A Geographic Comparison of Child Poverty and Adult Poverty from 2006 to 2009

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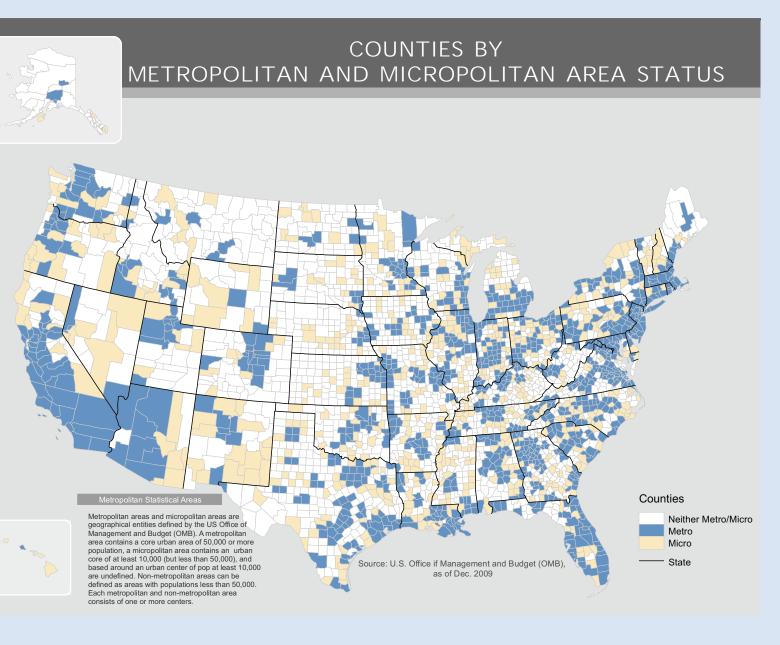
BACKGROUND

Child Poverty

- The poverty rate for children historically has been higher than the adult poverty rate.
 In 2009, this disparity was highlighted nationally as children represented 35.5 percent
- of people in poverty, but only 24.5 percent of the population (DeNavas-Walt, Proctor and Smith 2010).
- Higher child poverty is attributed to several reasons:
- Households with children are larger than households without children (i.e., more money is needed to stay out of poverty)
- On average, households with children have fewer workers than childless households (e.g., single parents).

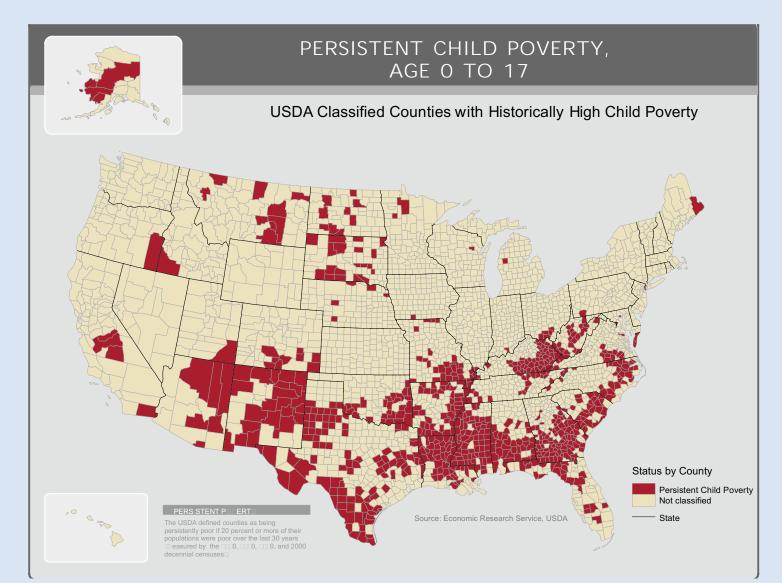
Place of Residence

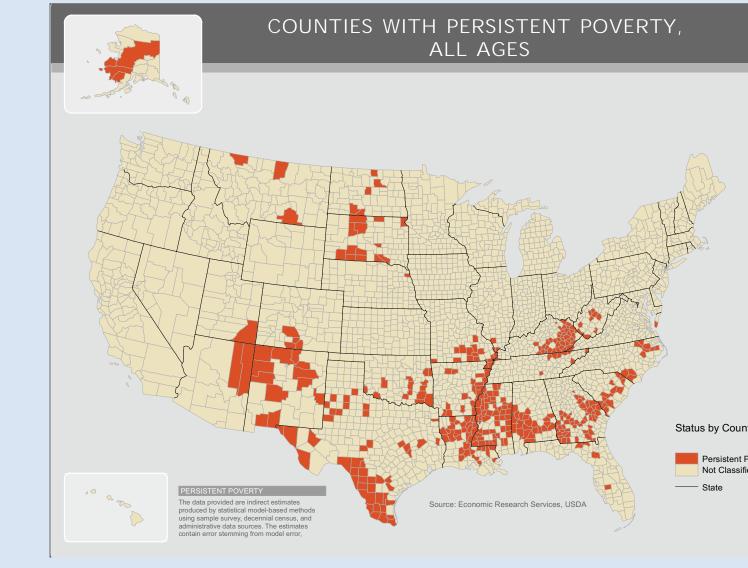
- One of the key indicators of poverty is place of residence. Place of residence with less populated areas (nonmetropolitan areas) have a disproportionate share of the poverty population in the U.S (Tickamyer and Duncan, 1990).
- As defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), a metropolitan area contains a core urban area of 50,000 or more population and a nonmetropolitan area has a core urban area population of less than 50,000. Each metropolitan or nonmetropolitan area consists of one or more counties.
- Nonmetropolitan areas include micropolitan areas (core urban area of 10,000 or more population but less than 50,000) and neither metropolitan nor micropolitan areas (populations less than 10,000).



Persistent Poverty

- Counties are defined as being persistently poor if 20 percent or more of their populations were poor over the last 30 years (as measured by the 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 decennial censuses) (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2004).
- The USDA classifies 386 counties with persistent poverty (all-ages) with 340 of those being in nonmetropolitan areas. These areas were predominately in the rural South.
 USDA also defined 735 counties as having persistent child poverty (0 to 17 years) with 604 of those being in nonmetropolitan areas. These areas were predominately in the South and in areas with high Native American populations (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2003).
- Prior to model-based estimates, timely single-year county-level poverty research has been limited to decennial census data.





DATA & METHODS

Topics of Interest

- How do 2009 child and adult countylevel poverty rates compare geographically, specifically by region, states and metropolitan and nonmetropolitan statistical areas?
- Using single-year data from 2006 to 2009, how do changes in poverty rates for children ages 0 to 17 compare to adult poverty rates (ages 18 and over)?
- In areas with historically higher poverty rates, does the disparity between child poverty and adult poverty become less apparent?

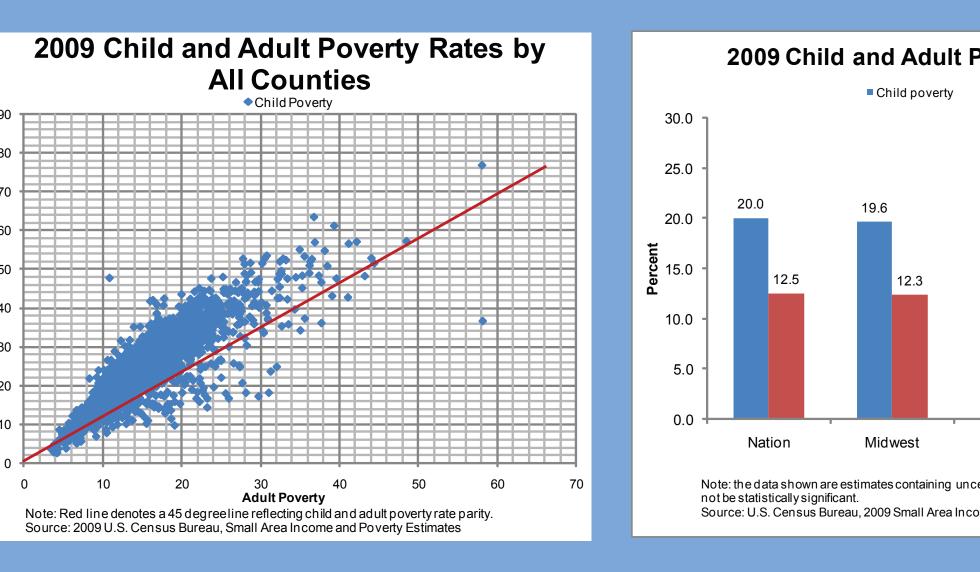
Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

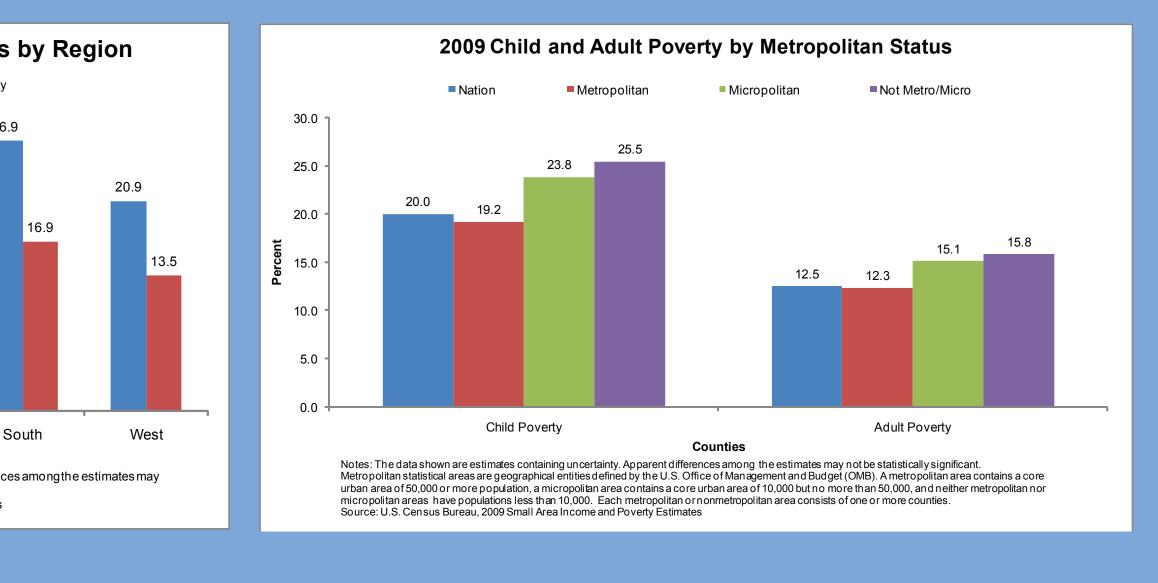
- The Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program publishes single-year child and all-age poverty estimates for all counties in the U.S.
- SAIPE estimates are model-based estimates using the American Community Survey (ACS) as the dependent variable and administrative records as the predictor variables.
- These administrative records include: aggregated income tax data, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) receipt, post censal population estimates, and Census 2000.
- County-level SAIPE allows for substantial error reduction compared to direct surveys alone.

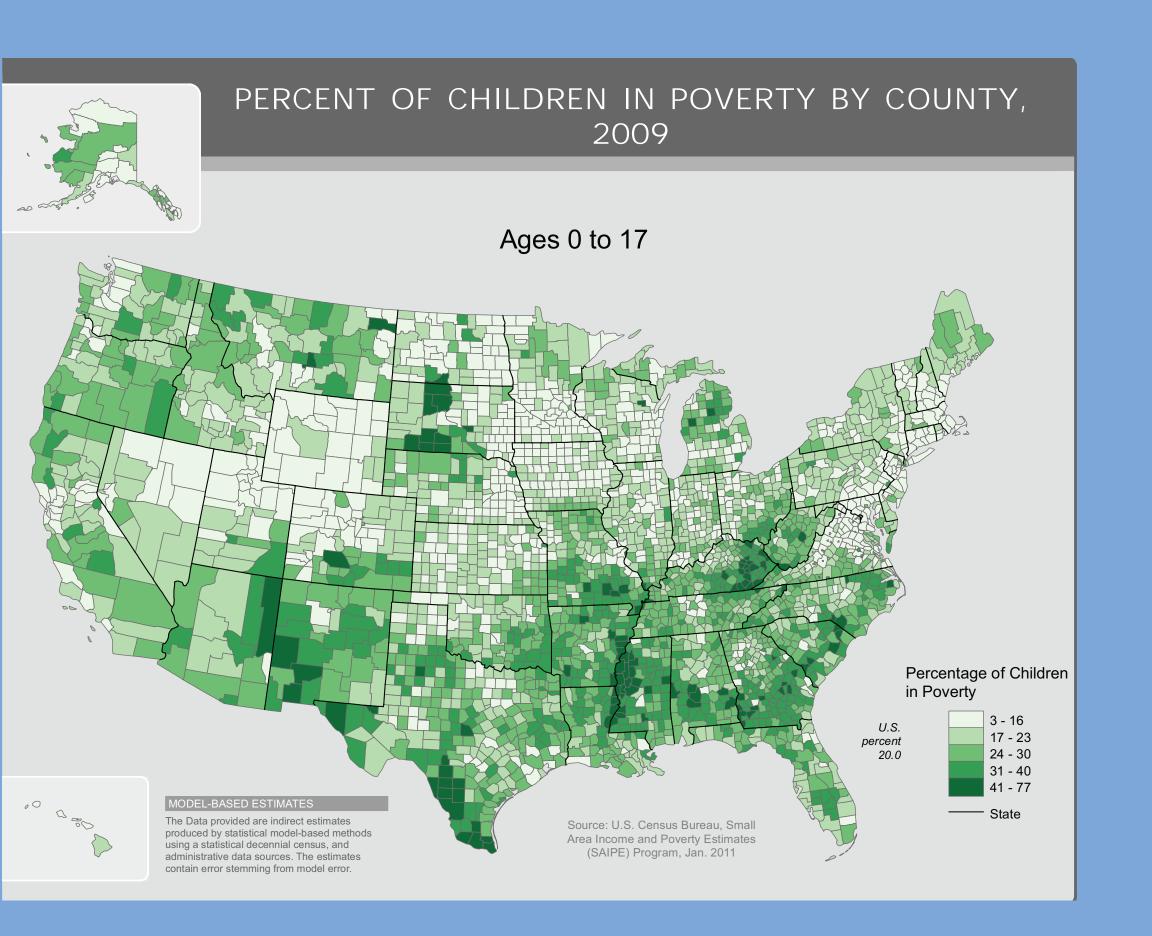
Methods

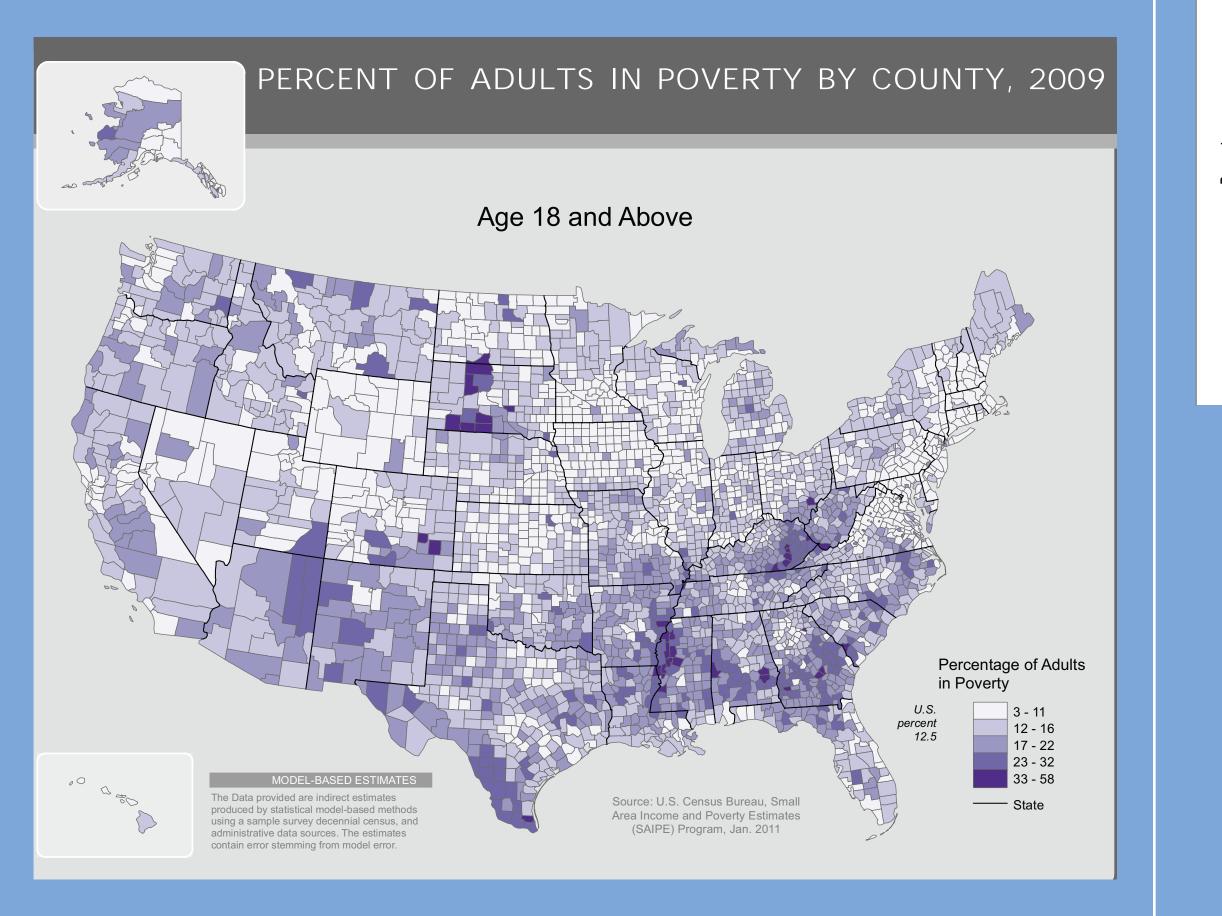
- This analysis uses estimates produced by the 2006 to 2009 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE).
- For this research, model-based adult (18 years or older) poverty rates and standard errors were calculated. These estimates are unpublished.
- SAIPE data match the ACS survey in both the definition of poverty and the poverty universe.
- The ACS defines poverty as: A family, and all individuals in the family, is in poverty if their total money income is less than the poverty threshold for the family size and age composition.
- The universe for this analysis is the poverty universe which excludes unrelated persons under age 15, and all persons in institutions, dorms, or barracks.

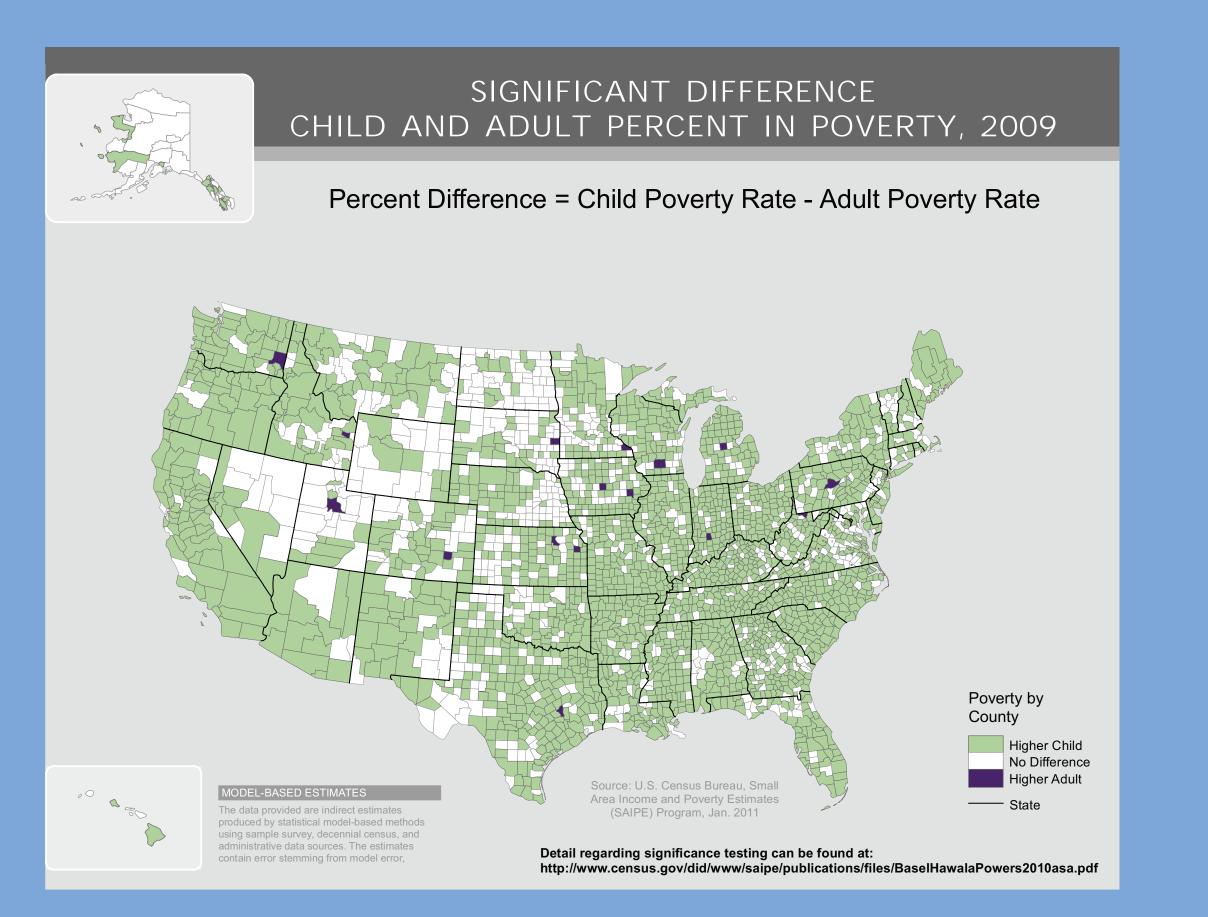
2009 CHILD & ADULT POVERTY

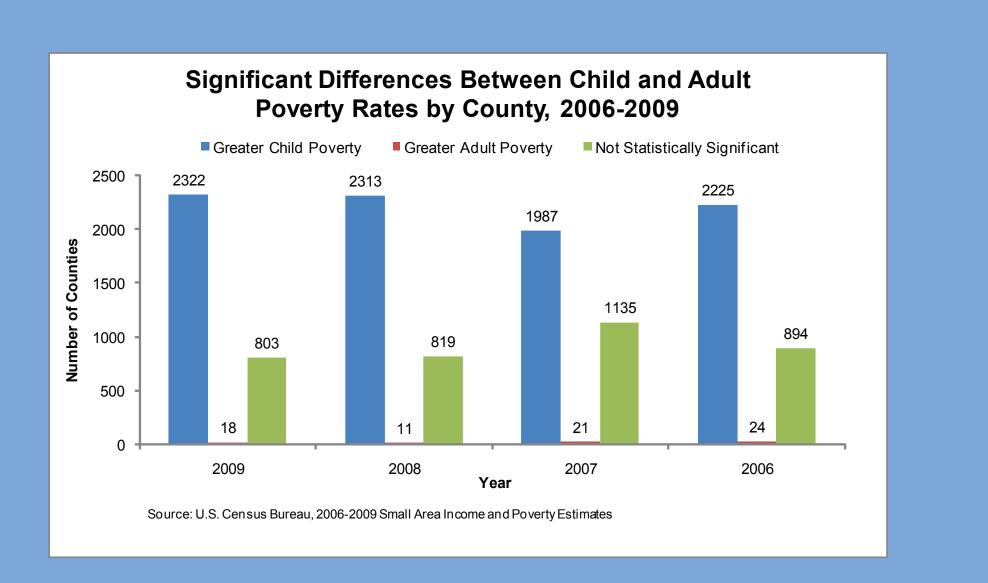




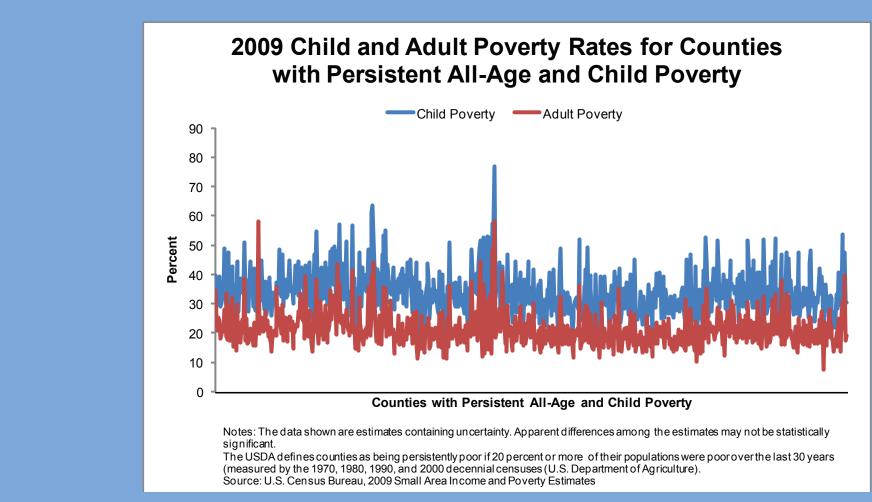


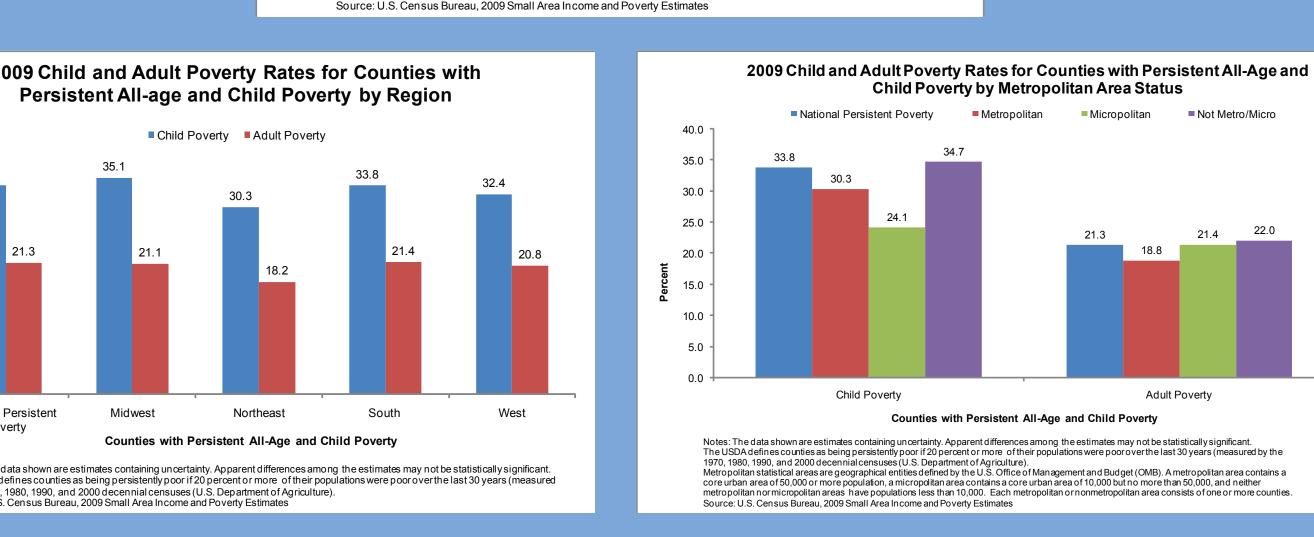


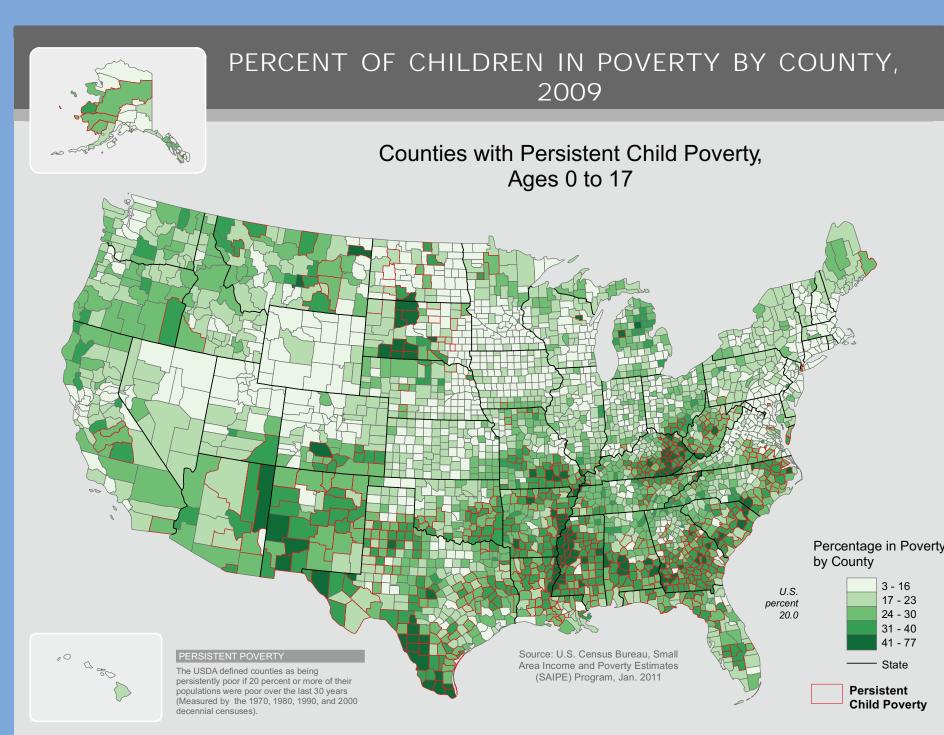


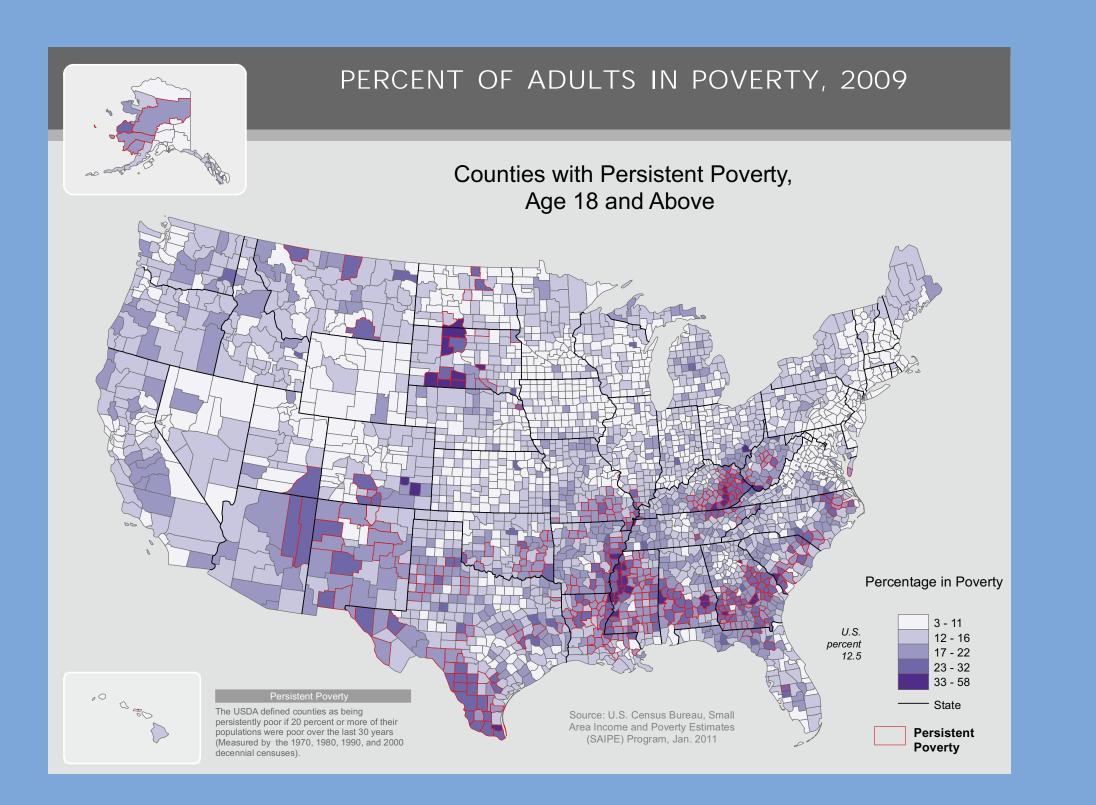


PERSISTENT POVERTY

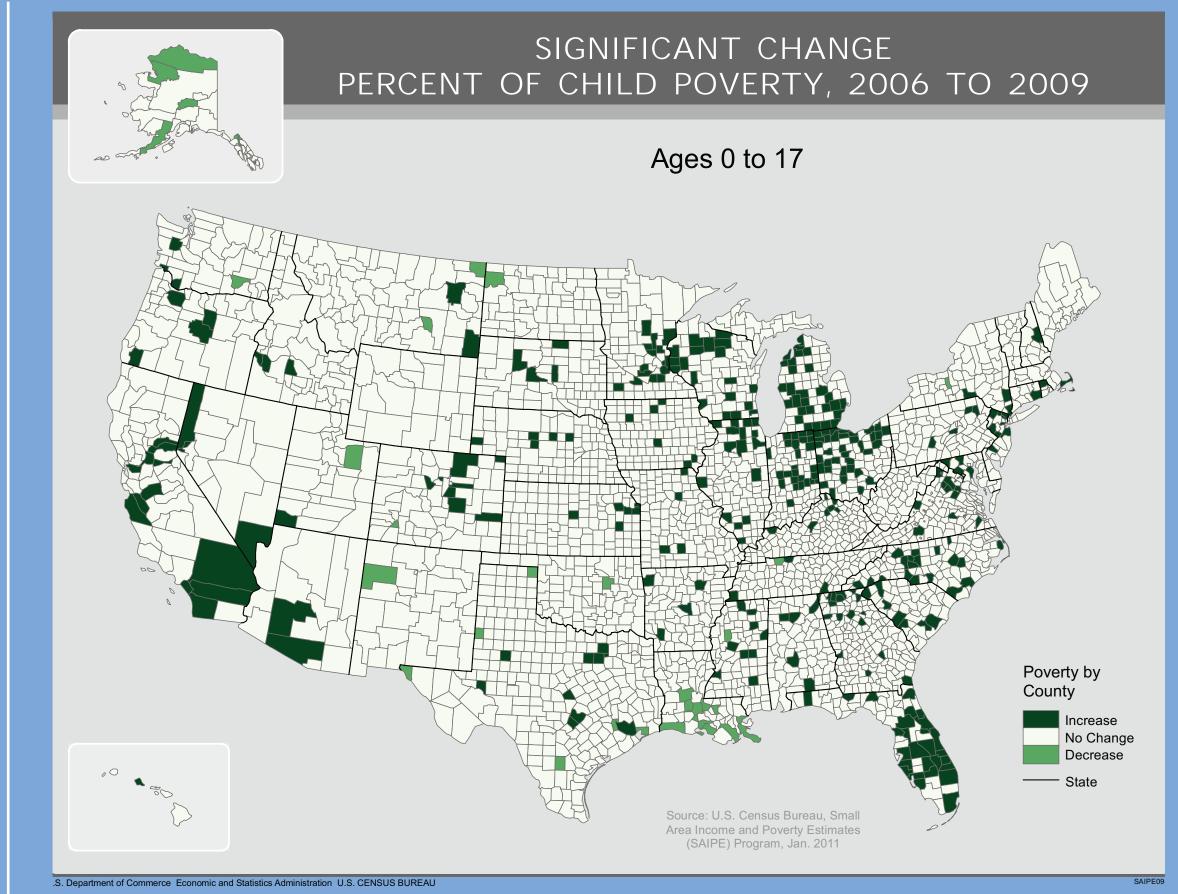


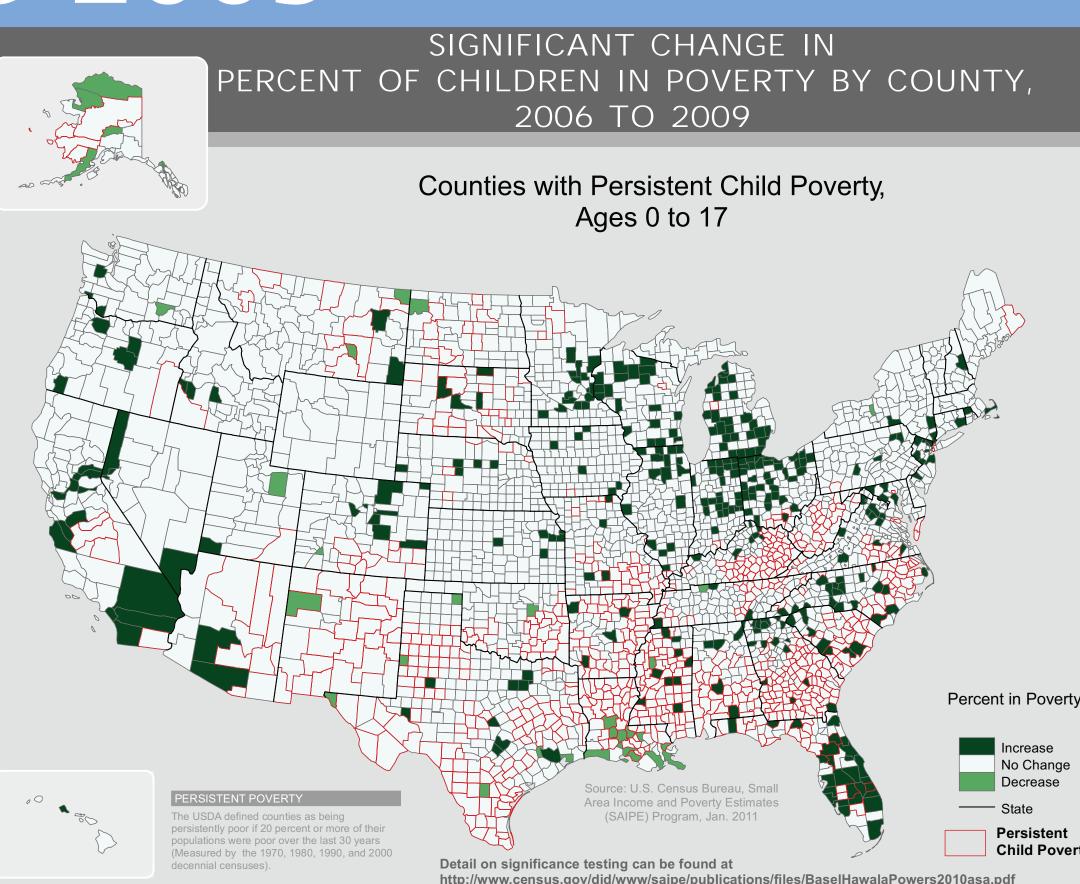


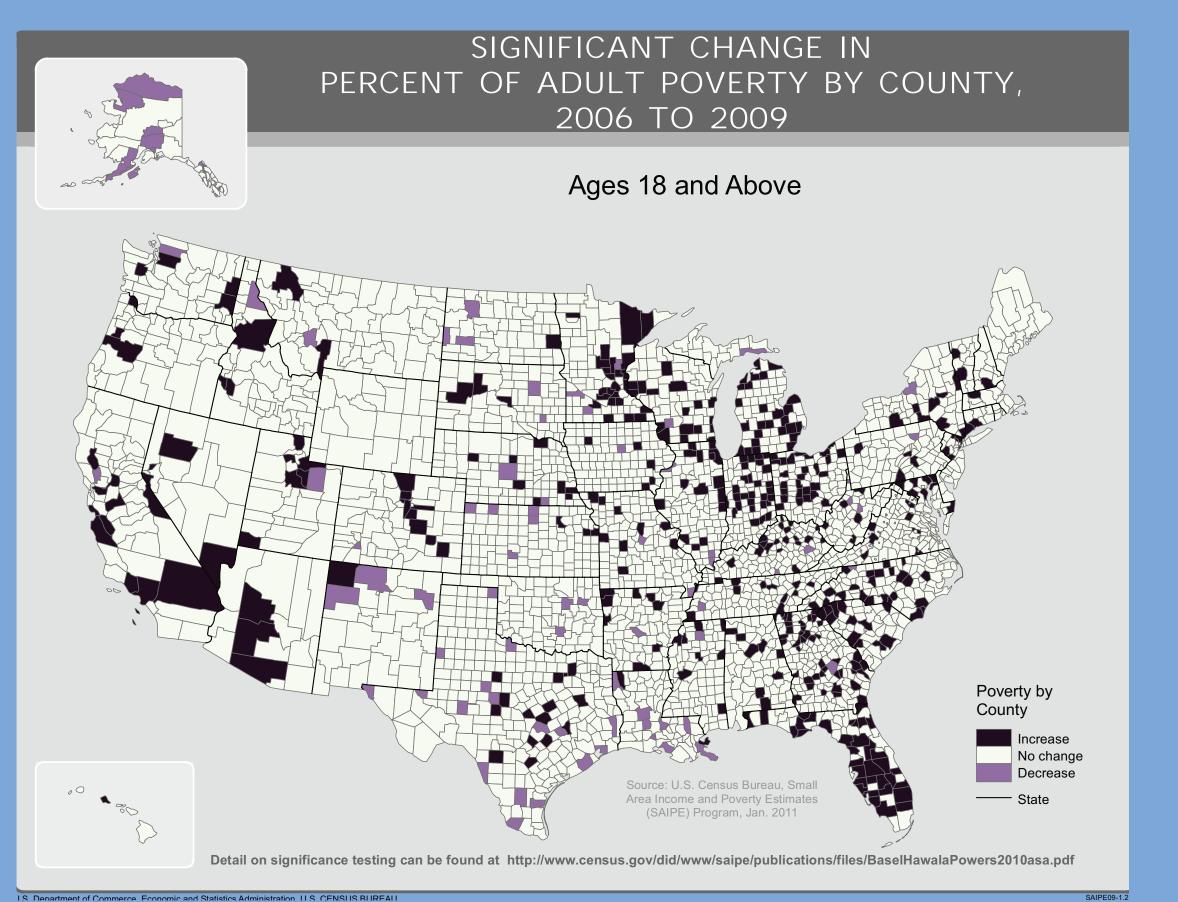


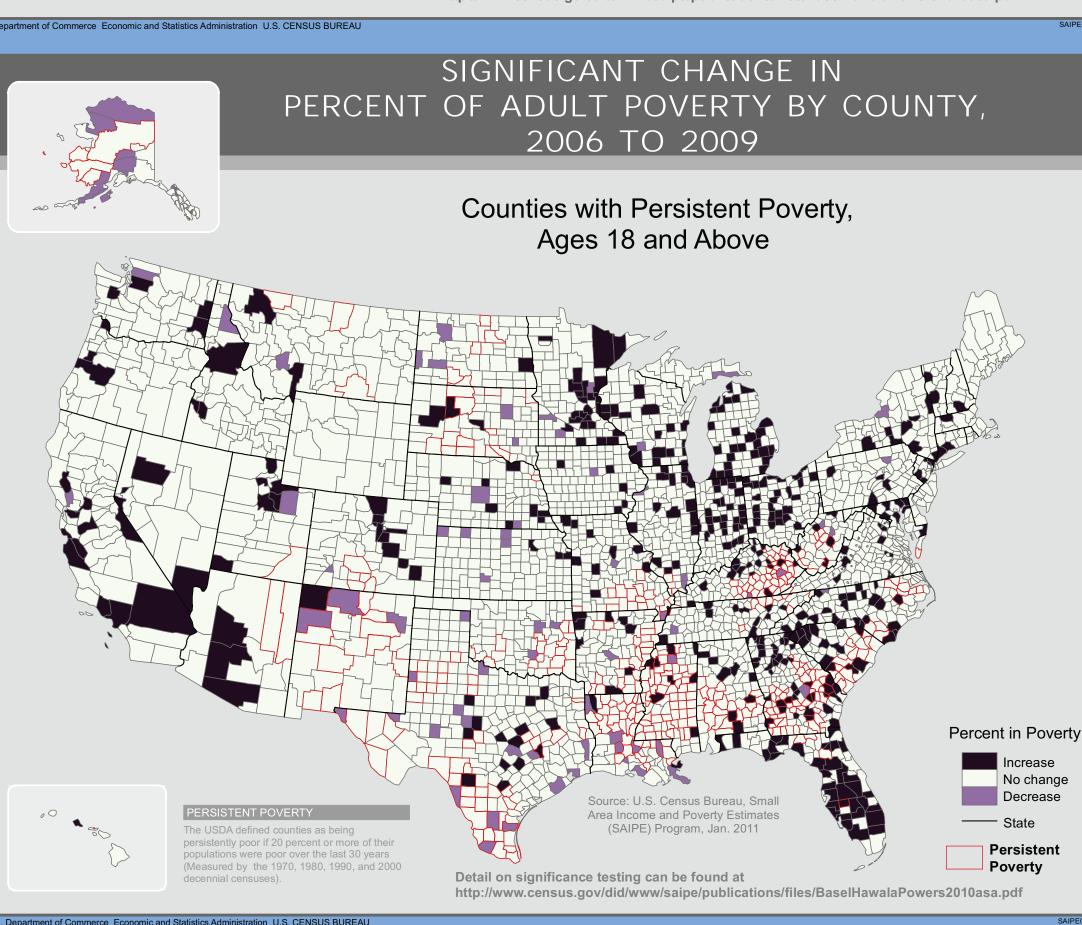


PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2006 TO 2009









SUMMARY

Discussion

- Child poverty is consistently higher than adult poverty for almost all counties. In 2009, all but 18 counties have greater child poverty than adult poverty.
- Nonmetropolitan areas continue to have higher rates of poverty than metropolitan areas.
- For the counties with persistent poverty, there is a consistent disparity between child poverty and adult poverty. However, this disparity is not marginalized in these historically high poverty areas.
 The persistent poverty measure does not coincide with areas where high increases of poverty have been seen in recent years (e.g.,

Michigan, Florida, and Southern California).

Future Research

- With the ongoing results of the ACS, we assume the USDA will have an updated list of counties with persistent poverty for 2010. Using this new list, research should be conducted to see if there is a continued pattern of numerous counties with high rates of poverty for the last decade, but not the last 40 years.
- As proposed by Basel et al. (2010), extend the residual-based approach of estimating model error correlation for statistical comparisons to within-year model-based estimates with different demographic domains.

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