US 41A Corridor E.J. Study Hopkins-Webster Counties, Kentucky

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE REVIEW July 20 2011

Prepared for

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) – Division of Planning



Prepared by

Pennyrile Area Development District



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents a review of the socioeconomic characteristics in the study area for the proposed US 41A corridor reconstruction in Hopkins and Webster counties, which is also located within the Pennyrile and Gr5een River Area Development Districts. This area is depicted in *Exhibit 1, US 41A Study Area Location Map, Hopkins-Webster County, Kentucky*. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau Census 2000 has been utilized for the analysis of the project area. It is intended to be used as a "first look study" into the socioeconomic characteristics that exist in the project area. If, at a later time, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet determines specific project locations, a more in-depth analysis of the socioeconomic characteristics may be warranted. The information and results are intended to assist the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet 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..."

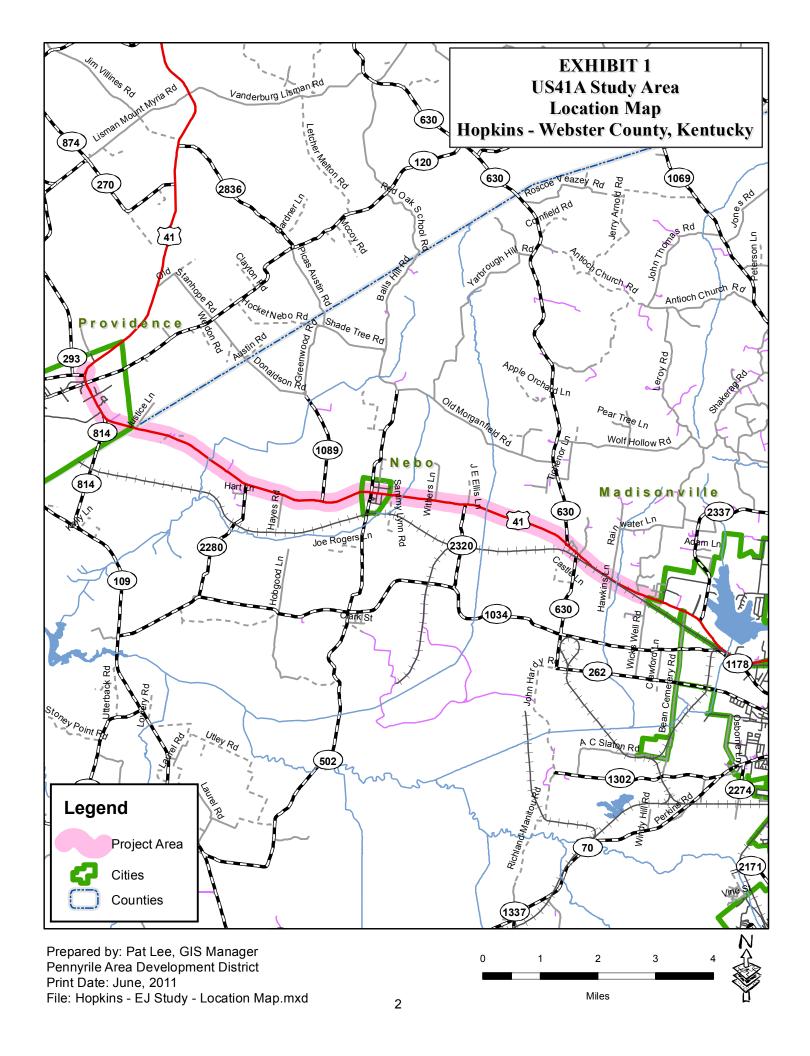
This report outlines Census 2000 statistics for the project area using tables and maps. Statistics are provided on minority, low-income, elderly, and disabled populations for the block groups and census tracts within the project area, Kentucky and the United States.

2.0 WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) outlines the 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 low-income 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 populations and low-income populations.

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..."



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..."

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

3.0 METHODOLOGY

Data for this study was collected by using the method outlined by the KYTC document, "Methodology for Assessing Potential Environmental Justice Concerns for KYTC Planning Studies" that is located in *Appendix A, Methodology*. The U.S. Census Data used in the report is taken from American Fact Finder Summary File 3 including tables:

- P7. Hispanic or Latino By Race
- P8. Sex by Age
- P 41. Age by Types of Disability for the Civilian Non-institutionalized Population 5 Years and Over with Disabilities
- P 87. Poverty Status in 1999 by Age

The data was compiled with maps and tables to present a detailed description of the community conditions in and around the study area.

4.0 CENSUS DATA ANALYSIS

U.S. Census data is arranged according to geographic unit. 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."
- Census Block (CB) "An area bounded on all sides by visible and/or invisible features shown on a map prepared by the Census Bureau. A CB is the smallest geographic entity for which the Census Bureau tabulates decennial census data."

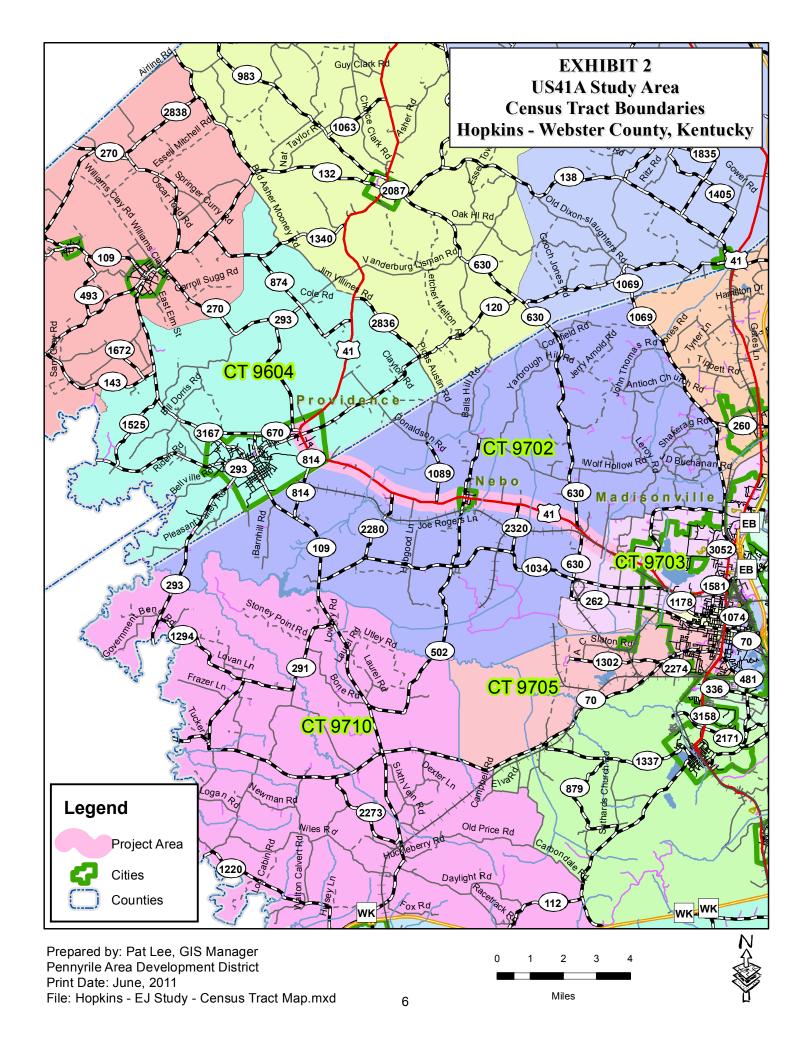
The US Census tables in this report include the total number and percentages for minorities, elderly population, disabled population and low-income population levels for the block groups, census tracts in the project area, State of Kentucky and the United States. There are three (3) census tracts and five (5) block groups that are relevant to this study area. The Census Data Tables used in this report are located in *Appendix B, Data Tables*. Total population numbers are included in the census tract data even though all block groups within a census tract may not be included in the study area.

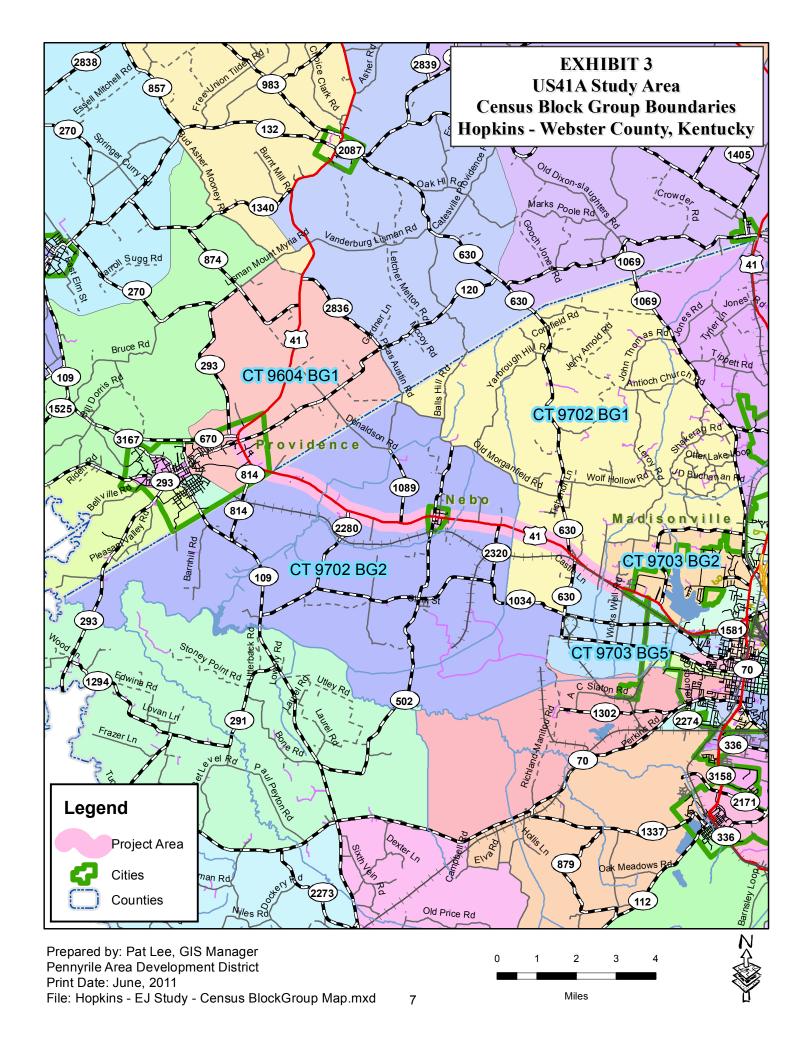
A method developed by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to identify target populations is applied in this study. This study will use the population percentages for the State of Kentucky as the reference threshold for identifying target populations. The State numbers most likely provide a better snapshot of the overall population characteristics of the region in the project area as opposed to the national percentages.

In reviewing each block group for target populations, an analysis range was used based on the reference threshold in each of the four (4) census categories, or target populations, utilized in this study. This range was set at 25 percent above the State threshold to 25 percent below the State threshold. The full explanation on how this reference threshold is applied is explained in *Appendix C, Analysis Ranges*.

The 2000 Census Block Groups involved in this study comprised a portion of northwestern Hopkins County west of the City of Madisonville and a very small portion of eastern Webster County just east of the City of Providence. The Census Tracts involved in this study area are shown in *Exhibit 2, US 41A Study Area Census Track Boundaries Hopkins-Webster County*,

Kentucky. The Census Block Groups in this study area are shown in Exhibit 3, US 41A Study Area Census Block Group Boundaries, Hopkins-Webster County, Kentucky.





5.0 STUDY FINDINGS: POPULATION BY PERSONS OF MINORITY ORIGIN

As described in the Census Data tables in Appendix B, the minority population percentages for the United States is 30.88 percent, which is significantly higher than Kentucky at 10.68 percent. The Hopkins County minority population is 8.59 percent, and the Webster County minority population is 8.13 percent which is below the State percentage.

Only one (1) of the five (5) Block Groups (BG's) in the project area had a higher percentage of minority population than the State percentage or threshold of 10.68 percent. The BG with the highest percentage is CT 9604 BG 1 (46.33%) in Webster County, which is significantly higher than the State percentage. The remaining 4 BGs were lower than the State threshold (10.68%) and are listed in order from highest to lowest as follows: CT 9703 BG 5 (7.93%), CT 9703 BG 2 (2.92%), CT 9702 BG 1 (2.69%), CT 9702 BG 1 (2.07%). These BG's can be seen in Appendix D, Map A, Percent Minority, US 41A Study Area, Hopkins-Webster County, KY.

6.0 STUDY FINDING: POPULATION BY PERSONS AGE 65 YEARS AND OLDER

As described in the Census Data tables in Appendix B, the *Persons 65 and Over Percentages* for the United States was 12.43 percent, which was about equal to the State of Kentucky with 12.46 percent. The Hopkins County percentage is 14.68 percent, which is slightly higher than the State percentage. The Webster County percentage is 14.90 percent, which is also slightly higher than the State percentage.

Of the five (5) BG's in the study area, two (2) had a higher percentage of persons age 65 and older than the State percentage. These Block Groups with the higher percentage are CT 9703 BG 2 (49.44%) in Hopkins County, which had a significantly higher percentage that the State threshold, and CT 9604 BG 1 (18.03%) in Webster County. The remaining three (3) BG's that are below the referenced State threshold are listed in order from highest to lowest: CT 9702 BG 2 (11.31%), CT 9703 BG 5 (11.17%), and CT 9702 BG 1 (6.95%). These BG's can be seen in Appendix D, *Map B, Percent 65 and Older, US 41A Study Area, Hopkins-Webster, County, KY*.

7.0 STUDY FINDING: POPULATION BY DISABILITIES AGE 5 AND OVER

As described in the Census Data tables in Appendix B, the *Population By Disabilities Age 5 and Over* for the United States was 31.68 percent, which was lower than the State of Kentucky with 41.73 percent. The Hopkins County percentage of Population By Disabilities Age 5 and Over was 44.49 percent, which is significantly higher than the national average but only slightly higher than the State percentage. The Webster County percentage is 43.76 percent, which is also significantly higher than the national average but only slightly higher than the State percentage.

Of the five (5) BG's in the study area, two (2) had a higher percentage of persons with disabilities age 5 and older higher than the State percentage. These BG with the higher percentages are CT 9703 BG 5 (55.04%) in Hopkins County, which had a significantly higher percentage than the State threshold, and CT 9702 BG 2 with 44.07 percent also in Hopkins County. The remaining three (3) BG's that are below the reference State threshold are listed in order from highest to lowest: CT 9604 BG 1 (30.56%), CT 9702 BG 1 (26.08%), and CT 9703 BG 5 (25.63%). These BG's can be seen in Appendix D, *Map C, Population By Disabilities Age 5 and Over, US 41A Study Area, Hopkins-Webster County, KY*.

8.0 STUDY FINDINGS: POPULATION BY PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

As described in the Census Data tables in Appendix B, the percentage of persons below the poverty level in the United States is 12.05 percent, which is just below Kentucky's 15.37 percent. The Hopkins County poverty percentage is 16.21 percent, which is slightly higher than the State and national percentages. The Webster County poverty percentage is 15.08 percent, which is slightly lower than the State percentage, but slightly higher than the national percentage.

Two (2) of the five (5) Block Groups (BG's) in the project area had a higher percentage of persons below poverty than the state percentage or reference threshold of 15.37 percent. These Block Groups with the highest percentage are CT 9604 BG 1 (17.71%) in Webster County, and CT 9703 BG 5 (17.07%) in Hopkins County. The remaining three (3) BG's that are below the reference threshold are listed in order from highest to lowest: CT 9702 BG 2 (10.56%), CT 9702 BG 1 (6.06%) and CT 9703 BG 2 (0.00%). These BG's can be seen in Appendix D, *Map D*, *Persons Below Poverty Level, US 41A Study Area, Hopkins-Webster County, KY*.

9.0 CONCLUSION

After the analysis of the study area, it became apparent that there are a few Block Groups that may require further evaluation depending on the scope of the improvements planned for the corridor. All of the BG's with higher percentages of populations compared to the State thresholds that were analyzed in the *Study Findings* section of this report will not be re-addressed in this Conclusion Section. However, one of the Block Groups that was identified in this section has two (2) of the target populations studied in this report (Minority and Persons 65 and Older) with significantly higher percentages than the State, and its percent of population below poverty was slightly higher than the State percentage. The Block Group is CT 9604 BG 1 in Webster County and it is addressed in this section to highlight these areas of concern.

The Block Group that comprises the northeastern portion of the City of Providence in Webster County, Kentucky is CT 9604 BG 1, which is the most western portion of the project area. This Block Group has a total population of 962 persons. The total number of the minority population in this BG is 429 persons (46.33%), and the total population of persons age 65 and older is 167 persons (18.03%). This BG also has a slightly higher percentage of its population below the

poverty level with 164 persons (17.71%) below poverty, which is slightly higher than the State threshold poverty percentage (15.37%).

One other Block Group that needs some additional discussion is the Block Group that comprises the northwestern portion of the City of Madisonville, Kentucky, which is CT 9703 BG 2 on the north side of US 41A. It has a population of 718 persons. The total number of the persons 65 and older in this BG is 355 persons (49.44%), which is significantly higher than the State threshold percentage (12.46%). However, the other target populations studied in this report was below the State threshold for this BG.

In closing, if the highway improvements include widening the existing US 41A right-of-way and are close to the existing right-of-way of the existing corridor, this study has determined that there would be no impact to the EJ populations that were studied as part of this report. However, if the improvements involved in this project are proposed to take a new route off the existing US 41A right-of-way corridor in one or more areas, then additional examination of these areas proposed in the new route(s) should be explored further for EJ impacts.

Appendix A

Study Methodology

Methodology for Assessing Potential Environmental Justice Concerns for KYTC Planning Studies

Updated: February 1, 2002

The demographics of the affected area should be defined using U.S. Census data (Census tracts and block groups) and the percentages for minorities, low-income, elderly, or disabled populations should be compared to those for the following:

- Other nearby Census tracts and block groups,
- The county as a whole,
- The entire state, and
- The United States.

Information from PVA offices, social service agencies, local health organizations, local public agencies, and community action agencies can be used to supplement the Census data. Specifically, we are interested in obtaining the following information:

- Identification of community leaders or other contacts who may be able to represent these population groups and through which coordination efforts can be made.
- Comparison of the Census tracts and block groups encompassing the project area to other nearby Census tracts and block groups, county, state, and United States percentages.
- Locations of specific or identified minority, low-income, elderly, or disabled
 population groups within or near the project area. This may require some field
 reviews and/or discussions with knowledgeable persons to identify locations of public
 housing, minority communities, ethnic communities, etc., to verify Census data or
 identify changes that may have occurred since the last Census. Examples would be
 changes due to new residential developments in the area or 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 with members within walking distance of facilities.
- Potential effects, both positive and negative, of the project on the affected groups as compared to the non-target groups. This may include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Access to services, employment or transportation.
 - 2. Displacement of persons, businesses, farms, or non-profit organizations.
 - 3. Disruption of community cohesion or vitality.
 - 4. Effects to human health and/or safety.
- Possible methods to minimize or avoid impacts on the target population groups.

Methodology for Assessing Potential Environmental Justice Concerns for KYTC Planning Studies Page 2

If percentages of these populations are elevated within the project area, it should be brought to the attention of the Division of Planning immediately so that coordination with affected populations may be conducted to determine the affected population's concerns and comments on the project. Also, with this effort, representatives of minority, elderly, low-income, or disabled populations should be identified so that, together, we can build a partnership for the region that may be incorporated into other projects. Also, we hope to build a Commonwealth-wide database of contacts. We are available to participate in any meetings with these affected populations or with their community leaders or representatives.

In identifying communities, agencies may consider as a community either a group of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another, or a geographically dispersed/transient set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions of environmental exposure or effect. The selection of the appropriate unit of analysis may be a governing body's jurisdiction, a neighborhood, census tract, or other similar unit that is to be chosen so as not to artificially dilute or inflate the affected population. A target population also exists if there is (1) more than one minority or other group present and (2) the percentages, as calculated by aggregating all minority persons, exceed that of the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis.

Maps should be included that show the Census tracts and block groups included in the analysis as well as the relation of the project area to those Census tracts and block groups.

Appendix B

US Census Data Tables for Study Area

Table 1 US41A Study Area

	Total	White Alone	White Alone (%)	Black or African American alone	Black or African American alone (%)	Hispanic or Latino Origin	Hispanic or Latino Origin (%)	American Indian and Alaska Native alone	American Indian and Alaska Native alone (%)	Asian alone	Asian alone (%)	Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone	Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone (%)
United States	281,421,906	194,514,140	69.12%	33,707,230	11.98%	35,238,481	12.52%	2,091,206	0.74%	10,067,813	3.58%	342,743	0.12%
Kentucky	4,041,769	3,610,112	89.32%	291,735	7.22%	56,414	1.40%	8,424	0.21%	28,697	0.71%	947	0.02%
Webster Co.	14,120	12,972	91.87%	718	5.08%	295	2.09%	0	0.00%	17	0.12%	0	0.00%
Tract 9604	4,460	3,749	84.06%	609	13.65%	36	0.81%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 1	926	497	53.67%	429	46.33%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Hopkins Co.	46,519	42,523	91.41%	2,928	6.29%	376	0.81%	43	0.09%	175	0.38%	16	0.03%
Tract 9702	2,959	2,886	97.53%	45	1.52%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 1	1,898	1,847	97.31%	23	1.21%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 2	1,061	1,039	97.93%	22	2.07%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Tract 9703	6,573	5,958	90.64%	432	6.57%	21	0.32%	0	0.00%	107	1.63%	0	0.00%
Block Group 2	718	697	97.08%	21	2.92%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Block Group 5	1,388	1,278	92.07%	75	5.40%	12	0.86%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Source: US Cens		00 Census											
_	Summary File 3 (SF3) Detailed Tables: P7-Hispanic or Latino by Race, P8-Sex by Age, P41 Age by Types of Disability, P87-Poverty Status in 1999 by Age												
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Table 2 US41A Study Area

	Total	Some other race alone	Some other race alone (%)	Two or more races	Two or more races (%)	Total Minority	Minority %	Persons 65 and Over	Persons 65 and Over (%)	Population by Disabilities Age 5 and Over	Population by Disabilities Age 5 and Over (%)	Persons Below Poverty Level	Persons Below Poverty Level (%)
United States	281,421,906	447,552	0.16%	5,012,741	1.78%	86,907,766	30.88%	34,978,972	12.43%	89,142,962	31.68%	33,899,812	12.05%
Kentucky	4,041,769	3,303	0.08%	42,137	1.04%	431,657	10.68%	503,668	12.46%	1,686,789	41.73%	621,096	15.37%
Webster Co.	14,120	0	0.00%	118	0.84%	1,148	8.13%	2,104	14.90%	6,179	43.76%	2,130	15.08%
Tract 9604	4,460	33	0.74%	27	0.61%	711	15.94%	730	16.37%	1,628	36.50%	893	20.02%
Block Group 1	926	0	0.00%	5	0.54%	429	46.33%	167	18.03%	283	30.56%	164	17.71%
Hopkins Co.	46,519	34	0.07%	424	0.91%	3,996	8.59%	6,829	14.68%	20,694	44.49%	7,543	16.21%
Tract 9702	2,959	33	1.12%	27	0.91%	73	2.47%	252	8.52%	952	32.17%	227	7.67%
Block Group 1	1,898	0	0.00%	5	0.26%	51	2.69%	132	6.95%	495	26.08%	115	6.06%
Block Group 2	1,061	33	3.11%	22	2.07%	22	2.07%	120	11.31%	457	43.07%	112	10.56%
Tract 9703	6,573	14	0.21%	6	0.09%	615	9.36%	1021	15.53%	2,623	39.91%	743	11.30%
Block Group 2	718	14	1.95%	3	0.42%	21	2.92%	355	49.44%	184	25.63%	0	0.00%
Block Group 5	1,388	0	0.00%	3	0.22%	110	7.93%	155	11.17%	764	55.04%	237	17.07%
Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census													
Summary File 3	, ,												
Detailed Tables:	Detailed Tables: P7-Hispanic or Latino by Race, P8-Sex by Age, P41 Age by Types of Disability, P87-Poverty Status in 1999 by Age												

Appendix C

Analysis Range Explanation and Methodology for Population Percentages Above or Below the State Threshold

Analysis Ranges Explanation and Methodology

The Kentucky percentages are used as a reference threshold in each of the census data categories utilized for this report. Areas that are up to 25% higher than the reference threshold are considered just above the threshold, and areas that are 25% or higher are considered significantly above the threshold.

PERCENT MINORITY

Analysis Range Percent Minority
Significantly Above Threshold > 13.35%

Just Above Threshold 10.68% - 13.35%

REFERENCE THRESHOLD (KY. Percentage) 10.68%

Just Below Threshold 8.01% - 10.68%

Significantly Below Threshold < 8.01%

PERCENT 65 AND OLDER

Analysis Range Percent 65 and Older

Significantly Above Threshold > 15.58%

Just Above Threshold 12.46% - 15.58%

REFERENCE THRESHOLD (KY. Percentage) 12.46%

Just Below Threshold 9.35% - 12.46%

Significantly Below Threshold < 9.35%

PERCENT DISABLED

Analysis Range Percent Disabled

Significantly Above Threshold > 52.16%

Just Above Threshold 41.73% - 52.16%

REFERENCE THRESHOLD (KY. Percentage) 41.73%

Just Below Threshold 31.30% - 41.73%

Significantly Below Threshold < 31.30%

PERCENT BELOW POVERTY

Analysis Range Percent Below Poverty

Significantly Above Threshold > 19.21%

Just Above Threshold 15.37% - 19.21%

REFERENCE THRESHOLD (KY. Percentage) 15.37%

Just Below Threshold 11.53% - 15.37%

Significantly Below Threshold < 11.53%

Appendix D

Block Groups Above or Below State Population Threshold Maps

