

Force migration and refugees

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Migration (SOCL 647)



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Outline

- Coronavirus pandemic and migration
- Syrian refugee crisis
- Data on refugees and natives
- Recommendations and economic aspects
- U.S. asylum system

Pandemic and migration

- Migration and mobility after the 2020 pandemic?
 - Monash University
 - November 24, 2020
 - Does the COVID-19 lockdown represent a temporary trough in global population movements, or the beginning of the end of the most recent age of migration?
 - This webinar sets an agenda for research on the future of human migration and mobility after the 2020 Pandemic, posing ten key questions for migration and mobility researchers in the coming months and years
 - <https://www.monash.edu/arts/migration-and-inclusion/news-and-events/articles/upcoming-mmic-webinar-migration-and-mobility-after-the-2020-pandemic-and-panel-discussion-tuesday-24-november,-2020.-7-8pm-aest-8-9am-gmt>



Host and panelists

- Migration and mobility after the 2020 pandemic?
 - Alan Gamlen (host) (<https://research.monash.edu/en/persons/alan-gamlen>)
 - Monash University
 - Marie McAuliffe (<https://www.iom.int/marie-mcauliffe-head-migration-research-division-iom>)
 - International Organization for Migration (IOM)
 - Alexander Betts (<https://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/people/alexander-betts>)
 - University of Oxford
 - Thomas Lacroix (<https://www.migrationinstitute.org/people/thomas-lacroix>)
 - University of Poitiers
 - Nando Sigona (<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/social-policy/sigona-nando.aspx>)
 - University of Birmingham
 - Carlos Vargas-Silva (<https://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/people/carlos-vargas-silva/>)
 - University of Oxford



Some notes

- Factors influencing movement of refugees
 - Fragile state
 - Authoritarianism
 - Conflict
- Jobs of immigrants are most affected
 - Rising prices for smuggling
 - Immigrants have rising policy needs, but there is declining political will



Consequences of pandemic

- Consequences of COVID-19 on migration depend on our actions
 - The pandemic is being used to stop borders, against immigration
 - Even with results of 2020 U.S. election, it is not clear that nativist/nationalist approach will decline
 - Trends are not clear
- Governance of migration: not only at the national level
- Pandemic might accelerate automation, but this varies a lot throughout the world



Immigrant attitudes

- What drives negative immigrant attitude
 - Perception of public threat and diseases
 - Overwhelm of public services
- Immigrants are on the front line (nurses, food delivery, cleaners...)
 - More vulnerable
 - But this fact has not been bringing positive changes to immigrants
- Disinformation/Misinformation act against immigrants

Immobility & remittances

- Immobility has becoming the greatest impact of COVID
 - Immigrants in more vulnerable situation are most affected
- International remittances declining, but not so bad as previously estimated by the World Bank
 - Remittances declined in June/July, but increased again
 - Important to transfer resources to developing countries

Global crisis

- Not only global public health crisis, but a global development crisis
- Entering an age of internalization of migration
 - From global migration to a regional/internal migration pattern
 - Return migration
- We have to prepare for the future
 - Not just this pandemic
 - Look from the point of view from sending countries, not only receiving countries



Various contexts

- Not just about different forms of migration, but also various contexts
 - South Asia is the largest hotspot for labor migration in the world comprising of close to 50 million of the 164 million global estimate of migrant workers
 - The corridor to the Middle East (particularly the Gulf Countries)
 - Movements within South Asia
 - Mass movements within India (internal migration)
 - In the ASEAN, most of the movement within the region
- Need to move away from a Western-centric perspective on migration
 - Shabari Nair, Regional Migration Specialist for South Asia, ILO



IOM webinar series

- Webinar series on COVID-19 and the Transformation of Migration and Mobility
 - International Organization for Migration (IOM)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvhwtaQMWSk&feature=youtu.be>



ICPSR immigrant data

- A Data Orientation to Immigrants Admitted to the United States, Federal Fiscal Years 1972-2000
 - Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
 - December 2, 2020
 - Sherrie A. Kossoudji
 - Retired associate professor in the School of Social Work, and Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Economics, University of Michigan
 - https://umich.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IXPRZNE_NSSCtRqbuR7ZZ6w
 - <https://youtu.be/sQYgcdC7K2I>



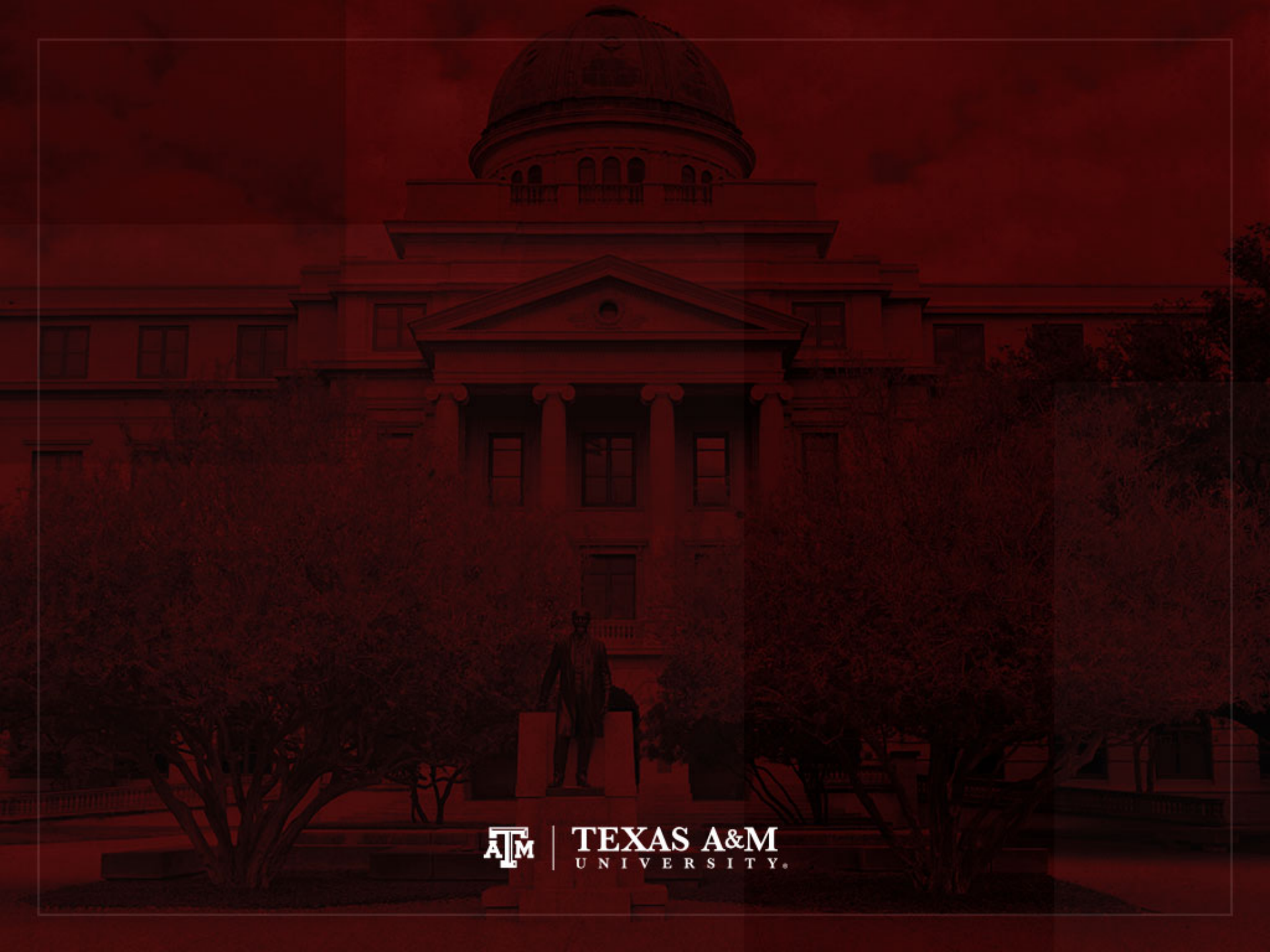
IUSSP and migration

- International Migration: Strengthening the Knowledge Base for Policy
 - International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)
 - <https://www.iussp.org/en/panel/international-migration-strengthening-knowledge-base-policy>

IUSSP and data revolution

- Demography and the Data Revolution
 - International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)
 - <https://iussp.org/en/demography-and-data-revolution>





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Syrian refugee crisis

- Since the Syrian civil war began in March 2011 (UNOCHA 2018)
 - Over 6.1 million people have been internally displaced
 - 5.6 million Syrians have fled the country, as of February 2018
- By March 2018, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates the number of refugees and asylum seekers to be almost (UNHCR 2018b)
 - 3.6 million in Turkey
 - 1 million in Lebanon
 - 700,000 in Jordan
 - 250,000 in Iraq
 - 130,000 in Egypt
 - 35,000 in other North African countries.
- Out of this total group of Syrian refugees, close to 1 million have requested asylum in different countries within the European Union (EUI 2016)

Total Persons of Concern

[JSON](#)

5,577,550

Source - UNHCR, Government of Turkey

Last updated 11 Nov 2020

Total Persons of Concern by Country of Asylum

[JSON](#)

Location name	Source	Data date	Population
Turkey	<i>Government of Turkey</i>	11 Nov 2020	3,632,442
Lebanon	<i>UNHCR</i>	30 Sep 2020	879,529
Jordan	<i>UNHCR</i>	4 Nov 2020	661,997
Iraq	<i>UNHCR</i>	31 Oct 2020	241,738
Egypt	<i>UNHCR</i>	31 Oct 2020	130,187
Other (North Africa)	<i>UNHCR</i>	31 Jan 2020	31,657



Total Registered Syrian Refugees

JSON

5,577,550

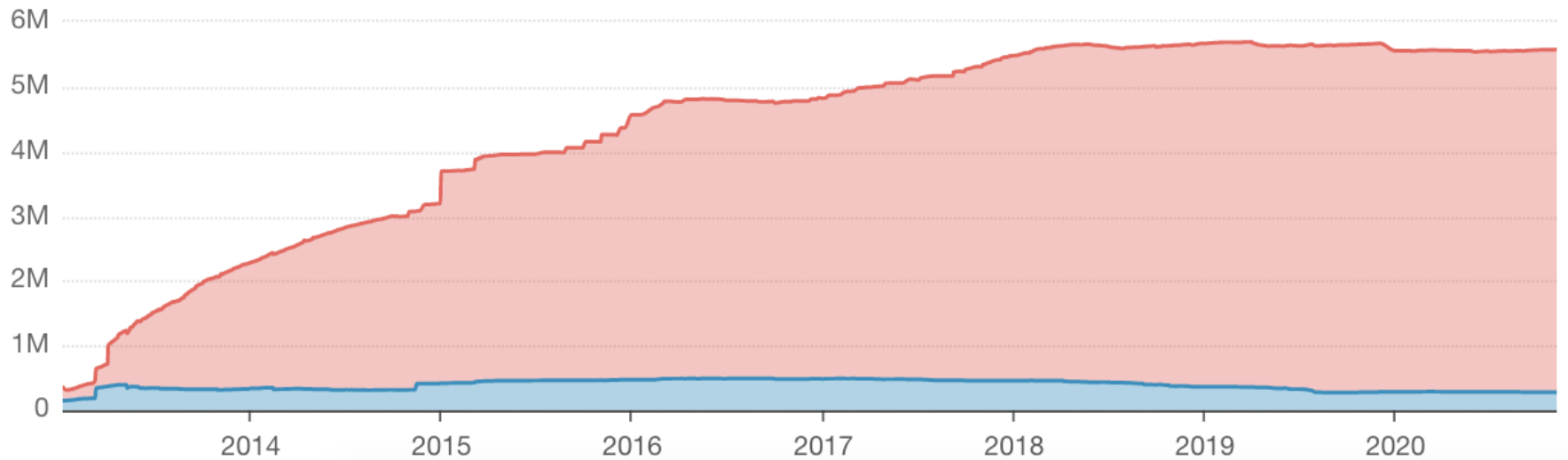
Source - UNHCR, Government of Turkey

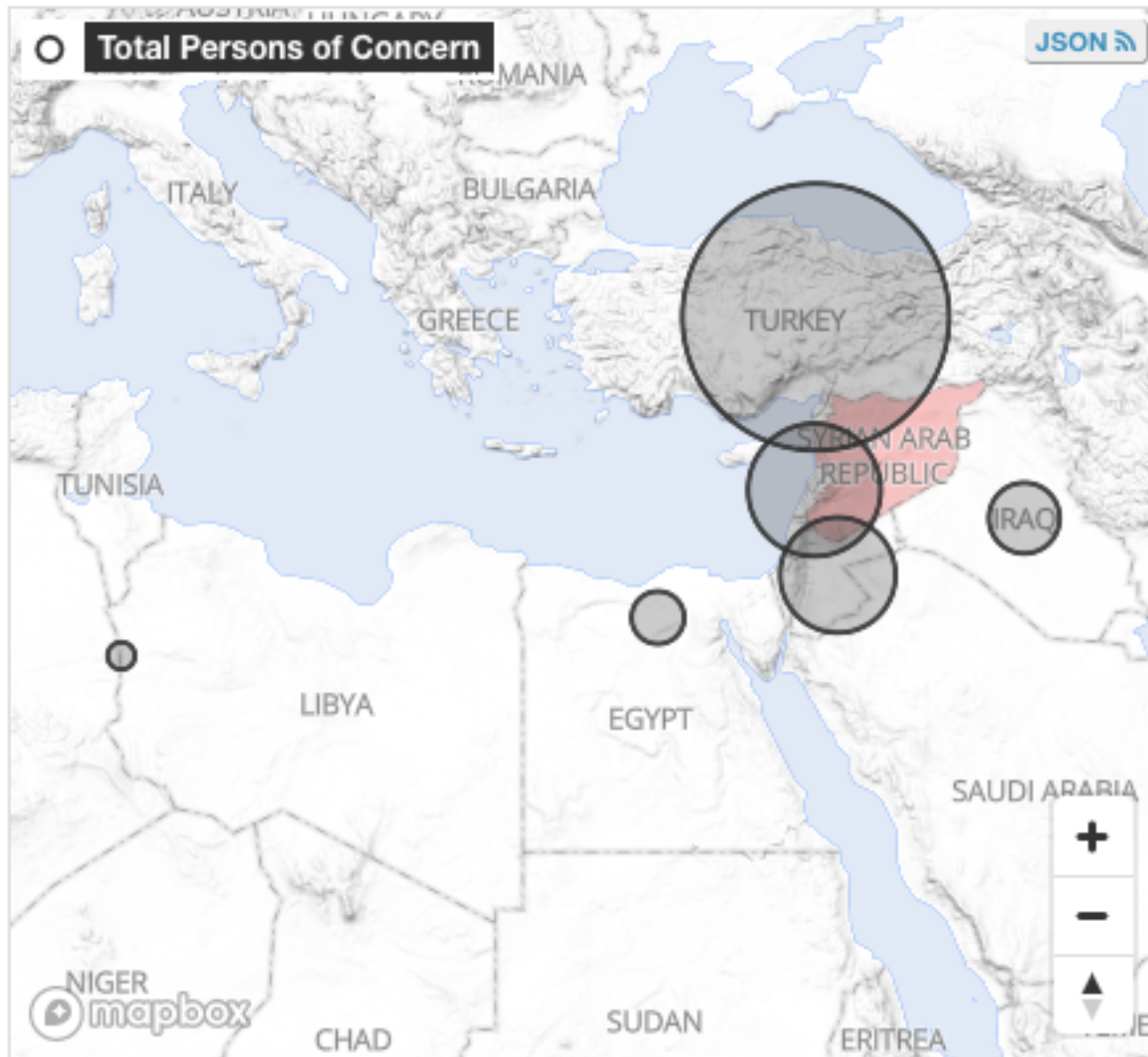
Last updated 11 Nov 2020

Trend of Registered Syrian Refugees

.CSV JSON

■ Total Urban, Peri-Urban and Rural population ■ Refugee Camps





The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations



Source: <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria>.

Current response to the crisis

- The response to the refugee crisis has focused largely on providing humanitarian assistance for refugees
 - International aid response has failed to keep up with the rising need of Syrian refugees (MSF 2013; OXFAM 2016b)
- The Syrian conflict has already lasted for several years
 - There is no short-term solution in sight
 - A strategy that addresses the evolving long-term issues of refugees in their host countries is needed

Severity of refugee situation

- UNHCR indicates that the severity of the refugee situation is defined by (UNHCR 2004)
 - Displacement duration
 - Daily life conditions
 - Socioeconomic integration of refugees in the host country
- Therefore, it is imperative that host countries establish a long-term strategy that helps integrate refugees into their economies and societies

European response

- Some improvements have been made, but the Europe's admission of Syrian refugees remains low
- Greece and Bulgaria are the closest and most accessible to refugees
 - Allegations of forced removal and mistreatment
- UK response has been to contain the crisis in Syria and to make minimal efforts to increase admission
- Containment of crisis to Syrian region is unviable
 - Neighboring countries are overwhelmed



EU-Turkey agreement

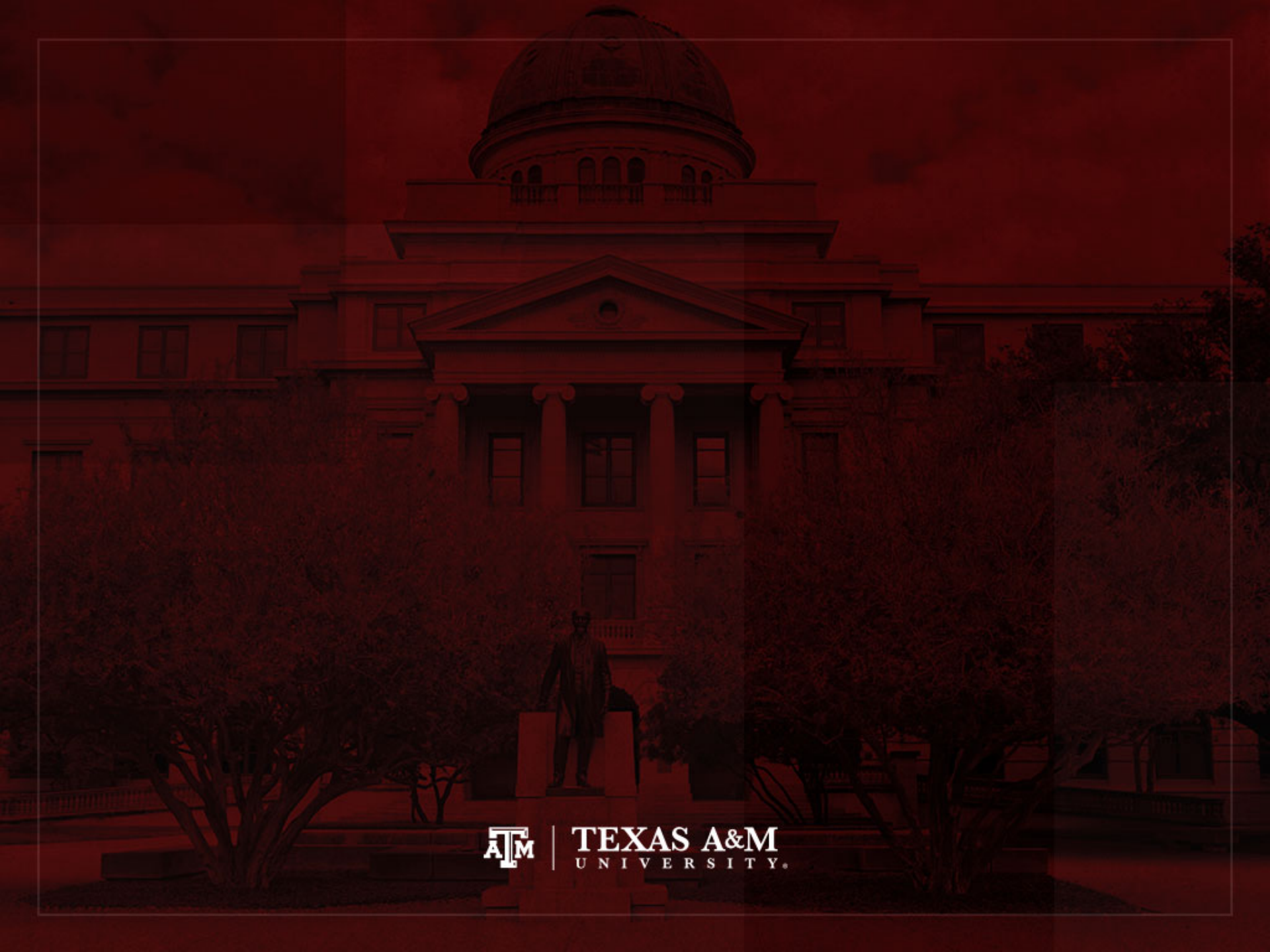
(March 18, 2016)

- New irregular migrants will be returned to Turkey
- For every Syrian returned to Turkey from Greece, another Syrian will be resettled from Turkey to EU
- Turkey will prevent new routes of irregular migration
- EU will increase resettlement of refugees residing in Turkey
- Accelerate visa liberalization for Turkish citizens to EU
- Financial support for Turkey's refugee population
- €3 billion in 2016 and another €3 billion by 2018
- Improve humanitarian conditions inside Syria



Criticism of EU-Turkey agreement

- Agreement violates long-standing international prohibitions on collective expulsion
- Leaders changed the discourse of large-scale mechanism to send back irregular migrants
- Current speech indicates the need to implement a process that respects individual asylum rights
- Governments hope that message about agreement will deter arrivals without having to test its legality



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Data on refugees

- UNHCR refugee registration database and household surveys
- UNHCR MENA Region
- UNHCR Data for Jordan
- UNICEF Jordan
- World Bank MENA Region team
- Oxfam: livelihoods of Syrian refugees in Lebanon
- Norwegian Refugee Council and Harvard Law School
- Syrian Refugee Health Access Survey in Jordan, Lebanon
- IMF, The Refugee Surge in Europe: Economic Challenges
- REACH - Informing more Effective Humanitarian Action
- United Nations Data

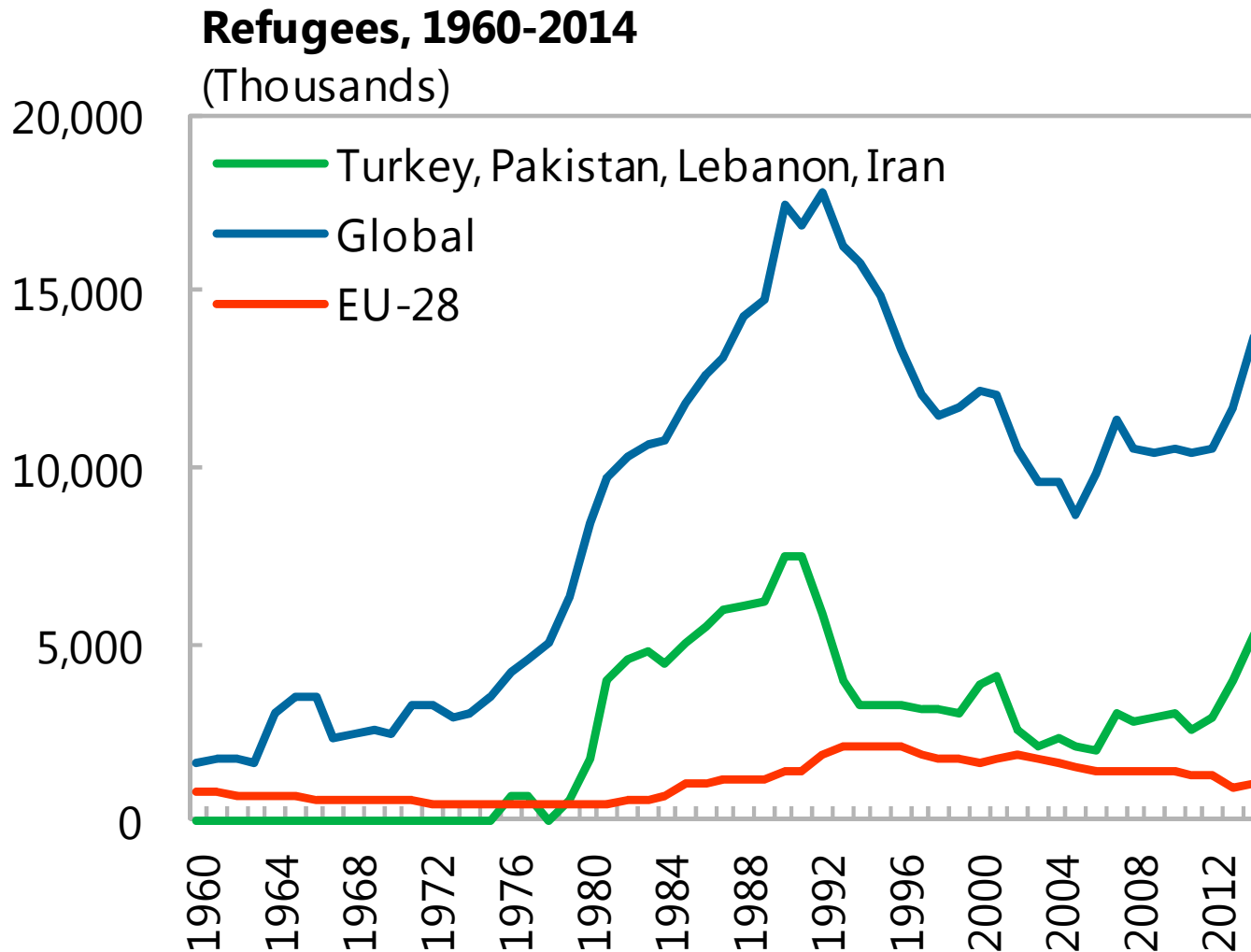


Data on natives and others

- Surveys from European Foundation (Eurofound)
 - 2004–2013 European Company Survey
 - 2003–2012 European Quality of Life Survey
 - 1990–2015 European Working Conditions Survey
- European Social Survey (since 2001, every 2 years)
- Eurostat of the European Commission
- 2015 Jordanian Population Census
- Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) Database
- OECD Migration Database
- World Bank Migration and remittances data
- Global Attitudes Surveys



Of about 14 million refugees worldwide, only 1 million live in the EU



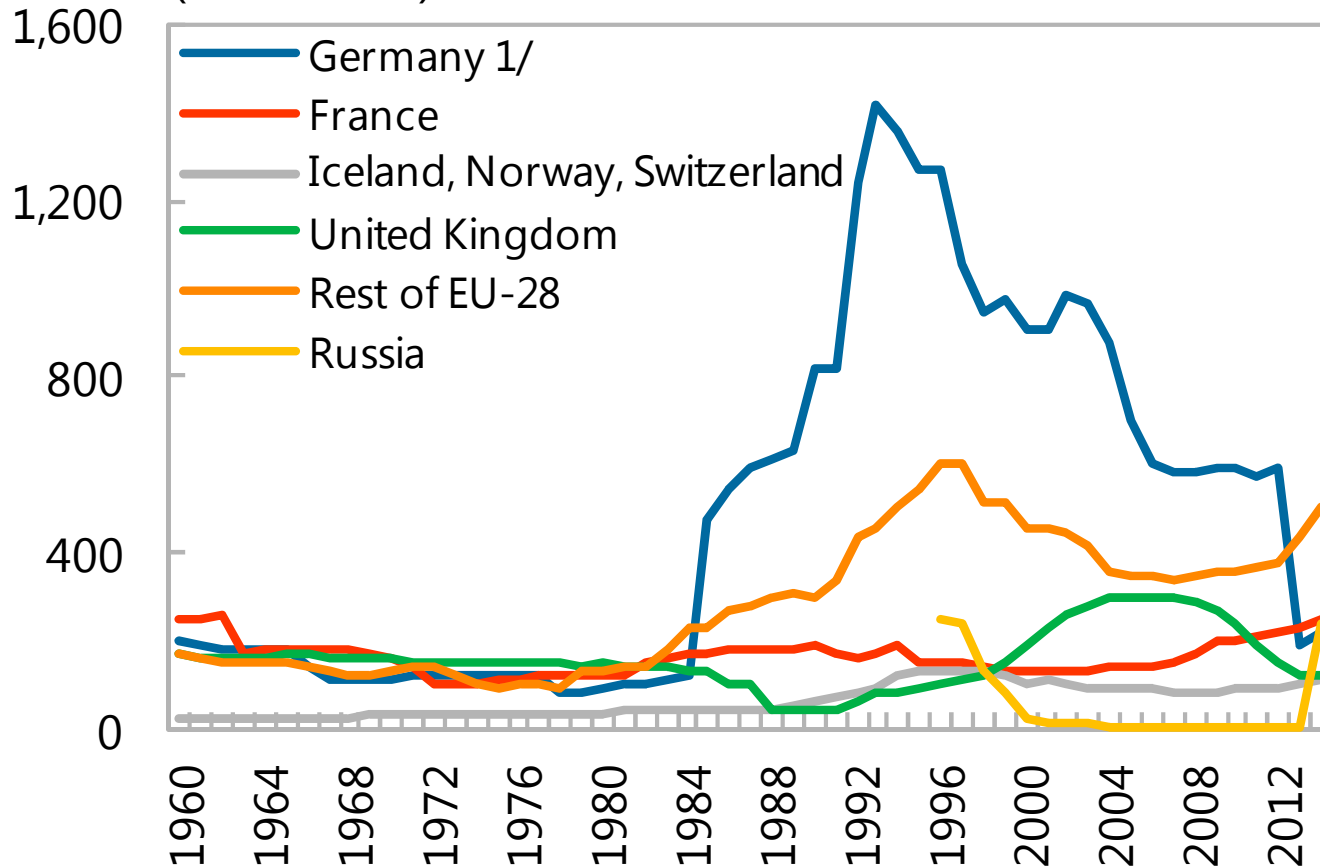
Source: Aiyar et al. 2016.



The number of refugees living in European countries now is still low compared to the 1990s

Refugees, 1960-2014

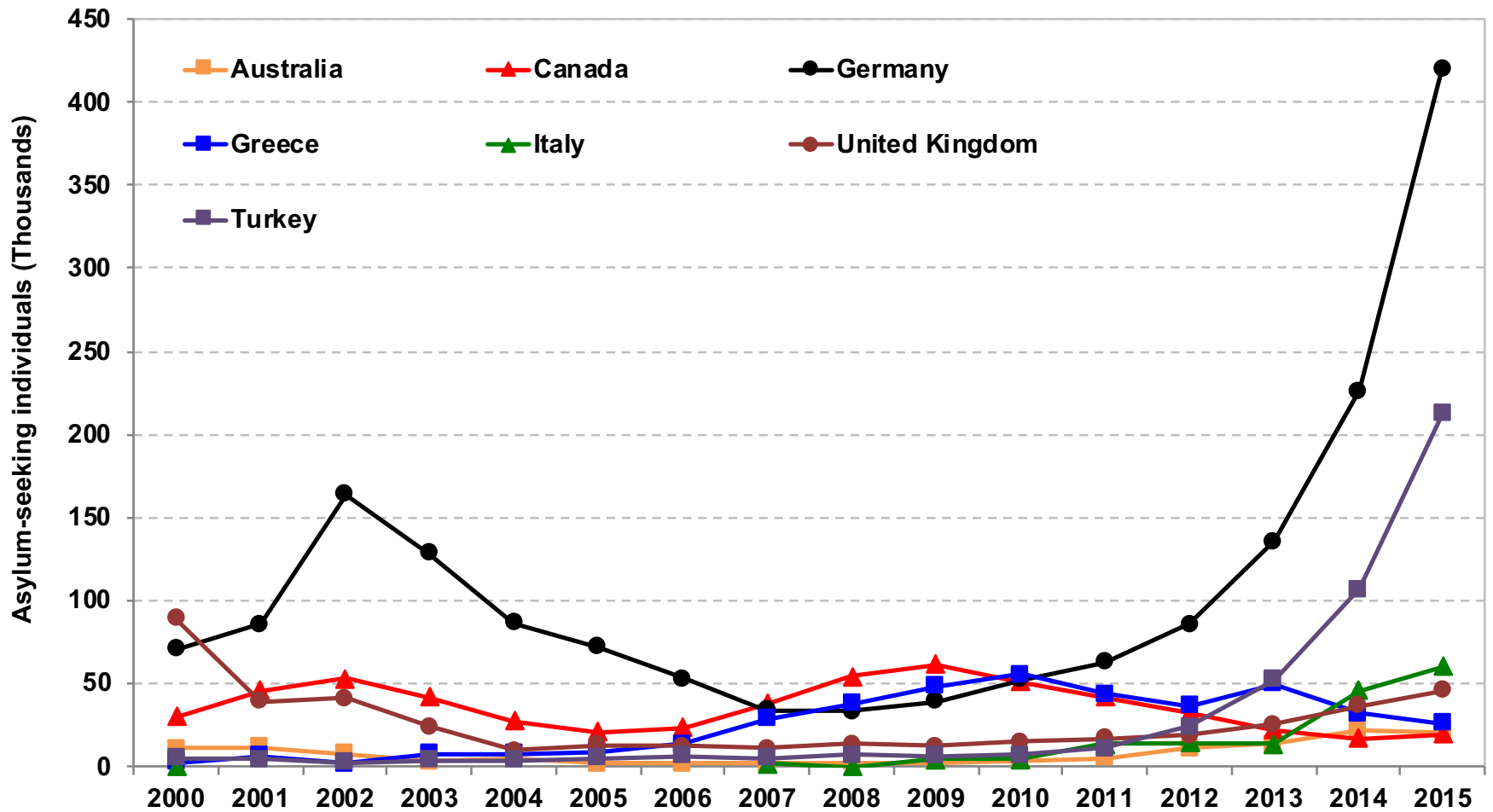
(Thousands)



1/ Due to a national change in definition, the number of refugees in Germany was reduced in 2013.



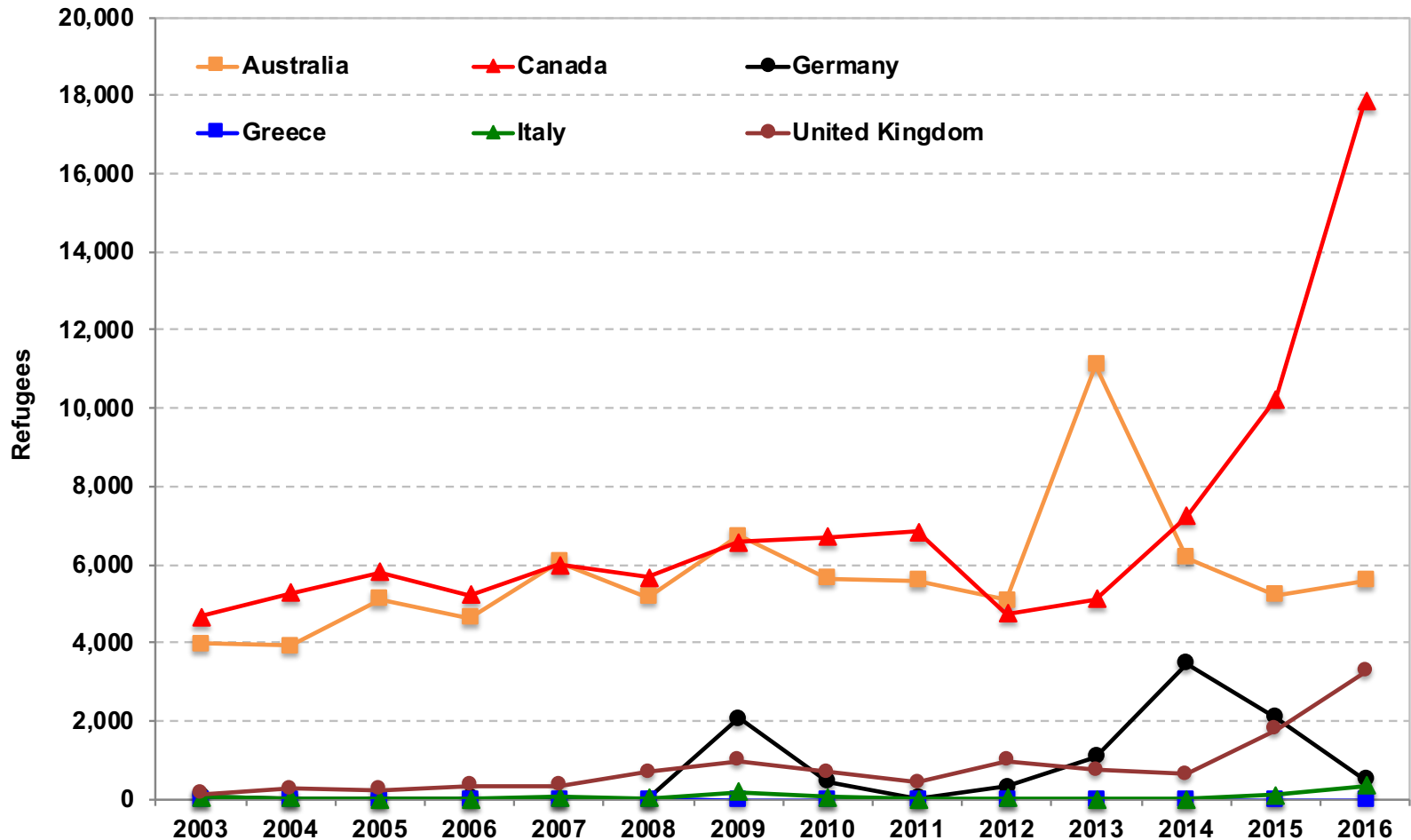
Asylum-seeking individuals



Source: UNHCR – Population Statistics Reference Database.

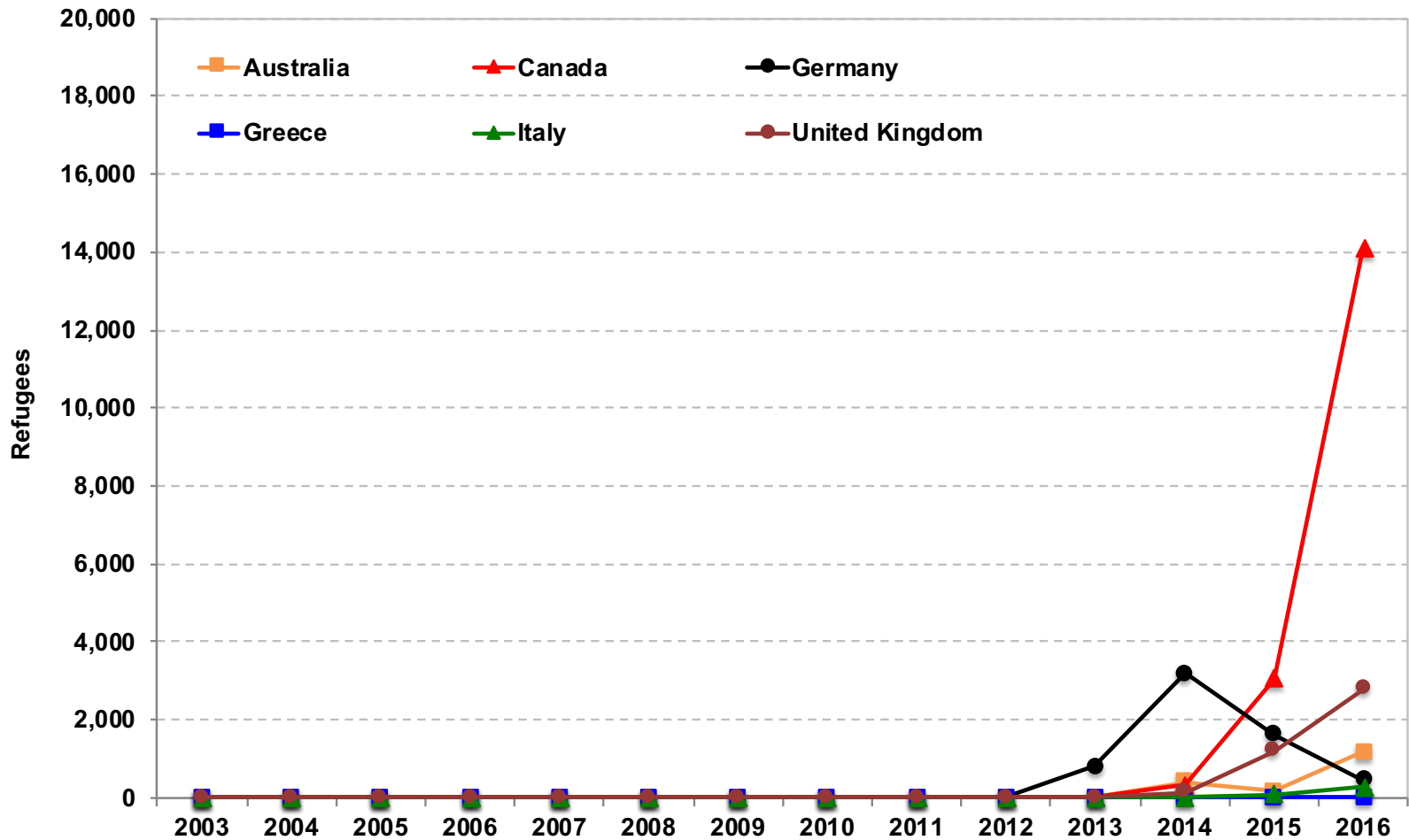


Refugees departed for resettlement

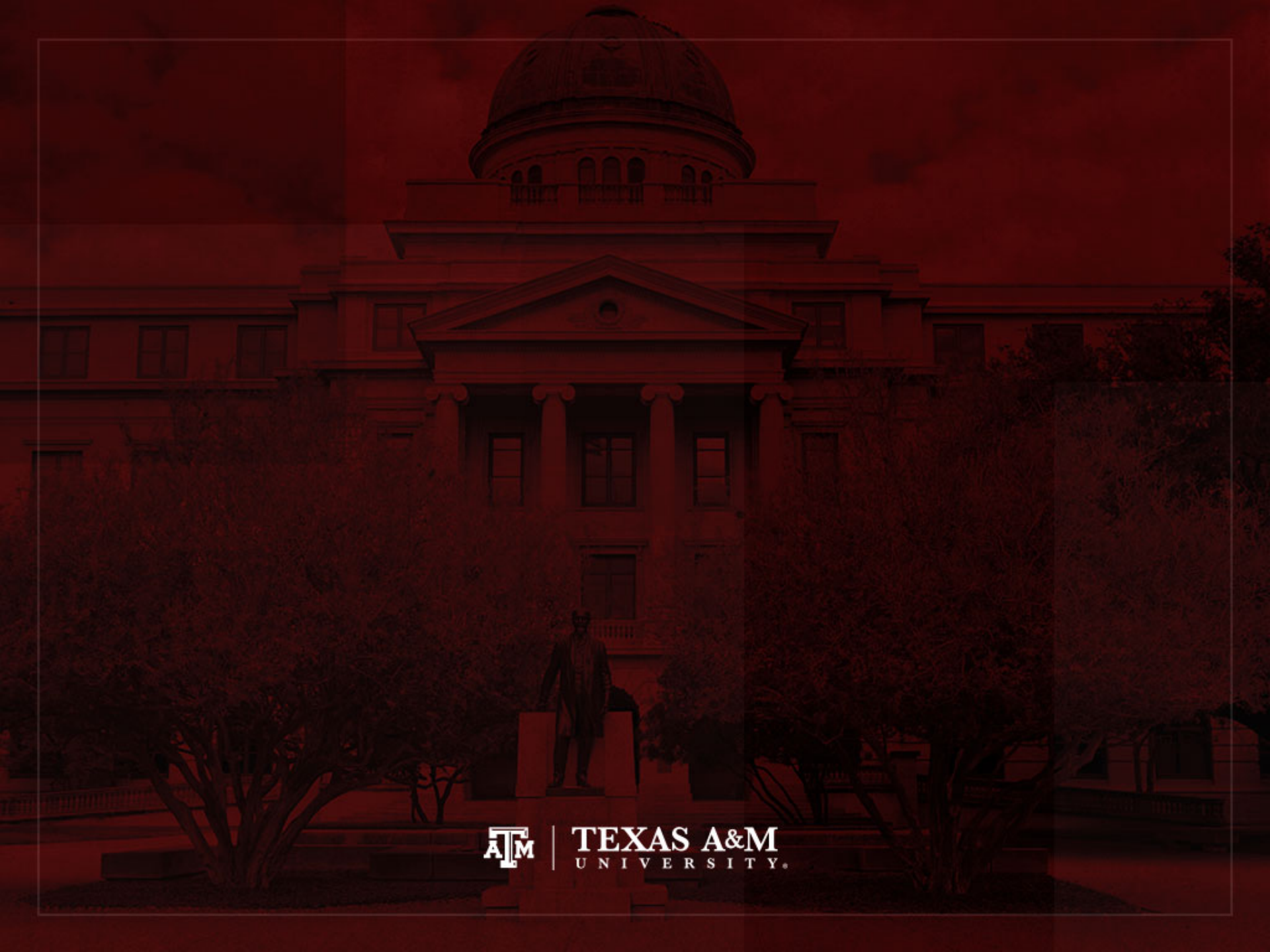


Resettlement can be an important option for refugees, since they can be transferred from an asylum country to another country that approves to host them, and where they might get settled permanently (UNHCR, 2018a)

Syrian refugees departed for resettlement



Number of Syrian refugees resettled to countries above is smaller than refugees living in the region (e.g., Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt) and those who fled but do not have a formal refugee status (Ostrand, 2015)

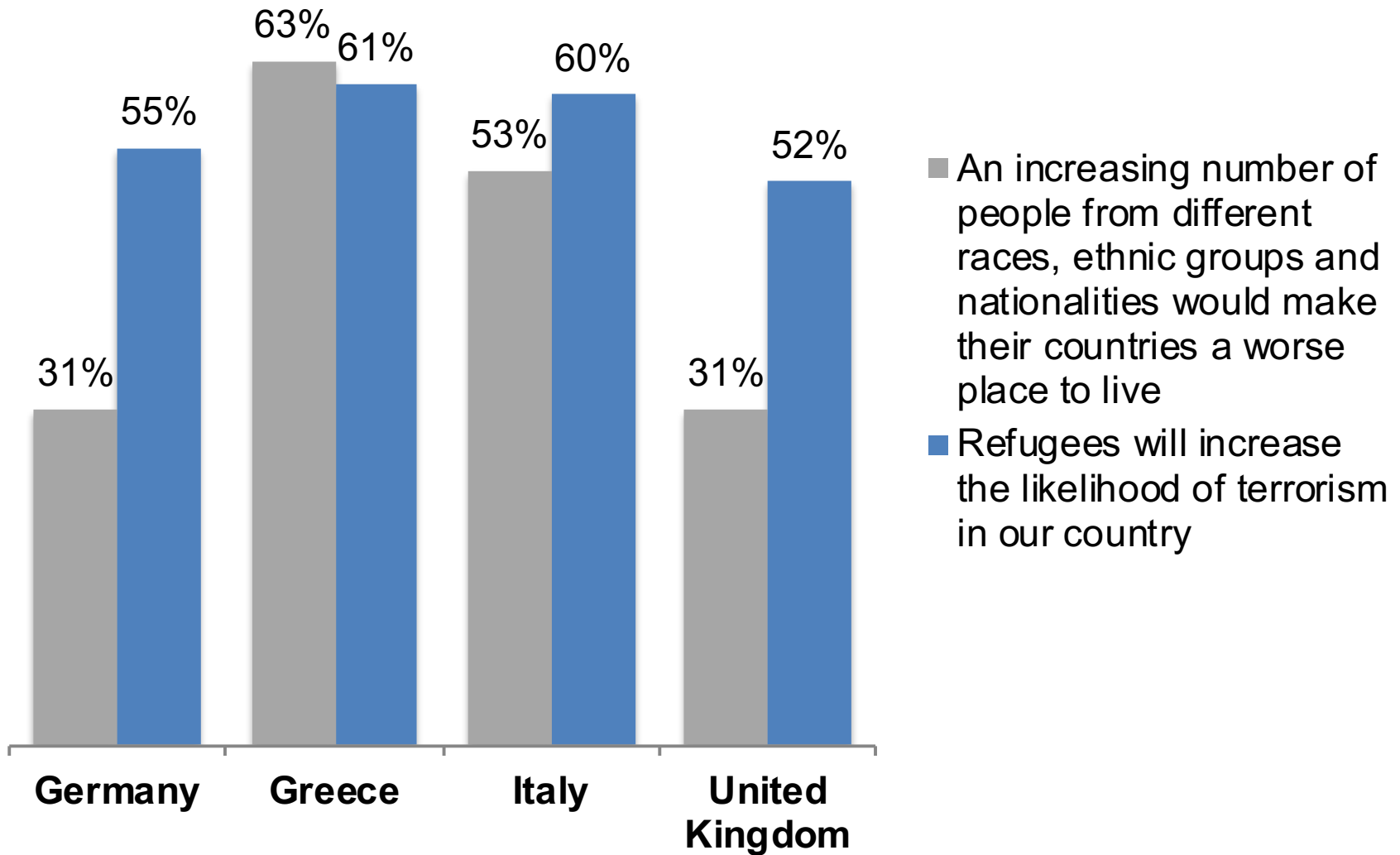


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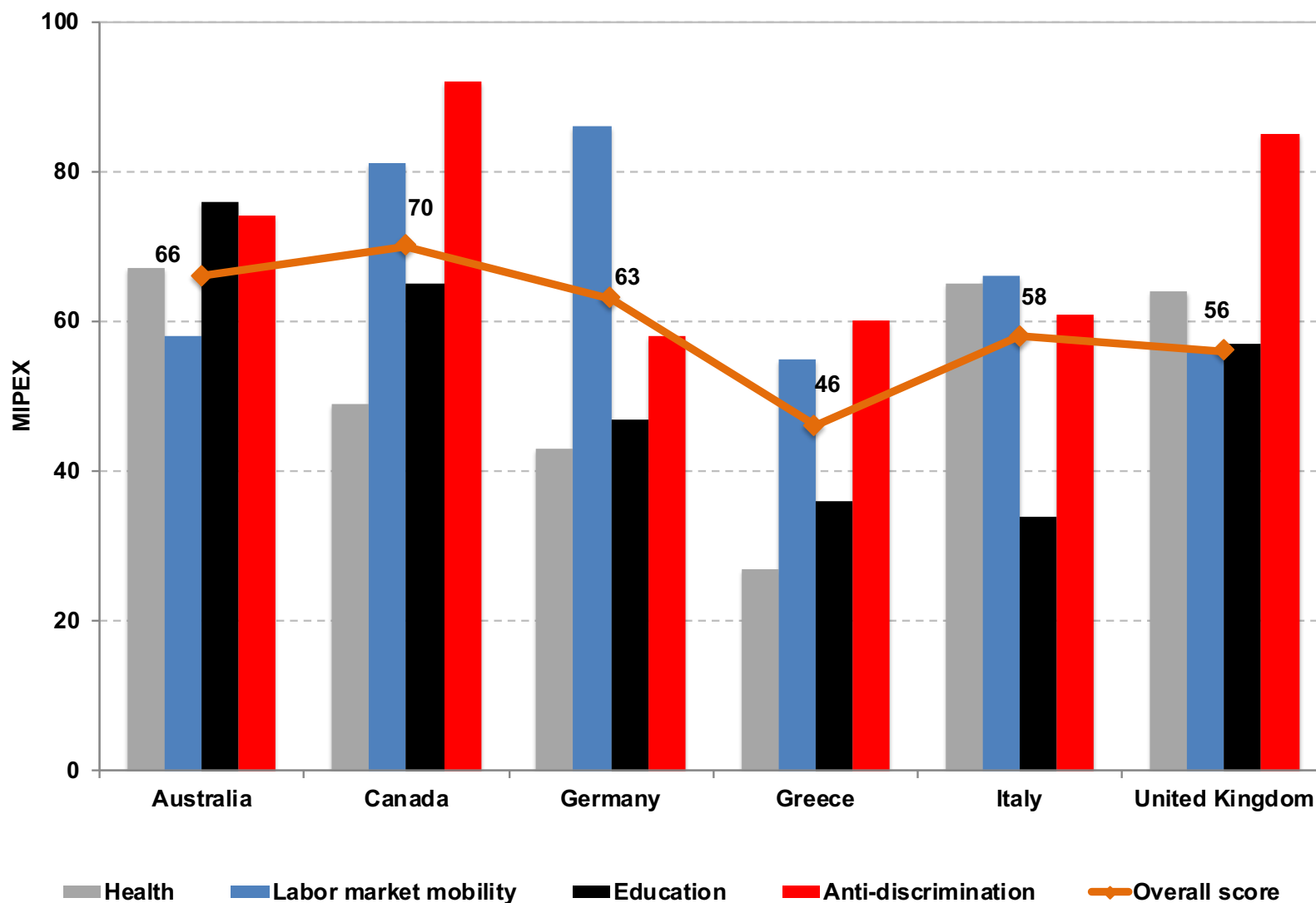
Previous recommendations

- Europe should implement a comprehensive plan of action built on existing laws and policies (Orchard et al. 2014)
 - Activate a regional humanitarian admission and temporary protection regime
 - Expand resettlement programs
 - Develop alternative legal routes for refugees
 - Combat anti-immigrant sentiment...

Europeans who agreed with specific statements, 2016



Migration Integration Policy Index, 2014

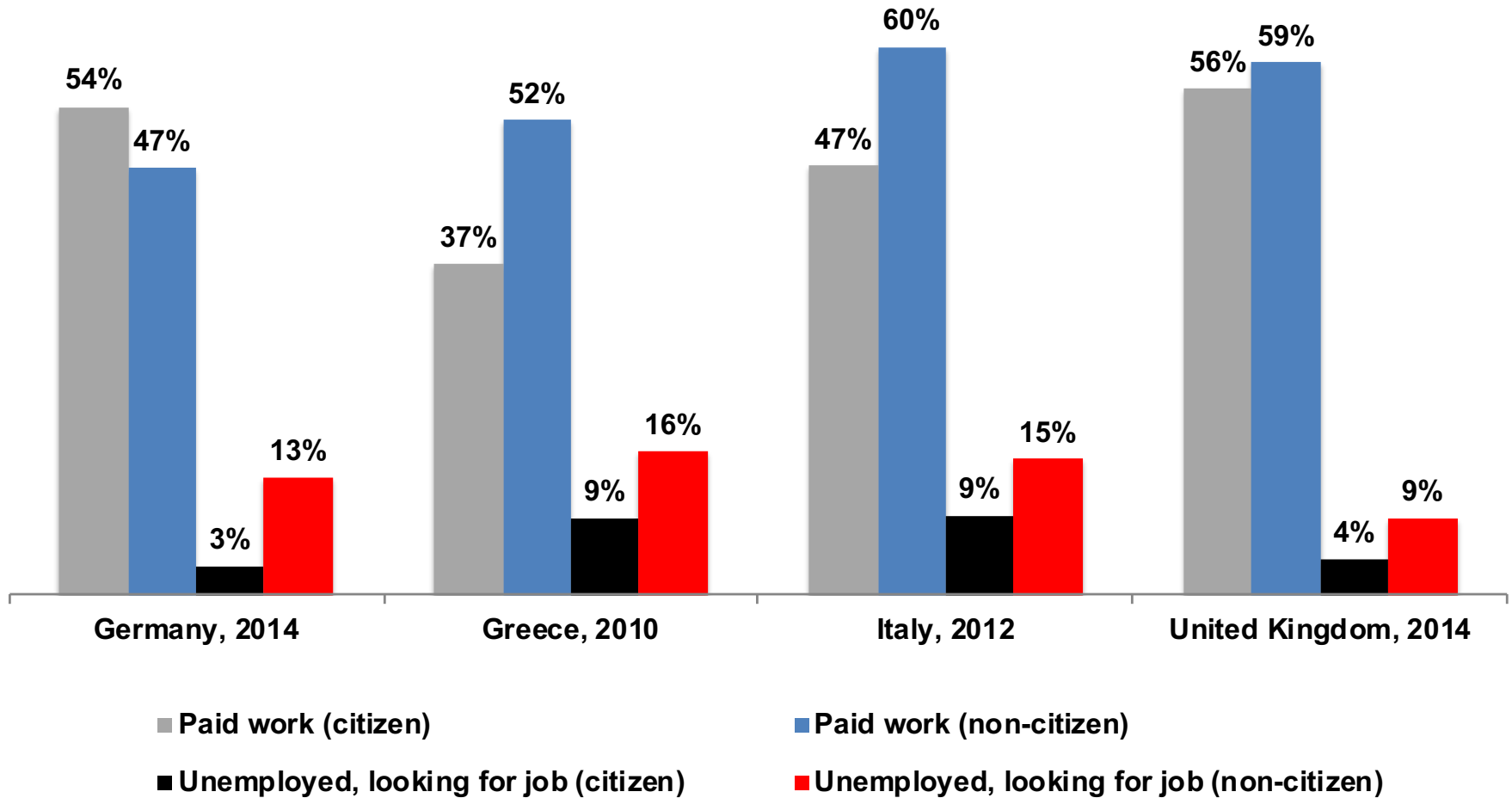


Economic aspects of refugees

- Short-term macroeconomic effects
 - Modest increase in GDP growth
 - Expansion in labor supply
 - Concentrated in Germany, Sweden, Austria
- Medium and long-term growth
 - Lower employment rate and wages than natives, but effects diminish over time
 - Depends on refugee integration into labor market
 - Language
 - Transferable job qualifications
 - Barriers to job search
 - Legal work constraints during asylum application



Activity performed during the last 7 days



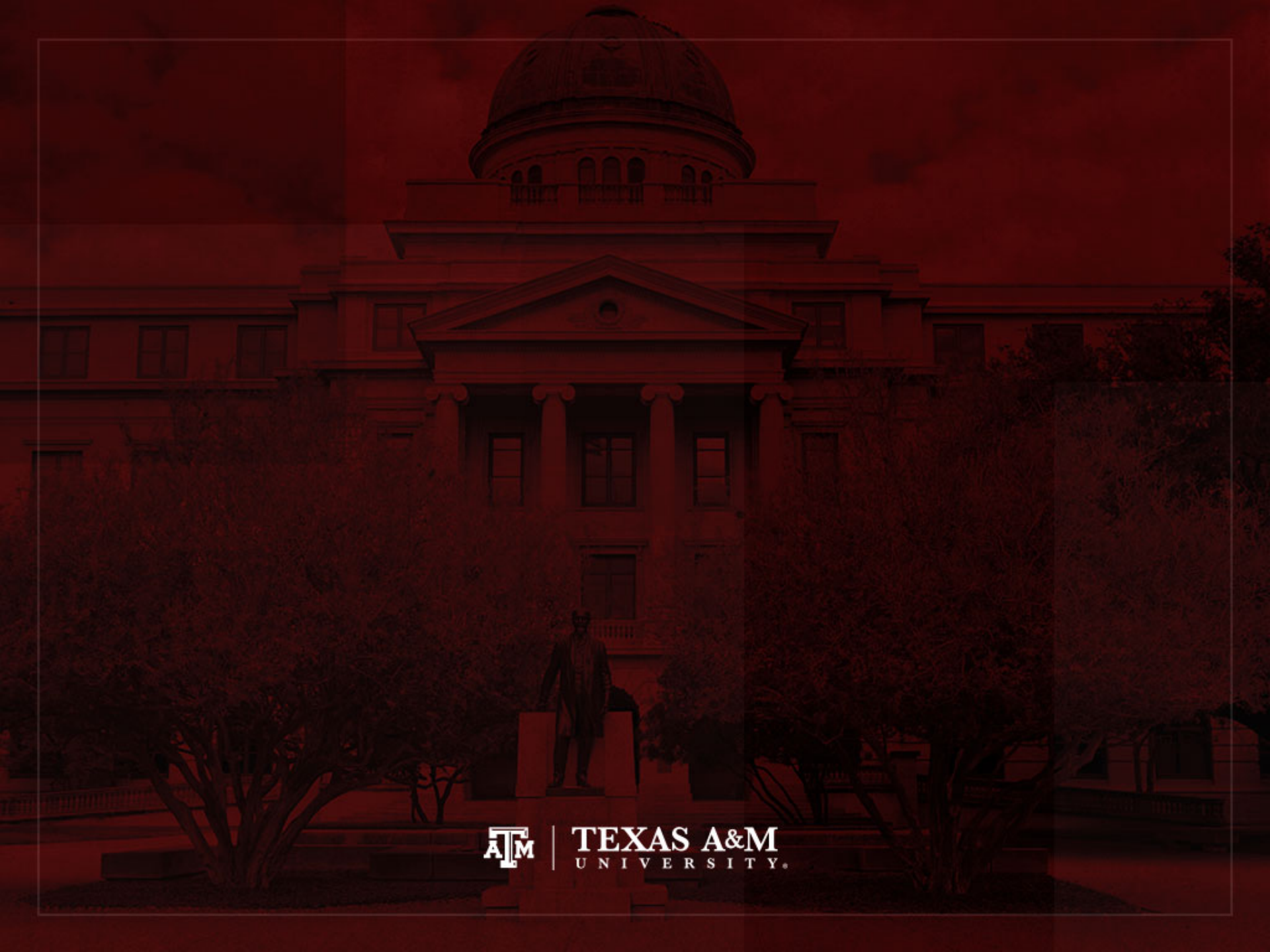
EU Regional Trust Fund

- EU is the leading donor in the international response to the Syrian crisis with over €6.1 billion (by 2016)
- Trust Fund addresses longer term resilience needs of Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq
- Provide education, training, health care, water, sanitation, hygiene, infrastructure, economic recovery
- Incentivize work permits in neighboring countries
- Implementation of a trade initiative to apply lower taxes for manufactured products exported to EU
- World Bank is also providing interest-free loans



Significance of policies

- Minimize restrictions on working
- Wage subsidies to private employers
- Temporary exceptions to minimum wages
- Ease self-employment (access to credit)
- Facilitate skill recognition
- Reduce restrictions on geographical mobility
- Adverse effects on wages and employment of natives are limited and temporary
- If refugees work, they pay taxes and contribute to social security, offsetting effects of population aging



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Migrant caravan, April 29, 2018

More than 150 migrants, part of a caravan that once numbered about 1,200 and headed north in March from Mexico's border with Guatemala, were prepared to seek asylum from U.S. immigration officials





Migrants from Honduras, hoping to reach the United States to seek asylum, run from tear gas released by US Customs and Border Protection near the fence between Mexico and the US in Tijuana.

Initiating asylum procedure

- People who request protection at a U.S. entry point must be referred to an asylum officer for a screening interview
 - More than 75% of applicants pass this “credible-fear interview”
 - Migrant families are likely to be placed on buses to Texas, where they will remain in detention centers for mothers and children
 - Adult men are likely to be detained in any number of facilities across the country that hold undocumented immigrants

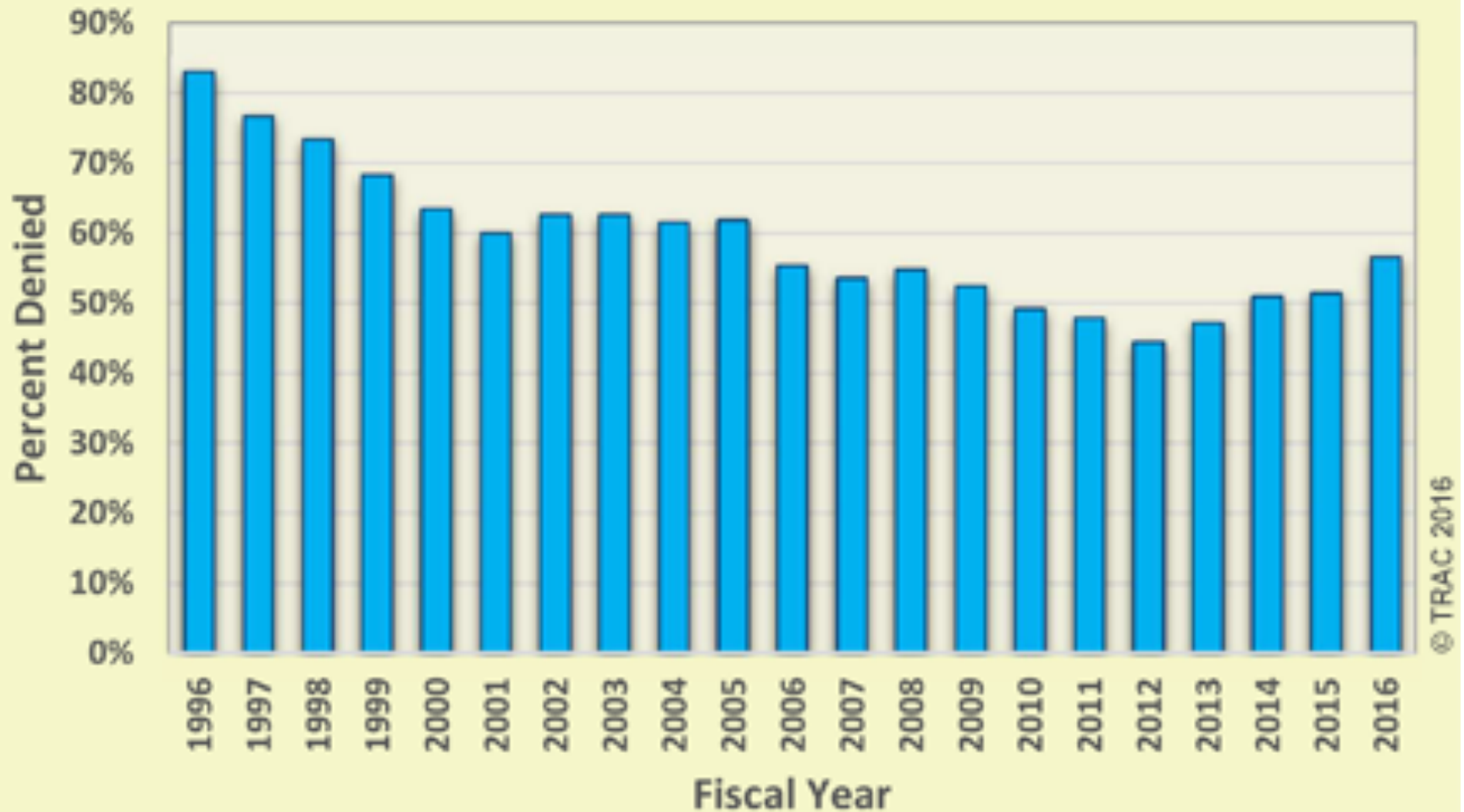


Immigration judge phase

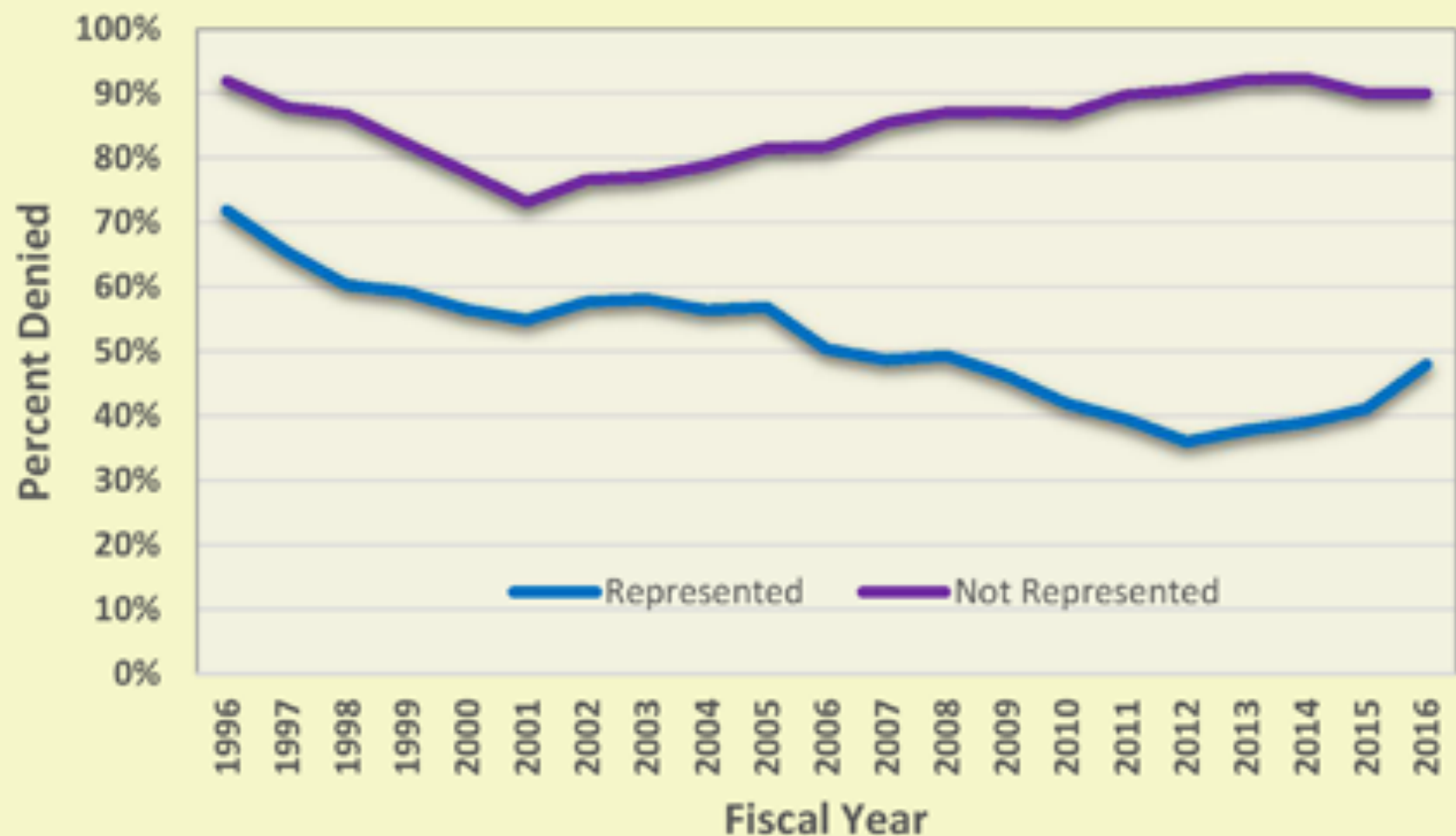
- If applicant passes the interview, the person must then present his or her case before an immigration judge
 - This process can take several months or longer
 - Migrants often are allowed to travel to the interior of the country
 - They stay with relatives or friends while their cases run their course
 - They are typically fitted with ankle monitors
 - In recent months, migrant advocates say, the federal administration has kept many migrants seeking asylum in detention



Asylum denial rates in the U.S.



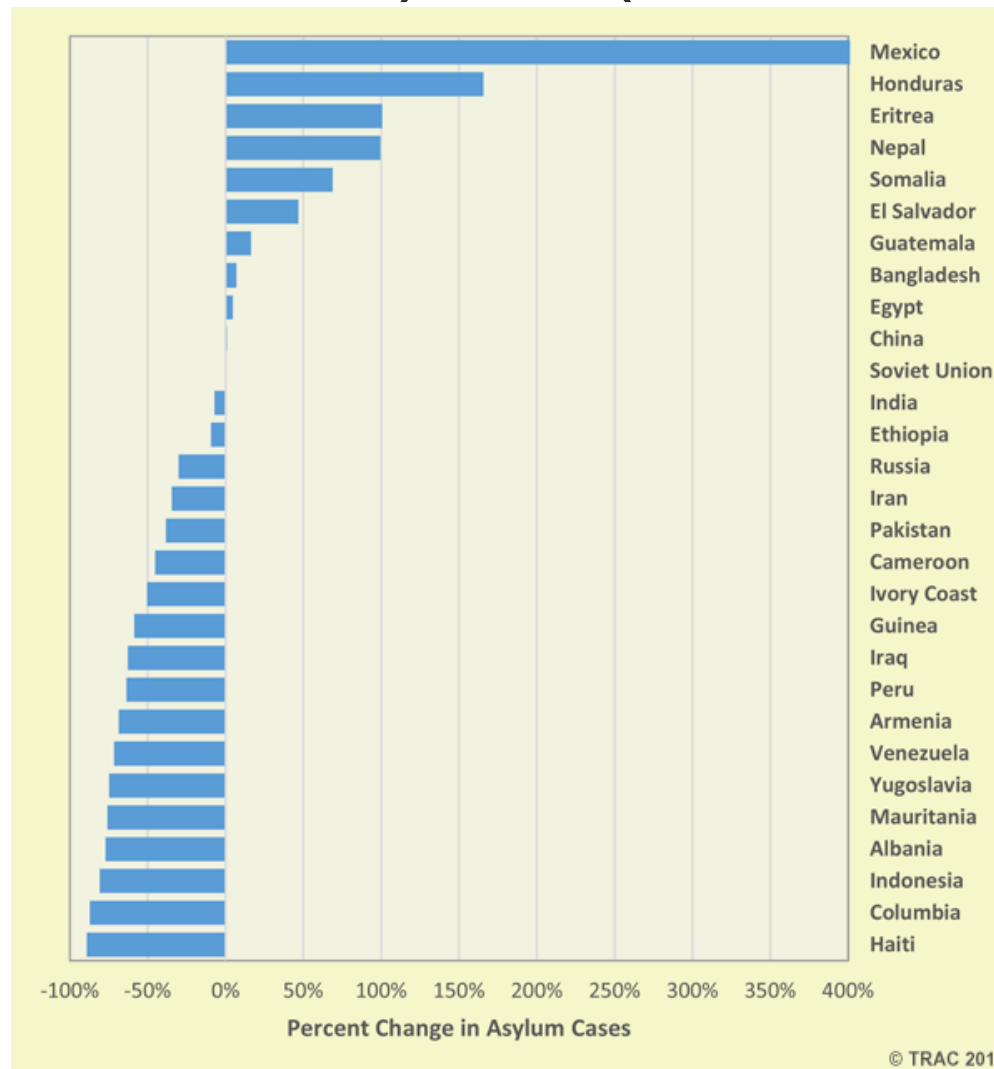
Asylum denial rates by representation



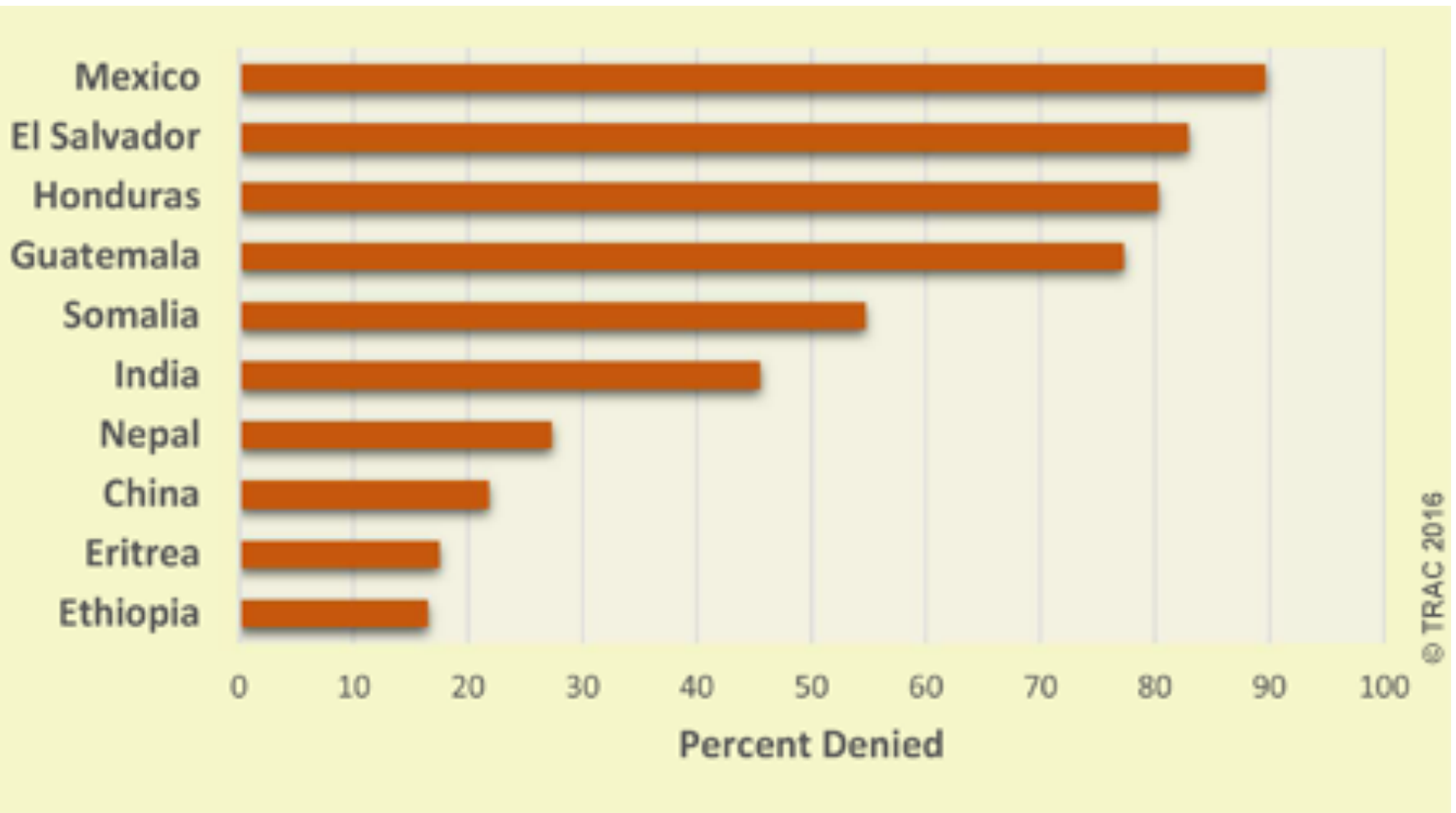
© TRAC 2016

- Having an attorney continued to be almost a necessity for winning asylum in Immigration Court

Changes in asylum seekers (FY2005–FY2010) vs. (FY2011–FY2016)



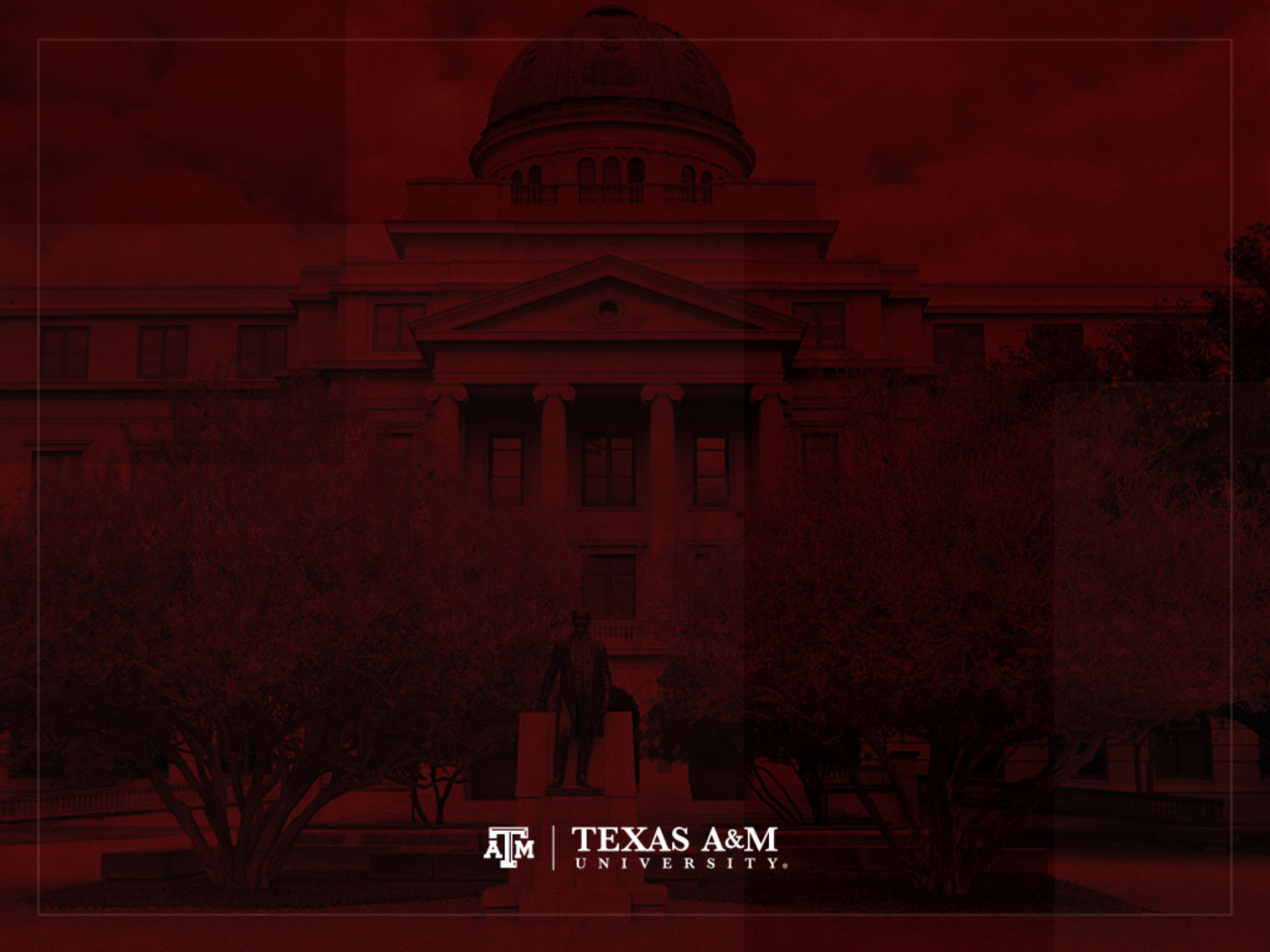
Asylum denial rates for top ten nationalities, 2011–2016



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