

Hispanics at the Starting Line: Born into Poverty in Established Gateways and New Destinations*

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*This is joint work with Scott Sanders (BYU) and Kenneth Johnson (University of New Hampshire).

The Question

The recent movement of Hispanics into immigrant destinations has sometimes deflected attention from another major source of national, regional, and local population growth – fertility.

High rates of Hispanic fertility raise an important question: Do Hispanic newborn babies start life's race behind the starting line, poor and disadvantaged?

Overall Goal

- Document linkages between high fertility and high poverty among U.S. racial and ethnic minority and immigrant populations.
- Focus on America's newborn babies – where they often begin life's race behind the starting line in new destinations.

Why Newborns?

- Early childhood poverty (even in utero) shapes developmental trajectories
- Intergenerational transmission of poverty
- Current economic situation of America's newborns provides a window to the future
- Racial and ethnic change in America's new rural immigrant destinations provide a natural laboratory for understanding America's racial future (and race relations and social boundaries)

Specific Objectives

- Background on demographic context of child poverty
- The spatial diffusion of America's new immigrants;
- Document the large second-order effect of new immigration (i.e., fertility); and
- Examine ethnoracial variation in patterns of poverty among *newborn* babies in traditional gateways from those in new Hispanic destinations (including rural areas)

Objective 1: Changing Demographic Context of Poverty

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U.S. Census Bureau Projections Show a Slower Growing, Older, More Diverse Nation a Half Century from Now

The U.S. population will be considerably older and more racially and ethnically diverse by 2060, according to [projections](#) released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. These [projections of the nation's population by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin](#), which cover the 2012-2060 period, are the first set of population projections based on the 2010 Census.

"The next half century marks key points in continuing trends — the U.S. will become a plurality nation, where the non-Hispanic white population remains the largest single group, but no group is in the majority," said Acting Director Thomas L. Mesenbourg.

Furthermore, the population is projected to grow much more slowly over the next several decades, compared with the last set of projections released in 2008 and 2009. That is because the projected levels of births and net international migration are lower in the projections released today, reflecting more recent trends in fertility and international migration.

According to the projections, the population age 65 and older is expected to more than double between 2012 and 2060, from 43.1 million to 92.0 million. The older population would represent just over one in five U.S. residents by the end of the period, up from one in seven today. The increase in the number of the "oldest old" would be even more dramatic — those 85 and older are projected to more than triple from 5.9 million to 18.2 million, reaching 4.3 percent of the total population.

Baby boomers, defined as persons born between 1946 and 1964, number 76.4 million in 2012 and account for about one-quarter of the population. In 2060, when the youngest of them would be 96 years old, they are projected to number around 2.4 million and represent 0.6 percent of the total population.

A More Diverse Nation

The non-Hispanic white population is projected to peak in 2024, at 199.6 million, up from 197.8 million in 2012. Unlike other race or ethnic groups, however, its population is projected to slowly decrease, falling by nearly 20.6 million from 2024 to 2060.

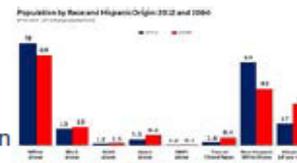
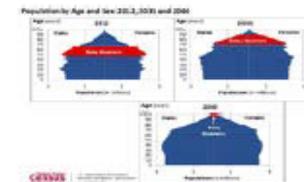
Meanwhile, the Hispanic population would more than double, from 53.3 million in 2012 to 128.8 million in 2060. Consequently, by the end of the period,

Release Information

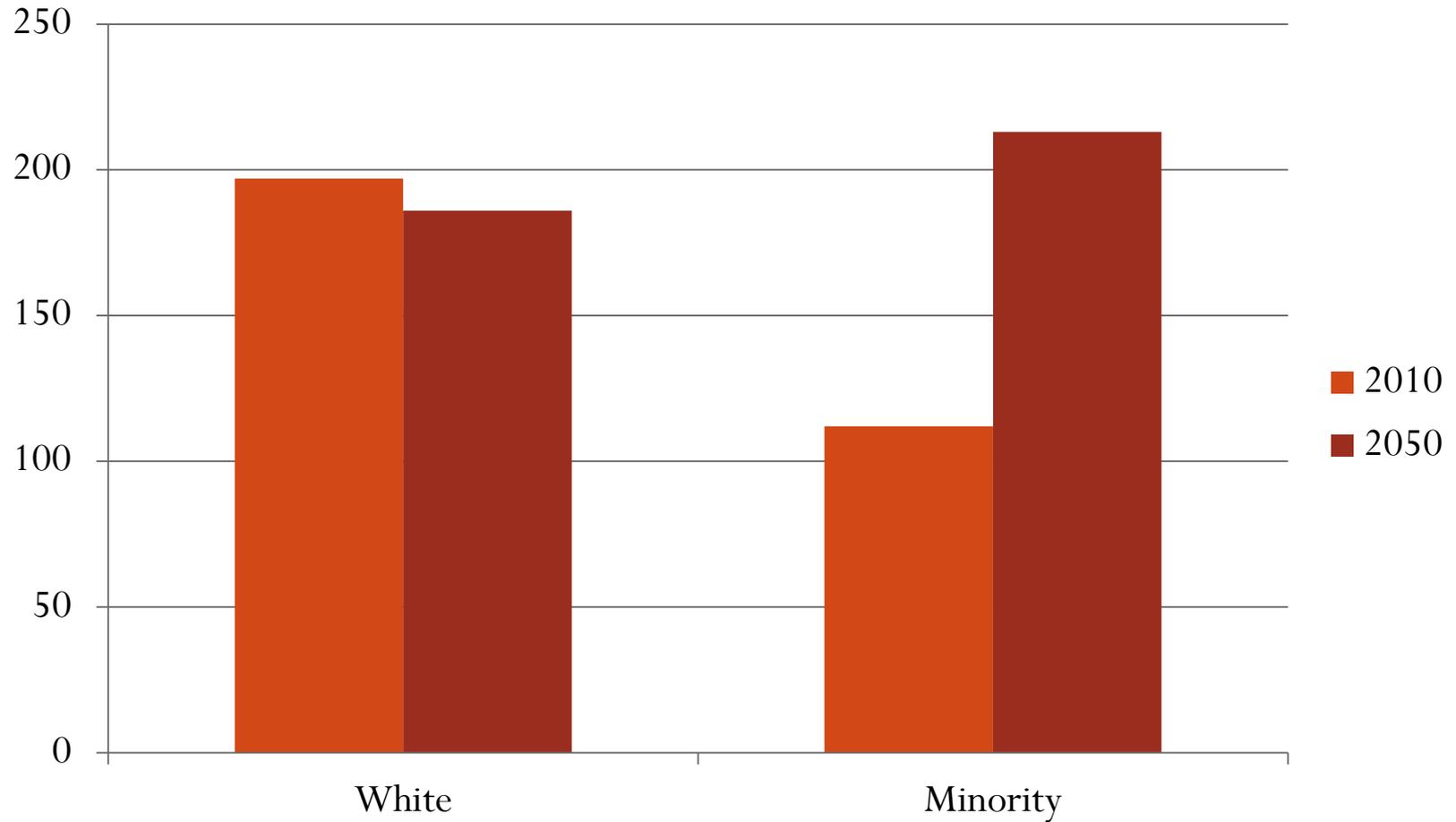
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Majority-Minority Society in 2043



Diversity from the “Bottom Up”

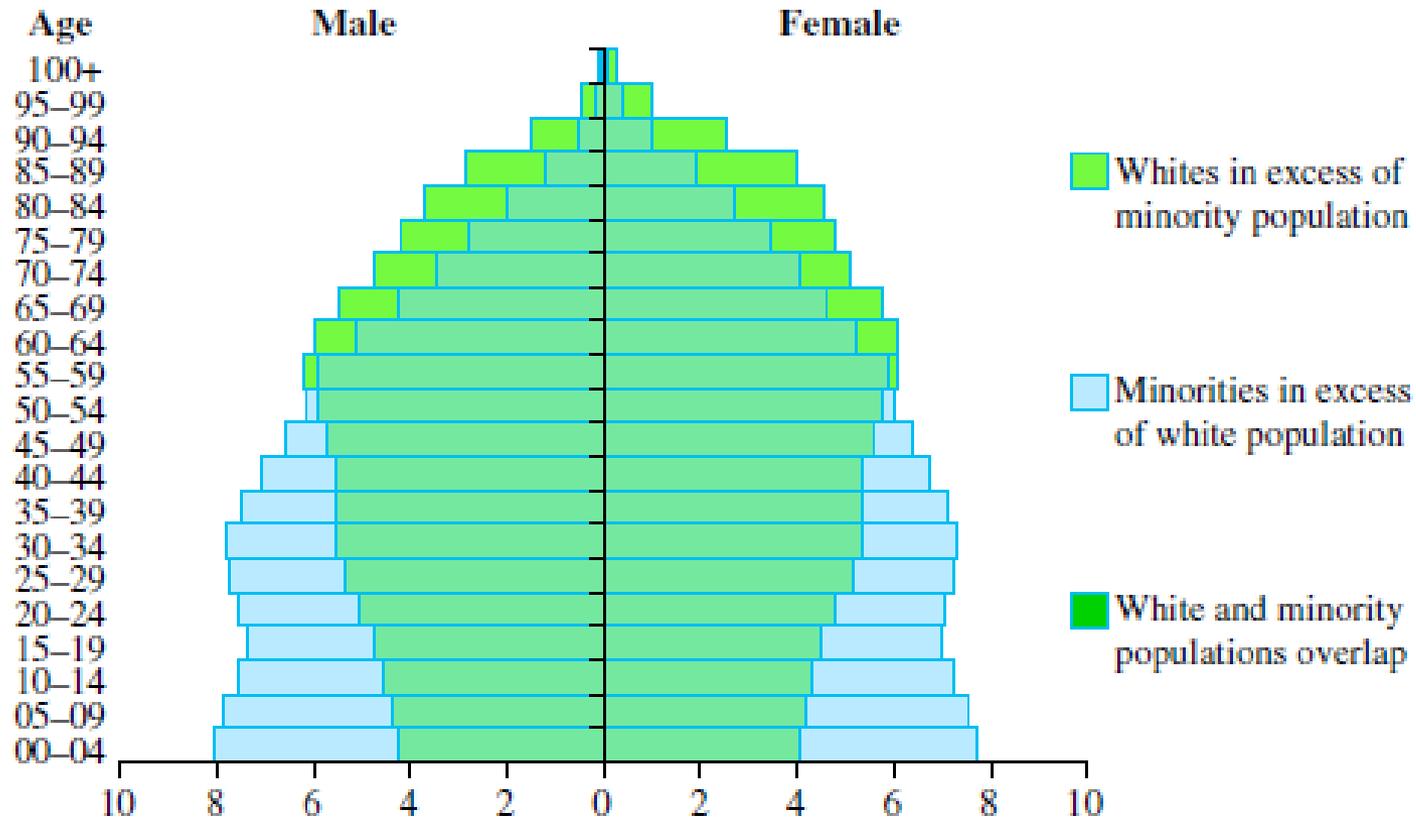
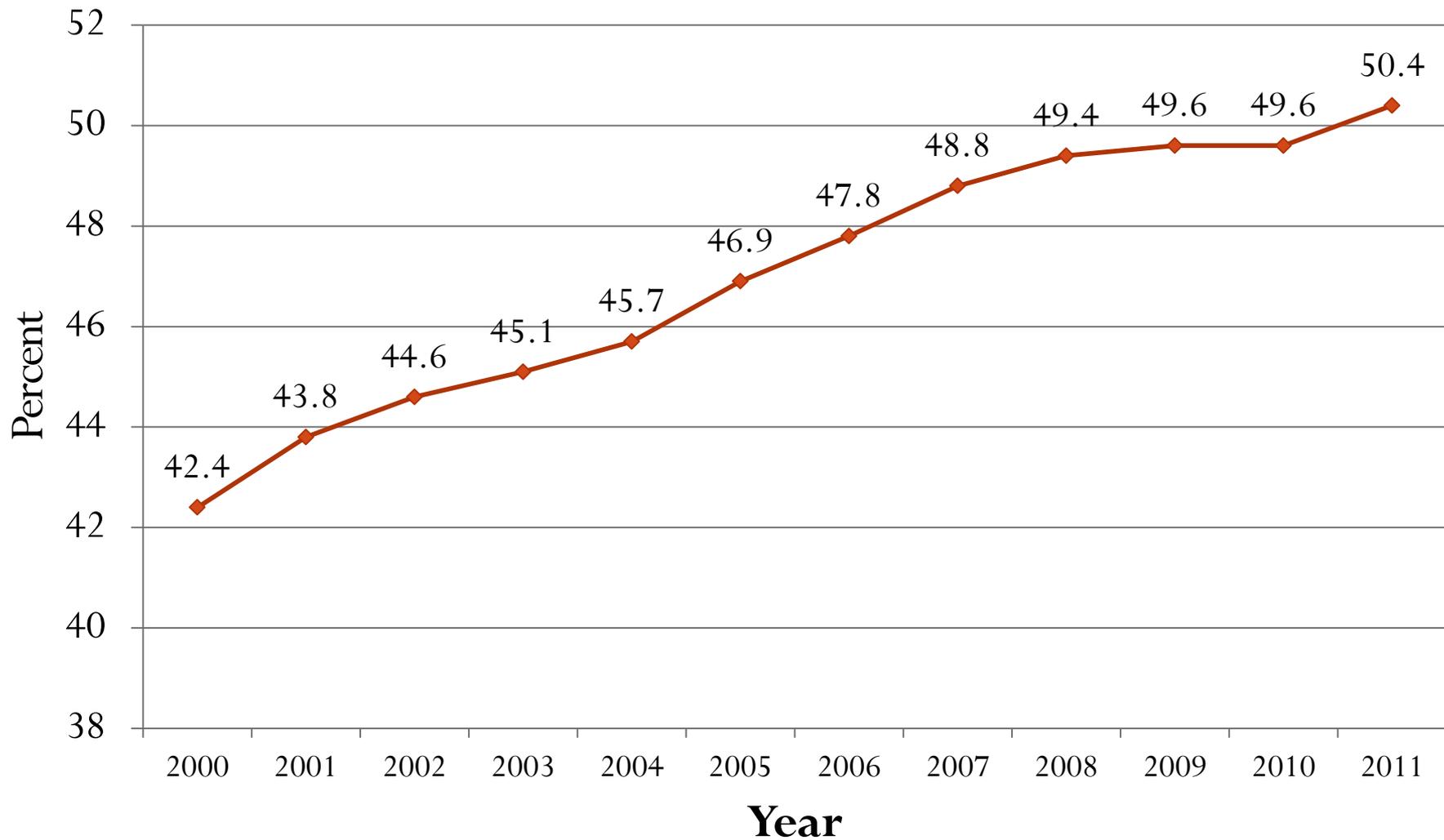


Fig. 2 Projected age and sex composition of the U.S. population: 2050 (in millions). *Source:* U.S. Census Bureau (2012a)

Source: Lichter, D.T. (2013). “Integration or Fragmentation? Race and the American Future.” *Demography*, 50, 359-391.

Percent of Non-White New-Born Babies



Objective 2: Growth and Spatial Diffusion of U.S. Hispanics

- Between 2000 and 2010, the non-Hispanic white population grew by only 1 percent
- Hispanic population increased from 35.3 million to 50.5 million, or 43 percent
- Hispanic population growth accounted for more than half of the 27.3 million increase in the total U.S. population

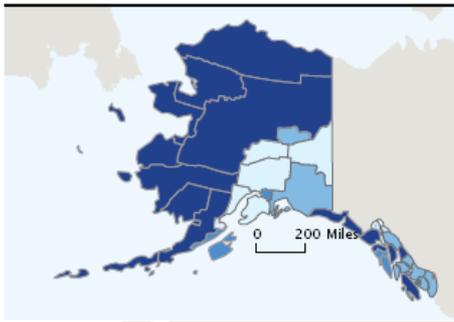


Figure 4.

Minority Population as a Percentage of County Population: 2010

(Minority refers to people who reported their ethnicity and race as something other than non-Hispanic White alone in the 2010 Census. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf)

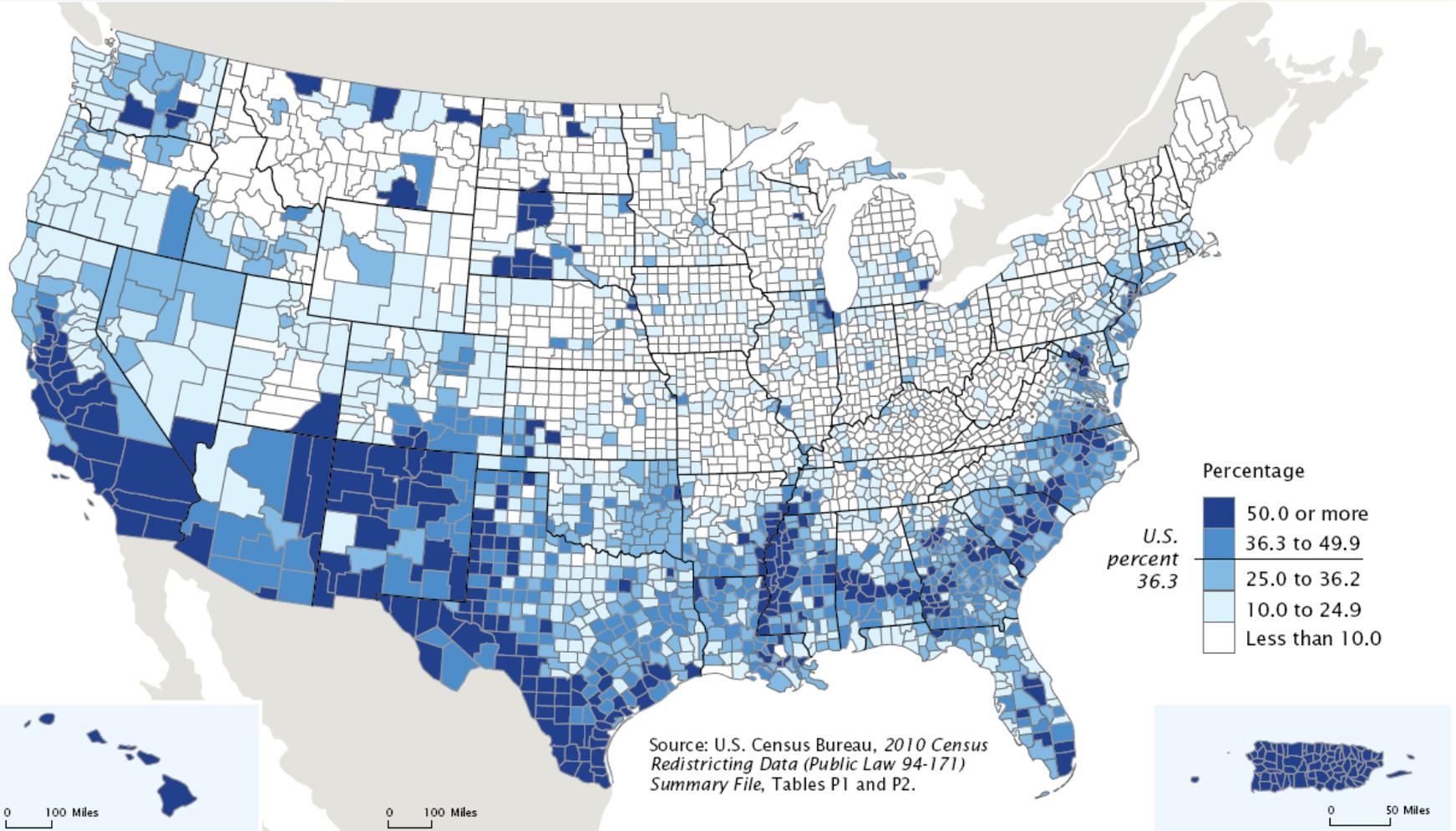
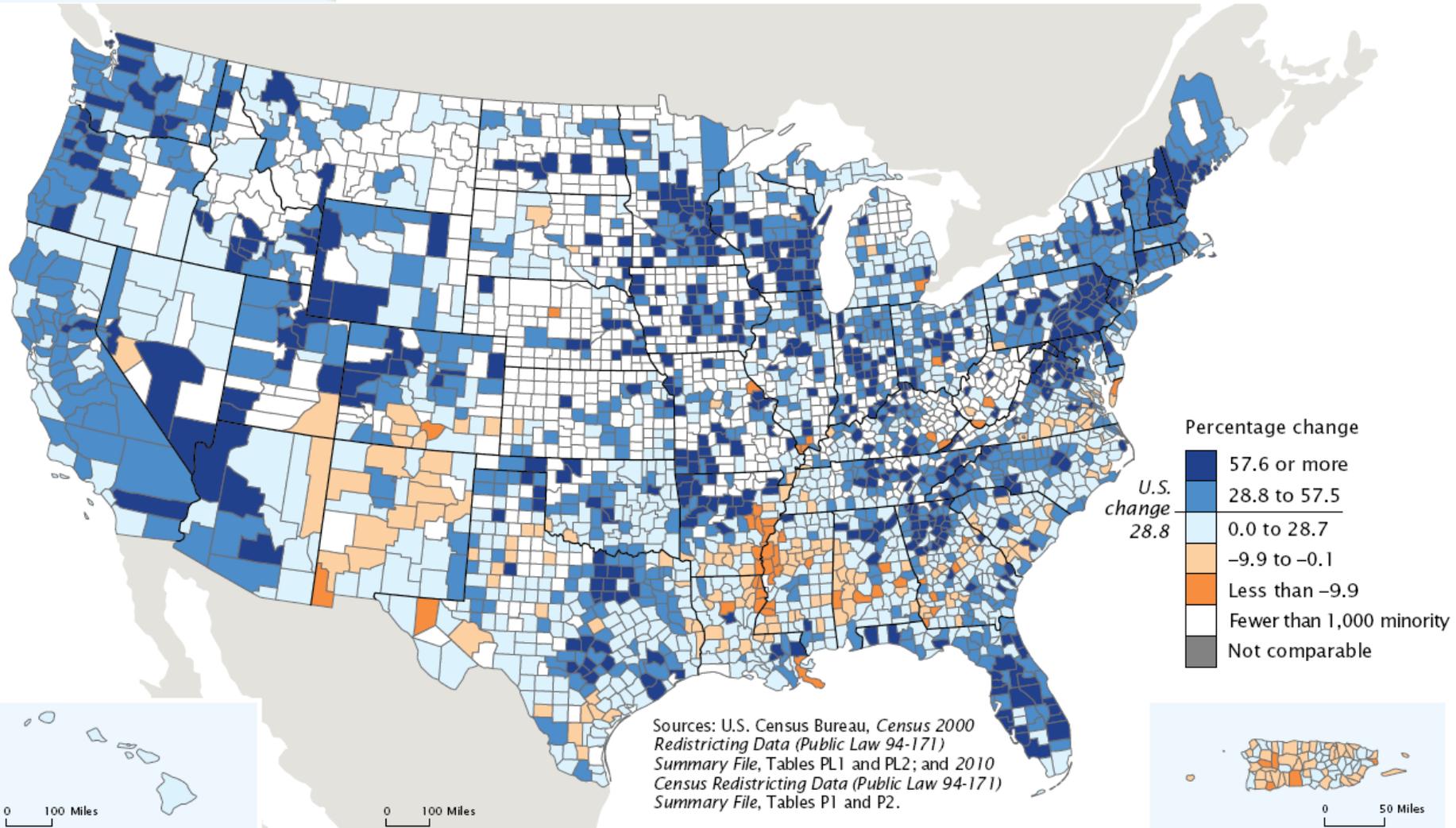
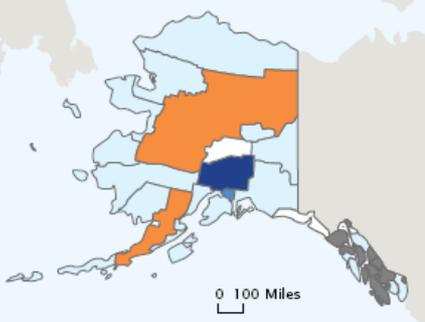


Figure 5.

Percentage Change in Minority Population by County: 2000 to 2010

(Counties with a minority population of at least 1,000 are included in the map.

Minority refers to people who reported their ethnicity and race as something other than non-Hispanic White alone in the decennial census. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf)



Distribution of Nonmetropolitan Hispanic Growth, 2000-2010

Region	2000-2010 Hispanic Growth	Number of nonmetro counties	Number of nonmetro counties accounting for 50 percent of growth	Percent of nonmetro counties accounting for 50 percent of growth
Total	1,162,834	2,043	160	7.8
Northeast	66,196	94	7	7.4
Midwest	223,701	762	60	7.9
South	588,277	871	86	9.9
West	284,660	316	26	8.2

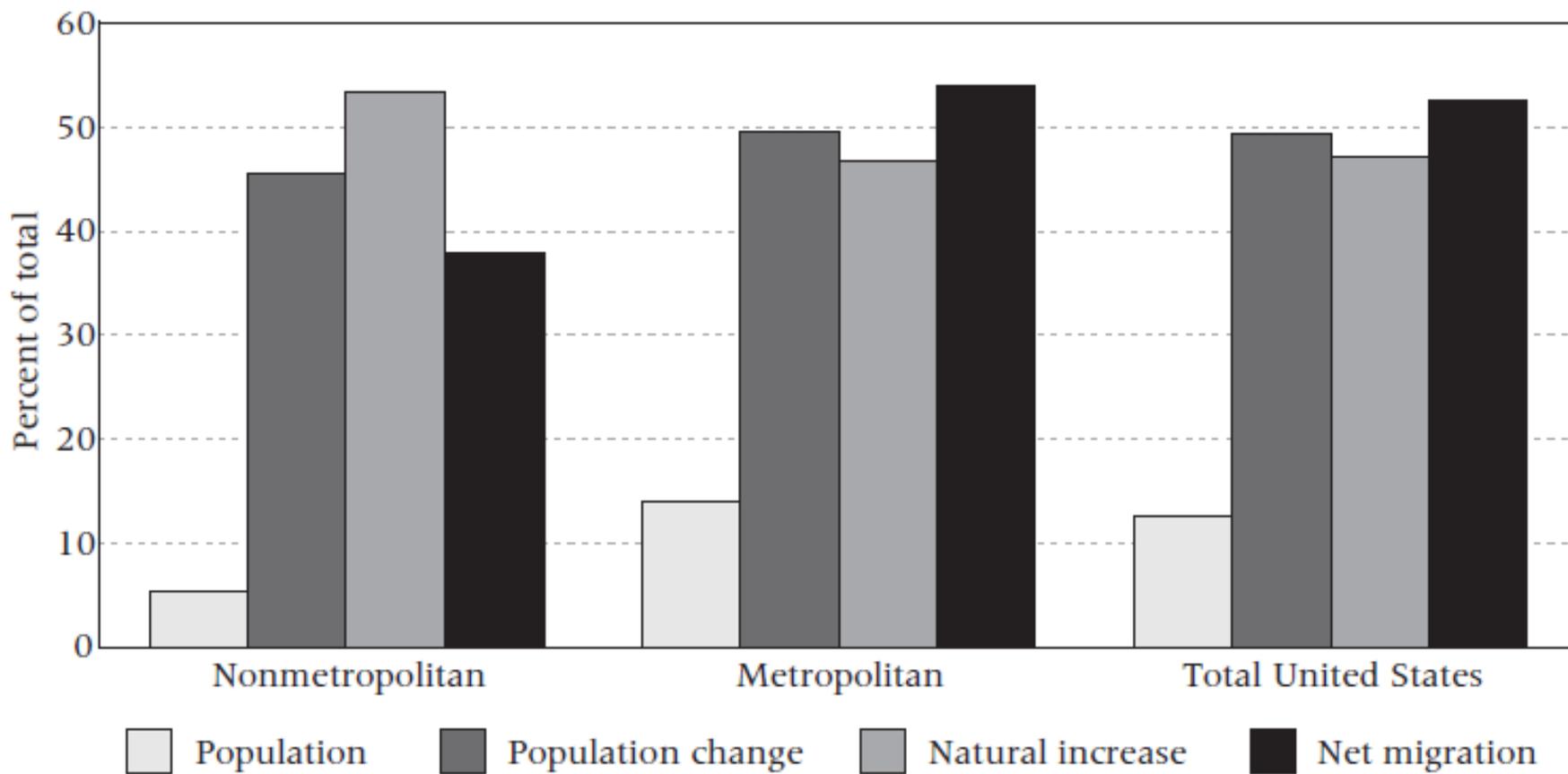
Distribution of Nonmetropolitan Hispanic Growth, 2000-2010

Reg Point: Population Dispersion and Local Concentration

			growth	
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Objective 3: Second-Order Demographic Effect of New Immigrant Growth: High Fertility

FIGURE 4 Hispanic contribution to population and demographic change, 2000 to 2005

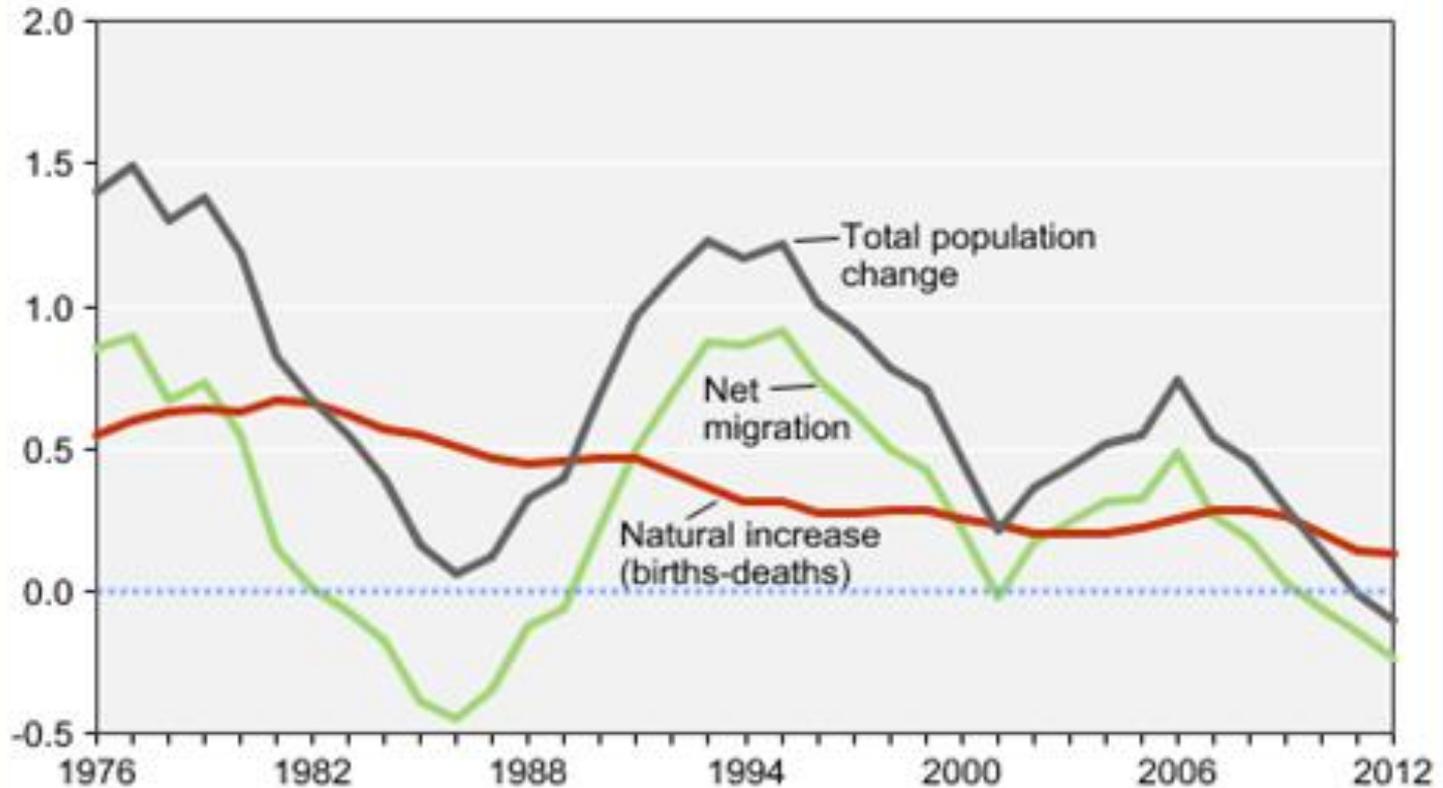


SOURCES: US Census Bureau Population Estimates by Race/Ethnicity, 2005; Birth and death by race/ethnicity from CDC-NCHS.

Source: Johnson & Lichter (2008)

Nonmetro population change and components of change, 1976-2012

Percent change



Note: Metro status changed for some counties in 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010. Rates are imputed for 1989-1990, 1999-2000, and 2009-10.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Census Bureau.

Data: ACS and the New Fertility Question

- 2006-2010 *American Community Survey* (replaces the long form of the decennial census)
- Question on fertility (Women 15-50):

Has this person given birth to any children in the past 12 months?

Yes

No

- General fertility rate: births per 1000 women, 15-50

General Fertility Rates, 2006-2010

	Metro	Nonmetro	Total
Total	67.5	68.9	67.7
<i>Hispanic</i>	76.9	88.7	77.3
Mexican	82.0	92.1	83.2
Other	70.5	88.4	76.4
<i>Non-Hispanic</i>	63.6	66.6	64.2
White	64.9	67.1	65.8
Black	69.6	71.9	69.9
Asian	70.0	71.8	70.0
American Indian	76.5	87.1	81.2

Objective 4: Poverty among Newborns, 2006-2010

Poverty Rates among Newborns, 2006-2010

		Metro	Non- Metro	Total
Total		21.6%	29.0%	23.0%
<i>Hispanic</i>		33.2	40.0	34.8
	Mexican	36.2	41.6	37.8
	Other	30.1	33.6	30.3
<i>Non-Hispanic</i>		17.8	27.8	19.9
	White	13.5	24.3	16.1
	Black	38.9	55.2	40.9
	Asian	9.6	21.1	11.9
	Am.Indian	36.9	46.6	42.2

Parental Characteristics of Hispanics and All Newborns

		All Hispanic Newborns			All Newborns		
		Metro	Nonmetro	Total	Metro	Nonmetro	Total
Mother Education							
	High School or Less	69.4	76.1	70.0	43.9	51.0	45.3
	Some college	17.9	16.8	17.8	21.5	29.3	22.9
	College +	12.7	7.2	12.2	34.5	19.8	31.8
Nativity of Mother							
	Native born	47.8	53.2	48.3	75.8	92.7	79.0
	Immigrant	52.2	46.9	51.7	24.2	7.3	21.0
English Ability							
	No/Poor English	12.2	13.3	12.3	3.0	1.4	2.7
	Good/Excellent English	87.8	86.8	87.7	97.0	98.6	97.3

Gateways and New Destinations

- Gateways: Top 10 states in 1990 (i.e., Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Texas)
- New destinations: States with Hispanic population increases over 250% or more during 1990-2010 (n = 21): Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.
- Other areas: Residual states (n = 20)

Share of Hispanic Newborns Living in Gateways and New Destinations

	Metro	Nonmetro
	Total	Total
Gateways	79.2	48.7
New Destinations	13.6	35.6
Other	7.1	15.7

Percentage Poor among Newborns, by Destination Type

	Metro		Nonmetro	
	Hispanic	Non- Hispanic	Hispanic	Non- Hispanic
Gateways	33.4	16.4	38.6	27.7
New Destinations	37.6	21.3	48.5	33.8
Other	37.4	18.3	38.1	25.5

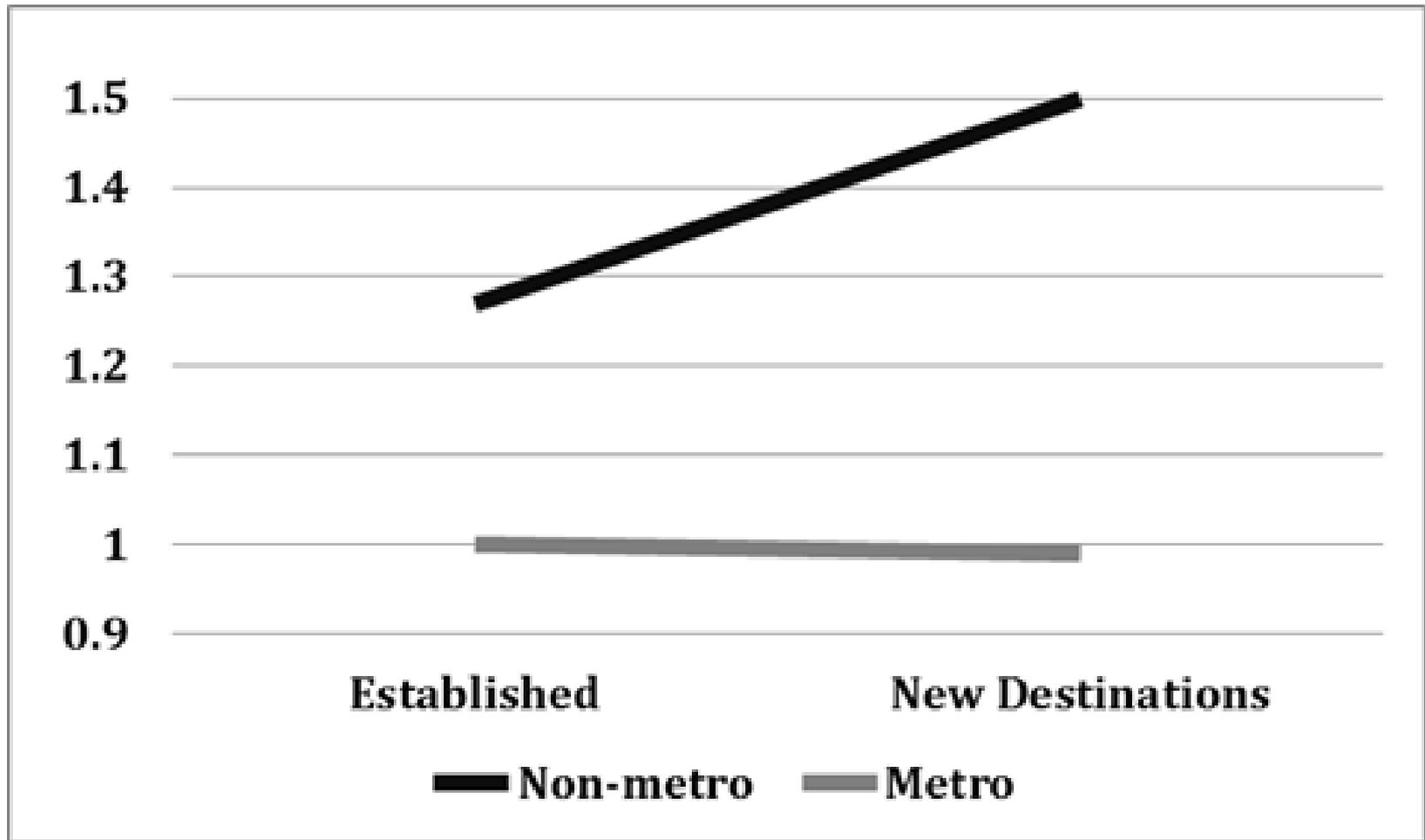
Logistic Regressions of Newborn Poverty, 2006-2010

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3 ^a	Model 4
Nonmetro	1.80***	1.76***	1.45***	1.16**
Race				
Hispanic	2.78***	2.92***	1.45***	-
Black	3.33***	3.33***	1.54***	-
Asian	.62***	.64***	0.99	-
Indian	1.97***	1.97***	1.27***	-
Geography				
New destination		.94***	.95***	.98*
Other destination		1.13***	1.13***	1.20*

* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$ *** $p < .001$

^aModel 3 controls for teen first birth, marital status, number of siblings, mother's education, mother employed English language facility, foreign-born, migration status.

Interaction Effects Between Nonmetro Residence and New Destinations, Hispanics Only



Risk Factors for Poverty at Birth

Relative Risks of Poverty Among Hispanics

Risk factors	Odds ratio
First Birth as a Teenager	1.26***
Unmarried Mother	6.25***
Number of Siblings in the Household	1.19**
Number of Adults in the Household	.71***
Foreign Born Mother, Immigration before 2000	0.91
Foreign Born Mother, Immigration after 2000	1.36*
Migrant Household (in last year)	1.48***
Mother with no/poor English	1.55***
Mother Education, High School Drop Out	2.54***

Safety Net for Poor Hispanic Newborns, 2006-2010

	Metro	Nonmetro	Total
Pct. receiving welfare	12.1	9.9	11.9
Pct. receiving food stamps	48.4	52.4	48.8
Average family income	\$11,215	\$11,025	\$11,194
Average family income-to-poverty ratio	.457	.454	.456

What of the Future?

- Economic globalization – new destinations on the frontline of social change.
- Access to good schools and educational attainment (even by the third generation) remains low among Hispanics.
- Continuing immigration from Mexico and elsewhere reinforces cultural and linguistic isolation in the Hispanic immigrant community.
- Large and unprecedented shares of Hispanic immigrants are undocumented.
- Hispanics today face a “remarkable revival of immigrant baiting and ethnic demonization” (Massey 2008: 346).

Conclusions

- The implications of America's racial transformation over the next 25 years are potentially profound.
- Today's poverty among minority children compromises their developmental trajectories and their likelihood of assuming productive adult roles (as taxpayers).
- Threats to children are heightened by growing inequality, incarceration, unauthorized immigration, family instability, re-segregating schools, and concentrated neighborhood and community poverty.
- It is more important than ever to invest in today's children now.

Thank You

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