

*Race
Contours
2000
Study*

Multiracial Patterns in the United States By State

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Principal Authors: Noel Hacegaba¹ and Dowell Myers

- The size of the multiracial population in the United States (2.4%) is roughly equal to the population of Massachusetts.
- The highest prevalence of multiracial residents in a particular race group is generally found in states that have smaller concentrations of that group.
- California departs from the rest of the country in both population size and multiracial prevalence.

*A University of
Southern California
and
University of
Michigan
Collaborative
Project*

INTRODUCTION

In 2000, the Census Bureau allowed multi-racial respondents to identify themselves as such, enabling them to select more than one racial category. This has amplified the opportunities for further research on race.

The number of multiracial persons in the United States amounts to 2.4% of the total population, roughly equal to the population of Massachusetts. Within the different race groups, this prevalence varies considerably. Exhibit 1 is a table showing what percentage of the U.S. population in each racial group is monoracial or multiracial. For this analysis, we define racial groups as all those who selected that race alone or in combination with other races.

¹ Contact Information: hacegaba@usc.edu

Principal Investigators:
Dowell Myers,
Philip J. Ethington,
Angela James,
William Frey

Population Dynamics Group

www.usc.edu/sppcd/census2000



The percent of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders that identify themselves as multiracial, for example, is 54.4%. The same number is 39.9% for American Indians and Alaska Natives and 13.9% for Asians. Blacks and whites show a lower multiracial prevalence with 4.8% and 2.5%, respectively.

Among whites, 97.5% identify themselves only as white. Similarly, 95.2% of blacks identify themselves as strictly monoracial. As expected, the number of monoracial respondents is relatively lower across all other race groups with the exception of the Other category, which is largely comprised of Latinos.

TOTAL MULTIRACIAL BY STATE FROM WEST TO EAST

The same analysis is conducted for each of the states, which are grouped into four regions (West, Midwest, South, and Northeast). Exhibit 2 is a "West-to-East" regional bar plot showing the total multiracial prevalence of each state. Besides Hawaii (21.4%), Alaska and California have the highest multiracial presence in the West, with 5.4% and 4.7%, respectively. In the Midwest, all states have multiracial populations below 2% with the exception of Kansas, whose multiracial share is slightly higher at 2.1%. In the South, Oklahoma stands out with a multiracial prevalence of 4.5%, almost twice the number in Texas, which has the second highest multiracial presence in the region. In the Northeast, New York leads all other states in that region with a multiracial prevalence of 3.1%.

WEST TO EAST BY RACE GROUP

This analysis is repeated for each of the racial groups. What do we expect? Based on research we conducted prior to Census 2000, we expect states with more diverse populations like California to have a higher concentration of residents who identify themselves as multiracial. We also expect states with smaller populations in each race group to have social environments that foster inter-group relations.

Exhibit 3 shows that among whites, 6.4% identify themselves as multiracial in Alaska. This is the highest prevalence of multiracial whites, second only to Hawaii, where 38.2% of whites are multiracial. California and Oklahoma fall closely behind Alaska at 6.1% and 5.1% in the West and South regions, respectively.

Among blacks, almost 40% identify themselves as multiracial in Montana (Exhibit 4). Given the small concentration of blacks in Montana (4,441) and our prior expectations regarding population size effects, the high number of multiracial blacks is not surprising. It is interesting to compare only the states with large populations of African Americans. In Mississippi, for example, the multiracial prevalence is less than 1%, making it the lowest in the South. In the Northeast, New York, the state with the largest black population in the country, has a relatively high multiracial prevalence at 6.8%, but it falls below six other states

in that region. Illinois, another state with a sizable black population, also has the lowest multiracial prevalence among blacks in its respective region. The same is true for California, which happens to be the state with the highest multiracial prevalence of the large states. It is interesting how great are the regional differences among the states with large black populations: Illinois (3.1%) has triple the multiracial prevalence among blacks of Mississippi (0.8%), but California (9.9%) has triple the prevalence of Illinois.

Exhibit 5 shows that the number of American Indians who identify themselves as multiracial exceeds 60% in at least one state in every region. States with higher concentrations of American Indians like California and Texas, however, have a multiracial prevalence well below 60%. The lowest multiracial presence is found in states like Arizona (12.5%), Montana (15.5%), New Mexico (9.4%), North Dakota (11.1%), and South Dakota (8.8%). These are all states that have Indian reservations that preserve a separate Indian culture and physically segregate American Indians from the rest of the state.

Exhibit 6 shows that the largest numbers of multiracial Asians are located in the West. Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho each have a multiracial prevalence above 30%. These states all have smaller Asian concentrations. California and New York each have a multiracial prevalence of 11% and 10.6%, respectively.

SCATTER PLOT ANALYSIS BY RACE GROUP

While the "West-to-East" bar plots give us a glimpse of the nation's multiracial prevalence by region and state, they do not account for variances in the size of each racial group. A series of scatter plots graphs the percent multiracial for each race group by that group's size in the state. The results confirm the general pattern discussed in the previous section. The smaller the population, the larger the multiracial share. Conversely, the larger the population, the lower the multiracial share.

The pattern is best observed among blacks. Exhibit 7 shows an L-shaped curvilinear pattern. States with populations of less than 500,000 blacks have a multiracial prevalence that varies as high as 39.4%. With the exception of California, the multiracial prevalence in all states declines as population size increases. In fact, seen in the perspective of population size, California's 9.9% multiracial prevalence is remarkably high.

Among American Indians (Exhibit 8), the multiracial prevalence of states with American Indian populations less than 200,000 in size range from 8.8% to 85.8%. Graphically, these states appear to cluster in the area between 30% and 70%. States with American Indian populations over 200,000 all have a multiracial prevalence below 50%. An obvious exception, however, is California, which has a high American Indian multiracial prevalence in spite of it also having the largest concentration of American Indians.

Exhibit 9 clearly shows that all states with Asian populations of less than 1 million have a multiracial prevalence above 10% except for New Jersey (8.4%). Hawaii has one of the

larger Asian populations and it also has a comparatively higher multiracial prevalence. This is due in part to Hawaii's unique culture of multiracial self-identification. New York and California are the only states with Asian populations exceeding 1 million. In California, 11% of Asians are multiracial. The same number is slightly lower in New York (10.6%). Yet, California is almost four times the population size of New York. California again breaks away from the general trend.

CONCLUSION

The success of Census 2000 in permitting multiracial self-identification has rendered interesting geographic patterns. A new dimension of racial integration has been exposed for scrutiny. The sharp color line in Mississippi reduces multiraciality among blacks and whites, both real and acknowledged, and a similar pattern pertains to American Indians in South Dakota and a few other states. Meanwhile, in California and Hawaii the racial boundaries are much softer, as reflected by the much higher prevalence of multiracial persons.

An interesting additional aspect of the state-by-state analysis is the influence of population size within a given racial group. Throughout this analysis, we find that those states with very small numbers in a racial group are more likely to have a high multiracial prevalence among people of that race. In contrast, states with very large populations in a racial group tend to have lower concentrations of multiracial residents. Given the large numbers of their racial peers, there may be less incentive to socialize outside that group. In addition, persons with a multiracial identity may feel greater racial mobility and perceive less need to remain close to large concentrations of a given race. As a result, they may be more likely than monoracials to select a residence in areas with few of that race.

As a final observation, Hawaii and California stand apart from all other states. Hawaii's unique culture of multiracial identification and small population sizes in each race together create an unusual degree of racial intermixture. Hawaii's multiracial prevalence is possibly unmatched on the planet. California's relatively high multiracial prevalence occurs despite its large numbers of residents in each group and despite the heavy inflow of recently arrived immigrants who tend to socialize only within their own race group. This signifies the uncommon racial integration that is occurring in California.

Exhibit 1: Percent of Persons with a Given Racial Identification Who Share Additional Racial Identifications

for the United States: 2000

	White	Black	Am Ind	Asian	NHOPI	Other
% Monoracial	97.5	95.2	60.1	86.1	45.6	82.9
% Multiracial	2.5	4.8	39.9	13.9	54.4	17.1
% 2 Races	2.3	4.2	34.4	11.9	37.1	16.2
% 3+ Races	0.2	0.7	5.5	2.0	17.3	0.9

Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total (N)	216,930,975	36,419,434	4,119,301	11,898,828	874,414	18,521,486

	White	Black	Am Ind	Asian	NHOPI	Other
White	97.5	2.2	26.3	7.3	12.9	11.9
Black	0.4	95.2	4.4	0.9	3.4	2.3
Am Ind	0.5	0.5	60.1	0.4	0.8	0.5
Asian	0.4	0.3	1.3	86.1	15.9	1.3
NHOPI	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.2	45.6	0.2
Other	1.0	1.1	2.3	2.1	4.0	82.9

More than 2 race	0.2	0.7	5.5	2.0	17.3	0.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total (N)	216,930,975	36,419,434	4,119,301	11,898,828	874,414	18,521,486

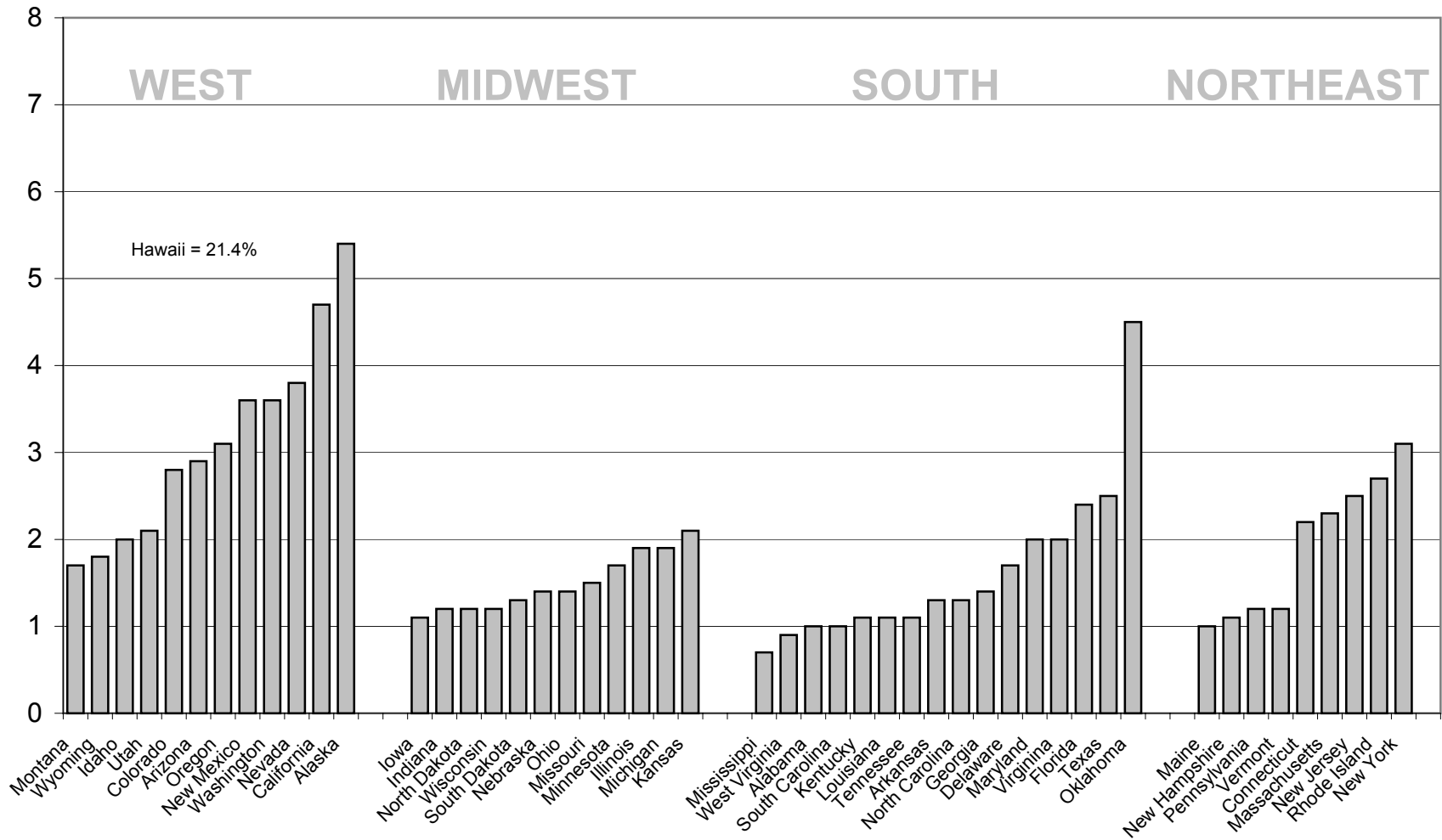
Note: Shaded area is percent of each maximum racial group that is a single race alone

Note: The Universe for these tabulations 'double counts' persons who appear in more than one racial category. For example, the multiracial percent among whites is calculated on the basis of all persons who claim any portion white heritage.

Source: Dowell Myers, Race Contours 2000, a collaborative USC-U.Michigan project.

<http://www.usc.edu/sppd/census2000>

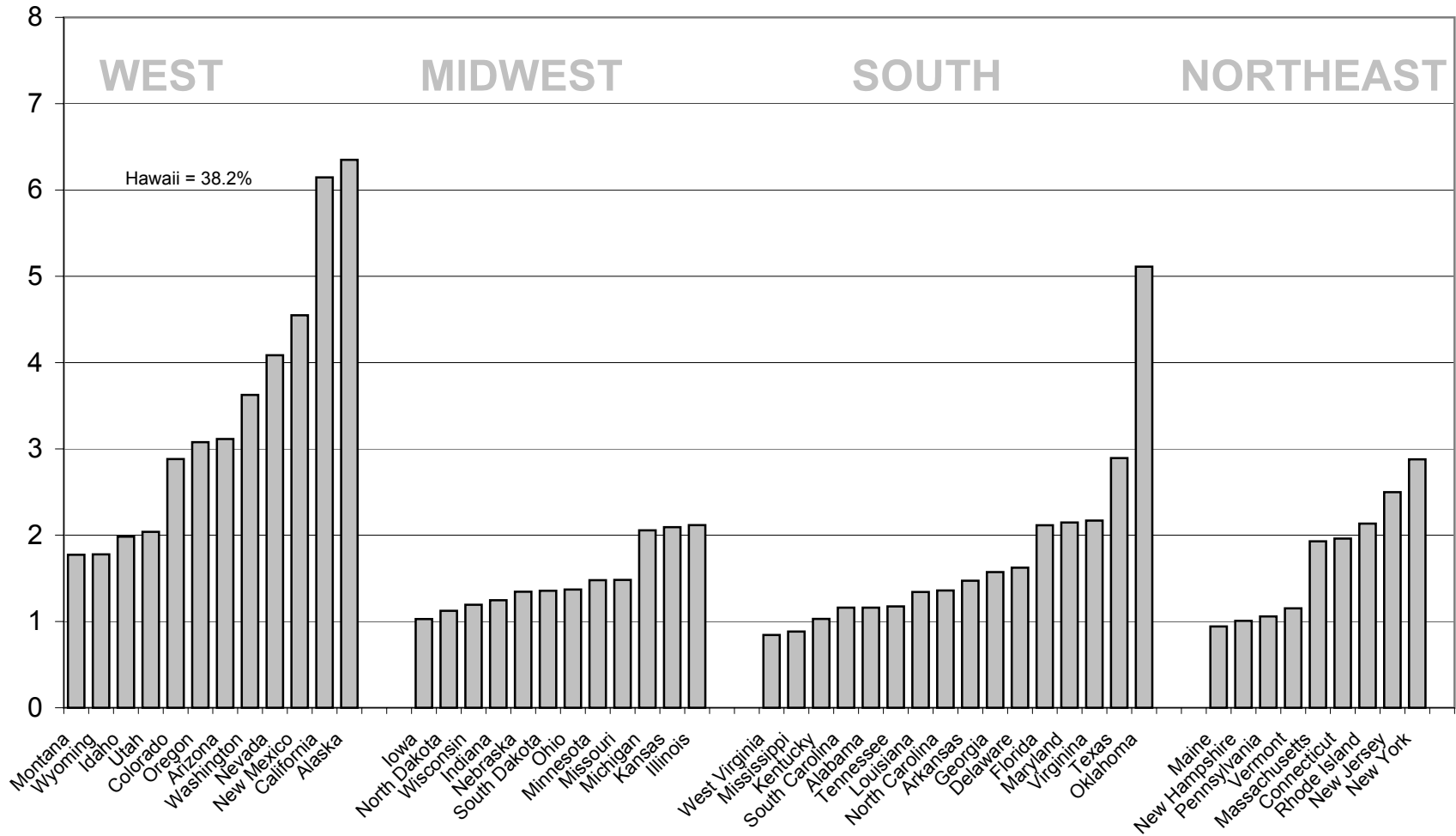
Exhibit 2: Percent of Total Residents Who Self-Identify as Multiracial



Source: Dowell Myers, Race Contours 2000, a collaborative USC-U.Michigan project.
<http://www.usc.edu/sppd/census2000>

Last updated 03/29/01

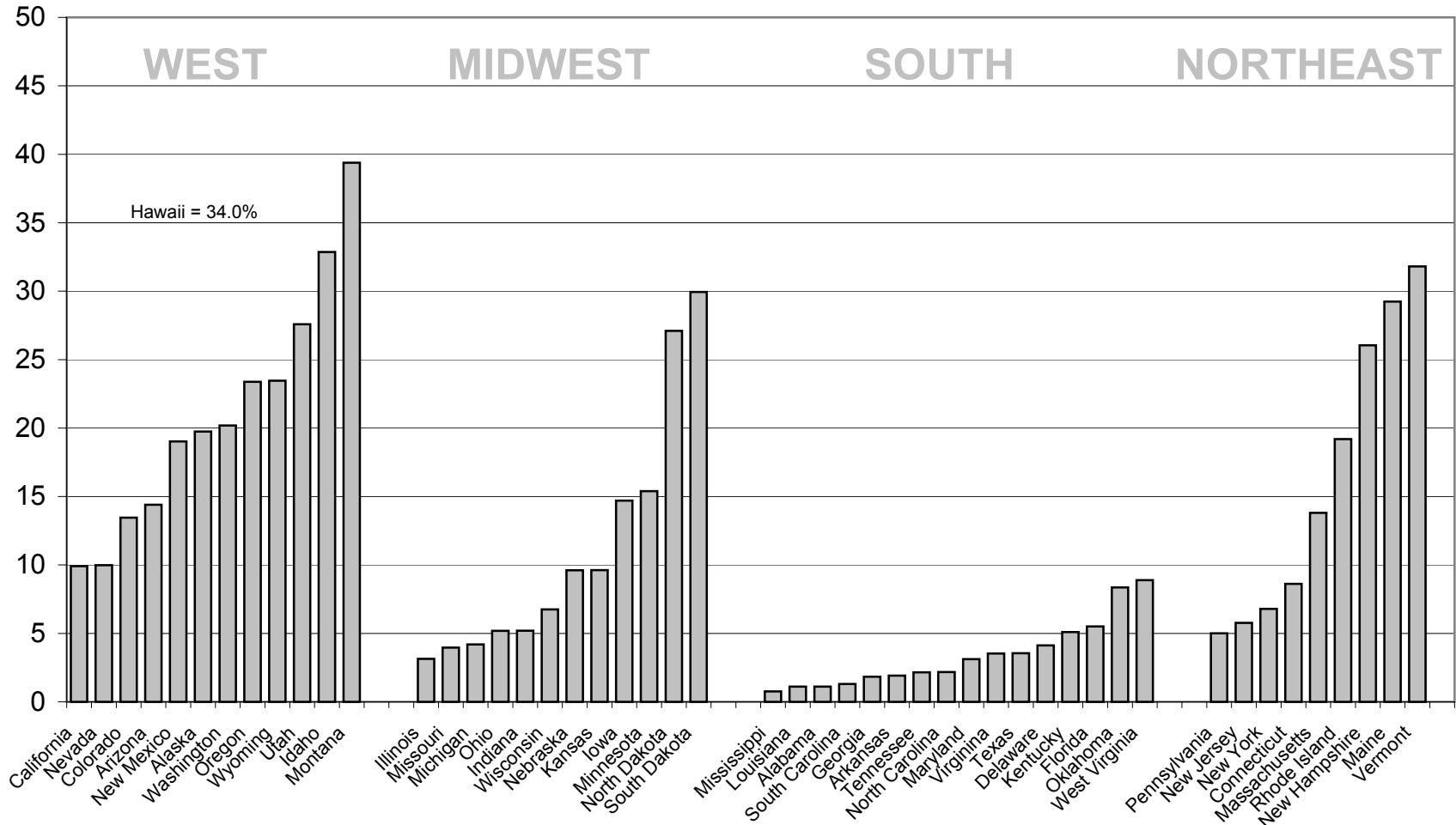
Exhibit 3: Percent of White Residents Who Self-Identify as Multiracial



Source: Dowell Myers, Race Contours 2000, a collaborative USC-U.Michigan project.
<http://www.usc.edu/sppd/census2000>

Last updated 03/29/01

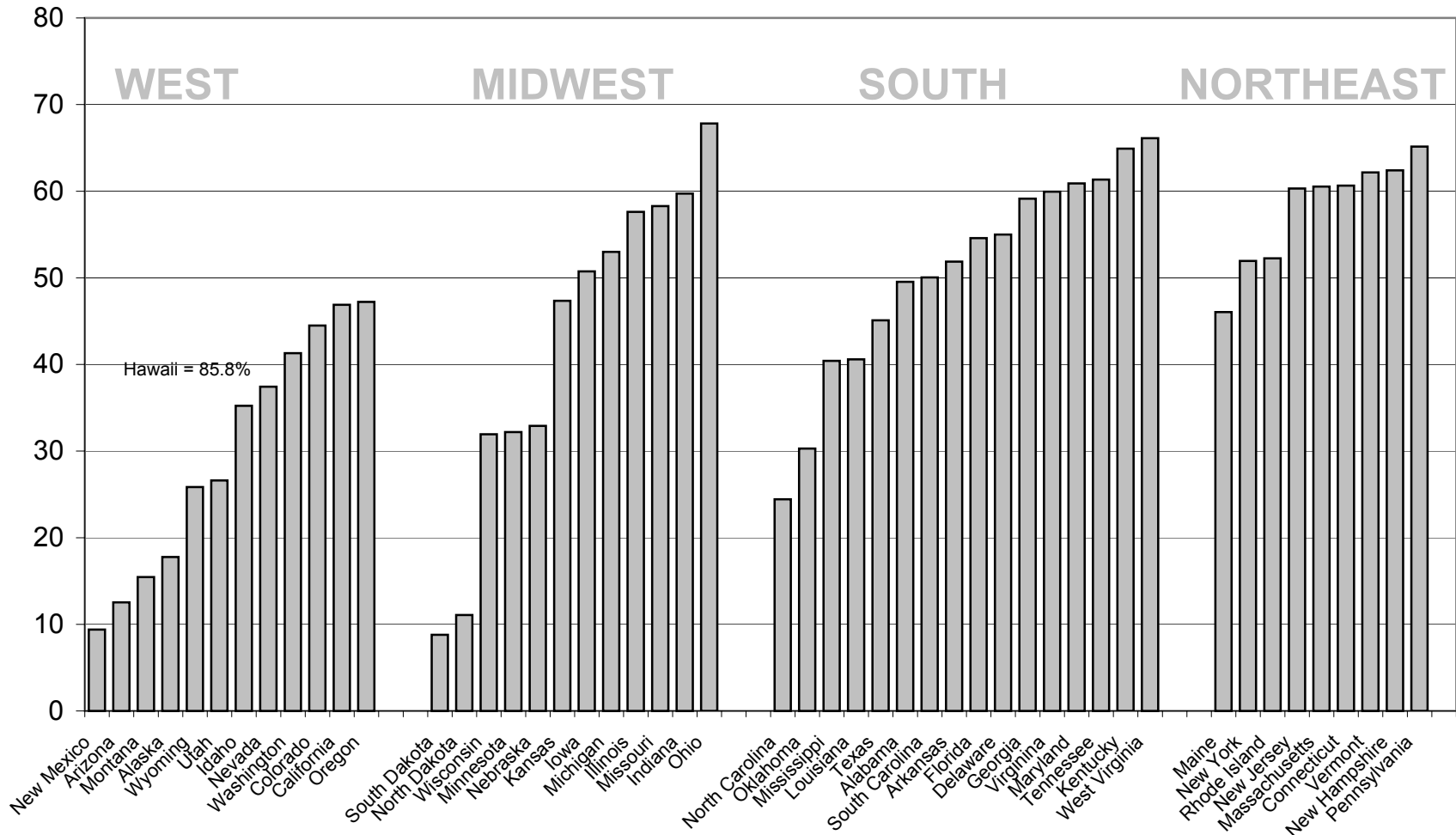
Exhibit 4: Percent of Black Residents Who Self-Identify as Multiracial



Source: Dowell Myers, Race Contours 2000, a collaborative USC-U.Michigan project.
<http://www.usc.edu/sppd/census2000>

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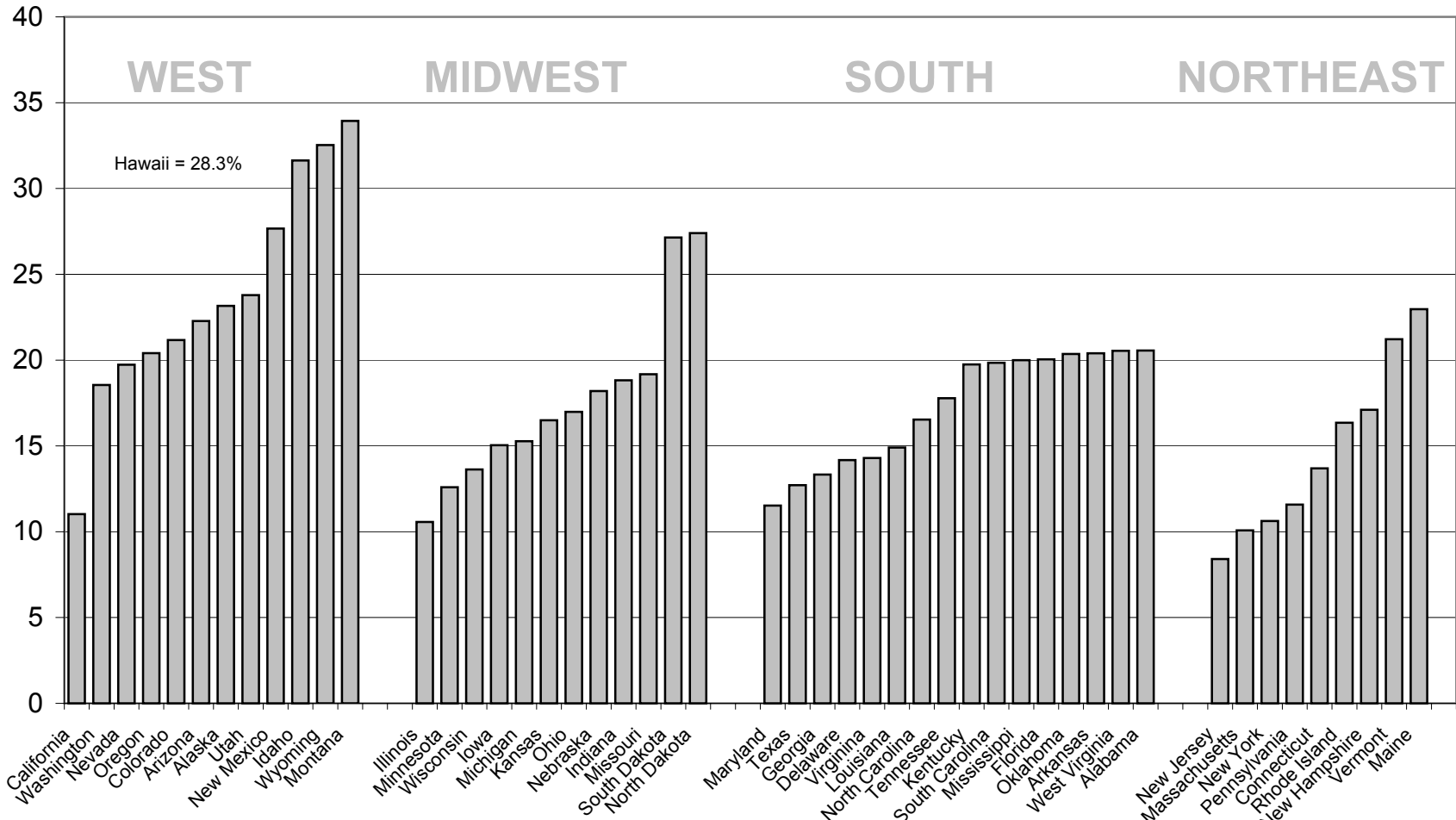
Exhibit 5: Percent of American Indian Residents Who Self-Identify as Multiracial



Source: Dowell Myers, Race Contours 2000, a collaborative USC-U.Michigan project.
<http://www.usc.edu/spod/census2000/>

Last updated 03/29/01

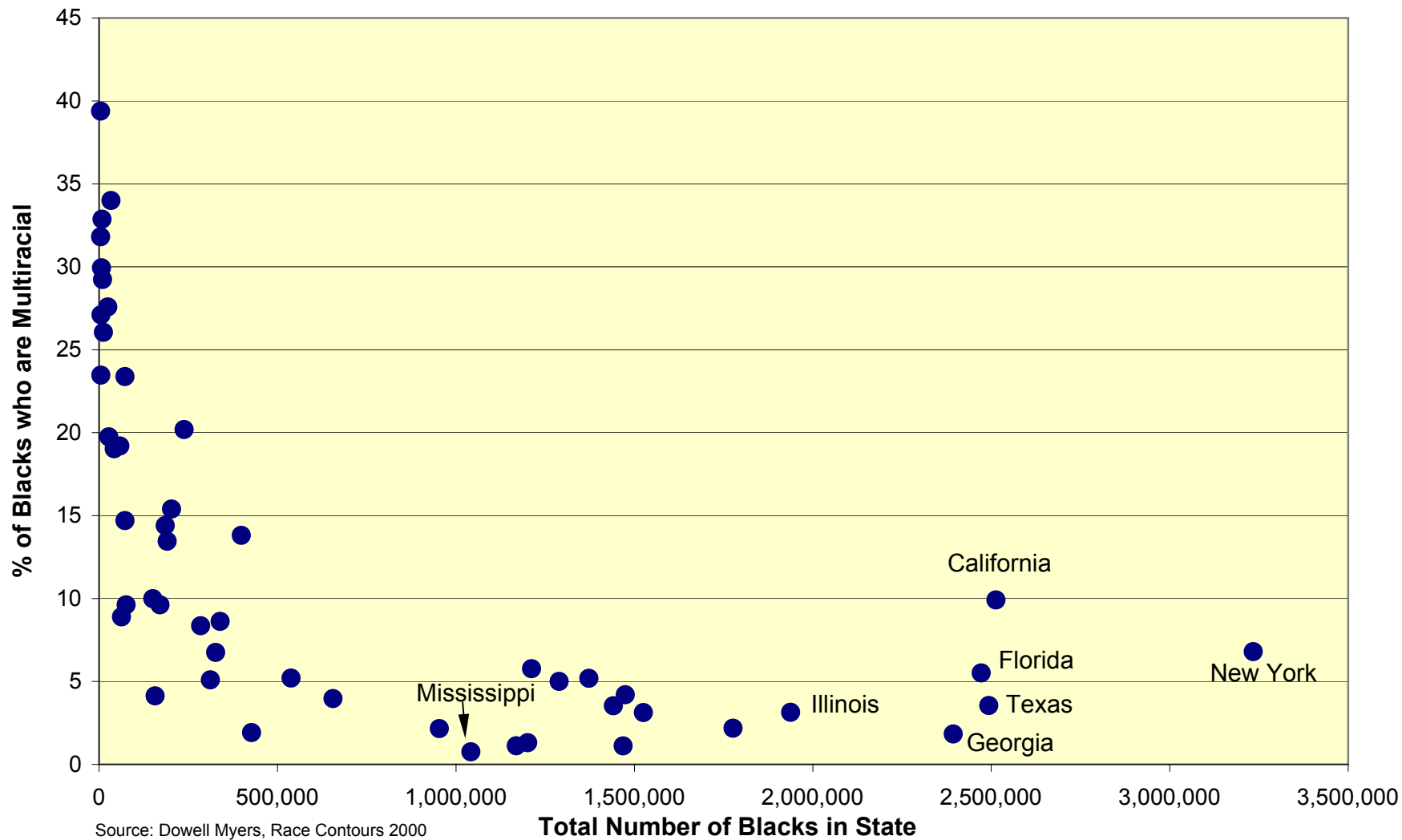
Exhibit 6: Percent of Asian Residents Who Self-Identify as Multiracial



Source: Dowell Myers, Race Contours 2000, a collaborative USC-U.Michigan project.
<http://www.usc.edu/sppd/census2000>

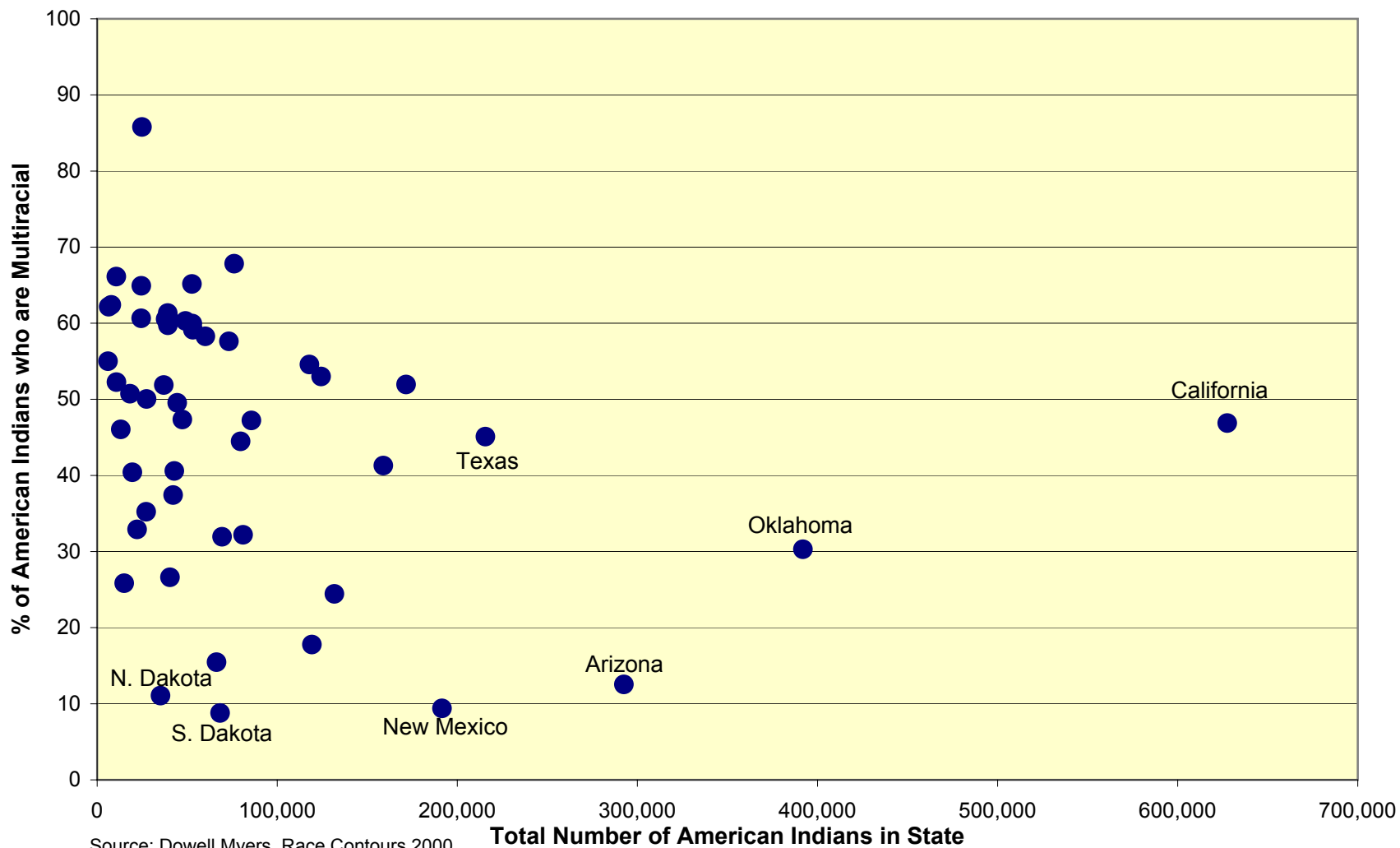
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Exhibit 7: Percent Multiracial Blacks by Size of Black Population in Each State, 2000



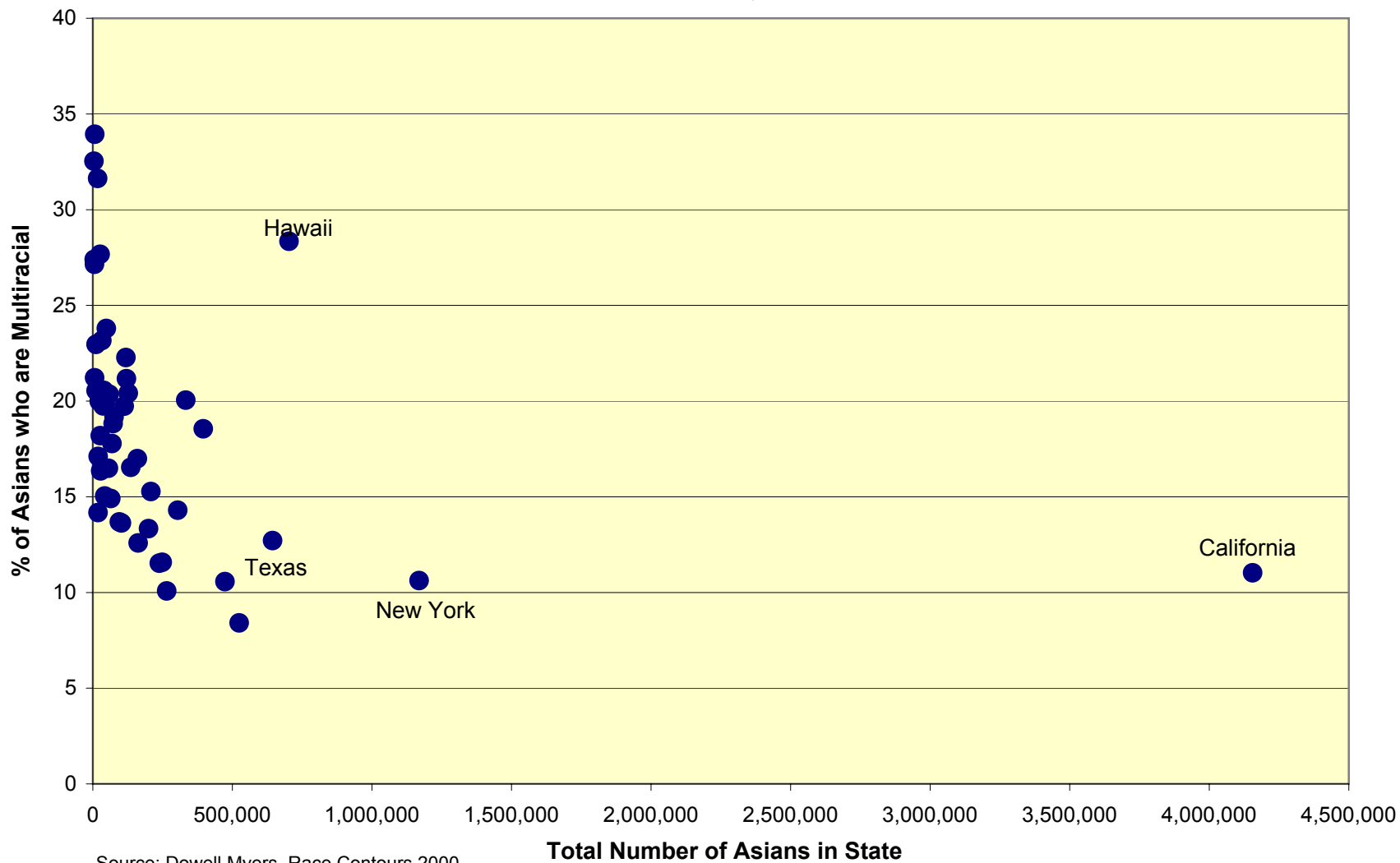
Source: Dowell Myers, Race Contours 2000
<http://www.usc.edu/sppd/census2000>

Exhibit 8: Percent Multiracial American Indians by Size of American Indian Population in Each State, 2000



Source: Dowell Myers, Race Contours 2000
<http://www.usc.edu/sppd/census2000>

Exhibit 9: Percent Multiracial Asians by Size of Asian Population in Each State, 2000



Source: Dowell Myers, Race Contours 2000
<http://www.usc.edu/sppd/census2000>

Race and Multirace Data for U.S. State Populations, 2000

State	Total Population	%Total Multiracial	Whites Total Pop.	%Whites Multiracial	Blacks Total Pop.	%Blacks Multiracial	Am Ind Total Pop.	%Am Ind Multiracial	Asians Total Pop.	%Asians Multiracial	NHOPI Total Pop.	%NHOPI Multiracial	Other Total Pop.	%Other Multiracial
Alabama	4,447,100	1.0	3,199,953	1.2	1,168,998	1.1	44,449	49.5	39,458	20.6	3,169	55.5	38,201	24.1
Alaska	626,932	5.4	463,999	6.4	27,147	19.7	119,241	17.8	32,686	23.2	5,515	40.0	15,151	34.0
Arizona	5,130,632	2.9	3,998,154	3.1	185,599	14.4	292,552	12.5	118,672	22.3	13,415	49.8	677,392	11.9
Arkansas	2,673,400	1.3	2,170,534	1.5	427,152	1.9	37,002	51.9	25,401	20.4	3,129	46.7	48,267	16.3
California	33,871,648	4.7	21,490,973	6.1	2,513,041	9.9	627,562	46.9	4,155,685	11.0	221,458	47.2	6,575,625	13.6
Colorado	4,301,261	2.8	3,665,638	2.9	190,717	13.5	79,689	44.5	120,779	21.2	10,153	54.5	364,846	15.1
Connecticut	3,405,565	2.2	2,835,974	2.0	339,078	8.6	24,488	60.6	95,368	13.7	4,076	66.5	186,234	21.0
Delaware	783,600	1.7	594,425	1.6	157,152	4.1	6,069	55.0	18,944	14.2	671	57.8	20,391	22.2
Florida	15,982,378	2.4	12,734,292	2.1	2,471,730	5.5	117,880	54.6	333,013	20.0	23,998	64.1	697,074	31.6
Georgia	8,186,453	1.4	5,412,371	1.6	2,393,425	1.8	53,197	59.1	199,812	13.3	9,689	56.2	241,298	18.7
Hawaii	1,211,537	21.4	476,162	38.2	33,343	34.0	24,882	85.8	703,232	28.3	282,667	59.8	47,603	68.2
Idaho	1,293,953	2.0	1,201,113	2.0	8,127	32.9	27,237	35.2	17,390	31.6	2,847	54.1	64,389	15.0
Illinois	12,419,293	1.9	9,322,831	2.1	1,937,671	3.1	73,161	57.6	473,649	10.6	11,848	61.1	847,369	14.7
Indiana	6,080,485	1.2	5,387,174	1.2	538,015	5.2	39,263	59.7	72,839	18.8	4,367	54.1	119,586	18.2
Iowa	2,926,324	1.1	2,777,183	1.0	72,512	14.7	18,246	50.7	43,119	15.0	2,196	54.1	46,858	20.1
Kansas	2,688,418	2.1	2,363,412	2.1	170,610	9.6	47,363	47.4	56,049	16.5	3,117	57.9	107,789	15.8
Kentucky	4,041,769	1.1	3,678,740	1.0	311,878	5.1	24,552	64.9	37,062	19.7	3,162	53.8	31,805	28.9
Louisiana	4,468,976	1.1	2,894,983	1.3	1,468,317	1.1	42,878	40.6	64,350	14.9	3,237	61.7	47,775	34.8
Maine	1,274,923	1.0	1,247,776	0.9	9,553	29.2	13,156	46.0	11,827	23.0	792	51.8	5,227	44.3
Maryland	5,296,486	2.0	3,465,697	2.1	1,525,036	3.1	39,437	60.9	238,408	11.5	6,179	62.7	134,621	29.0
Massachusetts	6,349,097	2.3	5,472,809	1.9	398,479	13.8	38,050	60.5	264,814	10.1	8,704	71.4	320,907	26.2
Michigan	9,938,444	1.9	8,133,283	2.1	1,474,613	4.2	124,412	53.0	208,329	15.3	7,276	63.0	195,724	33.8
Minnesota	4,919,479	1.7	4,466,325	1.5	202,972	15.4	81,074	32.2	162,414	12.6	5,867	66.3	89,042	26.1
Mississippi	2,844,658	0.7	1,761,658	0.9	1,041,708	0.8	19,555	40.4	23,281	20.0	1,901	64.9	18,635	26.0
Missouri	5,595,211	1.5	4,819,487	1.5	655,377	4.0	60,099	58.3	76,210	19.2	6,635	52.1	64,880	29.4
Montana	902,195	1.7	831,978	1.8	4,441	39.4	66,320	15.5	7,101	33.9	1,077	56.4	7,834	32.2
Nebraska	1,711,263	1.4	1,554,164	1.3	75,833	9.6	22,204	32.9	26,809	18.2	1,733	51.8	55,996	14.6
Nevada	1,998,257	3.8	1,565,866	4.1	150,508	10.0	42,222	37.4	112,456	19.7	16,234	48.1	193,720	17.7
New Hampshire	1,235,786	1.1	1,198,927	1.0	12,218	26.1	7,885	62.4	19,219	17.1	777	52.3	10,895	31.9
New Jersey	8,414,350	2.5	6,261,187	2.5	1,211,750	5.8	49,104	60.3	524,356	8.4	10,065	66.9	583,527	22.7
New Mexico	1,819,046	3.6	1,272,116	4.5	42,412	19.0	191,475	9.4	26,619	27.7	3,069	51.0	352,963	12.2
New York	18,976,457	3.1	13,275,834	2.9	3,234,165	6.8	171,581	51.9	1,169,200	10.6	28,612	69.2	1,721,699	22.1
North Carolina	8,049,313	1.3	5,884,608	1.4	1,776,283	2.2	131,736	24.4	136,212	16.5	8,574	53.5	223,222	16.4
North Dakota	642,200	1.2	599,918	1.1	5,372	27.1	35,228	11.1	4,967	27.4	475	51.6	4,042	37.2
Ohio	11,353,140	1.4	9,779,512	1.4	1,372,501	5.2	76,075	67.8	159,776	17.0	6,984	60.6	128,671	31.1
Oklahoma	3,450,654	4.5	2,770,035	5.1	284,766	8.4	391,949	30.3	58,723	20.4	5,123	53.7	102,585	19.2
Oregon	3,421,399	3.1	3,055,670	3.1	72,647	23.4	85,667	47.2	127,339	20.4	16,019	50.2	176,866	18.1
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	1.2	10,596,409	1.1	1,289,123	5.0	52,650	65.2	248,601	11.6	8,790	61.1	238,700	21.1
Rhode Island	1,048,319	2.7	910,630	2.1	58,051	19.2	10,725	52.3	28,290	16.3	1,783	68.2	69,002	23.7
South Carolina	4,012,012	1.0	2,727,208	1.2	1,200,901	1.3	27,456	50.0	44,931	19.8	3,778	56.9	51,346	22.2
South Dakota	754,844	1.3	678,604	1.4	6,687	29.9	68,281	8.8	6,009	27.1	556	53.1	5,351	31.3
Tennessee	5,689,283	1.1	4,617,553	1.2	953,349	2.2	39,188	61.3	68,918	17.8	4,587	51.9	72,929	23.2
Texas	20,851,820	2.5	15,240,387	2.9	2,493,057	3.5	215,599	45.1	644,193	12.7	29,094	50.4	2,766,586	11.9
Utah	2,233,169	2.1	2,034,448	2.0	24,382	27.6	40,445	26.6	48,692	23.8	21,367	29.1	113,950	18.0
Vermont	608,827	1.2	596,079	1.2	4,492	31.8	6,396	62.2	6,622	21.2	308	54.2	2,727	47.1
Virginia	7,078,515	2.0	5,233,601	2.2	1,441,207	3.5	52,864	60.0	304,559	14.3	9,984	60.5	190,308	27.0
Washington	5,894,121	3.6	5,003,180	3.6	238,398	20.2	158,940	41.3	395,741	18.5	42,761	44.0	287,400	20.3
West Virginia	1,808,344	0.9	1,733,390	0.8	62,817	8.9	10,644	66.1	11,873	20.5	887	54.9	5,579	44.3
Wisconsin	5,363,675	1.2	4,827,514	1.2	326,506	6.8	69,386	31.9	102,768	13.6	4,310	62.2	104,662	18.9
Wyoming	493,782	1.8	462,902	1.8	4,863	23.5	15,012	25.8	4,107	32.5	614	50.8	15,610	21.2

Source: Noel Hacegaba, Race Contours 2000
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