

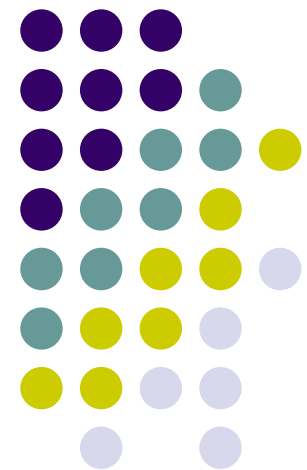
A Brief History of Immigration in Wisconsin

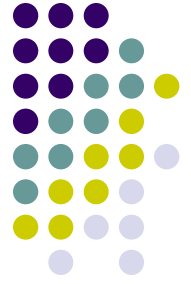
Presented to Western Wisconsin
Rural Immigration Summit
September 25, 2007

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University of Wisconsin Extension & Applied Population Laboratory

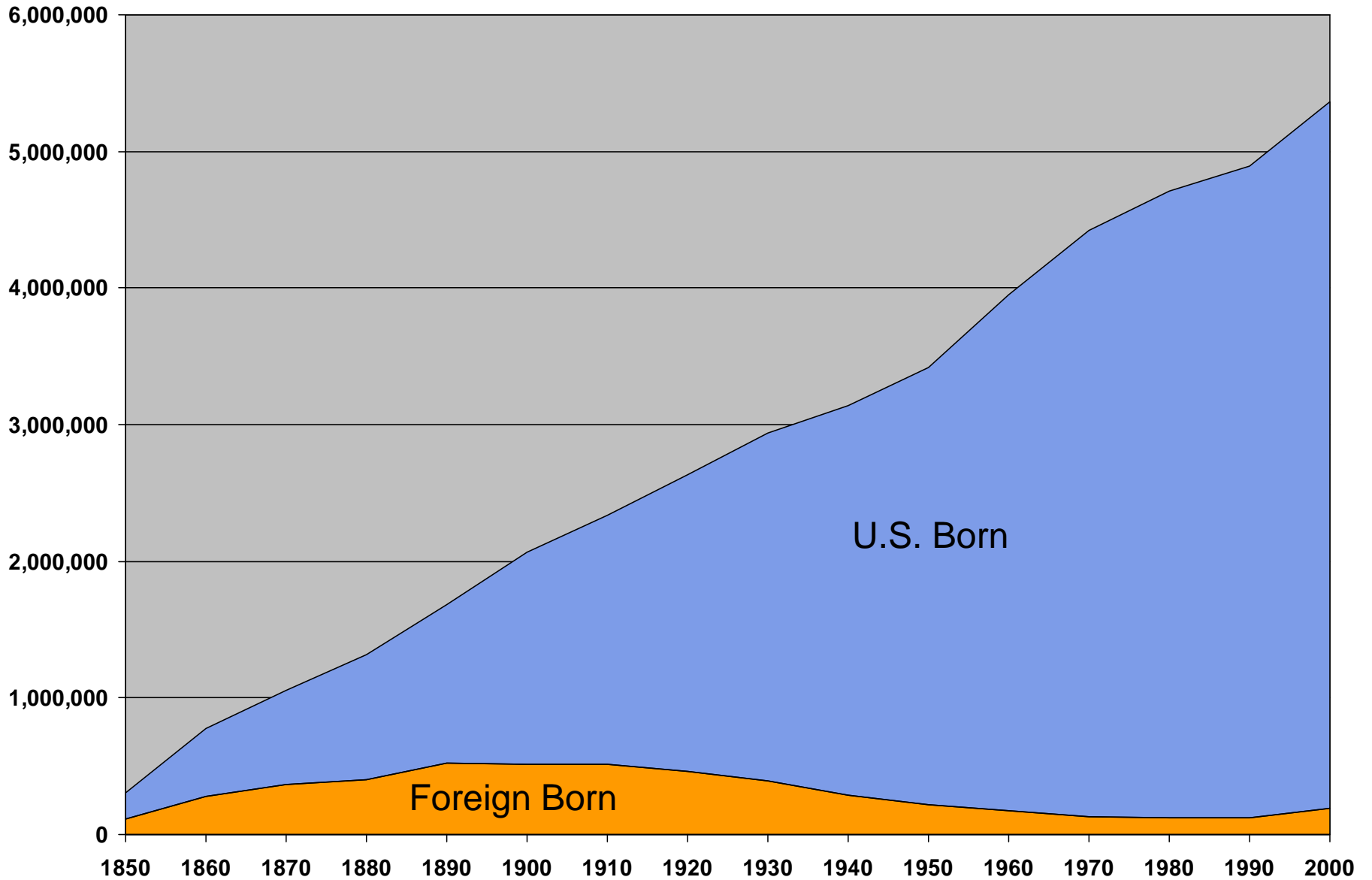




Things to Keep in Mind

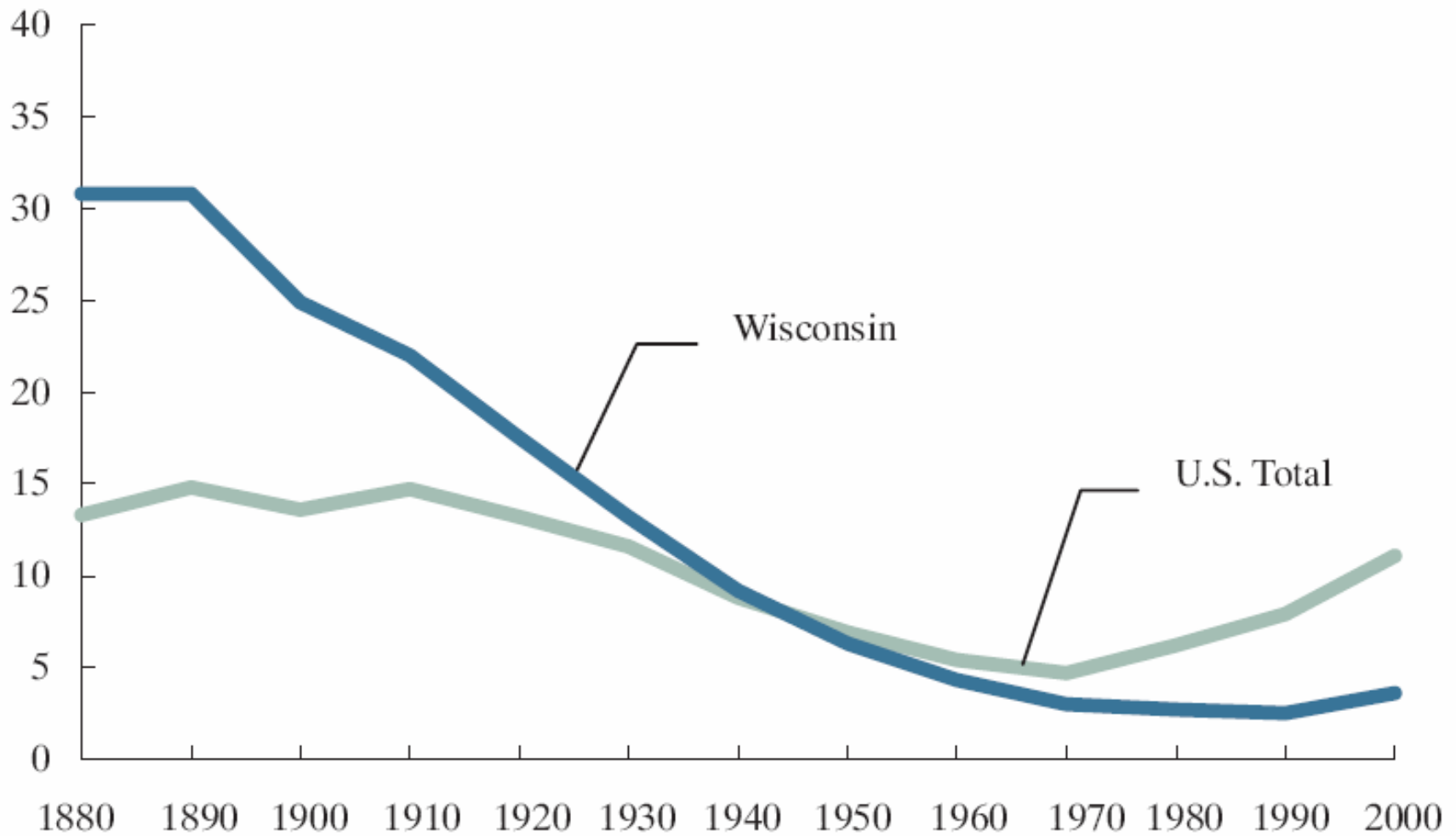
- Immigration is not a new story: 150+ years
- Immigrants *were* a BIG part of the State population growth
- Regionalism within Immigration History: North and Western Europe, Southern and Eastern Europe, and finally Asia and Latin America
- Push-Pull Factors and Chain migration
- Shifting policies and attitudes toward immigration: Recruitment VS Restrictions
- Tensions surrounding “assimilation” and “Americanization”
- Changing economies and related opportunities

Wisconsin's Foreign and "Native" Born Population



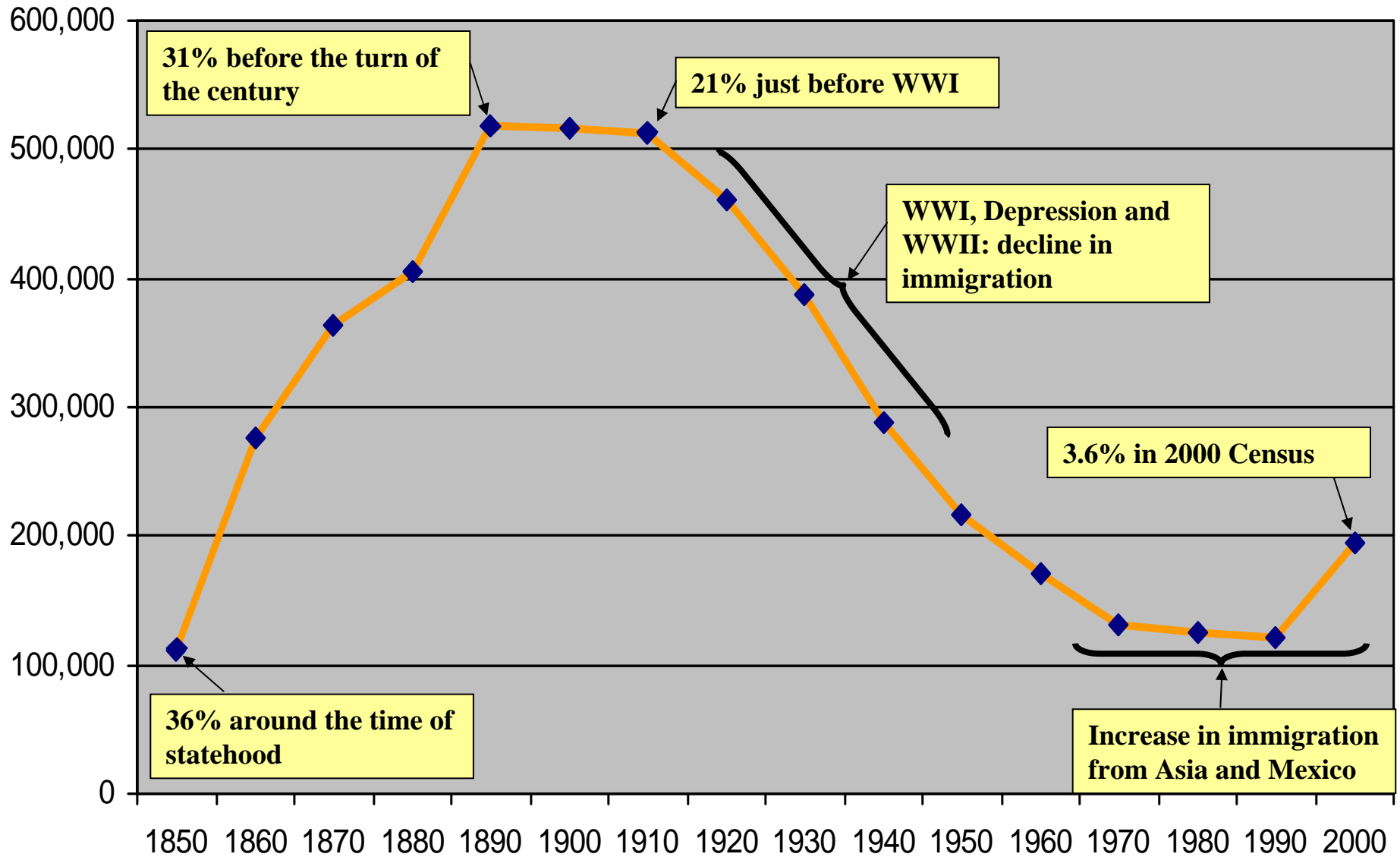
Foreign Born Persons as a Percent of the Total Population, Wisconsin and U.S.: 1880 to 2000

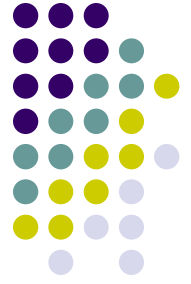
Percent



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 1880 to 2000

Wisconsin's Foreign Born Population: 1850 to 2000

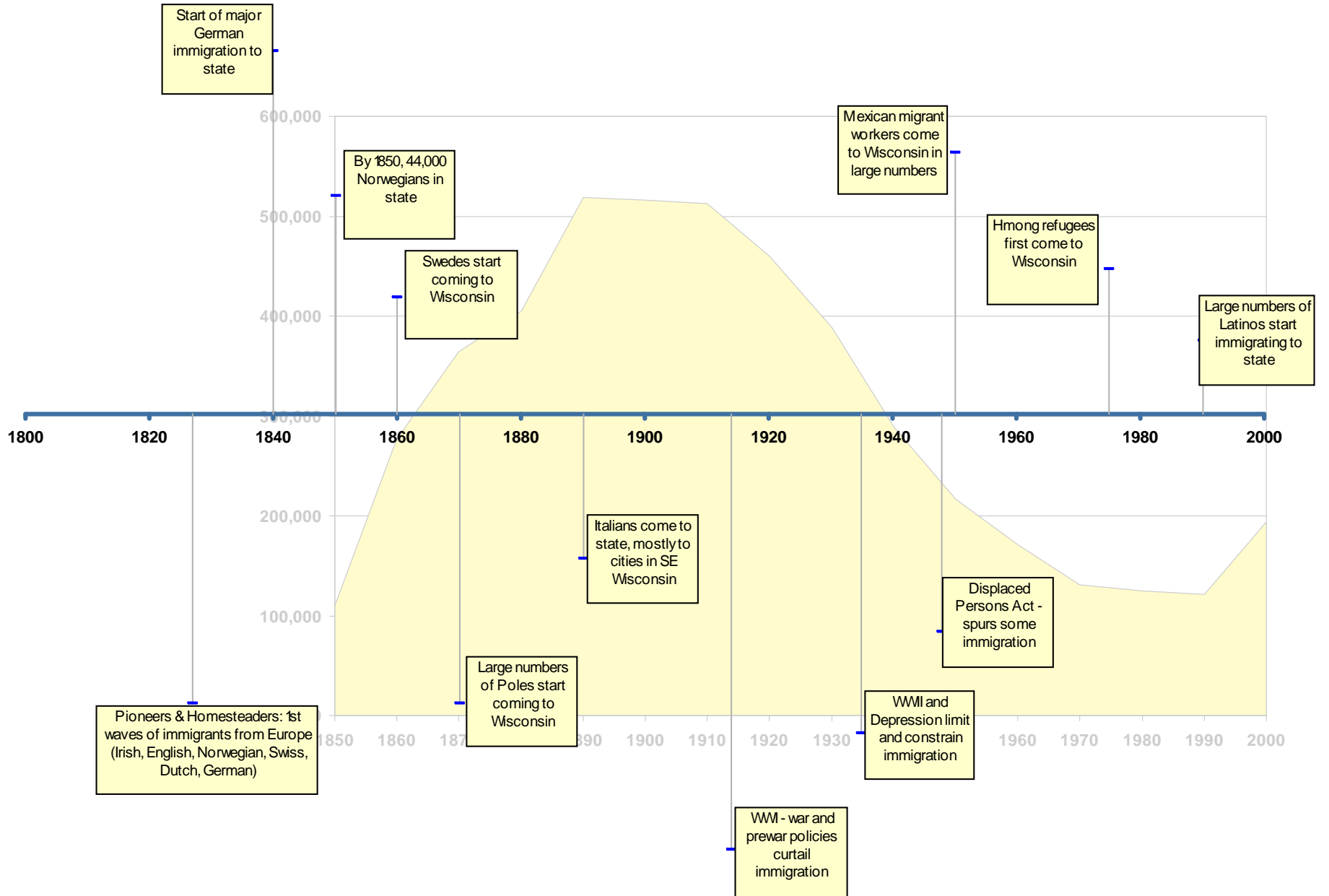




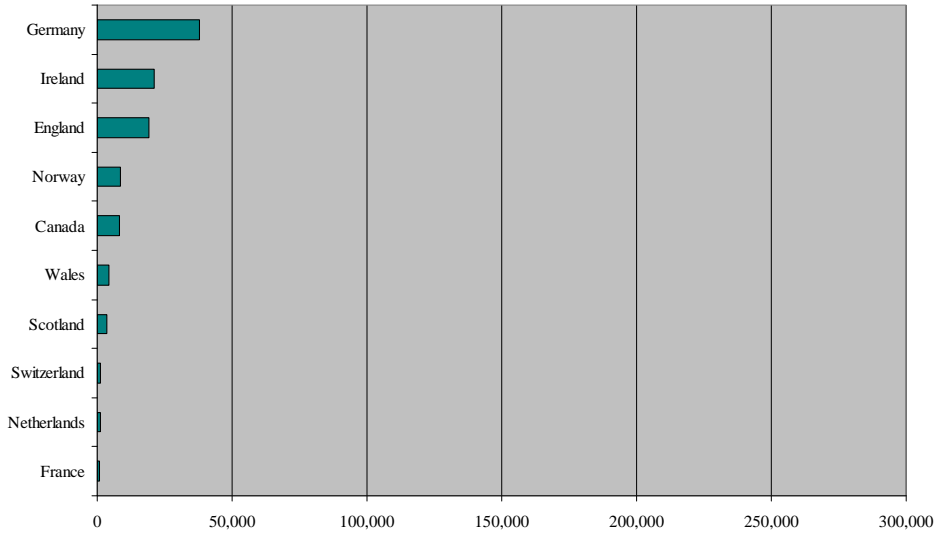
A Timeline

- Earliest residents were prehistoric Native Americans
- Pre-Statehood
 - Explorers, missionaries, fur traders: 1634 – mid 1850s
 - Pioneers, homesteaders, farmers 1830s-1850s
- Statehood and beyond
 - 50 year period of population growth fueled significantly by immigration (1850 – 1900) mostly from Northern and Western Europe
 - Early 20th Century, immigration from Europe slowed significantly and shifted to people coming from Southern and Eastern Europe
 - Second half of 20th, new immigrant origins represented (Asia, Latin America)

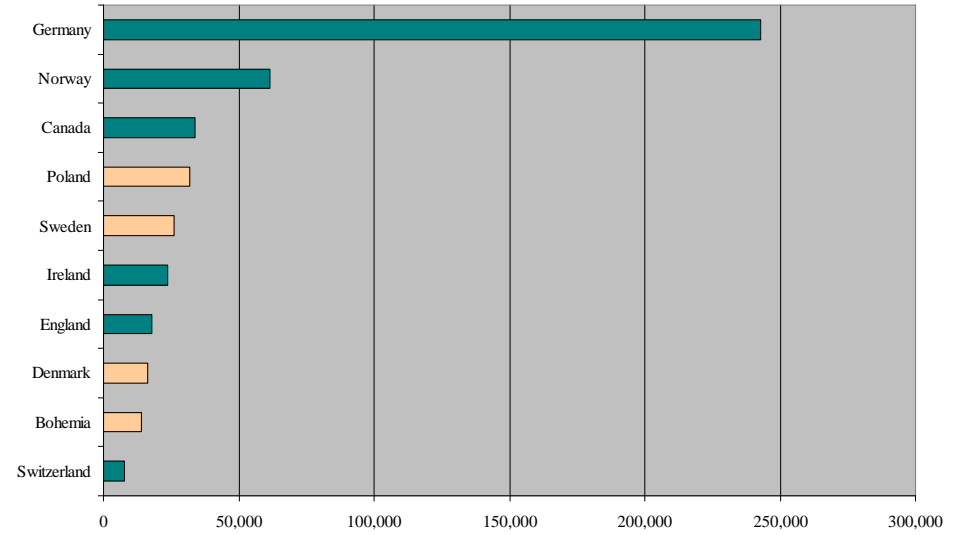
Immigration to Wisconsin



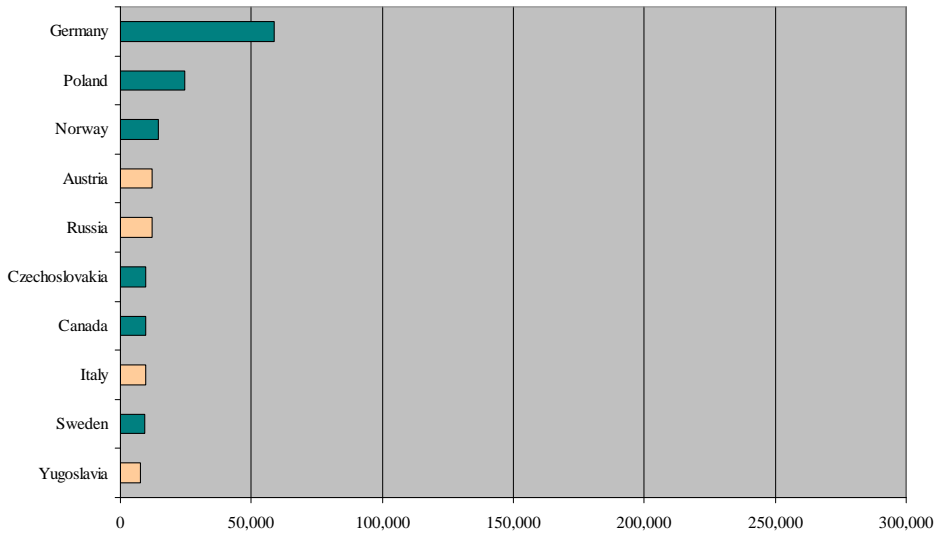
**1850 Census Top Ten Countries of Birth
for Foreign Born Population**



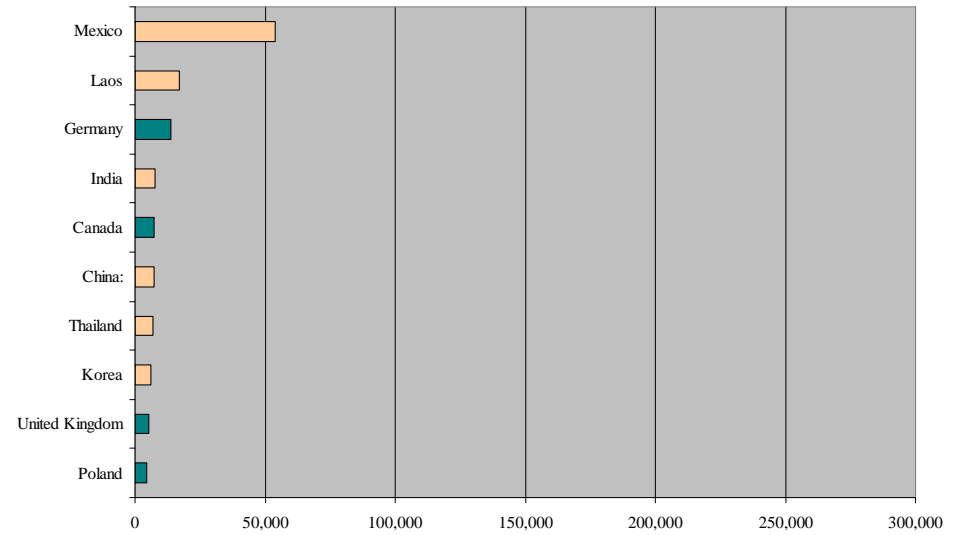
**1900 Census Top Ten Countries of Birth
for Foreign Born Population**

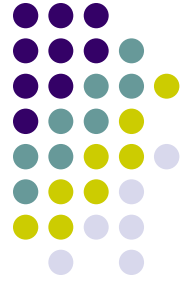


**1950 Census Top Ten Countries of Birth
for Foreign Born Population**



**2000 Census Top Ten Countries of Birth
for Foreign Born Population**





Immigration Push Factors

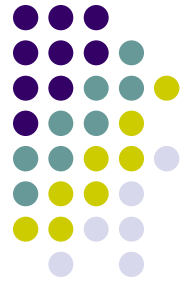
- Poverty
- Population pressure & Displacement
- Political oppression or instability
- Religious intolerance or persecution

Immigration Pull Factors

- Land and farming opportunities
- Employment opportunities
- Education
- Family Unification

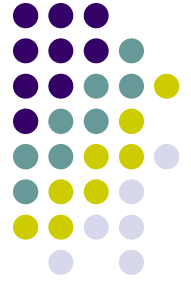
Chain migration: Social or familial networks established between sending countries and Wisconsin

Varied Policies on Immigration



- Wisconsin Office of Emigration (1852-1855)
- Bennet Law in late 1880's
- World War I: Anti-German sentiment and the Espionage Act
- Guest Worker Programs, Displaced Persons Act, Family Reunification...

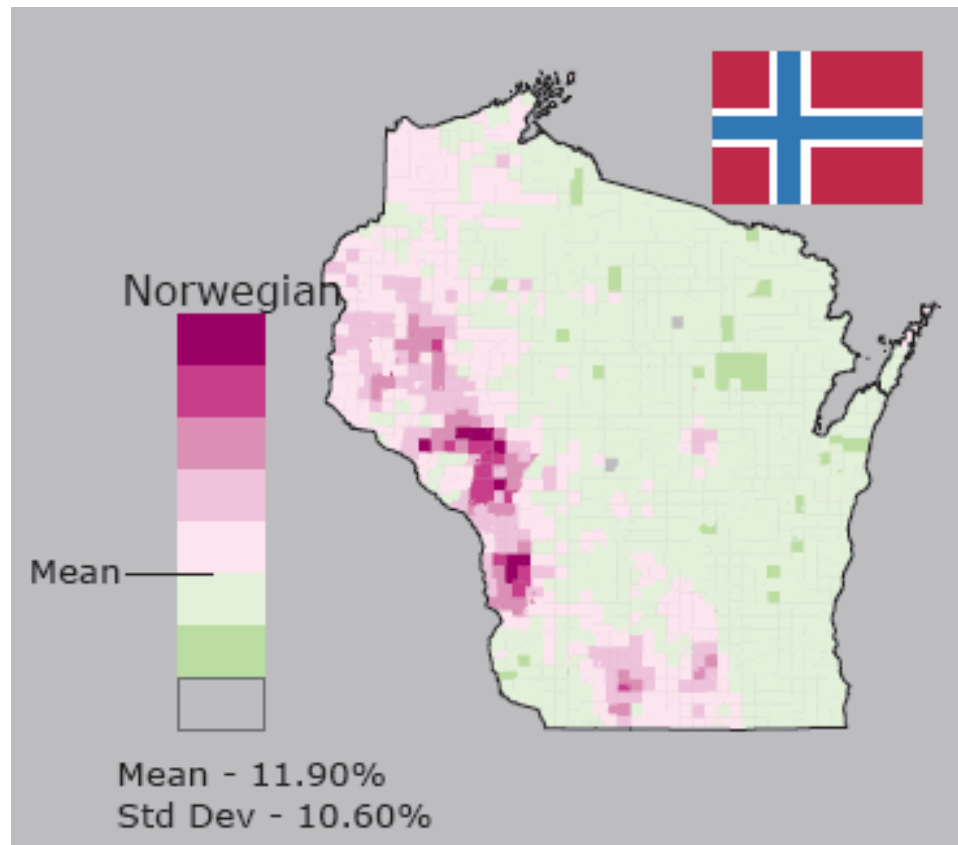
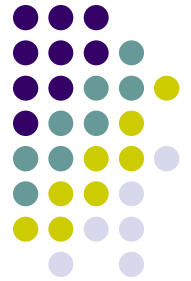
Why Wisconsin?



An Old Wisconsin Emigrant Song:

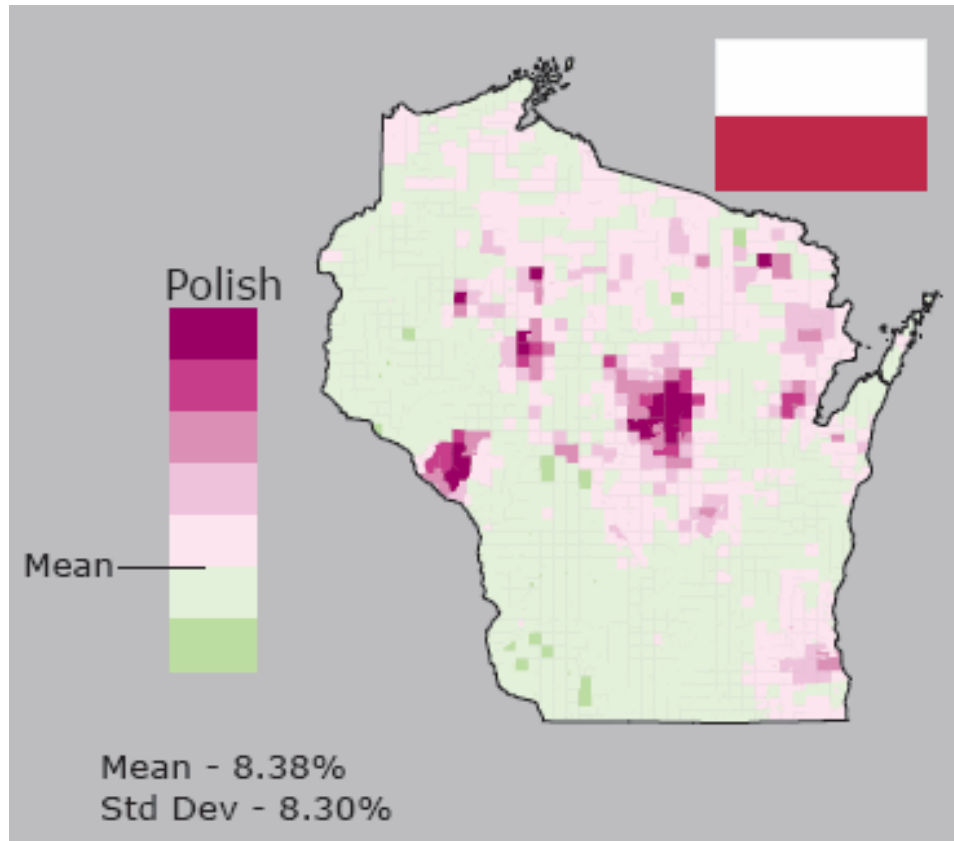
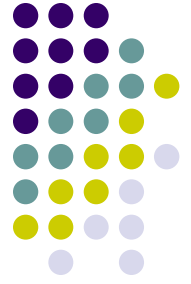
Since times are so hard, I've thought, my true heart,
Of leaving my oxen, my plough and my cart,
And away to Wisconsin, a journey we'd go
to double our fortune as other folks do,
While here I must labor each day in the field,
And the winter consumes all the summer doth yield.

Geographic Legacies: Norwegian Ancestry



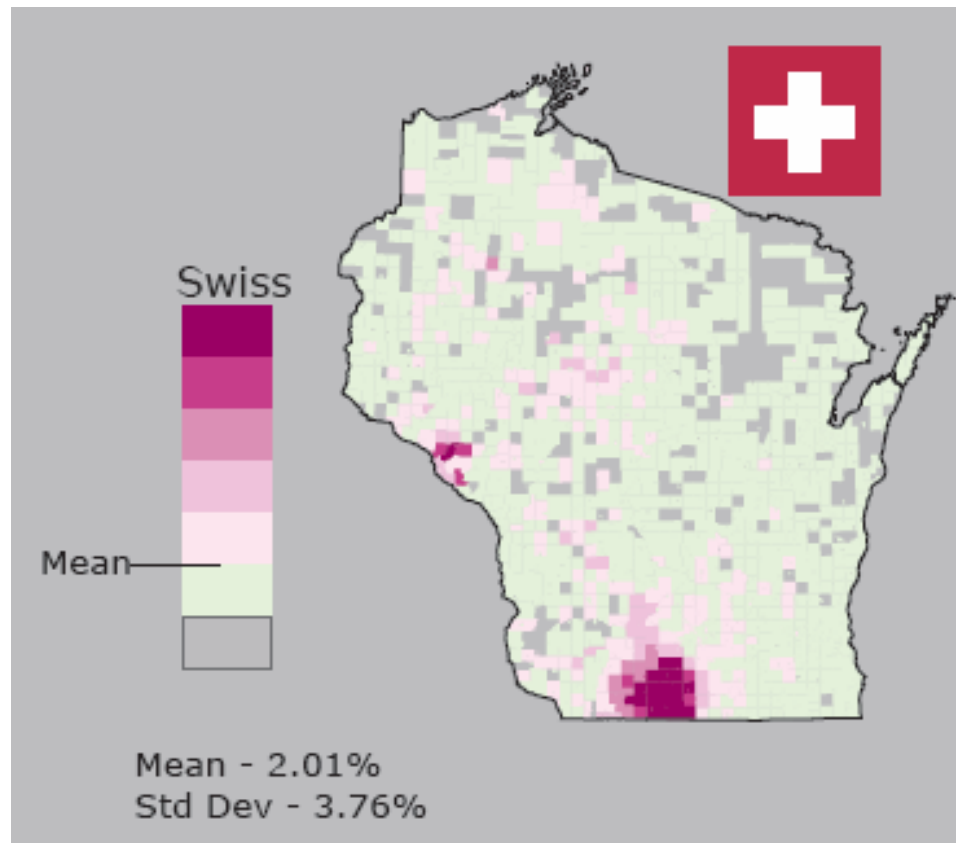
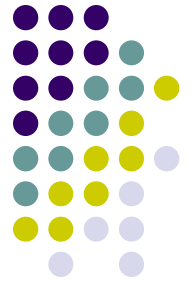
First settlements in 1838, by 1850s large communities in Rock, Waukesha, and Jefferson County. Then, because of employment in farming, movement to wheat frontier of Western Wisconsin (Crawford north to Barron).

Geographic Legacies: Polish Ancestry



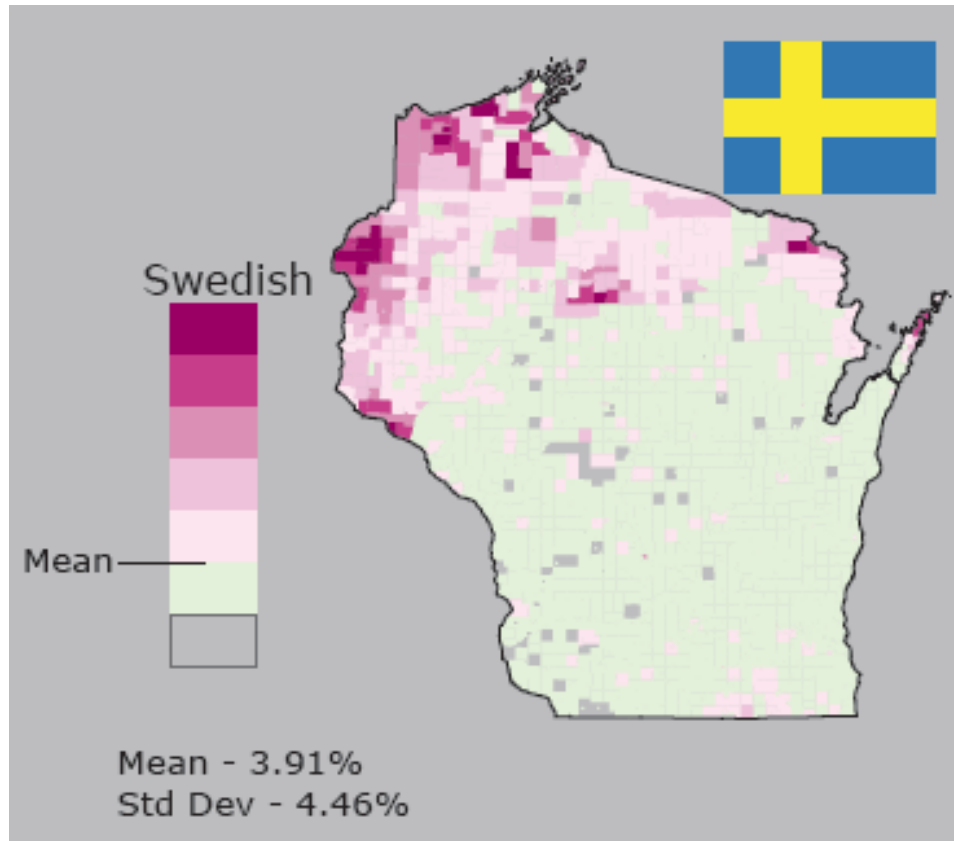
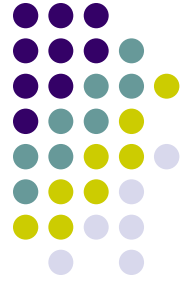
Came in large numbers in 1870s and 1880s. Many settled in Milwaukee County for employment in manufacturing but also in rural areas and farm districts, most notably in Portage County.

Geographic Legacies: Swiss Ancestry



Most came before 1870.
Green County was largest
center of Swiss farming in
United States and became
known as Swissconsin

Geographic Legacies: Swedish Ancestry

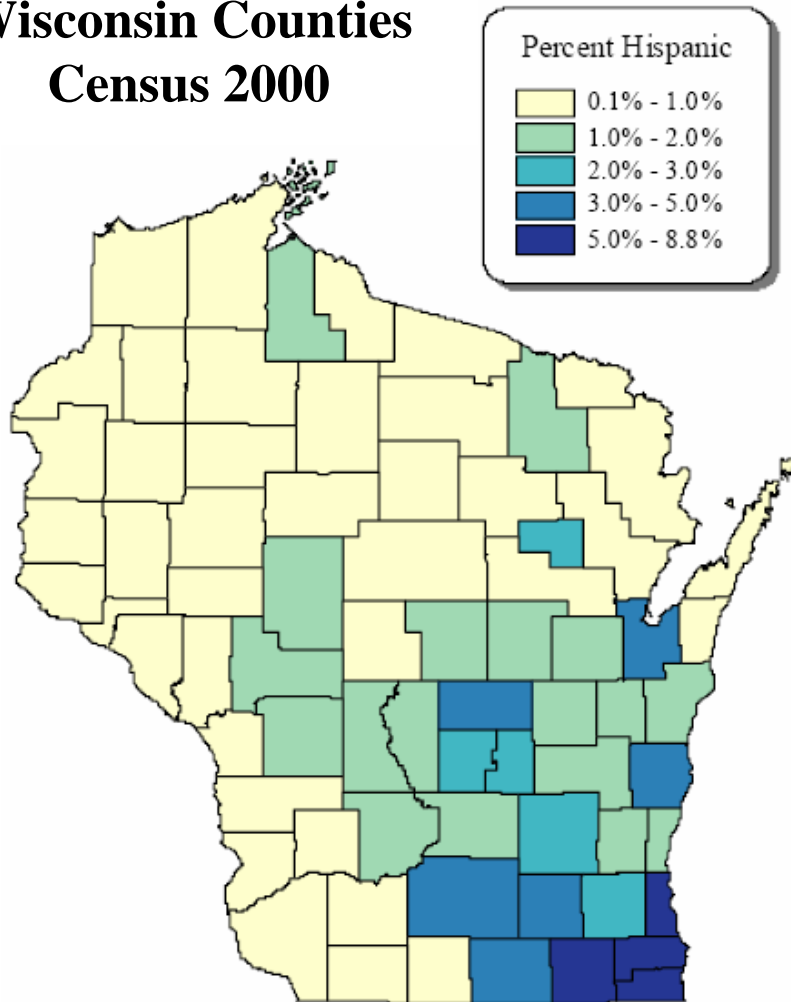


Main period of immigration was 1860s to 1900. Many arrived after best farmland already taken so turned to farming and lumbering in northern half of the state. Also employed in construction of bridges, highways and railroads. Distinct pattern of settlement in NW Wisconsin counties.



Latinos in Wisconsin Today

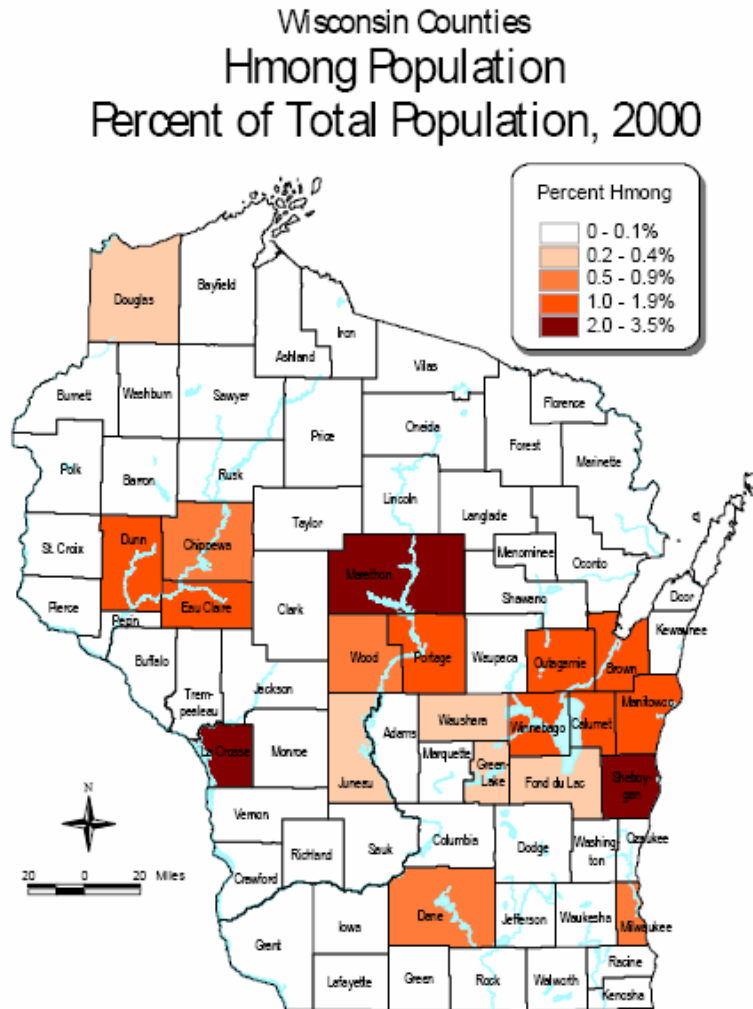
Wisconsin Counties Census 2000



- Mexican immigrants and migrants in Wisconsin since 1910
- Small permanent numbers through 1950s and 60s but many came as migrant or seasonal workers
 - In early 1950's estimated that 12,000 migrant workers came each summer to work in Wisconsin
- Latino communities formed in cities and became linkages for subsequent migration



Hmong In Wisconsin Today



- Came to Wisconsin as refugees
- Hmong started to arrive in late 1970's
- Wisconsin has 3rd largest Hmong population in the United States
- Resettled in about 10 cities in Wisconsin



Thank you!

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