



National Healthy Start Association, Inc.

Prepared for Secretary Advisory Committee on Infant
Mortality

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Historical Overview of the Healthy Start Initiative and the
NHSA

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National Healthy Start Association



History of the Healthy Start Initiative

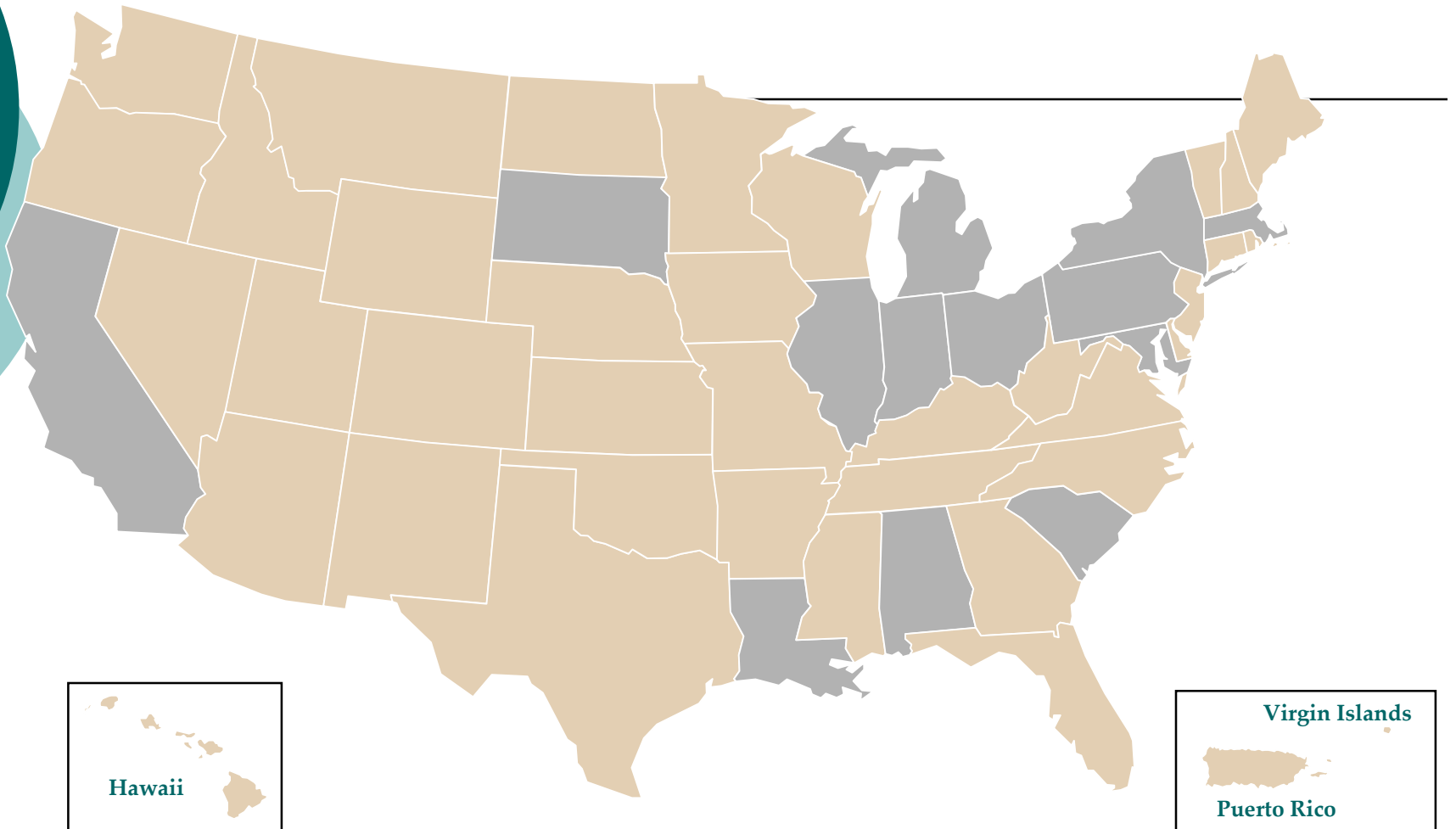
- **1991: The Time was Right for Healthy Start**
 - U.S. infant mortality rate was rising.
 - Traditional strategies to combat infant mortality were not as successful as expected.
 - Babies were being born to crack-addicted mothers.
 - Black infants were dying higher rates than other populations.
 - There was a new focus on racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care.



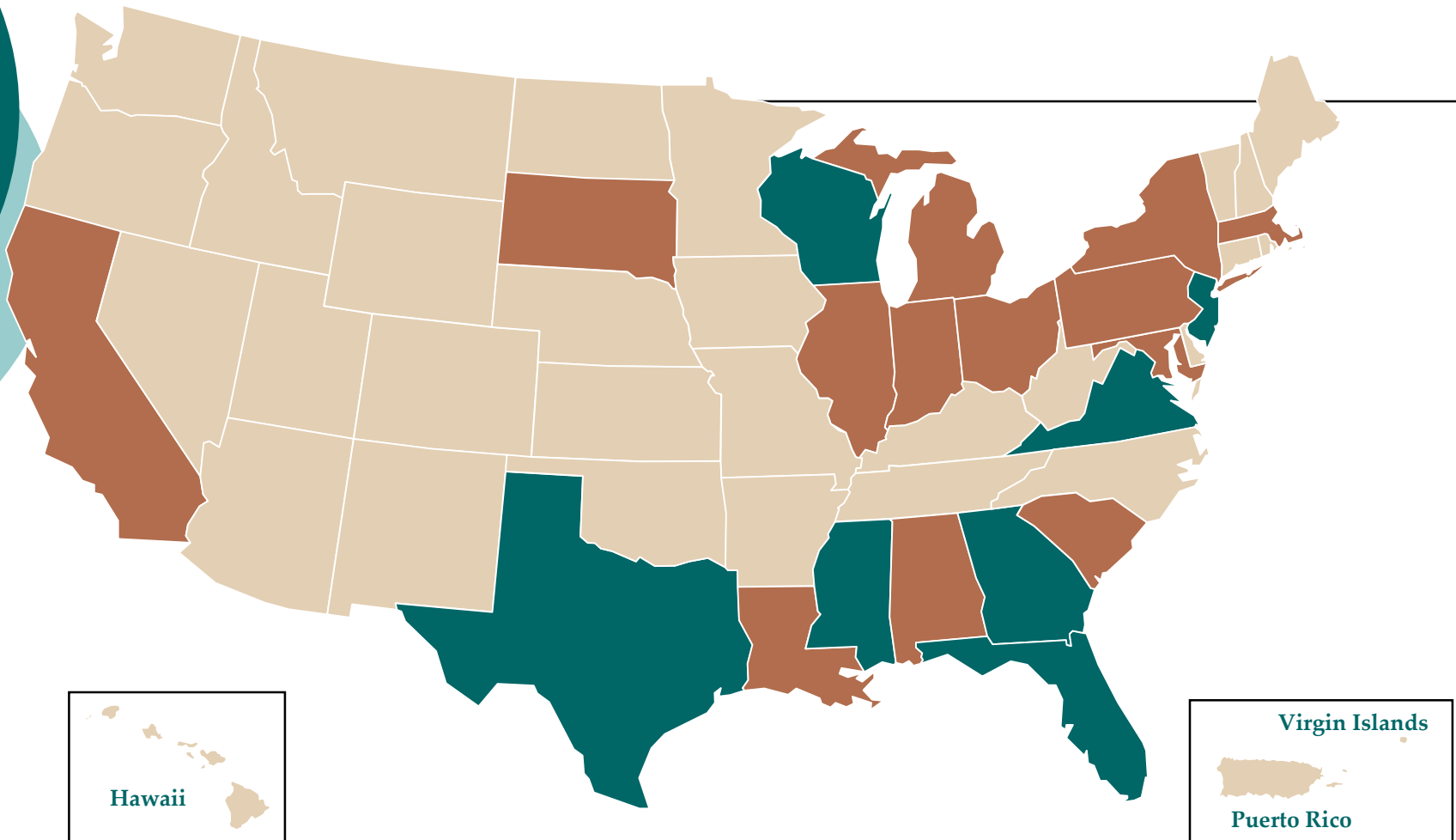
History of Healthy Start

- HRSA began H.S. in 1991 with funding to 15 urban and rural sites with IMR of 1.5 – 2.5 times the national average.
- At inception, the nation ranked 22nd in developed countries' infant mortality rate.

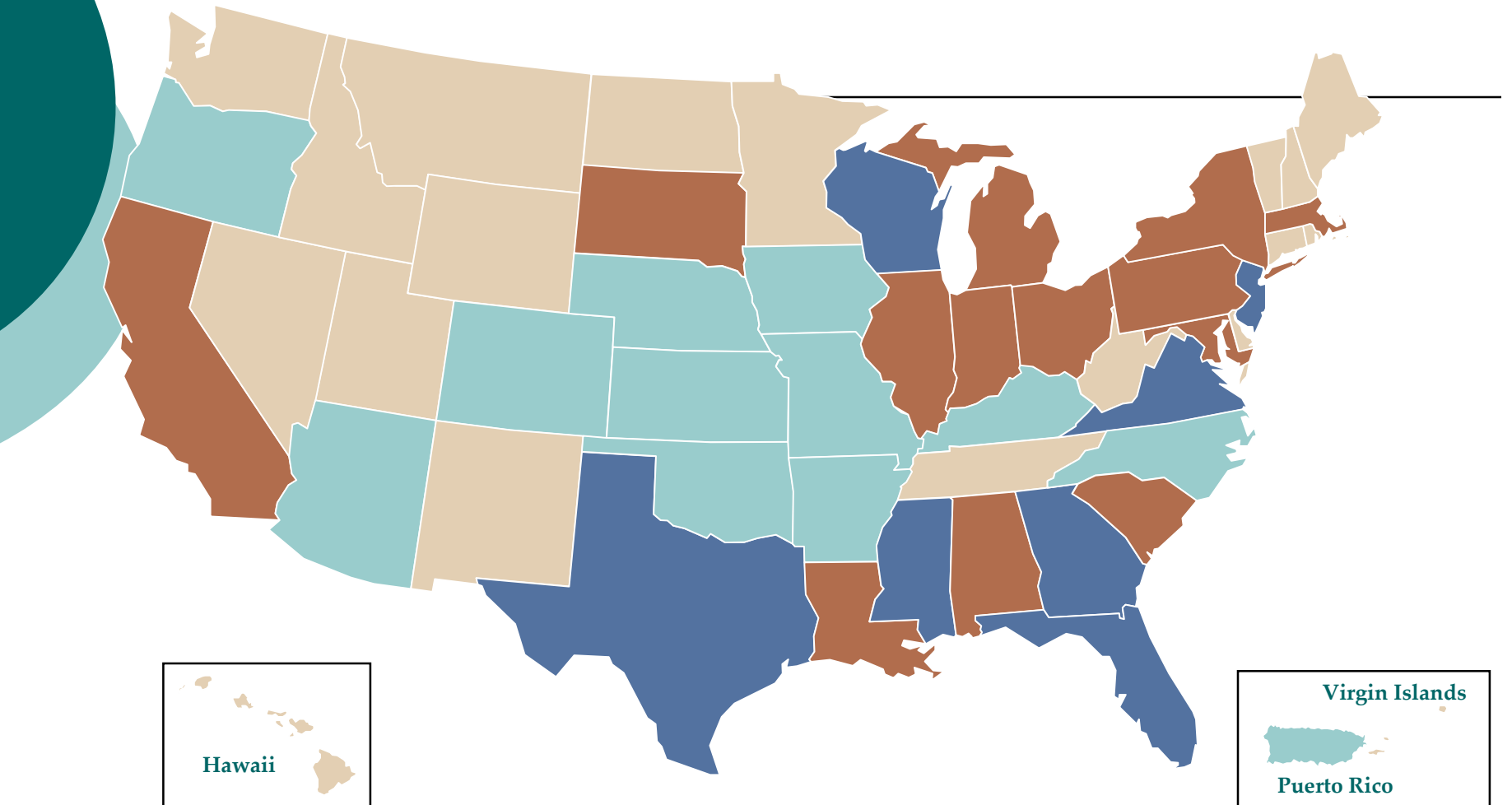
1991 - Phase I: Demonstration Phase ●



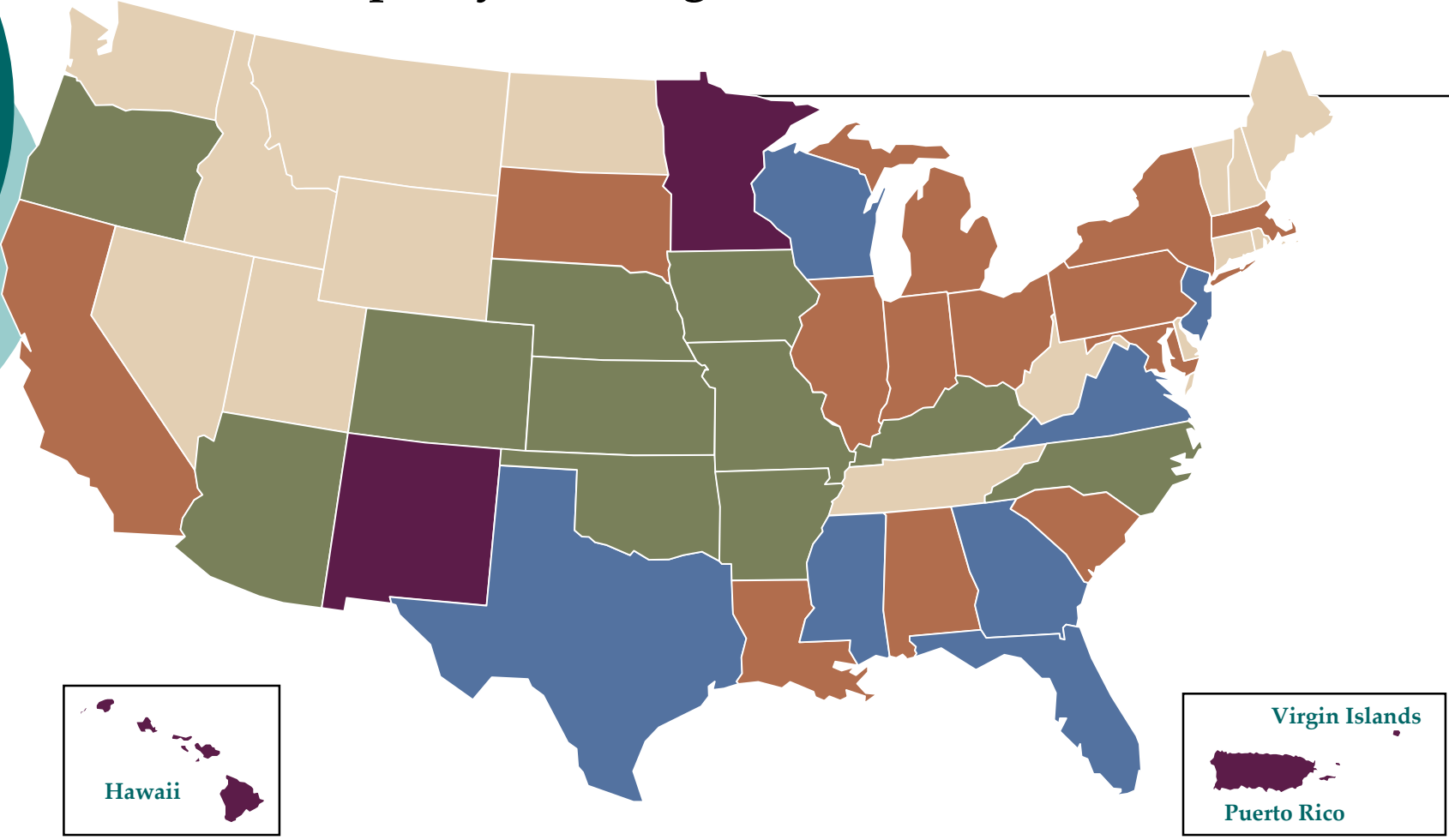
1994 - Phase I: Special Projects Added ●



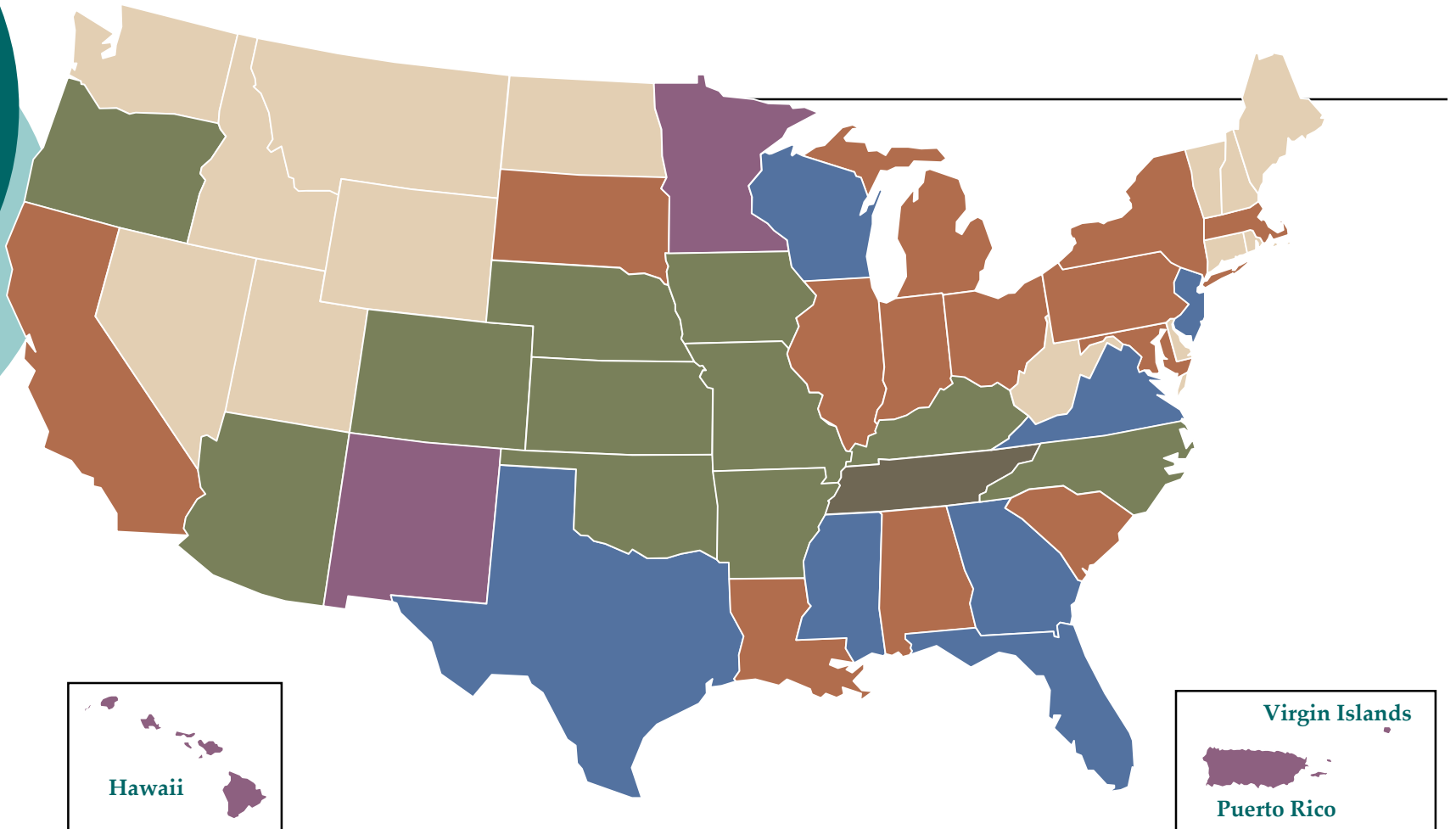
1997 - Phase II: 55 Projects Added ●



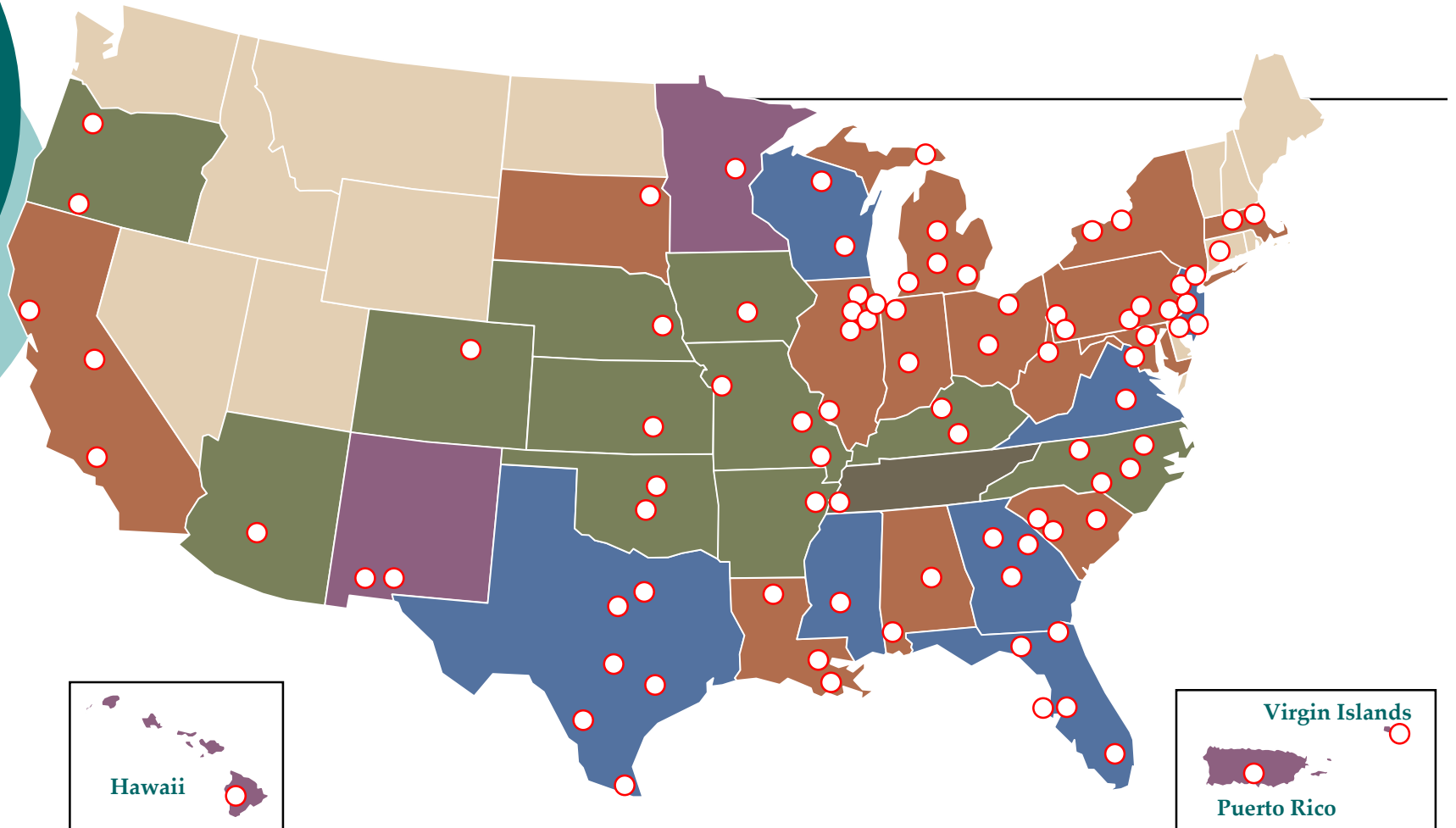
1999 - Phase II: Eliminating Disparities & Infrastructure/ Capacity Building Grants Added (19) ●



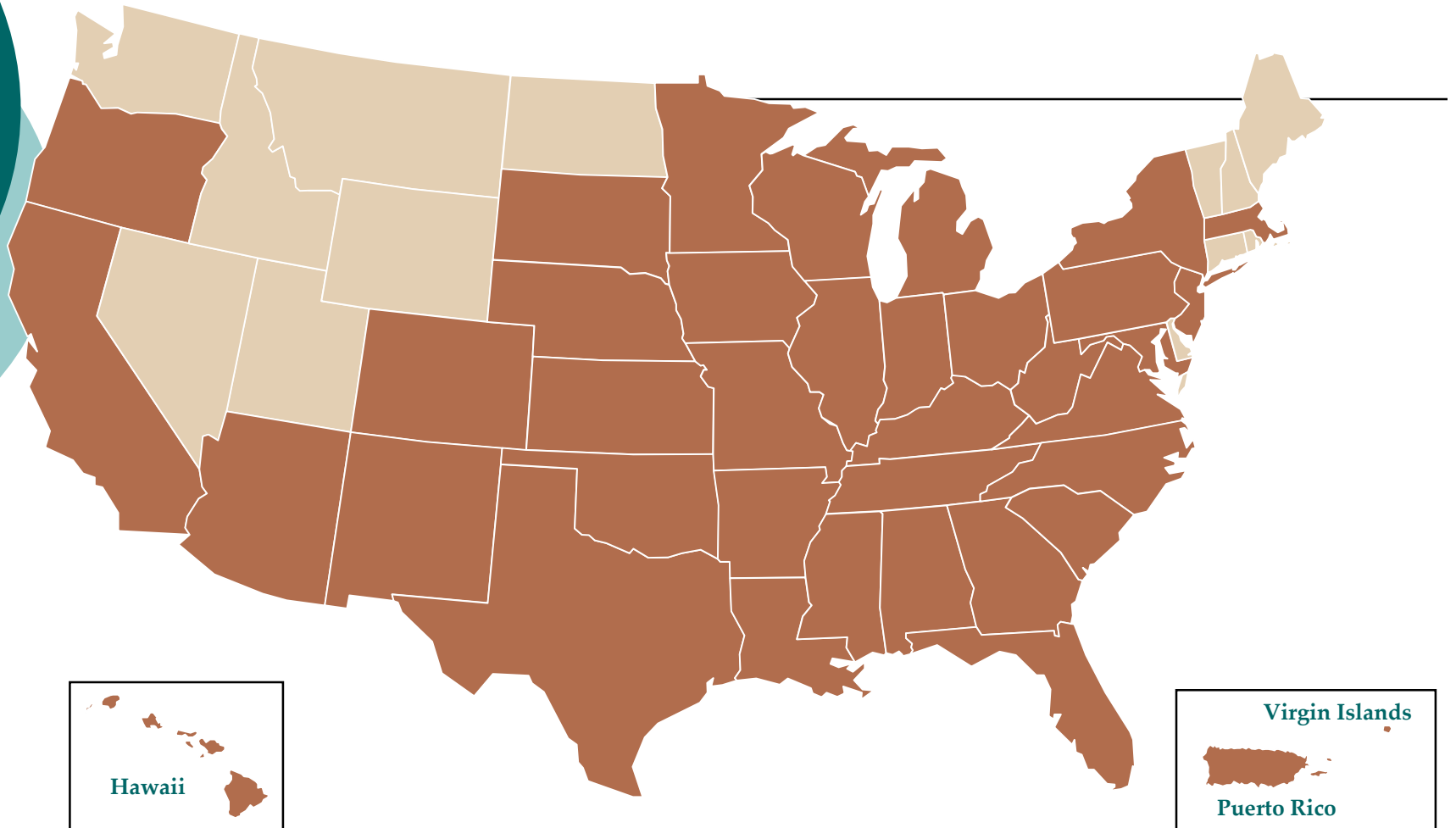
2000: Three New Racial Disparities Projects Added ●

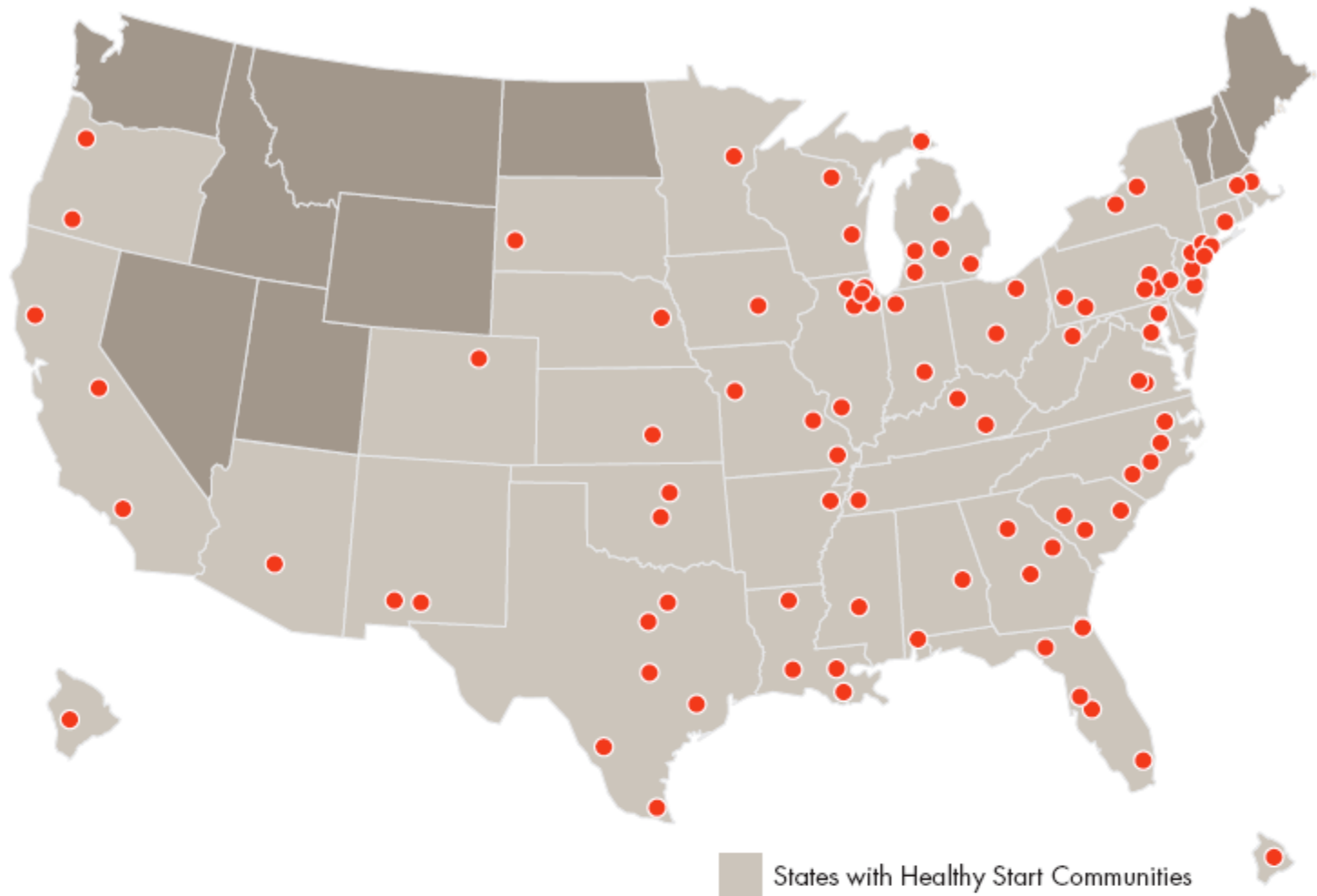


2001-2002 – Phase III: 96 Healthy Start Projects



2005 – Eliminating Disparities in Perinatal Health





ALABAMA

Birmingham
Mobile

ARIZONA

Phoenix

CALIFORNIA

Compton
Fresno

HAWAII

Honolulu

ILLINOIS

Chicago (5)
East St. Louis

INDIANA

Hammond
Indianapolis

MICHIGAN

Detroit
Flint
Grand Rapids
Kalamazoo
Saginaw
Sault Ste. Marie

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

MICHIGAN

Manhattan
New York
Rochester
Syracuse

NORTH CAROLINA

Pembroke
Raleigh (3)

OHIO

OHIO

Denmark
Florence

SOUTH DAKOTA

Rapid City

TENNESSEE

Memphis

TEXAS

Dallas



Healthy Start Program

- Core Services:
 - Outreach
 - Case Management
 - Health Education
 - Consortium
 - Interconceptional Care
 - Perinatal Depression Screening



NHSA Historical Overview

- **Mission** of the National Healthy Start Association (NHSA) is to promote the development of community-based maternal and child health programs, particularly those addressing the issues of infant mortality, low birthweight and racial disparities in perinatal outcomes. As part of its mission, the NHSA supports the expansion of wide range of activities and efforts that are rooted in the community and actively involve community residents in their design and implementation.

NHSA's Historical Highlights

1997 Informally organized	1998 Incorporated in the State of Maryland	2000 First Annual Spring Conference
2000 Achieved Authorization of the H.S. Program	2001 First Annie E. Casey Grant	2003 First Special Congressional Funding Initiative
2004 Six Regional Conferences	2005 Second AECF and Congressional Funding Awards; Partnership Grant	2005 Awarded 5 year Partnership Grant by HRSA
2006 Held Six Regional Conferences attended by 660; Awarded 4 year HSLTI Grant	2007 Eighth Annual Spring Conference	2007 Hired first CEO & will begin occupying office in DC

NHSA's Historical Highlight's

2007 Launched Infant Mortality Awareness Month Campaign	2007 Report on Male Initiative Involvement	2007 Launched Peer Learning Network
2007 First Capitol Hill Briefing	2007 Held first session of HSLTI	2008 10 th Anniversary of NHSA

NHSA

- H.S. projects comprise the voting membership.
- Consistently at 96-100% since inception.
- Benefits include allotments of quarterly newsletters (*Getting off to a Healthy Start*), access to the Members Only section on the web site, voting for board of directors, notification of the monthly online *Update* and much more.
- Web site:
<http://www.healthystartassoc.org>.

The NHSA's Toolkits

- *The Healthy Start Guide to Financial Sustainability (2005)*
- *The Healthy Start Guide to Risk Factor Assessment & How to Communicate about Perinatal Risk to Local Communities (2005)*
- *The Healthy Start Guide to Evaluating Success and Measuring Program Impact (2005)*
- *The Healthy Start Guide to Strategies for Success (2006)*
- *The Healthy Start Guide to Effective Community Involvement (2006)*
- Infant Mortality Awareness Month Campaign Kit

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