



A Brief History of Immigration in Wisconsin

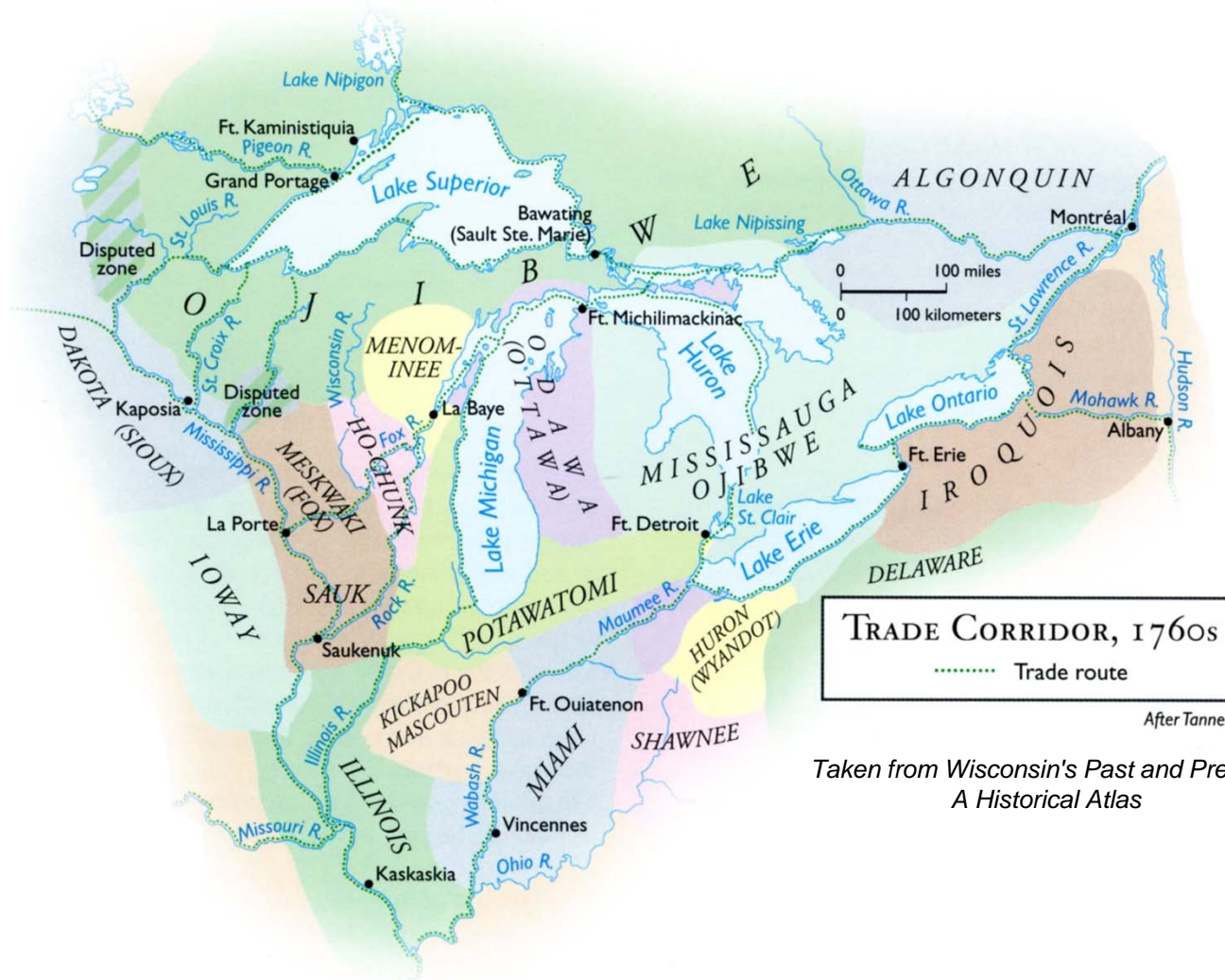
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UW
Extension

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Earliest “Wisconsin” Immigrants?





Main Points

- Push-Pull Factors and Chain migration
- Changing opportunities: economies, policies and other conditions
- Tensions surrounding “assimilation” and tolerance
- Immigration is not a new story
- Regionalism within Immigration History: Northern and Western Europe, Southern and Eastern Europe, and finally Asia and Latin America
- Growing interdependence w/ Mexico – border enforcement

Why people immigrate



Push Factors

- Poverty / limited economic opportunity
- Population pressure & displacement
- Political oppression or instability
- Religious intolerance or persecution

Pull Factors

- Land and farming opportunities
- Economic opportunities
- Access to education
- Family reunification
- Religious & political freedoms

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

Policy Factors



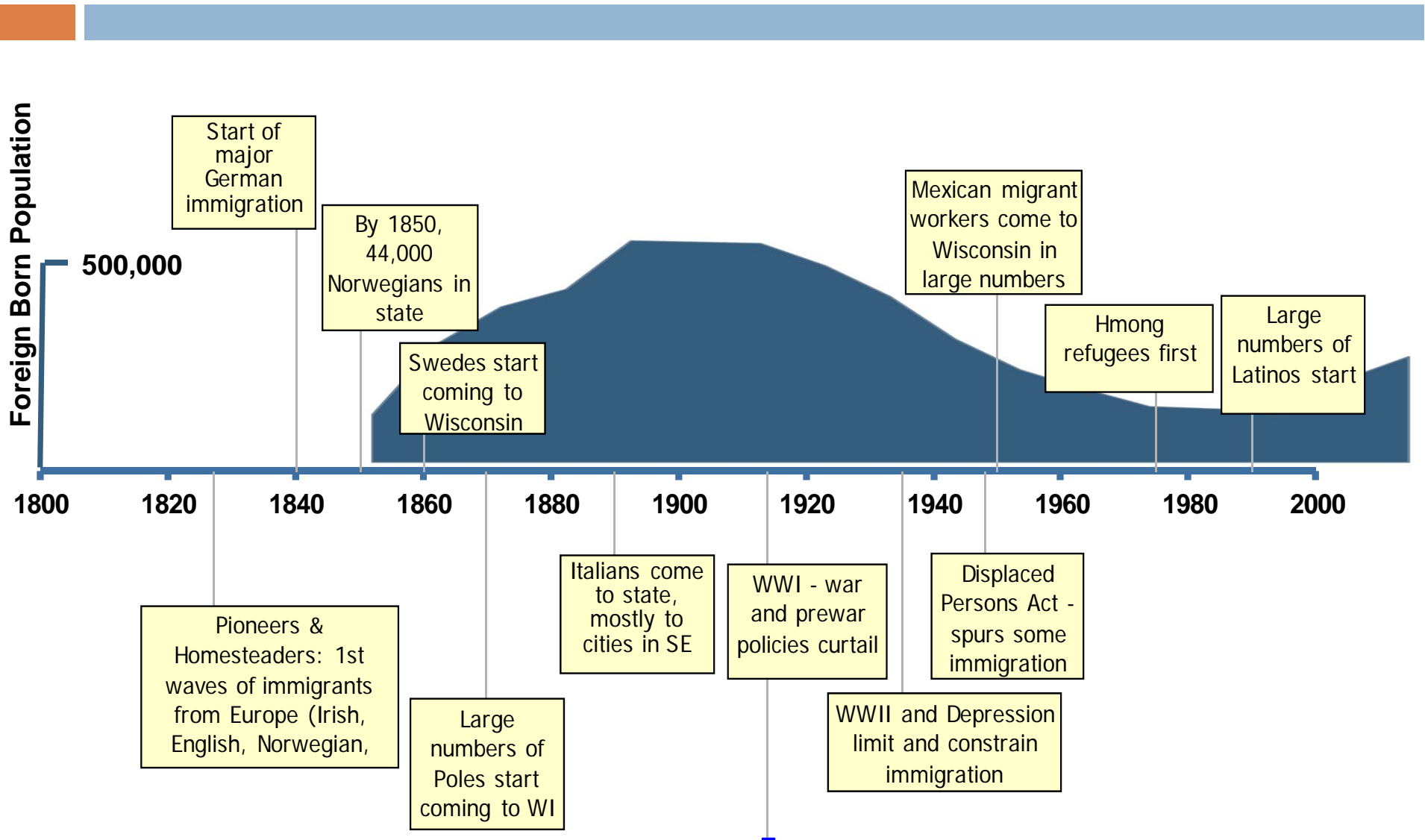
Historically:

- Wisconsin Office of Emigration (1852-1855)
- Bennet Law in 1890
- World War I: Anti-German sentiment and the Espionage Act

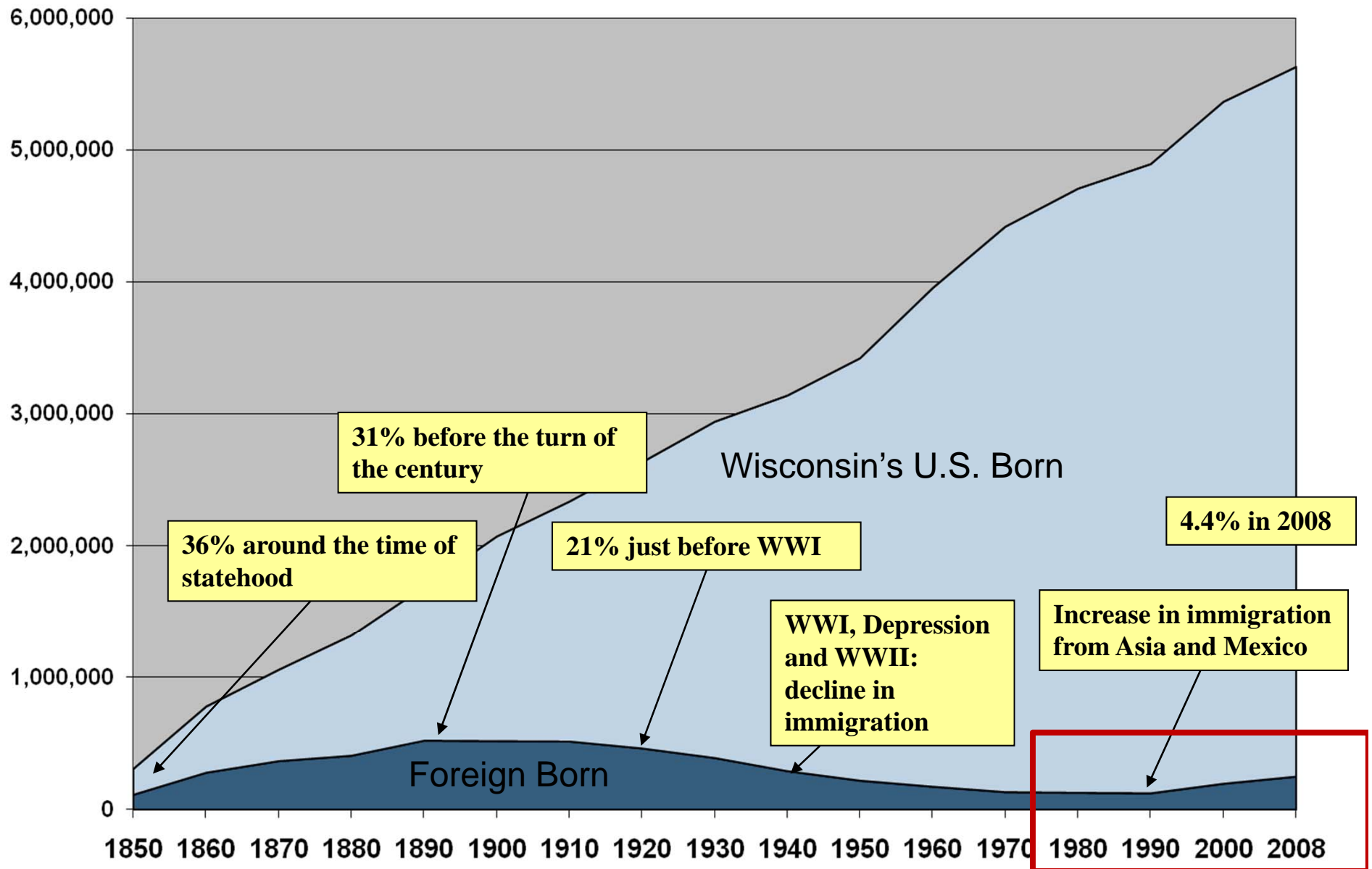
More Recently:

- Guest Worker Programs, Displaced Persons Act, Family Reunification, Immigration Reform and Control Act, Immigrant Responsibility Act....
- NAFTA & Growing Mexico-US economic interdependence

Origins of Wisconsin's Foreign Born



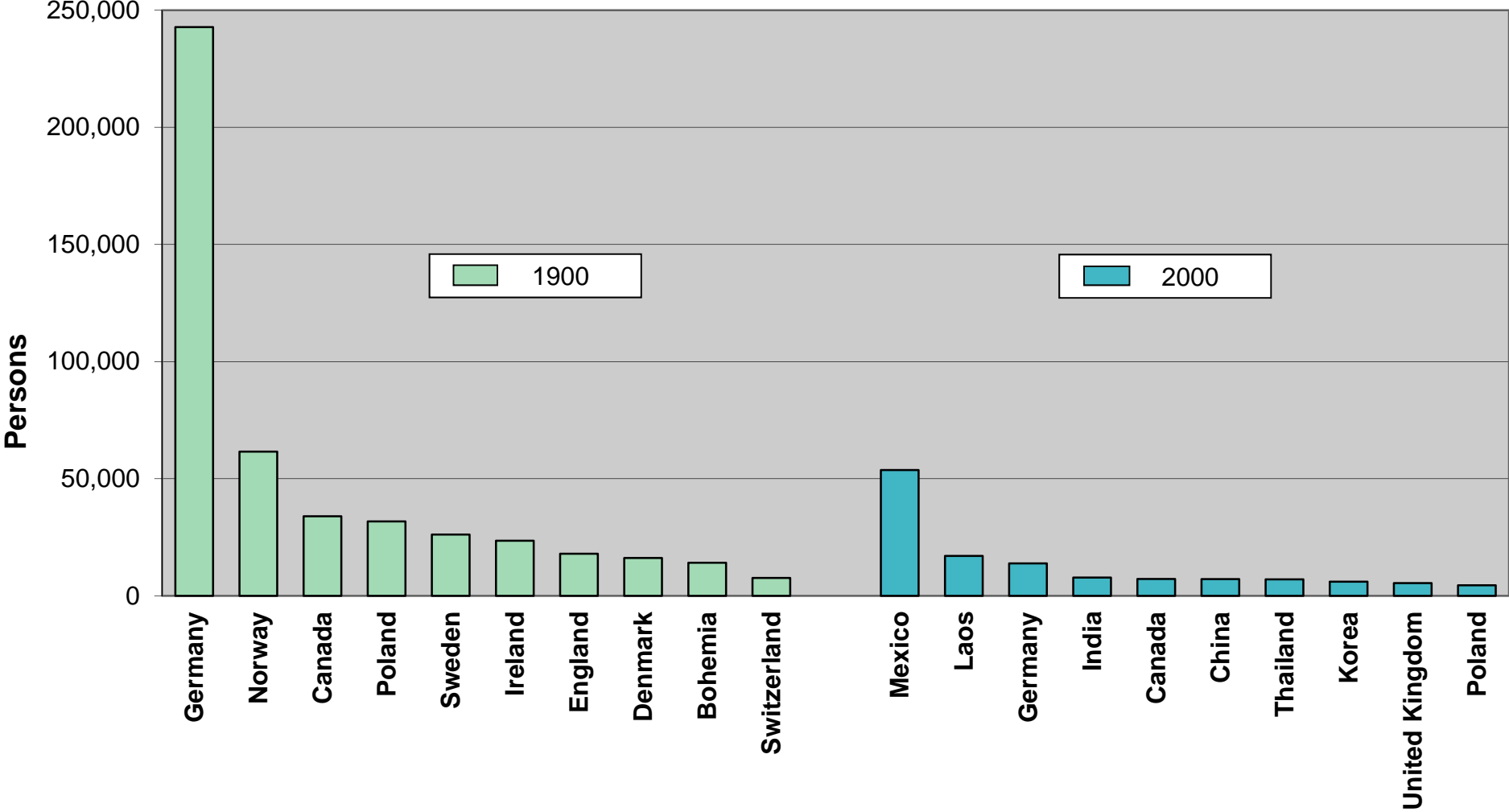
Wisconsin's U.S. and Foreign Born Population



Immigrants then and now



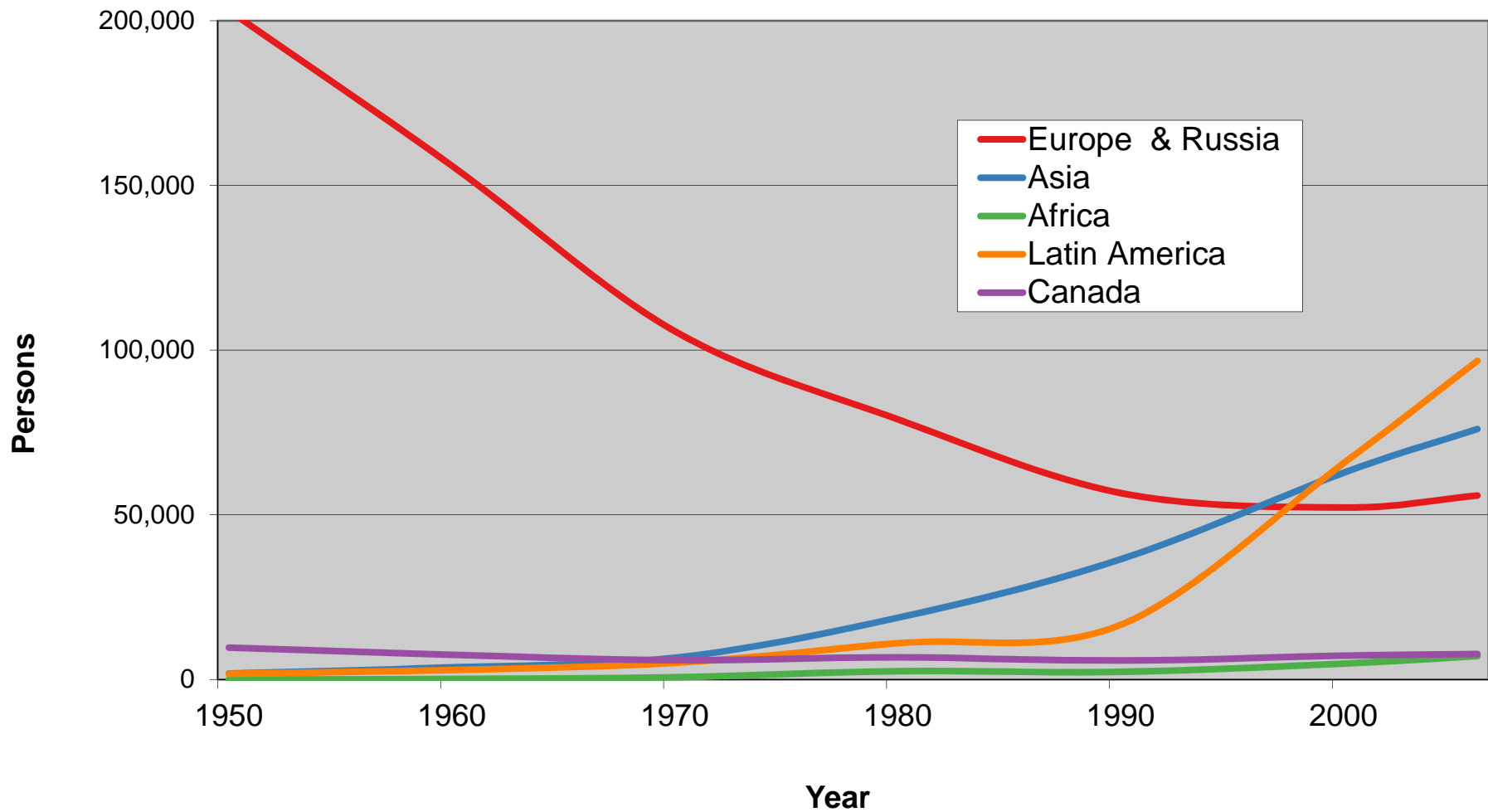
Top Ten Countries of Birth among Wisconsin's Foreign-Born 1900 & 2000



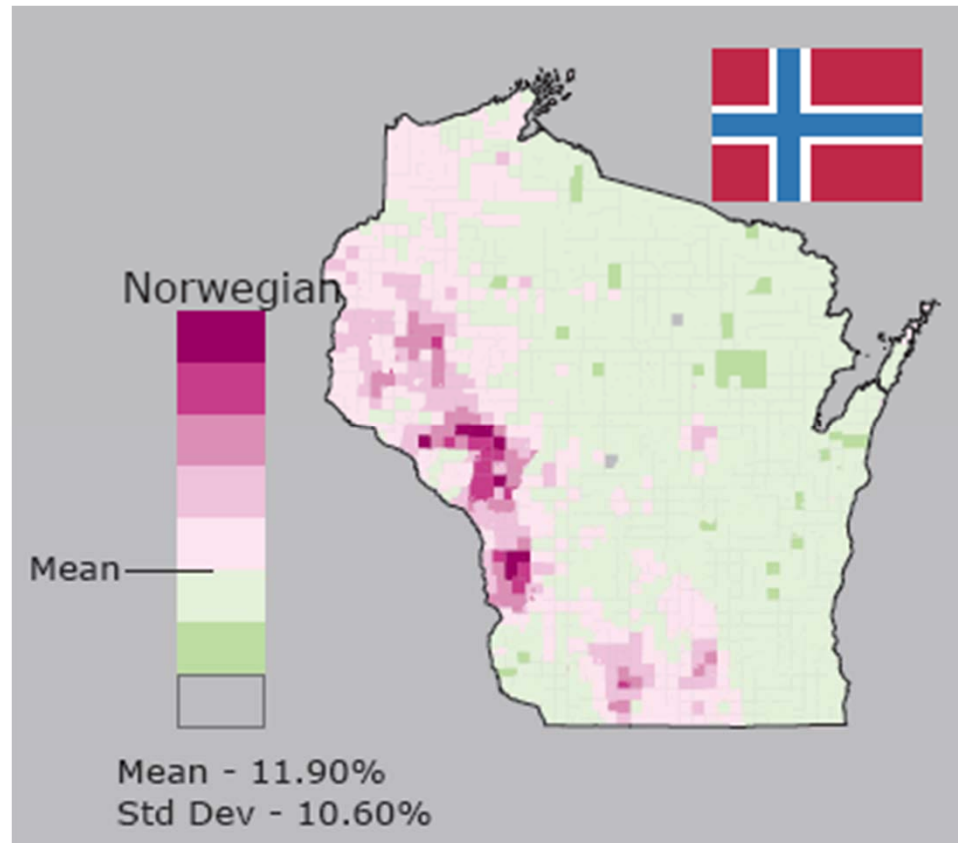


Regional Origins of Wisconsin's Foreign Born

Foreign Born Persons by Region of Birth: 1950 - 2006

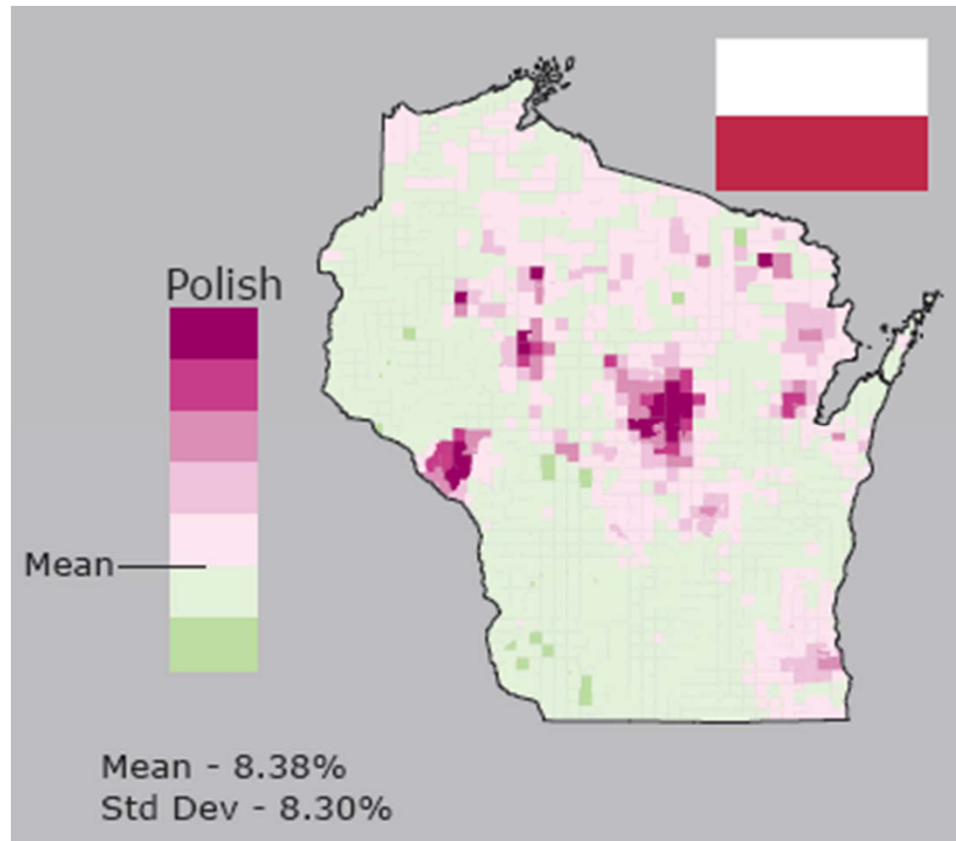


Geographic Legacies: Norwegian Ancestry



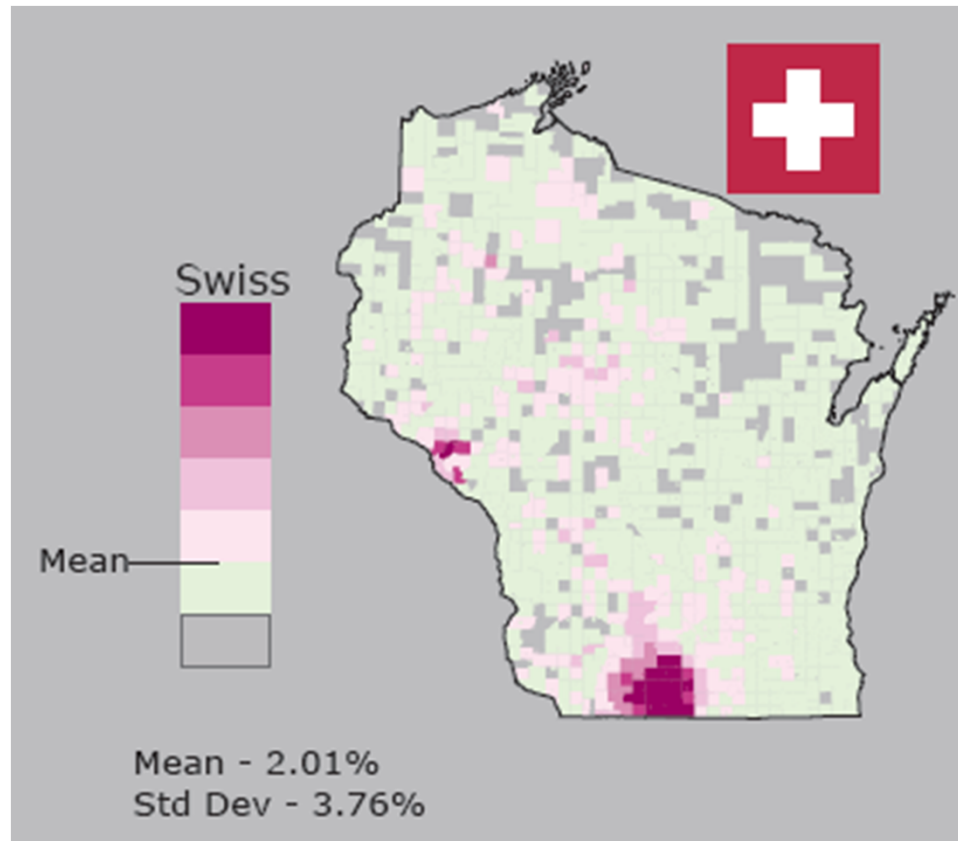
First settlements in 1838, by 1850s large communities in Rock, Waukesha, and Jefferson County. Then, because of employment in farming, movement to wheat frontier of Western Wisconsin (Crawford north to Barron).

Geographic Legacies: Polish Ancestry



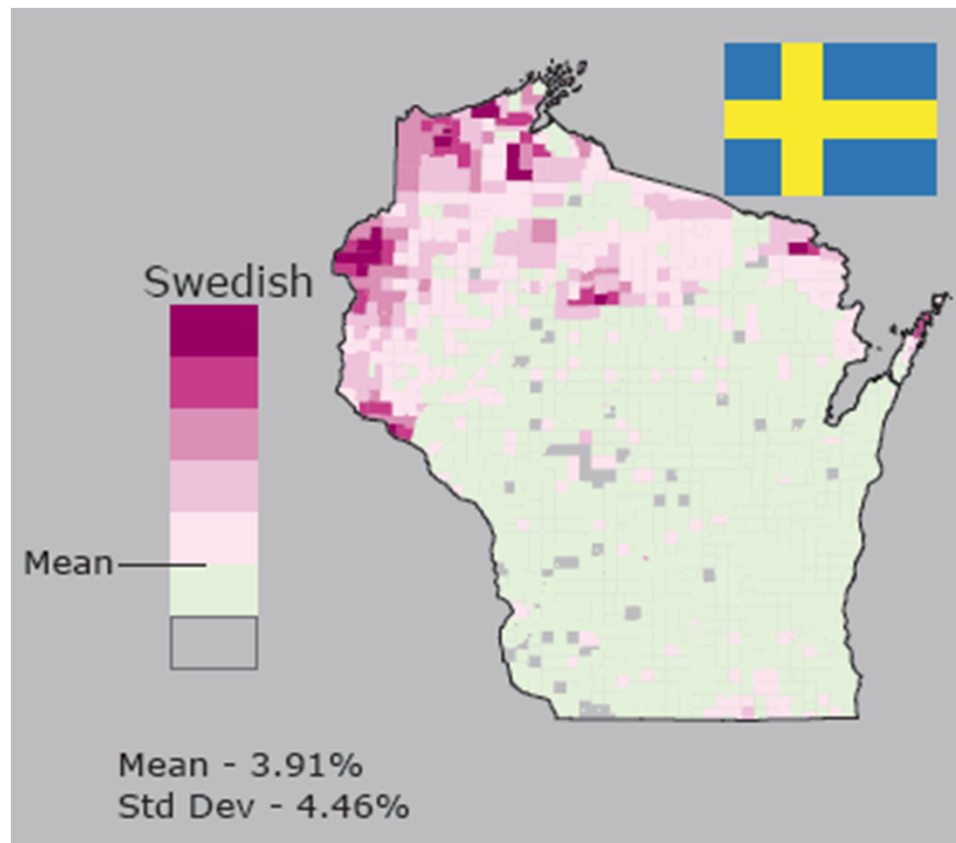
Came in large numbers in 1870s and 1880s. Many settled in Milwaukee County for employment in manufacturing but also in rural areas and farm districts, most notably in Portage County.

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

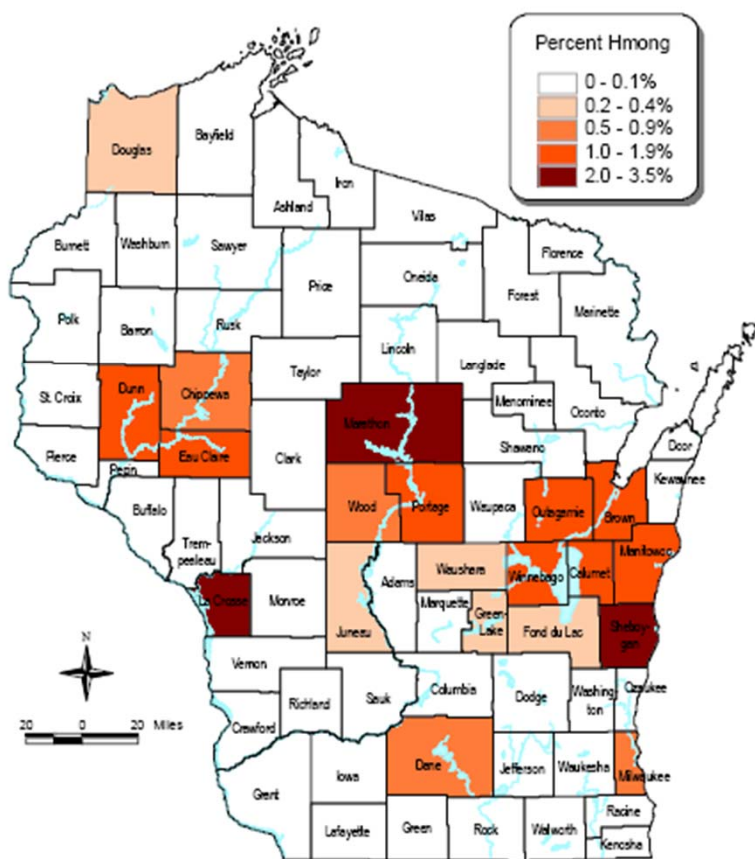


Main period of immigration was 1860s to 1900. Many arrived after best farmland already taken so turned to farming and lumbering in northern half of the state. Also employed in construction of bridges, highways and railroads. Distinct pattern of settlement in NW Wisconsin counties.



Hmong In Wisconsin Today

Wisconsin Counties
Hmong Population
Percent of Total Population, 2000



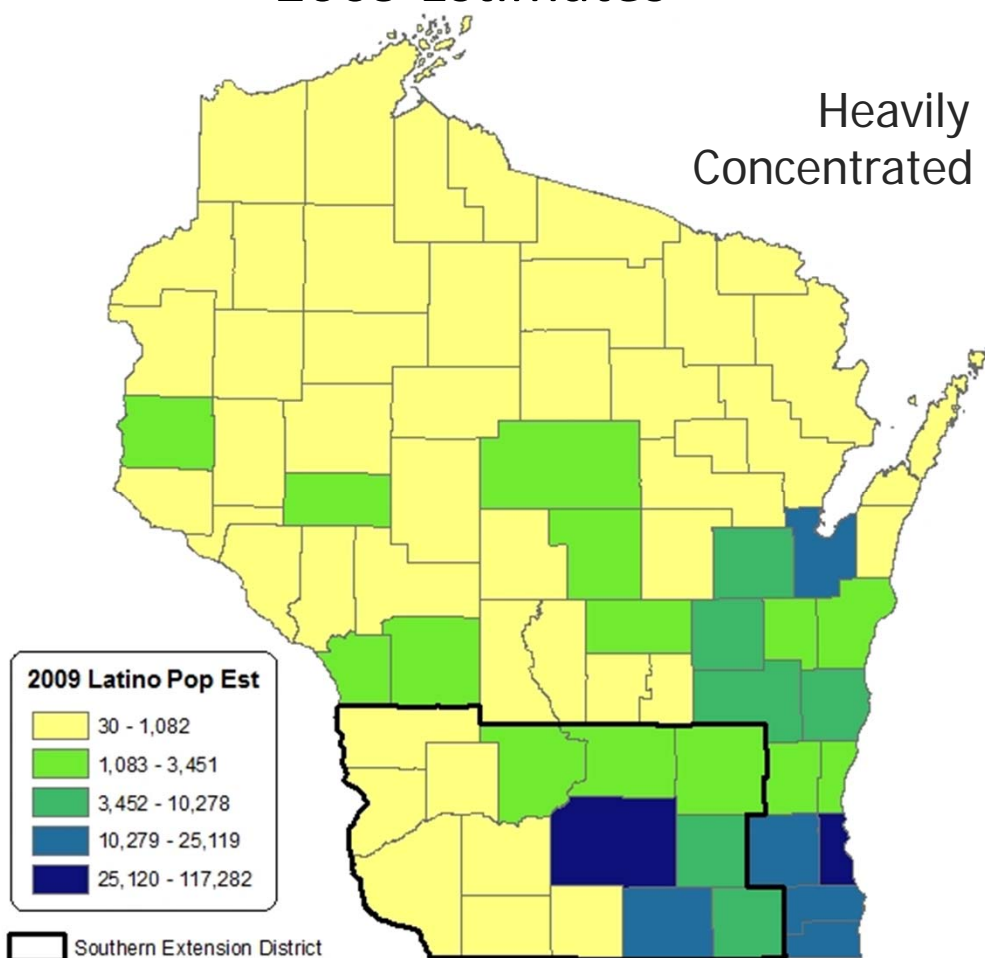
- Came to Wisconsin as refugees
- Hmong started to arrive in late 1970's
- Wisconsin has 3rd largest Hmong population in the United States
- Resettled in about 10 cities in Wisconsin



Ethnicity and Today's Foreign Born

Wisconsin Latino Population 2009 Estimates*

Heavily
Concentrated in SE



- 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
- Latinos today comprise a greater share of Wisconsin's foreign born than Asians or European. Among Latinos about 2/3 are Mexican descent

Patterns of Growth in Latino Population

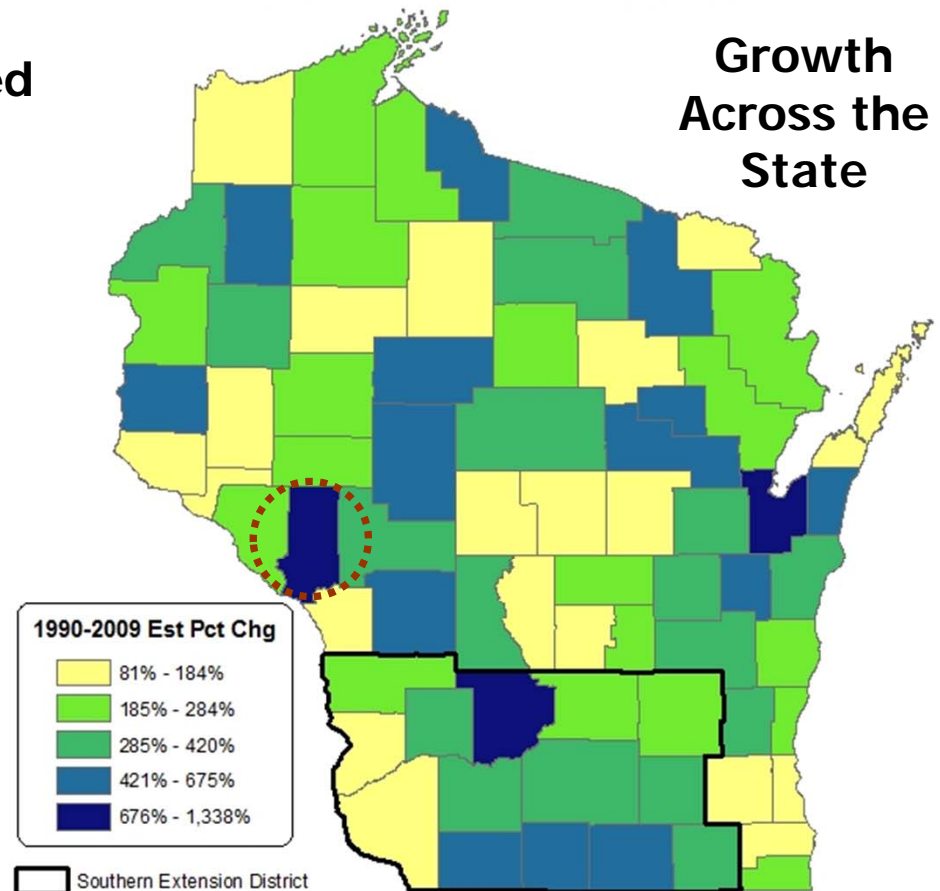
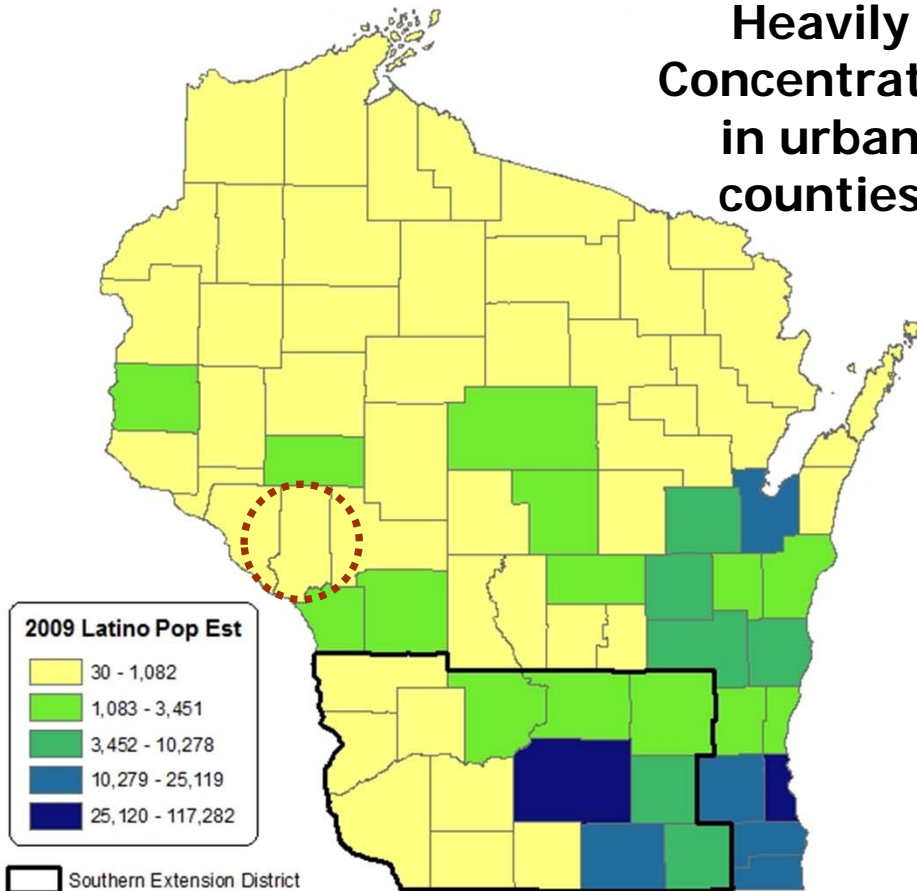


Wisconsin Latino Population
2009 Census Estimate

**Heavily
Concentrated
in urban
counties**

Wisconsin Latino Population
1990-2009 Estimated Percent Change
1990 Census and 2009 Census Estimates

**Growth
Across the
State**



Impact on WI Labor Force

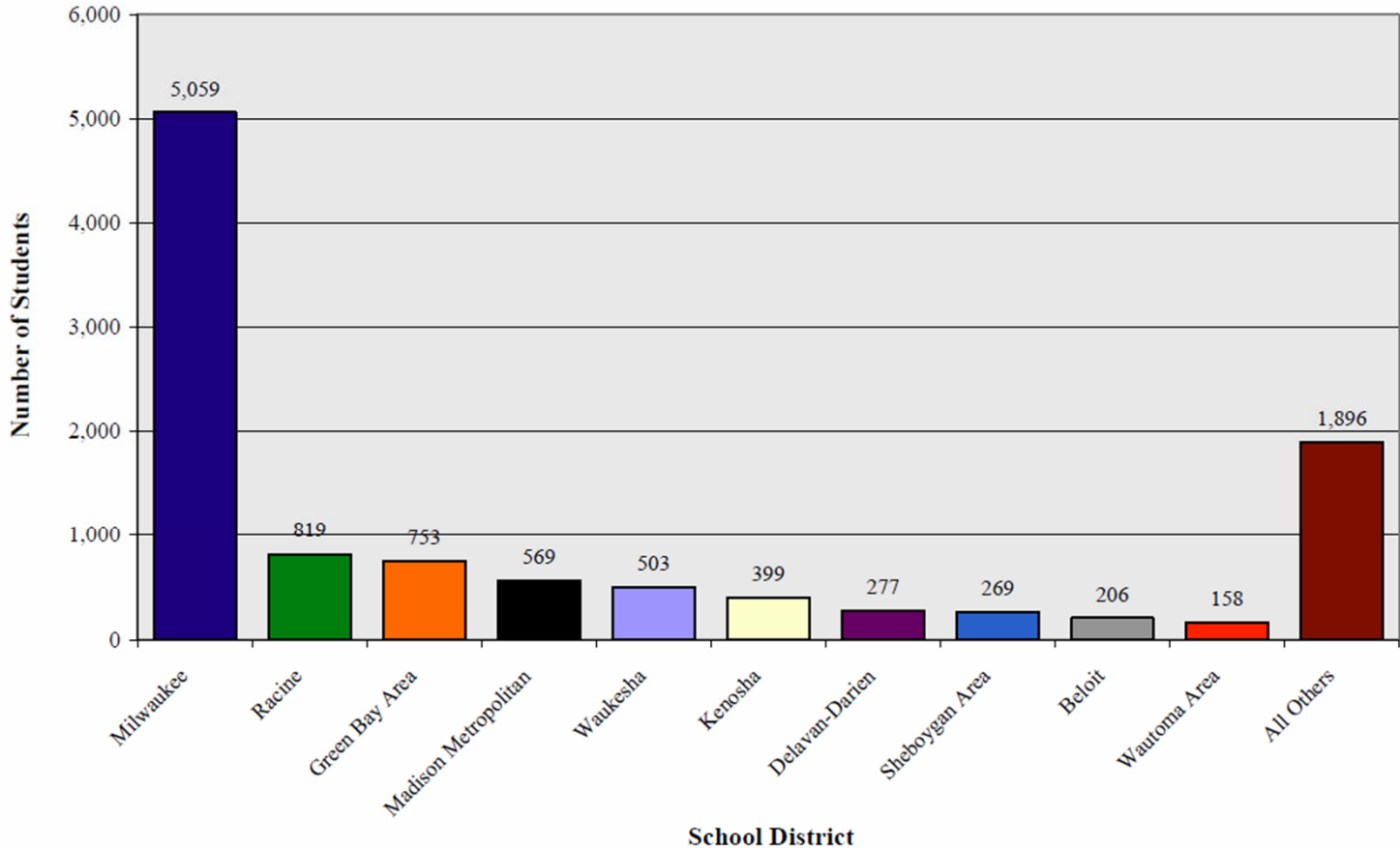


Many industries in Wisconsin are heavily reliant upon documented and undocumented immigrant workers, yet in the face of recession and high unemployment these workers face an increasingly inhospitable social and political climate.

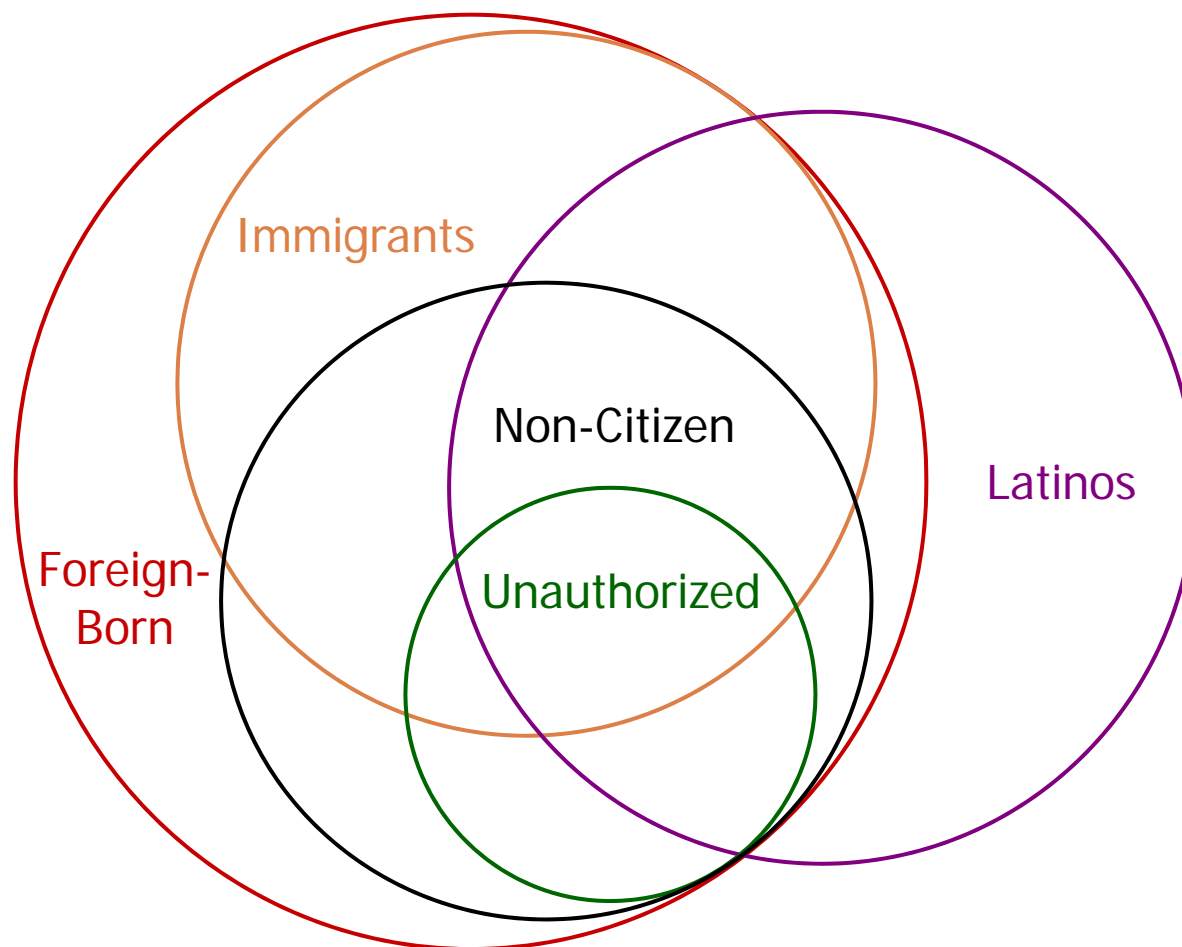
Impact on local service provision



Chart 21. Top Ten Districts in Limited-English Proficient Spanish-Speaking Students, Wisconsin: March 1999



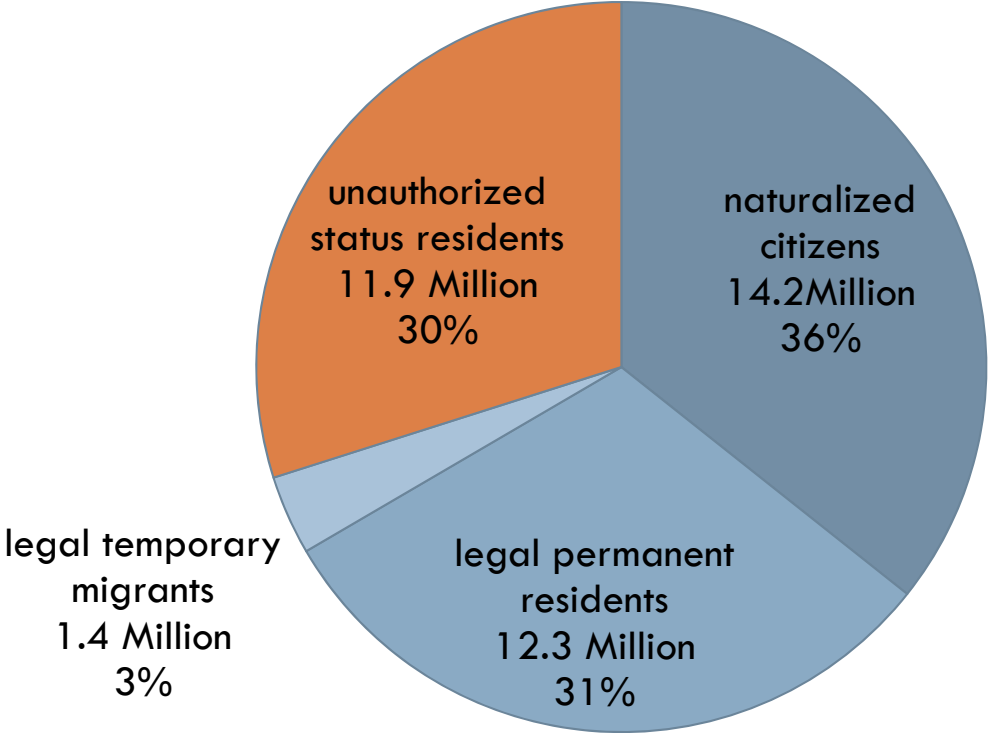
Unauthorized among the Foreign Born



Status of US Foreign Born



**2008 Estimated U.S. Foreign Born Population
by Status**



Source: A Portrait of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States, Jeffrey Passels & D'Vera Cohn, Pew Hispanic Center 2009



For More Info:

- US Census Bureau:
<http://factfinder.census.gov/>
- Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/LRB/pubs/ttp/ttp-06-2006.html>
- APL Population Notes Issue on Wisconsin Foreign Born
http://www.apl.wisc.edu/newsletters/Population_Notes_Dec2007.pdf
- Pew Hispanic Center:
<http://pewhispanic.org/>
- WI Historical Society: Turning Points
<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/>

Thank you!

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