

# U.S. Immigration Trends: A Focus on Agriculture & California



Labor Markets in a Global Economy  
International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium  
Washington, DC – January 7, 2008

## Immigration Patterns

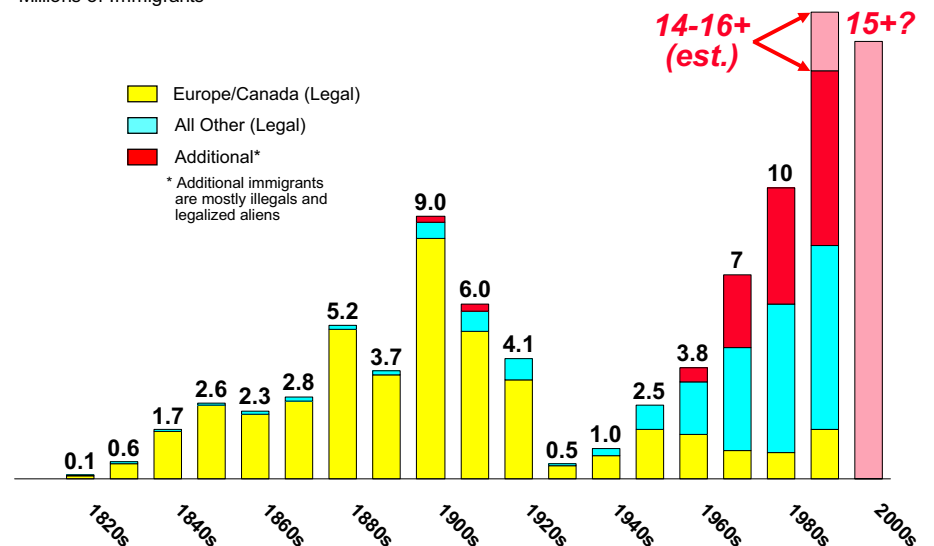
- **Demography of Immigration**
  - Emerging Trends, New Areas
  - Centrality of Mexico & CA
  - Regional Variation
- **Human Capital**
  - Role of Agriculture
  - Occupations
  - Education & Income
  - Health Insurance & Poverty

## Demographic Trends

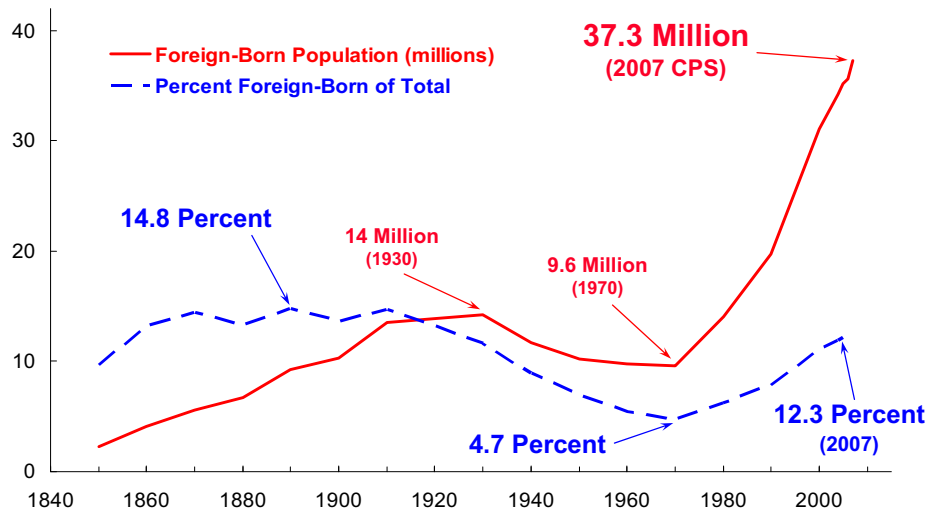
- **Growing Numbers**
  - Percents Approaching Historic Highs
- **Emergence of New Centers**
- **Rapid Growth of Mexicans**
- **Maturing of California**
  - New Areas Like CA of 1980s
- **Agricultural Areas NOT Typical**

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Current In-Flows Are Very High

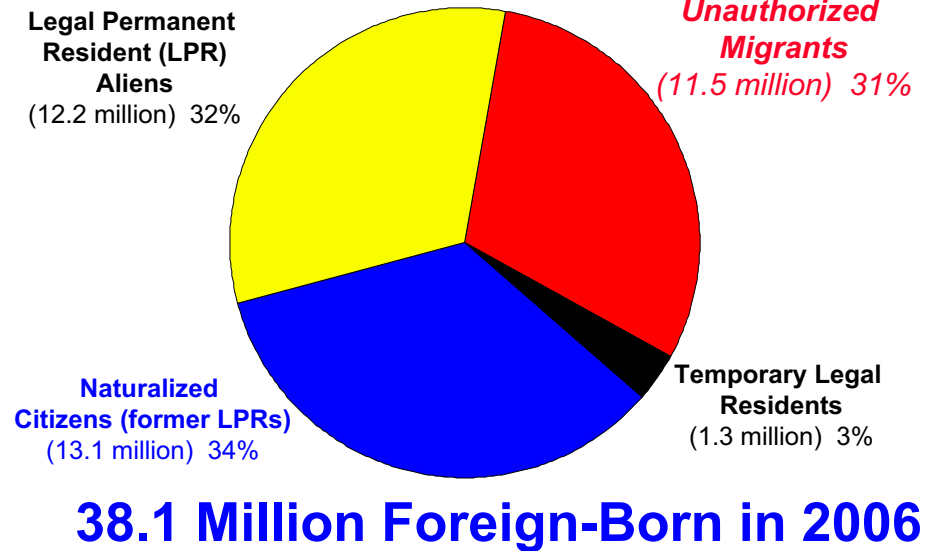
Millions of Immigrants



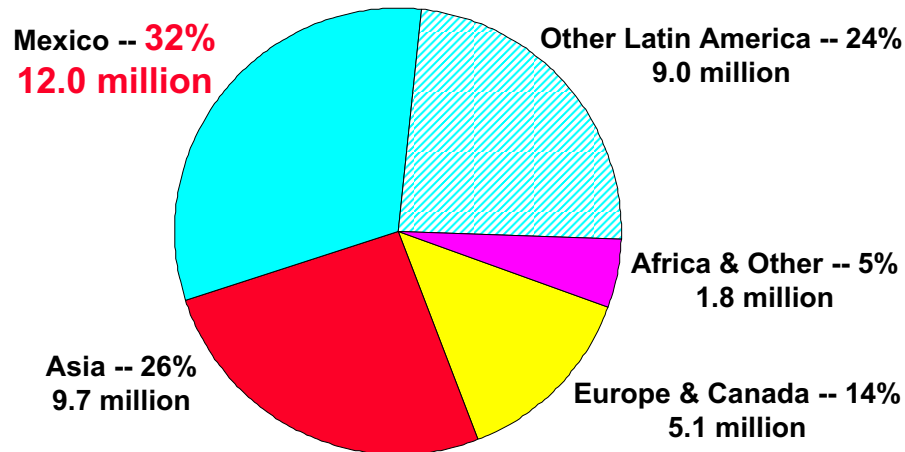
## Immigrant Numbers Keep Growing — Percent Approaches Historic Highs



## Legal Status of Immigrants



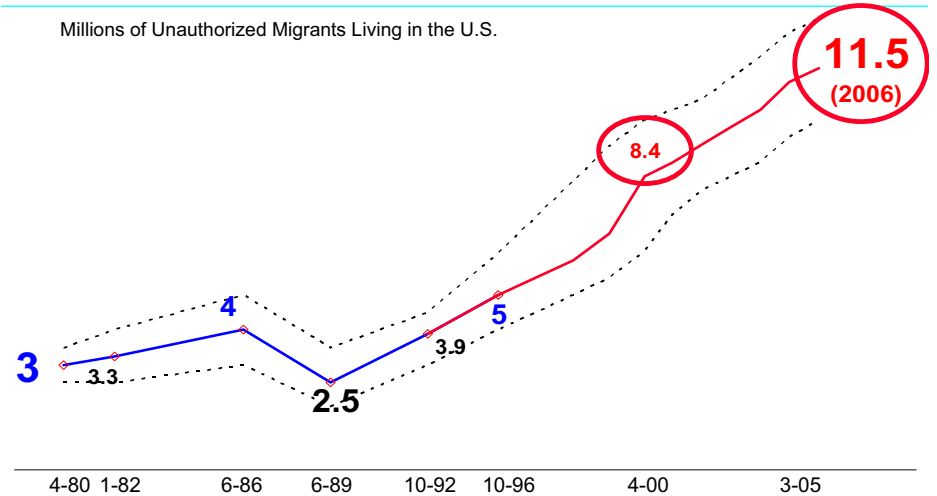
## Latin Americans & Asians Dominate Foreign-Born



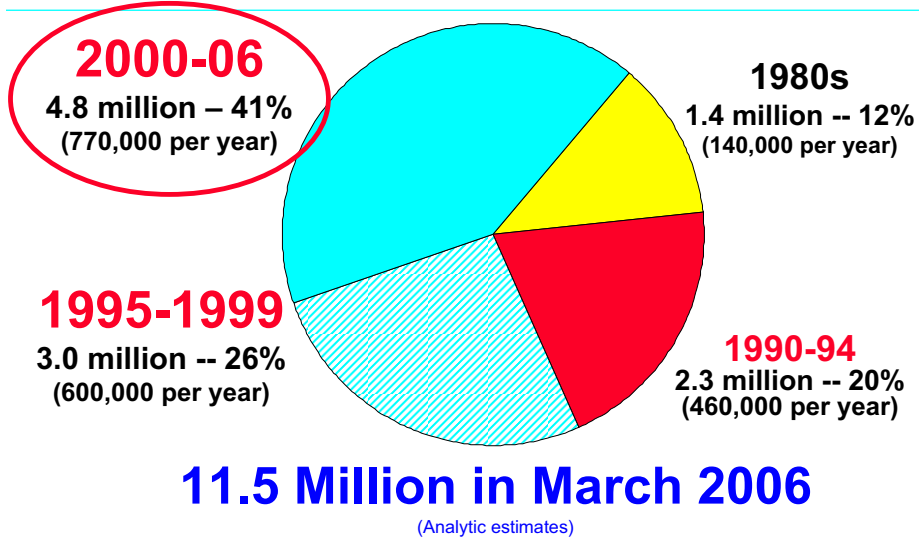
**37.6 Million Foreign-Born in 2006**

## Unauthorized Clearly at New High -- Trend Uncertain

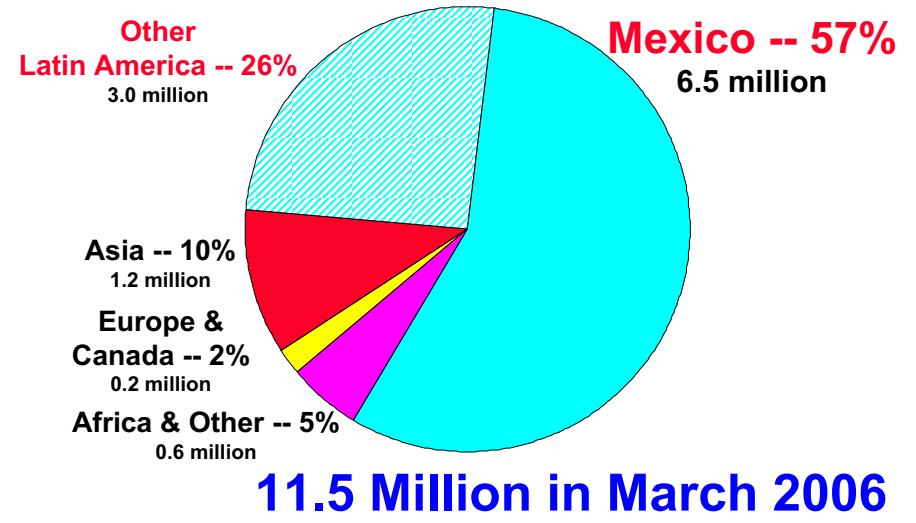
Millions of Unauthorized Migrants Living in the U.S.



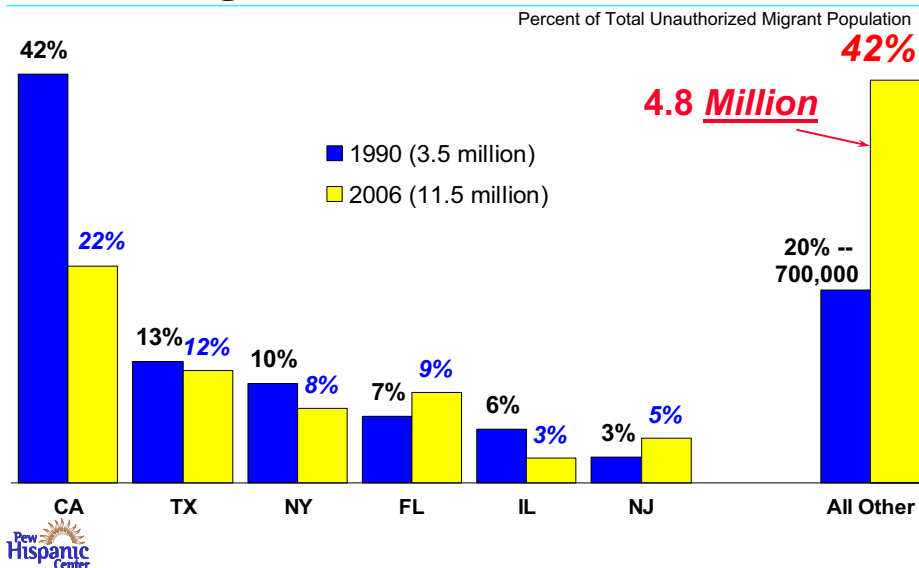
# Most Undocumented Arrived Since 1990



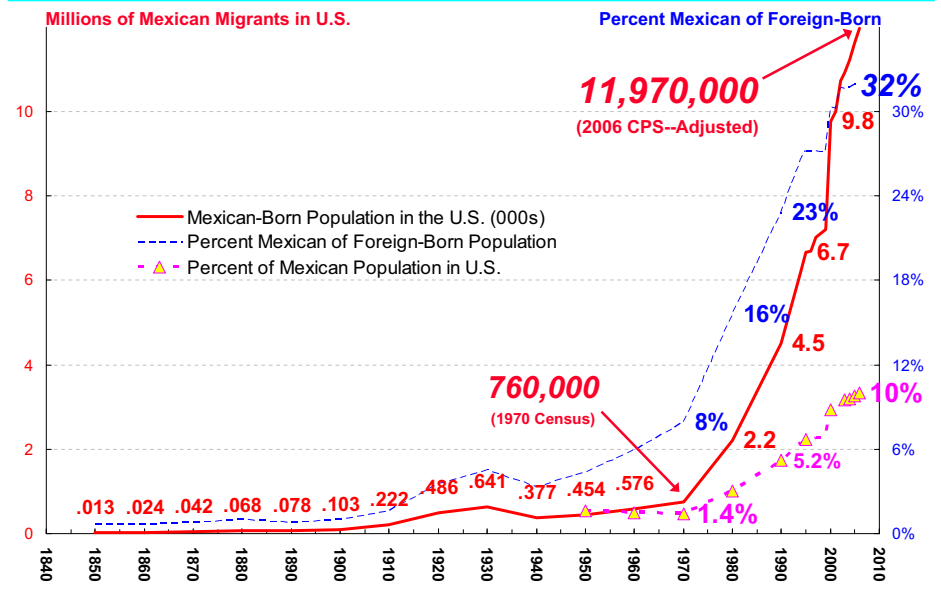
# Mexico is Largest Source of Unauthorized, Too



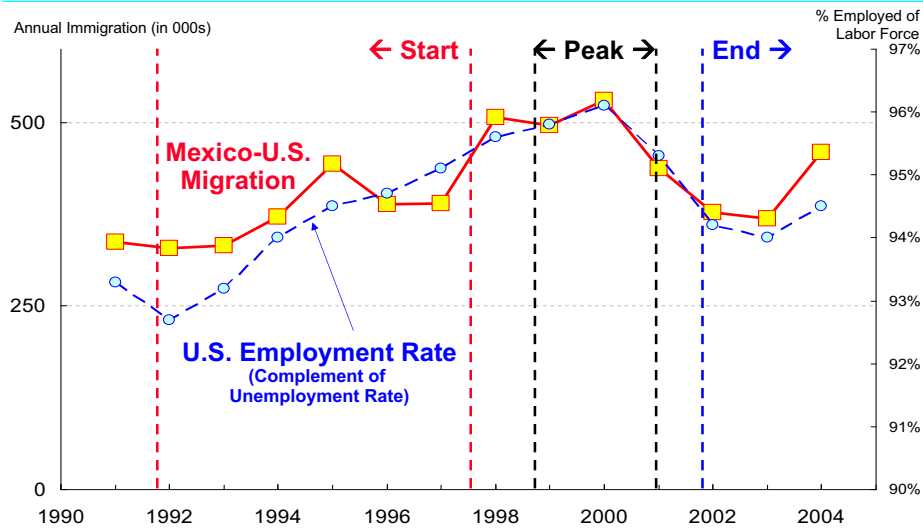
# Major Redistribution Away From Big 6 Settlement States



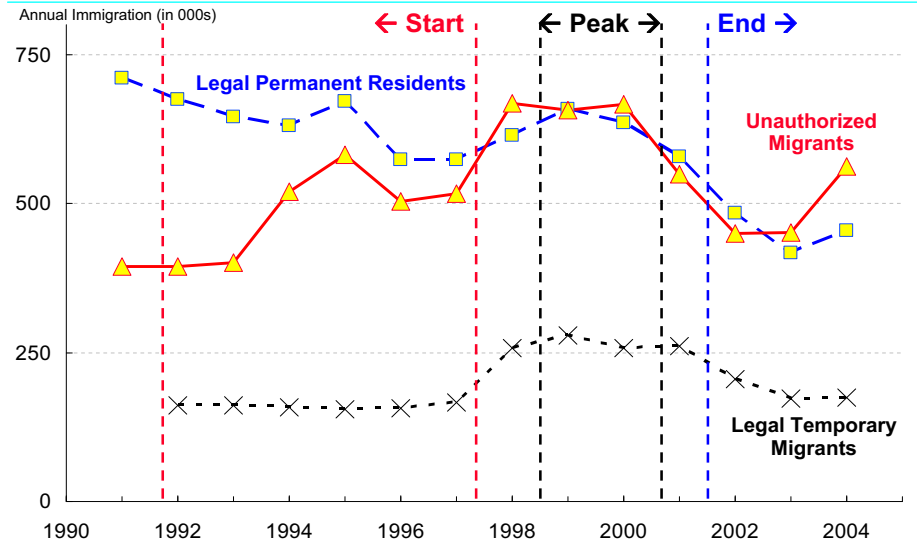
# Huge Share of Mexicans Are In U.S.



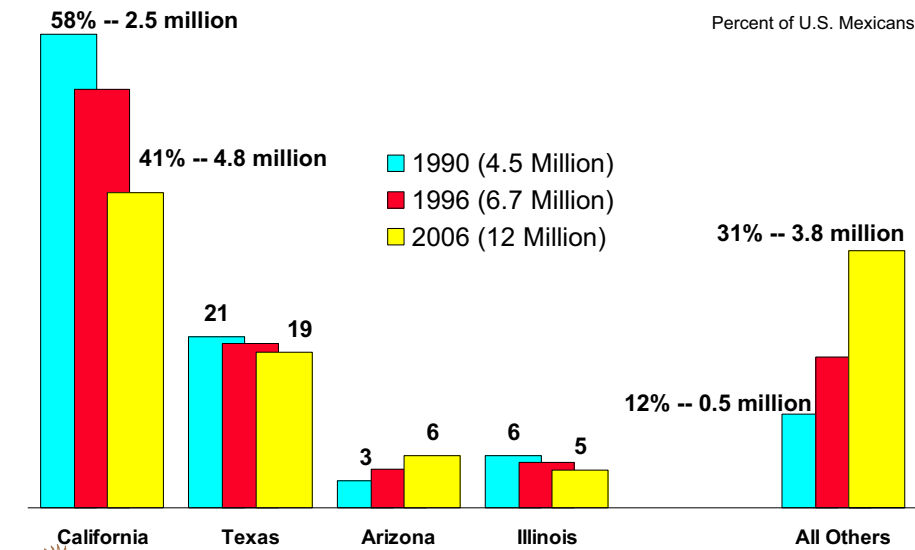
# Mexican Migration Follows Trends in U.S. Employment Rate



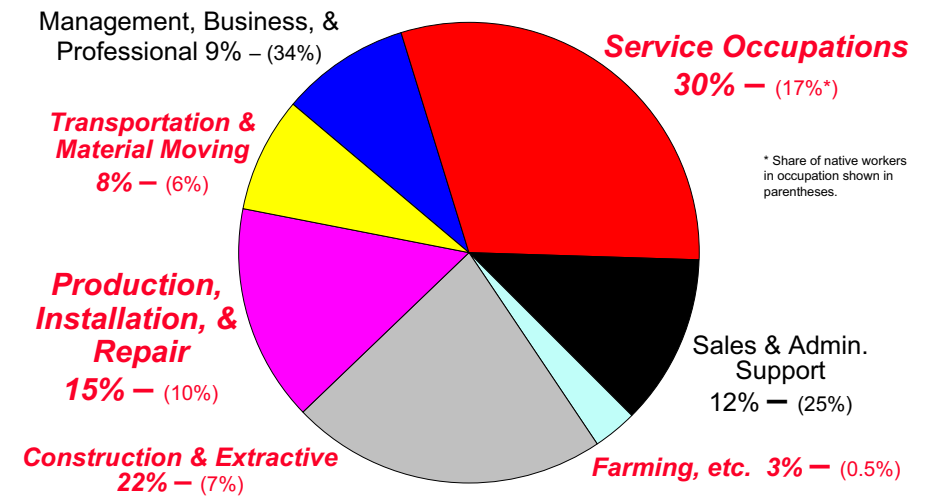
# Spike in '99-'00; Unauthorized Exceed LPRs



# Mexicans Lead Diversification



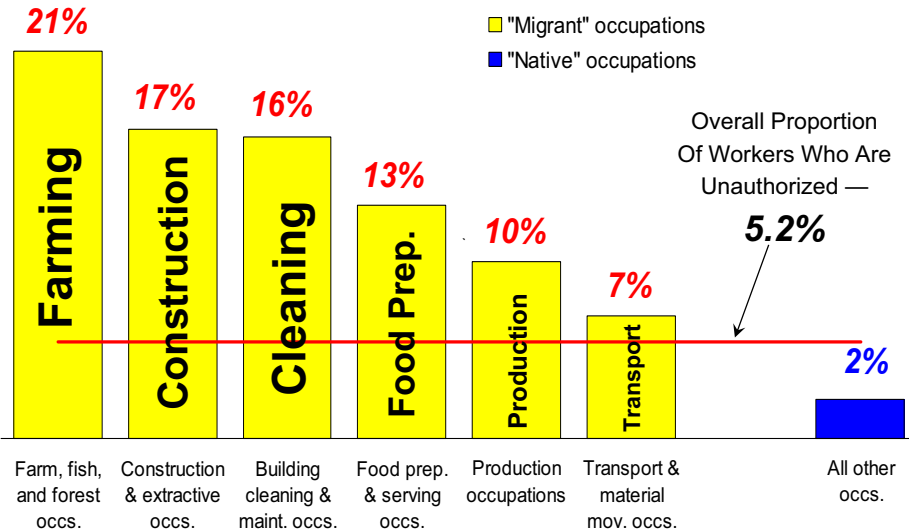
# Unauthorized in Lower Wage & Education Occupations



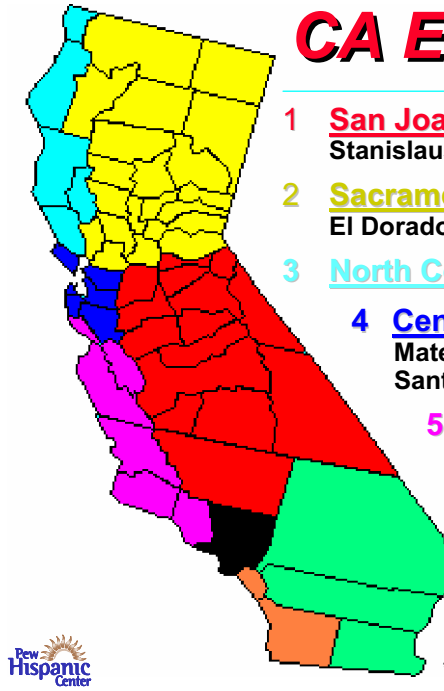
**7.8 Million Unauthorized Workers, 2006**

# Most Concentrated Occupations

Percent Unauthorized within Occupation Group, 2006



# CA Economic Areas



- San Joaquin Valley\*** -- San Joaquin, Merced, Stanislaus, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kern
  - Sacramento Valley\*** -- Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Yuba, Sutter, Yolo, Butte
  - North Coast\*** -- Sonoma, Napa
  - Central Metros** -- San Francisco, San Mateo, Marin, Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara
  - Coastal Metros\*** -- Santa Cruz, Monterey (San Benito), San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura
  - Desert(\*)** -- San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial
  - Southern Metros** -- Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego
- \* Agricultural Area

New Hispanic Center

# Border State Areas

## California Agriculture\*

- San Joaquin Valley
- Sacramento Valley
- Northern Coast
- Central Coastal Metros

## California Border

- Los Angeles
- Southern CA Metros

## Non-Border Metros

- Bay Area Core Metros
- Albuquerque NM
- Houston TX
- Dallas-Ft. Worth TX \*\*
- Phoenix AZ \*\*, etc.

## Border Metros

- Yuma\* & Tucson, AZ
- Las Cruces NM\*
- El Paso TX
- Laredo, McAllen, & Brownsville TX\*
- San Antonio TX

## Balances of State\*

- CA Balance (0.4 million)
- AZ Balance (0.7 million)
- NM Balance (0.7 million)
- TX Balance (3.7 million)

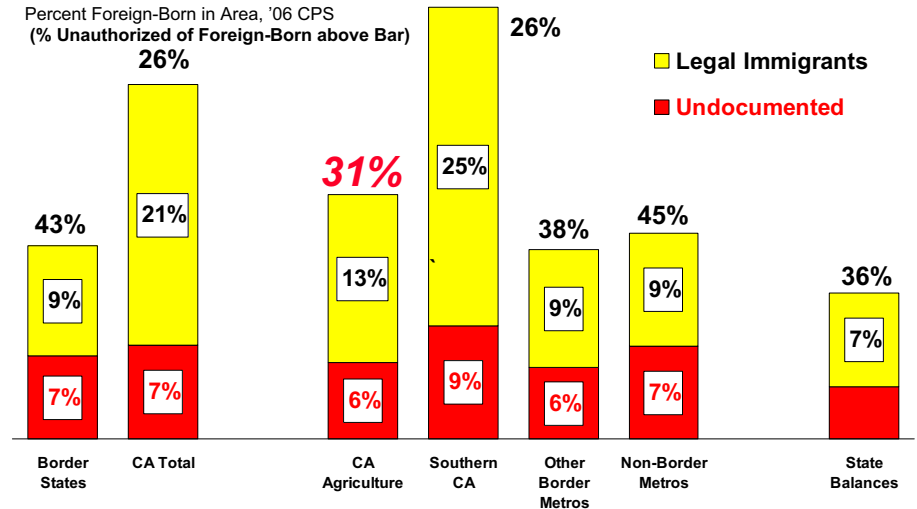
\* Agricultural Area

\*\* Rapid Growth Area

New Hispanic Center

# Ag Areas Have Smallest Percent Foreign-Born

Percent Foreign-Born in Area, '06 CPS  
(% Unauthorized of Foreign-Born above Bar)

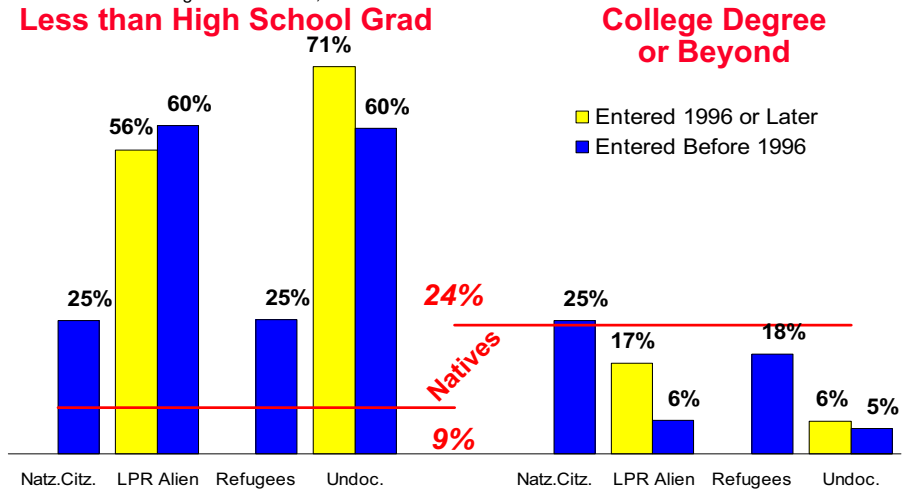


# Dimensions of Immigrant Human Capital

- **Low Education for Mexicans**
- **High Education for Others**
- **High Attachment to Labor Force**
- **Agricultural & Border Areas -- Tied to Agriculture Limited Mobility & Opportunity**

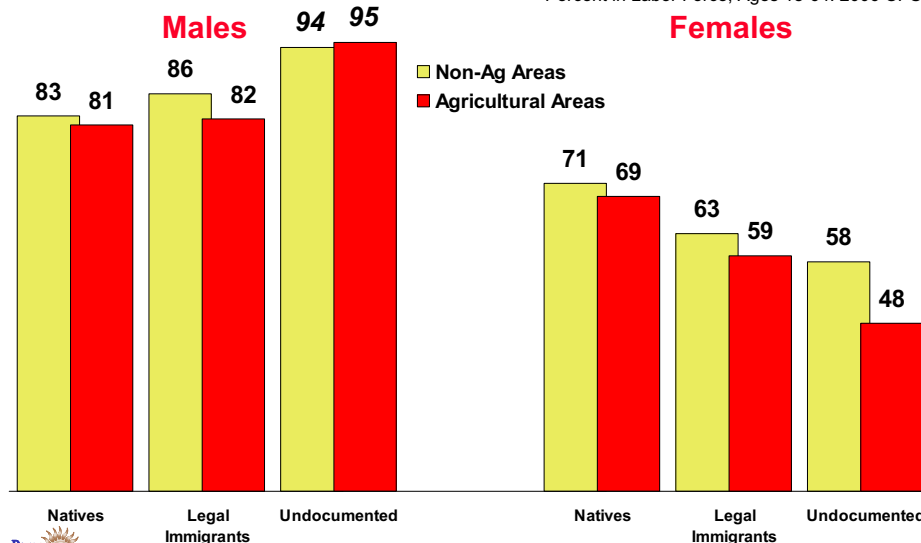
# Education in "Ag Areas" -- "Hourglass" & "Diamond"

Percent of Persons Aged 25-64 Years, 2006 CPS



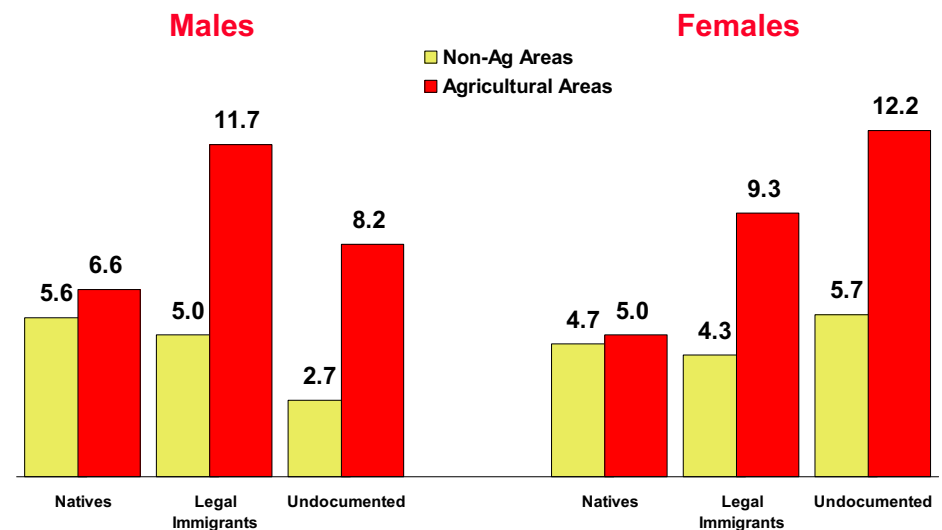
# Labor Force Attachment is High

Percent in Labor Force, Ages 18-64: 2006 CPS



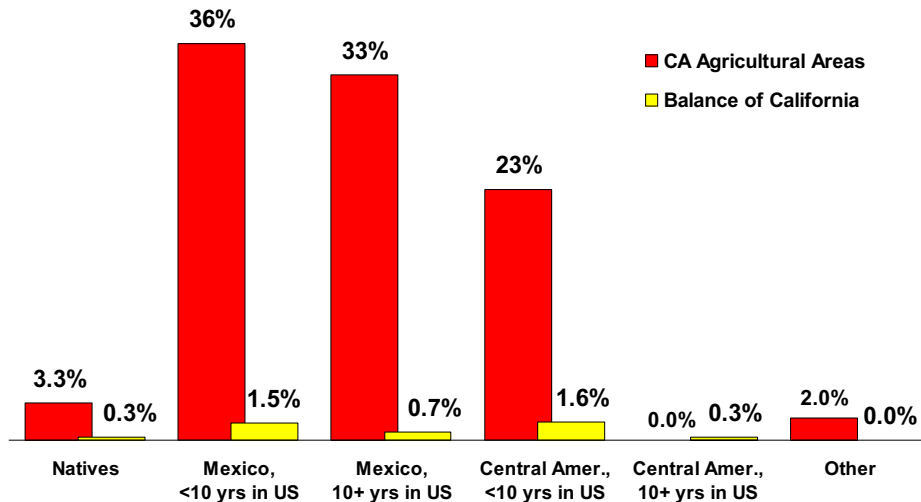
# Ag Unemployment is High, Too

Percent Unemployed, Ages 18-64: '05-'06 CPS



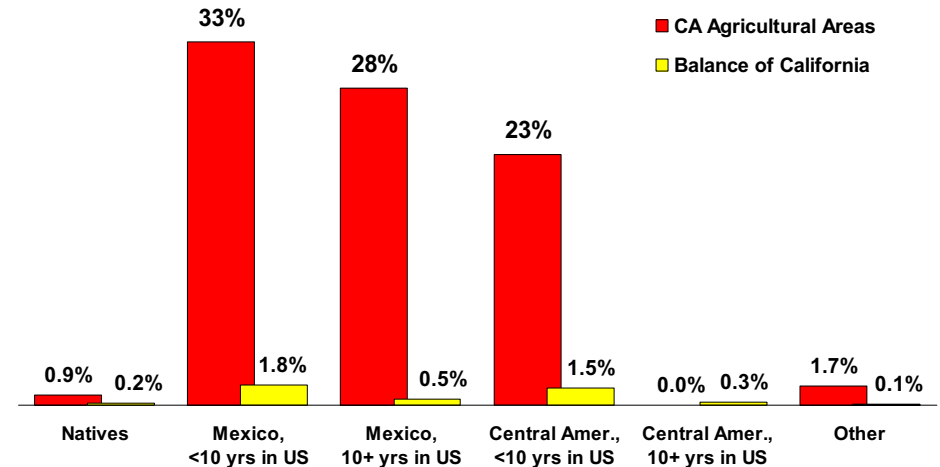
# Mexicans Stay in Agriculture

Percent of Employed Males Aged 18-64 in Agriculture Industry, '04-'06 CPS



# Mexicans Stay in Agriculture

Percent of Employed Males Aged 16-64 in Agriculture Occupation, '04-'06 CPS

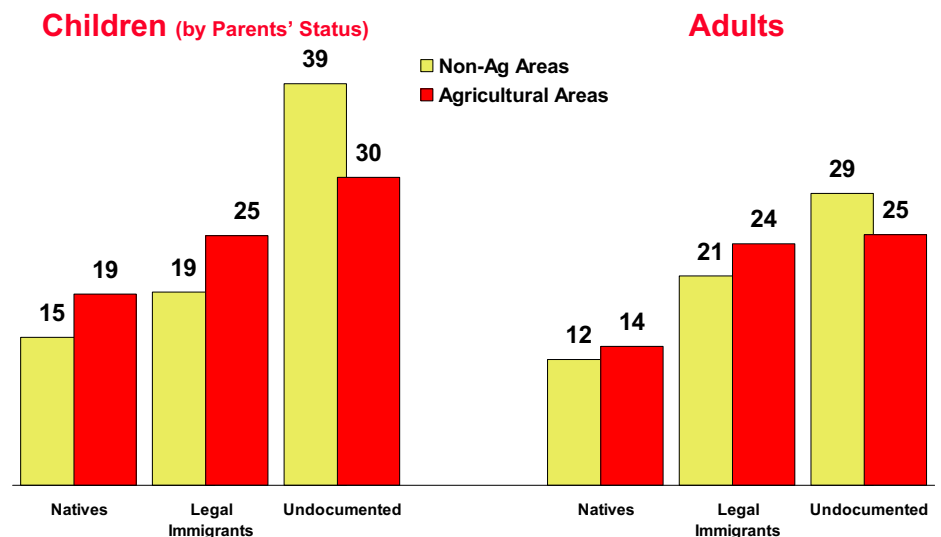


# Incomes and Welfare

- High Poverty
- Some Dynamic Integration
- Low Incomes for Immigrants
  - Large Households
  - Very Low Per Capita Income
- "Ag Areas" Even Worse
- Low Welfare Use but No Health Insurance for Immigrants

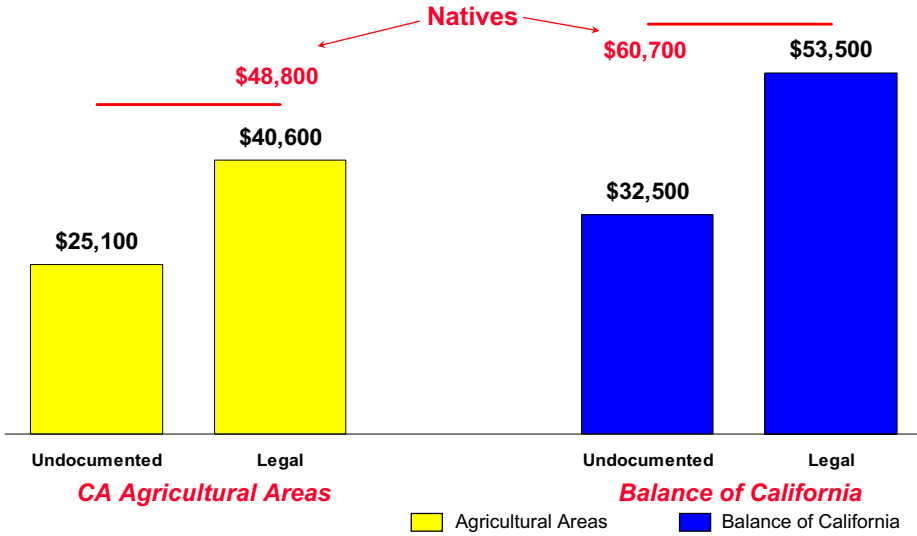
# Immigrant Poverty Very High

Percent in Households Below Poverty Line, 2006 CPS



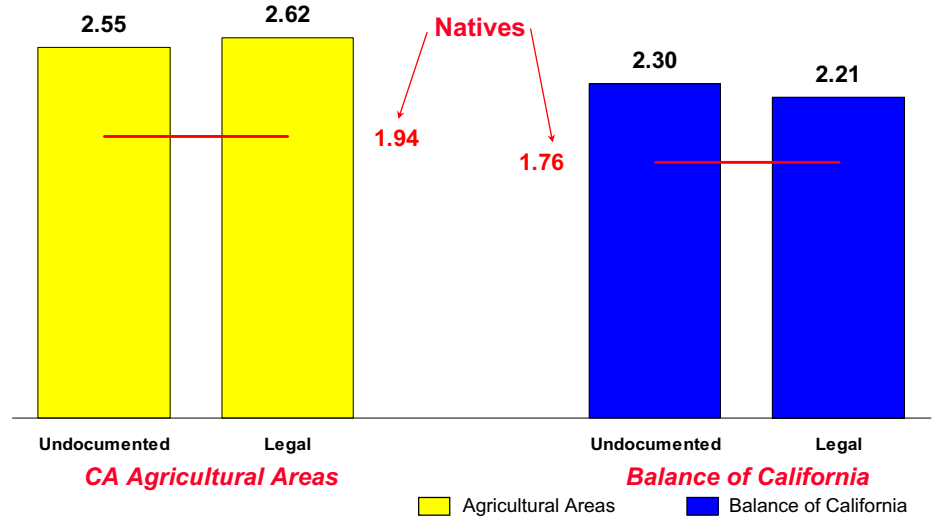
# Low Incomes for Immigrants

Average Family Income, 2006 CPS



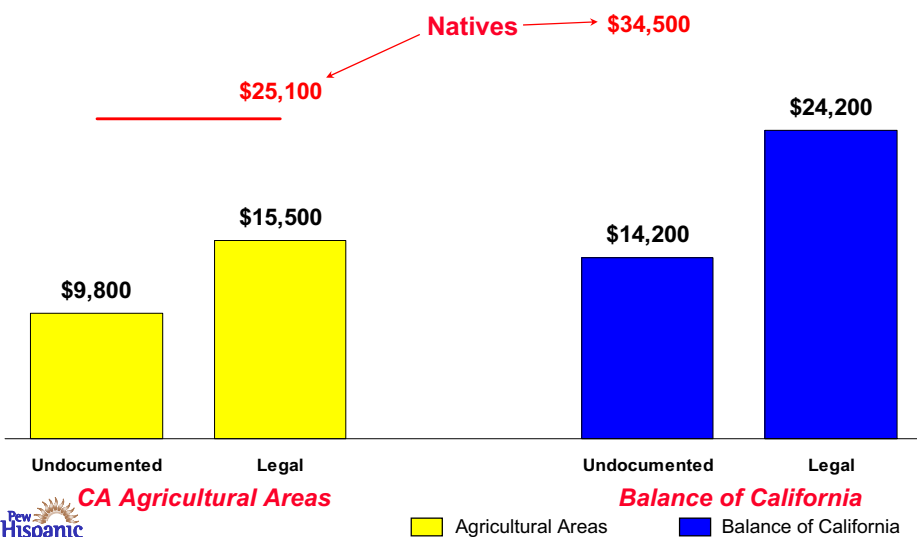
# Large Families for Immigrants

Average Family Size, 2006 CPS



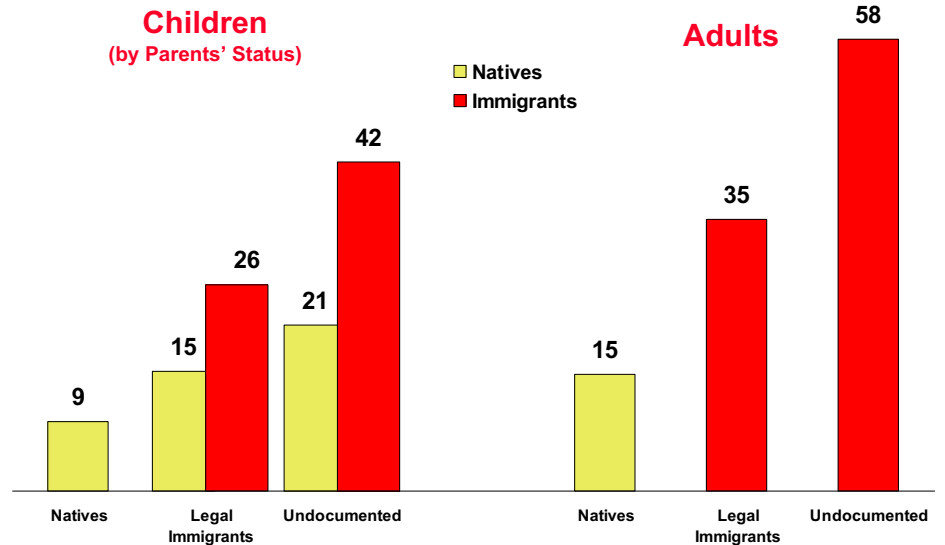
# Very Low Incomes Per Capita

Average Household Income per Person, 2006 CPS



# Limited Access to Insurance

Percent without Health Insurance 2006 CPS in California





# Conclusions

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- *Growing Numbers & Percents*
- *Immigrants Go to Agriculture*
- *Very Low Incomes*
- *Very Limited Benefits*
- *Limited Opportunities & Mobility*



For more information,  
contact:

**Jeffrey S. Passel, Ph.D.**  
**Pew Hispanic Center**  
**(Pew Research Center)**  
**1615 L St., N.W.**  
**Washington, D.C. 20036**

(202) 419-3625

[jpassel@pewhispanic.org](mailto:jpassel@pewhispanic.org)

[www.pewhispanic.org](http://www.pewhispanic.org)