



HOUSING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL

Rural Research Brief

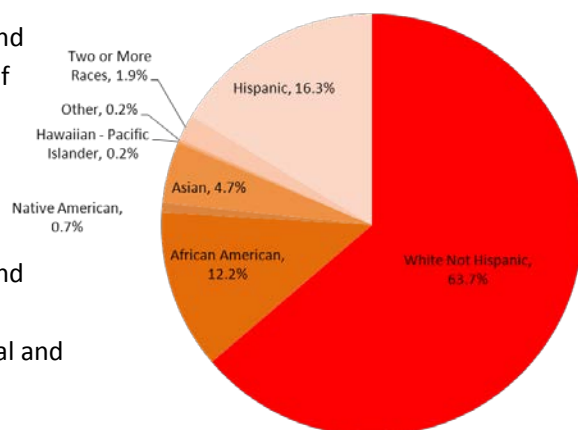


Race & Ethnicity in Rural America

Race is a central and often complex component of our national identity and history. Rural and small town areas have traditionally not been as racially or ethnically diverse as the nation overall. The 2010 Census reports that approximately 78 percent of the population in rural and small town communities are white and non-Hispanic, compared to 64 percent of the population in the nation as a whole. In the year 2000, African Americans were the largest minority group in rural and small town areas. However, as of 2010 Hispanics comprise 9.3 percent of the rural population, surpassing African Americans (8.2 percent) as the largest minority group in rural and small town areas. Less than two percent of the population in rural and

small town areas identifies as Native American, but more than half of all Native Americans reside in rural or small town areas. Approximately 1.5 percent of rural and small town residents are of more than two races, which is consistent with the national level.

Race & Ethnicity, United States, 2010



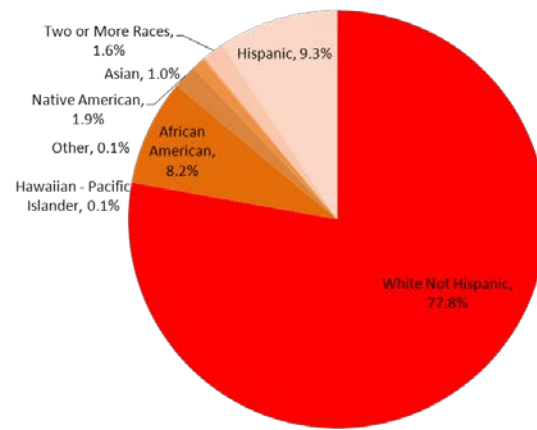
ABOUT THIS SERIES

Race & Ethnicity in Rural America is the third in a series of *Rural Research Briefs* presenting data and findings from the 2010 Census and American Community Survey (ACS).

The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) presents *Rural Research Briefs* highlighting various social, economic, and housing characteristics of rural Americans.

The *Rural Research Briefs* series complement HAC's decennial *Taking Stock* report - a comprehensive assessment of rural America and its housing. Since the 1980s, HAC has presented *Taking Stock* every ten years following the release of Census data. The newest *Taking Stock* report was published in 2012.

Race & Ethnicity, Rural & Small Town, 2010



Minorities in Rural & Small Town Areas

Racial and ethnic minorities comprise a relatively smaller proportion of rural and small town populations than for the nation as a whole. These dynamics are in part a factor of 20th Century demographic trends and events.

In the "Great Migration," large numbers of rural African Americans moved from the South to cities in the North and East. Additionally there has been a tendency for recent immigrants to settle in urban areas.

The location and concentration of minorities in rural areas and small towns often differ from those of the nation as a whole. Many rural minorities are clustered geographically in regions closely tied to historical social and economic dynamics. For example, nearly 9 out of 10 rural and small town African Americans reside in the Southern region of the United States. Rural African Americans comprise an even larger portion of the population in the southern "Black Belt" communities of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia, as well as the Lower Mississippi Delta states of Arkansas,

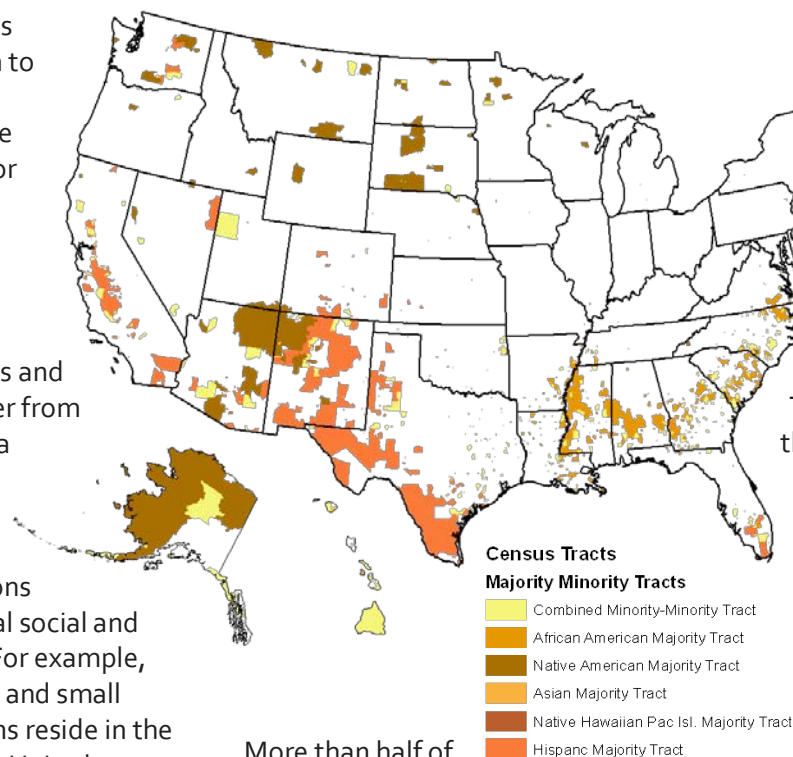
Mississippi, and Louisiana. Large numbers of rural Native Americans reside on or near Native American reservations and trust lands in the Midwest plains, the Southwest, and Alaska.

struggles, and increased self-determination, the experiences and conditions of rural minorities are often overlooked given their relatively small populations.

Moreover, it is often assumed that the conditions that led to these upheavals have been addressed. However, for many rural minorities, especially those living in communities that have large minority populations, social and economic conditions continue to lag far behind those of their white counterparts and urban populations overall.

This harsh fact is most apparent in the housing conditions in which many rural minorities continue to live. Housing characteristics for minorities in rural areas are often worse than those for rural whites or all households nationally. Rural minorities are more likely to live in substandard and cost-burdened housing, and are more likely to be poor. The geographic isolation and relative segregation of rural minorities living in majority-minority census tracts continues to be an important component of poverty and substandard housing in many rural and small town communities.

Rural & Small Town Majority-Minority Census Tracts, 2010



More than half of all rural and small town Hispanics are concentrated in the four states of Texas, California, New Mexico, and Arizona. In fact, just under one-quarter of all rural and small town Hispanics live in Texas alone.


Despite advances made through the civil rights movement, labor

Many rural minorities are clustered geographically in regions closely tied to historical social and economic dynamics.

FAST FACTS


77.8%

White Not Hispanics as a percentage of total Rural and Small Town population



1.9 Million

Increase in the number of Rural and Small Town Hispanics between 2000 and 2010



53.8%

Percent of nation's Native Americans that reside in Rural and Small Town areas



A NOTE ABOUT RACE AND ETHNICITY IN THE CENSUS*

Race

In the 2010 Census, data on race were derived from answers to the question on race that was asked of all people. The U.S. Census Bureau collects race data in accordance with guidelines provided by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Race data in the Census are based on self-identification. The racial categories included in the Census questionnaire generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in this country and is not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically. People answering the Census questionnaire could choose to report more than one race to indicate their racial mixture. The primary racial classifications presented by the U.S. Census Bureau include, White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian Islander or Other Pacific Islander, Some Other Race, and, Two or More Races.

Hispanic Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino refers to persons of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. Hispanic origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be any race. For the purposes of this Research Note, persons identifying as Hispanic are classified as a distinct ethnic category alongside other racial groups.

For more information on race and ethnicity in the 2010 Census please consult the U.S. Census Bureau's website, <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf>.

*Portions excerpted from 2010 Census Summary File 1. 2010 Census of Population and Housing. Technical Documentation, SF-1/10-2(RV) June 2011.

Minorities Accounted for Three-Quarters of Rural & Small Town Population Growth

Population Change by Race & Ethnicity, 2000 to 2010

The population in rural and small town America increased by roughly 3.5 million between 2000 and 2010. However, this population growth varied widely across racial and ethnic groups. While White Not Hispanics comprise nearly 80 percent of the rural and small town population, they made up less than one-quarter of rural population gain.

One of the more significant demographic trends in the U.S. over the past several decades has been dramatic growth in the Hispanic population. In rural and small town areas the Hispanic population increased by 1.9 million or 46 percent between 2000 and 2010.

In fact, more than half of all rural and small town population growth in the last decade is attributable to Hispanics.

There were modest population gains among rural African Americans (2.9 percent) and Native Americans (7.5 percent). More dramatic population increases occurred among rural and small town Asians, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders and persons of two or more races, all of which experienced double digit population gains in the previous decade. However, these racial groups still comprise less than 3 percent of the total rural and small town population.

ABOUT THE DATA

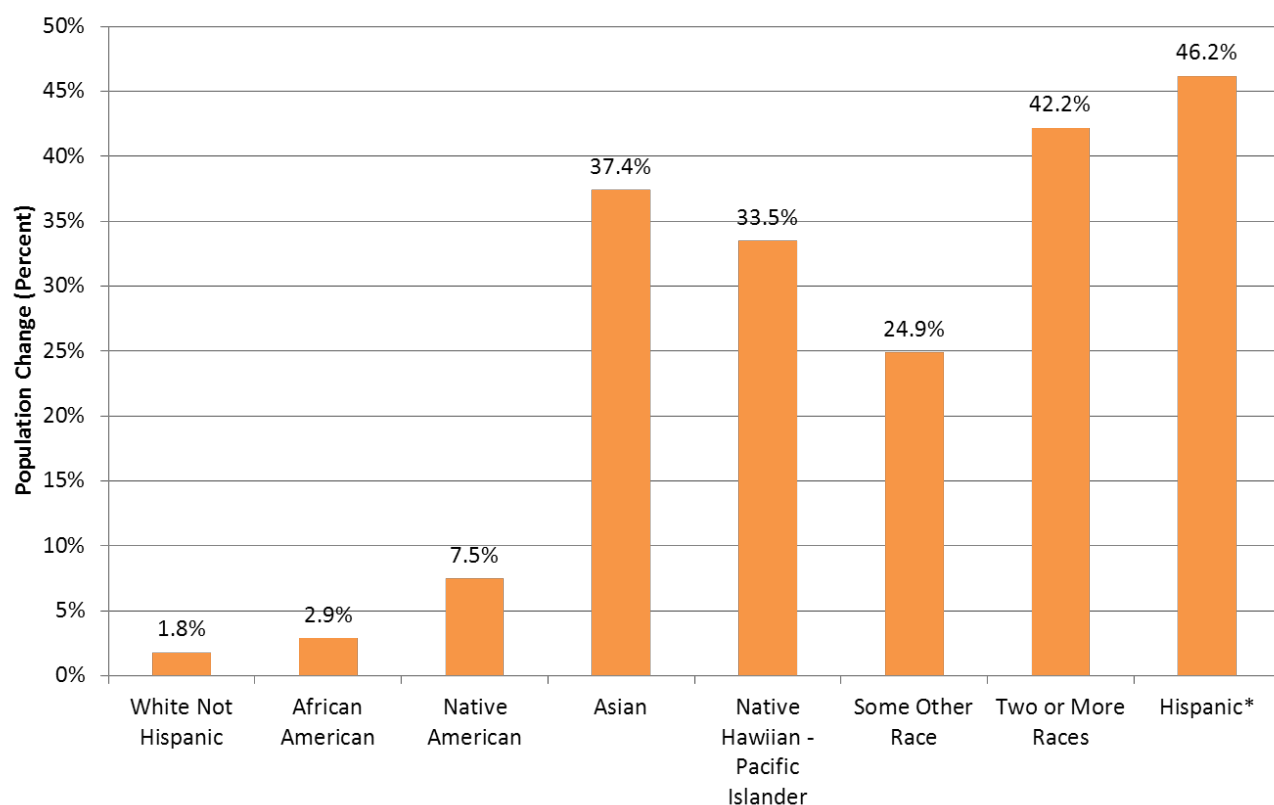
Unless otherwise noted, all data presented in this Research Brief are based on HAC tabulations of the 2010 Census, Summary File -1.

For more information on this Research Brief contact the Housing Assistance Council

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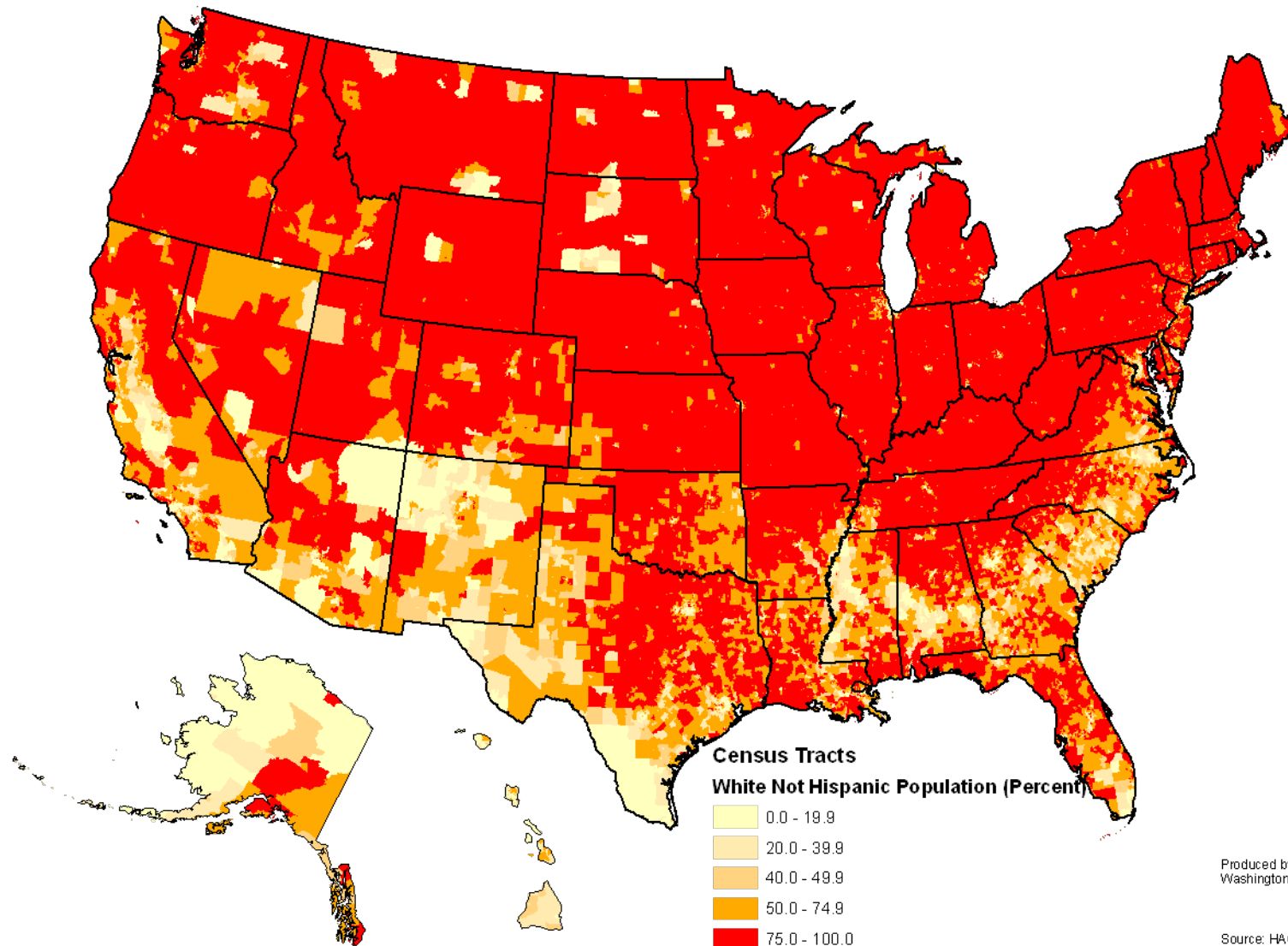
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Rural & Small Town Population Change by Race & Ethnicity, 2010



*Hispanics may be of any race

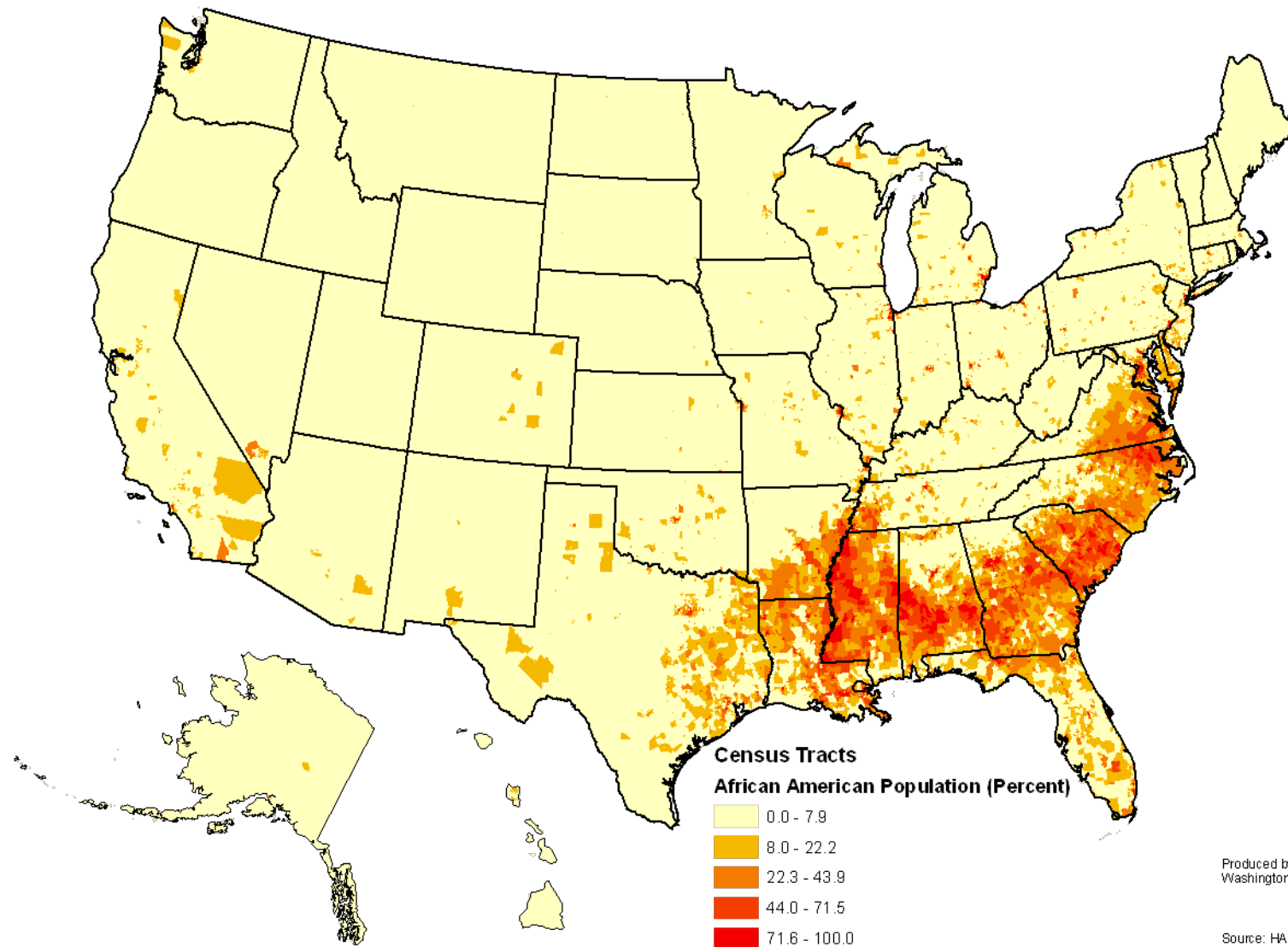
White Not Hispanic Population, 2010



Produced by the Housing Assistance Council
Washington, DC

Source: HAC Tabulations of the 2010 Census
of Population and Housing

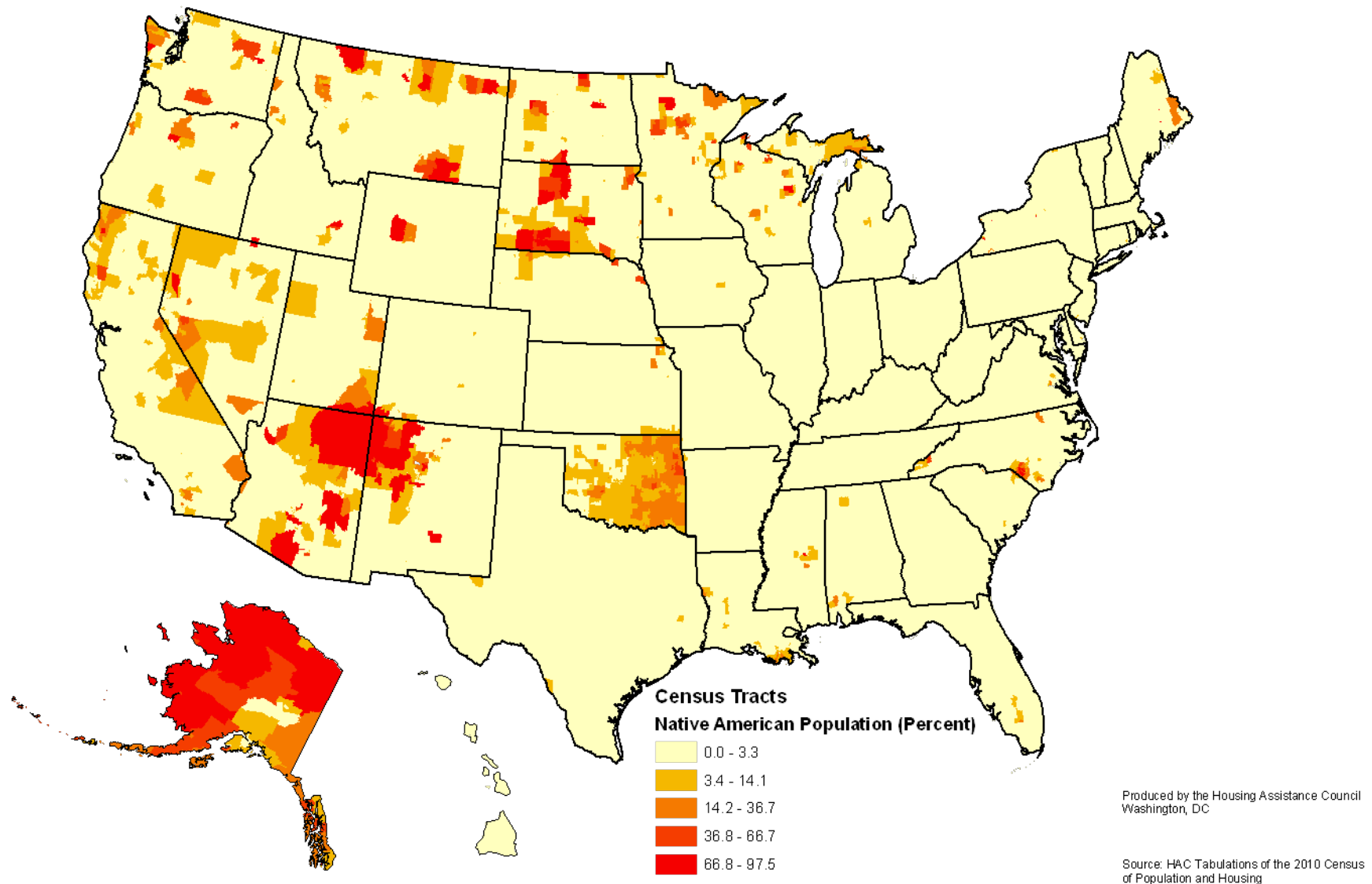
African American Population, 2010



Produced by the Housing Assistance Council
Washington, DC

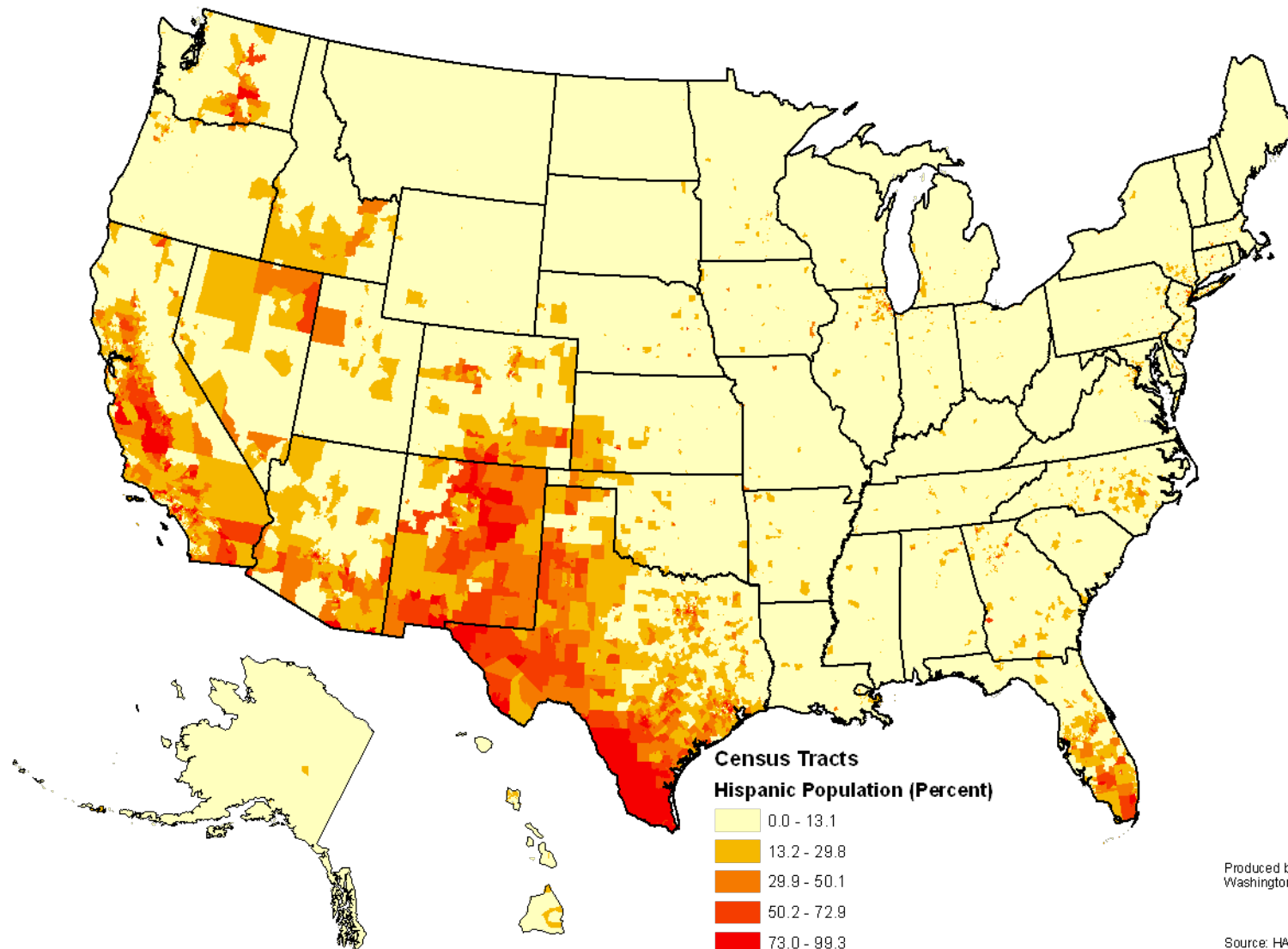
Source: HAC Tabulations of the 2010 Census
of Population and Housing

Native American Population, 2010



Note: Native Americans include American Indians and Alaska Natives

Hispanic Population, 2010



Produced by the Housing Assistance Council
Washington, DC

Source: HAC Tabulations of the 2010 Census
of Population and Housing

RACE & ETHNICITY BY RURAL, SUBURBAN, AND URBAN LOCATION, 2010

	Rural & Small Town		Suburban & Exurban		Urban		United States	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
POPULATION								
Total Population	64,901,146	21.0%	151,693,391	49.1%	92,151,001	29.8%	308,745,538	100.0%
RACE & ETHNICITY								
White - Not Hispanic	50,510,698	77.8%	105,718,587	69.7%	40,588,267	44.0%	196,817,552	63.7%
African American	5,338,488	8.2%	16,419,093	10.8%	15,928,267	17.3%	37,685,848	12.2%
Native American*	1,210,782	1.9%	667,620	0.4%	368,696	0.4%	2,247,098	0.7%
Asian	630,530	1.0%	6,340,401	4.2%	7,494,193	8.1%	14,465,124	4.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	82,871	0.1%	193,389	0.1%	205,316	0.2%	481,576	0.2%
Some other race	54,901	0.1%	252,015	0.2%	297,349	0.3%	604,265	0.2%
Two or more races	1,046,836	1.6%	2,853,296	1.9%	2,066,349	2.2%	5,966,481	1.9%
Hispanic**	6,026,040	9.3%	19,248,990	12.7%	25,202,564	27.3%	50,477,594	16.3%
RACE (Alone - Hispanic Ethnicity Not Included)								
White	53,715,134	82.8%	116,680,922	76.9%	53,157,209	57.7%	223,553,265	72.4%
African American	5,420,217	8.4%	16,826,018	11.1%	16,683,084	18.1%	38,929,319	12.6%
Native American*	1,322,876	2.0%	907,762	0.6%	701,610	0.8%	2,932,248	0.9%
Asian	648,102	1.0%	6,425,214	4.2%	7,600,936	8.2%	14,674,252	4.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	92,529	0.1%	216,384	0.1%	231,100	0.3%	540,013	0.2%
Some other race	2,299,038	3.5%	6,613,076	4.4%	10,195,254	11.1%	19,107,368	6.2%
Two or more races	1,401,715	2.2%	4,024,666	2.7%	3,582,692	3.9%	9,009,073	2.9%
HISPANIC OR LATINO BY RACE								
Total Population	64,900,552	100.0%	151,694,276	100.0%	92,151,076	100.0%	308,745,538	100.0%
Not Hispanic	58,874,332	90.7%	132,445,286	87.3%	66,948,782	72.7%	258,267,944	83.7%
Hispanic**	6,026,220	9.3%	19,249,080	12.7%	25,202,294	27.3%	50,477,594	16.3%
White	3,204,985	53.2%	10,962,265	56.9%	12,568,463	49.9%	26,735,713	53.0%
African American	81,770	1.4%	406,934	2.1%	754,767	3.0%	1,243,471	2.5%
Native American*	112,146	1.9%	240,144	1.2%	332,860	1.3%	685,150	1.4%
Asian	17,622	0.3%	84,770	0.4%	106,736	0.4%	209,128	0.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	9,672	0.2%	22,972	0.1%	25,793	0.1%	58,437	0.1%
Some other race	2,244,185	37.2%	6,361,078	33.0%	9,897,840	39.3%	18,503,103	36.7%
Two or more races	355,840	5.9%	1,170,917	6.1%	1,515,835	6.0%	3,042,592	6.0%
HOUSEHOLDS BY RACE & ETHNICITY								
Total Households	25,016,506	100.0%	56,364,221	100.0%	35,335,565	100.0%	116,716,292	100.0%
White - Not Hispanic Householder	20,806,252	83.2%	42,663,156	75.7%	18,863,672	53.4%	82,333,080	70.5%
African American Householder	1,806,203	7.2%	5,865,681	10.4%	6,123,660	17.3%	13,795,544	11.8%
Native American Householder*	384,925	1.5%	234,418	0.4%	139,674	0.4%	759,017	0.7%
Asian Householder	184,489	0.7%	1,888,016	3.3%	2,507,283	7.1%	4,579,788	3.9%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Householder	22,247	0.1%	51,542	0.1%	56,307	0.2%	130,096	0.1%
Householder Some other race	12,185	0.0%	59,380	0.1%	85,937	0.2%	157,502	0.1%
Householder Two or more races	271,040	1.1%	643,825	1.1%	585,034	1.7%	1,499,899	1.3%
Hispanic** Householder	1,529,165	6.1%	4,958,203	8.8%	6,973,998	19.7%	13,461,366	11.5%

Source: HAC Tabulations of 2010 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 1.

* Native Americans include American Indians and Alaska Natives. **Hispanics may be of any race.

RURAL & SMALL TOWN POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, BY STATE, 2010

State	White Not Hispanic %	African- American %	Native- American* %	Asian %	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander %	Other Race %	Two or More Races %	Hispanic** %
Alabama	71.4	21.9	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.1	1.2	4.3
Alaska	63.9	1.3	20.9	3.4	0.4	0.1	5.9	4.1
Arizona	57.5	1.9	14.1	1.0	0.2	0.1	1.6	23.5
Arkansas	78.9	13.9	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	1.4	4.5
California	54.4	2.6	1.5	2.5	0.2	0.2	2.2	36.4
Colorado	76.7	1.0	1.2	0.8	0.1	0.1	1.3	18.9
Connecticut	84.6	2.5	0.2	2.3	0.0	0.1	1.6	8.6
Delaware	74.1	13.8	0.5	1.0	0.0	0.2	1.7	8.8
Florida	69.5	12.9	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.1	1.3	14.7
Georgia	66.3	25.8	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.1	1.2	5.7
Hawaii	31.1	0.5	0.3	24.9	10.9	0.1	21.5	10.5
Idaho	83.0	0.4	1.7	0.9	0.1	0.1	1.5	12.4
Illinois	90.8	3.6	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.1	1.1	3.6
Indiana	93.3	1.3	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.1	1.0	3.6
Iowa	92.8	1.0	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.9	4.3
Kansas	83.3	2.8	0.8	1.1	0.1	0.1	2.0	9.9
Kentucky	92.2	3.9	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.1	1.2	2.0
Louisiana	63.2	31.0	1.0	0.7	0.0	0.1	1.3	2.7
Maine	95.5	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.0	0.1	1.3	1.1
Maryland	78.4	14.7	0.2	1.3	0.0	0.1	1.8	3.4
Massachusetts	87.5	2.6	0.3	2.8	0.0	0.5	2.0	4.3
Michigan	91.2	2.1	1.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	1.6	3.0
Minnesota	91.1	1.0	2.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	1.3	3.7
Mississippi	56.7	39.2	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.8	2.2
Missouri	91.4	3.1	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.0	1.5	2.8
Montana	87.7	0.2	7.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.5
Nebraska	87.8	0.6	1.2	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.9	8.9
Nevada	74.3	2.0	3.3	1.9	0.2	0.1	2.1	16.1
New Hampshire	94.9	0.6	0.3	1.4	0.0	0.1	1.3	1.4
New Jersey	59.4	18.2	0.6	1.5	0.1	0.1	2.2	18.0
New Mexico	38.6	1.5	15.0	0.7	0.0	0.2	1.3	42.7
New York	89.6	3.1	0.6	0.9	0.0	0.1	1.4	4.2
North Carolina	67.7	20.4	2.6	0.7	0.0	0.1	1.3	7.1
North Dakota	87.9	0.7	7.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.4	2.0
Ohio	93.3	2.2	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.1	1.4	2.2
Oklahoma	71.4	3.5	12.2	0.7	0.1	0.1	5.5	6.6
Oregon	83.8	0.4	2.0	0.9	0.2	0.1	2.5	10.1
Pennsylvania	92.3	2.9	0.1	0.7	0.0	0.1	1.0	2.9
Rhode Island	91.6	0.9	0.6	2.4	0.0	0.1	1.6	2.9
South Carolina	56.5	36.4	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.1	1.1	4.7
South Dakota	84.0	0.5	11.1	0.7	0.0	0.0	1.5	2.1
Tennessee	88.1	6.7	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.1	1.3	3.0
Texas	58.4	7.7	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.1	1.0	31.8
Utah	85.9	0.4	2.9	0.7	0.2	0.1	1.3	8.5
Vermont	95.3	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.0	0.1	1.5	1.4
Virginia	78.0	17.1	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.1	1.3	2.7
Washington	75.3	0.9	2.6	1.6	0.2	0.1	2.5	16.9
West Virginia	94.4	2.8	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.0
Wisconsin	93.0	0.7	1.4	0.8	0.0	0.0	1.0	3.1
Wyoming	86.7	0.4	2.6	0.7	0.1	0.1	1.3	8.2
RURAL & SMALL TOWN	77.8	8.2	1.9	1.0	0.1	0.1	1.6	9.3

* Native Americans include American Indians and Alaska Natives. ** Hispanics may be of any race

Source: HAC Tabulations of the 2010 Census of Population and Housing, SF-1

The Housing Assistance Council

The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) is a national nonprofit organization that supports affordable housing efforts in rural areas of the United States. HAC provides technical housing services, seed money loans from a revolving fund, housing program and policy assistance, and research and information services. HAC is an equal opportunity lender.

HAC Rural Research Brief

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