

# Examining Change in the Percent of Married-Couple Households that are Interracial and Interethnic: 2000 to 2012-2016

Population Association of America  
Denver, CO  
April 26-28, 2018

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## BACKGROUND

Johnson and Kreider (2013) illustrate the geographic distribution and prevalence of seven types of intermarried couples in 2010 by county. This poster extends their work by examining county level change in the prevalence of interracial and interethnic married-couple (MC) households from 2000 to 2012-2016. For the U.S. as a whole, the percent of MC households that are intermarried grew from 7.4 to 10.2 percent. We examine the most common interracial and interethnic MC combinations with maps, and these groups comprise 95.1 percent of all interracial and interethnic MC households in 2012-2016.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How has the percent of MC households that are interracial or interethnic changed from 2000 to 2012-2016 at the state level and at the county level?
- Which counties have experienced a significant increase, decrease, or no change in the percent MC households that are interracial and interethnic for the seven specific intermarried couple combinations examined?

## DATA SOURCES

- 2000 Census Summary File 1
- 2010 Census Summary File 1
- 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates
- For more information on the ACS, visit [www.census.gov/acs](http://www.census.gov/acs)

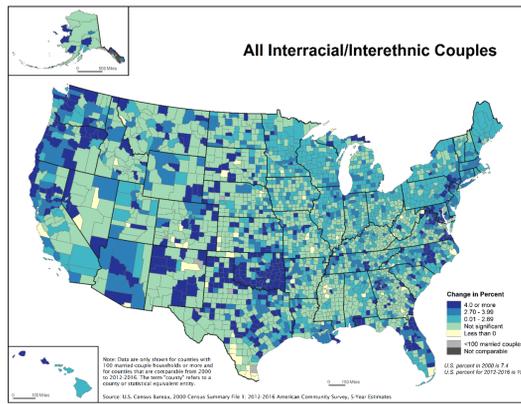
## MARRIED-COUPLE COMBINATIONS

Table 1. Interracial and Interethnic Married Couple Households: 2000, 2010, 2012-2016

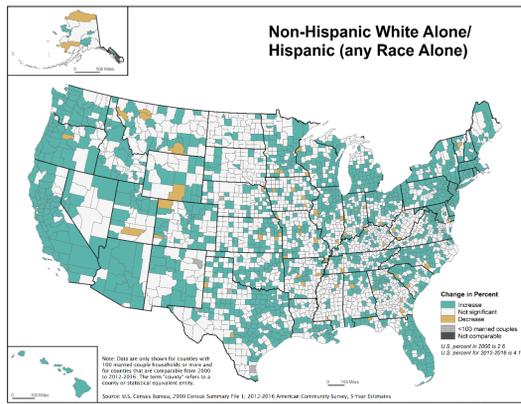
Type of Couple	2000		2010		2012-2016		MOE
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>TOTAL MARRIED-COUPLE HOUSEHOLDS</b>	54,493,232	100.0	56,510,377	100.0	56,781,405	100.0	NA
Total same race or same Hispanic origin couples	50,452,248	92.6	51,141,342	90.5	50,962,683	89.8	0.10
Total interracial / interethnic couples	4,040,984	7.4	5,369,035	9.5	5,818,722	10.2	0.10
<b>TOTAL INTERRACIAL/INTERETHNIC COUPLES</b>	4,040,984	100.0	5,369,035	100.0	5,818,722	100.0	NA
<i>Combinations Shown in Maps</i>							
Non-Hispanic White alone/Hispanic (any race alone)	1,422,908	35.2	2,020,825	37.6	2,339,824	40.2	0.16
Non-Hispanic White alone/Non-Hispanic Black or African American alone	287,576	7.1	422,250	7.9	470,351	8.1	0.08
Non-Hispanic White alone/Non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native alone (AIAN)	268,424	6.6	280,780	5.2	246,488	4.2	0.06
Non-Hispanic White alone/Non-Hispanic Asian alone	504,119	12.5	737,493	13.7	839,040	14.4	0.10
One spouse reported multiple races (both Hispanic or both non-Hispanic)	679,492	16.8	838,190	15.6	921,841	15.8	0.10
Both spouses reported multiple races (both Hispanic or both non-Hispanic)	397,766	9.8	341,255	6.4	269,720	4.6	0.07
Hispanic (any race alone)/ Non-Hispanic (any race alone excluding Non-Hispanic White alone)	253,830	6.3	390,650	7.3	447,855	7.7	0.09
<i>Combinations Not Shown in Maps</i>							
Non-Hispanic White alone/Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone (NHPI)	27,264	0.7	33,242	0.6	35,625	0.6	0.02
Non-Hispanic White alone/Non-Hispanic Some Other Race alone	17,948	0.4	29,385	0.5	29,034	0.5	0.02
Both spouses reported a single race alone, neither is White, both Hispanic or both non-Hispanic	81,044	2.0	108,994	2.0	109,645	1.9	0.04
Both spouses reported Hispanic, one White alone, the other is another single race alone	100,613	2.5	165,971	3.1	109,299	1.9	0.04

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Summary File 1, 2010 Census Summary File 1, 2012-2016 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

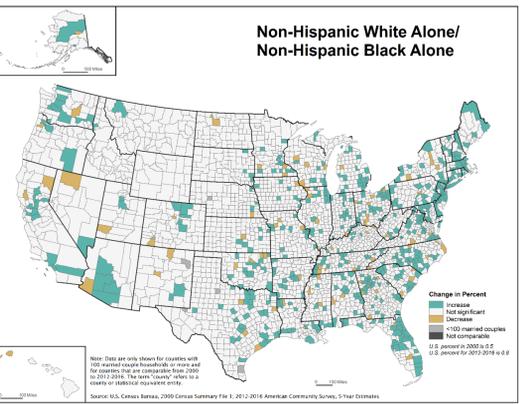
## HOW HAS THE PERCENT OF MARRIED-COUPLE HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE INTERRACIAL AND INTERETHNIC CHANGED FROM 2000 TO 2012-2016 AT THE COUNTY LEVEL?



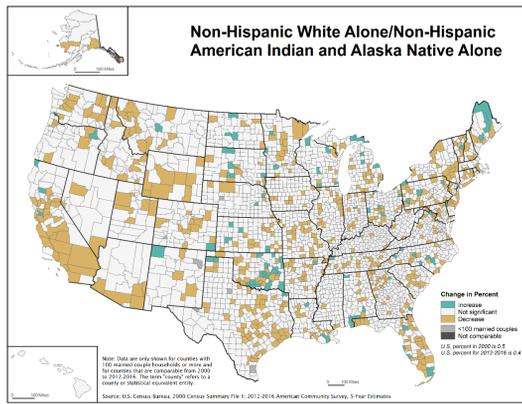
- 13.5% of U.S. counties experienced a 4.0 or more percentage point increase in the percent of interracial and interethnic MC households.
- 15.1% of counties increased by 2.70 to 3.99 percentage points.
- 26.4% of counties increased by 0.01 to 2.69 percentage points.
- 2.1% of counties decreased and 42.6% did not change significantly.



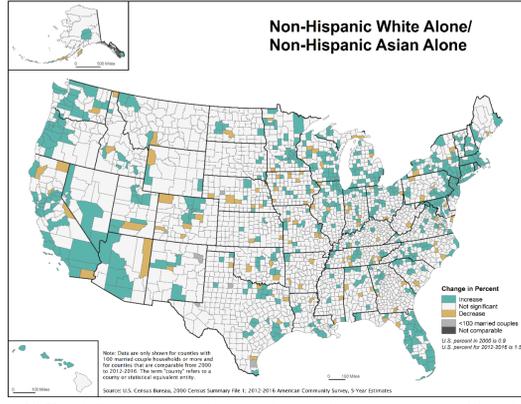
- 43.2% of U.S. counties had an increase in the percent of Non-Hispanic White alone/Hispanic (any race alone) MC households. 2.0% decreased and 54.4% did not change significantly.
- This couple combination is the largest of the intermarried households, and is likely driving the change in the overall increase of all intermarried couple households.



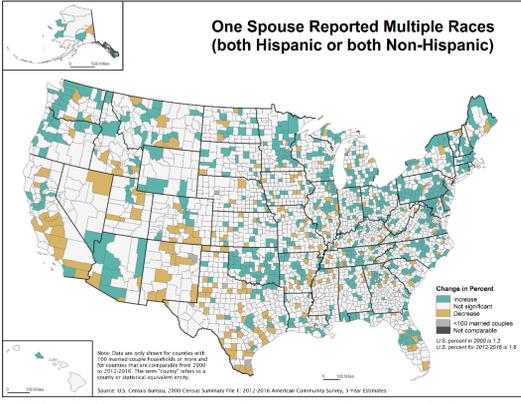
- 16.0% of U.S. counties experienced an increase in the percent of non-Hispanic White alone/non-Hispanic Black alone MC households.
- 2.9% decreased and 80.7% did not change significantly.



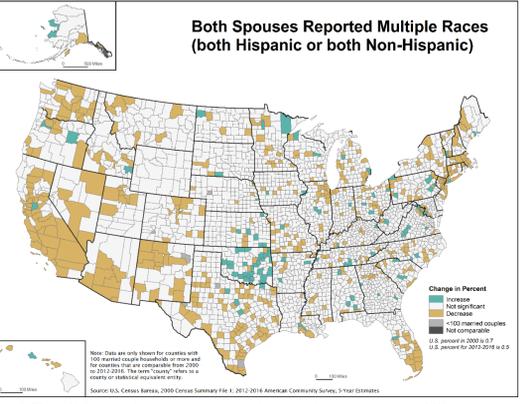
- 3.0% of U.S. counties experienced an increase in the percent of non-Hispanic White alone/non-Hispanic AIAN alone married-couple households.
- 18.0% decreased and 78.6% did not change significantly.



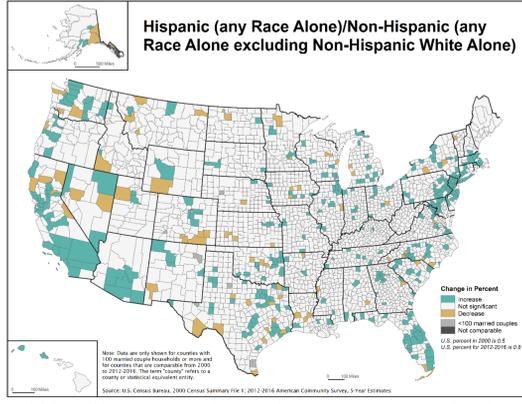
- 18.7% of U.S. counties experienced an increase in the percent of non-Hispanic White alone/non-Hispanic Asian alone married-couple households.
- 3.6% decreased and 77.3% did not change significantly.



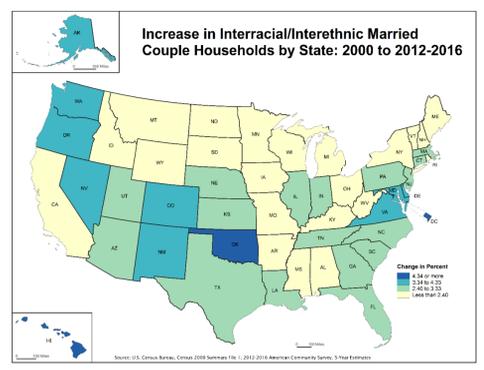
- 22.2% of U.S. counties experienced an increase in the percent of MC households where one spouse reported multiple races (both Hispanic or both non-Hispanic).
- 8.0% decreased and 69.3% did not change significantly.



- 3.5% of U.S. counties experienced an increase in the percent of MC households where both spouses reported multiple races (both Hispanic or both non-Hispanic).
- 15.3% decreased and 80.8% did not change significantly.



- 12.0% of U.S. counties experienced an increase in the percent of Hispanic (any race alone)/non-Hispanic (any race alone excluding non-Hispanic White alone) married-couple households.
- 2.5% decreased and 85.1% did not change significantly.



## HOW HAS THE PERCENT OF MARRIED-COUPLE HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE INTERRACIAL AND INTERETHNIC CHANGED FROM 2000 TO 2012-2016 AT THE STATE LEVEL?

- All states experienced an increase in the percent of interracial and interethnic MC households from 2000 to 2012-2016.
- 2 states, Hawaii and Oklahoma, and the District of Columbia increased by 4.34 percentage points or more.
- 9 states, located mostly in the West and the Mid-Atlantic region, increased by 3.34 to 4.33 percentage points.
- 17 states increased by 2.40 to 3.33 percentage points.
- The remaining 22 states increased by less than 2.40 percentage points.

## SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

While the percent of MC households that are intermarried increased overall, this varied by county. At least 54.4 percent of counties did not change significantly across the seven specific intermarried-couple combination maps. The largest group, non-Hispanic White alone/Hispanic (any race alone), had a higher percentage of counties with a significant increase (43.2 percent). This may be due in part to Hispanics becoming more geographically dispersed across the U.S., moving away from traditional areas of settlement to new geographic areas (Lichter and Johnson 2009; Lichter 2012; Massey 2008), thus presenting new opportunities for intermarriage (Qian et al. 2017). Non-Hispanic White alone/non-Hispanic AIAN alone MC households and MC households where both spouses reported multiple races have high percentages of counties with significant decreases, 18.0 percent and 15.3 percent, respectively. It is important to note that high levels of race response instability across decennial and ACS data have been documented for those who report AIAN, NHPI, and multiple races (Liebler et. al 2016; 2017). For example, Liebler et. al (2016) found that nearly one-half of people whose race was reported as non-Hispanic AIAN alone in a linked sample changed their race response from the 2000 to 2010 census. The significant decreases in the percent of non-Hispanic White alone/non-Hispanic AIAN alone MC households may be due to race response change across surveys. Race response change may also be contributing to the significant changes observed in MC households where one spouse reported multiple races (both Hispanic or both non-Hispanic), and in MC households where both spouses reported multiple races (both Hispanic or both non-Hispanic).



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