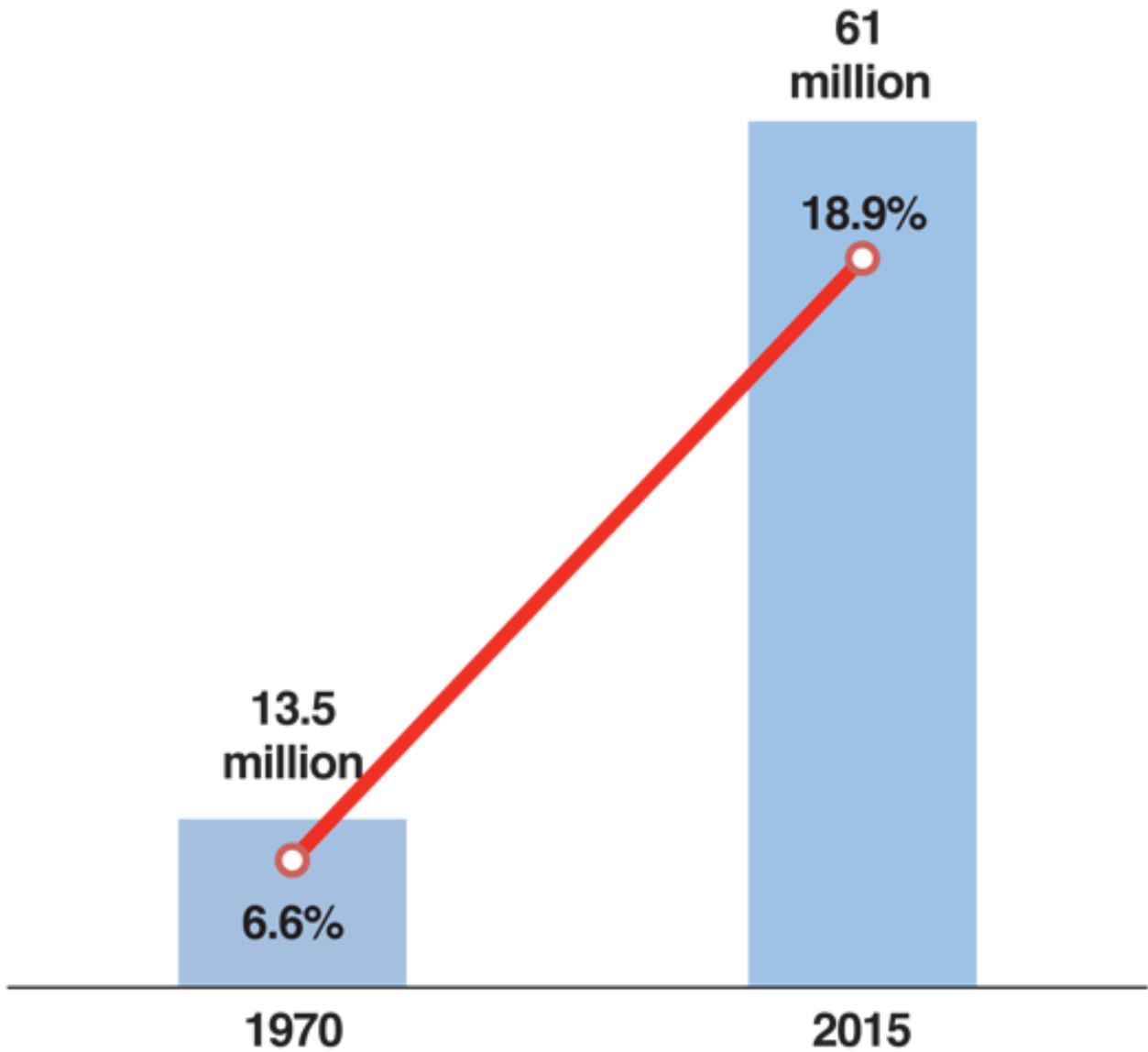


Record 61 million immigrants in U.S., 15.7 million illegally

Time for a pause on all immigration. Paul Bedard writes in the [Center for Immigration Studies](#) found that 45.3 million, or three-fourths of the 61 million, are legal immigrants and their children. The report out Monday notes that the so-called "Gang of Eight" immigration bill supported by GOP presidential candidate Sen. Marco Rubio would have doubled that number of legal immigrants.

Figure 1. The number and share of the U.S. population comprised of immigrants and their young children has grown astonishingly since 1970.*



Source: 1970 Census and December 2015 Current Population Survey adjusted to reflect the better coverage of the American Community Survey.

* Figure shows the number of immigrants (legal and illegal) and children under age 18 with at least one immigrant parent in the United States in 1970 and 2015.

“These numbers raise profound questions that are seldom even asked: What number of immigrants can be assimilated? What is the absorption capacity of our schools, health care

system, infrastructure, and labor market? What is the effect on the environment and quality of life from significantly increasing the nation's population density?" wrote