

The New Great Migration and Black Marriage Patterns in the South

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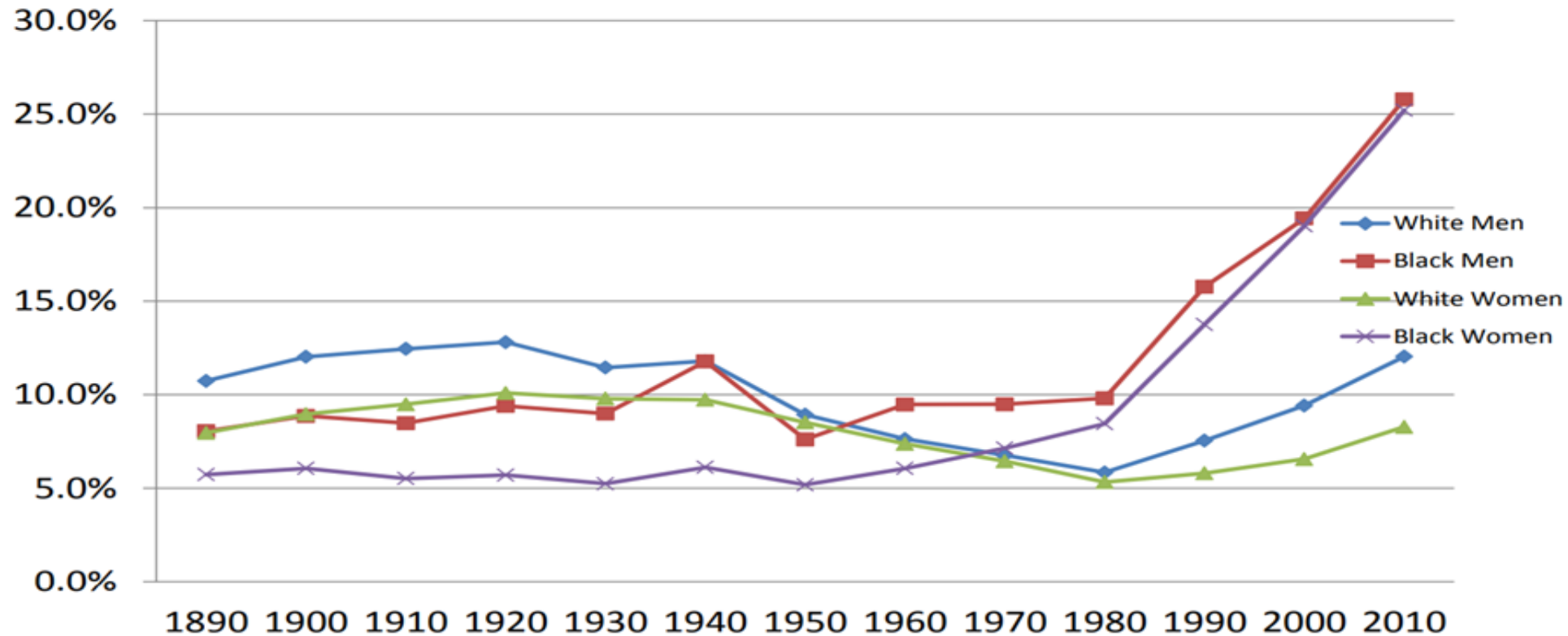
April 7, 2022

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Background

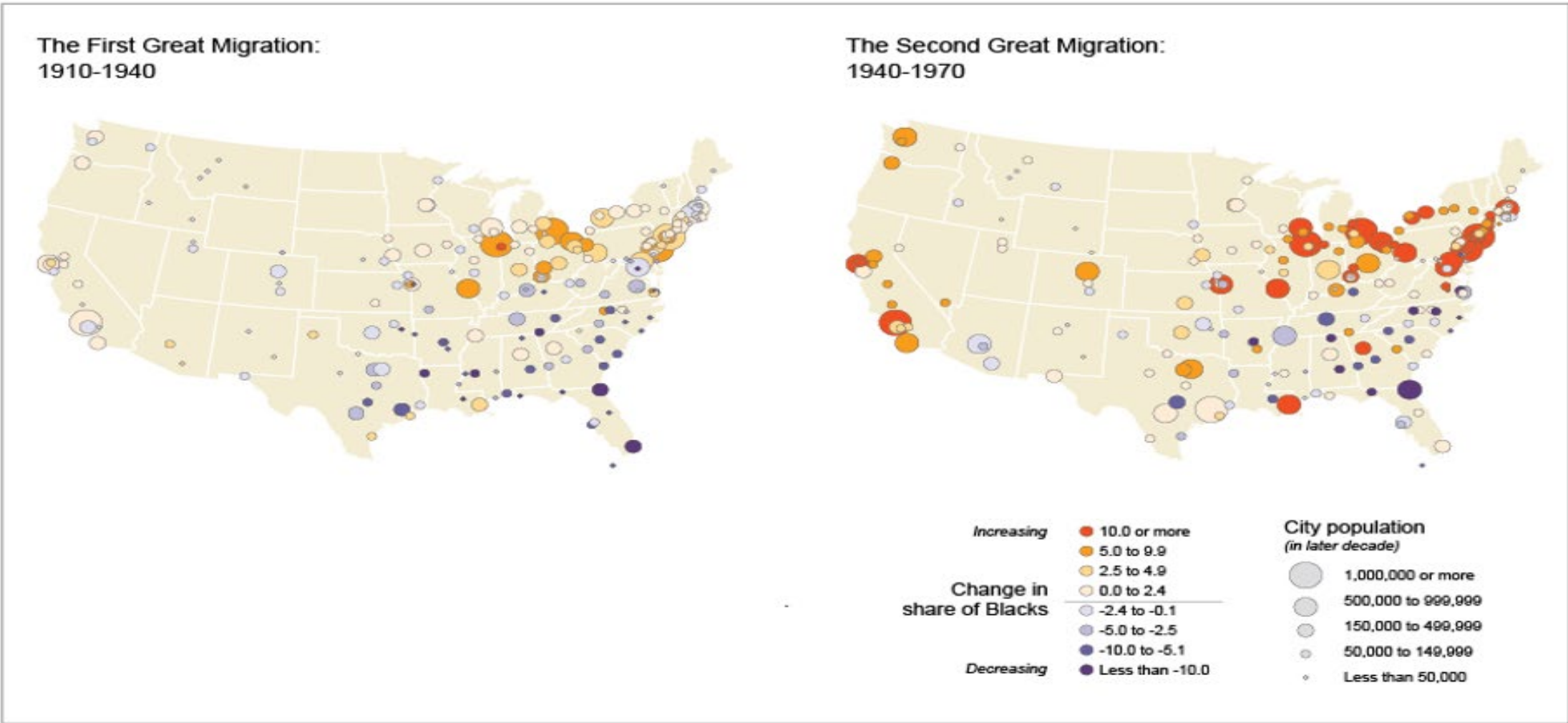
- There have been dramatic changes in family formation patterns.
 - Marriage rates have been declining for men and women (Schweizer, 2020).
 - Median age at first marriage has risen for people in the U.S. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020).
 - Lower proportion of men and women have ever married (Carlson, 2020).
 - Marriage has become selective of the college-educated (Schweizer, 2020).
- There are stark racial differences in marriage patterns.
 - Compared to their White counterparts, Black adults are:
 - Less likely to marry (Mayol-García et al., 2020)
 - Marry at later ages (Mayol-García et al., 2020)
 - More likely to divorce (Schweizer, 2019)

Percent Never Married among Those Aged 35 and Older by Sex and Race: 1890 to 2010



Source: U.S. Decennial Census (1890-2000); American Community Survey (2010). For more information on the ACS, see <http://www.census.gov/acs>

The Great Migration, 1910 to 1970



Justification for the South

- There has been a reverse Great Migration occurring since the 1970s, whereby many Black people are leaving non-Southern regions and migrating South.
- The South is attractive to many due to factors such as:
 - Lower cost of living (Inge, 2006)
 - Reduction of poverty (Curtis, 2018)
 - Enduring kinship ties (Tolnay, 2003)
- Black middle class is concentrated in the South, and college graduates have led the way (Frey, 2004).

Research Questions

- How is the prevalence of college-educated Black adults within Southern metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) associated with marriage prevalence among Black adults?
 - How has this changed from 2005-2009 to 2015-2019?
 - What demographic and economic variables attenuate the association between the prevalence of college-educated Black adults and marriage prevalence among Black people?

Data and Sample

- 2005-2009 and 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates
- ACS is a nationally representative survey consisting of 3.5 million addresses across the U.S. and Puerto Rico.
- Unit of analysis is MSA:
 - Only included MSAs that:
 - Were at least the size of the smallest congressional district for those periods
 - Had a Black population of at least 50,000
- N = 32

Study Variables

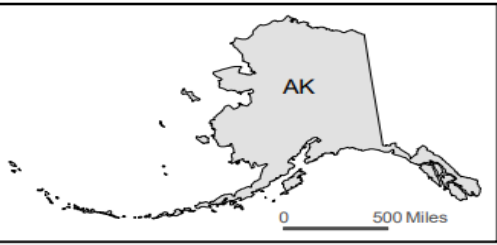
- Dependent variable
 - Percentage of non-Hispanic Black alone adults aged 18+ living with a spouse
- Independent variables (within MSAs)
 - Percentage of Black adults aged 25+ with a bachelor's degree or higher
 - Percentage of Black women between ages 15-49
 - Median age of Black people
 - Percentage of unemployed Black people aged 16-64
 - Percentage of households with a Black householder in poverty
 - Analytic strategy
 - Ordinary least squares (OLS) regressions

Descriptive Results: College Education

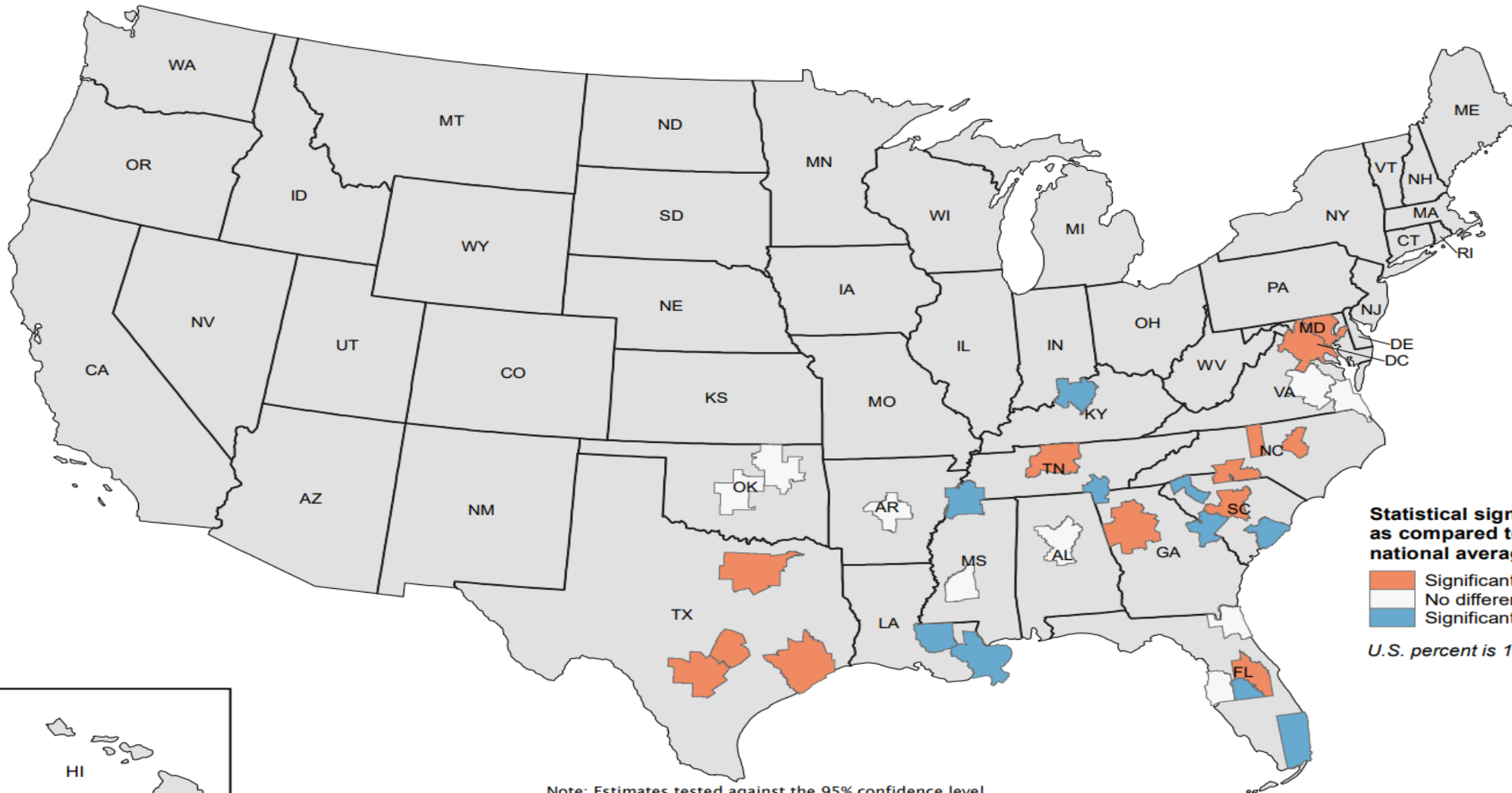
- Southern states with a significantly higher percentage of college-educated Black adults:

2005-2009 National Percentage of College-Educated Black Adults: 17.2%
District of Columbia
Georgia
Maryland
Texas
Virginia

2015-2019 National Percentage of College-Educated Black Adults: 21.6%
Delaware
District of Columbia
Georgia
Maryland
Texas
Virginia



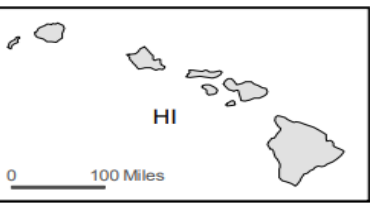
Percentage of Black Adults Aged 25+ with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher in the South, by MSA: 2005-2009



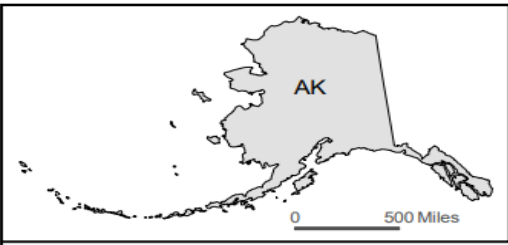
Statistical significance as compared to the national average

- Significantly higher
- No difference
- Significantly lower

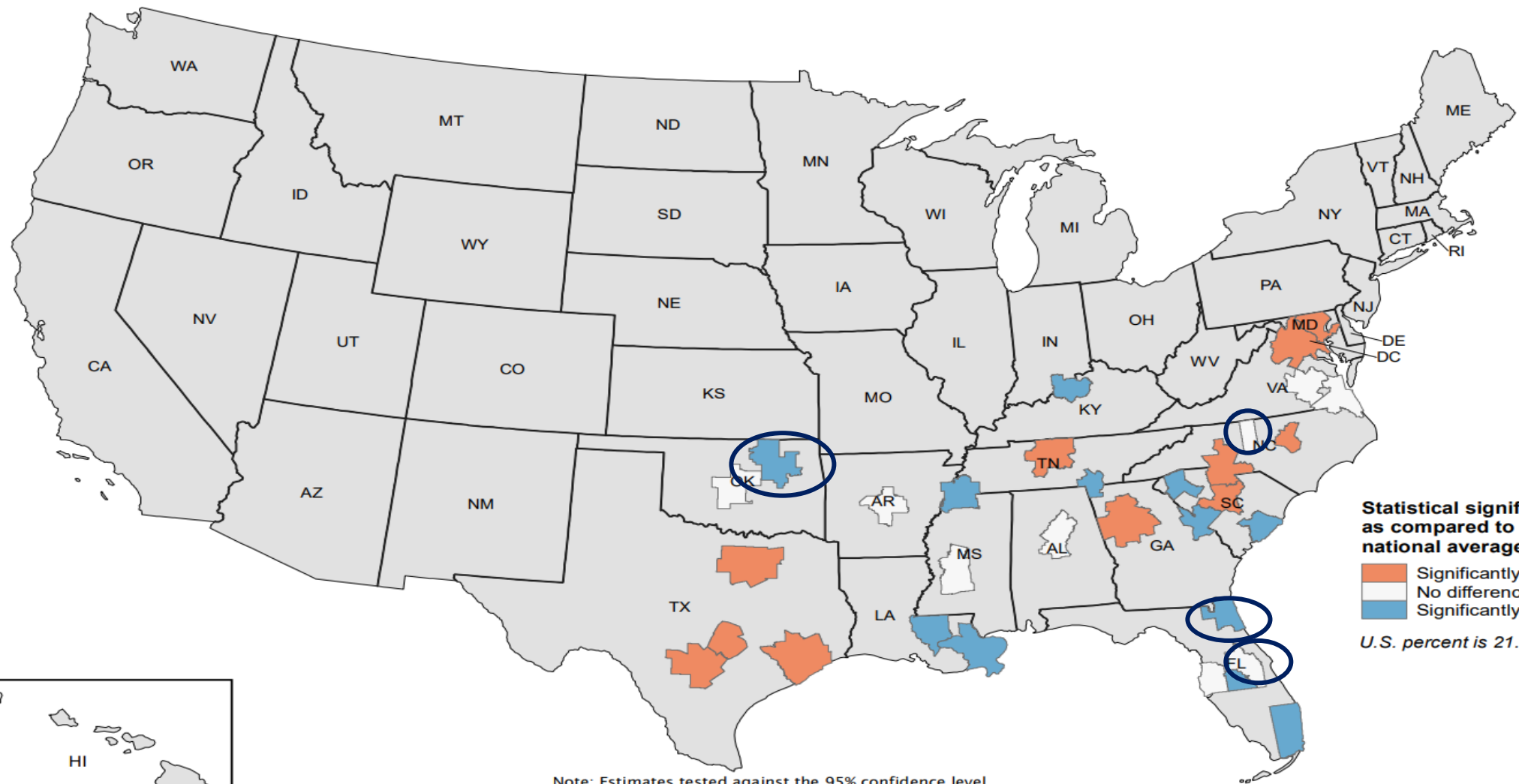
U.S. percent is 17.2%



Note: Estimates tested against the 95% confidence level.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 - 2009 American Community Survey, 5 - Year estimates
 For more information about the ACS, refer to census.gov/acs.



Percentage of Black Adults Aged 25+ with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher in the South, by MSA: 2015-2019



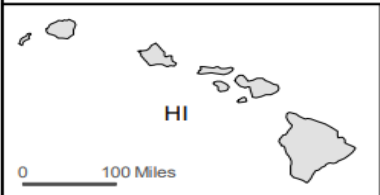
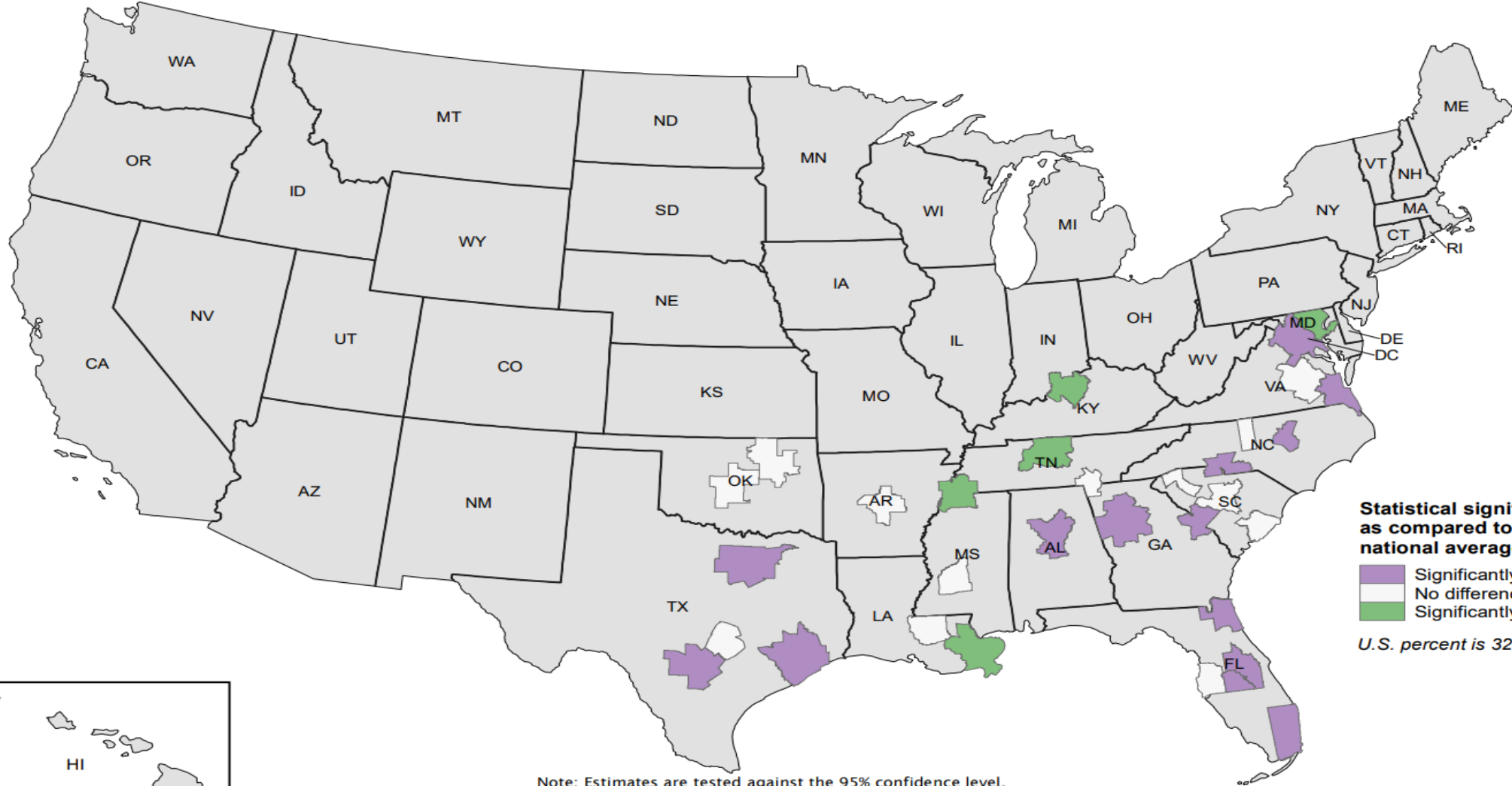
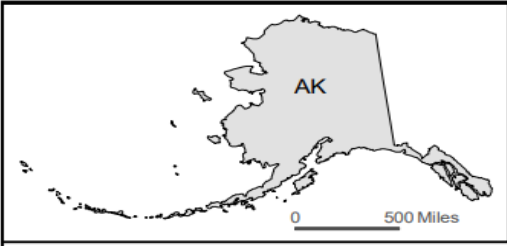
Note: Estimates tested against the 95% confidence level.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year estimates
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Descriptive Results: Marriage

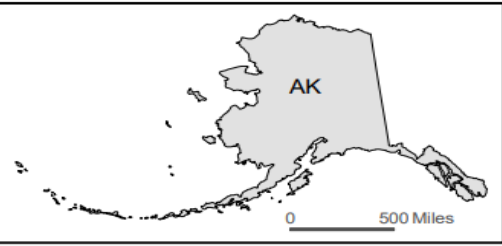
- Southern states with a significantly lower percentage of Black adults living with a spouse.

2005-2009 National Percentage of Black Adults Living with a Spouse: 32.8%	2015-2019 National Percentage of Black Adults Living with a Spouse: 31.0%
District of Columbia	District of Columbia
Mississippi	Kentucky
Tennessee	Louisiana

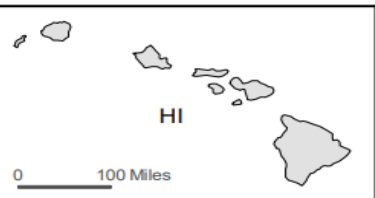
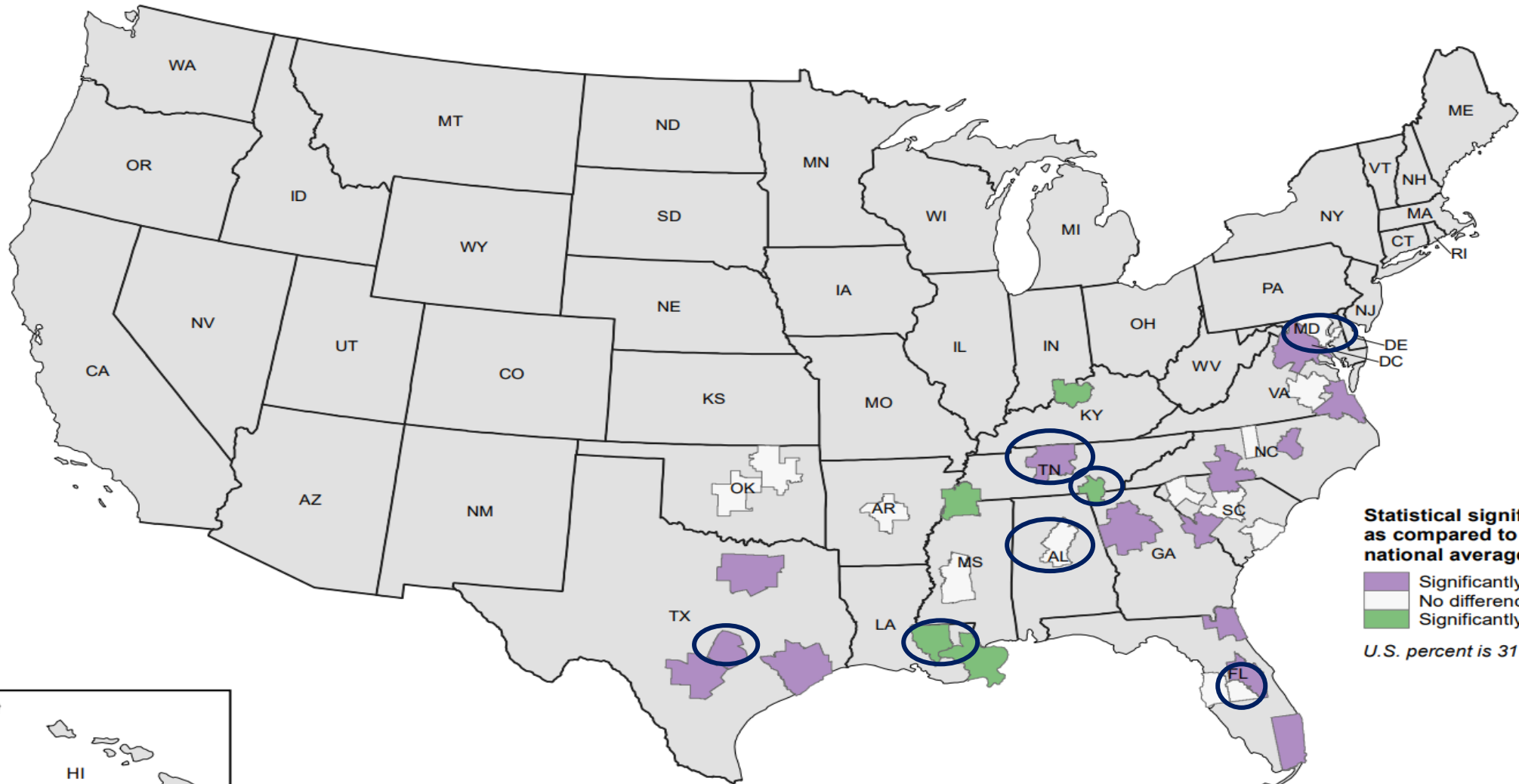
Percentage of Black Adults Aged 18+ Living with a Spouse in the South, by MSA: 2005-2009



Note: Estimates are tested against the 95% confidence level.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey, 5-Year estimates
 For more information about the ACS, refer to census.gov/acs.










Percentage of Black Adults Aged 18+ Living with a Spouse in the South, by MSA: 2015-2019



Note: Estimates are tested against the 95% confidence level.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year estimates
 For more information about the ACS, refer to census.gov/acs.

Bivariate Results

Results of Bivariate OLS Regression Analyses Predicting Marriage Prevalence		
	2005-2009	2015-2019
Median Age	N.S.	 *
Percentage Female	N.S.	N.S.
Percentage Unemployed	 **	 *
Percentage College-Educated	 *	 ***
Percentage in Poverty	 ***	 ***

Note: Green arrows denote a positive association, while red arrows denote a negative association.

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



N.S. = Not Significant

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 and 2015-2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year estimates

For more information about the ACS, refer to census.gov/acs.



Multivariate Results: 2005-2009

Results of OLS Multivariate Regression Predicting Marriage Prevalence				
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
Median Age	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.
Percentage Female	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.
Percentage Unemployed		 *	N.S.	N.S.
Percentage College-Educated			N.S.	
Percentage in Poverty				 **

Note: Green arrows denote a positive association, while red arrows denote a negative association.



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Multivariate Results: 2015-2019

Results of OLS Multivariate Regression Predicting Marriage Prevalence				
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
Median Age	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.
Percentage Female	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.
Percentage Unemployed		N.S.	N.S.	N.S.
Percentage College-Educated			 **	
Percentage in Poverty				 ***

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Discussion

- Many Southern MSAs have both a higher prevalence of college-educated Black adults and a higher prevalence of married Black adults.
- Socioeconomic variables appear to play a stronger role in marriage prevalence than demographic variables like median age or percent female within MSA.
 - There is less practical importance of marriage, so economic factors like college education appear to be becoming increasingly important.
- The association between college education and marriage prevalence became stronger over time.
 - Those without college degrees may become increasingly likely to delay or forgo marriage.

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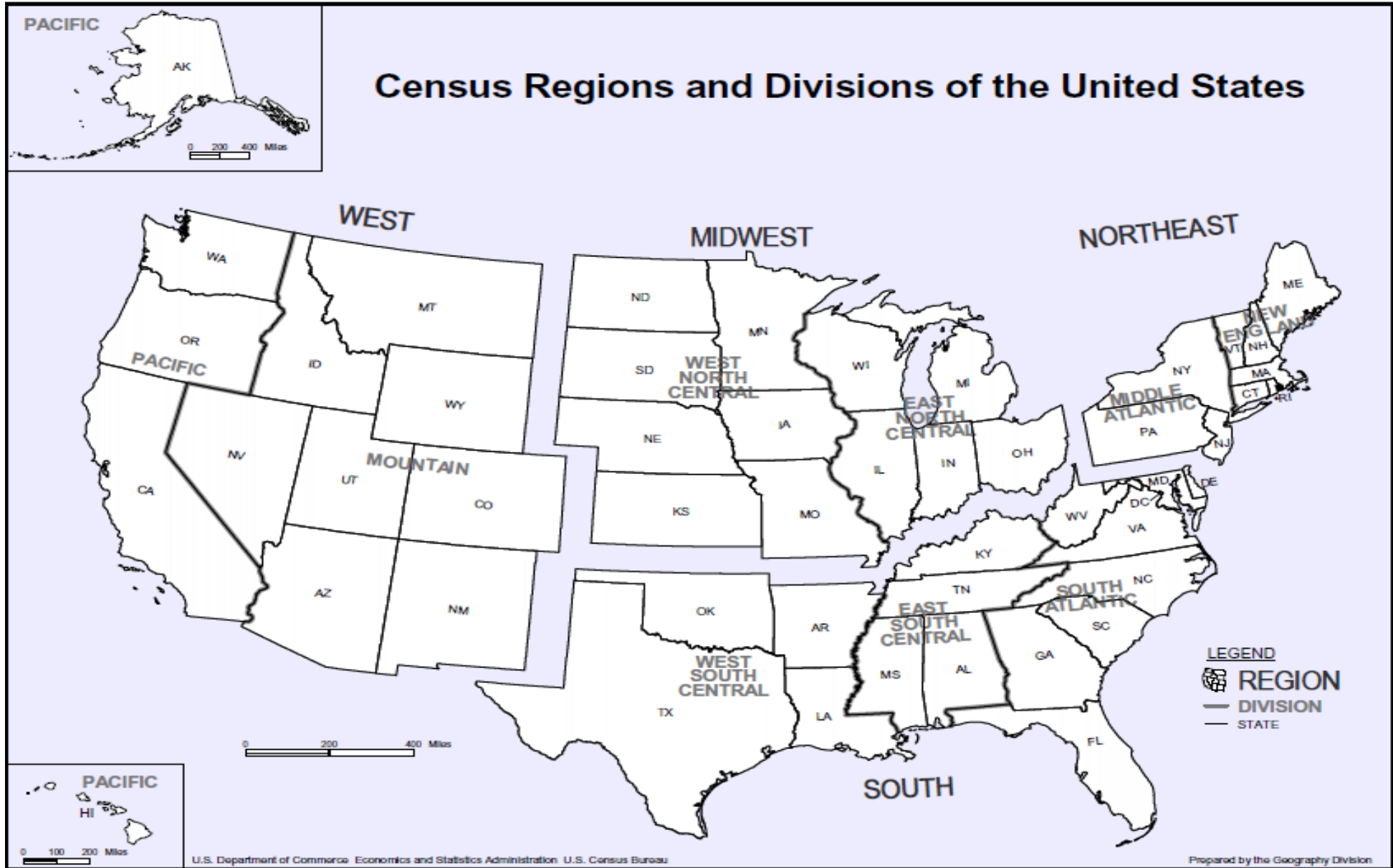
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Thank You!

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