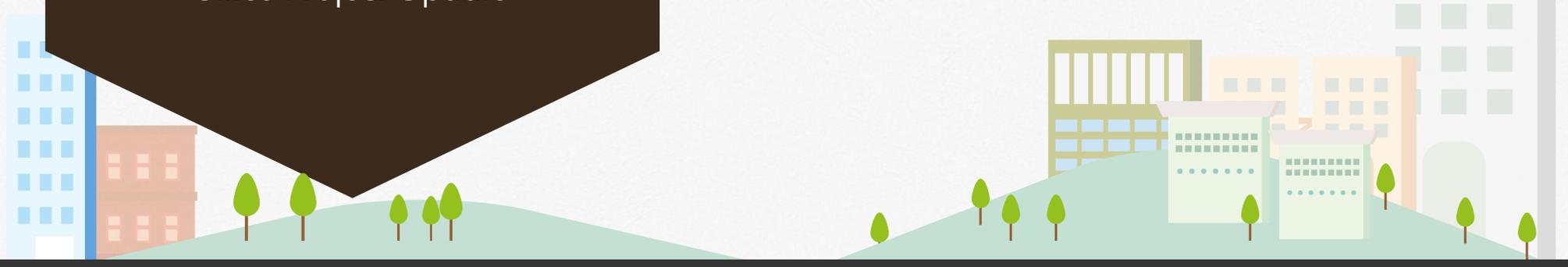


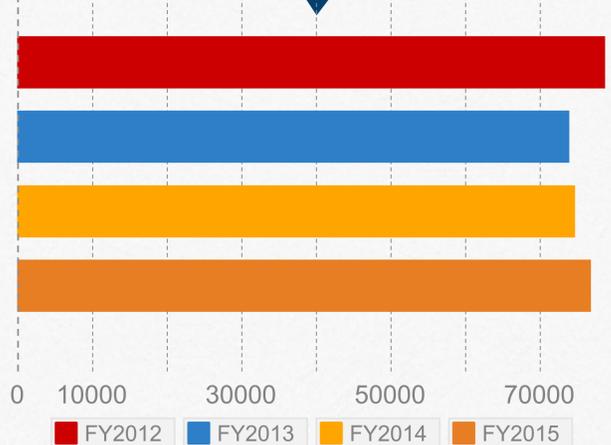
# Refugee Resettlement Trends in the US

Refugee Resettlement in Small Cities Project Update

This study compares the absolute numbers of refugees approved for resettlement against the overall population and foreign-born population of each individual state. Capacity here is defined as the number of refugees approved to resettle in that particular state by the federal government in cooperation with the resettlement agencies.



## Context of US Resettlement



Approved US Resettlement Capacity

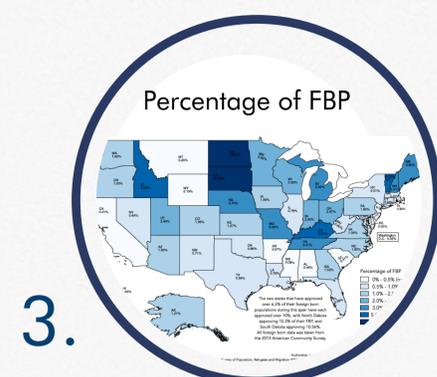
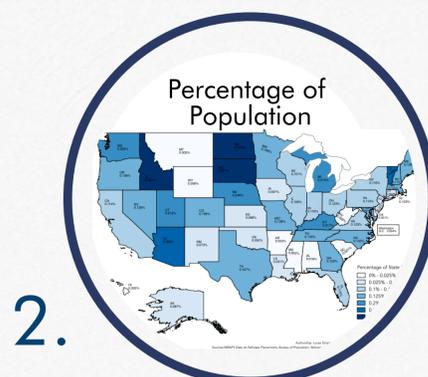
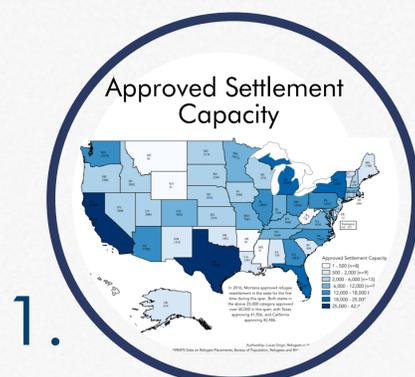
- Over 230 official resettlement offices approved resettlement in at least some capacity across the US during our period of study
- Approximately 75,000 refugees were approved for resettlement each year in the US during the first four years of this study
- The US increased planned resettlements to 85,000 in FY 2016 in response to the global migration crisis affecting North and Sub-Saharan Africa as well as the Middle East as sending countries and the European continent as receiving countries

## Key Findings

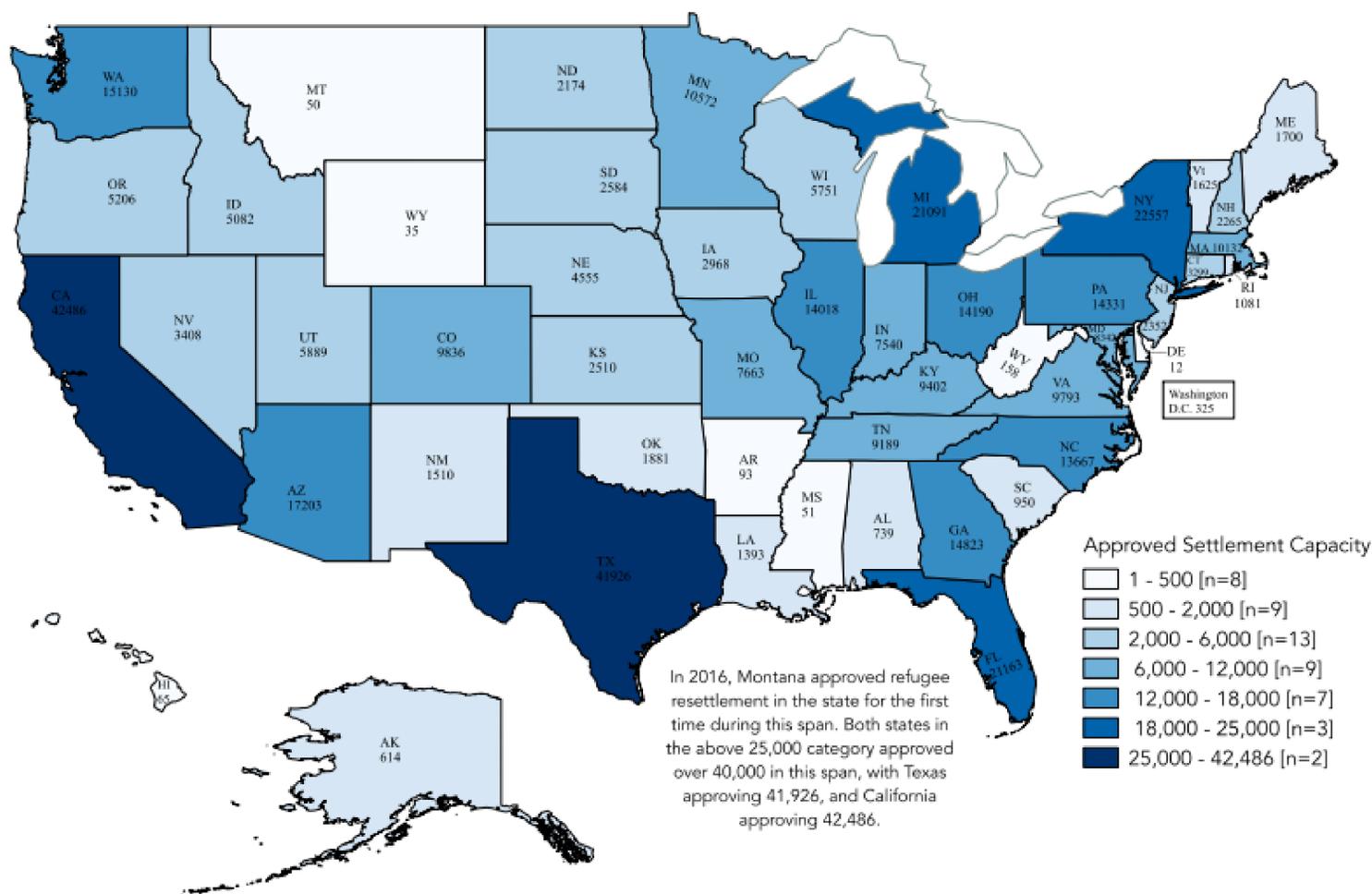
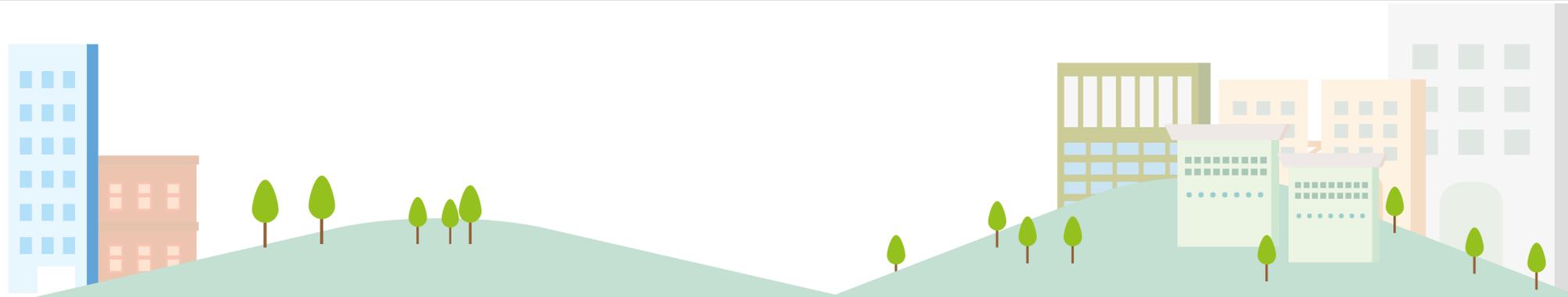


All maps and analysis are based on information collected via the Worldwide Refugee Processing System (WRAPS) from the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.

- Refugees make up a very small percentage of both the overall and the immigrant populations in most states
- The states currently resettling the most refugees in absolute numbers are some of the same states that immigrants have historically settled in, especially those with 'gateway cities' like New York, San Francisco, Houston, and Miami
- As a percentage of both the overall and foreign-born population, however, refugee resettlement is proportionately much higher in so-called 'non-traditional' immigrant destination states such as Vermont, Idaho, and North Dakota



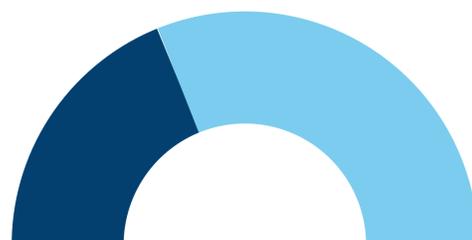
# Approved Settlement Capacity by State



Authorship: Lucas Grigri, Refugees in Vermont Project, NSF Award#1359895, December 30, 2016  
Sources: WRAPS Data on Refugee Placements, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration 2012-2015, Migration Policy Institute and 2010 US Census

- Texas and California continued to approve significantly more resettlements than any other US states in terms of absolute numbers of refugees
- Since the late 19th century, immigrants to the US have settled in the largest numbers in New York, California, Florida, Texas, Illinois and New Jersey (Portes and Rumbaut, 2014); the first four of these remain among the top resettlement states in the US today.
- Excluding Texas and California, 8 out of the 10 next most active states resettling refugees over this period (with over 12,000 placements approved each) are located on the East Coast and along the Great Lakes.
- Refugees were accepted in every single state during this period, though the numbers of those approved for resettlement varied from a high of 42,486 (CA) to a low of 35 (WY).

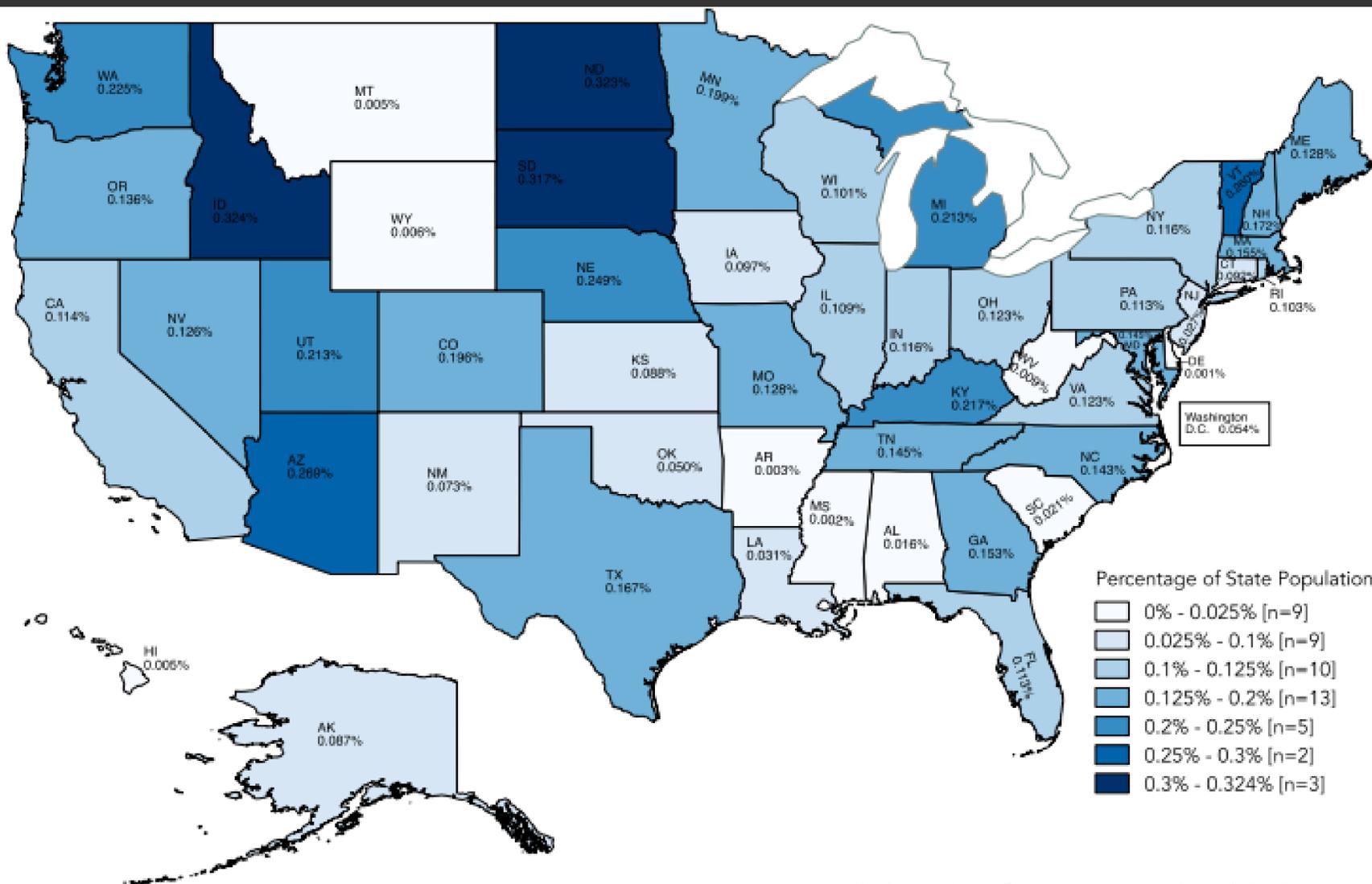
## A Closer Look



■ Top Five States (37.74%) ■ Rest of the Country (62.26%)

Over the past five years, more than a third of US resettlement has taken place in just five states: California, Texas, New York, Florida, and Michigan.

# Approved Settlement Capacity as a Percentage of State Population

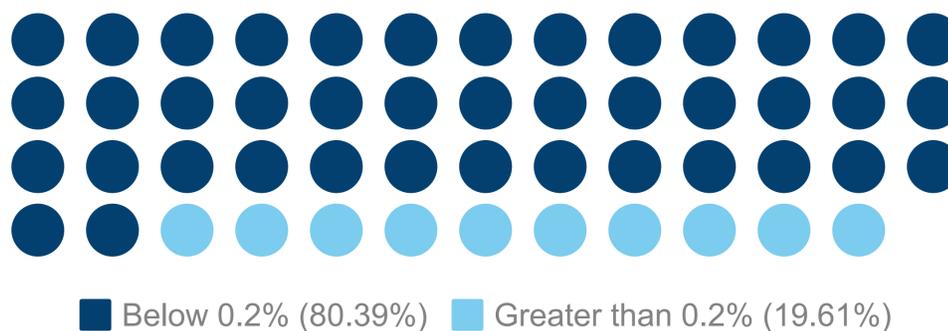


Authorship: Lucas Grigi, Refugees in Vermont Project, NSF Award#1359895, January 4, 2017  
Sources: WRAPS Data on Refugee Placements, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration 2012-2015, Migration Policy Institute and 2010 US Census

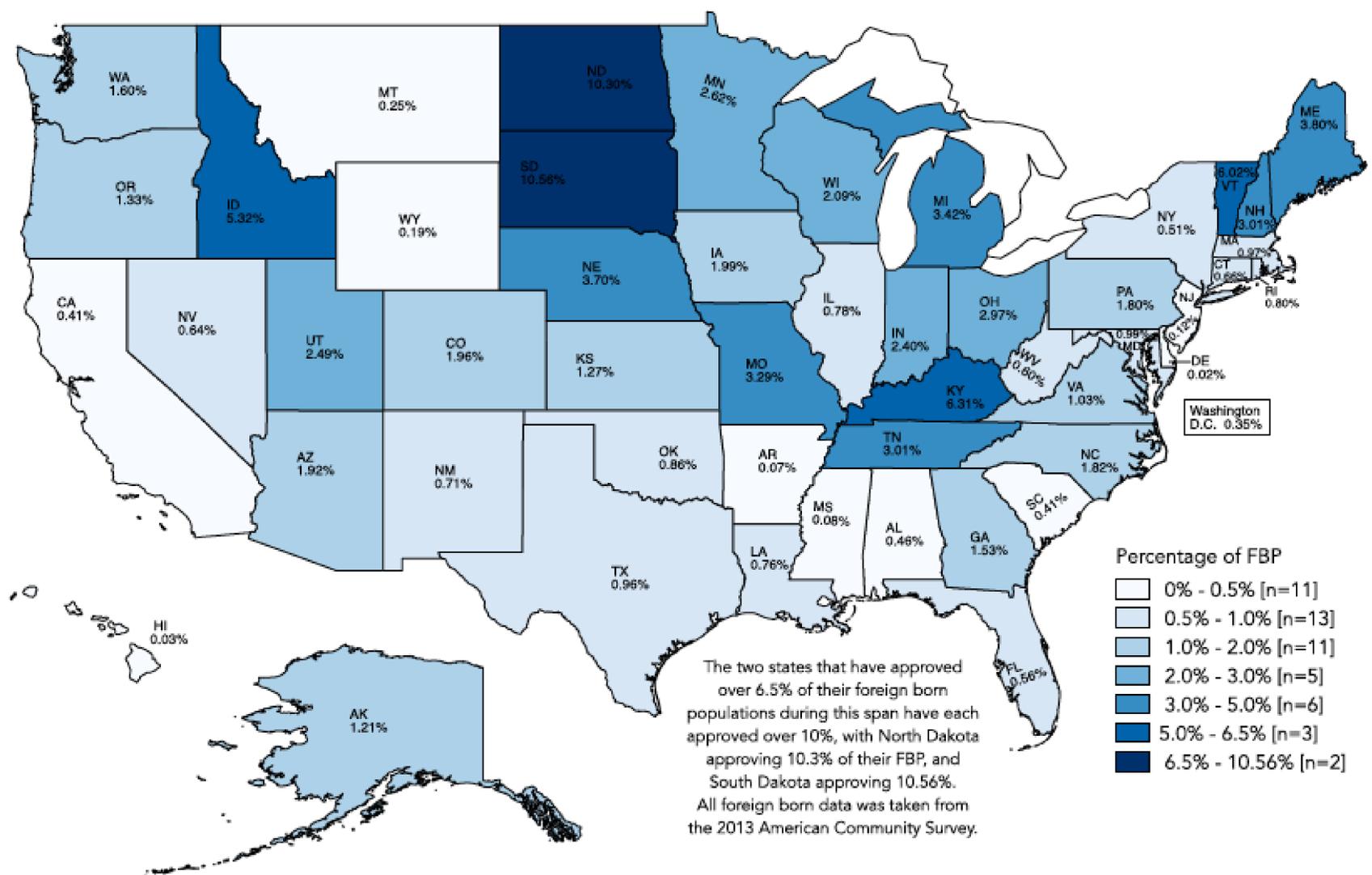
- The emphasis on coastal areas as major sites of relocation is considerably less
- States surrounding the Great Lakes which are significant in terms of absolute numbers of refugees approved for resettlement, are much less noticeable in terms of refugees as a percentage of overall population
- Population size of each of these states plays a perhaps obvious role: those states with lower overall populations (and population density) such as Vermont, Idaho, South Dakota, and North Dakota, take on a much more prominent profile vis-à-vis resettlement
- Conversely, refugees make up a very small part of the overall population in states that have larger overall populations (CA, TX, FL) and multiple major metropolitan areas

## A Closer Look

Roughly 80% of states, including Washington D.C., approved less than 0.2% of their overall state population through five years of resettlement.



# Approved Settlement Capacity as a Percentage of State Foreign-Born Population

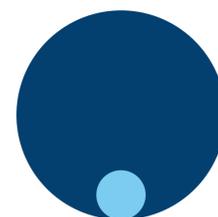


Authorship: Lucas Grigri, Refugees in Vermont Project, NSF Award#1359895, January 4, 2017  
 Sources: WRAPS Data on Refugee Placements, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration 2012-2015, Migration Policy Institute, American Community Survey 2013 and 2010 US Census

- Refugees make up a very small percentage of the immigrant population in most states
- This trend is especially true for the larger traditional immigrant-destination states, even those that continue to resettle large numbers of refugees (e.g. CA, TX)
- Some of the states in which refugees make up the largest share of the foreign-born population are amongst the least populous in the country, often without a significant history as an immigrant destination (e.g. ND, SD, KY).
- States that are home to so-called 'gateway cities' historically popular with immigrants (such as New York City, San Francisco, and Chicago) are places where refugees make up a considerably smaller share of the overall foreign-born population
- Southwestern border states like Texas and California, with long histories of migration from Mexico and Latin America are both active in resettlement and feature refugees as a smaller share of the foreign-born population.
- A handful of states are both in the mid-range for absolute numbers of resettlements and in having refugees as a greater share of their foreign-born and overall populations. These include Michigan (21,091 resettled; 3.42% of FBP), Arizona (17,203 resettled; 1.92% of FBP) and Pennsylvania (14,331 resettled; 1.8% of FBP).
- States that are not 'traditional' migration destinations (such as VT and Idaho) may resettle far fewer refugees in absolute numbers than their larger counterparts; however, the impact of such resettlements is potentially considerably greater since refugees make up a significantly larger share of their overall and foreign-born populations

## A Closer Look

The top five states in resettlement as it compares to foreign-born population (North Dakota, South Dakota, Kentucky, Vermont, Idaho) only account for just over 5% of overall approved capacity of the United States. These five states are the only to approve over 4% of their foreign born population through five years, despite making up such a small percentage of US resettlement as a whole.



■ Top Five States ■ Rest of the Country