

## CHAPTER 7: INCOME AND POVERTY

Table 7.1: Household, Family, and Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2011 Dollars), 2007-2011

Income	Household Income, 2007-2011 (2011 Dollars)		Family Income, 2007-2011 (2011 Dollars)		Per Capita Income, 2007-2011 (2011 Dollars)
	Mean HH Income	Median HH Income	Mean Family Income	Median Family Income	
<b>United States</b>	<b>72,555</b>	<b>52,762</b>	<b>84,422</b>	<b>64,293</b>	<b>27,915</b>
<b>Appalachian Region</b>	<b>57,866</b>	<b>43,354</b>	<b>68,414</b>	<b>54,433</b>	<b>23,252</b>
<b>Subregions</b>					
Northern Appalachia	59,193	45,245	70,905	57,454	24,362
North Central Appalachia	54,549	41,198	64,789	52,121	22,121
Central Appalachia	45,186	32,887	53,301	41,909	18,197
South Central Appalachia	55,705	41,087	66,424	52,083	23,076
Southern Appalachia	62,109	46,462	71,926	56,641	23,763
<b>County Types</b>					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	69,406	52,761	81,554	65,029	27,258
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	58,874	44,070	70,305	56,075	23,911
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	52,480	41,254	61,181	50,779	20,806
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	50,532	38,830	59,475	48,613	20,467
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	46,366	34,246	54,567	43,170	18,720
<b>Alabama</b>	<b>59,015</b>	<b>42,934</b>	<b>69,766</b>	<b>54,001</b>	<b>23,483</b>
Appalachian Alabama	60,809	44,208	71,783	55,674	24,228
Non-Appalachian Alabama	55,777	40,994	66,053	51,597	22,152
<b>Georgia</b>	<b>67,610</b>	<b>49,736</b>	<b>77,836</b>	<b>59,262</b>	<b>25,383</b>
Appalachian Georgia	68,003	53,179	76,032	61,111	24,416
Non-Appalachian Georgia	67,449	48,270	78,673	58,479	25,802
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>57,451</b>	<b>42,248</b>	<b>68,045</b>	<b>53,151</b>	<b>23,033</b>
Appalachian Kentucky	45,048	32,062	53,227	40,860	17,948
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	62,022	46,509	73,736	58,563	24,956
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>94,020</b>	<b>72,419</b>	<b>109,597</b>	<b>87,233</b>	<b>35,751</b>
Appalachian Maryland	62,395	48,393	73,485	61,215	24,705
Non-Appalachian Maryland	95,521	73,863	111,290	89,499	36,259
<b>Mississippi</b>	<b>53,861</b>	<b>38,718</b>	<b>62,759</b>	<b>48,057</b>	<b>20,521</b>
Appalachian Mississippi	47,559	34,468	56,007	43,660	18,643
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	55,619	40,103	64,654	49,586	21,027
<b>New York</b>	<b>82,698</b>	<b>56,951</b>	<b>95,697</b>	<b>69,202</b>	<b>31,796</b>
Appalachian New York	57,973	45,355	69,269	56,967	23,539
Non-Appalachian New York	84,249	58,251	97,311	70,418	32,279
<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>63,298</b>	<b>46,291</b>	<b>74,432</b>	<b>57,171</b>	<b>25,256</b>
Appalachian North Carolina	55,898	41,379	66,625	52,388	23,300
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	65,011	47,701	76,205	58,568	25,683
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>63,477</b>	<b>48,071</b>	<b>75,698</b>	<b>60,762</b>	<b>25,618</b>
Appalachian Ohio	53,893	41,927	63,170	52,340	21,531
Non-Appalachian Ohio	65,506	49,668	78,464	63,058	26,499
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>69,282</b>	<b>51,651</b>	<b>83,126</b>	<b>65,105</b>	<b>27,824</b>
Appalachian Pennsylvania	60,690	46,162	73,010	58,680	25,102
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	76,962	57,514	92,073	72,164	30,119
<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>60,128</b>	<b>44,587</b>	<b>70,605</b>	<b>55,220</b>	<b>23,854</b>
Appalachian South Carolina	59,850	44,481	70,700	56,155	23,679
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	60,223	44,649	70,572	55,250	23,914
<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>60,516</b>	<b>43,989</b>	<b>71,248</b>	<b>54,332</b>	<b>24,197</b>
Appalachian Tennessee	54,988	40,341	65,365	50,982	22,665
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	65,142	47,501	76,187	58,141	25,399
<b>Virginia</b>	<b>85,323</b>	<b>63,302</b>	<b>98,742</b>	<b>75,962</b>	<b>33,040</b>
Appalachian Virginia	50,932	38,310	60,837	48,966	21,054
Non-Appalachian Virginia	89,265	67,345	103,017	80,424	34,327
<b>West Virginia (entire state)</b>	<b>52,980</b>	<b>39,550</b>	<b>63,427</b>	<b>50,511</b>	<b>22,010</b>

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey.

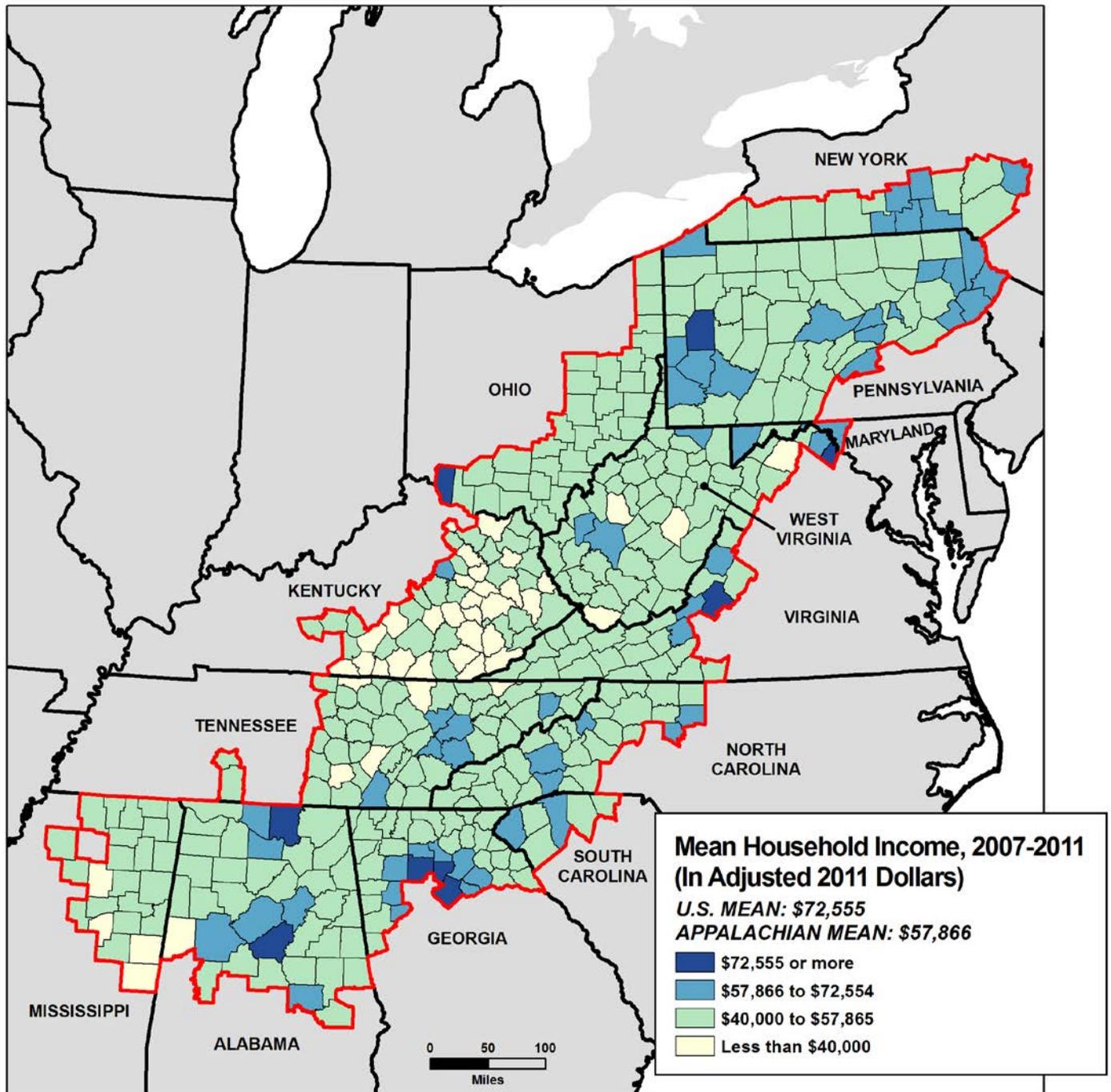
**Table 7.2: Poverty Status of Persons in the Appalachian Region, 2007-2011**

Poverty Status	Poverty Universe, 2007-2011	Persons Below Poverty Level, 2007-2011	
		Number	Percent
<b>United States</b>	<b>298,787,998</b>	<b>42,739,924</b>	<b>14.3</b>
<b>Appalachian Region</b>	<b>24,377,459</b>	<b>3,930,024</b>	<b>16.1</b>
<b>Subregions</b>			
Northern Appalachia	8,056,939	1,115,831	13.8
North Central Appalachia	2,338,380	399,577	17.1
Central Appalachia	1,859,177	436,587	23.5
South Central Appalachia	4,559,135	773,070	17.0
Southern Appalachia	7,563,828	1,204,959	15.9
<b>County Types</b>			
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	5,635,141	698,635	12.4
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	9,793,556	1,541,288	15.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	1,638,569	290,073	17.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	4,853,085	865,477	17.8
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	2,457,108	534,551	21.8
<b>Alabama</b>	<b>4,631,432</b>	<b>813,385</b>	<b>17.6</b>
Appalachian Alabama	2,970,650	486,228	16.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	1,660,782	327,157	19.7
<b>Georgia</b>	<b>9,336,746</b>	<b>1,541,462</b>	<b>16.5</b>
Appalachian Georgia	2,854,195	397,391	13.9
Non-Appalachian Georgia	6,482,551	1,144,071	17.6
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>4,186,093</b>	<b>756,947</b>	<b>18.1</b>
Appalachian Kentucky	1,143,841	283,169	24.8
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	3,042,252	473,778	15.6
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>5,597,203</b>	<b>502,610</b>	<b>9.0</b>
Appalachian Maryland	236,365	29,343	12.4
Non-Appalachian Maryland	5,360,838	473,267	8.8
<b>Mississippi</b>	<b>2,860,440</b>	<b>617,805</b>	<b>21.6</b>
Appalachian Mississippi	611,379	140,098	22.9
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	2,249,061	477,707	21.2
<b>New York</b>	<b>18,787,162</b>	<b>2,722,107</b>	<b>14.5</b>
Appalachian New York	1,008,359	159,659	15.8
Non-Appalachian New York	17,778,803	2,562,448	14.4
<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>9,162,147</b>	<b>1,473,556</b>	<b>16.1</b>
Appalachian North Carolina	1,641,745	276,940	16.9
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	7,520,402	1,196,616	15.9
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>11,213,528</b>	<b>1,654,193</b>	<b>14.8</b>
Appalachian Ohio	1,981,354	331,147	16.7
Non-Appalachian Ohio	9,232,174	1,323,046	14.3
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>12,246,520</b>	<b>1,548,869</b>	<b>12.6</b>
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5,571,308	726,574	13.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	6,675,212	822,295	12.3
<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>4,433,220</b>	<b>753,705</b>	<b>17.0</b>
Appalachian South Carolina	1,127,604	181,242	16.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	3,305,616	572,463	17.3
<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>6,139,176</b>	<b>1,036,199</b>	<b>16.9</b>
Appalachian Tennessee	2,701,981	471,679	17.5
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	3,437,195	564,520	16.4
<b>Virginia</b>	<b>7,681,393</b>	<b>818,422</b>	<b>10.7</b>
Appalachian Virginia	734,458	133,191	18.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	6,946,935	685,231	9.9
<b>West Virginia (entire state)</b>	<b>1,794,220</b>	<b>313,363</b>	<b>17.5</b>

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are determined by family size and composition. In 2011, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$22,811. The poverty universe does not include unrelated individuals under age 15, people living in college dormitories, and people living in institutional group quarters.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey.

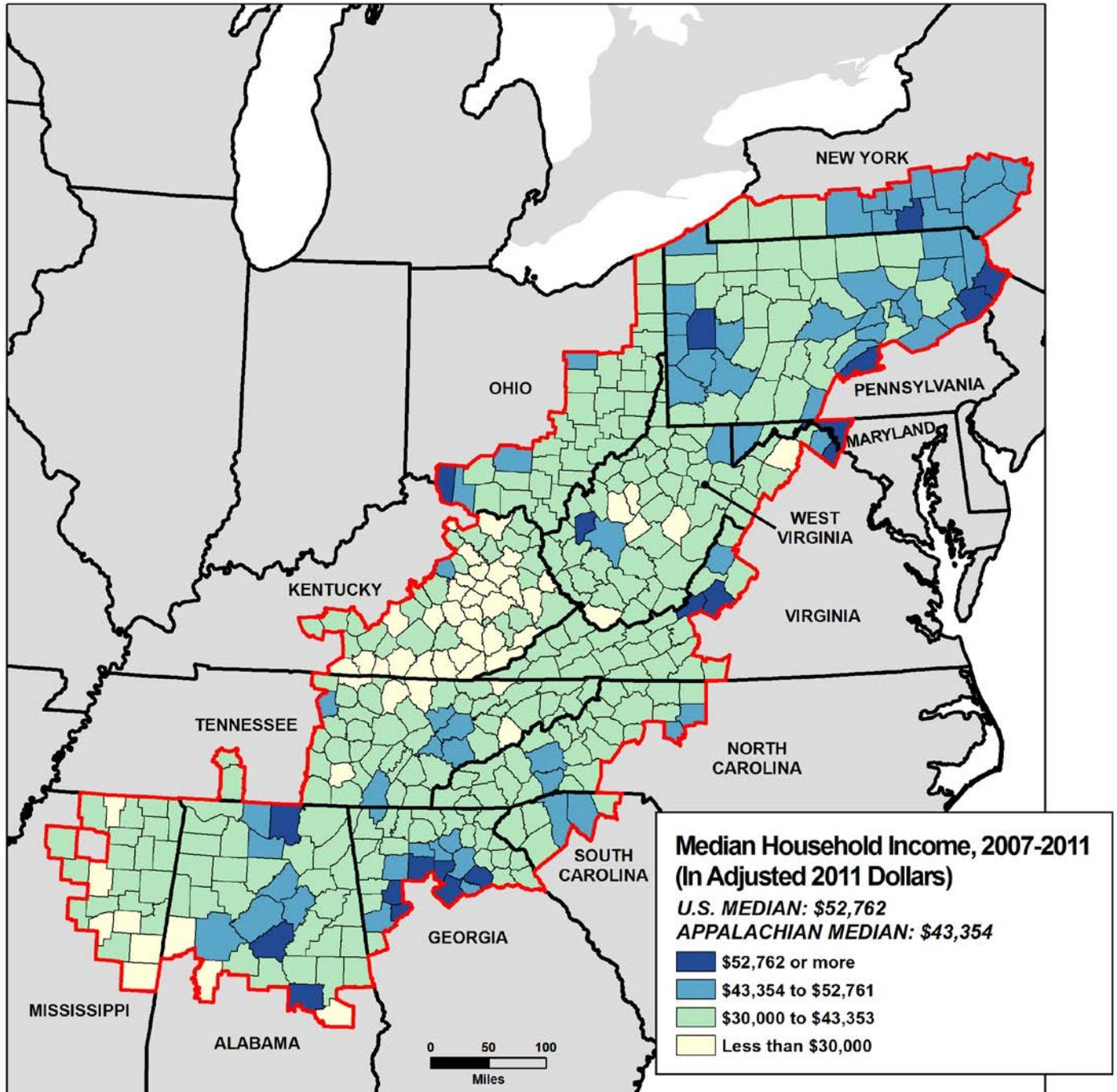
**Figure 7.1: Mean Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2011 Dollars), 2007-2011**



Map Title: Mean Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2011 Dollars), 2007-2011  
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey.

In the 2007-2011 period (which covers the years before, during, and after the economic recession of 2007-2009), the mean income of Appalachian households was \$57,866, just 80 percent of the U.S. average. In just nine of the region's counties, average household income matched or exceeded that of the nation as a whole. And in only 59 other counties, mean household income matched or surpassed the Appalachian average. All but 11 of the counties in these two groups were in metropolitan areas. In contrast, mean income was less than \$40,000 in 41 counties—40 of which were outside a metro area, and 31 of which were in central Appalachia.

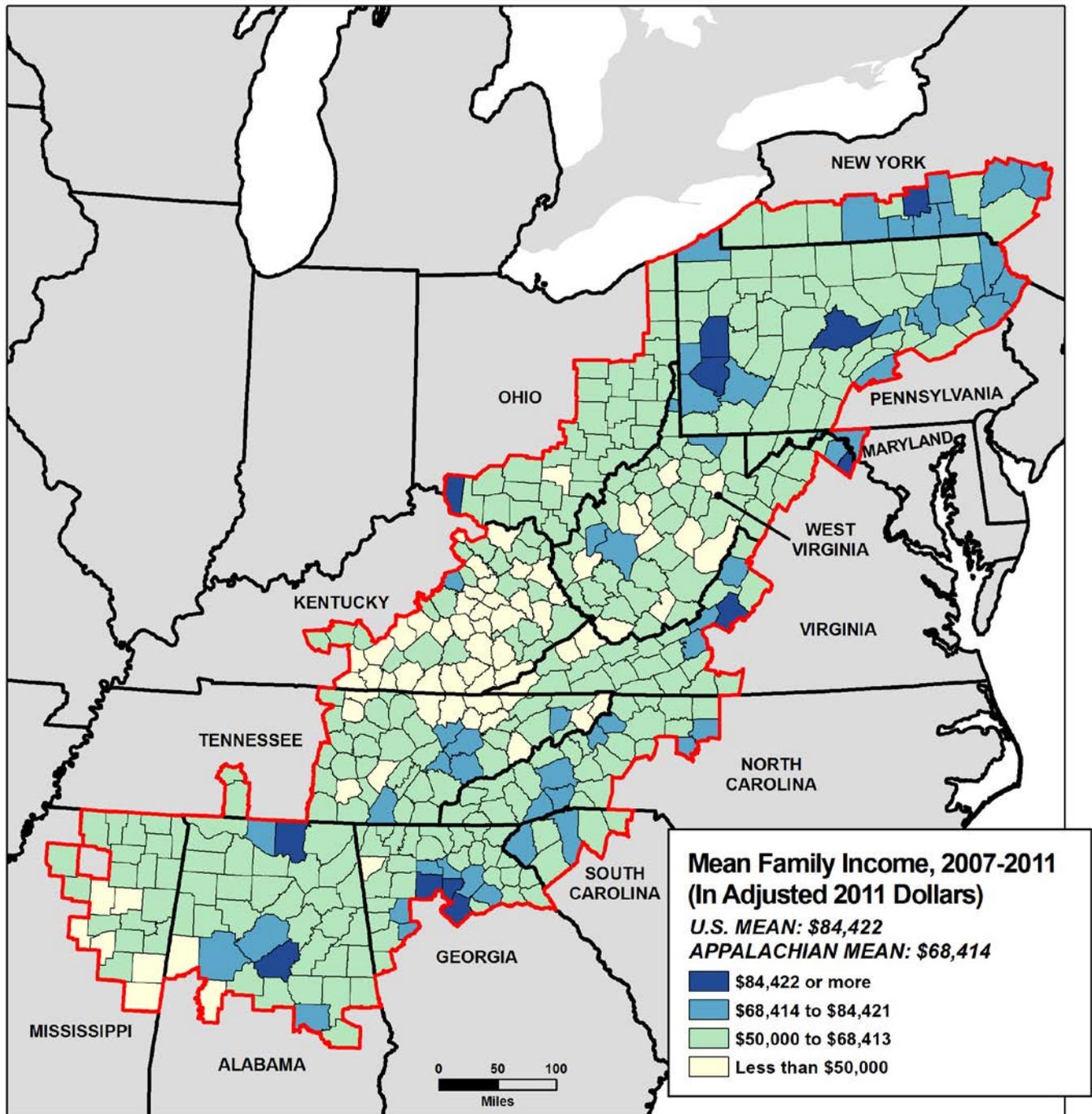
Figure 7.2: Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2011 Dollars), 2007-2011



Map Title: Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2011 Dollars), 2007-2011  
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey.

At \$43,354, median household income in Appalachia (the level at which half the households have higher incomes and the other half have lower incomes) was 82 percent that of the United States during the 2007-2011 period. There were 20 Appalachian counties (almost all of them in metropolitan areas) that had household incomes at or above the national median, while another 67 had incomes at or above the regional median. Conversely, 51 counties in the region had median household incomes below \$30,000—48 of which were outside metropolitan areas and 35 of which were in central Appalachia. This is not surprising given that median household income was only \$34,246 for rural counties not adjacent to any metro area and \$32,887 for central Appalachia.

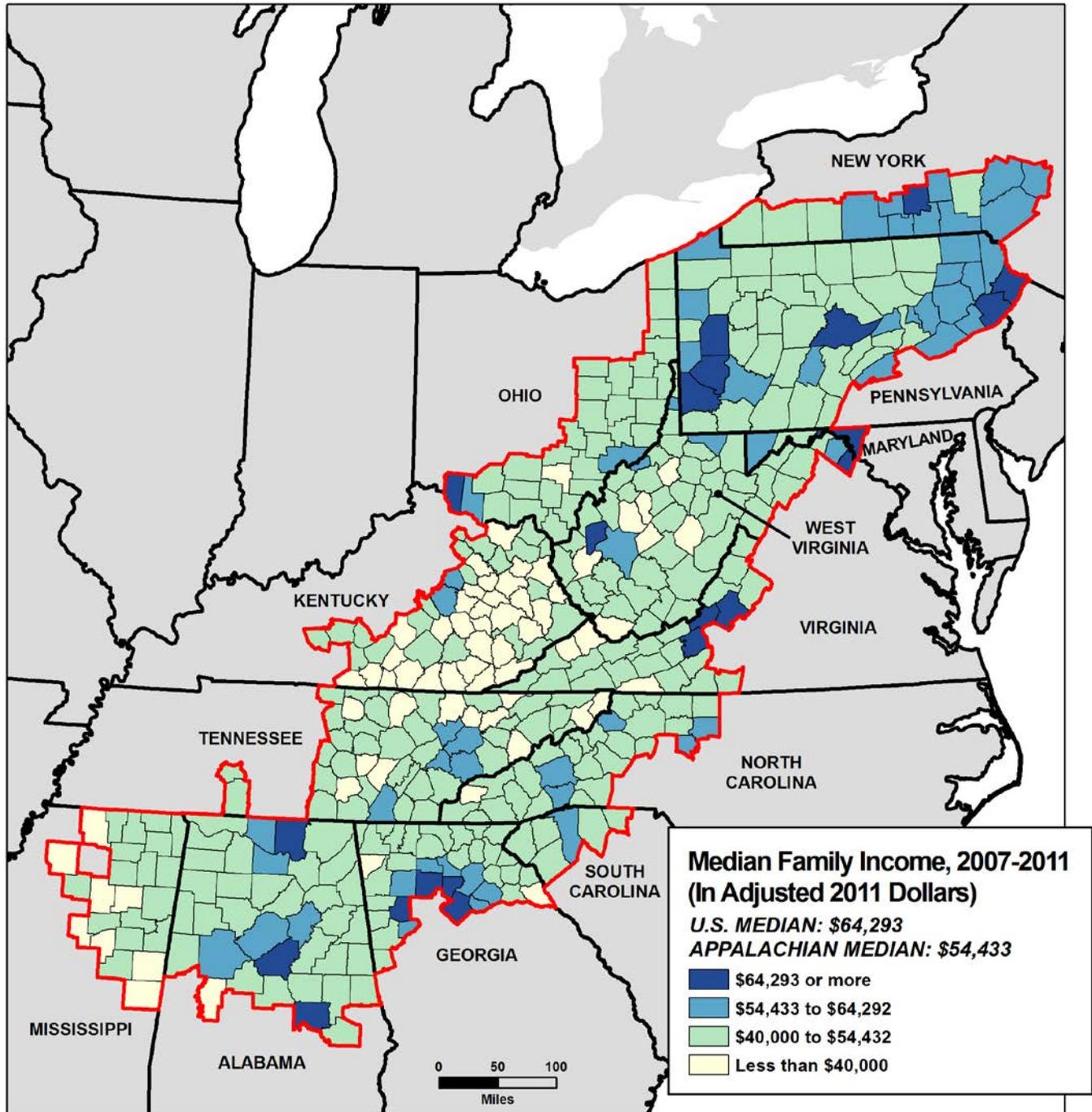
Figure 7.3: Mean Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2011 Dollars), 2007-2011



Map Title: Mean Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2011 Dollars), 2007-2011  
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey.

Only 12 Appalachian counties (all in metropolitan areas) had mean family incomes that matched or surpassed the U.S. average of \$84,422 for the 2007-2011 period. Indeed, in just an additional 55 counties (41 of which were part of metro areas) was mean family income equal to or greater than the Appalachian regional average (\$68,414). In contrast, mean family income was less than \$50,000 in 68 Appalachian counties. Most of these counties were either in the most remote rural areas or in central Appalachia. Mean family income over the 2007-2011 period (a time frame that includes extended periods of economic growth and decline) was less than \$55,000 for both of these areas.

Figure 7.4: Median Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2011 Dollars), 2007-2011

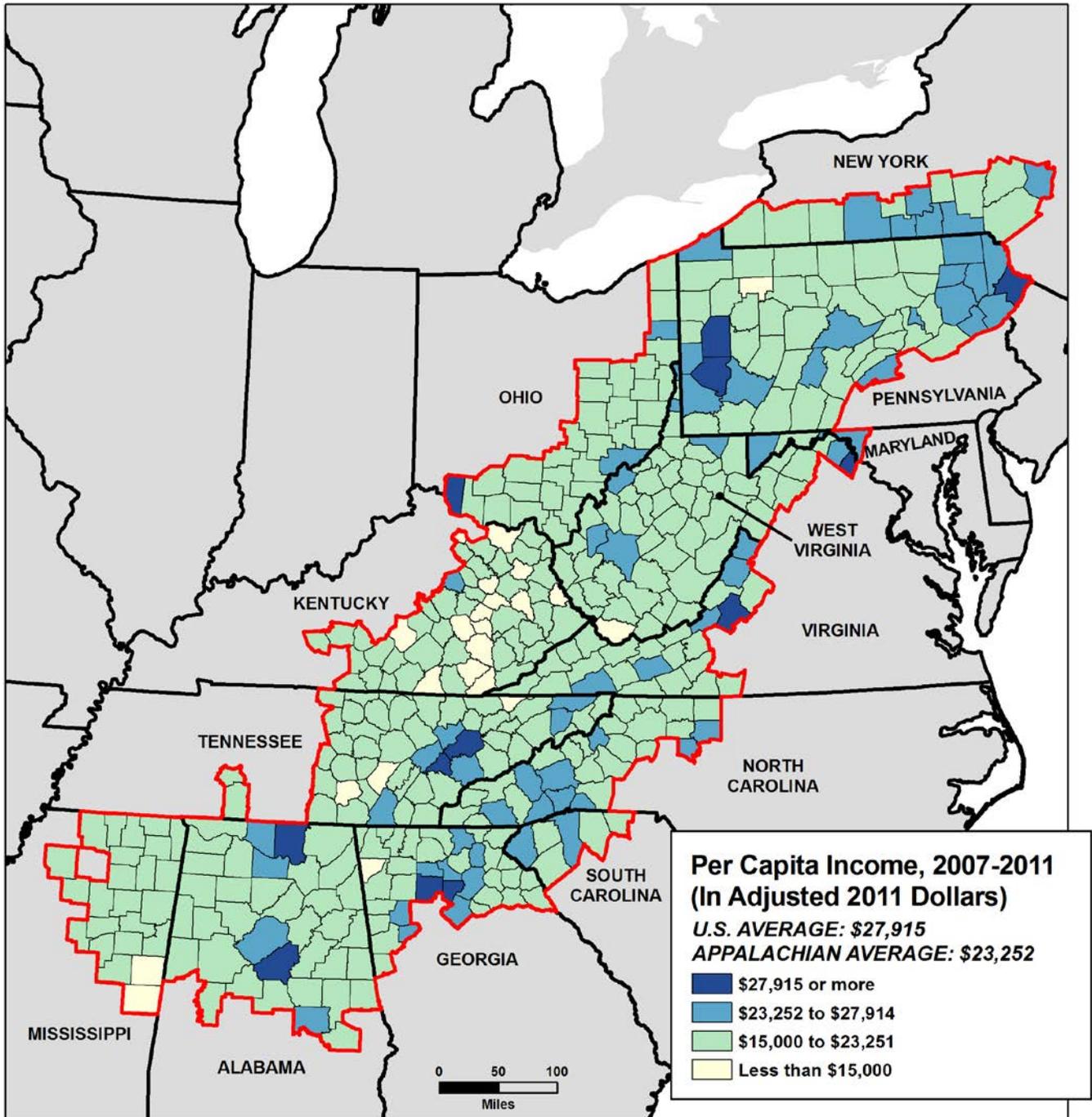


Map Title: Median Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2011 Dollars), 2007-2011

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey.

In 21 Appalachian counties—nearly all in metro areas—median family income (the level where half of all families have higher incomes while the other half have lower incomes) was at or above the U.S. median of \$64,293 during the 2007-2011 period. In another 58 counties (again, mostly in metro areas), median income matched or exceeded the median for families in the entire Appalachian region (\$54,433). In contrast, median family income was less than \$40,000 in 66 counties. Of the counties in this latter group, most were rural counties not adjacent to a metro area (median family income in those counties was just over \$43,000) and/or in central Appalachia (where median family income was slightly less than \$42,000). It is important to note that the 2007-2011 period includes one year of pre-recession economic growth and 18 months of slow post-recession recovery.

**Figure 7.5: Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2011 Dollars), 2007-2011**

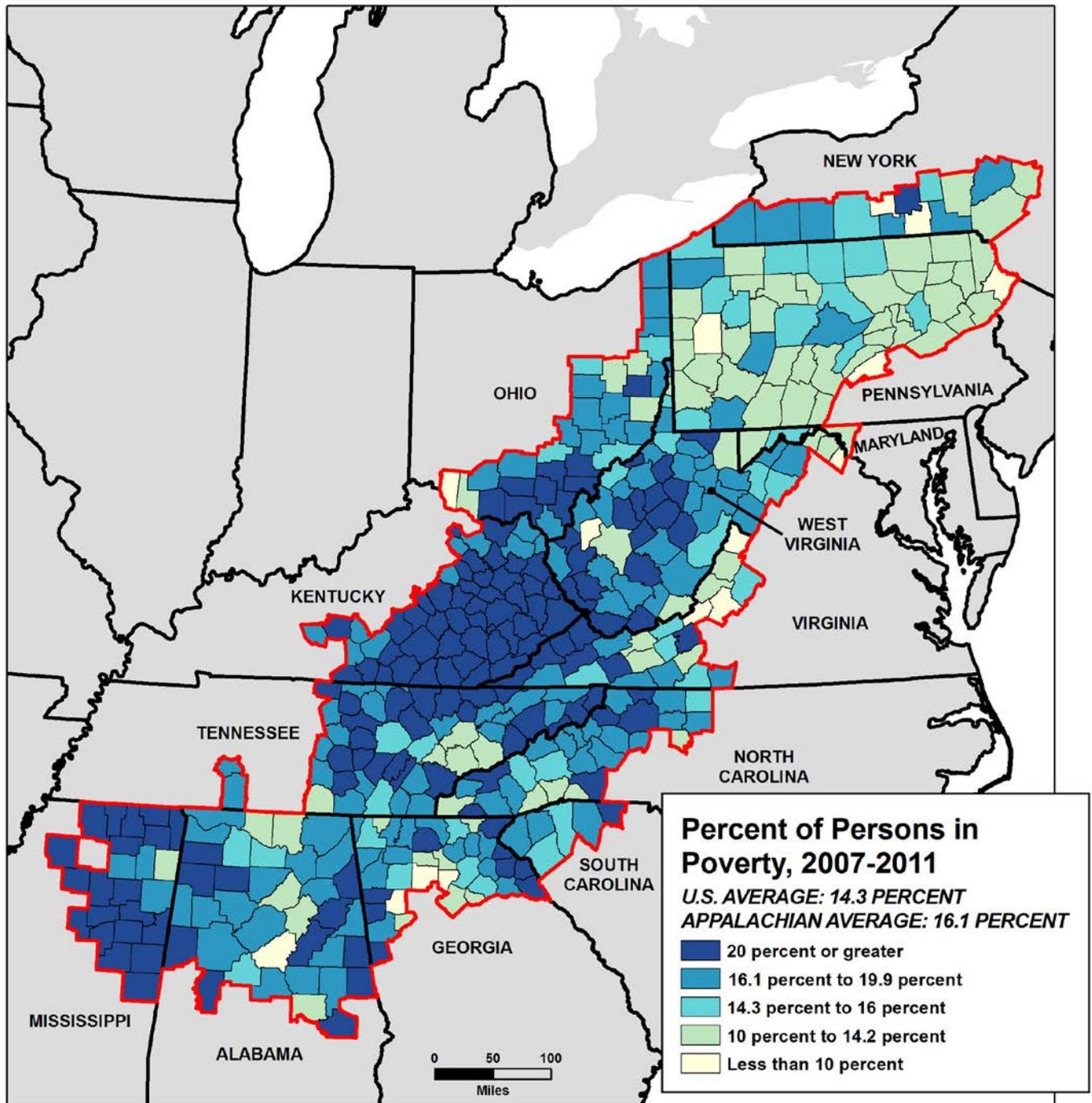


Map Title: Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2011 Dollars), 2007-2011

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey.

At \$23,252, per capita income in the Appalachian region in the 2007-2011 period was 84 percent that of the U.S. average of \$27,915. Within the region, there was substantial variation: Per capita income was the same or higher than the national average in 12 Appalachian counties and was at or above the regional average in 67 others. Yet in 23 Appalachian counties, per capita income was less than \$15,000. As with other income measures, the counties with the highest per capita incomes generally were in metro areas, while the ones with the lowest were in rural areas, particularly in central Appalachia. Indeed, per capita income in the 2007-2011 period was just \$18,720 in rural Appalachian counties as a whole, and just \$18,197 in central Appalachia.

Figure 7.6: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2007-2011



Map Title: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2007-2011

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey.

Over the 2007-2011 period (which includes years of economic growth and downturn), about one in six Appalachian residents lived below the poverty level (income below \$22,811 for a family of two adults and two children in 2011)—nearly two percentage points above the U.S. average. Both rates are higher than they were in the 2000 Census, likely a result of the inability of incomes in the post-recovery period to fully return to pre-recession levels. Within the region, there is much variation: In 148 counties, at least one-fifth of persons were poor, yet in another 92 counties the poverty rate was below the national average. And there was a regional and urban/rural pattern: All but a handful of the counties with poverty rates exceeding 20 percent were outside of metropolitan areas, and most were in central, south central, and southern Appalachia. In contrast, most of the counties with poverty levels below the U.S. rate were in metropolitan areas, and about half were in northern Appalachia.