



METROPOLITAN POLICY PROGRAM THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

Refugee Resettlement in Metropolitan America

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San Francisco
April 21, 2007



METROPOLITAN POLICY PROGRAM

Refugee Resettlement in Metropolitan America

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Introduction

II

Data and Methodology

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Findings



I

Introduction: Background and Purpose

Refugee flows contribute to growth of the foreign-born
in U.S. places.

Little is known about refugee settlement at the
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Describing the geography of refugee resettlement can
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Data and Methodology

Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) database covering refugee admissions from 1983 through June, 2004.

Variables included year of admission, country of origin, city, county, and state of settlement.

We used the available geographical data to assign metropolitan areas to each record using 1999 OMB definitions.



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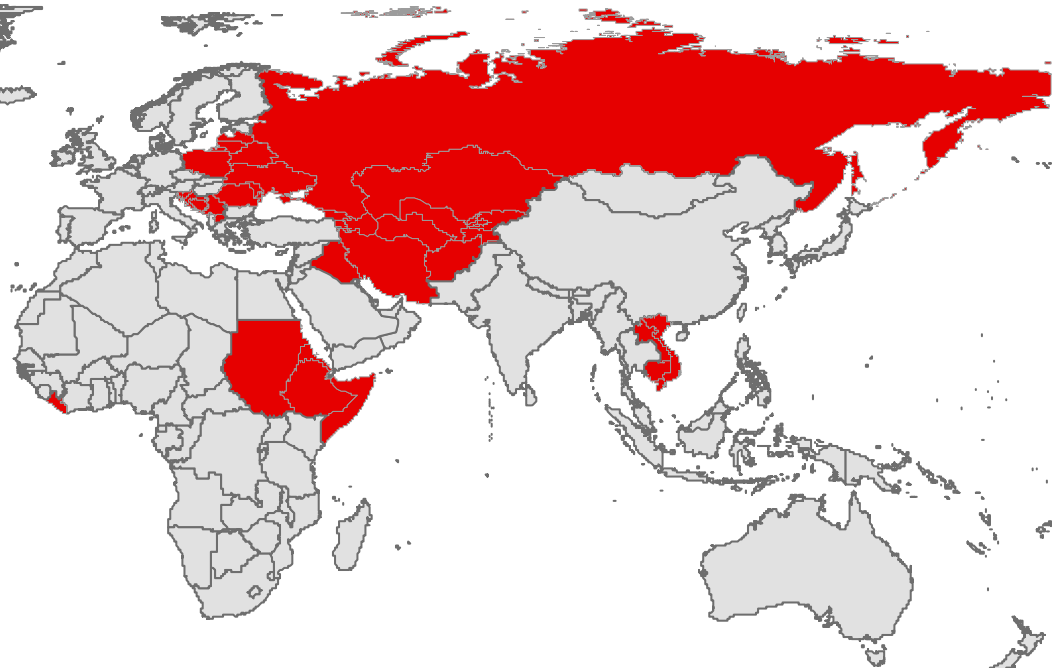
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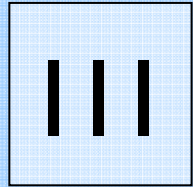
Findings



Findings: Refugee Origins

Rank	Country	Total
1	Former USSR	493,040
2	Vietnam	387,741
3	Yugoslavia	168,644
4	Laos	113,504
5	Cambodia	71,433
6	Iran	61,349
7	Cuba	51,787
8	Somalia	47,753
9	Iraq	35,252
10	Ethiopia	35,144
11	Romania	34,665
12	Afghanistan	31,180
13	Poland	28,809
14	Sudan	22,647
15	Liberia	20,925





Findings: Refugee Origins

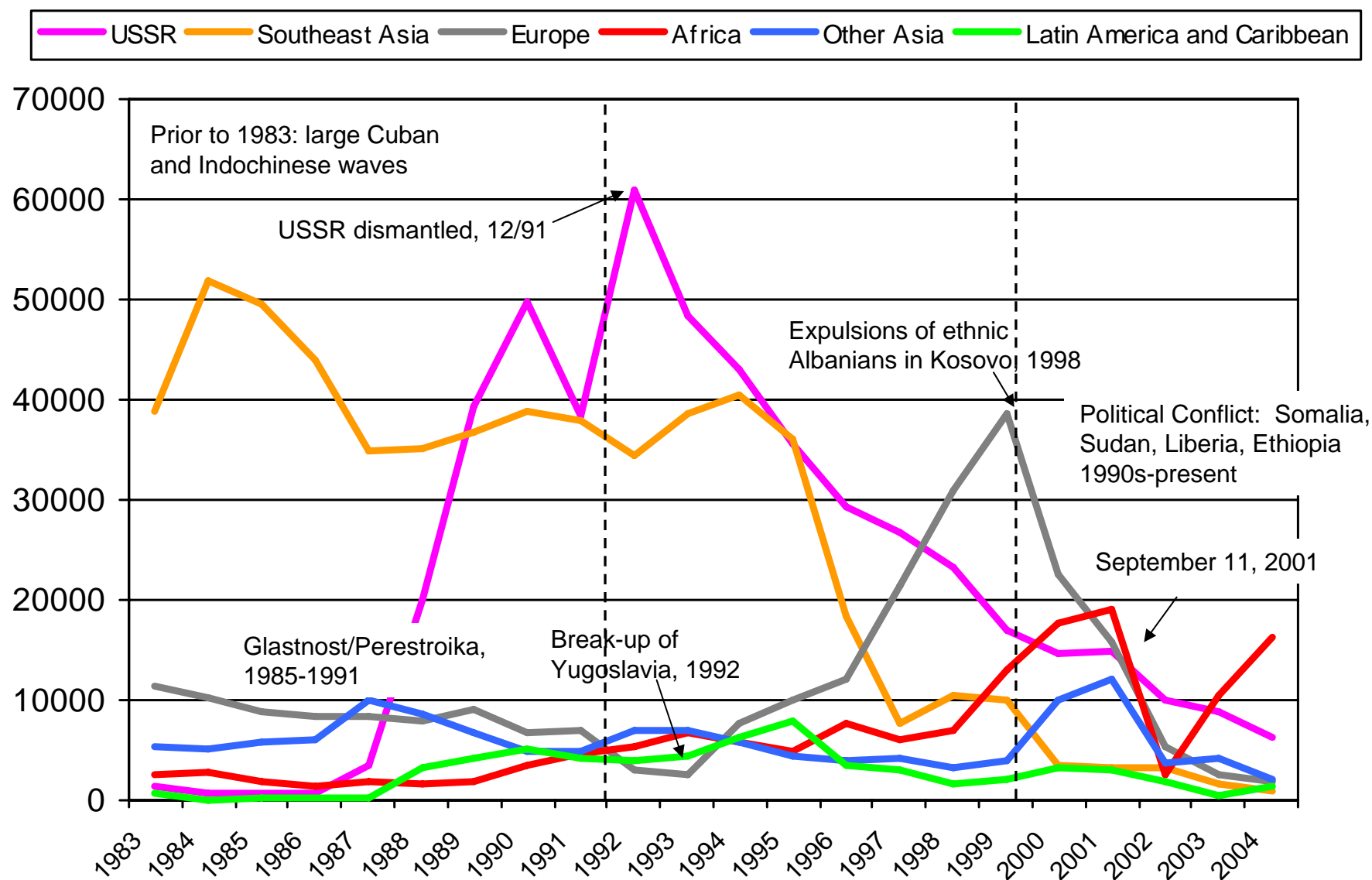
Three periods, which we characterize by the geographical origins of the refugees:

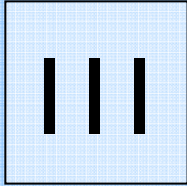
1. Cold War Period: pre-1980 to 1991

2. Balkans Period: 1992 to 2000

3. Civil Conflict Period: late 1990s to present

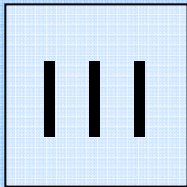
Refugees Resettled in the U.S. by Year and Region of Origin



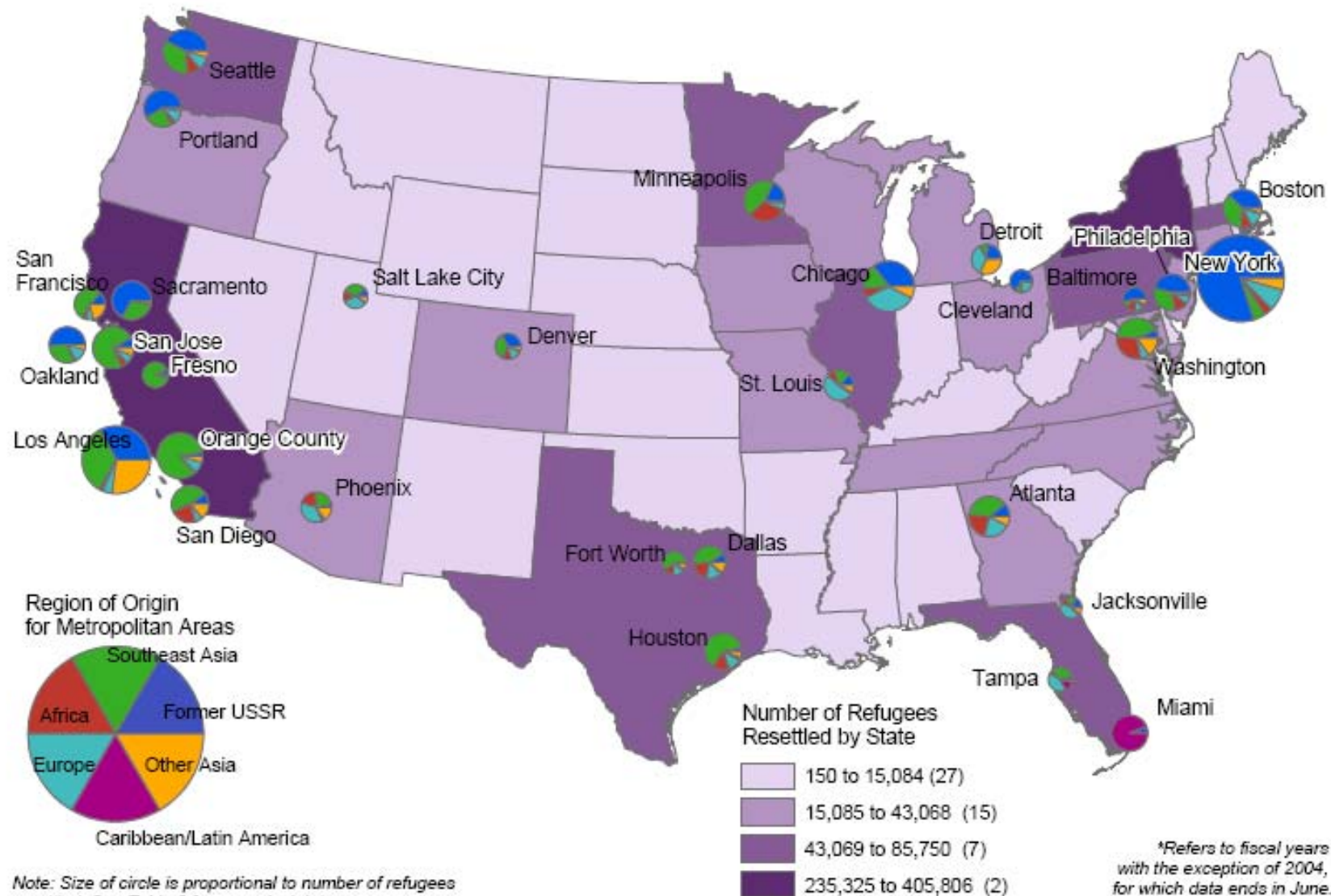


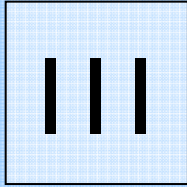
Findings: Settlement in Traditional Immigrant Gateways

Refugee Rank	Foreign Born Rank	Metropolitan Area	Refugees Resettled
1	2	New York	186,522
2	1	Los Angeles	114,606
3	3	Chicago	63,322
4	6	Orange County	50,714
5	23	Seattle	48,573
6	12	San Jose	42,565
7	7	Washington	41,795
8	30	Minneapolis-St. Paul	41,239
9	16	Atlanta	40,149
10	29	Sacramento	37,436
12	31	Portland	34,292
14	20	Philadelphia	32,981
21	60	St. Louis	22,046



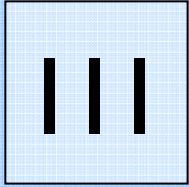
Findings: Top 30 Refugee Metropolitan Areas



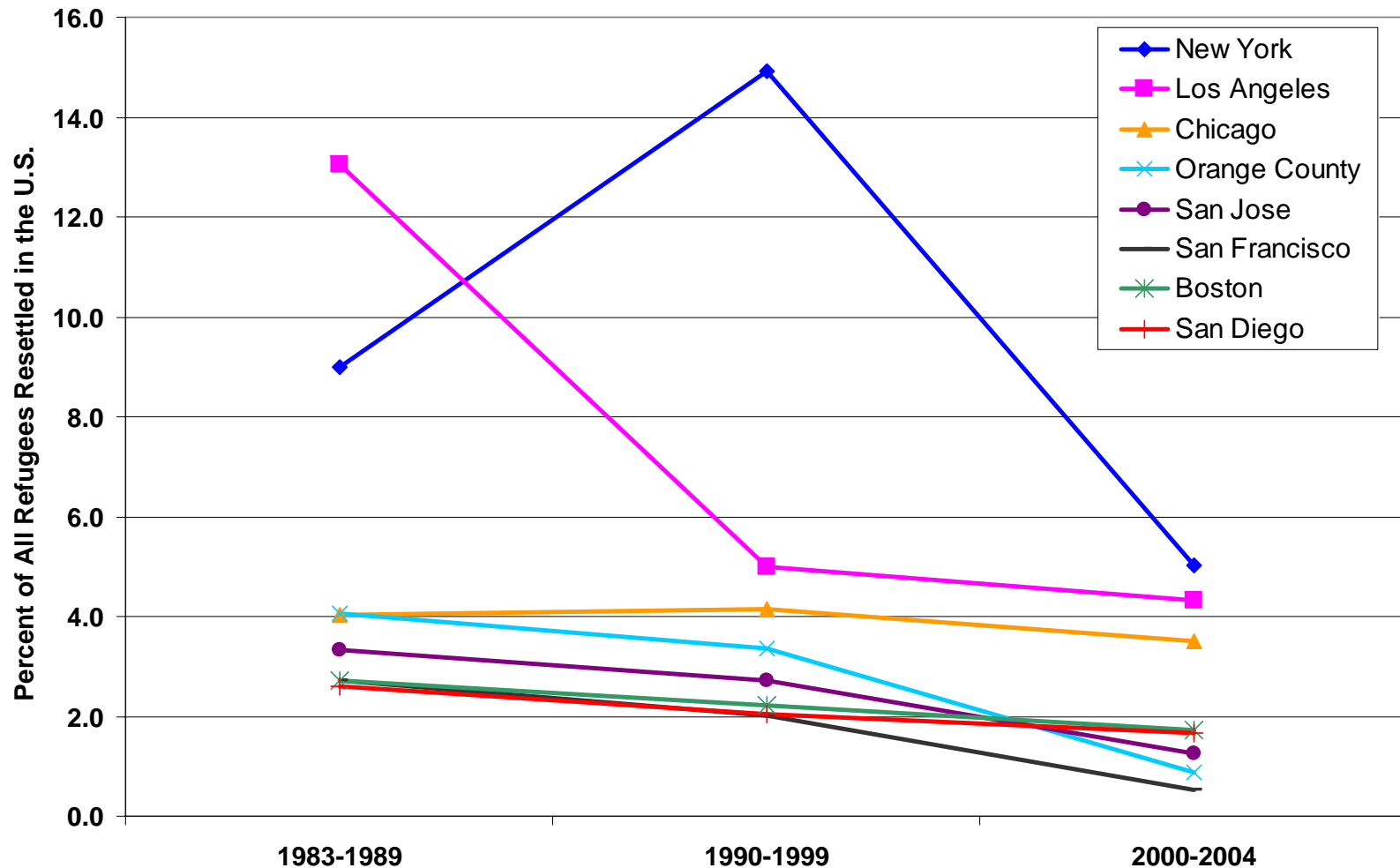


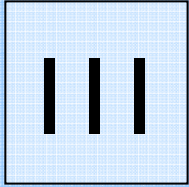
Findings: Shift away from traditional immigrant gateways to newer gateways and non-gateways

Metropolitan Area	1983-1989	Share of U.S. 1980s	1990-1999	Share of U.S. 1990s	2000-2004	Share of U.S. 2000s
New York	41,532	9.0	134,130	14.9	10,860	5.0
Los Angeles	60,305	13.1	44,966	5.0	9,335	4.3
Chicago	18,666	4.0	37,131	4.1	7,525	3.5
Orange County	18,710	4.1	30,138	3.4	1,866	0.9
Seattle	11,889	2.6	28,129	3.1	8,555	4.0
San Jose	15,407	3.3	24,471	2.7	2,687	1.2
Washington	13,398	2.9	22,860	2.5	5,537	2.6
Minneapolis	11,061	2.4	19,980	2.2	10,198	4.7
Atlanta	6,392	1.4	25,119	2.8	8,638	4.0
Sacramento	5,383	1.2	23,719	2.6	8,334	3.9
Boston	12,571	2.7	19,957	2.2	3,704	1.7
Portland	6,066	1.3	20,891	2.3	7,335	3.4

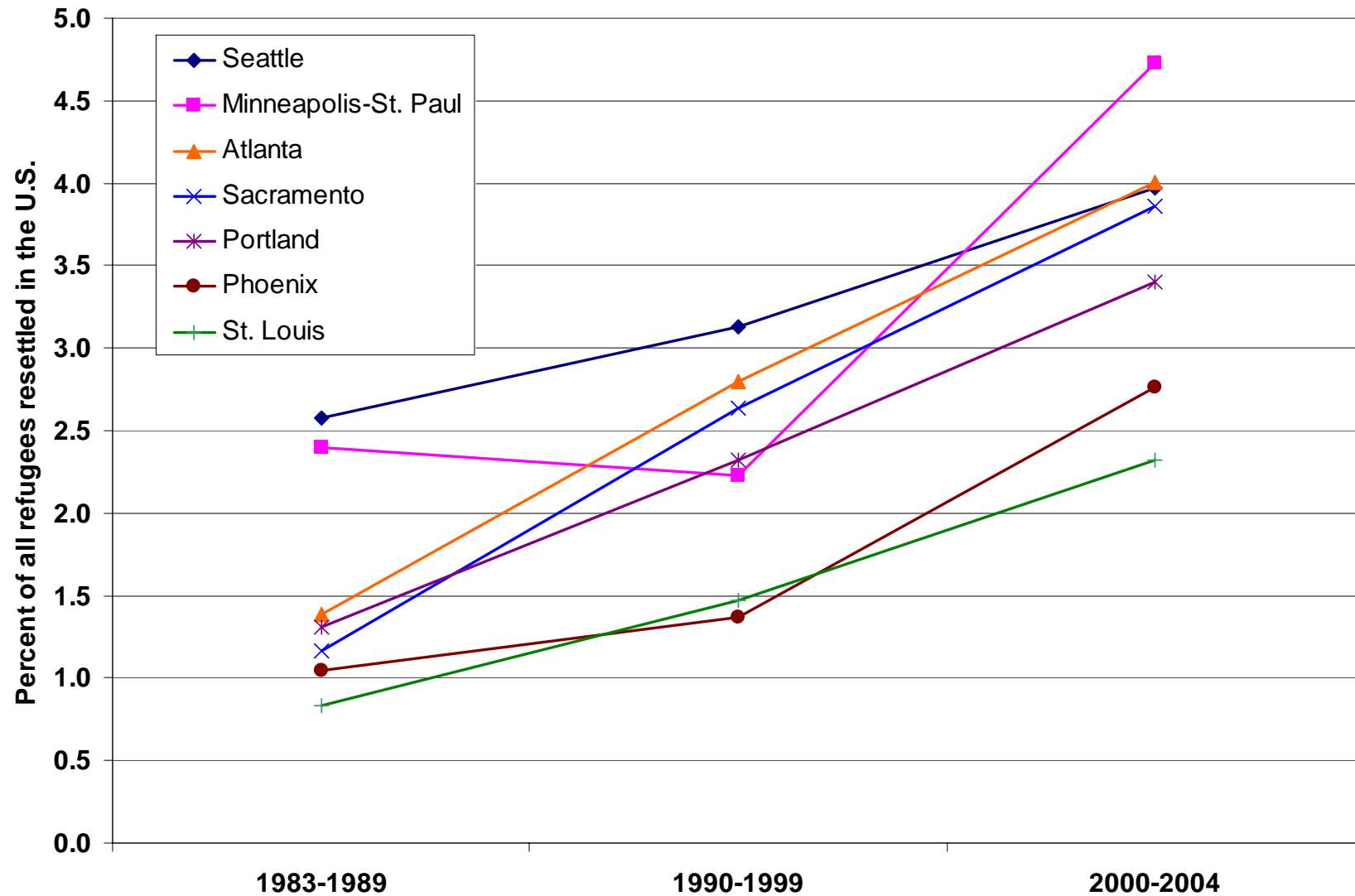


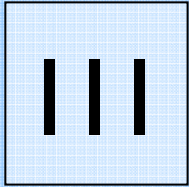
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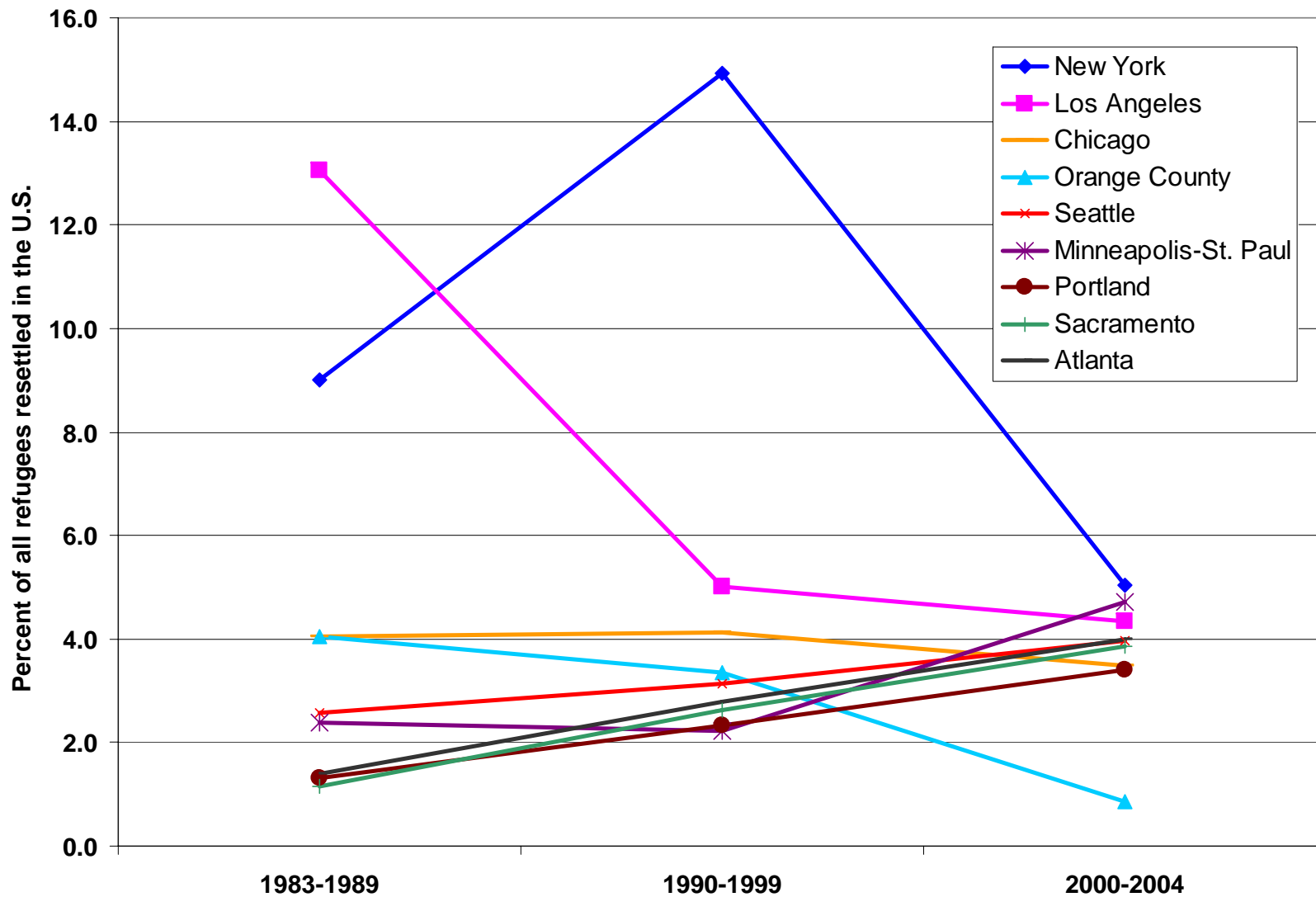


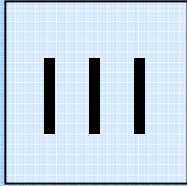
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Findings: Refugees dominate the foreign-born population in smaller places

Metropolitan Area	Total Refugees, 1990-1999	Foreign Born Present in 2000 Who Entered 1990-2000	Refugees as Percent of Recently Arrived Foreign Born
Utica-Rome, NY	6,084	7,013	86.6
Fargo-Moorhead, ND-MN	2,718	3,572	76.1
Erie, PA	2,969	3,992	74.4
Binghamton, NY	2,601	4,760	54.6
Spokane, WA	4,466	9,131	48.9
Portland, ME	1,871	3,888	48.1
Lincoln, NE	4,131	9,398	44.0
Waterloo-Cedar Falls, IA	1,397	3,307	42.2
Burlington, VT	1,803	4,559	39.5
Manchester, NH	2,325	6,096	38.1
Des Moines, IA	5,540	14,722	37.6



Findings: Refugee Hubs

Refugees from similar origins often resettled together.

Voluntary agencies often specialize in placing refugees from specific backgrounds.

Sometimes, the placement of too many refugees in one area has overwhelmed local communities or stirred tension.



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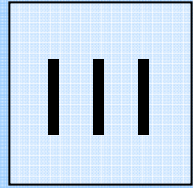
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Findings: Refugee Hubs: Former USSR



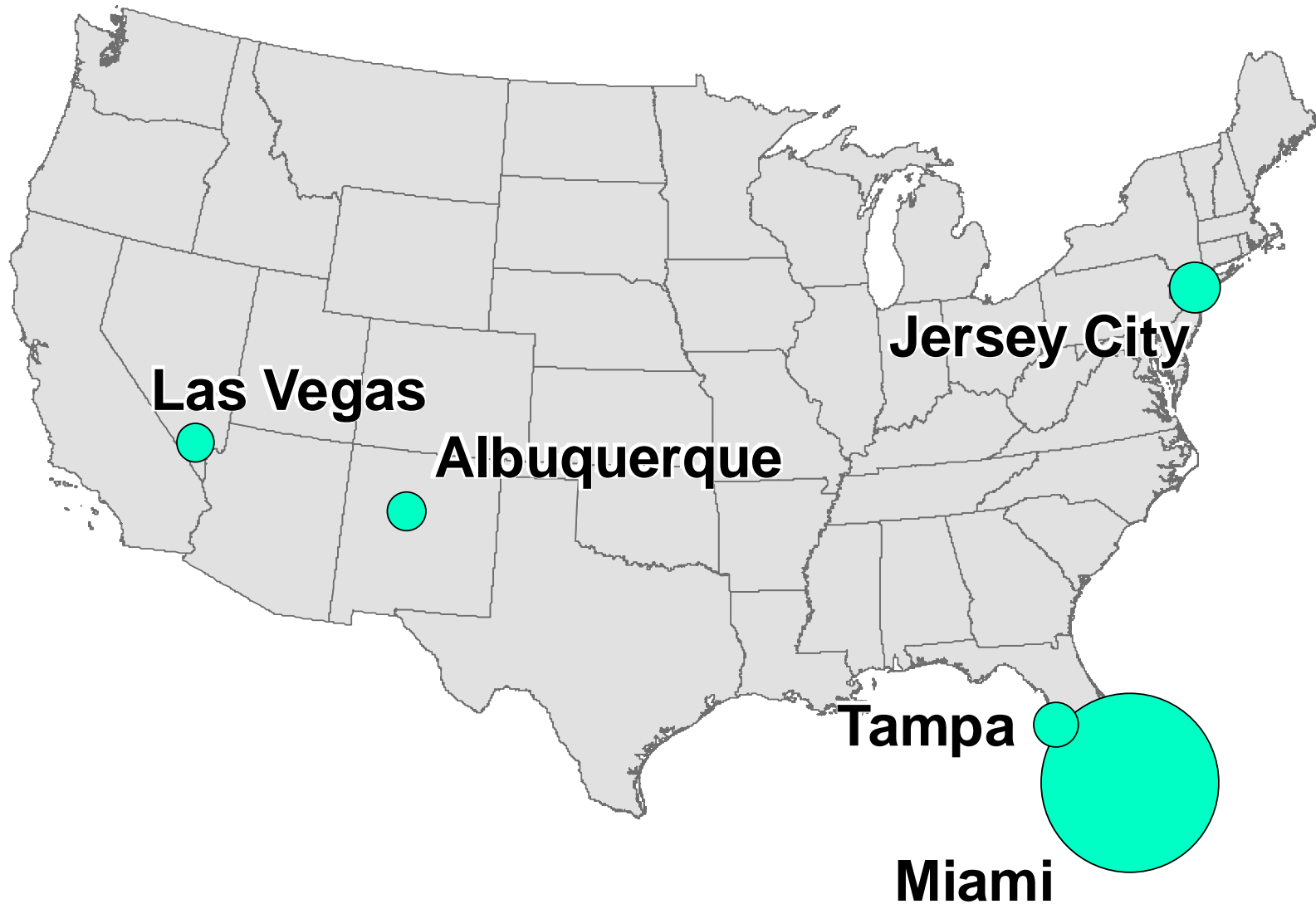


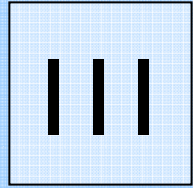
Findings: Refugee Hubs: Iran



III

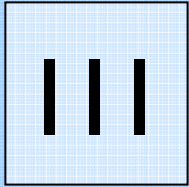
Findings: Refugee Hubs: Cuba



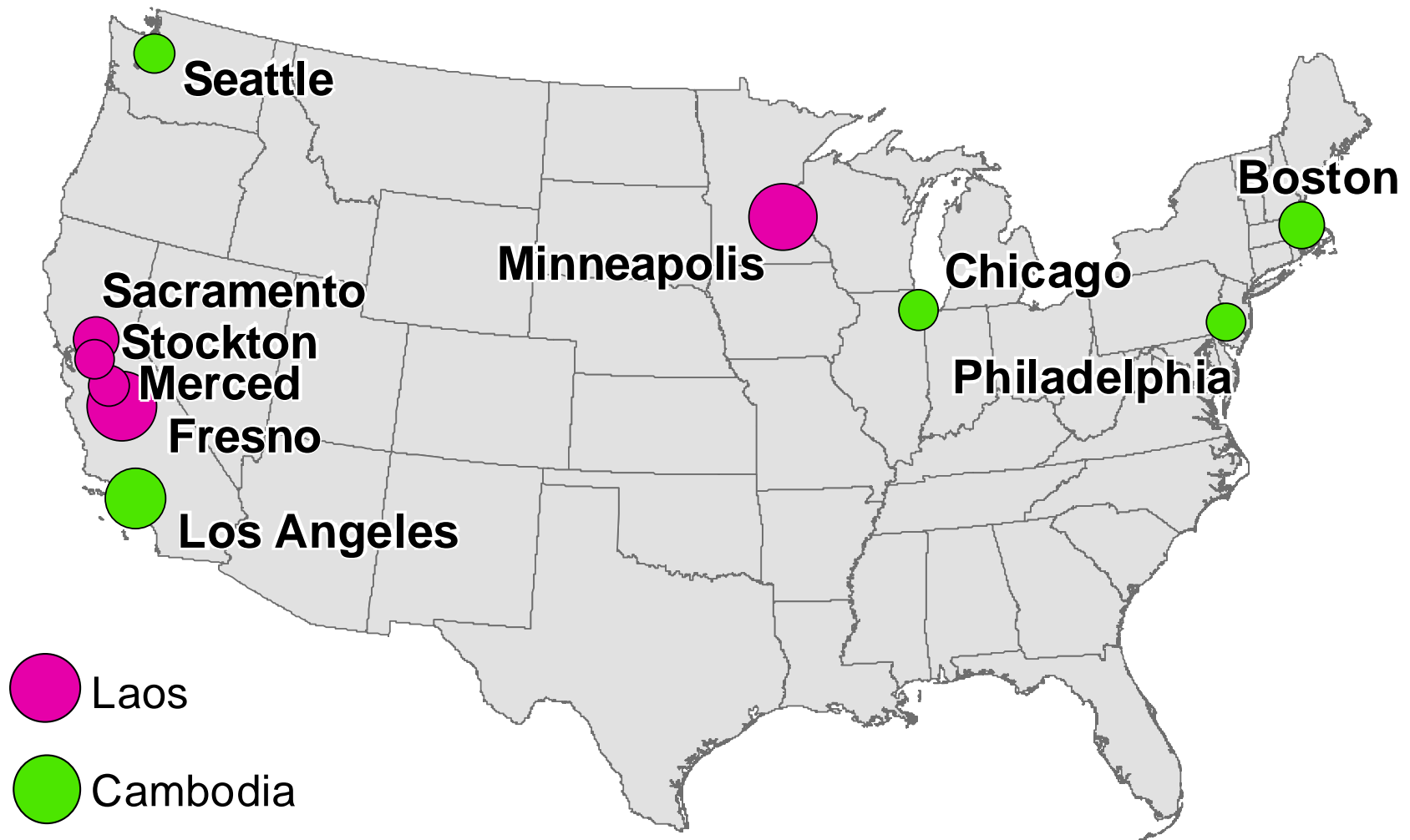


Findings: Vietnam



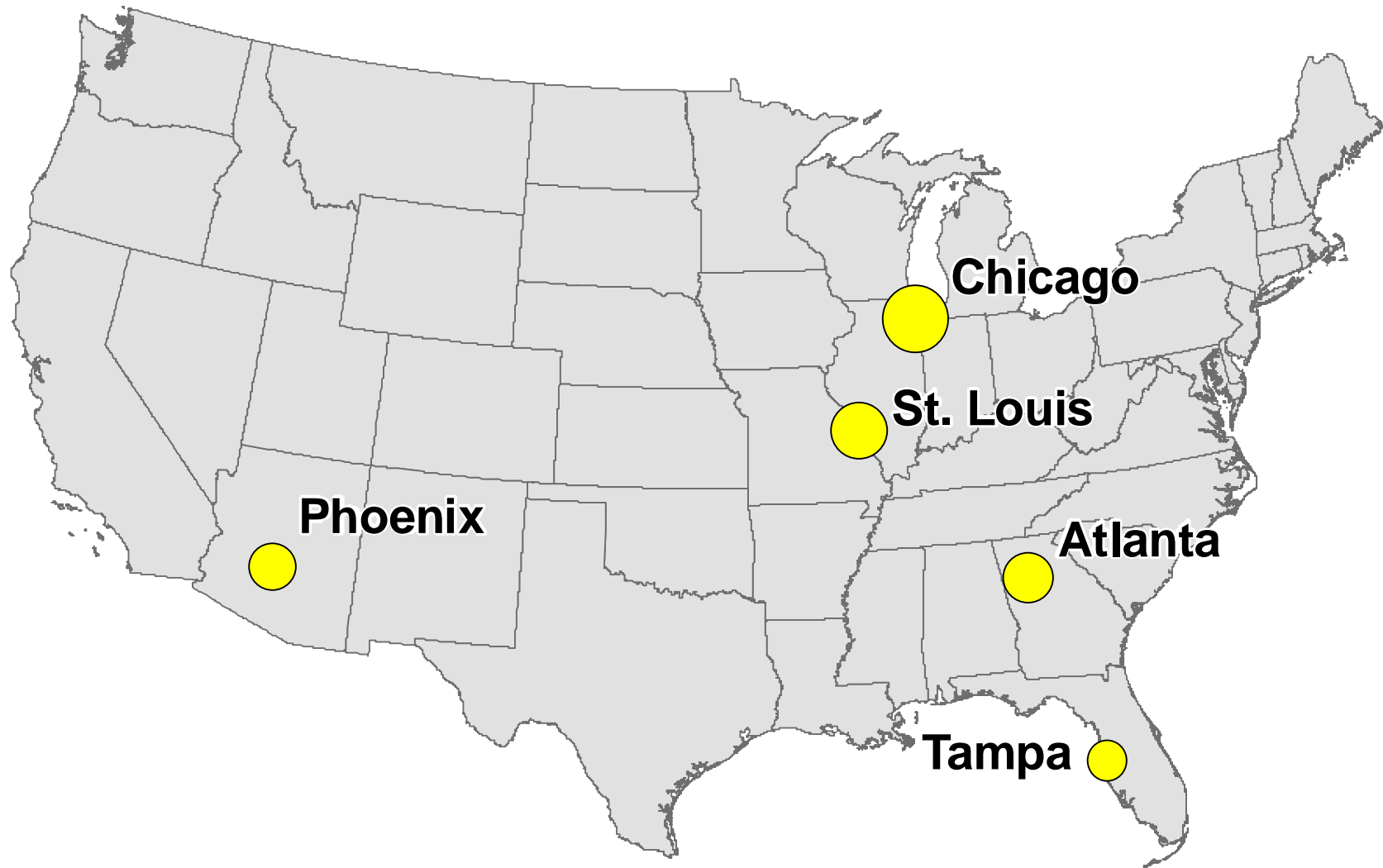


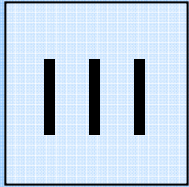
Findings: Laos and Cambodia



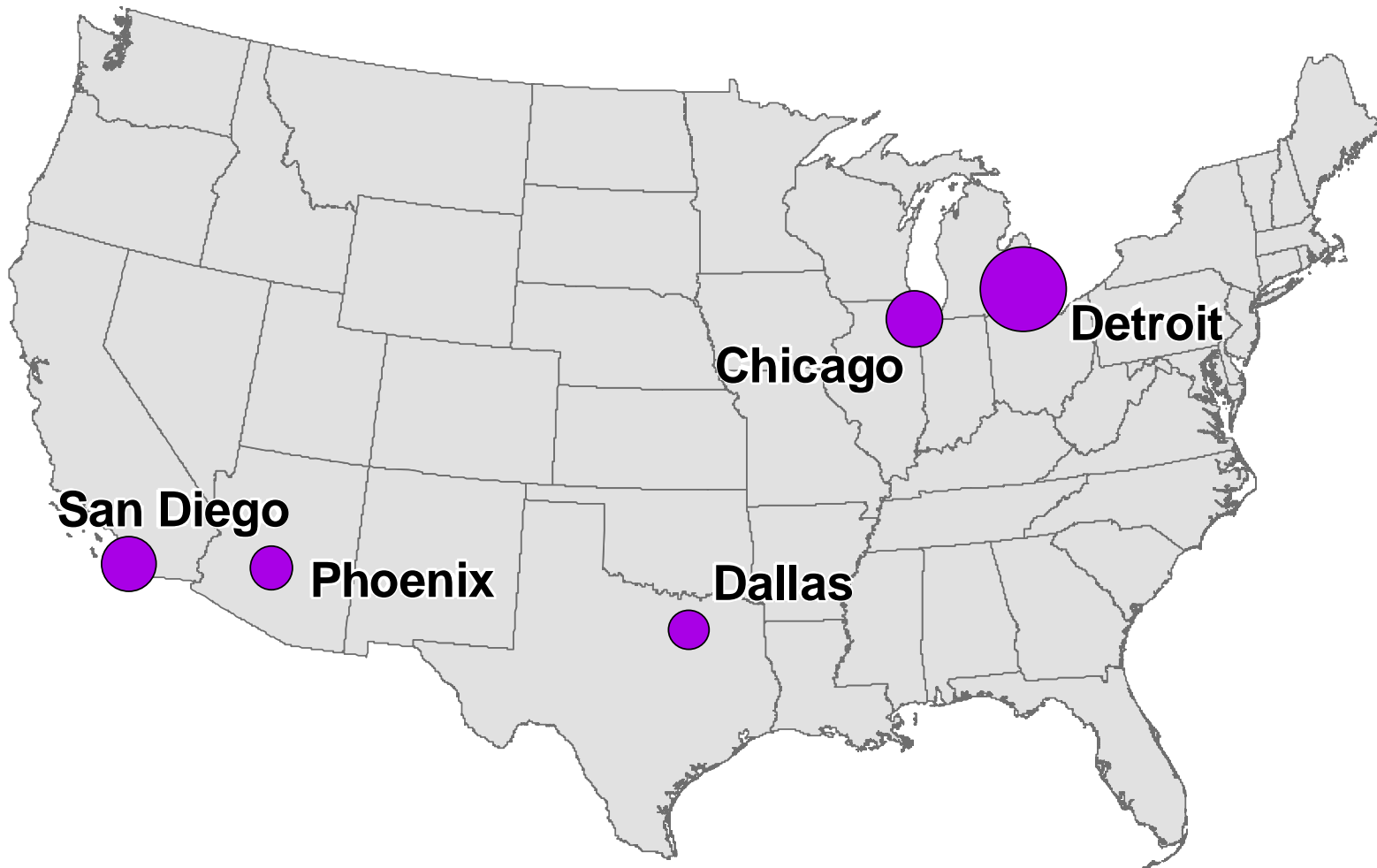
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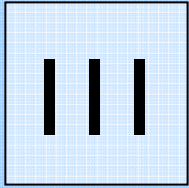
Findings: Former Yugoslavia





Findings: Iraq



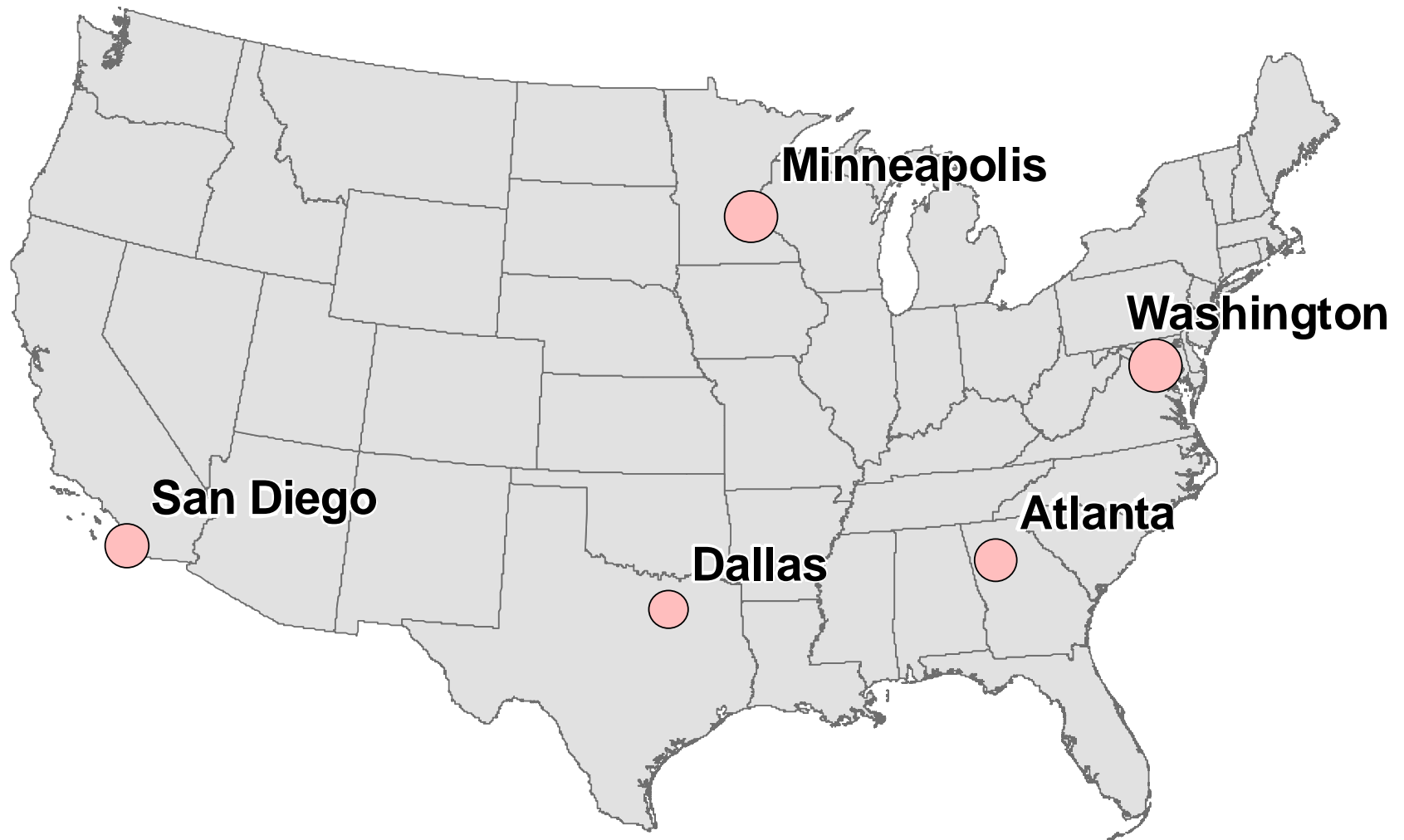


Findings: Somalia



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Findings: Ethiopia





Conclusions and Policy Implications

Unlike other immigrants, refugees have access to considerable federal, state, and local support.

Meeting local service needs: affordable housing, health care, job training and placement, language

Metro areas differ in their experience with and ability to integrate refugees.



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