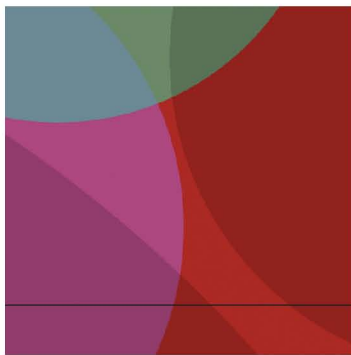




# Chapter 1

## Introduction



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## Introduction

**T**his volume is the first comprehensive atlas produced by the U.S. Census Bureau since the early twentieth century. It highlights demographic, social, and economic conditions and changes for both people and housing in the United States and Puerto Rico. The atlas illustrates the wide range of data collected by the U.S. decennial censuses of population from the first in 1790 to the latest in 2000.

The census is conducted every ten years to apportion representatives among the states for the House of Representatives, as required by Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. The 1790 population of 3.9 million resided on 860,000 square miles; in 2000 the population was 281 million distributed over 3.5 million square miles (Figure 1-1). In addition to the population count required for apportionment, population statistics on the geographic distribution of the population are available for 21 decades. Data on demographic, social, and economic characteristics are available for varying numbers of decades, depending on when topics were first included in the census. Since 1940, a census of housing has been conducted in conjunction with the census of population.

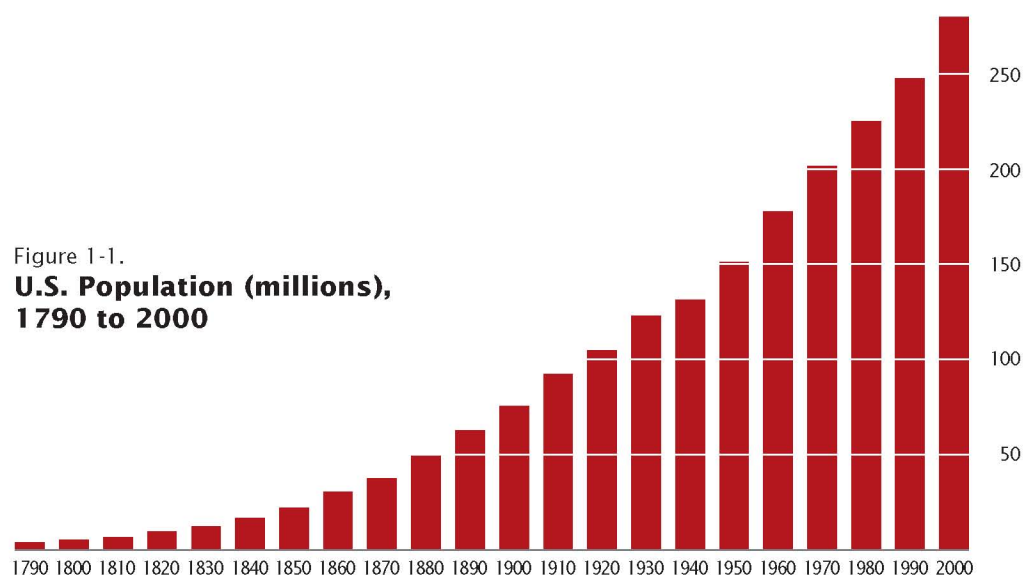
This atlas reflects access to the full range of data for Census 2000 and earlier censuses, both digital and in print. These resources enable the atlas to demonstrate in graphic form the continuous record of the changing population of the United States.

### Geographic Coverage

Most maps in the atlas feature county-level detail for the United States and Puerto Rico. Territories prior to statehood are also included, in the case of maps for 1950 and earlier. Small state-level maps are frequently used to present topical series as well as time series when detailed historical data are not available. Where it is useful to provide detail at the level of the neighborhood, a topic is covered in a series of maps based on census tracts in selected cities or metropolitan areas. The selected cities are those with populations of 1 million people or more in 2000. The metropolitan areas are those with 4 million or more people in 2000.

The maps of the 9 largest cities are shown at a scale of approximately 1:550,000. Maps of the 11

Figure 1-1.  
**U.S. Population (millions),  
1790 to 2000**



largest metropolitan areas are approximately 1:2,900,000 scale. Showing the city or metropolitan area maps across two pages and using the same scale for all of the maps in each series reveals the differences in total land area among the most populous cities and metropolitan areas. Among the cities, for instance, Houston, with 579 square miles of land area, is more than 4 times as large as Philadelphia, which has 135 square miles.

U.S. maps by county and by state are presented at multiple scales, but the scale relationship of map components is constant: Alaska is half the scale, Puerto Rico twice the scale, and Hawaii the same scale as the conterminous United States.

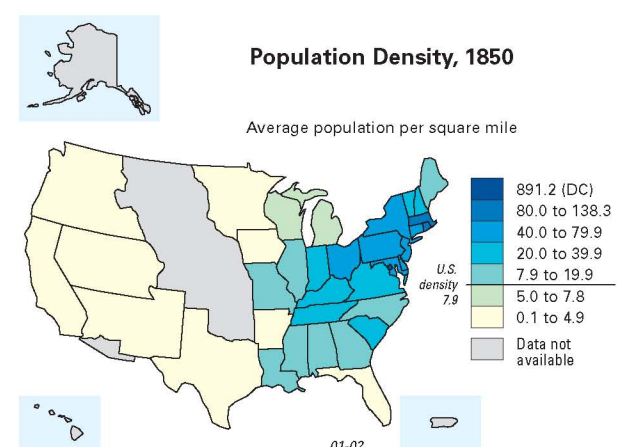
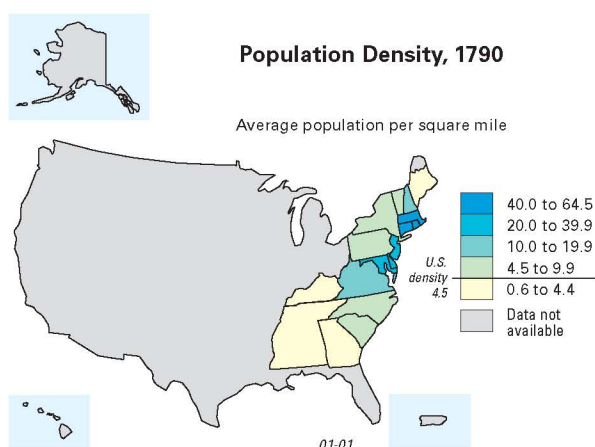
The relative size of the American Indian and Alaska Native population is seen on maps of reservations and smaller cities, while it often does not come to light on maps of the United States by county and on largest-city maps. Similarly, some Asian groups have small national totals but are visible on small-area

maps when the populations are concentrated in local communities. Special maps illustrate the distribution of these populations.

The scales of the maps are appropriate to emphasize the geographic distribution of the population and housing characteristics but are not large enough to include place labels. Reference maps for states and selected cities and metropolitan areas showing geographic names and other features are in the section beginning on page 258. Detailed county maps that identify each of the 3,141 counties and county equivalents and 78 Puerto Rican municipios at the time of Census 2000 are on eleven pages beginning on page 265.

### Organization and Content

The atlas is arranged in topical chapters, grouped into three general themes: who we are (Chapters 2 through 5), where we come from (Chapters 6 through 9), and what we do (Chapters 10 through 14). All chapters





except this introduction begin with one large map focusing on a primary aspect of the topic covered in the chapter. Within each chapter, pages presenting two, three, or four county-level maps (or up to 12 state-level maps) encourage visual comparison, either between points in time or groups of the population. Some chapters include a set of state-level maps that may present a longer historical time series than is shown in the county maps. Alternatively, such state-level maps may illustrate more information about specific population groups or more specific categories of variables or characteristics covered within the chapter.

On map pages, map titles and key titles usually provide the explanatory text. A glossary of key terms pertaining to specific subject matter areas is provided beginning on page 294. In a few cases, comparisons of the historical usage and the Census 2000 definitions of terms are included. Details of data sources and particulars of maps and figures are contained in the Notes section beginning on page 278.

### Census Data

The census data used in this atlas were obtained from published sources, from digital data sets available to the public, and from special tabulations. The data used are consistent with the population totals recorded at the time the census data were released, and they do not reflect adjustments or corrections to the original data.

Maps in the first four chapters use data collected from the entire population, while maps in the

remaining chapters are typically based on sample data. Data collected on a 100-percent basis—from every person—are subject to nonsampling error, while those collected on a sample basis are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. The Notes section provides information concerning the effects of sampling and nonsampling error on the accuracy of the data.

Changes in census questions or concepts can affect comparability of data in time series. For example, race-group terminology has changed over time. Starting with Census 2000, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) required federal agencies to collect and report data for a minimum of five race categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. In addition, specifically for Census 2000, OMB approved a sixth category, “Some Other Race.” A question on Hispanic or Latino origin was asked separately from the question on race. Census 2000 data on race are available for people who indicated one race category only (termed that race “alone”) and for people who indicated a race category regardless of whether they also reported one or more other races (this group is sometimes termed the “race alone or in combination” population). Maps in this publication show data for the single-race or race-alone population. All respondents who indicated more than one race are included in the Two or More Races category, which, combined with the six “alone” categories, yields seven mutually exclusive and exhaustive categories.

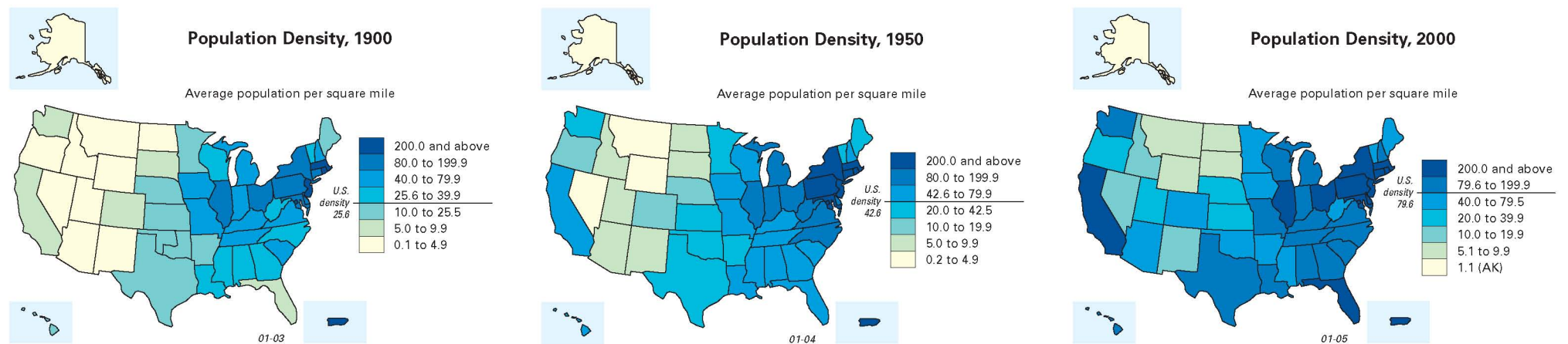
### Additional Information to Assist Understanding of the Maps

The geographic boundaries on Census 2000 maps are as of January 1, 2000, the geographic reference date for that census. Historical base maps were developed specifically for this publication to reflect the geographic boundaries of states, territories, and counties (or equivalent areas) that were used to conduct selected decennial censuses. See the Notes section for additional information.

Census 2000 was the first time Puerto Rican households received the same questionnaire as those in the United States. For 1990 and earlier, maps show information for Puerto Rico when the data are available and comparable. Puerto Rico data, however, are not included in data totals for the United States, which comprises the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

To facilitate comparisons between maps in pairs or among those in series, the same data classes are used across the maps whenever possible. The class breaks on the maps were chosen using a combination of national rates and rounded breaks shared among maps for each topic. Class breaks may differ on county-level maps depending on whether they were classed alone, with other county-level maps, or with tract-level data in a city or metropolitan area series.

Map titles, legends, and other notations follow a consistent format from one map to the next. Map components and symbolization types are shown on the following two pages.

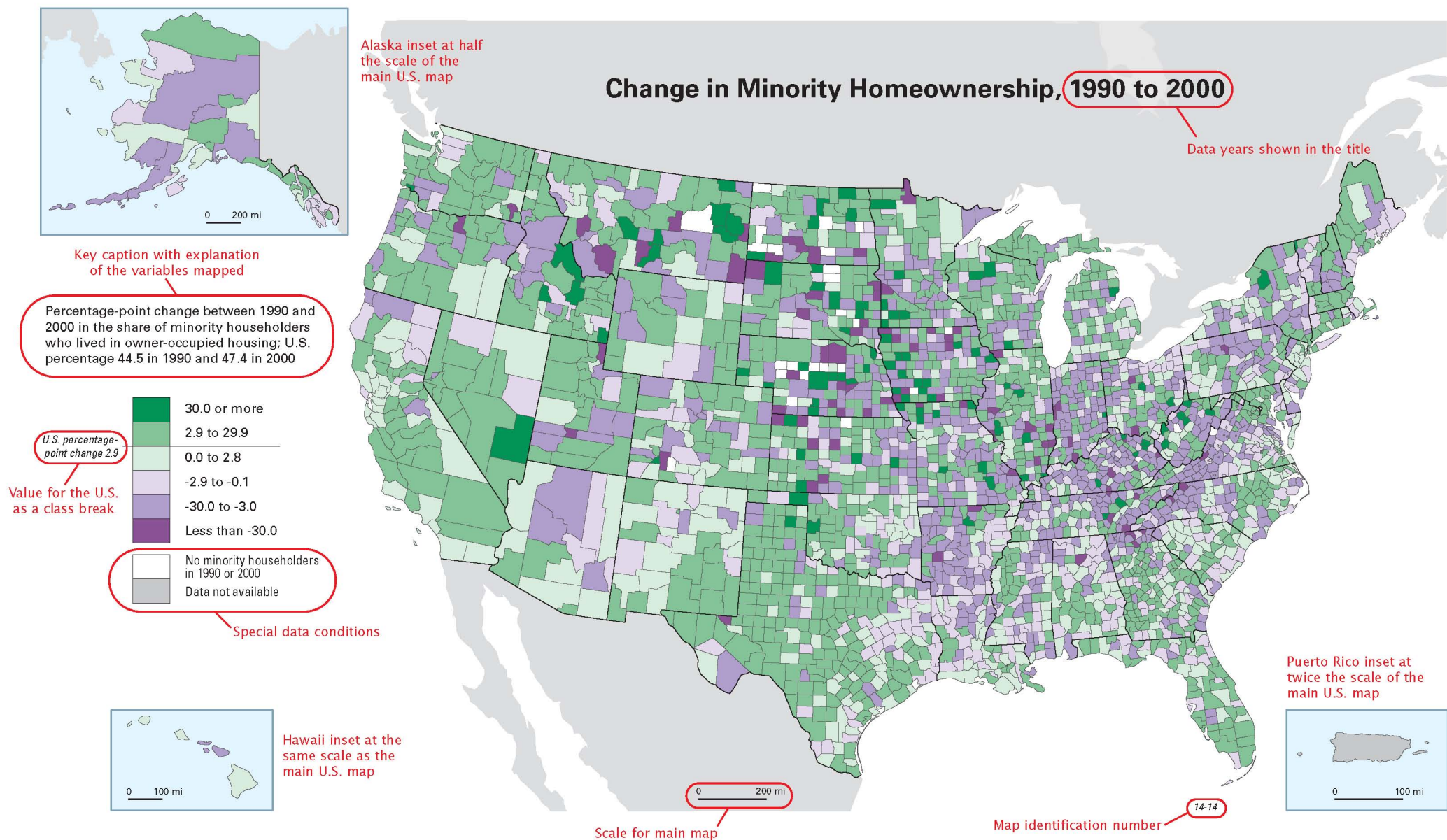




**Map Elements**

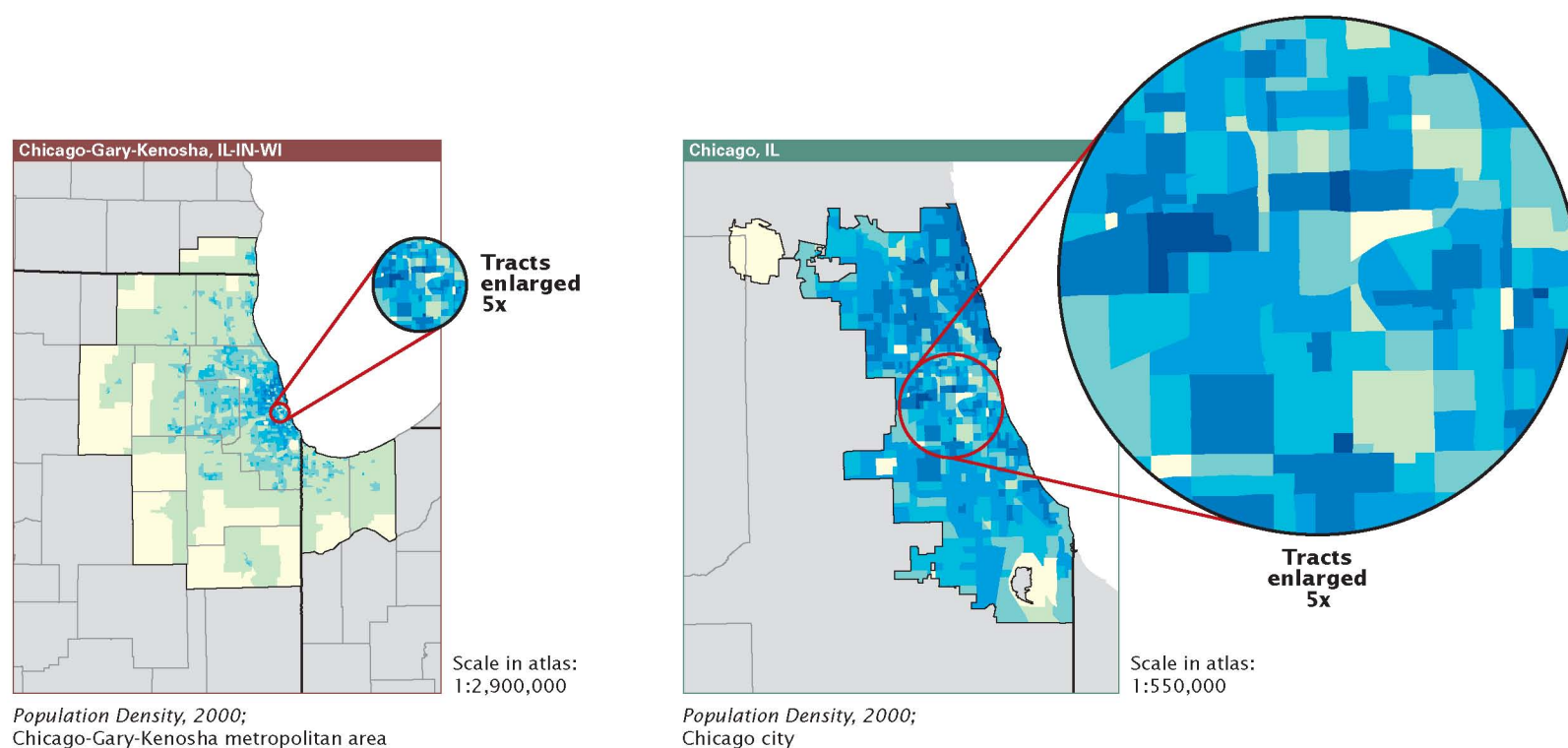
Illustrated below is a typical map from the atlas. Notes in red provide orientation to map elements and what they mean.

Refer to the Notes section (page 278) for information on the data and mapping techniques for each map.



**Census Tract Maps**

Census tracts are used in maps for both largest metropolitan areas and largest cities. Because of the difference in scale between the two sets of maps, the tracts appear smaller on the metropolitan areas maps and larger on the cities maps.

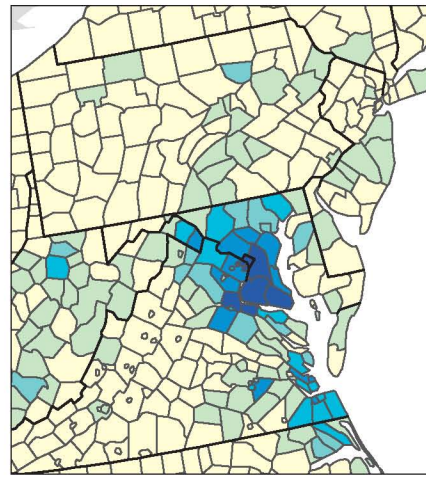




**Choropleth Map (Quantitative)**

Choropleth maps show derived values such as percentages and medians. Colors fill geographic areas to represent data values.

Areas are shaded so that as the data value increases—or on some maps decreases—the color becomes darker and more intense.



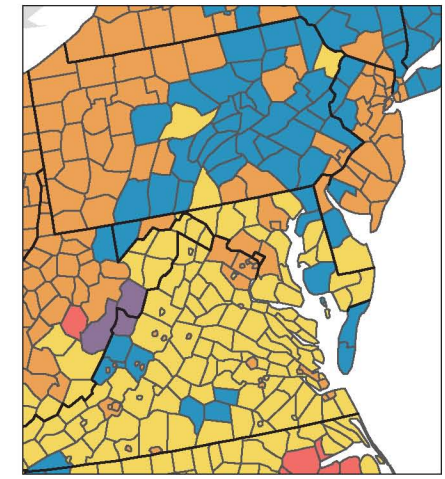
(Federal Government Employment, 2000)

**Choropleth Map (Qualitative)**

Colors fill geographic areas to show data organized into categories.

Areas are colored by the most commonly occurring category.

Different hues are used rather than shades of one color to avoid the impression of higher and lower values for the categories.



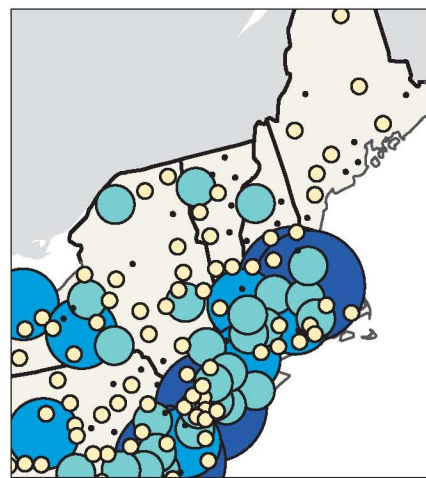
(Prevalent Household Heating Fuel, 2000)

**Graduated Symbol Map**

Graduated symbol maps show numbers of people or other quantities. Symbol size is larger for higher data values. Symbols also are shaded so that the highest numbers are shown in the darkest colors.

Symbols show geographic area totals and are placed at the center of those areas.

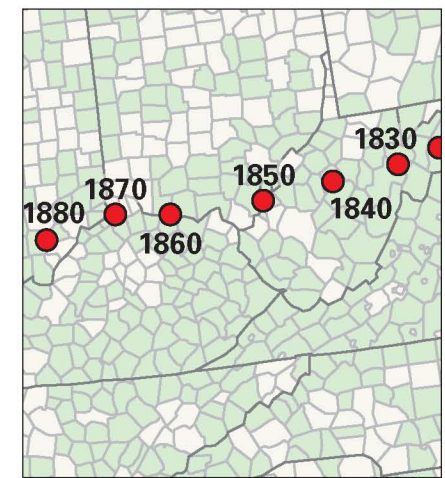
Smaller circles are placed on top of larger circles. In areas of high symbol density, some circles may be hidden.



(College Dormitory Population, 2000)

**Dot Location Map**

Dots are centered on specific locales to represent a point of data at a point in time at that location.

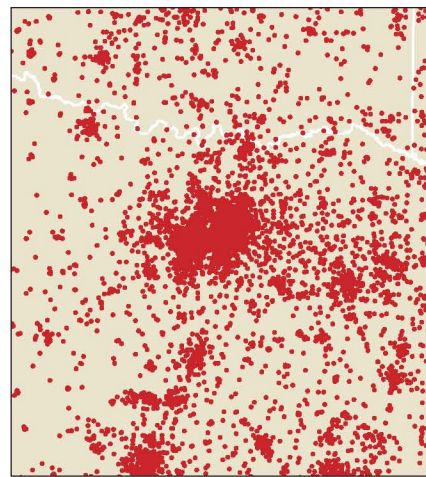


(Center of Rural Population, 1790 to 2000)

**Dot Density Map**

Each dot represents a specified number of people. The number per dot is noted on the map.

The distribution of dots provides a visual sense of population density. Dots coalesce where population is densest and form areas of color.

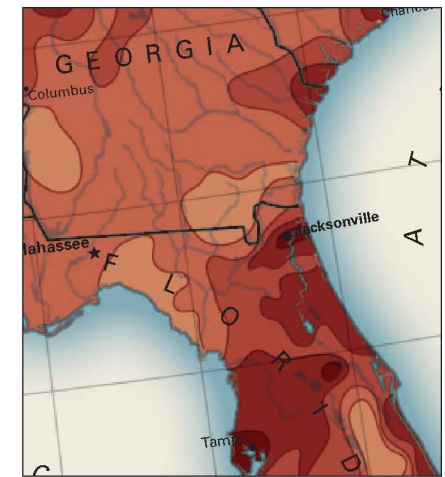


(Population Distribution, 2000)

**Isoplethic Map**

An isoplethic map gives an impression of continuous population distribution with varying densities.

Lines connecting equal values are drawn between points of data. Darker shades represent areas with higher values.

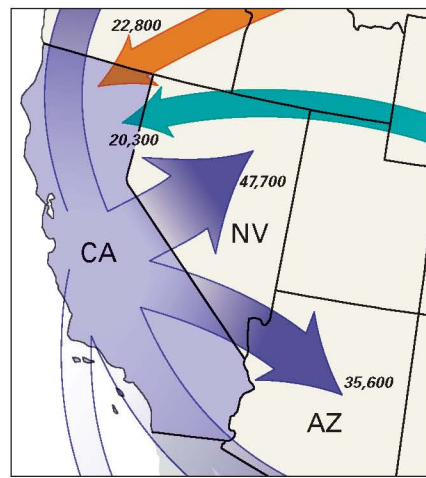


(Population Density, 2000)

**Flow Map**

Flow maps in the atlas use arrows to show migration of people.

The width of the flow arrow is proportional to the number of migrants. In this example, arrows coming from the same states are grouped by color.

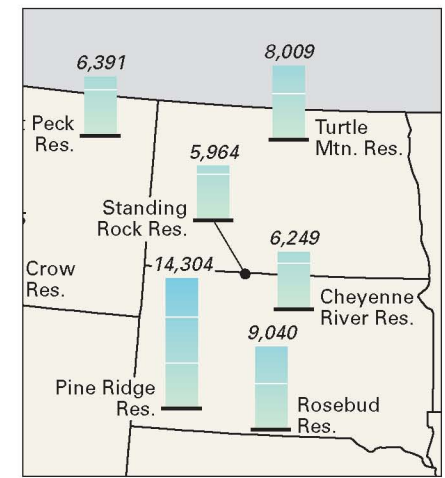


(Outmigration of the Foreign Born, 1995 to 2000: California, New York, and Texas)

**Proportioned Bar Map**

The height of the bar indicates magnitude of the population phenomenon at a specified location.

In this example, bars show data for American Indian reservations with the largest American Indian and Alaska Native populations. Color gradients fill bars and show high values with a different hue compared to low values.



(Number of American Indians and Alaska Natives, 2000: Reservations With Largest AIAN Populations)

