

# Recent Population Trends for the U.S. Island Areas: 2000 to 2010

*Special Studies*

## Current Population Reports

By Justyna Goworowska and Steven Wilson

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**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
**Penny Pritzker,**  
Secretary

**Bruce H. Andrews,**  
Deputy Secretary

**Economics and Statistics Administration**  
**Mark Doms,**  
Under Secretary for Economic Affairs

**U.S. CENSUS BUREAU**  
**John Thompson,**  
Director

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### **Economics and Statistics Administration**

**Mark Doms,**  
Under Secretary for Economic Affairs



### **U.S. CENSUS BUREAU**

**John Thompson,**  
Director

**Nancy A. Potok,**  
Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer

**Enrique Lamas,**  
Associate Director for Demographic Programs

**Karen Humes,**  
Chief, Population Division

## INTRODUCTION

This report examines the U.S. Island Areas and their changing population dynamics.<sup>1</sup> In 2010, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the U.S. Virgin Islands had a combined population of roughly 375,000, about two-thirds the size of Wyoming, the state with the smallest population. They are geographically dispersed, located in the western Pacific, the South Pacific, and the Caribbean. The people of the Island Areas are as diverse as the locations of the islands themselves.

The report defines the Island Areas and presents their population characteristics for the three most recent census years, with a particular focus on Census 2000 and the 2010 Census. Projections data from the U.S. Census Bureau's International Data Base are incorporated to provide a look into the future of the Island Areas' populations. The report also provides information on the 2010 Island Area Censuses.

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<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Island Areas are American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico, a territory of the United States, is not considered a U.S. Island Area.

## UNDERSTANDING THE MAPS

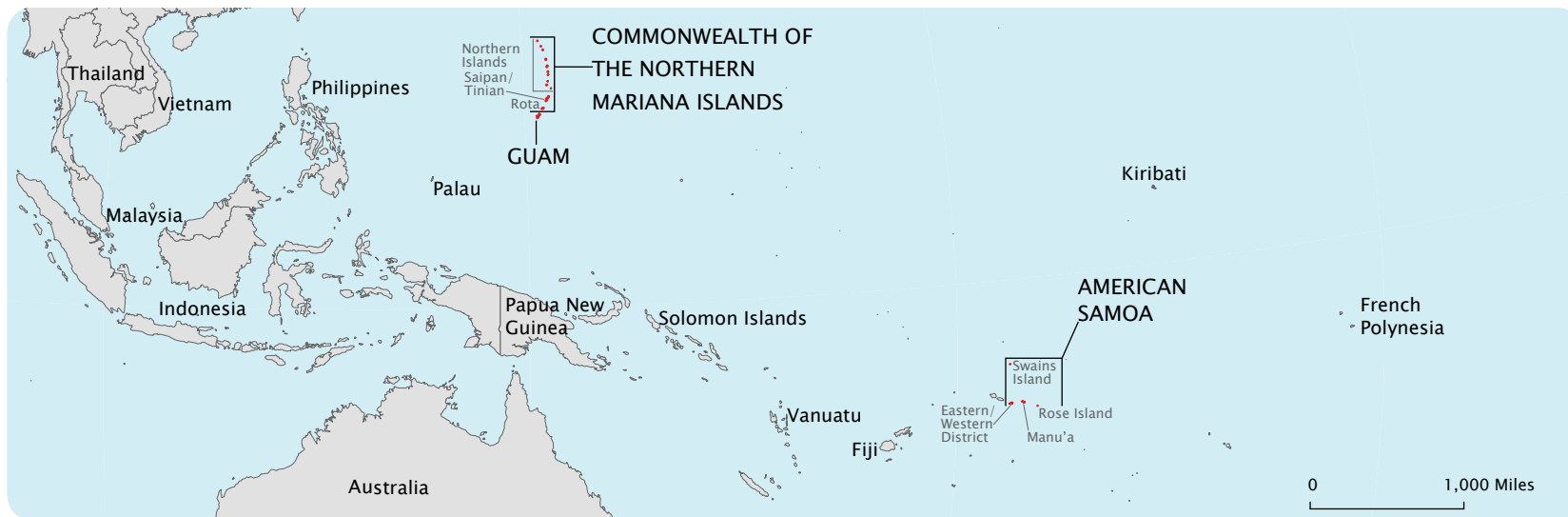
The maps in this report use a multiframe design, placing each island in its own data frame. In addition, to enable comparisons among islands, scale bars maintain the same length on each map but portray varying distance. In other words, that same one-inch scale bar may represent 3 miles on Saipan and Tinian, but represents 40 miles in the Northern Islands Municipality. This feature allows the reader to compare relative size of each island and gives an idea of overall scale. In addition, the reference maps (Figures 2–5) list both the island name (in uppercase letters) and the administrative unit name (in italics).

Two types of thematic maps are used in the report: choropleth maps and proportional symbol maps. Proportional symbol maps show numbers of people or other quantities, with a larger symbol size indicating higher data values. The symbols show geographic area totals and are placed at the centers of those areas. In areas of high symbol density, smaller symbols are placed on top of larger ones, but some symbols may be hidden. Quantitative choropleth maps are used in this report to show derived values such as percentages and medians. Colors fill geographic areas to represent data values, and areas are shaded so that as the data values increase—or, on some maps, decrease—the color becomes darker and more intense. In qualitative choropleth maps, colors fill geographic areas to show data organized into categories. For instance, the colors of areas indicate which race or ethnic-origin group had the largest population. Different hues are used rather than shades of one color to avoid the impression of higher and lower values for the categories.

Figure 1.  
**Island Areas of the United States**



Figure 1.  
**Island Areas of the United States—Con.**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.



## THE 2010 ISLAND AREA CENSUSES

In addition to the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the Census Bureau takes censuses in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Island Areas. For the Island Areas, censuses are joint operations with the local governments, which conduct the censuses. The questionnaires frequently include modifications to help the federal and local governments better understand the populations being counted.<sup>2</sup>

The Census Bureau treats the Island Areas as entities that are statistically equivalent to states for data presentation purposes; data for the Island Areas, however, are typically presented separately from data for the United States and Puerto Rico.<sup>3</sup>

For the 2010 Census, the Island Areas were the only areas that used “long-form” questionnaires, containing detailed person and housing items, to collect data, while the mainland used a short-form questionnaire with 10 questions.

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from the Census Bureau Island Areas history page: <[www.census.gov/history/www/programs/geography/island\\_areas.html](http://www.census.gov/history/www/programs/geography/island_areas.html)>.

<sup>3</sup> 2010 Census American Samoa Summary File Technical Documentation, Appendix A “Geographic Terms and Concepts,” “Island Areas of the United States,” pages A-11 to A-13, <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sfas.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sfas.pdf)>.

The American Community Survey collects similar “long-form” content for the U.S. mainland. In addition, the Island Area Censuses were 100-percent count, not a sample. Language guides and/or promotional materials were locally translated into different languages reflecting the diversity of the Island Areas’ population.<sup>4</sup>

## GEOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

The Island Areas of the United States can be subdivided into two groups according to their geographic location: American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), all located in the Pacific Ocean and referred to as Pacific Islands; and the U.S. Virgin Islands, located in the Caribbean (Figure 1).

American Samoa is an unorganized and unincorporated territory of the United States, lying in

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<sup>4</sup> 2010 Census Island Areas Assessment: Preparing for and Conducting the Field Operations: <[www.census.gov/2010census/pdf/2010\\_Census\\_Island\\_Areas\\_Assessment.pdf](http://www.census.gov/2010census/pdf/2010_Census_Island_Areas_Assessment.pdf)>.

the South Pacific (Figure 1—Con.).<sup>5,6</sup> It consists of five major volcanic islands (Tutuila, Aunu’u, Ofu, Olosega, and Ta’u) and two coral atolls (Swains Island and Rose Island) that lie in the heart of Polynesia, about halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand (Figure 2). Its capital is Pago Pago, located in the Eastern District of Tutuila Island. American Samoa is the only inhabited U.S. jurisdiction that lies south of the Equator.

Guam is an organized, unincorporated territory of the United States and is located in the western Pacific Ocean.<sup>7</sup> It is the largest and southernmost island of a chain of volcanic islands in a part of Micronesia known as the Marianas Archipelago (Figures 1—Con. and 3). Hagåtña is the capital of Guam.

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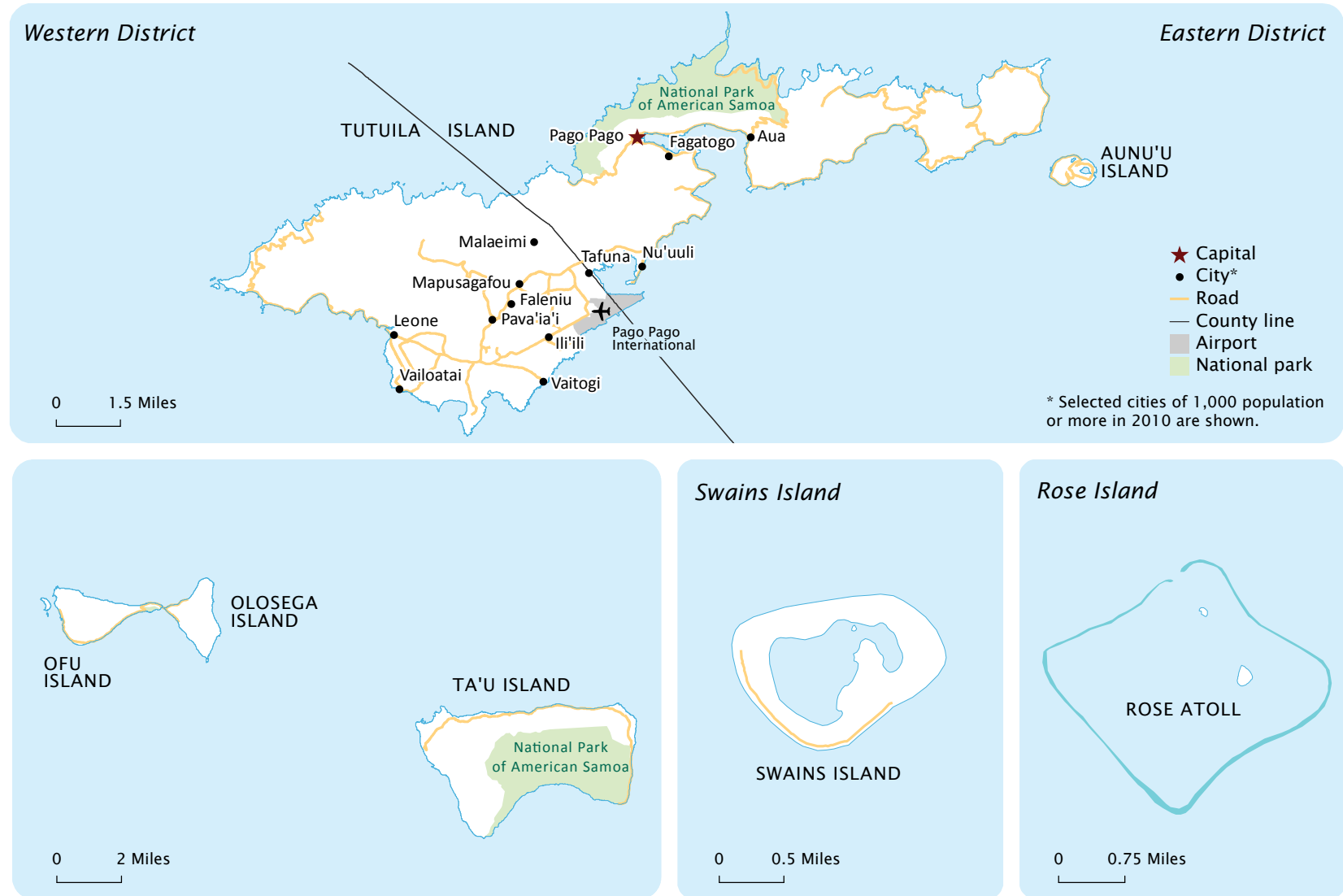
<sup>5</sup> Unorganized is defined as land under the sovereignty of the federal government (but not part of any state) for which Congress has not passed an Organic Act. An Organic Act is defined as the body of laws that the U.S. Congress has enacted for the government of a United States insular area; it usually includes a bill of rights and the establishment and conditions of the insular area’s tripartite government.

<sup>6</sup> Unincorporated territories are areas controlled by the U.S. government, “where fundamental rights apply as a matter of law, but other constitutional rights are not available,” General Accounting Office, “U.S. Insular Areas Application of the U.S. Constitution” <[www.gao.gov/archive/1998/og98005.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/archive/1998/og98005.pdf)>.

<sup>7</sup> Organized is defined as land under the sovereignty of the federal government (but not part of any state) that is given a measure of self-rule by the Congress through an Organic Act.



Figure 2.  
**American Samoa and County Equivalents: 2010**

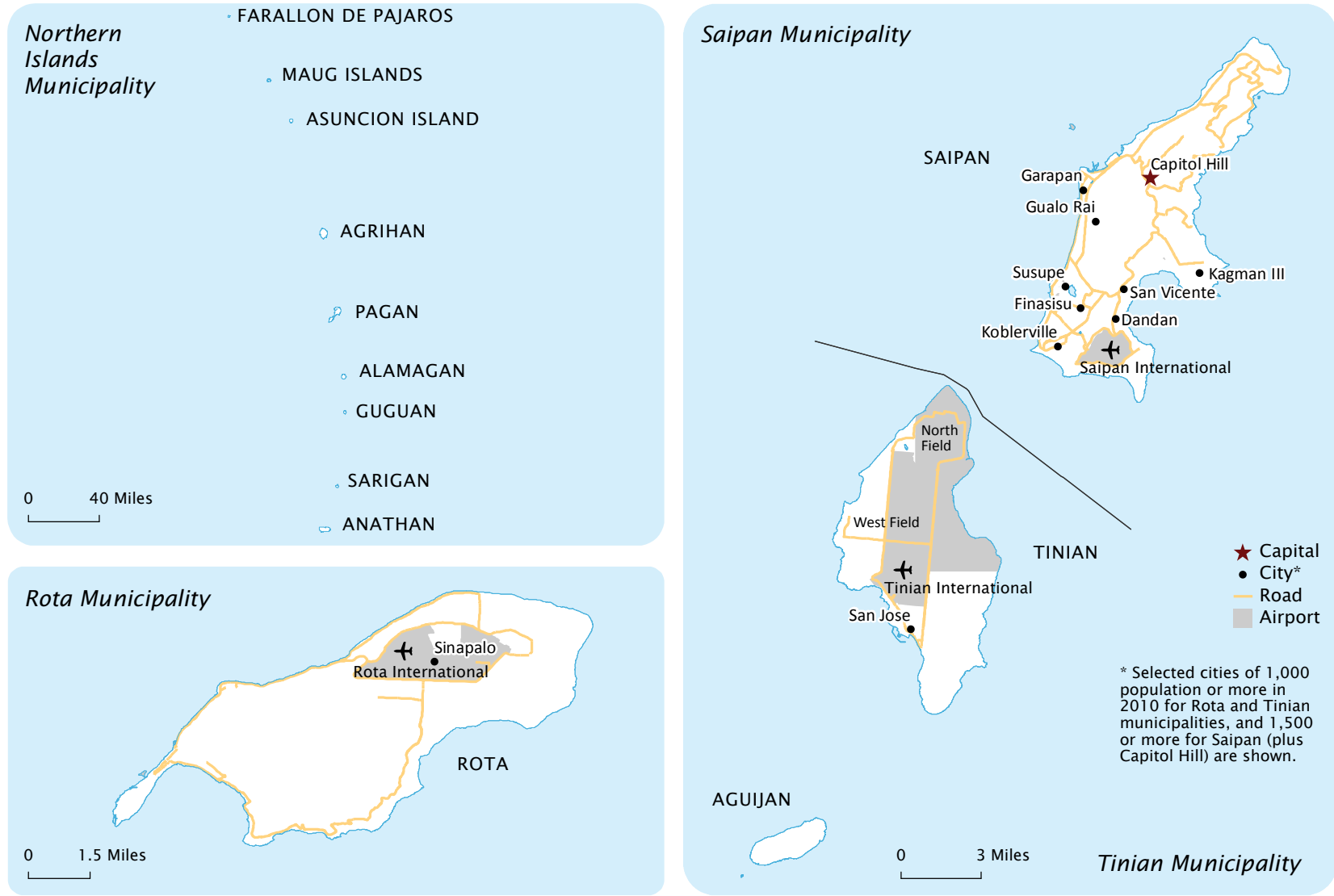


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census for American Samoa.

Figure 3.  
**Guam: 2010**



Figure 4.  
**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and County Equivalents: 2010**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Figure 5.  
**U.S. Virgin Islands and County Equivalents: 2010**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI or Northern Mariana Islands), which, like Guam, is part of Micronesia, consists of three main islands—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota—and several small islands and atolls (Figure 4). The islands that constitute CNMI encompass some 430 miles from Rota in the south to Uracus Island (Farallon de Pajaros) in the north and are located just north of Guam. Saipan lies about 125 miles northeast of Guam, while southernmost Rota is less than 50 miles from Guam. The lightly populated Northern Islands stretch over some 300 miles of the Pacific. Capitol Hill, located on the island of Saipan, is the capital of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Virgin Islands of the United States is an organized, unincorporated territory of the United States located immediately east of Puerto Rico (Figure 1—Con.). Although more than 50 separate islands and cays constitute this westernmost island group of the Lesser Antilles, only three have a substantial size and population: St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John (Figure 5).<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The populations of the lesser islands are included in the population counts for St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix Islands. For more information, see Chapter 7 on “Puerto Rico and the Outlying Areas” of the *Geographic Areas Reference Manual*, <[www.census.gov/geo/reference/pdfs/GARM/Ch7GARM.pdf](http://www.census.gov/geo/reference/pdfs/GARM/Ch7GARM.pdf)>.

Charlotte Amalie, located on St. Thomas Island, is the capital of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

### POPULATION SIZE

Two of the Island Areas, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands, had 2010 populations greater than 100,000, while the other two, American Samoa and CNMI, slightly exceeded 50,000 people (Table 1).

All four Island Areas gained population between 1990 and 2000, whereas a majority declined in population in the following decade, between 2000 and 2010. Table 1 shows population counts for the three most recent censuses and population change for the Island Areas and their county equivalents (first-order subdivisions).

Guam was the most populous Island Area of the United States, with more than 150,000 inhabitants in 2010. As data from the last three censuses show, Guam has consistently been the most populous Island Area and has continued to grow each decade. Between 2000 and 2010, Guam gained more than 4,500 people, a 2.9 percent change, and was the only Island Area to gain population in this period. Between 1990 and 2000, Guam added more than 20,000 residents, which accounted for a 16.3 percent increase. According to population projections from the International Data Base, Guam will continue to

grow, with a 5.6 percent projected population increase between 2010 and 2020 (Figure 6).

The U.S. Virgin Islands were the second most populous, with more than 100,000 residents, nearly equally distributed between St. Thomas and St. Croix Islands. St. John Island had roughly 4,000 inhabitants, as most of the island is a national park (Figure 5). Between 2000 and 2010, the U.S. Virgin Islands lost 2.0 percent of their population, whereas in the previous decade they gained nearly 7,000 residents. This 6.7 percent rise in population between 1990 and 2000 was the smallest increase among all Island Areas for that decade. Looking ahead to 2020, the U.S. Virgin Islands are projected to decline in population by about 6 percent.

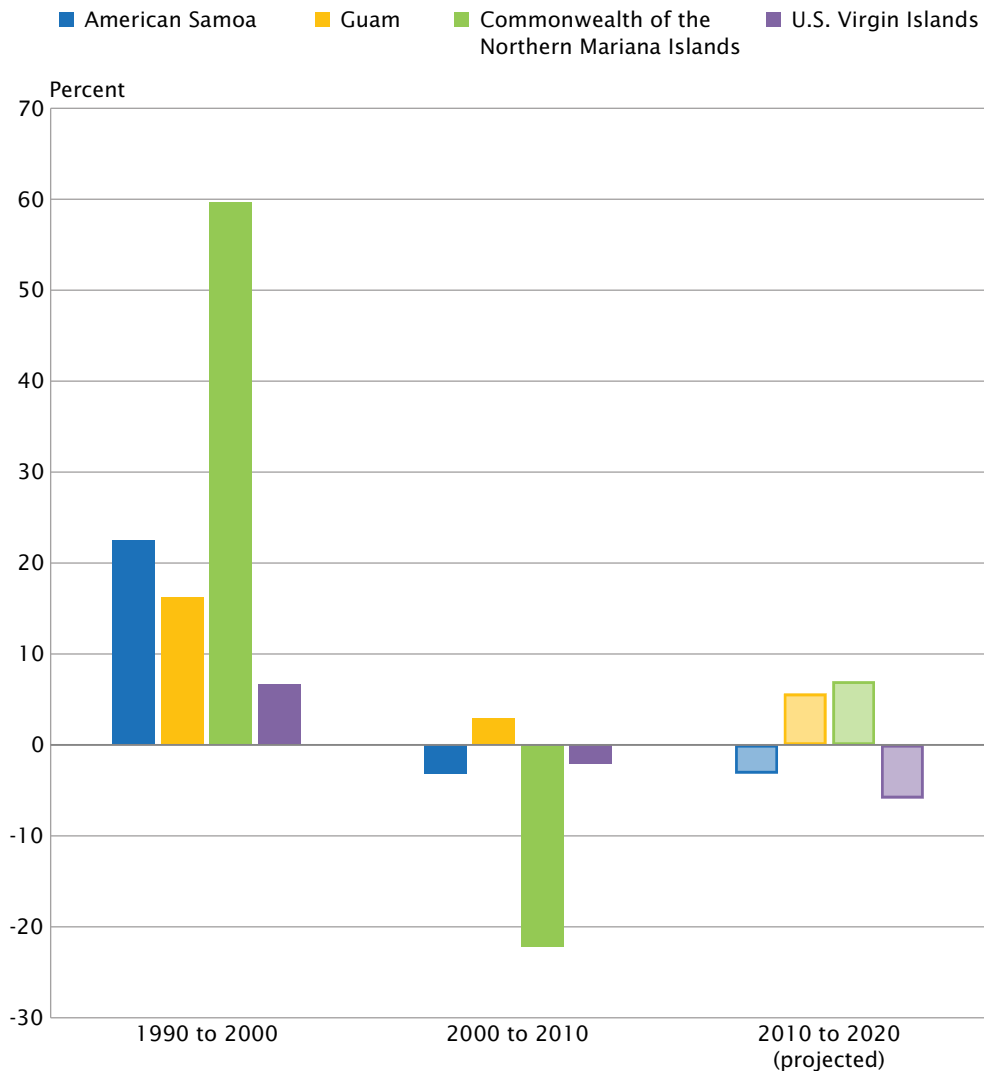
In 2010, American Samoa had the third-largest population among the Island Areas, with slightly more than 55,000 inhabitants. Most of the population was concentrated on Tutuila Island, home to Western and Eastern Districts (Figure 2). American Samoa experienced a 3.1 percent decrease in its population between 2000 and 2010 and is projected to continue to do so in 2020. In the previous decade, 1990 to 2000, American Samoa grew by 22.5 percent. Manu’a District was the only county equivalent in American Samoa that lost population between 1990 and 2000.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was smallest in population in 2010, with nearly 54,000 residents, most residing on the island of Saipan (Figure 4). Between 2000 and 2010, CNMI was the Island Area with the largest population loss, decreasing in population by more than 15,000, or 22.2 percent. This trend contrasted with the one in the previous decade, when CNMI's population increased by 59.7 percent, with a majority of the growth in Saipan Municipality. A population increase of 7 percent is projected for CNMI for the 2010–2020 decade.

In summary, three out of the four Island Areas lost population between 2000 and 2010, and Guam was the only one to record an increase in population. This contrasts with the 1990–2000 period, when all Island Areas grew in population and American Samoa, CNMI, and Guam experienced double-digit increases. According to population projections for the 2010–2020 decade, Guam and CNMI will see increases in their population, while American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands will experience population decreases.

Figure 6.

**Change in Population for U.S. Island Areas: 1990 to 2020**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census for American Samoa, Census 2000 for American Samoa, 2010 Census for American Samoa; 1990 Census for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Census 2000 for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, 2010 Census for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; 1990 Census for Guam, Census 2000 for Guam, 2010 Census for Guam; 1990 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands, Census 2000 for the U.S. Virgin Islands, 2010 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands; International Data Base for 2020.

Table 1.

**Population Change for Island Areas and County Equivalents: 1990 to 2010**

Area	Population			Change			
	1990	2000	2010	1990 to 2000		2000 to 2010	
				Number	Percent	Number	Percent
United States . . . . .	248,709,873	281,421,906	308,745,538	32,712,033	13.2	27,323,632	9.7
American Samoa . . . . .	46,773	57,291	55,519	10,518	22.5	-1,772	-3.1
Eastern District . . . . .	21,175	23,441	23,030	2,266	10.7	-411	-1.8
Manu'a District . . . . .	1,714	1,378	1,143	-336	-19.6	-235	-17.1
Rose Island . . . . .	0	0	0	0	X	0	X
Swains Island . . . . .	16	37	17	21	131.3	-20	-54.1
Western District . . . . .	23,868	32,435	31,329	8,567	35.9	-1,106	-3.4
Guam . . . . .	133,152	154,805	159,358	21,653	16.3	4,553	2.9
Guam Municipality . . . . .	133,152	154,805	159,358	21,653	16.3	4,553	2.9
Northern Mariana Islands . . . . .	43,345	69,221	53,883	25,876	59.7	-15,338	-22.2
Northern Islands Municipality . . . . .	36	6	0	-30	-83.3	-6	-100.0
Rota Municipality . . . . .	2,295	3,283	2,527	988	43.1	-756	-23.0
Saipan Municipality . . . . .	38,896	62,392	48,220	23,496	60.4	-14,172	-22.7
Tinian Municipality . . . . .	2,118	3,540	3,136	1,422	67.1	-404	-11.4
U.S. Virgin Islands . . . . .	101,809	108,612	106,405	6,803	6.7	-2,207	-2.0
St. Croix Island . . . . .	50,139	53,234	50,601	3,095	6.2	-2,633	-4.9
St. John Island . . . . .	3,504	4,197	4,170	693	19.8	-27	-0.6
St. Thomas Island . . . . .	48,166	51,181	51,634	3,015	6.3	453	0.9

X Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Census 2000, 2010 Census; 1990 Census for American Samoa, Census 2000 for American Samoa, 2010 Census for American Samoa; 1990 Census for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Census 2000 for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, 2010 Census for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; 1990 Census for Guam, Census 2000 for Guam, 2010 Census for Guam; 1990 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands, Census 2000 for the U.S. Virgin Islands, 2010 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND CHANGE**

To provide a better understanding of how the Island Areas populations are dispersed throughout the islands, Figure 7 shows the 2010 population distribution by county subdivision. The area of each diamond symbol is proportioned to the number of people in a county subdivision. The

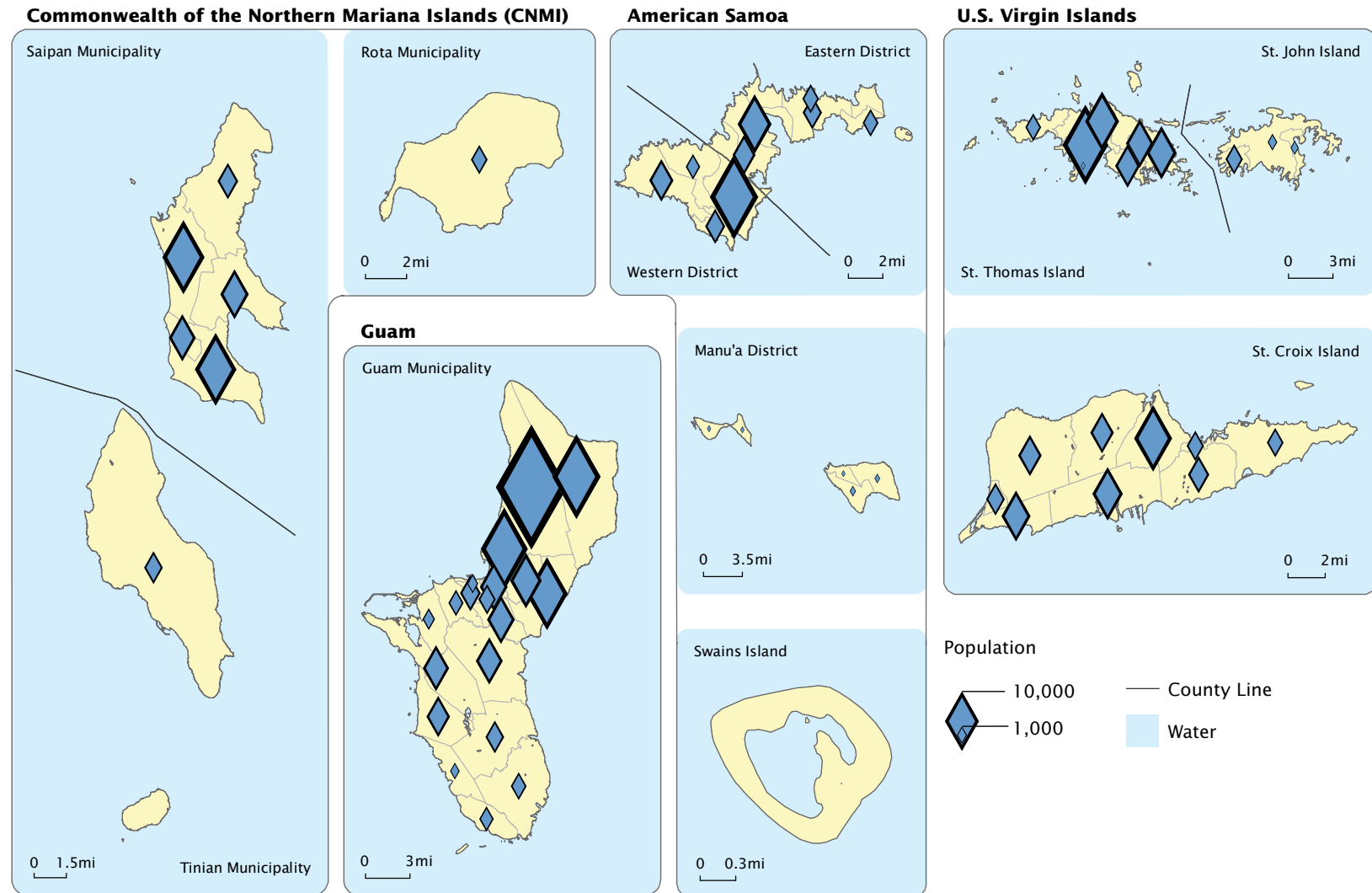
population of CNMI is mostly concentrated on the island of Saipan, especially along the western and southern coasts. On Tinian, most of the population is clustered around the city of Sinapalo. Guam's population is mostly concentrated in the north central part of the island, immediately south of Andersen Air Force Base. In American Samoa, a majority of the population lives on Tutuila Island, particularly in the central part of

the island and in the southeastern part of the Western District. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, the population of St. Croix is nearly evenly distributed across the island, but St. Thomas Island's population is concentrated in the central and eastern parts of that island. Small settlements can be seen around Cruz Bay and Coral Bay on St. John Island.



Figure 7.  
**Population Distribution by County Subdivision: 2010**

The area of each diamond symbol is proportional to the number of people in a county subdivision.  
 The legend shows sample symbol sizes.



Note: Northern Islands Municipality (CNMI) and Rose Island (American Samoa) are not included, as they were uninhabited in 2010.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census for American Samoa; 2010 Census for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; 2010 Census for Guam; 2010 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Figure 8 shows population change, in percent, between 2000 and 2010, for Island Area county subdivisions (county equivalent for CNMI). Every county equivalent area of CNMI lost population between the last two censuses. The losses were upwards of 20 percent, with the exception of Tinian (-11.4 percent). (Northern Islands Municipality was uninhabited in 2010, with a population of six in 2000.) Guam's population growth between 2000 and 2010 reveals a North-South divergence; its northern county subdivisions gained population, some even more than 10 percent, whereas the southern half of the island lost population. In essence, the most populated parts of Guam correspond with the highest growth areas. American Samoa saw a mix of population gains and losses among its county subdivisions, especially in Western and Eastern Districts, with losses in Swains Island and Manu'a District. (Rose Island was uninhabited in 2000 and 2010.) In the U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Croix Island saw a decline in population in all of its subdivisions, except for the easternmost one. St. Thomas saw most of its population gains in the northern part of the island, whereas St. John Island gained population in the area coextensive with the national park. It appears that the less populated county subdivisions of the U.S. Virgin Islands experienced a population increase, while the most populous parts saw a decrease.

Table 2.

**Population Density for Island Areas and County Equivalents: 2010**

Area	Population	Land area in square miles	Population density <sup>1</sup>
United States . . . . .	308,745,538	3,531,905.43	87.42
American Samoa . . . . .	55,519	76.46	726.16
Eastern District . . . . .	23,030	25.69	896.41
Manu'a District . . . . .	1,143	22.29	51.29
Rose Island . . . . .	0	0.03	0.00
Swains Island . . . . .	17	0.94	18.10
Western District . . . . .	31,329	27.51	1,138.98
Guam . . . . .	159,358	209.80	759.56
Guam Municipality . . . . .	159,358	209.80	759.56
Northern Mariana Islands . . . . .	53,883	182.33	295.53
Northern Islands Municipality . . . . .	0	61.79	0.00
Rota Municipality . . . . .	2,527	32.86	76.91
Saipan Municipality . . . . .	48,220	45.89	1,050.78
Tinian Municipality . . . . .	3,136	41.79	75.04
U.S. Virgin Islands . . . . .	106,405	134.32	792.17
St. Croix Island . . . . .	50,601	83.32	607.31
St. John Island . . . . .	4,170	19.69	211.77
St. Thomas Island . . . . .	51,634	31.31	1,649.09

<sup>1</sup> Population density expressed as average number of people per square mile.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, 2010 Census for American Samoa; 2010 Census for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; 2010 Census for Guam; 2010 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

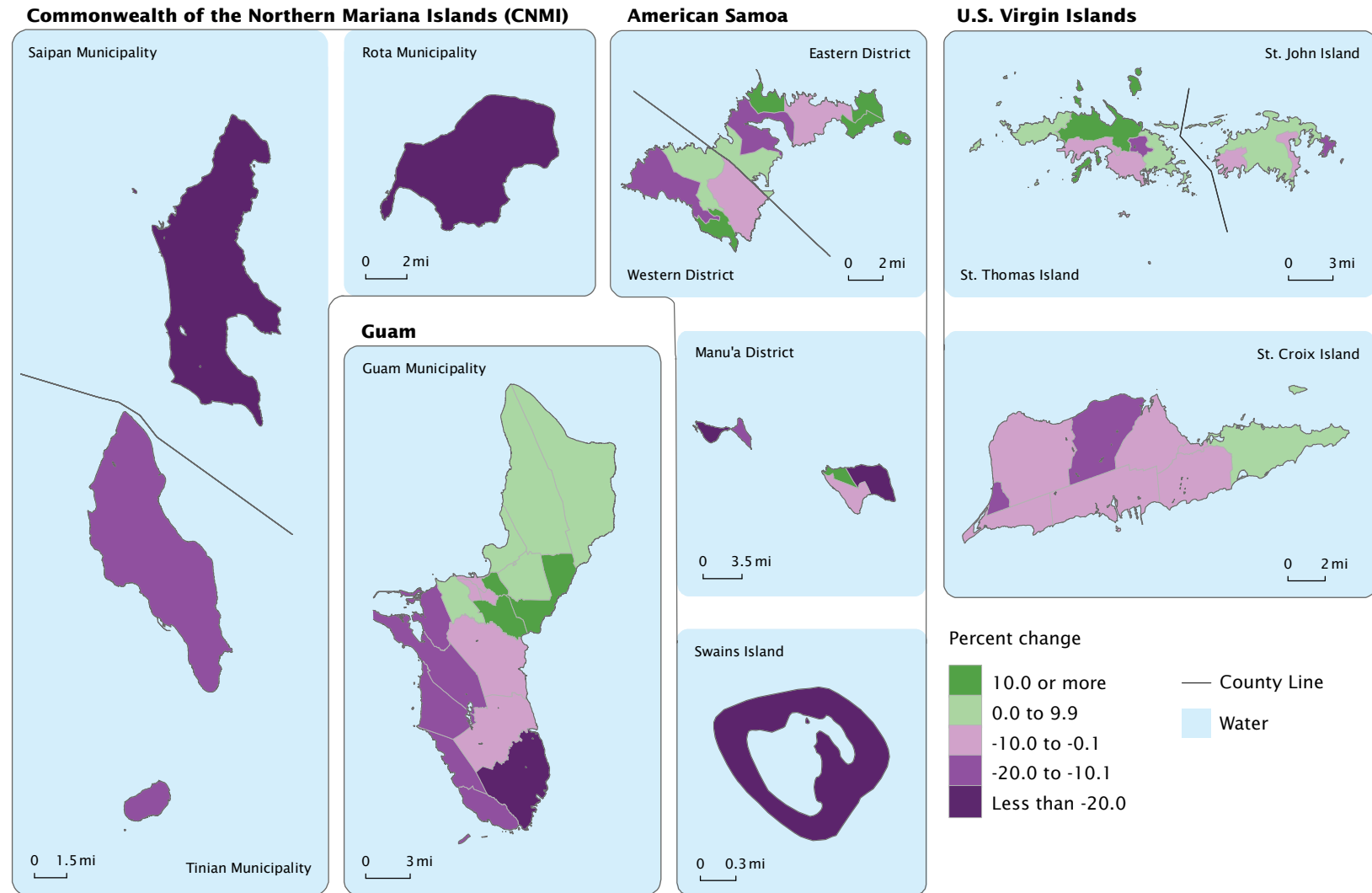
**POPULATION DENSITY**

Population density (people per square mile of land area) offers another perspective on population analysis for an area and facilitates comparisons to the mainland United States. Table 2 shows the 2010 population, land area, and population density for the Island Areas and their county equivalents. The overall population densities in 2010 for three of the four Island Areas

(American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) were broadly similar, at a range of 700 to 800 people per square mile. This density value is comparable to the overall population density for the state of Connecticut and considerably higher than the overall U.S. density of 87.4 people per square mile. CNMI, on the other hand, had an overall density of just under 300 people per square mile.

Figure 8.

**Percentage Change in Population by County (CNMI) or by County Subdivision (American Samoa, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands): 2000 to 2010**



Note: Northern Islands Municipality (CNMI) and Rose Island (American Samoa) are not included, as they were uninhabited in 2010.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 for American Samoa and the 2010 Census for American Samoa; Census 2000 for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the 2010 Census for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Census 2000 for Guam and the 2010 Census for Guam; Census 2000 for the U.S. Virgin Islands and the 2010 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The U.S. Virgin Islands had the highest population density in 2010, housing a population larger than 100,000 in an area of over 130 square miles. St. Thomas Island had the highest population density among all county equivalents, at 1,649.1 people per square mile. Guam, the largest in terms of land area, ranked second in population density among the Island Areas (759.6 people per square mile). American Samoa, the smallest in land area, had the second-smallest population and second-lowest density in 2010. At the county equivalent level, Rose Island was the smallest in area of all the islands and was uninhabited in 2010, while Swains Island, the second smallest in land area, had the lowest population density of 18.1. The Western District of American Samoa had the second-highest overall population density at 1,139.0 people per square mile. The Northern Mariana Islands had the second-largest land area and the lowest population density. However, Saipan had the third-highest density at 1,050.8 people per square mile.

In terms of spatial distribution, the Northern Mariana Islands census tracts with the highest population density, more than 5,000 people per square mile, are nestled on the western coast of Saipan among other high-density tracts (densities of 1,000 to 5,000) (Figure 9). Guam's high population density census tracts are clustered in the north-central part of the island, just north of Guam International Airport. A number of tracts show densities of 2,500 people per square mile

and higher, while most tracts in the southern half of the island have densities lower than 500. Only one tract in American Samoa, in the Western District, has a density higher than 5,000 people per square mile. The remainder of Tutuila Island presents densities that span a wide range (less than 500 to 5,000 people per square mile). St. Croix and St. John Islands (U.S. Virgin Islands) generally had densities below 1,000 people per square mile, while St. Thomas has a number of centrally located tracts with densities above 5,000 people per square mile.

### **RACE, ETHNICITY, AND HISPANIC ORIGIN**

Race, ethnic, and Hispanic origin data are collected differently in the Pacific Island Areas (American Samoa, Guam, and CNMI) than on the U.S. mainland and vary among the islands themselves. The Pacific Islands received a 2010 Census questionnaire with one question on ethnic origin or race ("What is this person's ethnic origin or race?"). The U.S. Virgin Islands received a questionnaire that took an identical approach to the mainland, one that asked separate questions on race and Hispanic or Latino origin. Therefore, in this report, data on race are presented separately for the Pacific Islands and U.S. Virgin Islands, and caution must be taken when comparing results from different islands.

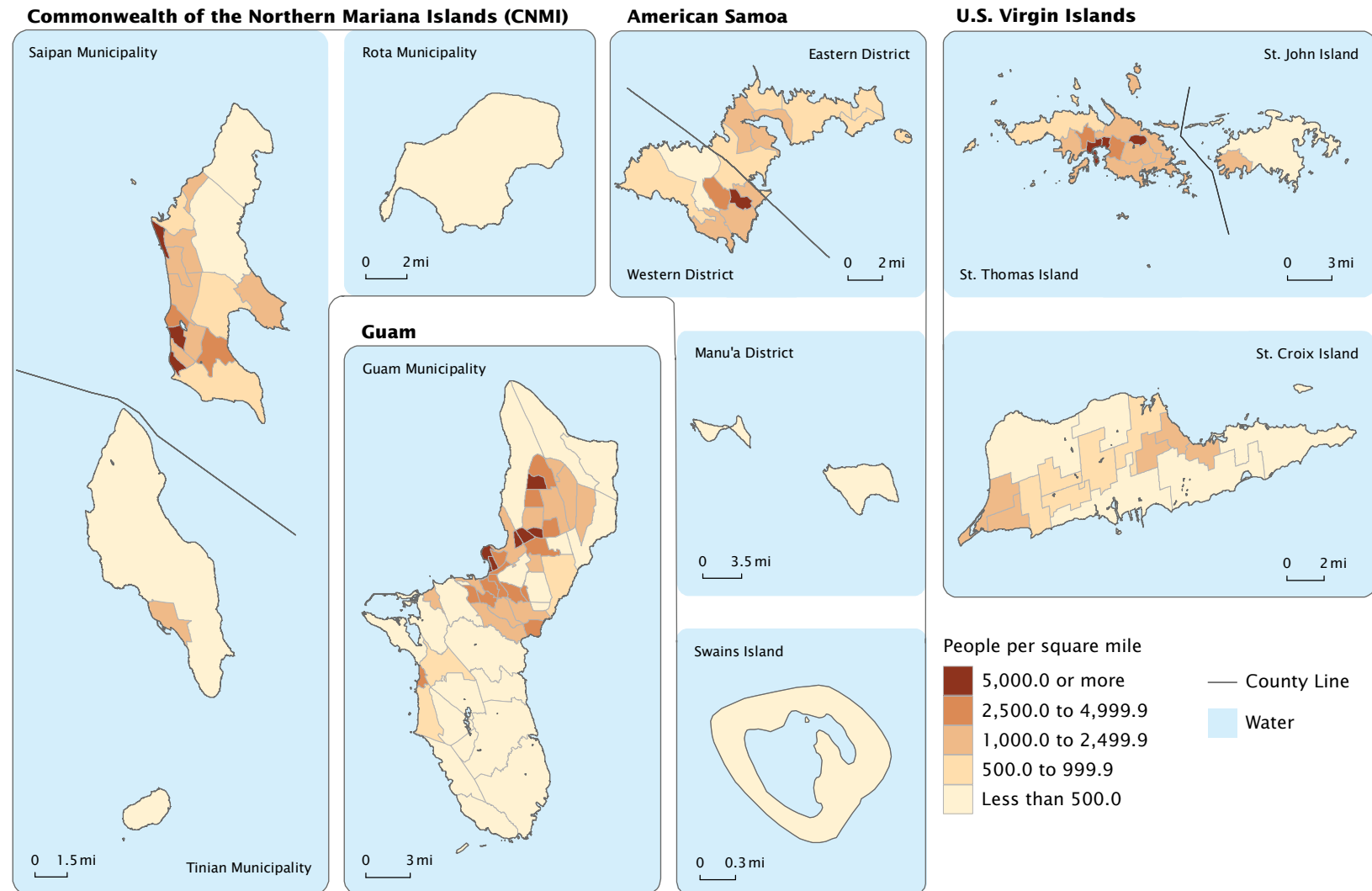
While a tabulation of even the broadest race and Hispanic-origin groups reveals the diversity

among the Island Areas and their differences from the mainland United States, examining the detailed ethnic-origin composition for the Pacific Islands shines a light on the truly diverse nature of the region's three areas (Figure 10). In 2010, American Samoa's population was largely Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHPI). Within the NHPI race group, Samoans were the majority. Asians were the second-largest race or ethnic-origin group; most were of Filipino origin.

Guam's largest race group in 2010 was also NHPI, representing about half of the island's population. Chamorros (indigenous to Guam and CNMI) were the largest NHPI group, with Chuukese (another Micronesian ethnic group) being the second largest. About a third of Guam's population was Asian, mainly Filipino. Roughly 15,000 of Guam's population in 2010 reported two or more ethnic origins or races.

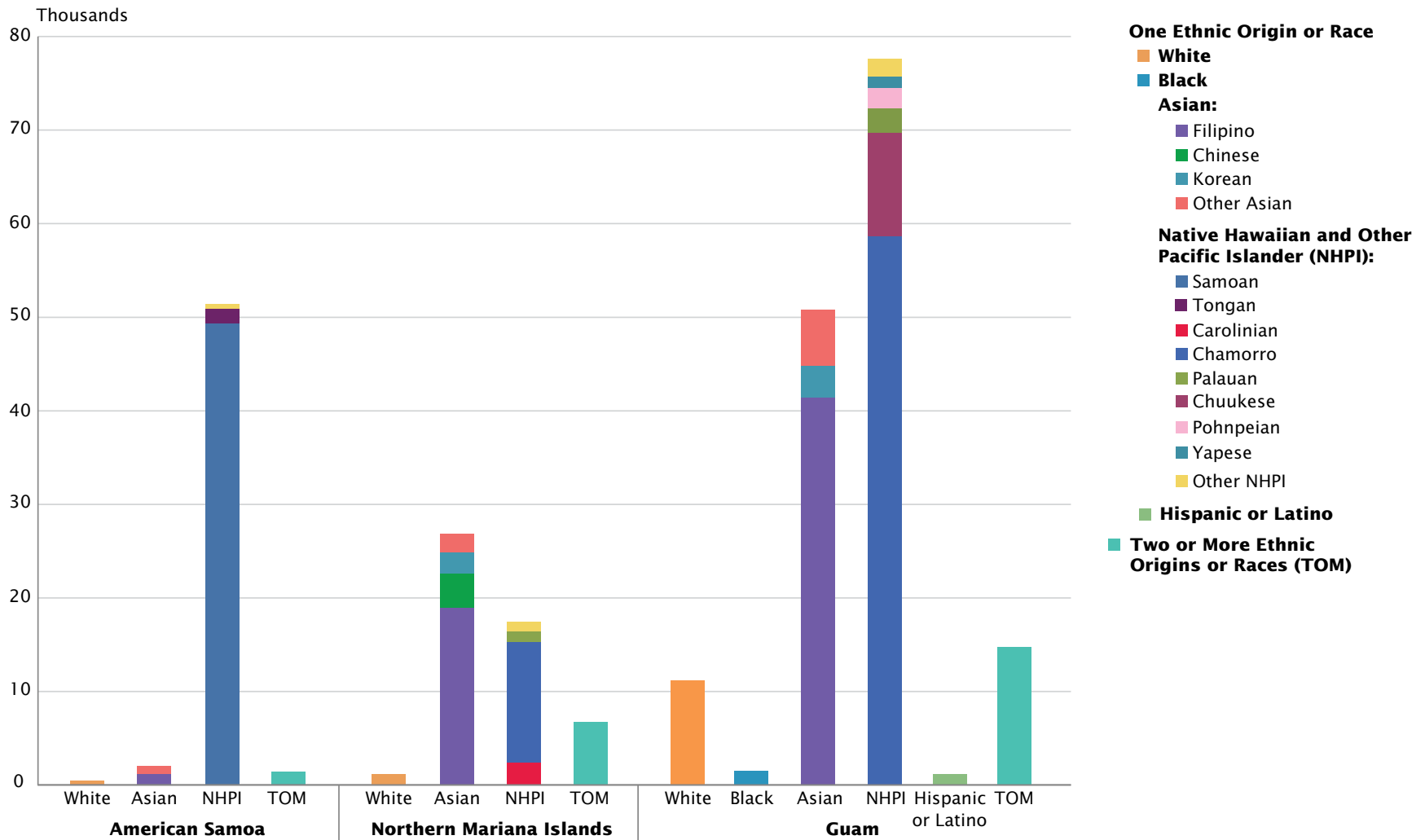
In the Northern Mariana Islands, Asians were the largest race group and represented nearly half of the total population. Within the Asian population, most were Filipino, with some Chinese and Korean ethnicities represented as well. Another third of the population in CNMI was Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, with Chamorros most numerous. About 7,000 of CNMI's population was of two or more ethnic origins or races. Overall, Guam and CNMI both had a higher percentage of the population report two or more ethnic origins or races and exhibited more variety in ethnic origin than American Samoa.

Figure 9.  
**Population Density by Census Tract: 2010**



Note: Northern Islands Municipality (CNMI) and Rose Island (American Samoa) are not included, as they were uninhabited in 2010.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census for American Samoa; 2010 Census for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; 2010 Census for Guam; 2010 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Figure 10.  
**Population by Race and Ethnic Origin by Island Area for Pacific Islands: 2010**



Note: Race and ethnic origin data for Pacific Islands are collected through one census question. Race and ethnic origin groups of at least 1,000 population are shown. For American Samoa, race and ethnic origin groups of at least 450 population are shown.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; 2010 Census for Guam.

As mentioned previously, separate race and Hispanic-origin questions were asked in the U.S. Virgin Islands Census. The U.S. Virgin Islands population was majority Black or African American alone (Figure 11).<sup>9</sup> In fact, 76.0 percent of the population was Black, while 15.6 percent was White. With respect to the Hispanic-origin question, 17.4 percent of U.S. Virgin Islanders reported to be Hispanic. (People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race.<sup>10</sup>)

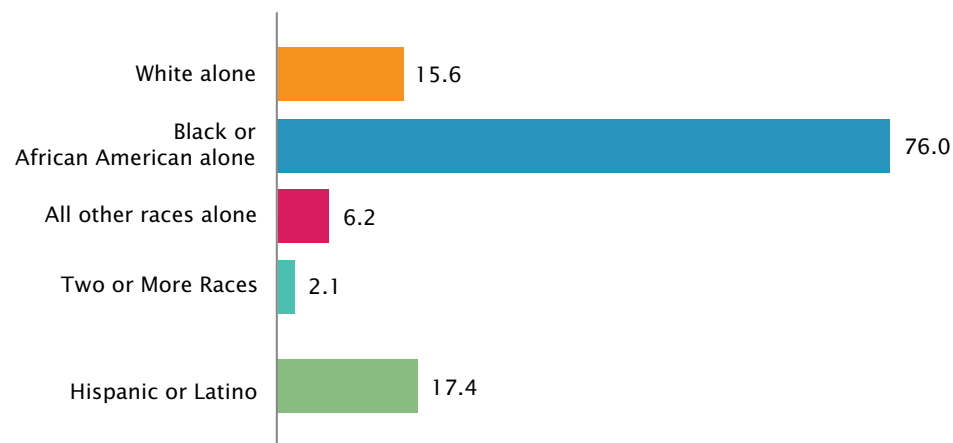
Figures 12 and 13 display the distribution of prevalent race groups across census tracts in the U.S. Island Areas. Prevalence indicates the group with the largest total population in a given area, a census tract in this case. Note that in the prevalence maps only the largest group is shown, while the second largest group, though potentially sizeable, is not displayed.

There is some variety in the distribution of prevalent race groups across census tracts in the Pacific Islands, as seen in Figure 12. American Samoa is the only island area where every census tract has NHPI as the prevalent race group. CNMI has somewhat more variety; the western part of Saipan is mostly Asian, whereas the eastern part has NHPI as the prevalent race group. Tinian is

<sup>9</sup> People who responded to the question on race by indicating only one race are referred to as the race alone population. Individuals who chose more than one of the six race categories are referred to as the race in combination population. The addition of these two groups creates the alone-or-in-combination population. The use of the alone population in sections of this report does not imply that it is a preferred method of presenting or analyzing data.

<sup>10</sup> Sharon R. Ennis, Merarys Rios-Vargas, and Nora G. Albert, *The Hispanic Population: 2010*, 2010 Census Brief, <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-04.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-04.pdf)>.

Figure 11.  
**Percentage of Total Population by Race and Hispanic Origin for the U.S. Virgin Islands: 2010**



Note: Race data for the U.S. Virgin Islands are collected through two separate census questions: one on race, and another on Hispanic or Latino origin. A person can be Hispanic of any race.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

mostly NHPI, with the exception of one tract with Asian prevalence, Aguijan Island is uninhabited, and Rota is also majority NHPI. Guam's prevalent race group distribution has the most variety among the Pacific Island Areas. The census tracts with White prevalence coincide with the parts of the island containing military bases (Andersen AFB, Naval Base Guam).<sup>11</sup> Most of the remaining tracts in Guam have NHPI as the prevalent race

<sup>11</sup> The area covered by Ordnance Annex Guam is uninhabited, as is another tract in the northern half of the island, a part of Andersen AFB.

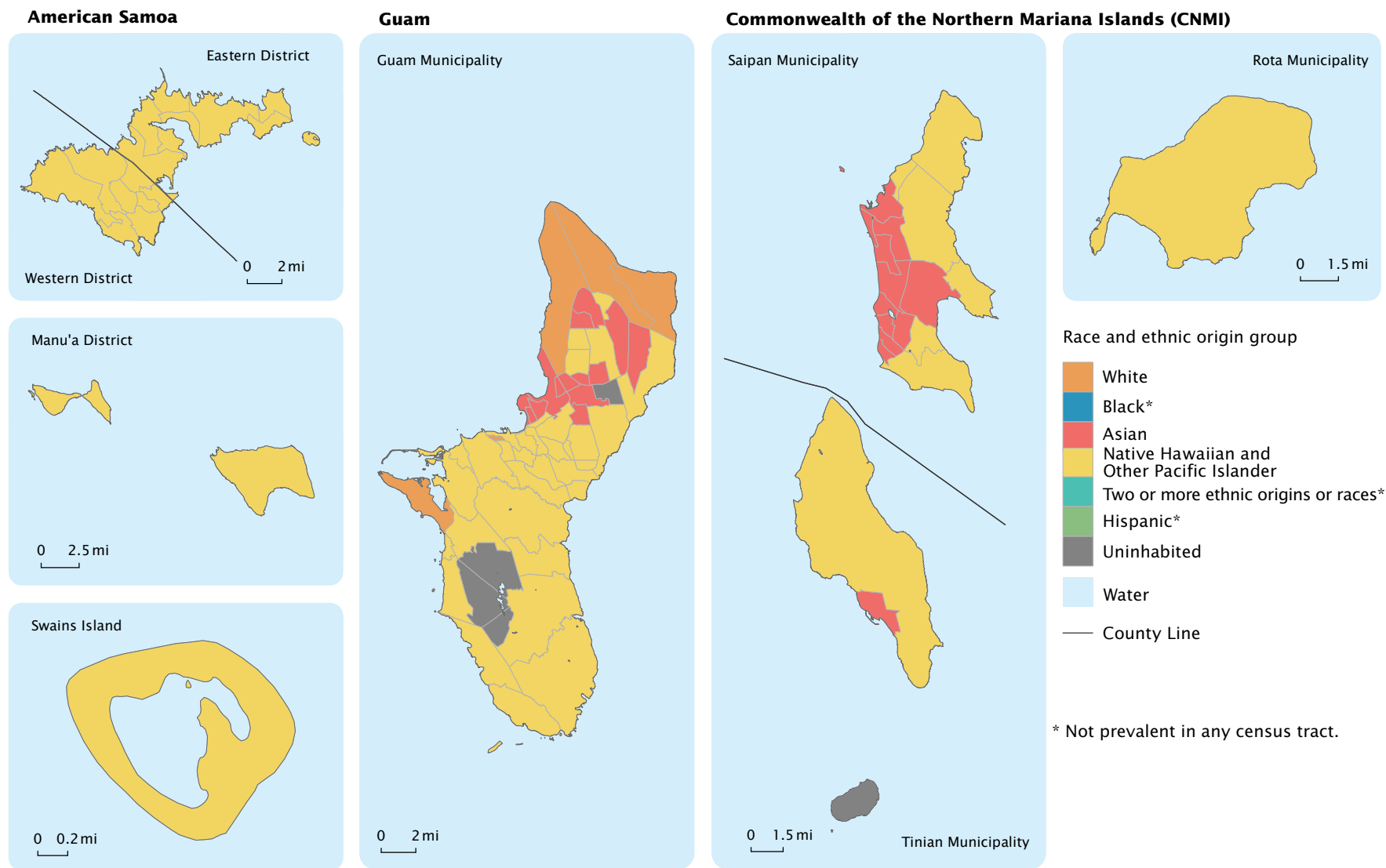
group, with some tracts with Asian prevalence in the northern part of the island.

There is less variation in the distribution of prevalent race groups across census tracts in the U.S. Virgin Islands, as seen in Figure 13. Only two race groups are shown, White and Black or African American, with an east-west orientation between the two groups. All of St. Thomas, most of western and central St. Croix, and one western tract in St. John show Black prevalence, whereas the easternmost tract of St. Croix and the largest tract of St. John show White prevalence.



Figure 12.

**Race or Ethnic Origin Group With the Largest Population by Census Tract for the Pacific Islands: 2010**



Note: Northern Islands Municipality (CNMI) and Rose Island (American Samoa) are not included, as they were uninhabited in 2010.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census for American Samoa; 2010 Census for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; 2010 Census for Guam.

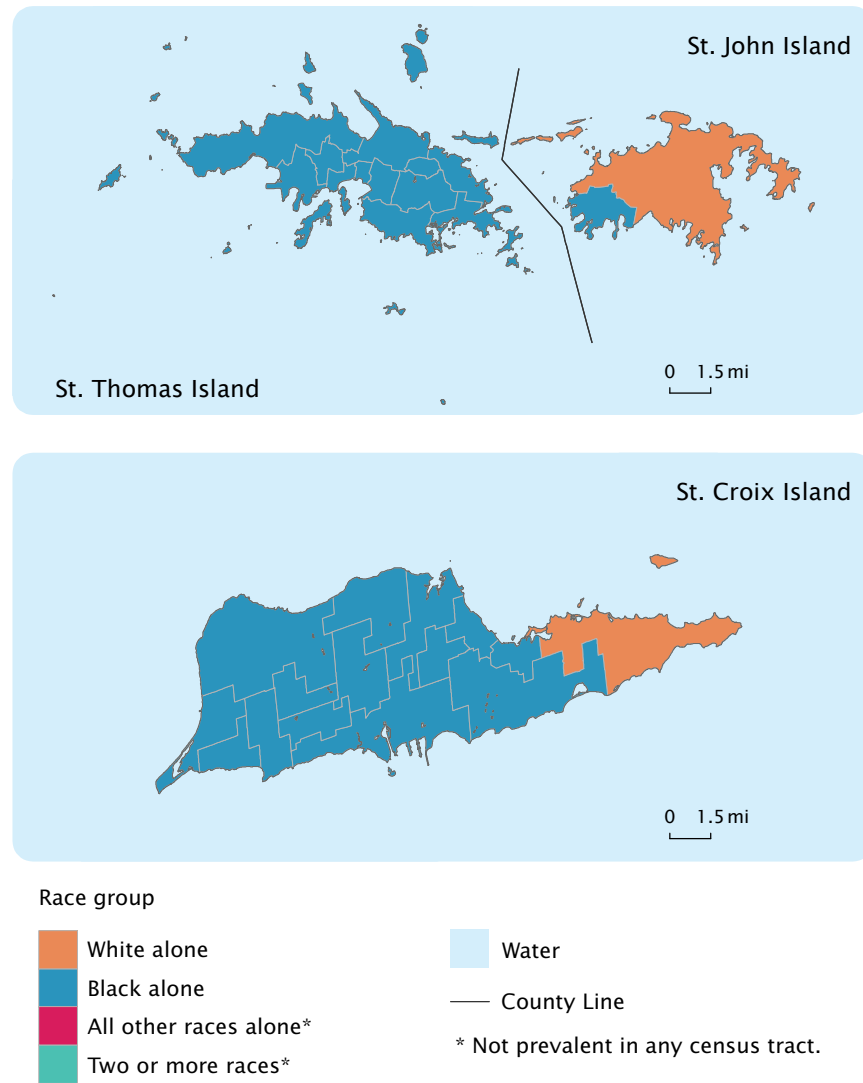
Figure 14 examines Hispanic or Latino origin in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Neither St. John nor St. Thomas Island shows a high percentage of Hispanic population. On St. Thomas, only the area around the capital, Charlotte Amalie, registers as 20 to 30 percent Hispanic. St. Croix, on the other hand, has some central tracts where more than 30 percent of the population reported as Hispanic.

### AGE AND SEX COMPOSITION

Age and sex composition provides a glimpse of an area's demographic history—reflecting past trends in births, deaths, and migration—as well as a view toward its demographic future. The age and sex structure of the U.S. Island Areas population has changed recently, as shown by the population pyramids in Figure 15. Each of the bars in the population pyramids represents the percentage of the total population in that age-sex group.

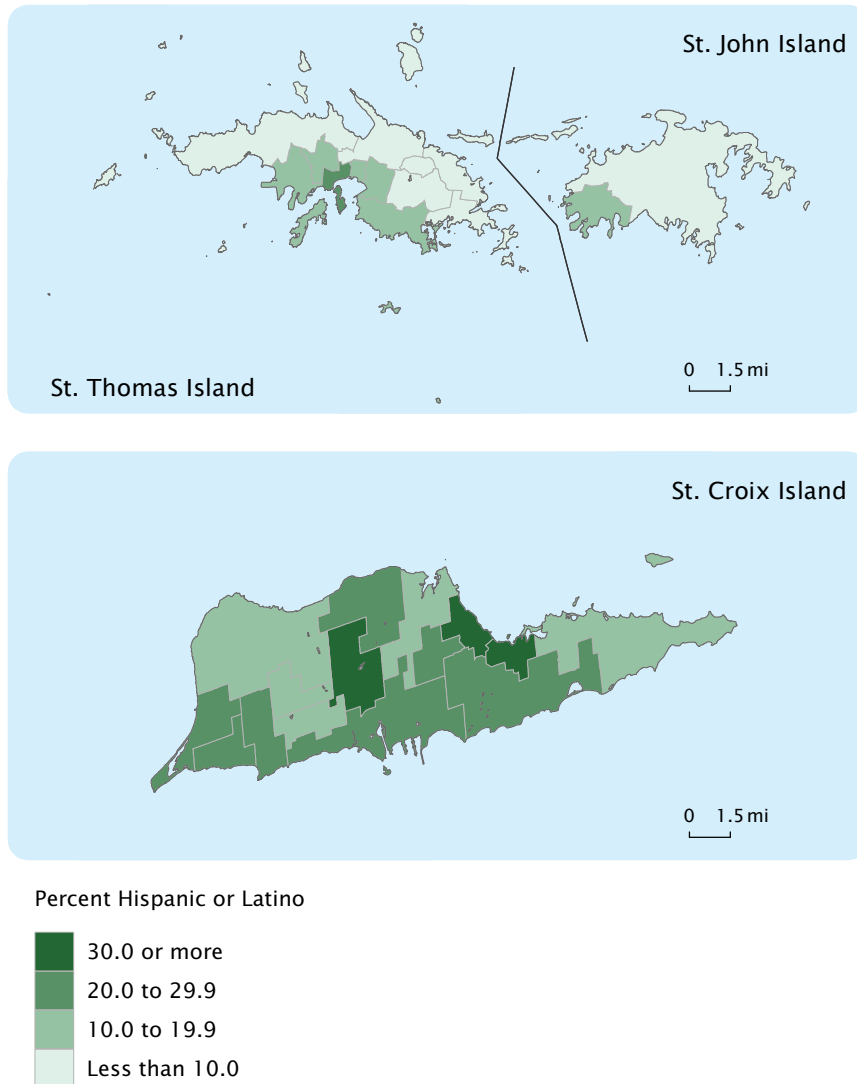
The distribution of the population by age and sex in American Samoa and Guam in 2000 exhibited a nearly classic pyramid shape, wider at the bottom and narrower at the top. This broad-based shape characterizes a young, relatively high-fertility population. In 2010, both American Samoa and Guam had narrower bases and a more rectangular shape of the lower half of the pyramids, indicating a slowing population growth and an aging population. The U.S. Virgin Islands' fairly rectangular pyramid indicates contraction in the younger age groups between 2000 and 2010, as the base of the pyramid gets narrower. The U.S. Virgin Islands has high percentages of its population in the older age groups, 65 years and older.

Figure 13.  
**Race Group With the Largest Population by Census Tract for the U.S. Virgin Islands: 2010**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Figure 14.  
**Hispanic as Percentage of Total Population by Census Tract  
 for the U.S. Virgin Islands: 2010**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

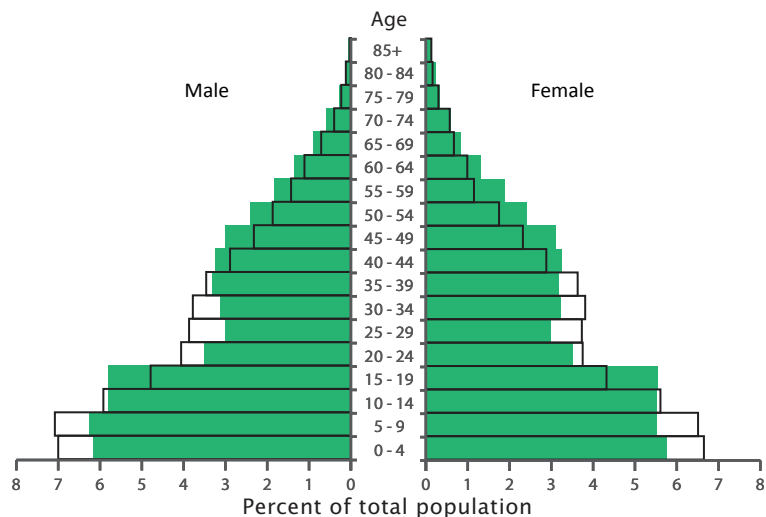
The population pyramid for CNMI presents the most distinctive pattern out of the four Island Areas. In 2000, close to 11 percent of its population was female and aged 25 to 29, compared with only 5 percent male in the same age group. In fact, in 2000, women between ages 20 and 34 accounted for nearly 26 percent of the total population. The large percentage of young females seen in the 2000 pyramid is no longer visible in 2010. This change in age and sex structure in CNMI may reflect the closing of garment factories on Saipan since 2000 that mainly employed temporary workers from abroad, primarily China and the Philippines.<sup>12</sup>

A convenient way of summarizing the overall age structure of a population is with its median age—the age at which half the population is older and half is younger. Table 3 presents the median age for 2000 and 2010, as well as the change in median age, for Island Areas and their county equivalents. In 2010, American Samoa had the youngest population of the four Island Areas with a median age of 22.4 years. By comparison, the median age for the United States was 37.2 in 2010. Guam ranked second youngest, with 29.5, followed by CNMI (33.4). The U.S. Virgin Islands had the highest median age of 39.2 in 2010. Median age for all the Island Areas increased between 2000 and 2010, anywhere from just over 1 year to almost 6 additional years. At the county-equivalent level, there was a 20-year difference between the lowest and highest median age among the Island Areas. The Western District

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Government Accountability Office, *Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: Pending Legislation Would Apply U.S. Immigration Law to the CNMI with a Transition Period*, GAO-08-466, Washington, DC, 2008; and Commonwealth Economic Development Strategic Planning Commission, *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan, 2009–2014*, U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, 2009.

Figure 15.  
**Age and Sex Structure for U.S. Island Areas: 2000 and 2010**

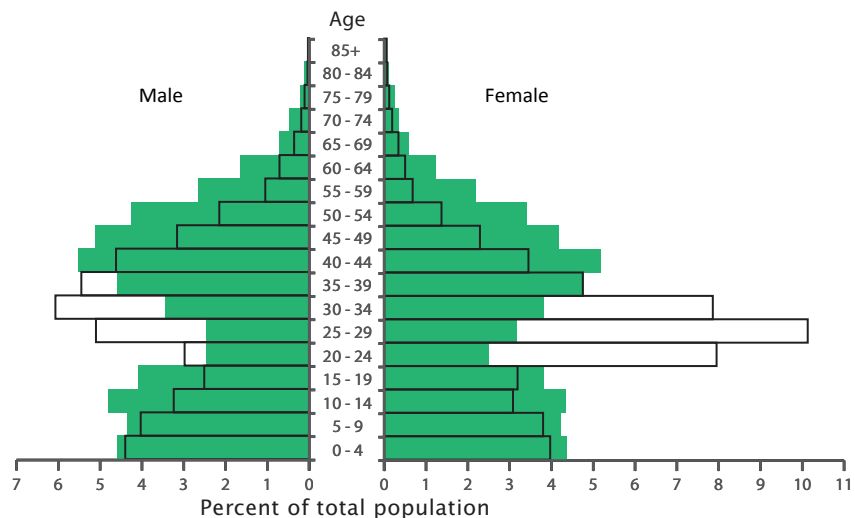
**American Samoa**



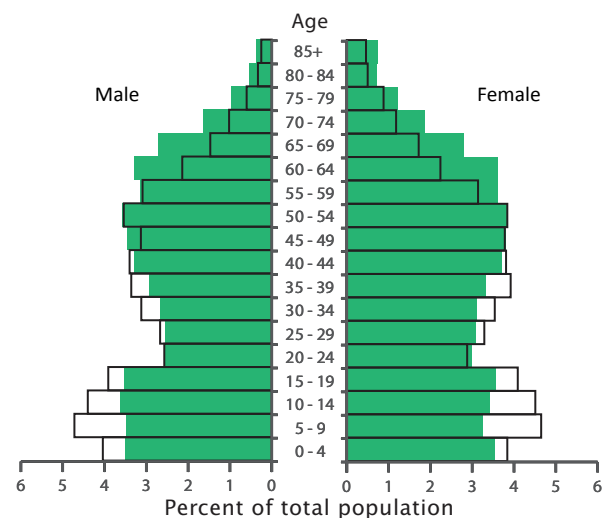
**Guam**



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**



**U.S. Virgin Islands**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 for American Samoa and the 2010 Census for American Samoa; Census 2000 for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the 2010 Census for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Census 2000 for Guam and the 2010 Census for Guam; Census 2000 for the U.S. Virgin Islands and the 2010 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Table 3.

**Median Age for Island Areas and County Equivalents: 2000 and 2010**

Area	Median age		
	2000	2010	Change, 2000 to 2010
United States . . . . .	35.3	37.2	1.9
American Samoa . . . . .	21.3	22.4	1.1
Eastern District . . . . .	21.7	23.1	1.4
Manu'a District . . . . .	22.0	23.2	1.2
Rose Island . . . . .	X	X	X
Swains Island . . . . .	21.3	23.5	2.2
Western District . . . . .	21.1	21.9	0.8
Guam . . . . .	27.4	29.5	2.1
Guam Municipality . . . . .	27.4	29.5	2.1
Northern Mariana Islands . . . . .	28.7	33.4	4.7
Northern Islands Municipality . . . . .	25.0	X	X
Rota Municipality . . . . .	29.1	35.0	5.9
Saipan Municipality . . . . .	28.7	33.3	4.6
Tinian Municipality . . . . .	29.2	33.8	4.6
U.S. Virgin Islands . . . . .	33.4	39.2	5.8
St. Croix Island . . . . .	31.9	38.2	6.3
St. John Island . . . . .	36.7	41.9	5.2
St. Thomas Island . . . . .	34.4	39.8	5.4

X Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 for American Samoa and the 2010 Census for American Samoa; Census 2000 for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the 2010 Census for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Census 2000 for Guam and the 2010 Census for Guam; Census 2000 for the U.S. Virgin Islands and the 2010 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

of American Samoa had the lowest median age of 21.9 years, whereas St. John Island (U.S. Virgin Islands) had the highest median age of 41.9.

The range of median ages in the Island Areas has widened. The areas with lower median ages, American Samoa and Guam, have aged the least, whereas the areas with the higher median age, CNMI and U.S. Virgin Islands, have aged the most. Also, with the exception of the U.S. Virgin Islands, all islands had 2010 median ages below the U.S. median age.

Figure 16 shows the census tract distribution of 2010 median age for U.S. Island Areas and their

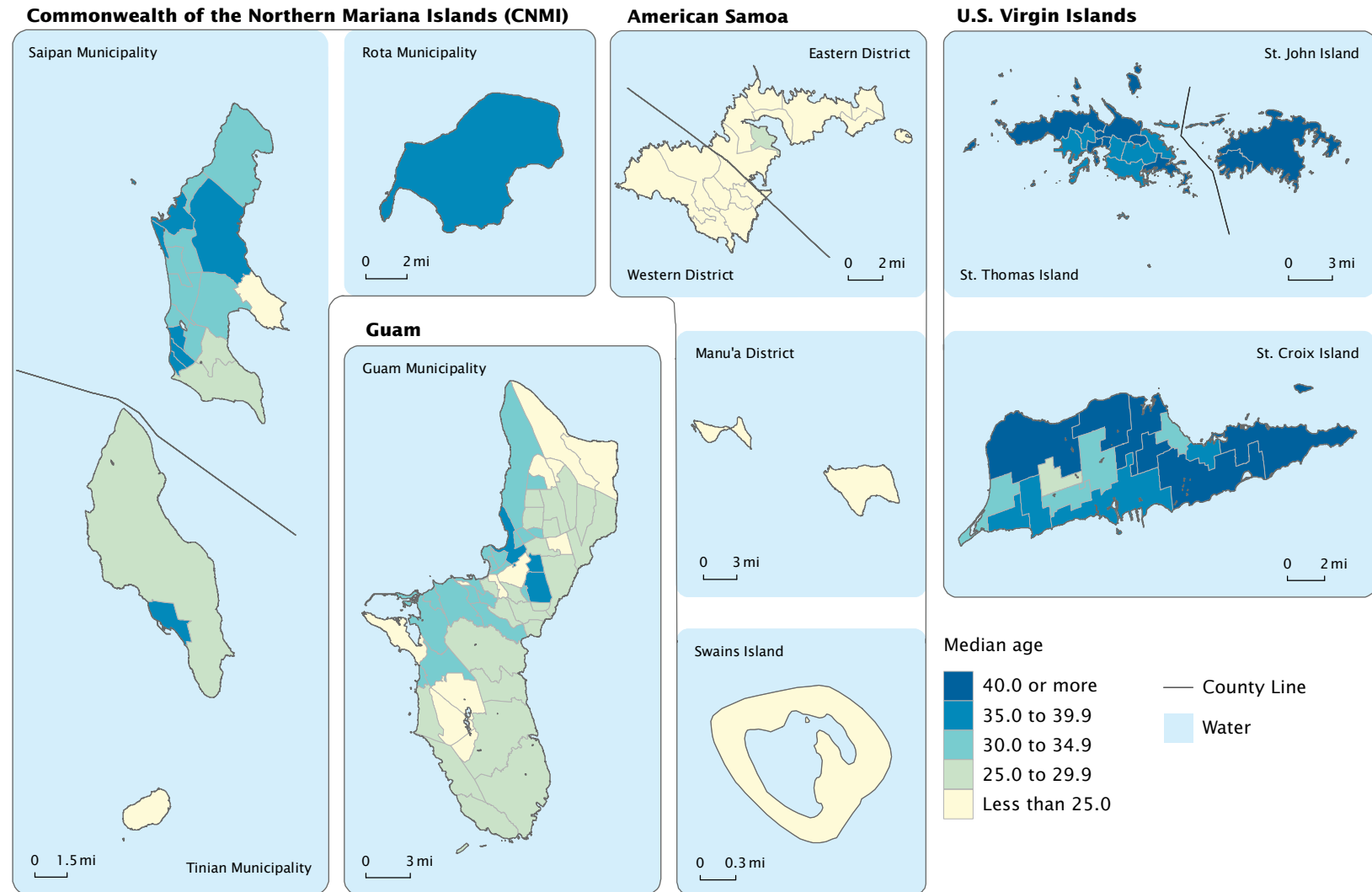
county equivalents. American Samoa's tracts all had a median age below 25 years, with the exception of one tract in the Eastern District, which was in the 25-to-29 years category. Guam and CNMI displayed more variety in terms of their median age distribution. Both Island Areas had tracts that fell into nearly all of the categories, with Guam's highest median age tracts located in the center of the island, and CNMI's oldest tracts located in the southwestern and central parts of Saipan, southwestern Tinian, and Rota Municipality. The U.S. Virgin Islands was the only Island Area with any census tracts in the highest median age category (40.0 years or more). In fact, both of the tracts in St. John had a

median age over 40, and all tracts in St. Thomas had a median age over 35. St. Croix's census tracts also mostly fell into the highest median age categories.

While the 2010 population pyramids for the Island Areas would appear to indicate roughly equal numbers of males and females, examining the sex ratio (males per 100 females) for the islands reveals some imbalances. The sex ratio and change in sex ratio are shown in Table 4, along with the sex composition and change of the Island Area populations for 2000 and 2010. American Samoa and Guam had sex ratios in 2010 of 103.0 and 104.9, respectively, indicating a predominance of men. Among the four Island Areas, CNMI had the highest sex ratio in 2010, with 106.2 men for every 100 women. The U.S. Virgin Islands, on the other hand, had the lowest sex ratio, with 91.6 men per 100 women.

Noteworthy changes took place in the sex distribution of the population between 2000 and 2010. CNMI lost nearly 30 percent of its female population, compared with losing 13 percent of the male population. This resulted in a sex ratio increase of 20.3, turning a female majority population in 2000 (85.9) into a male majority population in 2010 (106.2). The magnitude of CNMI's change in sex ratio was by far the largest shift among the islands; the remaining islands experienced sex ratio changes of a much smaller magnitude, from -1.4 to 0.2. At the county-equivalent level, Saipan Municipality's sex ratio increased from 82.6 in 2000 to 105.3 in 2010, accounting for most of the shift in CNMI. Manu'a District (American Samoa) also had a substantial loss of its female population in the last decade; the area had a 10.1 increase in its sex ratio,

Figure 16.  
**Median Age by Census Tract: 2010**



Note: Northern Islands Municipality (CNMI) and Rose Island (American Samoa) are not included, as they were uninhabited in 2010.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census for American Samoa; 2010 Census for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; 2010 Census for Guam; 2010 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Table 4.

**Population Change by Sex and Change in Sex Ratio for Island Areas and County Equivalents: 2000 to 2010**

Area	Population						Sex ratio <sup>1</sup>		
	2000		2010		Percent change, 2000 to 2010		2000	2010	Change, 2000 to 2010
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female			
United States . . . . .	138,053,563	143,368,343	151,781,326	156,964,212	9.9	9.5	96.3	96.7	0.4
American Samoa . . . . .	29,264	28,027	28,170	27,349	-3.7	-2.4	104.4	103.0	-1.4
Eastern District . . . . .	12,001	11,440	11,661	11,369	-2.8	-0.6	104.9	102.6	-2.3
Manu'a District . . . . .	669	709	584	559	-12.7	-21.2	94.4	104.5	10.1
Rose Island . . . . .	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Swains Island . . . . .	18	19	8	9	-55.6	-52.6	94.7	88.9	-5.8
Western District . . . . .	16,576	15,859	15,917	15,412	-4.0	-2.8	104.5	103.3	-1.2
Guam . . . . .	79,181	75,624	81,568	77,790	3.0	2.9	104.7	104.9	0.2
Guam Municipality . . . . .	79,181	75,624	81,568	77,790	3.0	2.9	104.7	104.9	0.2
Northern Mariana Islands . . . . .	31,984	37,237	27,746	26,137	-13.3	-29.8	85.9	106.2	20.3
Northern Islands Municipality . . . . .	2	4	X	X	X	X	50.0	X	X
Rota Municipality . . . . .	1,813	1,470	1,337	1,190	-26.3	-19.0	123.3	112.4	-10.9
Saipan Municipality . . . . .	28,230	34,162	24,735	23,485	-12.4	-31.3	82.6	105.3	22.7
Tinian Municipality . . . . .	1,939	1,601	1,674	1,462	-13.7	-8.7	121.1	114.5	-6.6
U.S. Virgin Islands . . . . .	51,864	56,748	50,867	55,538	-1.9	-2.1	91.4	91.6	0.2
St. Croix Island . . . . .	25,452	27,782	24,206	26,395	-4.9	-5.0	91.6	91.7	0.1
St. John Island . . . . .	2,050	2,147	2,042	2,128	-0.4	-0.9	95.5	96.0	0.5
St. Thomas Island . . . . .	24,362	26,819	24,619	27,015	1.1	0.7	90.8	91.1	0.3

X Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Sex ratio is the number of males per 100 females.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 for American Samoa and the 2010 Census for American Samoa; Census 2000 for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the 2010 Census for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Census 2000 for Guam and the 2010 Census for Guam; Census 2000 for the U.S. Virgin Islands and the 2010 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

changing from 94.4 men per 100 women in 2000 to 104.5 men per 100 women in 2010.

Overall, the Pacific Islands (American Samoa, Guam, and CNMI) all had more males than females in 2010, while the U.S. Virgin Islands had more females than males. The Northern Mariana Islands were the only area to experience a shift

from a heavily female majority population in 2000 to a male majority one in 2010.

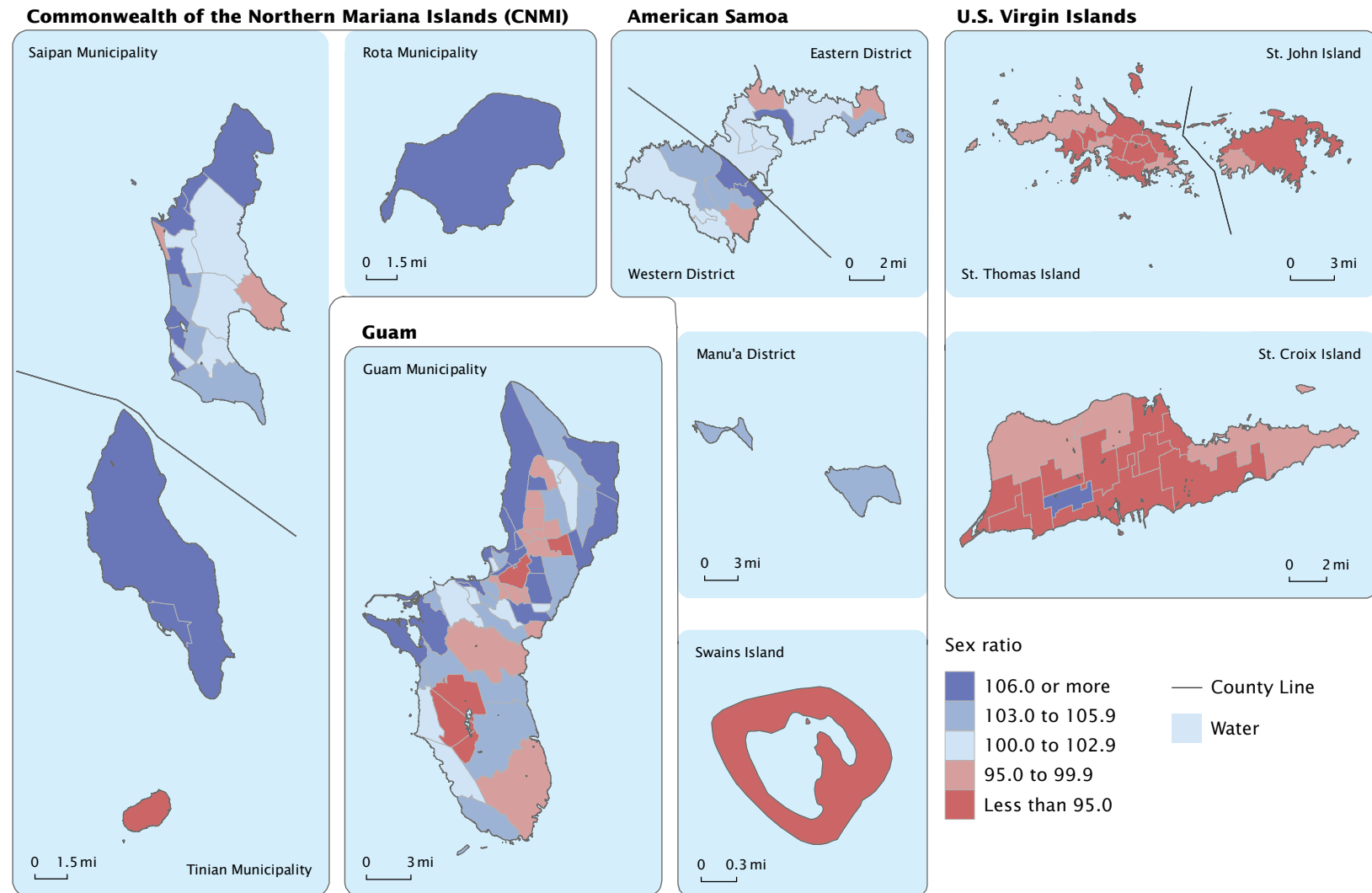
In terms of spatial distribution of sex ratios, the Northern Mariana Islands census tracts mostly fall into categories that indicate a higher ratio of men to women (100 and above), with a number of tracts falling into the highest class of 106 or more (Figure 17). Guam's coastal tracts,

especially on the northern part of the island, are in the top two classes with sex ratios of 103 and more. This pattern corresponds with the location of military bases on Guam, including Andersen Air Force Base. American Samoa shows an even distribution of tracts with high and low sex ratios. Most of the Western District appears to have higher ratios of men to women, as does the Eastern District. The U.S. Virgin Islands had



Figure 17.  
**Sex Ratio by Census Tract: 2010**

(Sex ratio is the number of males per 100 females)



Note: Northern Islands Municipality (CNMI) and Rose Island (American Samoa) are not included, as they were uninhabited in 2010.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census for American Samoa; 2010 Census for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; 2010 Census for Guam; 2010 Census for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

the lowest sex ratios, with all tracts, except for one on St. Croix, falling into the two categories below 100.

## SUMMARY

The analysis presented in this report, combined with the maps, charts, and tables, has shown the truly impressive diversity of the Island Areas in terms of location, census data collection, and population characteristics. American Samoa, the only inhabited U.S. territory located south of the Equator, was also the youngest, shown in its median age, among the Island Areas. The Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands had a population increase of nearly 60 percent between 1990 and 2000 and had the highest sex ratio in 2010. It is also the most geographically dispersed territory, covering a span of over 400 miles. Guam, the largest of the Island Areas both in area and in population, was the only area to gain population between 2000 and 2010. Guam also has the highest presence of U.S. military

installations. The U.S. Virgin Islands, the only Caribbean territory, had the lowest sex ratio in 2010 and had the highest median age.

## METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES OF DATA

This report uses decennial census data for the years 1990, 2000, and 2010, as well as data from the International Data Base. All derived values were computed using unrounded data. For readability, most whole numbers in the text are rounded to the nearest hundred or thousand, and percentages are rounded to tenths. In the tables, whole numbers are unrounded and percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth or hundredth. In the maps, data are categorized based on unrounded percentages.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Data, additional maps, and technical documentation for the Island Areas from the 2010 Census

are available on the Internet at <[www.census.gov/2010census/news/press-kits/island-areas/island-areas.html](http://www.census.gov/2010census/news/press-kits/island-areas/island-areas.html)>. For more information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling errors, and definitions, for American Samoa see <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sfas.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sfas.pdf)>, for CNMI see <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sfmp.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sfmp.pdf)>, for Guam see <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sfgu.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sfgu.pdf)>, and for U.S. Virgin Islands see <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sfvi.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sfvi.pdf)>. For more information and data from the International Data Base, go to <[www.census.gov/population/international/data/idb/informationGateway.php](http://www.census.gov/population/international/data/idb/informationGateway.php)>.

If you have questions or need additional information, please call the Customer Services Center at 1-800-923-8282. You can also visit the Census Bureau's Question and Answer Center at <[ask.census.gov](http://ask.census.gov)> to submit your question online.