

APPENDIX C – SOCIOECONOMIC STUDY

PADUCAH SMALL URBAN AREA STUDY

SOCIOECONOMIC REPORT

June 15, 2018

Prepared for

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) – Division of Planning



Prepared by

Purchase Area Development District



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

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Introduction

This report presents an overview of selected socioeconomic characteristics in the Paducah Small Urban Area (SUA) Study for the City of Paducah including portions of the surrounding unincorporated areas of McCracken County. The SUA study is focused on developing low cost, short term alternatives that address safety and congestion needs of the transportation system within the study area which can be used for further project development and implementation. The socioeconomic analysis includes the identification of potential Environmental Justice communities that may be adversely impacted should transportation improvements take place in the future.

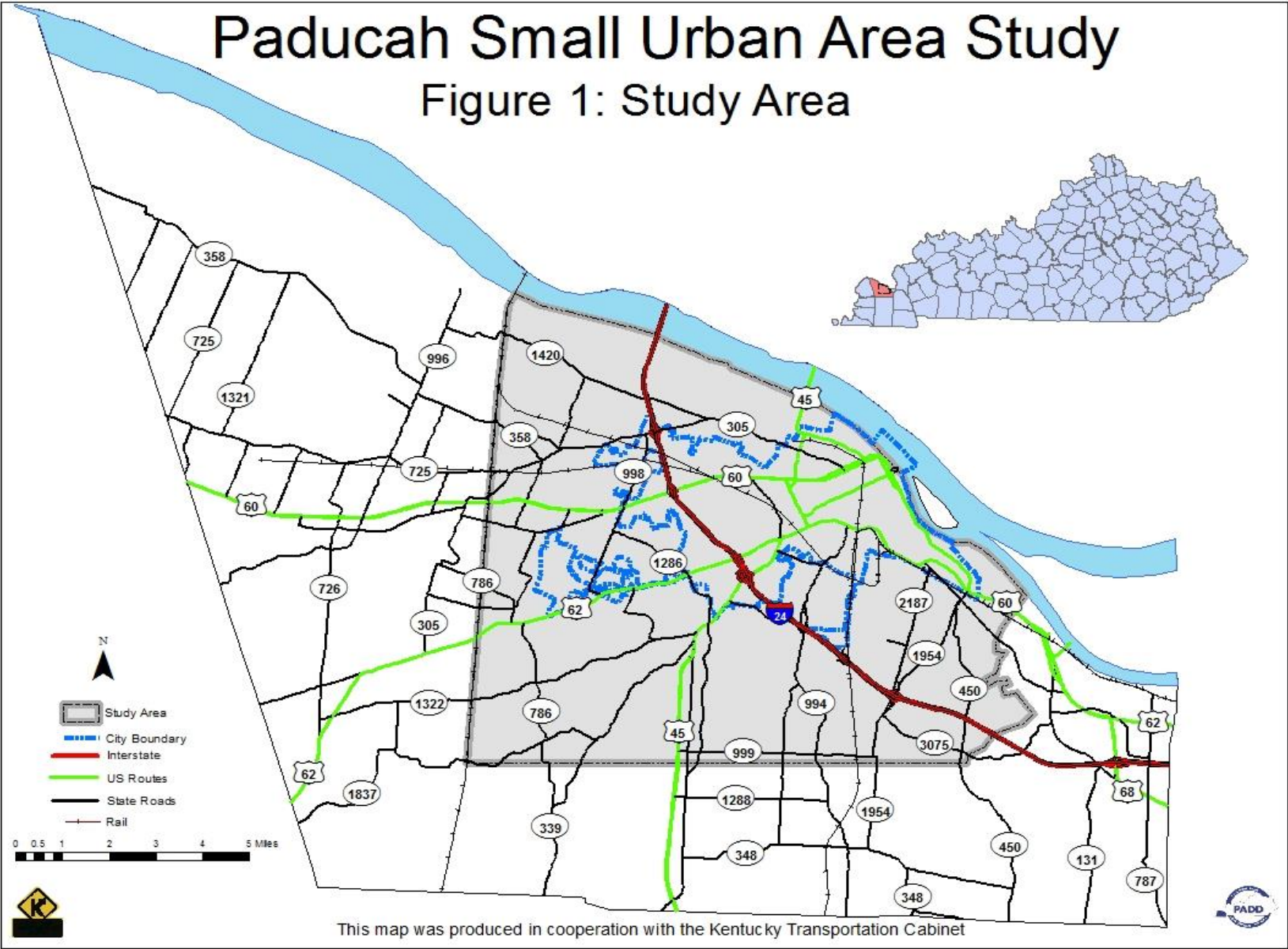
The information in this report outlines 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) statistics in and near the study area using tables, charts and maps. The data presented in this document is intended to highlight areas of concern that may require additional analysis should any transportation project be advanced to future phases. Statistics are provided for minority, elderly, poverty status, Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and disabled populations for the United States, Commonwealth of Kentucky, Purchase Region, McCracken County and block groups located within the study 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 Low-Income 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 programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations...”

The small urban study area (Figure 1) is located in the City of Paducah and includes portions of McCracken County, which is located in the Jackson Purchase region of Kentucky. McCracken County is located in the north central portion of the region and covers a land area of 251 square miles. It is bordered to the north by the Ohio River, the northeast by the Tennessee River, the south by Graves County and the east by Marshall County. It is the largest populated county in the region with a population of 65,292. Paducah is the county seat and is the major economic center and the largest urban area in the region. Paducah is located at the confluence of the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers and has a population of 25,048.

McCracken County is composed of 16 Census Tracts that are divided into 53 Census Block Groups. The SUA study area consist of 39 block groups with boundaries that are completely within the study area and 7 block groups that are only partially in the study area. Six of the 53 are completely independent of the identified study area. Due to the nature of the involved boundaries (block group & study area) not being a perfect match, this review will focus on the 47 block groups either completely or partially within the study area. A table with percentages for the US, Kentucky, Purchase Region and for all 53 block groups in the county is included as Appendix A.



WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Environmental Justice (EJ) defines EJ as: “The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socio-economic groups should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local and tribal programs and policies.”

While exact thresholds or benchmarks have not been established, and there is no further guidance on what “elevated” percentages of disadvantaged populations mean, for the purpose of this study “disproportionately high and adverse effect on a minority or low-income population” means an adverse effect that:

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.

The United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) Order 5610.2, issued in the April 15, 1997 Federal Register, defines what constitutes minority and low-income populations.

A minority is defined 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 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...”

In addition to the above defined EJ communities the KYTC works to identify potential populations of the elderly, disabled and Limited English Proficiency (LEP). 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. Elderly and disabled populations are not specifically recognized under the definition of an EJ community. However, the U.S. DOT specifically encourages the early examination of potential populations of the elderly, children, disabled, and other populations protected by the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related nondiscrimination statutes.

METHODOLOGY

Data for this report was collected in accordance with the guidance provided by the KYTC. The outline for preparing socioeconomic reports “Methodology for Assessing Underserved Populations Including Environmental Justice, Title VI, Age and Disability Considerations in Conjunction with KYTC Planning Studies” is included in Appendix B. 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 as a whole, the entire state and the United States.

The primary source of data for this report is the 2012 – 2016 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 for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over

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.

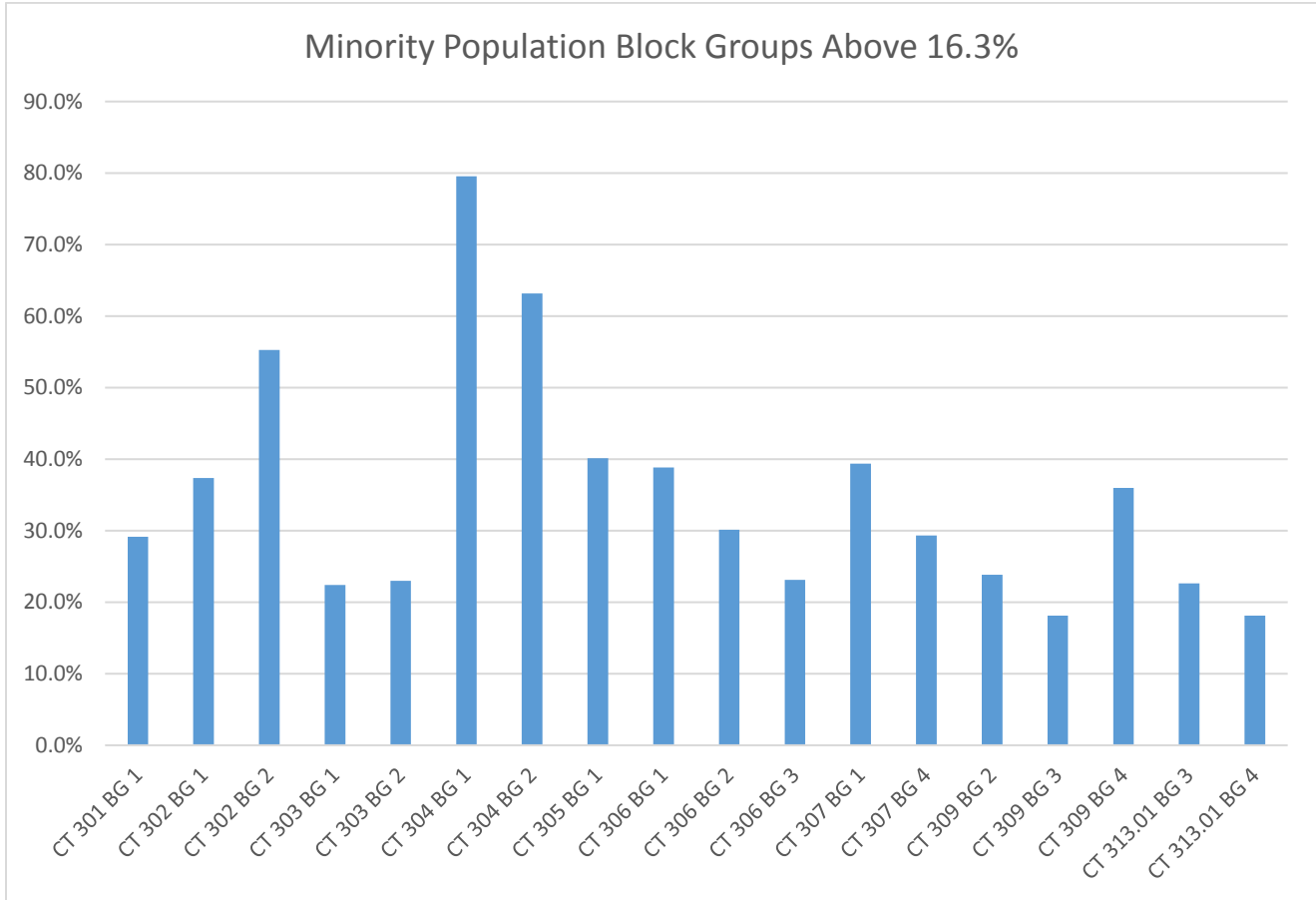
The Census tables in this report include the total number and percentages for minorities, elderly, low-income, LEP, and disabled population levels for the census tract block groups, county, region, state, and nation. This report uses the population percentages for McCracken County as the reference threshold for identifying target populations. The county numbers were selected as the reference threshold because the project is completely within the county limits. The county numbers most likely provide a better snapshot of the overall population characteristics in the study area as opposed to the United States or state percentages.

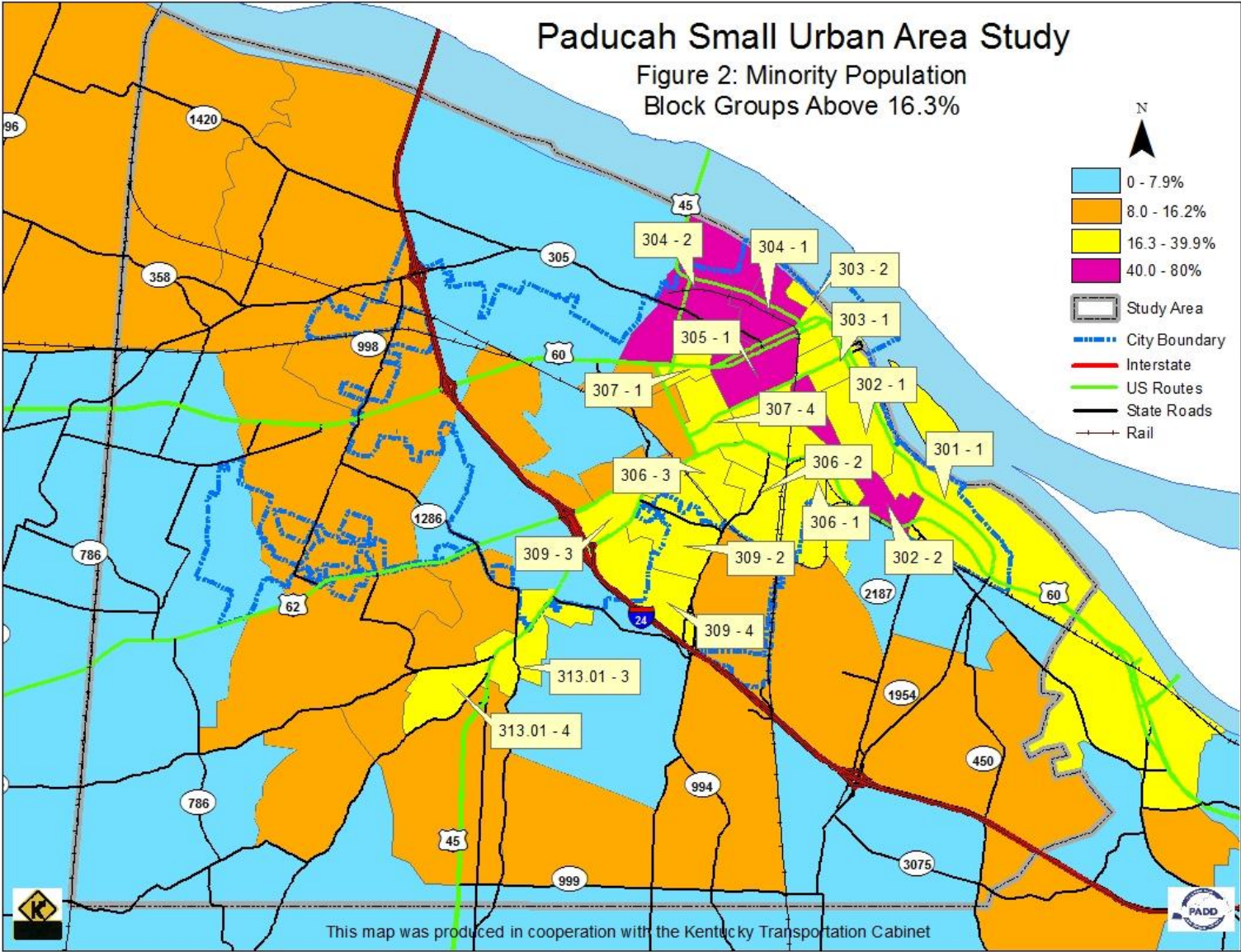
The methodologies used in this report are appropriate for identifying areas of concern in small urban areas and potential project corridors. However, during future phases of project development a more detailed and robust analysis would be required for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when assessing the potential for adverse and disproportionate impacts to poverty status, and minority populations.

Study Findings

Population by Persons of Minority Origin

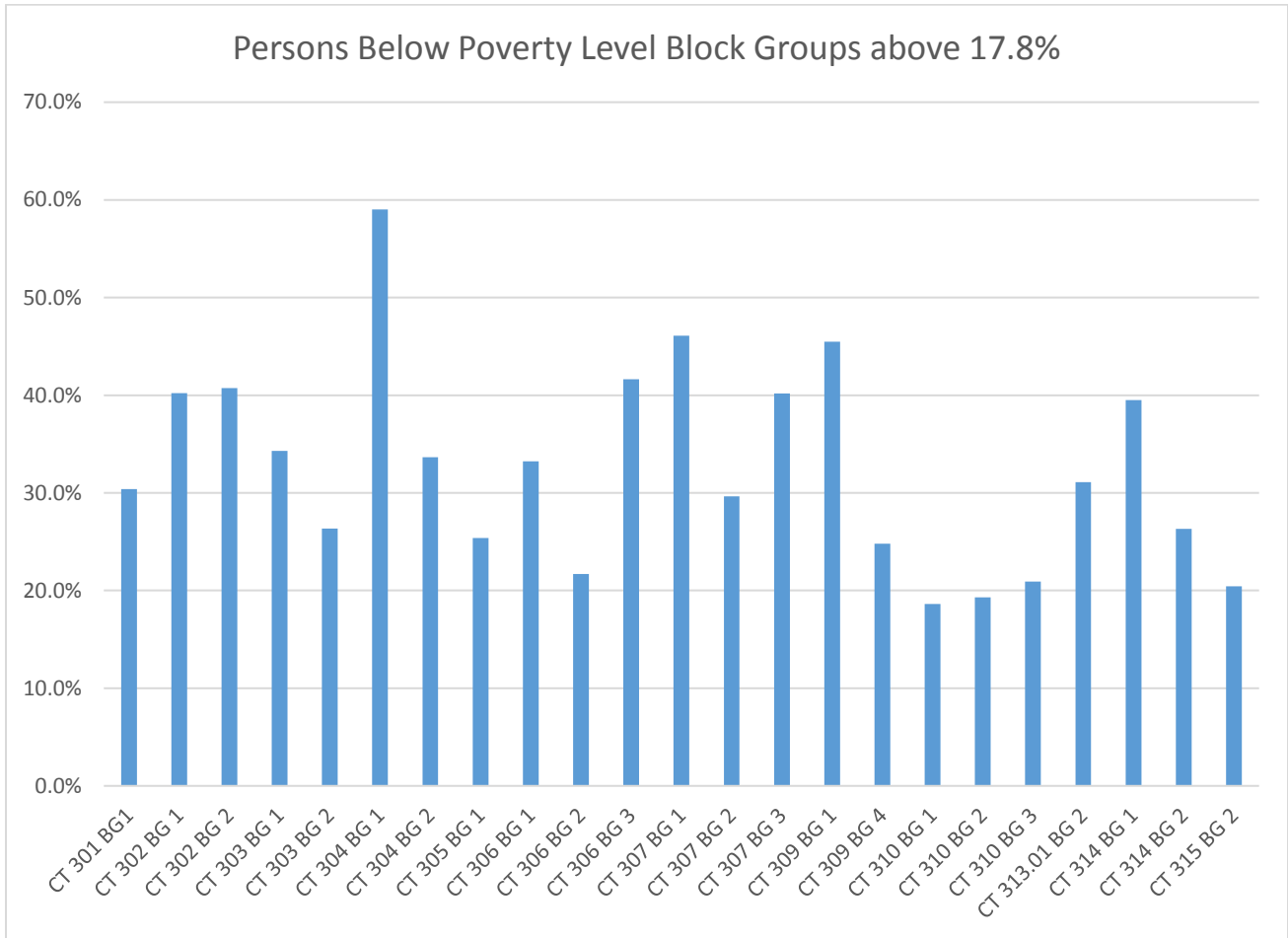
Racial minorities compose 16.3% of the population in McCracken County. Using that number as a reference threshold, 18 block groups within the study area have a higher percentage of minorities than that of the county. The percentages are identified in the following chart. Block groups above 16.3% are labeled in Figure 2.

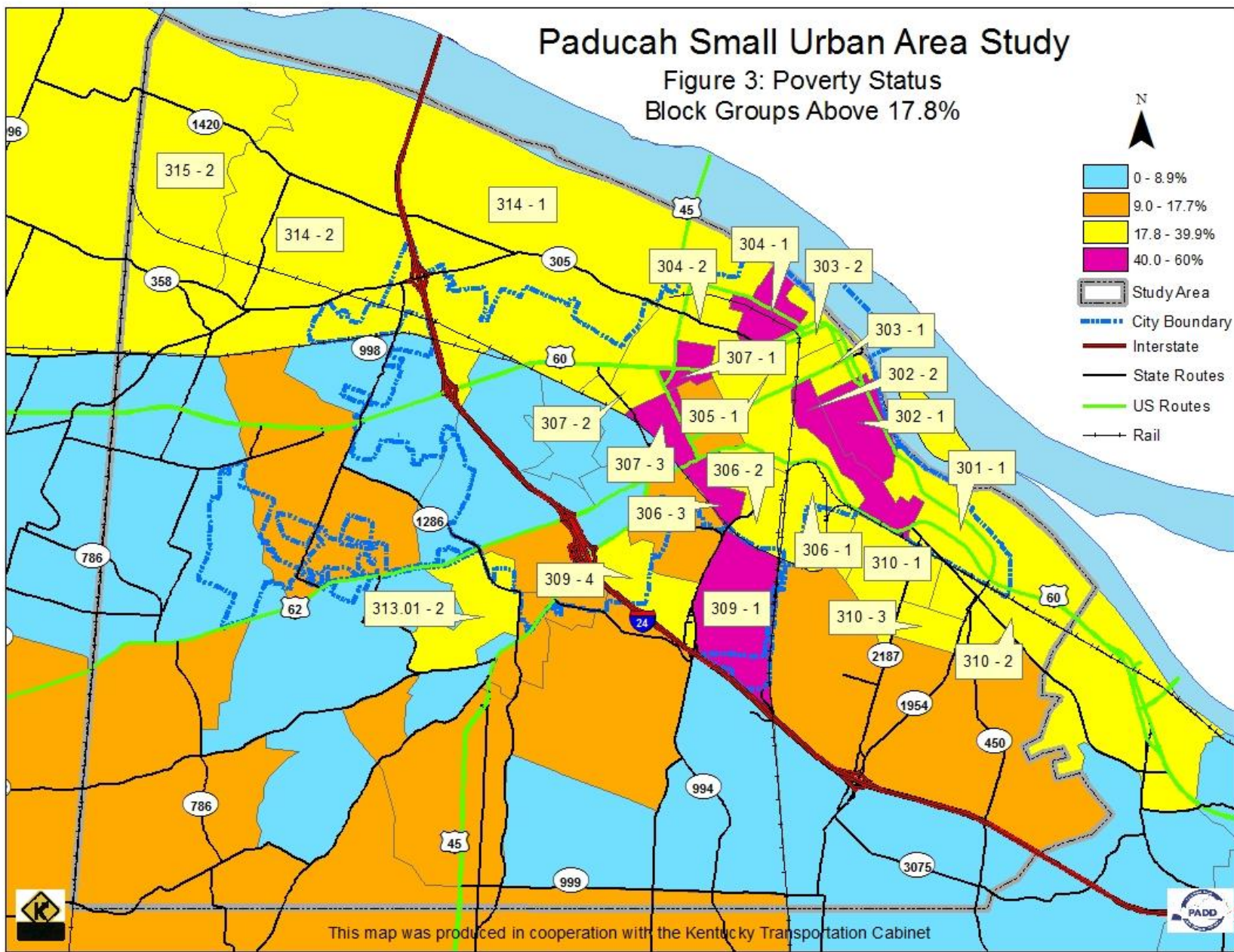




Population by Persons below Poverty Level

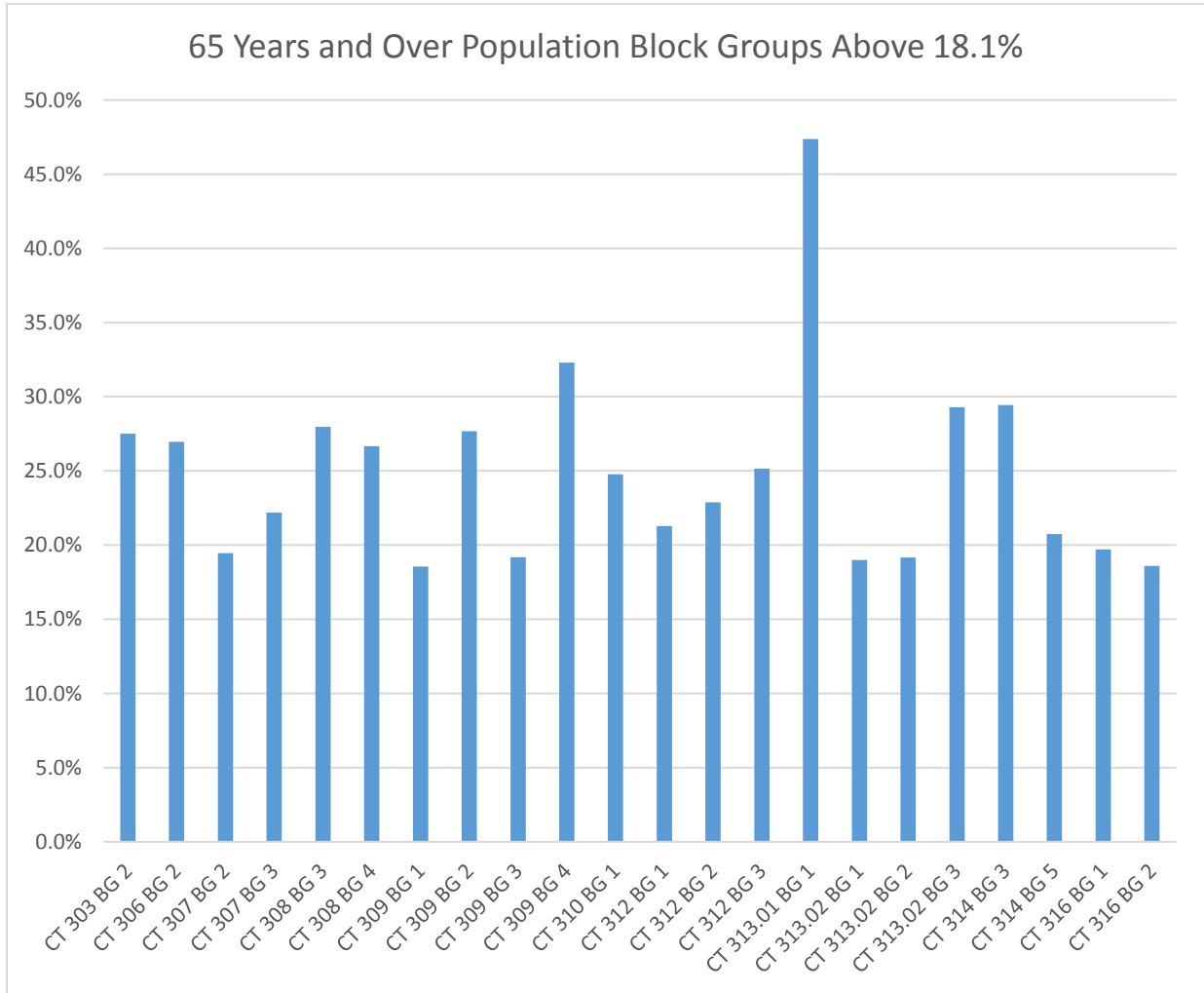
The percentage of persons living below the poverty level in McCracken County is 17.8% of the population. Twenty-three of the block groups in the study area have a higher percentage poverty population than the county. The percentages are identified in the following chart. Block groups above 17.8% are labeled in Figure 3.

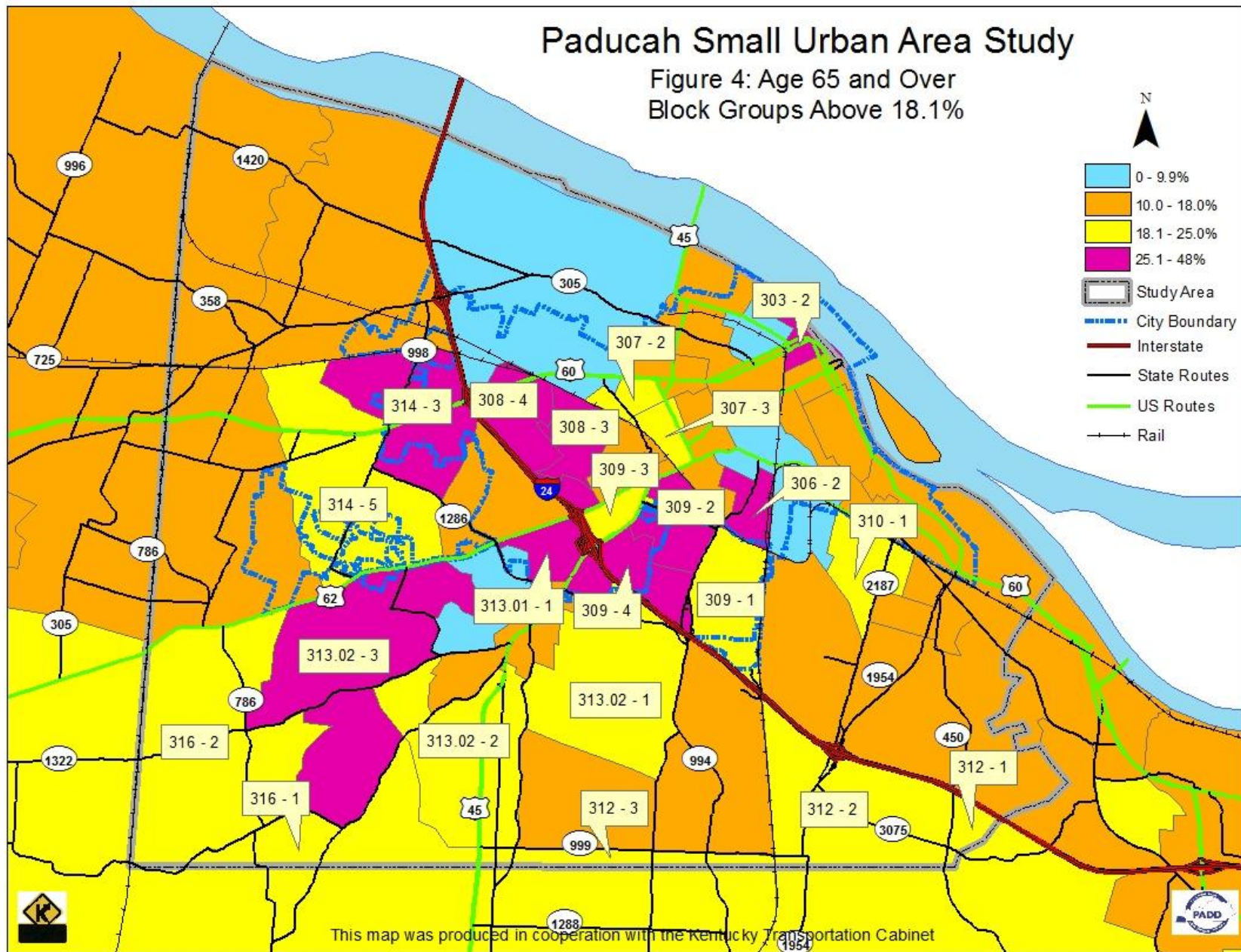




Population by Persons Age 65 Years and Over

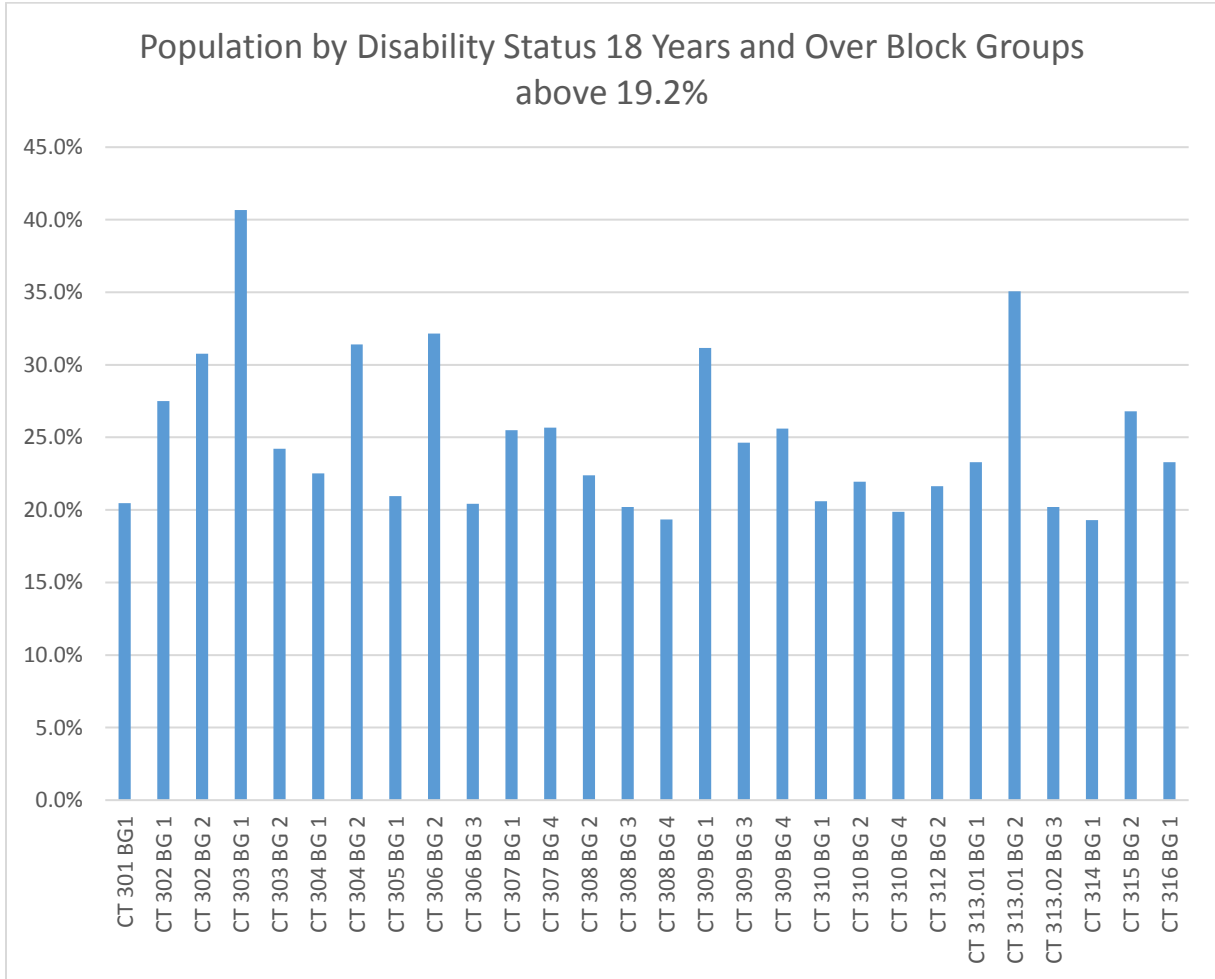
McCracken County has an 18.1% population of persons age 65 years or older. The study area consists of 22 block groups with a percentage higher than 18.1%. The percentages are identified in the following chart. Block groups above 18.1% are labeled in Figure 4.

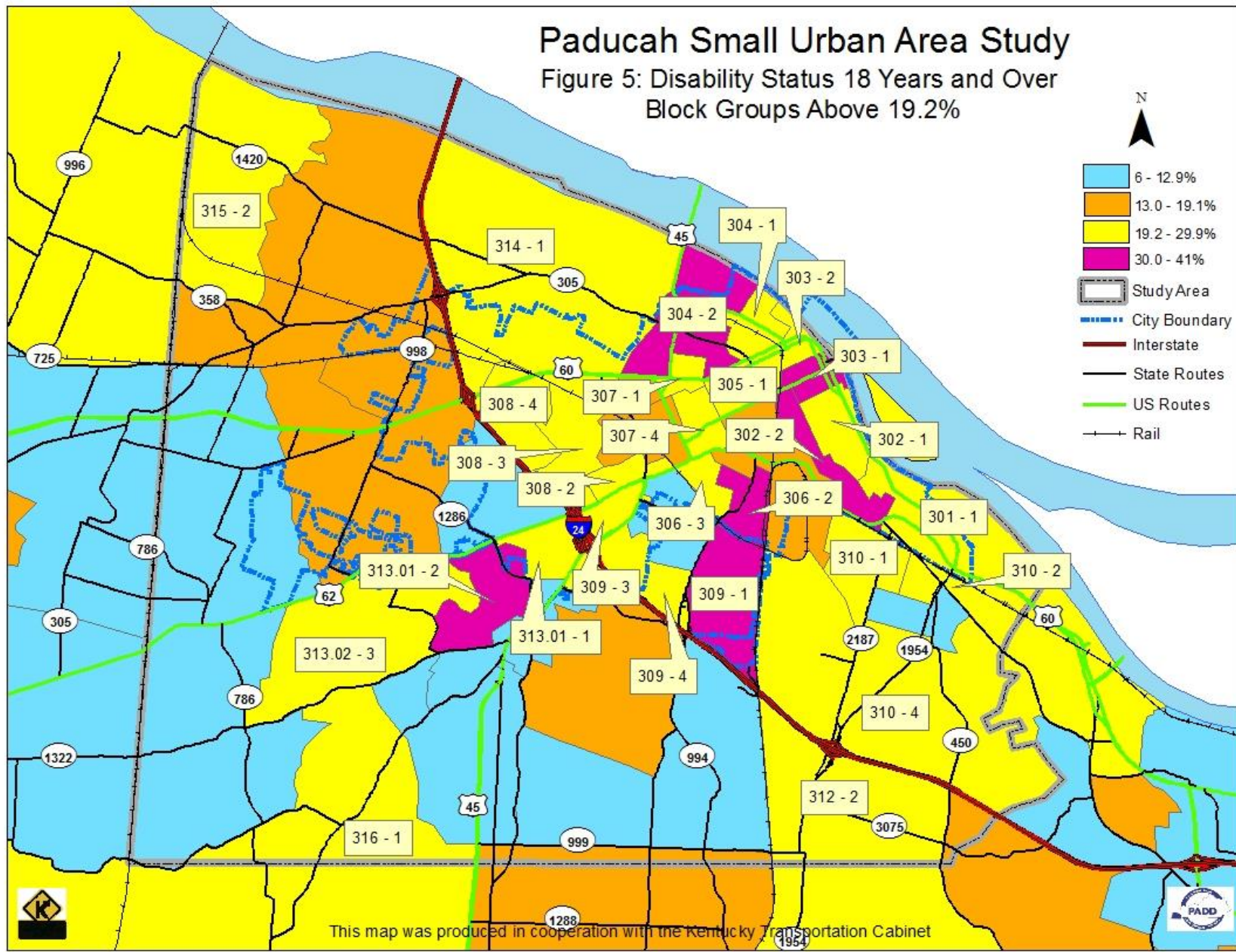




Population by Disability Status 18 Years and Over

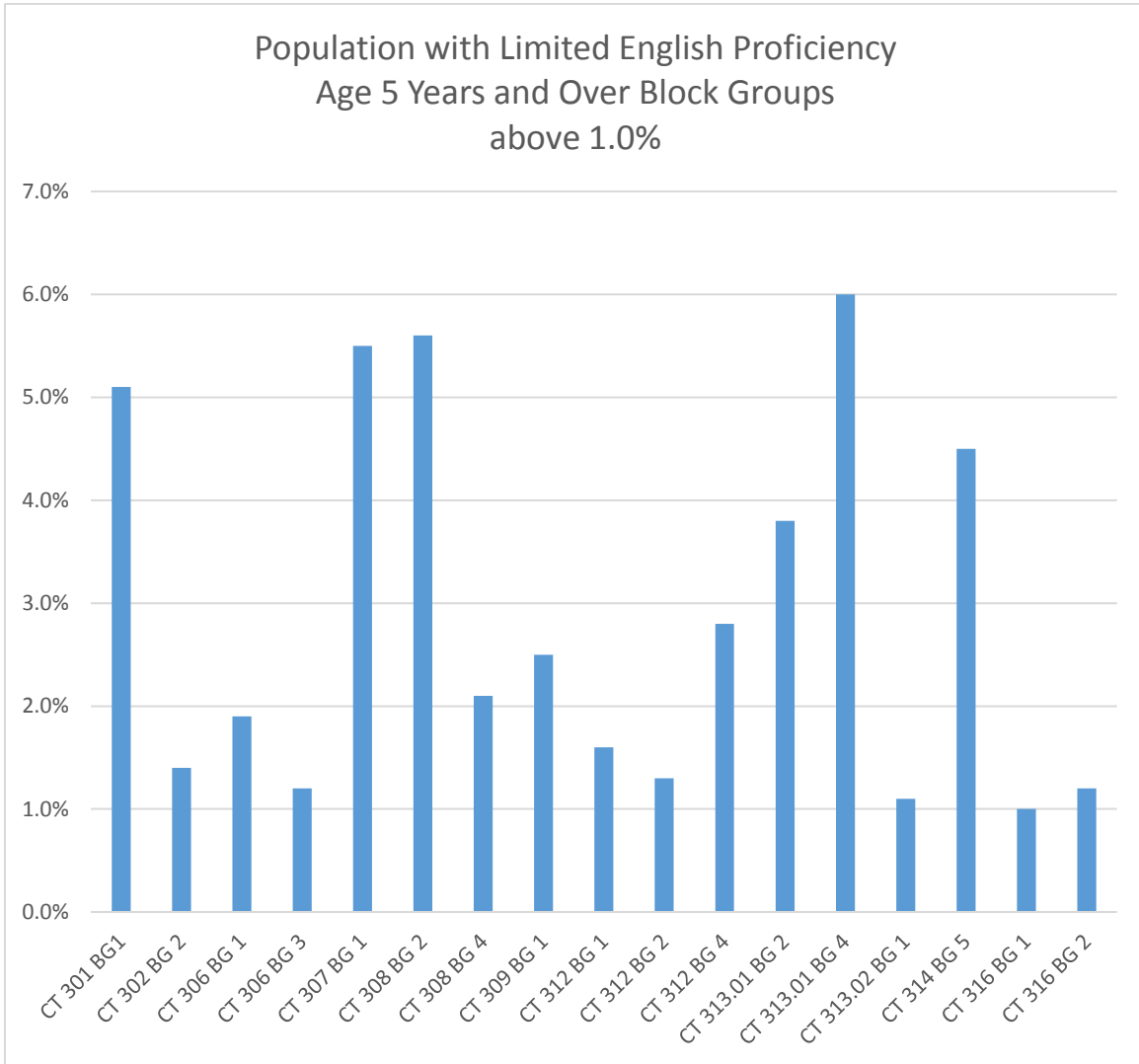
The total population claiming disability status in McCracken County is 19.2%. Twenty-eight of the block groups in the study area have a higher percentage population 18 years and over claiming disability status. The percentages are identified in the following chart. Block groups above 19.2% are labeled in Figure 5.

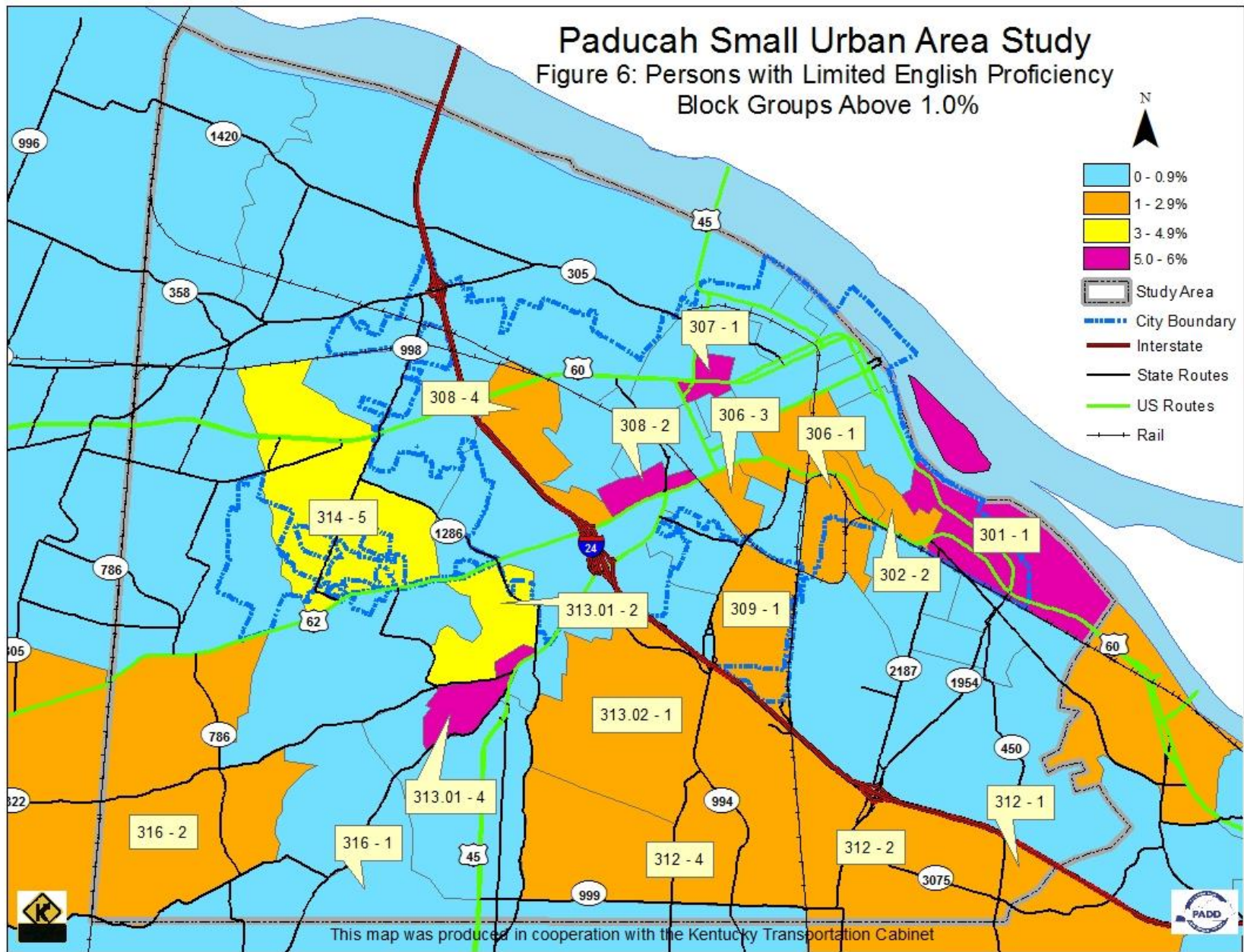




Population by Persons with Limited English Proficiency

McCracken County has a total population of 1.0% with Limited English Proficiency. There are 17 block groups with higher percentages located in the study area. The percentages for the block groups are identified in the following chart. Block groups above 1.0% are labeled in Figure 6.





Conclusion

This report of population statistics is to be used as a planning component by the KYTC Division of Planning for the Paducah Small Urban Area study. The purpose of the study is to provide a thorough examination of the area's transportation network. It includes an analysis of existing and future traffic conditions with the goal of identifying low cost, short term alternatives that address safety and congestion needs of the transportation system which can be used for further project development and implementation.

According to the Census categories (minority, poverty, elderly, disability, LEP) examined in this report, 45 of the 47 block groups contain at least one population category with a higher percentage than the county or reference percentage and 17 have higher percentages in at least three or more categories. At this planning stage level, there are no proposed alignments, therefore no assumptions regarding adverse impacts or mitigation efforts can be made toward any populations. This report's analysis is meant to be an overview of population statistics for the study area that can serve as an early identification tool of potential Environmental Justice communities. These areas may or may not be considered part of the target population depending on the number of residents, location, percentage and size. Although there may be a high percentage, there is not necessarily a concentrated population. These areas should be noted in the future project planning and design phases; and if necessary, field visits, discussions with local officials and/or other sources of information should be consulted.

Appendix A: Census Category Percentages for the US, Kentucky, Purchase Region and McCracken County Compared to Census Tract Block Groups

		Total Pop	Minority	Poverty	65 and Over	Disability	LEP
United States		318,558,162	38.1%	15.1%	14.5%	15.2%	8.5%
Kentucky		4,411,998	14.6%	18.8%	14.8%	20.9%	2.2%
Purchase Region		196,370	11.9%	18.2%	18.2%	19.3%	1.5%
*McCracken County		65,292	16.3%	17.8%	18.1%	19.2%	1.0%
Census Tract	Block Group						
301	1	1242	29.1%	30.4%	11.8%	20.5%	5.1%
302	1	1181	37.3%	40.2%	13.5%	27.5%	0.0%
302	2	1039	55.2%	40.7%	11.9%	30.8%	1.4%
303	1	1085	22.4%	34.3%	15.8%	40.7%	0.0%
303	2	418	23.0%	26.3%	27.5%	24.2%	0.0%
304	1	783	79.6%	59.0%	8.4%	22.5%	0.0%
304	2	1091	63.2%	33.6%	16.3%	31.4%	0.0%
305	1	1213	40.1%	25.4%	15.8%	21.0%	0.0%
306	1	1463	38.8%	33.2%	10.0%	17.4%	1.9%
306	2	890	30.1%	21.7%	27.0%	32.2%	0.0%
306	3	1194	23.1%	41.6%	12.6%	20.4%	1.2%
307	1	1156	39.4%	46.1%	13.1%	25.5%	5.5%
307	2	884	10.1%	29.6%	19.5%	17.0%	0.0%
307	3	1136	10.8%	40.2%	22.2%	18.3%	0.0%
307	4	904	29.3%	11.8%	15.9%	25.7%	0.0%
308	1	777	0.0%	3.5%	11.3%	17.5%	0.0%
308	2	853	10.2%	5.6%	16.8%	22.4%	5.6%
308	3	1301	4.3%	2.7%	28.0%	20.2%	0.0%
308	4	2010	9.3%	2.2%	26.7%	19.3%	2.1%
309	1	717	15.1%	45.5%	18.5%	31.2%	2.5%
309	2	1221	23.8%	14.7%	27.7%	8.4%	0.0%
309	3	662	18.1%	7.7%	19.2%	24.6%	0.0%
309	4	848	36.0%	24.8%	32.3%	25.6%	0.0%
310	1	896	5.7%	18.6%	24.8%	20.6%	0.0%
310	2	817	3.3%	19.3%	10.0%	21.9%	0.0%
310	3	856	0.0%	20.9%	10.4%	9.6%	0.0%
310	4	1960	14.7%	11.5%	15.1%	19.9%	0.0%

		Total Pop	Minority	Poverty	65 and Over	Disability	LEP
United States		318,558,162	38.1%	15.1%	14.5%	15.2%	8.5%
Kentucky		4,411,998	14.6%	18.8%	14.8%	20.9%	2.2%
Purchase Region		196,370	11.9%	18.2%	18.2%	19.3%	1.5%
*McCracken County		65,292	16.3%	17.8%	18.1%	19.2%	1.0%
Census Tract	Block Group						
**311	1	1316	24.4%	31.0%	18.0%	24.0%	2.1%
**311	2	1944	6.5%	5.7%	14.7%	6.4%	0.0%
**311	3	932	8.0%	2.6%	21.5%	18.6%	0.0%
**311	4	1263	2.3%	8.9%	12.0%	10.6%	0.0%
312	1	719	11.8%	4.2%	21.3%	16.3%	1.6%
312	2	1368	5.0%	8.3%	22.9%	21.6%	1.3%
312	3	1531	1.3%	17.5%	25.1%	16.6%	0.0%
312	4	938	13.2%	4.2%	17.4%	12.2%	2.8%
313.01	1	703	5.8%	14.1%	47.4%	23.3%	0.0%
313.01	2	1564	13.9%	31.1%	9.7%	35.1%	3.8%
313.01	3	1484	22.6%	13.8%	13.3%	7.4%	0.0%
313.01	4	1192	18.1%	5.5%	10.2%	6.0%	6.0%
313.02	1	2290	6.2%	12.7%	19.0%	16.6%	1.1%
313.02	2	2098	15.2%	11.1%	19.2%	12.7%	0.0%
313.02	3	1584	10.9%	7.5%	29.3%	20.2%	0.0%
314	1	657	7.0%	39.5%	9.1%	19.3%	0.0%
314	2	969	9.0%	26.3%	12.8%	13.7%	0.0%
314	3	1624	10.5%	3.9%	29.4%	17.5%	0.0%
314	4	922	6.5%	3.9%	16.1%	12.9%	0.0%
314	5	2136	13.5%	11.6%	20.7%	15.4%	4.5%
**315	1	692	5.1%	5.6%	14.6%	17.7%	0.0%
315	2	2020	14.6%	20.4%	13.4%	26.8%	0.0%
315	3	1925	6.0%	6.7%	15.0%	12.7%	0.0%
**315	4	1987	2.4%	13.3%	14.8%	18.8%	0.6%
316	1	1359	5.3%	9.9%	19.7%	23.3%	1.0%
316	2	1478	5.2%	13.2%	18.6%	10.0%	1.2%

* Reference Percentage

** Not included in study area

Appendix B: KYTC METHODOLOGY

Updated: September 2014

Methodology for Assessing Underserved Populations including Environmental Justice, Title VI, Age and Disability considerations in conjunction with KYTC Planning Studies

Cover Page

Title: Insert specific study type/area

Subtitle: Socioeconomic Study

Date:

Author:

Analysis

Environmental Justice (EJ) refers to the fair treatment of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income. Specifically, agencies must demonstrate meaningful involvement with the above stated groups with respect to development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. EJ analysis is undertaken for any study that may result in impacts on a minority and/or low income population that has a federal nexus (funding or approval).

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

(AC) with potential EJ impacts are determined by locating populations of minority, low-income, disabled or elderly 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

The demographics of the study area should be defined using block group data accessed via the American Community Survey 5 year data. KYTC will work in conjunction with the State Data Center to provide pertinent spatial data on a yearly basis for the following, as the update schedule allows:

- Minority
- Low-income
- Elderly
- Disabled populations
- Limited Transportation
- Limited English Proficiency

Sample Analysis:

The percentage of persons living below the poverty level in Kentucky (18.60%) is significantly higher than that of the United States (14.90%). Poverty levels in Metcalfe County are slightly lower than that of the state with 16.10% of Metcalfe County residents living below the poverty level. CT 9601 has greater levels of poverty than does the county, state and U.S. with 17.90% of persons living below the poverty level. CT 9603 however has a lower level of poverty than Metcalfe County as a whole and the state, with 13.40% of residents living below the poverty.

******The following disclaimer should be included in the document in the Socioeconomic Study methodologies Section:******

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.

Maps

A map or shapefile of the alternatives will be provided by the consultant or KYTC to the applicable Area Development District (ADD). KYTC, in conjunction with the consultant, will review the ADD data for quality and completeness. The consultant will summarize the information provided by the ADD in the final report. The full Socioeconomic analysis should be placed in an Appendix for reference as necessary.

Maps should be included with the analysis that depict the project area in relation to the Census tracts and block groups included in the analysis. Maps should be symbolized utilizing an appropriate range dependent on the relevant data being studied.

Additional Information

The below information may be beneficial to note for future reference

- Changes due to new residential developments in the area
- Increases in Asian and/or Hispanic populations.

- Concentrations or communities that share a common religious, cultural, ethnic, or other background, e.g., Amish communities.
- Communities or neighborhoods that exhibit a high degree of community cohesion or interaction and the ability to mobilize community actions at the start of community involvement.
- Concentrations of common employment, religious centers, and/or educational Institutions.

Tips:

- Only include data that is being analyzed. For instance there is no need to define Block Groups if they are not used. Similarly, Census Tracts should only be referenced as they relate to location of Block Groups discussed.
- Choropleth maps (shaded, color gradation) should be developed based on population percentage.
- one page summary facing the adjacent related map is a functional, readily relatable format.
- At this stage there is no proposed alignment, therefore we can make no assumptions regarding adverse impacts or mitigation efforts to any populations. We can only identify potential locations of Affected Communities.

Applicable Laws, Acts and Executive Orders

Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI (42 USC 2000d et seq.) -This title declares it to be the policy of the United States that discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin shall not occur in connection with programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance, and authorizes and directs the appropriate federal departments and agencies to take action to carry out this policy. The Presidential Memorandum accompanying Executive Order 12898 states that in accordance with this title, each federal agency should ensure that all programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance that affect human health or the environment do not directly, or through contractual or other arrangements, use criteria, methods, or practices that discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

Age Discrimination Act of 1975 - 42 U.S.C. 6101, provides: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 - 42 U.S.C. 794, et seq., provides: No qualified handicapped person shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that receives or benefits from Federal financial assistance.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 - 42 U.S.C. 12131, et seq., provides: No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination by a department, agency, special purpose district, or other instrumentality of a State or local government.

Executive Order #12898 - (Environmental Justice) directs federal agencies to develop strategies to address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs on minority and low-income populations.

Executive Order #13166 - (Limited-English-Proficiency) directs federal agencies to evaluate services provided and implement a system that ensures that Limited English Proficiency persons are able to meaningfully access the services provided consistent with and without unduly burdening the fundamental mission of each federal agency.