

Tracking Diaspora: Vietnamese Populations in Houston, TX

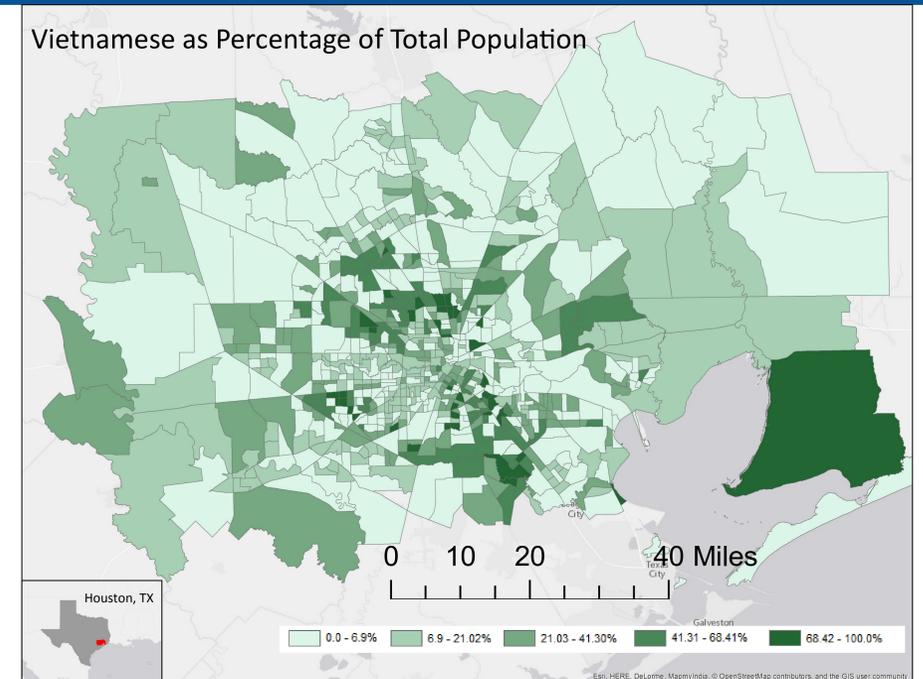
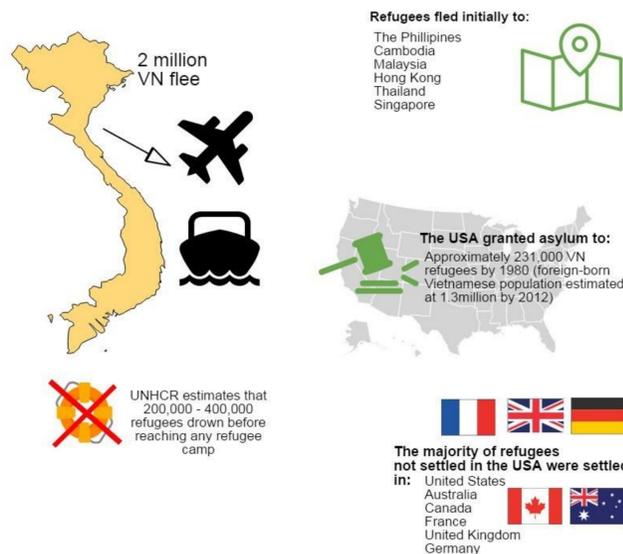
Introduction

In 1975, Vietnamese refugees from the South fled, and successive waves followed, continuing into the 1990s. I chose Houston TX particularly for the area's importance and cultural significance for USA-wide Vietnamese populations (similar to regions of California). I hypothesized that the Vietnamese populations in the Houston, TX area would start off clustered; however, as the decades went on, these populations would disperse as the populations assimilated into society, moved farther afield from family, and became less tied to one place.

Methodology

Using decades of Vietnamese population census data, I joined the appropriate census tract with the corresponding census data on the percentage of the total population that is Vietnamese. I also calculated mean center, standard deviational ellipses, and Local Moran's I:

- = High-High (HH)
- = High-Low (HL)
- = Low-High (LH)
- = Low-Low (LL)
- = Mean Center
- = Standard Deviational Ellipses (68%, 95%)
- = non-significant frequency



Results/Further Research

As the maps show, the Vietnamese populations were highly concentrated in 1990 around two areas near the city center, with other pockets of high percentage slightly farther out and otherwise surrounded by low density (HL). Within ten years the HH areas increase in size, but along with this increasing density of HH there is a marked growth in LL areas, meaning that Vietnamese populations lived farther away from other Vietnamese families. Yet by 2010 Vietnamese populations clustered in HH frequency again, this time out farther towards the Galveston area. Further work could analyze the reasons for this dispersion and then migration into further reaches of the Houston area, with a special focus towards housing prices and overall gentrification.

