

Who Works on U.S. Farms: Findings from the National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS)

Workforce Innovations

16 July 2008

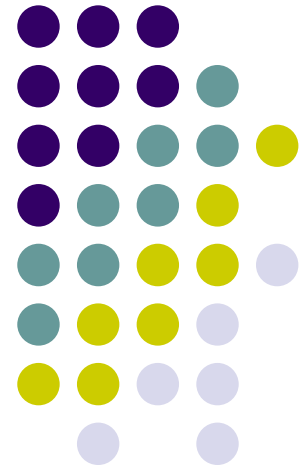
New Orleans, LA

Russell Saltz

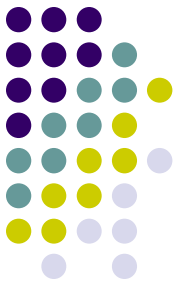
U.S. Department of Labor

Daniel Carroll

U.S. Department of Labor

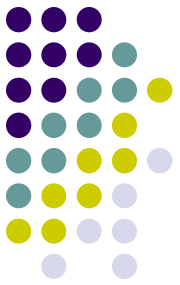


Overview



- Background
- Current Demographics and Employment Characteristics (2005 – 2007)
- Trends Across Time
- Public Use Dataset
- Points to Take Home

Main Points



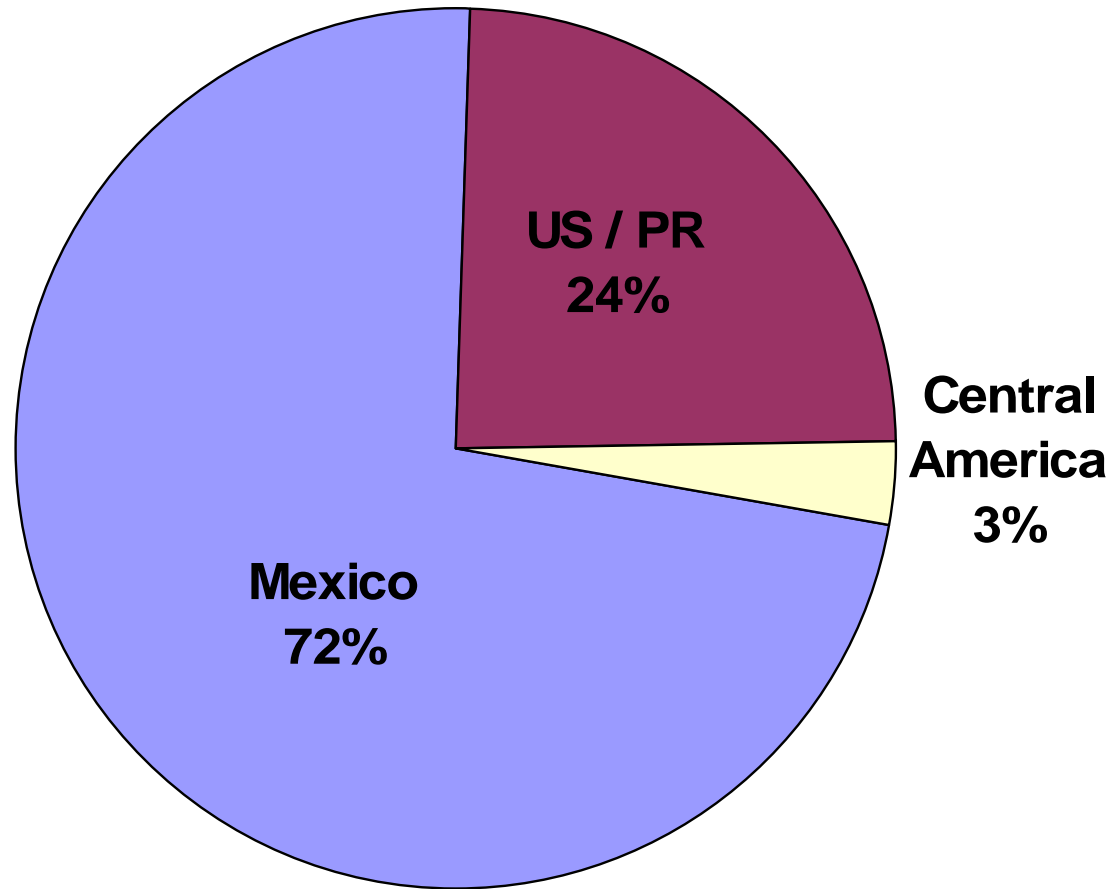
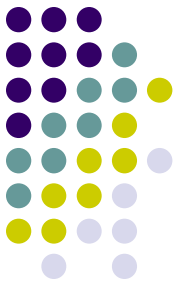
- These are the three things we hope you will get out of this presentation.
 - 1) Most crop workers are foreign born.
 - 2) The share of workers who migrate has decreased over the last 20 years.
 - 3) The crop labor force is heterogeneous on many characteristics, most notably education, native language, and English reading and speaking proficiency.

Background

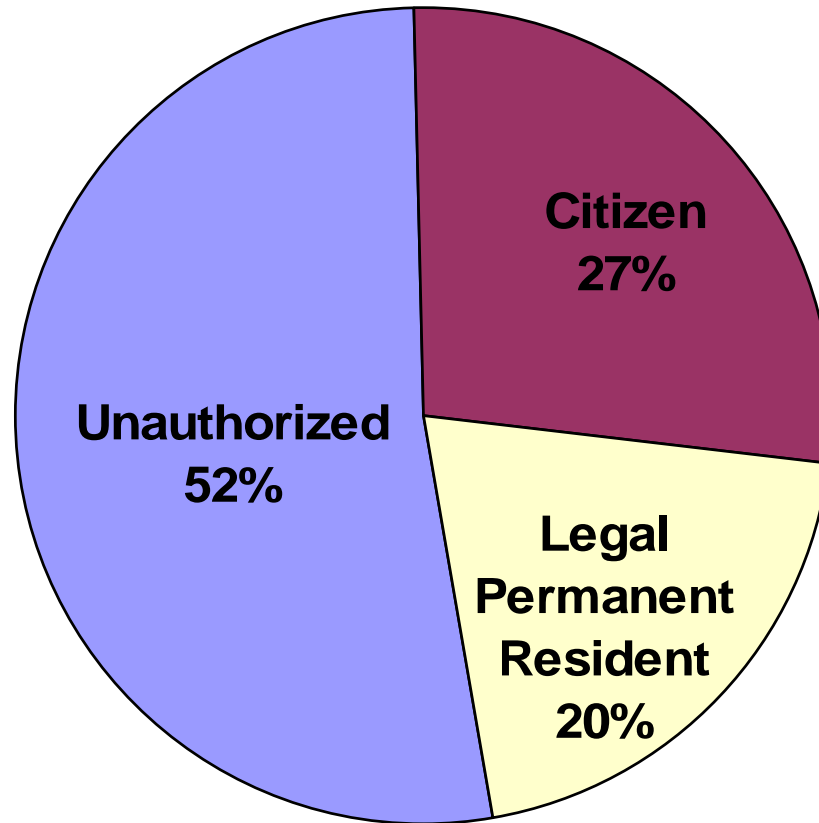
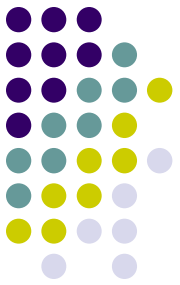


- NAWS is a national random survey of hired crop farm workers.
- It collects demographic, employment, and health information directly from farm workers through face-to-face interviews.
- Currently in the 20th year of data collection.
- Sample size for FY 2008 is 2,200 interviews.
- Since 1988, more than 50,000 hired crop workers have been interviewed.

Current Demographics - Place of Birth (2005 – 2007)



Current Demographics - Legal Status (2005 – 2007)

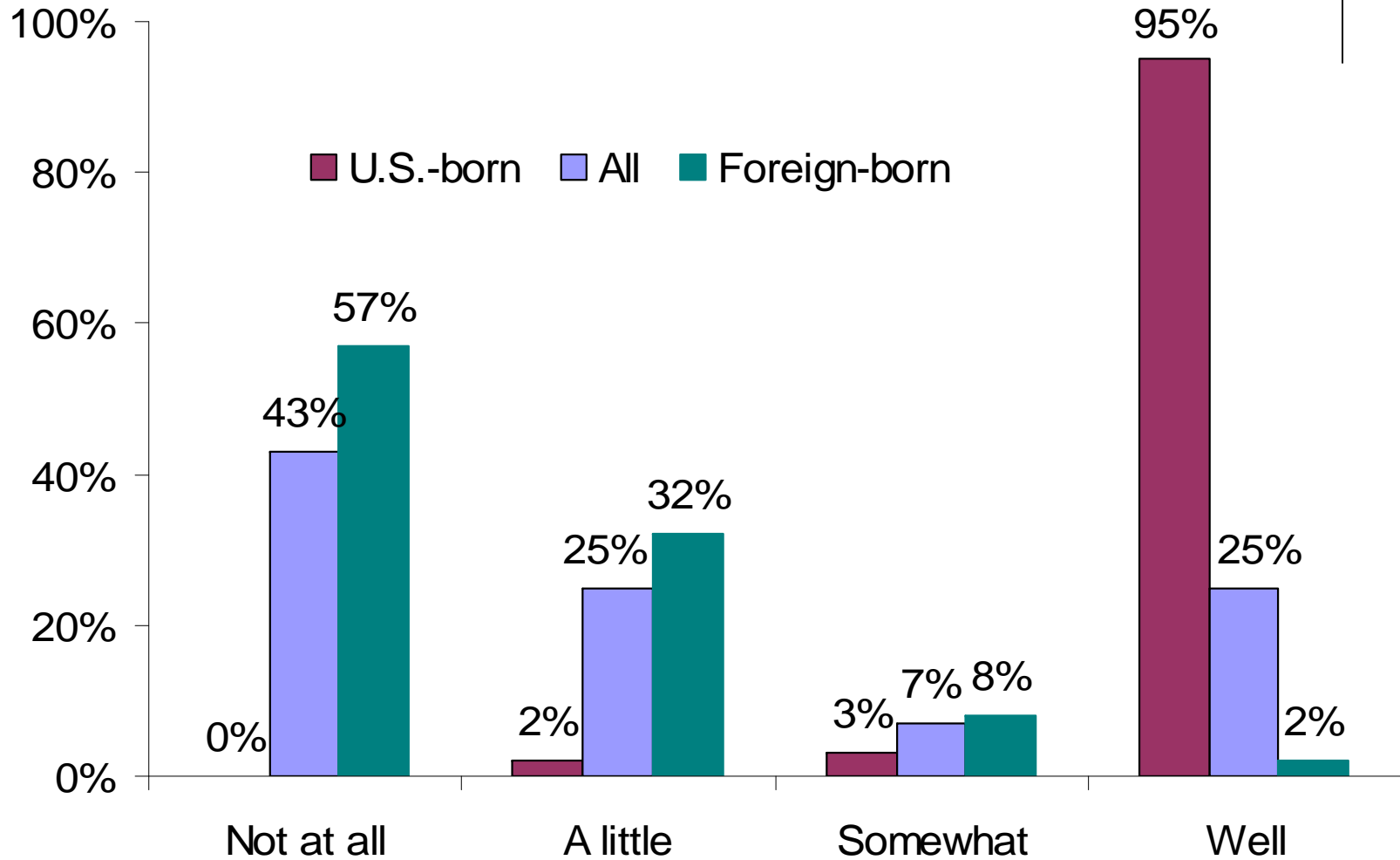
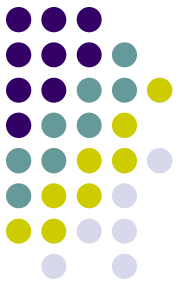


Current Demographics (2005 – 2007)

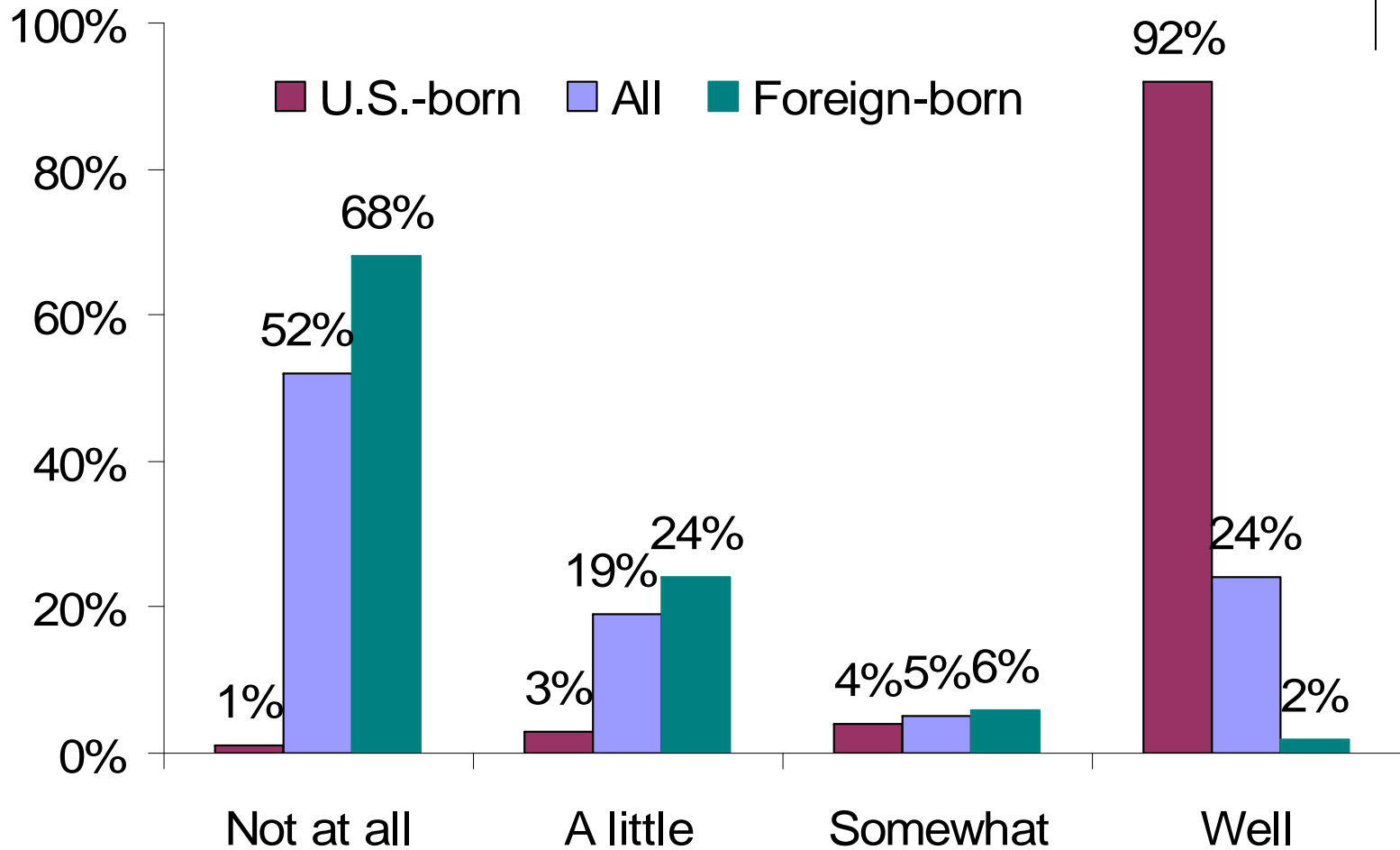
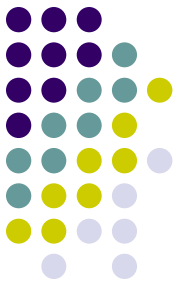


- Average age: 35
- Male: 79%
- Average education: 8th grade
- Primary language Spanish: 76%
- Married/Living together: 59%
- Single: 36%
- Parents: 52%
- Thirty-one percent of those who were married or parents were not living with any nuclear family members at the time of interview (unaccompanied).

English Speaking Ability



English Reading Ability



Current Demographics & Employment Characteristics (2005 – 2007)



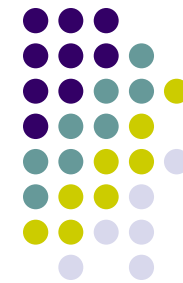
- Average personal income, all sources, was between \$12,500 and \$14,999
- Average family income, all sources, was between \$17,500 and \$19,999
- Income below poverty level: 28%
- Directly-hired: 86%
- Average no. years US farm work: 12 years
- Fourteen percent held a non farm job within the past 12 months
- Farm Job Crops:
 - Field: 14%
 - Fruit & Nut: 33%
 - Horticulture: 21%
 - Vegetables: 24%
 - Misc./Multiple: 9%

Trends Across Time

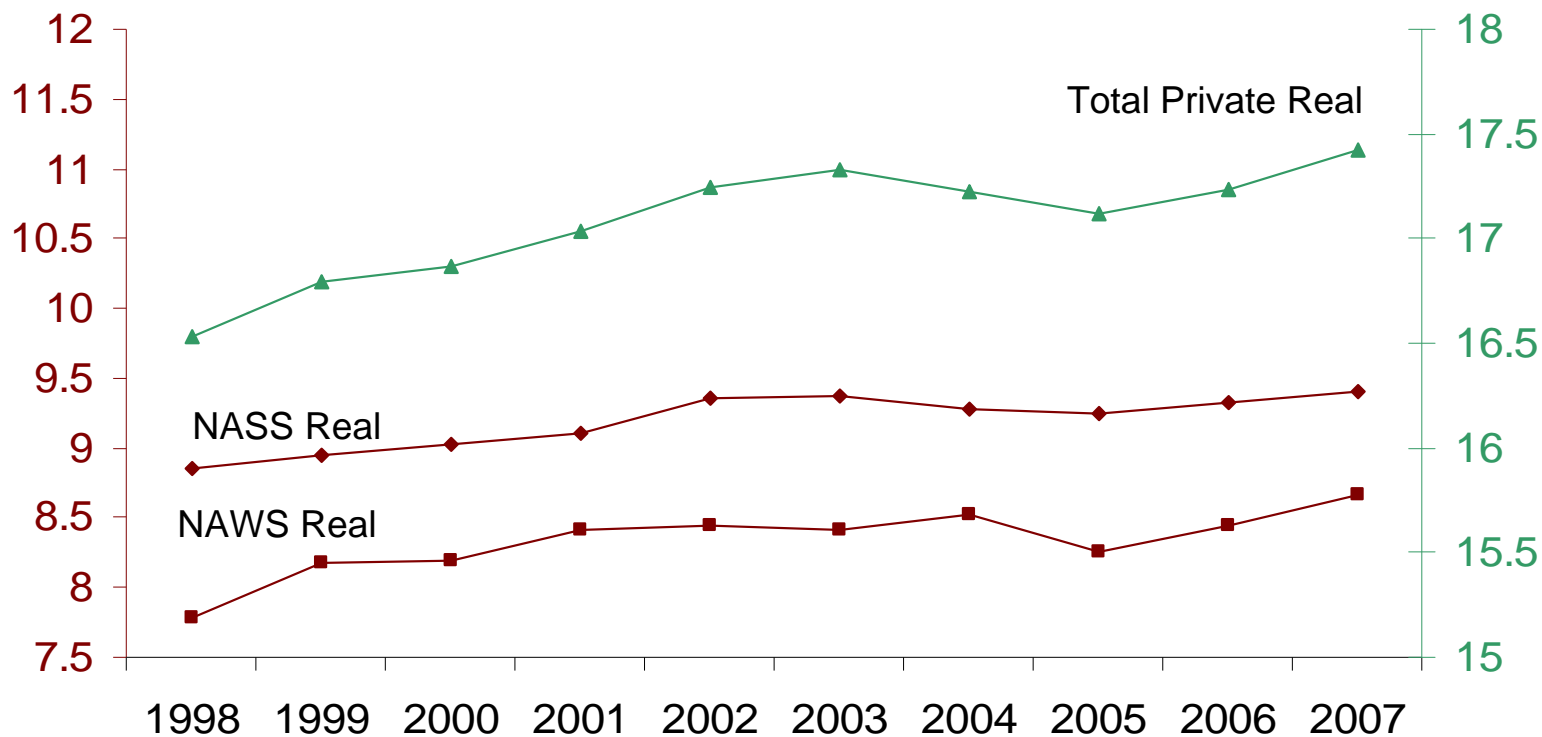


- 19 years are divided into six time periods:
 - 1989 – 1992
 - 1993 – 1995
 - 1996 – 1998
 - 1999 – 2001
 - 2002 – 2004
 - 2005 – 2007

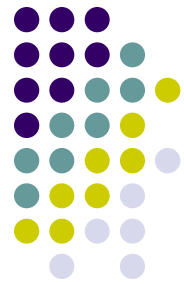
NASS, NAWS, & Total Private Average Hourly Earnings (Real), 1998 - 2007



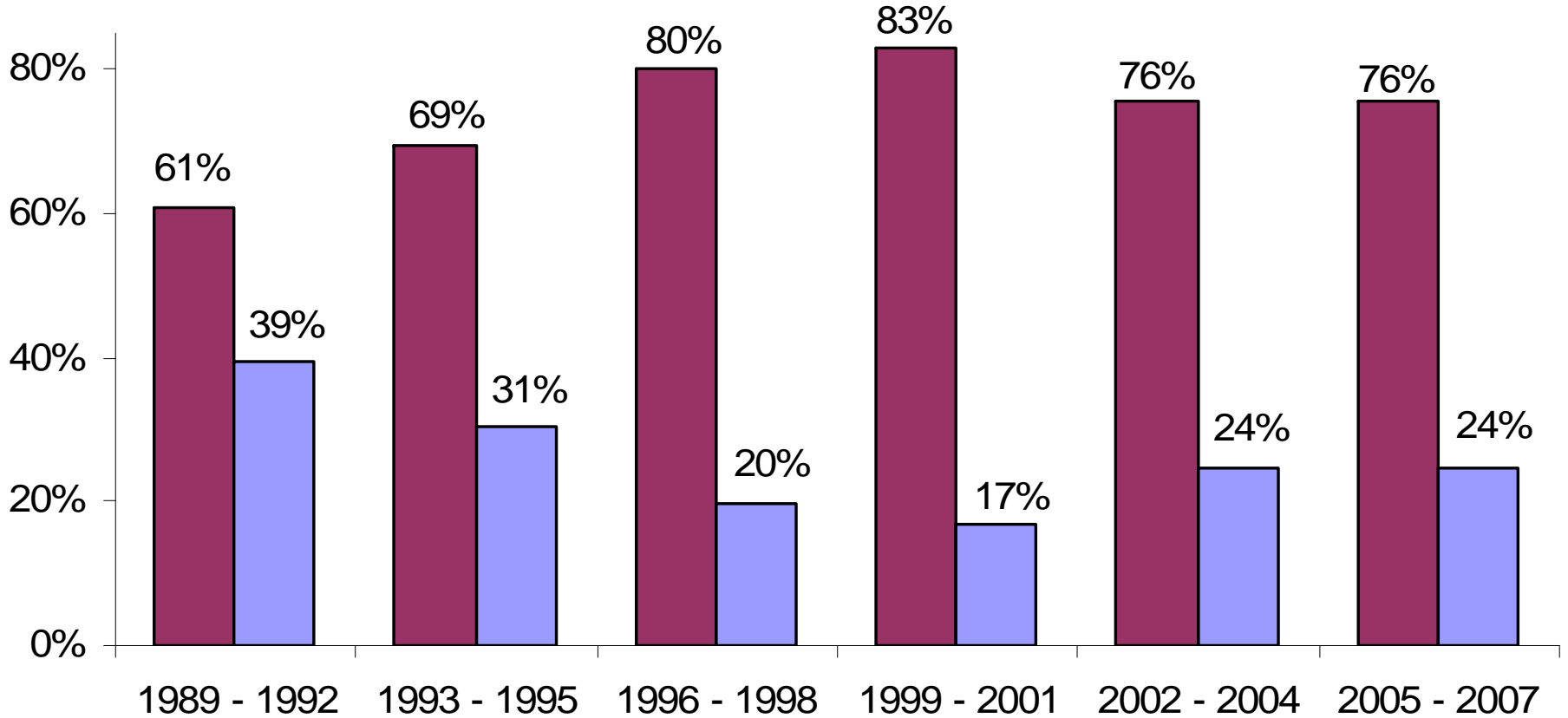
- On average, crop agriculture workers earn about half of total private earners.



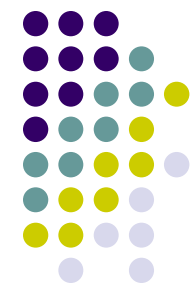
Place of Birth



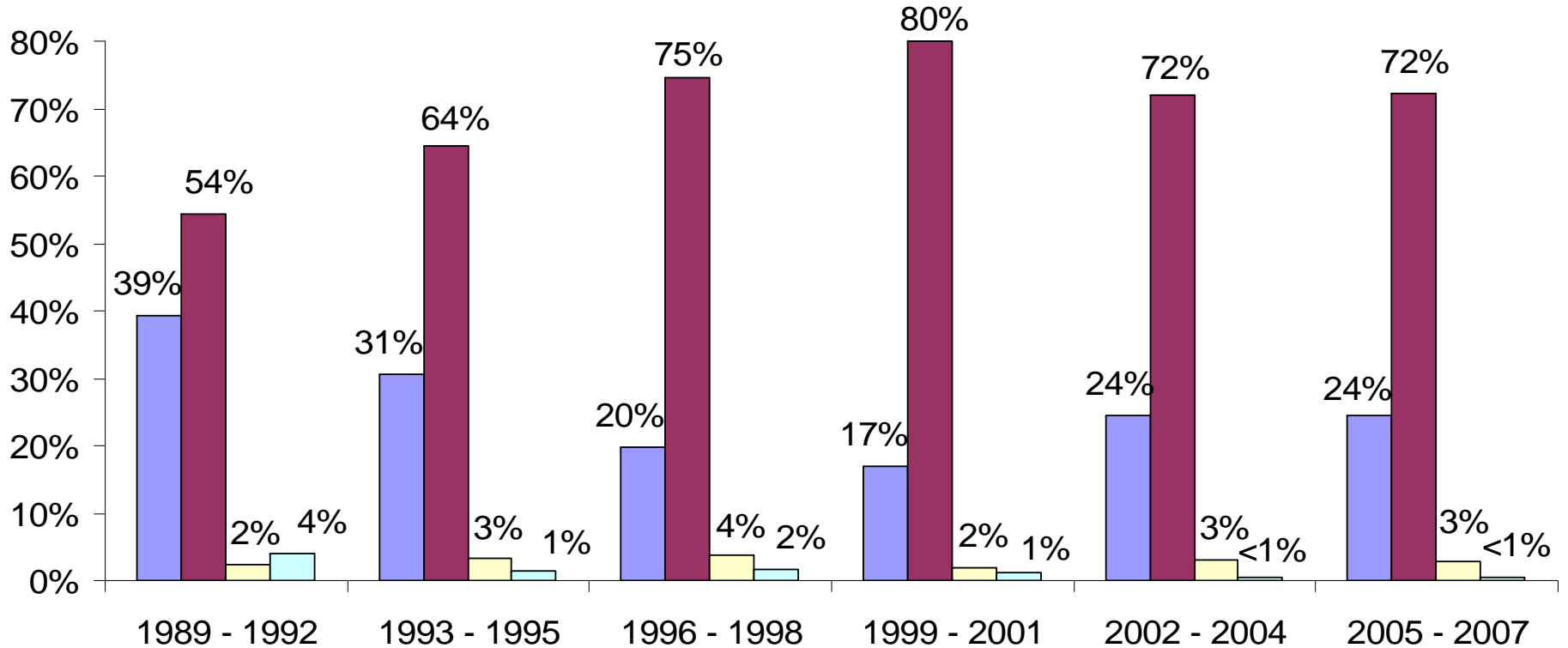
Foreign Born U.S. Born



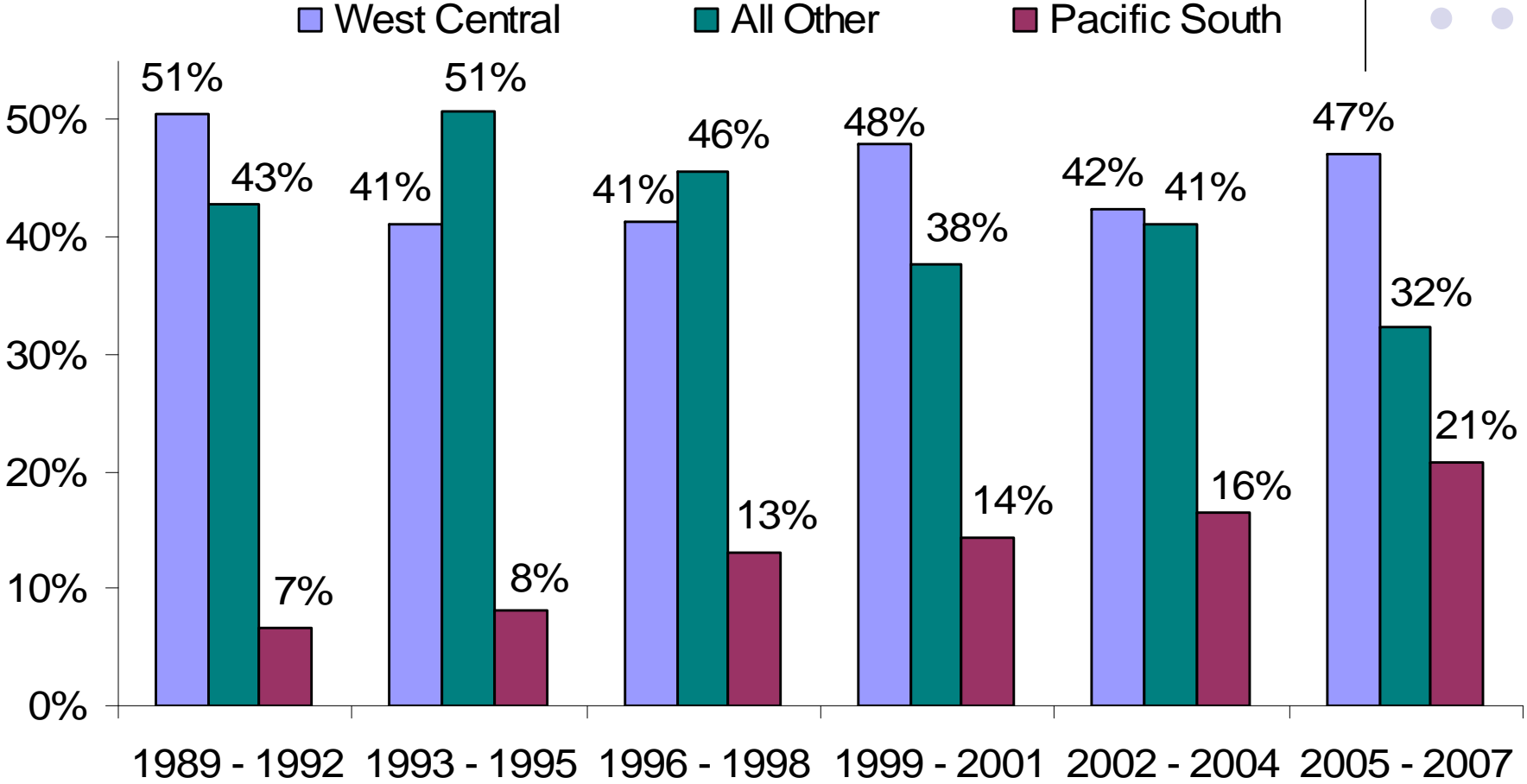
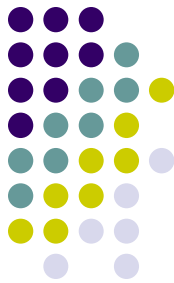
Place of Birth



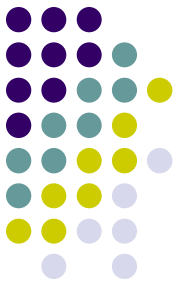
■ U.S. & P.R.
 ■ Mexico
 ■ Central America
 ■ Other



Mexico Sending Region

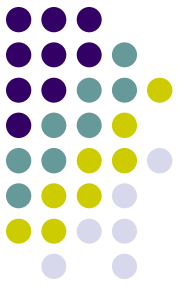


Mexico Sending Regions

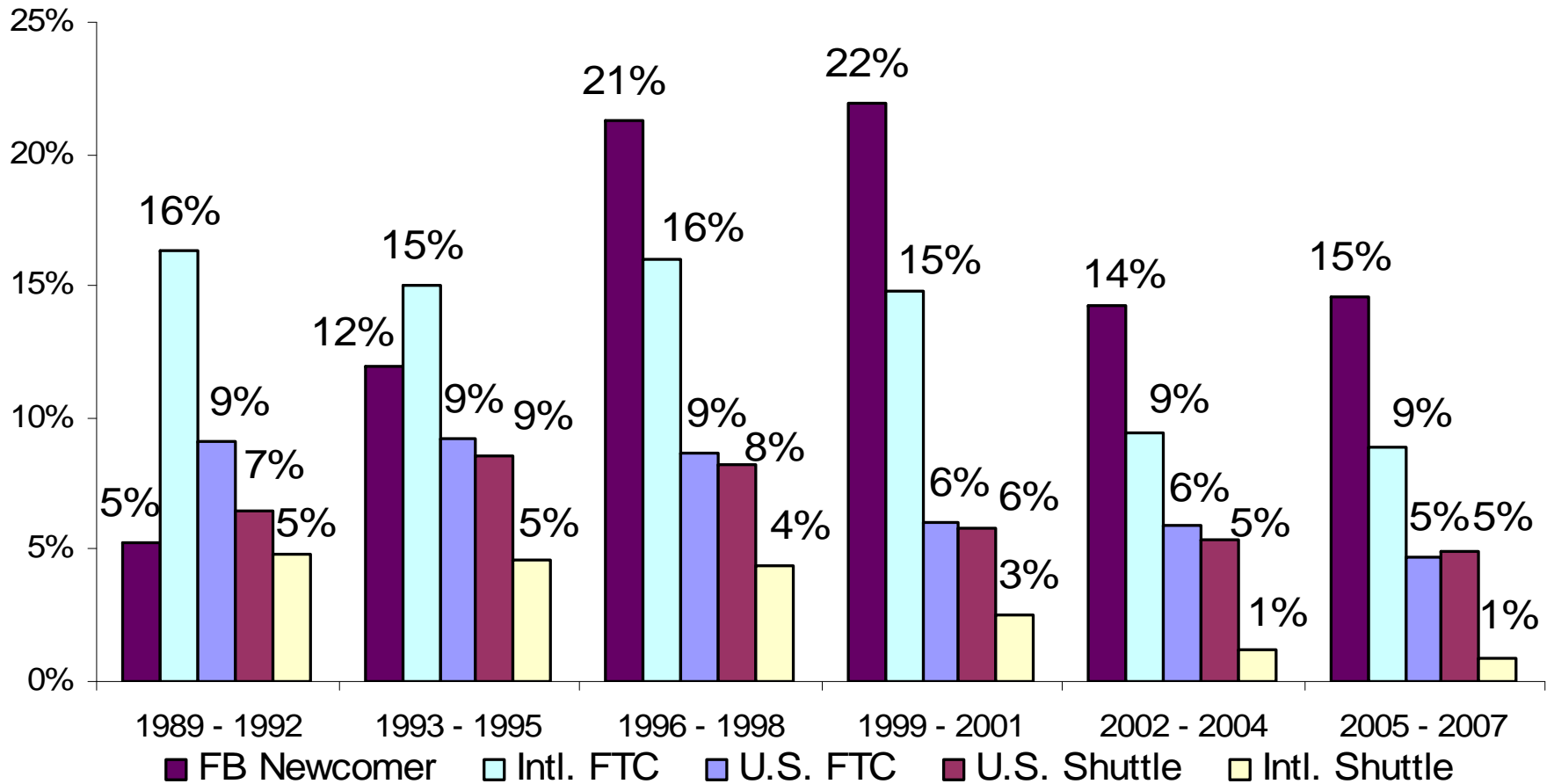


* Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Mexico_regional_map.png

Migrant Type

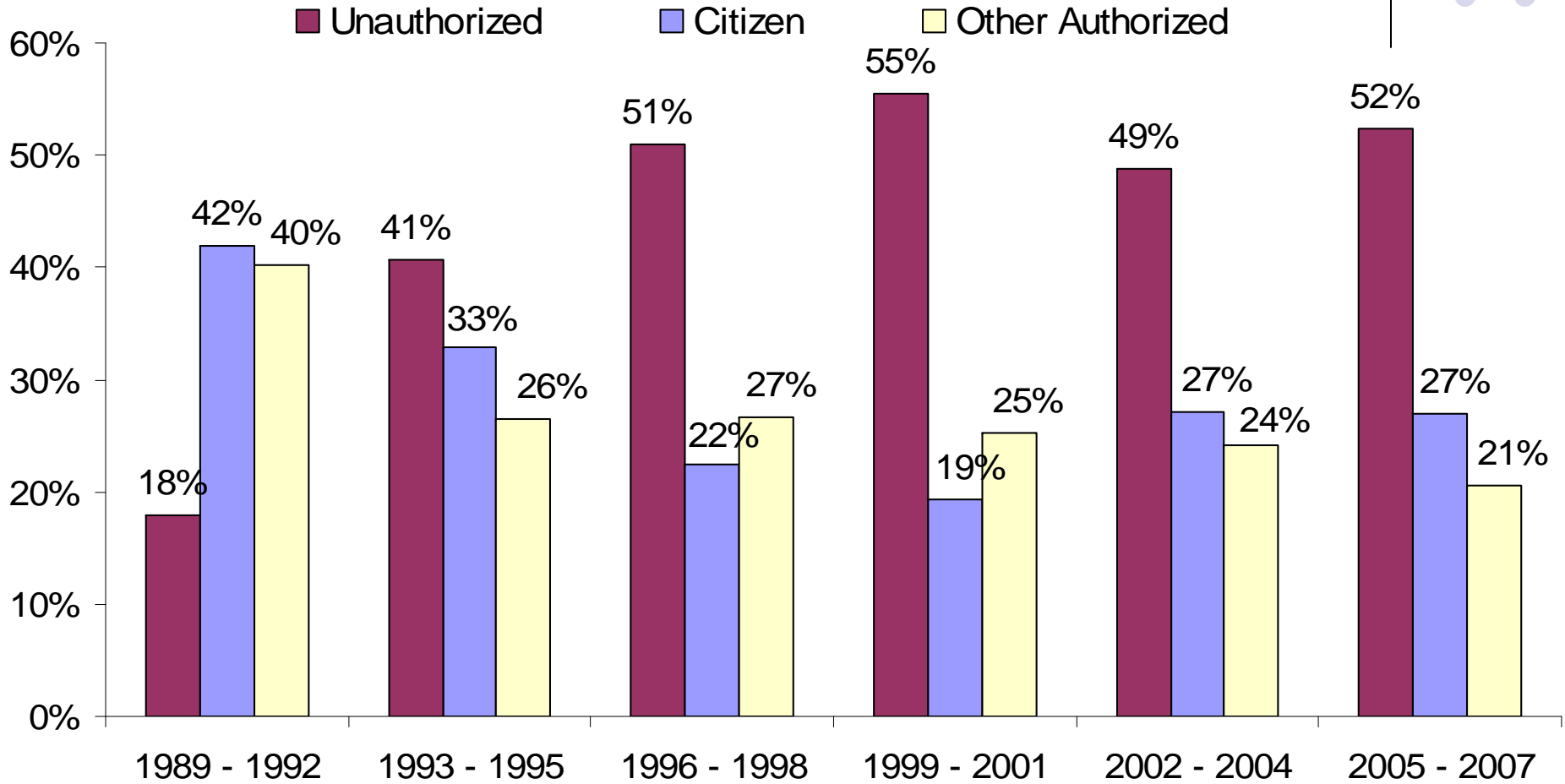
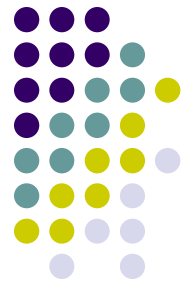


- Foreign born newcomers comprised five percent of U.S. crop workers in 1989-1992, compared to 22 percent in 1999-2001 and 15 percent in 2005-2007.
- Except for Foreign Born Newcomers, all other migrant types decreased across time.

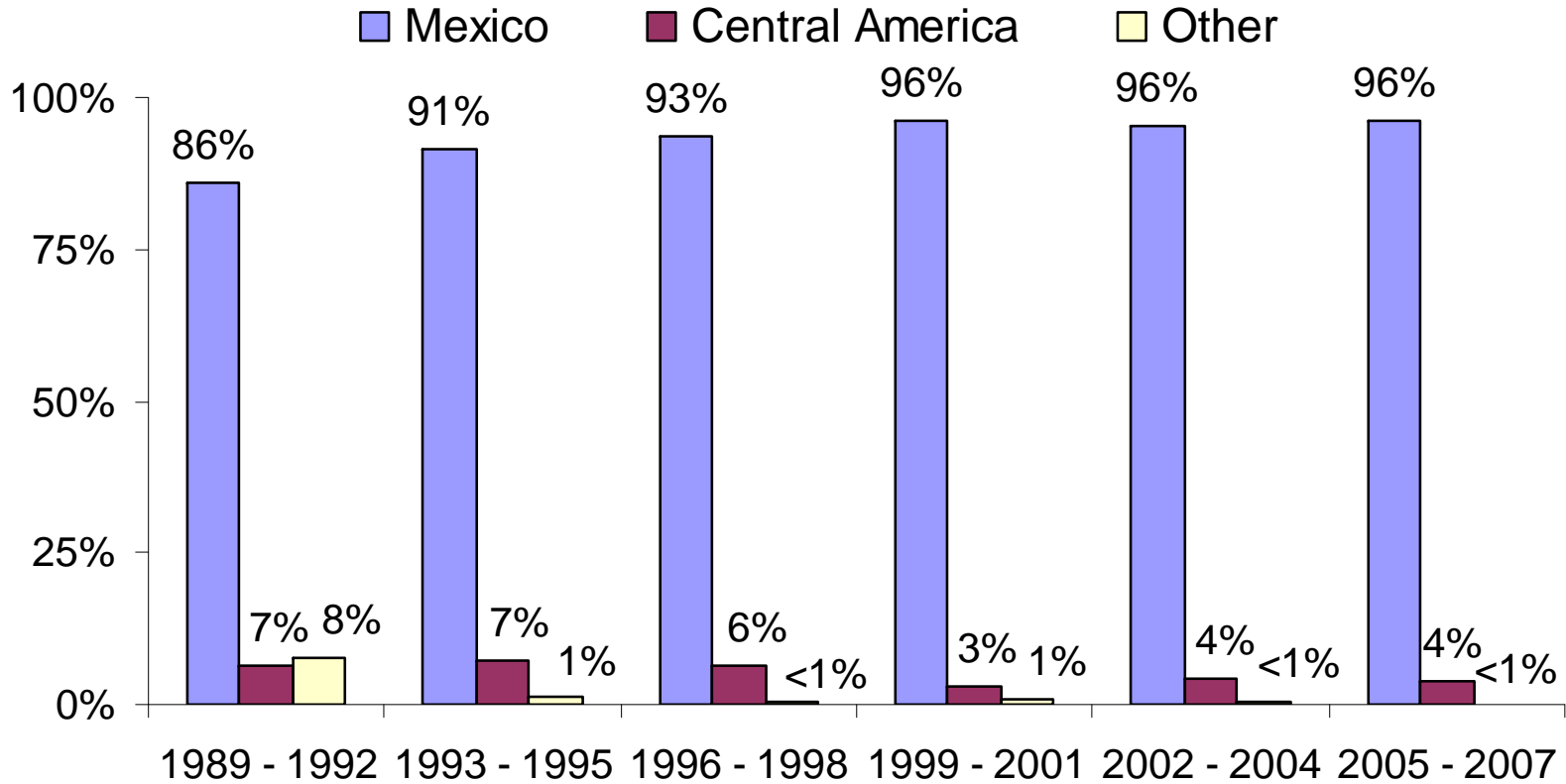
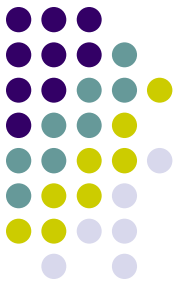


* Does not sum to 100%

Legal Status



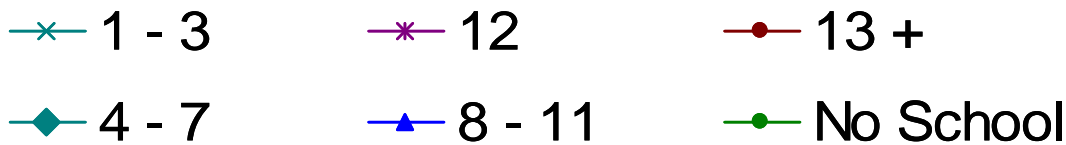
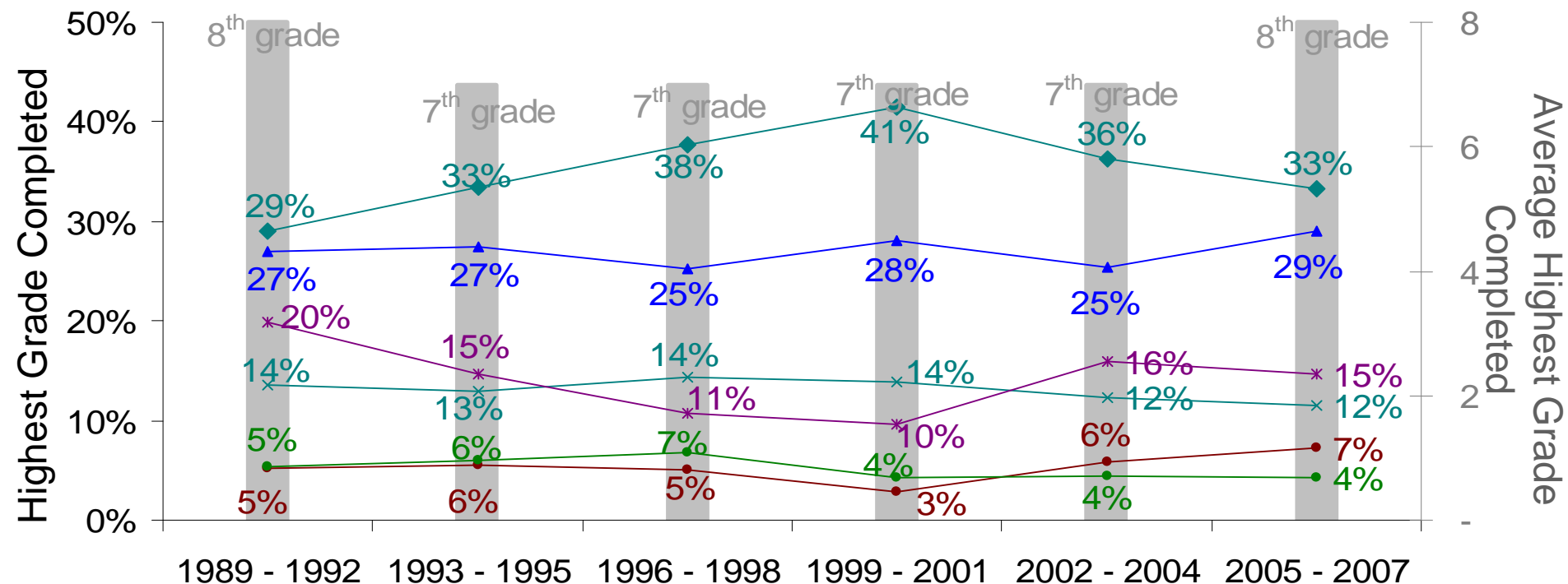
Unauthorized Place of Birth

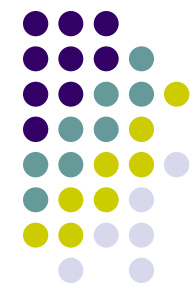


EDUCATION: A Tale of Two Observations

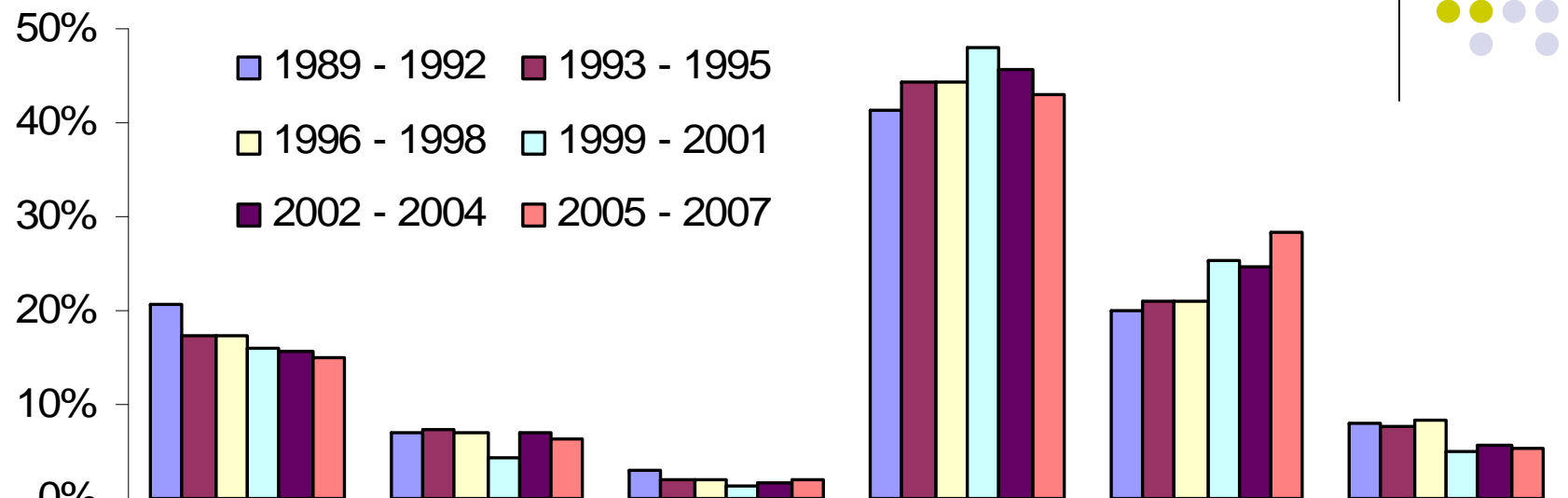


- Between 1989 and 2007, the average highest grade completed for all U.S. hired crop farm workers was either 7th or 8th grade. (Grey Bar Graph Below, right Y-Axis)
- For all periods, most of the workers completed between 4th and 7th grade, ranging from 29% in 1989 – 1992 and 41% in 1999 – 2001. (Color Line Graph Below, left Y-Axis)



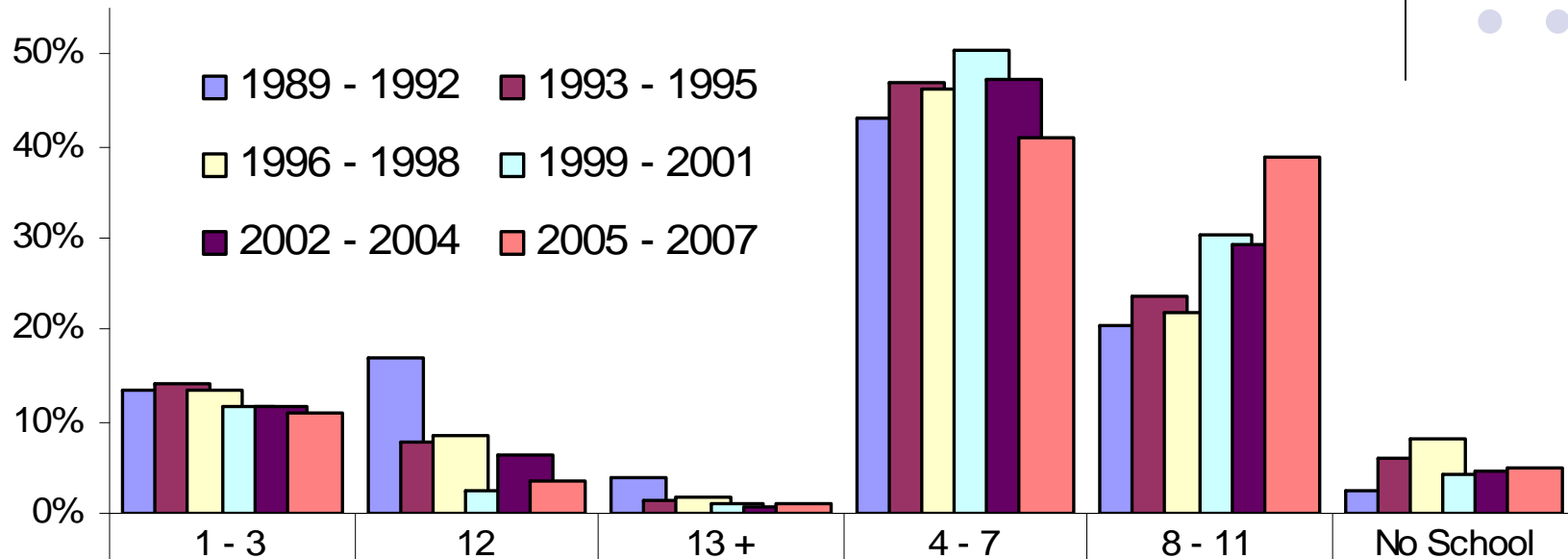
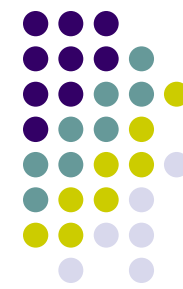


Highest Grade Completed: Foreign Born



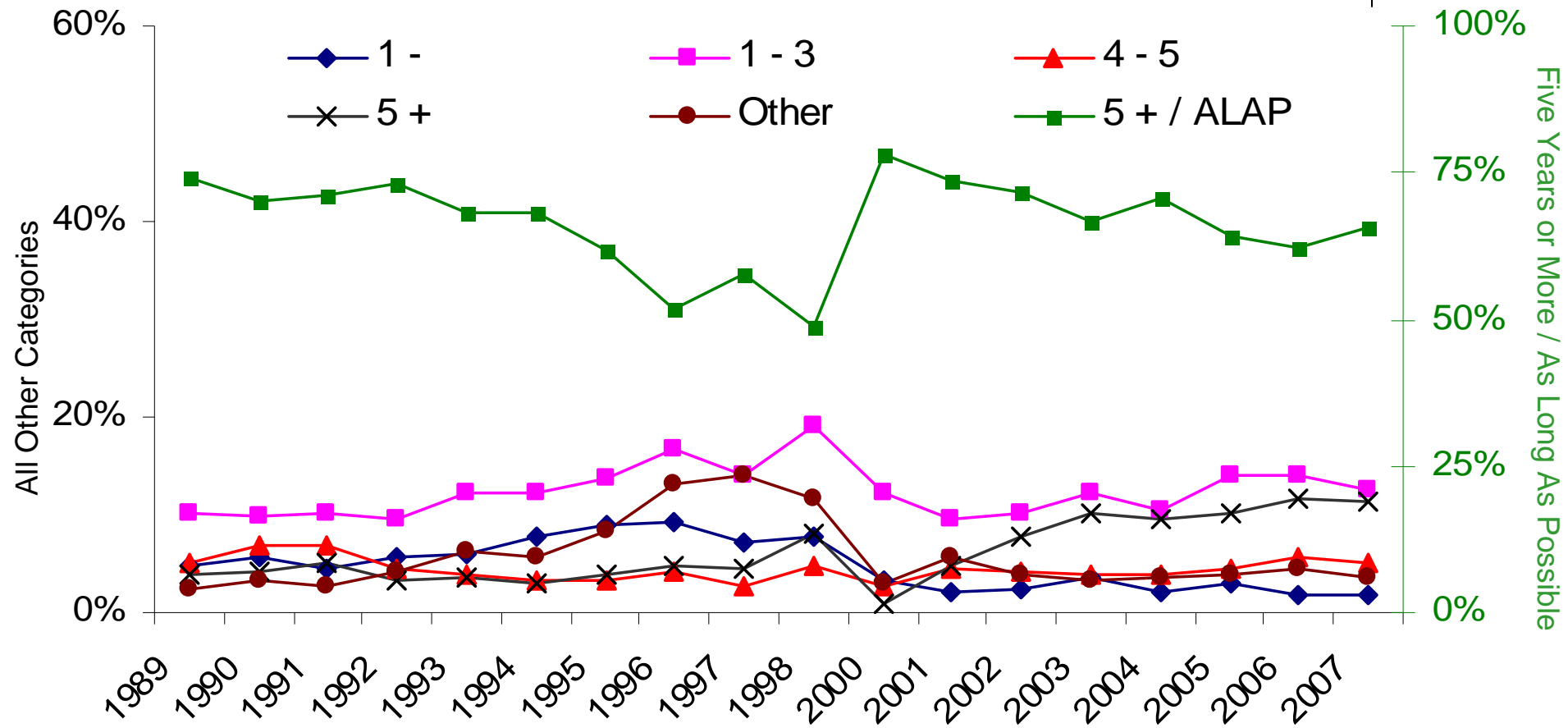
	1 - 3	12	13 +	4 - 7	8 - 11	No School
1989 - 1992	21%	7%	3%	41%	20%	8%
1993 - 1995	17%	7%	2%	44%	21%	8%
1996 - 1998	17%	7%	2%	44%	21%	8%
1999 - 2001	16%	4%	1%	48%	25%	5%
2002 - 2004	16%	7%	2%	46%	25%	6%
2005 - 2007	15%	6%	2%	43%	28%	5%
% Change	(6%)	(1%)	(1%)	2%	8%	(3%)

Highest Grade Completed: Newcomers

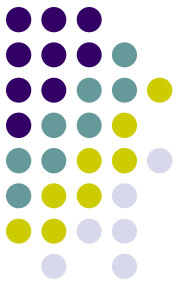


1989 - 1992	13%	17%	4%	43%	20%	2%
1993 - 1995	14%	8%	1%	47%	24%	6%
1996 - 1998	13%	8%	2%	46%	22%	8%
1999 - 2001	12%	3%	1%	51%	30%	4%
2002 - 2004	12%	7%	1%	47%	29%	5%
2005 - 2007	11%	3%	1%	41%	39%	5%
% Change	(2%)	(14%)	(3%)	(2%)	19%	3%

Plans to Continue Working in Agriculture (U.S.) by Fiscal Year

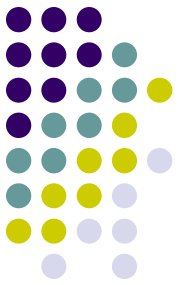


NAWS Public Access Data Set



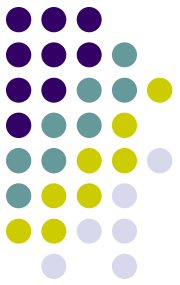
- The NAWS Public Access Data (NAWSPAD) contains information from 46,566 in-person interviews with hired crop farm workers.
- The interviews were conducted in 387 counties and 39 states between 1 October 1988 and 30 September 2006.
- The data set includes 204 questionnaire variables and 62 created variables.

NAWS Public Access Data Set



- The NAWSPAD was constructed under two guiding principles:
 - 1) To protect the privacy rights of the farm worker respondents and the agricultural employers whose establishments the workers were interviewed;
 - 2) To provide a data set that allows in-depth analyses of the demographic and employment characteristics of hired crop workers at both the national and regional level.

How to Access the NAWSPAD



- 1) Open your internet browser
- 2) Go to the following URL: <http://www.doleta.gov/agworker/naws.cfm>



U.S. Department of Labor
Employment & Training Administration



www.doleta.gov

Search:



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[ETA Home](#) > [National Agricultural Workers](#) > The National Agricultural Workers Survey



[Find it! in DOL](#)

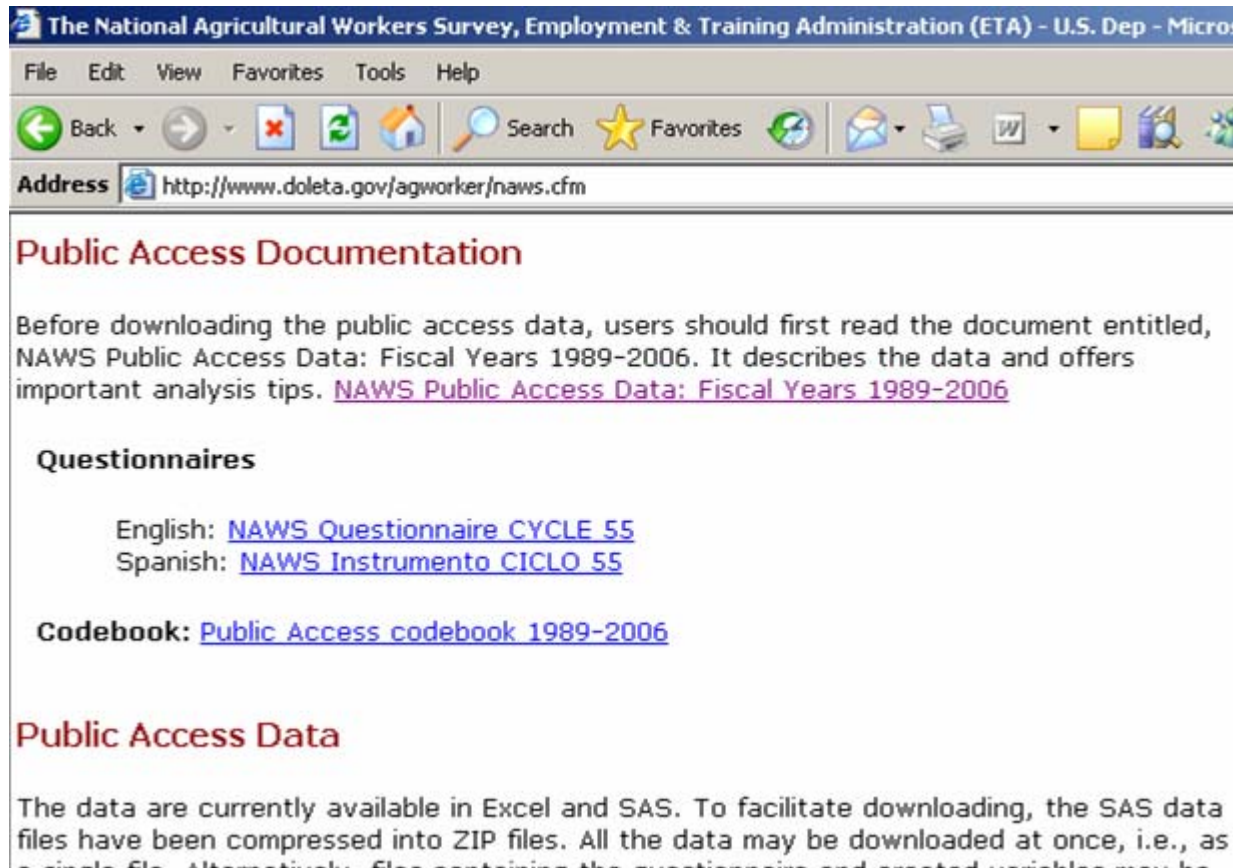
[Compliance
Assistance](#)

The National Agricultural Workers Survey



How to Access the NAWSPAD

- 3) Scroll down to the Public Access Documentation and Public Access Data section.



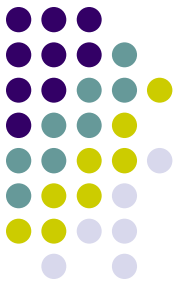
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following content:

- Page Title:** The National Agricultural Workers Survey, Employment & Training Administration (ETA) - U.S. Dep - Micro
- Address Bar:** <http://www.doleta.gov/agworker/naws.cfm>
- Section: Public Access Documentation**

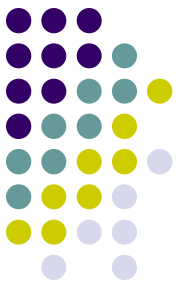
Before downloading the public access data, users should first read the document entitled, NAWS Public Access Data: Fiscal Years 1989-2006. It describes the data and offers important analysis tips. [NAWS Public Access Data: Fiscal Years 1989-2006](#)
- Section: Questionnaires**

English: [NAWS Questionnaire CYCLE 55](#)
Spanish: [NAWS Instrumento CICLO 55](#)
- Section: Codebook:** [Public Access codebook 1989-2006](#)
- Section: Public Access Data**

The data are currently available in Excel and SAS. To facilitate downloading, the SAS data files have been compressed into ZIP files. All the data may be downloaded at once, i.e., as a single file. Alternatively, files containing the questionnaire and created variables may be



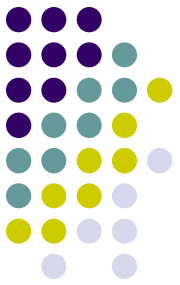
How to Access the NAWSPAD




- 3 cont.) Under the Public Access Documentation section you will find helpful information, including a document describing the NAWSPAD, a past NAWs Questionnaire, and the Public Access codebook.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The title bar reads "The National Agricultural Workers Survey, Employment & Training Administration (ETA) - U.S. Dep - Micros". The address bar shows "http://www.doleta.gov/agworker/naws.cfm". The main content area has a heading "Public Access Documentation" in red. Below it, a paragraph states: "Before downloading the public access data, users should first read the document entitled, NAWs Public Access Data: Fiscal Years 1989-2006. It describes the data and offers important analysis tips. [NAWS Public Access Data: Fiscal Years 1989-2006](#)". There are two sub-sections: "Questionnaires" with links for "English: [NAWS Questionnaire CYCLE 55](#)" and "Spanish: [NAWS Instrumento CICLO 55](#)"; and "Codebook: [Public Access codebook 1989-2006](#)". A second heading "Public Access Data" is visible at the bottom of the screenshot, followed by a paragraph: "The data are currently available in Excel and SAS. To facilitate downloading, the SAS data files have been compressed into ZIP files. All the data may be downloaded at once, i.e., as a single file. Alternatively, files containing the questionnaire and created variables may be..."

How to Access the NAWSPAD



3 cont.) Under the Public Access Data section you will find SAS and Excel versions of the Public Access Data.

Address  <http://www.doleta.gov/agworker/naws.cfm>

Public Access Data

The data are currently available in Excel and SAS. To facilitate downloading, the SAS data files have been compressed into ZIP files. All the data may be downloaded at once, i.e., as a single file. Alternatively, files containing the questionnaire and created variables may be downloaded separately and then merged by the variable 'FWID'. Data users are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the questionnaire and codebook, above, before downloading data. Questionnaire variable names in the codebook match the cycle 55 questionnaire.


Decompressing Files

Windows XP comes with software for unzipping a zipped file. For older versions of Windows, Winzip may be used to decompress the files. Click on the following link to download Winzip: www.winzip.com/downwz.htm. UNIX/LINUX distributions normally come with decompressing software.

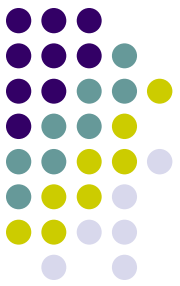
SAS Data Files (click on links to download the data)

Entire data set (zipped: 7914KB; unzipped: 74,545KB): [naws_all.sas7bdat \(SAS\)](#)
Created variables only (zipped: 2861KB; unzipped: 22,593KB): [crt155pub.sas7bdat \(SAS\)](#)
Questionnaire variables only (zipped: 5003KB; unzipped: 49,697KB): [naws155pub.sas7bdat \(SAS\)](#)

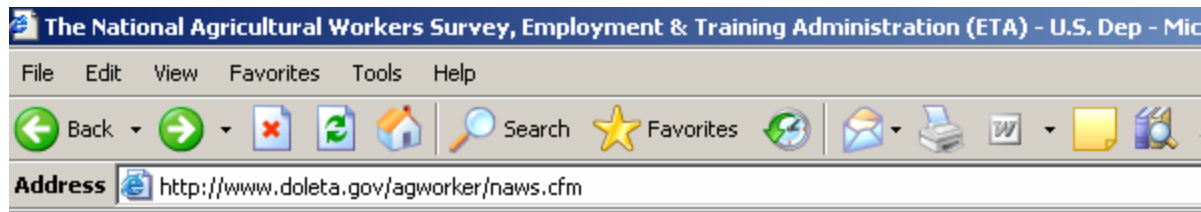
Excel Data Files (click on links to download the data)

Created variables only (30,454KB): [crt155pub.xls \(Excel\)](#) 
Questionnaire variables only (70,735KB): [naws155pub.xls \(Excel\)](#) 

How to Access the NAWSPAD



- 4) Under the Public Access Documentation section download and review the NAWS Public Access Data Fiscal Years 1989-2006 document. This should be done **BEFORE** looking at the Public Access Data



Public Access Documentation

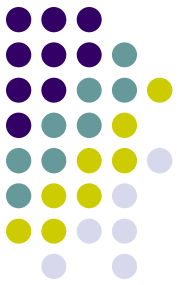
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Questionnaires

English: [NAWS Questionnaire CYCLE 55](#)
Spanish: [NAWS Instrumento CICLO 55](#)

Codebook: [Public Access codebook 1989-2006](#)

How to Access the NAWSPAD



- 5) After becoming familiar with the NAWS Public Access Data Fiscal Years 1989-2006 document, download the Public Access Data under the Public Access Data section.

Public Access Data

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SAS Data Files (click on links to download the data)

Entire data set (zipped: 7914KB; unzipped: 74,545KB): [naws_all.sas7bdat \(SAS\)](#)

Created variables only (zipped: 2861KB; unzipped: 22,593KB): [crttd155pub.sas7bdat \(SAS\)](#)

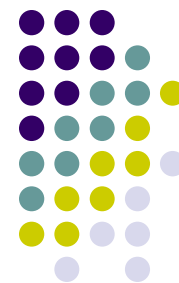
Questionnaire variables only (zipped: 5003KB; unzipped: 49,697KB): [naws155pub.sas7bdat \(SAS\)](#)

Excel Data Files (click on links to download the data)

Created variables only (30,454KB): [crttd155pub.xls \(Excel\)](#)

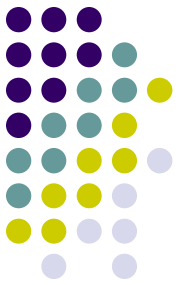
Questionnaire variables only (70,735KB): [naws155pub.xls \(Excel\)](#)

Points to Take Home



- These are the three things we hope you got out of this presentation:
 - 1) Over time, the crop farm worker labor force has become increasingly Foreign Born.
 - 2) Since 2001, the crop farm worker labor force has become less migratory.
 - 3) The crop labor force is heterogeneous.

For Additional Information



- Background information on the NAWS, including survey methodology and public access data, is available at:

<http://www.doleta.gov/agworker/naws.cfm>

- Information may also be obtained from:

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E-mail: saltz.russell@dol.gov

