

APPENDIX C:
SOCIOECONOMIC STUDY

US 68 Corridor Study
Item No. 7-80251
Jessamine/Mercer County

Socioeconomic Study

June 5, 2025

Prepared for

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) – Division of Planning



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This document was prepared in cooperation with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

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Introduction

This report presents an overview of the findings for selected socioeconomic characteristics for the US 68 Corridor Study in Jessamine and Mercer Counties. The objective of the US 68 Corridor Study is to identify and evaluate potential concepts to improve safety, truck mobility, driver expectations (geometrics), and resiliency on US 68 in Mercer County (BMP 14.45) and Jessamine County (EMP 1.38) and to determine the need and optimal location for a replacement Kentucky River crossing to provide better connectivity between Mercer County and Jessamine/Fayette Counties.

The information in this report outlines 2023: 5-Year Estimates American Community Survey (ACS) statistics in and near the project area using tables, charts, and maps. The data presented in this document is intended to highlight areas of concern that will require additional analysis should any project be advanced to future phases. Statistics are provided for minority, elderly, poverty status, limited English proficiency (LEP), and disabled populations for the state, county, and Block Group located within the project area.

This information is intended to aid the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) in making informed and prudent transportation decisions in the project area.

The project study area is in Jessamine and Mercer Counties along the US 68 Corridor from northeast Mercer County and southwest Jessamine County. There are five Block Group Census Tracts in this study area.

The U.S. DOT (Department of Transportation) specifically encourages the early examination of potential populations protected by the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related nondiscrimination statuses.

Definitions

The U.S. Census Bureau defines geographical units as:

Block Group as BG – A statistical subdivision of a CT. A BG consists of all tabulation blocks whose numbers begin with the same digit in a CT. BGs generally contain between 300 and 3,000 people, with an optimum size of 1,500 people.

Census Tract as CT – A small, relatively permanent statistical subdivision of a county or statistically equivalent entity delineated for data presentation purposes by a local group of census data users or the geographic staff of a regional census center in accordance with Census Bureau guidelines. CTs generally contain between 1,000 and 8,000 people. CT boundaries are delineated with the intention of being stable over many decades, so they generally follow relatively permanent visible features. They may also follow governmental unit boundaries and other invisible features in some instances; the boundary of a state or county is always a census tract boundary.

Methodology

The demographics of the affected area should be defined using U.S. Census Bureau data and the percentages for minorities, poverty status, elderly, LEP, and disabled populations should be compared to the Census tracts and Block Group, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and the United States.

The primary source of data for this report is the 2018-2023 US Census Bureau American Community Survey including tables:

- B01001 - Sex by Age
- B03002 - Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race
- B16004 - Age by Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over
- B17021 - Poverty Status of Individuals in the Past 12 Months by Living Arrangement
- C21007 - Age by Veteran Status by Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Disability Status

The data presented in this document is intended to highlight areas of concern that will require additional analysis should any project be advanced to future phases.

The Census tables in this report include the total number and percentages for minorities, elderly, low-income, LEP, and disabled population levels for the nation, state, county, and block group/census tracts. This report uses the Socio-Economic percentages by population for Jessamine and Mercer Counties as the reference threshold for identifying target populations. Though the United States and Kentucky will be included for a more thorough approach to the data, Jessamine and Mercer County will serve as the sole comparative threshold for this study.

The methodologies used in this planning document are appropriate for identifying possible areas of concern in small urban areas and potential project corridors. However, during future phases of project development a more detailed and robust analysis may identify the potential for impacts to low-income and minority populations.

Study Area

Five Block Group and Census Tracts were included in the study area.

The full list of Block Group in the study area is as follows:

BG 1 CT 604.02 (Jessamine County)

BG 2 CT 604.02 (Jessamine County)

BG 3 CT 604.02 (Jessamine County)

BG 4 CT 604.02 (Jessamine County)

BG 1 CT 9605 (Mercer County)

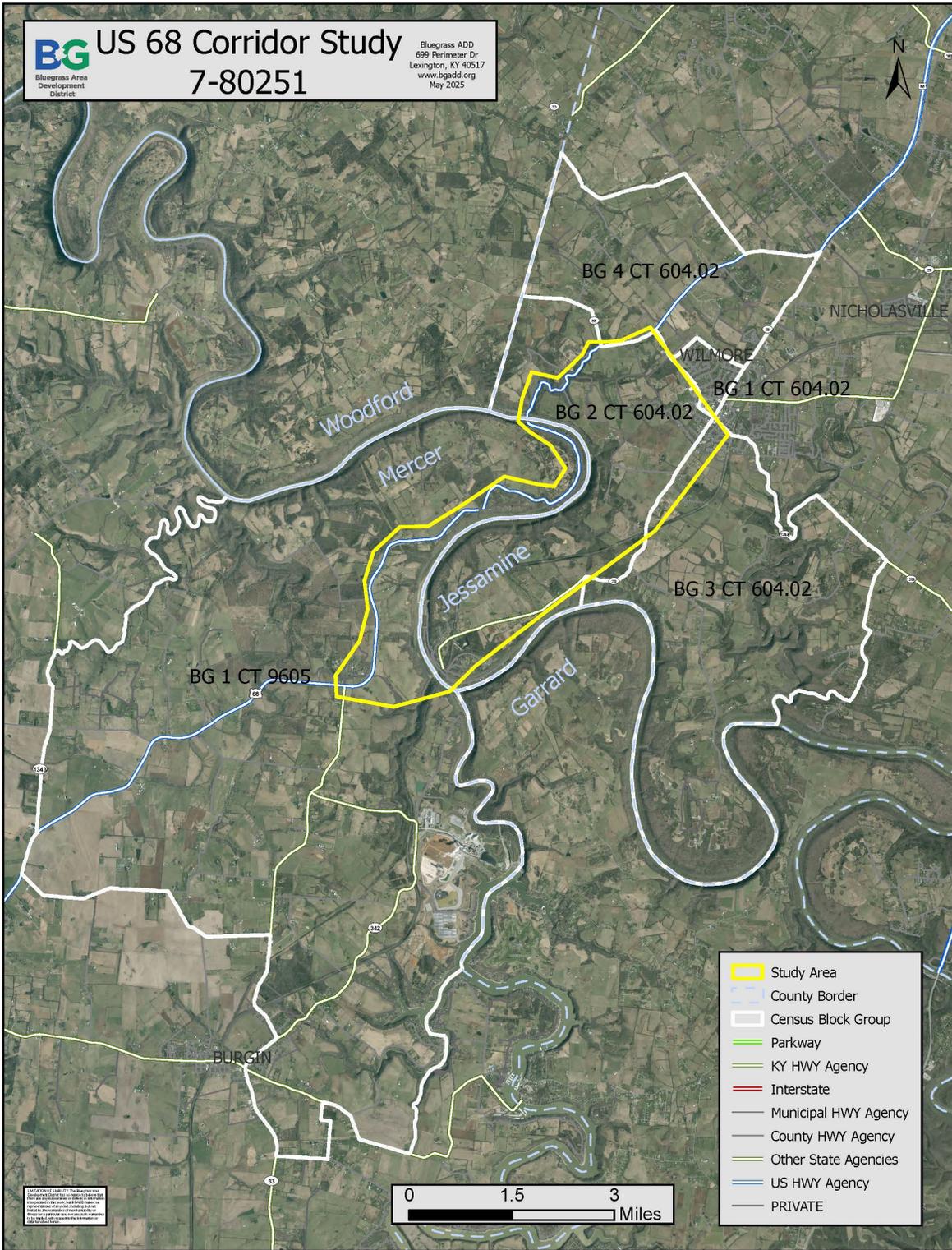
Jessamine County will be abbreviated as (JC) and Mercer County as (MC).



US 68 Corridor Study

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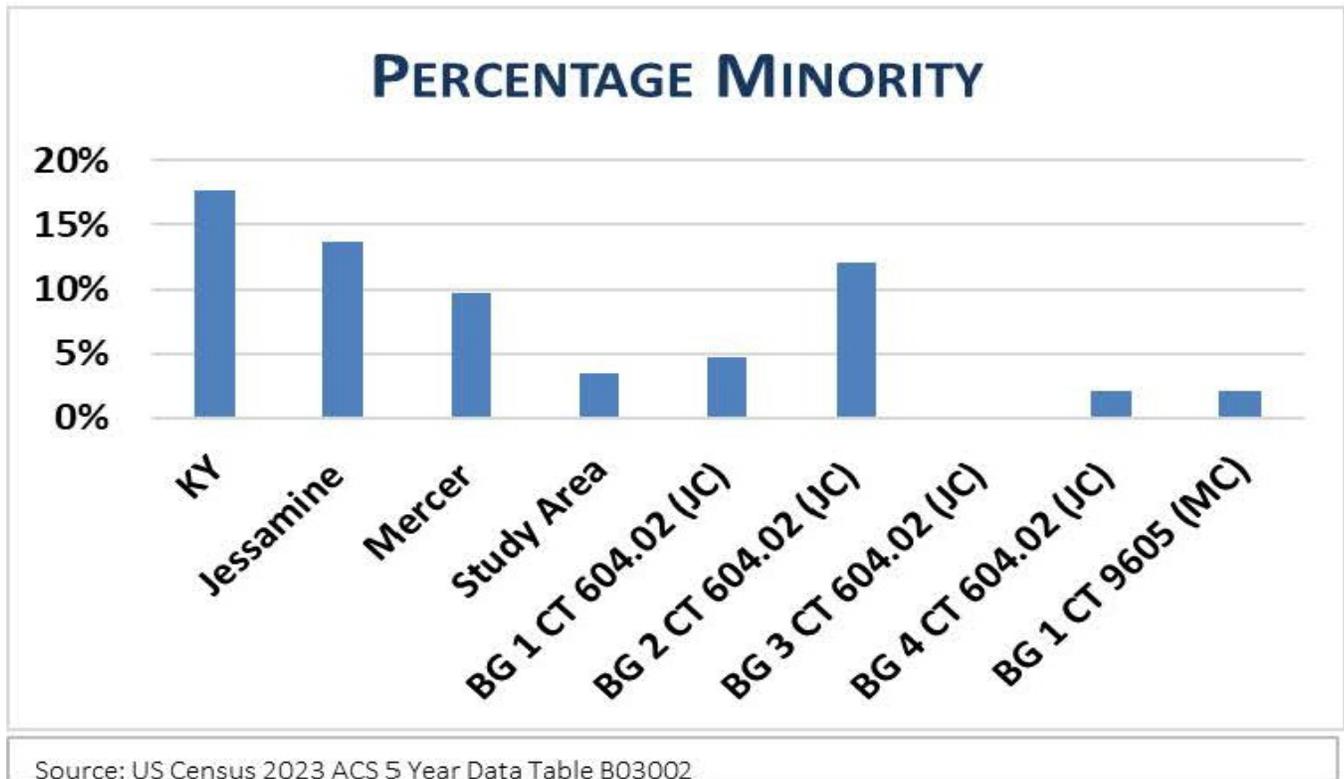
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Study Findings

Populations by Persons of Racial Minority Origin

None of the five Block Group Census Tracts have a higher percentage of racial minorities than Kentucky (18%).

The Study Area overall displays a lower percentage of racial minorities, at 3%, than that of the state (18%), Jessamine County (14%), and Mercer County (10%). Kentucky, the Study Area, and Block Group Census Tracts are represented in the chart, table, and map below.



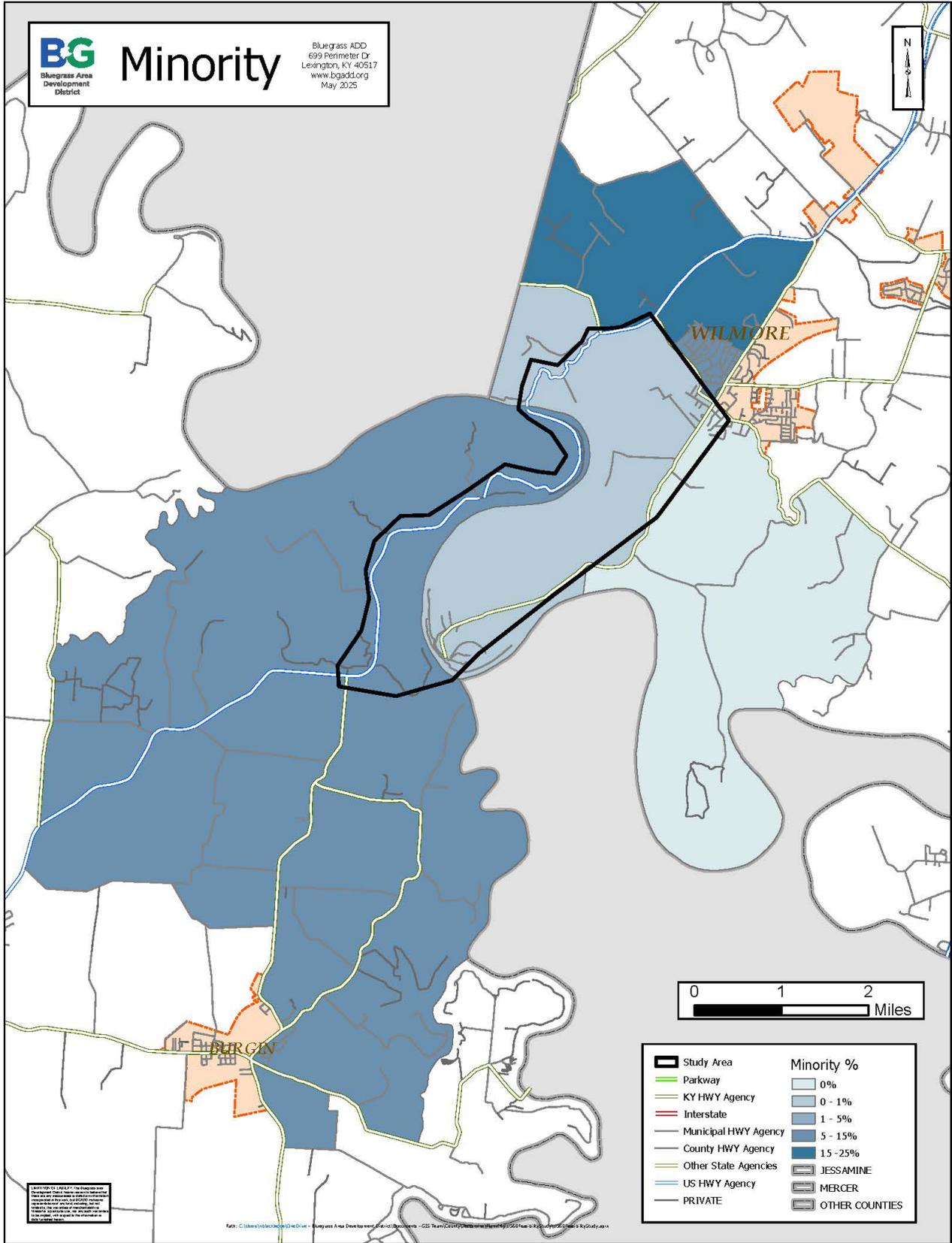
Location	Total	Minority	% Minority
KY	4,510,725	797,899	18%
Jessamine	53,792	7,358	14%
Mercer	22,824	2,218	10%
Study Area	5,373	188	3%
BG 1 CT 604.02 (JC)	1,894	90	5%
BG 2 CT 604.02 (JC)	480	58	12%
BG 3 CT 604.02 (JC)	1,130	0	0%
BG 4 CT 604.02 (JC)	612	13	2%
BG 1 CT 9605 (MC)	1,257	27	2%

Source: US Census 2023 ACS 5 Year Data Table B03002



Minority

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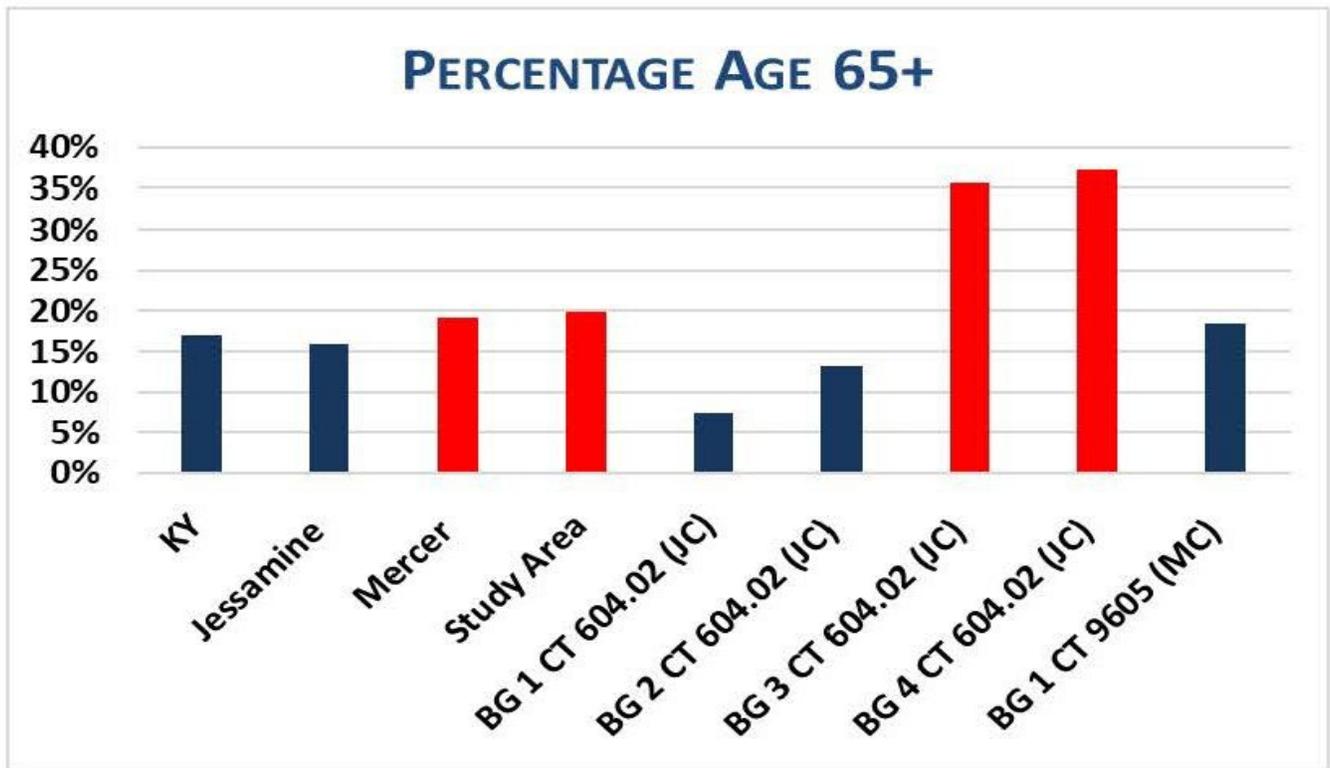
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Population of Adults Over 65 years of Age

Mercer County (19%), the Study Area (20%) and three of the 20 Block Group Census Tracts have a higher percentage of adults over 65 years old than Kentucky (17%).

1. BG 4 CT 604.02 (JC) (37%)
2. BG 3 CT 604.02 (JC) (36%)
3. BG 1 CT 9605 (MC) (18%)

Kentucky, Jessamine and Mercer County, the Study Area, and Block Group Census Tracts are represented in the chart, table, and map below. Those with higher percentages than the state are called out in red.



Source: US Census 2023 ACS 5 Year Data Table B01001

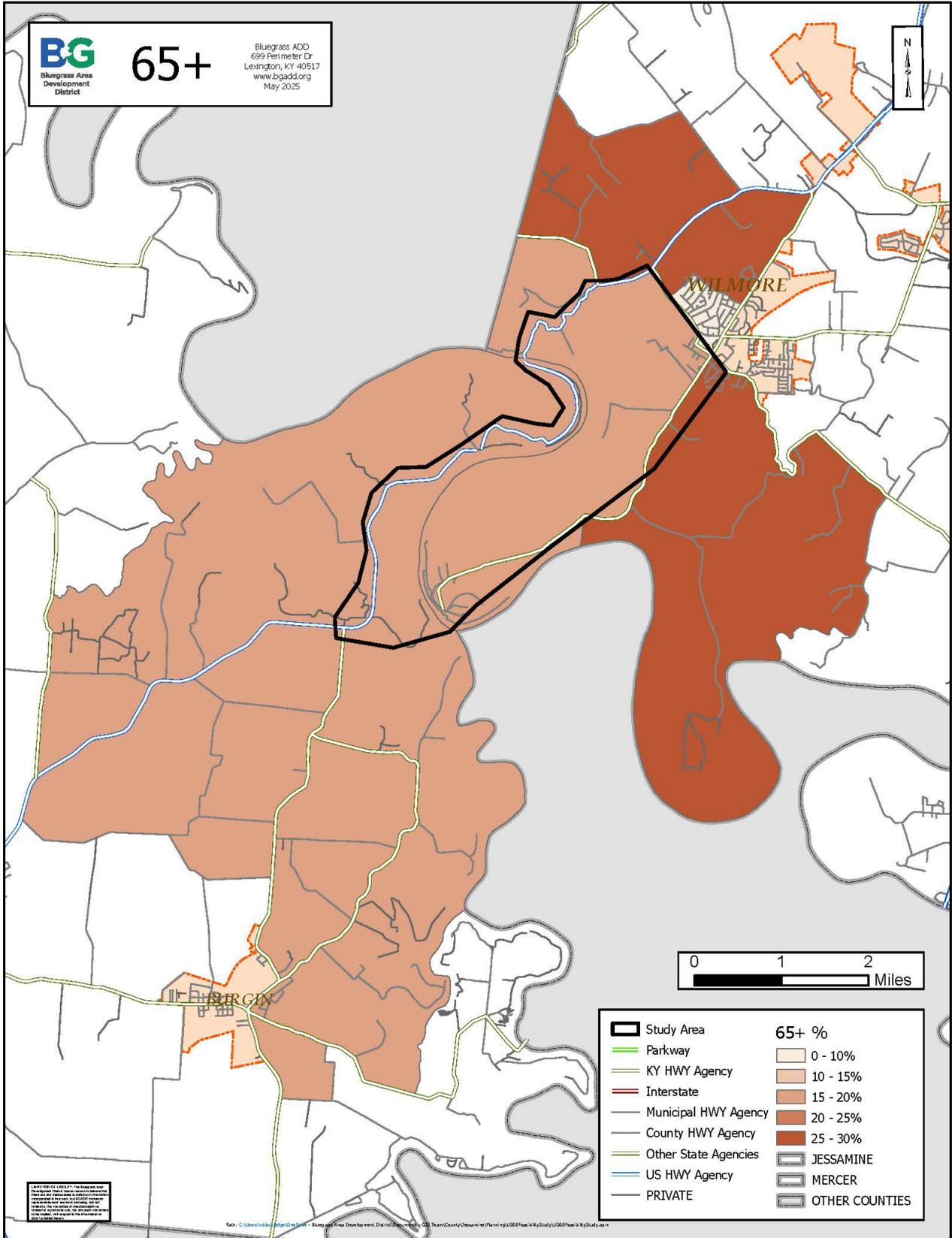
Location	Total Population	Total Both Sexes 65+	% 65+
KY	4,510,725	767,995	17%
Jessamine	53,792	8,563	16%
Mercer	22,824	4,386	19%
Study Area	5,373	1,065	20%
BG 1 CT 604.02 (JC)	1,894	141	7%
BG 2 CT 604.02 (JC)	480	63	13%
BG 3 CT 604.02 (JC)	1,130	402	36%
BG 4 CT 604.02 (JC)	612	228	37%
BG 1 CT 9605 (MC)	1,257	231	18%

Source: US Census 2023 ACS 5 Year Data Table B01001



65+

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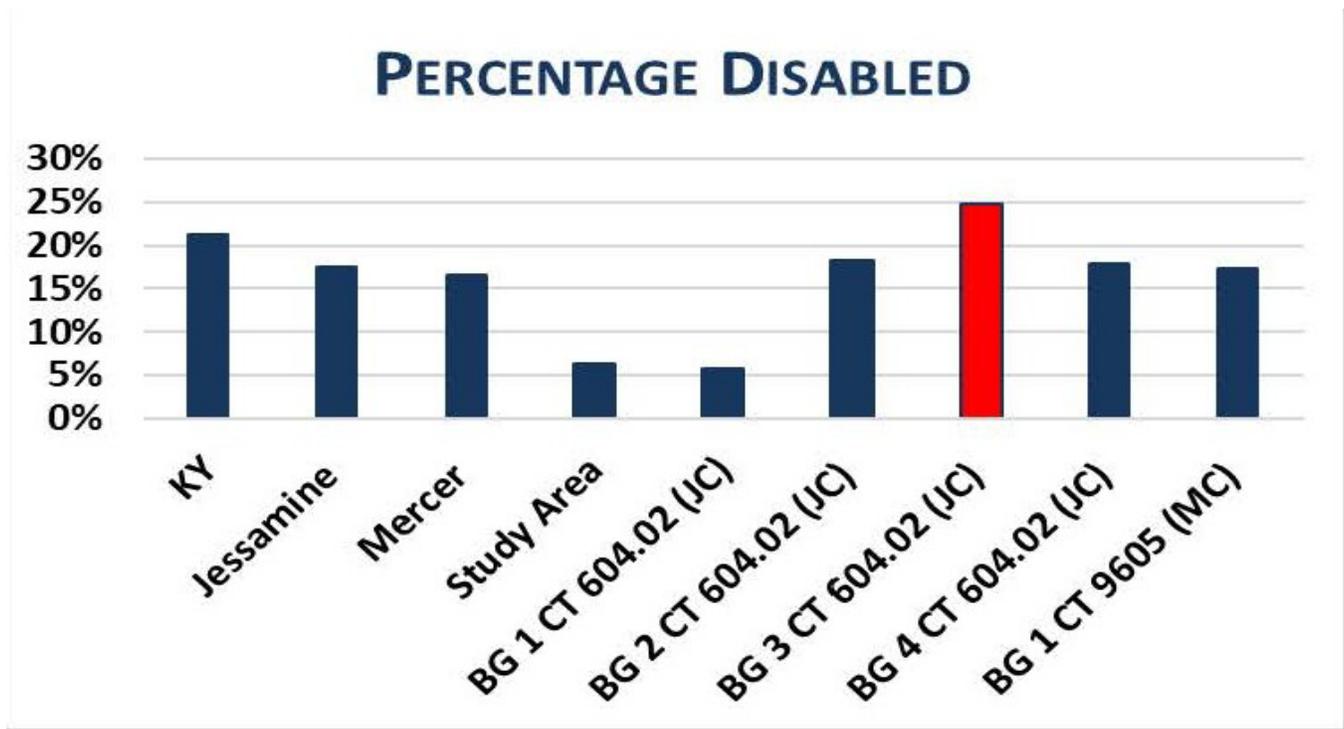
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Populations by Adults with a Disability

Only one of the five Block Group Census Tracts have a higher percentage of adult individuals with a disability than Kentucky (21%).

1. BG 3 CT 604.02 (JC) **(25%)**

Kentucky, Jessamine and Mercer County, the Study Area, and Block Group Census Tracts are represented in the chart, table, and map below. Those with higher percentages than Kentucky are called out in red.



Source: US Census 2023 ACS 5 Year Data Table C21007

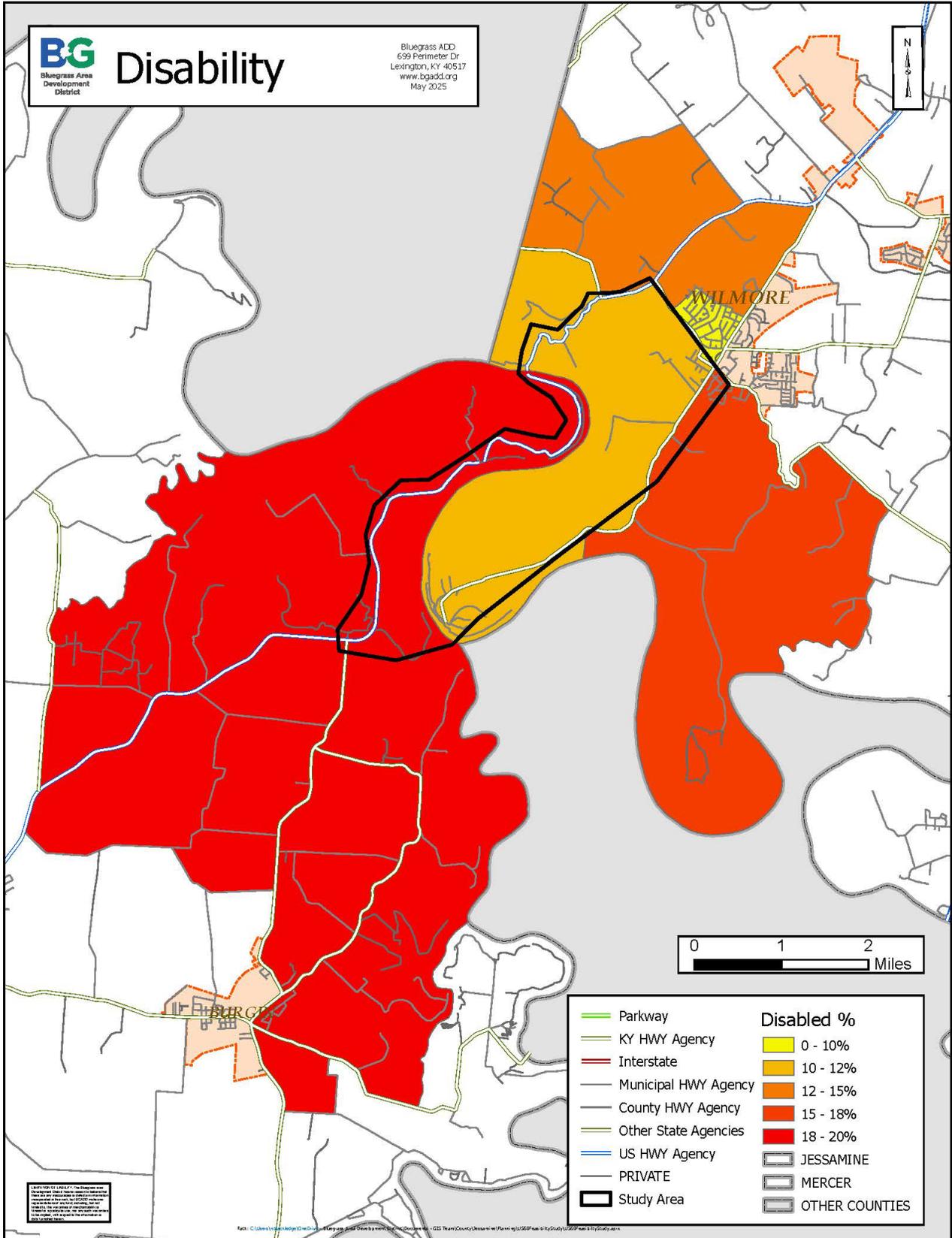
Location	Total Population	Disabled	% Disabled
KY	3,371,593	718,074	21%
Jessamine	39,649	6,947	18%
Mercer	17,524	2,907	17%
Study Area	8,518	537	6%
BG 1 CT 604.02 (JC)	777	45	6%
BG 2 CT 604.02 (JC)	351	64	18%
BG 3 CT 604.02 (JC)	885	220	25%
BG 4 CT 604.02 (JC)	511	91	18%
BG 1 CT 9605 (MC)	934	162	17%

Source: US Census 2023 ACS 5 Year Data Table C21007



Disability

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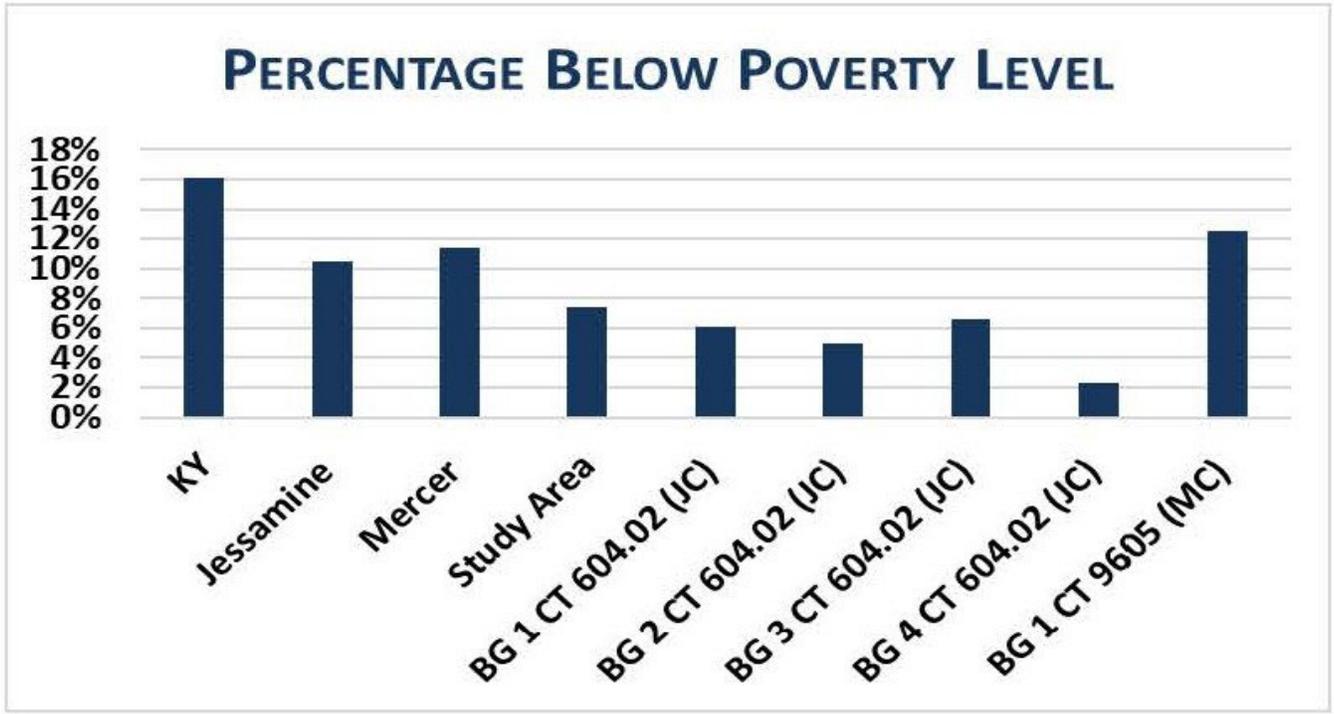
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Population Under the Poverty Line

None of the areas in this study have a higher percentage of residents under the poverty line than Kentucky (16%).

Kentucky, Jessamine and Mercer County, the Study Area, and Block Group Census Tracts are represented in the chart, table, and map below.



Source: US Census 2023 ACS 5 Year Data Table B17021

Location	Total	Below Poverty Level	% Below Poverty Level
KY	4,382,816	707,480	16%
Jessamine	52,202	5,480	10%
Mercer	22,528	2,557	11%
Study Area	4,448	330	7%
BG 1 CT 604.02 (JC)	1,020	62	6%
BG 2 CT 604.02 (JC)	480	24	5%
BG 3 CT 604.02 (JC)	1,130	74	7%
BG 4 CT 604.02 (JC)	561	13	2%
BG 1 CT 9605 (MC)	1,257	157	12%

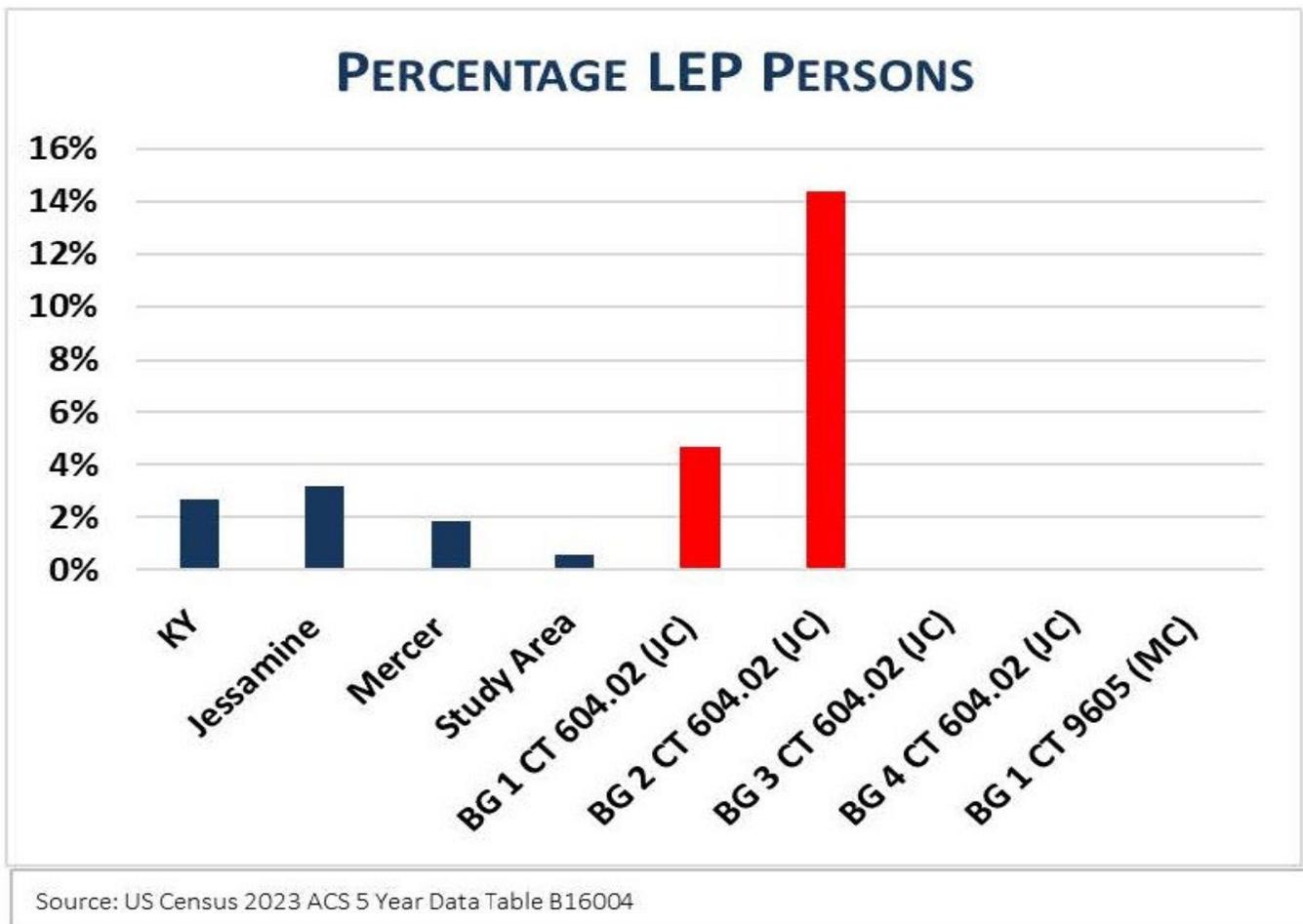
Source: US Census 2023 ACS 5 Year Data Table B17021

Population by Persons over 5 Years of Age with Limited English Proficiency

Two of the five Block Group Census Tracts have a higher percentage of persons over 5 years old with Limited English Proficiency than Kentucky (3%).

1. BG 2 CT 604.02 (JC) **(14%)**
2. BG 1 CT 604.02 (JC) **(5%)**

Kentucky, Jessamine and Mercer County, the Study Area, and Block Group Census Tracts are represented in the chart, table and map below. Those with higher percentages than Kentucky are called out in red.



Location	Total Population	Total LEP	% LEP
KY	4,243,362	113,220	3%
Jessamine	50,505	1,625	3%
Mercer	21,404	397	2%
Study Area	10,498	58	1%
BG 1 CT 604.02 (JC)	1,847	87	5%
BG 2 CT 604.02 (JC)	403	58	14%
BG 3 CT 604.02 (JC)	1,114	0	0%
BG 4 CT 604.02 (JC)	588	0	0%
BG 1 CT 9605 (MC)	1,150	0	0%

Source: US Census 2023 ACS 5 Year Data Table B16004

Commuting To Work Means of Transportation

Considering the significant number of individuals who are disabled and living under the poverty line in relation to data captured from US Census 2023 ACS 5 Year Data Table S1811 (Selected Economic Characteristics for the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population by Disability Status) further study and stakeholder engagement is needed to consider all road users in possible design features.

Data from the S1811 table was only available for Kentucky and Jessamine County. The numbers represent the population age 16 and over.

Those who commuted to work by car, truck, or van (carpooled) from Jessamine County (**10.30%**) slightly surpassed the percentage for Kentucky (9.20%).

A higher percentage of Jessamine County residents (**10.30%**) work from home than the percentage of Kentuckians (9.10%).

The table below represents commuting to work means of transportation in Kentucky and Jessamine County with those with a higher percentage than the state called out in red.

Although not part of the census data, the percentages were used to calculate actual real numbers for the dataset.

Total Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population Commuting To Work				
	KY		Jessamine	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Population Age 16 and Over	3,524,771		41,864	
Workers Age 16 and Over	1,988,263		25,205	
Car, truck, or van - drove alone	1,548,857	77.90%	19,383	76.90%
Car, truck, or van - carpooled	182,920	9.20%	2,596	10.30%
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	13,918	0.70%	76	0.30%
Walked	37,777	1.90%	479	1.90%
Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other means	25,847	1.30%	50	0.20%
Worked from home	180,932	9.10%	2,596	10.30%

Source: US Census 2023 ACS 5 Year Data Table S1811

Conclusion

Populations by Persons of Racial Minority Origin

Nothing of significance is noted in the dataset collected for this study.

Population of Adults Over 65 years of Age

The data captured for this study warrants further study regarding the population age 65 and over. Three of the five Block Group Census Tracts, the Study Area, Jessamine and Mercer counties have a higher percentage of adults over 65 years old than Kentucky (17%). This might allow for features and designs to be considered to make road improvements that would enhance safety for older road users, especially **BG 4 CT 604.02 (JC) (37%)** and **BG 3 CT 604.02 (JC) (36%)** whose percentages are more than double that of the state.

Populations by Adults with a Disability

Although **BG 3 CT 604.02 (JC) (25%)** is the only Block Group Census Tract with a higher percentage of adult individuals with a disability than Kentucky (21%) it also has double the percentage of adults over 65 years old. If this project moves forward further engagement of stakeholders and study should be made to consider this demographic.

Population Under the Poverty Line

Nothing of significance detected in the dataset collected for this study.

Populations by Persons over 5 Years of Age with Limited English Proficiency

1. Two of the five Block Group Census Tracts have a higher percentage of persons over 5 years old with Limited English Proficiency than Kentucky (3%). **BG 2 CT 604.02 (JC) (14%)** would especially lend itself to more in-depth study as the project proceeds.

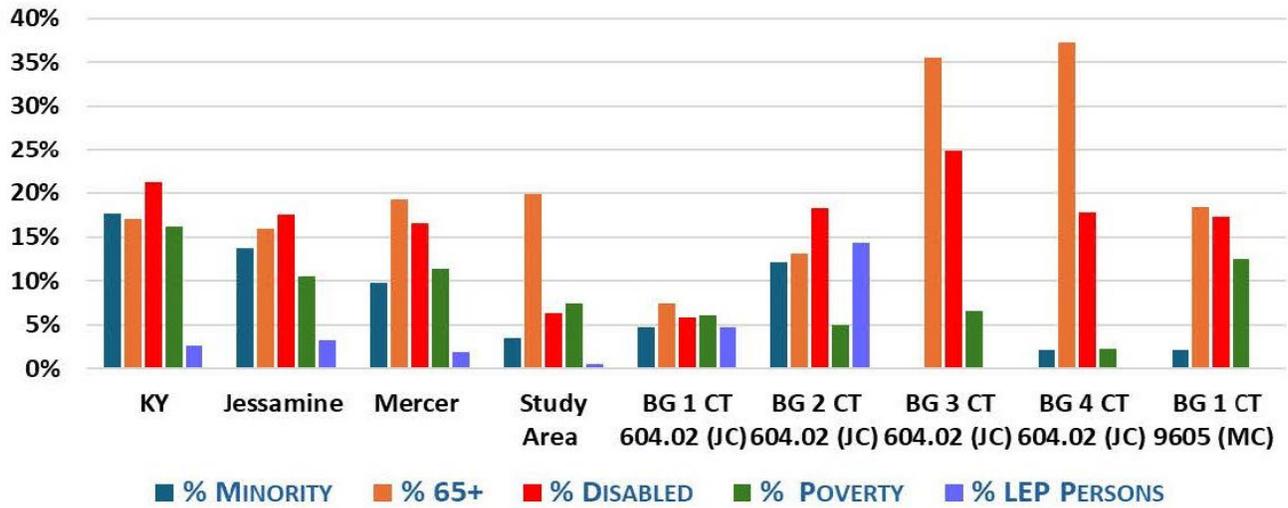
Commuting To Work Means of Transportation

Data from the US Census 2023 ACS 5 Year Data Table S1811 (Selected Economic Characteristics for the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population by Disability Status) used in conjunction with information from the other demographics in this study might be considered in future phases of this project.

Since the dataset was only available for Jessamine County as a whole and not Block Group Census Tracts it cannot be determined how many of the estimated 479 individuals who walk to work and the 50 who commute to work via taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other means live within the Study Area.

The chart and table below provide a synopsis of this entire study.

US 68 CORRIDOR STUDY 7-80251



Source: US Census 2023 ACS 5 Year Data Tables B03002, B01001, C21007, B17021, and B16004

Location	Total Population	% Minority	% 65+	% Disabled	% Poverty	% LEP
KY	4,510,725	18%	17%	21%	16%	3%
Jessamine	53,792	14%	16%	18%	10%	3%
Mercer	22,824	10%	19%	17%	11%	2%
Study Area	5,373	3%	20%	6%	7%	1%
BG 1 CT 604.02 (JC)	1,894	5%	7%	6%	6%	5%
BG 2 CT 604.02 (JC)	480	12%	13%	18%	5%	14%
BG 3 CT 604.02 (JC)	1,130	0%	36%	25%	7%	0%
BG 4 CT 604.02 (JC)	612	2%	37%	18%	2%	0%
BG 1 CT 9605 (MC)	1,257	2%	18%	17%	12%	0%

Source: US Census 2023 ACS 5 Year Data Tables B03002, B01001, C21007, B17021, and B16004

METHODOLOGY FOR DEVELOPING SOCIOECONOMIC STUDIES FOR KYTC PLANNING

Analysis

Agencies should demonstrate meaningful public involvement with all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

Additionally, KYTC works to identify potential populations of the Elderly, Disabled, Limited English Proficiency and Limited Transportation Options that may be impacted in or near the Affected Community (AC) should highway improvements take place in the future.

Examples of these studies include, but are not limited to:

- Corridor Studies
- Traffic Studies
- Small Urban Area Studies
- Feasibility Studies
- Interchange Justification Studies
- Interchange Modification Reports

Affected Communities with potential impacts are determined by locating populations of minority, low-income, elderly, disabled, and limited English proficiency (5 years or older speaking English less than “very well”) and calculating their percentage in the area relative to a reference community of comparison (COC).

Communities of comparison:

- The county percentage
- Kentucky percentage
- Block groups within reasonable proximity of the study area
- United States
- ADD Region