

# **Measuring the Impact of Race, Class, and Immigration Status on Family Stability**

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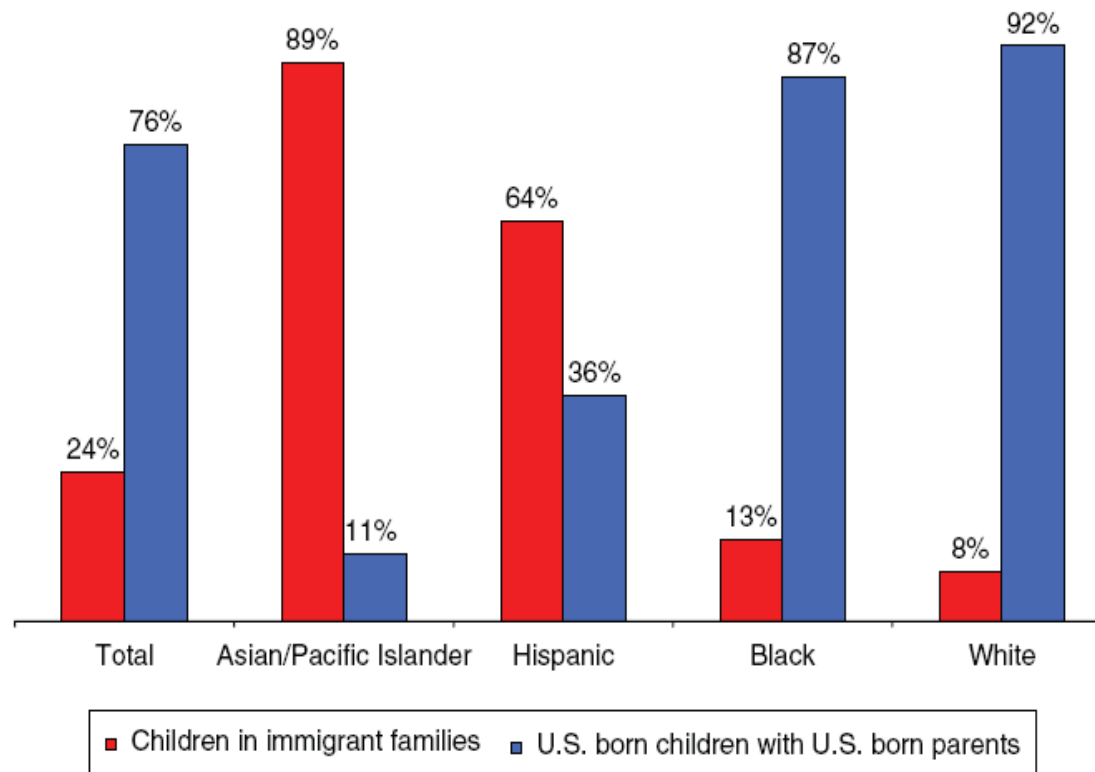
**Departments of Policy Analysis Management and Sociology  
Cornell University**

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“Science of Research on Families”**

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# Assumption: Racial variation driven by immigration

Children in Immigrant Families, by Race and Whether Hispanic



Note: White, Black, and Asian/Pacific Islander categories include non-Hispanics only.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2007).

Source: Clark, Glick, & Bures (2009)

# Goals

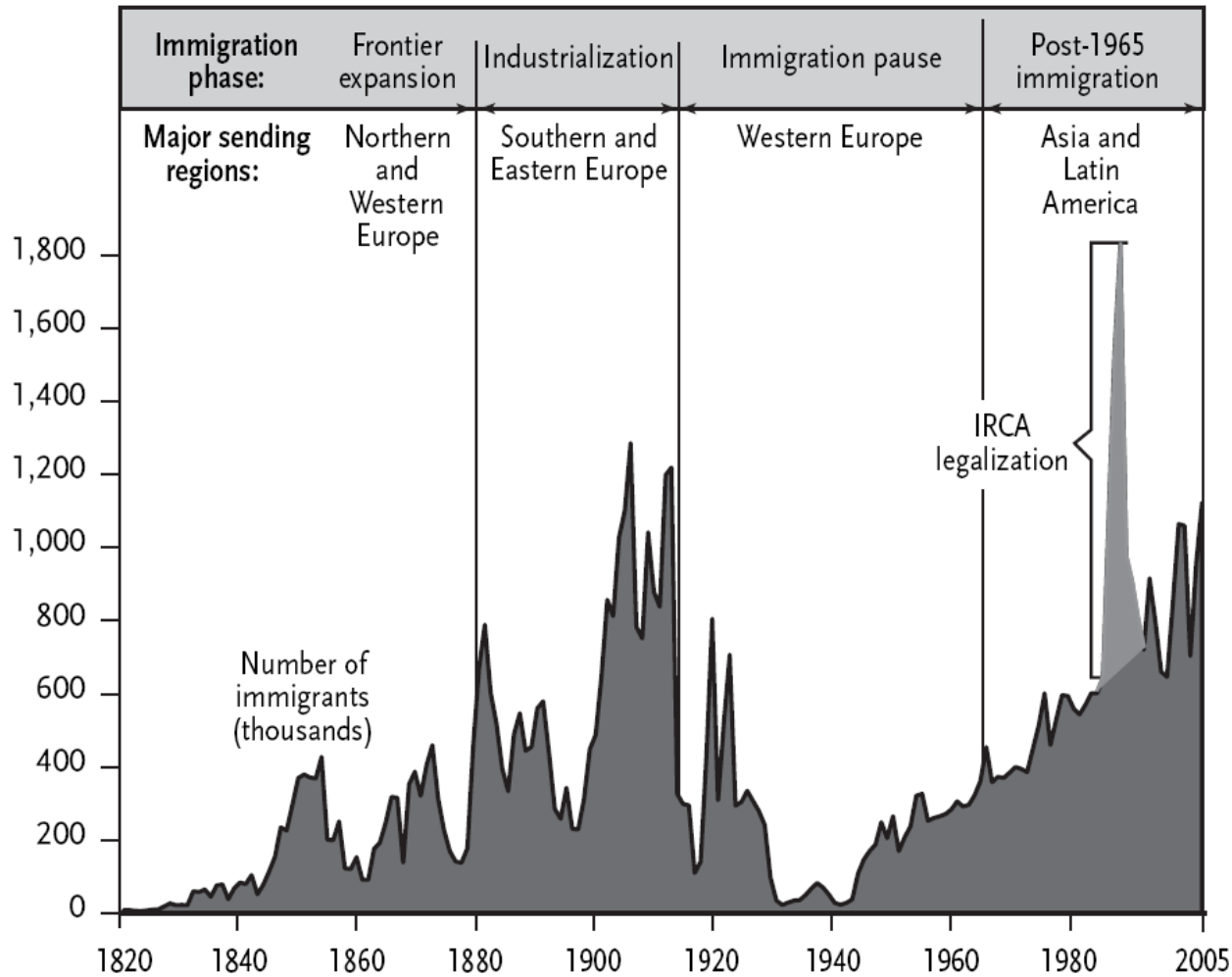
- n Why immigration is critical for the study of racial and class variation in family change and stability.
- n New substantive issues about immigrant and ethno-racial variation in family instability and change.
- n Key data needs and measurement issues for the next generation of family research.

# Point 1: Why Immigration is Critical

- n Extraordinary recent growth of non-European immigrant populations
- n High immigrant fertility
- n The geographic spread of immigrants

# **Growth of new immigrant populations**

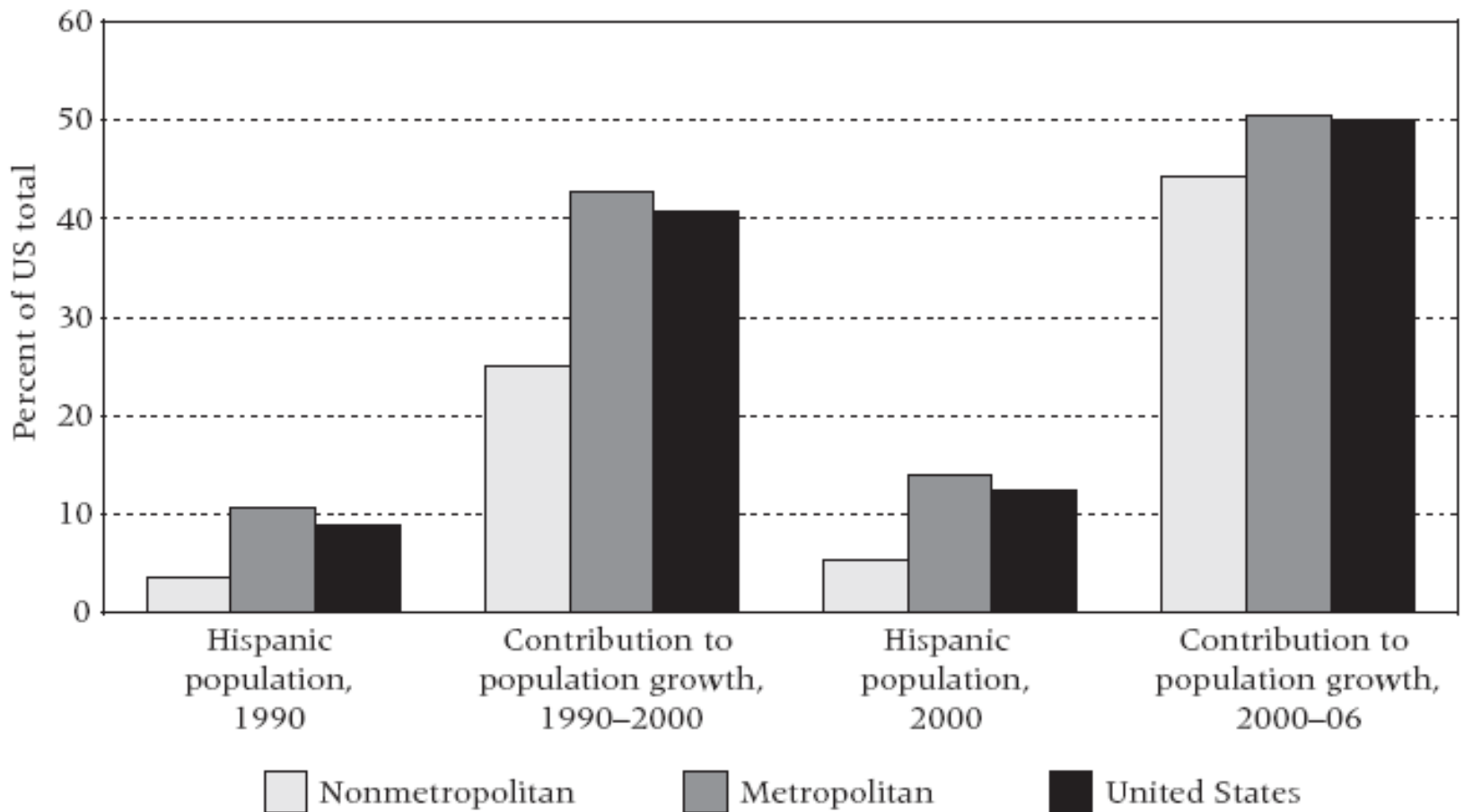
## Legal Immigration to the United States, 1820–2005



Note: IRCA adjustments refer to the amnesty provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, under which 2.7 million undocumented foreign U.S. residents obtained legal immigrant status.

Source: DHS, *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2005* (www.dhs.gov, accessed Oct. 12, 2006): table 1.

**FIGURE 2** Percentage of the Hispanic population within the US population in 1990 and 2000 and percentage contribution of the Hispanic population to US population growth, 1990–2000 and 2000–06, by metropolitan status

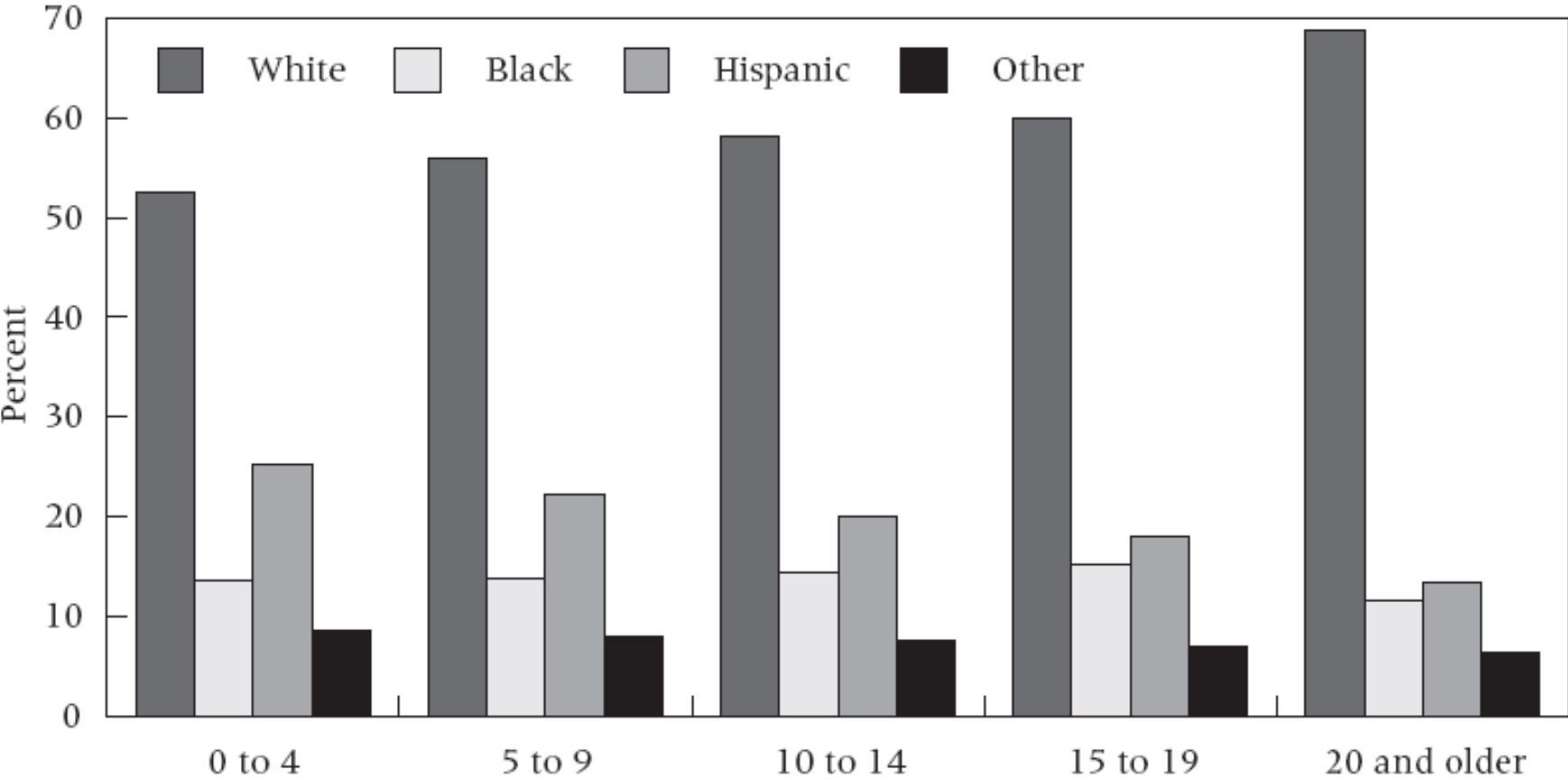


SOURCES: 1990 and 2000 Census and Census Estimates, March 2007.

Source: Johnson & Lichter 2008

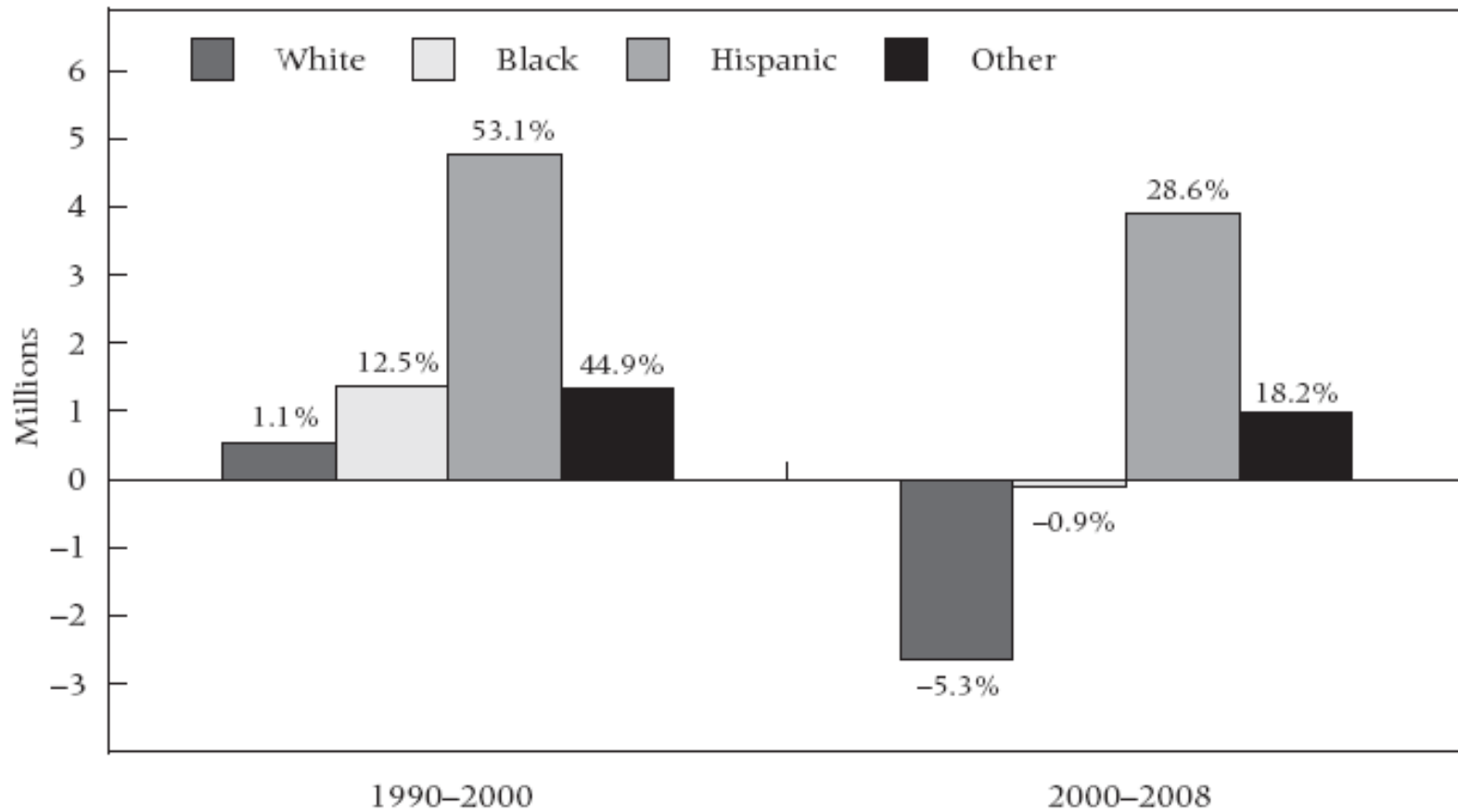
# **Fertility: Second-order effect of immigration**

**FIGURE 1 Share of population by race/Hispanic origin and age, 2008**



Source: Johnson & Lichter 2010

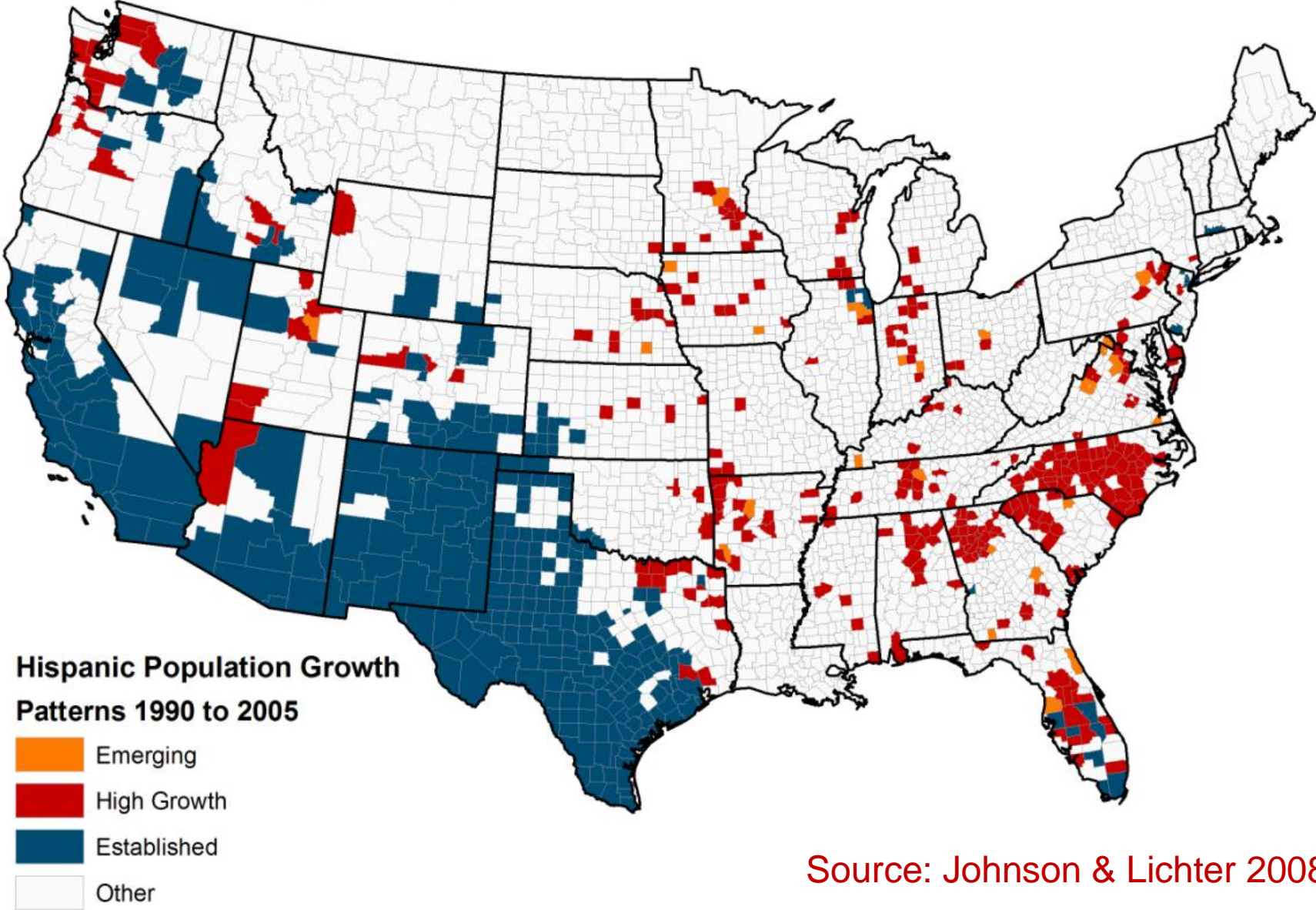
**FIGURE 2 Population change in the under-20 age group by race/Hispanic origin, 1990 to 2000 and 2000 to 2008**



SOURCE: US Census population estimates (2009b); 1990 and 2000 censuses.

# Geographic dispersion

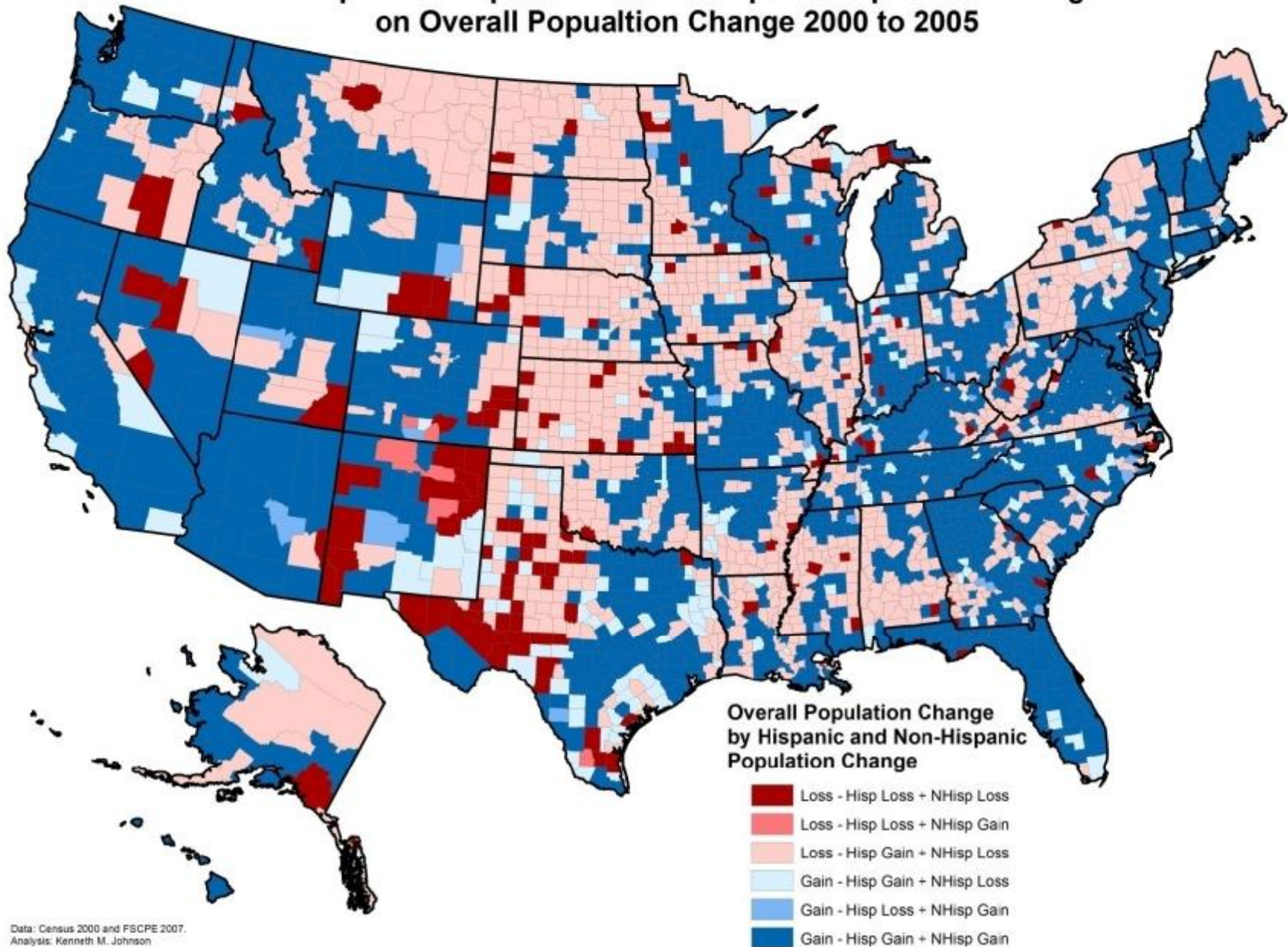
# Hispanic Population Growth Patterns 1990 to 2005



Source: Johnson & Lichter 2008

Source: 1990 and 2000 Census and 2005 Census Estimates

## The Impact of Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Population Change on Overall Population Change 2000 to 2005



# **Issue 2: New Substantive Issues on Immigrant and Ethno-racial Variation**

## Child Poverty Rates by Race: Crude and Standardized by Family Structure

			1990	Total
	1990	2000	Standard <sup>1</sup>	Population
				Standard <sup>2</sup>

**Starting Point:  
Family structure and change are NOT  
determinative of racial-ethnic variation in  
poverty**

Southeast Asian	37.4	26.8	26.8	28.9
Hispanic	31.3	27.2	27.1	26.8
Mexican	31.5	27.7	27.6	28.4
Third generation	28.1	22.8	21.1	19.7
Second generation	31.7	28.5	28.1	30.7
First generation	43.6	36.1	36.4	38.3
Puerto Rican	41.0	32.7	32.6	24.6
Mainland born	39.8	30.4	30.5	19.8
Island-born parents	38.9	32.4	33.1	26.4
Island born	49.5	42.3	44.3	36.0
Cuban	17.0	15.4	14.5	16.1

## Child Poverty Rates by Race: Crude and Standardized by Family Structure

	1990	2000	1990 Standard <sup>1</sup>	Total Population Standard <sup>2</sup>
Non-Hispanic White	10.8	9.3	8.5	11.6
Asian	15.8	14.2	14.0	17.1
Chinese	13.4	12.3	12.0	14.7
Japanese	4.6	5.1	5.2	7.4
Filipino	4.9	5.3	4.8	6.8
Korean	10.7	11.7	11.6	14.9
Asian Indian	8.8	9.4	9.3	13.0
Southeast Asian	37.4	26.8	26.8	28.9
Hispanic	31.3	27.2	27.1	26.8
Mexican	31.5	27.7	27.6	28.4
Third generation	28.1	22.8	21.1	19.7
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# Ethno-racial Variation

## n Marriage

- n Mexicans marry earlier and blacks later than whites (Raley & Sweeney 2009)
- n Asian and Hispanic endogamy increasing (Lichter et al. 2010)

## n Cohabitation

- n Increases over immigrant generation (Brown et al. 2008)
- n Latinas less likely than whites to transition to marriage (Lichter et al. 2006)

## n Disruption & divorce

- n Immigrants have lower dissolution/divorce rates

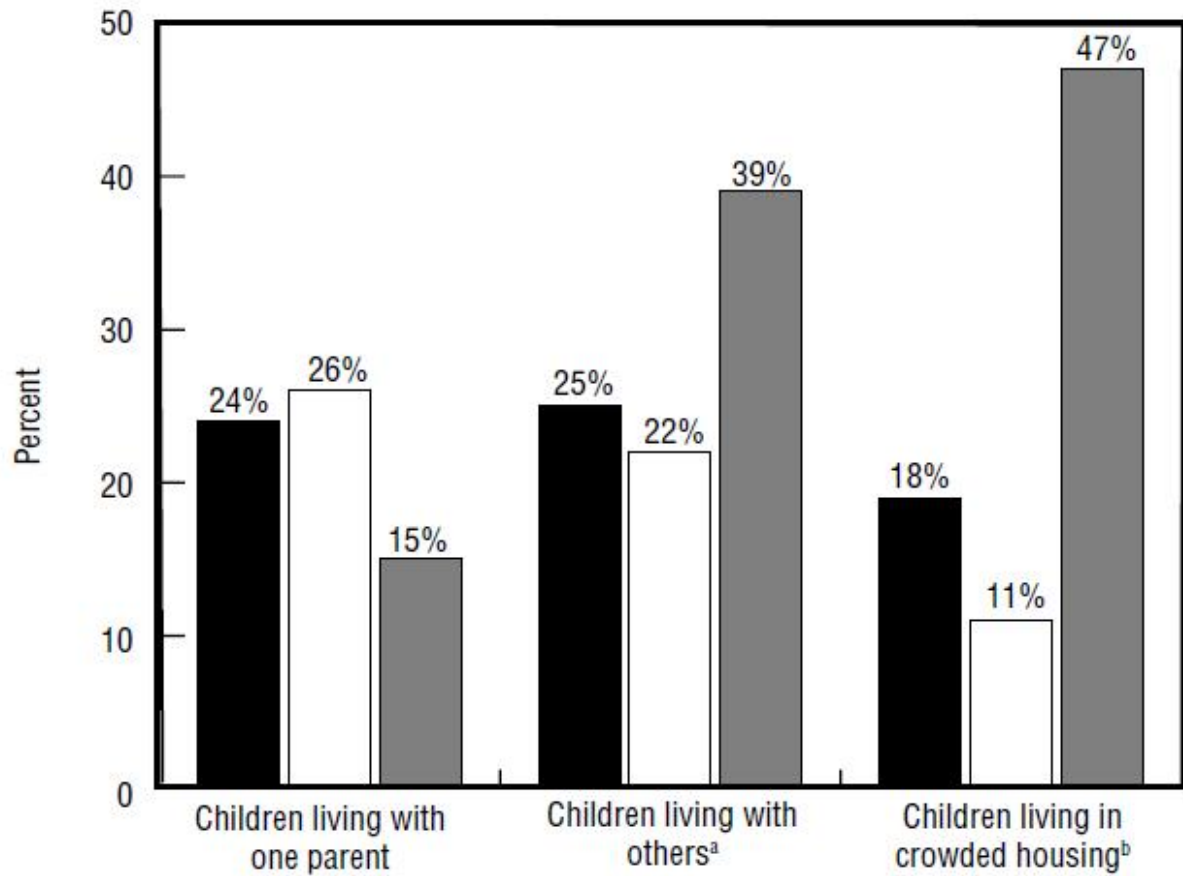
## n Fertility

- n Declines over generation among Hispanics (Parrado & Morgan 2008)
- n Nonmarital fertility lowest among immigrants (DeLeone et al. 2009)

## Children's Households, Native-Born versus Immigrant

**KEY:**

- Children total
- Children in native-born families
- Children in immigrant families



<sup>a</sup>Beyond parents and siblings.

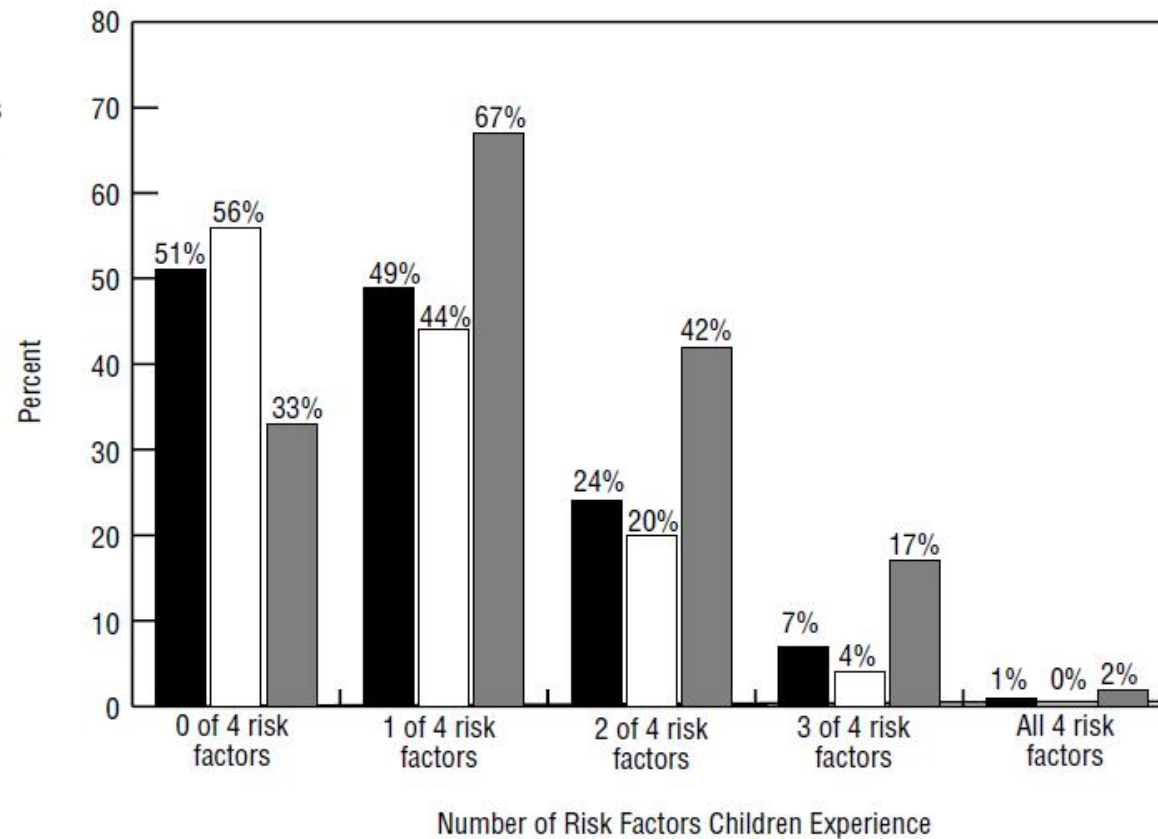
<sup>b</sup>Crowded housing is defined as having more than one person per room.

Source: Hernandez 2004

## Multiple Risk Factors among Native-Born versus Immigrant Children

**KEY:**

- Children total
- Children in native-born families
- Children in immigrant families



Note: The four risk factors are: (1) having a hold; and (4) living in a one-parent family.

Source: Based on data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, Public Use Microdata Sample. For detailed data on the percentages by racial/ethnic and immigrant-origin group, see Appendix 9.

# Other Key Issues

- n Extended families and “doubling up”
- n Transnational families
- n Interracial and intraracial marriage and childbearing
- n Structural cultural variations in family structure and processes (Jimenez 2009)
- n Parenting practices and child outcomes
- n School and neighborhood context (e.g., bilingual education, parental involvement, translation, identity formation)
- n Neighborhood segregation of immigrants (enclaves)

## Issues 3: Critical Data Needs

- n Omnibus national longitudinal surveys (i.e., NSFG or NLSY or PSID) often lack sufficient cases (i.e., need for oversampling of immigrants)
- n Cross-sectional studies
  - n Census data emphasizes stocks rather than flows
  - n Small n studies of specific immigrant groups are often idiosyncratic (noncumulative and noncomparative)
  - n Retrospective data lacks covariates for modeling

## n Critical measurement needs:

- n Generation – distinguishing 2<sup>nd</sup> from higher generation
- n Household rosters – relationship of each person to each other
- n Income transfers and social support within and between households (remittances, etc.)
- n Mode of entry (e.g., anchor babies and mixed legal status of families)
- n Migration histories – links to specific areas/places in country of origin

# *American Community Survey*

**An advertisement**

# Measuring Fertility

- n ACS question on fertility (Women 15-50):

Has this person given birth to any children in the past 12 months?

- Yes
- No

- n Approximates a General Fertility Rate, i.e.,  
(births/females 15-50) \* 1,000



# Summing Up: Implications for Family Research

- n Growing racial and ethnic diversity is here to stay, even with highly restrictive immigration policy
- n Fertility (especially Hispanic fertility) rather than immigration will be a primary demographic driver of U.S. population growth and change
- n The new and uneven geography of immigration means that there is a new patterning of assimilation and acculturation

# Recent reviews

- n R. Kelly Raley & Megan M. Sweeney. 2009. “Explaining Race and Ethnic Variation in Marriage: Directions for Future Research” *Race and Social Problems* 1:132-142.
- n Rebecca I. Clark, Jennifer E. Glick, & Regina M. Bures. 2009. “Immigrant Families Over the Life Course: Research Directions and Needs.” *Journal of Family Issues* 30:852-872.
- n Jennifer E. Glick. 2010. “Connecting Complex Processes: A Decade of Research on Immigrant Families.” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72:498-515.