

The Cuban Exodus: Growing Complexity & Diversity

Jorge Duany

Cuban Research Institute

Florida International University

Main Objectives

Trace historical development of Cuban exodus



Describe socioeconomic profile of each migrant stage

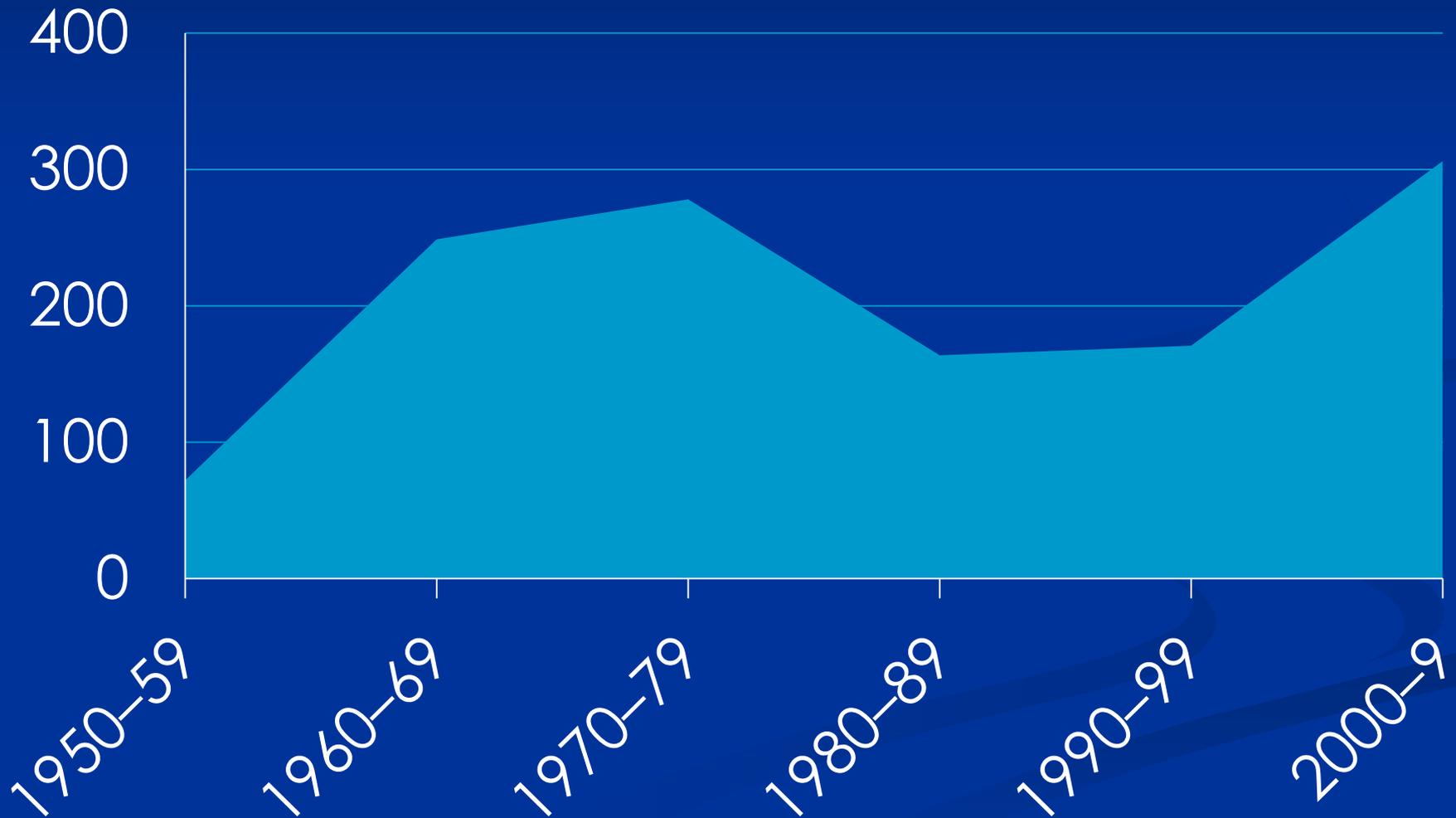


Examine similarities & differences among “vintages”



Analyze diverse views about U.S. policy toward Cuba

Cuban Migration to the U.S., by Decade (Thousands)



Five Main Migrant Waves

Golden Exiles
(1959–62)
• 248,070 persons

Freedom Flights
(1965–73)
• 260,561 persons

Mariel Exodus
(1980)
• 124,779 persons

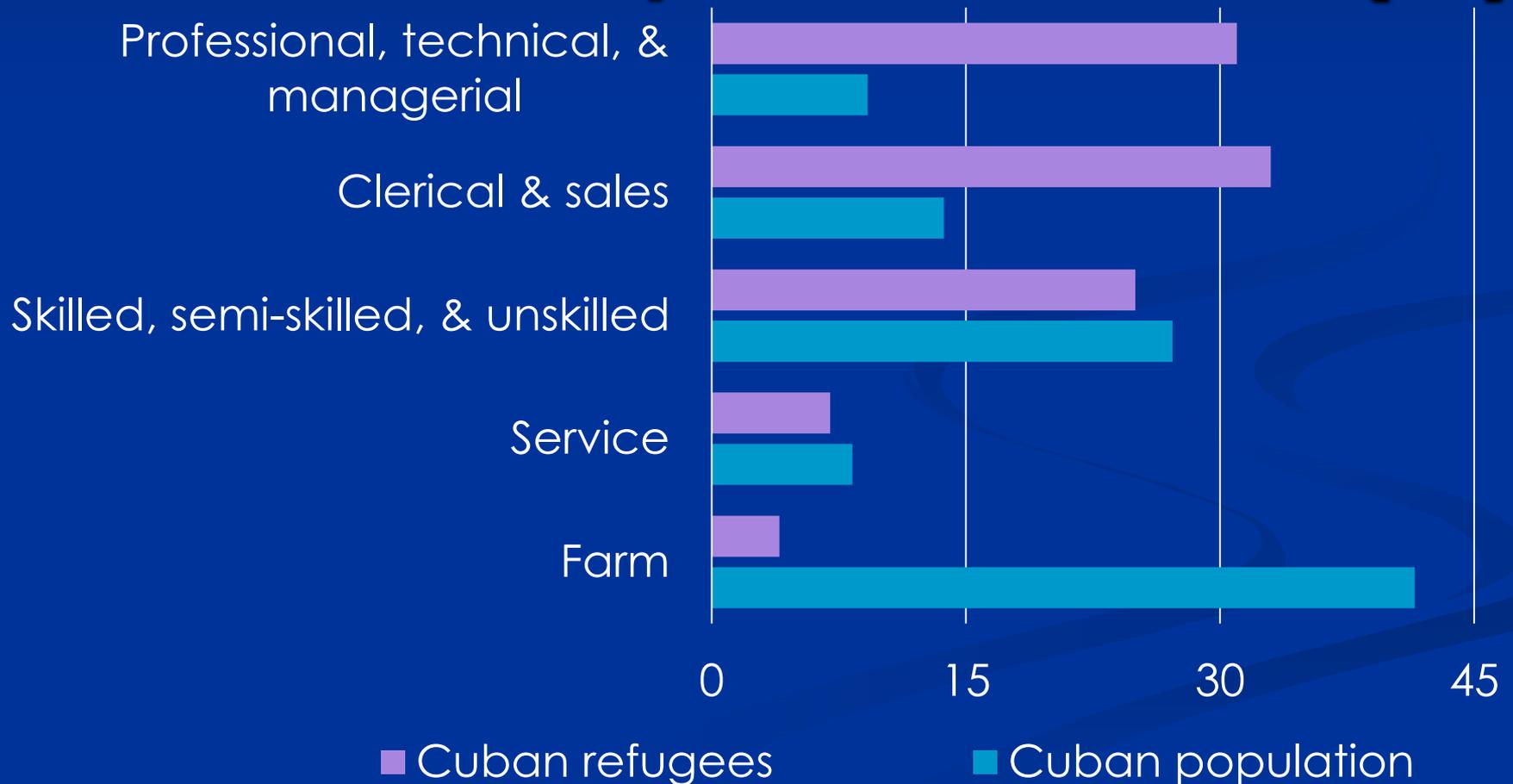
Balsero Crisis
(1994)
• 30,879 persons

Post-Soviet Exodus
(1995–)
• 549,013 persons

The “Golden Exiles,” 1959–1962



Occupation of Cuban Refugees, 1959–62, & Cuban Population, 1953 (%)



Transforming Miami



Operation Pedro Pan, 1960–62



The “Freedom Flights,” 1965–1973



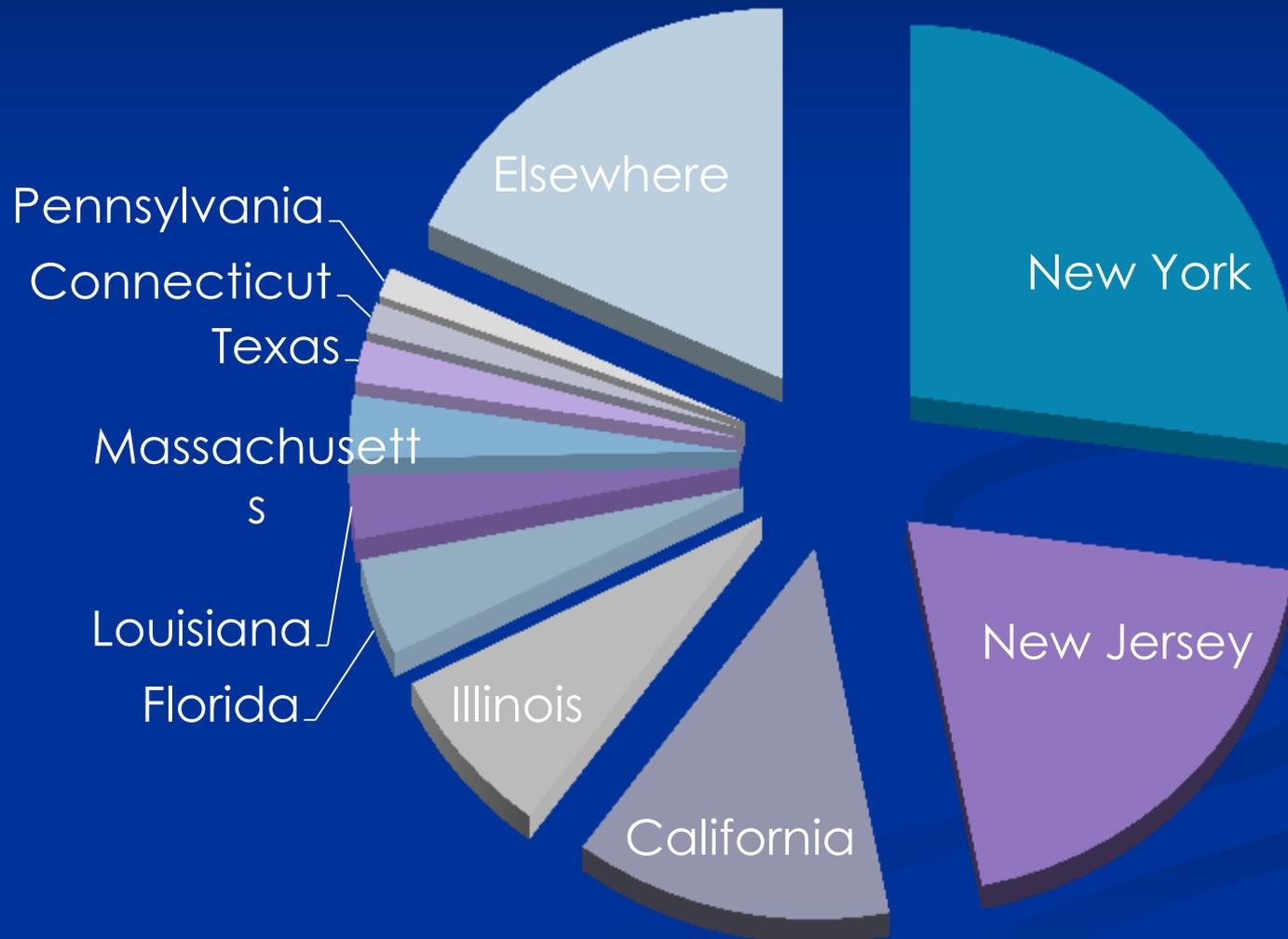
Comparing the First & Second Waves of Cuban Refugees

	1959–62	1965–73
Median age at arrival (years)	40.4	40.2
Female (%)	53.9	57.6
White (%)	98	96.9
Born in Havana (%)	62	63.2
High school graduates (%)	36	22
Professional & managerial (%)	37	21

“El Refugio,” 1967



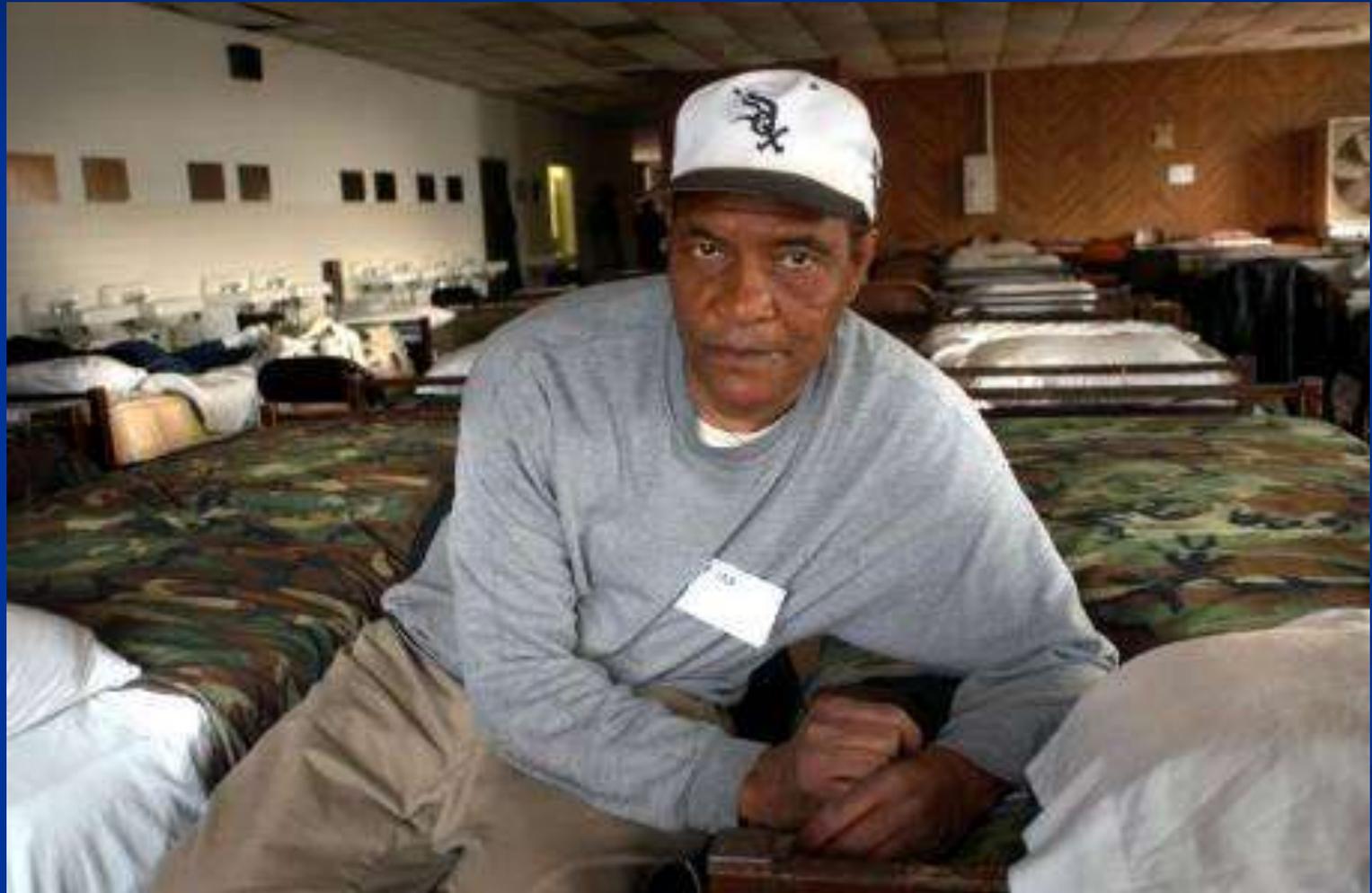
Resettled Cuban Refugees, 1961-72



The Mariel Exodus, 1980



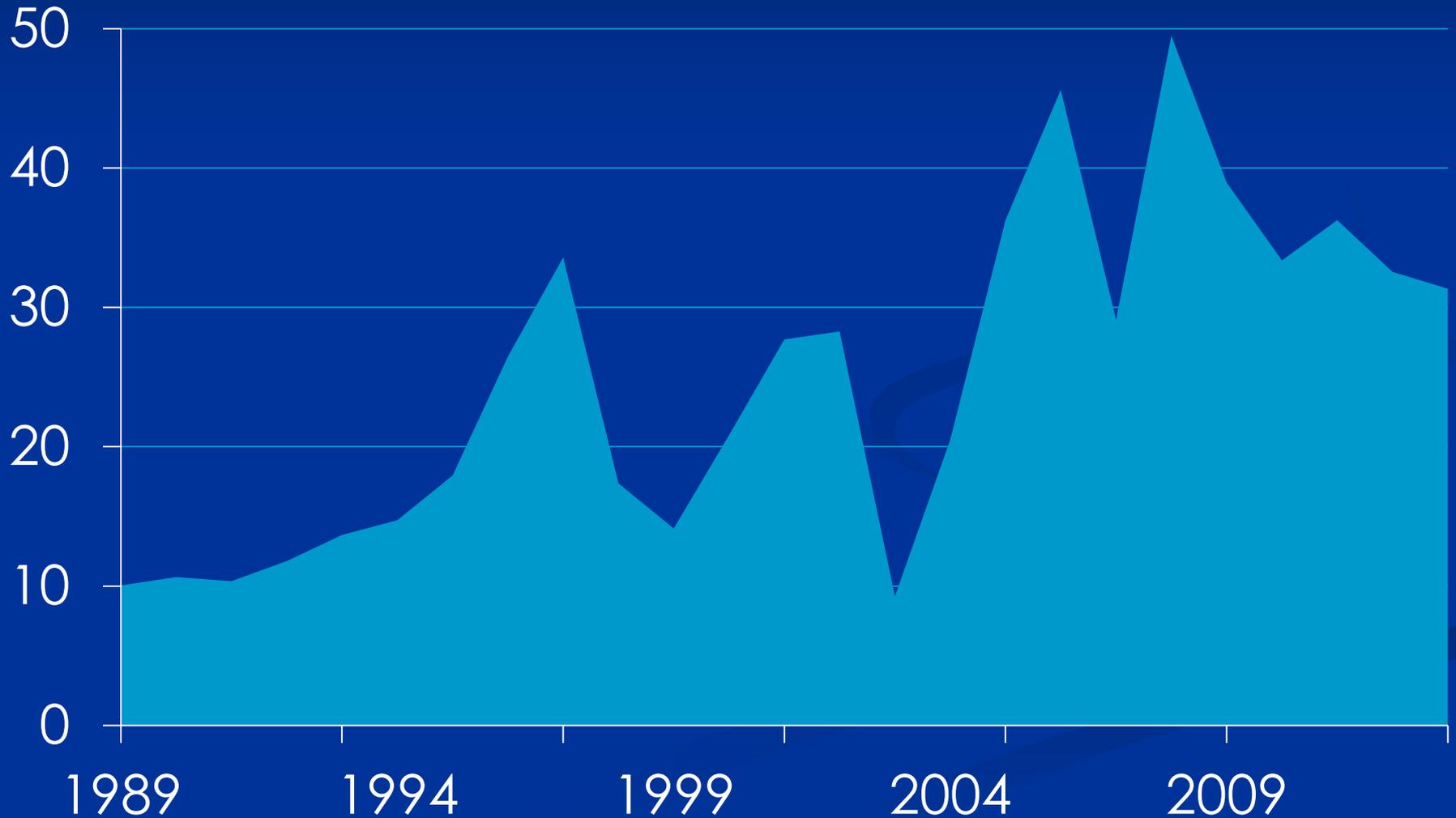
A *Marielito* in a Refugee Camp



Comparing 1980 & 1973 Cuban Refugees

	1980	1973
Median age at arrival (years)	34	40.3
Single (%)	42.6	17.1
Black or mulatto (%)	12.6	3.1
Born in Havana (%)	48.4	41.1
Mean number of relatives at arrival	3.1	10.2
Average years of education in Cuba	9.1	8.6
No knowledge of English (%)	57.4	44.8
Professional & managerial in Cuba (%)	14	10
Current median earnings per month (\$)	523	765

Cuban Migration to the U.S. since 1989 (Thousands)



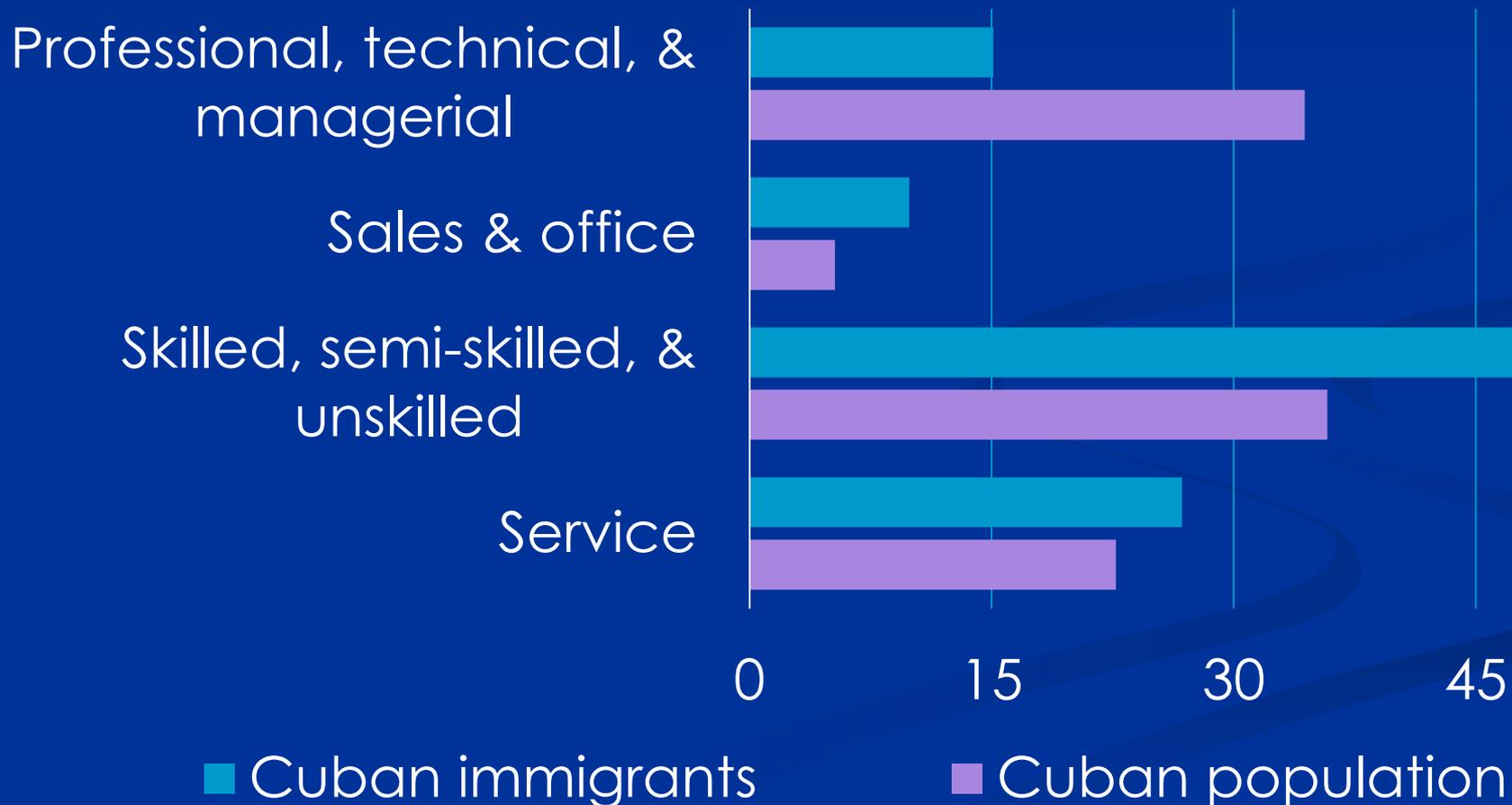
The *Balsero* Crisis, 1994



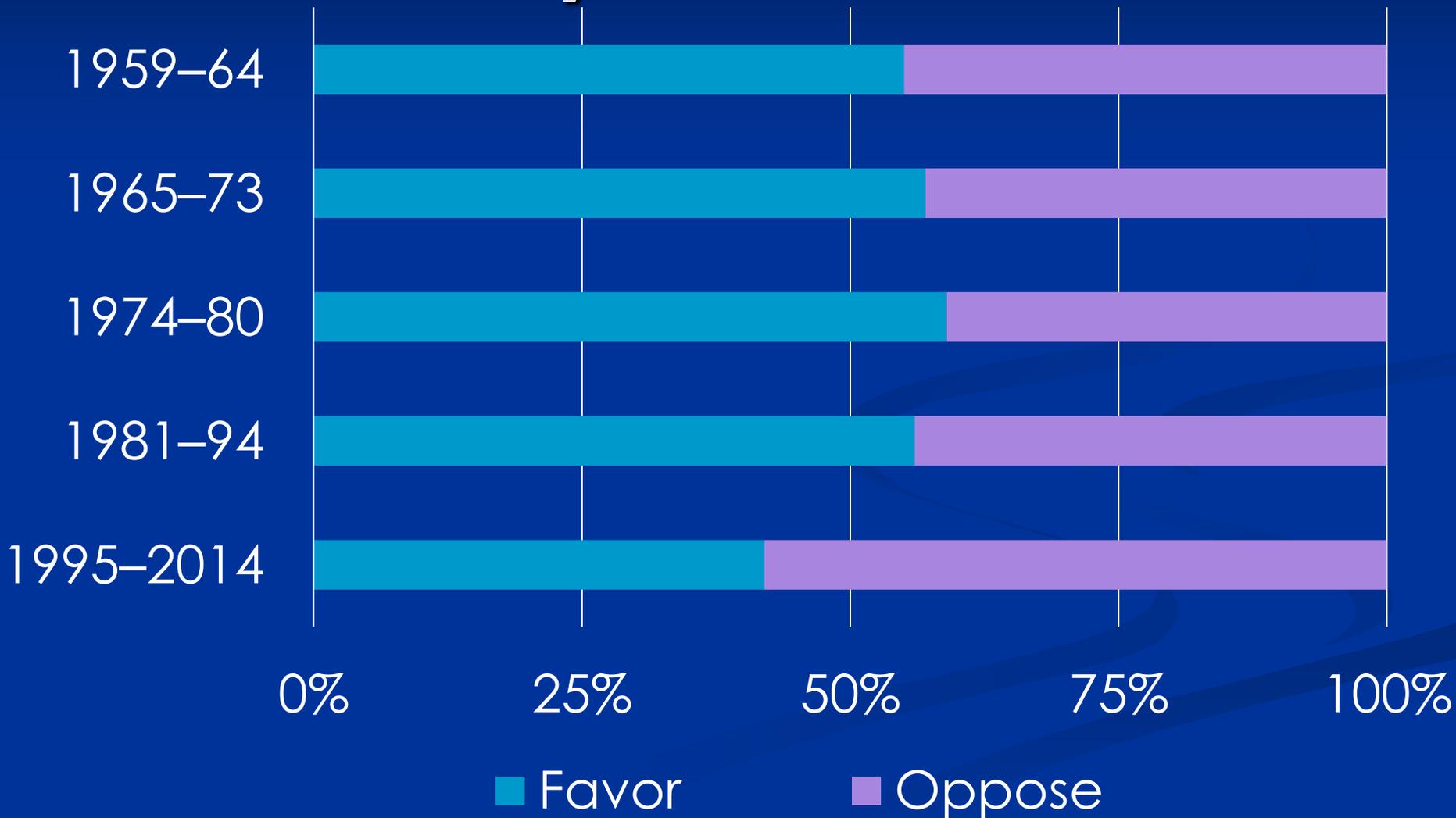
A *Balsero* in Miami



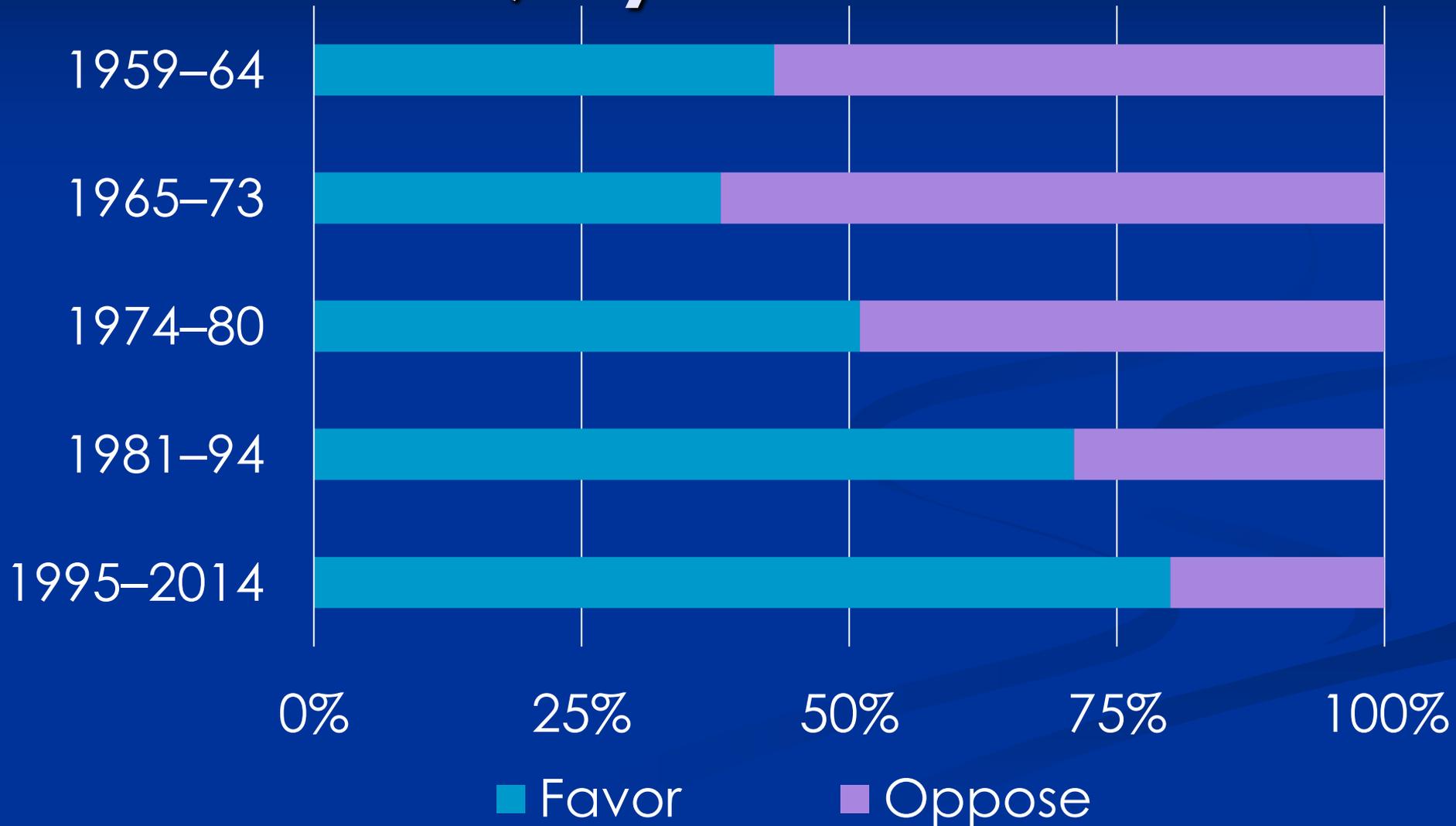
Occupation of Cuban Immigrants & Cuban Population, 2012 (%)



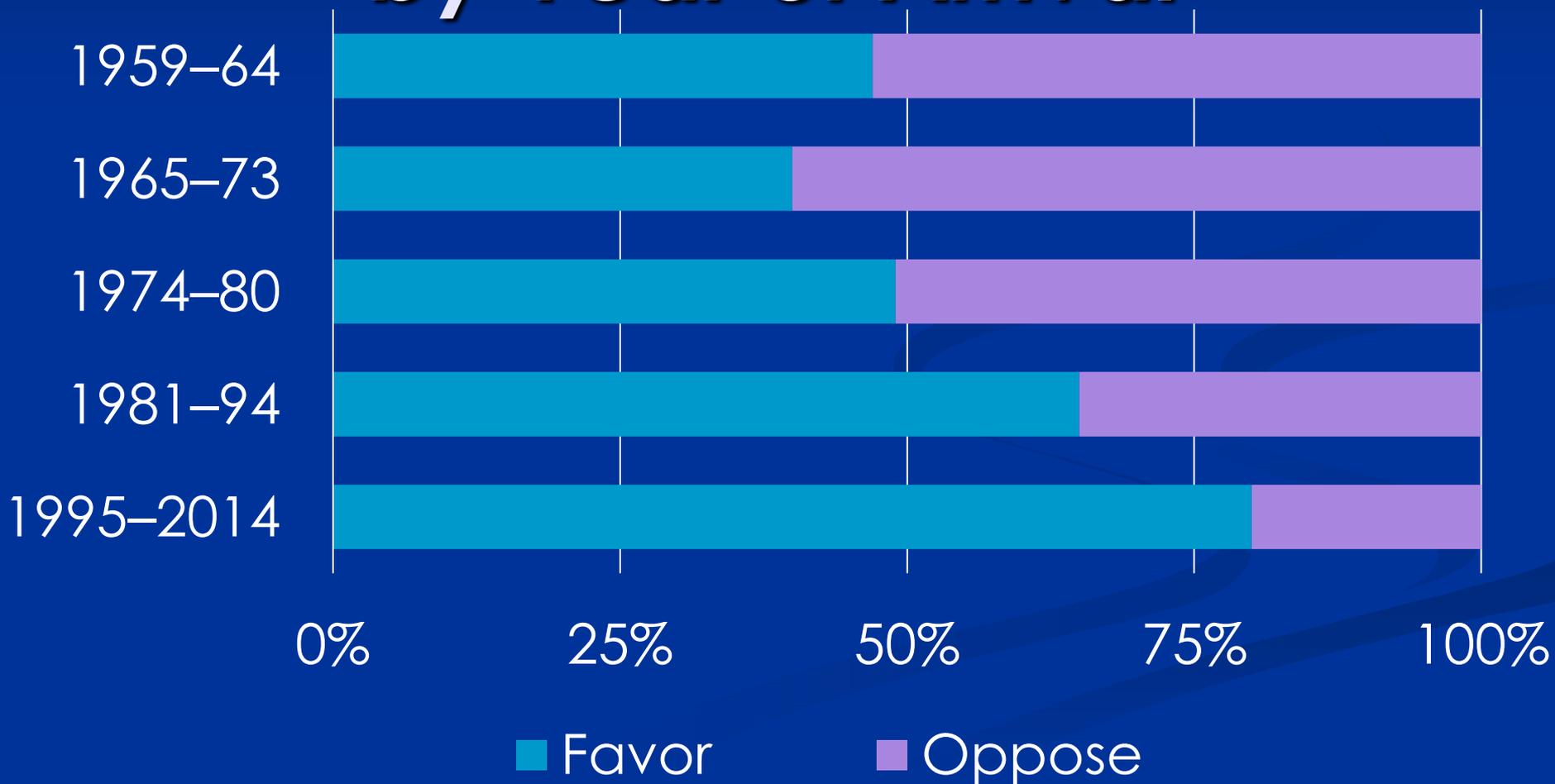
Support for U.S. Embargo of Cuba, by Year of Arrival



Support for Unrestricted Travel to Cuba, by Year of Arrival



Support for Diplomatic Relations between U.S. & Cuba, by Year of Arrival



The “Intransigents”



A Growing Generation Gap



Conclusions

Five stages of Cuba exodus since 1959



Different “vintages” over time



Diverse reactions to U.S. Cuba policy



Impact of U.S.-Cuba relations?