

Appendix A:

Who Are We? A Demographic Overview of Kentucky



Kentucky's Long-Range
Transportation Vision

Who Are We?

Introduction

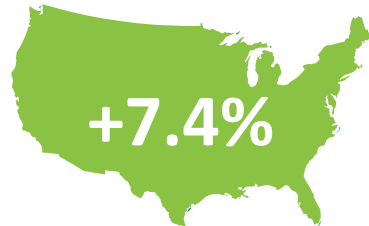
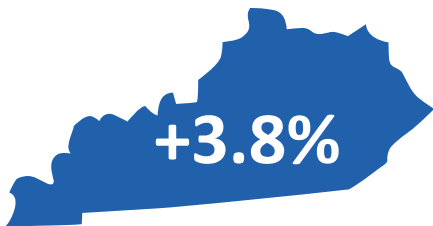
This demographic analysis aims to break down the data relating to certain trends within the population of Kentucky and its counties. The specific transportation needs of individual Kentuckians will often vary based on factors such as age, income, race, commuting patterns, and access to internet. An accurate, fact-based portrait of the Commonwealth is the foundation of any plan that hopes to provide the best possible service to Kentucky residents and the most efficient use of their tax dollars.

This rate of increase was 46% lower than the previous decade, having overtaken the nationwide decrease of 23% in the growth rate during the same period.



4,505,836
in 2020
Kentuckians

According to 2020 Census Data



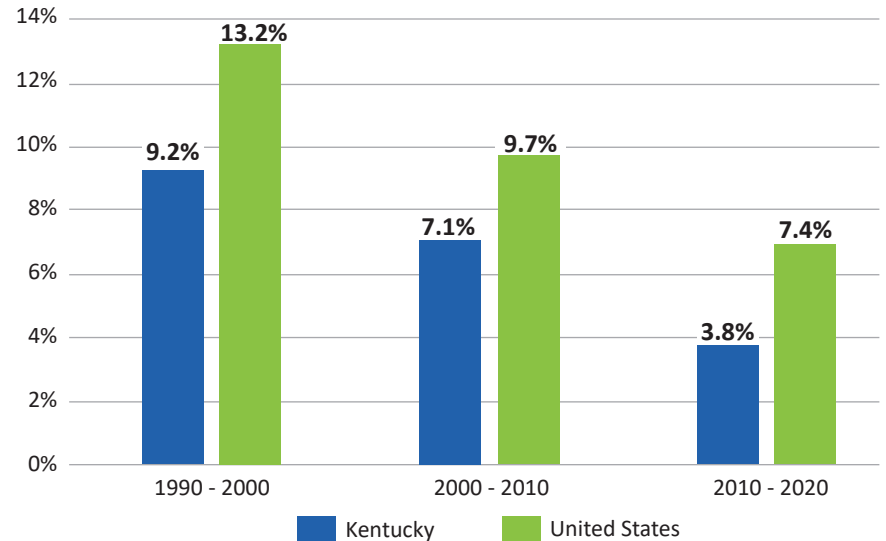
Population Trends

Kentucky population increased 3.8% from 4,339,367 in 2010 to 4,505,836 in 2020. This rate of increase was 46% lower than the previous decade, having overtaken the nationwide 23% decrease in growth rate during the same period.

Population by Counties

Between 2010 and 2019, one Kentucky county, Scott, exhibited population gain in excess of 20%, with an additional ten Kentucky counties showing gains of more than 10%. Conversely, 63 counties exhibited population decline during the same period. Wolfe, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Knott, Cumberland, Owsley, and Bell counties exhibited the largest declines at more than 10%. Another 18 counties showed a population decline of 5% or more.

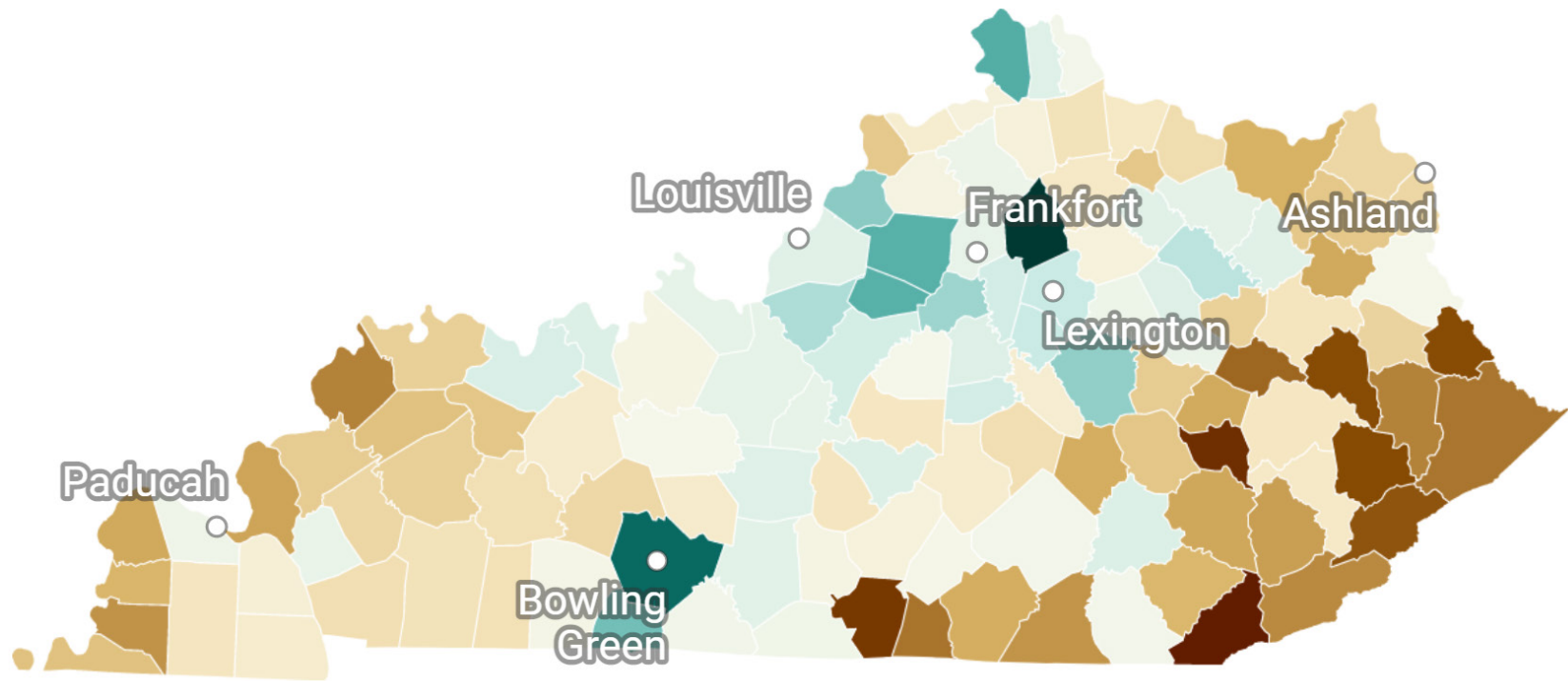
Figure 1: Population Change in Kentucky vs. United States from 1990 to 2020



Source: 2010 US Census Data and 2020 US Census Data

Figure 2 - 2010-2020 Population Growth

Percent change



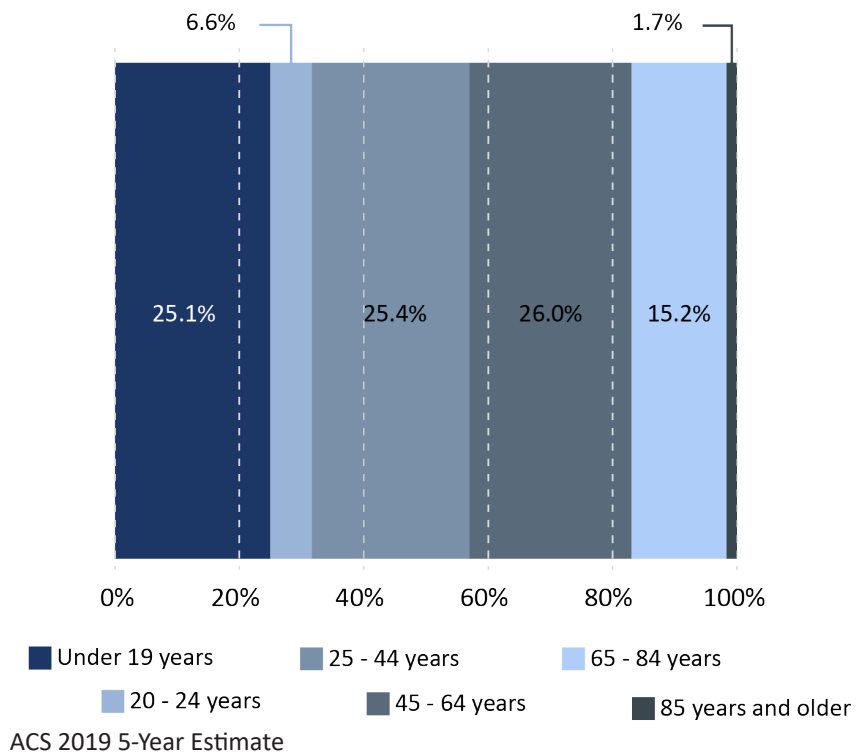
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Get the data Created with Datawrapper

Who Are We?

Age Trends

The Kentucky Data Center’s 2016 Vintage shows population projections up to the year 2040. In raw numbers, age groups between 0 and 74 years are greater in populace than those in the 75 to 85+ groups. However, the projections for the 65+ age groups have a significantly higher average rate of population growth compared to younger age groups. The 85+ group has the highest rate at a 15.7% growth projected between 2010 to 2040. Those aged 0 to 15 years are projected to hold a minimal rate of growth, with less than 1%. The only age group projected to have a population decline are those between 45 to 64 years. The counties with the highest percentage population of those 65 years and older are Lyon, Hickman, Trigg, Marshall, and Cumberland. Illustrated in **Figure 3** is the population breakdown of each age group for the state of Kentucky as shown by the 2019 ACS 5 Year Estimates.

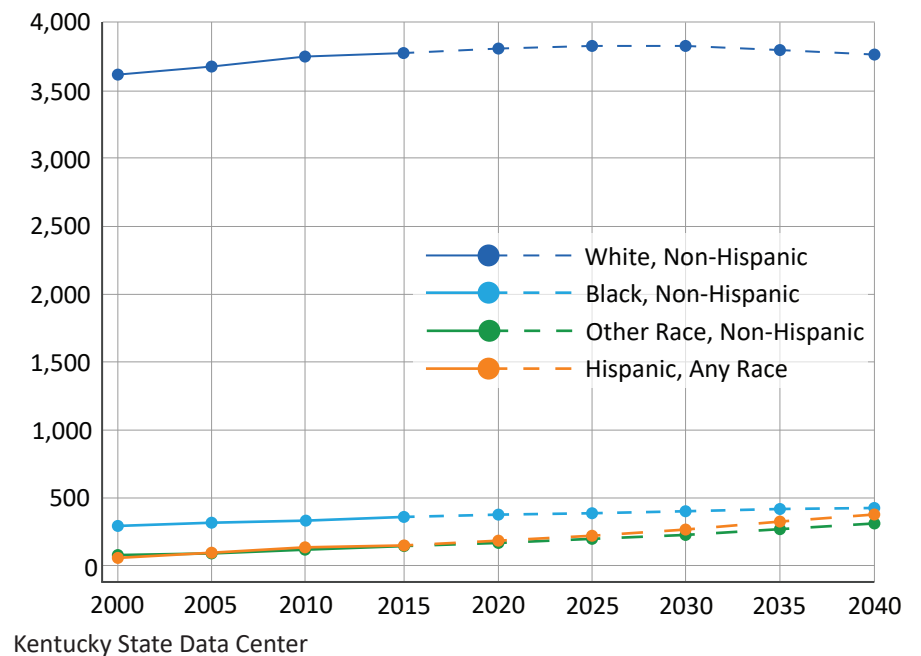
Figure 3 - Kentucky Population by Age Groups



Race Trends

Kentucky’s population is predominantly white, although it shows the national trend of increasing representation by minority populations. The state’s Black/African American population is the largest minority group; however, the state’s Hispanic population continues to increase, now accounting for almost 5% of Kentucky’s total population. The top five counties with the highest total Black/African American population are Jefferson, Fayette, Christian, Hardin, and Warren. These counties also have the highest population of those who identify as Hispanic. The Kentucky Data Center’s population projection by race can be seen in **Figure 4** and the distribution of the minority population from the total is provided graphically in **Figure 5**.

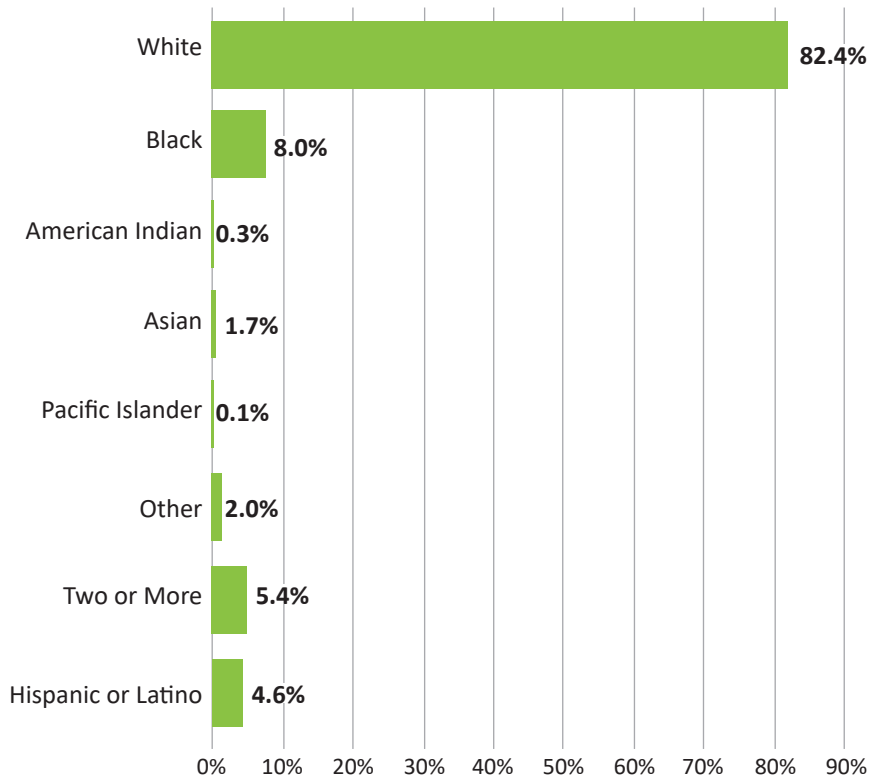
Figure 4 - Kentucky Population Projections from 2000 to 2040



Language Trends

English remains the majority spoken language throughout the state. Statewide, 5.6% reported to speak a language other than English, with 2.3% reporting to speak English less than “very well” (ACS 2019 5-Year Estimate). Spanish-speaking constituents make up the largest percentages of this group at 2.7%, with “Other Indo-European languages” at 1.5% and “Asian and Pacific Islander languages” at 0.9%. Fayette (86.9%), Warren (88%), Todd (88.5%), Christian (90.2%), and Jefferson (90.4%) counties have the top 5 lowest English-only speaking population.

Figure 5 - Minority Population Percentage in Kentucky



Source: 2020 US Census



14% of Kentuckians have a Bachelors Degree

Education Trends

For those age 25 years and older in Kentucky, 12.0% have not received a high school diploma, as reported on the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates. However, 34.3% of Kentuckians have a college degree. On a county level, Oldham County has the highest percentage of its population that has completed a bachelor’s degree. Union County has the highest percentage of obtaining a high school diploma at 39.73%. The top five counties for each of the discussed levels of education are illustrated in the table below.

Figure 6 - Top 5 Counties for Varying Educational Attainment

Top 5 Counties with Highest Rate of “No Formal Education Completed”	Top 5 Counties with Highest Rate of “Regular High School Diploma” (excluding GED or special diploma)	Top 5 Counties with Highest Rate of Obtaining Bachelor’s Degree
Lincoln: 3.01%	Union: 39.73%	Oldham: 25.12%
Hickman 2.98%	Webster: 39.51%	Fayette: 24.36%
Metcalfe: 2.95%	Livingston: 38.03%	Campbell: 23.50%
Owsley: 2.53%	Bracken: 37.98%	Boone: 20.70%
Rockcastle: 2.47%	Trimble: 37.76%	Woodford: 20.11%

ACS 2019 5-Year Estimate

Who Are We?

Income Trends

Kentucky's median household income is \$52,295 per year, compared to \$65,712 nationwide (2019 ACS 1-Year Estimate). While many Kentucky counties fell below the national median, five counties exceed it: Boone, Oldham, Spencer, Shelby, and Scott. Conversely, Wolfe, Lee, Clay, Bell, and Harlan counties are shown to have the lowest median incomes, each falling under \$30,000.

Kentucky posted an individual poverty rate of 17.3%, compared to 13.4% nationwide (2019 ACS 5-Year Estimate). Of Kentucky's 120 counties, 106 show an individual rate higher than the national rate of 13.4%. The counties with the highest poverty rates in Kentucky include Owsley, Martin, Clay, Lee, and Floyd.



106 out of 120

Counties with poverty rates higher than national average



\$52,295

Median Household Income

Commuting Trends

On average, a Kentuckian's travel time is approximately 24.2 minutes to work, compared to the national average of 27.6 minutes as reported by the ACS (2019 ACS 1-Year Estimate).

Kentucky continues to be a predominantly rural state, with the personal automobile as the primary method by which workers commute. There are over 1,734,000 occupied housing units in Kentucky, of which more than 125,000 people have no personal vehicles available. The top five counties with the highest population without a personal vehicle are Jefferson, Fayette, Kenton, Campbell, and Pike. Of the workers 16 years of age and older, 9.0% use means other than a personal vehicle to travel to work. Of these, approximately 85,000 people work at home, almost 90,000 people walk, about 19,000 people use public transportation, and another 28,000 people travel to work using "other means" as identified by ACS 2019 1-Year Estimate. The largest gap between Kentucky and the nation is in the use of public transportation, which has a rate five times higher nationally than in the commonwealth of Kentucky.

1.7 million people commute using a car or truck



85,000 people work from home



90,000 people walk to work



19,000 people commute using public transportation



Internet Access Trends

Out of the total households in Kentucky, 78.8% have an internet subscription. Of those with an internet subscription, 62.8% have a broadband internet connection, categorized as cable, fiber optic, or DSL internet (ACS 5-Year Estimate). Some 21.2% of households in Kentucky do not have an Internet subscription, as well as 18% of households having no form of Internet access. Basic Internet subscriptions are available to 81.6% of Kentuckians leaving 5.6% without the option to acquire service due to a lack of infrastructure. This is especially prevalent in homes where the household income is below \$20,000 a year; 45.8% of those in this income group have no internet subscription. Households with incomes ranging between \$20,000 and \$74,999 a year still have 21.2% without internet subscriptions. Those most likely to have an internet subscription are among the households where the income is above \$75,000 or more a year, with only 6.4% of this group reporting not having an internet subscription. As for devices to access the internet, there is a range of computers and computing devices used by those in Kentucky. In Kentucky, 86.4% of households have one or more computing device, leaving 13.6% having “no computer” according to ACS 2019 5-Year Estimates. Among individuals 65 years and older, 25.4% report having no computer in their household.

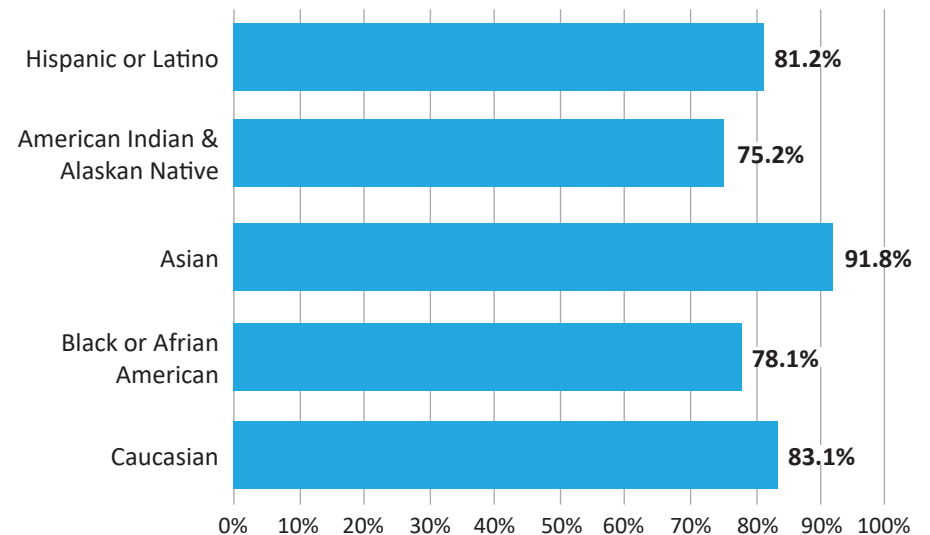
The breakdown of those who have broadband subscriptions is illustrated in **Figure 7**. Those that identify as Black or African American and American Indian or Alaska Native are those who have the lowest rate of having a broadband internet subscription.



5.6% with
no access
to internet

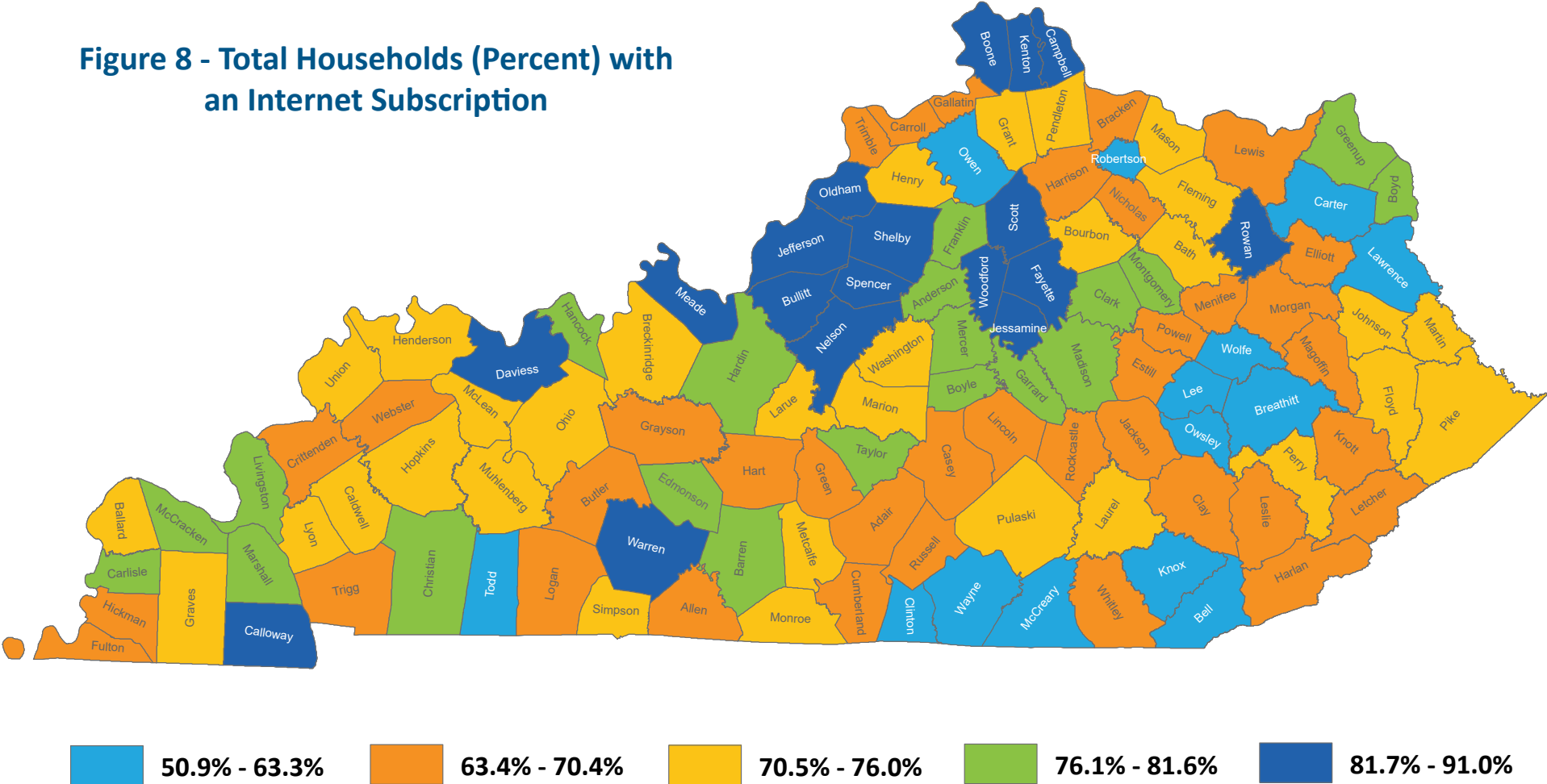
On the county level, Oldham is the county to have the highest percent rate of broadband subscriptions (of any type) at 90.9%. Conversely, Robertson county has the lowest rate of internet subscriptions for any type, with only 50.9% having a subscription. This is followed by Todd (56.4%), McCreary (57.7%), Knox (58.1%), and Clinton (58.6%) counties for the lowest rates of households with internet subscriptions, as shown in **Figure 8**. To further illustrate populations described in this report that are traditionally underserved, **Figure 9** shows the five most populated Kentucky counties for each category. While this does not necessary indicate the county itself is underserved, it does highlight the areas with the highest traditionally vulnerable populations.

Figure 7 - Percent Broadband Internet Subscriptions by Race for Kentucky



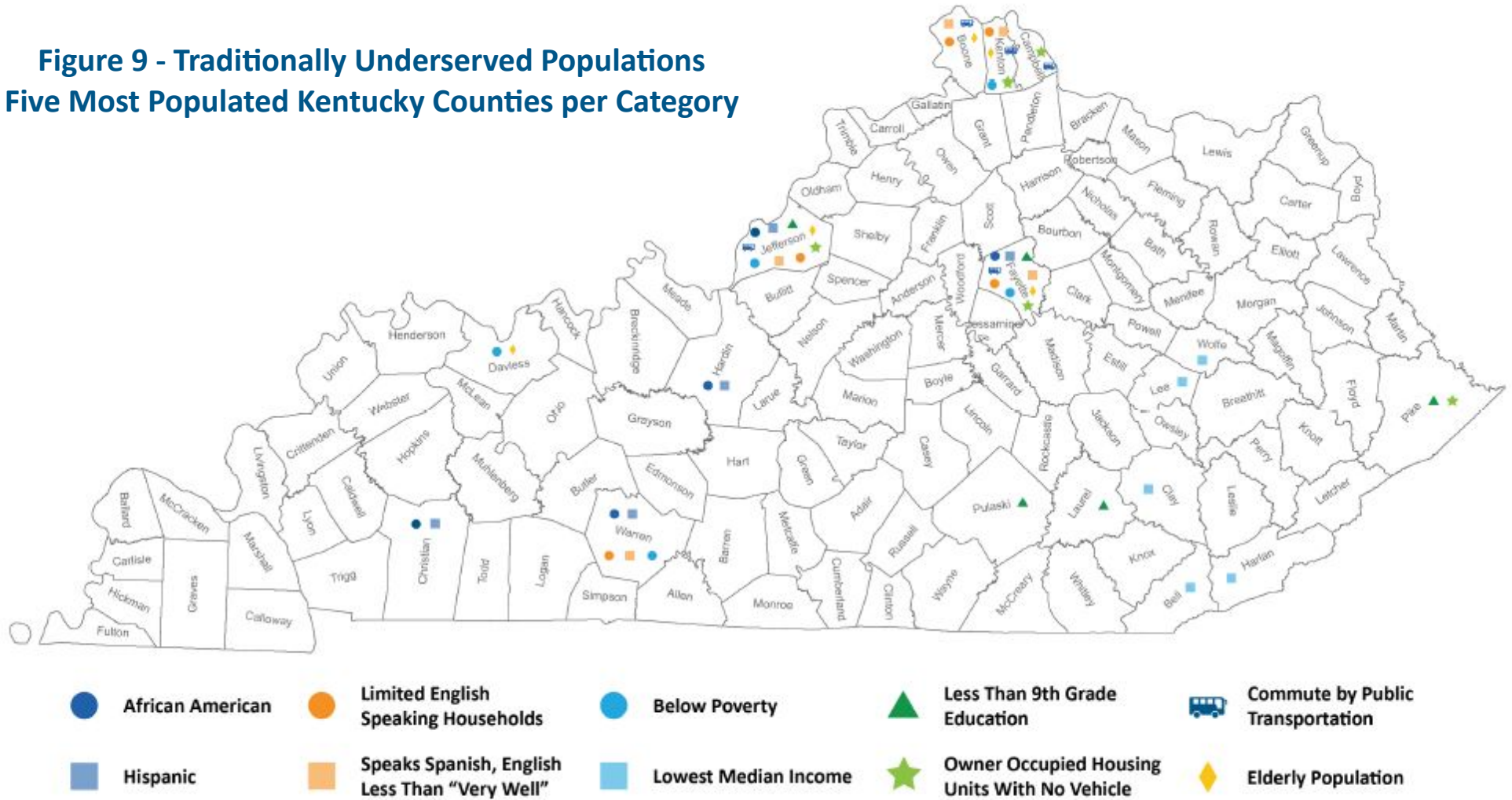
ACS 2019 5-Year Estimate

Figure 8 - Total Households (Percent) with an Internet Subscription



ACS 2019 5-Year Estimate

**Figure 9 - Traditionally Underserved Populations
Five Most Populated Kentucky Counties per Category**



*A full data resource for all Kentucky Counties can be found at: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>

ACS 2019 5-Year Estimate