

Contemporary U.S. Immigration

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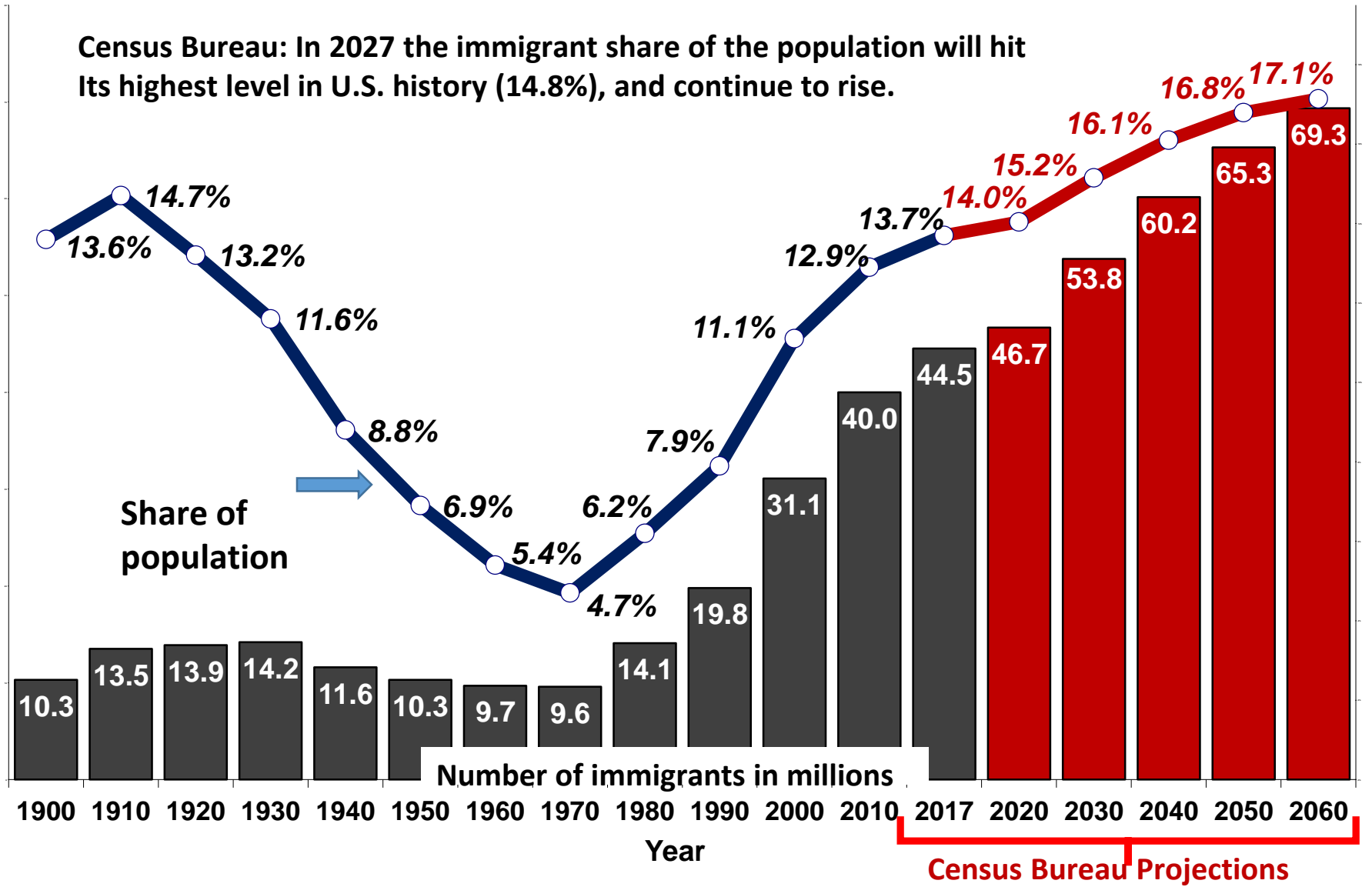
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Immigration by the numbers

- **1.6 million new arrivals annually**
 - Most immigration is legal, NOT illegal
 - Legal permanent residents (green cards) is 70% family-based
- **45 million immigrants in US**
 - “Foreign born,” legal & illegal
 - Persons who are not US citizens at birth
- **More people means a larger economy**
 - Perhaps \$1.7 trillion larger
 - But almost all of this goes to immigrants themselves in the form of wages and benefits

Number & percentage of U.S. population comprised of immigrants, 1900 to 2060

Census Bureau: In 2027 the immigrant share of the population will hit its highest level in U.S. history (14.8%), and continue to rise.



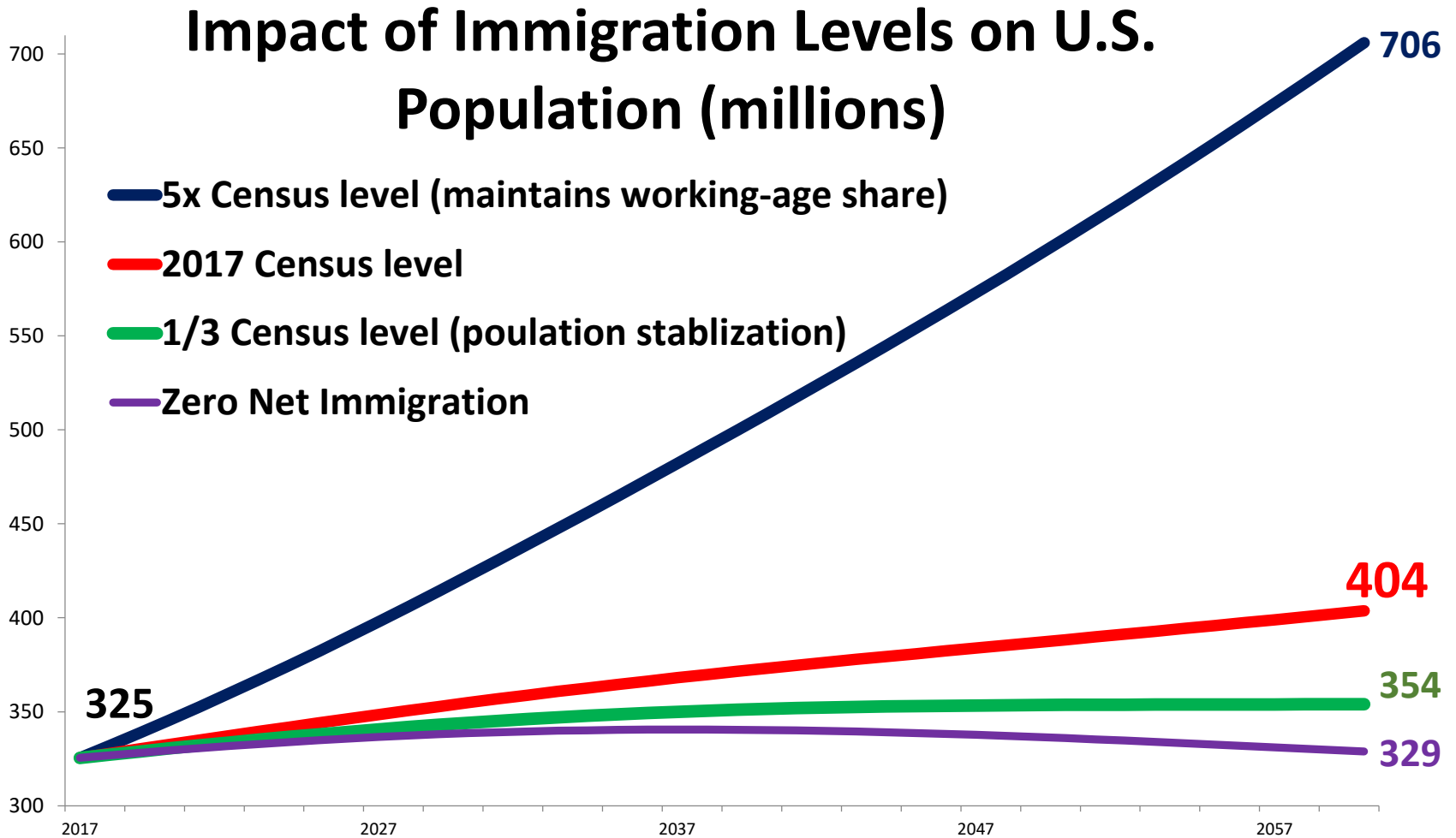
Large share of immigrants have few skills

- **28% of adult immigrants have not graduated high school**
- **41% of immigrants have “below basic” English literacy**
- **1/3 of children in poverty have an immigrant parent**
- **Half of all immigrant households use a welfare program**

But

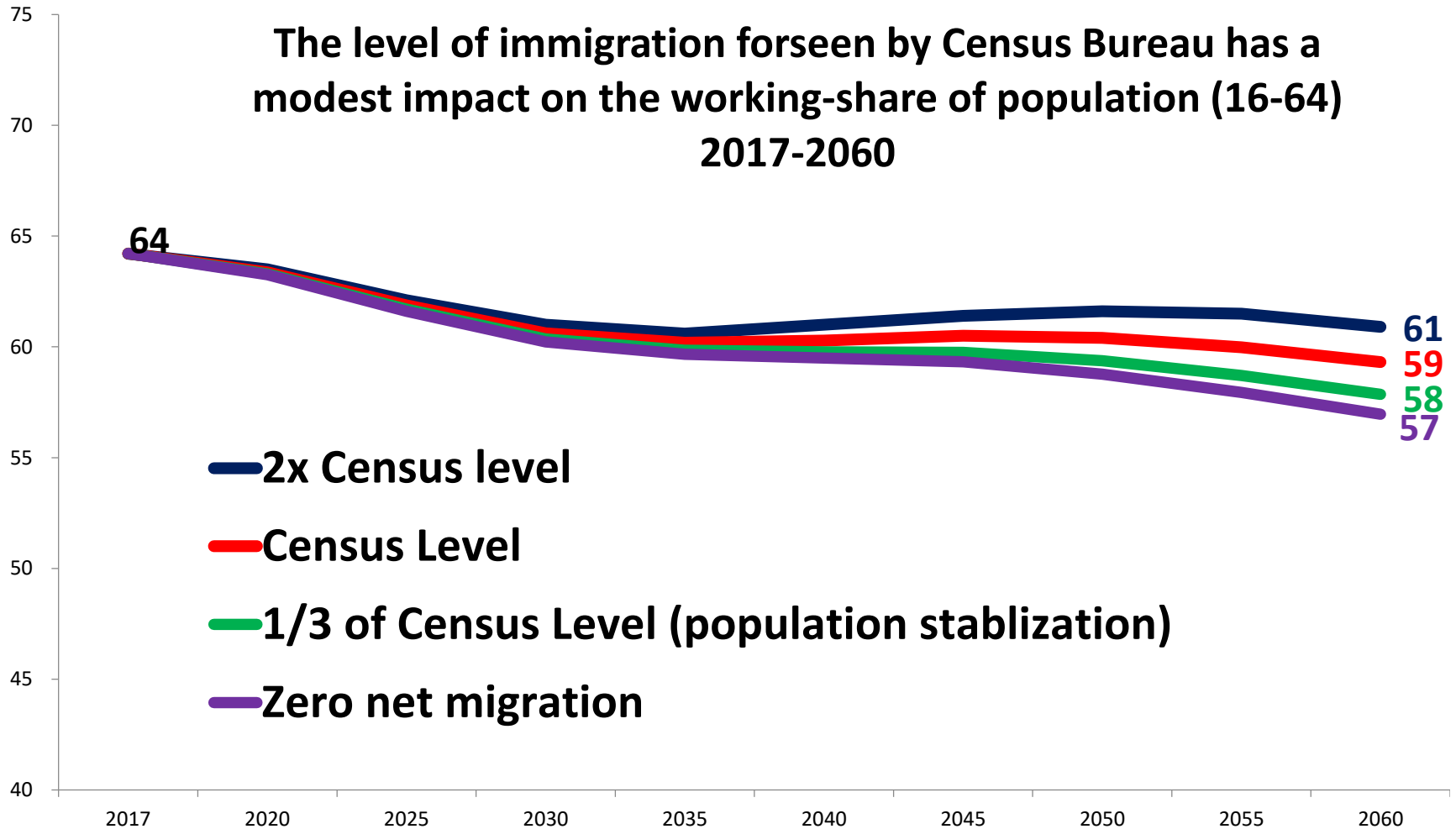
- **13% of immigrants have grad. degree v. 12% of natives**
- **About 12% of immigrants & natives are self-employed**
- **71% of both adult immigrants and natives are employed**

Newest projections show population of 404 million in 2060

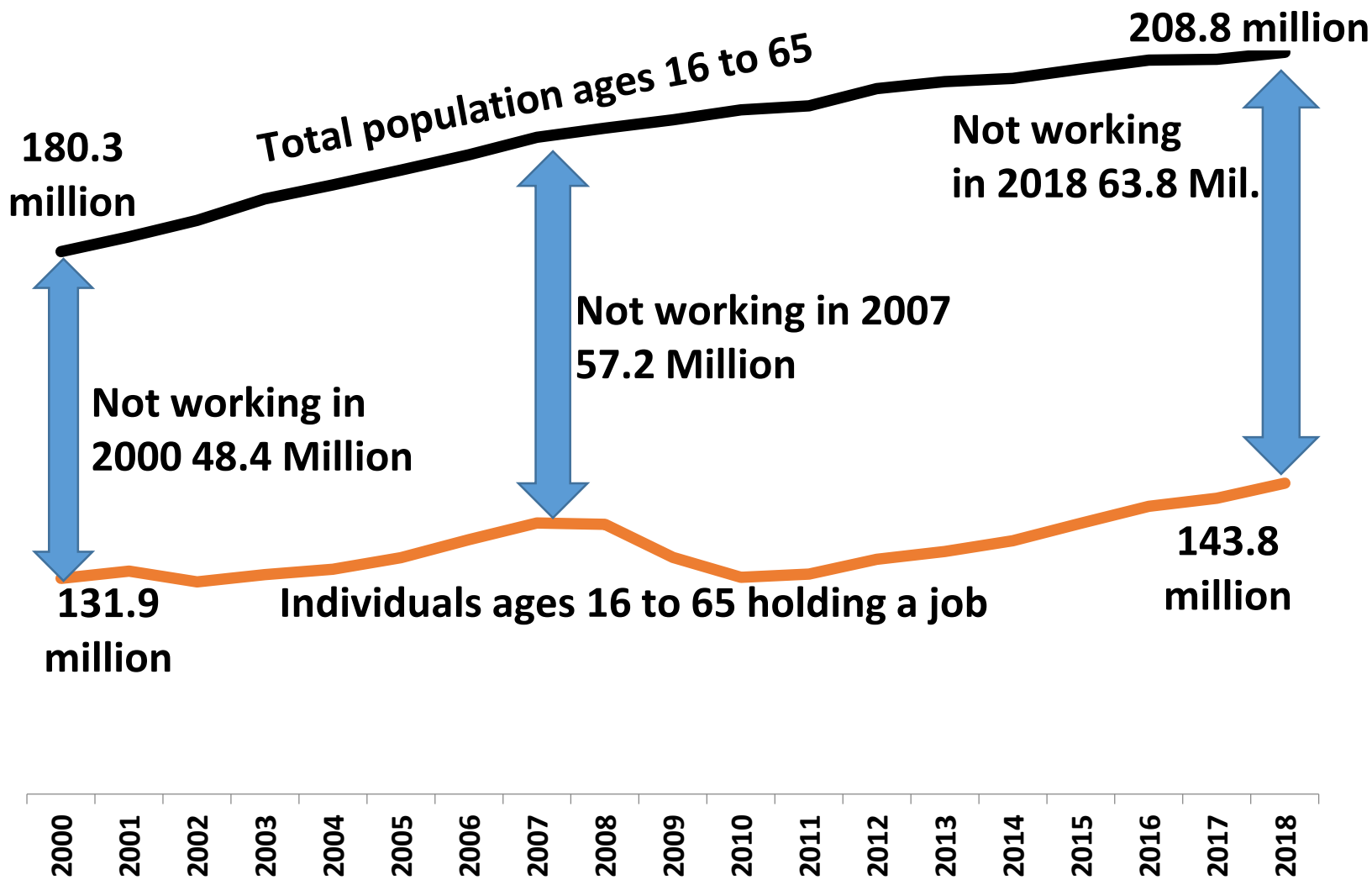


Working-age share, 2017-2060

The level of immigration foreseen by Census Bureau has a modest impact on the working-share of population (16-64) 2017-2060



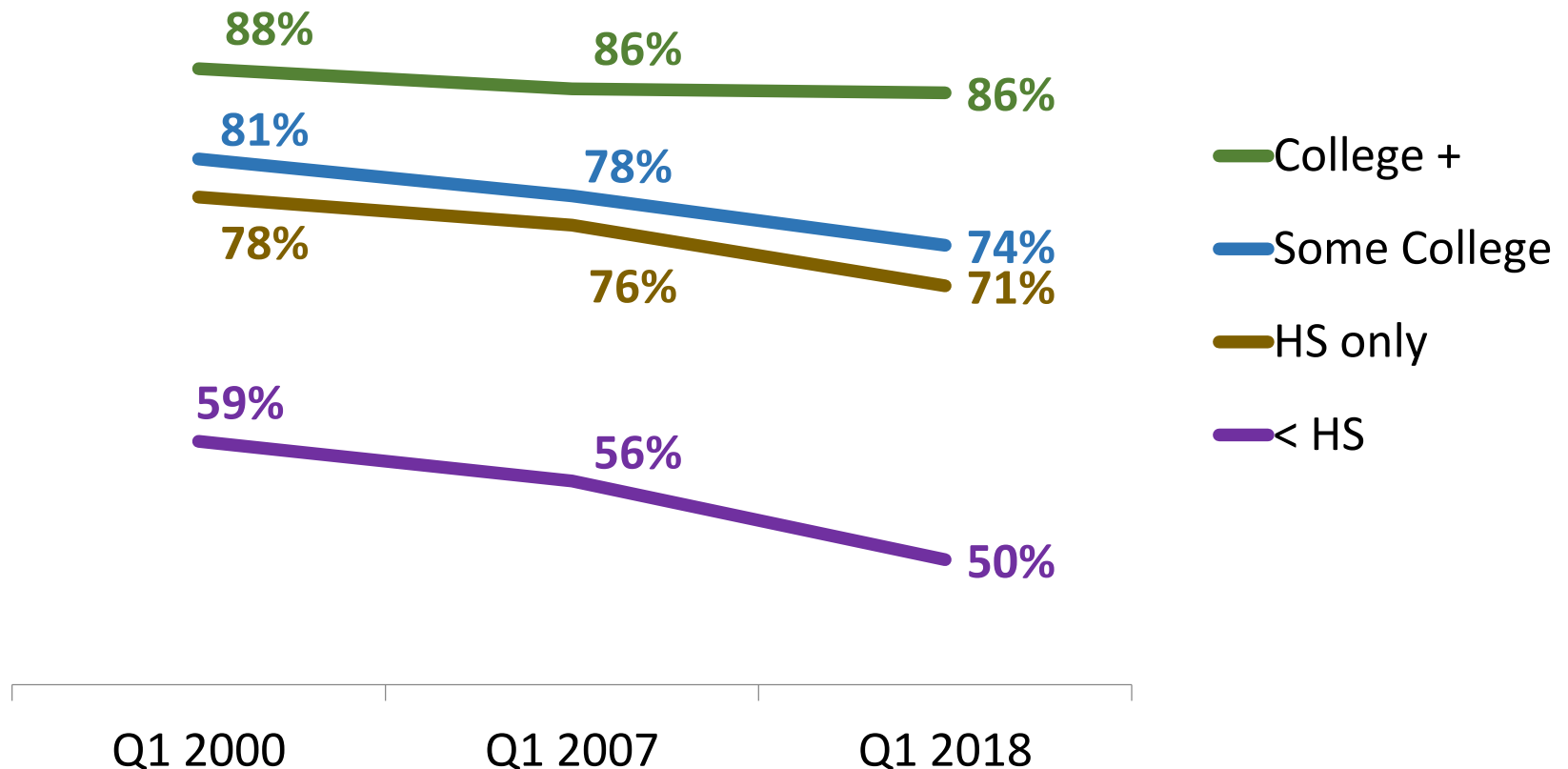
Natural population growth and new immigration have exceeded employment growth, 2000-2018



Source: Monthly public use files of the Current Population Survey for the first quarter of each year, 2000 to 2018

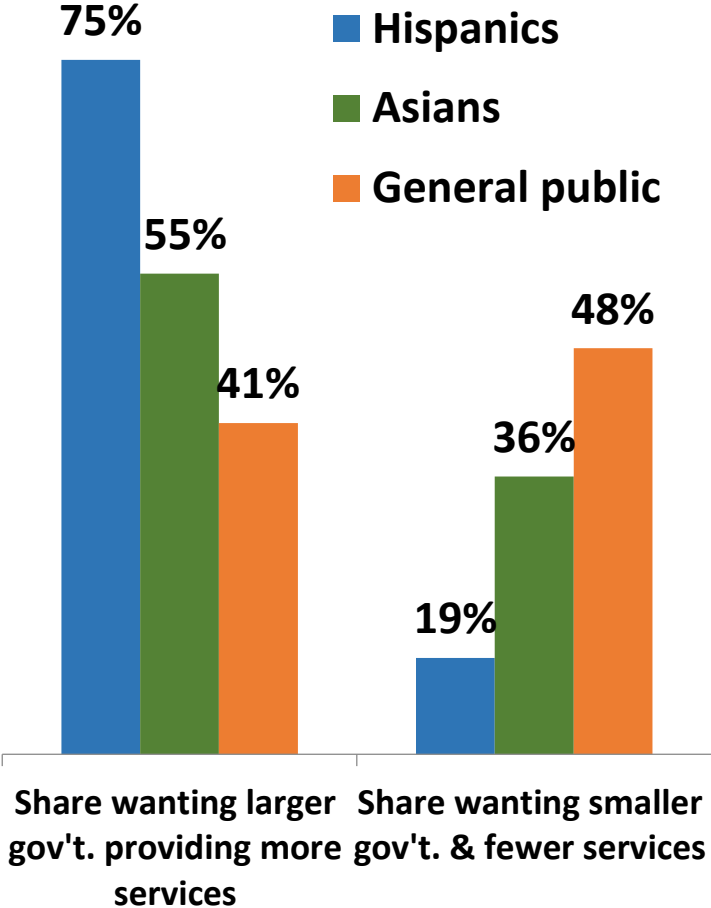
There has been a long-term decline in the employment rate of native-born Americans

Labor Force Participation Rate Natives 18 to 65

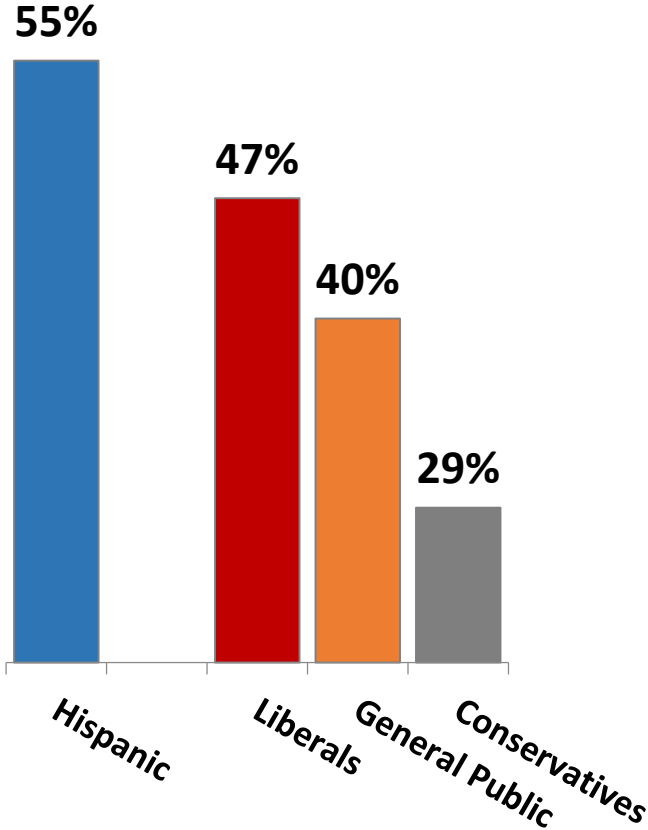


Immigration changes U.S. political culture

Hispanics & Asians are supportive Of Bigger government

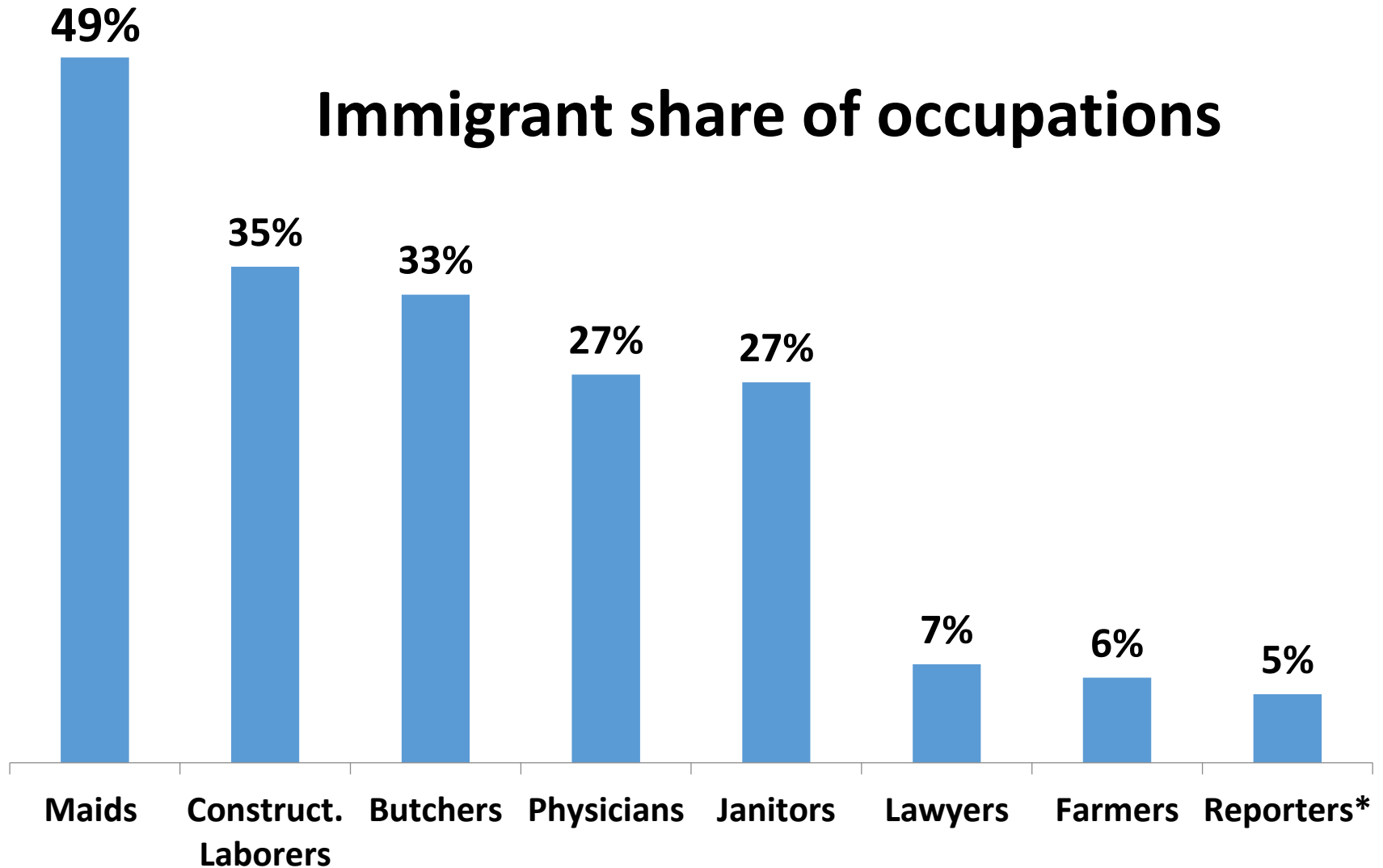


Share with negative view of capitalism



Source Pew Research, studies published between 2011 and 2013..

Immigration's Impact is uneven



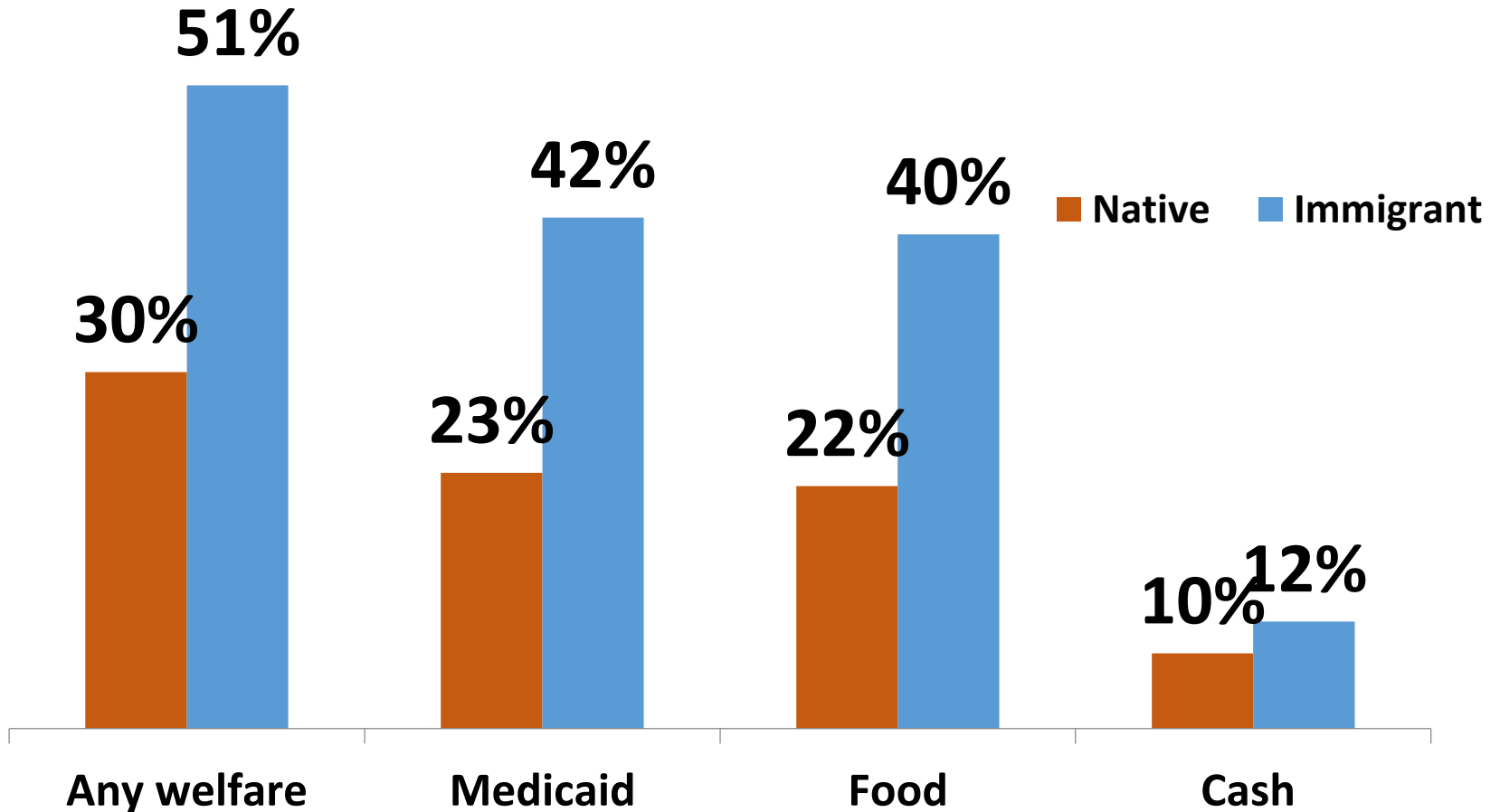
Source: Immigrants in the United States: A profile of the foreign-born, using 2014 and 2015 Census Bureau data, <http://cis.org/Immigrants-in-the-United-States> *figures are for reporters who likely work at English-language media outlets.

National Academies of Sciences (NAS) study in 2016 on economic and fiscal impact

- **Conclusions: economy-wide wage effect may be modest but, “a high degree of consensus exists that **specific groups are more vulnerable than others** to inflows of new immigrants.”**
- **Textbook model: immigration may create **~\$50 billion net benefit to natives**, but to do so it **redistributes about \$400 billion away from workers** to businesses and consumers.**

Immigrant households have higher rates of welfare use than native households

United States



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.

How can so many immigrant households access welfare?

- Most new legal immigrants are barred from welfare, as are illegals & temp. visitors

BUT:

- Most have been here long enough to qualify
- The bar does not apply to all programs
- Loopholes and exceptions exist
- Some states provide welfare on their own
- **Most important: immigrants can receive benefits through their U.S.-born children**

NAS found that at present immigrants have net negative fiscal impact (taxes paid minus costs)

Immigrants and their dependent children create a net fiscal drain in U.S. of **\$43 billion to \$299 billion**

The fiscal drain is large enough to **erase economic benefits**

Fiscal impact (billions)	
California	-\$18.96
Texas	-\$7.83
New York	-\$5.79
Illinois	-\$4.16
New Jersey	-\$3.24
Washington	-\$2.51
Massachusetts	-\$1.86
Minnesota	-\$1.68
Colorado	-\$1.18
Arizona	-\$1.17
Florida	-\$1.14

Conclusion

- **Reducing immigration and shifting to a more skills-based system would:**
 - **Take pressure off bottom of labor market**
 - **Reduce negative impact on public coffers**
 - **Help assimilate the 62 million immigrants & children here**
- **Best argument for current system:**
 - **Immigrants themselves benefit**
 - **Allows immigrants here to bring in more family members**
 - **Employers & consumers benefit**