



Chapter 6

Place of Birth and U.S. Citizenship



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Of the 281.4 million people in the United States in 2000, 31.1 million (or 11.1 percent) were foreign born. Individuals from Latin America represented 52 percent of the total foreign-born population, followed by those from Asia (26 percent), Europe (16 percent), and other areas of the world (6 percent).

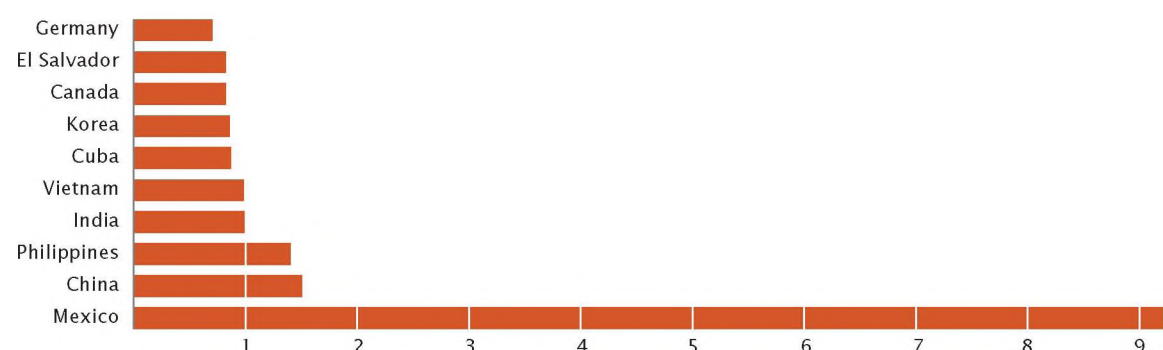
Natives are those born in the United States or Puerto Rico, born in a U.S. island area (such as Guam), or born abroad of a U.S.-citizen parent. The U.S. Census Bureau considers anyone who is not born a U.S. citizen or a U.S. national to be foreign born. Because a person may be born outside the United States and be a U.S. citizen at birth (i.e., born abroad to a U.S.-citizen parent), information on place of birth cannot be used alone to determine whether an individual is native or foreign born.

The concept and measurement of citizenship and nativity have evolved across censuses. In the 1820 and 1830 decennial censuses, enumerators recorded the number of individuals who were “aliens” (foreigners who were not naturalized citizens). Questions concerning an individual’s place of birth have been asked in the decennial census since 1850. In many decennial censuses, an additional question asked for the year in which a person born outside the United States came to live in the United States.

Foreign-Born Population Gains From 1990 to 2000

Between 1990 and 2000, the foreign-born population increased by 57 percent, from 19.8 million to 31.1 million, compared with an increase of 9.3 percent for the native population and 13 percent for the total U.S. population. The foreign born who were naturalized citizens of the United States increased by 56 percent (from 8.0 million to 12.5 million), compared with an increase of 58 percent for those who were not U.S. citizens (from 11.8 million to 18.6 million).

Figure 6-1.
Foreign Born (millions) by Place of Birth, 2000



Note: China includes those who responded China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, or the Paracel Islands.
Korea includes those who responded Korea, North Korea, or South Korea.

The number of foreign born increased by 88 percent in the South between 1990 and 2000, followed by 65 percent in the Midwest, 50 percent in the West, and 38 percent in the Northeast. The West had the largest foreign-born population in 2000 (11.8 million), followed by the South (8.6 million), the Northeast (7.2 million), and the Midwest (3.5 million).

Foreign-born residents accounted for 19 percent of the population in the West and 14 percent of the population in the Northeast, exceeding the national level of 11.1 percent. The proportion was below the national level in the South (8.6 percent) and the Midwest (5.5 percent).

Origins of the Foreign-Born Population in 2000

In 2000, over 16 million foreign-born individuals were from Latin America, representing 52 percent of the total foreign-born population. Of the foreign born from Latin America, 11.2 million people (36 percent of all foreign born) were from Central America (including

Mexico), 3.0 million people (10 percent) were from the Caribbean, and 1.9 million people (6.2 percent) were from South America.

The foreign born from Asia and Europe accounted for 26 percent (8.2 million) and 16 percent (4.9 million) of the total foreign-born population, respectively. The foreign born from Africa, Northern America, and Oceania each composed 3 percent or less of the total foreign-born population. The foreign born from Mexico accounted for 9.2 million people, or 30 percent of the total U.S. foreign-born population, making Mexico the largest country of birth (Figure 6-1). China (1.5 million) and the Philippines (1.4 million) were the next largest sources, providing 4.9 percent and 4.4 percent of the total foreign born, respectively.

Foreign-born groups are distributed unevenly across the United States. In 2000, 45 percent of the foreign born from Asia, 34 percent from Northern America, and 66 percent from Oceania lived in the West, home to the largest concentrations of these populations in the United States. Individuals from Europe

were most likely to live in the Northeast (38 percent), while the foreign born from Africa lived primarily in the South (35 percent) and the Northeast (31 percent).

The proportion of the foreign born who were from Latin America ranged from 63 percent in the South to 36 percent in the Midwest. The proportion from Asia ranged from 32 percent in the West to 19 percent in the South, and those from Europe ranged from 26 percent in the Midwest and Northeast to 10 percent in the West.

State-Level Patterns

In 2000, 21.3 million foreign born (68 percent of the total) lived in the six states with foreign-born populations of 1 million or more: California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Texas. Fifty percent of the foreign-born population (15.6 million people) lived either in California (8.9 million), New York (3.9 million), or Texas (2.9 million). The foreign-born population ranged from 500,000 up to 1 million in eight states and from 100,000 up to 500,000 in 19 states. The foreign born numbered fewer than 100,000 in the 17 remaining states and the District of Columbia.

From 1990 to 2000, the foreign born increased by 200 percent or more in three states: North Carolina

(274 percent), Georgia (233 percent), and Nevada (202 percent). In 16 states, this group grew by 100 percent to 199 percent; in 12 states by 57 percent (the national average) to 100 percent; and in the remaining 19 states and the District of Columbia by less than 57 percent. The only growth rate below 10 percent occurred in Maine (1.1 percent).

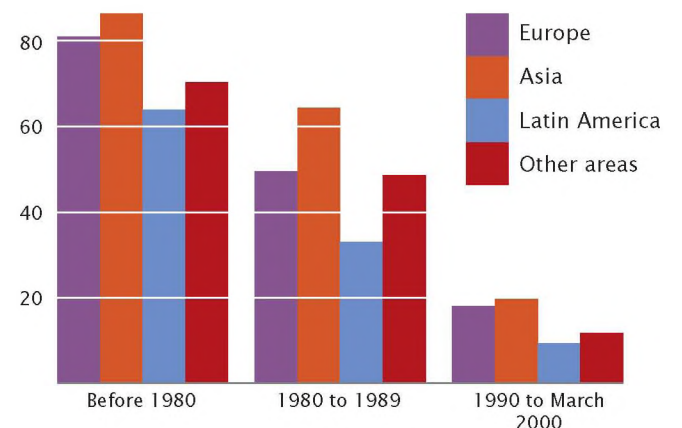
The foreign born represented 26 percent of the population in California in 2000, the highest proportion in any state (maps 06-01 and 06-02). The percentage also exceeded the national average (11.1 percent) in nine other states and the District of Columbia: New York (20 percent), New Jersey and Hawaii (18 percent each), Florida (17 percent), Nevada (16 percent), Texas (14 percent), the District of Columbia and Arizona (13 percent each), and Illinois and Massachusetts (12 percent each).

Foreign-Born Populations in “Gateway” Areas and Large Cities

In 2000, the percentage foreign born was at or above the U.S. average in 199 of the 3,141 counties in the United States. Many of these counties are in areas that have been gateways for immigrants in recent decades: southwestern border states

Figure 6-2.

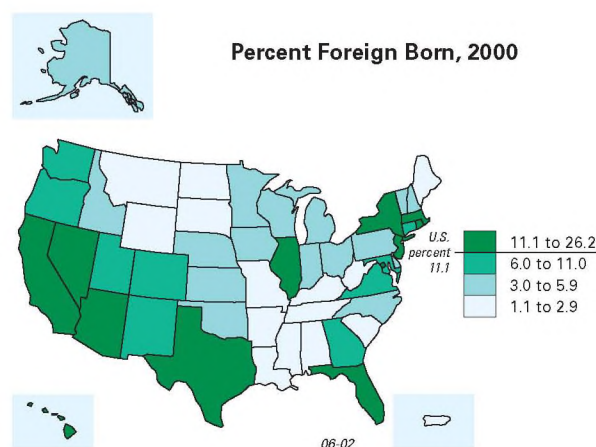
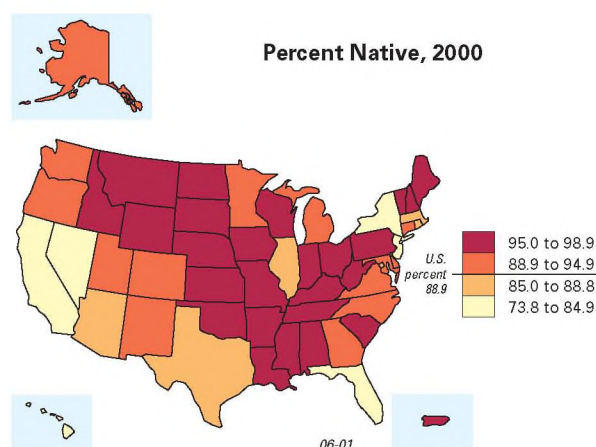
Percent Naturalized of the Foreign-Born Population by Year of Entry and World Region of Birth, 2000

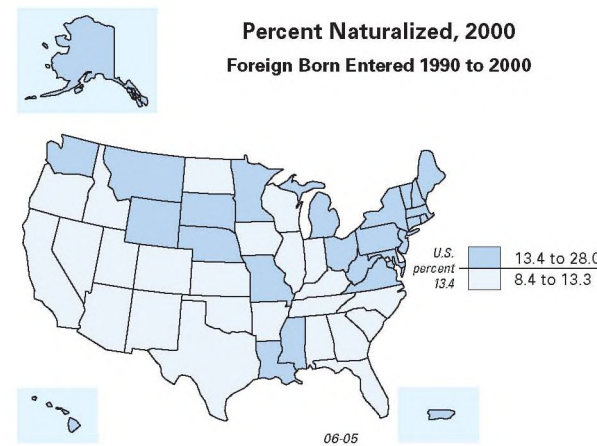
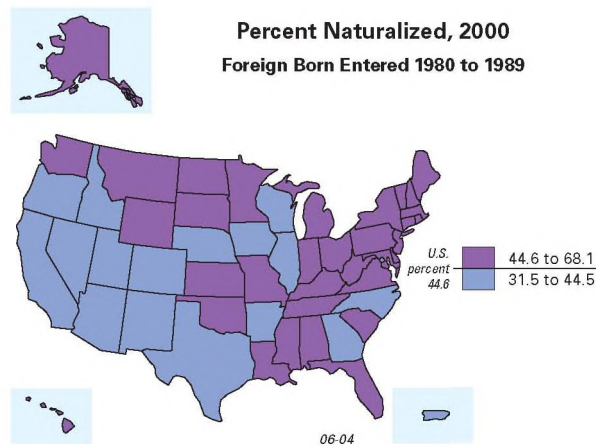
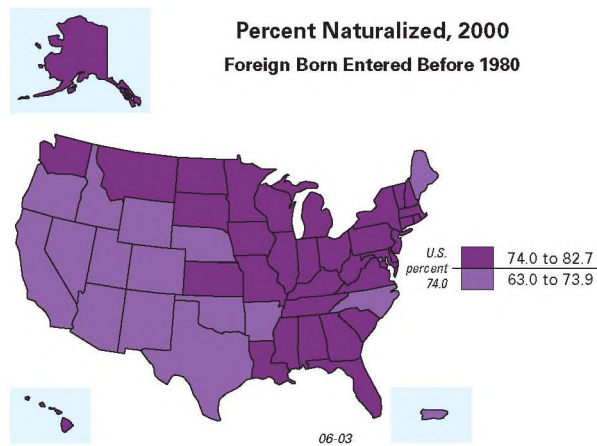


(California to Texas) and the New York and Miami metropolitan areas. Additional areas with high concentrations of the foreign-born population included the Pacific Northwest and the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

The foreign born were the majority of the population in one U.S. county: Miami-Dade County, Florida, which was home to 1.1 million foreign born—51 percent of the county’s population. The foreign born represented 20 percent or more in 60 additional counties, some of which are far from the “gateway” areas noted earlier.

Among cities, the largest foreign-born populations in 2000 were in New York (2.9 million), Los Angeles (1.5 million), Chicago (629,000), and Houston (516,000). Together, their share of the nation’s foreign-born population was 18 percent, while their share of the total population was 5.9 percent. In three cities, the total population was not among the ten largest, while the foreign-born





population was—San Jose (330,000 foreign born), San Francisco (286,000), and Miami (216,000).

Citizenship Status, Race, and Hispanic-Origin Patterns

In 2000, 40.3 percent of the foreign born were naturalized U.S. citizens, down slightly from 40.5 percent in 1990. The percentage naturalized varied by period of entry: 74 percent of the foreign born who entered the United States prior to 1980 and 13 percent of those who entered in 1990 or later were naturalized U.S. citizens by 2000 (Figure 6-2 and maps 06-03 through 06-05).

The foreign born who were naturalized U.S. citizens (40 percent nationally) outnumbered those who were not citizens in seven states in 2000: Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and West Virginia. The proportion naturalized ranged from 60 percent in Hawaii to 26 percent in North Carolina.

In 2000, the foreign born were less likely than natives to report that they were non-Hispanic White (43 percent compared with 79 percent), and more likely than natives to report being Asian (23 percent compared with 1.3 percent). Almost half—46 percent—of the foreign-born population was Hispanic, compared with 8.4 percent of natives.

Within separate race and Hispanic-origin categories, the foreign born represented the majority in one group—69 percent of Asians were foreign born. The foreign born accounted for 24 percent of the population of Two or More Races, 20 percent of Pacific Islanders, 6.1 percent of Blacks, and 3.5 percent of the non-Hispanic White population. Among Hispanics, 40 percent were foreign born.

This Chapter's Maps

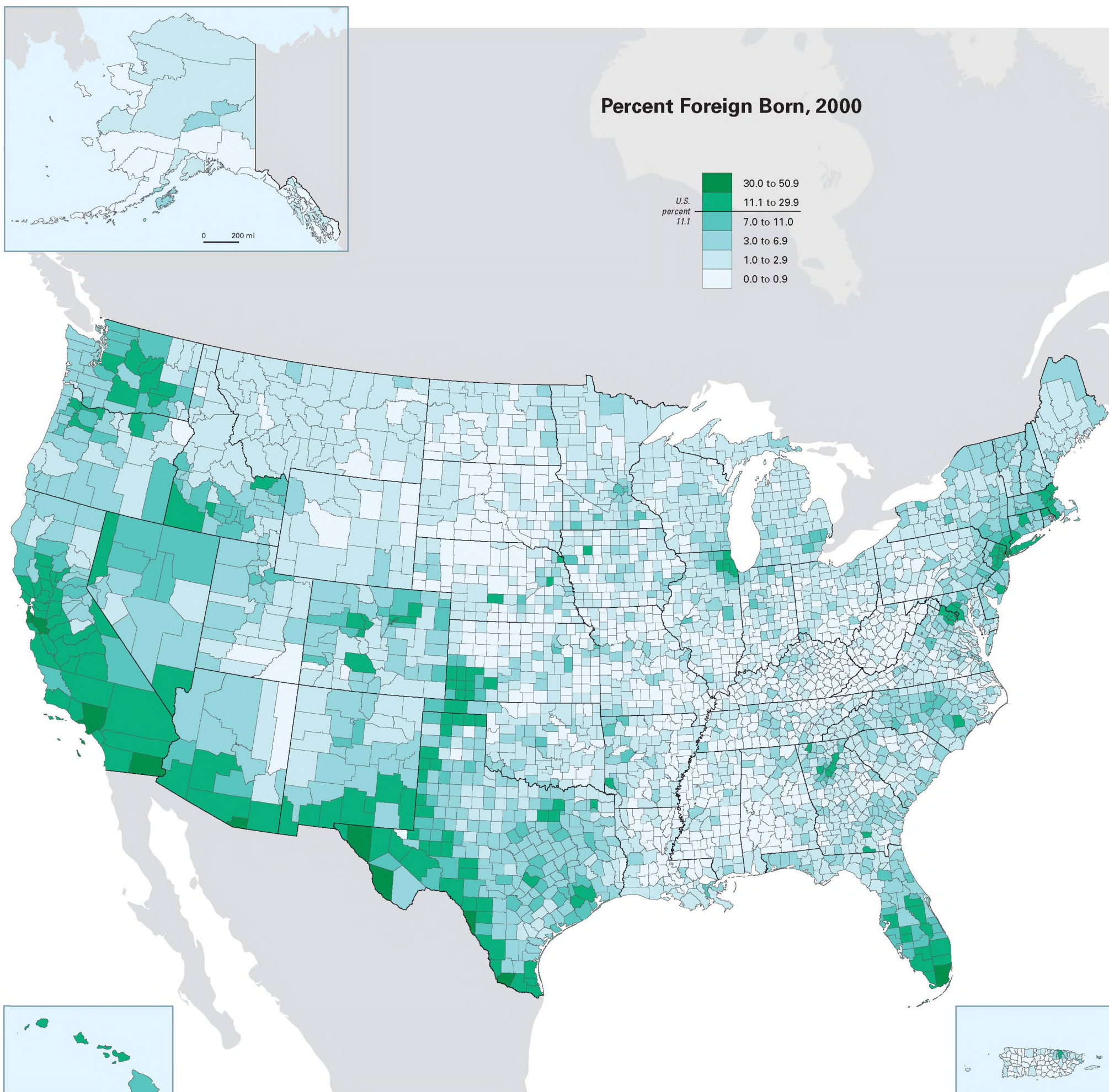
The foreign-born presence in the largest cities is seen in maps 06-23 through 06-31, which show the percent foreign born by census tract. Chicago, for example, contains neighborhoods with large percentages foreign born as well as neighborhoods with small percentages foreign born. Philadelphia also has a sizable number of census tracts with relatively low percentages foreign born. In New York and Los Angeles, many census tracts have high percentages foreign born.

Maps 06-37 through 06-60 present sex ratios for the foreign born from selected Latin American countries of origin and years of entry. The overall sex ratio for Mexicans who entered from 1996 to 2000 was 144.1. For many states in the southeastern United States, the ratio was considerably higher. The sex

ratio for those from Cuba was 107.4, while for the foreign born from the Dominican Republic the sex ratio was 90.8.

The percentage foreign born by age group varied across the country, as shown in maps 06-19 through 06-21. Nationally, 14 percent of the population 18 to 64 years old in 2000 was foreign born, compared with 10 percent of the population 65 and older and 5 percent of the population aged 5 to 17. These age groups broadly represent populations of school age, working age, and retirement age. The geographic patterns for all three age groups were similar, with higher percentages foreign born found in the immigrant gateway areas noted earlier.

By the end of the twentieth century, the United States had experienced three decades of large-scale immigration, reminiscent in relative magnitude to the large-scale immigration from the 1840s until World War I. This chapter's maps demonstrate the geographic impact of immigration and the growth of the foreign-born population across the country. In 2000, people born outside the United States constituted sizable populations in many parts of the country, from neighborhoods in the largest cities to rural counties in the Midwest and the South.

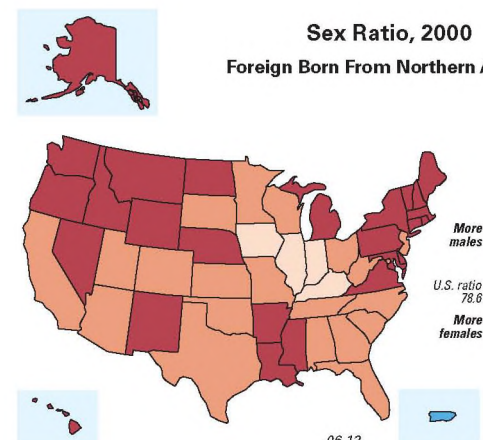
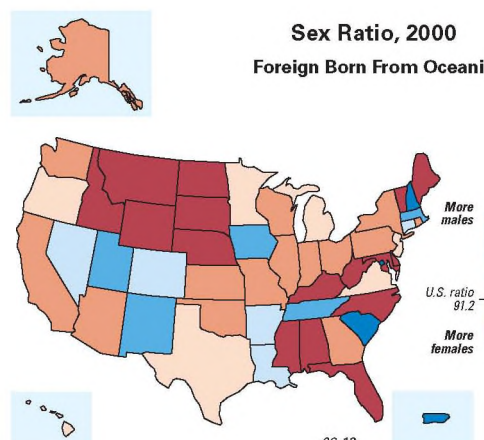
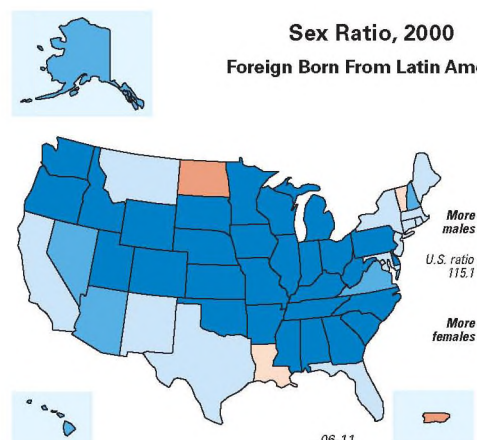
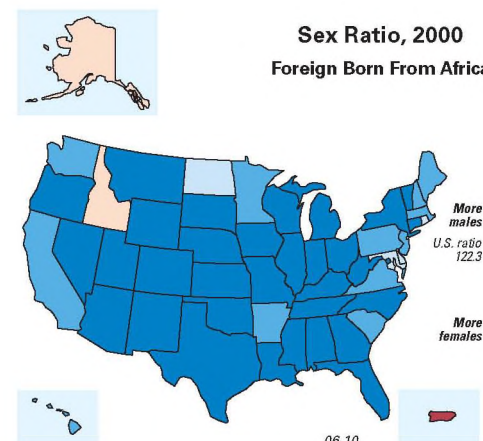
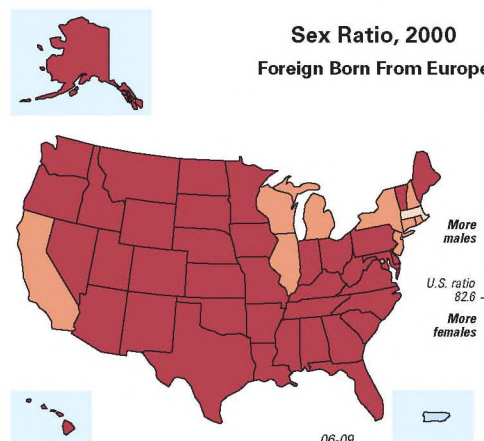
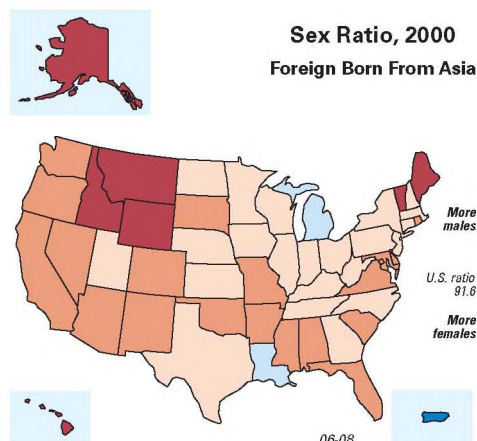
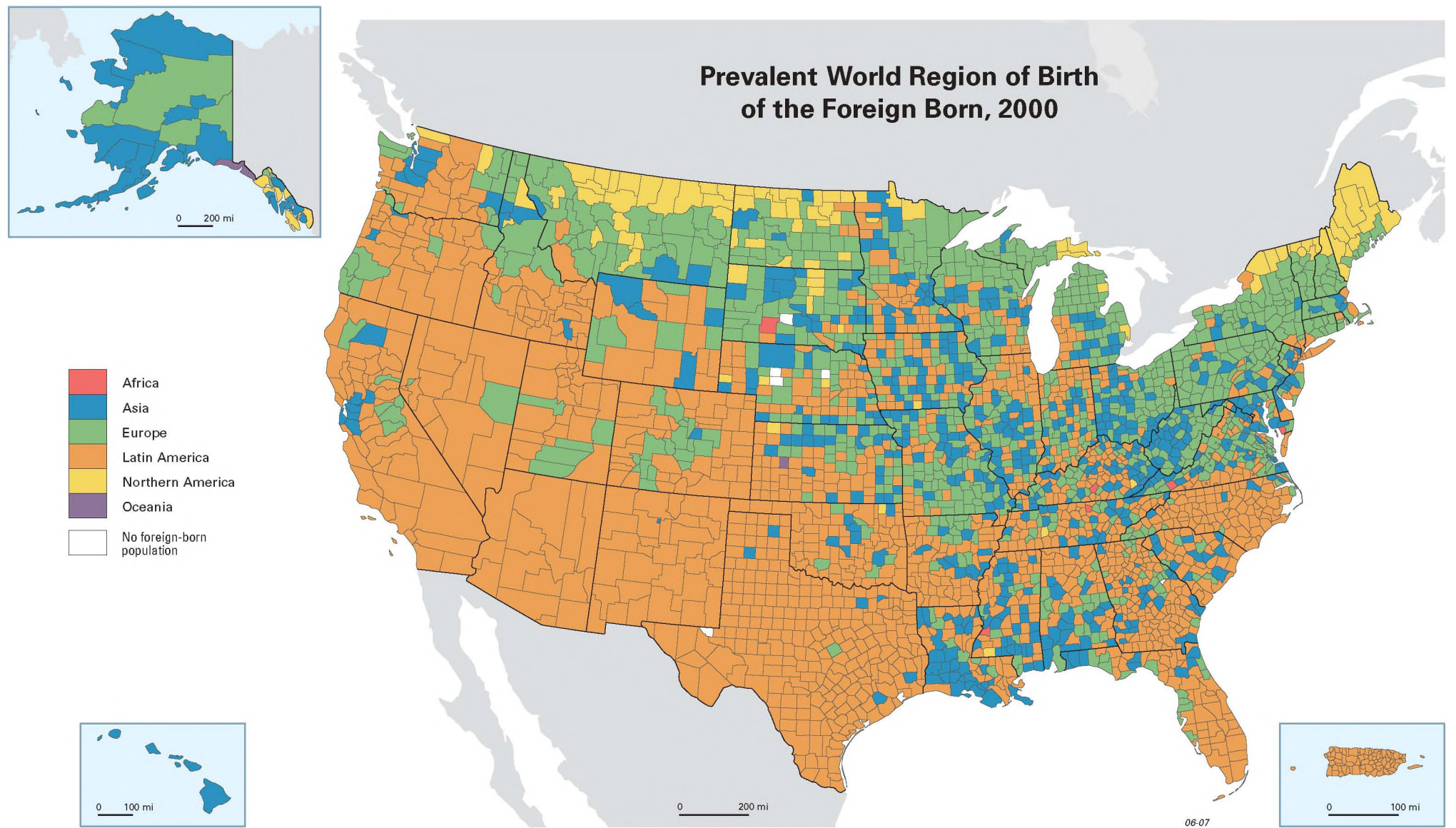


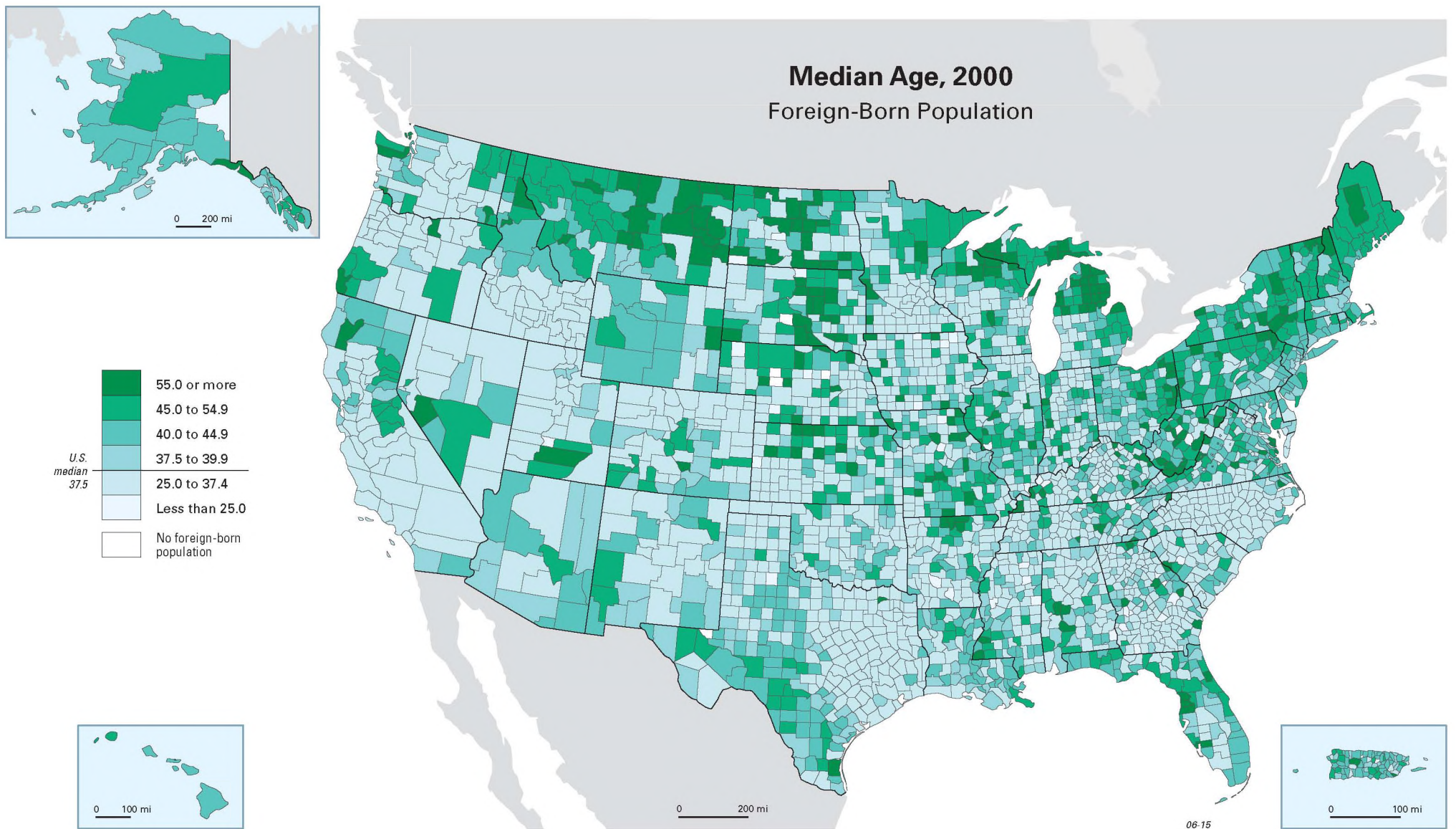
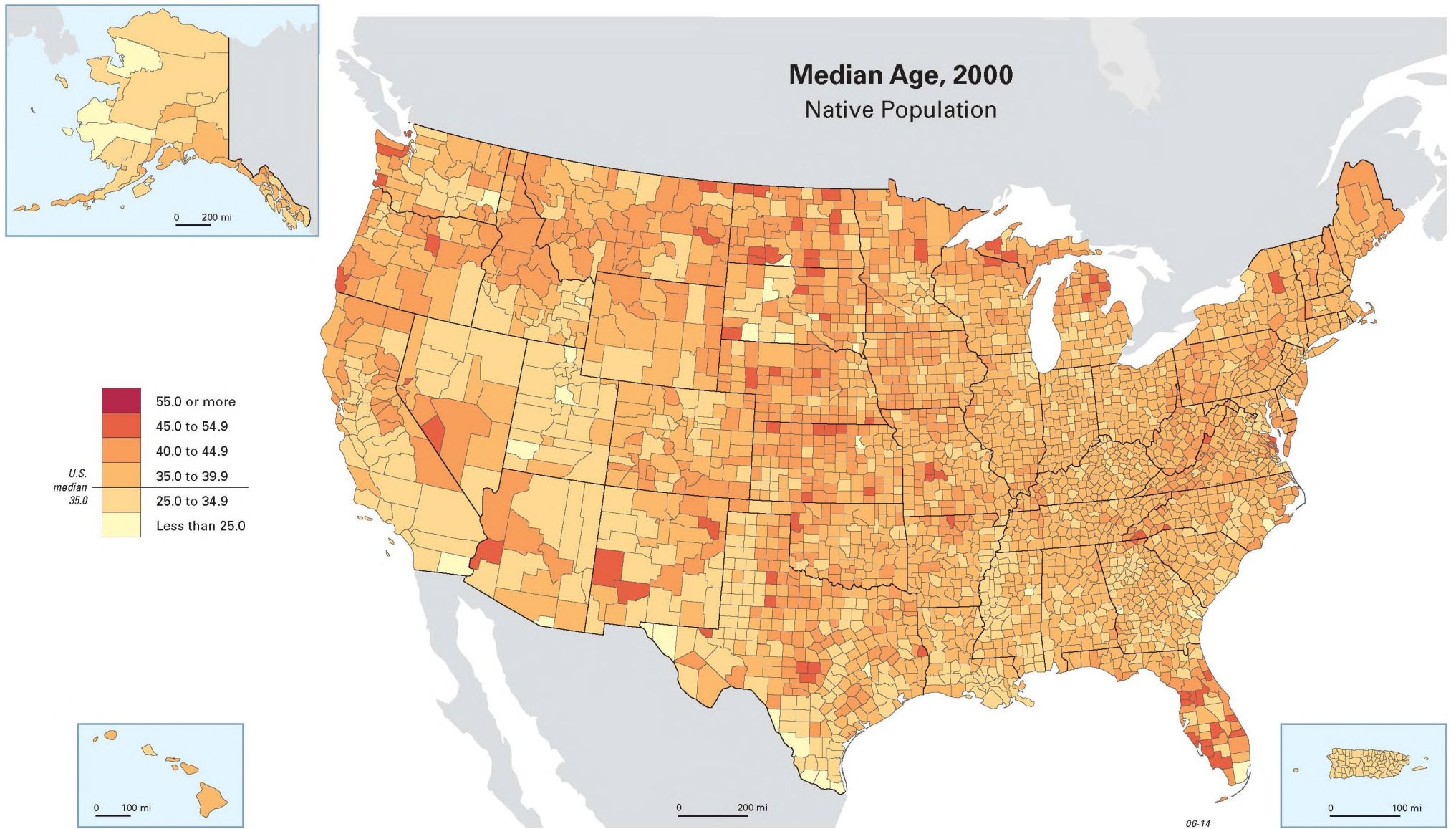
Census 2000 data revealed that the foreign-born population was 31.1 million, representing 11.1 percent of the country's total population. The percentage of the population that was foreign born varied by county. Nationwide, most counties in 2000 had percentages under the U.S. figure, but a handful of counties had populations that were more than one-third foreign born. Many of the

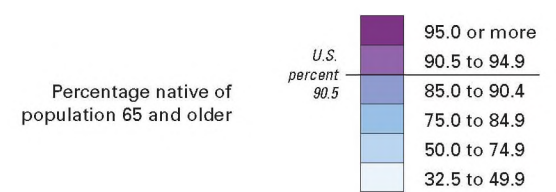
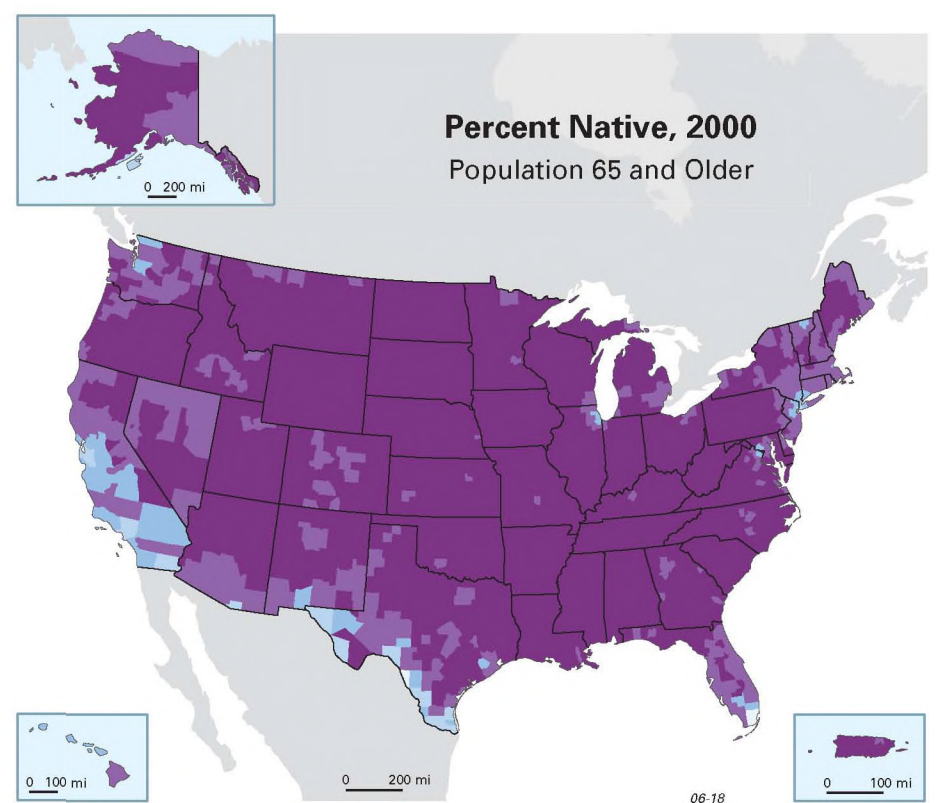
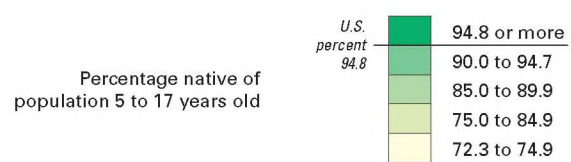
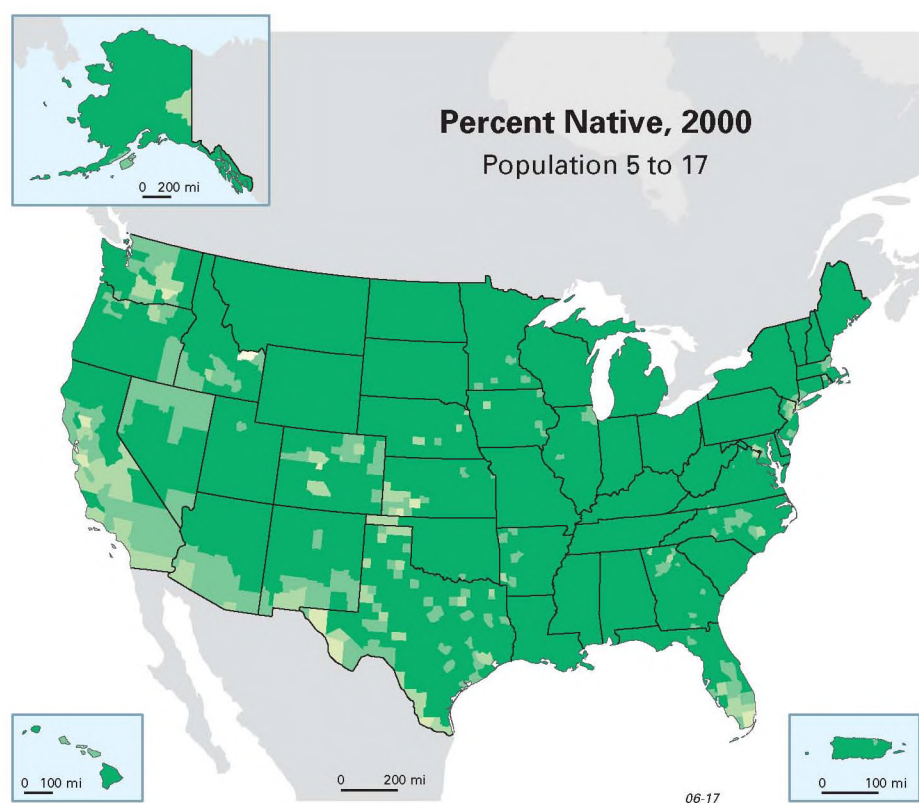
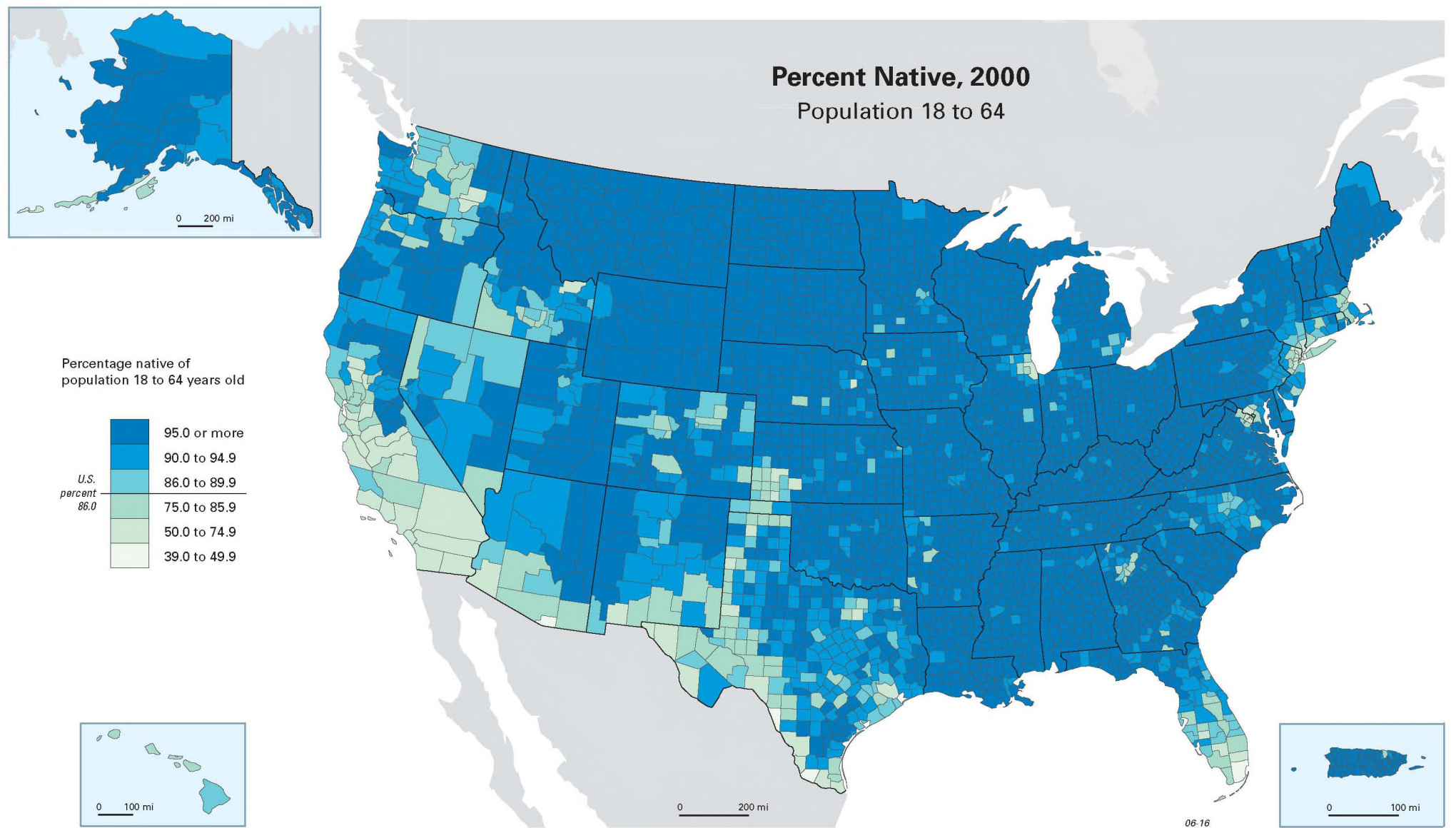
counties that had foreign-born percentages at or above the U.S. figure also had large total populations. Some counties with relatively small populations also had high percentages of foreign-born residents.

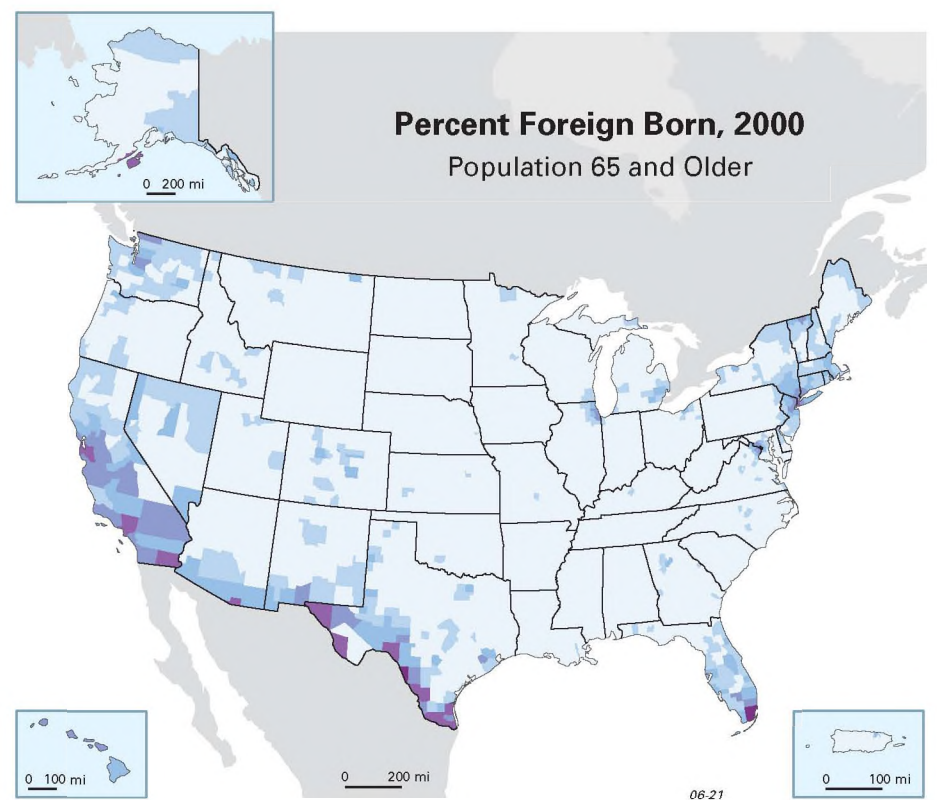
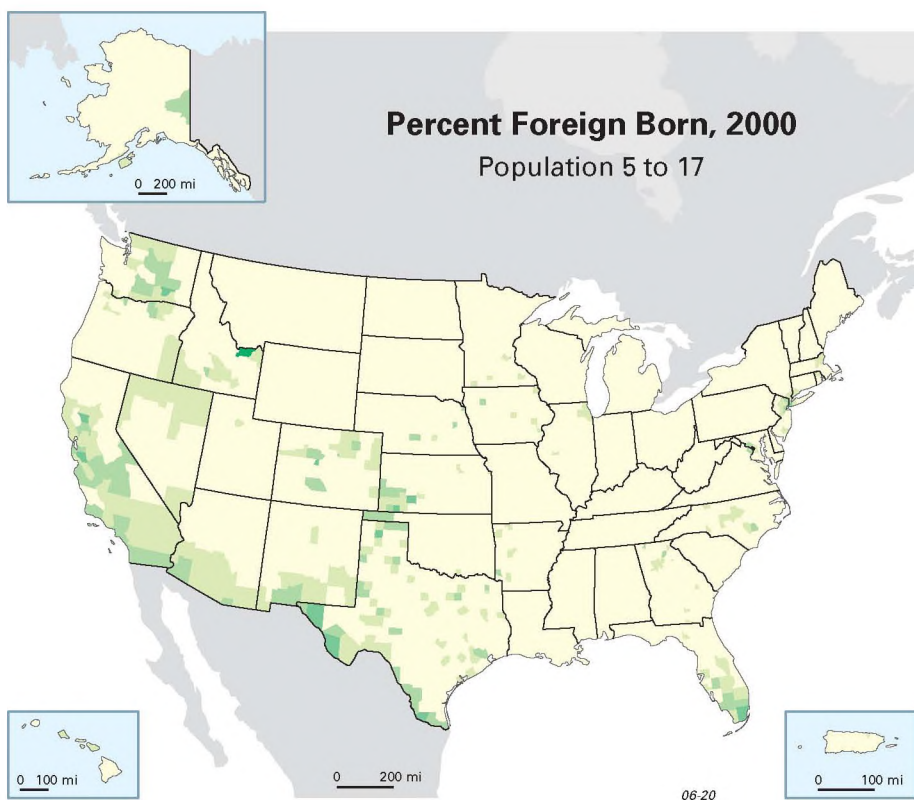
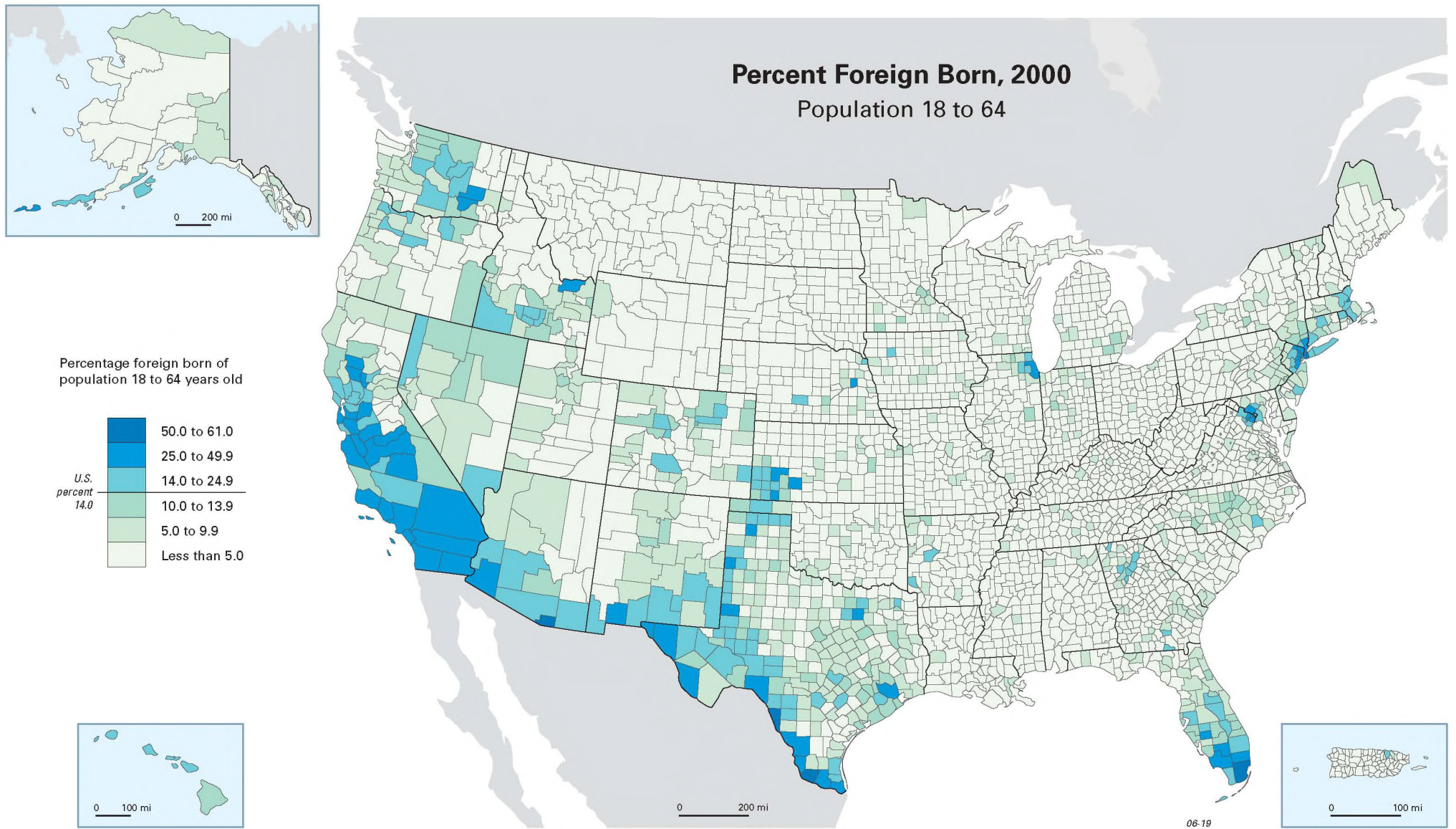
The foreign-born population in 2000 was geographically concentrated. The high-percentage counties were generally located in southern Florida, southwestern

Kansas, western Oklahoma, and in the West—particularly in areas near the border with Mexico, central California, and Washington. Other pockets of counties with high percentages of their populations foreign born included counties within the Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, New York, and Washington-Baltimore metropolitan areas.

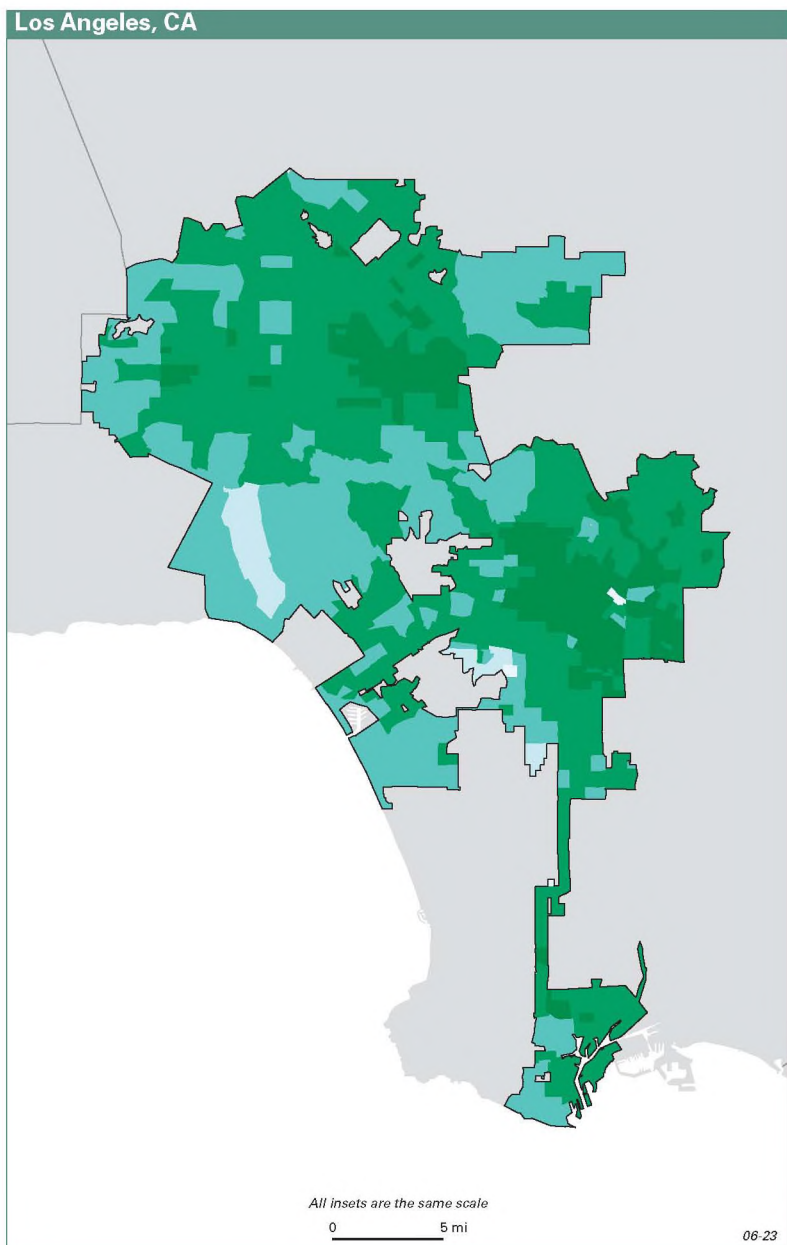




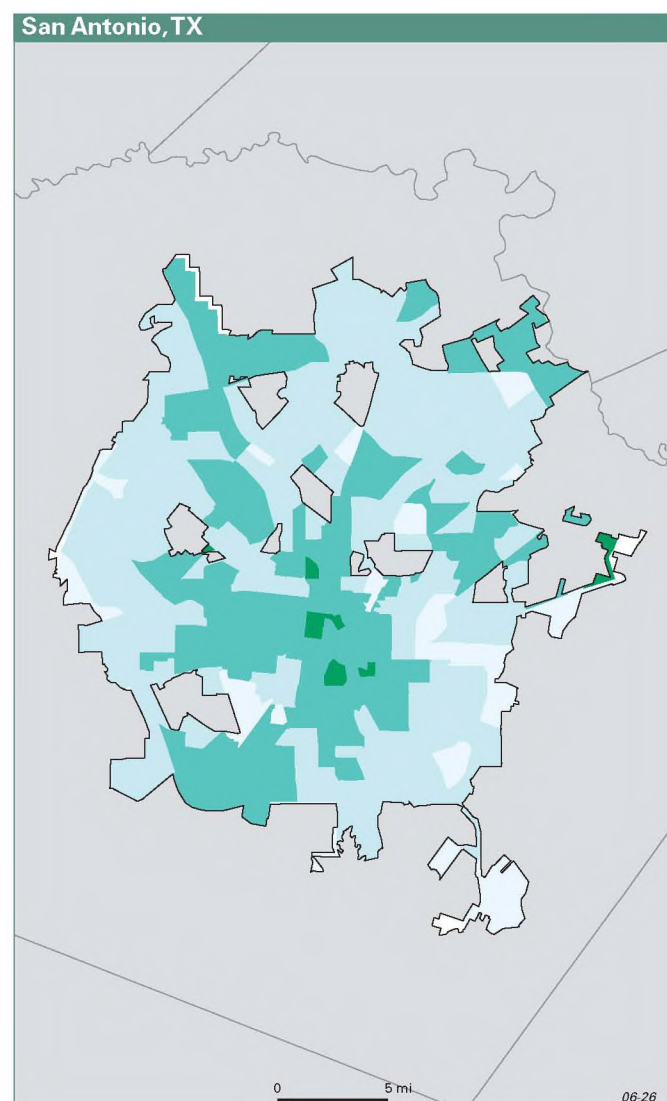
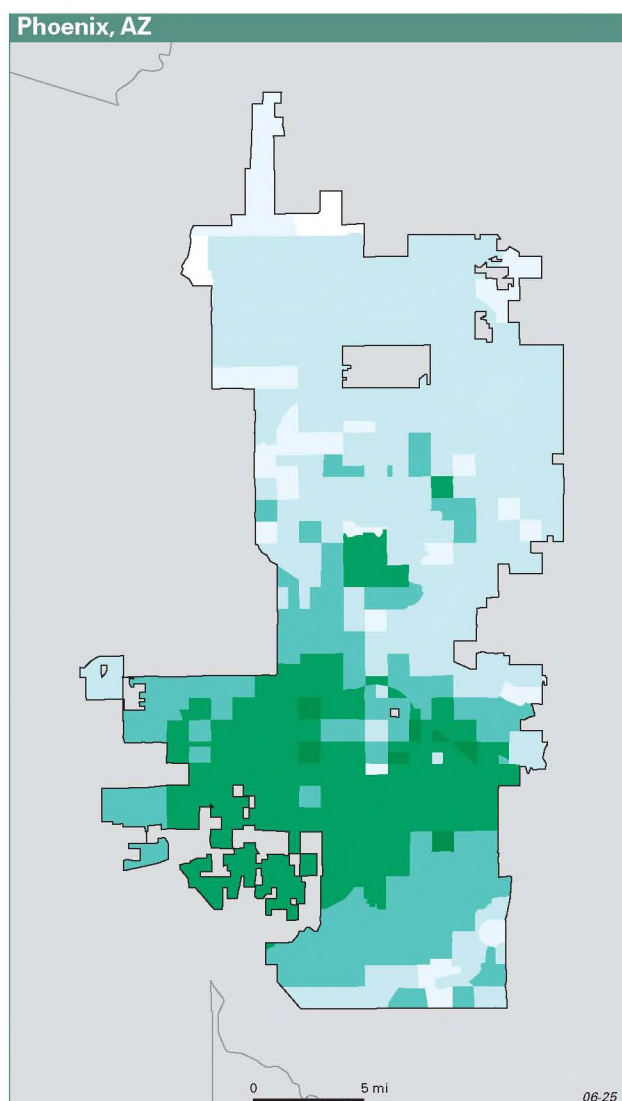
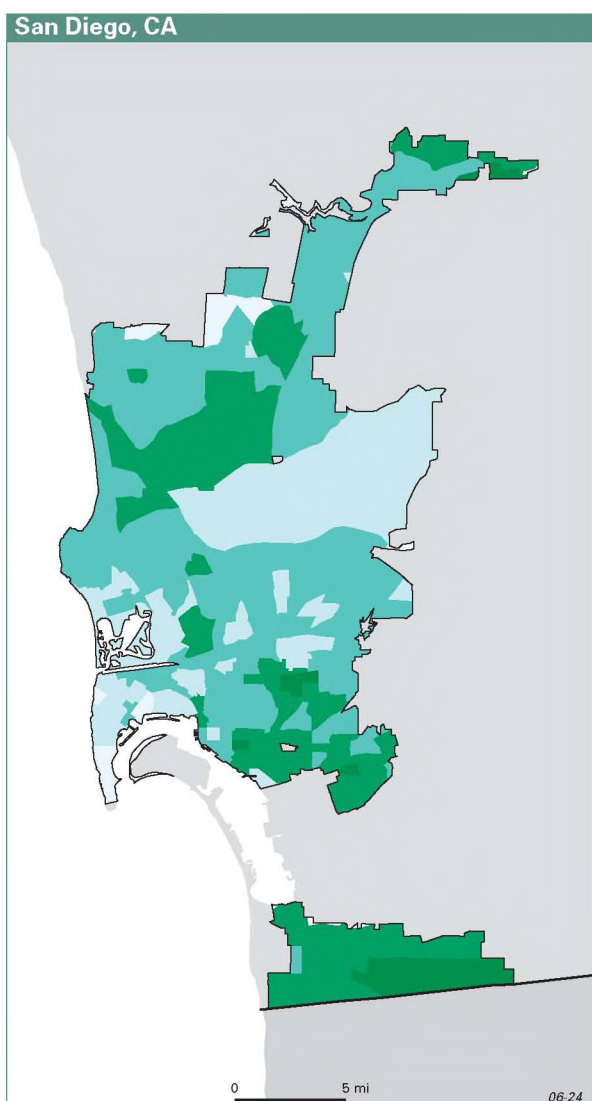
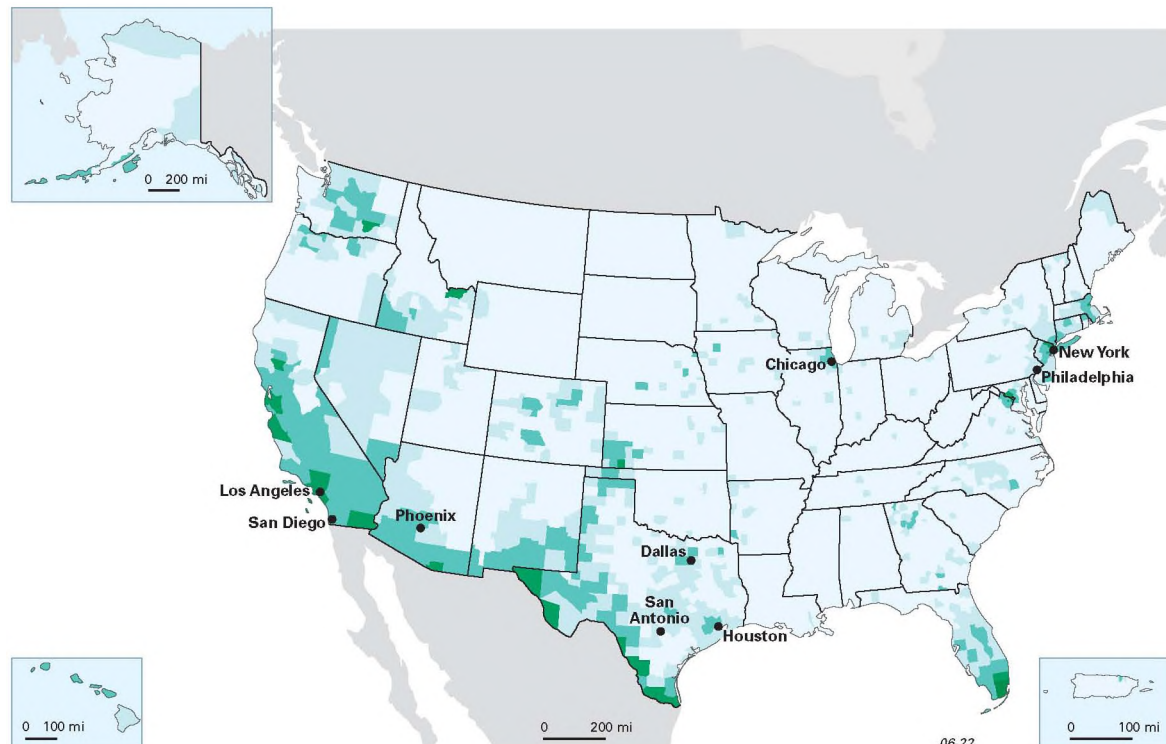


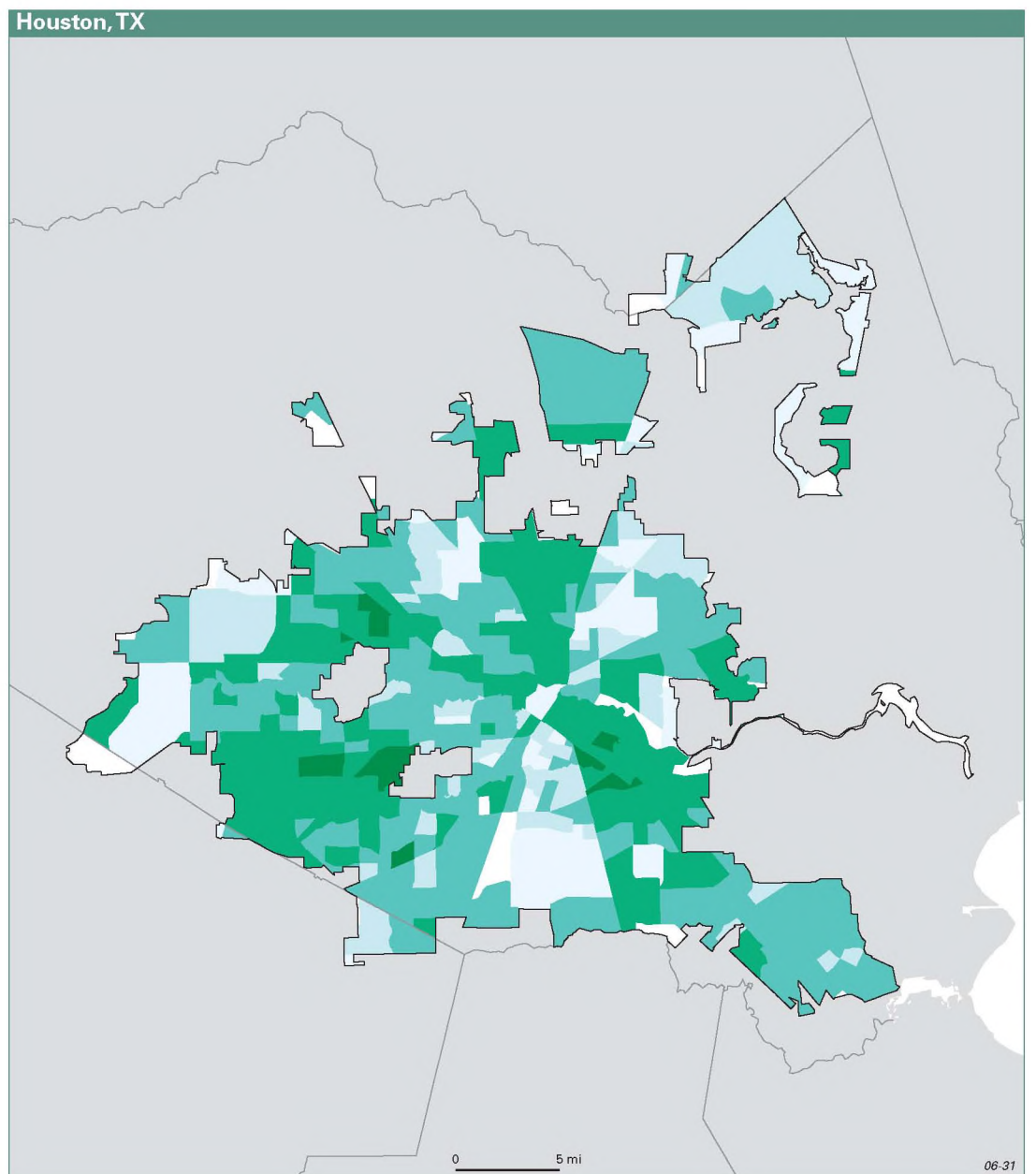
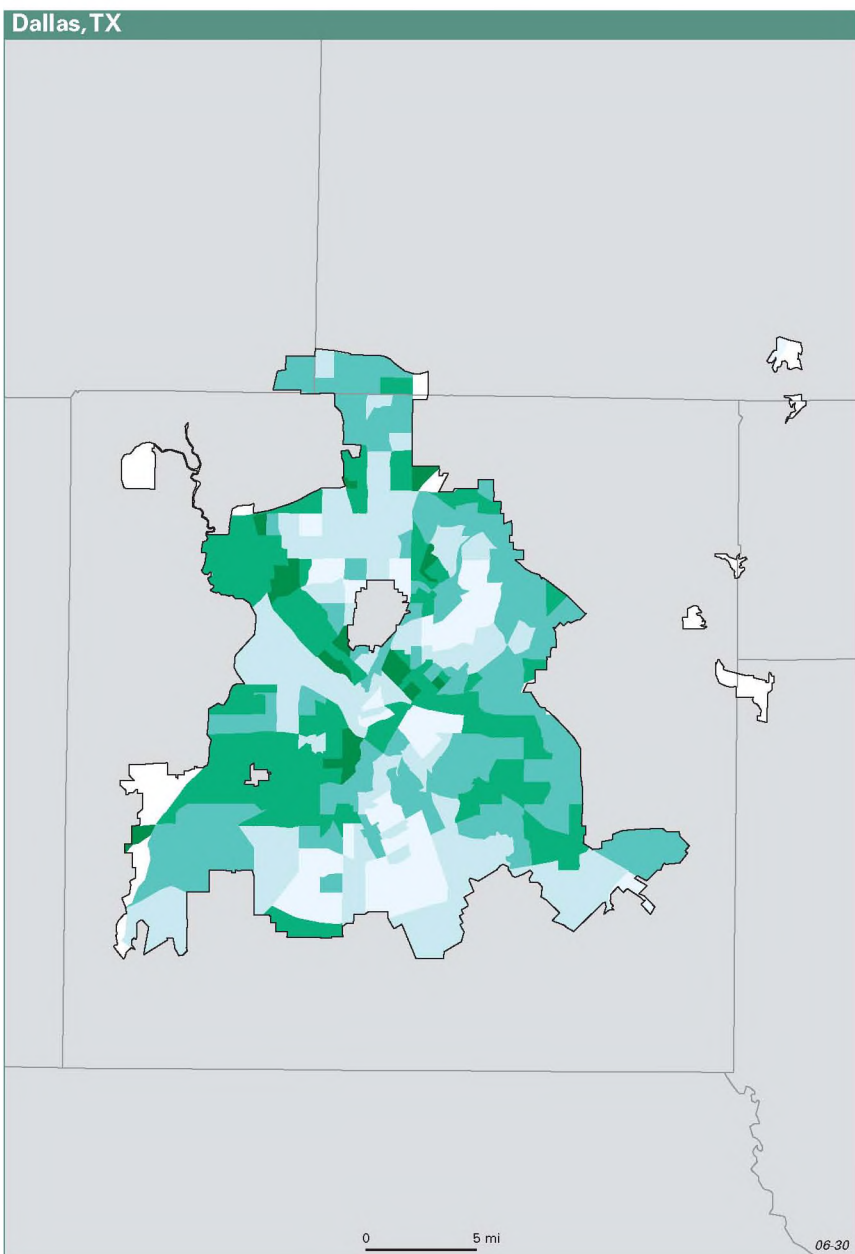
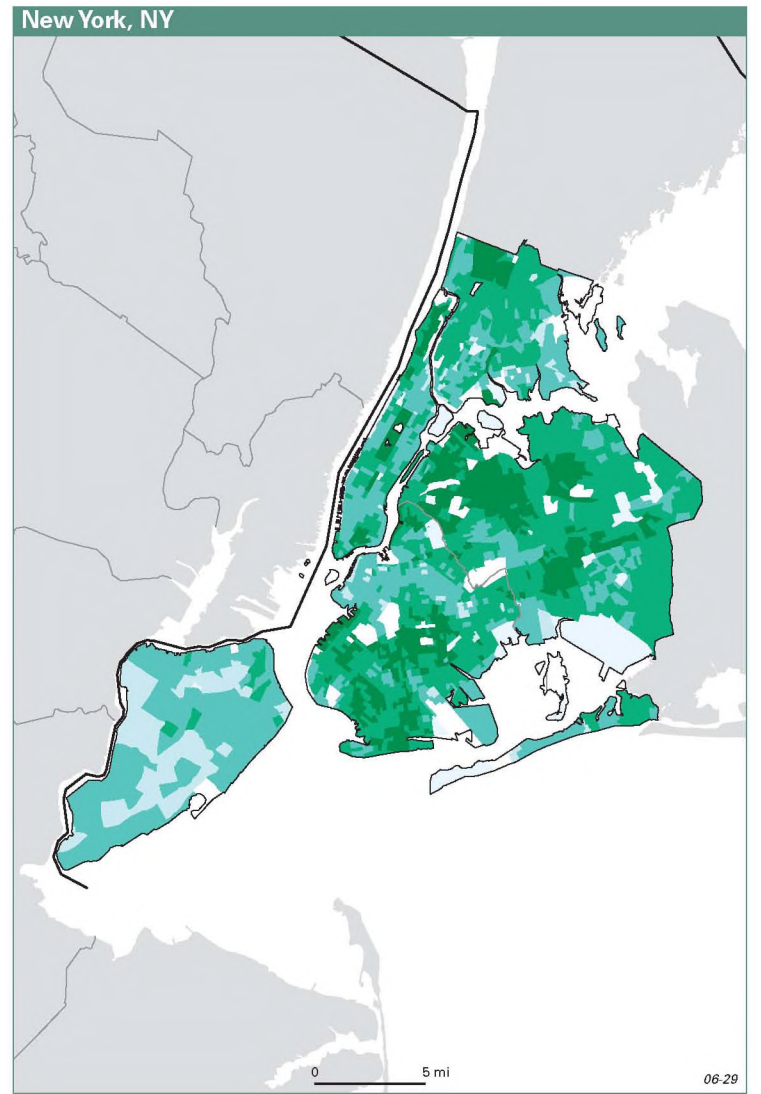
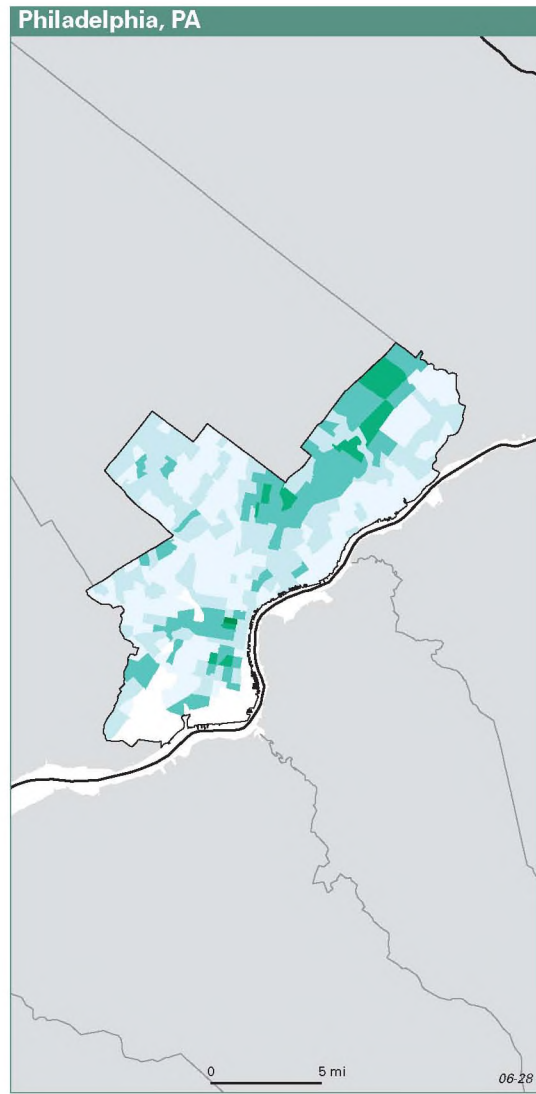
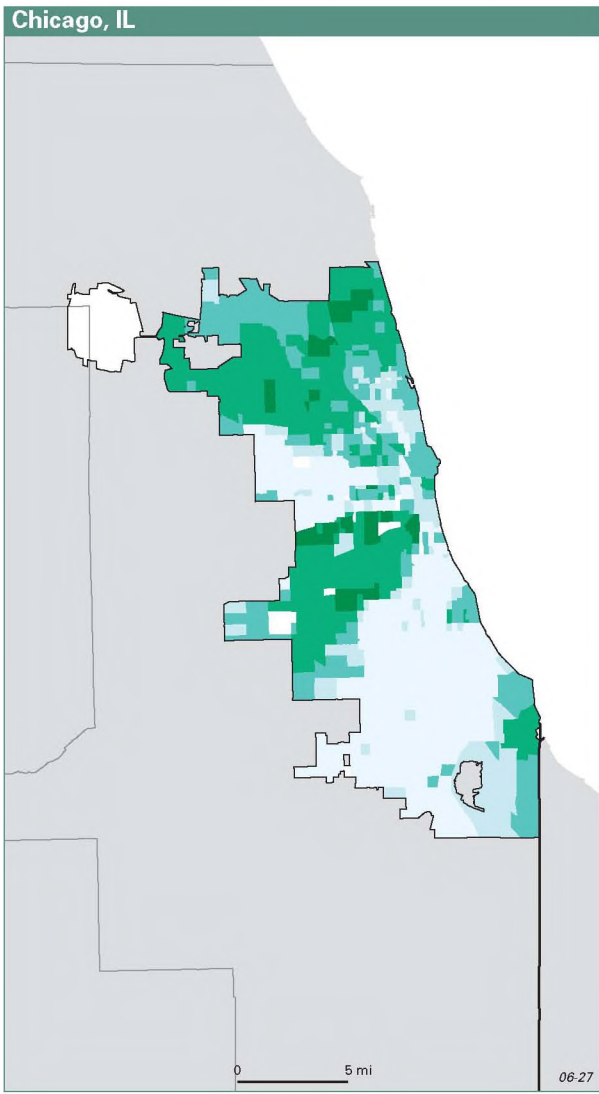


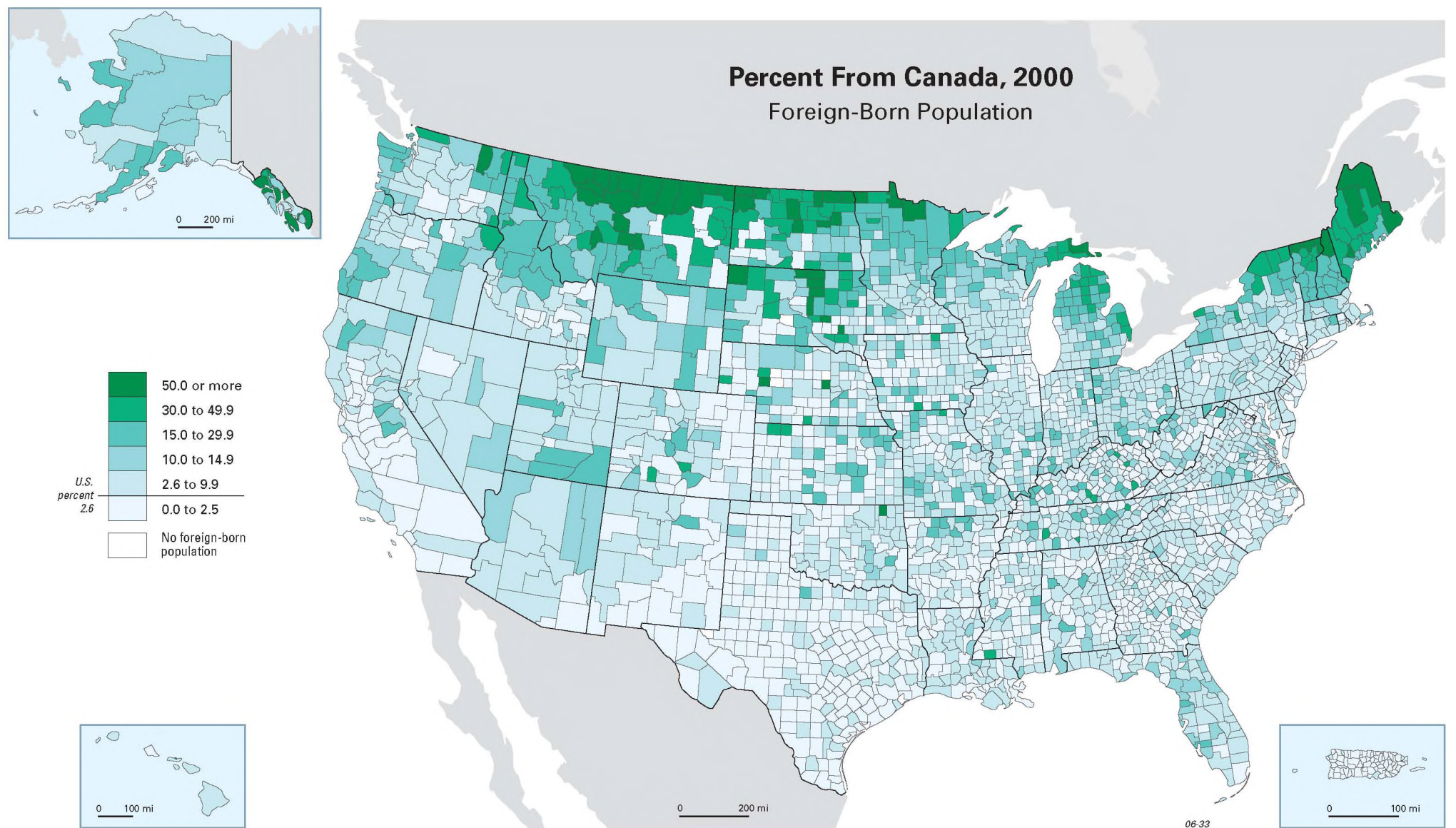
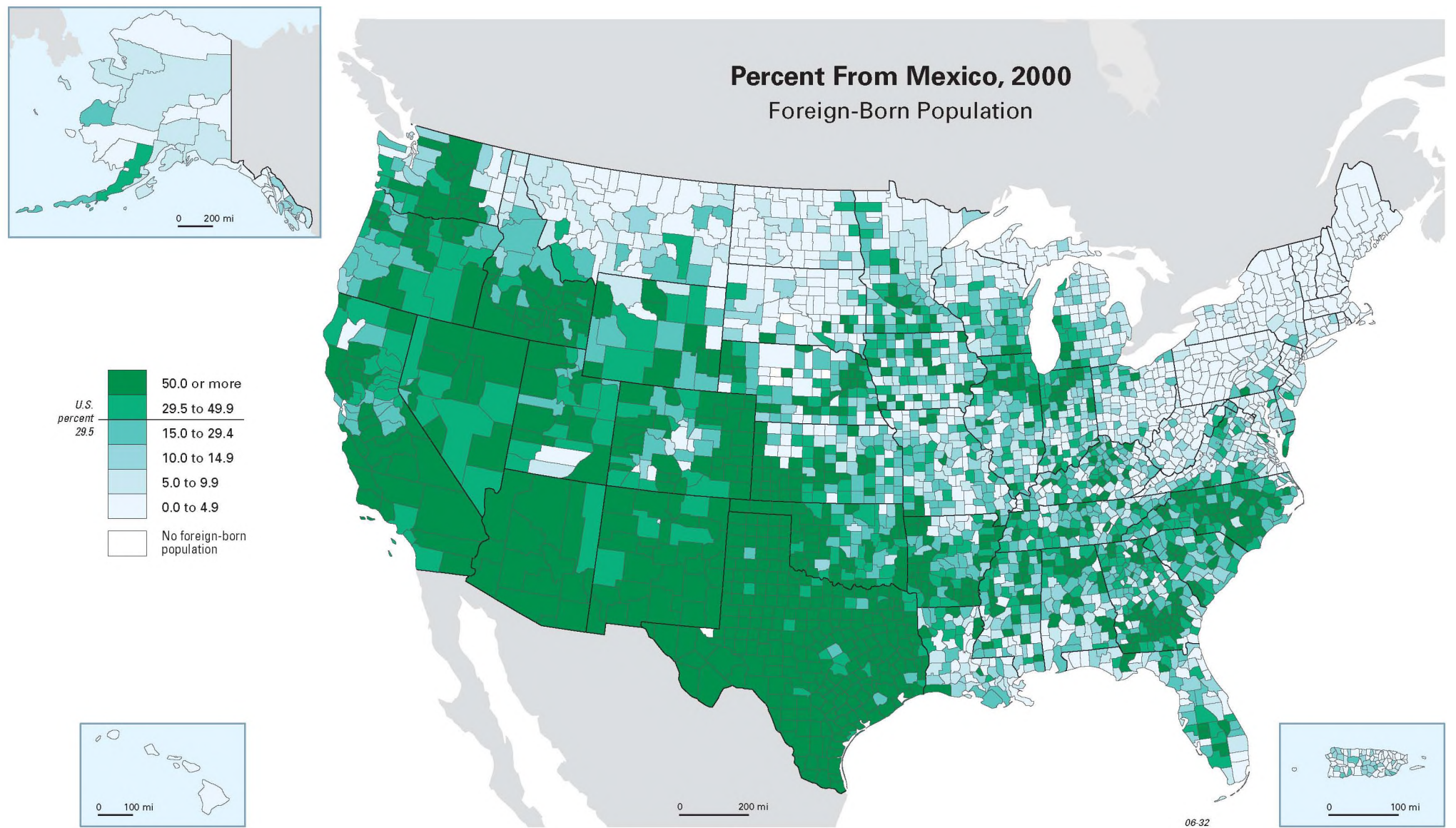
CITIES

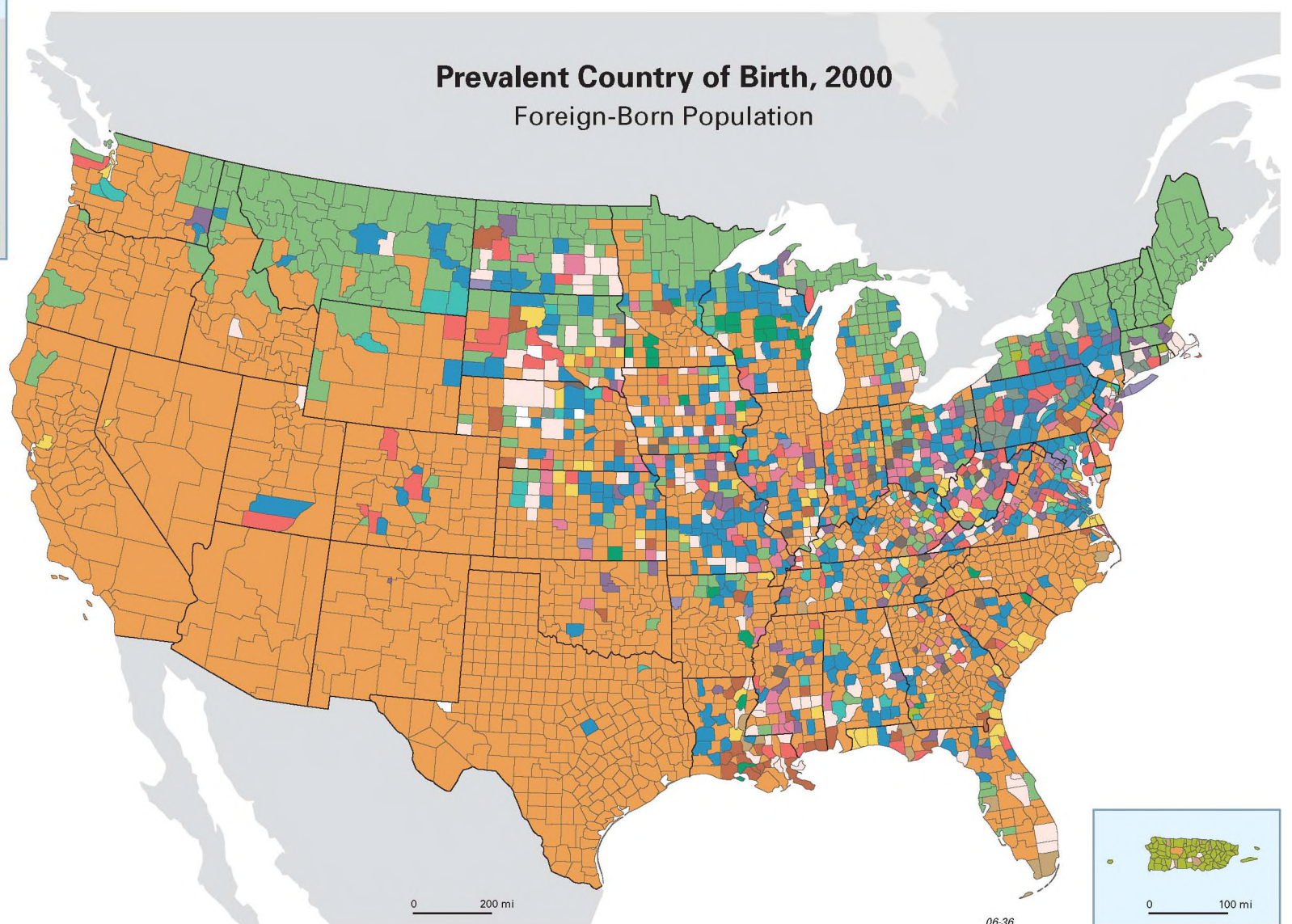
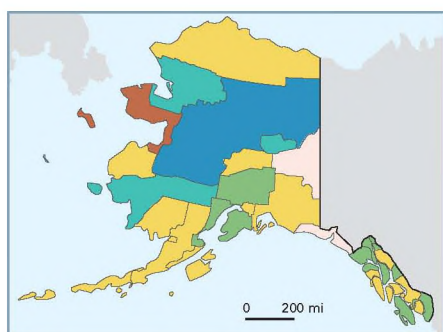
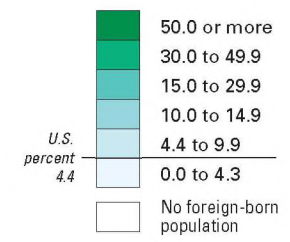
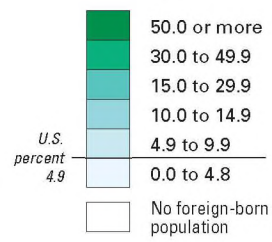
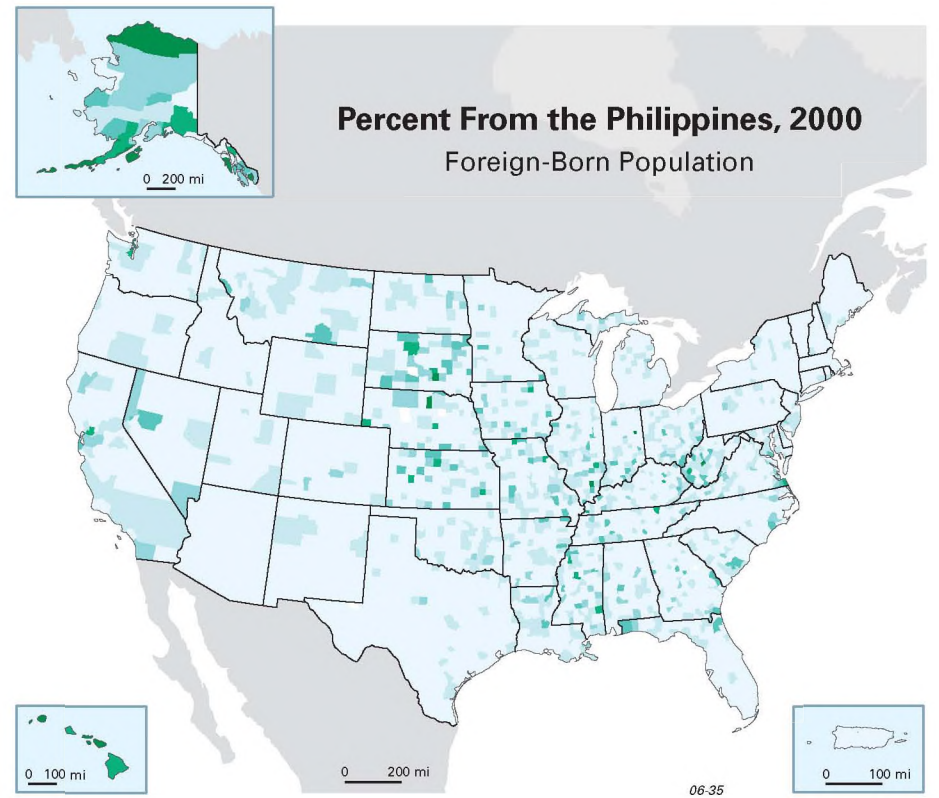
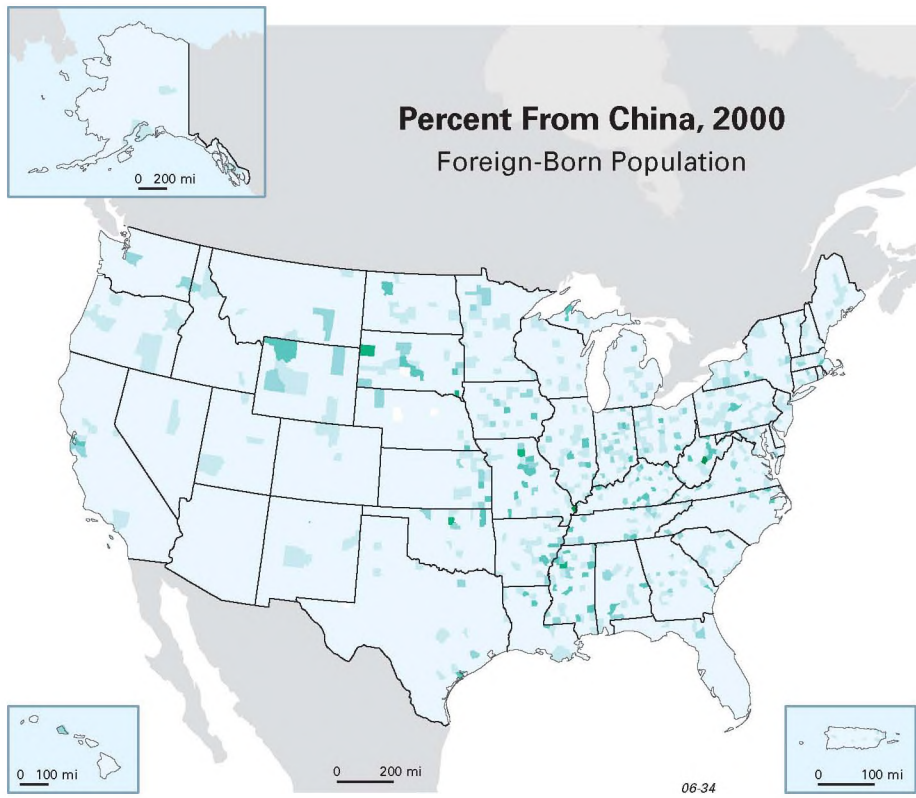


Percent Foreign Born, 2000
Largest Cities



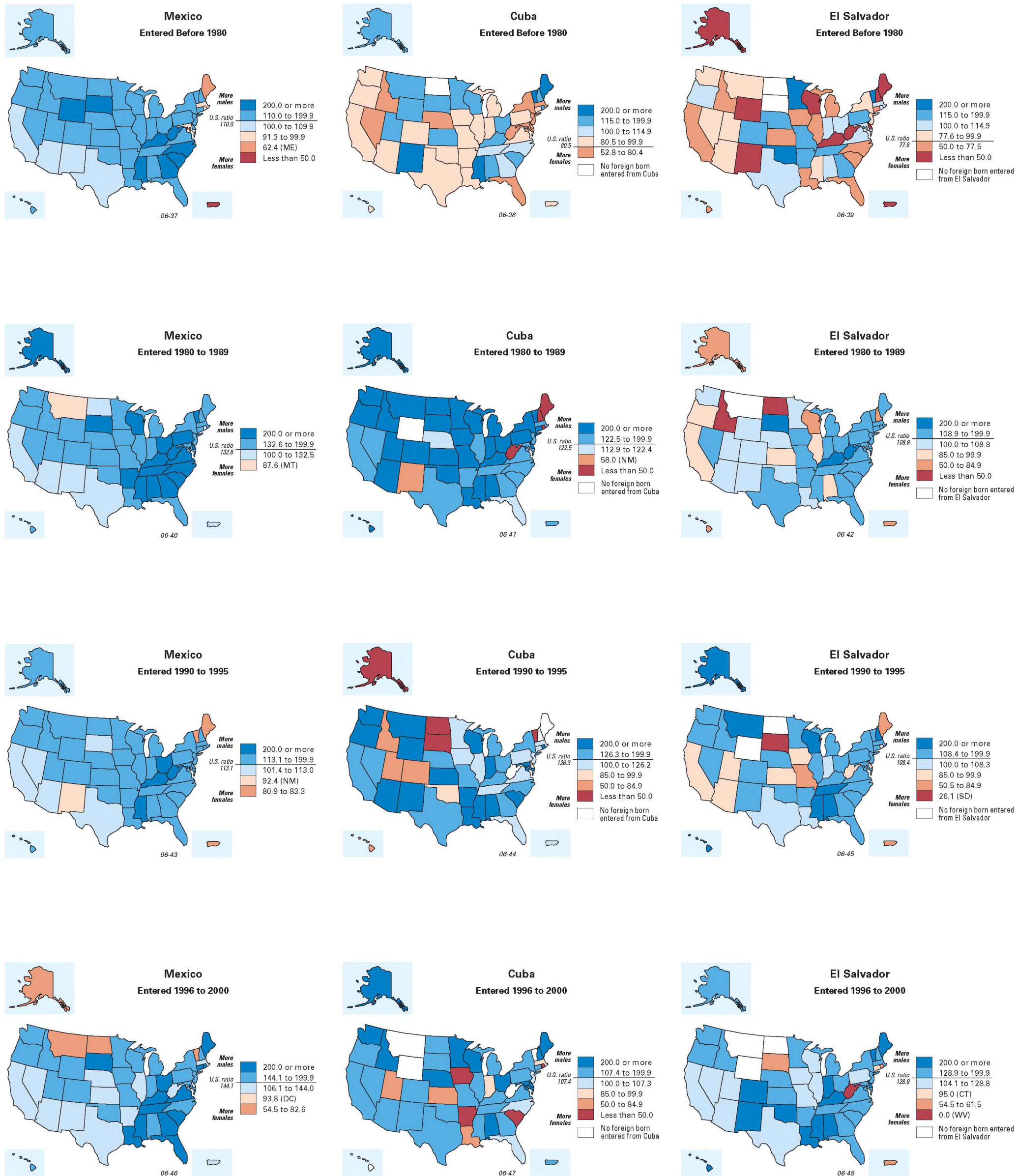






Chapter 6. Place of Birth and U.S. Citizenship

SEX RATIOS (MALES PER 100 FEMALES) FOR LARGEST FOREIGN-BORN POPULATIONS FROM LATIN AMERICA



SEX RATIOS (MALES PER 100 FEMALES) FOR LARGEST FOREIGN-BORN POPULATIONS FROM LATIN AMERICA

