

CHAPTER 9: DISABILITY STATUS

Table 9.1: Number of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, by Age Group, 2009-2013

| Disability Status | All Ages | Under Age 18 | Ages 18-64 | | | Ages 65 and Over |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | | Total | Ages 18-34 | Ages 35-64 | |
| United States | 37,168,880 | 2,972,823 | 19,403,946 | 3,958,549 | 15,445,397 | 14,792,111 |
| Appalachian Region | 3,913,226 | 274,112 | 2,131,130 | 389,614 | 1,741,516 | 1,507,984 |
| Subregions | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 1,197,511 | 91,518 | 610,029 | 121,034 | 488,995 | 495,964 |
| North Central Appalachia | 421,695 | 28,366 | 236,934 | 43,672 | 193,262 | 156,395 |
| Central Appalachia | 432,851 | 25,531 | 264,105 | 41,991 | 222,114 | 143,215 |
| South Central Appalachia | 765,948 | 49,174 | 412,683 | 71,777 | 340,906 | 304,091 |
| Southern Appalachia | 1,095,221 | 79,523 | 607,379 | 111,140 | 496,239 | 408,319 |
| County Types | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 739,720 | 58,096 | 393,743 | 76,654 | 317,089 | 287,881 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 1,602,506 | 112,028 | 867,542 | 164,989 | 702,553 | 622,936 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 354,217 | 26,371 | 191,768 | 33,880 | 157,888 | 136,078 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 715,981 | 47,351 | 390,326 | 66,240 | 324,086 | 278,304 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 500,802 | 30,266 | 287,751 | 47,851 | 239,900 | 182,785 |
| Alabama | 766,399 | 54,595 | 427,513 | 78,666 | 348,847 | 284,291 |
| Appalachian Alabama | 482,379 | 32,320 | 269,697 | 48,342 | 221,355 | 180,362 |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 284,020 | 22,275 | 157,816 | 30,324 | 127,492 | 103,929 |
| Georgia | 1,147,708 | 97,412 | 639,843 | 127,911 | 511,932 | 410,453 |
| Appalachian Georgia | 339,128 | 29,029 | 186,062 | 35,725 | 150,337 | 124,037 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 808,580 | 68,383 | 453,781 | 92,186 | 361,595 | 286,416 |
| Kentucky | 717,889 | 56,566 | 417,332 | 79,892 | 337,440 | 243,991 |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 261,857 | 17,212 | 161,019 | 27,325 | 133,694 | 83,626 |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 456,032 | 39,354 | 256,313 | 52,567 | 203,746 | 160,365 |
| Maryland | 588,940 | 49,771 | 302,772 | 62,712 | 240,060 | 236,397 |
| Appalachian Maryland | 37,560 | 3,349 | 20,066 | 4,472 | 15,594 | 14,145 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 551,380 | 46,422 | 282,706 | 58,240 | 224,466 | 222,252 |
| Mississippi | 474,886 | 35,497 | 266,622 | 49,684 | 216,938 | 172,767 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 109,434 | 6,714 | 61,686 | 10,777 | 50,909 | 41,034 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 365,452 | 28,783 | 204,936 | 38,907 | 166,029 | 131,733 |
| New York | 2,090,781 | 156,991 | 1,047,508 | 214,209 | 833,299 | 886,282 |
| Appalachian New York | 143,867 | 12,514 | 74,913 | 16,155 | 58,758 | 56,440 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 1,946,914 | 144,477 | 972,595 | 198,054 | 774,541 | 829,842 |
| North Carolina | 1,253,681 | 100,359 | 674,893 | 126,529 | 548,364 | 478,429 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 254,573 | 16,540 | 131,935 | 22,711 | 109,224 | 106,098 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 999,108 | 83,819 | 542,958 | 103,818 | 439,140 | 372,331 |
| Ohio | 1,515,538 | 129,675 | 811,763 | 165,358 | 646,405 | 574,100 |
| Appalachian Ohio | 315,355 | 24,176 | 173,065 | 32,102 | 140,963 | 118,114 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 1,200,183 | 105,499 | 638,698 | 133,256 | 505,442 | 455,986 |
| Pennsylvania | 1,651,733 | 136,833 | 839,281 | 172,896 | 666,385 | 675,619 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 828,154 | 62,340 | 415,892 | 82,410 | 333,482 | 349,922 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 823,579 | 74,493 | 423,389 | 90,486 | 332,903 | 325,697 |
| South Carolina | 637,041 | 43,233 | 348,831 | 62,773 | 286,058 | 244,977 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 164,280 | 11,460 | 89,934 | 16,296 | 73,638 | 62,886 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 472,761 | 31,773 | 258,897 | 46,477 | 212,420 | 182,091 |
| Tennessee | 953,492 | 67,713 | 535,421 | 97,739 | 437,682 | 350,358 |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 487,447 | 31,725 | 271,545 | 46,522 | 225,023 | 184,177 |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 466,045 | 35,988 | 263,876 | 51,217 | 212,659 | 166,181 |
| Virginia | 864,380 | 66,472 | 453,544 | 91,636 | 361,908 | 344,364 |
| Appalachian Virginia | 140,726 | 6,468 | 78,202 | 12,524 | 65,678 | 56,056 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 723,654 | 60,004 | 375,342 | 79,112 | 296,230 | 288,308 |
| West Virginia (entire state) | 348,466 | 20,265 | 197,114 | 34,253 | 162,861 | 131,087 |

Note: The ACS defines persons with a disability as having difficulty in at least one of the following six areas: hearing, vision, cognition, walking or climbing, self-care, or attending to the functions of independent living. The disability universe consists of the civilian noninstitutional population.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey.

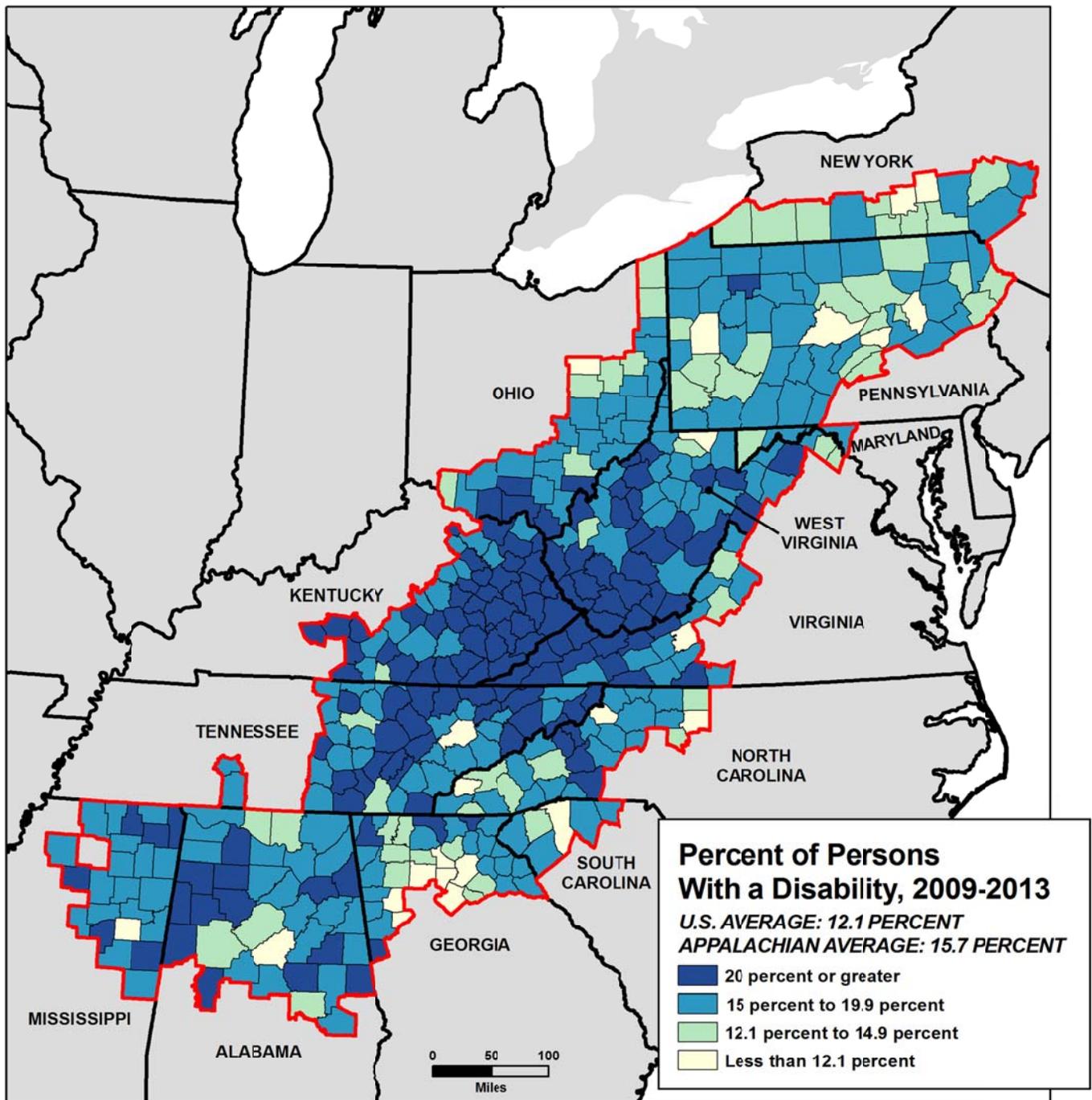
Table 9.2: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, by Age Group, 2009-2013

| Disability Status | All Ages | Under Age 18 | Ages 18-64 | | | Ages 65 and Over |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------------|
| | | | Total | Ages 18-34 | Ages 35-64 | |
| United States | 12.1 | 4.0 | 10.1 | 5.6 | 12.7 | 36.5 |
| Appalachian Region | 15.7 | 4.9 | 13.8 | 7.3 | 17.1 | 39.7 |
| Subregions | | | | | | |
| Northern Appalachia | 14.6 | 5.3 | 12.0 | 7.0 | 14.5 | 36.1 |
| North Central Appalachia | 17.7 | 5.4 | 15.9 | 8.6 | 19.7 | 42.5 |
| Central Appalachia | 23.1 | 6.1 | 22.6 | 11.0 | 28.3 | 50.0 |
| South Central Appalachia | 16.4 | 4.9 | 14.2 | 7.2 | 17.8 | 39.3 |
| Southern Appalachia | 14.1 | 4.1 | 12.6 | 6.5 | 15.9 | 40.9 |
| County Types | | | | | | |
| Large Metros (pop. 1 million +) | 12.7 | 4.2 | 10.8 | 6.1 | 13.1 | 36.8 |
| Small Metros (pop. <1 million) | 15.3 | 4.9 | 13.2 | 7.1 | 16.5 | 38.9 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros | 16.4 | 5.4 | 14.4 | 7.5 | 18.0 | 39.8 |
| Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros | 18.3 | 5.6 | 16.4 | 8.6 | 20.1 | 41.4 |
| Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro) | 20.1 | 5.4 | 18.7 | 9.1 | 23.7 | 45.5 |
| Alabama | 16.2 | 4.9 | 14.6 | 7.4 | 18.7 | 43.0 |
| Appalachian Alabama | 15.9 | 4.6 | 14.2 | 7.1 | 18.2 | 42.6 |
| Non-Appalachian Alabama | 16.8 | 5.4 | 15.2 | 7.8 | 19.5 | 43.8 |
| Georgia | 11.9 | 3.9 | 10.5 | 5.7 | 13.4 | 38.7 |
| Appalachian Georgia | 11.5 | 3.7 | 10.2 | 5.7 | 12.5 | 38.5 |
| Non-Appalachian Georgia | 12.1 | 4.0 | 10.7 | 5.7 | 13.8 | 38.8 |
| Kentucky | 16.8 | 5.6 | 15.6 | 8.4 | 19.5 | 42.5 |
| Appalachian Kentucky | 22.6 | 6.5 | 22.3 | 11.2 | 27.9 | 49.5 |
| Non-Appalachian Kentucky | 14.6 | 5.2 | 13.1 | 7.5 | 16.3 | 39.5 |
| Maryland | 10.3 | 3.7 | 8.2 | 4.8 | 10.1 | 33.1 |
| Appalachian Maryland | 15.7 | 6.3 | 13.6 | 9.0 | 16.0 | 36.7 |
| Non-Appalachian Maryland | 10.0 | 3.6 | 8.0 | 4.6 | 9.9 | 32.9 |
| Mississippi | 16.3 | 4.8 | 14.9 | 7.4 | 19.5 | 45.6 |
| Appalachian Mississippi | 17.7 | 4.4 | 16.3 | 7.6 | 21.5 | 46.7 |
| Non-Appalachian Mississippi | 16.0 | 4.8 | 14.6 | 7.4 | 18.9 | 45.2 |
| New York | 10.9 | 3.7 | 8.5 | 4.6 | 10.8 | 34.2 |
| Appalachian New York | 13.8 | 5.7 | 11.3 | 6.5 | 14.2 | 34.6 |
| Non-Appalachian New York | 10.7 | 3.6 | 8.3 | 4.5 | 10.6 | 34.1 |
| North Carolina | 13.3 | 4.4 | 11.4 | 6.0 | 14.4 | 38.1 |
| Appalachian North Carolina | 15.1 | 4.6 | 12.7 | 6.6 | 15.8 | 37.1 |
| Non-Appalachian North Carolina | 12.9 | 4.4 | 11.1 | 5.9 | 14.1 | 38.4 |
| Ohio | 13.3 | 4.8 | 11.5 | 6.7 | 14.1 | 35.9 |
| Appalachian Ohio | 15.8 | 5.2 | 14.2 | 8.0 | 17.2 | 38.0 |
| Non-Appalachian Ohio | 12.8 | 4.7 | 10.9 | 6.4 | 13.4 | 35.5 |
| Pennsylvania | 13.2 | 5.0 | 10.7 | 6.3 | 13.1 | 35.1 |
| Appalachian Pennsylvania | 14.6 | 5.3 | 11.8 | 6.9 | 14.3 | 36.3 |
| Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania | 12.0 | 4.7 | 9.8 | 5.8 | 12.1 | 33.9 |
| South Carolina | 13.9 | 4.0 | 12.2 | 6.1 | 15.7 | 37.8 |
| Appalachian South Carolina | 14.0 | 4.1 | 12.3 | 6.2 | 15.8 | 38.2 |
| Non-Appalachian South Carolina | 13.9 | 4.0 | 12.2 | 6.1 | 15.6 | 37.6 |
| Tennessee | 15.1 | 4.5 | 13.6 | 6.9 | 17.2 | 40.7 |
| Appalachian Tennessee | 17.6 | 5.2 | 15.8 | 8.0 | 19.8 | 41.3 |
| Non-Appalachian Tennessee | 13.2 | 4.1 | 11.8 | 6.2 | 15.1 | 40.1 |
| Virginia | 11.0 | 3.6 | 9.0 | 5.0 | 11.3 | 34.6 |
| Appalachian Virginia | 18.7 | 4.4 | 16.4 | 7.4 | 21.4 | 43.4 |
| Non-Appalachian Virginia | 10.2 | 3.5 | 8.2 | 4.8 | 10.2 | 33.2 |
| West Virginia (entire state) | 19.1 | 5.3 | 17.2 | 9.0 | 21.4 | 44.3 |

Note: The ACS defines persons with a disability as having difficulty in at least one of the following six areas: hearing, vision, cognition, walking or climbing, self-care, or attending to the functions of independent living. The disability universe consists of the civilian noninstitutional population.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey.

Figure 9.1: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2009-2013

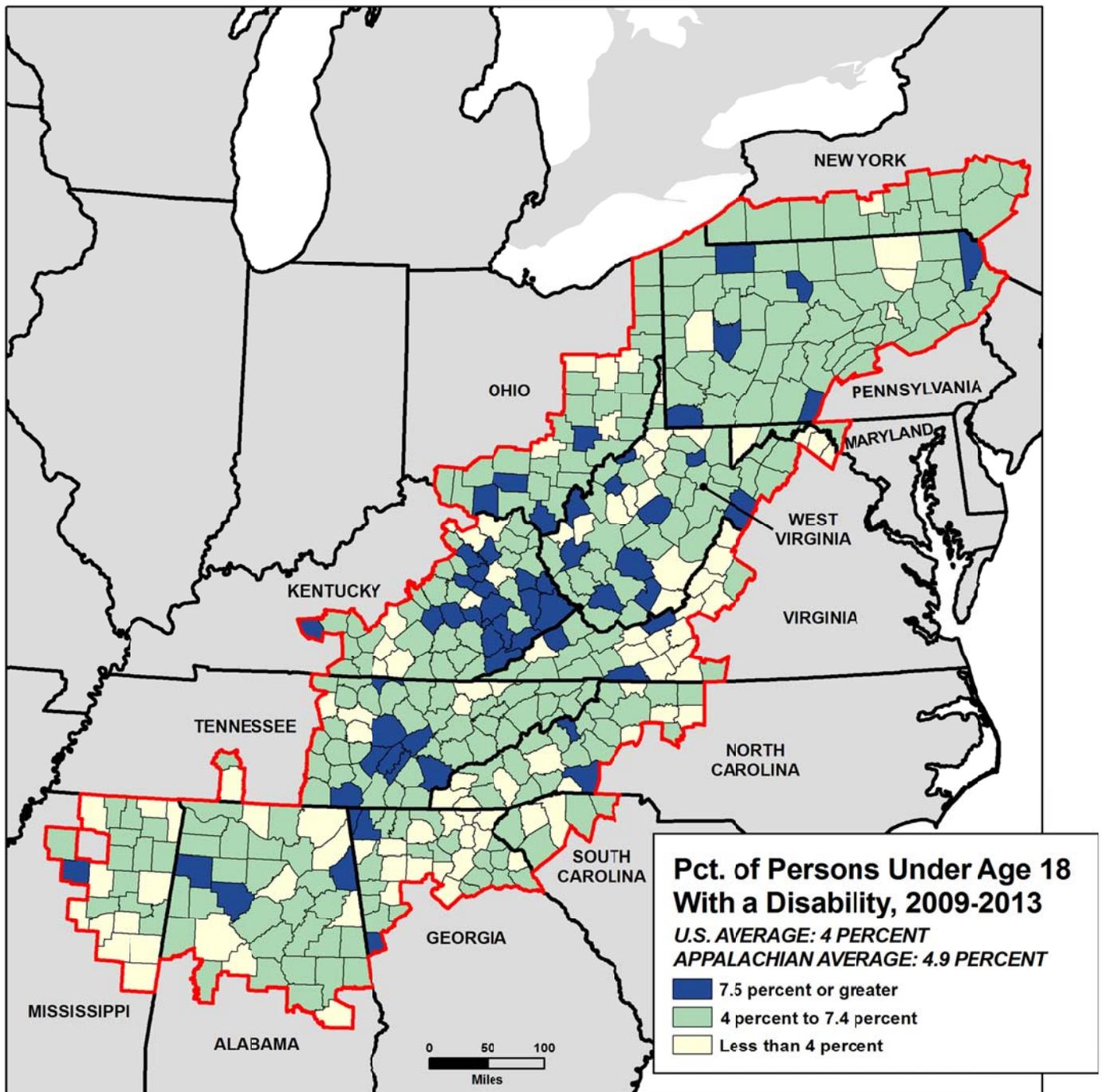


Map Title: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2009-2013

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey.

In the 2009-2013 period, about one in six Appalachian residents reported having a disability, which the ACS defines as having difficulty in at least one of the following six areas: hearing, vision, cognition, walking or climbing, self-care, or attending to the functions of independent living. Disability prevalence is particularly high in some parts of the Region; the rate was 20 percent or more in 136 counties, nearly half of which were in Central Appalachia. The Region's relatively high disability rate corresponds to the population's older age structure: In 108 of the counties with the highest disability prevalence levels, at least 15 percent of the residents were age 65 or older.

Figure 9.2: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2009-2013

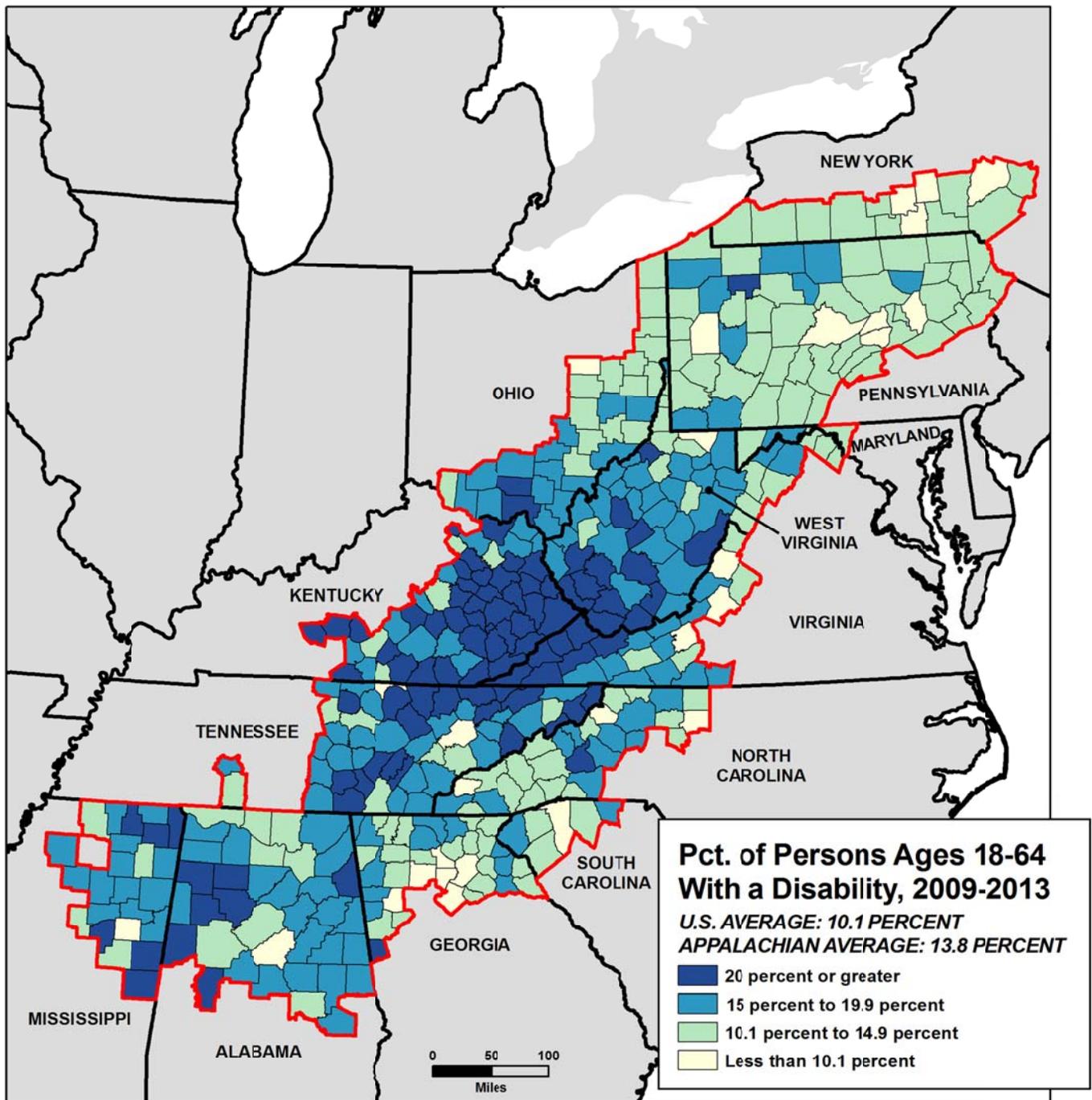


Map Title: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2009-2013

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey.

At nearly 5 percent, the prevalence of disability among children under age 18 in Appalachia was slightly higher than the national average during the 2009-2013 period. But there was variation within the Region. For example, the rate was at least 7.5 percent in 58 counties, all but a handful of which were outside metropolitan areas. In 102 other counties, however, the disability prevalence was below the national average of 4 percent, and these were scattered throughout the Appalachian Region.

Figure 9.3: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2009-2013

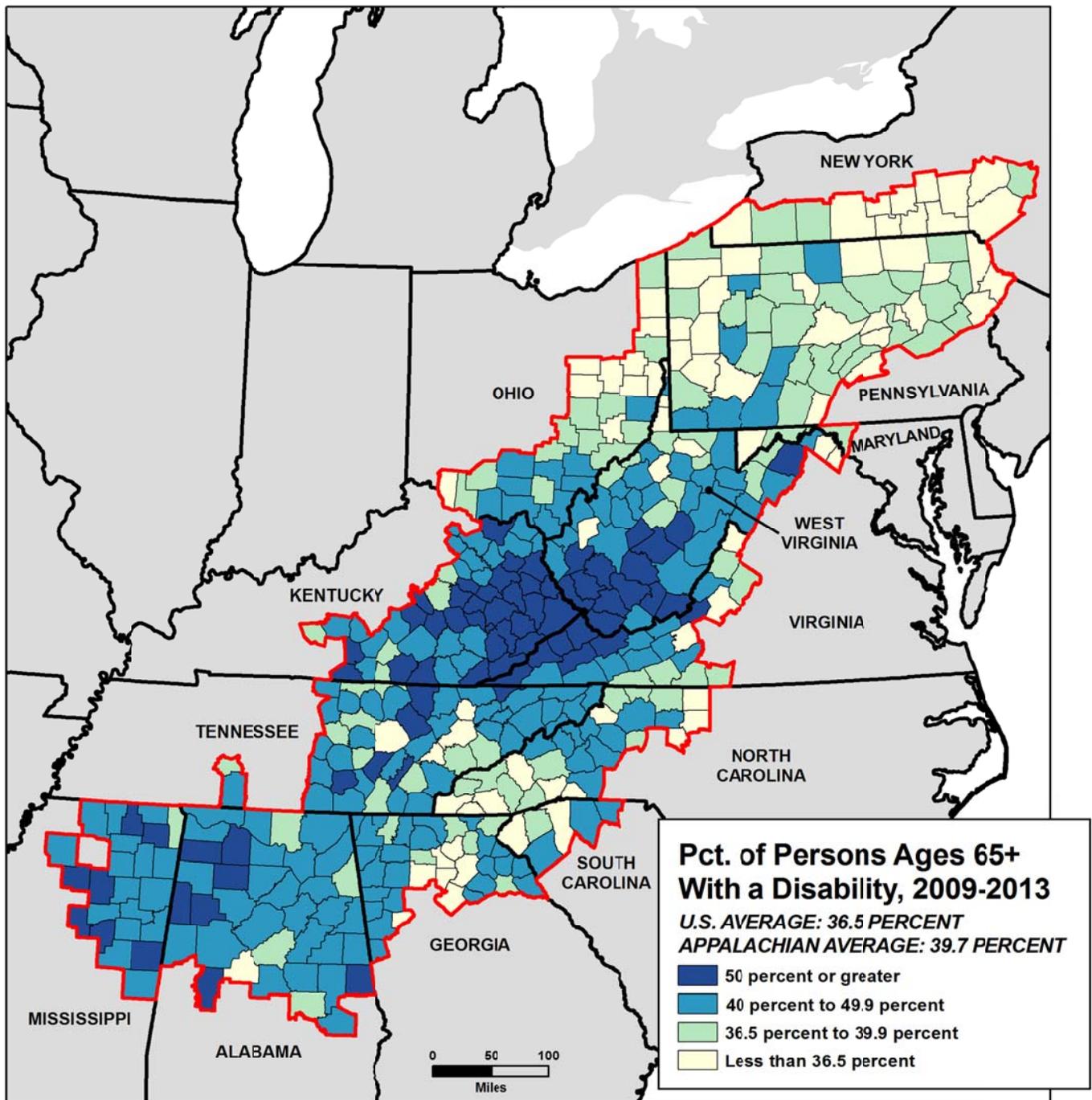


Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2009-2013

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey.

In the 2009-2013 period, approximately one in seven adults ages 18 to 64 in Appalachia reported a disability, compared with one in 10 in the nation as a whole. Disability prevalence was particularly high in some parts of the Region: In Central Appalachia, for example, more than one-fifth of working-age adults had a disability. Indeed, Central Appalachia had 58 of the 94 Appalachian counties where the disability rate among 18-to-64-year-olds was 20 percent or higher.

Figure 9.4: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2009-2013



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2009-2013

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey.

Two-fifths of adults ages 65 and over in the Appalachian Region reported a disability in the 2009-2013 period, slightly higher than the national share. And the prevalence was even greater in some parts of the Region: At least half of the older residents in 70 counties (44 of which were in Central Appalachia) had at least one disability. Yet in 79 other Appalachian counties, the disability rate for the older population actually was lower than the national average. Nearly all of these low-prevalence counties were in Northern, South Central, and Southern Appalachia.