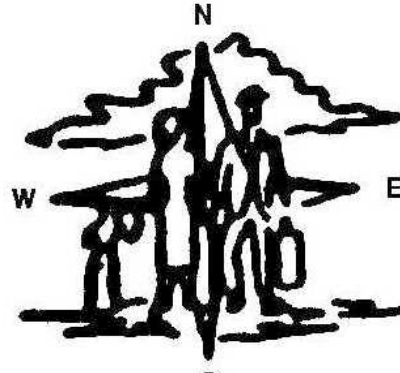


**THE PORTUGUESE AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP PROJECT**  
**A NON-PARTISAN INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE CITIZENSHIP AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT**



**IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE CENTER**  
**NEW BEDFORD, MA**

**EVALUATION**  
**OF**  
**THE 2008 ELECTIONS**

**June 14, 2009**

**SUPPORTED BY THE**  
**LUSO-AMERICAN**  
**FOUNDATION**

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## KEY STATISTICS

- **Supporters of the Immigrant's Assistance Center: 1,130**
- **Individuals registered to vote in New Bedford: 408**
- **Individuals registered to vote in Bristol County: 475**
- **All Household Members registered to vote in New Bedford: 835**
- **All Household Members registered to vote in Bristol County: 990**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout\* in February 2008 – 51% (citywide turnout 32%)**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout in September 2008 – 26% (citywide turnout 14%)**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout in November 2008 – 77% (citywide turnout 61%)**

## SUMMARY OF WORK

The Immigrant Assistance Center has been an active participant in the Portuguese American Citizenship Project since 2001.

For the 2008 elections, postcards in Portuguese and English were sent to every registered Center voter reminding them of the date, polling hours, and location of the assigned polling station for the election. Cards were not sent out for February 2008 Presidential Primary Elections.

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\* Voter turnout is the number of citizens voting in an election divided by the total number of citizens registered to vote. Voter turnout statistics are for New Bedford only.

## RESULTS

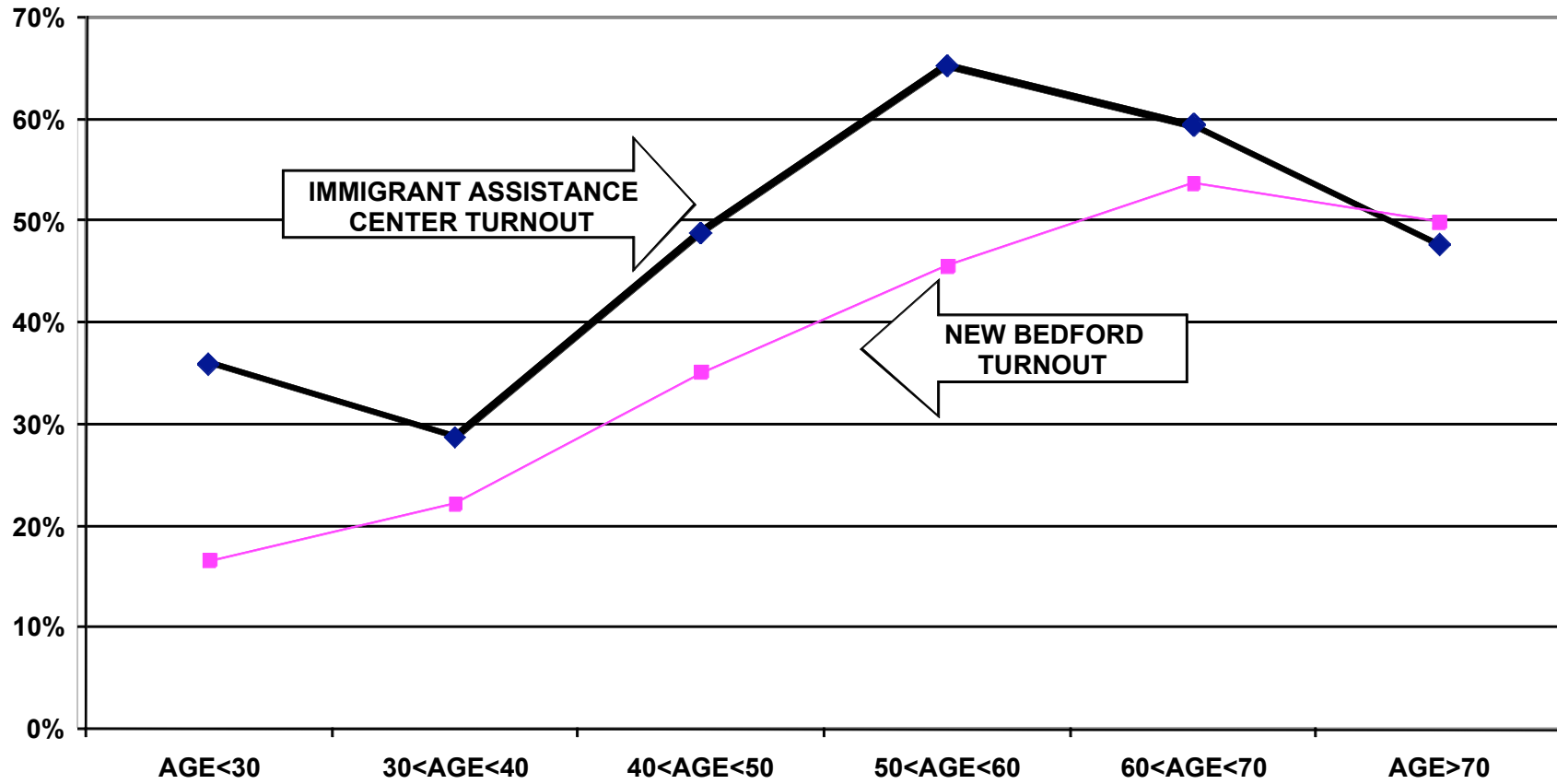
The Immigrant Assistance Center voter turnout for the February, September, and November 2008 elections was consistently higher than citywide turnout. Heads of household turnout for the February Presidential Primary Elections was 51%, as compared to the city turnout of 32%. The Center's heads of household turnout for the September State Primary Elections was 26%, as compared to the city turnout of 14%. Heads of household turnout for the November 2008 Presidential Elections was 77%, as compared to the city turnout of 61%.

Voter turnout is not uniform across age groups. Voters under 30 years of age and even those between 30 and 40 years old had lower turnout rates than the older voters. This is true for the registered voters in the Center and true for the registered voters in the community at large.

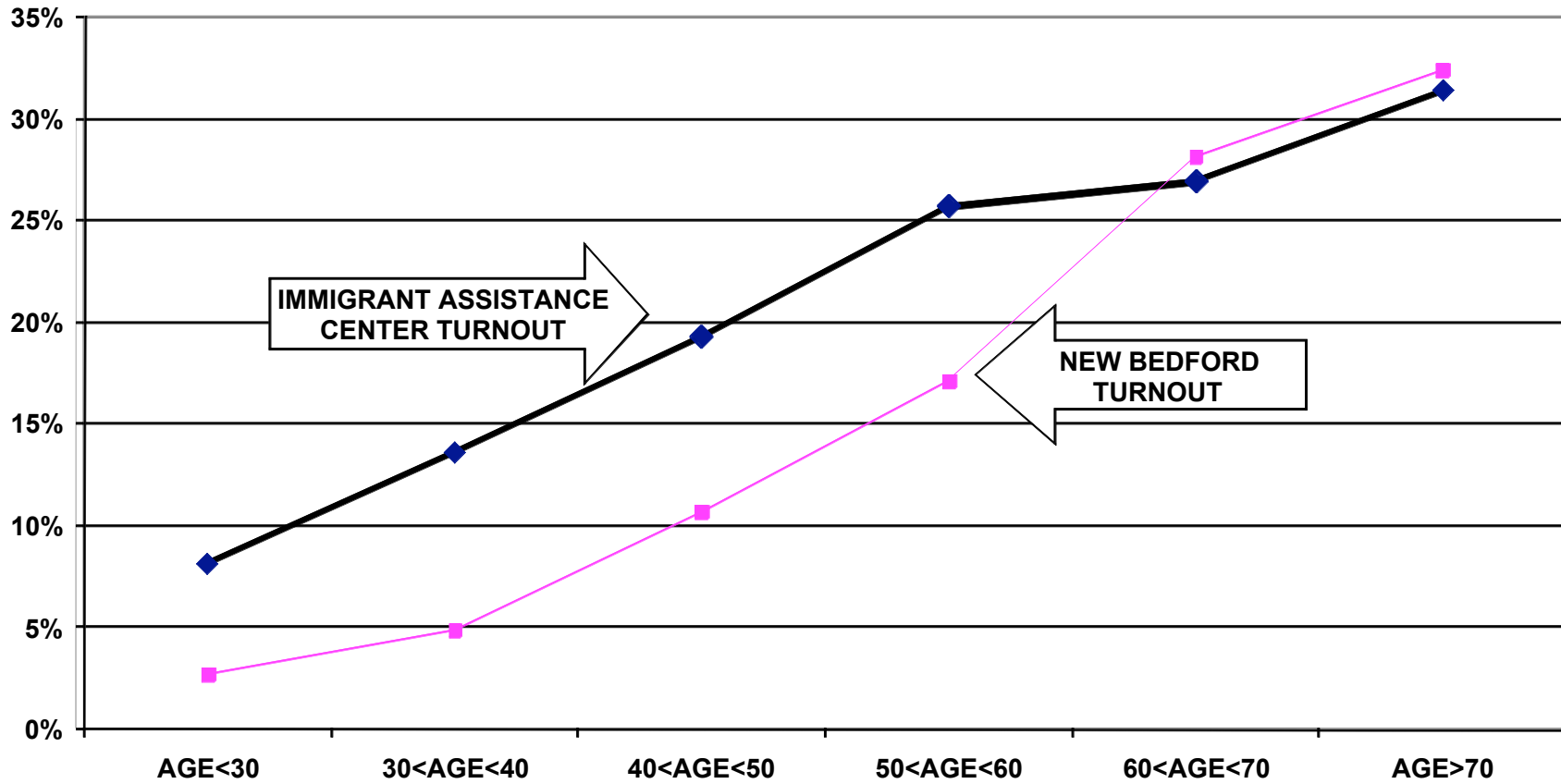
For example, voters under 30 years old associated with the Center had a 36% turnout rate in the February elections, while voters between 60 and 70 years old had a 60% turnout rate. For the September elections, the under 30 year old Center associated voters had an 8% turnout rate compared to a 27% turnout rate for voters between 60 and 70 years old. For the November Presidential elections, voters under 30 years old associated with the Center had a 69% turnout rate while voters between 60 and 70 years old had a 82% turnout rate.

The following graphs for the February, September, and November 2008 elections, illustrate the relationship between turnout rates and age. These graphs are for all voters associated with the Center, not just the heads of household.

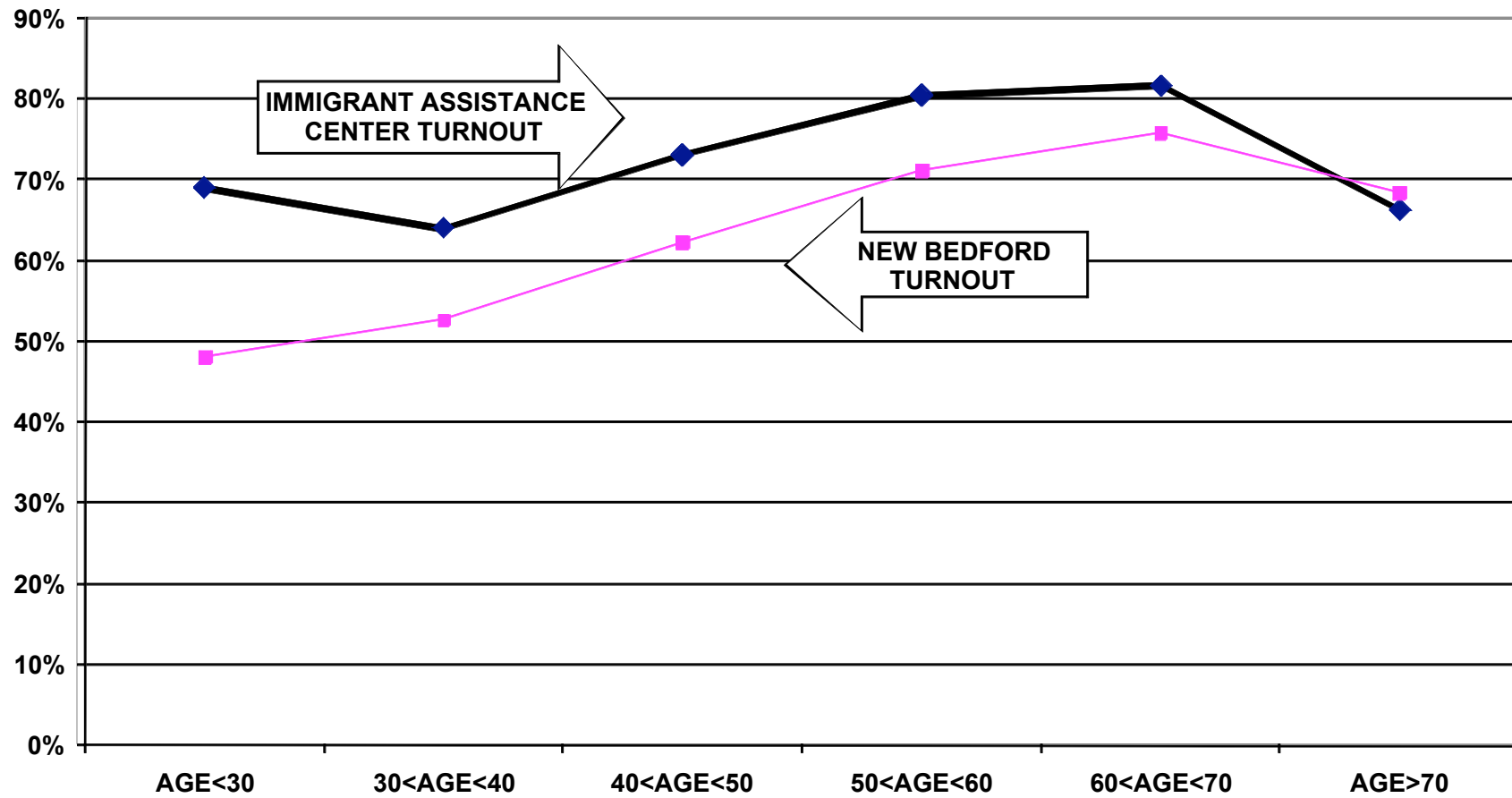
### TURNOUT BY AGE FEBRUARY 2008 IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE CENTER ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



### TURNOUT BY AGE SEPTEMBER 2008 IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE CENTER ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



**TURNOUT BY AGE NOVEMBER 2008  
IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE CENTER  
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Center must determine if and how it will provide funding for the costs of participation in the Citizenship Project. The Luso American Foundation has completed 10 years of financial support for the Project but will terminate this support for 2009 and beyond. In 2009, the Project will continue to provide data processing and assist in the preparation of voter cards. With a mailing permit, the cost of printing and mailing the cards for a September Primary, and November City elections is approximately \$500.
- If the Center cannot provide the financial support for this mailing and/or cannot accomplish the logistics of printing and mailing the voter cards, interested members of the community should examine the accomplishments of the past ten years and determine how to build on these achievements using alternative methods of promoting civic participation.



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- Difference in Voter Turnout Graph 12
- Voter Registration by Age and Gender Graph 13
- Registered Voters vs. Actual Voters February 2008 Graph 14
- Registered Voters vs. Actual Voters September 2008 Graph 15
- Registered Voters vs. Actual Voters November 2008 Graph 16

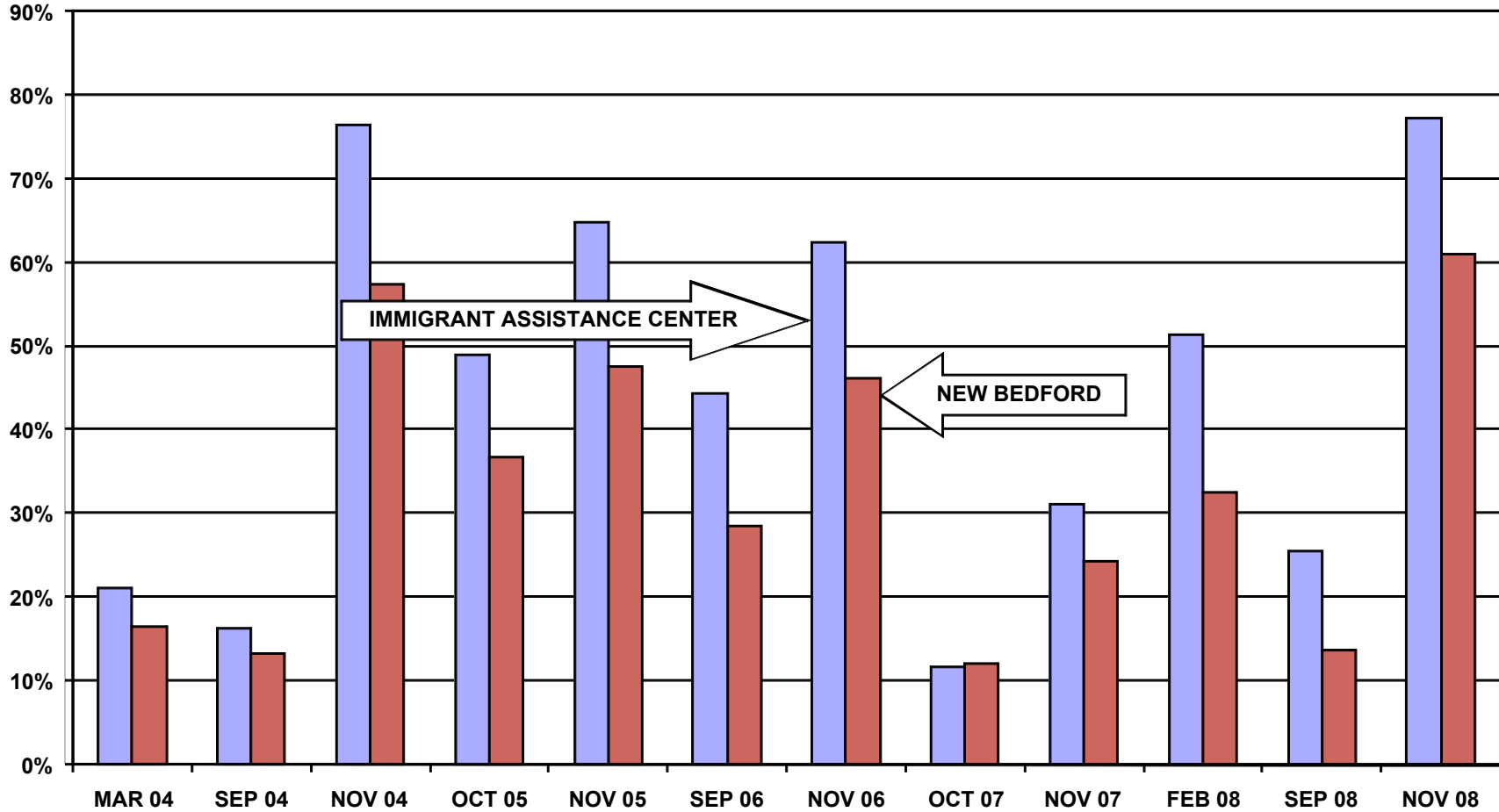
**HISTORICAL DATA: IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE CENTER  
REGISTRATION - VOTING**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>928</b>
<b>MEMBERS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN NEW BEDFORD</b>	<b>239 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD</b>
	<b>698 ALL FAMILY MEMBERS</b>

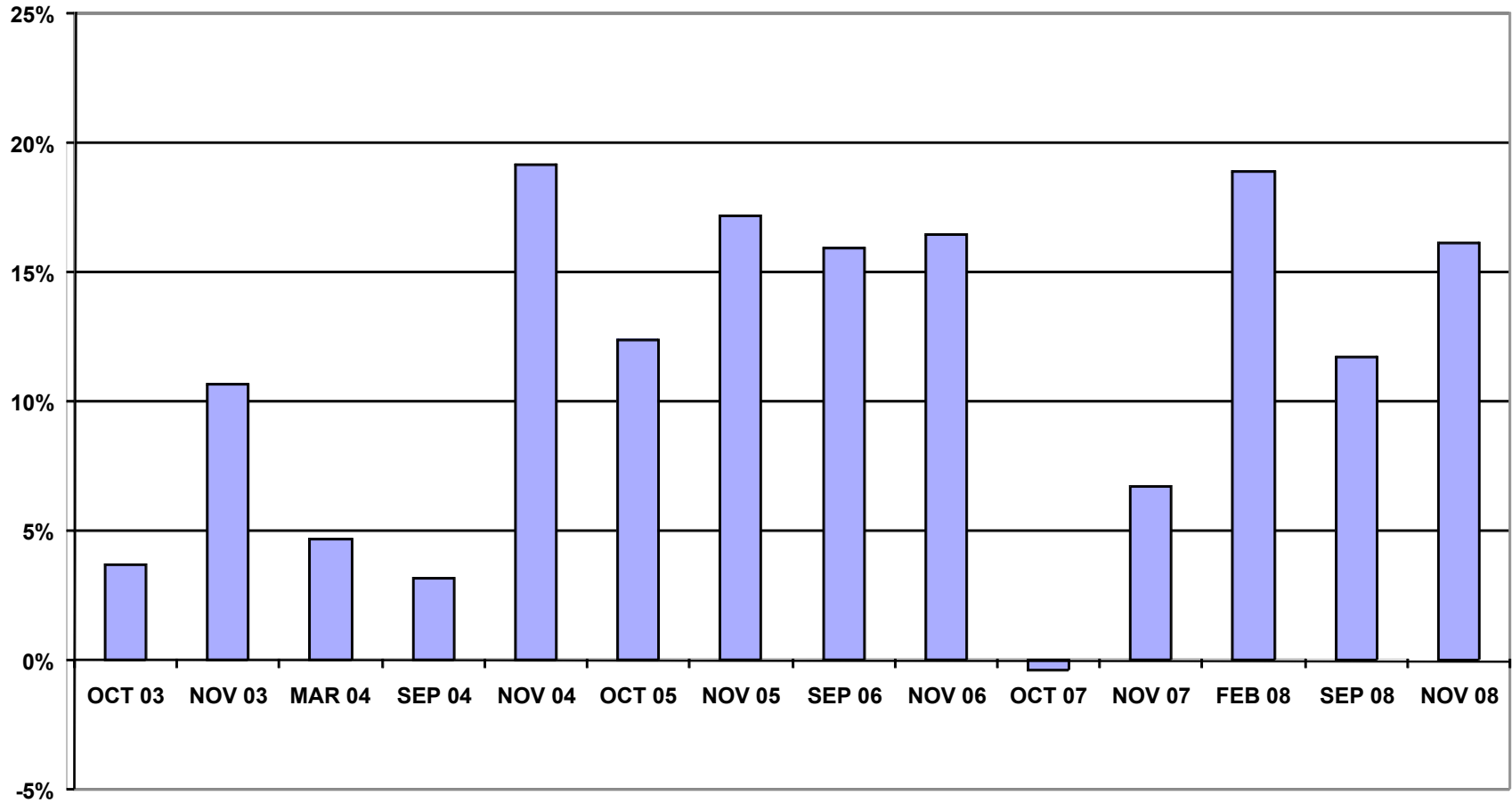
**VOTING PERFORMANCE OF NEW BEDFORD RESIDENTS**

	<b>LISTED SUPPORTERS WHO VOTED</b>	<b>AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE</b>	<b>CITY WIDE VOTING HISTORY AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED VOTERS)</b>
		<b>COMPARABLE STATISTICS</b>	
<b>VOTERS NOV 2003</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>41.3%</b>	<b>30.6%</b>
<b>VOTERS MAR 2004</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>21.0%</b>	<b>16.4%</b>
<b>VOTERS SEP 2004</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>16.3%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>
<b>VOTERS NOV 2004</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>76.4%</b>	<b>57.3%</b>
<b>VOTERS OCT 2005</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>49.0%</b>	<b>36.7%</b>
<b>VOTERS NOV 2005</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>64.7%</b>	<b>47.6%</b>
<b>VOTERS SEP 2006</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>44.4%</b>	<b>28.5%</b>
<b>VOTERS NOV 2006</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>62.4%</b>	<b>46.0%</b>
<b>VOTERS OCT 2007</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>12.1%</b>
<b>VOTERS NOV 2007</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>31.0%</b>	<b>24.3%</b>
<b>VOTERS FEB 2008</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>51.3%</b>	<b>32.4%</b>
<b>VOTERS SEP 2008</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>25.4%</b>	<b>13.7%</b>
<b>VOTERS NOV 2008</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>77.1%</b>	<b>61.0%</b>

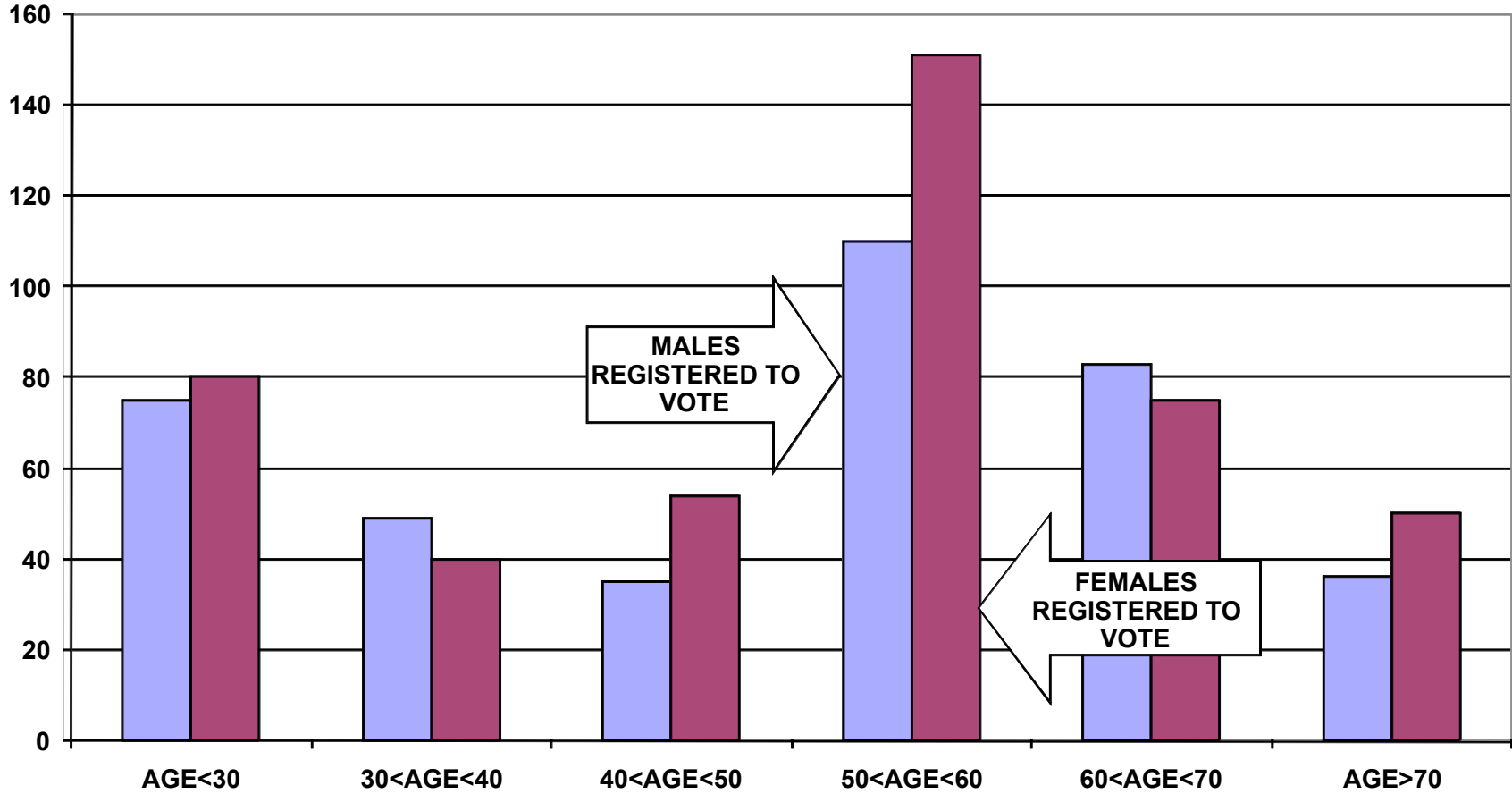
### REGISTERED VOTER TURNOUT COMPARISON BETWEEN NEW BEDFORD AND IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE CENTER HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



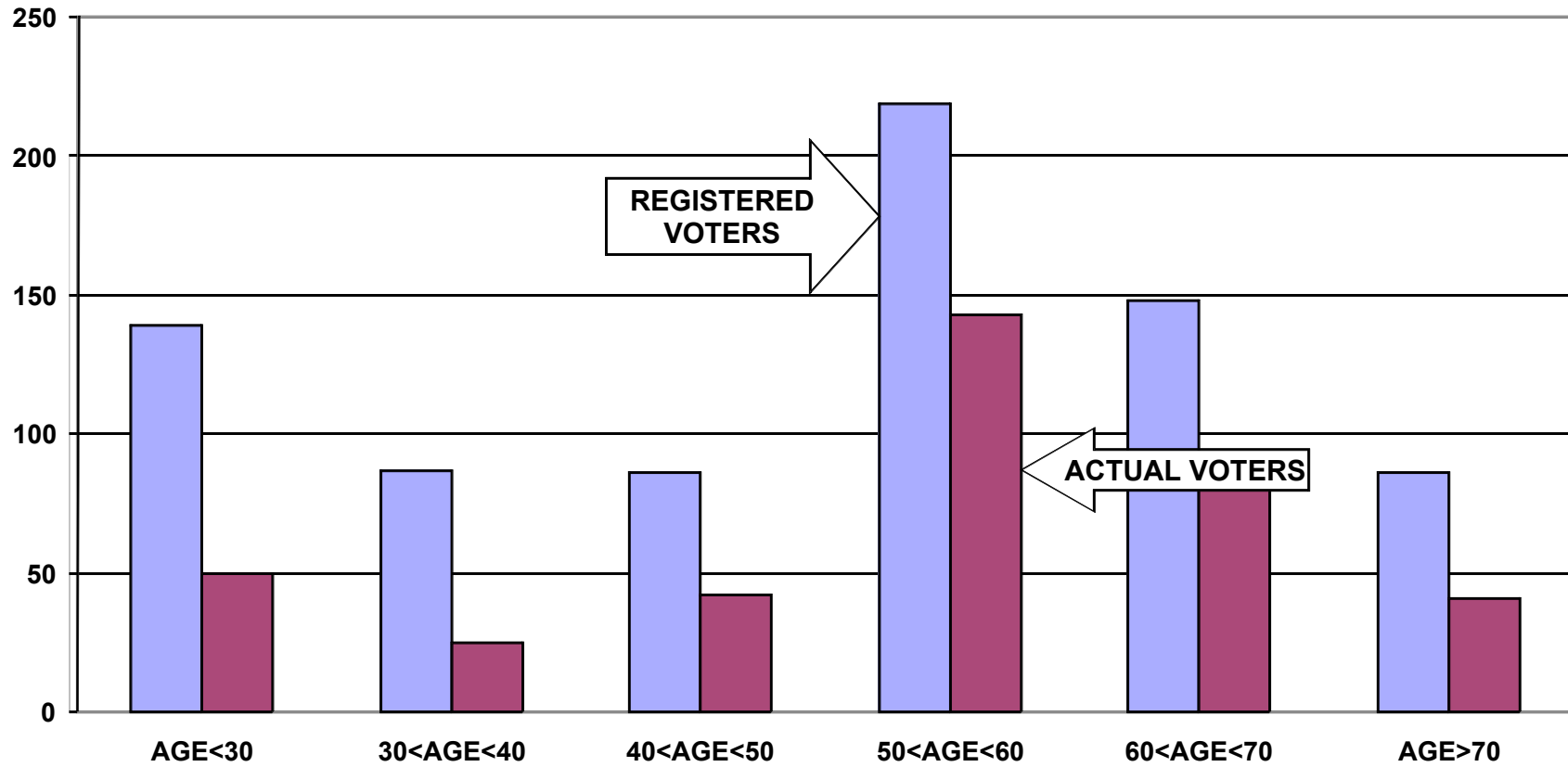
**DIFFERENCE IN VOTER TURNOUT BETWEEN  
NEW BEDFORD VOTERS AND IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE CENTER VOTERS  
HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD**



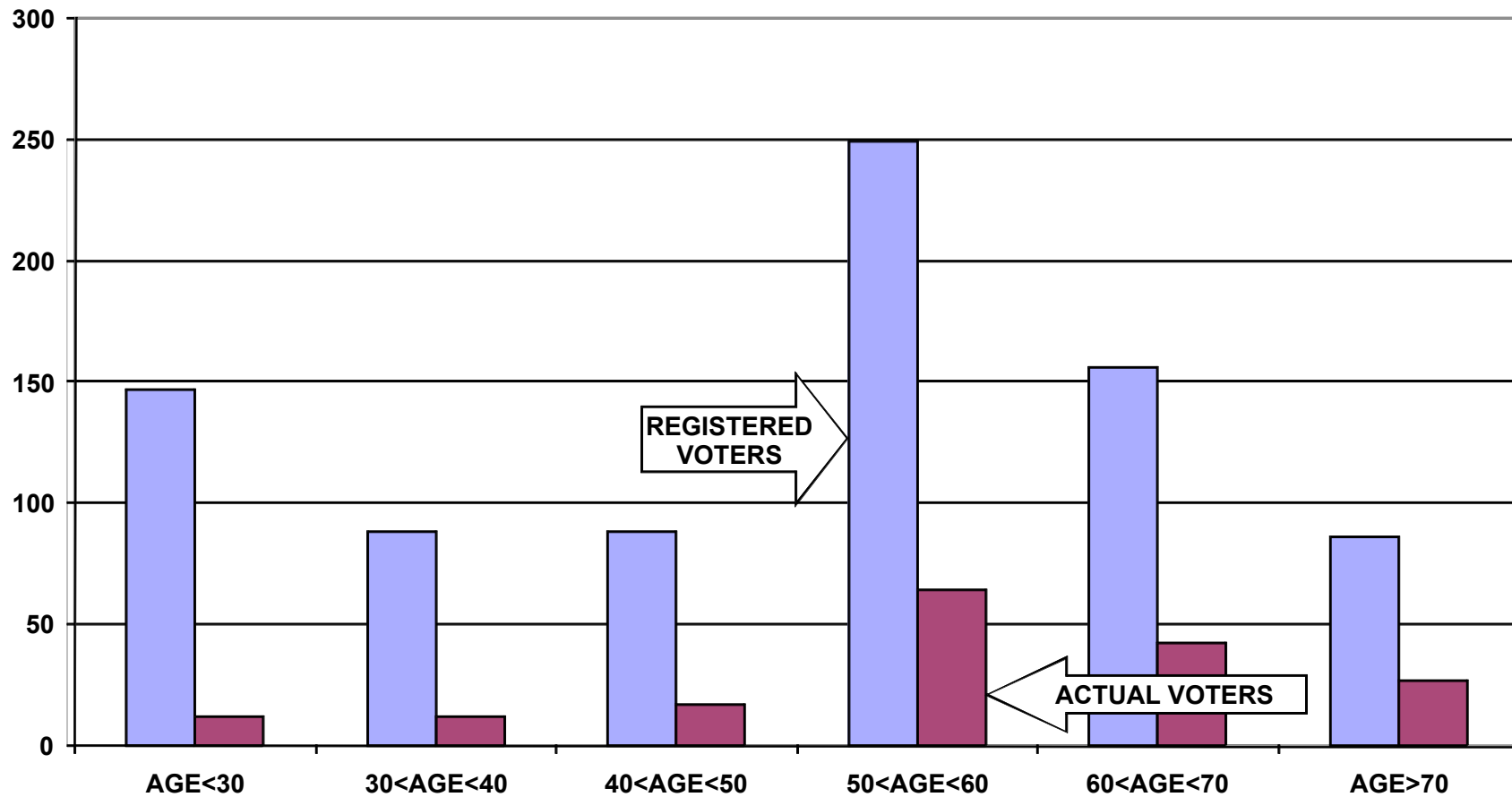
### VOTER REGISTRATION BY AGE AND GENDER IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE CENTER ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS FEBRUARY 2008  
IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE CENTER  
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS SEPTEMBER 2008**  
**IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE CENTER**  
**ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS NOVEMBER 2008  
IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE CENTER  
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

