



# Exploring the High Poverty Rural Southeast

ACS User's Conference 2021

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# Outline

## ❑ Background

- Current high-need regions
- Research on additional area in southeast

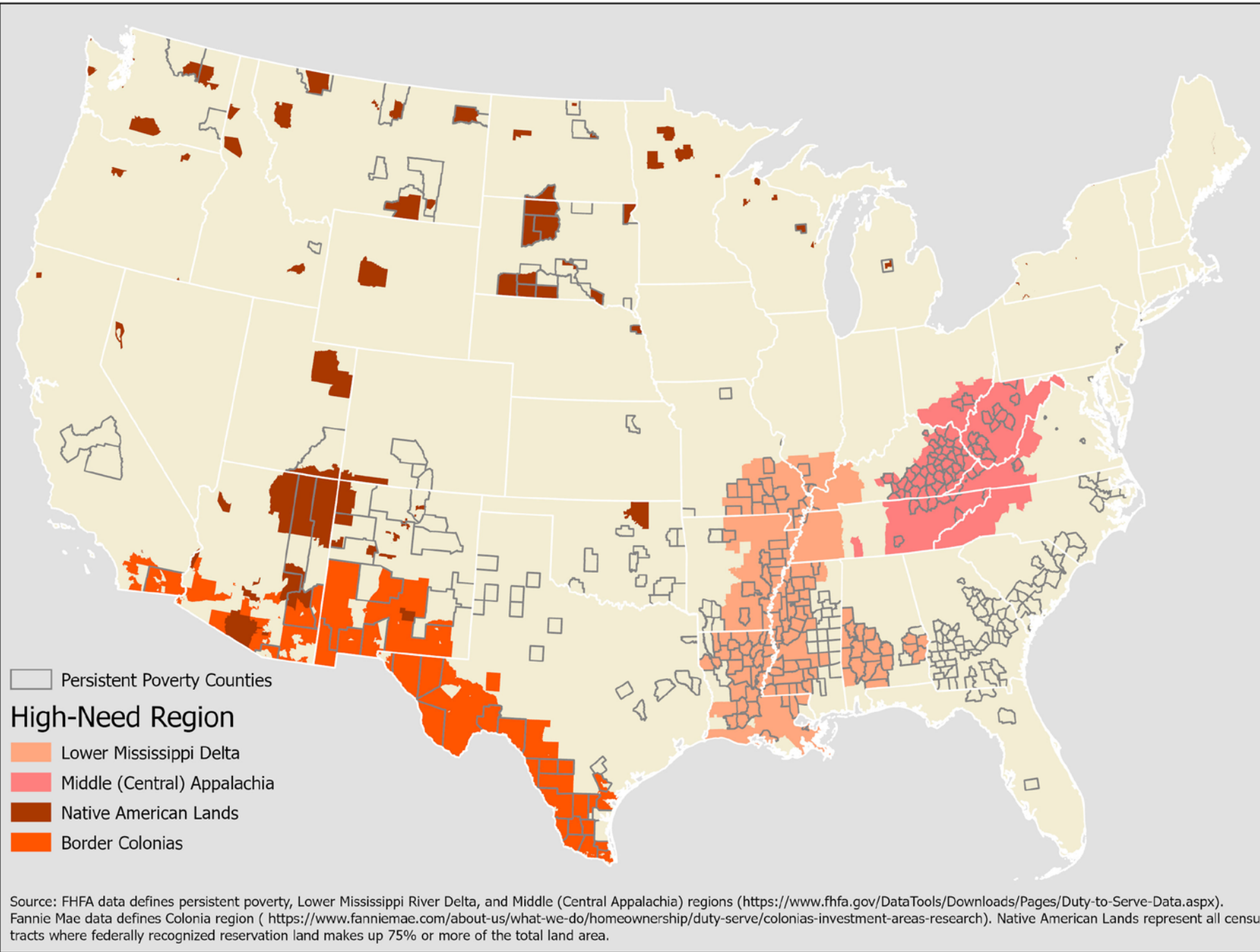
## ❑ Defining Southeast Region

- Focus on high poverty, rural census tracts
- Area not currently covered by other high-need regions

## ❑ Explore Region

- Compare to other high-need regions
- Explore housing characteristics of region (Race/Ethnicity)

# High-Need Regions



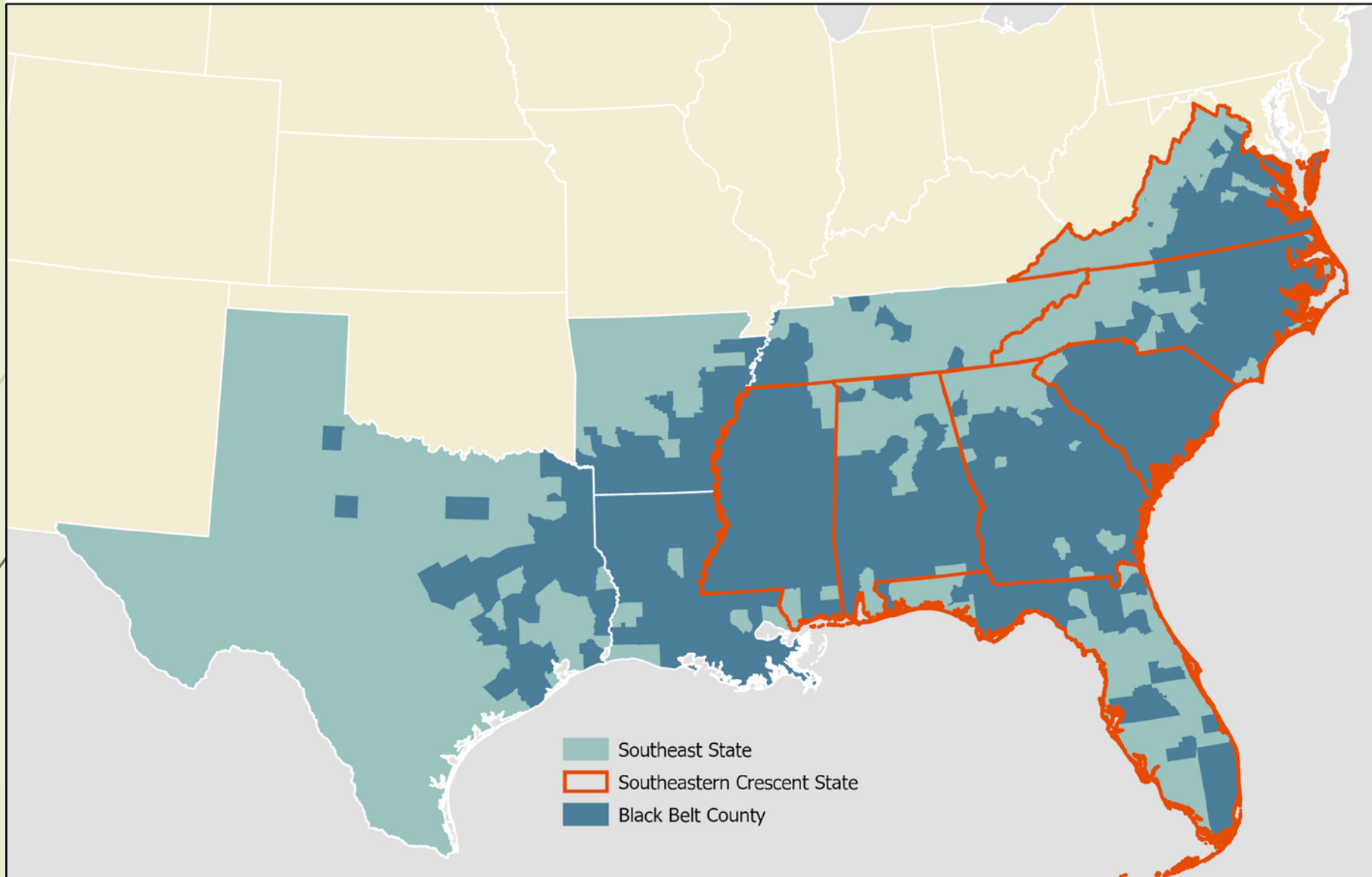


# Research

- ❑ Some scholars considered the larger southeast area (Texas to Virginia) to be part of a “Black Belt” region.
- ❑ Definitions of a Black Belt region vary.
- ❑ In 2008, Congress created the Southeast Crescent Commission.
- ❑ The Southeastern Crescent region includes all counties not part of an existing high need region that in one of seven states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.



# Black Belt/Southeast Crescent Region



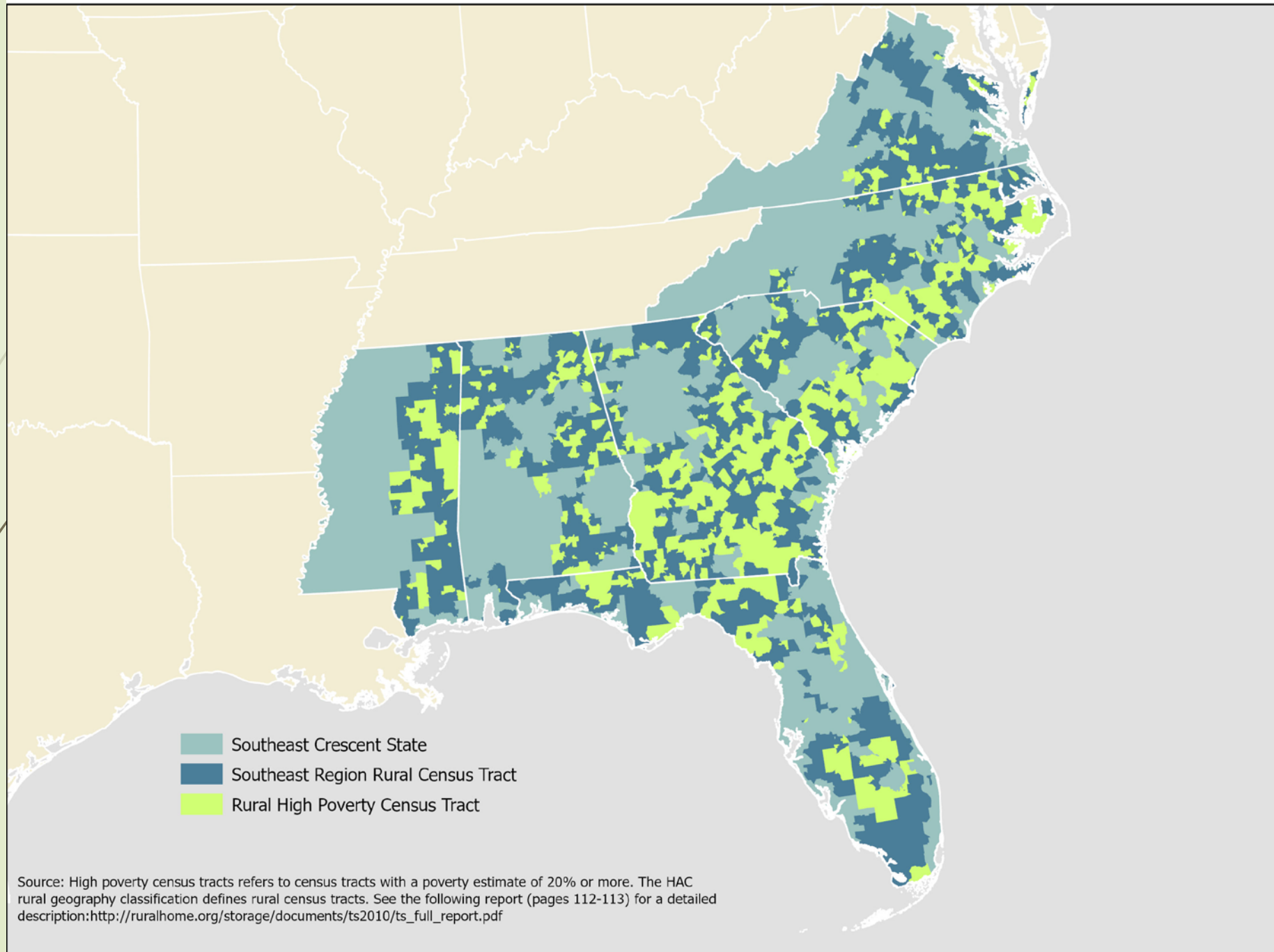
Source: Blackbelt region definition follows the approach used Ronald C. Wimberley and Libby V. Morris. See Wimberly, Ronald and Libby Morris. 1996. The Reference Book on Regional Wellbeing: U.S. Regions, the Black Belt and Appalachia. Report accessed 4-5-2021 from the following url:<https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED403098>. Southeast Crescent commission defines the area as counties within this 7 state area that are not part of another region/commission (Central Appalachia or Mississippi Delta).



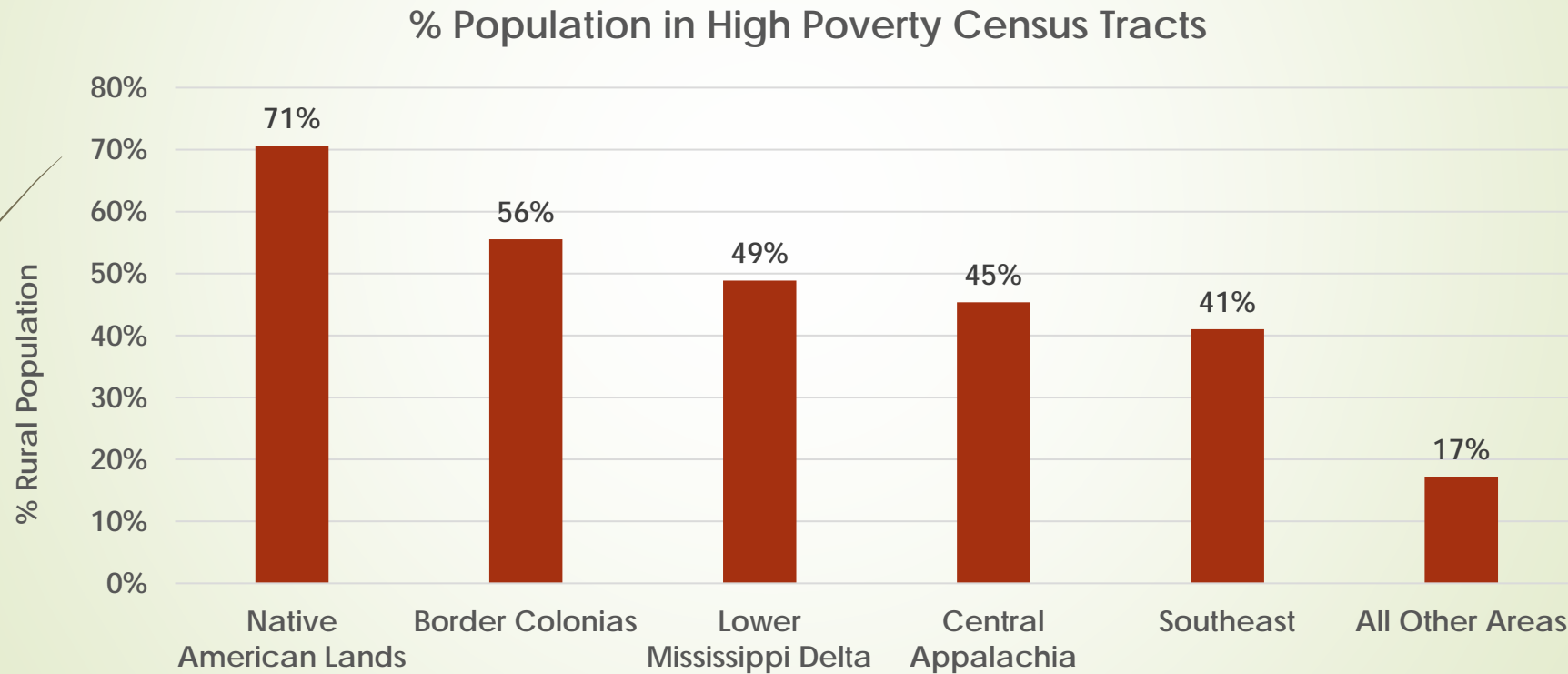
# Definition

- Use framework from Southeast Crescent Commission
  - Seven state region of southeast
  - Exclude counties already part of a defined high-need region (Central Appalachia and Lower Mississippi Delta)
- Focus on Rural and High Poverty Areas
  - Use census tract geography
  - Rurality measured based on housing unit density and commuting patterns
  - High poverty defined as census tracts with poverty rates of 20% or more

# Rural Southeast Region



# Population Living in High Poverty Census Tracts





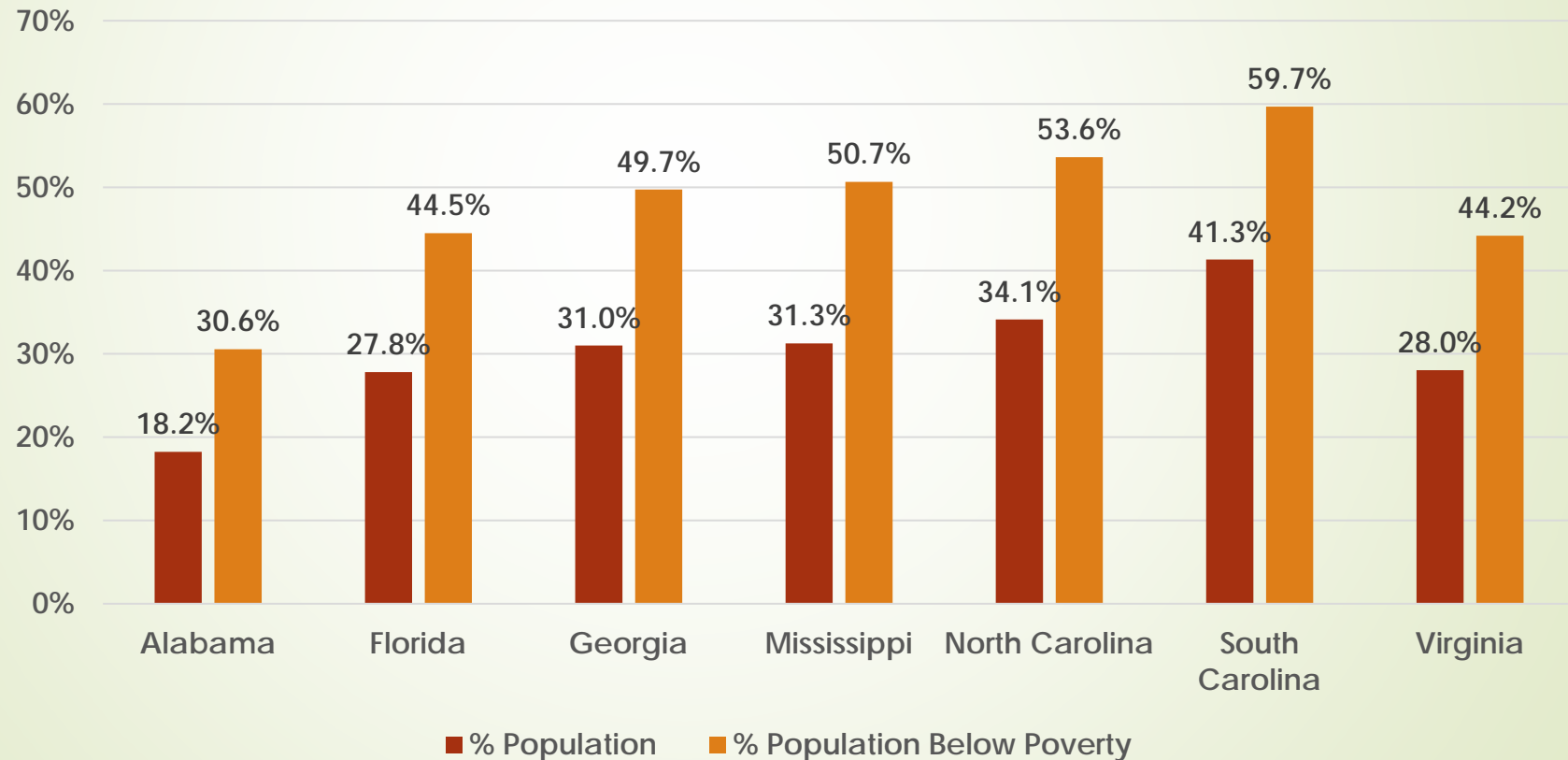


# Non-White Populations

Rural Area	Largest Non-White Population	Percent of Population
Border Colonia	Hispanic/Latino	65%
Native American Lands	Native American	60%
Lower Mississippi Delta	Black/African American	26%
Southeast	Black/African American	24%
Central Appalachia	Black/African American	3%
All Other	Hispanic/Latino	11%

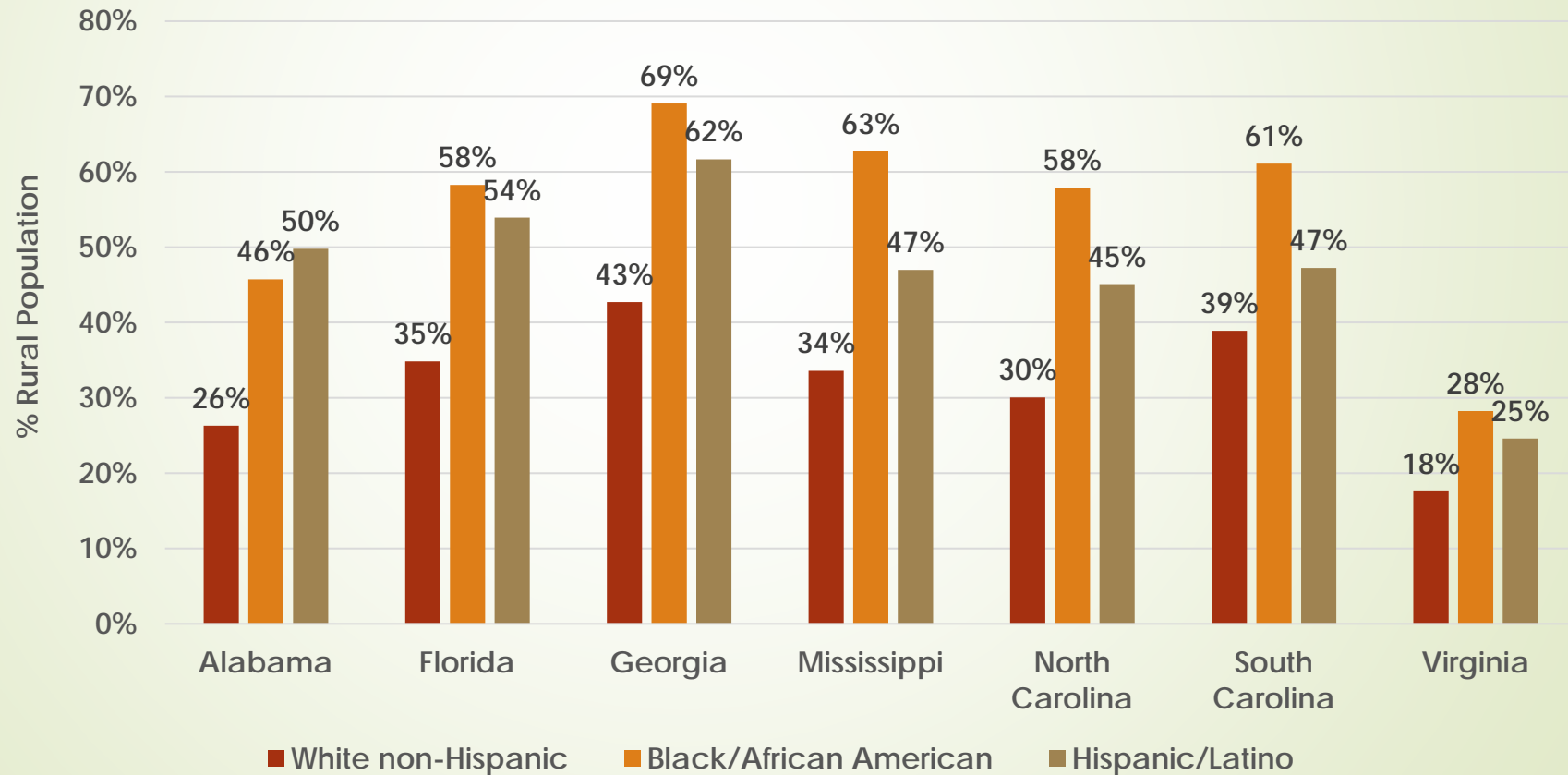
# Disproportionate Share of non-White People in Poverty

Black/African American and Hispanic-Latino Population, Rural Southeast



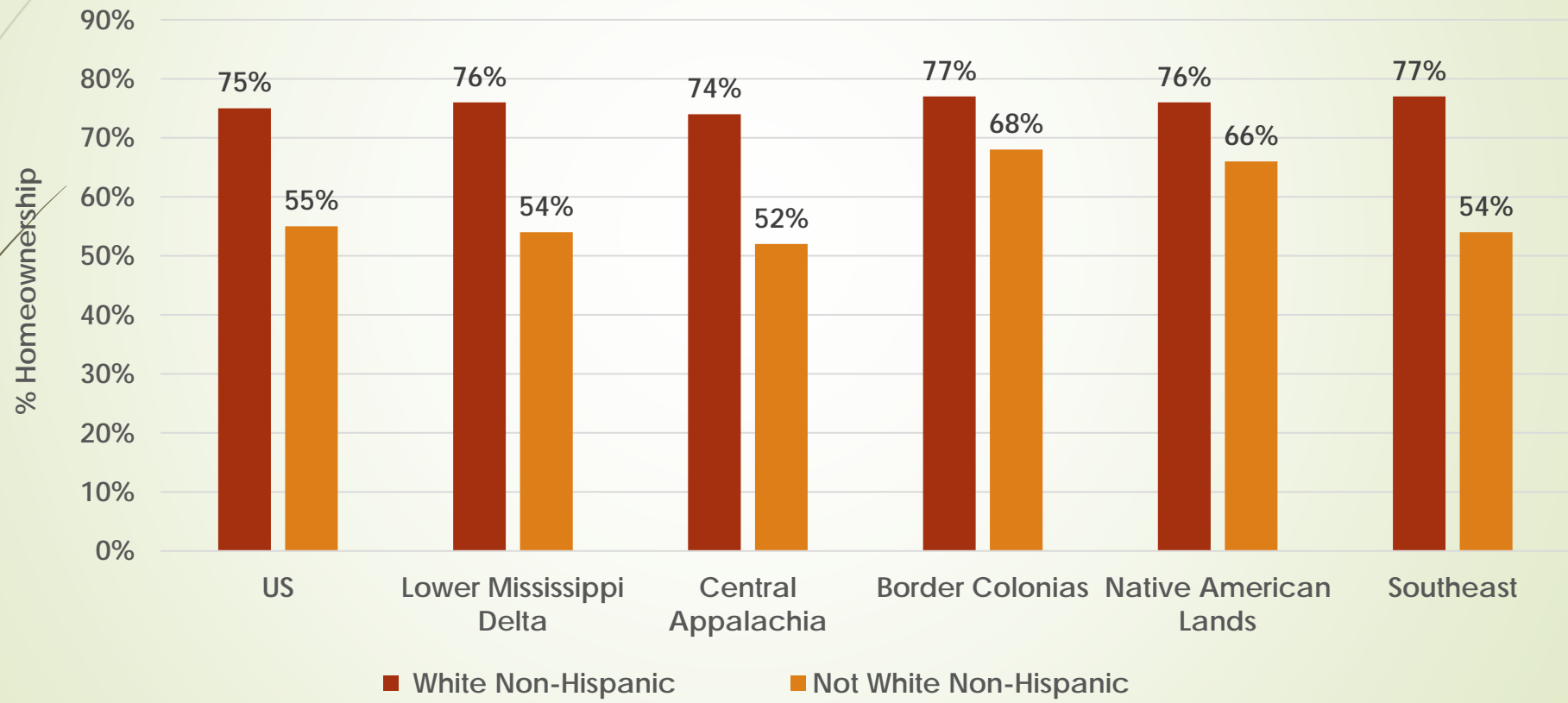
# Concentrations in High Poverty Census Tracts

By Race/Ethnicity, % of Population in High Poverty Census Tracts, Rural Southeast



# Housing Characteristics

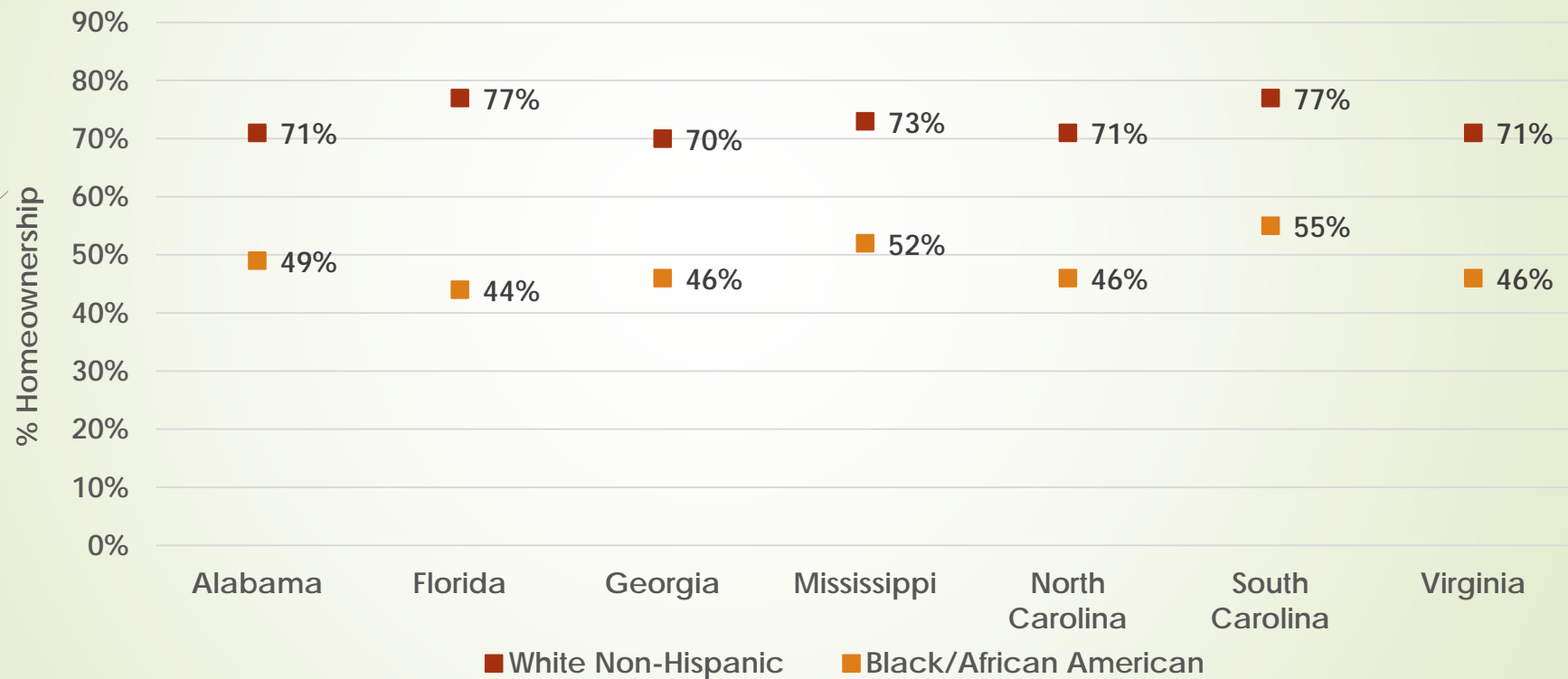
Rural Homeownership High-Need Regions





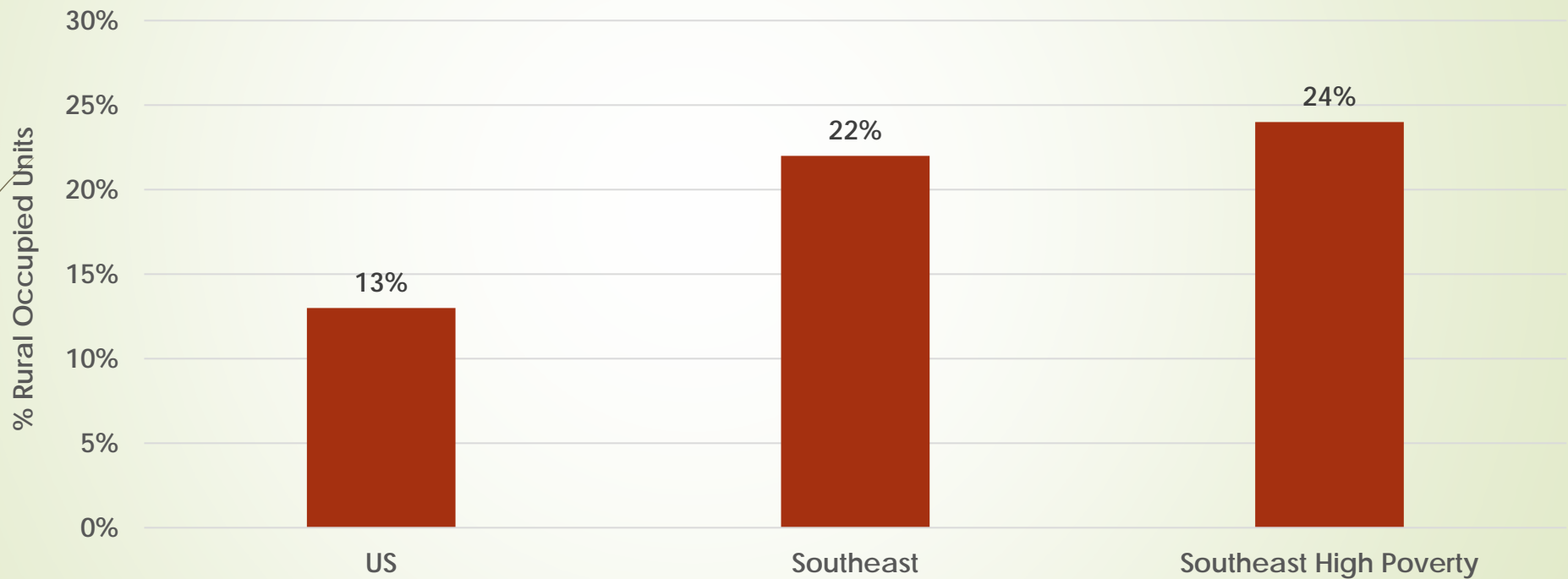
# Housing Characteristics

Homeownership in High Poverty Census Tracts, Rural Southeast

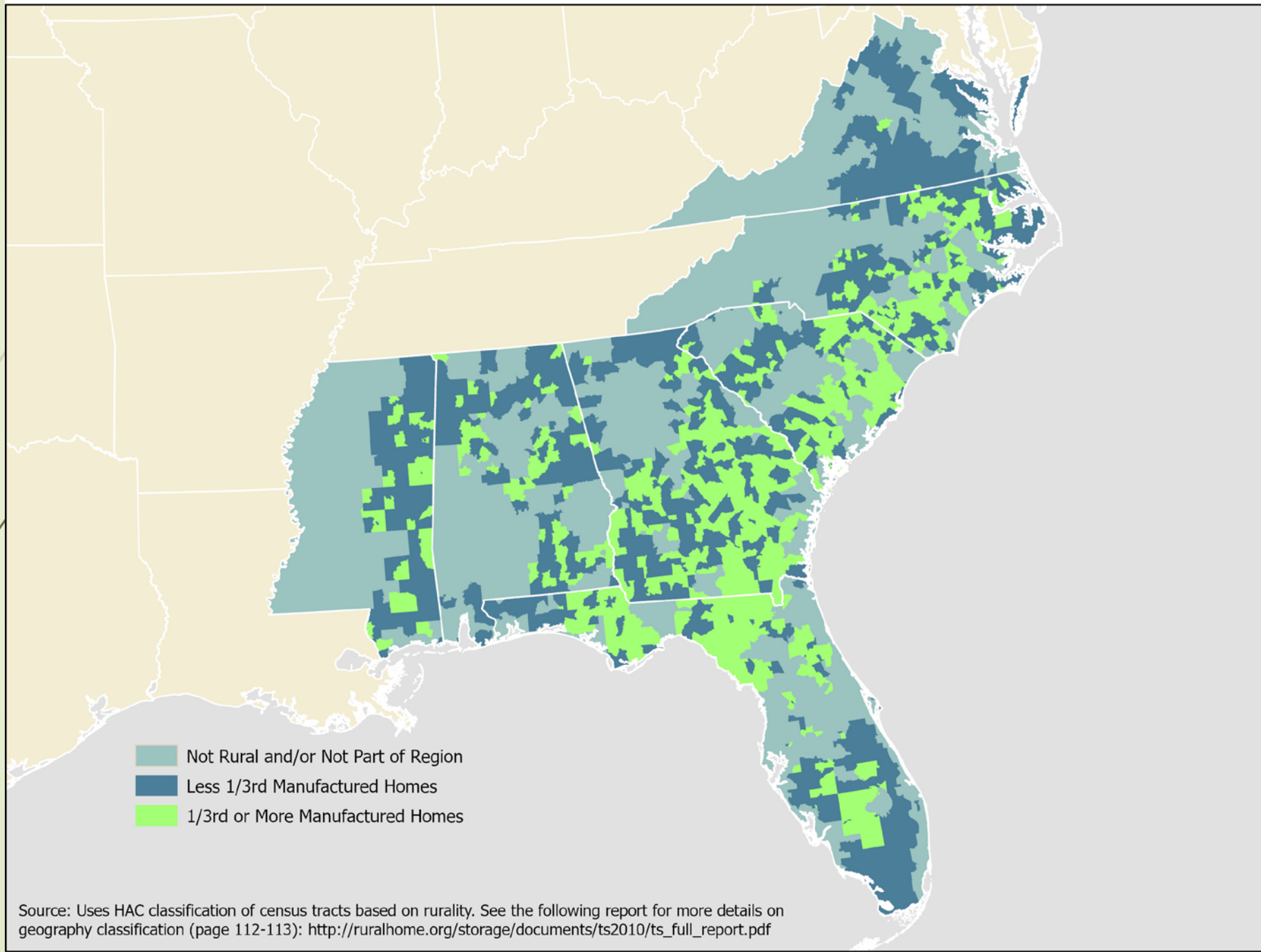


# Housing Characteristics

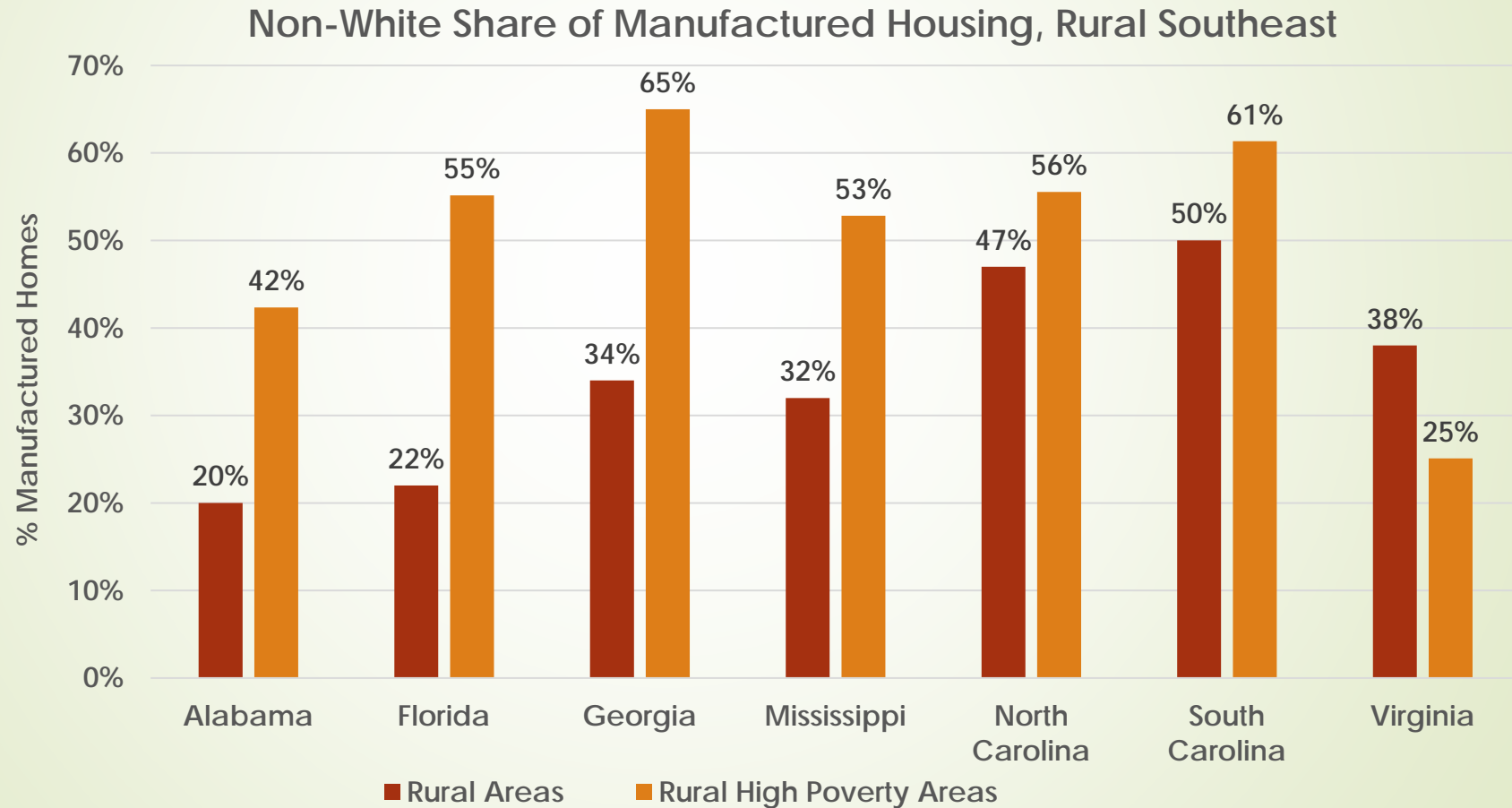
Manufactured Homes Share of Rural Housing Stock



# Prevalence of Manufactured Housing Rural Southeast

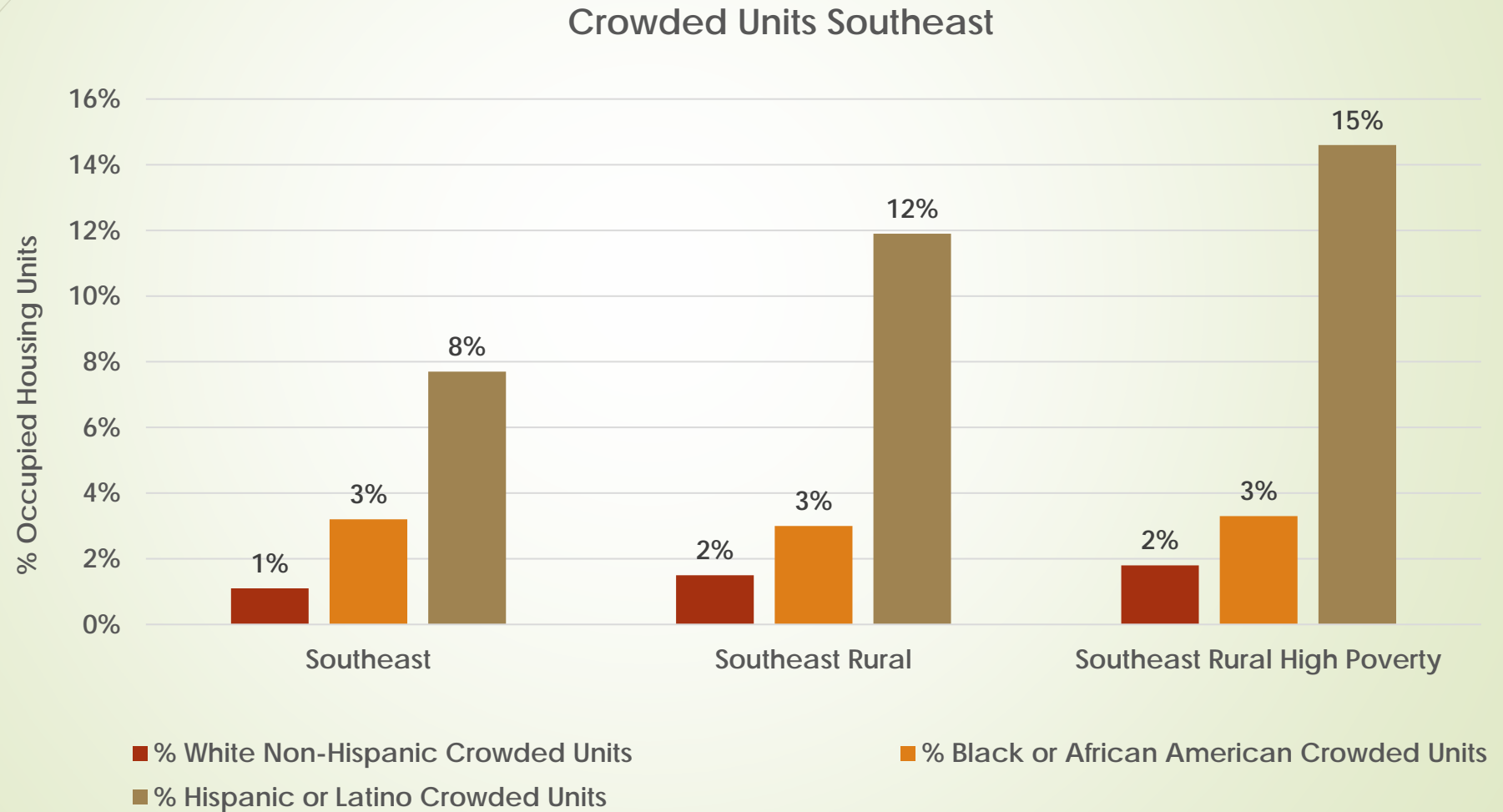


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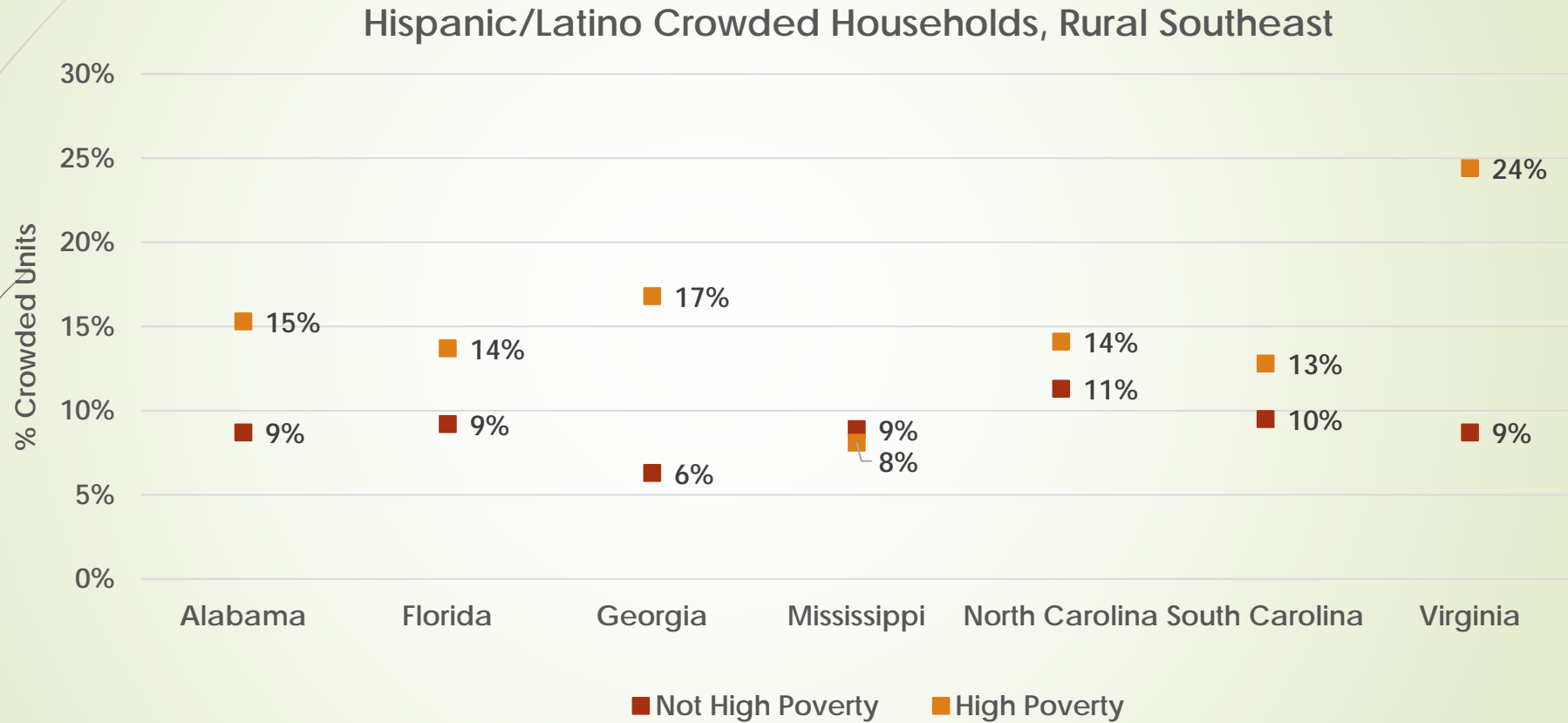




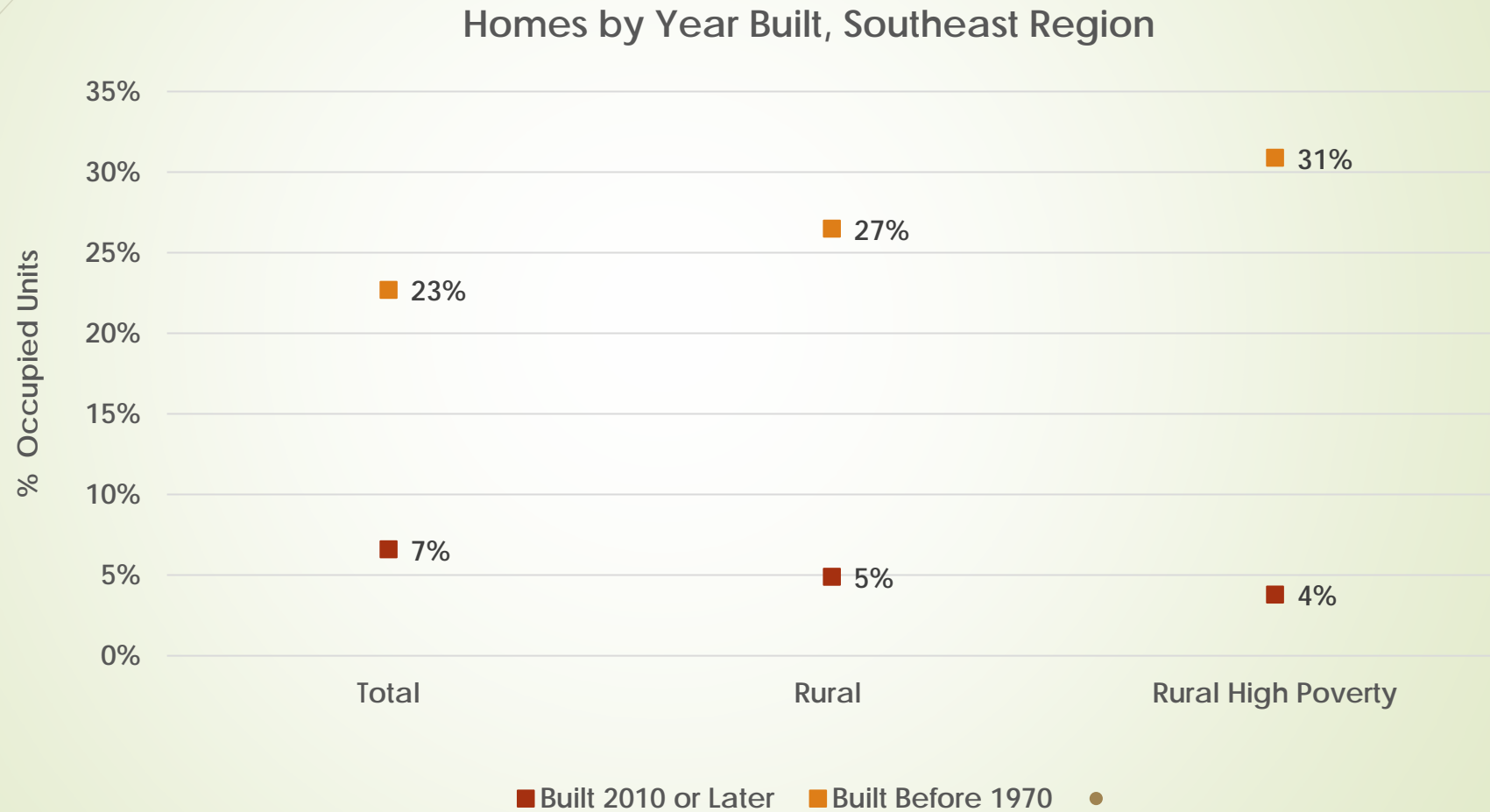
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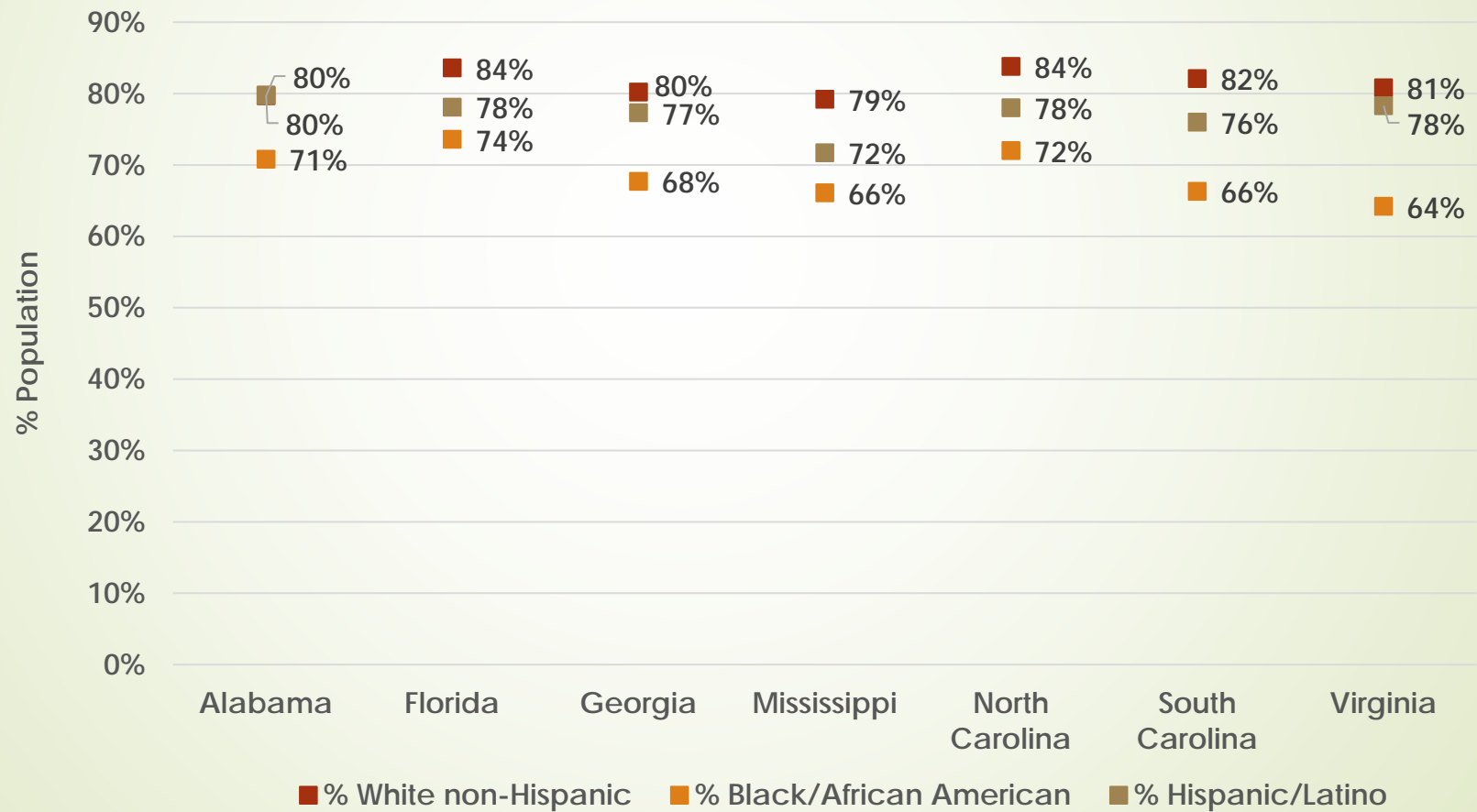


# Housing Characteristics



# Housing Characteristics

% Access to Computer and Broadband, Not High Poverty Rural Southeast







# Southeast Crescent Commission

- ❑ Established in 2008; however, there has never been an appointed federal co-chair and the commission is listed as inactive.
- ❑ Later in 2021, there is supposed to be appointment of a co-chair.
- ❑ Annual appropriation increased in 2021 from \$250,000 to with \$1 million.

# Resources/References

- Bishaw, Alemayehu. 2014. *Changes in Areas with Concentrated Poverty, 2000 to 2010*. U.S. Census Bureau. As of 5-17-2021, report accessible at the following url:  
[url:https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/2014/acs/acs-27.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/2014/acs/acs-27.pdf)
- Congressional Research Service. 2021. *Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities: Structural Feature and Function*. CRS Report R45997 (Last updated 4-29-2021): As of 5/17/2021, report accessible at the following url: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45997>
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[http://ruralhome.org/storage/documents/ts2010/ts\\_full\\_report.pdf](http://ruralhome.org/storage/documents/ts2010/ts_full_report.pdf)
- Wimberly, Ronald, C, Libby V. Morris and Rosalind Harris. 2014. *A Federal Commission for the Black Belt South. Professional Agricultural Workers Journal* 2(1);,1:9. As of 5/17/2014,report accessible at the following url: [A Federal Commission for the Black Belt South \(tuskegee.edu\)](http://tuskegee.edu/~blackbelt/)
- Wimberly, Ronald, C and Libby V. Morris. 1996. *The Reference Book on Regional Well-Being: US Regions, Black Belt and Central Appalachia*. As of 5-17-2021, report accessible at the following url:  
[ERIC - ED403098 - The Reference Book on Regional Well-Being: U.S. Regions, the Black Belt, Appalachia., 1996-Nov](https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED403098)