

APPENDIX C:

Socioeconomic Study

KY – 716 CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY

SOCIOECONOMIC REPORT

AUGUST 2023

PREPARED FOR:



(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 – 716 CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY

INTRODUCTION

This report presents an overview of the findings for selected socioeconomic characteristics in the KY – 716 Corridor Planning Study. The purpose of this report is to determine if there are any potential adverse disproportioned effects on Environmental Justice populations regarding the implementation of potential safety and congestion improvement concepts along KY 716. The study will focus on, “KY-716” and includes the corridor between KY-3293 and US 60 in Ashland/Summit, Boyd County, Kentucky.

The information in this report outlines 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) five-year 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: 310.03, Block Group 1
- Boyd County Census Tract: 310.03, Block Group 3

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 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, the entire state, and the United States.

The primary source of data for this report is the 2017-2021 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. This report uses the population percentages for Boyd County as the reference threshold for identifying target populations. The numbers for this county were selected as the reference threshold. 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.

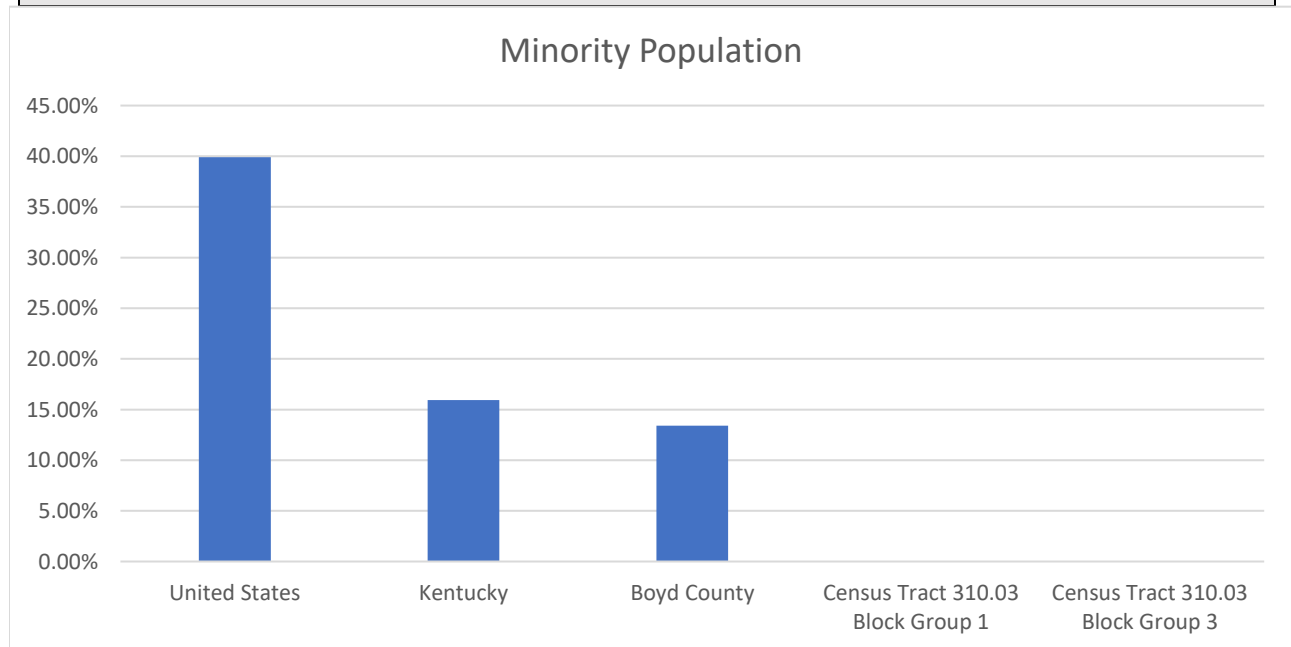
The methodologies used in this planning document are appropriate for identifying possible areas of concern in small urban areas and potential project corridors. However, during future phases of project development a more detailed and robust analysis would be required for the NEPA documentation when assessing the potential for adverse and disproportionate impacts to low-income and minority populations.

STUDY FINDINGS

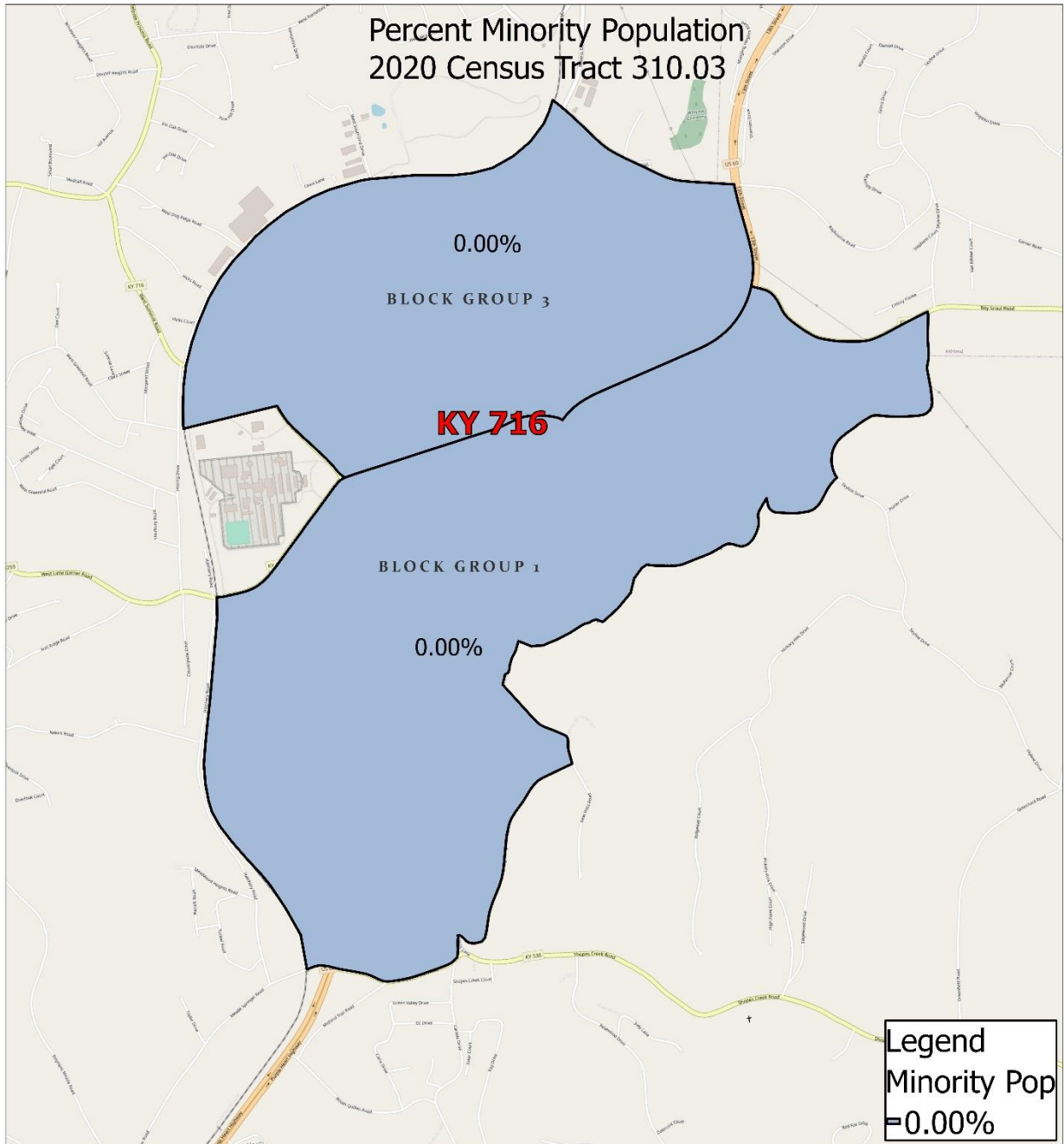
POPULATION BY PERSONS OF RACIAL MINORITY ORIGIN

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 area, neither Block Group (BG) 1 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 nor Block Group (BG) 3 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 have any minority population based on the 2017-2021 ACS five-year statistics. Both are below the county, state, and national percentages.

| | 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 310.03 Block Group 1 | 688 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Census Tract 310.03 Block Group 3 | 518 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Source: US Census Bureau 2020 Decennial Census Table B03002 | | | |



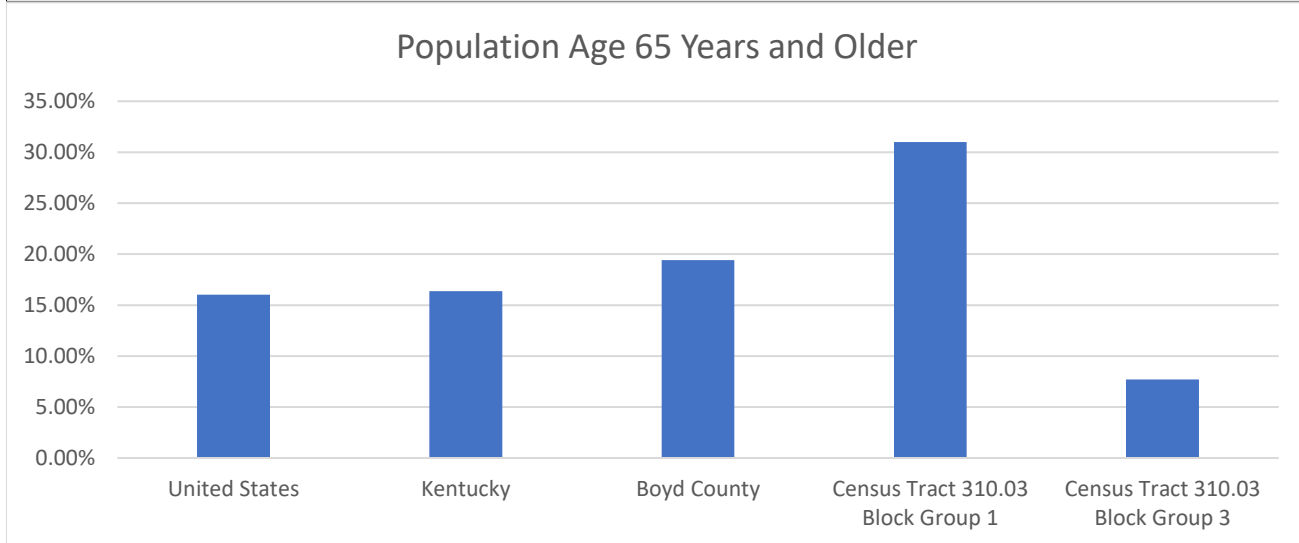
Percent Minority Population
2020 Census Tract 310.03

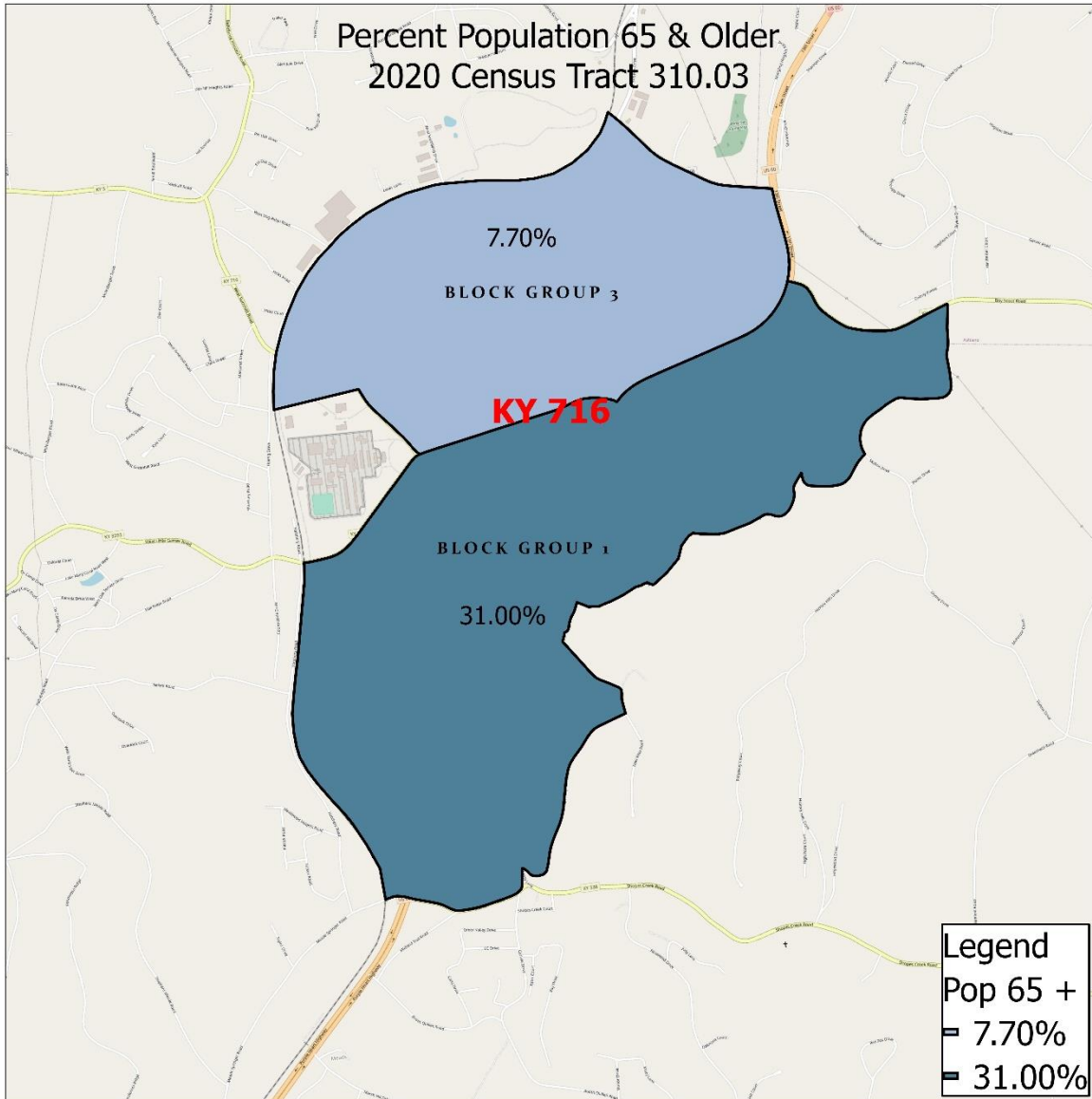


POPULATION BY PERSONS AGE 65 YEARS AND OLDER

Block Group (BG) 1 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 has a much higher percentage of population of persons 65 years and older (31%) in comparison to the remainder of Boyd County and the State and National average. Block Group (BG) 3 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 has a much lower percentage of elderly persons when compared to the other block groups nearby to the study area, the County, the State of Kentucky and the United States, as a Nation.

| | 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 310.03 Block Group 1 | 688 | 212 | 31% |
| Census Tract 310.03 Block Group 3 | 518 | 40 | 7.7% |
| Source: US Census Bureau 2020 Decennial Census Table B01001 | | | |



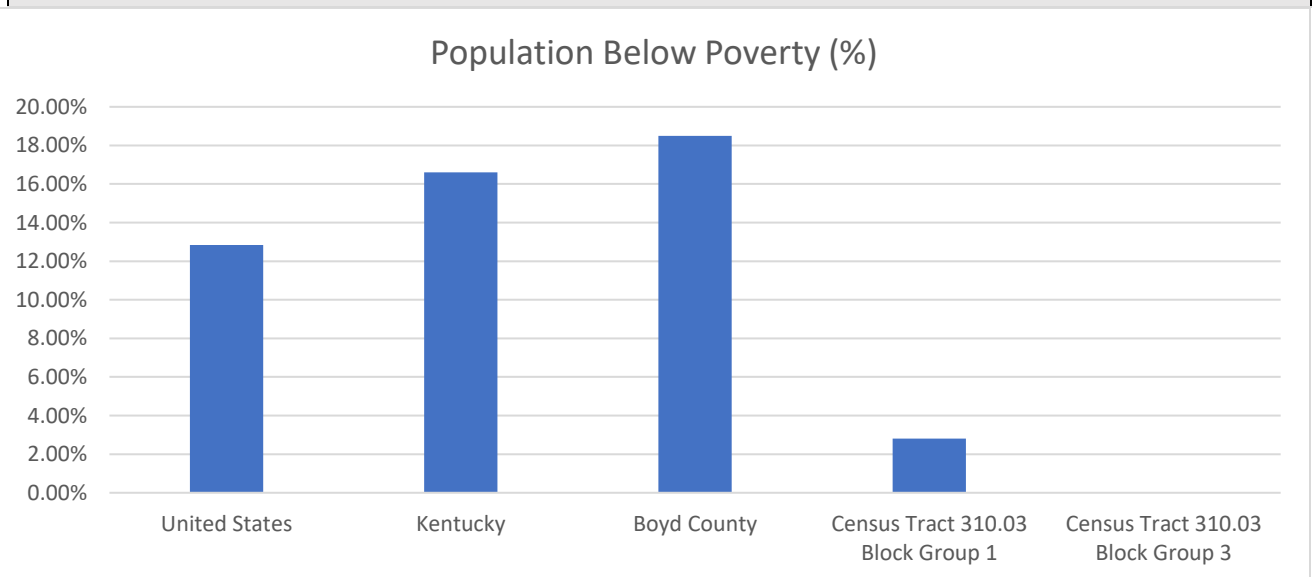


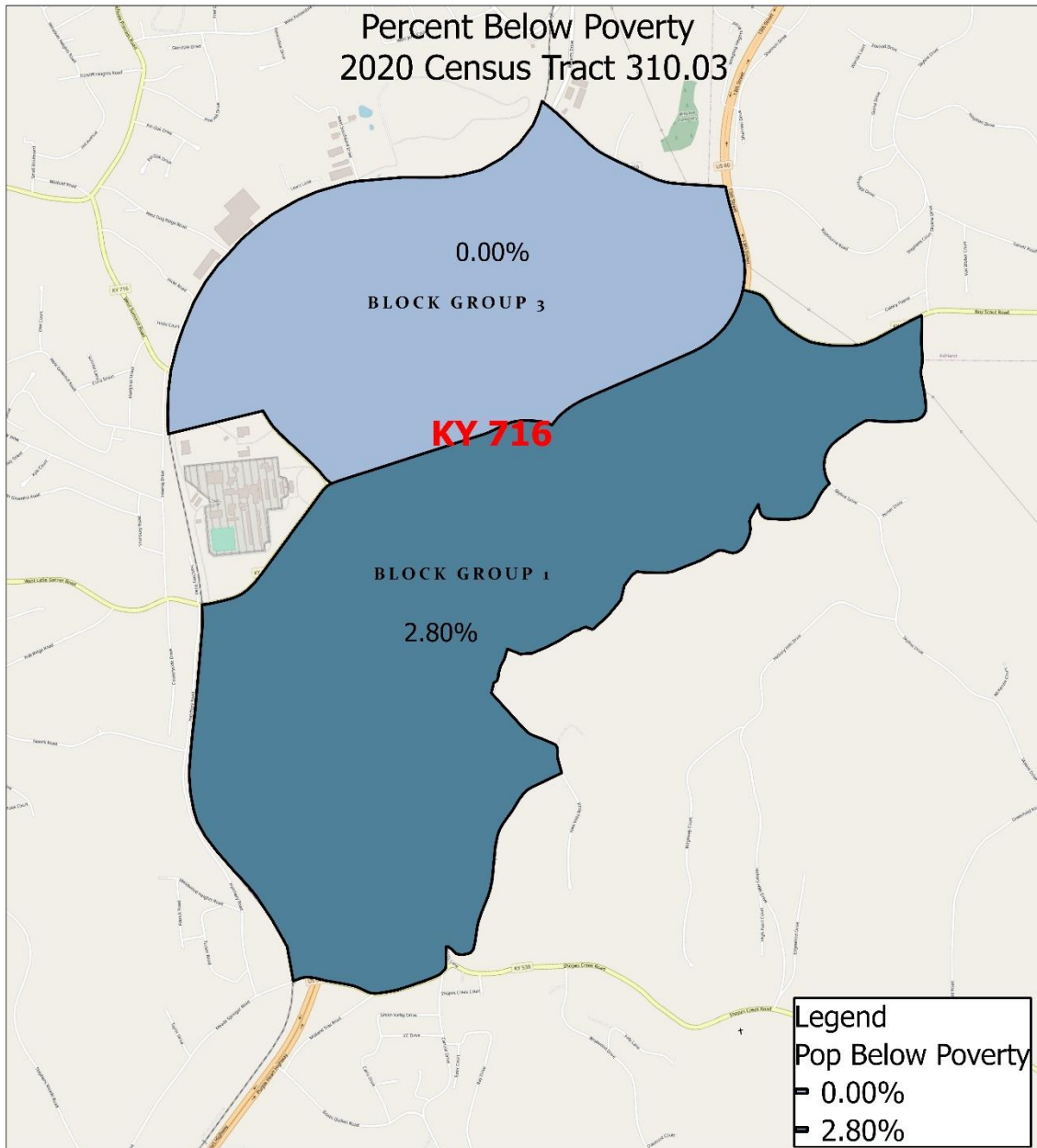
POPULATION BY PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

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%. However, within this study area, Block Group (BG) 1 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 is at 2.8% living below poverty level while Block Group (BG) 3 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 has 0%. Both Block Groups (BG) 1 and 3 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 are well below the County, State and 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 310.03 Block Group 1 | 688 | 15 | 2.8% |
| Census Tract 310.03 Block Group 3 | 518 | 0 | 0% |

Source: US Census Bureau 2020 Decennial Census Table B17021

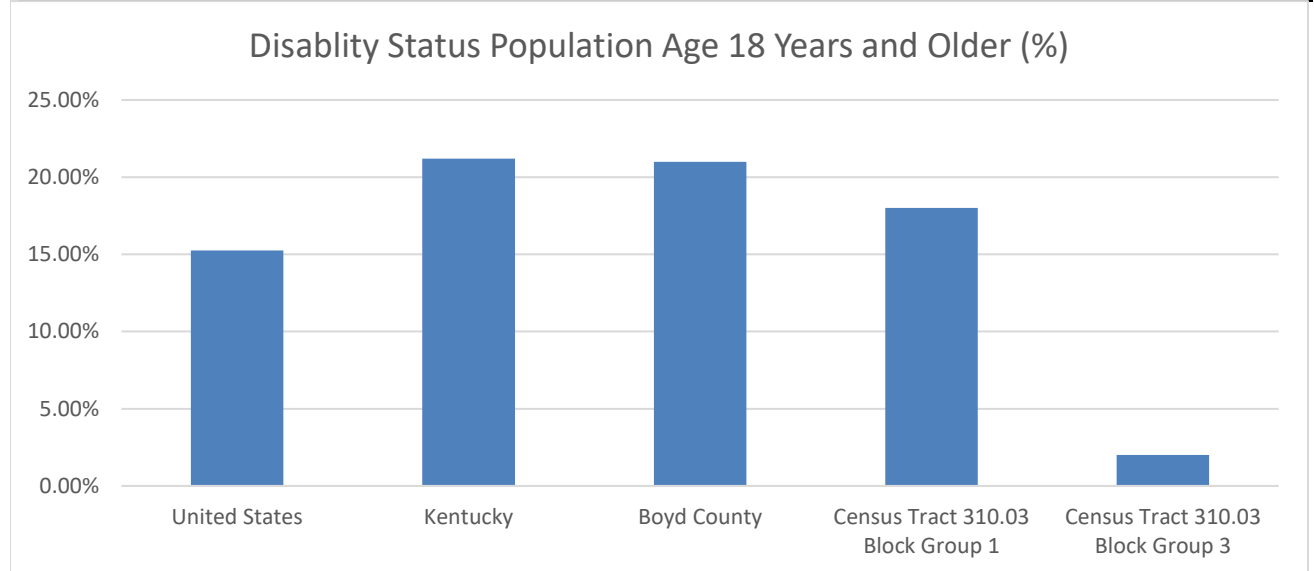


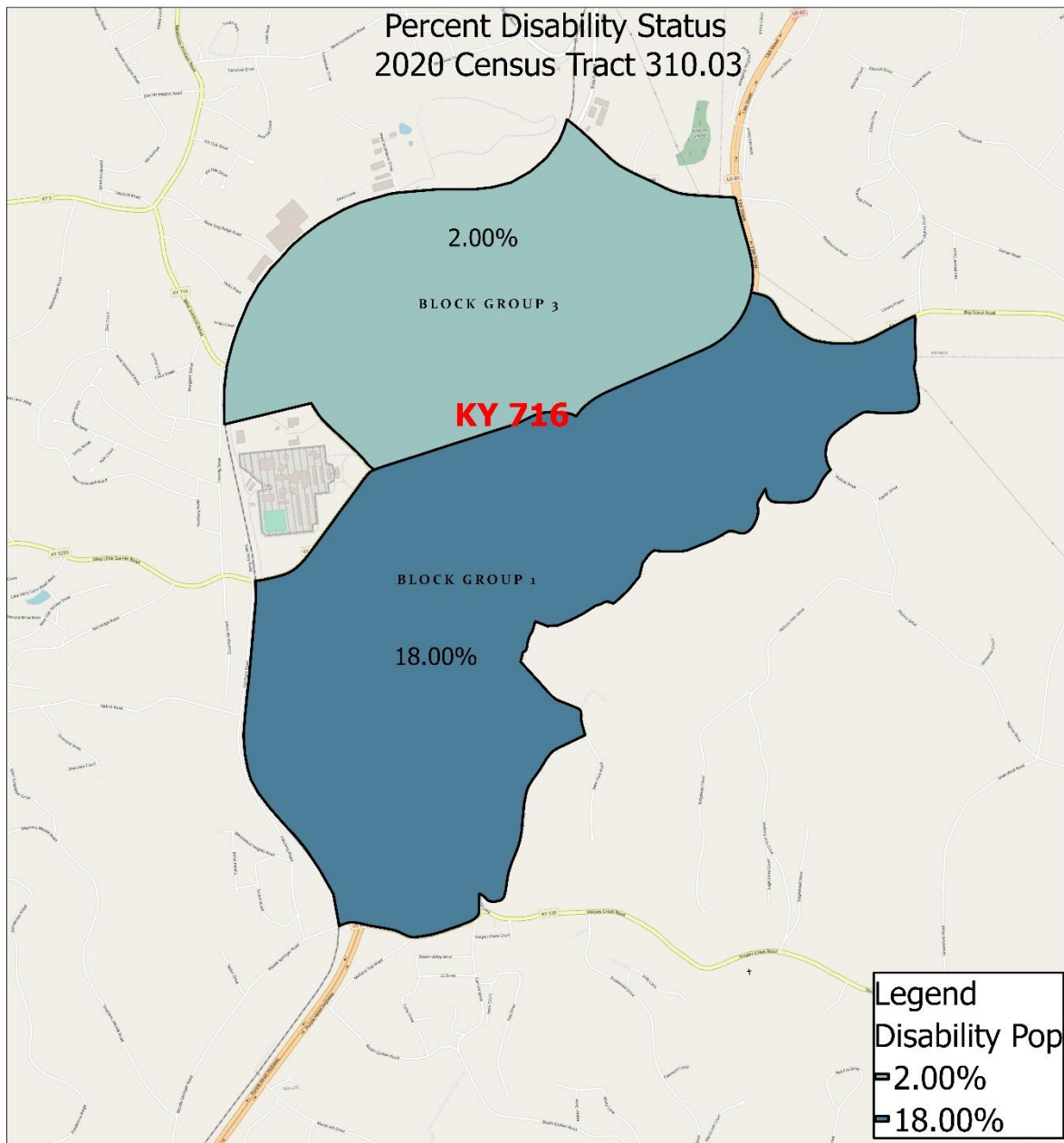


POPULATION BY DISABILITY STATUS

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 ranges from 2% to 18%. The population of persons over 18 years of age with a disability in Boyd County, as a whole, is about 6% higher than that of the national average. However, Block Group (BG) 1 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 rests at 18 % while Block Group (BG) 3 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 is considerably lower at 2%. Block Group (BG) 3 of Census Tract 310.03 has considerably lower percentages of population of 18 and over with some type of disability than that of the County, the State of Kentucky and United States while Block Group (BG) 1 of Census Tract 310.03 is higher than the National Average but lower than the County and Statewide averages.

| | 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 310.03 Block Group 1 | 688 | 123 | 18% |
| Census Tract 310.03 Block Group 3 | 518 | 11 | 2% |
| Source: US Census Bureau 2020 Decennial Census Table C21007 | | | |

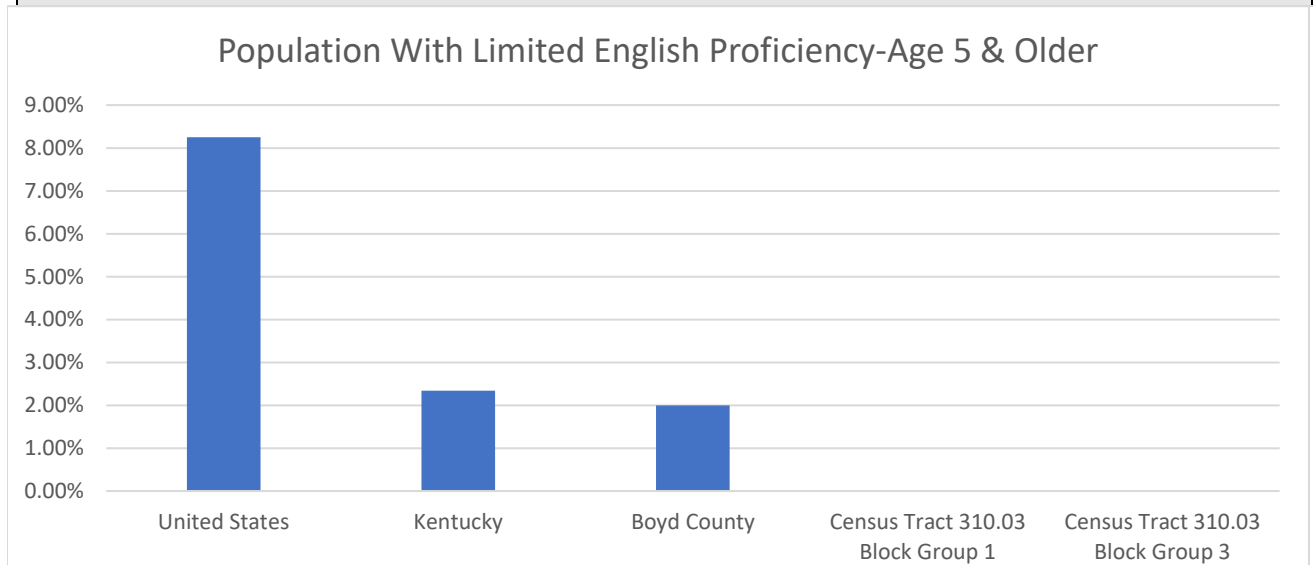


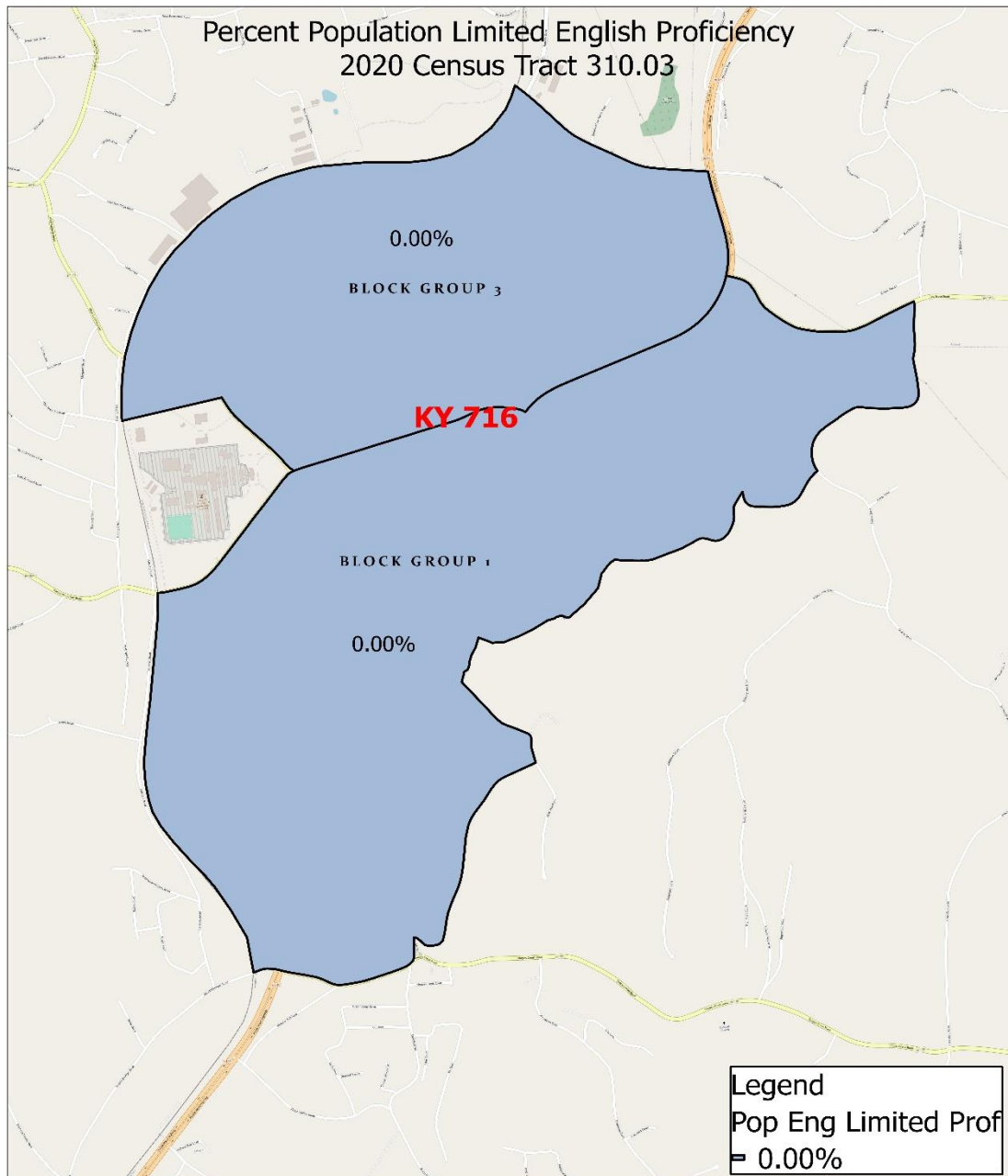


POPULATION BY PERSONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

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. Block Group (BG) 1 and Block Group (BG) 3 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 both have a 0 percentage of persons with limited English proficiency in the study area., which is lower than County's population at 2%.

| | 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 310.03 Block Group 1 | 688 | 0 | 0% |
| Census Tract 310.03 Block Group 3 | 518 | 0 | 0% |
| Source: US Census Bureau 2020 Decennial Census Table B16004 | | | |





CONCLUSION

POPULATION BY PERSONS OF RACIAL MINORITY ORIGIN

Within this study area, neither Block Group (BG) 1 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 nor Block Group (BG) 3 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 had any minority population based on the 2017-2021 ACS five-year statistics, which is far below the County (13.4%), State (15.92%) and National (39.91%) averages.

POPULATION BY PERSONS AGE 65 YEARS AND OLDER

Block Group (BG) 1 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 has a much higher percentage of population of persons 65 years and older (31%) in comparison to the remainder of Boyd County (19.4%) and the State (16.36%) and National (16.03%) average. Block Group (BG) 3 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 has a much lower percentage of elderly persons (7.7%) when compared to the County's, the State of Kentucky and the United States, as a Nation.

POPULATION BY PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

The study area of Block Group (BG) 1 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 and Block Group (BG) 3 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 have significantly lower poverty levels (2.8% and 0%, respectively) than the remainder of Boyd County (18.5%), the State of Kentucky (16.6%) and the United States national average (12.8%).

POPULATION BY DISABILITY STATUS

Block Group (BG) 1 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 (18%) and Block Group (BG) 3 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 (2%) both have lower percentages of disability status population of age 18 and over than Boyd County (21%) and the State of Kentucky (21.19%), however, Block Group (BG) 1 is slightly higher than the National average of 15.25%.

PERSONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Within the Study Area, both Block Group (BG) 1 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 and Block Group (BG) 3 of Census Tract (CT) 310.03 had a 0 percentage of persons with limited English proficiency, which is below the County (2%), State (2.34%), and National (8.25%) averages.

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

METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSING UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, TITLE VI, AGE AND DISABILITY IN PLANNING STUDIES Updated May 2022

Cover Page

Title: Insert specific study type/area

Subtitle: Socioeconomic Study

Date:

Author:

Analysis

Environmental Justice 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. Environmental Justice 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

Affected Community with potential environmental justice impacts are determined by locating populations of minority, low-income, elderly, disabled, and limited English proficiency 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
- United States
- ADD Region

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 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.

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 similar to **Figure 1** (see below) should be symbolized utilizing and 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.

SOCIOECONOMIC REPORT CHECKLIST

| COMPLETE | TASK | GUIDANCE | RESOURCES |
|----------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| | Create Cover Page | Study Name; Date; Prepared For; Prepared By | See Example Socioeconomic Reports - Provided by KYTC |
| | Create Table of Contents | Introduction; What is Environmental Justice; Definitions; Methodology; Census Data Analysis; Study Findings; Census Tract Maps; Census Tract Tables; Block Group Maps; Block Group Tables; Conclusion | |
| | Introduction | <p>INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING TEXT: <i>Data for this report comes from the 2014-2018* American Community Survey five-year estimate, using tables, charts and maps. The purpose of the report is to analyze the data and identify potential populations that may be displaced or adversely affected by the recommended improvements proposed in the study. Statistics are provided for minority, elderly, low- income, disabled and limited-English populations for the nation, state, county and Census Tract Block Groups in the project area. *Use most recent ACS information.</i></p> <p>ALSO INCLUDE: <i>The intent of this review is to assist the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet 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.</i></p> | https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/ |
| | What is Environmental Justice | Links in Resource column can be referenced for: | https://www.transportation.gov/transportation- |
| | Definitions | <i>What is EJ and Definitions</i> | https://www.epa.gov/environment |
| | Methodology | <p>The data was collected using the method outlined by the KYTC document "Methodology for Assessing Potential Environmental Justice Concerns for KYTC Planning Studies" (INCLUDE THIS AS AN APPENDIX). The demographics of the affected area should be defined using U.S. Census Bureau data and the percentages for minority, low-income, elderly, disabled and limited- English 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 2014-2018* U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey five-year estimate. Data was drawn from these tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S0101 – Age and Sex • S1811 – Selected Economic Characteristics for the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population by Disability Status • B03002 – Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race • B17021 – Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Living Arrangement • B16004 – Language spoken at home for population ages 5 or older | <p>KYTC Document: "<i>Methodology For Assessing Underserved Populations Including Environmental Justice, Title VI, Age and Disability in Planning Studies</i>" (Updated November 2019)</p> |
| | Census Data Analysis | | See Example Socioeconomic Reports - Provided by KYTC |
| | Study Findings | | See Example Socioeconomic Reports - Provided by KYTC |
| | Maps; Tables | | See Example Socioeconomic Reports - Provided by KYTC |
| | Conclusion | | See Example Socioeconomic Reports - Provided by KYTC |