



Changing Trends in Crop Agriculture and Migrant Crop Workers

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Disclaimer: Views are solely those of the presenters



Outline

- Overview of the NAWS and the Census of Agriculture
- What does the Census of Agriculture say about changes in crop work?
- What does the NAWS say about changes in the crop worker population?



Census of Agriculture

- Leading source of detailed information about U.S. agriculture
- Conducted every 5 years
- Data provided by farmers on production, expenses, market value of products, and operator characteristics
- 2012 Most recent census



National Agricultural Workers Survey

- National survey of crop workers, started fiscal year 1989
- Annual random sample survey of 1,500-3,000 workers
- Establishment survey – find workers at work
- Leading source of reliable information on crop worker demographics
- Limited regional coverage and no local numbers

NAWS Data

- This presentation is based on preliminary FY 2013-2014 data, which may not be cited at this time.
- The data are grouped in two-year intervals to get a large enough sample to make comparisons.
 - Two time periods will be compared: 1999-2000 and 2013-2014; these time points are referred to as 2000 and 2014 throughout the talk.
 - The sample sizes were 7,198 in 1999-2000 and 4,235 in 2013-2014.
- Internal review of the data to account for the complex sampling design of the NAWS indicates that some of the estimates should be interpreted with caution because they have relative standard errors between 31 and 50 percent. Values to be interpreted with caution are identified below with a superscript 'a'.
- Some of the estimates had to be suppressed because they are based on fewer than four observations or they have relative standard errors greater than 50 percent. Suppressed values are identified with a superscript 'b'.

Legend

- Eastern (Green)
- Midwest (Yellow)
- Western (Red)

States included:

- Western (Red):** Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California, Arizona, New Mexico.
- Midwest (Yellow):** Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine.
- Eastern (Green):** Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia.

Scale: 0 100 200 400 600 800 Miles

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, National Agricultural Workers Survey

* Source: U.S. Department of Labor, National Agricultural Workers Survey



In the last 10 or 15 years, what changes have you observed in:

- Crop agriculture?
- Crop workers?

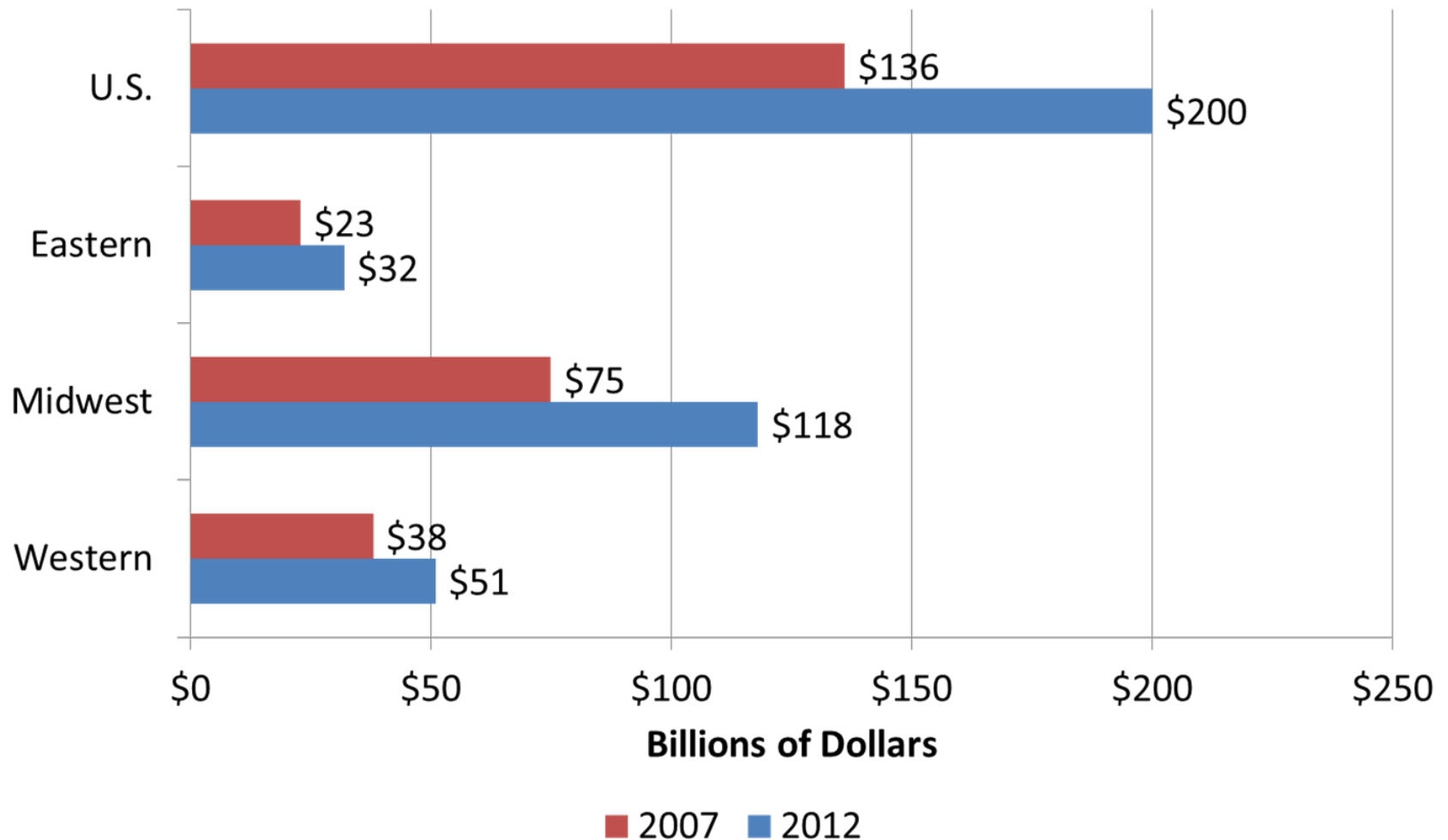


Recent Changes in Agriculture Affecting Crop Labor

- Increased fruit and vegetable consumption and changing grain use
- New production practices
- Competition from abroad
- Competition from other industries

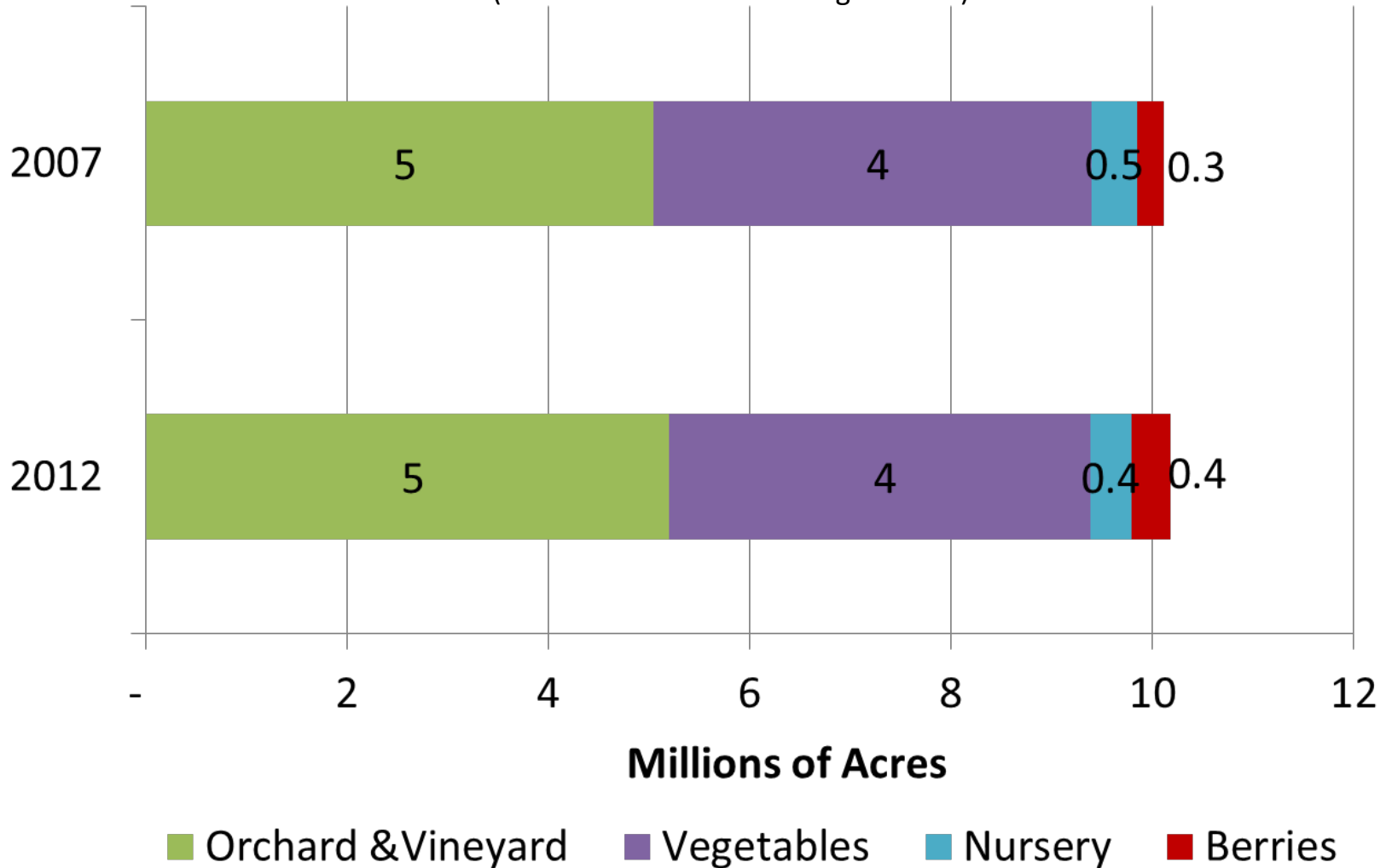
Total Crop Agriculture Sales, in Billions of Dollars

(Source: USDA Census of Agriculture)



Ten Million Acres in Labor-Intensive Crops

(Source: USDA Census of Agriculture)





Changes in Labor Intensive Crops by Stream

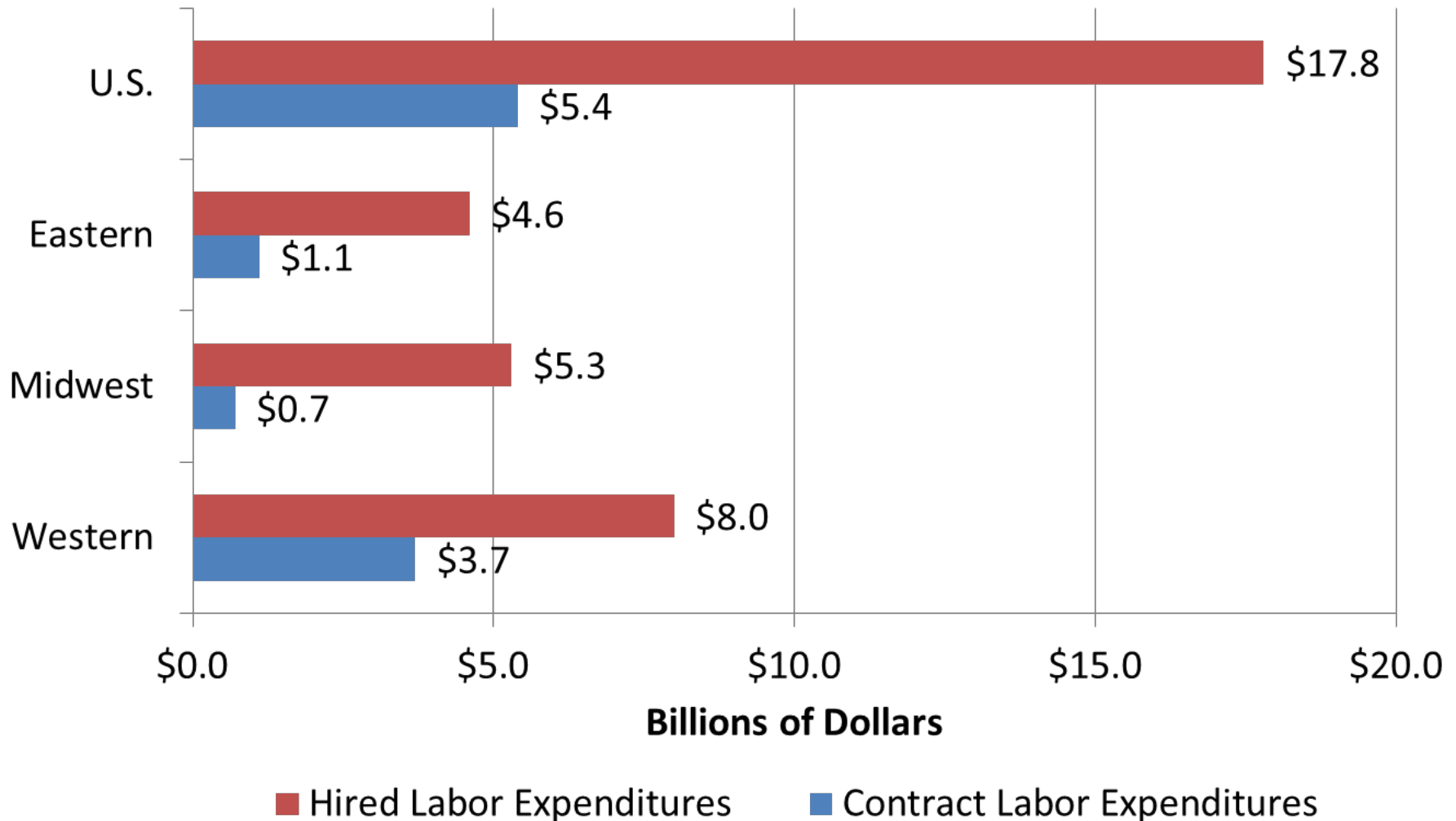
(Source: USDA Census of Agriculture)

Between 2007 and 2012:

- Only the Western stream saw an increase in acreage in labor intensive crops due to increases in berries and orchards and vines.
- The Midwest and the Eastern streams saw declines in acreage. Increases in berry acreage were offset by declines in other crops and nursery.

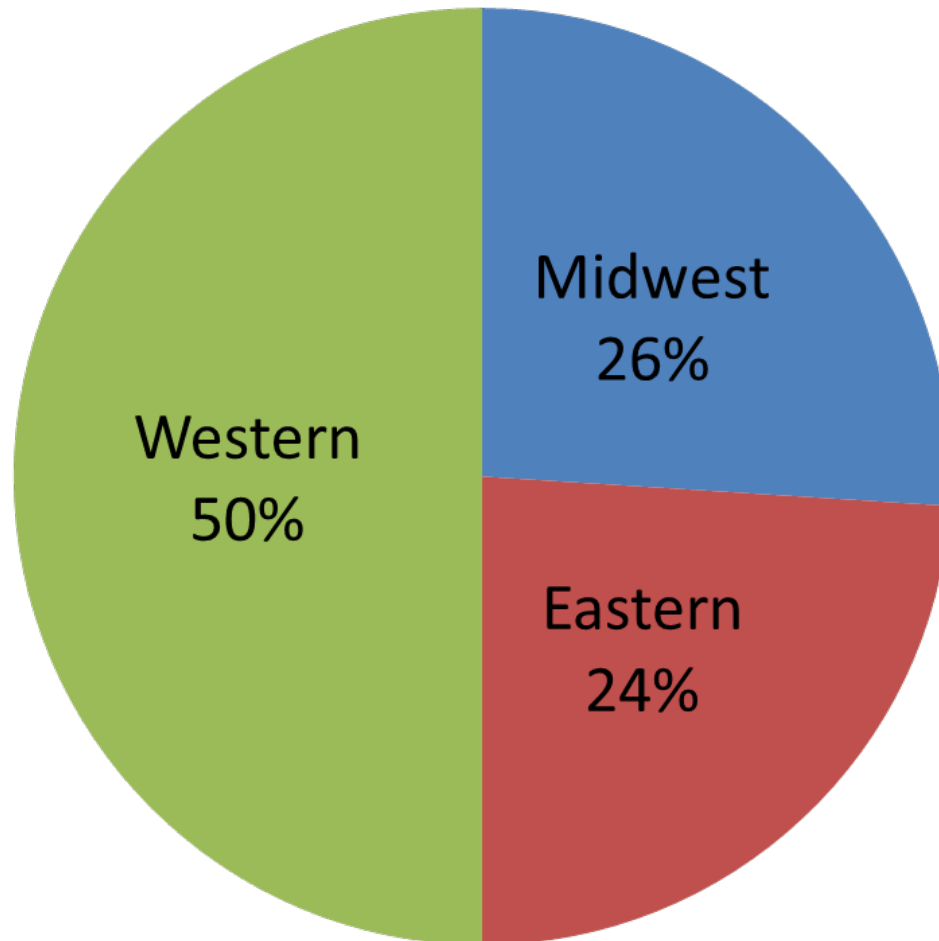
Crop Labor Expenditures, 23.2 Billion Dollars in 2012

(Source: USDA Census of Agriculture)



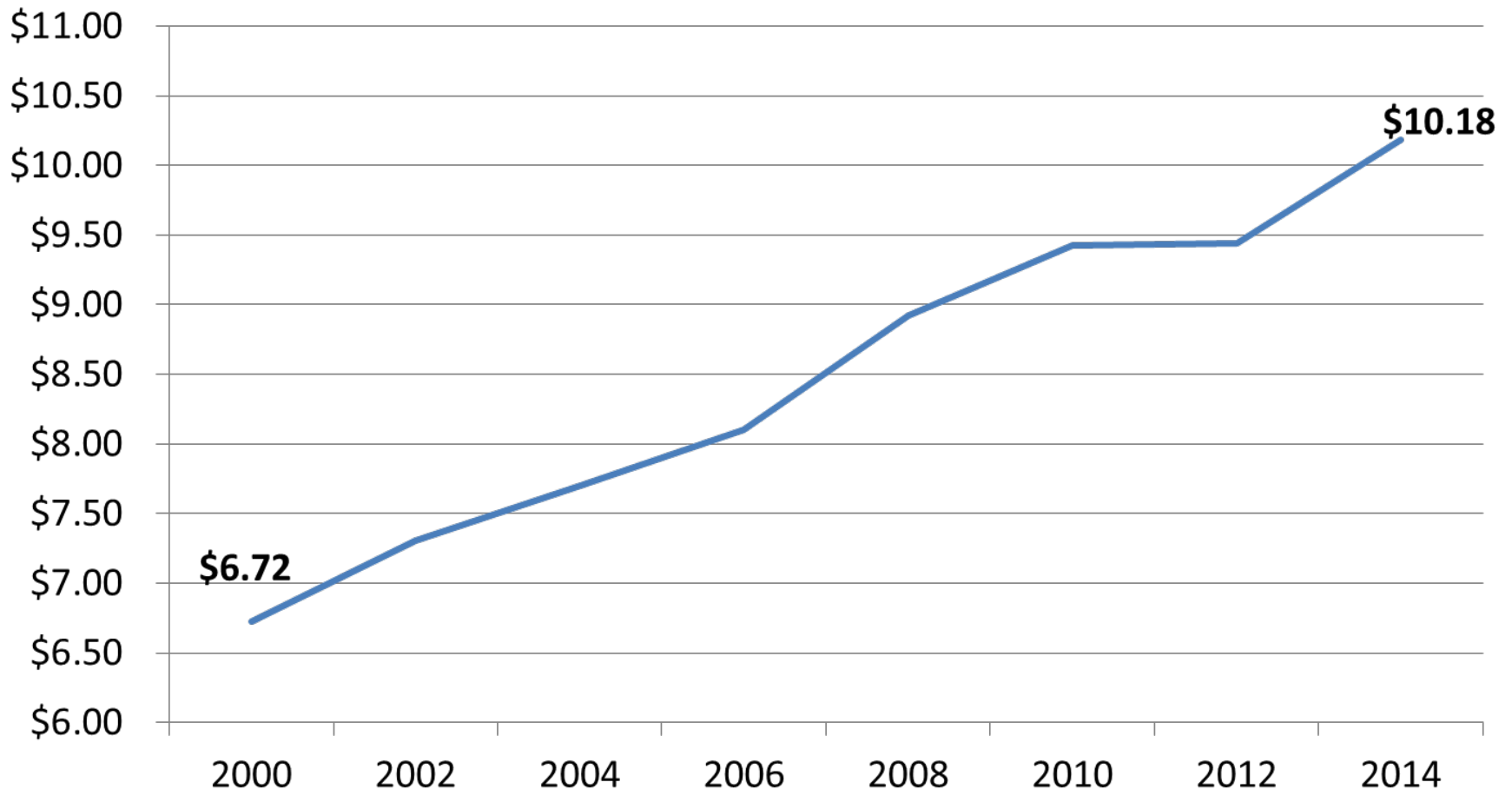
Migrant Stream Shares of Total U.S. Crop Labor Expenditures in 2012

(Source: USDA Census of Agriculture)



Trend in Average Hourly Wage Among U.S. Crop Workers

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)



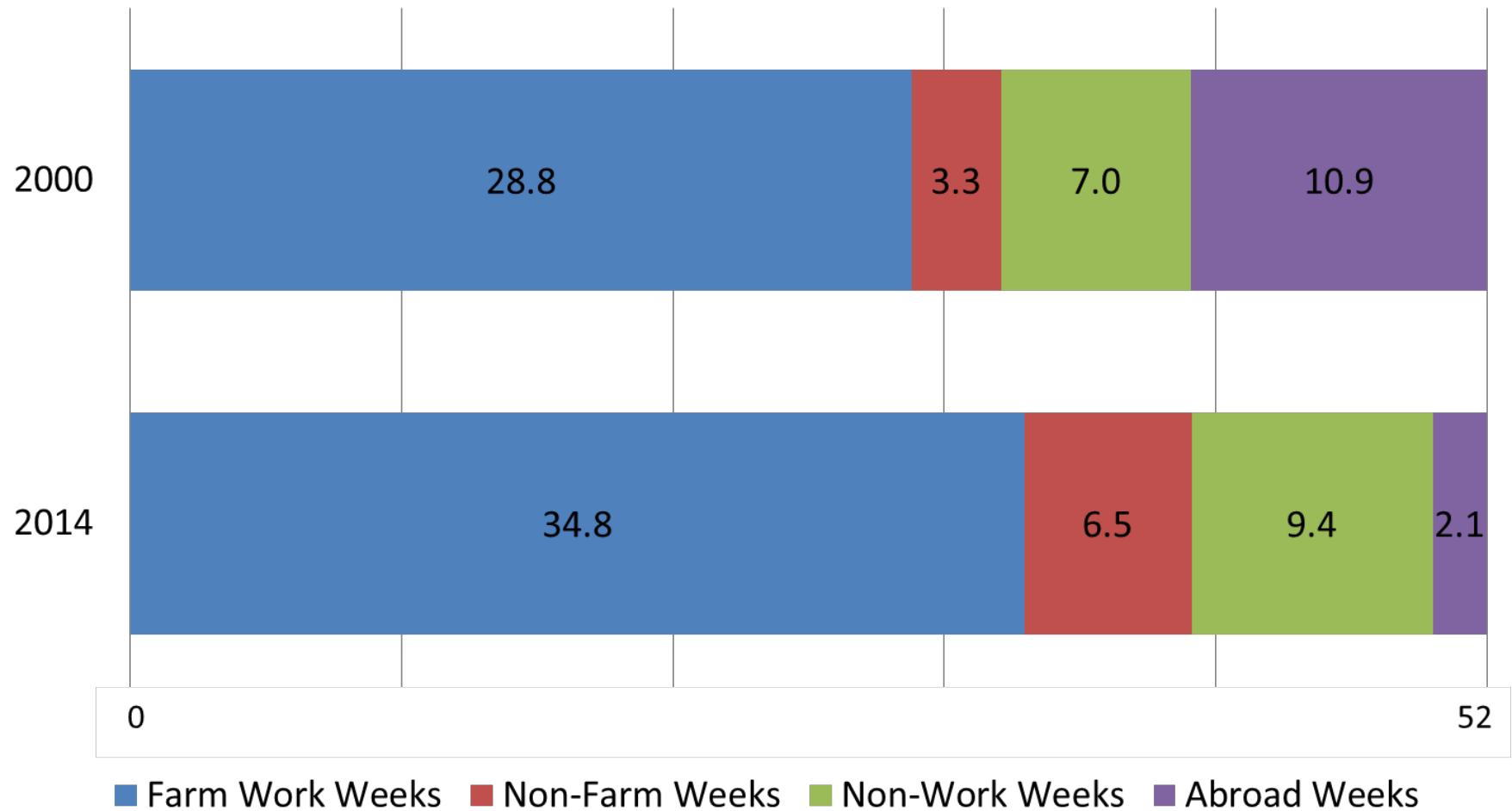
Supply Shocks¹

- More difficult to cross U.S.-Mexico border because of new U.S. laws and more border enforcement
- More expensive to hire smugglers to cross U.S.-Mexico border
- Reduced incentive for Mexican citizens to migrate to U.S. because of:
 - Increasing economic growth in Mexico
 - Rising productivity
 - Decreased birth rates
- Change of legal status of agricultural workers (IRCA 1986)

¹Fan, M., Gabbard, S., Pena, A.A., & Perloff, J.M. (2014). Why Do Fewer Agricultural Workers Migrate Now?

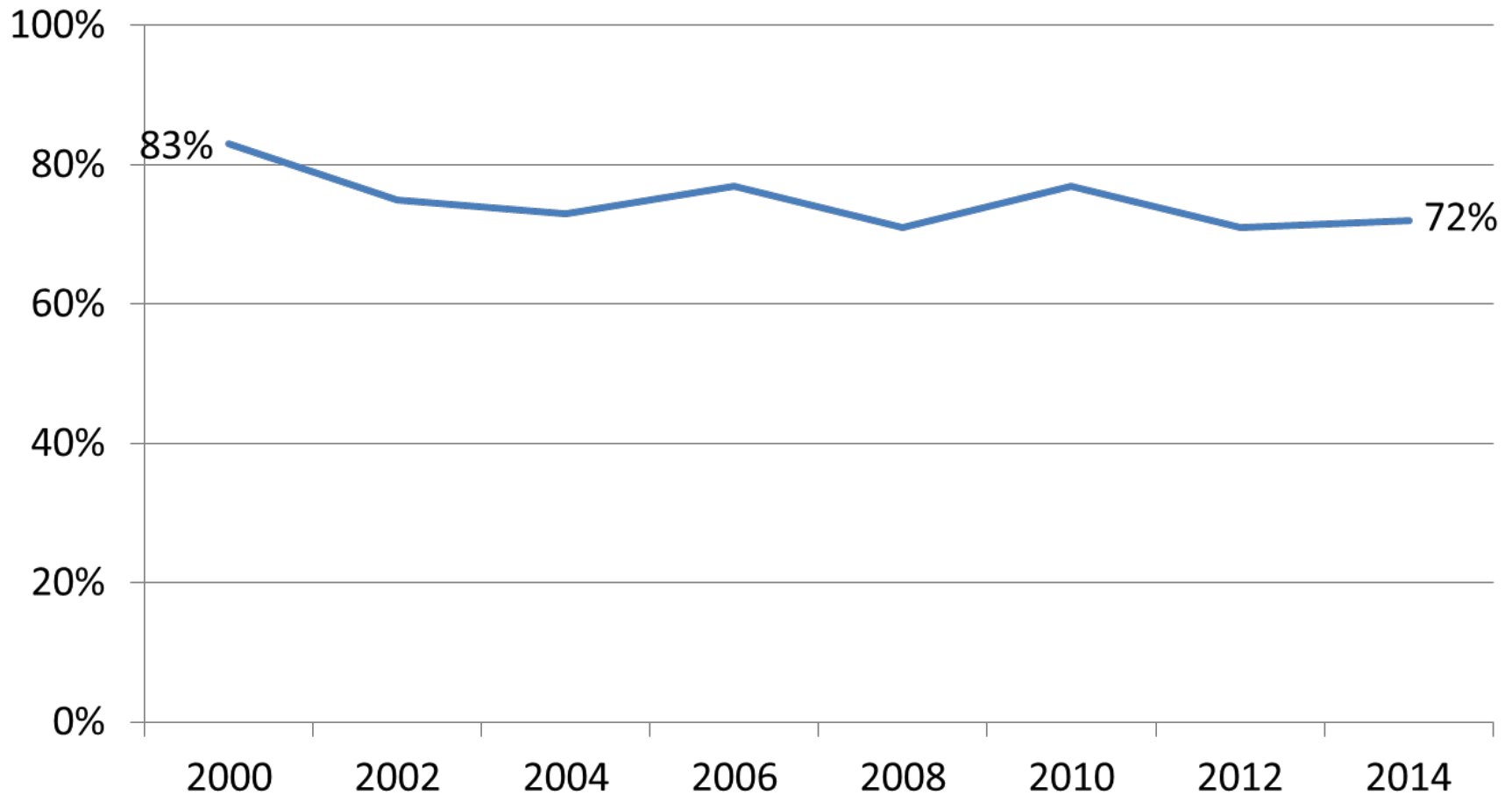
Number of Weeks Spent by U.S. Crop Workers in Work and Non-Work Activities

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)



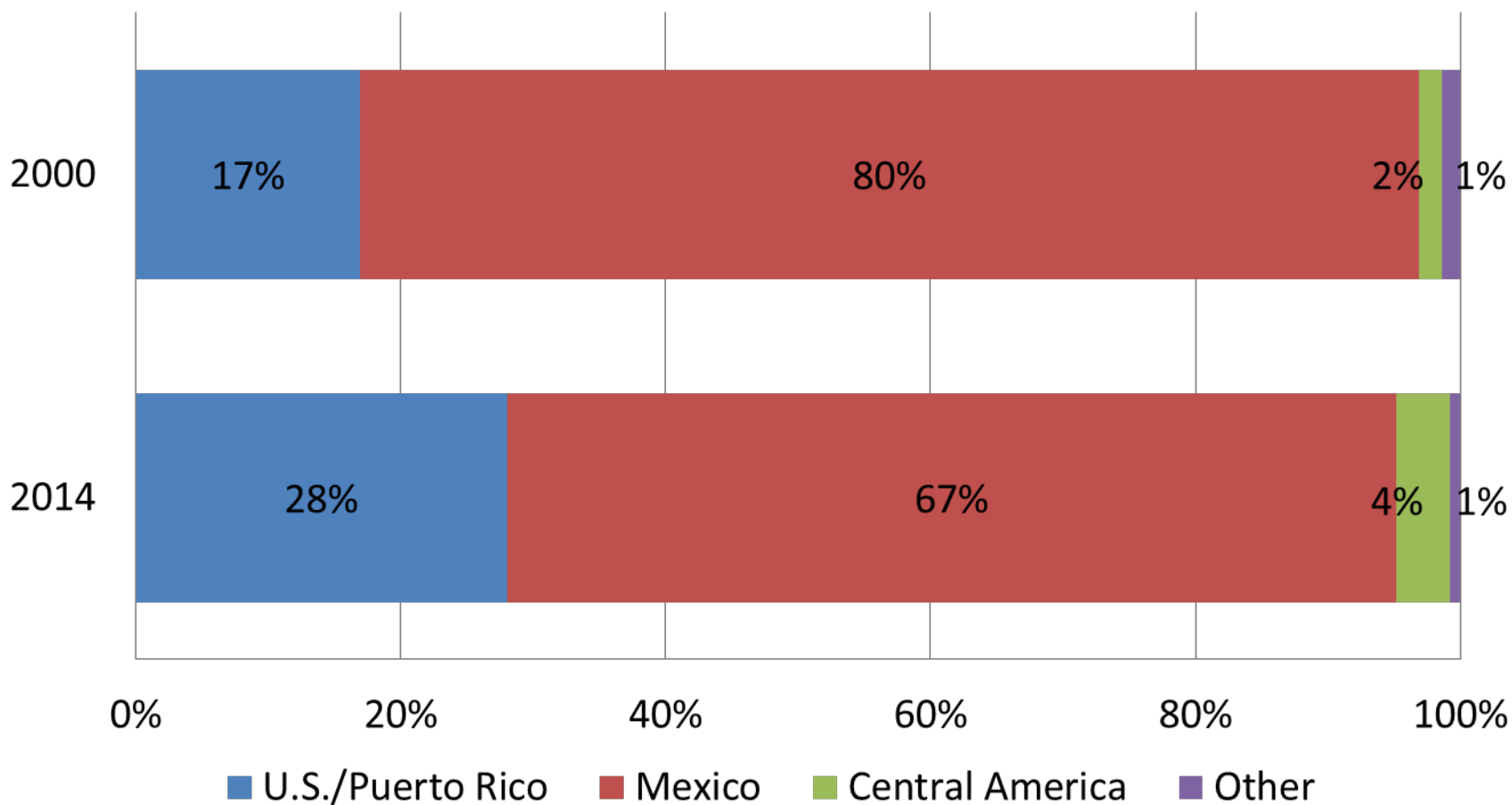
Trend in Share of Crop Workers Born Abroad

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)



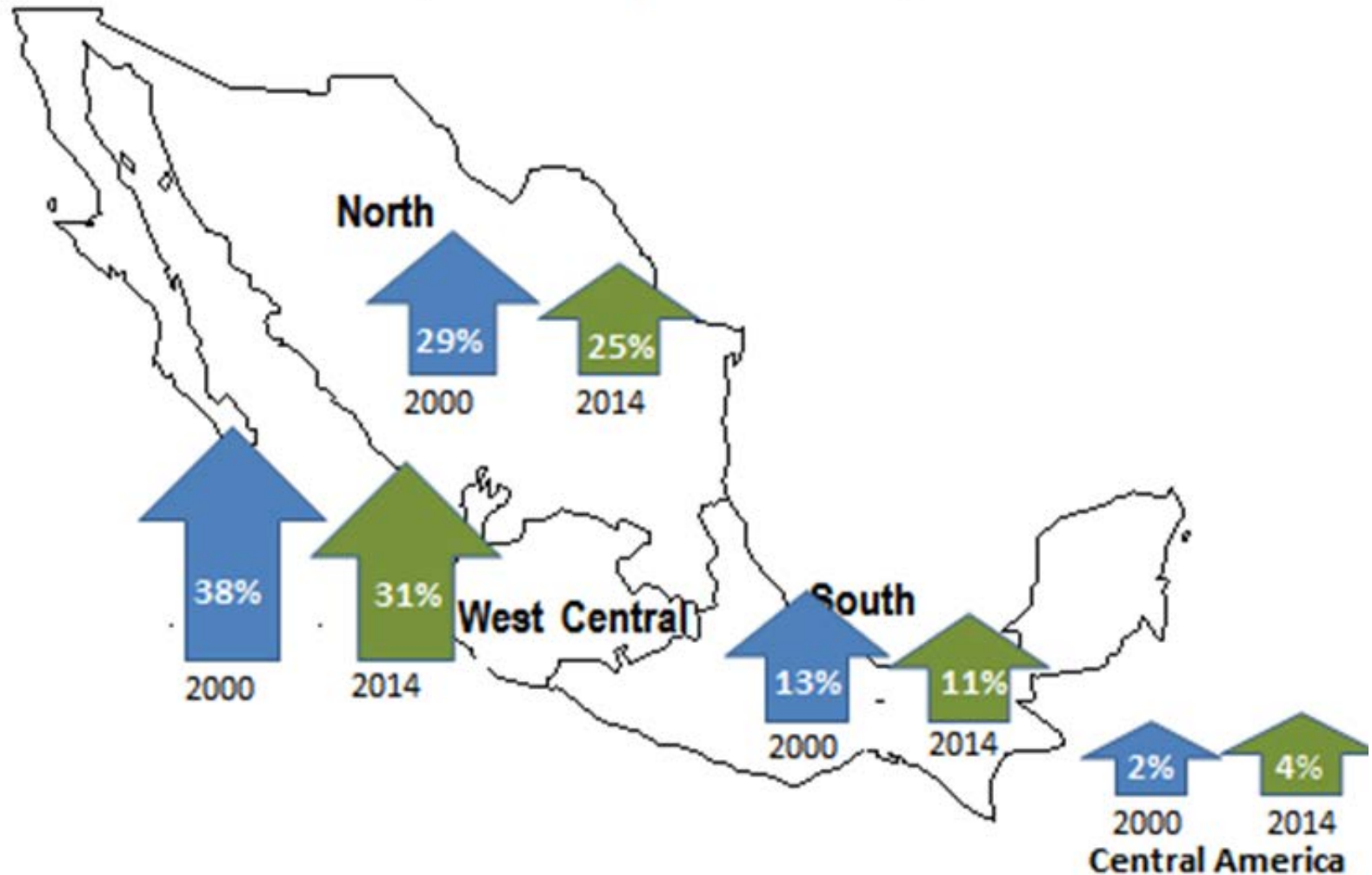
Place of Birth of U.S. Crop Workers

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)



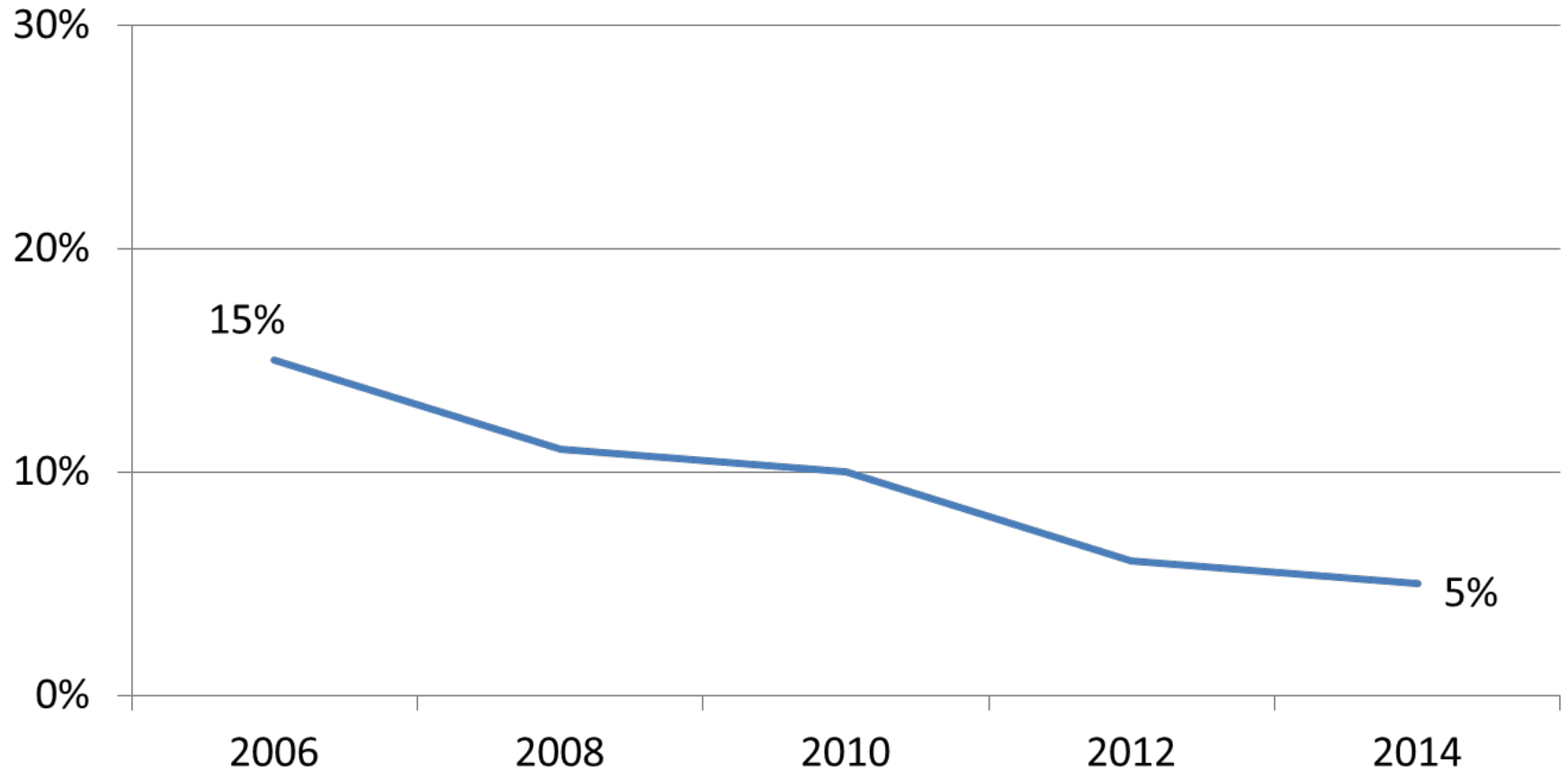
Crop Worker Sending Regions

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)



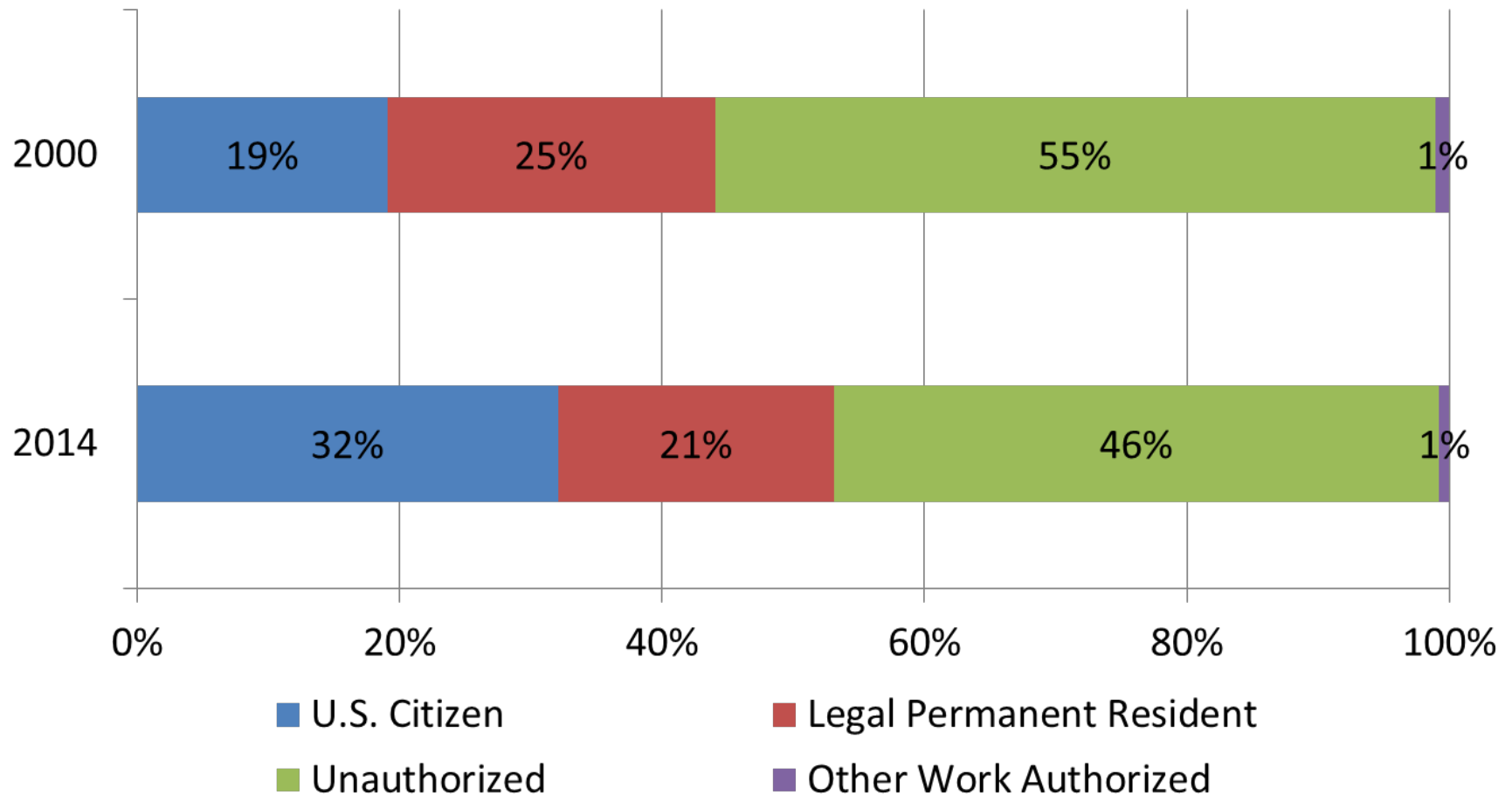
Trend In Share of Crop Workers Identified As Indigenous

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)



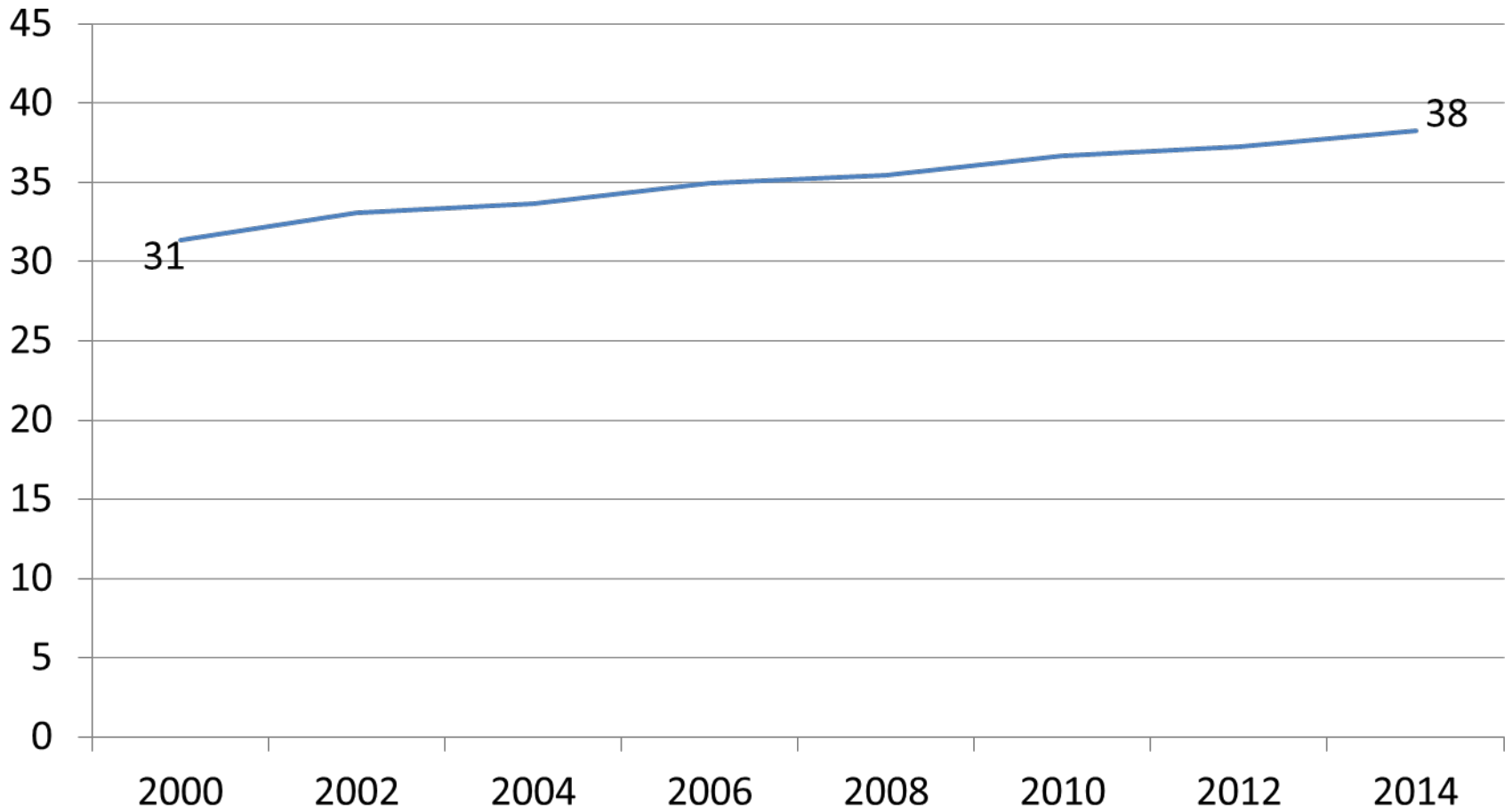
U.S. Crop Workers' Current Legal Status

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)



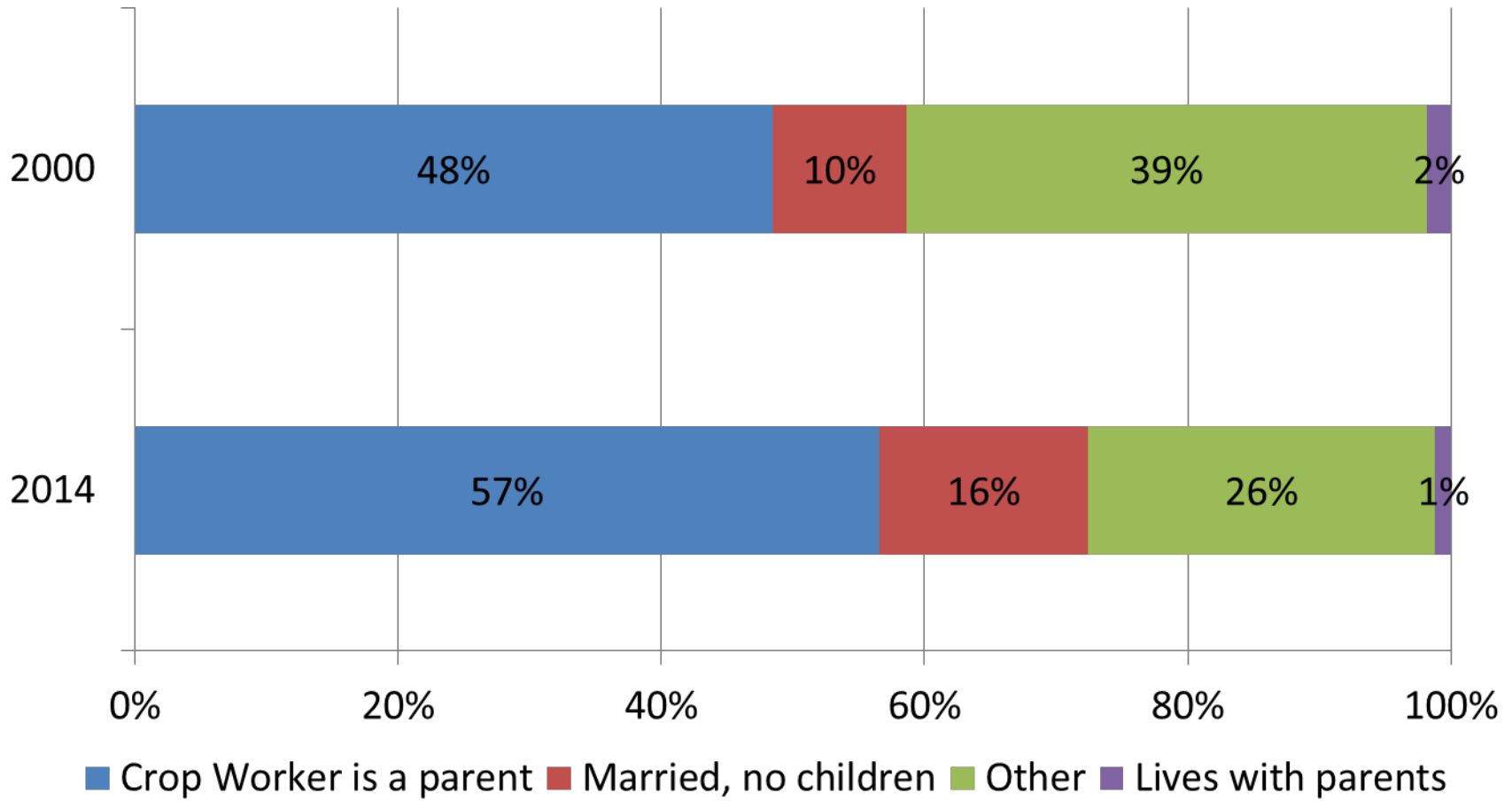
Trend In Crop Workers' Average Age

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)



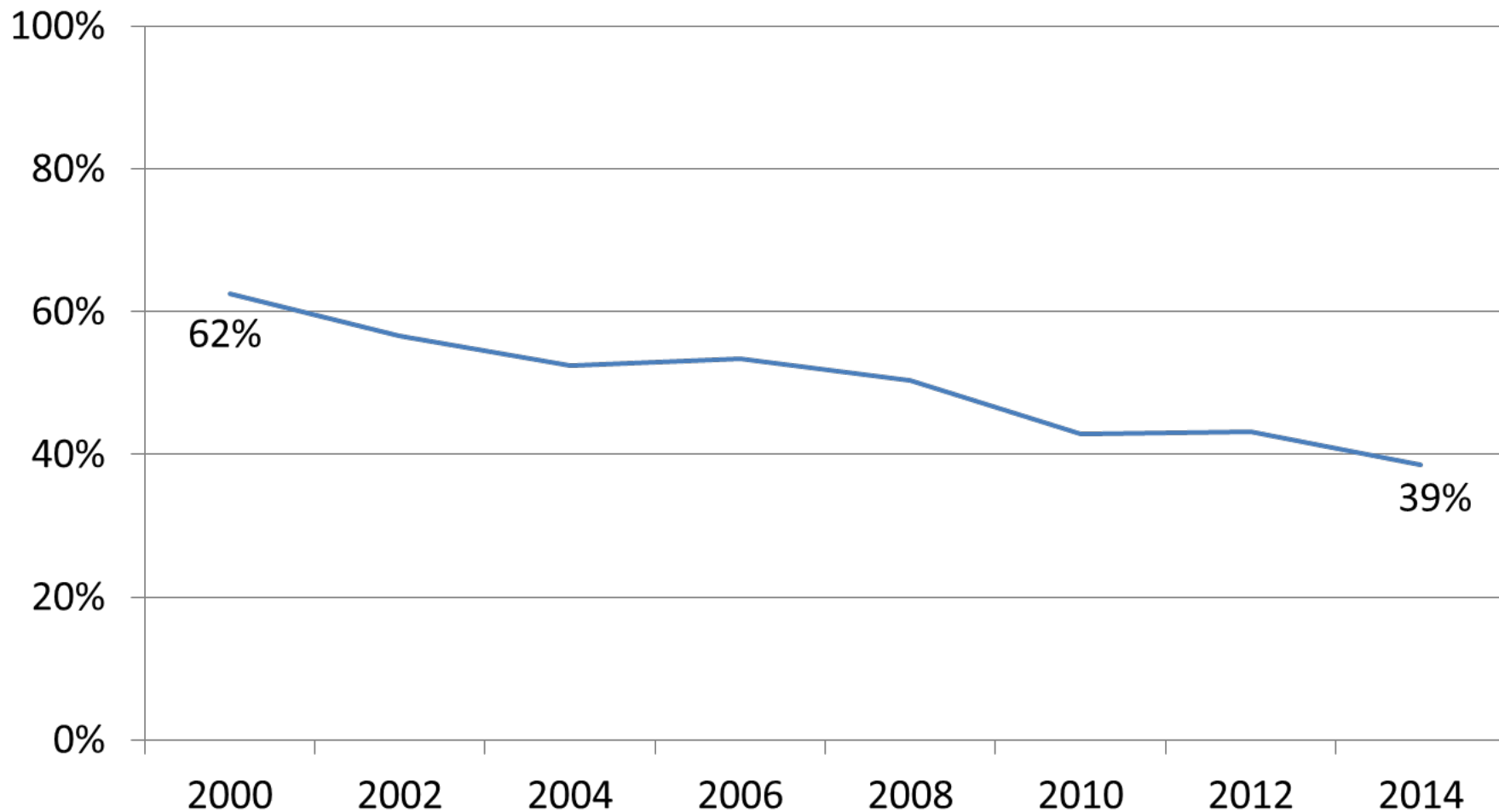
Family Composition of U.S. Crop Worker

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)



Trend In Share of Crop Workers Who Are Unaccompanied

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)



MEP Eligible Migrants in the NAWS

Eligible in the NAWS

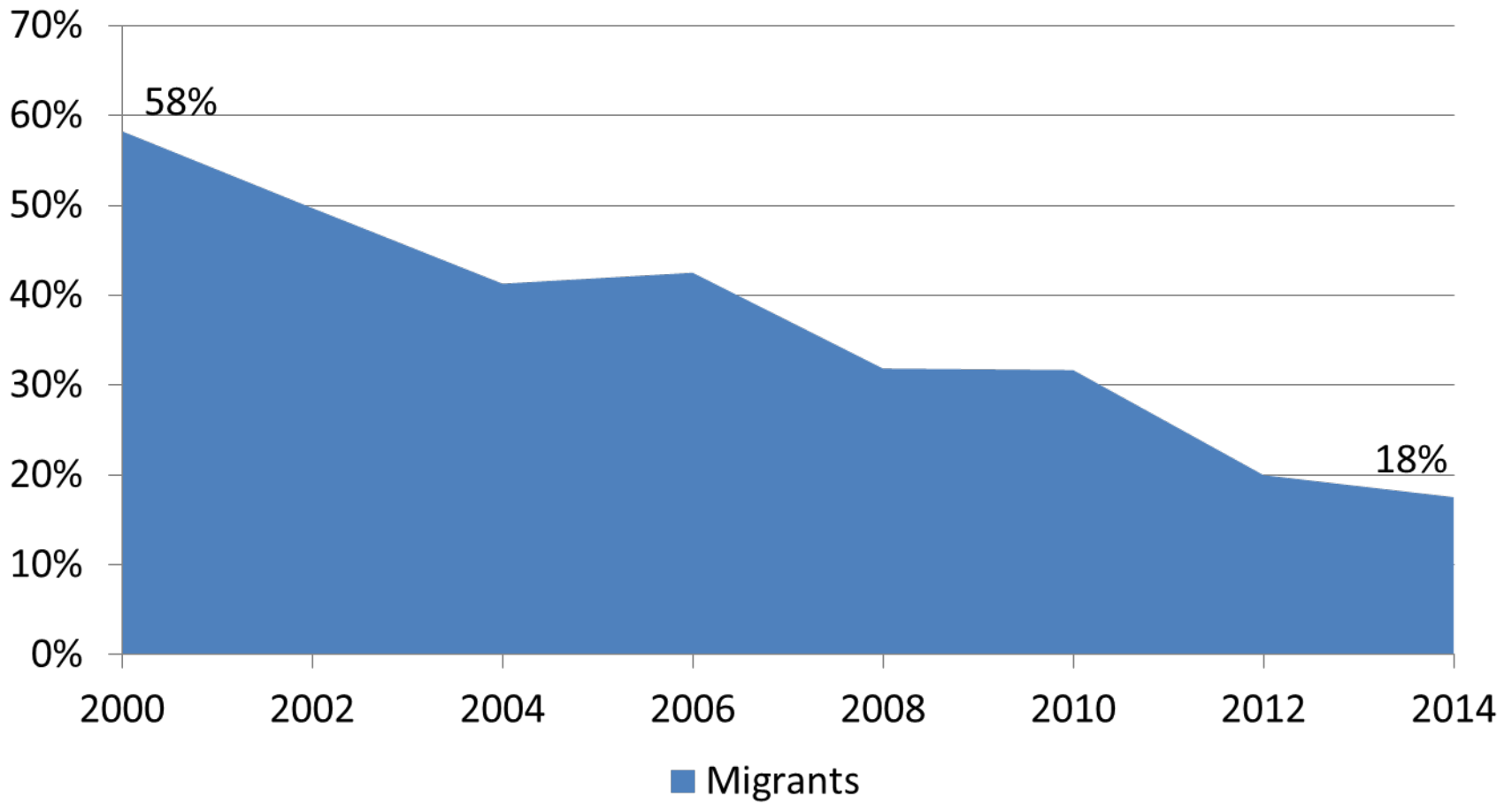
- Crop workers engaged in temporary or seasonal agricultural work at businesses producing crops
- Currently migrant or entered the US in the last three years
- Traveled more than 75 miles to do agricultural work
- “Parents” category includes mostly crop workers who have children under the age of 22 but some have a spouse under age 22 but no children

Eligible but not in the NAWS

- Livestock workers, workers in post-production (truck drivers, processing plants). Crop workers not employed in agriculture in the last year
- Not currently migrant and not new to the US but migrated within the last three years
- Crossed a school district boundary in a move of 75 miles or less

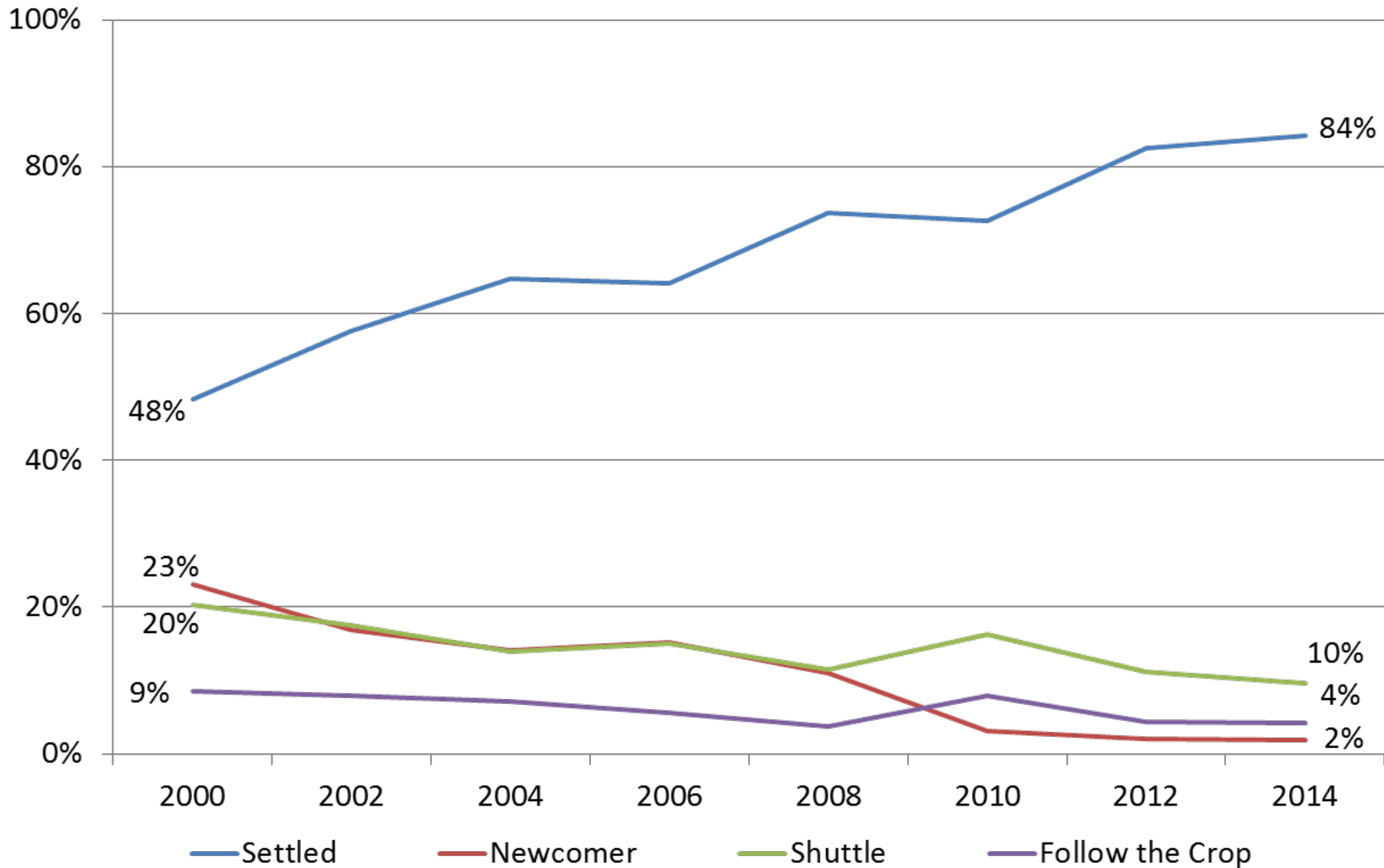
Migrant Agricultural Workers Trend

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)



Trends in Migrant Types

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)



International Migrants Crossing the Border to do US Crop Work

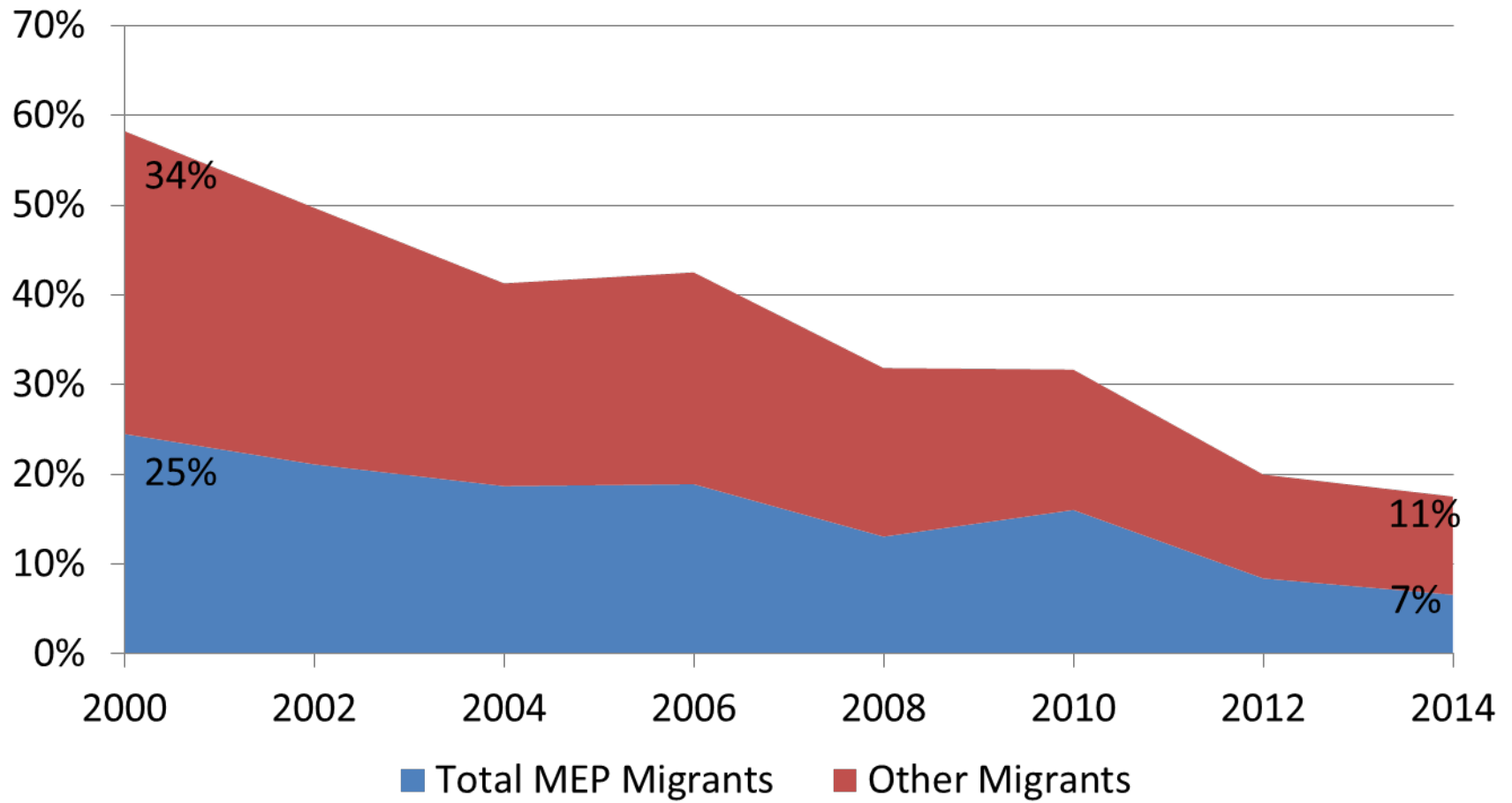
Map source: <http://travel.state.gov/content/dam/tsg-global/country-maps/mx-map.gif>

Data source: National Agricultural Workers Survey



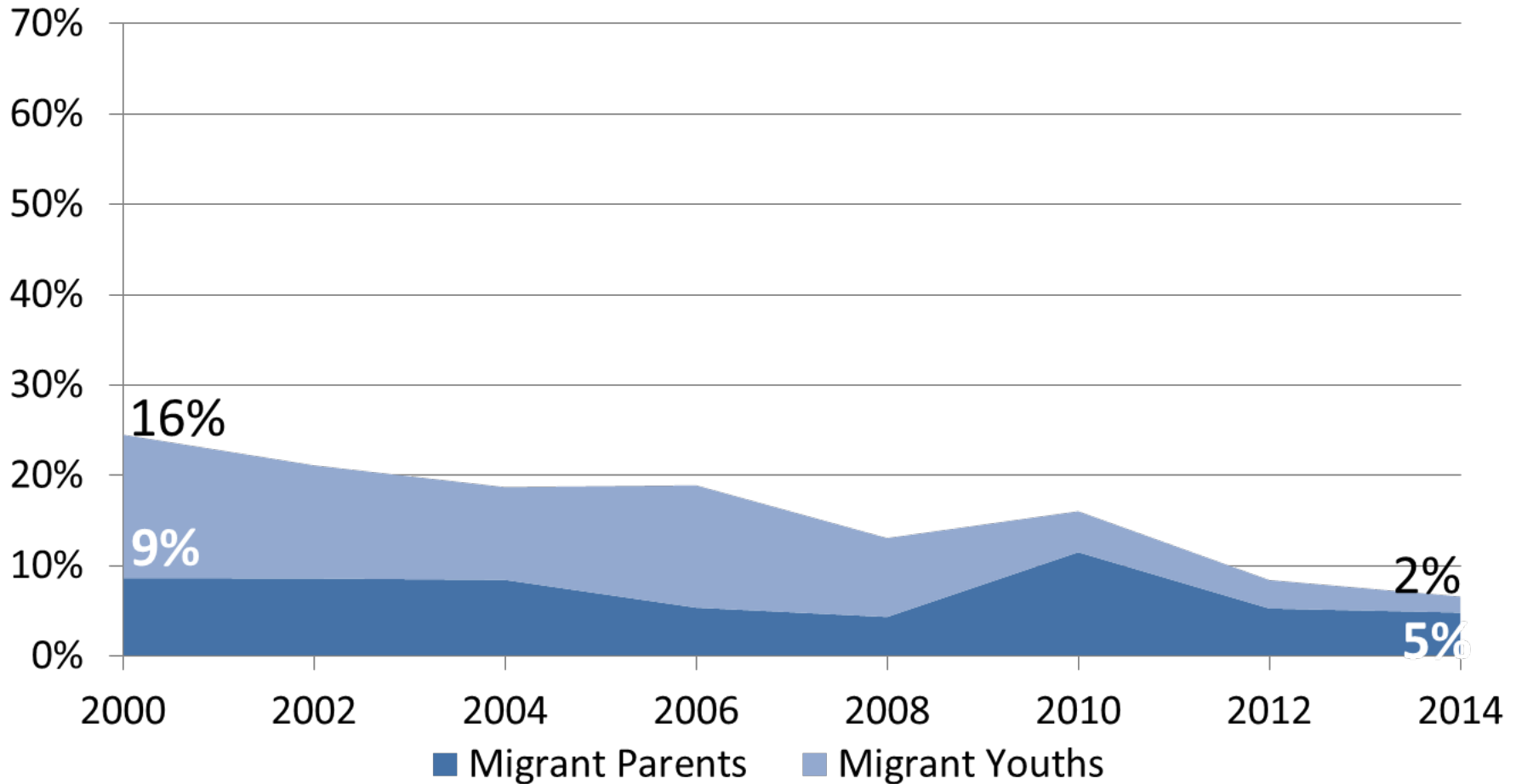
Types of Migrant Agricultural Workers Trend

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)



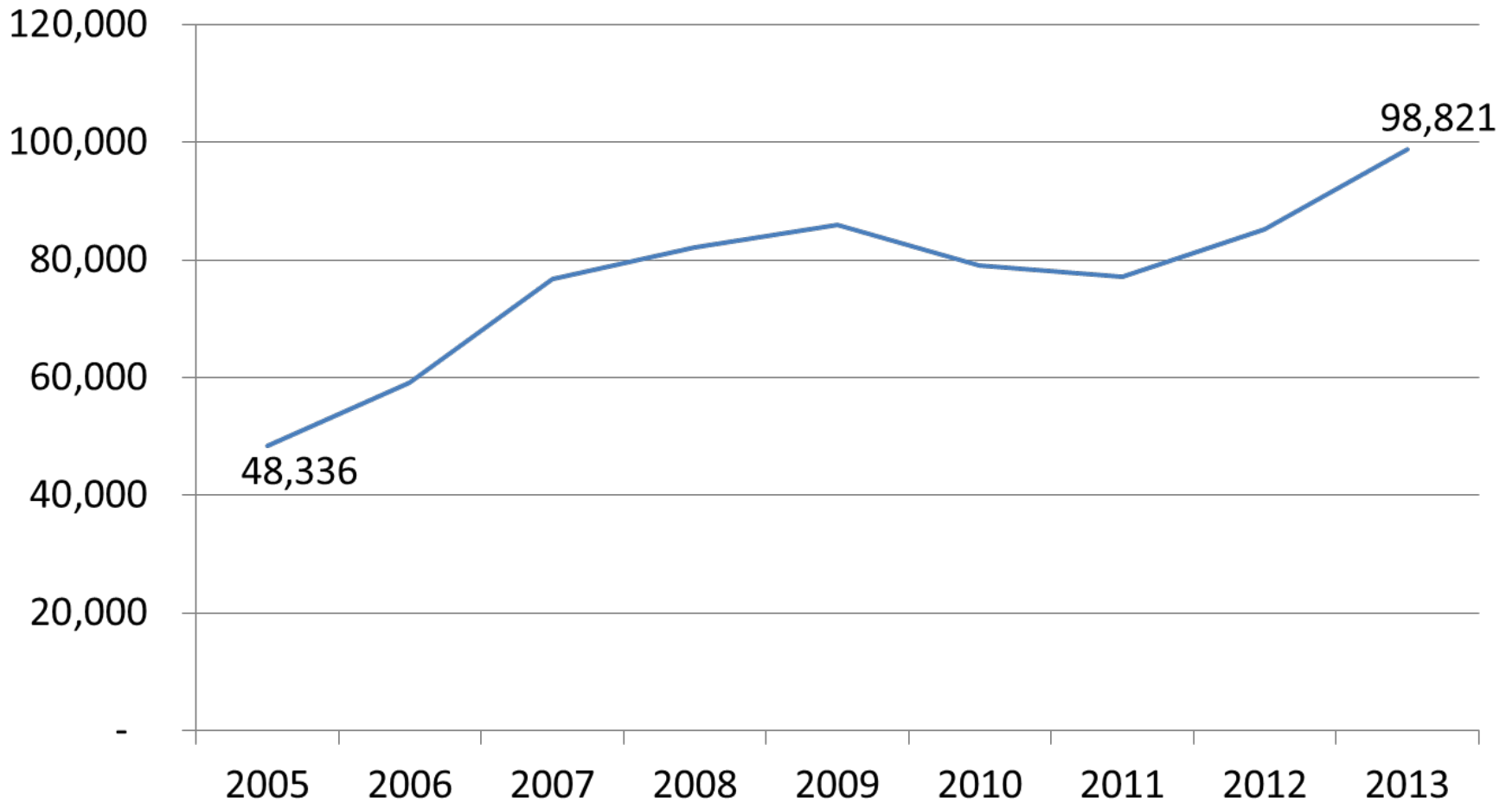
Types of Qualifying Migrant Workers

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey)



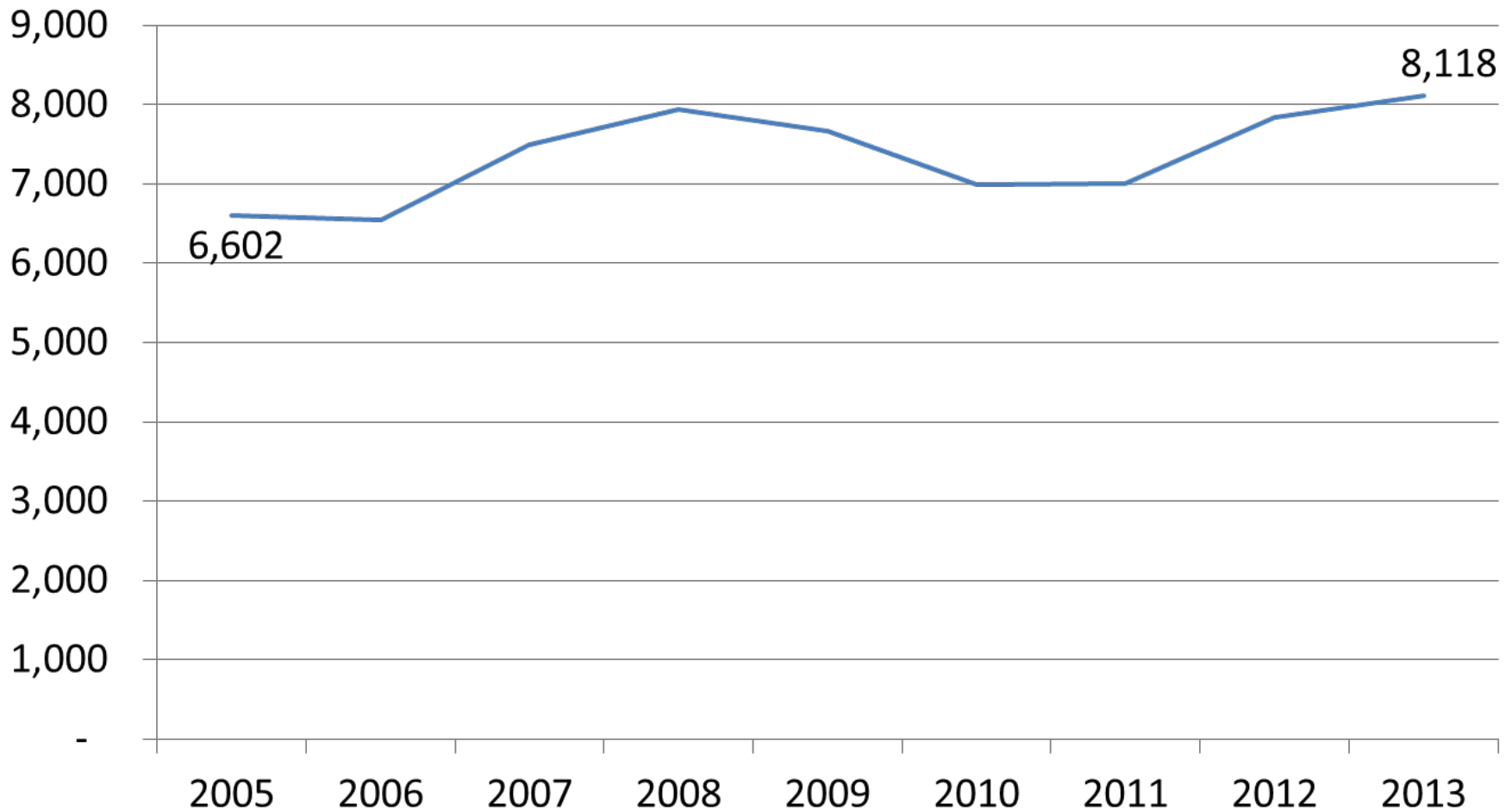
H-2A Positions Certified

Source: Department of Labor, Office of Foreign Labor Certification



H-2A Employer-Filled Applications Certified

Source: Department of Labor, Office of Foreign Labor Certification



Each Migrant Stream is Different

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2010-2014)

Categories of Migrants	Eastern	Midwestern	Western
Migrant Parents	19%	54%	32%
Migrant Youth	16%	_b	11%
Other Migrants	64%	37% ^a	57%

Who Are the Migrant Workers

MEP Migrant Workers

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2010-2014)

Characteristics of Migrant Workers	Combined	Parents	Youth
Male	73%	66%	91%
Female	27%	34%	9%
14-17	3% ^a	0%	10%
18-21	28%	4% ^a	90%
22-34	30%	42%	N/A
35-50	32%	44%	N/A
Over 50	7%	10%	N/A

Families of Migrant Workers

MEP Migrant Workers

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2010-2014)

Characteristics of Migrant Workers	Combined	Parents	Youth
Not Married	36%	16% ^a	89%
Married	64%	84%	11%
Spouse is not crop worker	59%	46%	93%
Spouse is crop worker	41%	54%	_b

Education for MEP Migrant Workers

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2010-2014)

Characteristics of Migrant Workers	Combined	Parents	Youth
6 years or less	43%	48%	29%
7 th -9 th Grade	32%	33%	28%
10 th Grade or Higher	26%	19%	44%

Place of Birth and Primary Language

MEP Migrant Workers

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2010-2014)

Characteristics of Migrant Workers	Combined	Parents	Youth
Place of Birth is U.S./Puerto Rico	18%	15% ^a	27%
Place of Birth is Mexico	75%	81%	60%
Place of Birth is Other	6% ^a	4% ^a	13% ^a
Primary Language is English	13%	10% ^a	19%
Primary Language is Spanish	84%	87%	75%
Primary Language is Other	3%	2% ^a	6% ^a

Children of Migrant Workers

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2010-2014)

Characteristic	Percent
Born in U.S. or Puerto Rico	83%
Born in Mexico	15%
Born in Other County	1% ^a
0-6 Years Old	47%
7-13 Years Old	28%
14-17 Years Old	17%
18-21 Years Old	8%



Children of Migrant Parents Education

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2010-2014)

Highest Grade Completed	Percent
Less than 1	46%
1-6	26%
7-9	12%
10 or More	16%

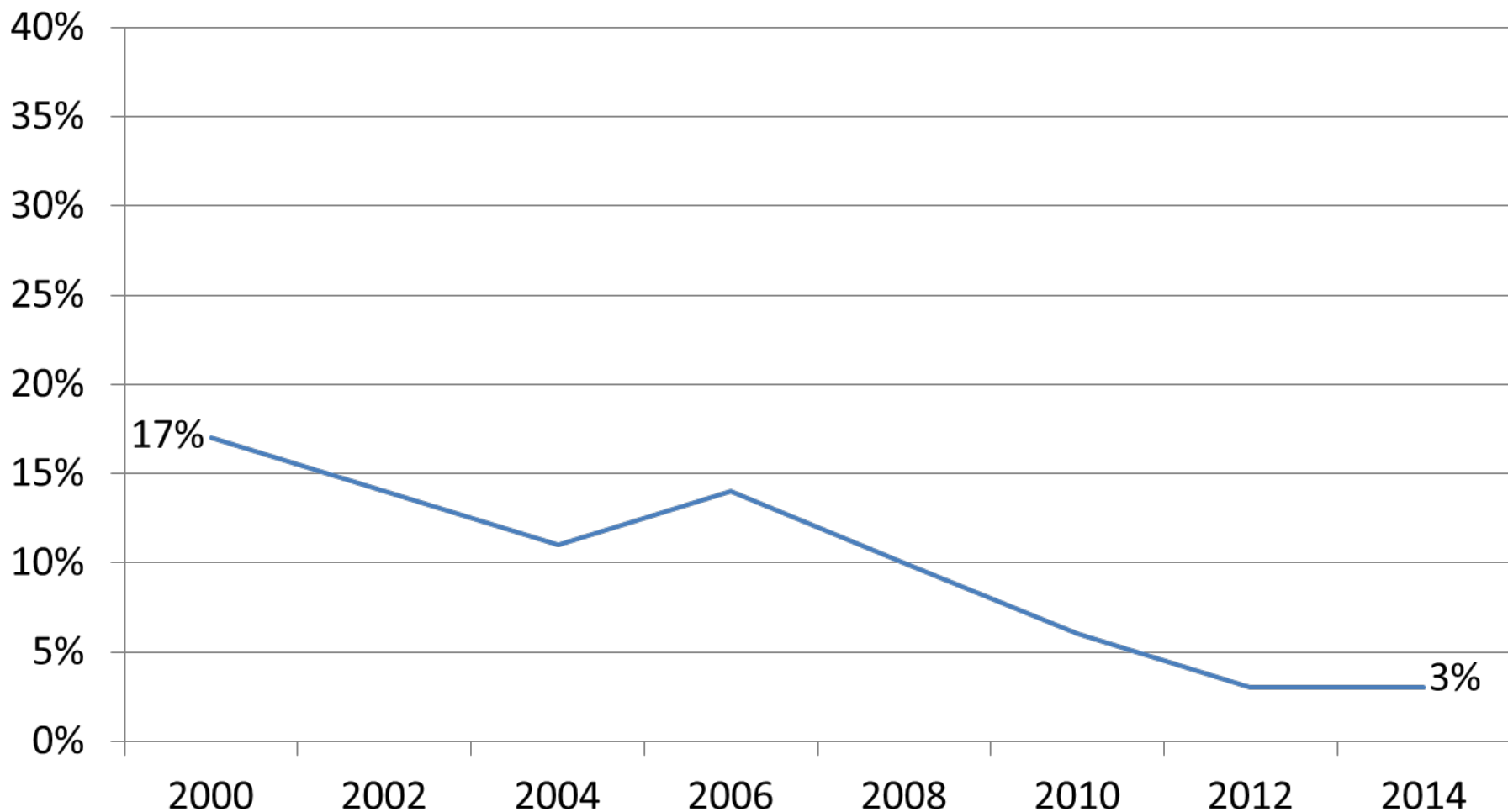


Out-of-School Youth Definition

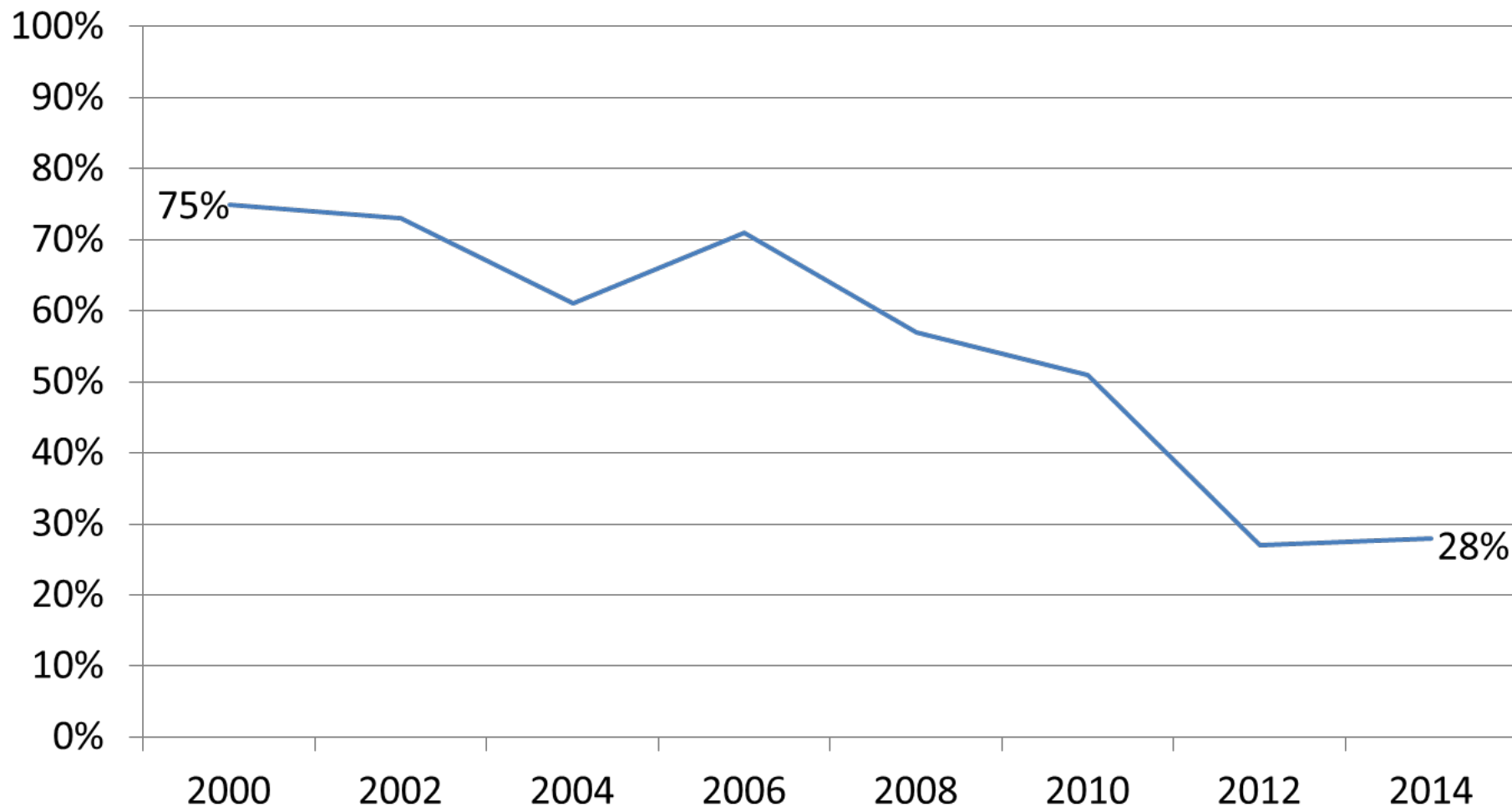
Out-of-school youth
defined as a:

- Youth between 14 and 21 years old
- Has not completed high school and has not attended U.S. school in last year

Out-of-School Youths as a Percentage of All Crop Workers



Out-of-School Youths as a Percentage of Youth Crop Workers





Characteristics of Out-of-School Youths

Between 2010 and 2014, according to the NAWs,

- Two percent of all crop workers were MEP migrant out-of-school youths
- 19 percent of MEP migrants were out-of-school youths
- 63 percent of MEP youths were out-of-school youths



Out-of-School Youths' Family Composition

- 15 percent of out-of-school youths are parents

Distribution of Out-of-School Youths Amongst Streams

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2010-2014)

Stream	Distribution
Eastern	35%
Midwestern	23% ^a
Western	42%

Education Completed by Out-of-School Youths

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2010-2014)

Education Completed by Out-of-School Youths	Percent
Less than 6 th Grade Education	40%
7 th -9 th Grade Education	41%
10 th Grade Education or Higher	18%
Attended Adult Education or Training	21%



Connections to Communities

- Migrant parents and youth can be hard to find.
- Knowing patterns of community connection can help.
 - Where they are
 - Where they are not

Family Income and Use of Services

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2010-2014)

Poverty and Use of Services	Combined	Parents	Youth
Below 100% of Poverty	47%	41%	62%
Not using Gov't Service Programs	40%	20%	93%
Using One or More Gov't Service Programs	60%	80%	7%

Government Services Used by Migrant Parents

Someone in the Household Used the Service in Previous Two Years

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2010-2014)

Top Four Programs	Percent of Parents
Medicaid	74%
WIC	33%
Food Stamps	29%
Unemployment Insurance	25%

Other Services and Programs

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2010-2014)

Education and Use of Health Service	Combined	Parents	Youth
Ever Attended U.S. Adult Education	27%	26%	29%
Used U.S. Health Service in Previous Two Years	52%	57%	39%



Migrant and Seasonal Head Start

- One in four migrant parents have a child under the age of six that might be eligible for Migrant Head Start (NAWS 2010-2014).
- MSHS serves mostly children in families under the poverty level.
- MSHS does serve seasonal workers but gives migrants priority.



Migrant Health

- Migrant Health serves both seasonal and migrant workers and their families.
- All migrant parents and youth can use Migrant Health Clinics. Almost all migrant parents and youth have incomes under 200 percent of poverty (NAWS 2013-2014) and are eligible for free or sliding scale fees.

Housing of Migrants

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2010-2014)

Location and Type of House	Combined	Parents	Youth
Single Family Home	49%	47%	53%
Mobile Home	30%	35%	14%
Apartments	13%	12%	16%
Other	9%	5%	17%
Off-Farm	80%	86%	65%
On-Farm	20%	14%	35%

Where Eligible Migrants Work

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2010-2014)

Crop and Type of Task	Combined	Parents	Youth
Fruits and Nuts	58%	61%	50%
Vegetables	18%	17%	20%
Horticulture	16%	14% ^a	22%
Field Crops	6% ^a	6% ^a	7% ^a
Pre-harvest	41%	45%	32%
Harvest	29%	25%	38%
Technical	19%	17%	22%
Post-Harvest	11%	13% ^a	7%

Five Top Jobs

(Source: National Agricultural Workers Survey, 2010-2014)

Crop and Task	Combined (Rank)	Parents (Rank)	Youth (Rank)
Harvesting Fruits and Nuts	1	1	1
Technical Fruits and Nuts	2	2	2
Harvesting Vegetables	3	3	3
Pre-Harvesting Horticulture	4	4	4
Post-Harvest Vegetables	5	N/A	N/A

Resources

Presented data can be found at:

Census of Agriculture

NAWS

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