

The Rise of Evangelicalism & the Global Economy: Implications for Social Work Practice with Latinos

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Overview of Presentation

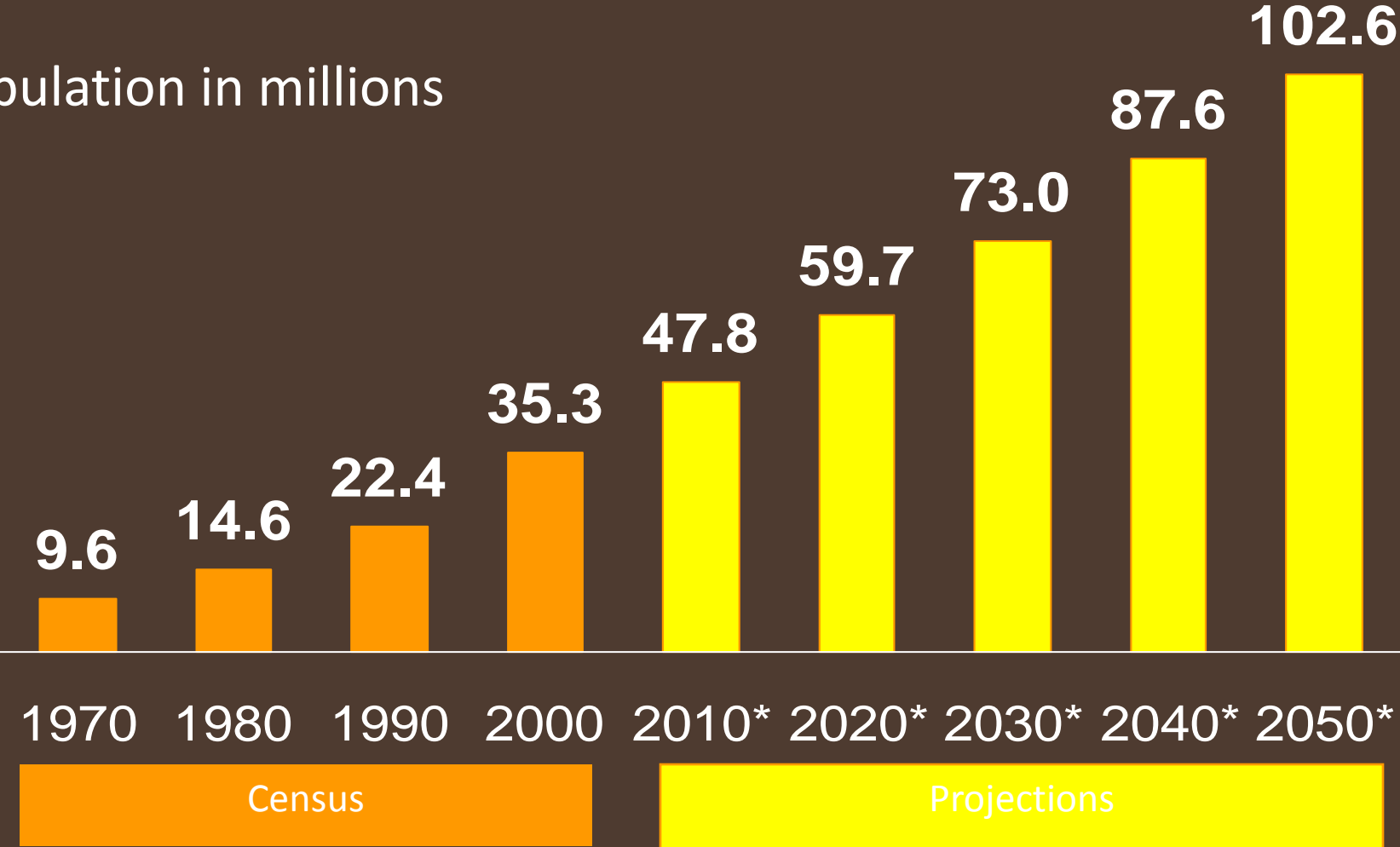
- Importance/ Relevance of Topic Now
- Theological and Structural differences in Evangelicalism & Catholicism
- Relationship between Religion & Economy
- Implications
- Q & A

Why is this important now?

- Latinos are the fastest growing population in the U.S.
- Religion important to understanding Latinos
- Worldwide rise of Evangelicalism
- Spread of Globalization
- Historical relationship between economy and religion
- Historical relationship between religious values and social service provision
- Implications for social work practice with Latinos

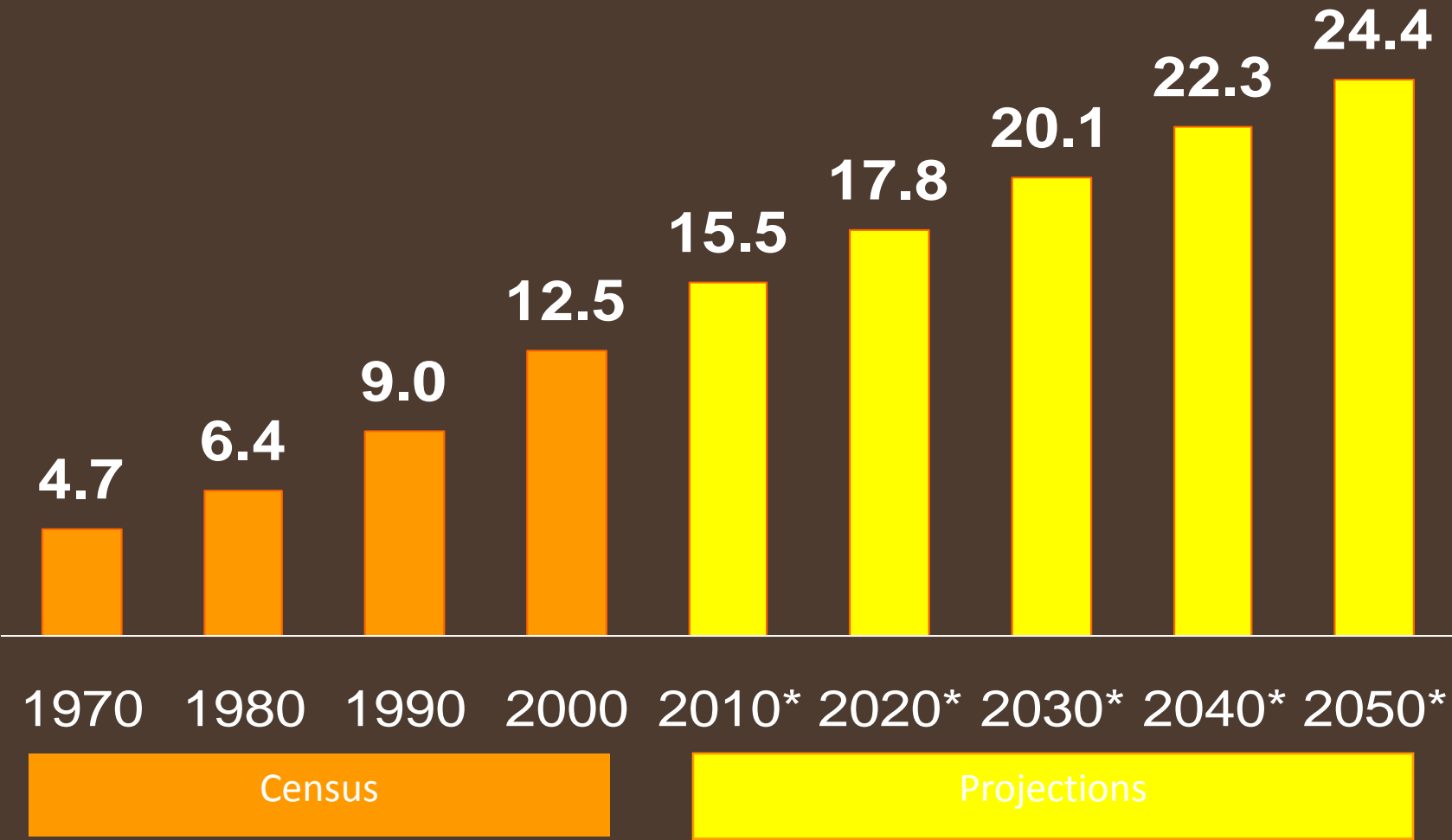
Hispanic Population in the United States: 1970 to 2050

Population in millions



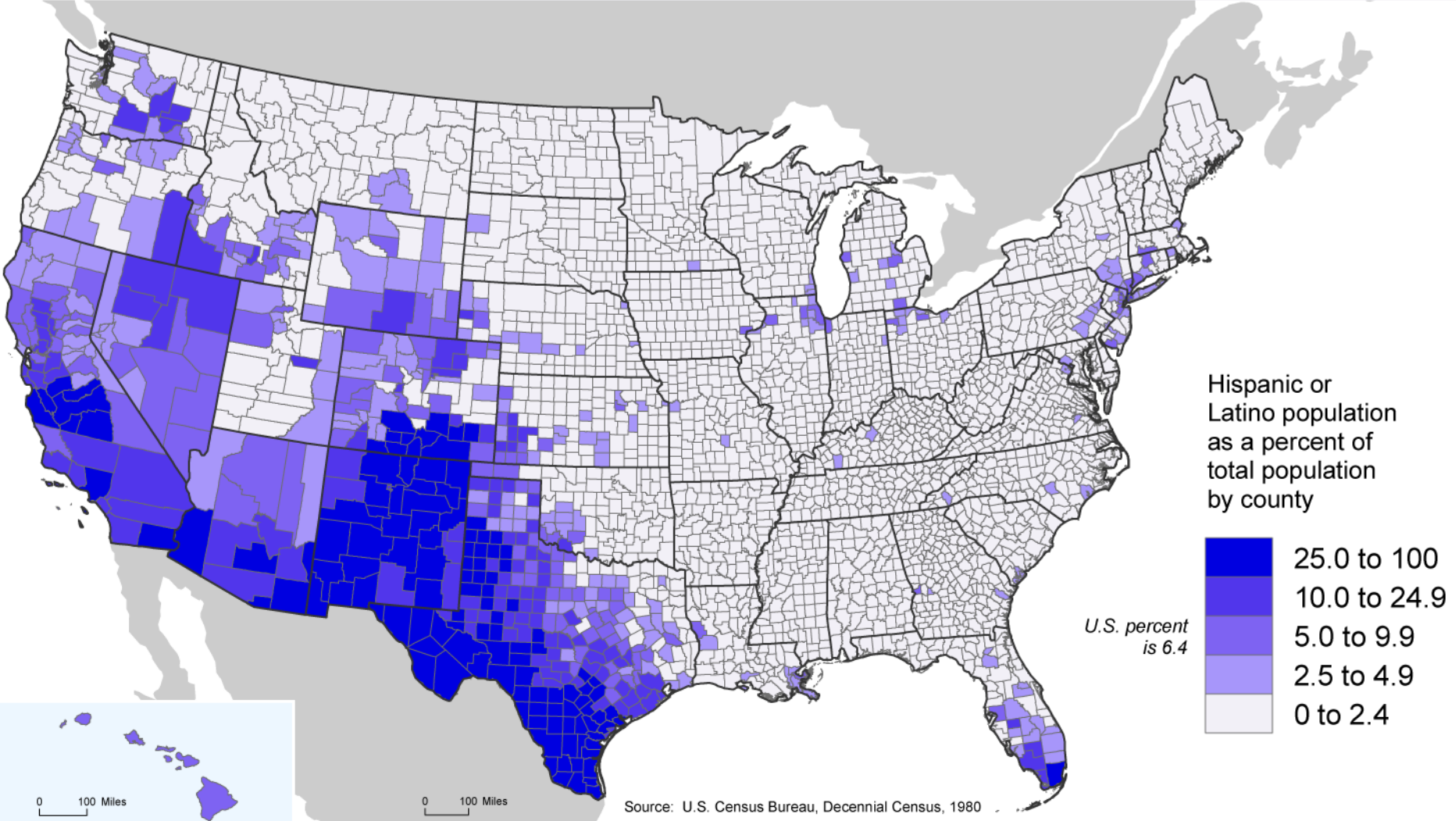
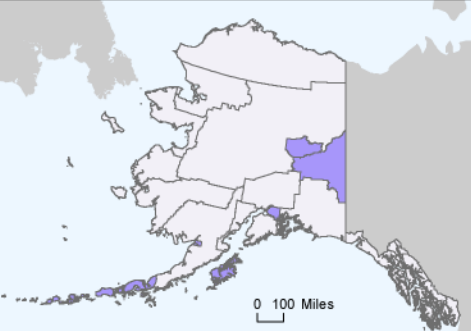
*Projected Population as of July 1

Percent Hispanic of the Total Population in the United States: 1970 to 2050

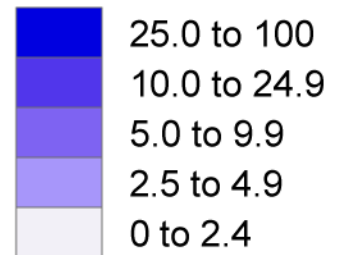


*Projected Population as of July 1

Percent of Population 1980 Hispanic or Latino



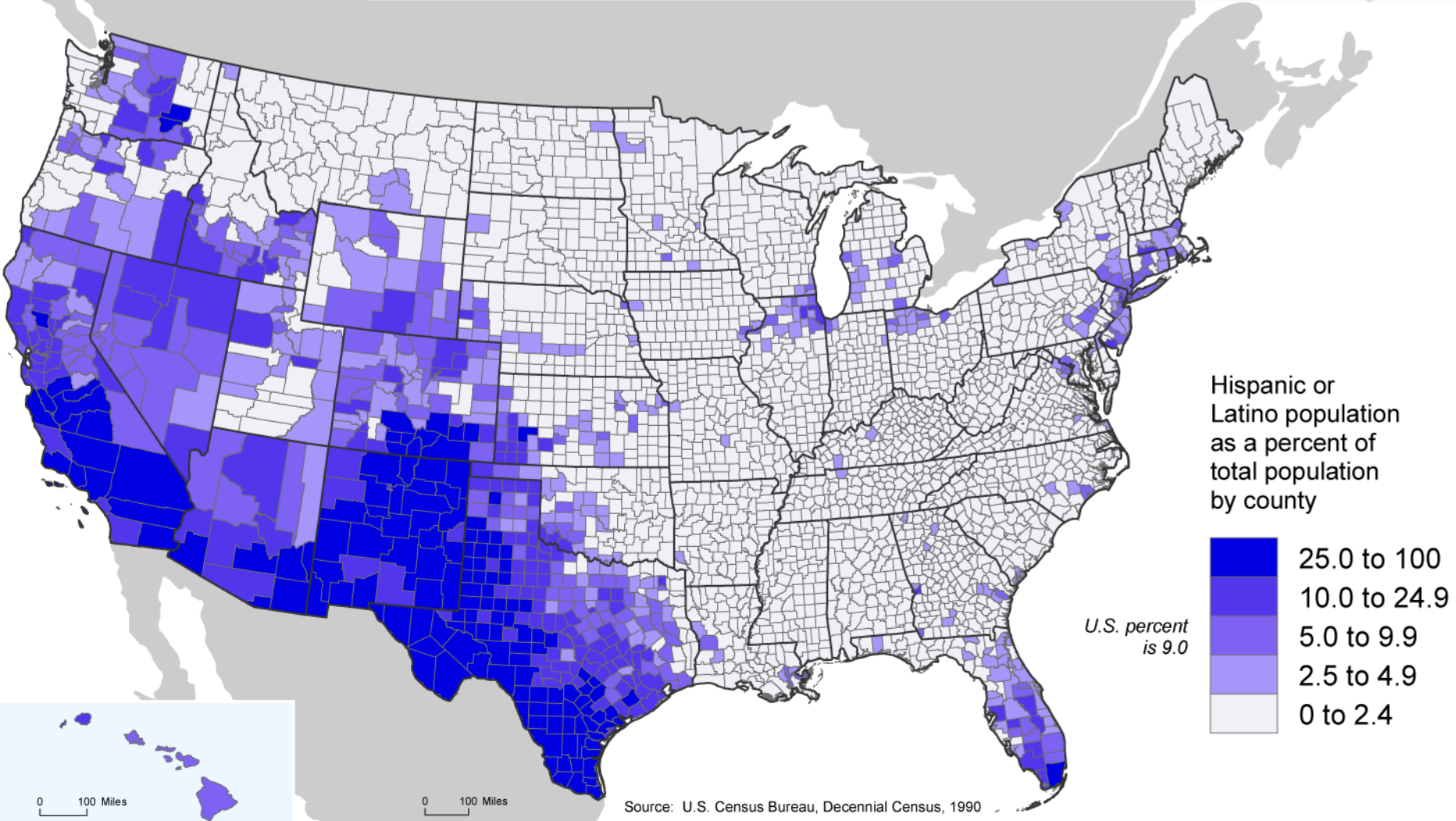
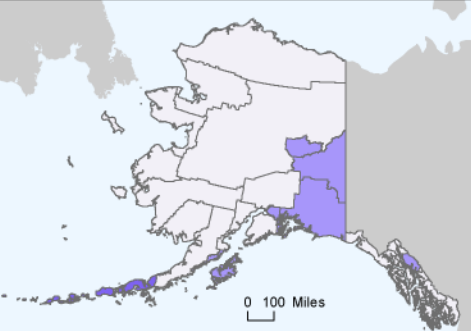
Hispanic or Latino population as a percent of total population by county



U.S. percent is 6.4



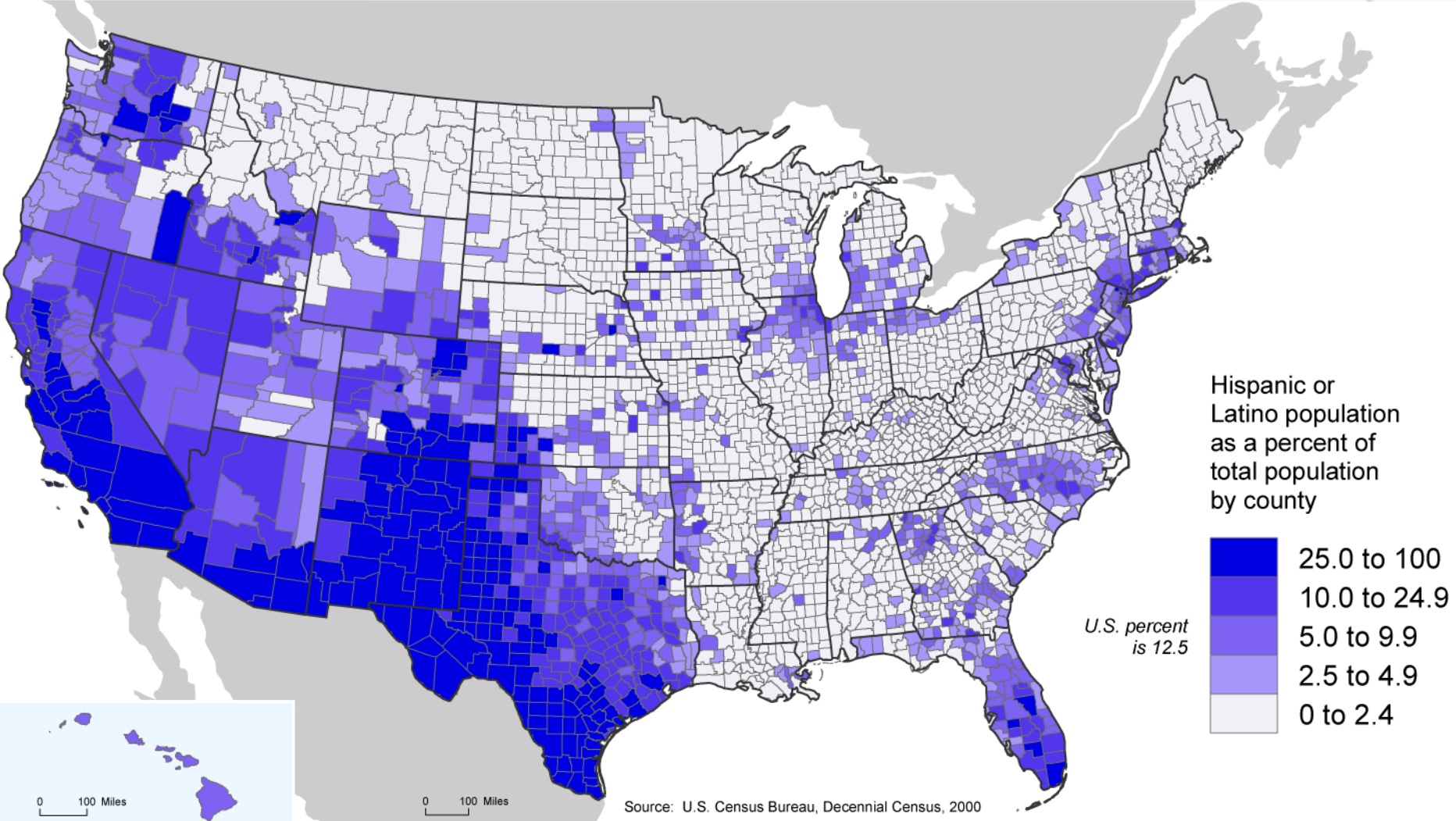
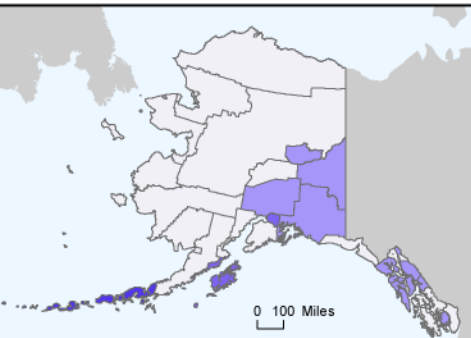
Percent of Population 1990 Hispanic or Latino



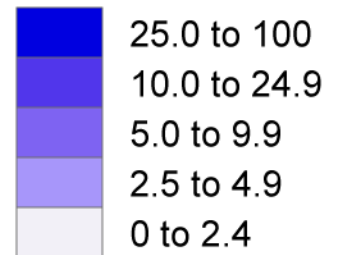
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 1990

Percent of Population 2000

Hispanic or Latino



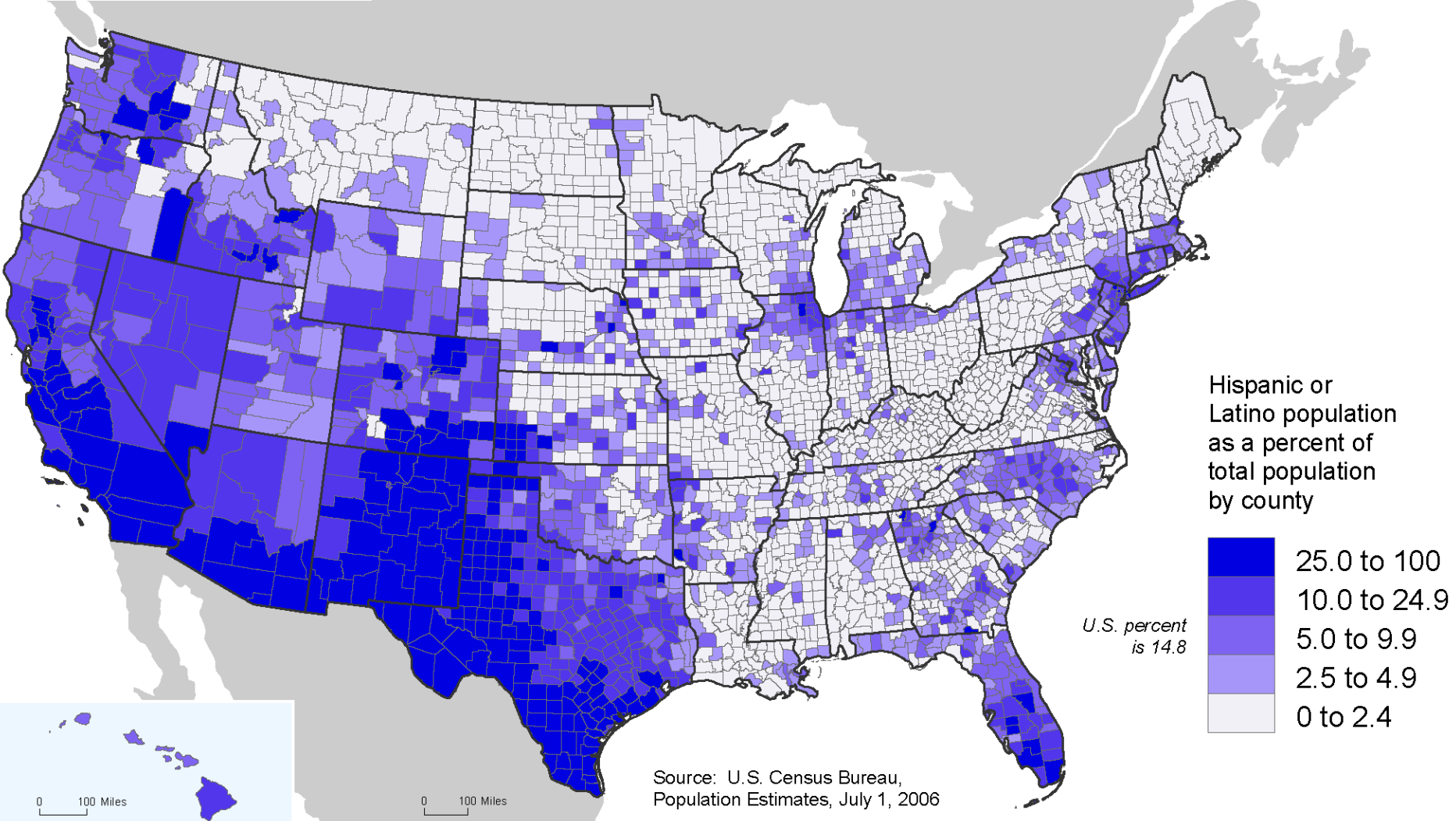
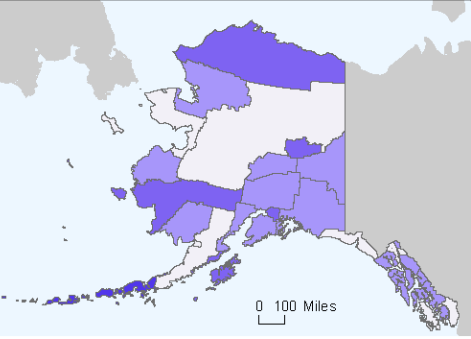
Hispanic or Latino population as a percent of total population by county



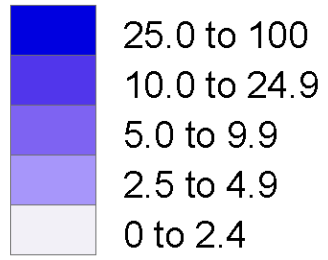
U.S. percent is 12.5

Percent of Population 2006

Hispanic or Latino



Hispanic or Latino population as a percent of total population by county



U.S. percent is 14.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, July 1, 2006



Hispanic Origin by Type: 2006

| Origin | Number | Percent |
|------------------|------------|---------|
| Total | 44,252,278 | 100.0 |
| Mexican | 28,339,354 | 64.0 |
| Puerto Rican | 3,987,947 | 9.0 |
| Cuban | 1,520,276 | 3.4 |
| Dominican | 1,217,225 | 2.8 |
| Central American | 3,372,090 | 7.6 |
| South American | 2,421,297 | 5.5 |
| Other Hispanic | 3,394,089 | 7.7 |

Latino Population & Religious Preferences

- 68% of Latinos are Catholic
- 15% Evangelical
- It is predicted that by 2030, amount of Latinos who are Catholic will decrease to 61%
- In Central America, Catholics decreased by 15% while Evangelicals increased by 16% between 1994-2005

Reasons for Demographic Changes

- Desire for direct, personal experience of God (spirit-filled expression) #1 motive for conversion (PEW)
- Ethnic Oriented Worship- 2/3 of Latino worshipers attend churches with Latino clergy/ services in Spanish/ Latino Congregations
- Negative views of Catholicism not motive
- Nativity/ Immigration impacts numbers

Importance of Religion

- Religion relationship to political beliefs
- Latinos in global economy: remittances
- Fitting in/ sense of belonging/ acculturation

Cultural Remittances

- Culture/ Values, not only money are being exchanged between immigrants and their host and home countries
- Difference between North & South/Central American views of Evangelicalism

Catholicism and Evangelicalism: Theology

Catholicism

- Social Justice/ Preference to Poor
- Emphasis on Reason/ Tradition
- Redemption through acts
- Focus on trinity
- Veneration of Mary
 - Believes about gender roles
- Role of Priest in relationship to God

Evangelicalism

- Personal Salvation/ Responsibility
- Emphasis on emotion/ individual
- Redemption through faith
- Bible is ultimate truth/ authority
- Focus on Jesus rather than trinity as ultimate authority
 - Suffering
- Focus on Holy Spirit/ direct relation with God
- Evangelizing
- More personal attention
- Election

Catholicism and Evangelicalism: Structural Comparison

Catholicism

- Centralized Hierarchy
- High Ratio of Clergy to Congregants
- Aging clergy
- Separation of clergy from congregants
- No focus on proselytizing
- Anonymous & Bureaucratic
- Disconnection between faith and everyday life
- Passive role in worship
- Promotion of State-Centered Economic Regimes

Evangelicalism

- Decentralized Churches
- Low Ratio of Clergy to Congregants
- Youthful Clergy
- Clergy live as congregants
- Aggressive proselytizing
- Reflect a sense of community
- Active Role in Worship
- Promotion of economic liberalization

The message and meaning of Evangelical Churches: Summary

- Direct Connection with God
- Individual/ Personal Responsibility
- Idea of single ultimate authority

Rise in Evangelicalism

- How does this better fit Latinos' needs?
 - Creation of a “new community” in host country
 - Hope/ Lack of fault in the face of poverty
 - Dependence
 - Creation of “acceptable” way to live/ promotion of values provides social control (perceived as positive).
Idea of control in time of turmoil/ uncertainty
- Historically, in periods of rapid socioeconomic change, people seek belief systems

Historical Relationship of Religious Expression & Political Economic Trends

- Protestantism provided the religious justification for the attitudinal and behavioral changes which capitalism required to develop and thrive (Weber, 1904-1905).
 - Primacy of the Individual
 - Individual Responsibility
 - Wealth as sign of divine election
 - Decentralized, increasingly democratic political systems needed by market economy

Literature Review

- Disagreement in the literature
- Causality: people converting to religion that has more congruence with previous advance of capitalism in the region

Literature Review Continued: Difference in Evangelicalisms

- Gender
- Attitude toward the state and democracy
- Economics
- Geopolitical Issues
- Wide variety of Evangelicalism makes it hard to predict how it will affect its practitioners' attitudes about economic trends, democracy, gender roles, etc. (Freston, 2004).

Connection between evangelicalism, capitalism and social welfare

- Similarities between Pentecostalism and Globalization (noted by Cox): Emphasis on individualism & same sense of immediate gratification. Pentecostals espouse the fulfillment of a spiritual promise in contrast to the failure of globalization to deliver its material promises.
- Other branches of North American Evangelicalism attempt to forge a synthesis between the value of profit and the promise of Armageddon (Connolly, 2004).
- Growth of Evangelicalism complements the shift in responsibility for health and social welfare away from the public sector to the individual and the market (Waitzkin, et al, 2005).

Connection between evangelicalism, capitalism and social welfare

- Material success reflects divine election

Globalization & Consequences

- Difference between Globalization & long-standing international commerce
- Role of International Financial Institutions' Structural Adjustment Programs
- Impact on local economy, traditional communities, and indigenous cultures
- Privatization of basic services/gov't cutbacks
- Impact on Immigration to US

Potential Responses to Globalization

- Adaptation: Acceptance of values & structures required to succeed in new economic system
 - Collective Resistance: Participation in reform or revolutionary movements
 - Individual Resistance: Neither participation nor resistance – Behavior often labeled “deviant”
 - Transformative Resistance: Self-improvement
- Q: What type of response does Evangelicalism represent? (Varies depending on context)

Spirituality & Mental Health in Latino Community

Implications for Social Work Practice with Latinos

- Code of Ethics emphasizes both social justice and individual well being. How can we support Evangelical institutions in doing both?
- Need for recognition of Evangelical beliefs and meaning of them to clients in practice
- Assumptions about nature of religious beliefs shouldn't be made (consideration of different Evangelicalisms in North and Latin America)

Implications for Design & Delivery of Social Services in Latino Communities

- Traditional service providers, (e.g. Catholic Social Services) may not be considered by growing Evangelical community
- More reliance on private Evangelical church community for aid (increase in nonprofessional provision of services)
 - Congruent with heavier reliance on family and volunteerism for support
- Acceptance of poverty

Implications for Social Justice Mission of Social Work Profession

- Unlike in North American Protestantism, in Latin American Protestantism, poverty is not viewed as individual fault
- Redemption by acts/ priority to the poor in Catholicism opened door for social justice movements. How is this accounted for in Evangelicalism?
- What will happen to Latin American Evangelicals as they adapt to North American culture? What are the potential unintended consequences of Evangelicalism?
- How can professional social workers work with Evangelical groups to advance its social justice mission?

