Methods:
Using data from the National Vital Statistics System, National Longitudinal Mortality Study, and decennial Census and American Community Survey, we examined life expectancy, all-cause and cause-specific mortality, and chronic disease morbidity by nativity and socioeconomic and demographic characteristics from 1979 to 2013.

Results:
On average, immigrants lived longer than the US-born and the gap widened over time from 2.3 years in 1979–1981 to 3.6 years in 2011–2013. The nativity differentials in life expectancy were larger for men than for women regardless of age or time. Infant mortality rates were lower and declined faster for immigrant mothers compared with US-born mothers across various racial/ethnic groups, with the highest nativity differentials found for blacks (11.9 per 1,000 live births for US-born blacks vs. 7.4 for foreign-born blacks). Immigrants experienced lower all-cause mortality than their US-born counterparts, with particular advantages in cardiovascular disease, tobacco-related cancers, and several major chronic conditions (e.g., diabetes, COPD, Alzheimer’s, and HIV/AIDS), while disadvantaged in stomach and liver cancers. Although controlling for socio-demographic covariates reduced the nativity differentials in mortality, the immigrant advantages persisted.

Conclusions:
Despite the heterogeneity and varied racial/ethnic experiences, the foreign-born population in the US demonstrates clear survival advantages across different measures of mortality, and the gap is widening.

Main message:
Regardless of country of origin, immigrants in the US continue to enjoy lower overall mortality and longer life expectancy.

1.1-O8
Mortality trends and differentials by nativity status in the United States

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Background:
There are 44 million immigrants in the United States (US), accounting for 14% of the total population. With large-scale immigration from Latin America and Asia in recent decades, the US immigrant population is becoming more heterogeneous by race/ethnicity and country of origin. Examining mortality patterns and trends by immigrant status helps to evaluate the “healthy immigrant effect” among different demographic groups in the contemporary US.