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October 2007

Foreign Born

Immigrants in Boston

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Presented at the SWELL Afterschool Workshop series,
Boston Children's Museum, December 1, 2010
Alvaro Lima, Director of Research,
Boston Redevelopment Authority

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37.2 million immigrants live in the U.S. (2007)

- 913,382 immigrants live in Massachusetts (MA) - 14.2% of the state's population (2007);
- Between 2000 and 2007, 253,531 new immigrants came to MA. If not for this influx, the population would have decreased;
- Between 2000 and 2007, 44.4% of MA immigrants were from Latin America and the Caribbean and 28.4% were from Asia;
- Brazil has become the largest source of immigrants in MA. From 2000 to 2007, nearly 1 out of 5 immigrants entering the state was Brazilian;
- In 2007, Boston's immigrant population was 168,514 or 28% of the city's population;

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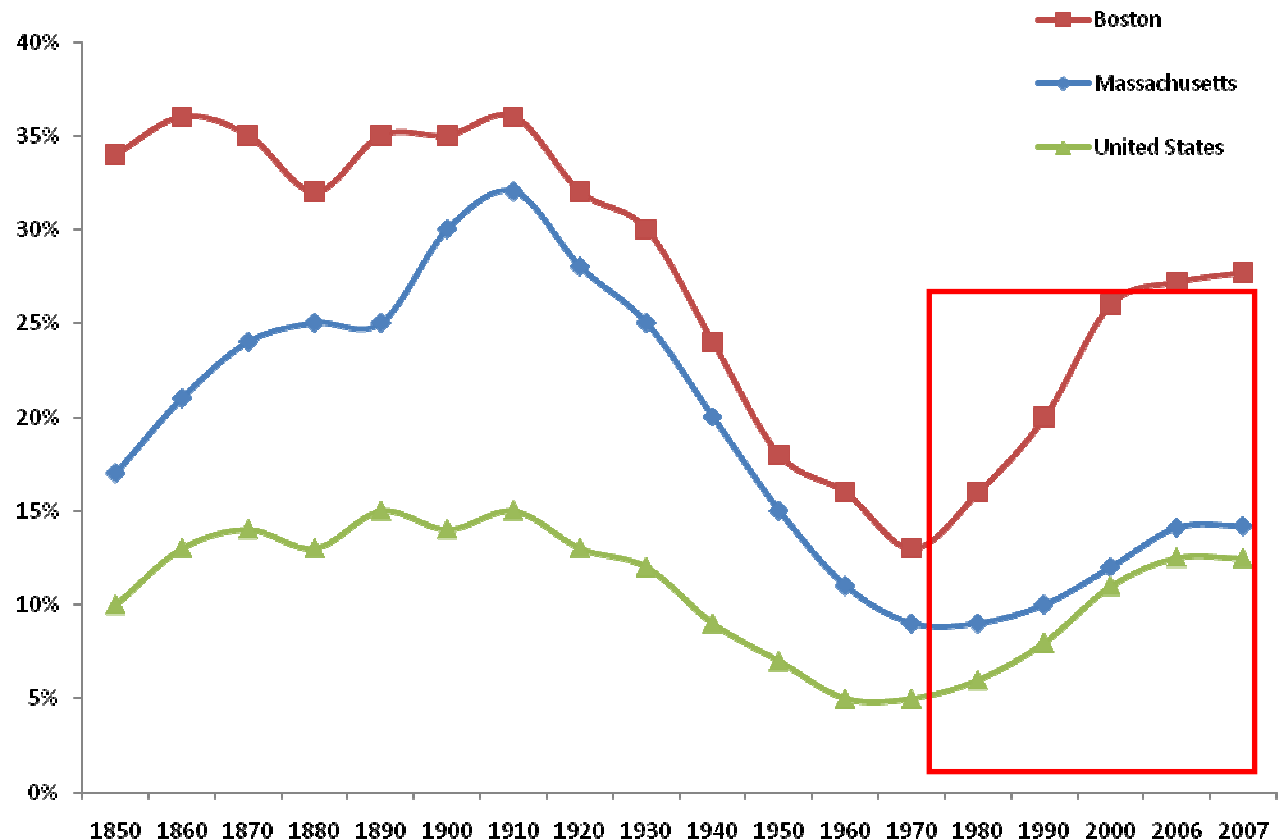
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Share of the foreign-born in Boston, MA, and the U.S. (1850 – 2007)



Source: www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/, BRA Research Division Analysis

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Boston stands out as a point of entry for immigrants...

Largest Cities in the United States-2006

Rank	City	City Population
1	New York, NY	8,214,426
2	Los Angeles, CA	3,849,378
3	Chicago, IL	2,833,321
4	Houston, TX	2,144,491
5	Phoenix, AZ	1,512,986
6	Philadelphia, PA	1,448,394
7	San Antonio, TX	1,296,682
8	San Diego, CA	1,256,951
16	Austin, TX	709,893
17	Memphis, TN	670,902
18	Fort Worth, TX	653,320
19	Baltimore, MD	631,366
20	Charlotte, NC	630,478
21	El Paso, TX	609,415
22	Boston, MA	595,698

Rank	City	% FB Pop.
1	Los Angeles, CA	39.9%
2	San Jose, CA	38.6%
3	New York, NY	37.0%
4	San Francisco, CA	36.3%
5	Houston, TX	27.8%
6	Boston, MA	27.2%
7	Dallas, TX	26.9%
8	El Paso, TX	26.9%
9	San Diego, CA	26.6%
10	Phoenix, AZ	23.4%
11	Chicago, IL	21.8%
18	Philadelphia, PA	10.9%
19	Columbus, OH	9.4%
20	Milwaukee, WI	9.3%

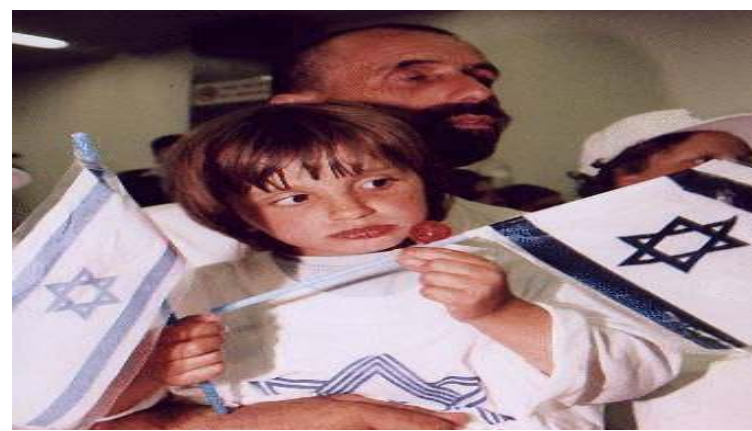
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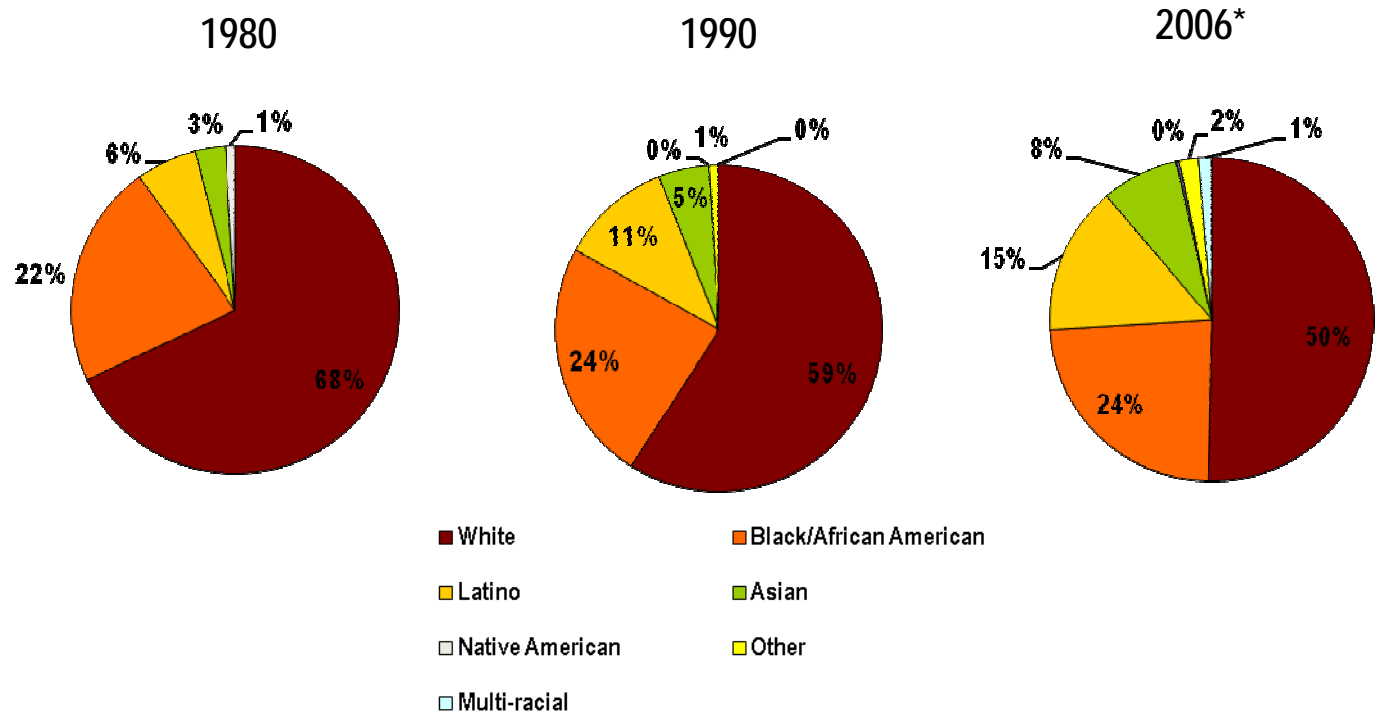
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Race and ethnicity in Boston (1980 to 2000)



*2000 was the first year the Census compiled data on individuals who identified themselves as "multiracial".
Source: Liming L., Perkins, G., Goetze, R., Vrabel, J., Lewis G., & Consalvo, R., (2001) Boston's Population – 2000, Changes in Population, Race, Ethnicity in Boston and Boston's Neighborhoods – 1980 to 2000. Boston: Boston Redevelopment Authority, 2006 American Community Survey, Boston Redevelopment Authority Research Division Analysis.

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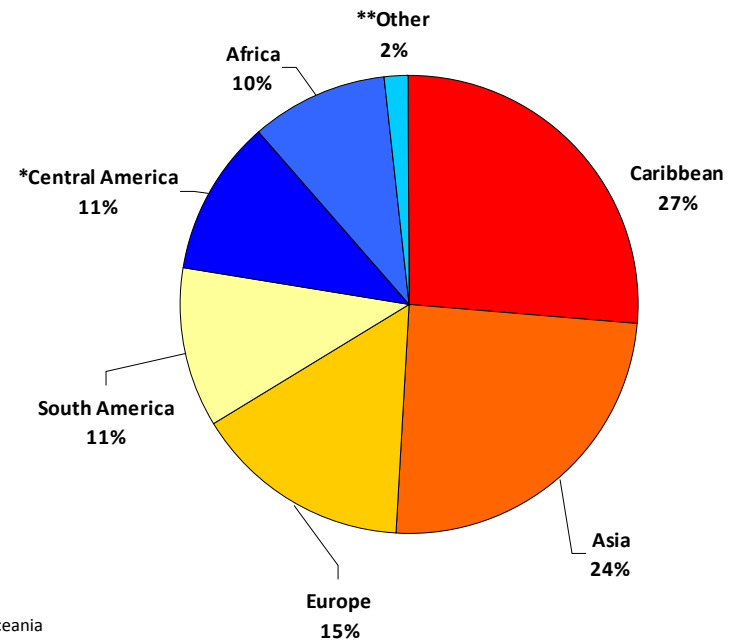
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Top regions of Boston's foreign born

- Boston's foreign born population comes predominantly from the Americas (49%), Asia (24%), Europe (15%), and Africa (10%) and represents more than 100 different countries;
- Caribbeans make up almost 53% of all immigrants from the Americas.



Note: *Central America includes Mexico. ** Other includes Northern America and Oceania
Source: American Fact Finder, American Community Survey, 2005-2007, Brookings Institution Living Cities, BRA Research Division Analysis

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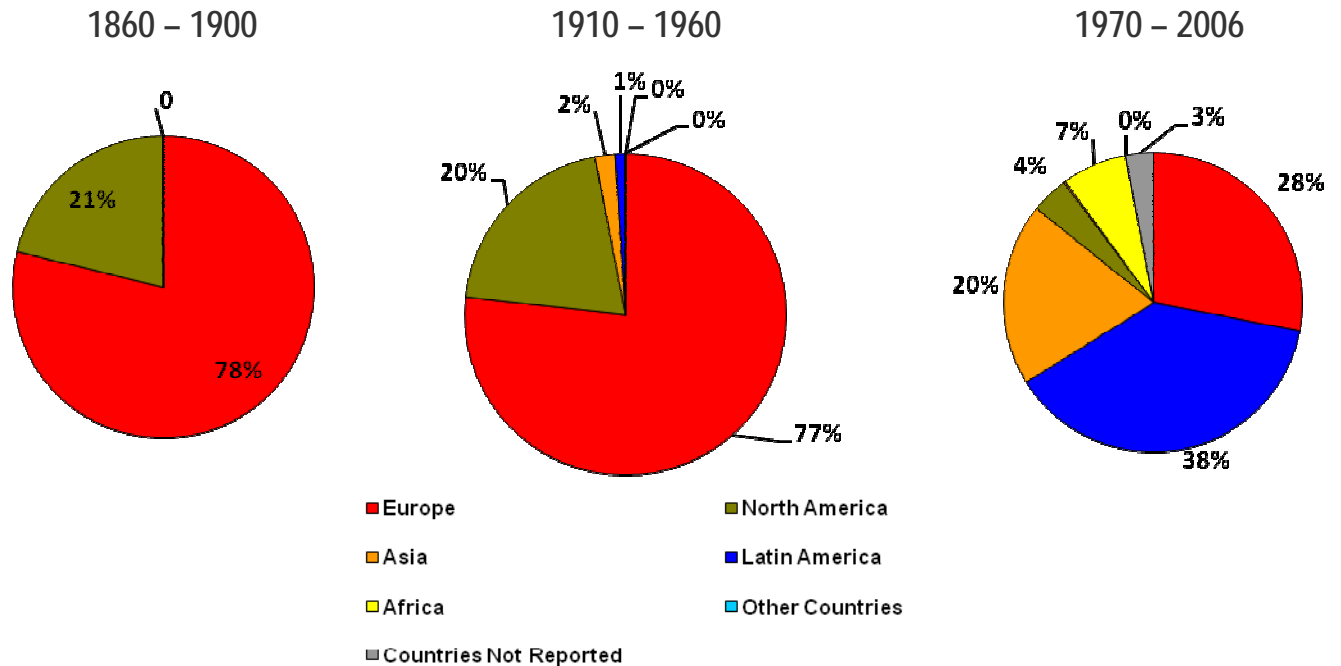
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Boston's foreign born regions of origin (1860 – 2006)



Source: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0029/twps0029.html#data>, 2000 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

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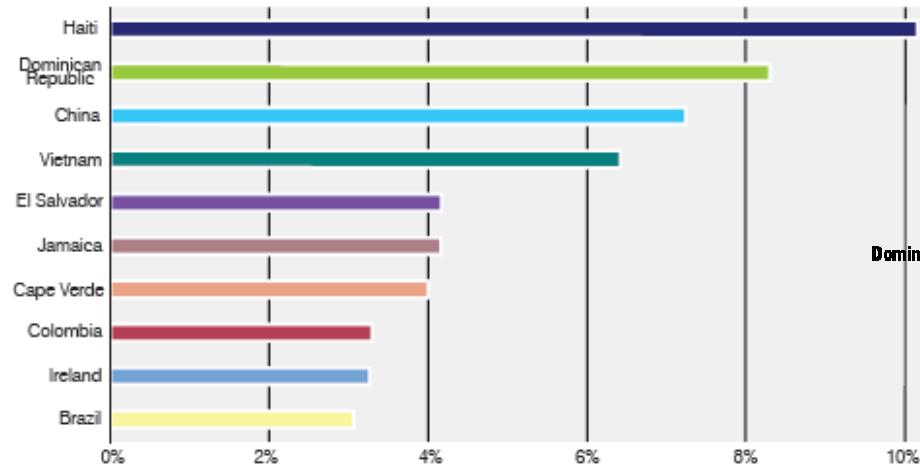
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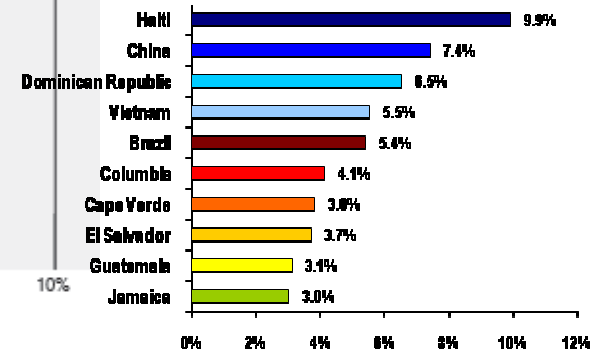
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Top countries of origin for Boston (2000 and 2006)



Share of the Foreign-Born Population in Boston (2006)



*Only China mainland; excludes Hong Kong and Taiwan
U.S. Census 2000, BRA Research Division Analysis

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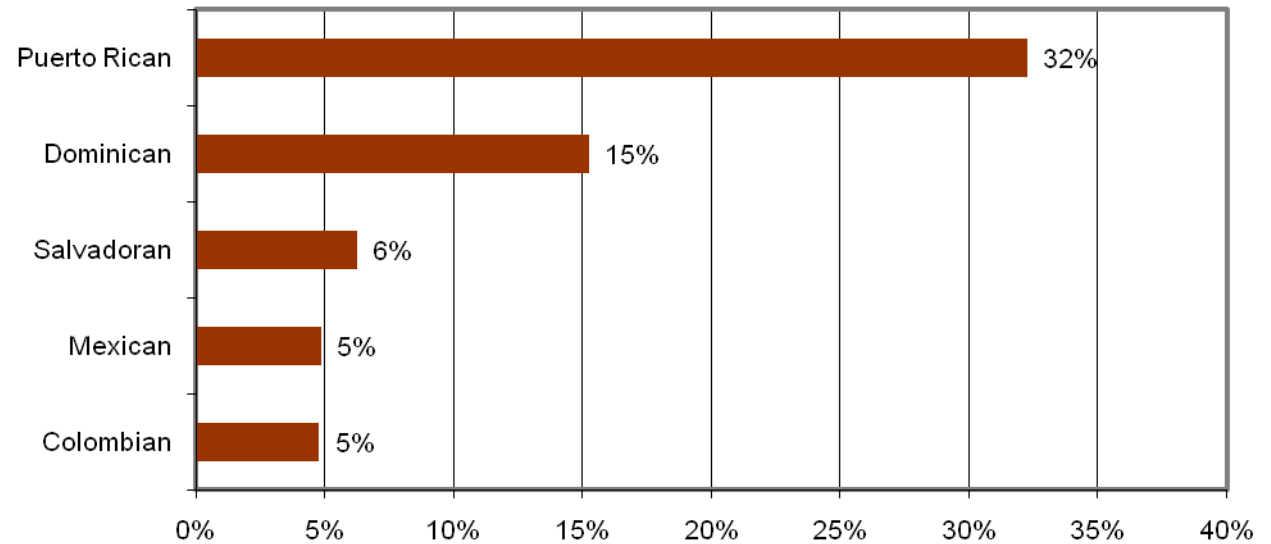
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Boston's leading Latino ethnic groups (2000)



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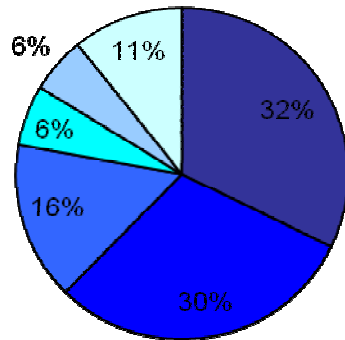
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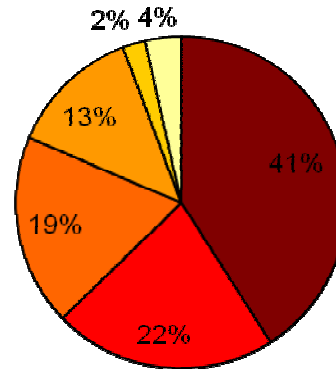
Boston's Caribbean, Central, and South American leading countries of origin (2007)

Caribbean



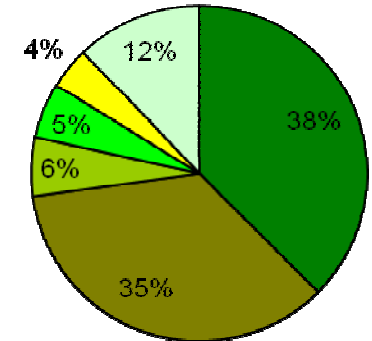
- Haiti
- Dominican Republic
- Jamaica
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Barbados
- Other

Central America



- El Salvador
- Mexico
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Costa Rica
- Other

South America



- Colombia
- Brazil
- Peru
- Argentina
- Guyana
- Other

Source: American Fact Finder, American Community Survey, 2005-2007, BRA Research Division Analysis

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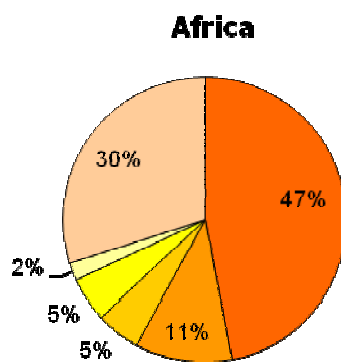
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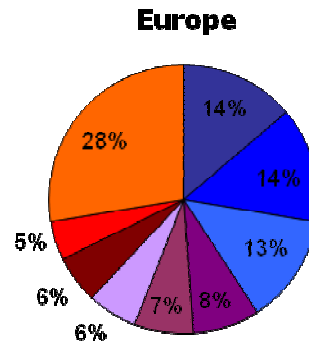
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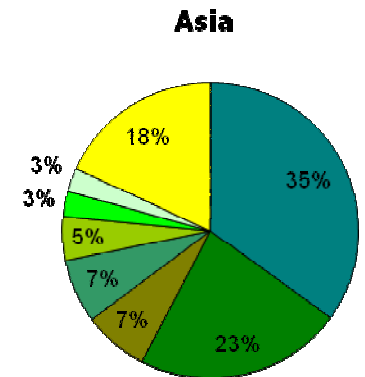
Boston's African, European, and Asian leading countries of origin (2007)



- Cape Verde
- Nigeria
- Ethiopia
- Liberia
- Ghana
- Other



- Ireland
- Russia
- Italy
- United Kingdom
- Poland
- Ukraine
- Greece
- Germany
- Other



- China
- Vietnam
- India
- Japan
- Korea
- Thailand
- Philippines
- Other

Source: American Fact Finder, American Community Survey, 2005-2007, BRA Research Division Analysis

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Boston's ancestry, 1990 and 2007

- Irish and Italian are the first and second leading ancestries. Their recorded numbers decreased between 1990 and 2007 by 33.4% and 30.7% respectively;
- Puerto Ricans are the third leading ancestry. Their reported numbers increased by 12.7%, between 1990 and 2007;
- People claiming Salvadoran ancestry grew over 3 ½ times between 1990 and 2007.

	Ancestry	1990	2007
1	Irish/Celtic	106,154	86,077
2	Italian	49,005	41,703
3	Puerto Rican	17,545	21,982
4	Chinese	14,056	21,135
5	English	23,246	20,338
6	Dominican	7,426	18,465
7	Haitian	11,994	18,064
8	German	24,416	15,130
9	American*	9,797	15,109
10	Cape Verdean	6,077	11,614
11	Salvadoran	2,405	11,142
12	Vietnamese	3,642	11,049
13	Polish	12,229	8,946
14	French	9,594	8,752
15	Russian	10,229	8,035
16	Brazilian	1,943	7,244
17	Jamaican	4,683	7,121
18	Colombian	1,912	7,027
19	Scottish	5,663	5,438
20	French Canadian/Acadian/Cajun	6,554	5,357

Note: *American refers to people who identified their ancestry as "American", "United States", as a region such as "Southerner", or as a U.S. state such as "Texan" (U.S. Census).

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, BRA Research Division Analysis.

American Community Survey, 2005-2007, Public Use Microdata Sample, BRA Research Analysis .

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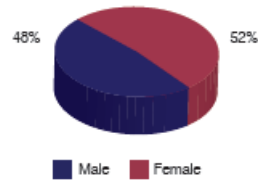
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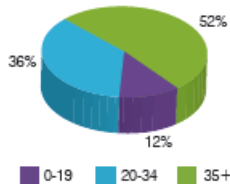


Demographic characteristics of Boston's foreign born

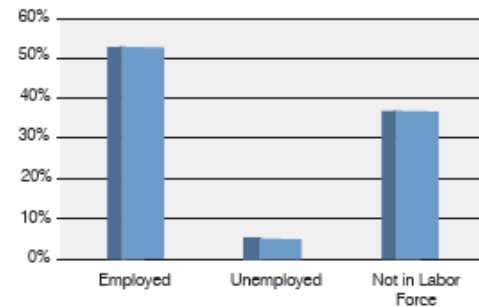
Gender



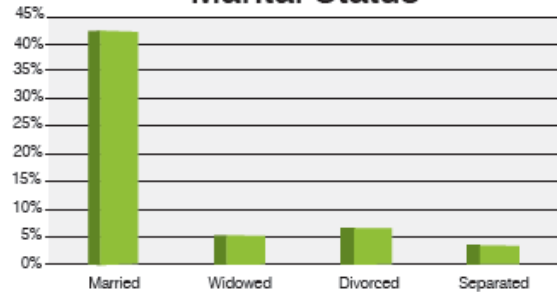
Age



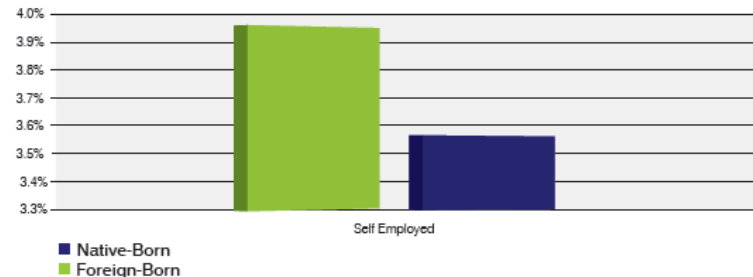
Employment Status



Marital Status



Share of Self Employed Population



U.S. Census Bureau 2002 Economic Census

*Hispanic and Asian owned businesses only

U.S. Census 2000, Public Use Microdata (PUM) 5% Sample, BRA Research Division Analysis

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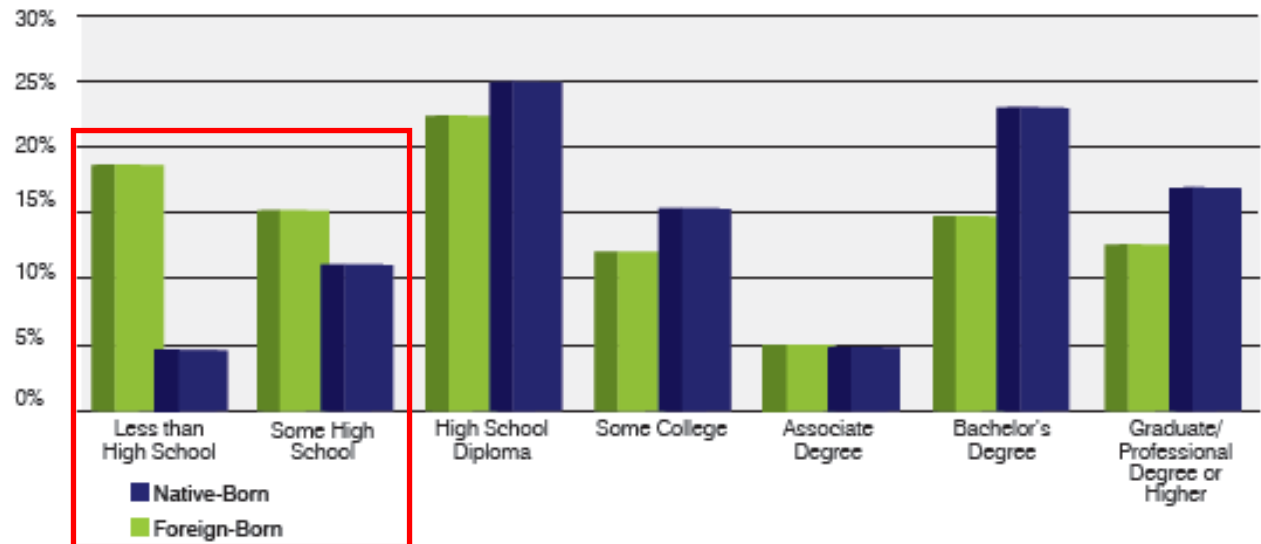
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Photo by John Swan/Gazette Publications

Educational attainment for foreign born and native born



U.S. Census 2000. Public Use Microdata. (PUM) 5% Sample. BRA Research Division Analysis

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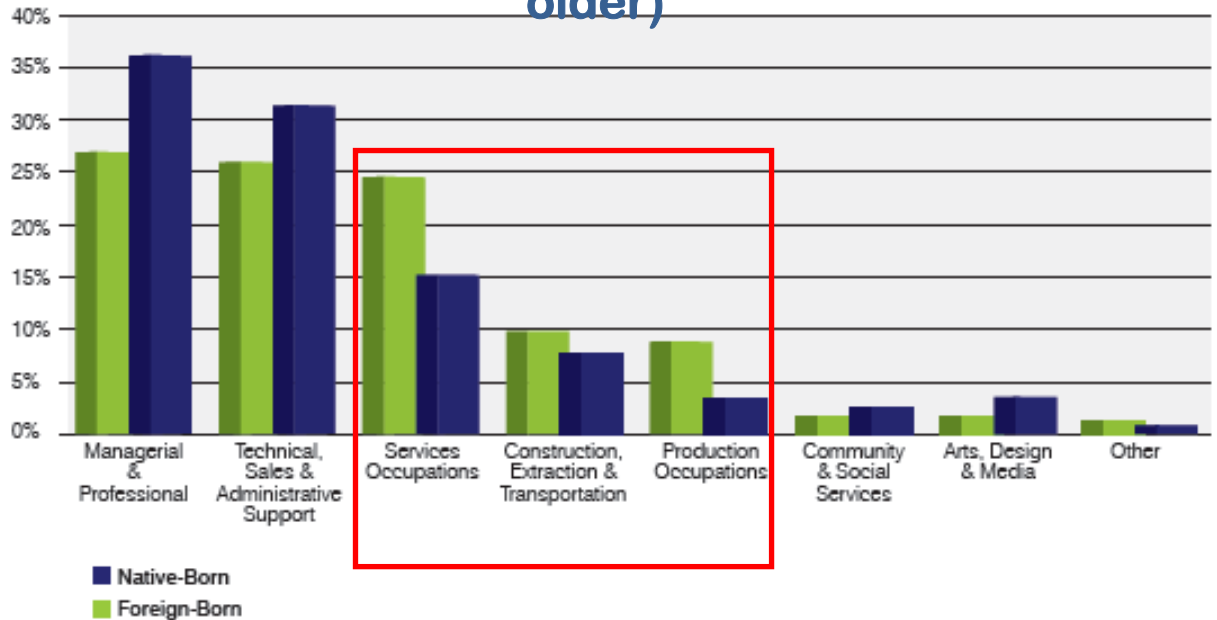
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Occupations for foreign and native born (25 years and older)



U.S. Census 2000. Public Use Microdata (PUM) 5% Sample. BRA Research Division Analysis

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Education and English proficiency

Distribution of Education and Language Challenges in Boston's Adult Foreign Born Population (25 Years and Older), 2000	Number	Percent of 25+ Year Olds
Lack Diploma but NO Language Challenge	12,060	10%
Lack Diploma and Have Language Challenge	20,460	17%
Have Diploma but Have Language Challenge	13,392	11%
Total Adult Foreign Born Population that Either Lacks High School Diploma or has Language Challenge	45,912	38%

U.S. Census 2000. Public Use Microdata (PUM) 5% Sample BRA Research Division Analysis

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Education and English proficiency

Educational Attainment for 20-60 Year Olds in Boston with Middle Class Standard of Living, 2000	Native Born	Foreign Born
1-12 Years, No Diploma or GED	16%	15%
High School Diploma or GED	31%	22%
13-15 Years, No college Degree	38%	24%
Associate's Degree	45%	31%
Bachelor's Degree	59%	43%
Master's or Professional Degree	75%	35%
Doctoral Degree	81%	51%
Total	46%	27%

U.S. Census 2000. Public Use Microdata (PUM) 5% Sample BRA Research Division Analysis

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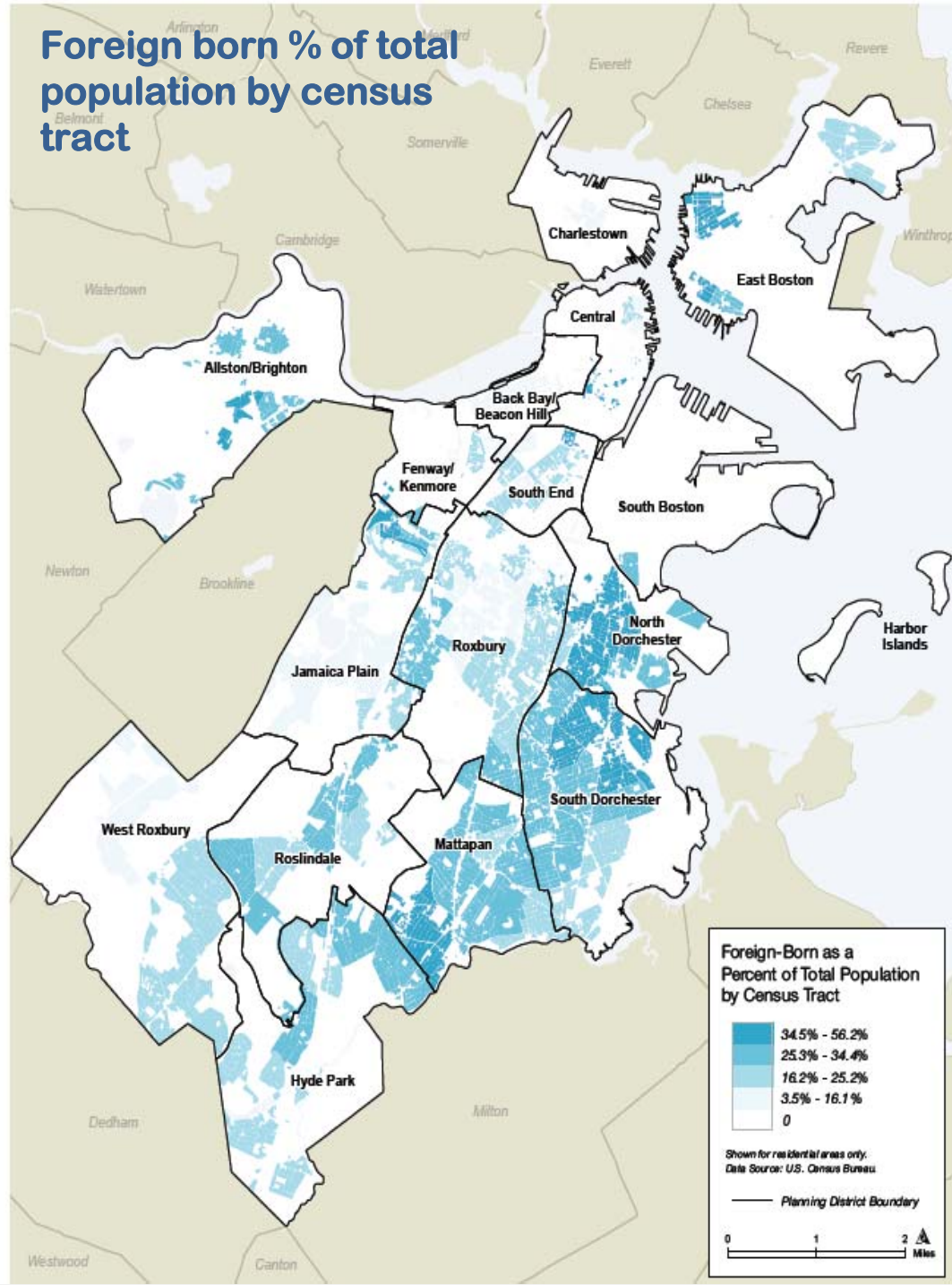
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Foreign born % of total population by census tract



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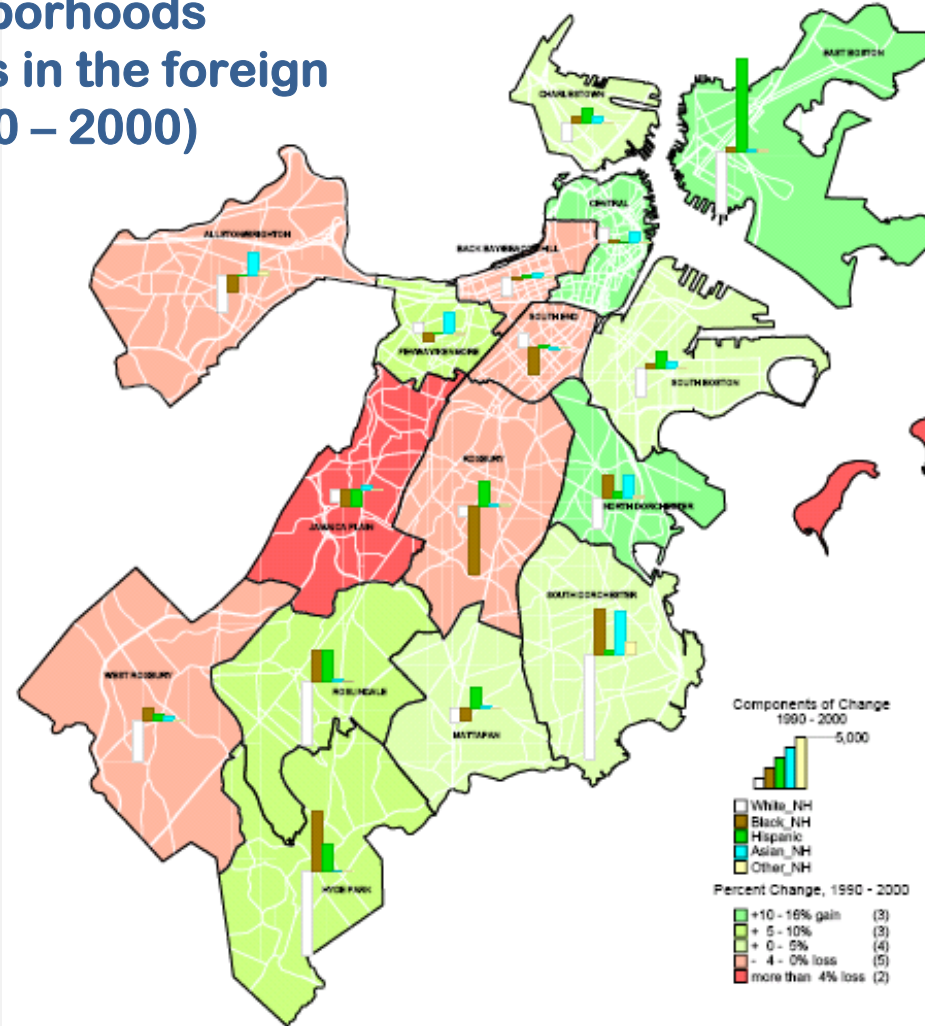
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All of Boston's neighborhoods experienced changes in the foreign born population (1990 – 2000)

- All of Boston's neighborhoods have experienced an increase in diversity.
- The neighborhoods that have experienced the most dramatic change are:

- East Boston
- Roslindale
- Allston-Brighton
- Hyde Park
- Dorchester



Source: Liming L, Perkins, G., Goetze, R., Vrabel, J., Lewis G., & Consalvo, R., (2001) [Boston's Population - 2000. Changes in Population, Race, Ethnicity in Boston and Boston's Neighborhoods - 1980 to 2000](#). Boston: Boston Redevelopment Authority.

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All of Boston's neighborhoods experienced changes in the foreign born population (1990 – 2000)

Neighborhood	Foreign Born in 1990		Foreign Born in 2000		Changes	
	Foreign Born	Percent of Foreign Born in Neighborhood	Foreign Born	Percent of Foreign Born in Neighborhood	Absolute Change	Percentage Change
Boston Total	114,597	20%	151,836	26%	37,239	32%
Allston/Brighton	20,396	29%	22,016	33%	1,620	8%
Fenway/Kenmore	5,674	17%	7,974	23%	2,300	41%
Back Bay/Beacon Hill	3,342	12%	3,155	12%	-187	-6%
Central	6,101	28%	6,480	26%	379	6%
Charlestown	733	5%	2,111	15%	1,378	188%
East Boston	7,695	23%	16,051	45%	8,356	109%
South Boston	2,133	7%	3,717	13%	1,584	74%
South End	5,196	18%	6,201	23%	1,005	19%
Roxbury	9,323	16%	12,501	24%	3,178	34%
Dorchester	20,372	24%	29,492	32%	9,120	45%
Mattapan	9,568	27%	10,706	31%	1,138	12%
Roslindale	6,050	18%	9,048	28%	2,998	50%
Jamaica Plain	9,123	22%	9,157	25%	34	0%
West Roxbury	3,714	13%	4,929	18%	1,215	33%
Hyde Park	5,097	17%	8,246	28%	3,149	62%

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, BRA Research Division Analysis. American Community Survey, 2005-2007, Public Use Microdata Sample, BRA Research Analysis

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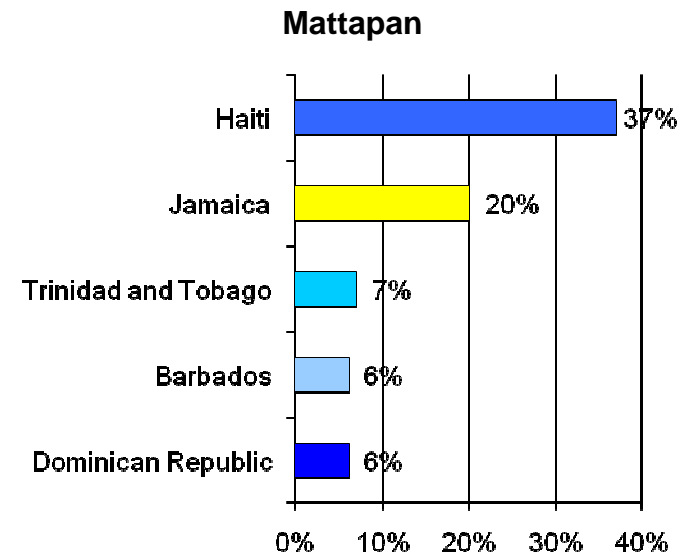
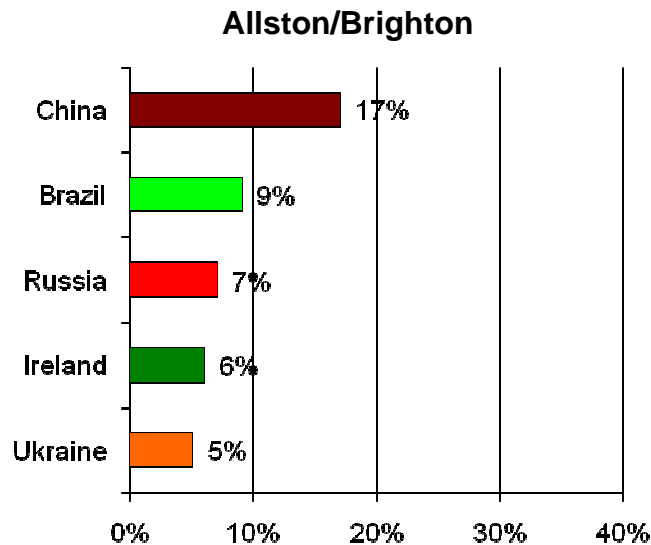
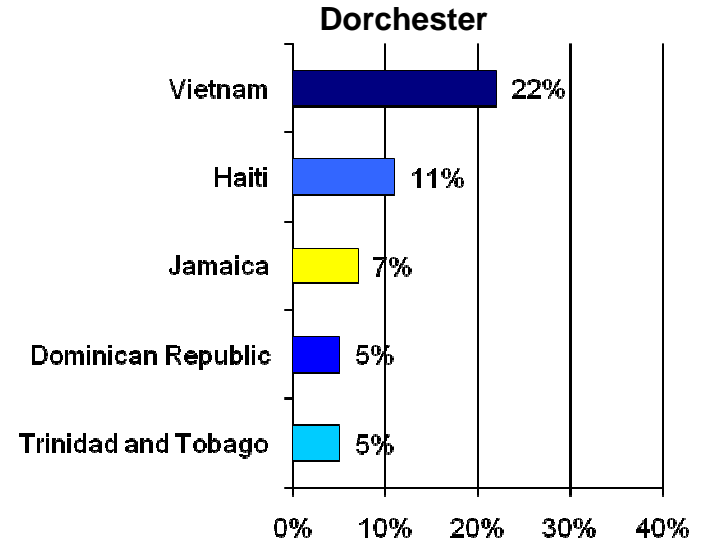
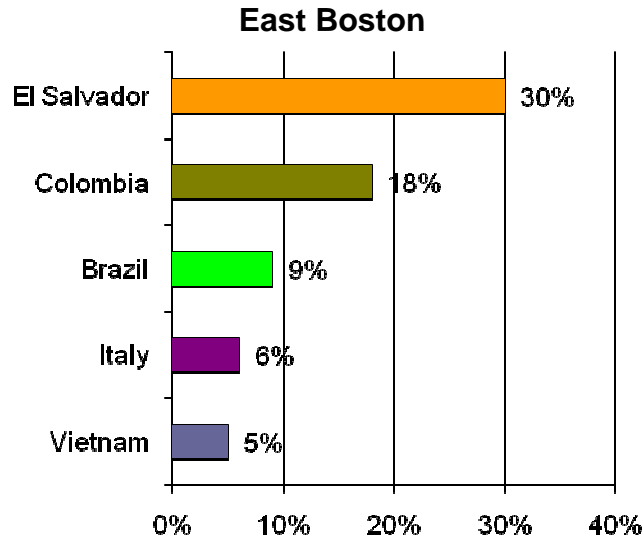
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Neighborhoods with a share of foreign born higher than the city average by country of origin (2000)



Source: 2006 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

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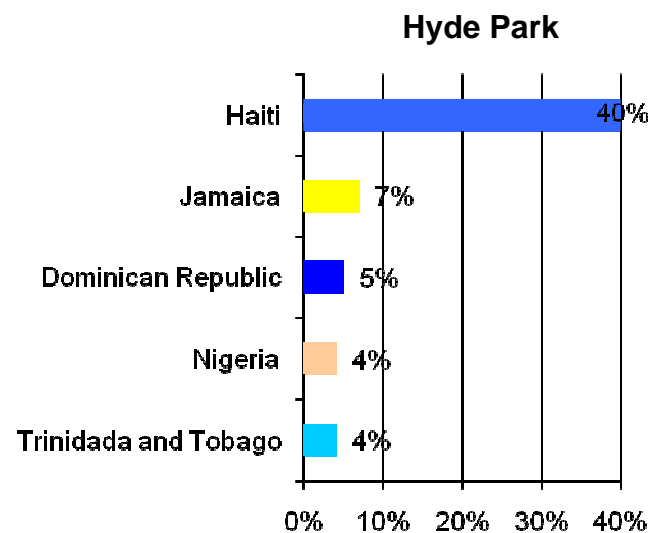
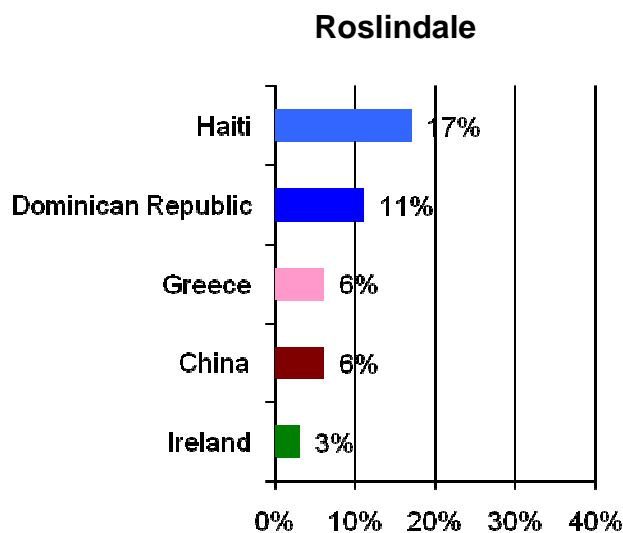
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Neighborhoods with a % of foreign born higher than the city average (2000)



Source: 2006 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

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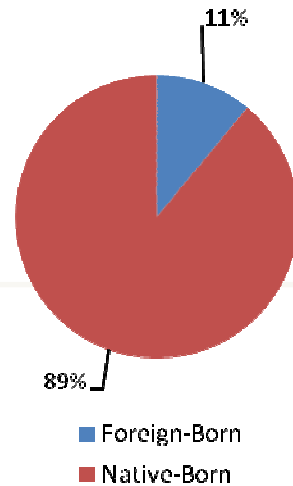
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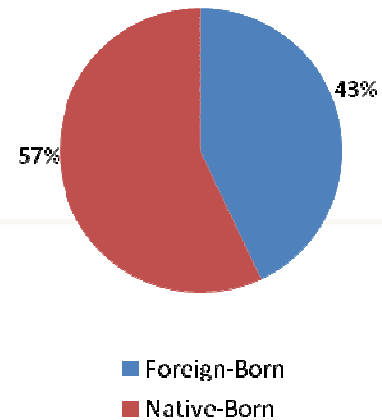
While there are a small number of foreign-born children in Boston, there are a large number of children in households headed by a foreign-born resident

Children in Boston (0-17 Years Old)

Child's Place of Birth



Head of Household's Place of Birth



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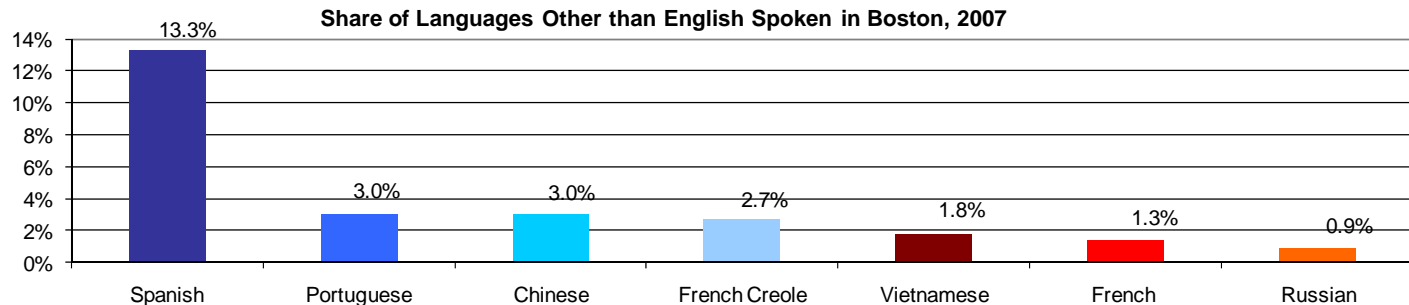
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New Bostonians speak more than 140 languages

- There are 6 leading languages, other than English, spoken in Boston;
- 65% of Boston residents speak only English and 35% speak a language other than English ;
- Over 14% of Boston residents speak Spanish at home up from 9.5% in 1990;
- Almost 1/3 of all Spanish speakers are Limited English Proficient (LEP).



*Note: The Limited English Proficient includes immigrant adults who do not speak English at all or who do not speak it well. The English Proficient includes immigrant adults who speak only English, speak it very well or speak it well.

** Asian Languages include Hindi, Bengali, Panjabi, Marathi, Gujarathi, Urdu, Nepali, Chinese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Thai, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Indonesian and others.

Consalvo, R. (2002). *Demographic Changes 1990-2000*. Boston: Boston Redevelopment Authority, presented at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's Banking on the Community Conference, October 8, 2002.

U.S. Bureau of Census, Public Use Microdata Sample 2005-2007 (PUMS), BRA Research Division Analysis.

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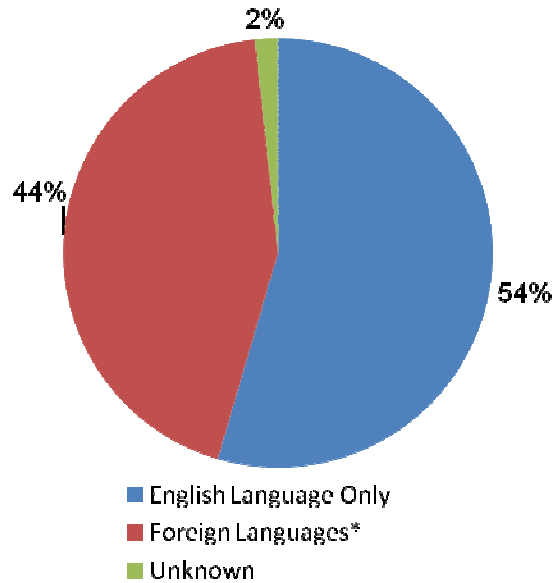
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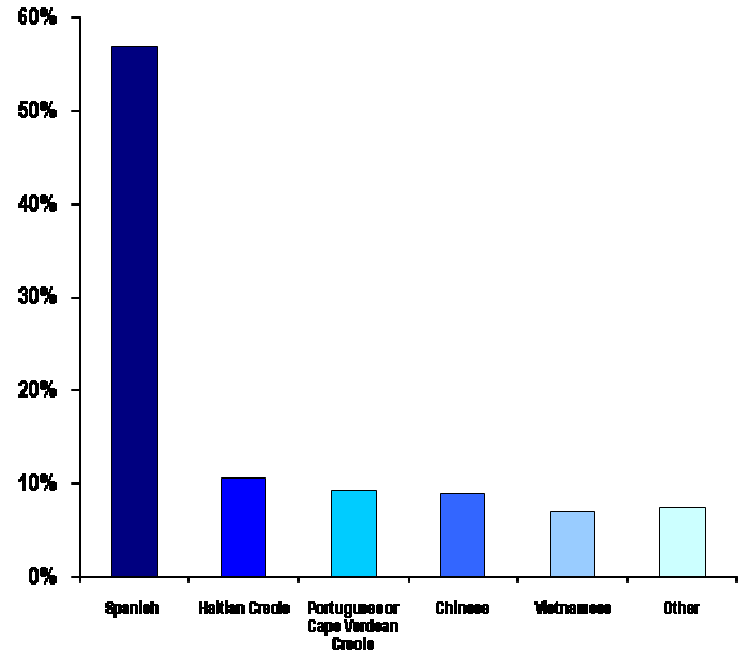


Slightly more than 1/2 of Boston's Public School students speak "English Only". Spanish is the most common foreign language spoken in the Boston Public schools

Language Composition in Boston Public Schools* (2003/2004)



Share of Foreign Languages in Boston Public Schools



Note: According to the BPS, school aged population is defined as 5-20 years old
Sources: U.S. Census 2000, PUMS (5%) Sample, BRA Research Division Analysis
*Edwards, V. (2004). The public school population: Home language study 2004. Boston: Author

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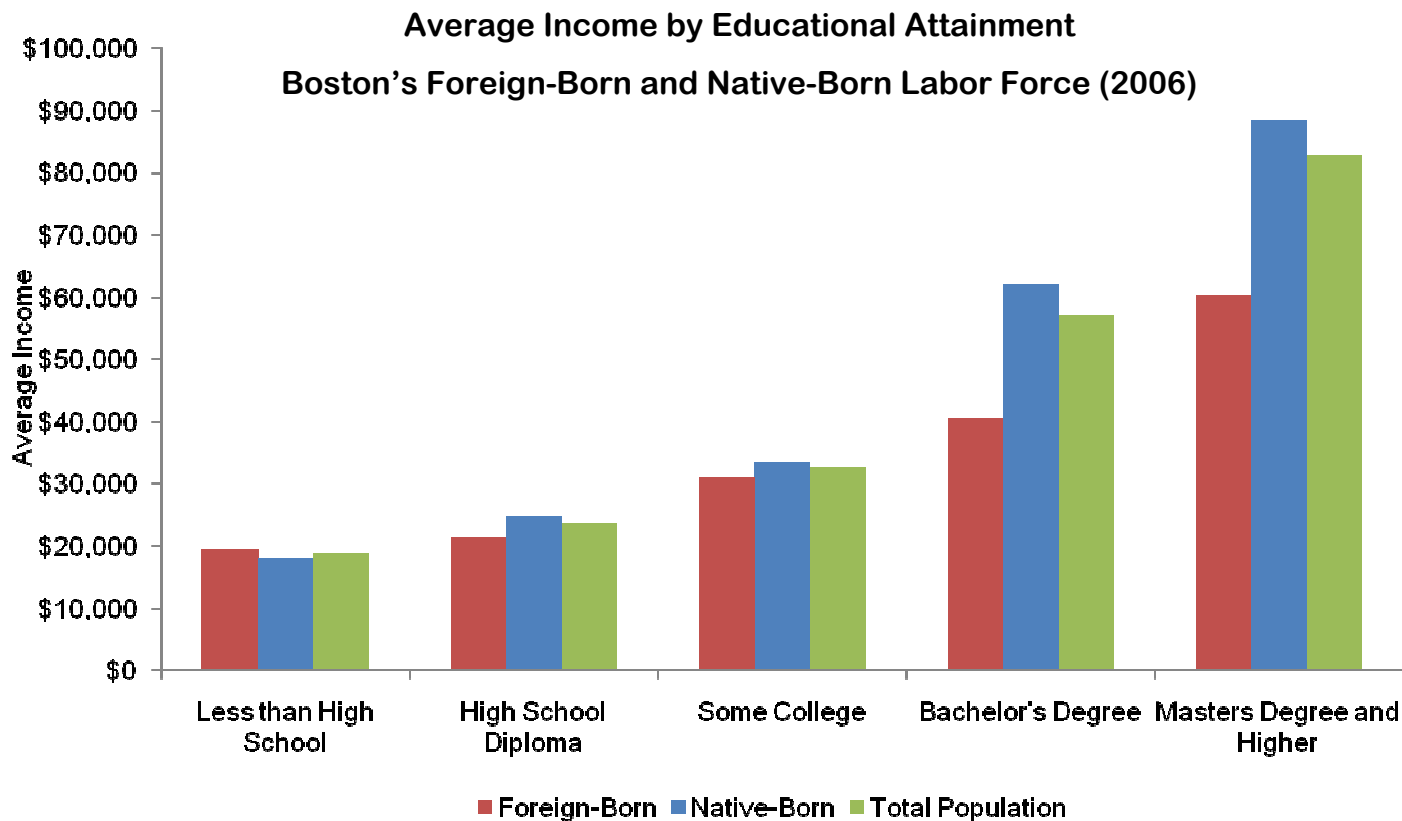
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Although income increases with education for both native and foreign born, income inequality increases with education



*Universe: 25 years and older

Sources: 2006 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

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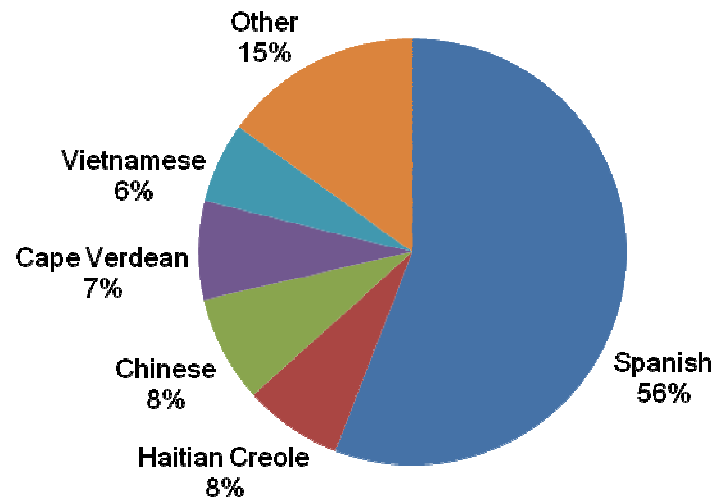
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New Bostonian youth speak many languages...

- 6,140 or 10.9% of BPS students are enrolled in a BPS English Language Learner program;
- Every year, approximately 200-300 high school age immigrants enter Boston Public Schools, usually in 11th or 12th grade.

Languages Spoken by English Language Learners
in Boston Public Schools, 2008-2009



Source: Boston Public Schools. (2008). [Boston Public Schools at a Glance 2008-2009](#). Boston: BPS Communication Office

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New Bostonians make significant economic contributions

Contributing

\$3 billion
annual spending

\$4.6 billion
to the regional
product

\$1 billion
in state and
federal taxes

**52,230 direct and
direct jobs**
for the local
economy

Entrepreneurship

annual sales
\$1.2 billion

business
ownership
**5,722 small
businesses** in the
greater Boston
area*

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all the
people

Foreign Born

Immigrants in Boston

New Bostonians Series
October 2007

CITY OF BOSTON
Thomas M. Menino
Mayor



Per person impact on the economy

- \$23,321 in income spent in Massachusetts;
- \$1,292 in total state income taxes paid;
- \$4,614 in total federal income taxes paid;
- \$365 in total state sales taxes paid;
- Every 5 immigrants supports one job in the state;
- Contribute \$20,892 to Gross Regional Product (GRP).

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Economic contributions are furthered because the cost of raising (and retiring) the foreign born labor force is borne by the countries of origin

- Considering the average cost of public education in Massachusetts, immigrants “bring” with them \$31 billion in subsidies.

218,418 recent immigrants over age 25 living in Massachusetts.*

Of those:

56,352	25.8%	High school degrees
7,645	3.5%	Associate degrees
42,810	19.6%	BA degrees
34,728	15.9%	Masters or professional degrees
10,702	4.9%	PhDs

***5.3% of the immigrant population of Massachusetts**

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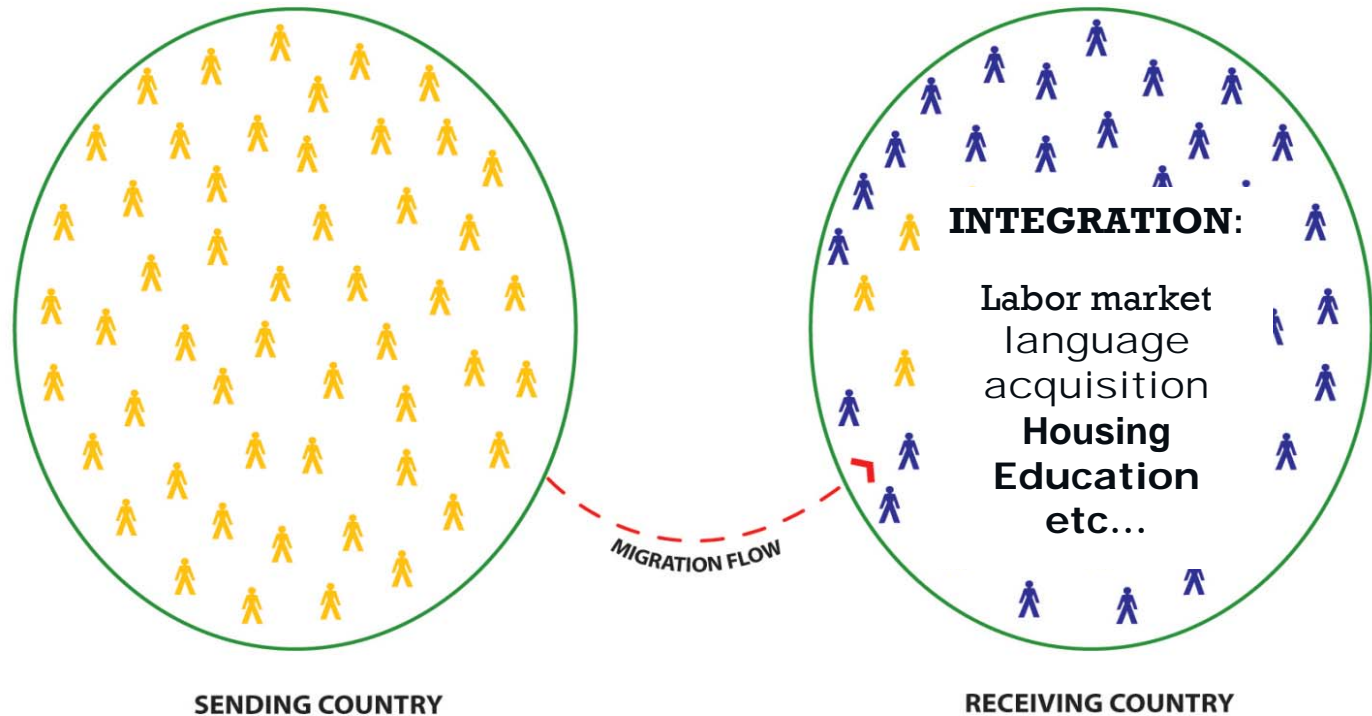
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Immigration seen through **traditional** lens



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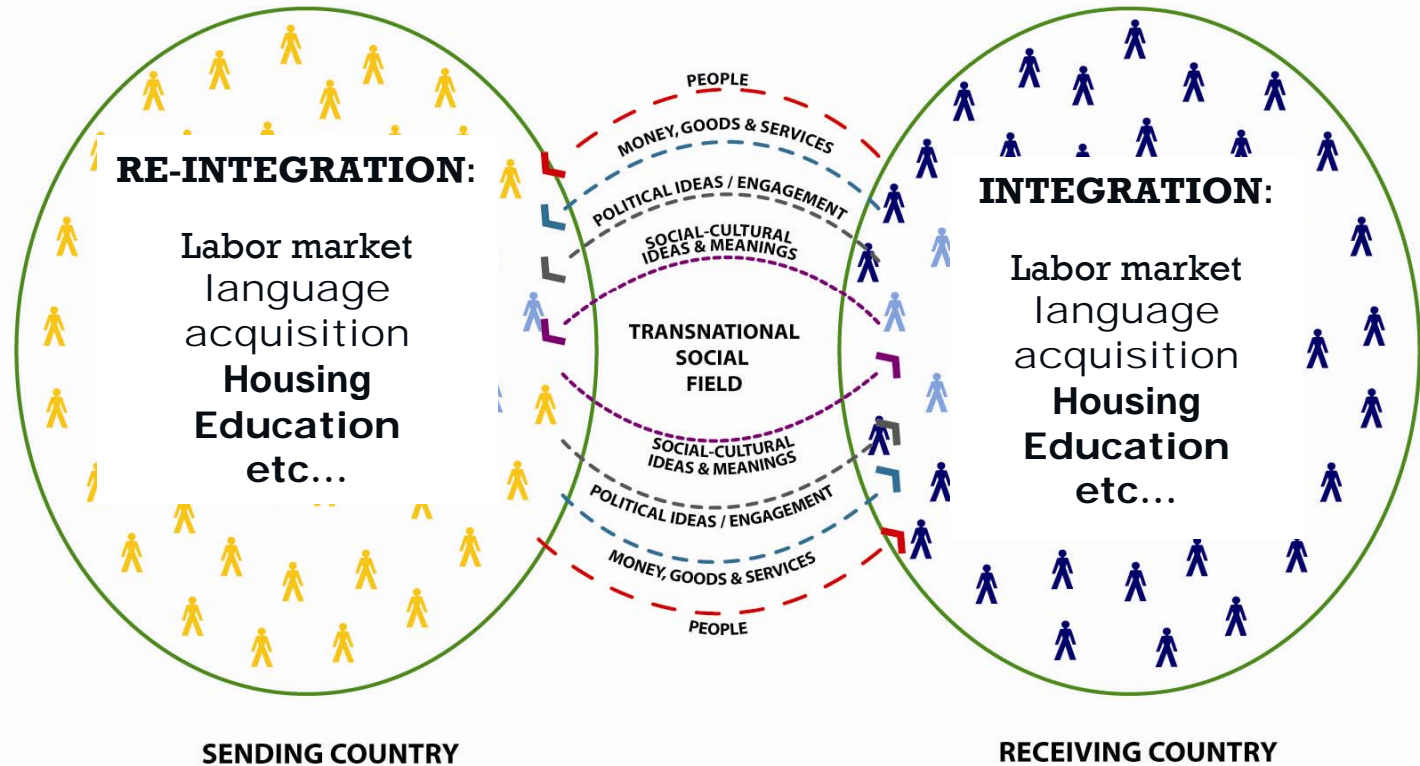
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Immigration seen through **transnational** lens



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www.bostonredevelopmentauthority.org