

PewResearchCenter

Mexican Migration to the U.S.: Recent Trends (and Reversals)

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Hispanic Trends Project

Mexico-U.S. Migration: Past, Present, and Future Trends

—and, Are There Other Mexicos in Our Future?

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM)

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Mexican Immigration Patterns

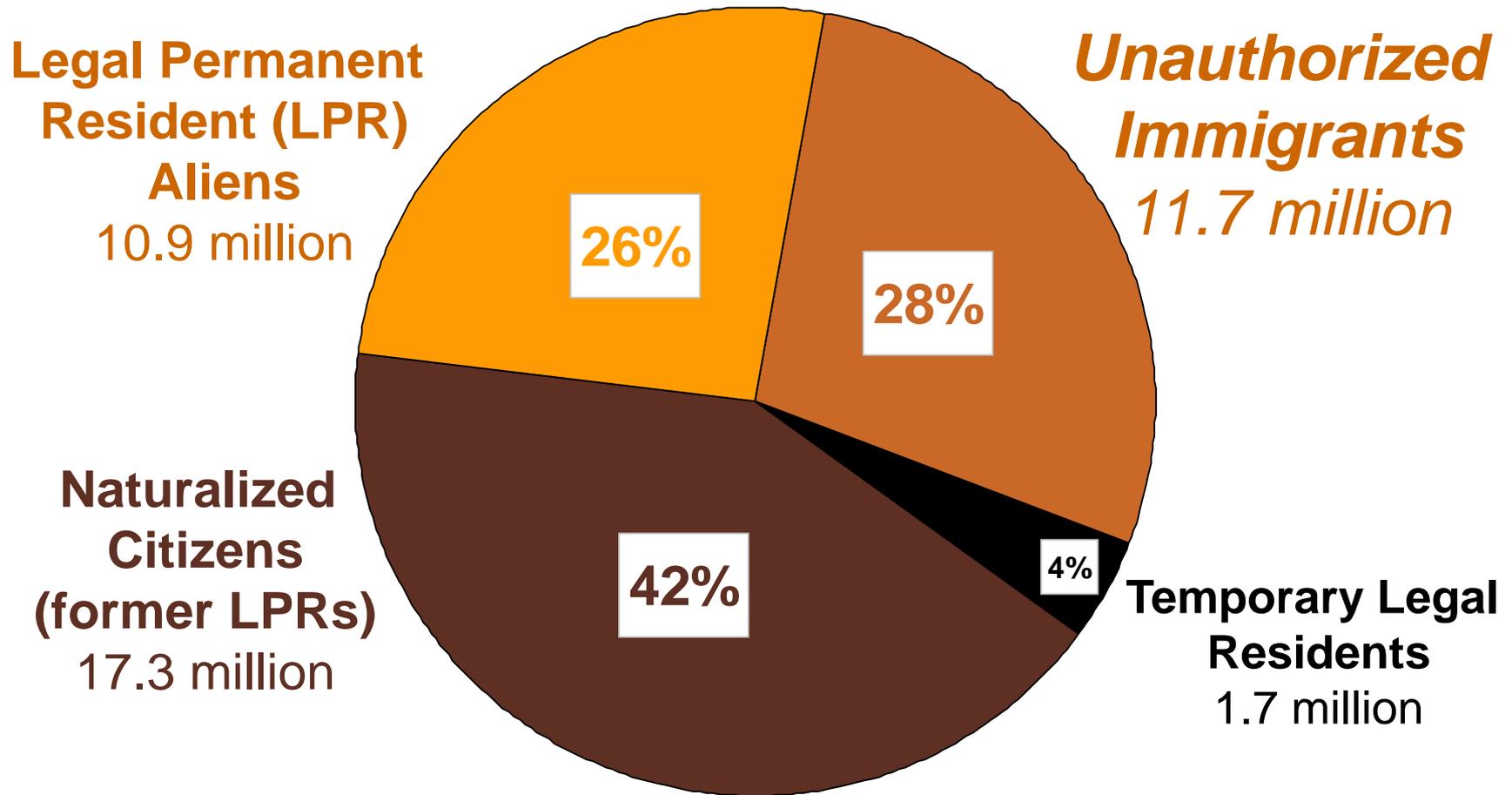
- **Demographic Background**
 - Historical Patterns
 - How Many? To Where?
 - What Status?
- **New Trends In Flows**
 - How Many Come Each Year
 - Two-Way Flows
 - Recent Turnarounds
- **What Are They Like**
 - Family Nature of Migration
 - Workers and Children
 - Who is Going to Mexico

BIG Changes Recently

- **Unauthorized Immigration has STOPPED**
 - Unauthorized Numbers Down Since '07
 - Almost No New Unauthorized are Coming
 - Mexican ***Flows*** have REVERSED
 - Lull or Fundamental Change?
 - Legal Immigration Unchanged
- **Unauthorized is Largely Families w/ Kids**
 - LFPR: High for Men, Low for Women
 - Almost Half of Adults are Parents
- **Geographic Dispersal Stopped by '07**
 - New Destinations Emerged in '90s
 - Bulk of Growth Due to Unauthorized

Immigrant Population

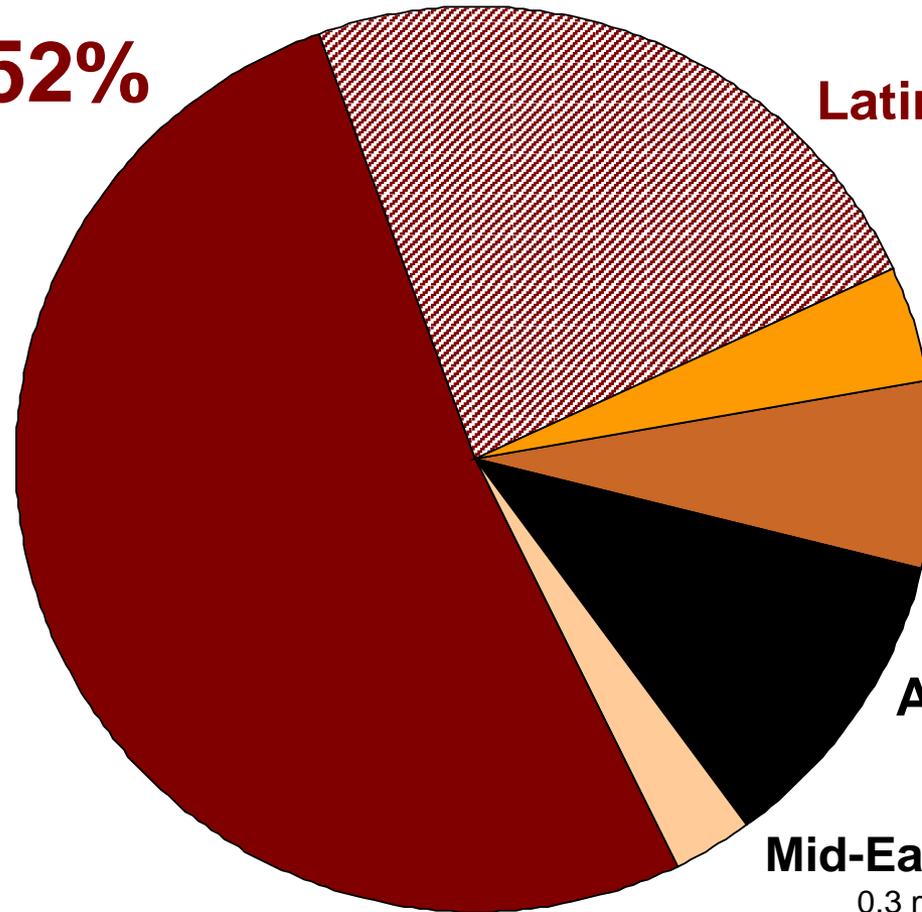
Legal Status of Immigrants 2012



41.7 Million Foreign-Born in 2012

Mexico is Largest Source of Unauthorized, by Far

Mexico -- 52%
6.0 million



Other
Latin America -- 24%
2.7 million

Africa, Other -- 4%
0.4 million

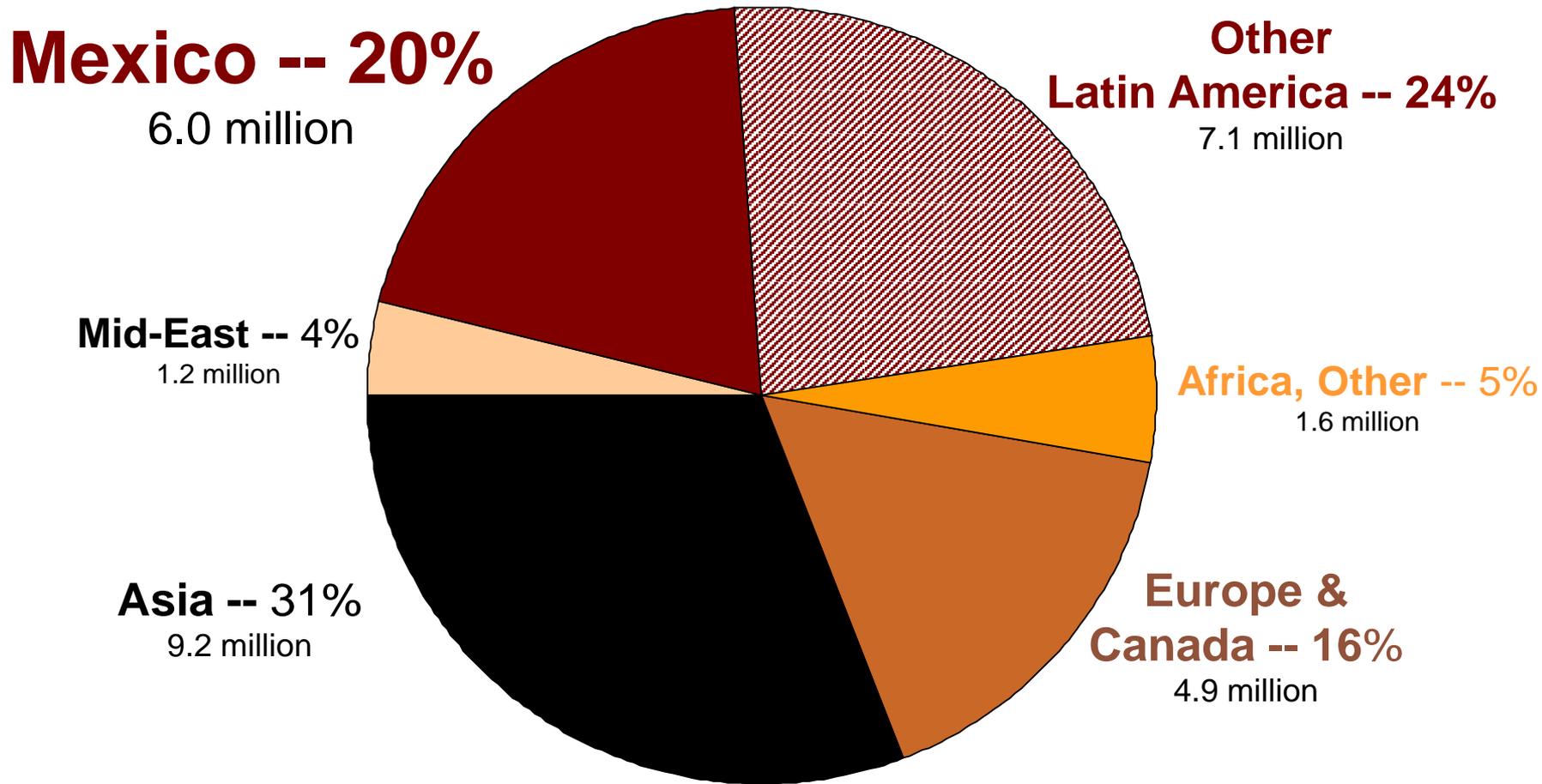
Europe & Canada -- 7%
0.8 million

Asia -- 11%
1.3 million

Mid-East -- 3%
0.3 million

11.7 Million Unauthorized in 2012

Mexico is Largest Single Source of Legal Foreign-Born, Also



30.0 Million Legal Immigrants in 2012

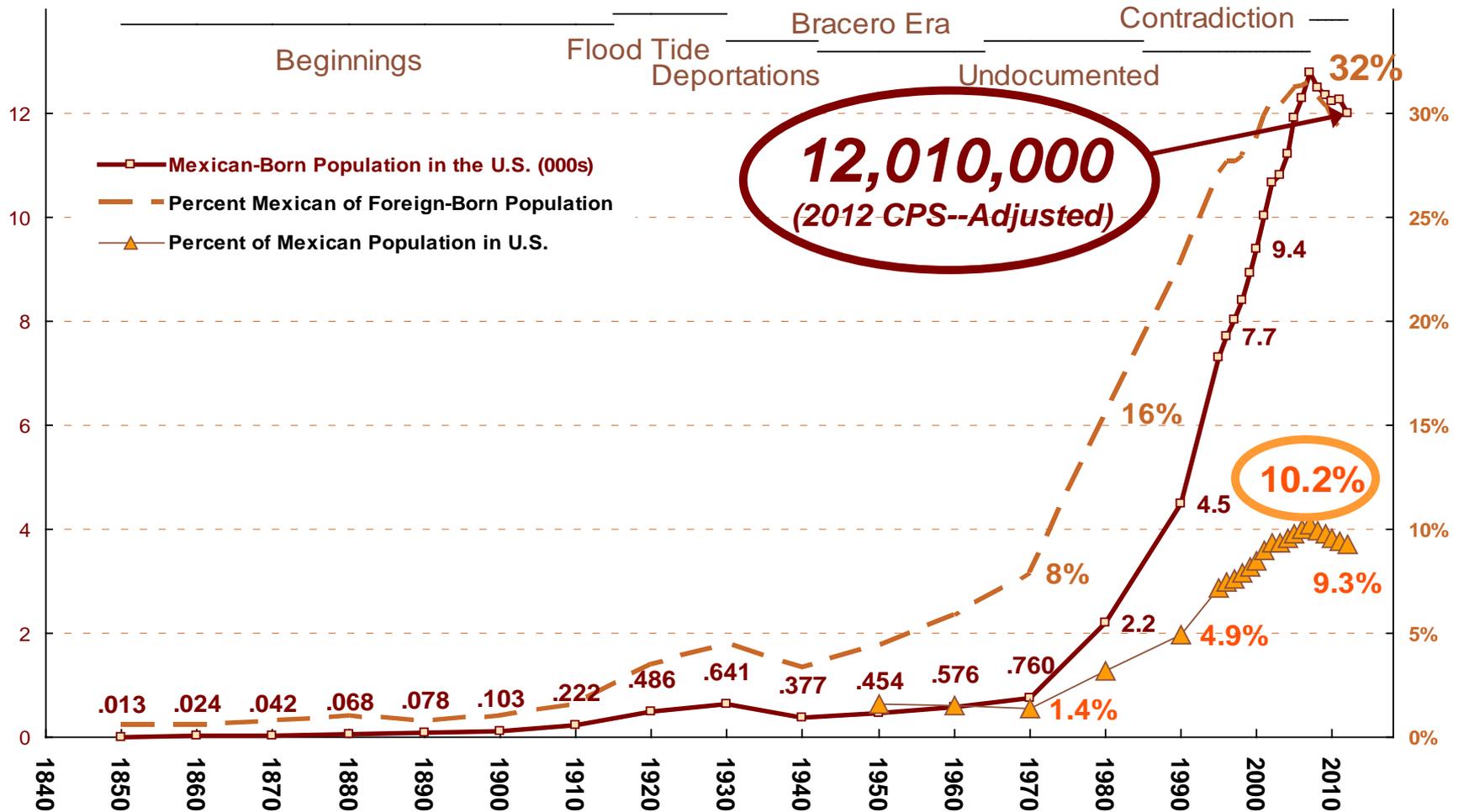
Source: Pew Hispanic Trends based on augmented 2012 March CPS, preliminary (Passel et al. 2013).

Mexican Immigrant Population Living in the U.S.

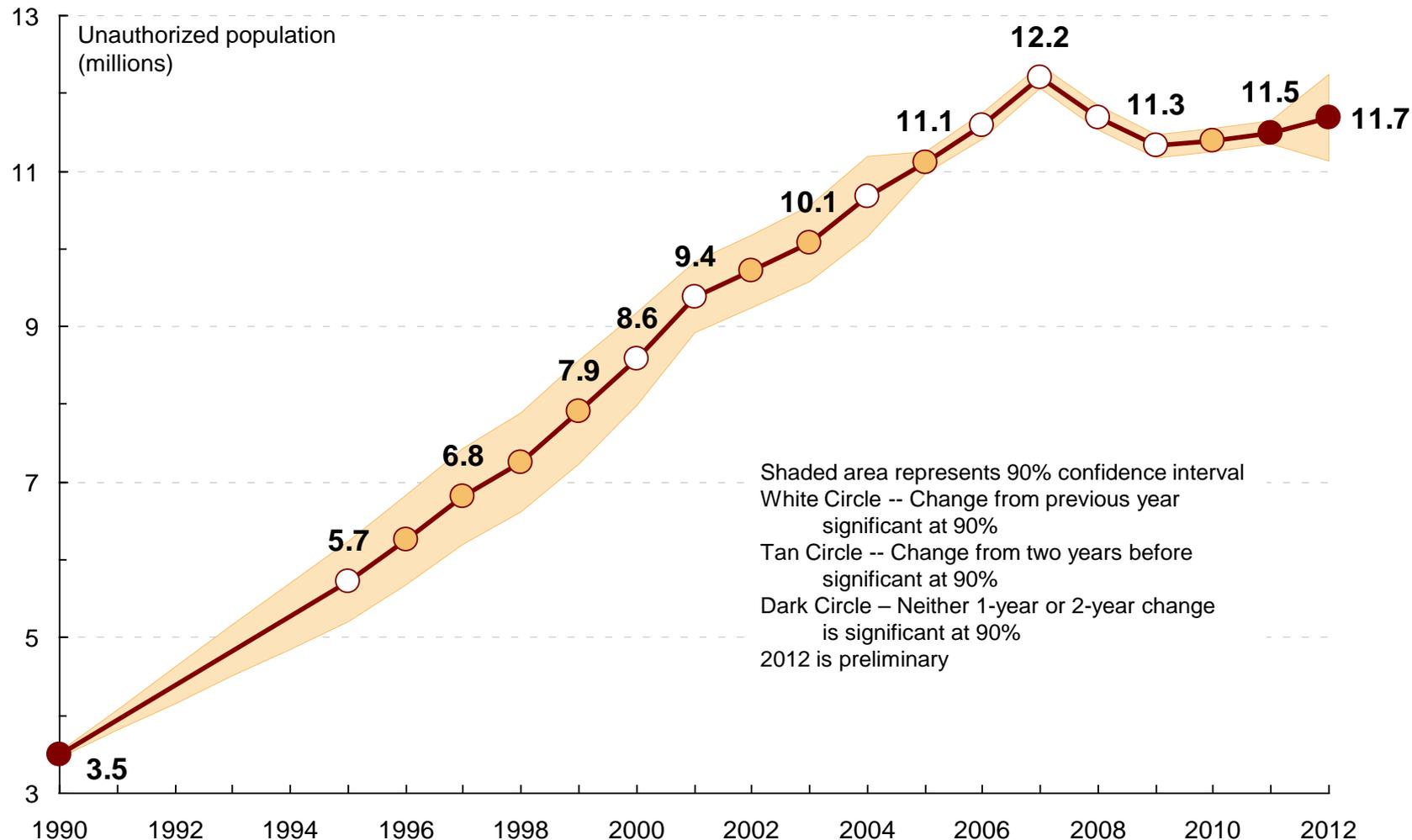
Mexicans Grow Rapidly from '70-'06 (many unauthorized); Growth in US Stops and then Reverses '07-'11; HUGE Share of World-wide Mexican Population in U.S. Now

Millions of Mexican Migrants in U.S.

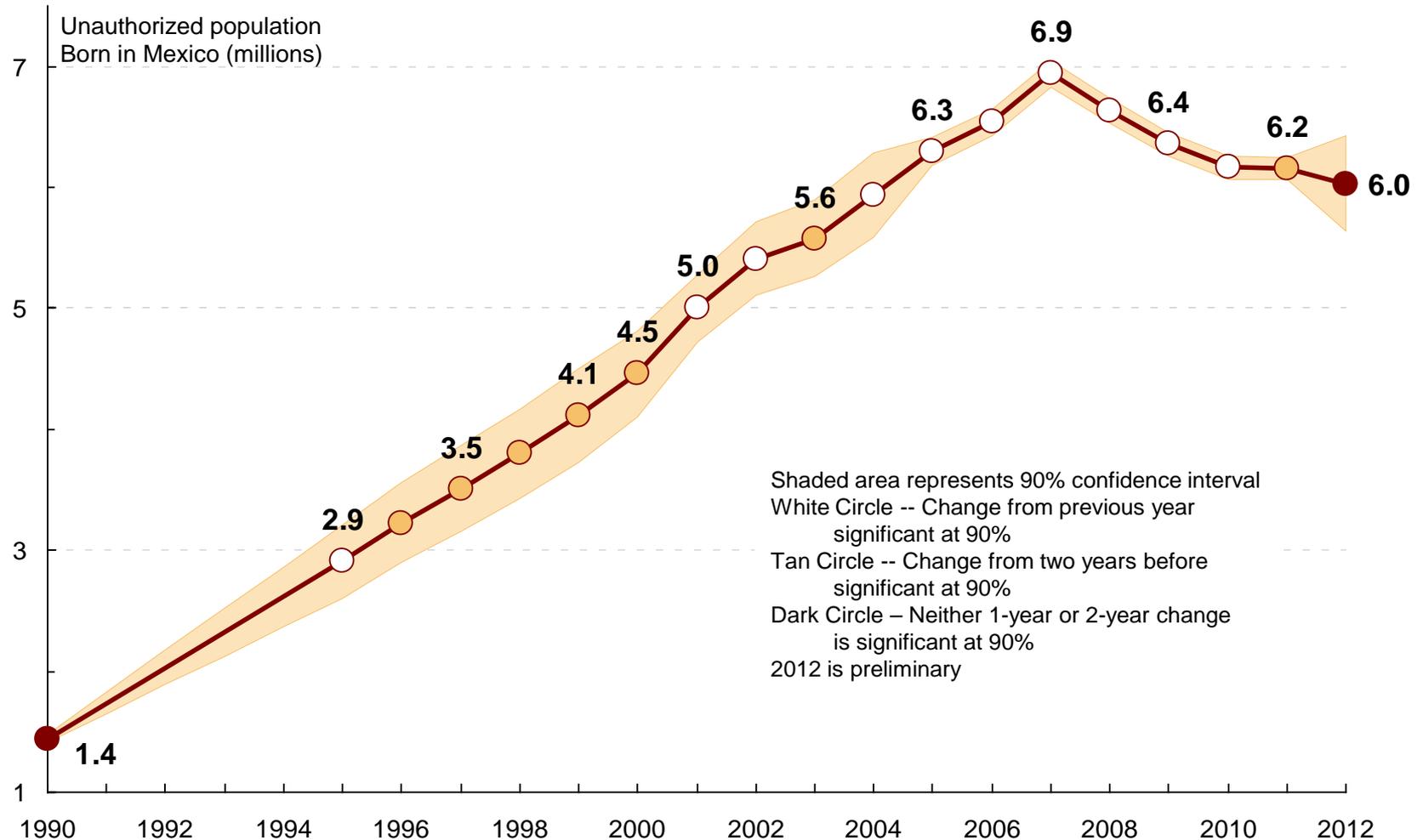
Percent Mexican of Foreign-Born



Total Unauthorized Dropped '07-'09; Essentially No Change '09 to '12

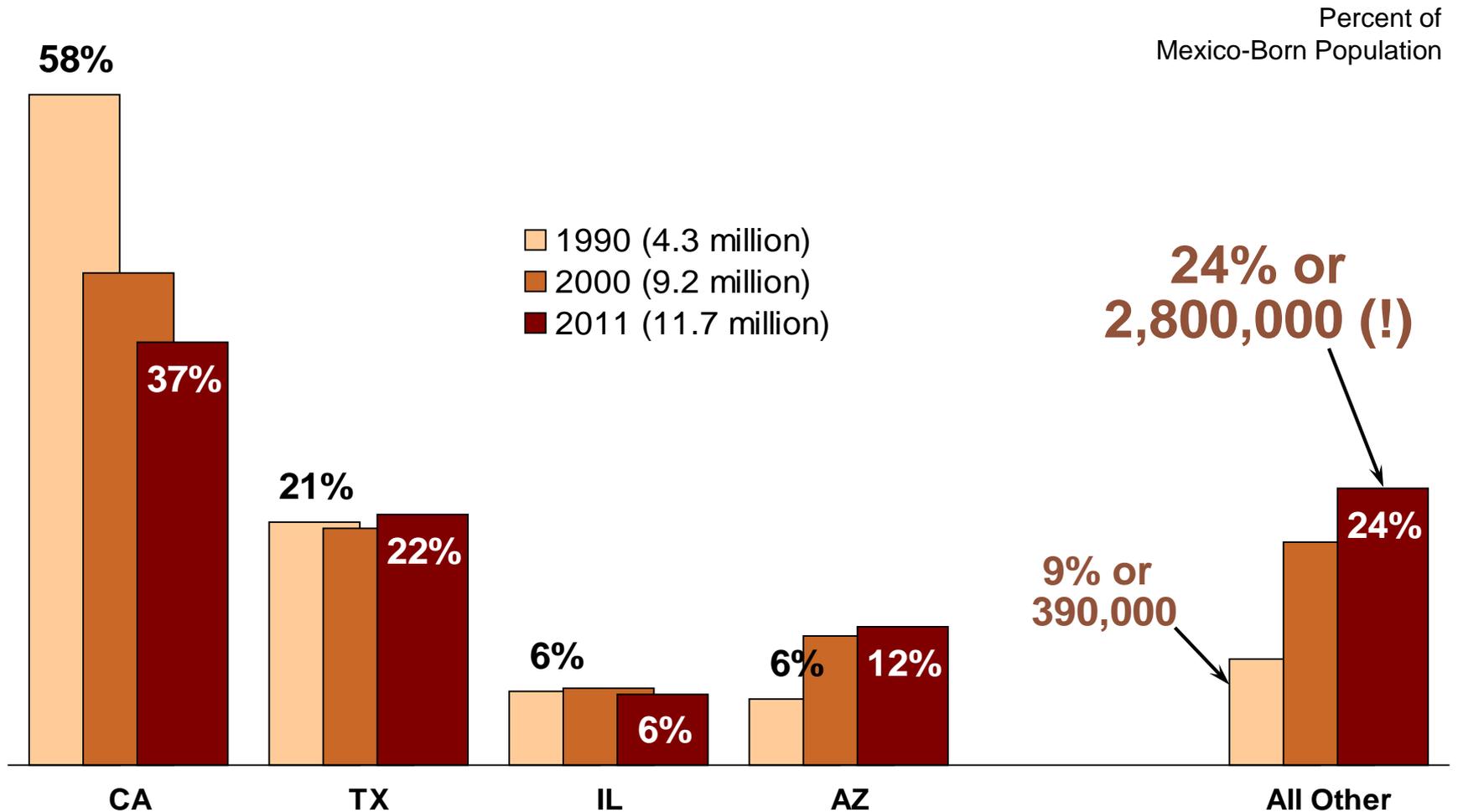


Mexican Unauthorized Peaked in '07; Decreases Continue through '11

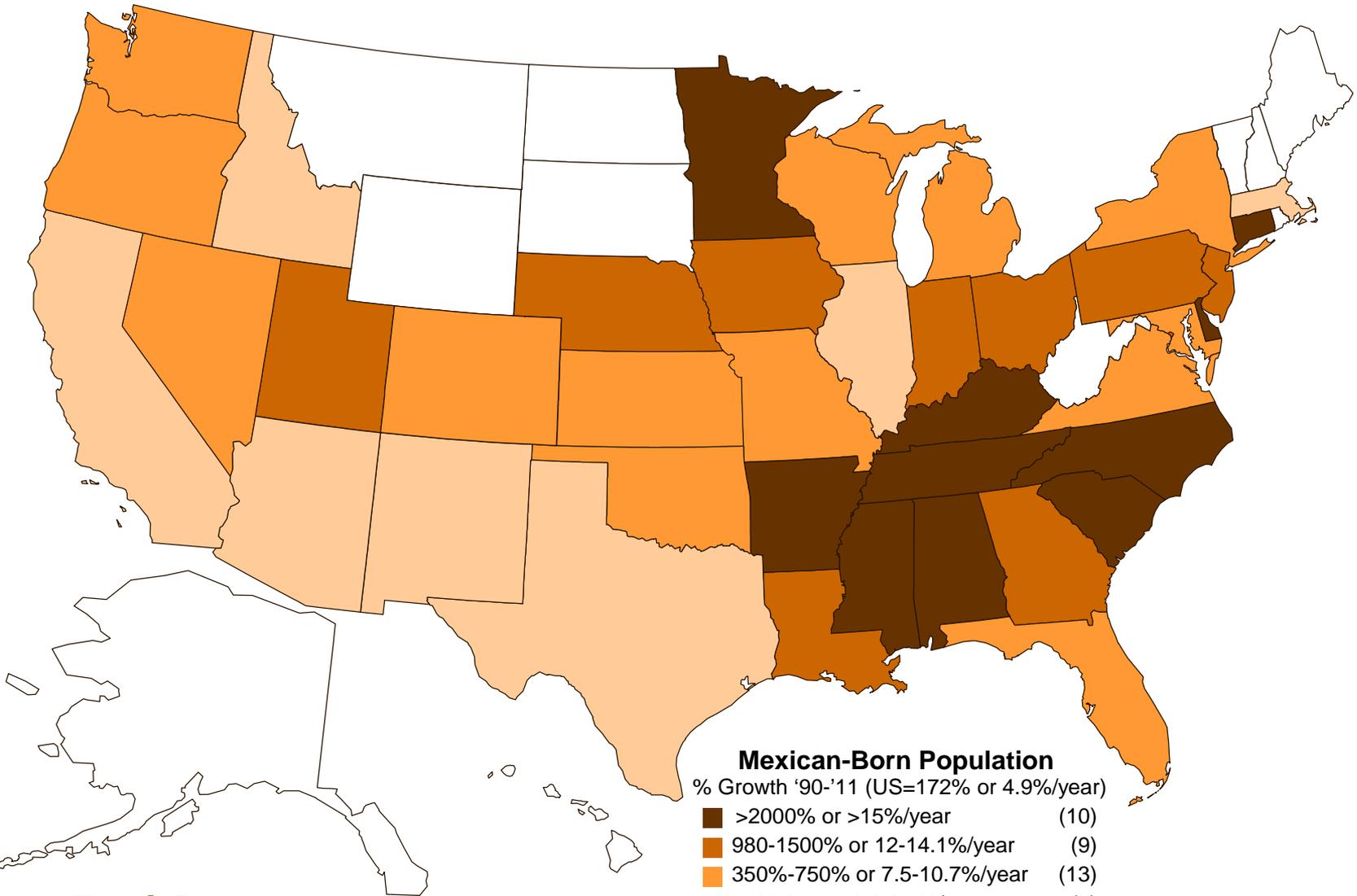


Where Do the Mexicans Live?

Historic Core of Mexican Immigrants → CA, TX, IL, AZ; Most Growth after 2000 in AZ and “New Destination Areas”

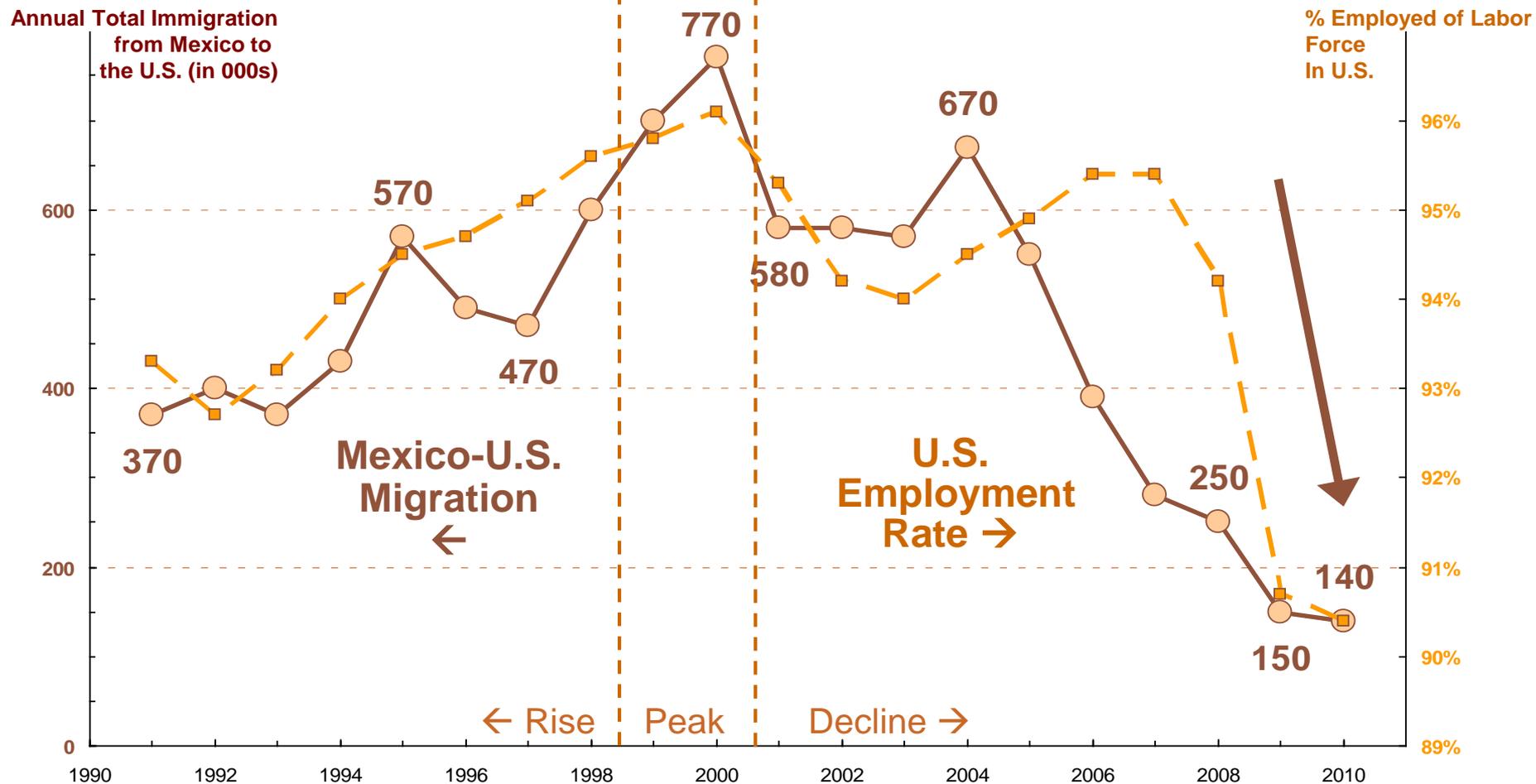


New Destinations for Mexicans

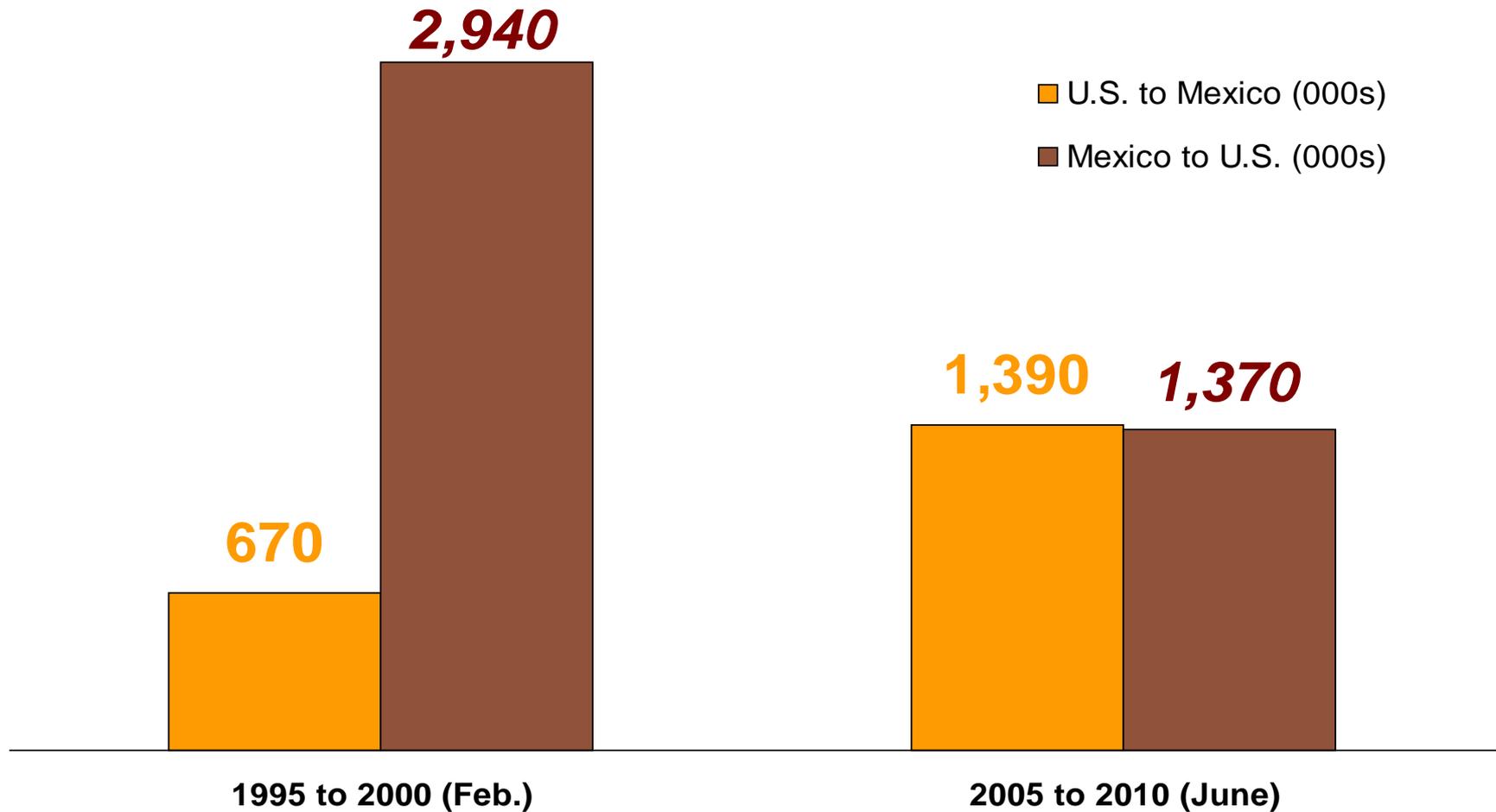


Immigration Flows Between Mexico and the U.S.

Mexican In-Flows Follow US Employment Patterns; Current Flow (Largely Legal) is ~20% of '00 Peak (Largely Unauthorized)



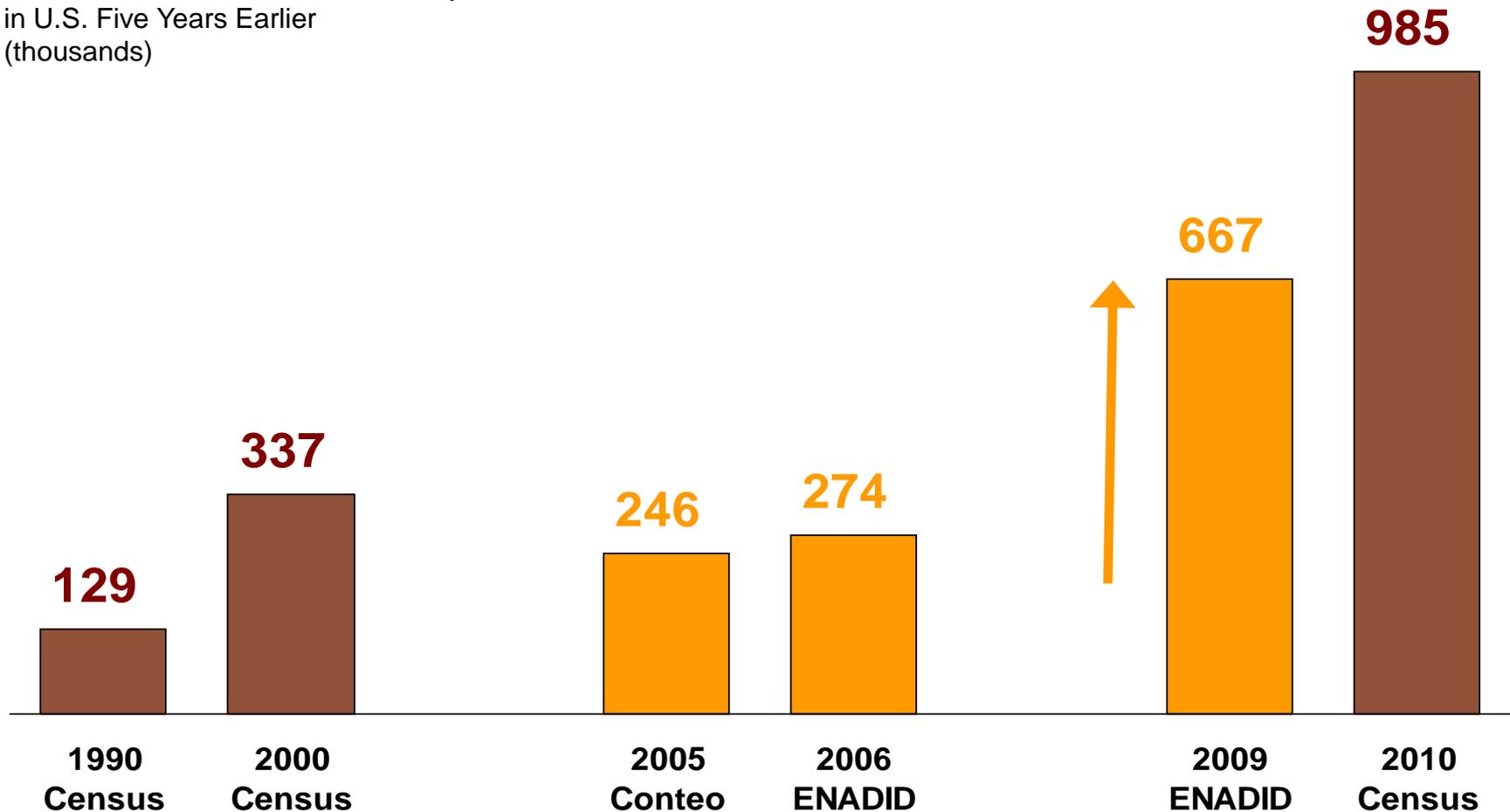
Major Shifts for '95-'00 to '05-'10; Flows to US \searrow 50%; Flows to Mexico \nearrow >100%



Source: Pew Hispanic Trends based on various sources, Passel, Cohn & Gonzalez-Barrera 2012.

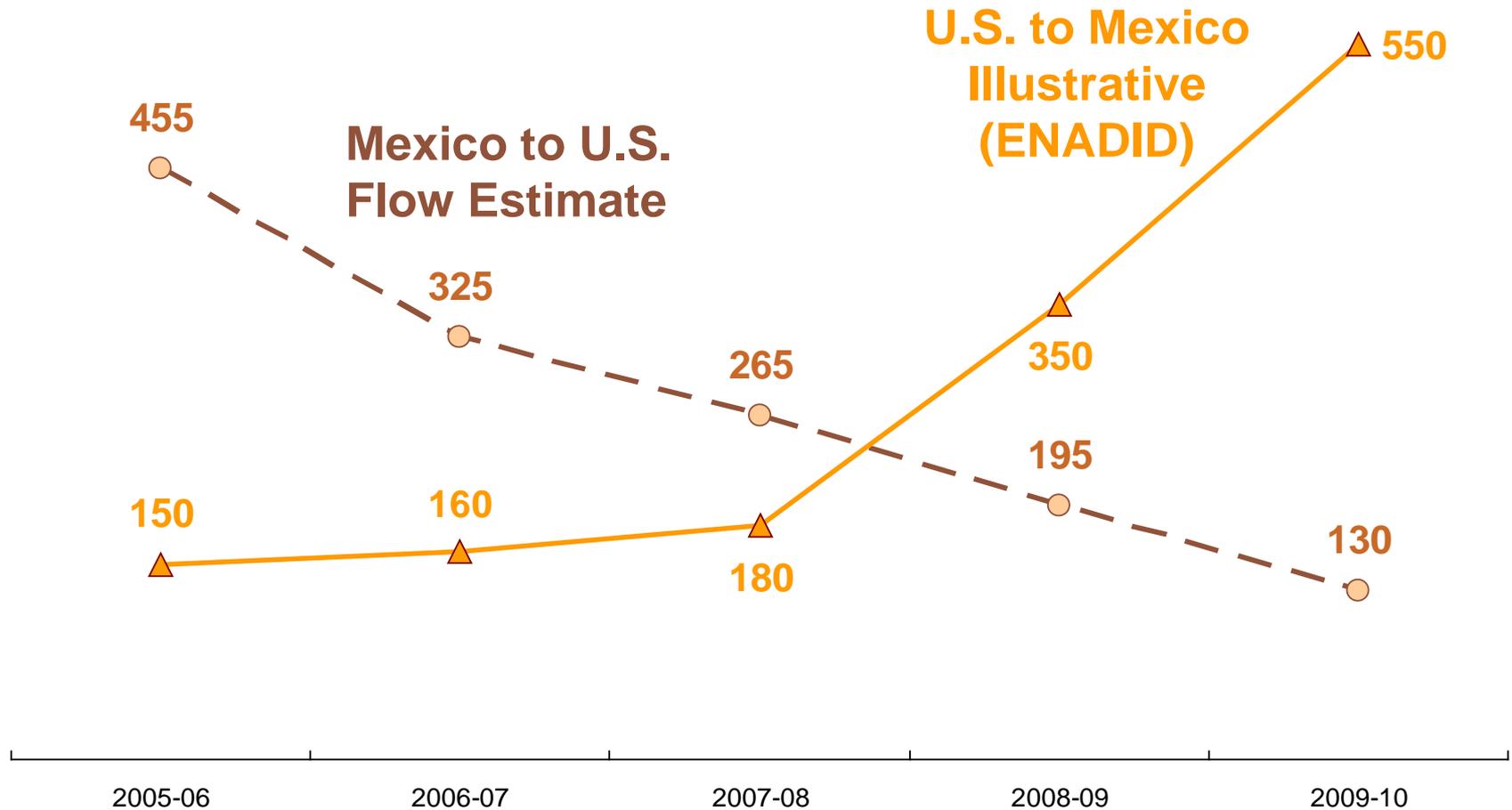
When Did the Flows Turn Around? '07-'08 based on "In US 5 Years Ago"

Persons in Mexico at Census/Survey and
in U.S. Five Years Earlier
(thousands)



Illustrative Estimates Point to Large Return Flows for 2008-2010

Estimated Annual Movement (in 000s)



Who is Going Back to Mexico?

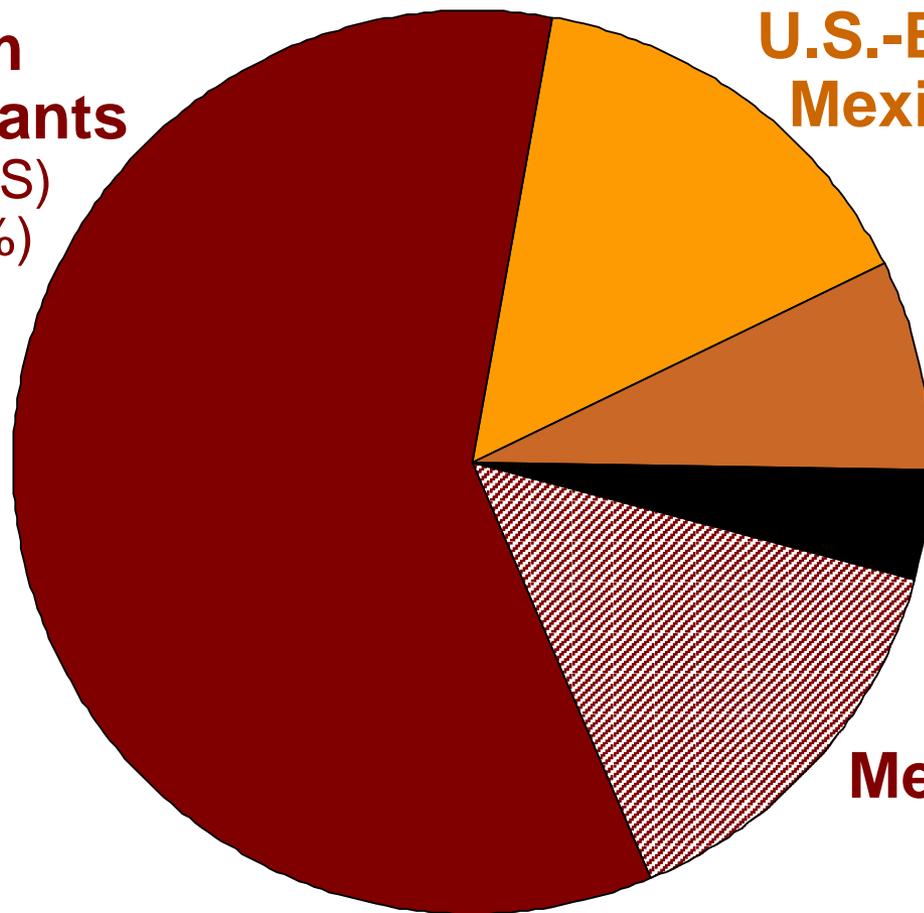
Long-Term Mexican Migrants
(5+ years in US)
825,000 (59%)

U.S.-Born Children of Mexicans (Under 5)
210,000 (15%)

U.S.-Born Children (>5)
110,000 (8%)

Other Adults
53,000 (4%)

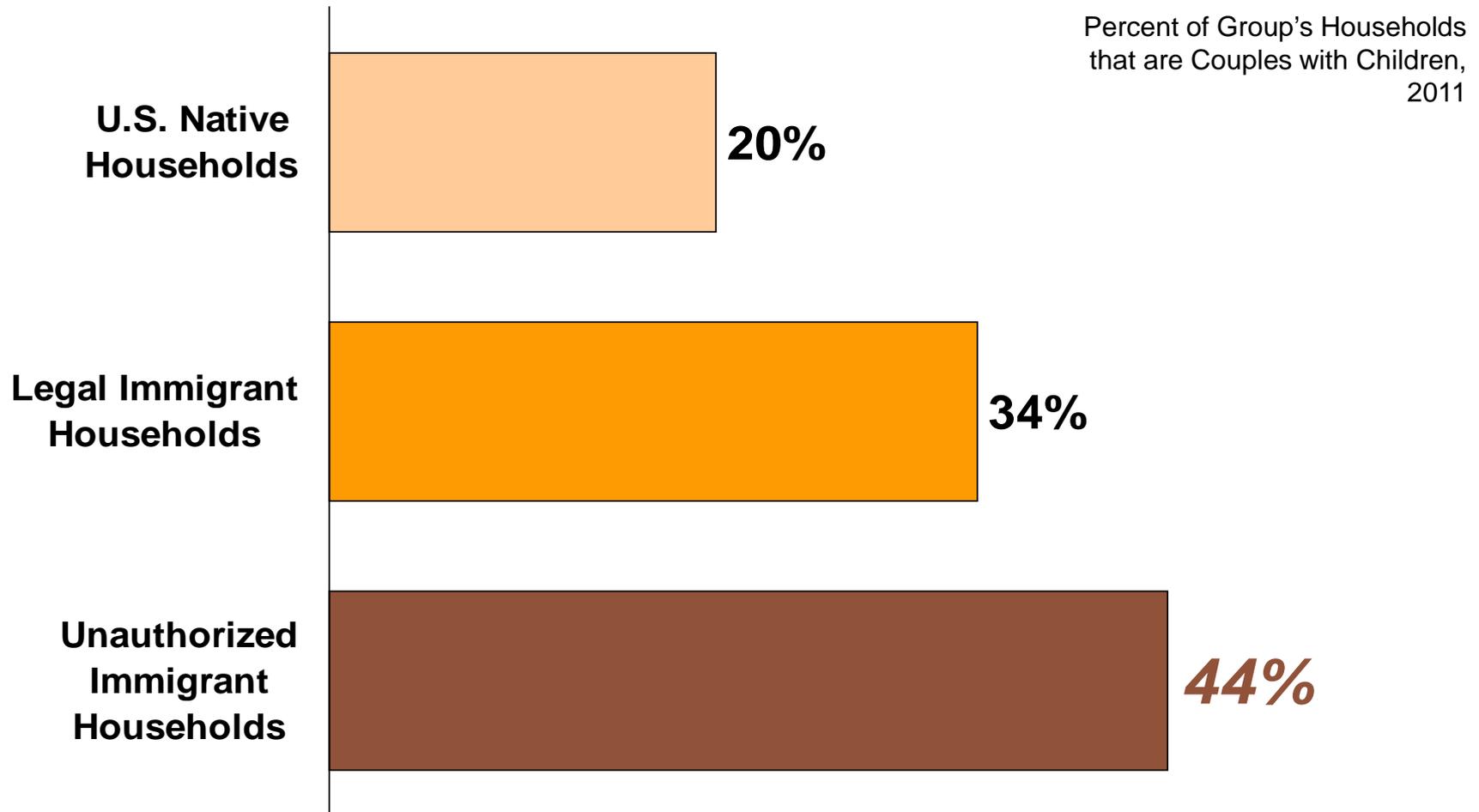
Short-Term Mexican Migrants
200,000 (15%)



1.4 Million U.S. to Mexico Migrants, 2005-2010

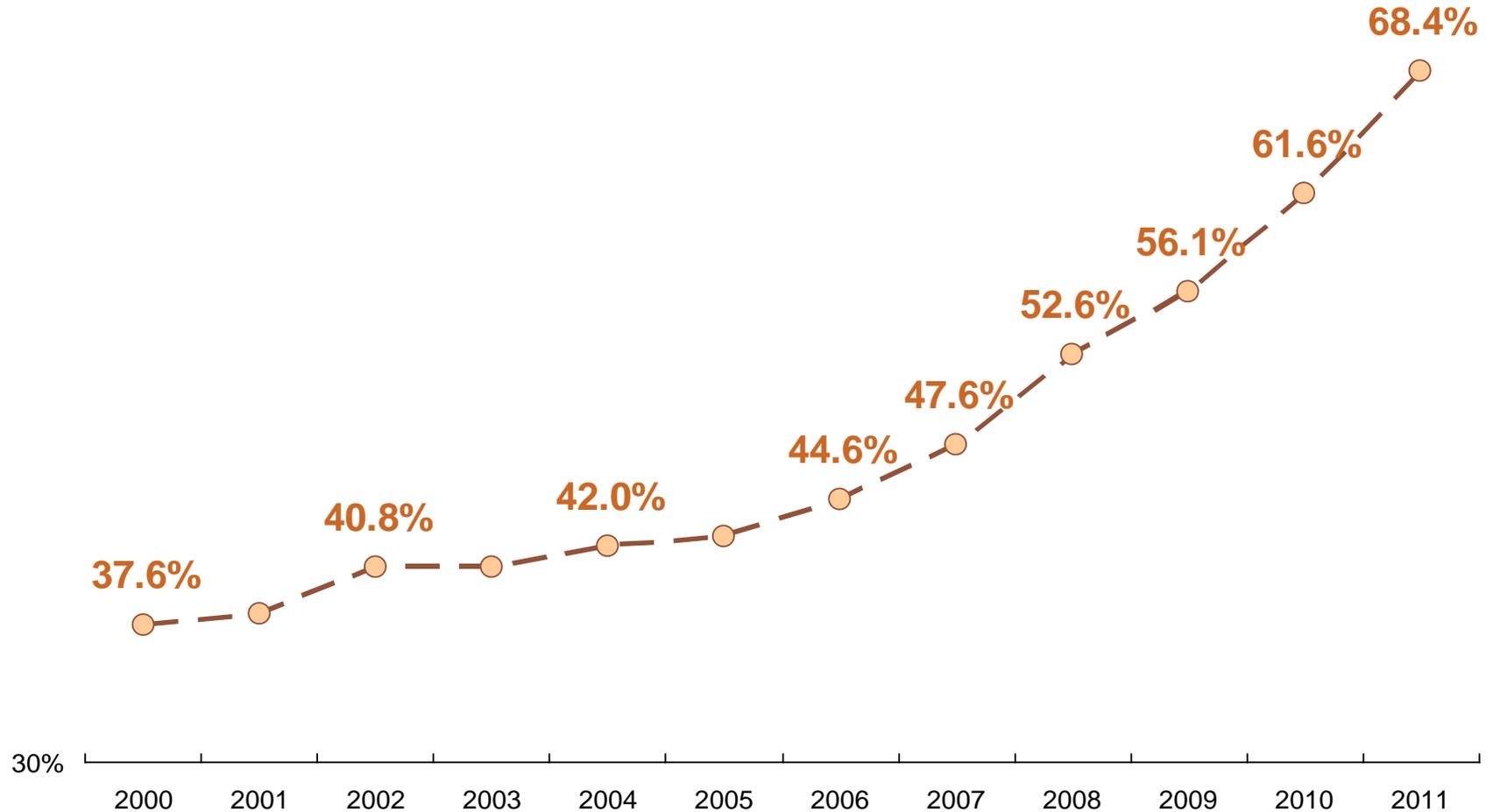
Characteristics of (Unauthorized) Mexican Immigrants in the U.S.

Unauthorized Immigrants More Likely To Be Couples with Children

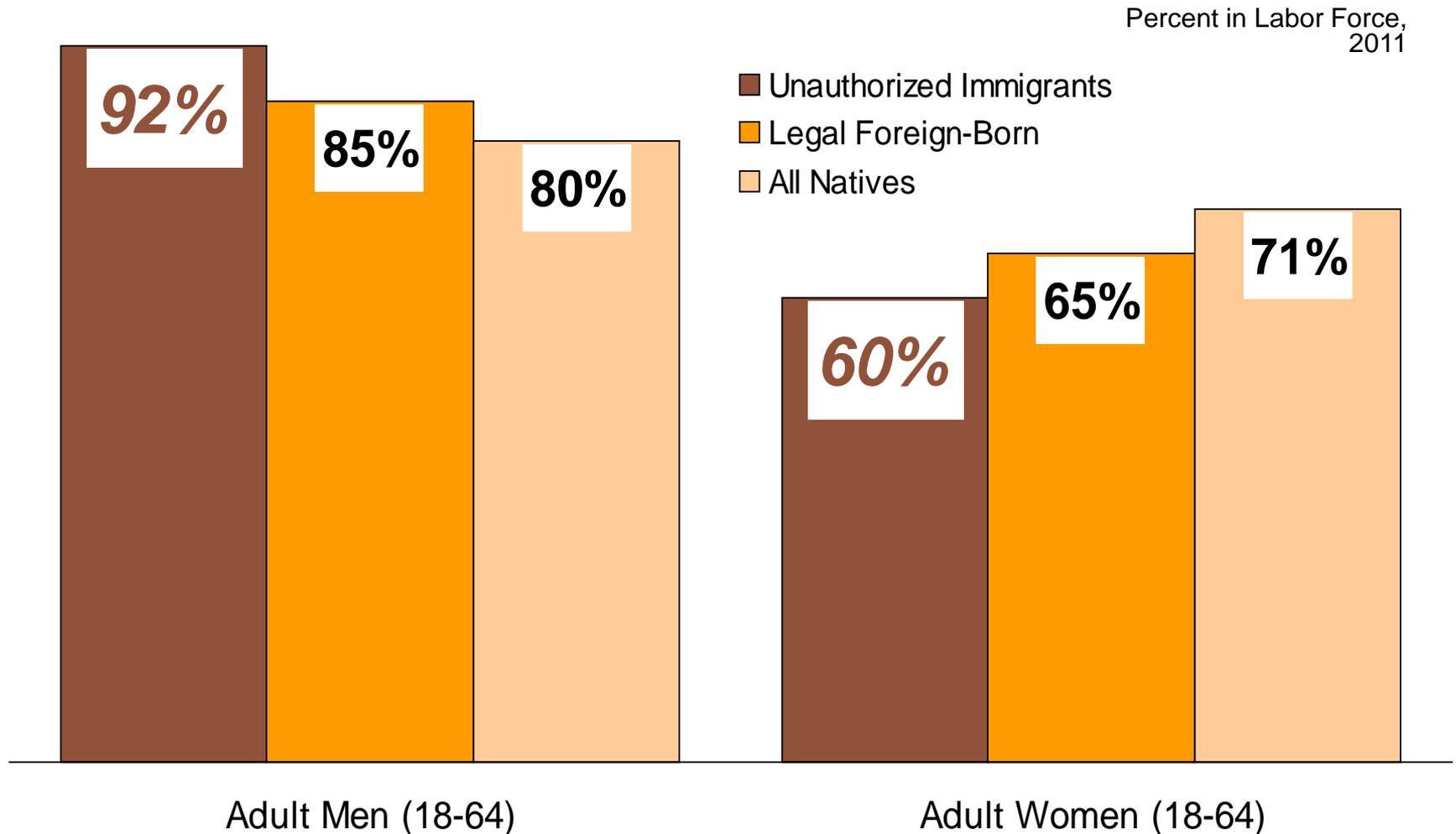


Unauthorized Mexican Population Is More “Settled” in the U.S.

Share of Unauthorized Mexicans Who
Have Lived in the US 10 Years or More

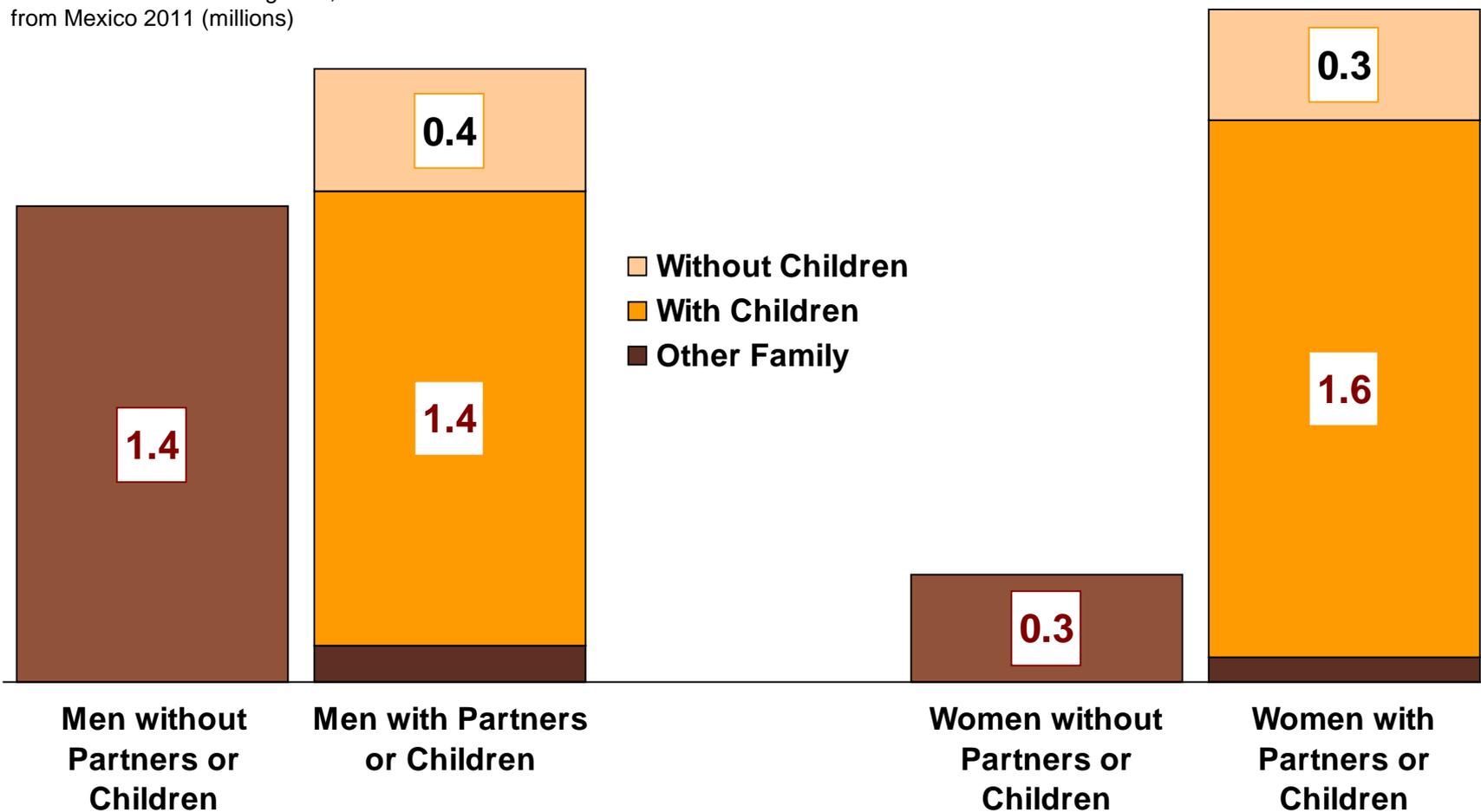


Unauthorized Men Work More; Women Work Much Less Than Others



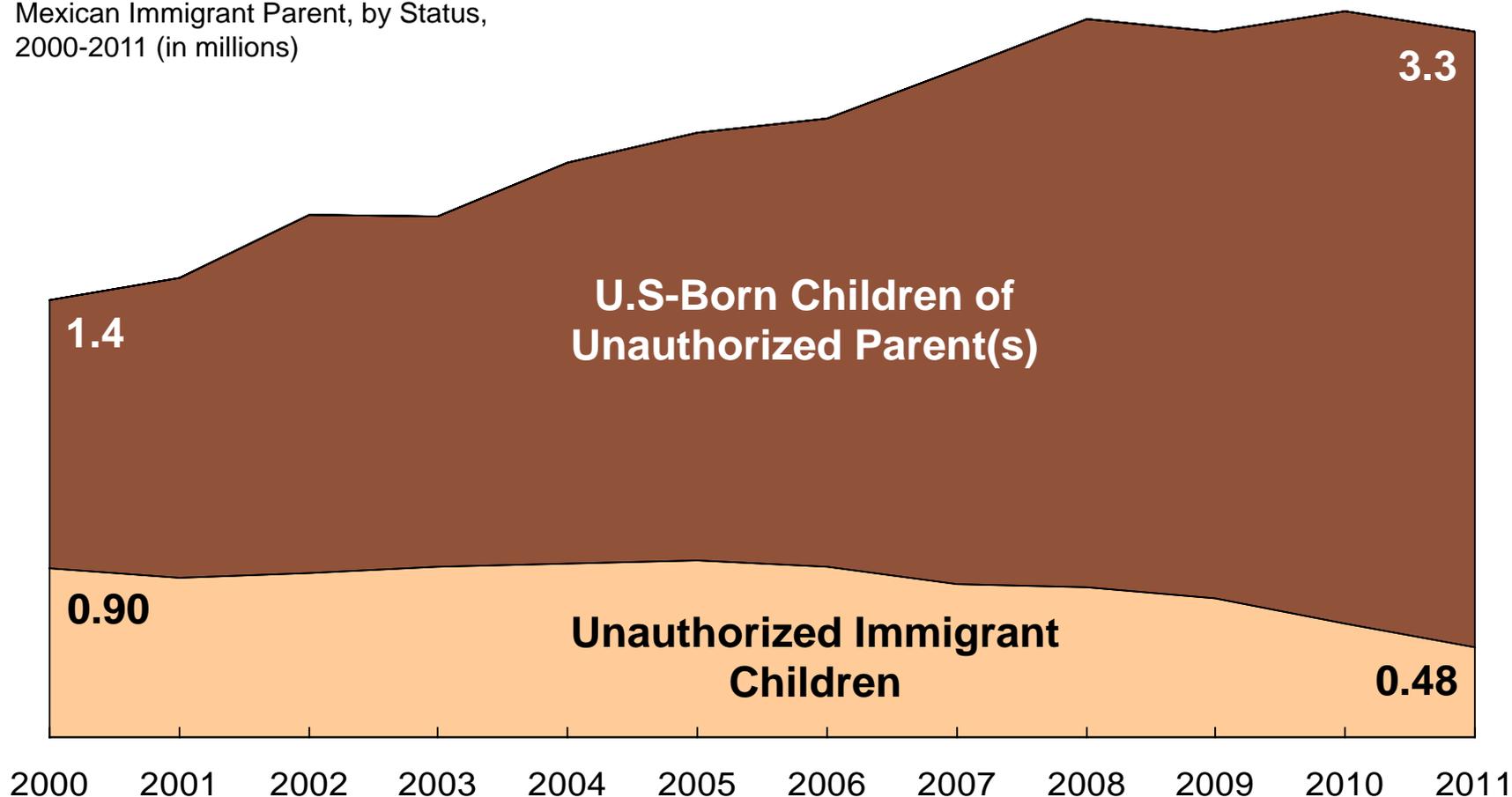
A Majority of Mexican Unauthorized Are Married or Have Children

Adult Unauthorized Immigrants,
from Mexico 2011 (millions)



US-Born Children of Unauthorized Up but Unauthorized Children Decrease

Children with at Least One Unauthorized Mexican Immigrant Parent, by Status, 2000-2011 (in millions)



Source: Pew Hispanic Trends based on augmented 2000-2011 March CPS, consistent with Passel & Cohn 2012.

Unauthorized Mexican Families Have a Very Mixed Composition

Unauthorized Men

3.3 million
58% of Adults

Unauthorized Children

475,000
Only 8% of All
Unauthorized

U.S. Citizen Children

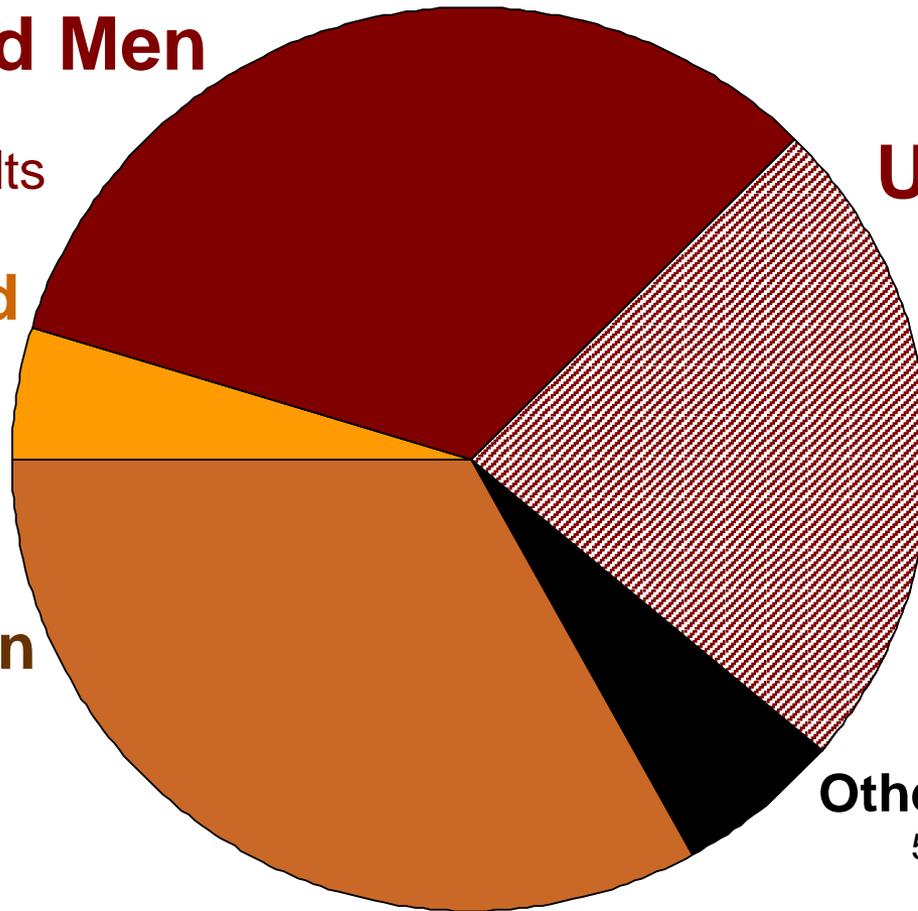
3.3 million
87% of Kids

Unauthorized Women

2.3 million
42% of Adults

Other Adults

585,000



10 Million in Unauthorized Mexican Families, 2011

What About the Future?

- **Flows Down—Response to Economy**
 - Enforcement May Be Working
 - Border Effectiveness and Interior Laws
- **Changes in Mexico Affect Flows**
 - Smaller Birth Cohorts Lessens Demographic Pressure to Migrate
 - Break in Flows May Weaken Networks
- **Key Features of Population**
 - Families, Not Just Individuals
 - Networks and Culture Have Enhanced Flows
 - Scale is Large and Dispersed

Thank You!

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