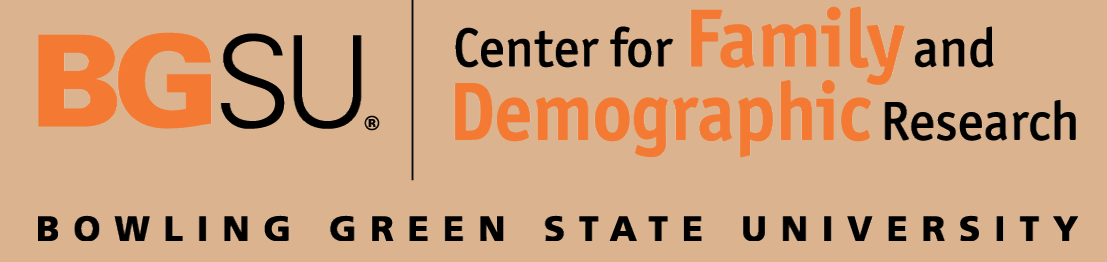


The Geography of Marriage & Divorce in the U. S.: Correlates & Spatial Variation

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Introduction

Rapid family change has occurred, but has not been charted at the local level. National trends mask important spatial differences in marriage and divorce (Lesthaghe and Neidert 2006).

Research Questions

1. What characteristics of counties are related to marriage and divorce rates?
2. What would county rates be if we gave low rate counties the characteristics of high rate counties and vice versa?

Data Sources

- NCFMR County-Level Marriage and Divorce Data
 - County-level counts of marriages and divorces occurring in 2010
- Other Administrative Data
 - CQ Press U.S. Political Stats Database
 - Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data: County-Level Detailed Arrest and Offense Data, 2009
 - U.S. Religion Census, 2010
- Census Data
 - American Community Survey (ACS) 5 yr. est., 2011
 - Decennial Census, 2010
 - Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) Program

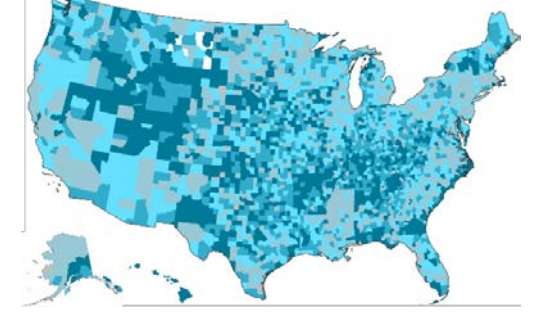
Adjusted Marriage & Divorce Rates

Adjusted Marriage Rate = Number of People Who Married / (Number of People Who Married + Single Population) X 1,000

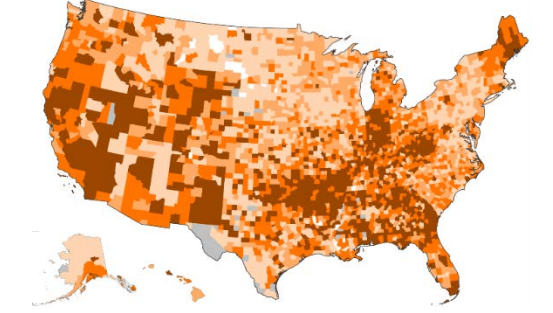
Adjusted Divorce Rate = Number of People Who Divorced / (Number of People Who Divorced + Married Population) X 1,000

Spatial Variation in Rates

Adj. Marriage Rate



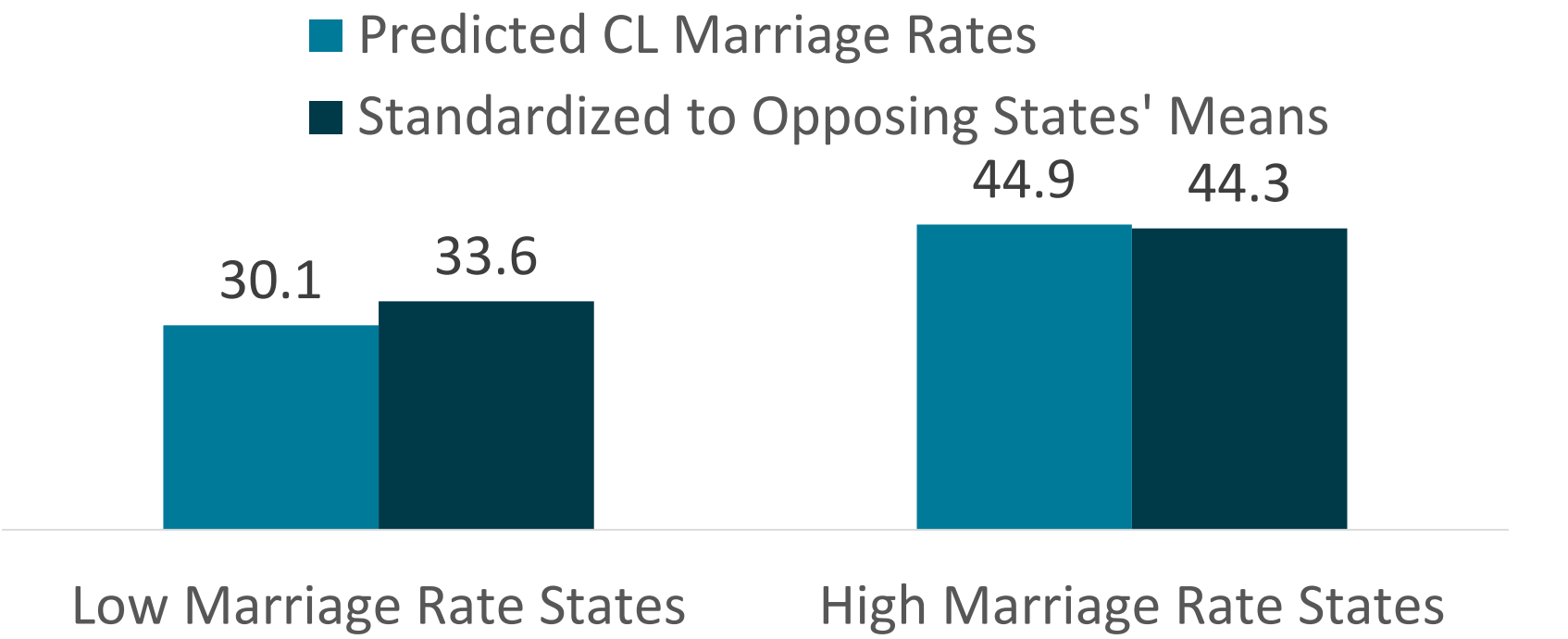
Adj. Divorce Rate



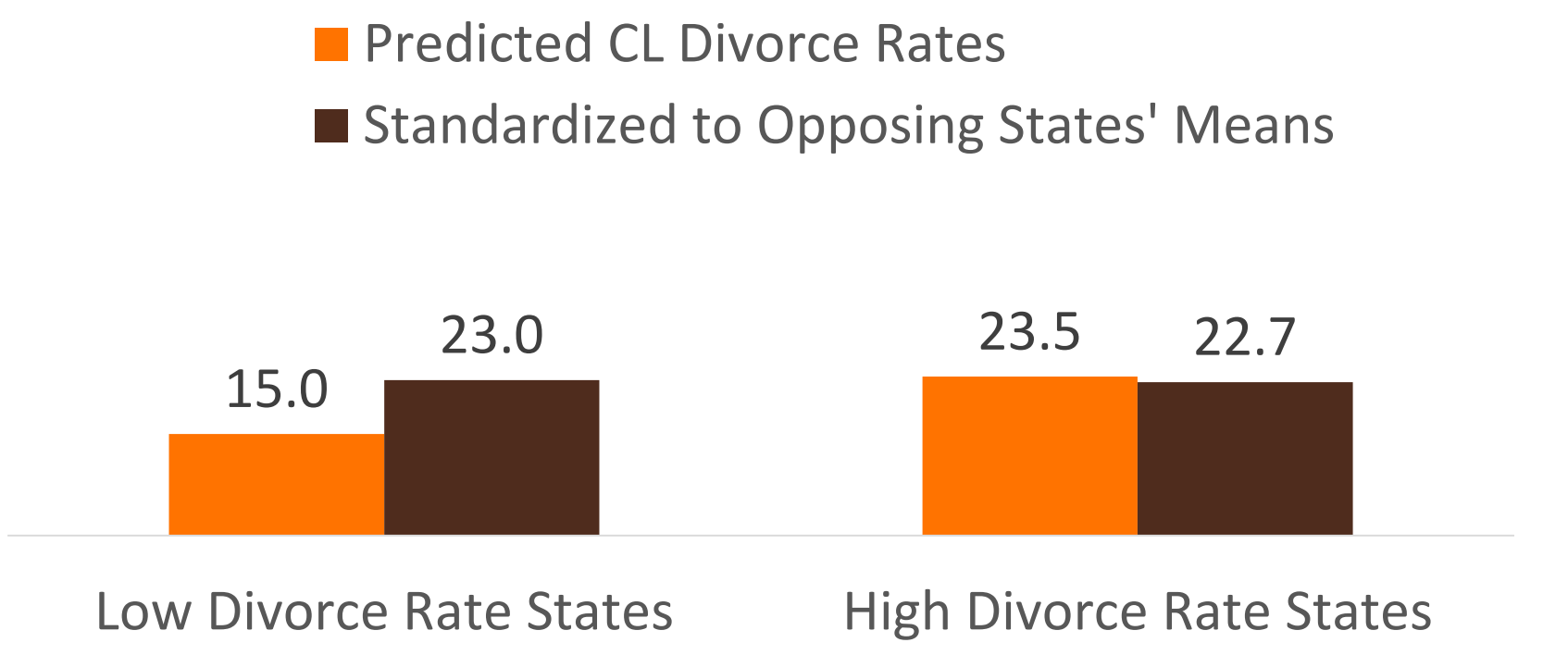
Standardization Results

Marriage in low marriage rate states is not sensitive to compositional factors, but county-level divorce in low divorce states is.

Adj. Marriage Rate



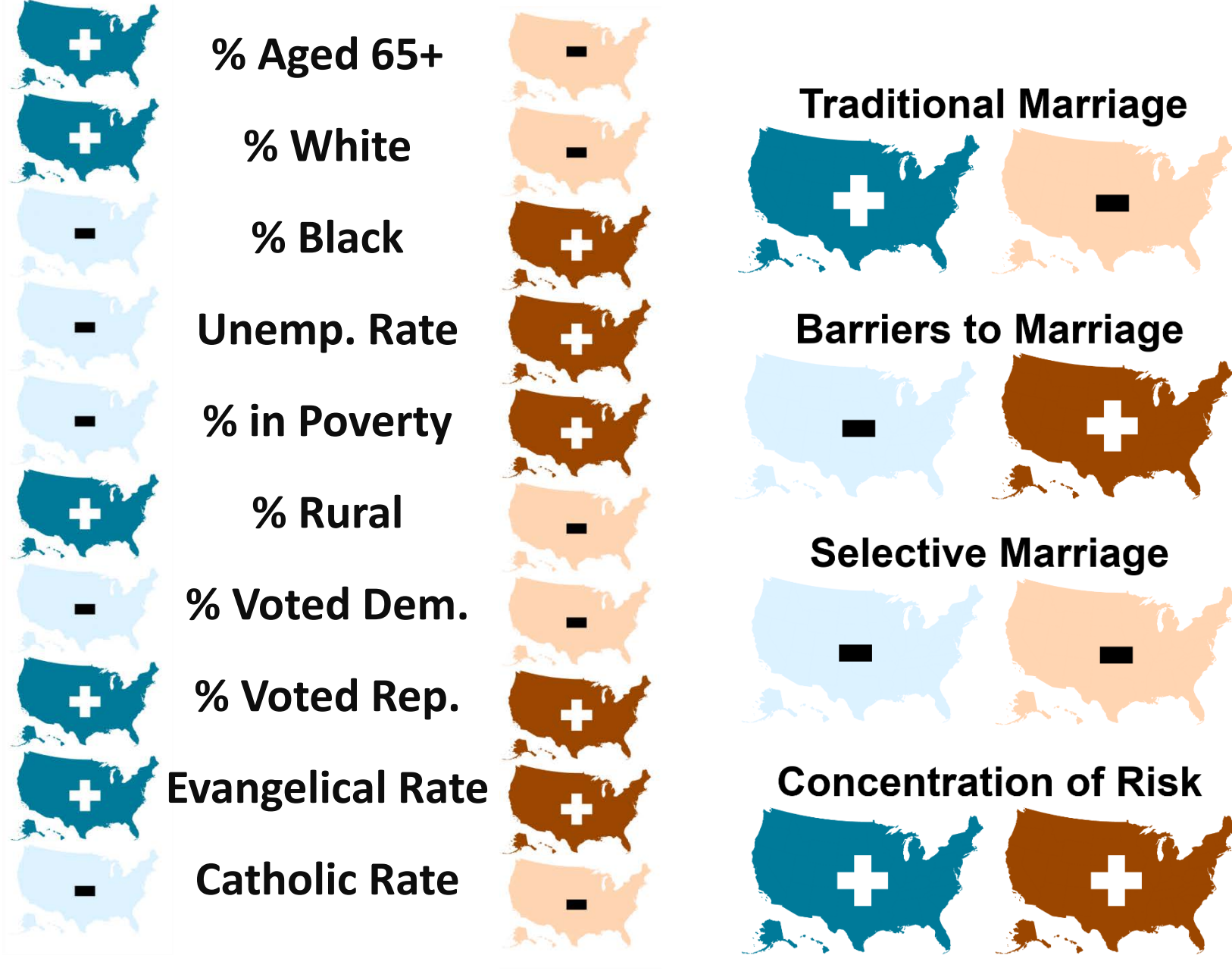
Adj. Divorce Rate



Correlation Results

Adj. Marriage Rate

Adj. Divorce Rate



- Spearman correlations w/ Bonferroni adjustment
- Presenting indicators significantly correlated with both marriage and divorce rates
 - Correlations presented are significant at $p < .001$ level
- One indicator—voting "Other"—was positively correlated with marriage only
- Many indicators were correlated with divorce only:
 - Educational attainment (-)
 - Income (-)
 - Inequality (+)
 - Rent (+)
 - Housing density (+)
 - Mainline Protestant rate (-)
 - Crime (+)

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