

Introduction

In each of Connecticut's counties, there is a significant population with limited English proficiency (LEP). The portion of the population who primarily speaks a language *other* than English at home ranges from 10.3% to 29.5%, depending on the locality. The specific languages spoken across Connecticut are not uniformly distributed. Some regions have large Spanish-speaking populations, some have large Portuguese or Italian populations, some have large Chinese or Polish populations. Each region has a unique constituency with unique needs.

To better understand the languages spoken by residents the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) has compiled language data for all eight counties. This data can help create targeted translations to increase accessibility to information within underserved populations. Documents that might be translated include governmental announcements, medical information, legal information, financial tools, and social service documents.

To create this language document, the DCP used data from the American Community Survey's 5-year estimates (2014-2018). The dataset aggregates five years of survey data collected by the Census Bureau. This type of "period" estimate is more statistically reliable than a single year survey. The DCP examined two key variables; language spoken at home and the birthplace of foreign-born residents. Language spoken at home provides an overview of English proficiency, and breaks down languages spoken into major groups (e.g. "French, Haitian, or Cajun" or "Slavic Languages"). Because these language categories lack specificity, the birthplace of foreign-born residents was used as a proxy measure for the actual languages spoken within each category.

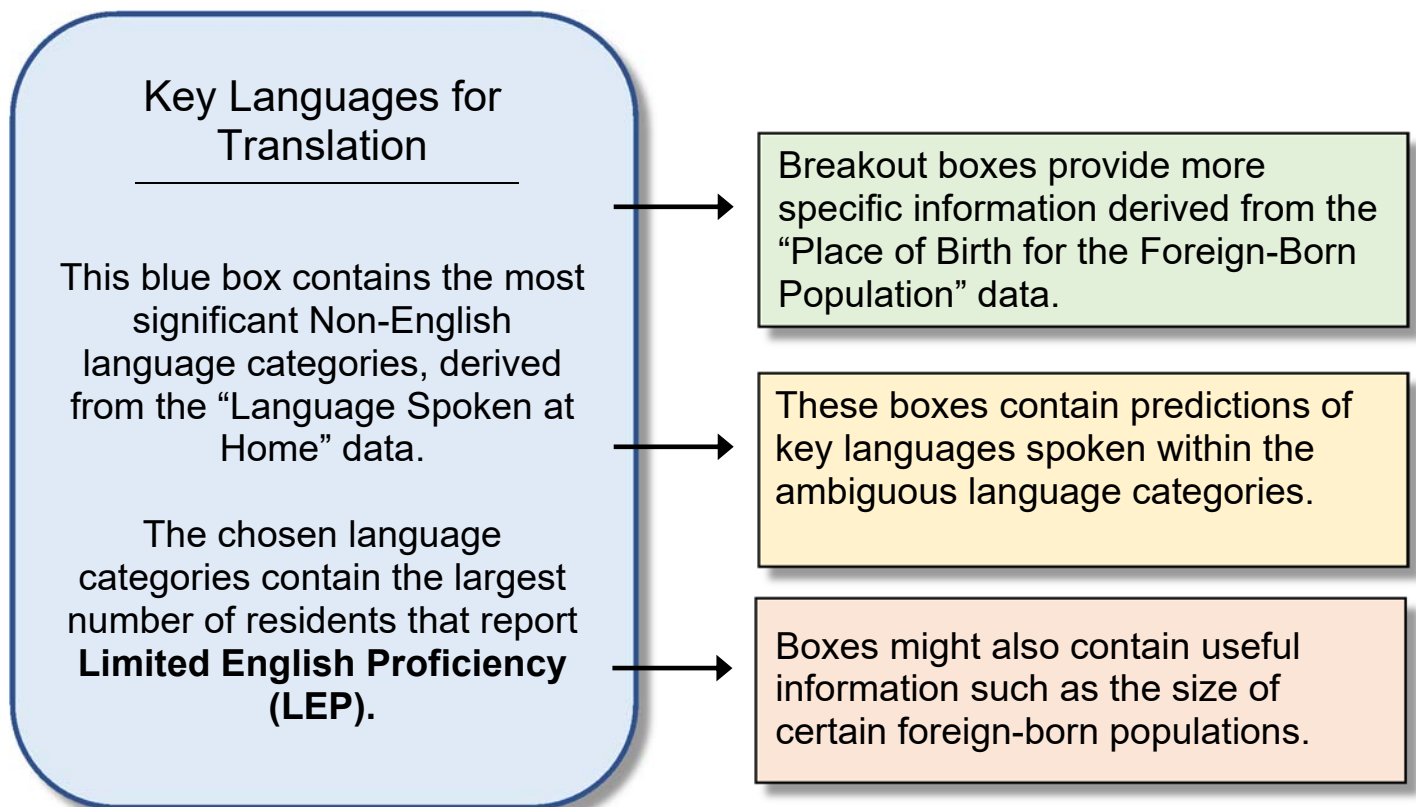
It is important to note two limitations of this data. First, because the birthplace of foreign-born residents is a proxy measure, the exact numbers of residents who speak foreign languages may vary. The purpose of the birthplace data does is not to provide concrete population statistics. Rather, it helps decipher some of the more ambiguous "language spoken at home" categories. Second, because ACS data is self-reported, there is a potential that residents have over (or under) exaggerated their English skills. With these limitations in

mind, this document represents the best regional estimate of foreign language speakers in Connecticut at this time.

Reading the Data

A blurb provides a general overview of English proficiency rates, foreign languages spoken, potential challenges/areas for more research, and large foreign-born populations.

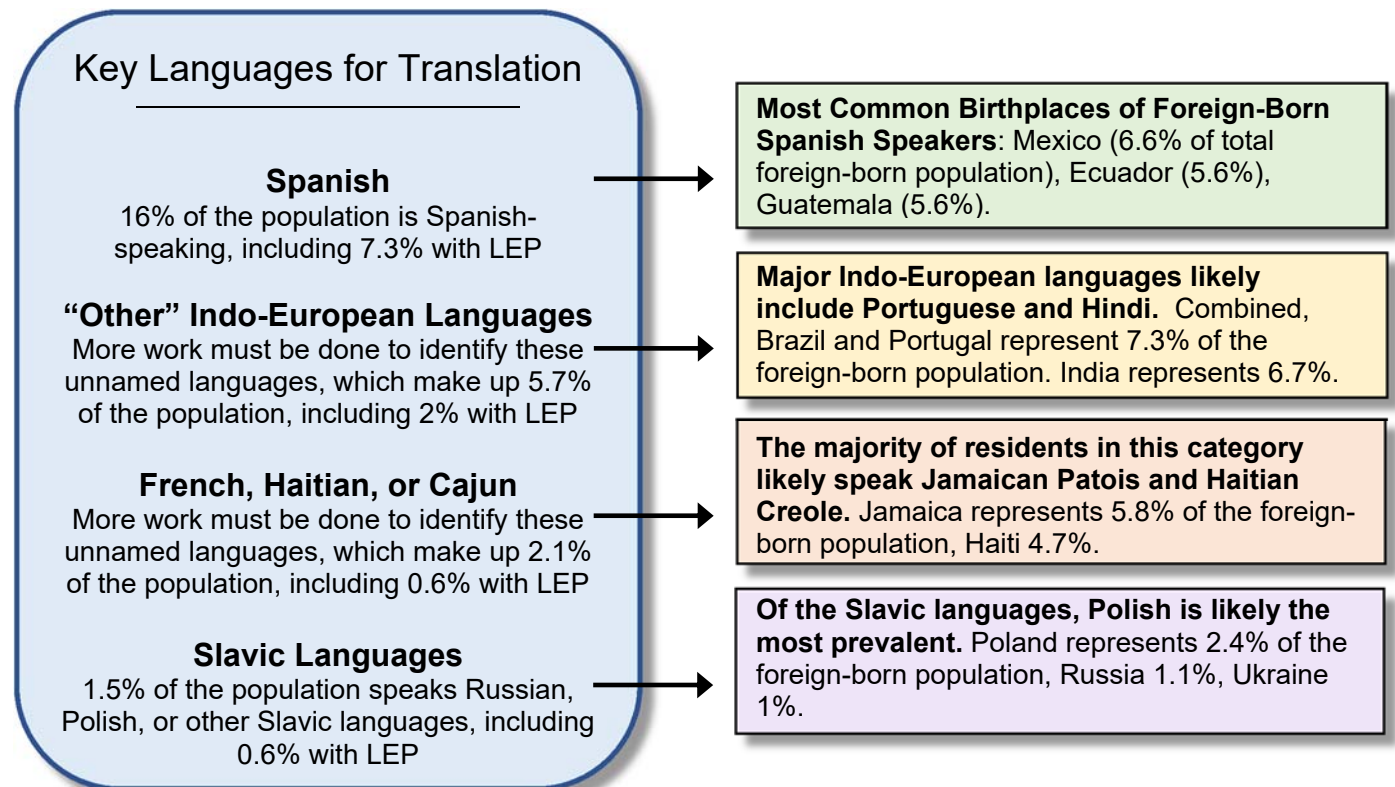
- The data is listed in bullet points, with key languages in **Bold**.
- Every county has one page of information.
- More detailed data tables and graphs can be found in *Appendices 1-2*.



Fairfield County

In Fairfield County, more than 260,000 residents (29.5% of the population) speak a language other than English at home. More than one third of these foreign language speakers report limited English proficiency (LEP), meaning they are unlikely to understand medical, financial, and legal information written in English.

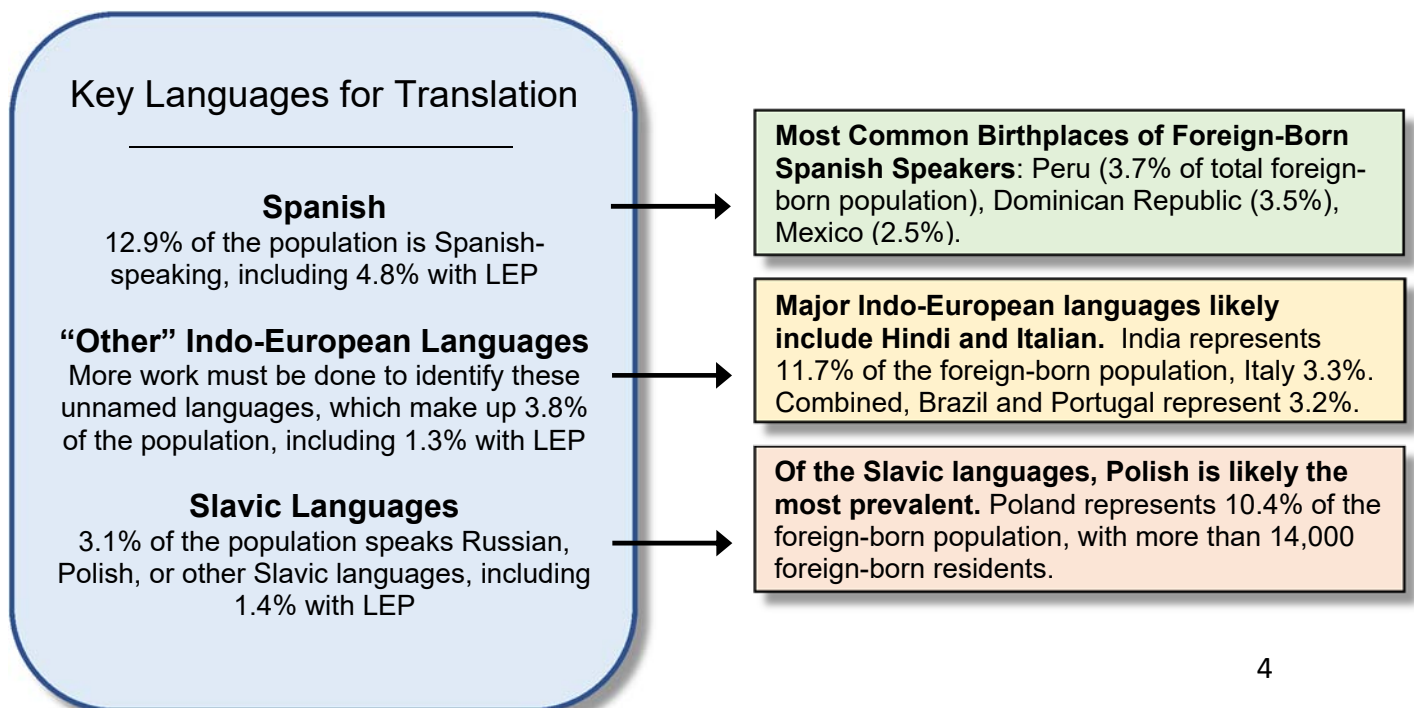
- The most critical translation is English into **Spanish**. Spanish speakers primarily originate from the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. A version of Latin American Spanish (rather than European Spanish) should be used.
- Data suggests that there are significant **Portuguese** and **Polish** populations.
- There are many foreign-born Indian residents. While it is likely that Indian residents speak **Hindi**, targeted research must be done to identify the Indian languages spoken in Fairfield County, as India itself has multiple official languages.
- There are also many foreign-born West Indian residents in Fairfield County, including an estimated 12,000 Jamaican residents, 9,500 Haitian residents, and 9,000 Dominican residents.



Hartford County

In Hartford County, more than 213,000 residents (25.2% of the population) speak a language other than English at home. More than one third of these foreign language speakers report limited English proficiency (LEP), meaning they are unlikely to understand medical, financial, and legal information written in English.

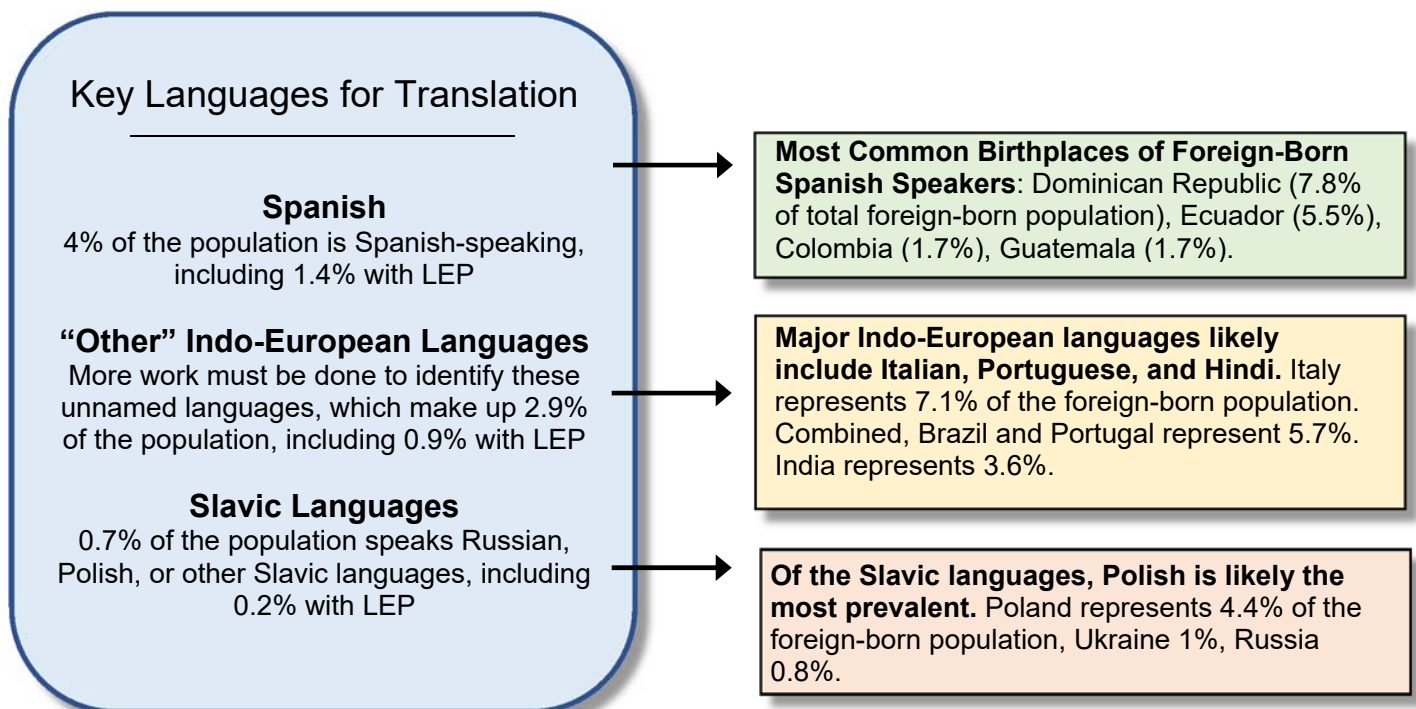
- The most critical translation is English into **Spanish**. Spanish speakers likely originate from the Caribbean, Central America and South America. A version of Latin American Spanish (rather than European Spanish) should be used.
- Data suggests that there are significant **Italian, Portuguese** and **Polish** populations.
- There are many foreign-born Indian residents. While it is likely that Indian residents speak **Hindi**, targeted research must be done to identify the Indian languages spoken in Hartford County, as India itself has multiple official languages.
- There are also many foreign-born West Indian residents in Hartford County. There are more than 16,000 foreign-born Jamaican residents, making up 12.2% of the total foreign-born population.



Litchfield County

In Litchfield County, more than 18,000 residents (10.3% of the population) speak a language other than English at home. Many of these foreign language speakers report limited English proficiency (LEP), meaning they are unlikely to understand medical, financial, and legal information written in English.

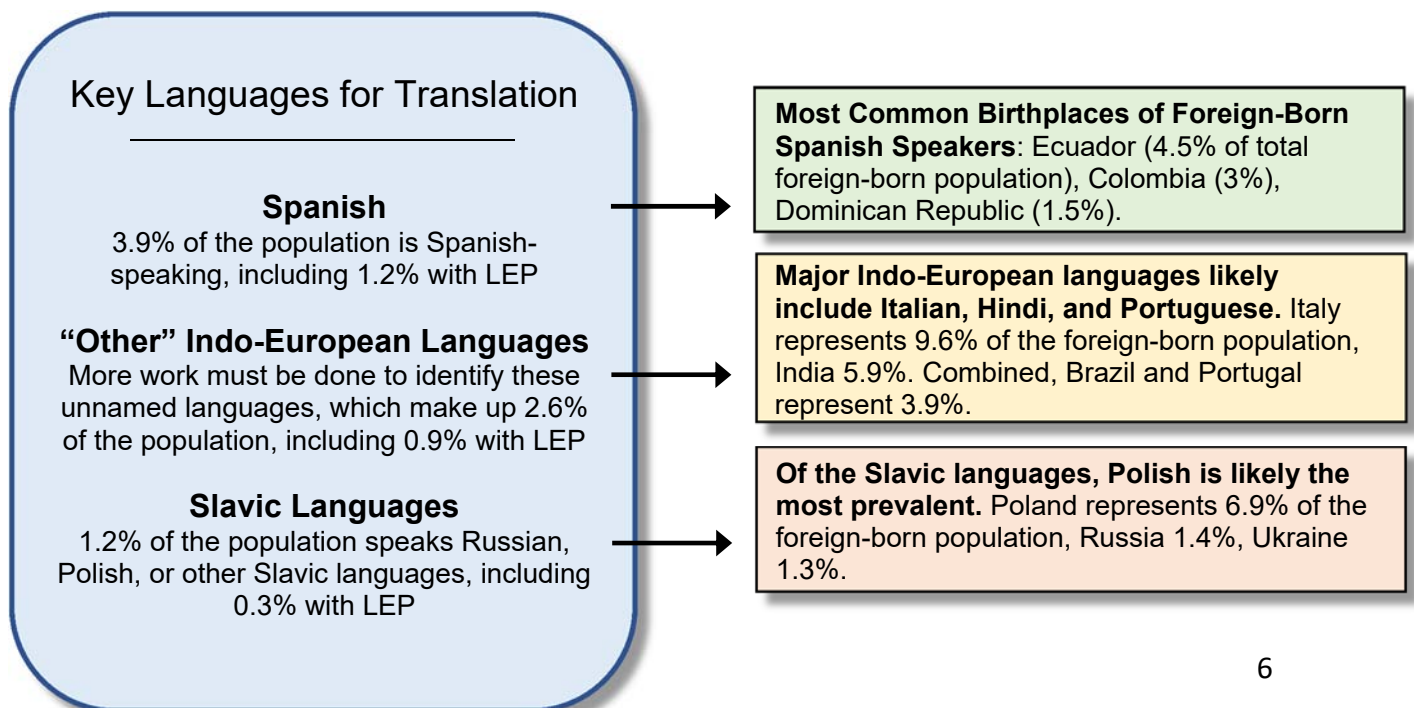
- The most critical translation is English into **Spanish**. Spanish speakers likely originate from the Caribbean and South America. A version of Latin American Spanish (rather than European Spanish) should be used.
- Data suggests that there are significant **Italian, Portuguese** and **Polish** populations.
- There are also many foreign-born Indian residents. While it is likely that Indian residents speak **Hindi**, targeted research must be done to identify the Indian languages spoken in Litchfield County, as India itself has multiple official languages.



Middlesex County

In Middlesex County, more than 16,000 residents (10.7% of the population) speak a language other than English at home. Many of these foreign language speakers report limited English proficiency (LEP), meaning they are unlikely to understand medical, financial, and legal information written in English.

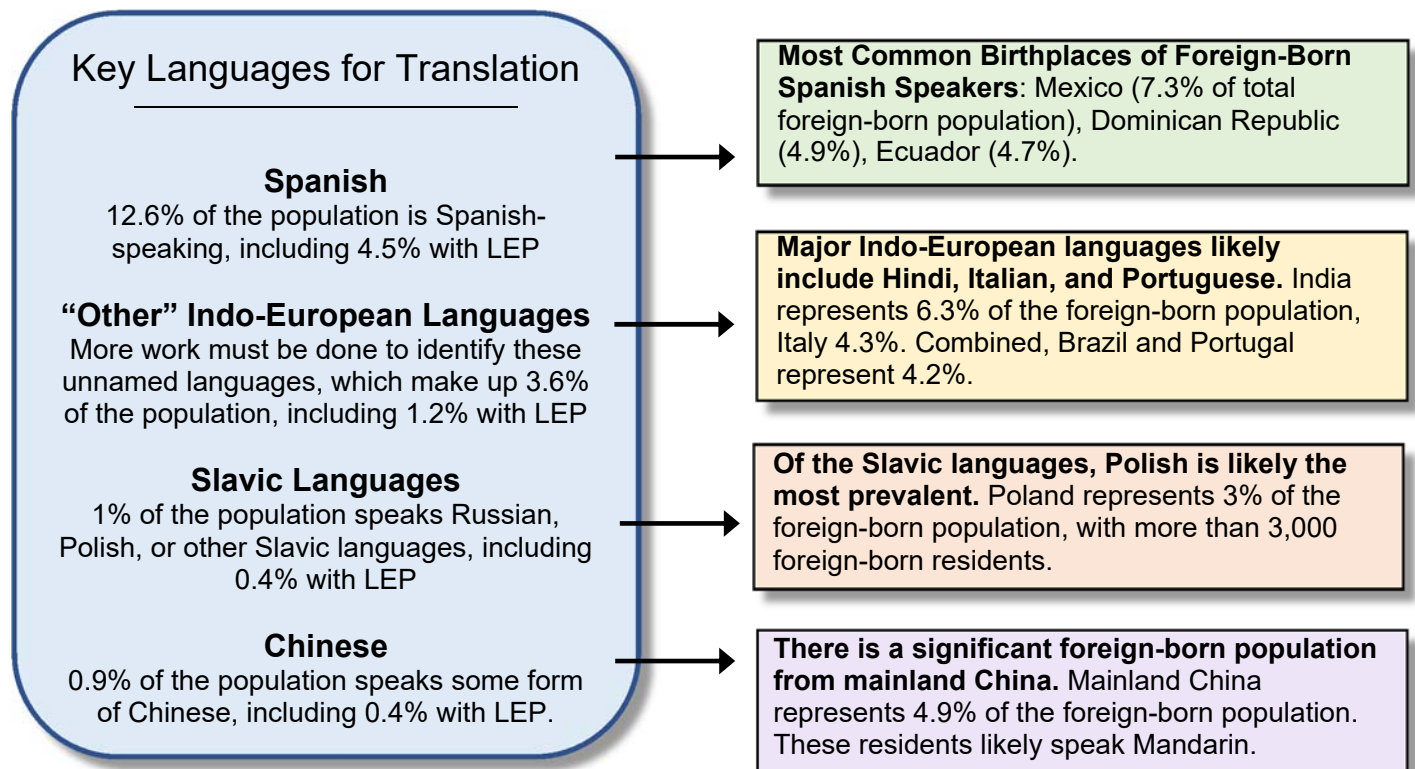
- The most critical translation is English into **Spanish**. Spanish speakers likely originate from the Caribbean, Central America and South America. A version of Latin American Spanish (rather than European Spanish) should be used.
- Data suggests that there are significant **Italian, Portuguese** and **Polish** populations.
- There are many foreign-born Indian residents. While it is likely that Indian residents speak **Hindi**, targeted research must be done to identify the Indian languages spoken in Middlesex County, as India itself has multiple official languages.
- There are also many foreign-born West Indian residents in Middlesex County. There are more than 500 foreign-born Jamaican residents, making up 4.7% of the total foreign-born population.



New Haven County

In New Haven County, more than 170,000 residents (21.8% of the population) speak a language other than English at home. More than one third of these foreign language speakers report limited English proficiency (LEP), meaning they are unlikely to understand medical, financial, and legal information written in English.

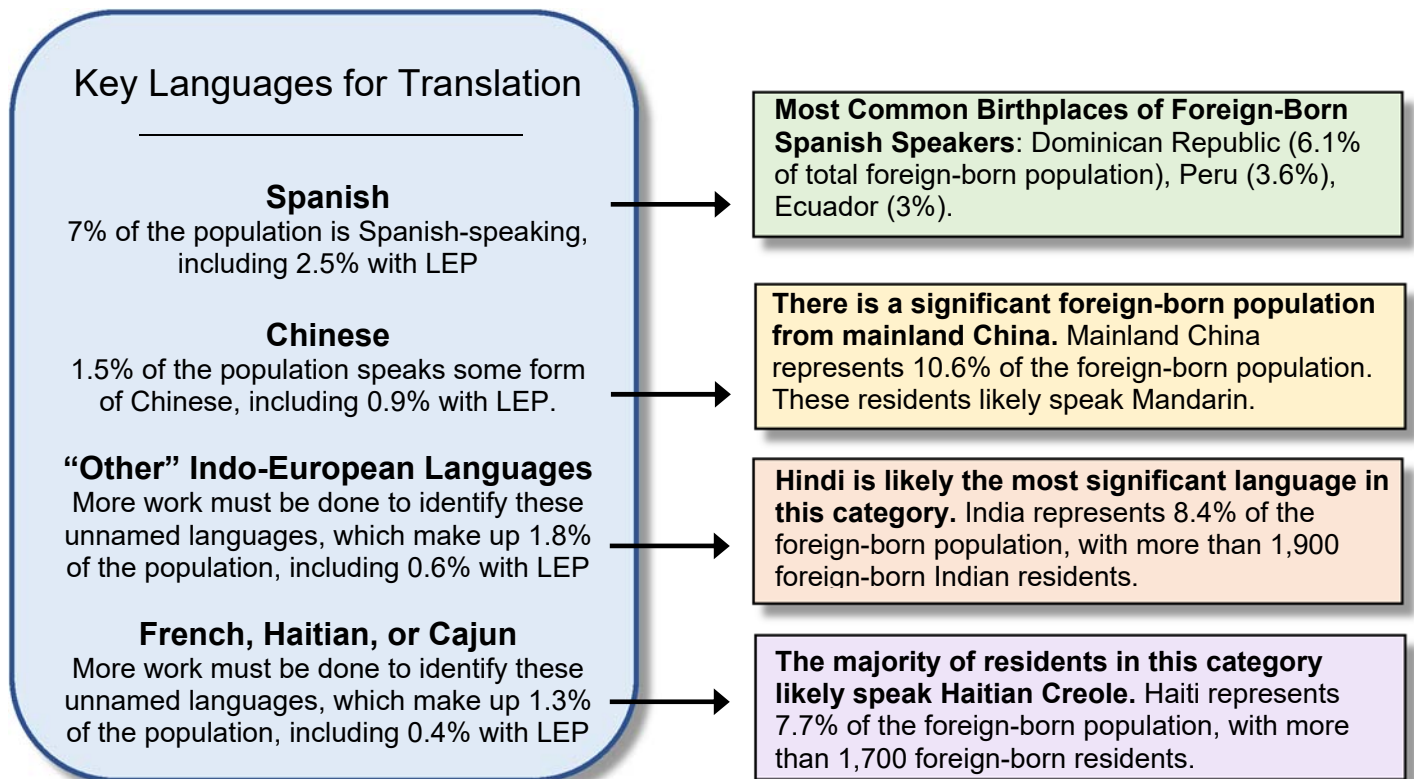
- The most critical translation is English into **Spanish**. Spanish speakers likely originate from the Caribbean, Central America and South America. A version of Latin American Spanish (rather than European Spanish) should be used.
- Data suggests that there are significant **Italian, Portuguese** and **Polish** populations.
- It is likely that there is a large **Mandarin**-speaking population.
- There are many foreign-born Indian residents. While it is likely that Indian residents speak **Hindi**, targeted research must be done to identify the Indian languages spoken in New Haven County, as India itself has multiple official languages.
- There are also many foreign-born West Indian residents in New Haven County, including an estimated 6,000 Jamaican residents, 5,000 Dominican residents, and 1,500 Haitian residents.



New London County

In New London County, more than 35,000 residents (13.8% of the population) speak a language other than English at home. More than one third of these foreign language speakers report limited English proficiency (LEP), meaning they are unlikely to understand medical, financial, and legal information written in English.

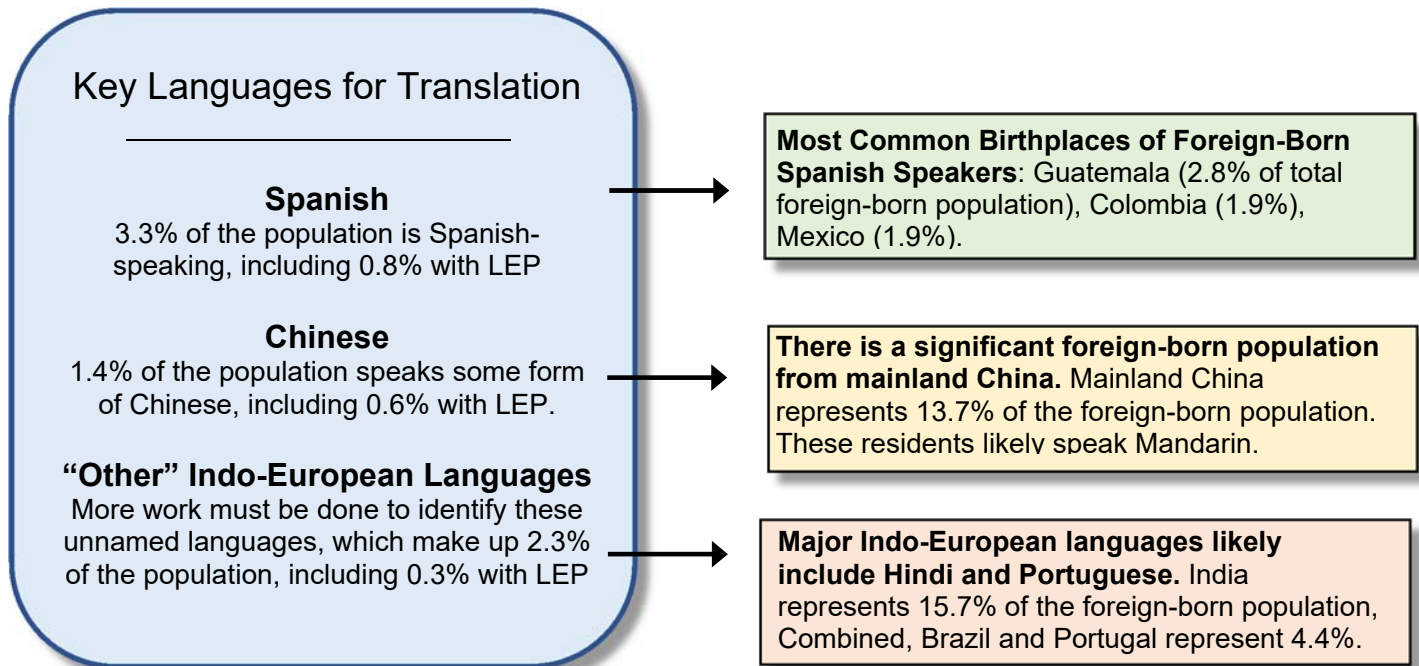
- The most critical translation is English into **Spanish**. Spanish speakers likely originate from the Caribbean, Central America and South America. A version of Latin American Spanish (rather than European Spanish) should be used.
- Data suggests that there is a significant **Mandarin**-speaking population.
- There are many foreign-born Indian residents. While it is likely that Indian residents speak **Hindi**, targeted research must be done to identify the Indian languages spoken in New London County, as India itself has multiple official languages.
- There are also many foreign-born West Indian residents in New London County, including an estimated 1,700 Haitian residents, 1,400 Dominican residents, and 350 Jamaican residents.



Tolland County

In Tolland County, more than 15,000 residents (10.6% of the population) speak a language other than English at home. Many of these foreign language speakers report limited English proficiency (LEP), meaning they are unlikely to understand medical, financial, and legal information written in English.

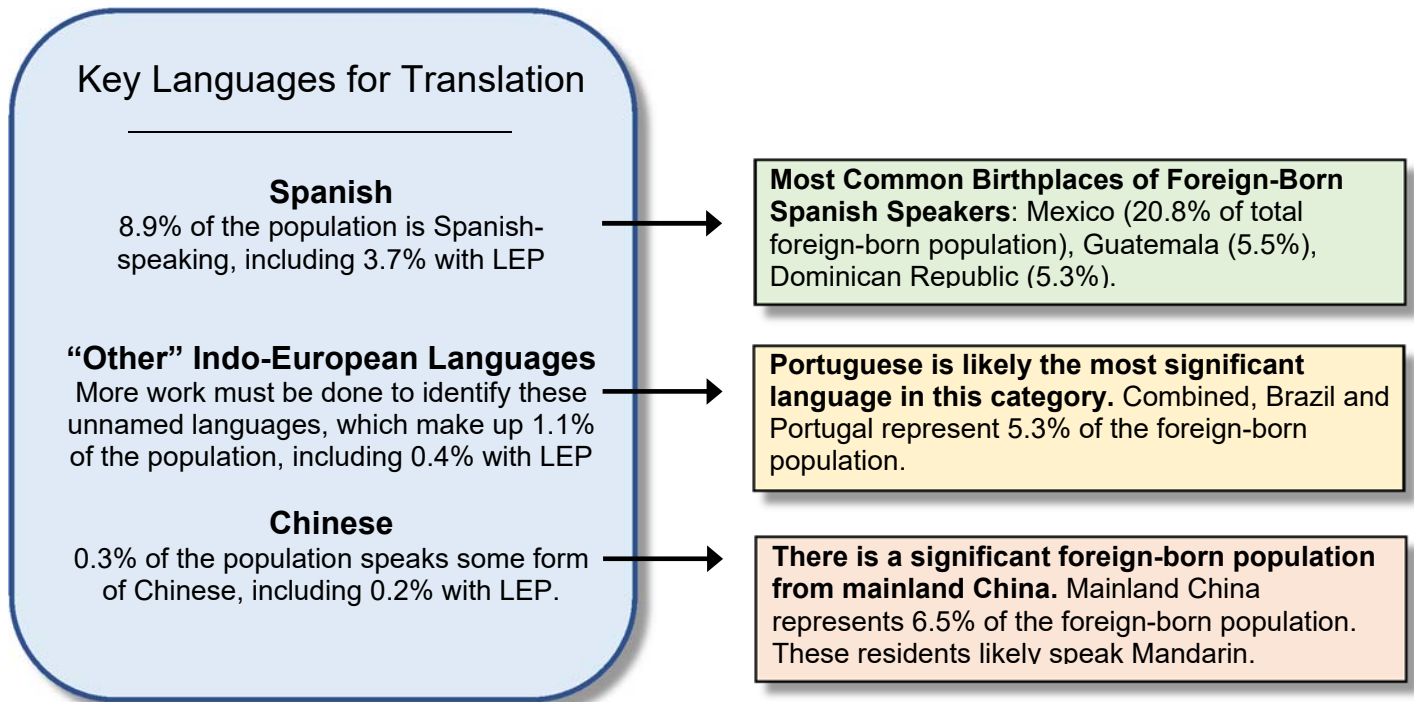
- The most critical translation is English into **Spanish**. Spanish speakers likely originate from Central America and South America. A version of Latin American Spanish (rather than European Spanish) should be used.
- Data suggests that there is a significant **Mandarin**-speaking population.
- There is also a large **Portuguese**-speaking population.
- There are many foreign-born Indian residents. While it is likely that Indian residents speak **Hindi**, targeted research must be done to identify the Indian languages spoken in Tolland County, as India itself has multiple official languages.



Windham County

In Windham County, more than 13,000 residents (12.6% of the population) speak a language other than English at home. More than one third of these foreign language speakers report limited English proficiency (LEP), meaning they are unlikely to understand medical, financial, and legal information written in English.

- The most critical translation is English into **Spanish**. Spanish speakers likely originate from the Caribbean, Central America and South America. A version of Latin American Spanish (rather than European Spanish) should be used.
- Data suggests that there is a significant **Mandarin**-speaking population.
- There is also a large **Portuguese**-speaking population.



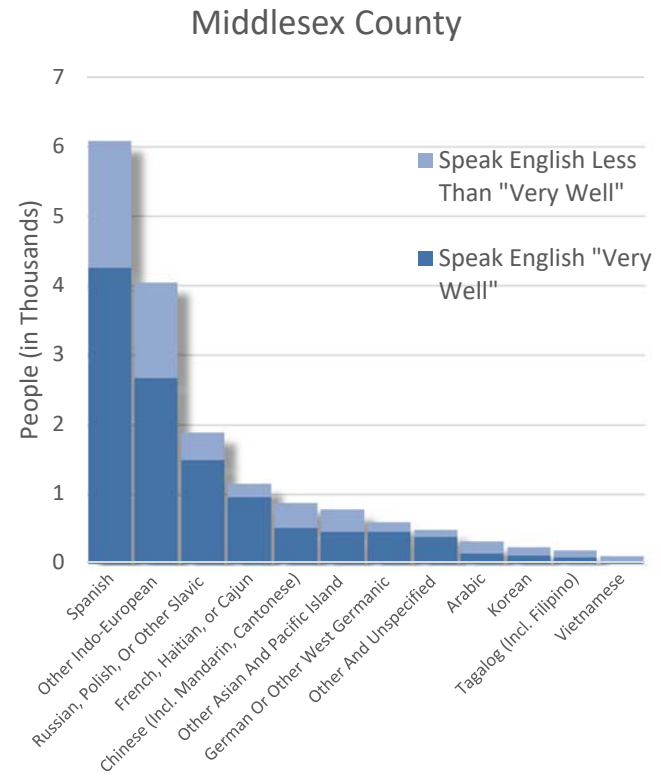
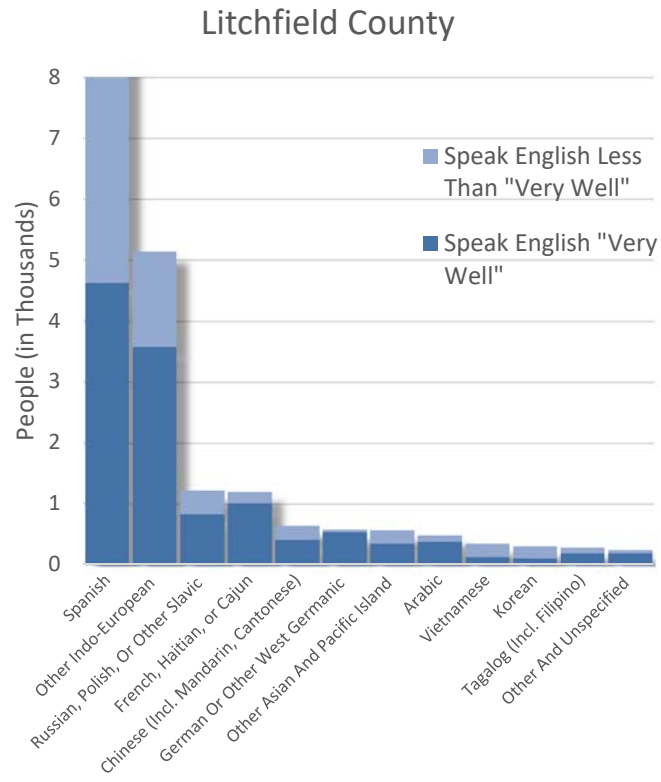
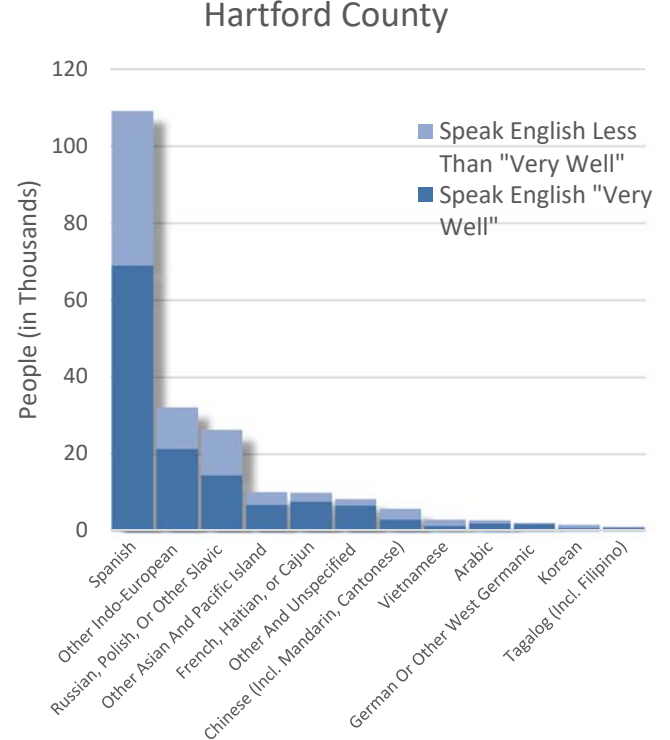
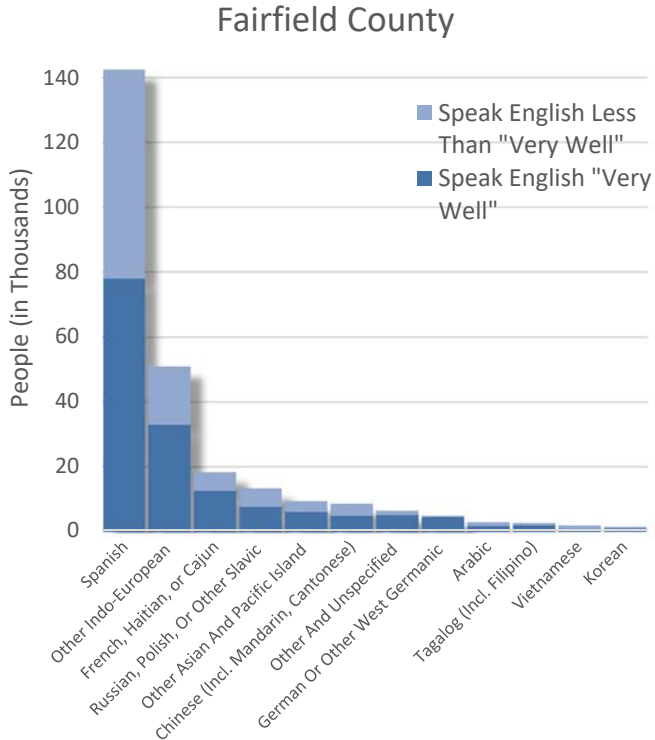
Appendix 1 – Language Spoken at Home

Language	Fairfield County			Hartford County			Litchfield County		
	People	Percent	Standard Error	People	Percent	Standard Error	People	Percent	Standard Error
Speak Only English	628,530	70.5%	2,072.73	633,818	74.8%	1,927.27	157,424	89.7%	643.03
Spanish:	142,495	16.0%	1,234.55	109,128	12.9%	954.55	7,018	4.0%	377.58
Speak English "Very Well"	77,848	8.7%	1,312.12	68,923	8.1%	1,168.49	4,628	2.6%	283.64
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	64,647	7.3%	1,123.03	40,205	4.8%	950.30	2,390	1.4%	230.30
French, Haitian, Or Cajun:	18,261	2.1%	995.15	10,048	1.2%	545.45	1,207	0.7%	129.09
Speak English "Very Well"	12,529	1.4%	758.79	7,773	0.9%	385.45	1,014	0.6%	124.24
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	5,732	0.6%	450.91	2,275	0.3%	250.91	193	0.1%	44.24
German Or Other West Germanic Languages:	4,919	0.6%	355.15	2,166	0.3%	189.09	581	0.3%	92.73
Speak English "Very Well"	4,467	0.5%	347.88	1,898	0.2%	174.55	538	0.3%	93.94
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	452	0.1%	63.64	268	0.0%	73.94	43	0.0%	24.85
Russian, Polish, Or Other Slavic Languages:	13,398	1.5%	638.79	26,295	3.1%	1,018.18	1,224	0.7%	183.03
Speak English "Very Well"	7,654	0.9%	413.94	14,577	1.7%	599.39	832	0.5%	129.09
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	5,744	0.6%	389.70	11,718	1.4%	655.76	392	0.2%	90.91
Other Indo-European Languages:	50,975	5.7%	1,287.88	32,229	3.8%	953.94	5,135	2.9%	460.61
Speak English "Very Well"	32,960	3.7%	883.64	21,349	2.5%	752.73	3,584	2.0%	313.94
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	18,015	2.0%	858.18	10,880	1.3%	495.76	1,551	0.9%	224.85
Korean:	1,548	0.2%	221.21	1,639	0.2%	256.36	307	0.2%	98.79
Speak English "Very Well"	965	0.1%	160.61	808	0.1%	138.18	108	0.1%	44.85
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	583	0.1%	118.79	831	0.1%	162.42	199	0.1%	75.15
Chinese (Incl. Mandarin, Cantonese):	8,601	1.0%	524.85	5,853	0.7%	483.03	646	0.4%	138.18
Speak English "Very Well"	4,849	0.5%	378.18	2,975	0.4%	287.27	410	0.2%	112.12
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	3,752	0.4%	342.42	2,878	0.3%	285.45	236	0.1%	67.88
Vietnamese:	1,787	0.2%	270.30	3,092	0.4%	325.45	344	0.2%	118.79
Speak English "Very Well"	733	0.1%	139.39	1,298	0.2%	176.97	129	0.1%	62.42
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	1,054	0.1%	219.39	1,794	0.2%	224.85	215	0.1%	70.91
Tagalog (Incl. Filipino):	2,676	0.3%	291.52	1,153	0.1%	200.61	288	0.2%	80.00
Speak English "Very Well"	1,938	0.2%	220.00	820	0.1%	176.97	192	0.1%	60.61
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	738	0.1%	167.27	333	0.0%	77.58	96	0.1%	60.00
Other Asian And Pacific Island Languages:	9,335	1.1%	613.94	10,191	1.2%	597.58	566	0.3%	181.82
Speak English "Very Well"	5,974	0.7%	480.00	6,847	0.8%	464.24	348	0.2%	100.61
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	3,361	0.4%	307.27	3,344	0.4%	322.42	218	0.1%	104.24
Arabic:	2,914	0.3%	442.42	2,933	0.4%	385.45	489	0.3%	195.15
Speak English "Very Well"	1,654	0.2%	315.76	1,973	0.2%	292.73	379	0.2%	155.76
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	1,260	0.1%	213.94	960	0.1%	178.18	110	0.1%	56.36
Other And Unspecified Languages:	6,335	0.7%	489.09	8,363	1.0%	647.27	246	0.1%	98.79
Speak English "Very Well"	5,032	0.6%	461.82	6,674	0.8%	527.88	196	0.1%	98.79
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	1,303	0.2%	145.45	1,689	0.2%	235.15	50	0.0%	21.21
Total	891,774		24.24	846,908		53.33	175,475		26.67

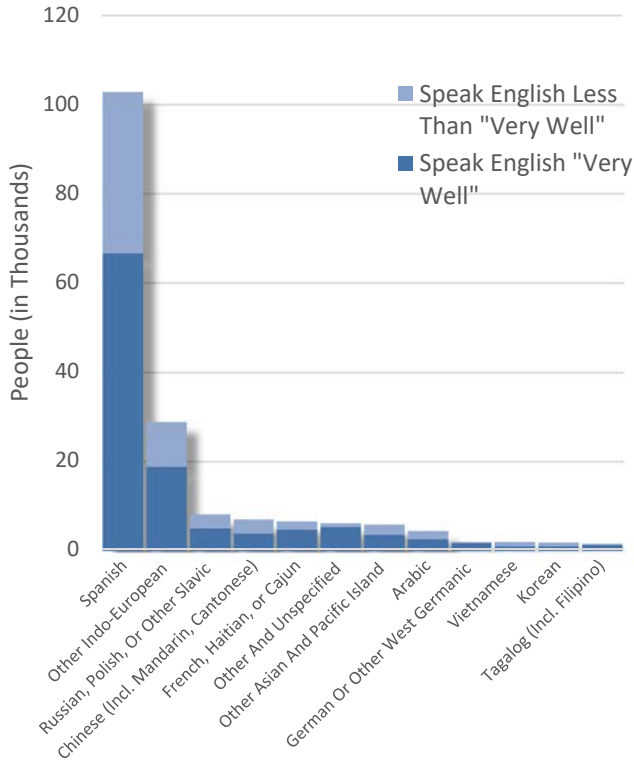
	Middlesex County			New Haven County			New London County		
Language	People	Percent	Standard Error	People	Percent	Standard Error	People	Percent	Standard Error
Speak Only English	139,704	89.3%	593.94	637,243	78.2%	1,813.94	220,247	86.2%	875.15
Spanish:	6,085	3.9%	303.03	102,874	12.6%	1,138.18	17,860	7.0%	561.82
Speak English "Very Well"	4,252	2.7%	284.24	66,574	8.2%	1,173.33	11,600	4.5%	475.15
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	1,833	1.2%	172.12	36,300	4.5%	1,041.82	6,260	2.5%	394.55
French, Haitian, Or Cajun:	1,155	0.7%	157.58	6,533	0.8%	690.91	3,193	1.3%	334.55
Speak English "Very Well"	959	0.6%	136.36	4,789	0.6%	495.15	2,081	0.8%	210.91
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	196	0.1%	65.45	1,744	0.2%	300.61	1,112	0.4%	195.15
German Or Other West Germanic Languages:	601	0.4%	115.76	2,049	0.3%	219.39	544	0.2%	84.24
Speak English "Very Well"	460	0.3%	99.39	1,715	0.2%	193.94	454	0.2%	69.70
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	141	0.1%	41.21	334	0.0%	72.12	90	0.0%	34.55
Russian, Polish, Or Other Slavic Languages:	1,889	1.2%	287.27	8,113	1.0%	575.15	1,124	0.4%	165.45
Speak English "Very Well"	1,497	1.0%	266.06	5,065	0.6%	356.97	809	0.3%	135.76
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	392	0.3%	92.12	3,048	0.4%	332.12	315	0.1%	86.06
Other Indo-European Languages:	4,046	2.6%	374.55	28,961	3.6%	940.61	4,516	1.8%	425.45
Speak English "Very Well"	2,675	1.7%	288.48	18,831	2.3%	736.97	2,900	1.1%	326.67
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	1,371	0.9%	212.73	10,130	1.2%	557.58	1,616	0.6%	193.94
Korean:	239	0.2%	91.52	1,832	0.2%	227.27	233	0.1%	81.82
Speak English "Very Well"	121	0.1%	45.45	1,046	0.1%	199.39	86	0.0%	36.97
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	118	0.1%	71.52	786	0.1%	125.45	147	0.1%	64.24
Chinese (Incl. Mandarin, Cantonese):	880	0.6%	160.61	6,982	0.9%	524.85	3,726	1.5%	326.67
Speak English "Very Well"	514	0.3%	113.94	3,852	0.5%	347.88	1,419	0.6%	185.45
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	366	0.2%	97.58	3,130	0.4%	283.64	2,307	0.9%	244.24
Vietnamese:	111	0.1%	84.85	1,996	0.3%	316.36	319	0.1%	109.09
Speak English "Very Well"	17	0.0%	17.58	973	0.1%	181.82	192	0.1%	64.24
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	94	0.1%	82.42	1,023	0.1%	186.06	127	0.1%	55.15
Tagalog (Incl. Filipino):	194	0.1%	65.45	1,529	0.2%	276.97	1,116	0.4%	227.27
Speak English "Very Well"	95	0.1%	45.45	1,236	0.2%	223.03	809	0.3%	183.64
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	99	0.1%	34.55	293	0.0%	98.79	307	0.1%	100.61
Other Asian And Pacific Island Languages:	785	0.5%	125.45	5,807	0.7%	558.79	1,206	0.5%	201.21
Speak English "Very Well"	465	0.3%	89.09	3,608	0.4%	367.88	903	0.4%	155.15
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	320	0.2%	86.06	2,199	0.3%	284.24	303	0.1%	96.36
Arabic:	322	0.2%	145.45	4,465	0.6%	514.55	563	0.2%	127.27
Speak English "Very Well"	145	0.1%	57.58	2,527	0.3%	301.21	502	0.2%	123.64
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	177	0.1%	101.21	1,938	0.2%	293.33	61	0.0%	30.30
Other And Unspecified Languages:	486	0.3%	136.97	6,208	0.8%	665.45	765	0.3%	177.58
Speak English "Very Well"	389	0.3%	119.39	5,307	0.7%	642.42	563	0.2%	120.61
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	97	0.1%	52.12	901	0.1%	172.12	202	0.1%	73.33
Total	156,497		2.42	814,592		110.30	255,412		16.36

Language	Tolland County			Windham County			Total (All Counties)		
	People	Percent	Standard Error	People	Percent	Standard Error	People	Percent	Standard Error
Speak Only English	129,726	89.4%	624.85	96,822	87.4%	388.48	3,396,521		146.42
Spanish:	4,745	3.3%	364.24	9,831	8.9%	275.76	2,643,514	77.8%	3,655.69
Speak English "Very Well"	3,580	2.5%	339.39	5,686	5.1%	291.52	400,036	11.8%	2,117.71
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	1,165	0.8%	215.15	4,145	3.7%	311.52	243,091	7.2%	2,246.65
French, Haitian, Or Cajun:	1,328	0.9%	174.55	912	0.8%	131.52	156,945	4.6%	1,904.72
Speak English "Very Well"	1,148	0.8%	155.15	742	0.7%	105.45	42,637	1.3%	1,401.22
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	180	0.1%	57.58	170	0.2%	52.73	31,035	0.9%	1,039.63
German Or Other West Germanic Languages:	302	0.2%	64.85	148	0.1%	64.24	11,602	0.3%	636.50
Speak English "Very Well"	266	0.2%	60.00	138	0.1%	64.24	11,310	0.3%	496.63
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	36	0.0%	17.58	10	0.0%	10.30	9,936	0.3%	467.80
Russian, Polish, Or Other Slavic Languages:	1,203	0.8%	164.85	479	0.4%	113.94	1,374	0.0%	135.21
Speak English "Very Well"	892	0.6%	129.70	371	0.3%	101.21	53,725	1.6%	1,398.83
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	311	0.2%	83.64	108	0.1%	38.18	31,697	0.9%	888.01
Other Indo-European Languages:	3,321	2.3%	316.36	1,161	1.1%	268.48	22,028	0.7%	850.21
Speak English "Very Well"	2,925	2.0%	319.39	721	0.7%	183.64	130,344	3.8%	2,037.63
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	396	0.3%	86.06	440	0.4%	125.45	85,945	2.5%	1,519.64
Korean:	349	0.2%	110.91	26	0.0%	18.18	44,399	1.3%	1,202.84
Speak English "Very Well"	204	0.1%	88.48	15	0.0%	11.52	6,173	0.2%	450.30
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	145	0.1%	52.12	11	0.0%	14.55	3,353	0.1%	312.03
Chinese (Incl. Mandarin, Cantonese):	2,039	1.4%	182.42	353	0.3%	92.73	2,820	0.1%	271.02
Speak English "Very Well"	1,117	0.8%	139.39	122	0.1%	44.24	29,080	0.9%	987.39
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	922	0.6%	118.18	231	0.2%	75.15	15,258	0.5%	653.03
Vietnamese:	264	0.2%	93.33	44	0.0%	23.03	13,822	0.4%	609.31
Speak English "Very Well"	131	0.1%	52.12	12	0.0%	12.73	7,957	0.2%	566.05
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	133	0.1%	60.00	32	0.0%	18.79	3,485	0.1%	306.81
Tagalog (Incl. Filipino):	158	0.1%	64.24	97	0.1%	40.00	4,472	0.1%	388.98
Speak English "Very Well"	132	0.1%	49.70	53	0.1%	29.09	7,211	0.2%	518.36
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	26	0.0%	20.61	44	0.0%	26.06	5,275	0.2%	414.07
Other Asian And Pacific Island Languages:	1,120	0.8%	200.61	448	0.4%	148.48	1,936	0.1%	243.42
Speak English "Very Well"	749	0.5%	153.33	264	0.2%	97.58	29,458	0.9%	1,092.80
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	371	0.3%	109.09	184	0.2%	77.58	19,158	0.6%	809.41
Arabic:	144	0.1%	63.64	73	0.1%	64.85	10,300	0.3%	569.05
Speak English "Very Well"	113	0.1%	49.09	73	0.1%	64.85	11,903	0.4%	831.28
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	31	0.0%	24.85	0	0.0%	17.58	7,366	0.2%	569.20
Other And Unspecified Languages:	438	0.3%	88.48	332	0.3%	100.61	4,537	0.1%	421.90
Speak English "Very Well"	428	0.3%	89.70	233	0.2%	79.39	23,173	0.7%	1,084.95
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	10	0.0%	10.30	99	0.1%	60.61	18,822	0.6%	977.10
Total	145,137		23.03	110,726		67.88	4,351	0.1%	343.52

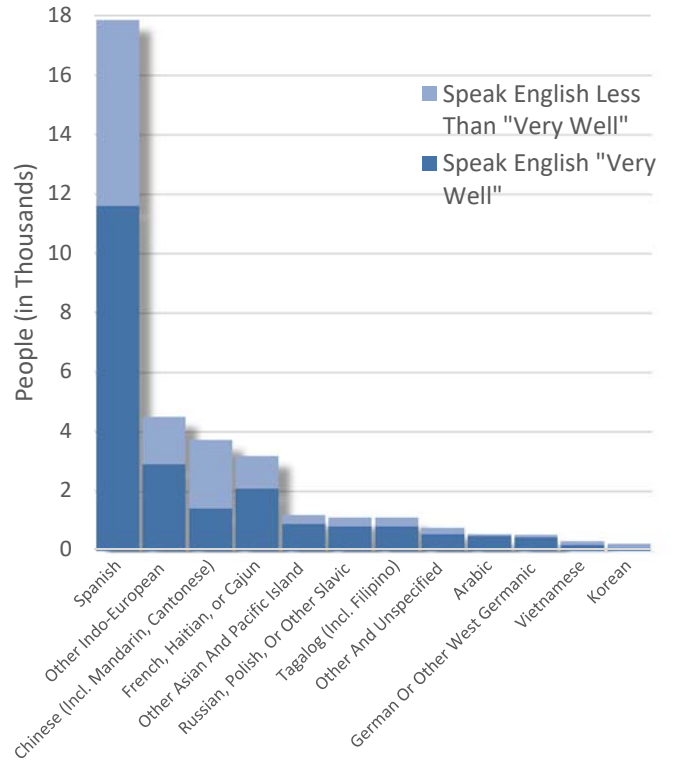
Appendix 2 – Charts Depicting Primary Language Spoken at Home (Excluding English) by County



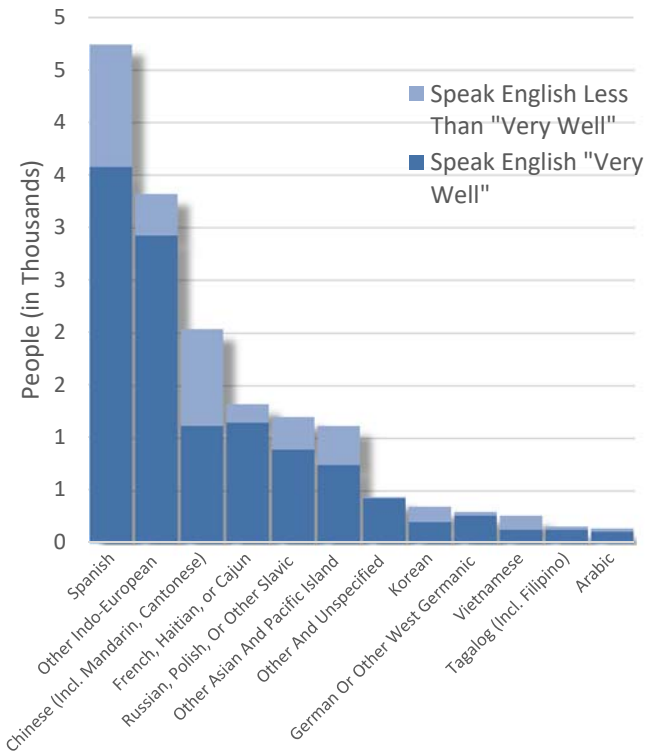
New Haven County



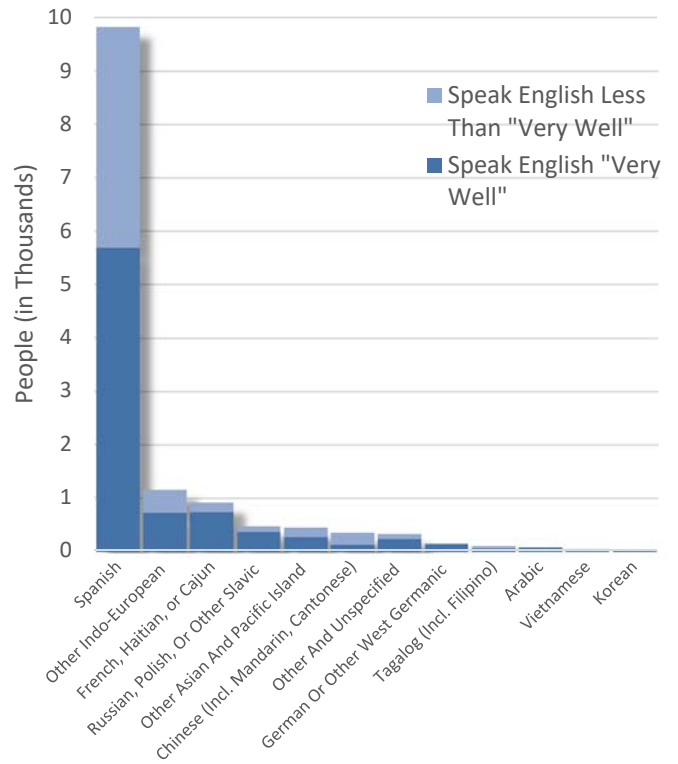
New London County



Tolland County



Windham County



Data Sources

American Community Survey Tables: 2014 -- 2018 (5-Year Estimates) (ACS18_5yr), ACS 2018 (5-Year Estimates), U.S. Census Bureau

Social Explorer Tables: ACS 2018 (5-Year Estimates) (SE), ACS 2018 (5-Year Estimates), Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau

Thank you for original research and writing to DCP 2020 intern, Hannah Pouler, Princeton, 2021