



## Chapter 5

# Living Arrangements

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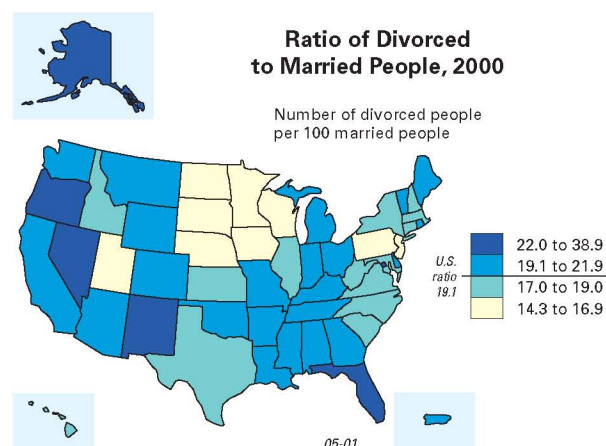
**H**ouseholds and families are social units that both influence and reflect changes that occur in the larger society. Information about the living arrangements of a society also illuminates certain facets of individuals' needs and resources. For example, family care may be more readily available for younger children when they live with their grandparents, and living alone may create special needs for older people. This chapter's maps show data on family and household structure, marital status, family size, the presence of multigenerational family households, and grandparents who reside with, and are responsible for, their grandchildren.

Questions about the marital status of the population and the relationship of members of a household to the householder have been asked in the decennial census since 1880. (Data on marital status were first published in 1890, while data on relationship to the householder were first published in 1930.) From 1880 through 1940, marital status was categorized as "single," "married," "widowed," or "divorced." "Separated" was added as a category in 1950. In various years, additional related questions were asked, including age at first marriage, whether the person was married in the last year, whether ever-married people had married more than once, and the dates of current and first marriages. New in Census 2000 was a question about grandparents who were responsible for the care of their grandchildren.

### Marriage and Divorce Patterns

Of the 221.1 million people 15 and older in 2000, 120.2 million people (54.4 percent) were currently married, while 59.9 million people (27.1 percent) had never married. In addition, 21.6 million people (9.7 percent) were divorced, 14.7 million people (6.6 percent) were widowed, and 4.8 million people (2.2 percent) were separated.

Marital patterns vary by age. For people aged 25 to 29 in 2000, 49 percent of men and 38 percent of women had never married. For men and women aged 75 to 84, the corresponding figure was about 4



percent. Higher percentages of adults were separated and divorced in 2000 than in 1950. From 1950 to 2000, the percentage of people aged 25 to 34 who were divorced increased from 2 percent to 6 percent for men and from 3 percent to 9 percent for women. The corresponding increases for people aged 35 to 59 were from 3 percent to 13 percent for men and from 3 percent to 16 percent for women.

For 25-to-34-year-olds, the percentage divorced increased from 1950 to 1980 and then subsequently decreased by several percentage points between 1980 and 2000 for both men and women. For men and women aged 35 to 59, the percentages divorced increased during both periods.

For the population 15 and older in 2000, there were 19.1 divorced people for every 100 married people (map 05-01). The ratio was higher in some states in the South and West and lower in parts of the Northeast and upper Midwest.

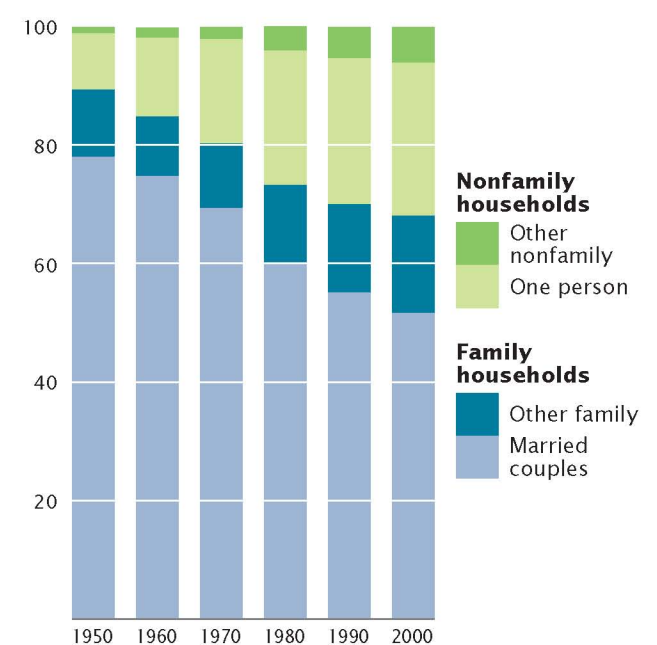
### Households and Families

The majority of households in 2000 were family households. A *household* is a person or group of people who occupy a housing unit. The *householder* is the person, or one of the people, in whose name the housing unit is owned, being bought, or rented. A *family household* consists of a householder and one or

more people related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption; it may also include people unrelated to the householder. If the householder is married and living with his or her spouse, then the household is designated a *married-couple household*. The remaining types of family households not maintained by a married couple are designated by the sex of the householder (for instance, *male householder, no spouse present*). A *nonfamily household* consists of a person living alone or a householder who shares the home with nonrelatives only (for example, with roommates or an unmarried partner).

In 2000, there were 105.5 million households in the United States, an increase of 15 percent from the 1990 figure of 91.9 million households. Of the 105.5 million households in 2000, 68.1 percent (71.8 million) were family households and 31.9 percent (33.7 million) were nonfamily households.

Figure 5-1.  
**Percent of Households by Type, 1950 to 2000**





The total population living in those households in 2000 was 273.6 million. The country's remaining 7.8 million people lived in group quarters—dwelling places that are not housing units. Group quarters include both institutionalized populations—for example, people in correctional facilities or nursing homes—and noninstitutionalized populations, such as college dormitories and military quarters. Maps 05-57 through 05-60 at the end of this chapter illustrate the distributions of these often geographically concentrated group-quarters populations.

### Family and Nonfamily Households

The majority of family households in 2000 were married-couple households (76 percent, or 54.5 million). Family households maintained by women with no husband present numbered 12.9 million, almost 3 times the number maintained by men with no wife present (4.4 million). Among nonfamily households, one-person households predominated (27.2 million) and were more than 4 times as numerous as nonfamily households with two or more people (6.5 million).

Although all household types have increased numerically since 1950, the slower rate of increase of married-couple households in each decade has resulted in a continual decline in the proportion of U.S. households that are married-couple households

(Figure 5-1). Between 1950 and 2000, married-couple households declined from more than 3 out of every 4 households (78 percent) to just over one-half (52 percent) of all households. Other family households declined as a proportion of all households in the 1950s and then increased every decade thereafter. By 2000, other family households represented about 1 of every 6 U.S. households (16 percent).

The shares of all U.S. households represented by both types of nonfamily households (one-person and other nonfamily households) increased every decade during the period 1950 to 2000. The proportional share of one-person households increased more than any other type. In 1950, one-person households composed 9.5 percent of households. By 2000, the proportion was 26 percent. The proportional share of other nonfamily households (excluding one-person households) increased every decade, from 1.1 percent in 1950 to 6.1 percent of all households in 2000.

### Household Size

Average household size in the United States declined from 4.6 people in 1900 to 2.6 in 2000. High average household sizes in 1900 can be found in many of the rural states in the South and the Midwest (map 05-02). Utah's average household size of 3.1 people in 2000 was the highest in the country, exceeding the U.S.

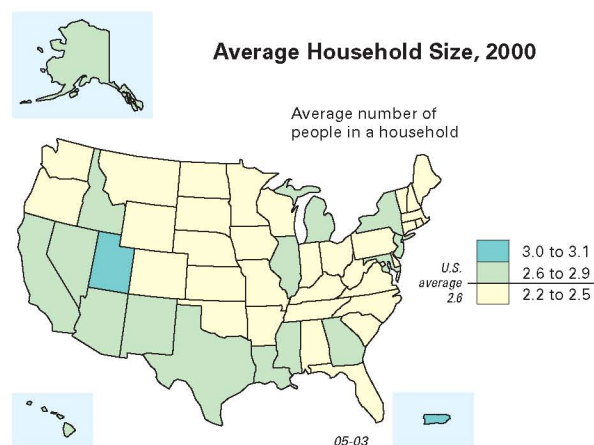
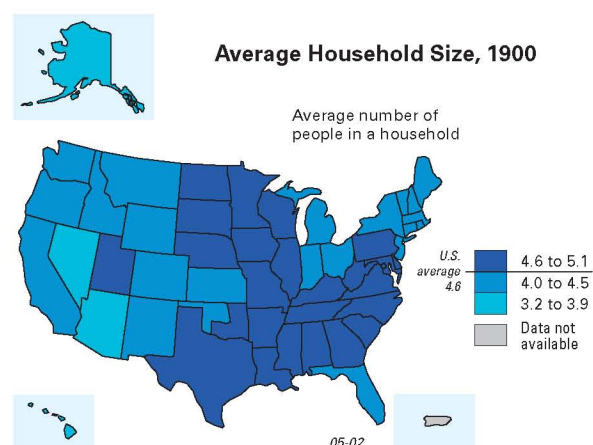


Figure 5-2.  
**Percent of Households by Size, 1940 to 2000**

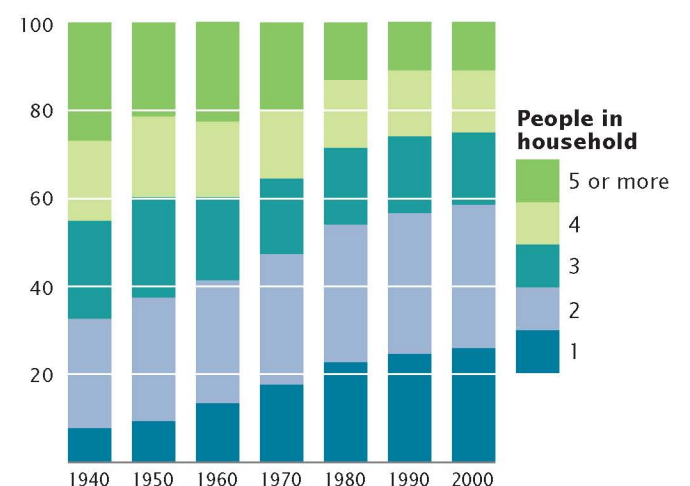


figure of 2.6. Maine had the lowest average household size among the states in 2000, 2.4 people per household (map 05-03).

The proportion of households with five or more people declined from 27 percent in 1940 to 11 percent in 2000 (Figure 5-2). Declines occurred also in four-person households (from 18 to 14 percent) and three-person households (from 22 to 17 percent). The shares of both one-person and two-person households increased since 1940, with two-person households climbing from 25 percent to 33 percent and one-person households increasing from 8 percent to 26 percent by 2000. Since 1980, households of one or two people have represented an increasing majority of households in the United States, reaching 58 percent of all households by 2000.

In 2000, one-person households represented at least 25 percent of all households in 36 of the 50 states, where the proportion ranged narrowly from 25.0 percent to 29.3 percent (led by North Dakota). The next highest-ranking states in the percentage of

one-person households were all in the Northeast—Rhode Island, New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. One-person households represented 44 percent of all households in the District of Columbia in 2000. Map 05-07 later in this chapter illustrates the county-level geographic patterns of the percentage of one-person households in 2000. Scattered across the midsection of the country, primarily in the Great Plains, are a number of counties where 33 percent or more of households in 2000 were one-person households—often a widow or widower. Nationally, 8.8 percent of all one-person households consisted of a male 65 or older, while 26.9 percent consisted of a female 65 or older.

### Multigenerational Households

Multigenerational households are family households consisting of more than two generations, such as a householder living with his or her own children and grandchildren. Data presented in this chapter are based on three types of commonly encountered multigenerational households: (1) householder-child-grandchild, (2) parent (or parent-in-law) of householder-householder-child, and (3) parent (or parent-in-law) of householder-householder-child-grandchild.

Multigenerational family households may be more likely to reside in areas where new immigrants live with their relatives, in areas where housing shortages or high costs force families to combine their living arrangements, or in areas where unwed mothers tend to live (with their children) in their parents' homes. In 2000, there were 3.9 million multigenerational family households, representing 3.7 percent of all households. Hawaii had the highest percentage of

multigenerational family households (8.2 percent). Other states exceeding 5 percent in 2000 were California (5.6 percent) and Mississippi (5.2 percent). North Dakota had the lowest figure (1.1 percent).

Several regional clusterings of counties had higher rates of multigenerational households, as shown in map 05-34 later in the chapter. Two groupings, one in South Dakota and the other in Arizona and New Mexico, largely mirror the distribution of Native American populations in those areas. Another band of counties stretches through the Mississippi Delta region and across the Deep South, while a fourth one runs along the border with Mexico from Texas to California.

### Coresident Grandparents

Of the 158.9 million people aged 30 and older living in households in the United States, 5.8 million (or 3.6 percent) lived with their grandchildren under 18 years of age. The percentage of grandparents living with their grandchildren varied by race and Hispanic origin. While 3.6 percent of all people 30 and older lived with their grandchildren, 2 percent of non-Hispanic Whites did so. Higher proportions were found among other groups: 6 percent of Asians, 8 percent of Blacks, 8 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives, and 10 percent of Pacific Islanders.

Among grandparents living with their grandchildren, 2.4 million (42 percent) were also “grandparent caregivers,” people who had primary responsibility for their coresident grandchildren younger than 18. Maps 05-35 through 05-44 in the chapter provide a look at geographic patterns of grandparents as caregivers in the largest metropolitan areas.

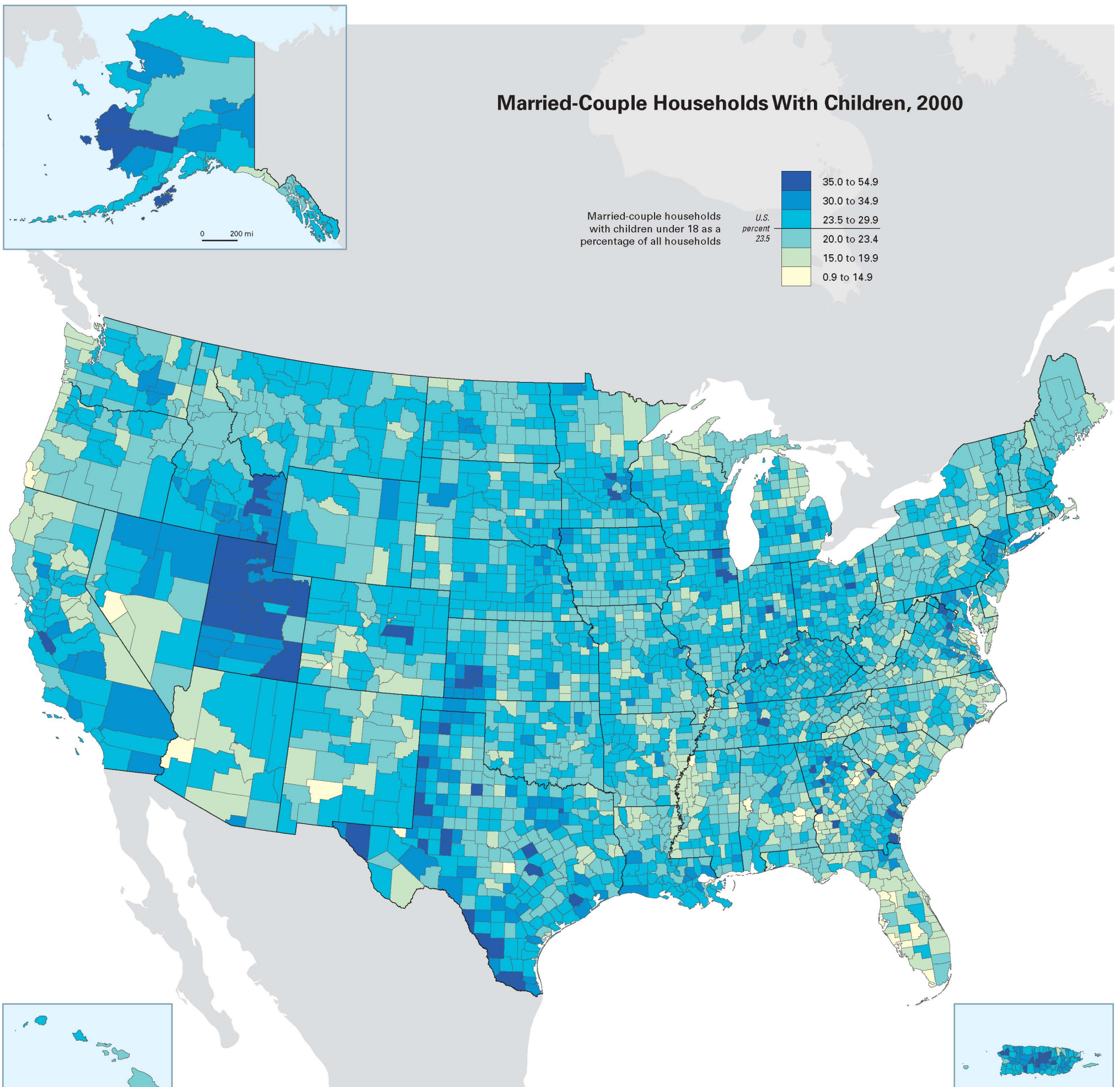
### This Chapter's Maps

The maps in this chapter focus predominantly on the characteristics of America's households and families in 2000. Maps from previous censuses provide a historical context for contemporary living arrangements, revealing changes such as those in household and family structure and in average household size. Map 05-09, reproduced from the atlas published following the 1890 census, broadly presents the higher ratios of divorced to married people for most western states and territories. Viewing it with map 05-10 allows comparison of more than a century of change in marital status patterns in the United States.

The child-to-woman ratio in 2000, shown in map 05-33, gives a broad indication of the relative rate of recent childbearing among women aged 15 to 49. The ratio is affected by age structure within this age span and to a lesser degree by infant and childhood mortality. Counties with the highest values are seen in nearly all parts of the country and are prominent in a band stretching from southern Idaho through Utah into parts of Arizona and New Mexico.

Maps 05-13 and 05-14 portray the geographic patterns of families with children, headed by married couples or by parents without a spouse present. One broad swath of counties in the Great Plains and another stretching through Utah and southern Idaho have higher percentages of families with children that are headed by married couples. Maps 05-17 through 05-30 continue this theme, examining spatial patterns of family types, for families that include children, by race and Hispanic origin.



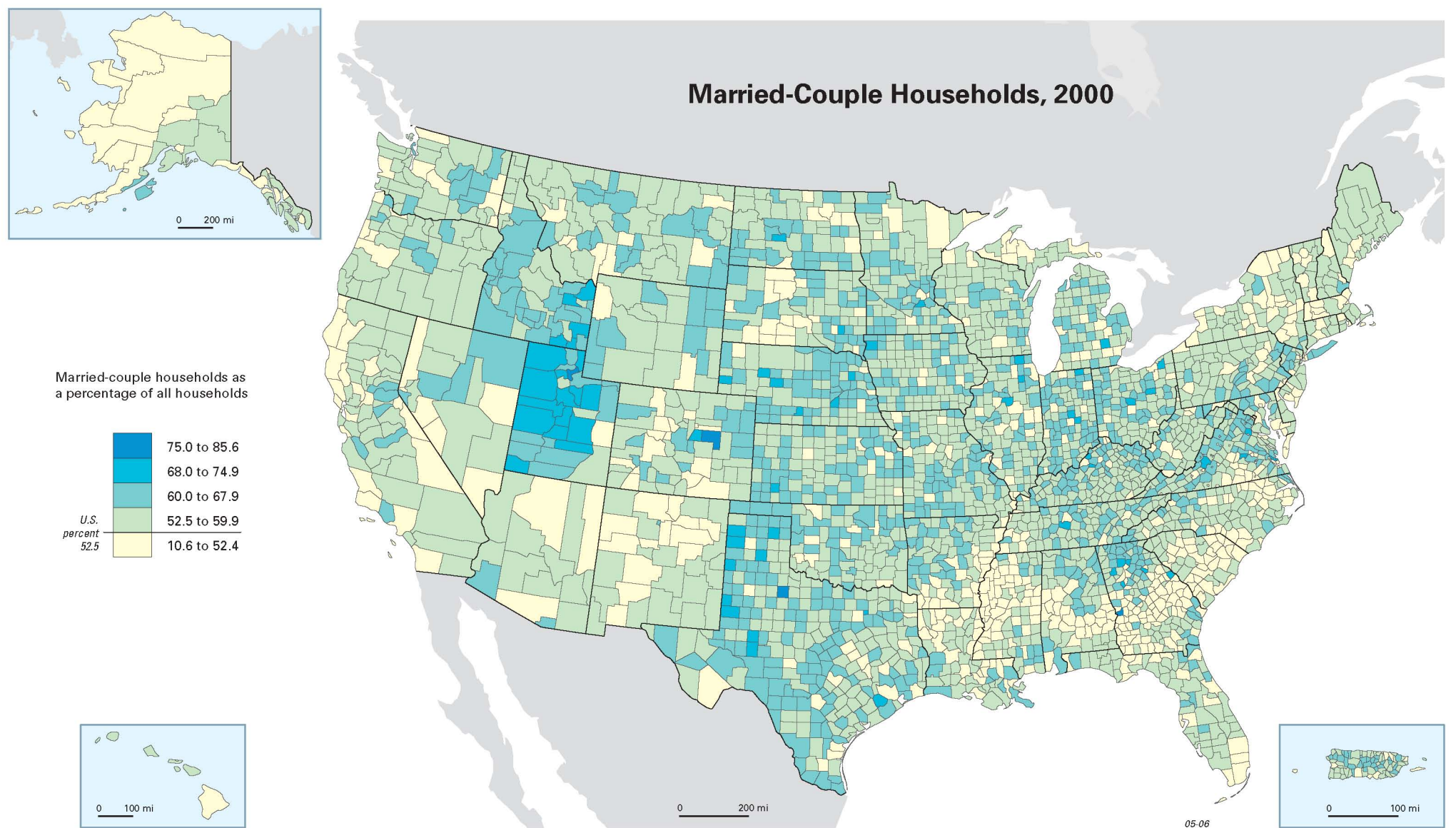
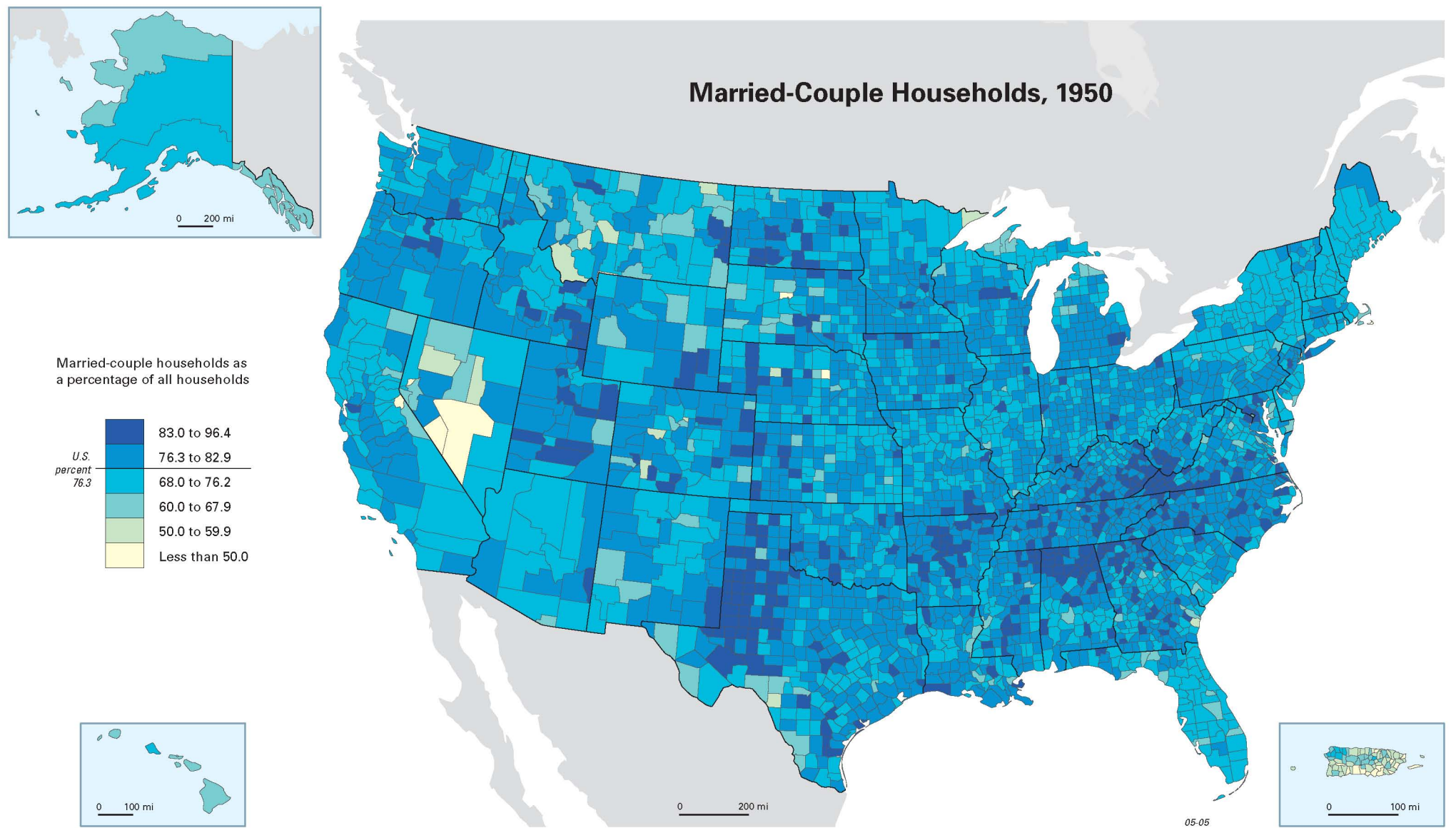


Counties with relatively high percentages of households containing married couples and their own children under 18 years old are found throughout the country. Concentrations of such counties appear in Alaska, southern Idaho, southwestern Kansas, Utah, and Texas.

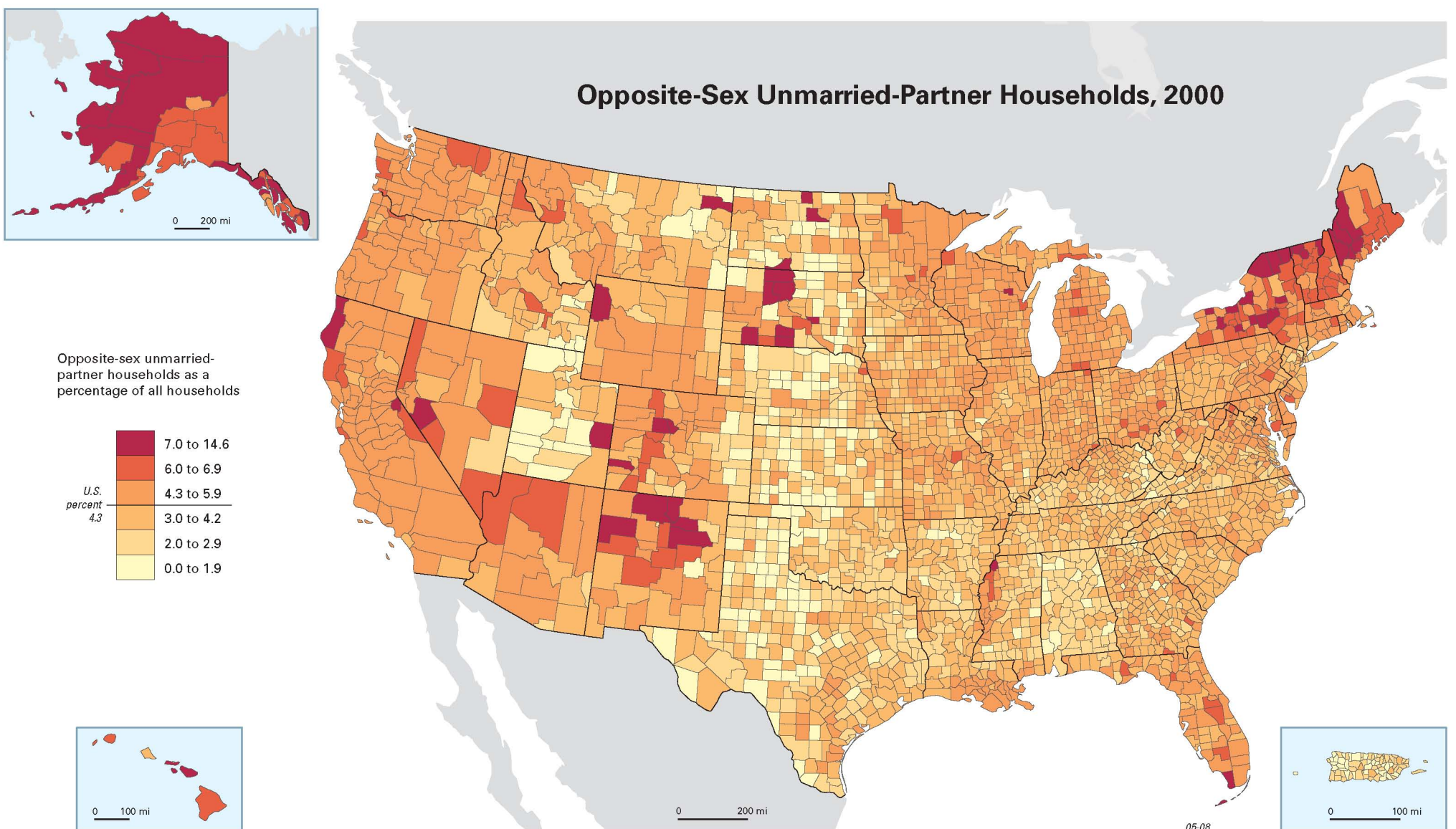
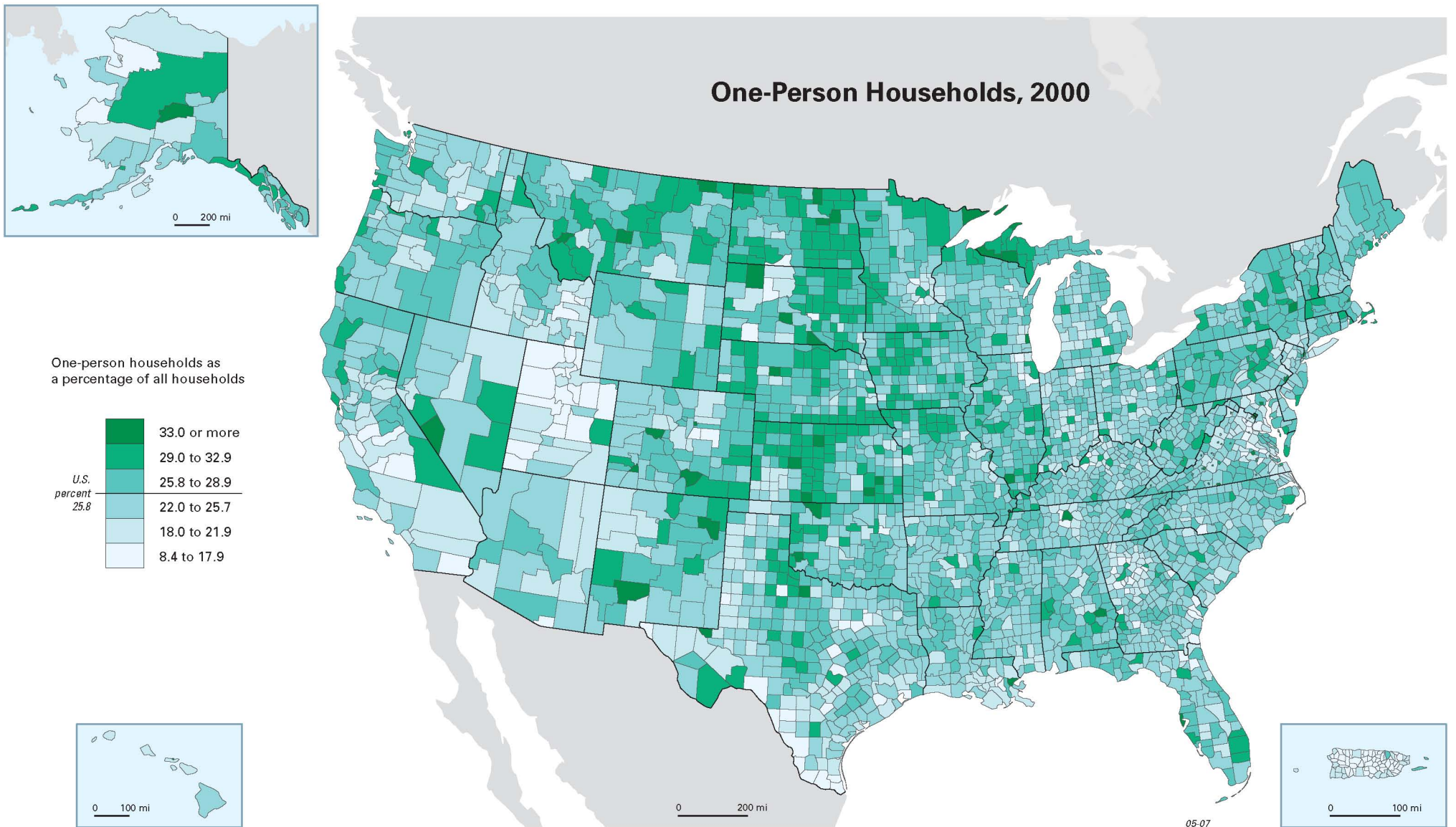
Outlying counties of some metropolitan areas also have higher percentages of households composed of married couples with children. Notable examples are counties surrounding Chicago, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Washington, DC.

Counties with low percentages also appear throughout the country. In some cases, such as Florida, Arizona, and the upper Great Lakes, these areas are popular retirement destinations.

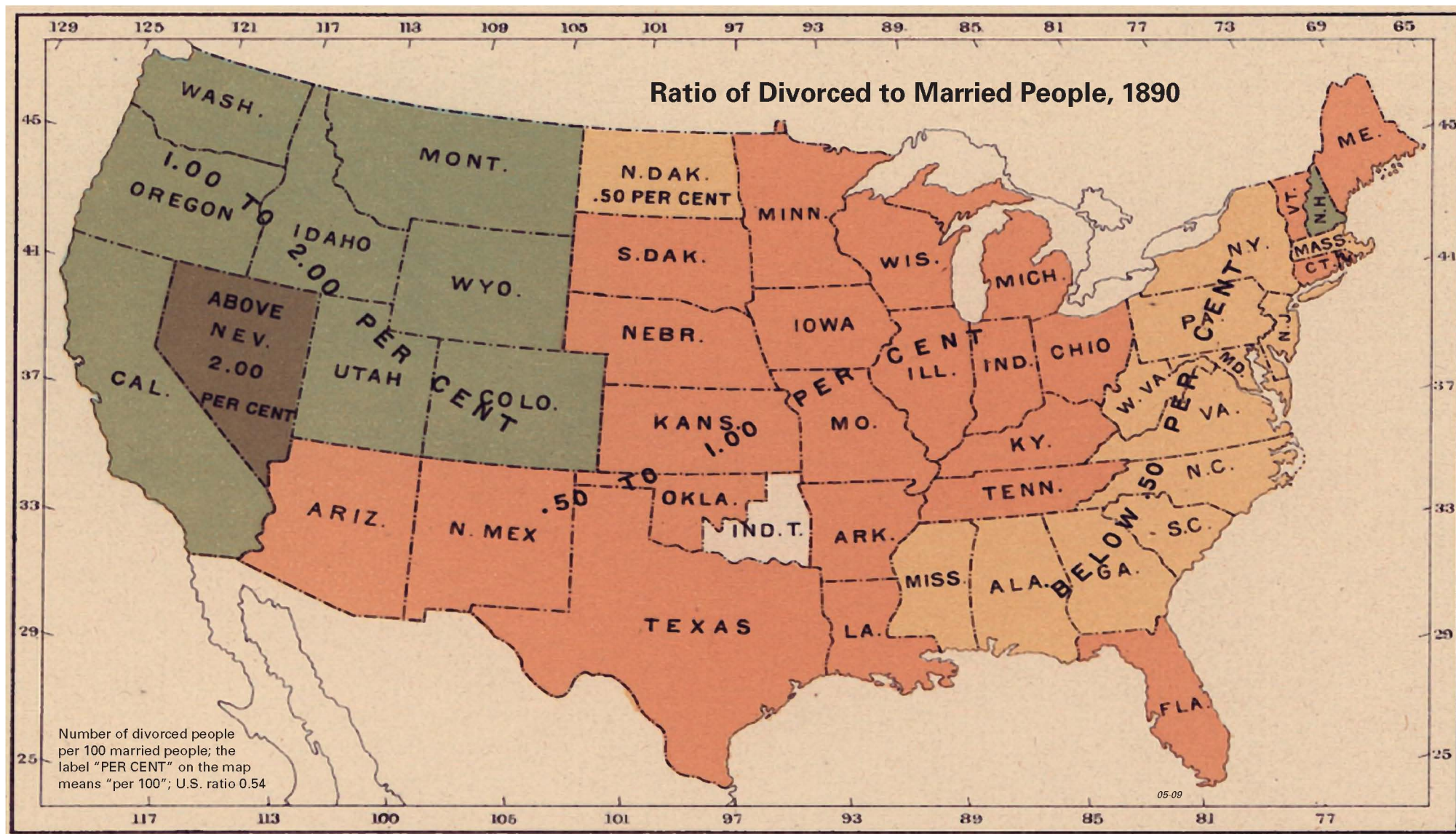




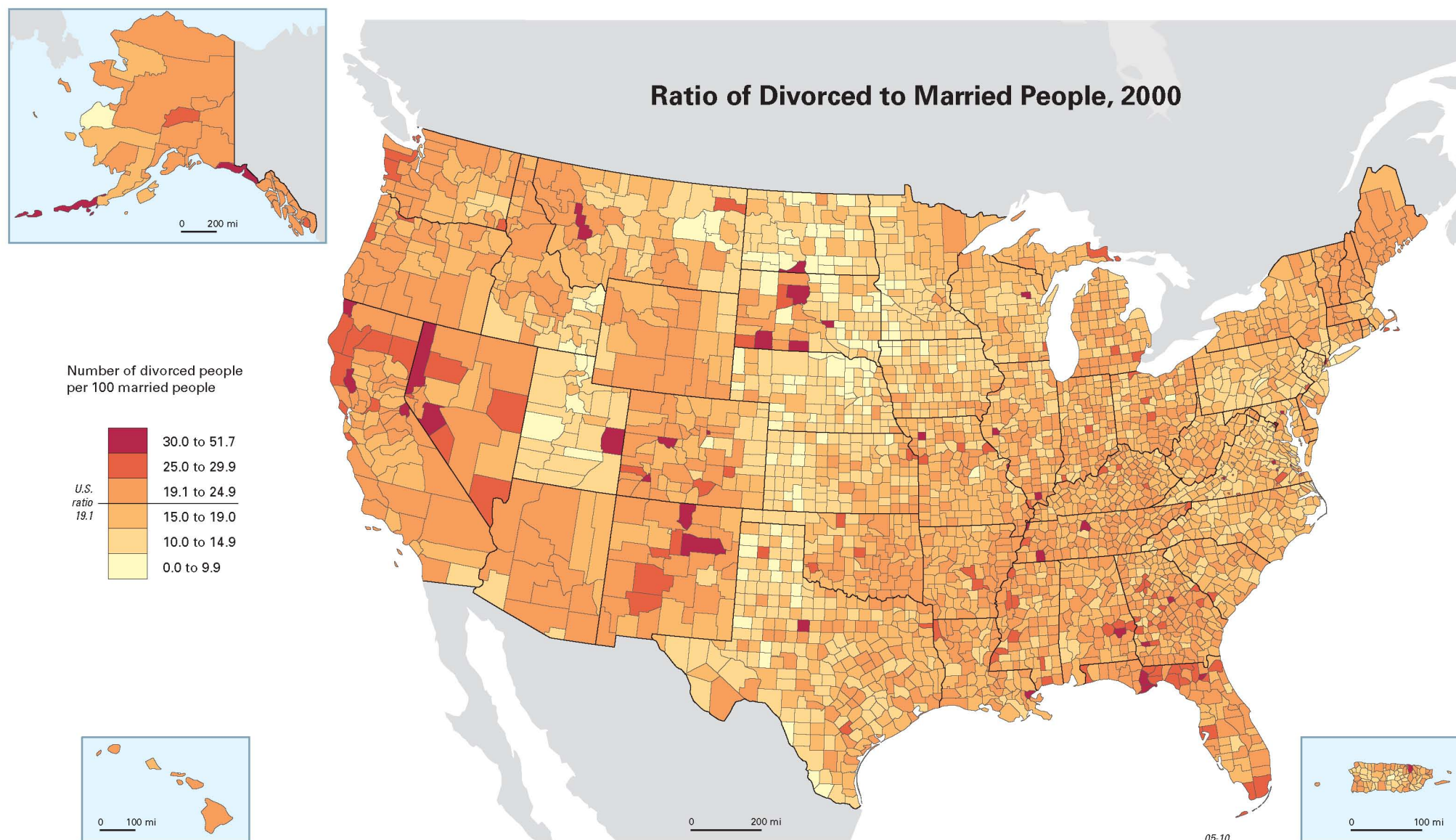




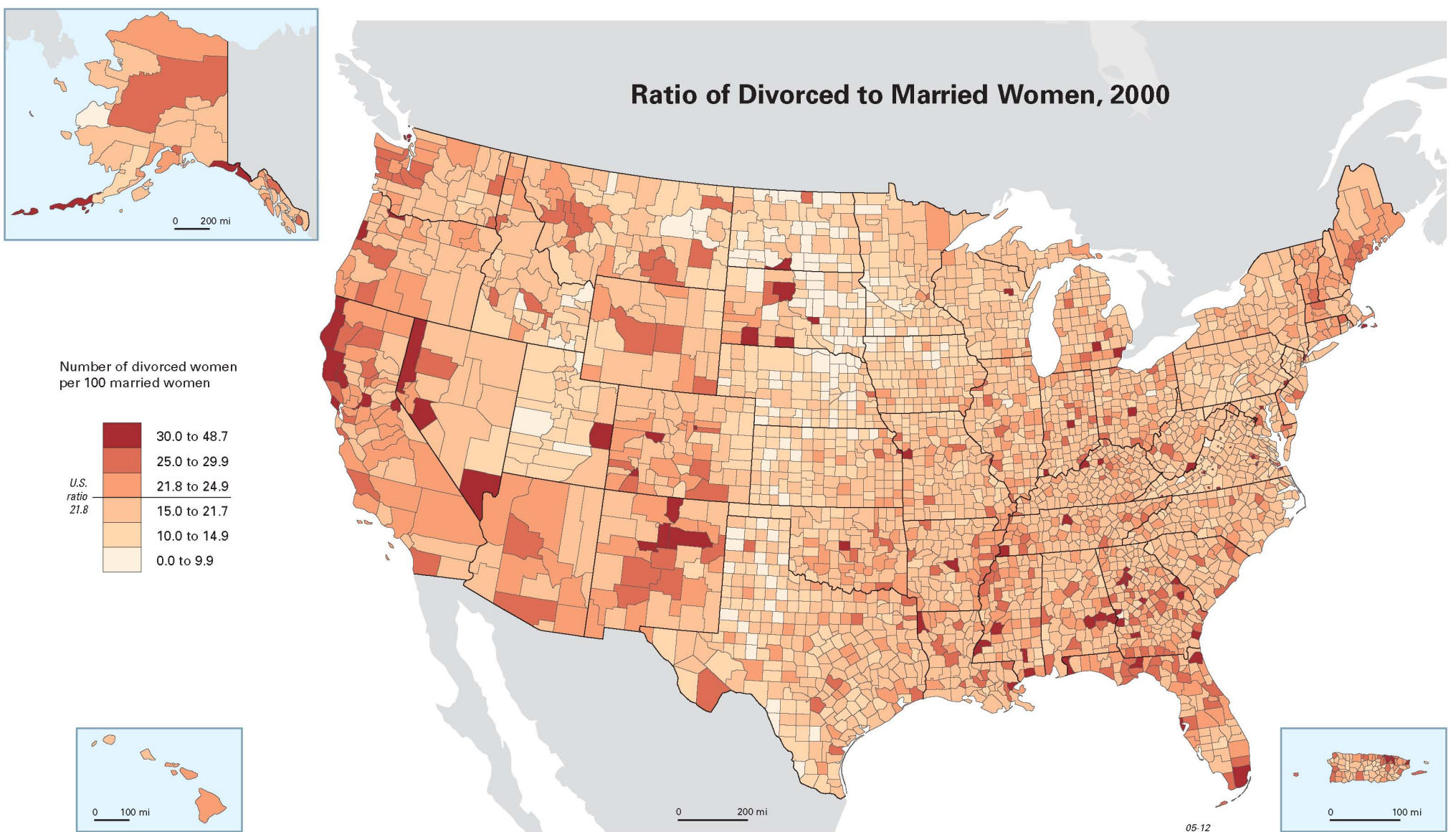
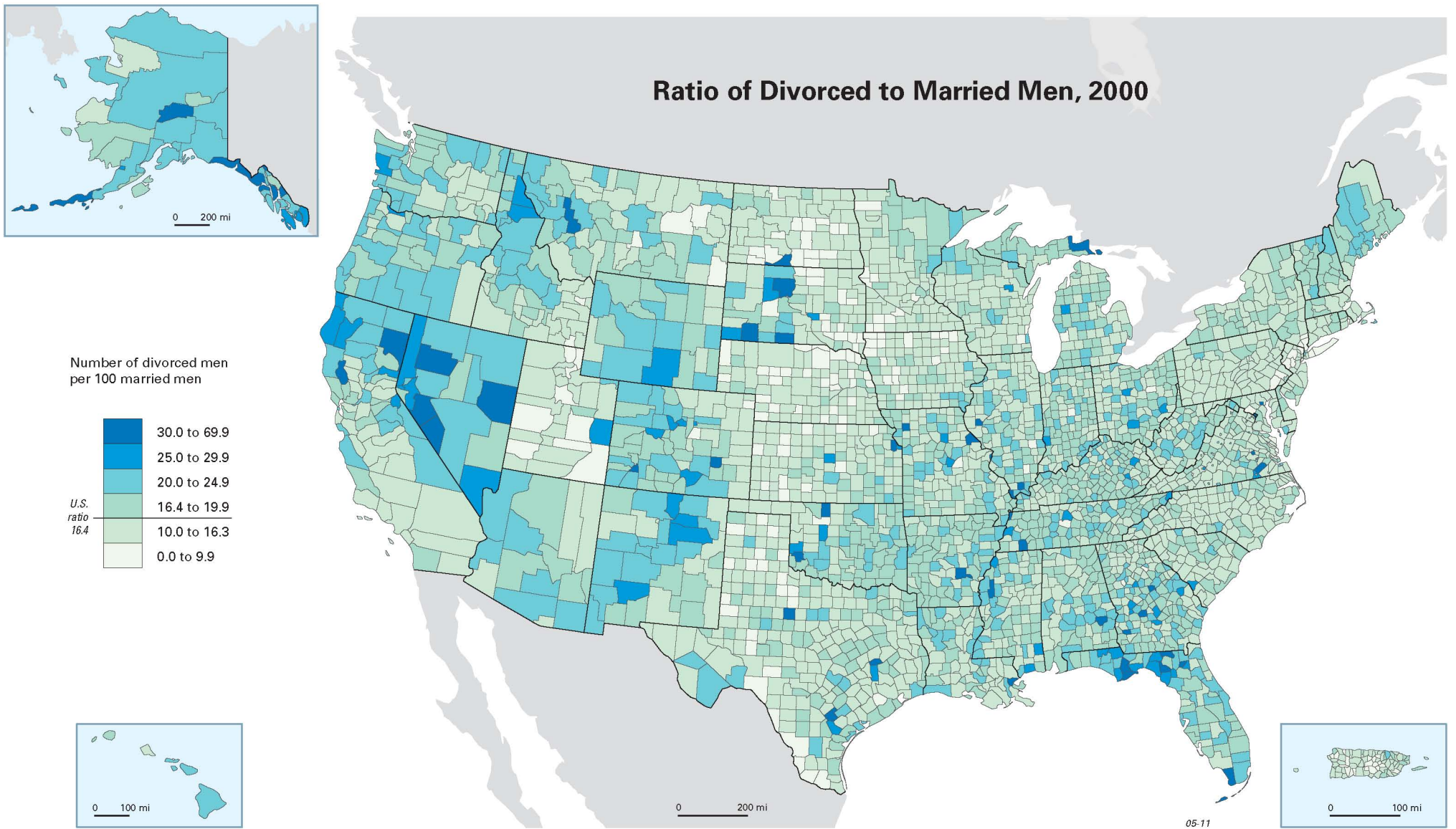




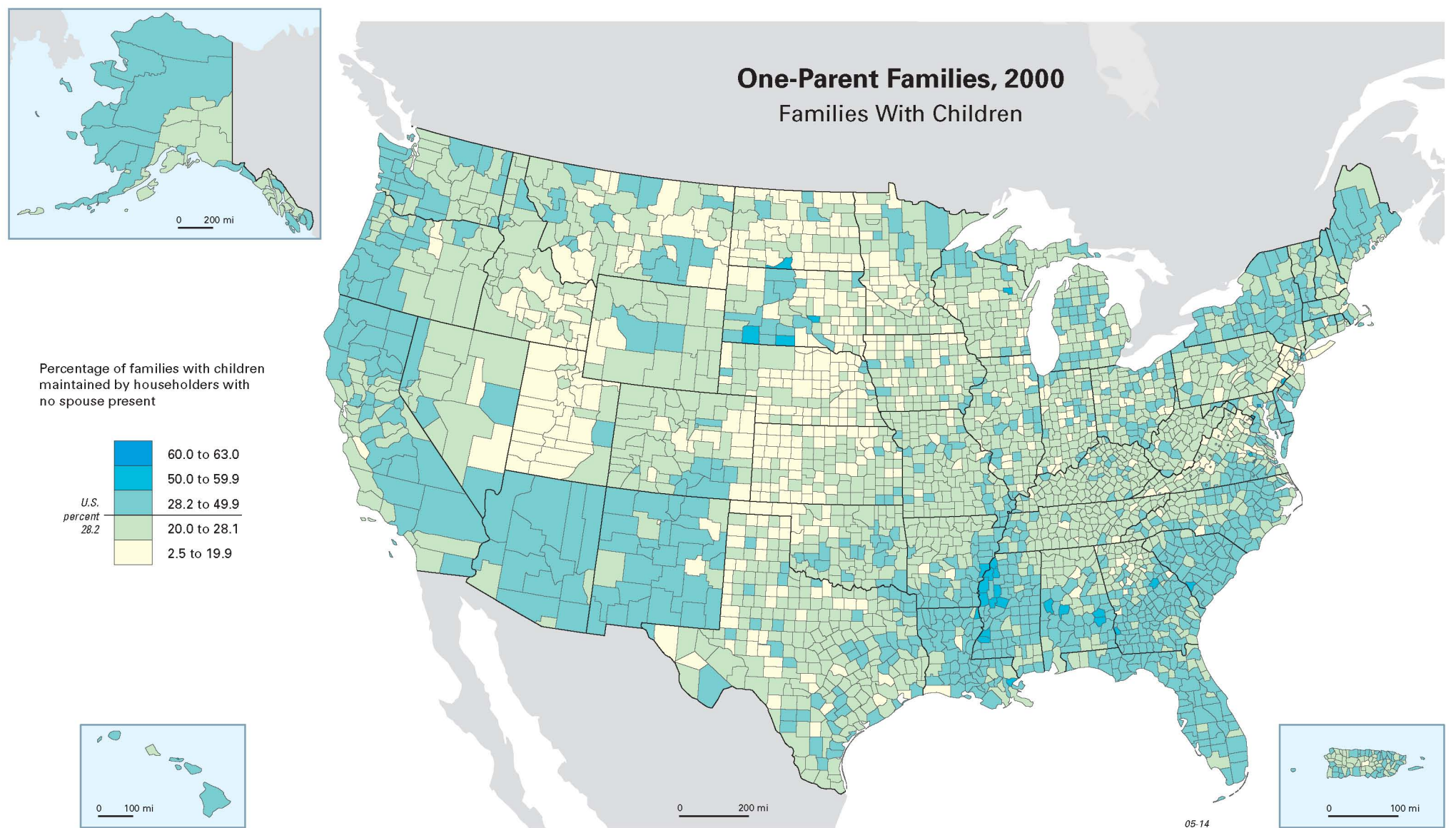
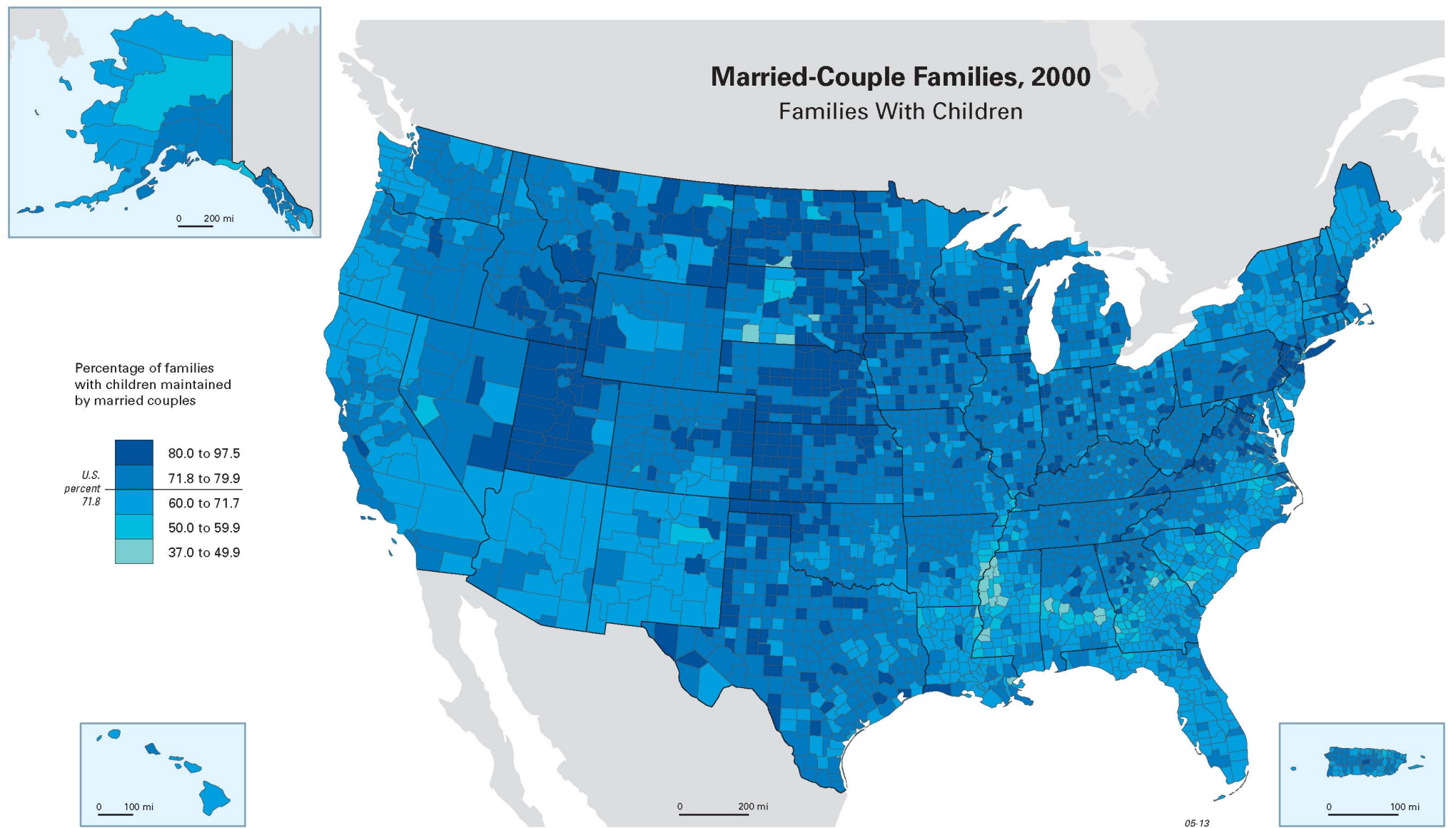
Reproduced from: *Statistical Atlas of the United States: 1898*, with additional title and note.



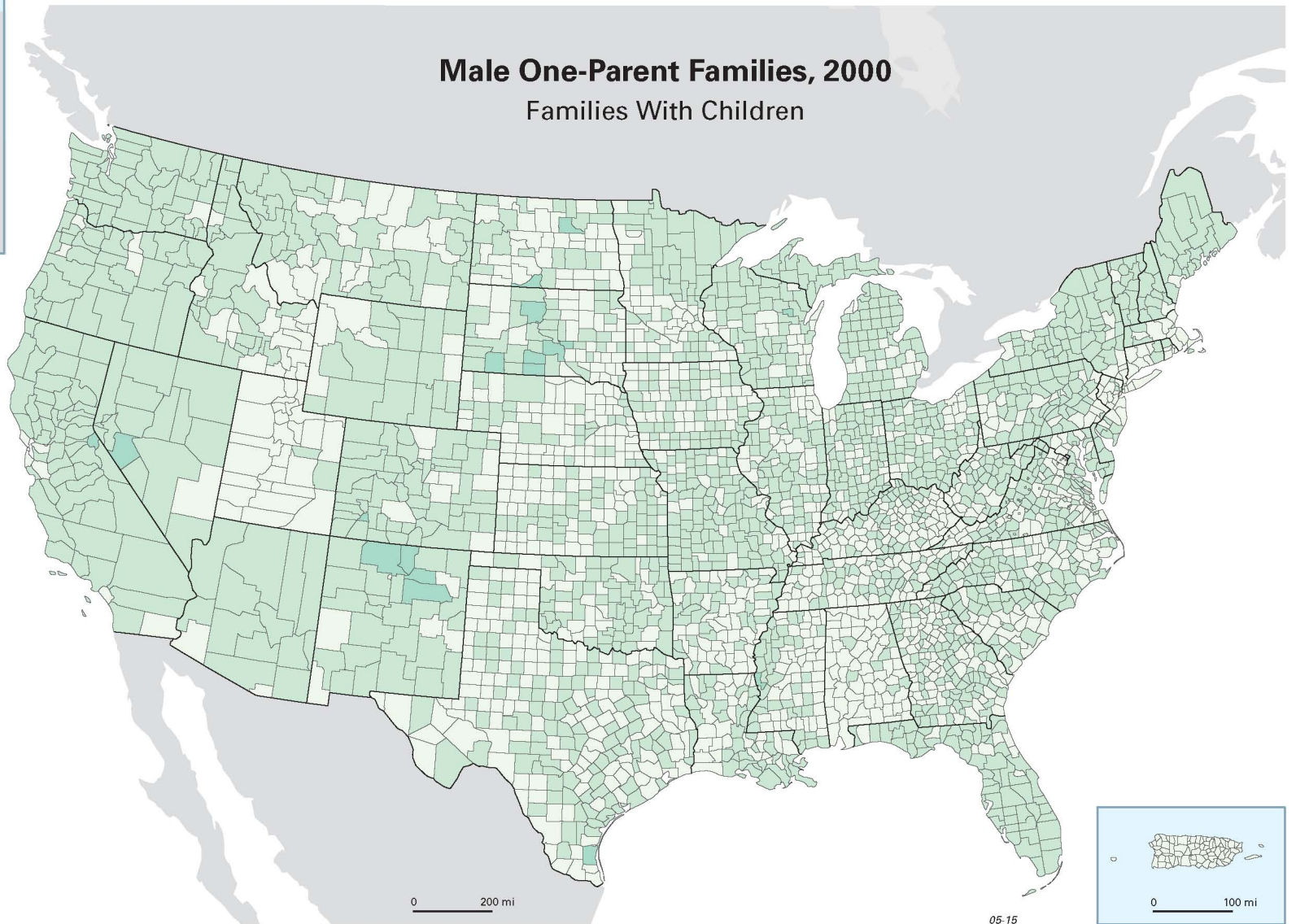
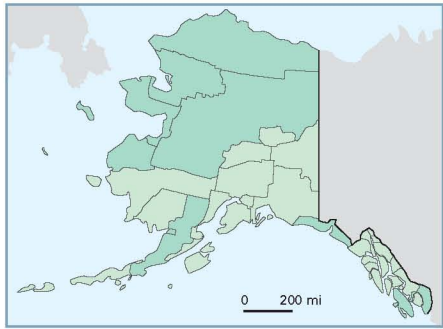




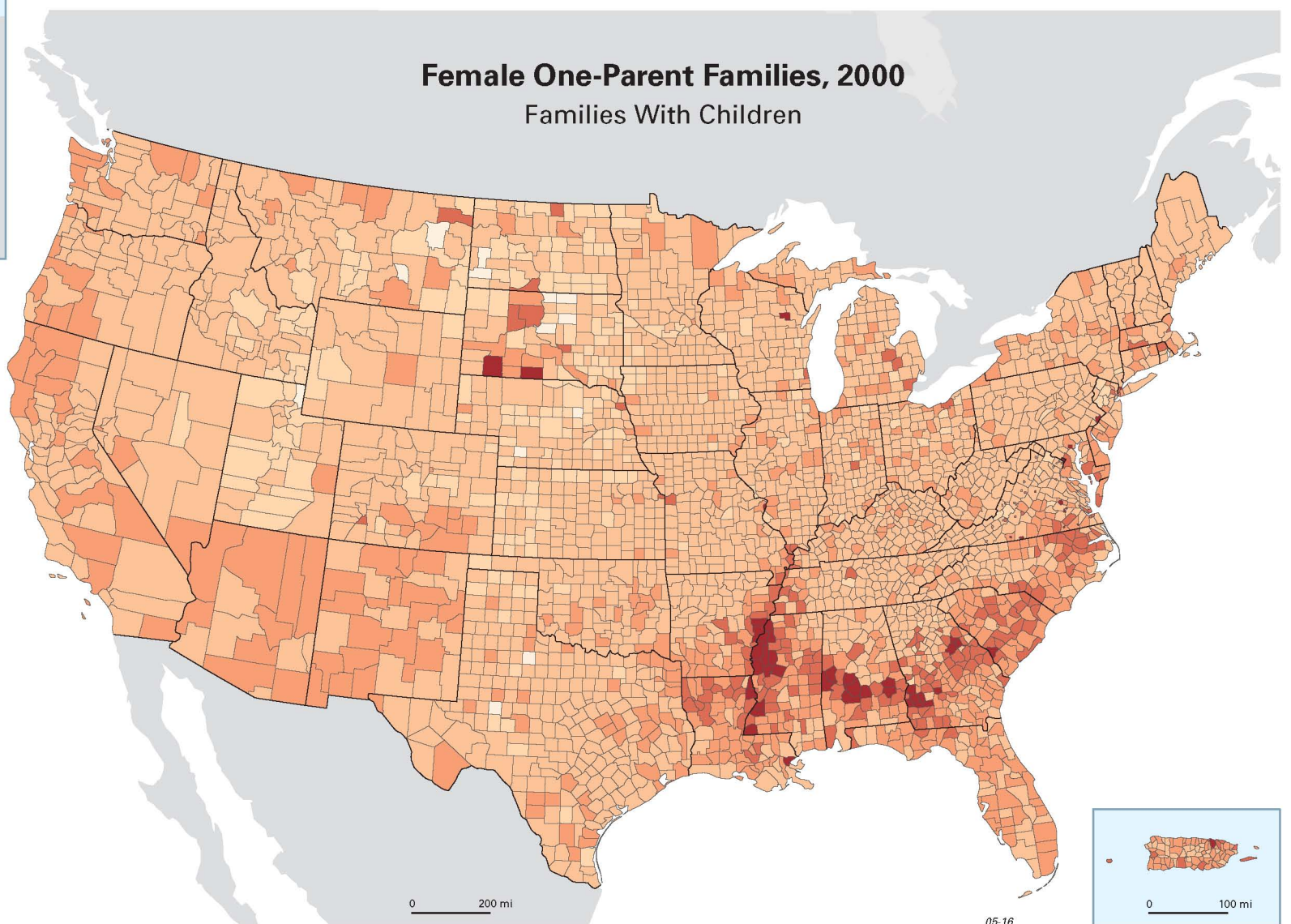
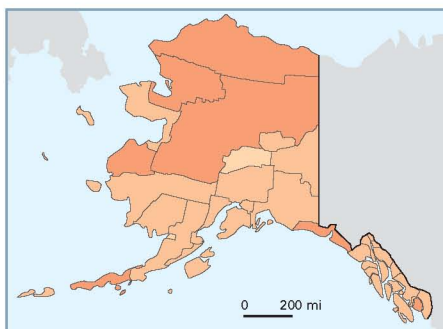
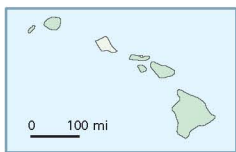
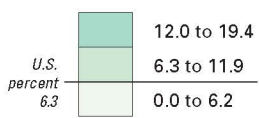




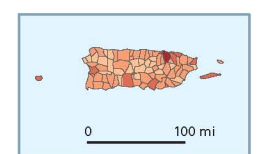
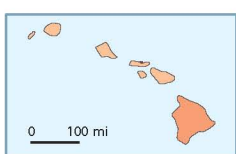
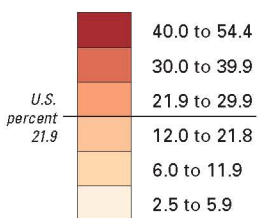




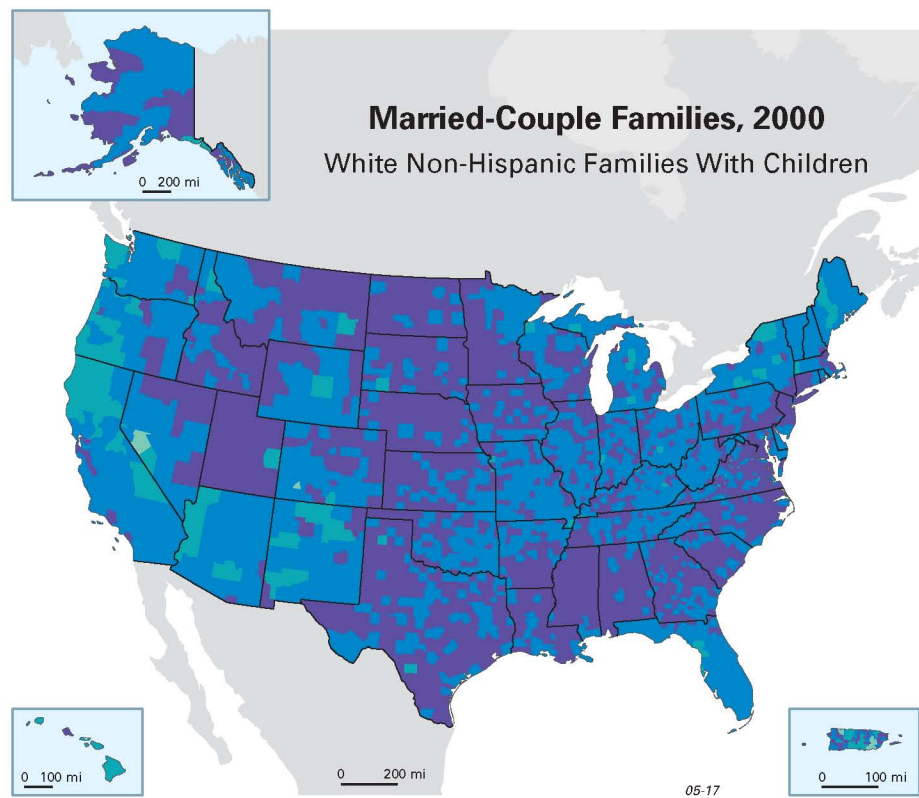
Percentage of families with children maintained by men with no wife present



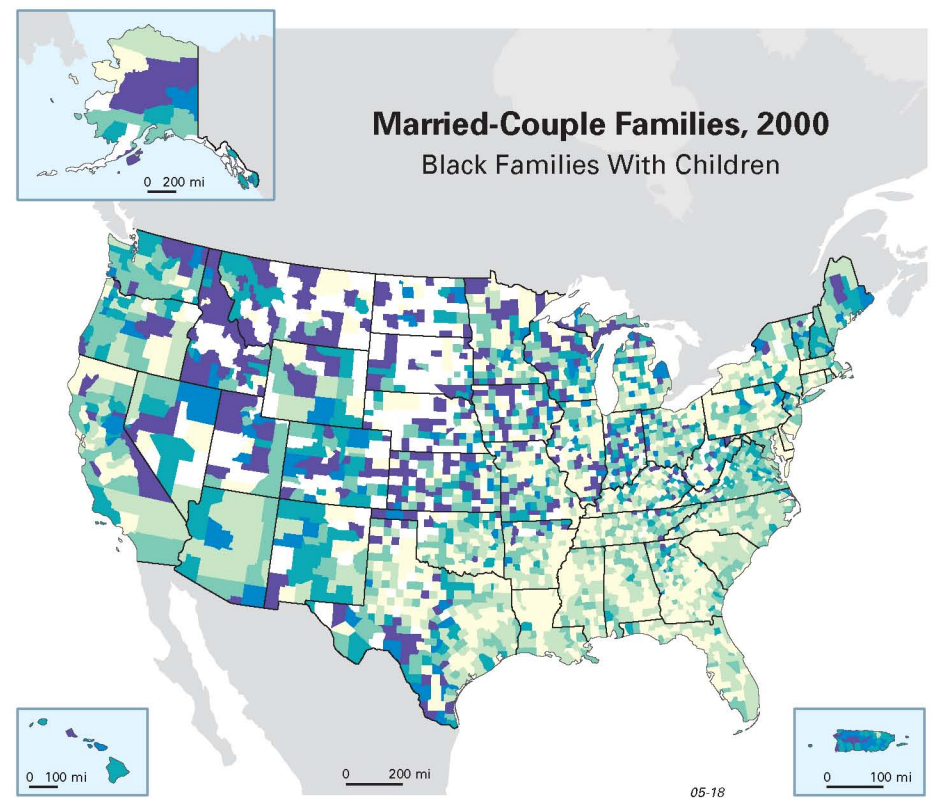
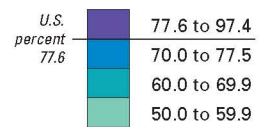
Percentage of families with children maintained by women with no husband present



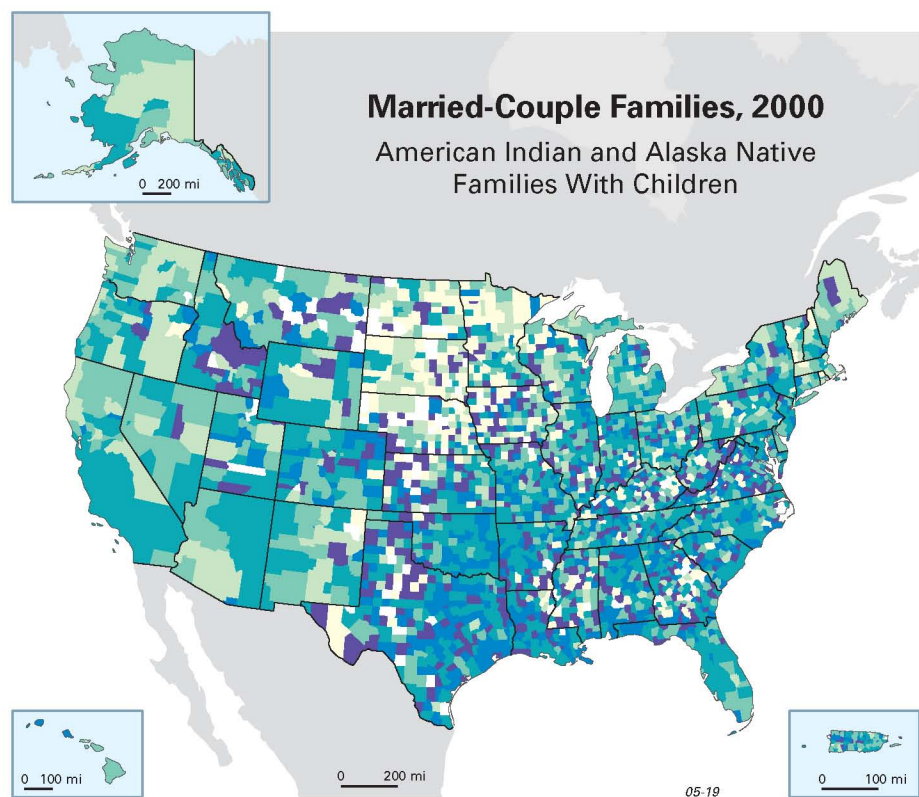
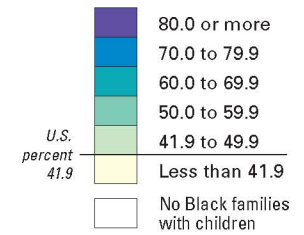




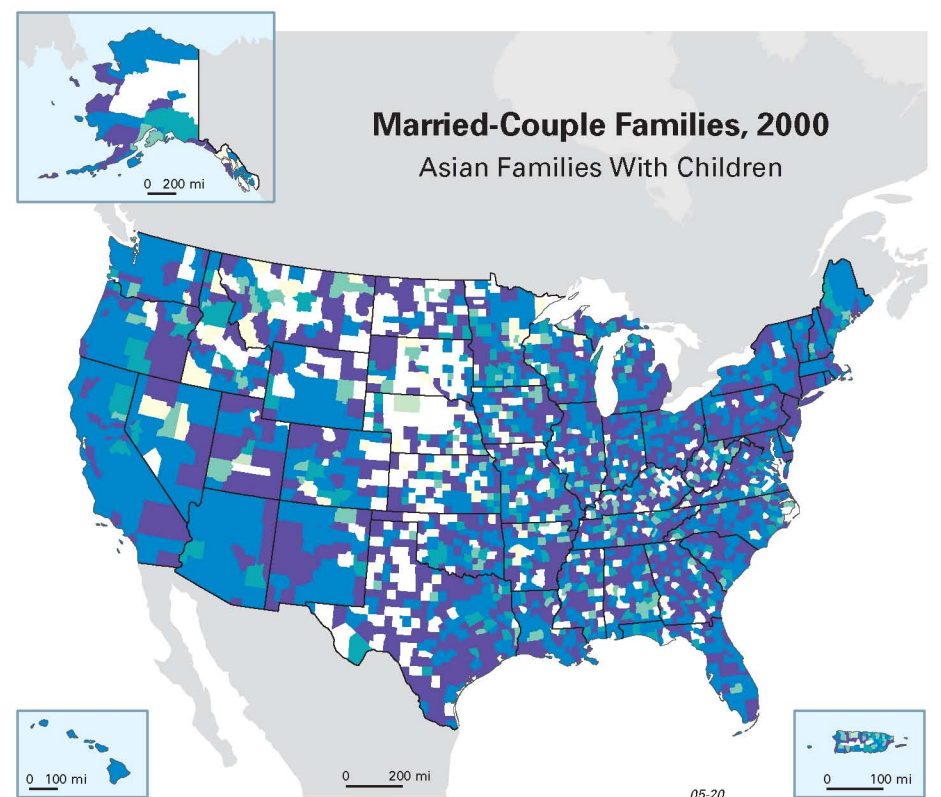
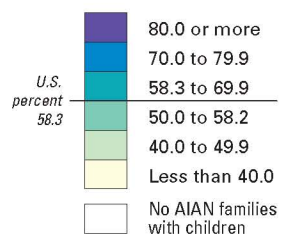
Percentage of non-Hispanic White families with children maintained by married couples



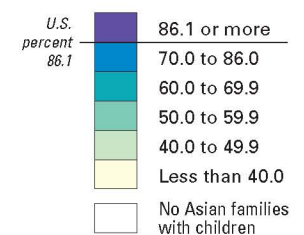
Percentage of Black families with children maintained by married couples



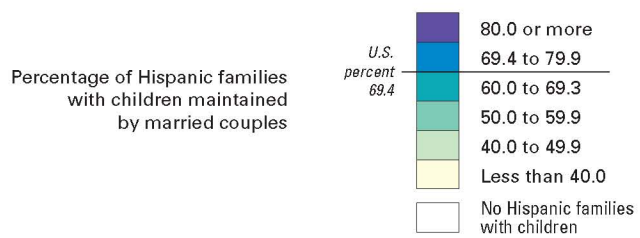
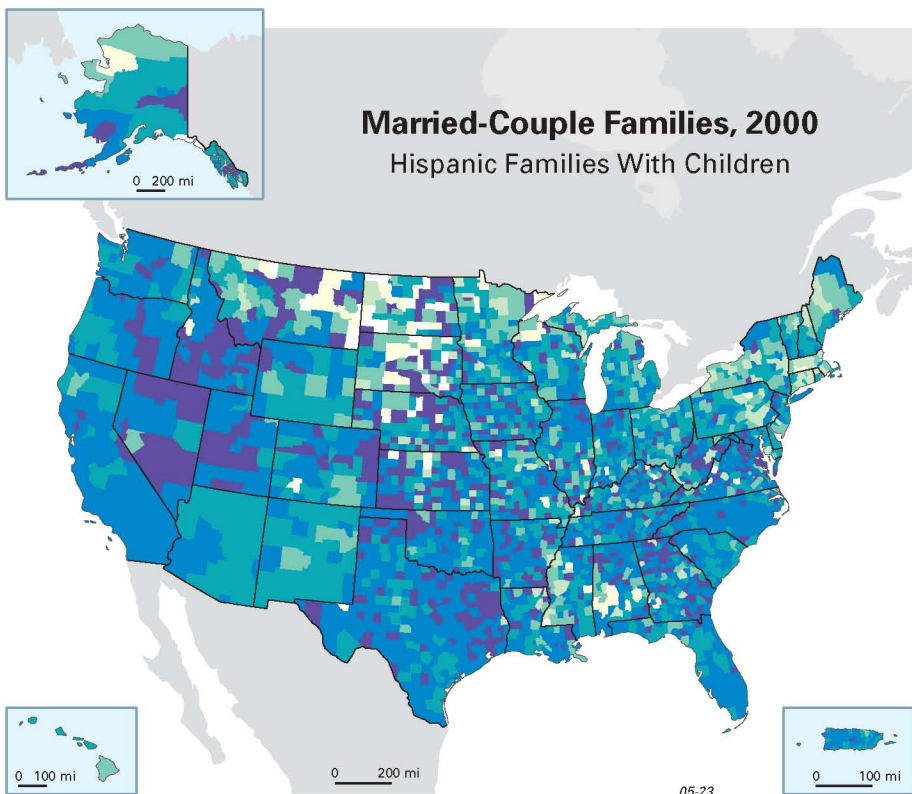
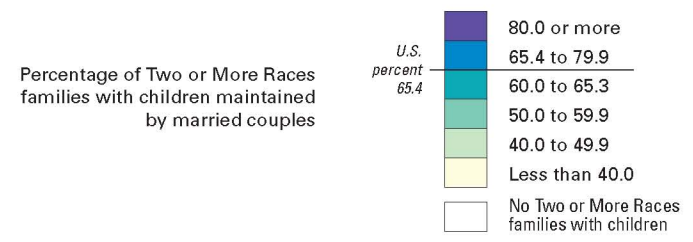
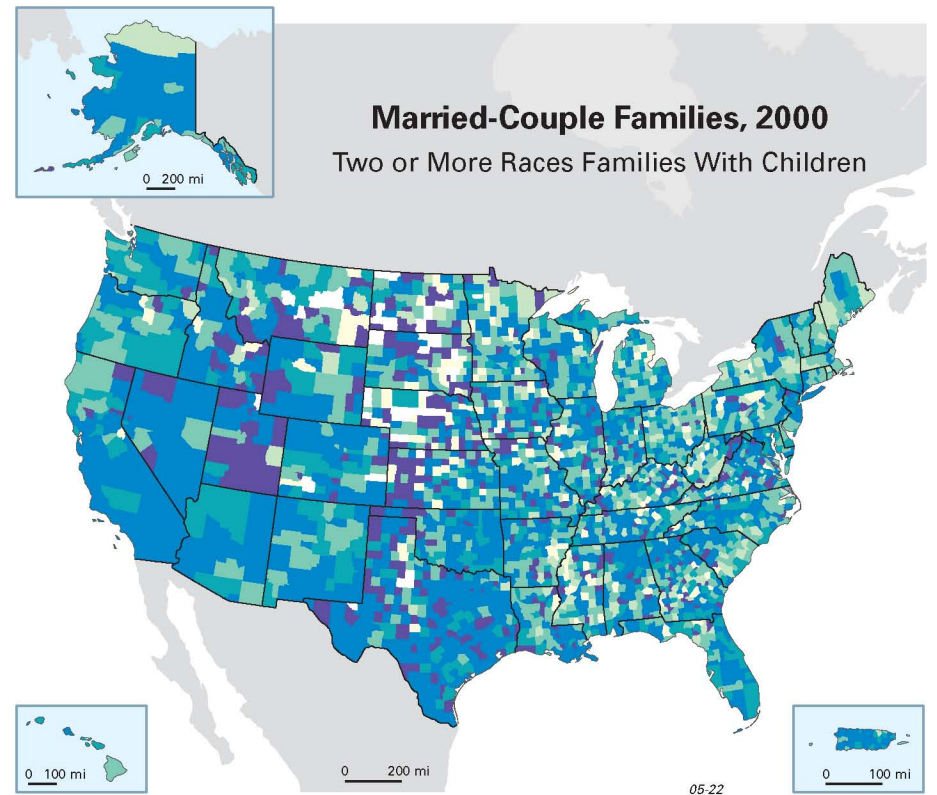
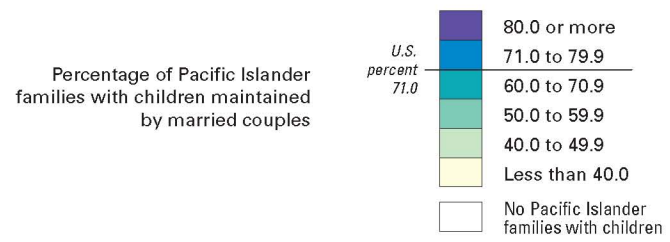
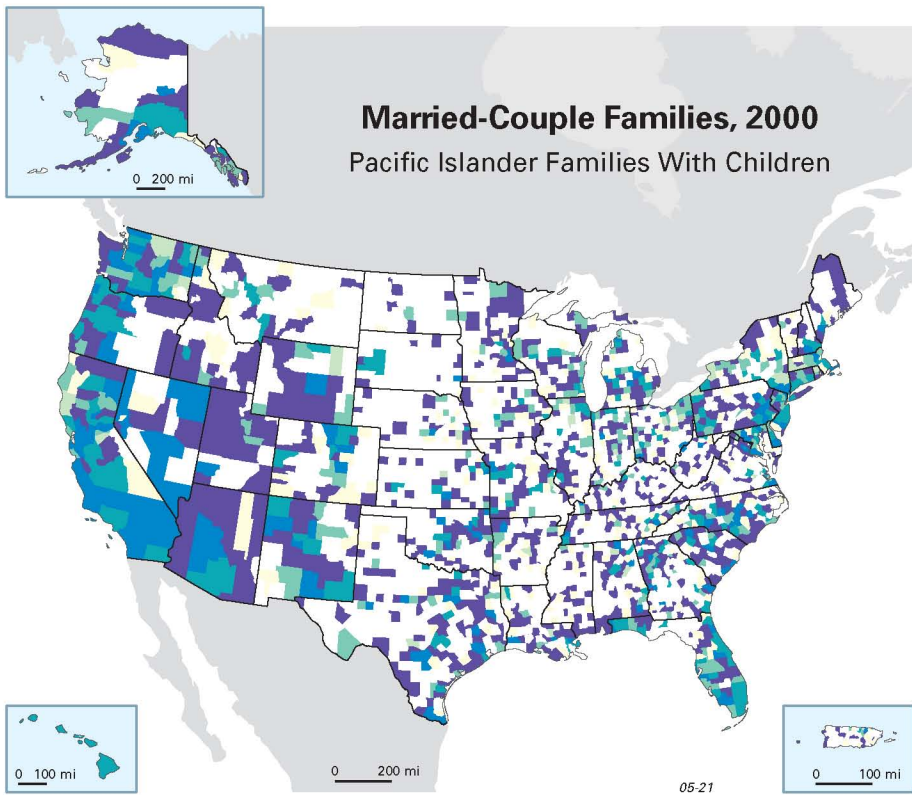
Percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native families with children maintained by married couples



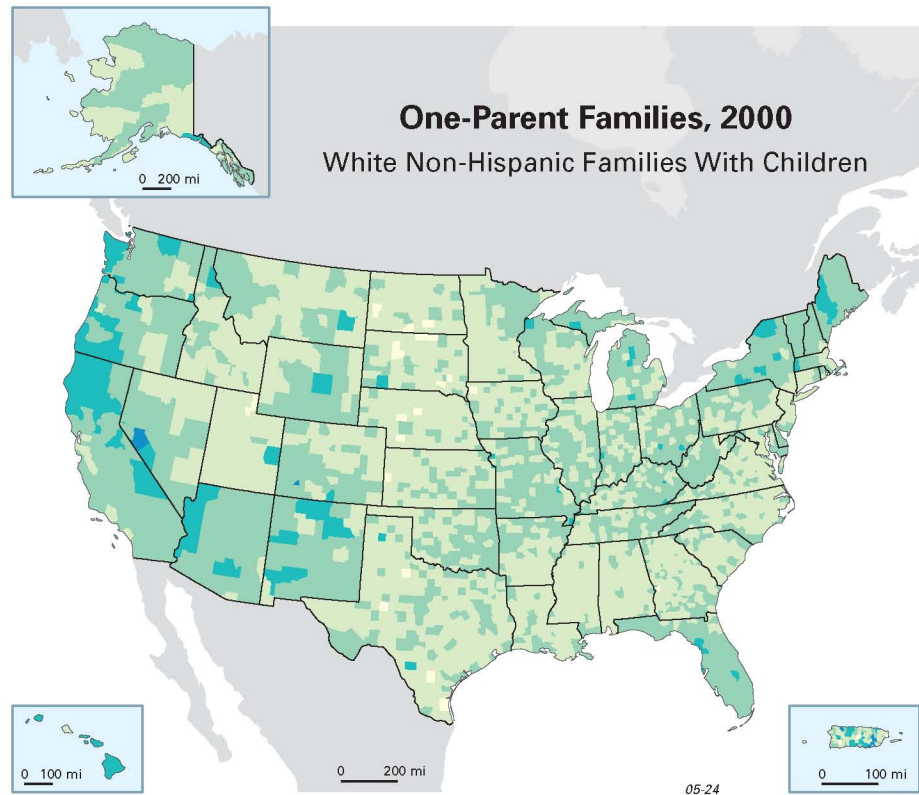
Percentage of Asian families with children maintained by married couples



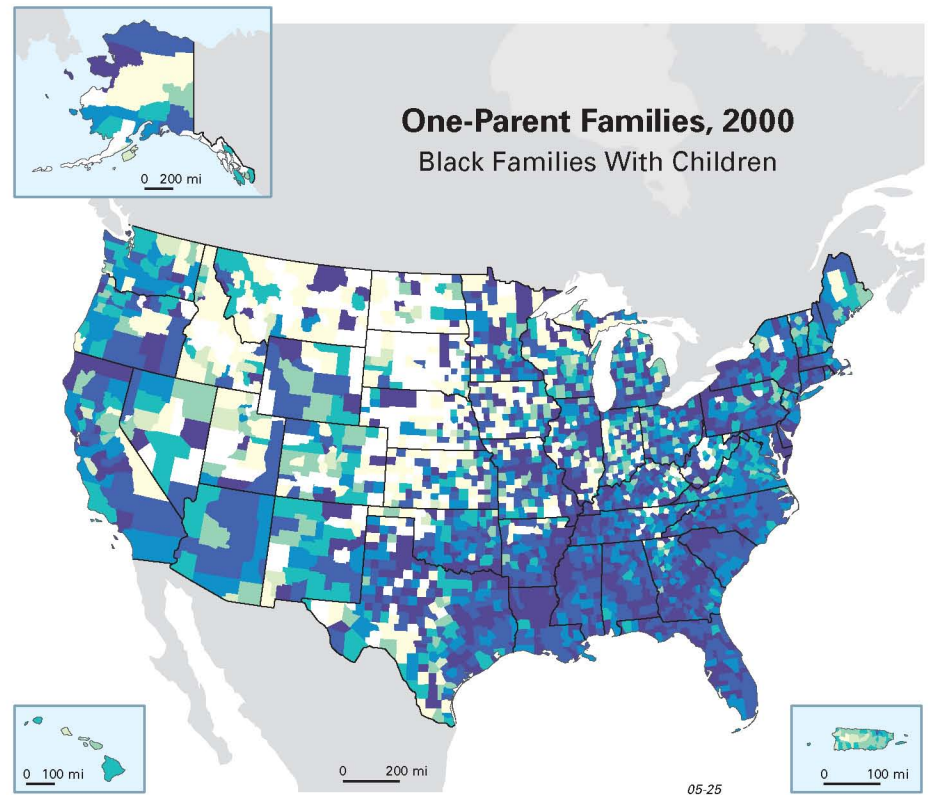
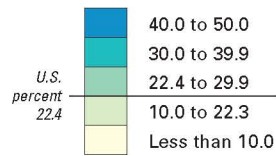




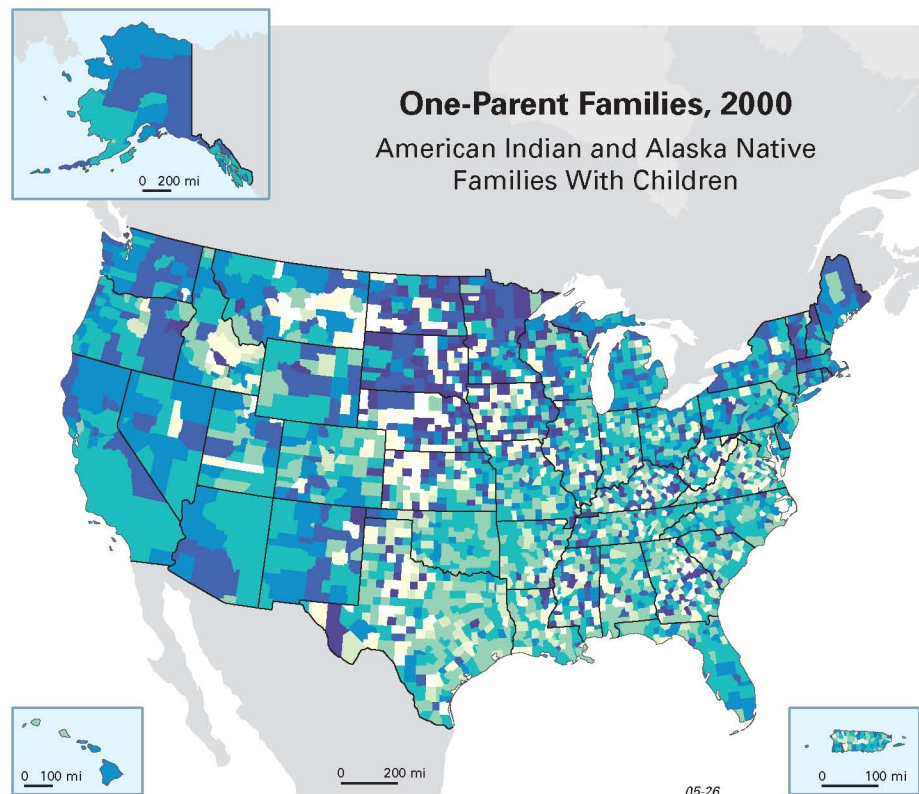
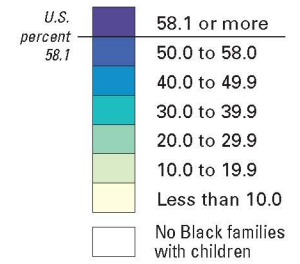




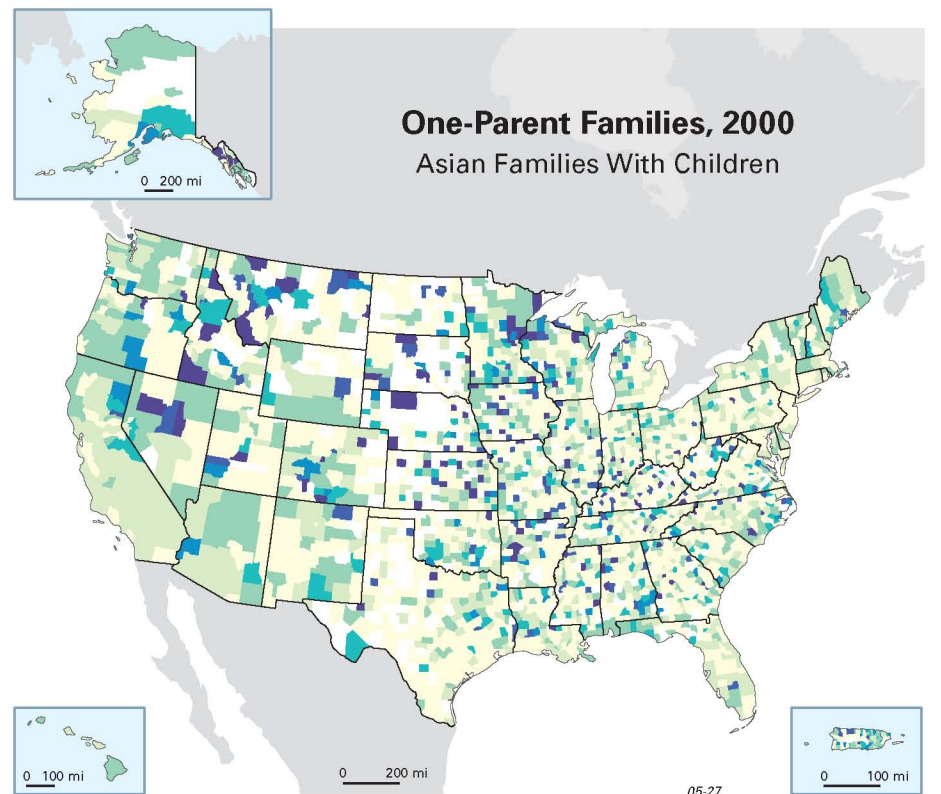
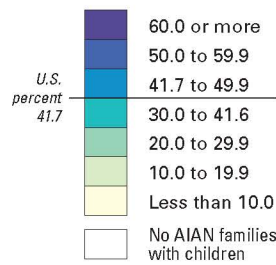
Percentage of non-Hispanic White families with children maintained by men or women with no spouse present



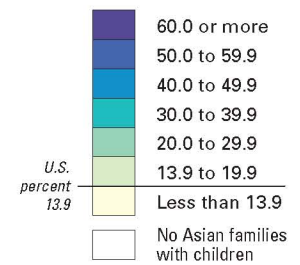
Percentage of Black families with children maintained by men or women with no spouse present



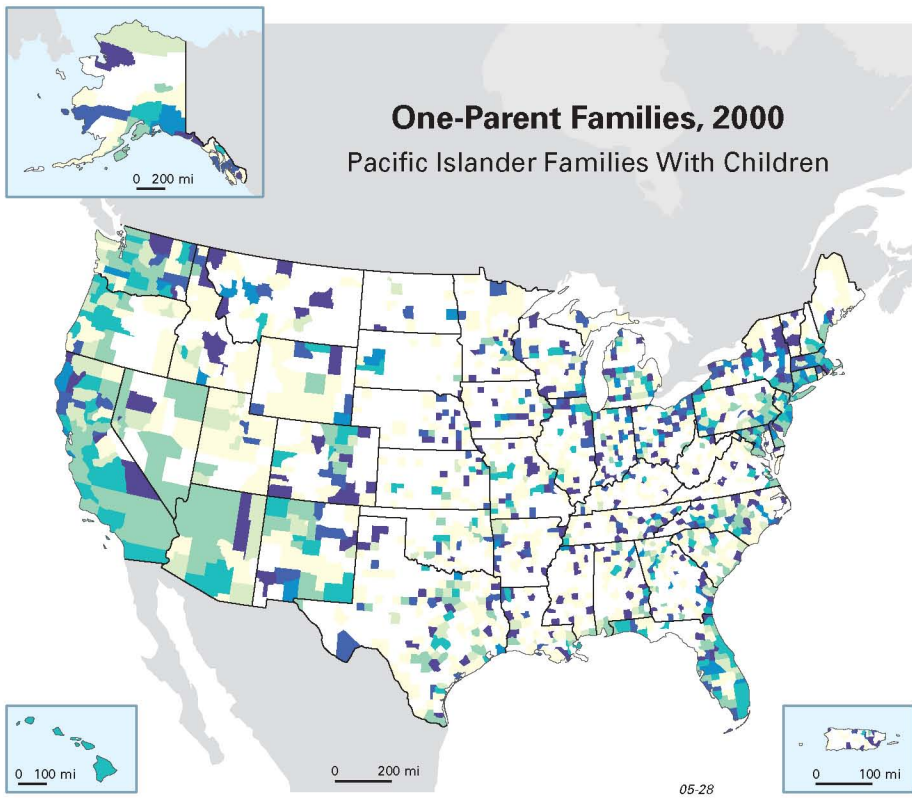
Percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native families with children maintained by men or women with no spouse present



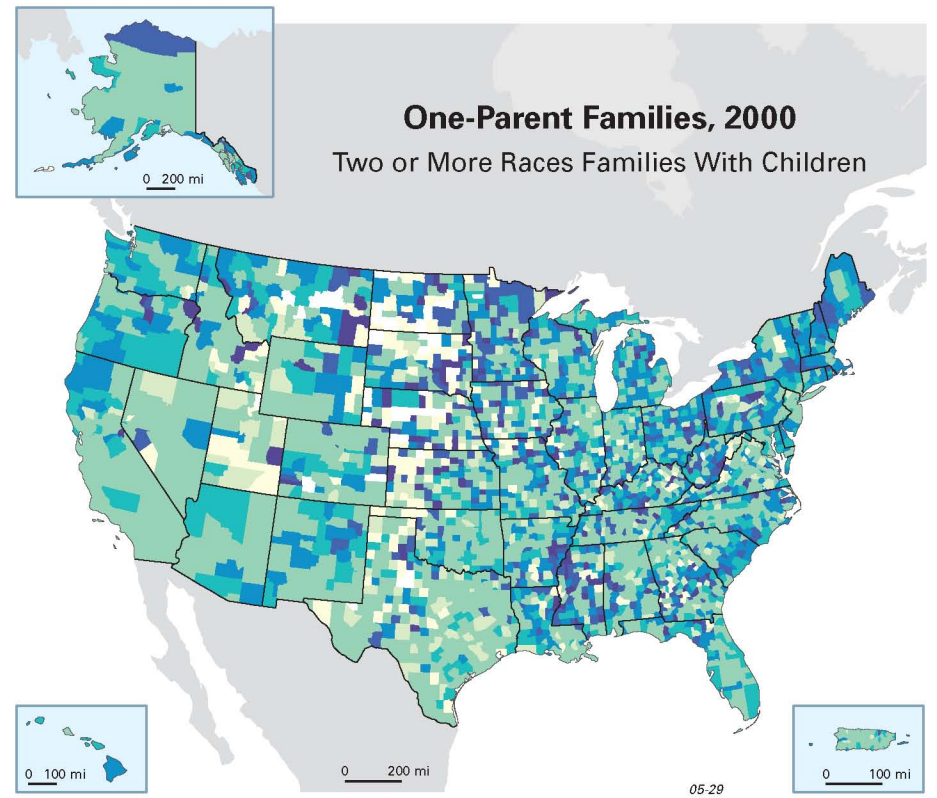
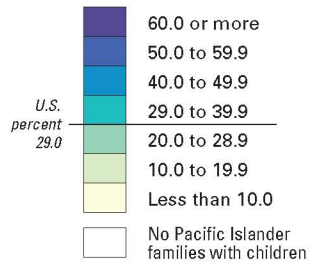
Percentage of Asian families with children maintained by men or women with no spouse present



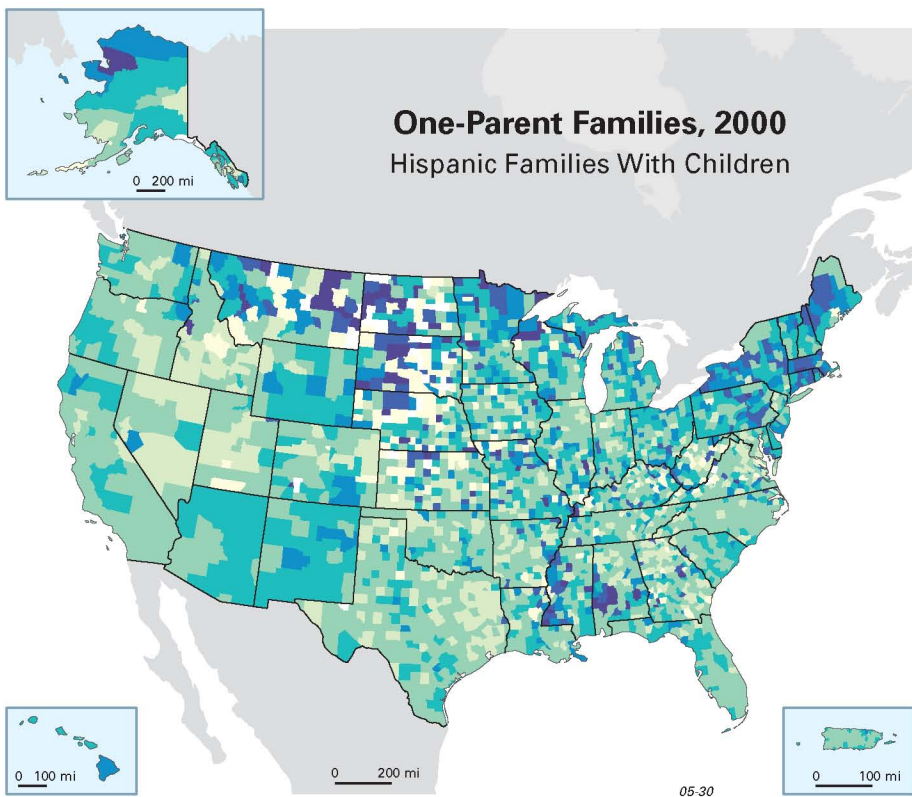
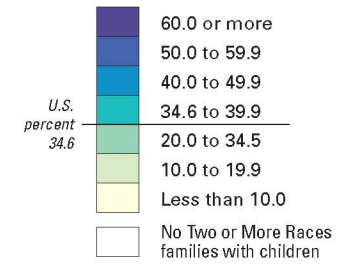




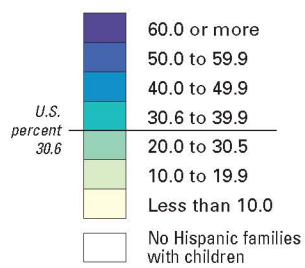
Percentage of Pacific Islander families with children maintained by men or women with no spouse present



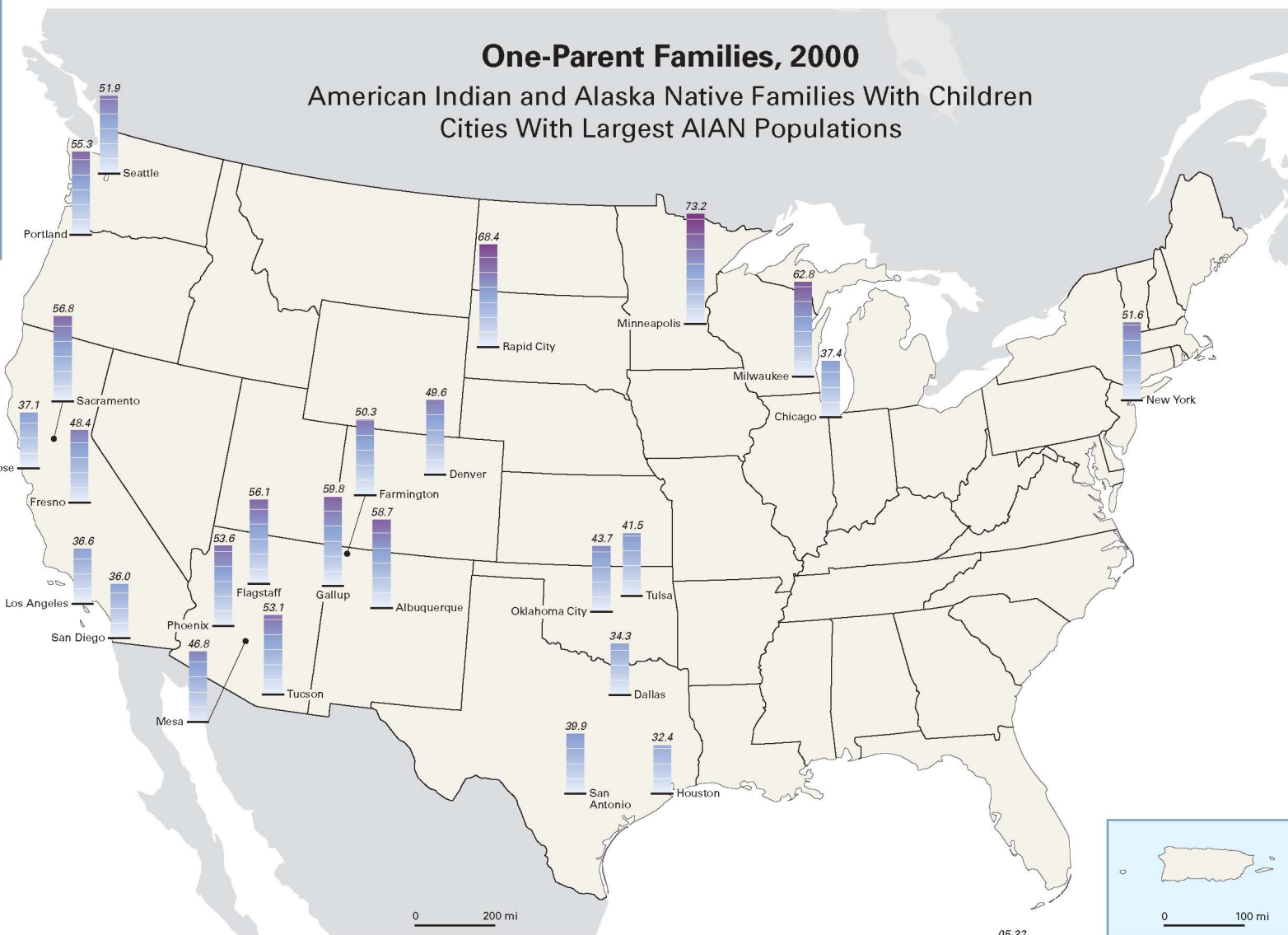
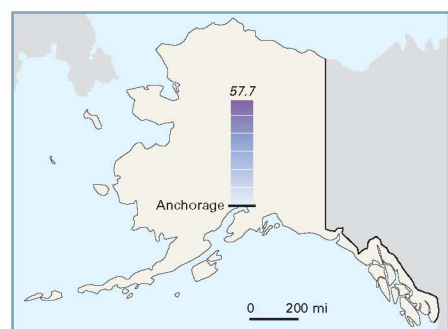
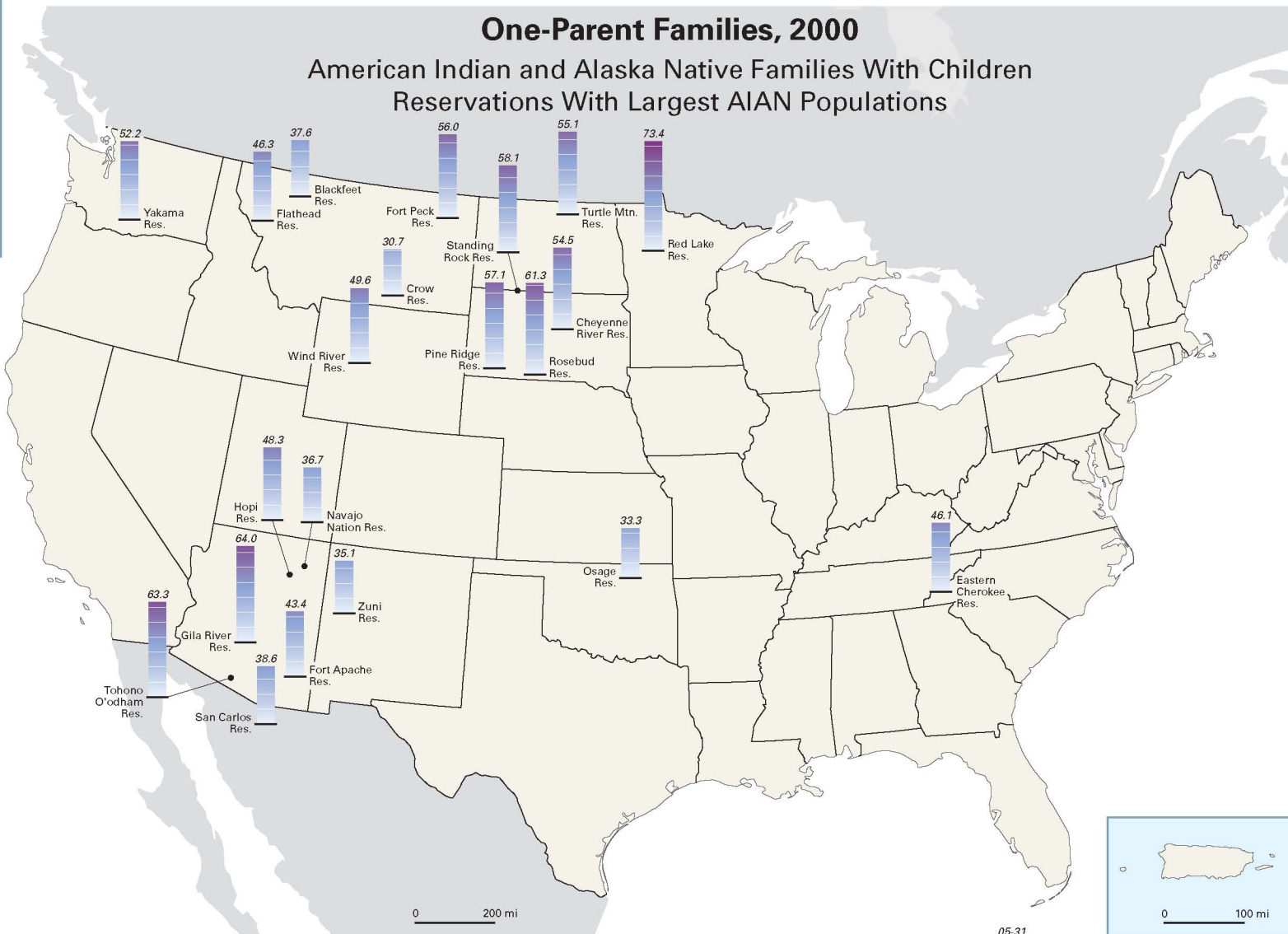
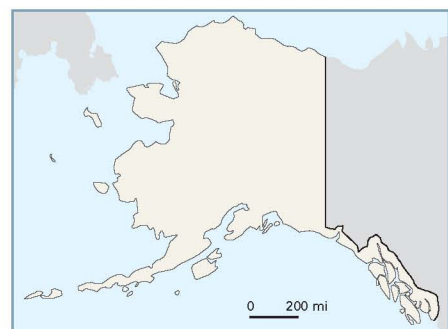
Percentage of Two or More Races families with children maintained by men or women with no spouse present



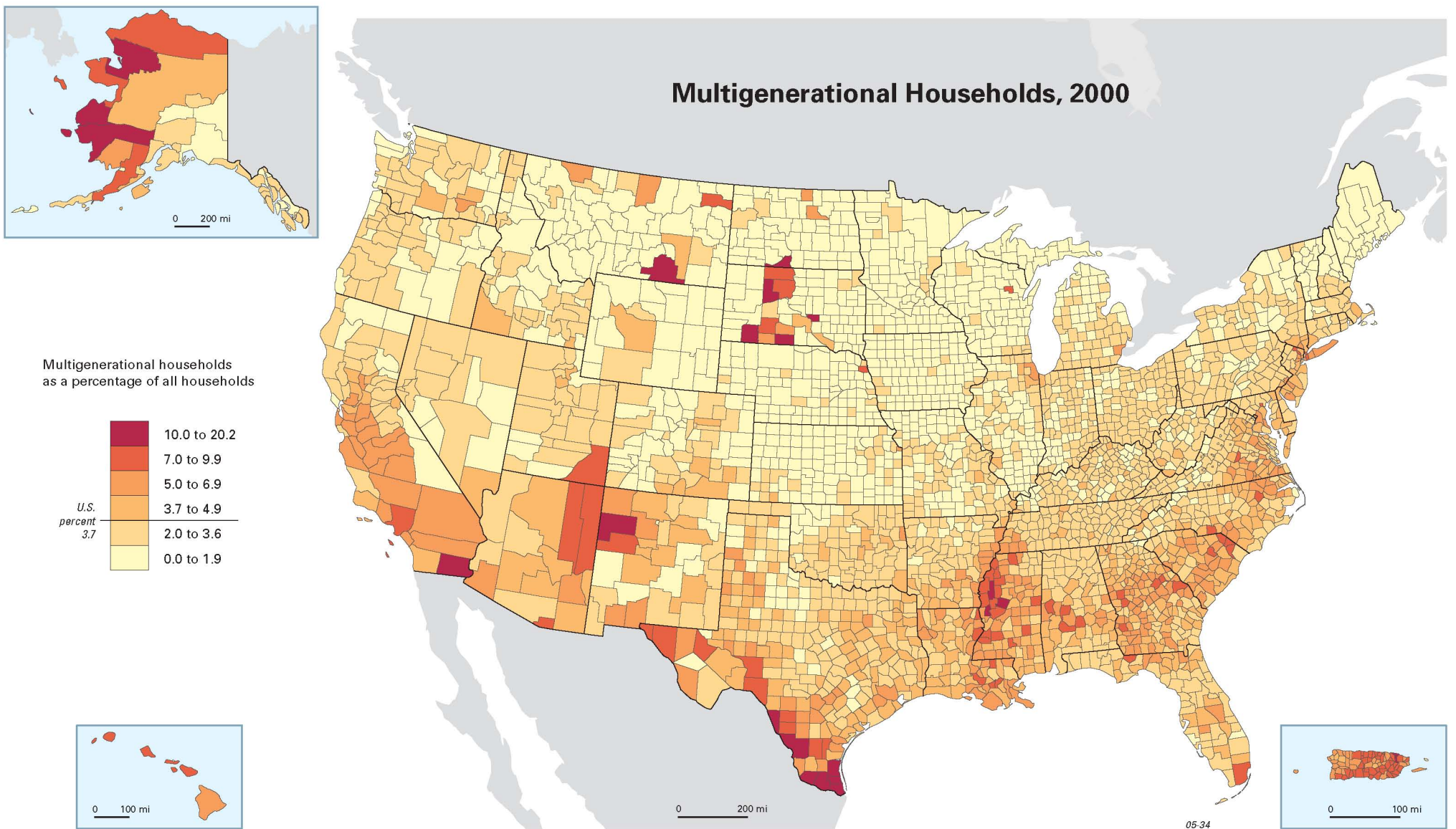
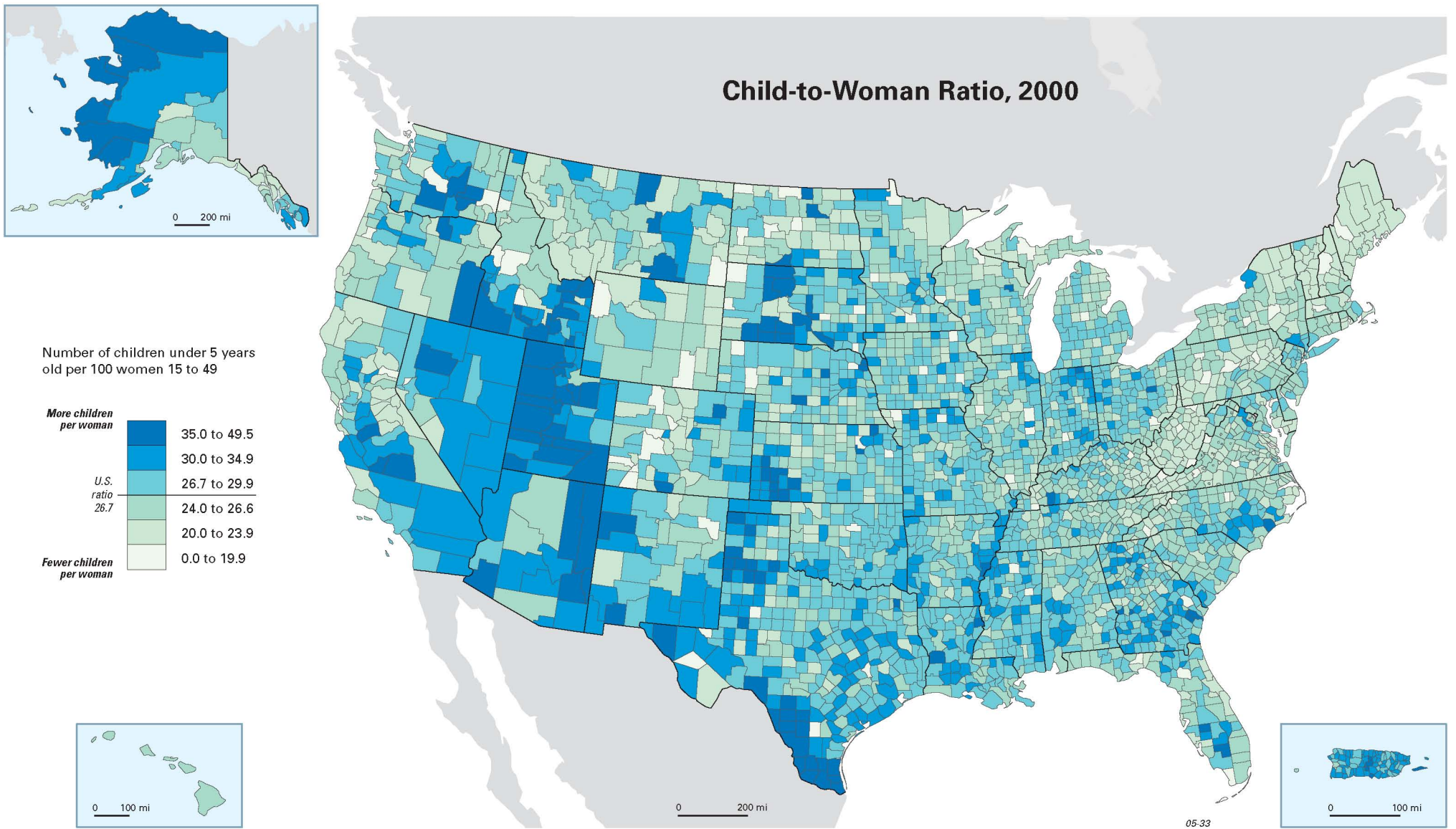
Percentage of Hispanic families with children maintained by men or women with no spouse present





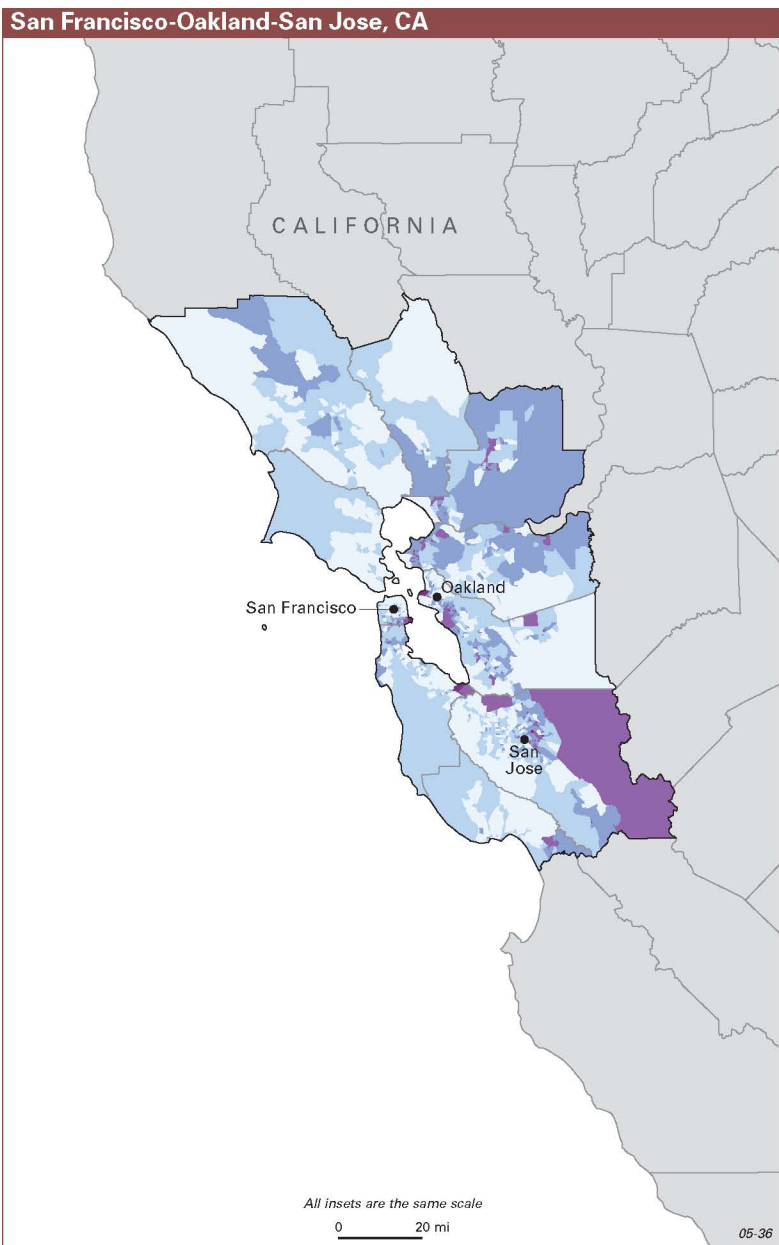




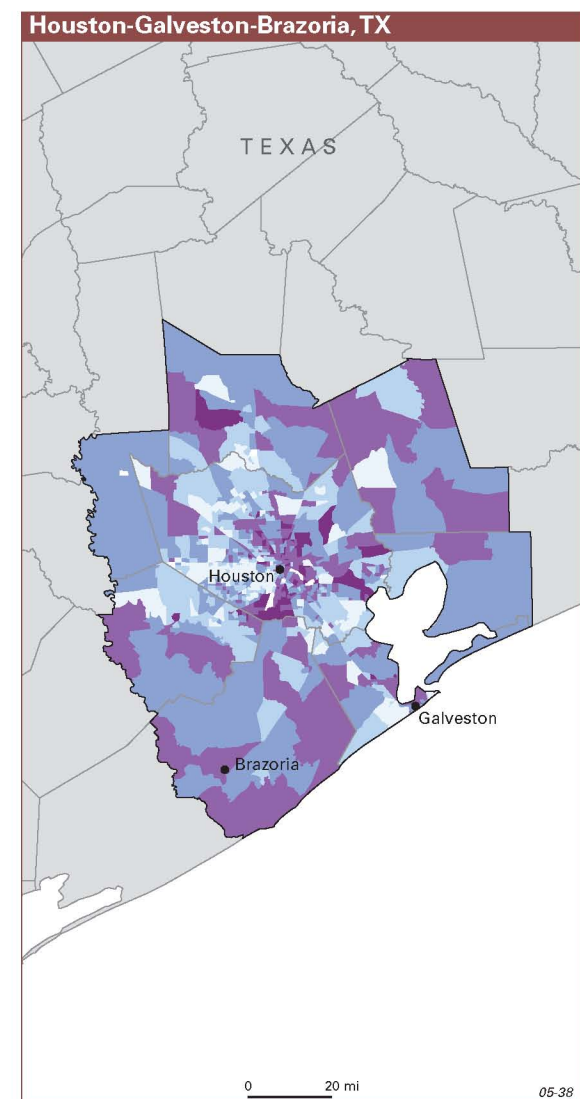
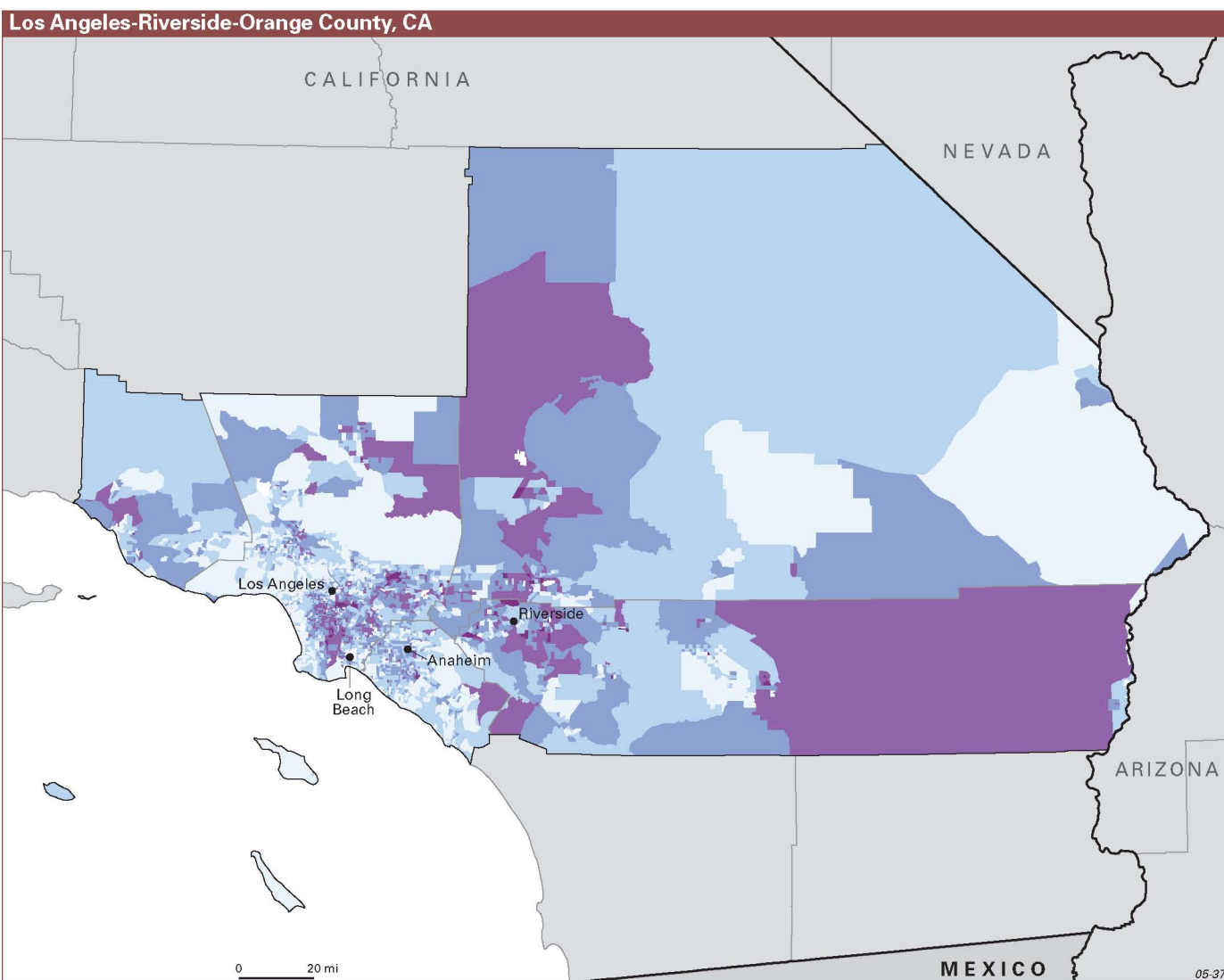
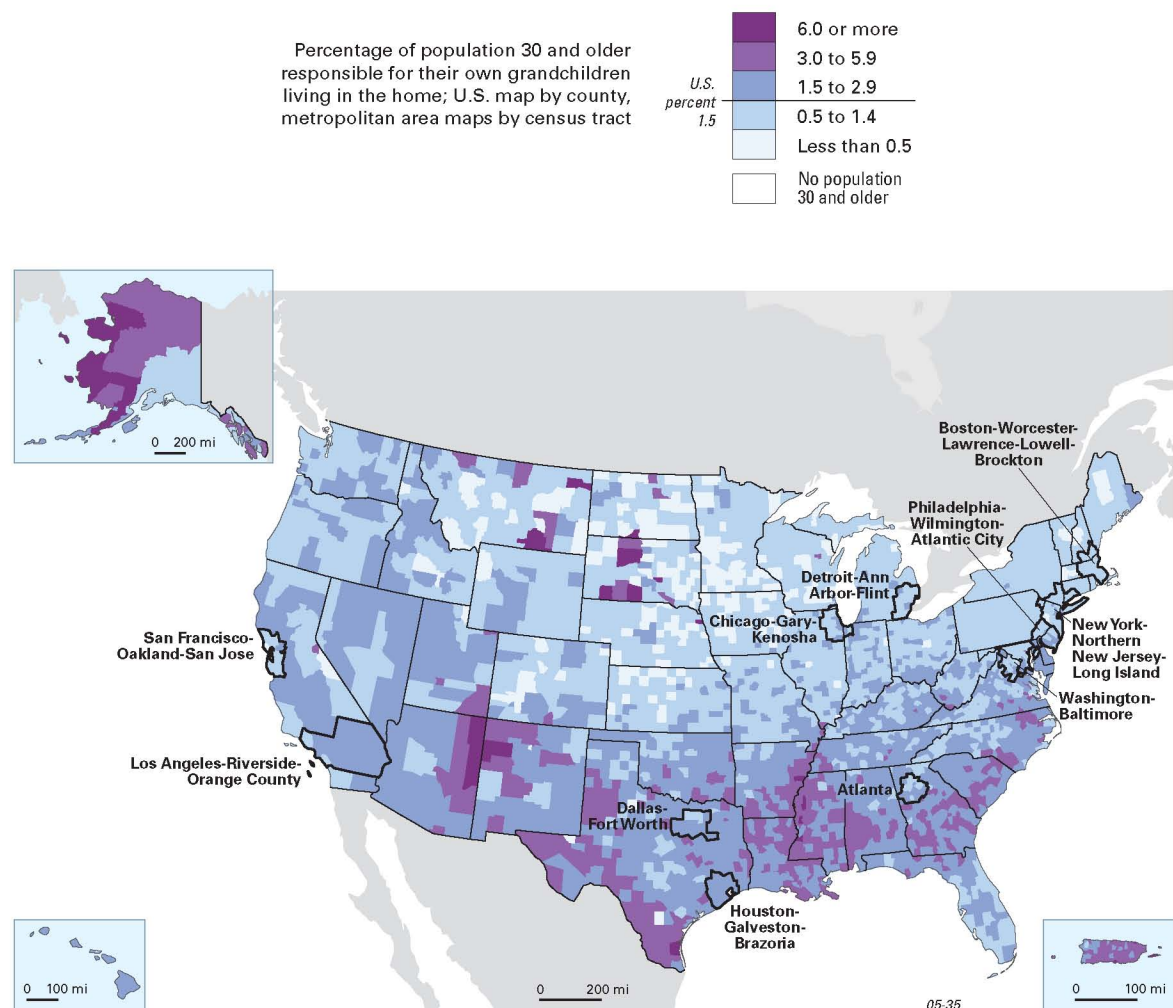




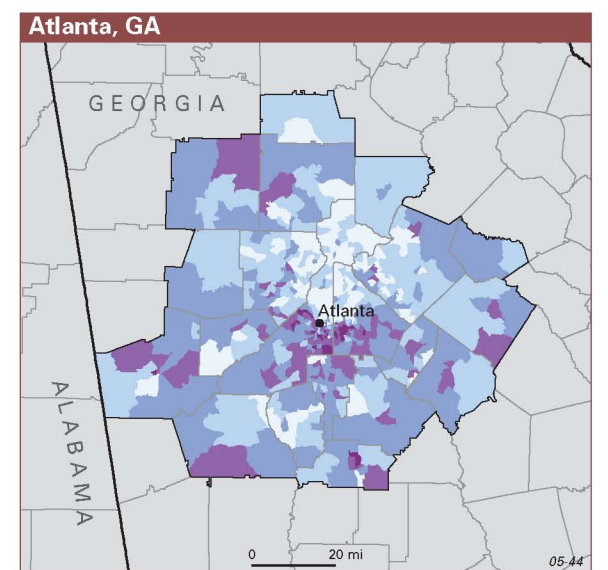
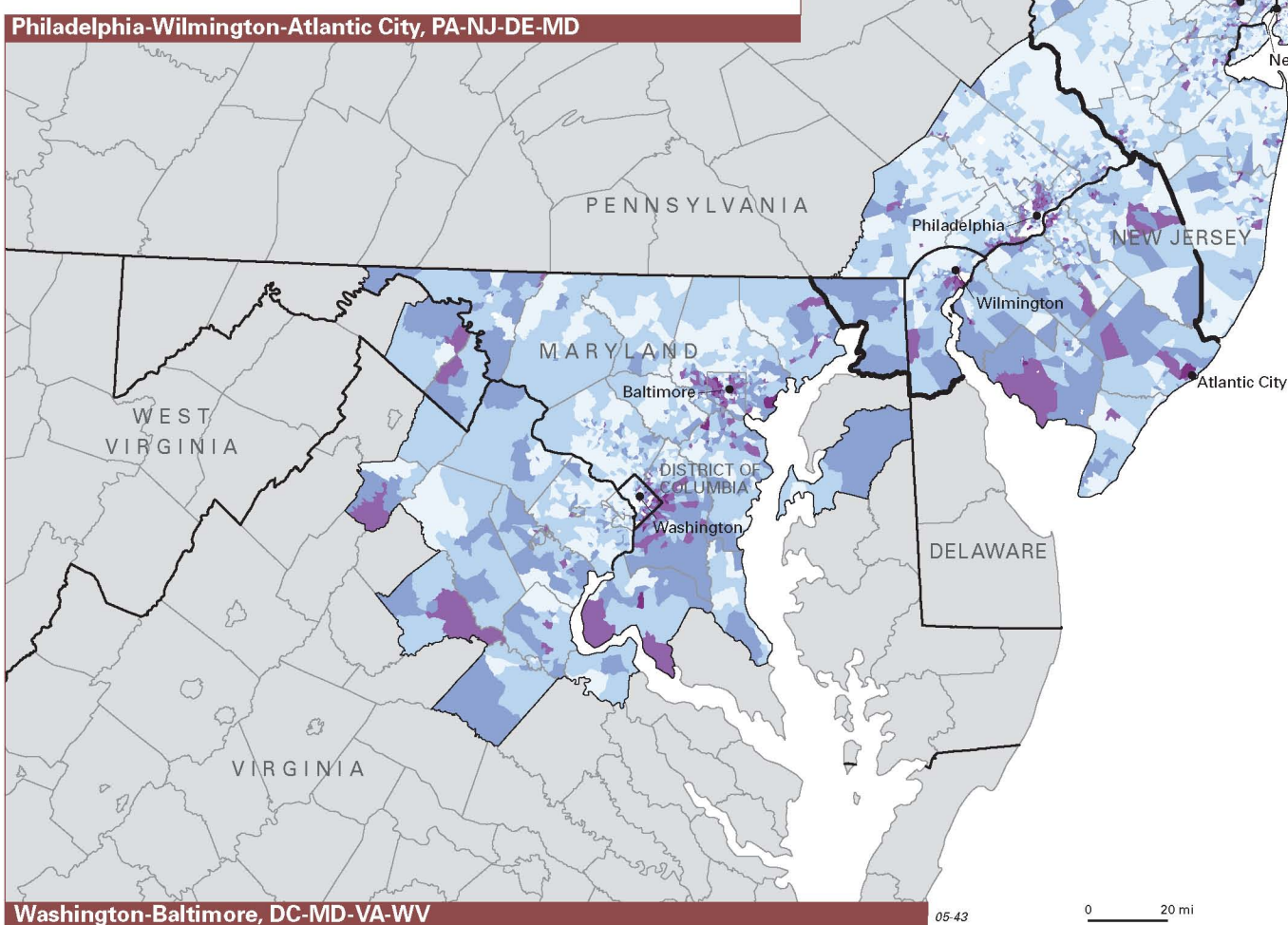
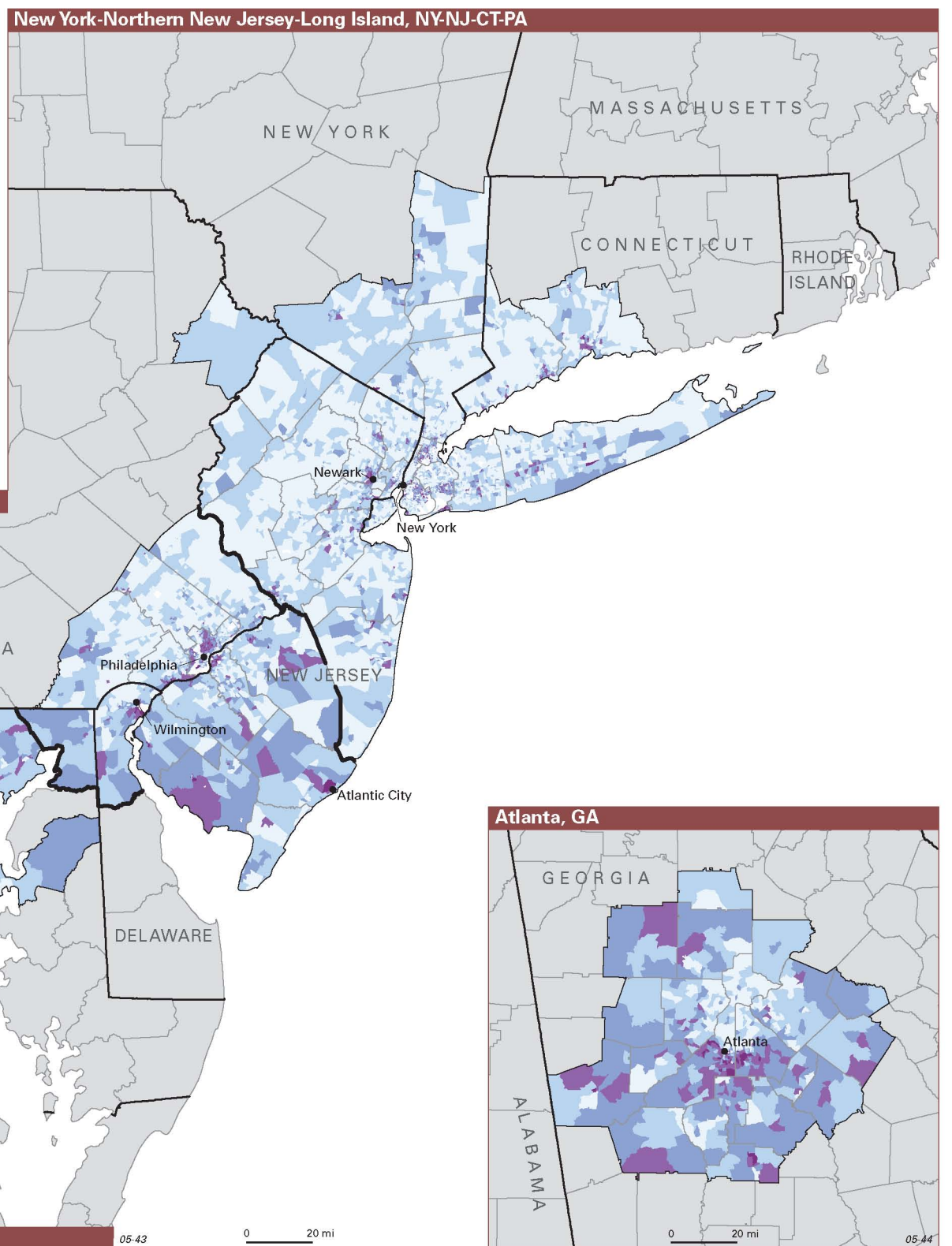
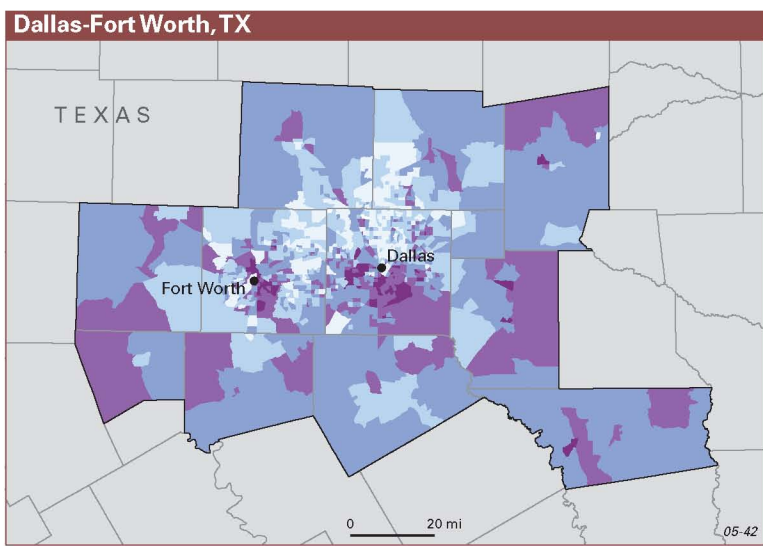
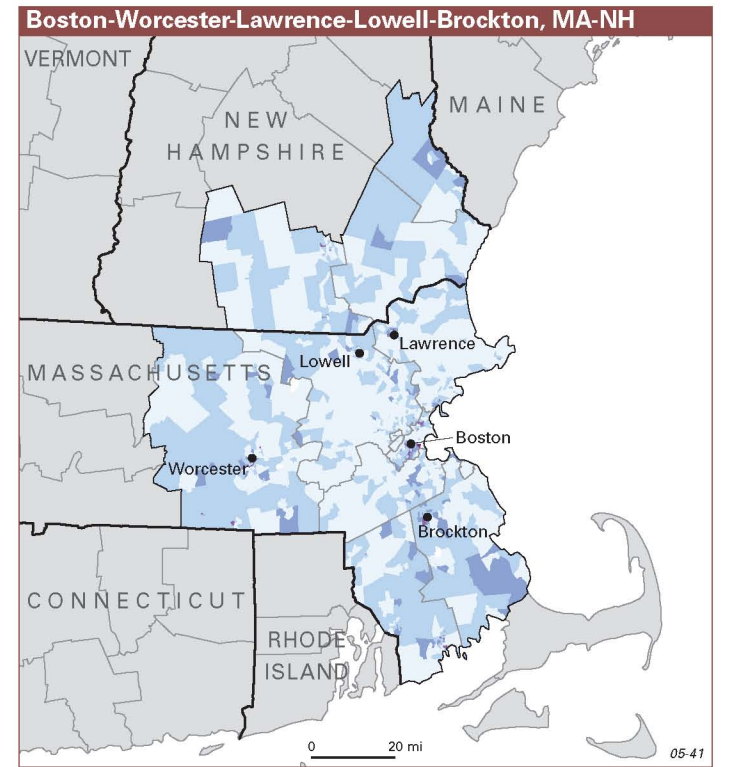
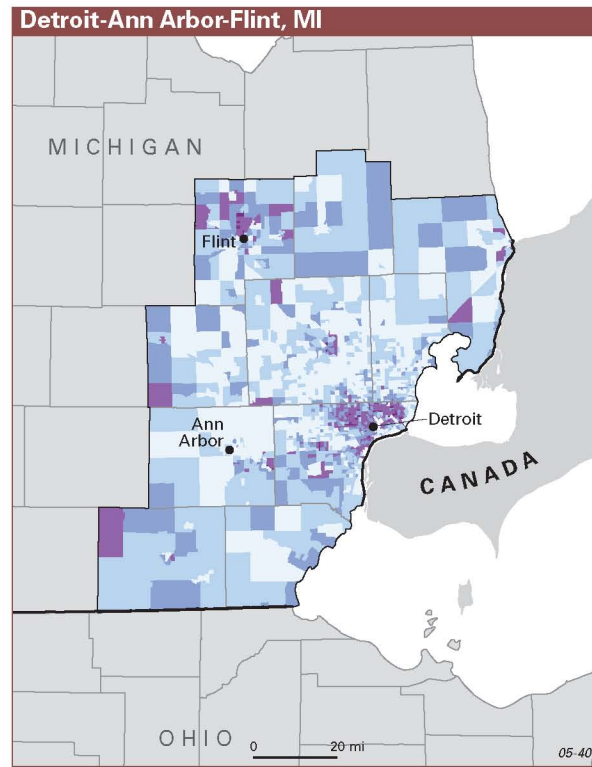
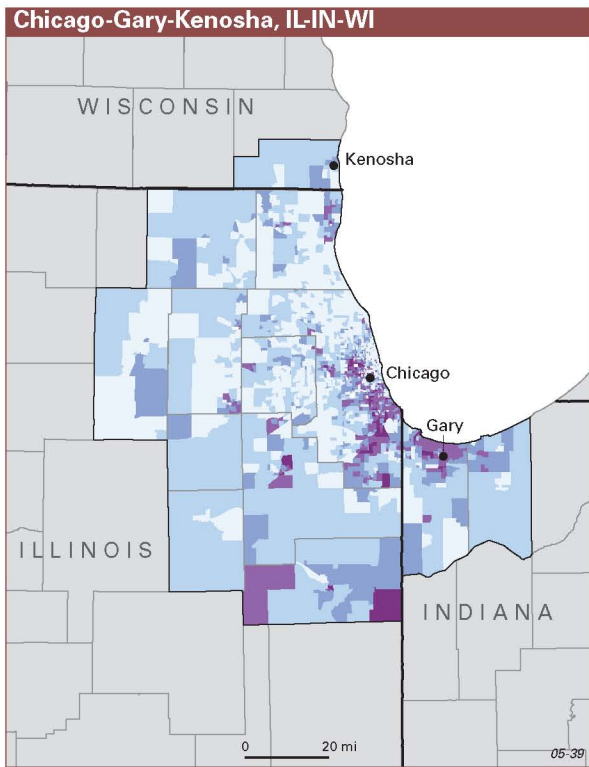
METROPOLITAN AREAS



**Grandparents Responsible for Their Own Grandchildren, 2000**  
Largest Metropolitan Areas

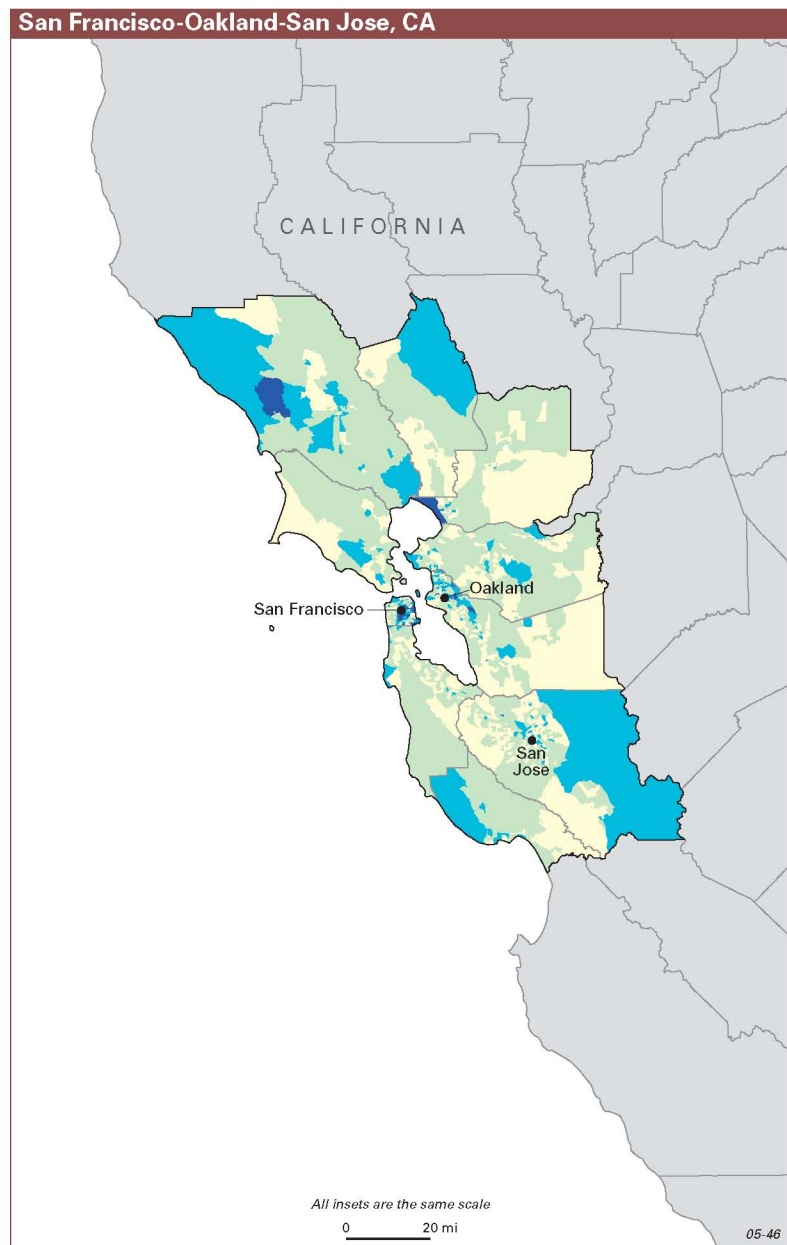




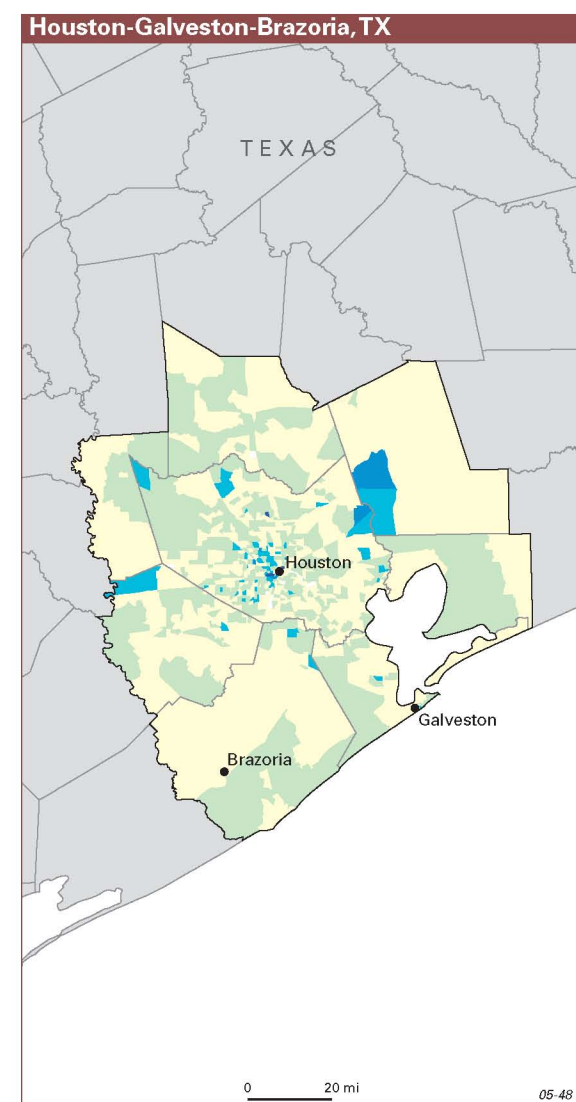
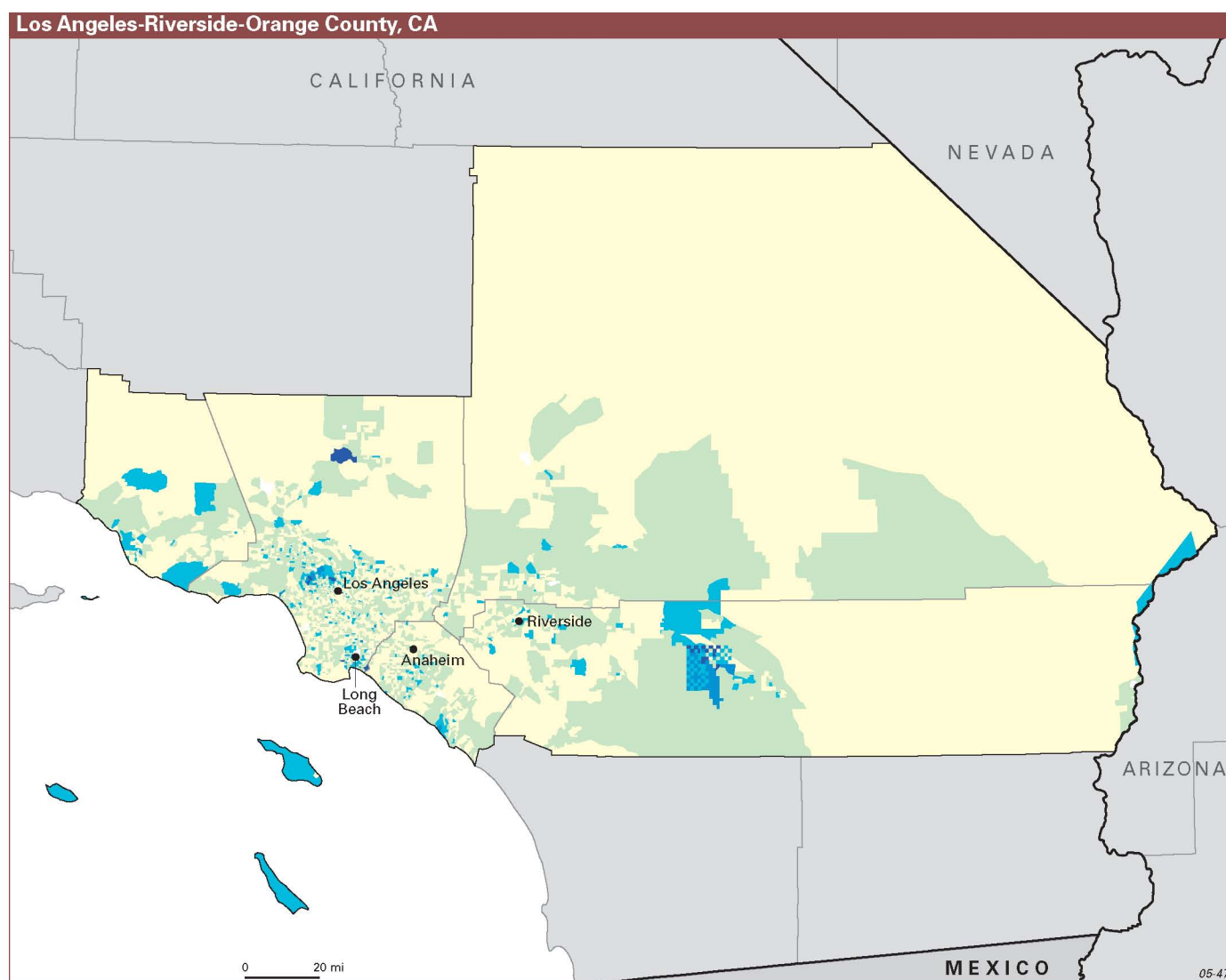
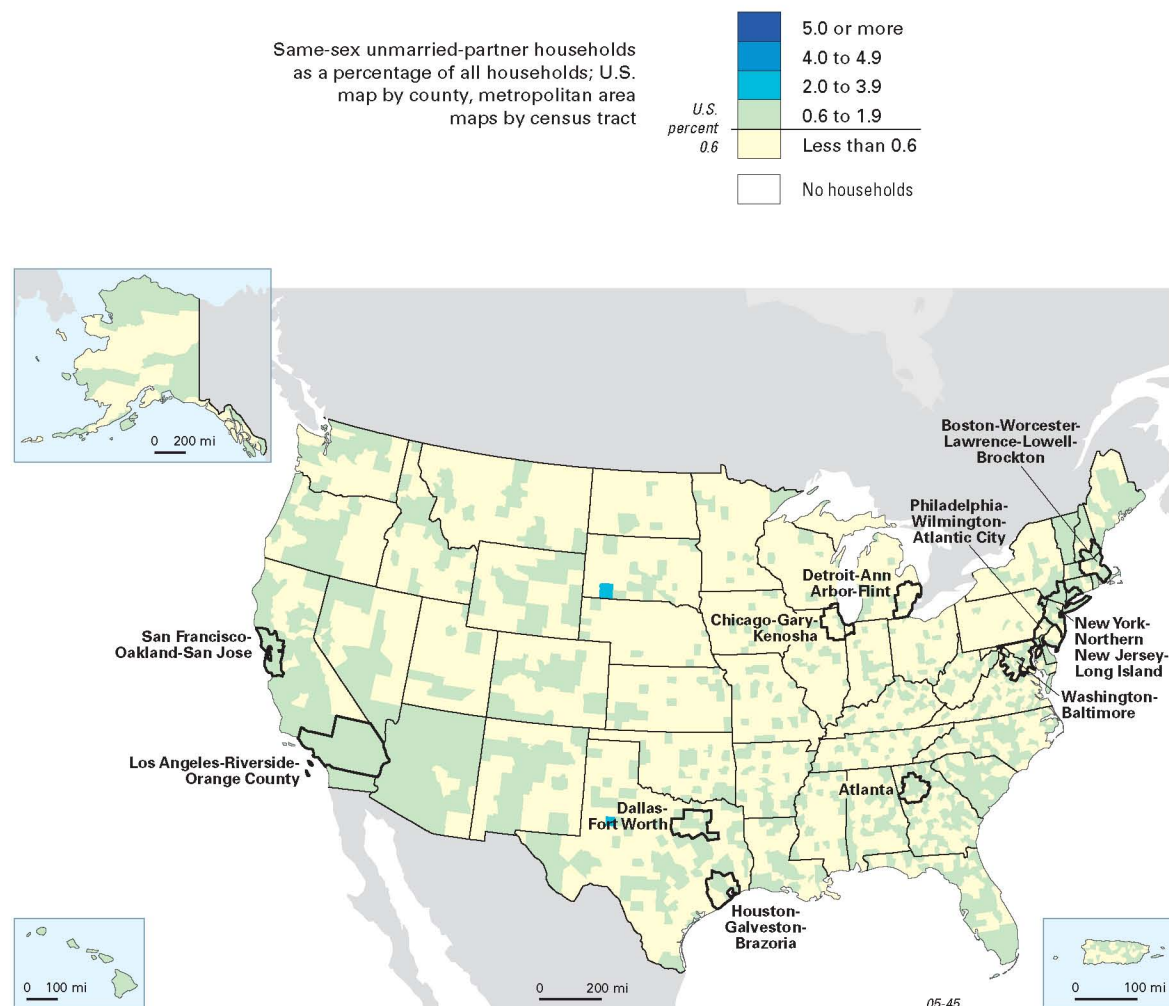




METROPOLITAN AREAS

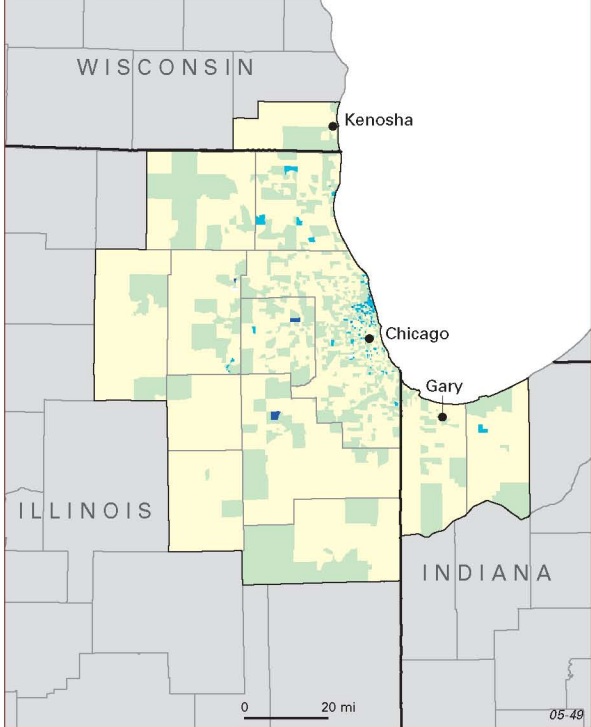


**Same-Sex Unmarried-Partner Households, 2000**  
Largest Metropolitan Areas

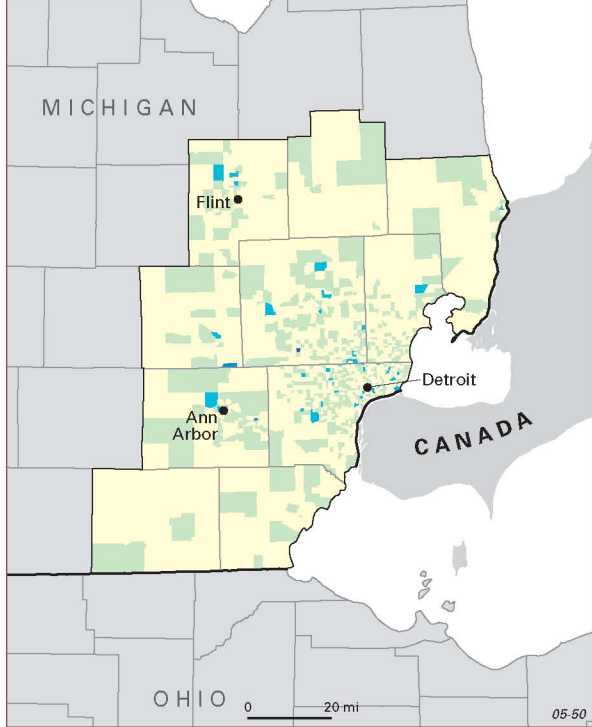




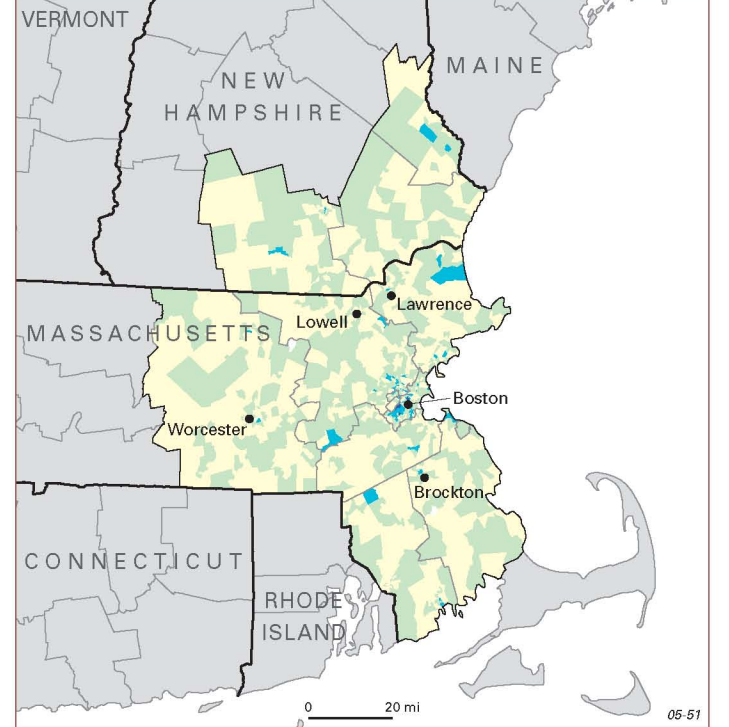
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI



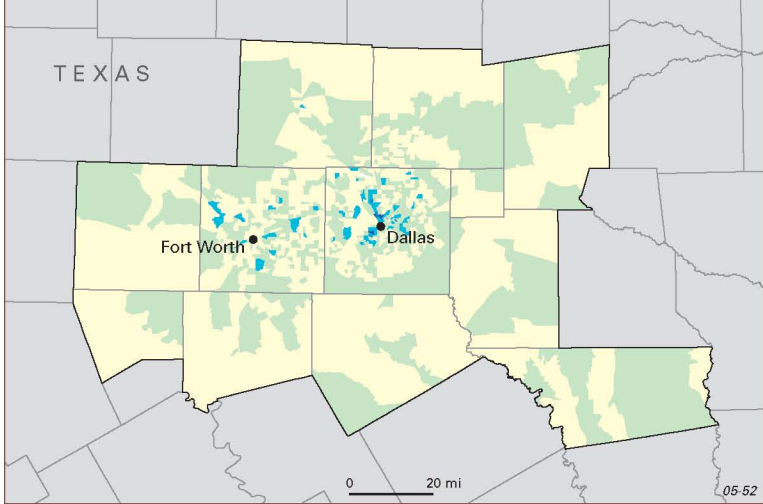
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI



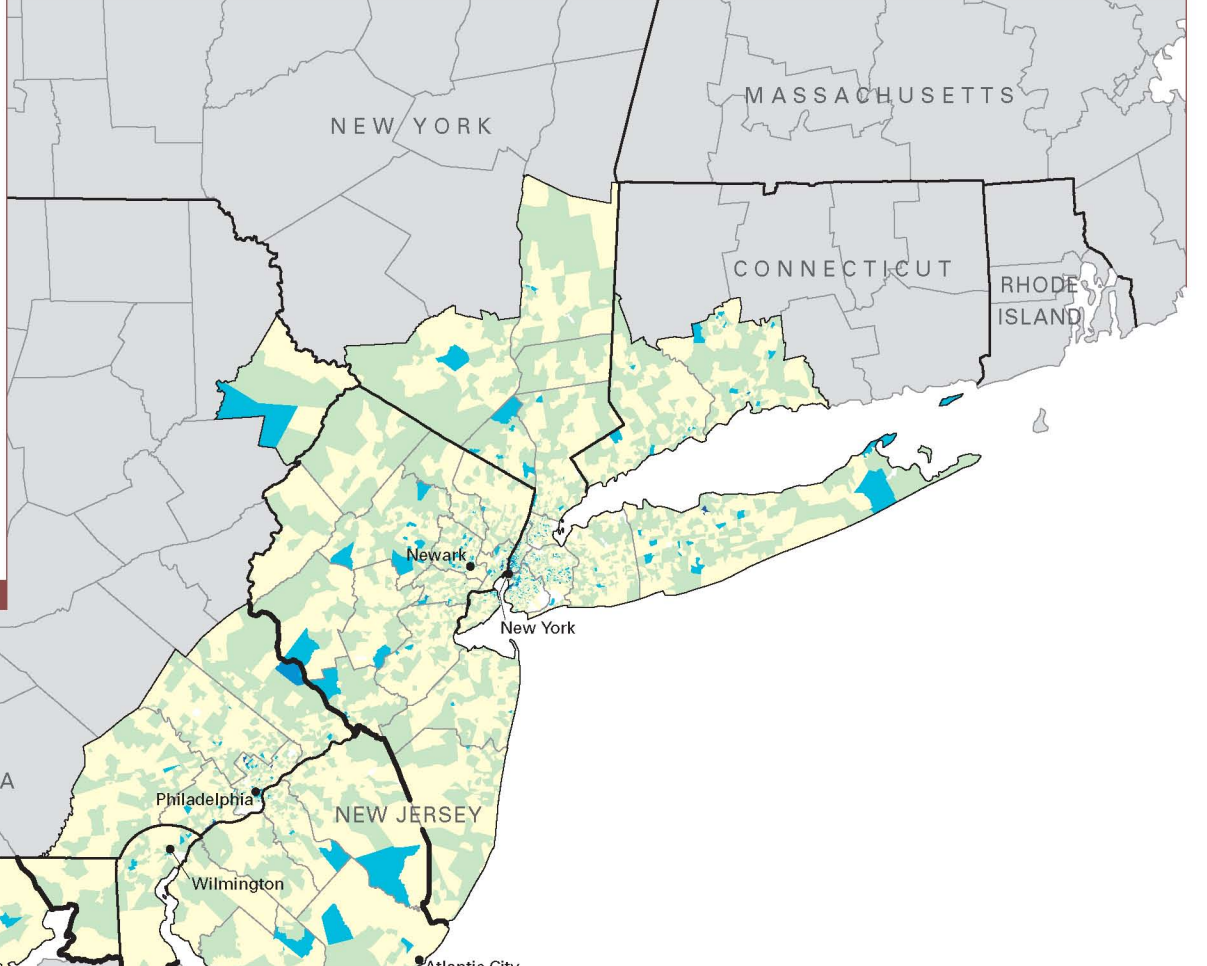
Boston-Worcester-Lawrence-Lowell-Brockton, MA-NH



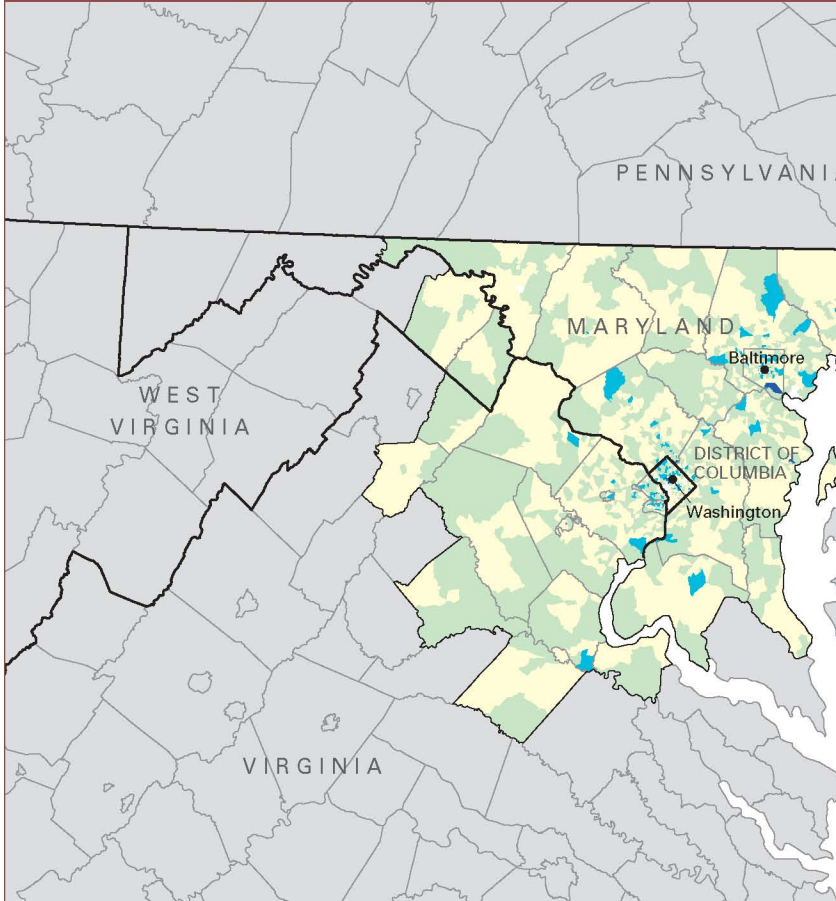
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX



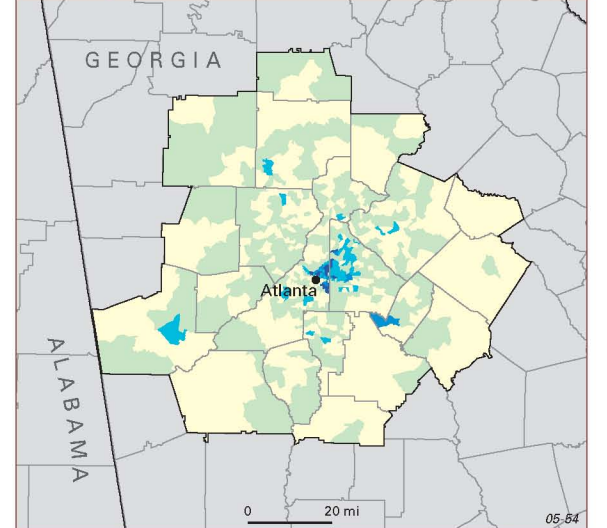
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA



Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD



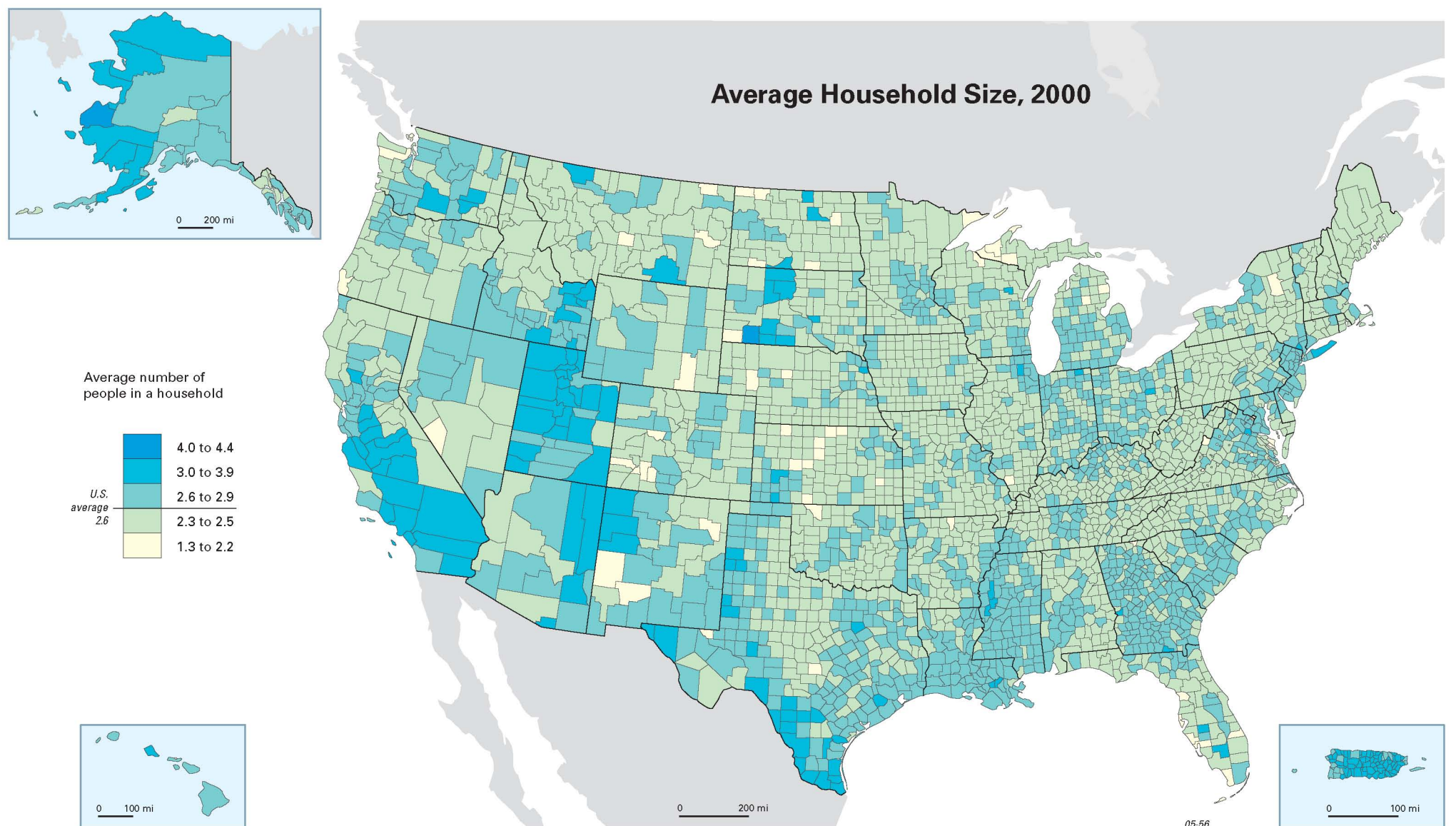
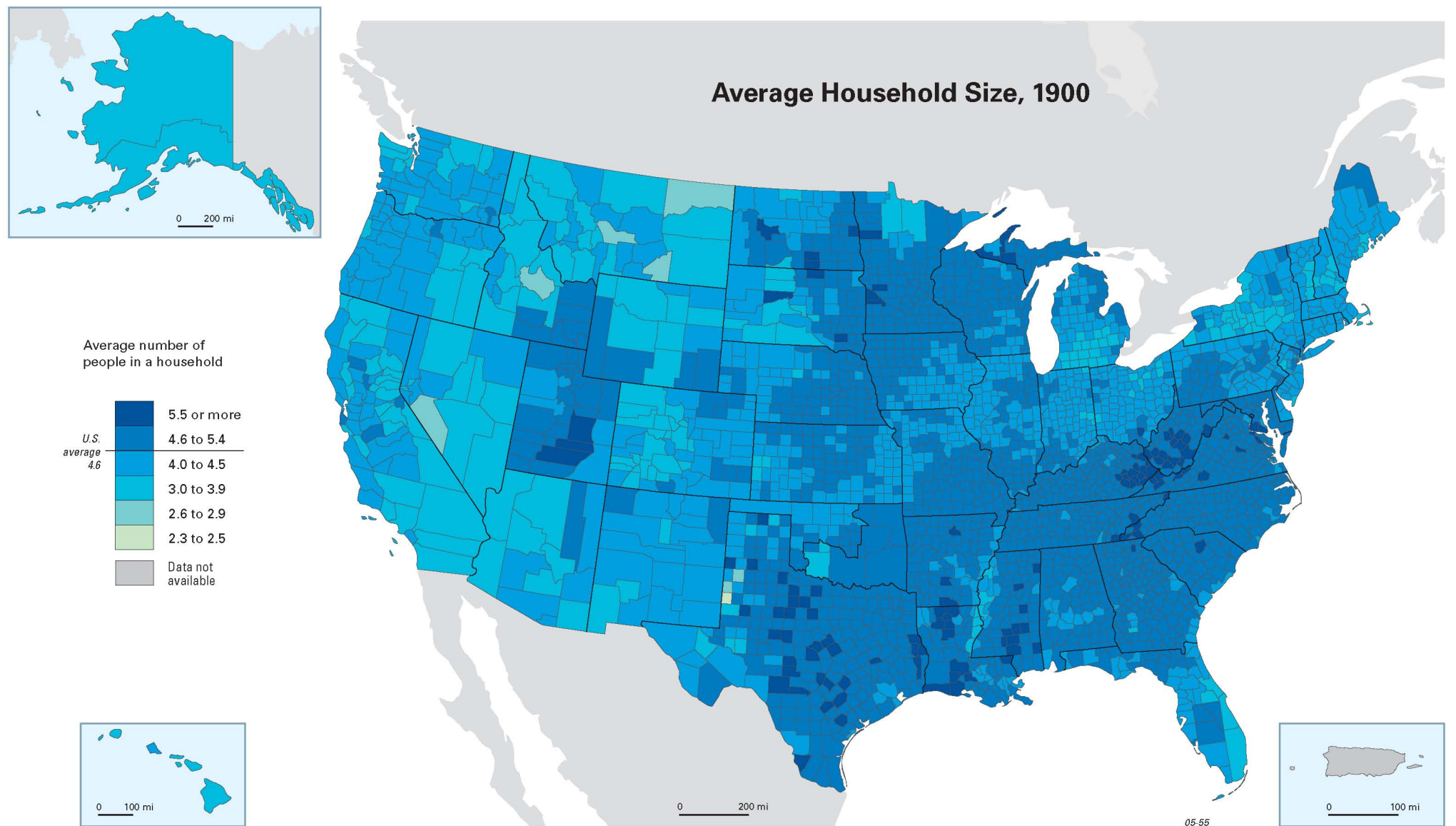
Atlanta, GA



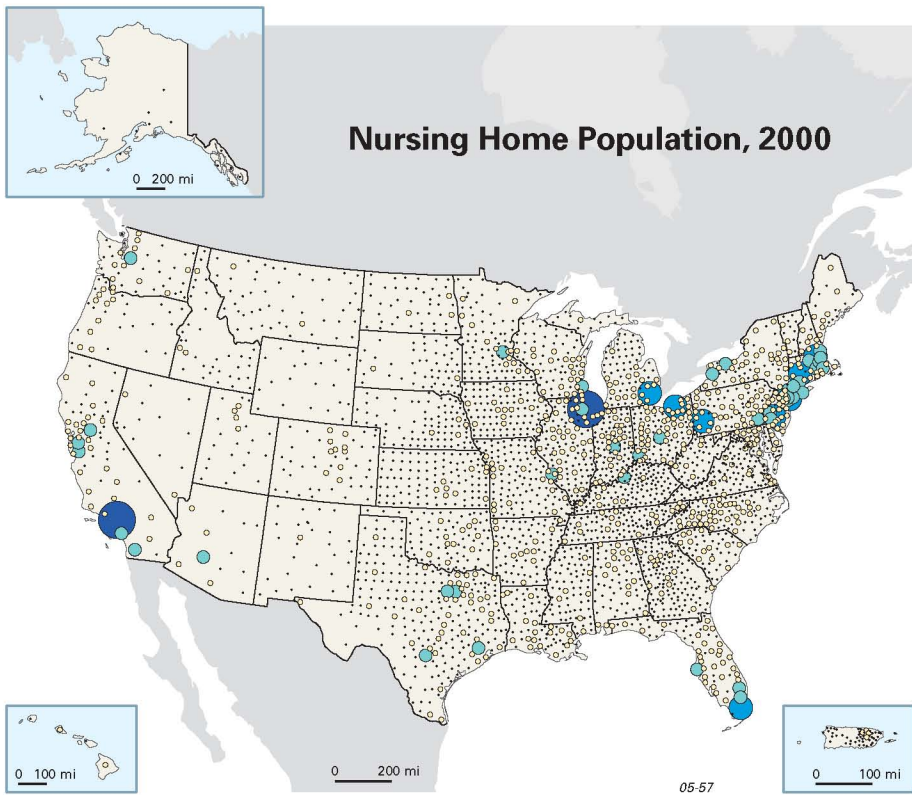
Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV





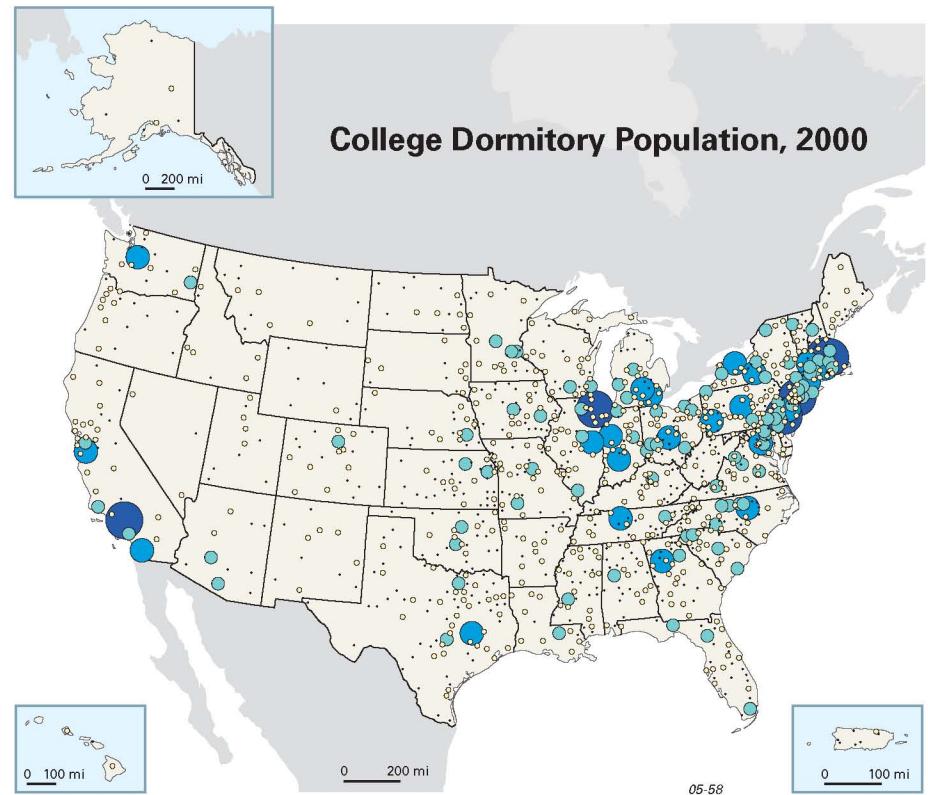






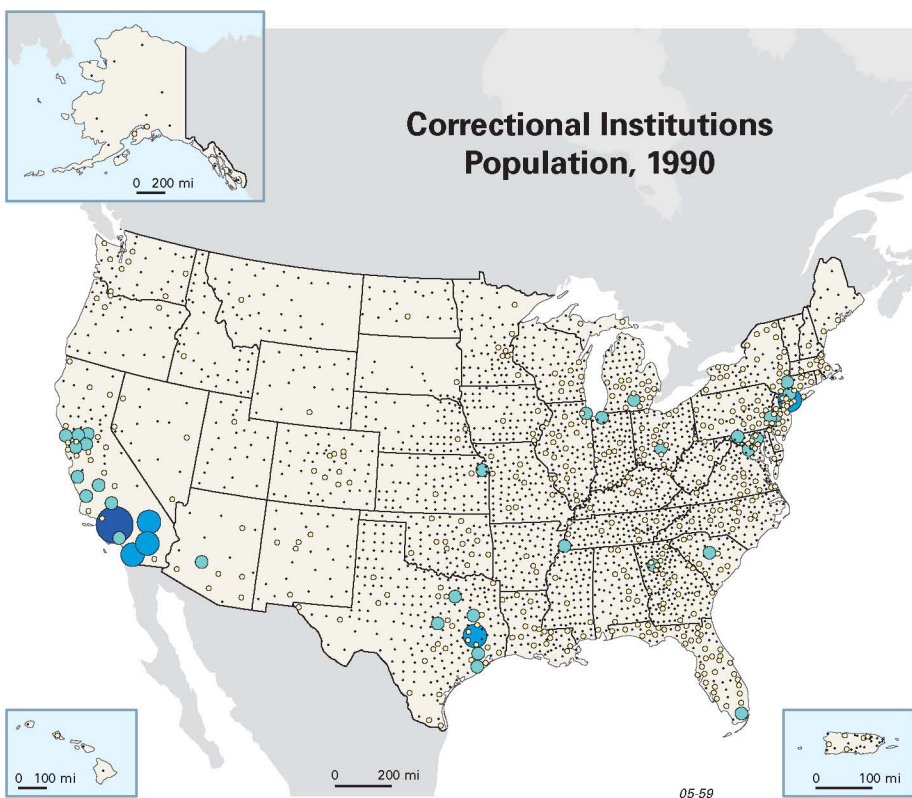
Number of people in nursing homes by county

- 20,000 to 37,000
- 10,000 to 19,999
- 5,000 to 9,999
- 500 to 4,999
- 1 to 499



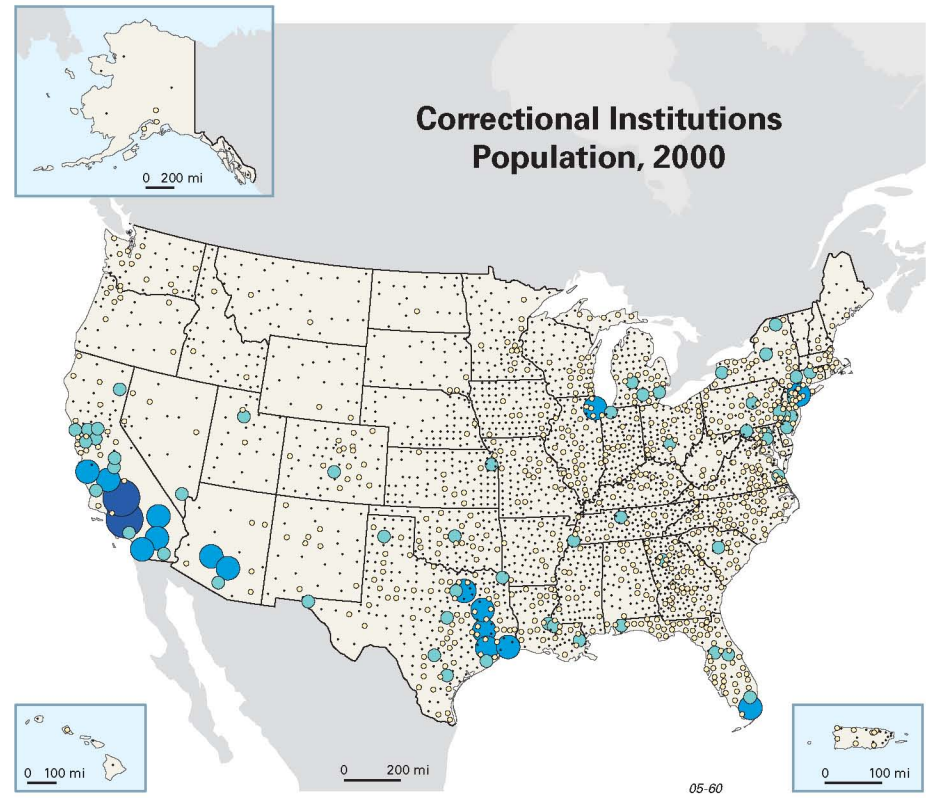
Number of people in dormitories, university-owned off-campus housing, and fraternity and sorority houses by county

- 20,000 to 42,000
- 10,000 to 19,999
- 5,000 to 9,999
- 500 to 4,999
- 1 to 499



Number of people in prisons, jails, and other confinement facilities by county

- 20,000 to 29,000
- 10,000 to 19,999
- 5,000 to 9,999
- 500 to 4,999
- 1 to 499



Number of people in prisons, jails, and other confinement facilities by county

- 20,000 to 29,000
- 10,000 to 19,999
- 5,000 to 9,999
- 500 to 4,999
- 1 to 499



