

KY – 168 CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY

SOCIOECONOMIC REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2023

PREPARED FOR:



TRANSPORTATION
CABINET

(DIVISION OF PLANNING)

PREPARED BY:



This document has been prepared in cooperation with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC)

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FINAL SOCIOECONOMIC REPORT: KY – 168 CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY

INTRODUCTION

This report presents an overview of the findings for selected socioeconomic characteristics in the KY – 168 Corridor Planning Study. The purpose of the study is to determine if there are any potential adverse disproportional effects on Environmental Justice populations regarding the implementation of potential safety and congestion improvement alternatives along KY 168. The study will focus on, “KY-168” and includes the corridor between Hoods Creek Rd/Wheatley Rd and US 60 (Intersection of Blackburn Ave. and 13th St.) in Ashland/Westwood, Boyd County, Kentucky.

The information in this report outlines 2016-2020 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 nation, state, counties and block groups 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, especially with regard to the requirements of *Executive Order 12898: Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Poverty status, Populations* (signed February 11, 1994). Executive Order 12898 states:

“...each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its policies, and activities on minority populations and poverty status, populations...”

The planning study area is composed of the following Census Tract (CT) Block Groups (BG):

- Boyd County Census Tract: 308, Block Group 1
- Boyd County Census Tract: 308, Block Group 2
- Boyd County Census Tract: 308 Block Group 3

- Boyd County Census Tract: 309, Block Group 1
- Boyd County Census Tract: 309, Block Group 2

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

The U.S. Dept of Transportation (DOT) outlines three primary Environmental Justice Concept:

1. To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and poverty status, populations.
2. To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.
3. To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority population and poverty status, populations.

The U.S. DOT order defines minority as:

1. Black (a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa);
2. Hispanic (a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race);
3. Asian American (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands); or
4. American Indian and Alaskan Native (a person having origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition).

A minority population is “any readily identifiable groups of minority persons who live in geographic proximity, and if circumstances warrant geographically dispersed/transient persons...”

Low-income, is defined in U.S. DOT Order (5610.2) as “a person whose median household income is at or below the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) poverty guidelines.” A low-income, population is “any readily identifiable group of low-income, persons who live in geographic proximity, and, if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed/transient persons...”

A disproportionately high and adverse effect on a minority or low-income population means an adverse effect that:

1. Is predominately borne by a minority population and/or low-income population or
2. Will be suffered by the minority population and/or low-income population and is appreciably more severe or greater in magnitude than the adverse effect that will be suffered by the non- minority population and/or non-low-income population.

Elderly and disabled populations (also used in this analysis) are not specifically recognized under the definition of an Environmental Justice community. However, the U.S. DOT specifically encourages the early examination of potential population of the elderly, children, disabled, and other populations protected by the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related nondiscrimination statutes.

Limited English proficiency (LEP) is a term used in the United States that refers to a person who is not fluent in the English language, often because it is not their native language. Both LEP and English-language learner (ELL) are terms used by the Office for Civil Rights, a sub-agency of the U.S. Department of Education.

METHODOLOGY

The data was collected using the method outlined by the KYTC document “Methodology for Assessing Potential Environmental Justice Concerns for KYTC Planning Studies”. 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 groups, the county, the entire state, and the United States.

The primary source of data for this report is the 2016-2020 U.S. 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 census tract block groups, counties, state, and nation. The project area is contained within the FIVCO Area Development District.

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 would be required for the NEPA documentation when assessing the potential for adverse and disproportionate impacts to low-income and minority populations.

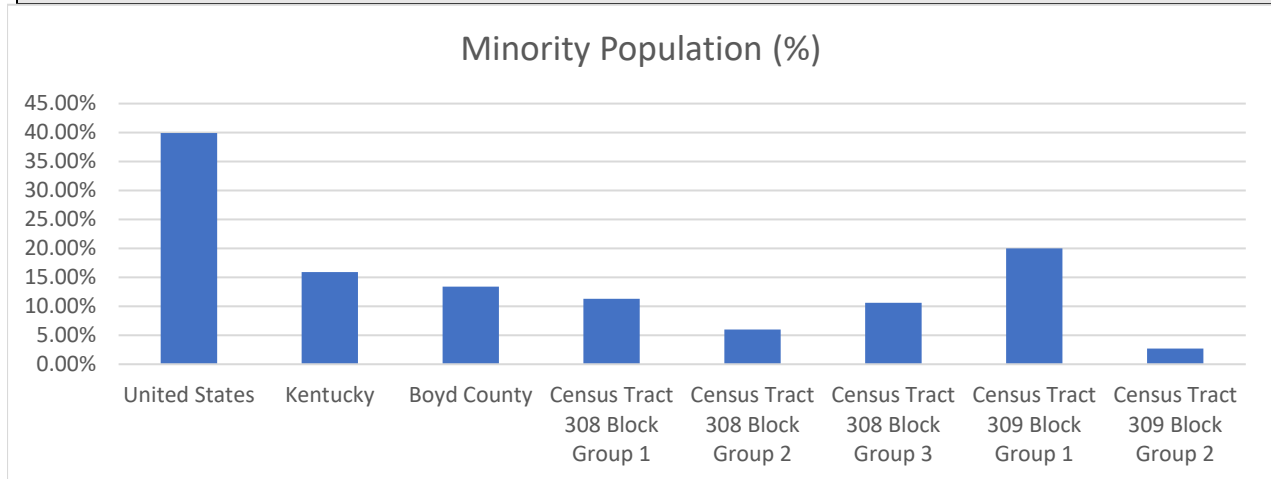
STUDY FINDINGS

POPULATION BY PERSONS OF RACIAL MINORITY ORIGIN

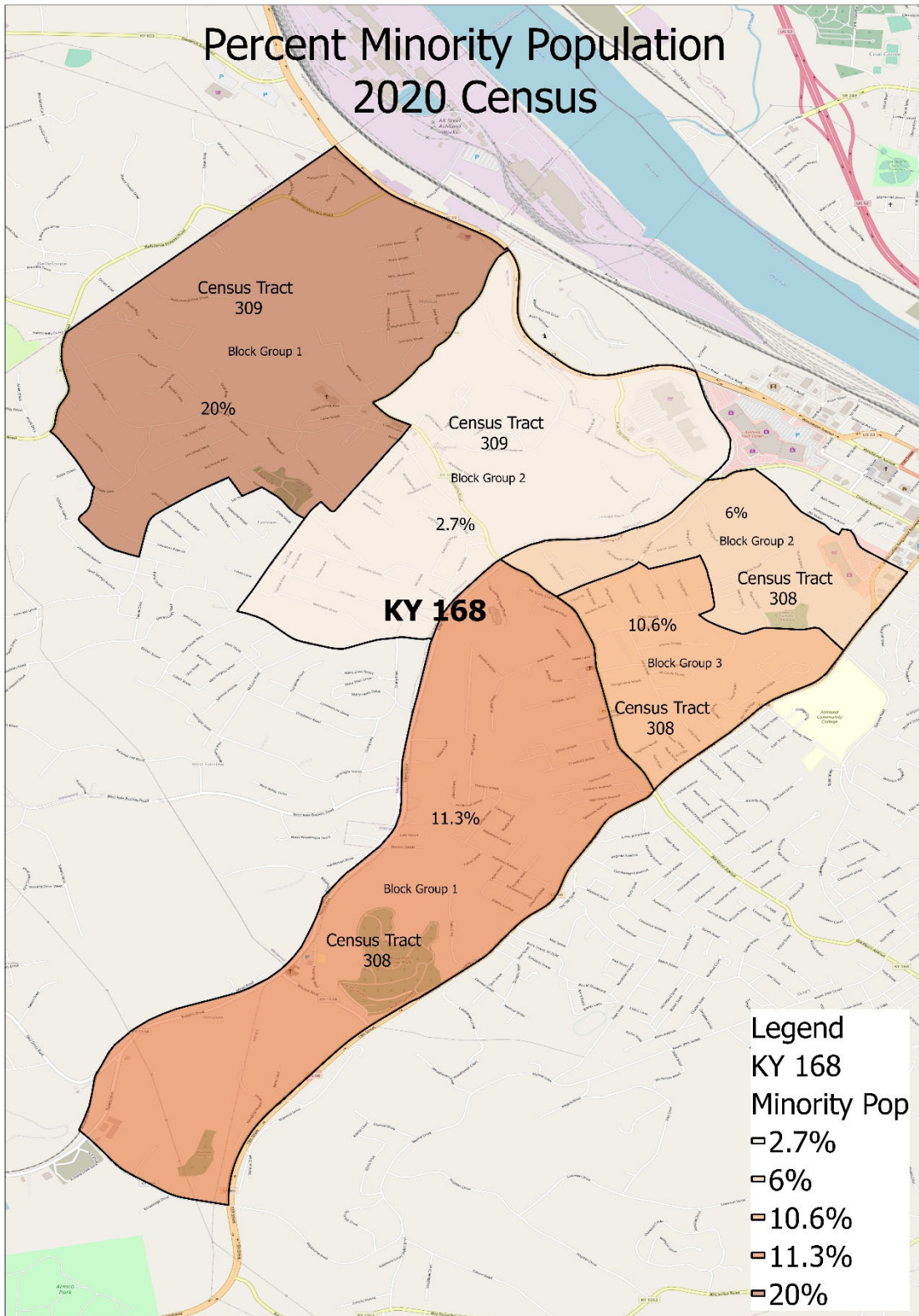
Racial minorities in the United States make up 39.91% of the population, but in Kentucky that percentage drops significantly to just 15.92%. Some Census Tract Block Groups display an even lower percentage of racial minorities than that of the state respectively. In the project study area, each block group (BG) falls well below the National average of 39.91% for Minority Population. Only Census Tract (CT) 309, Block Group (BG) 1, at 20%, is above State and County averages (15.92% and 13.4%, respectively). The remaining Census Tract Block Groups fall below said State and County averages.

	Total Population	Minority Population	Minority Population (%)
United States	326,569,308	130,317,933	39.91%
Kentucky	4,461,952	710,214	15.92%
Boyd County	48,447	3,615	13.4%
Census Tract 308 Block Group 1	1659	187	11.3%
Census Tract 308 Block Group 2	987	59	6%
Census Tract 308 Block Group 3	1365	145	10.6%
Census Tract 309 Block Group 1	1633	327	20%
Census Tract 309 Block Group 2	1522	41	2.7%

Source: US Census Bureau 2020 ACS 5-year Estimates Detailed Table B03002



Percent Minority Population 2020 Census

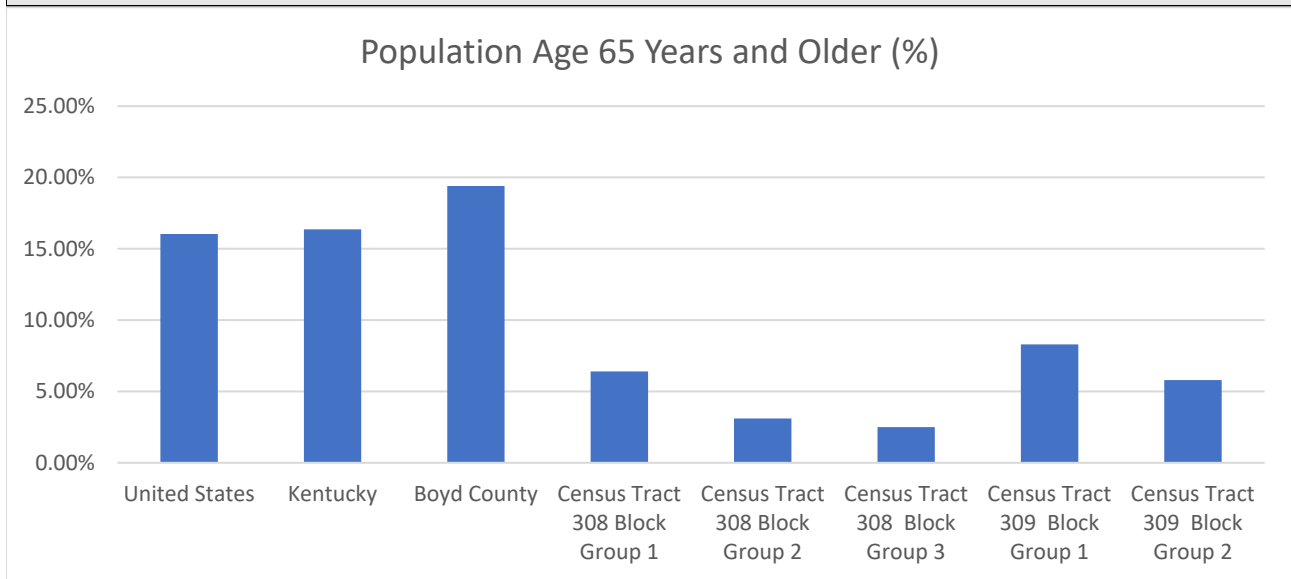


POPULATION BY PERSONS AGE 65 YEARS AND OLDER

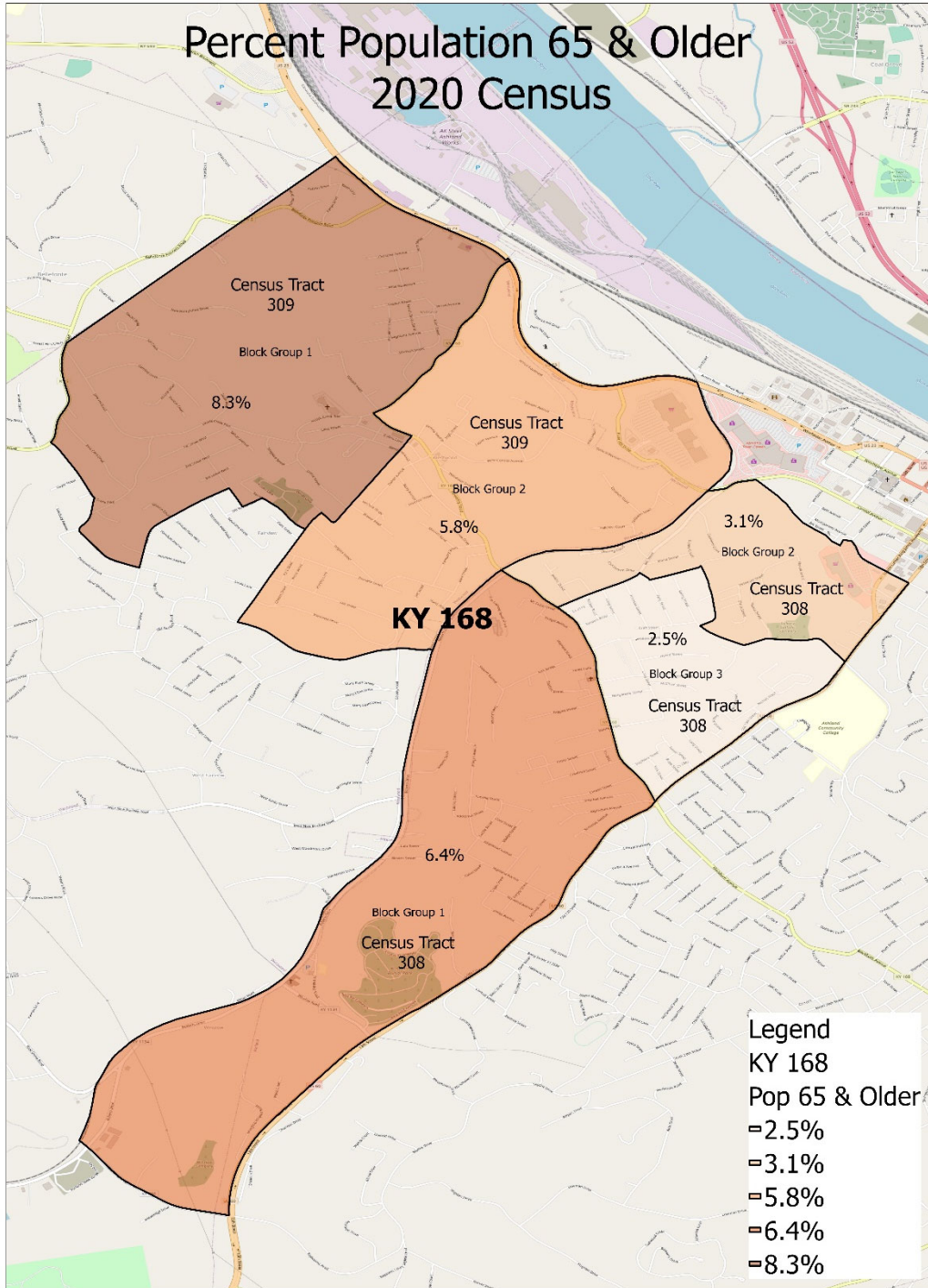
In the project study area, each Census Tract Block Group has a much lower percentage of population of persons 65 years and older in comparison to the remainder of Boyd County and the State and National average. Block Group (BG) 3 of Census Tract (CT) 308 has a much lower percentage of elderly persons (2.5%) when compared to the other block groups nearby to the study area, the State of Kentucky and the United States, as a Nation. Block Group (BG) 1 of Census Tract (CT) 309, has the highest percentage of population age 65 and over at 8.3%

	Total Population	Population Age 65 Years and Older	Population Age 65 Years and Older (%)
United States	326,569,308	52,362,817	16.03%
Kentucky	4,461,952	729,928	16.36%
Boyd County	48,447	9,427	19.4%
Census Tract 308 Block Group 1	1659	106	6.4%
Census Tract 308 Block Group 2	987	31	3.1%
Census Tract 308 Block Group 3	1365	34	2.5%
Census Tract 309 Block Group 1	1633	135	8.3%
Census Tract 309 Block Group 2	1522	88	5.8%

Source: US Census Bureau 2020 ACS 5-year Estimates Detailed Table B01001



Percent Population 65 & Older 2020 Census

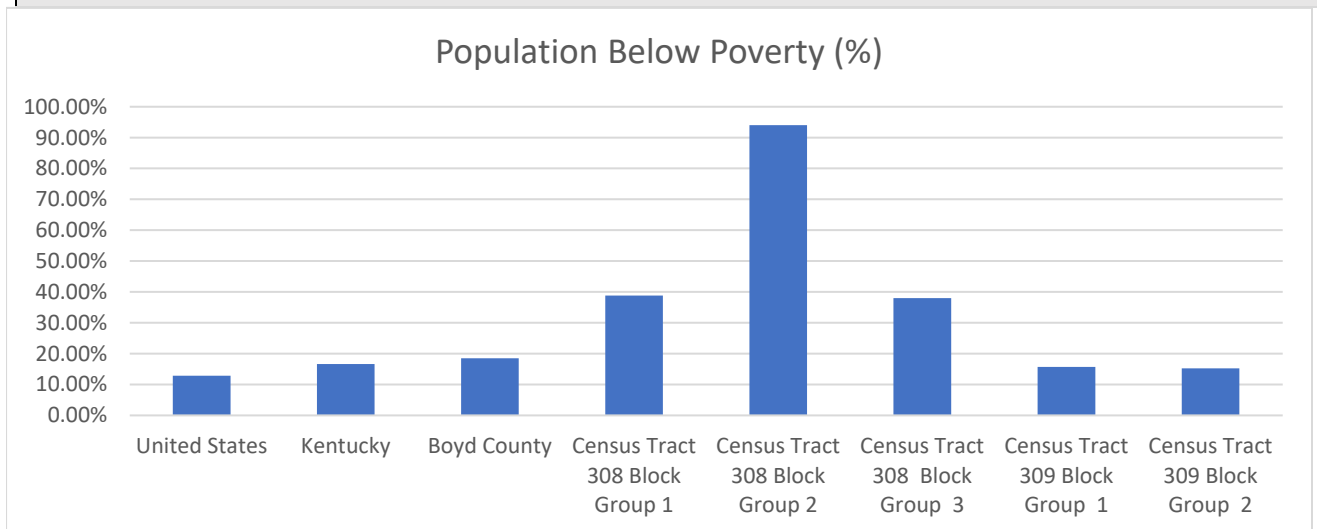


POPULATION BY PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

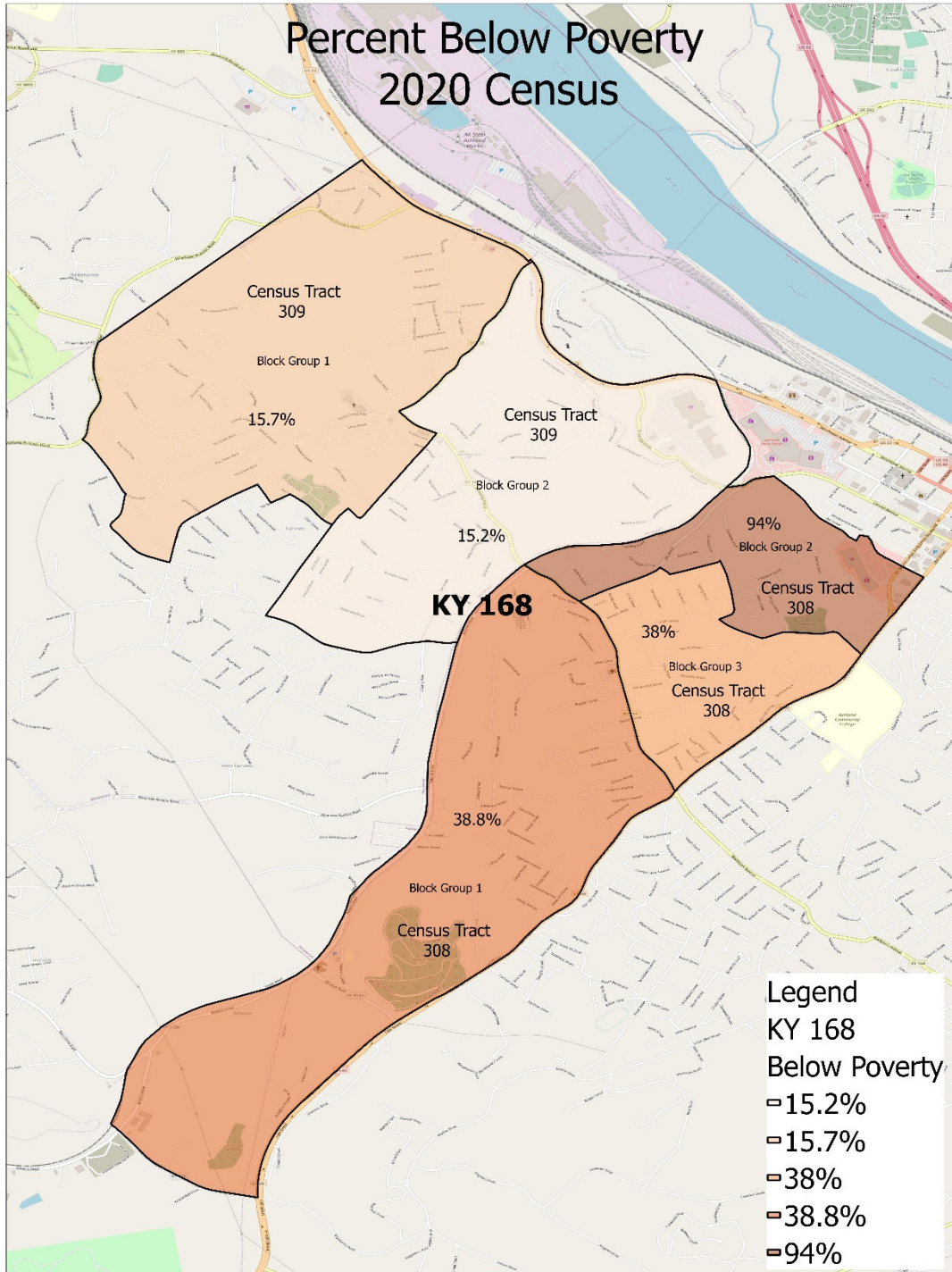
The percentage of persons living below the poverty level in Kentucky (16.61%) is higher than that of the United States (12.84%). Boyd County has a higher percentage of people living below poverty level than both the State of Kentucky and the United States with 18.5%, respectively. However, within this study area, both Block Group (BG) 2 of Census Tract (CT) 308, Block Group (BG) 1 of Census Tract (CT) 308 and Block Group (BG) 3 of Census Tract (CT) 308 are extremely high above the County, State and National average with 94%, 38.8% and 38% (respectively) living below poverty level. Block Groups (BG) 1 and 2 of Census Tract (CT) 309 are both below the State and County averages of persons living below the poverty level, but higher than the National average.

	Total Population	Population Below Poverty	Population Below Poverty (%)
United States	318,564,128	40,910,326	12.84%
Kentucky	4,322,881	717,895	16.61%
Boyd County	48,447	4,926	18.5%
Census Tract 308 Block Group 1	1659	643	38.8%
Census Tract 308 Block Group 2	987	928	94%
Census Tract 308 Block Group 3	1365	519	38%
Census Tract 309 Block Group 1	1633	256	15.7%
Census Tract 309 Block Group 2	1522	232	15.2%

Source: US Census Bureau 2020 ACS 5-year Estimates Detailed Table B17021



Percent Below Poverty 2020 Census

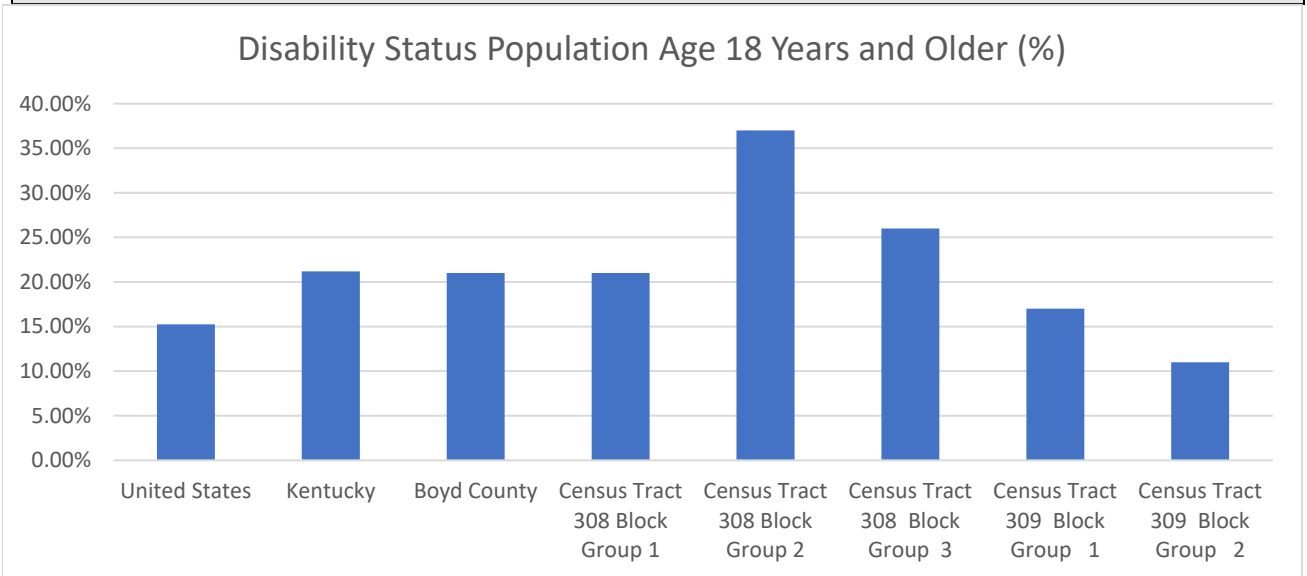


POPULATION BY DISABILITY STATUS

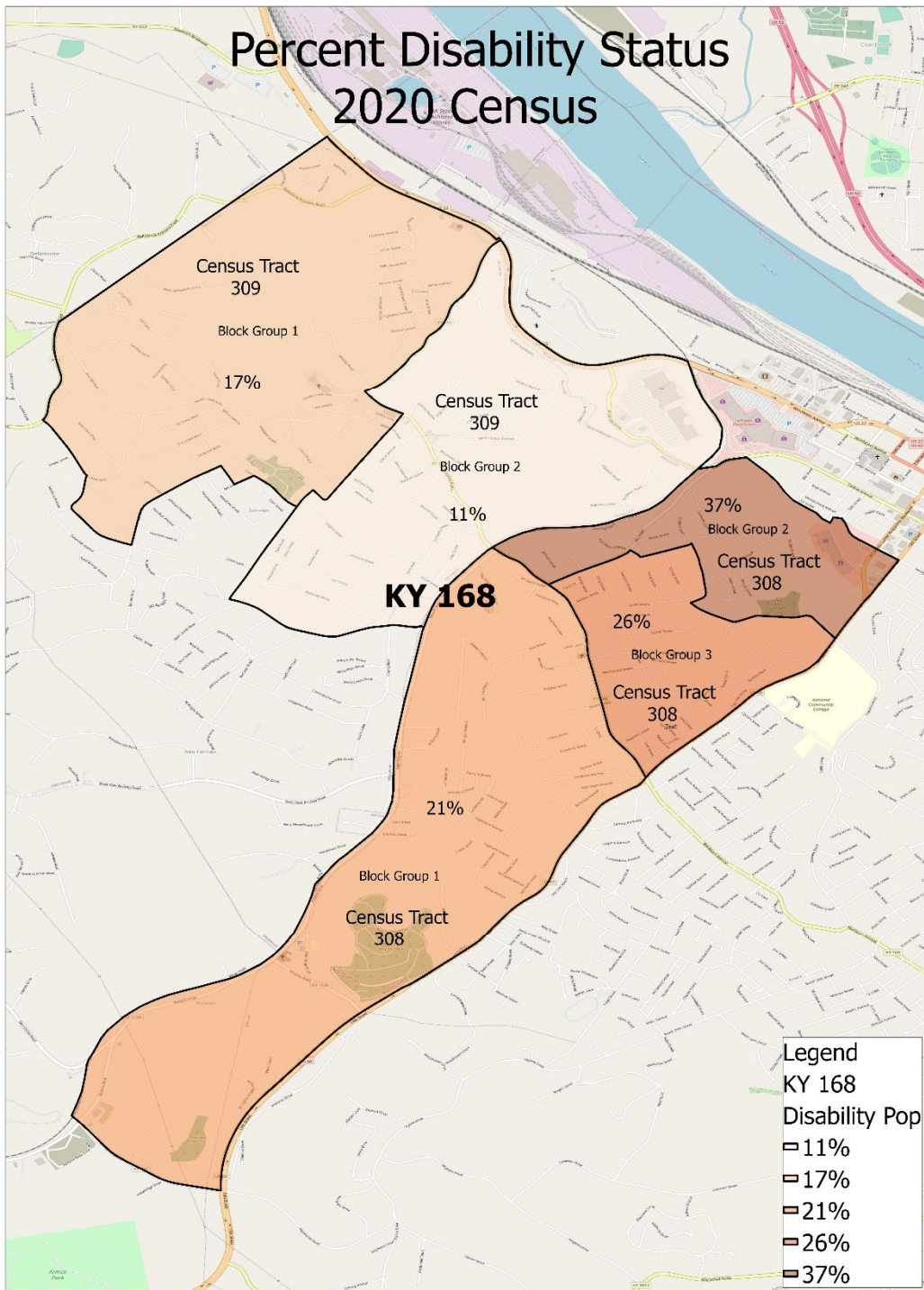
Kentucky had 21.19% percent of its population age 18 years and older with some type of disability. This is higher than the national percentage of 15.25%. Data shows that the disability status in the project area contains a wide range varying from 11% to 37%. The population of persons over 18 years of age with a disability in Boyd County, as a whole, is 6% higher than that of the National Average. However, Block Group (BG) 2 of Census Tract (CT) 308 rests at 37 % while Block Group (BG) 2 of Census Tract (CT) 309 is considerably lower at 11%. Each block group in the study area, except one (Block Group 2 of Census Tract 309), has considerably higher percentages of population of 18 and over with some type of disability than that of the National Average of 15.25%.

	Total Population Age 18 and Older	Disability Status Population Age 18 Years and Older	Disability Status Population Age 18 Years and Older (%)
United States	245,684,915	37,478,333	15.25%
Kentucky	3,330,918	705,961	21.19%
Boyd County	48,447	10,156	21%
Census Tract 308 Block Group 1	1659	340	21%
Census Tract 308 Block Group 2	987	365	37%
Census Tract 308 Block Group 3	1365	349	26%
Census Tract 309 Block Group 1	1633	271	17%
Census Tract 309 Block Group 2	1522	173	11%

Source: US Census Bureau 2020 ACS 5-year Estimates Detailed Table C21007



Percent Disability Status 2020 Census

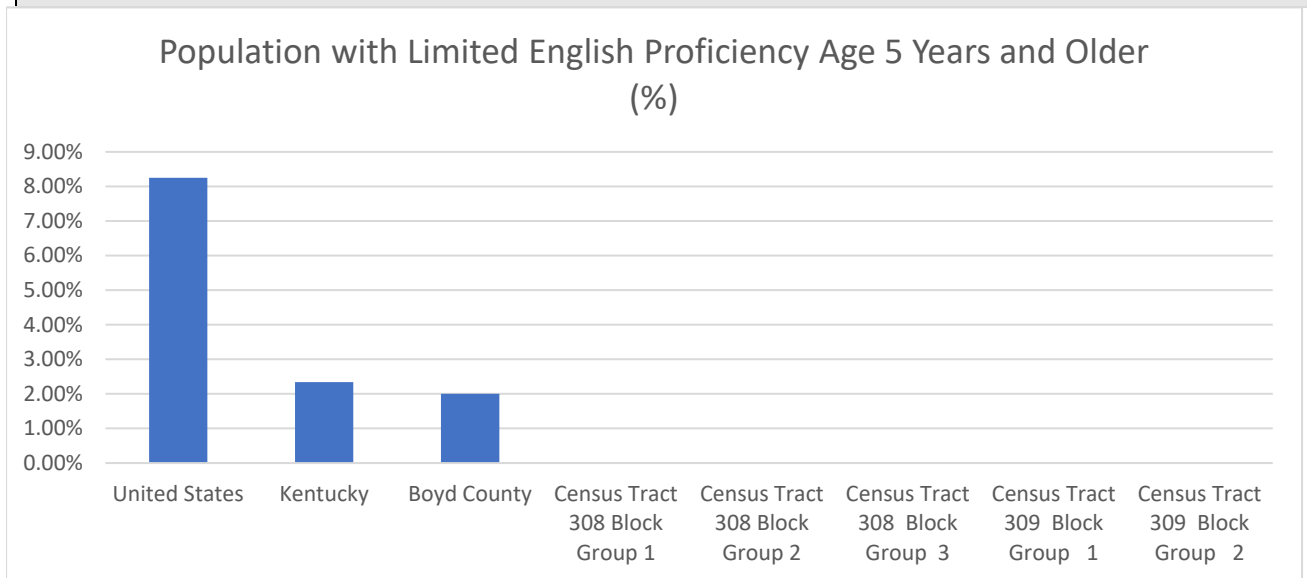


POPULATION BY PERSONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

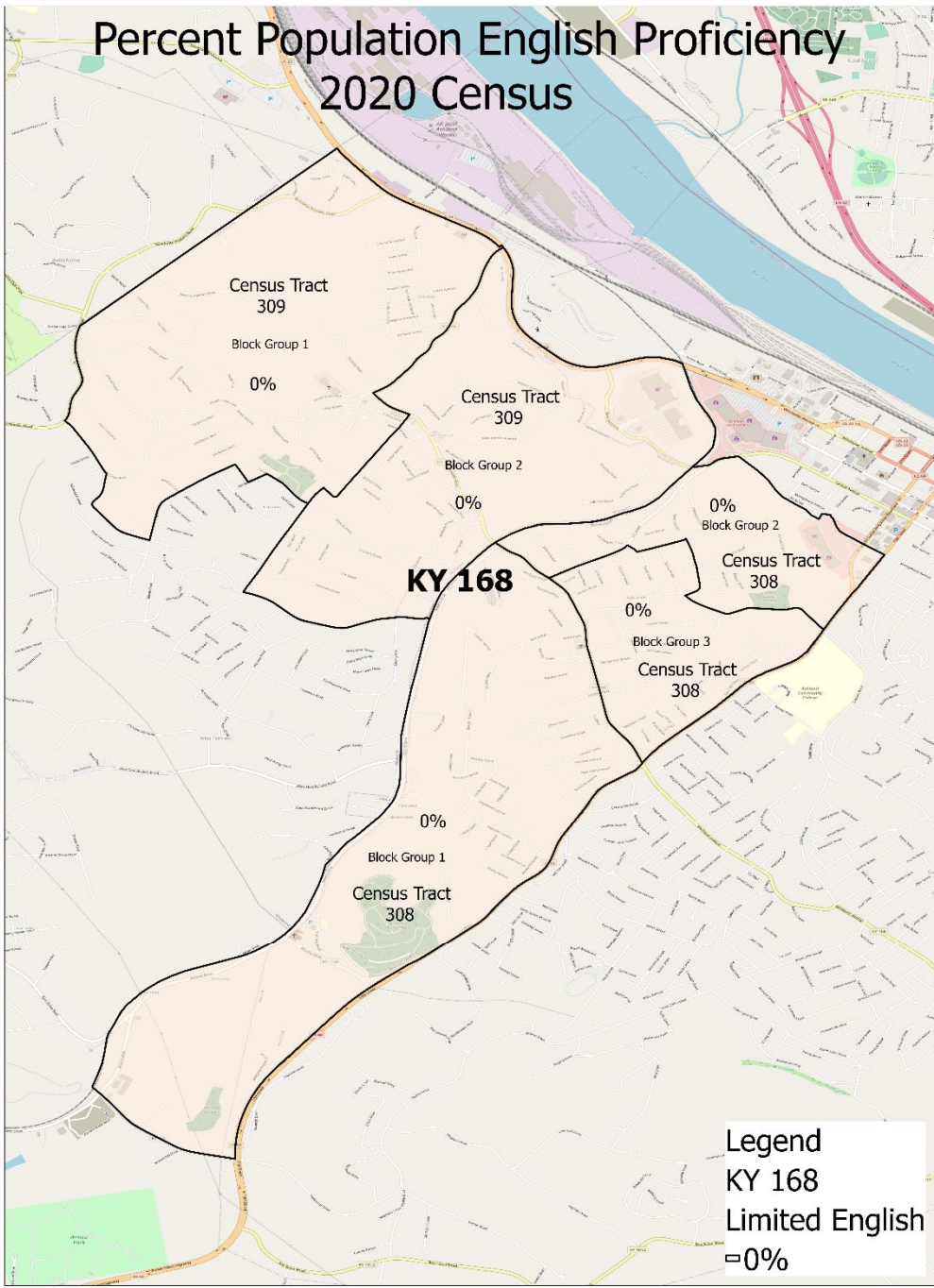
Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in the United States make up 8.25% of the population, but in Kentucky that percentage decreases to just 2.34%. Boyd County has a slightly lower percentage of Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) than the State of Kentucky. That percentage decreases even further in comparison with the United States with 2%. Each Block Group (BG) of Census Tracts (CT) 308 and 309 all have a 0 percentage of persons with limited English proficiency in the study area., which is significantly lower than the State of Kentucky’s population at 2.34% and the National Average of 8.25%.

	Total Population Age 5 Years and Older	Population with Limited English Proficiency Age 5 Years and Older	Population with Limited English Proficiency Age 5 Years and Older (%)
United States	306,919,116	25,312,024	8.25%
Kentucky	4,188,377	97,819	2.34%
Boyd County	48,447	1,005	2%
Census Tract 308 Block Group 1	1659	0	0%
Census Tract 308 Block Group 2	987	0	0%
Census Tract 308 Block Group 3	1365	0	0%
Census Tract 309 Block Group 1	1633	0	0%
Census Tract 309 Block Group 2	1522	0	0%

Source: US Census Bureau 2020 ACS 5-year Estimates Detailed Table B16004



Percent Population English Proficiency 2020 Census



CONCLUSION

POPULATION BY PERSONS OF RACIAL MINORITY ORIGIN

In the project study area, each Block Group (BG) falls well below the National average of 39.91% for Minority Population. Only Census Tract (CT) 309, Block Group (BG) 1, at 20%, is above State and County averages (15.92% and 13.4%, respectively). The remaining Census Tract Block Groups fall below said State and County averages.

POPULATION BY PERSONS AGE 65 YEARS AND OLDER

Each Census Tract Block Group has a much lower percentage of population of persons 65 years and older in comparison to the remainder of Boyd County and the State and National average. Block Group (BG) 3 of Census Tract (CT) 308 has a much lower percentage of elderly persons (2.5%) when compared to the other block groups nearby to the study area, the State of Kentucky and the United States, as a Nation. Block Group (BG) 1 of Census Tract (CT) 309, has the highest percentage of population age 65 and over at 8.3%

POPULATION BY PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

Within this study area, both Block Group (BG) 2 of Census Tract (CT) 308, Block Group (BG) 1 of Census Tract (CT) 308 and Block Group (BG) 3 of Census Tract (CT) 308 are extremely high above the County, State and National average with 94%, 38.8% and 38% (respectively) living below poverty level. Block Groups (BG) 1 and 2 of Census Tract (CT) 309 are both below the State and County averages of persons living below the poverty level, but higher than the National average.

POPULATION BY DISABILITY STATUS

Data shows that the disability status in the project area contains a wide range varying from 11% to 37%. The population of persons over 18 years of age with a disability in Boyd County, as a whole, is 6% higher than that of the National Average. However, Block Group (BG) 2 of Census Tract (CT) 308 rests at 37 % while Block Group (BG) 2 of Census Tract (CT) 309 is considerably lower at 11%. Each block group in the study area, except one (Block Group 2 of Census Tract 309), has considerably higher percentages of population of 18 and over with some type of disability than that of the National Average of 15.25%.

PERSONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Each Block Group (BG) of Census Tracts (CT) 308 and 309 all have a 0 percentage of persons with limited English proficiency in the study area., which is significantly lower than the State of Kentucky's population at 2.34% and the National Average of 8.25%.

During future phases of project development, a more detailed and robust analysis would be required for the NEPA documentation when assessing the potential for adverse and disproportionate impacts to those with disabilities, poverty status, and minority populations.