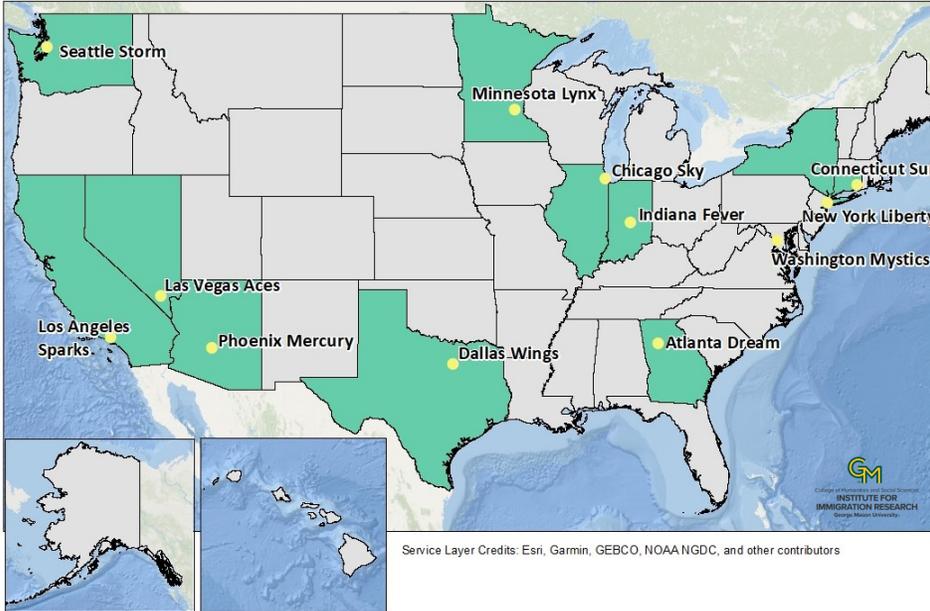


2024 Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA)

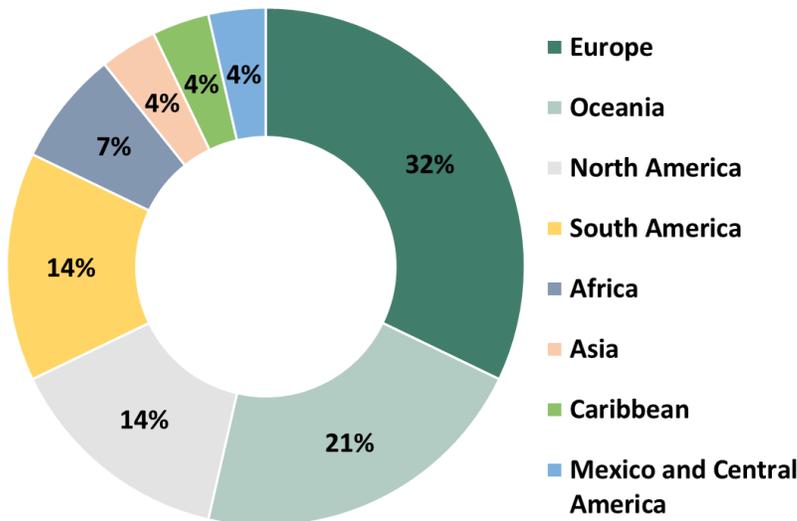
Figure 1. WNBA Team Locations



2024 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **12:** Number of teams in the WNBA
- **144:** Number of players
- **28:** Number of foreign-born players (19% of the leagues population)
- **8%:** Percentage increase in foreign-born players in the WNBA from last year
- **15:** Number of countries foreign-born players represent
- **1:** Number of players born in a U.S. Territory (<1% of the leagues population)

Figure 2. World Region of Birth among Foreign-born WNBA Players



- **Two-thirds (67%)** of foreign-born WNBA players who played during the 2024 WNBA season were born in countries in **Europe, Oceania, or North America.**
- Compared to last year, there was an **increase** in players born in **South America** who played in the league.

Analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2022 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org as well as source data from the individual team rosters (<https://www.basketball-reference.com/wnba/>). Team rosters were accessed on August 26, 2024 and reflect the players who were on each team on that date. Satwik Pandrapagada assisted with data collection. This fact sheet was produced by Dr. Marissa Kiss.

Please note that the terms “immigrant” and “foreign born” are used interchangeably throughout this fact sheet. Foreign born refers to individuals who are not a U.S. citizen at birth or who were born outside the U.S., Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and whose parents are not U.S. citizens. The foreign born may include naturalized U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, temporary residents, refugees and asylees, and others. Additionally, native born includes those who are U.S. citizens at birth, those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territories, and those born abroad to a parent who is a U.S. citizen.

2024 Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA)

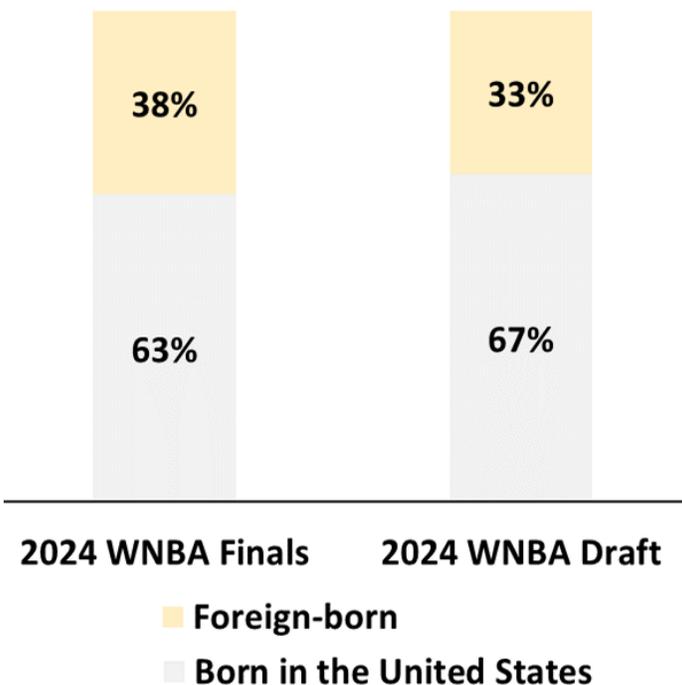
Figure 3. Detailed Country of Birth among Foreign-born WNBA Players

Country		Percent
Africa	Mali	3.6%
	Senegal	3.6%
Asia	China	3.6%
Europe	Croatia	7.1%
	Germany	7.1%
	Italy	7.1%
	3 other countries	10.7%
Caribbean	Bahamas	3.6%
North America	Canada	14.3%
Oceania	Australia	17.9%
	New Zealand	3.6%
Mexico and Central America	Mexico	3.6%
South America	Brazil	14.3%
Total		100.0%



- The Minnesota Lynx, New York Liberty, Washington Mystics, and Dallas Wings have the greatest percentage of foreign-born players; more than one-quarter.
- Overall, in 2024, more than two-fifths of WNBA players were born in **Australia, Brazil, or Canada.**
- In 2022, immigrants from these three countries comprised only **3%** of the entire foreign-born population in the United States.
- In 2022, the top five countries of birth among all immigrants in the United States include **Mexico** (23%), **India** (6%), **China** (5%), **Philippines** (4%), and **El Salvador** (3%).

Figure 4. 2024 WNBA Finals and 2024 WNBA Draft



- During the 2024 WNBA finals between the Minnesota Lynx and New York Liberty, **38%** of WNBA players were foreign-born. This percentage is significantly higher compared to last year (22%) and in 2022 (8%).
- Of the 36 players selected in the 2024 WNBA draft, **one-third** (33%) were born abroad. This percentage is the same from last year.
- 2024 drafted foreign-born WNBA players were born in **nine different countries** with half of players born in countries in **Europe** such as France, Spain, Italy, and Belgium and one-quarter of drafted foreign-born players were born in **Australia.**

2024 Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA)



The Immigrants, Athletes, and Inclusion Initiative

This initiative aims to study immigration and inclusion in sports through original, data-driven research on the contributions of immigrants in professional and collegiate sports. We examine inclusion in two ways: 1) the degree to which immigrant athletes are represented in sports; and 2) how highlighting the stories and contributions of immigrant athletes can lead to greater understanding and inclusion of immigrants generally.

The Institute for Immigration Research (IIR)

The IIR's mission is to generate and amplify relevant research on immigrants and immigration to the United States through engaging with and educating the public, policymakers, and next generation of migration researchers. The IIR contributes to a society where attitudes, policies, and rhetoric about immigrants and immigration are based on data, reason, and global contexts. The Institute for Immigration Research is a joint venture between George Mason University and the Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, MA.

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