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***The New Geography of Immigration  
and Local Policy Responses***

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**Brookings Mountain West**  
**University of Nevada Las Vegas**

**March 9, 2010**

# *The New Geography of Immigration and Policy Response*

I

The state of play on immigration:  
national policy and national trends

II

The new metropolitan geography

III

Local policy response and the challenges  
for the Obama Administration

# I. Immigration Reform: The National Context



Mexico-US border near San Diego, CA

# **Why is immigration currently a big deal?**

**Failure of the federal government to overhaul laws**

**Historically rapid growth of the immigrant population**

**A new geography of immigrant settlement, including many areas with little recent history of immigration**

# The United States has more immigrants than any other country

Immigrant Stock and Percent Foreign Born, Selected Countries, circa 2005

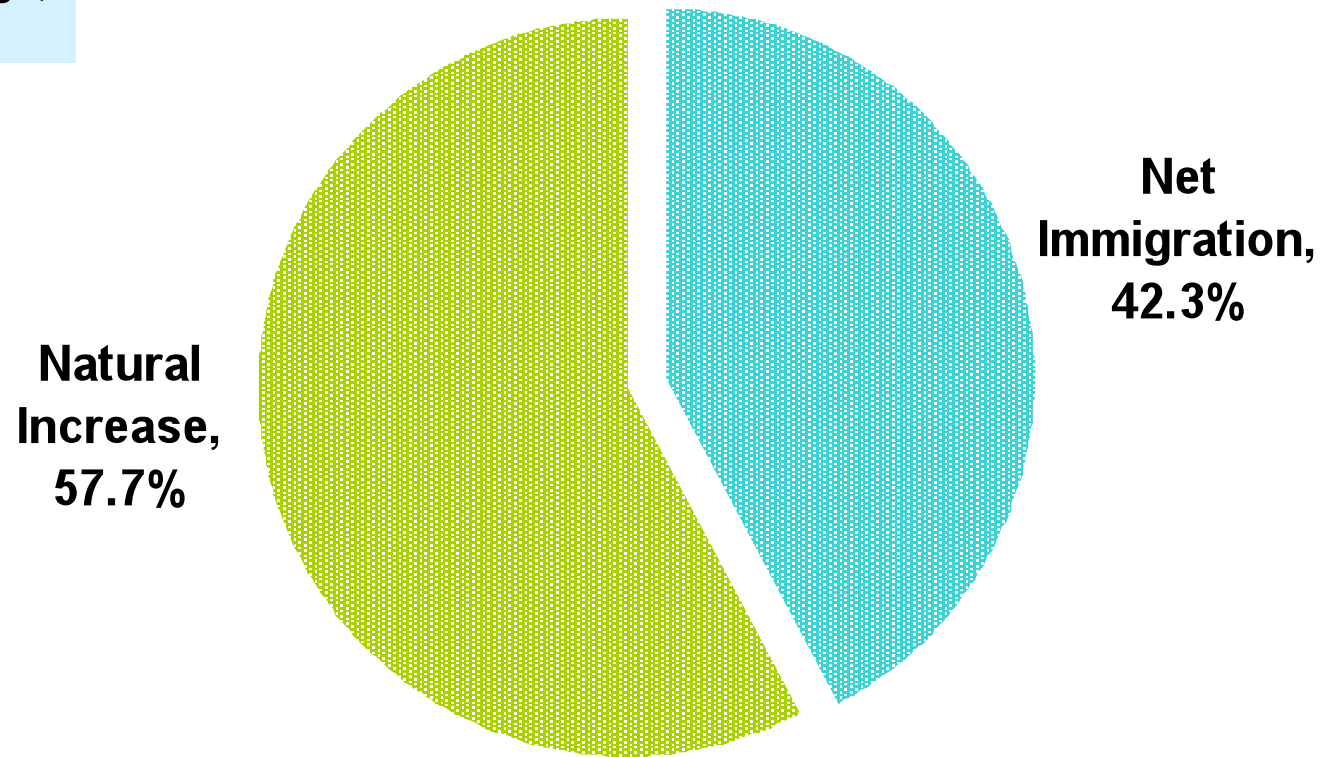
|                | Immigrant Stock<br>(millions) | % Foreign Born |
|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Australia      | 4.1                           | 20.3%          |
| United Kingdom | 5.4                           | 9.1%           |
| Canada         | 6.1                           | 18.9%          |
| France         | 6.5                           | 10.7%          |
| Germany        | 10.1                          | 12.4%          |
| <b>USA</b>     | <b>38.0</b>                   | <b>12.6%</b>   |

Source: United Nations, 2006



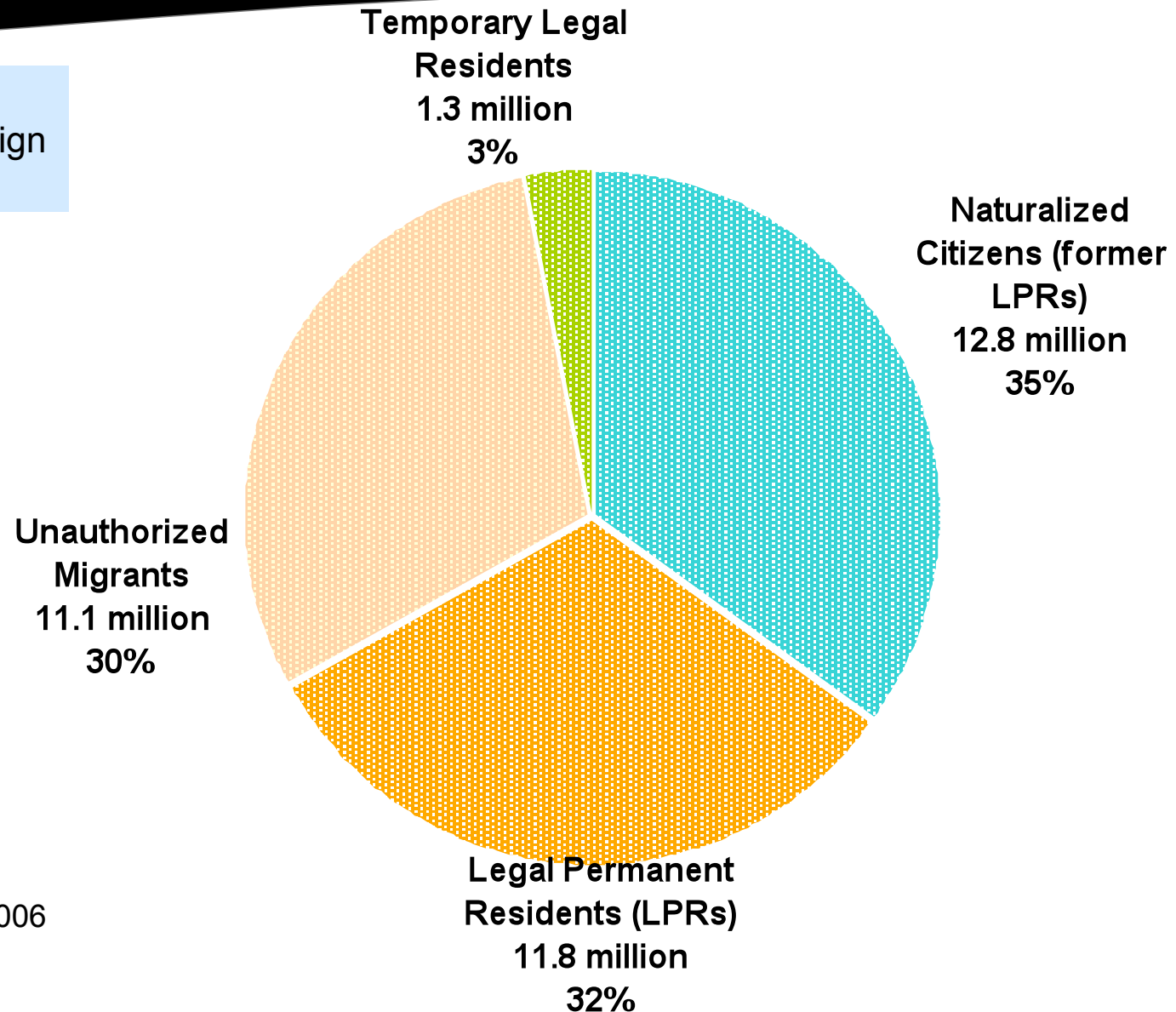
# Currently forty-two percent of US population growth comes from immigration

Components of  
population change,  
2000-2005



# An estimated 30 percent of immigrants in the US are unauthorized

Estimated legal status of the foreign born, 2005

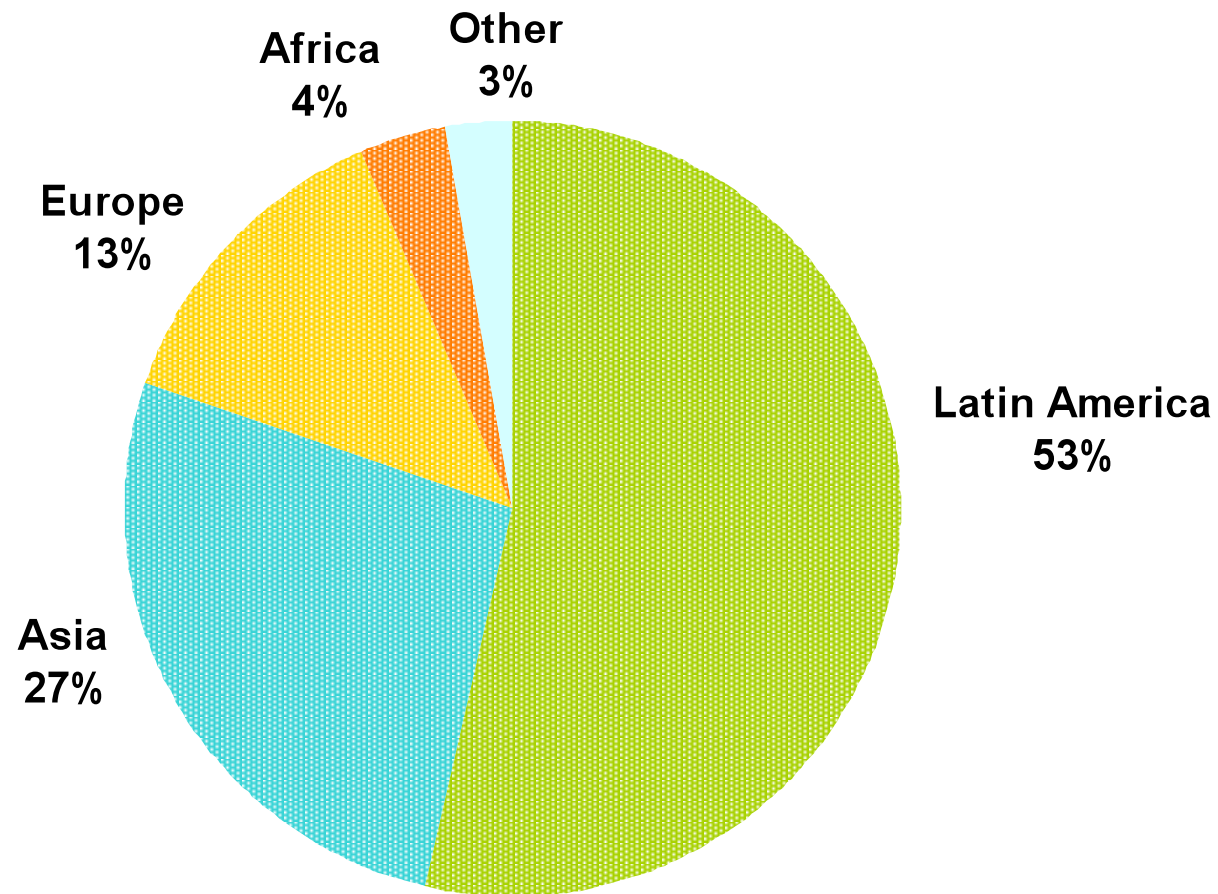


Source: Passel, 2006

Source: Passel, 2006



**More than half of all immigrants are from Latin America;  
Asian immigrants represent about one-quarter**



# Nationally, Mexican immigrants dominate; diverse origins round out the top ten countries

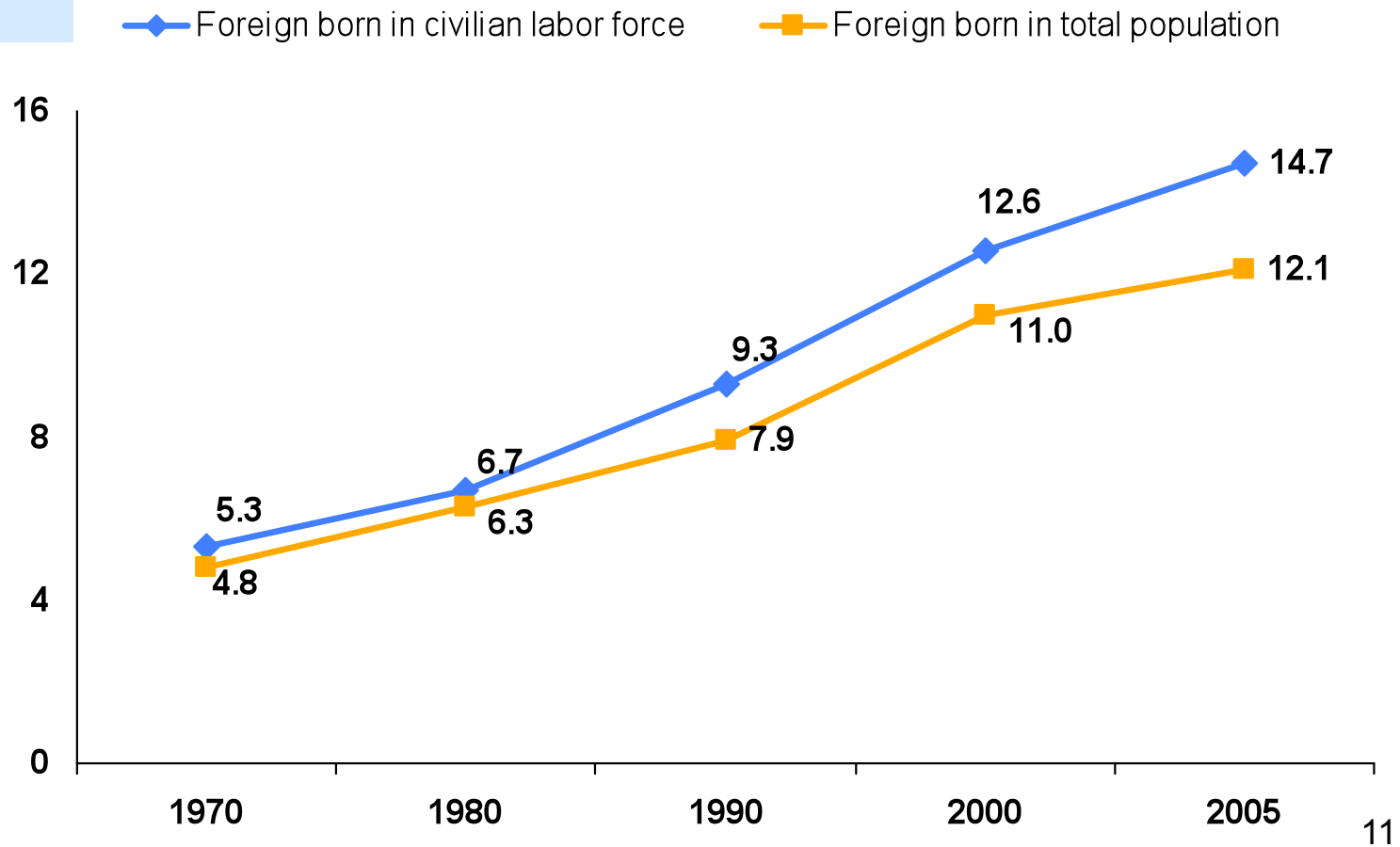
Foreign-born  
Persons  
Residing in the  
U.S.2006

|    |                    |            |
|----|--------------------|------------|
| 1  | Mexico             | 11,541,404 |
| 2  | Philippines        | 1,638,413  |
| 3  | India              | 1,519,157  |
| 4  | China              | 1,334,079  |
| 5  | Vietnam            | 1,117,800  |
| 6  | El Salvador        | 1,047,124  |
| 7  | Korea              | 1,023,956  |
| 8  | Cuba               | 935,865    |
| 9  | Canada             | 846,913    |
| 10 | Dominican Republic | 766,570    |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2006

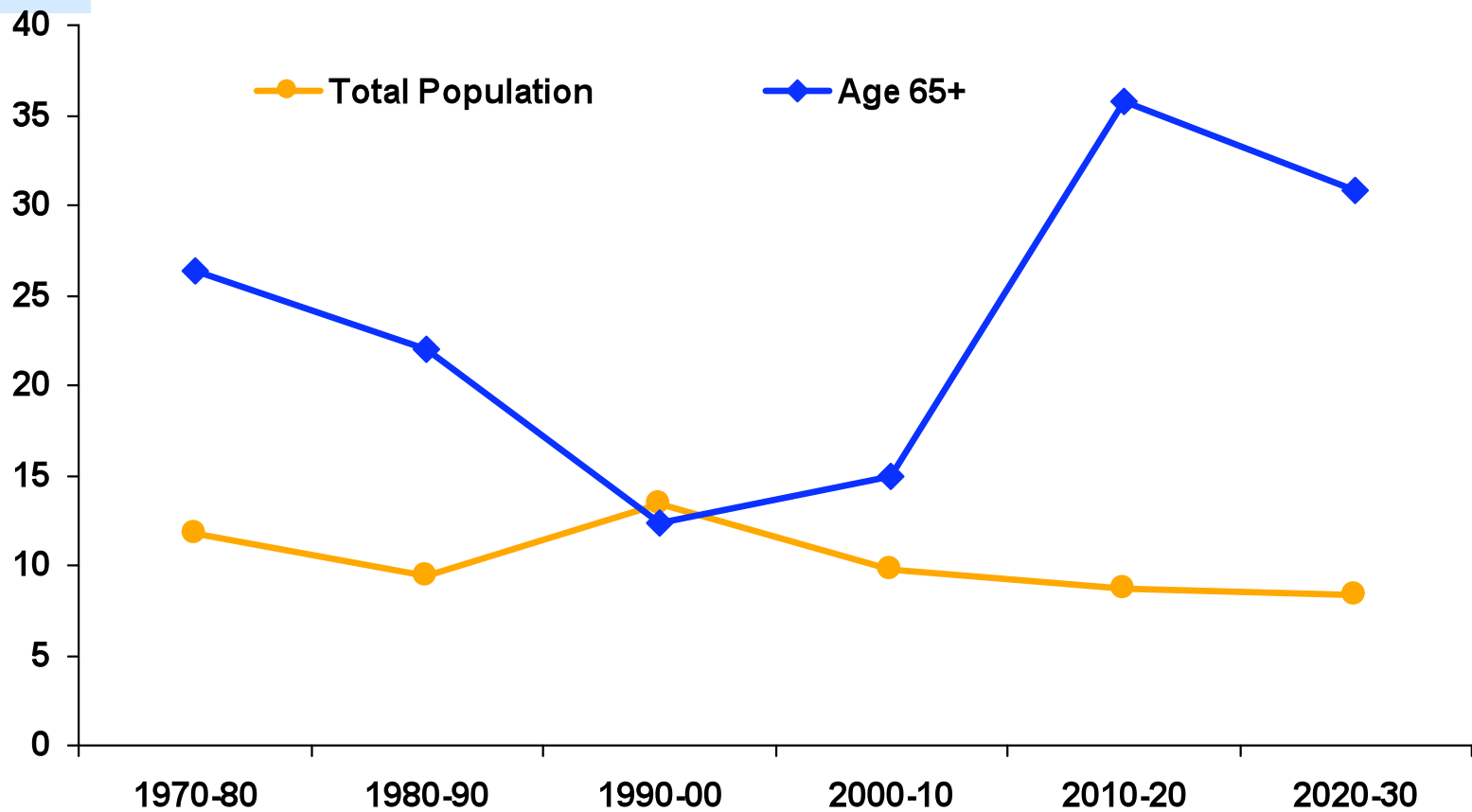
# Immigrant workers are a growing part of the U.S. labor force

Foreign-born  
Proportion of US  
Labor Force and  
Total Population,  
1970-2005



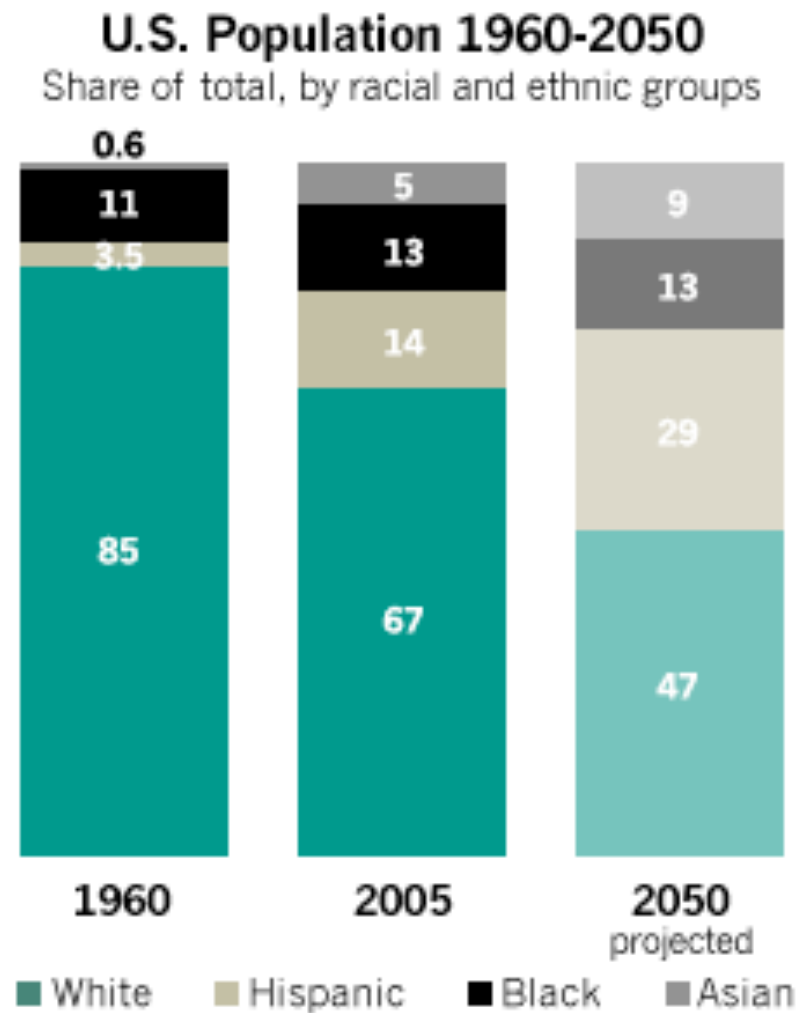
# The U.S. population 65 and over is projected to spike in the next few decades

Total population  
and age 65+  
growth,  
1970-2030



Source: William H. Frey analysis

The Latino population will triple in size and account for most of the population growth, 2005-2050



Source: Passel and Cohn, 2008

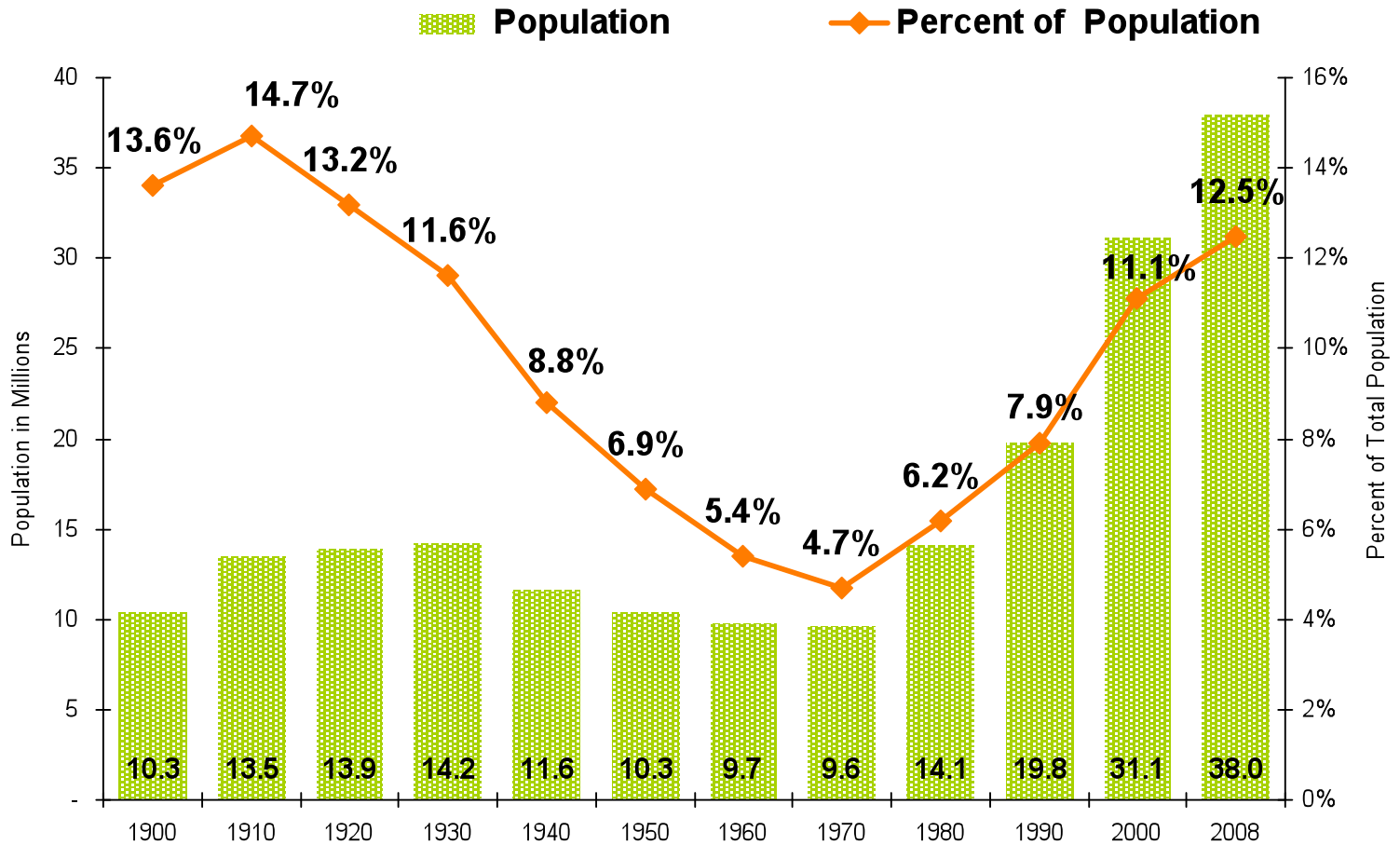


## II. The New Metropolitan Geography of Immigration

Public Library, Montgomery County, MD

Africans are a part of the “new immigration” that has taken place since 1965.

Total Foreign Born and Share Foreign Born in the United States, 1900-2008





# Few cities have maintained their status as gateways throughout the 20th century

## 1900

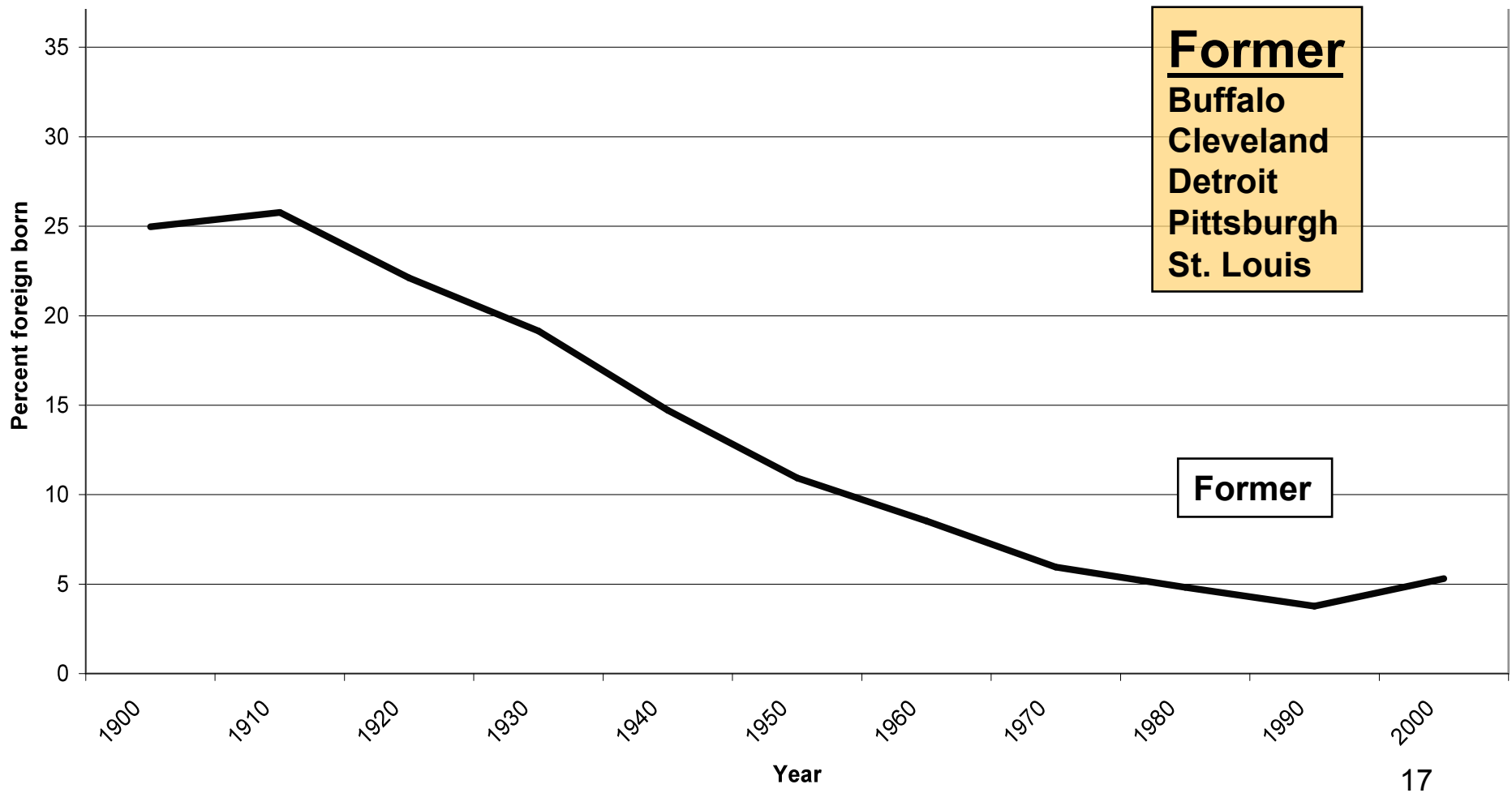
|                      |                  |             |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------|
| <b>New York</b>      | <b>1,270,080</b> | <b>37.0</b> |
| <b>Chicago</b>       | <b>587,112</b>   | <b>34.6</b> |
| <b>Philadelphia</b>  | <b>295,340</b>   | <b>22.8</b> |
| <i>Boston</i>        | <i>197,129</i>   | <i>35.1</i> |
| <i>Cleveland</i>     | <i>124,631</i>   | <i>32.6</i> |
| <b>San Francisco</b> | <b>116,885</b>   | <b>34.1</b> |
| <i>St. Louis</i>     | <i>111,356</i>   | <i>19.4</i> |
| <i>Buffalo</i>       | <i>104,252</i>   | <i>29.6</i> |
| <i>Detroit</i>       | <i>96,503</i>    | <i>33.8</i> |
| <i>Milwaukee</i>     | <i>88,991</i>    | <i>31.2</i> |

## 2008

|                      |                  |             |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------|
| <b>New York</b>      | <b>3,365,107</b> | <b>36.4</b> |
| <i>Los Angeles</i>   | <i>1,537,661</i> | <i>39.4</i> |
| <b>Chicago</b>       | <b>638,730</b>   | <b>21.4</b> |
| <i>Houston</i>       | <i>593,514</i>   | <i>28.4</i> |
| <i>Phoenix</i>       | <i>370,047</i>   | <i>23.3</i> |
| <i>San Jose</i>      | <i>359,786</i>   | <i>38.1</i> |
| <i>San Diego</i>     | <i>339,617</i>   | <i>25.2</i> |
| <i>Dallas</i>        | <i>335,784</i>   | <i>26.6</i> |
| <b>San Francisco</b> | <b>293,811</b>   | <b>35.0</b> |
| <b>Philadelphia</b>  | <b>204,746</b>   | <b>10.5</b> |

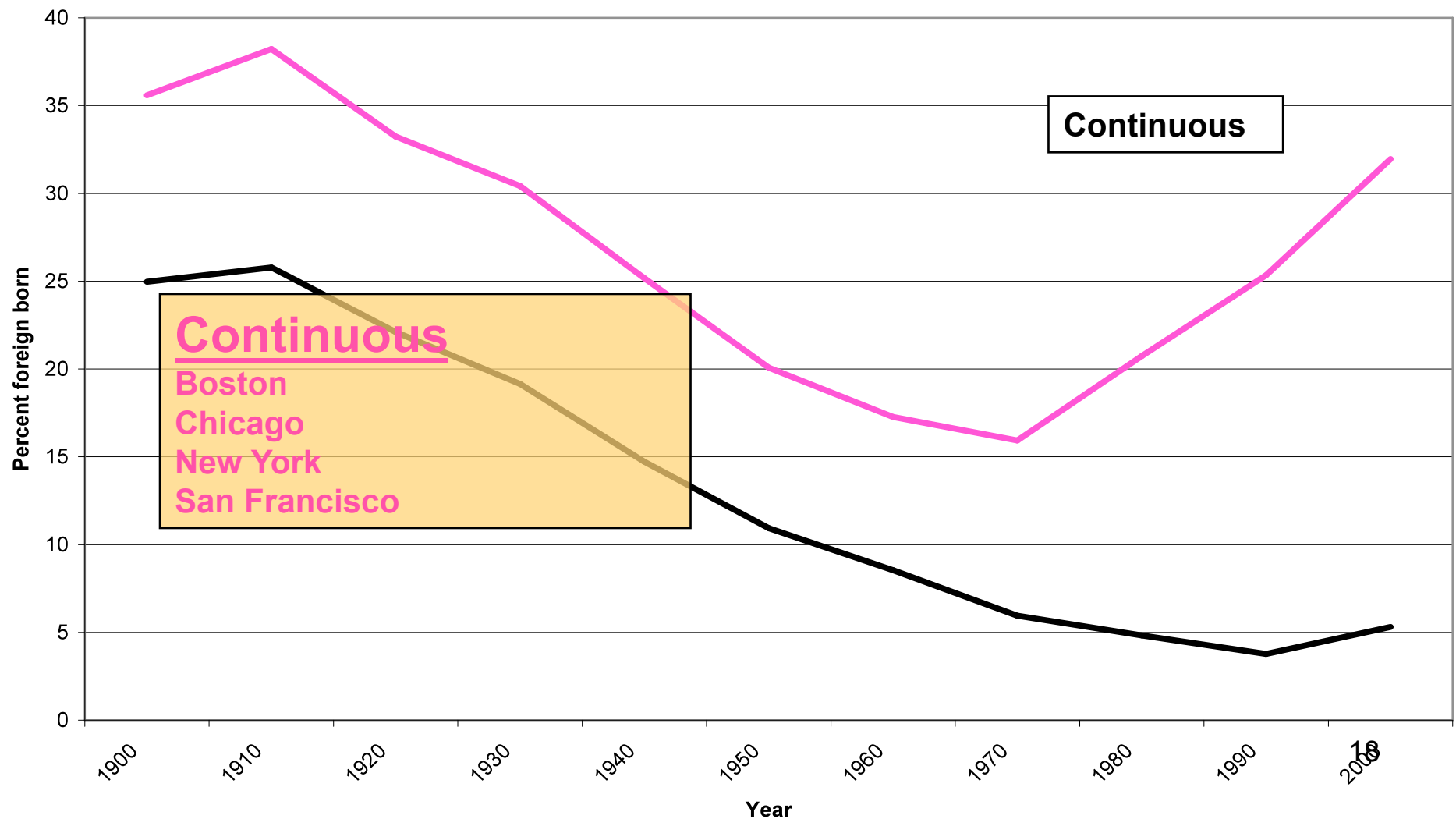
# Former gateways are no longer major destinations

Percent of Foreign Born in Cities by Gateway Type, 1900-2000



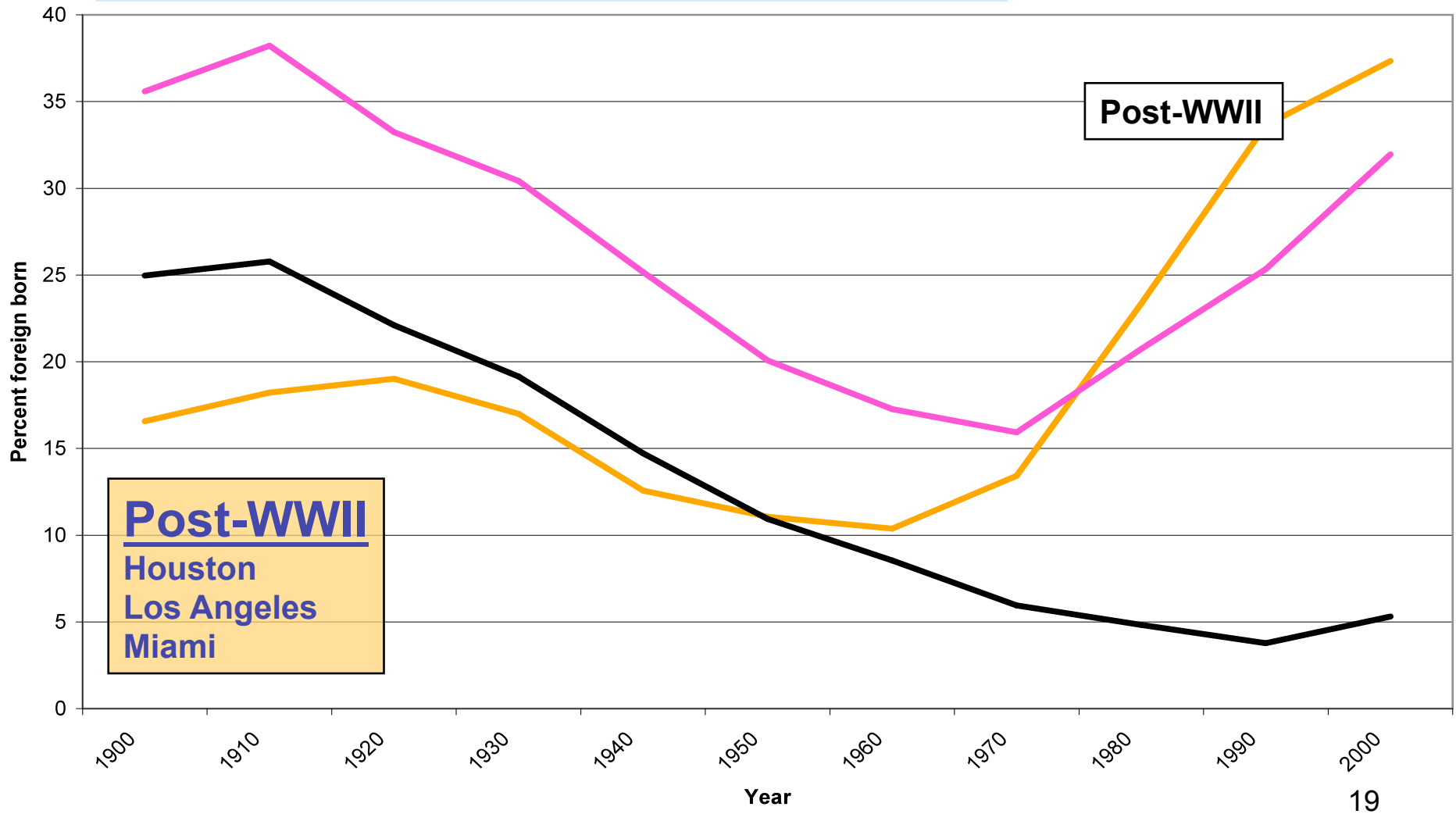
# Continuous gateways have always attracted more than their fair share of immigrants

Percent of Foreign Born in Cities by Gateway Type, 1900-2000



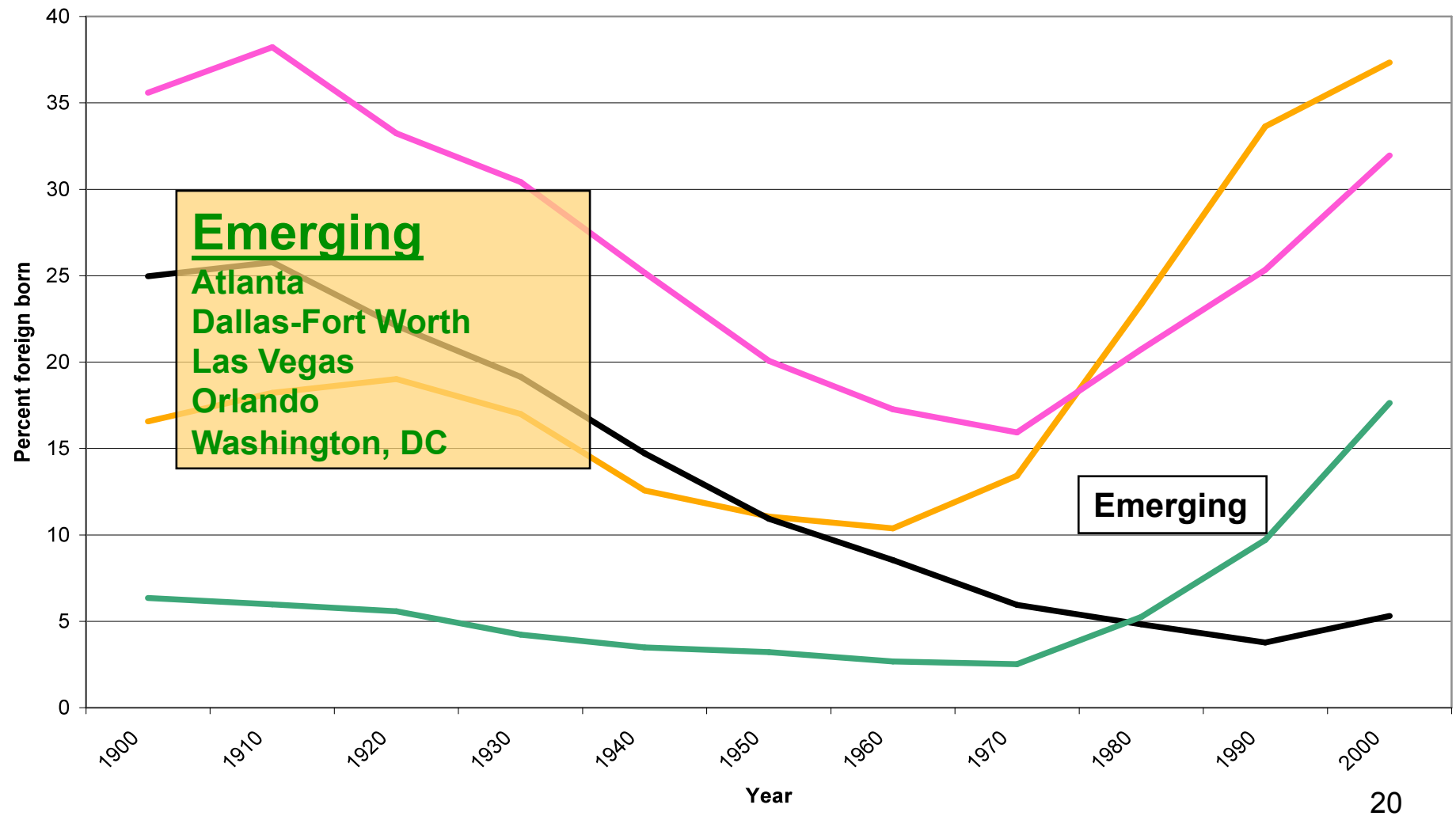
# Post-WWII gateways became destinations during the past 50 years

Percent of Foreign Born in Cities by Gateway Type, 1900-2000



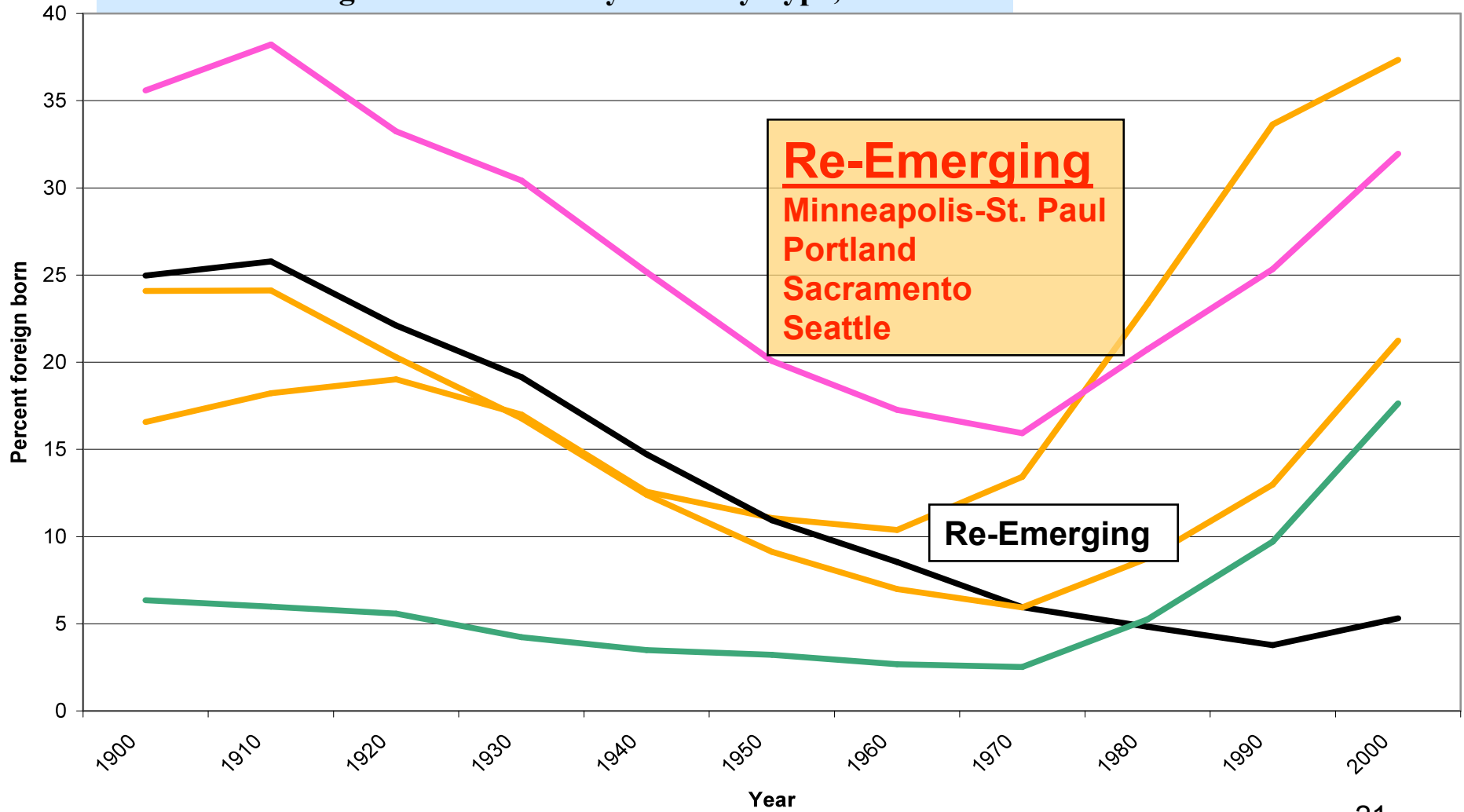
# Emerging gateways experienced very recent and rapid growth in their foreign-born population

Percent of Foreign Born in Cities by Gateway Type, 1900-2000



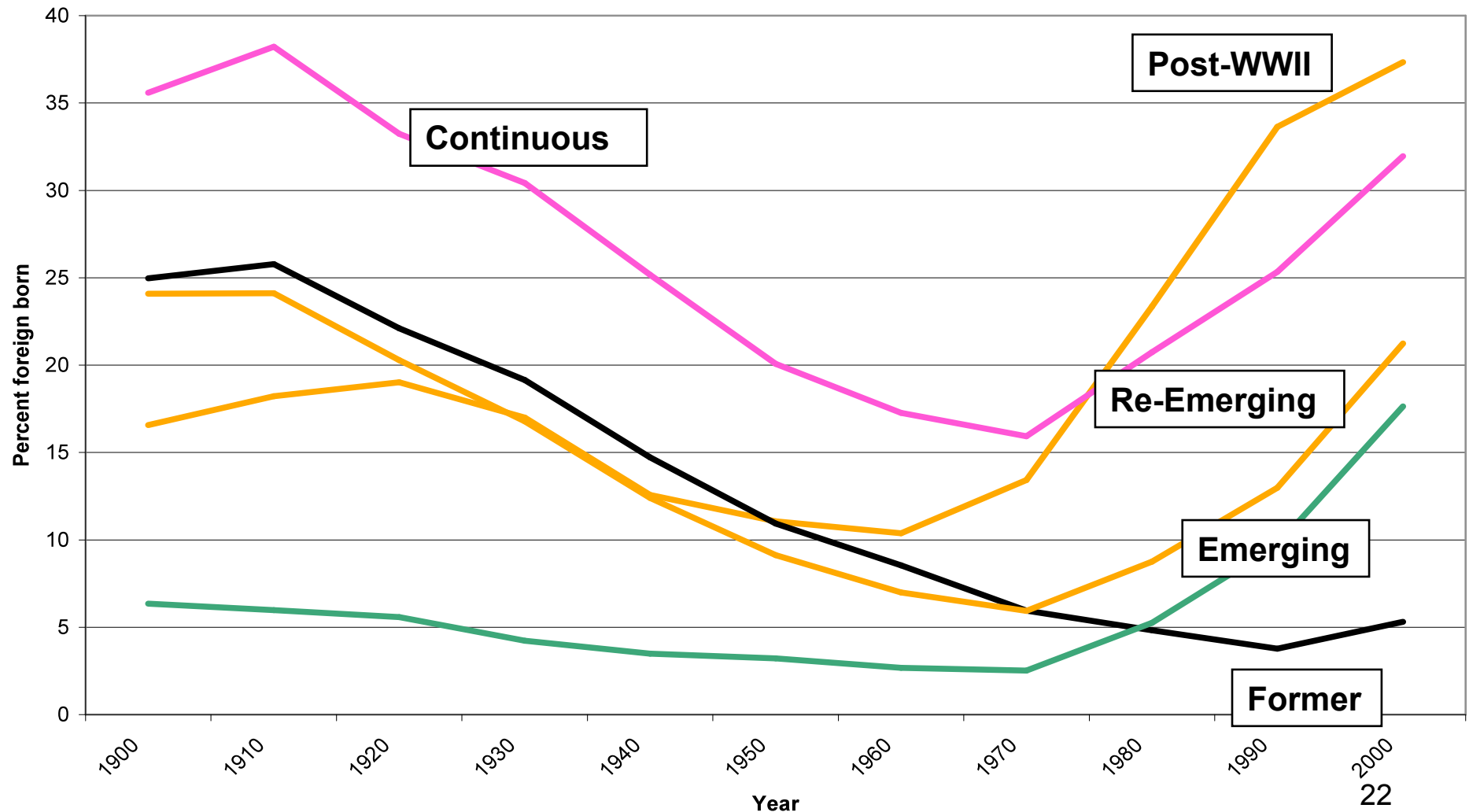
# Re-Emerging gateways are once again major destinations for immigrants

Percent of Foreign Born in Cities by Gateway Type, 1900-2000



# Emerging gateways represent a new context for immigrant integration

Percent of Foreign Born in Cities by Gateway Type, 1900-2000





## Eight out of the top ten metropolitan areas have more than 1 million immigrant residents

### Metropolitan Areas with the Largest Number of Immigrants, 2008

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1 New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island | 5,328,033 |
| 2 Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana         | 4,374,583 |
| 3 Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach      | 1,995,037 |
| 4 Chicago-Naperville-Joliet                | 1,689,617 |
| 5 San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont            | 1,258,324 |
| 6 Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown               | 1,237,719 |
| 7 Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington              | 1,121,321 |
| 8 Washington-Arlington-Alexandria          | 1,089,950 |
| 9 Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario         | 894,527   |
| 10 Boston-Cambridge-Quincy                 | 731,960   |

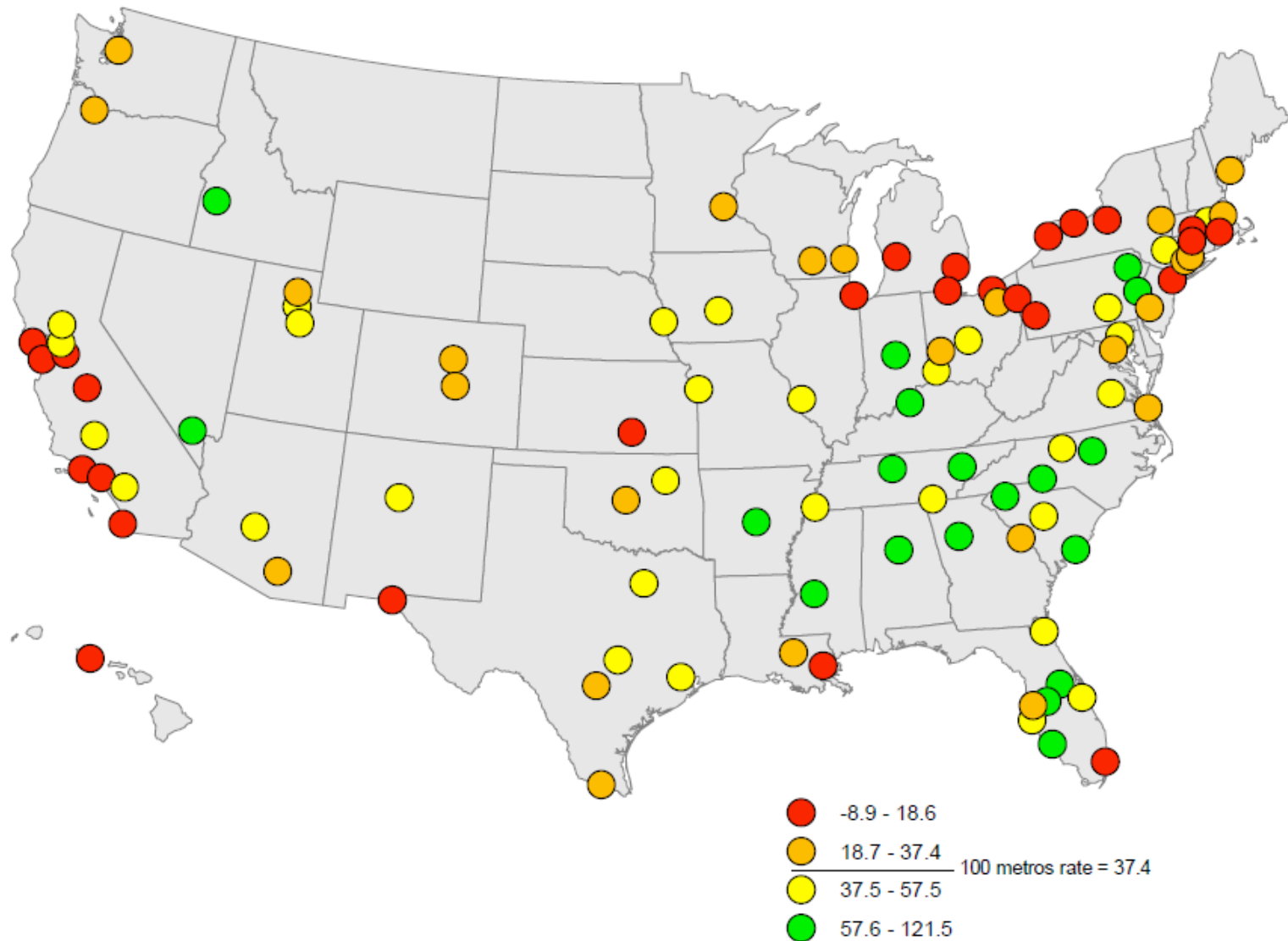
# Metropolitan Las Vegas ranked 6<sup>th</sup> among all metro areas in immigrant growth between 1990 and 2008

## Metropolitan Areas with the Fastest Rate of Foreign-Born Growth, 1990-2008

|  | <u>2008</u>    | <u>% change 1990-2008</u> |
|--|----------------|---------------------------|
| Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord               | 163,539        | 621                       |
| Raleigh-Cary                             | 117,298        | 569                       |
| Greensboro-High Point                    | 51,423         | 511                       |
| Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta           | 710,885        | 506                       |
| Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin | 107,184        | 488                       |
| <b>Las Vegas-Paradise</b>                | <b>403,674</b> | <b>474</b>                |
| Greenville-Mauldin-Easley                | 39,915         | 431                       |
| Cape Coral-Fort Myers                    | 89,388         | 412                       |
| Boise City-Nampa                         | 44,844         | 368                       |
| Provo-Orem                               | 36,644         | 340                       |

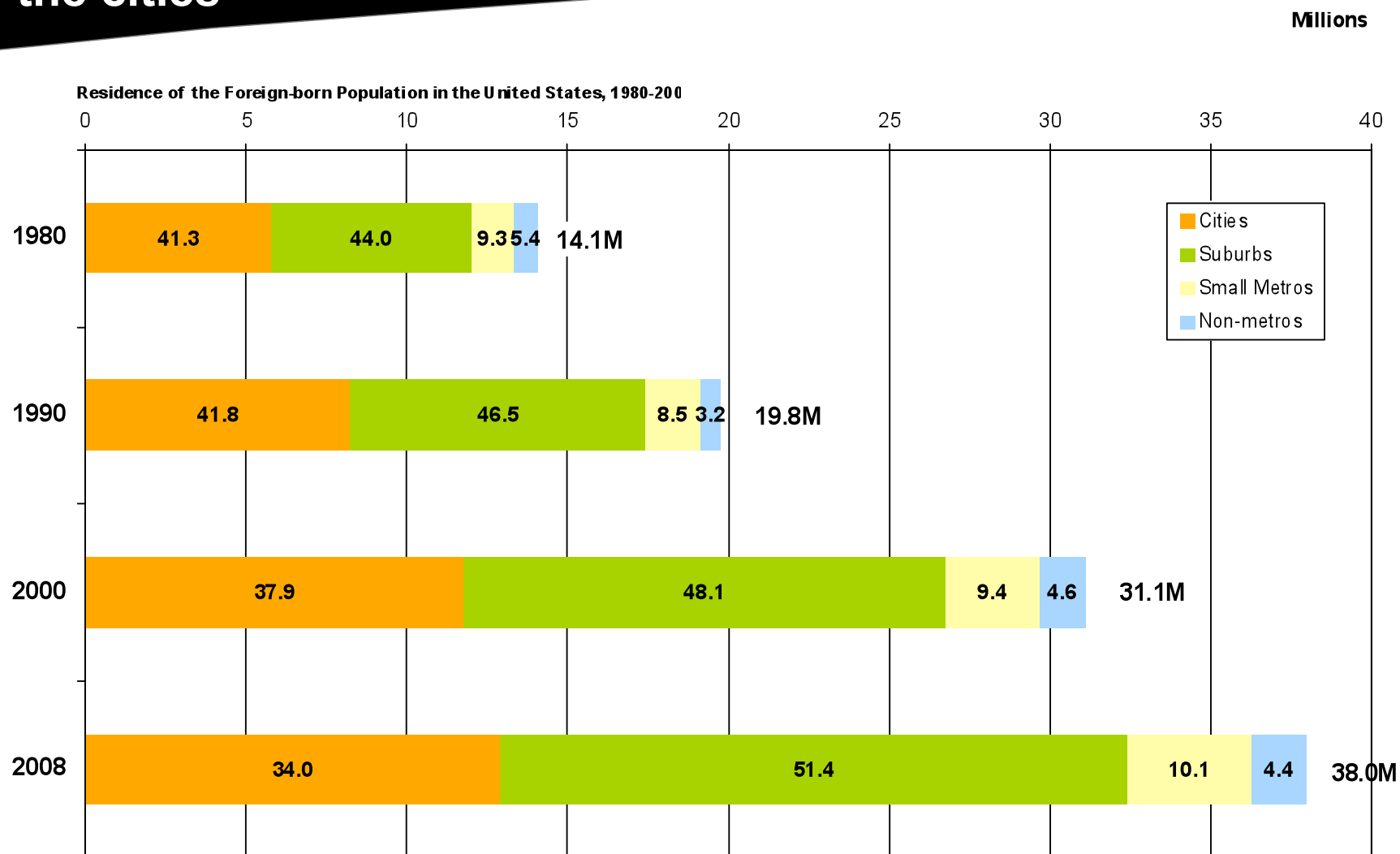
# Metro areas in the Southeast had the highest rates of immigrant growth

Percent change in the foreign-born population in the 100 largest metros, 2000-2008



Map created by Brookings using 2000 Census and 2008 ACS data

# Dramatic shifts in settlement patterns among immigrants show more immigrants in the suburbs of the 100 largest metros than in the cities



Note: Cities and suburbs are defined for the 100 largest metropolitan areas based on 2000 population. Central cities are those that are first named in the metropolitan area title and any other named cities that had at least 100,000 total population in 2000. The residual of the metro area is defined as suburban. The 261 metro areas that are not in the top 100 are classified as "small metros." In 2008, data for five cities in five of the top 100 metros were not available so the foreign-born population in those metros were classified as fully suburban.

# What happened between 2007 and 2008?

## **Weathering the Recession?**

Atlanta, Houston, Dallas-Ft. Worth, Portland (OR)

## **Immigration U-Turn?**

**Phoenix**, Riverside-San Bernardino, San Jose,  
Minneapolis-St Paul, **Las Vegas**

## **Holding Steady?**

Charlotte, Raleigh, **Salt Lake City**, Orlando,  
Sacramento, Philadelphia, Washington DC

### **III. State and Local Response**

**Outside a tax preparation shop, Herndon, VA**



## State- and local-level reforms

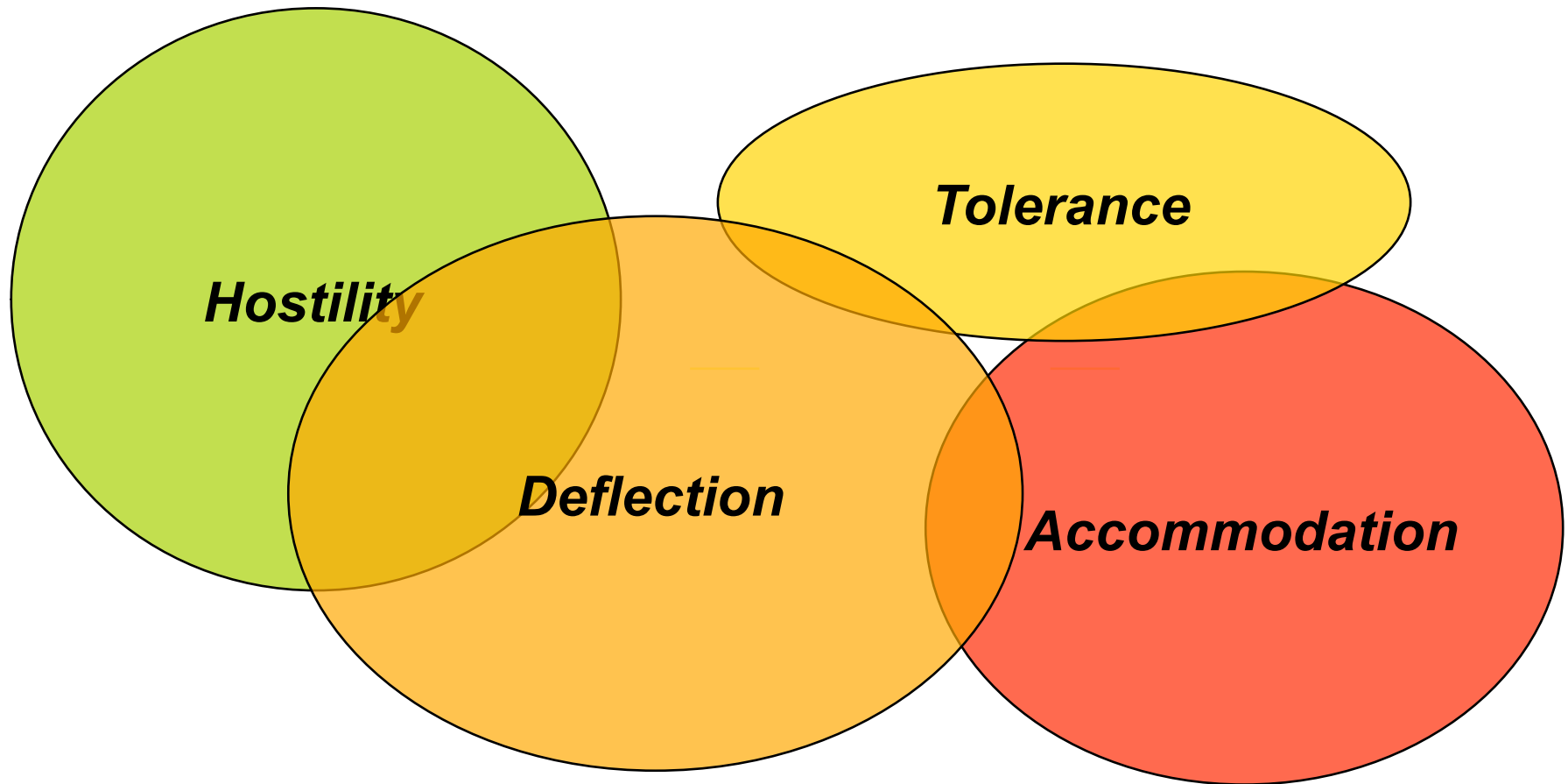
**National Conference of State Legislatures reports more than 1500 state laws were considered in 2009 that are immigrant- and immigration-related**

**353 became law in 48 states**

**Countless local jurisdictions across the country have introduced local laws**



Local response and legislation varies  
in the absence of federal immigration reform



# THE INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS:

## The Policy Context for Localities



No uniform set of policies and programs to aid in the social, economic, and political incorporation of immigrants



Local action, i.e., day labor, language policies, occupancy policies, local police enforcement offer fragmented response



Local efforts may be compounded by the large number of recent arrivals and local governance structure



Immigrant integration operates at the local level

# Immigration: Challenges for the Obama Administration

I

Overcoming political paralysis to reform  
US immigration policy

II

Implementing a new immigration plan

III

Socially, civically, and economically  
integrating immigrants who are already in  
the United States

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