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Immigrant Communities of Philadelphia: Spatial Patterns and Revitalization

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The American Community Survey asks a question of “Language Spoken at Home.” Using this data, I identified the number of languages spoken by people in each census tract. Tracts that have high numbers of immigrants (page 5) are shown in blue and those tracts that have more than ten languages present are shown outlined by a thick blue line. The number of languages spoken is then shown in the center of the tract. I excluded any tract that had lower than average numbers of immigrants. I did not use a threshold for the numbers of people speaking a language, so even if just one person speaks the language they are included in the overall count of languages.

This map would be useful for people distributing literature and considering which languages in which to publish. Although this map does not show how many people speak each language (see page 10), it acts as a starting point for further inquiry. The chart on the next two pages shows language and proficiency distribution across the city.