

DataHaven

Classroom Materials

Title of Material: Immigration in New Haven

Topics Discussed: Immigration, immigration statistics

Skills Utilized: Quote analysis, annotation, data analysis, reflective questions

Format: Individual or in small groups, discuss as a class

In Person or Online: Either

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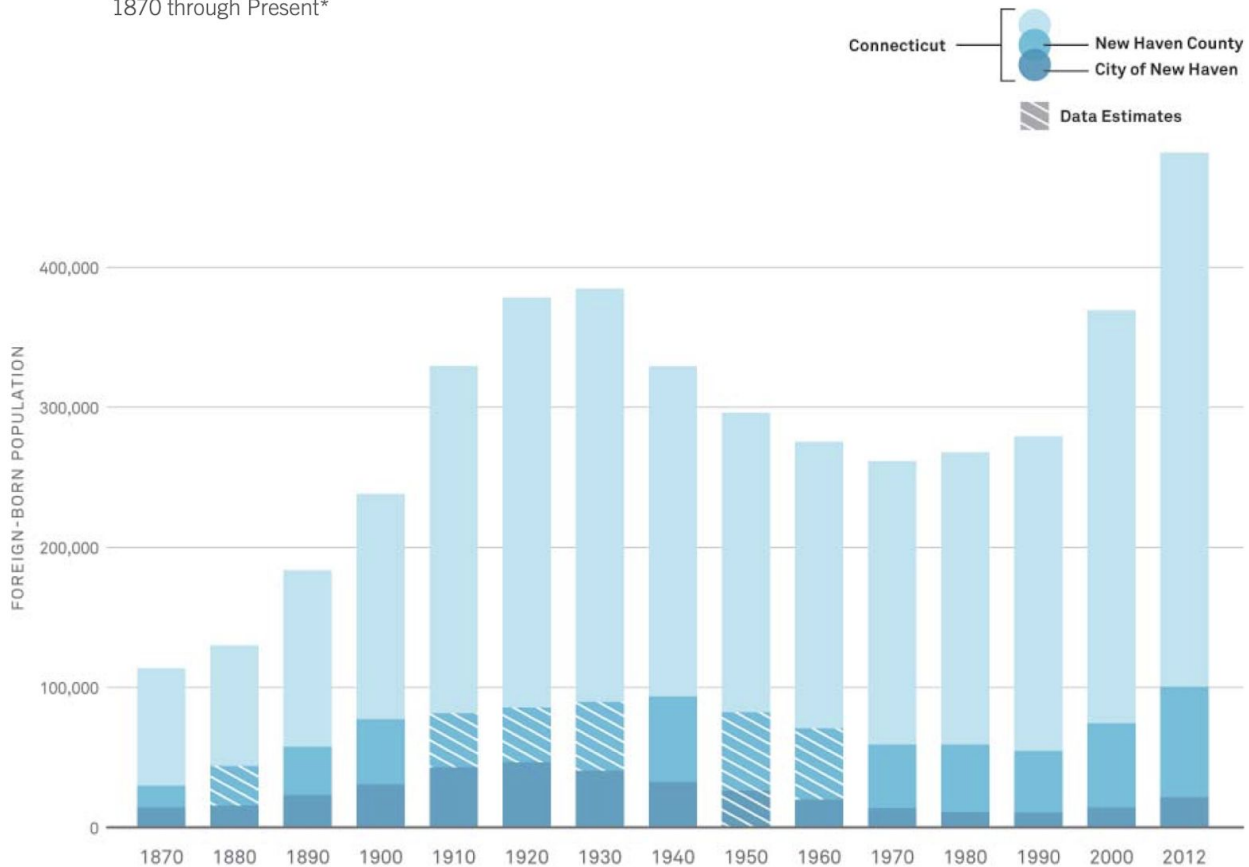
Immigration in New Haven

Directions: Read and annotate the excerpt below and analyze the graph about immigration in New Haven, Connecticut. Then, answer the thought questions.

Throughout our history, and especially around the turn of the twentieth century, great surges of European immigrants contributed to rapid population growth in New Haven and other Connecticut cities. However, the Great Depression, World War II, and immigration policy that limited incoming immigrants to quotas based on their origin constricted immigration during the mid-twentieth century. In 1965, a rewriting of immigration policy reversed two established nationwide trends: the dwindling number of foreign-born persons since the 1930s and the overwhelmingly Anglo-European ancestry of immigrants. Since the national policy took effect, New Haven and its surrounding suburbs have welcomed thousands of immigrants from around the world, closely mirroring the diversifying and expanding foreign-born population nationwide.

Foreign Born or Immigrant: Any person living in the United States who was not an American citizen at birth. This refers to anyone born outside of the United States to non-American parents, including naturalized citizens, legal non-citizen residents, and undocumented immigrants.

FIG. 01 Connecticut Foreign-born Population
1870 through Present*



Source: DataHaven analysis of 1870 to 2008-2012 Census data available at census.gov.
Understanding the Impact of Immigration in Greater New Haven, DataHaven, 2015

Thought Questions

1. According to the excerpt and the graph, immigration trends have changed in New Haven from 1870 to 2012. What trends do you see?
2. When was the foreign born population highest in Connecticut? What was the foreign born population that year?
3. When was the foreign born population lowest in Connecticut? What was the foreign born population that year?
4. Based on the excerpt, what influenced these changing trends?
5. How does this excerpt and graph help us understand the history of immigration in Connecticut?
6. How does this excerpt and graph help us understand the impact of policy?
7. How can we use this kind of data to assist efforts in creating a more equitable Connecticut?