

## Appendix E – Socioeconomic Study

**BOYD-GREENUP SMALL URBAN AREA STUDY  
SOCIOECONOMIC REPORT**

**01/08/2020**

**Prepared for Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC)-Division of Planning**



**Prepared by**

**FIVCO Area Development District**



*This document was prepared in cooperation with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and KYOVA*

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## APPENDIX A:

National, State, and Study Area Percentage Totals for the 5 Categories

## APPENDIX B:

Methodology for Assessing Potential Environmental Justice Concerns for KYTC Planning Studies.

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## Introduction

This document presents an overview of selected socioeconomic characteristics in the urbanized areas of Boyd and Greenup counties (indicated in map on next page), which are located within the FIVCO Area Development District (FIVCO ADD), for the Boyd-Greenup Small Urban Area (SUA) Study.

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2017 American Community Survey (ACS) has been utilized for the analysis of the study area. Please see the ACS website for more information, data limitations, and an explanation of the methodology used to obtain the data (<https://www.census.gov/acs/www/>). Statistics are provided for minority, elderly, poverty status, limited English Proficiency (LEP), and disabled populations for the study area.

The purpose of the Boyd-Greenup SUA is to examine the transportation network in the urbanized area, identify, and prioritize potential safety and congestion improvement options. The study will focus on short and long-term improvements that the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Boyd, and Greenup Counties can use for further project development and implementation.

The intent of this review is to assist the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and KYOVA Metropolitan Planning Organization in making informed and prudent transportation decisions in the study 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.

The planning study area is composed of nineteen (19) census tracts and fifty-two (52) block groups. Thirteen (13) census tracts and thirty-four (34) block groups are located in Boyd County, and six (6) census tracts and eighteen (18) block groups are located in Greenup County.



## What is Environmental Justice?

The U.S. 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.

[www.epa.gov/environmentjustice](http://www.epa.gov/environmentjustice) describes fair treatment as:

“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.”.

The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) suggestions for meaningful public involvement include:

- 1) Encourage public participation in all aspects of environmental decision making.
- 2) Encourage active community participation.
- 3) Institutionalize public participation.
- 4) Recognize community knowledge.
- 5) Utilize cross-cultural formats and exchanges.

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:

- 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.

## Definitions

USDOT Order 5610.2 on EJ, issued in the April 15, 1997 Federal Register, defines what constitutes low-income and minority population.

**Low-Income** is defined as a person whose median household income is at or below the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines.

**Minority** is defined as a person who is:

- 1) Black (a person having origins in any 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).

**Low-Income Population** is defined as any readily identifiable group of low-income persons who live in geographic proximity and, if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed/transient persons who will be similarly affected by a proposed DOT program, policy or activity.

**Minority Population** is defined as any readily identifiable group of minority persons who live in geographic proximity and, if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed/transient persons who will be similarly affected by a proposed DOT program, policy or activity.

**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 populations of the elderly, children, disabled, and other populations protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related nondiscrimination statutes.

### **Limited English Proficiency**

The term Limited English Proficient (LEP) refers to any person age 5 and older who reported speaking English less than "very well" as classified by the U.S. Census Bureau. The term English proficient refers to people who reported speaking English only or "very well."

## Methodology

The data was collected using the method outlined by the KYTC document “Methodology for Assessing Potential Environmental Justice Concerns for KYTC Planning Studies”, which can be found 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 2017 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
- B18101 – Sex by Age 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, county, region, state, and nation. This report uses the population percentages for portions of Boyd and Greenup counties as the reference threshold for identifying target populations. The county numbers were selected as the reference threshold because the project is completely within the combined counties of Boyd and Greenup. 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 planning document are appropriate for identifying areas of concern in small urban areas and potential project corridors.



## Census Data Analysis

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

**Census Tract (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.

**Block Group (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.

Below is a summary table that displays percentages in each category for Boyd & Greenup Counties, as compared to National and State percentages.

	<b>Total Pop.</b>	<b>Minority</b>	<b>Poverty</b>	<b>Over 65</b>	<b>Disability</b>	<b>LEP</b>
<b>United States</b>	312,916,765	23.5%	13.4%	14.9%	12.6%	8.5%
<b>Kentucky</b>	4,293,245	12.4%	16.9%	15.2%	17.3%	2.2%
<b>Boyd &amp; Greenup Counties</b>	84,498	5%	18.3%	20%	26.5%	0.35%

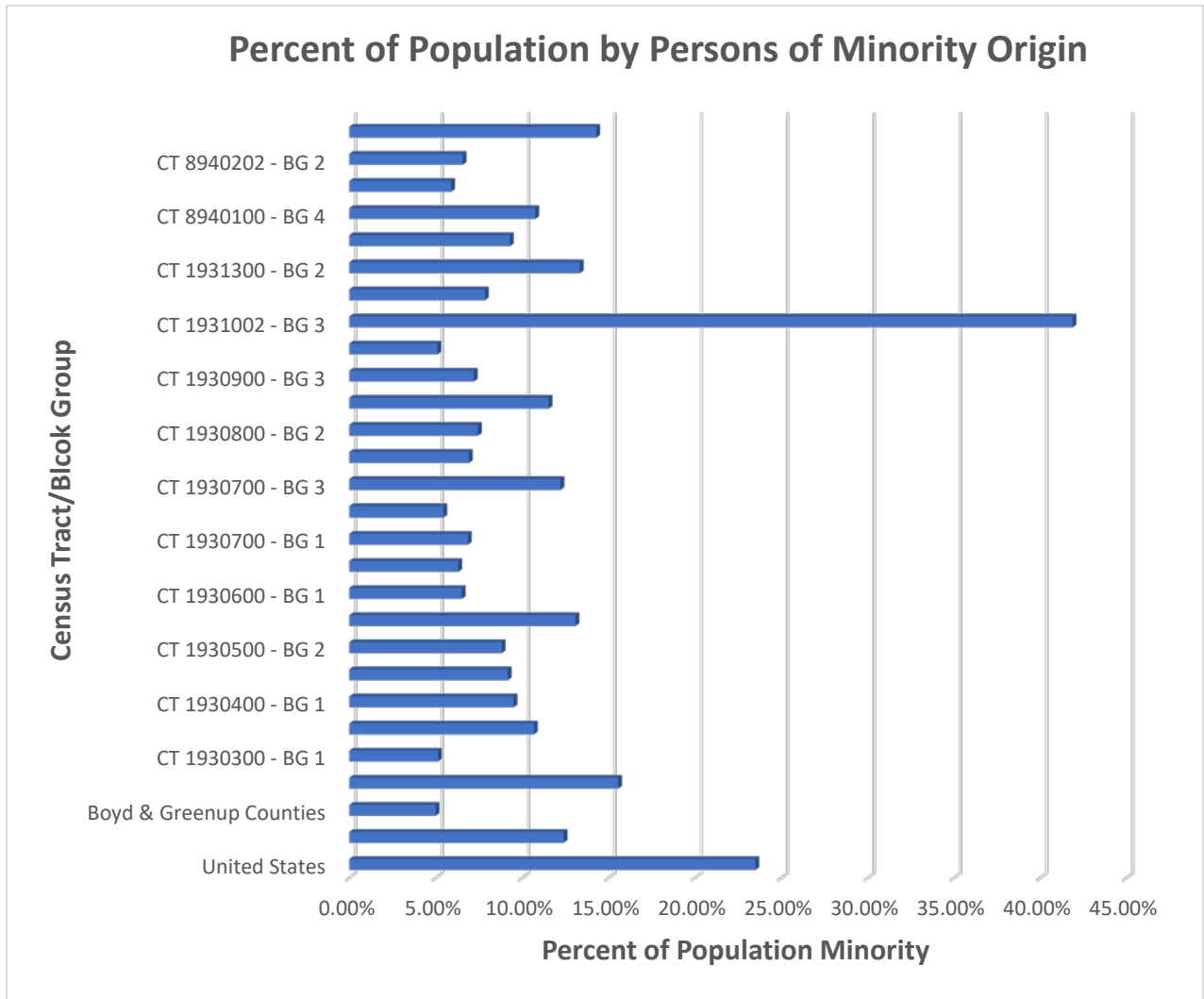
# Population by Persons of Minority Origin

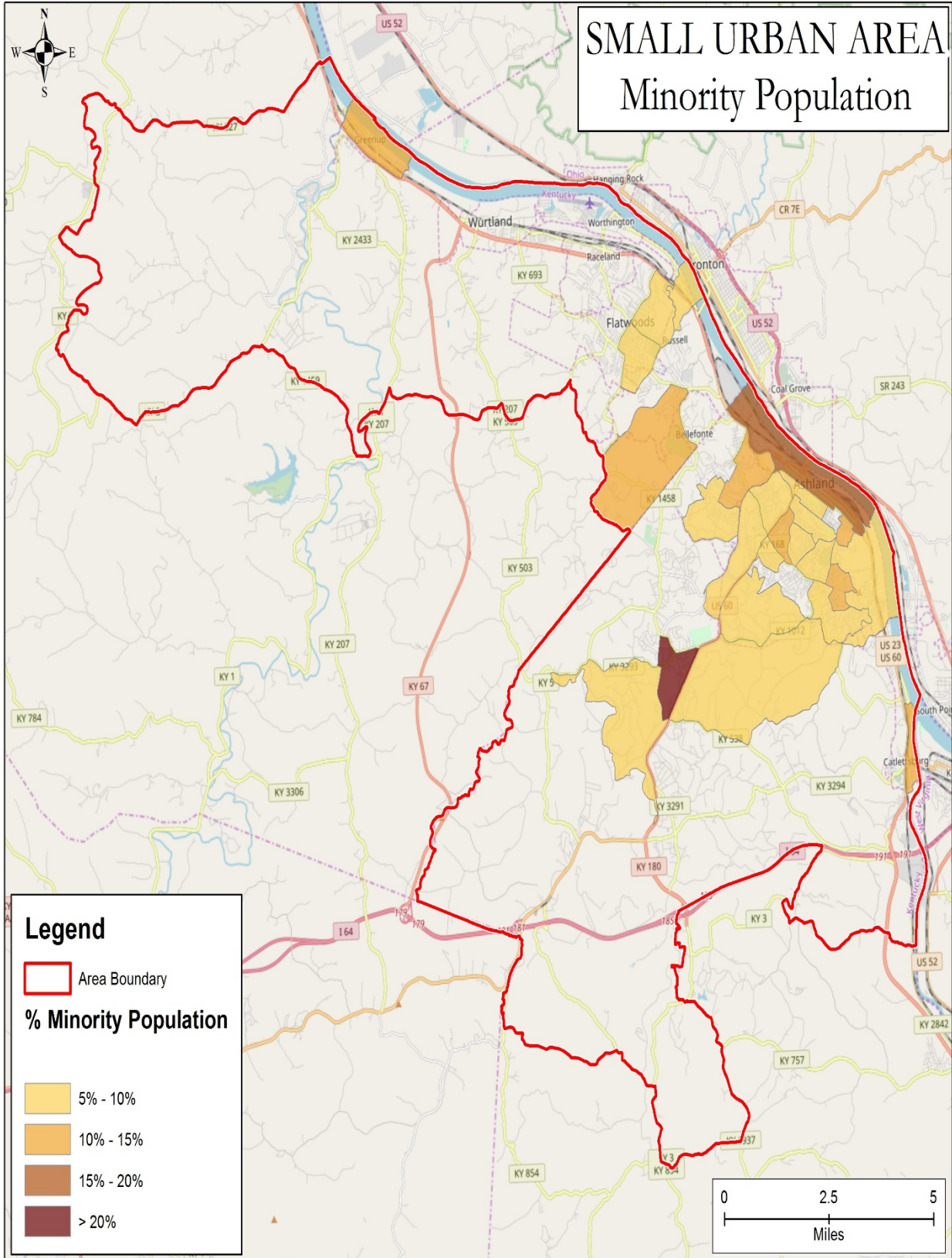
*\*As Represented by Chart 1 & Map 1*

The total minority population for Boyd and Greenup Counties is 5%. This is the established reference threshold for this category (see below). This percentage is under the state (12.4%) and the U.S. (23.5%).

For the study area, twenty-five (25) Block Groups were identified as having populations above the established threshold.

Chart 1





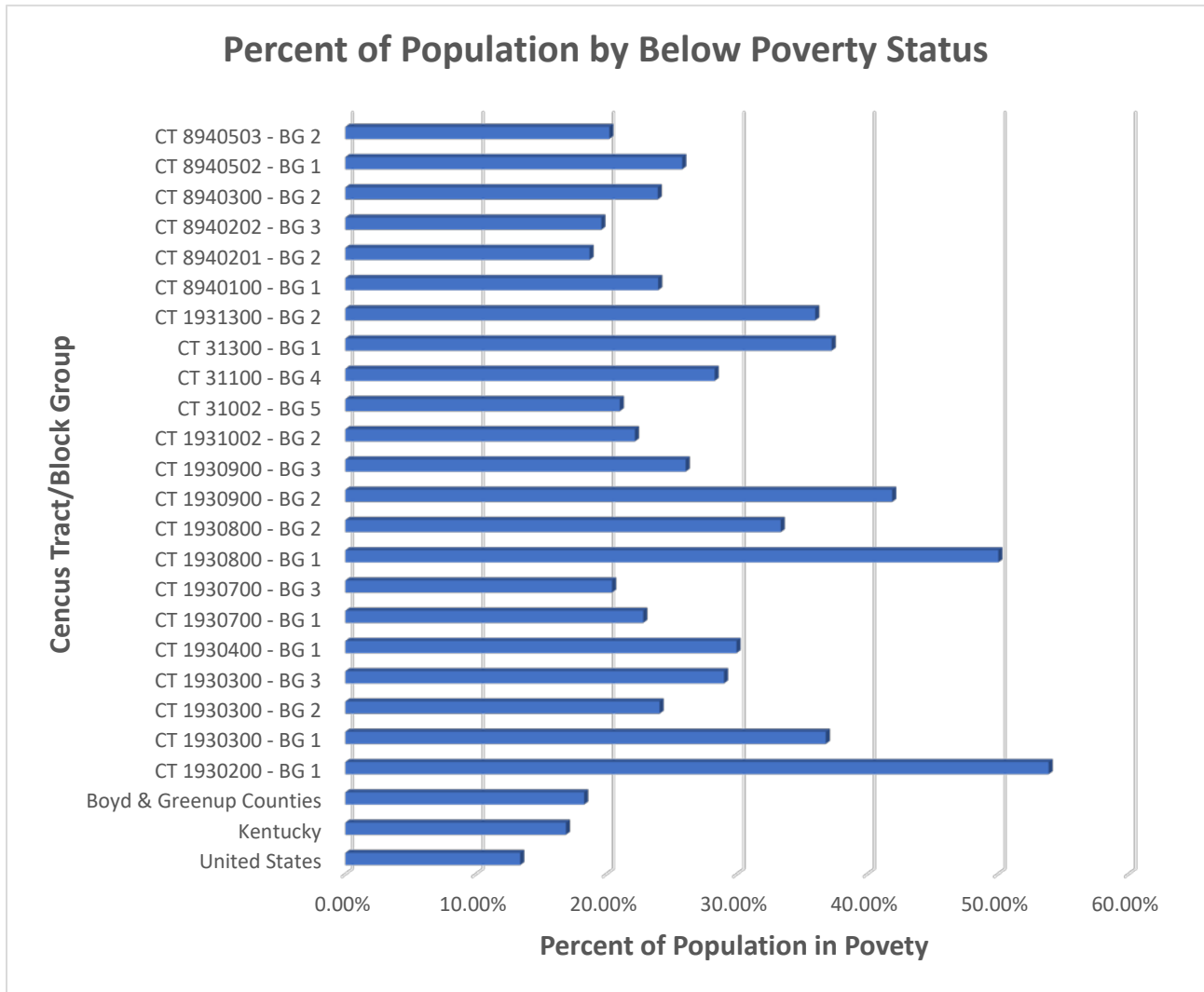
## Population by Below Poverty Status

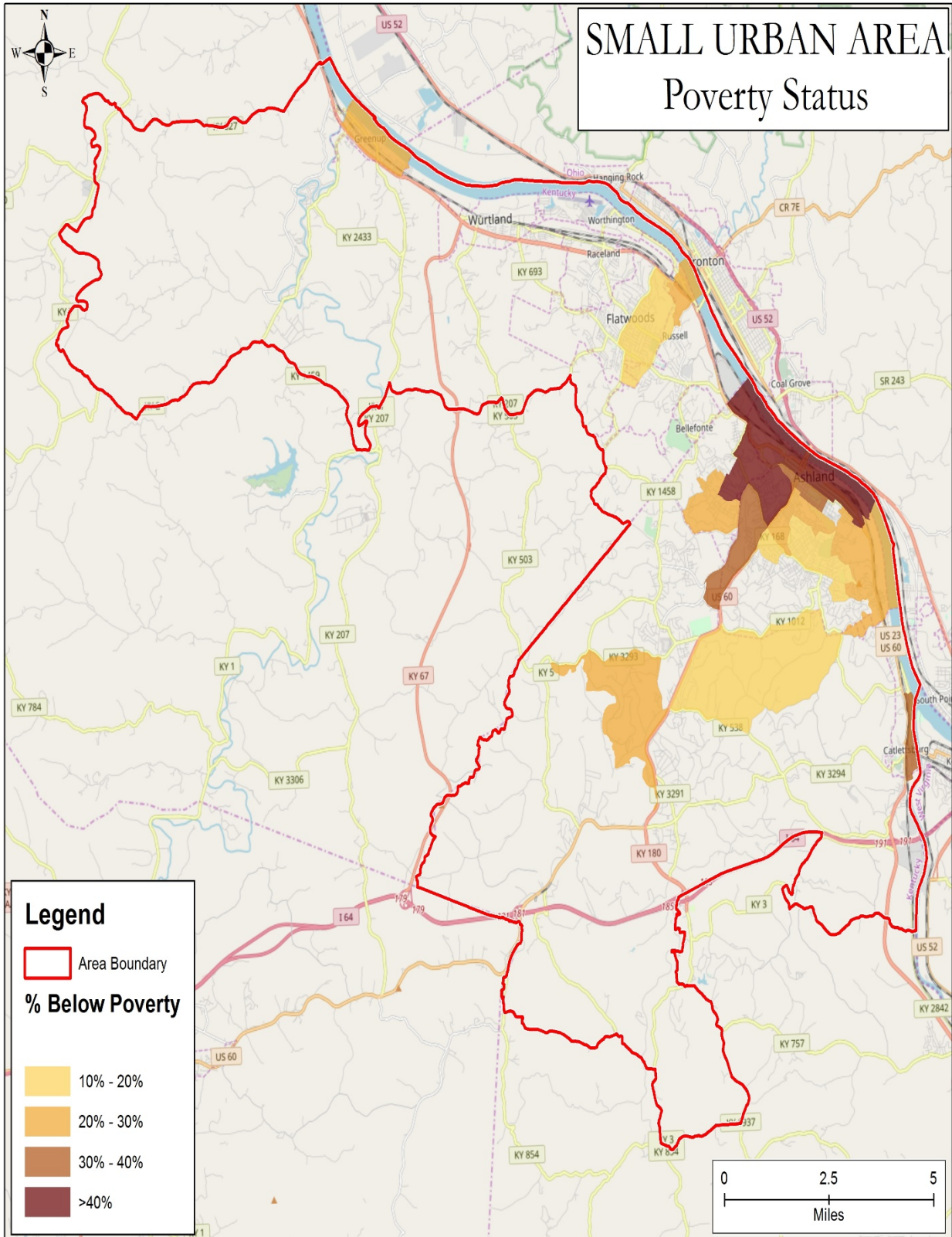
*\*As Represented by Chart 2 & Map 2*

The total below poverty population for Boyd and Greenup Counties is 18.3%. This is the established reference threshold for this category (see below). This percentage is over the state (16.9%) and the U.S. (13.4%).

For the study area, twenty-two (22) Block Groups were identified as having populations above the threshold for below poverty status.

Chart 2





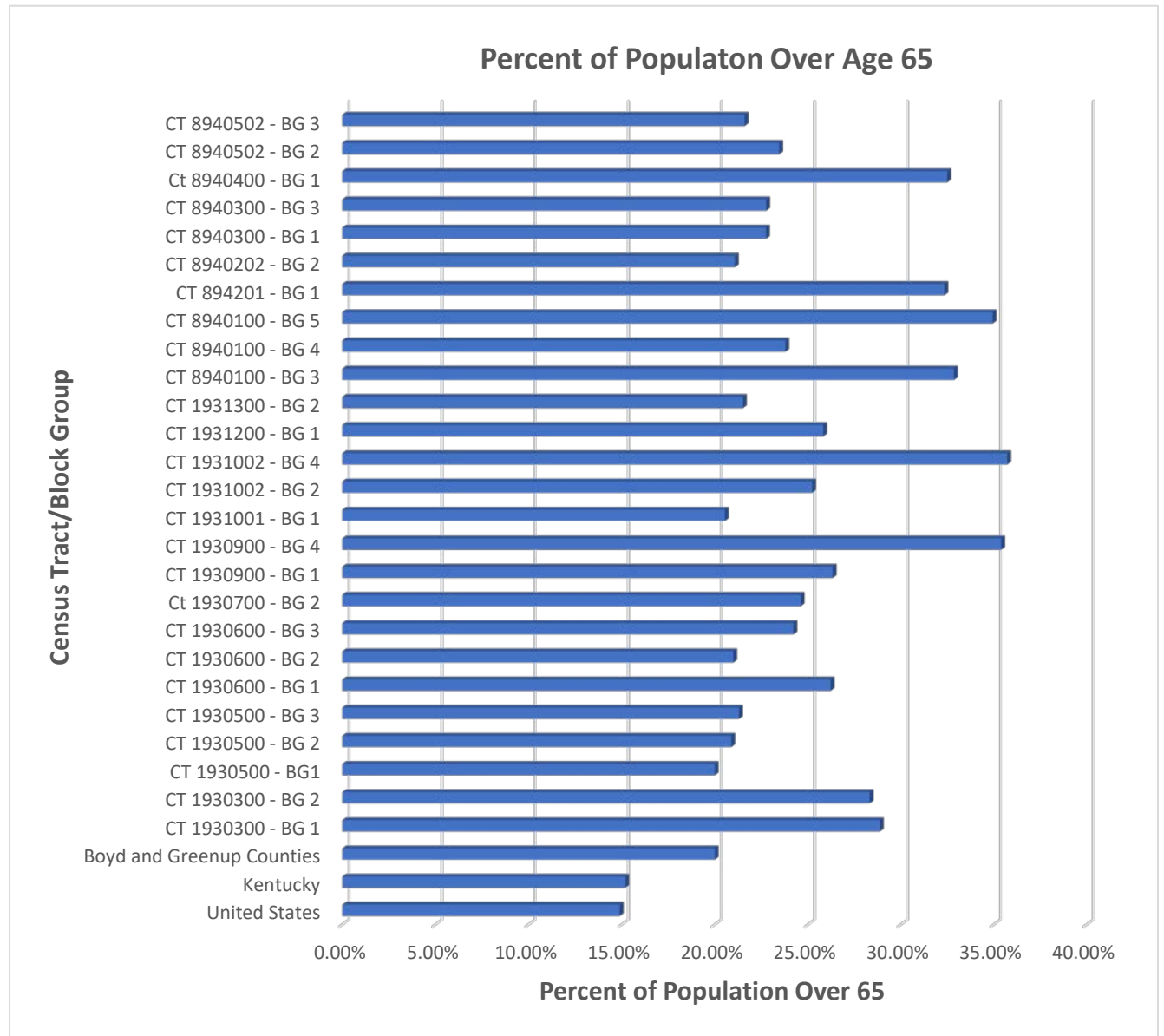
# Population by Persons 65 and Over

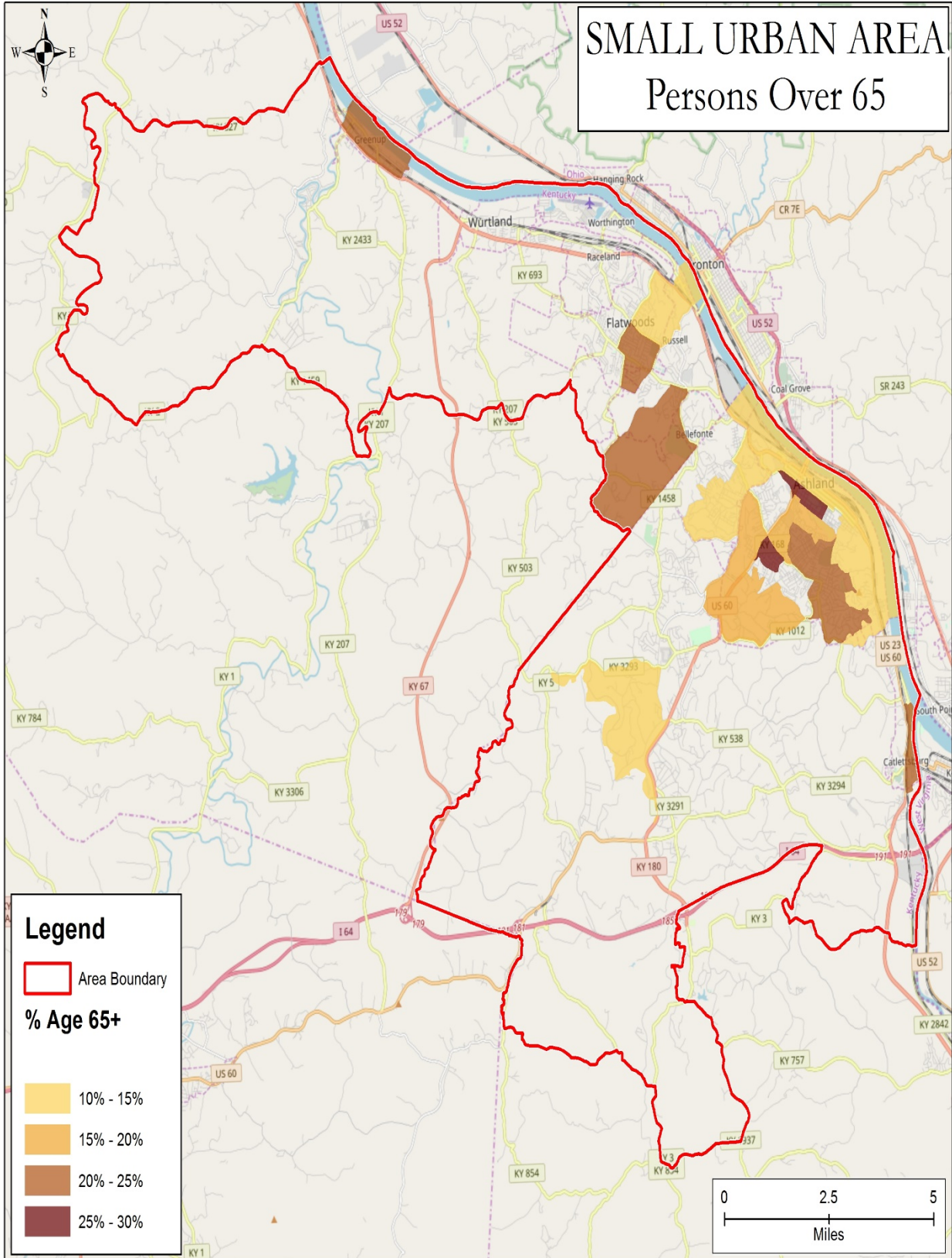
*\*As Represented by Chart 3 & Map 3*

The total population of those over 65 years of age for Boyd and Greenup Counties is 20%. This is the established reference threshold (see below) for this category. This percentage is below the state percent (15.2%) and the U.S. (14.9%).

For the study area, twenty-six (26) Block Groups were identified as having populations above the threshold established for persons 65 and over.

**Chart 3**





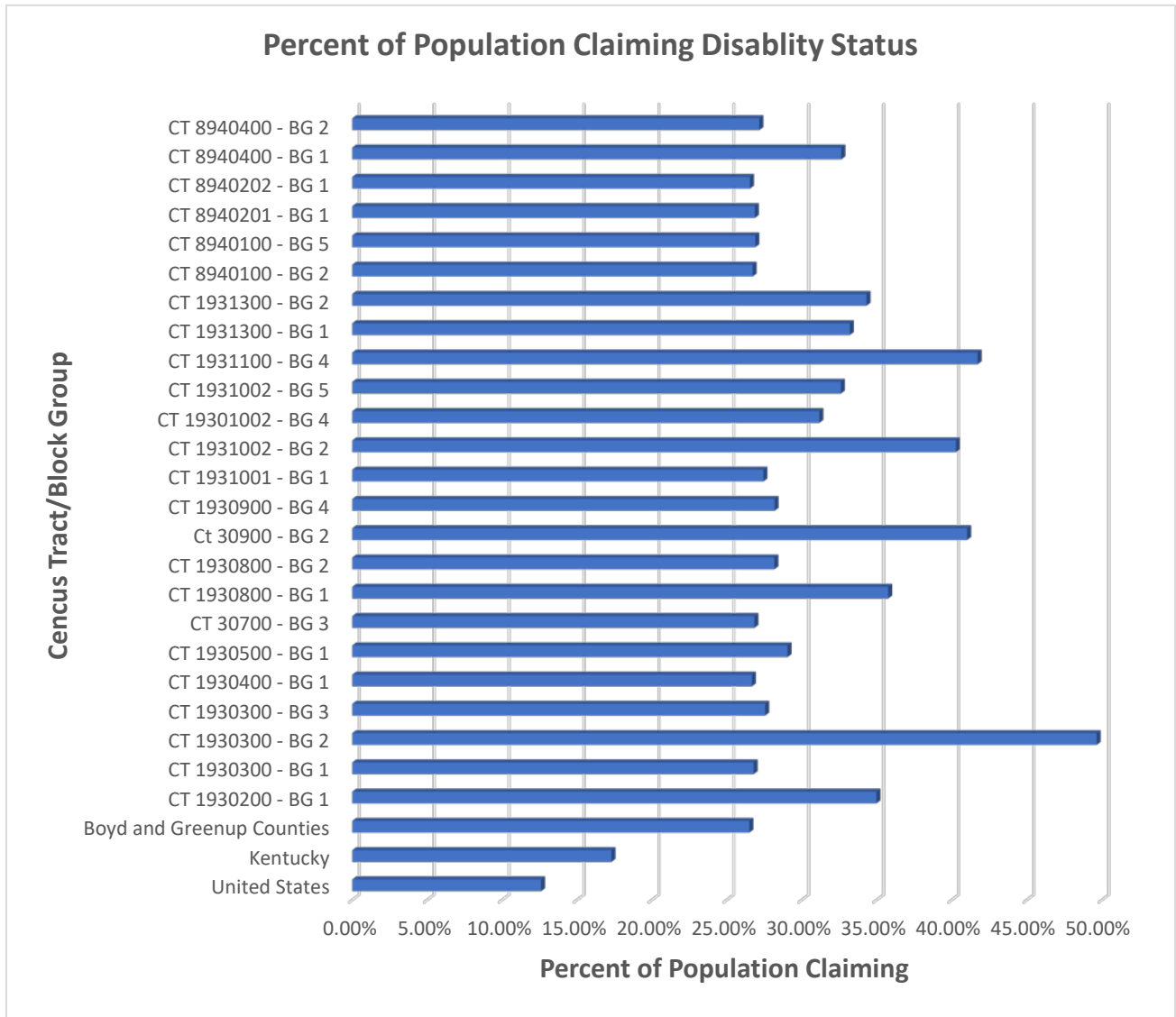
## Population by Disability Status

*\*As Represented by Chart 4 & Map 4*

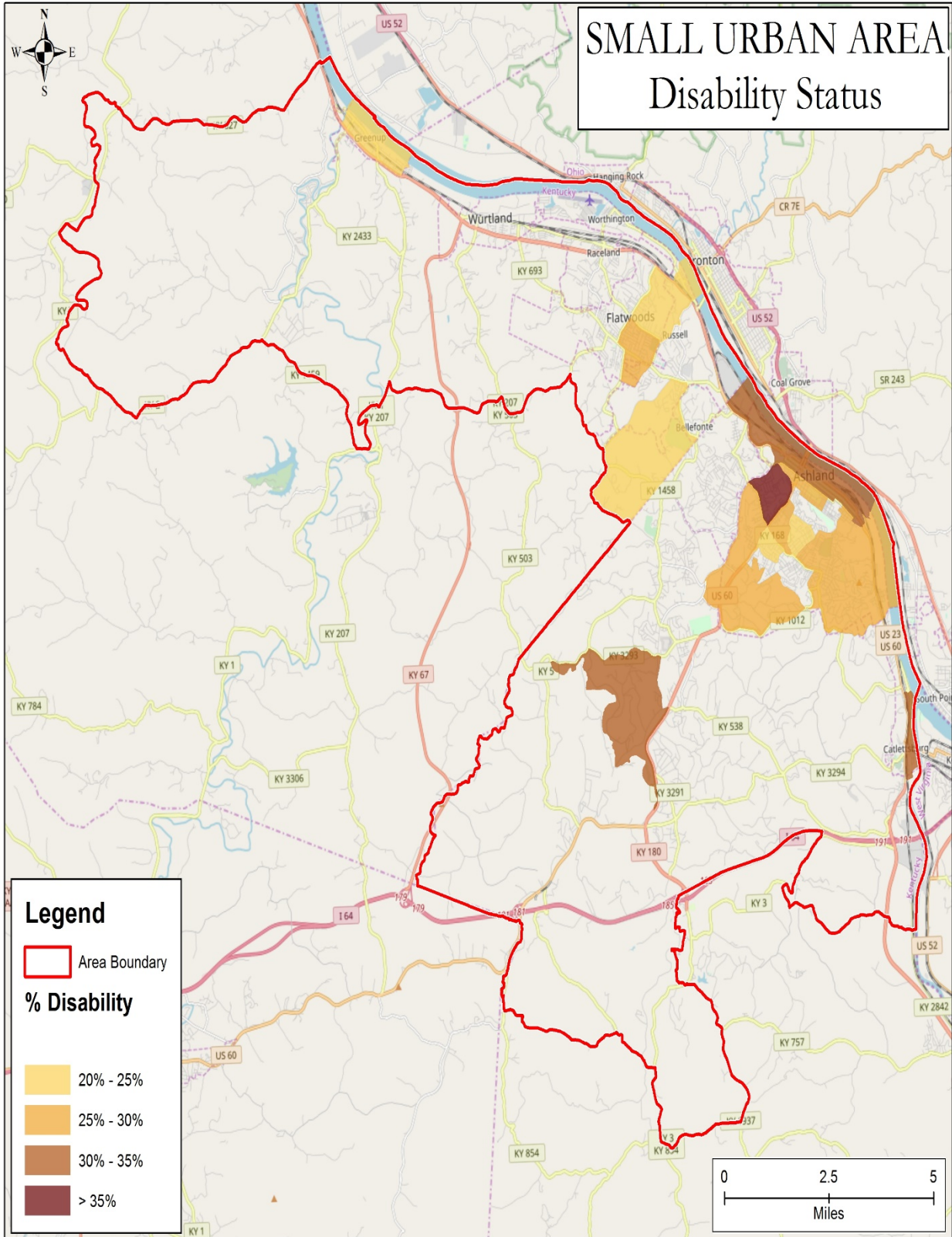
The total population of those claiming disability status in Boyd and Greenup Counties is 26.5%. This is the established reference threshold (see below) for this category. This percentage is above the state percent (17.3%) and the U.S. (12.6%).

For the study area, twenty-four (24) Block Groups were identified as having populations above the threshold established for persons claiming disability status.

Chart 4







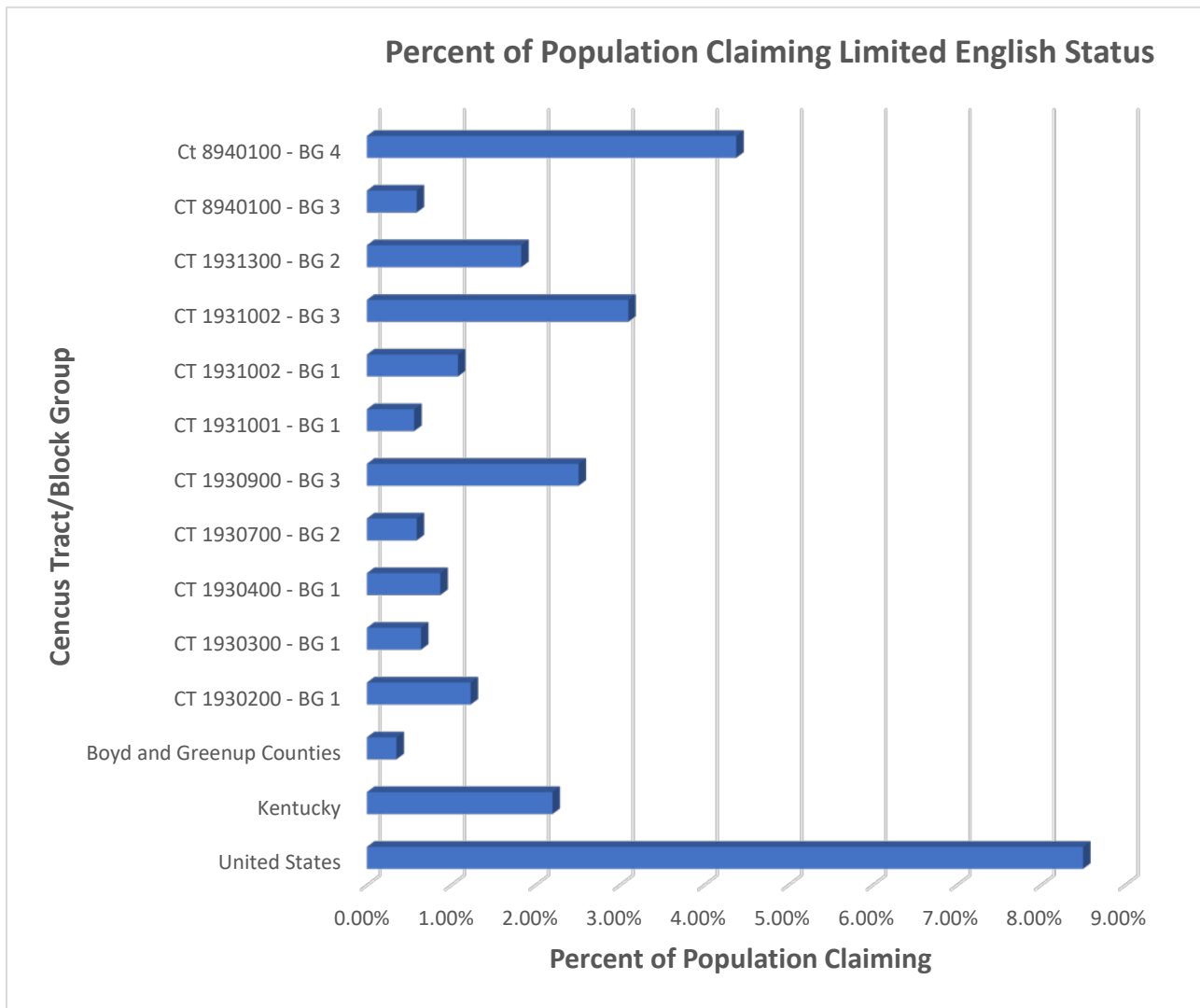
## Population by Limited English Proficiency

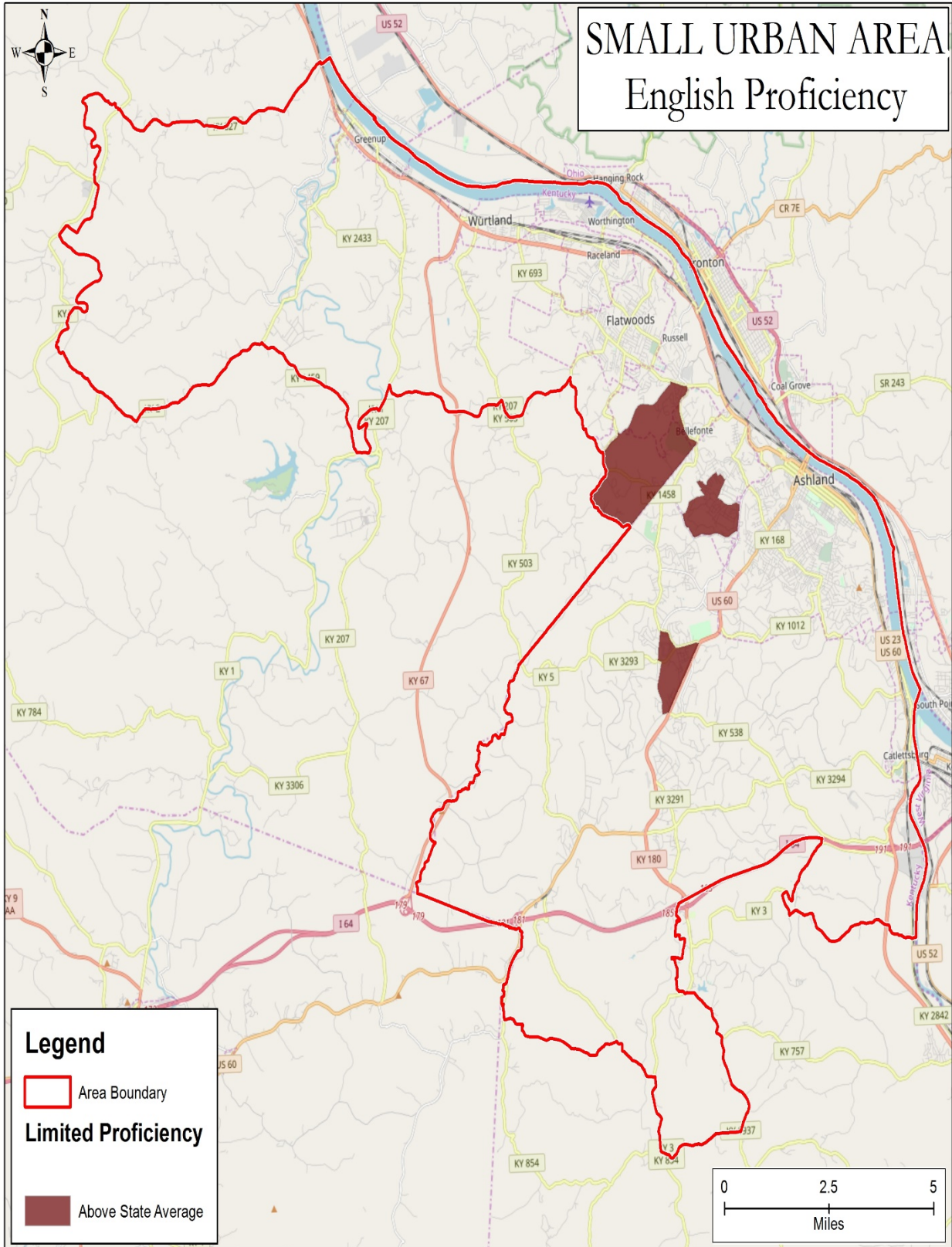
*\*As represented by Chart 5 & Map 5*

The total population of those claiming limited English status in Boyd and Greenup Counties is 0.35%. This is the established reference threshold (see below) for this category. This percentage is below the state percent (2.2%) and the U.S. (8.5%).

For the study area, eleven (11) Block Groups were identified as having populations above the threshold established for persons claiming limited English proficiency.

Chart 5





## Conclusion

All of the five categories examined: minority status, poverty status, over 65 status, disabled status, and persons with limited English, had at least 11 Block Group with a percentage of the population above the County threshold. Persons with limited English had the lowest number of block groups above the threshold, with 11 block groups within the study area. While persons the age of 65 and over had the highest number of block groups above the threshold, with 26 block groups.

Although minority percentage for the study area was over all lower than both the state and national percentage, CT 1931002 – BG 3 percentage is skewed higher than the general average. This is due to the federal prison that reports in this block group.

The percent of those in poverty status, although higher for the study area, fell within a close margin of the national and state average. The same can be applied for the percentage of those 65 and over, with the percentage being slightly higher than the national and state average.

Percent of population claiming disability for the study area was significantly higher than the national and state percentage.

Despite national and state averages of those claiming limited English proficiency are low, the percentage for the study area was quite lower than both the state and national average at under 1%.

**APPENDIX A:**

**National, State, and Study Area Percentage Totals for the 5 Categories**

	<b>Total Pop.</b>	<b>Minority</b>	<b>Poverty</b>	<b>Over 65</b>	<b>Disability</b>	<b>LEP</b>
<b>United States</b>	312,916,765	23.5%	13.4%	14.9%	12.6%	8.5%
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<b>Boyd &amp; Greenup Counties</b>	84,498	5%	18.3%	20%	26.5%	0.35%

**APPENDIX B:**

**Methodology for Assessing Potential Environmental Justice Concerns for KYTC Planning Studies.**

Updated: September 2014

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.

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.

**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.
- 1-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.



*This document was prepared in cooperation with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, 2019.*