

Wendell H. Ford Airport Access Study Perry County

Socioeconomic Study

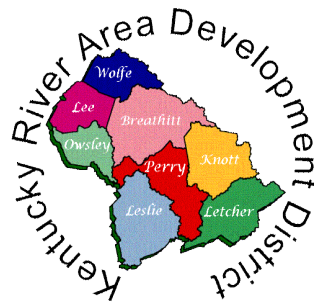
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Introduction

This report presents an overview of the findings for selected socioeconomic characteristics in the Wendell H. Ford Airport Access Study. The purpose of this study is to provide an alignment for improved access to the Wendell H. Ford Airport in Perry County. Currently, the primary access to the airport is from KY 15 (MP 22.9) via the Wendell Ford Terminal Drive, which is a county road.

The information in this report outlines 2011-2015 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, region, county 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 project study area is located in Perry County near the Breathitt County line. According to the 2010 census, the county has a total area of 343 square miles. Perry County was founded in 1820. Both the county and county seat are named for Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry. The county seat is Hazard. According to the 2011-2015 ACS, Perry County has a population of 28,041 persons.

Perry County is composed of 8 census tracts. The planning study area is composed of the following Census Tract Block Groups (BG):

- Census Tract 9703, Block Group 2
- Census Tract 9710, Block Group 4

What is Environmental Justice?

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) outlines three primary Environmental Justice Concepts as:

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 statuses.

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 as a whole, the entire state and the United States.

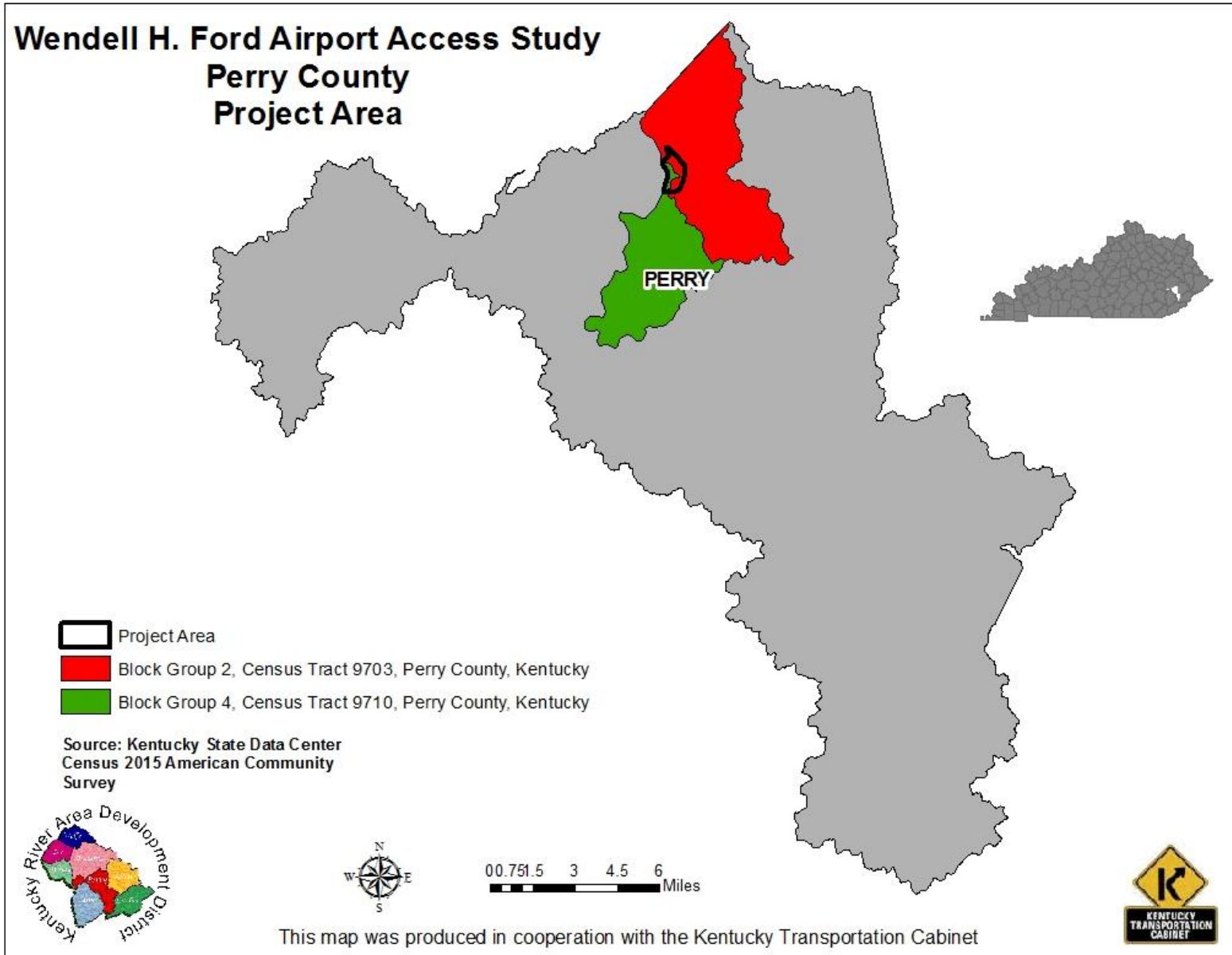
The primary source of data for this report is the 2011-2015 US Census Bureau American Community Survey including tables:

- 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.

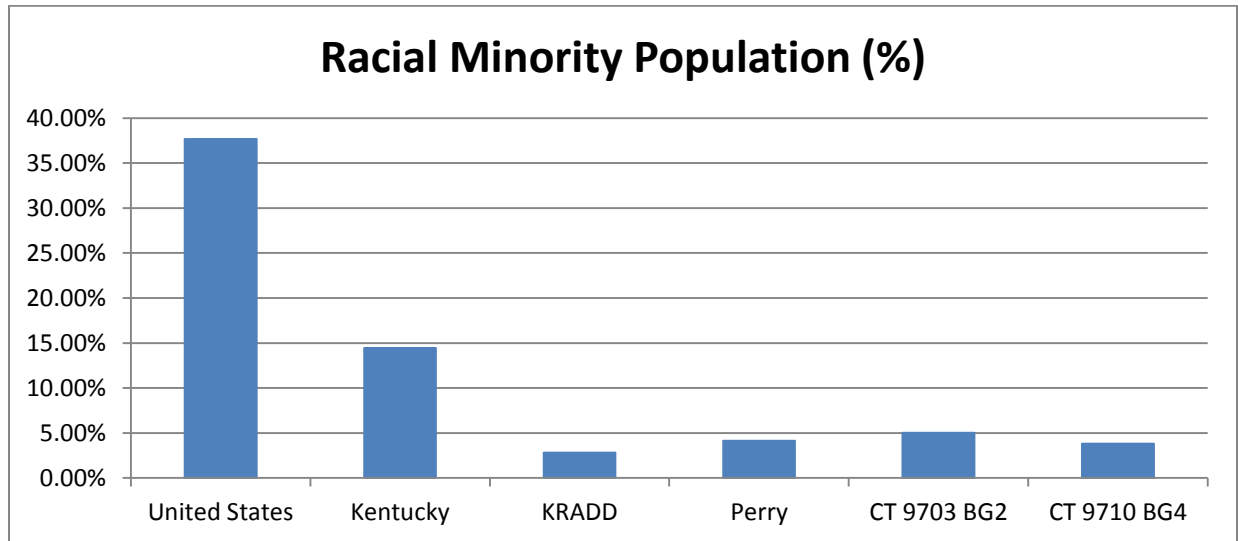
The Census tables in this report include the total number and percentages for minorities, elderly, low-income, LEP, and disabled population levels for the census tract block groups, county, region, state, and nation. This report uses the population percentages for Perry County as the reference threshold 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 planning document 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 NEPA documentation when assessing the potential for adverse and disproportionate impacts to poverty status, and minority populations.



Study Findings

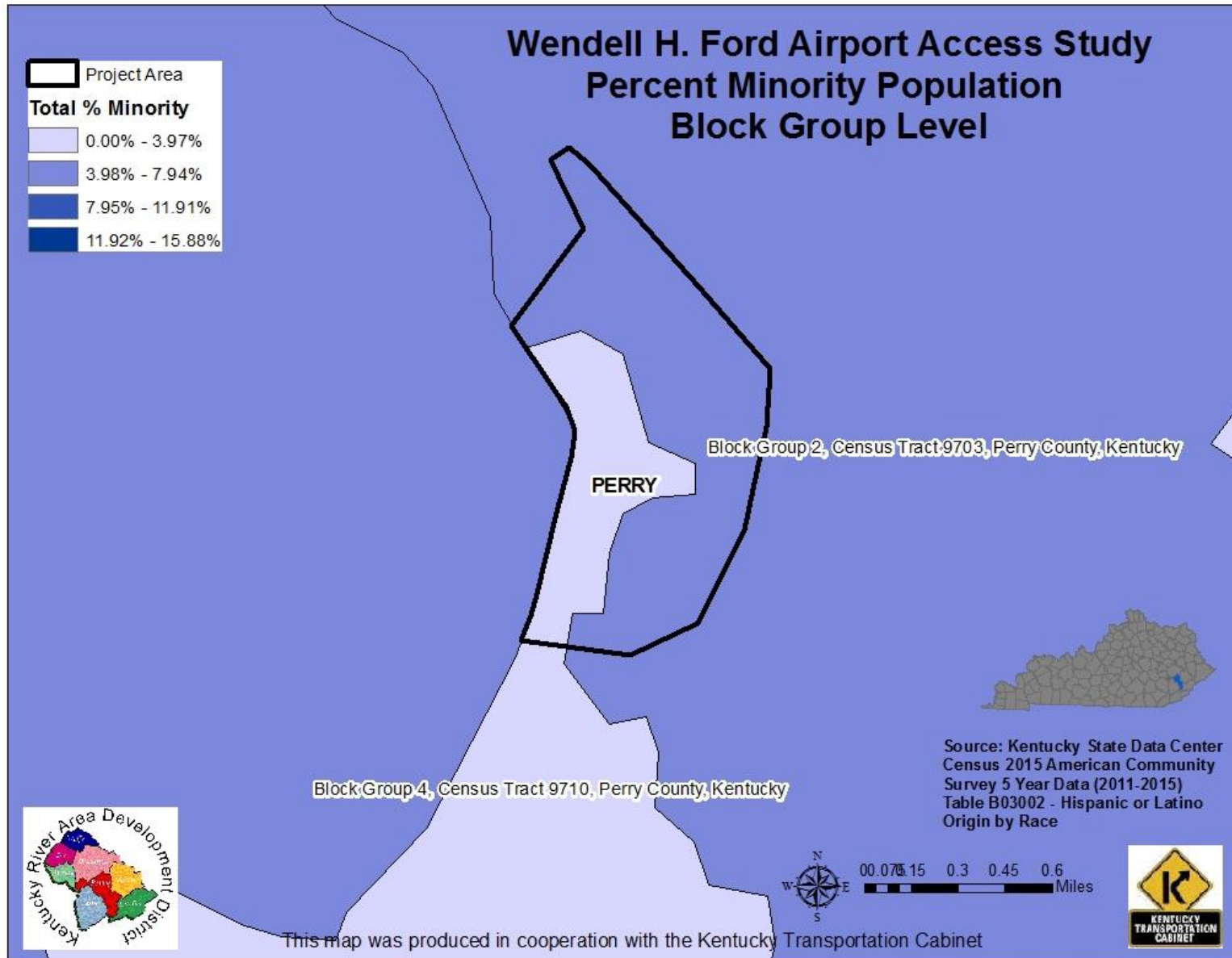
Population by Persons of Racial Minority Origin



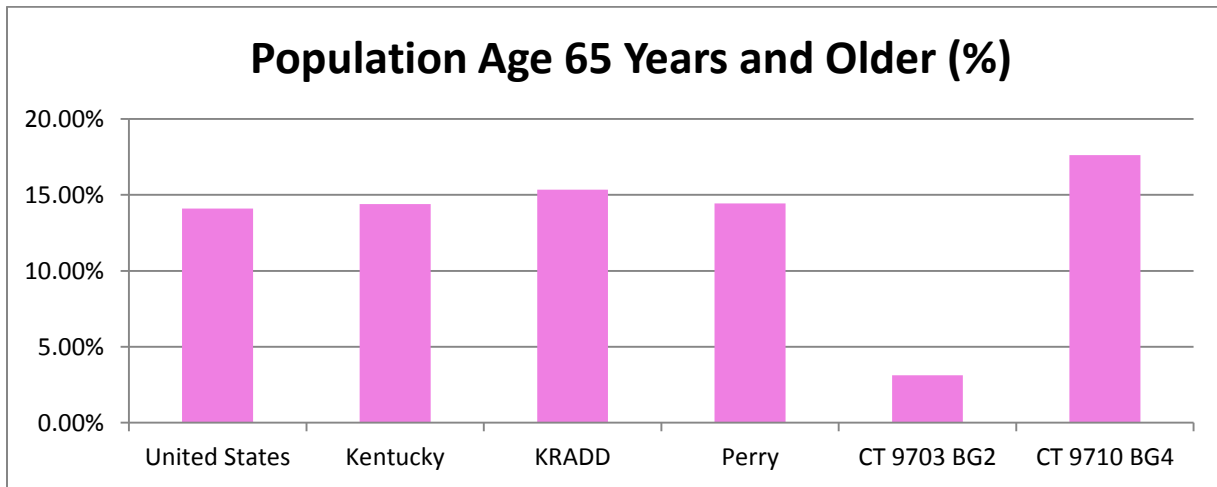
Racial minorities in the United States make up 37.68% of the population, but in Kentucky that percentage drops significantly to just 14.45%. The KRADD Region and Perry County displays a lower percentage of racial minorities than that of the state with 2.83% and 4.14%, respectively. Block Group (BG) 2 of Census Tract (CT) 9703 has a minority population above the percentage for the county.

	Total Population	Minority Population	Minority Population (%)
United States	316,515,021	119,256,743	37.68%
Kentucky	4,397,353	635,199	14.45%
KRADD	111,296	3,154	2.83%
Perry County	28,041	1,162	4.14%
Census Tract 9703 Block Group 2	1,788	90	5.03%
Census Tract 9710 Block Group 4	1,153	44	3.82%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Table B03002



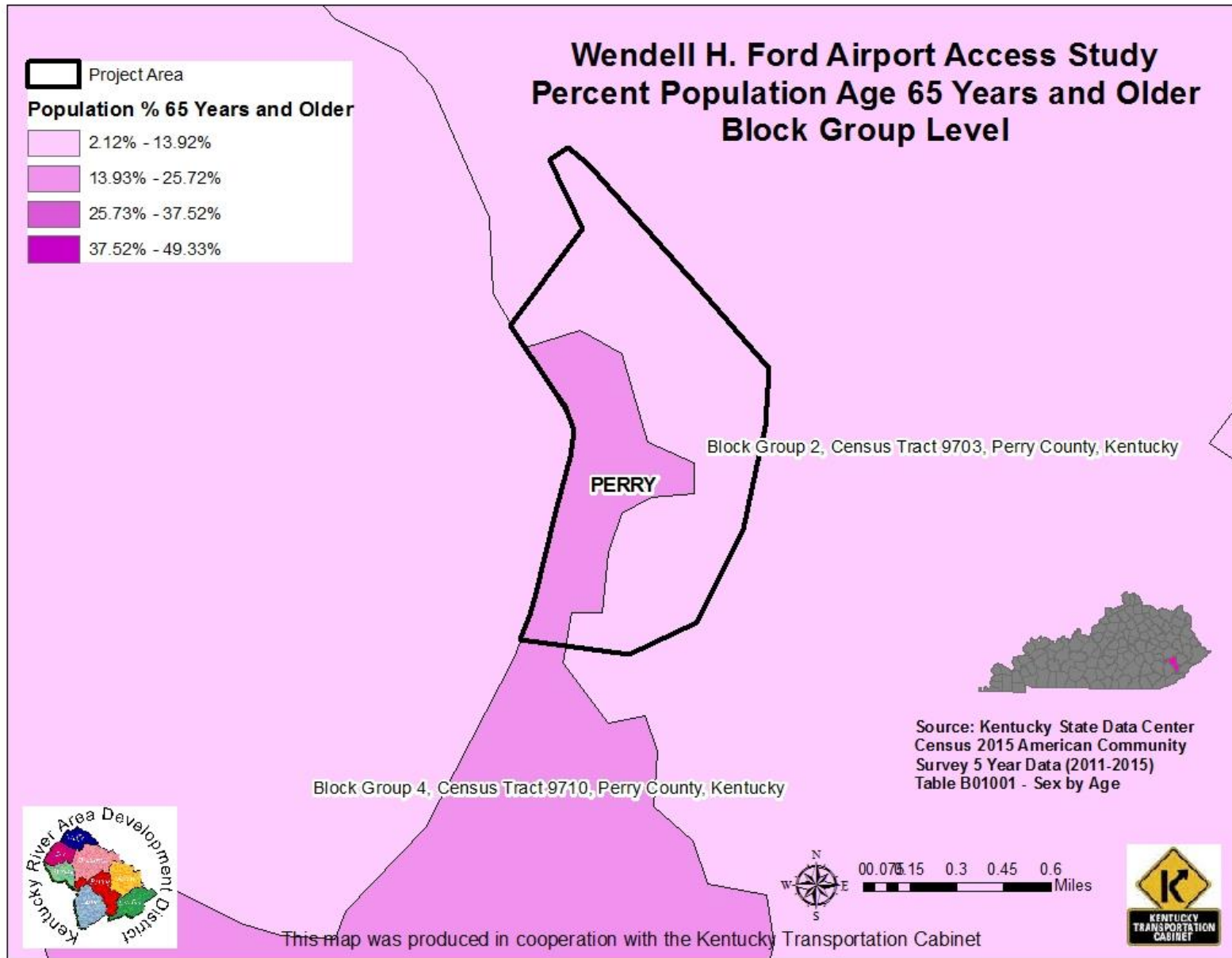
Population by Persons Age 65 Years and Older



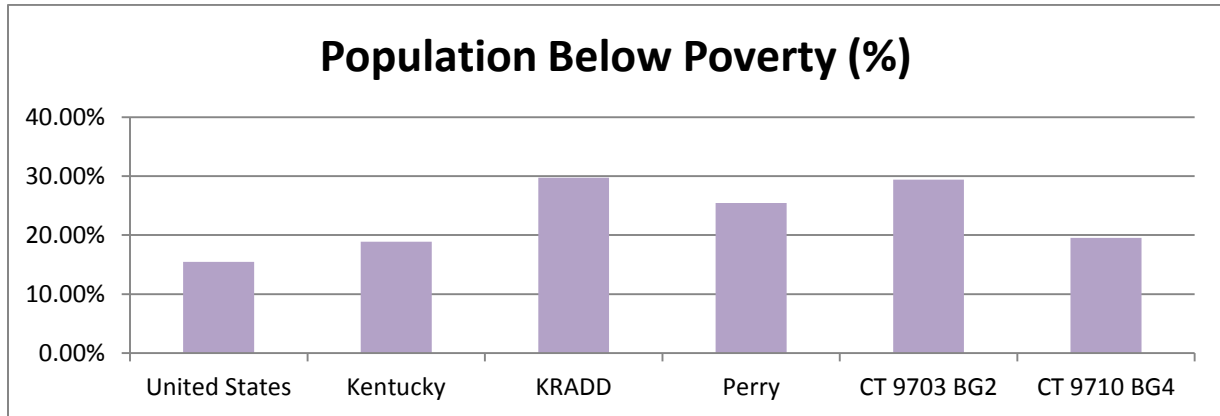
Perry County has a higher percentage (14.43%) of *Persons Age 65 Years and Older* than both the state (14.39%) and the U.S. (14.10%). Block Group (BG) 4 of Census Tract (CT) 9710 has a considerably higher percentage (17.61%) of elderly persons when compared to the other block group in the study area. Block Group (BG) 2 of Census Tract (CT) 9703 has a lower percentage of elderly persons.

	Total Population	Population Age 65 Years and Older	Population Age 65 Years and Older (%)
United States	316,515,021	44,615,477	14.10%
Kentucky	4,397,353	632,975	14.39%
KRADD	111,296	17,069	15.34%
Perry County	28,041	4,047	14.43%
Census Tract 9703 Block Group 2	1,788	56	3.13%
Census Tract 9710 Block Group 4	1,153	203	17.61%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Table B01001



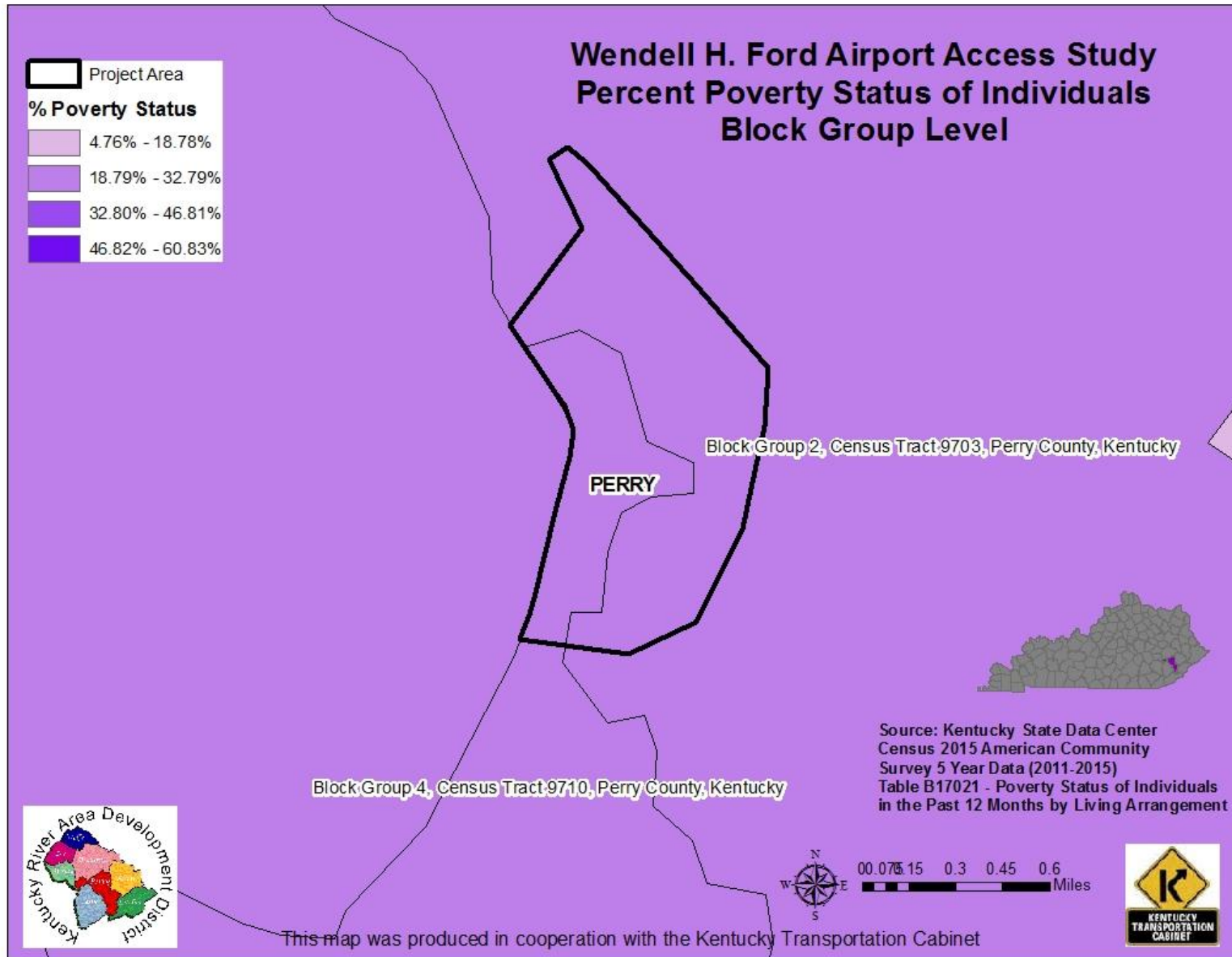
Population by Persons below Poverty Level



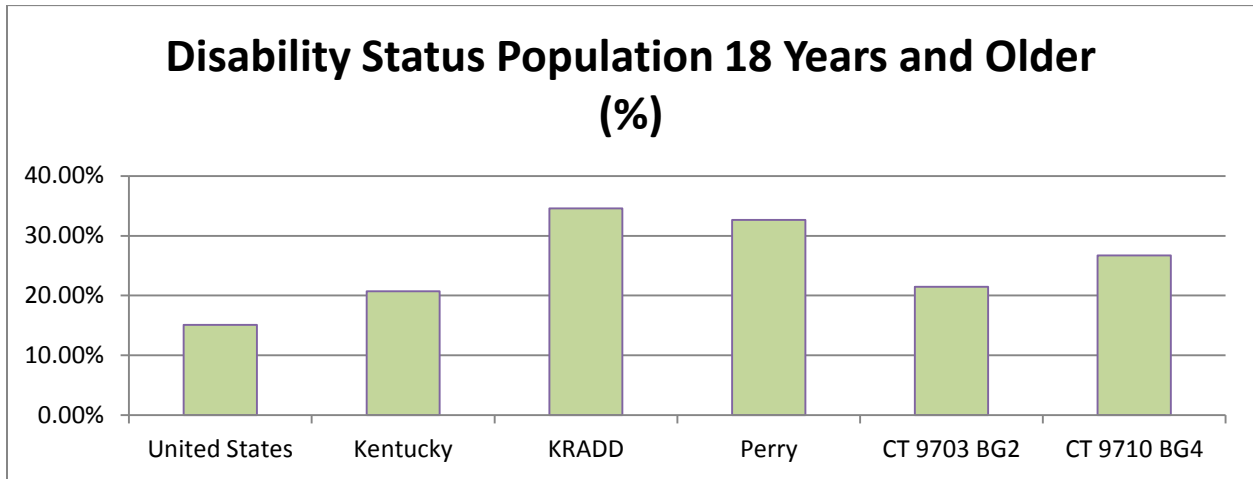
The percentage of persons living below the poverty level in Kentucky (18.90%) is higher than that of the United States (15.47%). The Region and Perry County has a higher percentage than that of the nation and state with 29.74% and 25.42%, respectively. Block Group (BG) 2 of Census Tract (CT) 9703 has a poverty level (29.39%) above the percentage for the county.

	Total Population	Population Below Poverty	Population Below Poverty (%)
United States	308,619,550	47,749,043	15.47%
Kentucky	4,263,217	805,841	18.90%
KRADD	107,598	32,004	29.74%
Perry County	27,125	6,894	25.42%
Census Tract 9703 Block Group 2	1,531	450	29.39%
Census Tract 9710 Block Group 4	1,147	224	19.53%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Table B17021



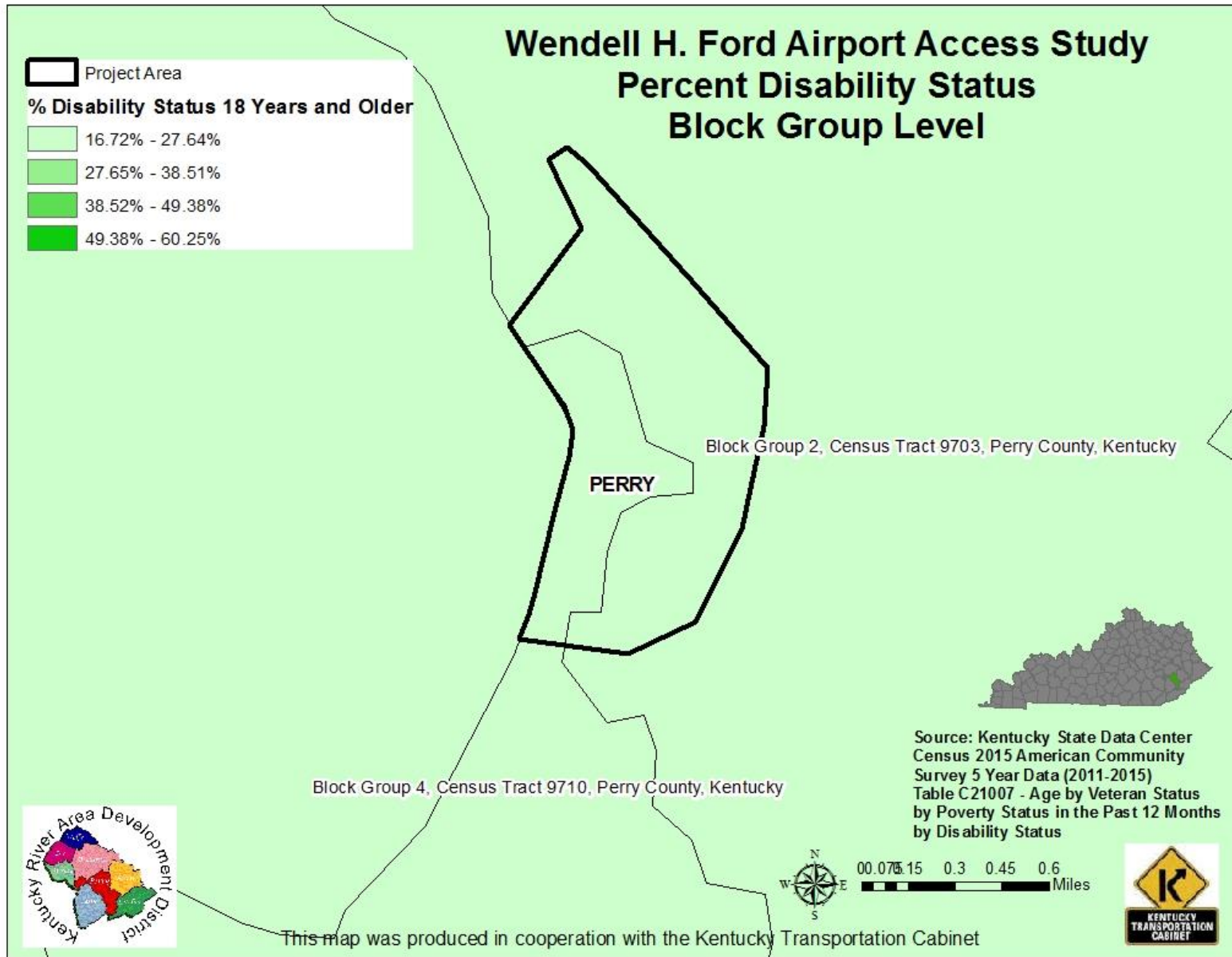
Population by Disability Status



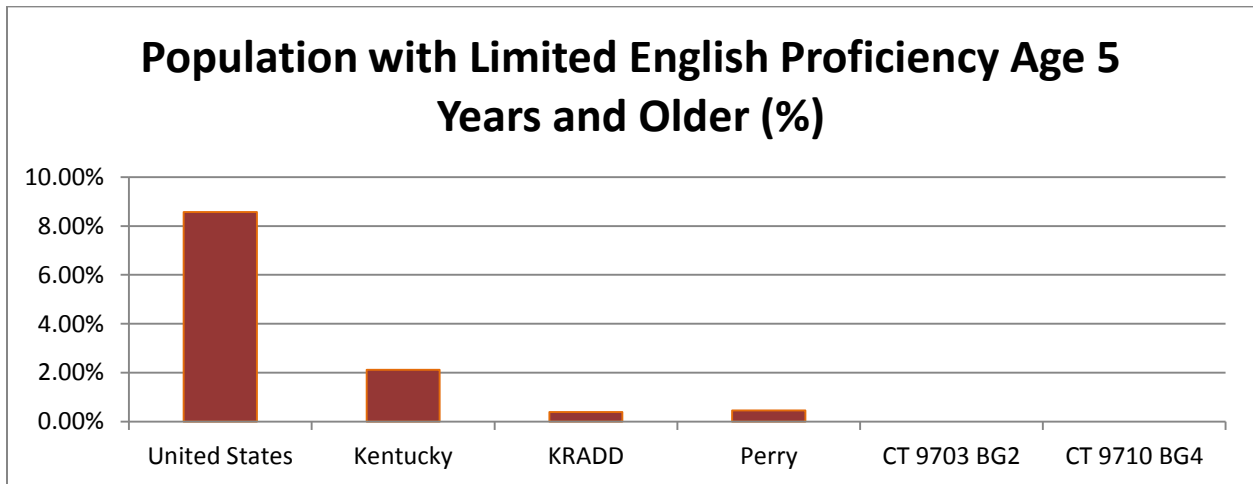
According to 2011-2015 American Community Survey numbers, Kentucky had 20.73% percent of its population age 18 years and older with some type of disability. This is higher than the national percentage (15.08%). Perry County also reports a higher percentage of disabled persons (32.66%) than does the state and nation. Data shows Block Group (BG) 2 of Census Tract (CT) 9703 with 21.46% and BG 4 of CT 9710 with 26.72% of disabled persons, both below the percentage for the county.

	Total Population Age 16-64 Years	Disability Status Population Age 16-64	Disability Status Population 18 Years and Older
United States	235,378,737	35,484,493	15.08%
Kentucky	3,260,338	675,930	20.73%
KRADD	84,387	29,172	34.57%
Perry County	21,303	6,958	32.66%
Census Tract 9703 Block Group 2	1,011	217	21.46%
Census Tract 9710 Block Group 4	947	253	26.72%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Table C21007



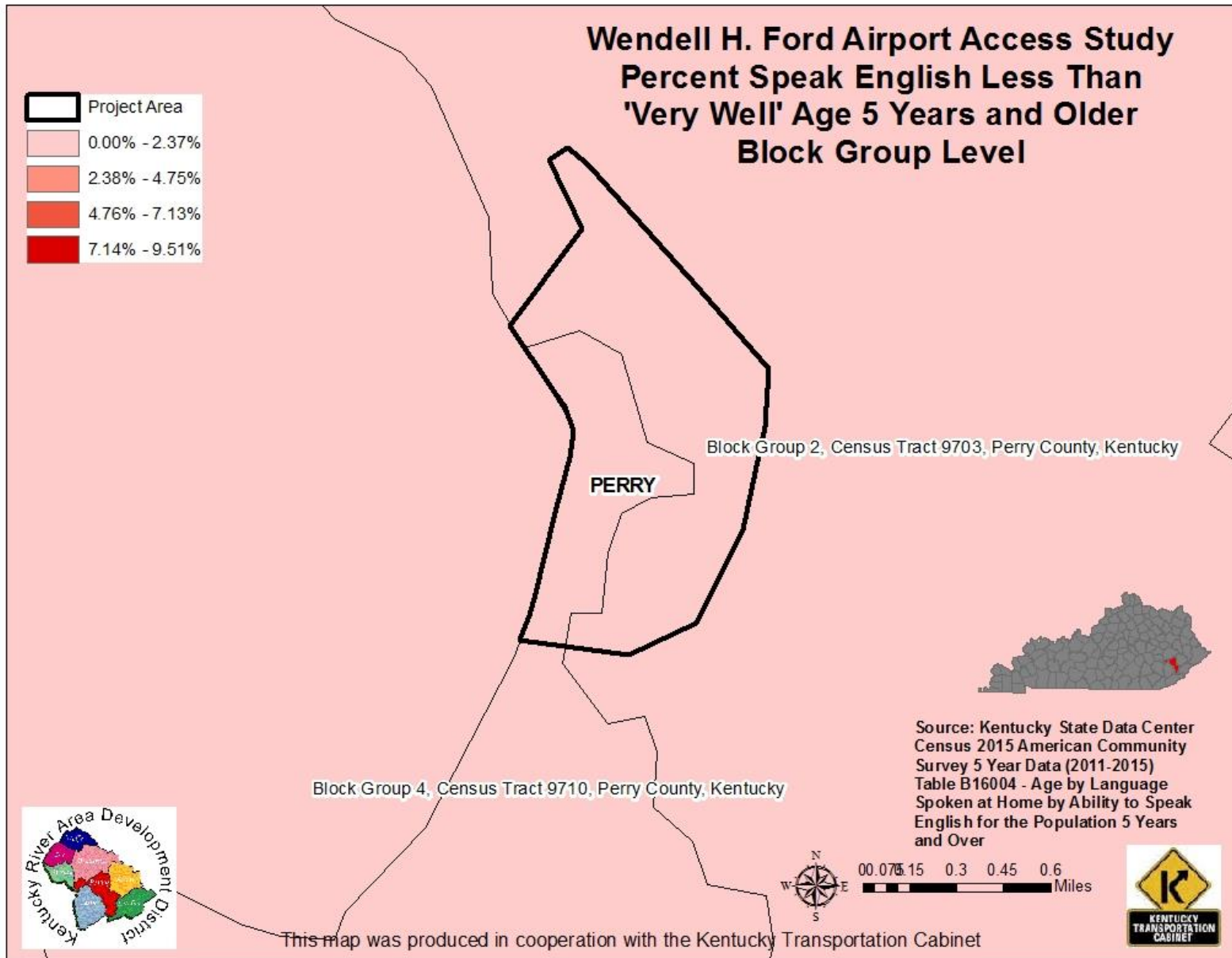
Population by Persons with Limited English Proficiency



Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in the United States make up 8.57% of the population, but in Kentucky that percentage decreases to just 2.12%. The KRADD Region and Perry County have an even lower percentage of persons with LEP than that of the state and United States with 0.39% being reported for the region and 0.46% for the county. There are no persons with limited English proficiency in the study area.

	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	296,603,003	25,410,756	8.57%
Kentucky	4,120,902	87,159	2.12%
KRADD	104,738	407	0.39%
Perry County	26,267	122	0.46%
Census Tract 9703 Block Group 2	1,622	0	0.00%
Census Tract 9710 Block Group 4	1,117	0	0.00%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Table B16004



Conclusion

Minority populations (5.03%) in Block Group 2 Census Tract 9703 are less than double that of the region (2.83%).

Persons age 65 and older (17.61%) in Block Group 4 Census Tract 9710 are more than the county, region, state and nation.

The populations below the poverty level in both Block Groups are considerably higher than that of the state and nation.

Block Group 4 Census Tract 9710 persons with a disability (26.72%) are more than that of the state and nation.

No persons with Limited English Proficiency are identified in the study area.

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.

Appendix: Methodology from KYTC

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).

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.

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 (65+)
- Disabled populations
- Limited English Proficiency