

Linking Immigration and Economic Development in the Pioneer Valley

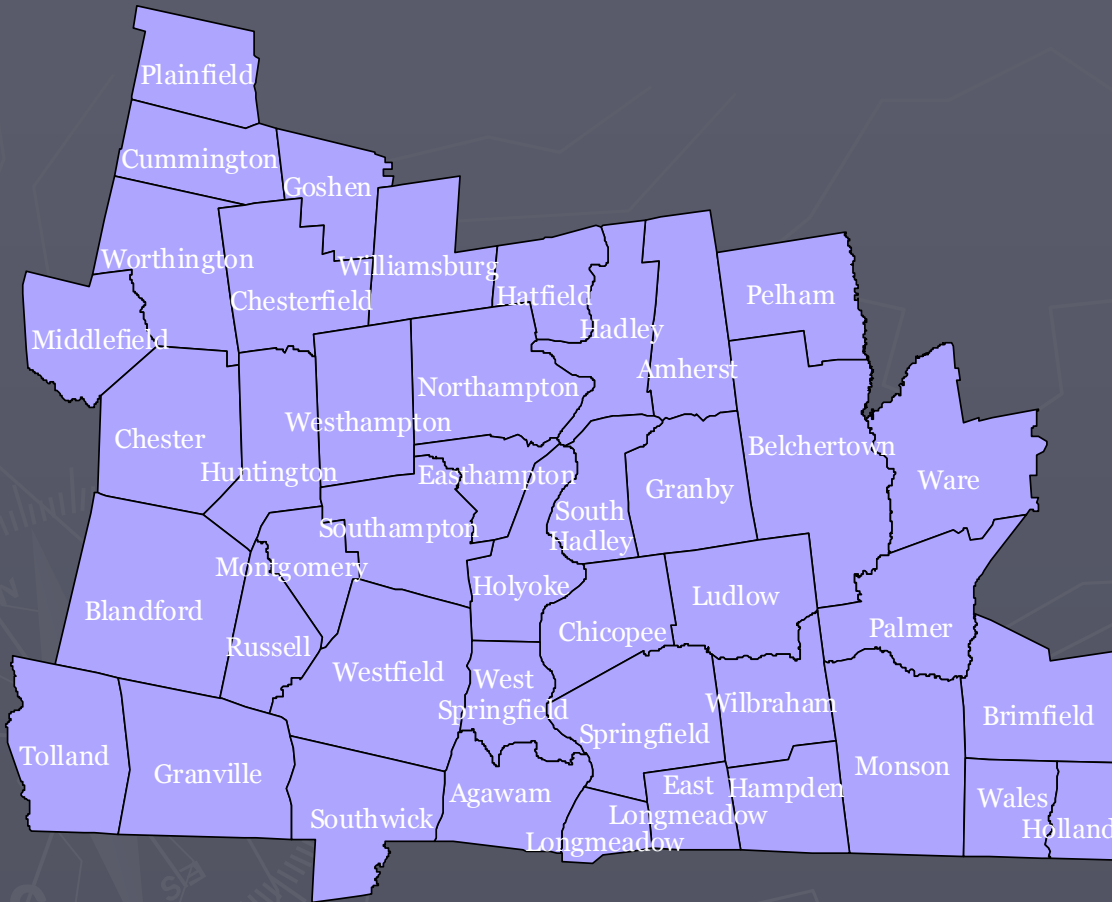
A Presentation to the
*Building Community Capacity to Serve Refugees and Immigrants
Conference*

November 5, 2003

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Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

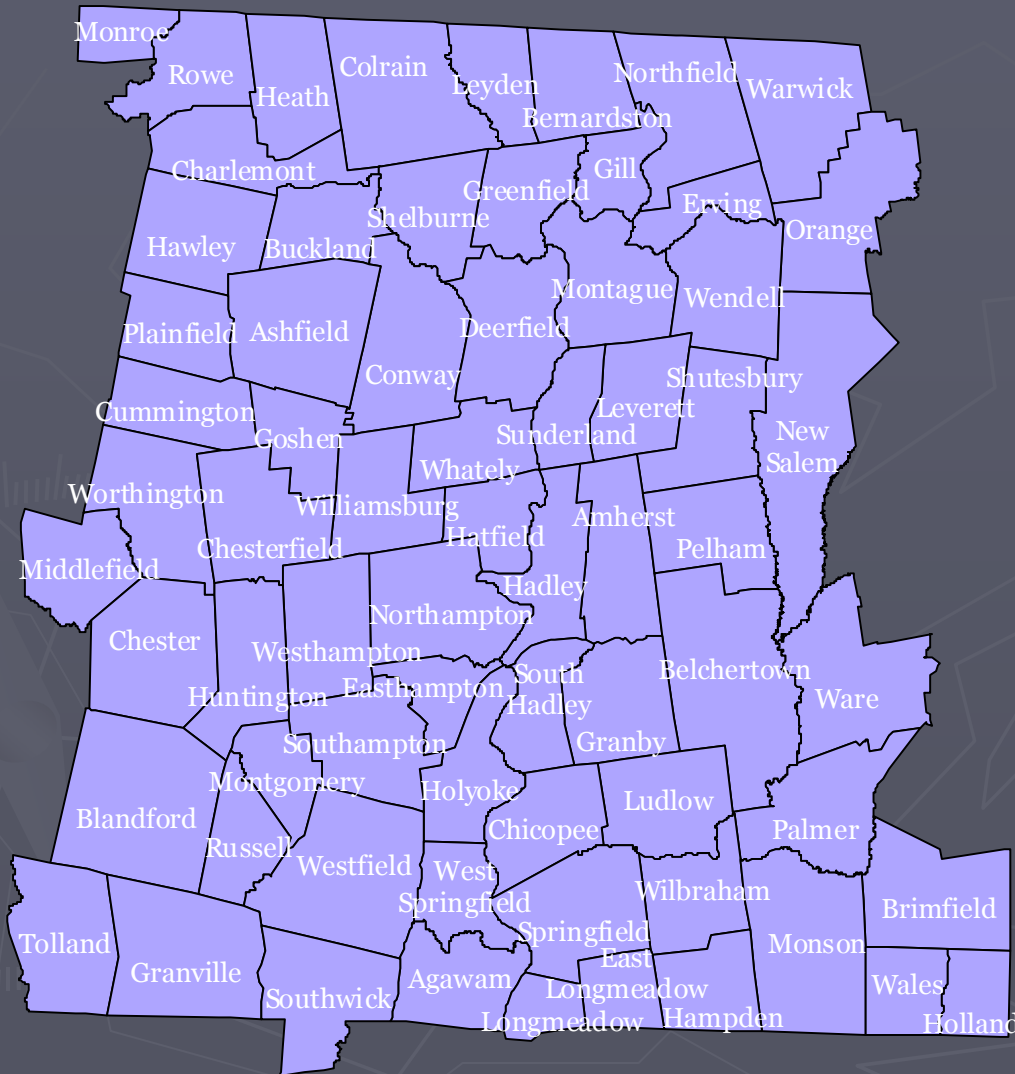


Pioneer Valley Planning Commission



- ▶ Planning for the Place we call Home
- ▶ Since 1962
- ▶ 43 cities and towns
- ▶ Population of 608,479 (2000)
612,515 (2002)
- ▶ 1,179 square miles

The Pioneer Valley Plan for Progress

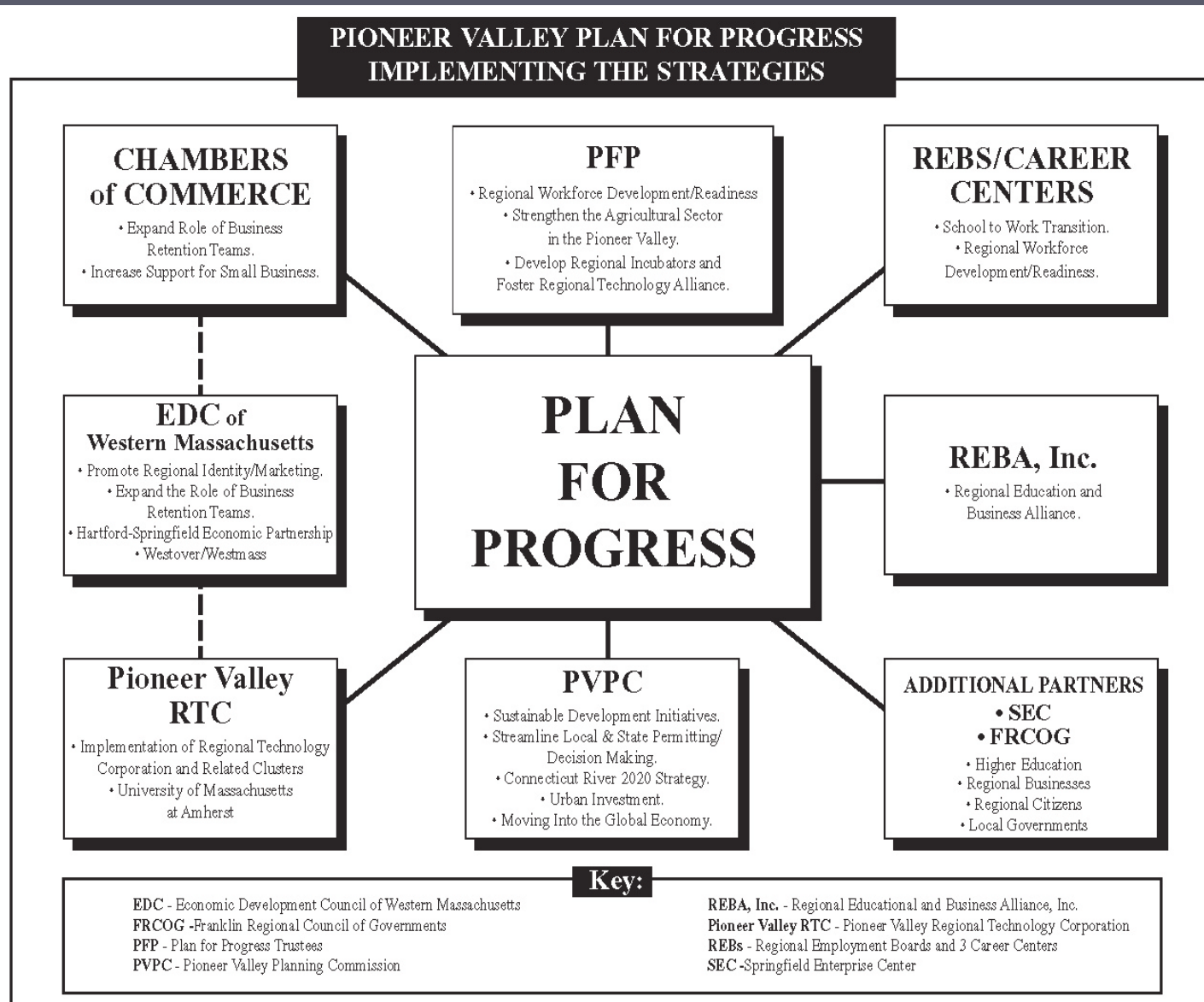


- ▶ Regional economic development roadmap
- ▶ 1994 release
- ▶ Two dozen partners from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors
- ▶ New edition for 2004

Building Blocks of the Plan for Progress

- ▶ Regional Technology Alliance and support for regional business incubators
- ▶ Expand the role of business retention teams
- ▶ Connecticut River 2020 strategy
- ▶ Pursue regional marketing campaign
- ▶ Urban investment
- ▶ Expand regional tourism efforts
- ▶ Regional Education and Business Alliance
- ▶ Leverage Massachusetts-Connecticut Cross-Border partnership
- ▶ Workforce development
- ▶ Promote regional identity
- ▶ Sustain support for small business and entrepreneurial efforts
- ▶ Strengthen the agricultural sector in the Pioneer Valley

Implementing the Plan for Progress

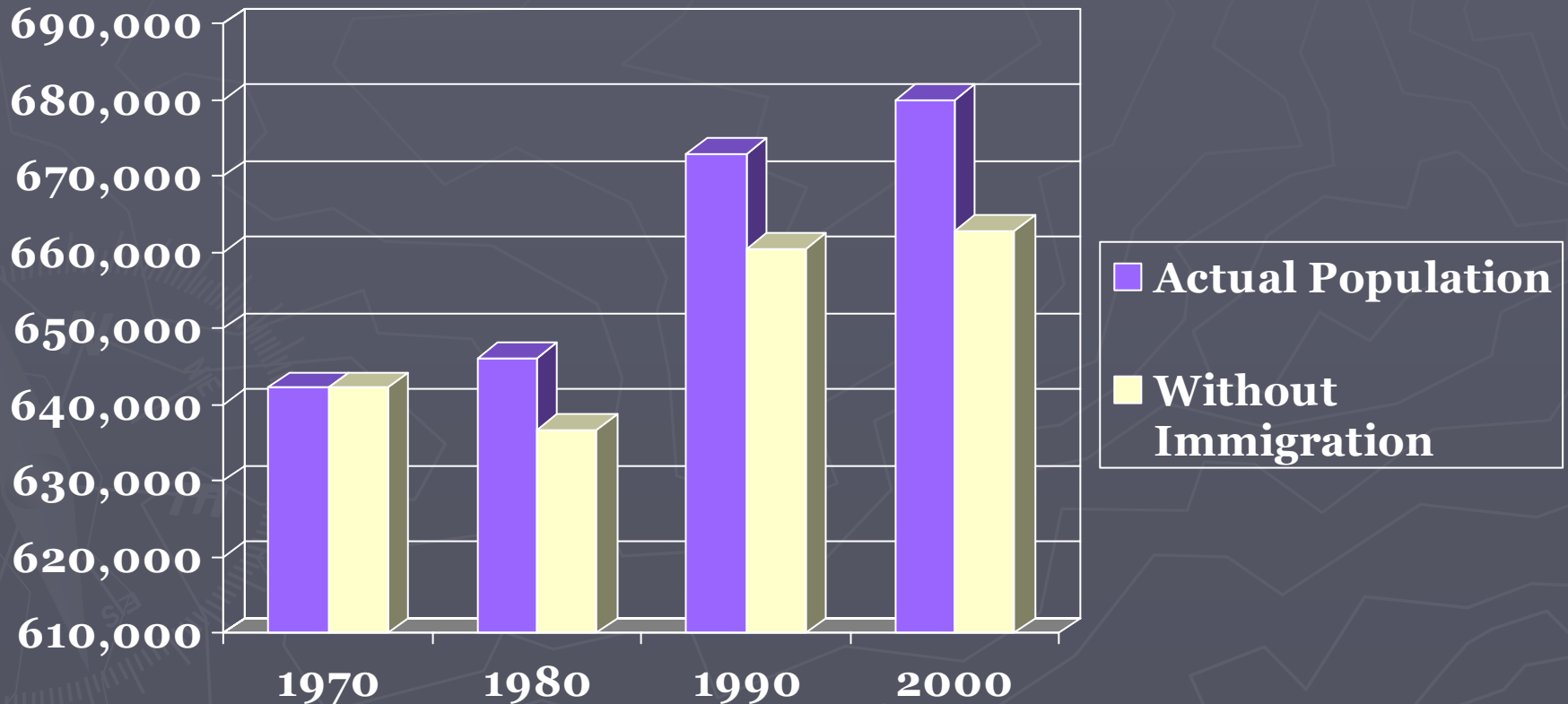


Why do immigrants matter to economic development?

- ▶ A capable and willing *WORKFORCE* is the best engine for economic growth
 - Businesses cannot stay in a shrinking region and our region is only growing with immigrants
 - Employers need entry-level, but productive, workers
- ▶ Immigrants are a vital part of the region's human capital – creativity, entrepreneurship, and innovation

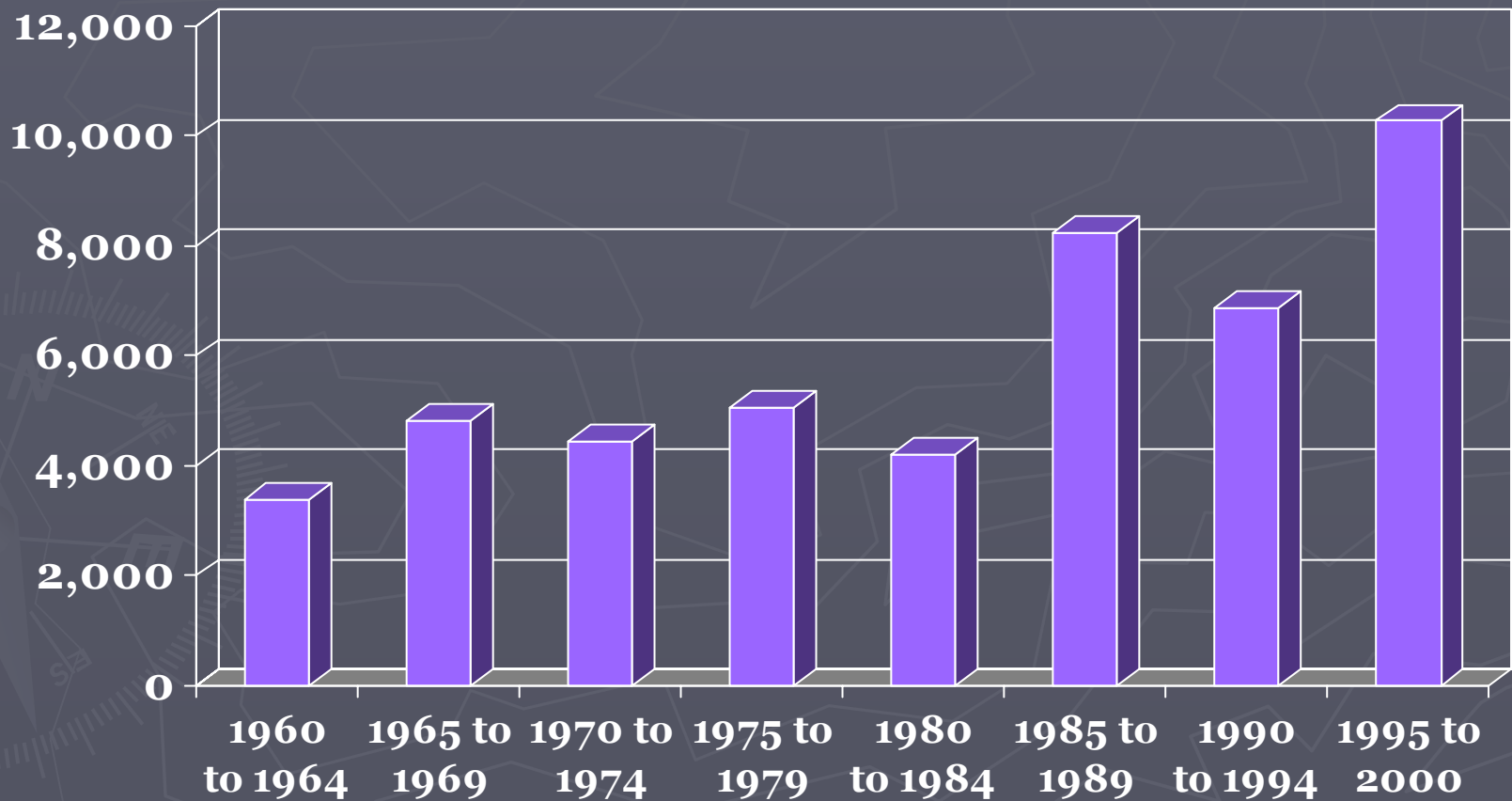
A Growing Population (thanks to Immigration)

Population Growth in the Pioneer Valley, 1970-2000



Rising Numbers of Immigrants

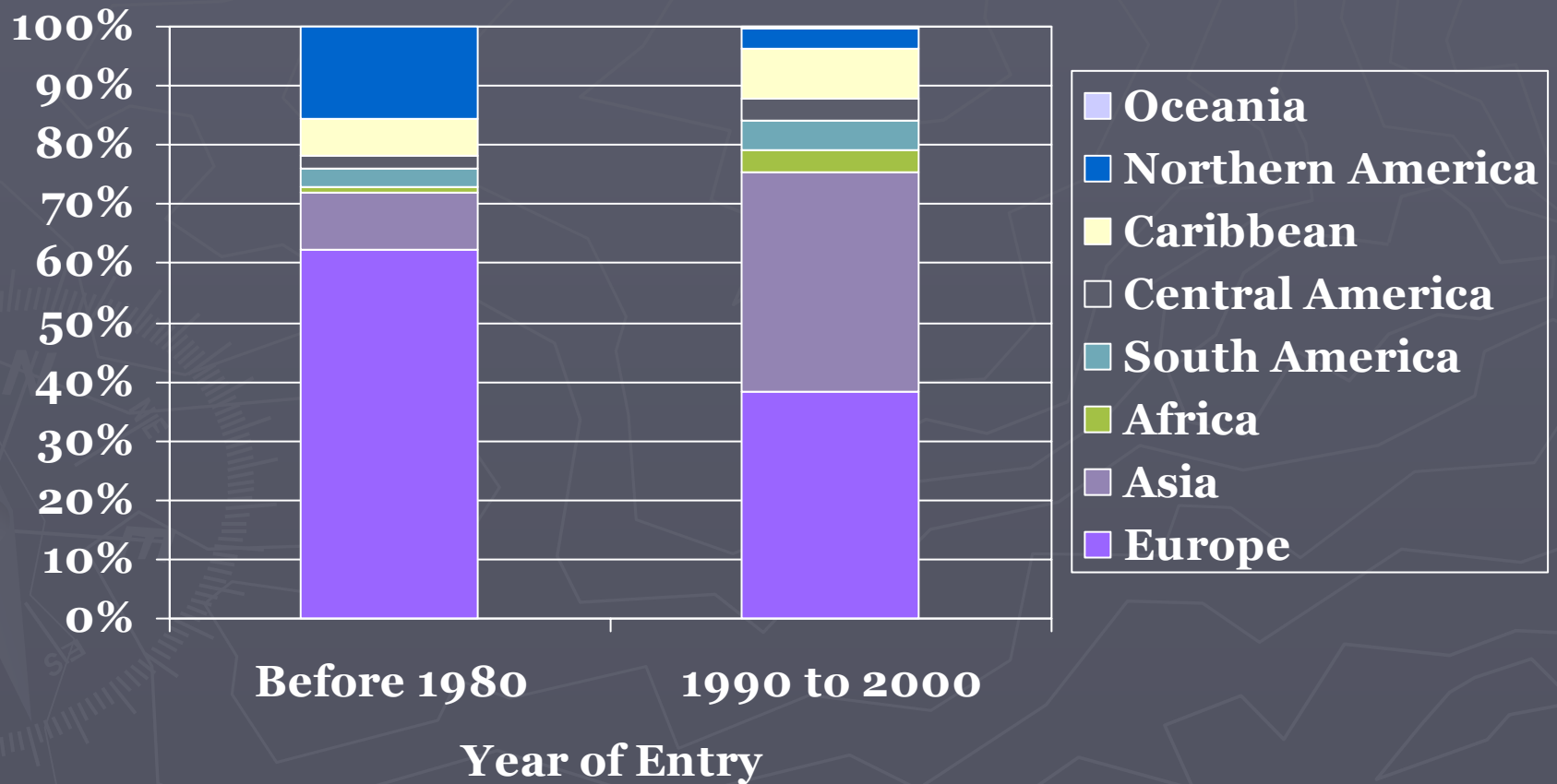
Foreign-Born Persons in the Pioneer Valley by Year of Entry



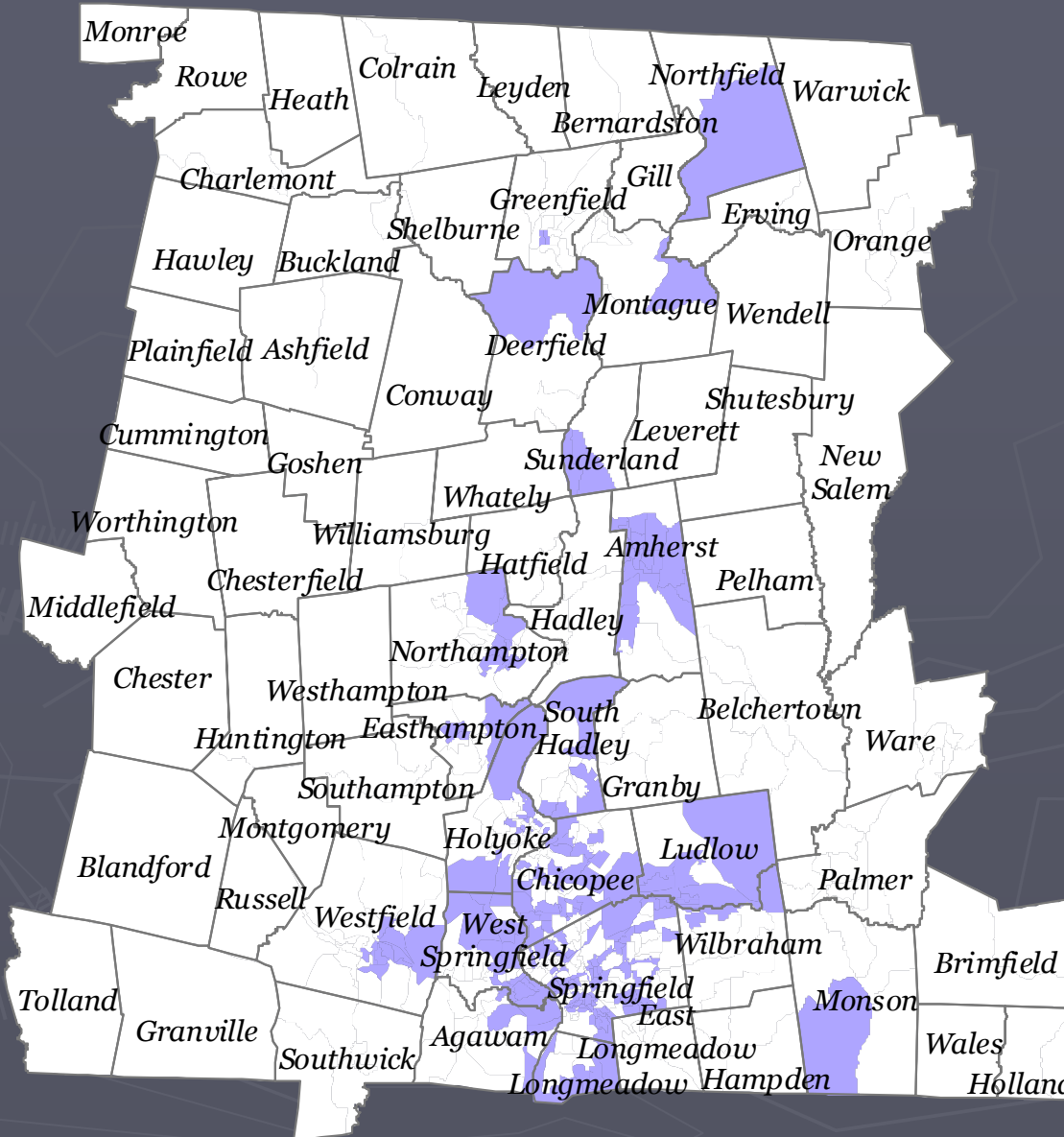
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1980, 1990, and 2000 Decennial Census'

Origins of Immigrants are Changing

Place of Birth for the Foreign-Born Population of the Pioneer Valley
by Year of Entry



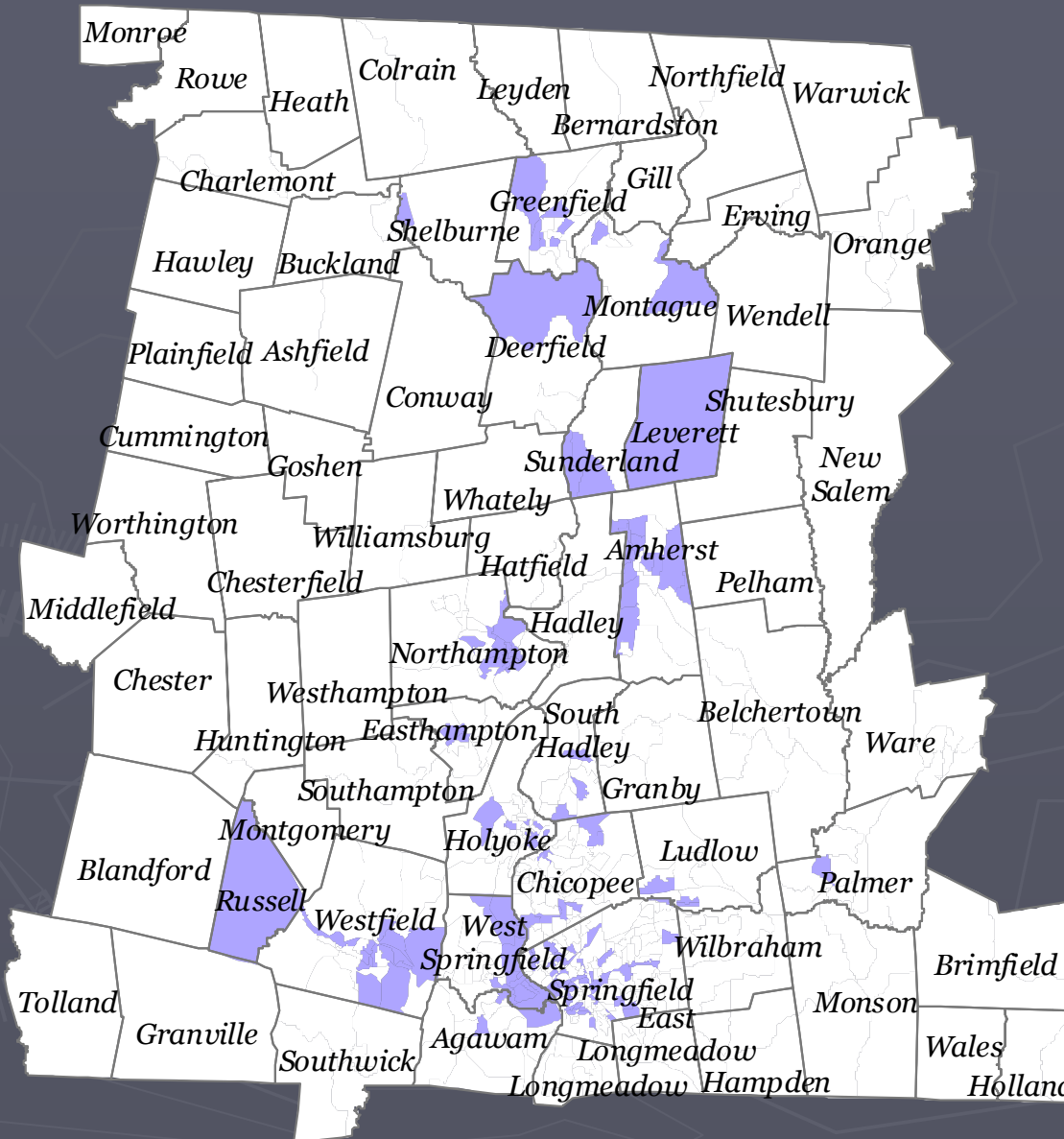
Concentrations of Immigrants



Neighborhoods with a higher percentage of the population that is foreign-born than the regional average (6.7%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census

Concentrations of NEW Immigrants

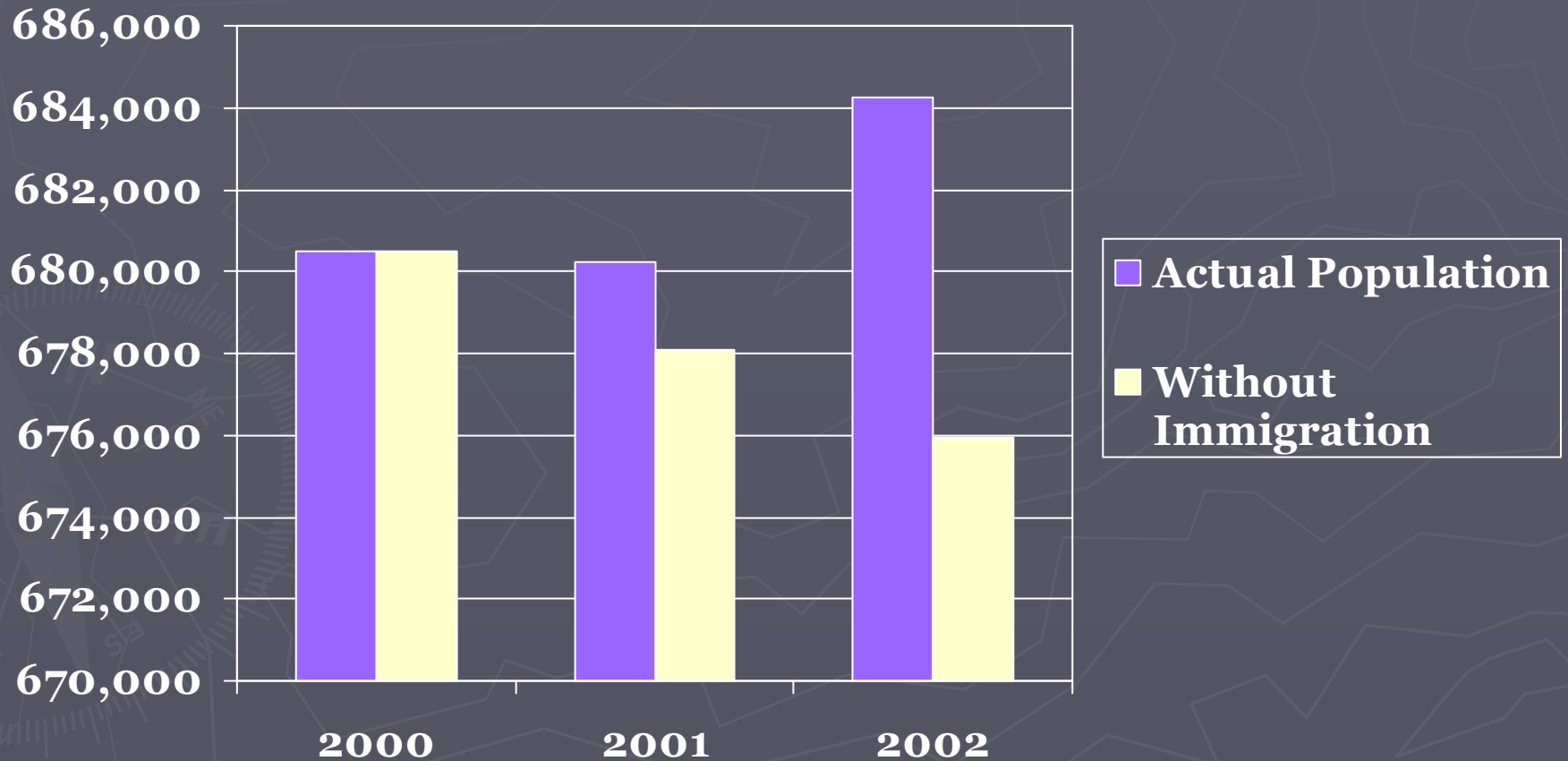


Neighborhoods with a higher percentage of the population that immigrated between 1995 and 2000 than the regional average (1.5%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census

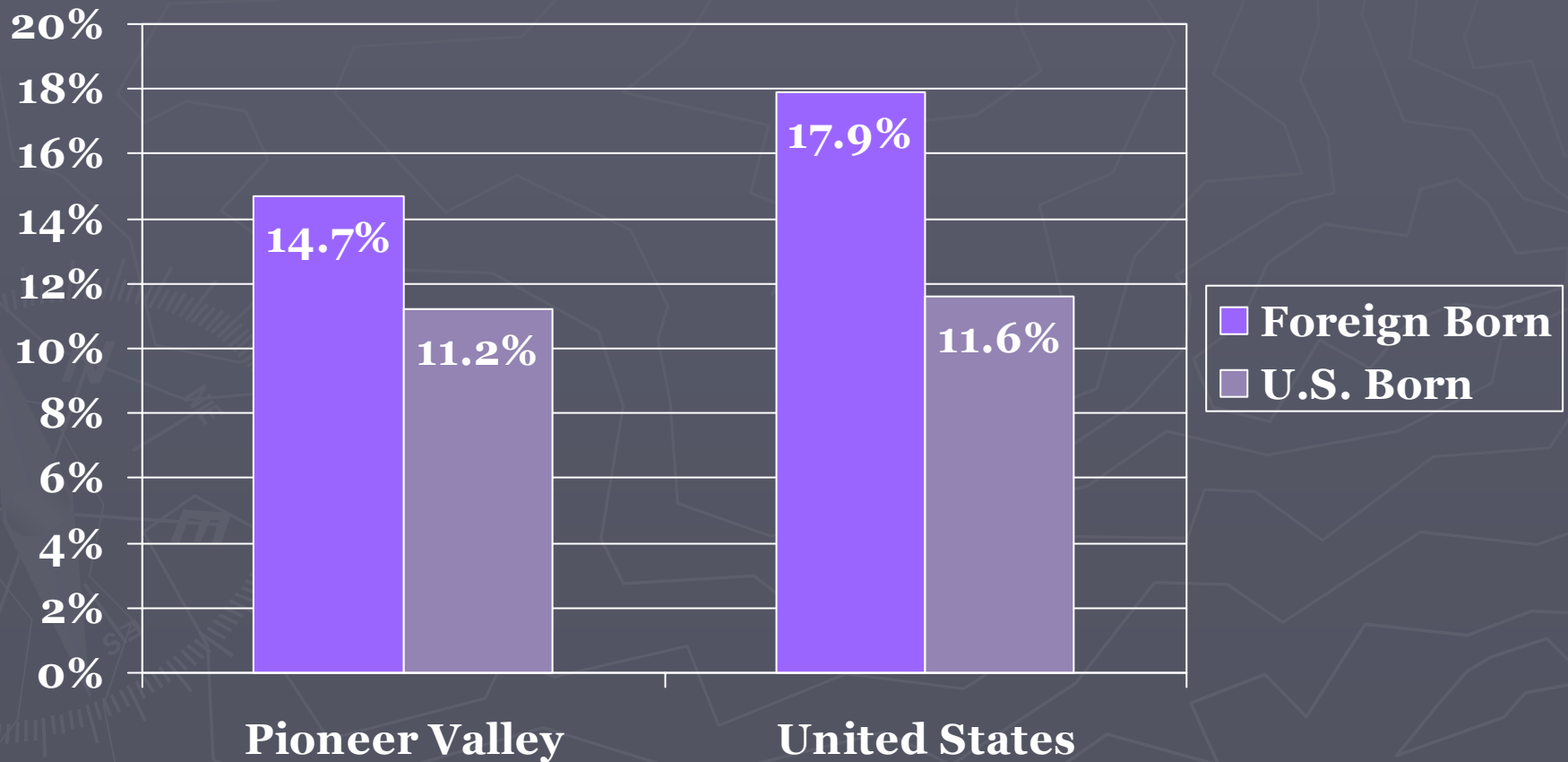
Population Still Growing (still thanks to immigration)

Population Growth in the Pioneer Valley from 2000 to 2002



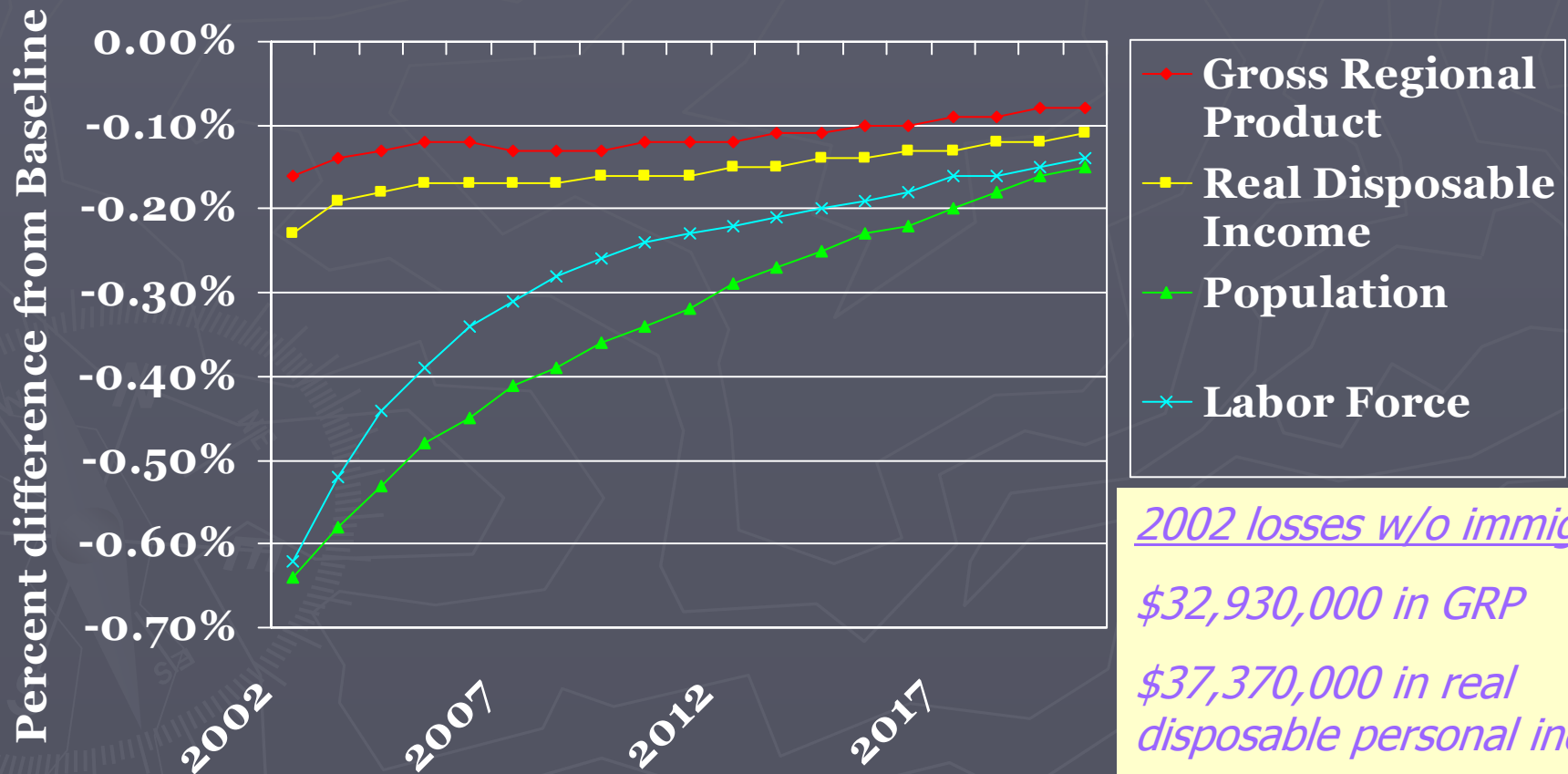
Economic Strains of Immigration?

Poverty Rates of the Foreign-Born and U.S. Born Populations of the U.S. and the Pioneer Valley



An Economy without Recent Immigrants

Hypothetical Economic and Demographic Impact if NO Immigrants Arrived in the Pioneer Valley between 2000 and 2002



2002 losses w/o immigrants:

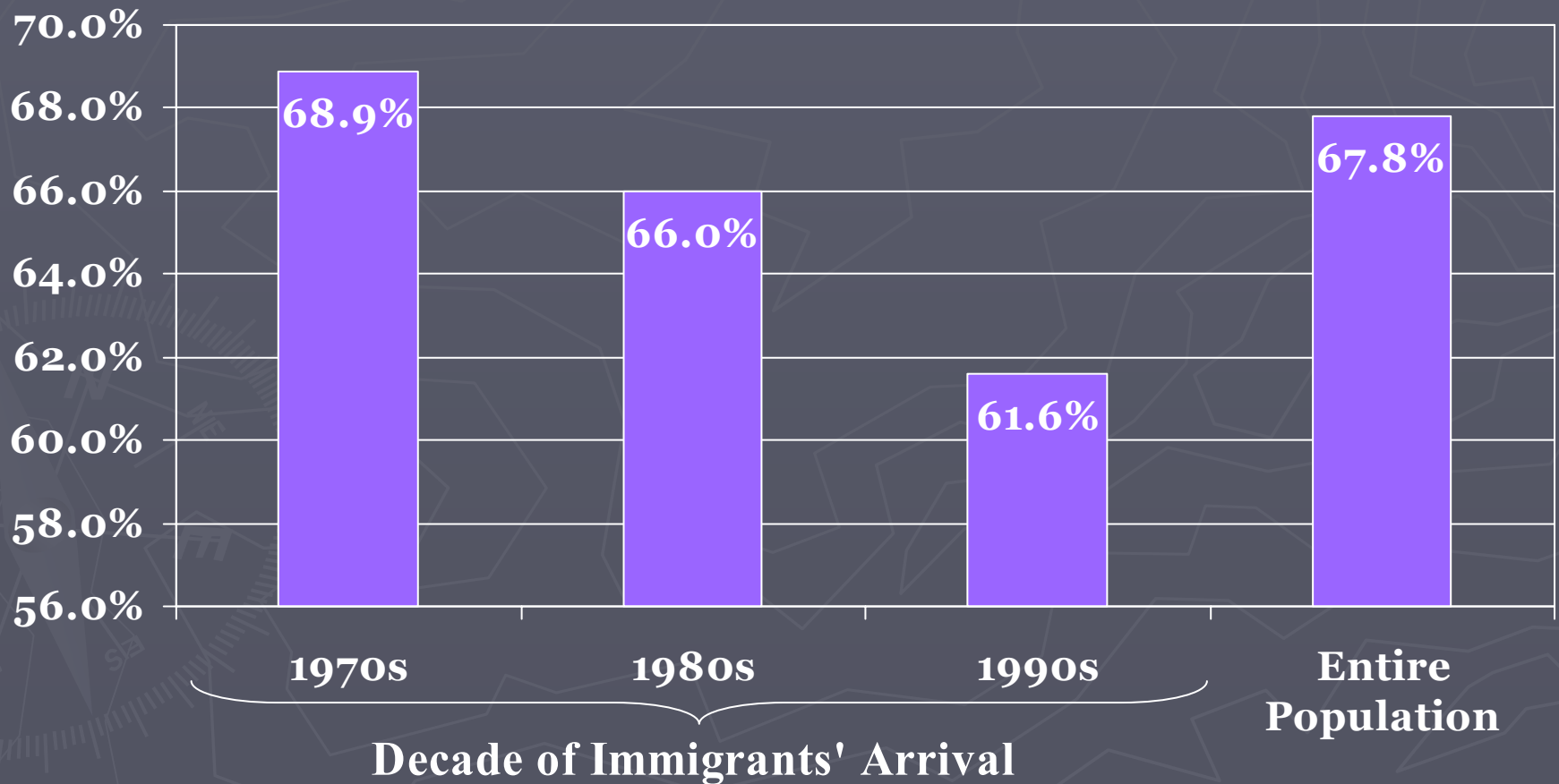
\$32,930,000 in GRP

*\$37,370,000 in real
disposable personal income*

*2,165 people in the labor
force*

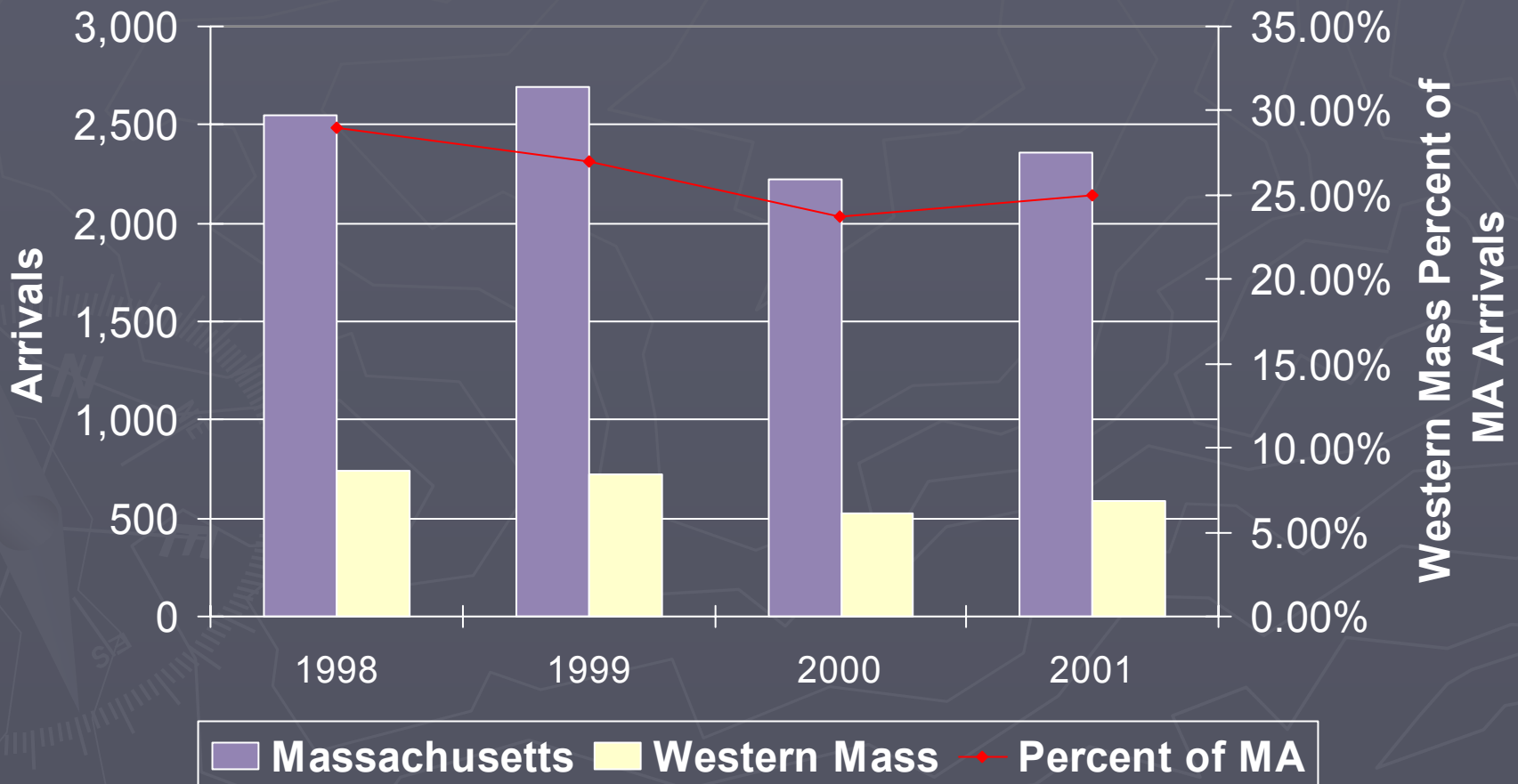
Willing Workers (Takes Time)

Labor Force Participation Rates in Western Massachusetts for the Entire Population and for Immigrants by Decade of Arrival



Refugees in Western Massachusetts

Refugee Arrivals to Western Mass in Comparison to the State
Western Mass was only 10.7% of the State's Population in 2000



Sources of Refugees

Country of Origin for 2001 Refugee Arrivals to the Springfield MSA

