



# **THE CHANGING FACE OF URBAN AMERICA: IMPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

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# **KINDER HOUSTON AREA SURVEY (1982-2011)**

**Supported by local foundations, corporations, and individuals, and now with a permanent home in the Kinder Institute for Urban Research, the annual surveys have interviewed 30 successive representative samples of Harris County residents.**

**In May 1982, just two months after the first Houston-area survey was completed, the 80-year oil boom suddenly collapsed.**

**The region recovered from the deep and prolonged recession of the mid 1980s to find itself squarely in the midst of ...**

- a restructured economy and**
- a demographic revolution.**

**These are the same transformations that are refashioning all of American society. The Houston surveys have tracked area residents' changing perspectives on these remarkable trends.**

# **THE RESTRUCTURED ECONOMY**

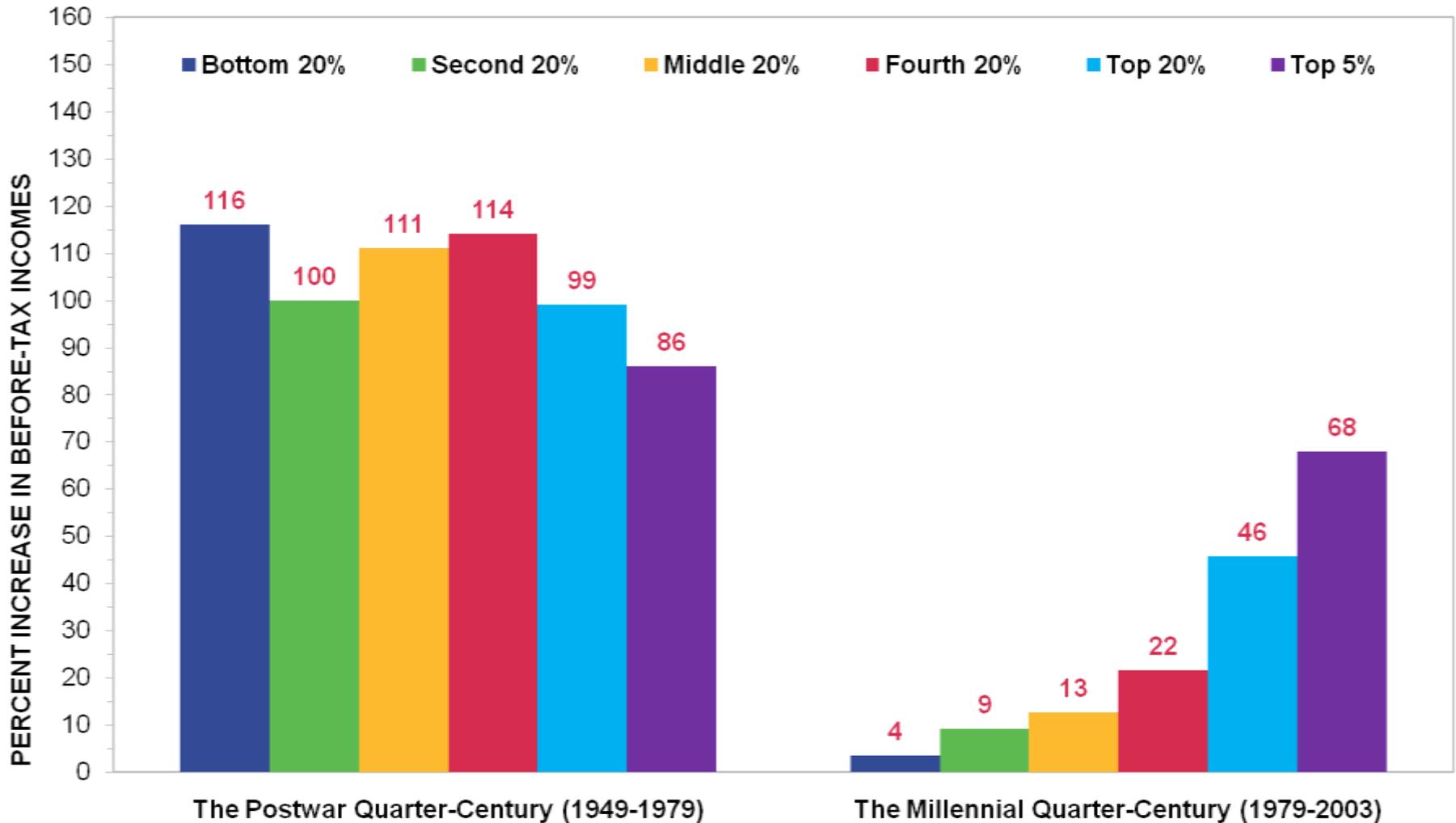
**The “resource economy” of the industrial era, for which this city was so favorably positioned, has been replaced by a new high-technology, knowledge-based, fully worldwide marketplace.**

**The traditional “blue collar path” to financial security has now largely disappeared. Almost all the well-paid jobs today require high levels of technical skills and educational credentials.**

**In the 2011 survey, 78% disagreed that “A high school education is enough to get a good job.” In 2010, 67% of the survey respondents agreed that “There are very few good jobs in today’s economy for people without a college education.”**

**In this increasingly unequal, hourglass economy, “What you earn,” as the saying goes, “depends on what you’ve learned.”**

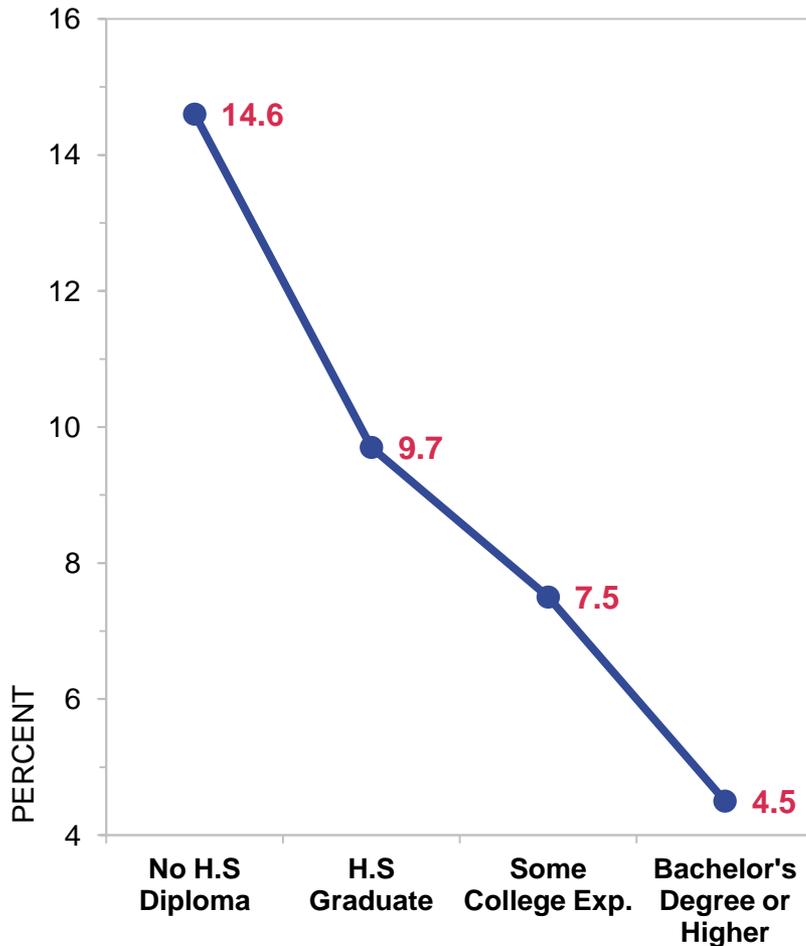
# TWO CONTRASTING QUARTER-CENTURIES SINCE WORLD WAR II (NATIONAL DATA, 1949-2003)



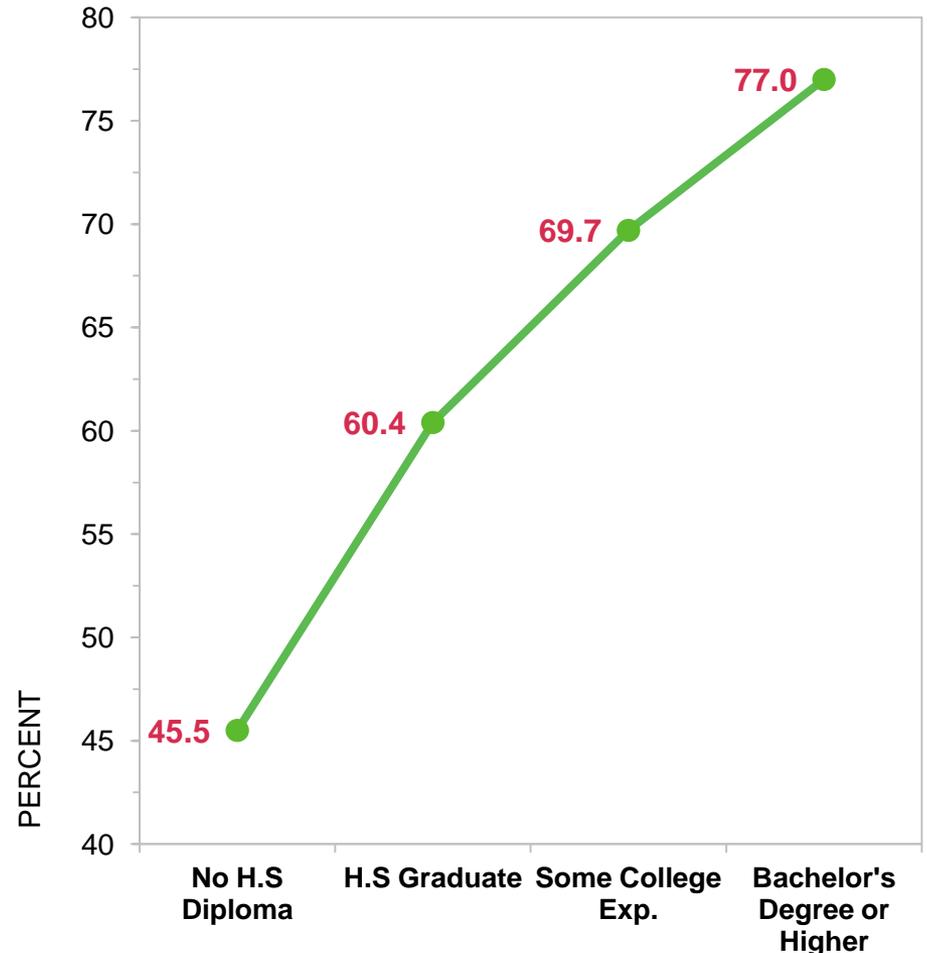
SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS; Robert H. Frank. 2007. *Falling Behind*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, pp. 10-11.

# THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON EMPLOYMENT (CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 25 TO 65, APR. 2011)

## Unemployment Rate



## Labor Force Participation Rate



SOURCE: US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS. APRIL 2011 REPORT, RATES ARE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED.

# **THE NEW IMPORTANCE OF QUALITY OF PLACE CONSIDERATIONS**

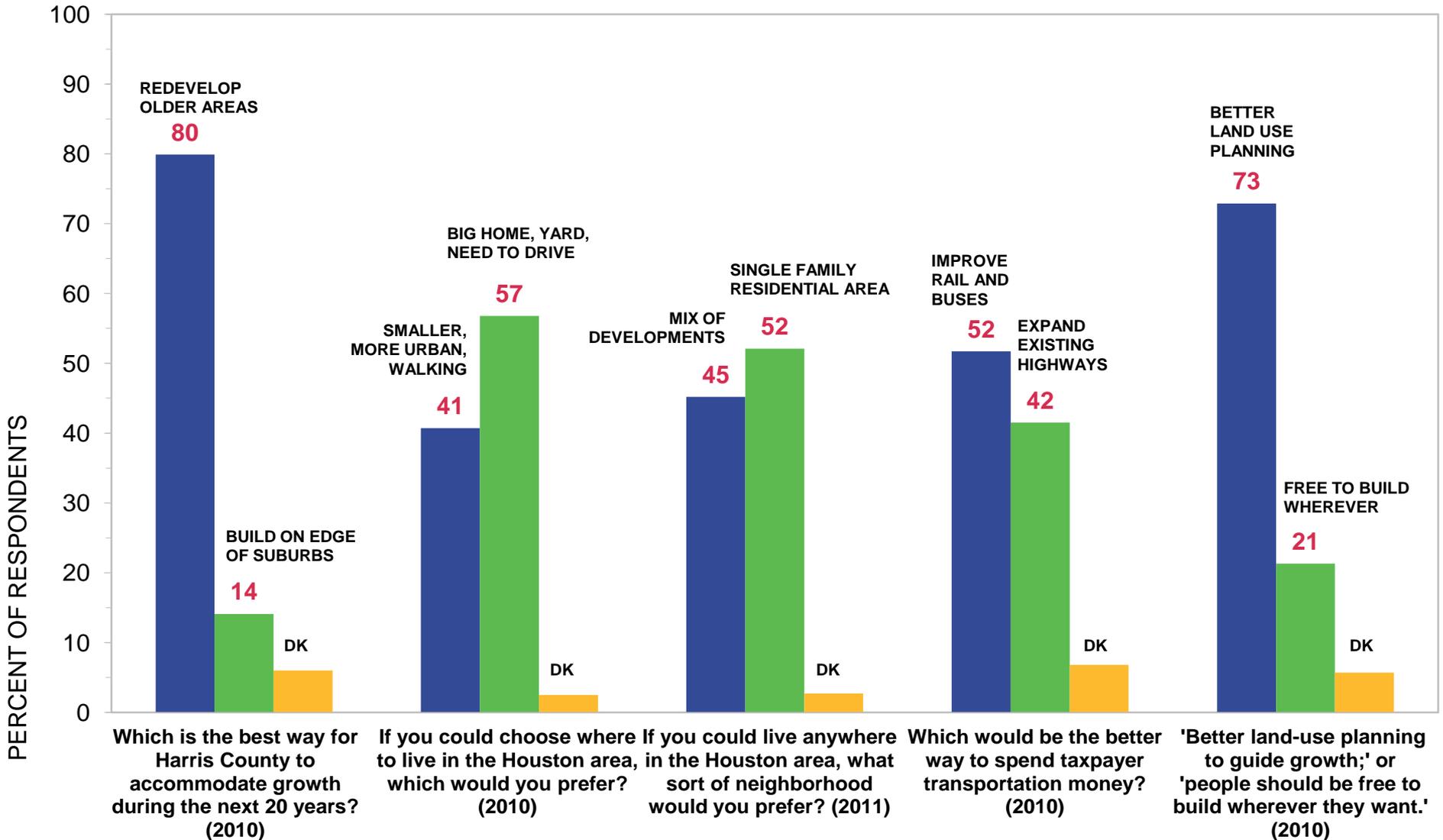
**Houston's prospects will now increasingly depend on the ability of the region to attract and retain the nation's most skilled and creative "knowledge workers" and high-tech companies.**

**This will require continued significant improvements in ...**

- the healthfulness of the region's air and water quality**
- the excellence of its venues for sports, arts, and culture**
- its overall physical attractiveness and aesthetic appeal**
- the enhancement of its green spaces, trees, and bayous**
- the revitalization and preservation of its urban centers**
- the region's mobility through its transportation systems**
- the richness of its hiking, boating, and birding areas**

**The public's support for new initiatives along these lines has remained firm or grown stronger across the years of surveys.**

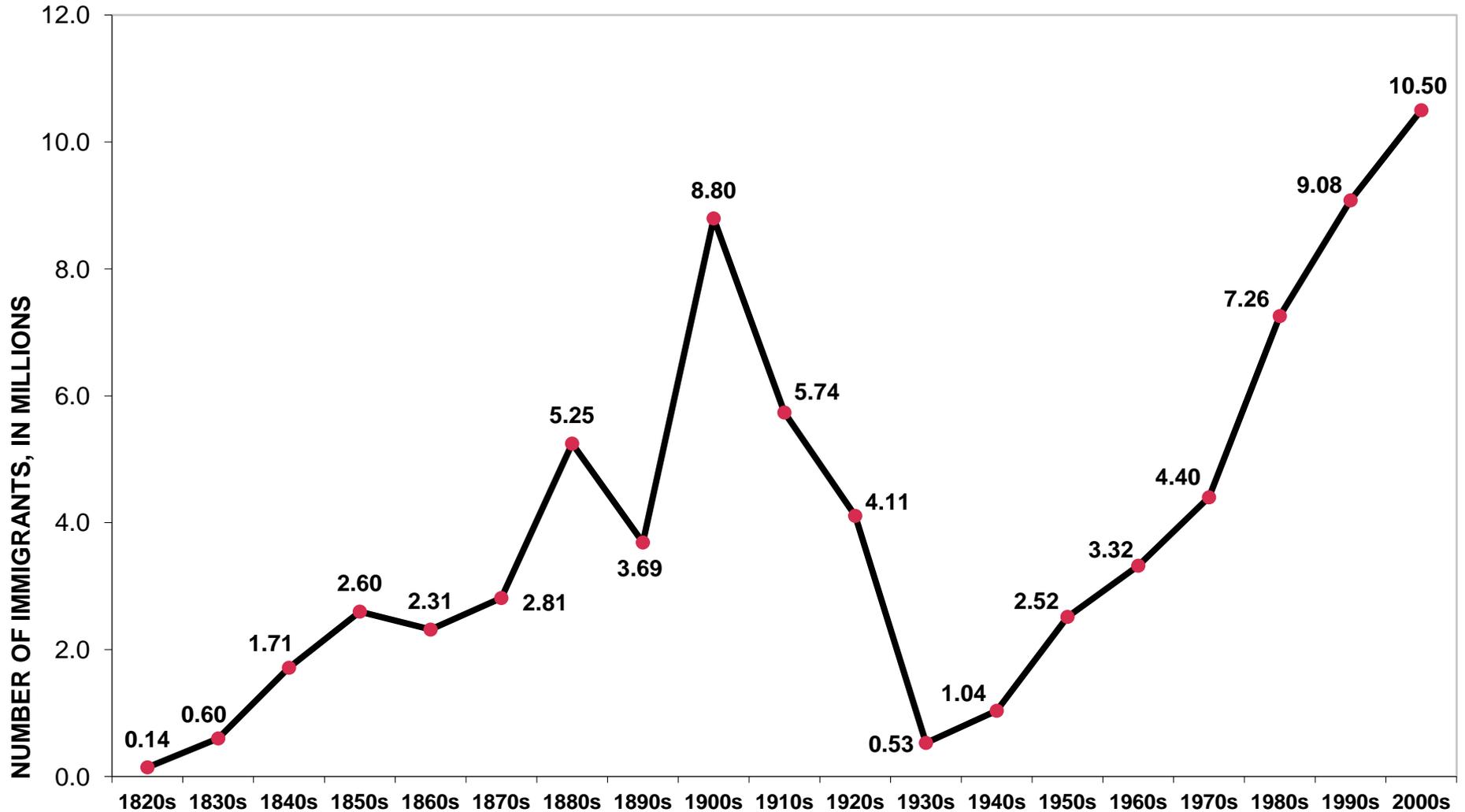
# ATTITUDES TOWARD URBAN LIFESTYLES AND LAND-USE PLANNING (2010 AND 2011)



# **U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY BEFORE AND AFTER THE REFORM ACT OF 1965**

- **Between 1492 and 1965, 82 percent of all the people who came to American shores came from Europe.**
- **Under the notorious “National Origins Quota Act” of 1924, immigration was dramatically reduced, and newcomers were restricted almost entirely to the “Nordics” of Western Europe.**
- **The “Hart-Celler Act” in 1965 opened the door for the first time to large numbers of non-Europeans, based primarily on family reunification, professional skills, or refugee status.**
- **As a result, major new immigrant flows — non-European and of striking socioeconomic diversity — are rapidly transforming the composition of the Houston, and American, populations.**

# THE NUMBER OF DOCUMENTED U.S. IMMIGRANTS, BY DECADE (1820-2010)

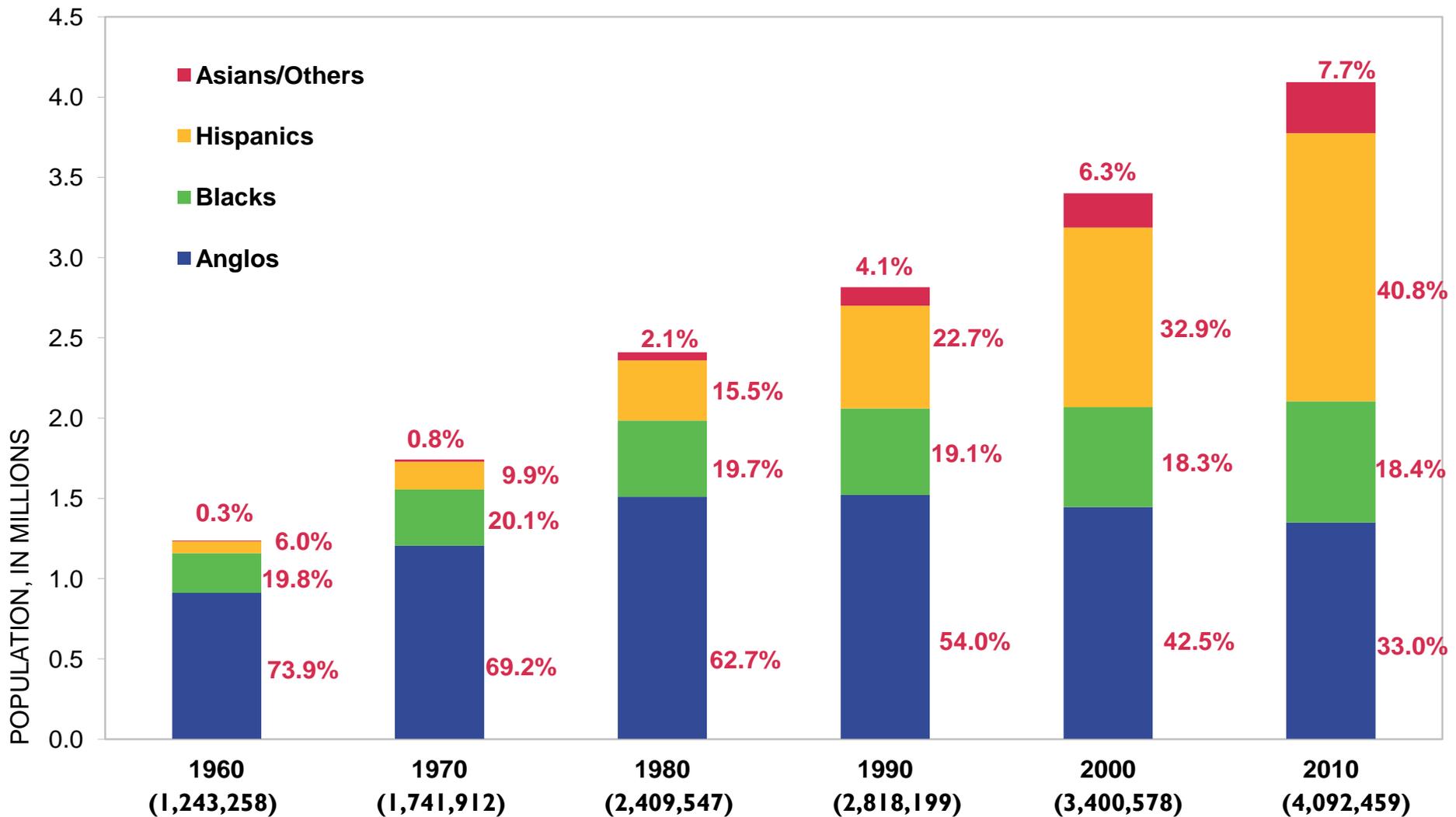


Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Office of Immigration Statistics ([www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov))

# THE DEMOGRAPHIC REVOLUTION

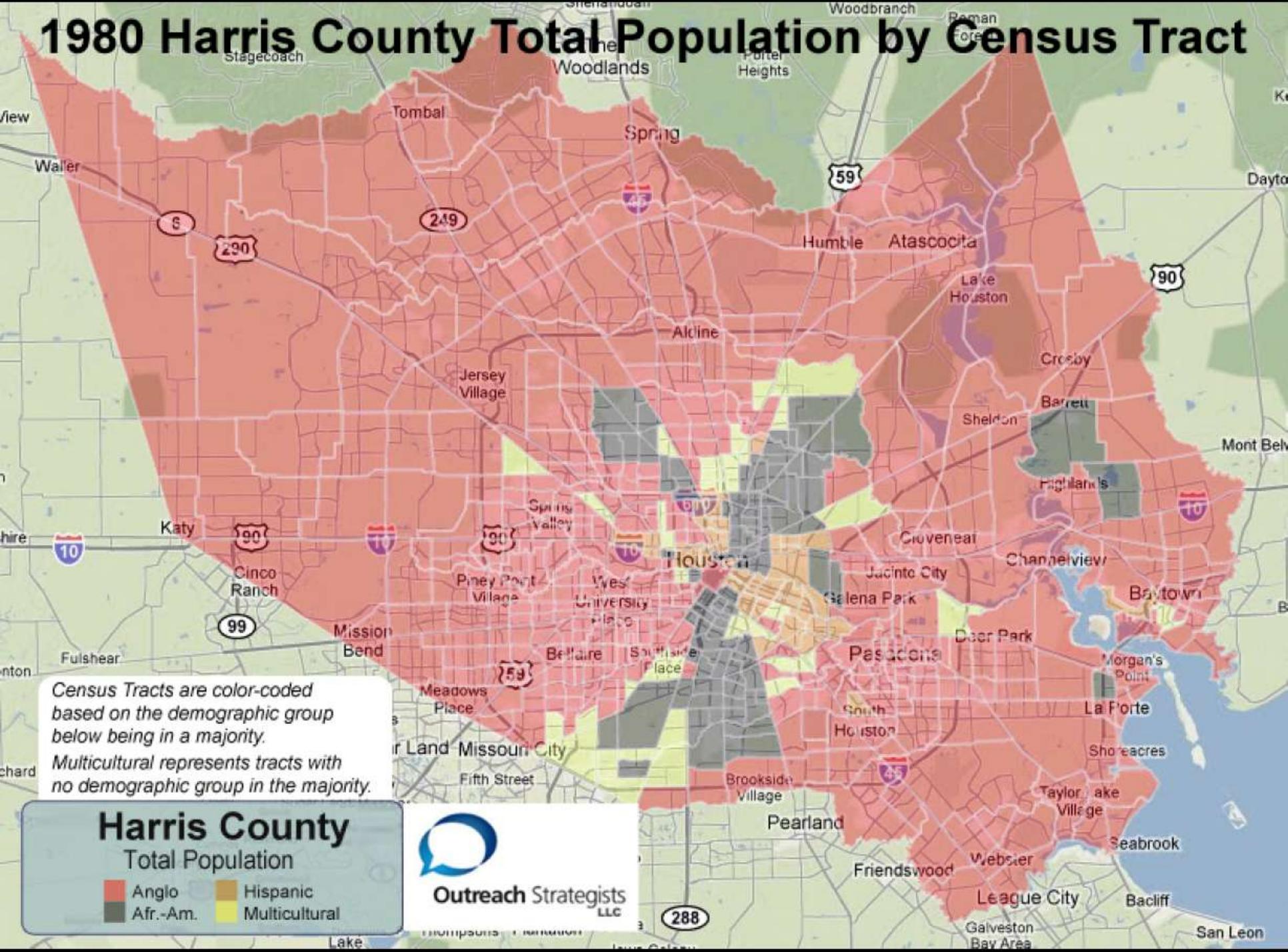
- **Along with the major immigration capitals of L.A. and N.Y.C., and closely following upon Miami, San Francisco, and Chicago, Houston is at the forefront of the new diversity that is rapidly refashioning the socio-political landscape of urban America.**
- **Throughout all of its history ...**
  - **this was essentially a bi-racial Southern city,**
  - **dominated and controlled, in an automatic, taken-for-granted way, by white men.**
- **Today ...**
  - **Houston is one of the most culturally diverse metropolitan areas in the country, and**
  - **all of its ethnic communities are now “minorities.”**

# THE DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSFORMATIONS OF HARRIS COUNTY (1960-2010)



SOURCE: US CENSUS. CLASSIFICATIONS BASED ON TEXAS STATE DATA CENTER CONVENTIONS.

# 1980 Harris County Total Population by Census Tract



Census Tracts are color-coded based on the demographic group below being in a majority. Multicultural represents tracts with no demographic group in the majority.

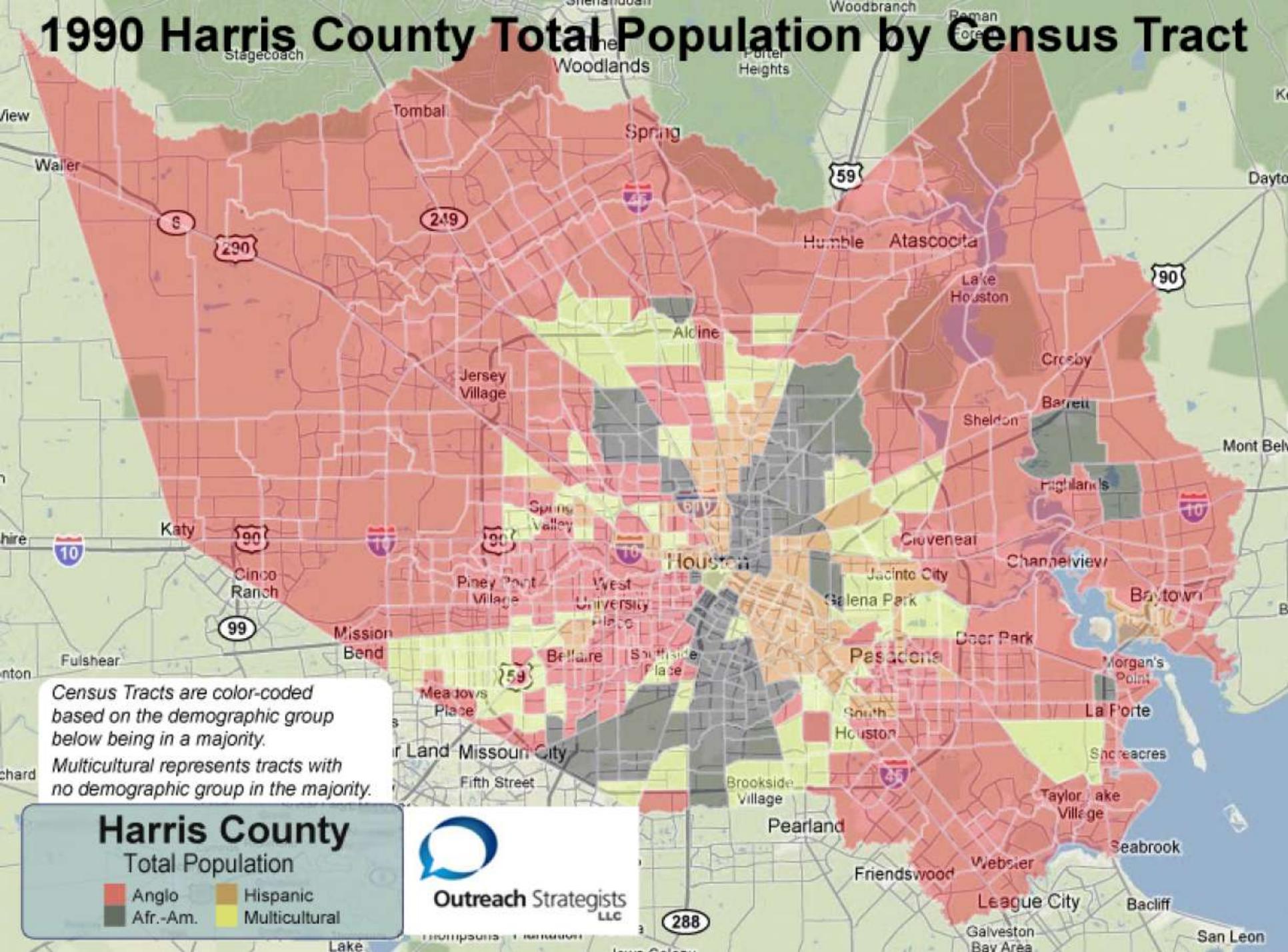
**Harris County**  
Total Population

Red	Anglo	Yellow	Hispanic
Grey	Afr.-Am.	Green	Multicultural



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# 1990 Harris County Total Population by Census Tract



Census Tracts are color-coded based on the demographic group below being in a majority. Multicultural represents tracts with no demographic group in the majority.

## Harris County Total Population

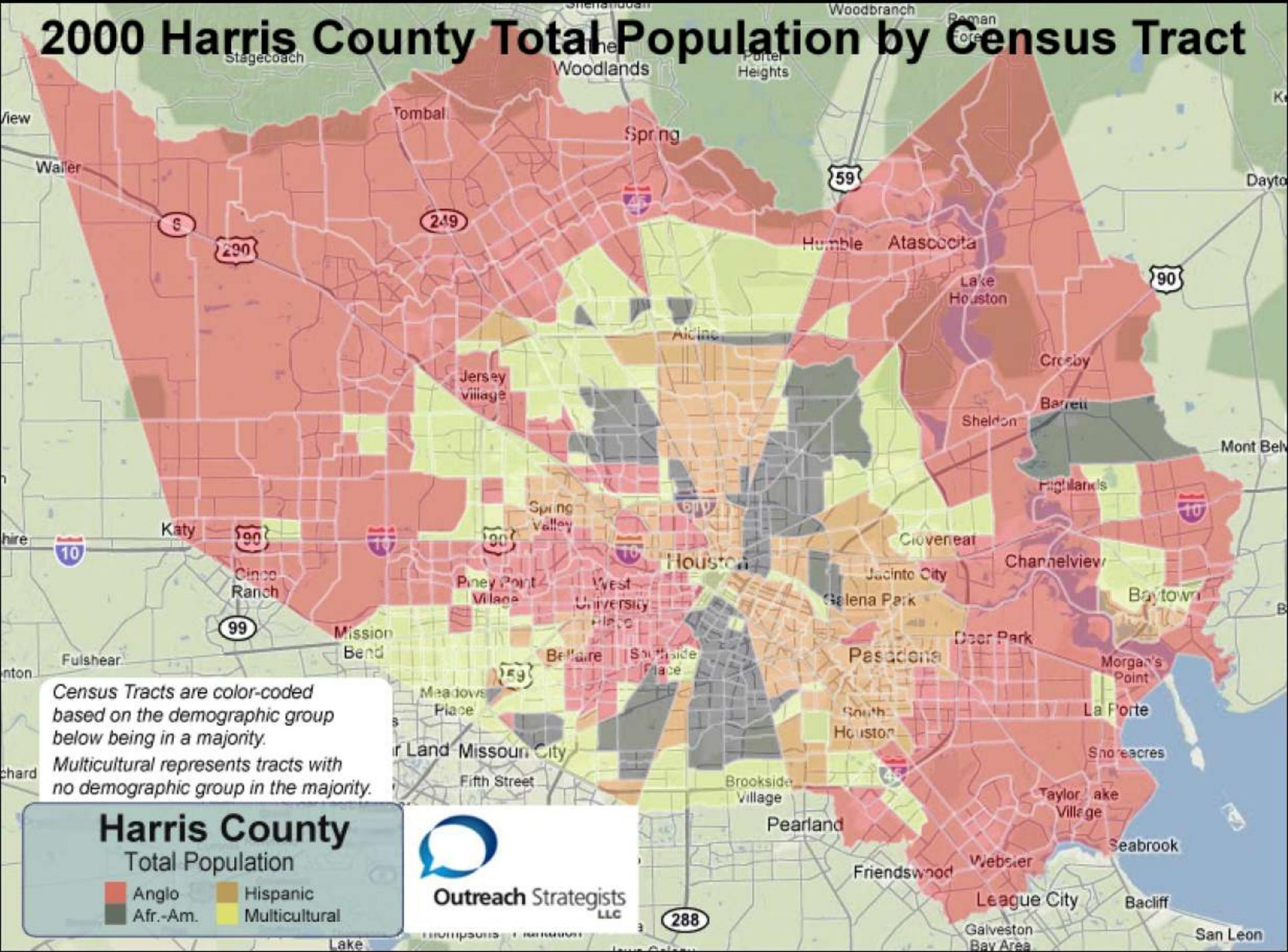
Anglo	Hispanic
Afr.-Am.	Multicultural



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# 2000 Harris County Total Population by Census Tract



Census Tracts are color-coded based on the demographic group below being in a majority. Multicultural represents tracts with no demographic group in the majority.

## Harris County Total Population

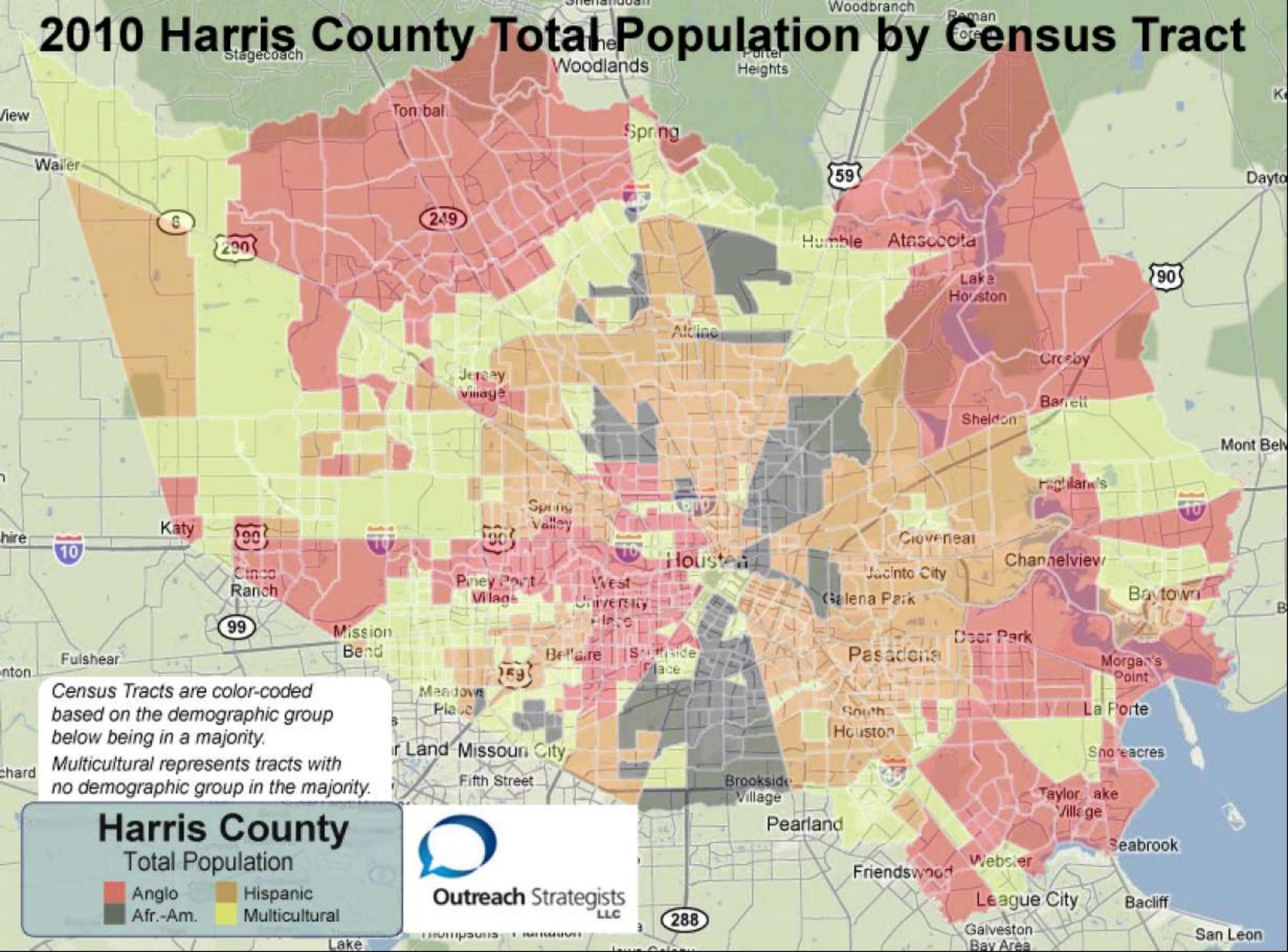
- Anglo
- Afr.-Am.
- Hispanic
- Multicultural



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# 2010 Harris County Total Population by Census Tract



Census Tracts are color-coded based on the demographic group below being in a majority. Multicultural represents tracts with no demographic group in the majority.

**Harris County**  
Total Population

Red	Anglo	Orange	Hispanic
Grey	Afr.-Am.	Yellow	Multicultural

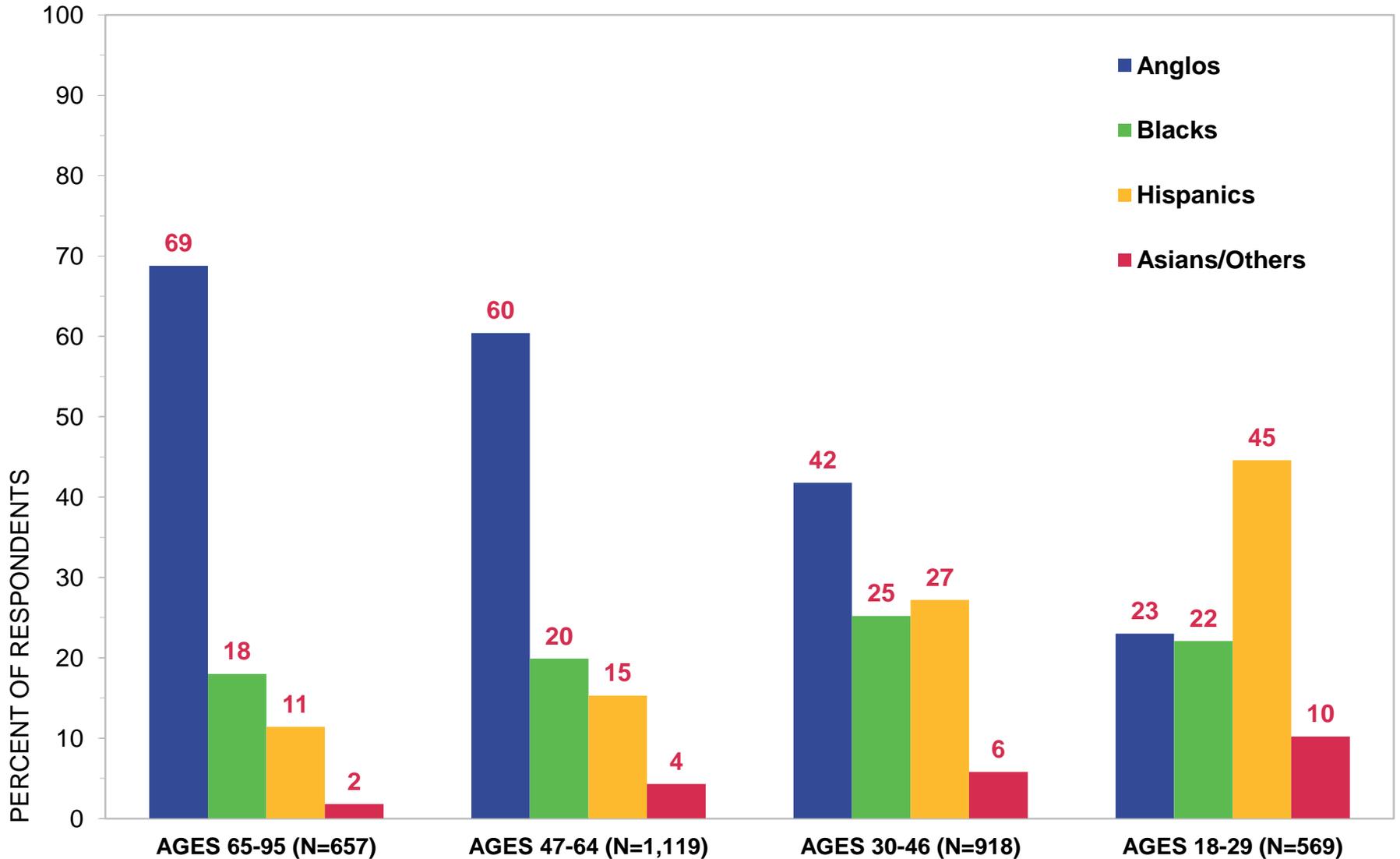


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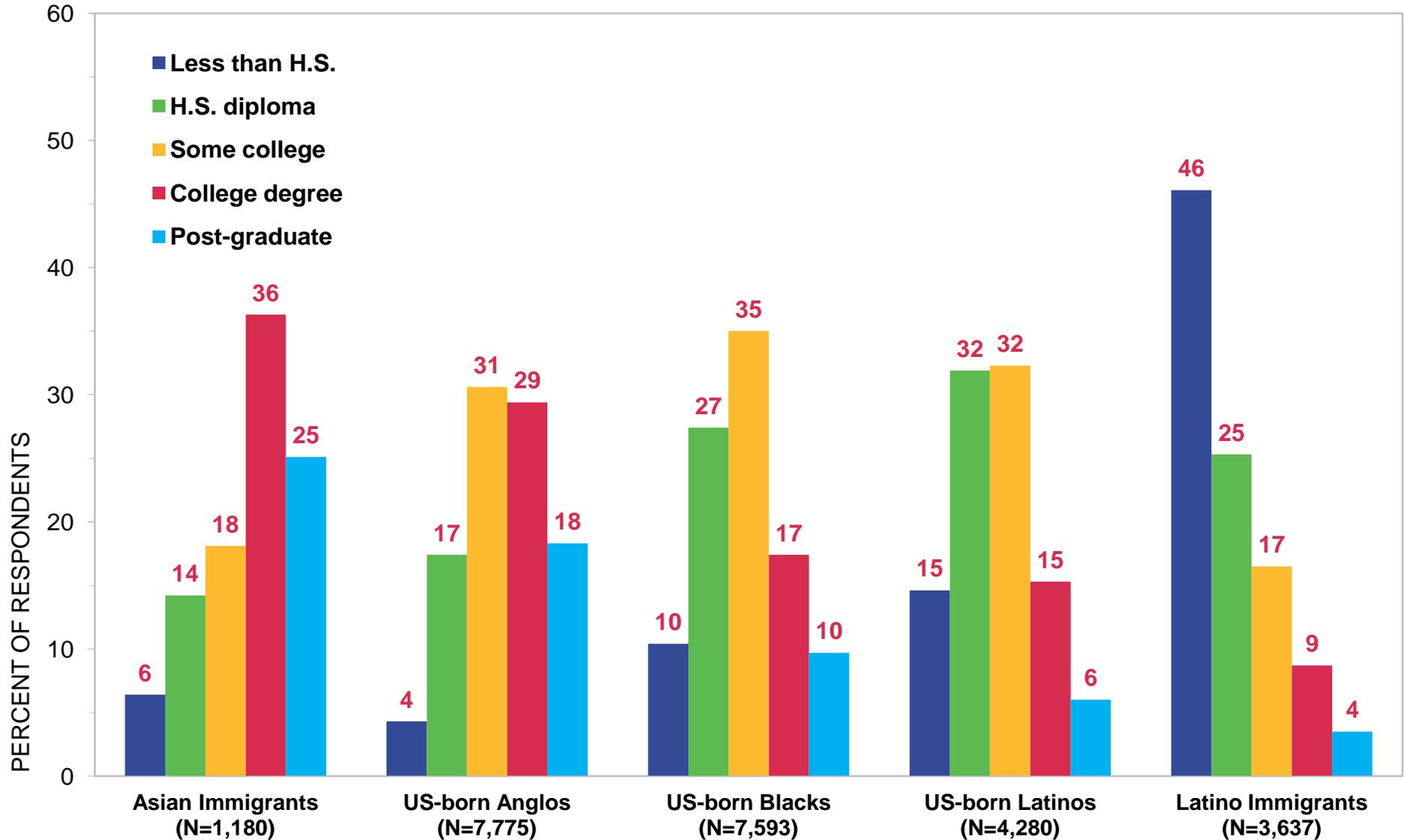
# **INTERACTIONS OF ETHNICITY AND AGE**

- **The other demographic revolution: the remarkable “aging,” or “graying,” of the American population.**
- **Today’s seniors are primarily Anglos, and so are the 76 million Baby Boomers, now aged 47 to 65. During the next 30 years, the numbers of Americans over the age of 65 will double.**
- **The younger generations are disproportionately non-Anglo and generally far less privileged, in terms of their levels of income, education, health status, and life chances.**
- **Nowhere is this ongoing transformation more clearly seen than in the age distributions of Harris County’s population.**

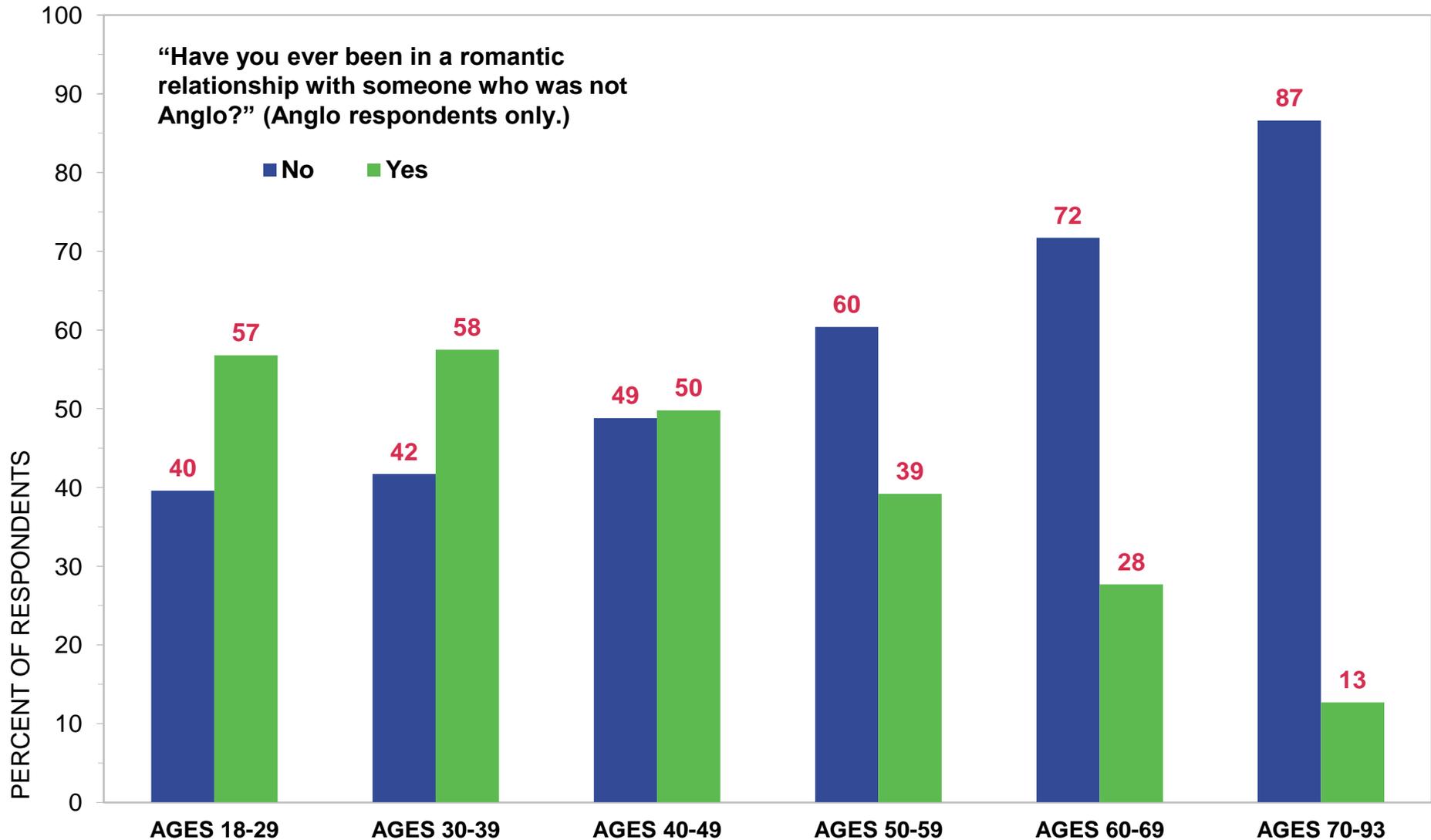
# ETHNICITY BY AGE IN HARRIS COUNTY (2007-2011, COMBINED)



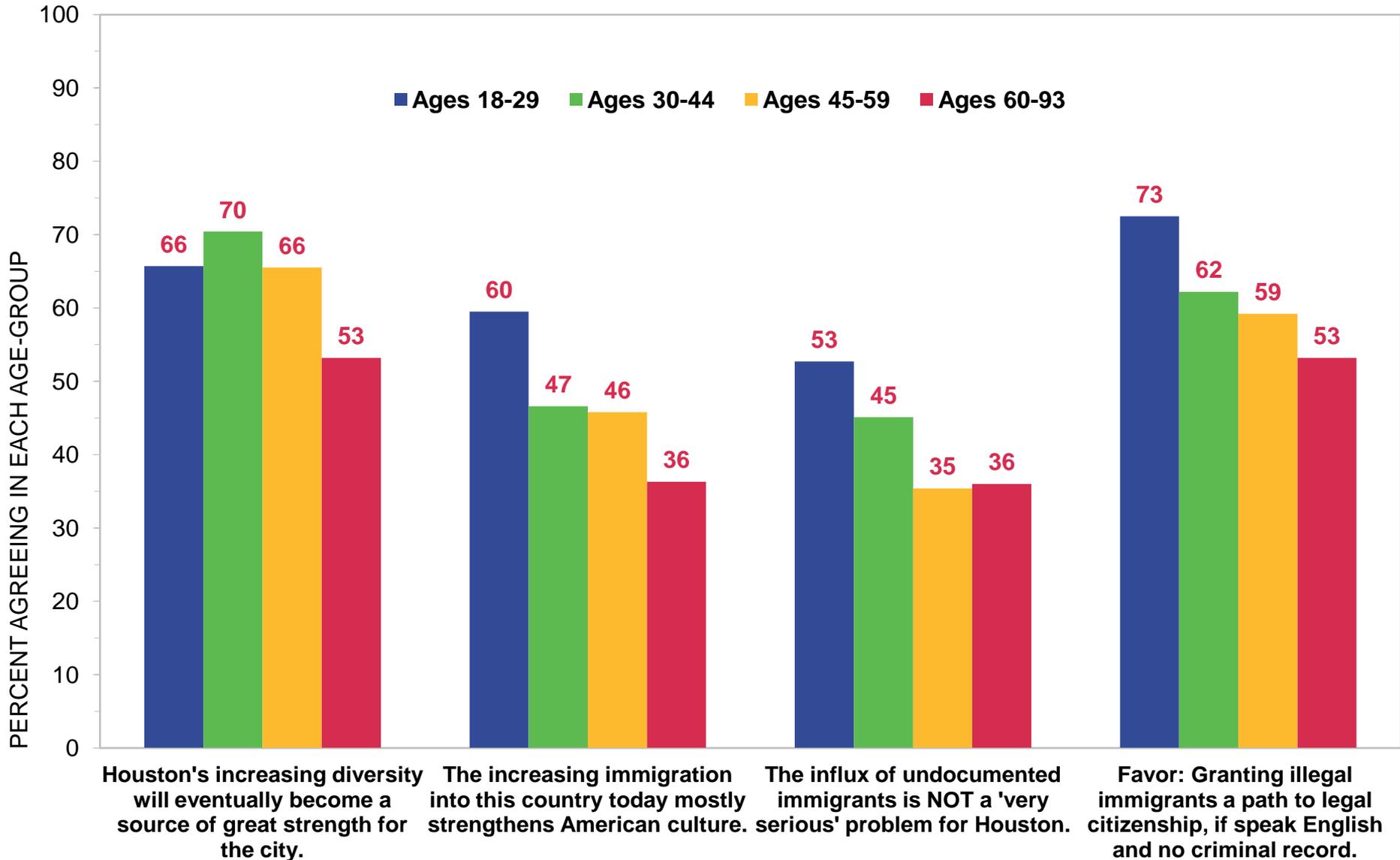
# EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN FIVE HOUSTON COMMUNITIES (1994-2011, COMBINED)



# INTERETHNIC ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS BY AGE, ANGLOS ONLY (2007 AND 2011, COMBINED)



# ETHNIC ATTITUDES BY AGE AMONG ANGLOS (2006-2011, COMBINED)



# **CONCLUSIONS: THE PRO-GROWTH AGENDA FOR A NEW CENTURY**

- **To prosper in the high-technology, knowledge-based, world-wide economy, this city (and nation) will need to nurture a far more educated workforce and fashion policies to reduce the inequalities and prevent the rise of a new urban underclass.**
- **To attract the most innovative companies and talented individuals, Houston will need to grow into a more aesthetically and environmentally appealing destination, and develop the research centers that will fuel the growth of the new economy.**
- **If this region is to flourish in the years ahead, it will need to develop into a more united and inclusive multiethnic society, one in which equality of opportunity is truly made available to all of residents and all of its communities are empowered to participate as full partners in shaping the Houston future.**

**CONTACT US FOR MORE  
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