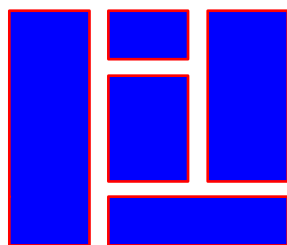


**Randy Capps,  
The Urban Institute**

***The Health and Well-being of  
Children in Immigrant Families:  
Confronting the Crisis***

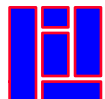


**“Addressing the Best Interests of Children in Immigrant  
and Refugee Families: Rising to the Challenge”  
Minneapolis, May 1, 2008**

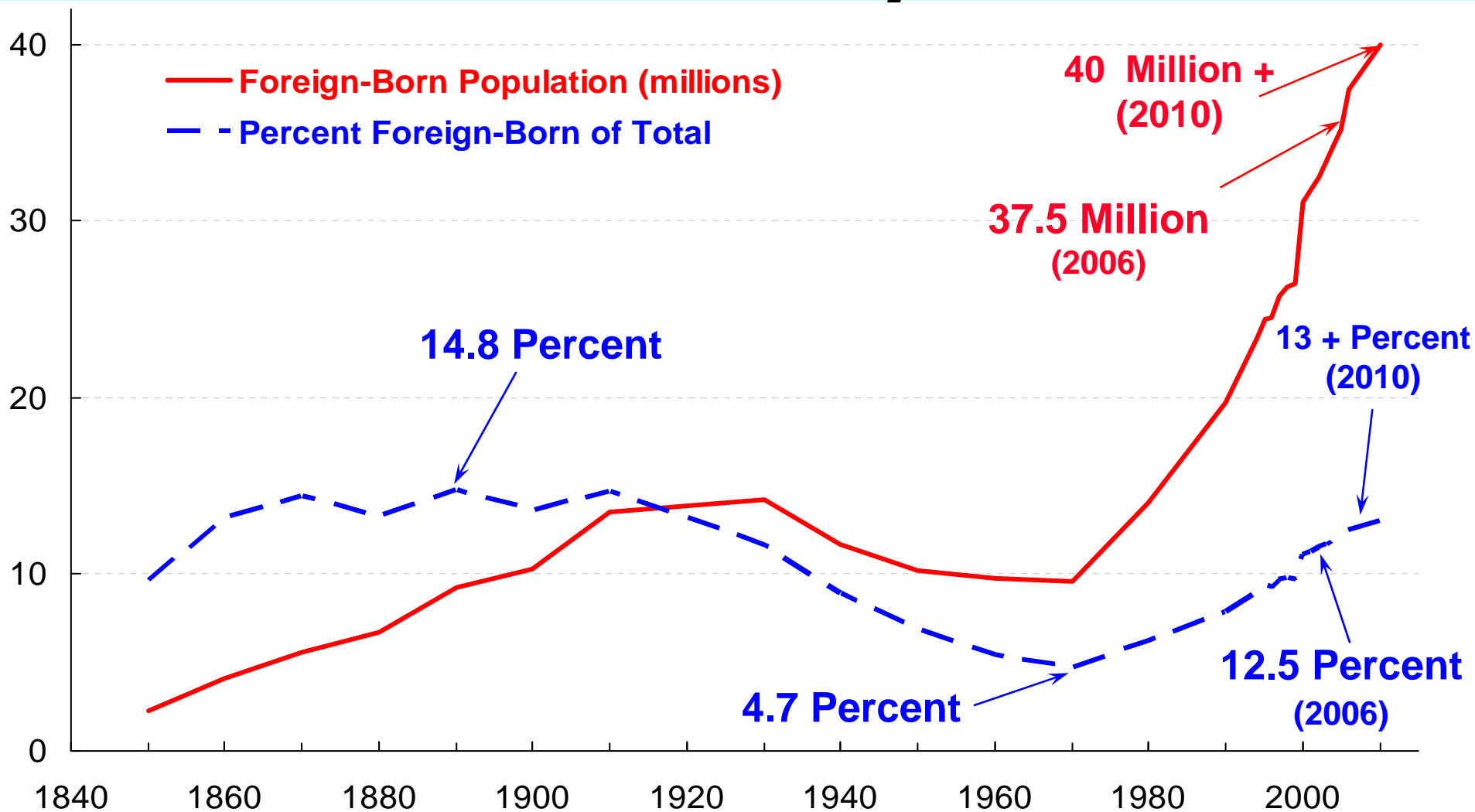
# ***Today's Presentation***

---

- ***Immigration trends and demographics of immigrant families***
- ***The intersection of immigration and child welfare systems***
- ***The most vulnerable children of immigrants: children with unauthorized parents***

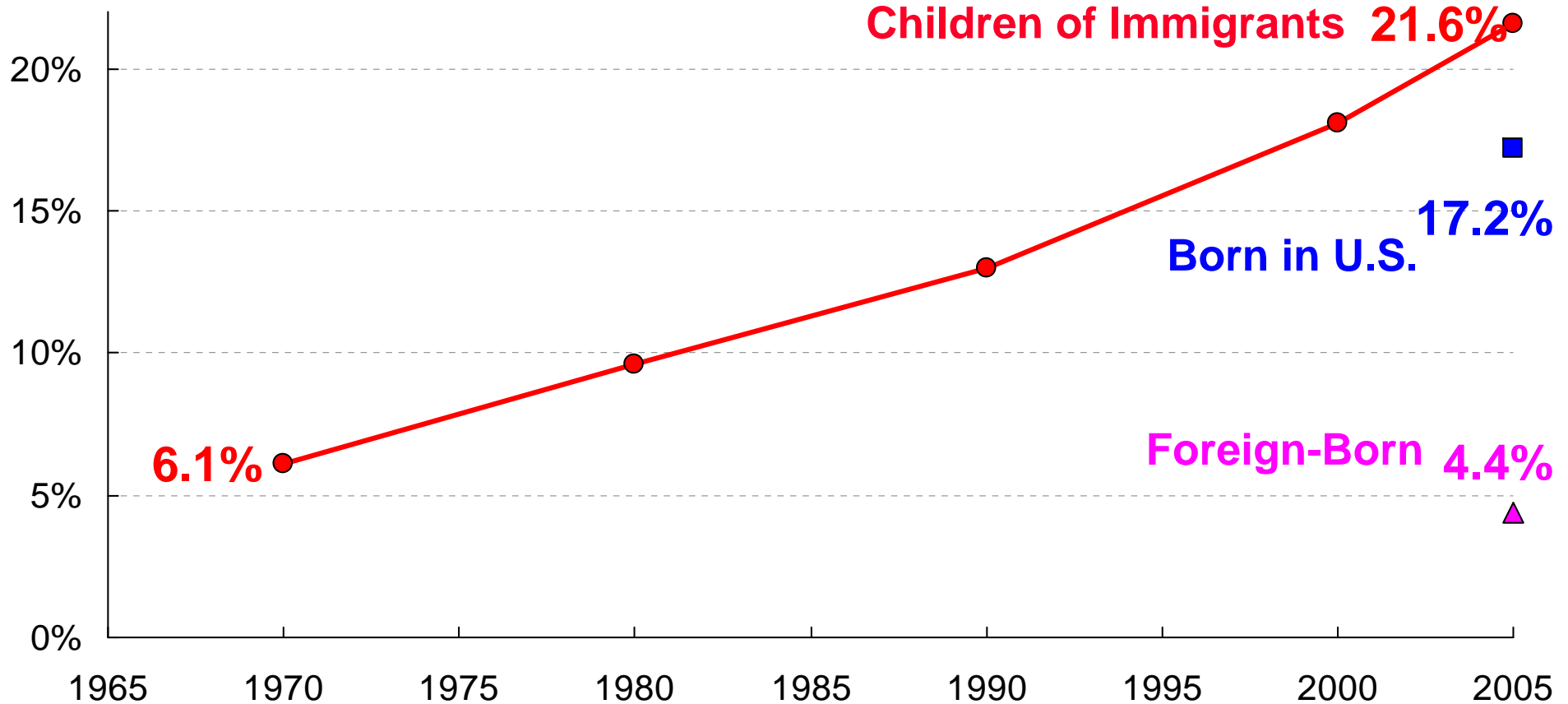


# 36 Million Immigrants Total: 12% of U.S. Population



# Over 1 in 5 U.S. Children Have Immigrant Parents

## Share of U.S. Children under Age 18

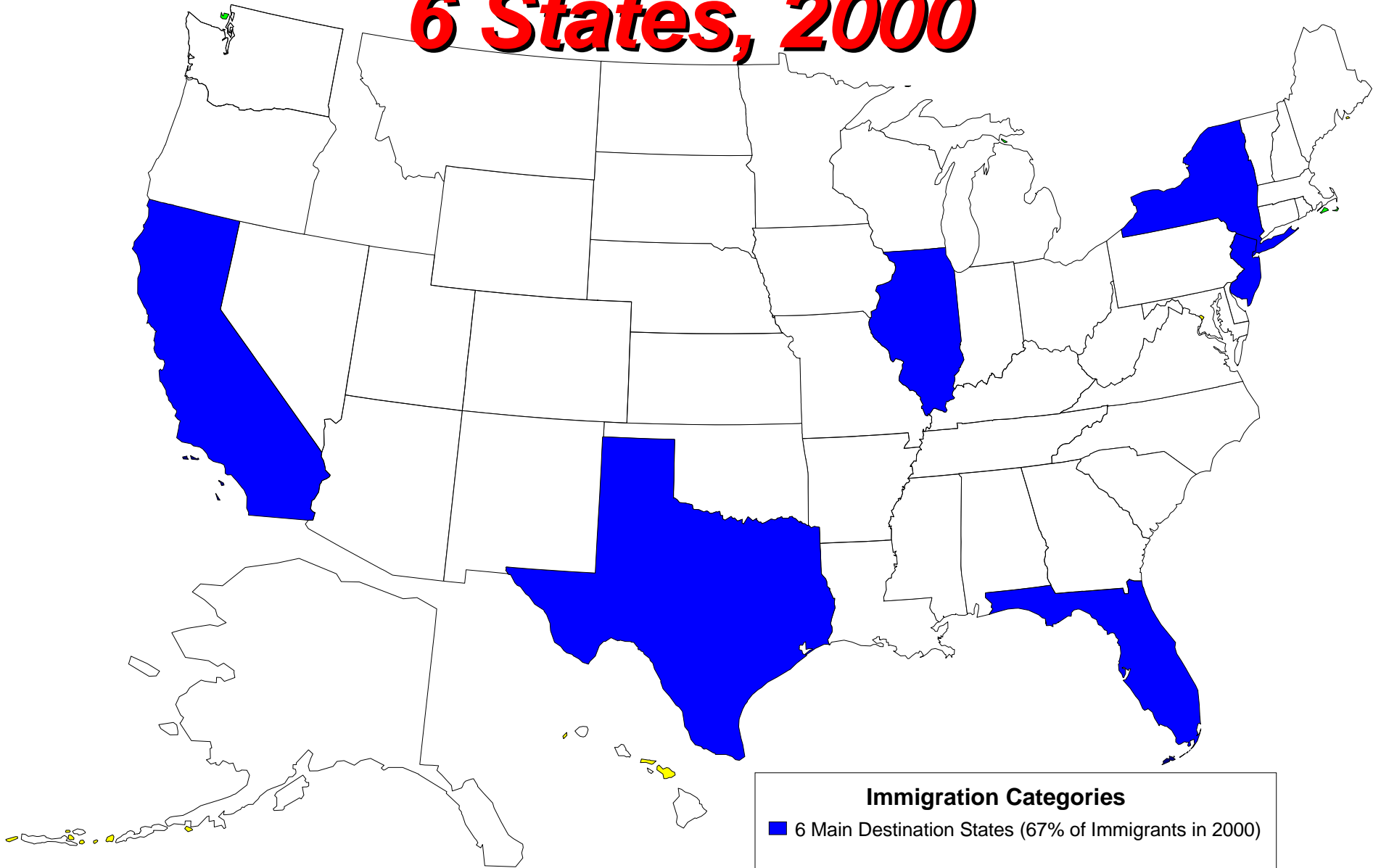


Sources: Urban Institute Tabulations from 2005 CPS, March Demographic and Economic Supplement; 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 Census Integrated Public Use Microdata Samples (IPUMS).

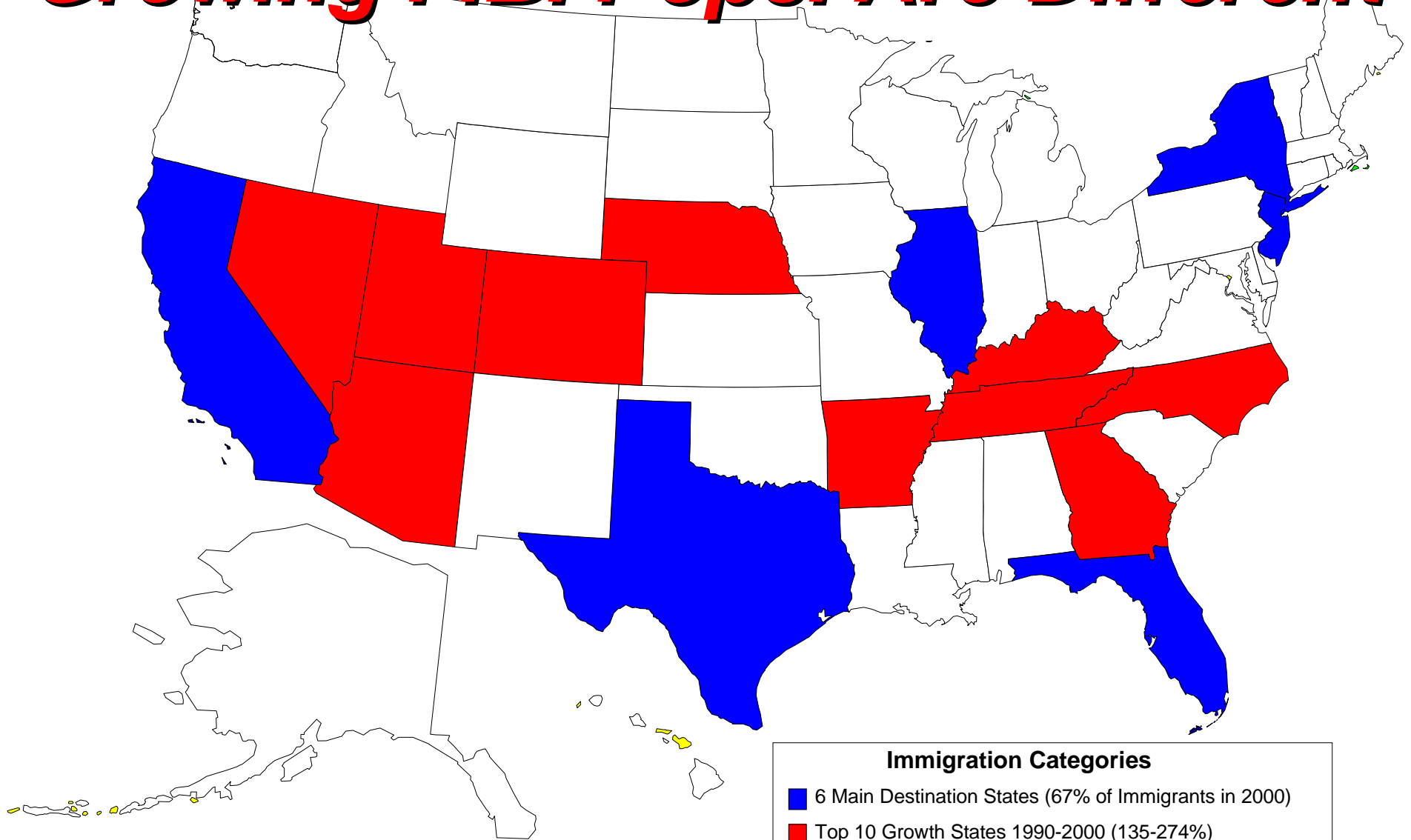
Note: Children of Immigrants have at least one parent born outside the United States. Immigrants exclude individuals born in Puerto Rico.



# ***2/3 of Immigrants Lived in 6 States, 2000***

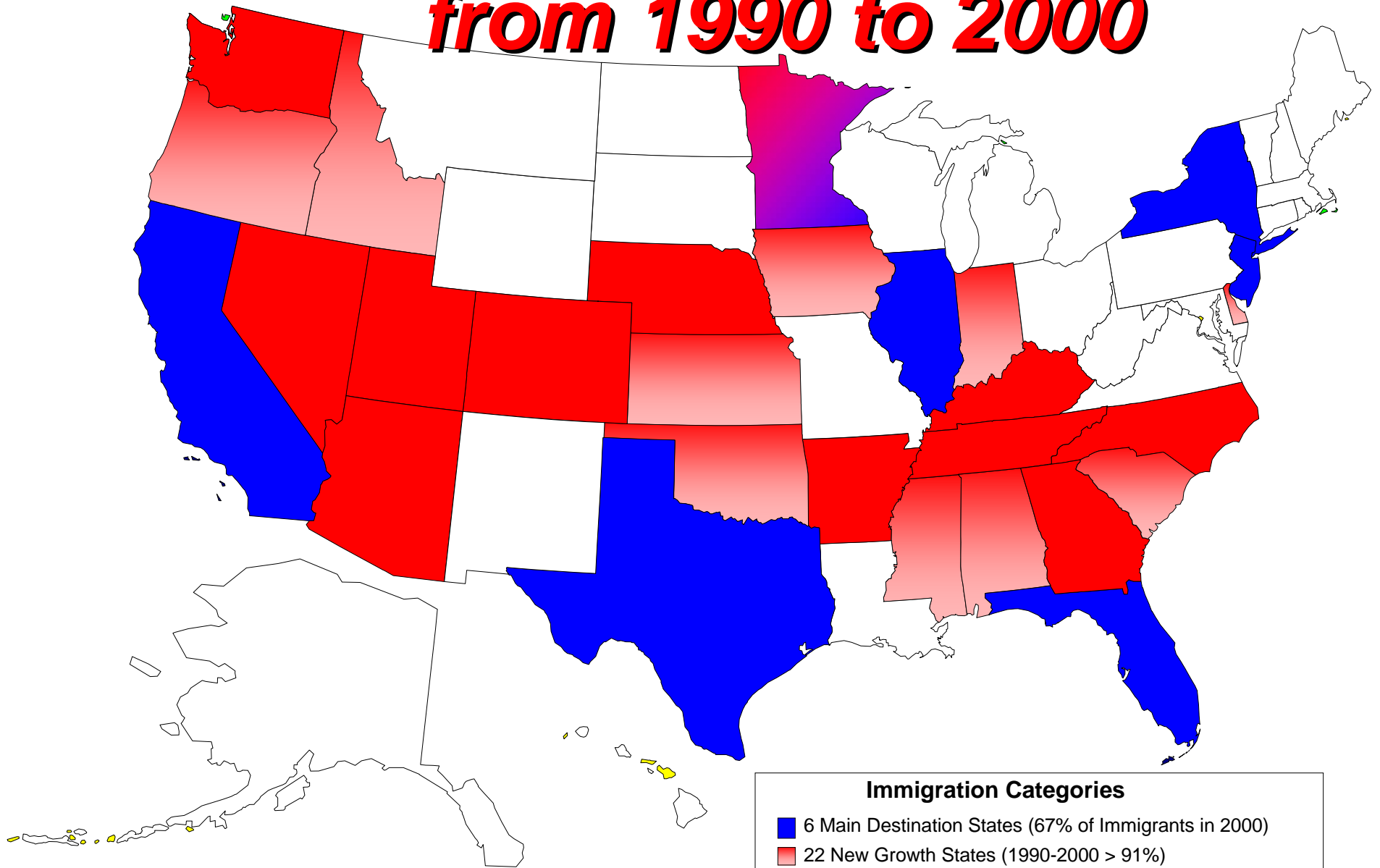


# ***But Top 10 States with Fastest Growing F.B. Pops. Are Different***



**Immigration Categories**  
■ 6 Main Destination States (67% of Immigrants in 2000)  
■ Top 10 Growth States 1990-2000 (135-274%)

# ***22 States Grew Faster than “Big 6” from 1990 to 2000***

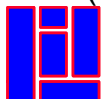
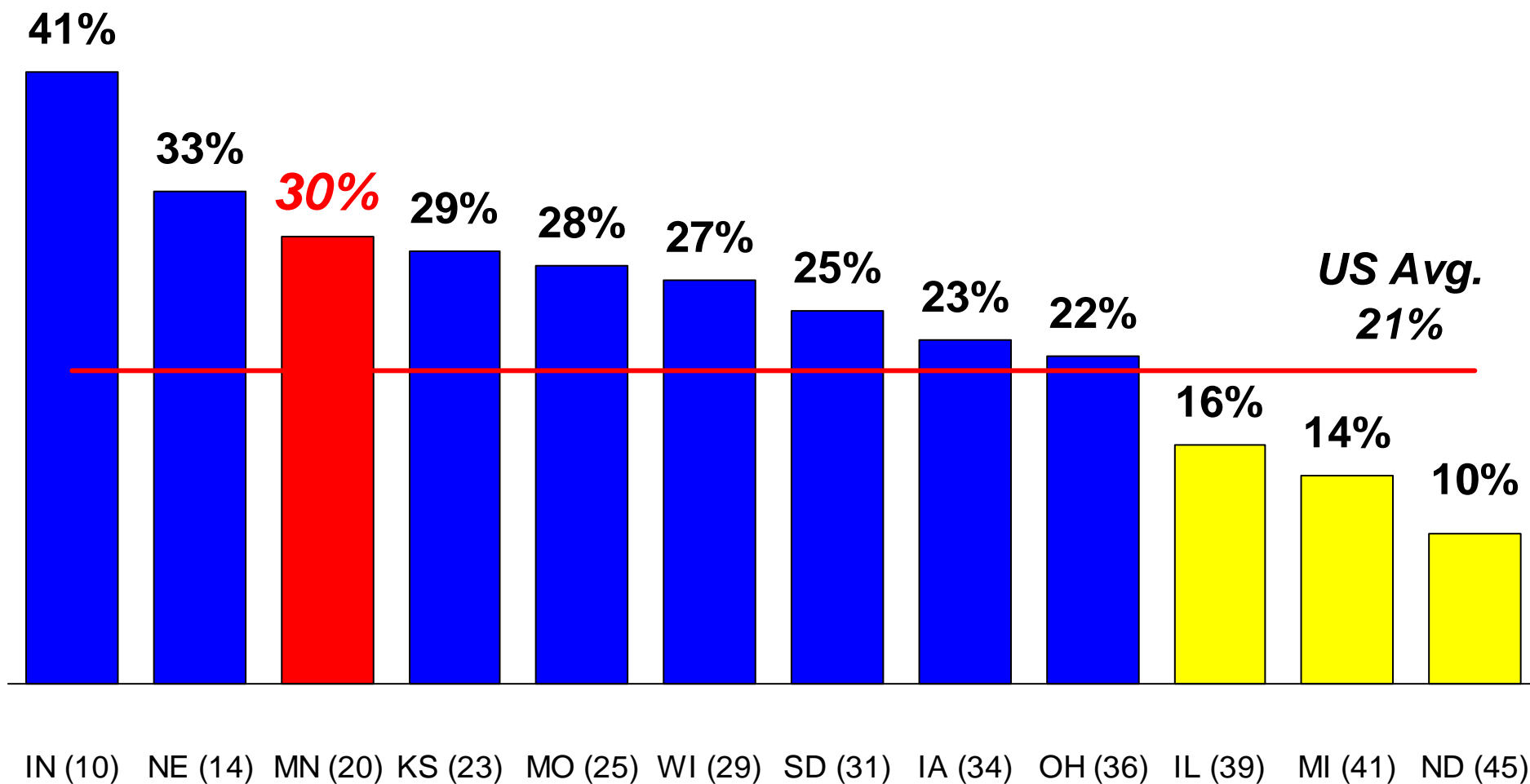


**Immigration Categories**

- 6 Main Destination States (67% of Immigrants in 2000)
- 22 New Growth States (1990-2000 > 91%)
- Top 10 Growth States 1990-2000 (135-274%)

# Immigrant Growth over US Average in MN, Most Other Midwest States 2000-06

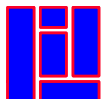
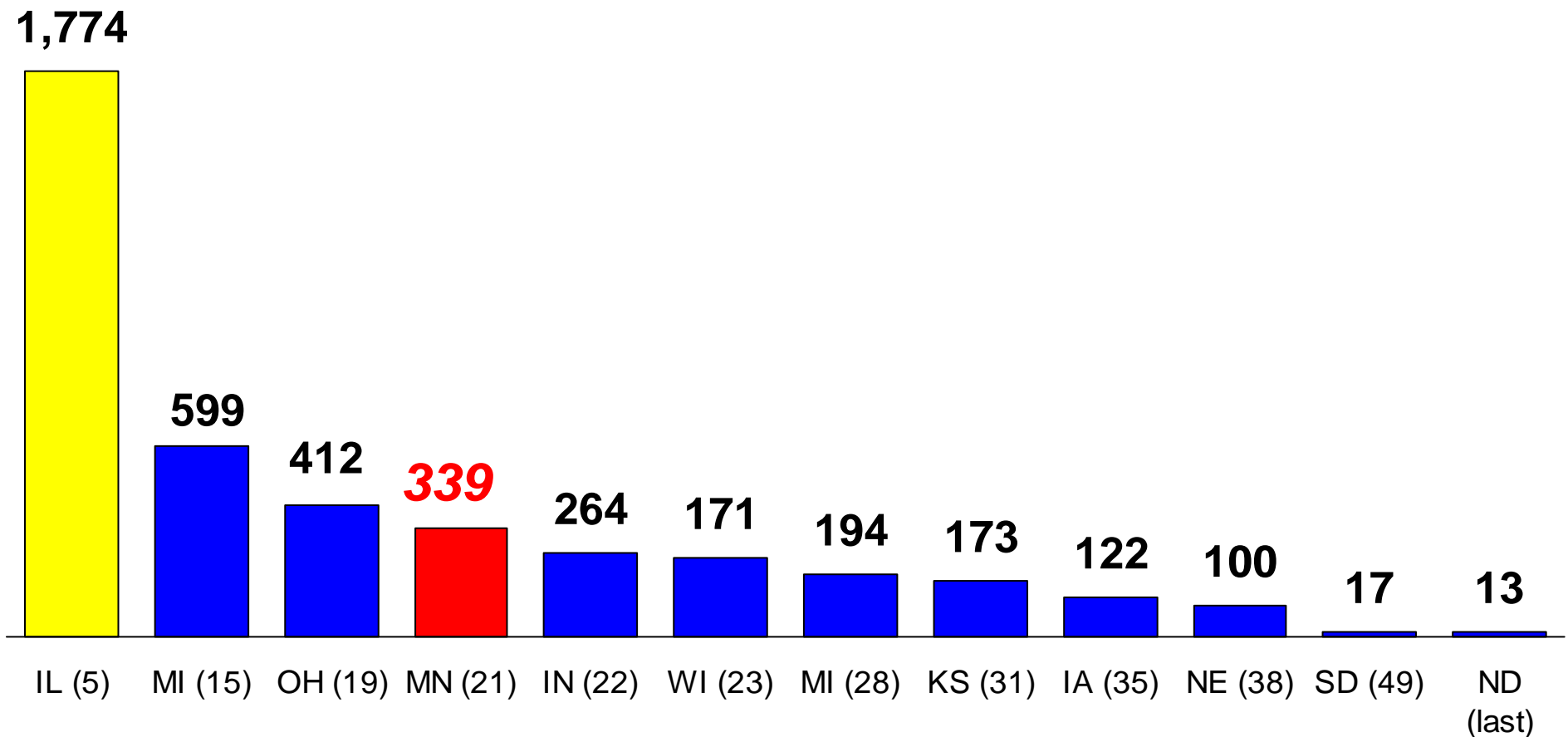
Percent Growth in Foreign-Born Population, 2000-2006





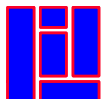
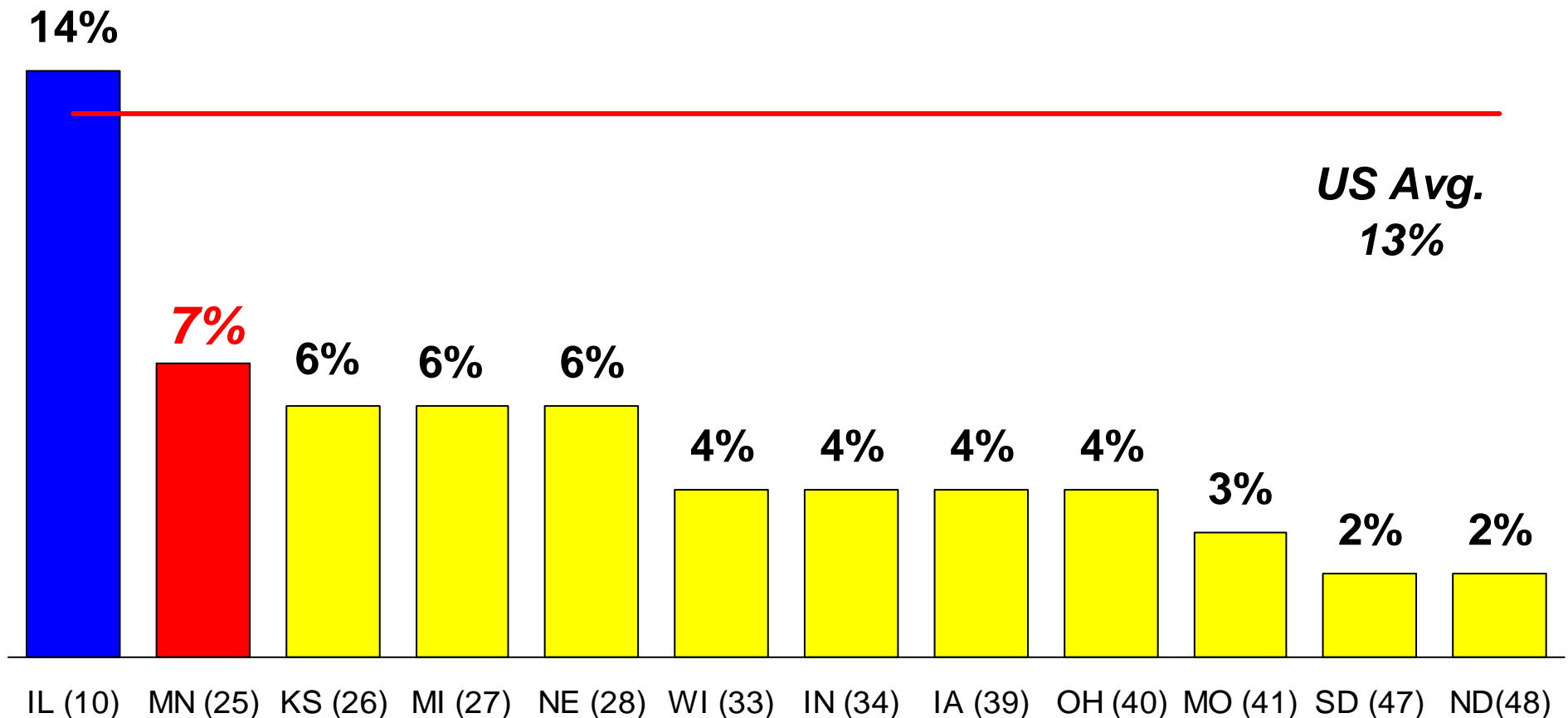
# Midwest States Except IL Had Small Foreign Born Populations in 2006

Total Foreign-born Population, 2006 (in thousands)

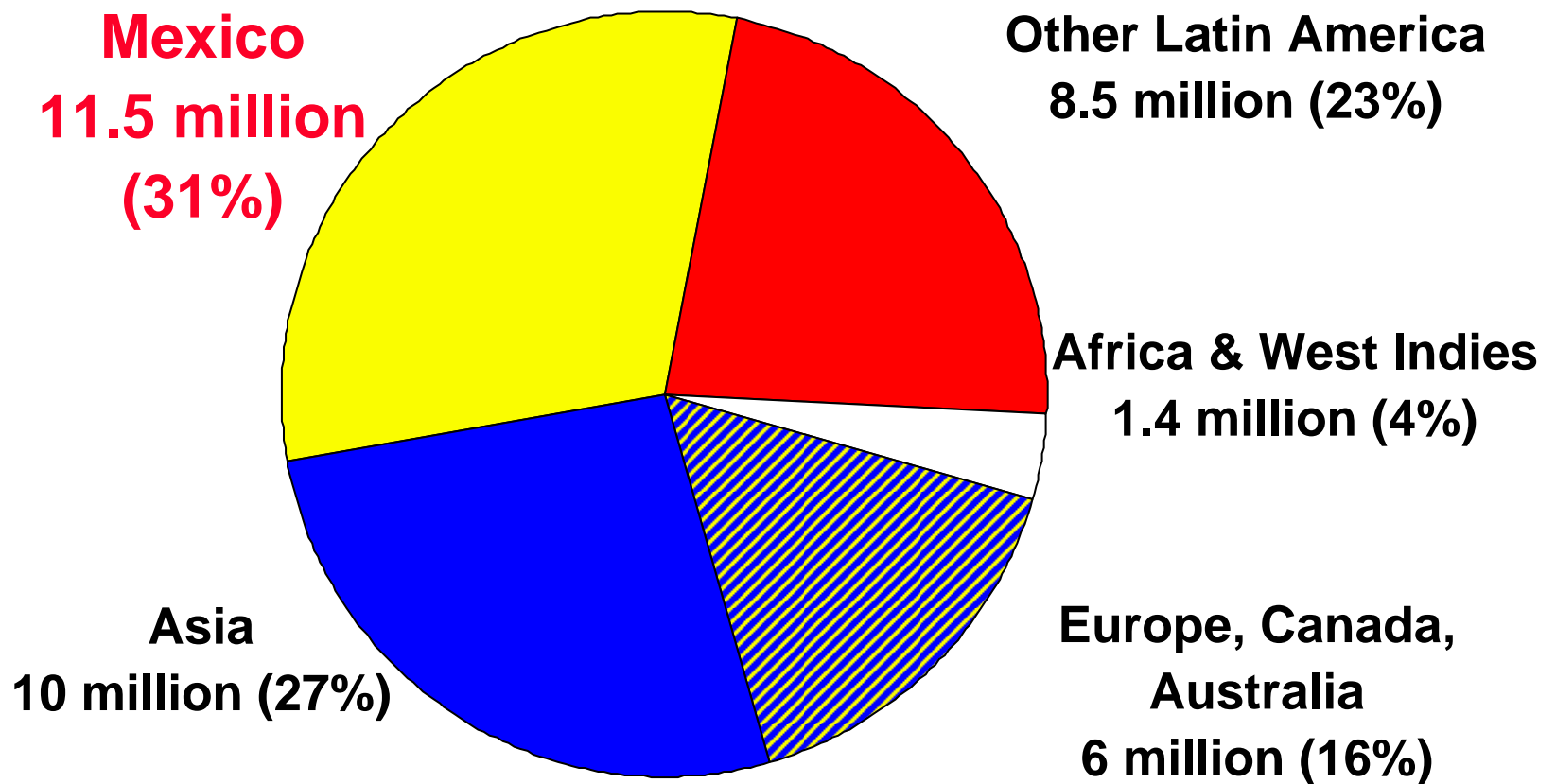


# Midwest States Except IL Had Low Foreign Born Shares in 2006

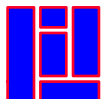
Foreign-Born Shares of Population, 2006



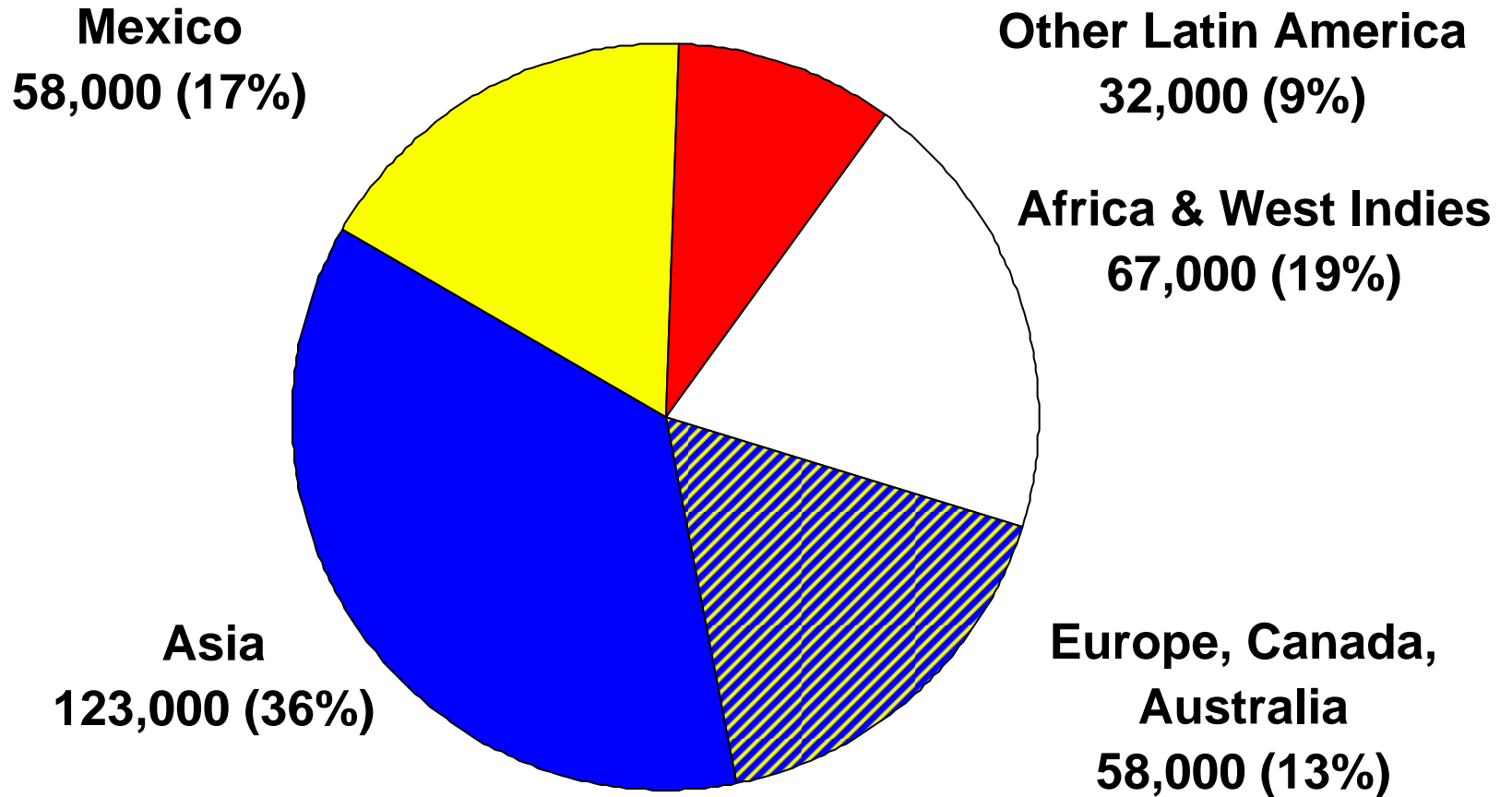
# ***Half of U.S. Immigrants from Latin America (31% Mexico), 1/4 from Asia***



**37.5 Million Foreign-Born**  
(2006 U.S. American Community Survey)



# ***MN Immigrants More Diverse: Higher Shares from Africa and Asia***



**339,000 Foreign-Born**

**(2006 U.S. American Community Survey)**



# Definitions

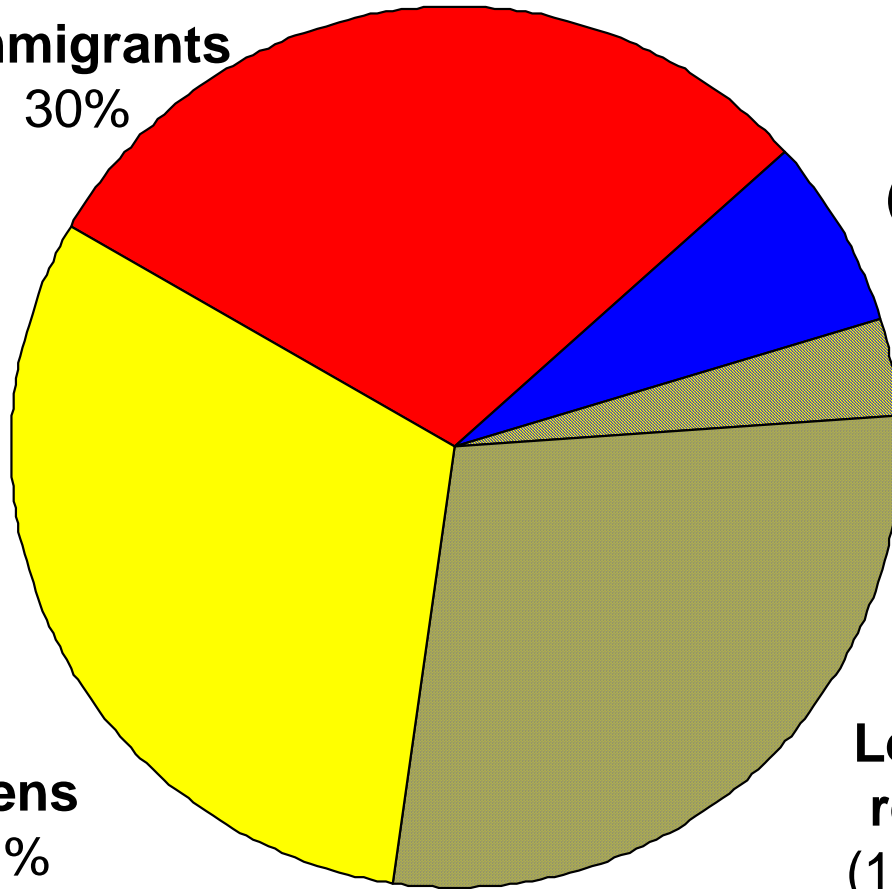
---

- **Legal permanent residents = *noncitizens admitted for permanent residency (“green card” holders)***
- **Undocumented immigrants = *entered illegally or overstayed visas***
- **Naturalized citizens = *immigrants who have become U.S. citizens after passing the citizenship test***
- **Refugees - *admitted for “well founded fear of persecution”***



# ***3 in 10 U.S. Immigrants Are Unauthorized***

**Unauthorized immigrants**  
(11.1 million) 30%



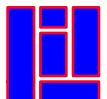
**Refugees**  
(2.6 million) 7%

**Legal temporary  
residents**  
(1.3 million) 3%

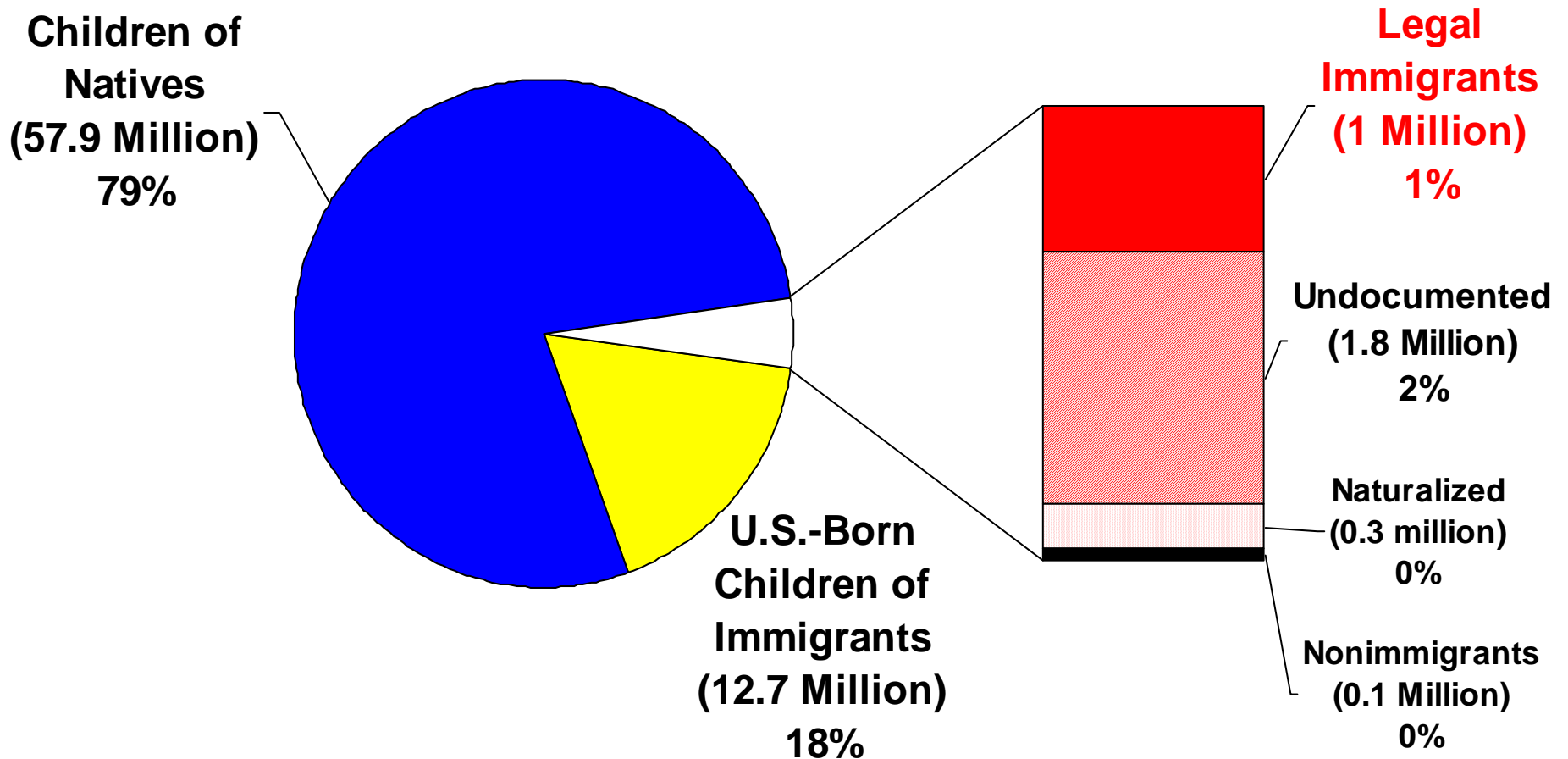
**Naturalized citizens**  
(11.5 million) 31%

**Legal permanent  
residents (LPR)**  
(10.5 million) 28%

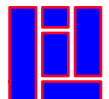
## **37 Million Foreign-Born in 2005** (Passel 2006)



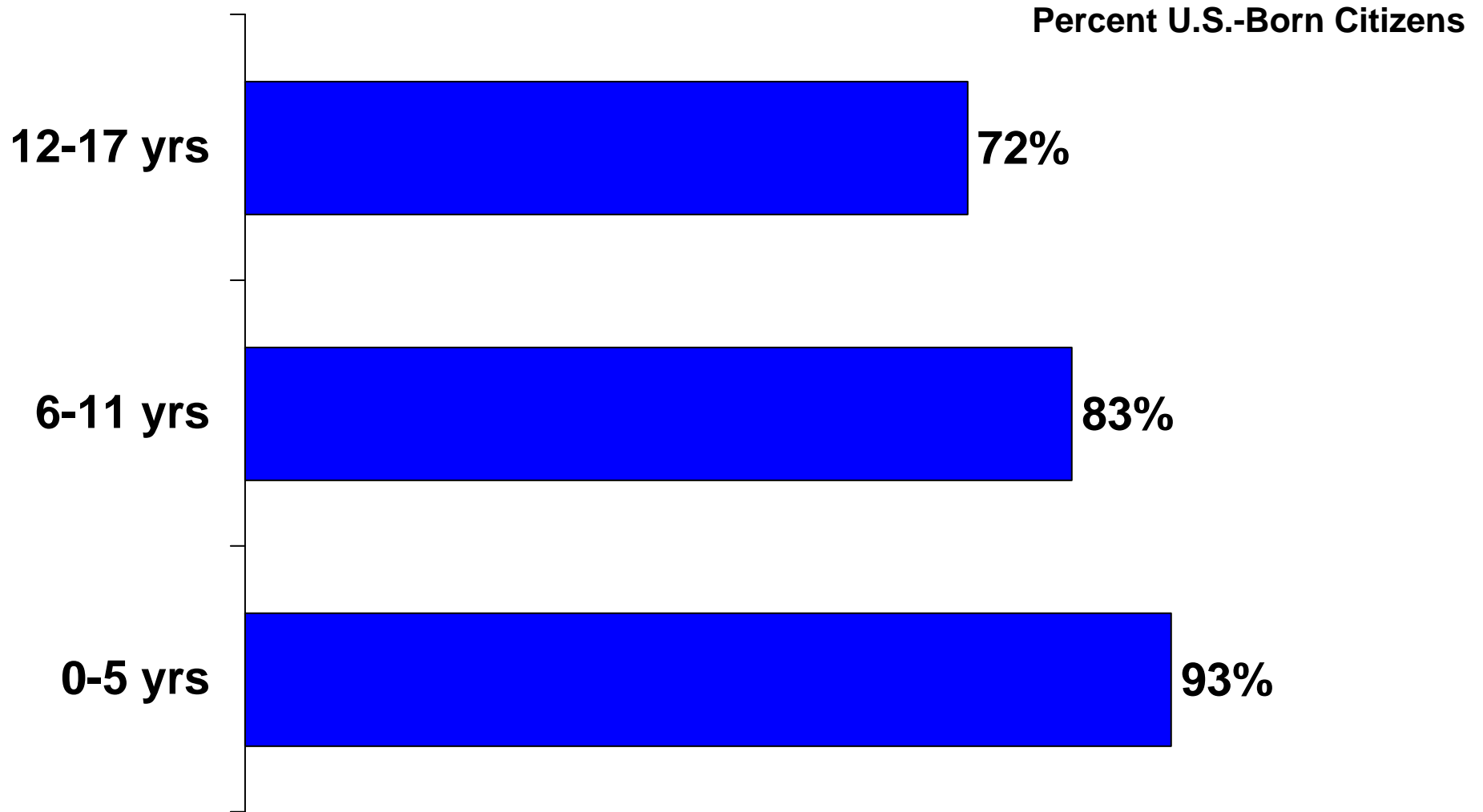
# ***But Most Children of Immigrants Are U.S. Born Citizens***



## **73.9 Million Children in 2005**



# ***Young Children of Immigrants (0-5) Most Likely to be U.S. Citizens***

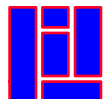




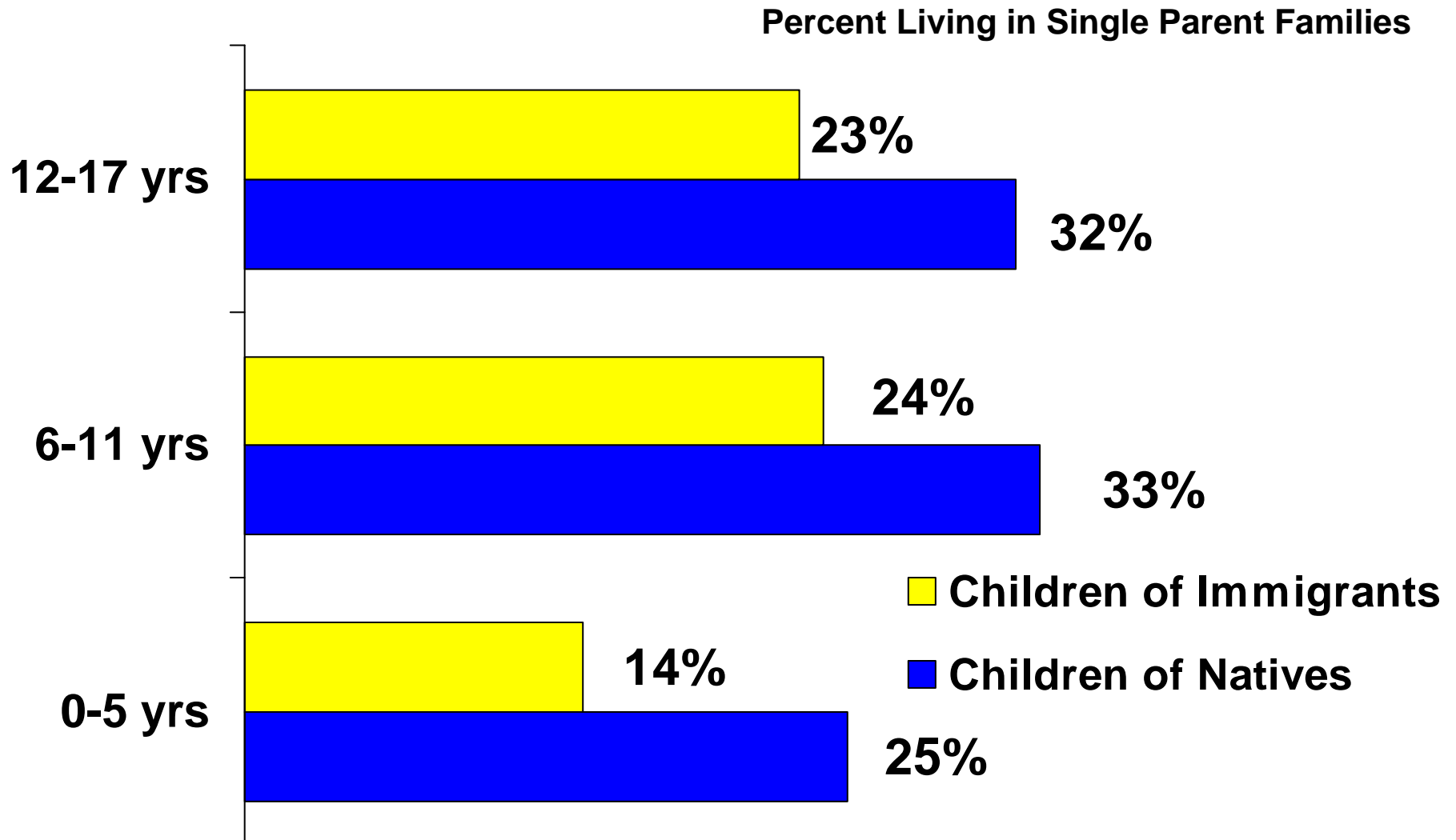
# ***Today's Presentation***

---

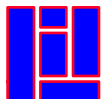
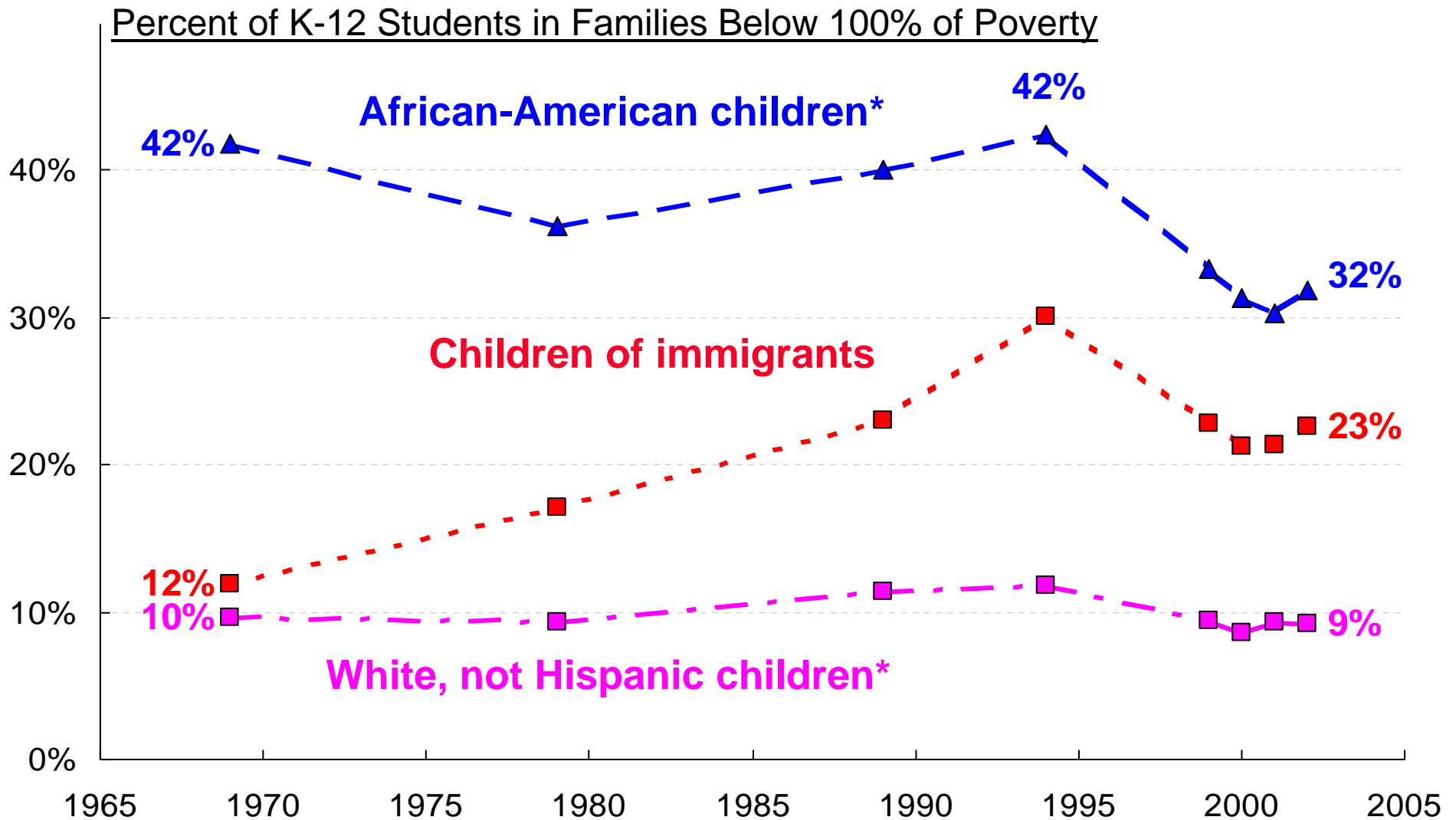
- *Immigration trends and demographics of immigrant families*
- ***The intersection of immigration and child welfare systems***
- *The most vulnerable children of immigrants: children with unauthorized parents*



# ***Protective Factors for System Involvement: Children of Immigrants Less Likely to Be in Single Parent Families***



# Risk Factors for System Involvement: Increasingly Poverty



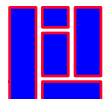
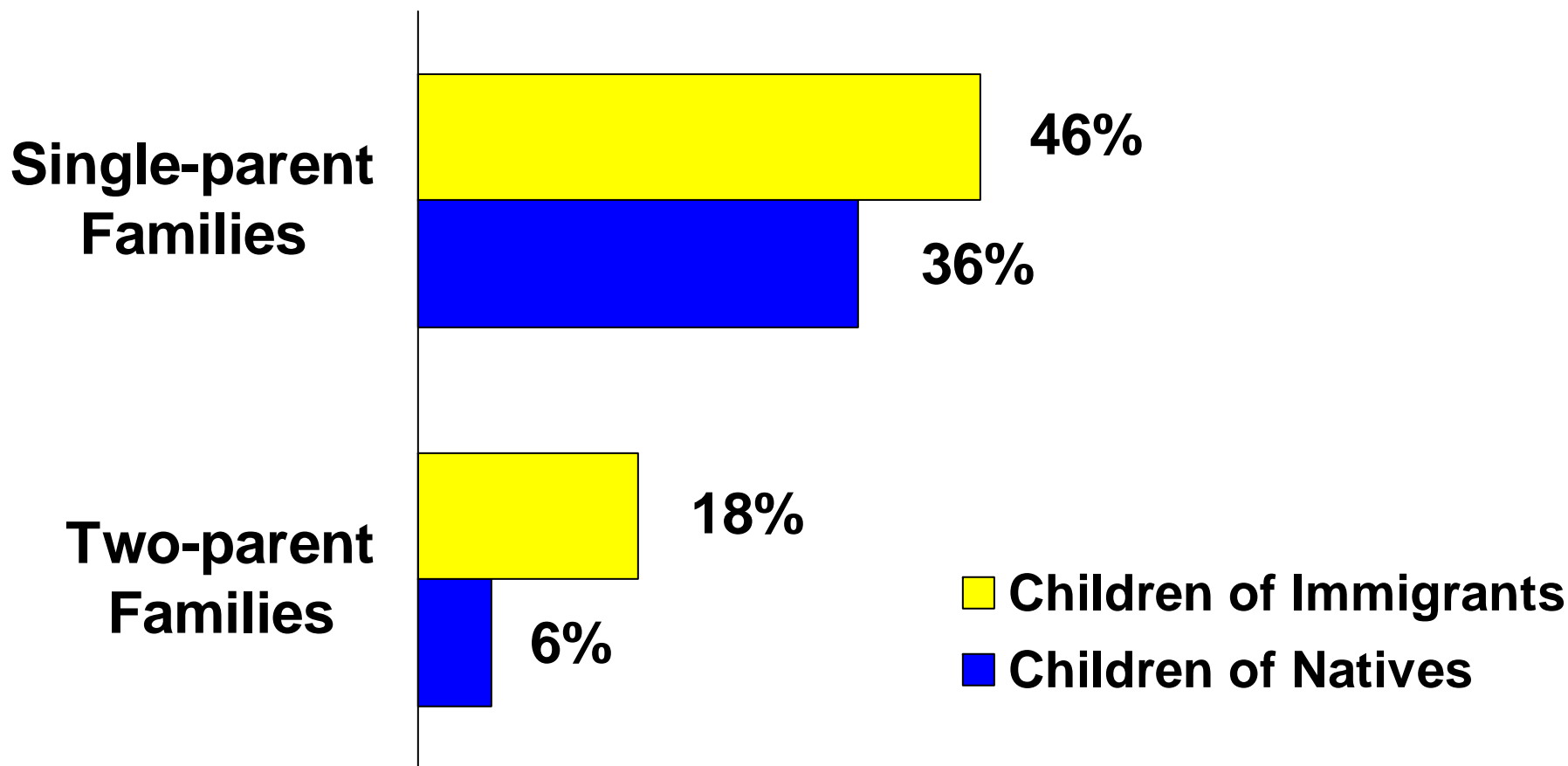
\* Includes children of both immigrants and natives.

THE URBAN INSTITUTE / Washington, D.C.

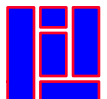
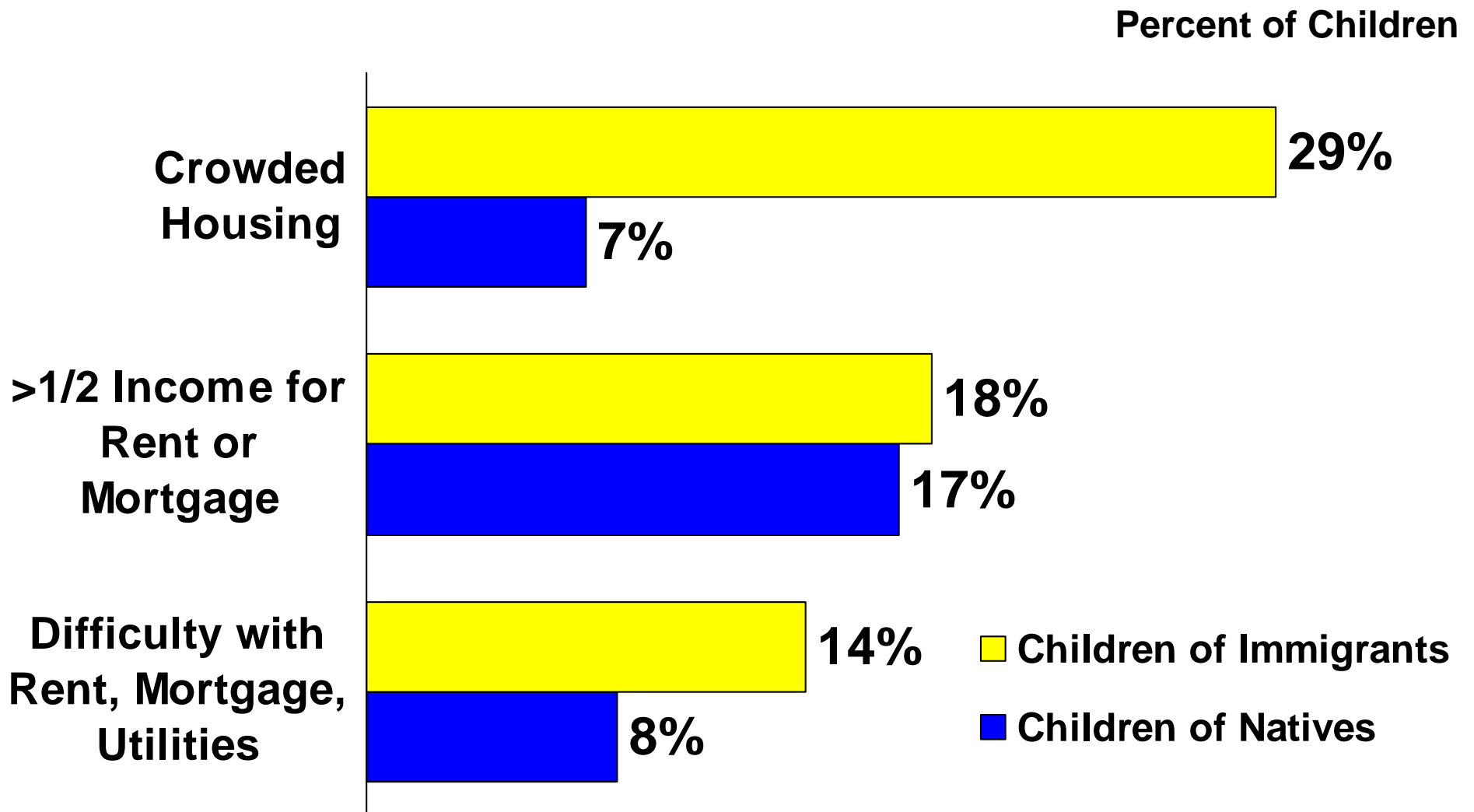
Source: Van Hook & Fix (2000); Urban Institute tabulations from C2SS PUMS. Excludes Puerto Ricans.

# *Even in 2-Parent Families Immigrant Children are Poorer*

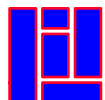
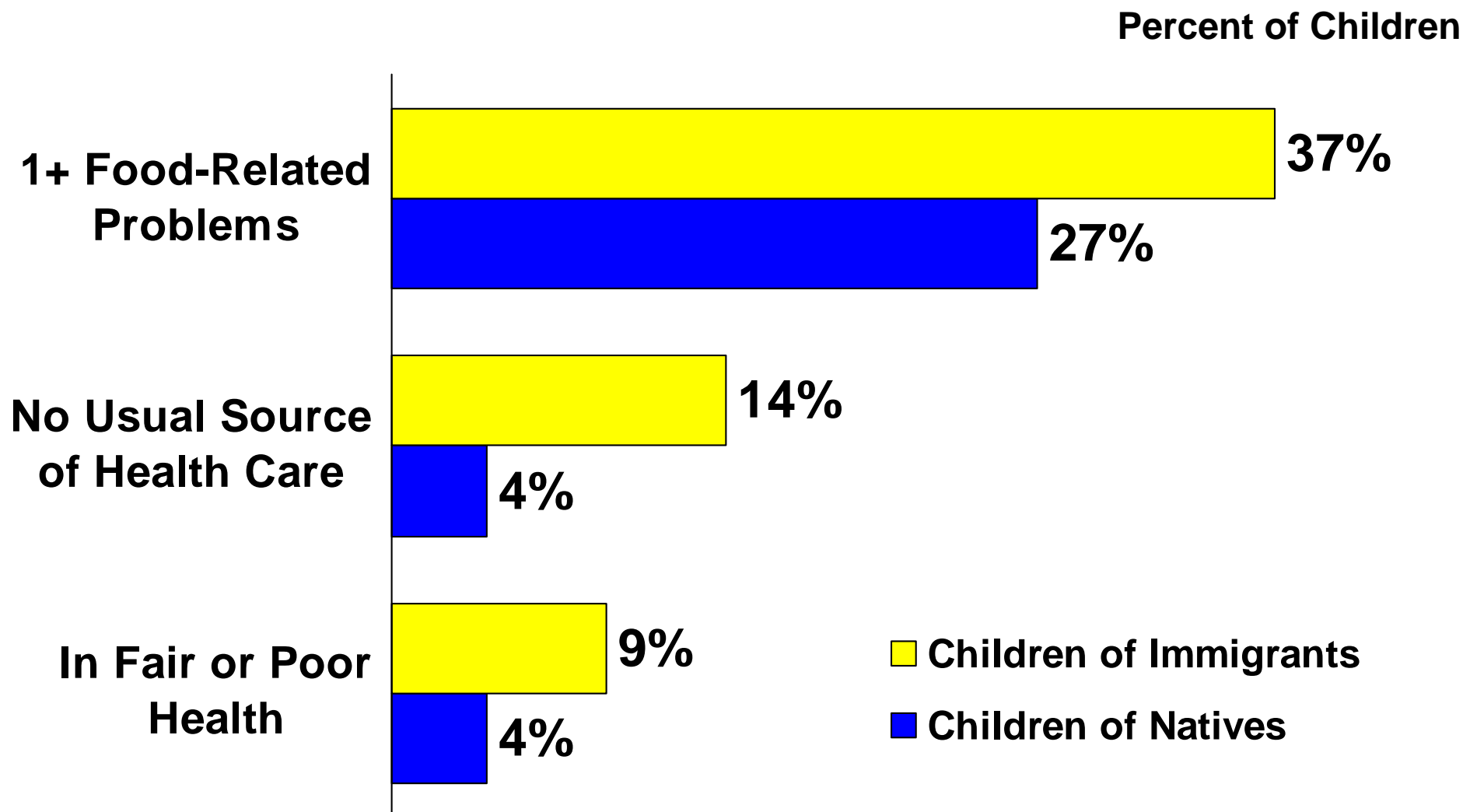
Share of group in families with incomes below 100% of federal poverty level



# ***Risk Factors: Greater Housing Problems***



# ***Risk Factors: Greater Food & Health Problems***



# ***Children of Immigrants in Child Welfare Systems: Findings from Texas***

---

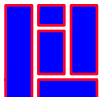
***Sample: Children in out-of home care on March 31, 2006***

## **Four populations:**

- Latin American immigrant children (n = 200)
- U.S.-born children of Latin American immigrants (n = 1,700)
- Children of natives (Hispanic) (n = 6,600)
- Children of natives (non-Hispanic) (n = 11,900)

## **Research topics:**

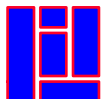
- Disproportionality of removal from the home
- Placement & case goal differences by ethnicity and nativity status
- Differences in reasons for removal
- Title IV-E funding differences



# ***Immigrants' Children underrepresented in Child Welfare Systems: Texas***

---

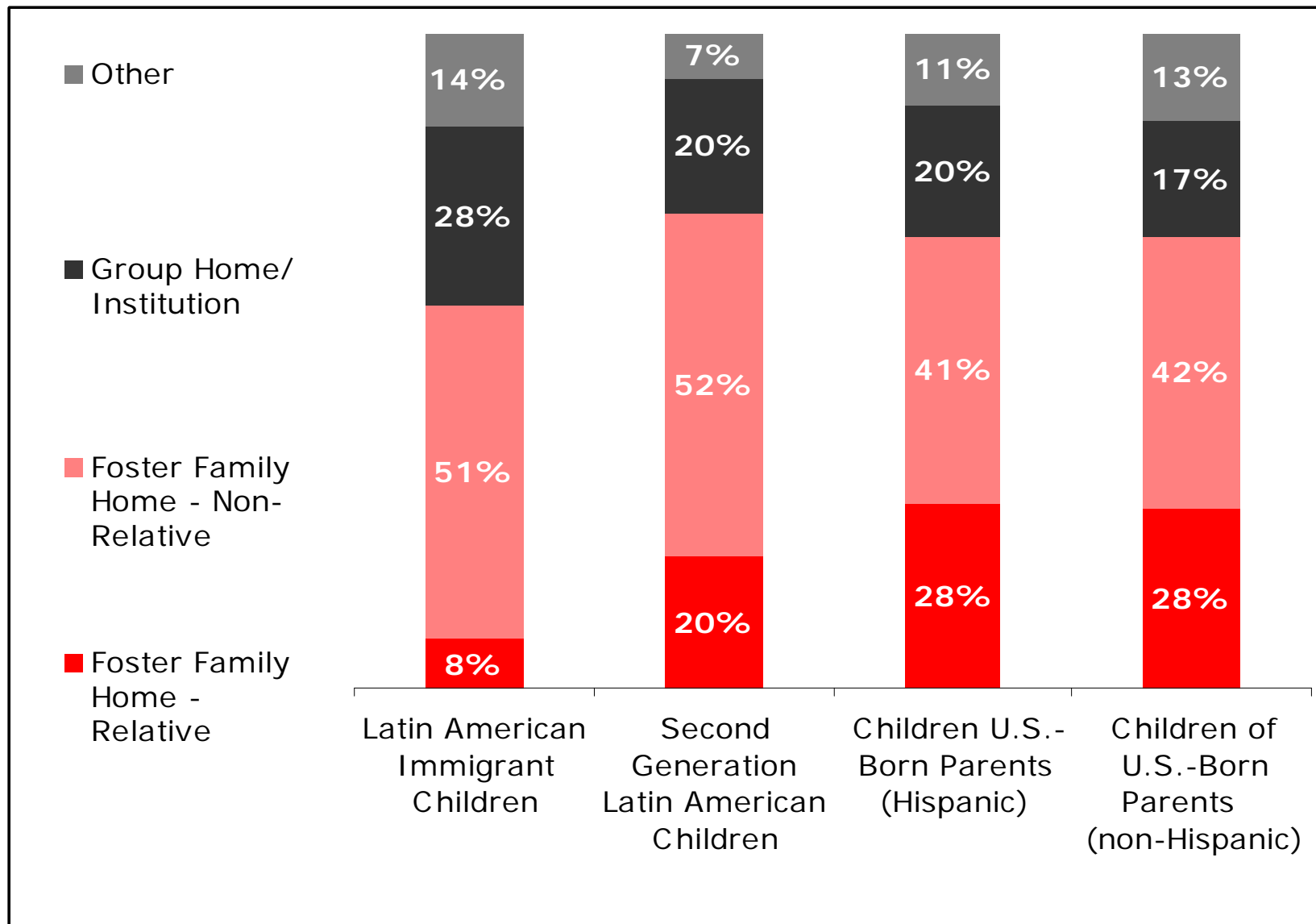
- ***Latin American immigrants = 1% of all children in out-of-home care in Texas in March 2006 versus 7% of all children in Texas in March 2005.***
- ***Latin American children of immigrants = 8% of all children in care versus 20% of all children in Texas.***
- ***U.S.-born Hispanic natives = 33% of all children in care versus 22% of all children in Texas.***



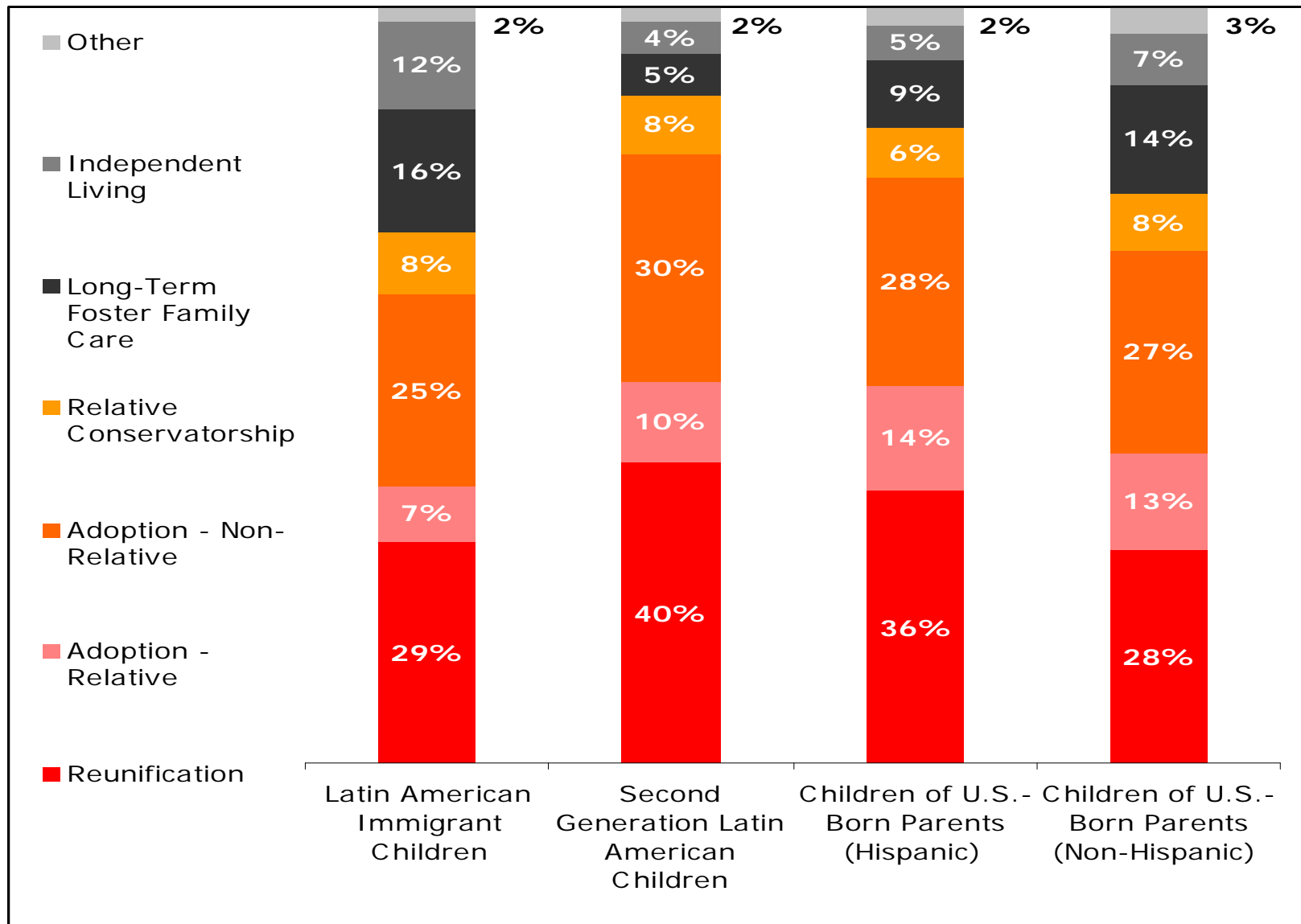
(2006 Texas Child Welfare Administrative Data matched with Birth Records)



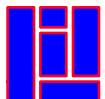
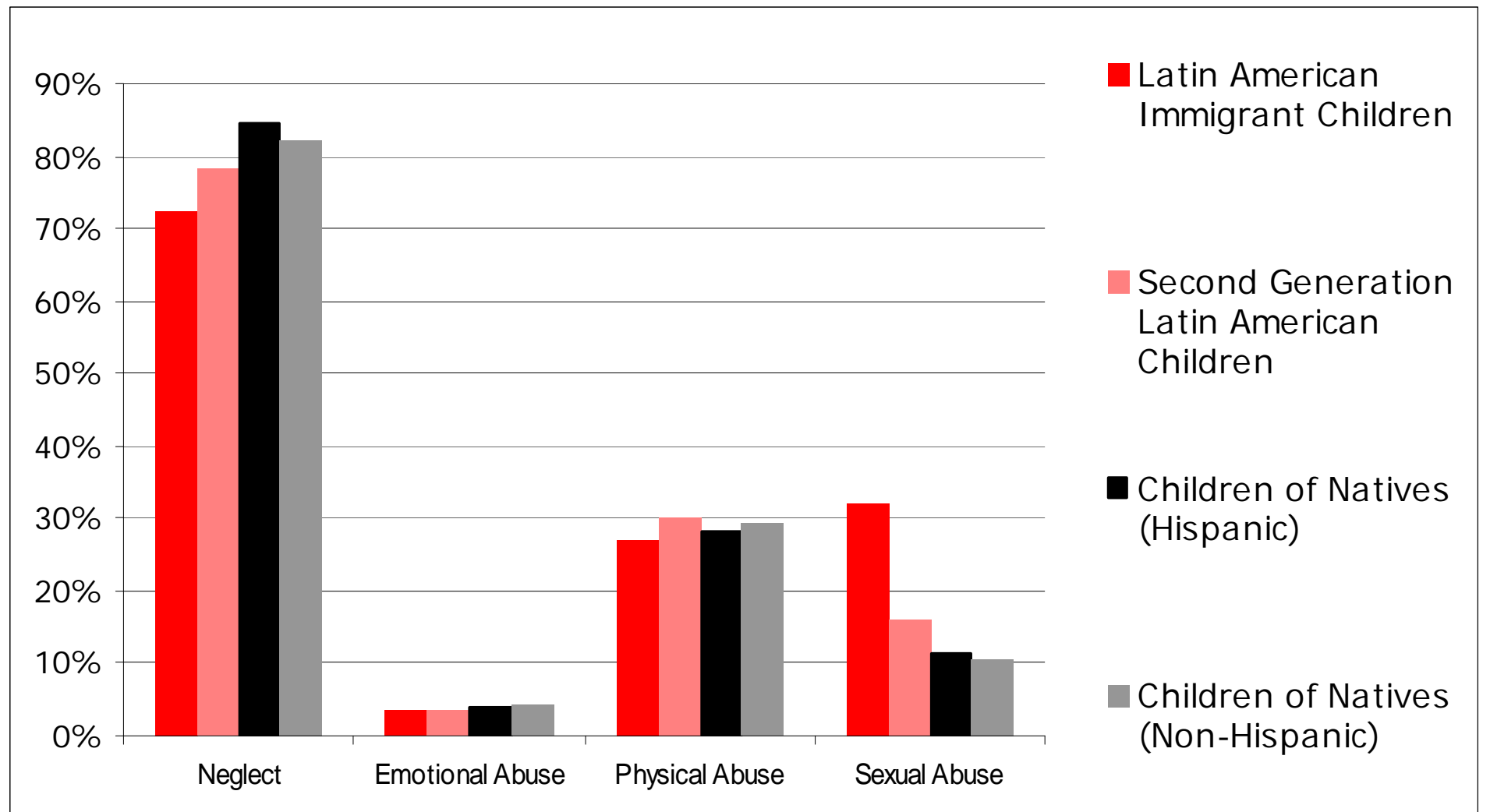
# Children of Immigrants Less Likely to be Placed with Relatives



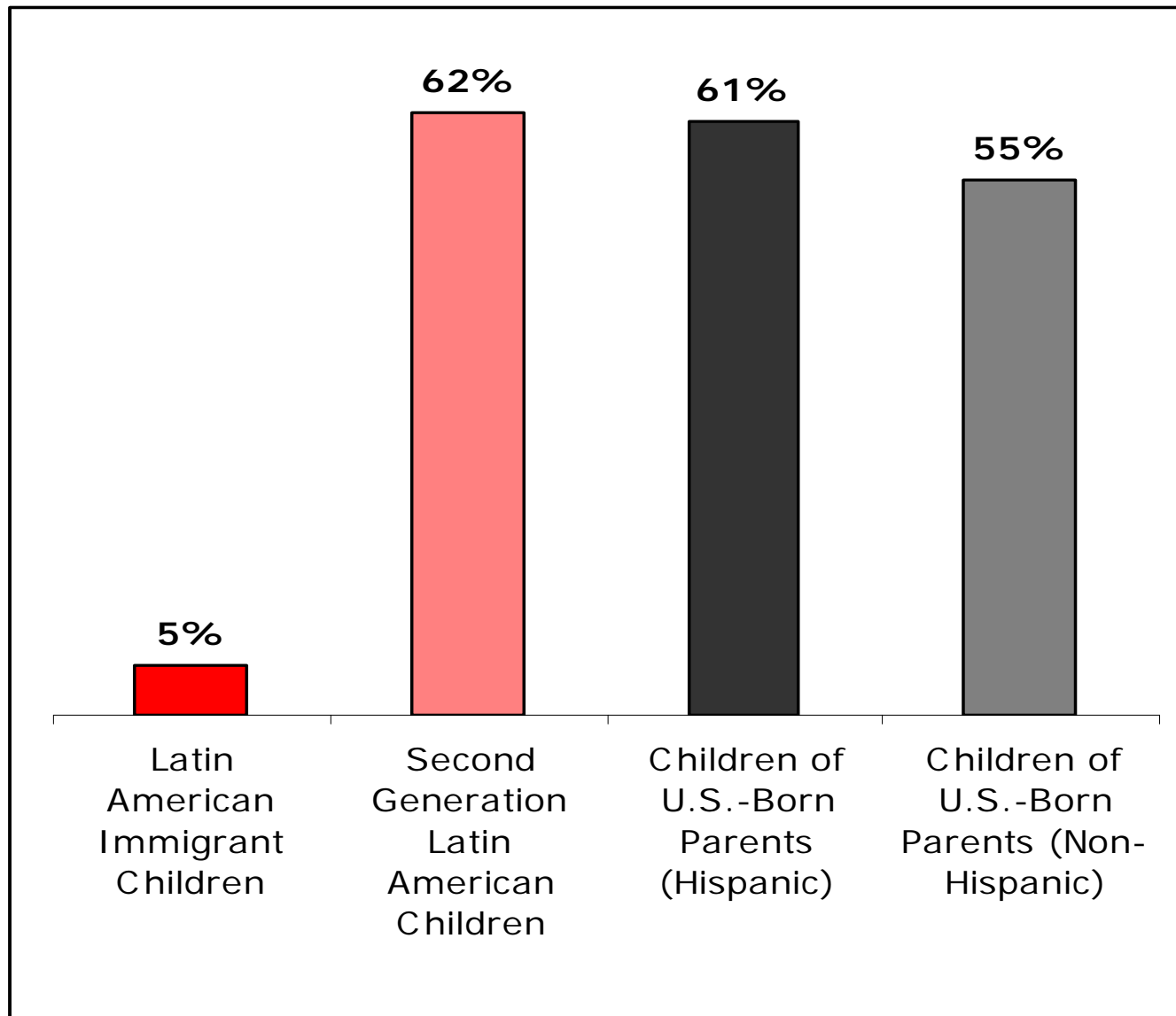
# Children of Immigrants Less Likely to Have Case Goals Involving Relatives



# Children of Immigrants More Likely Removed for Sexual Abuse



# *Most Immigrant Children in Texas Not Eligible for Title IV-E Assistance*



# ***Today's Presentation***

---

- *Immigration trends and demographics of immigrant families*
- *The intersection of immigration and child welfare systems*
- ***The most vulnerable children of immigrants: children with unauthorized parents***



# ***The Most Vulnerable: Children of Unauthorized Immigrants***

---

- ***Parents have limited formal education***
- ***Parents often do not speak English***
- ***Parents subject to job exploitation***
- ***Parents ineligible for public benefits***
  - But 2/3 of the children are U.S. citizens, therefore eligible for public benefits and services
- ***States, localities restricting employment, drivers' licenses, housing, services, etc.***
- ***States, localities enforcing immigration laws***
- ***Some parents are picked up in raids***

(National Conference of State Legislatures 2008; Passel 2006)



# ***Impacts of Raids on Children***

---

- ***Parents are arrested, may be deported immediately or detained for months.***
- ***Two-parent families become one-parent families; some children live w/o parents.***
- ***Family incomes plunge because breadwinners arrested; families rely on informal assistance.***
- ***Children suffer social isolation and stigma.***
- ***Parents may leave children behind (leading to long-term family separation).***
- ***Children may leave with the parents (to poorer countries).***
- ***Whole families may be detained and deported.***



# ***Implications of Raids for Child Welfare Systems***

---

- ***Parents, other families are terrified of government agencies, including child welfare.***
- ***Enforcement agencies may not communicate with child welfare agencies.***
- ***Parents may rely on family, other informal networks to help care for children.***
- ***Parents arrested at worksites may not divulge they have children.***
- ***Parents arrested at home may be separated from children.***
- ***Agencies can be proactive in responding (e.g., Massachusetts Dept. of Social Services).***





**For more information,  
contact:**

***Randy Capps  
Immigration Studies Program  
Center on Labor,  
Human Services, and Population  
Urban Institute  
2100 M St., NW  
Washington, DC 20037***

**[rcapps@ui.urban.org](mailto:rcapps@ui.urban.org)**

**(202) 261-5302**