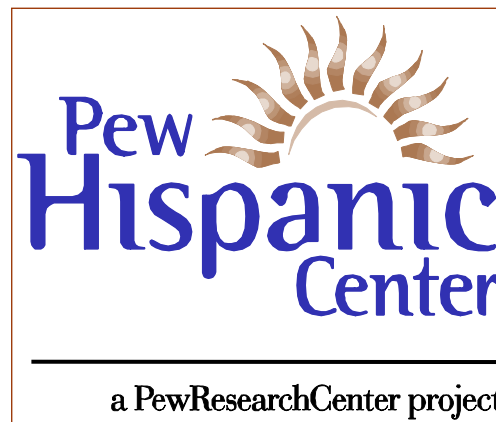Jeffrey S. Passel
Pew Hispanic Center
Washington, DC

# *Recent Trends in Unauthorized Immigration to the United States*
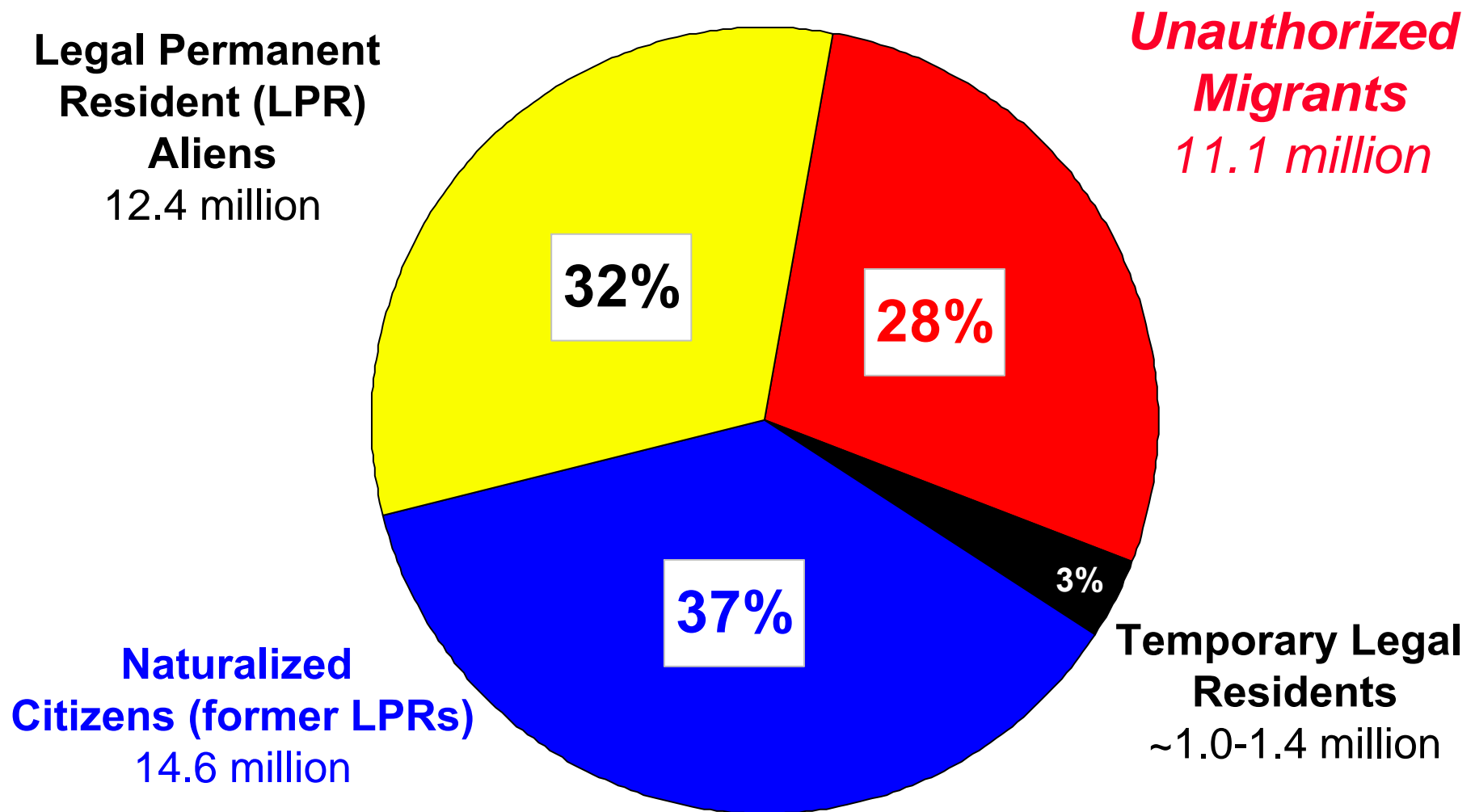
**Pew Hispanic Center**

a PewResearchCenter project

**Cooperative Forecasting and Data Subcommittee
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Washington, DC — 9 November 2010**

# *Unauthorized Trends*

- ***Reversal of Long-Term Growth***
  - -- '90-'07—Net Growth 500K per year
  - -- '07-'09—Loss of 1 million
  - -- Losses in S. Atlantic & Mountain Div.

- ***Components of Change***
  - -- HUGE Drop in New Unauthorized
  - -- Legal Immigration Levels High
  - -- Out-Flows to Mexico Fixed; Others ↑

- ***Key Characteristics of Unauthorized***
  - -- Families with Children
  - -- DC Metro has Distinctive Origins

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# Legal Status of Immigrants

**Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) Aliens**
12.4 million

*Unauthorized Migrants*
*11.1 million*

**32%**

**28%**

**37%**

**3%**

**Temporary Legal Residents**
~1.0-1.4 million

**Naturalized Citizens (former LPRs)**
14.6 million

## 39.3 Million Foreign-Born in 2009

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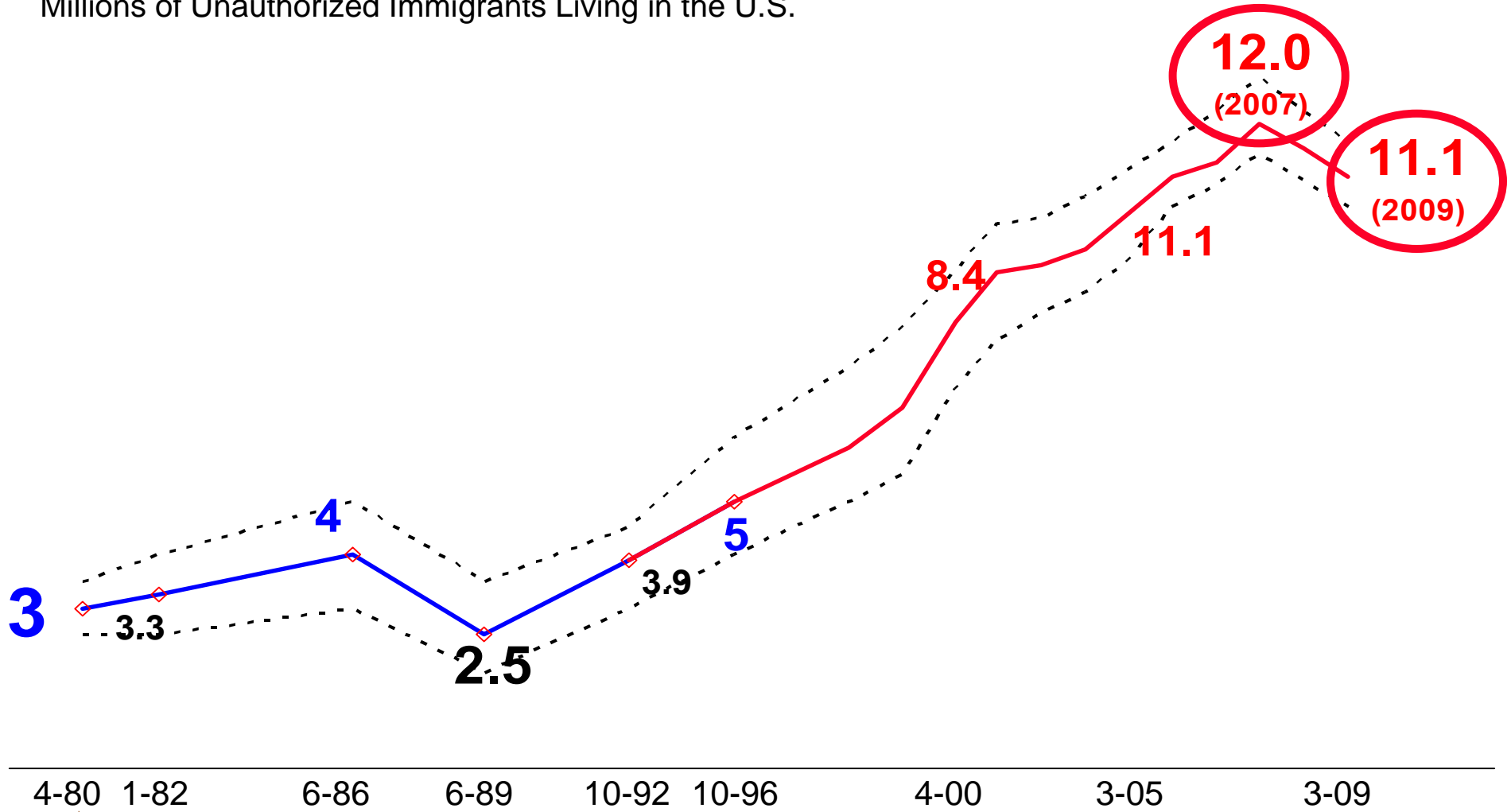Source: March 2009 CPS, augmented by Pew Hispanic Center

# Foreign-Born Growth Stagnated 4-07 to 5-10 but Growth May Have Restarted

**Foreign-Born** Population from Monthly CPS (in millions)—3 mo Moving Average



Legend:
- '90-based
- '00-based

38.4

29.4
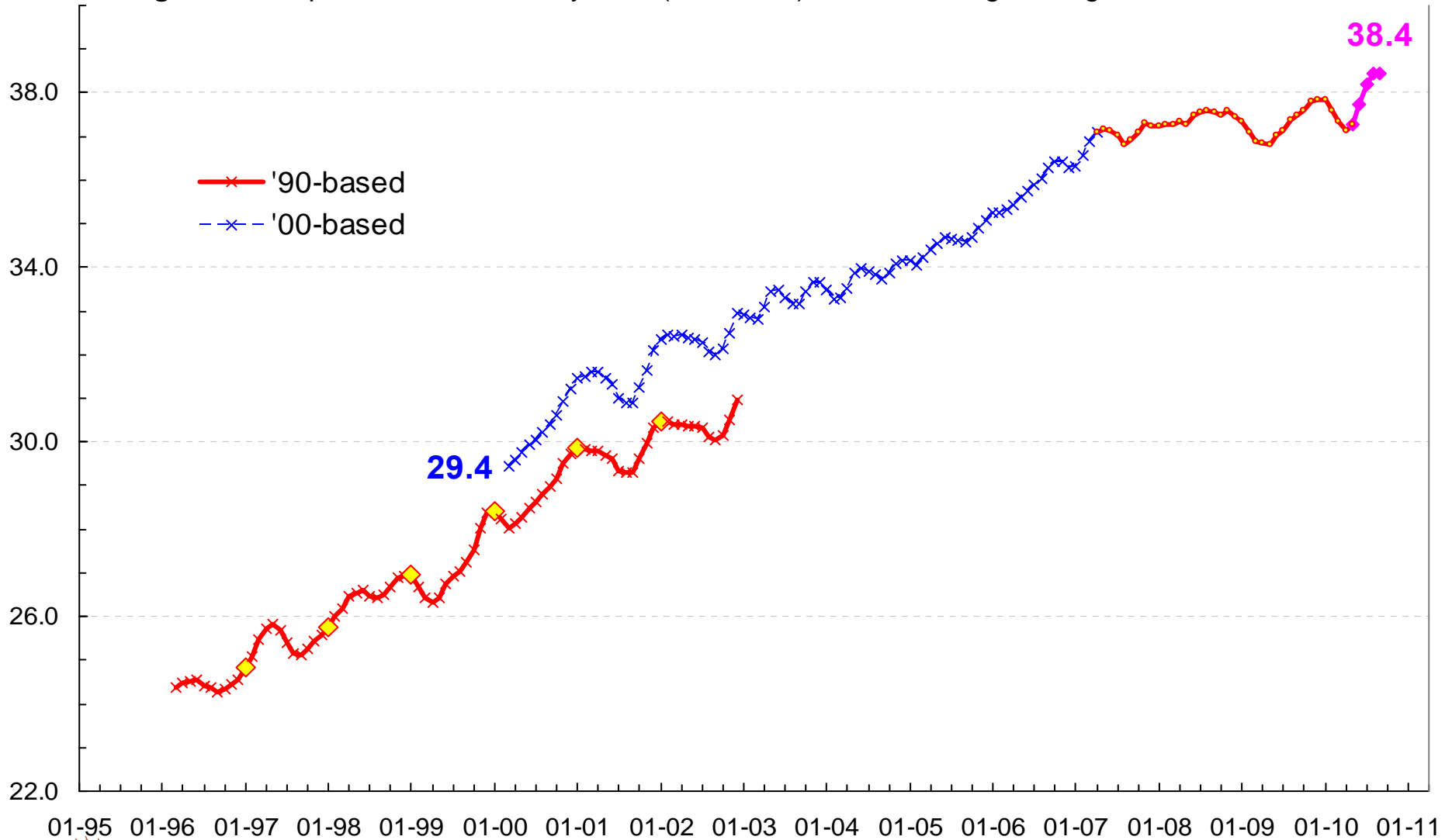
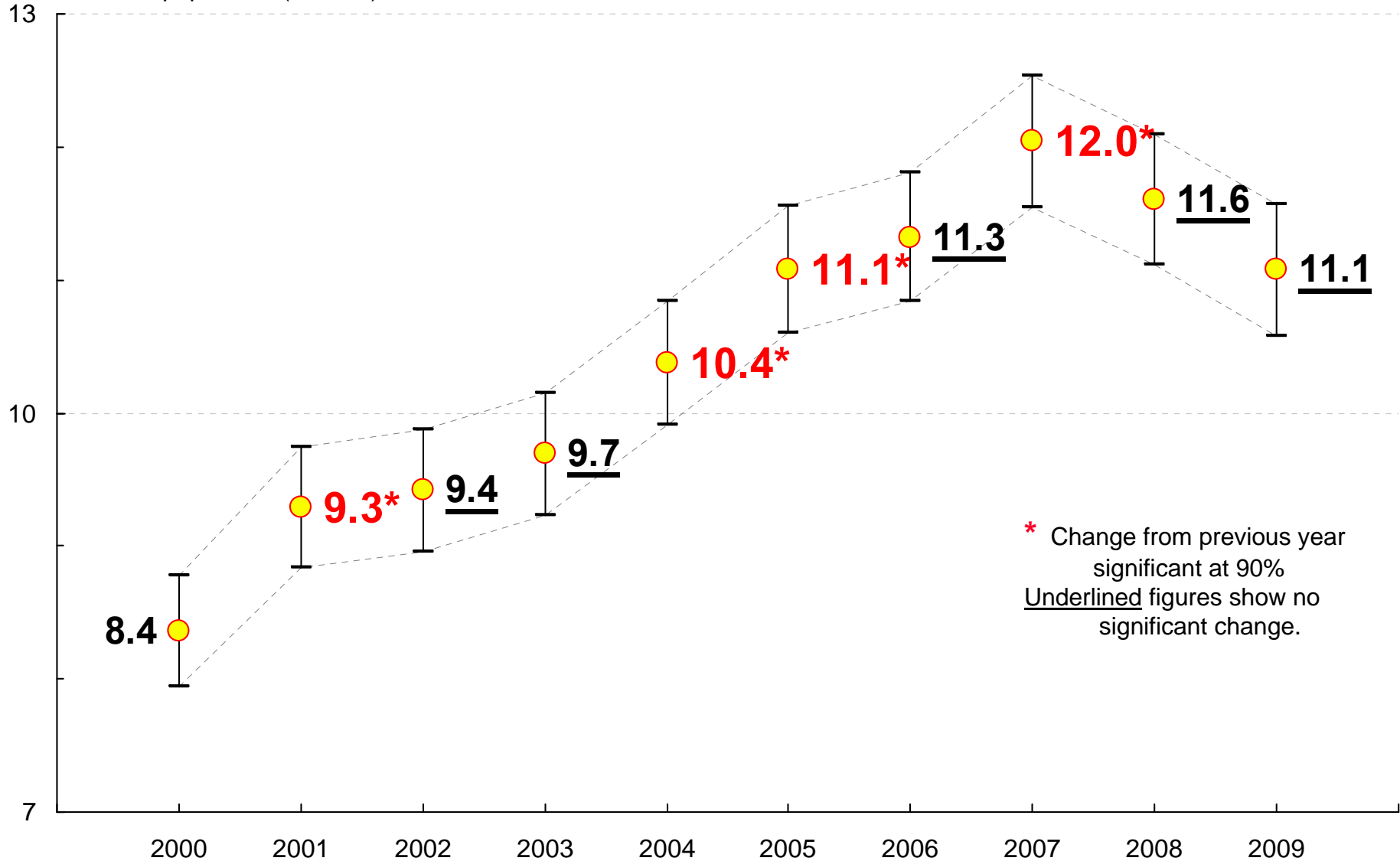# Unauthorized Trend Reversed in '07 from +500K per year to -500K per year

Millions of Unauthorized Immigrants Living in the U.S.



**12.0** (2007)

**11.1** (2009)

8.4

11.1

3

4

2.5

5

3.3

3.9

4-80  1-82  6-86  6-89  10-92  10-96  4-00  3-05  3-09

Pew Hispanic Center

# Downward Trend Established in '09

Unauthorized population (millions)



8.4

9.3*

9.4

9.7

10.4*

11.1*

11.3

12.0*

11.6

11.1

* Change from previous year significant at 90%
Underlined figures show no significant change.

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009

# Inflow of Unauthorized Drops Steadily & Dramatically After '05

Average Annual Inflow of Unauthorized Immigrants (000s)

**850** — March '00-March '05

**620** — March '05-March '06

**480** — March '06-March '07

**375** — March '07-March '08

**250** — March '08-March '09

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Source: March 2009 CPS, augmented by Pew Hispanic Center
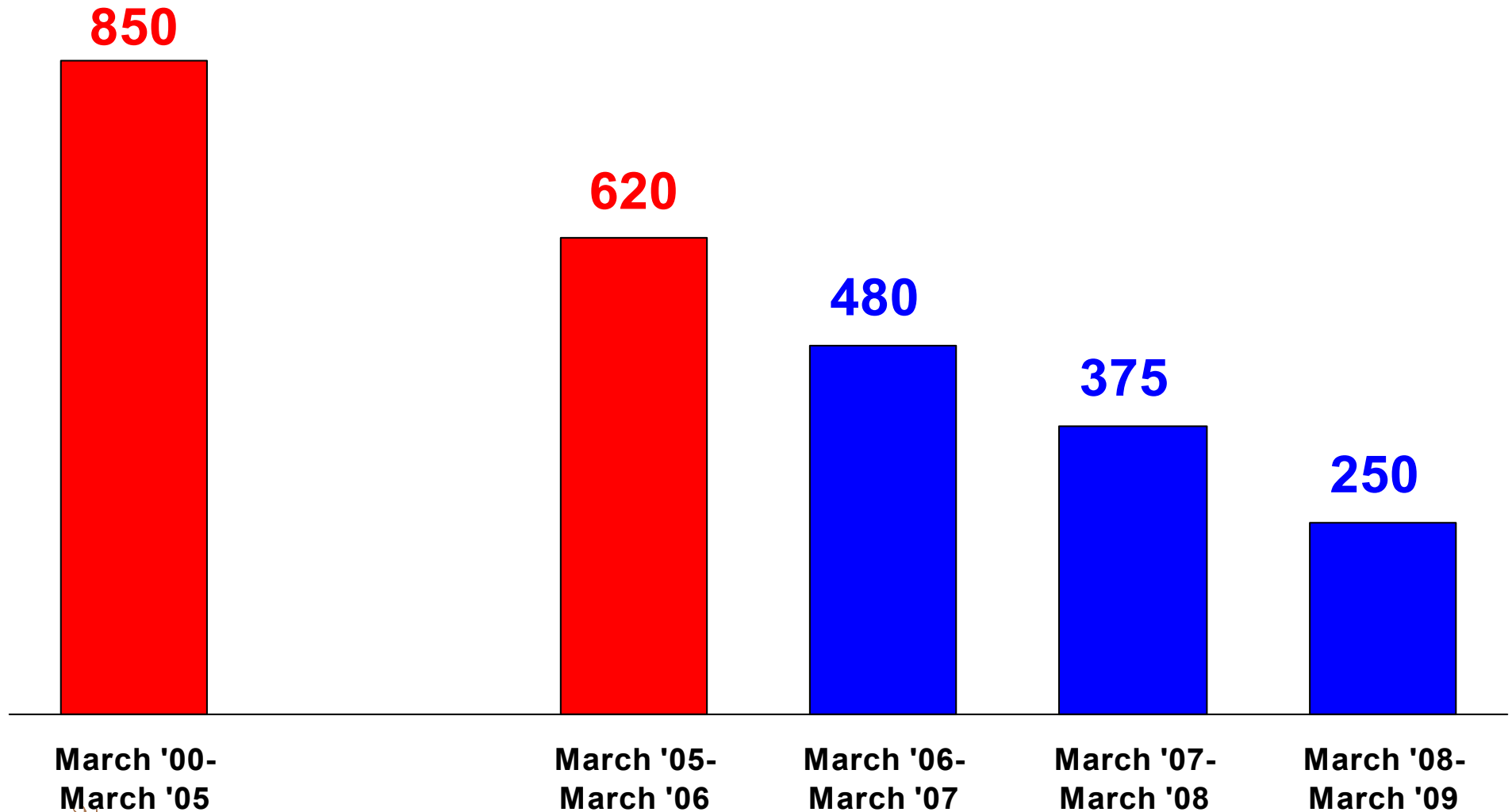
# *Mexico is Largest Source of Unauthorized, by Far*

**Other
Latin America -- 20%**
2.2 million

**Mexico -- 60%**
6.7 million

**Asia &
Mid-East -- 13%**
1.4 million

**Europe &
Canada -- 4%**
0.5 million

**Africa & Other -- 3%**
0.3 million
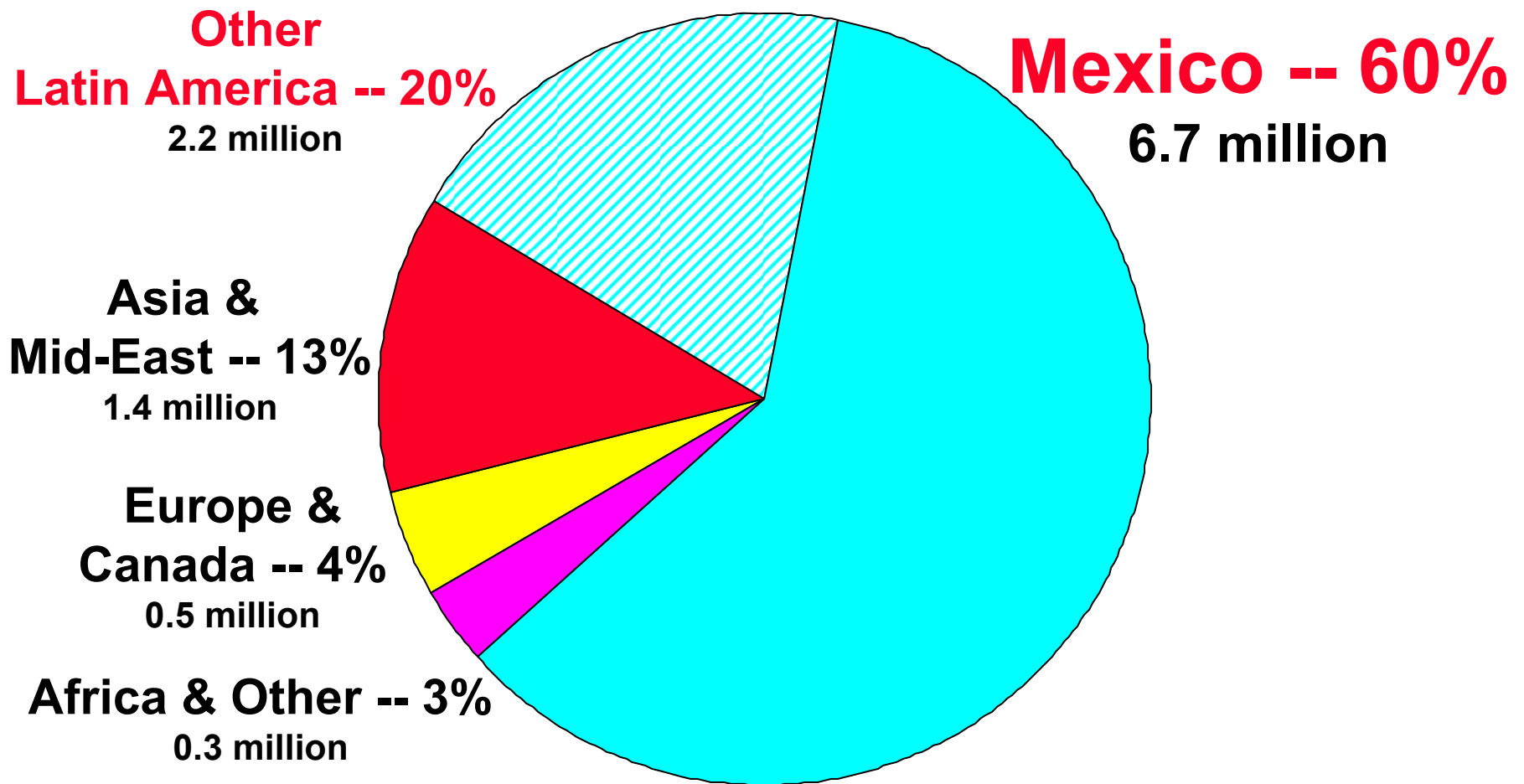
## 11.1 Million in March 2009

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**Unauthorized Spread Away From Big 6 States Beginning in Late '90s**
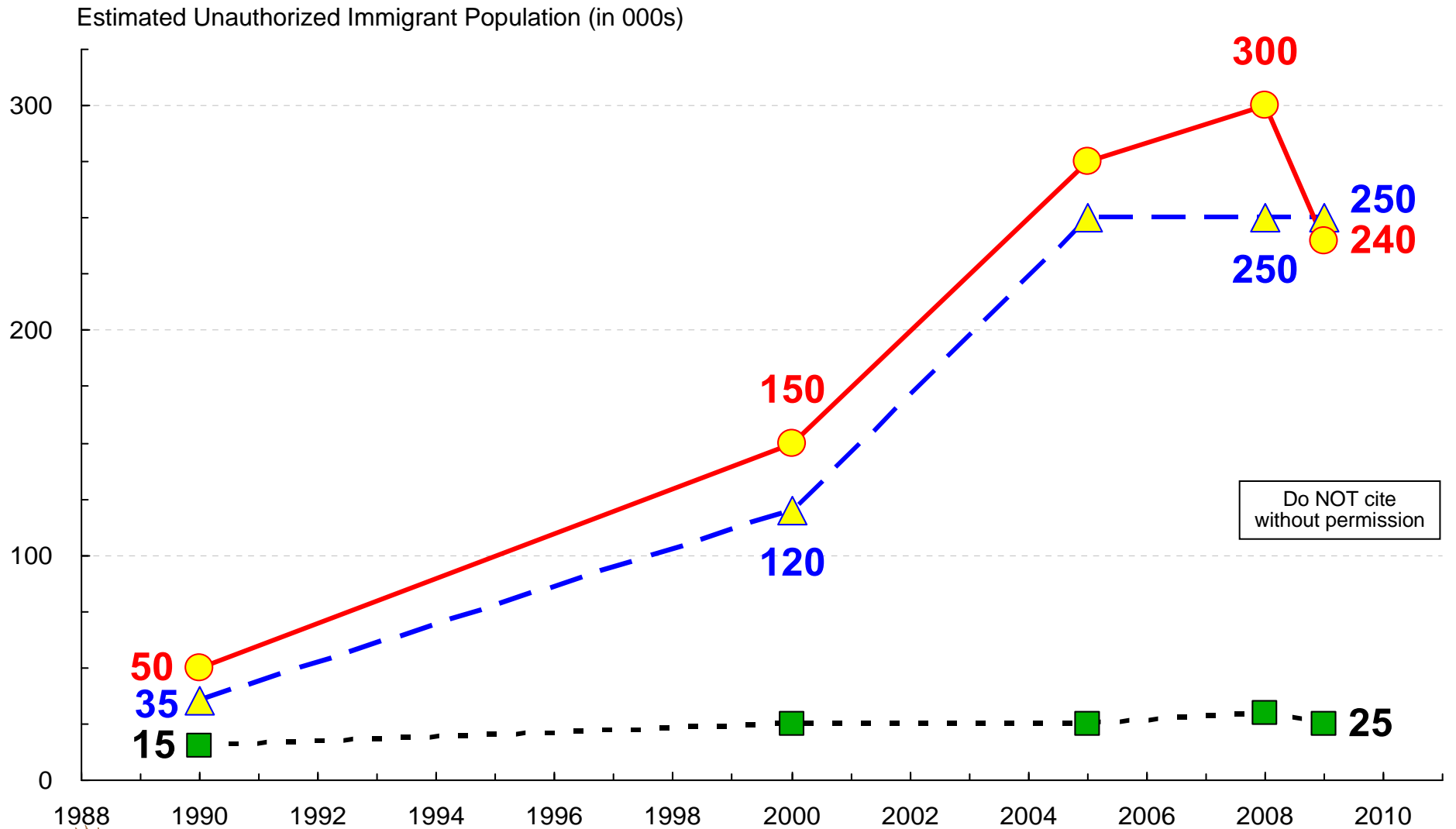
Percent of Total Unauthorized Migrant Population

42%

4.7 Million

- 1990 (3.5 million)
- 2000 (8.4 million)
- 2009 (11.1 million)

CA: 43%, 23%
TX: 13%, 14%
NY: 10%, 5%
FL: 7%, 6%
IL: 6%, 5%
NJ: 3%, 4%
All Other: 20% -- 700,000

Source: March 2009 CPS, augmented by Pew Hispanic Center

Pew Hispanic Center
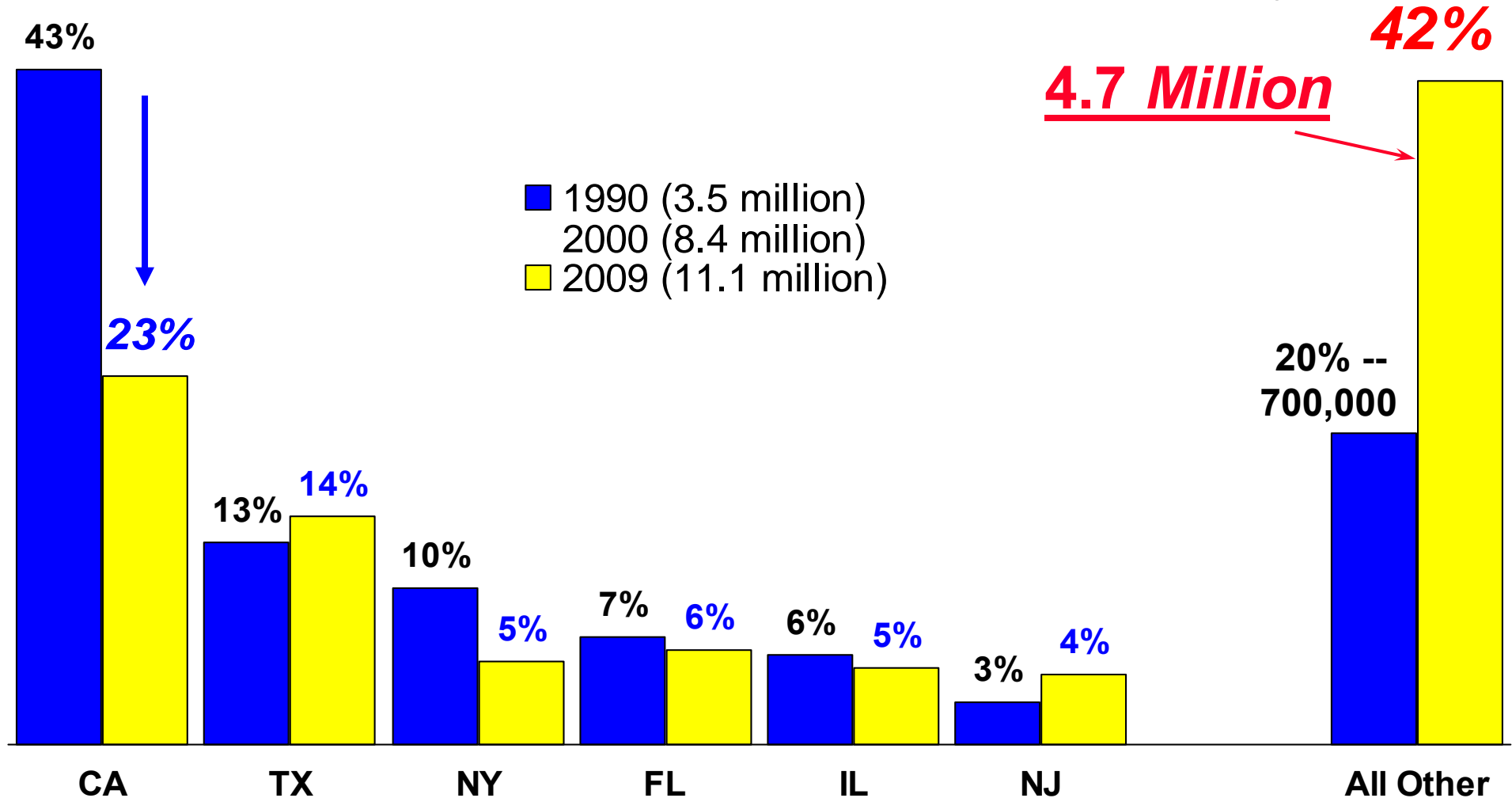
# Unauthorized Immigrants in 3 States Grow Rapidly through 2005

Estimated Unauthorized Immigrant Population (in 000s)



Do NOT cite without permission

Source: March 2009 CPS, augmented by Pew Hispanic Center

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# DC Metro Area Grow Patterns Show Peak in 2005-2008

Estimated Unauthorized Immigrant Population (in 000s)

430

235

380

220

190

110

100

190

165

25

25

25

1998    2000    2002    2004    2006    2008    2010

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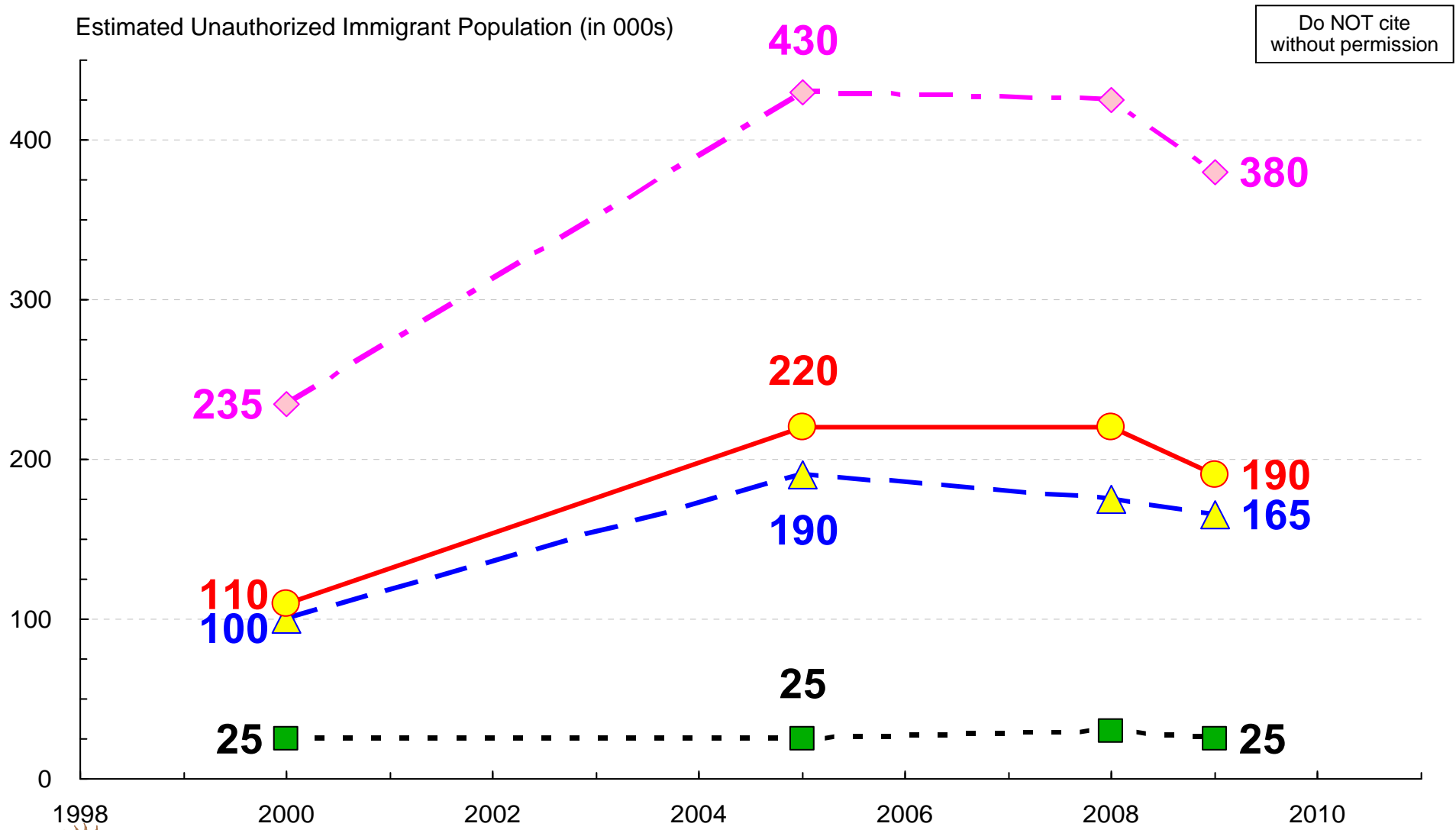
# Mexico is NOT Largest in DC Metro Area



Central & South America
25%
100-110,000

India -- 9%
20-30,000

Mexico
14%
50-60,000

El Salvador
25%
100-110,000

Other S & E Asia
13%
50-60,000

All Other -- 4%
15-20,000

~380,000 in March 2009

# Change in Unauthorized 2008 to 2009

**Unauthorized Immigrants
Change 2008 to 2009**

- Significant Decrease in State (3)
- Significant Decrease in Group (10)
- Non-Significant "Decrease" (2)
- Non-Significant "Increase" (1)
- No Significant Change (35)

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# DC Metro vs. Nation

- **Trends in Numbers are Similar**
  - -- Steady Growth through 2007
  - -- Decrease since (esp. VA)

- **Make-up of Population**
  - -- % Foreign-Born – 22% vs 13%
  - -- % Unauthorized – 7-8% vs 5.5%
  - -- % Undoc of F-B – 33% vs 28%

- **Origins of Unauthorized**
  - -- El Salvador, NOT Mexico is Largest
  - -- Asian share higher – 20+% vs 11%
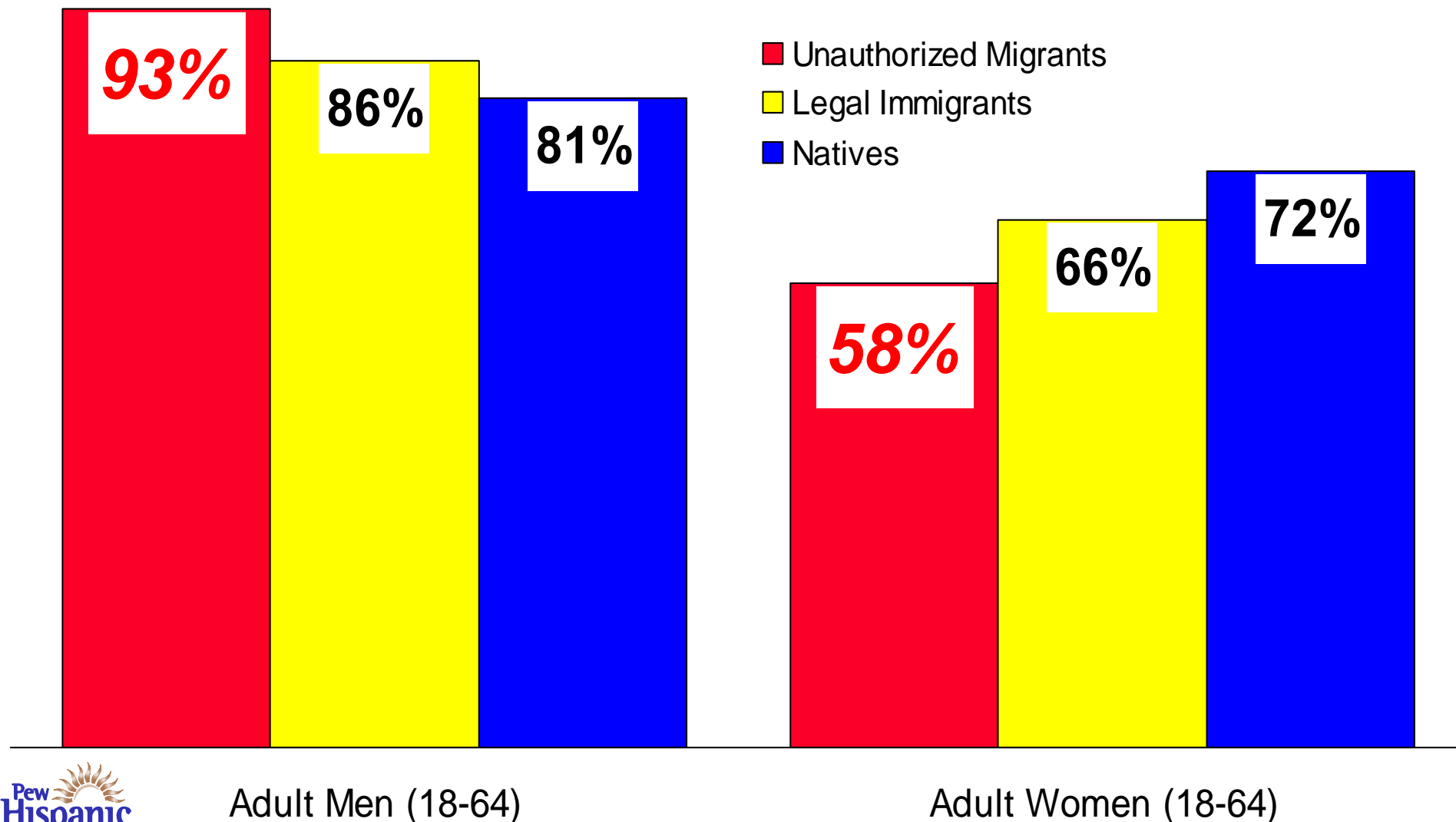  - -- Almost none from Caribbean

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# Characteristics
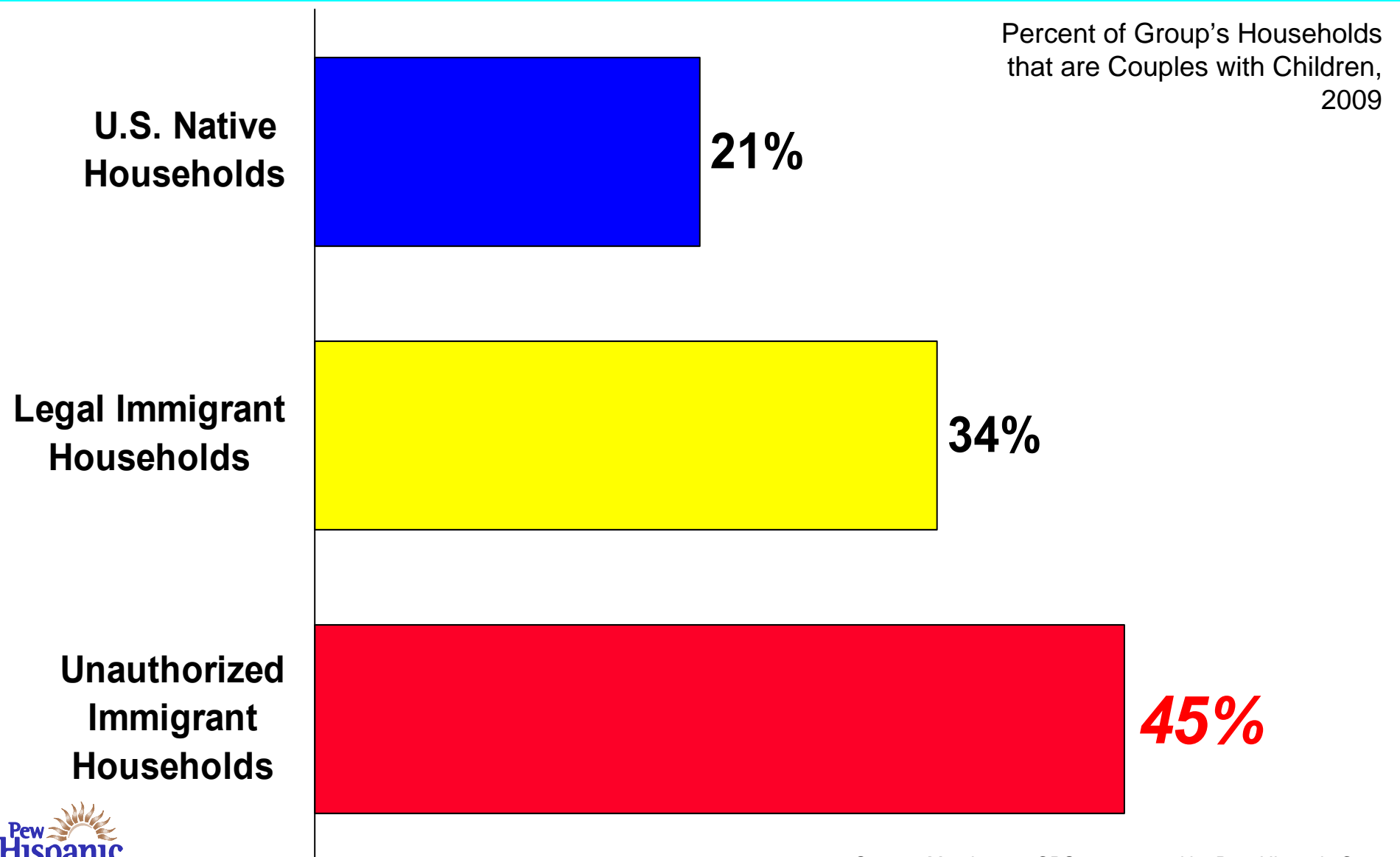# of Migrants

# *Unauthorized & Other Immigrants*

- ***Young, Working* <u>*Families*</u>**
- ***Generally Low Education***
  -- Relative to U.S. (but not to home)

- ***Jobs Reflect Skills***
  -- Lack of Health Insurance
  -- Low Welfare Use

- ***Low Incomes***
  -- Large Households
  -- Low Per Capita Income

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# Unauthorized Men Work More; Women Work Less Than Others

Percent in Labor Force, 2009

93%
86%
81%

- ■ Unauthorized Migrants
- ■ Legal Immigrants
- ■ Natives

58%
66%
72%

Adult Men (18-64)

Adult Women (18-64)

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# Unauthorized Immigrants More Likely To Be Couples with Children

Percent of Group's Households that are Couples with Children, 2009

**U.S. Native Households** — **21%**

**Legal Immigrant Households** — **34%**

**Unauthorized Immigrant Households** — *45%*

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# A Majority of Unauthorized (Men) Are Married or Have Children

Persons in Unauthorized
Migrant Families, 2009
(millions)

Legend:
- ☐ Without Children (yellow)
- ☐ With Children (orange)

**Men without Partners or Children:** 2.8

**Men with Partners or Children:** Without Children 0.9, With Children 2.0

**Women without Partners or Children:** 0.7

**Women with Partners or Children:** Without Children 0.9, With Children 2.5

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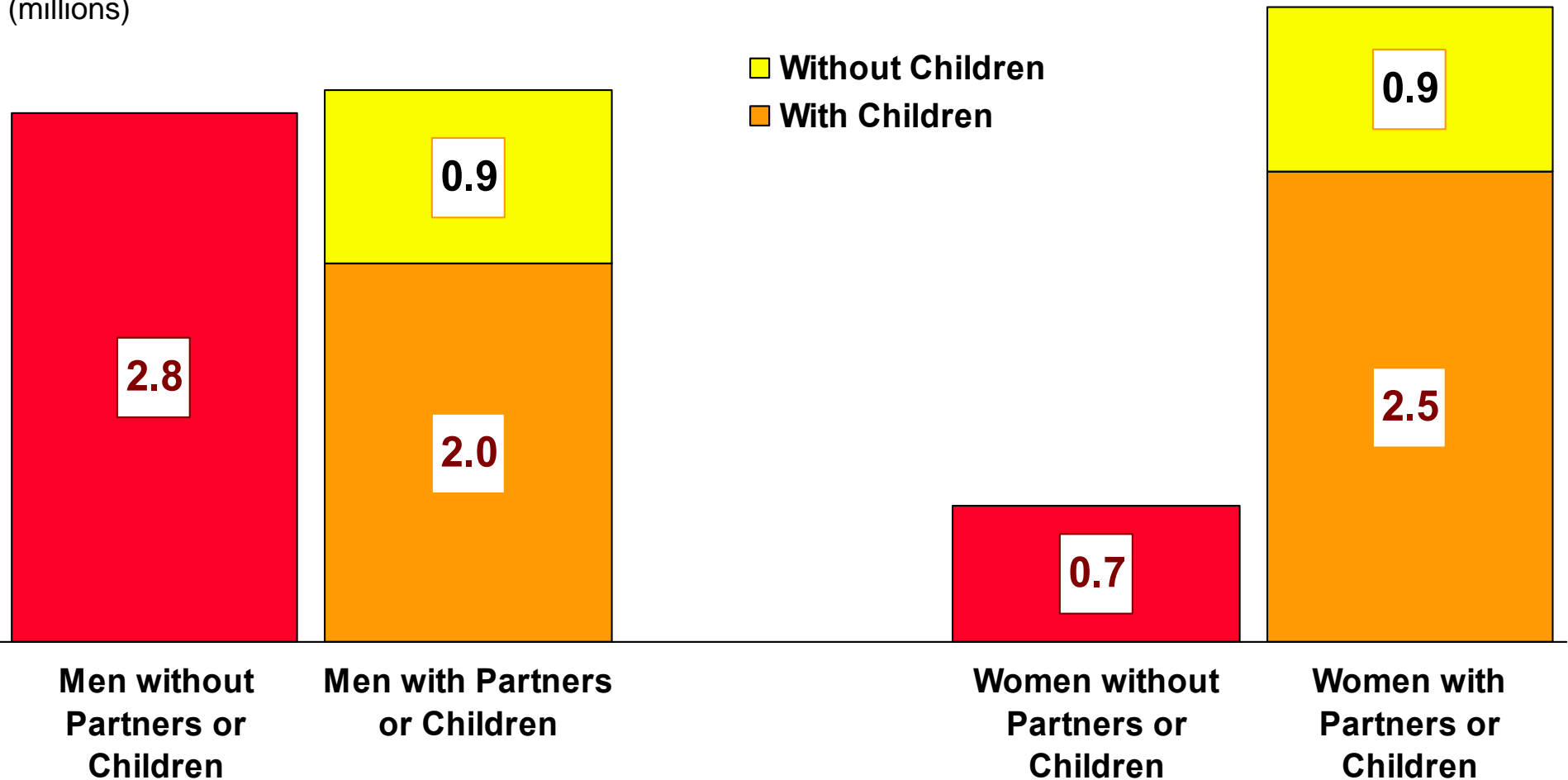
# Unauthorized Families Have Mixed Composition

**Unauthorized Children**
1.1 million
10% of all unauthorized

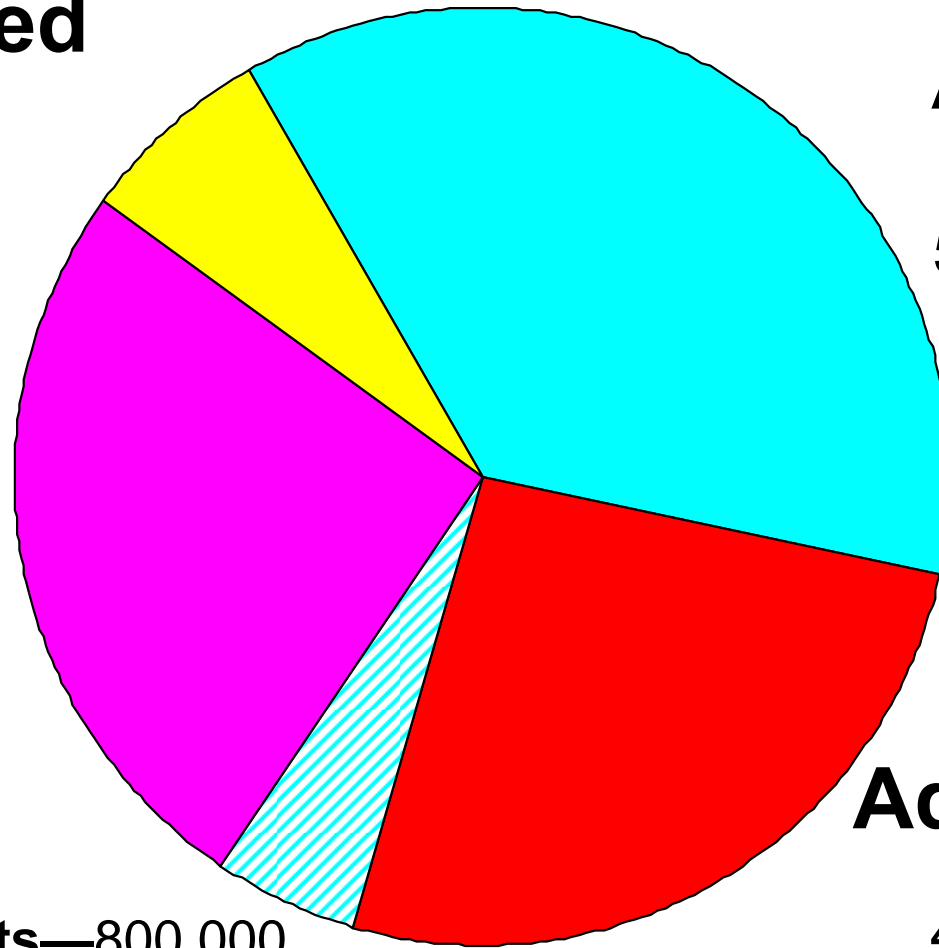**U.S. Citizen Children**
4.1 million
79% of kids

**Other Adults—800,000**

**Adult Men**
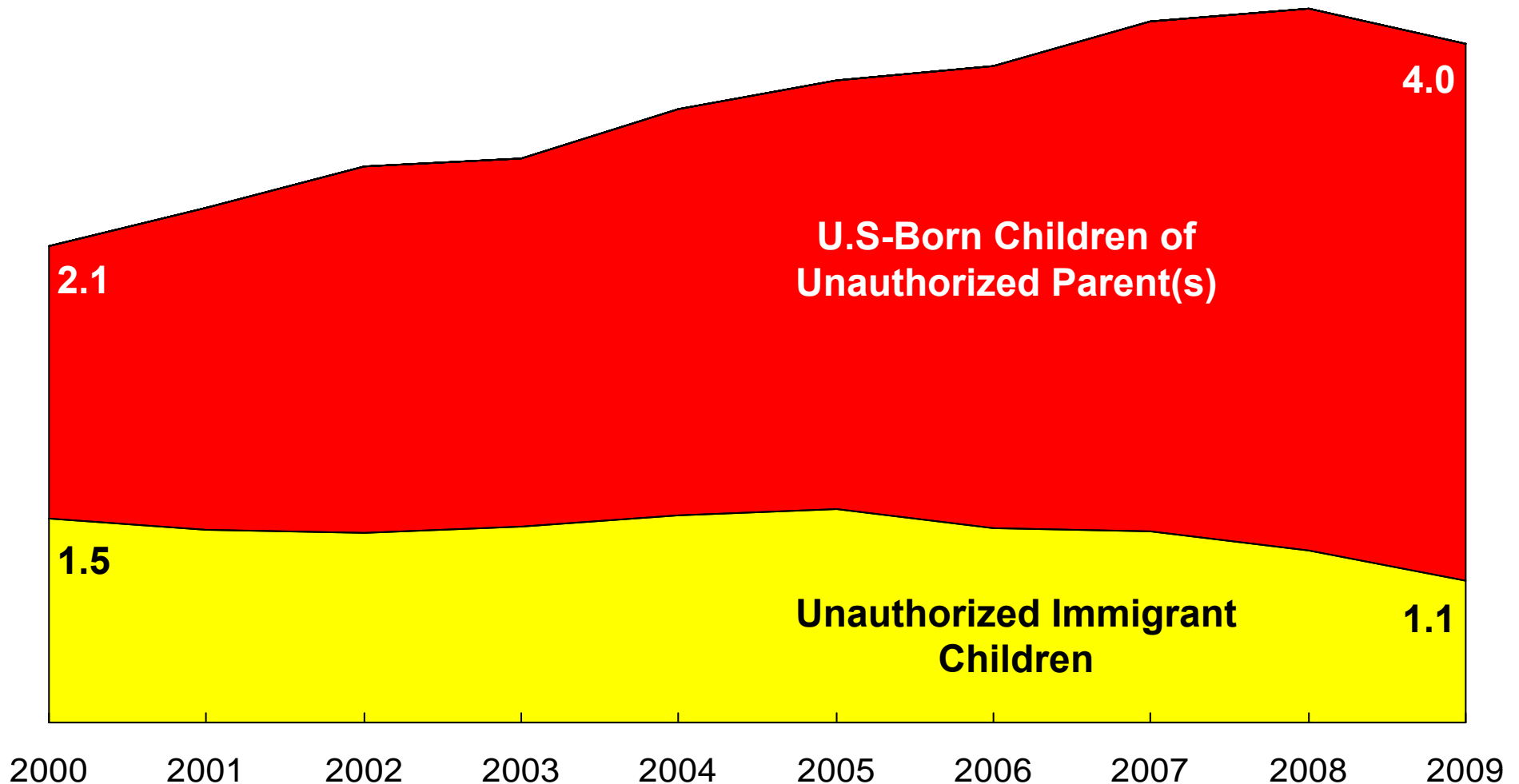5.8 million
58% of Adults

**Adult Women**
4.1 million
42% of Adults

**15.9 million in Unauthorized Families**
**(2009)**

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# US-Born Children of Unauthorized Increase; Unauthorized Decrease

Children with at Least One Unauthorized Immigrant Parent,
by Status, 2000-2009 (in millions)



**4.0**

**U.S-Born Children of
Unauthorized Parent(s)**

**2.1**

**1.5**

**Unauthorized Immigrant
Children**

**1.1**

2000　2001　2002　2003　2004　2005　2006　2007　2008　2009

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# Key Demographic Factors

- **Flows Have Slowed Overall**

- **Drop Due to Unauthorized**

- **Responsive to Origin & Destination**
  -- Economic Factors in U.S.
  -- Conditions in Mexico & Elsewhere

- **Role of Enforcement Uncertain**

- **Families Not Just Individuals**

- **Scale Remains Large (10–11 million)**

- **Dispersed Throughout Country**

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