

The Border Surge and the Impact of Immigration On America

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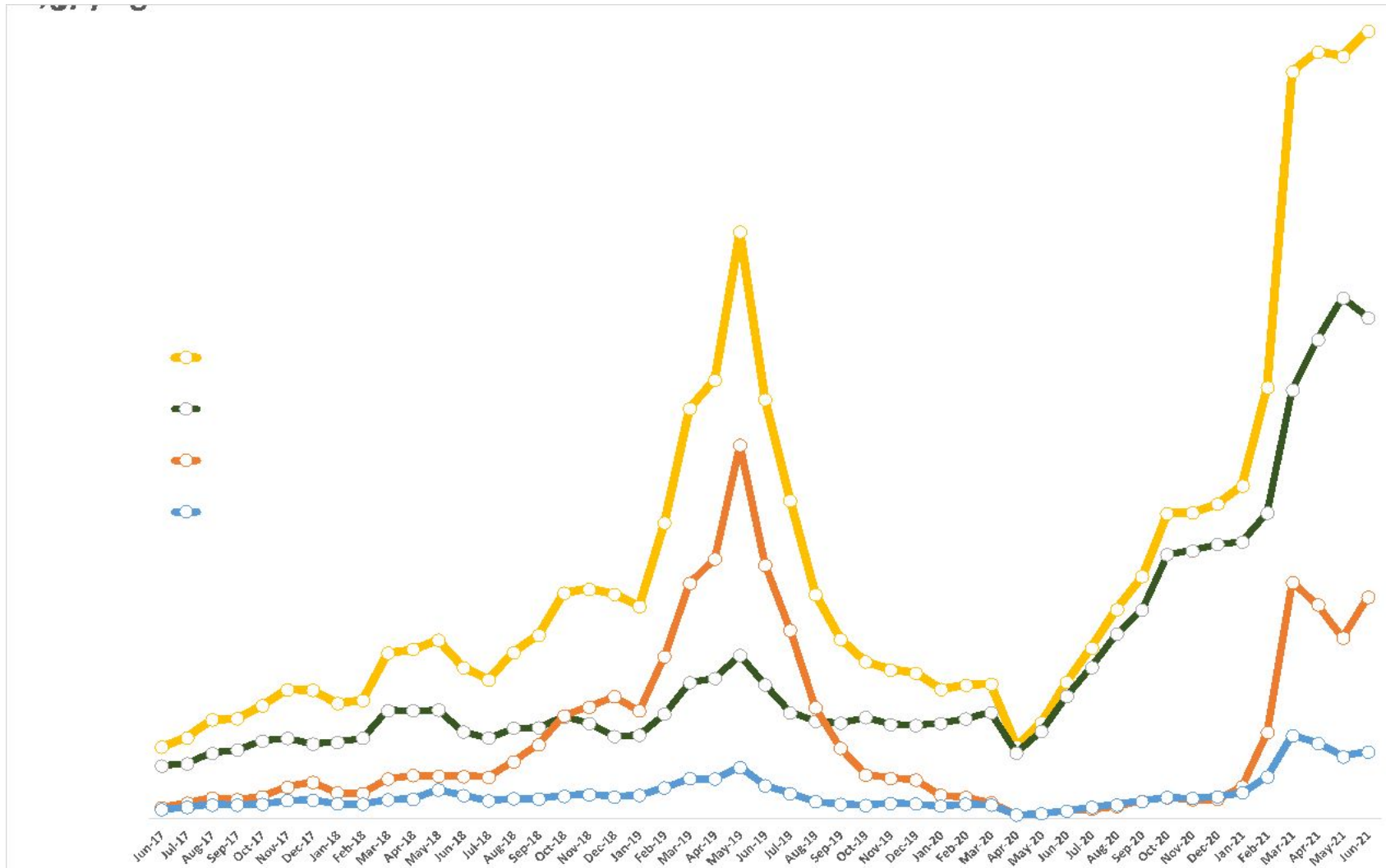
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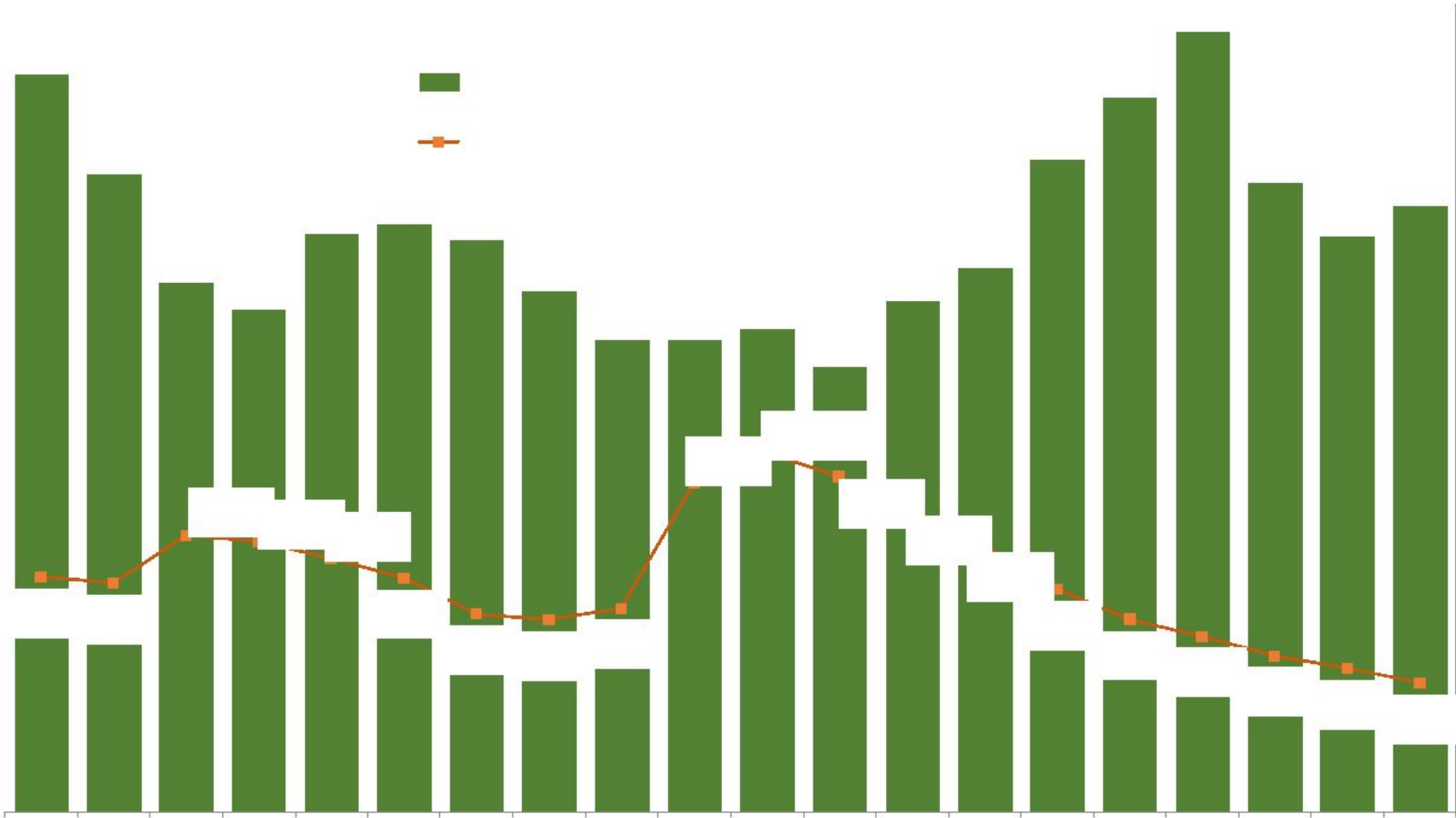
Border apprehensions June 2017 to June 2021



Understanding the current border crisis

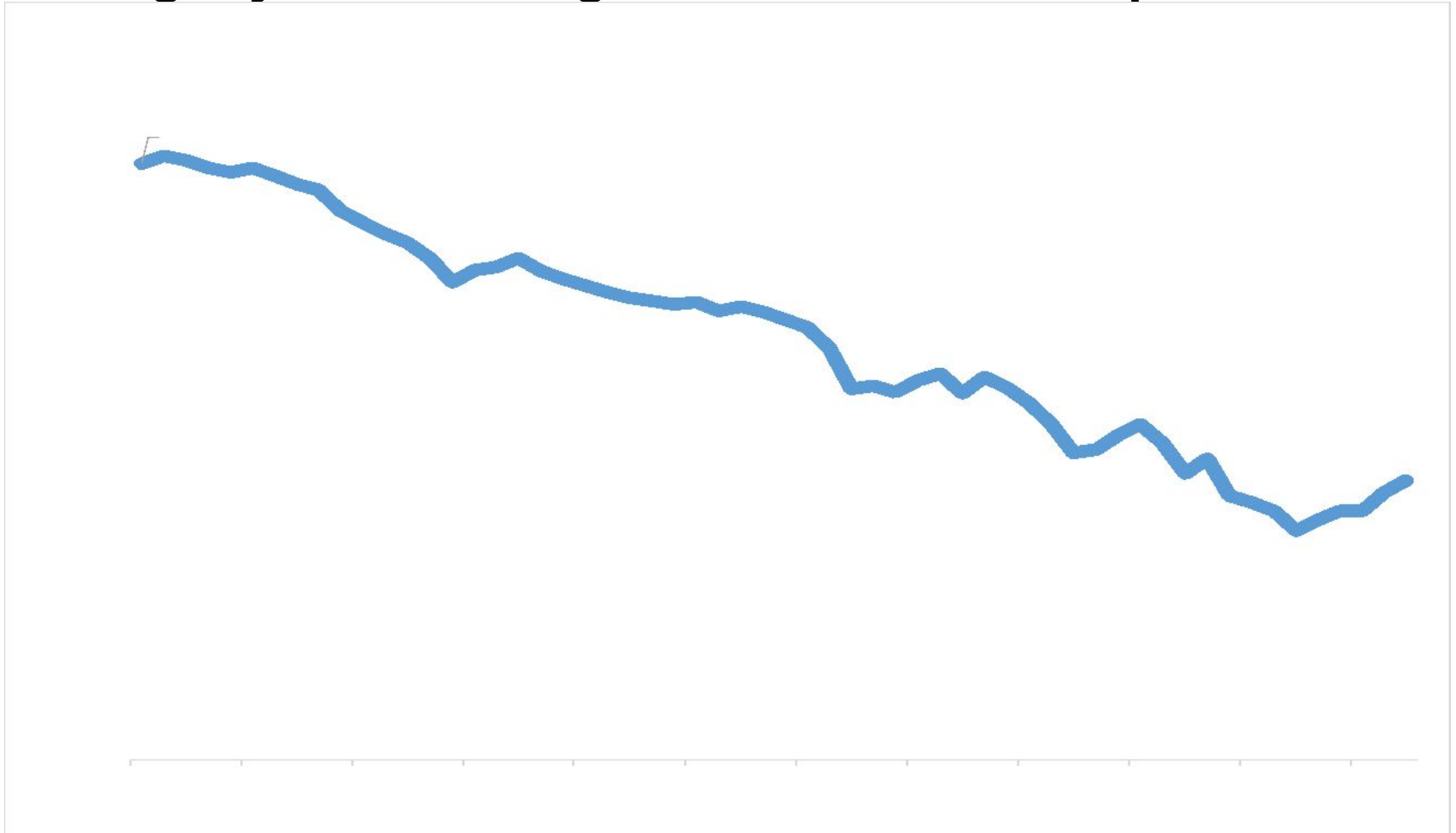
- **Not caused by fundamental changes in sending regions**
 - Poverty/instability do matter, but:
 - Enormous number of immigrants (legal and illegal) draw ever more in (social networks)
- **Changes over time that contributed to crisis**
 - 1997 Flores agreement making it difficult to hold minors (20 days)
 - 2015 court decision(s) expanding Flores (limits on holding families, too)
 - In 2018, TVPRA makes returning unaccompanied minors very difficult
 - Obama administration's decision to release most asylum applicants, before Credible Fear
- **Biden Administration policies that contributed to crisis**
 - Ending remain in Mexico policy for asylum applicants
 - Initially ending Section 42 Covid exclusion for UAC and almost all families
 - Dramatic reduction in interior enforcement (only terrorists, gang members, felons)
 - Commitment to providing legal status (amnesty) to illegal immigrants in U.S.
- **Word has gotten out to the rest of the world: border is open**
- **An overwhelmed asylum system causes ever more applications**
- **Border patrol busy processing kids/families, encourages single adults to cross**

The number of new immigrants (legal and illegal) arriving fell in first three years of Trump Administration, even though unemployment was down.



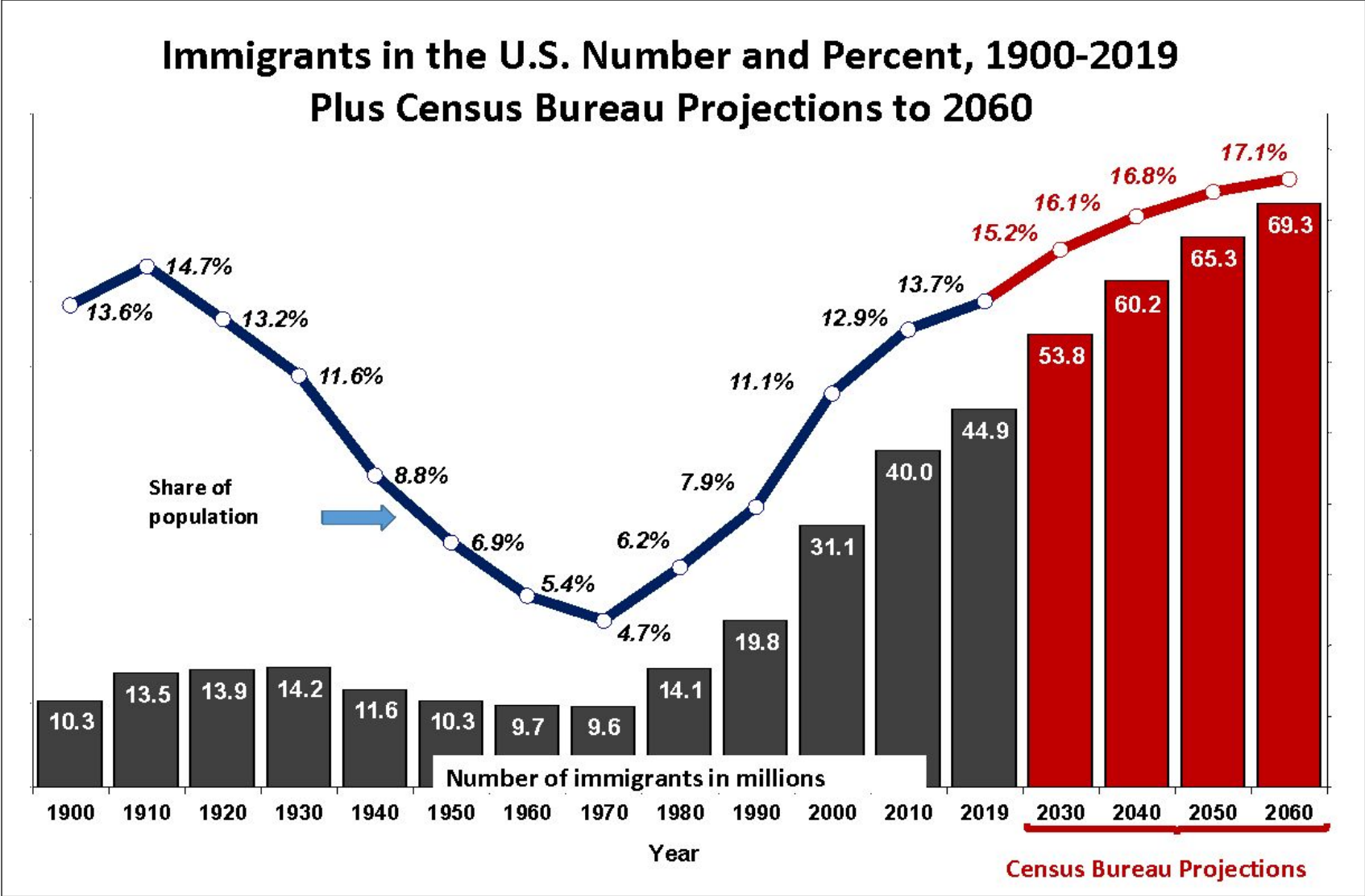
Source: American Community Survey, 2000 to 2019

The share of prime-age men (25-54) in the labor force declined for five decades, but it rebounded slightly when immigration slowed down pre-Covid.

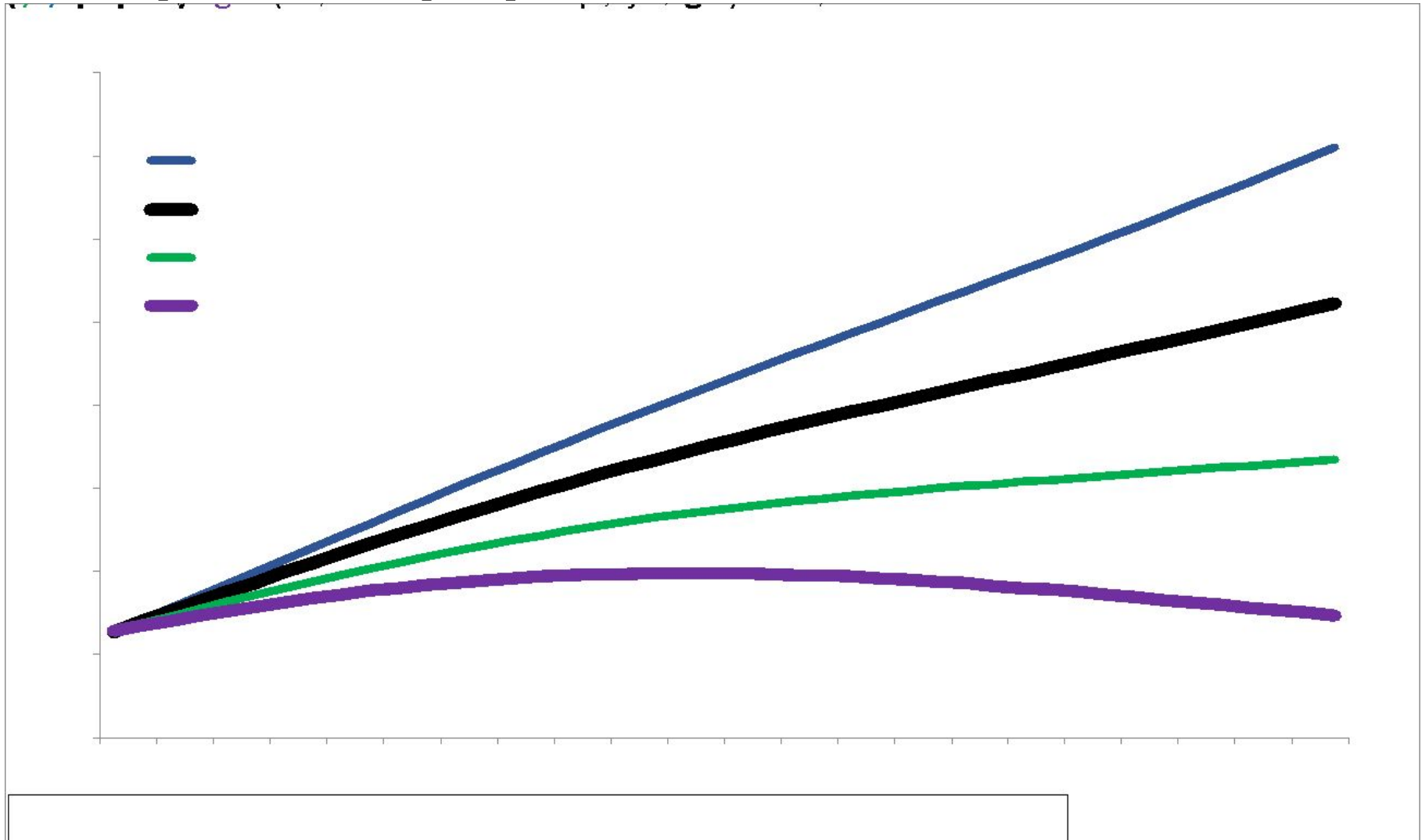


Source: March Current Population Survey, 1962 to 2019

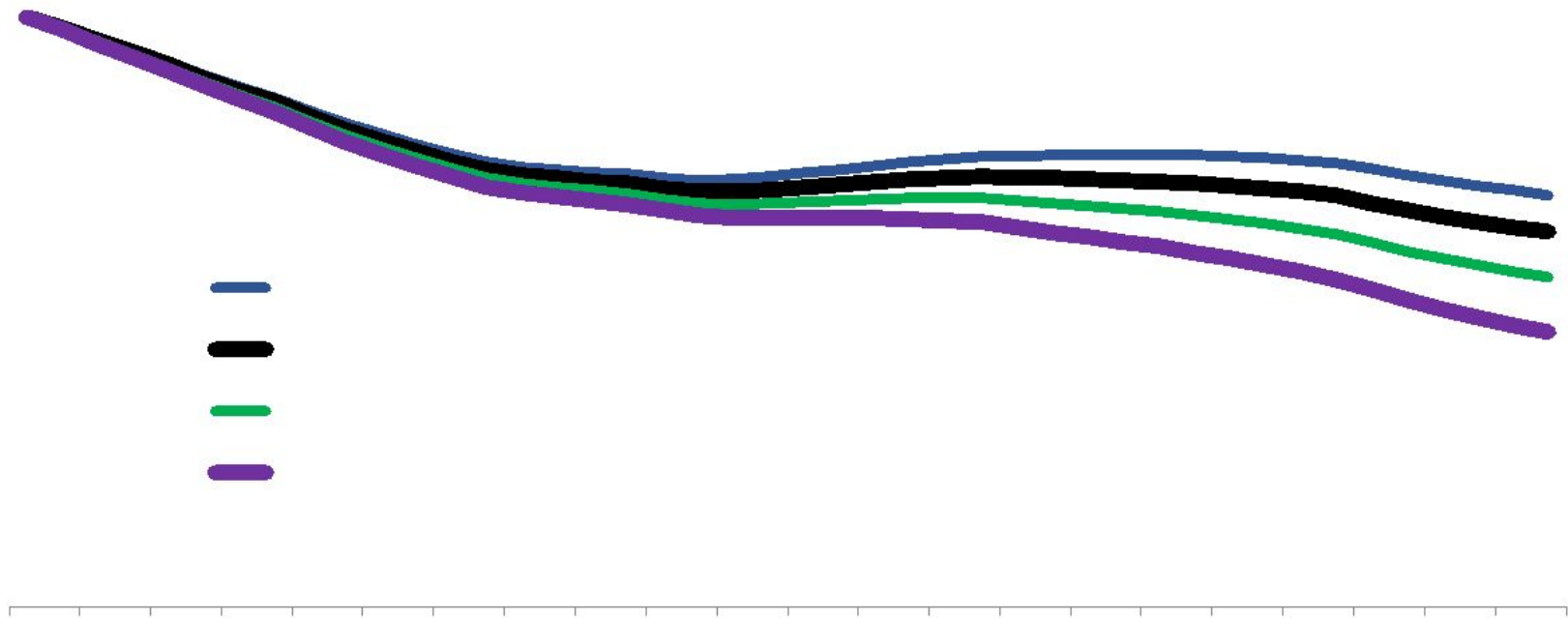
If present trends continue, the United States is headed into uncharted territory when it comes to immigration.



Immigration can have a very large impact on population size



Immigration adds a lot to the population, but impact on share who are working-age



“Textbook” model of immigration’s impact on economy

Overall economy is larger

- Immigrants add ~\$1.8 trillion in GDP
- 98% of increase goes to immigrants as wages & benefits

Net gain to natives relatively small

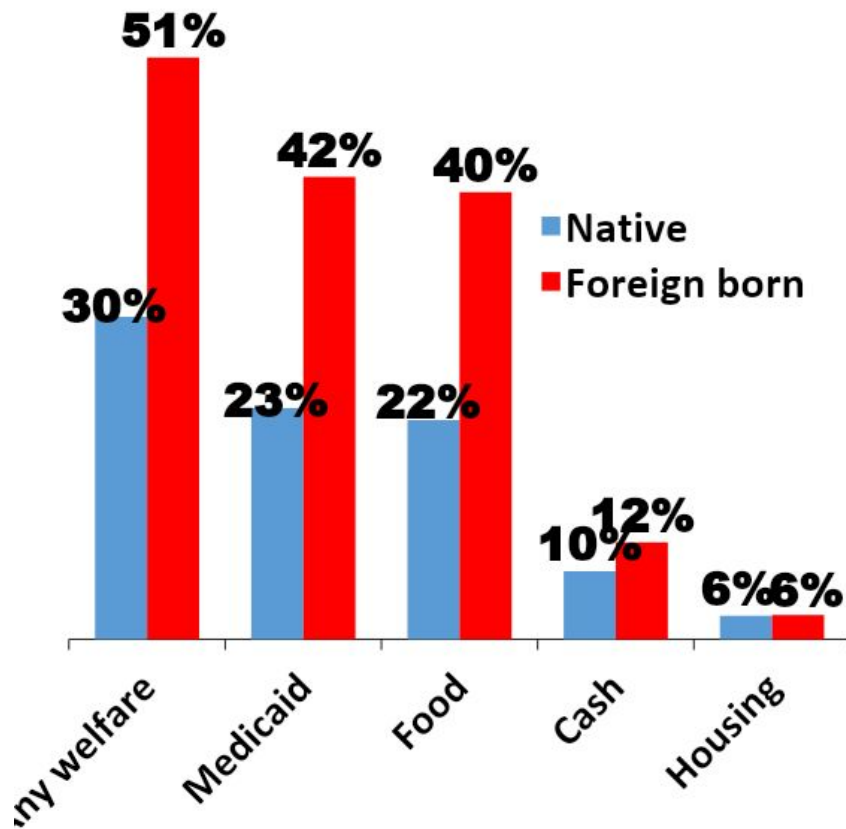
- “Immigration surplus” — \$54 billion, or 0.2% of GDP

Redistribution of income is large

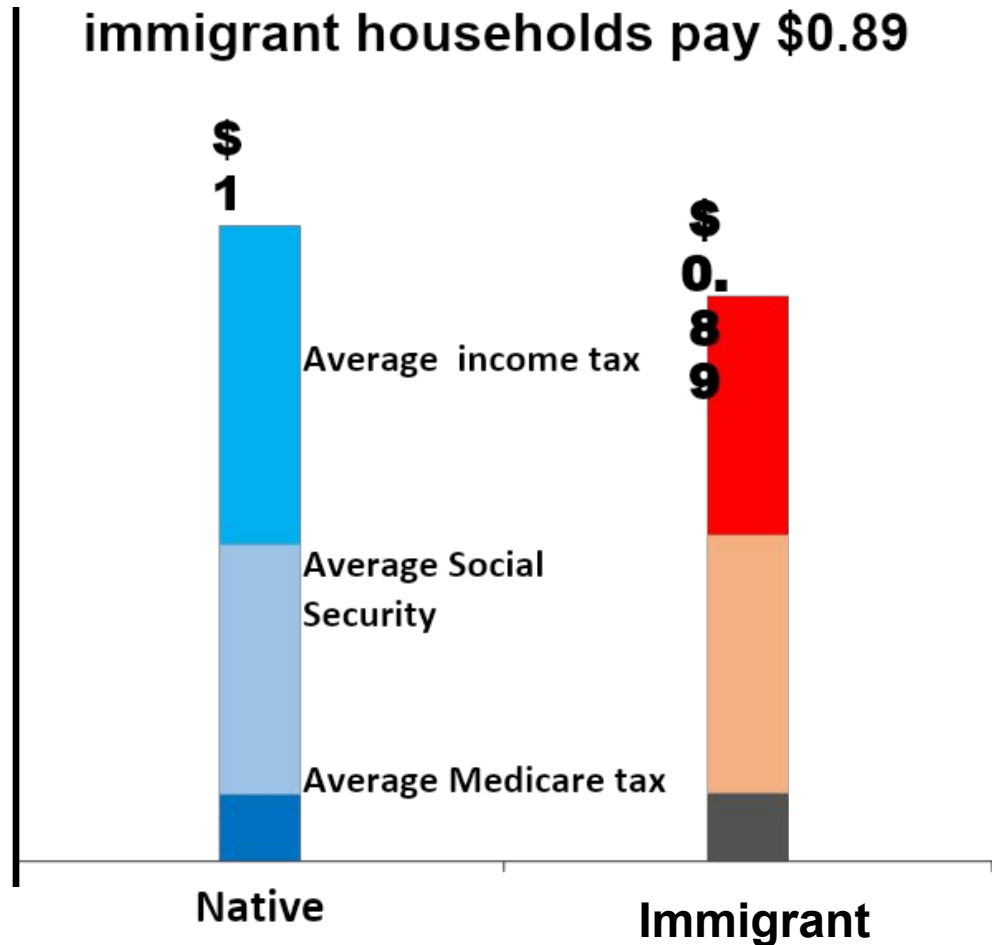
- Wage loss creates surplus. Natives in competition with immigrants lose (-) \$494 billion, while consumers and businesses gain (+) \$548 billion.

Immigrant households use more in services and pay less in taxes than native households

Welfare use

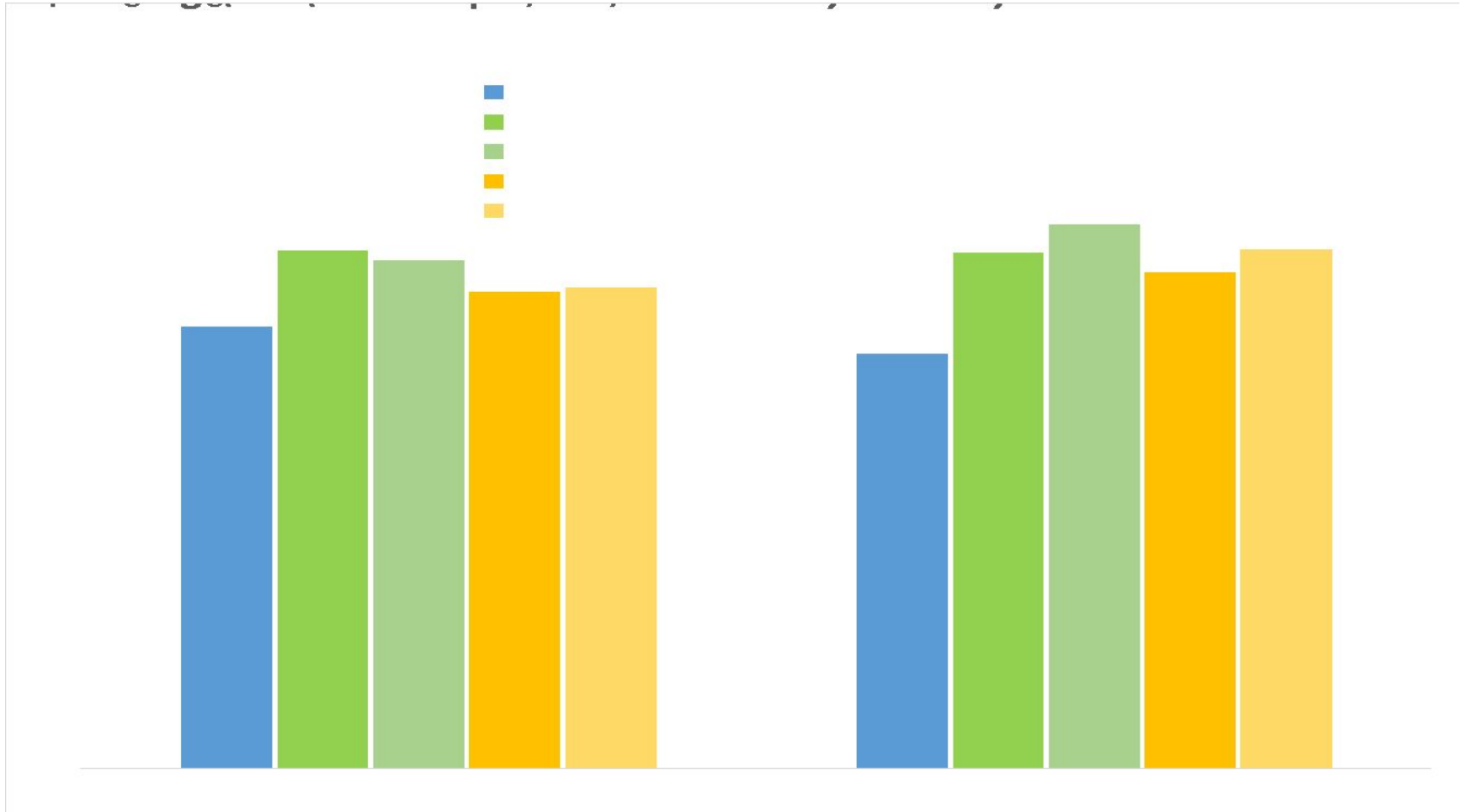


For every \$1 native households pay, immigrant households pay \$0.89



Welfare figures are from the 2012 Survey of Income and Program Participation and include free/subsidized school lunch, WIC, SNAP, SSI, TANF, Medicaid, subsidized and public housing. Tax figures are from the 2013 Current Population Survey ASEC.

There is no evidence immigrants are less willing to report crimes



*Statistically significant difference at 90% confidence level with US-born for the same type of crime. **Statistically significant difference at 95% confidence level with US-born for the same type of crime.

Source: 2017- 2019 NCVS, which measures reported victimizations for person ages 12 and older.

Conclusion

- **Border crisis was caused by policy, and reversing policy can fix it.**
- **If no change in level of immigration (legal and illegal), we're headed into record territory.**
- **Immigration makes population bigger but only slightly younger.**
- **Immigration creates small economic benefit for natives, but large income redistribution.**
- **Biggest issue that is seldom discussed :**
numbers