

# **A New Approach to Studying Interactions of Household Structure and Race/Ethnicity at the National and Local Levels**

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by

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FINAL POSTER

# Purposes of this Poster

- Identify and chart variations in key household structure indicators for 6 US race/ethnic groups at two geographical levels:
  - the US as a whole, and
  - local areas around 6 ethnographic study sites
- Use charts and knowledge of social, cultural and other variables to
  - identify possible factors in these differences

# Why do this Study?

## HH structure trends

- HH structure has been changing dramatically
- HH structure varies by race/ethnicity and geography, and
- Race/ethnic minority subpop growth rates > those of non-Hisp. Whites

But, we aren't fully identifying subpopulation HH structure changes:

- Demographers rarely report on very small race/ethnic subpopulations (e.g., American Indians, Asians) in local areas
- Why? Most survey datasets too small to give reliable estimates

**This study uses data from Census 2000, not a survey, to identify HH structure variations for 6 race/ethnic groups at both national and local levels. We also have ethnographic data on HH structure.**

# Key Indicators of Household Structure in this Comparative Study

1. Household size and family size
2. Proportion of HH that are family households
3. Breakdown of family types:
  - married couple
  - male householder, no spouse present
  - female householder, no spouse present
4. Proportion of families with any related children and with own children
5. Households with any nonrelatives (1 type of complex household) by family and nonfamily type

# Data Source

Census 2000 tabular data at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) in SF-2 (100 Percent Data)

- **Advantages:**
  - **Census is the ONLY dataset that includes all communities that:**
    - covers the entire US population, and also
    - provides the most reliable data on very small subpopulations by race/ethnicity and/or locality
  - **Census provides baseline for very small groups for which sample sizes larger than those in CPS & other surveys are needed**
  - **Data easily accessible to customize tables—students can do this!**
  - **Data easily understandable—no sampling error to estimate (but there may be other error sources)**
- **Disadvantage:**
  - **Data somewhat out-of-date**

# Methods: Two Geographic Levels

1. National level: All US Households

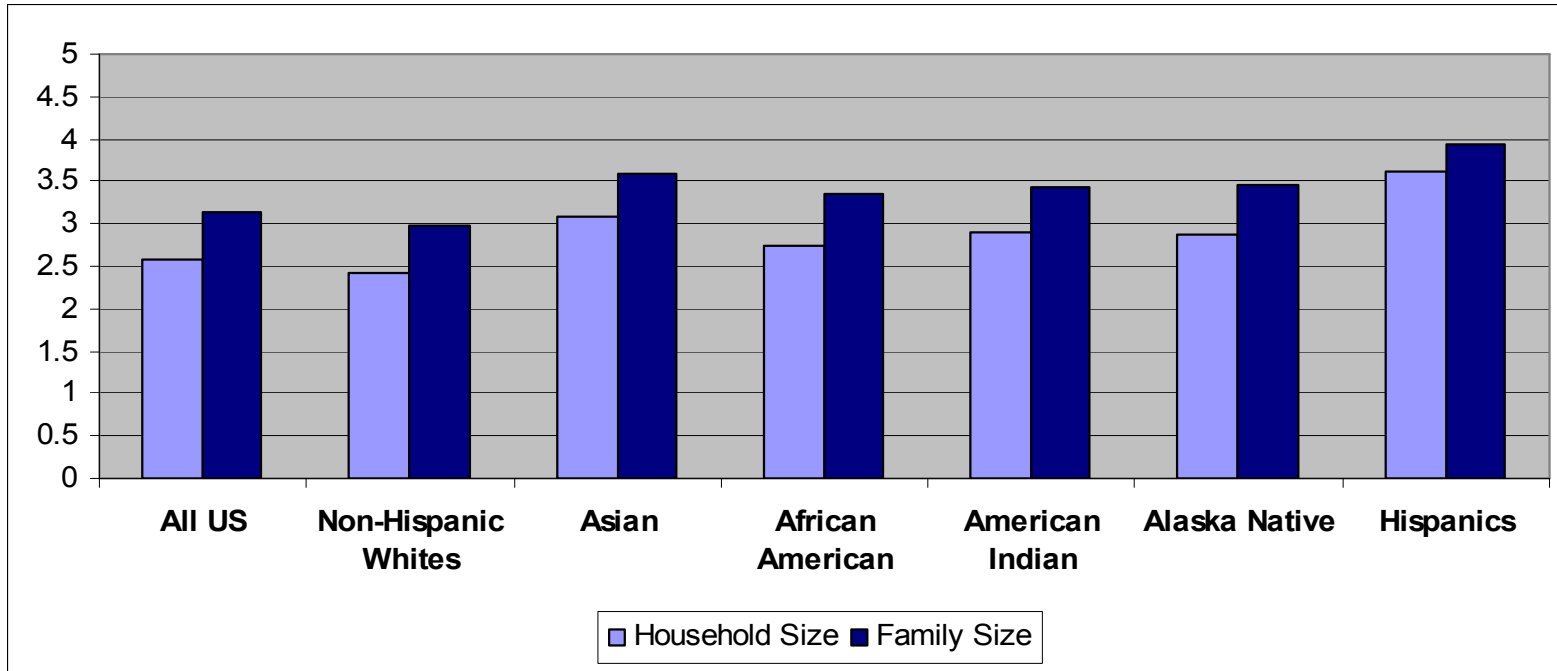
2. Localized geographic areas of 100,000 to 500,000 people:

- We customized the local-area boundaries to encompass each of our 6 race/ethnic ethnographic study sites that had been purposively selected to study “complex households” (i.e., households with persons other than, or in addition to, biological parents and own biological children)
- We “right-sized” the local-area boundaries:
  - small enough to control for local conditions
  - large enough to show meaningful differences & protect confidentiality

# Race/Ethnic Groups Included in this Study at the National and Local Levels

<b>National Group</b>	<b>Specific Local Group</b>	<b>Research Site Area</b>
Amer. Indian	Navajo	Northern Arizona
Alaska Native	Eskimo	Northern Alaska
African American	African American	Coastal VA
Asian	Korean	Queens NY
Non-Hisp. White	Rural non-Hispanic White	Upstate NY
Hispanic	Hispanic	Central VA

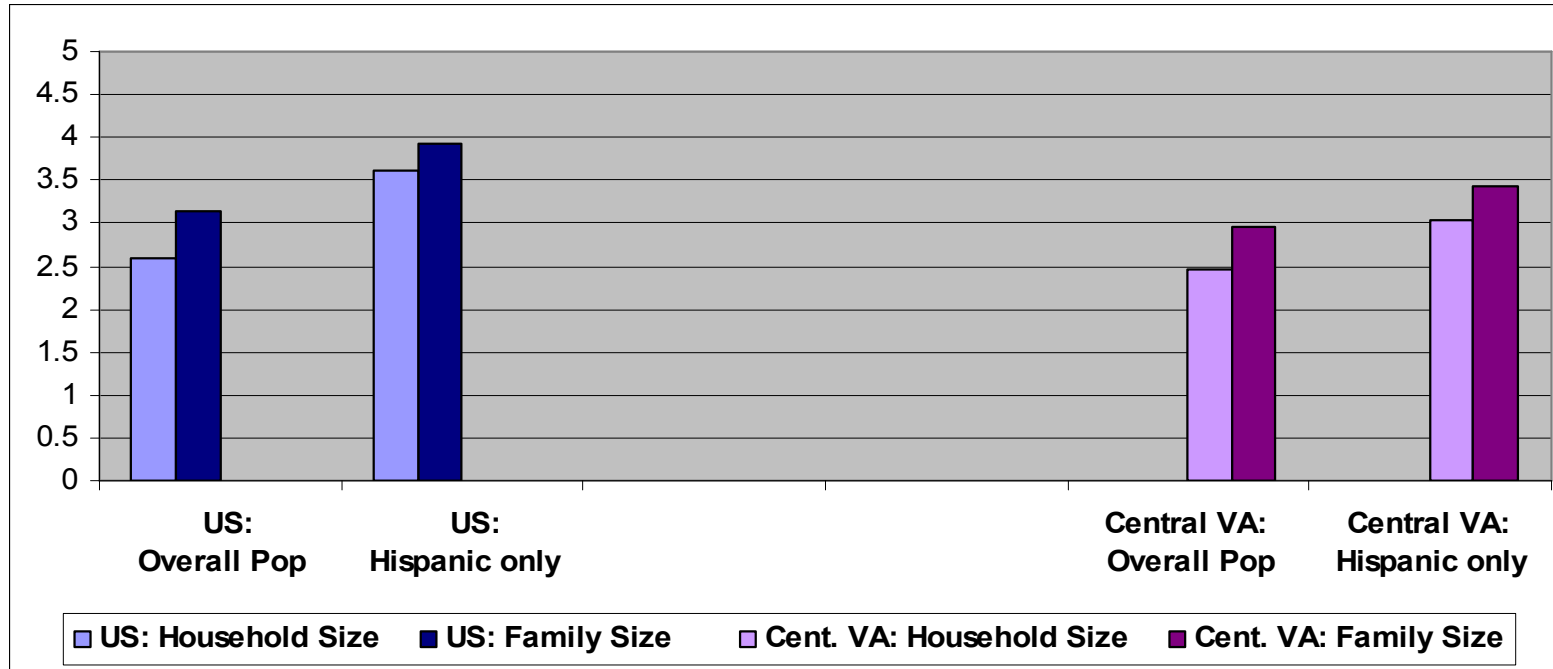
# 1. Household (HH) and Family Size by Race/Ethnicity: US



- In the US, average Household (HH) size is 2.59 and average family size is 3.14.
- Hispanics, followed by Asians, have the largest HH and family sizes
- Non-Hispanic whites have the smallest HH and family sizes

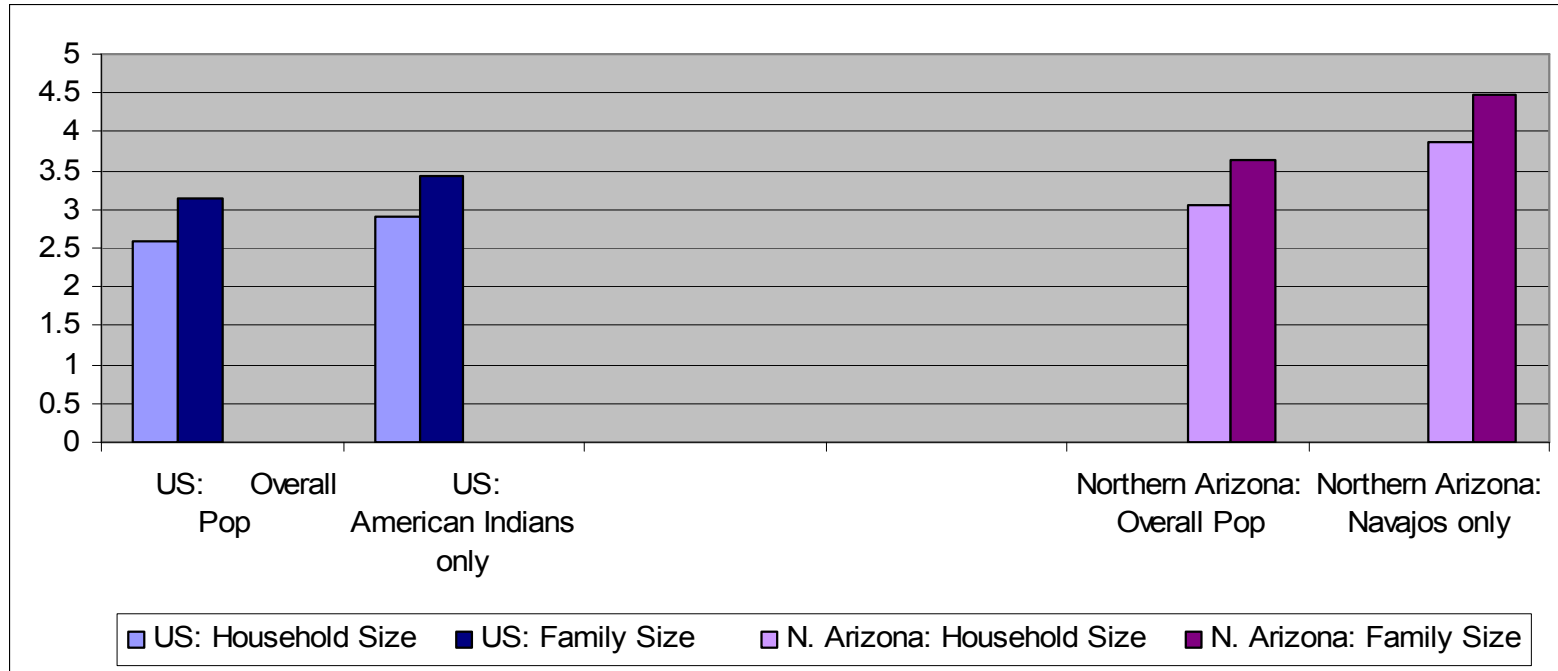


# 1a. Household and Family Size for Hispanics: US and Central VA



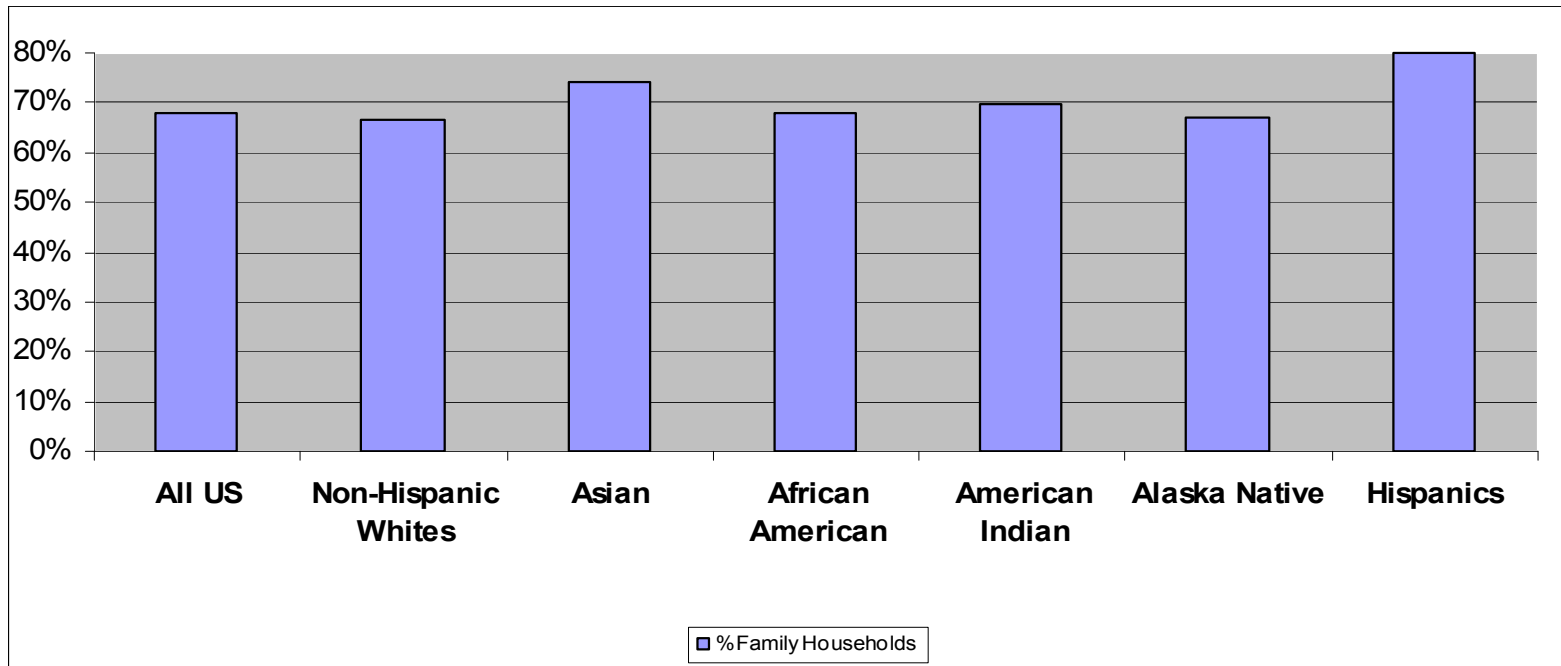
\*Hispanic HH and family sizes are smaller in the Central VA local site area than in all US Hispanic HHs, but nonetheless still larger than those of the overall local and national populations.

# 1b. HH and Family Size for American Indians & Navajos: National & Local



**Navajo HH and Family Sizes in N. Arizona are much larger than those of all American Indians at the national level and also higher than those of the overall local population. Eskimos in N. Alaska show the same pattern, with greater differences**

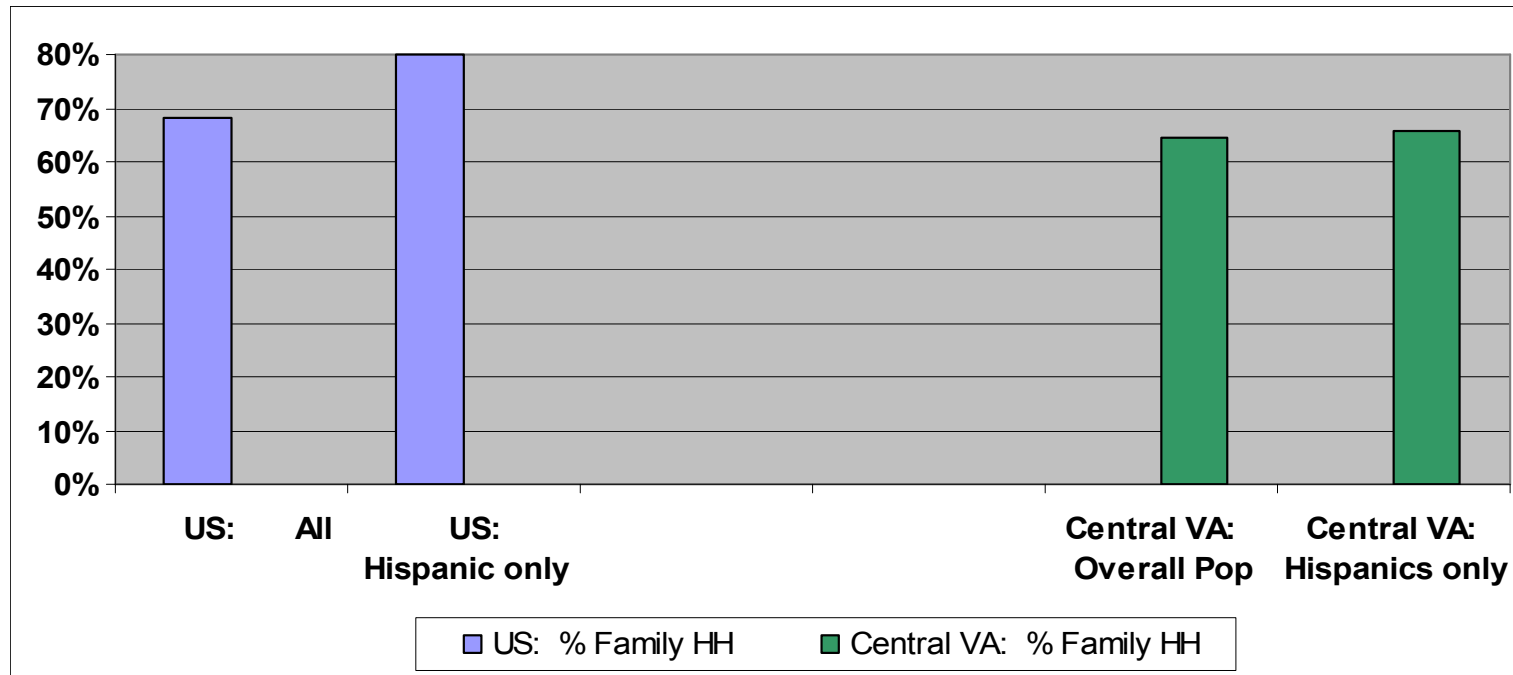
## 2. Proportion of all HH that are Family HHs\* by Race/ethnicity: US



- In the US, 68.1% are family HHs.
- Hispanic, followed by Asian, HHs have highest proportions
- Non-Hispanic white HHs have the lowest proportion

\* Nonfamily HHs not shown in chart

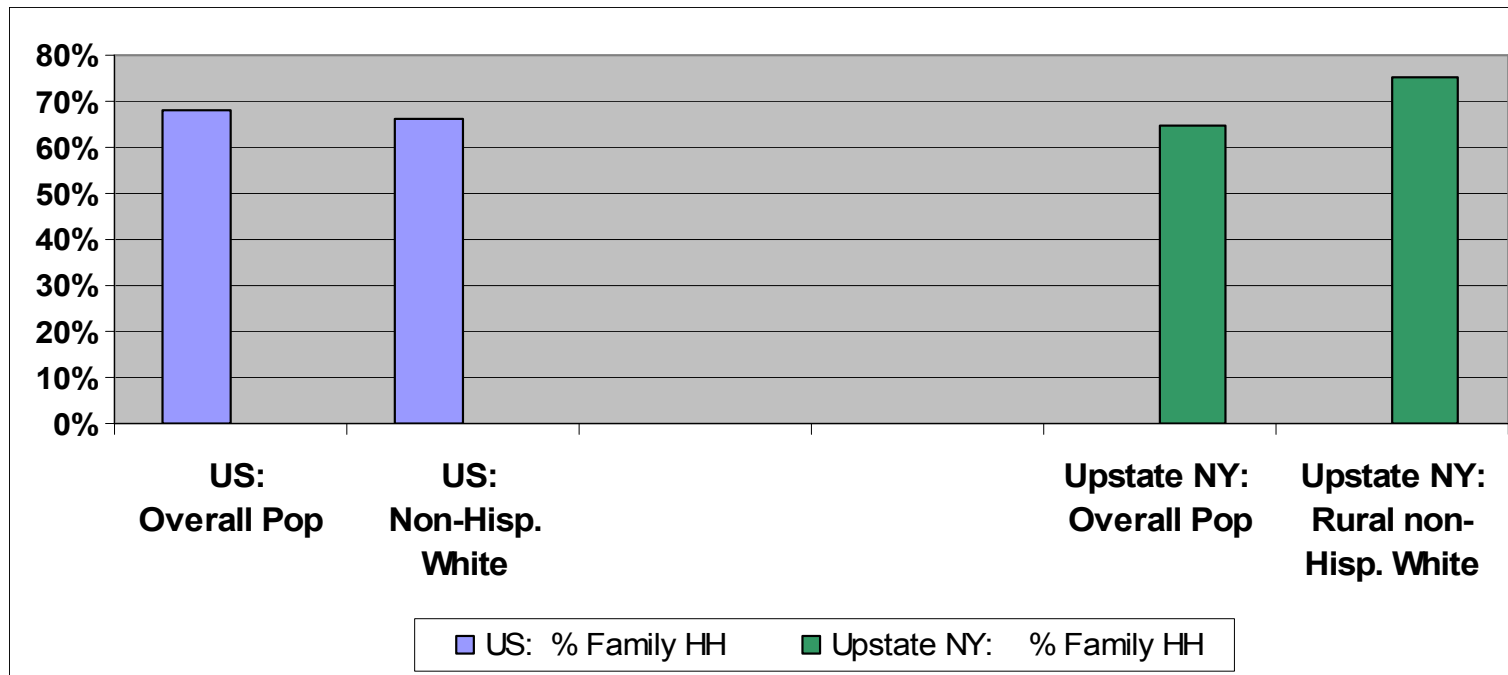
## 2a. Proportions of Family HHs\* for Hispanics and Overall Populations in US and in Local Central VA



Hispanic HHs in Central VA have a considerably lower proportion of family HHs than Hispanic HHs at the national level. Hispanic HHs in Central VA are more similar to the overall population at both the local and national level

\* Nonfamily HHs not shown in chart

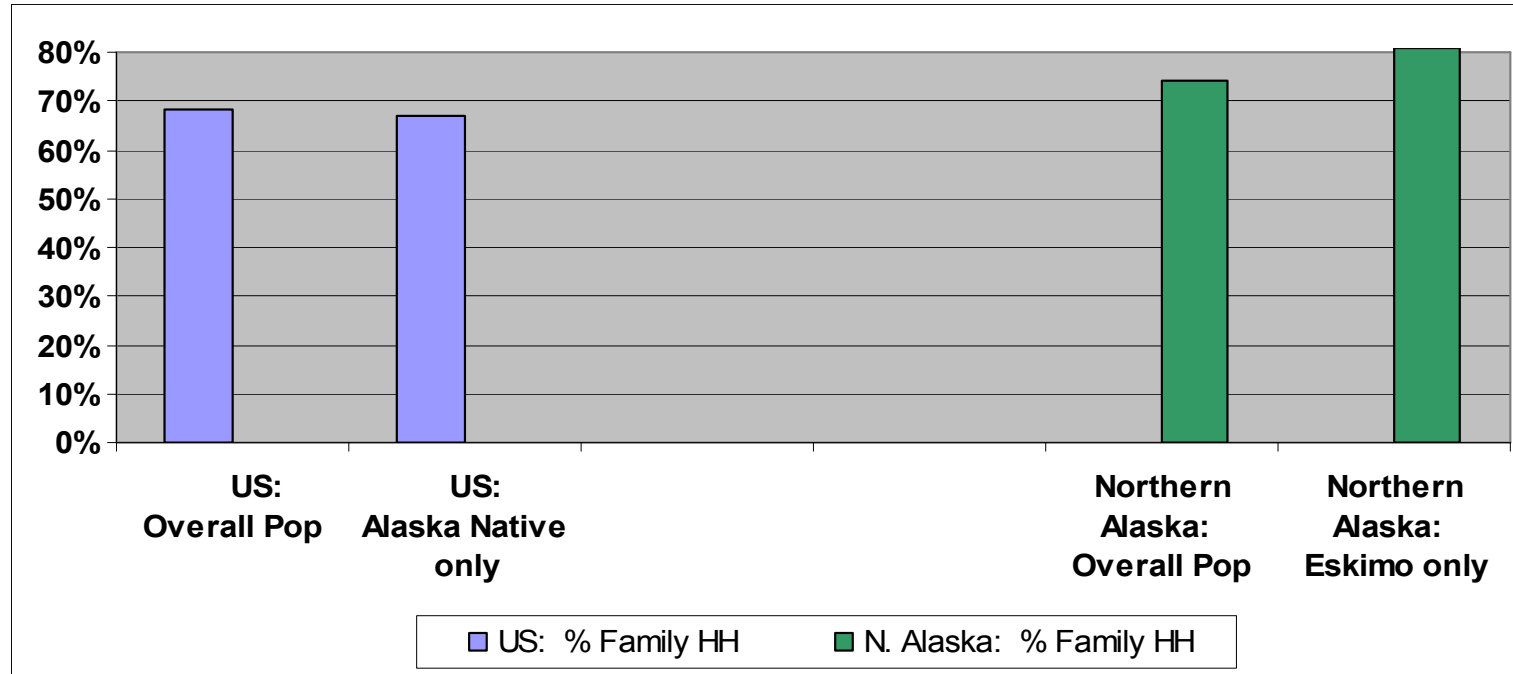
## 2b. Proportions of Family HHs\* for Rural non-Hispanic Whites in Upstate NY and Overall Local and National Populations



Rural non-Hispanic White HHs in upstate NY had a higher proportion of family HHs than did non-Hispanic White HHs at national level, and all HHs at both the national and local levels

\*Nonfamily HHs not shown in chart

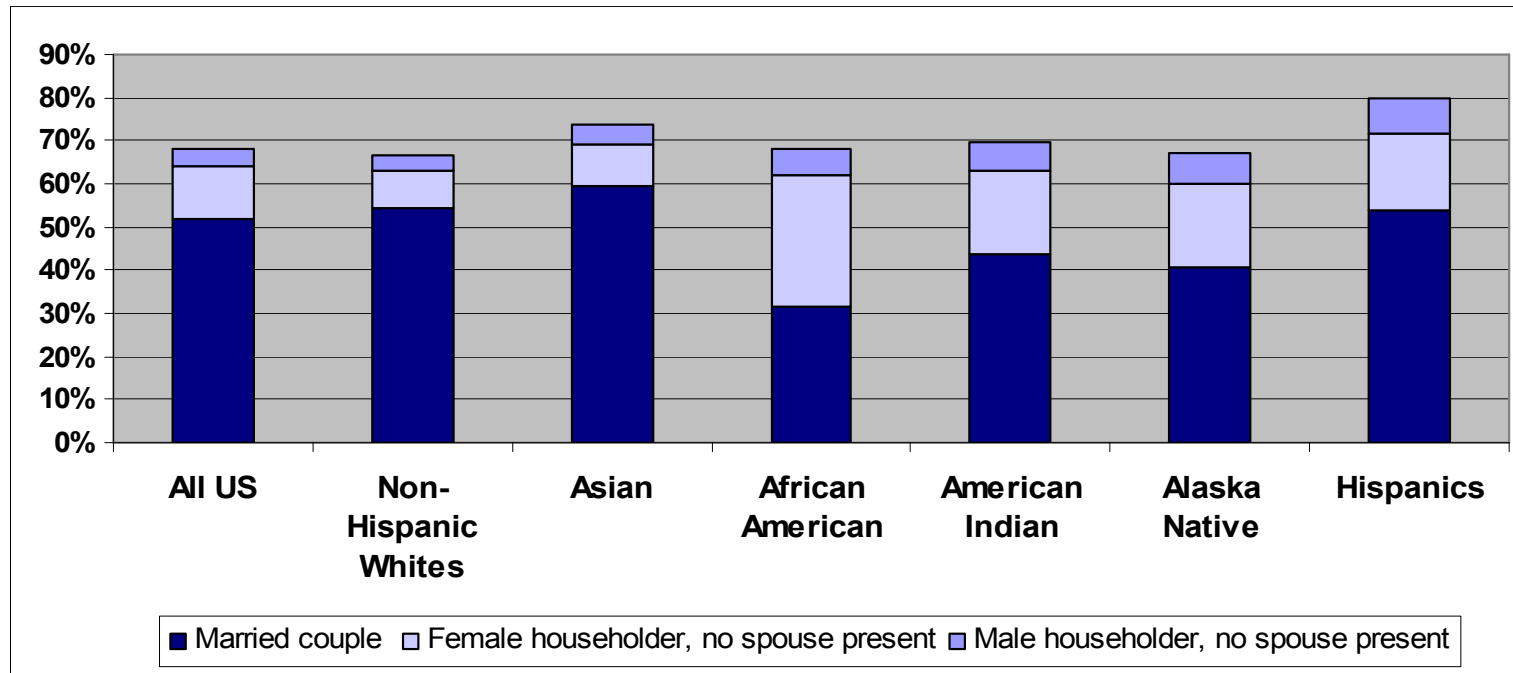
## 2c. Proportion of Family HHs\* for Eskimos in Northern Alaska and all Alaska Natives & Overall Pops: National, Local



**Eskimo HHs in Northern Alaska had a much higher proportion of family HHs than did all Alaska Native HHs at the national level, and all HHs at both the local and national levels.**

\*Nonfamily HHs not shown in chart

### 3. Types of Family Households\* by Race/Ethnicity: US

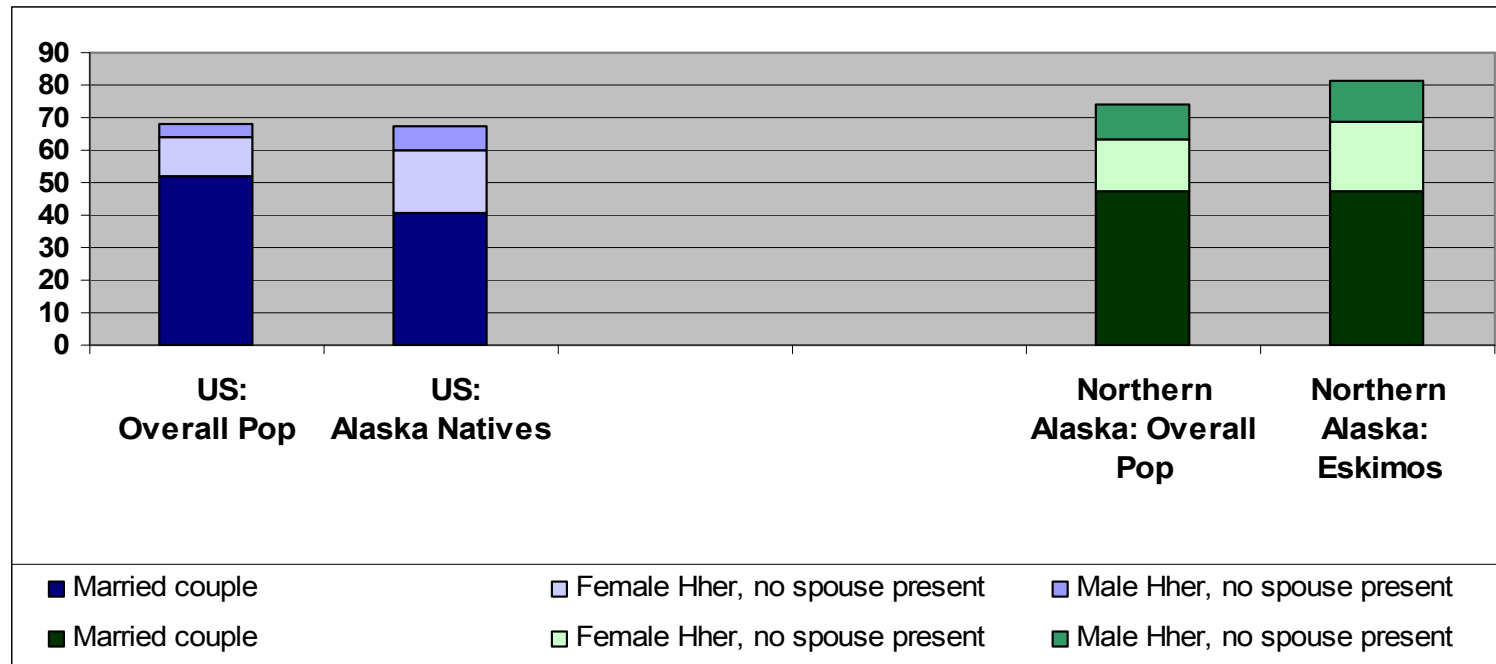


For US, 52% are married, 12% female Householder (HHer) family; 4% male HHer family

- Highest proportions of married couple family HHs: Asian, then non-Hisp. White
- Highest proportions of female HHer family HHs: African American & Amer. Indian
- Highest proportions of male HHer family HHs: Hispanic and Alaska Native

\* Nonfamily HHs not shown in chart

### 3a. Family Household\* Types: Eskimo HHs in Local Area Compared to Overall Population and all Native Alaskan HHs



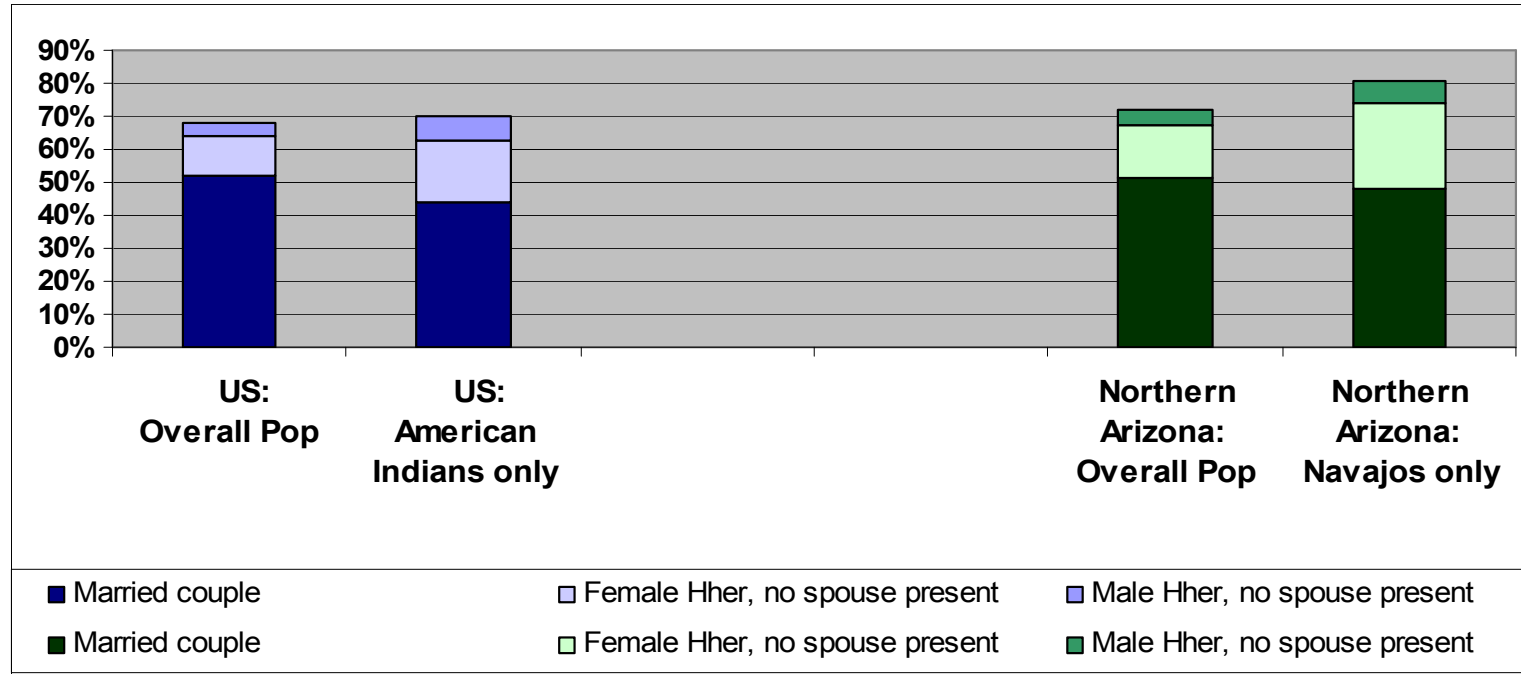
N. Alaska Eskimo HHs, compared to local and national overall population HHs and to all Alaska Native HHs in US, have HIGHER proportions of:

- family HHs
- male HHer family HHs
- female HHer family HHs

\* Nonfamily HHs not shown in chart



### 3b. Family HH\* Types: Navajos in Local Area Compared to Overall Population and all American Indians

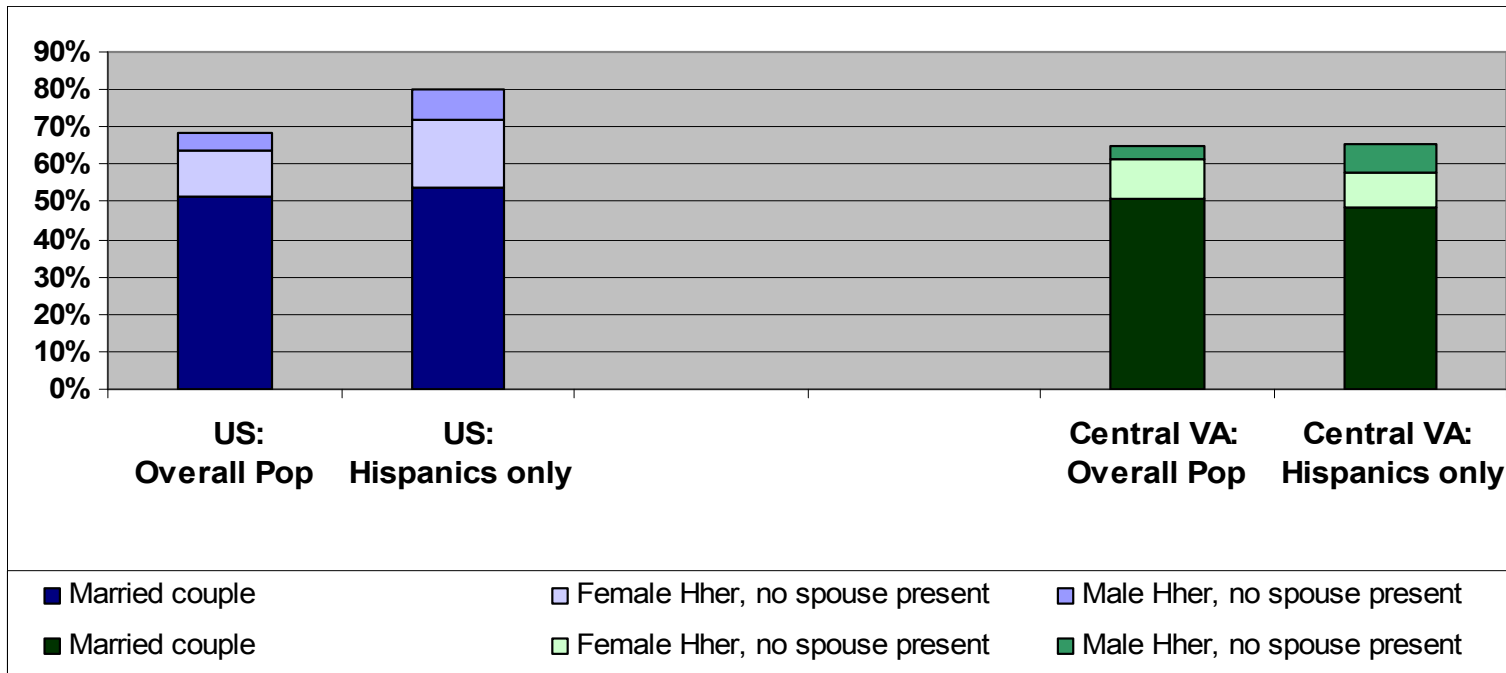


N. Arizona Navajo HHs, compared to local and national overall population HHs and to all American Indian HHs in US, have HIGHER proportions of:

- family HHs
- female HHer family HHs

\* Nonfamily HHs not shown in chart

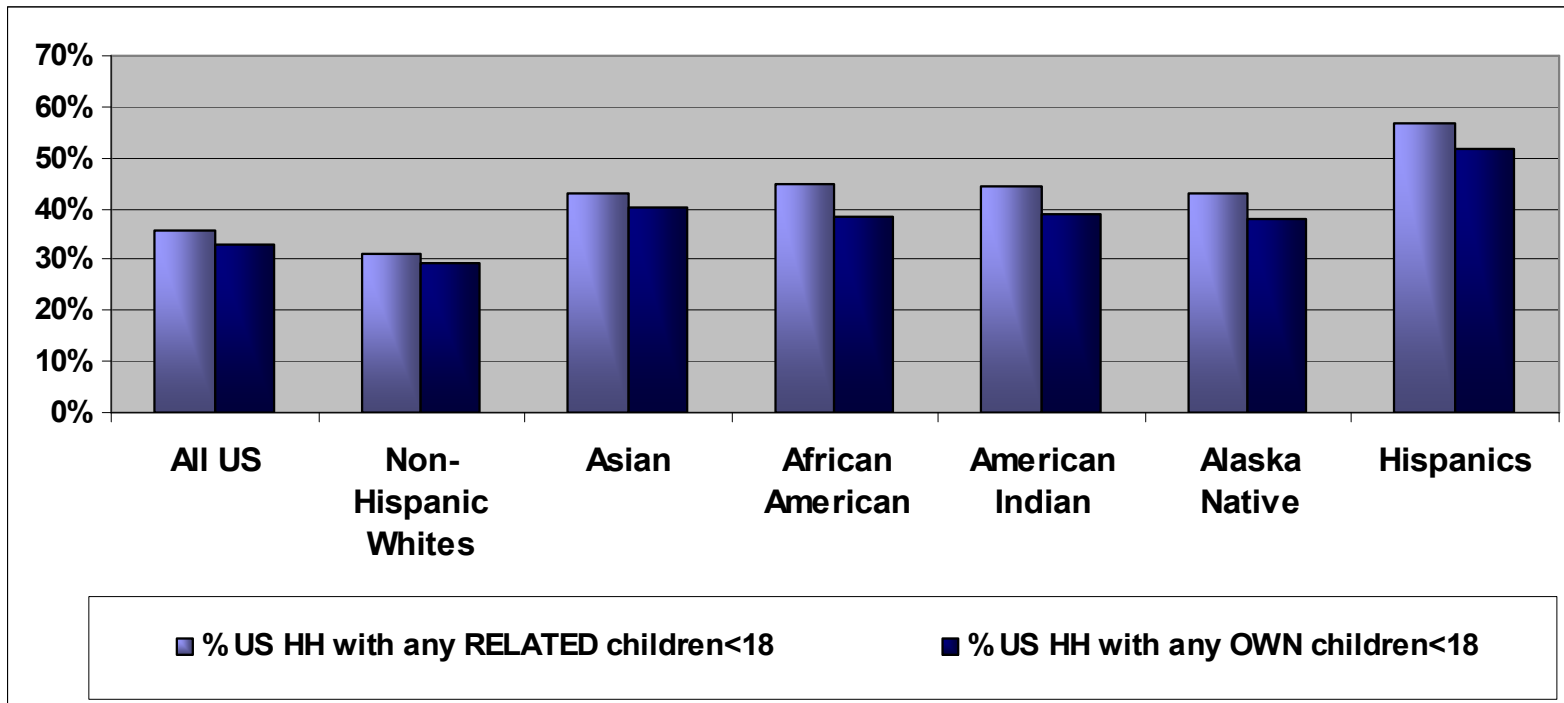
### 3c. Family HH Types: Hispanics in Local Area Compared to Hispanics and Overall Population: US and Local Levels



Central VA Hispanic HHs have:

- smaller proportion of family HHs than all US Hispanic HHs and all US HHs
- smallest proportion of married couple HHs
- smallest proportion of female HHer family HHs
- > 2 x the proportion of male HHer family HHs in local area, but less than for all US Hispanic HHs

# 4. Family HHs\* with any RELATED & OWN children by race/ethnicity: US

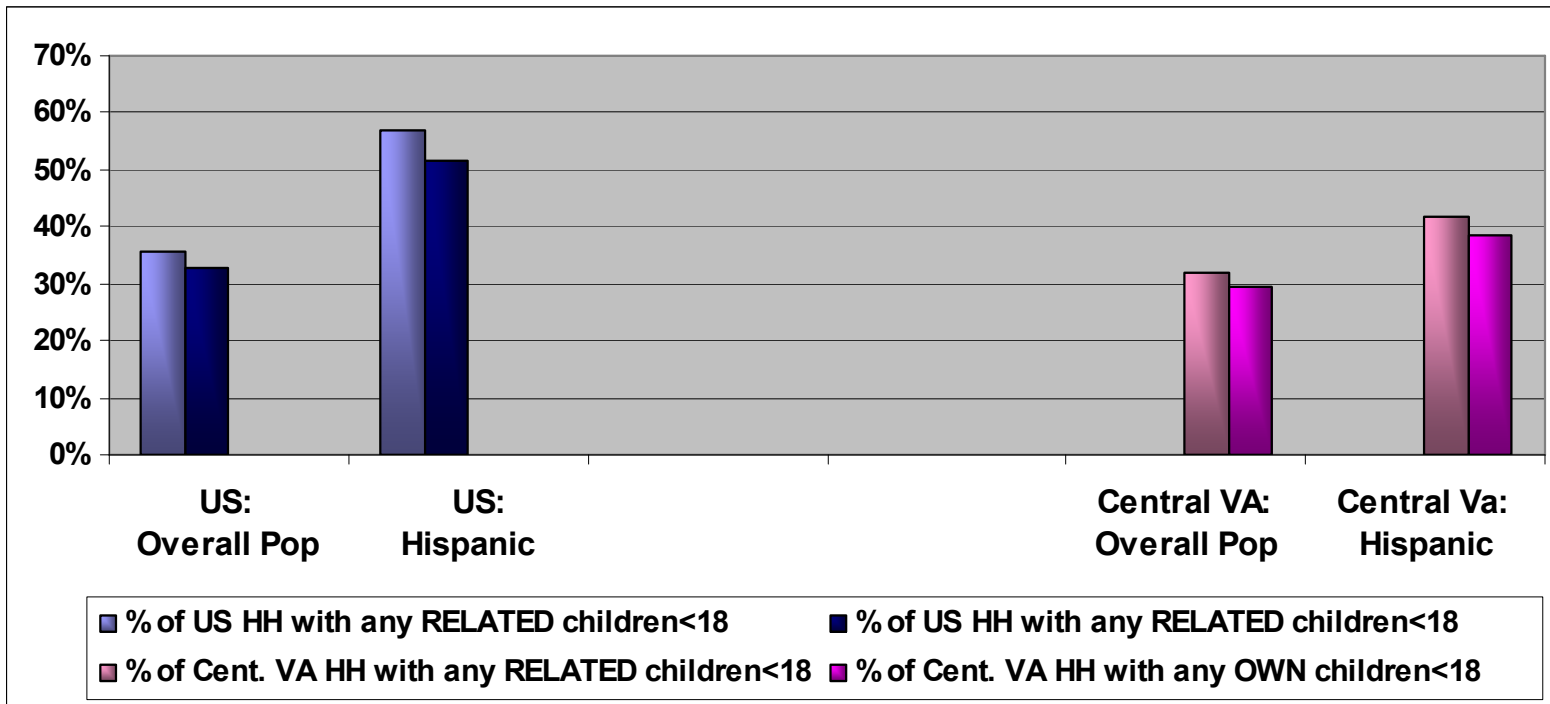


In US overall, 36% of HHs include any related children,

- US Hispanic HHs have the highest proportion of HHs with any related children: 57%  
Fewer Cent. VA Hispanic HHs have any related kids: 42% (not shown here)
- US American Indian HHs: 44%  
Even more N. Arizona Navajo HHs have any related kids: 61% (not shown here)
- Non-Hispanic White HHs have the lowest proportion: 31%

\*Nonfamily HHs not shown in chart

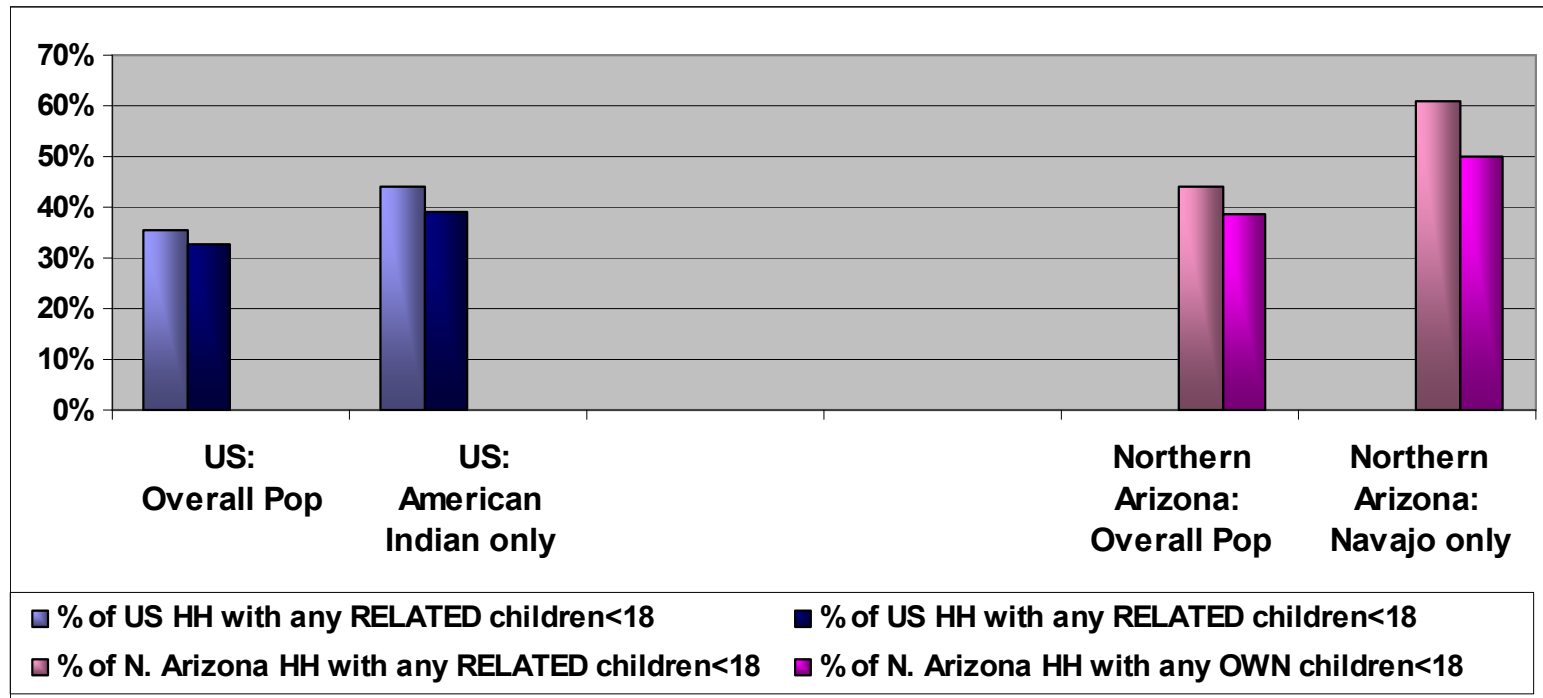
# 4a. HHs with any Related Children and Own Children by Race/ethnicity: National and Local Comparison for Hispanics



**Central VA. Hispanic HHs:**

- are more likely than the overall local and US pops to include related children, but
- are much less likely than all US Hispanic HHs to do so (new pole of migration)

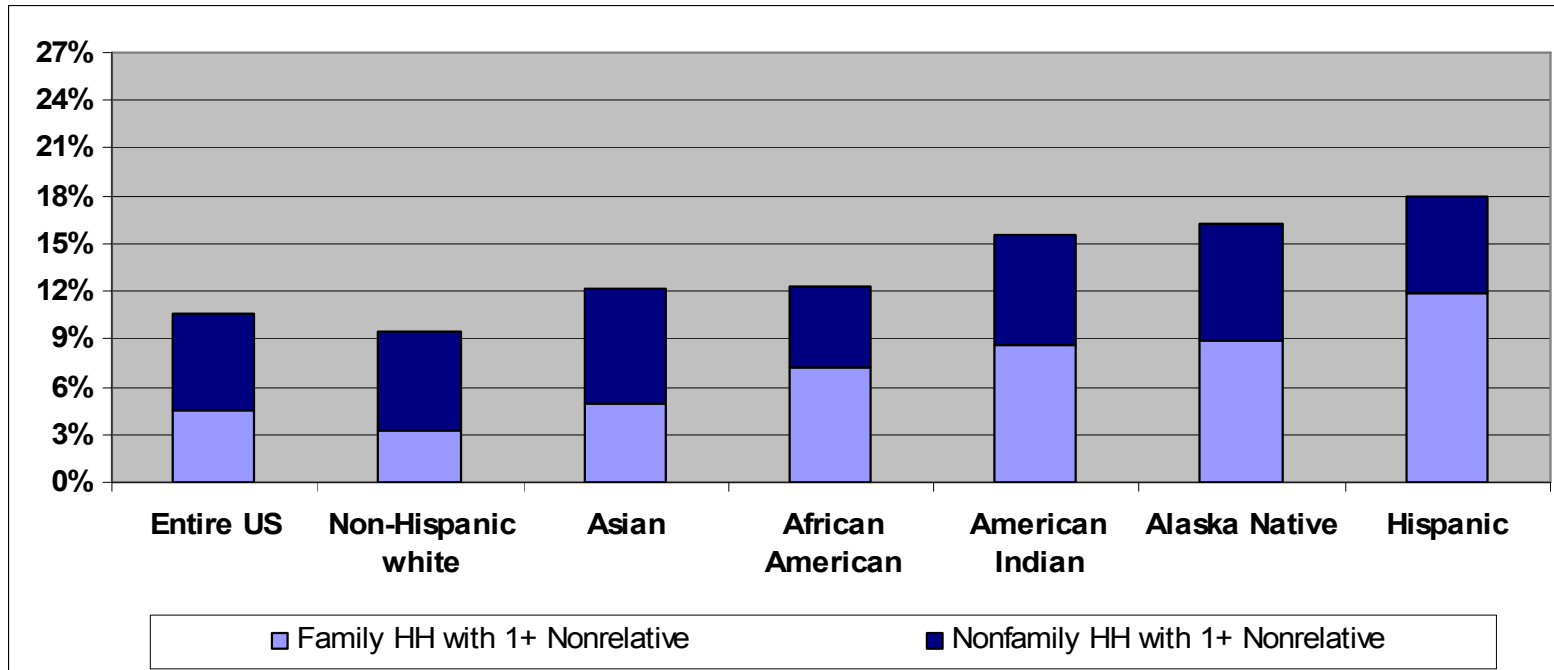
# 4b: HHs with any Related Children and Own Children for American Indians and Navajos: National and Local



Navajo HHs in N. Arizona have much higher proportion of HHs with any related children than American Indians at the national level and also the overall populations at both the national and local levels

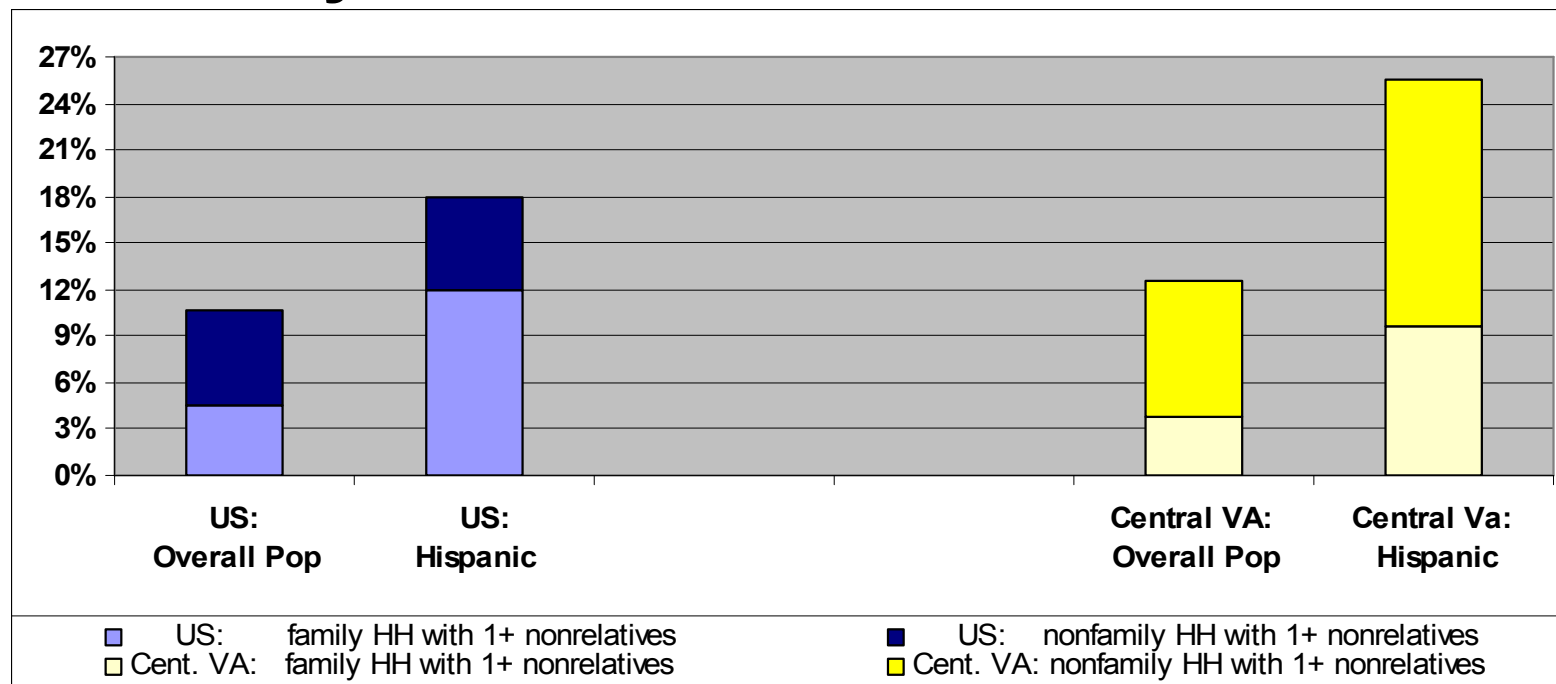
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# 5. Households with Nonrelatives by Family/Nonfamily & Race/Ethnicity: US



- In US, 10.6% of HHs have at least one nonrelative (shown by full bar)
  - Hispanic HHs highest (17.9%), non-Hispanic white HHs lowest (9.5%)
- Two different patterns of HHs types with nonrelatives (shown by proportion of 2 colors in each bar)
  - In US, HHs with nonrelatives are more often nonfamily HHs:
    - Non-Hisp. White HHs and Asian HHs show this pattern
  - In US, other groups—opposite pattern—HHs with nonrelatives more often family HHs
    - Hispanic HHs, nonrelatives highest in family HHs: 11.9%

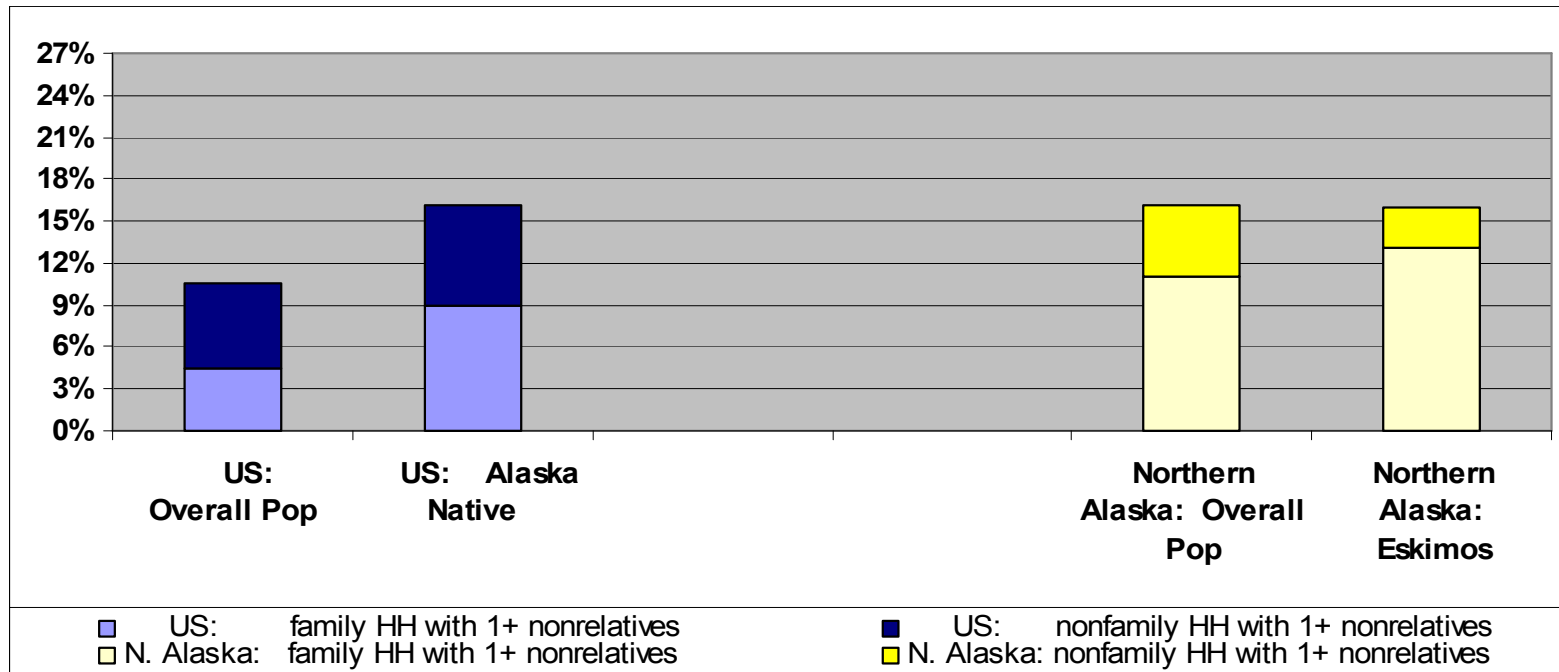
# 5a. Hispanic Households and all Households with Nonrelatives in Family or Nonfamily Households: US and Central VA.



- Local Hispanic HHs with nonrelatives differ greatly from all US Hispanic HHs:
  - Even *more* local Hispanic HHs with any nonrelatives: 26% vs. 18%
  - Opposite pattern: HHs with nonrelatives more likely the nonfamily type
- Local Hispanic HHs with nonrelatives more similar to all local HHs than to all US HHs

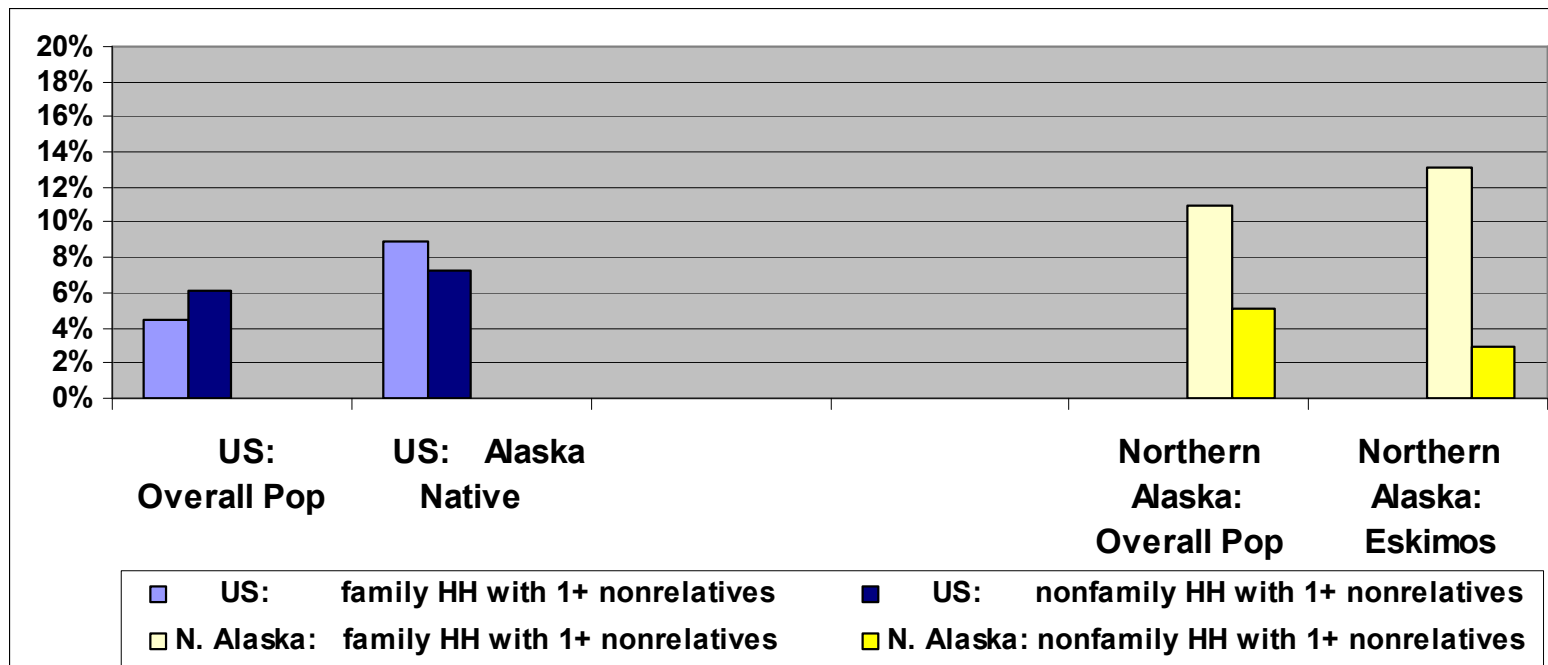


## 5b. Alaska Native/Eskimo Households and all Households with Nonrelatives in Family or Nonfamily Households: US and Northern Alaska



- Local Eskimo HHs with nonrelatives differ greatly from all US Alaska Native HHs:
  - Greater proportion of HHs with nonrelatives, family type: 13% vs 9%
  - Far lower proportion of HHs with nonrelatives, nonfamily type: 3% vs 7%
- Local Eskimo HHs more similar to local overall population than to either national group

## 5c. Alaska Native/Eskimo Households and all Households with Nonrelatives in Family or Nonfamily Households: US and Northern Alaska



- Local Eskimo HHs with nonrelatives differ greatly from all US Alaska Native HHs:
  - Greater proportion of HH with nonrelatives, family type: 13% vs 9%
  - Far lower proportion of HH with nonrelatives, nonfamily type: 3% vs 7%
- Local Eskimo HH more similar to local overall population than to either national group

# Summary and Conclusions: non-Hispanic White HHs: Typical but not Representative

- The charts show large differences in key household structure and size indicators, by:
  - race/ethnicity and
  - geographical level (national vs. local)
- **Non-Hispanic White HHs differ markedly from other race/ethnic HHs:**
  - **Smallest HH and Family Sizes**
  - **Lowest proportion of Family HHs**
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Highest proportion of Married Couple vs. Other Family Types**
  - **Lowest proportion with Related Children**
  - **Lowest proportion with any Nonrelatives and**
  - **Lowest proportion of Family HHs with any Nonrelatives**
- **But, as the largest subpopulation (70%), non-Hispanic whites heavily influence and define overall US statistics and may not accurately represent patterns in other groups. Varying patterns of other small groups may not be identified with most datasets demographers use.**
- **Why are there large differences for some race/ethnic groups between national and local levels?**

# Summary and Conclusions: Hispanic HHs Local/National Comparison

1. Hispanic HHs in local area compared to US Hispanic HHs are

- Much smaller
- Much less likely to be family HHs
- Less likely to be married couple family
- Much less likely to have related or own kids
- Highest rate of male HHer family HHs of any group
- HHs w. nonrelatives far more likely to be nonfamily HH

Why? Central VA is a new pole of migration for  
Hispanics: more individuals, fewer families

# Summary and Conclusions: Navajo in Local Area & American Indians in US

2. Navajo HHs in North Arizona vs. all US American Indian HHs have:
  - much larger HH size
  - much larger family size
  - higher proportion of family HHs
  - much higher proportion of female HHer family HHs
  - much more likely to have related kids,  
    own kids and just distantly related kids
  - much less likely to have nonfamily HHs with nonrelatives

Why? The Navajo reservation is the homeland of the matrilineal, matrilocal Navajo, where women, husbands and children live on her mother's compound, men are more likely to leave to find work elsewhere, and households are very fluid.

# Summary and Conclusions: Eskimos at Local Level and Alaska Natives in US

3. Eskimos in northern Alaska show virtually the same patterns as the Navajo in Arizona, except
  - The proportion of male HHer family HHs is higher

Why? Like Navajos, Eskimos live in their rural homeland, but women are more likely than men to leave for work or school; men are more often the valued hunters, partially preserving cherished traditional subsistence way of life involving seasonal mobility and fluid HHs.

Overall conclusion: Household structure indicators are related to cultural, social, and local conditions. We can learn much more about HH structure variations by studying the interaction of these factors for different subpopulations at different levels of geography, using BOTH quantitative and qualitative methods.

# Summary and Conclusions (cont.)

These results on race/ethnic and geographical variation provide an important baseline for examining future subpopulation changes in order to identify emerging trends, because:

- Growth rates of the race/ethnic minority subpopulations are higher than those of non-Hispanic whites:
  - By the 2050s, non-Hisp. whites projected to be < 50% of the pop
  - Prediction: HH structure will continue to diversify, posing challenges to coverage in censuses and surveys
- When the American Community Survey data are finally available for all US areas in 2010, ACS will give more regular, timely data for studying subpopulation changes in HH structure.

The method used here—customizing tabular HH structure data from SF-2 at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)--is easy and straightforward. Students, policymakers, and the lay public can use it to generate their own statistics on subpopulations and/or local areas. For step-by-step instructions, see *Complex Ethnic Households in America*, p. 34, footnote 1.

# Comments, Questions, New Ideas?

For more information on this research project, see:

***Complex Ethnic Households in America.* 2006. L. Schwede, R.L. Blumberg, A.Y. Chan, eds. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, especially Chapters 2, 5 and 8.**

Actual link to Census datasets used in this poster:

[http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?\\_program=DEC&\\_submenuId=datasets\\_0&\\_lang=en](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=DEC&_submenuId=datasets_0&_lang=en)

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