



# Mapping Census (ACS) Data Activity

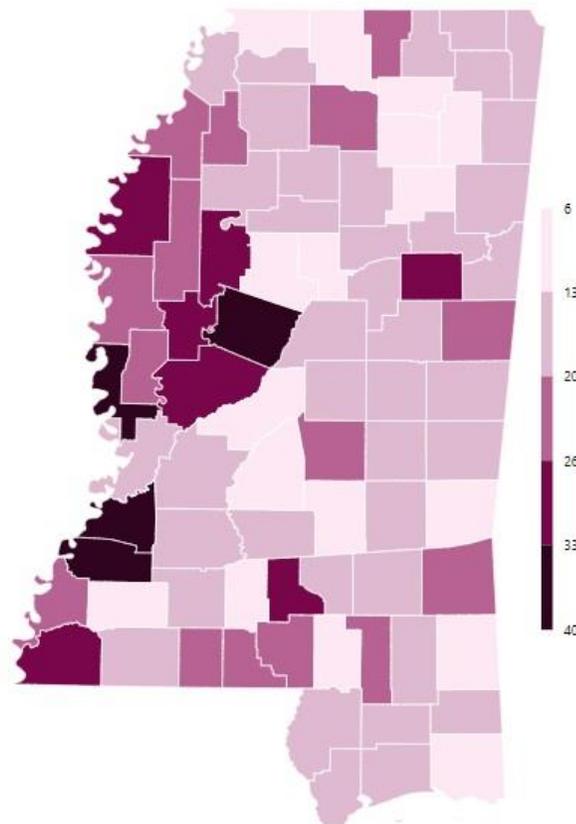


# Mapping Census (ACS) Data: Poverty and Gender

## People with Income Below Poverty (Men)

Estimate; Income in the past 12 months below poverty level:

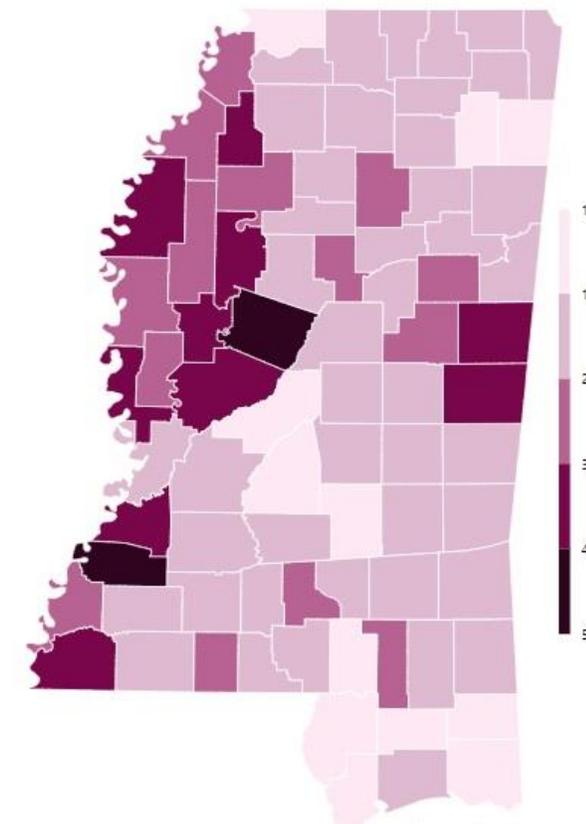
Spatial Distribution



## People with Income Below Poverty (Women)

Estimate; Income in the past 12 months below poverty level:

Spatial Distribution



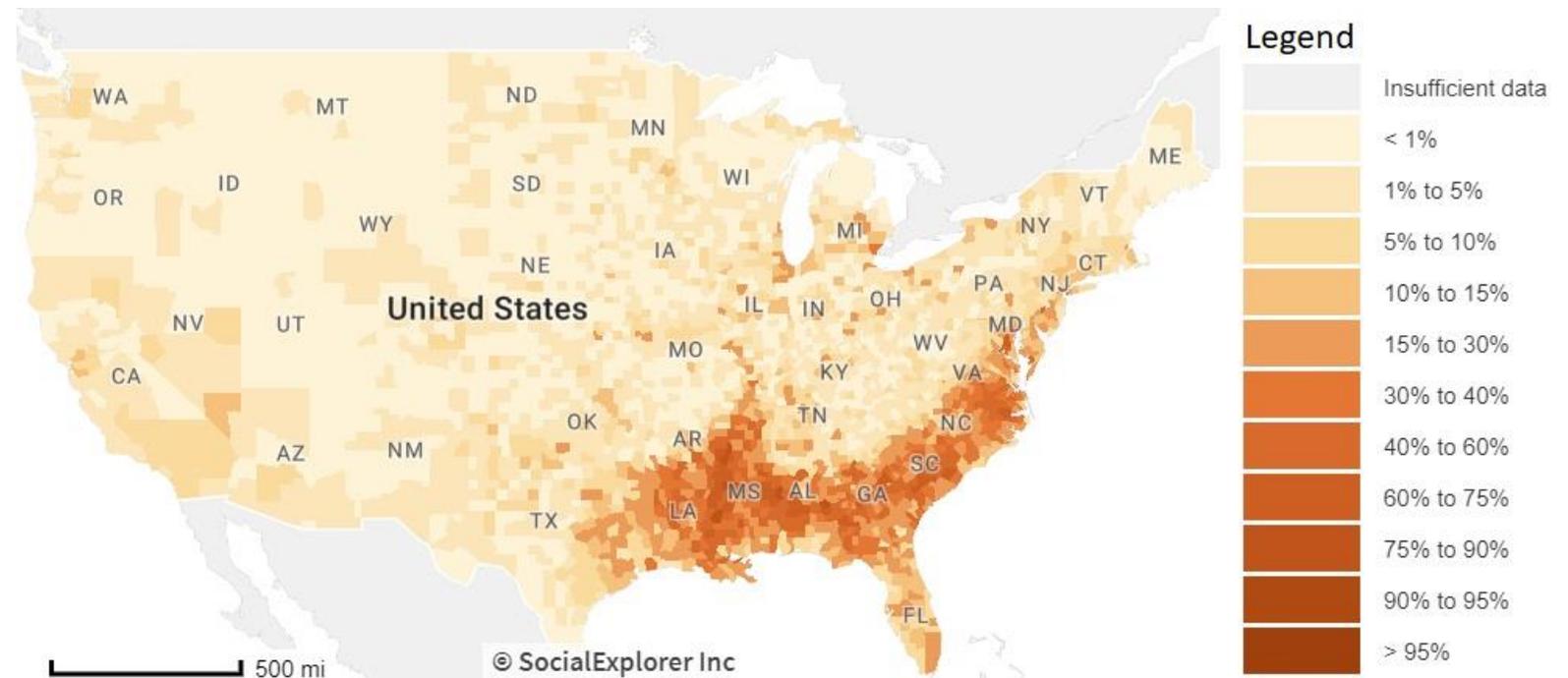
**Note:** Maps display percent of each demographic group below poverty by county. Poverty thresholds vary depending on the size of the family unit and the number of children under 18 years in the family. In 2018, the poverty threshold for an individual under 65 years is \$12,784. For a family of four (two parents, two children) the threshold is \$25,465. For each additional child, the threshold increases by between \$3,000 and \$5,000. The thresholds for each year since 1978 can be found here:

<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>



# Mapping Census Data: A Critical Lens

- A challenge with Census data: it is often stratified by one demographic variable (e.g. income below poverty by gender).
- Consider Kimberlé Crenshaw's theory of intersectionality
  - "Crenshaw describes the social construction of multiple identities as overlapping systems of discrimination."
- Also consider this map of the distribution of African-American people across the US by county:



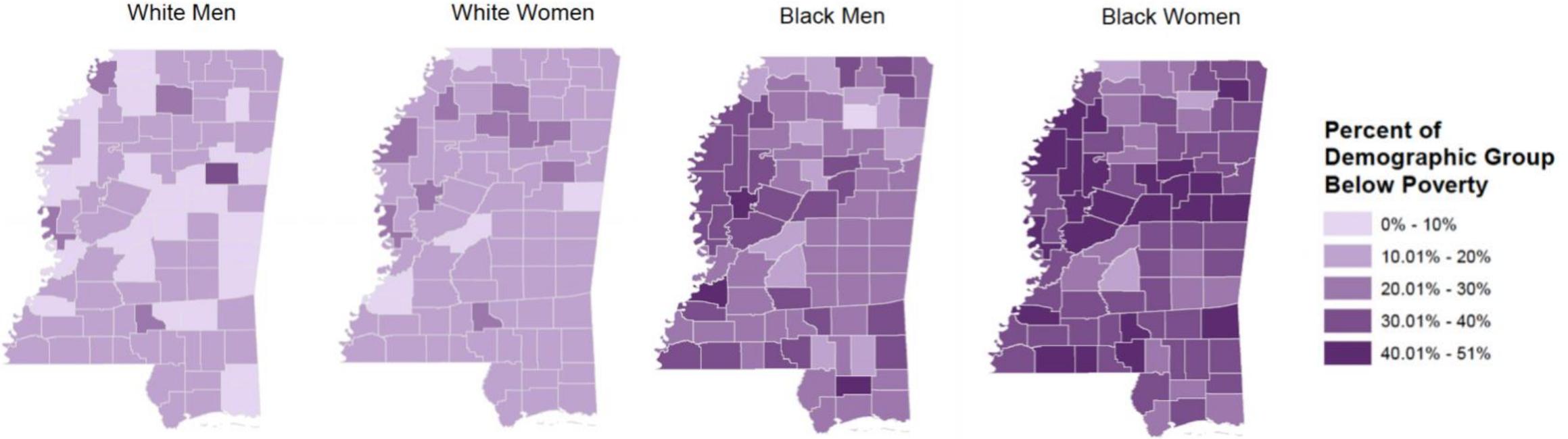


# Challenging Assumptions

- Did we know enough about the history of Mississippi to be able to interpret the relationship between poverty and gender?
- Should the map creator(s) have investigated the intersection of race and gender as it relates to poverty in Mississippi?
- Examining positionality: Who is benefitting from this work?
- “Mapping inequality is not impactful in and of itself. Must continuously ask ourselves: are our practices creating the knowledge by which communities can build power?” (Koli 2019)



# Mapping ACS Data: Race and Gender and Poverty



Source: 2012 ACS 5-year estimates. Koli, F. "(Un)Privileging the Map: A Community Collaboration in Understanding Economic Security." Paper presented at the **MAPPING (IN)JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM: Digital Theory + Praxis For Critical Scholarship**. Fordham University / November 7-9 2019

# Icon

- demographic by Nithinan Tatah from the Noun Project