

# **Anti-Immigration Attitudes Among Hispanic Immigrants**

**The Role of Nativity and Generation**

# Introduction

## Why Study Anti-Immigration Attitudes Among Hispanic Immigrants?

- Immigration is a key issue in global and U.S. politics.
- Much research focuses on native-born opposition to immigration, but immigrant communities also express restrictionist views.
- Understanding nativity and generational effects helps explain shifts in immigration attitudes.
- **Key Question:** How do nativity and generation status shape anti-immigration sentiment among Hispanic immigrants?

# Literature Review

## Existing Theories on Immigration Attitudes

- **Traditional View:** Immigrants tend to be **pro-immigration** (Hainmueller & Hopkins, 2014).
- **Recent Trends:** Republican support among Latinos has increased (Flores & Schachter, 2018; Pedraza & Zhu, 2023).
- **Generational Differences:** **Later-generation** immigrants may hold more restrictionist views than their foreign-born counterparts.

# Theoretical Framework

## Later-Generation Hispanics May Adopt More Restrictionist Views

- **Assimilation Paradox:** Stronger national identification leads to **tougher stances on immigration** (Telles & Ortiz, 2008).
- **Political Socialization:** Conservative environments influence second-gen Latinos (Drouhot & Nee, 2019).
- **Media Influence:** U.S.-born Hispanics consume more partisan media (Merolla et al., 2013).
- **Firsthand Experience:** Foreign-born Hispanics have direct migration experiences, shaping more **pro-immigration attitudes** (Massey & Sánchez, 2010).

# Hypothesis

**H1:** Foreign-born Hispanics will exhibit **lower** anti-immigration sentiment than U.S.-born Hispanics.

**H2:** Second- and Third+-generation Hispanics will exhibit **progressively higher** anti-immigration sentiment than First Gen.

# Methods

**Data Source:** 2018 National Survey of Latinos (NSL)

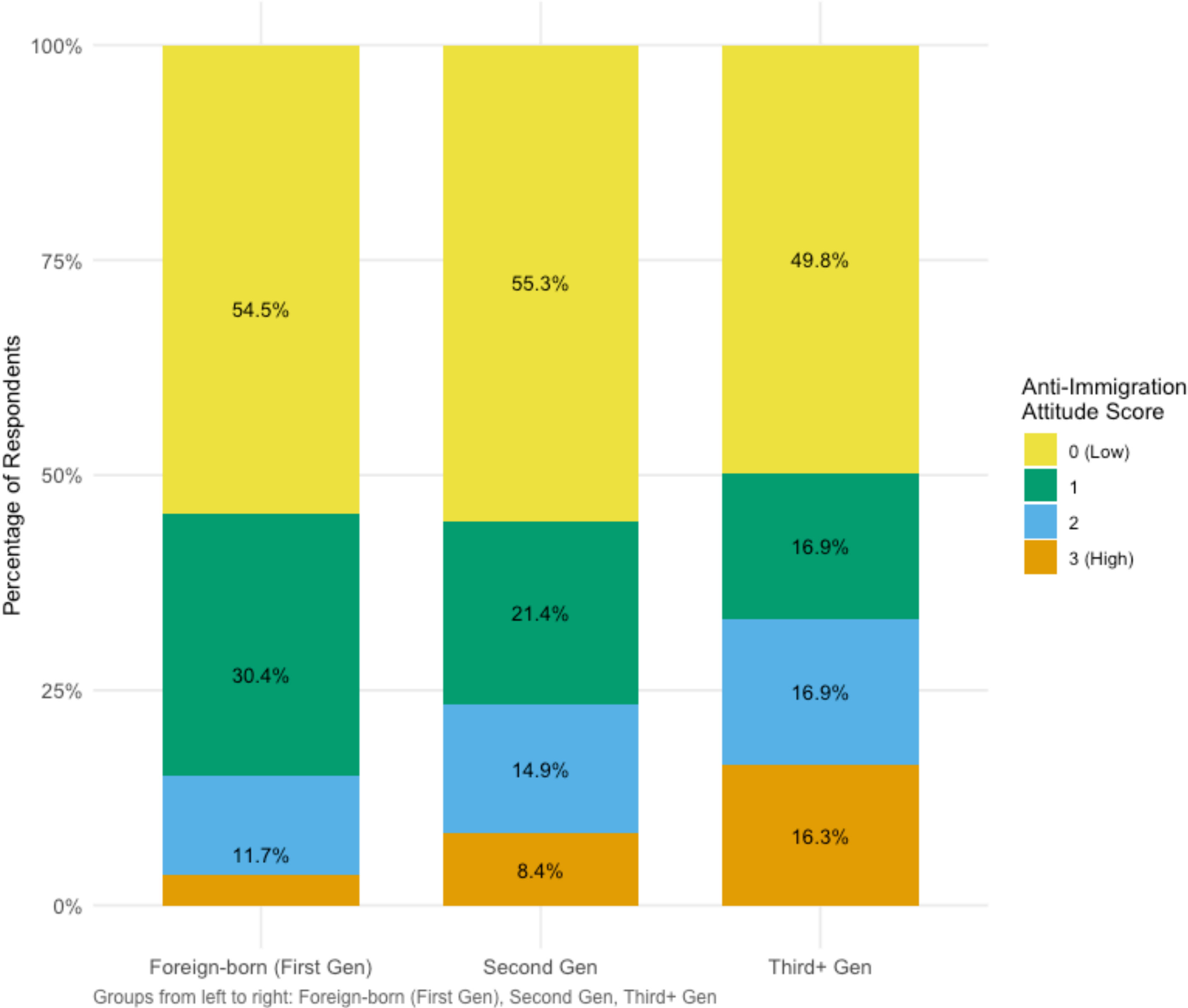
- **Sample:** 1,501 Hispanic respondents (49.6% native-born, 50.4% foreign-born)
- **Dependent Variable:** Anti-immigration sentiment (composite score: 0-3)
- **Independent Variables:** Nativity (U.S.-born vs. foreign-born), Generation (1, 2, 3+)
- **Analysis Methods:** Descriptive analysis, t-tests, chi-square tests, regression modeling.

# Results - Descriptive

- Foreign-born respondents exhibit significantly **lower** anti-immigration sentiment than U.S.-born ( $p < .001$ ).
- Third+ generation respondents hold the highest restrictionist views.

Distribution of Anti-Immigration Attitudes by Nativity/Generation

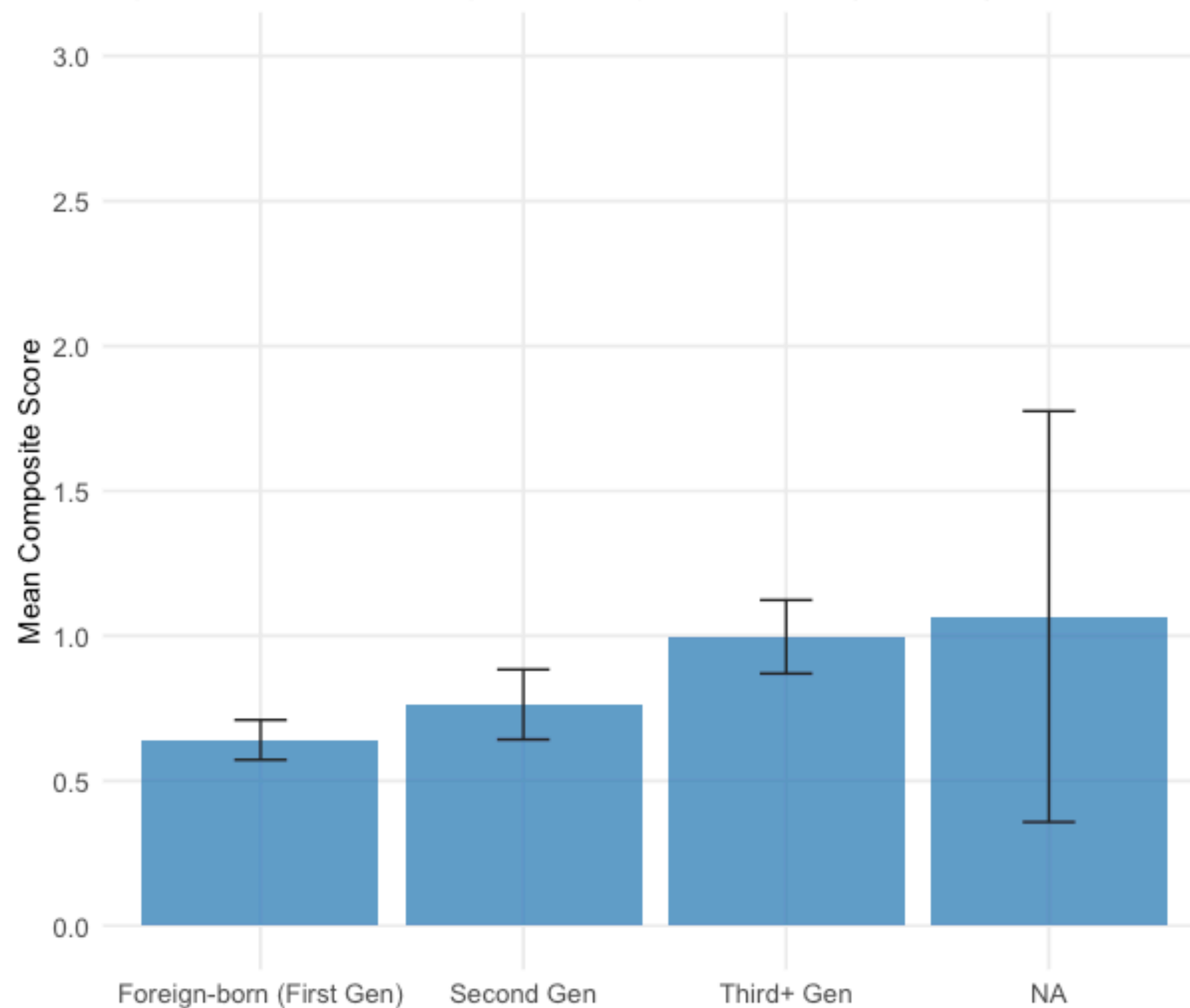
Score=0 is drawn at the bottom, Score=3 at the top





## Anti-Immigration Attitudes by Nativity/Generation

Higher scores indicate stronger anti-immigration attitudes (scale: 0-3)



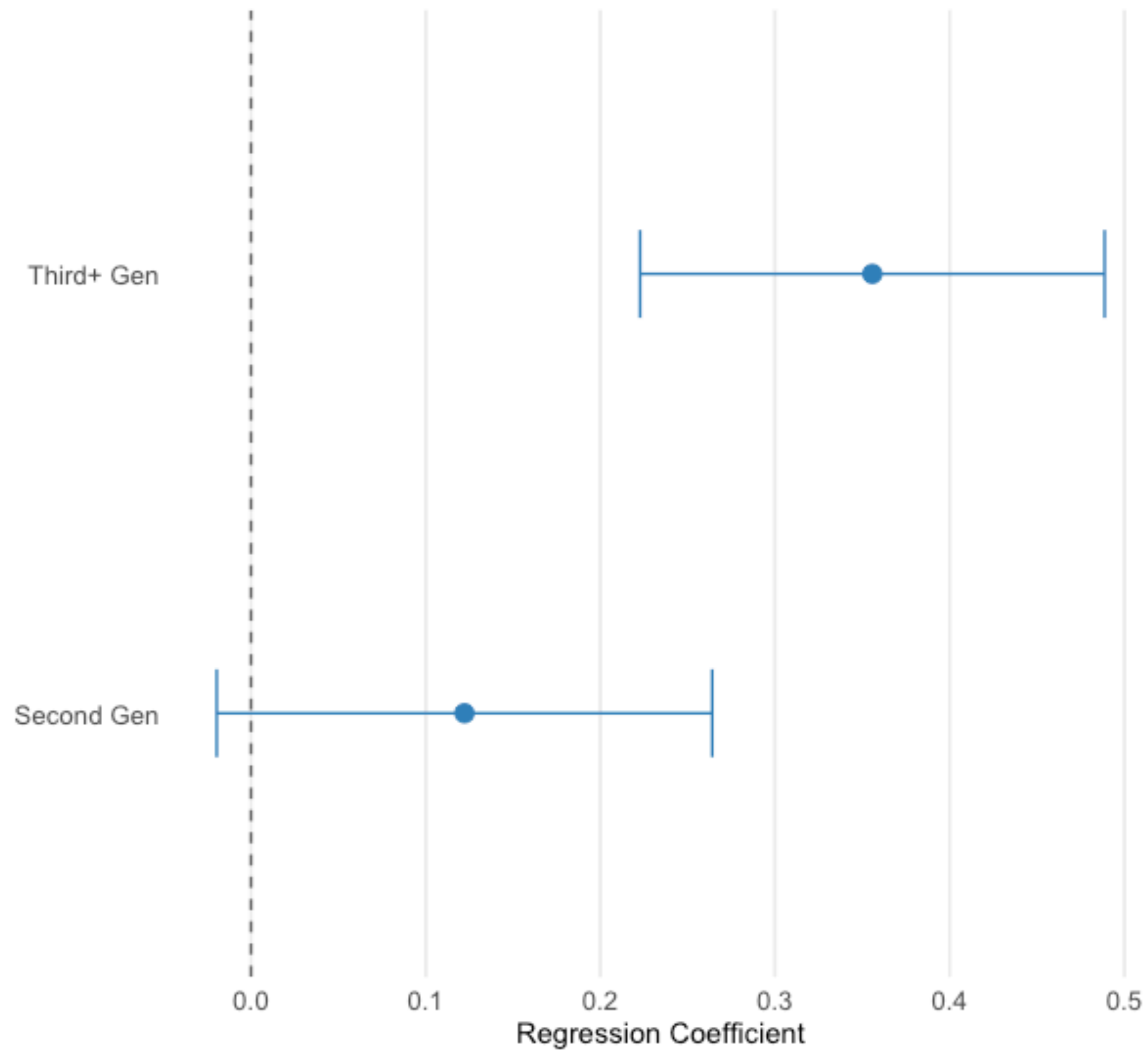
Nativity/Generation categories from left to right: Foreign-born (First Gen), Second Generation, Third+ Gen  
Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

# Results - Regression

- Later generations are **more** likely to support restrictionist immigration policies.
- **Third+** generation shows the most significant increase in anti-immigration sentiment.

## Effect of Nativity/Generation on Anti-Immigration Attitude

Reference: Foreign-born (First Gen)



Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

# Interpretation & Implications

- **Political Socialization** Shapes Immigration Attitudes
  - Second-generation Hispanics more exposed to U.S. partisan contexts.
  - Longer exposure to media narratives reinforces restrictionist views.
- **Social & Economic Identity**
  - Later-generation Hispanics may adopt restrictionist views to reinforce "American" identity.
  - Foreign-born respondents align with open immigration policies due to personal experiences.

# Future Plans

- Why are some immigrants socialized into right-wing politics—while others into progressive politics?
- Longitudinal Analysis
  - Are native-born and foreign-born attitudes converging or diverging over time?
- Advanced Techniques
  - Interaction, mediation, subgroup, and causal inference analysis.

# Conclusion

1. **Foreign-born** Hispanics hold significantly **lower** anti-immigration sentiment than U.S.-born Hispanics.
2. **Later generations** (especially Third+) exhibit the **highest** restrictionist views.
3. Findings suggest that political socialization, national identity, and media exposure might drive generational shifts in immigration attitudes.
4. This study contributes to debates on assimilation, polarization, and conservatism in immigrant communities.

# Thank You!