

World as Community: The Intersection Between Migration and Child Welfare

Friday, April 20th, 2007

16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect



Sonia C. Velazquez, American Humane Association

Maria Vidal de Haymes, Loyola University Chicago

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**Lyn Morland, Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services
(BRYCS) at the US Conference of Catholic Bishops**

**Alan Dettlaff, Jane Addams School of Social Work,
University of Illinois at Chicago**

**Participants of the Migration and Child
Welfare National Network**

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SV2

water mark on this would be awesome -
Sonia Velazquez, 4/15/2007

“Child welfare services should be available to all children regardless of immigration status”

“Federal, state, and local policies should encourage full integration of immigrant families into US society through an expanded delivery of child welfare services”

Statements by the participants at the

**Migration: A Critical Issue for Child Welfare, 2006
Transnational Research and Policy Forum**

convened by the American Humane Association and
Loyola University, Chicago, July 26, 2006

2006 Forum: Bridging a Gap and Building on Previous Work

- The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Hunter College School of Social Work
- The Immigrants and Child Welfare Project
- The Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
- The Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)
- Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
- Washington DC Child and Family Services Agency
- Family Violence Prevention Fund
- National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women
- The Mexican Consulate of Chicago
- Jesuit Migrant Services of Mexico
- The Urban Institute
- American Bar Association, Latin America & Caribbean Law Initiative Council

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Convert it into 2 columns?

Sonia Velazquez, 4/15/2007

Why a Migration and Child Welfare National Network ?

- Changing demographics
- Child safety, permanency, and wellbeing goals
- Enabling child welfare work
- Rapid escalation of immigration issues nationally
- Growing public concern
- Efforts of individual organizations not sufficient to address problems of growing proportions
- Untapped transnational resources

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Sonia Velazquez, 4/13/2007

Most Immediate Issues of the Migration and Child Welfare Intersection

- Small number of cases
- Complexity of cases
- Unprepared professionals
- Families caught between systems
- Questions of professionals unanswered
- No funding sources
- Lack of sufficient research / shared knowledge
- Lack of common definitions across disciplines
- Need to keep distinct system perspectives

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Sonia Velazquez, 4/15/2007

Network and Committees

National Advocacy

- Publications
- Conferences
- Presentations
- Resource sharing

Best Practice

- Indicators of good practice
- Training materials and resources
- Positive examples of collaboration
- Values that drive practice

Policy

- Funding issues
- State innovations
- Action alerts

Research

- Current state of practice
- Best practice guidelines
- Demonstration projects

Transnational

- Consular relations
- Home studies overseas
- Reunification
- Public awareness of transnational scope

A Transnational Issue

Sonia C. Velazquez

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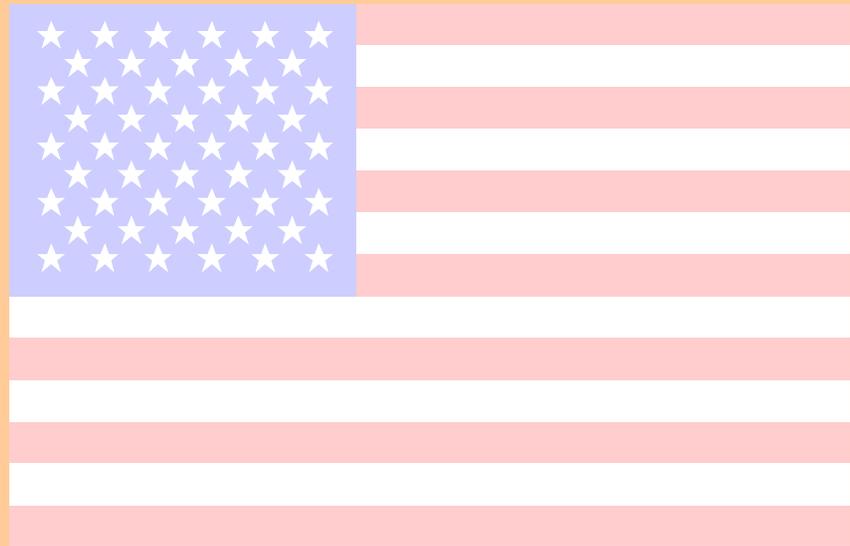
ingrid, there will be several section breaks like this one, please create a uniform look, perhaps repeating the picture on the front
Sonia Velazquez, 4/15/2007

Within and Beyond our Borders

- Causes
- Consequences
- Vulnerabilities
- Immediate responses
- Mid and long term strategies
- Inter-governmental agreements
- Social services
- Humanitarian concerns

Some Reasons for Migration

- Demographic growth
- Persistent demand for unskilled labor in the agricultural, industrial and services industries in the U.S.
- Wage Differences
- Migratory Tradition
- Business
- Education



Source: American Bar Association Latin America & Caribbean Law Initiative Council

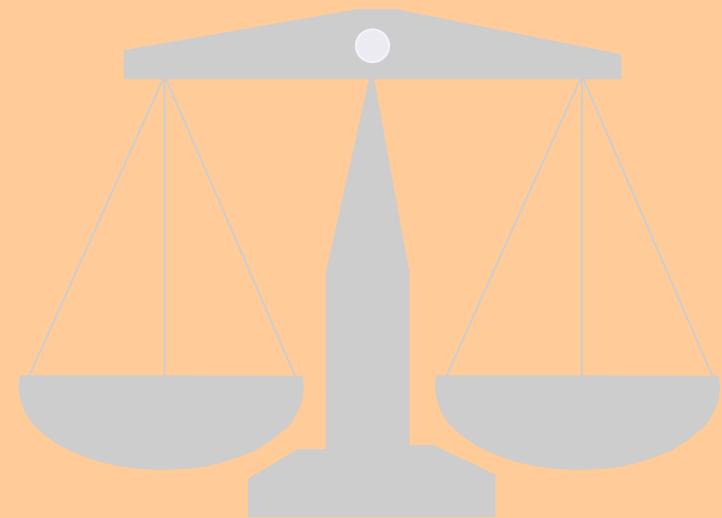
Consequences of Migration for the Countries of Origin

- Disintegration of family structure
- Absence of father figure affects child wellbeing
- Change in women's roles (double role)
- Depletion of human and social capital
- Potential community leaders are the first to migrate
- Countries' social and education investment diverted
- Lack of field workers
- Prevalence of HIV in return migrants
- Rejection of cultural identity
- Assimilation to American culture

Based on: Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes, Mexico

Why are Migrants Vulnerable

- Complex immigration laws and policies, costly services
- Dependence upon others for information
- Language skills
- Overall levels of education
- Discrimination (ethnic, religious, socio-economic, gender)
- Limited work opportunities
- Other factors: living arrangements, cultural



Changing Demographics

- Approximately 150-200 million people in the world live in nations other than those of their birth (one in 30)
- In US, 12% of population is foreign-born—35 million
- Roughly 10% of the foreign-born are children under 18; immigrants are mostly adults who come seeking work
- Countries of origin: $\frac{1}{2}$ Latin American, $\frac{1}{4}$ Asian, $\frac{1}{4}$ European, African, other regions
- Major sending nations: Mexico (about 20% of total), India, Philippines, China, Vietnam, El Salvador, Dominican Republic

Source: Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Undocumented Immigration of Children

- Children may come in through temporary (e.g. visitor) visas and overstay, or come in over the border
- Increasing numbers of children are coming in; previously undocumented immigration was a largely male phenomenon (since men were the people crossing the border to seek work)
- US policy changes and the general border crackdown has made it harder for immigrants to make the return trip to their homes and families - if they have any expectation of going back to the US - so in many cases entire families are crossing over so they can stay together

Source: Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Immigrant Children and Living Arrangements

- One in twelve immigrant children lives apart from parents.
- Immigrant children living apart from parents are more likely to be from Latin America
- Immigrant children living with non-relatives: not foster children, more likely to live in rural areas, very mobile, unlikely to be poor
- Immigrant children living independently: females likely to be married, most likely to be poor, not particularly mobile.
- Immigrant children living with relatives: householder lowest education, less likely to be working full-time, quite likely to be poor

Source: National Center for Children in Poverty

A Transnational Resource:

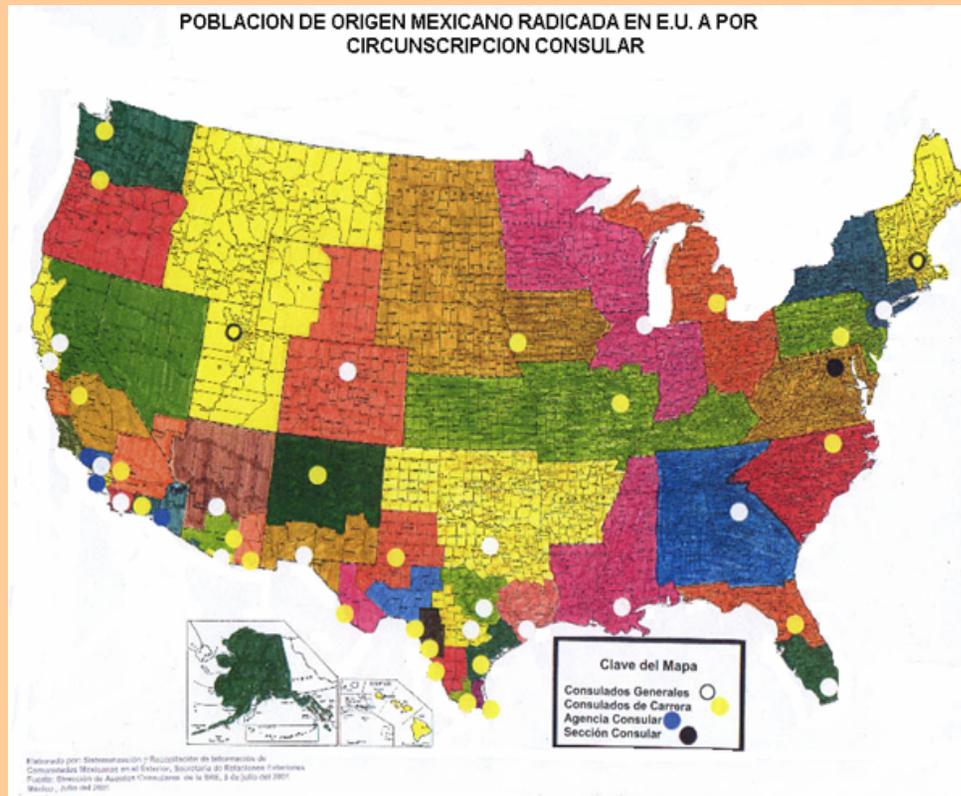
Memorandum of Understanding IL DCFS and Consulate of Mexico in Chicago

- ***For Mexico***
- Access to children
- Protect rights of parents
- Ensure culturally consistent environment

- ***For IL DCFS***
- Help protecting children's future rights (e.g. birth certificates)
- Help with Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
- Enforcing Burgos Consent Decree (culturally consistent environment)

Source: American Bar Association Latin America & Caribbean Law Initiative Council

Consular Services of Mexico in the U.S.



- 19 Consulate Generals.
- 27 Consulates.
- Embassy & Consular Section.
- Services include:
 Protection, documentation,
 political and social relations
 (health, education,
 benefits, community
 relations, etc.)

Source: American Bar Association Latin America & Caribbean Law Initiative Council

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Sonia Velazquez, 4/15/2007

Transnational Committee

- - Consular relations
 - Home studies overseas
 - Reunification
 - Public awareness of issues across borders
 - Higher education across borders

Migratory Flows

Maria Vidal de Haymes

Immigration in the United States

- The United States has long been considered a land of immigrants.
- The peak of immigration occurred in the 1890s, (15% of the total population, 9.25 million foreign-born in 1890)
- We are now in a second peak (11.5% of total population, 32.5 million foreign born in 2002)

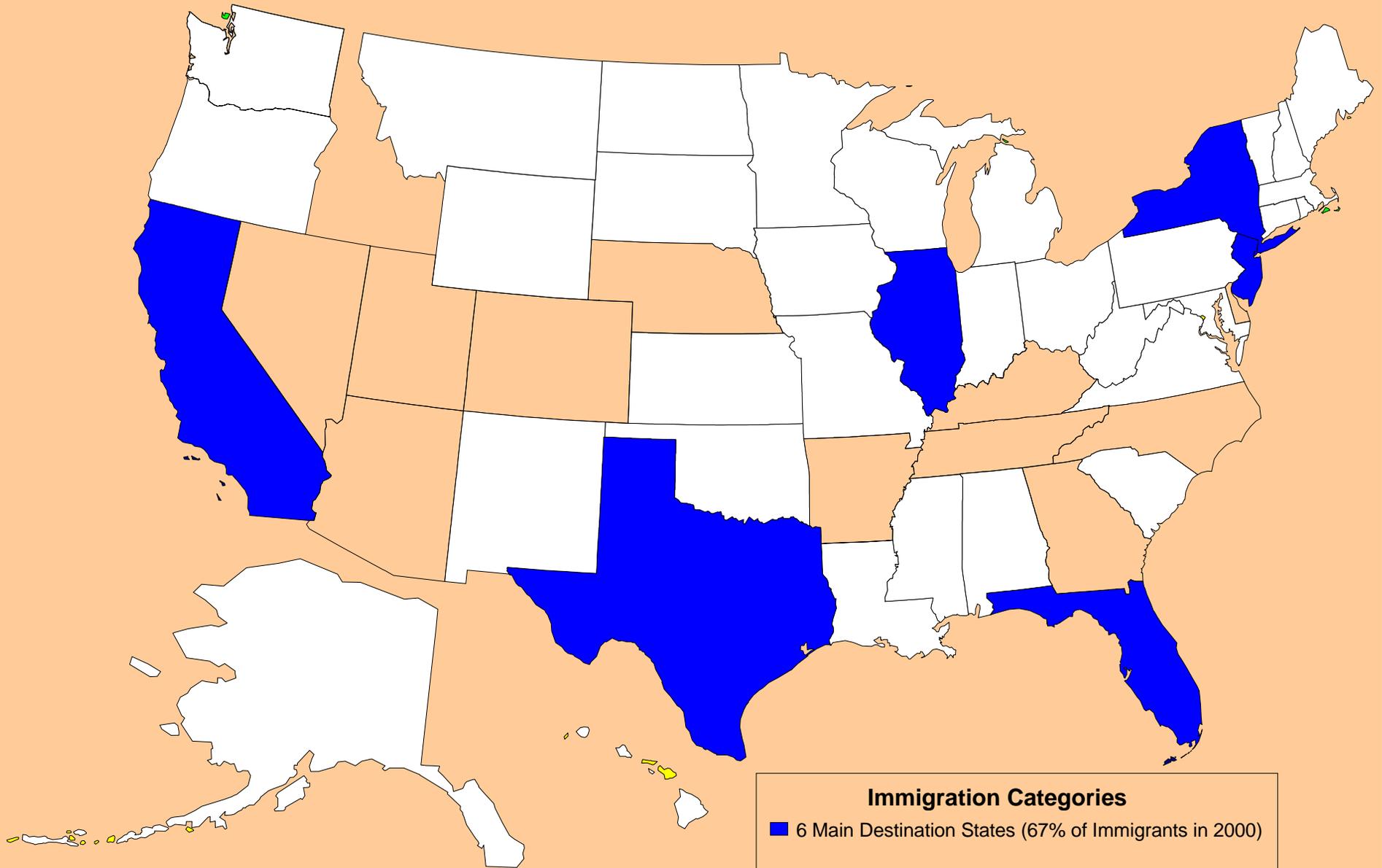
Immigrant Presence

- One in five U.S. residents is either foreign born or a first-generation child of an immigrant.
- Twenty-one percent of the nation's population under age 25 in 2000 was either foreign born or first generation, up from a mere 7% in 1970 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2002).

Foreign-Born Population

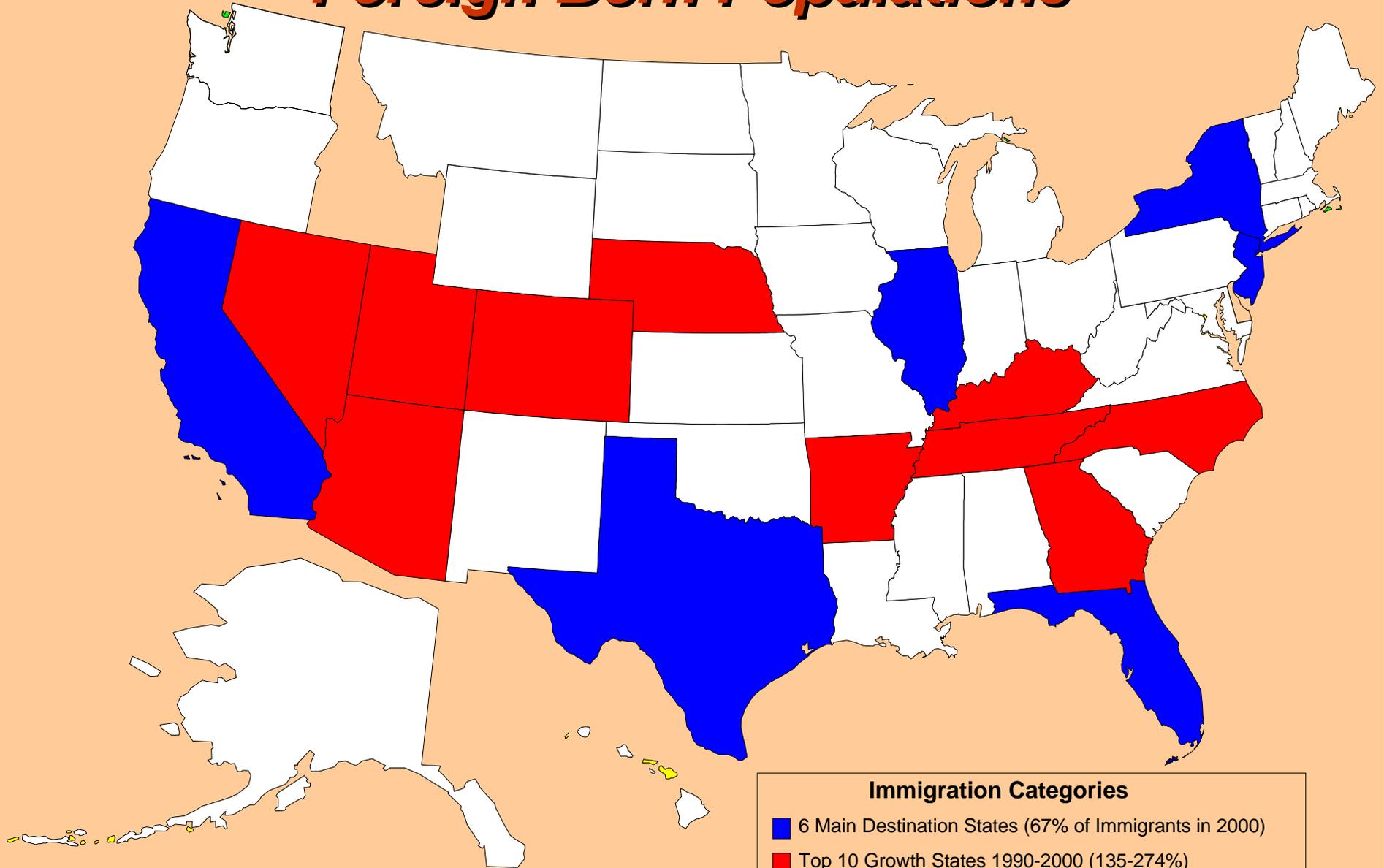
- **From 1840 to 1920's.....**
- **From 1930's to 1960's.....**
- **From 1970's projected through 2010.....**

2/3 of Immigrants Live in 6 States



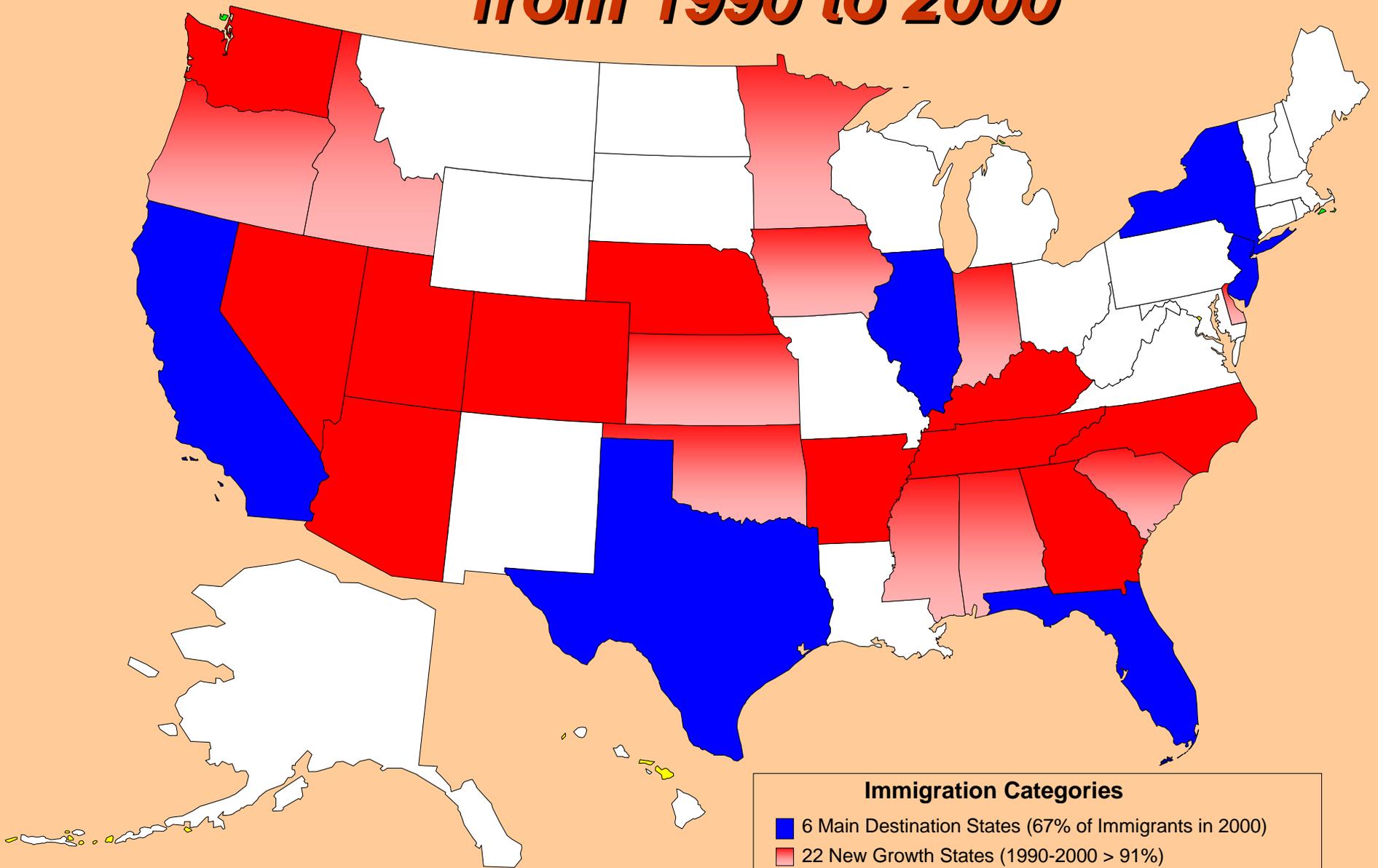
Source: Randy Capps, Urban Institute, 2006

Top 10 States with Fastest Growing Foreign Born Populations



Source: Randy Capps, Urban Institute, 2006

22 States Grew Faster than “Big 6” from 1990 to 2000

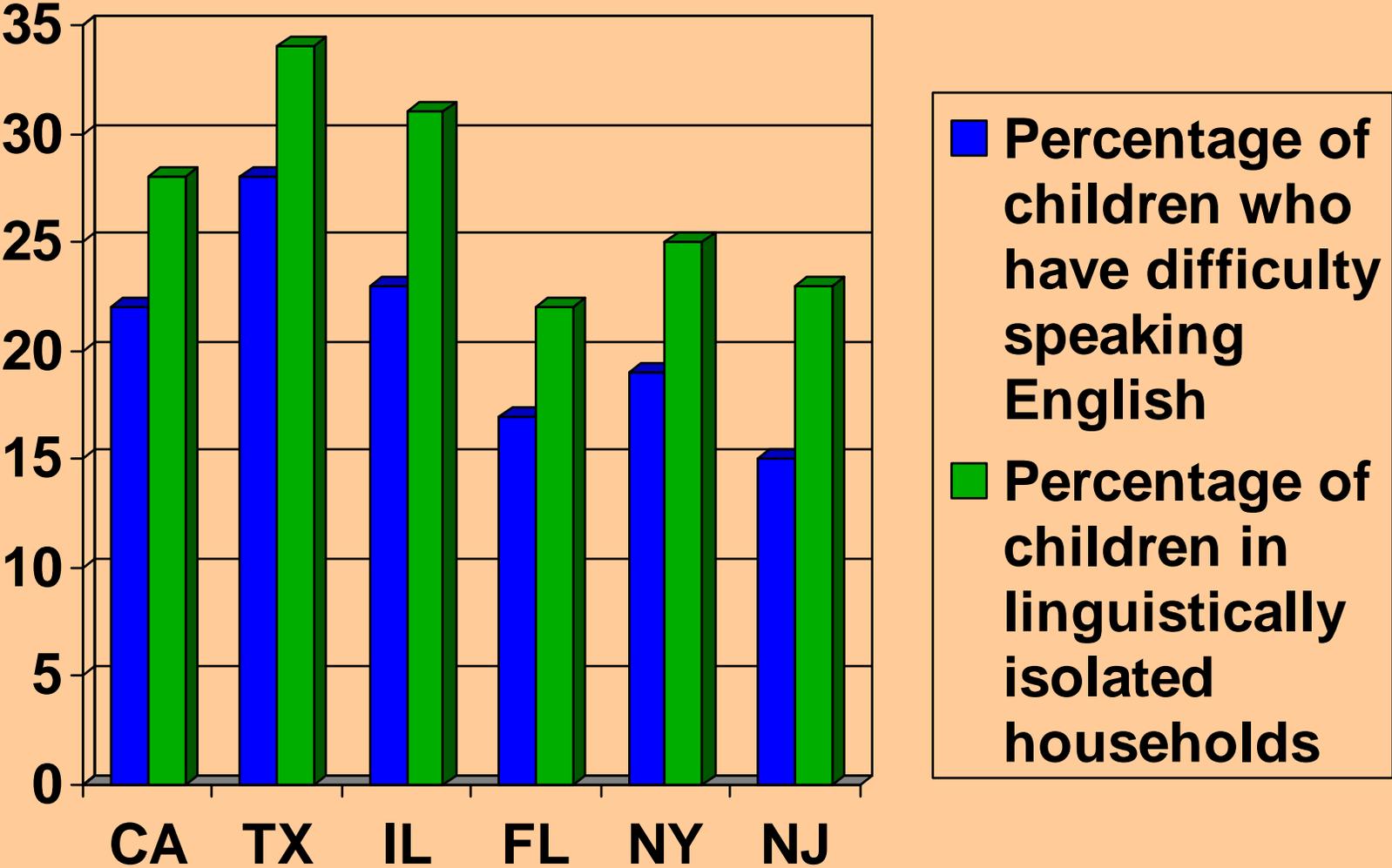


Source: Randy Capps, Urban Institute, 2006

Percentage of Children with Language Difficulties “Big 6” States

Sources: Annie E. Casey Foundation (2007). “Kids Count state-level data online.”
U.S. Census Bureau. (2007). “Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3)”

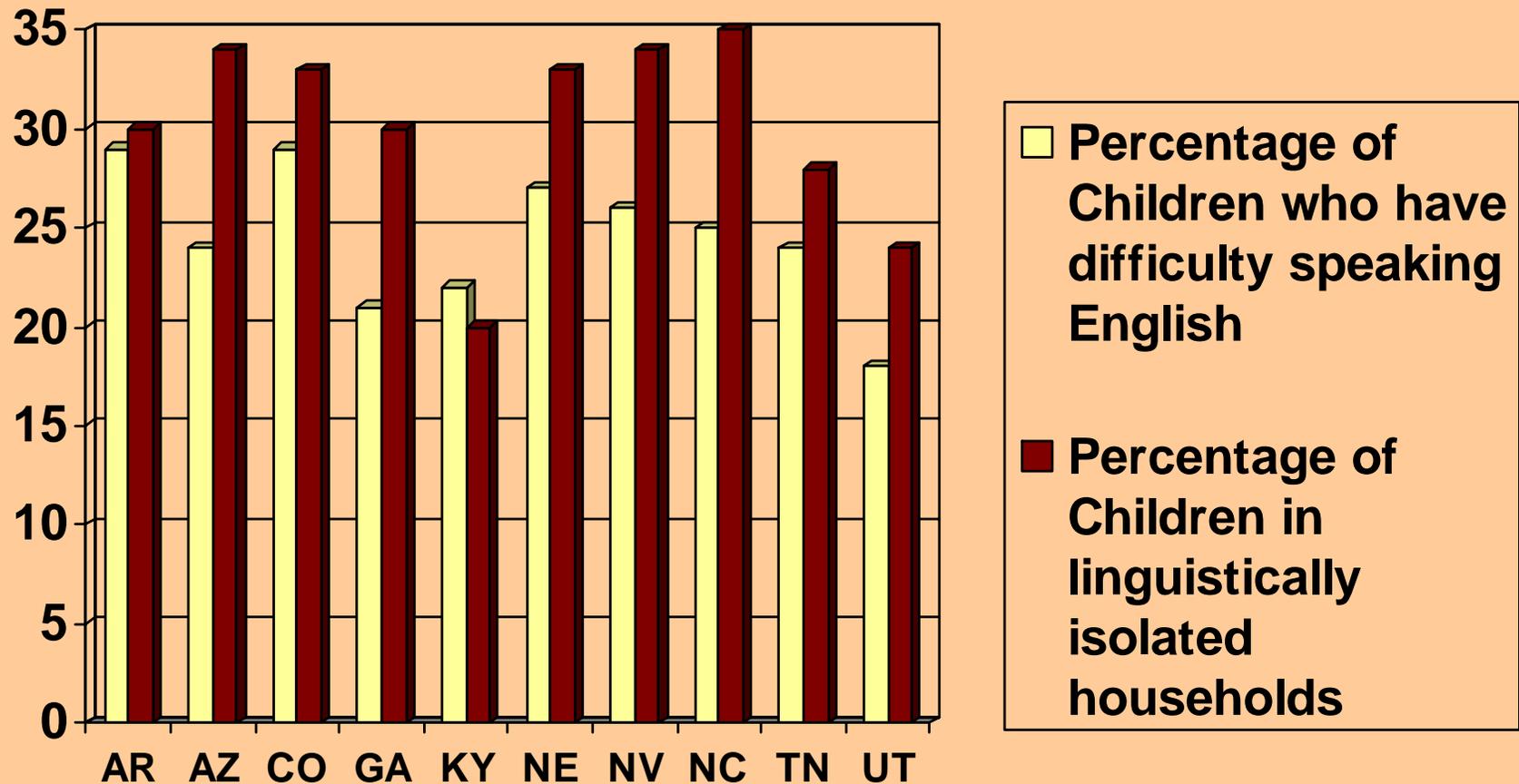
U.S. Census Bureau (2007). “State and county quick facts.”



Percentage of Children with Language Difficulties “Top 10” States

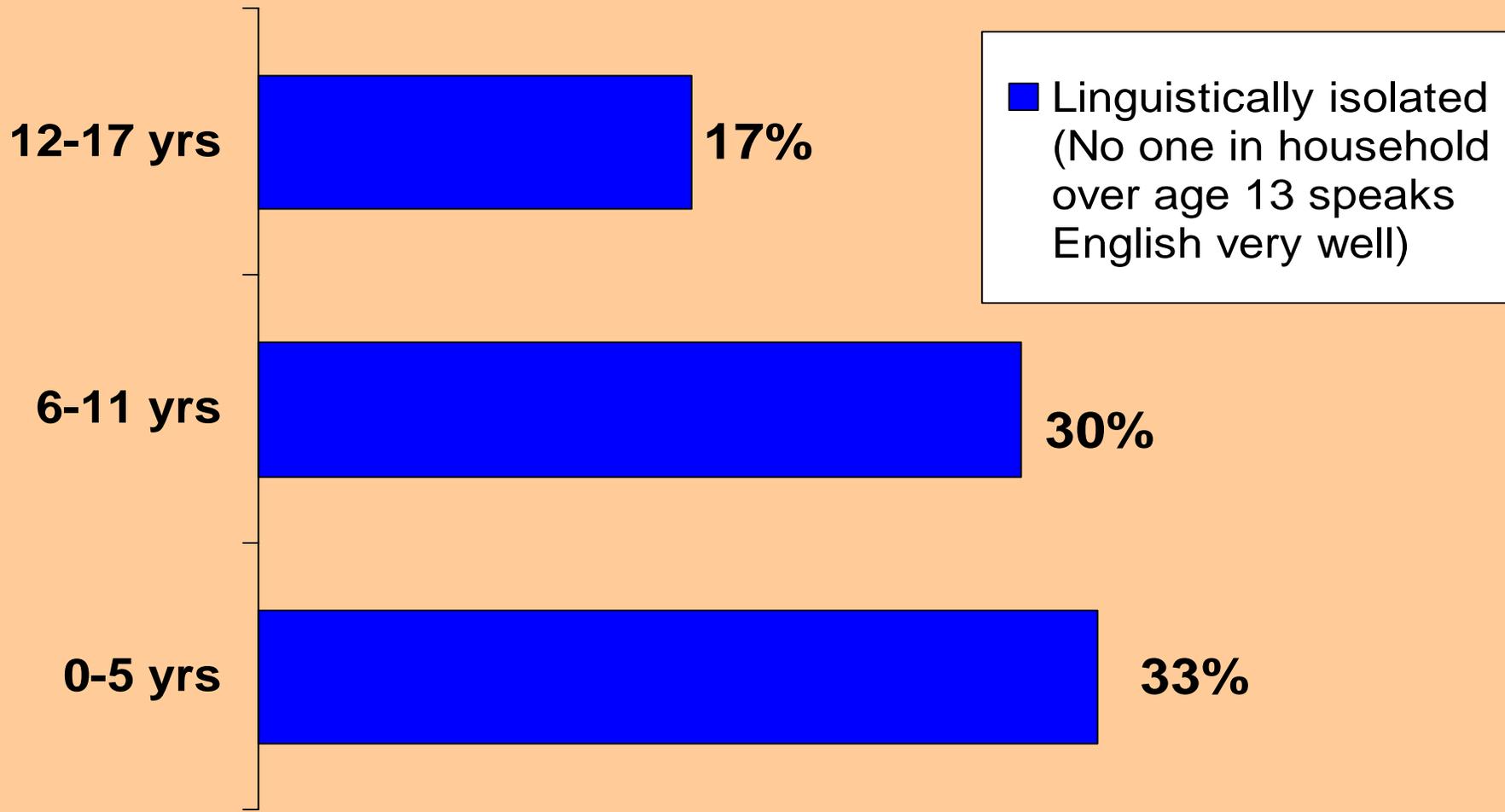
Sources: Annie E. Casey Foundation (2007). “Kids Count state-level data online.”
U.S. Census Bureau. (2007). “Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3)”

U.S. Census Bureau (2007). “State and county quick facts.”



Linguistical Isolation per Age

(Source Randy Capps, Urban Institute, 2006)



(2000 Census, 5 percent PUMS)

Mixed Status Families

Nearly one in ten U.S. families with children is a mixed immigration status family (i.e., families with at least one non-citizen parent and one child who is a citizen).

Three-quarters of the children in non-citizen parented families are citizens (Fix & Zimmerman, 2001).

Why is immigration history and status an important consideration for child welfare agencies and professionals?

Ken Borelli

Impact of migration, acculturation and family status

- Culturally responsive practice with immigrants and refugees requires that child welfare professionals understand the impact of migration and acculturation has on each family and how these experiences have contributed to their child welfare involvement.
- An immigrant family's status is a critical aspect of their reception and eligibility for needed services during their period of resettlement.

Impact of migration, acculturation and family status Cont'd

- Different statuses carry varied entitlements to benefits, services, and legal rights.
- Legal status can present a challenge to family well being.
- It structures the immigration experience (e.g. the journey, pattern of migrations, household structure, economic opportunities, educational opportunities, the ability to maintain family ties, and the shaping of family dynamics.)

Interaction **WITH RECENTLY REVISED
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION
SERVICES**

Revised Structure

- A) BUREAU OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES
- B) BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT
- C) BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

*TOLL FREE NUMBER FOR US CITIZENSHIP AND
IMMIGRATION SERVICES: 1-800-375-5283 -
WEBSITE: USCIS.GOV*

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Sonia Velazquez, 4/15/2007

Policies recommended to Child welfare agencies to address immigration issues

1) FISCAL CLAIMING AND CONSIDERATIONS

**2) SERVICES TO NEW IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS,
INCLUDING POLICIES REGARDING RELEVANT BILINGUAL
AND MULTICULTURAL MATTERS**

**3) FAMILY ASSESSMENTS--LOCALLY, REGIONALLY
TRANSNATIONALS**

**4) INFORMATION SHARING WITH PARTNER AGENCIES
PLACEMENT AND LICENSING GUIDELINES**

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Sonia Velazquez, 4/15/2007

Needs Assessments: Population / Staff / Agency levels

- **POPULATIONS IN NEED OF SERVICES**
- **LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL ISSUES**
- **COORDINATION WITH COMMUNITIES**
- **STAKEHOLDERS**

Agency Strategies TO RESPOND TO IMMIGRANT & AGENCY NEEDS

Integration with

- **OVERALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM**
- **DISASTER RELIEF**
- **REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT**
- **ADOPTIONS**

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Sonia Velazquez, 4/15/2007

Lessons Learned

1) SPECIALIST VS. GENERALIST FUNCTIONS WITHIN AN AGENCY

2) ADDRESSING COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS

3) INTEGRATING THE RESPONSE INTO OTHER KEY CHILD WELFARE ISSUES SUCH AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CHILD ABANDONMENT AND EXPLOITATION, OVERREPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN OF COLOR IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM, AND CULTURALLY RELEVANT SERVICES.

Lessons Learned Cntd

4) CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTERACTION WITH COMMUNITY AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND PARTNERS.

5) TRAINING, STAFF SUPPORT, AND ON GOING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

6) ON GOING ASSESSMENT OF SERVICES, BUILDING COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS, AND DEVELOPING AN INFRASTRUTURE TO ADDRESS THE FLUID AND CHANGING WORLD OF IMMIGRARTION ISSUES UPON THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM, INCLUDING FEEDBACK LOOPS AND CORRECTIVE LEGISLATION.

SUMMARY:

SERVICES TO THE NEW IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS IN YOUR COMMUNITY NEED TO BE INTEGRATED INTO YOUR OVERALL SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM, AND IN ORDER TO AVOID POTENTIALLY TRAGIC UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES, POLICY GUIDELINES FOR FAMILIES WITH IMMIGRATION ISSUES NEED TO BE CLOSELY CONNECTED TO PRACTICE.

Practice with Immigrants and Refugees: Considerations for Front Line Workers

Lyn Morland

Promising Practices Committee

- Principles, values that drive practice (family-centered, focus on communities and neighborhoods, rights of the child, etc)
- Indicators of good practice
- Positive examples of collaboration
- Documentation of access and placement barriers, promising practices in CA, IL, TX, and NY
- Training materials and resources
 - For e.g., collaborative application for foundation support to develop training and planning guidelines for SW school and CW agency collaborations

Direct Practice Issues

- ✓ Bilingual/bicultural workers – availability
- ✓ Access to interpretation, translation of documents
- ✓ Assessment – migration and cultural factors
- ✓ Immigration status and relief
- ✓ Transnational resources – family members, documentation
- ✓ Out of home placement – kinship care or foster families of similar background (pros and cons)
- ✓ Family's access to services, adherence
- ✓ Access to prevention, family preservation services

Technical Assistance

**>100 technical assistance requests
between 10/1/06 – 3/31/07**

30% Child Welfare agencies

12% Public schools

38% Refugee resettlement

20% Immigrant-led agencies

14% of
these were
state
offices

T.A. Case Examples

- **Neglect due to cultural differences in supervision and child care**
- **CPS interventions due to family's use of traditional disciplinary practices**
- **Family violence**
- **Family breakdown**

Case Study - Carlos

- 12 years old
- Immigrated unaccompanied from Guatemala to join undocumented mother in the U.S.
- Left due to abuse by uncle and pressure to join gang
- Conflict with U.S. citizen stepfather
- Sleeping in park

Agency Response

- Spanish-speaking case worker assigned
- Assessment – language, migration, cultural factors
- Worked with local community agency to find:
 - Interpreter for Mayan dialect
 - Appropriate foster home in Latino community
- Worked with Consulate office:
 - Birth certificate from Guatemala
 - Documentation of abuse by uncle, existence of gangs in neighborhood
- Immigration lawyer - SIJS
- Worked to improve relationship with mother, step-father

Collaboration Models

- **State Offices**
- **Community Task Forces**
- **Agency Collaborations**

Emerging Issues Affecting Child Welfare

Results from the Roundtable

Alan Dettlaff

Roundtable Report

- Strategy for Network
- Focus on Child Welfare goals
- Reinforced need for national collaboration

Emerging Issues

- Research
- Workforce and Training
- Cross-Systems / Transnational Collaboration
- Policy and Advocacy

Roundtable Synthesis and Report: Impact of Emerging Issues on:

- **Safety**
- **Permanency**
- **Child and Family Well-being**

Emerging Issues: Research

1. Data are not available on the number of immigrant children and families involved in the child welfare system.
2. There is a lack of research that provides information on the unique needs of immigrant children and families in the child welfare system.
3. There is a lack of research that provides information on effective, empirically-based practices with immigrant children and families in the child welfare system.

Emerging Issues: Workforce

1. There is a need for advanced training on the issues affecting immigrant children and families and effective practices with this population.
2. There is a need for increased understanding of federal and state policies that affect immigrant children and families.
3. There is a lack of bilingual and bicultural staff in child welfare agencies.

Emerging Issues: Workforce

4. The complexity of cases involving immigrant children and families must be considered in workload assignments.
5. There is a lack of programs in higher education offering training on the intersection between migration and child welfare.

Emerging Issues: Collaboration

1. There is a need for cross-systems collaboration between child welfare agencies and those working with and on behalf of immigrant populations.
2. There is a lack of bilingual and bicultural service providers that can effectively respond to the needs of immigrant children and families.
3. There is a lack of engagement between child welfare agencies and immigrant communities.
4. There is a lack of collaboration between the U.S., Mexico, and other Latin American countries.

Emerging Issues: Policy / Advocacy

1. There is a lack of consistent policies in child welfare agencies addressing the needs of immigrant children and families.
2. Existing state and federal policies create barriers to effective service delivery.
3. State and federal policies, combined with anti-immigrant sentiment, have resulted in families who are fearful of accessing benefits.
4. There is a need for policy development concerning child welfare systems' response to mixed status families and to separated and unaccompanied immigrant children.

Resources / Plans

- Membership in the MCWN Network
- Second Conference: March 2008
- Website
- Publications: Open Call for Articles
- Committee Projects
- Contact mcwnn@americanhumane.org or any of the panelists

Questions