

midden building sites and cultures of the later Archaic, for example, we may well be missing where the vast majority of the people were living, and opportunities to explore how they were organized.

*Understanding elaborate burial ceremonialism in tribal societies*

Another archaeological example of the value of “thinking tribally” centers on the interpretation of

the elaborate burial ceremonialism characteristic of some societies in the region, particularly during the Middle Woodland period, from ca. 2300 to 1600 cal. B.P. During the early part of the Woodland period after about 3500 cal. B.P. pottery, which had appeared about 1000 years earlier in Florida and the Carolinas, was widely adopted and used across the region (Sassaman 1993). Long distance exchange declined markedly in many areas when compared with the preceding Late Archaic period,

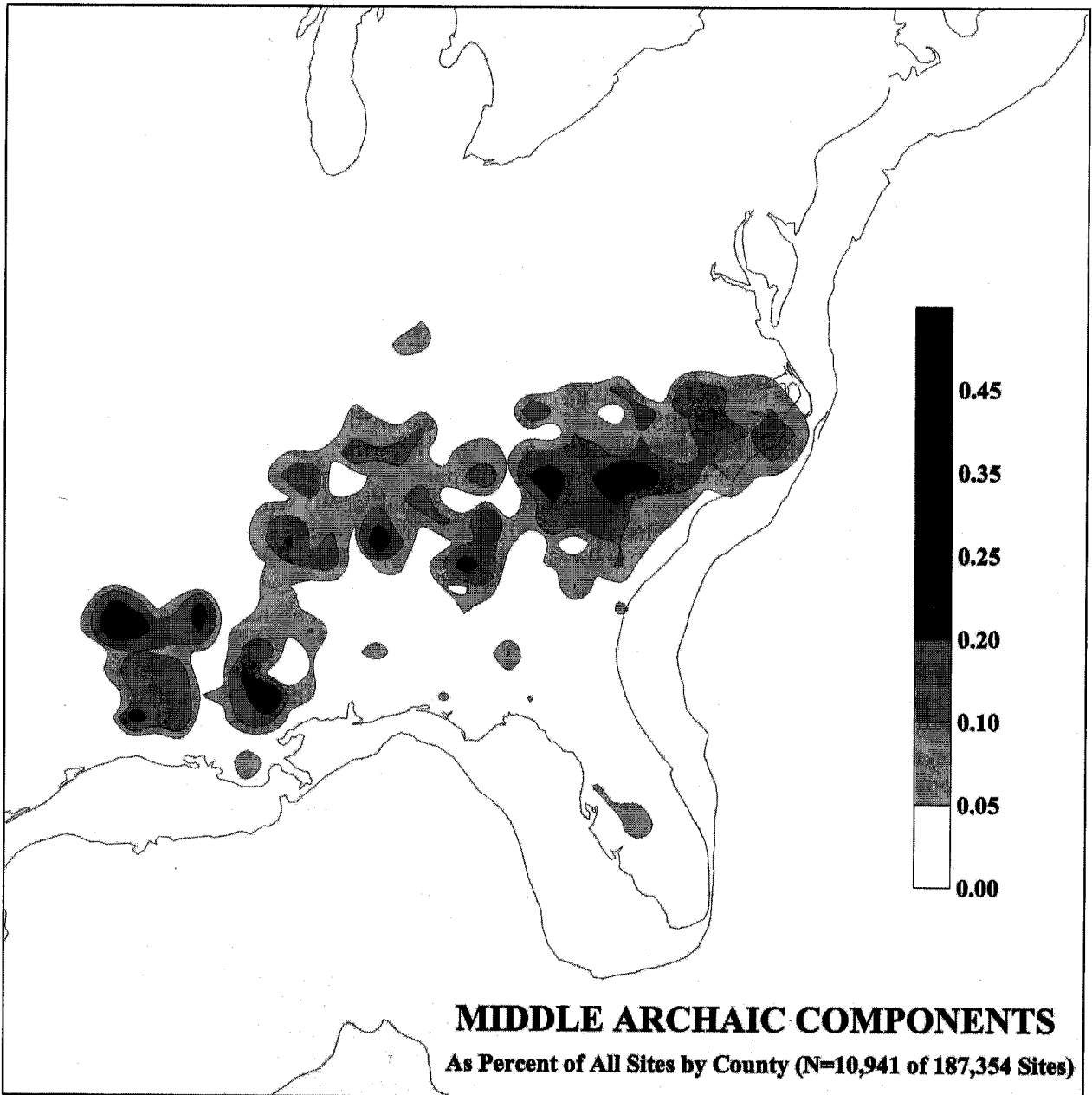


Fig. 8. Middle Archaic Components in the Southeastern United States, as percent of all Sites by County (n=10,941 of 187,354 sites; modified from Anderson 1996:161, courtesy University Press of Florida).