Modern Immigration Wave Brings 59 million to U.S. since 1965

Mark Hugo Lopez

Director of Global Migration and Demography
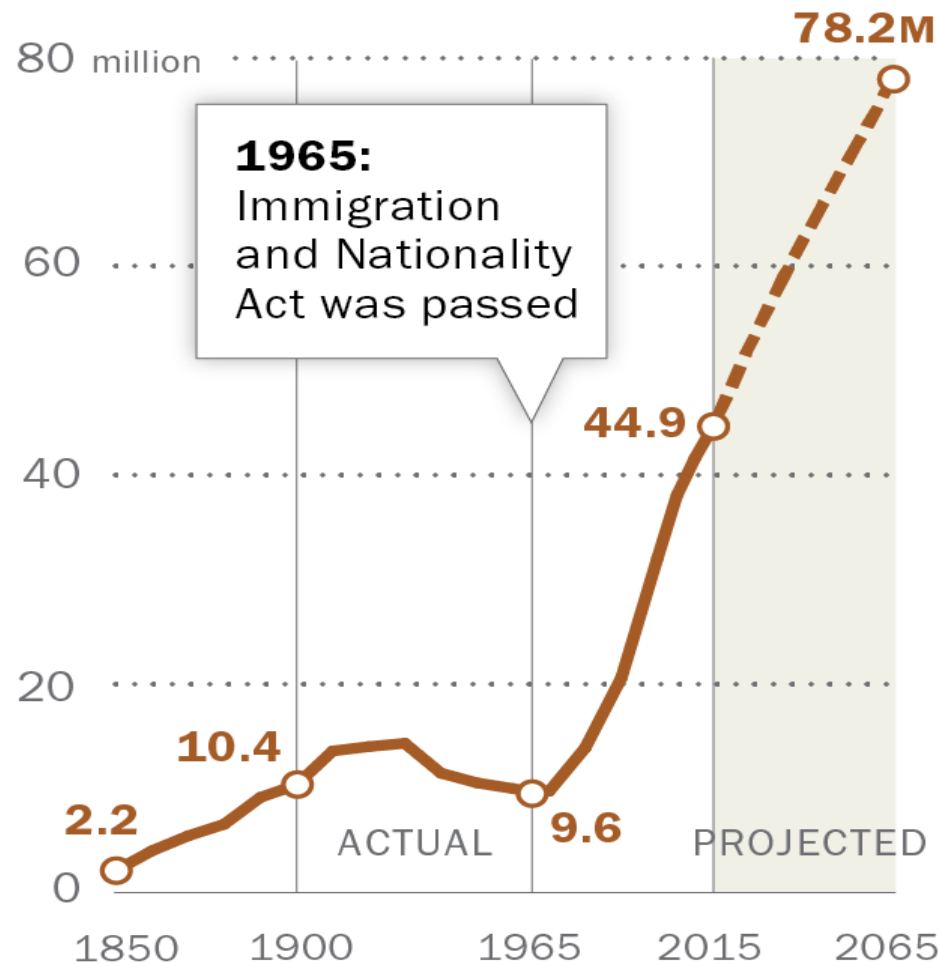
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What we do: Generate a foundation of facts to enrich public dialogue and support sound decision-making. We conduct public opinion polling, demographic research, content analysis and data-driven social science research.

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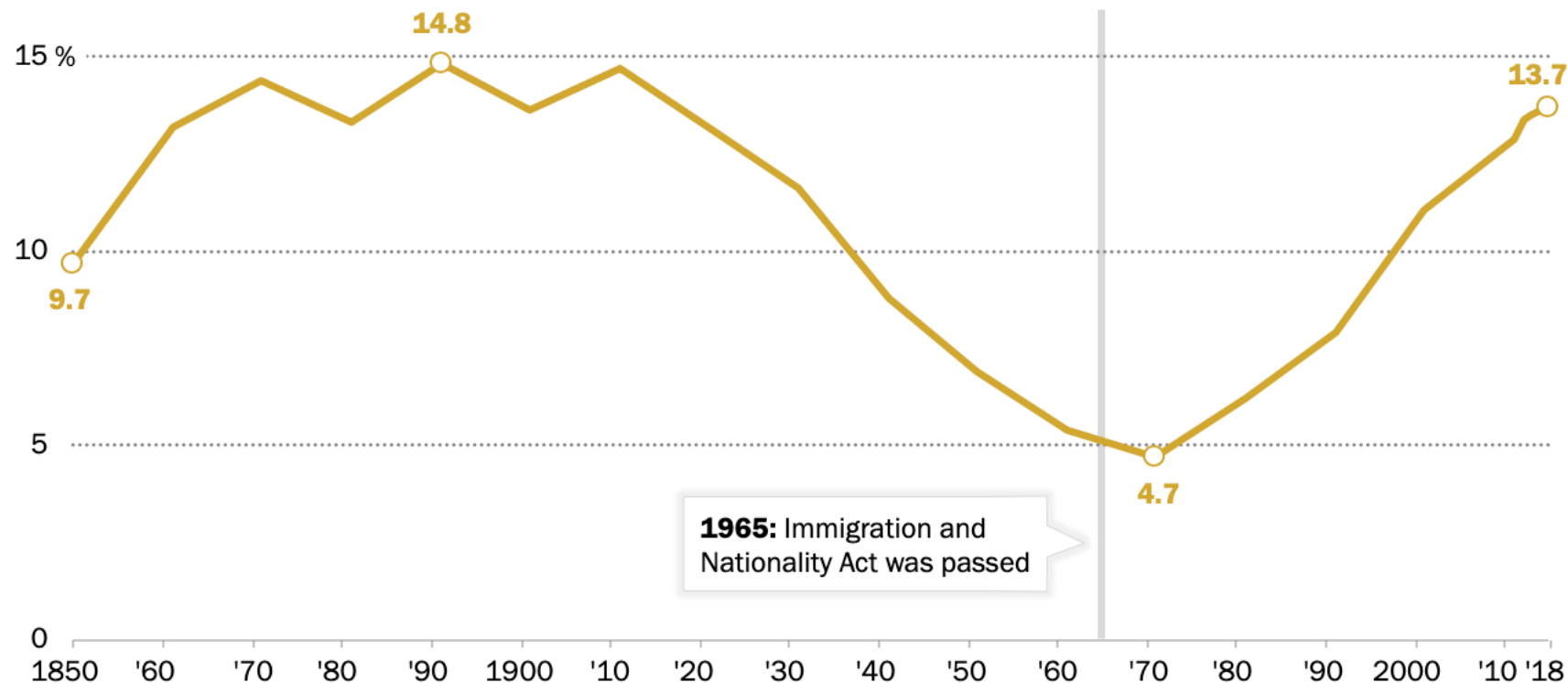U.S. immigrant population reached 45 million in 2015; is projected to reach 78 million by 2065

1965: Immigration and Nationality Act was passed

78.2M
44.9
10.4
2.2
9.6
ACTUAL
PROJECTED

80 million
60
40
20
0

1850 1900 1965 2015 2065

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Immigrant share of U.S. population nears historic high

% of U.S. population that is foreign born

15 %

14.8

13.7

10

9.7

5

4.7

0

1965: Immigration and Nationality Act was passed

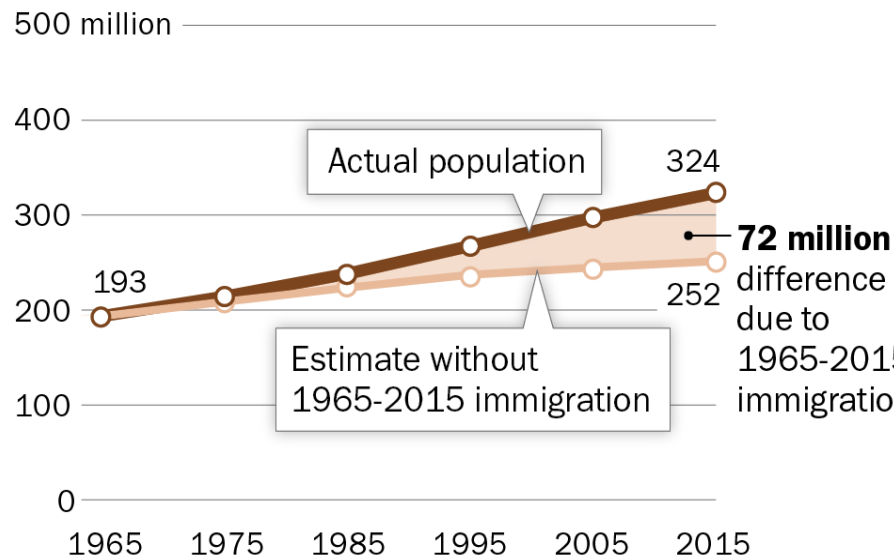1850 '60 '70 '80 '90 1900 '10 '20 '30 '40 '50 '60 '70 '80 '90 2000 '10 '18

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850-2000" and Pew Research Center tabulations of 2010-2018 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

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Immigrants and their descendants drive U.S. population growth

% of U.S. Population

1965-2015

500 million

400

Actual population   324

300

193

200

Estimate without
1965-2015 immigration   252

72 million difference due to 1965-2015 immigration

100

0

1965   1975   1985   1995   2005   2015

2015-2065

500 million

Projected population   441

400

324

300

Projection without
2015-2065 immigration   338

103 million difference due to 2015-2065 immigration

200

100

0

2015   2025   2035   2045   2055   2065

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Mexico, China and India are top birthplaces for immigrants in the U.S.

Top five countries of birth for immigrants in the U.S. in 2018, in millions

Share among all immigrants

Country	Millions	Share
Mexico	11.2	25%
China	2.9	6
India	2.6	6
Philippines	2.0	4
El Salvador	1.4	3
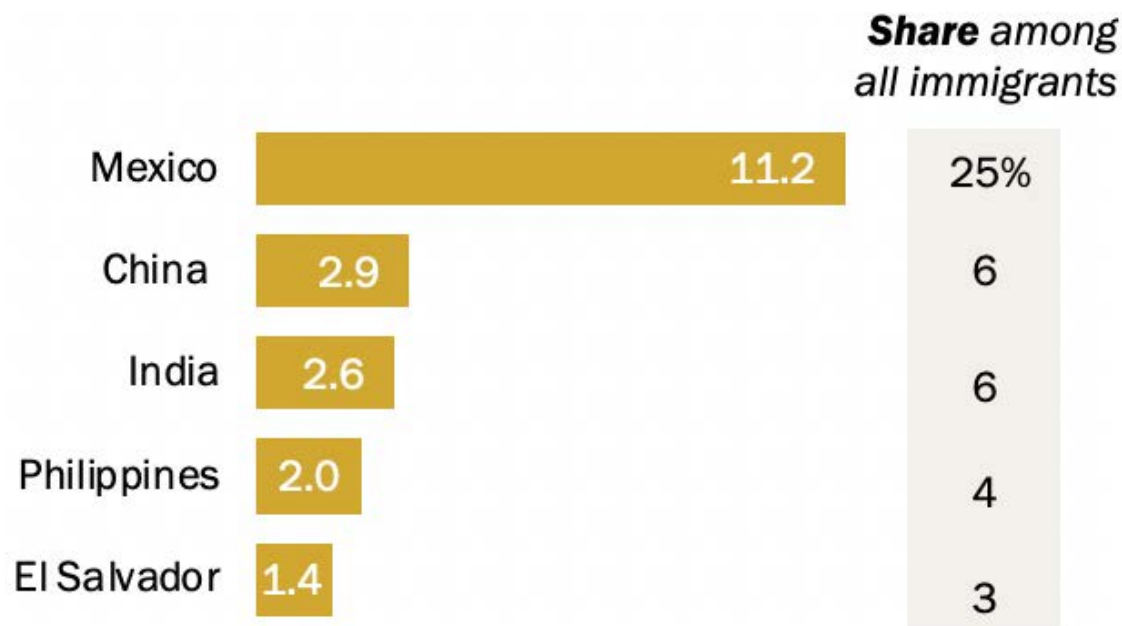
Note: China includes Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mongolia.
Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2018 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

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Most post-1965 immigrants are from Latin America and Asia

%

Northern Europe Wave (1840-1889) 14.3 million
- North/West Europe: 82
- South/East Europe: 7
- (1)
- (2)

Southern/Eastern Europe Wave (1890-1919) 18.2 million
- North/West Europe: 26
- South/East Europe: 62
- (3)
- (2)

Modern Wave (1965-2015) 58.5 million
- Europe: 12
- Latin America: 51
- South/East Asia: 25
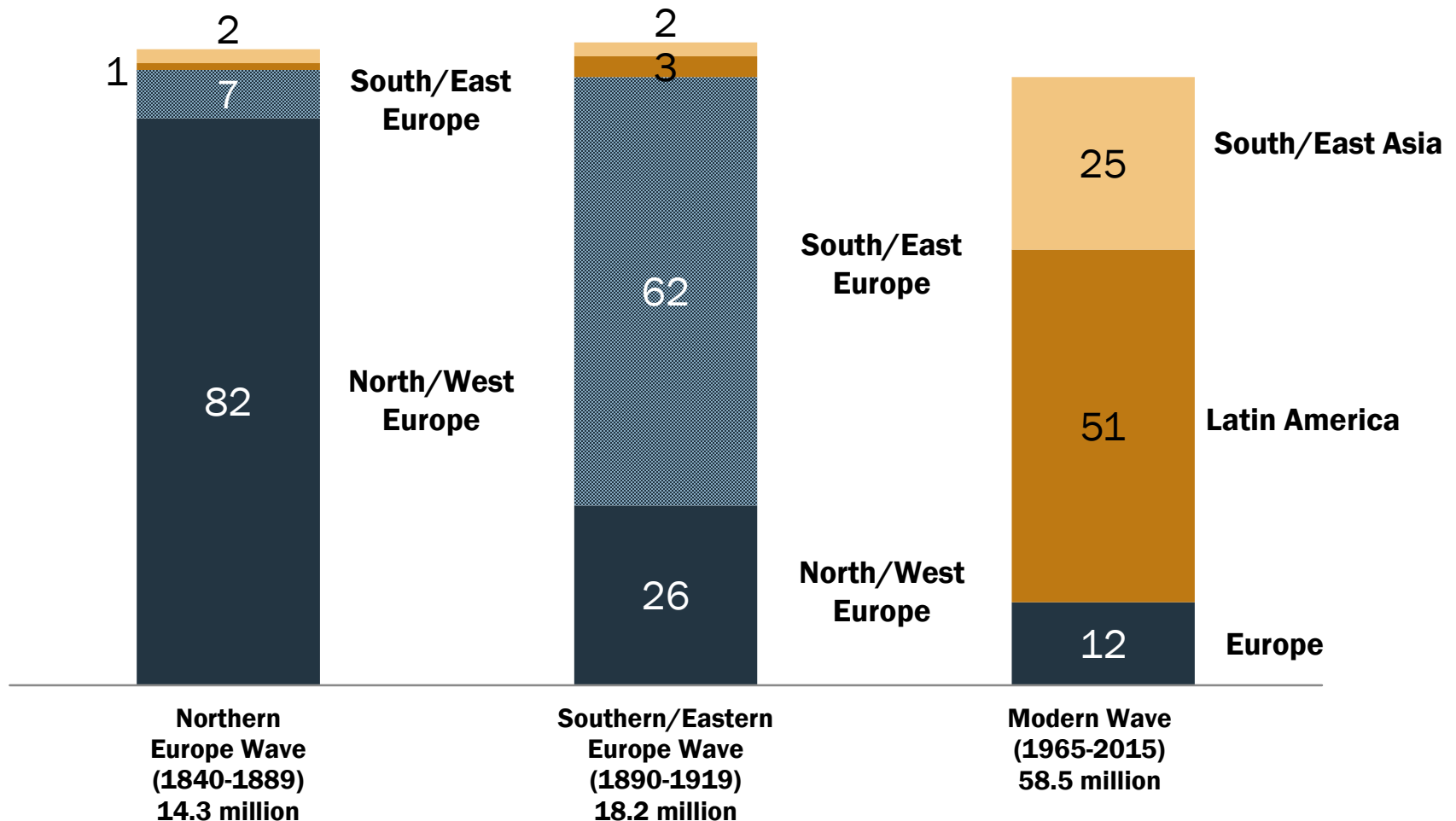
Note: Data prior to 1965 does not include unauthorized immigrants.

Source: For 1965-2015, Pew Research Center estimates based on adjusted census data; for 1840-1919, Office of Immigration Statistics, *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, 2008, Table 2*

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While most immigrants live in just 20 metropolitan areas ...
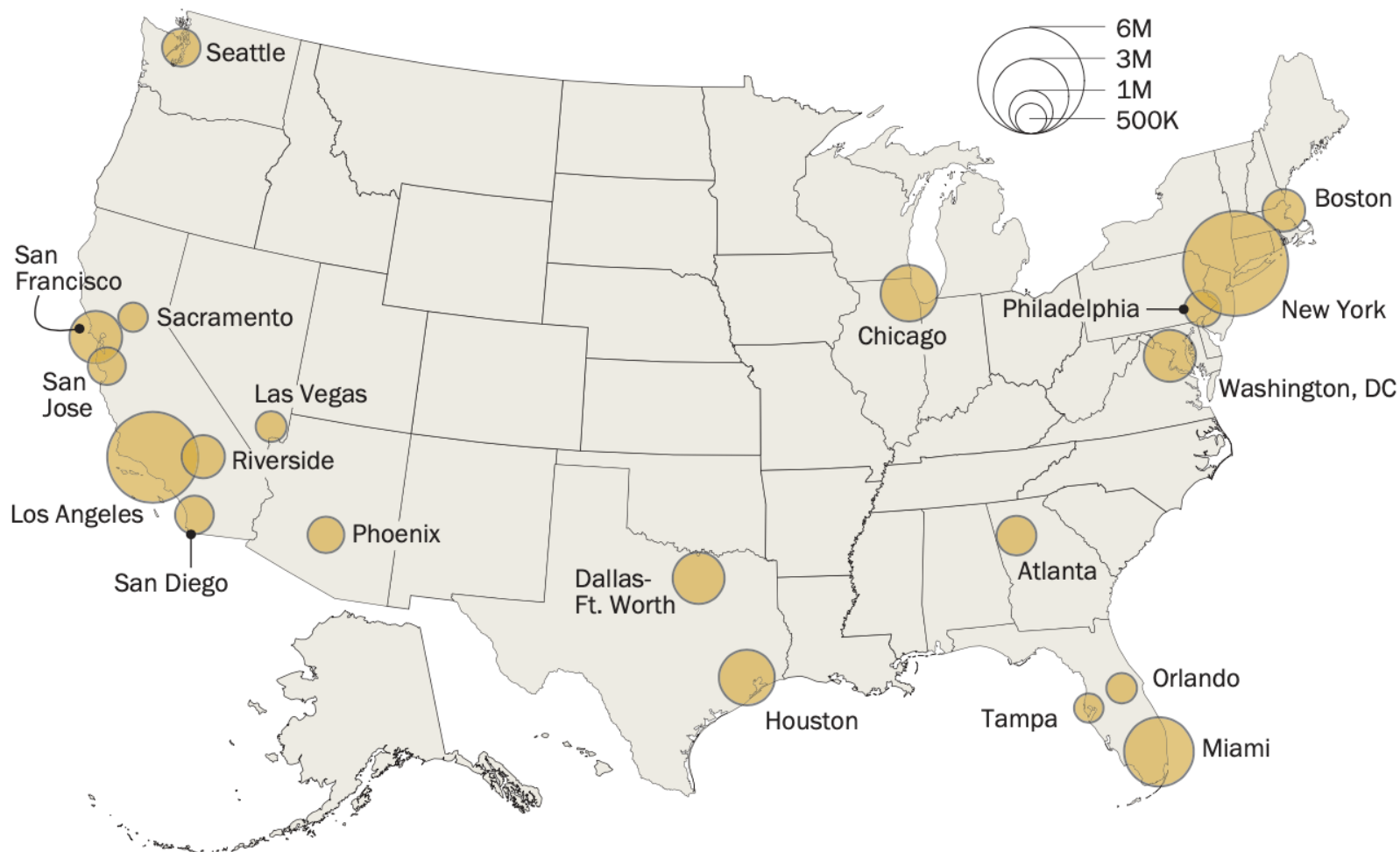
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2018 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).

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... Immigrants are dispersed across the nation

% foreign born, by county, 2014-2018

30% +
20-29.9
10-19.9
5-9.9
< 5
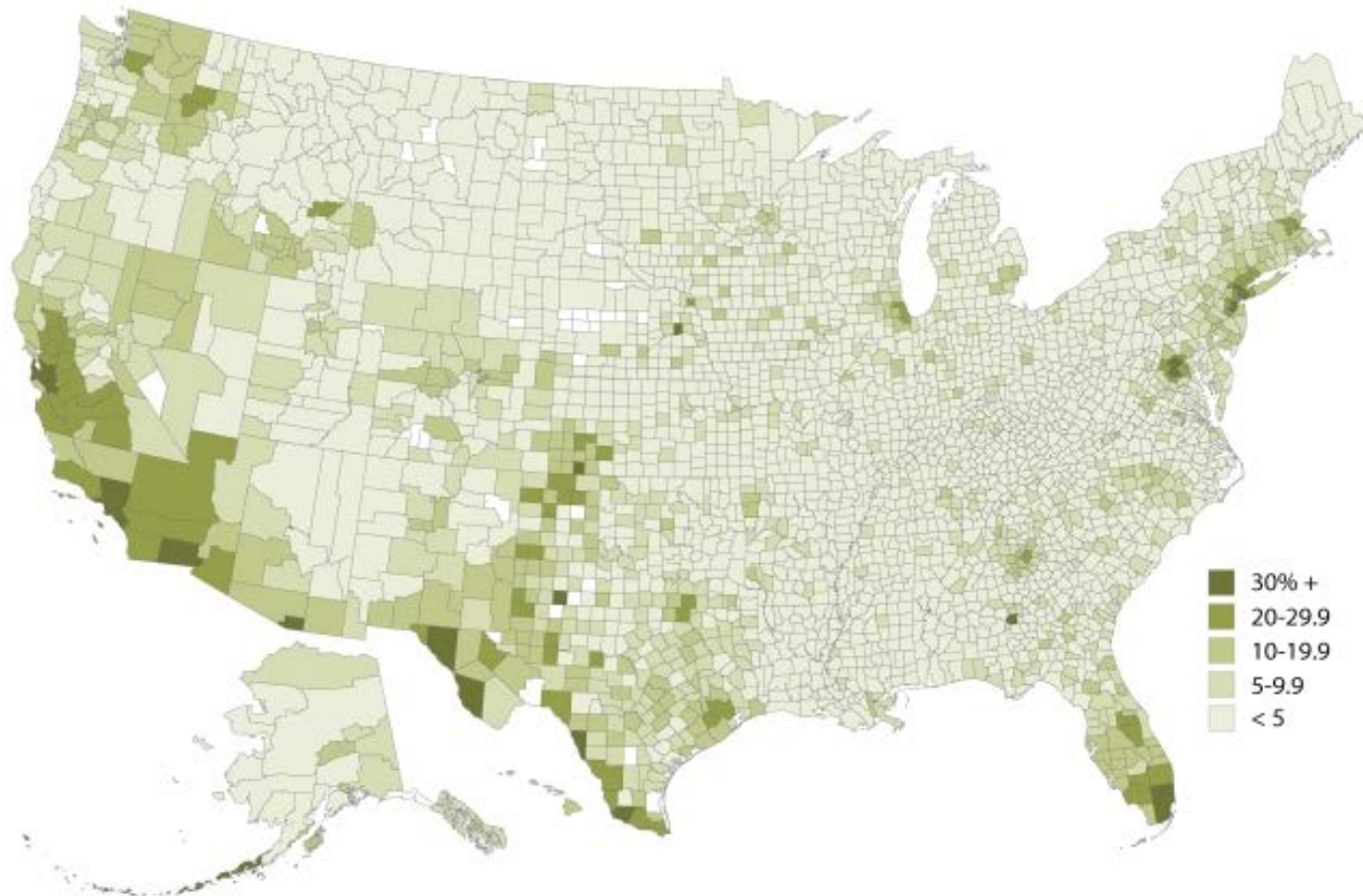
Note: Counties with fewer than 1,000 residents are shown in white.
Source: 2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimates via Census Data.

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Global Migration Trends

- According to the UN, 281 million people lived outside their country of birth in 2020; more than 34 million are refugees or asylum seekers

- 3.6% of the world's population were migrants in 2020, up from 2.8% in 2000

- Top destinations: U.S., Germany, Saudi Arabia, Russia and the UK

- Top origins: India, Mexico, Russia, China and Syria

- Since 2010, fastest growth in emigrant populations from Middle Eastern, North African and Sub-Saharan African countries

U.S. has more college-educated immigrants than other economically advanced countries

Number of immigrants ages 25 and older with a postsecondary diploma or degree, in millions, 2015

Country	Value
U.S.	14.7 M
Canada	4.4
UK	3.4
Australia	3
Germany	2.0
France	1.8
Spain	1.4
Israel	0.8
Italy	0.7
Sweden	0.5
Netherlands	0.5
Greece	0.2
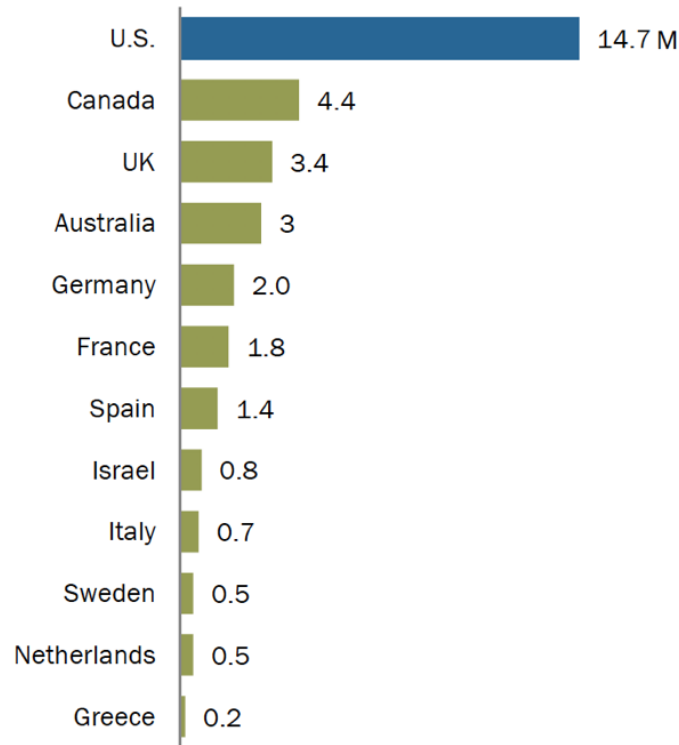
Note: College-educated immigrants are those who have completed a postsecondary diploma or degree.
Source: Country censuses and surveys. See Methodology for complete list of data sources and years. See Appendix B for additional advanced economies.

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KEY U.S. IMMIGRATION TRENDS

Among new immigrant arrivals, Asians outnumber Hispanics

% of immigrants arriving to the U.S. in each year who are ...

53%

Asian

37

22

Hispanic

31

2001   2004   2007   2010   2013   2016   '18
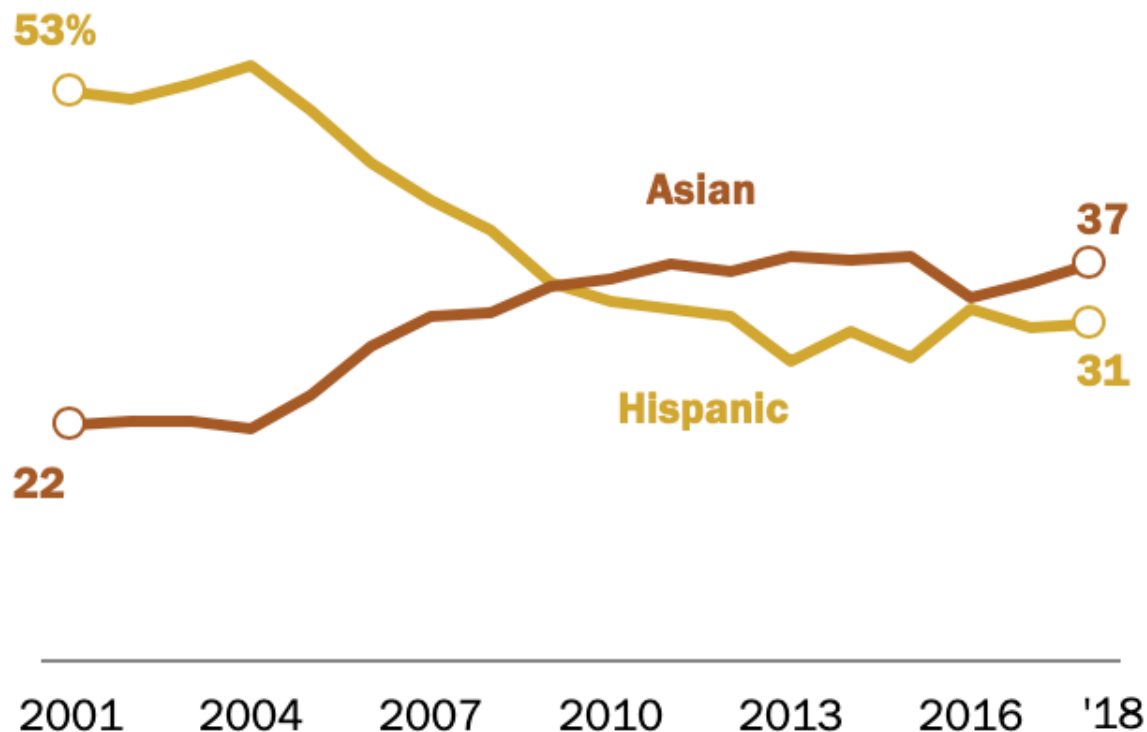
Note: Figures for 2001-2004 based on household population, excluding group quarters. 2018 figure includes arrivals from Jan. 1-Apr. 1, 2018. Race and ethnicity based on self-reports. Asians include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2001-2018 American Community Surveys (IPUMS)

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U.S. immigrants by legal status, 2017

Foreign-born population estimates, 2017

Unauthorized immigrants
10.5 million (23%)

Lawful immigrants
35.2 million (77%)

Naturalized citizens
20.7 million (45%)

Lawful permanent residents
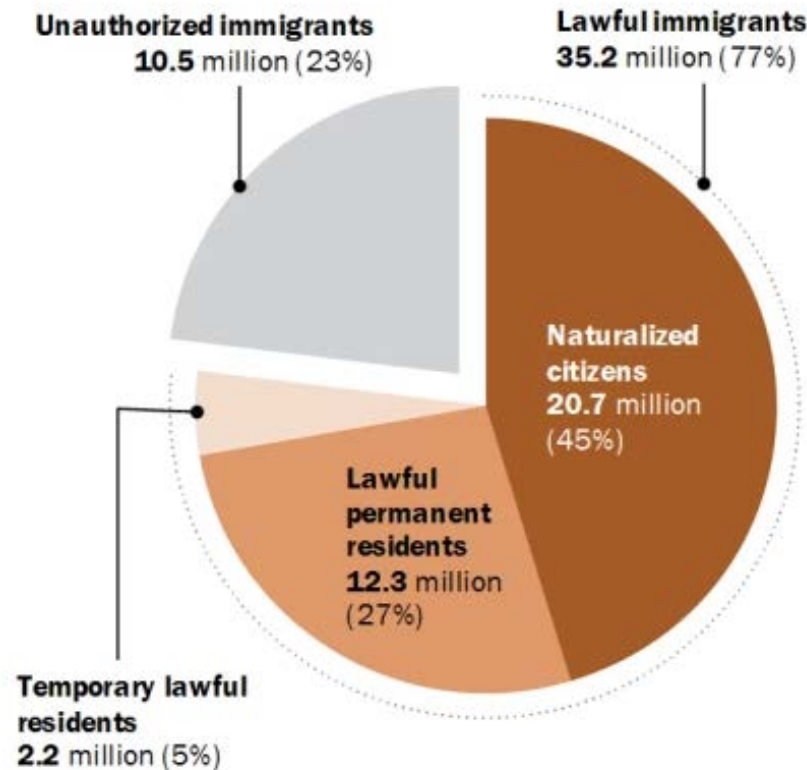**12.3** million (27%)

Temporary lawful residents
2.2 million (5%)

Note: All numbers are rounded independently. Unauthorized immigrants include some with temporary protection from deportation under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS).
Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented U.S. Census Bureau data.

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Number of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. declined over the past decade

In millions

3.5 — 1990
5.7 — 1995
8.6 — 2000
10.7
11.1
12.2
11.4
10.7 10.5

1990   1995   2000   2005   2010   2017
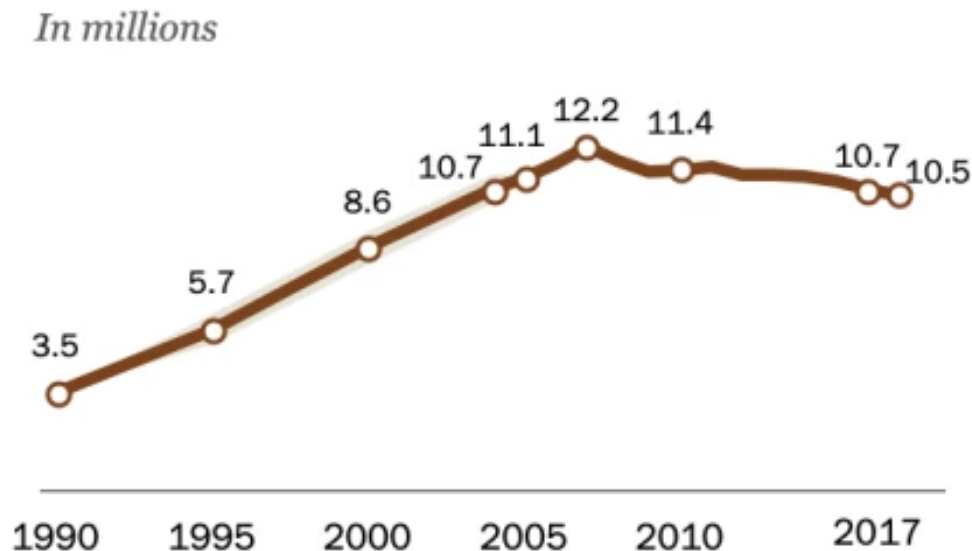
Note: Shading shows range of estimated 90% confidence interval.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented U.S.
Census Bureau data. See Methodology for details.
"U.S. Unauthorized Immigrant Total Dips to Lowest Level in a
Decade"

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In fiscal year 2019, about one million immigrants received lawful permanent resident status

Admission categories for U.S. lawful permanent residents, fiscal 2019

4%
Diversity visa program
43,463

6%
Other
58,032

8%
Refugees
80,908

69%
Family-sponsored immigrants
709,904

14%
Employment-based immigrants
139,458
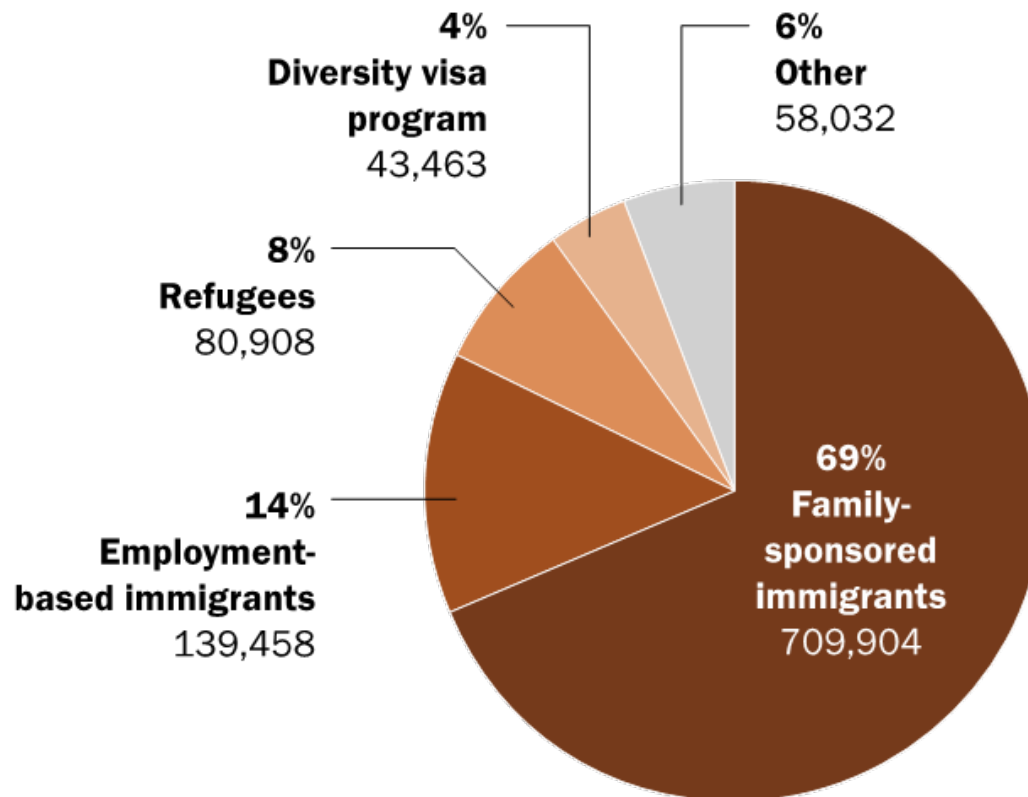
Note: "Other" includes parolees and asylees.
Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

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Number of people who received a U.S. green card declined sharply in fiscal 2020 amid the pandemic

*New U.S. lawful permanent residents **per quarter**, fiscal 2016-2020*

318,219

285,458

264,522

258,201

235,721

Visas restricted
in April 2020
amid pandemic

77,741

2016   2017   2018   2019   2020   Q3
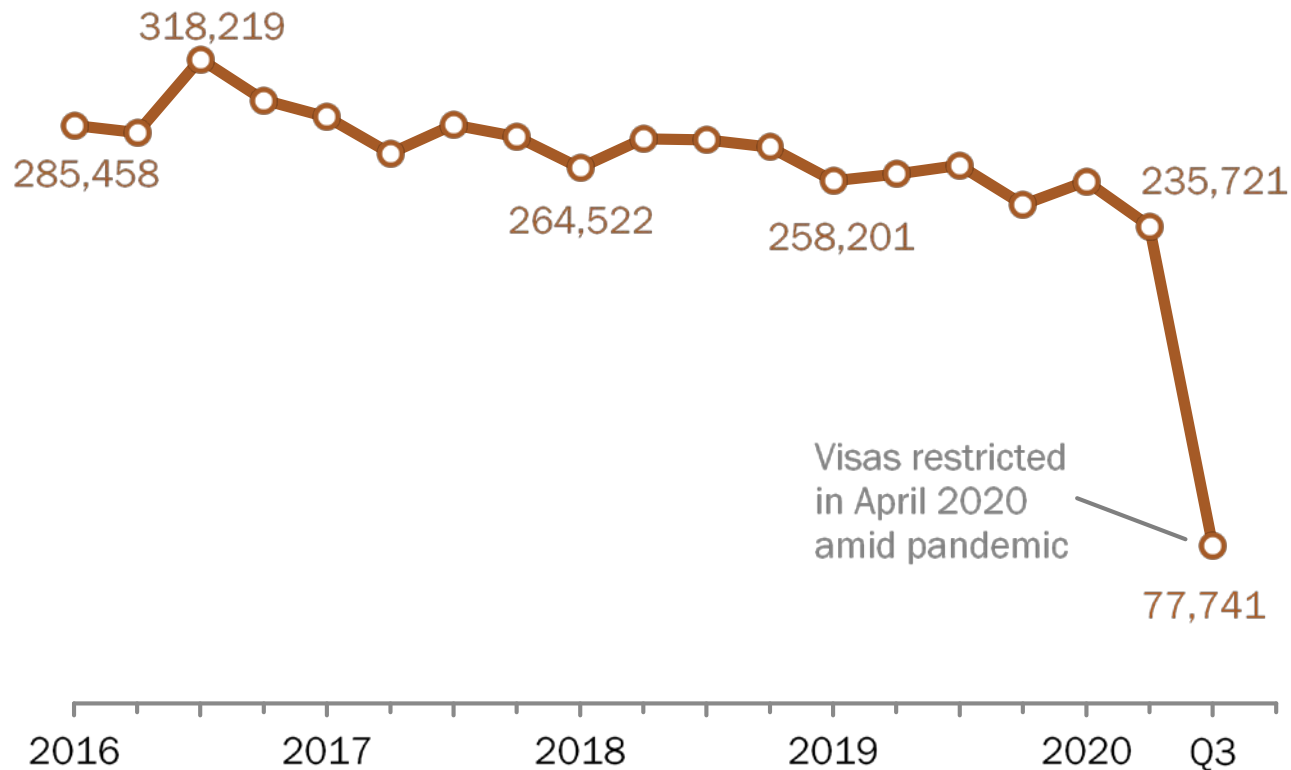
Note: Quarterly data for fiscal year 2020 is through the third quarter, April to June 2020.
Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

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Through fiscal year 2020, steep declines in U.S. refugee ceiling and admissions

In thousands, by fiscal year

232

207

Refugee ceiling

Obama sets FY17 ceiling at 110K; Trump limits FY17 admissions in executive order.

Admission limited in FY20 due to coronavirus

Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks

110

70

Refugee admissions

54

27

18

12

1980   1990   2000   2010   2020
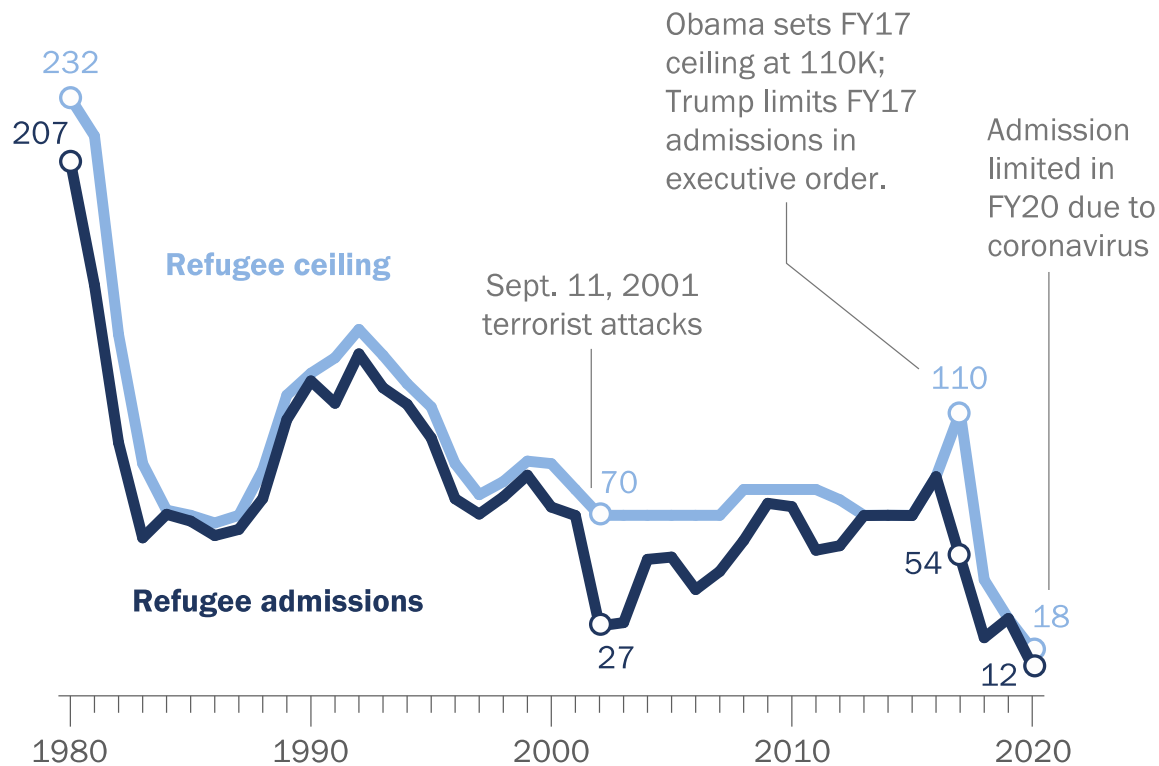
Notes:
Source: U.S. State Department's Refugee Processing Center, accessed Feb. 11, 2021. U.S. Yearbook of immigration Statistics, 1980-2019. "Refugee Admissions and Resettlement Policy," Congressional Research Service, December 2018.

Monthly migrant apprehensions at U.S.-Mexico border are approaching 2019 highs

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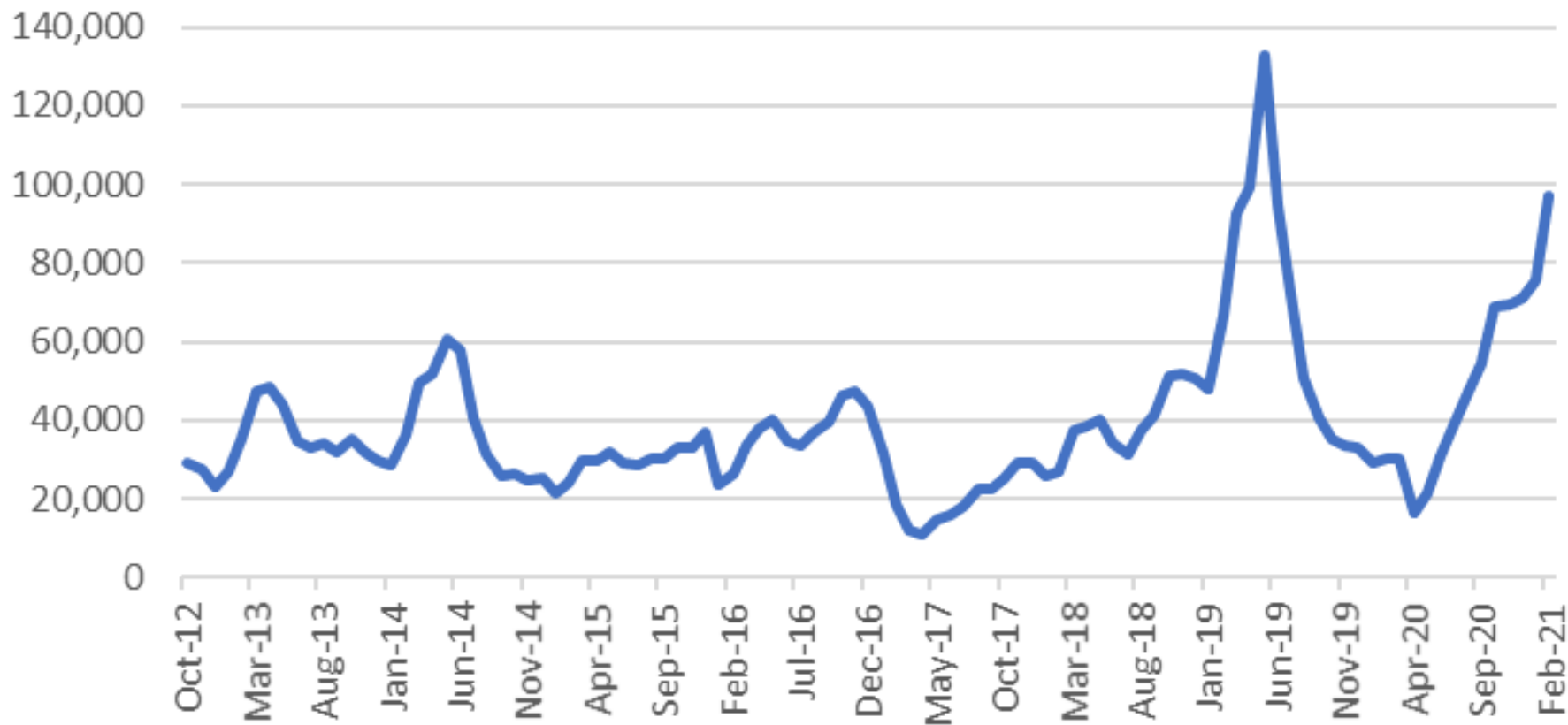
Single adults are driving new surge in migrant apprehensions at U.S.-Mexico border
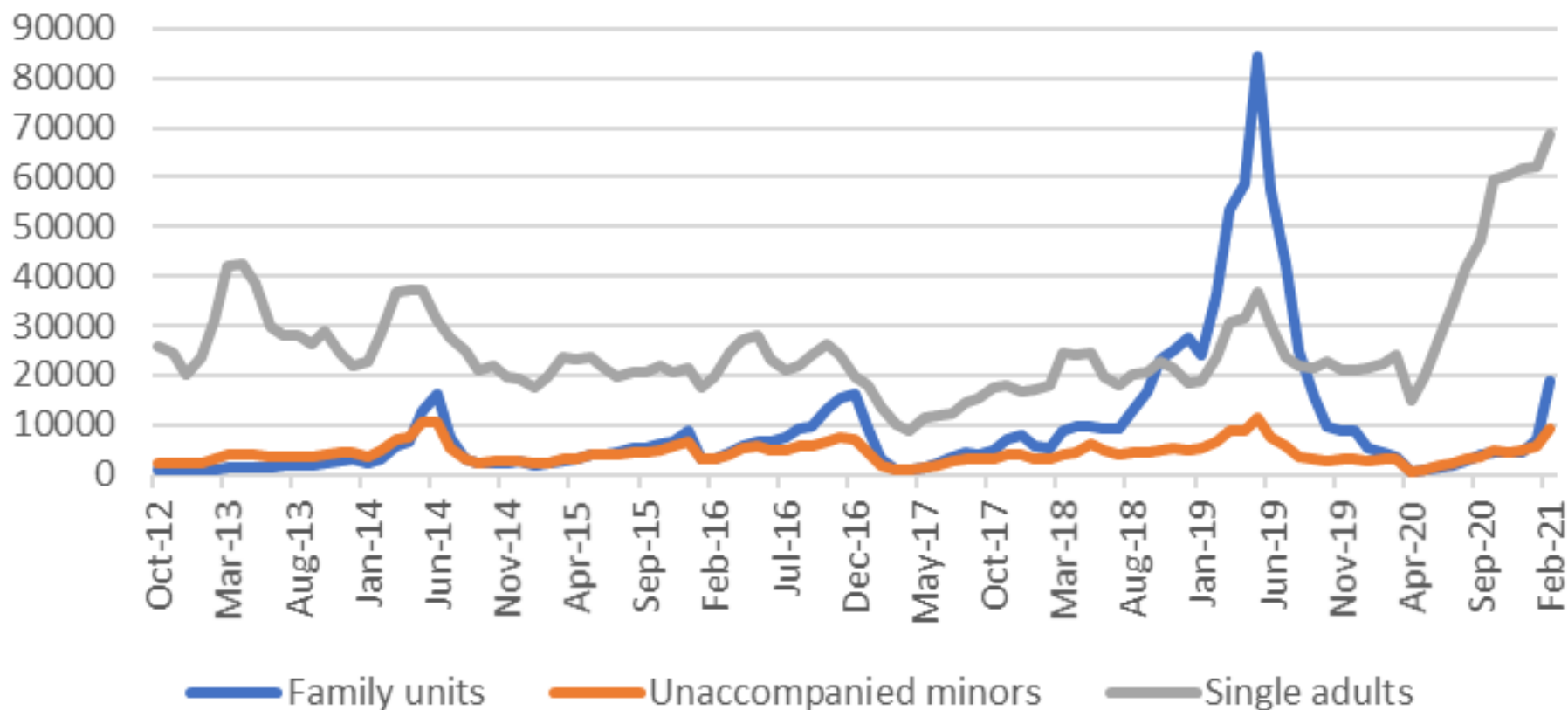
Remittances to six Latin American countries fell sharply in April amid COVID-19, but then rebounded

% change in remittances compared with the same month in 2019

Colombia | **Dominican Republic** | **El Salvador** | **Guatemala** | **Honduras** | **Mexico**

Colombia: 2.7, 6.6, 32.8, -38.5, -27.7, 1.3

Dominican Republic: 9.3, 10.3, -21.8, -32.5, 17.9, 25.7

El Salvador: 6.6, 11.0, -10.7, -40.0, -18., 9.8

Guatemala: 21.3, 17.0, -9.7, -20.2, -14.1, 9.2

Honduras: 8.9, 14.5, -14.4, -27.9, -14.7, 15.2

Mexico: 5.5, 10.7, 35.5, -2.6, 3.0, 11.1

Jan Feb March April May June
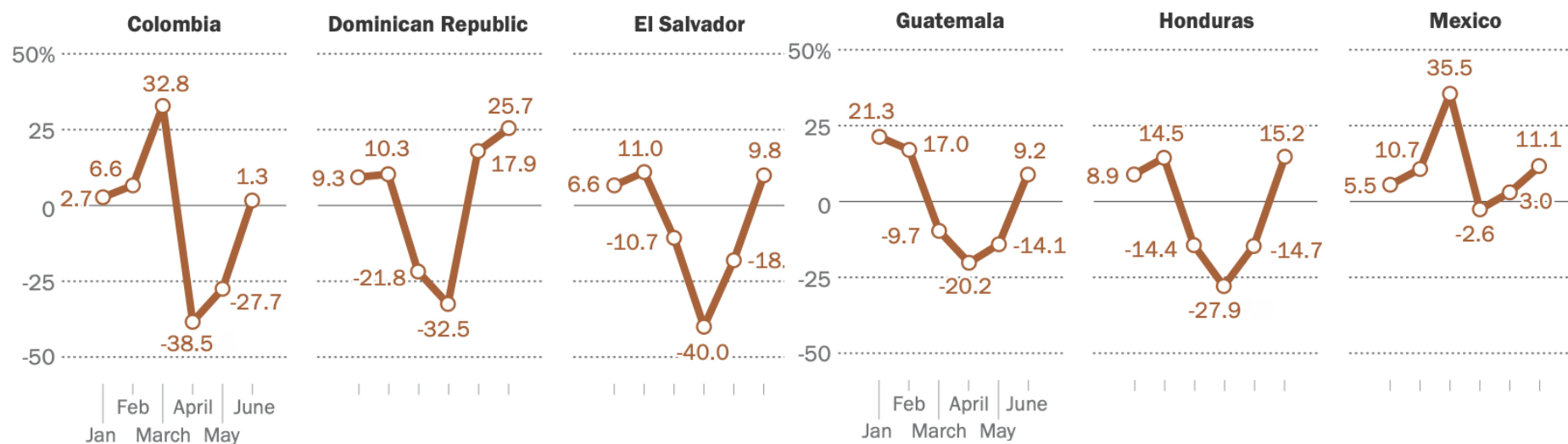
Source: Central Bank data from El Salvador, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

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IMMIGRATION AND U.S. PUBLIC OPINION

U.S. public's views of immigrants have changed

% who say immigrants today ...

Burden country by taking jobs, housing, health care

Strengthen country through hard work, talents
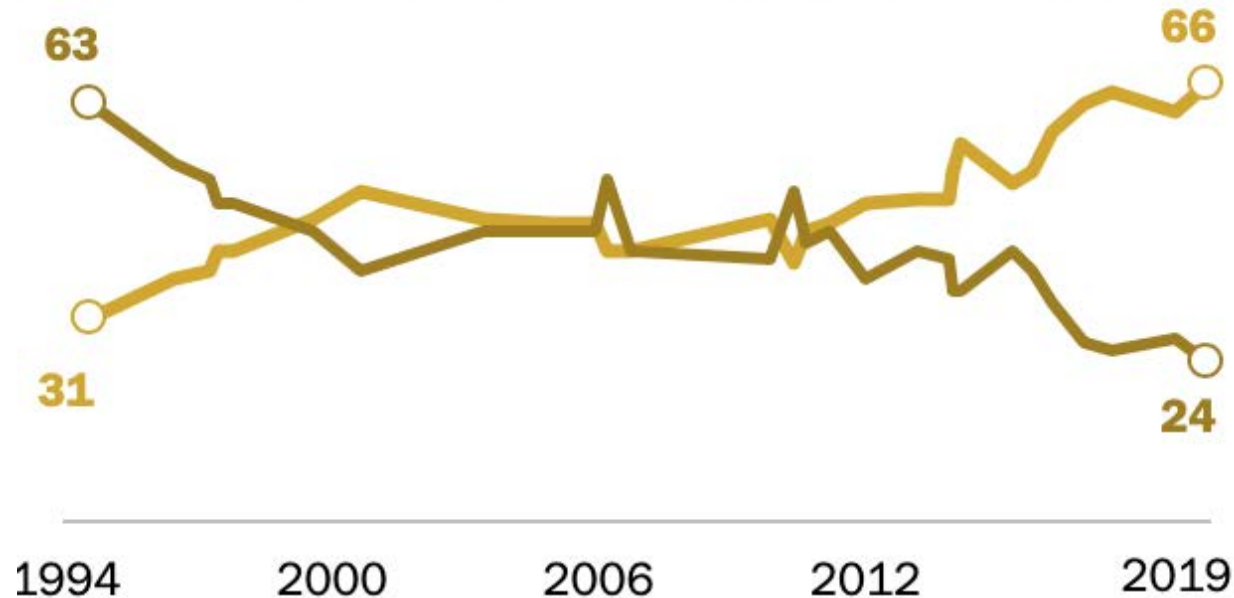
Note: Don't know responses not shown.
Source: Phone surveys of U.S. adults conducted 1994-2019.

Most Americans support granting legal status to immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children

% who say they _____ Congress passing a law granting permanent legal status to immigrants who came to U.S. illegally when they were children
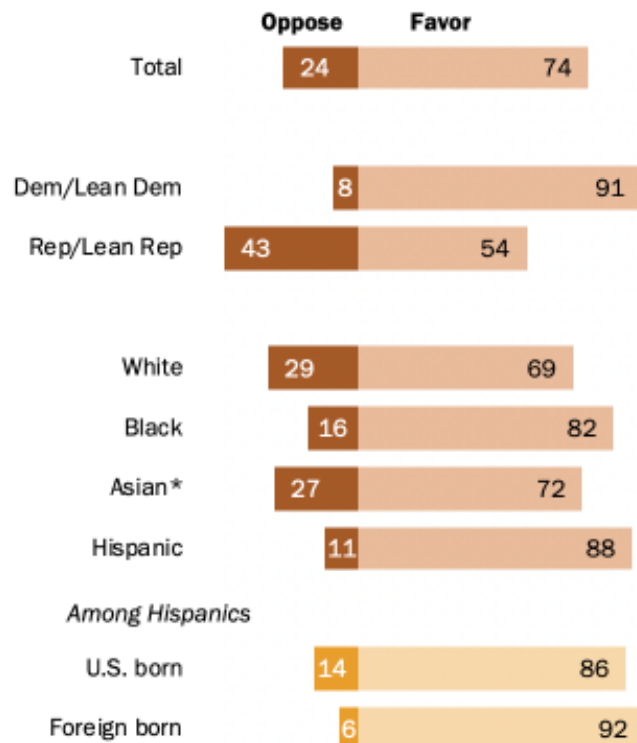
	Oppose	Favor
Total	24	74
Dem/Lean Dem	8	91
Rep/Lean Rep	43	54
White	29	69
Black	16	82
Asian*	27	72
Hispanic	11	88
Among Hispanics		
U.S. born	14	86
Foreign born	6	92

*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.
Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. White, black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 4-10, 2020.

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Three-quarters of U.S. adults say undocumented immigrants should be allowed to stay in the U.S. legally

% who say undocumented immigrants who are now living in the U.S. should ...

	Not be allowed to stay in the country legally	**Have a way to stay in U.S. legally, if certain requirements are met**
Total	24	75
Dem/Lean Dem	10	89
Rep/Lean Rep	42	57
White	29	70
Black	18	81
Asian*	22	76
Hispanic	12	87
Among Hispanics		
U.S. born	17	82
Foreign born	5	94

*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.
Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. White, black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.
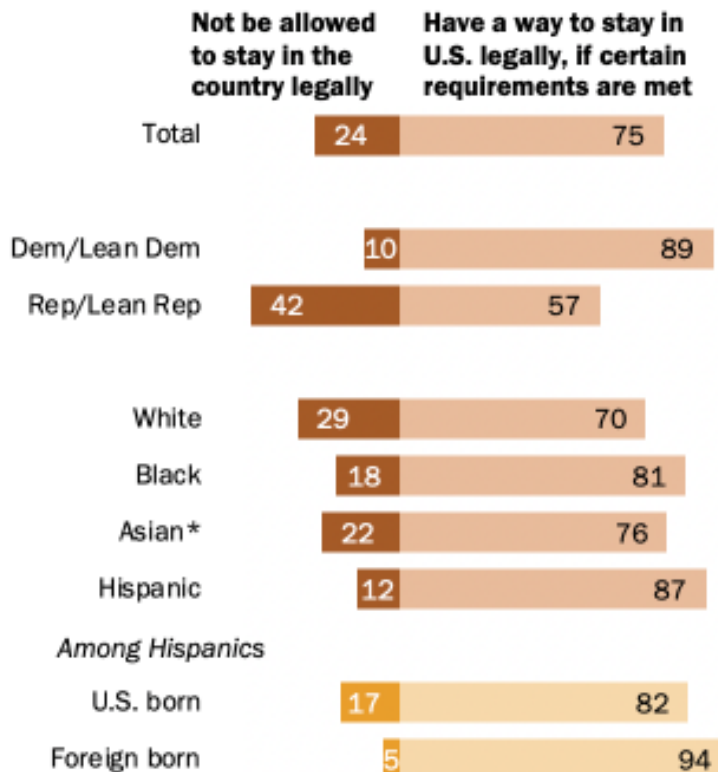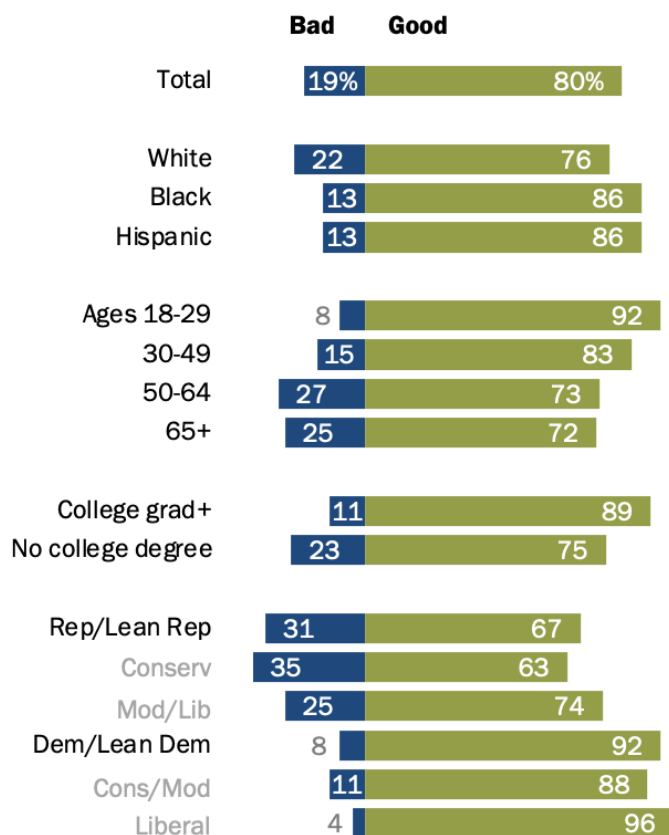Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 4-10, 2020.

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Americans say international students are good for U.S. colleges and universities, but majority supports limiting Chinese students

% who think it is ___ for U.S. colleges and universities to accept international students

	Bad	Good
Total	19%	80%
White	22	76
Black	13	86
Hispanic	13	86
Ages 18-29	8	92
30-49	15	83
50-64	27	73
65+	25	72
College grad+	11	89
No college degree	23	75
Rep/Lean Rep	31	67
Conserv	35	63
Mod/Lib	25	74
Dem/Lean Dem	8	92
Cons/Mod	11	88
Liberal	4	96

% who say they ___ limiting Chinese students studying in the U.S.

	Oppose	Support
Total	43%	55%
White	41	57
Black	48	50
Hispanic	41	56
Ages 18-29	66	31
30-49	49	49
50-64	31	69
65+	29	69
College grad+	52	47
No college degree	39	59
Rep/Lean Rep	29	69
Conserv	22	77
Mod/Lib	41	58
Dem/Lean Dem	56	42
Cons/Mod	49	49
Liberal	63	35

Note: Those who did not answer not shown. White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.
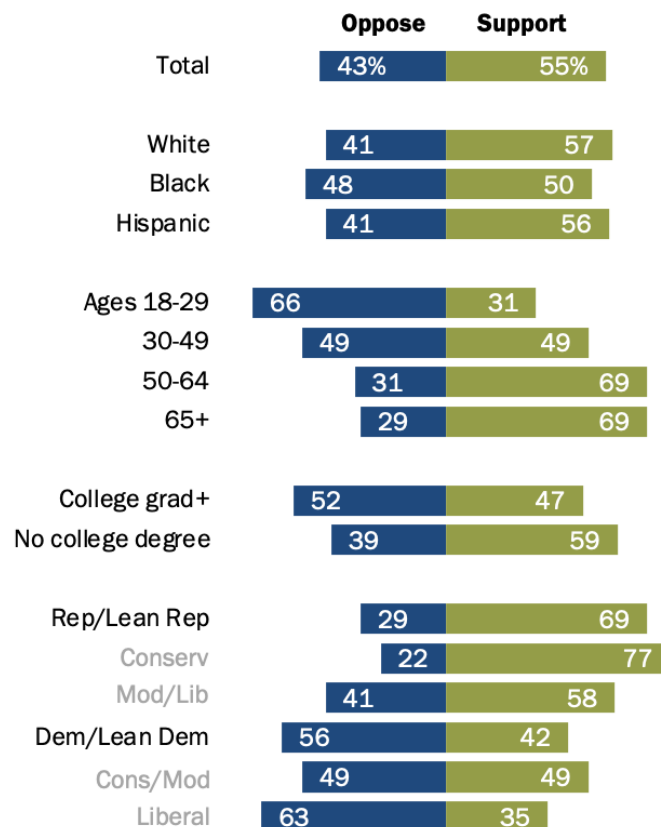
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 1-7, 2021. Q55. "Most Americans Support Tough Stance Toward China on Human Rights, Economic Issues"

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Sharp decline in the share of U.S. adults who view illegal immigration as a very big national problem

*% who say ___ is a **very big problem** in the country today*

Illegal immigration
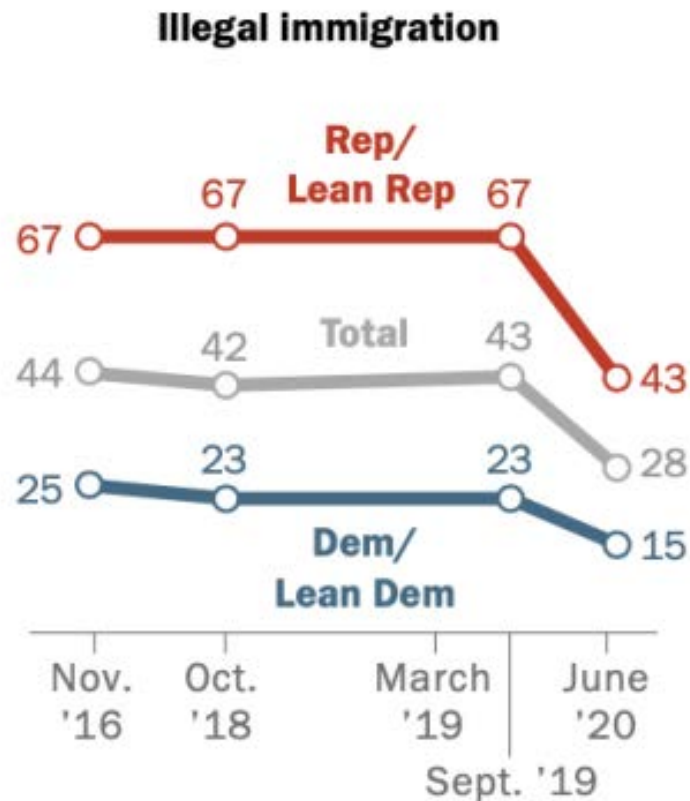
Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

Immigration is not a top public priority in 2021 ...

% who say _____ should be a top priority for the president and Congress to address this year

Strengthening economy	80
Dealing with coronavirus outbreak	78
Improving job situation	67
Defending against terrorism	63
Improving political system	62
Reducing health care costs	58
Securing Social Security	54
Improving education	53
Dealing with problems of poor people	53
Addressing issues around race	49
Reducing crime	47
Addressing criminal justice system	46
Reducing budget deficit	42
Dealing with immigration	39
Dealing with climate change	38
Strengthening military	37
Dealing with global trade	32
Improving transportation	32
Dealing with drug addiction	28

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 8-12, 2021.

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… Or as a long-range U.S. foreign-policy goal

*% who say ___ should be given **<u>top priority</u>** as a long-range foreign policy goal*

Goal	%
Protecting the jobs of American workers	75%
Reducing the spread of infectious diseases	71
Taking measures to protect the U.S. from terrorist attacks	71
Preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction	64
Improving relationships with our allies	55
Maintaining the U.S. military advantage over all other countries	48
Limiting the power and influence of China	48
Dealing with global climate change	44
Getting other countries to assume more of the costs of maintaining world order	42
Limiting the power and influence of Russia	42

Goal	%
Reducing our trade deficit with foreign countries	40
Limiting the power and influence of North Korea	40
Limiting the power and influence of Iran	38
Reducing illegal immigration into the U.S.	38
Promoting and defending human rights in other countries	34
Strengthening the United Nations	30
Reducing U.S. military commitments overseas	29
Aiding refugees fleeing violence around the world	28
Reducing legal immigration into the U.S.	22
Promoting democracy in other nations	20

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 1-7, 2021.

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