

# International Migration Policies: An Overview



United Nations  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Population Division



# **What is driving international migration?**

United Nations Population Division, 2008

# Countries of destination:

- Sub-replacement fertility/  
population ageing
- Labour shortages
- Improved transportation and  
communications

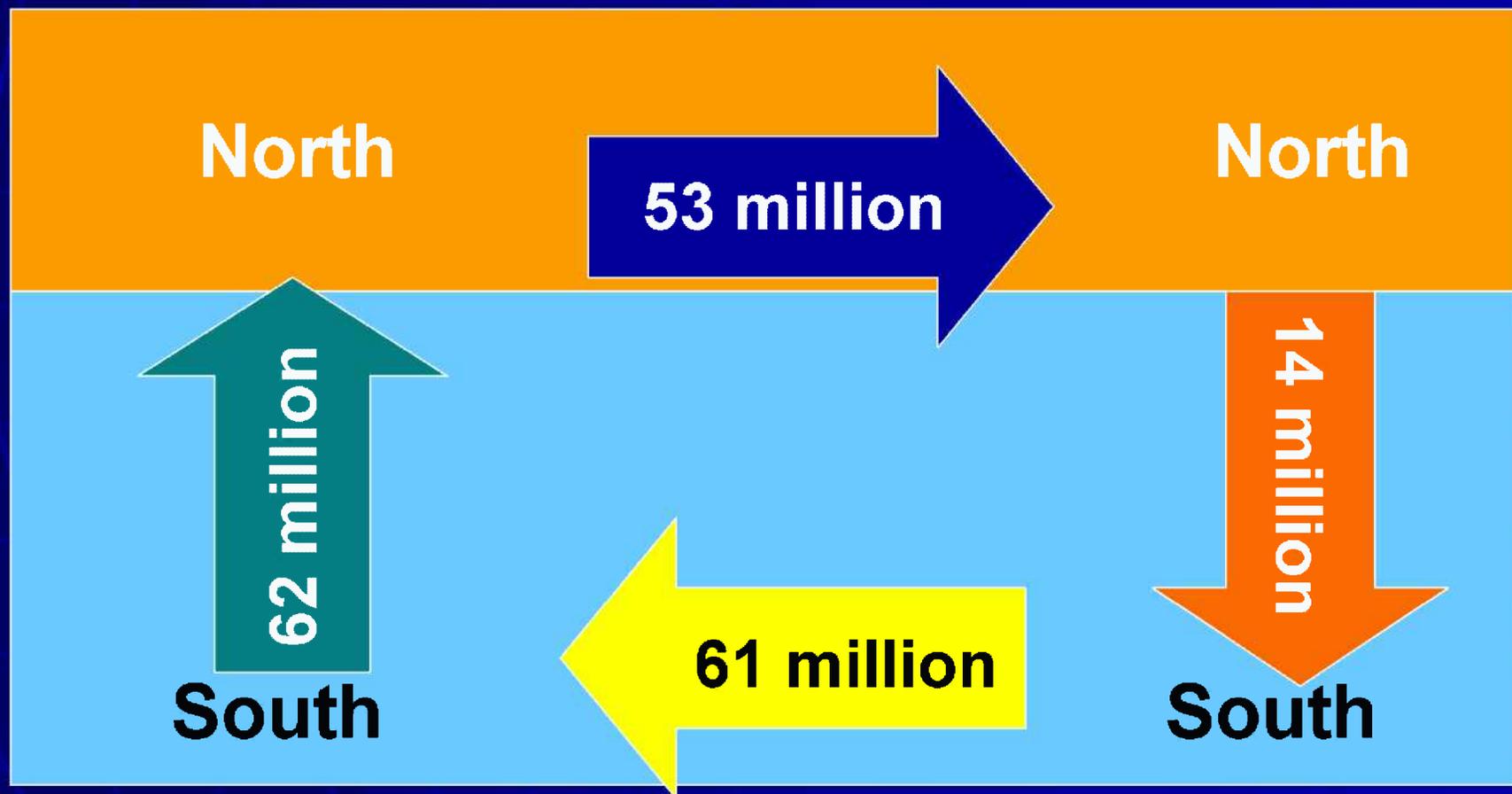
# Countries of origin:

- High population growth
- Unemployment
- Political, social and ethnic conflict

# Result:

- 191 million migrants
- 13 million migrants (2000-2005)
- US\$ 262 billion remittances

# Migrant stock is almost equally divided into three types

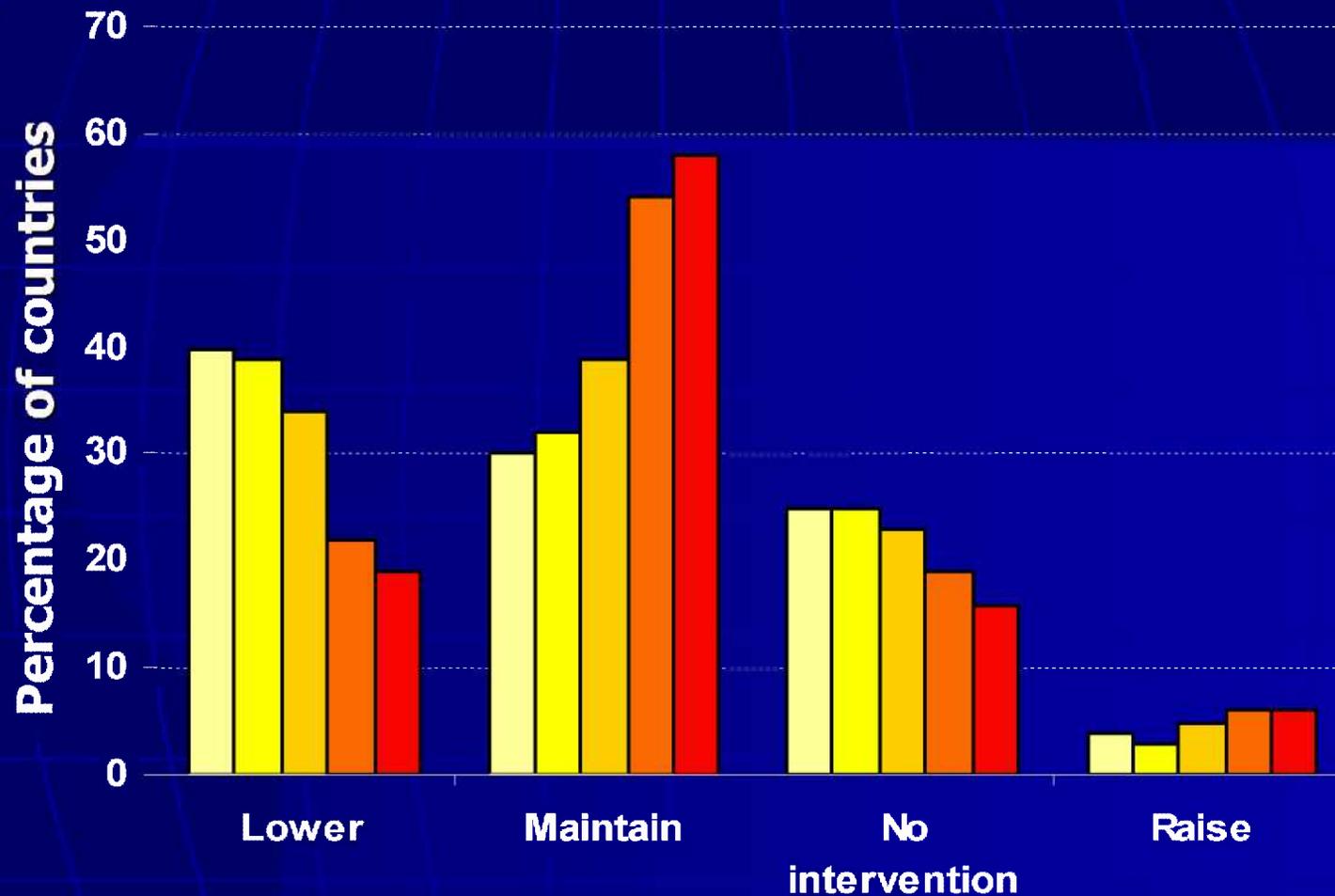


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# **Government policies on immigration**

United Nations Population Division, 2008

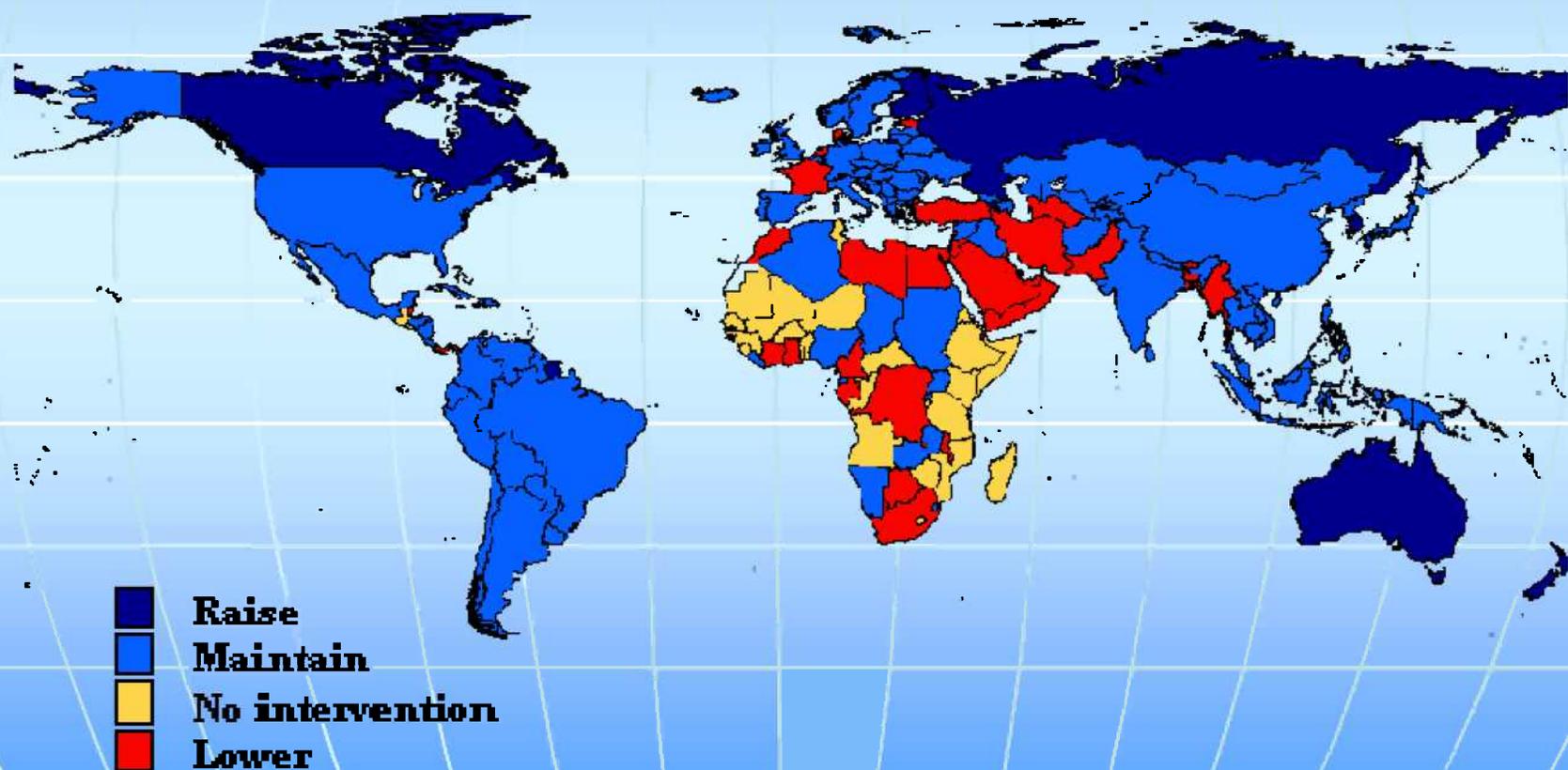
# Immigration policies



■ 1996 ■ 2001 ■ 2003 ■ 2005 ■ 2007

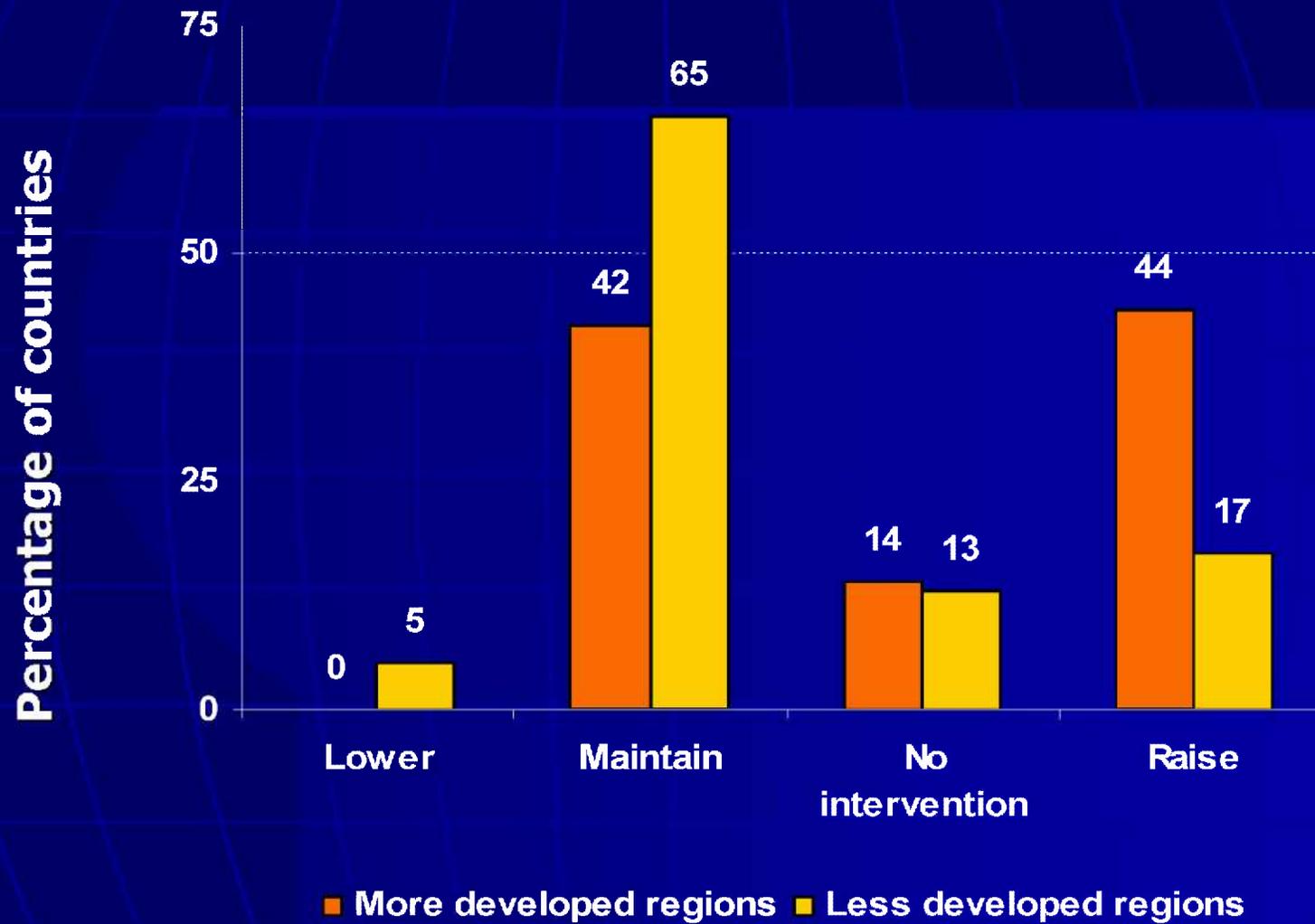
United Nations Population Division, 2008

# Immigration policies 2007



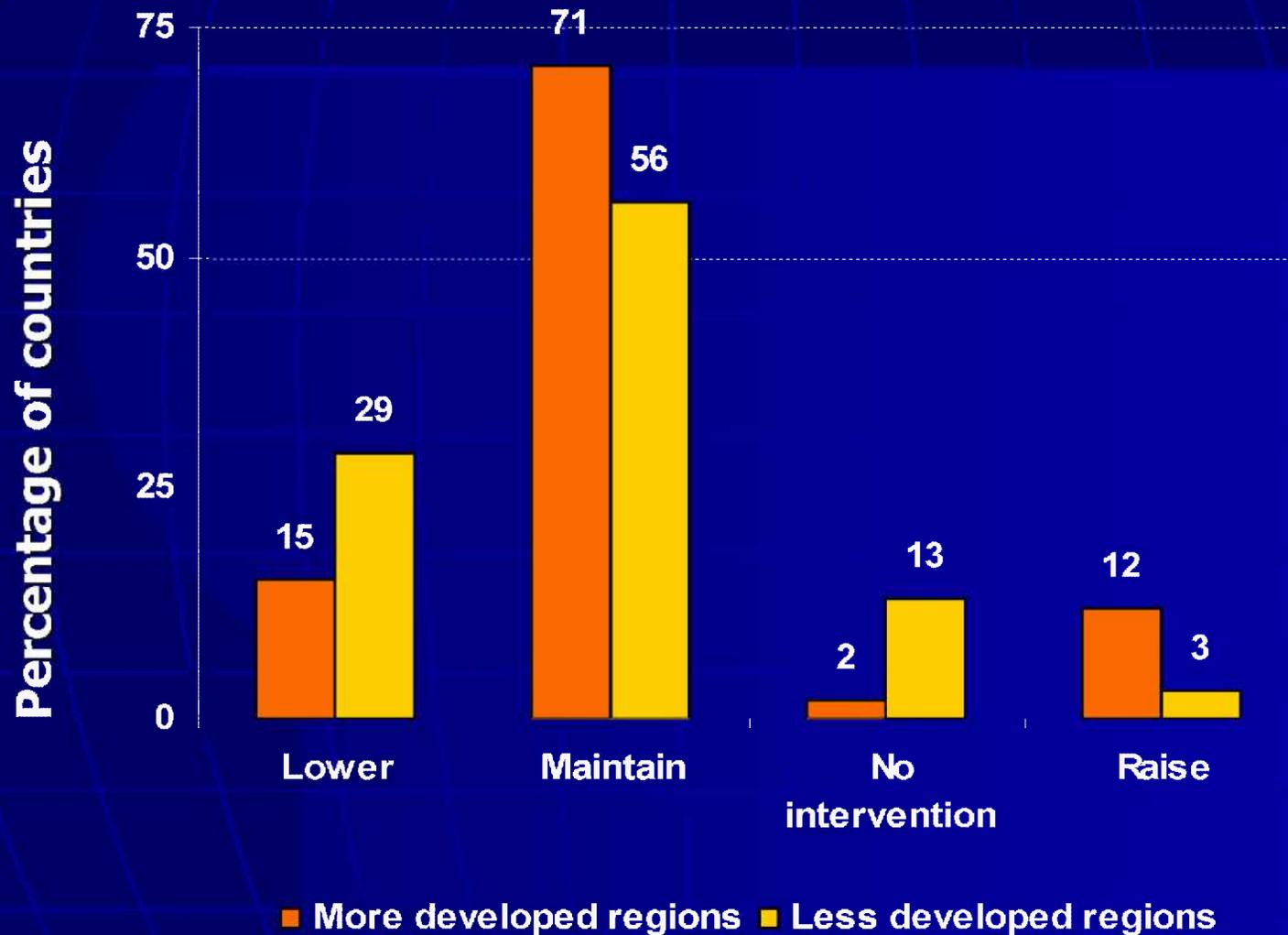
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# Highly skilled workers



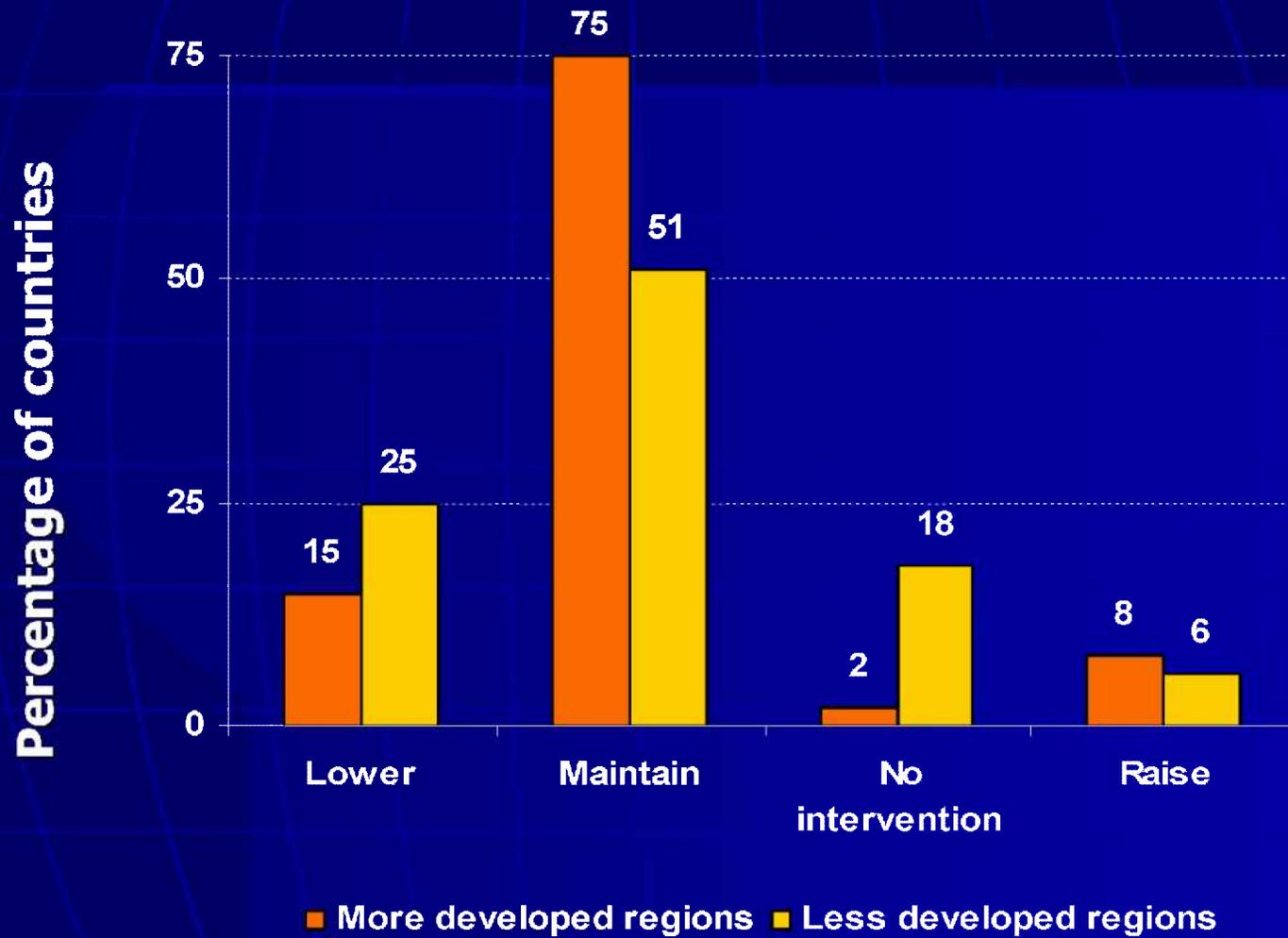
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# Temporary migration



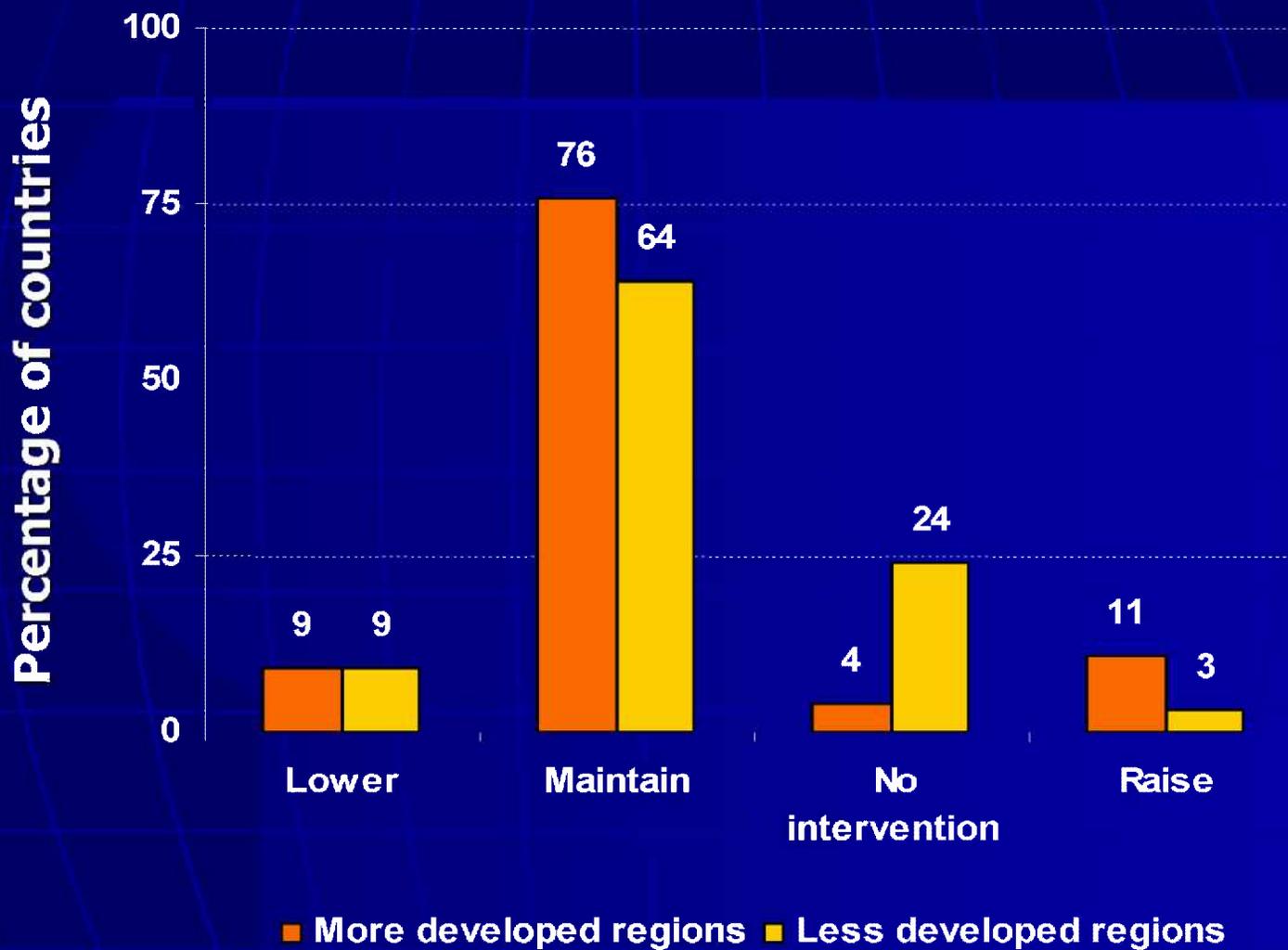
United Nations Population Division, 2008

# Permanent settlement



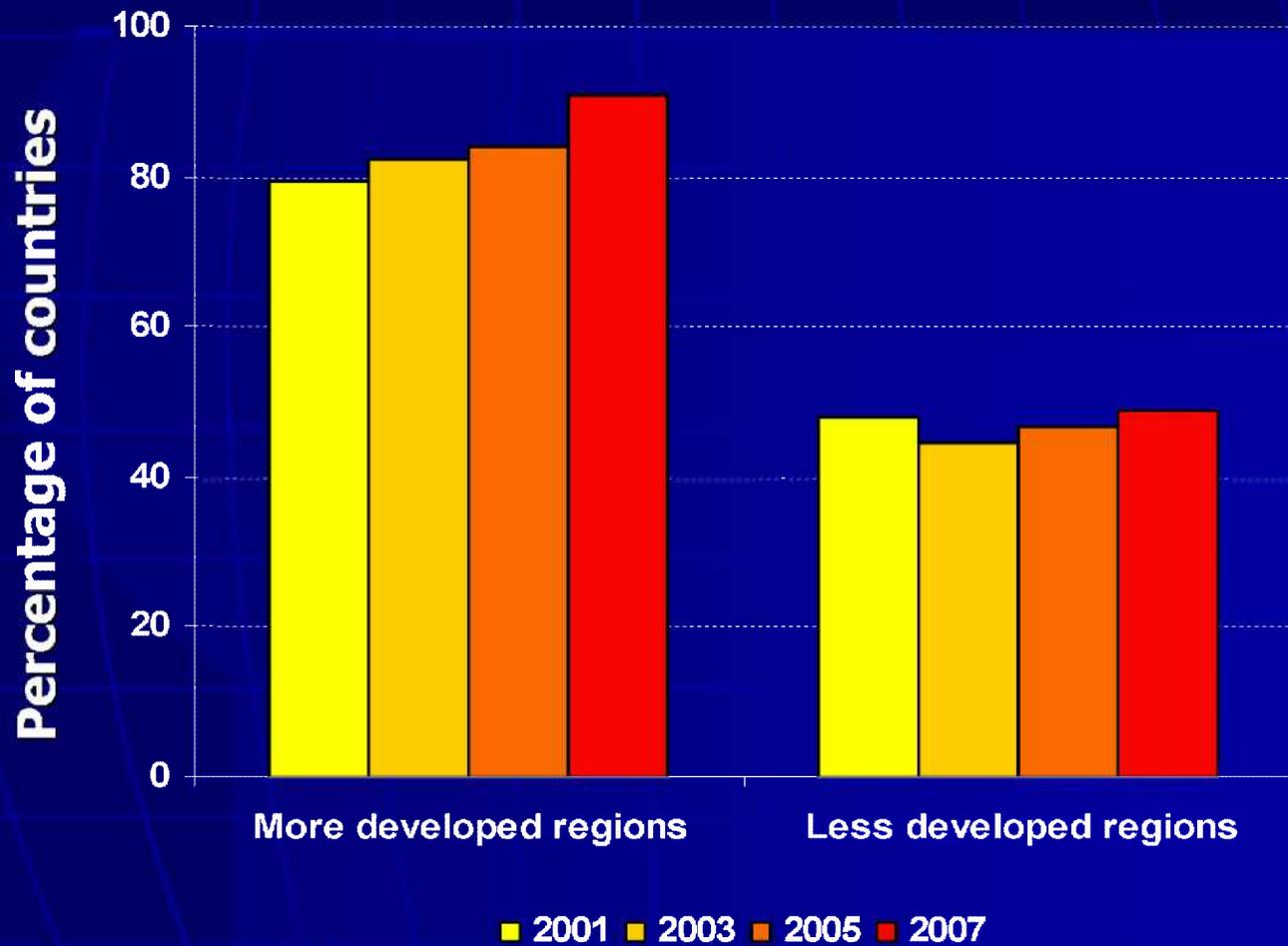
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# Family reunification



United Nations Population Division, 2008

# Integration of non-nationals



United Nations Population Division, 2008

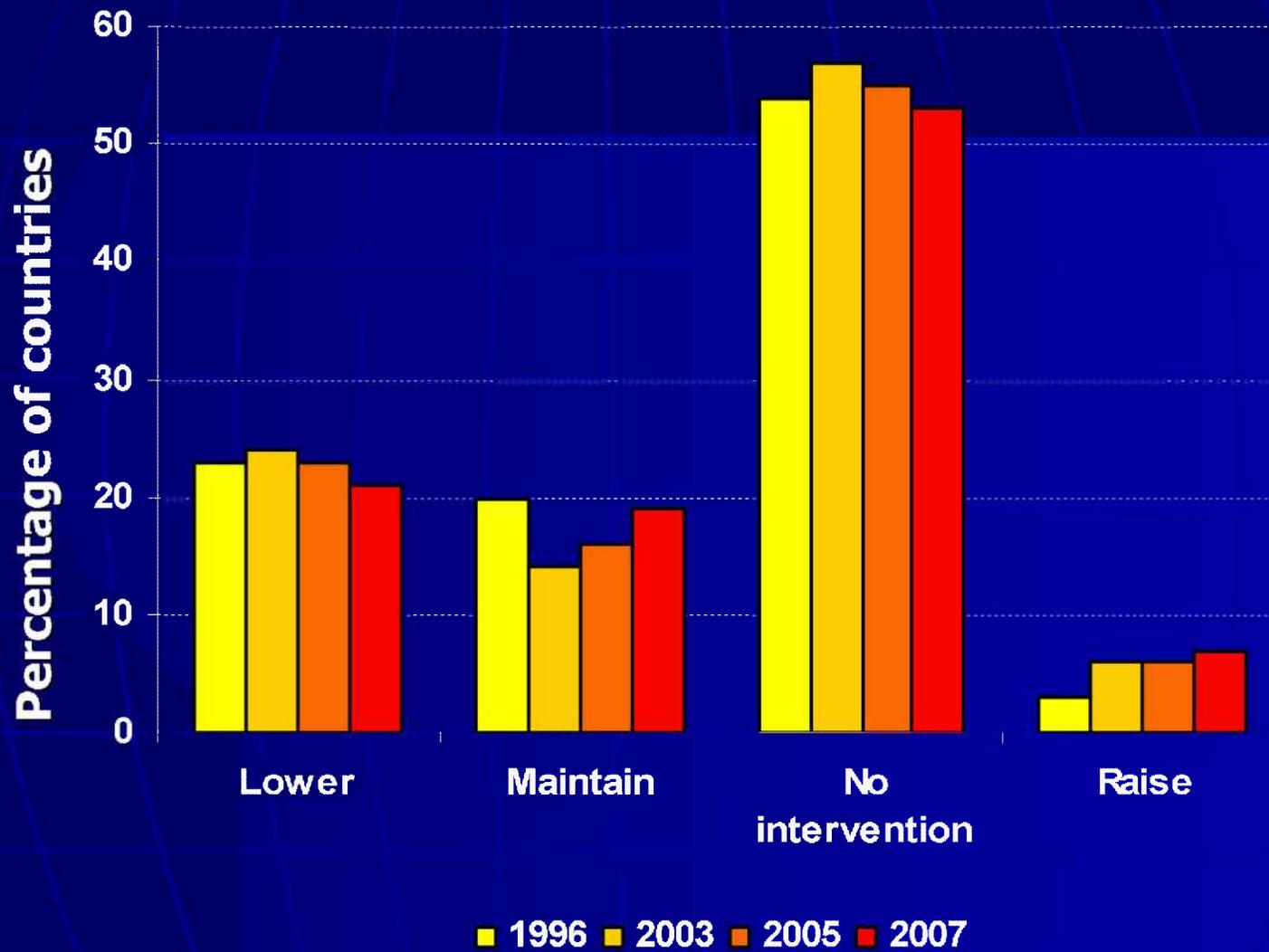
# Countries clamping down on irregular migration

- More stringent visa requirements
- Tighter border security
- Regularization programmes  
(about 5.5 million regularized)
- Bilateral readmission agreements

# **Government policies on emigration**

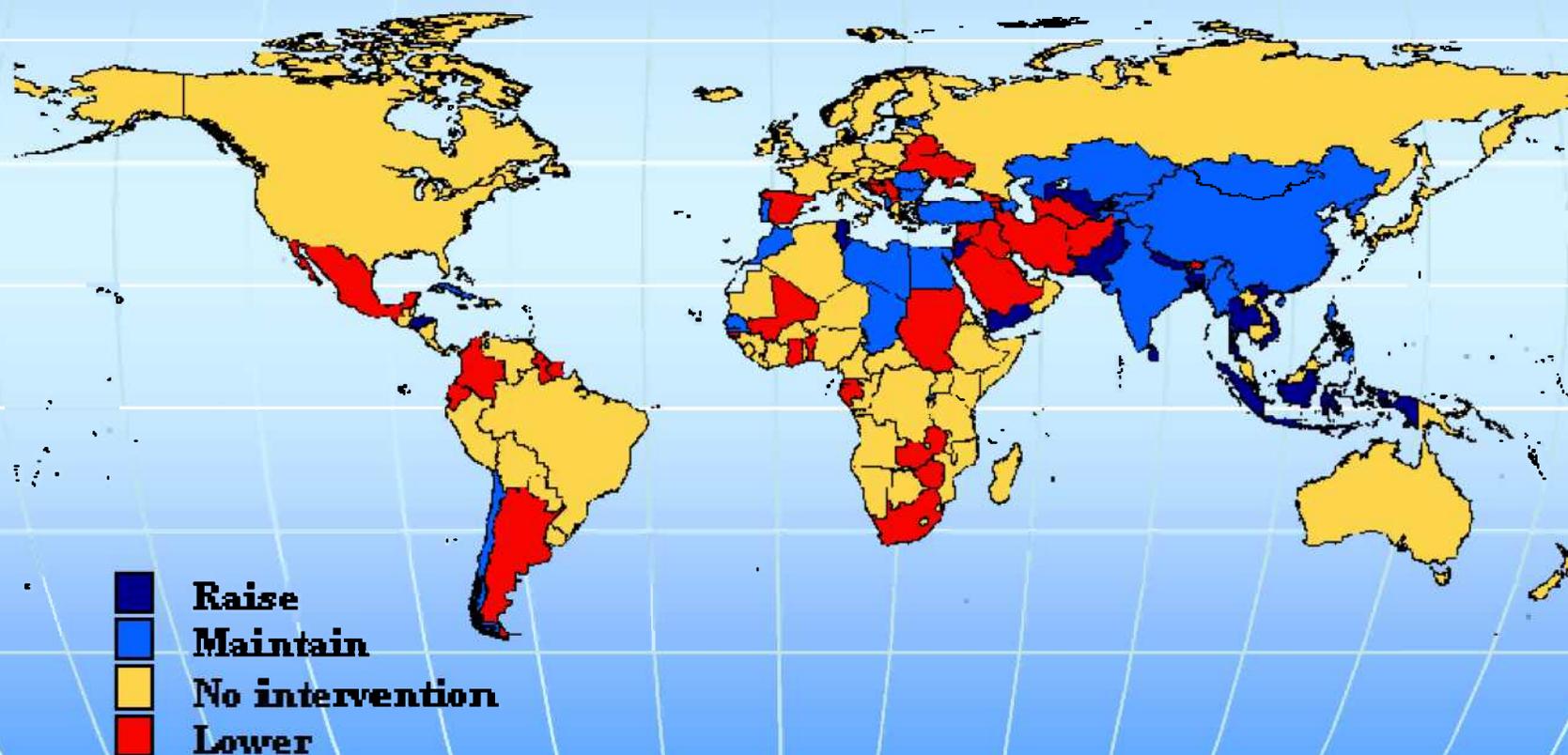
United Nations Population Division, 2008

# Emigration policies



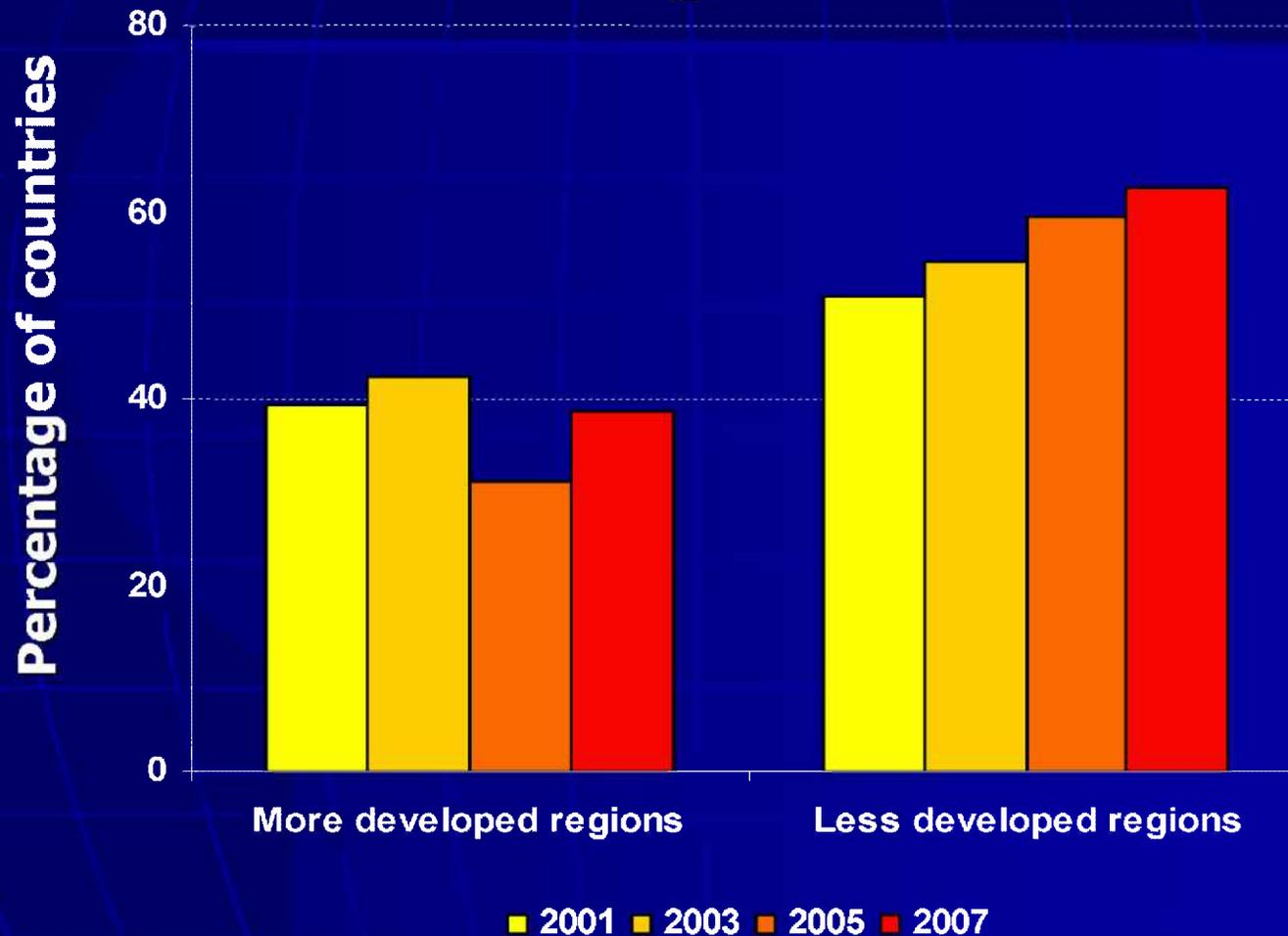
United Nations Population Division, 2008

# Emigration policies 2007



United Nations Population Division, 2008

# Encourage the return of migrants



United Nations Population Division, 2008

# Research priorities and gaps related to migration policy

- National governance and coordination mechanisms
- Policies to facilitate the flow of remittances
- Integration programmes
- Regularisation programmes
- ...

# **Actions taken by the United Nations Population Division to address the gaps**

- **10th Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development**
  - Expanded section on international migration. Additional questions include: policies on bilateral agreements, remittances, integration, unauthorized migrants, and temporary emigration for work or education
- **Migration Governance Project**
  - Web-based Wiki in collaboration with the Global Migration Group (GMG) on national governance

# Conclusions

## **1. Migration will remain at forefront of national and international agendas for foreseeable future**

- With low fertility and population ageing, immigration needed to fill labour shortages, forestall population decline, sustain economic growth
- For many countries of origin, remittances are a major source of foreign exchange

## **2. Making migration work for all countries, while respecting rights and responsibilities of migrants is a major challenge and opportunity**

**For more information, visit the  
Population Division web site:**



<http://www.unpopulation.org>