

Spatial distribution and local integration of migrants in Ireland

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Agenda

- Introduction and context
- Spatial distribution of migrants
- Urban/rural
- Migrant segregation
- Local integration
- Q&A

Introduction and context

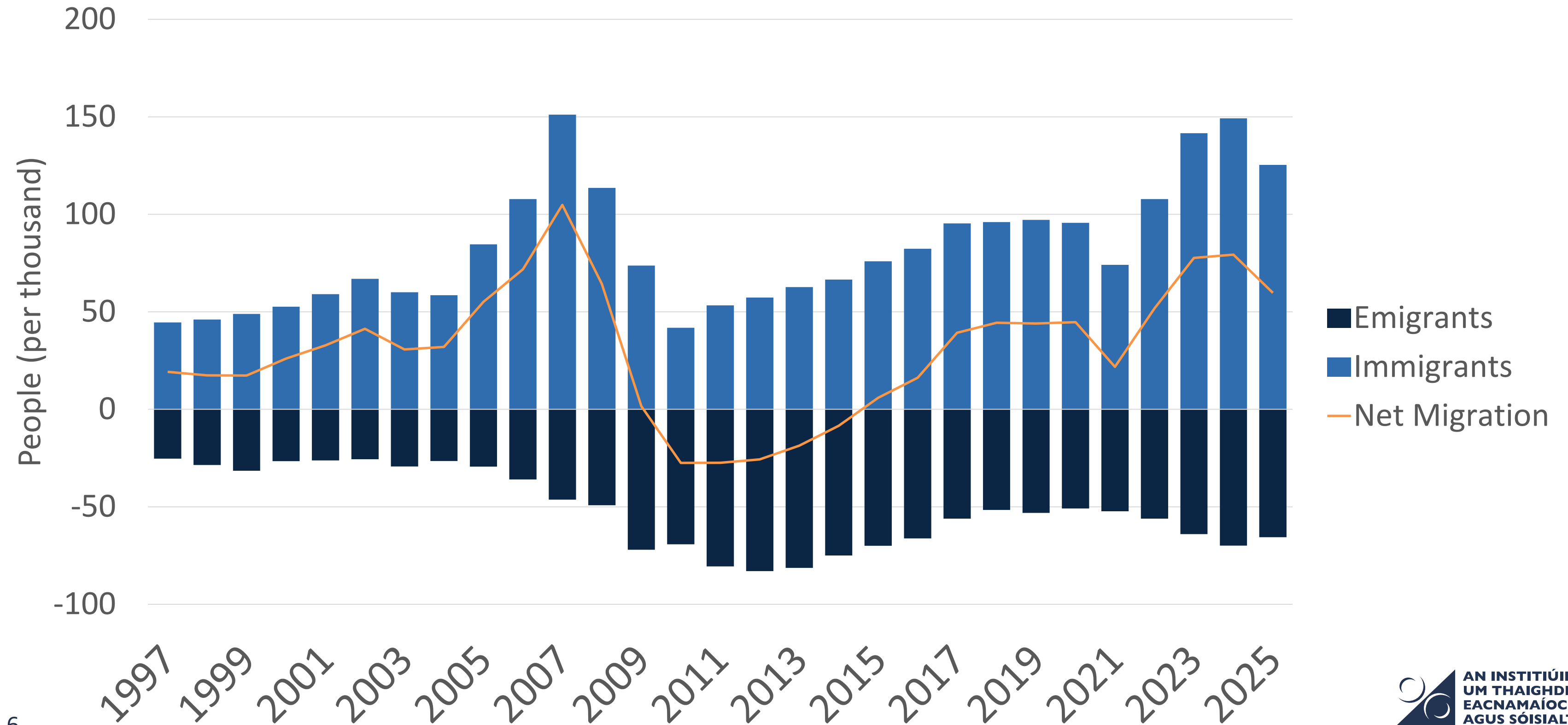
Introduction and context

- Most research analyses migration and integration at the national level.
- However, like all social processes, it is ‘spatially mediated’ – integration relies on:
 - the formation of social relationships
 - access to employment and education
 - availability of important services
- All affected by spatial factors

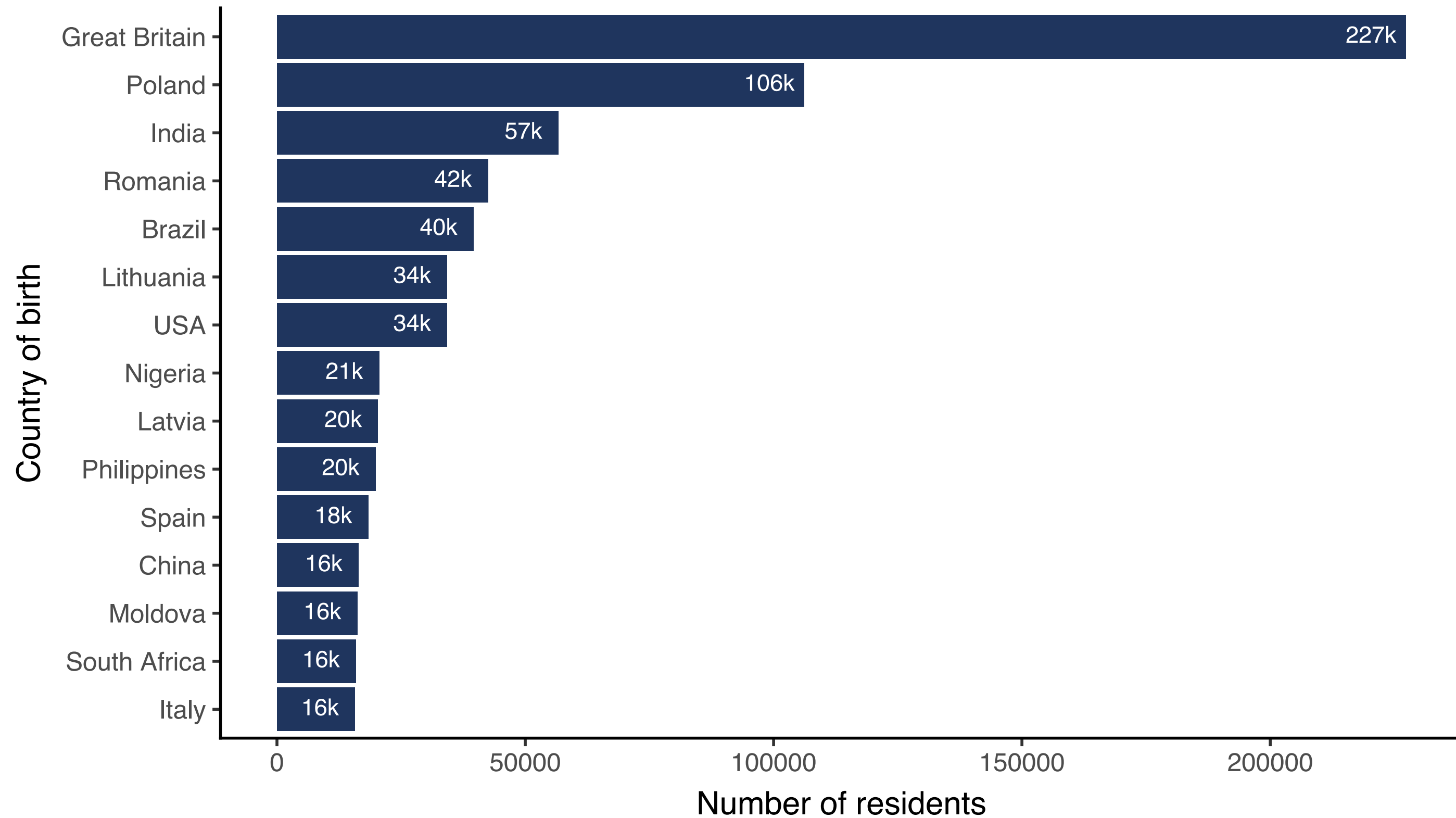
Introduction and context

- Mixed-methods research
- Quantitative section
 - Based on Census 2022 data
 - Focused on describing the spatial distribution of migrants through Ireland
- Qualitative section
 - Based on interviews with 11 stakeholders in local integration work
 - Focused on evaluating governance and integration outcomes from the perspective of stakeholders

Introduction and context

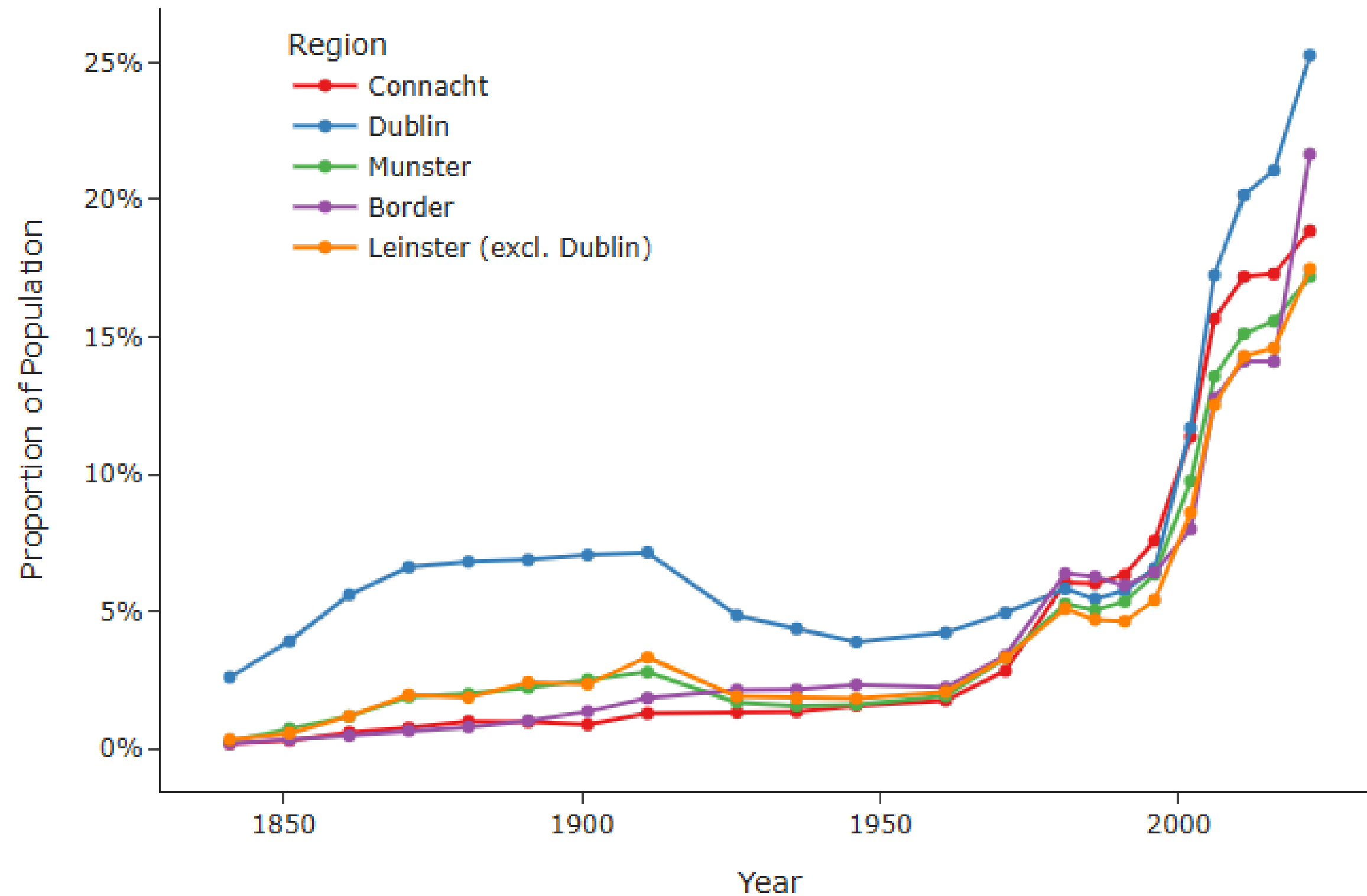


Introduction and context

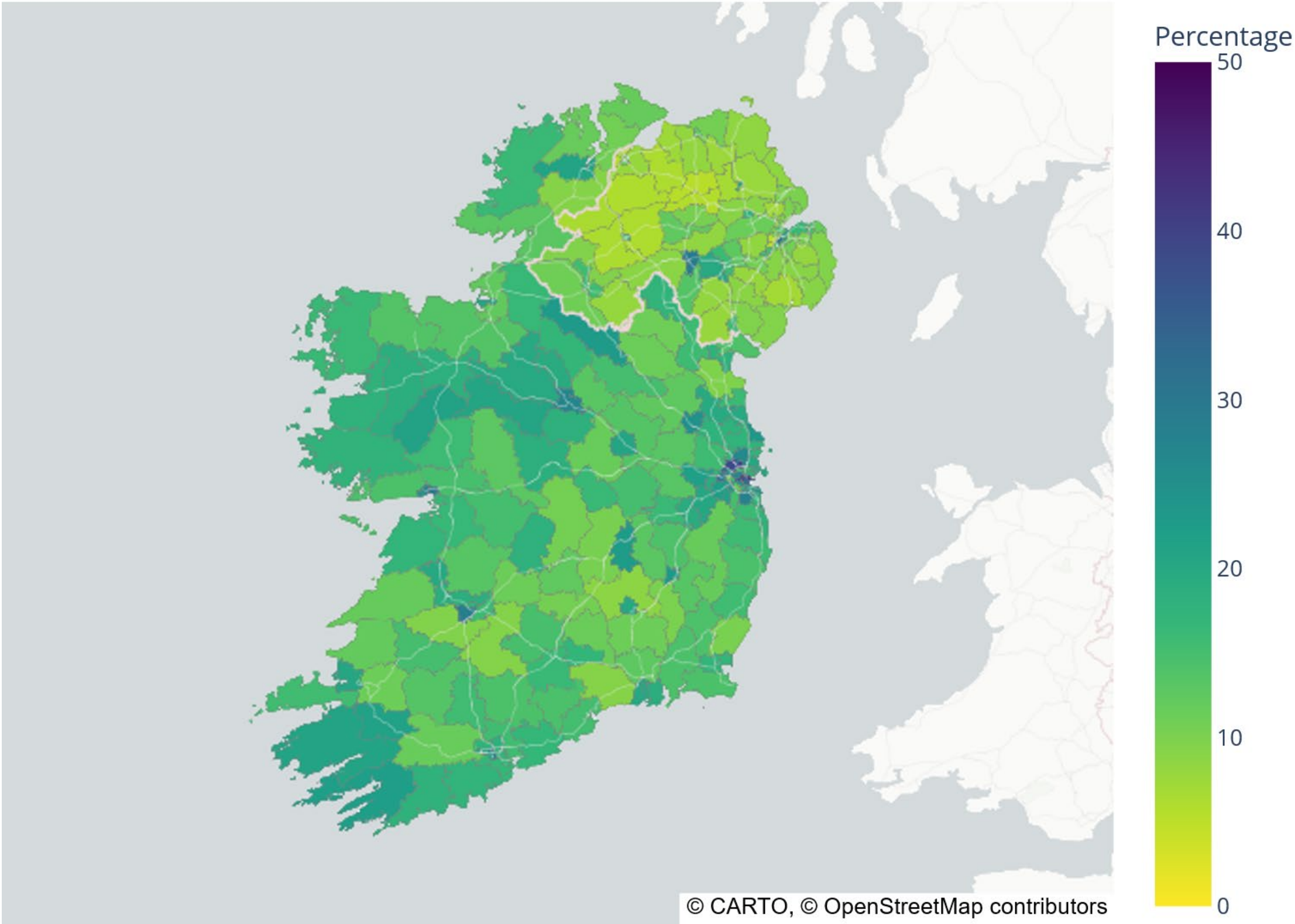


Spatial distribution of migrants

Migration to Ireland



Foreign-born proportion in Ireland, LEAs/DEAs, 2022



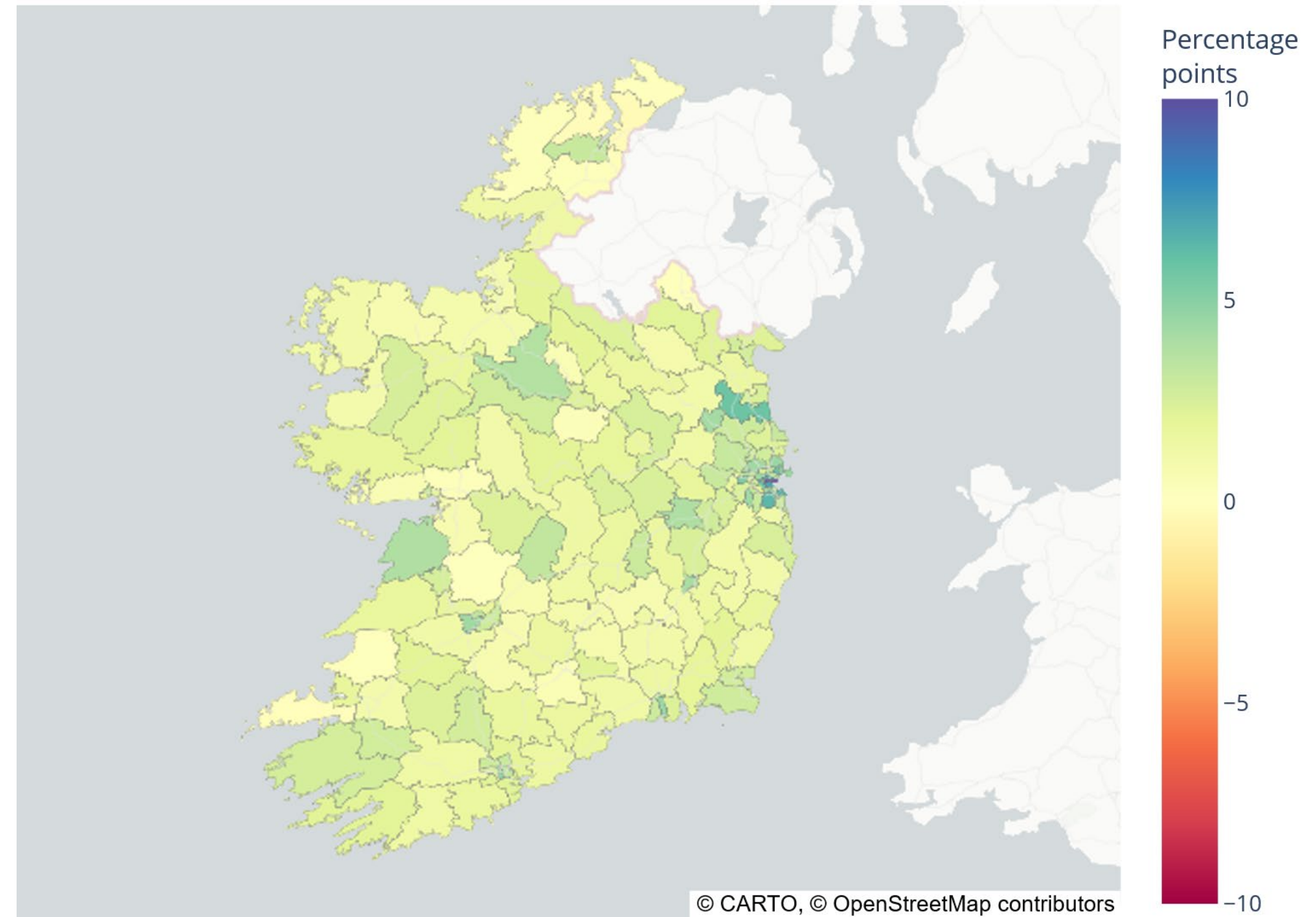
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Source: Authors' own analysis using data from the CSO Small Area Population Statistics and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Census Microdata

Spatial distribution of migrants

- Mean change from 2016-2022 of 2.3pp across all LEAs
- Only fell in
 - Buncrana and Milford, Co. Donegal
 - Dingle in Co. Kerry
- Decrease was less than 1pp in all

Change in foreign-born proportion in Ireland, LEAs, 2016/2022

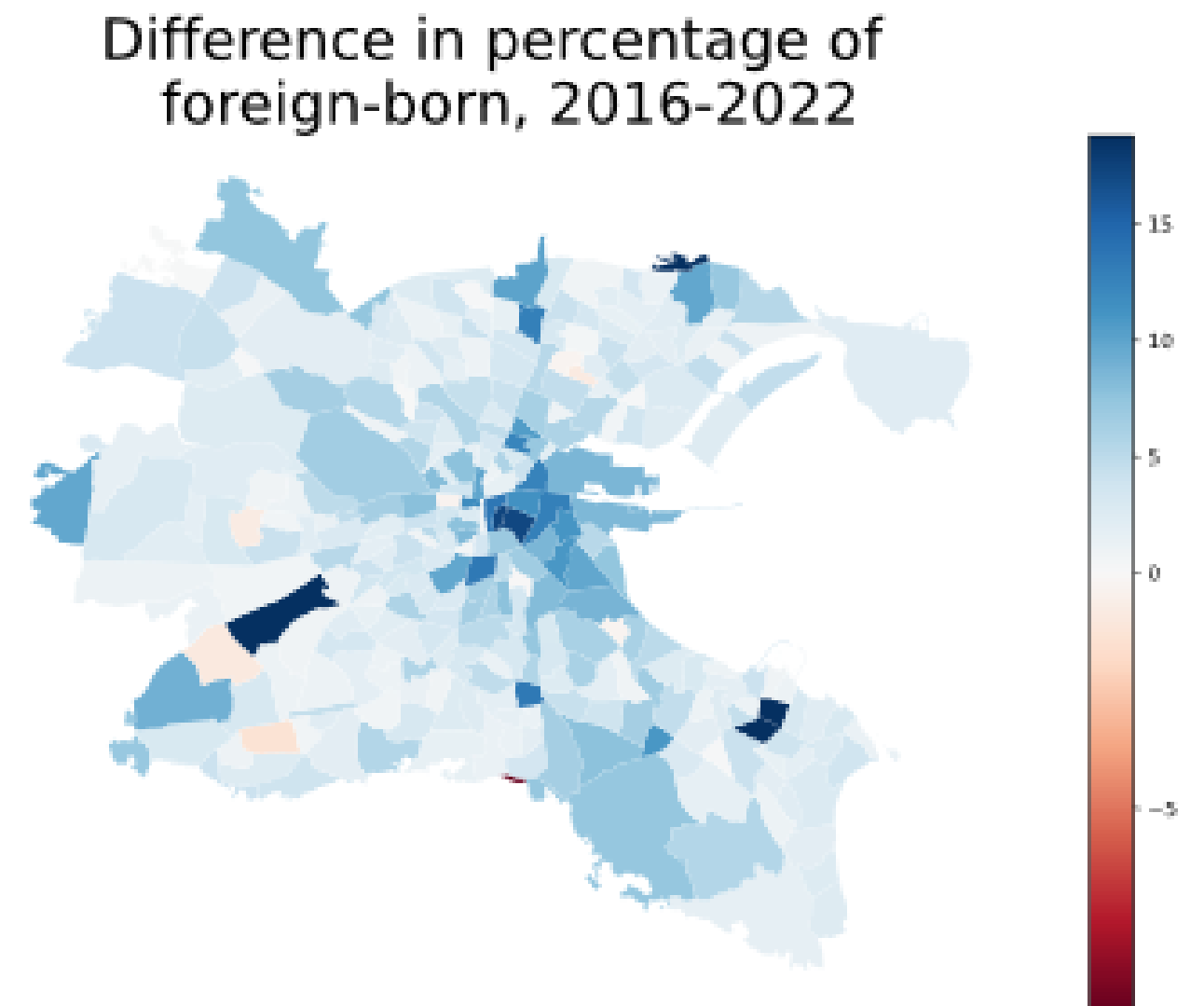


Source: Authors' own analysis using data from the CSO Small Area Population Statistics

Spatial distribution of migrants

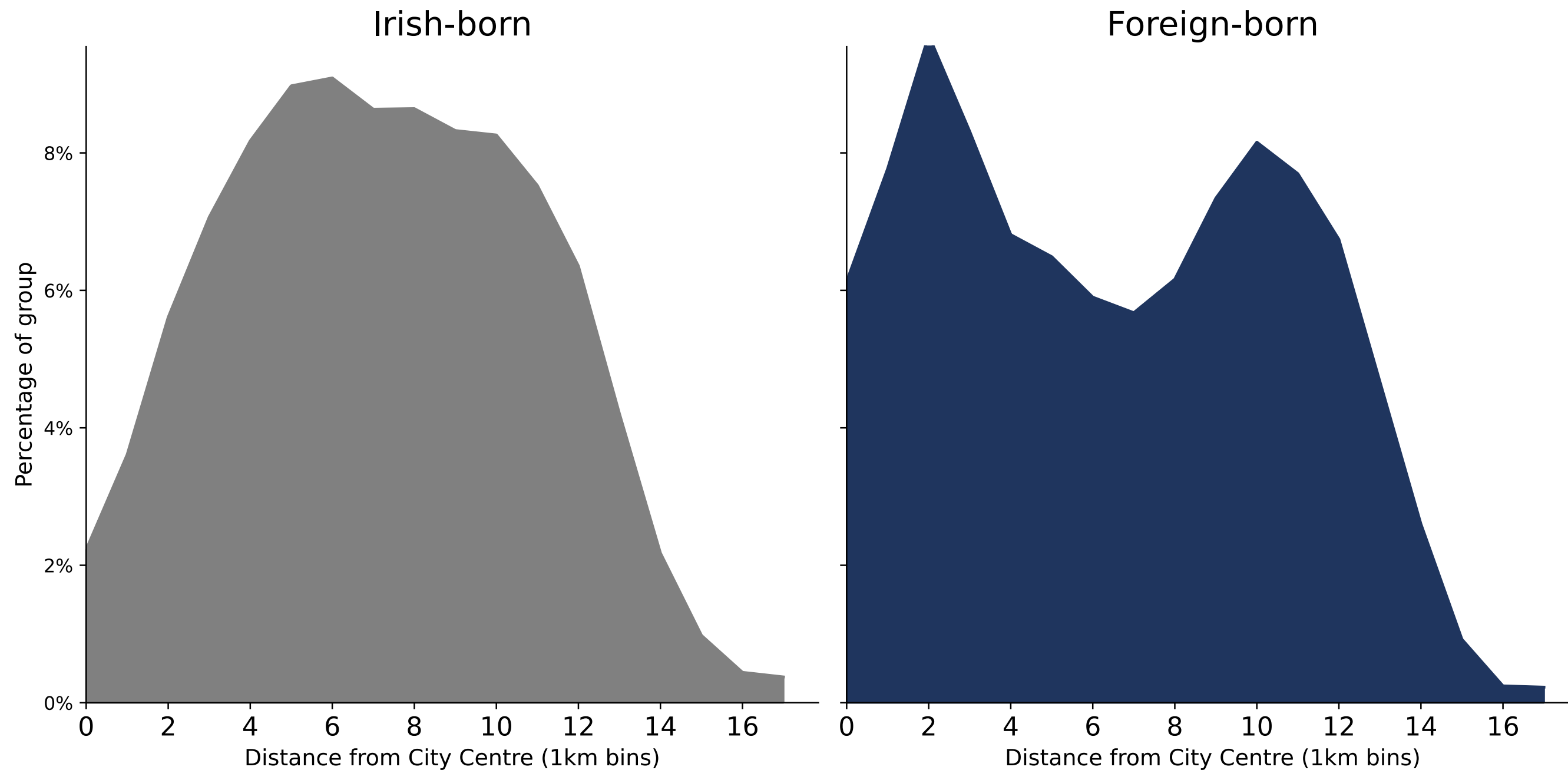
- Highest increases between 2016 and 2022 in the outer suburbs and commuter areas of Dublin city
 - Dún-Laoghaire–Glenageary (23pp)
 - Balgriffin (23pp)
 - Clondalkin–Ballymount (19pp)
- However, highest proportions in Dublin city centre
 - Mountjoy B (63%)
 - Arran Quay B (54%)

Proportion of and percentage point in the foreign-born population in Dublin, EDs, 2016/2022



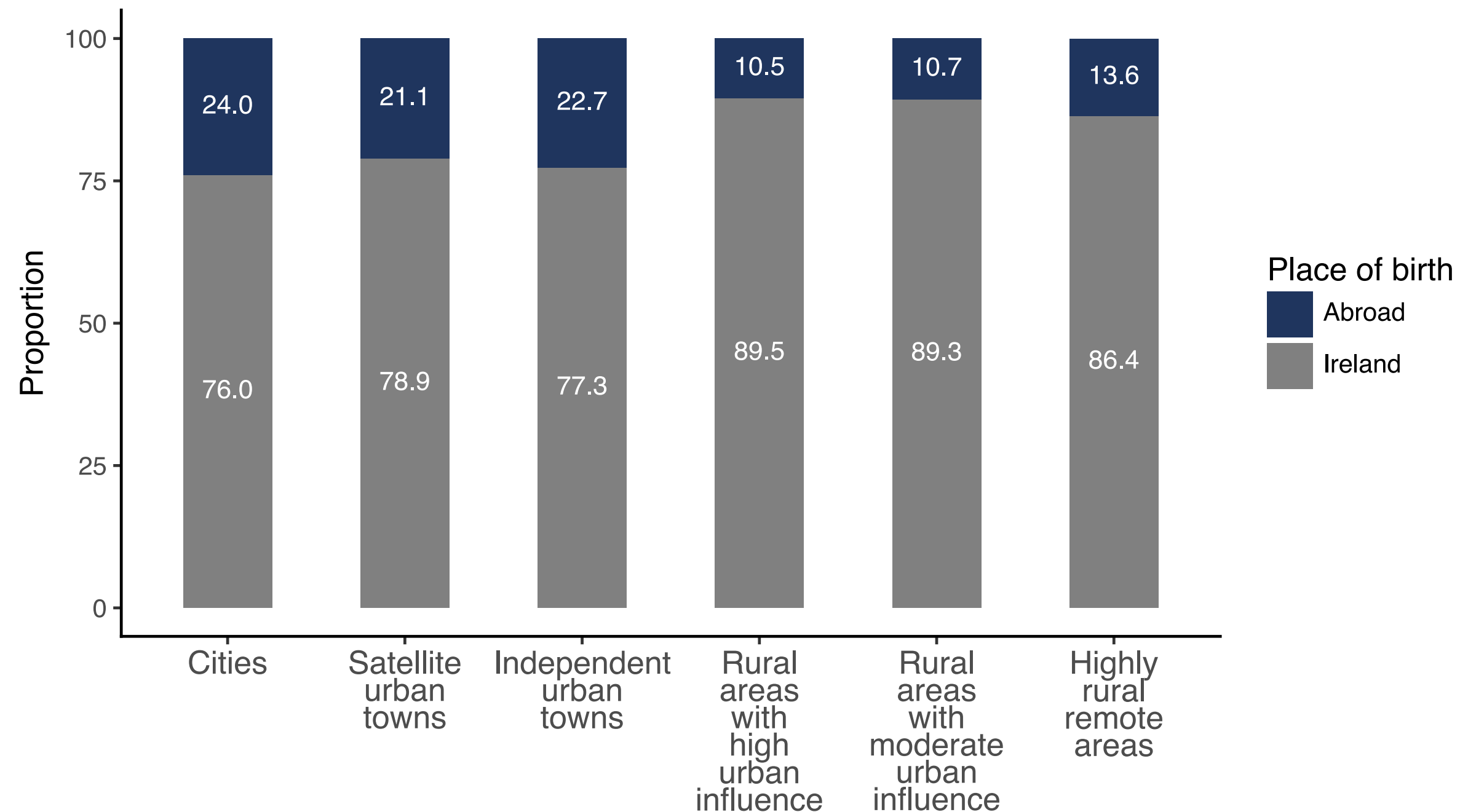
Source: Authors' own analysis using data from the CSO
Small Area Population Statistics

Distribution of foreign-born and Irish-born residents by distance from Dublin City Centre, 2022

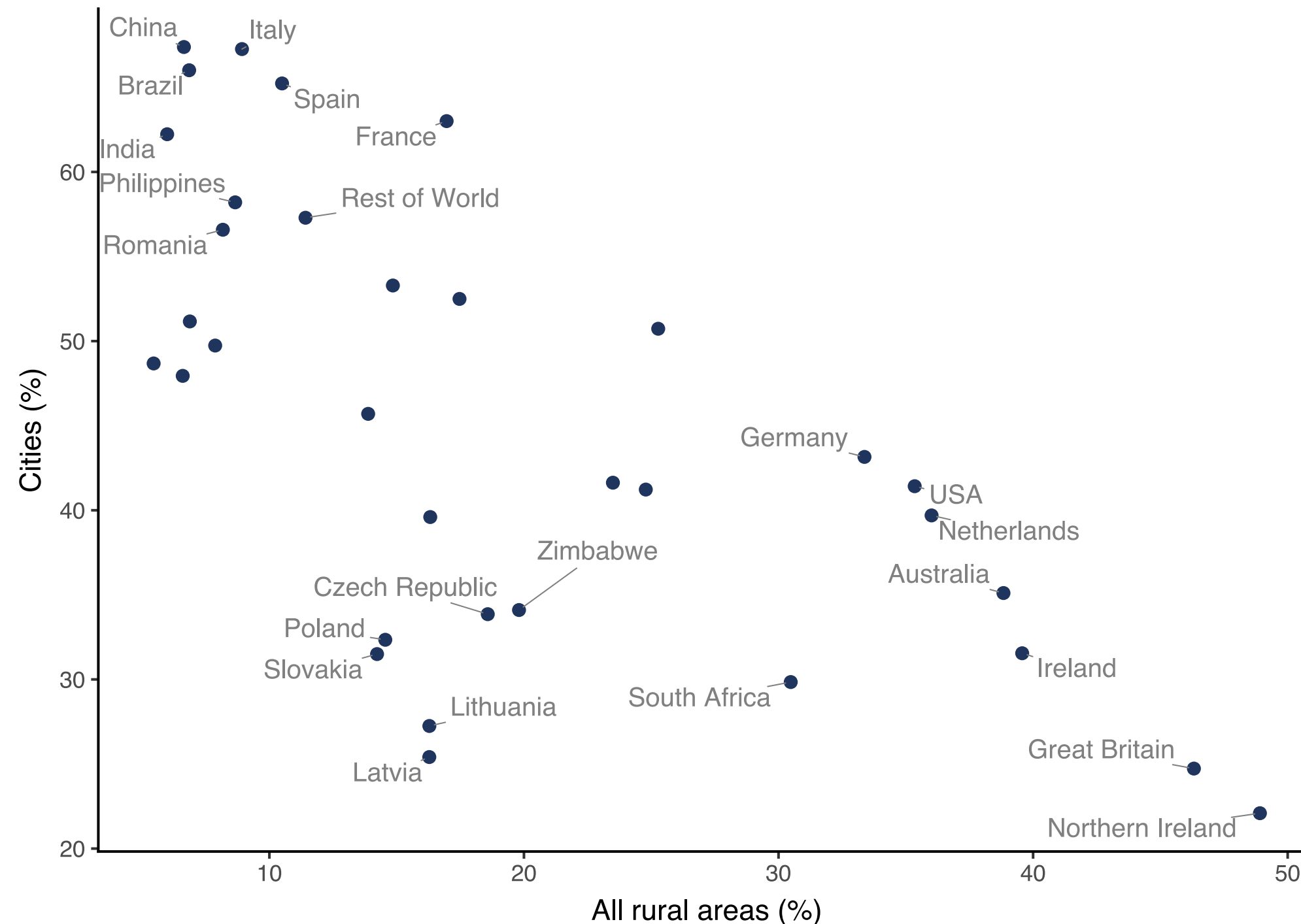


Urban and rural

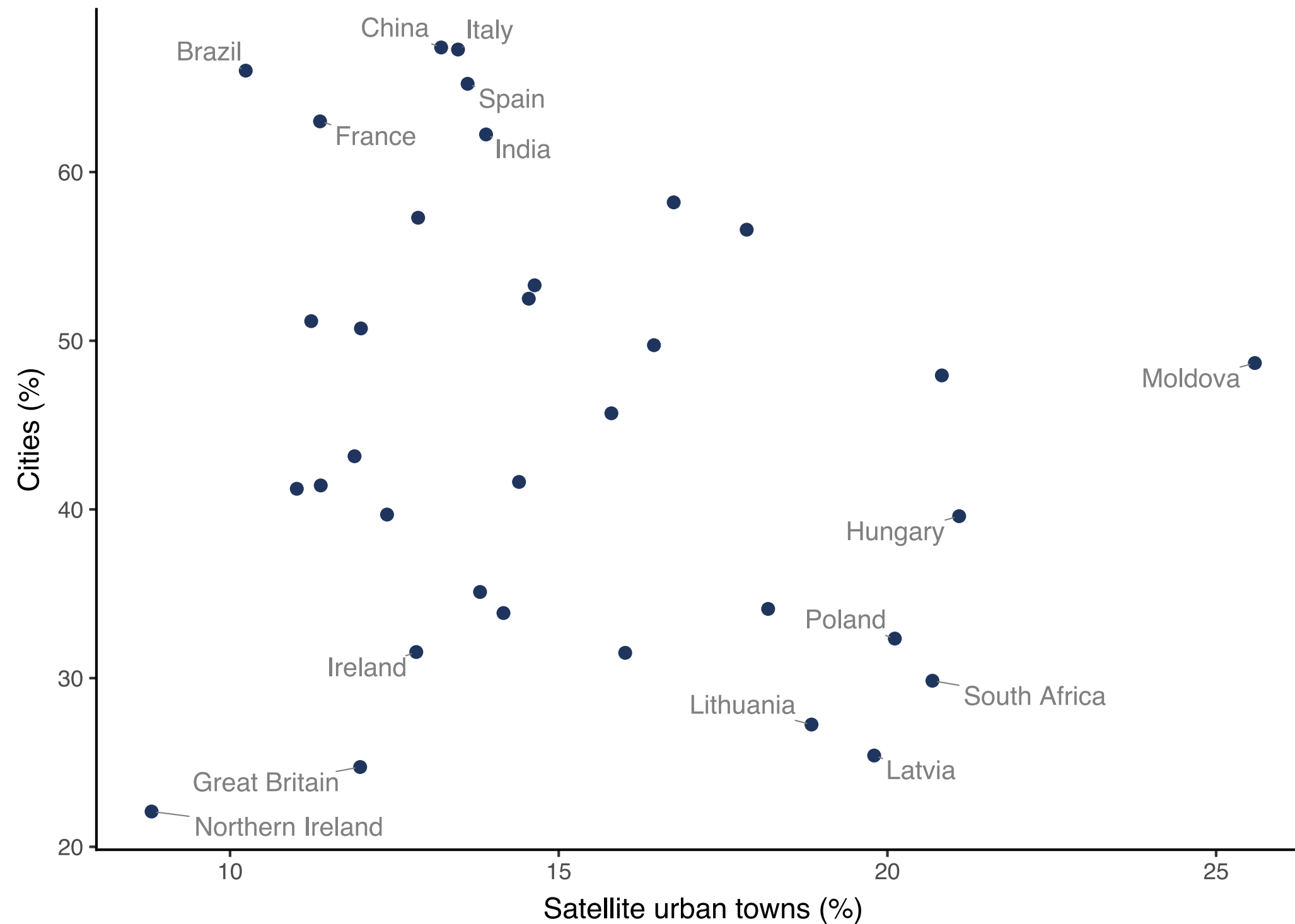
Proportion of residents by urban/rural areas and place of birth, 2022



Proportion of each country of birth that lives in cities and rural areas by country of birth, 2022



Proportion of each country of birth that lives in cities and commuter towns by country of birth, 2022



Source: Authors' own analysis using data from the CSO Small Area Population Statistics

Segregation

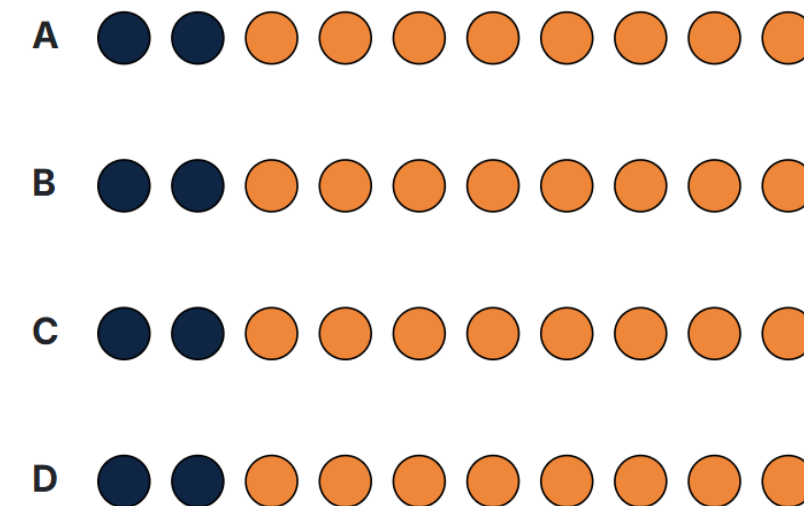
Segregation

- Segregation is a measure of how different the spatial distribution of one group is compared to another
- It is not necessarily either good or bad – it depends on context
 - For instance, high segregation might make it easier to form bonding ties
 - Connections with people from a similar background, which can support integration
 - It might also make it more difficult to form bridging ties
 - Connections with Irish people or other migrant groups

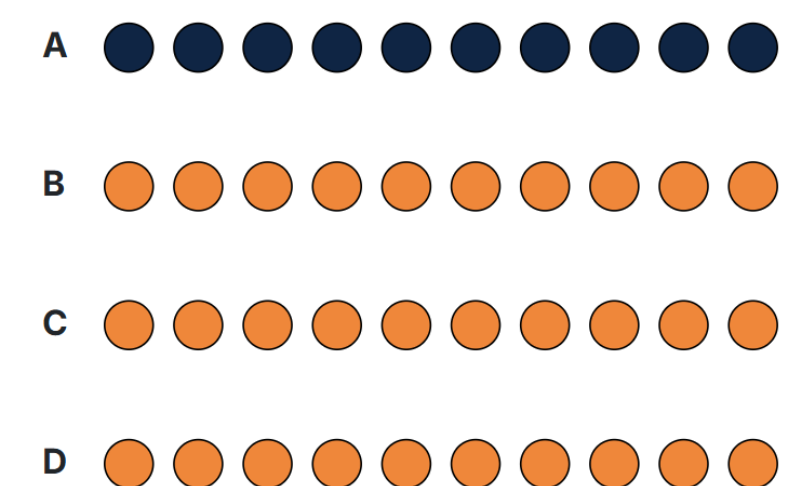
Segregation

- Segregation is measured with the ‘dissimilarity index’
- Measures how differently two groups are distributed across the subdivisions of a larger area
 - E.g. how migrants are distributed across the ‘Small Areas’ of a Local Electoral Area, compared to Irish residents
- It ranges from 0 (no segregation) to 1 (perfect segregation)

**Value
= 0**



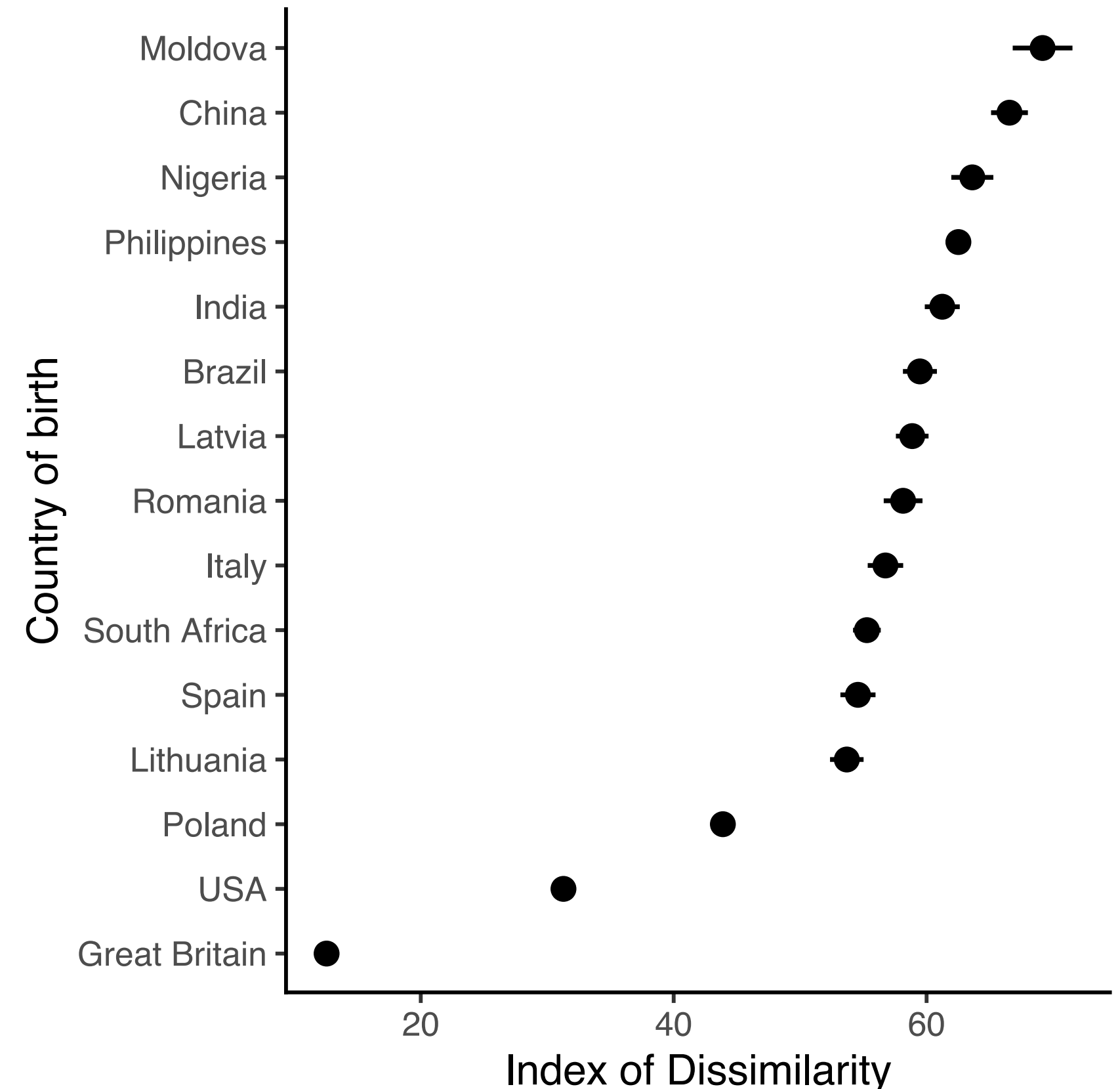
**Value
= 1**



○ Majority ● Minority

Index of dissimilarity across Local Electoral Areas in Ireland, all countries of birth,

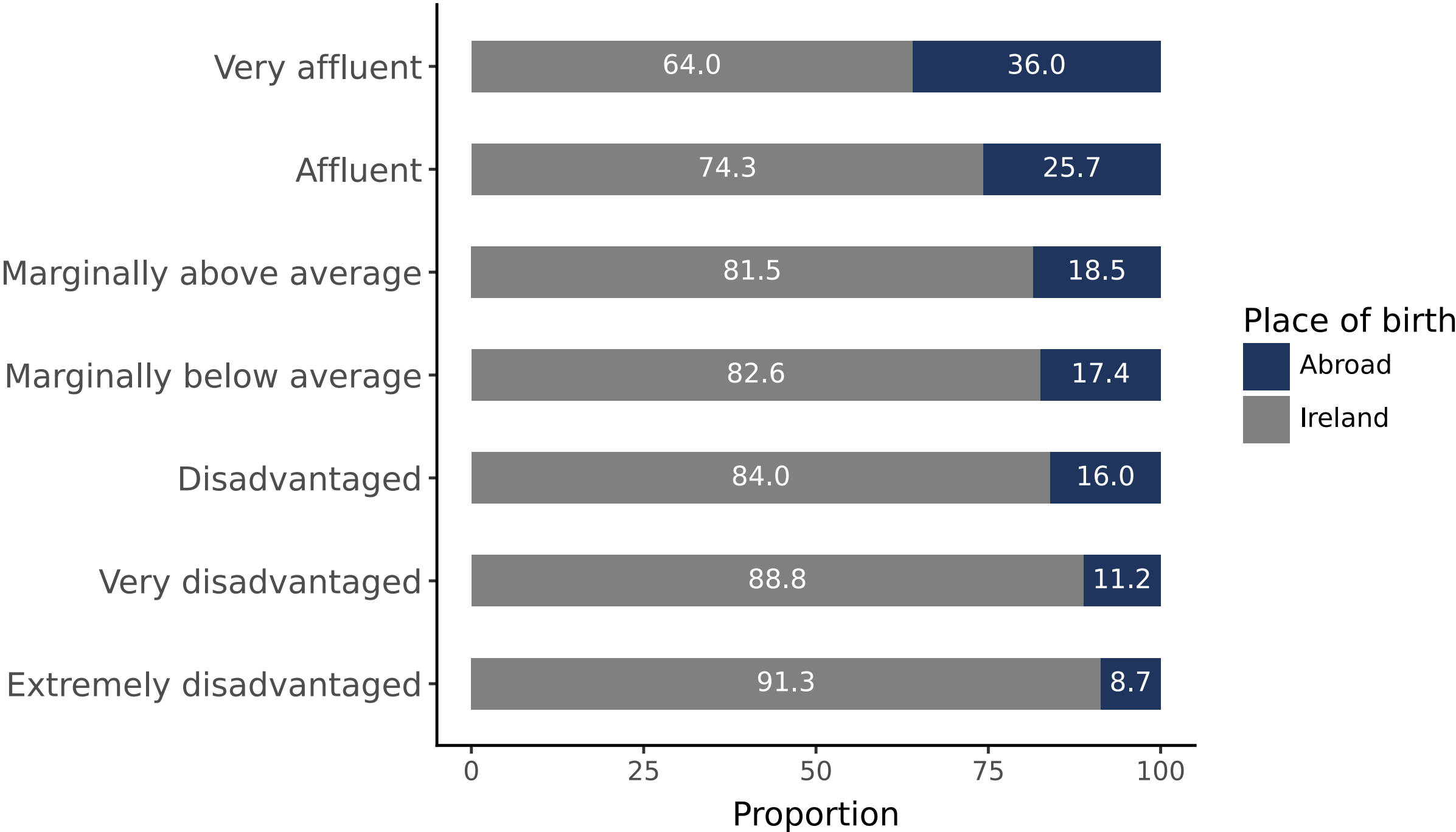
- Here, we present segregation between LEAs, calculated at the national level
- Lowest for those born in Great Britain, USA, and Poland
- Much higher for other countries, especially non-EU and non-Anglosphere countries



Area-level relationships

Area-level relationships

Migrant proportion by deprivation type of Electoral Division, Ireland, 2022

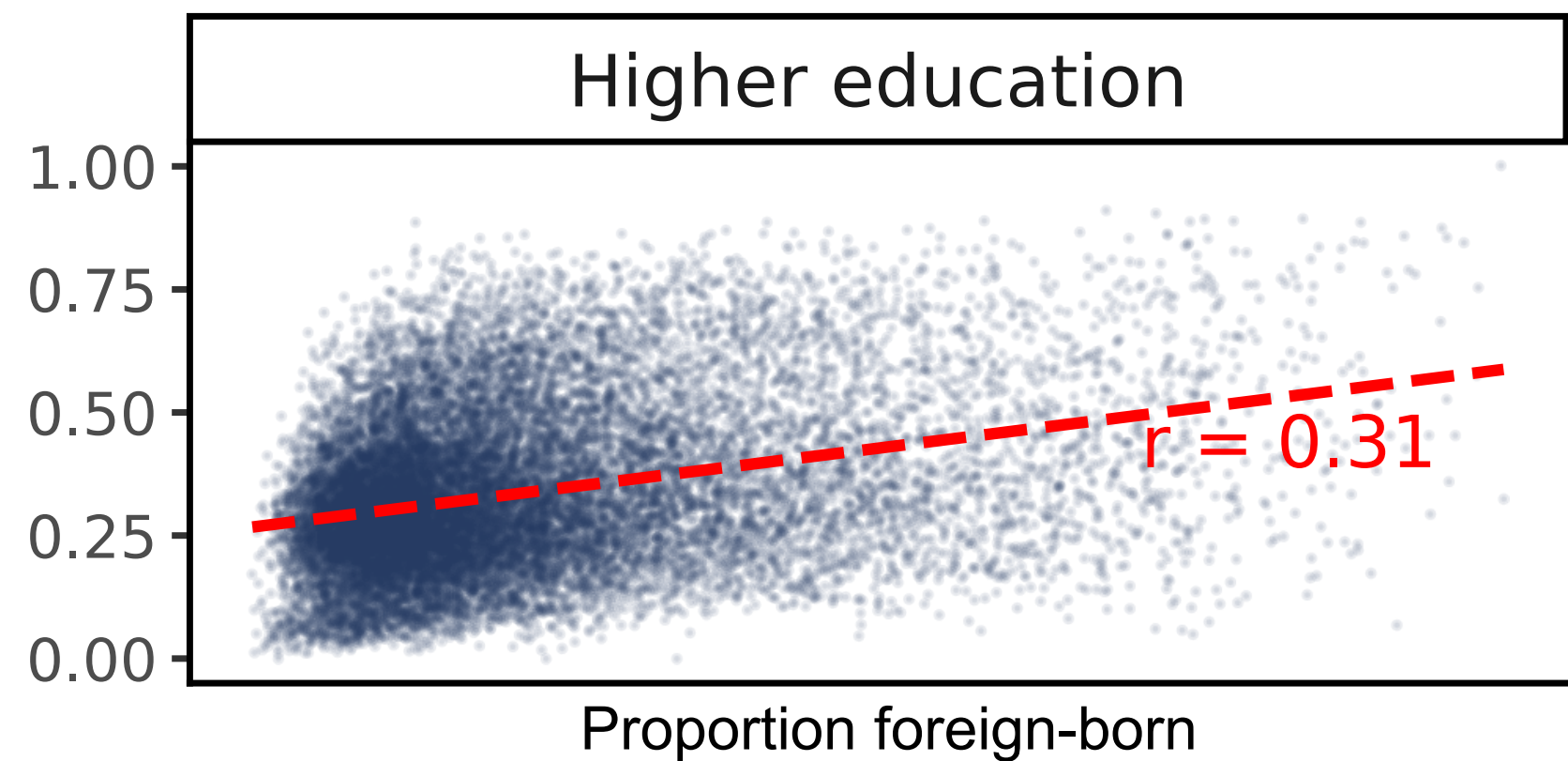
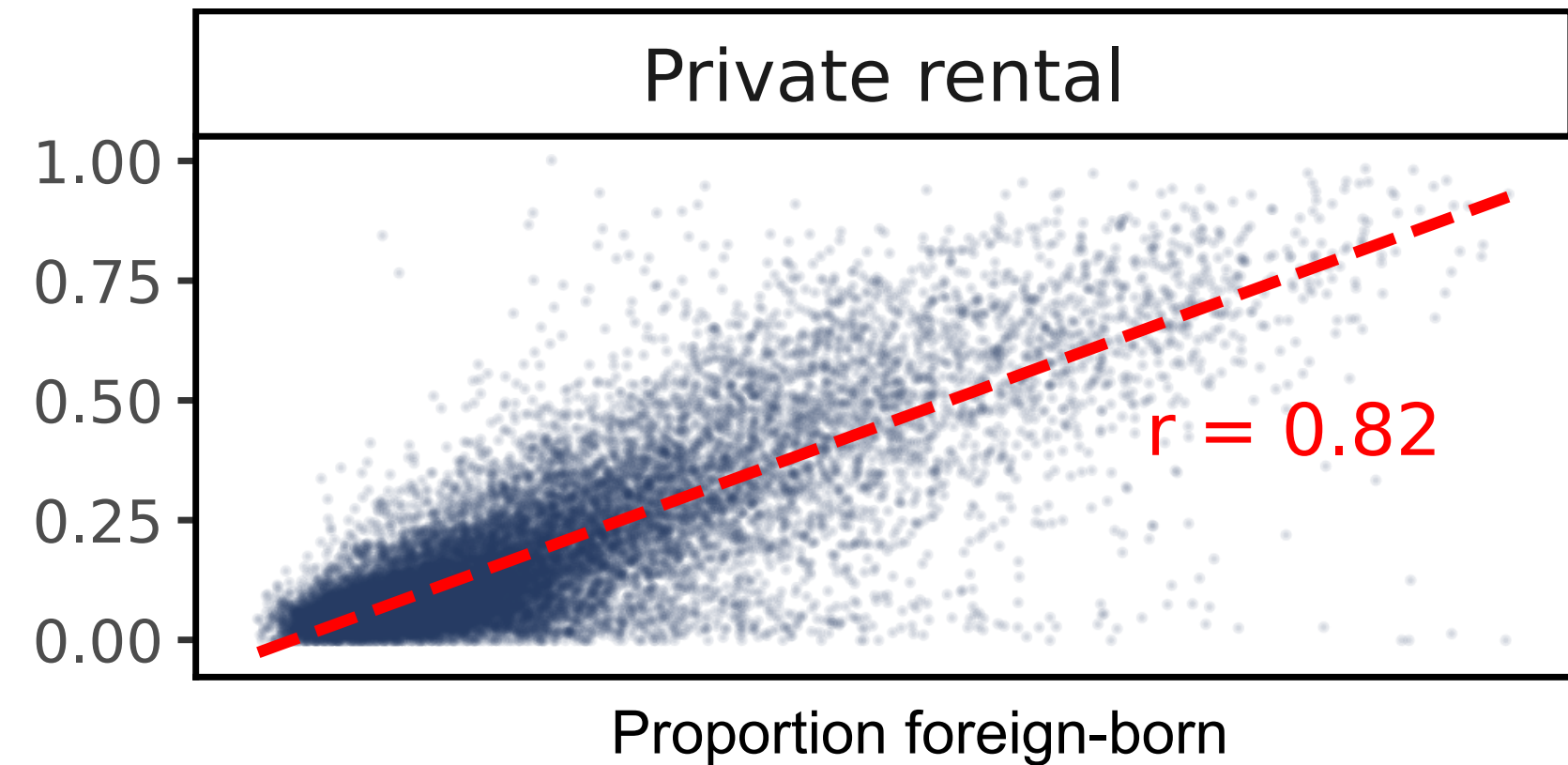


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Source: Authors' own analysis using data from the CSO Small Area Population Statistics

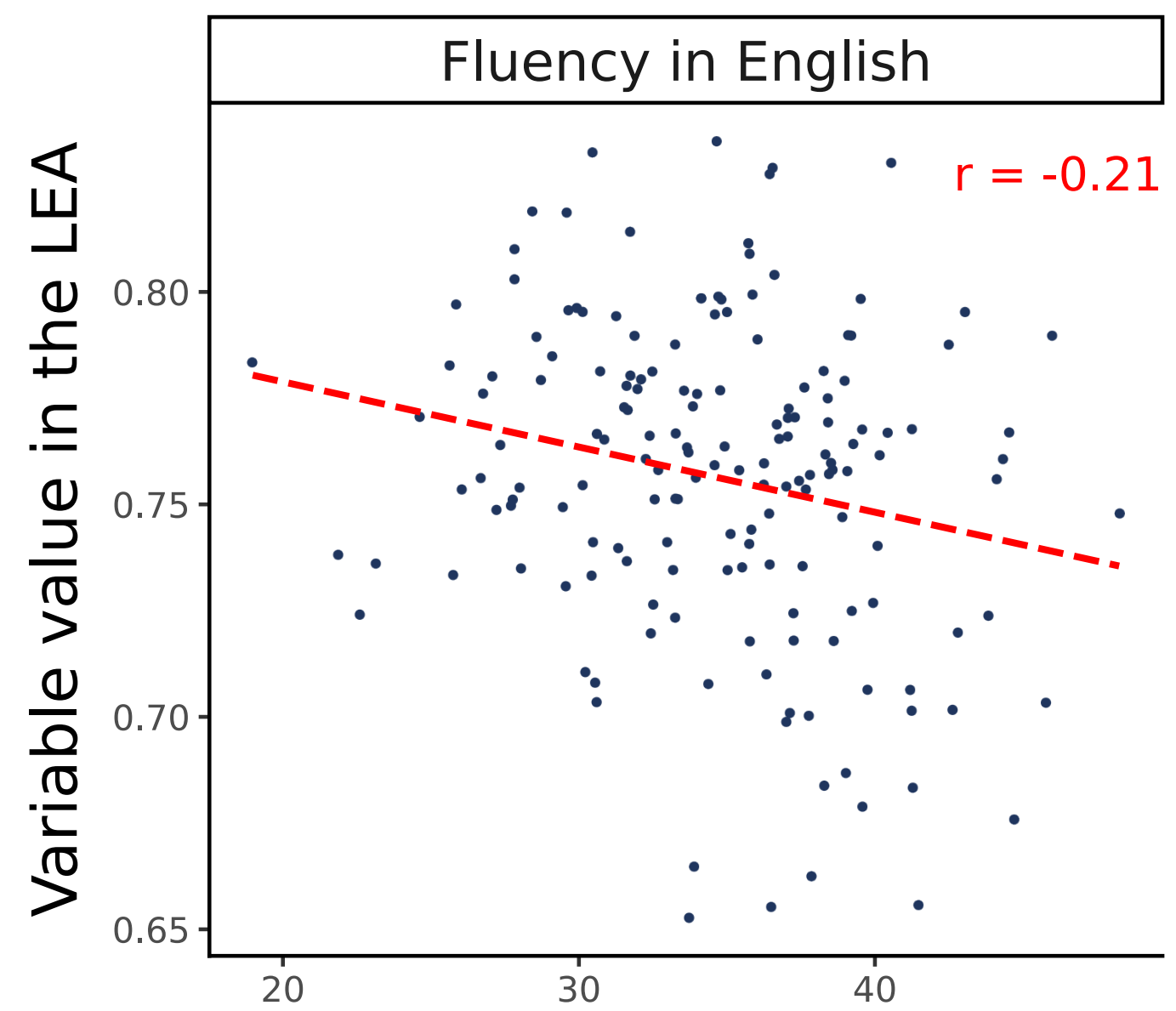
Area-level relationships - proportion

Correlation between proportion of foreign-born and characteristics of the Small Area, Ireland, 2022



Area-level relationships - segregation

Correlation between migrant segregation and characteristics of the Local Electoral Area, Ireland, 2022



2
5

Source: Authors' own analysis using data from the CSO Small Area Population Statistics

Local integration

Local integration

- Semi-structured interviews with stakeholders:
 - National non-governmental organisation (1)
 - National government agency (1)
 - Local non-governmental organisations (3)
 - Local Authority Integration Team (2)
 - Local Development Company (1)
- Findings structured into two sections: Governance and Integration

Governance

- Introduction of LAITs seen as a very positive step, providing:
 - a direct point of contact for migrants
 - a clear mandate and the resources needed for local authorities to support migrant integration
- However:
 - LAITs only support asylum seekers, refugees, and Ukrainian BoTPs
 - Some stakeholders felt this was limiting and against the spirit of integration
- Other challenges
 - Funding uncertainty and quality:
 - Locally based integration projects and organisations require grant funding, which is often short-term
 - One- or two-year grants and contracts make it hard to retain the best staff
 - English language education limited in rural areas, e.g. ETBs closed during summers

Integration

- Housing
 - Housing affordability and availability is one the biggest challenges facing migrants
 - In particular, insecurity of tenure and uncertainty over whether they will have to move makes integration harder
 - Also impacts those in IPAS centres, with several examples of transfers disrupting integration
- Social connections
 - Lack of training of IPAS centre managers can impede integration
 - Several successful examples of local integration workers supporting the formation of relationships between migrants, and between migrants and local service providers
- ₂ Foundational rights:
 - ₉ Migrants living near the border face serious integration barriers

Conclusion

Conclusion

- Housing is crucial
 - Private rental housing is the strongest predictor of migrant proportion – by far
 - Several stakeholders identified housing as the most important barrier to integration in their area
 - Little scope for local actors to support migrants facing housing difficulties, and state-controlled housing (e.g. IPAS, ARP)
- English language fluency is an important barrier
 - Segregation is higher in areas with lower English fluency, which affect integration
 - Outside Dublin, stakeholders suggest that English language training availability does not meet needs
- Local integration deserves investment
 - We find:
 - Wide variation in segregation levels
 - Strong area-level predictors of migrant proportion
 - Differences between migrant groups in their concentration within cities vs commuter towns or rural areas
 - Local integration actors are best placed to interpret and respond to these situations

Thank you

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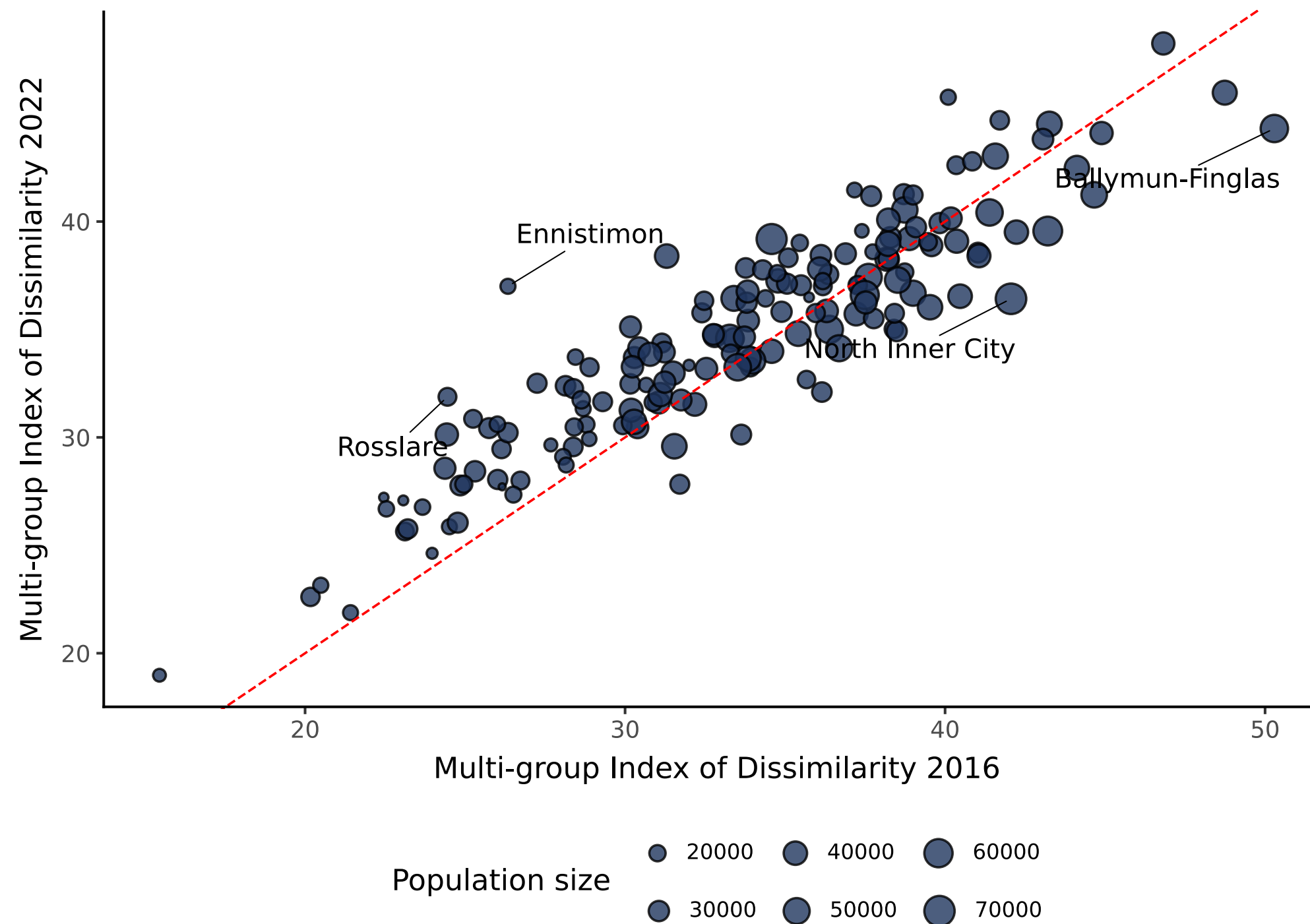
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Index of dissimilarity across Local Electoral Areas in Ireland, all countries of birth, 2016–2022



Source: Authors' own analysis using data from the CSO Small Area Population Statistics