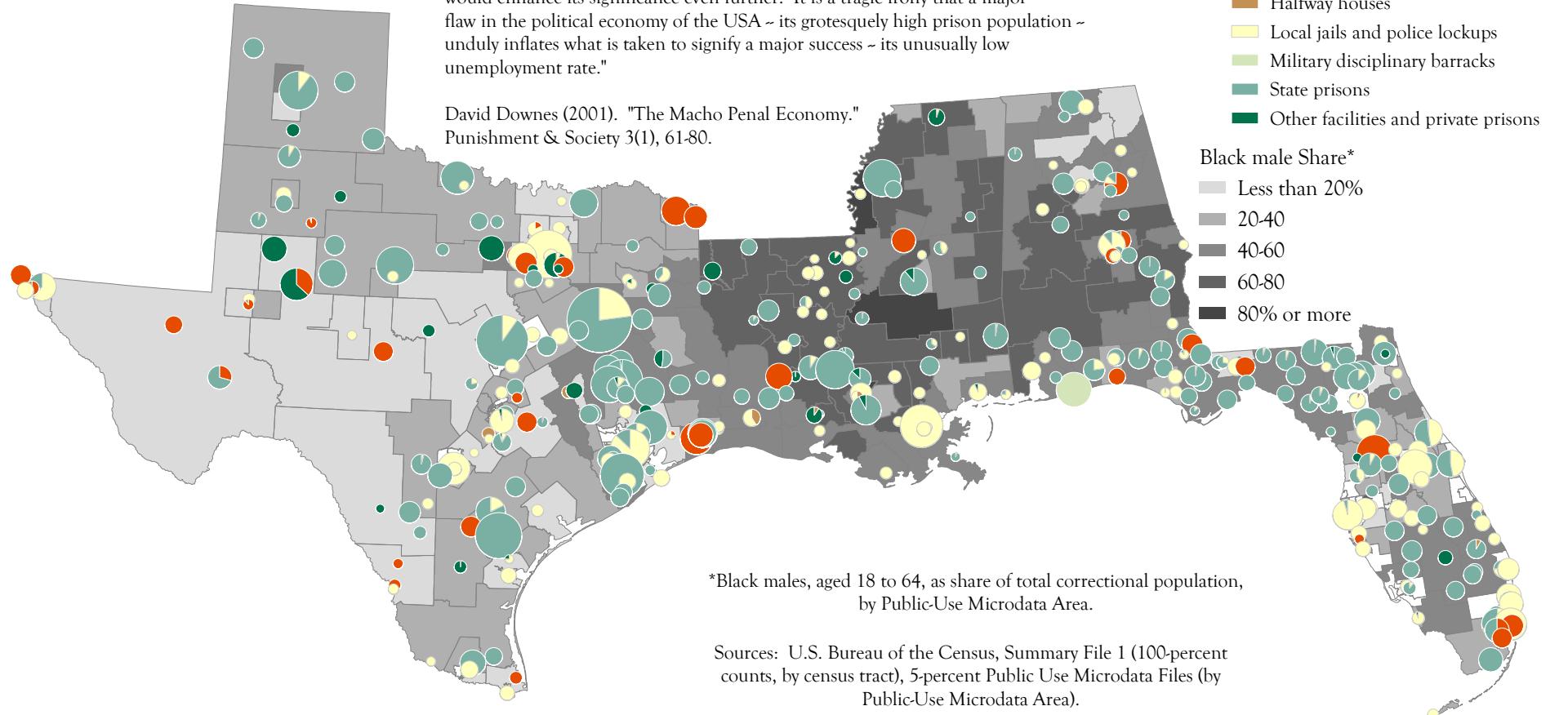


Incarceration in America's Gulf Coast States, 2000

"...the US prison population now amounts to some 2 percent of the male labor force. As a result of prisoners being excluded from the labor force count, a convention which merits re-examination, this factor alone has reduced the official figure for male unemployment by some 30-40 percent since the early 1990s. ...Making some allowance for the huge job creation aspect of imprisonment for custodial and allied staff, especially in areas of high unemployment, would enhance its significance even further. It is a tragic irony that a major flaw in the political economy of the USA ~ its grotesquely high prison population ~ unduly inflates what is taken to signify a major success ~ its unusually low unemployment rate."

David Downes (2001). "The Macho Penal Economy." *Punishment & Society* 3(1), 61-80.



*Black males, aged 18 to 64, as share of total correctional population, by Public-Use Microdata Area.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 1 (100-percent counts, by census tract), 5-percent Public Use Microdata Files (by Public-Use Microdata Area).

Note: Excludes census tracts with fewer than 250 in correctional institutions

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