

Immigration Presentation

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What's different today than 100 years ago?

- Scale of immigration is unprecedented
- Large share of immigration is illegal
- Education level of immigrants is huge issue
 - Determines jobs they do, and fiscal impact
 - Competition with less-educated Americans
- Size of government fundamentally different
- Elite attitudes towards assimilation changed

Understanding the Current Scale

- **Legal Immigration rebounded after Covid**
 - Both permanent and temporary 1.1 million green cards
 - ~3.5 million “non-immigrants” (guestworkers, students)
- **Illegal Immigration exploded after Jan 2021**
 - 10.4 million border encounters
 - ~6 million inadmissible aliens released (border & CHNV)
 - 1.8 million gotaways, FY 2021-2023
 - Unknown number of unseen crossings
 - Visa overstays 500,000 to 800,000 a year
- **Surge caused by policy**
 - Biden’s public statements during and after campaign
 - Decision to end: 1) Migration agreements w/ Central America 2) “Remain in Mexico,” 3) Title 42 early
 - Decision not to use detention and expedited removal

Figure 1. Monthly data shows enormous increase in the foreign born under Biden (in millions).

Foreign born has grown 6.6 million under Biden
 This is a net figure not new arrivals
 Grew 6.4 million in Obama's 8 years.

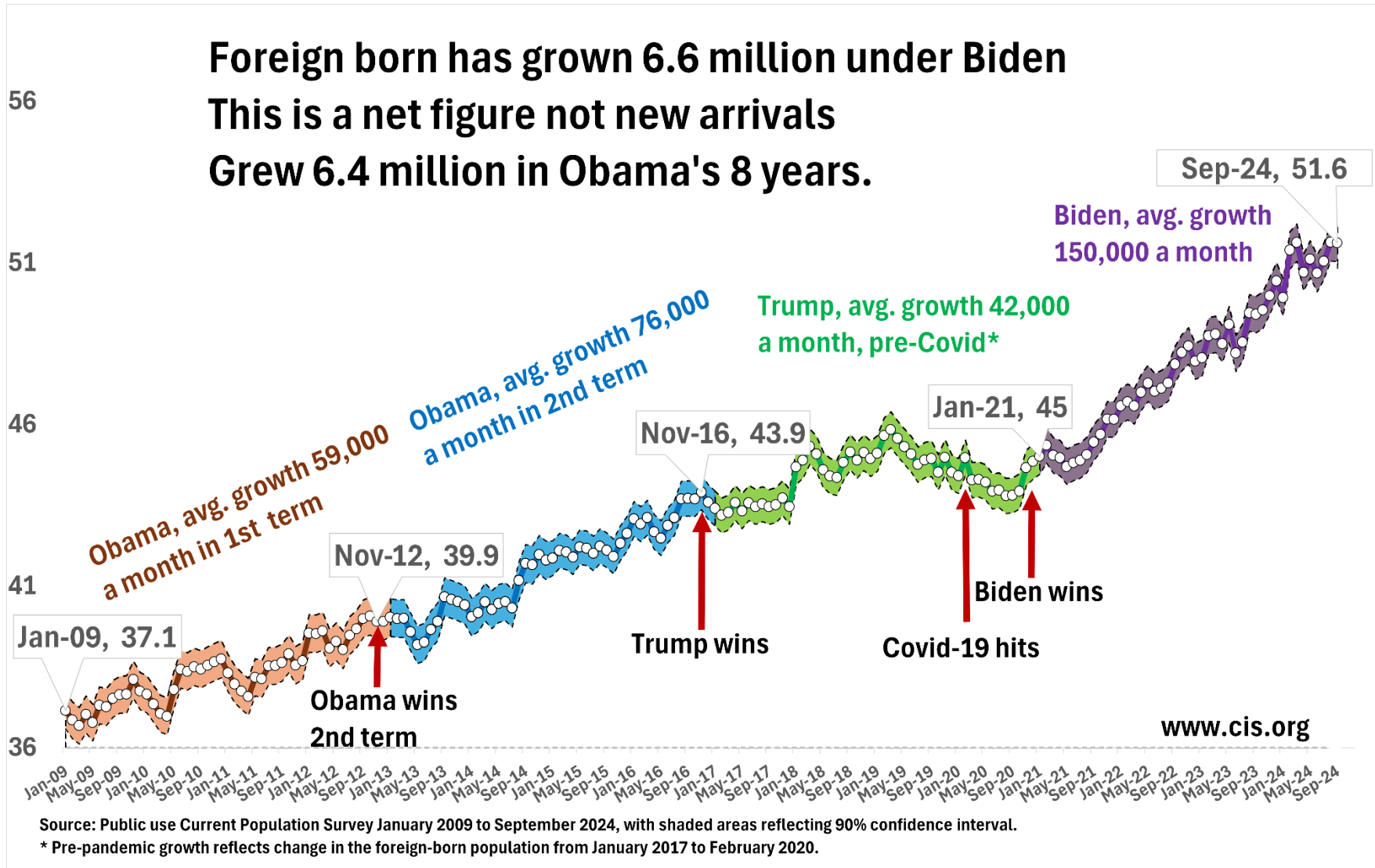
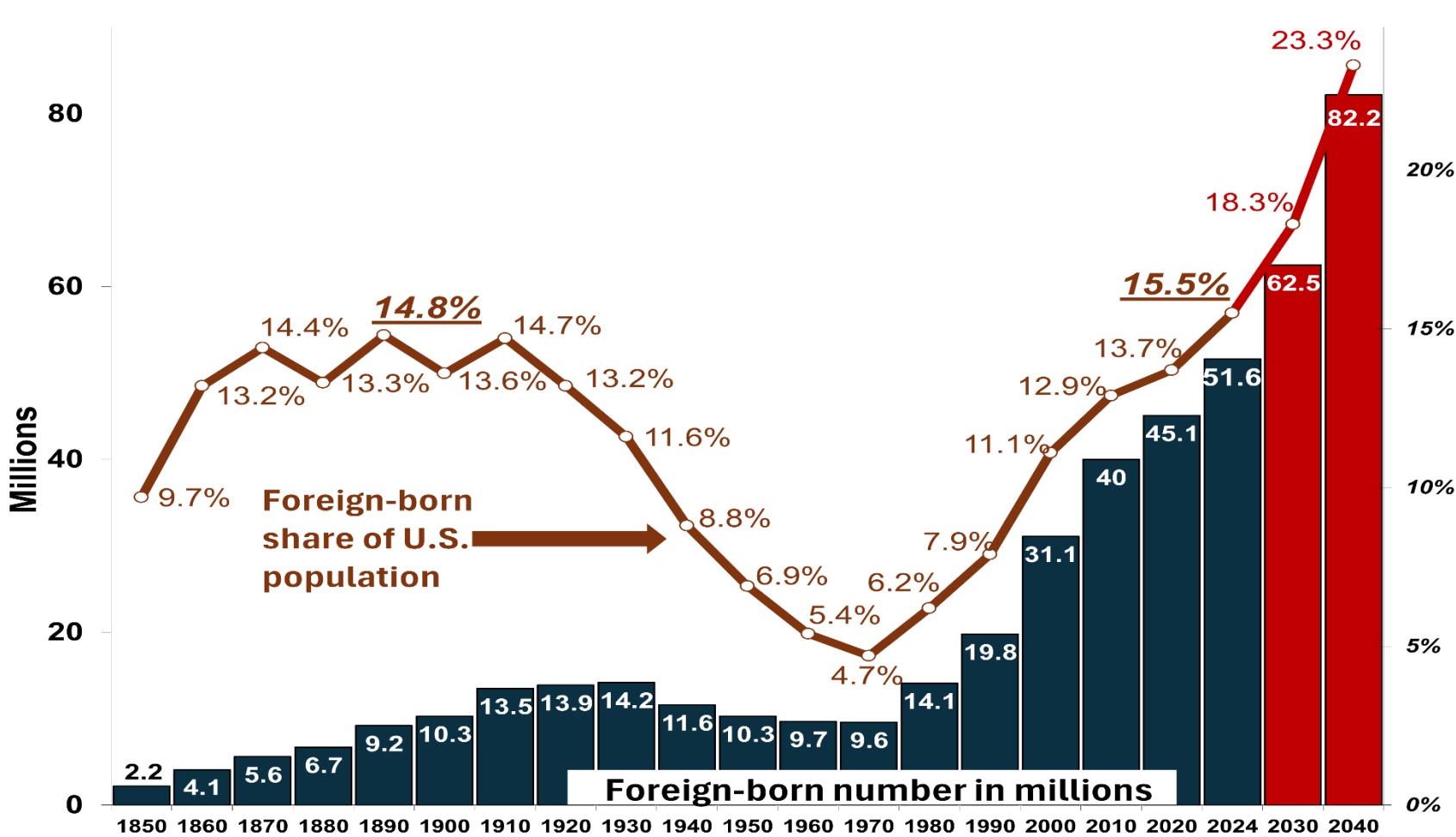


Figure 2. The foreign-born is at record high. If trends continue, we'll hit new records year after year.

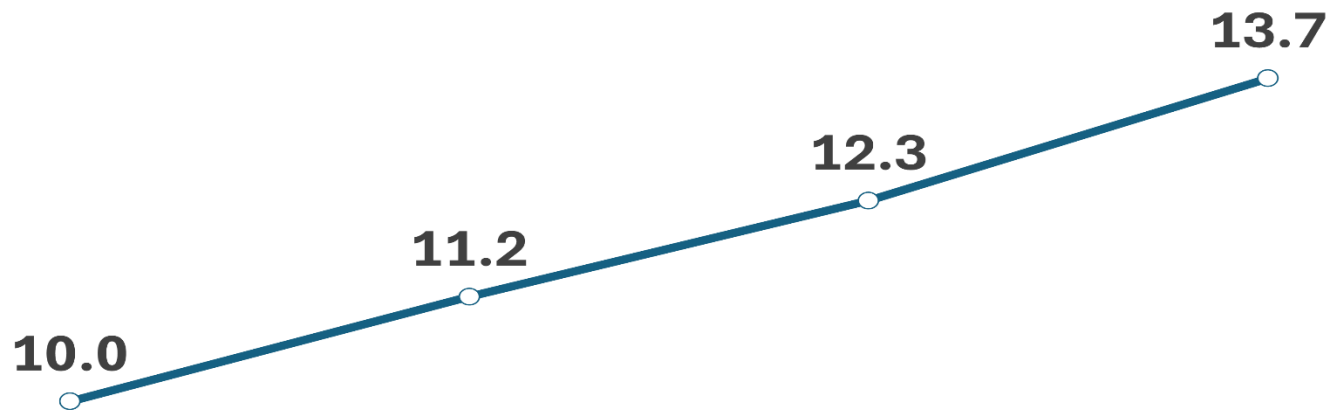


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Source: Decennial Census for 1850 to 2000, American Community Survey (ACS) for 2010 and 2020, September Current Population Survey for 2024. The Census Bureau reports significant problems with the 2020 ACS, due to the pandemic. Therefore, the 2020 figures average the 2019 and 2021 ACS.

Assumes growth under Biden continues.

Figure 3. Estimate of Illegal Immigrants captured in CPS data Jan. 2021 to Jan. 2024 (in millions)



This means:

- Illegal Immigrant pop. is up 3.7 million in data
- Illegals are ~60% of growth in foreign born in data
- Total illegal pop. is likely 14, maybe 15 million
- Extremely unlikely to be 20 or 30 million

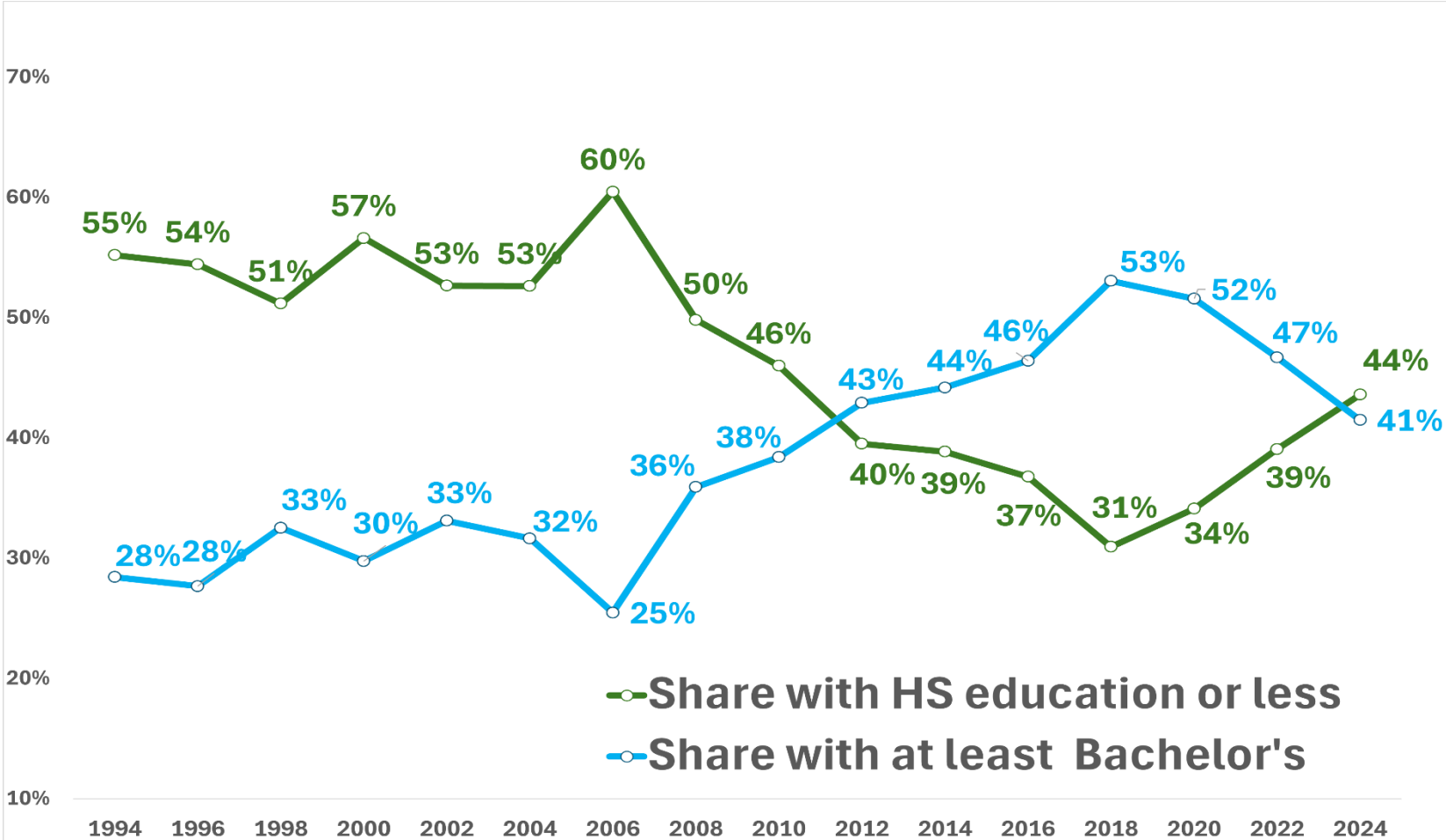
2021

2022

2023

2024

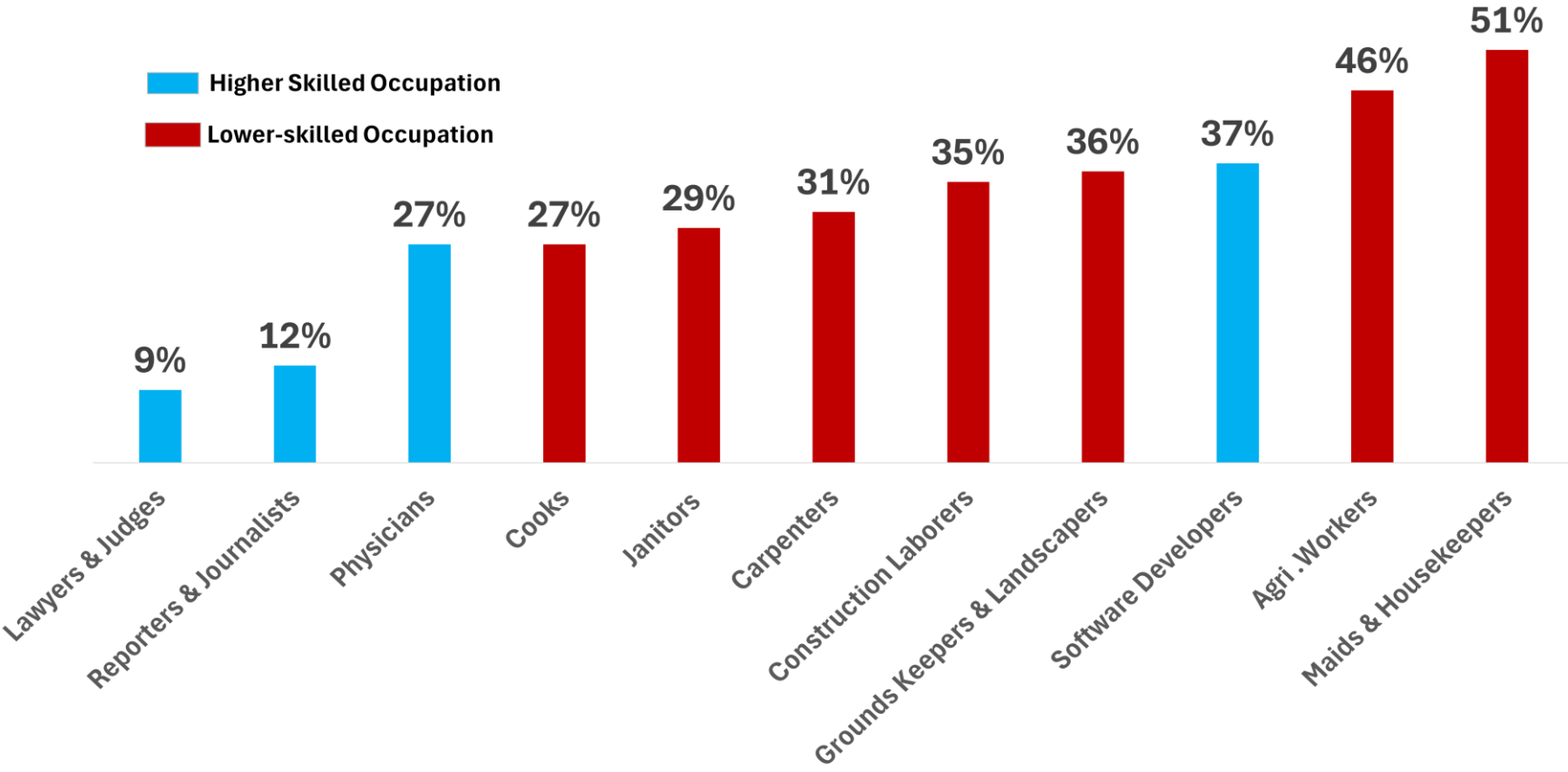
Figure 4. Substantial decline in education of new arrivals has significant economic and fiscal implications.



Source: Center for Immigration Studies analysis of a combined sample of the public use Current Population Survey (CPS) for January, February and March 1994 to 2024. In even numbered years new arrivals in the CPS include the current year and 2 prior years ages 16 to 64.

Figure 5. Immigration unevenly increases supply of labor

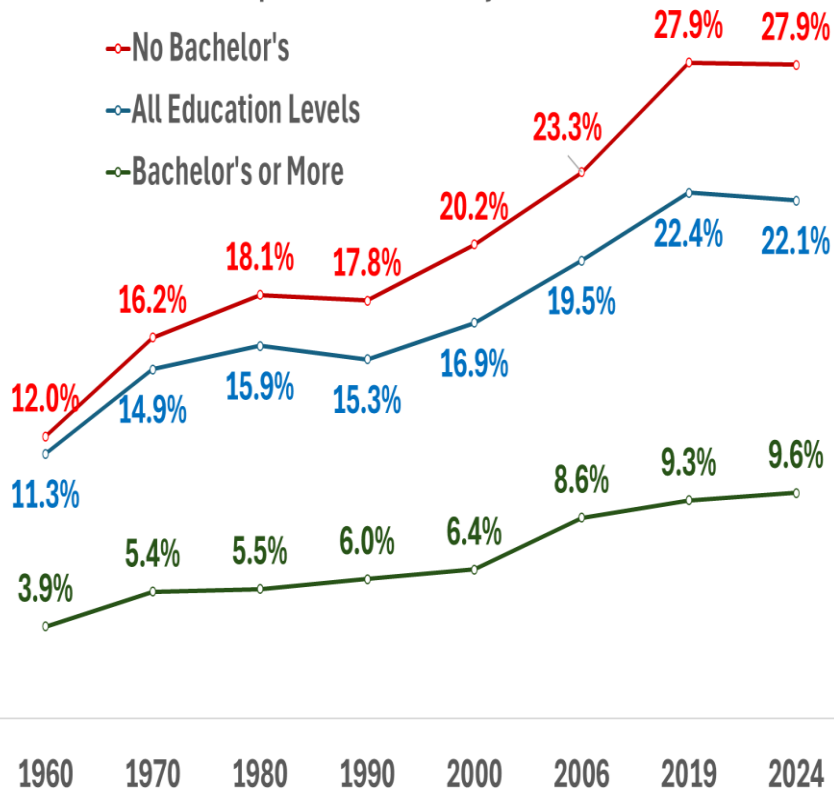
Immigrant Share of Selected Occupation
Jobs most impacted tend to be done by the less-educated



Source: Public use 2023 American Community Survey.

Figure 6. Labor force participation has deteriorated dramatically for less-educated

The share of less-educated working-age (16 to 64) U.S.-born men not in the labor force remains at historic highs compared to prior peaks in business cycle.



The number of U.S.-born men (16 to 64) not in the labor force has increased dramatically (in millions)

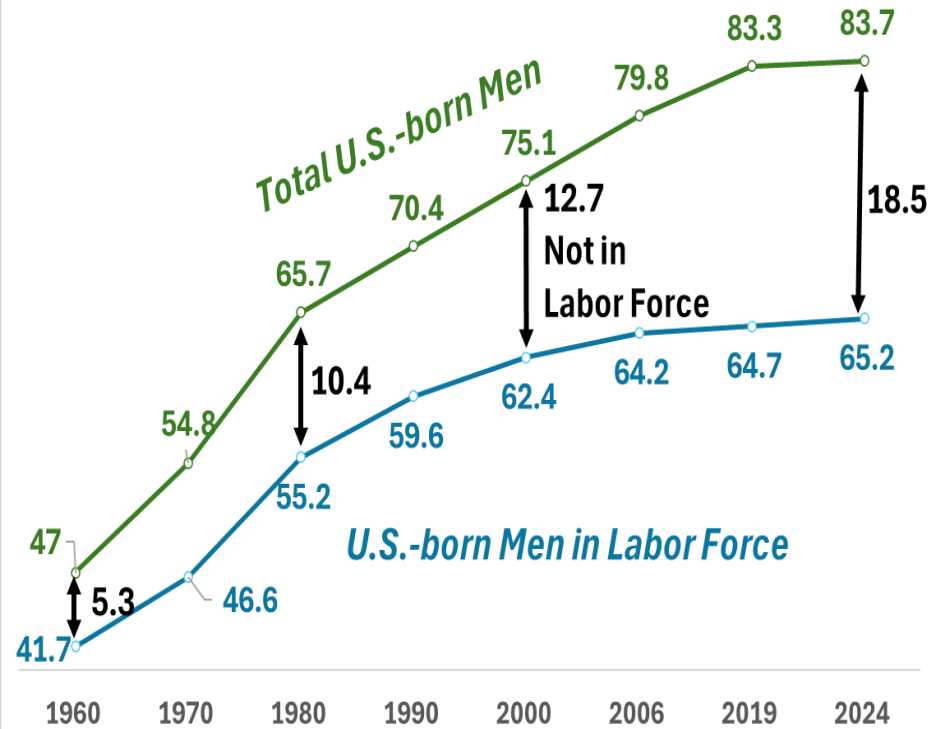
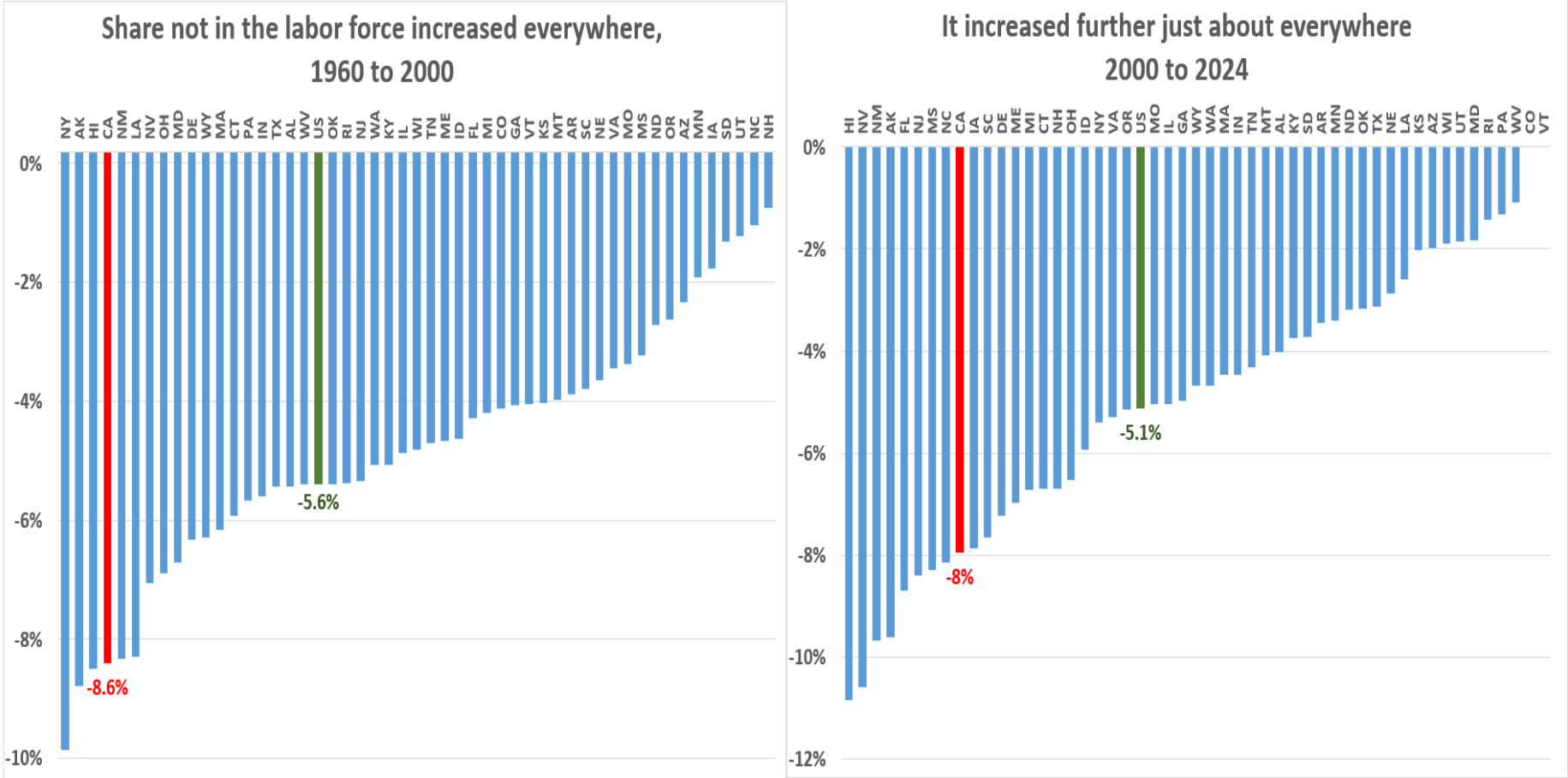


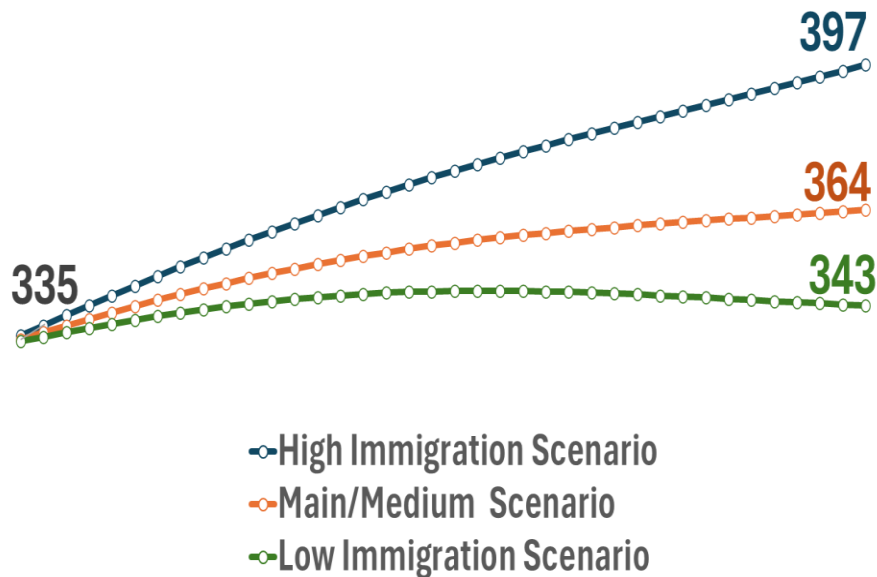
Figure 7. California had one of the largest increases in men 16-64 not in the labor force



Figures are from 1960 Census and the March, April, and May public use Current Population Survey for 2000 and 2024. In California it went from 9.4% of men not in labor force to 25.9%.

Figure 8. Census Bureau projections: Immigration adds a lot of people, but is no fix for the aging of society

The size of the U.S. population assuming different immigration levels through 2060 (in millions)



The working-age (18-64) share of the U.S. population assuming different immigration levels through 2060

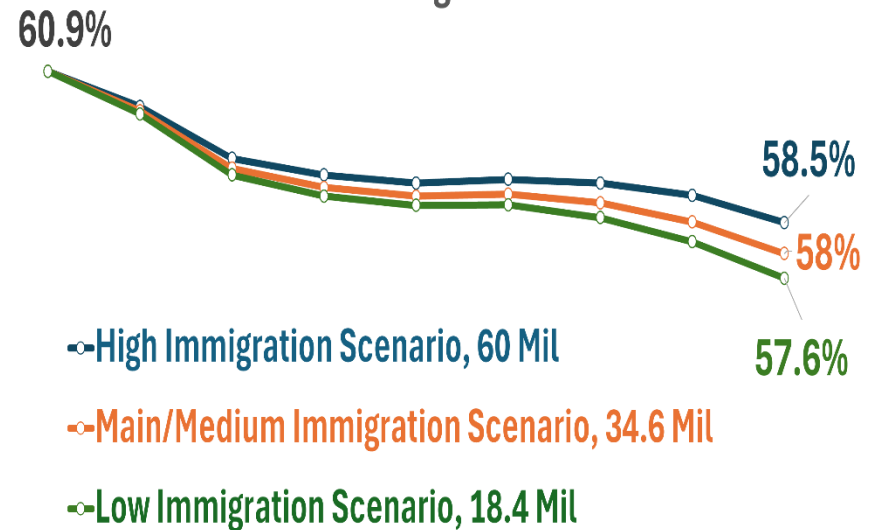


Figure 9. Both legal and illegal immigrant households make extensive use of welfare.

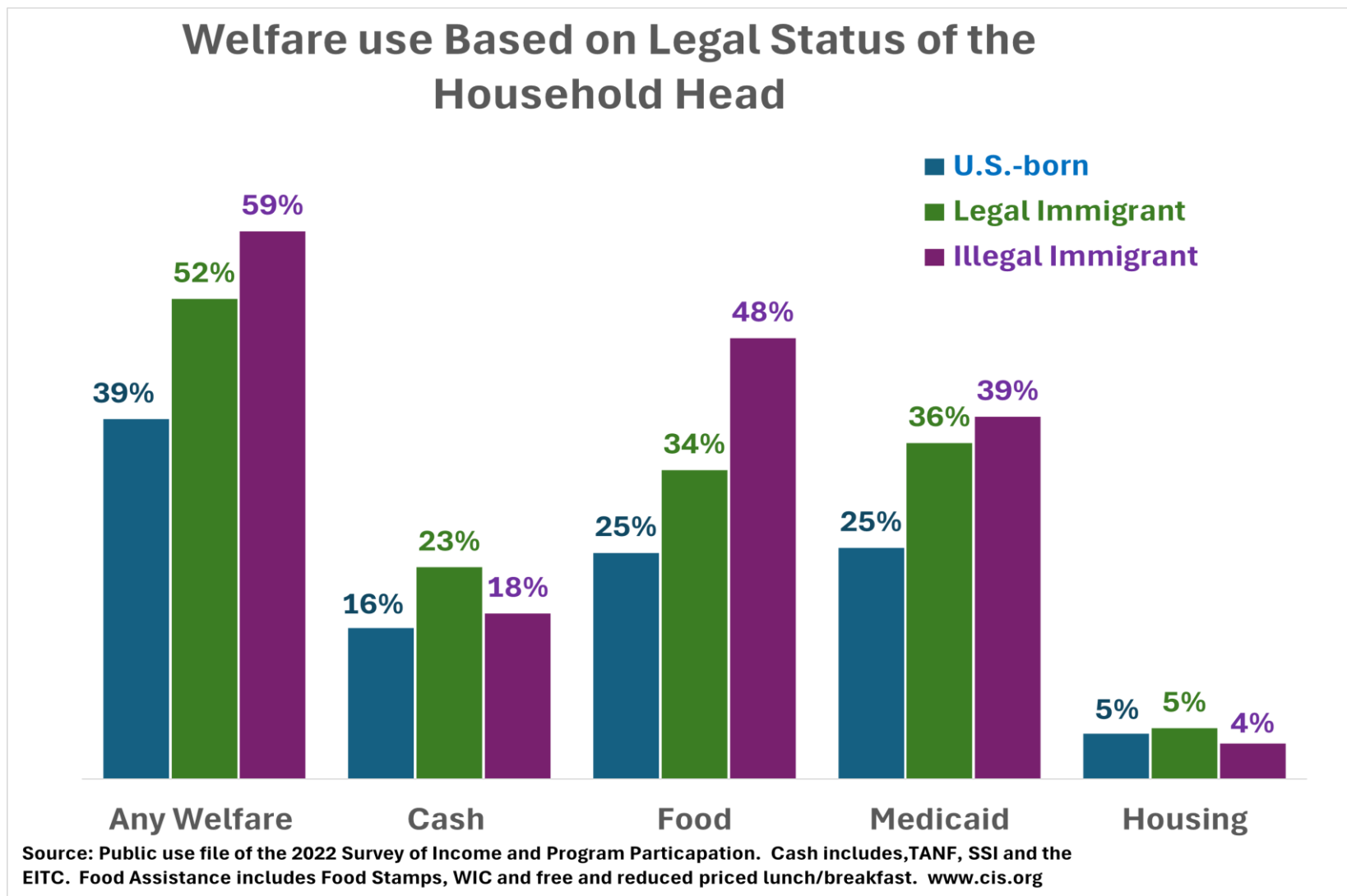
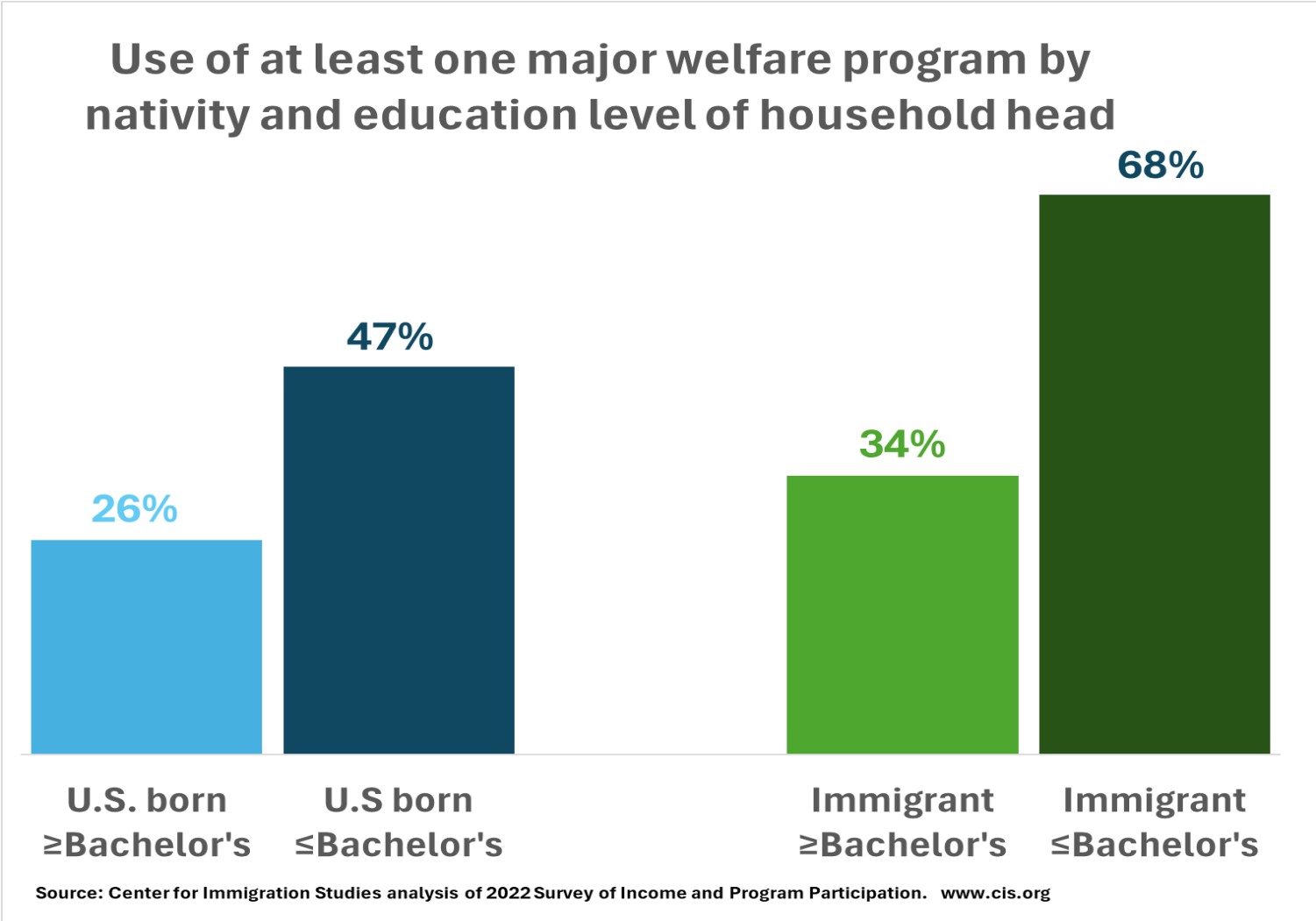


Figure 10. Use of public services varies significantly by education level.



Immigrants & U.S. Welfare System

- **New legal immigrants & illegals barred from system**
- **But system is designed to help low-income workers with children. This describes large share of immigrants**
 - Immigrant households are more likely to have a worker
- **As a result, legal limits have modest impact because:**
 - Many immigrants are low-income, so they qualify
 - Bar only applies to some programs
 - Most legal immigrants met residence requirements
 - Some states offer programs to otherwise ineligible immigrants
 - Work authorization allows illegals to receive some benefits
 - **Most important: receipt common due to U.S.-born children**
- **Politically & practically hard to stop their use once here**
 - California clearest example, continues to hand out benefits

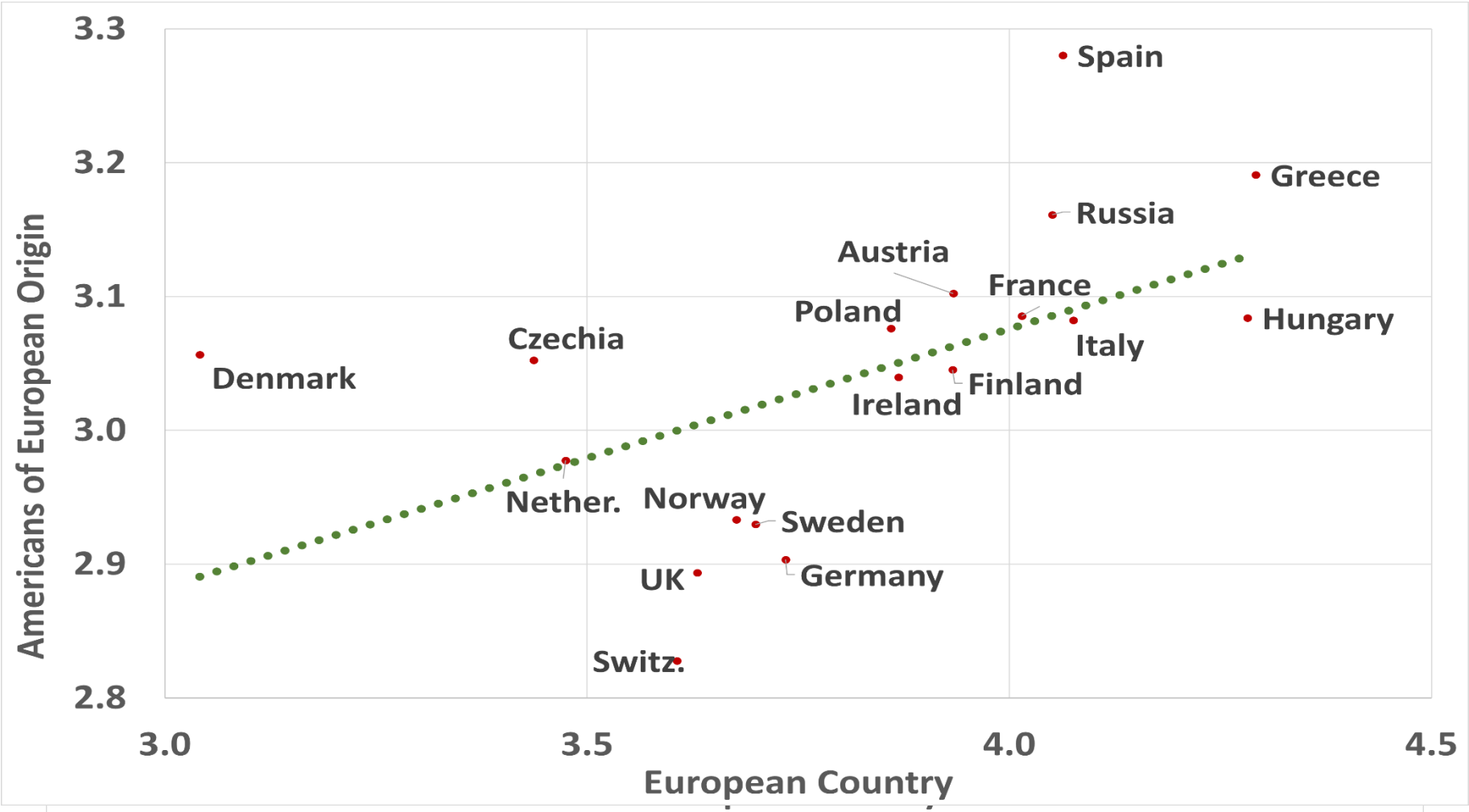
Big cultural change, we can't agree on what we want from immigrants

- **George Washington** argued immigrants must be “assimilated to our customs, measures, and laws: in a word, soon become one people.”
- **Louis Brandeis** said, “*However great his outward conformity, the immigrant is not Americanized unless his interests and affections have become deeply rooted here. And we properly demand of the immigrant even more than this--he must be brought into complete harmony with our ideals and aspirations and cooperate with us for their attainment.*”

Today things are very different

- **Aradhana Mudambi** states, “*assimilation is about giving up one's own authentic identity... an act that should never be expected or desired.*”
- Common among academics, like **Seth Schwartz** or **Christopher Salas-Wright**, to argue that the assimilation of immigrants is not desirable, as it reduces their physical and mental health.
- Big shift away from concerns about social cohesion of America to a focus on the immigrant and his satisfaction.

Figure 11. Preference for income redistribution in the U.S. & Europe



Source: General Social Service and European Social Survey, forthcoming CIS report.

Conclusion

- **Current level of immigration is unprecedented.**
- **Recent decline in education is worrisome.**
- **Immigration creates economic winners & losers**
 - **Winners: owners of capital, consumers, immigrants**
 - **Losers: Less-educated workers & taxpayers**
- **Assimilation is debated**
 - **Has very long-term cultural impacts**