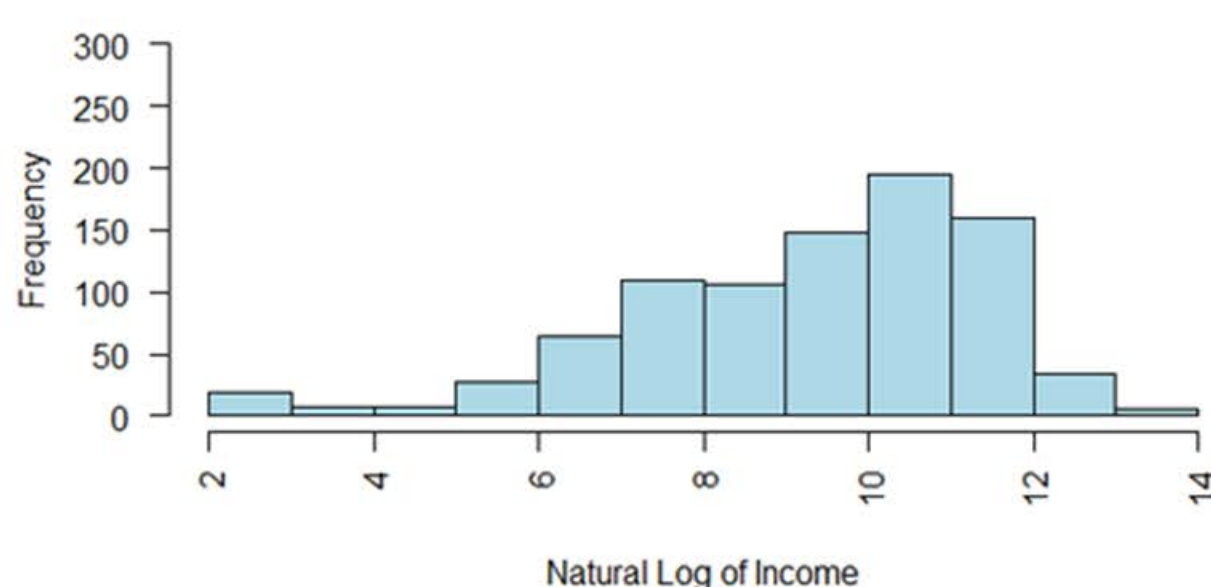# CHARACTERIZING MIGRANTS

Jamie Christy & Julia Chmyz
QR 260 Spring 2015

We examined migrants -- people who do not live in the same state as they did the year previous -- with respect to race, age, and income. Data were drawn from random households surveyed in the US, taking 1161 migrants and 1161 nonmigrants from different households.
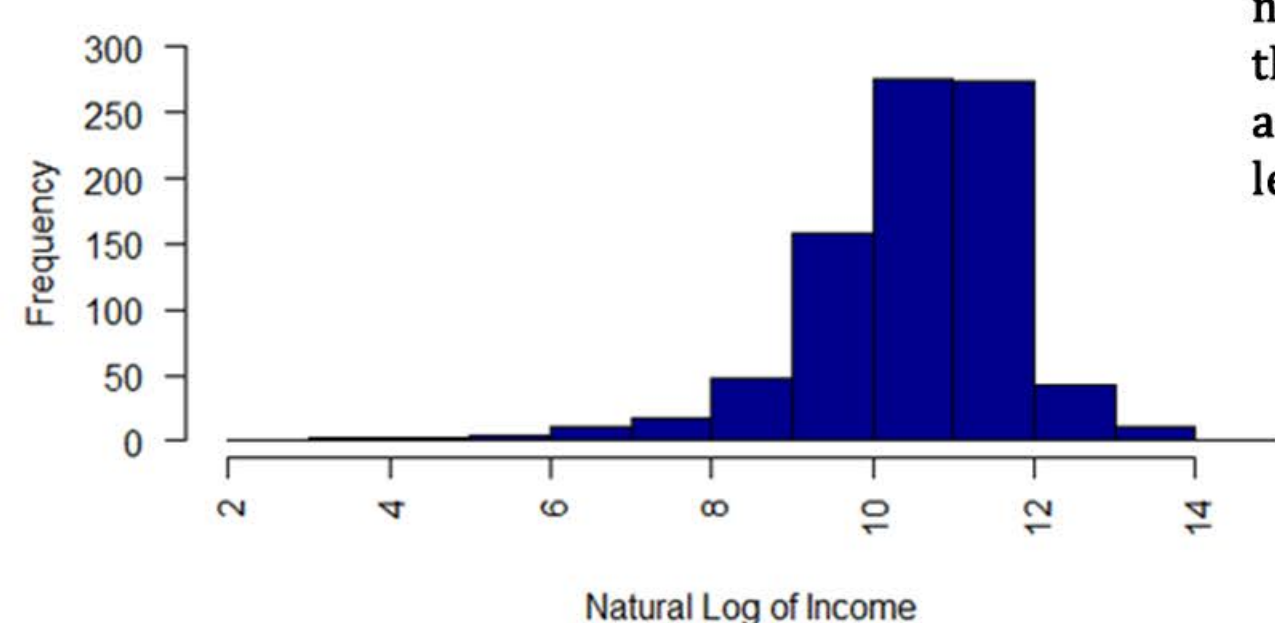
Migrants, compared to the nonmigrant population, are more likely to be Black, Asian, or Mixed Race, and less likely to be White. Migrants move to households with a median income aboutone quarter of the median income of nonmigrant households. Migrants are, on average, about 13 years younger than nonmigrants.
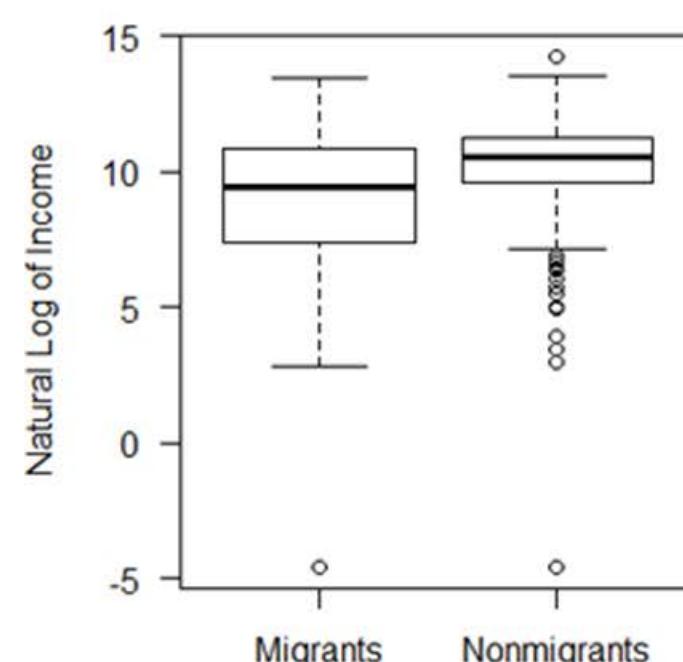
INCOME

Income Distribution of Migrants

Income Distribution of Nonmigrants

Natural Log of Incomes

After performing a two-sample t-test, we found that migrants move to households with a median income that is four times less than the median income of nonmigrants. We found with 95% confidence that the difference in median incomes between the households of migrants and nonmigrants is between 2.6 and 6.2 -- that is median household income for migrants is greater by a factor of 2.6 to 6.2.
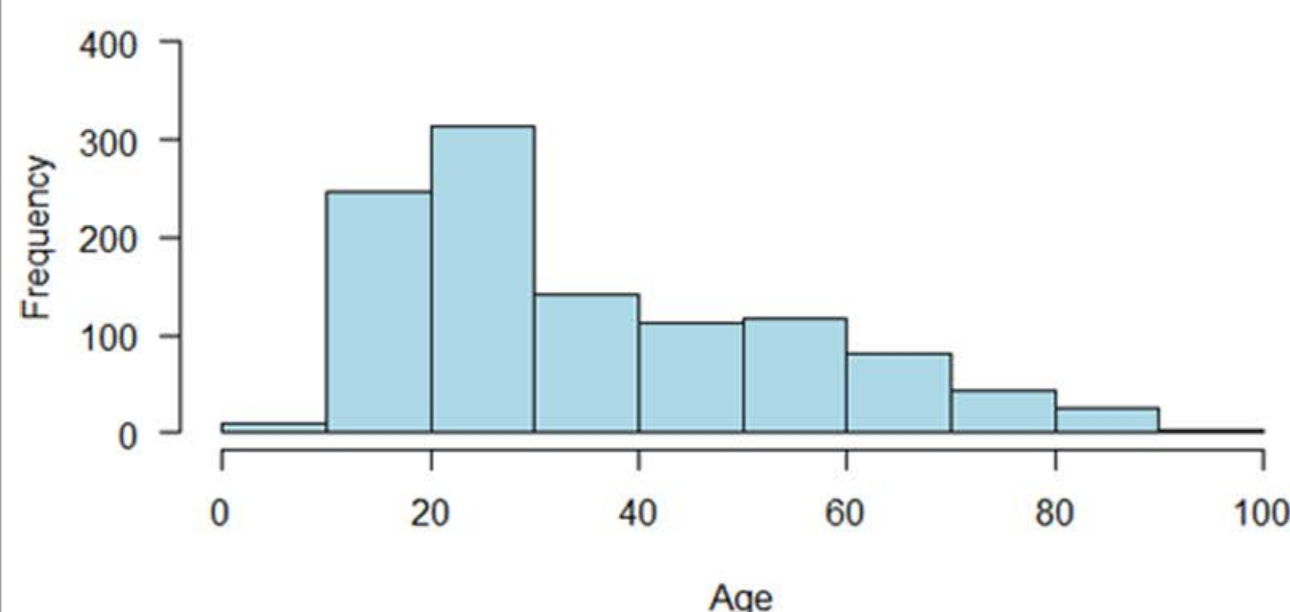
The permutation test comparing the distributions of incomes of migrants and nonmigrants also indicated that the two distributions are different, with a p-value less than 0.001.
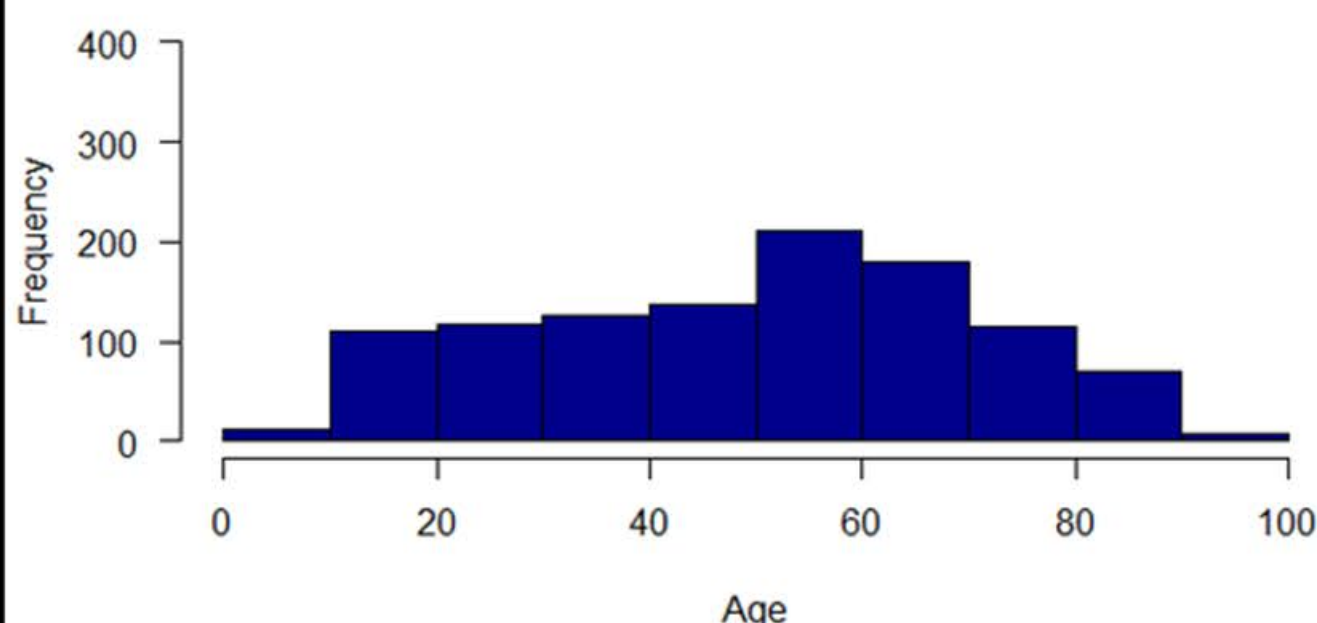
AGE

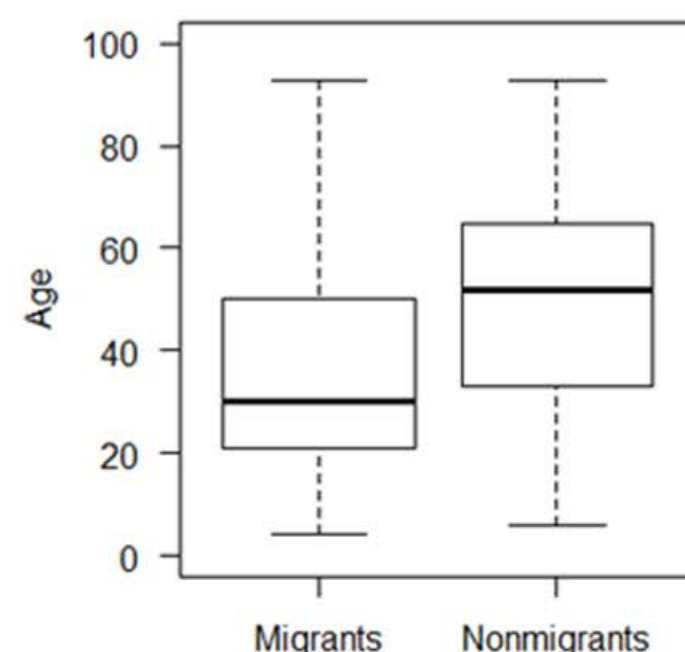**Age Distribution of Migrants**

Age Distribution of Nonmigrants

Age

Migrants are, on average, about 13.2 years younger than non-migrants. We can say with 95% confidence that migrants are between 11.6 and 15 years younger than non-migrants, according to a two-sample t-test.
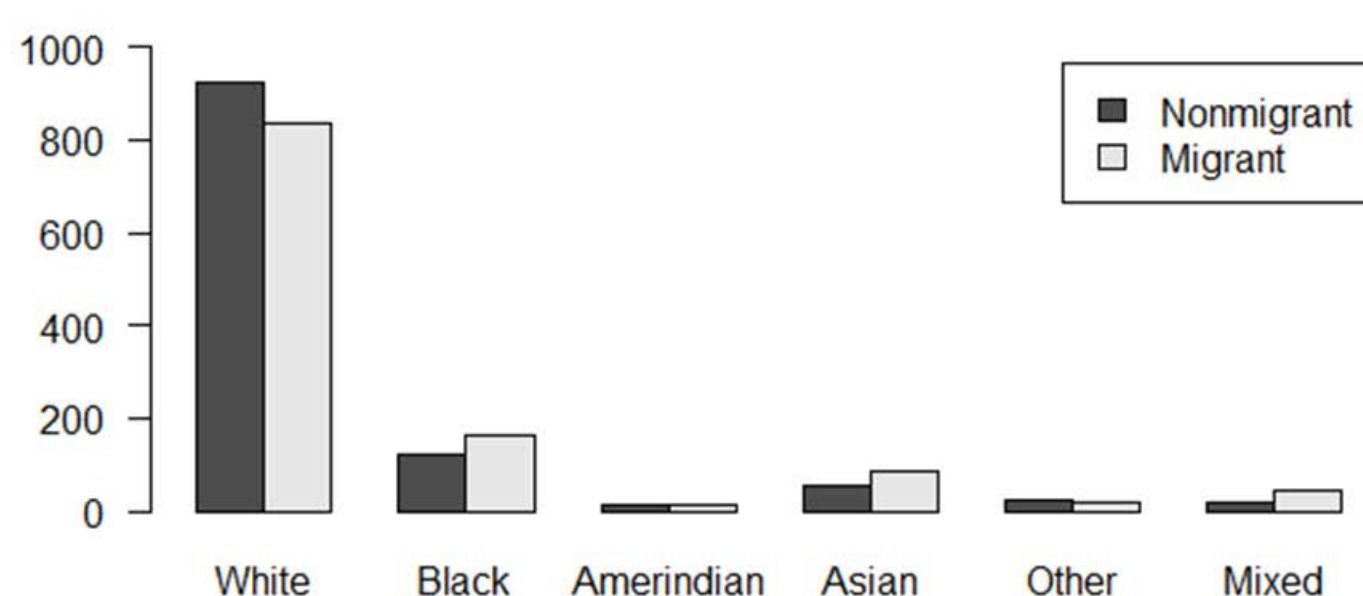
A permutation test comparing the distributions of ages of migrants and nonmigrants also indicated that the two distributions are different, with a p-value less than 0.001.

RACE

Racial Makeup of Migrants and Non

Legend: Nonmigrant, Migrant

Categories: White, Black, Amerindian, Asian, Other, Mixed

We performed a chi-squared test, which showed that race and migration status are not independent.