

Research Report

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*Population per Southern Baptist Congregation Comparisons
for the Major Racial/Ethnic Groups by State, 2000*

Phillip B. Jones

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North American Mission Board

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This report is intended as a supplement to the report *Comparison of Changes in Population, Southern Baptist Churches and Resident Members by Region and State, 1990 to 2000* by Richie C. Stanley. Both reports are based on the same databases, the 2000 Annual Church Profile (ACP) and the 2000 U.S. Census. However, there are differences in purpose for each report and thus differences in the way data are handled.

The Stanley report focuses on the changes that occurred from 1990 to 2000—specifically the change in Southern Baptist churches and membership in each state as compared to corresponding state population changes. The primary question being answered in that report is: Did Southern Baptist growth keep up with or exceed population growth in each state? In contrast, the purpose of this supplementary report is to compare the number of Southern Baptist racial/ethnic congregations at the state level with the corresponding racial/ethnic population at one specific point in time—the year 2000. This approach not only documents the extent that the various racial/ethnic population subgroups have been reached by Southern Baptists but also helps prioritize states where new racial/ethnic work is needed.

In the Stanley report, the focus is on constituted churches, while the current report focuses on the more broadly defined congregations, which includes both constituted churches and church-type missions. The reason the Stanley report did not use total congregation figures is that comparable information was not available in the 1990 ACP database. It is important to this supplemental report that church-type missions be included because a large proportion of the non-Anglo Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) work is comprised of church-type missions. Because of this difference, population to church calculations in the Stanley report for the year 2000 are not directly comparable to the population per congregation calculations in this report. The reader is cautioned not to confuse these closely related calculations—both are valid, just slightly different.

The Stanley report examines the changes in Southern Baptist resident membership and compares them to population changes, while this report does not. Ideally, this report would do the same; however, the occurrence of non-reporting for non-Anglo groups becomes problematic. While non-Anglo congregations are documented in the official ACP database, many do not have membership figures attached to them.¹

Both this report and the Stanley report use the geographical state as the unit of analysis rather than a state convention. All individual Southern Baptist congregations (whether churches or church-type missions) are assigned to the state where they are geographically located without regard to their state convention affiliation. For example, there are churches physically located in

¹ While the Stanley report includes only the count of churches, the resident membership figures for both 1990 and 2000 include members associated with church-type missions. This is possible because the membership figures of church-type missions were reported with their sponsoring churches in 1990.

Tennessee that are affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. In these reports, those churches (and corresponding membership) are included in Tennessee. Likewise, in Texas and Virginia where churches and church-type missions are aligned with two different Baptist state conventions, congregations are assigned to their geographical state without regard to convention affiliation. This assignment to geographical state (and county) is a value added by the Research Services Team of the North American Mission Board(NAMB), to the copy of the ACP database maintained at NAMB. This is done through geocoding street addresses of individual congregations, comparing county codes of individual congregations on old databases, and getting geocoded files from state conventions.

In a like manner, the Research Services Team adds value to the current ACP by updating missing racial/ethnic codes for congregations. There are several thousand congregations that do not have an assigned predominant racial/ethnic code for the current year. Updated assignments are made by comparing data from previous years, using computer programs to search for ethnic identifiers in the church name, getting updated codes from state conventions, and contacting associational Directors of Missions for identification.

The major racial/ethnic groups enumerated in this report are used by the Census Bureau. These groupings are based on two separate questions in the census that classifies people by race and by whether they are of Hispanic origin. For this report, the Hispanic population is the primary criteria for segmenting the population into groups. The Hispanic origin population, regardless of race, is separated into a category. Note that the Hispanic origin population do not all speak Spanish nor are they all recent immigrants. The remaining non-Hispanics are then further subdivided into racial groups—only the major single race categories are used.² The non-Hispanic racial groups examined in this report are White, Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.³

Southern Baptist congregations have been combined by available racial/ethnic codes to closely approximate Census Bureau groupings. Note that Southern Baptists use the concept of predominant racial/ethnic group in a congregation. Not all Southern Baptist congregations are homogeneous in membership and participation. This is a primary reason that membership is not reported in this document. For example, even if membership figures were available for all predominantly African-American churches, this would not equate to the precise number of African-American members in Southern Baptist congregations since some African-Americans are members of predominantly White (Anglo) congregations, and vice versa. While Southern Baptists have considerable

² Multiple race is reported for only 2 percent of the total U.S. population. Note that the Hispanic count will included multiple race persons as well as persons of any single race.

³ In the 2000 Census, Asians are reported as a separate group from Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander but have been combined into one group for this report.

information concerning its congregations, little information is collected by the denomination on Southern Baptist members.

The information in this report is divided into six tables. The first table includes information for the total population for the U.S., each state, and Puerto Rico along with the total number of Southern Baptist congregations. The remaining five tables contain population and congregations for the major racial/ethnic groupings.

The last column on each table lists the population per congregation. This is a simple calculation computed by dividing the population by the number of congregations. The advantage of this simple calculation is that it shows the extent that each geographic area has been “churched” and provides a measure by which the states (and Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia) can be compared.

A bar chart follows each table showing the population per congregation ranked by state. These charts can be used as background information for prioritizing the need for church plants. Note that the presence of ethnic groups, in particular Native Americans, does not really indicate whether or not they are clustered enough within a state to warrant church planting efforts targeted to a specific group. Also, in some of the states, no Southern Baptist congregation is reported for specific groups. In these instances the population per congregation is mathematically undefined. For purpose of the bar charts, the population for the specific racial/ethnic group has been substituted for the population per congregation if undefined—these instances have been flagged with an asterisk in the charts. This helps put the state in perspective based on need for new congregations, although it can be argued that the need is greater in a state with no congregations (of a specific racial/ethnic category) than a state with a similar size bar that does have one or more congregations.

Table 1
Population per Congregation (All Races and Ethnic Groups):
Total Population, Southern Baptist Congregations
(Churches and Church-type Missions), and
Population per Congregation, 2000

	Population	Congregations	Population per Congregation
United States	281,421,906	46,072	6,108
Alabama	4,447,100	3,182	1,398
Alaska	626,932	96	6,531
Arizona	5,130,632	428	11,987
Arkansas	2,673,400	1,423	1,879
California	33,871,648	1,759	19,256
Colorado	4,301,261	329	13,074
Connecticut	3,405,565	47	72,459
Delaware	783,600	27	29,022
District of Columbia	572,059	56	10,215
Florida	15,982,378	2,658	6,013
Georgia	8,186,453	3,495	2,342
Hawaii	1,211,537	92	13,169
Idaho	1,293,953	94	13,765
Illinois	12,419,293	1,040	11,942
Indiana	6,080,485	398	15,278
Iowa	2,926,324	94	31,131
Kansas	2,688,418	291	9,239
Kentucky	4,041,769	2,477	1,632
Louisiana	4,468,976	1,648	2,712
Maine	1,274,923	20	63,746
Maryland	5,296,486	469	11,293
Massachusetts	6,349,097	106	59,897
Michigan	9,938,444	309	32,163
Minnesota	4,919,479	68	72,345
Mississippi	2,844,658	2,065	1,378
Missouri	5,595,211	1,967	2,845
Montana	902,195	127	7,104
Nebraska	1,711,263	67	25,541
Nevada	1,998,257	165	12,111
New Hampshire	1,235,786	24	51,491
New Jersey	8,414,350	105	80,137
New Mexico	1,819,046	342	5,319
New York	18,976,457	280	67,773
North Carolina	8,049,313	3,866	2,082
North Dakota	642,200	37	17,357

Table 1—continued

	Population	Congregations	Population per Congregation
Ohio	11,353,140	597	19,017
Oklahoma	3,450,654	1,662	2,076
Oregon	3,421,399	143	23,926
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	275	44,658
Rhode Island	1,048,319	11	95,302
South Carolina	4,012,012	1,973	2,033
South Dakota	754,844	56	13,479
Tennessee	5,689,283	3,089	1,842
Texas	20,851,820	6,175	3,377
Utah	2,233,169	77	29,002
Vermont	608,827	18	33,824
Virginia	7,078,515	1,716	4,125
Washington	5,894,121	265	22,242
West Virginia	1,808,344	194	9,321
Wisconsin	5,363,675	79	67,895
Wyoming	493,782	91	5,426
<i>Puerto Rico</i>	<i>3,808,610</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>62,436</i>

Source: 2000 Census, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.; Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Notes: For comparison, in Canada there were an estimated 30.8 million people in 2000 (*Statistics Canada*). Based on the 2000 *Book of Reports for the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists*, there were 149 congregations (churches and church-type missions). Thus, the corresponding population per congregation ratio is 206,508.

Figure 1
Population per Congregation (All Groups)

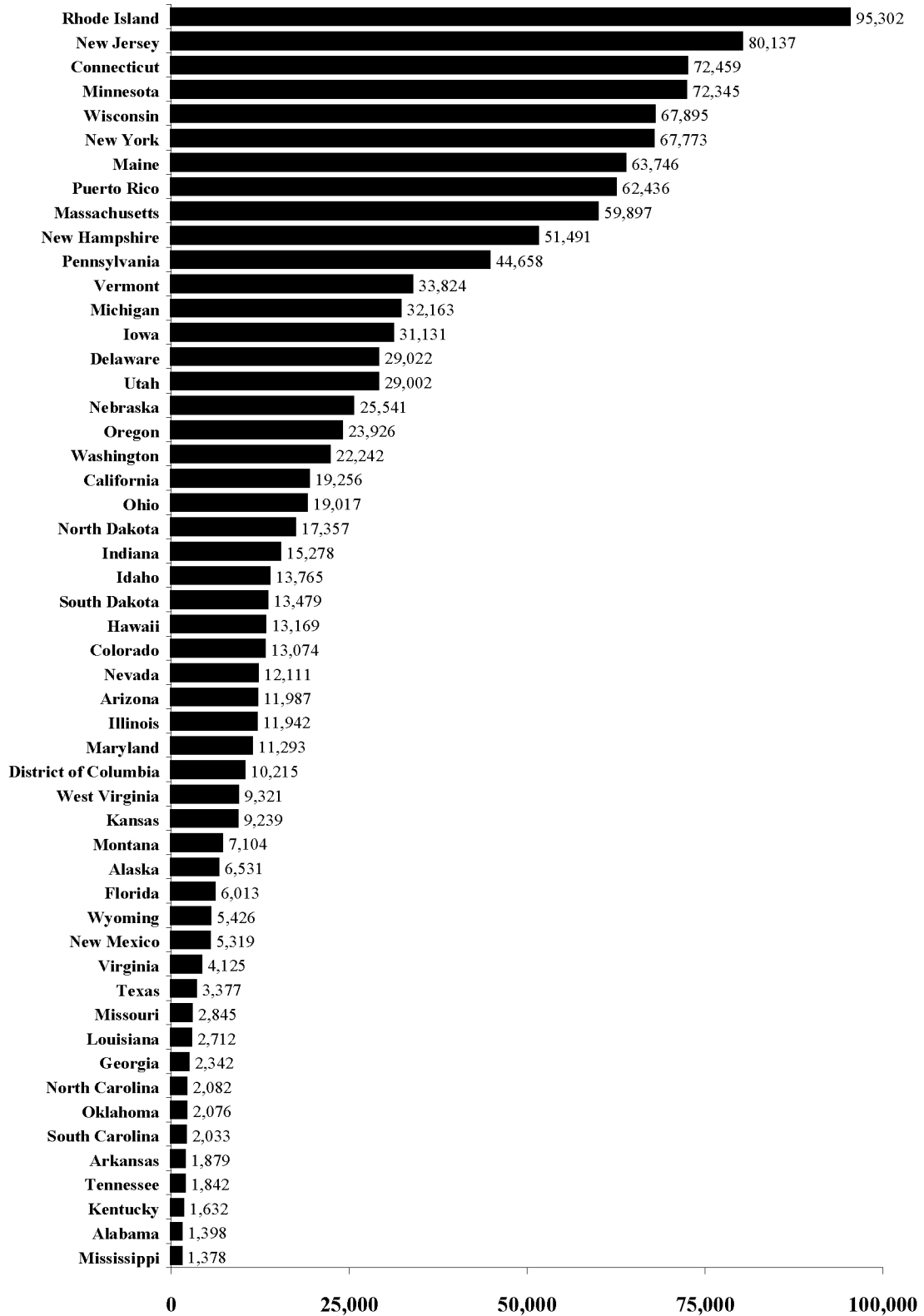


Table 2
Anglo Population per Congregation: White Non-Hispanic Population,
Predominantly White Non-Hispanic Southern Baptist Congregations,
and Corresponding Population per Congregation, 2000

	Population	Congregations	Population per Congregation
United States	194,552,774	39,246	4,957
Alabama	3,125,819	3,118	1,003
Alaska	423,788	68	6,232
Arizona	3,274,258	307	10,665
Arkansas	2,100,135	1,372	1,531
California	15,816,790	898	17,613
Colorado	3,202,880	272	11,775
Connecticut	2,638,845	23	114,732
Delaware	567,973	16	35,498
District of Columbia	159,178	15	10,612
Florida	10,458,509	1,897	5,513
Georgia	5,128,661	3,219	1,593
Hawaii	277,091	9	30,788
Idaho	1,139,291	79	14,421
Illinois	8,424,140	843	9,993
Indiana	5,219,373	346	15,085
Iowa	2,710,344	79	34,308
Kansas	2,233,997	253	8,830
Kentucky	3,608,013	2,402	1,502
Louisiana	2,794,391	1,476	1,893
Maine	1,230,297	20	61,515
Maryland	3,286,547	300	10,955
Massachusetts	5,198,359	51	101,929
Michigan	7,806,691	228	34,240
Minnesota	4,337,143	47	92,280
Mississippi	1,727,908	2,006	861
Missouri	4,686,474	1,882	2,490
Montana	807,823	111	7,278
Nebraska	1,494,494	53	28,198
Nevada	1,303,001	124	10,508
New Hampshire	1,175,252	23	51,098
New Jersey	5,557,209	33	168,400
New Mexico	813,495	246	3,307
New York	11,760,981	130	90,469
North Carolina	5,647,155	3,625	1,558
North Dakota	589,149	26	22,660

Table 2—continued

	Population	Congregations	Population per Congregation
Ohio	9,538,111	522	18,272
Oklahoma	2,556,368	1,447	1,767
Oregon	2,857,616	118	24,217
Pennsylvania	10,322,455	148	69,746
Rhode Island	858,433	9	95,381
South Carolina	2,652,291	1,920	1,381
South Dakota	664,585	42	15,823
Tennessee	4,505,930	2,961	1,522
Texas	10,933,313	4,316	2,533
Utah	1,904,265	52	36,620
Vermont	585,431	18	32,524
Virginia	4,965,637	1,564	3,175
Washington	4,652,490	204	22,806
West Virginia	1,709,966	192	8,906
Wisconsin	4,681,630	53	88,333
Wyoming	438,799	83	5,287
<i>Puerto Rico</i>	<i>33,966</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5,661</i>

Source: 2000 Census, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.; Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Notes: The White Non-Hispanic population count is the single race count. Predominantly White SBC congregations include both churches and church-type missions.

Figure 2
Anglo Population per Congregation

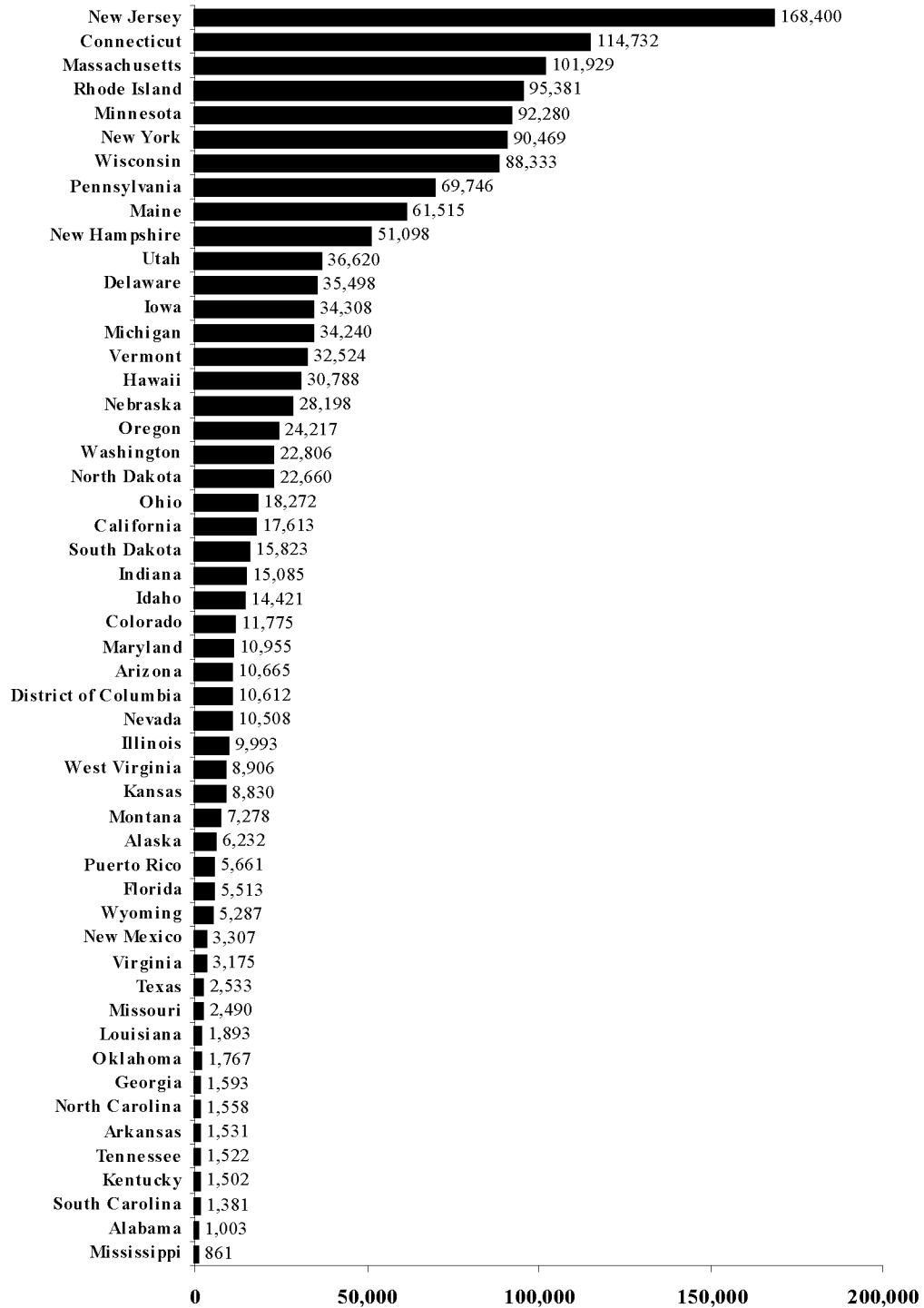


Table 3
African-American (Black) Population per Congregation: African-
American Non-Hispanic Population, Predominantly African-
American Southern Baptist Congregations, and Corresponding
Population per Congregation, 2000

	Population	Congregations	Population per Congregation
United States	33,947,837	2,319	14,639
Alabama	1,150,076	26	44,234
Alaska	21,073	4	5,268
Arizona	149,941	13	11,534
Arkansas	416,615	21	19,839
California	2,181,926	316	6,905
Colorado	158,443	6	26,407
Connecticut	295,571	6	49,262
Delaware	148,435	5	29,687
District of Columbia	340,088	35	9,717
Florida	2,264,268	242	9,356
Georgia	2,331,465	107	21,789
Hawaii	20,829	0	...
Idaho	4,889	2	2,445
Illinois	1,856,152	115	16,140
Indiana	505,462	28	18,052
Iowa	60,744	8	7,593
Kansas	151,407	10	15,141
Kentucky	293,639	43	6,829
Louisiana	1,443,390	88	16,402
Maine	6,440	0	...
Maryland	1,464,735	92	15,921
Massachusetts	318,329	16	19,896
Michigan	1,402,047	41	34,196
Minnesota	168,813	2	84,407
Mississippi	1,028,473	27	38,092
Missouri	625,667	48	13,035
Montana	2,534	0	...
Nebraska	67,537	7	9,648
Nevada	131,509	6	21,918
New Hampshire	8,354	0	...
New Jersey	1,096,171	17	64,481
New Mexico	30,654	5	6,131
New York	2,812,623	38	74,016
North Carolina	1,723,301	47	36,666
North Dakota	3,761	2	1,881

Table 3—continued

	Population	Congregations	Population per Congregation
Ohio	1,290,662	40	32,267
Oklahoma	257,981	18	14,332
Oregon	53,325	5	10,665
Pennsylvania	1,202,437	87	13,821
Rhode Island	41,922	0	...
South Carolina	1,178,486	16	73,655
South Dakota	4,563	0	...
Tennessee	928,204	63	14,733
Texas	2,364,255	565	4,185
Utah	16,137	1	16,137
Vermont	2,921	0	...
Virginia	1,376,378	67	20,543
Washington	184,631	13	14,202
West Virginia	56,825	1	56,825
Wisconsin	300,245	18	16,680
Wyoming	3,504	2	1,752
<i>Puerto Rico</i>	<i>5,064</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1,688</i>

Source: 2000 Census, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.; Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Notes: The African-American Non-Hispanic population count is the single race count. Predominantly African-American SBC congregations include both churches and church-type missions.

Figure 3
African-American Population per Congregation

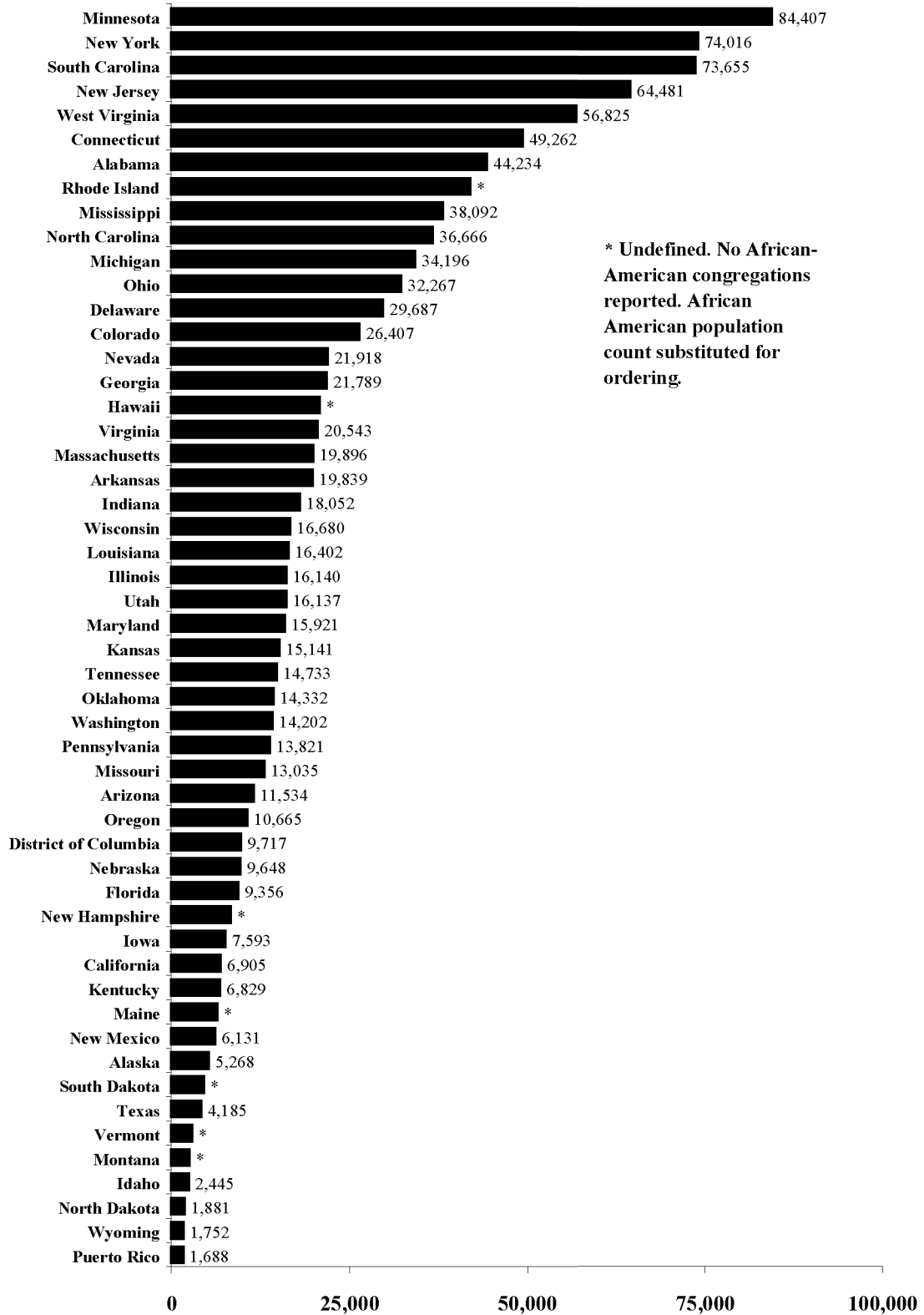


Table 4
Hispanic Population per Congregation: Hispanic Population,
Predominantly Hispanic Southern Baptist Congregations, and
Corresponding Population per Congregation, 2000

	Population	Congregations	Population per Congregation
United States	35,305,818	2,148	16,437
Alabama	75,830	14	5,416
Alaska	25,852	3	8,617
Arizona	1,295,617	55	23,557
Arkansas	86,866	17	5,110
California	10,966,556	209	52,472
Colorado	735,601	26	28,292
Connecticut	320,323	7	45,760
Delaware	37,277	2	18,639
District of Columbia	44,953	3	14,984
Florida	2,682,715	220	12,194
Georgia	435,227	63	6,908
Hawaii	87,699	0	...
Idaho	101,690	6	16,948
Illinois	1,530,262	35	43,722
Indiana	214,536	8	26,817
Iowa	82,473	3	27,491
Kansas	188,252	11	17,114
Kentucky	59,939	9	6,660
Louisiana	107,738	28	3,848
Maine	9,360	0	...
Maryland	227,916	14	16,280
Massachusetts	428,729	10	42,873
Michigan	323,877	13	24,914
Minnesota	143,382	3	47,794
Mississippi	39,569	5	7,914
Missouri	118,592	16	7,412
Montana	18,081	0	...
Nebraska	94,425	3	31,475
Nevada	393,970	18	21,887
New Hampshire	20,489	0	...
New Jersey	1,117,191	13	85,938
New Mexico	765,386	54	14,174
New York	2,867,583	24	119,483
North Carolina	378,963	60	6,316
North Dakota	7,786	1	7,786

Table 4—continued

	Population	Congregations	Population per Congregation
Ohio	217,123	9	24,125
Oklahoma	179,304	49	3,659
Oregon	275,314	8	34,414
Pennsylvania	394,088	8	49,261
Rhode Island	90,820	1	90,820
South Carolina	95,076	17	5,593
South Dakota	10,903	0	...
Tennessee	123,838	17	7,285
Texas	6,669,666	1,042	6,401
Utah	201,559	8	25,195
Vermont	5,504	0	...
Virginia	329,540	19	17,344
Washington	441,509	11	40,137
West Virginia	12,279	0	...
Wisconsin	192,921	1	192,921
Wyoming	31,669	5	6,334
<i>Puerto Rico</i>	<i>3,762,746</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>80,058</i>

Source: 2000 Census, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.; Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Notes: Predominantly Hispanic congregations include both churches and church-type missions.

Figure 4
Hispanic Population per Congregation

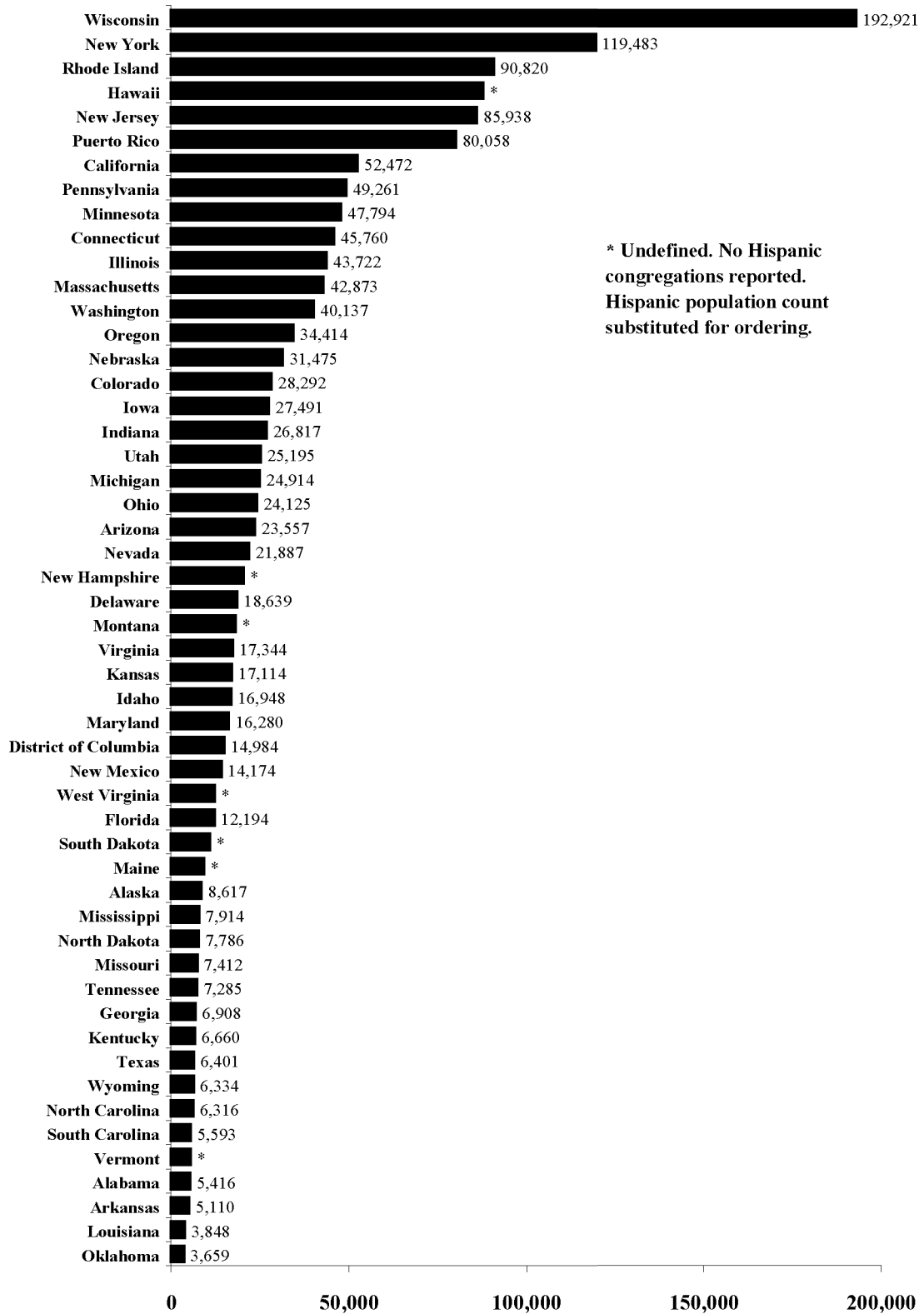


Table 5
Asian Population per Congregation: Asian, Native Hawaiian and
other Pacific Islander Population, Predominantly Asian and
Pacific Islander Southern Baptist Congregations, and
Corresponding Population per Congregation, 2000

	Population	Congregations	Population per Congregation
United States	10,476,678	1,261	8,308
Alabama	32,048	13	2,465
Alaska	27,922	6	4,654
Arizona	94,954	22	4,316
Arkansas	21,386	12	1,782
California	3,752,596	281	13,354
Colorado	97,122	21	4,625
Connecticut	82,522	0	...
Delaware	16,344	2	8,172
District of Columbia	15,312	1	15,312
Florida	268,580	51	5,266
Georgia	174,791	81	2,158
Hawaii	602,590	45	...
Idaho	12,841	4	3,210
Illinois	423,032	34	12,442
Indiana	59,997	12	5,000
Iowa	37,233	4	9,308
Kansas	47,455	14	3,390
Kentucky	30,643	15	2,043
Louisiana	55,332	26	2,128
Maine	9,348	0	...
Maryland	211,651	49	4,319
Massachusetts	238,492	9	26,499
Michigan	177,456	16	11,091
Minnesota	142,797	12	11,900
Mississippi	18,918	9	2,102
Missouri	63,980	14	4,570
Montana	4,994	2	...
Nebraska	22,324	1	22,324
Nevada	96,362	7	13,766
New Hampshire	16,133	0	...
New Jersey	479,187	29	16,524
New Mexico	19,249	5	3,850
New York	1,041,156	43	24,213
North Carolina	115,581	41	2,819
North Dakota	3,784	1	3,784

Table 5—continued

	Population	Congregations	Population per Congregation
Ohio	134,006	13	10,308
Oklahoma	48,272	23	2,099
Oregon	107,731	6	17,955
Pennsylvania	220,987	13	16,999
Rhode Island	23,736	0	...
South Carolina	36,838	14	2,631
South Dakota	4,535	1	...
Tennessee	57,887	28	2,067
Texas	565,202	182	3,106
Utah	51,289	8	6,411
Vermont	5,280	0	...
Virginia	262,657	50	5,253
Washington	342,180	35	9,777
West Virginia	9,691	1	9,691
Wisconsin	89,341	5	17,868
Wyoming	2,934	0	...
<i>Puerto Rico</i>	<i>3,240</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>...</i>

Source: 2000 Census, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.; Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Notes: The Asian, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander Population Non-Hispanic population count is the single race count. Predominantly Asian, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander SBC congregations include both churches and church-type missions.

Figure 5
Asian Population per Congregation

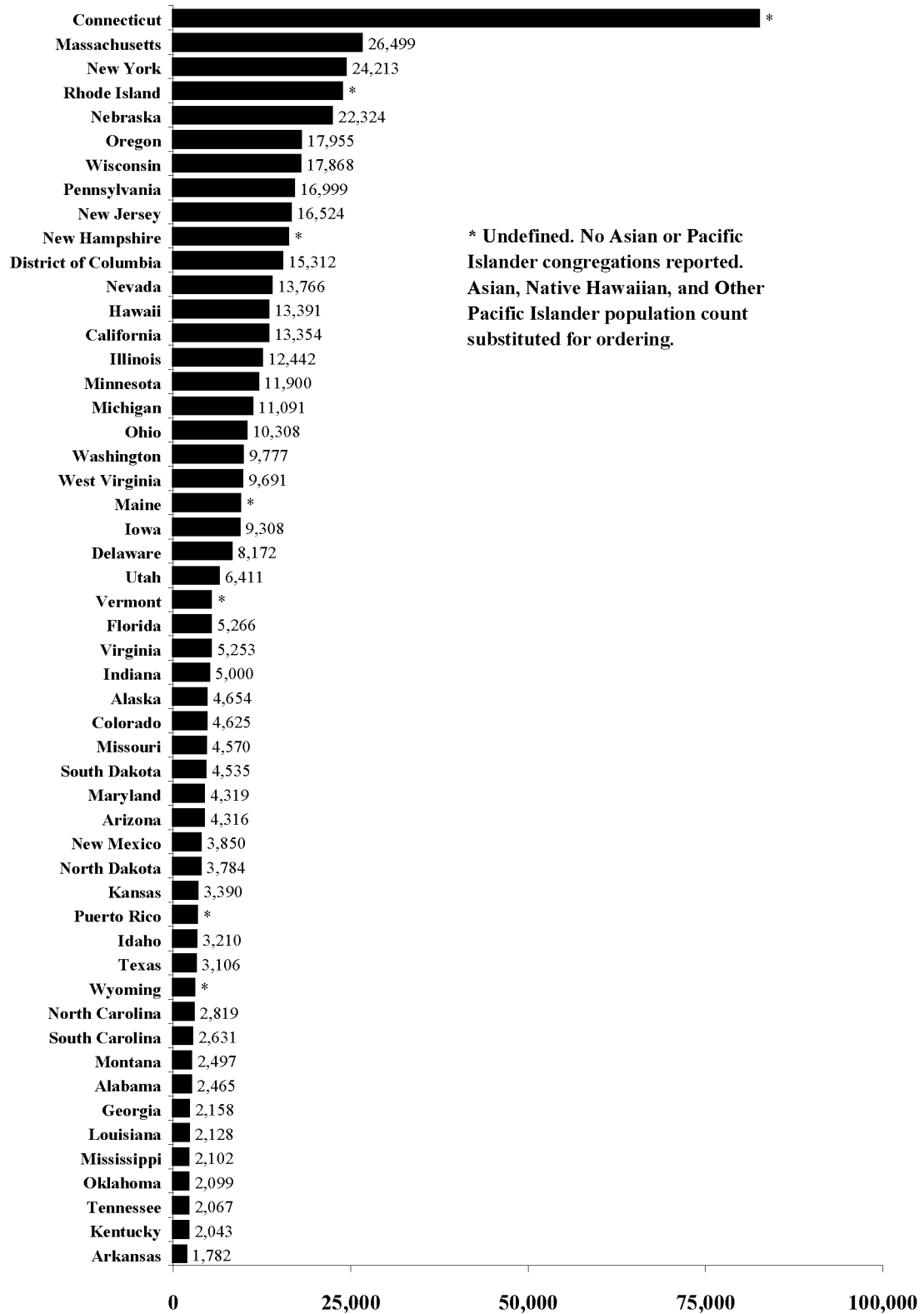


Table 6
Native American Population per Congregation: American Indian
and Alaska Native Non-Hispanic Population, Predominantly Native
American Southern Baptist Congregations, and Corresponding
Population per Congregation, 2000

	Population	Congregations	Population per Congregation
United States	2,068,883	354	5,844
Alabama	21,618	2	10,809
Alaska	96,505	11	8,773
Arizona	233,370	25	9,335
Arkansas	16,702	0	...
California	178,984	11	16,271
Colorado	28,982	1	28,982
Connecticut	7,267	0	...
Delaware	2,324	0	...
District of Columbia	1,274	0	...
Florida	42,358	5	8,472
Georgia	17,670	0	...
Hawaii	2,539	0	...
Idaho	15,789	2	7,895
Illinois	18,232	2	9,116
Indiana	13,654	0	...
Iowa	7,955	0	...
Kansas	22,322	1	22,322
Kentucky	7,939	0	...
Louisiana	24,129	4	6,032
Maine	6,911	0	...
Maryland	13,312	1	13,312
Massachusetts	11,264	0	...
Michigan	53,421	0	...
Minnesota	52,009	0	...
Mississippi	11,224	13	863
Missouri	23,302	0	...
Montana	54,426	13	4,187
Nebraska	13,460	1	13,460
Nevada	21,397	4	5,349
New Hampshire	2,698	0	...
New Jersey	11,338	0	...
New Mexico	161,460	24	6,728
New York	52,499	0	...
North Carolina	95,333	73	1,306
North Dakota	30,772	7	4,396

Table 6—continued

	Population	Congregations	Population per Congregation
Ohio	21,985	0	...
Oklahoma	266,158	120	2,218
Oregon	40,130	1	40,130
Pennsylvania	14,904	0	...
Rhode Island	4,181	0	...
South Carolina	12,765	3	4,255
South Dakota	60,988	12	5,082
Tennessee	13,820	2	6,910
Texas	68,859	6	11,477
Utah	26,663	4	6,666
Vermont	2,325	0	...
Virginia	18,596	5	3,719
Washington	85,396	0	...
West Virginia	3,456	0	...
Wisconsin	43,980	0	...
Wyoming	10,238	1	10,238
<i>Puerto Rico</i>	<i>563</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>...</i>

Source: 2000 Census, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.; Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Notes: The American Indian and Alaska Native Non-Hispanic population count is the single race count. Predominantly Native American SBC congregations include both churches and church-type missions.

Figure 6
Native American Population per Congregation

