

# Mapping Interracial/Interethnic Married-Couple Households in the United States: 2010

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## INTRODUCTION

This poster examines the geographic distribution of interracial and interethnic married couples in the United States. The analysis focuses on county level distributions that map the prevalence of specific combinations of interracial/interethnic married couples, such as Whites married to Asians. The county maps illustrate the diversity of interracial/interethnic couple combinations around the country. Much of the literature on interracial or interethnic married couples shows all such couples together. However, particular intermarried combinations have distinct histories and distributions across the United States.

Given distinct paths of entry into the United States, internal migration patterns, and residential segregation, we would expect that White/Black couples may tend to live in different areas than White/Asian couples, for example. Couples with a relatively longer history of intermarriage, such as Hispanic/non-Hispanic couples or White/American Indian and Alaska Native couples may have distinct patterns of residence. This poster provides basic information about where particular intermarried couples live, by county, across the United States.

## DATA SOURCE

The 2010 Census provides a large and robust data source to examine the distribution of interracial/interethnic combinations of married couples across the United States. Given the immense size of the 2010 data sets, it is possible to map the prevalence of particular combinations of interracial/interethnic married couples. The decennial census asked only about the relationship of each household member to the householder (one who owns or rents the housing unit). So we can only show married couples that include the householder. Based on American Community Survey (ACS) estimates for 2010, we are likely including about 97 percent of all married couples.

Source: Internal Census Bureau Tabulation, 2010 ACS.

## WHICH COUPLE COMBINATIONS ARE SHOWN?

In 2010, there were 5.4 million interracial or interethnic married-couple households. These married couples were 9.5 percent of all married-couple households. This was an increase from 2000, when 7.4 percent of married-couple households were interracial or interethnic. Of the 64 possible combinations, this poster considers intermarried combinations for groups that comprise at least 5 percent of all interracial or interethnic couples nationwide, as shown in Table 1.

The seven groups account for 94 percent of all the intermarried couple households. Tables detailing husband's race/origin by wife's race/origin can be accessed online at: <[www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/briefs/cph-t-4.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/briefs/cph-t-4.html)>.

Table 1. Married-Couple Households in the United States: 2010		
Type of Couple	Number	Percent
<b>TOTAL MARRIED-COUPLE HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>56,510,377</b>	<b>100</b>
Total same race or same Hispanic origin couples	51,141,342	90.5
Total interracial/interethnic couples	5,369,035	9.5
<b>TOTAL INTERRACIAL/INTERETHNIC COUPLES</b>	<b>5,369,035</b>	<b>100</b>
Combination Shown in Poster:		
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 American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN)	280,780	5.2
Non-Hispanic White/Non-Hispanic Asian	737,493	13.7
One reported multiple races (both Hispanic or both non-Hispanic)	838,190	15.6
Both reported multiple races (both Hispanic or both non-Hispanic)	341,255	6.4
Hispanic/Non-Hispanic (excluding Non-Hispanic White)	390,650	7.3
Combination Not Shown in Poster:		
Non-Hispanic White/Non-Hispanic NHPI	33,242	0.6
Non-Hispanic White/Non-Hispanic SOR	29,385	0.5
Both reported a single race, neither is White, both Hispanic or both non-Hispanic	108,994	2.0
Both reported Hispanic, one White, the other is another single race	165,971	3.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

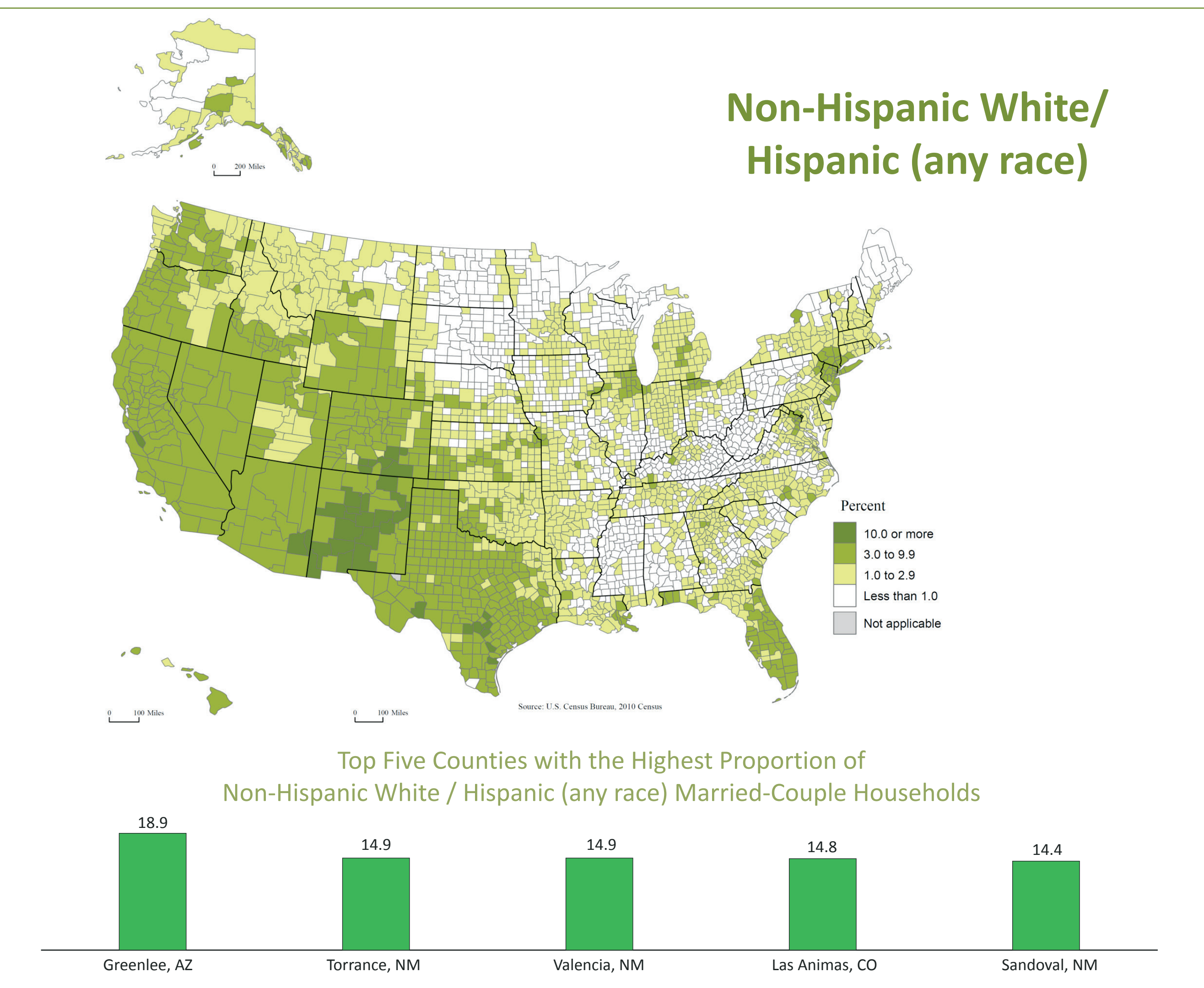
## FACTORS AFFECTING RESIDENCE PATTERNS OF INTERMARRIED COUPLES

- Opportunity for potential spouses to meet.** In areas where there are few Asians, for example, we would expect to see fewer White/Asian intermarried households (Harris and Ono 2004).
- Historic patterns of residence/migration patterns.** For example, the removal of many American Indian tribes from their original lands to reservation lands; historically higher proportions of Hispanics living in the Southwest; historically higher proportions of Asians living in the West.
- Characteristics of the current population that are typical of those who are more likely to intermarry.** For example, individuals with higher educational attainment are more likely to intermarry, so one might expect that areas with higher educational levels might have more intermarried couple households (Qian and Lichter 2007; Fryer 2007).

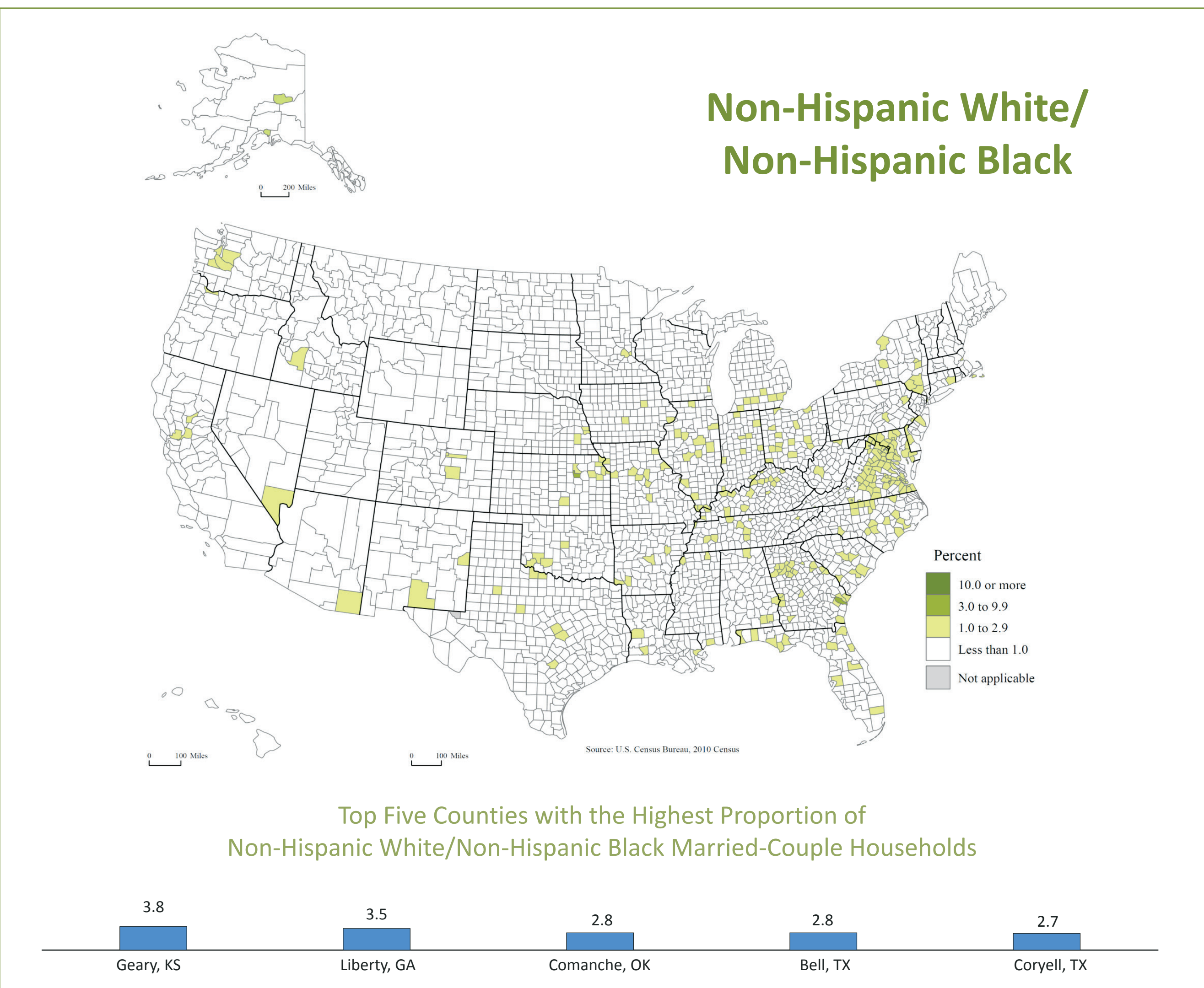
## CONCLUSIONS

County level maps showing the percentage of all married-couple households that involve particular intermarried combinations demonstrate the distinctive residential patterns of racial groups in the United States, as well as reflecting the connection to the particular histories of race and ethnic groups in the United States. The majority of interracial/interethnic married-couple households are located in counties in the West with the exception of non-Hispanic White/non-Hispanic Black married-couple households (Qian and Lichter 2011; Wang 2012).

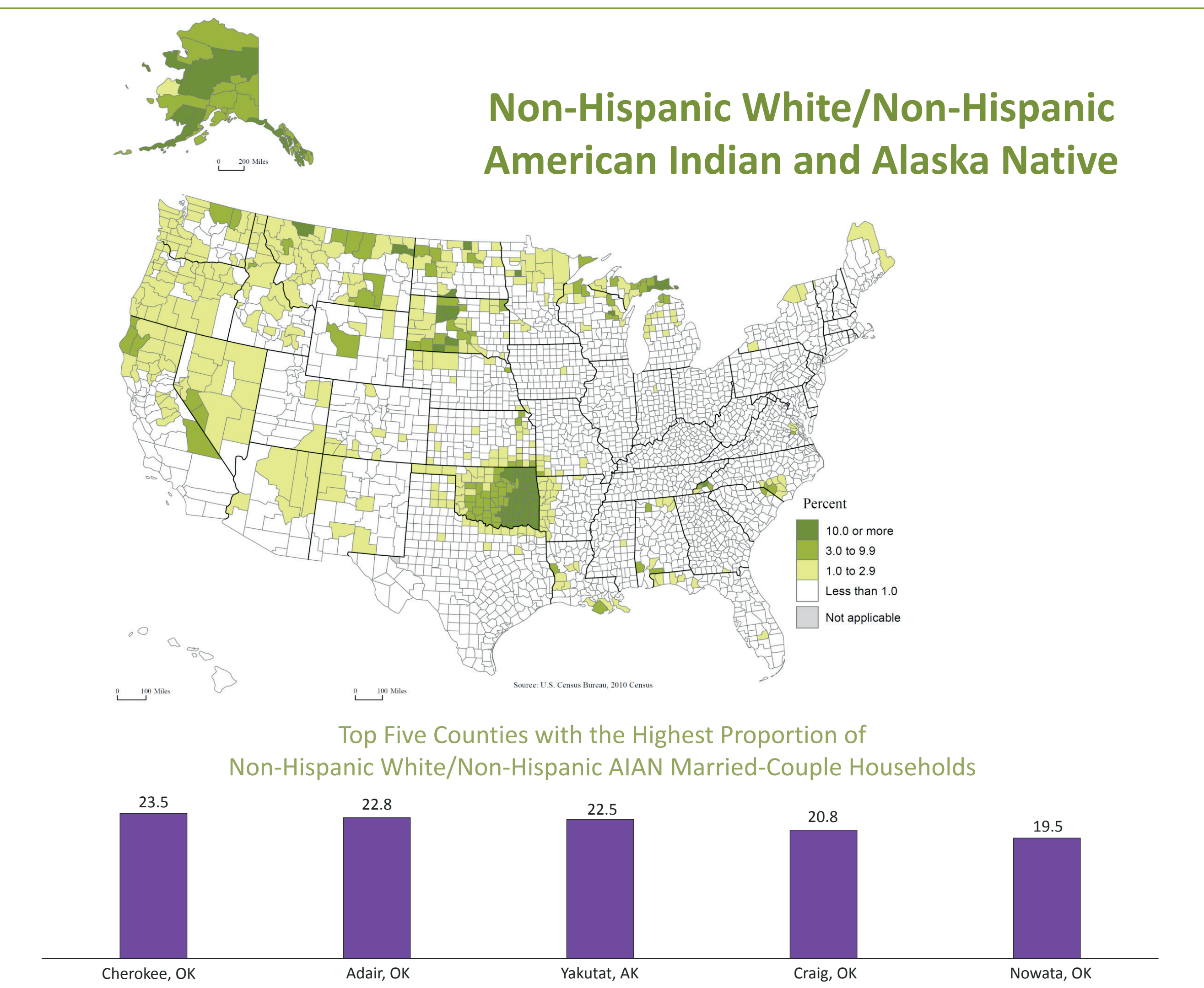
## INTERRACIAL / INTERETHNIC MARRIED-COUPLE HOUSEHOLDS AS A PERCENT OF ALL MARRIED-COUPLE HOUSEHOLDS BY COUNTY



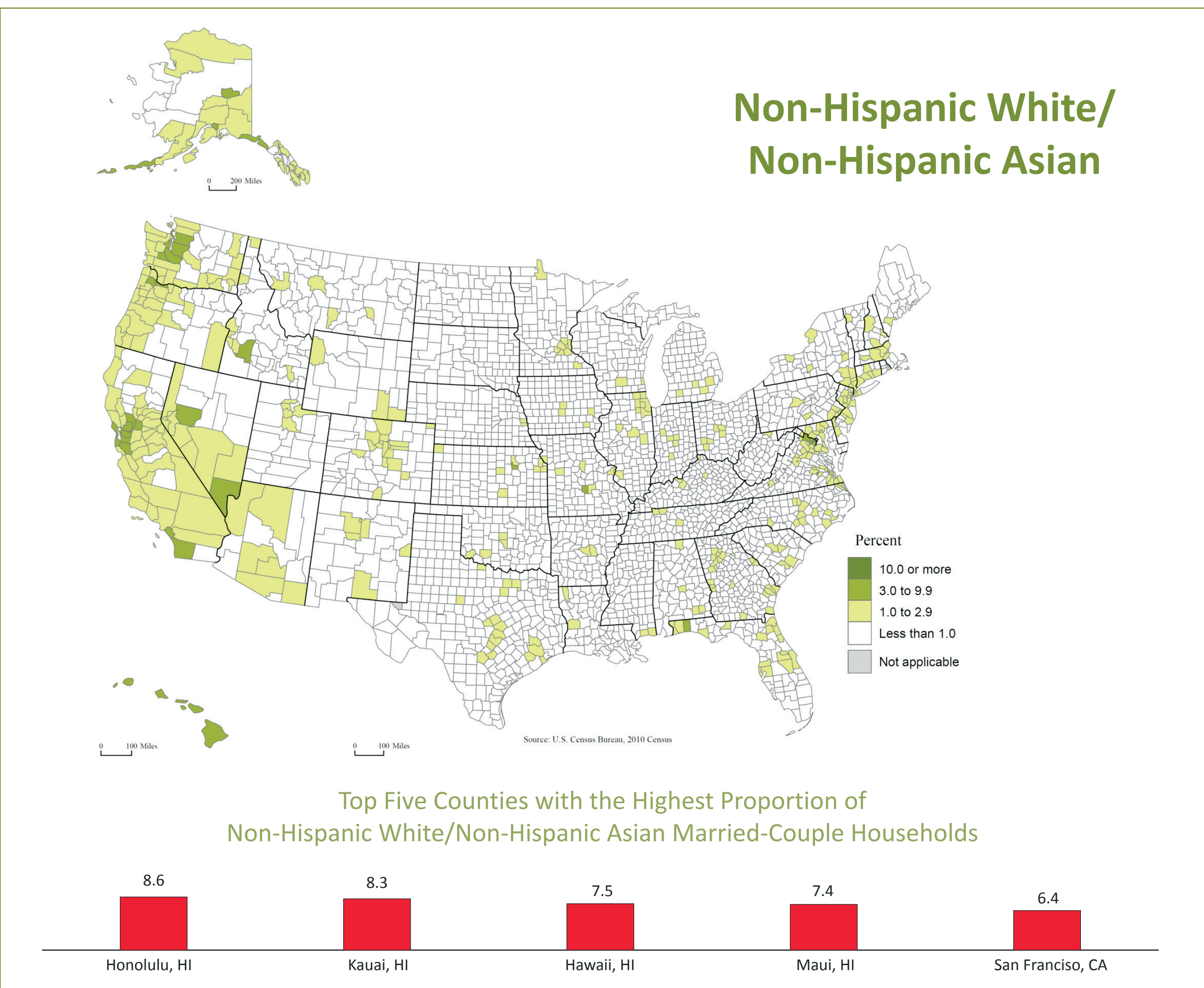
Although rates of Hispanics marrying non-Hispanics have declined since the 1990s (Lichter, et al. 2011) due in part to increasing residential segregation (Lichter, et al. 2007), Hispanics have a long history of intermarriage in the southwestern part of the United States. Although some states in the West had laws against intermarriage, Hispanics were not mentioned (Pascoe 1991; Fryer 2007). In these areas, large Hispanic communities predated their incorporation as part of the United States. Given that most of the counties with higher proportions of Hispanics are located in western states (Ennis, et al. 2011), it is no surprise that the highest proportions of non-Hispanic White/Hispanic (any race) married couple households are also concentrated in counties in the West, including the top five highest proportions which are located in counties in Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado.



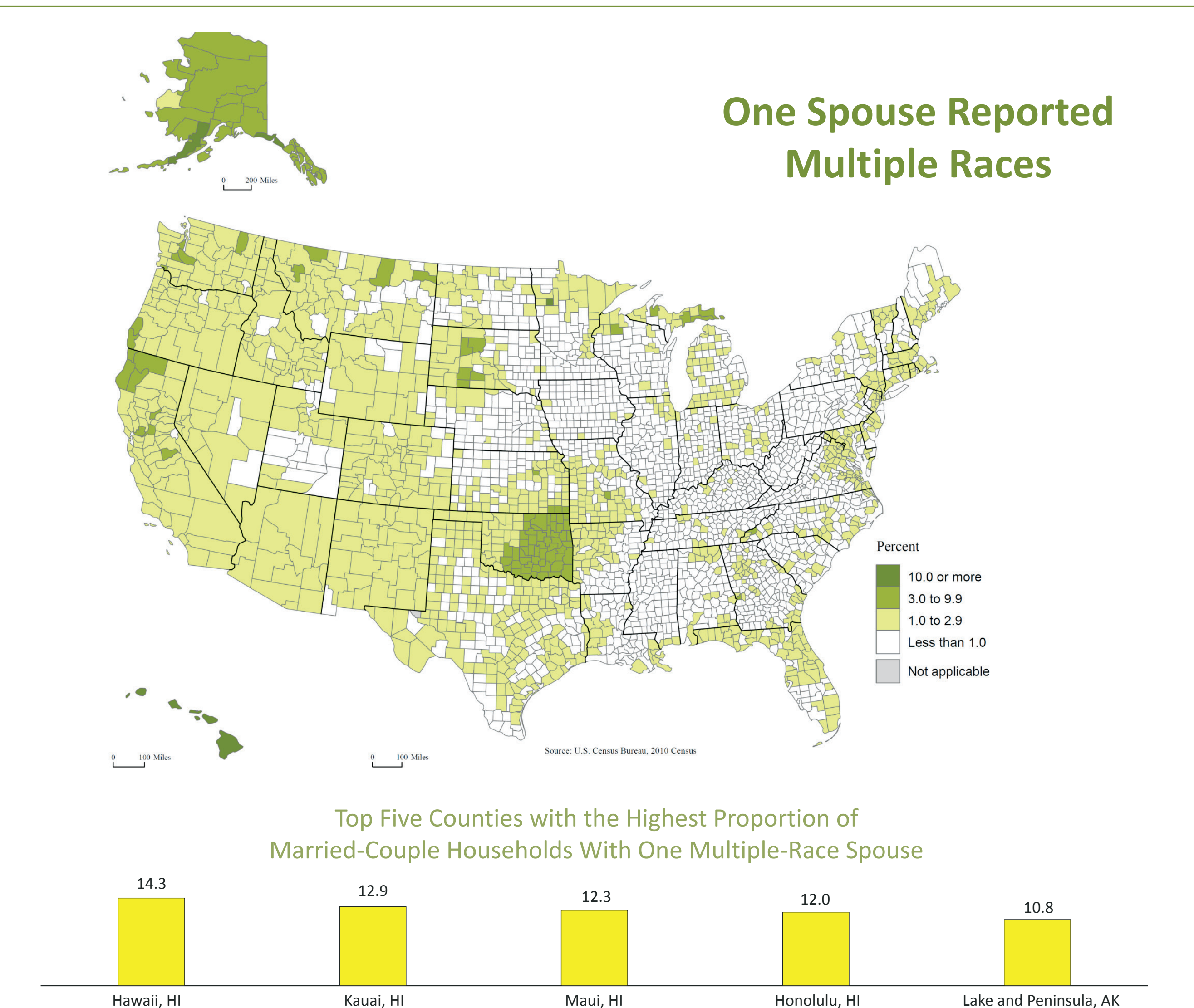
White/Black intermarriage has a unique history in the United States. Since many African Americans entered the United States through the slave trade, marriage patterns between the two groups were heavily influenced by racism and slavery for hundreds of years. It was not until 1967 that the U.S. Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional for a state to have laws banning interracial marriage. Despite concentrations of the Black population in counties across the lower South (Rastogi, et al. 2011), high proportions of non-Hispanic White/non-Hispanic Black married couple households are primarily concentrated in counties in the Mid-Atlantic (Virginia, Maryland, as well as the District of Columbia). The top five highest proportions are located in counties in Kansas, Georgia, Texas, and Oklahoma, in or near a military installation, reflecting higher intermarriage among service members (Farley 1999).



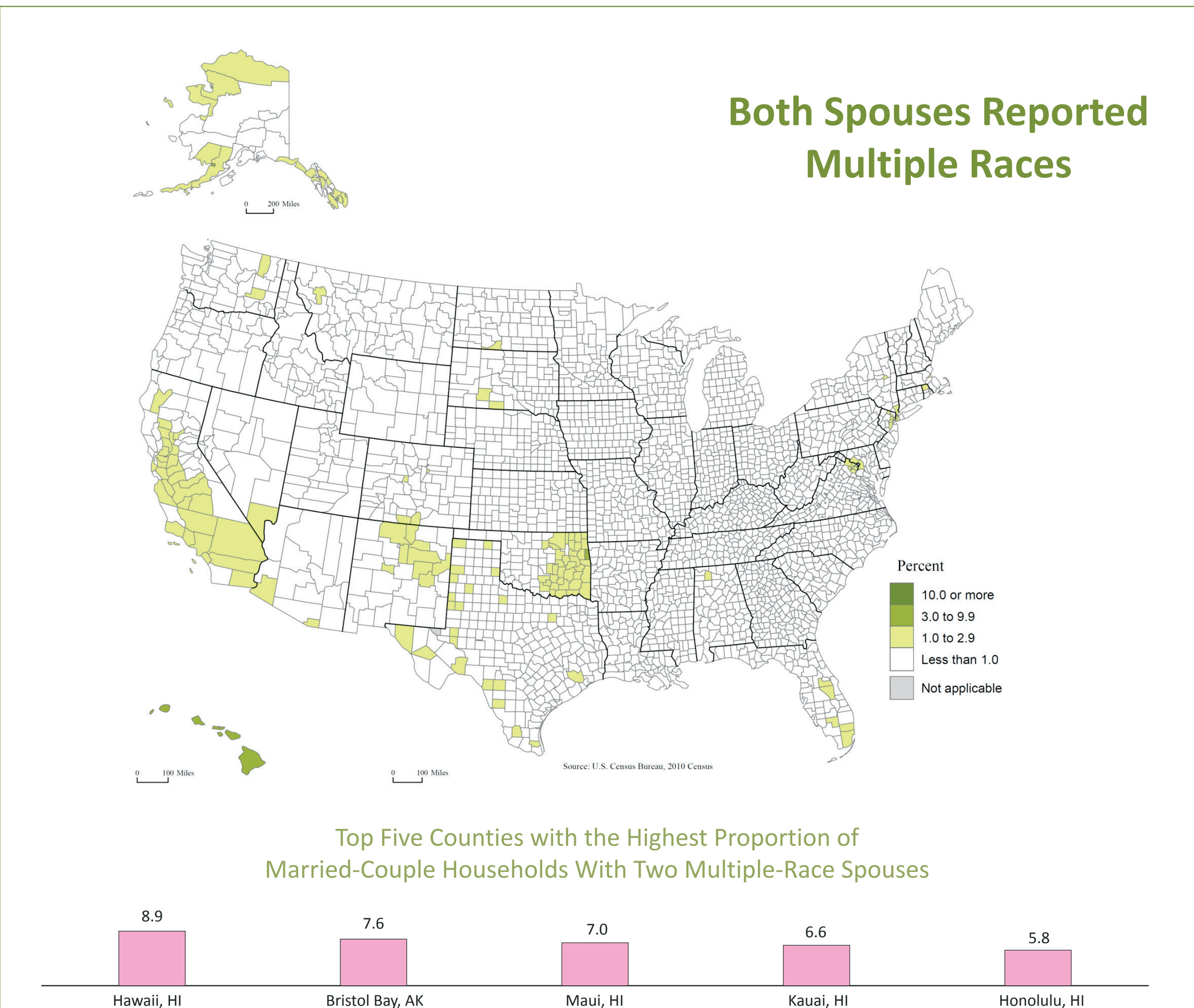
Since the time Spanish and French trappers and explorers interacted with American Indian tribes, there has been intermarriage, spanning hundreds of years (since the late 1400s) prior to the formation of the United States. Counties with higher proportions of non-Hispanic White/non-Hispanic AIAN married-couple households are usually located in areas where the AIAN population is concentrated. The AIAN population was highly concentrated in counties in Oklahoma, the upper Midwest, the four corners of the Southwest, and Alaska (Norris, et al. 2012). Counties with the top five highest proportions are located in Oklahoma and Alaska, and overlap with AIAN areas. Oklahoma contains many AIAN areas since the Indian Removal Act of 1830 forced tribes from their traditional homelands in the eastern United States to reservation lands, many of which were in Oklahoma.



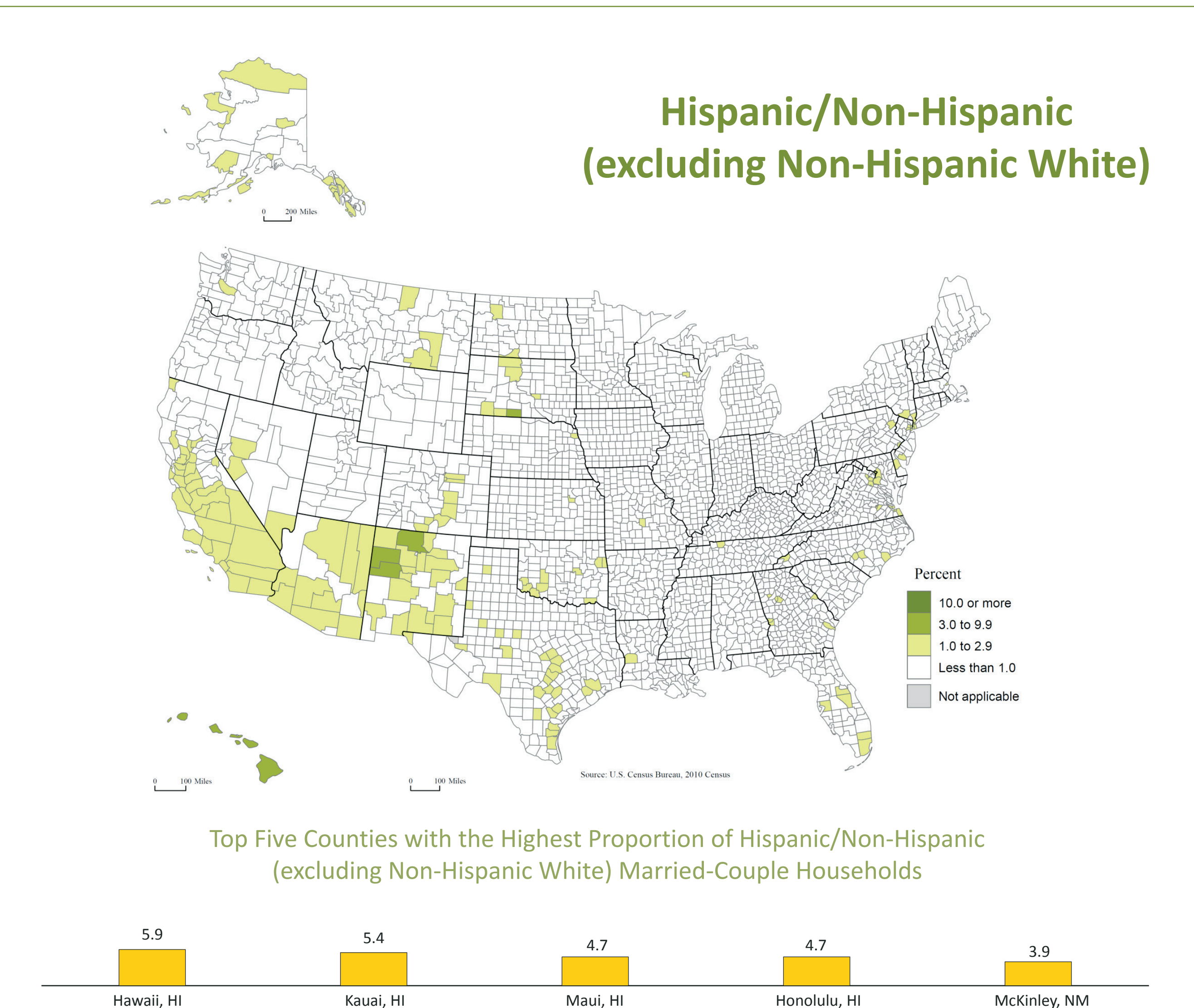
Residence patterns of White/Asian couples appear to mirror residence patterns of Asians in the United States. In general terms, the pattern seen in this map of White/non-Hispanic Asian as a percentage of county population (Hoeffel, et al. 2012). The highest proportions of non-Hispanic White/non-Hispanic Asian married-couple households are concentrated in counties in Hawaii and California. Hawaii has a long history of intermarriage among many different groups. Researchers have long studied intermarriage in Hawaii since the prevalence there has historically been much higher than in the continental United States (Monahan 1966; Parkman and Sawyer 1967; Schwertfeger 1982; Ho and Johnson 1990; Fu and Heaton 2000).



High proportions of married-couple households where one spouse reported multiple races are concentrated in counties in Hawaii, Oklahoma, and Alaska, with four of the top five being Hawaiian counties. These couples are in areas where multiple-race AIAN or multiple-race Asian populations are higher (Jones and Bullock 2012). Although White/Black is the most common multiple-race group reported in the U.S. population overall, the prevalence of White/Black intermarriage is relatively low compared with other groups.



Although overall a relatively low proportion of married-couple households include couples where both spouses reported multiple races, we again see (as seen in the map of couples with one multiple-race spouse) that areas where these couples live tend to have higher proportions of Asians or American Indians and Alaska Natives. The top five highest proportions of couples where both spouses reported multiple races are located in counties in Hawaii and Alaska.



As we saw in the map for non-Hispanic White/Hispanic (any race) married couples, on this map we see married couples with a Hispanic spouse and a non-Hispanic (excluding non-Hispanic White) spouse also often live in the West. The highest proportions for these Hispanic/non-Hispanic (excluding non-Hispanic White) married couples are in counties in Hawaii and New Mexico, with the top five highest proportions also in counties in Hawaii and New Mexico.

