

WHITE PRIVILEGE: A SPATIAL STUDY OF RACE AND POVERTY DEMOGRAPHICS

INTRODUCTION

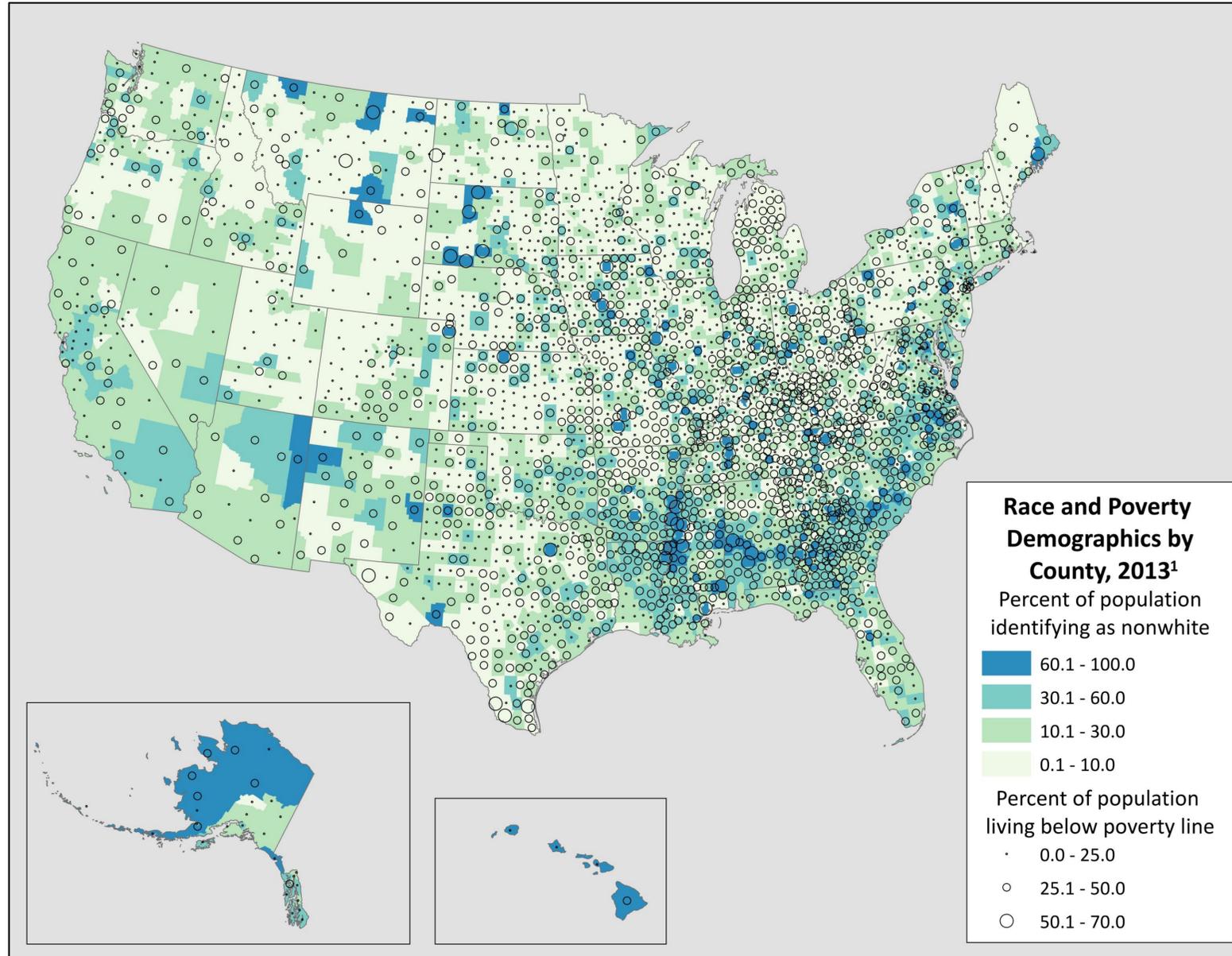
Over the past year, numerous social movements calling for equality between all races have arisen in the United States. Perhaps the most noteworthy of these is the 'Black Lives Matter' movement. These movements draw attention to the disadvantages faced by minorities living in the United States. This project examines the connection between minority populations and poverty levels.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Currently, there is debate about the correlation between race and poverty. Some argue that poverty is the main issue that we need to solve³. Others argue that race-based discrimination is the root of social issues impacting minorities⁴. This map project seeks to display the correlation between the two and highlight why both ideas need to be addressed.

METHODOLOGY

The data used to create this map is county-level data from the 2013 American Community Survey. Race is symbolized as a choropleth; counties with a higher percentage of nonwhite citizens are a darker color. Graduated circles display the percent of people living below the poverty line in each county. As the size of the circles increases, so does the percent of people living below the poverty line.



INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS

- It is interesting to note that Alaska and Hawaii both have populations that are not majority white. This is because the U.S. Census has distinct classes for Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian.
- Many counties in rural areas in the western half of the United States have high nonwhite populations and poverty levels. Almost all of these counties are home to Native American reservations.
- Much of Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula has between 25% and 50% of the population living below the poverty line. Little job opportunity and rural lifestyle accounts for these high poverty rates.

CONCLUSIONS

By observing the map, it is easy to see that there is a correlation between high nonwhite populations and higher levels of poverty. This trend can be seen throughout the entire country, but especially throughout the South and in certain counties of the Great Plains states. Though there is not a direct relationship between poverty and race, this map makes it evident that being nonwhite is a factor that is related with higher poverty rates.

REFERENCES

- 1,2 Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months. (2013). U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Retrieved from http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_1YR_S1701&prodType=table
 - 3 Lee, M. R.. (2000). Concentrated Poverty, Race, and Homicide. *The Sociological Quarterly*, 41(2), 189-206. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4121020>
 - 4 Bjornstrom, E. E. S. (2015). Race-ethnicity, nativity, neighbourhood context and reports of unfair treatment by police. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 38(12), 2019+. Retrieved from http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA427178364&v=2.1&u=lom_aquinascoll&it=r&p=AONE&asid=af561083eb82a27e75307699d628c56c
- Base map data: TIGER/Line, U.S. Census Bureau (2015).

