Russian Orthodox Churches In Massachusetts

Konrad Maciak

GGR320

Orthodox Christianity

- A decidedly "Eastern" version of Christianity, which believes to be the original church of Christ.

- Practiced in countries that were part of the Byzantine empire located in Eastern and Southern Europe and Central Asia

Each Nation has its own orthodox church, which conducts sermons in the language of its nation. Nations in which Orthodox Christianity are prevalent include Greece, Russia, Moldova, Belarus, Cyprus, and Georgia.

THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE IN THE SIXTH CENTURY

Boundaries of the empire before Justinian
Added by Justinian's conquests
Byzantine Empire at its greatest extent

0   200   400   600   800
MILES

Copyright © 2001 by Houghton Mifflin Company

Orthodox Christianity in the United States

- Most churches were built to accommodate immigrants arriving from Eastern and Southern Europe, where the faith is practiced. Most of these immigrants arrived in the later part of the 19th century and the early 20th century.

- Most prominent in cities that have significant population Russian, Greek, or other orthodox immigrants. Such as Cleveland and Chicago. Or rural areas with many Russian immigrants such as the Prairie Provinces in Western Canada.

Russian Orthodox Churches in Massachusetts

-Where are they located?

-Is immigration an important factor?

Hypothesis: Orthodox churches will be located in Massachusetts cities that have significant populations of Russian immigrants.
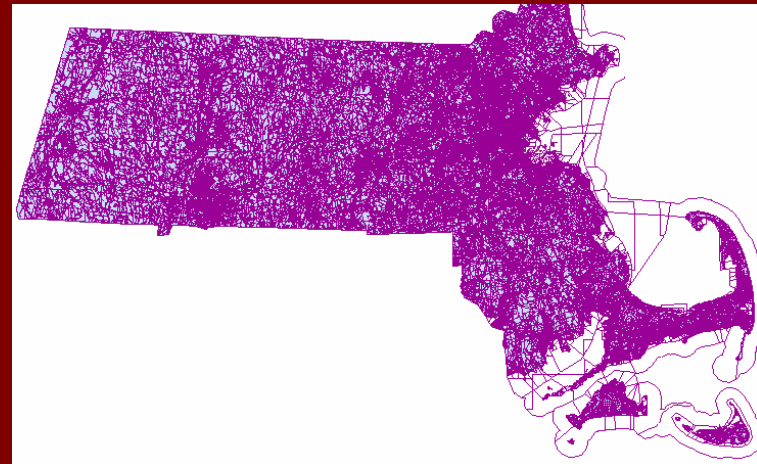
Methodology

- Acquire layers displaying Massachusetts Geography
- Acquire Immigration Data from US Census
- Obtain Addresses of Orthodox Churches across Massachusetts from Orthadox Church of America
- Geocode church addresses
- Display Immigration Data
- Analyze

Necessary Layers

- Massachusetts Town Boundaries
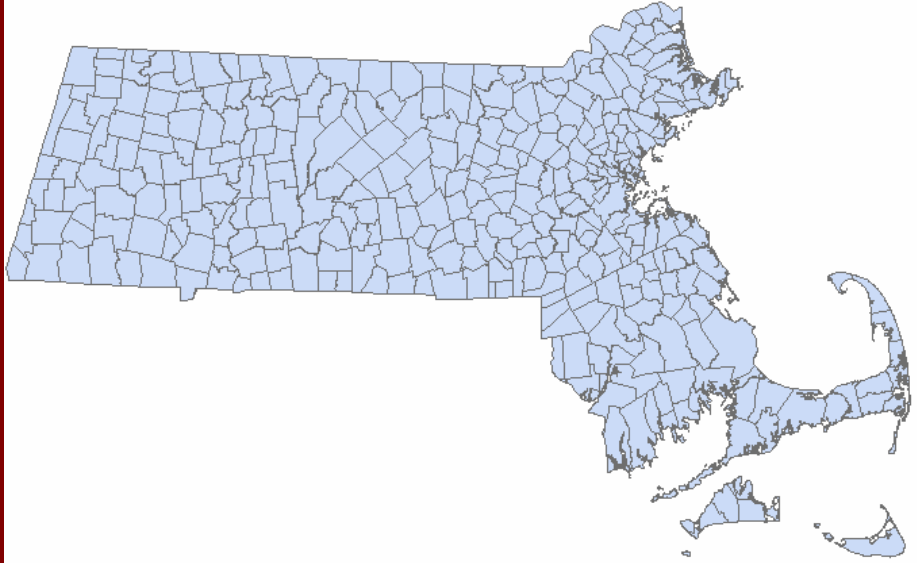
- Tiger Road Files

Census Immigration Data

- Too Vague: Only breaks immigration down by "Country of Origin" at state or major metropolitan level.

- City data is broken down into general world region (I.e. Europe, Latin America, Africa, etc.)

- New Hypothesis: Russian Orthodox Churches are located in cities with significant numbers of European Immigrants

Table FBP-1. Profile of Selected Demographic and Social Characteristics: 2000
Population Universe: People Born in Europe
Geographic Area: UNITED STATES
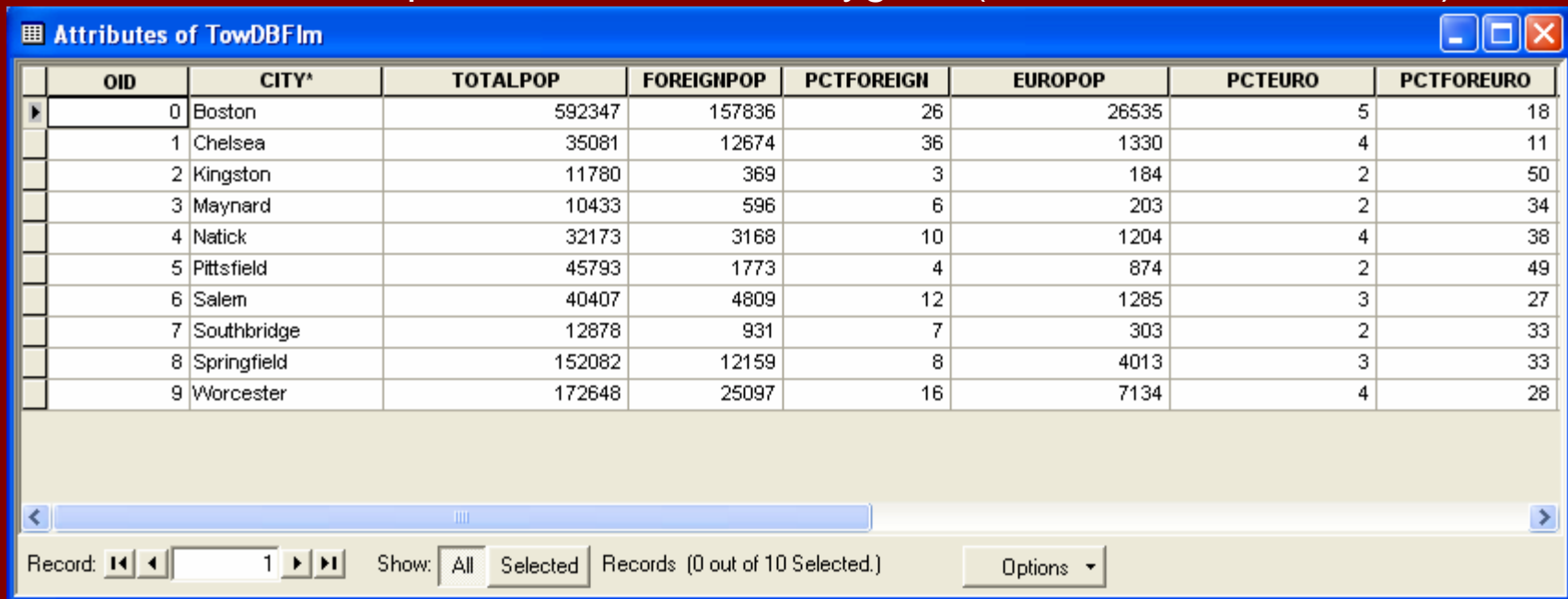
[For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf]

Data Methodology

- Record total population of city, foreign born population, percentage of foreign born residents, number of European Immigrants, percentage of European immigrants in total population, percentage of European immigrants among foreign born population.

- Create Excel chart of these statistics and convert it to DBF IV

- Join DBF table to Town Polygon Layer

- Problems: Multiple fields for Town Polygons (needed to be dissolved)

Attributes of TowDBFlm

OID	CITY*	TOTALPOP	FOREIGNPOP	PCTFOREIGN	EUROPOP	PCTEURO	PCTFOREURO
0	Boston	592347	157836	26	26535	5	18
1	Chelsea	35081	12674	36	1330	4	11
2	Kingston	11780	369	3	184	2	50
3	Maynard	10433	596	6	203	2	34
4	Natick	32173	3168	10	1204	4	38
5	Pittsfield	45793	1773	4	874	2	49
6	Salem	40407	4809	12	1285	3	27
7	Southbridge	12878	931	7	303	2	33
8	Springfield	152082	12159	8	4013	3	33
9	Worcester	172648	25097	16	7134	4	28

Record: 1   Show: All Selected   Records (0 out of 10 Selected.)   Options

Geocoding

- 14 Russian Orthodox churches located across the state in Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Kingston, Maynard, Natick, Pittsfield, Salem, Springfield, Southbridge, West Hyannisport and Worcester
- 2 Churches omitted:
  - Nativity of the Ever Virgin Mary Church in Cambridge (No Address)
  - Our Lady of Kazan in West Hyannisport (No existing polygons or census data for West Hyannisport)

  Problem: Capitalized city names in Polygon Towns (needed to edit the address data table)

Geocoding Results

St. Nicholas

Nativity of The Virgin Mary

Holy Annunciation Church

St. Nicholas

Assumption of the Virgin Mary

Holy Trinity Cathedral

St. George

Church of The Annunciation

St. John The Baptist

St. Peter and Paul

St. Nicholas

St. Mark of Ephesis
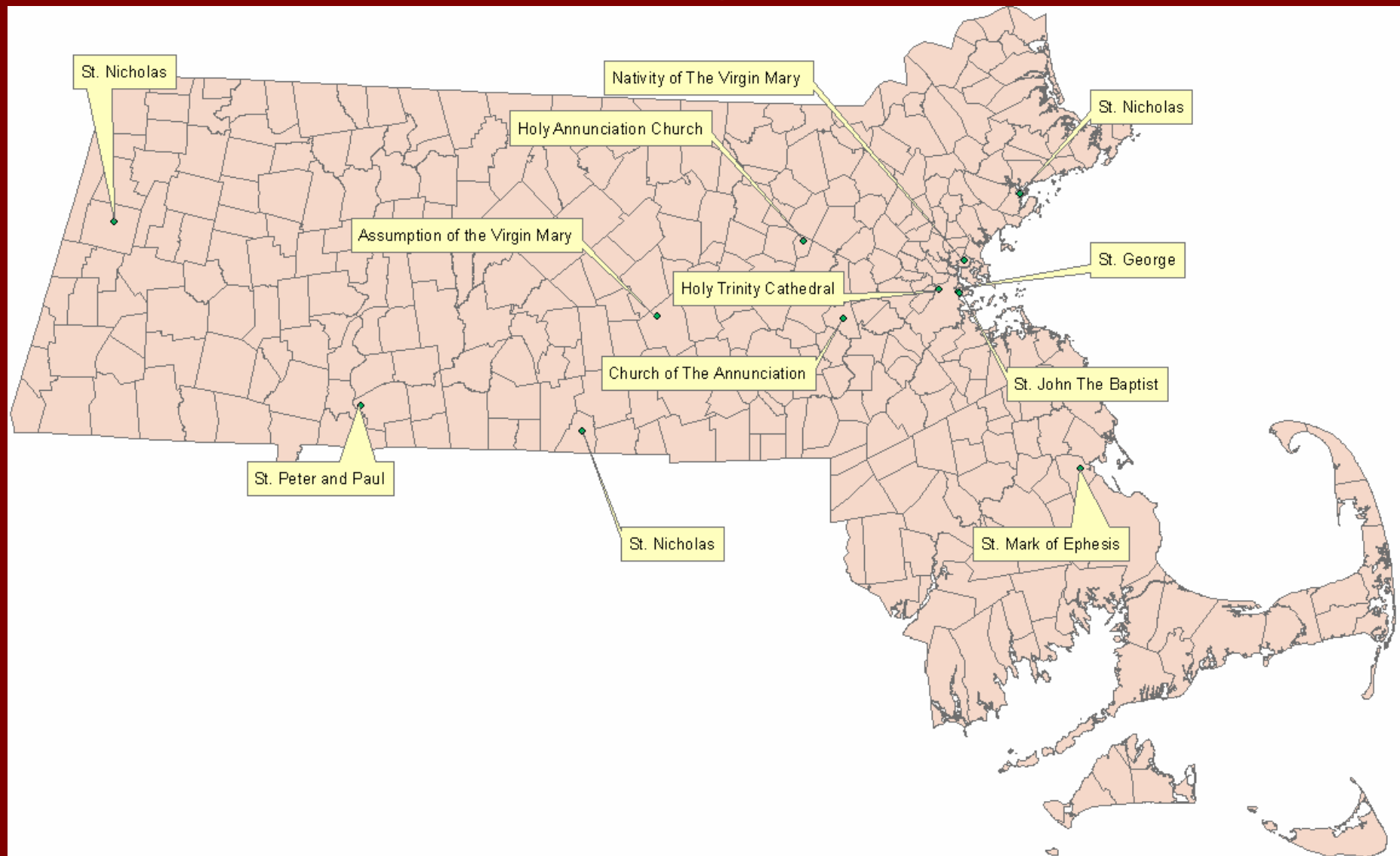
European Population Compared to Total Population

Number of Europeans (Percents)

PCTEURO

- ○ 2
- ● 3
- ● 4
- ● 5
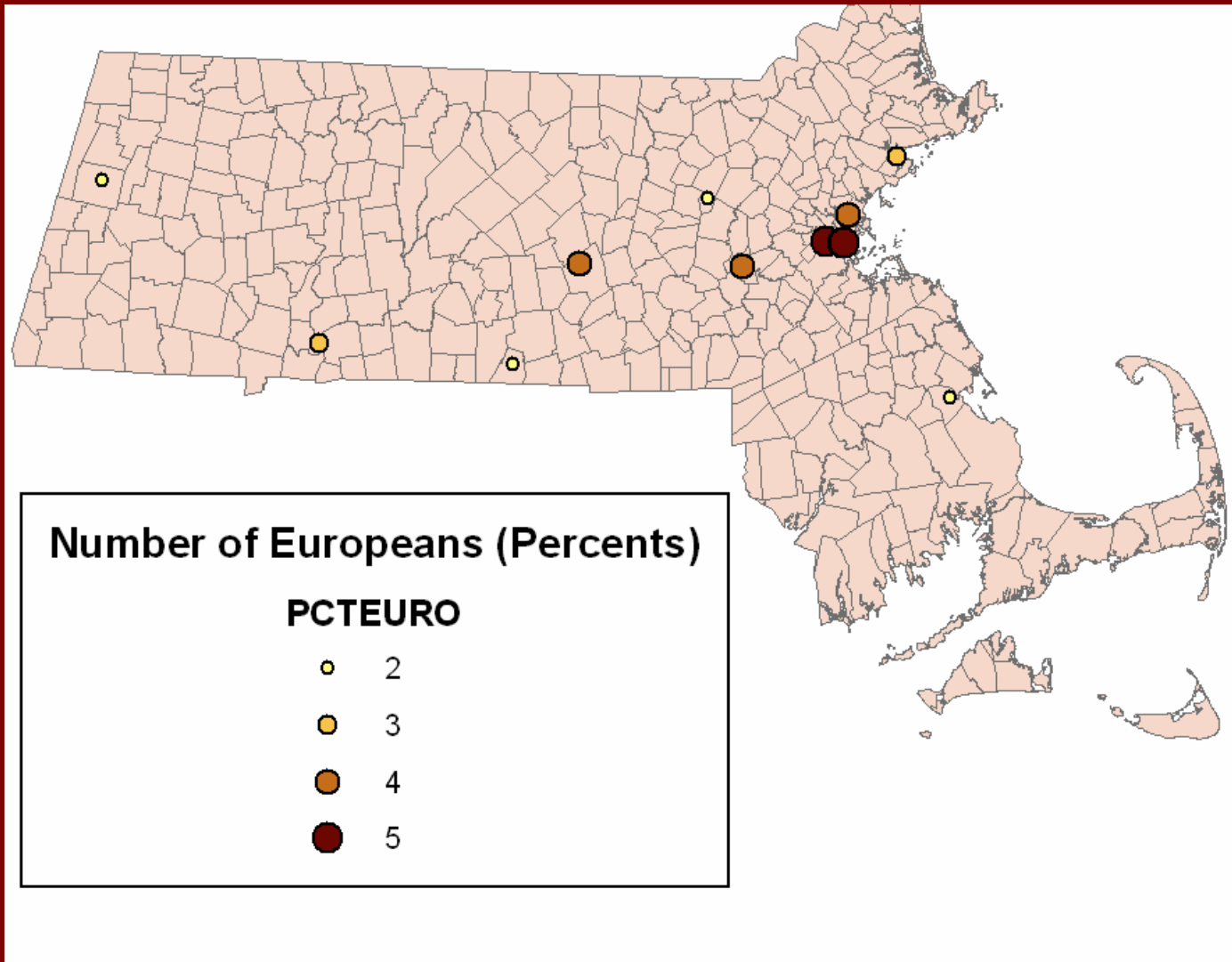
European Population Compared To Foreign Born Population

Number of Europeans (Percents)

PCTFOREURO

- 11 - 18
- 19 - 28
- 29 - 38
- 39 - 50
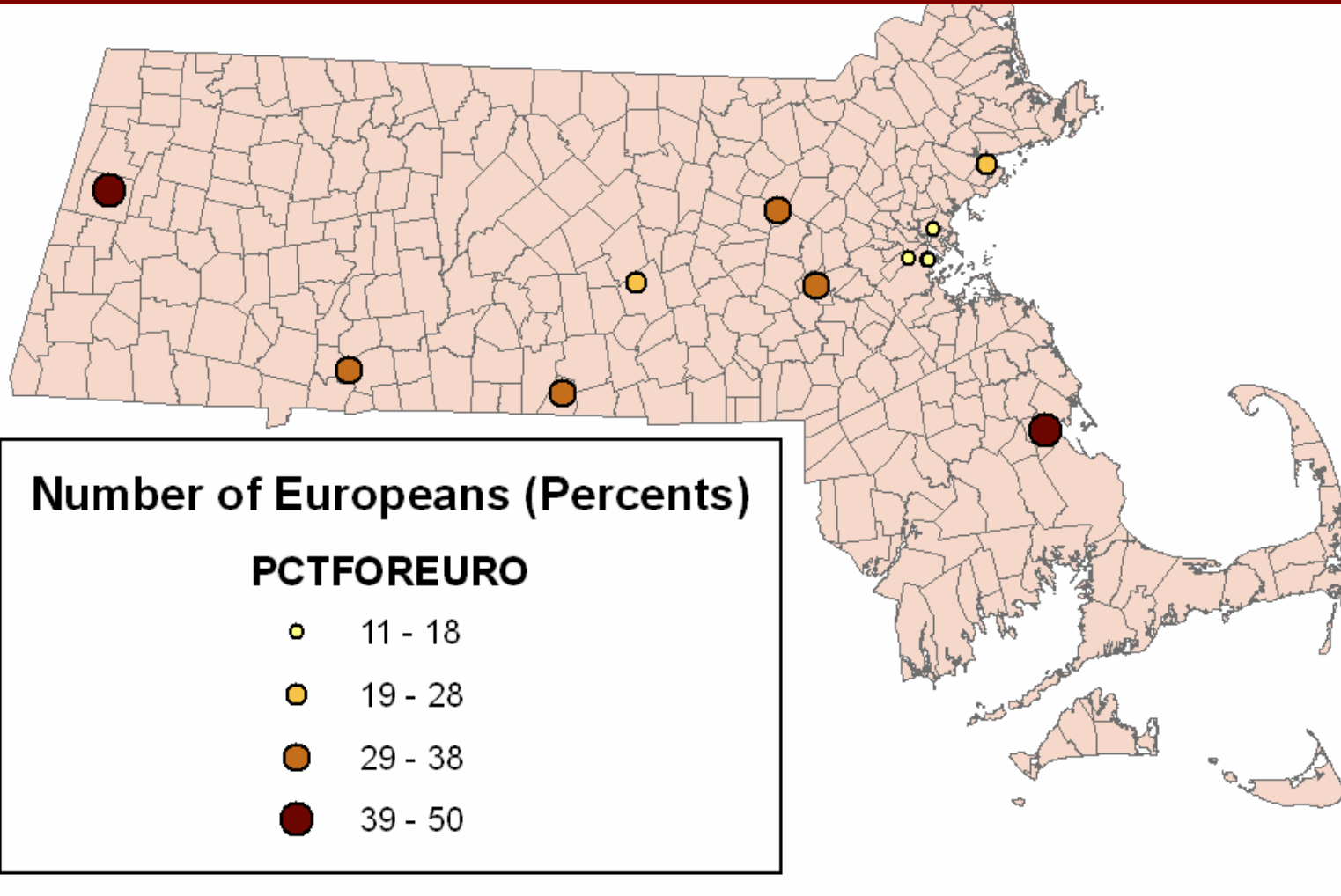
Results

- Orthodox churches are present in cities where:
  - The total population is greater than 10,000
  - Europeans make up 2 to 5 percent of the population (mean: 3.1 percent)
  - Europeans make up 11 to 50 percent of the foreign born population (mean: 32.1 percent)
  - Results do not support the hypothesis

Conclusion

- Results not significant enough to prove correlation between immigration and location of churches
- Reasons:
    - Data is not specific enough
    - Many church parishioners descended from Russian immigrants

Suggestions for future study:
  - Find more geographically specific data
  - Analyze historic data/ genealogical data