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Recent Migration to the US: Trends & Characteristics of Unauthorized Immigration



Task Force on Immigration and US Economic Competitiveness
The Chicago Council on Global Affairs
Chicago, IL, 15 Dec 2011

Overview

- ***How Many Immigrants?***
 - Foreign-Born Population (Stock)
 - In-Flows (Legal & Unauthorized)
- ***Where are They From? Going To?***
 - Origins in Latin American, Asia
 - New Destinations Emerge
- ***Who Are They?***
 - Unauthorized Differ from Others
 - More Established in U.S.
 - Young, Working Families

Migration Flows to U.S.

- ***Large, Increasing Population***
- ***New Flows—Were Mostly **Unauthorized*****
- ***Responsive to Origin & Destination***
 - Job Availability in U.S.
 - Conditions in Mexico & Elsewhere
- ***New Destinations have Emerged***
 - Southeastern, Midwest & Mountain
- ***Decline from '99–'00 Peak Flows***
 - '04 Increase w/ Economic Upturn
 - Large Drops in Flows w/ Recession

Late 20th Century: Unauthorized Migration BOOMS

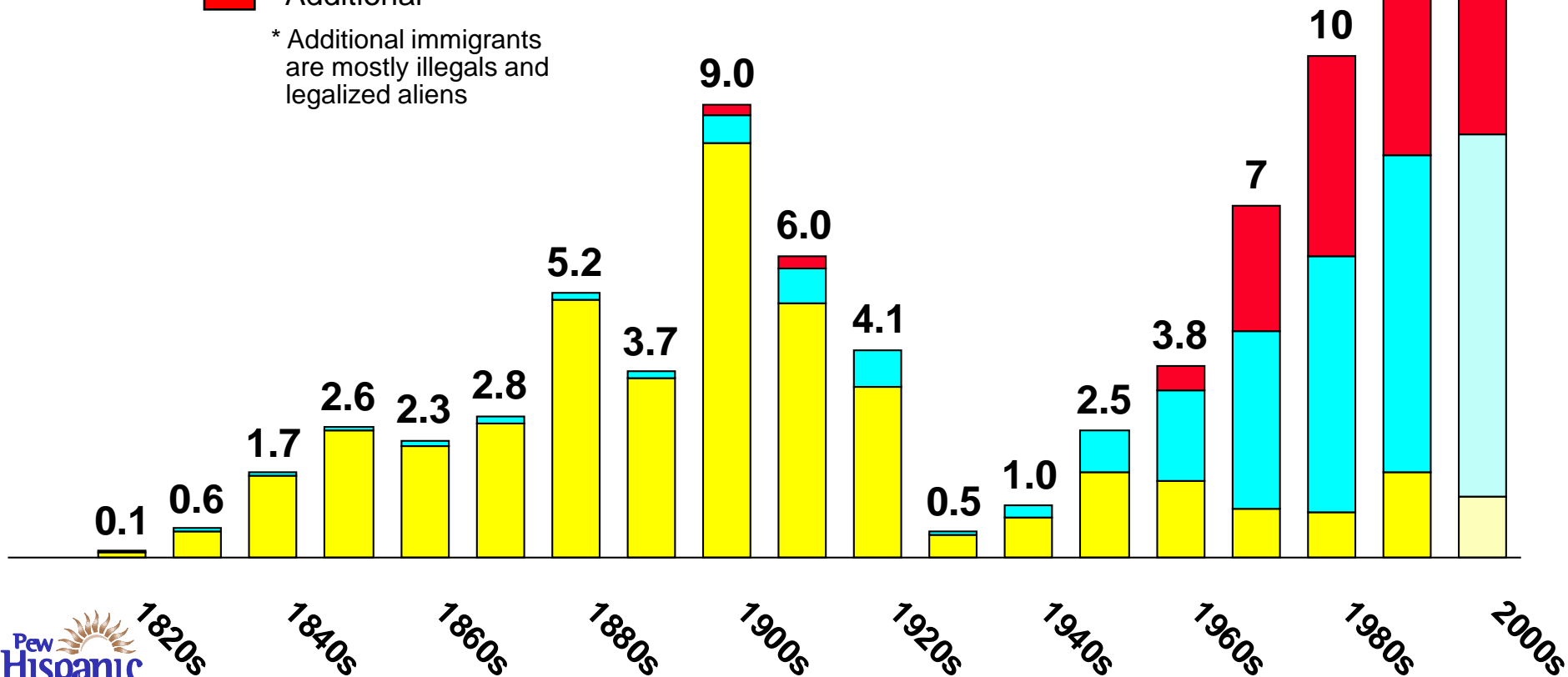
Millions of Immigrants

- Europe/Canada (Legal)
- All Other (Legal)
- Additional*

* Additional immigrants are mostly illegals and legalized aliens

14-16+
(est.)

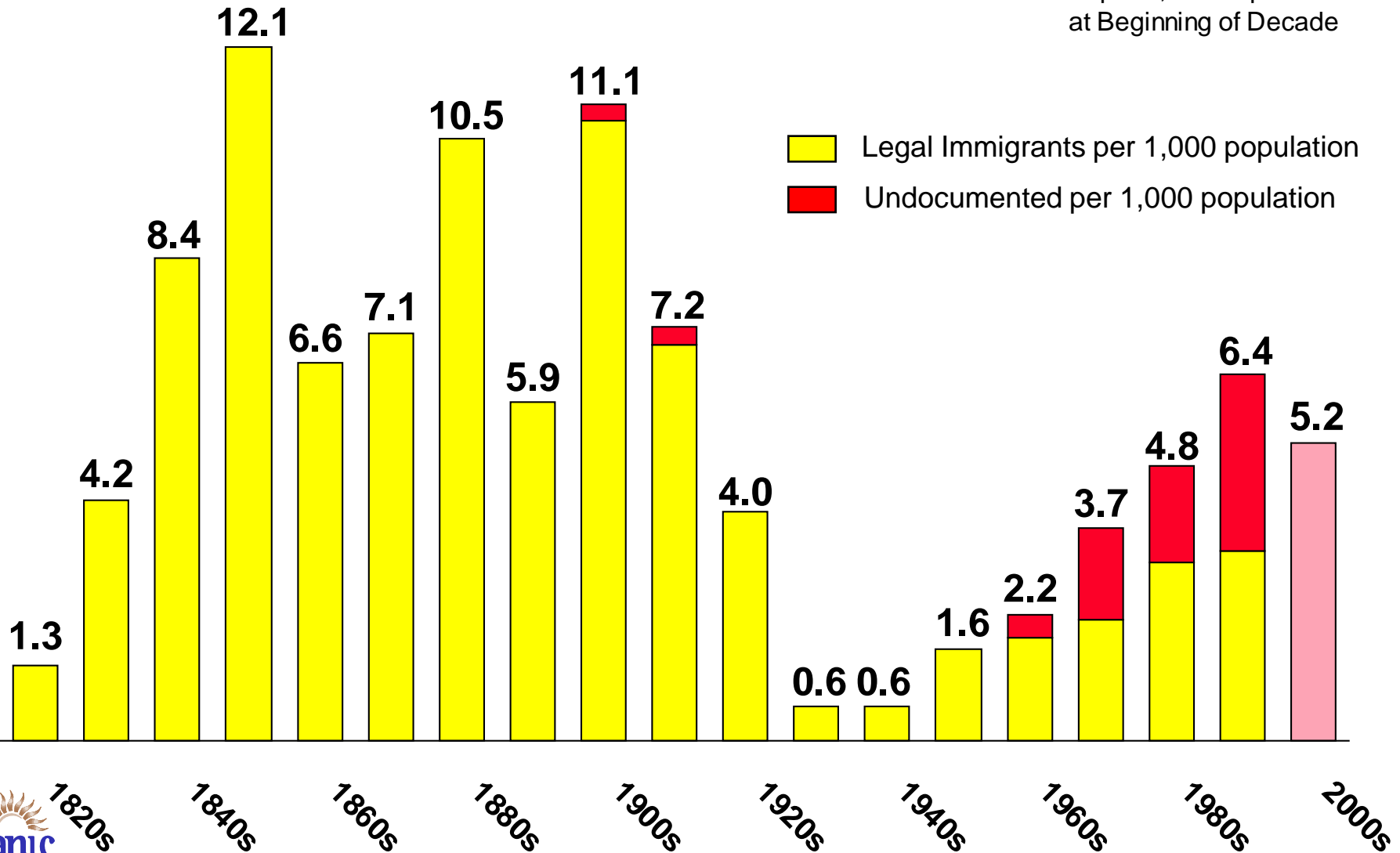
15+?



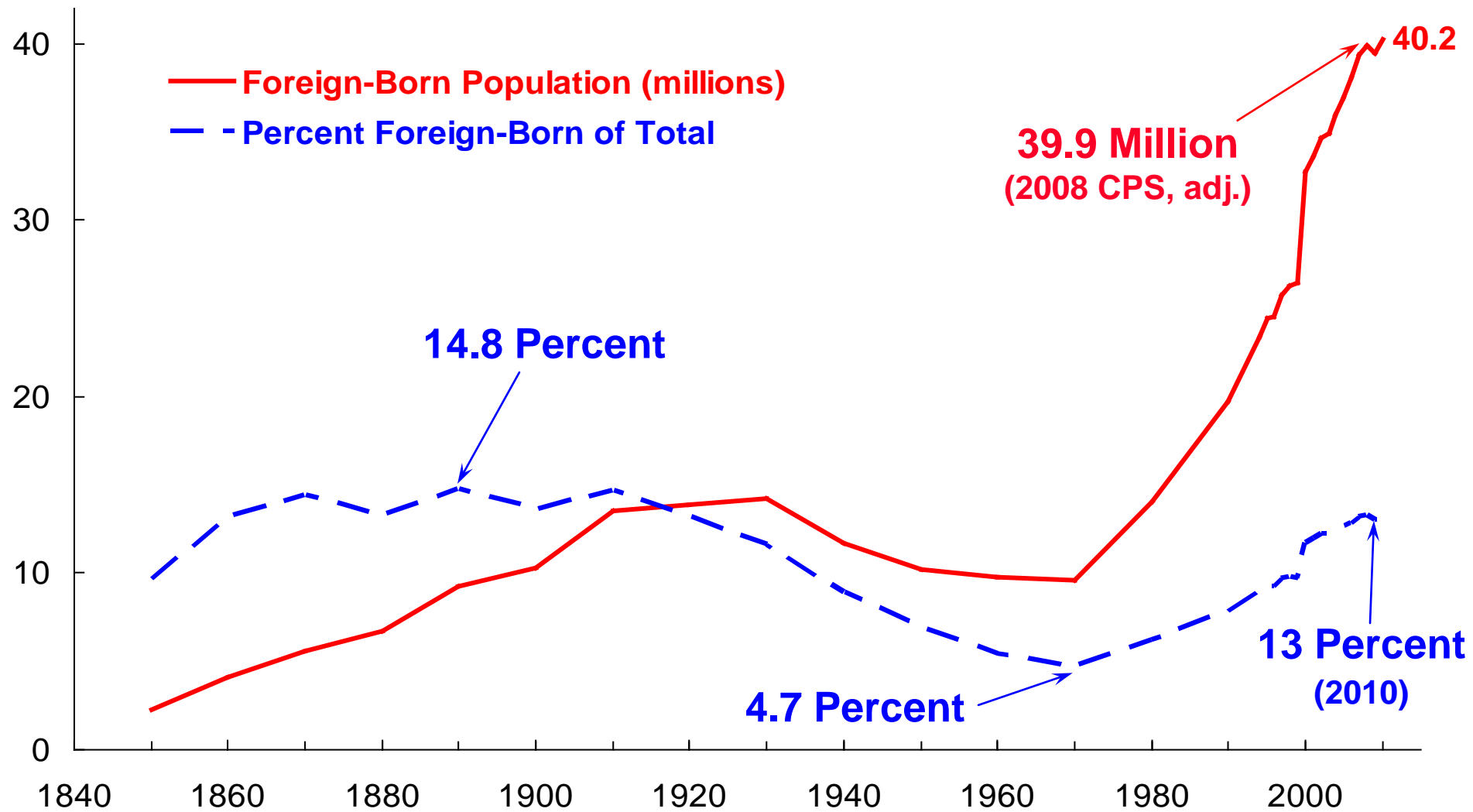
21st Century: *Immigration RATES Below Highs*

Immigrants during Decade
per 1,000 Population
at Beginning of Decade

Legal Immigrants per 1,000 population
Undocumented per 1,000 population



Immigrant Numbers at Peak -- Percentage is Near Peak



Latin Americans & Asians Dominate Foreign-Born

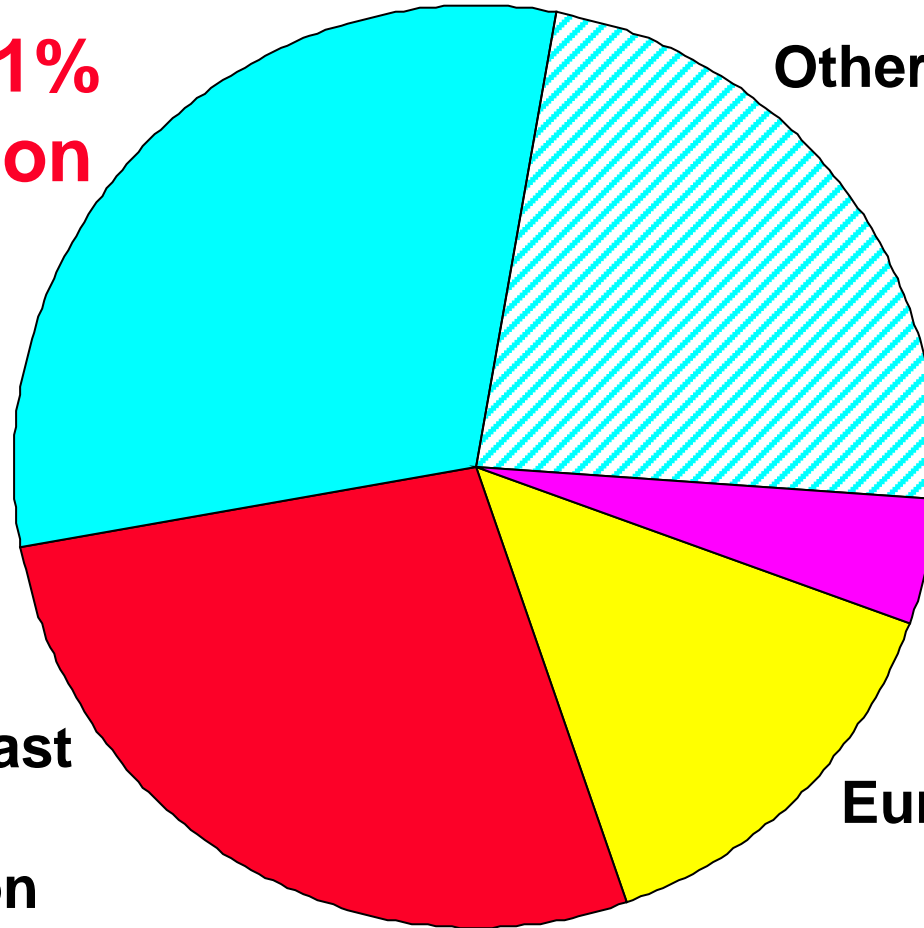
Mexico -- 31%
12.4 million

Other Latin America -- 23%
9.4 million

Africa & Other -- 4%
1.8 million

Asia/Mid-East
27% --
11.0 million

Europe & Canada -- 14%
5.7 million

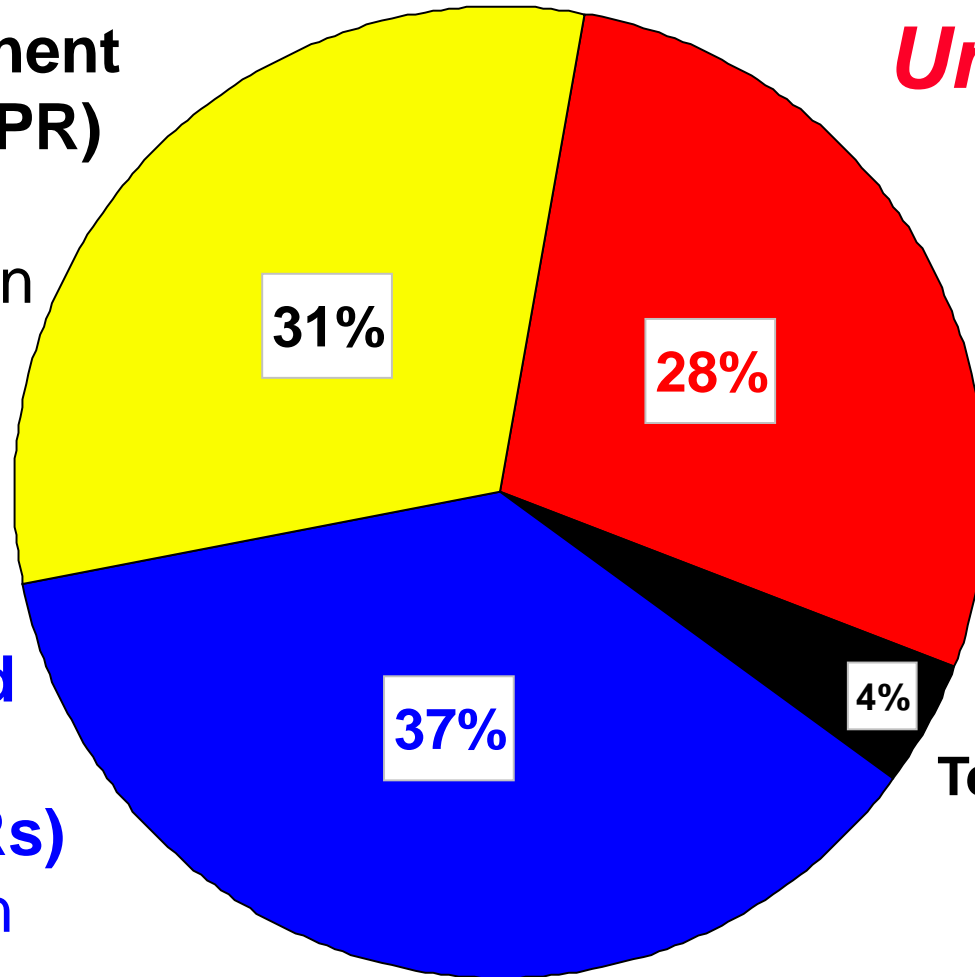


40.2 Million Foreign-Born in 2010

Legal Status of Immigrants

Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) Aliens
12.4 million

Unauthorized Migrants
11.2 million



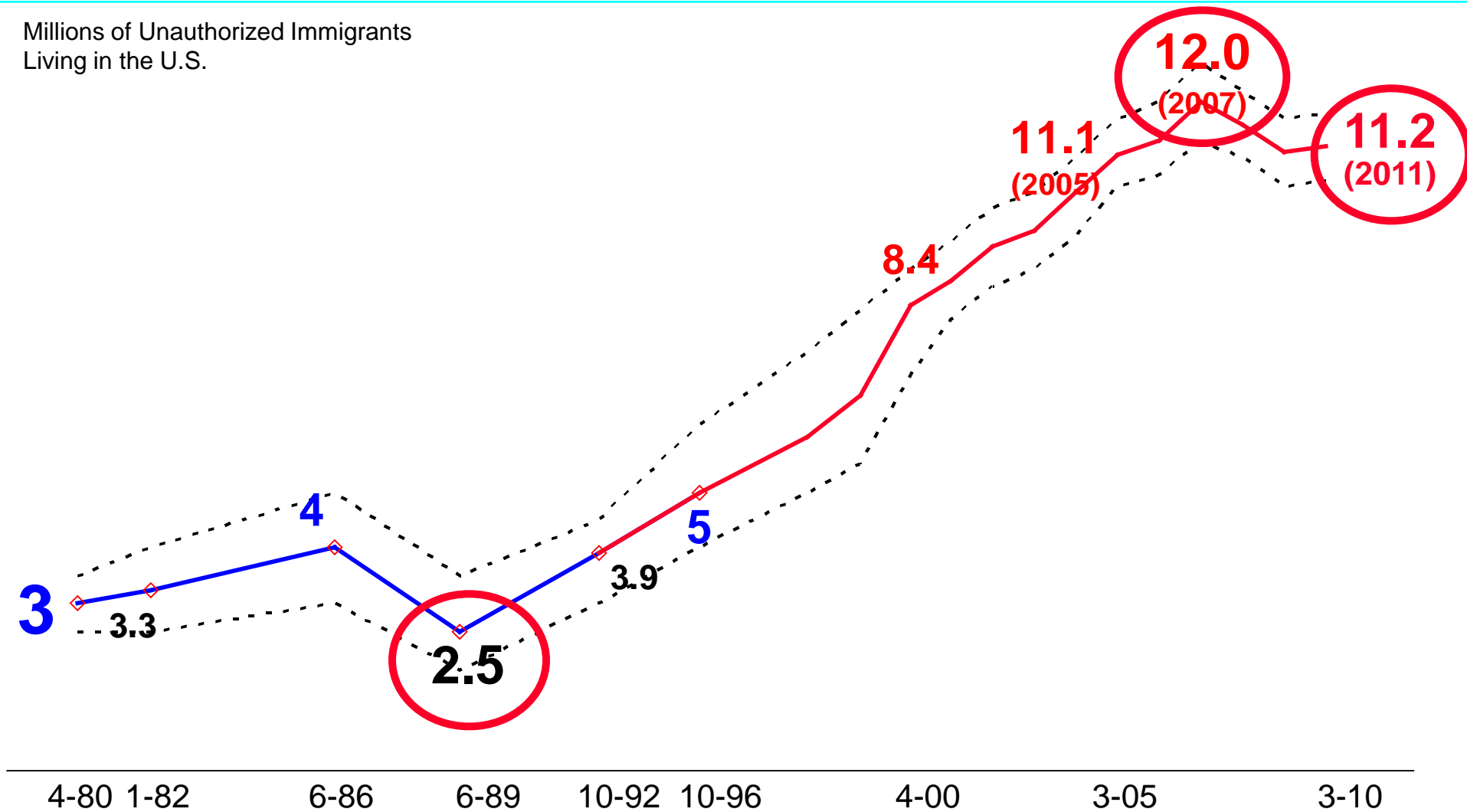
Naturalized Citizens (former LPRs)
14.9 million

Temporary Legal Residents
~1.5 million

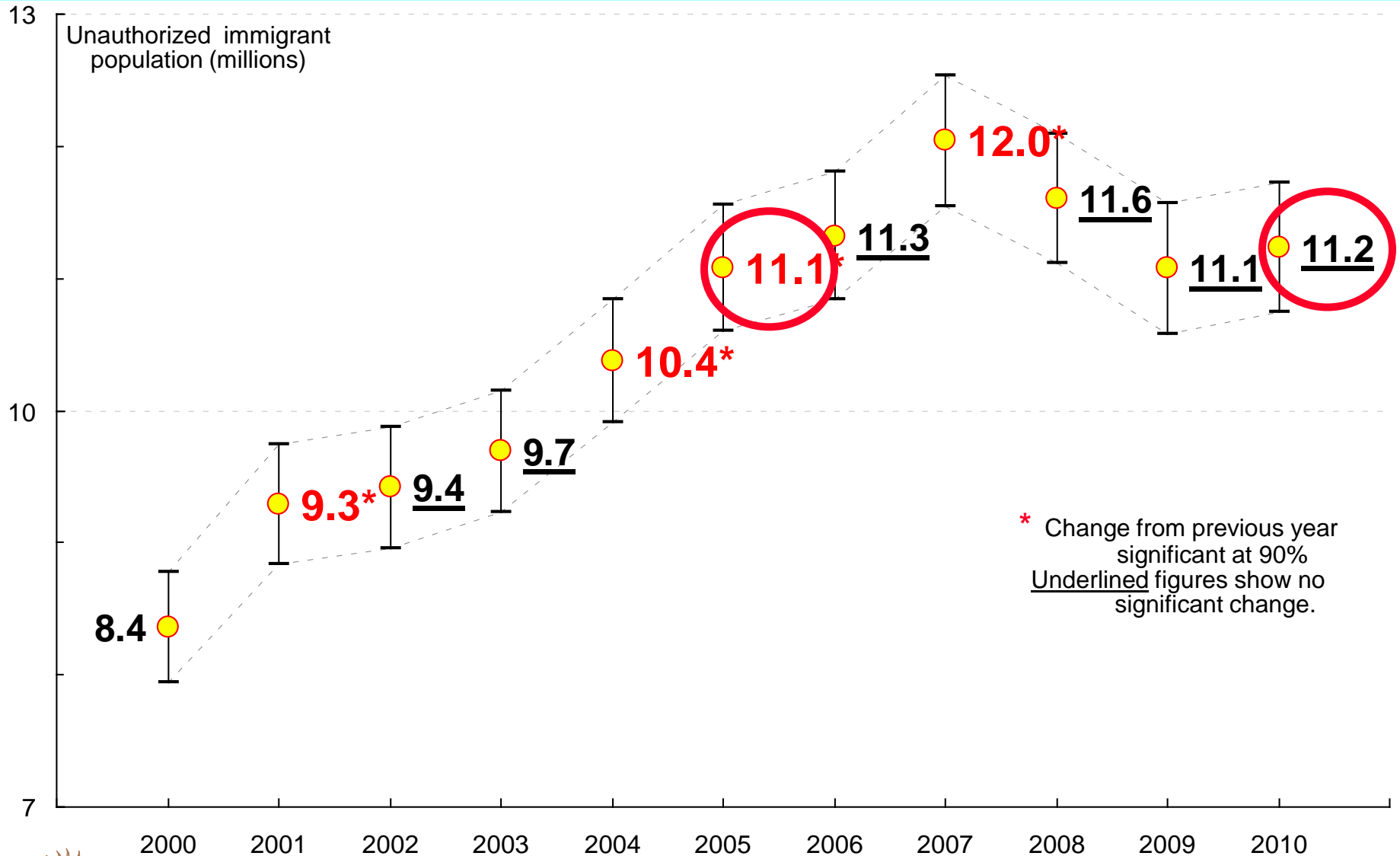
40.2 Million Foreign-Born in 2010

Unauthorized Grew Rapidly Thru 2007 – Declines Since

Millions of Unauthorized Immigrants Living in the U.S.

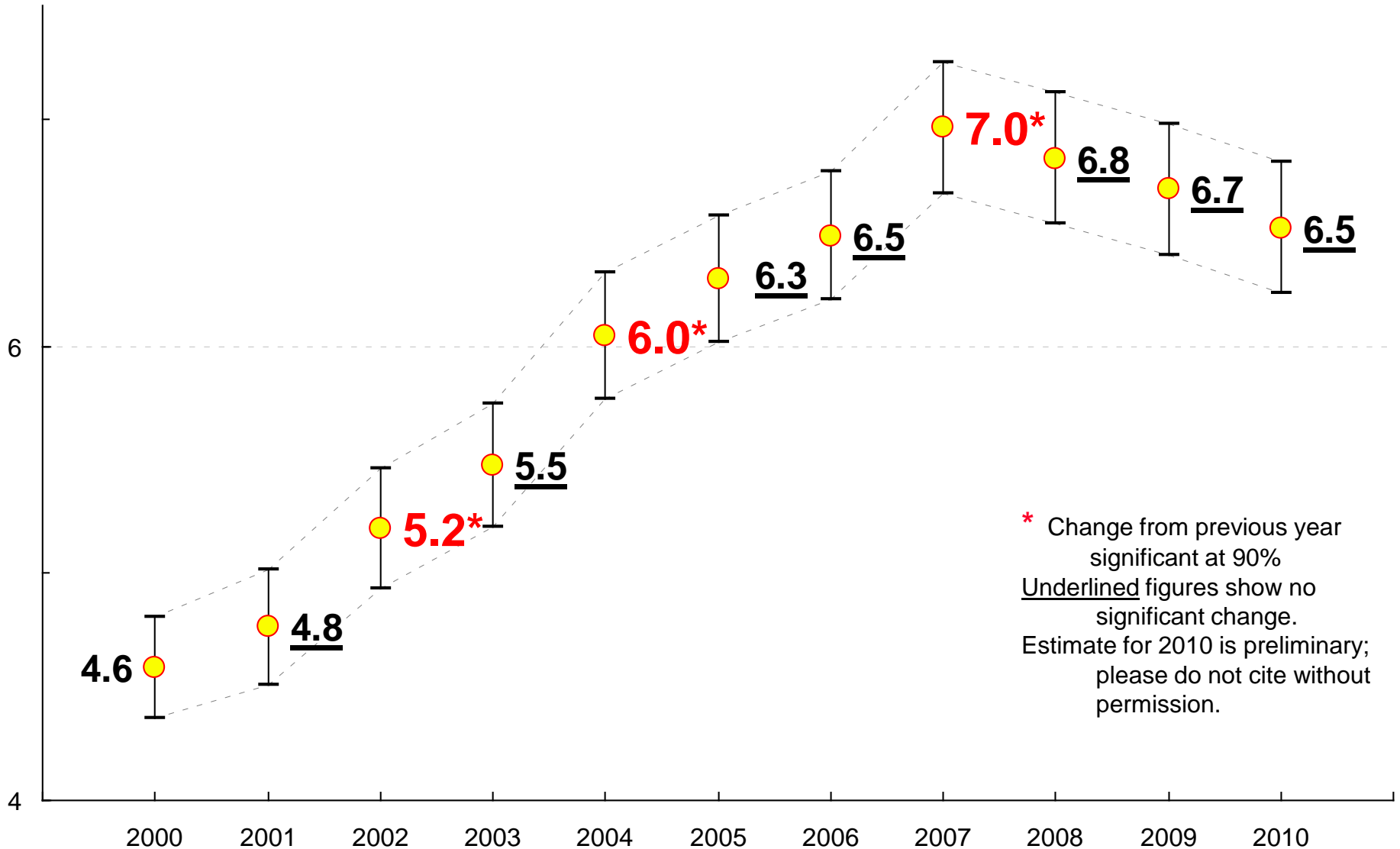


Unauthorized Numbers Peak in '07; Drop thru '09; Unchanged in '10



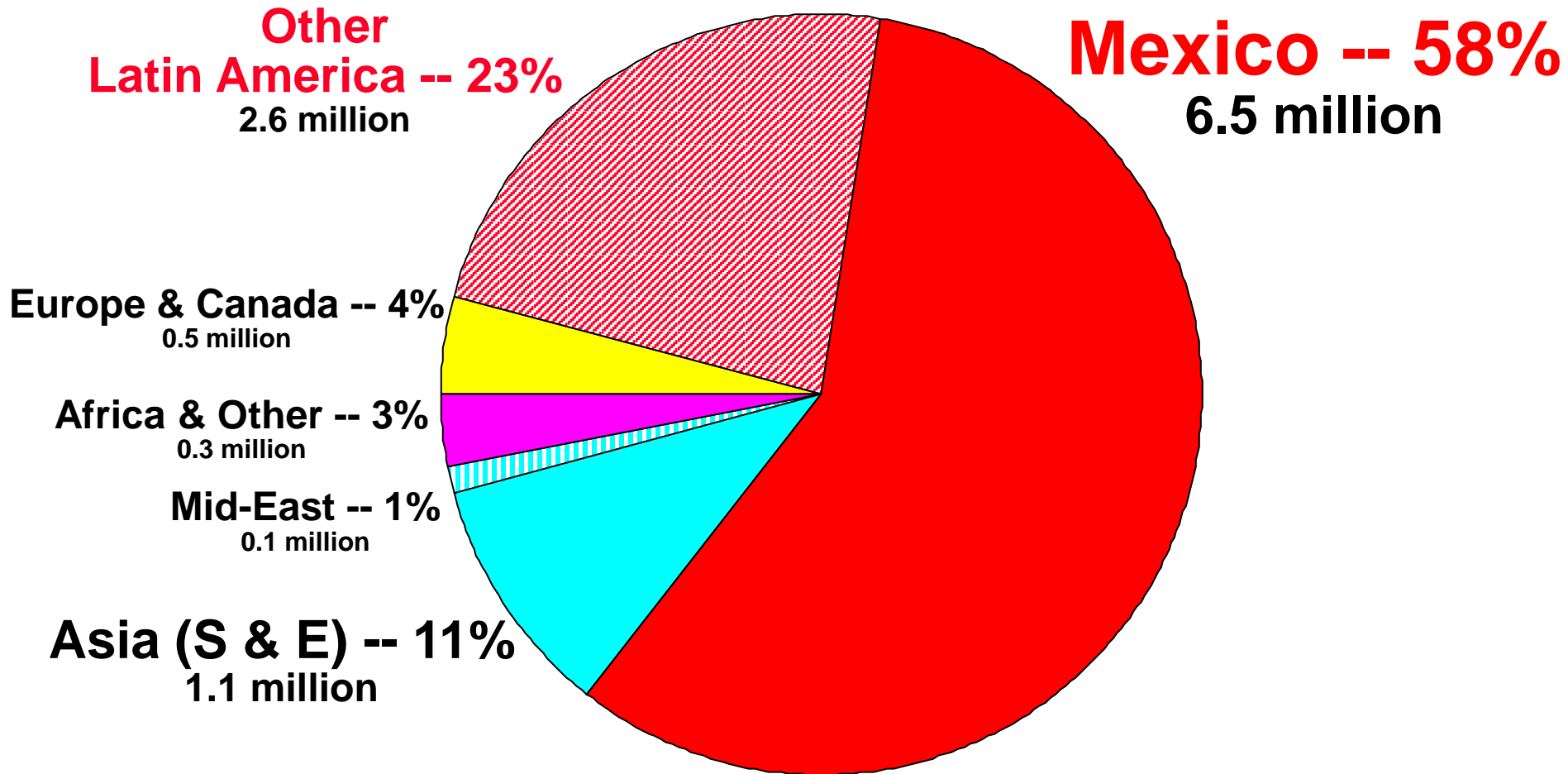
Mexican Unauthorized Peaked in '07

Unauthorized Mexicans (millions)



* Change from previous year significant at 90%
Underlined figures show no significant change.
Estimate for 2010 is preliminary; please do not cite without permission.

Mexico is Largest Source of Unauthorized, by Far

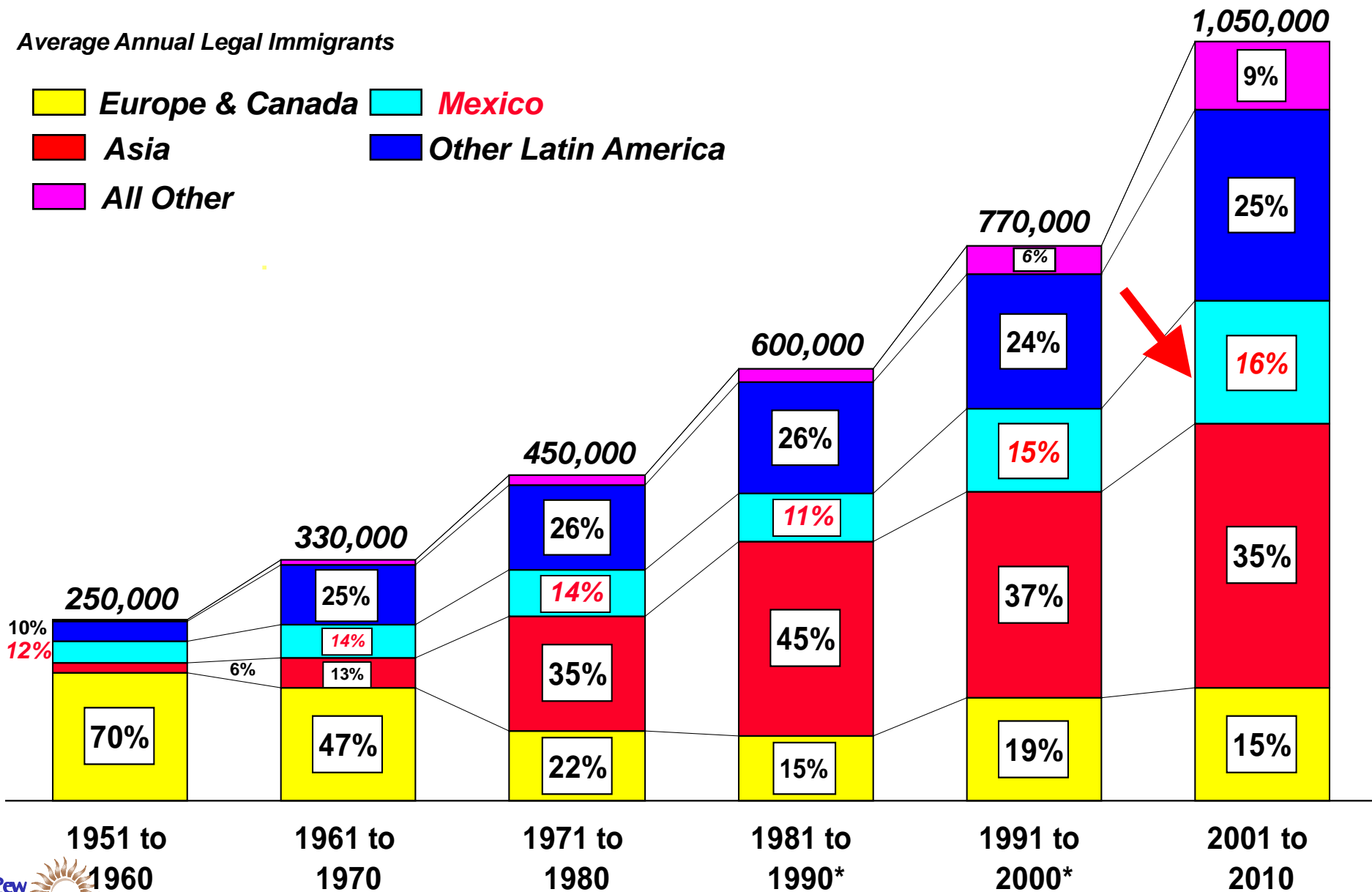


11.2 Million Unauthorized in 2010

Legals—Growing Numbers-New Origins

Average Annual Legal Immigrants

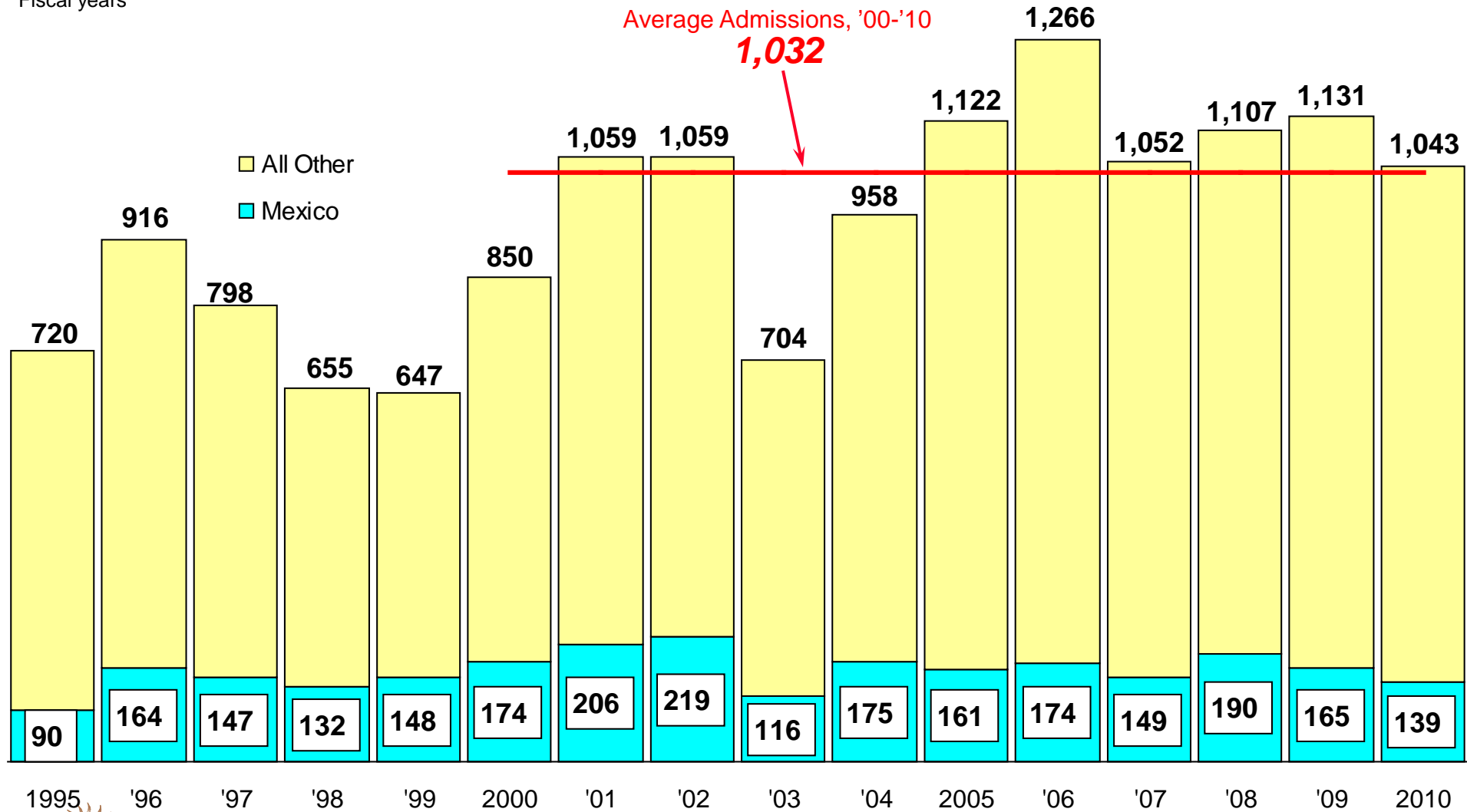
- Europe & Canada
- Mexico
- Asia
- Other Latin America
- All Other



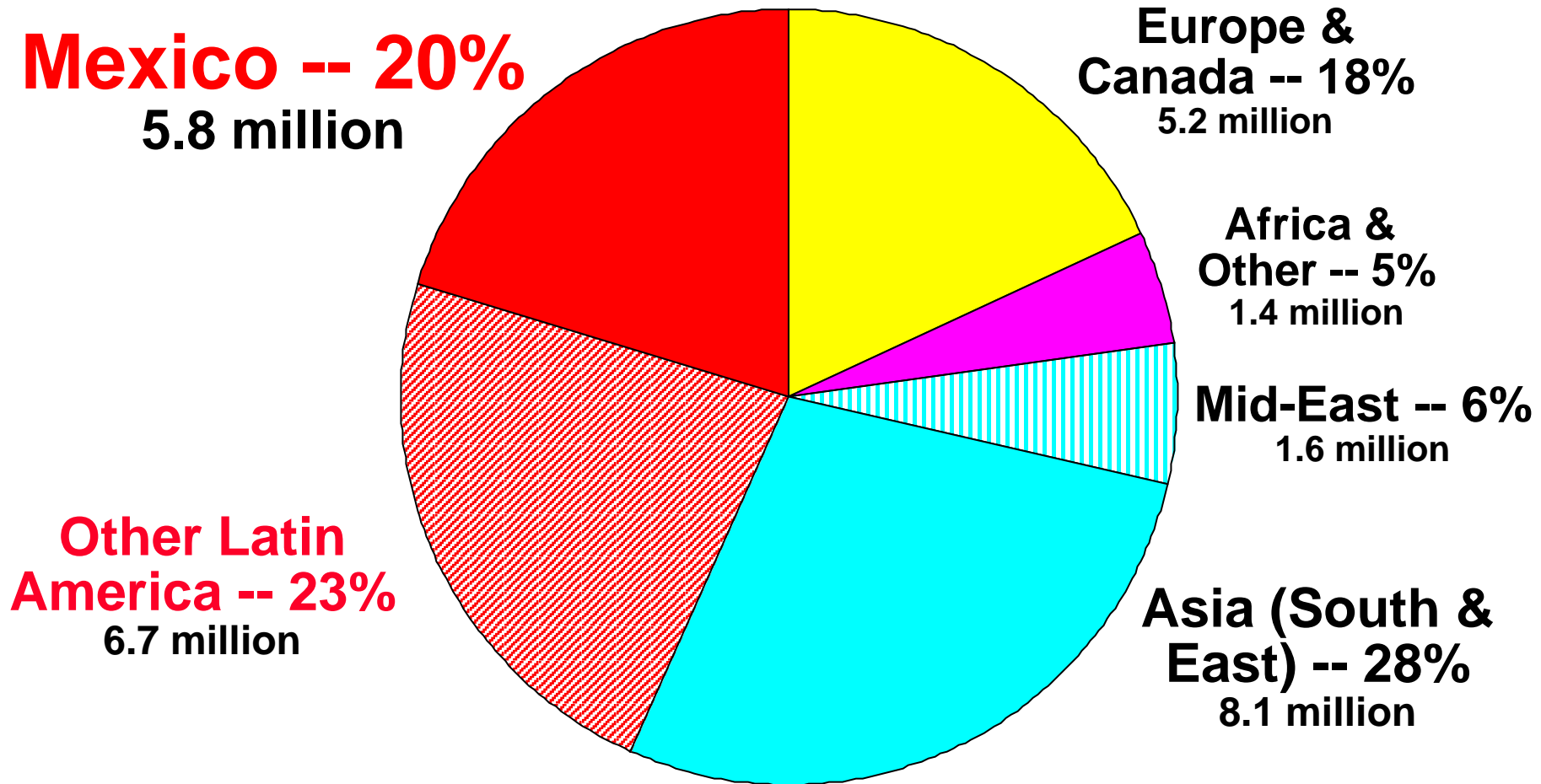
“Green Cards” routinely exceed 1 million

No declines since ‘00 (except ‘03)

Legal Admissions (in 000s)
Fiscal years



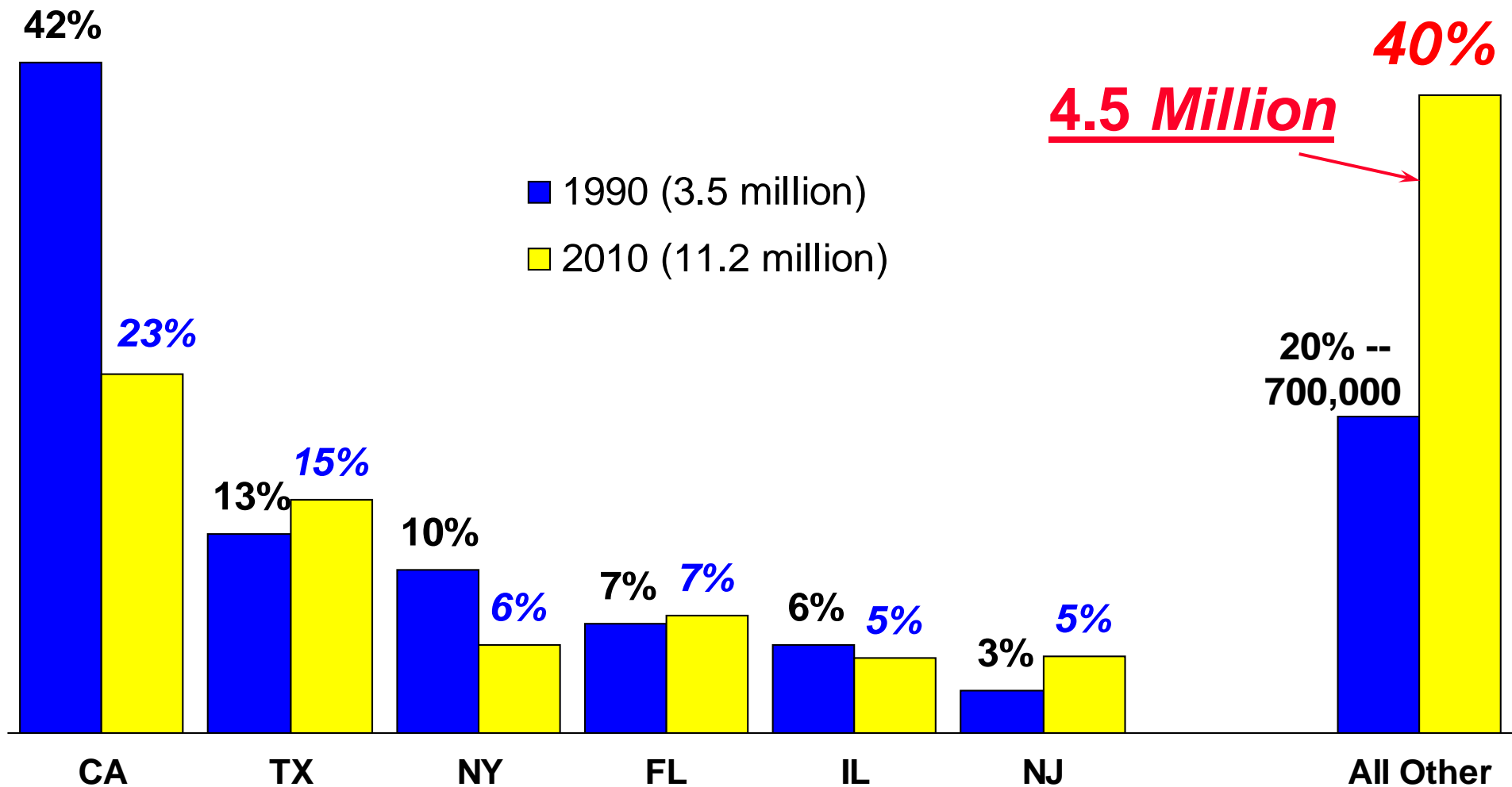
Mexico is Largest Country for Legal Immigrants, Too



28.9 Million Legals in 2010

Unauthorized Spreading Away From Big 6 States

Percent of Total Unauthorized Migrant Population



Focus on Mexico

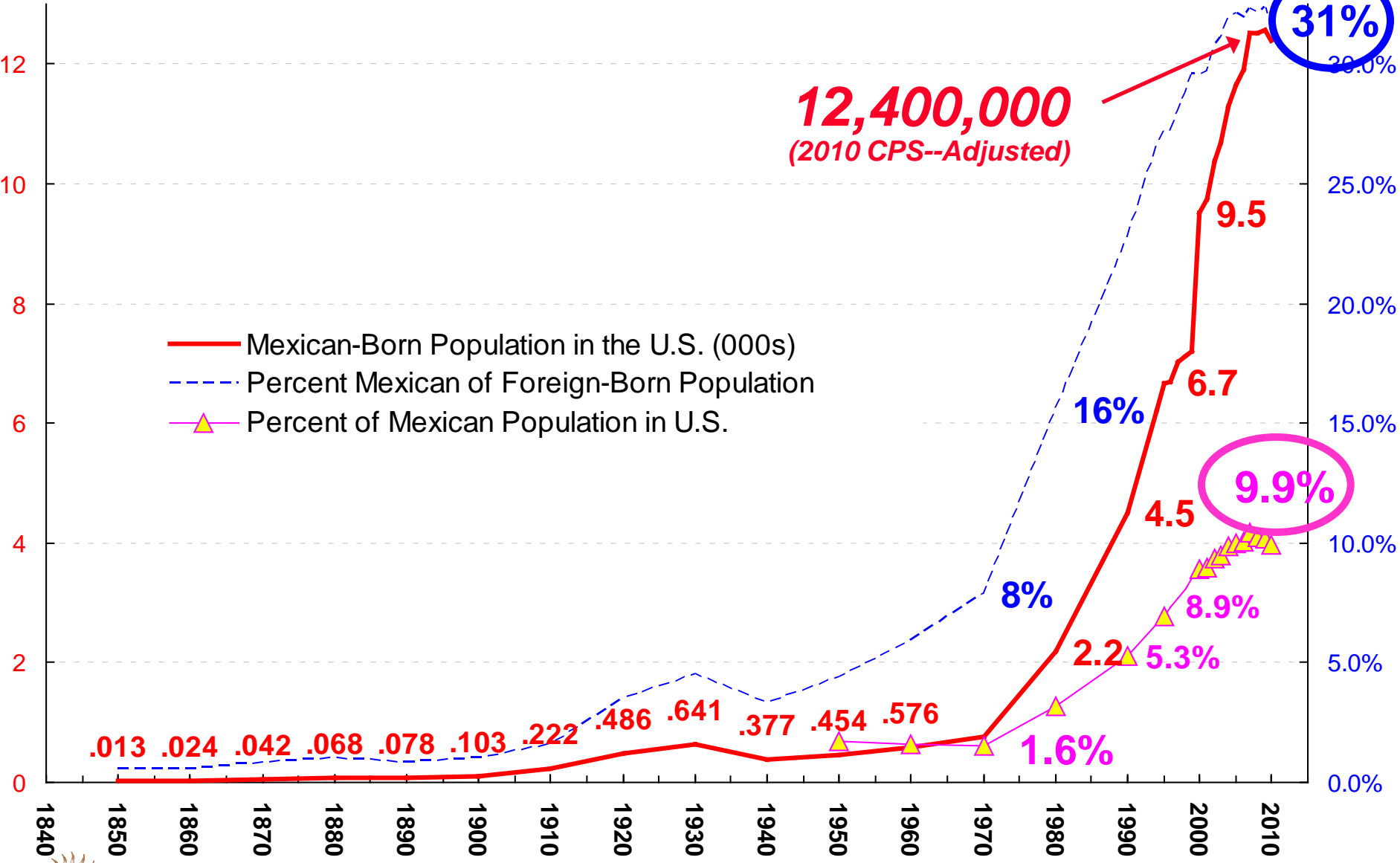
Key Features of Migration

- ***Mexican Population in U.S.***
 - Rapid Build-Up begins in 1970s through 2007
 - Growth Stops after 2007
 - Possible Increase in Late 2010
 - Unauthorized Numbers Peak in 2007
- ***Flows into U.S.***
 - Upward Trend in Late '90s; Peak ca. '99-'01
 - Drop and Increase Tied to Employment
 - Flows Plummet After '07
 - Slight Rebound in 2010 (?)
- ***Other Features***
 - Role of Enforcement Uncertain
 - Return Flows Have **NOT** Increased
 - Family & Geographic Options Keep Folks in US

HUGE Share of Mexicans Now in U.S.

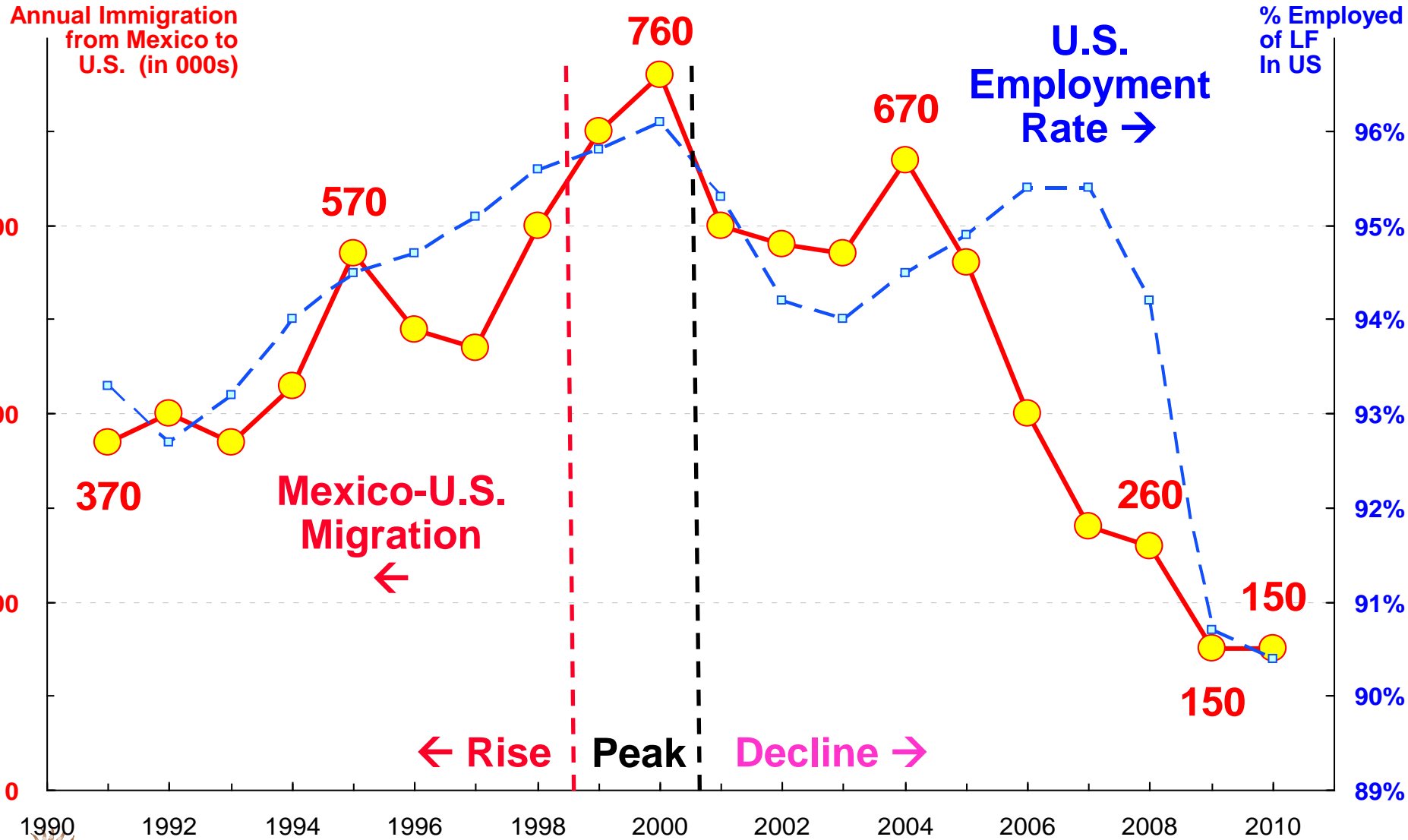
Millions of Mexican Migrants in U.S.

Percent Mexican of Foreign-Born

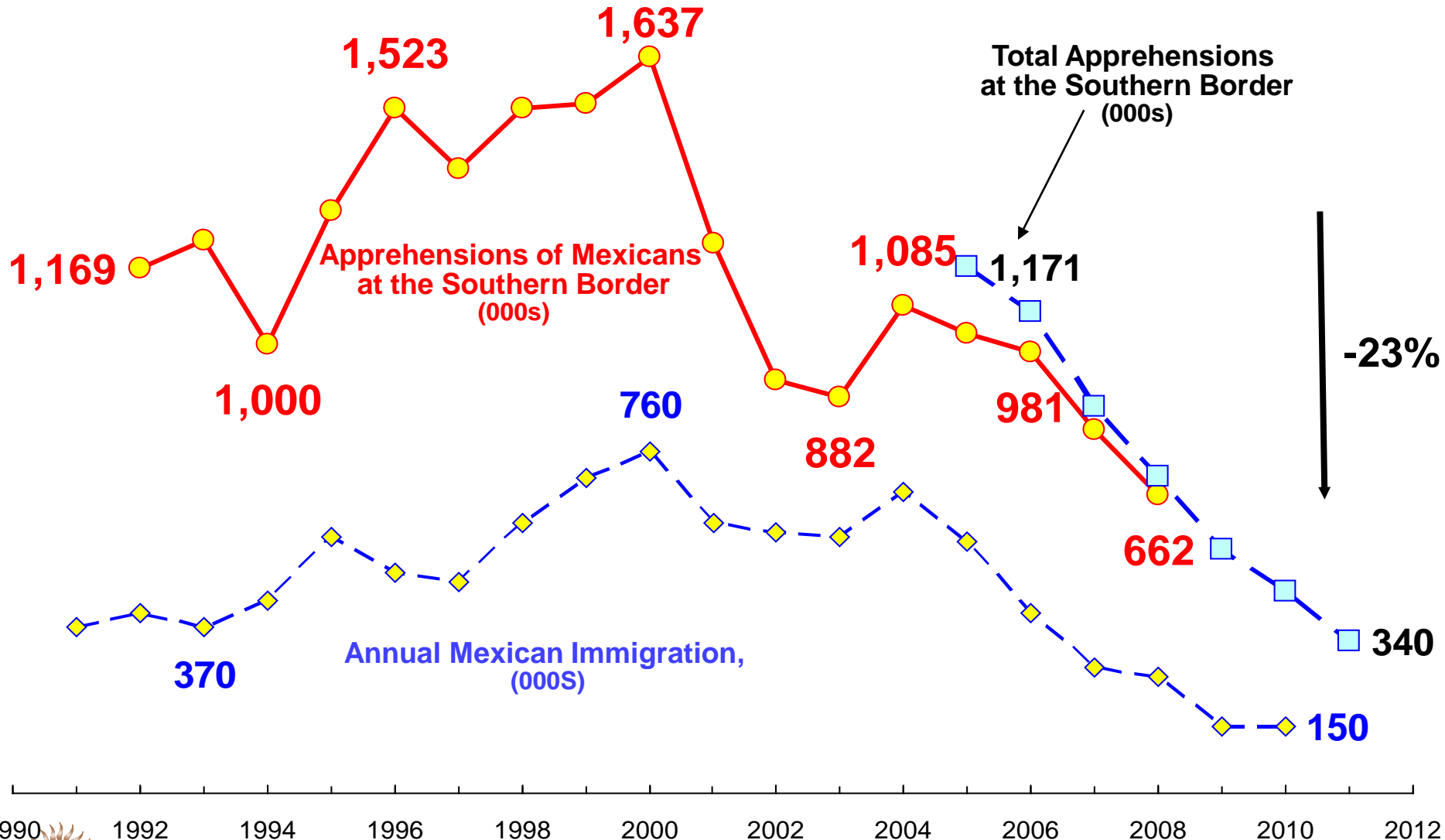


Annual Flows, the Economy & Enforcement

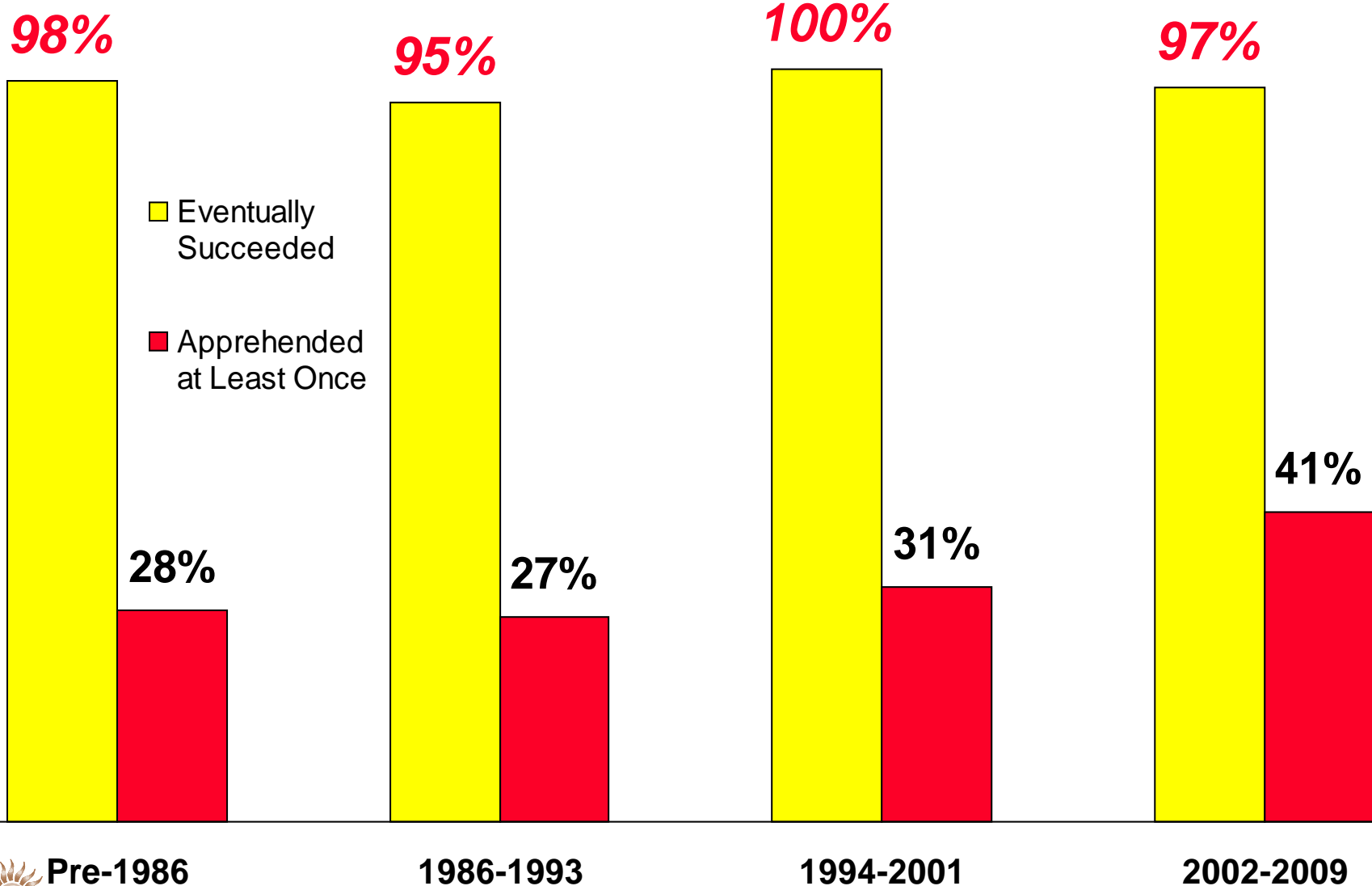
Annual In-Flows Peak in '00 then Plummet; '10 is 20% of Peak; Tracks US Employment



Border Apprehensions & Mexican Departures Track Flows Estimates



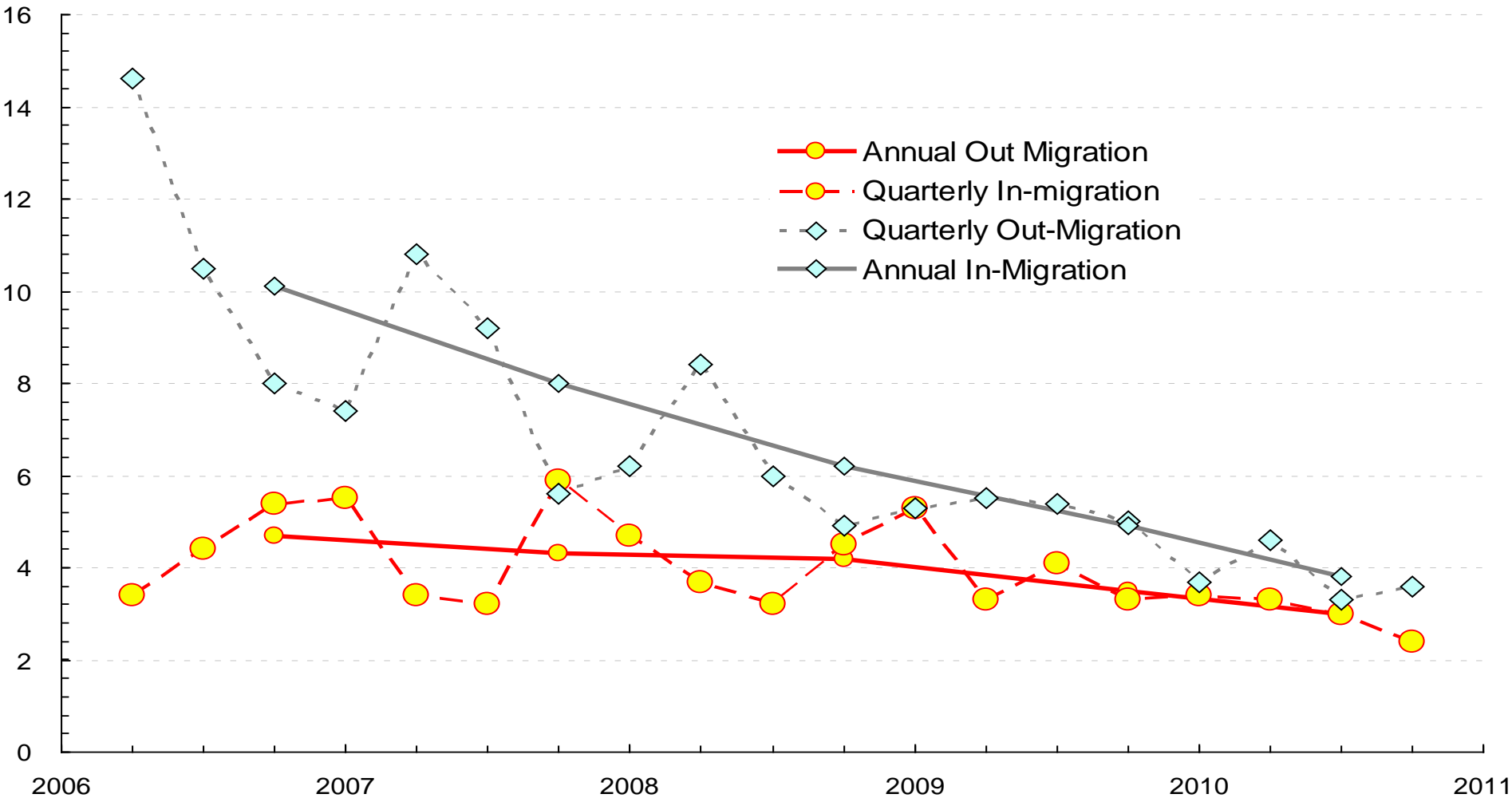
Apprehension Rate is Up, BUT... Virtually Everyone Gets In



***Are MORE Mexicans
Going Home?
Why? Or Why Not?***

Mexican Data—Dropping Flows Out of Mexico **BUT** Return Flows are Down, Too

Annual Migration Rate (per 1,000)
Out of and Into Mexico

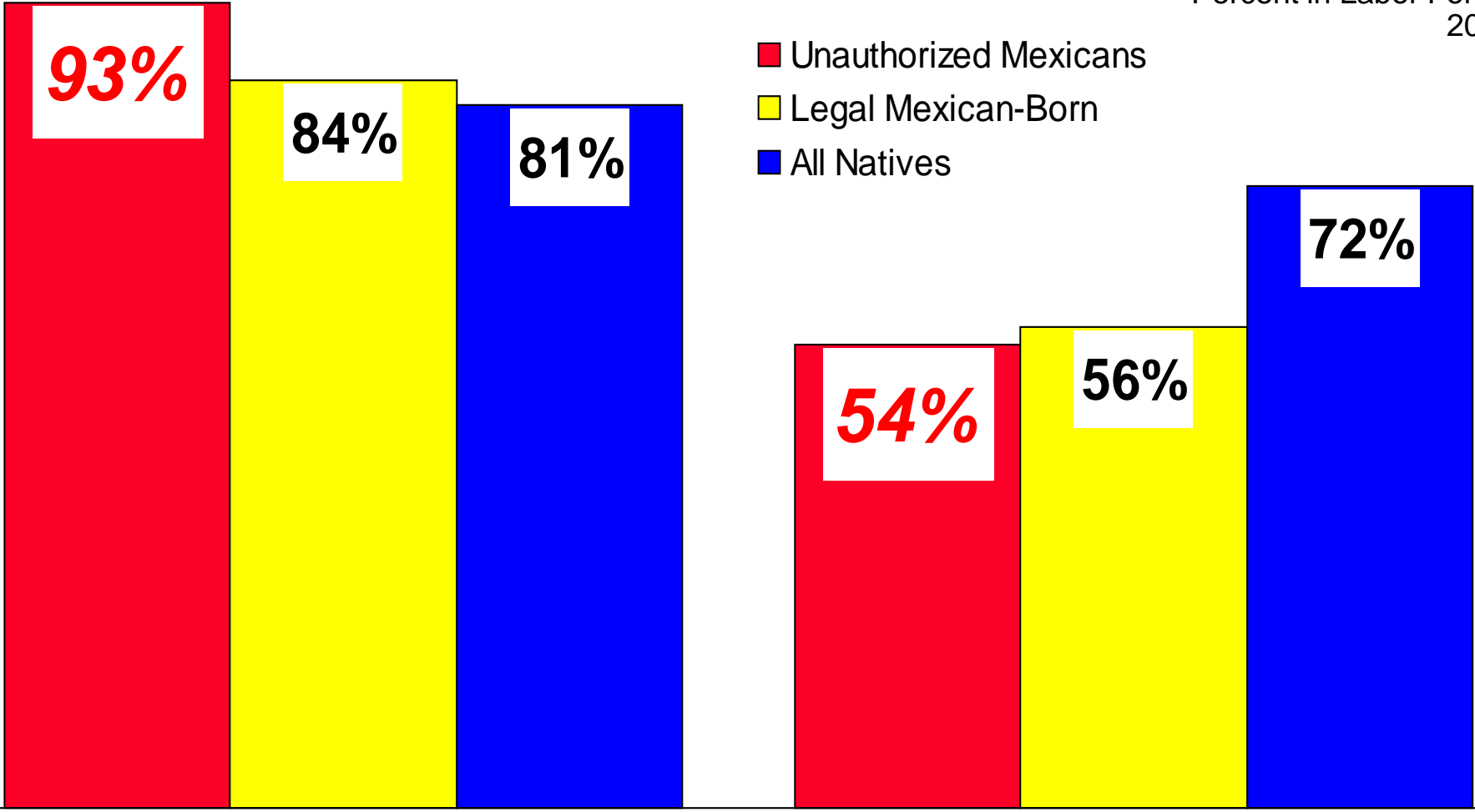


Why Aren't More Leaving the US?

- ***Fear of Losing U.S. Job***
- ***Situation in Mexico is No Better***
- ***Border Enforcement***
 - Costly & Risky to Re-enter U.S.
- ***Integration into U.S. Society***
 - **Families** Increasingly Rooted in US
 - U.S.-Born Children in School
 - Social Networks in the U.S.
 - Geographic Diversity gives Options

Unauthorized Mexican Men Work More; Women Work Much Less Than Others

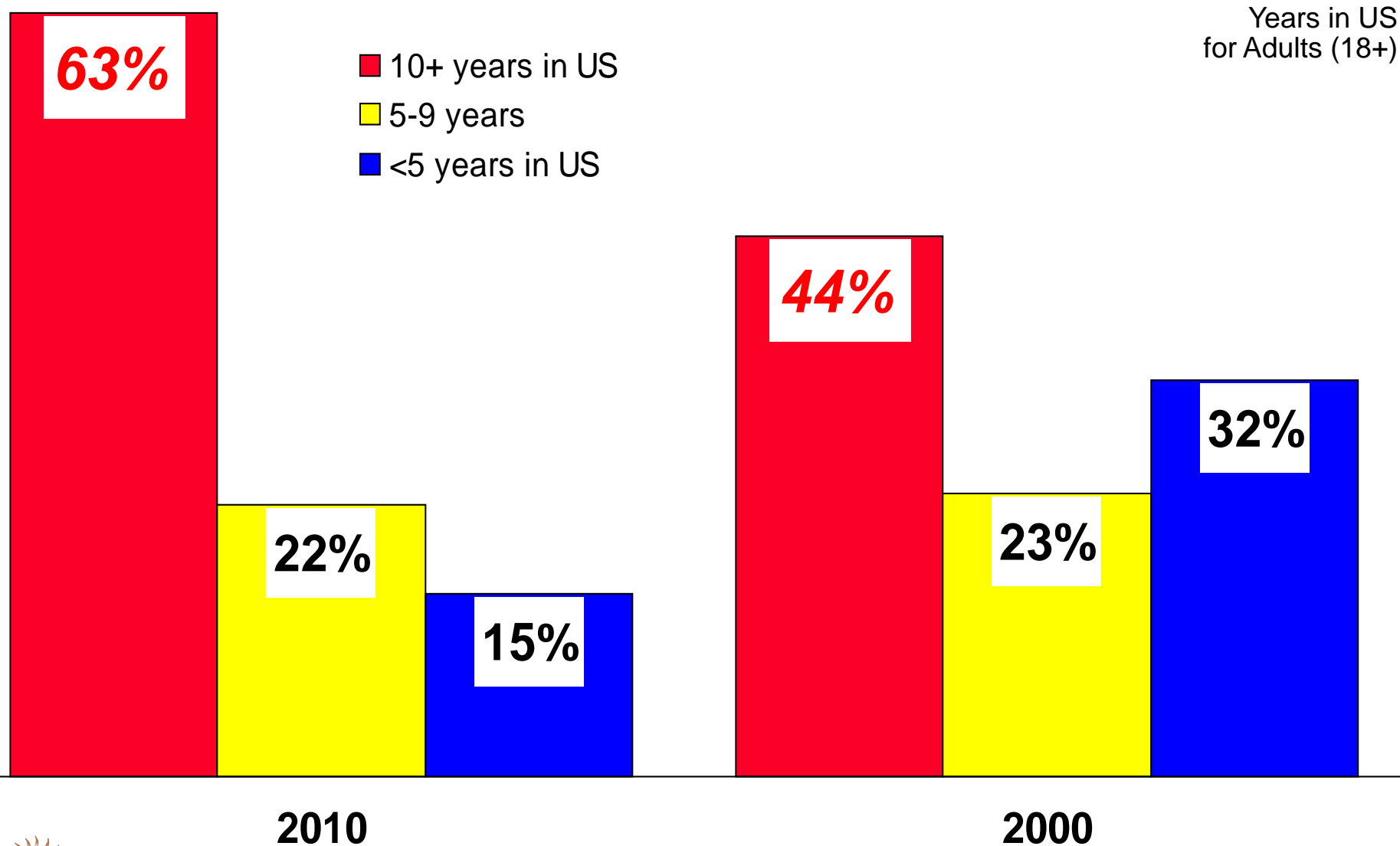
Percent in Labor Force, 2010



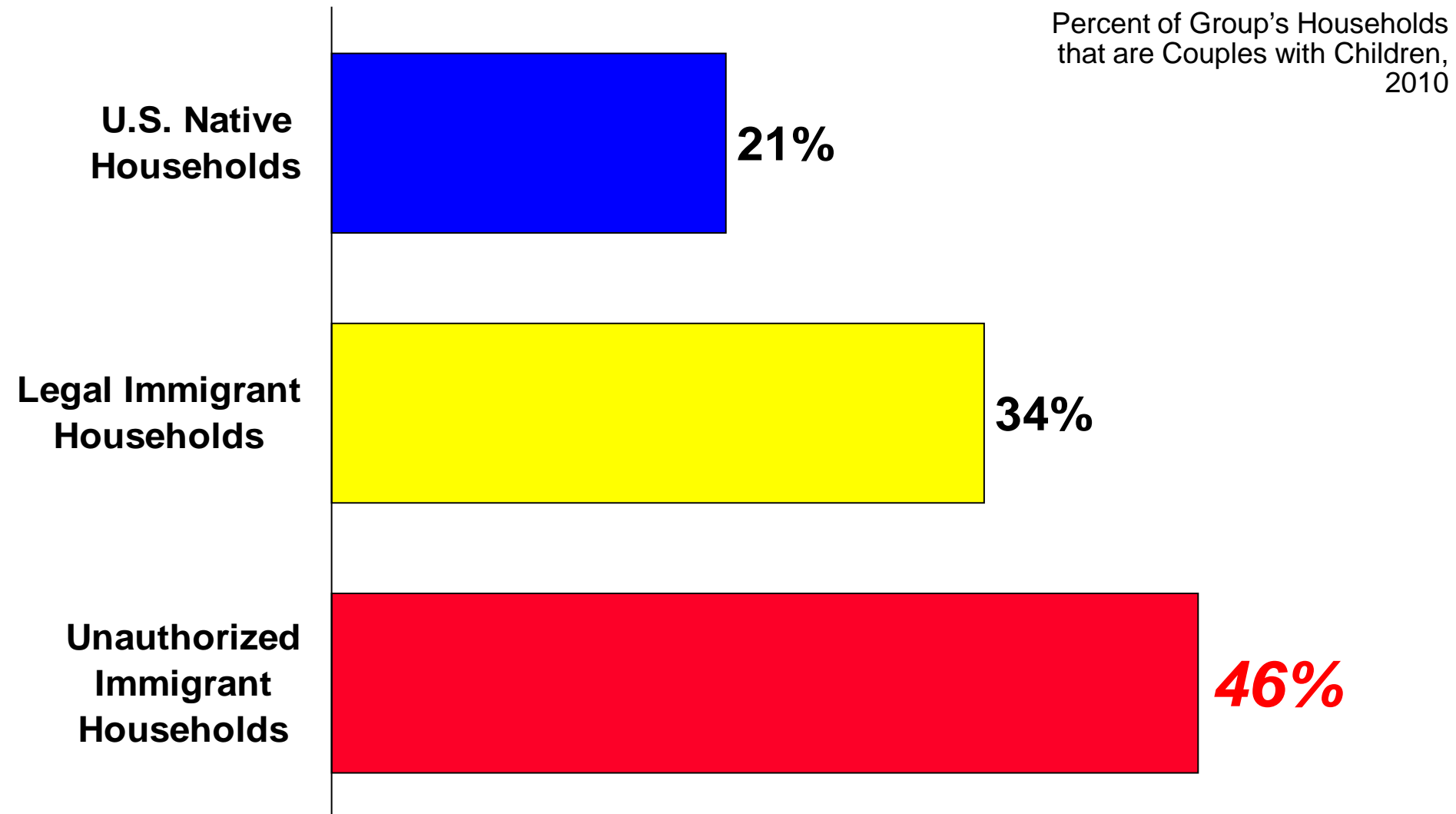
Adult Men (18-64)

Adult Women (18-64)

Unauthorized Well-Established in US; Many “New” Immigrants in 2000

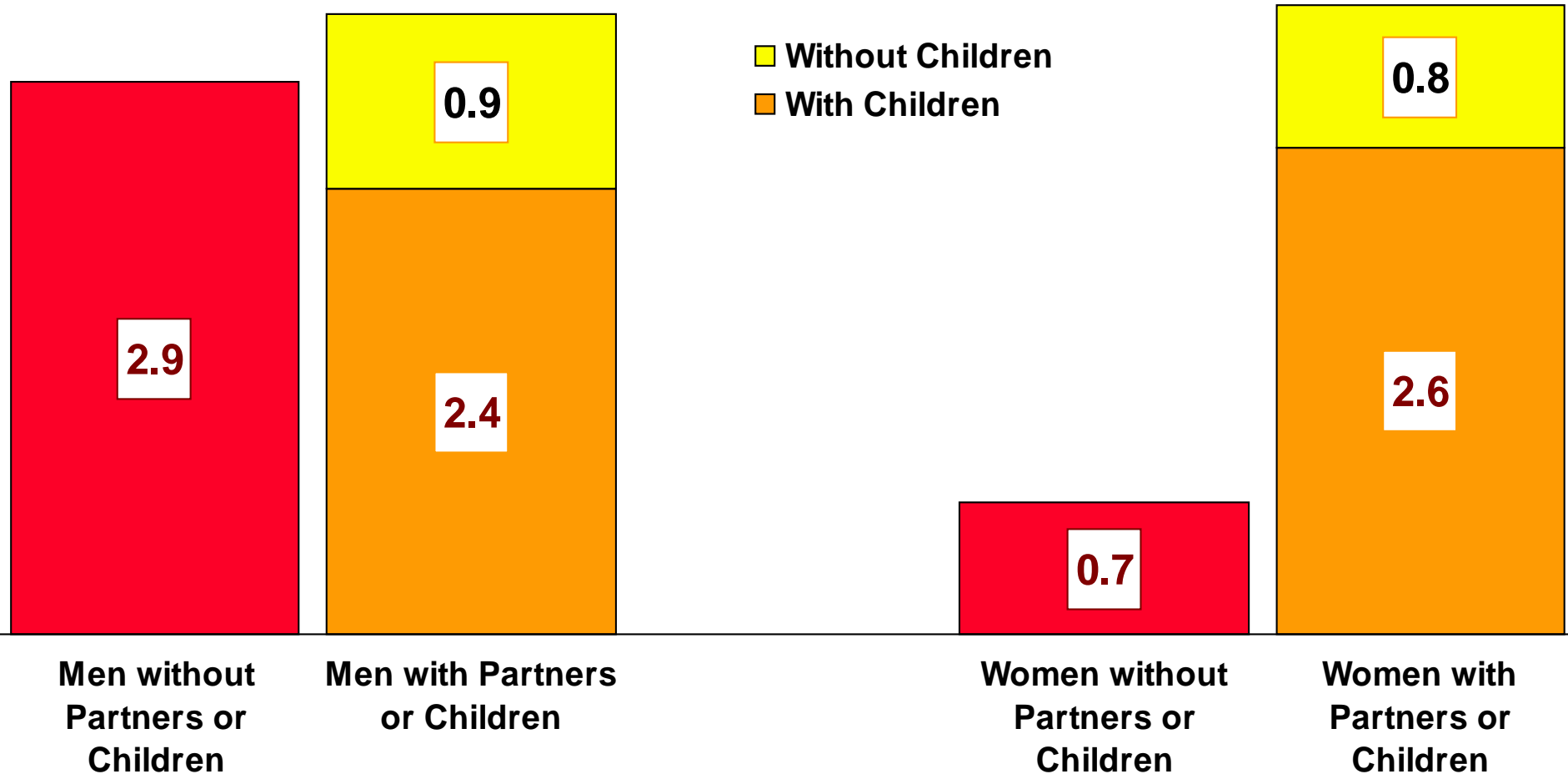


Unauthorized Immigrants More Likely To Be Couples with Children



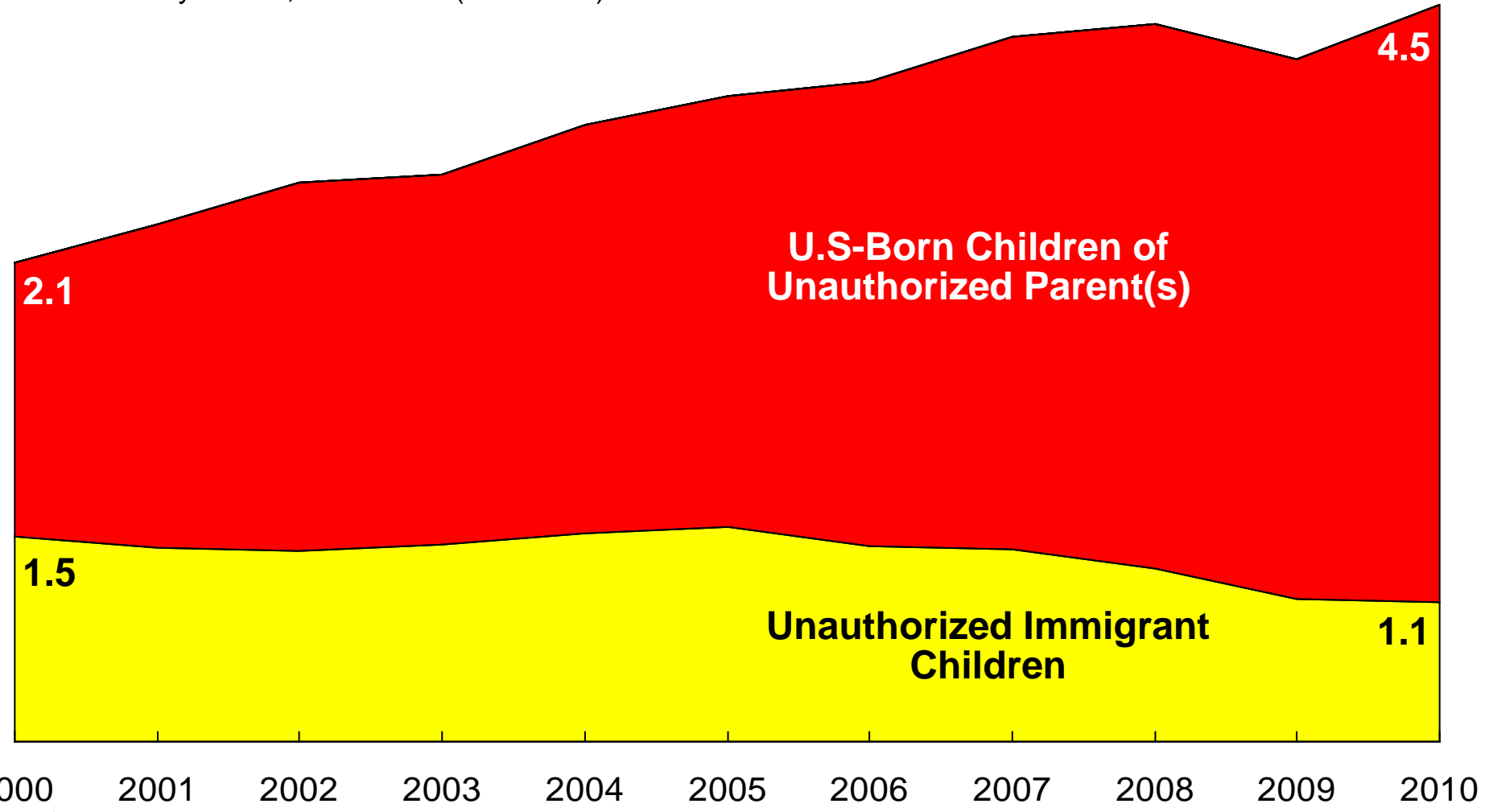
A Majority of Unauthorized (Men) Are Married or Have Children

Persons in Unauthorized Migrant Families, 2010 (millions)



US-Born Children of Unauthorized Up but Unauthorized Decrease

Children with at Least One Unauthorized Immigrant Parent,
by Status, 2000-2010 (in millions)



1-in-15 of K-12 Students is the Child of an Unauthorized Immigrants

Percent of K-12
School Enrollment,
2010

77.0%

- All children
- US-born child
- Immigrant child

U.S.-born parent

Legal immigrant parent

Unauthorized immigrant
parent

16.1%

13.3%

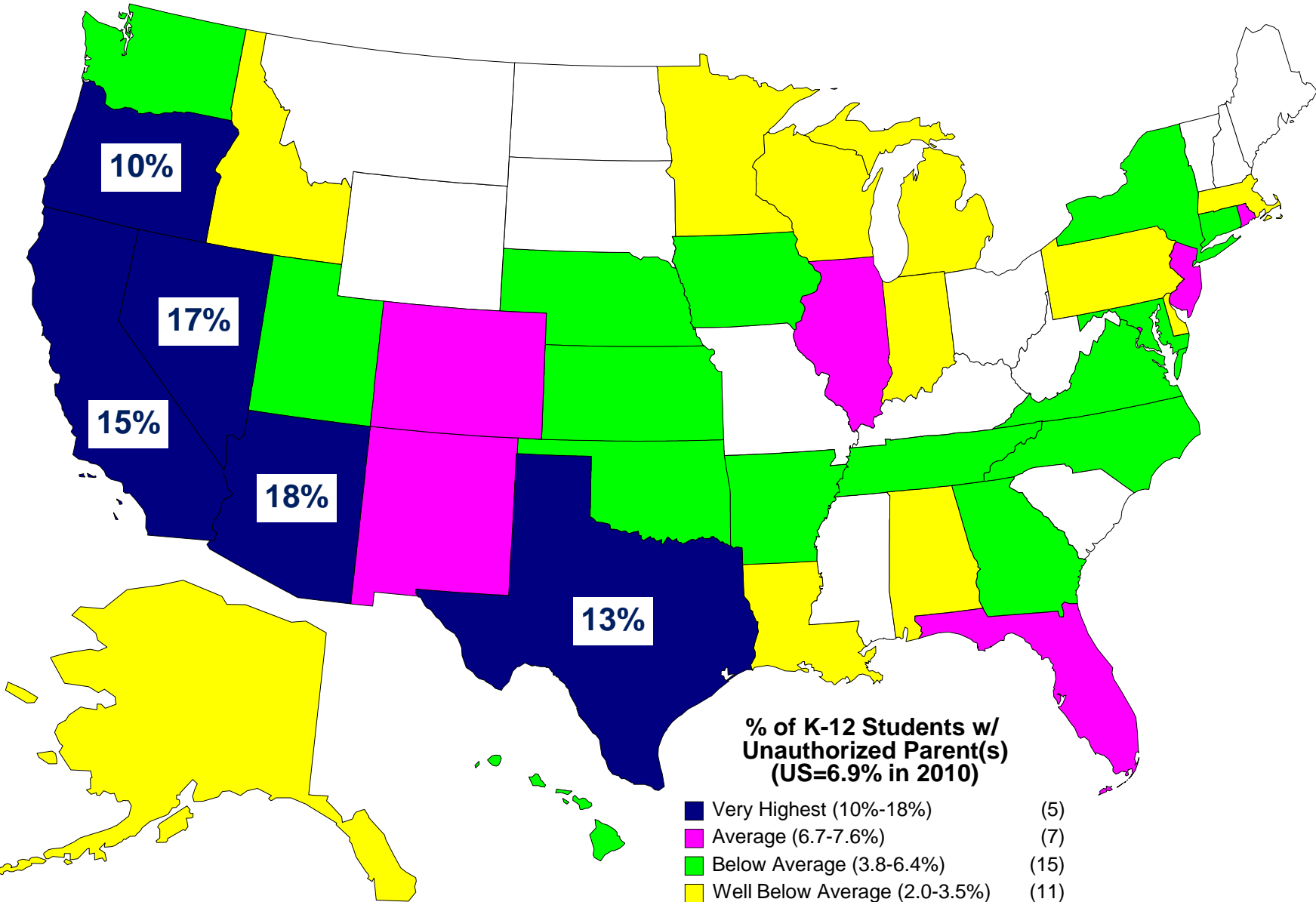
2.8%

6.9%

5.0%

1.8%

% of K-12 Students w/ Unauth. Parents



What About the Future?

- ***Flows Down—Respond to Economy***
- ***Enforcement May be Working***
 - Border Effectiveness Uncertain for Now
 - Interior Laws Make Life Risky/Unpleasant
- ***Changing Age Structure in Mexico***
 - Smaller Birth Cohorts of '90s
 - Fewer Labor Force Entrants Begin Now
 - Lessening Pressure to Migrate
- ***Scale is Large (11+ mil.) & Dispersed***
- ***Networks & Culture Facilitate Flow***
- ***Families, Not Just Individuals***

Thank You

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