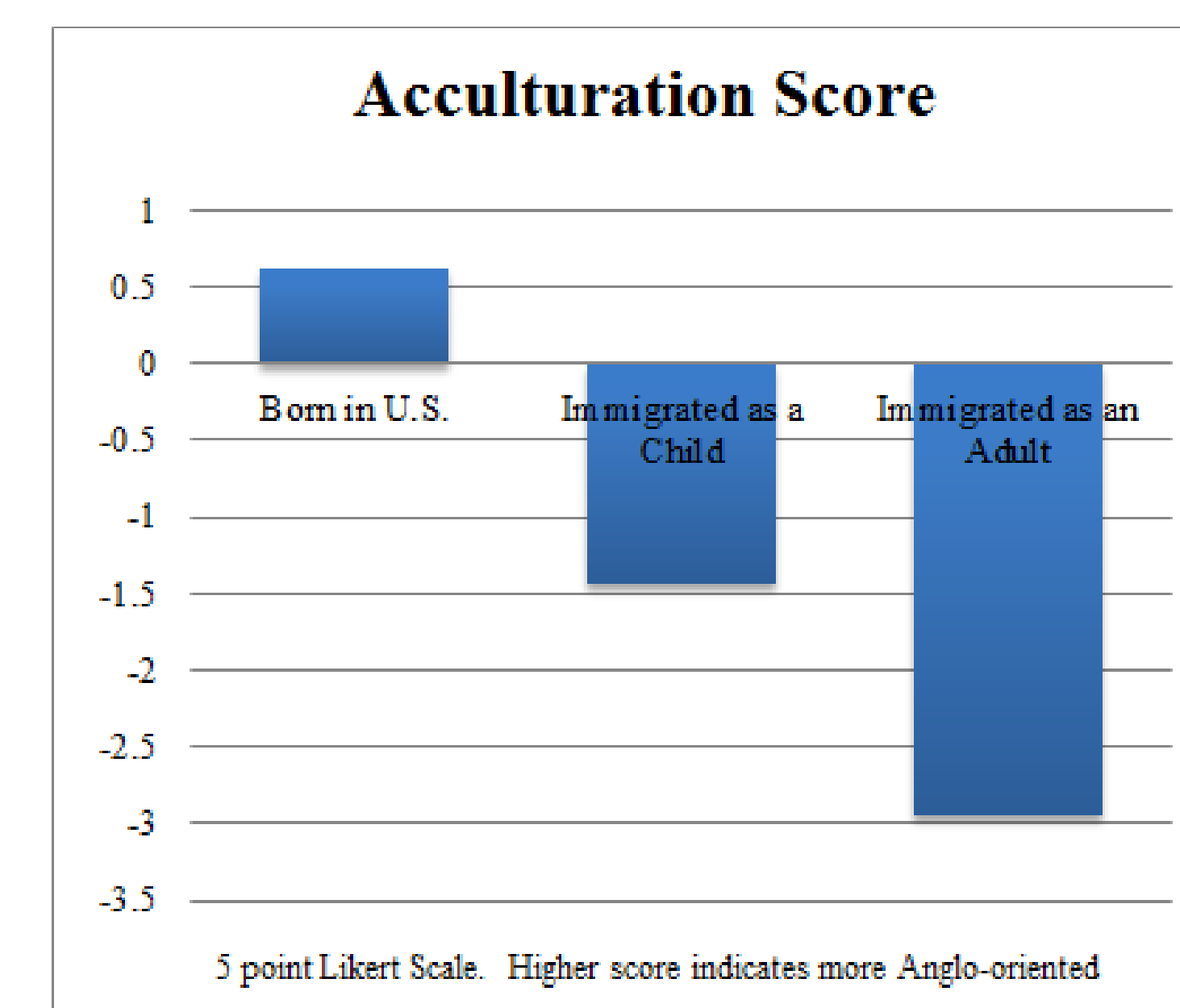
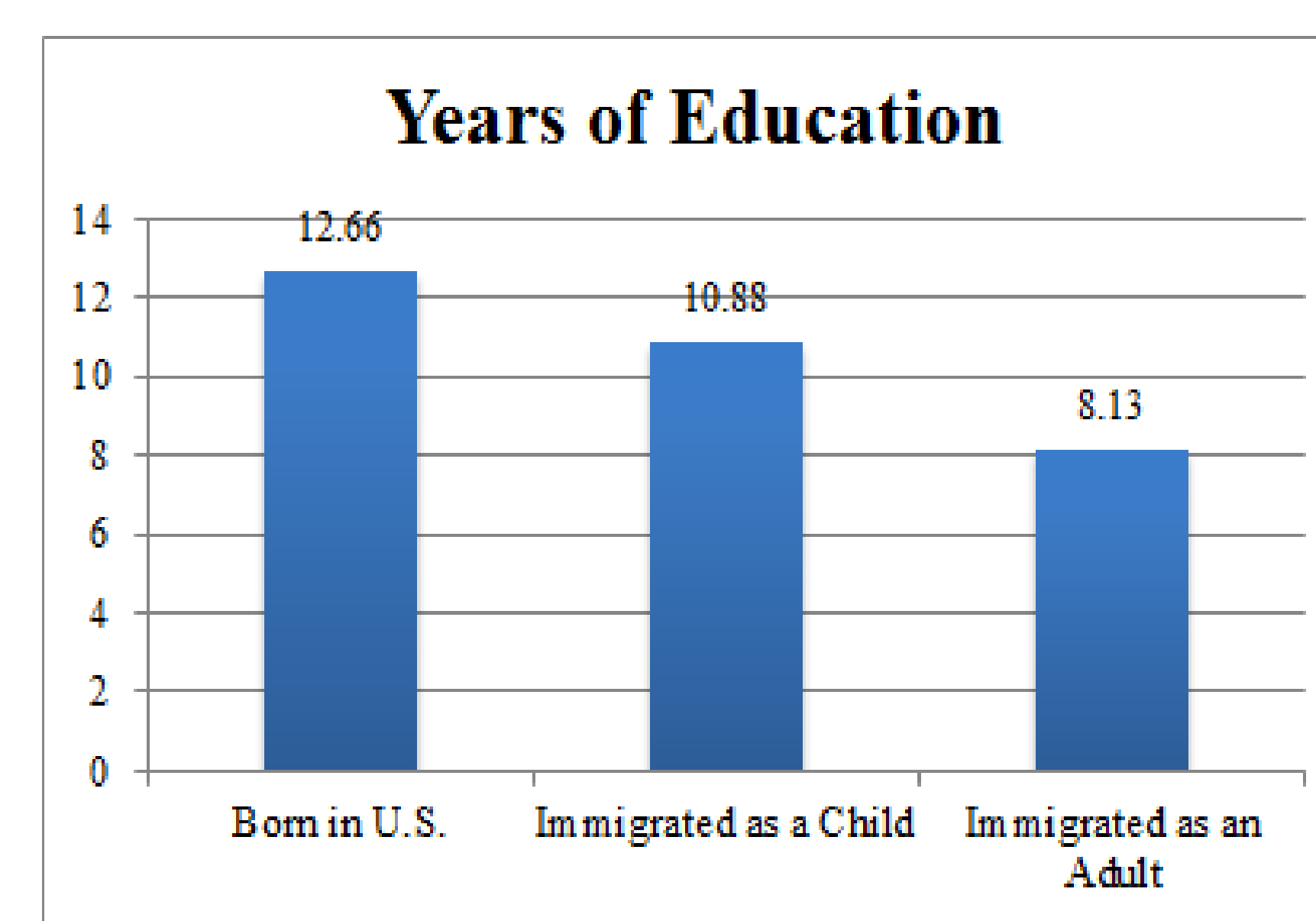
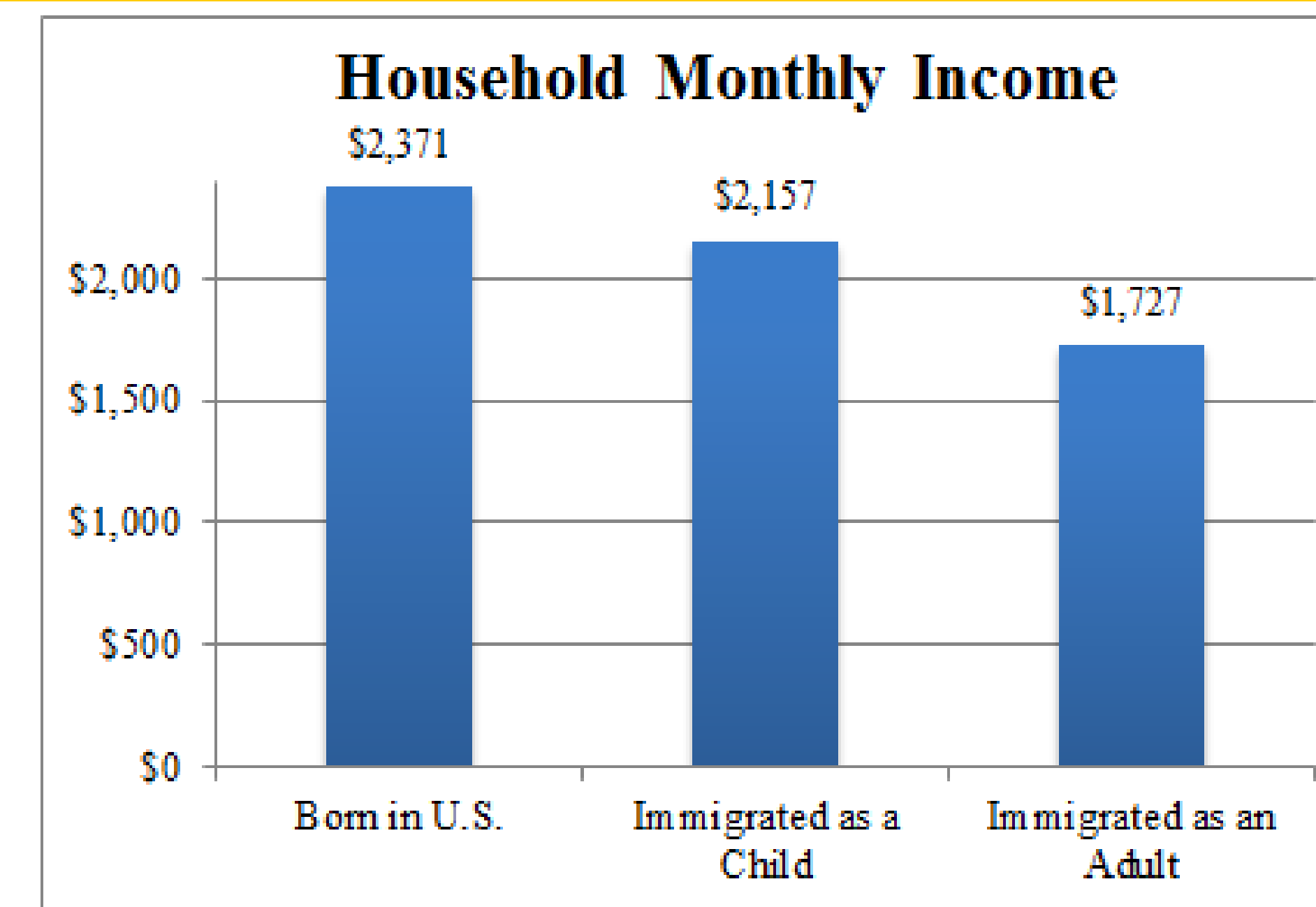
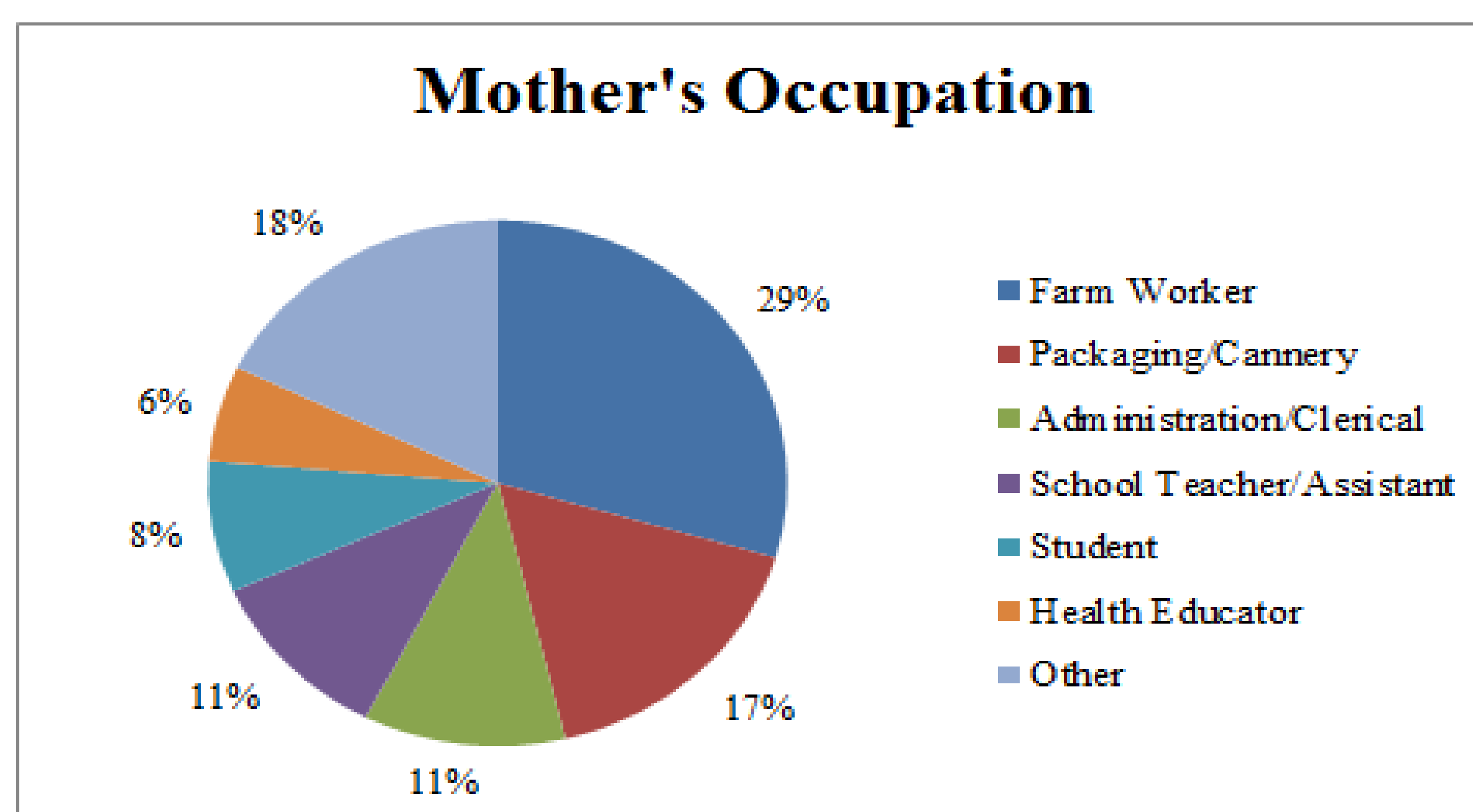
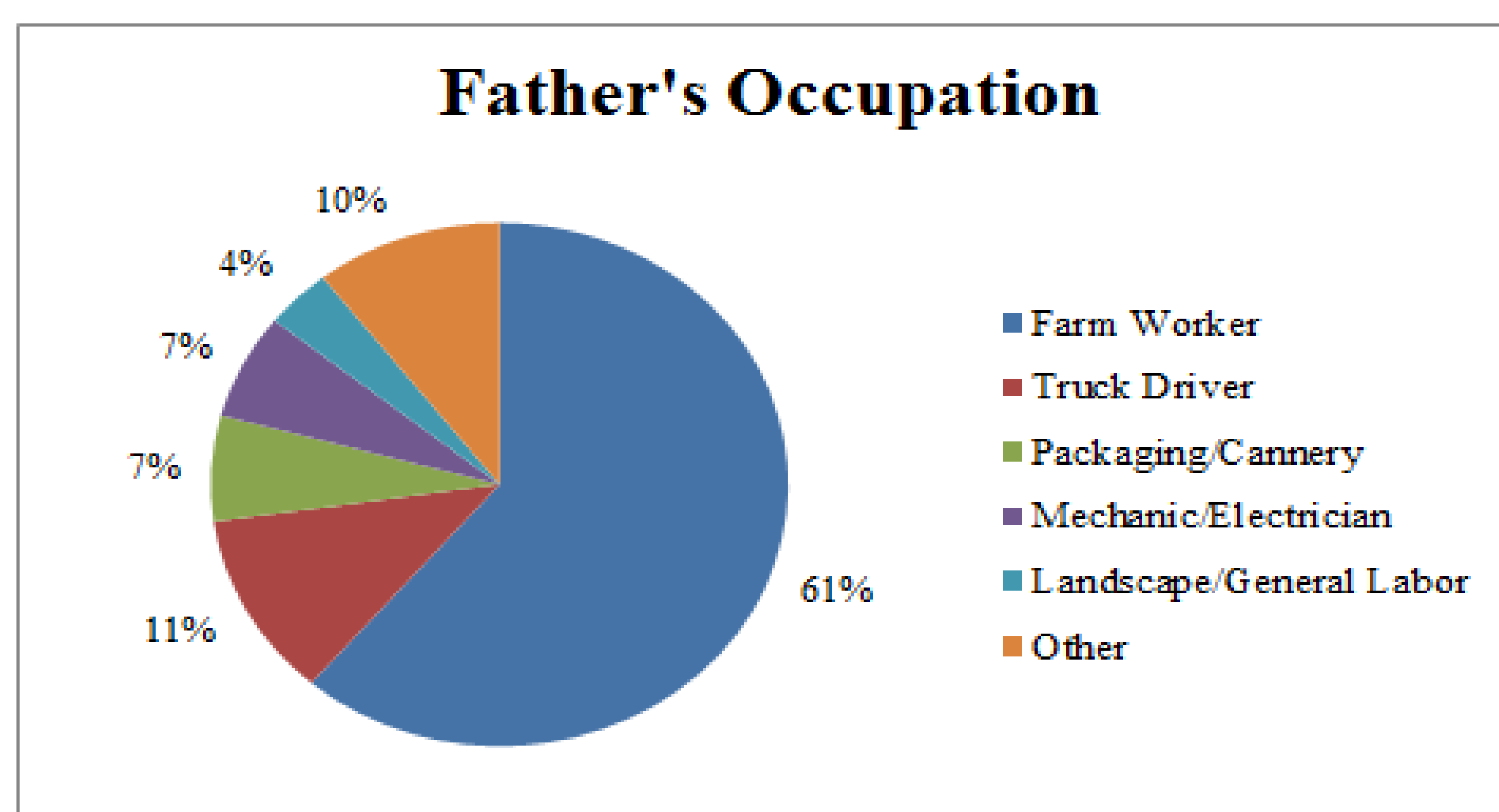
## Introduction

This analysis uses 2012-2013 data from Niños Sanos, Familia Sana (NSFS), a 5 year, multi-intervention, research project aimed at preventing childhood obesity. NSFS specifically targets Mexican-origin children, ages 3-8, and their families, residing in California's Central Valley. The intervention community (Firebaugh) and the control community (San Joaquin) are both located within US Congressional District 20, which at the time of data collection was the poorest congressional district in the United States. Both towns are over 80% Mexican-origin and have an agricultural employment base. This analysis uses combined baseline data from both the intervention and control communities.

Age of entry may be an important factor in determining economic mobility within a low-skill immigrant population. Individuals who enter the United States as both children and adults are generally classified as first generation immigrants. However, individuals who immigrate as children attend U.S. schools, gain language skills prior to entering the workforce, and have more early life opportunities to learn how to navigate systems. This analysis separately considers households whose mother-figure immigrated as an adult, immigrated as a child, or was born in the United States. Age 15 is considered the cutoff for immigrating as a child. This threshold is based on the Mexican educational system. Households in this dataset consist of both two-parent and single-mother households; therefore classifications are based on the mother's age of entry to ensure completeness. Mother's immigration age is strongly correlated with father's immigration age in two-parent households. Mothers who immigrated as adults are more likely to be married, speak Spanish, have a husband who is employed, and identify as a homemaker.

Household Characteristics	Born in U.S. /		Difference in Means
	Immigrated as a Child	Immigrated as an Adult	
Household Size	4.75 (0.09)	4.96 (0.07)	0.08
Married (%)	0.71 (0.03)	0.83 (0.02)	0.00
Primary Language Spanish (%)	0.36 (0.03)	0.94 (0.01)	0.00
Mother Worked last 6 months (%)	0.49 (0.04)	0.40 (0.03)	0.06
Father Worked last 6 months (%)	0.65 (0.03)	0.77 (0.02)	0.01
Mother has Permanent Job (%)	0.44 (0.05)	0.22 (0.04)	0.00
Father has Permanent Job (%)	.75 (0.04)	.58 (0.03)	0.00
Mother Identifies as Homemaker	0.56 (0.03)	0.72 (0.03)	0.00
Sample Size	236	324	

Notes: Standard Errors are presented in parenthesis



## Income, Education, and Acculturation

This data is cross-sectional and considers economic mobility to be defined as relative income based on experience in the United States. Households with native mothers earn considerably more money than households with mothers who immigrated as adults and slightly more money than households with mothers who immigrated as children. Differences in traditional drivers of economic mobility, educational attainment and acculturation level, coincide with differences in income. On average, native mothers have 4.5 more years of education than mothers who immigrated as adults and 1.8 more years of education than mothers who immigrated as children. The acculturation scale measures the degree to which individuals are independently oriented toward Mexican and Anglo culture. As expected, native mothers are Anglo-oriented and adult-immigrants are highly Mexican-oriented. Child-immigrants fall between these two groups. Differences among the three groups for these variables are statistically significant (p=0.000). Higher levels of education and acculturation likely lead to different employment opportunities, even within the agricultural profession. Fathers and mothers in native households are more likely to have a permanent job.

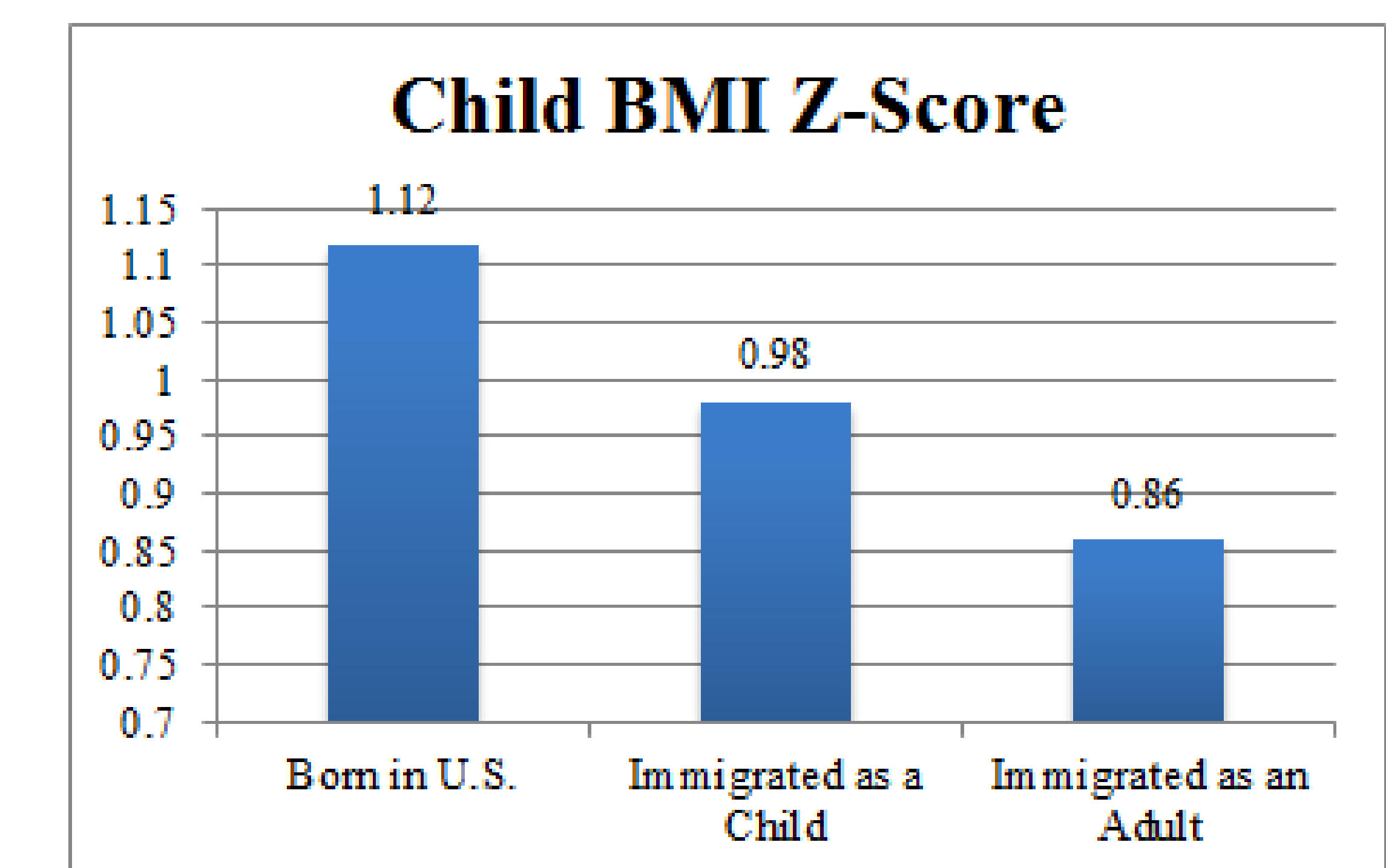
The majority of households in this dataset are employed in agricultural professions. Agricultural work is often seasonal. The well-being of a household and potential for economic mobility may be connected to the household's ability to smooth income between bouts of employment. In this sample, native mothers and mothers who immigrated as a child are more likely to use traditional financial services (savings accounts and credit cards). Native mothers are also more likely to be enrolled in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Mothers who immigrated as both children and adults have high rates of participation in the The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

## Health Outcomes and Behaviors

Beyond the traditional levers of education and language skills, health behaviors may have the ability to influence economic mobility across generations of immigrants. Transmission of health and human capital occurs between parents and children and the stock of health developed as a child can affect adult outcomes. Within this population, children born to mothers who immigrated as an adult may benefit from protective health factors associated with a traditionally Mexican diet. Mothers who immigrated as an adult feed their children more salad, fruit, and tortillas and less noodles, hot dogs, and pizza than both native mothers and mothers who immigrated as children. Adult-immigrant mothers also breastfeed for a considerably longer duration. Differences in diet translate to differences in weight among children. Children born to native mothers have higher sex and age adjusted BMI z-scores than children born to immigrant mothers. Within these groups, 31% of children born to native mothers are obese, 24% of children born to mothers who immigrated as a child are obese, and 22% of children born to mothers who immigrated as an adult are obese. Obesity is often linked to health conditions that may affect the ability to retain employment once these children reach adulthood.

Food Consumption Frequency, Child	Born in U.S. /		Difference in Means	p-value
	Immigrated as a Child	Immigrated as an Adult		
Salad	2.20 (0.10)	2.67 (0.08)	0.00	
Fruit	3.87 (0.12)	4.18 (0.07)	0.02	
Canned Fruit	2.28 (0.14)	1.81 (0.08)	0.00	
Juice	3.28 (0.12)	3.60 (0.09)	0.04	
Cereal	3.20 (0.10)	3.60 (0.07)	0.00	
Noodles	1.84 (0.10)	1.52 (0.06)	0.00	
Tortillas	3.29 (0.11)	3.69 (0.08)	0.01	
Pizza	1.87 (0.08)	1.61 (0.04)	0.00	
Hotdogs	1.80 (0.08)	1.55 (0.05)	0.01	
Sample Size	90	187		

Notes: Standard Errors are presented in parenthesis. Food consumption frequency is measured on a 5 point scale.



Health Inputs and Outcomes	Born in U.S. /		Difference in Means	p-value
	Immigrated as a Child	Immigrated as an Adult		
Mother's BMI	31.26 (0.72)	30.69 (0.45)	0.48	
Child's BMI z-score	1.04 (0.07)	0.86 (0.06)	0.05	
Mother has Health Insurance (%)	0.76 (0.03)	0.48 (0.03)	0.00	
Child Birthweight (lbs)	7.08 (0.08)	7.28 (0.07)	0.05	
Child Breastfed (months)	5.97 (0.50)	9.31 (0.47)	0.00	
Sample Size, Mothers	236	324		
Sample Size, Children	235	347		

Notes: Standard Errors are presented in parenthesis

## Acknowledgments

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