

# **A Demographic Evaluation of the Stability of the ACS Annual Estimates and Multi-year Estimates in Selected ACS Test Sites**

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# Background

Nearly every study that has assessed the stability of the emerging ACS results has looked at the total population.

An important product of the census results is the classification of the demographic and socioeconomic data by race and Hispanic origin (e.g., SF-4 from Census 2000).

# Background

This presentation uses a special file from the Multi-year Estimates Study to examine the consistency of the ACS results at the county level for race and Hispanic origin groups.

We examine 1-year for race/origin groups of 65,000 or more population.

# Background

We examine 3-year estimates for race/origin groups from 20,000 to 65,000 in population size.

We examine 5-year estimates for race/origin groups of less than 20,000 in population size.

The census estimates for 1990 and 2000 are included as benchmarks to assess the stability of the ACS results.

# Background

Two population characteristics are the focus of this presentation: the poverty rate and the percent of housing units that are owner-occupied.

The poverty rate is a key characteristic of interest.

The ownership rate is a characteristic that should not change much over short time intervals—this variable is a good test of ACS stability for race/origin groups.

# Background

This demographic evaluation addresses the following research questions:

1. Do the differentials in the ACS estimates by race and Hispanic origin appear to be reasonable?
2. Are the measured differentials stable over time and consistent with the census benchmarks?

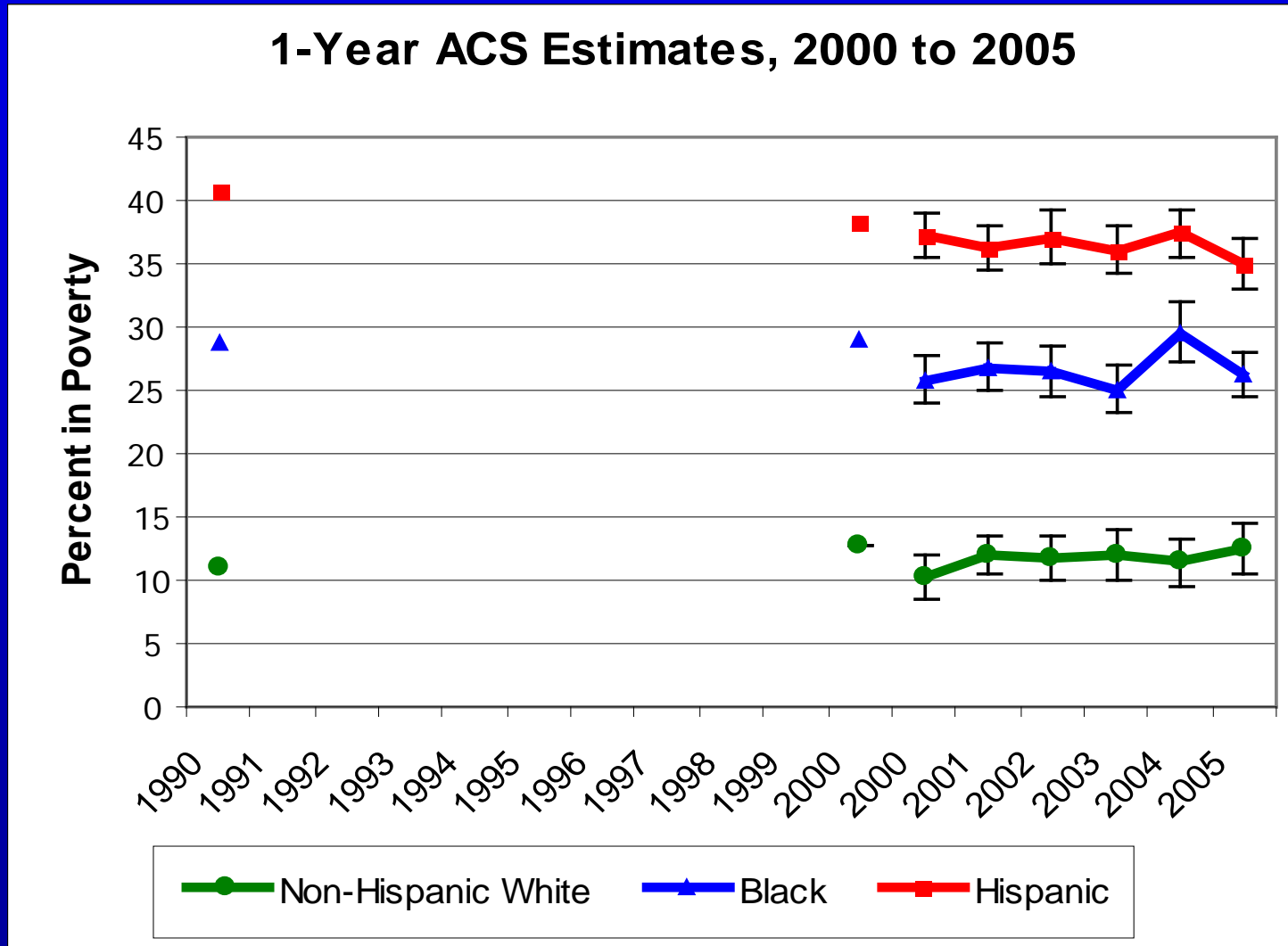
# Results

The following graphs illustrate the general consistency of the differential poverty rates and ownership rates based on the ACS estimates.

For the 1-year ACS estimates, the consistency of the time series is clearly improved by using 3-year estimates.

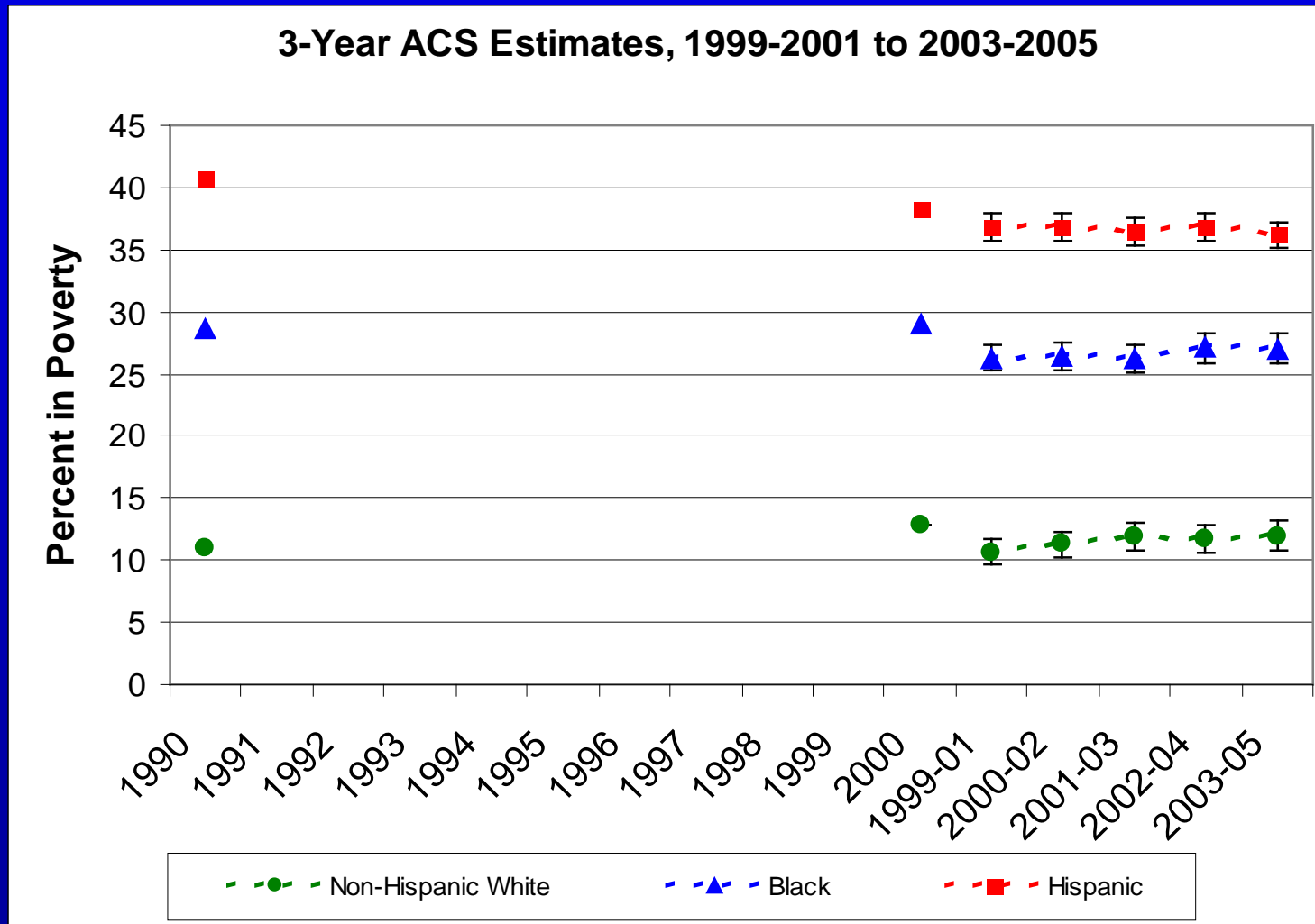
The confidence interval can be wide for the 5-year estimates, but the differentials tend to be consistently measured.

# Poverty Rates for Race/Origin Groups based on Census Data (1990, 2000) and ACS Estimates: Bronx County, NY

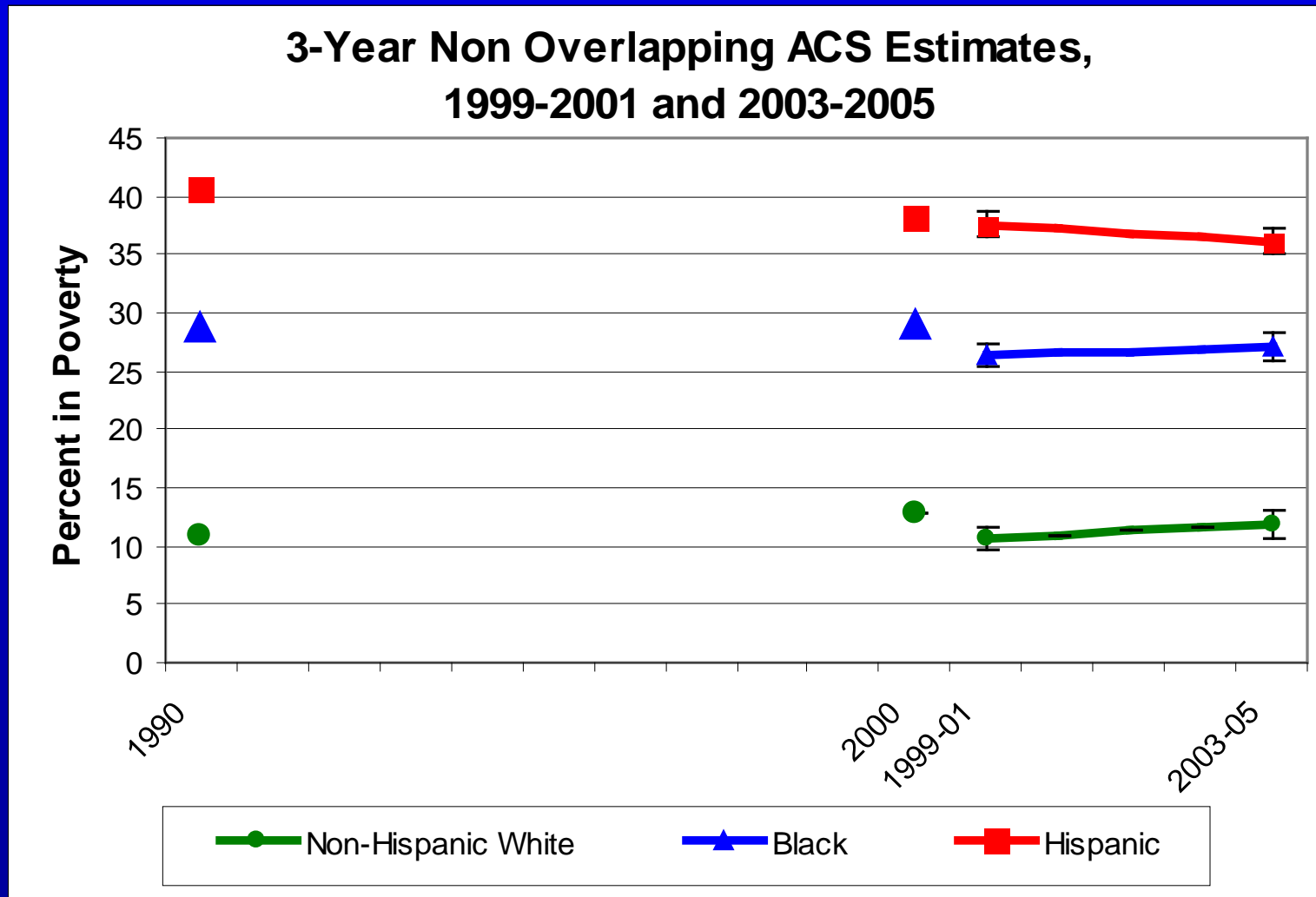




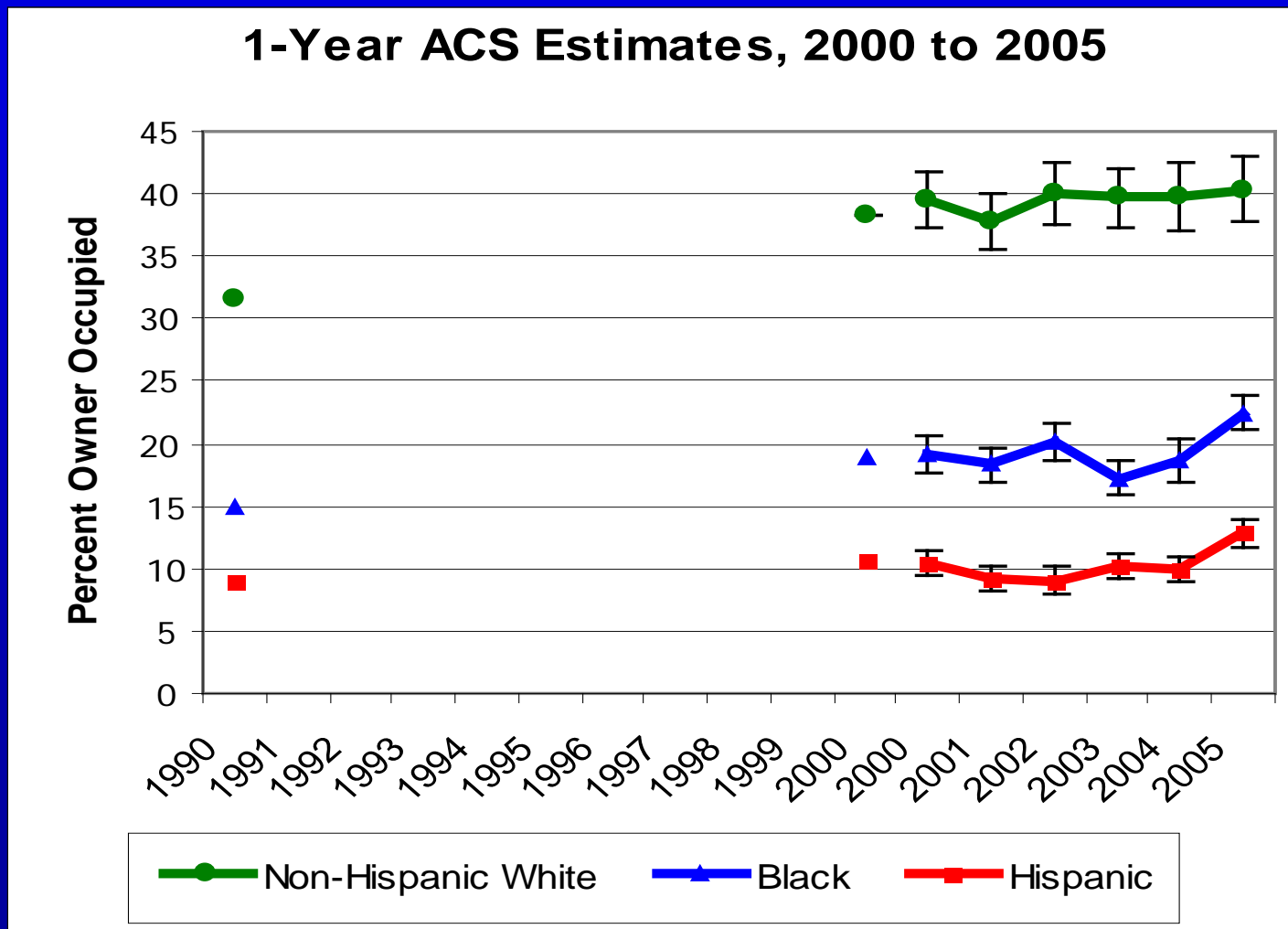
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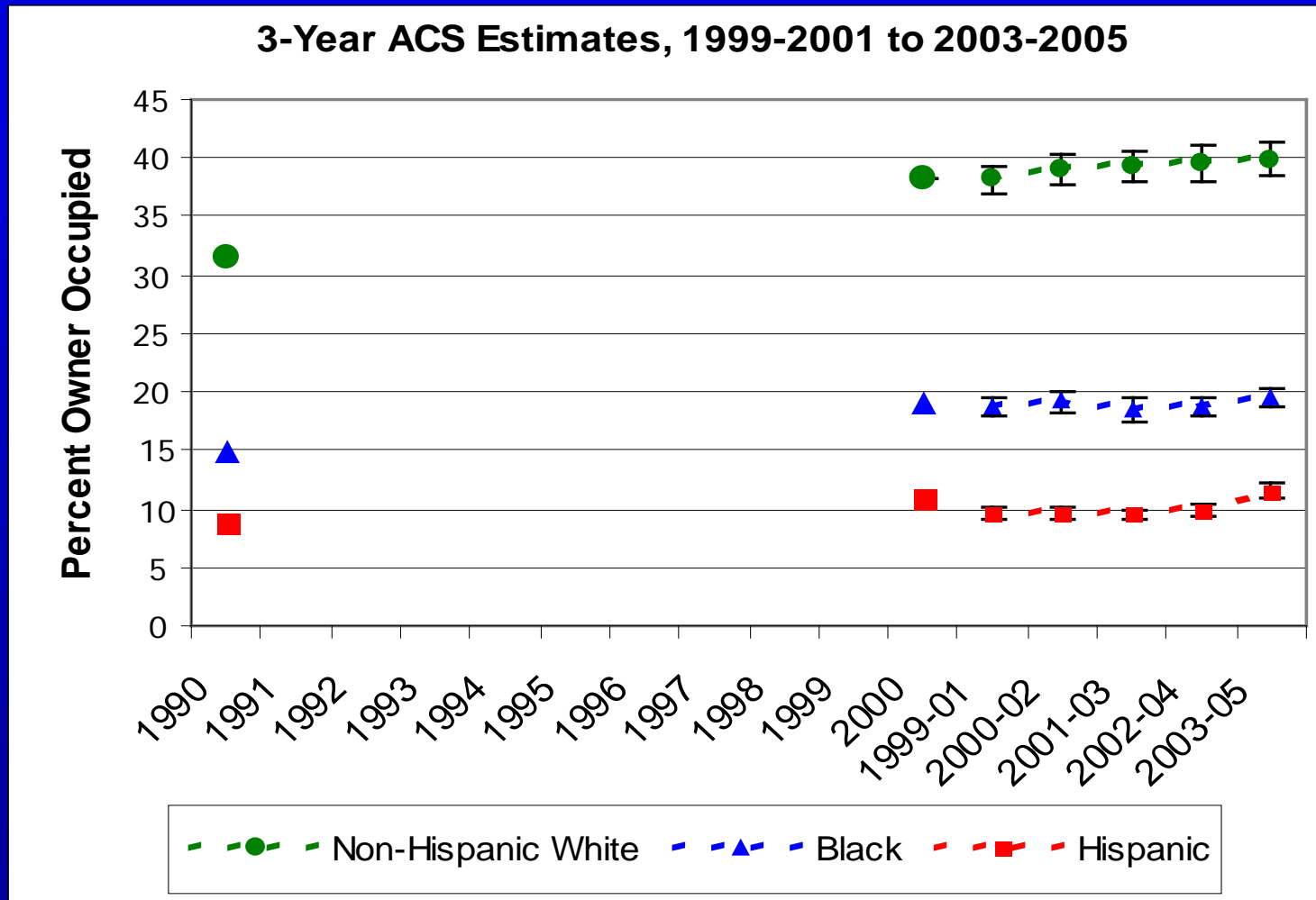
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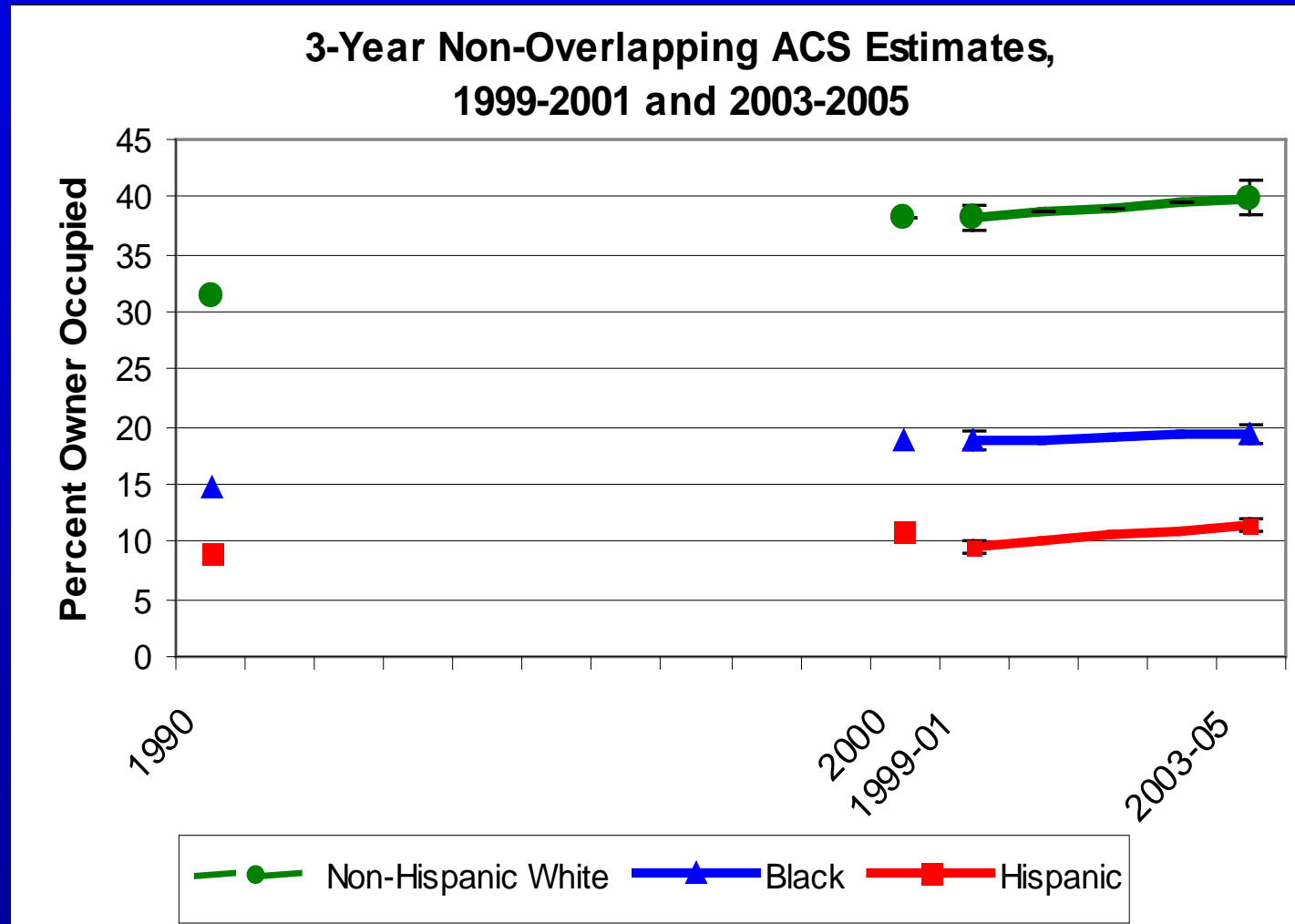
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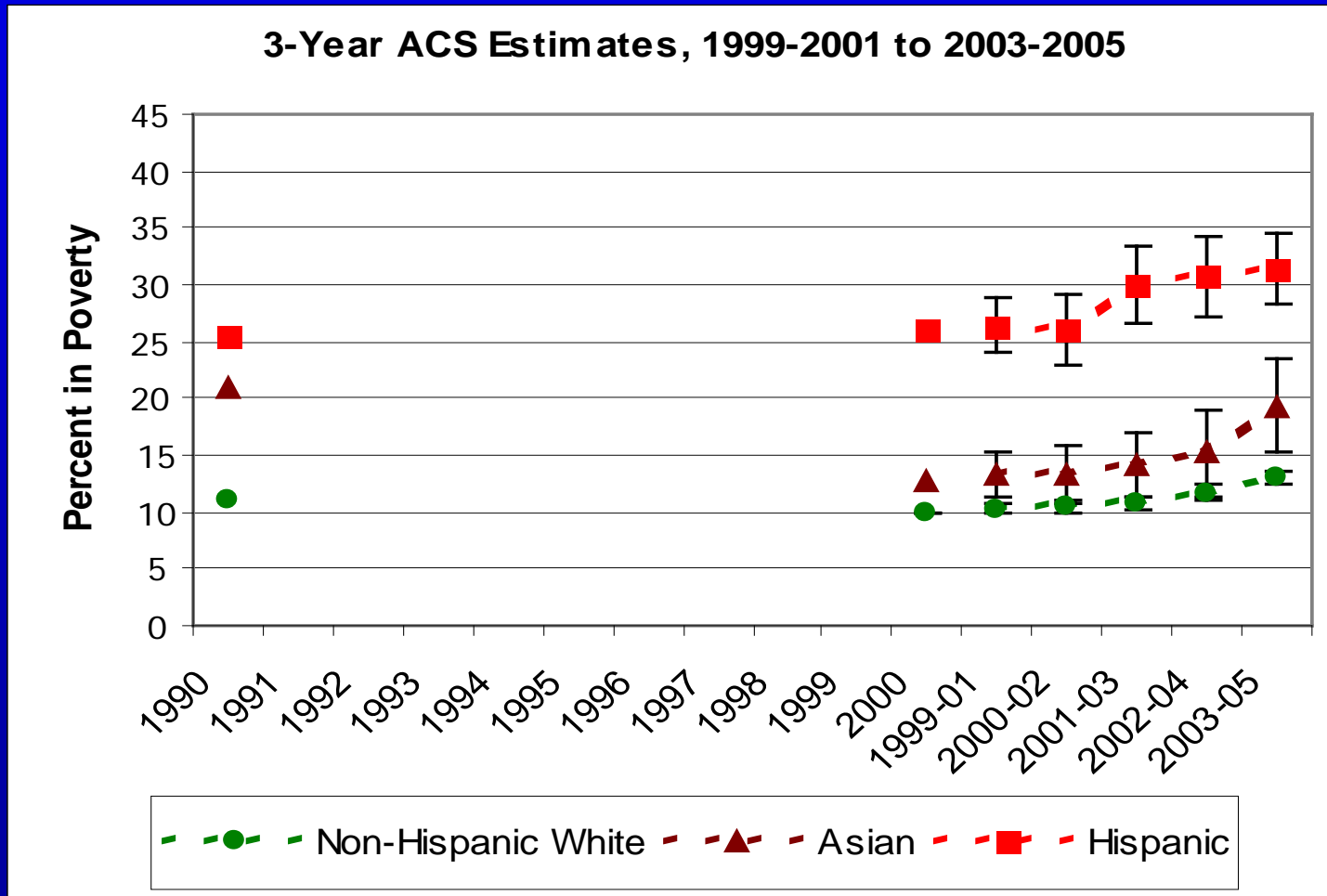
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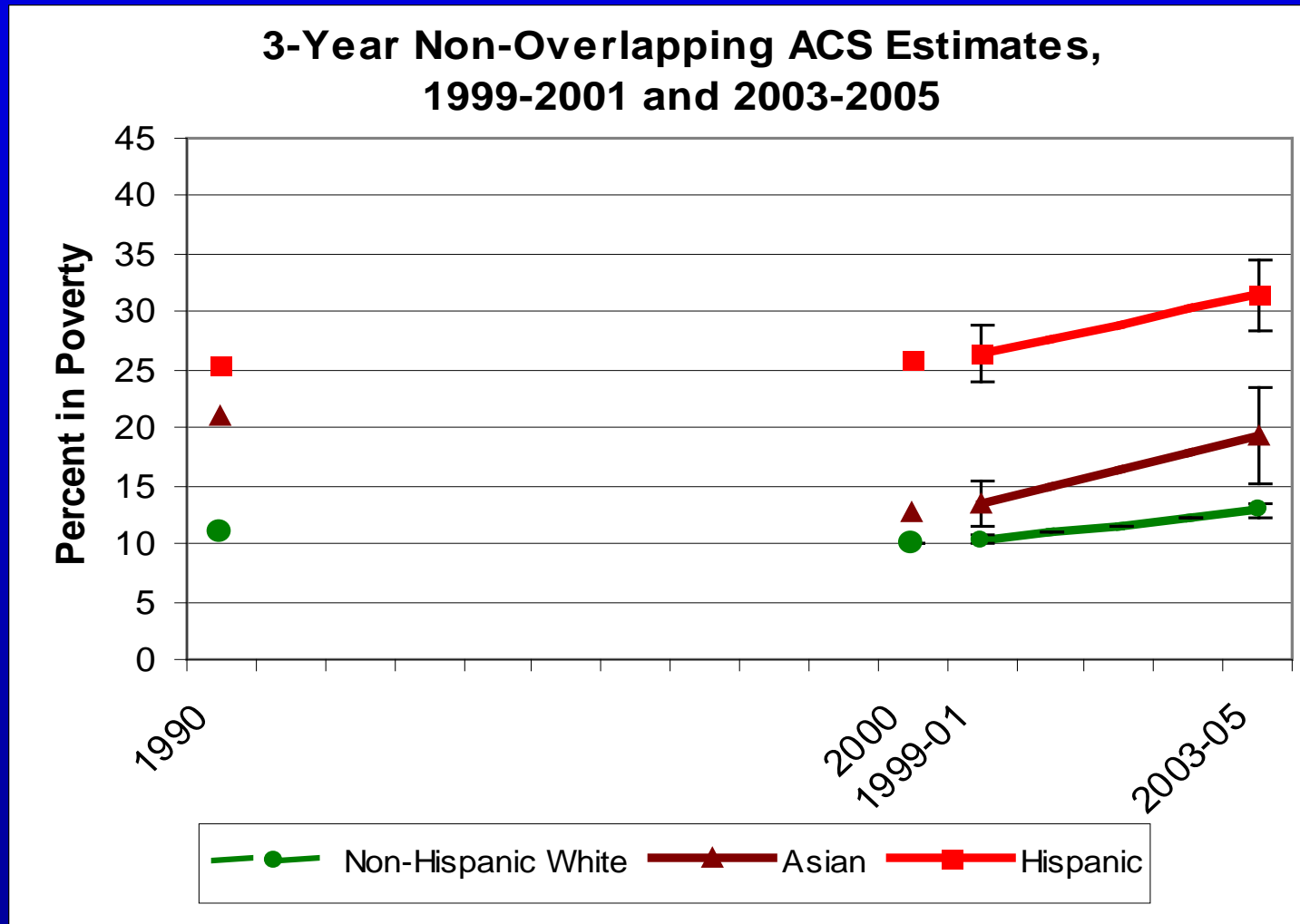
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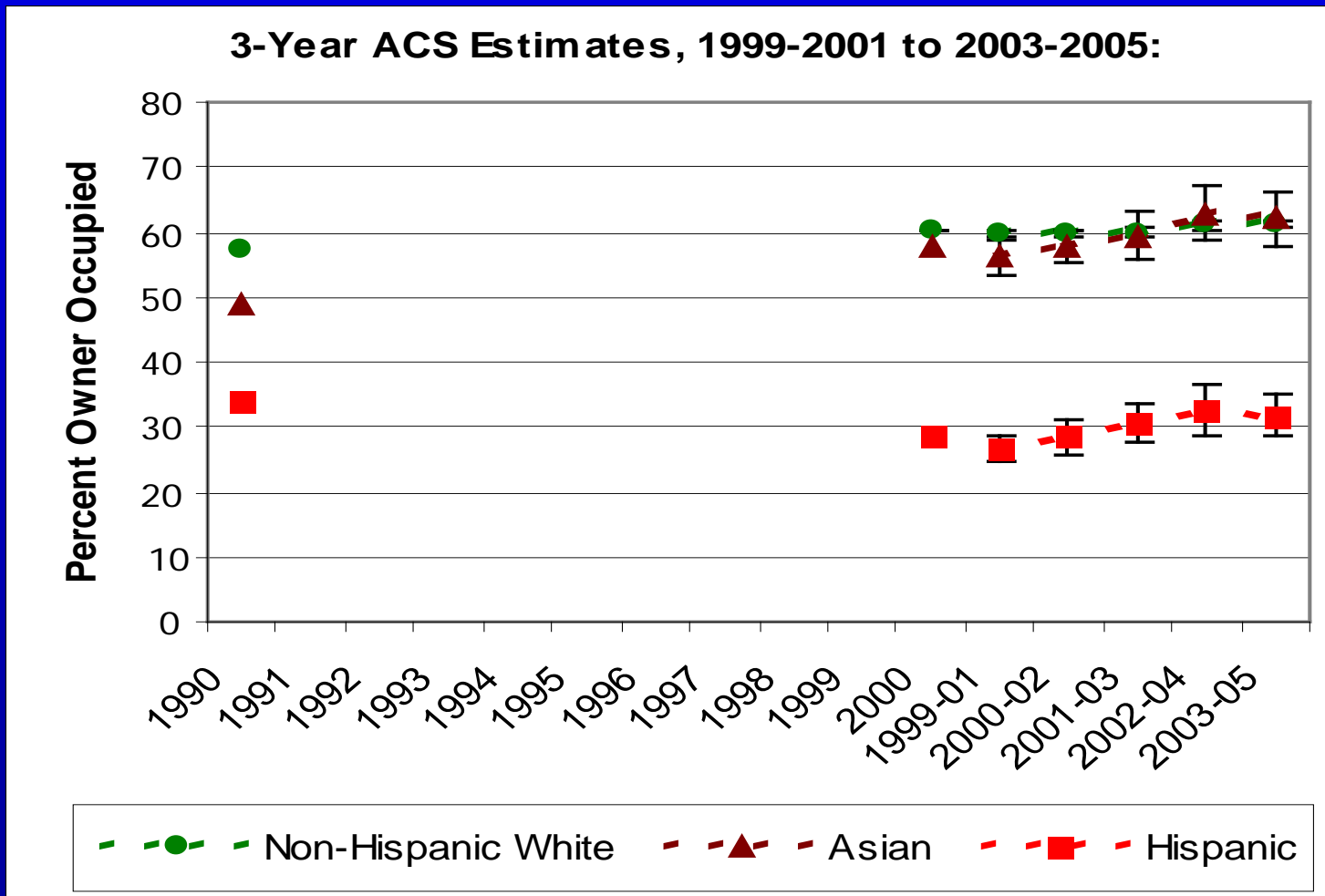
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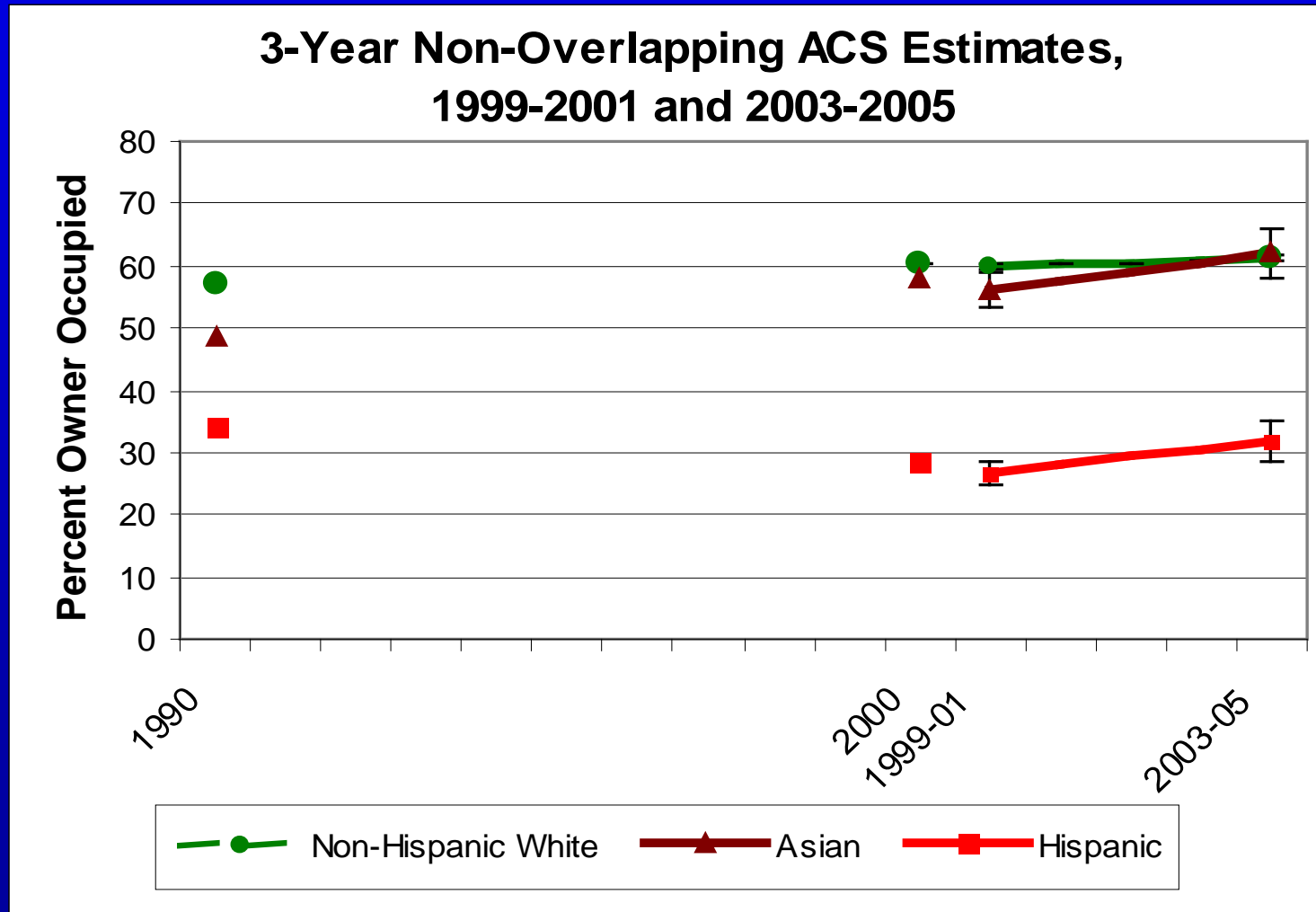


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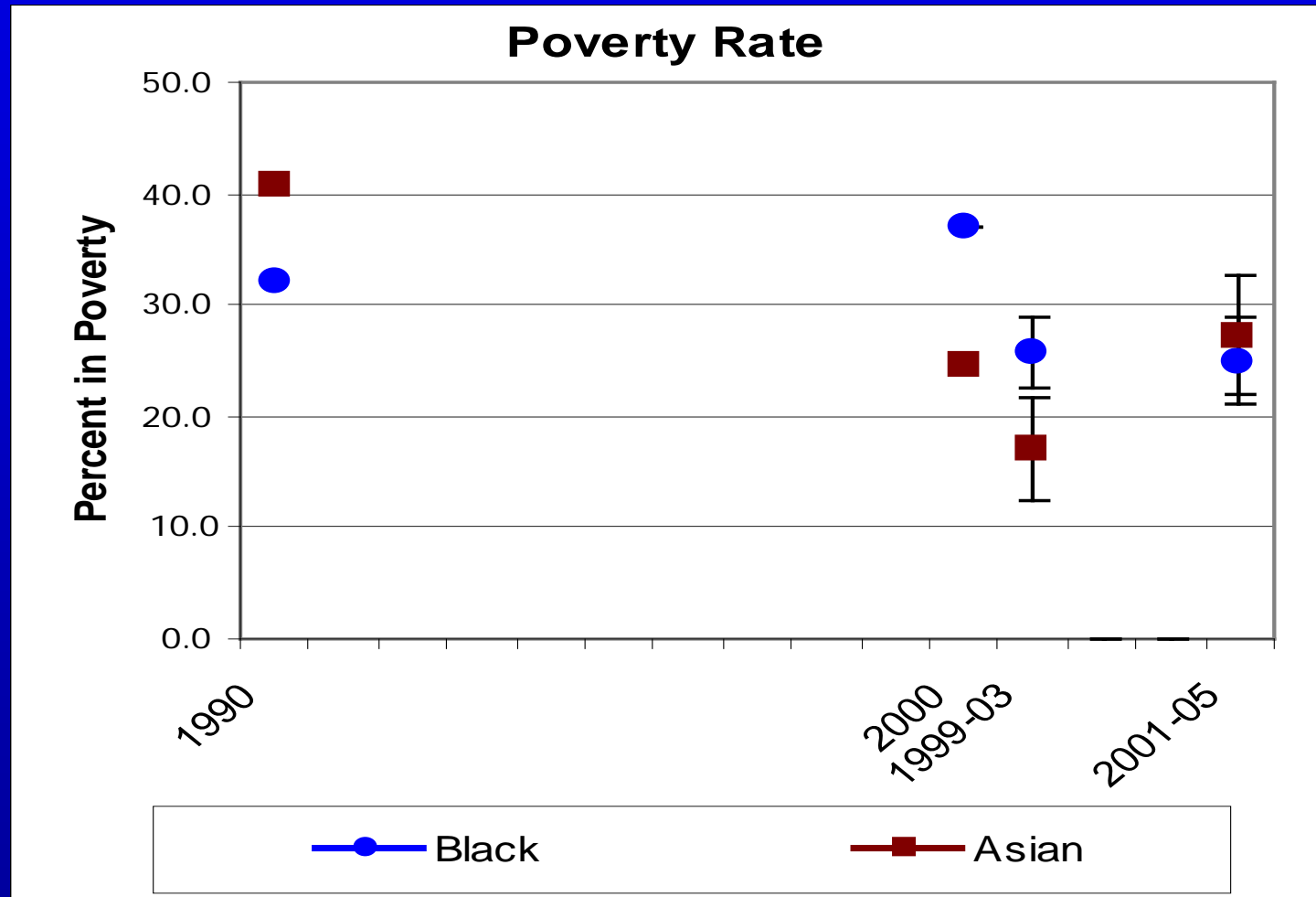




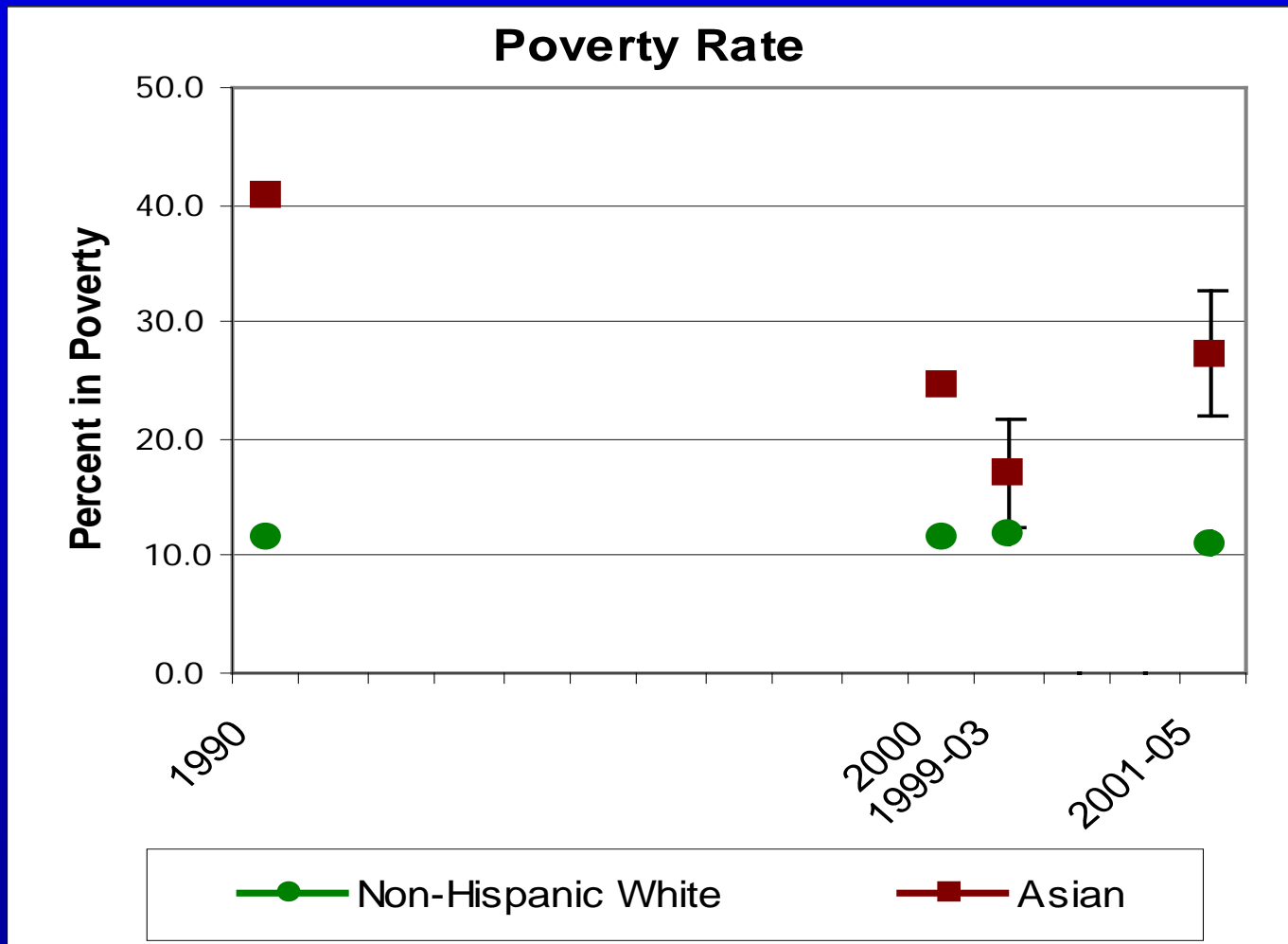
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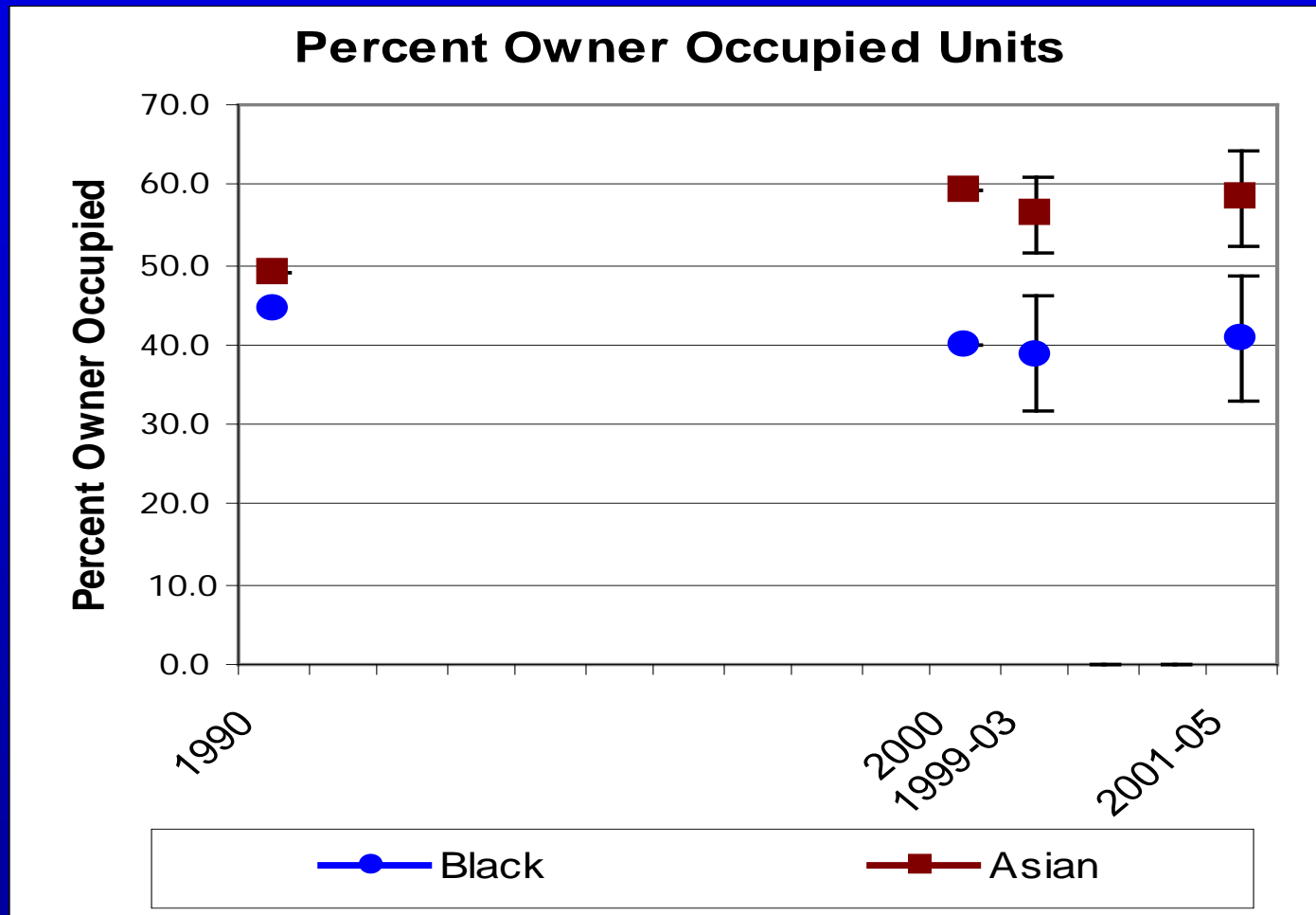
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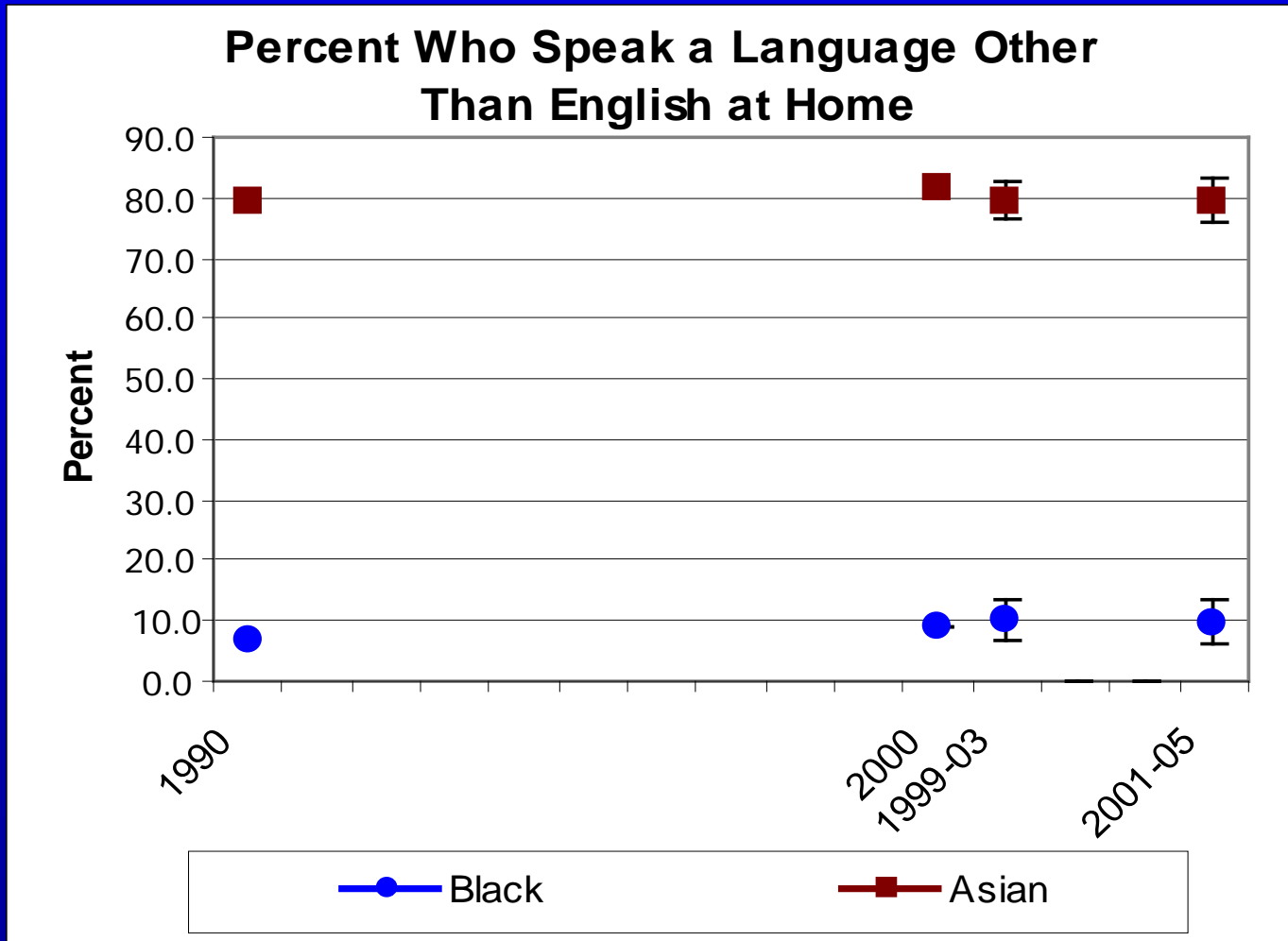
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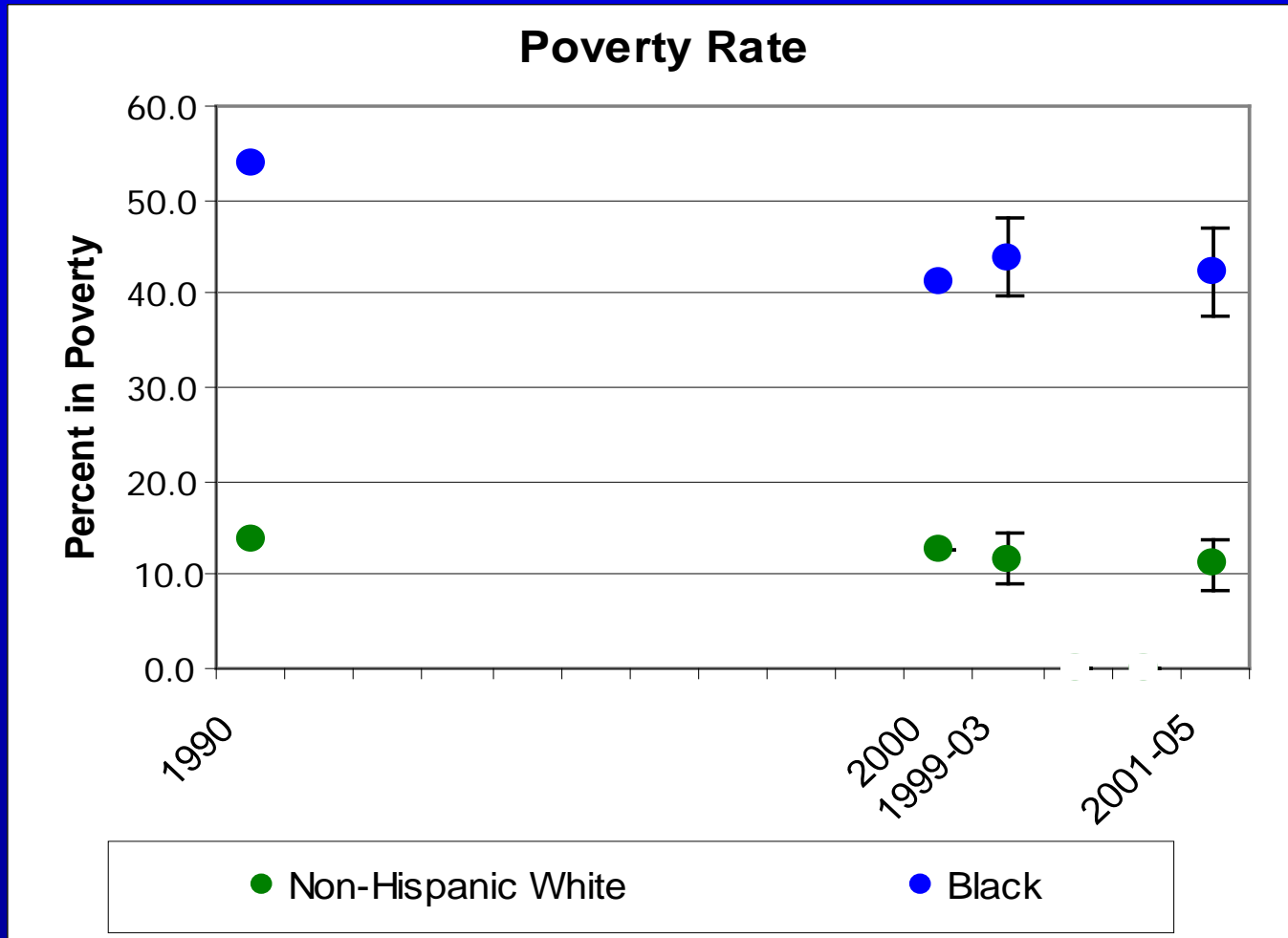
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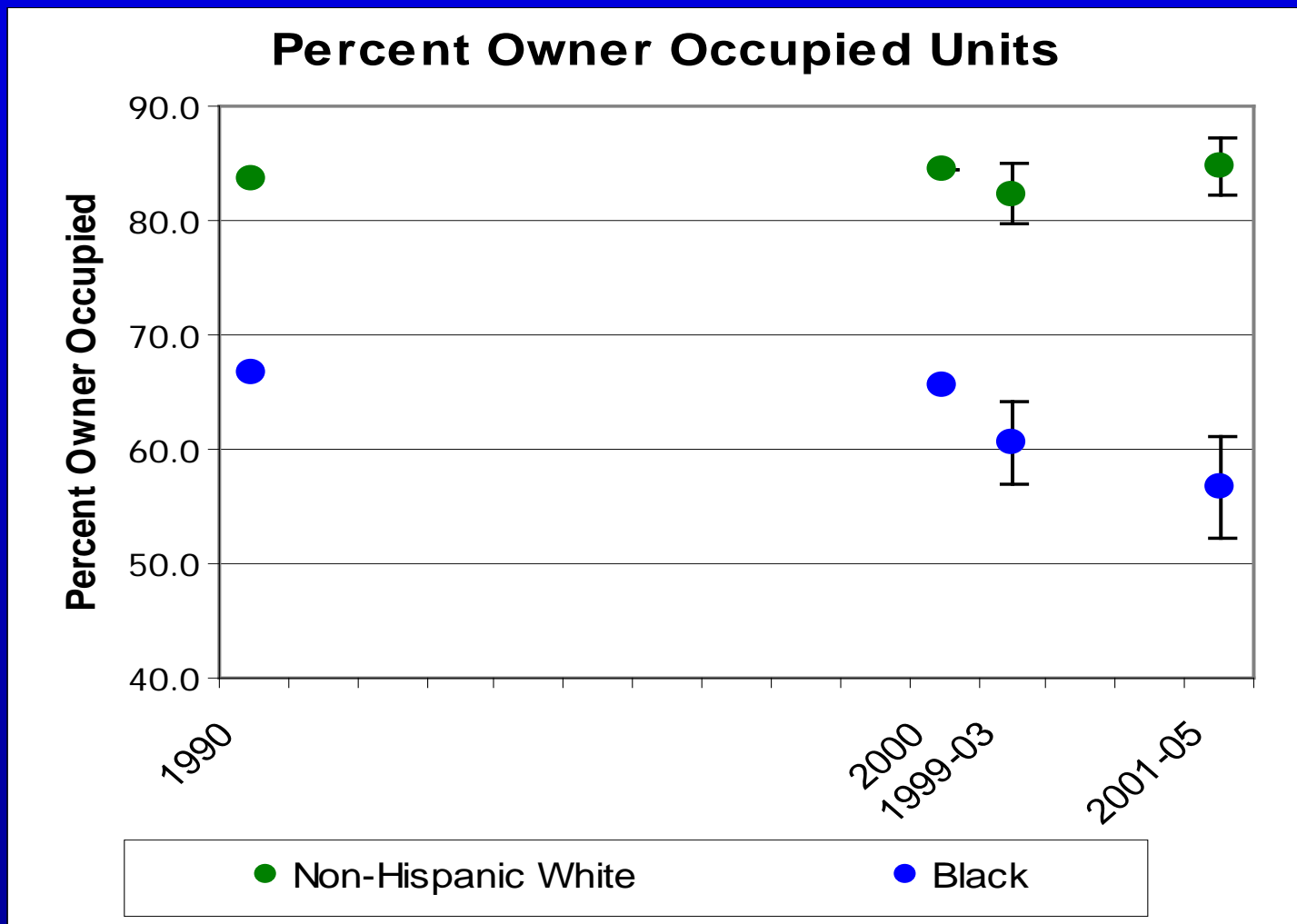
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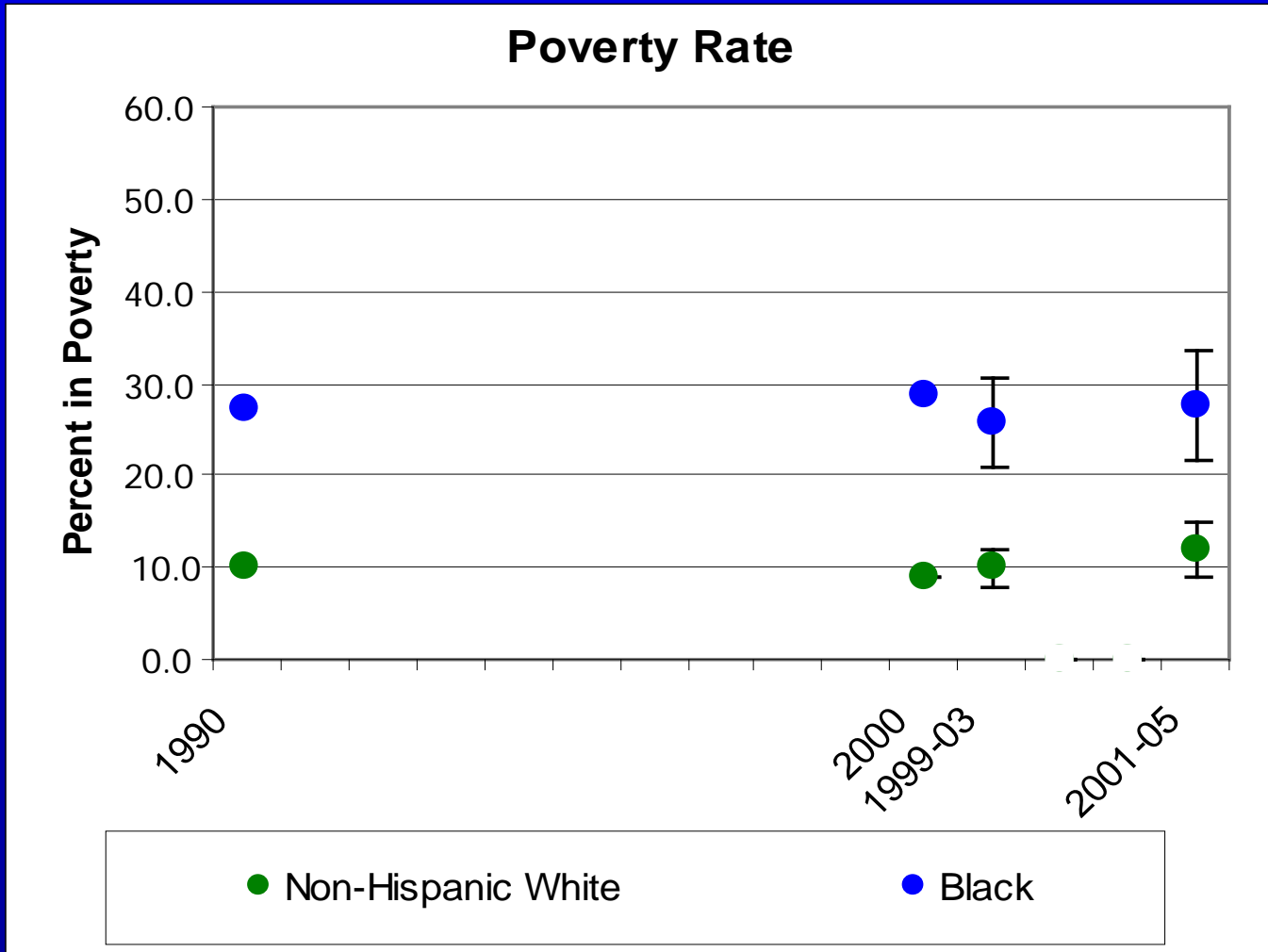
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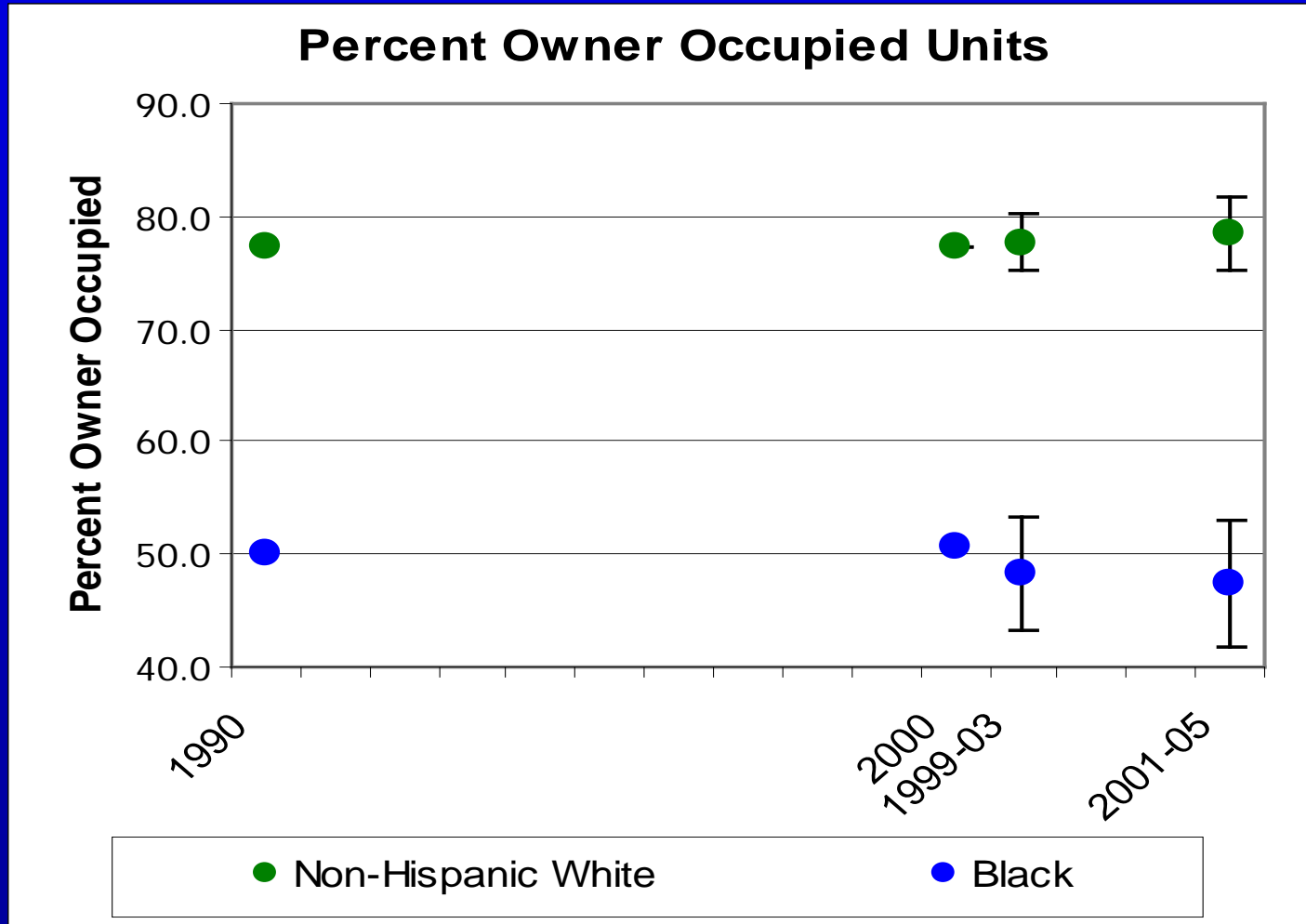


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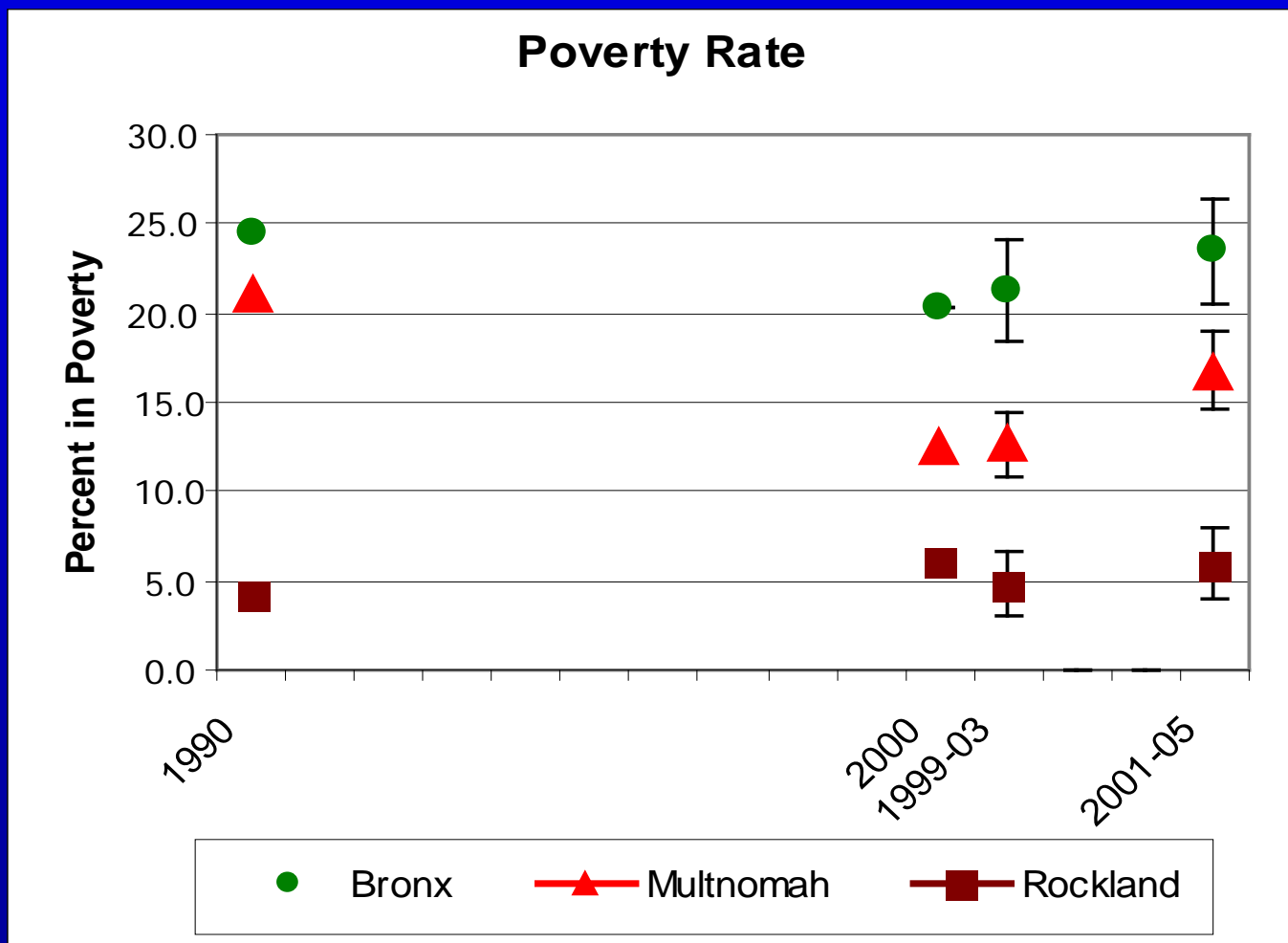




# Census Data (1990, 2000) and 5-Year ACS Estimates (1999-2003 and 2001-2005) for Selected Characteristics: Upson County, GA



# Census Data (1990, 2000) and 5-Year ACS Estimates (1999-2003 and 2001-2005): Poverty Rates for the Asian Alone Population for Selected Counties



## Next Steps

The Multi-year Research File for race/origin groups needs to be systematically analyzed, including more characteristics and providing summary measures of stability (such as CVs and consistency with Census 2000 benchmarks).

Working with the race/origin data will help focus on the use, presentation, and interpretation of the ACS multi-year estimates.