

Mapping the Geographic Distribution of Interracial / Interethnic Married Couples in the United States: 2010

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For Presentation as a Poster
at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the
Population Association of America
New Orleans, LA
April 11-13, 2013

Introduction

This extended abstract describes the analyses we are developing to examine the geographic distribution of interracial and interethnic married couples in the United States using the 2010 Census. The analyses focus on county level distributions that map the prevalence of specific combinations of interracial/interethnic married couples, such as non-Hispanic Whites married to non-Hispanic Asians. The county maps illustrate the diversity of interracial / interethnic couple combinations around the country.

Data from the 2010 Census provide the most recent information on the geographic distribution of interracial/interethnic married couples. Given the immense size of the 2010 data sets, it is possible to map the prevalence of particular combinations of interracial married couples, such as non-Hispanic Whites married to Asians, by county. In our analyses, we develop county maps to illustrate the distribution of specific interracial/interethnic couple combinations. No other source can provide information as robust as decennial census data, so this poster provides an important first look at the distribution of particular interracial / interethnic combinations of married couples across the United States.

Under our definition of interracial/interethnic couple, we include couples where spouses have reported either different single races; couples where one spouse reported as Hispanic and the other as non-Hispanic; or couples with at least one spouse who reported multiple races. In order to explore the spatial distribution of the most common interracial/interethnic combinations, and cover all intermarried couples, we map the distribution of the following groups:

- Non-Hispanic White / Hispanic (any race)
- Non-Hispanic White / Non-Hispanic Black
- Non-Hispanic White / Non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN)
- Non-Hispanic White / Non-Hispanic Asian
- Non-Hispanic White / Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHPI)
- Non-Hispanic White / Non-Hispanic Some Other Race (SOR)
- One or both reported multiple races (both Hispanic or both non-Hispanic)
- Hispanic / non-Hispanic (excluding non-Hispanic White)
- All other combinations

**Appendix Table 1. Interracial/Interethnic
Married Couple Households: 2010**

| Type of Couple | Number | Percent |
|--|------------|---------|
| TOTAL married couple households 2010 | 56,510,377 | |
| Total same race or same Hispanic origin couples | 51,141,342 | |
| Total interracial/interethnic couples | 5,369,035 | 100.0 |
| Non-Hispanic White/Hispanic (any race) | 2,020,825 | 37.6 |
| Non-Hispanic White/Non-Hispanic Black | 422,250 | 7.9 |
| Non-Hispanic White/Non-Hispanic AIAN | 280,780 | 5.2 |
| Non-Hispanic White/Non-Hispanic Asian | 737,493 | 13.7 |
| Non-Hispanic White/Non-Hispanic NHPI | 33,242 | 0.6 |
| Non-Hispanic White/Non-Hispanic SOR | 29,385 | 0.5 |
| One or both reported multiple races, (both Hispanic or neither Hispanic) | 1,179,445 | 22.0 |
| Hispanic/non-Hispanic (excluding Non-Hispanic White) | 390,650 | 7.3 |
| All other combinations | 274,965 | 5.1 |

Appendix Table 1, shown above, describes the percentage of all interracial/interethnic couples who comprise many of the particular combinations we map. In 2010, about 22 percent of all interracial/interethnic married couples included one spouse who reported multiple races. The groups collapsed into “all other combinations” make up 5 percent of all interracial/interethnic married couples. As we investigate further, we may find that particular groups of couples are too small to warrant showing a county level map for the entire country, but may be interesting to show for a particular state (for example, Non-Hispanic White / Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHPI) couples in Hawaii).

Each of the larger racial groups have particular histories of intermarriage with Non-Hispanic Whites. We expect the geographic distribution of these groups to reflect their particular migration and intermarriage histories. The poster will attempt to connect the geographic patterns we see with what we know about intermarriage between these particular groups, in order to

provide some context for viewers. For instance, we expect to find intermarriage between Non-Hispanic Whites and Non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Natives (AIAN) to be highest in counties near American Indian areas with large American Indian and Alaska Native populations, where there is a history of intermarriage that predates the formation of the United States. Similarly, Hispanics and non-Hispanics have a long history of intermarriage in the southwestern part of the United States where large Hispanic communities in these areas predate their incorporation as part of the United States.