

THE APPALACHIAN REGION: A DATA OVERVIEW FROM THE 2020-2024 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY Chartbook

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	1
CHAPTER 1: POPULATION BASICS	2
Table 1.1: Population, Land Area, and Population Density in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2024	2
Figure 1.1: Population Distribution in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2024	3
Figure 1.2: Population Change in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2024	4
Figure 1.3: Population per Square Mile of Land Area in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2024	5
BASIC POPULATION TRENDS	6
CHAPTER 2: AGE	7
Table 2.1: Population in the Appalachian Region by Age Group, July 1, 2024	7
Figure 2.1: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Under Age 18, July 1, 2024	8
Figure 2.2: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 18 to 24, July 1, 2024	9
Figure 2.3: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 25 to 64, July 1, 2024	10
Figure 2.4: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 65 and Over, July 1, 2024	11
Figure 2.5: Median Age of Persons in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2024	12
Table 2.2: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region, by Age Group, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2024	13
TRENDS IN AGE	14
CHAPTER 3: RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN	15
Table 3.1: Population in the Appalachian Region by Race and Hispanic Origin, July 1, 2024	15
Figure 3.1: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are People of Color, July 1, 2024	16
Figure 3.2: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are Black Alone, not Hispanic, July 1, 2024	17
Figure 3.3: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are Hispanic or Latino, July 1, 2024	18
Table 3.2: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region, by Race and Hispanic Origin, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2024	19
Figure 3.4: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are Black Alone, not Hispanic, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2024	20
Figure 3.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are Hispanic or Latino, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2024	21
TRENDS IN RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN	22
CHAPTER 4: HOUSING OCCUPANCY, TENURE, AND TYPE	23
Table 4.1: Occupancy and Tenure of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024	23
Figure 4.1: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Occupied, 2020-2024	24
Figure 4.2: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Vacant, 2020-2024	25
Figure 4.3: Percent Owner-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024	26
Figure 4.4: Percent Renter-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024	27
Table 4.2: Percentage Point Change in Occupancy and Tenure of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	28
Figure 4.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Occupied, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	29
Figure 4.6: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Vacant, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	30
Figure 4.7: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Owner-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	31
Figure 4.8: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Renter-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	32
Table 4.3: Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, by Type of Housing, 2020-2024	33
Figure 4.9: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached), 2020-2024	34

Table 4.4: Population in Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, by Type of Housing, 2020-2024	35
Figure 4.10: Among Persons in the Appalachian Region in Occupied Housing Units, Percent Living in Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached), 2020-2024	36
Table 4.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, by Type of Housing, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	37
Figure 4.11: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached), 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	38
Table 4.6: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, by Type of Housing, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	39
Figure 4.12: Among Persons in the Appalachian Region in Occupied Housing Units, Percentage Point Change in the Share Living in Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached), 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	40
TRENDS IN HOUSING OCCUPANCY, TENURE, AND TYPE	41
CHAPTER 5: HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS	42
Table 5.1: Population in Households and Group Quarters in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024	42
Table 5.2: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Living in Households and Group Quarters, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	43
Figure 5.1: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Living in Family Households, 2020-2024	44
Figure 5.2: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Living in Family Households, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	45
Table 5.3: Among Children Under 18 in the Appalachian Region Living in Households, Percent That Live in Married Couple, Cohabiting Couple, or Male or Female-Headed Households without a Spouse/Partner Present, 2020-2024	46
Figure 5.3: Among Children Under 18 in the Appalachian Region Living in Family Households, Percent That Live in Male or Female-Headed Households Without a Spouse/Partner Present, 2020-2024	47
Table 5.4: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region That Are Housing Cost Burdened, by Tenure, 2020-2024	48
Figure 5.4: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region That Are Housing Cost Burdened, 2020-2024	49
Table 5.5: Percent of Renter-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Housing Cost Burdened by Age of Householder, 2020-2024	50
Table 5.6: Percent of Owner-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Housing Cost Burdened by Age of Householder, 2020-2024	51
Table 5.7: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region That Are Housing Cost Burdened, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	52
TRENDS IN HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS	53
CHAPTER 6: EDUCATION, DEVICE OWNERSHIP, AND INTERNET ACCESS	54
Table 6.1: Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024	54
Table 6.2: Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024	55
Table 6.3: Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024	56
Figure 6.1: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2020-2024	57
Figure 6.2: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma but With No Postsecondary Degree, 2020-2024	58
Figure 6.3: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With an Associate's Degree but Without a Bachelor's Degree, 2020-2024	59
Figure 6.4: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2020-2024	60
Figure 6.5: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2020-2024	61
Figure 6.6: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma but With No Postsecondary Degree, 2020-2024	62
Figure 6.7: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With an Associate's Degree but Without a Bachelor's Degree, 2020-2024	63
Figure 6.8: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2020-2024	64
Figure 6.9: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2020-2024	65

Table 6.4: Percentage Point Change in Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	66
Table 6.5: Percentage Point Change in Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	67
Table 6.6: Percentage Point Change in Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	68
Figure 6.10: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	69
Figure 6.11: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With an Associate's Degree but Without a Bachelor's Degree, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	70
Figure 6.12: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	71
Table 6.7: Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major) for Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2020-2024	72
Figure 6.13: Among Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, Percent Whose Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major) Was Science and Engineering, 2020-2024	73
Table 6.8: Percentage Point Change in Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major) for Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	74
Figure 6.14: Among Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, Percentage Point Change in the Share Whose Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major) Was Science and Engineering, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	75
Table 6.9: Households in the Appalachian Region With a Computer Device, By Type of Device, 2020-2024	76
Figure 6.15: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Computer Device, 2020-2024	77
Table 6.10: Households in the Appalachian Region With an Internet Subscription, By Type of Subscription, 2020-2024	78
Figure 6.16: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Broadband Internet Subscription, 2020-2024	79
Table 6.11: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Computer Device, By Type of Device, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	80
Figure 6.17: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Computer Device, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	81
Table 6.12: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region With an Internet Subscription, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	82
Figure 6.18: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Broadband Internet Subscription, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	83
TRENDS IN EDUCATION, DEVICE OWNERSHIP, AND INTERNET ACCESS	84
CHAPTER 7: LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT	85
Table 7.1: Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Status of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024	85
Figure 7.1: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the Civilian Labor Force, 2020-2024	86
Figure 7.2: Employment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024	87
Figure 7.3: Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024	88
Table 7.2: Percentage Point Change in Civilian Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Status of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	89
Figure 7.4: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the Civilian Labor Force, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	90
Figure 7.5: Percentage Point Change in the Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	91
TRENDS IN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT	92
CHAPTER 8: TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUTING PATTERNS	93
Table 8.1: Means of Transportation for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024	93
Table 8.2: Means of Transportation for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Below the Poverty Level, 2020-2024	94

Table 8.3: Availability of Vehicles for Households in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024	95
Table 8.4: Number of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Live in Households With No Vehicle Available, by Means of Transportation, 2020-2024	96
Table 8.5: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Live in Households With No Vehicle Available, by Means of Transportation, 2020-2024	97
Table 8.6: Relationship Between Number of Workers and Availability of Vehicles for Households in the Appalachian Region With One or More Workers, 2020-2024	98
Table 8.7: Travel Time to Work for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, by Amount of Time, 2020-2024	99
Table 8.8: Place of Work (State and County Level) for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024	100
Figure 8.1: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Drove Alone to Work, 2020-2024	101
Figure 8.2: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over Below the Poverty Level in the Appalachian Region Who Drove Alone to Work, 2020-2024	102
Figure 8.3: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region With No Vehicle Available, 2020-2024	103
Figure 8.4: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Live in Households With No Vehicle Available, 2020-2024	104
Figure 8.5: Percent of Households With One or More Workers in the Appalachian Region Where the Number of Workers Exceeds the Number of Vehicles Available, 2020-2024	105
Figure 8.6: Mean Travel Time to Work for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024	106
Figure 8.7: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Work Outside Their County of Residence, 2020-2024	107
Table 8.9: Percentage Point Change in Means of Transportation for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	108
Table 8.10: Percentage Point Change in Means of Transportation for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Below the Poverty Level, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	109
Table 8.11: Percentage Point Change in Availability of Vehicles for Households in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	110
Table 8.12: Percentage Point Change in Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Live in Households With No Vehicle Available, by Means of Transportation, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	111
Table 8.13: Change in Relationship Between Number of Workers and Availability of Vehicles for Households in the Appalachian Region With One or More Workers, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	112
Table 8.14: Change in Travel Time to Work for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, by Amount of Time, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	113
Table 8.15: Percentage Point Change in Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, by Place of Work (State and County Level), 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	114
Figure 8.8: Percentage Point Change in Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Drove Alone to Work, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	115
Figure 8.9: Percentage Point Change in Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Live in Households With No Vehicle Available, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	116
Figure 8.10: Percentage Point Change in Share of Households With One or More Workers in the Appalachian Region Where the Number of Workers Exceeds the Number of Vehicles Available, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	117
Figure 8.11: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Worked Outside Their County of Residence, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	118
TRENDS IN TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUTING PATTERNS	119
CHAPTER 9: INCOME AND POVERTY	120
Table 9.1: Household, Family, and Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-2024	120
Figure 9.1: Mean Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-2024	121
Figure 9.2: Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-2024	122
Figure 9.3: Mean Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-2024	123
Figure 9.4: Median Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-2024	124
Figure 9.5: Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-2024	125
Table 9.2: Change in Household, Family, and Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	126

Figure 9.6: Percent Change in Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	127
Table 9.3: Number of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, by Age Group, 2020-2024	128
Table 9.4: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, by Age Group, 2020-2024	129
Figure 9.7: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2020-2024	130
Figure 9.8: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2020-2024	131
Figure 9.9: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2020-2024	132
Figure 9.10: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2020-2024	133
Table 9.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, by Age Group, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	134
Table 9.6: Income-to-Poverty Ratio for Persons in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024	135
Figure 9.11: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	136
Table 9.7: Number of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, by Age Group, 2020-2024	137
Table 9.8: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, by Age Group, 2020-2024	138
Figure 9.12: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, 2020-2024	139
Figure 9.13: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 200% of Poverty Level, 2020-2024	140
Table 9.9: Percentage Point Change in Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region, by Income-to-Poverty Ratio, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	141
Table 9.10: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, by Age Group, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	142
Figure 9.14: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	143
Table 9.11: Number and Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP, by Poverty Status, 2020-2024	144
Table 9.12: Number and Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP, by Presence of Children Under Age 18, 2020-2024	145
Figure 9.15: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP, 2020-2024	146
Table 9.13: Percentage Point Change in Share of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP, by Poverty Status, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	147
Table 9.14: Percentage Point Change in Share of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP Payments, by Presence of Children Under Age 18, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	148
Figure 9.16: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households Receiving SNAP, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	149
TRENDS IN INCOME AND POVERTY	150
CHAPTER 10: HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	152
Table 10.1: Number of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, by Age Group, 2020-2024	152
Table 10.2: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, by Age Group, 2020-2024	153
Figure 10.1: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2020-2024	154
Figure 10.2: Percent of Persons Under Age 19 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2020-2024	155
Figure 10.3: Percent of Persons Ages 19 to 25 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2020-2024	156
Figure 10.4: Percent of Persons Ages 26 to 34 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2020-2024	157
Figure 10.5: Percent of Persons Ages 35 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2020-2024	158
Table 10.3: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, by Age Group, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	159
Figure 10.6: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	160
TRENDS IN HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	161

CHAPTER 11: DISABILITY STATUS	162
Table 11.1: Number of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, by Age Group, 2020-2024	162
Table 11.2: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, by Age Group, 2020-2024	163
Figure 11.1: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2020-2024	164
Figure 11.2: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2020-2024	165
Figure 11.3: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2020-2024	166
Figure 11.4: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2020-2024	167
Table 11.3: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, by Age Group, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	168
Figure 11.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	169
TRENDS IN DISABILITY STATUS	170
CHAPTER 12: MIGRATION	171
Table 12.1: Mobility Status of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024	171
Figure 12.1: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Moved in the Past Year, 2020-2024	172
Figure 12.2: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their County of Residence in the Past Year, 2020-2024	173
Figure 12.3: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their State of Residence in the Past Year, 2020-2024	174
Table 12.2: Percentage Point Change in Mobility Status of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	175
Figure 12.4: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their County of Residence in the Past Year, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	176
TRENDS IN MIGRATION	177
CHAPTER 13: VETERAN STATUS	178
Table 13.1: Number of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, by Age Group and Gender, 2020-2024	178
Table 13.2: Percent of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, by Age Group and Gender, 2020-2024	179
Figure 13.1: Percent of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2020-2024	180
Figure 13.2: Percent of Civilians Ages 18 to 34 in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2020-2024	181
Figure 13.3: Percent of Civilians Ages 35 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2020-2024	182
Figure 13.4: Percent of Civilians Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2020-2024	183
Table 13.3: Percentage Point Change in Veteran Status of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region, by Age Group and Gender, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	184
Figure 13.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024	185
TRENDS IN VETERAN STATUS	186
APPENDIX A: AN OVERVIEW OF RURAL APPALACHIA AND NON-APPALACHIAN RURAL AREAS	187
Figure A.1: Rural Counties in the United States and the Appalachian Region	190
Table A.1: Selected Measures for Rural Appalachia and Rural Areas Outside Appalachia	191
APPENDIX B: REFERENCE MAPS	193
Figure B.1: Appalachian Subregions	193
Figure B.2: Rural-Urban County Types in the Appalachian Region	194
APPENDIX C: AN OVERVIEW OF APPALACHIAN COUNTIES BY ECONOMIC STATUS DESIGNATION	195
Figure C.1: Population Change by County Economic Status Among Counties in the Appalachian Region, 2010 to 2024	196
Figure C.2: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 With a High School Diploma or More in the Appalachian Region by County Economic Status, 2020-2024	197
Figure C.3: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 With a Bachelor's Degree or More in the Appalachian Region by County Economic Status, 2020-2024	197

Figure C.4: Percent of Households With No Access to the Internet in the Appalachian Region by County Economic Status, 2020-2024	198
Figure C.5: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the Civilian Labor Force by County Economic Status, 2020-2024	199
Figure C.6: Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region by County Economic Status, 2020-2024	199
Figure C.7: Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars) by County Economic Status, 2020-2024	200
Figure C.8: Percent of Persons in Poverty in the Appalachian Region by County Economic Status, 2020-2024	201
Figure C.9: Percent of Persons Without Health Insurance Coverage in the Appalachian Region by County Economic Status, 2020-2024	202
Figure C.10: Percent of Persons With a Disability in the Appalachian Region by County Economic Status, 2020-2024	203
Figure C.11: Counties in the Appalachian Region by Economic Status, FY 2027	204
Table C.1: Selected Measures for Economic Status Designation Groupings in Appalachia, FY 2027	205

FOREWORD

This document, “The Appalachian Region: A Data Overview from the 2020-2024 American Community Survey Chartbook” (“the Chartbook”) is the 16th version to be produced for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) by the Population Reference Bureau (PRB). The Chartbook describes the rich diversity of the Appalachian Region on a host of demographic and economic measures and provides an important annual view of the area and its people.

The data contained in the 2020-2024 Chartbook describe how residents in the Appalachian Region were faring after the COVID-19 pandemic that began in March 2020 and was declared over in May 2023. Thus, the entirety of the pandemic is included in this Chartbook release, as well as the first year following it. Future data releases will reflect more of the post-pandemic era, allowing data users insights into pandemic recovery and its effects on Appalachia’s social and economic dynamics.

Most of the data shown here come from the 2020-2024 American Community Survey (ACS), a nationwide study collected continuously every year in every county in the United States by the U.S. Census Bureau. The ACS is designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data each year. To provide as much county-level data as possible, we use ACS 5-year data files which provide reliable estimates for geographic areas with fewer than 20,000 people. Since many counties in the Appalachian Region have fewer than 20,000 residents, these data permit comparable statistics for all 423 counties in Appalachia.

The primary purpose of the ACS is to measure the changing characteristics of the U.S. population in a way that is continually updated. The estimates in this Chartbook, therefore, are data collected over the five-year (or 60-month) period from January 2020 through December 2024. These ACS estimates are not averages of monthly or annual values, but rather an aggregation of data collected continuously over that time period.

We use two non-overlapping five-year periods (2020-2024 and 2015-2019) to present data trends in the Chartbook. However, the Census Bureau recommends caution in such comparisons in some instances, due to occasional changes in question wording and methodology. For example, the Census Bureau refined its methodology in 2020 – a challenging year to collect data because of the COVID-19 pandemic – to minimize the effect of nonresponse bias. More information about comparing the 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 ACS data is available on the Web page, [“Comparing 2024 American Community Survey Data”](#), through the Census Bureau’s website.

While ACS five-year data are needed to provide reliable estimates for areas with small populations, they can make it difficult to track trends in these areas. The 2020-2024 ACS data illustrate this problem, as they cover distinct periods of economic activity: the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States (March 2020 through May 2023), and then the remaining months of 2023 and all of 2024. Since the 2020-2024 ACS pools data across these periods, it smooths out extreme variations in the social and economic measures that would otherwise be evident in annual data from this five-year period.

The data in Chapters 1 through 3 are not from the ACS, but from the postcensal population estimates from the Census Bureau’s Population Division. Every year, the Census Bureau produces July 1 estimates for years following the most recent decennial census using current data on births, deaths, and migration. These estimates, which the Census Bureau revises and updates every year, are available for every U.S. county by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. The Population Estimates data are timelier than the five-year ACS estimates and are considered the official population estimates for the geographic areas shown in the Chartbook. More information on the Vintage 2024 estimates is available on the Web page, [“Methodology Updates for the Vintage 2024 Estimates”](#) through the Census Bureau’s website.

This year’s Chartbook includes three appendices. Appendix A uses selected demographic and socioeconomic measures to provide an overview comparing rural Appalachia (defined here as nonmetropolitan counties not adjacent to any metropolitan area) to rural areas outside the Appalachian Region. It also includes a map showing the location of these rural counties. Appendix B contains two reference maps – one of the five Appalachian subregions, and one of the five rural-urban county types. Both the subregions and county types are referenced throughout the report. Appendix C, new to this year’s Chartbook, covers analysis of the Appalachian counties according to their designation in ARC’s County Economic Status Index. This new section compares distressed, at-risk, transitional, competitive, and attainment counties in the Appalachian Region to regional and national estimates on selected demographic and socioeconomic measures and also features a map.

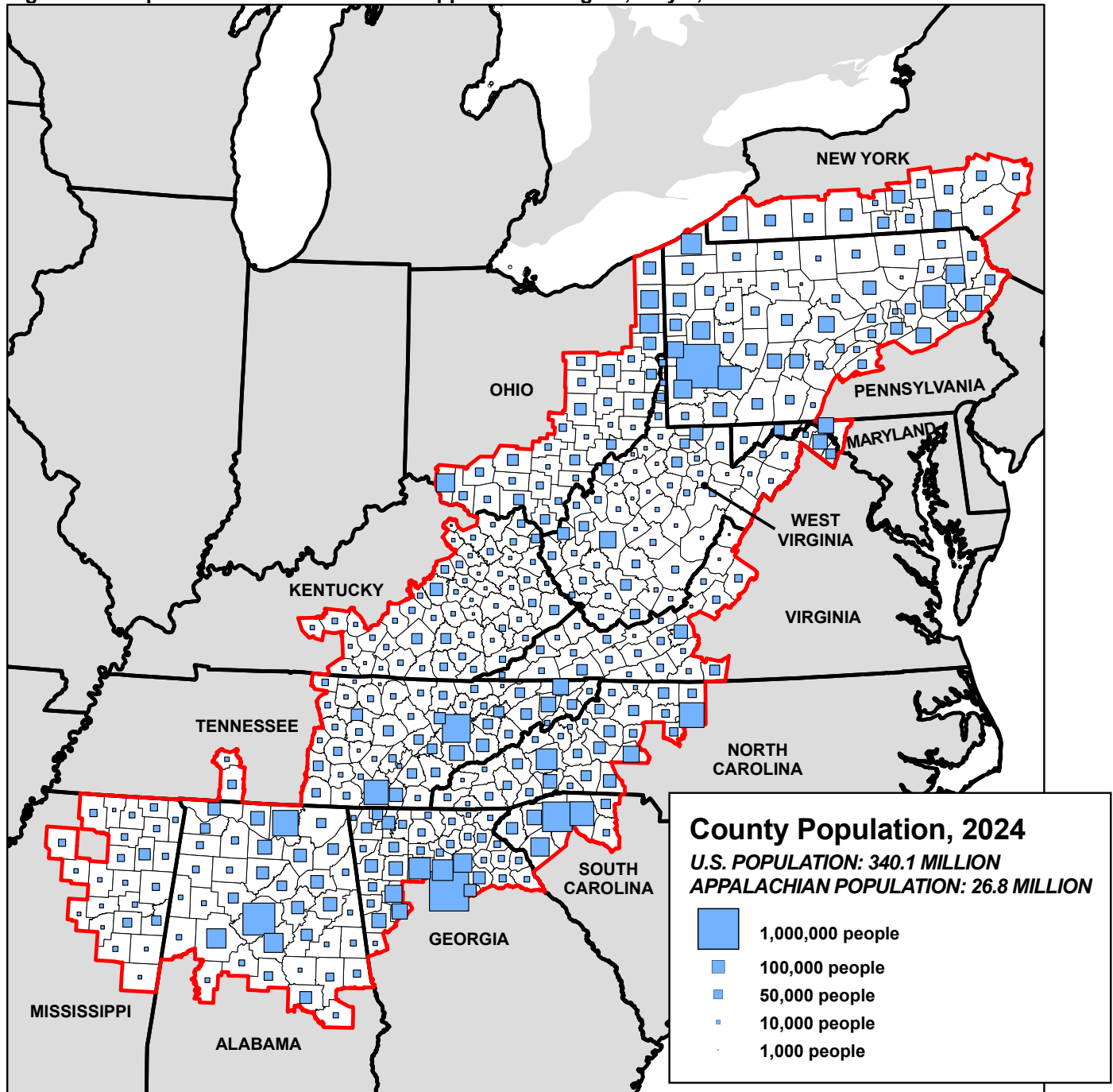
CHAPTER 1: POPULATION BASICS

Table 1.1: Population, Land Area, and Population Density in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2024

Population, Land Area, and Density	Population, July 1, 2024	Change Since July 1, 2010		Land Area (Square Miles)	Population per Square Mile of Land Area, July 1, 2024
		Number	Percent		
United States	340,110,988	+ 30,783,845	+ 10.0	3,533,038	96.3
Appalachian Region	26,785,329	+ 1,240,760	+ 4.9	205,840	130.1
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	8,022,967	- 228,906	- 2.8	56,396	142.3
North Central Appalachia	2,484,901	- 72,873	- 2.8	29,923	83.0
Central Appalachia	1,858,312	- 61,503	- 3.2	29,773	62.4
South Central Appalachia	5,400,620	+ 425,596	+ 8.6	35,866	150.6
Southern Appalachia	9,018,529	+ 1,178,446	+ 15.0	53,883	167.4
County Types					
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	6,619,744	+ 600,585	+ 10.0	19,615	337.5
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	11,098,857	+ 746,044	+ 7.2	53,241	208.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	2,406,587	+ 32,062	+ 1.4	25,425	94.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	4,138,577	- 52,820	- 1.3	58,822	70.4
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	2,521,564	- 85,111	- 3.3	48,738	51.7
Alabama	5,157,699	+ 372,185	+ 7.8	50,647	101.8
Appalachian Alabama	3,336,150	+ 268,521	+ 8.8	25,763	129.5
Non-Appalachian Alabama	1,821,549	+ 103,664	+ 6.0	24,884	73.2
Georgia	11,180,878	+ 1,468,669	+ 15.1	57,717	193.7
Appalachian Georgia	3,611,878	+ 671,067	+ 22.8	11,380	317.4
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7,569,000	+ 797,602	+ 11.8	46,337	163.3
Kentucky	4,588,372	+ 239,908	+ 5.5	39,492	116.2
Appalachian Kentucky	1,164,897	- 20,856	- 1.8	18,230	63.9
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	3,423,475	+ 260,764	+ 8.2	21,261	161.0
Maryland	6,263,220	+ 474,436	+ 8.2	9,711	645.0
Appalachian Maryland	252,718	- 121	+ 0.0	1,529	165.3
Non-Appalachian Maryland	6,010,502	+ 474,557	+ 8.6	8,182	734.6
Mississippi	2,943,045	- 27,570	- 0.9	46,924	62.7
Appalachian Mississippi	608,187	- 20,763	- 3.3	12,401	49.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	2,334,858	- 6,807	- 0.3	34,523	67.6
New York	19,867,248	+ 467,292	+ 2.4	47,124	421.6
Appalachian New York	1,013,290	- 52,576	- 4.9	11,682	86.7
Non-Appalachian New York	18,853,958	+ 519,868	+ 2.8	35,442	532.0
North Carolina	11,046,024	+ 1,471,438	+ 15.4	48,623	227.2
Appalachian North Carolina	2,085,009	+ 132,601	+ 6.8	12,752	163.5
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	8,961,015	+ 1,338,837	+ 17.6	35,871	249.8
Ohio	11,883,304	+ 343,855	+ 3.0	40,859	290.8
Appalachian Ohio	1,972,196	- 69,858	- 3.4	15,978	123.4
Non-Appalachian Ohio	9,911,108	+ 413,713	+ 4.4	24,881	398.3
Pennsylvania	13,078,751	+ 367,345	+ 2.9	44,742	292.3
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5,666,530	- 126,185	- 2.2	36,443	155.5
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	7,412,221	+ 493,530	+ 7.1	8,299	893.1
South Carolina	5,478,831	+ 842,985	+ 18.2	30,064	182.2
Appalachian South Carolina	1,462,314	+ 259,621	+ 21.6	4,338	337.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	4,016,517	+ 583,364	+ 17.0	25,726	156.1
Tennessee	7,227,750	+ 872,232	+ 13.7	41,232	175.3
Appalachian Tennessee	3,114,150	+ 325,787	+ 11.7	20,123	154.8
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	4,113,600	+ 546,445	+ 15.3	21,110	194.9
Virginia	8,811,195	+ 787,191	+ 9.8	39,482	223.2
Appalachian Virginia	728,031	- 42,192	- 5.5	11,180	65.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	8,083,164	+ 829,383	+ 11.4	28,302	285.6
West Virginia (entire state)	1,769,979	- 84,286	- 4.5	24,041	73.6

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2020 and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

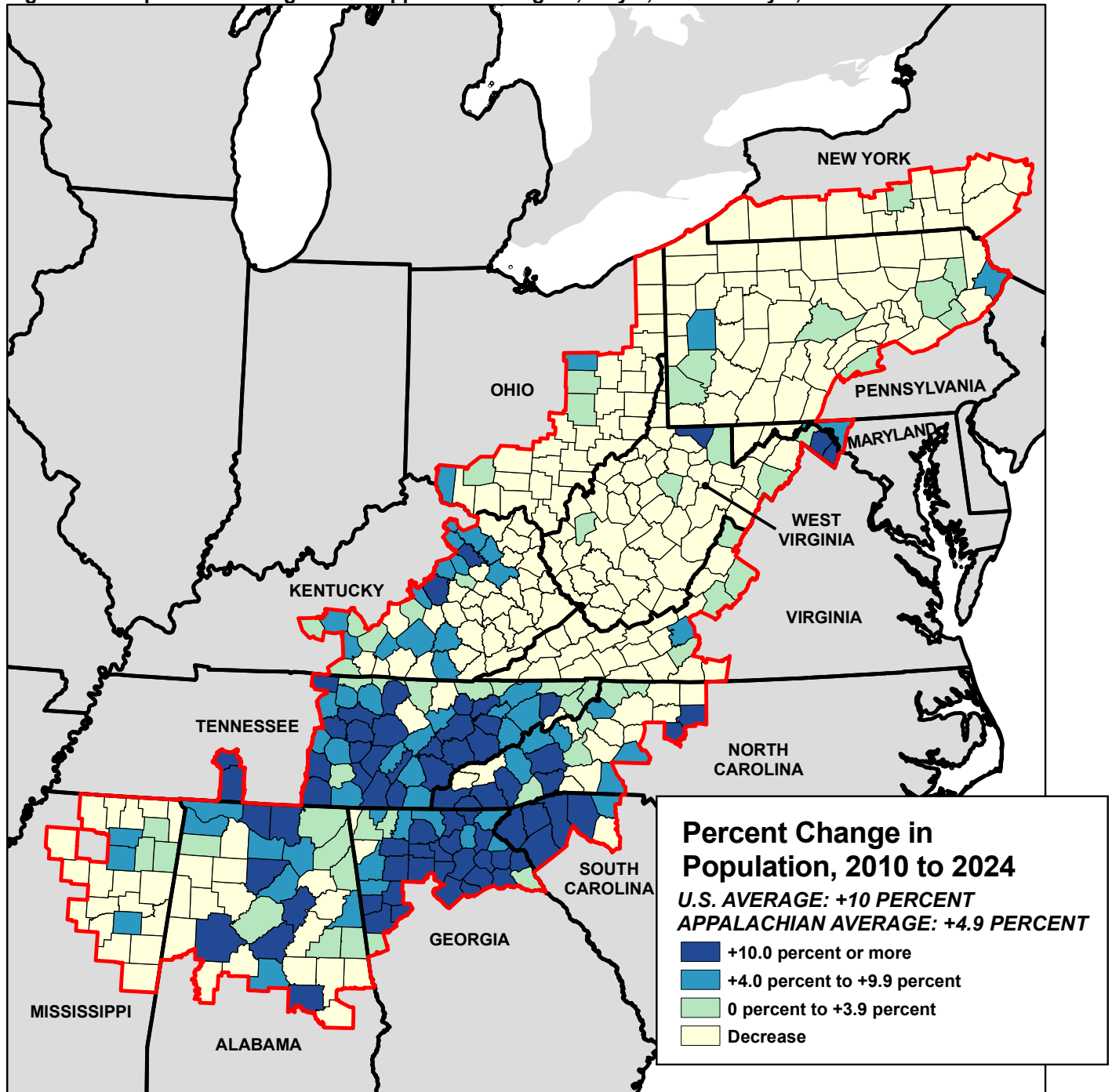
Figure 1.1: Population Distribution in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2024



Map Title: Population Distribution in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2024
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

Of the 340 million persons in the United States as of July 1, 2024, 26.8 million lived in the Appalachian Region – an increase of more than 1.2 million residents compared with July 1, 2010. Yet, throughout the region’s 423 counties, population size varied greatly. Most counties had fairly small population sizes – two-thirds of the counties had populations of fewer than 50,000 people, and 128 counties had fewer than 20,000 residents. The most populous county in the region was Allegheny County, Pennsylvania (where Pittsburgh is located) which had more than 1.2 million residents in 2024.

Figure 1.2: Population Change in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2024

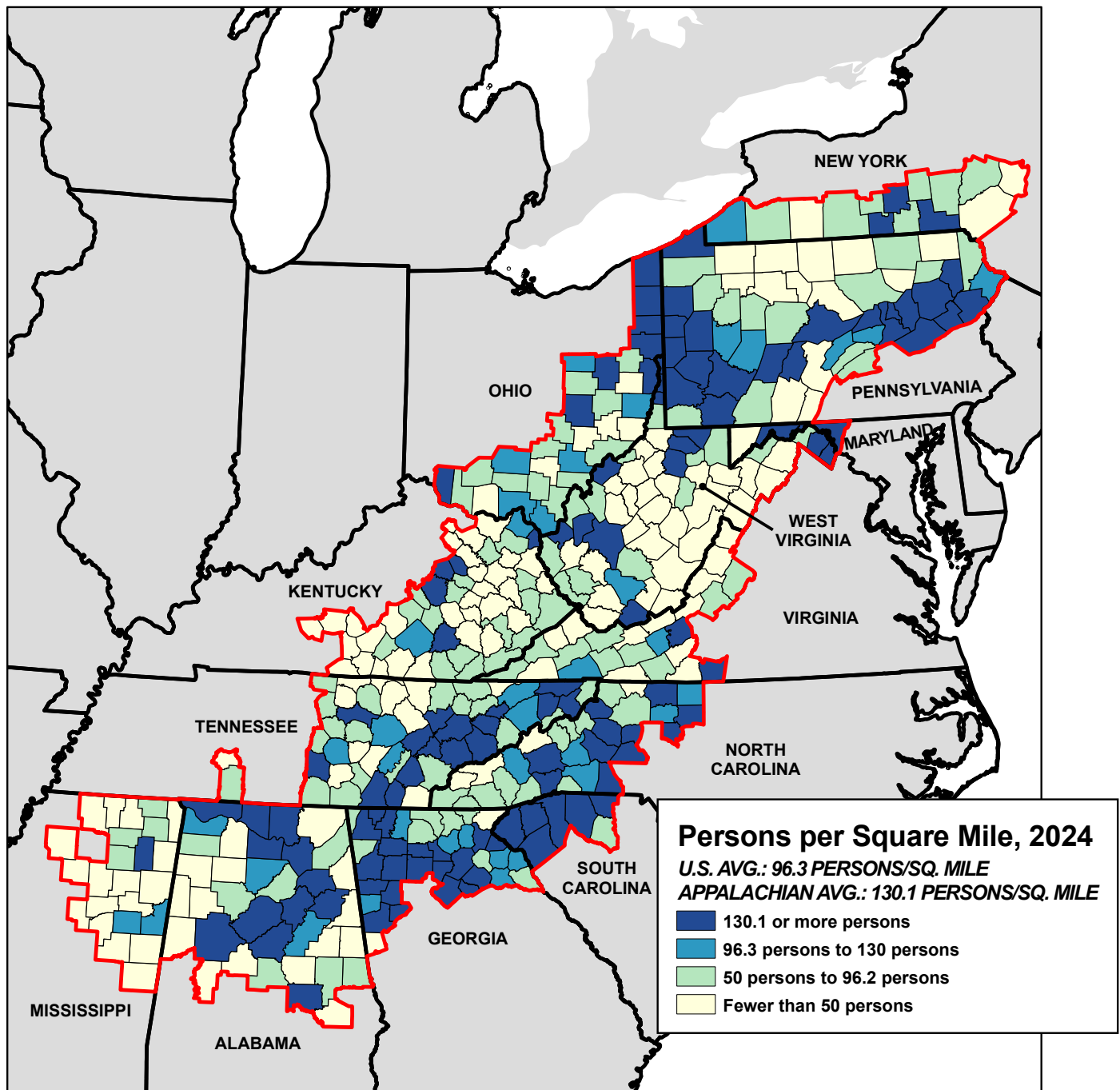


Map Title: Population Change in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2020 and 2024 Population Estimates.

The size of the Appalachian Region's population has grown by nearly five percent between 2010 and 2024. However, the region's growth was about half that of the national population increase of 10 percent. Despite the overall pattern of growth in the region, in the Appalachian sections of seven states (including all of West Virginia) population declined since 2010. On the other hand, at 15 percent, population growth in Southern Appalachia exceeded the national average. Of the 73 counties where population grew at or above the national rate, nearly three-quarters were in the Appalachian portions of Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee – the three Appalachian state portions where the overall population grew by more than the national average. More than half of the most rapidly growing counties – those with population growth exceeding 20 percent – were retirement destination communities. On the other hand, of the Appalachian counties that were home to four-year colleges or universities, more than one-in-three had a decline in population from 2010 to 2024.

Figure 1.3: Population per Square Mile of Land Area in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2024



Map Title: Population per Square Mile of Land Area in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

While the Appalachian Region's population density was noticeably greater than the United States average in 2024, less than two-fifths of the region's counties had population concentrations at or above the national average of 96.3 persons per square mile of land area. Throughout the region, there were 159 high-density counties (defined as those where the population concentration matched or exceeded the national average). Of these, 101 were in metropolitan areas and one-in-five were home to a college or university. On the other hand, population density fell below the national average in Central and North Central Appalachia, as well as in the Appalachian portions of Kentucky, Mississippi, New York, Virginia, and in all of West Virginia. Overall, Georgia and South Carolina had the highest population density in the Appalachian portions of their states.

BASIC POPULATION TRENDS

- The Appalachian Region had a population of 26.8 million persons in 2024 – 1.2 million more residents than in mid-2010 (see Table 1.1). However, compared with the United States growth rate of 10 percent, growth in the region has been slower, at 4.9 percent.
- The Appalachian portion of seven states lost population between July 2010 and July 2024. And in five of those states – Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia – the population in Appalachian areas declined by more than three percent. Population loss was most common in counties outside of metropolitan areas. Of the 271 non-metropolitan counties in the region, 169 saw a decrease in population since 2010. Rural counties and counties adjacent to small metropolitan areas were especially susceptible to declining population size, with 73 of the 108 rural Appalachian counties – and 74 of the 118 nonmetropolitan counties adjacent to small metros – seeing a decrease in population.
- In contrast to the other three subregions, South Central and Southern Appalachia increased in population size between 2010 and 2024. Southern Appalachia saw a particularly sharp rise of 15 percent – five percentage points higher than the national average.
- The five states where Appalachian populations have grown since 2010 were all in the South – Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas, and Tennessee. Georgia’s and South Carolina’s Appalachian sections have grown especially rapidly since 2010, with increases of 22.8 and 21.6 percent, respectively.
- Several possible factors account for the rapid growth in some parts of Appalachia. Many counties that were home to colleges and universities also had population growth at or above the national average. One in five of the 73 counties with growth rates matching or exceeding that of the U.S. as a whole had at least one college or university, such as Tuscaloosa County, Alabama (University of Alabama); Spartanburg County, South Carolina (Wofford College and University of South Carolina Upstate); Franklin County, Tennessee (Sewanee - The University of the South); and Jefferson County, West Virginia (Shepherd University). And retirement-friendly counties were even more likely to see high rates of population growth. Of the 73 Appalachian counties where population growth matched or exceeded the national average, 31 were also “retirement destination” counties according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (ERS). Yet, economic diversity may have been the most impactful characteristic shared among the fastest growing counties. Of the 73 counties where population growth met or exceeded the U.S. average, nearly half were classified as “non-specialized” by the ERS – meaning that their economies were not dependent on a single economic factor or industry.
- In contrast to high-growth counties, 236 of the 423 counties in the region saw a decline in population between July 2010 and July 2024. Of these, one in five have been classified as “manufacturing-dependent” by ERS, meaning that manufacturing in those counties accounted for 23 percent or more of the county’s earnings or 16 percent of the county’s employment. Lack of job opportunities may drive population decline, as more than one-in-four of the 236 counties where population size decreased have been classified as low-employment counties by ERS (where less than 65 percent of adults 25 to 64-years-old were employed).

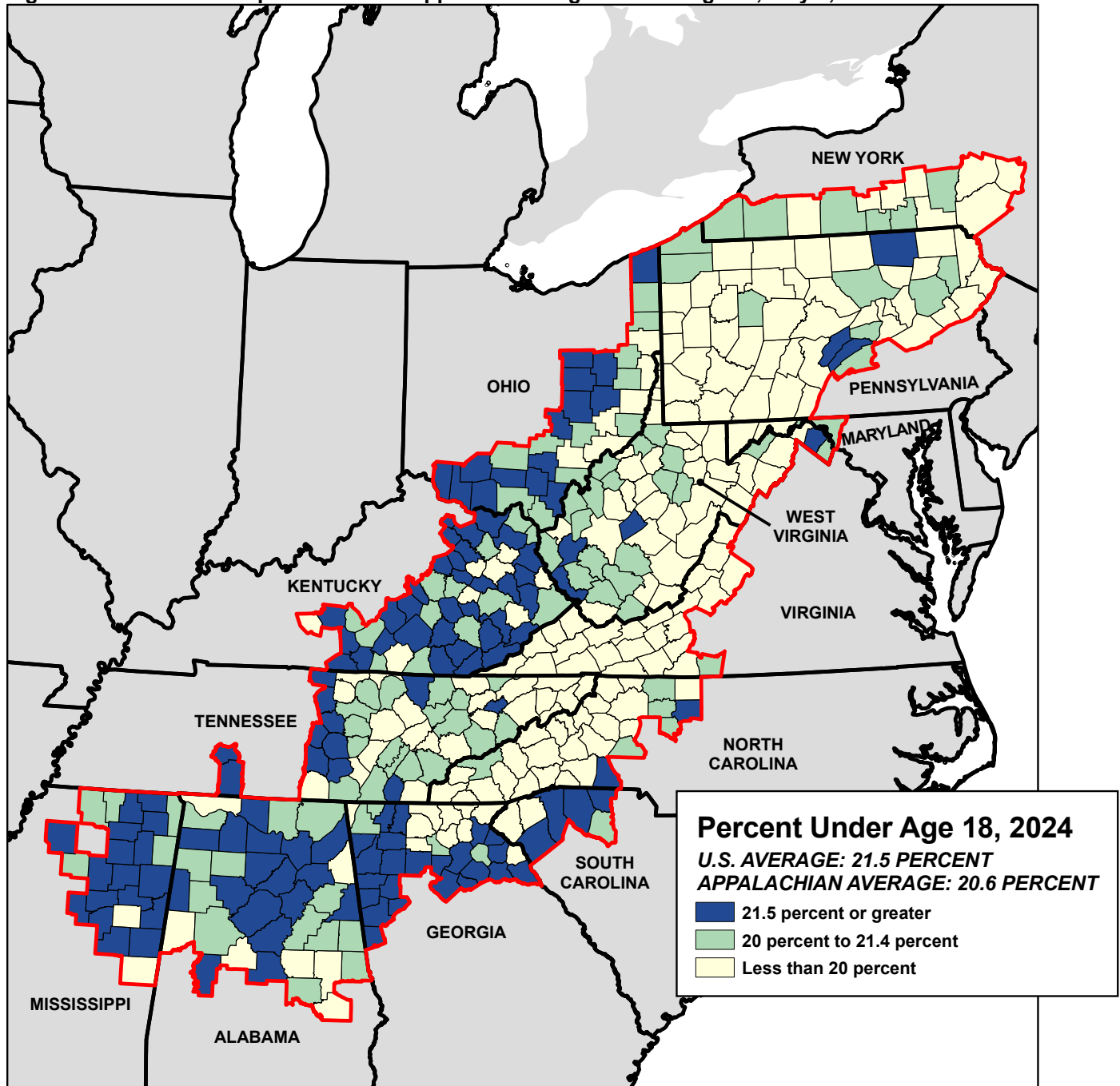
CHAPTER 2: AGE

Table 2.1: Population in the Appalachian Region by Age Group, July 1, 2024

Population by Age Group	Total Population, July 1, 2024	Percent of Population				Median Age (Years)
		Under Age 18	Ages 18-24	Ages 25-64	Ages 65 and over	
United States	340,110,988	21.5	9.2	51.3	18.0	39.1
Appalachian Region	26,785,329	20.6	9.3	50.1	20.1	41.2
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	8,022,967	19.2	9.4	49.3	22.2	42.7
North Central Appalachia	2,484,901	20.1	9.1	49.7	21.1	42.2
Central Appalachia	1,858,312	21.2	8.2	50.3	20.3	42.1
South Central Appalachia	5,400,620	19.6	9.3	49.9	21.2	42.4
Southern Appalachia	9,018,529	22.5	9.4	50.9	17.2	39.0
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	6,619,744	21.5	8.7	51.6	18.2	40.2
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	11,098,857	20.3	9.9	50.0	19.8	40.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	2,406,587	20.5	9.0	49.4	21.0	42.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	4,138,577	20.0	8.4	49.1	22.5	43.7
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	2,521,564	20.5	9.8	48.5	21.2	42.0
Alabama	5,157,699	22.0	9.5	50.0	18.5	39.3
Appalachian Alabama	3,336,150	21.9	9.5	50.3	18.3	39.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	1,821,549	22.3	9.3	49.4	19.0	39.6
Georgia	11,180,878	22.7	9.5	52.0	15.7	37.5
Appalachian Georgia	3,611,878	23.4	9.1	52.0	15.6	38.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7,569,000	22.4	9.7	52.0	15.8	37.6
Kentucky	4,588,372	22.4	9.1	50.5	18.0	39.2
Appalachian Kentucky	1,164,897	21.8	8.7	50.2	19.2	41.0
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	3,423,475	22.5	9.3	50.6	17.6	38.6
Maryland	6,263,220	21.9	8.6	52.0	17.6	39.4
Appalachian Maryland	252,718	20.0	8.7	51.1	20.2	41.6
Non-Appalachian Maryland	6,010,502	22.0	8.5	52.0	17.5	39.7
Mississippi	2,943,045	22.9	9.7	49.4	18.0	38.4
Appalachian Mississippi	608,187	22.5	10.7	48.4	18.4	38.4
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	2,334,858	23.0	9.5	49.6	17.9	38.8
New York	19,867,248	20.0	9.0	52.1	18.9	39.9
Appalachian New York	1,013,290	18.7	13.3	46.5	21.6	41.1
Non-Appalachian New York	18,853,958	20.1	8.8	52.4	18.8	40.0
North Carolina	11,046,024	21.4	9.5	51.2	17.9	39.1
Appalachian North Carolina	2,085,009	19.2	8.8	49.8	22.2	43.4
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	8,961,015	21.9	9.7	51.6	16.9	38.4
Ohio	11,883,304	21.7	8.9	50.3	19.1	39.6
Appalachian Ohio	1,972,196	21.1	8.4	49.3	21.1	42.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	9,911,108	21.8	9.0	50.5	18.7	39.4
Pennsylvania	13,078,751	20.1	9.1	50.4	20.4	40.9
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5,666,530	18.9	9.0	49.7	22.4	43.1
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South Carolina	5,478,831	21.0	9.1	50.2	19.7	40.2
Appalachian South Carolina	1,462,314	21.9	9.4	50.6	18.1	39.0
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	4,016,517	20.7	9.0	50.0	20.2	41.0
Tennessee	7,227,750	21.9	9.0	51.5	17.7	38.9
Appalachian Tennessee	3,114,150	20.3	8.9	50.6	20.3	41.7
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	4,113,600	23.1	9.0	52.1	15.7	37.3
Virginia	8,811,195	21.4	9.2	51.8	17.6	39.0
Appalachian Virginia	728,031	17.9	11.2	48.1	22.8	43.6
Non-Appalachian Virginia	8,083,164	21.7	9.1	52.2	17.1	39.0
West Virginia (entire state)	1,769,979	19.7	8.8	49.6	21.9	42.8

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

Figure 2.1: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Under Age 18, July 1, 2024

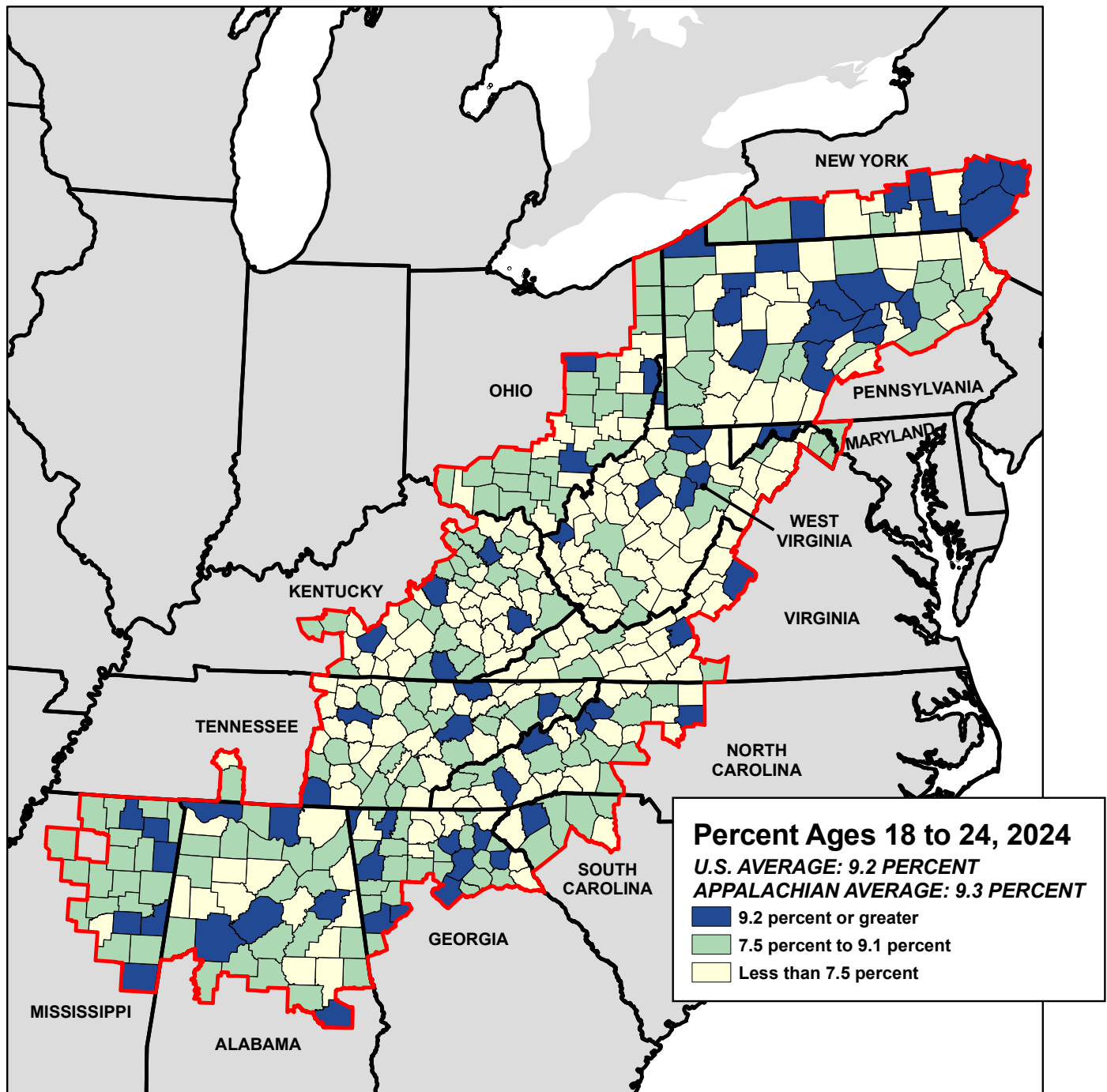


Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Under Age 18, July 1, 2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

As of mid-2024, one-in-five people in the Appalachian population were children and youth under the age of 18. This share was slightly lower than the national average. In 188 of the region's 423 counties, the share was less than 20 percent. Most of these were small metropolitan counties or counties adjacent to small metropolitan areas. And while Pennsylvania had 41 of the 188 counties with a low share of children and youth under 18, there were also pockets throughout North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. On the other hand, in 130 Appalachian counties the share of children under age 18 matched or exceeded the national average. Nearly half of these counties were in Southern Appalachia, while 37 of these counties were in Central Appalachia – with concentrations in Georgia and Kentucky.

Figure 2.2: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 18 to 24, July 1, 2024

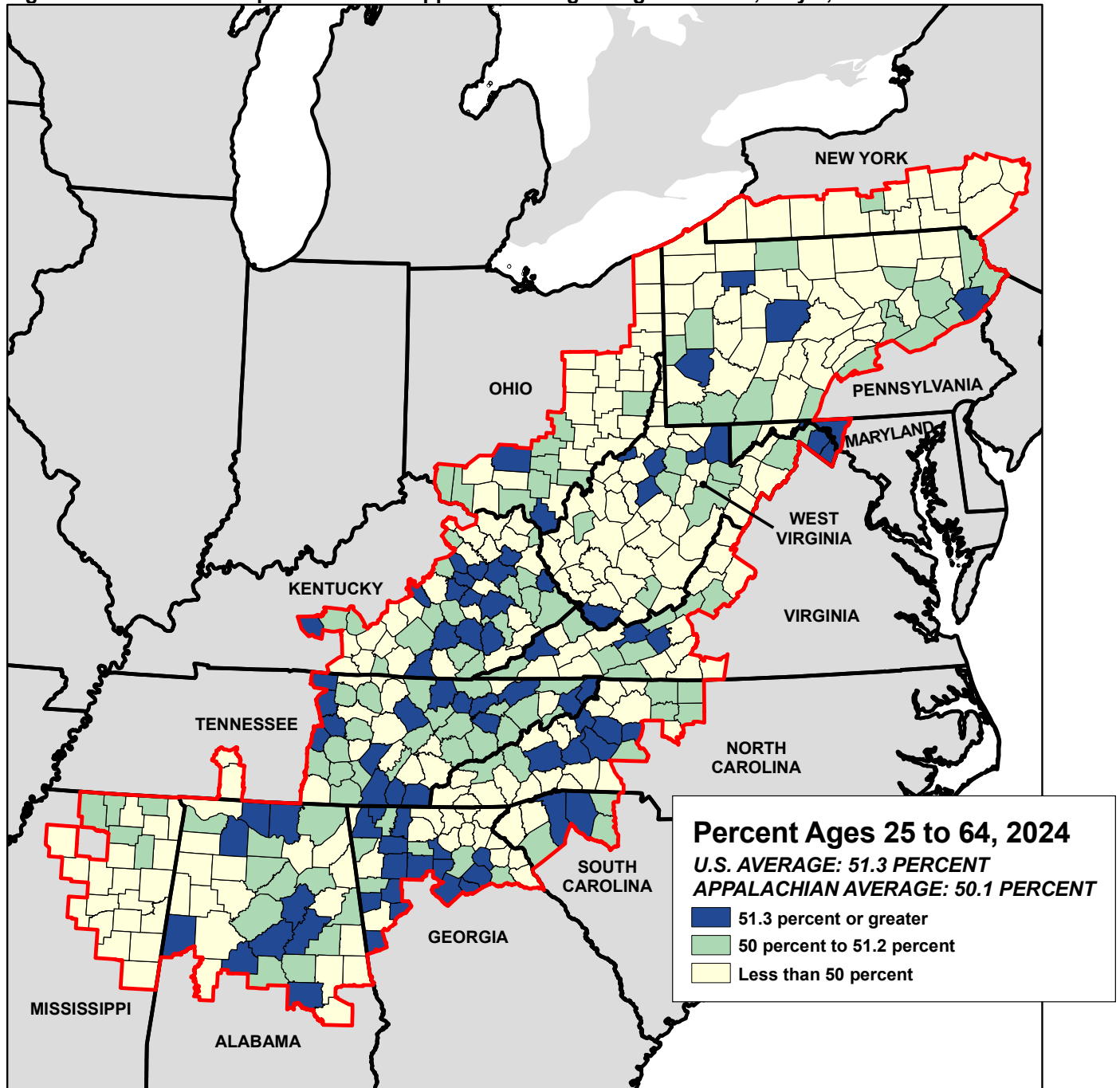


Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 18 to 24, July 1, 2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

At 9.3 percent, the share of young adults (ages 18 to 24) in the Appalachian Region in 2024 was on par with the national average of 9.2 percent. Young adults in this age group comprised at least 15 percent of the population in just 21 of the region's 423 counties, and all but one of these counties are home to colleges and universities, such as Watauga County, North Carolina (Appalachian State University); Tompkins County, New York (Cornell University); and Broome, Cortland, and Otsego Counties in New York, all home to campuses of the State University of New York. In contrast, 18-to-24-year-olds made up less than 7.5 percent of the population in 198 Appalachian counties. Of those counties, 140 were outside of metropolitan areas – including 49 rural counties – 59 were classified as low postsecondary education counties, and 48 of these were classified as low-employment counties, suggesting a lack of educational and employment opportunities for young adults in this age group.

Figure 2.3: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 25 to 64, July 1, 2024

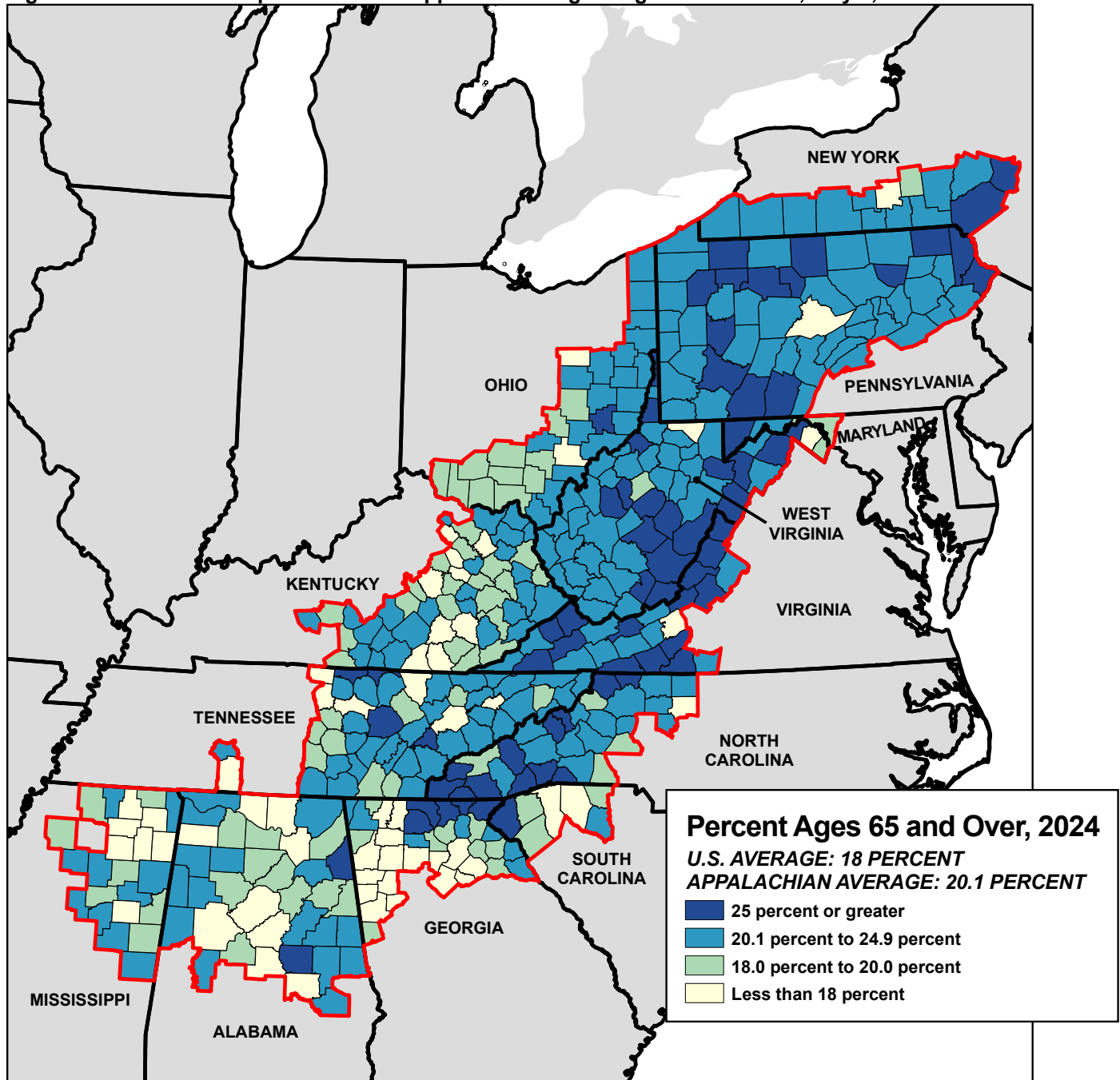


Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 25 to 64, July 1, 2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

Adults ages 25 to 64 made up half of all residents in the Appalachian Region and slightly more than half in the nation as a whole. The region's share of adults in this age group was 1.2 percentage points lower than the national average of 51.3 percent. In 229 of the region's 423 counties, less than half of the population was comprised of persons in this age group – 171 of which were outside of metropolitan areas. These 229 counties generally had a lower percentage of the working age population because of above average populations of either college students (Washington County, Pennsylvania) or retirees (Towns County, Georgia). On the other hand, in 82 of the 423 Appalachian counties the percentage of people in this age group matched or exceeded the national average. More than half of these counties were metropolitan counties, where opportunities for employment and recreation may be more concentrated for adults in this age group.

Figure 2.4: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 65 and Over, July 1, 2024

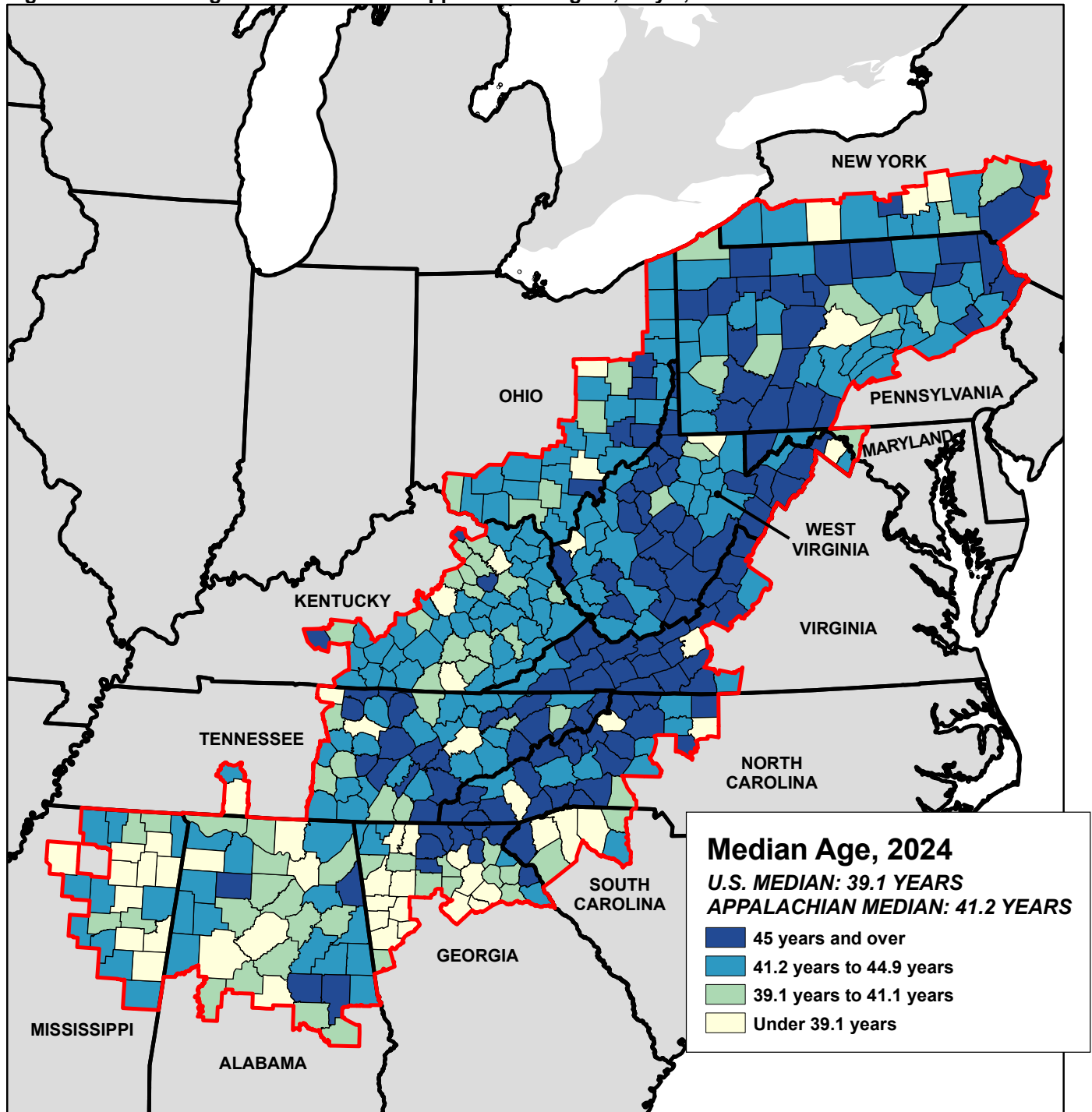


Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 65 and Over, July 1, 2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

In the Appalachian Region, the share of adults ages 65 and older exceeded the national average of 18 percent by more than two percentage points in 2024. Moreover, the percentage of persons in this age group matched or exceeded the U.S. share in 365 of the 423 Appalachian counties – and was at least 20.1 percent in 288 of them. There were 74 counties in the region where older people made up 25 percent or more of the population, and all but 14 of these were outside metropolitan areas. In contrast, of the 58 Appalachian counties with older population shares below the national average, more than half were in metro areas and more than one in four were home to colleges and universities. Of the subregions, only Southern Appalachia had a share of older adults below the national average. As more of the large baby boom cohort moves into this age group, the share of residents ages 65 and over will continue to increase over the coming years in both Appalachia and the nation.

Figure 2.5: Median Age of Persons in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2024



Map Title: Median Age of Persons in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

At 41.2 years, the median age of the Appalachian population (the point at which half of the population is older and half is younger) was 2.1 years older than that of the United States as of mid-2024. In fact, 370 Appalachian counties had median ages at or above the national average, and 300 of those counties had median ages exceeding the regional average as well. Furthermore, in 134 of those counties, the median age was at least 45 years. And while large- and small-metropolitan county types throughout Appalachia had median ages below the regional median, among metro-adjacent and rural counties the median age was higher. Southern Appalachia was the only subregion with a median age below the regional median, and in fact Southern Appalachia's median age fell just below the national median as well.

Table 2.2: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region, by Age Group, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2024

Population by Age Group	Percentage Point Change in Share of Population				Change in Median Age (Years)
	Under Age 18	Ages 18-24	Ages 25-64	Ages 65 and over	
United States	- 2.5	- 0.7	- 1.7	+ 4.9	+ 1.9
Appalachian Region	- 1.8	- 0.4	- 2.7	+ 4.9	+ 1.3
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	- 1.7	- 0.7	- 3.0	+ 5.4	+ 1.0
North Central Appalachia	- 1.6	- 0.4	- 3.6	+ 5.6	+ 1.7
Central Appalachia	- 1.0	- 0.5	- 3.7	+ 5.2	+ 1.7
South Central Appalachia	- 1.9	- 0.4	- 2.7	+ 4.9	+ 1.6
Southern Appalachia	- 2.4	- 0.1	- 2.1	+ 4.5	+ 1.8
County Types					
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	- 2.3	- 0.1	- 2.4	+ 4.8	+ 1.6
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	- 1.7	- 0.5	- 2.5	+ 4.7	+ 1.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 2.1	- 0.9	- 2.5	+ 5.4	+ 2.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	- 1.5	- 0.4	- 3.5	+ 5.4	+ 1.8
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 1.7	- 0.1	- 3.6	+ 5.3	+ 1.7
Alabama	- 1.6	- 0.5	- 2.5	+ 4.7	+ 1.4
Appalachian Alabama	- 1.5	- 0.3	- 2.7	+ 4.5	+ 1.2
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 1.8	- 1.2	- 2.3	+ 5.2	+ 2.4
Georgia	- 2.9	- 0.5	- 1.6	+ 5.0	+ 2.1
Appalachian Georgia	- 3.7	+ 0.5	- 1.7	+ 5.0	+ 2.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 2.6	- 1.0	- 1.6	+ 5.0	+ 2.5
Kentucky	- 1.1	- 0.5	- 3.0	+ 4.7	+ 1.1
Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.9	- 0.5	- 3.5	+ 4.8	+ 1.5
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 1.4	- 0.4	- 2.9	+ 4.6	+ 1.2
Maryland	- 1.5	- 1.1	- 2.7	+ 5.3	+ 1.4
Appalachian Maryland	- 1.3	- 1.0	- 2.2	+ 4.4	+ 1.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 1.5	- 1.2	- 2.7	+ 5.4	+ 1.9
Mississippi	- 2.5	- 0.6	- 2.1	+ 5.1	+ 2.4
Appalachian Mississippi	- 2.1	- 0.1	- 2.1	+ 4.3	+ 1.4
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 2.6	- 0.7	- 2.1	+ 5.4	+ 3.1
New York	- 2.3	- 1.2	- 1.9	+ 5.3	+ 1.9
Appalachian New York	- 2.3	+ 0.5	- 4.1	+ 6.0	+ 1.0
Non-Appalachian New York	- 2.2	- 1.3	- 1.8	+ 5.4	+ 2.2
North Carolina	- 2.4	- 0.5	- 2.0	+ 4.9	+ 1.7
Appalachian North Carolina	- 2.6	- 0.2	- 2.8	+ 5.6	+ 2.2
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 2.5	- 0.5	- 1.8	+ 4.8	+ 2.0
Ohio	- 1.9	- 0.7	- 2.5	+ 5.0	+ 0.8
Appalachian Ohio	- 1.8	- 0.6	- 3.1	+ 5.5	+ 1.4
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 1.9	- 0.7	- 2.3	+ 4.9	+ 1.1
Pennsylvania	- 1.8	- 0.8	- 2.3	+ 5.0	+ 0.7
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 1.6	- 1.0	- 2.8	+ 5.4	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 2.0	- 0.8	- 1.8	+ 4.8	+ 1.0
South Carolina	- 2.3	- 1.2	- 2.5	+ 6.0	+ 2.3
Appalachian South Carolina	- 1.7	- 0.8	- 1.7	+ 4.2	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 2.5	- 1.3	- 2.8	+ 6.5	+ 3.3
Tennessee	- 1.6	- 0.6	- 1.9	+ 4.2	+ 0.8
Appalachian Tennessee	- 1.5	- 0.3	- 2.4	+ 4.3	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 1.7	- 0.8	- 1.7	+ 4.1	+ 1.3
Virginia	- 1.7	- 0.8	- 2.8	+ 5.3	+ 1.5
Appalachian Virginia	- 1.6	- 0.5	- 3.9	+ 6.0	+ 2.3
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 1.8	- 0.7	- 2.7	+ 5.3	+ 2.0
West Virginia (entire state)	- 1.2	- 0.3	- 4.3	+ 5.8	+ 1.5

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2020 and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

TRENDS IN AGE

- Keeping with the national trend, Appalachia's population became older between 2010 and 2024. The region's pace of aging has been slower than the nation's, with a rise in age of 1.3 years compared with the U.S. increase of 1.9 years during this 14-year period (See Table 2.2).
- Aging varies throughout Appalachia, with some areas – such as the Appalachian portions of Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia – having median age increases of more than two years, while others – such as the Appalachian sections of Alabama, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Tennessee – had median age increases lower than the regional average of 1.3 years. The median age increased by more than the regional average in all rural-urban county types except for small metros, where the increase was slightly lower at 1.2 years. Among the states, median age ranged from nearly 43.6 years in Appalachian Virginia, to just over 38.4 years in Appalachian Mississippi (See Table 2.1).
- In Appalachia, the share of adults ages 25 to 64 decreased by 2.7 percentage points between 2010 and 2024, while the share of persons aged 18-years or younger decreased by 1.8 percentage points and the share of young adults in the region – those aged 18 to 24 – declined by 0.4 percentage points. The pronounced decline in the share of adults ages 25 to 64 is largely because members of the baby boom cohort have aged out of this group. The share of adults ages 65 or older in the region increased by 4.9 percentage points between mid-2010 and mid-2024, matching the increase in this group for the nation as a whole. The share of adults 65 and older grew most in Northern (5.4 percentage points), North Central (5.6 percentage points), and Central Appalachia (5.2 percentage points each), as well as in nonmetropolitan counties adjacent to large and small metros (5.4 percentage points), and in rural counties (5.3 percentage points).
- While much of Appalachia is “aging in place”, there are growing shares of older residents in retirement destinations in the region. For example, more than one in five of the 134 Appalachian counties where the median age is at least 45 years – such Cumberland County, Tennessee (53.6 years); Towns County, Georgia (58.5 years), and Highland County, Virginia (60.2 years)– have been designated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (ERS) as “retirement destination” counties.

CHAPTER 3: RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

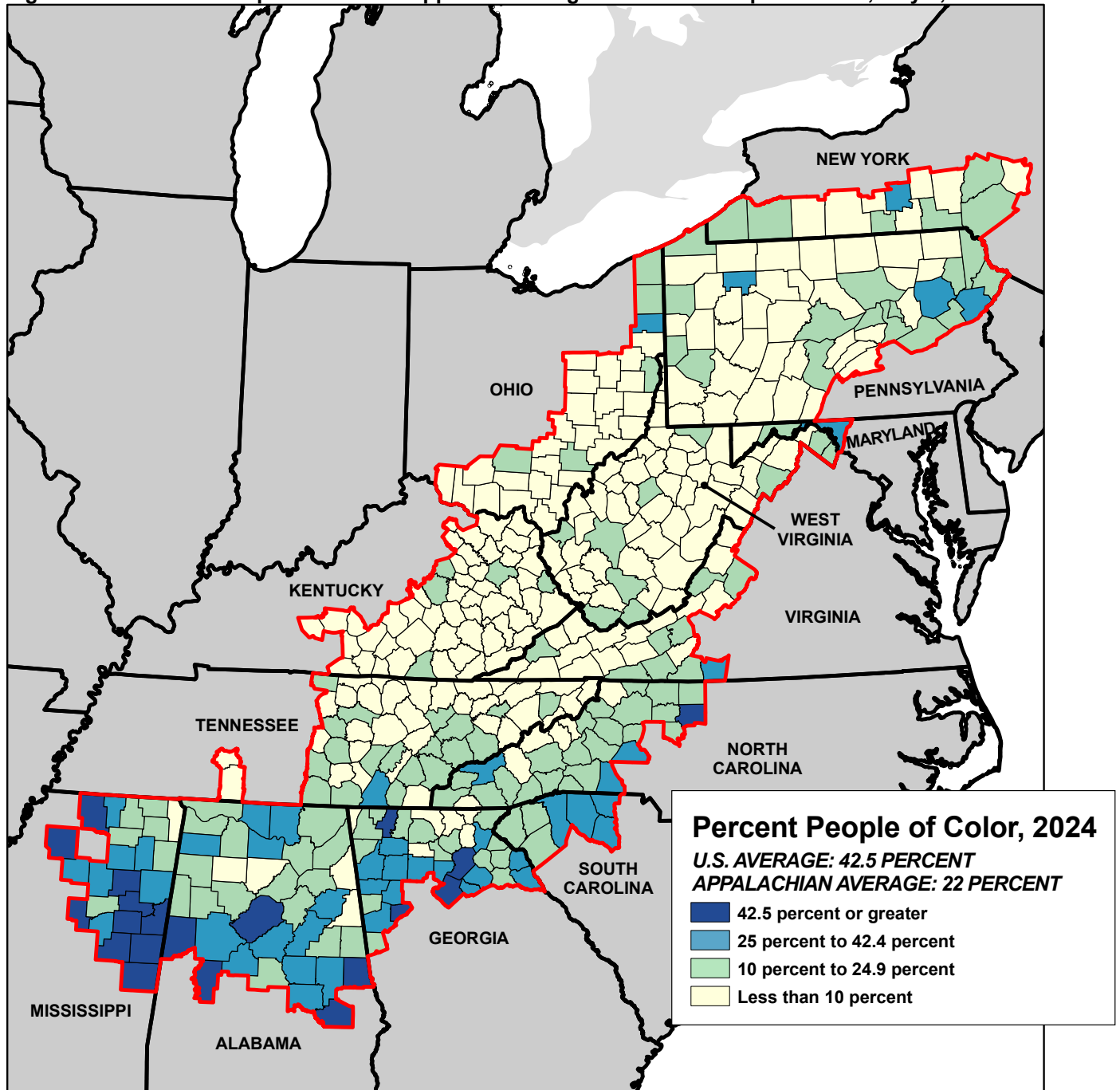
Table 3.1: Population in the Appalachian Region by Race and Hispanic Origin, July 1, 2024

Population by Race and Hispanic Origin	Total Population, July 1, 2024	White Alone, Not Hispanic	Percent of Population			
			People of Color			
			Total	Black Alone, Not Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Other, Not Hispanic
United States	340,110,988	57.5	42.5	12.6	20.0	9.9
Appalachian Region	26,785,329	78.0	22.0	10.3	7.0	4.7
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	8,022,967	85.0	15.0	5.8	4.9	4.3
North Central Appalachia	2,484,901	91.0	9.0	3.3	2.3	3.4
Central Appalachia	1,858,312	93.2	6.8	2.1	2.4	2.3
South Central Appalachia	5,400,620	81.1	18.9	7.2	7.6	4.1
Southern Appalachia	9,018,529	63.2	36.8	19.7	10.8	6.2
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	6,619,744	67.4	32.6	16.6	8.5	7.4
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	11,098,857	77.6	22.4	10.1	7.9	4.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	2,406,587	83.5	16.5	6.8	6.3	3.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	4,138,577	88.0	12.0	4.2	5.1	2.7
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	2,521,564	86.2	13.8	8.0	3.0	2.8
Alabama	5,157,699	63.7	36.3	26.1	6.0	4.2
Appalachian Alabama	3,336,150	67.0	33.0	22.4	6.7	3.9
Non-Appalachian Alabama	1,821,549	57.6	42.4	33.0	4.7	4.7
Georgia	11,180,878	48.8	51.2	32.0	11.6	7.5
Appalachian Georgia	3,611,878	57.3	42.7	16.7	16.4	9.5
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7,569,000	44.8	55.2	39.3	9.3	6.6
Kentucky	4,588,372	81.3	18.7	8.6	5.6	4.5
Appalachian Kentucky	1,164,897	93.3	6.7	2.0	2.4	2.3
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	3,423,475	77.2	22.8	10.8	6.8	5.3
Maryland	6,263,220	46.4	53.6	30.1	13.3	10.2
Appalachian Maryland	252,718	78.1	21.9	10.6	6.5	4.8
Non-Appalachian Maryland	6,010,502	45.1	54.9	30.9	13.6	10.4
Mississippi	2,943,045	55.4	44.6	37.3	4.1	3.2
Appalachian Mississippi	608,187	62.1	37.9	31.9	3.4	2.6
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	2,334,858	53.6	46.4	38.7	4.3	3.4
New York	19,867,248	53.2	46.8	14.3	20.2	12.2
Appalachian New York	1,013,290	85.8	14.2	3.2	5.0	6.0
Non-Appalachian New York	18,853,958	51.5	48.5	14.9	21.1	12.6
North Carolina	11,046,024	59.9	40.1	20.8	12.0	7.2
Appalachian North Carolina	2,085,009	76.2	23.8	9.3	10.0	4.5
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	8,961,015	56.1	43.9	23.5	12.5	7.9
Ohio	11,883,304	76.0	24.0	13.0	5.2	5.8
Appalachian Ohio	1,972,196	89.6	10.4	4.4	2.8	3.2
Non-Appalachian Ohio	9,911,108	73.3	26.7	14.8	5.6	6.3
Pennsylvania	13,078,751	73.2	26.8	10.8	9.4	6.5
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5,666,530	84.8	15.2	5.9	5.0	4.3
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	7,412,221	64.3	35.7	14.6	12.8	8.3
South Carolina	5,478,831	62.5	37.5	25.0	8.0	4.6
Appalachian South Carolina	1,462,314	69.8	30.2	16.1	9.5	4.6
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	4,016,517	59.8	40.2	28.2	7.4	4.6
Tennessee	7,227,750	71.4	28.6	16.0	8.0	4.6
Appalachian Tennessee	3,114,150	84.8	15.2	5.4	6.1	3.7
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	4,113,600	61.3	38.7	24.0	9.4	5.3
Virginia	8,811,195	58.4	41.6	19.0	11.6	10.9
Appalachian Virginia	728,031	87.3	12.7	5.7	3.4	3.6
Non-Appalachian Virginia	8,083,164	55.8	44.2	20.2	12.3	11.6
West Virginia (entire state)	1,769,979	90.6	9.4	3.7	2.4	3.3

Note: "Other" includes these racial groups: (a) American Indian and Alaska Native alone; (b) Asian alone; (c) Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone; and (d) Two or more races.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

Figure 3.1: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are People of Color, July 1, 2024

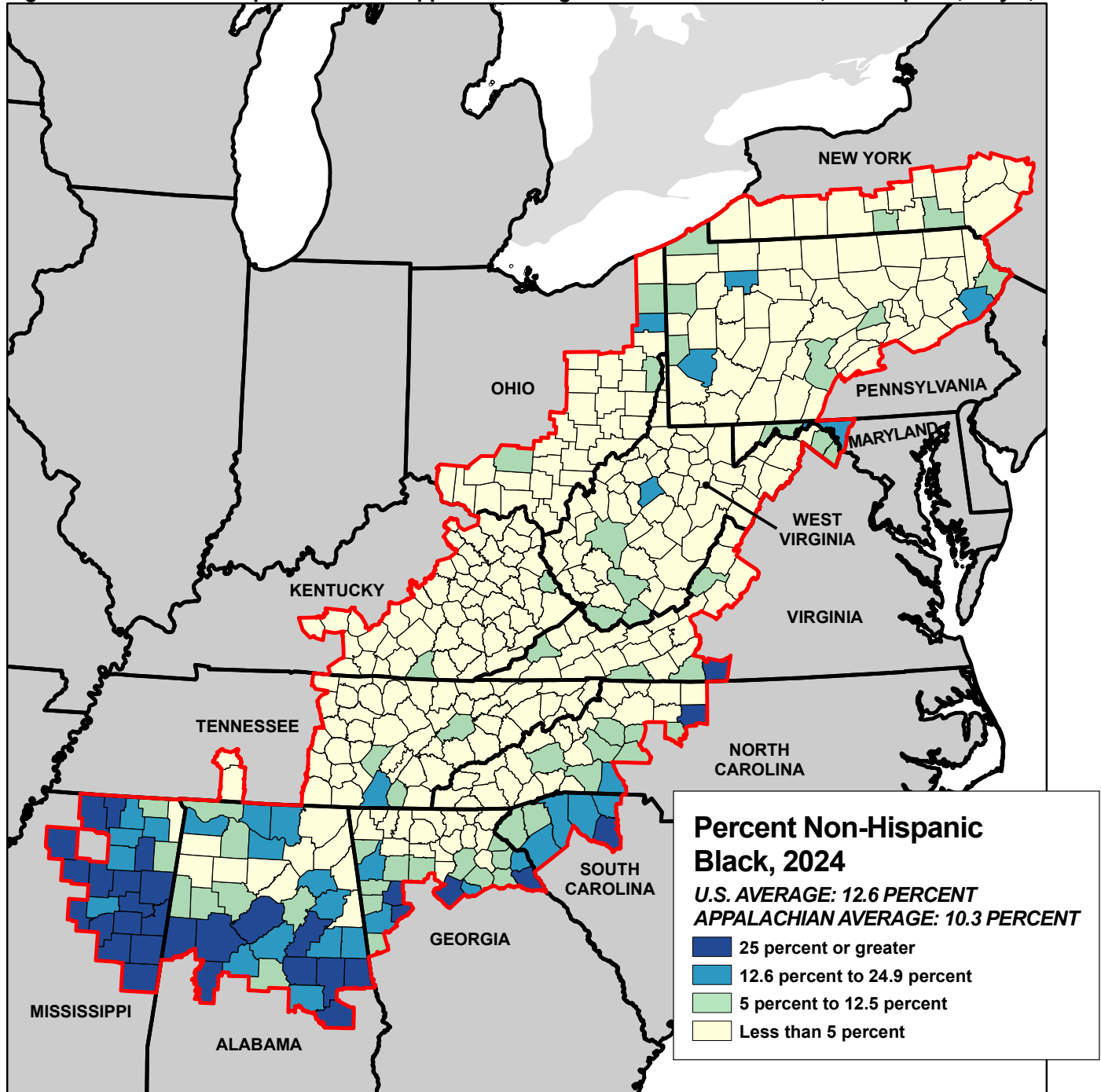


Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are People of Color, July 1, 2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

The Appalachian Region is significantly less racially and ethnically varied than the nation as a whole—with just 22 percent of the population being people of color, compared with the U.S. average of 42.5 percent. In fact, in more than half of Appalachia’s 423 counties, less than 10 percent of the population was comprised of people of color (defined as anyone who identified with a racial or ethnic group *other than* “White alone, not Hispanic”). The share of people of color in the population was lowest in Central and North Central Appalachia, both of which had people of color comprising less than 10 percent of the total population. And in the region’s non-metropolitan counties adjacent to small-metros and in rural counties, the share of people of color in the total population was less than 15 percent. Only 20 counties in the region had a higher share of people of color than the U.S. average – all of which were in Southern and South Central Appalachia and half of which were in Mississippi.

Figure 3.2: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are Black Alone, not Hispanic, July 1, 2024

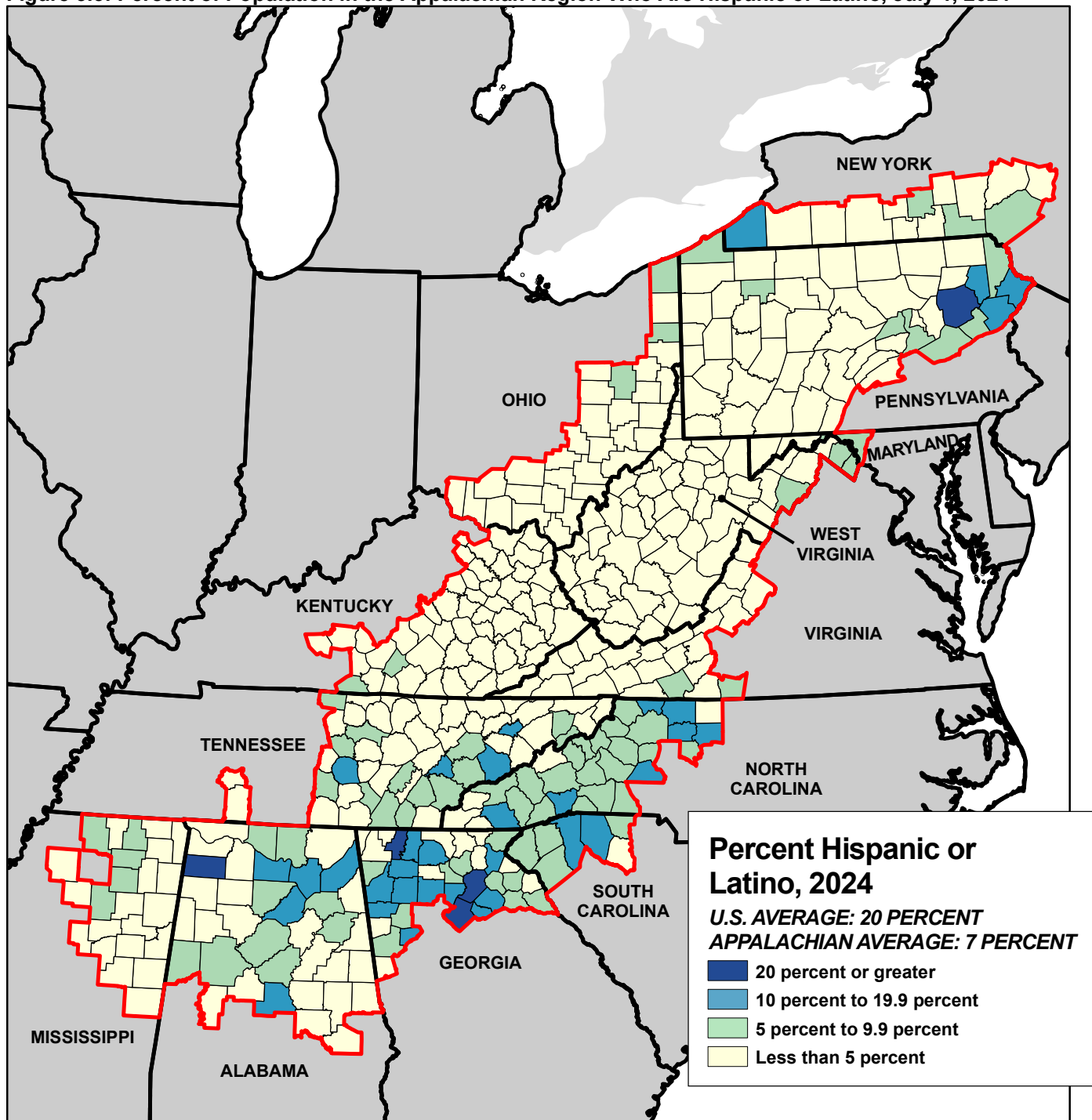


Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are Black Alone, not Hispanic, July 1, 2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

Non-Hispanic Black people are the largest group of color represented in Appalachia as of 2024, yet their share of the region's population (10.3 percent) was still lower than the United States average of 12.6 percent. In fact, the share of the Black population was lower than the U.S. average in all subregions and county types, except for Southern Appalachia and large metropolitan areas. In most of Appalachia – 352 of the region's 423 counties – the share of the population made up by Black, non-Hispanic residents is even lower than the region's average of 10.3 percent. And in 303 of those counties the share was less than five percent. On the other hand, in Southern Appalachia the share of non-Hispanic Black residents exceeds that of the U.S., at nearly 20 percent of the population. In fact, the share of the population made up of Black residents in Southern Appalachia exceeds the national average in just over half of the subregion's counties and at least one in four residents identifies as Black in 30 of Southern Appalachia's 105 counties.

Figure 3.3: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are Hispanic or Latino, July 1, 2024



Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are Hispanic or Latino, July 1, 2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

While Hispanic and Latino people are the largest population of color in the United States as of 2024—comprising 20 percent of the total population—in Appalachia, just seven percent of the region’s population identified as Hispanic or Latino. More than one in four Appalachian counties had a Hispanic or Latino population of at least five percent, more than three-quarters of which were in Southern and South Central Appalachia. In fact, of the 39 counties where Hispanic and Latino people comprised at least 10 percent of the population, all but five were located in Southern and South Central Appalachian states. The share of Hispanic or Latino residents exceeded the national average in only five of the region’s 423 counties – Franklin County, Alabama; Whitfield County, Georgia; Hall County, Georgia; Gwinnett County, Georgia; and Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

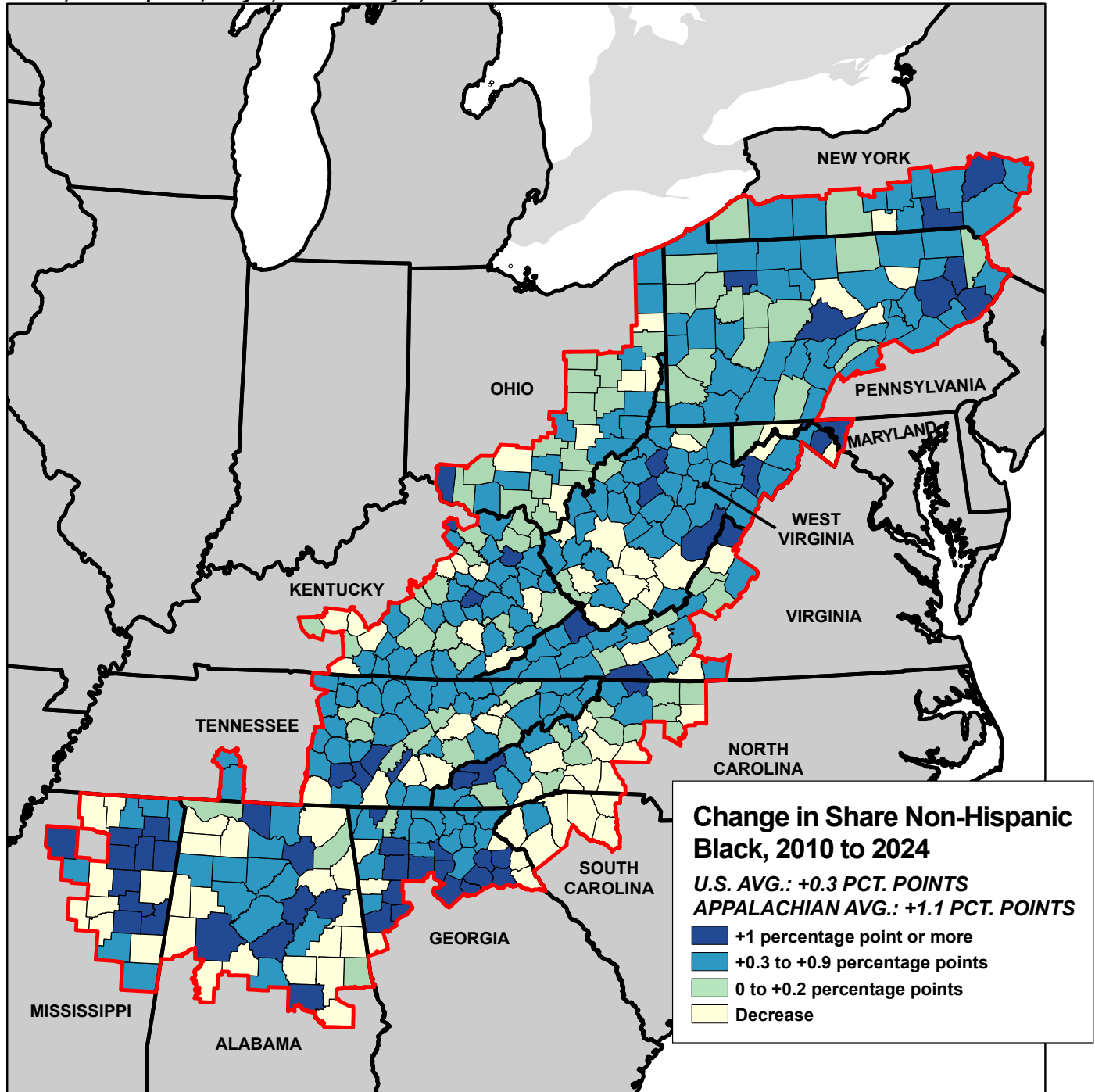
Table 3.2: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region, by Race and Hispanic Origin, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2024

Population by Race and Hispanic Origin	Percentage Point Change in Share of Population				
	White Alone, Not Hispanic	People of Color			
		Total	Black Alone, Not Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Other, Not Hispanic
United States	- 6.3	+ 6.3	+ 0.3	+ 3.6	+ 2.4
Appalachian Region	- 5.5	+ 5.5	+ 1.1	+ 2.8	+ 1.7
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	- 4.5	+ 4.5	+ 0.6	+ 2.4	+ 1.5
North Central Appalachia	- 2.5	+ 2.5	+ 0.3	+ 1.1	+ 1.1
Central Appalachia	- 2.3	+ 2.3	+ 0.3	+ 1.1	+ 0.9
South Central Appalachia	- 4.1	+ 4.1	0.0	+ 2.9	+ 1.2
Southern Appalachia	- 6.8	+ 6.8	+ 1.1	+ 3.3	+ 2.3
County Types					
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	- 8.2	+ 8.2	+ 2.2	+ 2.9	+ 3.0
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	- 5.3	+ 5.3	+ 0.7	+ 3.2	+ 1.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 3.7	+ 3.7	+ 0.4	+ 2.3	+ 1.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	- 3.3	+ 3.3	+ 0.2	+ 2.2	+ 0.9
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 2.6	+ 2.6	+ 0.5	+ 1.2	+ 0.9
Alabama	- 3.4	+ 3.4	0.0	+ 2.1	+ 1.3
Appalachian Alabama	- 4.1	+ 4.1	+ 0.7	+ 2.3	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 2.3	+ 2.3	- 0.9	+ 1.7	+ 1.5
Georgia	- 7.1	+ 7.1	+ 1.8	+ 2.8	+ 2.5
Appalachian Georgia	- 10.9	+ 10.9	+ 3.5	+ 3.7	+ 3.7
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 5.8	+ 5.8	+ 1.7	+ 2.2	+ 1.9
Kentucky	- 5.1	+ 5.1	+ 0.9	+ 2.5	+ 1.7
Appalachian Kentucky	- 2.1	+ 2.1	+ 0.2	+ 1.0	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 5.8	+ 5.8	+ 0.8	+ 3.1	+ 2.0
Maryland	- 8.3	+ 8.3	+ 1.0	+ 5.1	+ 2.2
Appalachian Maryland	- 8.3	+ 8.3	+ 2.6	+ 3.9	+ 1.8
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 8.2	+ 8.2	+ 0.8	+ 5.1	+ 2.2
Mississippi	- 2.6	+ 2.6	+ 0.4	+ 1.3	+ 0.9
Appalachian Mississippi	- 2.7	+ 2.7	+ 0.6	+ 1.1	+ 1.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 2.6	+ 2.6	+ 0.3	+ 1.4	+ 0.9
New York	- 5.2	+ 5.2	- 0.3	+ 2.5	+ 2.9
Appalachian New York	- 4.3	+ 4.3	+ 0.6	+ 1.9	+ 1.8
Non-Appalachian New York	- 5.1	+ 5.1	- 0.4	+ 2.6	+ 3.0
North Carolina	- 5.4	+ 5.4	- 0.4	+ 3.6	+ 2.2
Appalachian North Carolina	- 4.5	+ 4.5	+ 0.1	+ 3.2	+ 1.2
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 5.3	+ 5.3	- 0.8	+ 3.7	+ 2.5
Ohio	- 5.2	+ 5.2	+ 0.9	+ 2.1	+ 2.2
Appalachian Ohio	- 2.3	+ 2.3	+ 0.1	+ 1.2	+ 1.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 5.6	+ 5.6	+ 1.0	+ 2.2	+ 2.4
Pennsylvania	- 6.3	+ 6.3	+ 0.3	+ 3.7	+ 2.2
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 4.8	+ 4.8	+ 0.5	+ 2.6	+ 1.7
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 6.8	+ 6.8	- 0.2	+ 4.3	+ 2.6
South Carolina	- 1.6	+ 1.6	- 2.7	+ 2.9	+ 1.6
Appalachian South Carolina	- 4.5	+ 4.5	- 0.8	+ 3.8	+ 1.5
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.8	+ 0.8	- 3.3	+ 2.5	+ 1.6
Tennessee	- 4.3	+ 4.3	- 0.6	+ 3.4	+ 1.5
Appalachian Tennessee	- 4.0	+ 4.0	0.0	+ 2.8	+ 1.2
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 4.1	+ 4.1	- 1.4	+ 3.8	+ 1.7
Virginia	- 6.5	+ 6.5	- 0.1	+ 3.7	+ 2.8
Appalachian Virginia	- 3.2	+ 3.2	+ 0.4	+ 1.5	+ 1.3
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 6.4	+ 6.4	- 0.4	+ 3.7	+ 2.9
West Virginia (entire state)	- 2.6	+ 2.6	+ 0.3	+ 1.2	+ 1.1

Note: "Other" includes these racial groups: (a) American Indian and Alaska Native alone; (b) Asian alone; (c) Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone; and (d) Two or more races.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2020 and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

Figure 3.4: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are Black Alone, not Hispanic, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2024

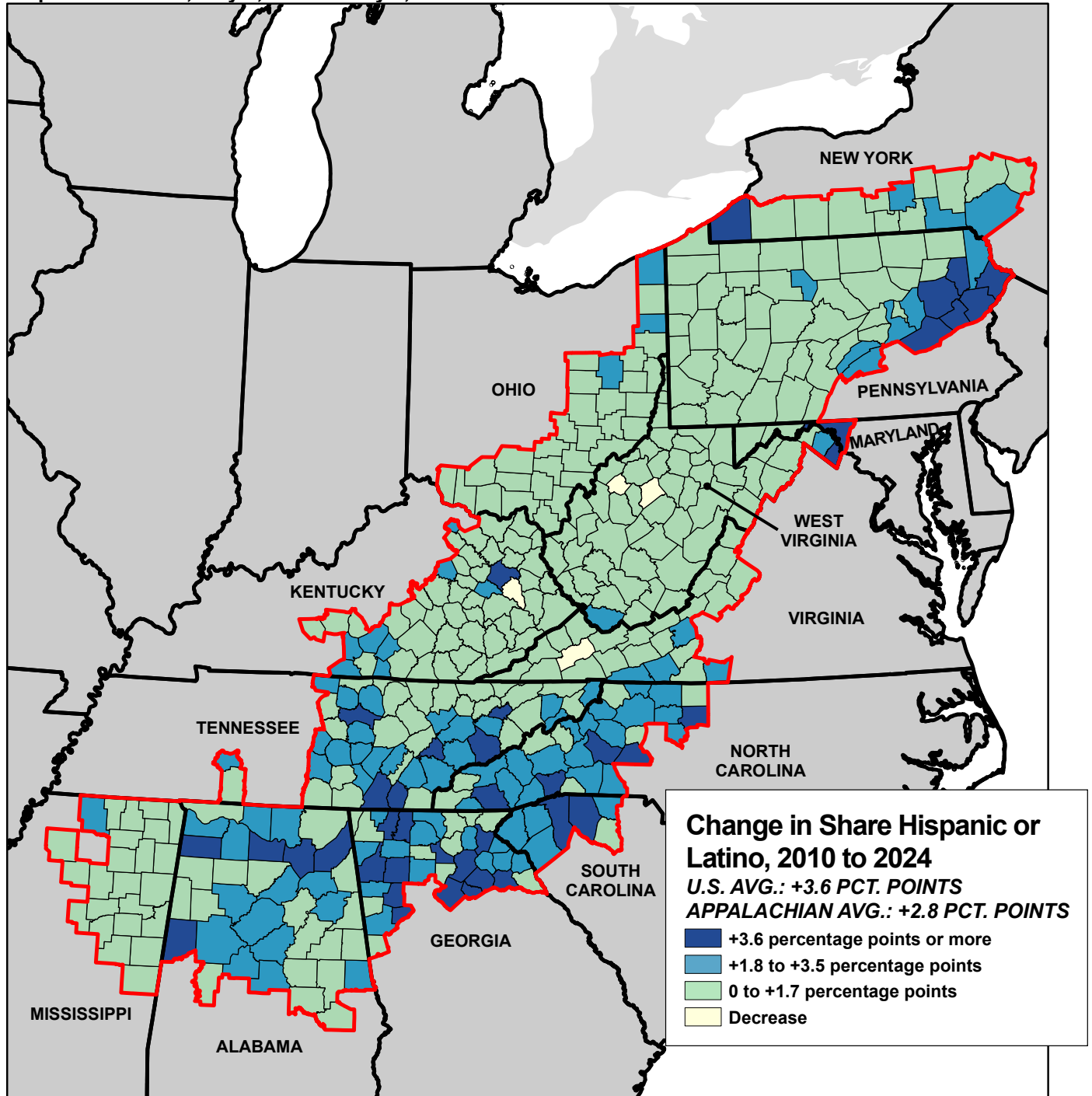


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are Black Alone, not Hispanic, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2020 and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

The share of the Appalachian population that is non-Hispanic Black rose by 1.1 percentage points, a higher rate of increase than for the nation as a whole (0.3 percentage points). In fact, in 59 of the region's counties, the share of the Black population increased by at least one percentage point. 32 of these counties were in Southern Appalachian states, with concentrations in Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. In fact, in Appalachian Georgia, the share increased by 3.5 percentage points during this period. On the other hand, the share of the Black population decreased in just over one in five Appalachian counties. These counties were also concentrated in Southern portions of the region, particularly in Alabama.

Figure 3.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are Hispanic or Latino, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2024



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are Hispanic or Latino, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2024
 Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2020 and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

The Hispanic/Latino share of the Appalachian population rose by 2.8 percentage points from 2010 to 2024 – although this increase was 0.8 percentage points below the national average over the past fourteen years. Yet, pockets of more rapid growth can be seen throughout Appalachia – in 41 of the region’s 423 counties the share of Hispanic or Latino people grew by at least the national average of 3.6 percentage points and in 66 counties the rate of growth met or exceeded the regional average. Meanwhile, four counties –Wirt and Gilmer Counties in West Virginia; Russel County, Virginia; and Magoffin County, Kentucky – had a decline in the Hispanic/Latino share of the population.

TRENDS IN RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

- Between July 1, 2010, and July 1, 2024, the share of people of color in the Appalachian Region rose by 5.5 percentage points, for a total of 22 percent as of July 1, 2024 (See Tables 3.1 and 3.2). Yet, compared with the national increase of 6.3 percentage points during the same period, the Appalachian Region's racial composition is changing more slowly and there are fewer people of color residing in Appalachia than in the nation as a whole.
- Southern Appalachia saw the most pronounced increase in residents of color, with an increase of 6.8 percentage points from 2010 to 2024. At the same time, large metropolitan areas (those with a population of 1 million or more) saw an 8.2 percentage point increase in such populations. Among the states, the share of people of color in Appalachian Georgia's population increased most, growing by 10.9 percentage points. The increase in the share of people of color in the Appalachian portion of all but two states – Georgia and Maryland – was less than that of Appalachia as a whole.
- The largest group of color in the Appalachian Region identifies as non-Hispanic Black, while Hispanic and Latino people are the largest group of color in the nation as a whole. Despite the overall higher share of Black residents in Appalachia, the growth of the Hispanic/Latino population – particularly in Georgia, Maryland, and South Carolina – has fueled racial and ethnic variation in these states. The Hispanic/Latino share of the Appalachian population rose by 2.8 percentage points between July 2010 and July 2024, while the share of Black residents rose by 1.1 percentage points. The share of the Black and Hispanic/Latino population rose most in Southern Appalachia.

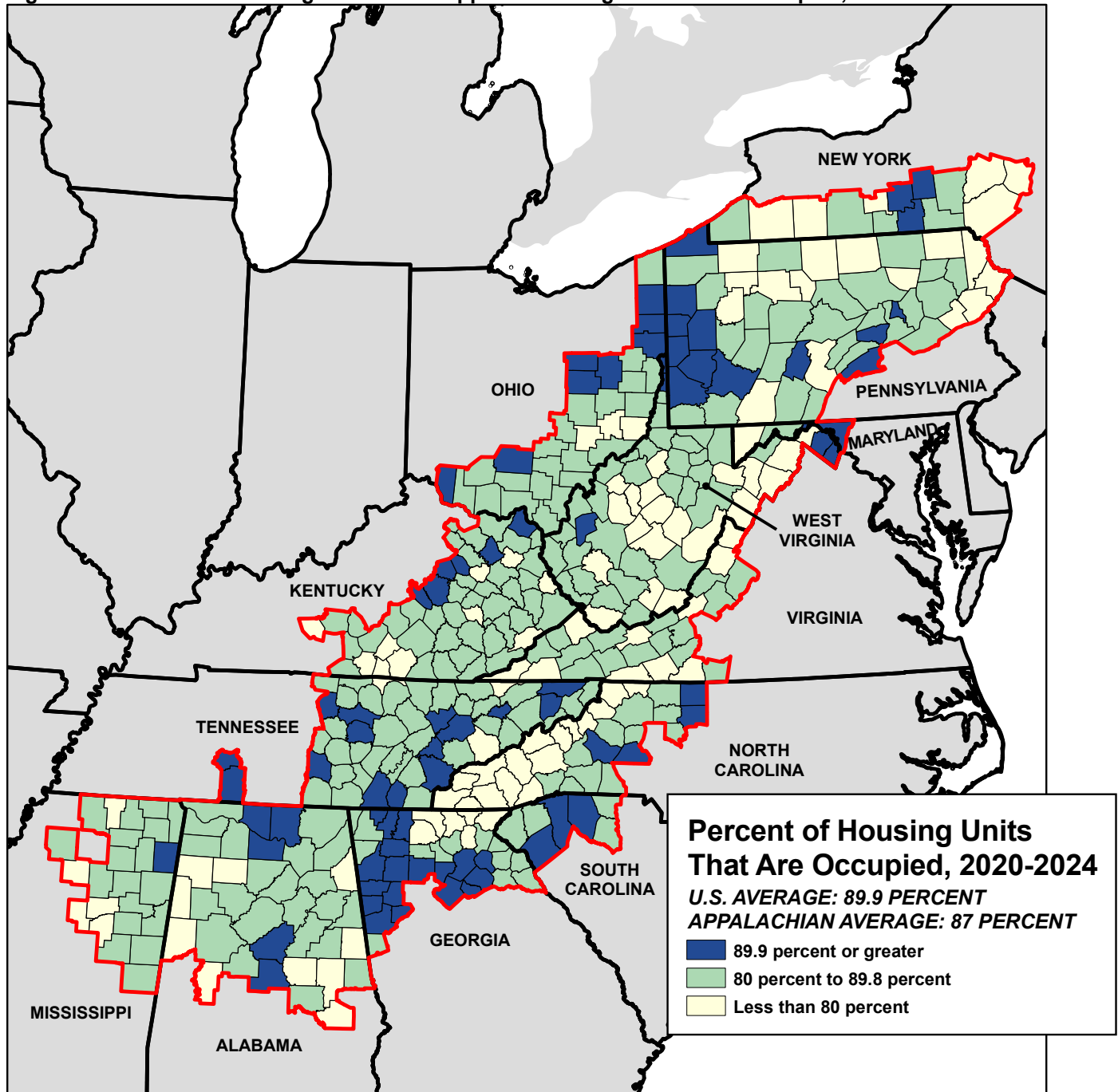
CHAPTER 4: HOUSING OCCUPANCY, TENURE, AND TYPE

Table 4.1: Occupancy and Tenure of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024

Housing Occupancy and Tenure	Total Number of Housing Units	Number of Occupied Housing Units	Percent of Total Housing Units		Percent of Occupied Housing Units	
			Occupied	Vacant	Owner-Occupied	Renter-Occupied
United States	143,775,355	129,227,496	89.9	10.1	65.2	34.8
Appalachian Region	12,159,661	10,576,156	87.0	13.0	71.9	28.1
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	3,872,451	3,354,116	86.6	13.4	71.6	28.4
North Central Appalachia	1,168,660	1,010,094	86.4	13.6	73.9	26.1
Central Appalachia	872,542	738,890	84.7	15.3	73.5	26.5
South Central Appalachia	2,521,466	2,157,071	85.5	14.5	71.0	29.0
Southern Appalachia	3,724,542	3,315,985	89.0	11.0	71.9	28.1
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	2,797,869	2,553,376	91.3	8.7	71.8	28.2
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	4,946,258	4,395,150	88.9	11.1	70.1	29.9
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	1,131,746	946,307	83.6	16.4	73.7	26.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	2,018,897	1,670,330	82.7	17.3	74.7	25.3
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	1,264,891	1,010,993	79.9	20.1	73.6	26.4
Alabama	2,337,265	1,997,247	85.5	14.5	70.2	29.8
Appalachian Alabama	1,479,298	1,287,136	87.0	13.0	71.4	28.6
Non-Appalachian Alabama	857,967	710,111	82.8	17.2	68.0	32.0
Georgia	4,541,835	4,074,366	89.7	10.3	65.7	34.3
Appalachian Georgia	1,342,545	1,228,941	91.5	8.5	72.7	27.3
Non-Appalachian Georgia	3,199,290	2,845,425	88.9	11.1	62.7	37.3
Kentucky	2,023,116	1,814,469	89.7	10.3	68.3	31.7
Appalachian Kentucky	538,072	460,530	85.6	14.4	72.1	27.9
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,485,044	1,353,939	91.2	8.8	67.0	33.0
Maryland	2,560,784	2,362,928	92.3	7.7	67.6	32.4
Appalachian Maryland	115,507	99,778	86.4	13.6	69.5	30.5
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,445,277	2,263,150	92.6	7.4	67.5	32.5
Mississippi	1,341,114	1,145,431	85.4	14.6	70.0	30.0
Appalachian Mississippi	288,496	243,164	84.3	15.7	70.3	29.7
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	1,052,618	902,267	85.7	14.3	69.9	30.1
New York	8,585,241	7,722,646	90.0	10.0	54.3	45.7
Appalachian New York	512,216	424,591	82.9	17.1	69.5	30.5
Non-Appalachian New York	8,073,025	7,298,055	90.4	9.6	53.5	46.5
North Carolina	4,895,668	4,282,345	87.5	12.5	66.6	33.4
Appalachian North Carolina	1,022,216	839,160	82.1	17.9	71.3	28.7
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	3,873,452	3,443,185	88.9	11.1	65.5	34.5
Ohio	5,292,391	4,863,191	91.9	8.1	67.2	32.8
Appalachian Ohio	898,506	803,572	89.4	10.6	72.2	27.8
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,393,885	4,059,619	92.4	7.6	66.2	33.8
Pennsylvania	5,806,452	5,274,853	90.8	9.2	69.3	30.7
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,737,180	2,375,588	86.8	13.2	72.0	28.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	3,069,272	2,899,265	94.5	5.5	67.2	32.8
South Carolina	2,443,039	2,117,989	86.7	13.3	71.9	28.1
Appalachian South Carolina	614,203	556,744	90.6	9.4	71.7	28.3
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,828,836	1,561,245	85.4	14.6	71.9	28.1
Tennessee	3,143,670	2,824,277	89.8	10.2	66.9	33.1
Appalachian Tennessee	1,387,750	1,230,278	88.7	11.3	71.1	28.9
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,755,920	1,593,999	90.8	9.2	63.7	36.3
Virginia	3,684,756	3,365,732	91.3	8.7	67.3	32.7
Appalachian Virginia	362,347	298,019	82.2	17.8	72.2	27.8
Non-Appalachian Virginia	3,322,409	3,067,713	92.3	7.7	66.9	33.1
West Virginia (entire state)	861,325	728,655	84.6	15.4	74.9	25.1

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 4.1: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Occupied, 2020-2024

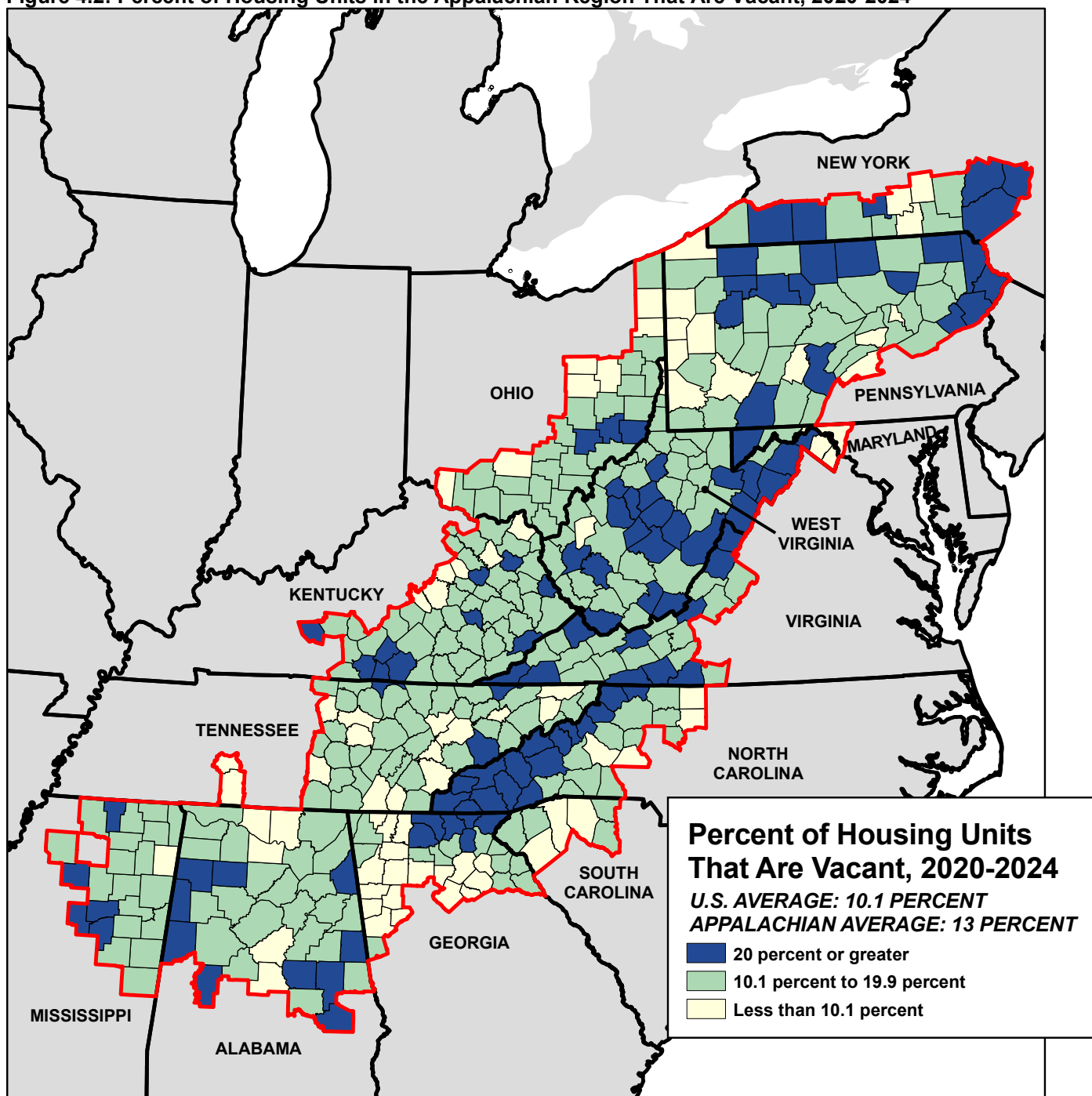


Map Title: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Occupied, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

The home occupancy rate in Appalachia was nearly three percentage points lower than the national average of 89.9 percent. However, throughout Appalachia there were 81 counties where the home occupancy rate matched or exceeded the national average with larger concentrations in Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. Among these 81 counties, 57 were located in metropolitan areas – such as the suburbs of Atlanta and Pittsburgh. On the other hand, in 105 of the region’s 423 counties, the share of housing units that were occupied was less than 80 percent. And of these low housing occupancy counties, 89 were located outside of metropolitan areas, in counties adjacent to metropolitan areas and rural counties.

Figure 4.2: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Vacant, 2020-2024

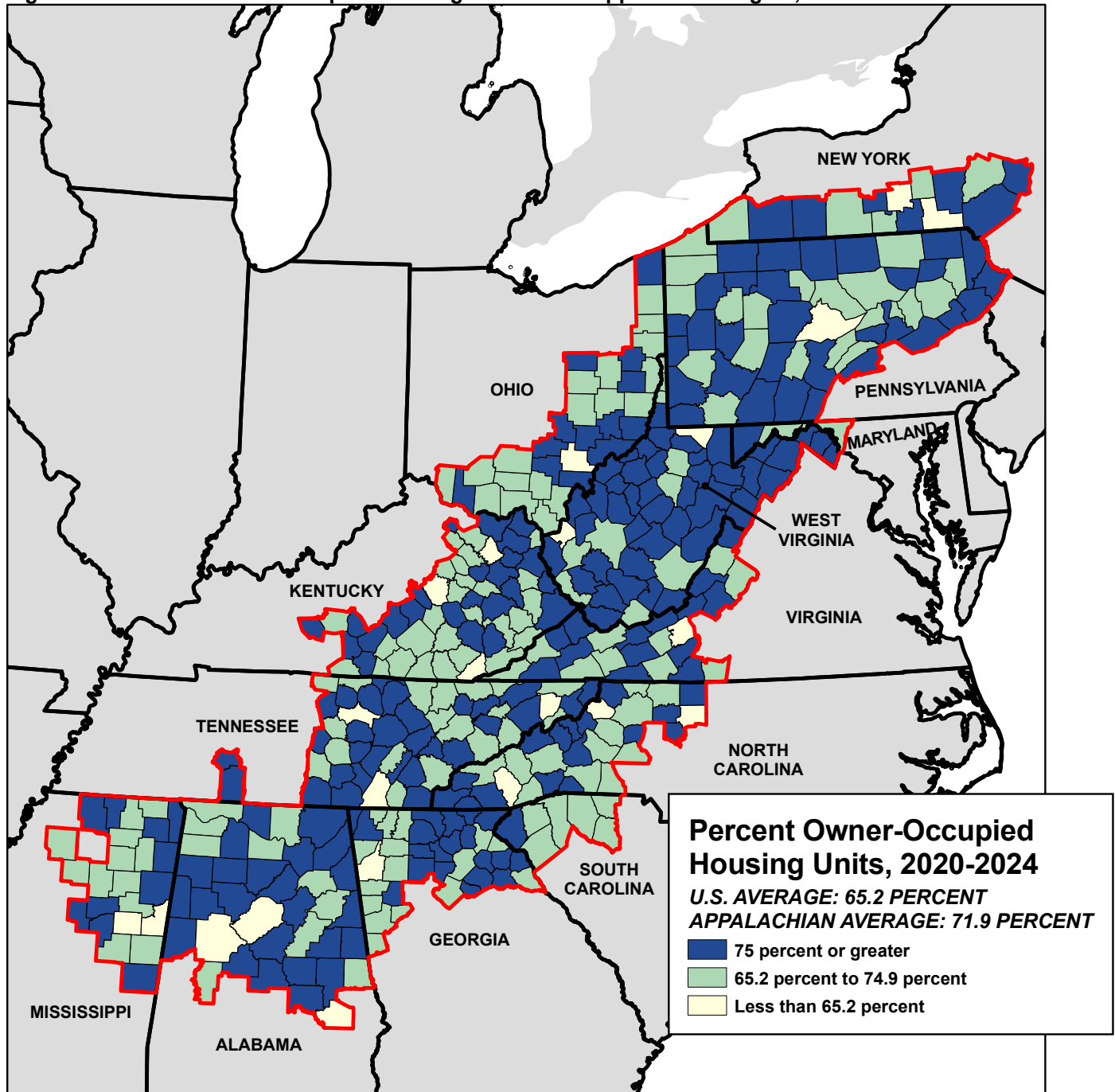


Map Title: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Vacant, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

During the 2020-2024 period, 13 percent of housing units in Appalachia were vacant, compared with just 10.1 percent for the nation as a whole. Yet, the share of vacant housing units varied throughout the region. In 106 Appalachian counties – all but 16 of which were outside of metropolitan areas – the share of housing units that were vacant was at least 20 percent. On the other hand, 79 of Appalachia’s 423 counties had vacancy rates below the national average of 10.1 percent. It is important to note that in 82 of the 106 Appalachian counties with vacancy rates of 20 percent or more, at least one-third of the vacant units were designated for seasonal or occasional use – suggesting the likelihood of significant recreational, resort, or retirement activity in the community. Examples of areas with popular recreational attractions include the Catskill Mountains in Appalachian New York, Mammoth Cave National Park in Edmonson County, Kentucky, and Appalachian Pennsylvania’s Elk Country.

Figure 4.3: Percent Owner-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024

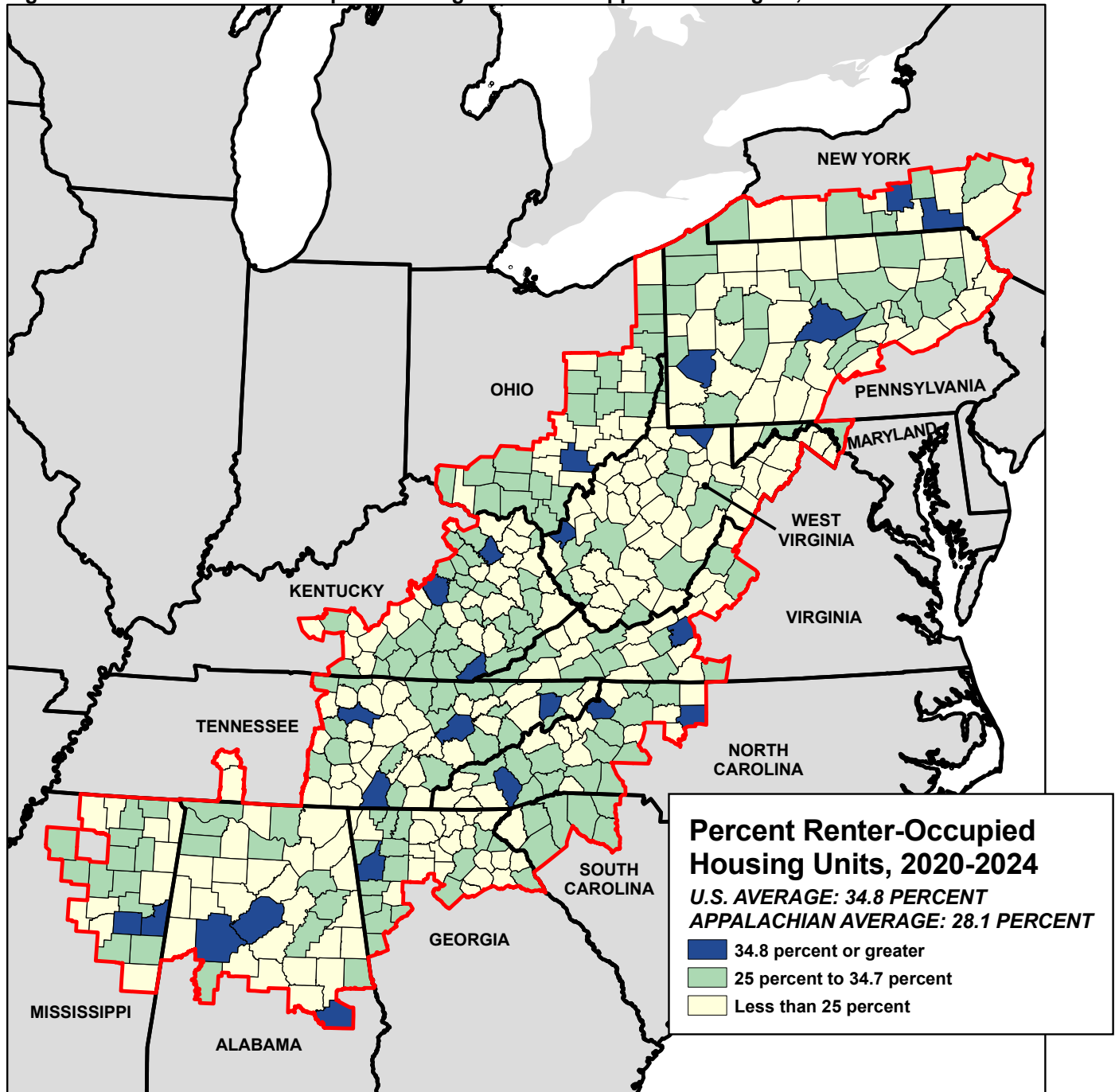


Map Title: Percent Owner-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

The Appalachian Region boasted higher rates of homeownership than the nation as a whole in the 2020-2024 period. In all but 22 Appalachian counties, the share of owner-occupied housing units matched or exceeded the national average of 65.2 percent. And in 234 of Appalachia's 423 counties – scattered throughout the region – the share was at least 75 percent. Of the 22 counties where homeownership rates fell below 65.2 percent, 18 had a college or university where student populations may contribute to lower homeownership rates. It is important to note that in some areas, high homeownership rates might be related to low levels of economic and residential mobility, as well as the older age structure of the Appalachian population.

Figure 4.4: Percent Renter-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent Renter-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

At 28.1 percent, the share of renter-occupied housing units in Appalachia was 6.7 percentage points lower than the national average. Throughout Appalachia, 231 counties had a share of renter-occupied units that was less than 25 percent. The share matched or exceeded the national average in just 24 of the region's counties, and about four-fifths of these were home to colleges or universities – such as Macon County, Alabama (Tuskegee University), Forsyth County, North Carolina (Wake Forest University), and Cabell County, West Virginia (Marshall University) – where student populations contribute to higher demand for rental housing.

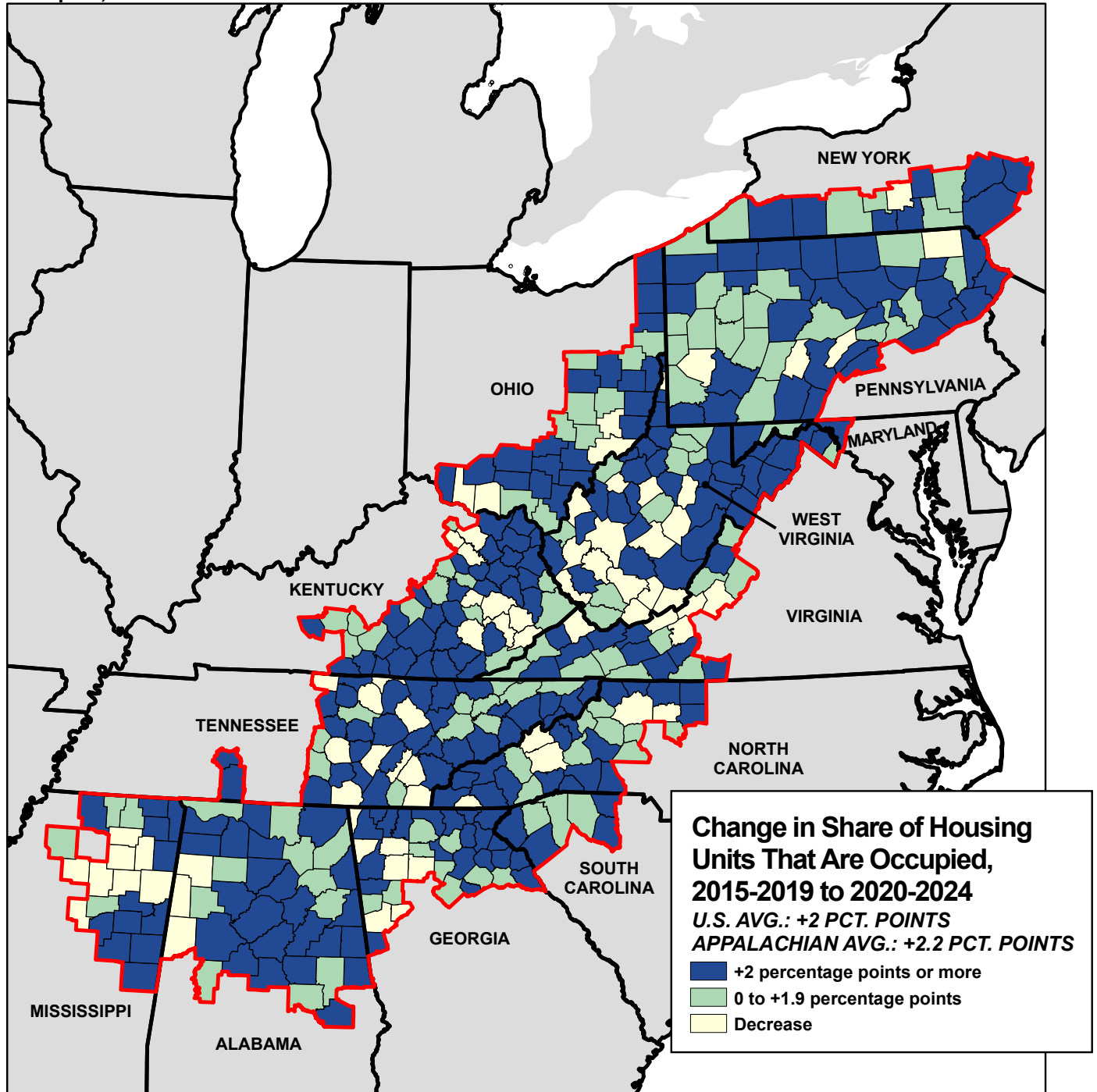
Table 4.2: Percentage Point Change in Occupancy and Tenure of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Housing Occupancy and Tenure	Percentage Point Change, Share of Total Housing Units		Percentage Point Change, Share of Occupied Housing Units	
	Occupied	Vacant	Owner-Occupied	Renter-Occupied
United States	+ 2.0	- 2.0	+ 1.2	- 1.2
Appalachian Region	+ 2.2	- 2.2	+ 1.4	- 1.4
Subregions				
Northern Appalachia	+ 2.0	- 2.0	+ 1.0	- 1.0
North Central Appalachia	+ 2.3	- 2.3	+ 1.5	- 1.5
Central Appalachia	+ 2.8	- 2.8	+ 1.5	- 1.5
South Central Appalachia	+ 1.5	- 1.5	+ 1.5	- 1.5
Southern Appalachia	+ 2.3	- 2.3	+ 1.7	- 1.7
County Types				
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	+ 1.4	- 1.4	+ 1.4	- 1.4
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	+ 1.8	- 1.8	+ 1.3	- 1.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	+ 2.9	- 2.9	+ 1.6	- 1.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	+ 2.7	- 2.7	+ 1.6	- 1.6
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 3.0	- 3.0	+ 1.4	- 1.4
Alabama	+ 2.7	- 2.7	+ 1.4	- 1.4
Appalachian Alabama	+ 2.7	- 2.7	+ 1.1	- 1.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 2.5	- 2.5	+ 2.0	- 2.0
Georgia	+ 1.9	- 1.9	+ 2.4	- 2.4
Appalachian Georgia	+ 2.0	- 2.0	+ 1.9	- 1.9
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 1.8	- 1.8	+ 2.6	- 2.6
Kentucky	+ 2.3	- 2.3	+ 1.1	- 1.1
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 2.9	- 2.9	+ 1.2	- 1.2
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 2.0	- 2.0	+ 1.1	- 1.1
Maryland	+ 2.2	- 2.2	+ 0.7	- 0.7
Appalachian Maryland	+ 2.1	- 2.1	+ 1.1	- 1.1
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 2.3	- 2.3	+ 0.7	- 0.7
Mississippi	+ 1.9	- 1.9	+ 1.8	- 1.8
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 2.0	- 2.0	+ 0.7	- 0.7
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 1.9	- 1.9	+ 2.1	- 2.1
New York	+ 1.8	- 1.8	+ 0.4	- 0.4
Appalachian New York	+ 2.6	- 2.6	+ 0.5	- 0.5
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 1.6	- 1.6	+ 0.5	- 0.5
North Carolina	+ 1.8	- 1.8	+ 1.4	- 1.4
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 0.8	- 0.8	+ 1.8	- 1.8
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 2.0	- 2.0	+ 1.4	- 1.4
Ohio	+ 2.0	- 2.0	+ 1.1	- 1.1
Appalachian Ohio	+ 2.2	- 2.2	+ 0.9	- 0.9
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 1.9	- 1.9	+ 1.2	- 1.2
Pennsylvania	+ 2.0	- 2.0	+ 0.4	- 0.4
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.9	- 1.9	+ 1.2	- 1.2
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 2.1	- 2.1	0.0	0.0
South Carolina	+ 2.7	- 2.7	+ 2.5	- 2.5
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 1.9	- 1.9	+ 2.5	- 2.5
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 2.9	- 2.9	+ 2.4	- 2.4
Tennessee	+ 2.2	- 2.2	+ 0.6	- 0.6
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 2.3	- 2.3	+ 1.5	- 1.5
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 2.1	- 2.1	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Virginia	+ 1.6	- 1.6	+ 1.0	- 1.0
Appalachian Virginia	+ 1.1	- 1.1	+ 0.9	- 0.9
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 1.6	- 1.6	+ 1.2	- 1.2
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 2.5	- 2.5	+ 1.7	- 1.7

Note: Since occupied units and vacant units sum to the total number of housing units, the sum of the percentage point changes for the two categories will equal zero. The same principle holds for the sum of the percentage point changes for owner-occupied units and renter-occupied units, since these two categories sum to the total number of occupied housing units.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Figure 4.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Occupied, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

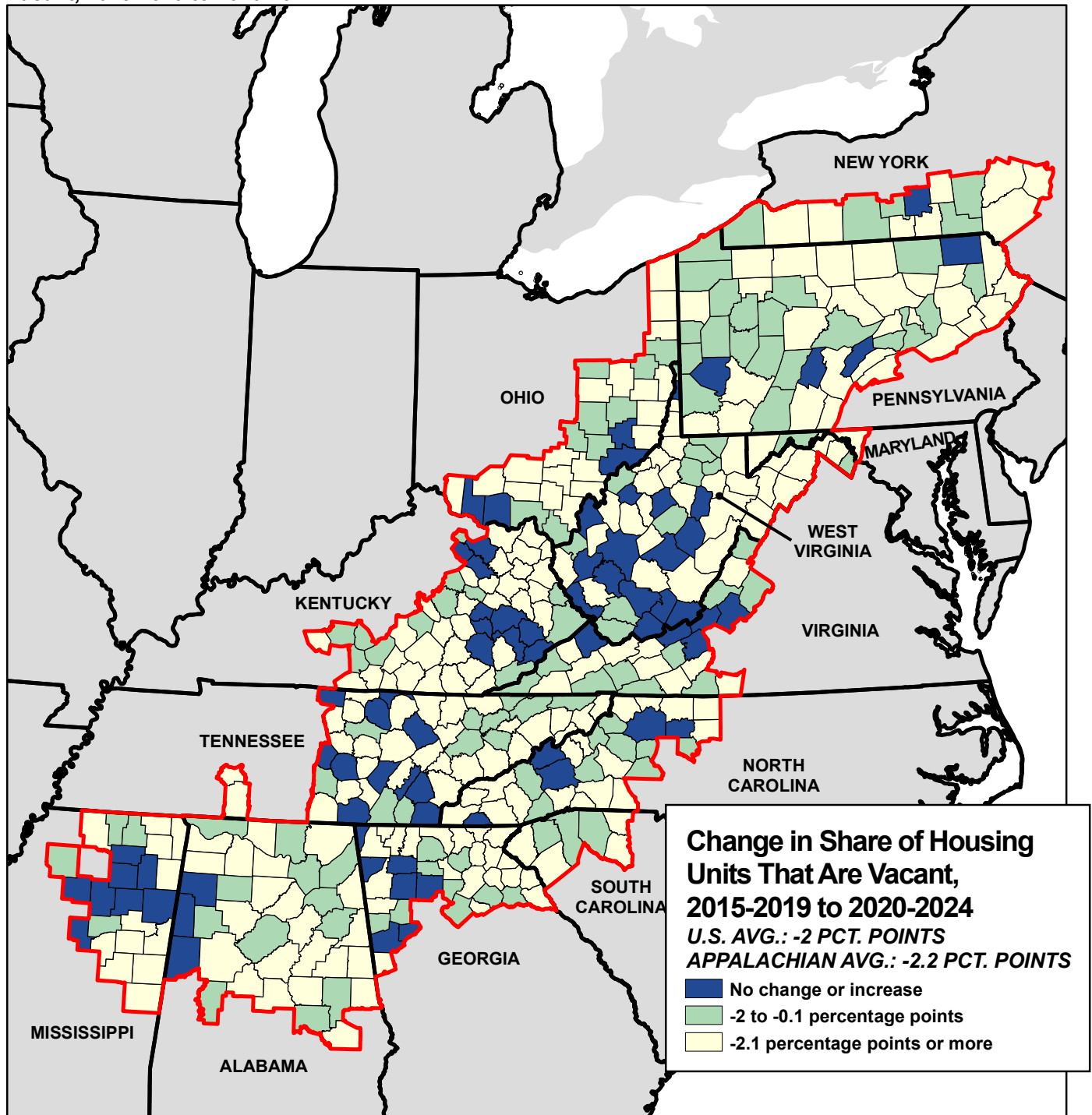


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Occupied, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

The home occupancy rate in Appalachia increased 2.2 percentage points between the 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 periods, slightly faster than the national rate of increase. In fact, in 238 of Appalachia's 423 counties the increase matched or exceeded the national average. While the Appalachian Region overall saw increasing occupancy, including in all county types and subregions, 71 counties saw a decrease during this period. Among counties where home occupancy rates decreased, more than one in five were located in West Virginia and another one in seven were in Appalachian Tennessee.

Figure 4.6: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Vacant, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

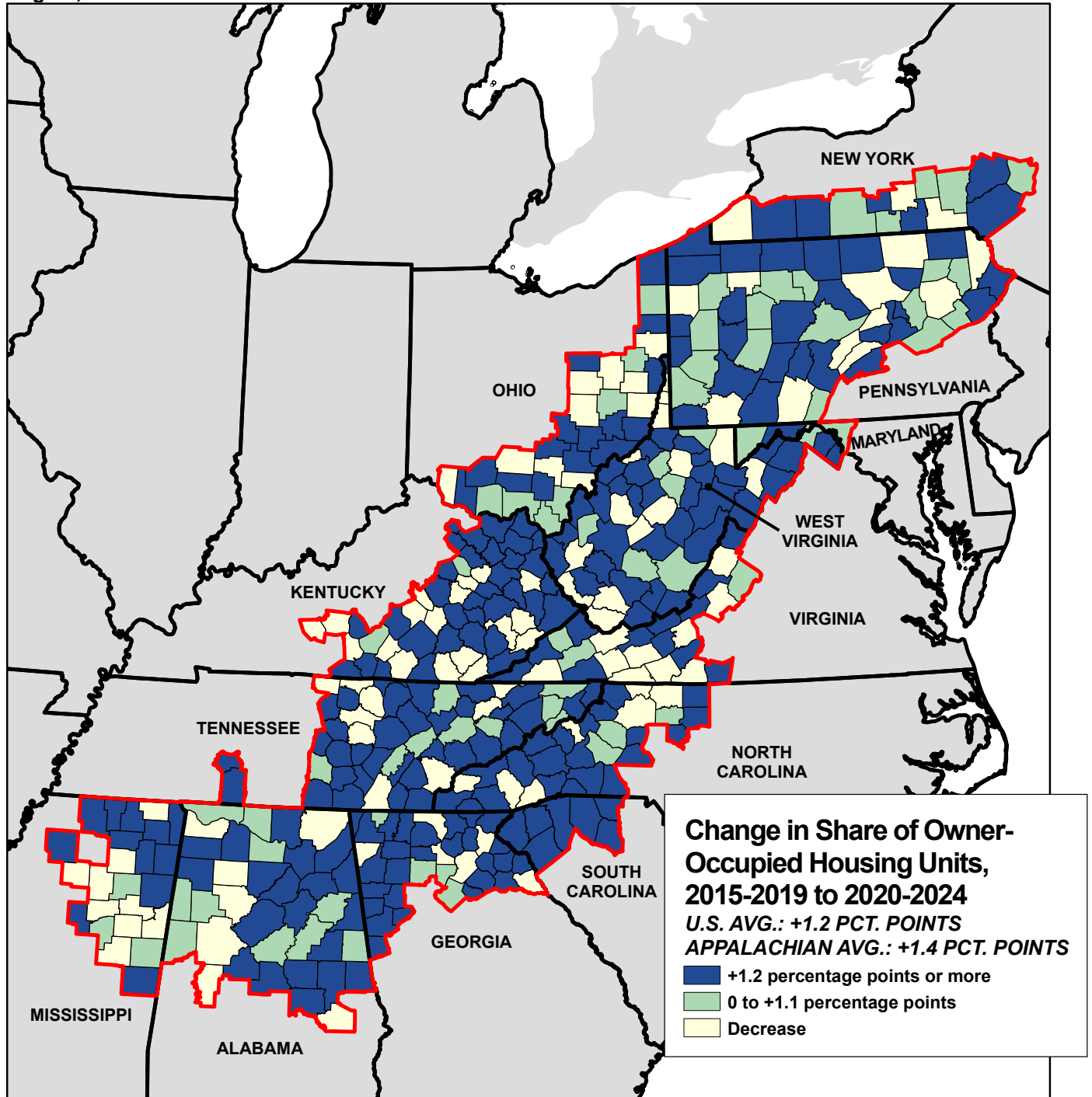


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Vacant, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024, the share of vacant housing units declined 2.2 percentage points in Appalachia, declining slightly faster than the nation as a whole. Despite the overall decline throughout the region, 73 counties remained constant or saw an increase in vacant housing units during this period. More than one in three of the counties where housing vacancy did not change or increased were in the region's rural communities, and more than one in four were in small metropolitan areas. Yet, all of the subregions, every county type, and the Appalachian portions of every state in the region had an overall decline in vacant housing units between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024.

Figure 4.7: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Owner-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

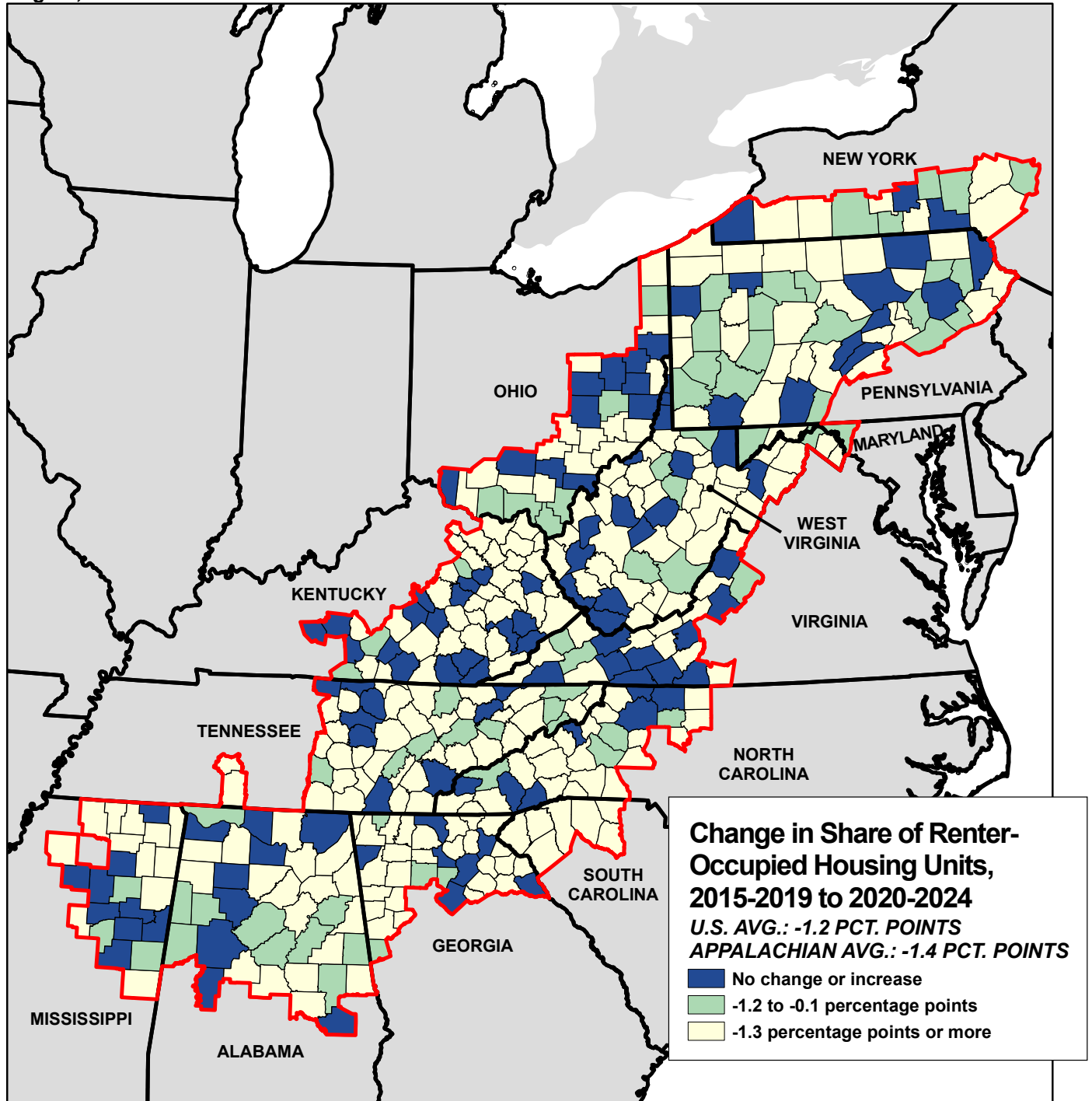


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Owner-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

The share of owner-occupied housing units rose slightly more in Appalachia than it did nationwide between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. In fact, the increase was at or above the national average in more than half (249) of Appalachia's 423 counties. Yet, in 104 of the region's counties homeownership rates fell during this period – and just over one-third of these were located in the Appalachian Region's rural counties. Counties in both groups were scattered throughout the Appalachian Region.

Figure 4.8: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Renter-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Renter-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

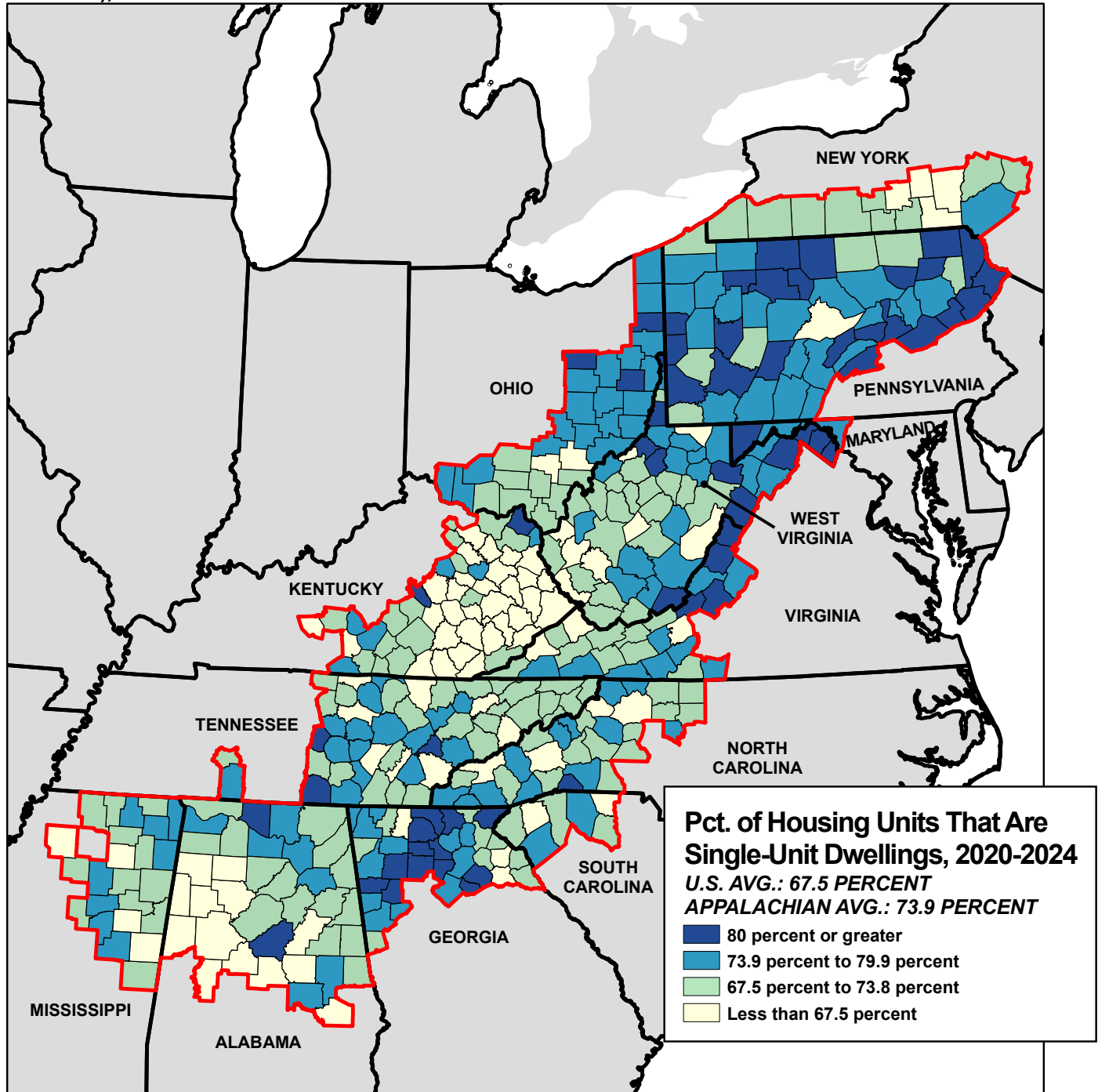
The share of renter-occupied housing units decreased slightly more in Appalachia than it did nationwide between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. Yet variations were present within the region: For example, there were 243 Appalachian counties where the decrease in rental shares exceeded the national average of -1.2 percentage points, and the Appalachian portions of all 13 states saw an overall decrease in renter-occupied units. At the same time, in 109 counties throughout the region, the share of renter-occupied housing units stayed the same or increased.

Table 4.3: Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, by Type of Housing, 2020-2024

Housing Units (Type of Housing)	Total Number of Housing Units (Occupied and Vacant)	Percent of All Housing Units					
		Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached)	Multiple-Unit Fixed Dwellings			Mobile Homes	Boats, RVs, Vans, Etc.
			Total	Two to Four Units	Five or More Units		
United States	143,775,355	67.5	26.8	7.7	19.1	5.6	0.1
Appalachian Region	12,159,661	73.9	15.3	5.8	9.6	10.6	0.1
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	3,872,451	76.0	18.0	8.3	9.7	5.9	0.1
North Central Appalachia	1,168,660	73.9	13.2	4.9	8.3	12.8	0.1
Central Appalachia	872,542	67.7	9.3	4.2	5.1	22.7	0.3
South Central Appalachia	2,521,466	72.1	15.4	5.2	10.3	12.3	0.2
Southern Appalachia	3,724,542	74.4	14.6	4.2	10.4	10.8	0.2
County Types							
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	2,797,869	76.9	17.6	5.0	12.6	5.4	0.1
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	4,946,258	72.9	17.9	6.5	11.4	9.1	0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	1,131,746	75.0	12.2	6.3	5.9	12.6	0.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	2,018,897	73.6	10.7	5.3	5.4	15.5	0.3
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	1,264,891	70.7	10.6	5.1	5.5	18.5	0.2
Alabama	2,337,265	71.0	16.5	4.8	11.7	12.3	0.2
Appalachian Alabama	1,479,298	72.1	15.9	4.6	11.4	11.7	0.2
Non-Appalachian Alabama	857,967	69.1	17.4	5.1	12.3	13.3	0.3
Georgia	4,541,835	70.8	21.3	5.1	16.2	7.8	0.1
Appalachian Georgia	1,342,545	79.0	13.2	3.4	9.8	7.7	0.1
Non-Appalachian Georgia	3,199,290	67.3	24.7	5.8	18.9	7.9	0.1
Kentucky	2,023,116	70.4	18.8	7.1	11.7	10.7	0.1
Appalachian Kentucky	538,072	66.1	10.6	5.0	5.6	23.1	0.2
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,485,044	71.9	21.8	7.8	14.0	6.2	0.1
Maryland	2,560,784	72.5	26.2	3.6	22.6	1.3	0.0
Appalachian Maryland	115,507	78.5	17.5	6.3	11.2	4.0	0.0
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,445,277	72.2	26.6	3.5	23.2	1.1	0.0
Mississippi	1,341,114	70.7	14.8	5.6	9.2	14.4	0.2
Appalachian Mississippi	288,496	70.1	12.1	5.8	6.3	17.7	0.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	1,052,618	70.8	15.5	5.5	10.0	13.5	0.2
New York	8,585,241	46.6	51.2	16.5	34.7	2.1	0.0
Appalachian New York	512,216	67.3	23.2	13.5	9.7	9.4	0.1
Non-Appalachian New York	8,073,025	45.3	53.0	16.7	36.3	1.7	0.0
North Carolina	4,895,668	70.1	18.9	4.6	14.2	11.0	0.1
Appalachian North Carolina	1,022,216	71.5	14.4	4.6	9.8	14.0	0.2
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	3,873,452	69.7	20.1	4.7	15.4	10.2	0.1
Ohio	5,292,391	73.7	22.8	7.9	14.9	3.4	0.1
Appalachian Ohio	898,506	76.5	14.0	5.9	8.1	9.4	0.1
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,393,885	73.1	24.6	8.3	16.3	2.2	0.0
Pennsylvania	5,806,452	75.4	21.1	8.3	12.8	3.5	0.0
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,737,180	77.0	17.6	7.7	9.9	5.3	0.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	3,069,272	73.9	24.1	8.8	15.3	1.9	0.0
South Carolina	2,443,039	68.2	17.4	4.5	12.9	14.2	0.2
Appalachian South Carolina	614,203	71.7	15.7	4.4	11.3	12.4	0.2
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,828,836	67.0	18.0	4.5	13.4	14.8	0.2
Tennessee	3,143,670	72.1	19.6	5.6	14.1	8.1	0.2
Appalachian Tennessee	1,387,750	72.2	15.8	5.5	10.2	11.7	0.3
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,755,920	72.0	22.7	5.6	17.1	5.2	0.1
Virginia	3,684,756	72.6	23.1	4.5	18.6	4.3	0.0
Appalachian Virginia	362,347	72.2	11.8	4.0	7.8	15.9	0.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	3,322,409	72.6	24.3	4.6	19.7	3.0	0.0
West Virginia (entire state)	861,325	73.6	12.7	4.9	7.8	13.6	0.1

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 4.9: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached), 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached), 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

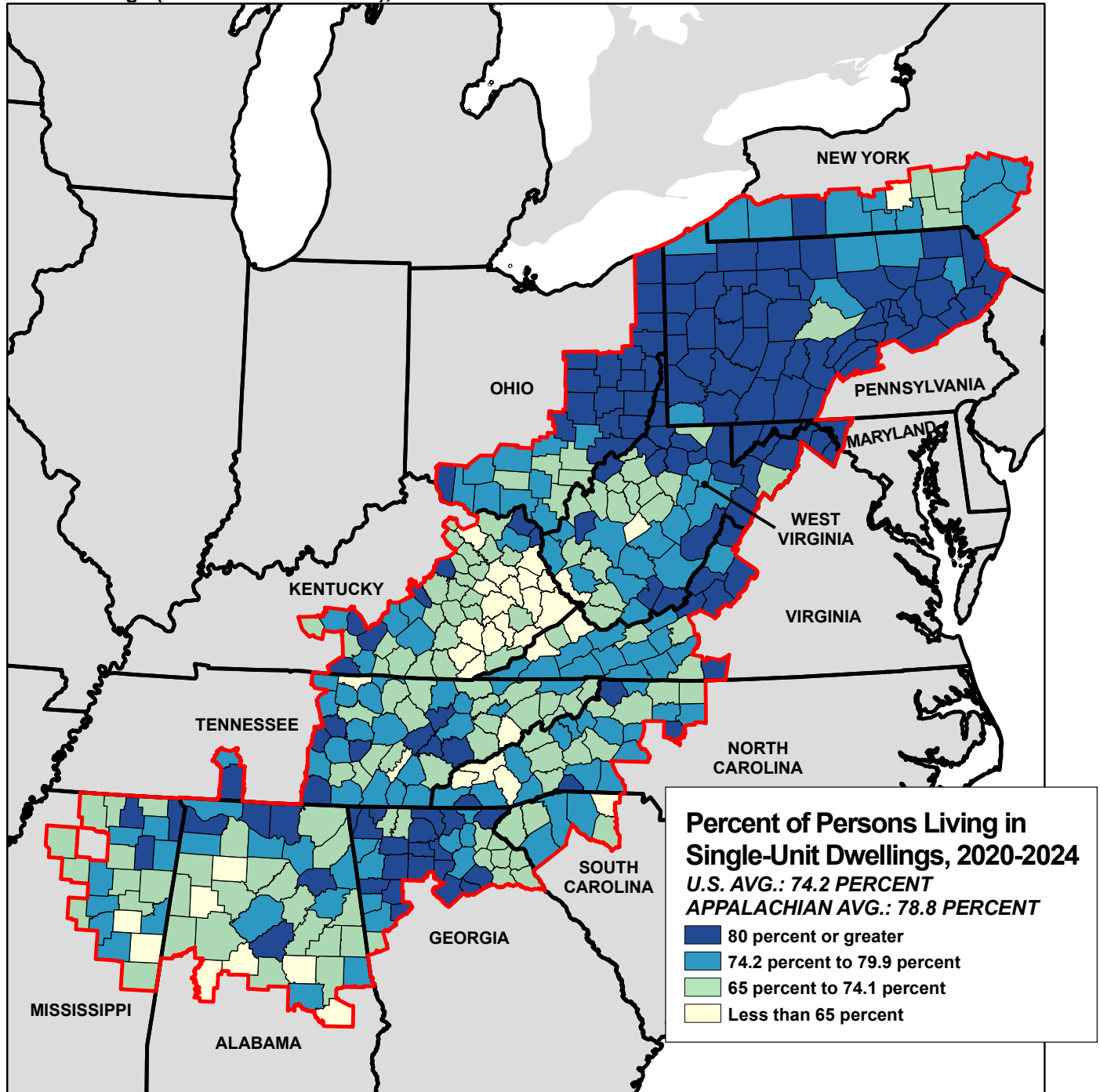
The share of housing units in the Appalachian Region that were single-unit dwellings (whether attached or detached) during the 2020-2024 period was more than six percentage points higher than the national average of 67.5 percent. And in 194 of Appalachia's 423 counties, the share was at least as high as the regional average of 73.9 percent – with the largest concentration in Appalachian Pennsylvania. Furthermore, in 63 Appalachian counties the share of the housing stock that was single-unit dwellings was at least 80 percent. Conversely, in 83 counties – primarily in Central and Southern Appalachia – the share of single-unit dwellings was below the national average.

Table 4.4: Population in Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, by Type of Housing, 2020-2024

Population in Housing Units (Type of Housing)	Total Population in Occupied Housing Units	Percent of Population in Occupied Housing Units					
		In Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached)	In Multiple-Unit Fixed Dwellings			In Mobile Homes	In Boats, RVs, Vans, Etc.
			Total	Two to Four Units	Five or More Units		
United States	326,722,431	74.2	20.6	6.7	13.8	5.1	0.1
Appalachian Region	25,693,591	78.8	10.9	4.3	6.6	10.1	0.1
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	7,718,965	82.5	12.5	6.3	6.3	4.9	0.1
North Central Appalachia	2,412,392	78.3	9.3	3.4	5.8	12.3	0.1
Central Appalachia	1,798,519	70.9	6.9	3.2	3.7	22.0	0.2
South Central Appalachia	5,161,572	75.9	11.4	4.0	7.4	12.5	0.2
Southern Appalachia	8,602,143	79.0	10.5	3.3	7.3	10.4	0.1
County Types							
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	6,401,984	83.0	11.8	3.5	8.3	5.1	0.1
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	10,571,525	78.2	12.8	5.0	7.8	8.9	0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	2,309,792	79.2	8.8	4.7	4.1	11.8	0.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	3,989,051	76.7	7.6	3.9	3.7	15.5	0.2
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	2,421,239	73.5	7.8	4.0	3.8	18.6	0.1
Alabama	4,948,158	76.3	11.4	3.6	7.7	12.2	0.2
Appalachian Alabama	3,194,246	76.8	11.2	3.5	7.7	11.8	0.2
Non-Appalachian Alabama	1,753,912	75.3	11.6	3.8	7.8	12.8	0.2
Georgia	10,690,640	77.0	15.4	4.1	11.3	7.6	0.1
Appalachian Georgia	3,446,094	82.8	9.9	2.8	7.1	7.2	0.1
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7,244,546	74.1	18.0	4.8	13.3	7.7	0.1
Kentucky	4,413,943	76.1	13.7	5.4	8.3	10.1	0.1
Appalachian Kentucky	1,125,966	69.5	7.9	3.8	4.1	22.5	0.2
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	3,287,977	78.4	15.7	6.0	9.7	5.8	0.1
Maryland	6,076,810	79.8	19.1	2.8	16.3	1.1	0.0
Appalachian Maryland	237,143	83.8	12.6	4.7	8.0	3.5	0.0
Non-Appalachian Maryland	5,839,667	79.6	19.3	2.7	16.6	1.0	0.0
Mississippi	2,856,122	74.7	11.0	4.5	6.5	14.1	0.1
Appalachian Mississippi	590,304	73.4	8.9	4.6	4.3	17.6	0.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	2,265,818	75.0	11.6	4.5	7.0	13.2	0.2
New York	19,227,424	52.7	45.6	16.7	28.9	1.7	0.0
Appalachian New York	957,676	73.5	18.1	11.1	6.9	8.4	0.1
Non-Appalachian New York	18,269,748	51.6	47.0	17.0	30.1	1.4	0.0
North Carolina	10,451,237	74.9	13.8	3.6	10.2	11.1	0.1
Appalachian North Carolina	2,000,028	74.6	10.5	3.4	7.0	14.8	0.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	8,451,209	75.0	14.6	3.7	11.0	10.3	0.1
Ohio	11,519,651	81.3	15.7	5.8	9.9	3.0	0.0
Appalachian Ohio	1,920,314	81.6	9.7	4.1	5.6	8.7	0.1
Non-Appalachian Ohio	9,599,337	81.2	16.9	6.1	10.8	1.9	0.0
Pennsylvania	12,589,066	82.7	14.5	6.2	8.2	2.8	0.0
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5,457,833	83.6	12.1	5.8	6.3	4.3	0.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	7,131,233	82.1	16.3	6.6	9.7	1.6	0.0
South Carolina	5,157,580	73.4	12.0	3.5	8.5	14.5	0.1
Appalachian South Carolina	1,371,499	76.9	11.1	3.1	8.0	11.9	0.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	3,786,081	72.1	12.3	3.6	8.7	15.4	0.1
Tennessee	6,917,933	77.7	14.2	4.6	9.7	7.9	0.2
Appalachian Tennessee	2,970,700	76.5	11.6	4.4	7.2	11.7	0.2
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	3,947,233	78.7	16.2	4.7	11.6	5.0	0.1
Virginia	8,469,077	79.3	17.0	3.5	13.5	3.6	0.0
Appalachian Virginia	695,390	75.9	9.4	3.0	6.4	14.6	0.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	7,773,687	79.6	17.7	3.6	14.2	2.7	0.0
West Virginia (entire state)	1,726,398	78.1	8.6	3.3	5.3	13.3	0.1

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 4.10: Among Persons in the Appalachian Region in Occupied Housing Units, Percent Living in Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached), 2020-2024



Map Title: Among Persons in the Appalachian Region in Occupied Housing Units, Percent Living in Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached), 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

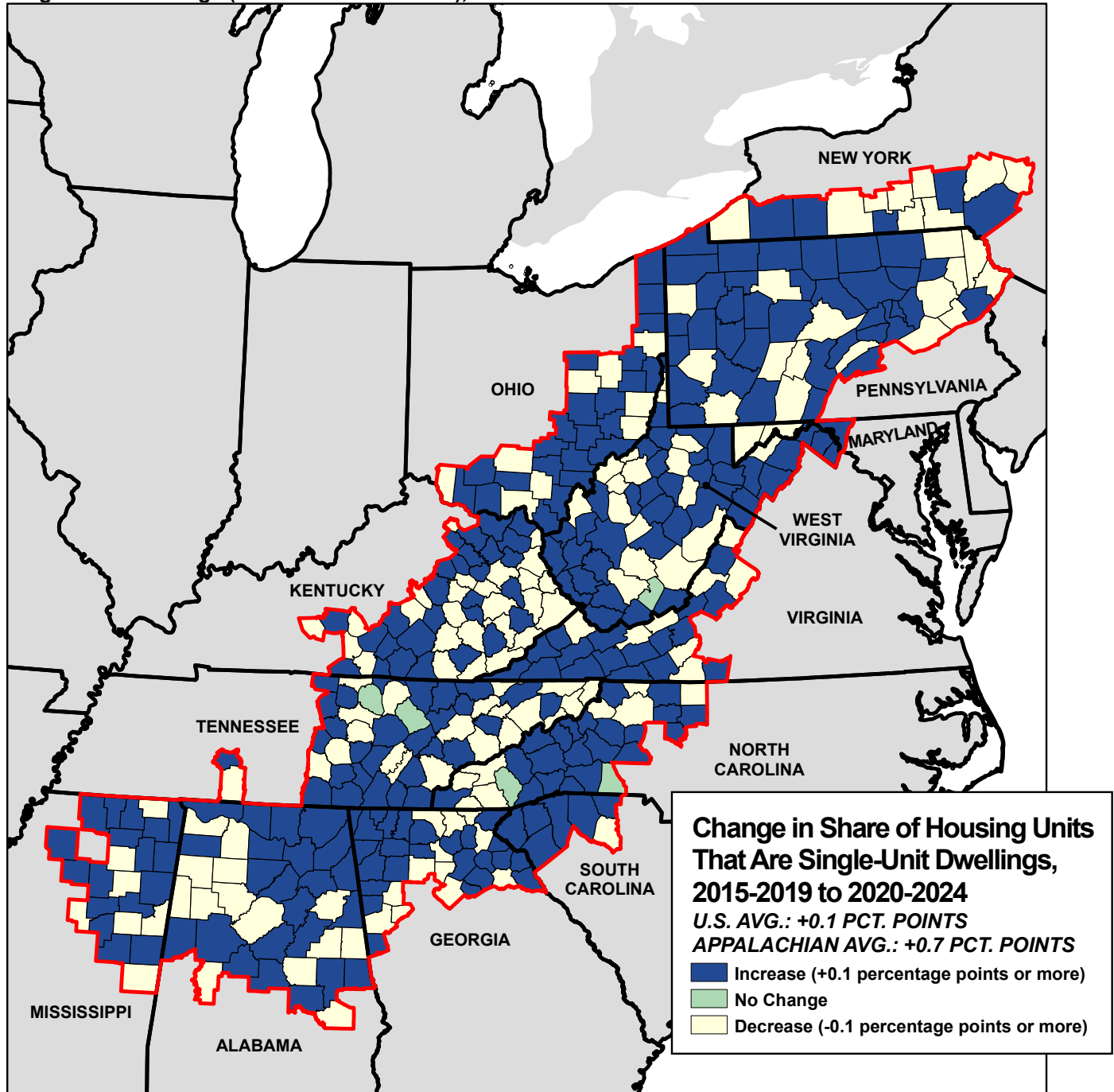
Of the Appalachian residents who live in occupied housing units, 78.8 percent lived in single-unit dwellings during the 2020-2024 period, more than four percentage points above the national average. And the share was even greater in 144 counties throughout Appalachia, where at least four in five residents lived in single-unit homes. While pockets existed throughout the region, Northern Appalachia had 62 of the 144 counties with the highest share of residents living in single-unit homes. On the other hand, in 159 of the region's counties the share living in single-unit dwellings was below the national average of 74.2 percent, while in 36 counties – primarily in Central Appalachia – the share was below 65 percent. In 31 of these 36 counties, at least one in four residents lived in mobile homes, contributing to the lower rates of single-unit dwellings.

Table 4.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, by Type of Housing, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Housing Units (Type of Housing)	Percentage Point Change in Share of All Housing Units					
	Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached)	Multiple-Unit Fixed Dwellings			Mobile Homes	Boats, RVs, Vans, Etc.
		Total	Two to Four Units	Five or More Units		
United States	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	- 0.2	+ 0.7	- 0.6	0.0
Appalachian Region	+ 0.7	+ 0.3	- 0.1	+ 0.5	- 1.1	0.0
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.4	- 0.6	+ 0.1
North Central Appalachia	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	0.0	+ 0.6	- 1.1	0.0
Central Appalachia	+ 1.3	+ 0.1	- 0.1	+ 0.1	- 1.6	+ 0.2
South Central Appalachia	+ 0.9	+ 0.6	0.0	+ 0.7	- 1.7	+ 0.1
Southern Appalachia	+ 0.9	+ 0.3	- 0.1	+ 0.4	- 1.2	+ 0.1
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	+ 0.3	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.4	- 0.4	+ 0.1
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	+ 0.9	+ 0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.5	- 1.2	0.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	+ 1.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.1	- 1.3	+ 0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	+ 0.7	+ 0.2	0.0	+ 0.3	- 1.0	+ 0.2
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 0.3	+ 0.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	- 1.0	+ 0.1
Alabama	+ 0.8	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.9	+ 0.1
Appalachian Alabama	+ 0.6	0.0	0.0	+ 0.1	- 0.8	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 1.2	0.0	- 0.4	+ 0.4	- 1.3	+ 0.2
Georgia	+ 0.6	+ 0.5	0.0	+ 0.5	- 1.2	0.0
Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	- 0.1	+ 0.8	- 1.5	0.0
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	0.0	+ 0.5	- 1.0	0.0
Kentucky	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	- 0.2	+ 0.7	- 1.1	0.0
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.8	+ 0.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	- 1.4	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	- 0.4	+ 0.9	- 0.8	0.0
Maryland	- 0.2	+ 0.4	- 0.1	+ 0.5	- 0.1	0.0
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.5	- 0.4	0.0
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 0.3	+ 0.4	- 0.1	+ 0.5	- 0.2	0.0
Mississippi	+ 0.5	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	- 0.7	+ 0.1
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	- 0.7	0.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.7	+ 0.1
New York	- 0.3	+ 0.5	- 0.8	+ 1.2	- 0.2	0.0
Appalachian New York	- 0.1	+ 0.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.8	- 0.8	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian New York	- 0.3	+ 0.4	- 0.8	+ 1.2	- 0.1	0.0
North Carolina	+ 0.9	+ 1.1	- 0.2	+ 1.1	- 1.8	0.0
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 1.6	+ 0.8	- 0.2	+ 0.9	- 2.3	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 0.6	+ 1.1	- 0.1	+ 1.2	- 1.7	0.0
Ohio	+ 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.8	+ 0.5	- 0.3	+ 0.1
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.9	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.2	- 0.9	0.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.4	- 0.3	- 0.9	+ 0.6	- 0.1	0.0
Pennsylvania	- 0.2	+ 0.6	- 0.1	+ 0.7	- 0.4	0.0
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.3	- 0.5	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.7	+ 0.8	- 0.1	+ 0.9	- 0.2	0.0
South Carolina	+ 1.9	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.2	- 2.0	+ 0.1
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 1.5	+ 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2	- 1.7	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 2.0	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.2	- 2.1	+ 0.1
Tennessee	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	- 0.3	+ 0.9	- 1.1	+ 0.1
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	0.0	+ 0.4	- 1.2	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	- 0.7	+ 1.2	- 0.9	0.0
Virginia	0.0	+ 0.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.7	- 0.8	0.0
Appalachian Virginia	+ 1.5	+ 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.4	- 1.7	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 0.2	+ 0.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.6	- 0.6	0.0
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 0.5	+ 0.7	0.0	+ 0.6	- 1.2	0.0

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Figure 4.11: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached), 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached), 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

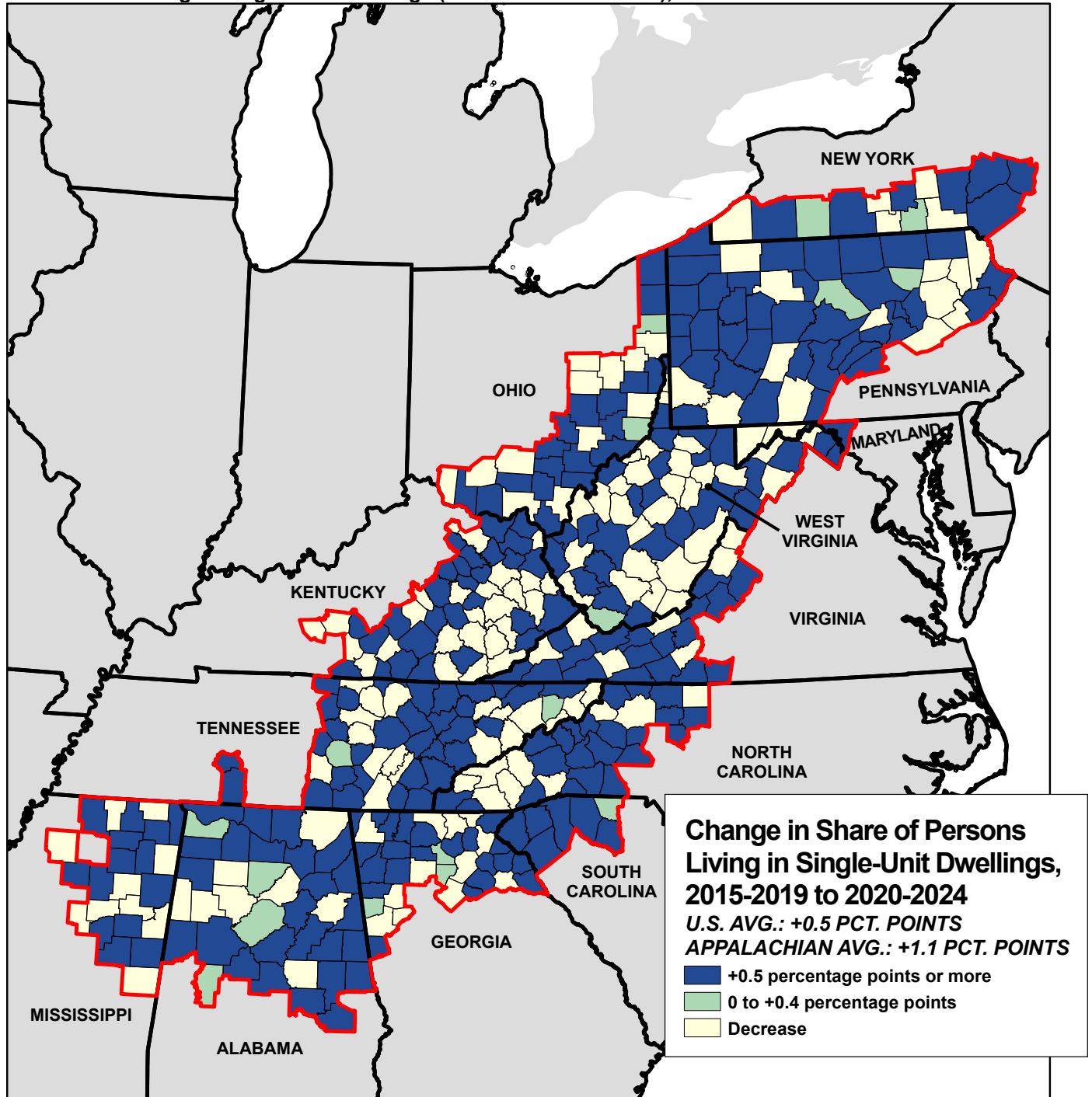
The share of single-unit dwellings among the housing stock increased 0.7 percentage points in Appalachia between the 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 periods, while the nation's share increased by only 0.1 percentage points. Indeed, in 268 of Appalachia's 423 counties the share of single-unit dwellings increased. On the other hand, in 150 of the region's counties the share of single-unit homes decreased, while the remaining five Appalachian counties saw no change. The slight rise in the share of single-unit homes in Appalachia appears to be largely due to a decrease in mobile homes, the share of which fell 1.1 percentage points between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024.

Table 4.6: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, by Type of Housing, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Population in Housing Units (Type of Housing)	Percentage Point Change in Share of Population in Occupied Housing Units					
	In Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached)	In Multiple-Unit Fixed Dwellings			In Mobile Homes	In Boats, RVs, Vans, Etc.
		Total	Two to Four Units	Five or More Units		
United States	+ 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.1	- 0.4	0.0
Appalachian Region	+ 1.1	- 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.1	- 1.0	0.0
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.7	- 0.3	- 0.2	0.0	- 0.5	+ 0.1
North Central Appalachia	+ 0.7	+ 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2	- 0.7	0.0
Central Appalachia	+ 1.7	- 0.3	- 0.4	+ 0.1	- 1.6	+ 0.2
South Central Appalachia	+ 1.4	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1	- 1.5	+ 0.1
Southern Appalachia	+ 1.3	- 0.2	- 0.1	0.0	- 1.1	0.0
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	+ 0.6	- 0.3	- 0.3	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.1
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	+ 1.4	- 0.2	- 0.2	0.0	- 1.3	0.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	+ 1.5	- 0.5	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 1.1	+ 0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	+ 1.0	- 0.3	- 0.3	+ 0.1	- 0.8	+ 0.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 0.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	0.0	- 0.8	0.0
Alabama	+ 1.2	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.9	+ 0.1
Appalachian Alabama	+ 1.0	- 0.4	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.7	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 1.3	- 0.3	- 0.4	+ 0.1	- 1.2	+ 0.1
Georgia	+ 1.4	- 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.3	- 0.8	0.0
Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.8	+ 0.1	- 0.1	+ 0.2	- 1.0	0.0
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 1.4	- 0.7	- 0.2	- 0.4	- 0.8	0.0
Kentucky	+ 0.8	0.0	- 0.6	+ 0.5	- 0.8	+ 0.1
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 1.3	- 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.1	- 1.1	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.6	0.0	- 0.6	+ 0.6	- 0.6	0.0
Maryland	- 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.1	0.0	0.0
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.3	0.0	+ 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.4	0.0
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 0.1	0.0	+ 0.1	- 0.1	0.0	0.0
Mississippi	+ 1.0	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 0.7	0.0
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.9	- 0.3	0.0	- 0.3	- 0.6	0.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.9	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 0.7	+ 0.1
New York	+ 0.8	- 0.7	- 1.0	+ 0.3	- 0.1	0.0
Appalachian New York	+ 0.6	0.0	- 0.4	+ 0.3	- 0.6	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.9	- 0.8	- 1.1	+ 0.3	0.0	0.0
North Carolina	+ 1.5	+ 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.4	- 1.8	0.0
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 2.3	- 0.1	- 0.2	0.0	- 2.2	0.0
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 1.3	+ 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.5	- 1.6	+ 0.1
Ohio	+ 0.6	- 0.4	- 0.5	+ 0.1	- 0.2	0.0
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.5	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.2	- 0.4	0.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.6	- 0.5	- 0.6	+ 0.1	0.0	0.0
Pennsylvania	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2	- 0.3	0.0
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.8	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.4	0.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.2	+ 0.4	0.0	+ 0.4	- 0.2	0.0
South Carolina	+ 2.4	- 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.1	- 2.4	0.0
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 2.6	- 0.4	- 0.1	- 0.2	- 2.3	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 2.3	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.3	- 2.4	0.0
Tennessee	+ 0.8	- 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2	- 0.9	+ 0.1
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.9	+ 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.2	- 1.2	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.9	- 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.2	- 0.7	0.0
Virginia	+ 0.8	- 0.2	0.0	- 0.2	- 0.6	0.0
Appalachian Virginia	+ 1.6	- 0.3	- 0.3	0.0	- 1.4	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.6	- 0.2	+ 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.4	0.0
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 1.0	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.2	- 0.9	+ 0.1

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Figure 4.12: Among Persons in the Appalachian Region in Occupied Housing Units, Percentage Point Change in the Share Living in Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached), 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Among Persons in the Appalachian Region in Occupied Housing Units, Percentage Point Change in the Share Living in Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached), 2015-2019 to 2020-2024
 Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachian residents living in single-unit homes was just over a full percentage point higher in 2020-2024 than in 2015-2019, higher than the national increase of 0.5 percentage points. Likewise, the share increased at or above the national average in 256 of the Appalachian Region's 423 counties. Among the states, the Appalachian portions of North Carolina (2.3 percentage points) and South Carolina (2.6 percentage points) had notable rises in the share of residents in single-unit homes. On the other hand, the share declined in 150 of the region's counties. Increases in shares living in single-unit dwellings can be largely attributed to a decline in the percentage of the Appalachian population living in mobile homes, which fell one percentage point between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024.

TRENDS IN HOUSING OCCUPANCY, TENURE, AND TYPE

- At 87 percent during the 2020-2024 period, Appalachia's home occupancy rate increased by 2.2 percentage points relative to the 2015-2019 period (see Tables 4.1 and 4.2). Occupancy rates increased in all Appalachian subregions, county types, and Appalachian portions of states.
- Homeownership rates in the Appalachian Region rose by 1.4 percentage points between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 (see Table 4.2). While all of the subregions had a rise in homeownership during this time, Southern Appalachia had the highest increase of 1.7 percentage points. Counties adjacent to small and large metropolitan areas increased homeownership rates most (1.6 percentage points).
- Of the housing units in the Appalachian Region, single-unit dwellings accounted for 73.9 percent in 2020-2024, an increase of 0.7 percentage points compared with the 2015-2019 period (see Tables 4.3 and 4.5). The share increased in all county types and subregions, and particularly in Central Appalachia (1.3 percentage points) and counties adjacent to large metropolitan areas (one percentage point). The share rose in the Appalachian portion of all states except for New York, where it decreased by 0.1 percentage points. However, the increases among Appalachian portions of states were especially prevalent in Appalachian North Carolina (1.6 percentage points), South Carolina (1.5 percentage points), and Virginia (1.5 percentage points). Throughout Appalachia, the rising share of single-unit homes is related to the decline in mobile homes, the share of which has fallen 1.1 percentage points since 2015-2019, with the largest drops in Central and South Central Appalachia (1.6 and 1.7 percentage points, respectively), as well as the Appalachian portions of South Carolina (-1.7 percentage points), North Carolina (-2.3 percentage points), and Virginia (-1.7 percentage points).
- The share of the Appalachian population residing in single-unit dwellings was 78.8 percent in 2020-2024, a 1.1 percentage point increase compared with the 2015-2019 period (see Tables 4.4 and 4.6). The share rose in all Appalachian subregions, county types, and portions of states. Yet, the rate of increase among states varied considerably, from a 2.6 percentage point increase in Appalachian South Carolina to a 0.3 percentage point increase in Appalachian Maryland. The increase in people living in single-unit residences throughout the Appalachian Region has come in conjunction with a decline in people residing in mobile home units; the share of the Appalachian population living in mobile home units declined by one percentage point between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024.

CHAPTER 5: HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Table 5.1: Population in Households and Group Quarters in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024

Population in Households and Group Quarters	All Persons	Percent of All Persons			
		In Households			In Group Quarters
		Total	In Family Households	In Non-Family Households	
United States	334,922,499	97.6	80.2	17.4	2.4
Appalachian Region	26,476,649	97.0	79.8	17.3	3.0
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	8,044,338	96.0	76.2	19.8	4.0
North Central Appalachia	2,487,267	97.0	78.7	18.2	3.0
Central Appalachia	1,855,647	96.9	81.0	15.9	3.1
South Central Appalachia	5,301,380	97.4	79.3	18.1	2.6
Southern Appalachia	8,788,017	97.9	83.5	14.4	2.1
County Types					
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	6,527,659	98.1	81.9	16.2	1.9
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	10,921,997	96.8	78.5	18.3	3.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	2,383,446	96.9	80.5	16.4	3.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	4,119,523	96.8	79.9	16.9	3.2
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	2,524,024	95.9	78.9	17.0	4.1
Alabama	5,086,768	97.3	80.6	16.6	2.7
Appalachian Alabama	3,285,913	97.2	80.9	16.3	2.8
Non-Appalachian Alabama	1,800,855	97.4	80.2	17.2	2.6
Georgia	10,940,407	97.7	82.0	15.7	2.3
Appalachian Georgia	3,488,227	98.8	87.3	11.5	1.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7,452,180	97.2	79.6	17.6	2.8
Kentucky	4,534,824	97.3	79.7	17.7	2.7
Appalachian Kentucky	1,163,514	96.8	80.8	16.0	3.2
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	3,371,310	97.5	79.3	18.3	2.5
Maryland	6,206,011	97.9	81.3	16.6	2.1
Appalachian Maryland	251,776	94.2	76.5	17.7	5.8
Non-Appalachian Maryland	5,954,235	98.1	81.5	16.6	1.9
Mississippi	2,946,779	96.9	81.1	15.9	3.1
Appalachian Mississippi	608,751	97.0	80.5	16.4	3.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	2,338,028	96.9	81.2	15.7	3.1
New York	19,852,366	96.9	78.0	18.9	3.1
Appalachian New York	1,018,135	94.1	72.5	21.5	5.9
Non-Appalachian New York	18,834,231	97.0	78.3	18.7	3.0
North Carolina	10,730,404	97.4	79.8	17.6	2.6
Appalachian North Carolina	2,053,866	97.4	79.4	18.0	2.6
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	8,676,538	97.4	79.9	17.5	2.6
Ohio	11,810,293	97.5	78.0	19.5	2.5
Appalachian Ohio	1,974,946	97.2	79.3	17.9	2.8
Non-Appalachian Ohio	9,835,347	97.6	77.8	19.8	2.4
Pennsylvania	13,018,639	96.7	78.1	18.6	3.3
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5,679,999	96.1	76.3	19.7	3.9
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	7,338,640	97.2	79.5	17.7	2.8
South Carolina	5,296,225	97.4	80.3	17.1	2.6
Appalachian South Carolina	1,405,126	97.6	81.2	16.4	2.4
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	3,891,099	97.3	79.9	17.4	2.7
Tennessee	7,066,383	97.9	80.3	17.6	2.1
Appalachian Tennessee	3,036,299	97.8	80.3	17.6	2.2
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	4,030,084	97.9	80.3	17.6	2.1
Virginia	8,705,170	97.3	80.2	17.1	2.7
Appalachian Virginia	731,724	95.0	75.5	19.6	5.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	7,973,446	97.5	80.6	16.9	2.5
West Virginia (entire state)	1,778,373	97.1	78.6	18.5	2.9

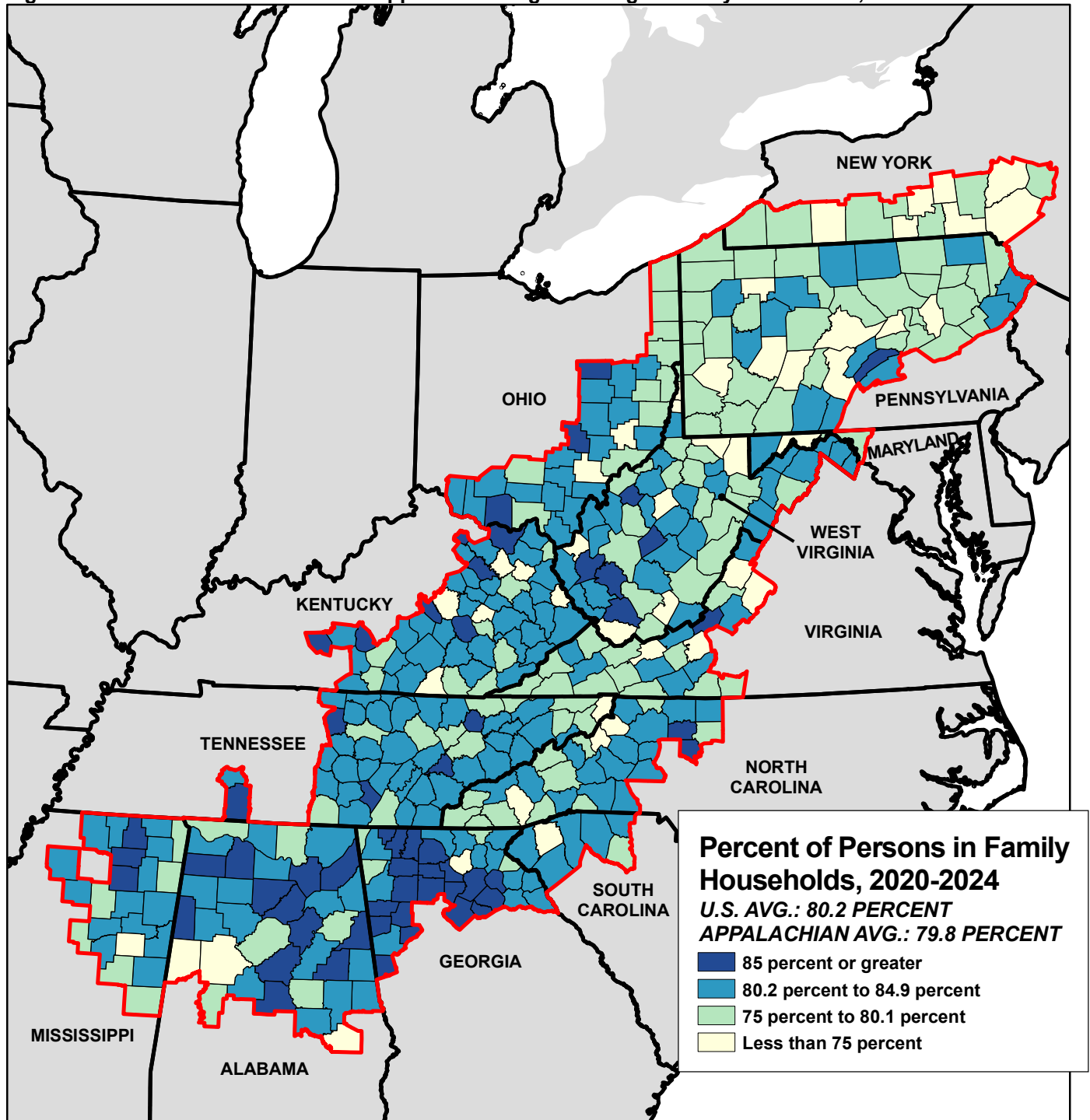
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Table 5.2: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Living in Households and Group Quarters, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Population in Households and Group Quarters	Percentage Point Change in Share of All Persons			
	In Households			In Group Quarters
	Total	In Family Households	In Non-Family Households	
United States	+ 0.1	- 0.8	+ 0.9	- 0.1
Appalachian Region	0.0	- 0.6	+ 0.7	0.0
Subregions				
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.1	- 0.9	+ 1.0	- 0.1
North Central Appalachia	0.0	- 1.1	+ 1.0	0.0
Central Appalachia	0.0	- 0.8	+ 0.8	0.0
South Central Appalachia	+ 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.4	- 0.2
Southern Appalachia	- 0.1	- 0.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.1
County Types				
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	0.0	- 0.4	+ 0.4	0.0
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	0.0	- 0.8	+ 0.8	0.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	+ 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3	- 0.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	+ 0.1	- 0.7	+ 0.8	- 0.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 0.2	- 1.2	+ 1.0	+ 0.2
Alabama	- 0.3	- 1.2	+ 0.8	+ 0.3
Appalachian Alabama	- 0.4	- 1.2	+ 0.9	+ 0.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 0.2	- 0.9	+ 0.7	+ 0.2
Georgia	+ 0.2	- 0.4	+ 0.6	- 0.2
Appalachian Georgia	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1	0.0
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.3	- 0.5	+ 0.8	- 0.3
Kentucky	+ 0.3	- 0.5	+ 0.9	- 0.3
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.1	- 0.7	+ 0.8	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.3	- 0.5	+ 0.9	- 0.3
Maryland	+ 0.2	- 0.7	+ 1.0	- 0.2
Appalachian Maryland	+ 1.3	- 0.1	+ 1.4	- 1.3
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.2	- 0.8	+ 1.0	- 0.2
Mississippi	+ 0.1	- 0.8	+ 1.0	- 0.1
Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.2	- 1.3	+ 1.0	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.2	- 0.8	+ 0.9	- 0.2
New York	- 0.2	- 1.4	+ 1.3	+ 0.2
Appalachian New York	- 0.3	- 1.6	+ 1.2	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian New York	- 0.2	- 1.4	+ 1.2	+ 0.2
North Carolina	+ 0.1	- 0.7	+ 0.7	- 0.1
Appalachian North Carolina	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.3	0.0
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 0.1	- 0.7	+ 0.9	- 0.1
Ohio	+ 0.2	- 1.0	+ 1.2	- 0.2
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.2	- 1.0	+ 1.3	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.2	- 0.9	+ 1.2	- 0.2
Pennsylvania	0.0	- 1.0	+ 1.0	0.0
Appalachian Pennsylvania	0.0	- 0.8	+ 0.8	0.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	0.0	- 1.1	+ 1.1	0.0
South Carolina	+ 0.1	- 0.5	+ 0.6	- 0.1
Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.1	- 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 0.1	- 0.6	+ 0.8	- 0.1
Tennessee	+ 0.3	- 0.8	+ 1.0	- 0.3
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.3	- 0.4	+ 0.7	- 0.3
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.2	- 1.1	+ 1.2	- 0.2
Virginia	+ 0.2	- 0.5	+ 0.7	- 0.2
Appalachian Virginia	- 0.4	- 1.0	+ 0.7	+ 0.4
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.2	- 0.5	+ 0.7	- 0.2
West Virginia (entire state)	- 0.3	- 1.2	+ 0.9	+ 0.3

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Figure 5.1: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Living in Family Households, 2020-2024

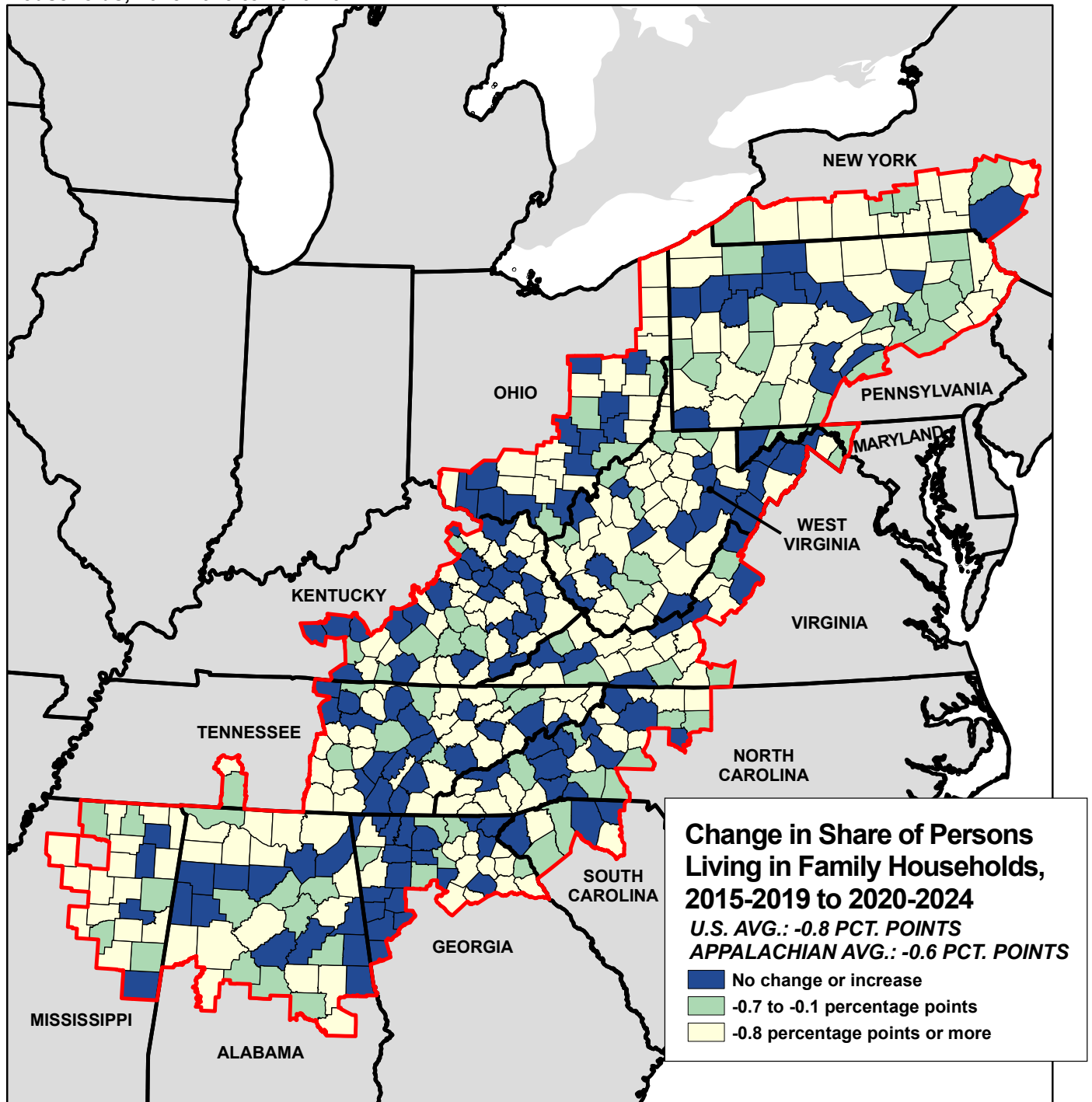


Map Title: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Living in Family Households, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Among Appalachian residents, 79.8 percent lived in family households during 2020-2024, which was just below the national average of 80.2 percent. Yet in 59 counties in the Appalachian Region, at least 85 percent of the population lived in family households. In contrast, there were 46 Appalachian counties where less than three-fourths of the residents were in family households. Of those 46 counties, 23 had at least 10 percent of their residents living in group quarters, whether dormitories, nursing care facilities, or prisons. Union County, Pennsylvania, which houses two federal prisons and a four-year university (Bucknell University), is one notable example, with more than one in five residents living in group quarters.

Figure 5.2: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Living in Family Households, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Living in Family Households, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

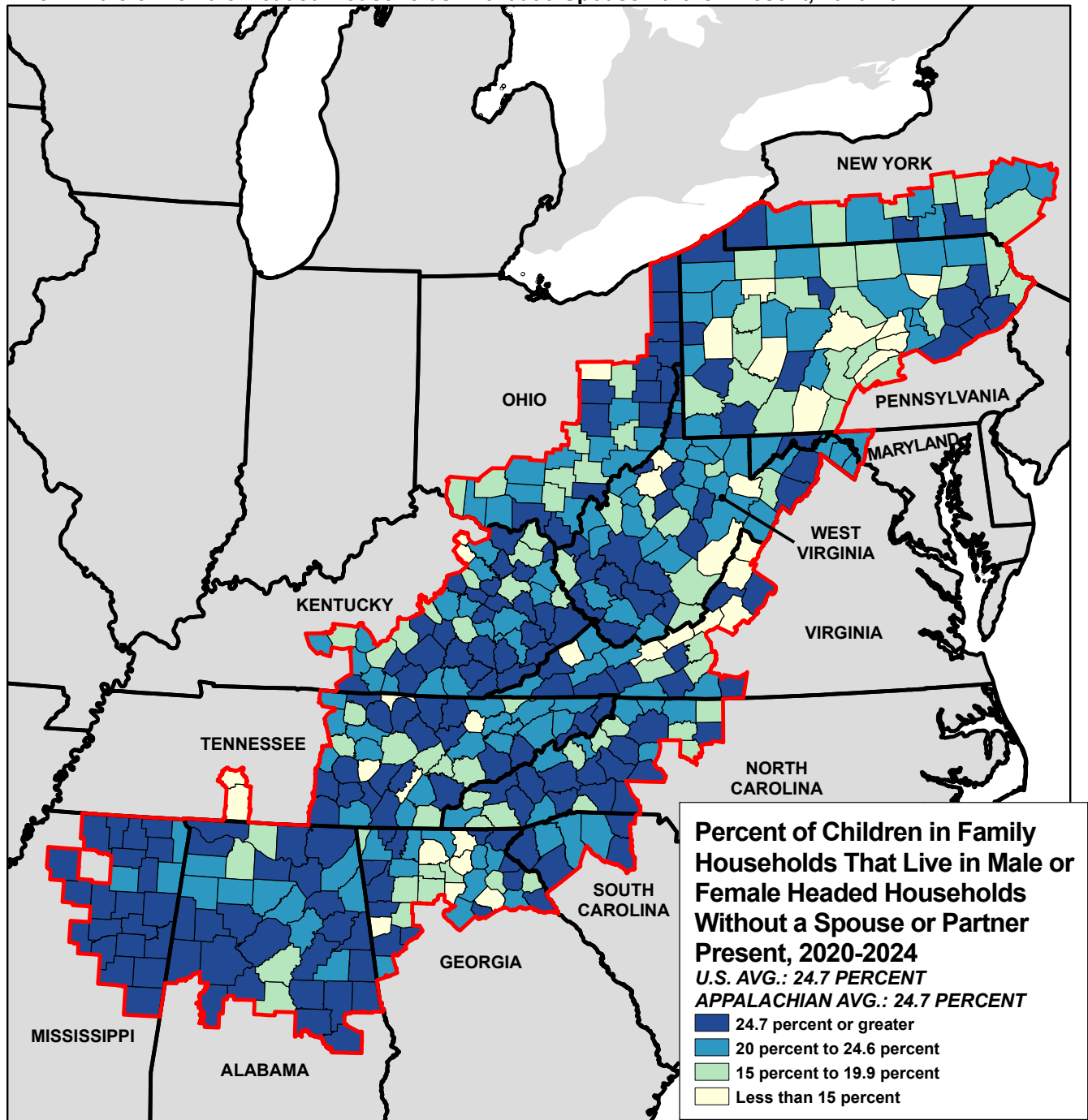
In the Appalachian Region, the share of persons living in family households fell 0.6 percentage points between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024, whereas the U.S. as a whole fell by 0.8 percentage points. In fact, in 202 of Appalachia's 423 counties, the share of persons living in family households declined by at least the national average. And in 174 counties throughout the region the share fell by more than one percentage point. Furthermore, in all 13 Appalachian parts of states, the share of people living in family households decreased during this period. On the other hand, in 138 counties the share of people living in family households remained the same or increased.

Table 5.3: Among Children Under 18 in the Appalachian Region Living in Households, Percent That Live in Married Couple, Cohabiting Couple, or Male or Female-Headed Households without a Spouse/Partner Present, 2020-2024

Population of Children Under 18 Living in Households	All Children Under 18 in Family Households	Percent of Children Under 18 Who Live in Households		
		In Married Couple Households	In Cohabiting Couple Households	Male or Female-Headed Households without a Spouse/Partner Present
United States	73,337,714	66.7	8.6	24.7
Appalachian Region	5,524,060	66.5	8.8	24.7
Subregions				
Northern Appalachia	1,559,741	65.4	10.6	24.0
North Central Appalachia	508,388	66.8	10.1	23.1
Central Appalachia	395,675	66.2	8.9	24.9
South Central Appalachia	1,048,996	66.5	8.9	24.6
Southern Appalachia	2,011,260	67.5	7.0	25.6
County Types				
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	1,433,248	69.4	7.1	23.5
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	2,242,852	65.2	9.0	25.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	493,379	66.3	10.2	23.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	832,027	66.0	10.5	23.5
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	522,554	65.7	8.5	25.9
Alabama	1,127,781	62.5	7.0	30.5
Appalachian Alabama	723,706	64.8	7.0	28.2
Non-Appalachian Alabama	404,075	58.2	7.2	34.6
Georgia	2,536,848	62.9	7.2	29.9
Appalachian Georgia	836,635	71.2	6.6	22.1
Non-Appalachian Georgia	1,700,213	58.7	7.6	33.7
Kentucky	1,021,693	66.0	8.8	25.2
Appalachian Kentucky	256,011	66.3	8.8	24.9
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	765,682	65.9	8.7	25.3
Maryland	1,374,264	66.6	8.2	25.2
Appalachian Maryland	50,901	63.0	12.8	24.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	1,323,363	66.8	8.0	25.3
Mississippi	685,495	56.6	6.8	36.6
Appalachian Mississippi	138,553	58.1	6.7	35.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	546,942	56.2	6.8	37.0
New York	4,043,787	65.7	8.0	26.2
Appalachian New York	192,349	62.5	14.2	23.3
Non-Appalachian New York	3,851,438	65.9	7.7	26.4
North Carolina	2,329,800	65.3	8.1	26.5
Appalachian North Carolina	400,502	64.9	9.0	26.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	1,929,298	65.4	8.0	26.6
Ohio	2,595,362	64.3	9.9	25.8
Appalachian Ohio	422,246	64.7	11.3	23.9
Non-Appalachian Ohio	2,173,116	64.2	9.7	26.1
Pennsylvania	2,654,150	66.0	8.9	25.1
Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,083,245	66.7	9.7	23.6
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,570,905	65.6	8.3	26.2
South Carolina	1,132,430	62.9	7.7	29.3
Appalachian South Carolina	312,366	67.6	8.0	24.4
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	820,064	61.2	7.6	31.2
Tennessee	1,563,223	64.9	8.1	27.0
Appalachian Tennessee	620,914	67.5	8.6	23.9
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	942,309	63.2	7.8	29.0
Virginia	1,887,207	69.5	7.1	23.4
Appalachian Virginia	131,667	66.3	9.8	23.9
Non-Appalachian Virginia	1,755,540	69.8	6.9	23.3
West Virginia (entire state)	354,965	66.2	9.5	24.3

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Figure 5.3: Among Children Under 18 in the Appalachian Region Living in Family Households, Percent That Live in Male or Female-Headed Households Without a Spouse/Partner Present, 2020-2024



Map Title: Among Children Under 18 in the Appalachian Region Living in Family Households, Percent That Live in Male or Female-Headed Households Without a Spouse/Partner Present, 2020-2024
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

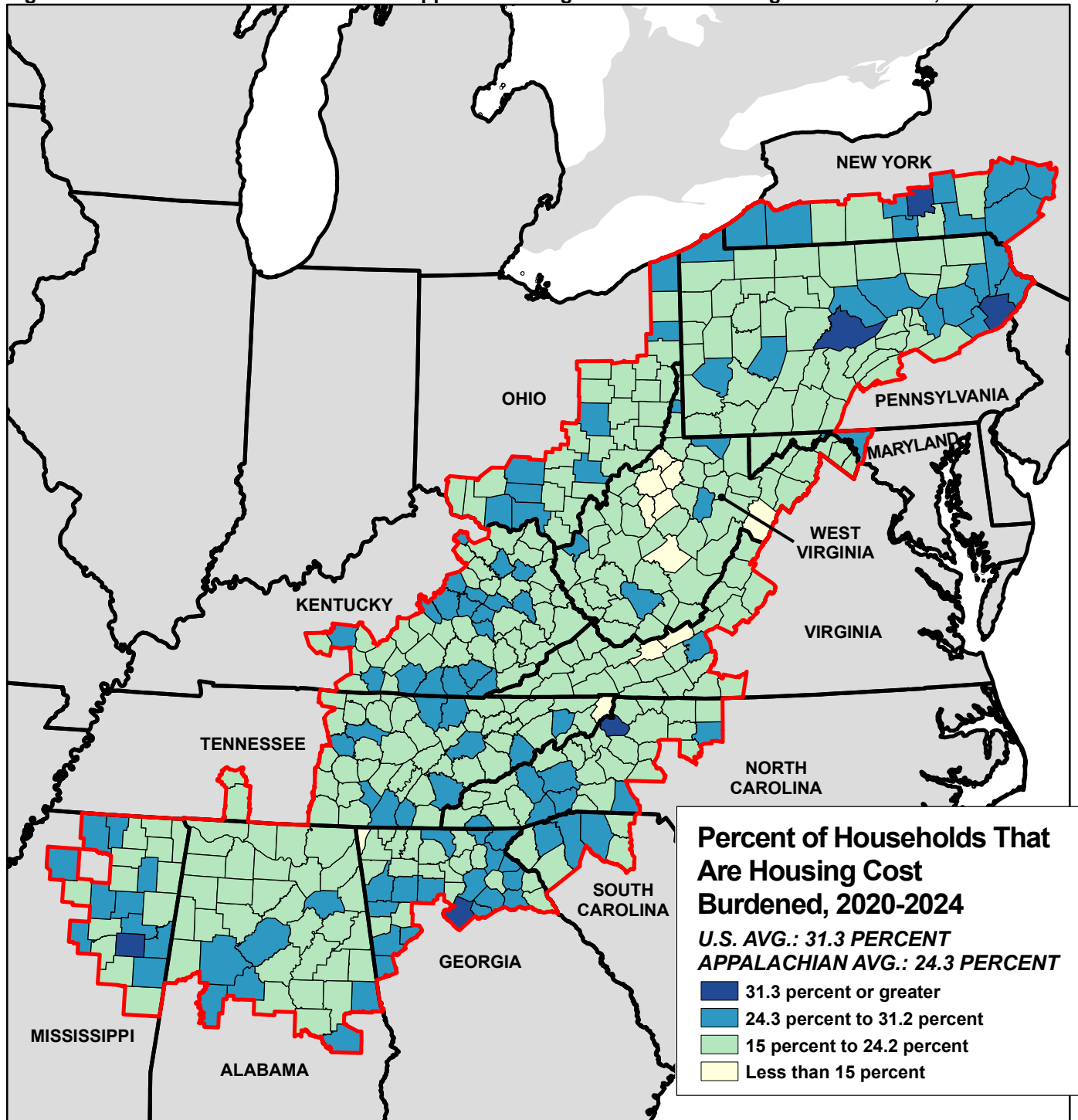
Among children living in family households in the Appalachian Region, 24.7 percent lived with a male or female householder who did not have a spouse or partner present, a share equivalent to the nation as a whole. Yet, in 178 of the Appalachian Region's 423 counties, the share of children living with a householder who had no spouse or partner present was at least as high as the U.S. and regional average. The share of children living with single householders was highest in Southern Appalachia, the region's rural and small metro counties. On the other hand, in 117 counties throughout the Appalachian Region less than one in five children lived with a householder who had no spouse or partner present, more than half of which were in South Central or Northern Appalachia.

Table 5.4: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region That Are Housing Cost Burdened, by Tenure, 2020-2024

Housing Cost Burden	All Households	Percent of Households That Are Housing Cost Burdened		
		Total	Renter Households	Owner Households
United States	129,227,496	31.3	47.6	22.5
Appalachian Region	10,576,156	24.3	41.9	17.4
Subregions				
Northern Appalachia	3,354,116	24.5	41.7	17.7
North Central Appalachia	1,010,094	22.1	40.8	15.5
Central Appalachia	738,890	22.3	35.9	17.4
South Central Appalachia	2,157,071	23.7	40.6	16.8
Southern Appalachia	3,315,985	25.6	44.7	18.1
County Types				
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	2,553,376	26.1	45.2	18.6
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	4,395,150	24.6	43.0	16.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	946,307	24.1	40.4	18.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	1,670,330	22.0	36.7	17.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	1,010,993	22.5	37.8	17.1
Alabama	1,997,247	25.1	42.5	17.7
Appalachian Alabama	1,287,136	23.8	41.3	16.8
Non-Appalachian Alabama	710,111	27.5	44.5	19.4
Georgia	4,074,366	30.2	48.4	20.7
Appalachian Georgia	1,228,941	27.8	48.6	20.1
Non-Appalachian Georgia	2,845,425	31.2	48.3	21.1
Kentucky	1,814,469	25.0	40.4	17.9
Appalachian Kentucky	460,530	23.1	36.8	17.9
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,353,939	25.7	41.5	17.9
Maryland	2,362,928	31.2	48.7	22.8
Appalachian Maryland	99,778	25.0	40.5	18.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,263,150	31.4	49.0	23.0
Mississippi	1,145,431	26.6	43.6	19.3
Appalachian Mississippi	243,164	24.8	41.0	18.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	902,267	27.1	44.4	19.6
New York	7,722,646	37.3	49.2	27.4
Appalachian New York	424,591	26.6	45.6	18.2
Non-Appalachian New York	7,298,055	38.0	49.3	28.1
North Carolina	4,282,345	27.8	44.7	19.3
Appalachian North Carolina	839,160	24.4	41.5	17.5
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	3,443,185	28.6	45.3	19.8
Ohio	4,863,191	25.8	42.4	17.7
Appalachian Ohio	803,572	23.8	40.9	17.2
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,059,619	26.3	42.7	17.9
Pennsylvania	5,274,853	27.3	44.6	19.6
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,375,588	24.3	41.0	17.7
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,899,265	29.8	47.1	21.3
South Carolina	2,117,989	26.8	46.3	19.2
Appalachian South Carolina	556,744	25.1	46.1	16.8
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,561,245	27.5	46.4	20.1
Tennessee	2,824,277	27.0	44.3	18.4
Appalachian Tennessee	1,230,278	23.4	40.0	16.6
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,593,999	29.8	47.0	19.9
Virginia	3,365,732	28.5	45.3	20.3
Appalachian Virginia	298,019	21.9	37.0	16.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	3,067,713	29.1	46.0	20.8
West Virginia (entire state)	728,655	21.0	40.4	14.5

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 5.4: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region That Are Housing Cost Burdened, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Households that are Housing Cost Burdened, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

The share of households in the Appalachian Region that are housing cost burdened (where housing costs exceed 30 percent of monthly household income) is seven percentage points lower than the nation as a whole. In 308 counties throughout Appalachia, the share was even lower – at less than 24.3 percent of households. In fact, the share of cost burdened households matched or exceeded the national average in just six of Appalachia’s 423 counties – including Watauga County, North Carolina and Monroe County, Pennsylvania, where high percentages of vacant seasonal housing and thriving tourism industries may contribute to shortages in available housing and higher costs. Housing a college or university or proximity to major metropolitan areas may contribute to higher housing costs as well- as in the case of Tompkins County, New York (home to Cornell University) and Gwinnett County, Georgia (a suburb of Atlanta).

Table 5.5: Percent of Renter-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Housing Cost Burdened by Age of Householder, 2020-2024

Renter-Occupied Housing Units That Are Housing Cost Burdened	Renter-Occupied Housing Units	Percent of Renter-Occupied Housing Units That Are Housing Cost Burdened			
		Ages 15-64			Ages 65 and Over
		Total	Ages 15-24	Ages 25-64	
United States	45,017,354	45.8	57.1	44.4	56.3
Appalachian Region	2,972,672	40.7	51.9	39.0	47.1
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	953,654	39.8	51.9	38.0	47.9
North Central Appalachia	263,239	40.3	52.3	38.1	43.2
Central Appalachia	196,144	35.3	40.4	34.6	38.6
South Central Appalachia	626,364	39.3	52.9	37.0	46.3
Southern Appalachia	933,271	43.8	53.4	42.4	49.9
County Types					
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	720,488	43.9	55.0	42.6	51.1
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	1,314,073	41.5	54.4	39.4	49.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	248,832	38.9	51.1	37.2	46.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	421,944	35.6	39.8	35.0	40.6
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	267,335	37.6	50.1	35.3	38.6
Alabama	595,092	41.9	53.8	40.1	46.1
Appalachian Alabama	367,655	40.5	50.9	38.9	45.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	227,437	44.0	59.2	42.0	47.3
Georgia	1,398,009	47.3	58.7	45.9	54.9
Appalachian Georgia	335,570	47.4	54.8	46.6	55.9
Non-Appalachian Georgia	1,062,439	47.2	59.7	45.6	54.6
Kentucky	574,561	39.1	50.7	37.3	47.1
Appalachian Kentucky	128,303	36.4	41.9	35.5	38.8
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	446,258	39.9	53.1	37.7	49.7
Maryland	765,363	46.9	61.5	45.6	56.7
Appalachian Maryland	30,452	39.4	50.5	38.0	44.7
Non-Appalachian Maryland	734,911	47.2	62.1	45.9	57.3
Mississippi	343,643	43.1	52.4	41.8	46.8
Appalachian Mississippi	72,248	41.3	54.6	38.4	39.4
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	271,395	43.5	51.4	42.6	48.6
New York	3,525,661	46.9	58.3	46.1	57.4
Appalachian New York	129,291	44.5	57.6	41.1	50.0
Non-Appalachian New York	3,396,370	47.0	58.4	46.2	57.6
North Carolina	1,428,852	43.2	57.7	41.1	53.0
Appalachian North Carolina	240,656	40.0	54.2	38.0	47.7
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	1,188,196	43.8	58.4	41.7	54.4
Ohio	1,595,287	40.1	50.9	38.5	52.8
Appalachian Ohio	223,403	39.7	46.9	38.6	45.1
Non-Appalachian Ohio	1,371,884	40.1	51.5	38.5	54.4
Pennsylvania	1,617,882	42.1	54.2	40.7	53.9
Appalachian Pennsylvania	665,791	38.9	51.3	37.2	47.9
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	952,091	44.2	56.8	42.9	58.7
South Carolina	595,868	45.0	58.1	43.2	53.1
Appalachian South Carolina	157,798	44.6	56.1	42.7	54.0
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	438,070	45.2	59.0	43.4	52.7
Tennessee	933,708	43.5	54.8	41.8	48.8
Appalachian Tennessee	355,631	38.6	51.6	36.5	46.2
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	578,077	46.4	57.1	44.9	51.0
Virginia	1,099,123	43.7	58.7	41.9	53.9
Appalachian Virginia	82,814	36.9	49.0	34.4	37.4
Non-Appalachian Virginia	1,016,309	44.2	60.0	42.5	55.5
West Virginia (entire state)	183,060	39.8	52.9	37.4	42.9

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Table 5.6: Percent of Owner-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Housing Cost Burdened by Age of Householder, 2020-2024

Owner-Occupied Housing Units That Are Housing Cost Burdened	Owner-Occupied Housing Units	Percent of Owner-Occupied Housing Units That Are Housing Cost Burdened			
		Ages 15-64			Ages 65 and Over
		Total	Ages 15-24	Ages 25-64	
United States	84,210,142	20.7	34.7	20.5	26.3
Appalachian Region	7,603,484	15.9	26.6	15.8	20.1
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	2,400,462	15.6	26.9	15.4	21.4
North Central Appalachia	746,855	14.2	23.0	14.1	17.6
Central Appalachia	542,746	16.6	22.2	16.4	18.9
South Central Appalachia	1,530,707	15.6	27.1	15.4	18.9
Southern Appalachia	2,382,714	16.9	28.3	16.7	20.9
County Types					
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	1,832,888	16.6	29.8	16.5	22.8
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	3,081,077	15.3	25.7	15.1	19.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	697,475	17.0	30.4	16.7	20.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	1,248,386	15.8	24.2	15.6	19.2
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	743,658	15.9	23.8	15.8	18.9
Alabama	1,402,155	16.1	28.3	15.9	20.7
Appalachian Alabama	919,481	15.1	26.2	14.9	20.2
Non-Appalachian Alabama	482,674	18.1	32.1	17.9	21.8
Georgia	2,676,357	19.2	33.6	19.0	24.3
Appalachian Georgia	893,371	18.9	30.3	18.8	23.0
Non-Appalachian Georgia	1,782,986	19.4	35.2	19.2	24.8
Kentucky	1,239,908	16.3	29.8	16.0	21.0
Appalachian Kentucky	332,227	16.7	22.4	16.6	20.0
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	907,681	16.2	32.3	15.8	21.4
Maryland	1,597,565	20.6	45.1	20.4	27.6
Appalachian Maryland	69,326	17.1	30.3	16.8	20.3
Non-Appalachian Maryland	1,528,239	20.8	46.4	20.5	27.9
Mississippi	801,788	18.7	23.3	18.6	20.5
Appalachian Mississippi	170,916	16.7	21.3	16.6	20.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	630,872	19.2	24.1	19.1	20.4
New York	4,196,985	25.1	38.3	25.0	31.7
Appalachian New York	295,300	17.1	35.6	16.7	20.1
Non-Appalachian New York	3,901,685	25.7	38.7	25.6	32.6
North Carolina	2,853,493	17.3	31.3	17.1	23.4
Appalachian North Carolina	598,504	16.2	27.7	16.1	19.5
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	2,254,989	17.6	32.1	17.4	24.7
Ohio	3,267,904	15.0	28.8	14.8	23.2
Appalachian Ohio	580,169	15.3	22.5	15.1	20.7
Non-Appalachian Ohio	2,687,735	15.0	30.4	14.7	23.8
Pennsylvania	3,656,971	17.1	31.3	17.0	24.5
Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,709,797	15.3	27.0	15.2	22.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,947,174	18.6	36.0	18.4	26.9
South Carolina	1,522,121	17.8	31.7	17.5	21.9
Appalachian South Carolina	398,946	16.0	33.4	15.7	18.4
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,123,175	18.4	31.0	18.2	23.1
Tennessee	1,890,569	17.4	29.0	17.2	20.5
Appalachian Tennessee	874,647	15.5	25.2	15.3	18.6
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,015,922	18.8	32.3	18.6	22.4
Virginia	2,266,609	18.6	41.2	18.3	24.1
Appalachian Virginia	215,205	14.9	25.5	14.7	17.9
Non-Appalachian Virginia	2,051,404	18.9	43.2	18.6	25.0
West Virginia (entire state)	545,595	13.7	20.8	13.6	15.7

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Table 5.7: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region That Are Housing Cost Burdened, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Housing Cost Burden	Percentage Point Change in Cost Burdened Households		
	Total	Renter Households	Owner Households
United States	+ 0.5	+ 1.6	+ 0.2
Appalachian Region	- 0.2	+ 1.0	- 0.3
Subregions			
Northern Appalachia	- 0.5	+ 0.1	- 0.4
North Central Appalachia	- 0.3	+ 1.2	- 0.4
Central Appalachia	- 0.7	- 0.4	- 0.4
South Central Appalachia	- 1.0	- 0.4	- 0.7
Southern Appalachia	+ 0.6	+ 3.4	0.0
County Types			
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	+ 0.5	+ 2.9	0.0
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	- 0.3	+ 1.1	- 0.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 0.8	- 0.9	- 0.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	- 0.8	- 0.9	- 0.3
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 0.5	+ 0.9	- 0.6
Alabama	0.0	+ 1.4	- 0.1
Appalachian Alabama	- 0.3	+ 1.1	- 0.5
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 0.6	+ 2.0	+ 0.6
Georgia	+ 0.6	+ 3.2	+ 0.2
Appalachian Georgia	+ 1.1	+ 5.2	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.4	+ 2.6	+ 0.3
Kentucky	+ 0.3	+ 1.0	+ 0.4
Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.7	+ 0.1	- 0.7
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.7	+ 1.3	+ 0.8
Maryland	- 0.1	+ 1.6	- 0.7
Appalachian Maryland	- 1.9	- 0.7	- 2.0
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 0.2	+ 1.6	- 0.7
Mississippi	+ 0.5	+ 2.1	+ 0.4
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 1.0	+ 4.3	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.4	+ 1.6	+ 0.5
New York	- 0.3	0.0	- 0.3
Appalachian New York	- 0.4	- 1.2	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian New York	- 0.3	0.0	- 0.4
North Carolina	- 0.2	+ 1.4	- 0.5
Appalachian North Carolina	- 1.1	- 0.6	- 0.7
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.1	+ 1.8	- 0.5
Ohio	- 0.1	+ 0.7	- 0.2
Appalachian Ohio	- 0.3	- 0.4	0.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	0.0	+ 1.0	- 0.1
Pennsylvania	- 0.7	+ 0.5	- 1.2
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.5	+ 0.3	- 0.6
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 1.0	+ 0.5	- 1.8
South Carolina	- 0.1	+ 2.9	- 0.4
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 1.2	+ 4.6	+ 0.7
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.4	+ 2.3	- 0.7
Tennessee	+ 0.5	+ 1.6	0.0
Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.9	- 0.3	- 0.7
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 1.4	+ 2.7	+ 0.6
Virginia	- 0.6	+ 0.8	- 0.9
Appalachian Virginia	- 0.9	- 1.0	- 0.5
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 0.6	+ 0.9	- 0.9
West Virginia (entire state)	- 0.1	+ 1.9	- 0.2

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

TRENDS IN HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

- At 79.8 percent, the share of Appalachian residents living in family households in 2020-2024 was 0.6 percentage points lower than in the 2015-2019 period (see Tables 5.1 and 5.2). This decline was present in all of the Appalachian subregions and county types, particularly in Northern and North Central Appalachia where there was a decline of 0.9 and 1.1 percentage points, respectively. The Appalachian portion of all 13 states saw a decline in the share of residents living in family households, and West Virginia and the Appalachian portions of Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia saw declines exceeding the regional average.
- The majority of children living in family households in Appalachia live in married couple households (66.5 percent) (see Table 5.3). The share in married couple households is highest in large metropolitan areas (69.4 percent), while the Appalachian Region's small metropolitan counties have the lowest share at 65.2 percent. Among the subregions, Southern and North Central Appalachia both had shares of children living in married couple households higher than the regional average. Like the national average, nearly one in four children in Appalachia lived with householders who had no spouse or partner present, and the share was higher in Central Appalachia, Southern Appalachia, small metro counties and the region's rural counties. A low share of children living in cohabiting-couple households in both Southern Appalachia and large metro counties throughout the region contribute to higher shares of those living with either married couples or householders with no spouse or partner present.
- The overall share of households in the Appalachian Region facing housing cost burden – defined by housing costs exceeding 30 percent of household income – declined by 0.2 percentage points between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 in the region (see Table 5.7). Meanwhile, the share increased nationally by 0.5 percentage points. The decline in overall housing cost burden happened in all of the Appalachian subregions and county types except for Southern Appalachia and the region's large metropolitan counties. Yet, being a homeowner or a renter mattered. During the same period, housing cost burden for Appalachian renters increased by 1 percentage point, while it declined by 0.3 percentage points for homeowners. Housing cost burden for renters increased especially in Southern Appalachia (3.4 percentage points) and large metropolitan counties (2.9 percentage points).

CHAPTER 6: EDUCATION, DEVICE OWNERSHIP, AND INTERNET ACCESS

Table 6.1: Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024

Education (Highest Level Attained)	Total Population Ages 25 and Over, 2020-2024	Percent of Population Ages 25 and Over					
		Less than High School Diploma	High School Diploma or More				
			Total	H.S. Grad, No Postsecondary Degree	Associate's Degree or More		
					Total	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree or More
United States	230,807,303	10.4	89.6	45.1	44.5	8.8	35.7
Appalachian Region	18,500,140	10.5	89.5	51.9	37.5	9.5	28.0
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	5,729,389	7.9	92.1	52.8	39.3	10.4	28.9
North Central Appalachia	1,754,799	10.1	89.9	56.9	33.0	8.9	24.0
Central Appalachia	1,307,974	16.3	83.7	58.3	25.4	8.5	16.8
South Central Appalachia	3,757,133	10.5	89.5	51.3	38.2	9.5	28.7
Southern Appalachia	5,950,845	12.0	88.0	48.7	39.4	9.1	30.3
County Types							
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	4,533,046	8.1	91.9	46.8	45.1	9.4	35.7
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	7,595,762	10.0	90.0	50.9	39.1	9.5	29.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	1,672,353	11.6	88.4	56.4	32.0	10.1	21.9
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	2,942,909	12.5	87.5	57.7	29.8	9.6	20.2
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	1,756,070	14.7	85.3	56.0	29.3	9.2	20.0
Alabama	3,473,706	11.4	88.6	51.1	37.5	9.1	28.4
Appalachian Alabama	2,248,471	11.4	88.6	50.3	38.3	9.1	29.2
Non-Appalachian Alabama	1,225,235	11.3	88.7	52.7	36.0	9.2	26.8
Georgia	7,359,821	10.8	89.2	45.9	43.4	8.4	34.9
Appalachian Georgia	2,338,230	12.3	87.7	47.0	40.7	8.5	32.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	5,021,591	10.0	90.0	45.3	44.6	8.4	36.2
Kentucky	3,098,758	11.1	88.9	52.3	36.5	9.0	27.6
Appalachian Kentucky	806,549	16.6	83.4	57.1	26.2	8.6	17.7
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	2,292,209	9.2	90.8	50.6	40.2	9.1	31.0
Maryland	4,301,335	8.9	91.1	40.9	50.3	6.8	43.4
Appalachian Maryland	178,456	10.7	89.3	56.9	32.4	8.9	23.5
Non-Appalachian Maryland	4,122,879	8.8	91.2	40.2	51.1	6.8	44.3
Mississippi	1,972,266	12.9	87.1	51.1	36.1	10.9	25.1
Appalachian Mississippi	404,596	15.5	84.5	52.5	32.0	10.3	21.7
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	1,567,670	12.2	87.8	50.7	37.1	11.1	26.0
New York	14,017,184	12.0	88.0	38.9	49.1	8.8	40.2
Appalachian New York	691,849	8.6	91.4	48.8	42.6	12.8	29.8
Non-Appalachian New York	13,325,335	12.2	87.8	38.4	49.4	8.6	40.8
North Carolina	7,380,330	9.9	90.1	44.4	45.8	10.1	35.7
Appalachian North Carolina	1,471,711	10.7	89.3	48.1	41.2	10.5	30.7
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	5,908,619	9.6	90.4	43.4	46.9	10.0	36.9
Ohio	8,162,216	8.2	91.8	51.3	40.5	9.0	31.5
Appalachian Ohio	1,386,119	10.7	89.3	58.7	30.6	9.8	20.8
Non-Appalachian Ohio	6,776,097	7.6	92.4	49.8	42.5	8.9	33.7
Pennsylvania	9,189,697	7.9	92.1	48.1	44.1	8.9	35.2
Appalachian Pennsylvania	4,085,189	7.0	93.0	52.1	40.9	10.2	30.7
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	5,104,508	8.5	91.5	44.8	46.7	7.9	38.8
South Carolina	3,677,078	9.9	90.1	48.0	42.1	10.0	32.1
Appalachian South Carolina	959,548	11.0	89.0	47.2	41.8	10.2	31.7
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	2,717,530	9.5	90.5	48.3	42.2	9.9	32.3
Tennessee	4,870,330	10.0	90.0	51.1	38.9	7.9	31.1
Appalachian Tennessee	2,146,281	10.9	89.1	54.0	35.0	8.5	26.6
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	2,724,049	9.2	90.8	48.8	42.0	7.4	34.6
Virginia	6,007,678	8.4	91.6	41.6	49.9	7.8	42.2
Appalachian Virginia	516,819	11.7	88.3	55.3	33.0	10.3	22.7
Non-Appalachian Virginia	5,490,859	8.1	91.9	40.3	51.5	7.5	44.0
West Virginia (entire state)	1,266,322	10.7	89.3	56.8	32.6	8.4	24.1

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Table 6.2: Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024

Education (Highest Level Attained)	Total Population Ages 25 to 64, 2020-2024	Percent of Population Ages 25 to 64					
		Less than High School Diploma	High School Diploma or More				
			Total	H.S. Grad, No Postsecondary Degree	Associate's Degree or More		
					Total	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree or More
United States	173,173,675	9.8	90.2	43.7	46.5	9.2	37.3
Appalachian Region	13,382,772	9.8	90.2	50.3	39.9	10.3	29.5
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	4,023,149	7.4	92.6	49.8	42.8	11.5	31.3
North Central Appalachia	1,250,836	9.0	91.0	55.5	35.5	10.0	25.5
Central Appalachia	942,695	13.8	86.2	58.8	27.4	9.7	17.7
South Central Appalachia	2,665,847	9.7	90.3	50.7	39.7	10.2	29.4
Southern Appalachia	4,500,245	11.4	88.6	47.4	41.2	9.6	31.6
County Types							
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	3,397,134	7.6	92.4	44.1	48.3	10.0	38.3
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	5,505,739	9.5	90.5	49.3	41.2	10.2	30.9
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	1,190,901	10.9	89.1	55.6	33.5	11.0	22.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	2,049,108	11.4	88.6	57.1	31.5	10.8	20.7
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	1,239,890	13.3	86.7	55.6	31.1	10.5	20.6
Alabama	2,569,447	10.7	89.3	50.2	39.2	9.8	29.4
Appalachian Alabama	1,670,579	10.8	89.2	49.0	40.1	9.7	30.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	898,868	10.4	89.6	52.2	37.4	9.9	27.4
Georgia	5,723,012	10.0	90.0	44.6	45.3	8.8	36.5
Appalachian Georgia	1,819,877	12.0	88.0	45.7	42.3	8.8	33.5
Non-Appalachian Georgia	3,903,135	9.1	90.9	44.1	46.7	8.8	37.9
Kentucky	2,314,082	10.0	90.0	50.8	39.2	9.9	29.3
Appalachian Kentucky	590,048	14.2	85.8	57.3	28.5	9.7	18.8
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,724,034	8.6	91.4	48.6	42.8	10.0	32.9
Maryland	3,267,594	8.3	91.7	39.5	52.2	7.1	45.1
Appalachian Maryland	129,116	10.2	89.8	55.1	34.8	9.9	24.9
Non-Appalachian Maryland	3,138,478	8.3	91.7	38.9	52.9	7.0	45.9
Mississippi	1,466,427	11.6	88.4	50.4	38.1	12.2	25.9
Appalachian Mississippi	296,487	13.7	86.3	51.8	34.5	11.9	22.6
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	1,169,940	11.1	88.9	50.0	39.0	12.3	26.7
New York	10,463,156	10.7	89.3	37.2	52.1	9.1	43.0
Appalachian New York	482,049	8.5	91.5	46.5	45.0	13.5	31.5
Non-Appalachian New York	9,981,107	10.8	89.2	36.7	52.4	8.9	43.5
North Carolina	5,534,767	9.3	90.7	42.9	47.8	10.4	37.3
Appalachian North Carolina	1,031,117	10.3	89.7	47.6	42.1	11.2	31.0
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	4,503,650	9.1	90.9	41.9	49.1	10.3	38.8
Ohio	6,006,639	7.5	92.5	49.1	43.4	9.7	33.7
Appalachian Ohio	986,270	10.1	89.9	56.8	33.0	11.0	22.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	5,020,369	7.0	93.0	47.5	45.4	9.4	36.0
Pennsylvania	6,654,194	7.1	92.9	45.3	47.6	9.6	38.0
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,870,013	6.4	93.6	48.8	44.8	11.3	33.5
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	3,784,181	7.6	92.4	42.7	49.8	8.3	41.5
South Carolina	2,677,677	9.2	90.8	47.3	43.5	10.4	33.1
Appalachian South Carolina	713,302	10.2	89.8	46.2	43.6	10.6	33.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,964,375	8.8	91.2	47.7	43.5	10.4	33.1
Tennessee	3,664,383	9.1	90.9	49.8	41.1	8.4	32.7
Appalachian Tennessee	1,546,588	9.9	90.1	53.4	36.7	9.2	27.5
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	2,117,795	8.5	91.5	47.2	44.3	7.7	36.5
Virginia	4,553,935	7.5	92.5	40.2	52.3	8.1	44.2
Appalachian Virginia	355,096	9.2	90.8	55.6	35.3	11.5	23.8
Non-Appalachian Virginia	4,198,839	7.4	92.6	38.9	53.7	7.8	45.9
West Virginia (entire state)	892,230	9.5	90.5	55.4	35.1	9.5	25.6

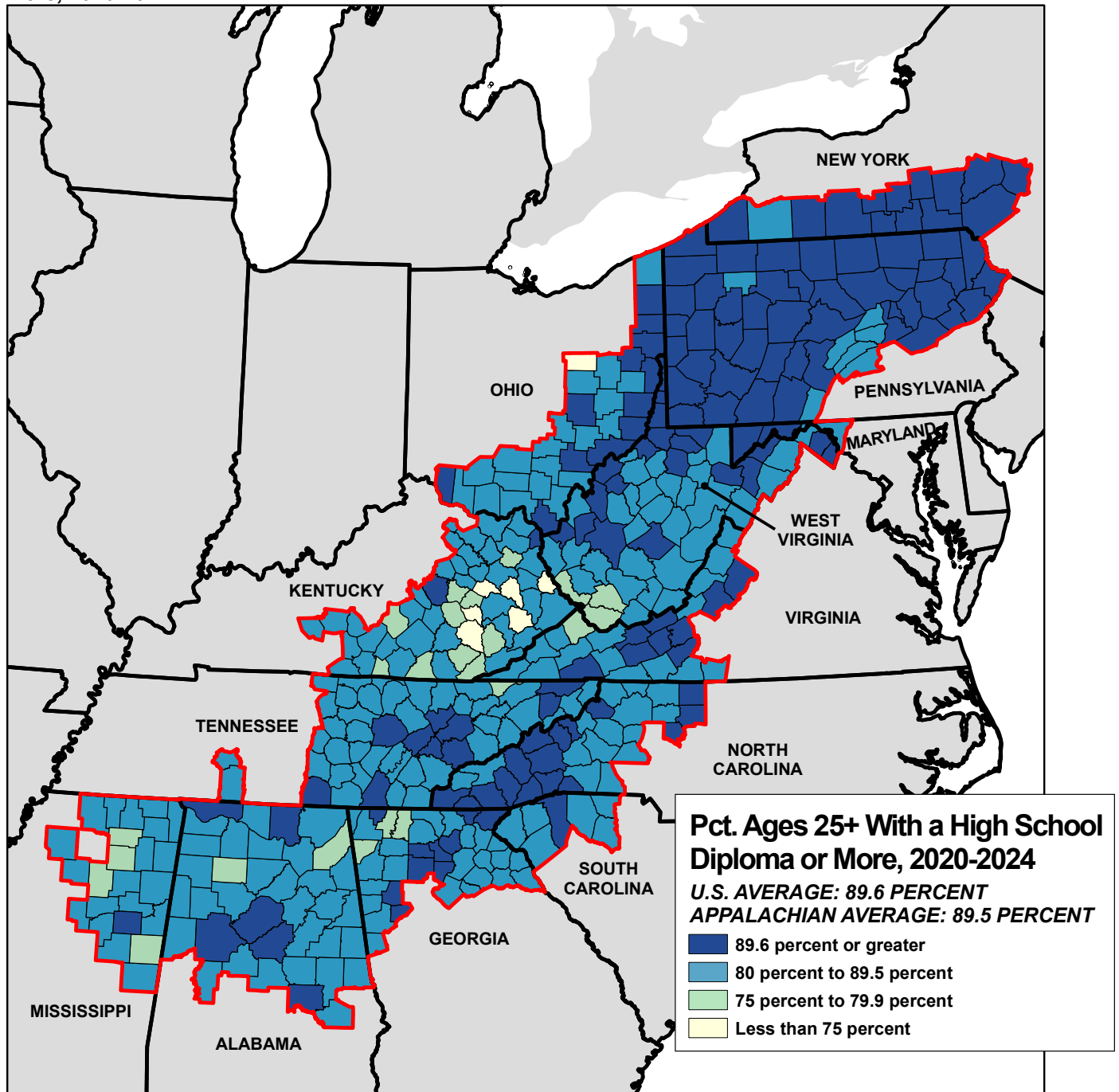
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Table 6.3: Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024

Education (Highest Level Attained)	Total Population Ages 65 and Over, 2020-2024	Percent of Population Ages 65 and Over					
		Less than High School Diploma	High School Diploma or More				
			Total	H.S. Grad, No Postsecondary Degree	Associate's Degree or More		
					Total	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree or More
United States	57,633,628	12.1	87.9	49.4	38.5	7.7	30.8
Appalachian Region	5,117,368	12.5	87.5	56.2	31.4	7.4	24.0
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	1,706,240	9.0	91.0	59.9	31.1	7.9	23.2
North Central Appalachia	503,963	12.8	87.2	60.5	26.6	6.2	20.4
Central Appalachia	365,279	22.6	77.4	57.2	20.2	5.6	14.7
South Central Appalachia	1,091,286	12.6	87.4	52.8	34.6	7.8	26.8
Southern Appalachia	1,450,600	13.8	86.2	52.5	33.7	7.4	26.3
County Types							
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	1,135,912	9.5	90.5	54.8	35.6	7.9	27.8
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	2,090,023	11.5	88.5	54.9	33.6	7.5	26.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	481,452	13.1	86.9	58.5	28.3	7.8	20.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	893,801	14.9	85.1	59.0	26.1	7.1	19.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	516,180	18.2	81.8	57.0	24.8	6.2	18.7
Alabama	904,259	13.4	86.6	53.9	32.7	7.2	25.5
Appalachian Alabama	577,892	13.2	86.8	53.9	32.9	7.2	25.7
Non-Appalachian Alabama	326,367	13.7	86.3	53.9	32.4	7.2	25.2
Georgia	1,636,809	13.3	86.7	50.2	36.6	7.2	29.4
Appalachian Georgia	518,353	13.4	86.6	51.6	34.9	7.2	27.7
Non-Appalachian Georgia	1,118,456	13.2	86.8	49.5	37.3	7.2	30.1
Kentucky	784,676	14.4	85.6	56.8	28.7	6.3	22.5
Appalachian Kentucky	216,501	23.2	76.8	56.6	20.2	5.5	14.7
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	568,175	11.1	88.9	56.9	32.0	6.6	25.4
Maryland	1,033,741	10.5	89.5	45.1	44.4	6.1	38.3
Appalachian Maryland	49,340	12.1	87.9	61.6	26.3	6.3	19.9
Non-Appalachian Maryland	984,401	10.4	89.6	44.3	45.3	6.1	39.2
Mississippi	505,839	16.5	83.5	53.2	30.3	7.3	23.0
Appalachian Mississippi	108,109	20.3	79.7	54.4	25.3	6.0	19.3
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	397,730	15.5	84.5	52.9	31.6	7.6	24.0
New York	3,554,028	15.9	84.1	44.0	40.1	8.0	32.2
Appalachian New York	209,800	8.9	91.1	54.0	37.1	11.3	25.8
Non-Appalachian New York	3,344,228	16.3	83.7	43.4	40.3	7.8	32.5
North Carolina	1,845,563	11.5	88.5	48.7	39.8	9.2	30.6
Appalachian North Carolina	440,594	11.5	88.5	49.4	39.1	9.0	30.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	1,404,969	11.5	88.5	48.5	40.0	9.2	30.8
Ohio	2,155,577	9.9	90.1	57.6	32.5	7.2	25.3
Appalachian Ohio	399,849	12.1	87.9	63.4	24.5	6.7	17.8
Non-Appalachian Ohio	1,755,728	9.4	90.6	56.3	34.3	7.3	27.0
Pennsylvania	2,535,503	10.0	90.0	55.3	34.8	7.1	27.6
Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,215,176	8.5	91.5	60.0	31.5	7.6	23.9
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,320,327	11.3	88.7	50.9	37.8	6.7	31.0
South Carolina	999,401	11.8	88.2	49.9	38.3	8.8	29.5
Appalachian South Carolina	246,246	13.3	86.7	50.1	36.6	9.0	27.7
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	753,155	11.3	88.7	49.8	38.9	8.8	30.1
Tennessee	1,205,947	12.5	87.5	55.0	32.5	6.4	26.0
Appalachian Tennessee	599,693	13.7	86.3	55.6	30.6	6.5	24.1
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	606,254	11.4	88.6	54.4	34.3	6.4	27.9
Virginia	1,453,743	11.2	88.8	46.2	42.6	6.8	35.8
Appalachian Virginia	161,723	17.1	82.9	54.7	28.2	7.8	20.3
Non-Appalachian Virginia	1,292,020	10.5	89.5	45.1	44.4	6.7	37.7
West Virginia (entire state)	374,092	13.5	86.5	60.0	26.5	5.9	20.6

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

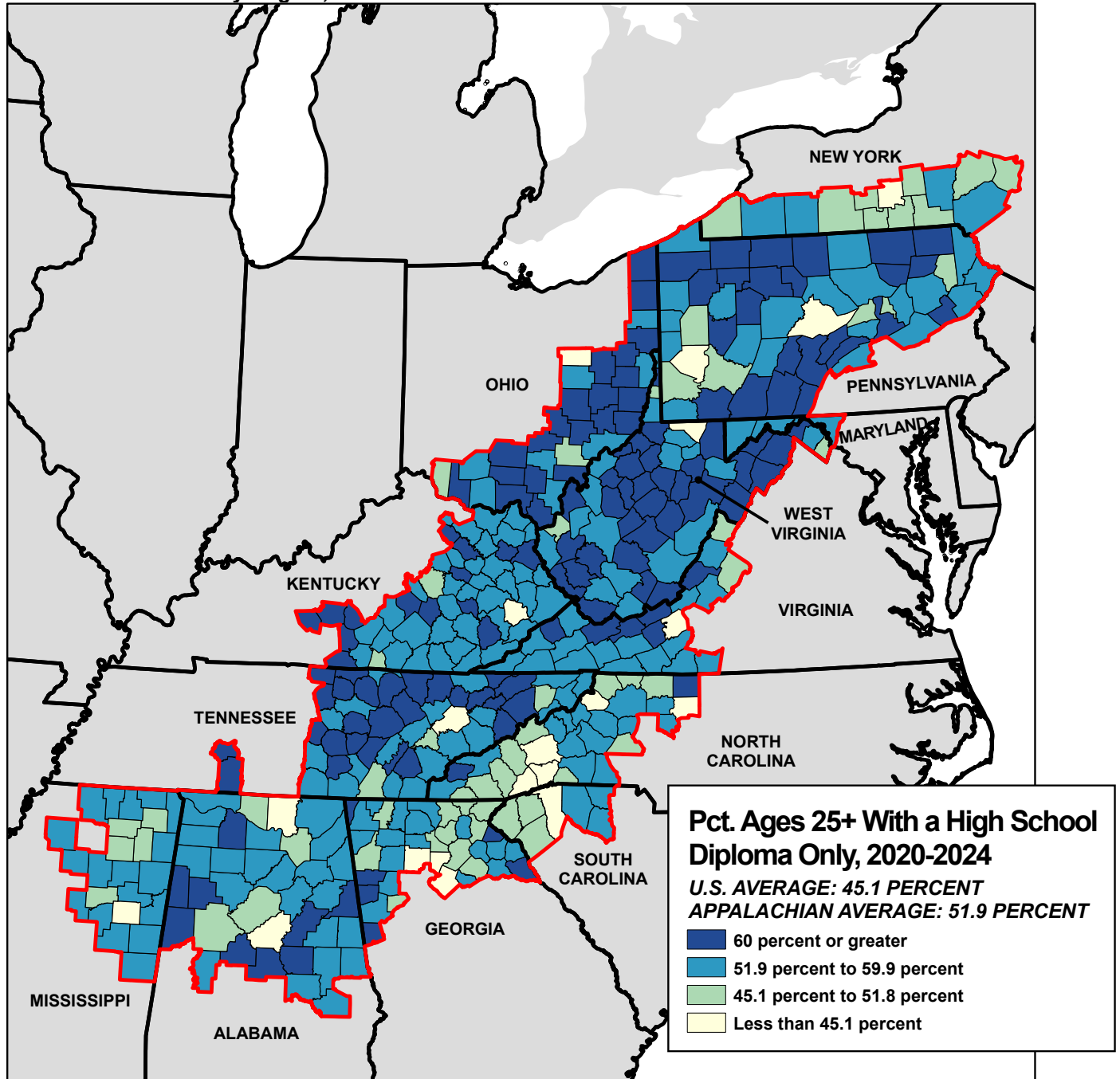
Figure 6.1: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2020-2024
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Although the share of Appalachian adults with at least a high school diploma was just below the national average for the 2020-2024 period, it matched or exceeded the national share in 148 counties in the Appalachian Region, nearly half of which were located in Northern Appalachia. The shares of adults 25 or older with a high school diploma or more were especially high in Appalachian Pennsylvania (93 percent) and New York (91.4 percent), and in large metropolitan areas (91.9 percent). In just seven Appalachian counties, less than three-fourths of adults had at least a high school diploma. Of these seven counties, six were Central Appalachian counties situated within Appalachian Kentucky, and six were in rural areas. Appalachian Kentucky had the lowest share of high school completion among the region's states, at 83.4 percent.

Figure 6.2: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma but With No Postsecondary Degree, 2020-2024

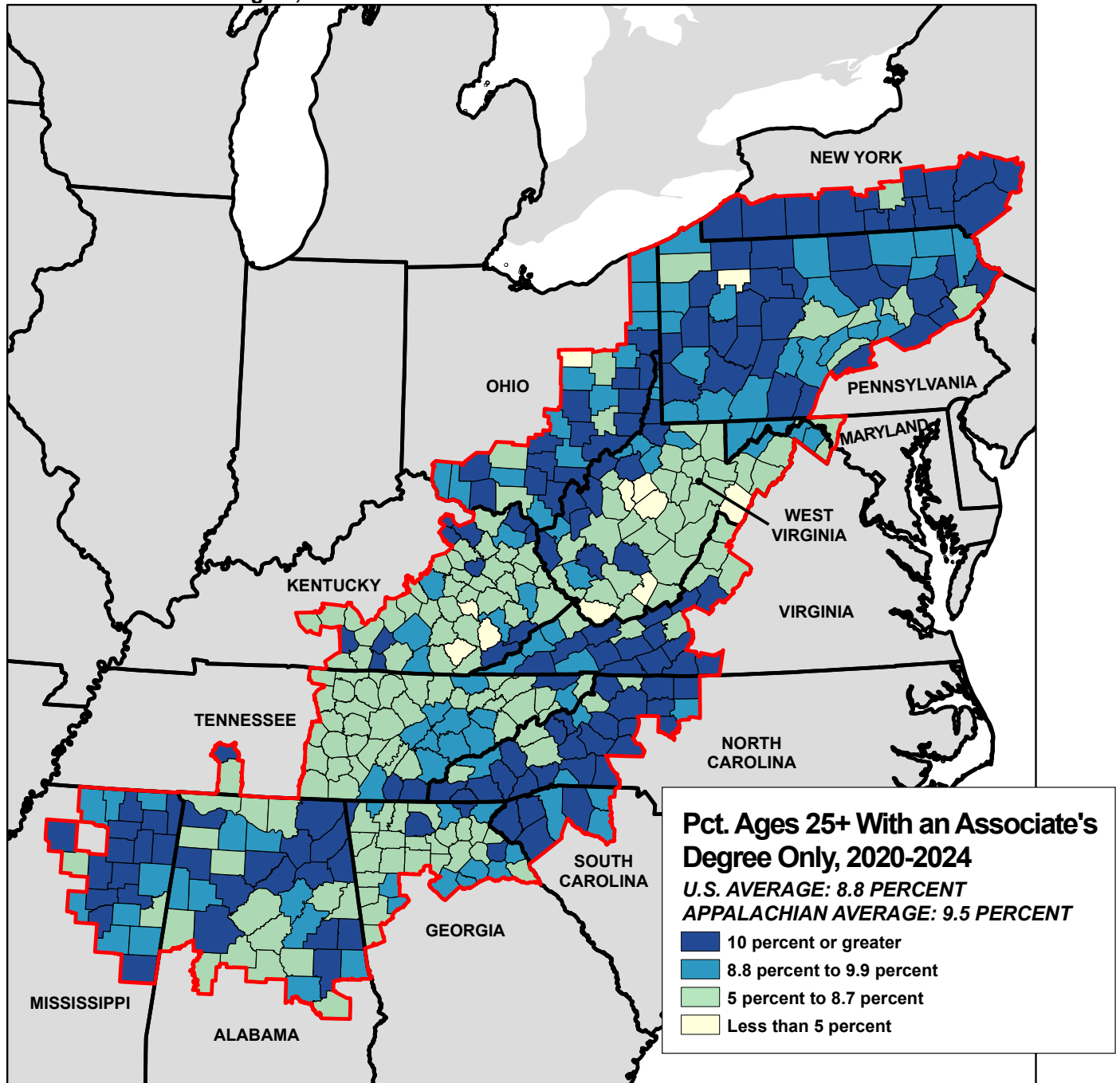


Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma but With No Postsecondary Degree, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

During the 2020-2024 period, 51.9 percent of adults ages 25 and over in the Appalachian Region had a high school diploma, but no postsecondary degree (including an associate's degree). And the share was at least 60 percent in about one-third (143) of the Appalachian Region's 423 counties – mostly in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and West Virginia. And in Northern, North Central, and Central Appalachia as well as non-metropolitan and rural counties throughout the region, the shares exceeded the regional average of 51.9 percent. Many of these adults may have attended some college but did not graduate, while others may have acquired vocational training.

Figure 6.3: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With an Associate's Degree but Without a Bachelor's Degree, 2020-2024

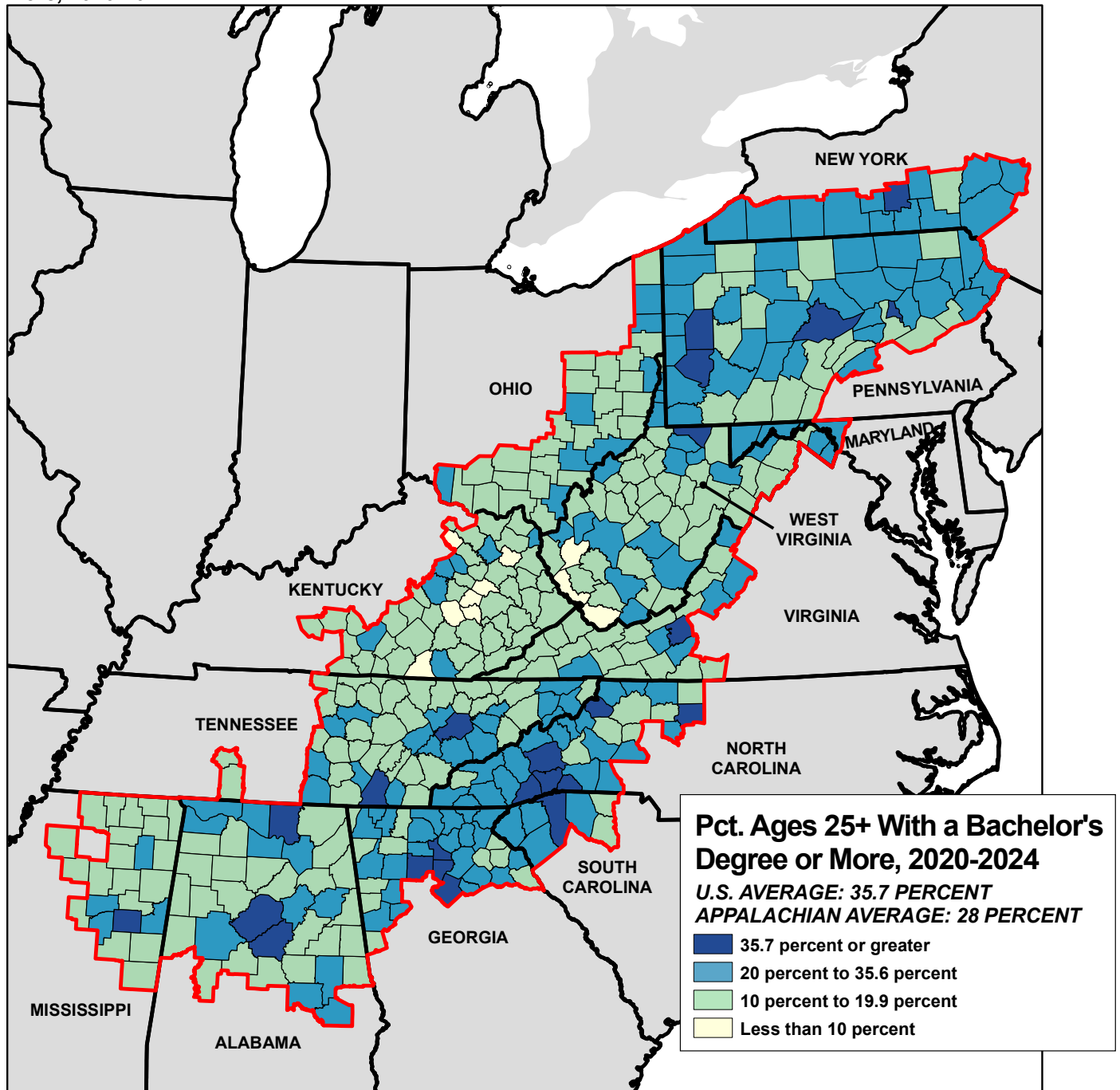


Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With an Associate's Degree but Without a Bachelor's Degree, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

In the Appalachian Region, the share of adults ages 25 and over with an associate's degree was 9.5 percent – slightly higher than the national average of 8.8 percent. In parts of the region, the share was even higher – including the Appalachian portion of seven states: Mississippi, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, and the Carolinas. In contrast, the share was less than five percent in 11 Appalachian counties – six of which were in West Virginia, where the overall share of adults with associate's degrees throughout the state is just 8.4 percent. In all of these counties, the share of adults who had completed high school or more was also below the regional average, indicating that there was lower overall educational attainment in these counties.

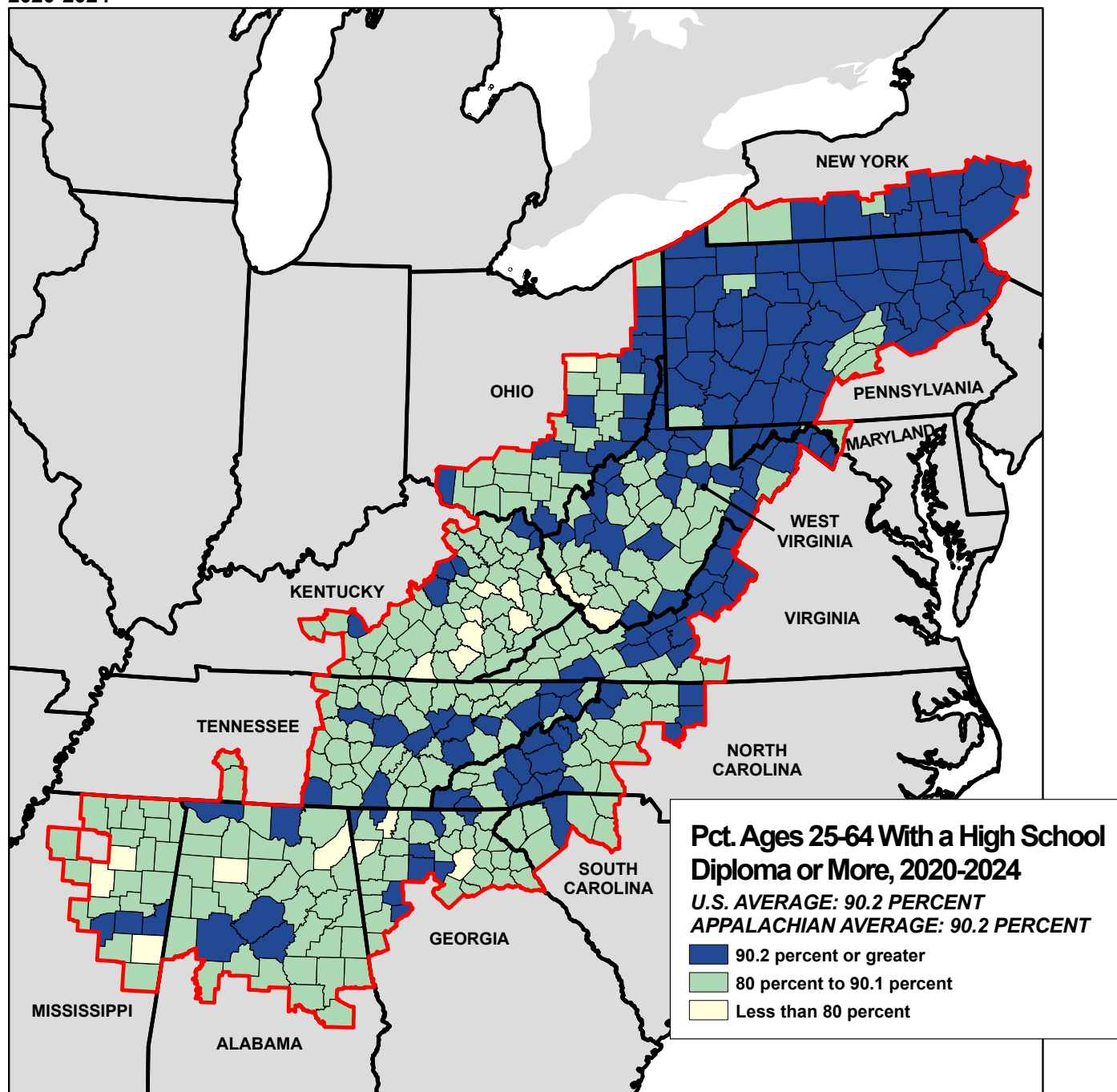
Figure 6.4: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2020-2024
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

The share of adults ages 25 and over with a bachelor's degree or more was 7.7 percentage points lower in Appalachia during the 2020-2024 period than in the nation as a whole. This was lower than the national average in 399 of the Appalachian Region's 423 counties, and less than one in five residents ages 25 and over were graduates of a four-year college or university in 239 Appalachian counties. Of these counties, about one-third were rural, while approximately another third of them were nonmetropolitan but adjacent to small metropolitan areas. Conversely, in 24 of Appalachia's counties, the share of adults with a bachelor's degree matched or exceeded the national average of 35.7 percent. These counties were primarily in metropolitan areas and nearly half were home to colleges or universities, such as Tompkins County, New York (Cornell University), and Oktibbeha County, Mississippi (Mississippi State University).

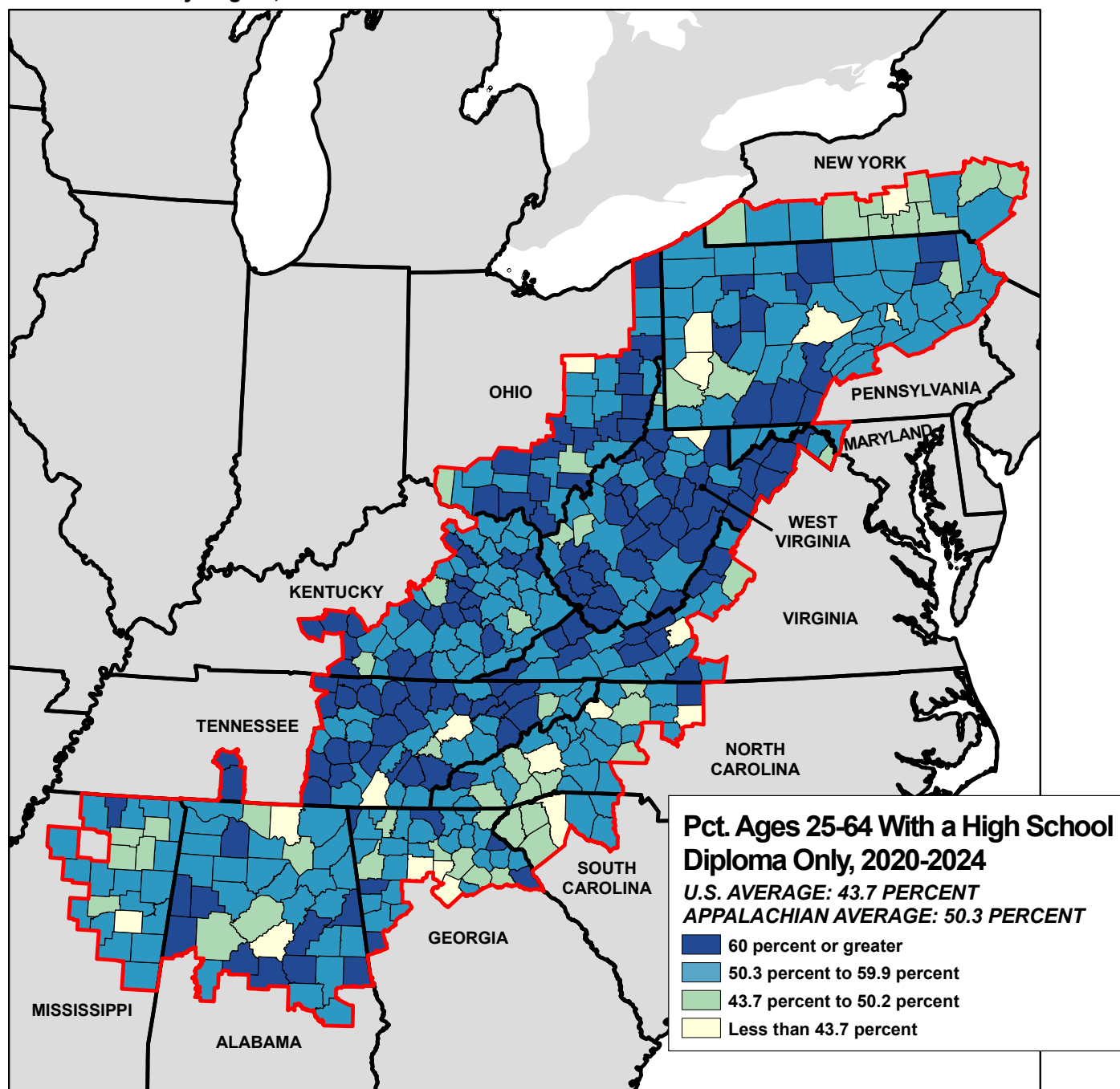
Figure 6.5: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2020-2024
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

In 2020-2024, the percentage of working-age adults (ages 25 to 64) in the Appalachian Region with at least a high school diploma was equal to the national average of 90.2 percent, and the share exceeded the national rate in 163 counties. Half of these counties were in metropolitan areas and 60 percent of these counties were located in Northern and North Central Appalachia. In the Appalachian portions of New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and all of West Virginia, the share of adults in this age group who had completed high school was at least 90 percent. At the other end of the spectrum, less than 80 percent of working-age adults had finished high school in 19 Appalachian counties. Just over half of these counties were in Central Appalachia (10 counties) with the heaviest concentration in Appalachian Kentucky (eight counties).

Figure 6.6: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma but With No Postsecondary Degree, 2020-2024

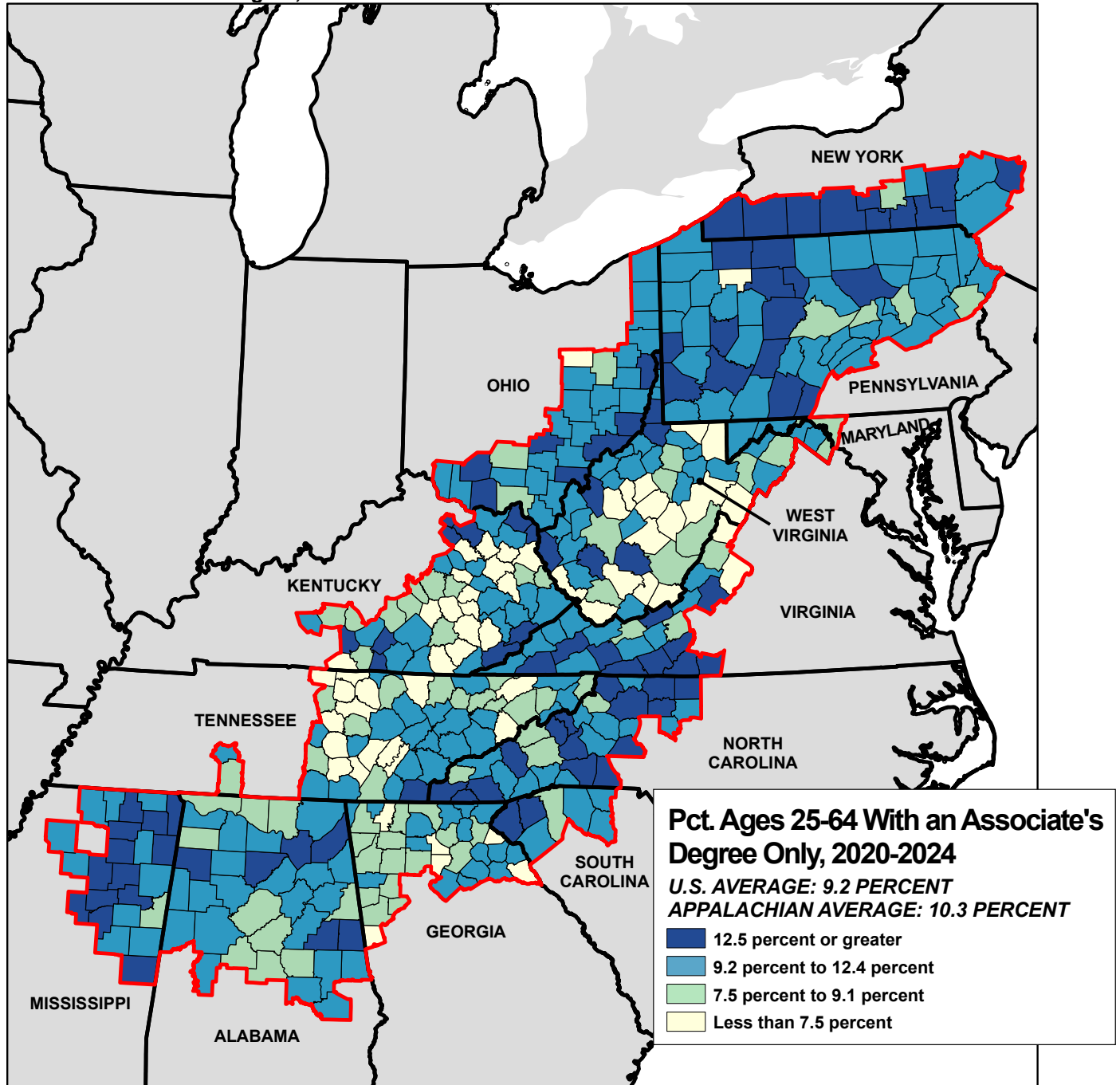


Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma but With No Postsecondary Degree, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

In 2020-2024, 50.3 percent of working-age adults (ages 25 to 64) in the Appalachian Region had a high school diploma but no postsecondary degree, compared to just 43.7 percent nationally. The share of adults in this age group was at least 60 percent in 135 of Appalachia's 423 counties, with the highest concentrations in Appalachian Tennessee and West Virginia. In Appalachia's non-metropolitan and rural counties, the share with a high school diploma as the highest level of education exceeded 55 percent. In contrast, there were 20 counties in the region where the share of 25-to-64-year-old adults who had a high school diploma, but no secondary degree, was below the national average. Nearly two-thirds of the latter counties were in South Central and Southern Appalachia, and four-fifths were in metropolitan areas. Many working-age adults with this level of attainment may still have continued their education after high school, either by attending college without graduating or by acquiring vocational training.

Figure 6.7: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With an Associate's Degree but Without a Bachelor's Degree, 2020-2024

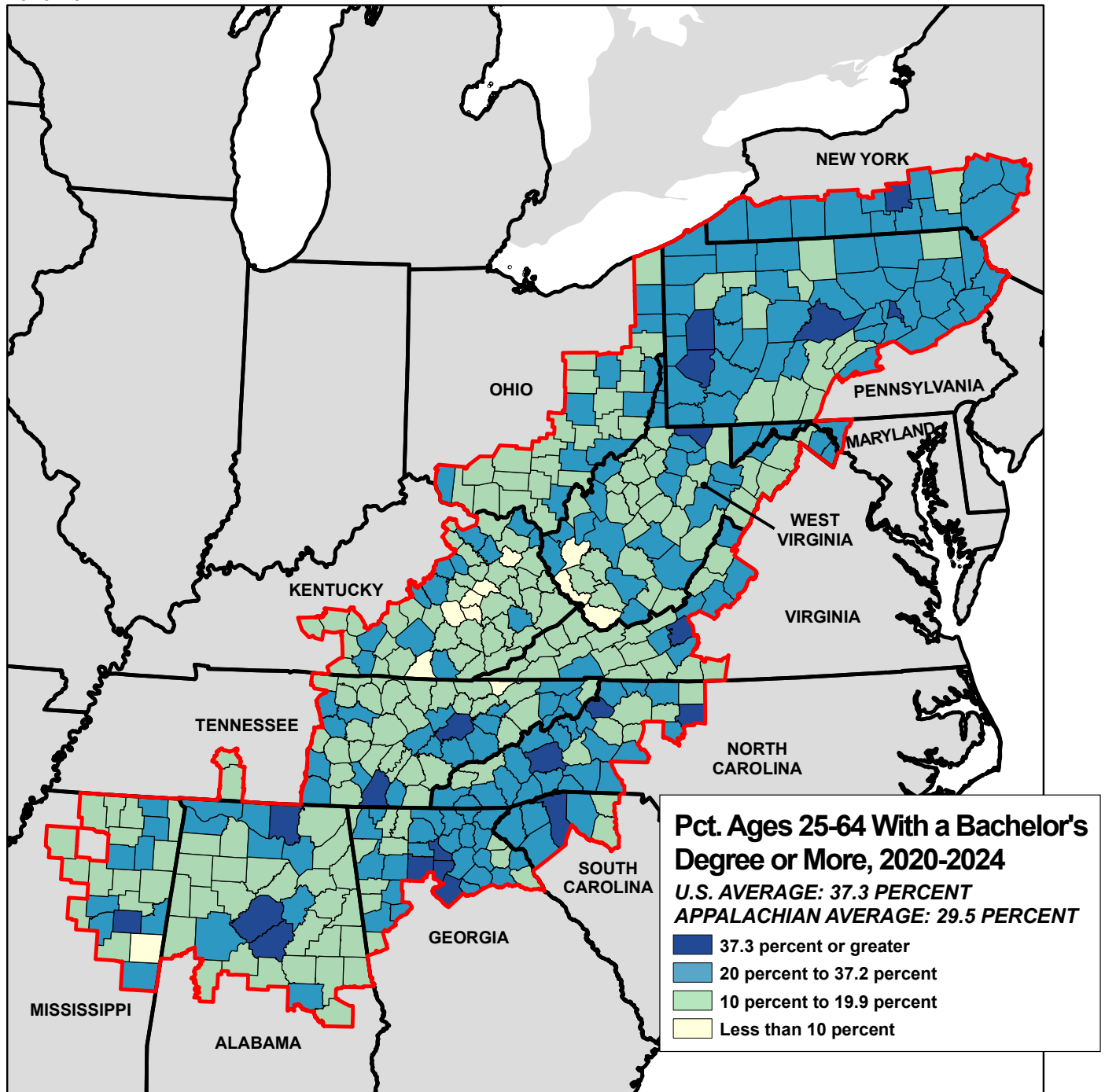


Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With an Associate's Degree but Without a Bachelor's Degree, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

In 2020-2024, 10.3 percent of working-age adults (ages 25 to 64) in Appalachia had attained an associate's degree but not a bachelor's degree, compared with 9.2 percent nationally. And the share was even higher in much of the Appalachian Region: In 94 Appalachian counties, at least one in eight working-age adults had an associate's degree as their highest level of education. In the Appalachian sections of Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia the share was at least 11 percent. On the other hand, there were 56 counties in Appalachia where less than 7.5 percent of 25-to-64-year-olds had attained an associate's degree only. Four in every five of those 56 counties were in the Appalachian portions of three states – Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

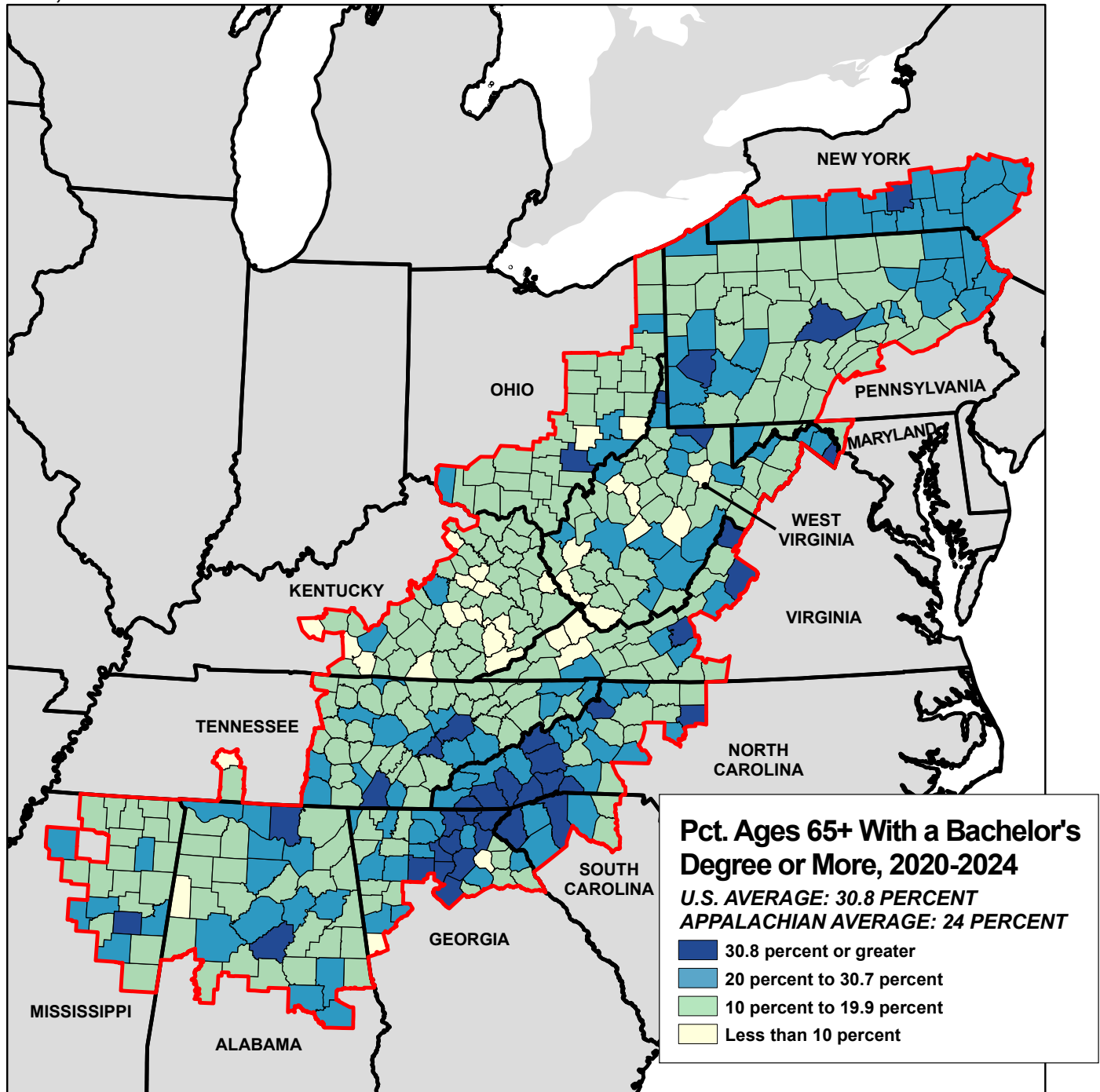
Figure 6.8: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2020-2024
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

The share of 25-to-64-year-old adults in the Appalachian Region who had attained a bachelor's degree or more in 2020-2024 was 7.8 percentage points lower than the U.S. average of 37.3 percent – highlighting a gap in secondary educational attainment between the Appalachian Region and the rest of the nation. And in some portions of Appalachia, this gap was even more profound – in Central Appalachia just 17.7 percent of residents in this age group had at least a bachelor's degree and in non-metropolitan counties adjacent to small metros and rural areas of the region, about one in every five 25-to-64-year-olds had this level of education. Yet, in the Appalachian Region's large metropolitan areas the share exceeded the national average by 1 percentage point. Scattered throughout the region, the share who had attained at least a bachelor's degree matched or exceeded the national average in 21 counties, all but three of which were in metropolitan areas and about half were home to four-year colleges or universities.

Figure 6.9: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2020-2024
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

The share of older Americans in Appalachia (those ages 65 and over) who attained a bachelor's degree or higher was 6.8 percentage points lower than the national average for their age group in 2020-2024. In 31 of Appalachia's 423 counties, less than one in ten older adults had completed at least a bachelor's degree. And in Central Appalachia, non-metro counties adjacent to small metros and rural areas in the region, and the Appalachian sections of Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, and Ohio, fewer than one in five older adults had a bachelor's degree or more. In contrast, in 38 of Appalachia's counties, the share of older adults who had a bachelor's degree or higher matched or exceeded the national average of 30.8 percent. These latter counties were primarily in metropolitan areas. Further, nearly half of these counties had a college or university – such as Athens County, Ohio (Ohio University) and Madison County, North Carolina (Mars Hill University).

Table 6.4: Percentage Point Change in Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Education (Highest Level Attained)	Percentage Point Change in Share of Population Ages 25 and Over					
	Less than High School Diploma	High School Diploma or More				
		Total	H.S. Grad, No Postsecondary Degree	Associate's Degree or More		
				Total	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree or More
United States	- 1.6	+ 1.6	- 2.3	+ 3.9	+ 0.3	+ 3.6
Appalachian Region	- 2.3	+ 2.3	- 1.7	+ 3.9	+ 0.6	+ 3.3
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	- 1.3	+ 1.3	- 2.3	+ 3.6	+ 0.6	+ 2.9
North Central Appalachia	- 2.2	+ 2.2	- 2.0	+ 4.2	+ 0.8	+ 3.3
Central Appalachia	- 4.5	+ 4.5	+ 0.9	+ 3.6	+ 1.1	+ 2.4
South Central Appalachia	- 2.9	+ 2.9	- 1.4	+ 4.2	+ 0.6	+ 3.6
Southern Appalachia	- 2.5	+ 2.5	- 1.4	+ 4.0	+ 0.5	+ 3.5
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	- 1.4	+ 1.4	- 2.3	+ 3.7	+ 0.3	+ 3.5
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	- 2.2	+ 2.2	- 1.9	+ 4.1	+ 0.6	+ 3.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 2.4	+ 2.4	- 1.3	+ 3.6	+ 0.8	+ 2.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	- 2.7	+ 2.7	- 0.8	+ 3.5	+ 0.9	+ 2.6
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 3.4	+ 3.4	- 0.2	+ 3.7	+ 0.9	+ 2.7
Alabama	- 2.4	+ 2.4	- 1.1	+ 3.5	+ 0.6	+ 2.9
Appalachian Alabama	- 2.4	+ 2.4	- 1.3	+ 3.7	+ 0.6	+ 3.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 2.6	+ 2.6	- 0.6	+ 3.2	+ 0.7	+ 2.5
Georgia	- 2.1	+ 2.1	- 2.1	+ 4.3	+ 0.6	+ 3.6
Appalachian Georgia	- 2.3	+ 2.3	- 1.7	+ 4.1	+ 0.5	+ 3.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 2.1	+ 2.1	- 2.4	+ 4.3	+ 0.7	+ 3.7
Kentucky	- 2.6	+ 2.6	- 1.4	+ 4.0	+ 0.7	+ 3.4
Appalachian Kentucky	- 4.4	+ 4.4	+ 0.8	+ 3.4	+ 1.0	+ 2.5
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 1.9	+ 1.9	- 2.2	+ 4.1	+ 0.5	+ 3.5
Maryland	- 0.9	+ 0.9	- 2.4	+ 3.4	+ 0.1	+ 3.2
Appalachian Maryland	- 0.9	+ 0.9	- 1.9	+ 2.8	+ 0.2	+ 2.5
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 0.9	+ 0.9	- 2.4	+ 3.4	+ 0.2	+ 3.3
Mississippi	- 2.6	+ 2.6	- 1.6	+ 4.3	+ 1.1	+ 3.1
Appalachian Mississippi	- 2.9	+ 2.9	- 1.0	+ 3.9	+ 1.1	+ 2.8
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 2.5	+ 2.5	- 1.8	+ 4.3	+ 1.2	+ 3.1
New York	- 1.2	+ 1.2	- 2.6	+ 3.8	+ 0.1	+ 3.6
Appalachian New York	- 1.0	+ 1.0	- 2.3	+ 3.3	+ 0.3	+ 3.0
Non-Appalachian New York	- 1.2	+ 1.2	- 2.6	+ 3.8	+ 0.1	+ 3.7
North Carolina	- 2.3	+ 2.3	- 2.5	+ 4.9	+ 0.4	+ 4.4
Appalachian North Carolina	- 2.8	+ 2.8	- 1.9	+ 4.7	+ 0.3	+ 4.4
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 2.3	+ 2.3	- 2.6	+ 4.8	+ 0.5	+ 4.4
Ohio	- 1.4	+ 1.4	- 2.1	+ 3.6	+ 0.3	+ 3.2
Appalachian Ohio	- 1.8	+ 1.8	- 1.9	+ 3.7	+ 1.0	+ 2.7
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 1.4	+ 1.4	- 2.1	+ 3.4	+ 0.3	+ 3.3
Pennsylvania	- 1.6	+ 1.6	- 2.5	+ 4.2	+ 0.4	+ 3.8
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 1.4	+ 1.4	- 2.3	+ 3.7	+ 0.6	+ 3.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 1.9	+ 1.9	- 2.7	+ 4.6	+ 0.3	+ 4.2
South Carolina	- 2.6	+ 2.6	- 1.6	+ 4.2	+ 0.2	+ 4.0
Appalachian South Carolina	- 2.9	+ 2.9	- 1.0	+ 3.9	0.0	+ 3.9
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 2.5	+ 2.5	- 1.8	+ 4.3	+ 0.2	+ 4.1
Tennessee	- 2.5	+ 2.5	- 1.7	+ 4.3	+ 0.6	+ 3.8
Appalachian Tennessee	- 2.9	+ 2.9	- 1.2	+ 4.0	+ 0.9	+ 3.3
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 2.3	+ 2.3	- 2.2	+ 4.5	+ 0.4	+ 4.1
Virginia	- 1.9	+ 1.9	- 1.5	+ 3.4	0.0	+ 3.4
Appalachian Virginia	- 4.2	+ 4.2	+ 1.3	+ 2.9	+ 1.0	+ 1.8
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 1.6	+ 1.6	- 1.8	+ 3.3	- 0.1	+ 3.4
West Virginia (entire state)	- 2.4	+ 2.4	- 2.1	+ 4.6	+ 1.1	+ 3.5

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Table 6.5: Percentage Point Change in Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Education (Highest Level Attained)	Percentage Point Change in Share of Population Ages 25 to 64					
	Less than High School Diploma	High School Diploma or More				
		Total	H.S. Grad, No Postsecondary Degree	Associate's Degree or More		
				Total	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree or More
United States	- 1.1	+ 1.1	- 2.7	+ 3.8	+ 0.1	+ 3.8
Appalachian Region	- 1.3	+ 1.3	- 2.4	+ 3.7	+ 0.3	+ 3.3
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	- 0.3	+ 0.3	- 3.1	+ 3.4	+ 0.3	+ 3.1
North Central Appalachia	- 1.1	+ 1.1	- 3.1	+ 4.1	+ 0.8	+ 3.4
Central Appalachia	- 3.1	+ 3.1	- 0.4	+ 3.5	+ 1.0	+ 2.5
South Central Appalachia	- 1.8	+ 1.8	- 1.9	+ 3.8	+ 0.3	+ 3.4
Southern Appalachia	- 1.8	+ 1.8	- 2.0	+ 3.8	+ 0.2	+ 3.6
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	- 0.8	+ 0.8	- 2.8	+ 3.6	- 0.1	+ 3.7
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	- 1.2	+ 1.2	- 2.6	+ 3.8	+ 0.3	+ 3.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 1.5	+ 1.5	- 1.7	+ 3.1	+ 0.5	+ 2.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	- 1.6	+ 1.6	- 1.6	+ 3.2	+ 0.7	+ 2.5
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 2.2	+ 2.2	- 1.5	+ 3.8	+ 0.9	+ 2.9
Alabama	- 1.7	+ 1.7	- 1.4	+ 3.2	+ 0.4	+ 2.9
Appalachian Alabama	- 1.6	+ 1.6	- 1.8	+ 3.3	+ 0.3	+ 3.0
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 1.9	+ 1.9	- 1.0	+ 2.9	+ 0.4	+ 2.4
Georgia	- 1.7	+ 1.7	- 2.7	+ 4.2	+ 0.5	+ 3.8
Appalachian Georgia	- 1.7	+ 1.7	- 2.2	+ 3.9	+ 0.2	+ 3.7
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 1.6	+ 1.6	- 2.9	+ 4.5	+ 0.6	+ 3.9
Kentucky	- 1.5	+ 1.5	- 2.7	+ 4.1	+ 0.5	+ 3.7
Appalachian Kentucky	- 2.9	+ 2.9	- 0.6	+ 3.6	+ 0.8	+ 2.7
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.9	+ 0.9	- 3.3	+ 4.2	+ 0.4	+ 3.9
Maryland	- 0.4	+ 0.4	- 3.0	+ 3.3	0.0	+ 3.4
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.2	- 0.2	- 3.2	+ 3.0	0.0	+ 3.0
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 0.3	+ 0.3	- 2.9	+ 3.3	0.0	+ 3.3
Mississippi	- 2.0	+ 2.0	- 2.5	+ 4.5	+ 1.2	+ 3.4
Appalachian Mississippi	- 2.3	+ 2.3	- 1.9	+ 4.3	+ 1.3	+ 3.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 1.9	+ 1.9	- 2.6	+ 4.6	+ 1.2	+ 3.4
New York	- 0.7	+ 0.7	- 3.0	+ 3.7	- 0.4	+ 4.1
Appalachian New York	- 0.1	+ 0.1	- 3.3	+ 3.4	- 0.2	+ 3.7
Non-Appalachian New York	- 0.7	+ 0.7	- 3.0	+ 3.7	- 0.3	+ 4.0
North Carolina	- 1.6	+ 1.6	- 2.9	+ 4.5	0.0	+ 4.4
Appalachian North Carolina	- 2.1	+ 2.1	- 2.1	+ 4.2	- 0.2	+ 4.5
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 1.5	+ 1.5	- 3.0	+ 4.6	+ 0.2	+ 4.4
Ohio	- 0.7	+ 0.7	- 2.7	+ 3.5	0.0	+ 3.5
Appalachian Ohio	- 0.9	+ 0.9	- 2.8	+ 3.5	+ 0.8	+ 2.7
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 0.6	+ 0.6	- 2.8	+ 3.3	- 0.2	+ 3.5
Pennsylvania	- 0.8	+ 0.8	- 3.2	+ 4.0	+ 0.1	+ 3.9
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.4	+ 0.4	- 3.0	+ 3.3	+ 0.3	+ 3.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 1.3	+ 1.3	- 3.2	+ 4.5	0.0	+ 4.6
South Carolina	- 1.9	+ 1.9	- 2.3	+ 4.2	- 0.1	+ 4.3
Appalachian South Carolina	- 2.1	+ 2.1	- 1.6	+ 3.7	- 0.3	+ 4.2
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 1.9	+ 1.9	- 2.5	+ 4.4	0.0	+ 4.4
Tennessee	- 1.5	+ 1.5	- 2.6	+ 4.2	+ 0.4	+ 3.8
Appalachian Tennessee	- 1.7	+ 1.7	- 2.1	+ 3.8	+ 0.6	+ 3.1
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 1.4	+ 1.4	- 3.0	+ 4.4	+ 0.1	+ 4.3
Virginia	- 1.2	+ 1.2	- 2.1	+ 3.3	- 0.2	+ 3.5
Appalachian Virginia	- 2.9	+ 2.9	+ 0.8	+ 2.2	+ 1.0	+ 1.2
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 1.0	+ 1.0	- 2.2	+ 3.2	- 0.3	+ 3.6
West Virginia (entire state)	- 1.0	+ 1.0	- 3.6	+ 4.7	+ 1.1	+ 3.6

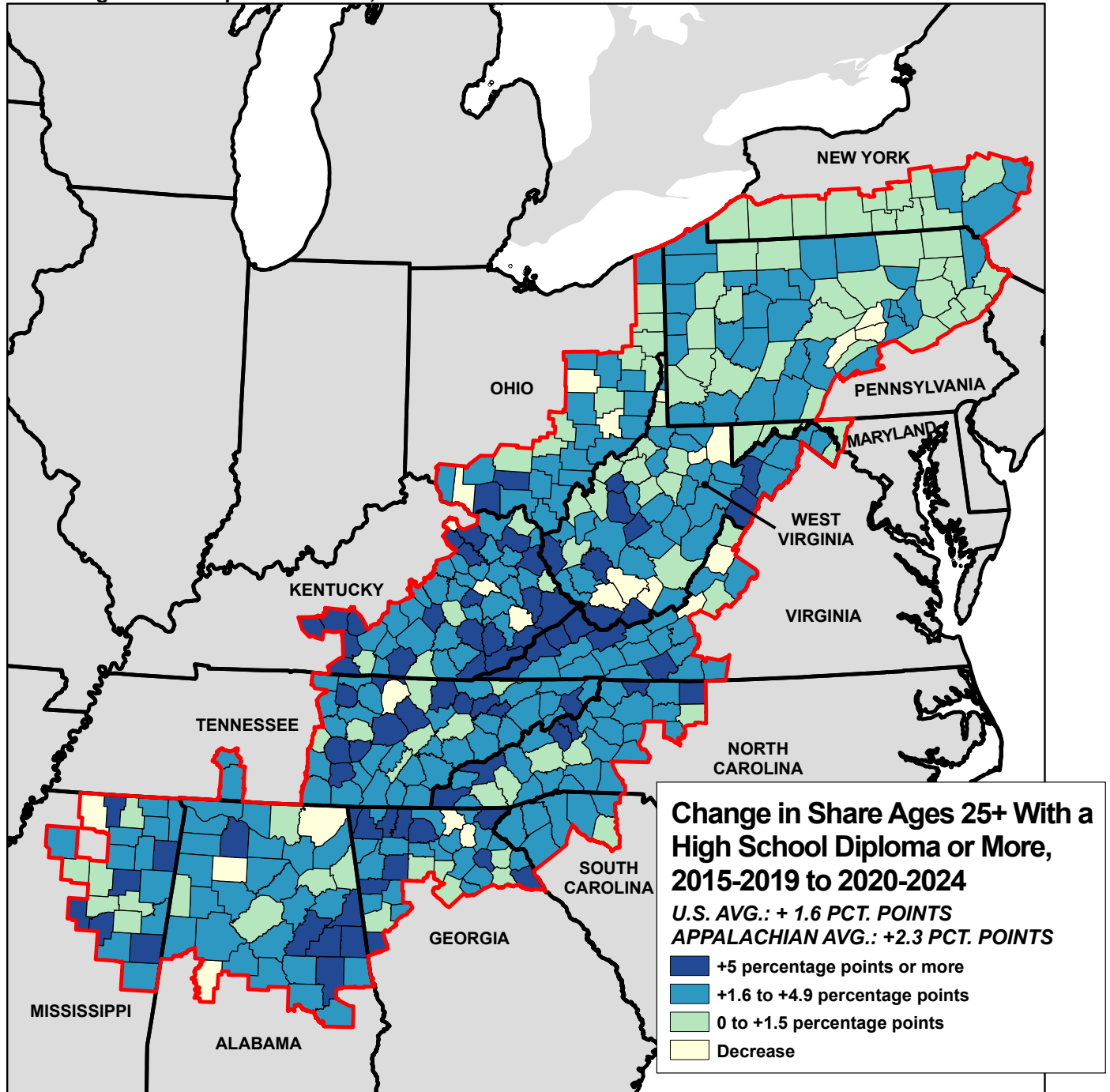
Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Table 6.6: Percentage Point Change in Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Education (Highest Level Attained)	Percentage Point Change in Share of Population Ages 65 and Over					
	Less than High School Diploma	High School Diploma or More				
		Total	H.S. Grad, No Postsecondary Degree	Associate's Degree or More		
				Total	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree or More
United States	- 3.5	+ 3.5	- 1.2	+ 4.7	+ 1.4	+ 3.3
Appalachian Region	- 5.2	+ 5.2	0.0	+ 5.2	+ 1.7	+ 3.6
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	- 4.0	+ 4.0	- 1.2	+ 5.2	+ 1.9	+ 3.3
North Central Appalachia	- 5.8	+ 5.8	+ 0.8	+ 4.9	+ 1.3	+ 3.6
Central Appalachia	- 9.4	+ 9.4	+ 5.1	+ 4.2	+ 1.8	+ 2.5
South Central Appalachia	- 5.6	+ 5.6	0.0	+ 5.6	+ 1.6	+ 4.0
Southern Appalachia	- 5.0	+ 5.0	0.0	+ 5.1	+ 1.5	+ 3.6
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	- 3.9	+ 3.9	- 1.6	+ 5.4	+ 1.9	+ 3.6
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	- 5.0	+ 5.0	- 0.4	+ 5.4	+ 1.5	+ 3.9
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 5.2	+ 5.2	- 0.2	+ 5.3	+ 1.8	+ 3.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	- 5.9	+ 5.9	+ 1.1	+ 4.7	+ 1.8	+ 3.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 6.8	+ 6.8	+ 3.2	+ 3.6	+ 1.3	+ 2.5
Alabama	- 4.9	+ 4.9	- 0.1	+ 5.0	+ 1.7	+ 3.4
Appalachian Alabama	- 4.9	+ 4.9	- 0.3	+ 5.2	+ 1.7	+ 3.5
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 5.1	+ 5.1	+ 0.2	+ 4.9	+ 1.7	+ 3.2
Georgia	- 4.2	+ 4.2	- 0.6	+ 4.9	+ 1.4	+ 3.6
Appalachian Georgia	- 4.8	+ 4.8	- 0.5	+ 5.2	+ 1.5	+ 3.7
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 4.0	+ 4.0	- 0.8	+ 4.8	+ 1.3	+ 3.4
Kentucky	- 6.7	+ 6.7	+ 2.2	+ 4.4	+ 1.6	+ 2.9
Appalachian Kentucky	- 9.2	+ 9.2	+ 5.3	+ 3.9	+ 1.7	+ 2.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 5.5	+ 5.5	+ 1.0	+ 4.5	+ 1.5	+ 3.0
Maryland	- 3.3	+ 3.3	- 1.3	+ 4.6	+ 0.8	+ 3.8
Appalachian Maryland	- 4.3	+ 4.3	+ 1.4	+ 2.9	+ 1.0	+ 1.7
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 3.3	+ 3.3	- 1.4	+ 4.6	+ 0.8	+ 3.8
Mississippi	- 5.2	+ 5.2	+ 0.9	+ 4.3	+ 1.7	+ 2.6
Appalachian Mississippi	- 5.4	+ 5.4	+ 1.7	+ 3.7	+ 1.2	+ 2.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 5.1	+ 5.1	+ 0.7	+ 4.3	+ 1.8	+ 2.6
New York	- 3.2	+ 3.2	- 1.8	+ 5.1	+ 1.7	+ 3.5
Appalachian New York	- 3.2	+ 3.2	- 0.5	+ 3.8	+ 2.0	+ 1.7
Non-Appalachian New York	- 3.3	+ 3.3	- 1.9	+ 5.1	+ 1.7	+ 3.5
North Carolina	- 5.0	+ 5.0	- 1.6	+ 6.5	+ 1.8	+ 4.7
Appalachian North Carolina	- 4.9	+ 4.9	- 1.4	+ 6.3	+ 1.8	+ 4.5
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 5.0	+ 5.0	- 1.6	+ 6.6	+ 1.8	+ 4.8
Ohio	- 4.1	+ 4.1	- 0.8	+ 4.9	+ 1.8	+ 3.1
Appalachian Ohio	- 4.6	+ 4.6	- 0.1	+ 4.6	+ 1.9	+ 2.8
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 4.0	+ 4.0	- 0.9	+ 4.9	+ 1.8	+ 3.1
Pennsylvania	- 4.0	+ 4.0	- 1.6	+ 5.7	+ 1.7	+ 3.9
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 4.0	+ 4.0	- 1.5	+ 5.5	+ 1.9	+ 3.6
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 4.0	+ 4.0	- 1.6	+ 5.6	+ 1.6	+ 3.9
South Carolina	- 4.8	+ 4.8	+ 0.2	+ 4.6	+ 1.3	+ 3.3
Appalachian South Carolina	- 5.4	+ 5.4	+ 0.7	+ 4.7	+ 1.3	+ 3.6
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 4.6	+ 4.6	0.0	+ 4.5	+ 1.4	+ 3.2
Tennessee	- 6.3	+ 6.3	+ 0.8	+ 5.4	+ 1.6	+ 3.8
Appalachian Tennessee	- 6.3	+ 6.3	+ 1.1	+ 5.1	+ 1.4	+ 3.7
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 6.1	+ 6.1	+ 0.6	+ 5.6	+ 1.8	+ 3.8
Virginia	- 4.7	+ 4.7	0.0	+ 4.8	+ 1.0	+ 3.8
Appalachian Virginia	- 8.3	+ 8.3	+ 2.8	+ 5.5	+ 1.6	+ 3.8
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 4.2	+ 4.2	- 0.4	+ 4.5	+ 0.9	+ 3.6
West Virginia (entire state)	- 6.4	+ 6.4	+ 1.2	+ 5.1	+ 1.4	+ 3.8

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Figure 6.10: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

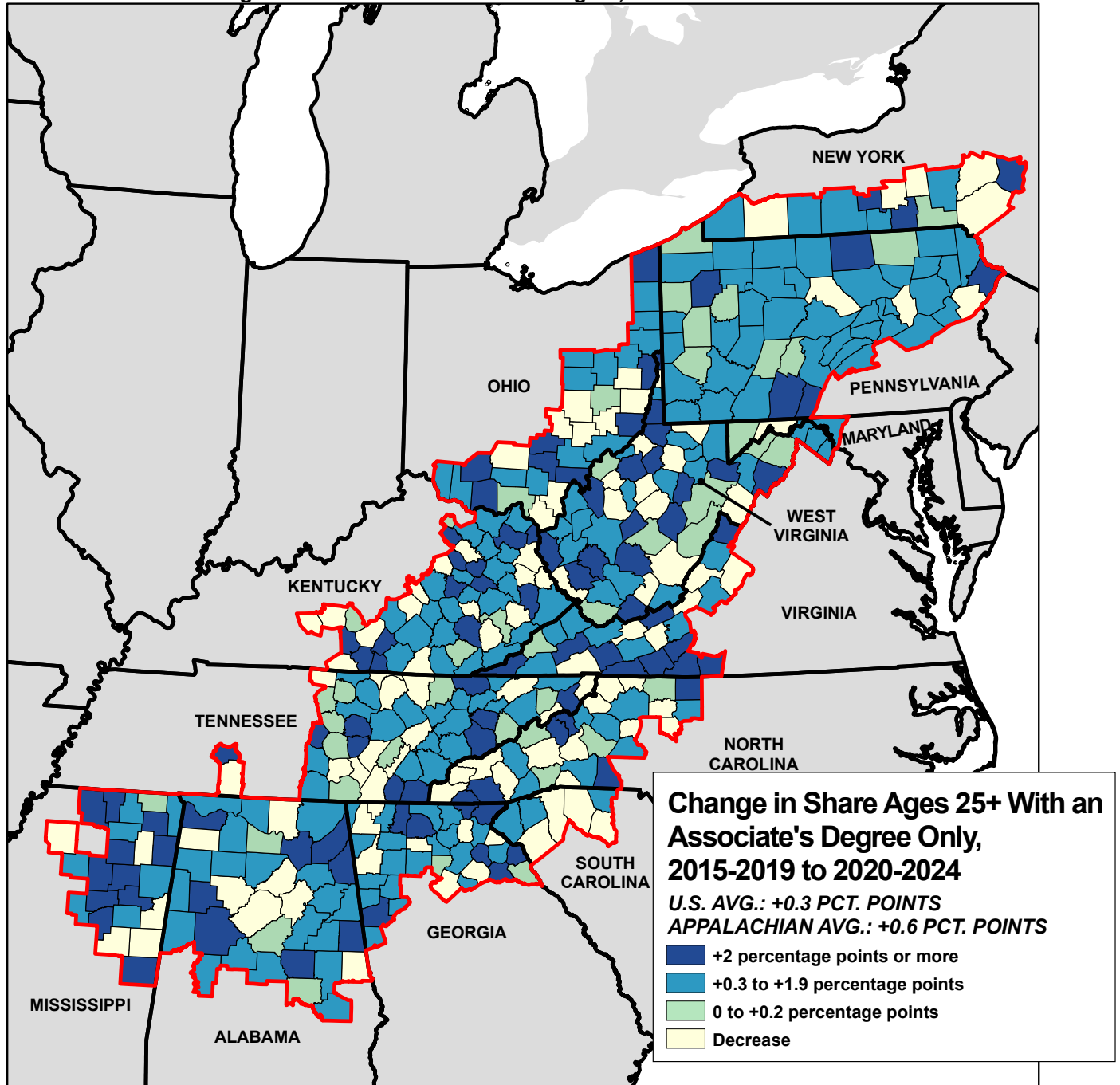


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

The Appalachian Region had gains in educational attainment between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024, with an increase of 2.3 percentage points for adults with a high school diploma – a higher rise than the U.S. had during this time. This rise continues a longstanding trend, and the increase was even more pronounced in some parts of the region – in 192 of Appalachia’s 423 counties the share of adults with at least a high school degree rose by at least three percentage points and in 78 of these counties the share rose by at least five percentage points. Nearly half of these 78 counties were in Southern and South Central Appalachia. The Appalachian portions of Kentucky and Virginia had notable increases in high school degree attainment, at more than four percentage points each.

Figure 6.11: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With an Associate's Degree but Without a Bachelor's Degree, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

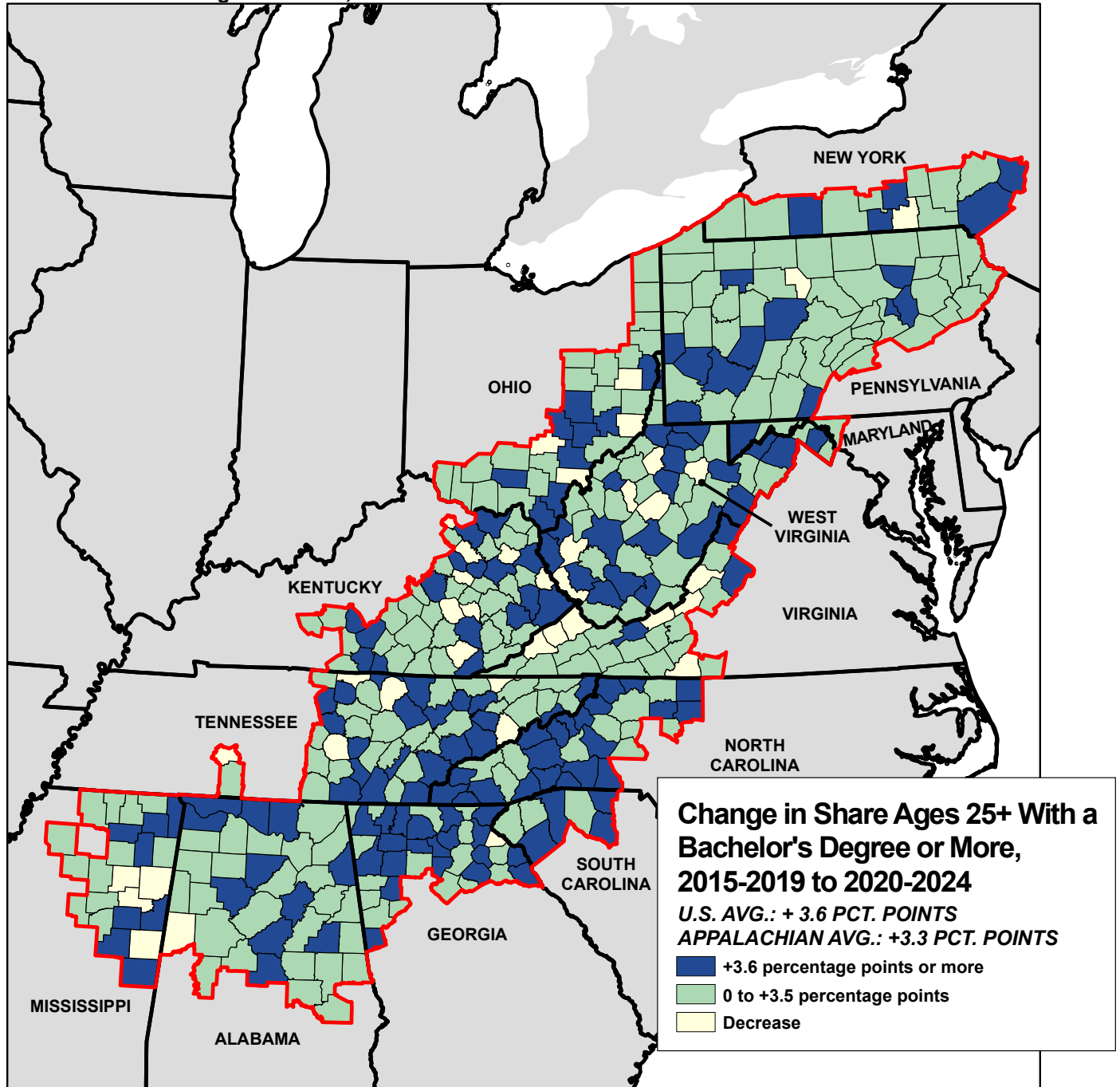


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With an Associate's Degree but Without a Bachelor's Degree, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

The share of adults ages 25 and older in the Appalachian Region whose highest level of education was an associate's degree rose by 0.6 percentage points from 2015-2019 to 2020-2024, slightly more than the increase of 0.3 percentage points seen at the national level. And in 236 of the Appalachian Region's 423 counties, the increase was even greater than the regional average – more than half of which were small metropolitan counties and those adjacent to them – while in 98 counties, the share rose by at least two percentage points. Conversely, in 102 counties the share decreased; however, of these counties 91 also had an increase in the attainment of a bachelor's degree or more.

Figure 6.12: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

The percentage of Appalachian adults ages 25 and over with at least a bachelor's degree increased by 3.3 percentage points between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024, suggesting a continued trend toward greater educational attainment in the Appalachian Region. And in 151 of the region's 423 counties – more than half of which were in Southern and South Central Appalachia – the share of adults 25 and over with a bachelor's degree or more increased at least as much as the national average of 3.6 percent. Yet not all counties in the region saw a rise in attainment of bachelor's degrees and higher – in 39 counties the share with this level of education declined, all but five of which were in non-metropolitan areas.

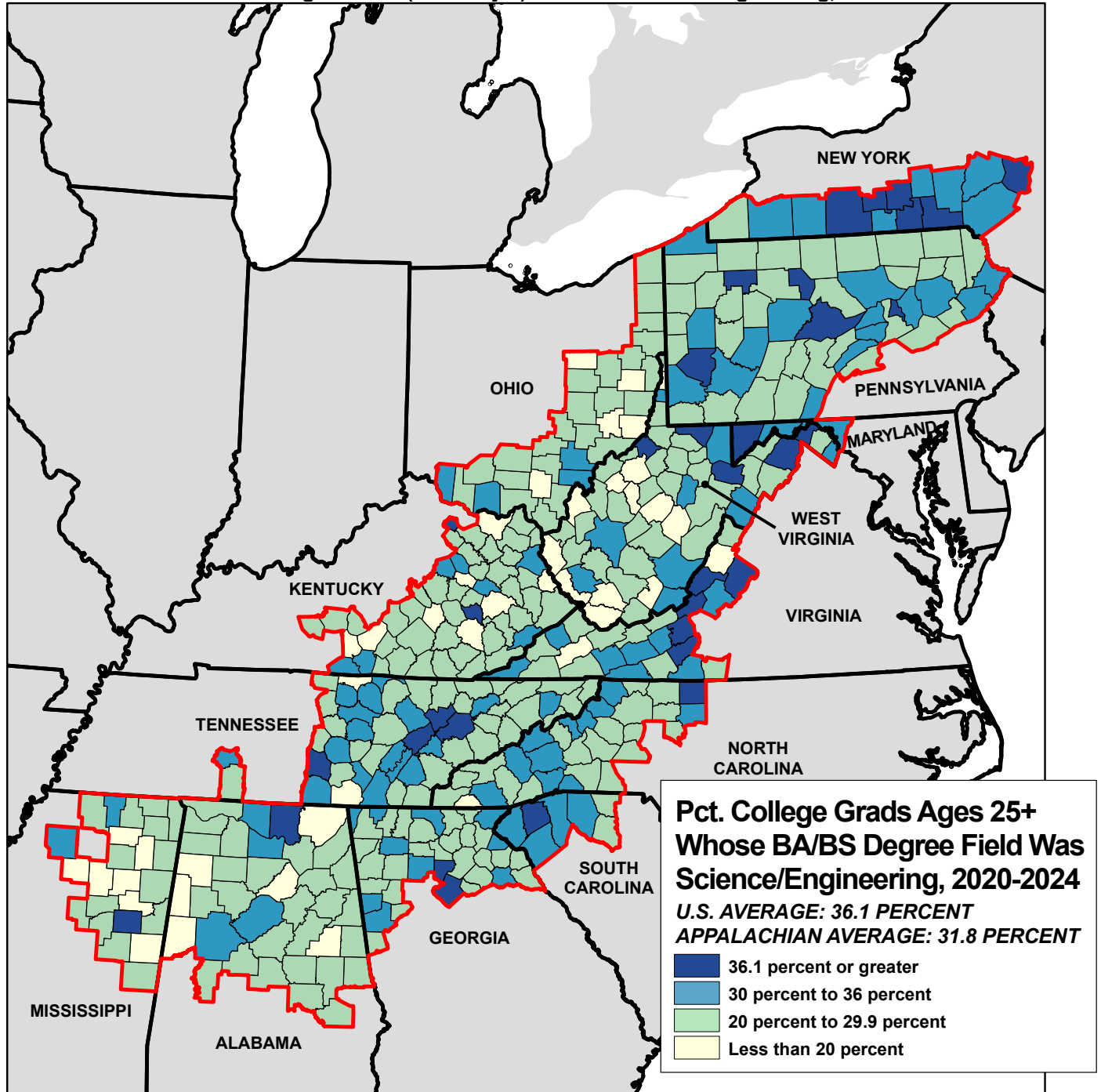
Table 6.7: Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major) for Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2020-2024

Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major)	Total Population Ages 25 and Over With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2020-2024	Percent of Population Ages 25 and Over With a Bachelor's Degree or More				
		Science and Engineering	Science- and Engineering-Related Fields	Business	Education	Arts, Humanities, and Other
United States	82,363,216	36.1	10.0	20.1	10.9	23.0
Appalachian Region	5,178,629	31.8	11.6	19.8	15.5	21.3
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	1,656,761	32.9	11.9	17.9	15.9	21.4
North Central Appalachia	421,801	29.1	13.6	17.9	18.7	20.7
Central Appalachia	220,237	26.7	14.1	16.5	22.2	20.6
South Central Appalachia	1,077,755	31.9	11.3	19.0	14.3	23.6
Southern Appalachia	1,802,075	32.1	10.6	23.0	14.3	20.0
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	1,617,403	33.6	10.7	22.6	12.5	20.6
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	2,248,014	32.8	11.5	19.2	14.6	21.9
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	366,659	28.6	12.3	18.4	20.0	20.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	594,636	28.4	12.9	17.2	20.4	21.2
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	351,917	26.7	12.7	17.2	22.3	21.1
Alabama	985,483	30.4	10.9	23.1	15.3	20.2
Appalachian Alabama	656,653	30.9	10.9	23.2	14.9	20.0
Non-Appalachian Alabama	328,830	29.4	11.0	22.7	16.2	20.8
Georgia	2,571,913	33.6	9.5	23.4	11.5	22.0
Appalachian Georgia	753,688	33.2	10.2	24.0	13.0	19.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	1,818,225	33.8	9.3	23.1	10.8	23.0
Kentucky	853,791	29.6	12.5	19.4	14.8	23.7
Appalachian Kentucky	142,611	25.4	14.5	15.7	22.5	22.0
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	711,180	30.5	12.1	20.2	13.2	24.1
Maryland	1,868,776	42.0	8.9	17.8	8.7	22.6
Appalachian Maryland	42,005	33.8	10.0	15.8	17.0	23.4
Non-Appalachian Maryland	1,826,771	42.1	8.9	17.8	8.5	22.6
Mississippi	495,720	27.0	13.2	21.4	18.9	19.5
Appalachian Mississippi	87,756	25.5	12.4	19.7	23.6	18.9
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	407,964	27.3	13.4	21.8	17.9	19.7
New York	5,638,631	35.5	9.4	18.4	10.0	26.7
Appalachian New York	206,185	37.4	9.8	13.0	16.2	23.5
Non-Appalachian New York	5,432,446	35.4	9.4	18.6	9.8	26.8
North Carolina	2,631,218	35.0	10.0	20.4	11.3	23.3
Appalachian North Carolina	451,767	31.2	11.1	18.1	14.4	25.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	2,179,451	35.7	9.7	20.9	10.7	22.9
Ohio	2,570,052	31.5	12.2	20.8	14.3	21.2
Appalachian Ohio	288,448	26.3	14.6	18.9	19.9	20.2
Non-Appalachian Ohio	2,281,604	32.1	12.0	21.1	13.6	21.3
Pennsylvania	3,231,367	34.4	10.9	19.4	13.1	22.2
Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,252,218	33.1	11.9	18.6	15.2	21.2
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,979,149	35.3	10.3	19.9	11.7	22.9
South Carolina	1,181,414	32.6	10.3	22.5	13.4	21.1
Appalachian South Carolina	303,978	33.6	10.7	20.8	13.5	21.4
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	877,436	32.3	10.2	23.2	13.3	21.0
Tennessee	1,512,601	30.5	11.0	22.4	12.4	23.7
Appalachian Tennessee	570,348	31.6	11.6	20.3	14.5	22.0
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	942,253	29.8	10.6	23.6	11.2	24.7
Virginia	2,532,890	40.9	8.2	18.5	8.6	23.8
Appalachian Virginia	117,376	35.1	10.9	15.3	15.4	23.4
Non-Appalachian Virginia	2,415,514	41.2	8.1	18.6	8.3	23.8
West Virginia (entire state)	305,596	29.1	13.7	17.6	19.2	20.3

Note: Examples of "Science- and Engineering-Related Fields" include nursing, architecture, and mathematics teacher education.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 6.13: Among Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, Percent Whose Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major) Was Science and Engineering, 2020-2024



Map Title: Among Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, Percent Whose Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major) Was Science and Engineering, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Among the more than five million adults in Appalachia with a bachelor's degree or more, 31.8 percent held a science or engineering degree (including majors in computers, mathematics, and statistics; biological, agricultural, and environmental sciences; physical and related science; psychology; social sciences and engineering). Yet, in 34 counties, the share of BA/BS holders with a degree in this field matched or exceeded the national average of 36.1 percent – more than one-fourth of which were home to a college or university, including major research universities such as Cornell and Binghamton University. In contrast, in 43 counties in the Appalachian Region, less than one-fifth of adult college graduates had a science and engineering degree – nearly half of which were in the region's rural areas.

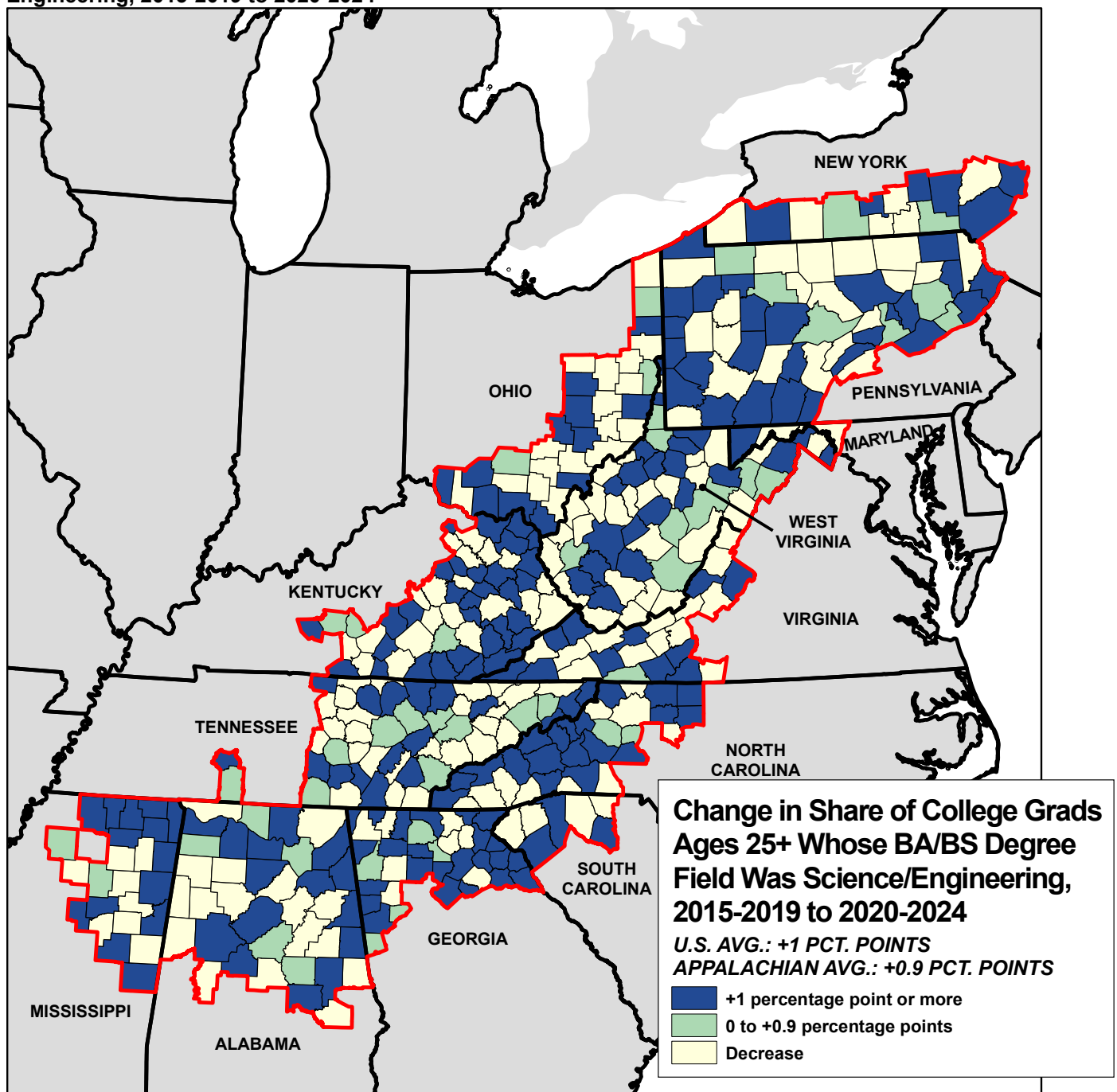
Table 6.8: Percentage Point Change in Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major) for Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major)	Percentage Point Change in Share of Population Ages 25 and Over With a Bachelor's Degree or More				
	Science and Engineering	Science- and Engineering-Related Fields	Business	Education	Arts, Humanities, and Other
United States	+ 1.0	+ 0.4	- 0.2	- 1.3	+ 0.2
Appalachian Region	+ 0.9	+ 0.4	- 0.2	- 1.7	+ 0.6
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	+ 1.0	+ 0.3	0.0	- 1.7	+ 0.4
North Central Appalachia	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	- 0.7	- 1.4	+ 1.1
Central Appalachia	+ 0.5	0.0	+ 0.7	- 3.0	+ 1.9
South Central Appalachia	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	- 1.5	+ 0.9
Southern Appalachia	+ 1.5	+ 0.6	- 0.8	- 1.7	+ 0.4
County Types					
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	+ 1.7	+ 0.4	- 0.9	- 1.5	+ 0.2
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	+ 0.7	+ 0.2	- 0.2	- 1.5	+ 0.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	+ 0.5	+ 0.7	+ 1.0	- 2.2	0.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	+ 0.6	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	- 2.4	+ 1.0
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	- 2.2	+ 1.2
Alabama	+ 1.2	+ 0.2	- 0.3	- 1.5	+ 0.3
Appalachian Alabama	+ 1.0	+ 0.4	- 0.4	- 1.5	+ 0.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 1.5	0.0	- 0.2	- 1.5	+ 0.2
Georgia	+ 1.3	+ 0.2	- 0.8	- 1.3	+ 0.7
Appalachian Georgia	+ 2.0	+ 0.8	- 1.3	- 1.7	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 1.1	+ 0.1	- 0.7	- 1.3	+ 0.9
Kentucky	+ 0.6	+ 0.8	- 0.4	- 1.7	+ 0.7
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.5	+ 0.8	+ 0.6	- 3.5	+ 1.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.6	+ 0.8	- 0.5	- 1.4	+ 0.6
Maryland	+ 1.0	0.0	- 0.3	- 0.7	+ 0.1
Appalachian Maryland	0.0	0.0	- 1.0	- 0.6	+ 1.7
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.9	0.0	- 0.4	- 0.8	+ 0.1
Mississippi	+ 1.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	- 1.9	- 0.4
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	- 2.3	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 1.5	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	- 1.8	- 0.6
New York	+ 1.1	+ 0.5	- 0.4	- 1.0	- 0.2
Appalachian New York	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.7	- 1.9	+ 0.5
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 1.1	+ 0.5	- 0.5	- 1.0	- 0.2
North Carolina	+ 0.7	+ 0.5	+ 0.1	- 1.5	+ 0.2
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 1.1	0.0	+ 0.5	- 2.0	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	0.0	- 1.4	+ 0.2
Ohio	+ 0.8	+ 0.8	- 0.7	- 1.4	+ 0.5
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.7	+ 0.9	0.0	- 2.2	+ 0.5
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.7	+ 0.9	- 0.7	- 1.3	+ 0.4
Pennsylvania	+ 1.0	+ 0.1	- 0.2	- 1.4	+ 0.4
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.1	+ 0.2	- 0.1	- 1.6	+ 0.4
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.0	+ 0.2	- 0.3	- 1.3	+ 0.4
South Carolina	+ 1.3	+ 0.7	- 0.1	- 1.9	- 0.1
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 1.4	+ 0.9	- 1.0	- 2.0	+ 0.8
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 1.3	+ 0.7	+ 0.4	- 2.0	- 0.3
Tennessee	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	0.0	- 1.8	+ 1.1
Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.2	+ 0.1	- 0.1	- 1.4	+ 1.6
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.6	+ 0.5	0.0	- 2.0	+ 0.8
Virginia	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.8	+ 0.3
Appalachian Virginia	- 0.2	+ 0.3	- 0.8	- 0.3	+ 1.2
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.8	+ 0.2
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	- 0.9	- 1.0	+ 1.2

Note: Examples of "Science- and Engineering-Related Fields" include nursing, architecture, and mathematics teacher education.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Figure 6.14: Among Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, Percentage Point Change in the Share Whose Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major) Was Science and Engineering, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Among Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region with a Bachelor's Degree or More, Percentage Point Change in the Share Whose Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major) Was Science and Engineering, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Among adults in the Appalachian Region with a bachelor's degree or more, the share with a degree in the science and engineering field was 0.9 percentage points greater in 2020-2024 than it was in 2015-2019. And in 200 Appalachian counties, the increase matched or exceeded the national increase of 1 percentage point. The share with a degree in science and engineering increased most in Southern Appalachia (1.5 percentage points) and in the Appalachian Region's large metropolitan counties (1.7 percentage points). Yet in 176 of Appalachia's counties, the share actually decreased – more than half of which were small metropolitan counties and those adjacent to them.

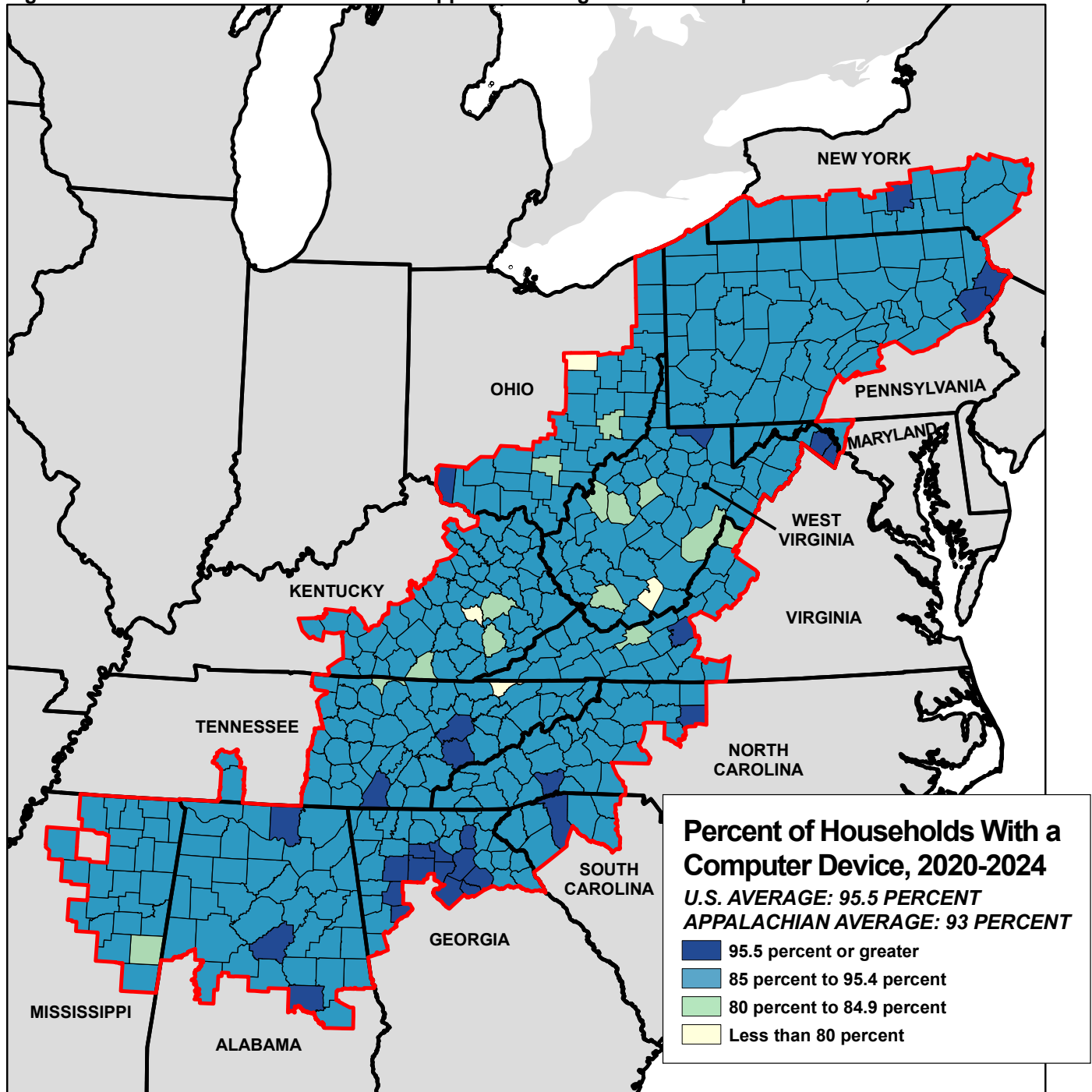
Table 6.9: Households in the Appalachian Region With a Computer Device, By Type of Device, 2020-2024

Device Ownership	Total Households	Percent of Households With One of More Computer Devices					Percent of Households Without a Computer Device
		Total	Desktop or Laptop Computer	Smartphone	Tablet	Other Device	
United States	129,227,496	95.5	80.3	91.0	64.2	2.6	4.5
Appalachian Region	10,576,156	93.0	73.9	87.2	59.6	2.2	7.0
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	3,354,116	92.2	74.9	85.0	59.3	2.0	7.8
North Central Appalachia	1,010,094	91.6	71.0	84.9	57.8	1.8	8.4
Central Appalachia	738,890	90.2	64.7	83.4	55.4	1.7	9.8
South Central Appalachia	2,157,071	93.1	73.7	87.9	58.8	2.5	6.9
Southern Appalachia	3,315,985	94.7	76.0	90.6	62.0	2.4	5.3
County Types							
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	2,553,376	95.0	80.2	90.1	64.9	2.4	5.0
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	4,395,150	93.4	74.8	88.1	60.2	2.3	6.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	946,307	92.2	71.5	85.9	57.5	2.0	7.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	1,670,330	90.7	68.0	83.7	54.4	1.8	9.3
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	1,010,993	90.1	65.9	83.5	54.2	2.2	9.9
Alabama	1,997,247	93.7	71.7	89.3	58.2	2.1	6.3
Appalachian Alabama	1,287,136	94.0	72.9	89.6	59.4	2.1	6.0
Non-Appalachian Alabama	710,111	93.0	69.5	88.7	56.1	2.1	7.0
Georgia	4,074,366	95.8	80.7	92.1	65.1	2.5	4.2
Appalachian Georgia	1,228,941	96.4	82.3	92.8	67.0	2.6	3.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	2,845,425	95.6	80.0	91.9	64.2	2.5	4.4
Kentucky	1,814,469	93.6	73.1	88.6	60.5	2.3	6.4
Appalachian Kentucky	460,530	90.5	65.6	84.1	57.0	1.8	9.5
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,353,939	94.6	75.7	90.1	61.8	2.5	5.4
Maryland	2,362,928	96.5	85.3	92.0	69.4	3.2	3.5
Appalachian Maryland	99,778	92.7	75.3	85.4	59.0	2.1	7.3
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,263,150	96.7	85.8	92.3	69.8	3.2	3.3
Mississippi	1,145,431	92.7	67.2	88.5	54.3	2.2	7.3
Appalachian Mississippi	243,164	90.3	62.1	86.3	50.5	1.8	9.7
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	902,267	93.3	68.6	89.2	55.3	2.3	6.7
New York	7,722,646	94.7	79.8	89.4	64.3	2.8	5.3
Appalachian New York	424,591	93.1	76.0	85.2	59.7	2.1	6.9
Non-Appalachian New York	7,298,055	94.8	80.0	89.6	64.6	2.8	5.2
North Carolina	4,282,345	94.9	79.1	90.5	62.6	2.6	5.1
Appalachian North Carolina	839,160	92.9	74.7	87.5	58.8	3.3	7.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	3,443,185	95.3	80.2	91.2	63.6	2.5	4.7
Ohio	4,863,191	94.4	77.3	88.9	62.1	2.4	5.6
Appalachian Ohio	803,572	91.1	70.0	84.4	56.9	1.7	8.9
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,059,619	95.0	78.8	89.8	63.1	2.5	5.0
Pennsylvania	5,274,853	93.8	78.8	87.6	62.8	2.4	6.2
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,375,588	92.3	75.7	85.2	59.8	2.1	7.7
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,899,265	94.9	81.3	89.6	65.2	2.6	5.1
South Carolina	2,117,989	94.5	76.1	90.0	62.1	3.5	5.5
Appalachian South Carolina	556,744	94.5	75.4	90.0	62.2	2.5	5.5
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,561,245	94.4	76.4	90.0	62.0	3.8	5.6
Tennessee	2,824,277	94.5	75.6	90.3	61.7	2.8	5.5
Appalachian Tennessee	1,230,278	93.3	72.7	88.5	59.2	2.0	6.7
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,593,999	95.4	77.8	91.6	63.5	3.4	4.6
Virginia	3,365,732	95.4	82.4	91.1	66.2	2.5	4.6
Appalachian Virginia	298,019	90.4	67.9	83.7	52.1	2.1	9.6
Non-Appalachian Virginia	3,067,713	95.9	83.9	91.8	67.6	2.5	4.1
West Virginia (entire state)	728,655	91.2	70.1	83.9	57.4	1.8	8.8

Note: Device percentages are not mutually exclusive.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 6.15: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Computer Device, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Computer Device, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

In 2020-2024, 93 percent of households in the Appalachian Region had one or more computer devices (desktop or laptop, smartphone, tablet, or other device) – 2.5 percentage points below the national average. The share was below 85 percent in 18 of Appalachia’s 423 counties. Among those counties, all were outside of metropolitan areas and nearly two in five were in Central Appalachia. On the other hand, in 29 Appalachian counties the share of households with a computer device matched or exceeded the national average of 95.5 percent. Of these, more than half were in Southern Appalachia and all but four were in metropolitan areas. These data indicate an ongoing “digital divide” between urban and rural areas in Appalachia as well as between the Appalachian Region and the rest of the nation. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, computer devices had become commonly used for such activities as schoolwork, entertainment, online banking, health care access, and socializing – and the pandemic’s effects magnified the importance of such devices during the 2020-2024 period.

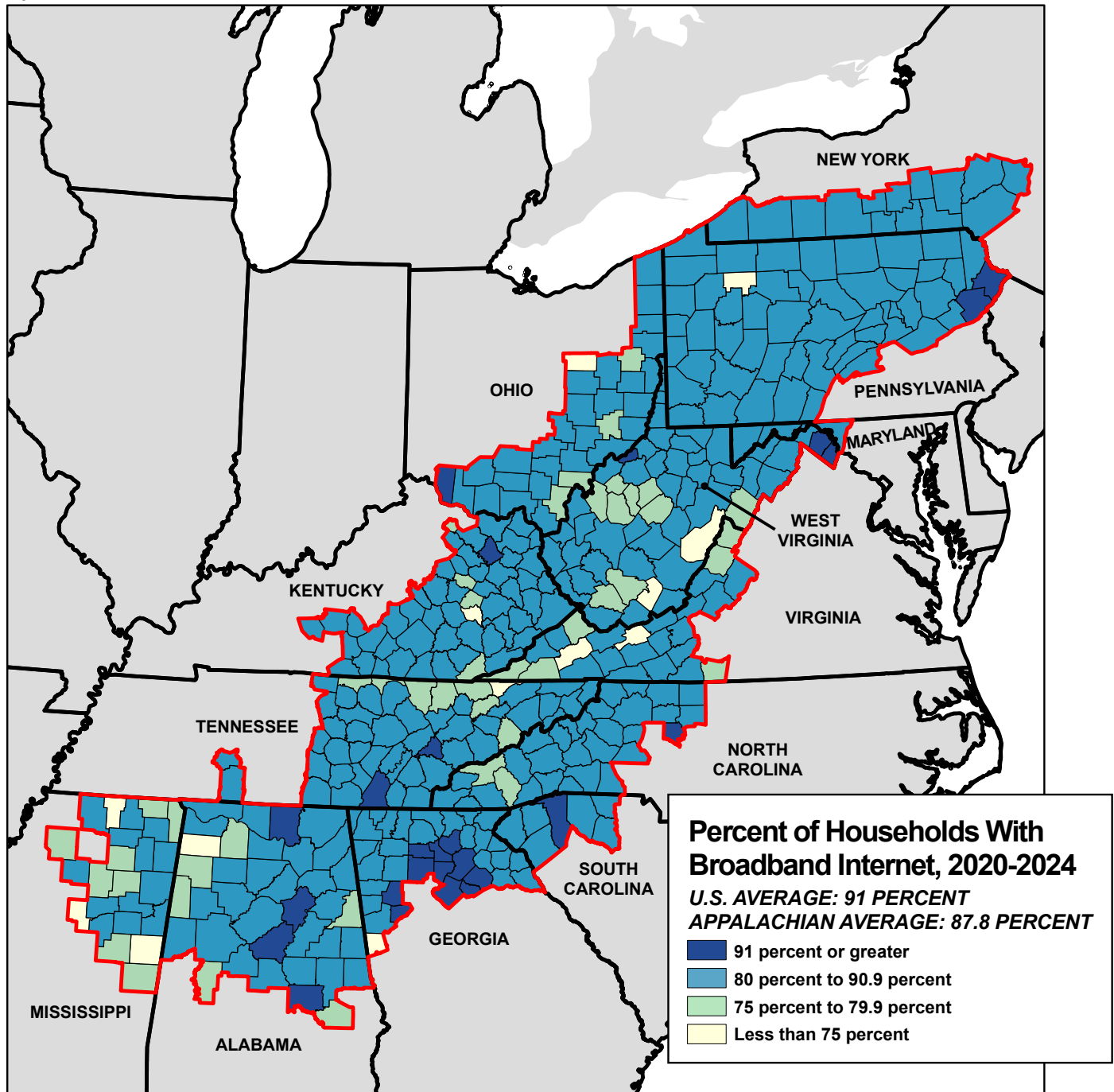
Table 6.10: Households in the Appalachian Region With an Internet Subscription, By Type of Subscription, 2020-2024

Type of Internet Subscription	Total Households	Percent of Households With an Internet Subscription					
		Total	Dial-Up Only	Broadband (High-Speed)			
				Total	Cable, Fiber Optic, or DSL	Cellular	Satellite
United States	129,227,496	91.1	0.1	91.0	75.6	85.2	6.6
Appalachian Region	10,576,156	88.0	0.2	87.8	71.4	80.2	6.5
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	3,354,116	87.9	0.3	87.7	72.5	79.1	5.2
North Central Appalachia	1,010,094	86.6	0.2	86.3	68.1	77.4	7.4
Central Appalachia	738,890	84.6	0.2	84.4	67.9	74.4	7.0
South Central Appalachia	2,157,071	87.4	0.2	87.3	71.0	79.7	6.5
Southern Appalachia	3,315,985	89.6	0.1	89.5	72.4	83.7	7.6
County Types							
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	2,553,376	91.2	0.1	91.1	77.6	84.8	5.8
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	4,395,150	88.4	0.2	88.3	72.6	80.8	5.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	946,307	86.9	0.2	86.7	68.3	78.4	7.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	1,670,330	85.0	0.3	84.7	64.6	75.6	7.8
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	1,010,993	83.9	0.2	83.7	65.0	75.2	8.7
Alabama	1,997,247	87.7	0.2	87.5	67.9	81.3	8.6
Appalachian Alabama	1,287,136	88.4	0.1	88.4	69.9	81.8	8.0
Non-Appalachian Alabama	710,111	86.3	0.5	85.9	64.4	80.3	9.6
Georgia	4,074,366	91.1	0.1	91.0	76.2	85.6	7.2
Appalachian Georgia	1,228,941	92.5	0.1	92.4	77.7	87.6	7.1
Non-Appalachian Georgia	2,845,425	90.4	0.1	90.3	75.6	84.7	7.2
Kentucky	1,814,469	88.8	0.1	88.6	71.1	82.3	6.8
Appalachian Kentucky	460,530	85.5	0.2	85.3	68.2	76.9	7.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,353,939	89.9	0.1	89.8	72.1	84.1	6.7
Maryland	2,362,928	92.5	0.1	92.4	79.8	86.6	4.8
Appalachian Maryland	99,778	86.9	0.1	86.8	71.2	79.4	5.4
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,263,150	92.8	0.1	92.6	80.2	86.9	4.8
Mississippi	1,145,431	84.2	0.1	84.1	61.6	78.1	10.0
Appalachian Mississippi	243,164	82.1	0.1	82.0	58.5	76.5	9.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	902,267	84.8	0.1	84.7	62.4	78.6	10.1
New York	7,722,646	91.0	0.1	90.8	77.2	84.5	4.3
Appalachian New York	424,591	88.6	0.2	88.3	73.8	78.3	5.9
Non-Appalachian New York	7,298,055	91.1	0.1	91.0	77.4	84.9	4.2
North Carolina	4,282,345	90.2	0.1	90.1	76.2	84.1	6.1
Appalachian North Carolina	839,160	87.5	0.2	87.3	71.1	80.0	6.7
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	3,443,185	90.9	0.1	90.8	77.4	85.1	6.0
Ohio	4,863,191	90.3	0.2	90.1	75.7	83.5	5.8
Appalachian Ohio	803,572	86.3	0.2	86.1	66.5	77.4	7.3
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,059,619	91.0	0.1	90.9	77.5	84.7	5.5
Pennsylvania	5,274,853	90.0	0.2	89.7	75.8	82.8	4.5
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,375,588	88.3	0.3	88.0	73.3	79.6	4.8
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,899,265	91.3	0.1	91.2	77.8	85.5	4.3
South Carolina	2,117,989	88.9	0.1	88.8	72.8	82.9	7.2
Appalachian South Carolina	556,744	89.3	0.1	89.2	72.4	82.7	7.0
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,561,245	88.8	0.1	88.7	73.0	83.0	7.2
Tennessee	2,824,277	89.3	0.1	89.2	73.3	82.9	6.1
Appalachian Tennessee	1,230,278	87.5	0.1	87.4	71.3	79.5	5.3
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,593,999	90.7	0.1	90.6	74.8	85.5	6.8
Virginia	3,365,732	91.1	0.1	91.0	75.8	85.6	6.4
Appalachian Virginia	298,019	83.2	0.3	82.9	65.3	73.3	11.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	3,067,713	91.9	0.1	91.8	76.8	86.8	6.0
West Virginia (entire state)	728,655	86.3	0.3	86.1	69.7	76.3	6.9

Note: Households can have more than one type of Internet subscription at a time. Broadband categories are not mutually exclusive.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 6.16: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Broadband Internet Subscription, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Broadband Internet Subscription, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

During the 2020-2024 period, the share of Appalachian households with access to broadband internet (including cable, fiber optic, DSL, cellular, or satellite) was 3.2 percentage points lower than the national average of 91 percent. There are also signs of a rural-urban “digital divide” within the Appalachian Region: In 59 Appalachian counties, less than 80 percent of households had broadband internet – more than four in five of these were outside metropolitan areas and nearly forty percent of these were in rural counties. In contrast, all but five of the 26 counties with subscription rates at or above the national average were in metro areas. With high-speed internet access being vital for increased remote interaction during and following the COVID-19 pandemic, these are signs that many communities in Appalachia continue to be at risk of being left behind.

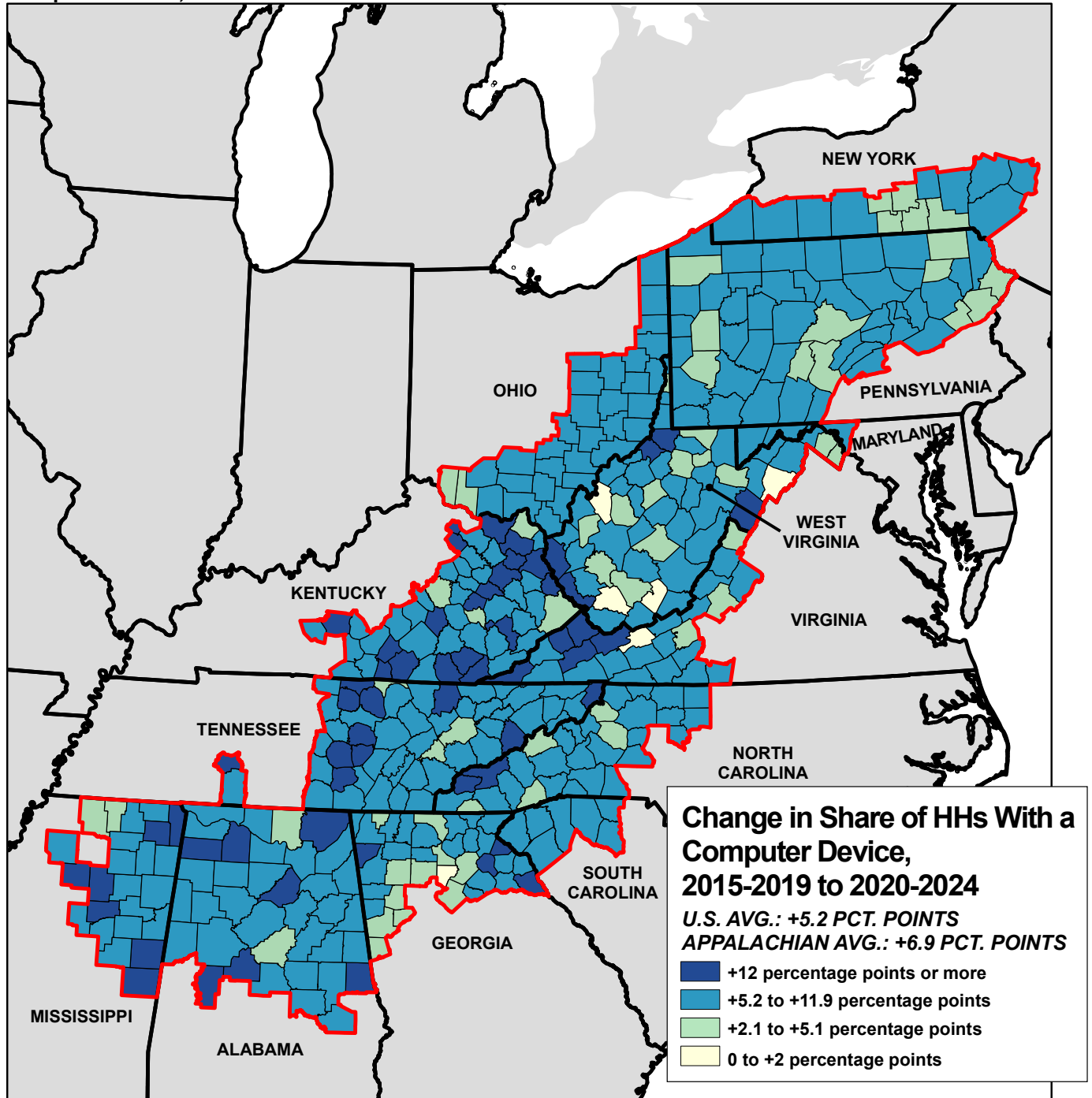
Table 6.11: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Computer Device, By Type of Device, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Device Ownership	Percentage Point Change in Share of Households With One or More Computer Devices				
	Total	Desktop or Laptop Computer	Smartphone	Tablet	Other Device
United States	+ 5.2	+ 2.5	+ 11.1	+ 4.6	- 1.0
Appalachian Region	+ 6.9	+ 2.3	+ 13.7	+ 5.0	- 0.5
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	+ 6.1	+ 1.2	+ 13.7	+ 5.0	- 0.4
North Central Appalachia	+ 6.6	+ 1.4	+ 14.4	+ 4.9	- 0.7
Central Appalachia	+ 10.4	+ 2.0	+ 18.0	+ 6.5	- 0.6
South Central Appalachia	+ 7.2	+ 2.8	+ 14.1	+ 5.4	0.0
Southern Appalachia	+ 6.7	+ 3.4	+ 12.0	+ 4.4	- 0.8
County Types					
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	+ 5.2	+ 2.7	+ 11.2	+ 4.5	- 0.6
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	+ 6.4	+ 2.4	+ 13.1	+ 5.0	- 0.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	+ 7.6	+ 2.0	+ 15.3	+ 5.4	- 0.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	+ 8.3	+ 1.5	+ 16.3	+ 4.8	- 0.3
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 9.3	+ 1.9	+ 16.9	+ 6.0	+ 0.2
Alabama	+ 8.2	+ 3.5	+ 13.9	+ 5.3	- 0.7
Appalachian Alabama	+ 7.6	+ 3.5	+ 13.1	+ 4.9	- 0.6
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 9.0	+ 3.6	+ 15.2	+ 5.9	- 0.9
Georgia	+ 5.6	+ 3.9	+ 10.7	+ 5.0	- 1.0
Appalachian Georgia	+ 5.1	+ 3.1	+ 10.5	+ 3.7	- 1.5
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 5.8	+ 4.2	+ 10.9	+ 5.5	- 0.8
Kentucky	+ 7.2	+ 2.2	+ 13.5	+ 4.8	- 0.8
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 10.2	+ 2.0	+ 17.7	+ 7.3	- 0.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 6.0	+ 2.3	+ 12.0	+ 4.0	- 0.8
Maryland	+ 4.1	+ 2.5	+ 9.6	+ 4.9	- 1.2
Appalachian Maryland	+ 8.0	+ 4.0	+ 14.8	+ 4.5	- 0.3
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 4.0	+ 2.5	+ 9.4	+ 4.9	- 1.3
Mississippi	+ 8.9	+ 4.0	+ 13.1	+ 4.7	- 0.6
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 8.9	+ 4.3	+ 12.6	+ 4.1	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 8.8	+ 4.0	+ 13.3	+ 4.8	- 0.8
New York	+ 5.1	+ 1.3	+ 11.0	+ 5.1	- 1.5
Appalachian New York	+ 5.8	0.0	+ 15.5	+ 5.8	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 5.0	+ 1.4	+ 10.7	+ 5.1	- 1.6
North Carolina	+ 5.8	+ 3.2	+ 11.8	+ 4.7	- 0.7
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 7.0	+ 3.3	+ 14.4	+ 6.4	+ 0.8
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 5.3	+ 3.2	+ 11.0	+ 4.3	- 1.0
Ohio	+ 5.3	+ 1.8	+ 11.8	+ 3.9	- 0.4
Appalachian Ohio	+ 6.4	+ 0.7	+ 13.4	+ 3.9	- 0.3
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 5.0	+ 2.1	+ 11.5	+ 3.8	- 0.5
Pennsylvania	+ 5.8	+ 2.4	+ 12.6	+ 5.4	- 0.5
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 6.0	+ 1.4	+ 13.5	+ 5.0	- 0.4
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 5.5	+ 3.1	+ 11.8	+ 5.5	- 0.6
South Carolina	+ 6.2	+ 3.2	+ 11.6	+ 5.6	- 1.4
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 6.7	+ 2.7	+ 12.2	+ 4.7	- 0.5
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 5.9	+ 3.4	+ 11.4	+ 5.9	- 1.7
Tennessee	+ 7.4	+ 3.8	+ 13.2	+ 5.6	- 1.0
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 7.8	+ 2.9	+ 14.4	+ 5.4	- 0.5
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 7.1	+ 4.3	+ 12.2	+ 5.5	- 1.4
Virginia	+ 4.3	+ 1.9	+ 9.8	+ 3.9	- 1.2
Appalachian Virginia	+ 8.2	+ 1.6	+ 15.4	+ 1.9	- 0.3
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 3.8	+ 1.9	+ 9.2	+ 4.1	- 1.4
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 7.0	+ 1.4	+ 15.0	+ 5.4	- 1.0

Note: Device percentages are not mutually exclusive.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 6.17: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Computer Device, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Computer Device, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

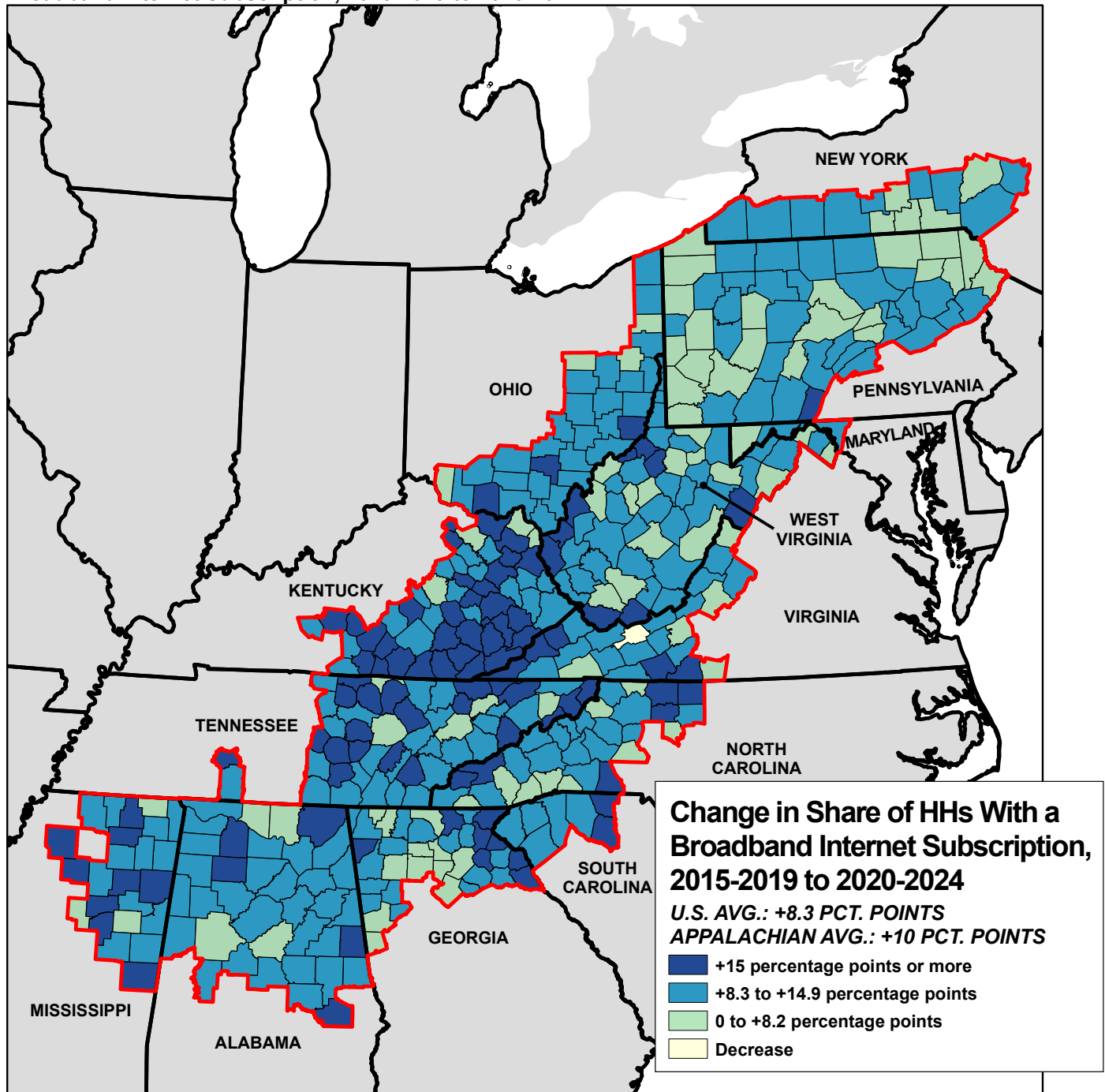
The share of Appalachian households with at least one computer device (desktop or laptop, smartphone, tablet, or other device) increased by 6.9 percentage points – 1.7 percentage points more than in the U.S. as a whole. More than four in five Appalachian counties had an increase at least that of the national average, and in 60 of Appalachia’s counties the share increased even further, by at least 12 percentage points. Of these 60 counties, all but eight were outside of metropolitan areas, and half were concentrated in Central Appalachia, where the overall increase in device ownership was highest at 10.4 percentage points. Meanwhile, rural Appalachian counties had the highest overall increase in device ownership of the county types, at 9.3 percentage points. Increases in smartphone ownership contribute to much of the increase in device ownership.

Table 6.12: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region With an Internet Subscription, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Type of Internet Subscription	Percentage Point Change in Share of Households With an Internet Subscription					
	Total	Dial-Up Only	Broadband (High-Speed)			
			Total	Cable, Fiber Optic, or DSL	Cellular	Satellite
United States	+ 8.1	- 0.3	+ 8.3	+ 6.7	+ 18.9	+ 0.3
Appalachian Region	+ 9.7	- 0.3	+ 10.0	+ 8.6	+ 20.6	+ 0.1
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	+ 8.1	- 0.3	+ 8.6	+ 6.2	+ 19.7	+ 0.2
North Central Appalachia	+ 9.9	- 0.3	+ 10.1	+ 7.2	+ 21.6	+ 0.3
Central Appalachia	+ 14.1	- 0.3	+ 14.4	+ 12.1	+ 24.5	+ 0.3
South Central Appalachia	+ 10.3	- 0.2	+ 10.6	+ 9.9	+ 21.8	+ 0.2
Southern Appalachia	+ 9.9	- 0.2	+ 10.1	+ 9.9	+ 19.2	0.0
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	+ 7.9	- 0.3	+ 8.2	+ 7.0	+ 18.3	+ 0.1
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	+ 9.1	- 0.2	+ 9.4	+ 8.1	+ 20.2	+ 0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	+ 11.3	- 0.4	+ 11.7	+ 10.5	+ 22.5	0.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	+ 11.2	- 0.4	+ 11.6	+ 8.9	+ 21.5	+ 0.5
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 12.6	- 0.3	+ 12.9	+ 11.8	+ 24.1	+ 0.5
Alabama	+ 10.9	- 0.2	+ 11.1	+ 10.7	+ 19.4	+ 1.0
Appalachian Alabama	+ 10.5	- 0.2	+ 10.8	+ 11.0	+ 19.2	+ 0.6
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 11.5	- 0.1	+ 11.7	+ 10.3	+ 19.6	+ 1.7
Georgia	+ 9.5	- 0.2	+ 9.7	+ 8.9	+ 19.7	+ 0.2
Appalachian Georgia	+ 8.5	- 0.2	+ 8.7	+ 7.3	+ 19.4	- 0.5
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 9.8	- 0.1	+ 10.0	+ 9.5	+ 19.7	+ 0.5
Kentucky	+ 10.0	- 0.3	+ 10.2	+ 8.3	+ 19.8	+ 0.2
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 14.1	- 0.4	+ 14.4	+ 11.3	+ 24.2	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 8.5	- 0.3	+ 8.7	+ 7.2	+ 18.2	+ 0.2
Maryland	+ 5.8	- 0.2	+ 6.0	+ 4.3	+ 16.0	+ 0.5
Appalachian Maryland	+ 9.2	- 0.4	+ 9.6	+ 9.8	+ 19.0	- 1.0
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 5.7	- 0.2	+ 5.8	+ 4.0	+ 15.8	+ 0.6
Mississippi	+ 12.3	- 0.2	+ 12.6	+ 14.0	+ 19.9	+ 0.4
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 12.9	- 0.2	+ 13.1	+ 18.6	+ 20.0	- 0.8
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 12.2	- 0.2	+ 12.4	+ 12.8	+ 19.9	+ 0.7
New York	+ 7.8	- 0.2	+ 8.0	+ 4.6	+ 21.0	+ 0.7
Appalachian New York	+ 9.2	- 0.5	+ 9.5	+ 9.6	+ 22.3	- 1.2
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 7.7	- 0.2	+ 7.9	+ 4.3	+ 20.9	+ 0.8
North Carolina	+ 9.1	- 0.2	+ 9.4	+ 8.4	+ 20.3	+ 0.3
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 10.3	- 0.2	+ 10.6	+ 9.2	+ 22.6	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 8.8	- 0.2	+ 9.0	+ 8.0	+ 19.6	+ 0.3
Ohio	+ 7.9	- 0.2	+ 8.1	+ 7.0	+ 19.0	+ 0.1
Appalachian Ohio	+ 9.6	- 0.4	+ 10.0	+ 7.2	+ 21.5	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 7.4	- 0.3	+ 7.7	+ 6.9	+ 18.4	+ 0.1
Pennsylvania	+ 7.9	- 0.3	+ 8.2	+ 5.1	+ 19.0	+ 0.6
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 7.8	- 0.4	+ 8.2	+ 5.3	+ 18.8	+ 0.4
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 7.9	- 0.3	+ 8.2	+ 4.8	+ 19.1	+ 0.8
South Carolina	+ 10.4	- 0.2	+ 10.6	+ 9.5	+ 20.1	+ 0.5
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 9.9	- 0.2	+ 10.1	+ 8.1	+ 18.5	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 10.6	- 0.2	+ 10.8	+ 10.0	+ 20.7	+ 0.5
Tennessee	+ 10.6	- 0.2	+ 10.8	+ 11.1	+ 19.9	- 0.4
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 10.9	- 0.2	+ 11.2	+ 10.9	+ 21.9	- 0.5
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 10.4	- 0.2	+ 10.5	+ 11.1	+ 18.1	- 0.2
Virginia	+ 6.8	- 0.3	+ 7.1	+ 5.8	+ 16.5	+ 0.6
Appalachian Virginia	+ 10.4	- 0.3	+ 10.8	+ 10.9	+ 20.6	+ 2.8
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 6.4	- 0.2	+ 6.6	+ 5.2	+ 15.9	+ 0.4
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 9.9	- 0.1	+ 10.1	+ 7.0	+ 22.2	+ 0.7

Note: Households can have more than one type of Internet subscription at a time. Broadband categories are not mutually exclusive.
Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Figure 6.18: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Broadband Internet Subscription, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Broadband Internet Subscription, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

In the Appalachian Region, the share of households with broadband internet access (including cable, fiber optic, DSL, cellular, or satellite) increased by 10 percentage points between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024, 1.7 percentage points higher than the national rate of increase. And this increase was even more pronounced in some areas – in 100 of the Appalachian Region’s 423 counties the share increased by at least 15 percentage points – with clusters throughout the Central, South Central, and Southern portions of Appalachia. Of these 100 counties with the highest rate of increase, 85 were outside of metropolitan areas and 41 were in the region’s most rural areas. These increases show progress toward bringing the Appalachian Region’s rural communities closer to their urban neighbors when it comes to digital resources.

TRENDS IN EDUCATION, DEVICE OWNERSHIP, AND INTERNET ACCESS

- Since the 2015-2019 period, the share of Appalachian adults ages 25 and over with at least a high school diploma has risen 2.3 percentage points, to 89.5 percent in 2020-2024, a larger increase than for the U.S. overall (see Tables 6.1 and 6.4). Within the Appalachian Region, the prevalence of adults ages 25 and over with at least a high school diploma increased most in Central Appalachia and in the region's rural counties. With these changes, the share of adults who have at least a high school education as of 2020-2024 has reached 83.7 percent in Central Appalachia and 85.3 percent in the region's rural areas. The Appalachian sections of Kentucky and Virginia had the largest increases among the states – more than four percentage points in both states.
- The share of Appalachian adults ages 25 and over with an associate's degree as their highest level of education increased by 0.6 percentage points, to 9.5 percent, between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. Central Appalachia and the Appalachian sections of Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, Virginia, and all of West Virginia had the greatest increases, of at least one percentage point. Meanwhile, the share of adults 25 and older in the Appalachian Region who had at least a bachelor's degree increased by 3.3 percentage points, with more than one in four Appalachian adults having a bachelor's degree or more in 2020-2024 (see Tables 6.1 and 6.4). The share of degree holders with at least a bachelor's rose most in Southern and South Central Appalachia as well as in metropolitan areas throughout the region. The Appalachian portions of Georgia and the Carolinas, and all of West Virginia had notable increases in the share of adults with at least a bachelor's degree with increases in bachelor's degree attainment that exceeded the regional average.
- The group with the most notable changes in educational attainment since 2015-2019 has been adults ages 65 and over. The share of older adults in Appalachia with at least a high school diploma has risen 5.2 percentage points; the share with at least a bachelor's degree has increased 3.6 percentage points (see Table 6.6). Possible factors fueling this increase may include the arrival of well-educated older adults moving into the Appalachian Region upon retirement and shifts in this rapidly growing cohort as younger baby boomers age into this group.
- Even as Appalachia has seen improvement to educational attainment since 2015-2019, the share of adults in all age groups who hold a bachelor's degree or higher was still lower than in the U.S. as a whole in 2020-2024 (see Tables 6.1 through 6.3). In Central Appalachia, the share of adults 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or more (16.8 percent) was less than half the national average (35.7 percent), and just 14.7 percent of Central Appalachia's adults ages 65 and older had at least a bachelor's degree.
- Among adults in Appalachia with a bachelor's degree or more, the share with a degree in the science and engineering field was 31.8 percent in 2020-2024 – 0.9 percentage points higher than it was in 2015-2019 – and comparable to national increase (see Tables 6.7 and 6.8). While the share rose in most parts of the Appalachian Region, the increase was especially noticeable in Southern Appalachia, counties in large metropolitan areas, and Appalachian Georgia.
- While the Appalachian Region still lags behind the U.S. in device ownership and internet access – and the rural-urban “digital divide” persists in the Appalachian Region – the share of households with at least one computer device and with broadband internet access increased between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. The share of households in Appalachia with at least one computer device rose 6.9 percent since 2015-2019, while the share with broadband internet access increased by 10 percentage points (see Tables 6.11 and 6.12). These increases were above the national averages. Programs at the federal and state level to narrow persistent gaps in digital resources may have contributed to the rise in device ownership and internet access throughout the region.

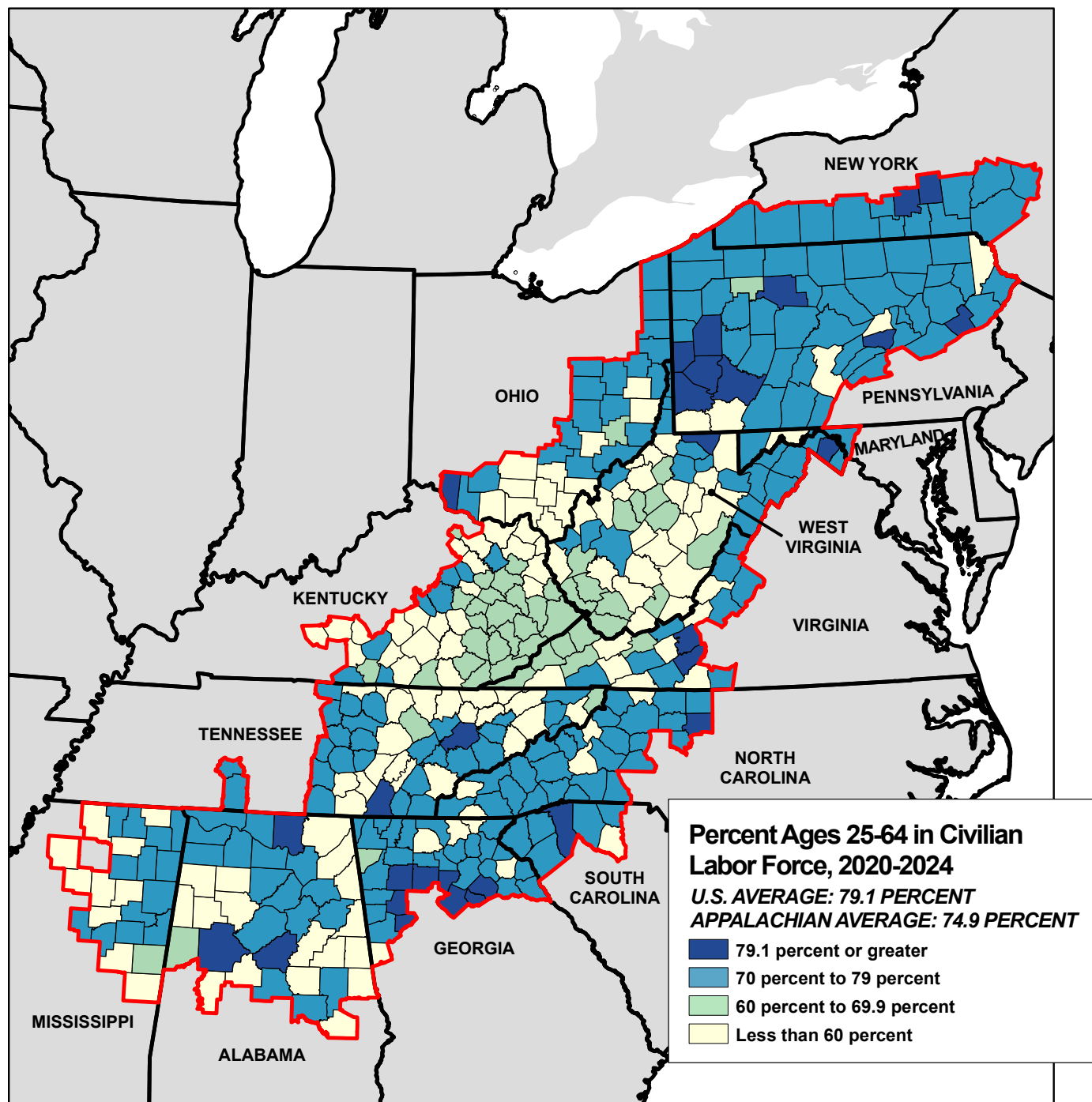
CHAPTER 7: LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Table 7.1: Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Status of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024

Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment	Total Number of Civilian Persons Ages 25-64	Total Persons Ages 25-64 in Civilian Labor Force		Employment Rate (Pct. of Civ. Labor Force)	Unemployment Rate (Pct. of Civ. Labor Force)
		Number	Percent		
United States	172,325,386	136,311,600	79.1	95.6	4.4
Appalachian Region	13,363,911	10,006,713	74.9	96.0	4.0
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	4,019,022	3,081,779	76.7	95.5	4.5
North Central Appalachia	1,248,481	894,135	71.6	95.8	4.2
Central Appalachia	942,091	590,680	62.7	95.2	4.8
South Central Appalachia	2,662,099	1,996,802	75.0	96.3	3.7
Southern Appalachia	4,492,218	3,443,317	76.7	96.3	3.7
County Types					
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	3,392,488	2,702,993	79.7	96.1	3.9
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	5,497,316	4,168,738	75.8	96.0	4.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	1,189,354	868,099	73.0	95.8	4.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	2,047,042	1,439,073	70.3	95.9	4.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	1,237,711	827,810	66.9	95.6	4.4
Alabama	2,556,195	1,879,648	73.5	96.1	3.9
Appalachian Alabama	1,667,387	1,242,505	74.5	96.3	3.7
Non-Appalachian Alabama	888,808	637,143	71.7	95.7	4.3
Georgia	5,683,683	4,436,053	78.0	95.7	4.3
Appalachian Georgia	1,817,331	1,435,818	79.0	96.5	3.5
Non-Appalachian Georgia	3,866,352	3,000,235	77.6	95.4	4.6
Kentucky	2,305,293	1,696,331	73.6	96.0	4.0
Appalachian Kentucky	589,772	371,324	63.0	95.1	4.9
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,715,521	1,325,007	77.2	96.3	3.7
Maryland	3,239,853	2,684,115	82.8	96.0	4.0
Appalachian Maryland	128,754	92,889	72.1	96.1	3.9
Non-Appalachian Maryland	3,111,099	2,591,226	83.3	96.0	4.0
Mississippi	1,457,035	1,060,244	72.8	95.3	4.7
Appalachian Mississippi	294,977	212,160	71.9	95.6	4.4
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	1,162,058	848,084	73.0	95.2	4.8
New York	10,447,273	8,297,712	79.4	94.5	5.5
Appalachian New York	481,610	364,136	75.6	95.2	4.8
Non-Appalachian New York	9,965,663	7,933,576	79.6	94.4	5.6
North Carolina	5,476,514	4,281,727	78.2	96.1	3.9
Appalachian North Carolina	1,029,615	777,664	75.5	96.2	3.8
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	4,446,899	3,504,063	78.8	96.0	4.0
Ohio	5,995,717	4,737,760	79.0	96.0	4.0
Appalachian Ohio	985,523	716,753	72.7	95.8	4.2
Non-Appalachian Ohio	5,010,194	4,021,007	80.3	96.1	3.9
Pennsylvania	6,647,070	5,311,160	79.9	95.5	4.5
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,867,107	2,226,654	77.7	95.6	4.4
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	3,779,963	3,084,506	81.6	95.5	4.5
South Carolina	2,657,739	2,033,937	76.5	96.1	3.9
Appalachian South Carolina	712,523	552,834	77.6	96.2	3.8
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,945,216	1,481,103	76.1	96.0	4.0
Tennessee	3,649,959	2,809,732	77.0	96.1	3.9
Appalachian Tennessee	1,544,758	1,147,916	74.3	96.2	3.8
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	2,105,201	1,661,816	78.9	96.1	3.9
Virginia	4,462,594	3,595,488	80.6	96.6	3.4
Appalachian Virginia	354,446	242,516	68.4	96.8	3.2
Non-Appalachian Virginia	4,108,148	3,352,972	81.6	96.6	3.4
West Virginia (entire state)	890,108	623,544	70.1	95.3	4.7

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 7.1: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the Civilian Labor Force, 2020-2024

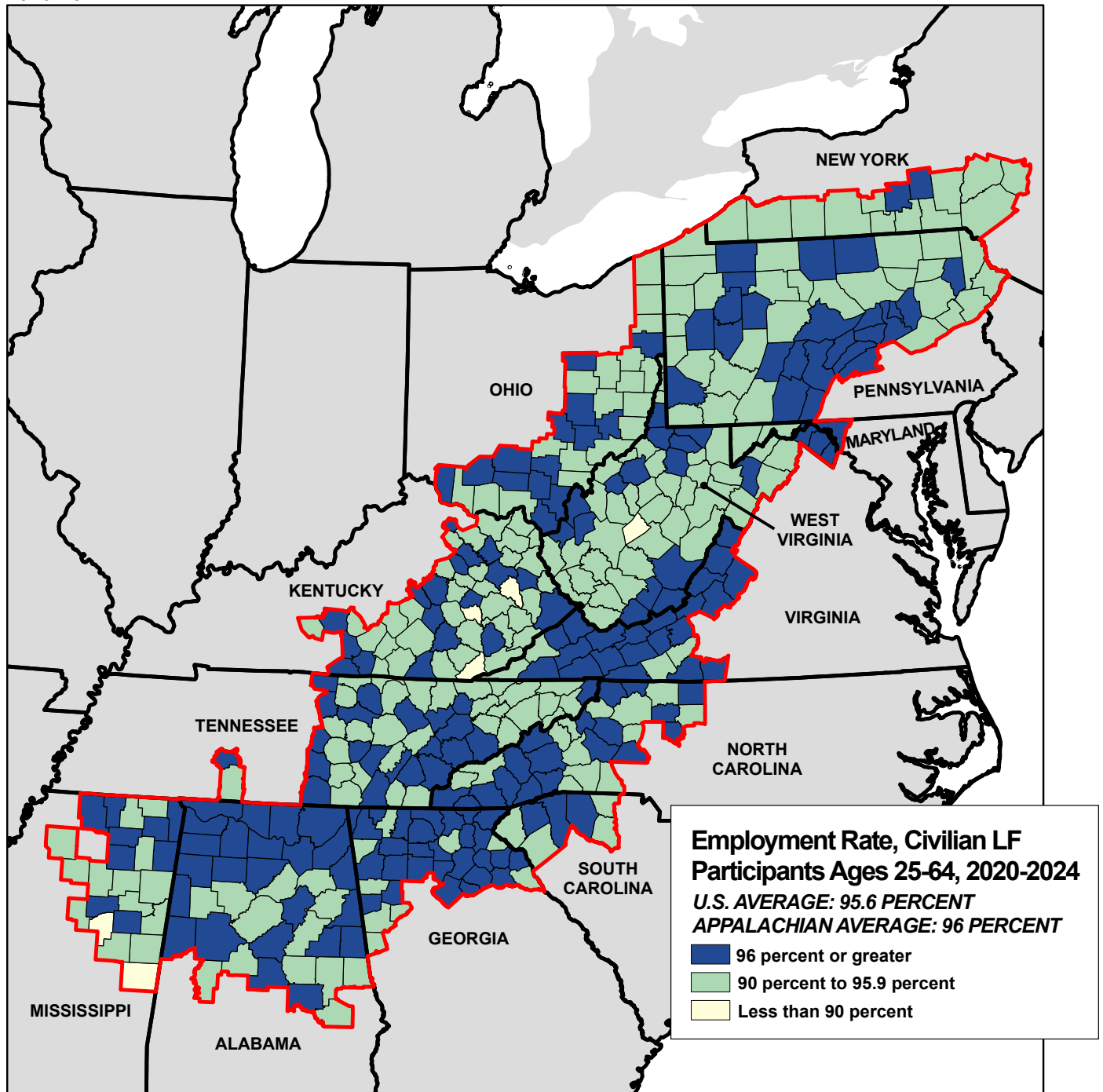


Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the Civilian Labor Force, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

In the 2020-2024 period, 74.9 percent of Appalachia's civilian population in the prime working ages (ages 25 to 64) were in the civilian labor force, 4.2 percentage points below the U.S. average of 79.1 percent. In 30 Appalachian counties (26 of which were in metropolitan areas), the share was at or above the national average, yet there were 48 counties where less than 60 percent of 25-to-64-year-olds were in the civilian labor force. All but two of the counties in the latter group were outside of metropolitan areas, and 34 were in Central Appalachia. Indeed, just 62.7 percent of working-age residents in Central Appalachia and 66.9 percent of those in rural areas were in the labor force. And there are indications of a possible connection between educational attainment and labor force participation. For example, in 25 of the 30 counties where labor force participation levels were at or above the national rate, 90 percent or more of working-age adults had attained at least a high school diploma.

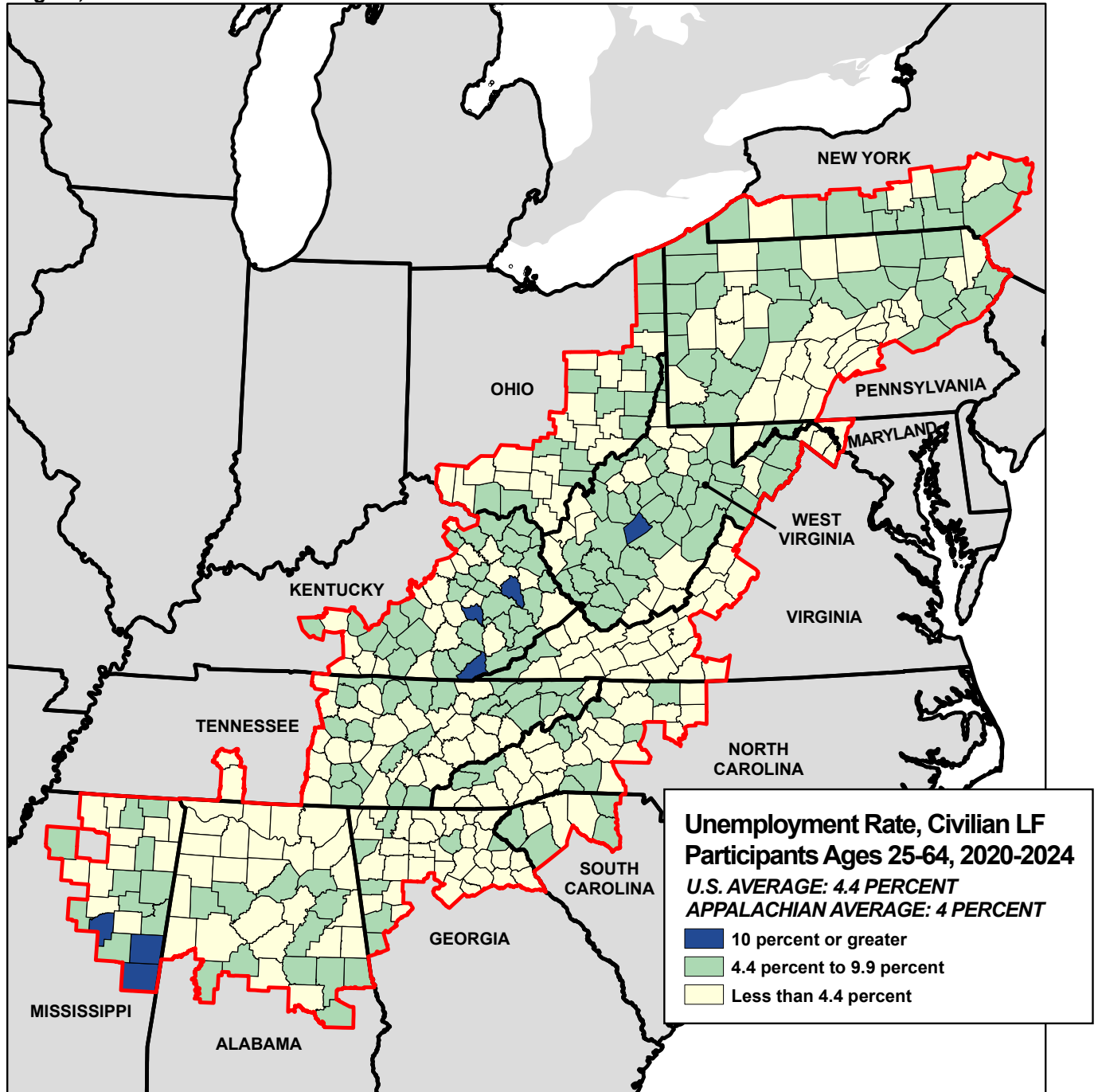
Figure 7.2: Employment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024



Map Title: Employment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

At 96 percent, the employment rate in Appalachia among members of the civilian labor force ages 25 to 64 was slightly above the national rate of 95.6 during the 2020-2024 period. Although there were only slight differences among subregions and urban/rural county types, there was some variation at the county level. In 202 of Appalachia's 423 counties, the employment rate matched or exceeded the Appalachian average, yet there were 172 counties in the Appalachian Region (48 of which were in Central Appalachia) where employment among 25-to-64-year-olds was less than the national average – more than two-thirds of which were outside metropolitan areas. Because the 2020-2024 period includes the entirety of the COVID-19 pandemic period – from March 2020 to May 2023 – the above numbers reflect the pandemic's immediate impacts.

Figure 7.3: Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024



Map Title: Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

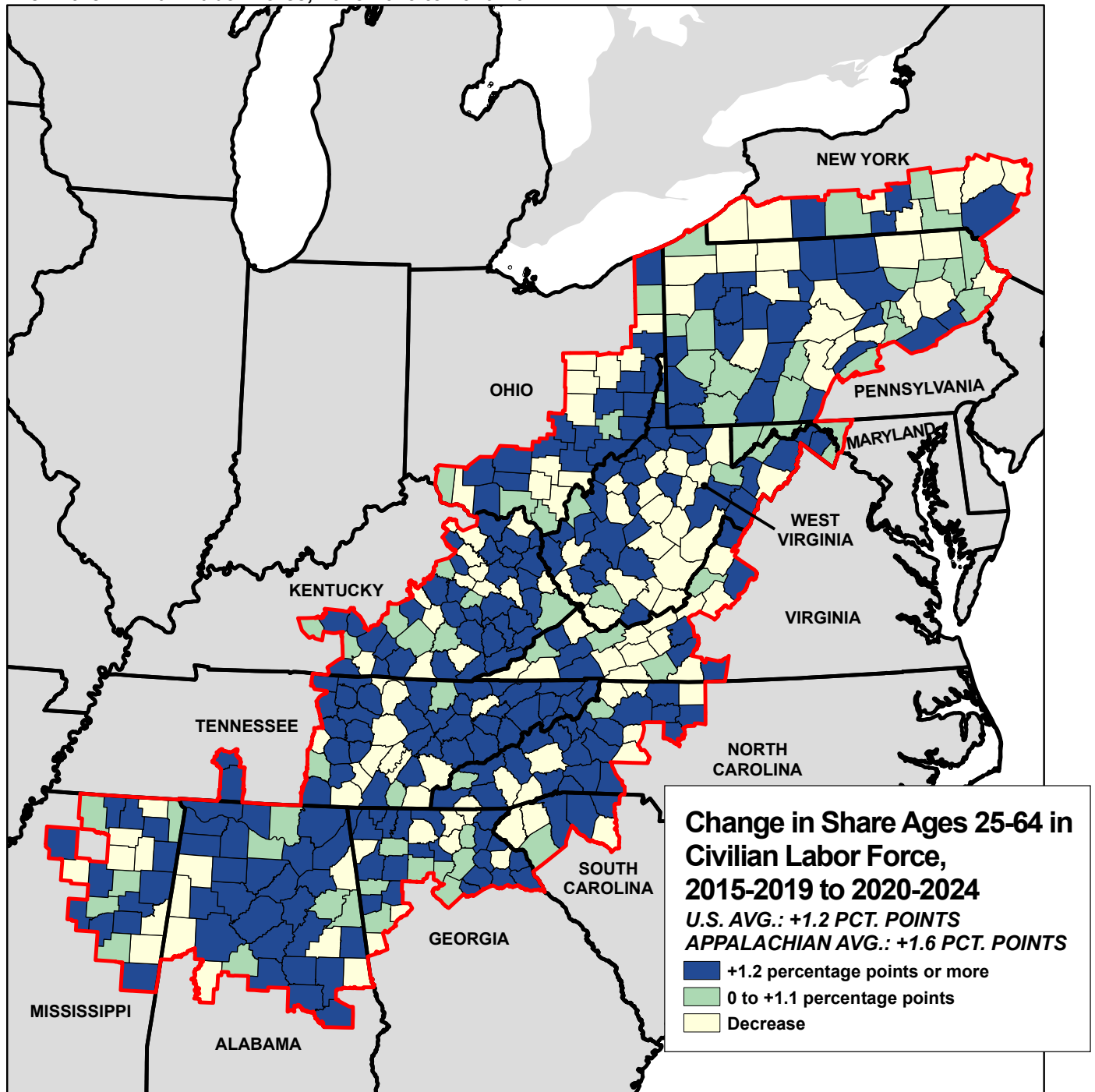
At 4.0 percent, unemployment in the Appalachian Region among people ages 25 to 64 was 0.4 percentage points below the national average during the 2020-2024 period. In fact, the unemployment rate was below the national average in 233 other counties, with 132 of these located in South Central and Southern Appalachia – the subregions where the jobless levels were even lower than the regional rate. Conversely, the jobless rate was at least 10 percent in seven Appalachian counties – all but one of which were outside metropolitan areas. There are indications of a connection between unemployment and educational attainment: In 120 of the 190 Appalachian counties with unemployment rates matching or exceeding the U.S. average, the share of 25-to-64-year-olds with at least a high school diploma was below the national average of 90.2 percent; in 12 of those counties, the share was below 80 percent.

Table 7.2: Percentage Point Change in Civilian Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Status of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment	Percentage Point Change		
	Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment Rate (Pct. of Civ. Labor Force)	Unemployment Rate (Pct. of Civ. Labor Force)
United States	+ 1.2	0.0	0.0
Appalachian Region	+ 1.6	+ 0.4	- 0.4
Subregions			
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.6	- 0.2	+ 0.2
North Central Appalachia	+ 1.8	+ 0.6	- 0.6
Central Appalachia	+ 2.8	+ 1.5	- 1.5
South Central Appalachia	+ 1.6	+ 0.5	- 0.5
Southern Appalachia	+ 1.9	+ 0.5	- 0.5
County Types			
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	+ 1.3	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	+ 1.6	+ 0.3	- 0.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	+ 1.6	+ 0.5	- 0.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	+ 1.3	+ 0.6	- 0.6
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 1.2	+ 0.9	- 0.9
Alabama	+ 2.1	+ 0.9	- 0.9
Appalachian Alabama	+ 2.4	+ 0.9	- 0.9
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 1.5	+ 0.8	- 0.8
Georgia	+ 1.4	+ 0.2	- 0.2
Appalachian Georgia	+ 1.3	+ 0.2	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 1.4	+ 0.3	- 0.3
Kentucky	+ 1.6	+ 0.5	- 0.5
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 2.8	+ 1.3	- 1.3
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 1.1	+ 0.4	- 0.4
Maryland	+ 0.7	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.6	+ 0.9	- 0.9
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.7	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Mississippi	+ 1.5	+ 1.4	- 1.4
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 1.4	+ 0.8	- 0.8
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 1.5	+ 1.5	- 1.5
New York	+ 0.6	- 1.0	+ 1.0
Appalachian New York	+ 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.7	- 1.1	+ 1.1
North Carolina	+ 1.3	+ 0.5	- 0.5
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 1.1	+ 0.3	- 0.3
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 1.3	+ 0.5	- 0.5
Ohio	+ 1.1	+ 0.3	- 0.3
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.9	+ 0.5	- 0.5
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 1.2	+ 0.4	- 0.4
Pennsylvania	+ 1.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.8	- 0.3	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.4	0.0	0.0
South Carolina	+ 1.1	+ 0.8	- 0.8
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 1.6	+ 0.3	- 0.3
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 0.9	+ 0.9	- 0.9
Tennessee	+ 2.1	+ 0.5	- 0.5
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 2.3	+ 0.7	- 0.7
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 1.8	+ 0.4	- 0.4
Virginia	+ 0.8	+ 0.3	- 0.3
Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.7	+ 1.4	- 1.4
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.7	+ 0.2	- 0.2
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 2.2	+ 0.6	- 0.6

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Figure 7.4: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the Civilian Labor Force, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

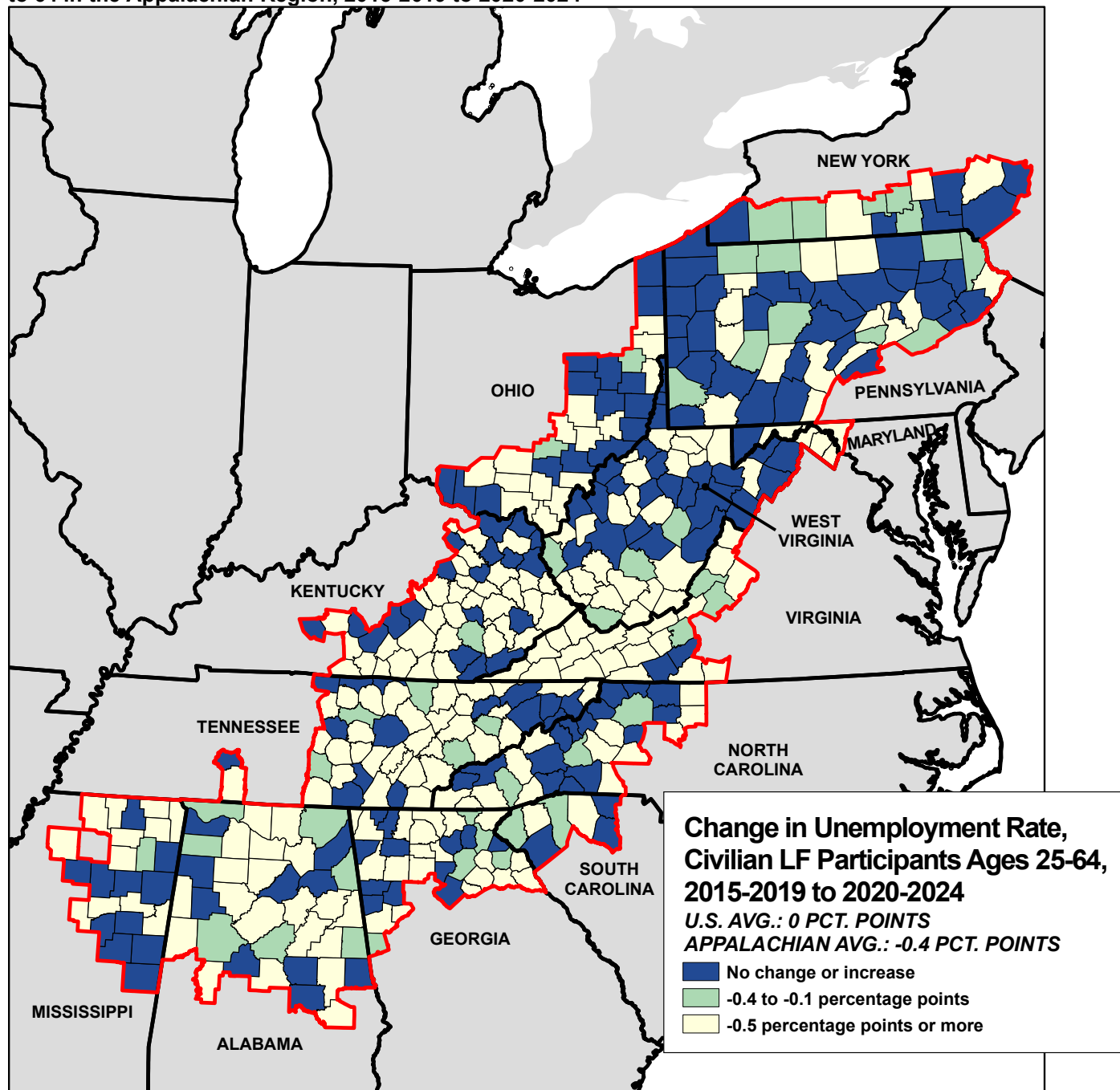


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the Civilian Labor Force, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

In the Appalachian Region, the labor force participation rate among civilians ages 25 to 64 was 1.6 percentage points higher in 2020-2024 than it was in 2015-2019, outpacing the national increase of 1.2 points. In fact, 226 of Appalachia's 423 counties had increases in labor force participation rates that matched or exceeded the U.S. average. Included in this group are 32 of the 54 Kentucky counties; that state's Appalachian section saw an increase of 2.8 percentage points. Yet participation rates also fell in some parts of Appalachia – there were 128 counties in the Appalachian Region where the share of adults in the labor force decreased between the two periods.

Figure 7.5: Percentage Point Change in the Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Unemployment among civilian labor force participants in Appalachia declined by 0.4 percentage points between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024, while the national unemployment rate was unchanged between the two periods. Of Appalachia's 423 counties, 213 of the counties in the region had an unemployment rate decrease that exceeded the Appalachian average and nearly half of those counties were in South Central and Southern Appalachia, where unemployment rates declined by 0.5 percentage points overall. Of the subregions, only Northern Appalachia had an increase in unemployment from 2015-2019 to 2020-2024, driven by 0.3 percentage point increases in both Appalachian New York and Pennsylvania.

TRENDS IN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT

- Among working-age adults (ages 25 to 64), Appalachia's labor force participation rate in 2020-2024 was 74.9 percent, 1.6 percentage points higher than its rate in 2015-2019 (see Tables 7.1 and 7.2). This share increased in all five subregions, all five urban-rural county types, and the Appalachian sections of all 13 states. The largest increase was in the Appalachian sections of Alabama and Kentucky, where labor force participation increased 2.4 and 2.8 percentage points, respectively.
- Within the civilian labor force, the employment rate in Appalachia was 96 percent, which was 0.4 percentage points higher than the employment rate in 2015-2019. Among the subregions, the increase was greatest in Central Appalachia, where employment rose by 1.5 percentage points. Employment in Northern Appalachia, however, fell by 0.2 percentage points. Yet, the employment rate rose in all county types throughout the region. Among the states, employment increased the most in the Appalachian sections of Kentucky and Virginia, with a rise in employment rates exceeding one percentage point in each. Conversely, Appalachian Pennsylvania and New York both had a 0.3 percentage point decrease in employment rate.
- As Appalachia's employment rate rose between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024, its unemployment rate fell. The Appalachian Region's unemployment rate of four percent in the later period is 0.4 percentage points lower than its rate in 2015-2019.
- Although there are some parts of the Appalachian Region that likely have not yet rebounded from the economic downturn of 2007-2009, the decline of the coal industry throughout the region since 2005, and the recent labor force impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise in labor force participation and employment (along with the corresponding lower rates of unemployment) support the idea of economic recovery in much of the region.

CHAPTER 8: TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUTING PATTERNS

Table 8.1: Means of Transportation for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024

Means of Transportation	Total Workers Ages 16 and Over	Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over					
		Car, Truck, or Van (Drove Alone)	Car, Truck, or Van (Carpooled)	Public Transportation (Excluding Taxicab)	Walked	Taxicab, Motorcycle, Bicycle, or Other Means	Worked at Home
United States	159,114,094	68.8	8.5	3.2	2.4	2.0	15.1
Appalachian Region	11,809,652	76.1	8.7	0.7	1.9	1.3	11.2
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	3,647,830	73.4	8.1	1.6	3.2	1.6	12.1
North Central Appalachia	1,059,036	78.7	8.3	0.4	2.2	1.2	9.2
Central Appalachia	686,284	79.0	10.2	0.2	1.8	1.1	7.7
South Central Appalachia	2,380,373	77.8	8.6	0.3	1.5	1.1	10.8
Southern Appalachia	4,036,129	76.4	9.0	0.3	1.0	1.3	11.9
County Types							
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	3,133,330	71.1	8.2	1.4	1.6	1.4	16.2
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	4,952,381	77.1	8.4	0.6	1.9	1.3	10.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	1,027,825	78.6	9.2	0.5	2.2	1.2	8.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	1,707,264	79.2	9.4	0.2	2.2	1.1	7.8
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	988,852	79.1	9.4	0.3	2.3	1.7	7.2
Alabama	2,229,079	80.6	8.0	0.3	1.1	1.1	8.8
Appalachian Alabama	1,471,299	79.8	8.3	0.3	1.1	1.1	9.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	757,780	82.0	7.6	0.3	1.2	1.2	7.7
Georgia	5,149,633	70.9	8.9	1.1	1.3	1.9	15.9
Appalachian Georgia	1,661,162	71.7	10.0	0.4	0.9	1.5	15.7
Non-Appalachian Georgia	3,488,471	70.5	8.4	1.5	1.5	2.0	16.0
Kentucky	2,017,413	76.6	9.3	0.6	2.0	1.3	10.2
Appalachian Kentucky	431,138	78.2	10.9	0.2	2.0	1.1	7.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,586,275	76.1	8.8	0.7	2.0	1.4	11.0
Maryland	3,127,685	64.7	7.7	4.2	2.0	2.0	19.3
Appalachian Maryland	110,025	75.5	8.8	0.9	1.8	1.4	11.6
Non-Appalachian Maryland	3,017,660	64.3	7.7	4.3	2.0	2.0	19.6
Mississippi	1,243,121	81.8	9.2	0.3	1.3	1.4	5.9
Appalachian Mississippi	253,706	85.6	7.7	0.2	1.0	1.1	4.4
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	989,415	80.9	9.6	0.3	1.4	1.5	6.3
New York	9,306,567	48.8	6.3	21.6	5.6	2.8	14.9
Appalachian New York	442,812	72.3	9.0	1.5	5.2	1.7	10.4
Non-Appalachian New York	8,863,755	47.6	6.2	22.6	5.6	2.8	15.2
North Carolina	5,084,515	71.5	8.5	0.7	1.6	1.5	16.3
Appalachian North Carolina	918,351	77.2	9.2	0.3	1.4	1.1	10.8
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	4,166,164	70.3	8.3	0.7	1.6	1.5	17.6
Ohio	5,608,273	75.1	7.5	1.0	2.0	1.5	13.0
Appalachian Ohio	852,320	79.5	8.4	0.4	1.9	1.8	8.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,755,953	74.3	7.4	1.1	2.0	1.4	13.9
Pennsylvania	6,210,797	68.2	7.5	3.6	3.3	1.9	15.6
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,621,714	72.6	7.8	1.9	3.1	1.5	13.2
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	3,589,083	65.0	7.4	4.8	3.3	2.1	17.4
South Carolina	2,425,248	76.3	8.5	0.4	1.6	1.7	11.5
Appalachian South Carolina	649,962	77.4	8.8	0.2	1.1	1.5	10.9
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,775,286	75.9	8.5	0.4	1.7	1.7	11.8
Tennessee	3,314,309	75.8	8.4	0.4	1.2	1.3	12.9
Appalachian Tennessee	1,364,363	78.2	8.4	0.3	1.3	1.0	10.8
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,949,946	74.1	8.4	0.5	1.1	1.4	14.3
Virginia	4,327,663	67.6	8.0	2.3	2.1	1.7	18.3
Appalachian Virginia	298,793	78.6	8.2	0.6	2.3	1.2	9.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	4,028,870	66.7	8.0	2.5	2.0	1.7	19.0
West Virginia (entire state)	734,007	78.1	8.5	0.5	2.5	1.4	9.1

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Table 8.2: Means of Transportation for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Below the Poverty Level, 2020-2024

Means of Transportation	Total Workers Ages 16 and Over Below the Poverty Level	Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over Below the Poverty Level					
		Car, Truck, or Van (Drove Alone)	Car, Truck, or Van (Carpooled)	Public Transportation (Excluding Taxicab)	Walked	Taxicab, Motorcycle, Bicycle, or Other Means	Worked at Home
United States	8,536,990	63.8	12.4	5.7	5.1	3.6	9.4
Appalachian Region	710,901	69.7	13.3	2.0	4.7	2.7	7.5
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	201,734	63.4	12.3	4.2	8.4	3.5	8.1
North Central Appalachia	70,000	70.7	11.5	1.8	7.2	2.3	6.6
Central Appalachia	54,534	73.1	13.7	0.4	3.7	2.1	7.0
South Central Appalachia	148,789	73.4	12.9	1.4	2.9	2.1	7.4
Southern Appalachia	235,844	71.8	15.0	0.9	2.3	2.7	7.4
County Types							
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	146,400	64.8	14.6	3.8	4.6	2.8	9.3
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	308,060	70.1	12.8	2.1	4.7	2.9	7.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	67,743	70.7	12.7	0.8	5.6	3.1	7.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	112,676	71.8	14.5	0.6	4.6	1.8	6.7
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	76,022	73.6	11.7	0.9	4.2	3.0	6.6
Alabama	146,649	76.5	11.8	1.0	2.6	2.0	6.2
Appalachian Alabama	90,310	75.1	13.0	1.0	2.5	2.3	6.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	56,339	78.7	9.8	1.2	2.7	1.5	6.2
Georgia	301,559	66.4	14.4	2.1	3.1	3.9	10.1
Appalachian Georgia	81,655	66.4	18.7	0.7	2.4	2.6	9.3
Non-Appalachian Georgia	219,904	66.4	12.7	2.6	3.4	4.4	10.4
Kentucky	134,840	69.6	13.9	1.8	4.7	3.3	6.6
Appalachian Kentucky	37,177	71.4	14.4	0.2	4.0	2.3	7.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	97,663	68.9	13.7	2.4	5.0	3.7	6.3
Maryland	117,835	59.2	11.5	9.4	5.1	4.3	10.5
Appalachian Maryland	5,708	71.4	12.2	1.9	5.1	3.0	6.3
Non-Appalachian Maryland	112,127	58.6	11.5	9.8	5.1	4.4	10.7
Mississippi	98,980	76.7	12.5	0.6	2.5	2.6	5.1
Appalachian Mississippi	21,395	78.6	10.1	1.2	1.9	3.7	4.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	77,585	76.1	13.2	0.5	2.6	2.4	5.2
New York	477,610	36.7	8.2	29.8	10.9	4.3	10.1
Appalachian New York	30,870	58.1	13.7	3.9	10.9	3.8	9.6
Non-Appalachian New York	446,740	35.3	7.8	31.6	10.9	4.4	10.1
North Carolina	289,304	70.5	13.5	1.9	2.5	2.4	9.1
Appalachian North Carolina	57,804	73.1	15.2	1.5	2.2	1.4	6.5
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	231,500	69.9	13.1	2.1	2.6	2.7	9.7
Ohio	318,799	66.6	12.7	3.8	5.7	3.0	8.1
Appalachian Ohio	57,451	70.2	12.4	1.7	5.5	3.3	6.8
Non-Appalachian Ohio	261,348	65.9	12.8	4.3	5.8	2.9	8.4
Pennsylvania	287,593	58.3	11.6	8.7	8.0	4.0	9.4
Appalachian Pennsylvania	131,383	62.8	11.7	4.9	9.1	3.1	8.4
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	156,210	54.5	11.5	11.9	7.0	4.8	10.3
South Carolina	152,765	70.2	14.7	1.2	2.6	3.7	7.7
Appalachian South Carolina	42,484	71.7	14.4	0.8	1.7	3.4	8.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	110,281	69.6	14.8	1.3	3.0	3.8	7.5
Tennessee	190,439	72.6	12.8	1.3	2.4	2.8	8.1
Appalachian Tennessee	84,307	74.3	11.9	0.9	2.7	2.5	7.6
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	106,132	71.3	13.4	1.5	2.2	3.1	8.4
Virginia	183,810	64.3	12.9	4.2	4.1	3.6	10.9
Appalachian Virginia	19,728	71.1	10.4	2.6	5.0	2.7	8.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	164,082	63.5	13.2	4.4	4.0	3.7	11.3
West Virginia (entire state)	50,629	71.5	11.4	2.0	6.8	2.6	5.6

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2024, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$31,812. 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, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Table 8.3: Availability of Vehicles for Households in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024

Availability of Vehicles	Total Households	Percent of Households				
		No Vehicle Available	One Vehicle Available	Two Vehicles Available	Three Vehicles Available	Four or More Vehicles Available
United States	129,227,496	8.4	33.1	36.6	14.5	7.4
Appalachian Region	10,576,156	6.6	31.6	37.3	16.2	8.4
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	3,354,116	9.1	35.2	36.5	13.3	5.9
North Central Appalachia	1,010,094	7.3	32.2	36.8	15.9	7.8
Central Appalachia	738,890	7.2	31.0	35.5	16.8	9.4
South Central Appalachia	2,157,071	5.1	29.5	37.5	17.8	10.2
Southern Appalachia	3,315,985	4.6	29.2	38.4	18.1	9.7
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	2,553,376	6.4	32.0	38.5	15.5	7.6
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	4,395,150	6.5	32.1	37.1	16.1	8.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	946,307	6.4	30.5	37.0	16.8	9.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	1,670,330	6.6	30.3	36.4	17.2	9.4
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	1,010,993	7.3	31.2	36.5	16.3	8.7
Alabama	1,997,247	5.4	31.6	36.6	17.2	9.2
Appalachian Alabama	1,287,136	5.1	30.3	36.8	18.1	9.8
Non-Appalachian Alabama	710,111	6.0	34.0	36.3	15.8	8.0
Georgia	4,074,366	5.9	32.6	37.6	15.8	8.1
Appalachian Georgia	1,228,941	3.7	27.4	40.2	18.6	10.1
Non-Appalachian Georgia	2,845,425	6.8	34.9	36.4	14.6	7.2
Kentucky	1,814,469	6.8	32.4	37.1	15.7	8.0
Appalachian Kentucky	460,530	7.5	31.3	35.7	16.4	9.0
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,353,939	6.5	32.8	37.6	15.4	7.7
Maryland	2,362,928	8.8	33.5	35.8	14.6	7.3
Appalachian Maryland	99,778	8.1	32.0	35.8	16.0	8.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,263,150	8.8	33.6	35.8	14.5	7.3
Mississippi	1,145,431	6.3	32.1	36.1	16.7	8.7
Appalachian Mississippi	243,164	5.9	30.1	36.5	17.3	10.3
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	902,267	6.4	32.7	36.0	16.5	8.3
New York	7,722,646	29.2	33.6	25.4	8.1	3.6
Appalachian New York	424,591	10.6	36.6	36.4	11.5	4.8
Non-Appalachian New York	7,298,055	30.3	33.4	24.8	7.9	3.6
North Carolina	4,282,345	5.3	31.4	38.0	16.6	8.7
Appalachian North Carolina	839,160	5.1	30.2	37.0	17.6	10.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	3,443,185	5.4	31.7	38.3	16.3	8.3
Ohio	4,863,191	7.5	34.0	37.4	14.2	6.9
Appalachian Ohio	803,572	7.7	31.0	36.2	16.5	8.6
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,059,619	7.4	34.6	37.6	13.8	6.6
Pennsylvania	5,274,853	10.4	35.1	35.9	12.8	5.8
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,375,588	8.9	35.5	36.7	13.2	5.8
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,899,265	11.7	34.7	35.2	12.5	5.9
South Carolina	2,117,989	5.7	32.2	38.5	16.0	7.6
Appalachian South Carolina	556,744	5.1	30.4	38.9	17.4	8.2
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,561,245	5.9	32.9	38.3	15.5	7.3
Tennessee	2,824,277	5.2	30.9	38.0	16.7	9.2
Appalachian Tennessee	1,230,278	4.9	28.9	37.9	17.8	10.5
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,593,999	5.5	32.5	38.0	15.9	8.1
Virginia	3,365,732	6.1	31.1	37.3	16.7	8.9
Appalachian Virginia	298,019	6.2	29.5	35.6	18.7	10.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	3,067,713	6.1	31.3	37.4	16.5	8.7
West Virginia (entire state)	728,655	8.0	34.2	36.8	14.4	6.5

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Table 8.4: Number of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Live in Households With No Vehicle Available, by Means of Transportation, 2020-2024

Availability of Vehicles	Total Workers Ages 16 and Over	Car, Truck, or Van (Drove Alone)	Car, Truck, or Van (Carpooled)	Public Transportation (Excluding Taxicab)	Walked	Taxicab, Motorcycle, Bicycle, or Other Means	Worked at Home
United States	6,974,739	1,749,420	665,846	1,985,246	826,680	647,983	1,099,564
Appalachian Region	321,745	125,812	57,160	27,288	43,160	34,979	33,346
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	150,828	41,986	23,968	21,265	26,021	19,652	17,936
North Central Appalachia	27,877	12,439	4,555	1,350	4,557	2,655	2,321
Central Appalachia	15,761	7,423	3,443	159	1,957	1,237	1,542
South Central Appalachia	44,844	23,481	6,813	2,354	4,508	3,589	4,099
Southern Appalachia	82,435	40,483	18,381	2,160	6,117	7,846	7,448
County Types							
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	86,126	28,936	12,734	14,403	11,225	7,792	11,036
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	129,661	54,596	21,829	10,827	17,269	13,608	11,532
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	27,613	11,395	5,240	827	4,448	2,915	2,788
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	46,201	20,095	10,599	832	5,991	4,287	4,397
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	32,144	10,790	6,758	399	4,227	6,377	3,593
Alabama	44,869	24,342	8,228	1,170	3,404	4,075	3,650
Appalachian Alabama	27,681	15,055	4,862	824	2,403	2,500	2,037
Non-Appalachian Alabama	17,188	9,287	3,366	346	1,001	1,575	1,613
Georgia	146,653	53,110	28,582	16,110	11,456	18,679	18,716
Appalachian Georgia	35,073	15,278	9,754	594	2,406	3,445	3,596
Non-Appalachian Georgia	111,580	37,832	18,828	15,516	9,050	15,234	15,120
Kentucky	52,951	20,053	10,060	4,070	7,191	6,381	5,196
Appalachian Kentucky	10,477	4,697	2,304	65	1,392	916	1,103
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	42,474	15,356	7,756	4,005	5,799	5,465	4,093
Maryland	131,435	34,306	13,483	38,379	11,646	14,906	18,715
Appalachian Maryland	3,885	1,827	327	488	352	488	403
Non-Appalachian Maryland	127,550	32,479	13,156	37,891	11,294	14,418	18,312
Mississippi	30,998	17,010	5,923	591	2,899	2,248	2,327
Appalachian Mississippi	5,719	3,028	1,063	97	519	552	460
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	25,279	13,982	4,860	494	2,380	1,696	1,867
New York	2,023,644	146,476	59,718	1,083,735	249,750	116,646	367,319
Appalachian New York	22,935	6,142	2,787	2,959	5,688	2,523	2,836
Non-Appalachian New York	2,000,709	140,334	56,931	1,080,776	244,062	114,123	364,483
North Carolina	113,468	48,053	19,225	8,729	8,405	12,489	16,567
Appalachian North Carolina	17,768	10,049	2,305	821	1,435	1,576	1,582
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	95,700	38,004	16,920	7,908	6,970	10,913	14,985
Ohio	180,624	60,683	32,155	23,503	23,101	23,006	18,176
Appalachian Ohio	32,847	10,076	7,817	1,088	3,423	7,309	3,134
Non-Appalachian Ohio	147,777	50,607	24,338	22,415	19,678	15,697	15,042
Pennsylvania	319,757	74,546	37,358	78,950	48,922	32,656	47,325
Appalachian Pennsylvania	99,501	28,317	14,505	16,901	17,447	10,090	12,241
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	220,256	46,229	22,853	62,049	31,475	22,566	35,084
South Carolina	58,109	25,539	12,092	2,781	4,307	8,416	4,974
Appalachian South Carolina	13,962	7,122	2,702	645	789	1,349	1,355
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	44,147	18,417	9,390	2,136	3,518	7,067	3,619
Tennessee	68,769	31,392	12,328	4,882	6,685	6,464	7,018
Appalachian Tennessee	24,393	12,044	4,453	1,156	2,872	1,606	2,262
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	44,376	19,348	7,875	3,726	3,813	4,858	4,756
Virginia	125,311	43,799	16,051	21,719	12,383	10,498	20,861
Appalachian Virginia	6,966	3,606	1,009	466	626	682	577
Non-Appalachian Virginia	118,345	40,193	15,042	21,253	11,757	9,816	20,284
West Virginia (entire state)	20,538	8,571	3,272	1,184	3,808	1,943	1,760

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Table 8.5: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Live in Households With No Vehicle Available, by Means of Transportation, 2020-2024

Availability of Vehicles	Total Workers Ages 16 and Over	Car, Truck, or Van (Drove Alone)	Car, Truck, or Van (Carpooled)	Public Transportation (Excluding Taxicab)	Walked	Taxicab, Motorcycle, Bicycle, or Other Means	Worked at Home
United States	4.4	1.6	5.0	39.3	26.1	21.1	4.6
Appalachian Region	2.8	1.4	5.6	33.7	23.6	22.6	2.5
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	4.2	1.6	8.2	37.7	27.3	33.8	4.1
North Central Appalachia	2.7	1.5	5.2	32.2	22.4	21.1	2.4
Central Appalachia	2.3	1.4	4.9	12.5	19.1	17.3	2.9
South Central Appalachia	1.9	1.3	3.4	30.0	17.9	14.5	1.6
Southern Appalachia	2.1	1.3	5.1	19.0	19.1	15.0	1.6
County Types							
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	2.8	1.3	5.0	33.2	26.6	17.9	2.2
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	2.6	1.4	5.3	40.2	23.5	21.3	2.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	2.7	1.4	5.6	17.4	24.5	23.4	3.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	2.7	1.5	6.6	22.8	19.3	23.6	3.3
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	3.3	1.4	7.4	17.7	23.3	38.2	5.2
Alabama	2.0	1.4	4.6	18.1	17.3	16.4	1.9
Appalachian Alabama	1.9	1.3	4.0	20.3	19.0	15.8	1.5
Non-Appalachian Alabama	2.3	1.5	5.9	14.4	14.3	17.4	2.8
Georgia	2.9	1.5	6.3	30.1	21.1	19.8	2.3
Appalachian Georgia	2.1	1.3	5.9	10.8	19.7	14.3	1.4
Non-Appalachian Georgia	3.2	1.5	6.5	32.3	21.4	21.7	2.7
Kentucky	2.7	1.3	5.4	33.9	23.4	24.2	2.5
Appalachian Kentucky	2.5	1.4	4.9	10.5	20.7	19.4	3.4
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	2.7	1.3	5.6	35.1	24.2	25.3	2.4
Maryland	4.2	1.7	5.6	29.5	21.9	24.2	3.1
Appalachian Maryland	3.5	2.2	3.4	52.8	18.6	32.1	3.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	4.3	1.7	5.7	29.3	22.0	24.0	3.1
Mississippi	2.5	1.7	5.2	18.2	25.4	12.9	3.2
Appalachian Mississippi	2.3	1.4	5.5	20.7	27.1	20.5	4.3
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	2.6	1.8	5.1	17.8	25.1	11.6	3.0
New York	22.0	3.2	10.2	54.5	52.2	45.8	26.8
Appalachian New York	5.3	1.9	7.0	49.9	30.3	35.4	6.5
Non-Appalachian New York	22.8	3.3	10.4	54.5	53.1	46.1	27.4
North Carolina	2.3	1.3	4.6	28.0	14.7	17.4	2.0
Appalachian North Carolina	1.9	1.4	2.8	28.6	13.7	16.2	1.6
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	2.3	1.3	5.1	27.9	14.9	17.6	2.1
Ohio	3.2	1.4	7.7	43.8	25.3	28.5	2.5
Appalachian Ohio	3.9	1.5	10.9	39.4	25.3	48.1	4.6
Non-Appalachian Ohio	3.1	1.4	7.0	44.0	25.3	24.0	2.3
Pennsylvania	5.2	1.8	8.1	36.1	29.3	29.0	5.0
Appalachian Pennsylvania	3.8	1.5	7.2	35.5	26.2	26.9	3.6
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	6.2	2.0	8.7	36.3	31.4	30.0	5.7
South Carolina	2.4	1.4	6.0	37.9	18.9	21.0	1.8
Appalachian South Carolina	2.2	1.4	4.8	48.1	15.2	13.9	1.9
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	2.5	1.4	6.4	35.6	19.9	23.3	1.8
Tennessee	2.1	1.3	4.5	35.5	21.9	15.6	1.7
Appalachian Tennessee	1.8	1.1	3.9	32.0	22.9	12.0	1.6
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	2.3	1.3	4.8	36.7	21.2	17.4	1.7
Virginia	2.9	1.5	4.7	22.0	19.1	14.7	2.7
Appalachian Virginia	2.4	1.5	4.2	25.6	15.5	19.7	2.2
Non-Appalachian Virginia	3.0	1.5	4.7	21.9	19.3	14.5	2.7
West Virginia (entire state)	2.8	1.5	5.3	33.6	22.9	19.9	2.7

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Table 8.6: Relationship Between Number of Workers and Availability of Vehicles for Households in the Appalachian Region With One or More Workers, 2020-2024

Availability of Vehicles	Total Households With One or More Workers	Percent of Households With One or More Workers			
		Households With Zero Vehicles	Households Where Workers Exceed Vehicles	Households Where Workers Equal Vehicles	Households Where Vehicles Exceed Workers
United States	94,612,958	5.2	7.1	51.9	35.8
Appalachian Region	7,176,073	3.2	4.9	49.0	42.9
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	2,246,104	5.0	5.9	52.5	36.5
North Central Appalachia	652,273	3.2	4.6	48.7	43.5
Central Appalachia	432,124	2.7	4.1	41.9	51.3
South Central Appalachia	1,448,064	2.3	3.8	46.8	47.1
Southern Appalachia	2,397,508	2.3	4.7	48.5	44.5
County Types					
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	1,864,299	3.4	5.7	52.9	38.1
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	3,017,569	3.2	4.7	49.9	42.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	624,034	3.2	4.5	46.3	46.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	1,055,398	3.2	4.3	44.5	48.0
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	614,773	3.6	4.3	43.9	48.2
Alabama	1,368,259	2.4	3.8	47.8	46.0
Appalachian Alabama	896,287	2.2	3.8	47.3	46.6
Non-Appalachian Alabama	471,972	2.6	3.9	48.8	44.7
Georgia	3,057,991	3.4	6.2	51.9	38.5
Appalachian Georgia	941,993	2.3	5.7	50.0	42.0
Non-Appalachian Georgia	2,115,998	3.9	6.3	52.8	37.0
Kentucky	1,241,468	3.2	5.2	50.4	41.2
Appalachian Kentucky	271,874	2.9	4.4	42.6	50.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	969,594	3.3	5.4	52.6	38.8
Maryland	1,820,385	5.2	8.1	54.3	32.4
Appalachian Maryland	67,513	4.2	5.2	49.1	41.5
Non-Appalachian Maryland	1,752,872	5.3	8.2	54.5	32.0
Mississippi	773,830	3.0	4.4	46.7	45.9
Appalachian Mississippi	158,970	2.6	3.8	43.5	50.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	614,860	3.1	4.6	47.5	44.9
New York	5,559,753	24.8	13.0	41.8	20.5
Appalachian New York	279,674	6.5	6.7	53.0	33.8
Non-Appalachian New York	5,280,079	25.8	13.3	41.2	19.8
North Carolina	3,098,113	2.7	5.1	50.5	41.7
Appalachian North Carolina	556,815	2.3	4.1	46.7	46.9
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	2,541,298	2.8	5.3	51.3	40.6
Ohio	3,444,418	3.8	4.9	54.5	36.8
Appalachian Ohio	524,827	4.1	4.0	47.1	44.9
Non-Appalachian Ohio	2,919,591	3.8	5.1	55.8	35.3
Pennsylvania	3,735,998	6.4	7.6	53.3	32.7
Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,603,289	4.7	6.2	53.4	35.7
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,132,709	7.6	8.6	53.3	30.4
South Carolina	1,480,042	2.9	5.1	50.4	41.5
Appalachian South Carolina	400,258	2.5	4.4	49.8	43.3
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,079,784	3.1	5.4	50.6	40.9
Tennessee	2,036,840	2.5	4.5	50.1	42.9
Appalachian Tennessee	833,351	2.1	3.5	46.9	47.5
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,203,489	2.8	5.1	52.3	39.8
Virginia	2,545,474	3.5	6.6	51.6	38.3
Appalachian Virginia	182,729	2.7	4.2	41.9	51.2
Non-Appalachian Virginia	2,362,745	3.6	6.8	52.4	37.3
West Virginia (entire state)	458,493	3.5	5.0	49.7	41.8

Note: "Households Where Workers Equal Vehicles" include households with three (3) or more workers with three (3) or more vehicles available. Because those are open-ended categories, some of these households could have more workers than available vehicles, while others could have more vehicles than workers.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Table 8.7: Travel Time to Work for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, by Amount of Time, 2020-2024

Travel Time to Work (Minutes)	Workers Ages 16 and Over	Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over				Mean Travel Time to Work (Minutes)
		Less Than 15 Minutes	15 Minutes to 29 Minutes	30 Minutes to 59 Minutes	60 Minutes or More	
United States	135,071,605	26.0	36.6	28.8	8.6	26.4
Appalachian Region	10,483,024	27.8	36.8	27.4	8.0	25.8
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	3,208,021	32.0	36.0	24.7	7.2	24.6
North Central Appalachia	962,063	27.9	35.7	26.6	9.8	27.0
Central Appalachia	633,293	30.3	31.7	27.8	10.2	27.4
South Central Appalachia	2,124,314	28.4	40.4	25.2	6.0	24.1
Southern Appalachia	3,555,333	23.3	36.7	31.2	8.9	27.4
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	2,624,675	21.3	34.2	34.5	10.0	28.9
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	4,424,551	28.3	41.1	24.7	5.8	24.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	942,259	32.0	32.3	24.9	10.8	27.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	1,574,069	31.4	33.1	26.6	8.9	26.0
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	917,470	33.7	35.1	23.3	7.9	24.5
Alabama	2,032,250	25.5	38.9	28.6	6.9	25.5
Appalachian Alabama	1,332,738	24.8	38.4	29.8	7.0	25.8
Non-Appalachian Alabama	699,512	26.7	39.9	26.5	6.8	24.9
Georgia	4,330,077	22.5	35.5	32.0	10.0	28.3
Appalachian Georgia	1,400,949	20.0	32.8	34.8	12.4	30.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	2,929,128	23.7	36.7	30.7	8.9	27.2
Kentucky	1,810,946	30.3	39.1	24.4	6.2	24.0
Appalachian Kentucky	398,380	32.3	32.6	25.9	9.2	26.4
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,412,566	29.8	40.9	24.1	5.3	23.3
Maryland	2,523,285	18.3	33.0	36.0	12.7	31.1
Appalachian Maryland	97,270	29.9	37.5	21.8	10.7	26.7
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,426,015	17.8	32.8	36.6	12.8	31.2
Mississippi	1,169,686	28.6	37.1	26.6	7.6	25.6
Appalachian Mississippi	242,618	29.9	36.8	26.4	6.9	24.3
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	927,068	28.3	37.2	26.7	7.8	26.0
New York	7,916,632	20.5	30.0	32.7	16.8	32.6
Appalachian New York	396,754	40.0	34.9	19.2	5.8	21.6
Non-Appalachian New York	7,519,878	19.5	29.8	33.4	17.4	33.2
North Carolina	4,253,446	26.3	39.5	27.8	6.5	25.1
Appalachian North Carolina	818,846	29.0	41.5	23.6	5.9	23.8
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	3,434,600	25.6	39.0	28.8	6.6	25.4
Ohio	4,880,908	29.3	40.8	24.8	5.1	23.4
Appalachian Ohio	783,979	30.4	35.7	25.1	8.8	25.9
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,096,929	29.1	41.8	24.8	4.3	23.0
Pennsylvania	5,241,463	26.7	36.2	28.9	8.1	26.3
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,275,906	30.5	35.9	26.3	7.3	25.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,965,557	23.9	36.4	30.9	8.8	27.2
South Carolina	2,145,615	25.1	38.9	29.3	6.8	25.6
Appalachian South Carolina	579,028	24.9	42.1	27.8	5.3	24.8
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,566,587	25.2	37.7	29.8	7.3	26.0
Tennessee	2,887,629	24.9	38.5	29.5	7.1	25.7
Appalachian Tennessee	1,217,003	26.8	39.0	27.5	6.7	25.0
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,670,626	23.5	38.2	30.9	7.4	26.3
Virginia	3,534,599	23.0	37.5	30.7	8.9	27.3
Appalachian Virginia	272,037	32.3	36.6	24.1	7.0	24.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	3,262,562	22.2	37.6	31.2	9.0	27.6
West Virginia (entire state)	667,516	28.5	36.1	25.6	9.7	26.6

Note: Persons ages 16 and over who primarily worked from home are excluded from this analysis.

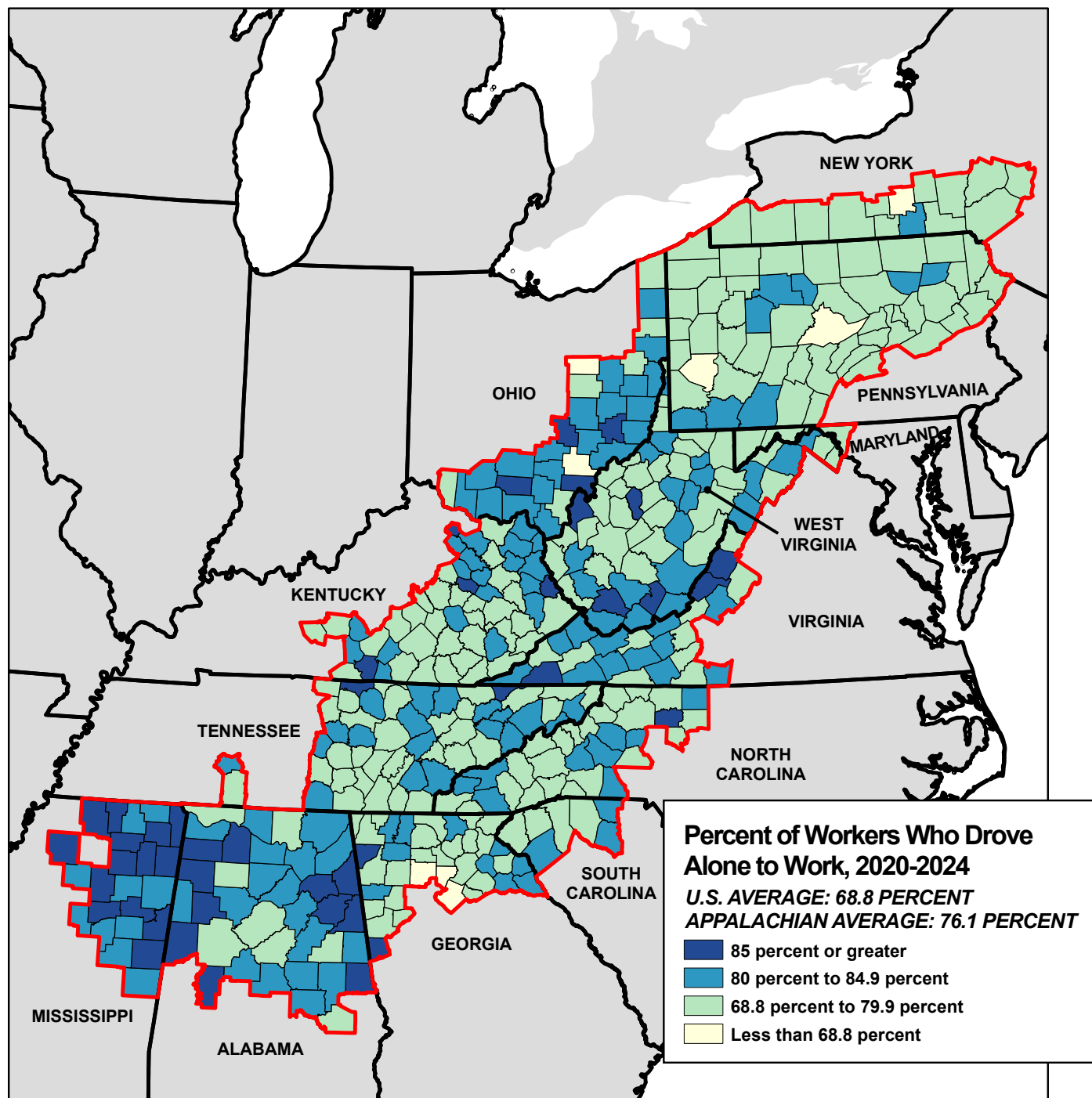
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Table 8.8: Place of Work (State and County Level) for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024

Place of Work (State and County Level)	Workers Ages 16 and Over	Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over			
		Worked in County of Residence	Worked Outside County of Residence		
			Total	Worked in State of Residence	Worked Outside State of Residence
United States	159,114,094	75.3	24.7	21.6	3.1
Appalachian Region	11,809,652	69.8	30.2	26.1	4.1
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	3,647,830	75.7	24.3	20.6	3.7
North Central Appalachia	1,059,036	64.2	35.8	24.2	11.6
Central Appalachia	686,284	60.6	39.4	33.9	5.5
South Central Appalachia	2,380,373	71.5	28.5	25.7	2.9
Southern Appalachia	4,036,129	66.5	33.5	30.4	3.1
County Types					
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	3,133,330	68.0	32.0	30.1	1.9
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	4,952,381	73.2	26.8	21.9	4.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	1,027,825	67.4	32.6	27.2	5.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	1,707,264	65.5	34.5	28.9	5.6
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	988,852	68.4	31.6	27.8	3.8
Alabama	2,229,079	73.0	27.0	22.8	4.2
Appalachian Alabama	1,471,299	71.9	28.1	25.5	2.6
Non-Appalachian Alabama	757,780	75.1	24.9	17.5	7.4
Georgia	5,149,633	62.8	37.2	34.8	2.4
Appalachian Georgia	1,661,162	58.9	41.1	37.8	3.3
Non-Appalachian Georgia	3,488,471	64.7	35.3	33.3	2.0
Kentucky	2,017,413	69.1	30.9	24.9	6.0
Appalachian Kentucky	431,138	63.1	36.9	32.1	4.8
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,586,275	70.7	29.3	22.9	6.3
Maryland	3,127,685	62.4	37.6	24.9	12.6
Appalachian Maryland	110,025	72.9	27.1	14.2	12.9
Non-Appalachian Maryland	3,017,660	62.1	37.9	25.3	12.6
Mississippi	1,243,121	63.5	36.5	28.2	8.4
Appalachian Mississippi	253,706	62.8	37.2	31.7	5.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	989,415	63.7	36.3	27.2	9.1
New York	9,306,567	69.6	30.4	28.6	1.9
Appalachian New York	442,812	78.3	21.7	19.4	2.3
Non-Appalachian New York	8,863,755	69.1	30.9	29.0	1.9
North Carolina	5,084,515	73.1	26.9	24.7	2.2
Appalachian North Carolina	918,351	72.4	27.6	25.4	2.3
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	4,166,164	73.2	26.8	24.6	2.2
Ohio	5,608,273	71.7	28.3	25.8	2.5
Appalachian Ohio	852,320	62.7	37.3	29.2	8.1
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,755,953	73.3	26.7	25.2	1.5
Pennsylvania	6,210,797	74.3	25.7	21.3	4.4
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,621,714	77.0	23.0	20.2	2.9
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	3,589,083	72.4	27.6	22.2	5.5
South Carolina	2,425,248	72.2	27.8	22.8	5.0
Appalachian South Carolina	649,962	75.3	24.7	22.0	2.7
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,775,286	71.1	28.9	23.1	5.8
Tennessee	3,314,309	72.5	27.5	24.2	3.3
Appalachian Tennessee	1,364,363	71.0	29.0	26.2	2.8
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,949,946	73.6	26.4	22.7	3.7
Virginia	4,327,663	57.0	43.0	37.2	5.9
Appalachian Virginia	298,793	61.0	39.0	31.3	7.7
Non-Appalachian Virginia	4,028,870	56.7	43.3	37.6	5.7
West Virginia (entire state)	734,007	67.1	32.9	20.2	12.7

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

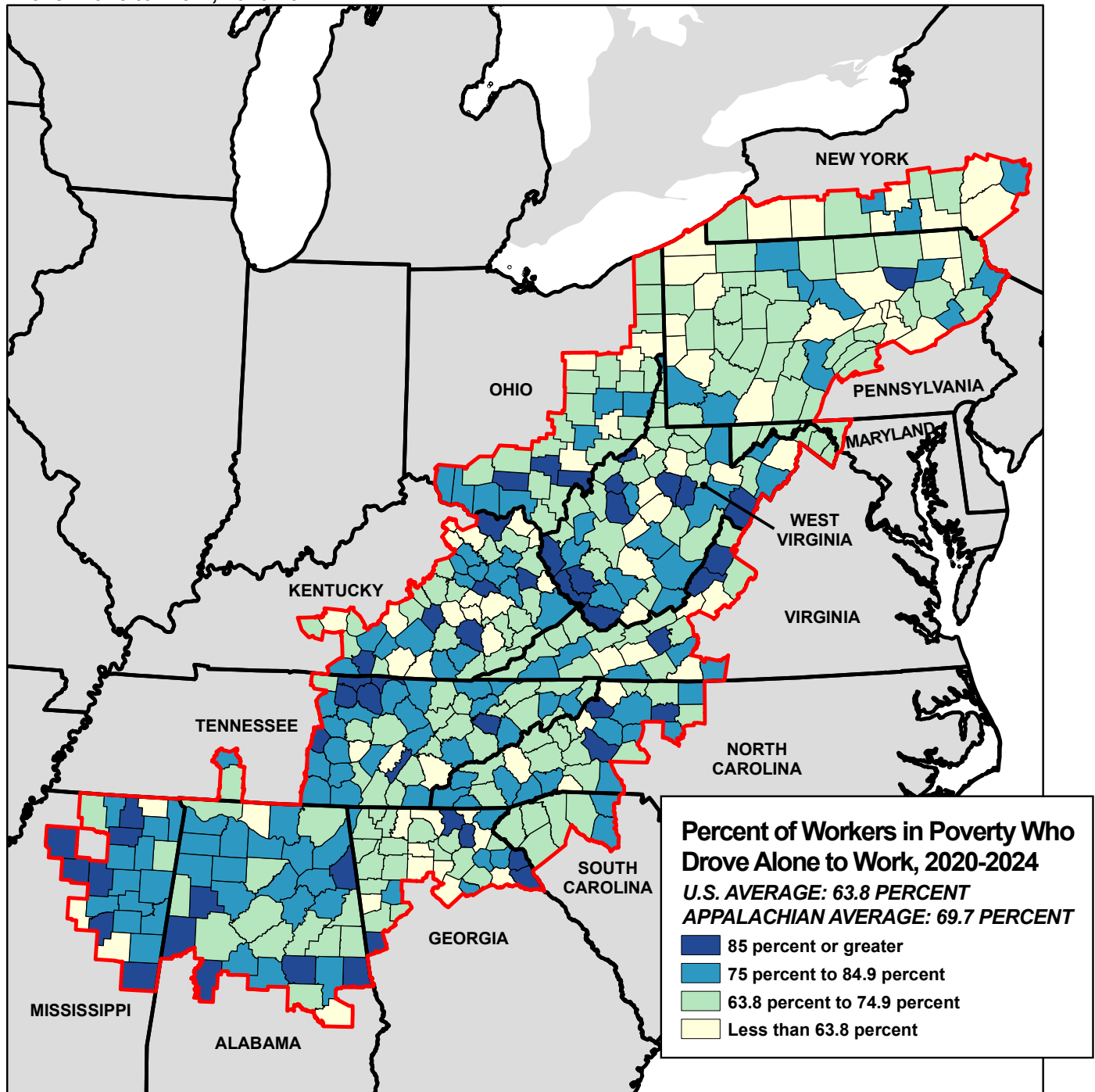
Figure 8.1: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Drove Alone to Work, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Drove Alone to Work, 2020-2024
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

In the 2020-2024 period, 76.1 percent of workers in the Appalachian Region drove alone to their jobs, which is over seven percentage points higher than the nationwide share. And the percentage is even greater in much of Appalachia: In 45 Appalachian counties, at least 85 percent of workers drove alone. Southern Appalachia accounted for 27 of these counties, including 14 in Appalachian Mississippi, where 85.6 percent of workers drove to work alone. In contrast, Northern Appalachia had four of the eight counties in the Appalachian Region where the share of workers driving alone was below the national average and was the subregion with the lowest percentage of workers who drove alone. Among the county types, counties in large metro areas had the smallest percentage of workers driving alone to work at 71.1 percent.

Figure 8.2: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over Below the Poverty Level in the Appalachian Region Who Drove Alone to Work, 2020-2024

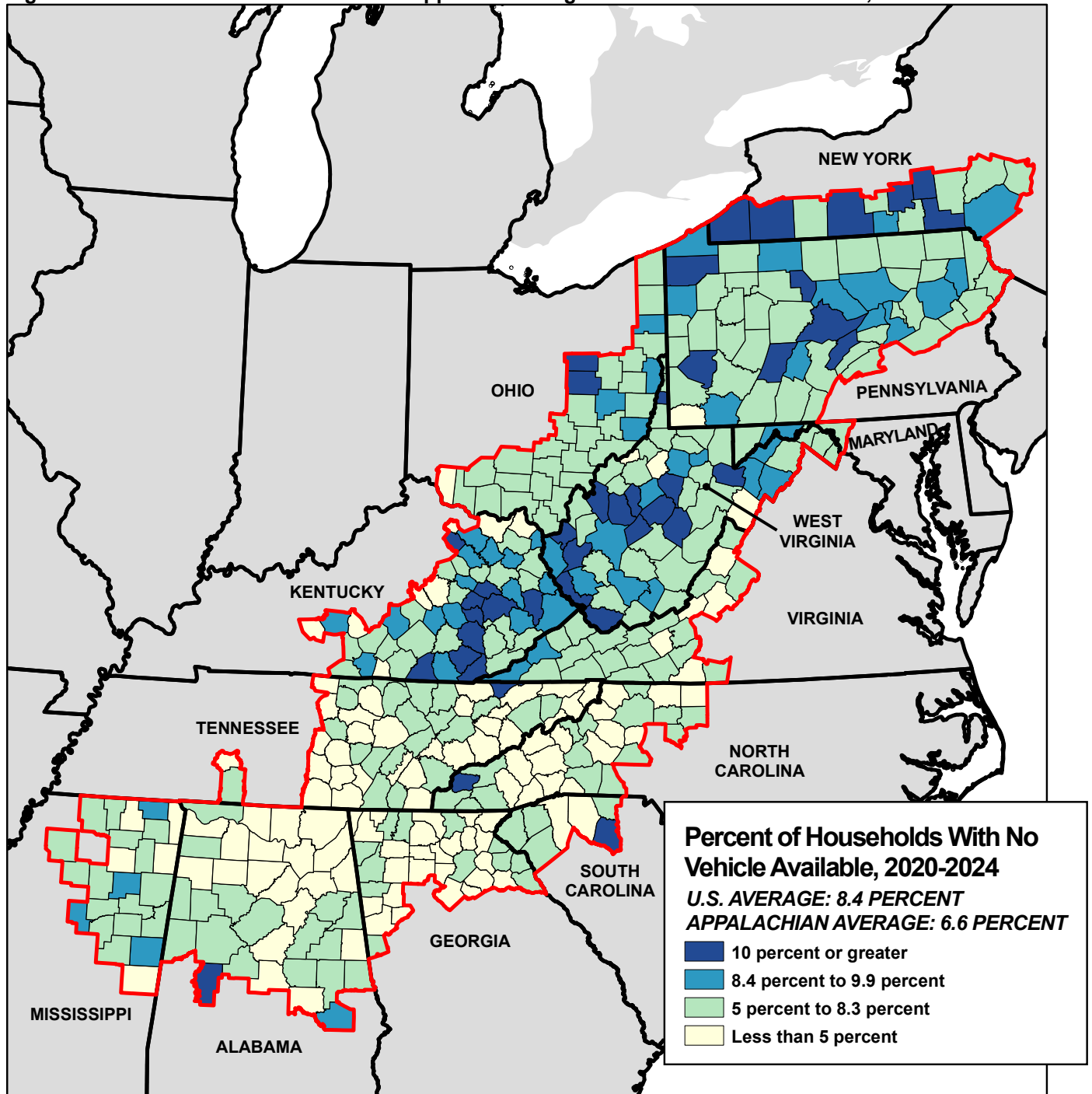


Map Title: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over Below the Poverty Level in the Appalachian Region Who Drove Alone to Work, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Among workers with incomes below the poverty level (\$31,812 for a family of two adults and two children in 2024), the share who drove alone to their places of employment was 69.7 percent in Appalachia, compared to just 63.8 percent nationally. The share was at least 75 percent in 173 of Appalachia's 423 counties, and at least 85 percent in 51 of them. Of those 51 counties, 23 were in Central and South Central Appalachia; the share of workers in poverty who drove alone exceeded 73 percent in both subregions. In contrast, 25 of the 78 counties with rates below the national average were in Northern Appalachia – the only subregion where fewer than two-thirds of workers below the poverty level drove alone to their jobs. Among the states, the lowest share of workers driving alone to work in the Appalachian Region was 58.1 percent in Appalachian New York.

Figure 8.3: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region With No Vehicle Available, 2020-2024

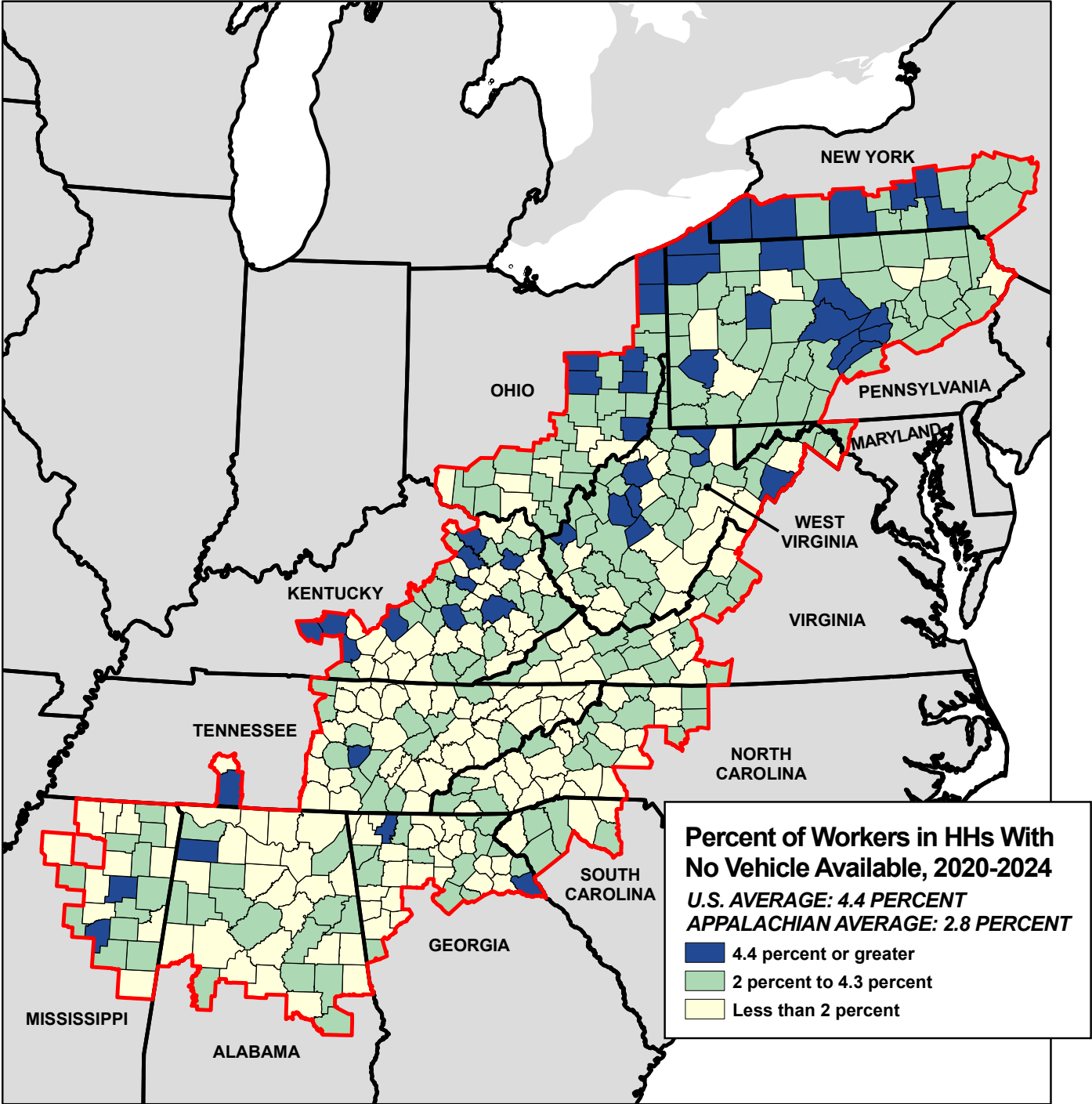


Map Title: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region With No Vehicle Available, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Having a reliable mode of transportation can be an important part of many household members' abilities to gain and keep employment. Yet in Appalachia, 6.6 percent of households have no vehicle available to get to current and/or potential employment. While this is lower than the national average of 8.4 percent, that is not the case in much of the Appalachian Region. In fact, there were 41 Appalachian counties where at least one in 10 households had no vehicle available; over half of these counties were in just two states – Kentucky and West Virginia – while over 40% of Appalachian New York's 14 counties fell within this group. Yet in 114 other counties in the region, less than five percent of households were without any motor vehicle. South Central and Southern Appalachia had 97 of the counties in the latter group.

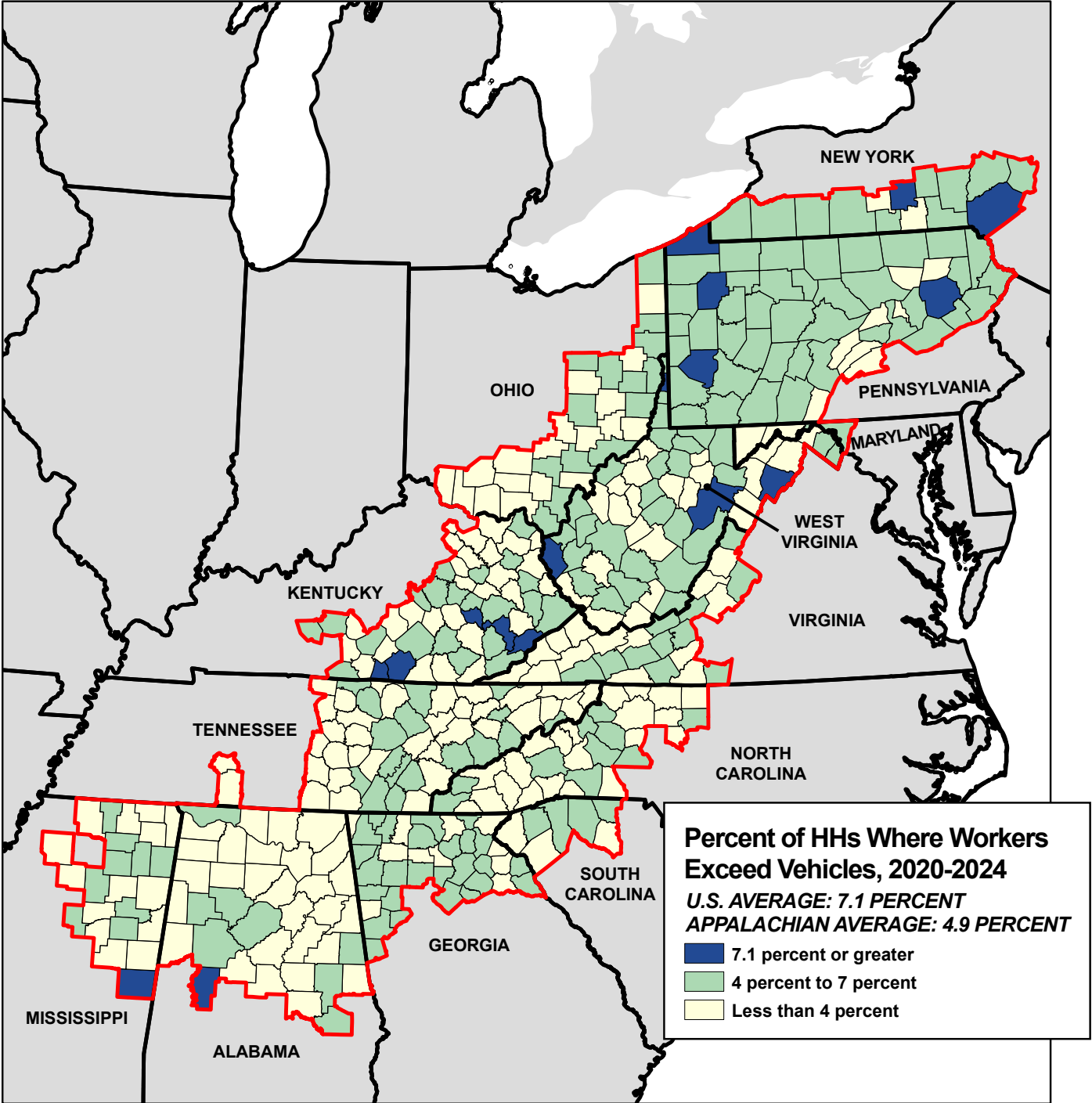
Figure 8.4: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Live in Households With No Vehicle Available, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Live in Households With No Vehicle Available, 2020-2024
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Just 2.8 percent of Appalachian workers live in households with no vehicle available, compared with 4.4 percent of workers nationally. And the share is even lower in a large part of the Appalachian Region: In 180 of Appalachia's 423 counties, less than two percent of the workforce did not have a vehicle in their household. These counties were heavily concentrated in Central, South Central, and Southern Appalachia; the share of workers without a vehicle was less than 2.5 percent in all three subregions. In contrast, Northern Appalachia had 23 of the region's 49 counties where the share of workers in zero-vehicle households was at or above the U.S. average.

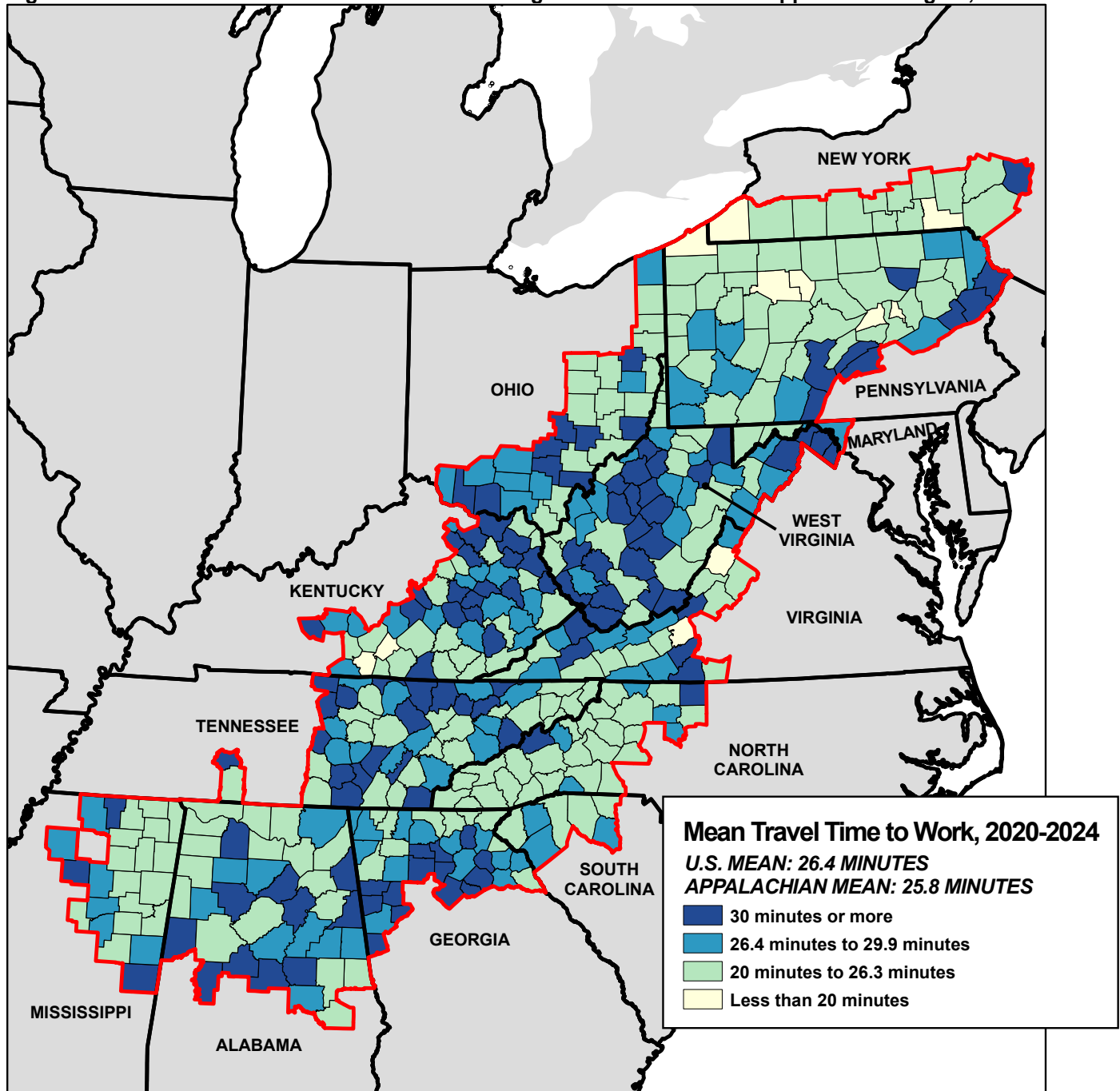
Figure 8.5: Percent of Households With One or More Workers in the Appalachian Region Where the Number of Workers Exceeds the Number of Vehicles Available, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Households With One or More Workers in the Appalachian Region Where the Number of Workers Exceeds the Number of Vehicles Available, 2020-2024
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

In 4.9 percent of Appalachian households, the number of workers in the household exceeds the number of vehicles available, compared with 7.1 percent nationwide. Workers in such households must often make special arrangements to accommodate different work schedules and responsibilities. This share is even lower than the Appalachian average in much of the region – less than four percent in nearly half of Appalachia’s 423 counties. Yet in 17 Appalachian counties, the share of households with more workers than vehicles matched or exceeded the national average. More than one-third of the counties in the latter group were in New York and Pennsylvania, the only two states where six percent or more of the Appalachian sections of each state consisted of households where workers exceeded available vehicles.

Figure 8.6: Mean Travel Time to Work for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024

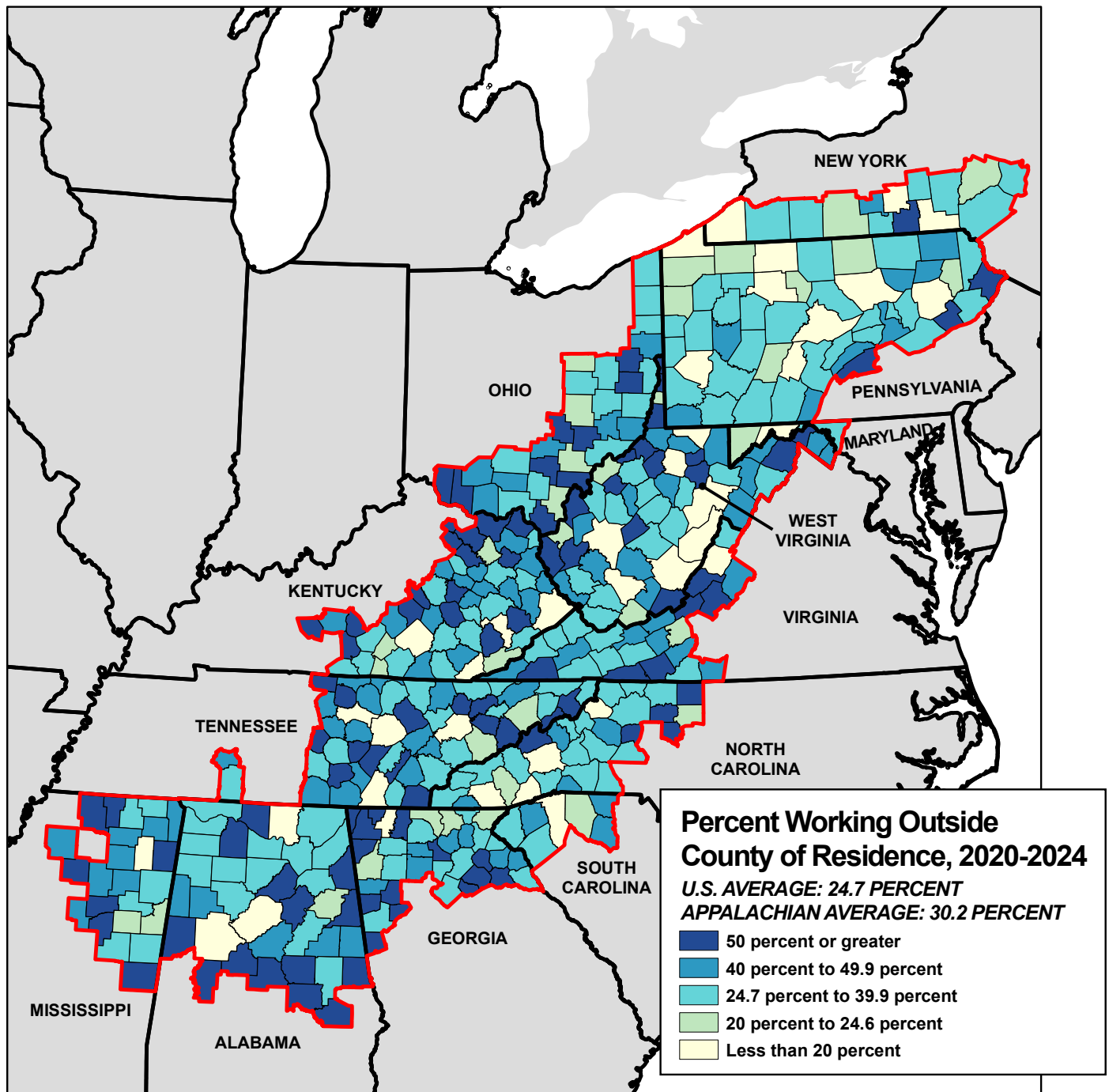


Map Title: Mean Travel Time to Work for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

In the Appalachian Region, workers ages 16 and older took an average of 25.8 minutes to get to their jobs, nearly a minute less than workers nationwide. But that was not the case in much of Appalachia: In 217 of Appalachia's 423 counties, the mean travel time to work was at or above the national average. And in 115 Appalachian counties, workers averaged half an hour or more to get to their jobs. Of these 115 counties, 63 were in nonmetropolitan areas and 63 were in Central or Southern Appalachia where the mean travel time was highest at 27.4 minutes. By comparison, workers in just 11 Appalachian counties had average commutes lasting less than 20 minutes. It is important to note that these data cover the 2020-2024 period, so these commuting patterns include the COVID-19 pandemic but do not include individuals who were working from home.

Figure 8.7: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Work Outside Their County of Residence, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Work Outside Their County of Residence, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

In the Appalachian Region, 30.2 percent of workers ages 16 and older had jobs outside their county of residence during 2020-2024, 5.5 percentage points above the national average. And the share is even higher in nearly half of the Appalachian Region's counties: In 202 of Appalachia's 423 counties, at least 40 percent of workers had their primary employment outside their county of residence. And in 106 of these counties, at least half of workers were commuting to another county. Just over half of the counties in this latter group were in metropolitan areas. In contrast, just 38 Appalachian counties had fewer than one in five workers employed outside their residential county. Nearly one-third of those 38 counties housed colleges and universities (like Greenville County, South Carolina, home to Furman University and Watauga County, North Carolina, home to Appalachian State University).

Table 8.9: Percentage Point Change in Means of Transportation for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Means of Transportation	Percentage Point Change in Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over					
	Car, Truck, or Van (Drove Alone)	Car, Truck, or Van (Carpooled)	Public Transportation (Excluding Taxicab)	Walked	Taxicab, Motorcycle, Bicycle, or Other Means	Worked at Home
United States	- 7.5	- 0.5	- 1.8	- 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 9.9
Appalachian Region	- 5.8	- 0.5	- 0.5	- 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 6.9
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	- 5.9	- 0.9	- 1.0	- 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 7.8
North Central Appalachia	- 4.0	- 0.6	- 0.3	- 0.6	+ 0.1	+ 5.4
Central Appalachia	- 4.5	+ 0.2	- 0.1	0.0	0.0	+ 4.4
South Central Appalachia	- 5.3	- 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.1	+ 6.0
Southern Appalachia	- 7.0	- 0.5	- 0.1	- 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 7.4
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	- 8.7	- 1.0	- 1.2	- 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 10.8
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	- 5.8	- 0.4	- 0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 6.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 3.6	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.4	0.0	+ 4.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	- 3.5	- 0.4	- 0.1	- 0.2	0.0	+ 4.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 3.2	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 3.6
Alabama	- 5.1	- 0.5	0.0	0.0	+ 0.1	+ 5.5
Appalachian Alabama	- 6.0	- 0.5	0.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 6.2
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 3.6	- 0.4	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 4.0
Georgia	- 8.3	- 0.7	- 1.0	- 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 10.1
Appalachian Georgia	- 9.0	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 9.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 8.0	- 0.9	- 1.3	- 0.2	0.0	+ 10.3
Kentucky	- 5.6	- 0.1	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.1	+ 6.4
Appalachian Kentucky	- 4.6	+ 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.0	+ 4.4
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 5.9	- 0.3	- 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.1	+ 7.0
Maryland	- 9.2	- 1.2	- 4.2	- 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 14.3
Appalachian Maryland	- 5.4	- 0.8	- 0.3	- 0.7	+ 0.4	+ 6.9
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 9.3	- 1.2	- 4.3	- 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 14.6
Mississippi	- 3.3	- 0.1	0.0	0.0	- 0.2	+ 3.5
Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.8	- 1.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	0.0	+ 1.7
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 3.9	+ 0.2	0.0	0.0	- 0.2	+ 3.9
New York	- 4.2	- 0.2	- 6.4	- 0.5	+ 0.8	+ 10.5
Appalachian New York	- 5.5	- 0.1	- 0.4	- 0.5	+ 0.3	+ 6.3
Non-Appalachian New York	- 4.2	- 0.1	- 6.7	- 0.6	+ 0.7	+ 10.8
North Carolina	- 9.4	- 0.7	- 0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 10.5
Appalachian North Carolina	- 5.0	+ 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.3	- 0.3	+ 5.6
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 10.3	- 0.9	- 0.4	- 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 11.7
Ohio	- 7.8	- 0.3	- 0.6	- 0.2	+ 0.3	+ 8.8
Appalachian Ohio	- 4.2	0.0	- 0.1	- 0.5	+ 0.3	+ 4.4
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 8.5	- 0.3	- 0.7	- 0.2	+ 0.3	+ 9.6
Pennsylvania	- 7.7	- 1.0	- 2.0	- 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 10.7
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 6.0	- 1.3	- 1.2	- 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 8.7
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 8.8	- 0.5	- 2.7	- 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 12.2
South Carolina	- 6.1	- 0.7	- 0.1	- 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 7.0
Appalachian South Carolina	- 6.2	- 0.8	- 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.5	+ 6.8
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 6.1	- 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.6	+ 0.1	+ 7.2
Tennessee	- 7.3	- 0.5	- 0.3	- 0.1	0.0	+ 8.2
Appalachian Tennessee	- 5.6	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.1	+ 6.3
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 8.5	- 0.7	- 0.4	- 0.2	0.0	+ 9.4
Virginia	- 9.4	- 1.2	- 2.1	- 0.3	- 0.1	+ 13.0
Appalachian Virginia	- 4.7	- 0.3	- 0.4	0.0	0.0	+ 5.3
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 9.8	- 1.2	- 2.2	- 0.4	- 0.1	+ 13.6
West Virginia (entire state)	- 4.4	- 0.5	- 0.4	- 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 5.5

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Table 8.10: Percentage Point Change in Means of Transportation for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Below the Poverty Level, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Means of Transportation	Percentage Point Change in Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over Below the Poverty Level					
	Car, Truck, or Van (Drove Alone)	Car, Truck, or Van (Carpooled)	Public Transportation (Excluding Taxicab)	Walked	Taxicab, Motorcycle, Bicycle, or Other Means	Worked at Home
United States	- 1.5	- 0.2	- 2.1	- 0.9	+ 0.1	+ 4.7
Appalachian Region	- 1.4	- 0.2	- 0.9	- 1.0	+ 0.1	+ 3.4
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 2.3	- 1.8	+ 0.6	+ 3.8
North Central Appalachia	+ 1.0	- 1.3	- 0.5	- 1.0	- 0.5	+ 2.4
Central Appalachia	- 2.4	- 0.6	- 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 3.4
South Central Appalachia	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.6	- 0.5	- 0.7	+ 2.4
Southern Appalachia	- 3.8	+ 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 4.1
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	- 2.1	0.0	- 2.3	- 1.5	+ 0.4	+ 5.5
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	- 1.2	- 0.2	- 1.1	- 0.9	+ 0.1	+ 3.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 1.3	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 1.5	+ 0.1	+ 3.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 0.8	- 0.7	+ 2.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 2.2	- 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.8	+ 0.7	+ 2.5
Alabama	- 2.3	- 1.0	- 0.2	0.0	0.0	+ 3.6
Appalachian Alabama	- 3.1	- 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 3.7
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 1.2	- 1.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	- 0.6	+ 3.3
Georgia	- 2.1	- 0.7	- 2.6	- 0.3	0.0	+ 5.6
Appalachian Georgia	- 4.8	+ 1.2	- 0.2	- 0.7	- 0.4	+ 4.9
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 1.1	- 1.6	- 3.4	- 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 5.9
Kentucky	- 1.5	+ 0.2	- 1.1	- 0.7	+ 0.1	+ 3.0
Appalachian Kentucky	- 3.5	- 0.8	- 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 4.4
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.7	+ 0.6	- 1.5	- 0.8	- 0.1	+ 2.5
Maryland	+ 1.4	- 1.3	- 4.7	- 1.3	+ 1.1	+ 4.7
Appalachian Maryland	+ 5.0	- 1.3	- 2.5	- 2.9	+ 0.2	+ 1.3
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 1.3	- 1.2	- 4.8	- 1.2	+ 1.2	+ 4.9
Mississippi	- 2.8	- 0.1	- 0.1	+ 0.4	- 0.5	+ 3.1
Appalachian Mississippi	- 4.9	+ 0.5	+ 1.1	+ 0.7	+ 1.0	+ 1.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 2.4	- 0.1	- 0.3	+ 0.3	- 0.8	+ 3.4
New York	+ 1.0	+ 0.4	- 5.9	- 1.8	+ 1.3	+ 5.0
Appalachian New York	- 3.5	+ 3.1	- 2.1	- 3.3	+ 0.6	+ 5.3
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 1.4	+ 0.2	- 6.1	- 1.7	+ 1.4	+ 4.9
North Carolina	- 1.0	- 2.0	- 1.1	- 0.6	0.0	+ 4.6
Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.2	+ 1.2	- 0.1	- 1.0	- 1.4	+ 1.3
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 1.1	- 2.8	- 1.2	- 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 5.4
Ohio	- 2.2	+ 0.2	- 1.8	- 0.9	0.0	+ 4.5
Appalachian Ohio	- 3.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	- 0.5	+ 0.2	+ 3.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 1.8	+ 0.2	- 2.2	- 0.9	- 0.1	+ 4.9
Pennsylvania	+ 1.3	- 1.0	- 4.2	- 1.8	+ 0.9	+ 4.8
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.2	- 1.3	- 2.9	- 1.5	+ 0.4	+ 4.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.4	- 0.8	- 5.4	- 2.1	+ 1.4	+ 5.5
South Carolina	- 3.7	+ 0.1	- 0.4	- 0.8	+ 0.9	+ 4.0
Appalachian South Carolina	- 3.0	- 0.7	- 1.0	- 1.3	+ 1.4	+ 4.8
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 4.0	+ 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.5	+ 0.8	+ 3.6
Tennessee	- 1.4	- 1.3	- 0.8	- 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 3.7
Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.4	- 1.3	- 0.5	- 0.6	+ 0.1	+ 2.6
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 2.2	- 1.4	- 1.2	- 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 4.5
Virginia	- 1.1	0.0	- 2.6	- 1.4	- 0.8	+ 5.9
Appalachian Virginia	- 2.2	0.0	- 2.0	+ 1.1	- 0.6	+ 3.6
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 0.8	0.0	- 2.6	- 1.7	- 0.8	+ 6.2
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 2.9	- 1.2	- 1.0	- 1.6	- 0.5	+ 1.3

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2024, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$31,812. The poverty universe does not include unrelated individuals under age 15, people living in college dormitories, and people living in institutional group quarters.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Table 8.11: Percentage Point Change in Availability of Vehicles for Households in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Availability of Vehicles	Percentage Point Change in Share of Households				
	No Vehicle Available	One Vehicle Available	Two Vehicles Available	Three Vehicles Available	Four or More Vehicles Available
United States	- 0.2	+ 0.4	- 0.6	- 0.1	+ 0.5
Appalachian Region	- 0.5	- 0.1	- 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	- 0.3	+ 1.0	- 0.3	- 0.3	0.0
North Central Appalachia	- 0.5	+ 0.1	- 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.3
Central Appalachia	- 1.0	- 0.9	- 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 1.6
South Central Appalachia	- 0.5	- 1.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	+ 1.1
Southern Appalachia	- 0.6	- 0.3	- 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 0.8
County Types					
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	- 0.7	+ 0.7	- 0.4	- 0.1	+ 0.5
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	- 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 0.7	- 0.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	- 0.5	- 0.6	- 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.8
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 0.6	- 0.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
Alabama	- 0.7	- 0.5	- 0.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.8
Appalachian Alabama	- 0.6	- 0.6	- 0.2	+ 0.8	+ 0.7
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 0.8	- 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.8
Georgia	- 0.6	0.0	- 0.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.8
Appalachian Georgia	- 0.3	+ 0.6	- 0.9	- 0.2	+ 0.8
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 0.7	- 0.1	- 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.8
Kentucky	- 0.4	0.0	- 0.8	+ 0.4	+ 0.8
Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.7	- 1.0	- 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 1.5
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.4	+ 0.3	- 0.9	+ 0.3	+ 0.7
Maryland	- 0.2	+ 1.4	- 1.1	- 0.2	0.0
Appalachian Maryland	- 0.7	+ 0.8	+ 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 0.2	+ 1.5	- 1.2	- 0.2	0.0
Mississippi	- 0.2	- 1.1	- 0.5	+ 0.6	+ 1.1
Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.3	- 0.7	- 0.6	- 0.1	+ 1.8
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.1	- 1.1	- 0.5	+ 0.7	+ 0.9
New York	+ 0.1	+ 0.9	- 0.5	- 0.5	- 0.1
Appalachian New York	+ 0.2	+ 0.9	+ 0.2	- 1.2	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.1	+ 0.9	- 0.5	- 0.5	0.0
North Carolina	- 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.9
Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.6	- 0.7	- 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 1.2
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.4	- 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.7
Ohio	- 0.4	+ 0.8	- 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.2
Appalachian Ohio	0.0	+ 0.2	- 0.3	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 0.6	+ 0.9	- 0.3	- 0.3	+ 0.2
Pennsylvania	- 0.5	+ 1.2	- 0.4	- 0.4	+ 0.1
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.6	+ 1.1	- 0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.5	+ 1.2	- 0.5	- 0.5	+ 0.3
South Carolina	- 0.6	- 0.5	0.0	+ 0.3	+ 0.8
Appalachian South Carolina	- 1.1	- 0.7	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	+ 0.4
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.4	- 0.4	- 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.8
Tennessee	- 0.5	- 0.4	0.0	0.0	+ 1.0
Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.6	- 1.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.3	+ 1.3
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.4	+ 0.4	- 0.5	- 0.2	+ 0.7
Virginia	0.0	+ 1.0	- 0.8	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Appalachian Virginia	- 0.6	- 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.1	+ 1.2	- 1.0	- 0.3	0.0
West Virginia (entire state)	- 0.7	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.4

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Table 8.12: Percentage Point Change in Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Live in Households With No Vehicle Available, by Means of Transportation, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Availability of Vehicles	Percentage Point Change in Share Who Live in Households With No Vehicle Available						
	Total Workers Ages 16 and Over	Car, Truck, or Van (Drove Alone)	Car, Truck, or Van (Carpooled)	Public Transportation (Excluding Taxicab)	Walked	Taxicab, Motorcycle, Bicycle, or Other Means	Worked at Home
United States	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	- 0.1	+ 4.5	- 0.8	+ 1.0	+ 0.7
Appalachian Region	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	- 0.4	+ 4.8	+ 0.1	- 0.5	- 0.5
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 7.9	+ 0.5	+ 4.3	- 1.5
North Central Appalachia	0.0	+ 0.3	- 0.7	- 0.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	- 0.9
Central Appalachia	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	- 0.2	+ 4.0	- 4.1	- 2.7	+ 0.1
South Central Appalachia	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	- 0.6	- 4.4	+ 2.0	- 3.6	+ 0.1
Southern Appalachia	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.7	- 1.5	- 4.9	+ 0.2
County Types							
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	0.0	+ 0.3	- 0.4	+ 5.7	+ 0.8	- 1.5	+ 0.1
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	- 0.2	+ 3.4	+ 0.6	- 0.5	+ 0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	0.0	+ 0.2	- 0.5	+ 2.2	- 0.4	- 2.2	- 2.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 9.4	- 0.8	+ 0.6	- 1.5
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	- 1.4	+ 0.9	- 1.2	+ 4.0	- 0.8
Alabama	0.0	+ 0.2	- 0.5	- 12.8	- 5.2	- 0.1	0.0
Appalachian Alabama	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	0.0	- 12.3	- 3.5	+ 0.6	- 0.3
Non-Appalachian Alabama	0.0	+ 0.1	- 1.3	- 13.2	- 8.3	- 0.9	+ 0.8
Georgia	- 0.1	+ 0.4	- 0.8	- 3.3	- 0.7	- 2.4	+ 0.3
Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	- 0.7	+ 2.0	- 8.4	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 0.3	+ 0.3	- 1.4	- 3.3	- 1.7	- 0.4	+ 0.3
Kentucky	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	- 0.1	- 7.9	- 0.2	+ 1.3	- 0.8
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	- 0.8	+ 0.4	- 1.7	- 1.1	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	0.0	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	- 8.6	+ 0.3	+ 1.9	- 0.9
Maryland	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 7.1	+ 0.3	+ 6.4	+ 0.6
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.4	+ 0.7	- 2.3	+ 22.0	- 6.9	+ 12.1	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.2	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	+ 6.9	+ 0.6	+ 6.3	+ 0.6
Mississippi	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	- 1.2	+ 9.7	+ 5.9	- 2.2	+ 1.0
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	- 0.4	+ 11.3	+ 4.7	- 1.1	+ 2.6
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	- 1.4	+ 9.3	+ 6.2	- 2.4	+ 0.7
New York	+ 0.2	+ 0.7	- 0.4	+ 1.9	- 1.9	- 1.8	+ 3.9
Appalachian New York	+ 0.8	+ 0.5	- 0.5	+ 13.0	+ 1.8	+ 4.4	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.1	+ 0.7	- 0.4	+ 1.9	- 2.0	- 2.1	+ 3.8
North Carolina	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 1.1	- 0.7	- 3.0	- 1.2	+ 0.5
Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.1	+ 0.3	- 1.6	- 7.7	- 2.3	- 5.2	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	0.0	+ 0.2	- 0.9	- 0.1	- 3.3	- 0.3	+ 0.5
Ohio	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	- 0.4	+ 3.8	+ 2.5	+ 2.6	- 1.3
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.5	+ 0.3	0.0	+ 11.7	+ 1.2	+ 6.4	- 2.1
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	- 0.5	+ 3.4	+ 2.8	+ 1.9	- 1.1
Pennsylvania	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	- 0.3	+ 4.0	+ 1.1	+ 1.0	- 1.2
Appalachian Pennsylvania	0.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 6.6	+ 0.1	+ 3.2	- 1.4
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.1	+ 0.7	- 0.9	+ 3.2	+ 1.9	- 0.3	- 1.4
South Carolina	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	- 1.4	+ 3.9	- 5.2	+ 0.7	+ 0.1
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 1.3	+ 20.8	- 7.4	- 5.9	+ 0.6
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	- 1.5	- 0.1	- 4.7	+ 2.9	0.0
Tennessee	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	- 1.6	+ 4.6	+ 0.8	- 0.1
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	- 4.9	+ 7.0	- 2.9	0.0
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	- 0.5	+ 2.8	+ 2.7	- 0.2
Virginia	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	- 0.1	+ 5.5	+ 1.4	- 1.9	+ 0.5
Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	- 0.7	+ 3.7	- 0.7	+ 2.6	- 0.6
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	- 0.1	+ 5.5	+ 1.5	- 2.1	+ 0.5
West Virginia (entire state)	- 0.1	+ 0.3	- 0.9	- 3.4	- 2.0	- 1.5	- 0.8

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Table 8.13: Change in Relationship Between Number of Workers and Availability of Vehicles for Households in the Appalachian Region With One or More Workers, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Availability of Vehicles	Percentage Point Change in Share of Households With One or More Workers			
	Households With Zero Vehicles	Households Where Workers Exceed Vehicles	Households Where Workers Equal Vehicles	Households Where Vehicles Exceed Workers
United States	+ 0.2	+ 0.5	- 0.1	- 0.6
Appalachian Region	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.4	+ 0.1
Subregions				
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.3	0.0	- 0.1	- 0.3
North Central Appalachia	0.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.6	- 0.6
Central Appalachia	+ 0.2	0.0	- 0.8	+ 0.6
South Central Appalachia	+ 0.1	0.0	- 0.9	+ 0.7
Southern Appalachia	0.0	+ 0.4	- 0.3	- 0.2
County Types				
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	0.0	+ 0.6	+ 0.2	- 0.7
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	+ 0.2	0.0	- 0.4	+ 0.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	0.0	- 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	+ 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.6	+ 0.6
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	- 1.6	+ 1.3
Alabama	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.4	+ 0.2
Appalachian Alabama	0.0	+ 0.1	- 0.5	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 0.1	+ 0.1	0.0	0.0
Georgia	- 0.1	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.5
Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.2	+ 0.8	+ 0.3	- 1.3
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.2
Kentucky	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.5	+ 0.2
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.3	0.0	- 1.1	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	0.0	+ 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.2
Maryland	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.8
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.7	0.0
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	- 0.8
Mississippi	+ 0.4	0.0	- 1.5	+ 1.0
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.2	+ 0.5	- 2.6	+ 1.8
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.5	0.0	- 1.2	+ 0.8
New York	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	- 0.1	- 0.8
Appalachian New York	+ 1.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	- 1.5
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	- 0.2	- 0.8
North Carolina	0.0	+ 0.4	0.0	- 0.4
Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.1	+ 0.2	- 1.4	+ 1.3
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	0.0	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.7
Ohio	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	- 0.8
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.4
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	- 0.9
Pennsylvania	+ 0.3	+ 0.6	- 0.1	- 0.7
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	0.0	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.3	+ 0.8	- 0.1	- 1.1
South Carolina	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.4	+ 0.1
Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.1	+ 0.7
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	- 0.4	- 0.1
Tennessee	+ 0.2	0.0	- 0.1	- 0.1
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.4	+ 0.4
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.3	0.0	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Virginia	+ 0.2	+ 0.7	+ 0.3	- 1.2
Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.2	+ 0.8	- 1.5	+ 0.5
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.3	+ 0.7	+ 0.4	- 1.3
West Virginia (entire state)	- 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	- 0.6

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Table 8.14: Change in Travel Time to Work for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, by Amount of Time, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Travel Time to Work (Minutes)	Percentage Point Change in Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over				Change in Mean Travel Time to Work (Minutes)
	Less Than 15 Minutes	15 Minutes to 29 Minutes	30 Minutes to 59 Minutes	60 Minutes or More	
United States	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	- 0.4	- 0.7	- 0.5
Appalachian Region	- 0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.5	0.0	+ 0.2
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.6	+ 0.2	- 0.4	- 0.5	- 0.3
North Central Appalachia	- 1.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	+ 0.6
Central Appalachia	+ 0.4	- 1.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.6	+ 0.7
South Central Appalachia	- 0.8	- 0.7	+ 0.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.7
Southern Appalachia	- 0.1	- 0.3	+ 0.8	- 0.3	+ 0.1
County Types					
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	+ 0.2	+ 0.9	0.0	- 1.1	- 0.6
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	- 0.5	- 0.7	+ 0.8	+ 0.4	+ 0.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 0.4	- 0.8	+ 1.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	- 0.4	- 1.0	+ 0.9	+ 0.5	+ 0.5
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 0.8	+ 0.4	- 0.1	+ 0.4	+ 0.4
Alabama	- 0.7	- 0.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 0.6
Appalachian Alabama	- 0.4	- 0.5	+ 0.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 1.3	+ 0.5	- 0.2	+ 0.9	+ 0.7
Georgia	+ 0.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	- 1.1	- 0.5
Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.9	- 1.6	- 0.7
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.8	- 0.4
Kentucky	+ 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.4
Appalachian Kentucky	0.0	- 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.1	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.3
Maryland	+ 1.7	+ 2.1	- 0.6	- 3.2	- 2.1
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.9	+ 0.8	- 1.4	- 0.4	- 0.6
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 1.7	+ 2.1	- 0.5	- 3.3	- 2.2
Mississippi	- 0.8	- 0.7	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	+ 0.8
Appalachian Mississippi	- 1.0	- 0.7	+ 0.8	+ 0.9	+ 0.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.8	- 0.6	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	+ 1.0
New York	+ 1.0	+ 1.0	- 0.5	- 1.5	- 1.0
Appalachian New York	+ 0.5	- 1.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.4
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 1.1	+ 1.1	- 0.6	- 1.5	- 1.1
North Carolina	- 0.3	- 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.5	- 0.5	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	+ 0.7
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.3	- 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Ohio	+ 0.8	+ 0.5	- 1.2	- 0.1	- 0.3
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.4
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 1.0	+ 0.6	- 1.3	- 0.3	- 0.3
Pennsylvania	+ 0.7	+ 1.0	- 0.5	- 1.3	- 0.9
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.7	+ 0.6	- 0.5	- 0.7	- 0.6
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.8	+ 1.3	- 0.6	- 1.6	- 1.2
South Carolina	- 0.3	- 0.5	+ 0.3	+ 0.6	+ 0.6
Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.8	- 1.0	+ 1.1	+ 0.8	+ 1.0
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.1	- 0.4	0.0	+ 0.5	+ 0.6
Tennessee	- 0.3	- 1.0	+ 0.8	+ 0.5	+ 0.5
Appalachian Tennessee	- 1.1	- 1.6	+ 1.7	+ 1.0	+ 1.0
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.2	- 0.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Virginia	+ 1.3	+ 1.6	- 1.1	- 1.7	- 1.4
Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.2	+ 0.8	- 1.3	+ 0.2	0.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 1.3	+ 1.7	- 1.2	- 1.9	- 1.4
West Virginia (entire state)	- 1.6	- 0.3	+ 1.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.7

Note: Persons ages 16 and over who primarily worked from home are excluded from this analysis.

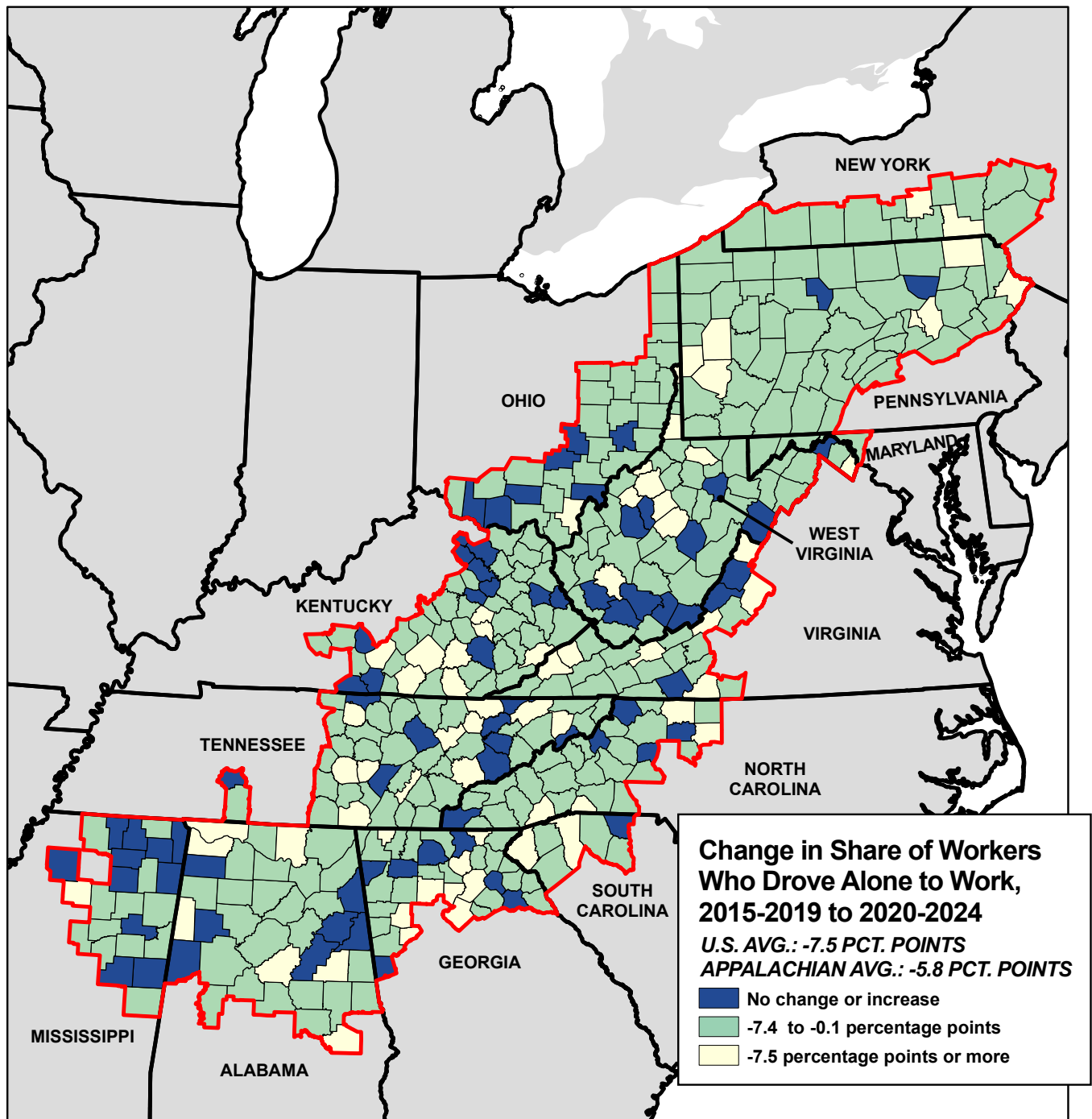
Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Table 8.15: Percentage Point Change in Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, by Place of Work (State and County Level), 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Place of Work (State and County Level)	Percentage Point Change in Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over			
	Worked in County of Residence	Worked Outside County of Residence		
		Total	Worked in State of Residence	Worked Outside State of Residence
United States	+ 3.1	- 3.1	- 2.5	- 0.6
Appalachian Region	+ 1.8	- 1.8	- 1.5	- 0.4
Subregions				
Northern Appalachia	+ 2.1	- 2.1	- 1.7	- 0.4
North Central Appalachia	+ 1.5	- 1.5	- 1.2	- 0.3
Central Appalachia	+ 0.9	- 0.9	- 0.4	- 0.6
South Central Appalachia	+ 0.8	- 0.8	- 0.6	- 0.2
Southern Appalachia	+ 2.8	- 2.8	- 2.6	- 0.2
County Types				
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	+ 4.3	- 4.3	- 3.9	- 0.4
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	+ 1.1	- 1.1	- 1.1	- 0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	+ 0.8	- 0.8	+ 0.4	- 1.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	+ 0.9	- 0.9	- 0.4	- 0.5
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.3
Alabama	+ 0.6	- 0.6	- 0.3	- 0.3
Appalachian Alabama	+ 0.8	- 0.8	- 0.5	- 0.3
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.2
Georgia	+ 4.6	- 4.6	- 4.3	- 0.3
Appalachian Georgia	+ 6.0	- 6.0	- 5.6	- 0.4
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 4.1	- 4.1	- 3.9	- 0.2
Kentucky	+ 1.5	- 1.5	- 0.9	- 0.6
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 1.3	- 1.3	- 1.3	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 1.6	- 1.6	- 0.9	- 0.8
Maryland	+ 8.6	- 8.6	- 4.5	- 4.2
Appalachian Maryland	+ 1.6	- 1.6	- 1.8	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 8.9	- 8.9	- 4.6	- 4.3
Mississippi	+ 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.3	+ 0.1
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.2	- 0.2	0.0	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.4	- 0.4	- 0.4	+ 0.1
New York	+ 5.6	- 5.6	- 5.0	- 0.5
Appalachian New York	+ 1.3	- 1.3	- 1.0	- 0.3
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 5.8	- 5.8	- 5.3	- 0.5
North Carolina	+ 2.0	- 2.0	- 1.6	- 0.4
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 0.7	- 0.7	- 0.4	- 0.3
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 2.3	- 2.3	- 1.8	- 0.5
Ohio	+ 2.2	- 2.2	- 1.9	- 0.3
Appalachian Ohio	+ 1.6	- 1.6	- 1.0	- 0.5
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 2.3	- 2.3	- 2.1	- 0.2
Pennsylvania	+ 4.2	- 4.2	- 3.4	- 0.8
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 2.6	- 2.6	- 2.1	- 0.5
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 5.6	- 5.6	- 4.3	- 1.2
South Carolina	+ 2.0	- 2.0	- 1.5	- 0.5
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 0.7	- 0.7	- 1.0	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 2.5	- 2.5	- 1.7	- 0.8
Tennessee	+ 1.1	- 1.1	- 0.8	- 0.3
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.2	- 0.2	0.0	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 1.8	- 1.8	- 1.5	- 0.3
Virginia	+ 8.5	- 8.5	- 5.6	- 2.7
Appalachian Virginia	+ 2.5	- 2.5	- 2.1	- 0.4
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 8.9	- 8.9	- 6.0	- 3.0
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 0.8	- 0.8	- 0.8	0.0

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Figure 8.8: Percentage Point Change in Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Drove Alone to Work, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

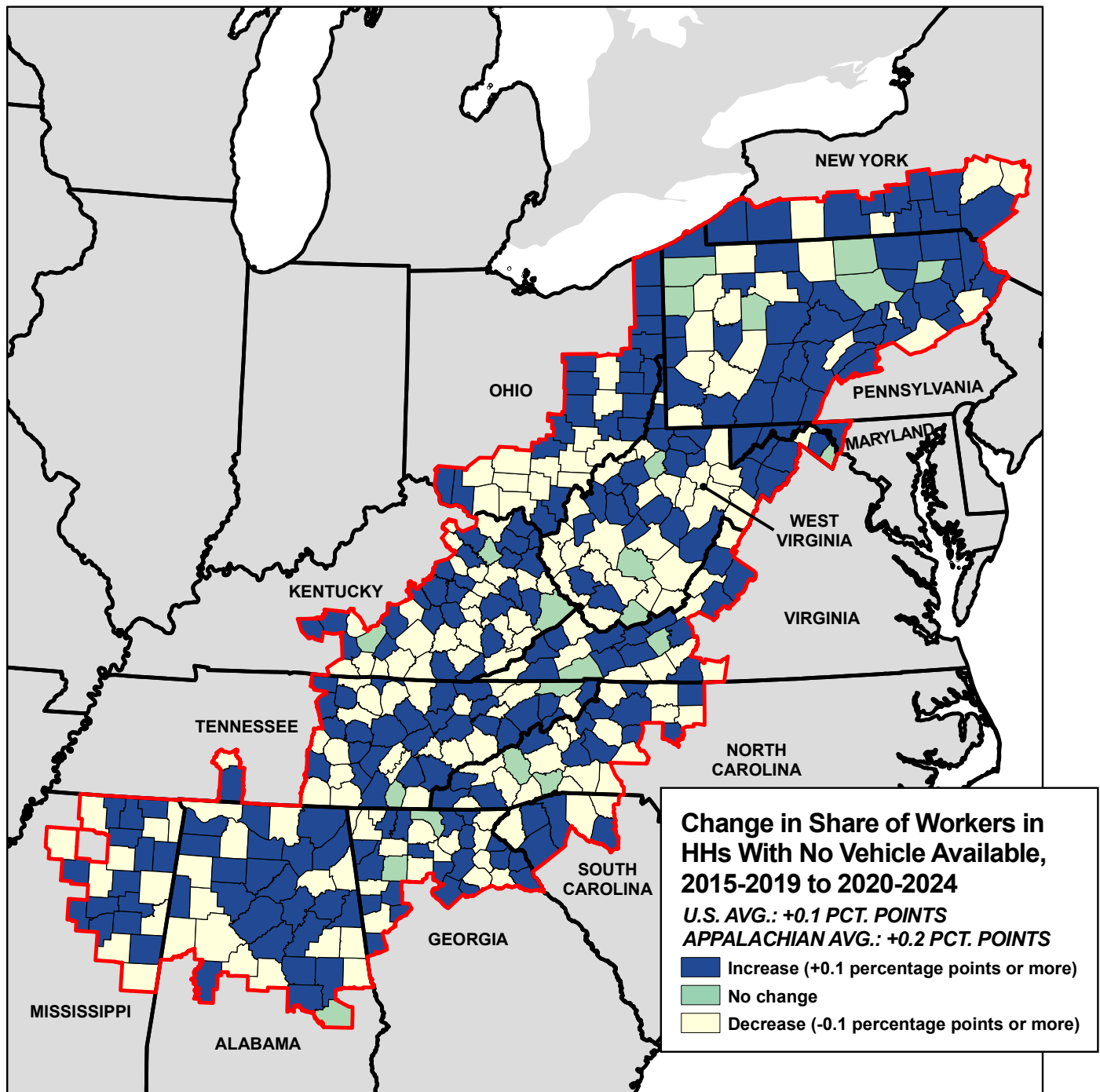


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Drove Alone to Work, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachian workers who drove alone to work fell by 5.8 percentage points between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024, compared with a decrease of 7.5 percentage points nationwide. These time periods reflect the years immediately before the COVID-19 pandemic in comparison to the pandemic period and its aftermath. Pandemic mitigation efforts (such as lockdown measures) likely had an impact on the change in those driving alone to work, due to increases in remote work among those who may have otherwise driven alone. The decrease between the two periods was greater than or equal to the national average of 7.5 percentage points in 69 of Appalachia's 423 counties and the largest decrease was in large metro counties, at 8.7 percentage points. Yet, despite the pandemic's potential impacts, in 75 other counties the percentage of workers driving alone remained constant or increased between the two periods.

Figure 8.9: Percentage Point Change in Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Live in Households With No Vehicle Available, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

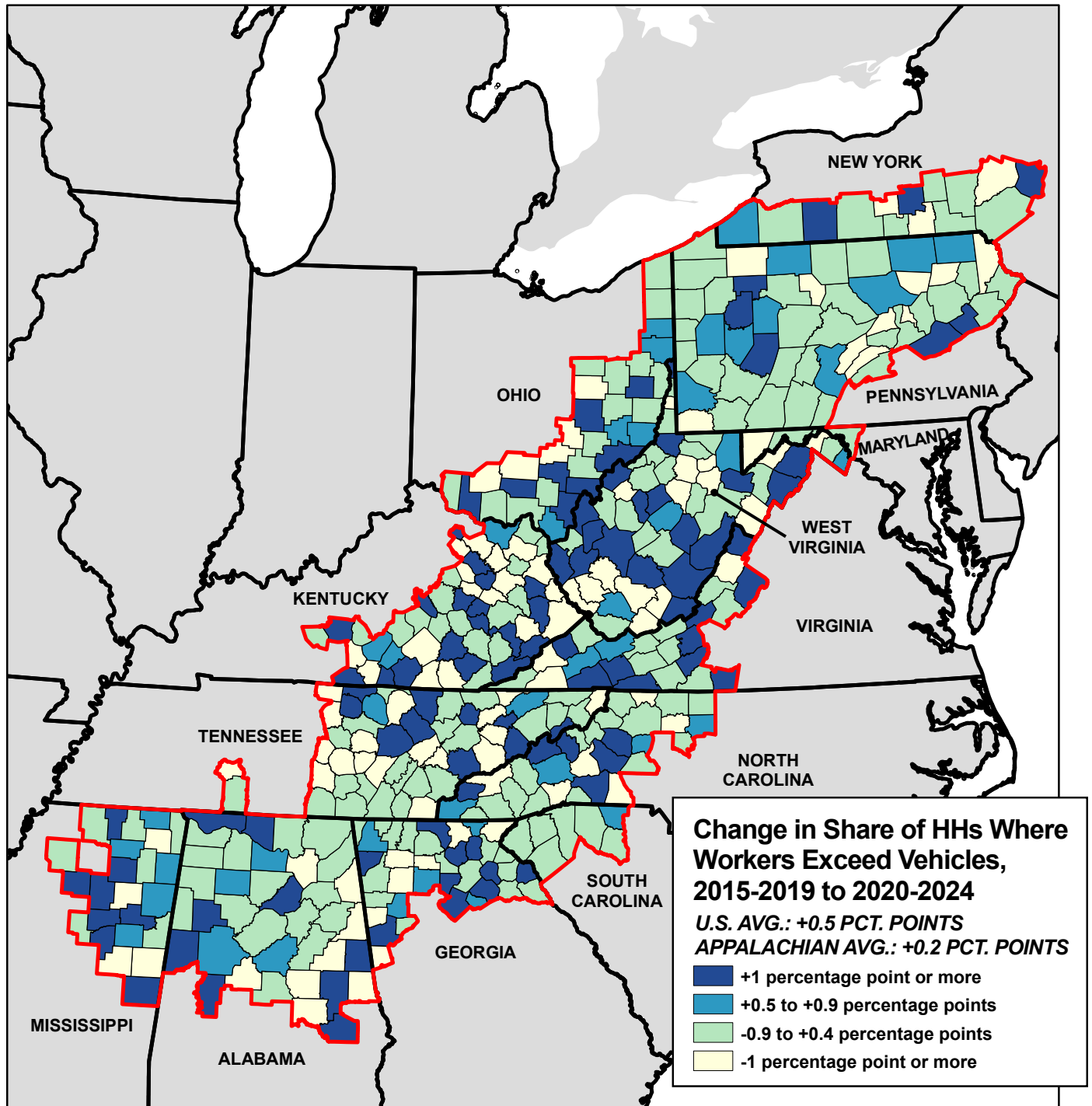


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Live in Households With No Vehicle Available, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Between the 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 periods, the share of workers in households with no vehicle increased slightly in Appalachia (0.2 percentage points) and just slightly above the nation as a whole (0.1 percentage points). Yet in 173 of Appalachia's 423 counties, the share of workers in households with no vehicle decreased. By contrast, the percentage remained constant or increased in another 250 counties throughout the Appalachian Region, as well as in the Appalachian portions of all but two of the 13 Appalachian states – the exceptions were North Carolina and West Virginia where the share fell by 0.1 percentage points. The increase exceeded the regional average in the Appalachian sections of seven states, with the highest increases in the Appalachian portions of New York (0.8) and Ohio (0.5).

Figure 8.10: Percentage Point Change in Share of Households With One or More Workers in the Appalachian Region Where the Number of Workers Exceeds the Number of Vehicles Available, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

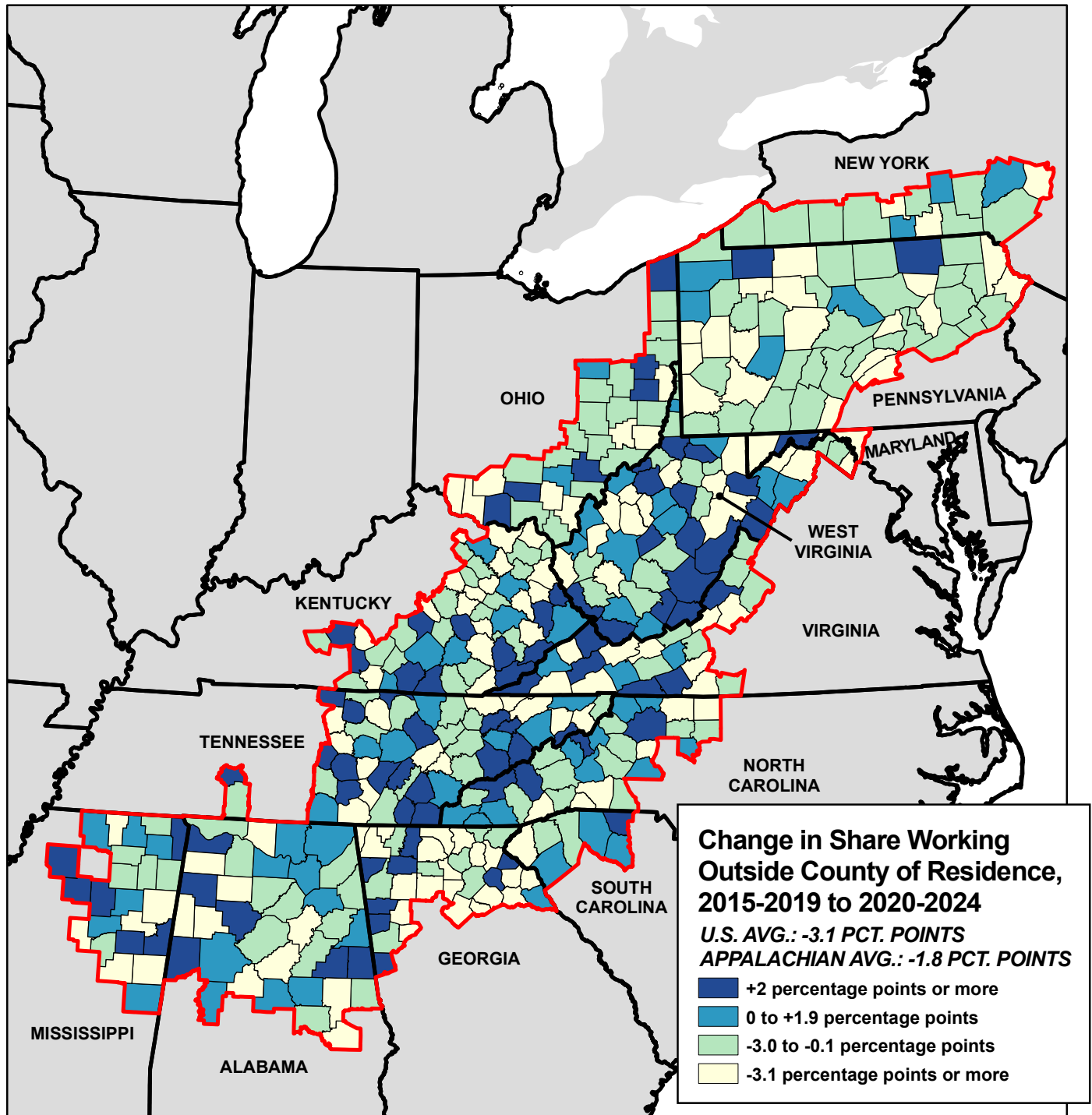


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in Share of Households With One or More Workers in the Appalachian Region Where the Number of Workers Exceeds the Number of Vehicles Available, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024, the percentage of Appalachian households where the number of workers exceeded the number of available vehicles increased by 0.2 percentage points, compared with a slightly higher increase of 0.5 percentage points nationwide. Within the Appalachian Region, however, many counties saw a decline in the share of households with more workers than vehicles. In 97 of Appalachia's 423 counties, for example, the share of households where workers exceeded vehicles decreased by at least a full percentage point. Meanwhile, the share increased by a full point or more in another 105 Appalachian counties.

Figure 8.11: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Worked Outside Their County of Residence, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Worked Outside Their County of Residence, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachian residents working outside their county of residence was 1.8 percentage points lower in 2020-2024 than in 2015-2019, while the share who worked in another county nationwide fell by 3.1 percentage points. Yet, the decrease was even greater in much of the Appalachian Region: In 128 of Appalachia's 423 counties, the share fell by at least the national average. On the other hand, there were 153 Appalachian counties where the share working outside their residential county was the same or higher in 2020-2024. In 84 of these counties, the increase was at least two percentage points.

TRENDS IN TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUTING PATTERNS

- At 76.1 percent, the share of Appalachian workers who drove alone to work in 2020-2024 was 5.8 percentage points lower than it was in 2015-2019 (see Tables 8.1 and 8.9) and likewise decreased in all five subregions, all five rural-urban county types, and in the Appalachian section of all 13 states. The decreases were greatest in Southern Appalachia (seven percentage points), counties in large metropolitan areas (8.7 percentage points), and in the Appalachian sections of Alabama and Pennsylvania (six percentage points), Georgia (nine percentage points), and South Carolina (6.2 percentage points). The percentage of Appalachian workers carpooling to their jobs also declined; that share fell 0.5 percentage points between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024.
- The share of those working at home increased 6.9 percentage points between the two periods, largely reflecting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (Table 8.9). Yet, the increase in the share of those working at home in the nation as a whole was three percentage points greater than for the Appalachian Region. Rural counties in Appalachia saw increases of less than four percentage points, while the region's large metro areas had a rise in working from home (10.8 percentage points) which exceeded the national average.
- The share of Appalachian workers below the poverty level (\$31,812 for a family of two adults and two children in 2024) who drove alone to their jobs (69.7 percent in 2020-2024) was lower than the share for all Appalachian workers, although the change from 2015-2019 (1.4 percentage point decrease) was not as pronounced in comparison (see Tables 8.2 and 8.10). Still, the general patterns between the two periods were similar to that of all workers – including decreases in workers living below the poverty level who drive alone and carpool to work (1.4 and 0.2 percentage points, respectively), and an increase in the share of workers living below the poverty level who work from home (3.4 percentage points). However, the share of workers in poverty who drove alone did rise in some parts of Appalachia, such as the Appalachian parts of Maryland (five percentage points), Pennsylvania (1.2 percentage points), and West Virginia (2.9 percentage points).
- In 2020-2024, 6.6 percent of Appalachian households lacked an available vehicle to get to current and/or potential employment, down 0.5 percentage points from 2015-2019 (see Tables 8.3 and 8.11). Within the region, the decline occurred among every subregion, every rural-urban county type, and in the Appalachian portions of every state except for New York, which experienced a slight increase (0.2 percentage points), and Appalachian Ohio which remained stable. The decline was largest in Appalachian Kentucky, Maryland, and West Virginia (0.7 percentage points), and South Carolina (1.1 percentage points).
- The share of workers in households with no vehicle available (2.8 percent) slightly increased in Appalachia (0.2 percentage points) between the 2015-2019 and the 2020-2024 periods (see Tables 8.5 and 8.12). Among all of the subregions and county types the share either remained stable or rose no more than 0.3 percentage points. Among the Appalachian portions of states, the share of workers in households with no vehicles increased by more than 0.3 percentage points in the Appalachian sections of Maryland (0.4), Mississippi (0.4), New York (0.8), and Ohio (0.5). For workers lacking a vehicle in Appalachia, public transportation usage grew (4.8 percentage points) which was slightly more than the national average increased (4.5 percentage points).
- On average, Appalachian workers traveled 25.8 minutes to their jobs in 2020-2024, 0.2 minutes longer than they did in 2015-2019 (see Tables 8.7 and 8.14), and the average commute generally became longer throughout the region. On the other hand, mean travel time decreased since 2015-2019 in Northern Appalachia (0.3 minutes), large metro counties (0.6 minutes) and Appalachian Georgia (0.7 minutes), Maryland (0.6 minutes), and Pennsylvania (0.6 minutes).
- In the Appalachian Region, 30.2 percent of employed residents ages 16 and over worked outside their county of residence in 2020-2024, representing a decrease of 1.8 percentage points from the 2015-2019 period (see Tables 8.8 and 8.15). And this decline was consistent throughout much of the region: the share decreased in all of the Appalachian subregions, rural-urban county types, and in all of the Appalachian sections of states.

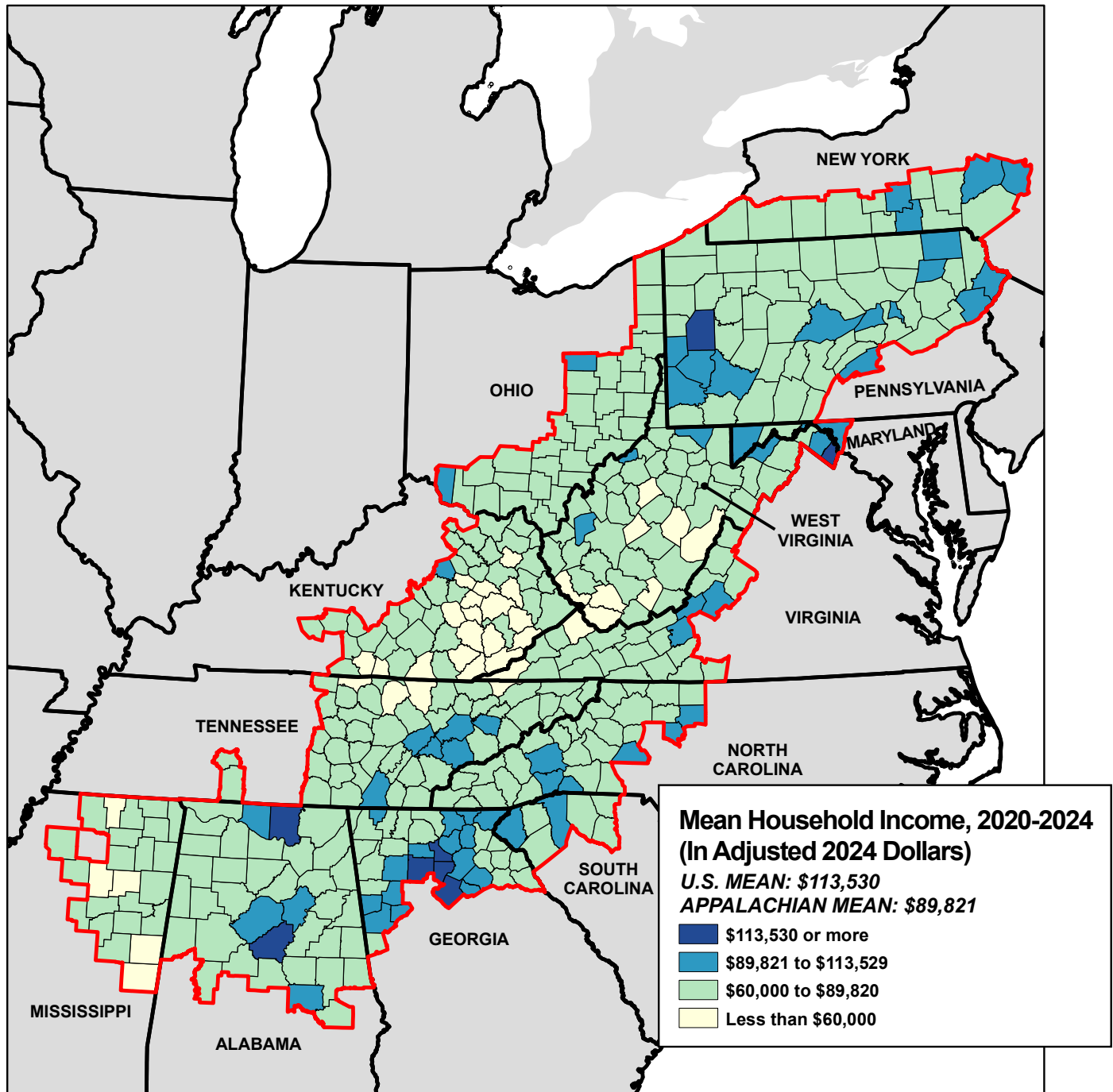
CHAPTER 9: INCOME AND POVERTY

Table 9.1: Household, Family, and Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-2024

Income	Household Income, 2020-2024 (2024 Dollars)		Family Income, 2020-2024 (2024 Dollars)		Per Capita Income, 2020-2024 (2024 Dollars)
	Mean HH Income	Median HH Income	Mean Family Income	Median Family Income	
United States	\$113,530	\$80,734	\$134,109	\$99,999	\$44,673
Appalachian Region	\$89,821	\$66,555	\$107,815	\$85,002	\$36,770
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	\$90,541	\$67,806	\$110,755	\$88,643	\$38,496
North Central Appalachia	\$83,500	\$62,315	\$100,550	\$80,615	\$34,780
Central Appalachia	\$68,288	\$50,224	\$81,681	\$64,742	\$27,923
South Central Appalachia	\$87,747	\$64,138	\$105,754	\$81,848	\$36,749
Southern Appalachia	\$97,168	\$72,365	\$114,088	\$89,792	\$37,633
County Types					
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	\$106,691	\$80,457	\$127,268	\$100,831	\$42,603
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	\$90,601	\$66,973	\$109,580	\$86,151	\$37,411
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	\$81,176	\$62,095	\$96,125	\$78,439	\$33,043
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	\$77,534	\$58,507	\$92,316	\$74,307	\$32,269
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	\$72,219	\$52,913	\$86,963	\$68,826	\$29,774
Alabama	\$88,898	\$63,999	\$108,061	\$83,032	\$36,087
Appalachian Alabama	\$92,522	\$67,578	\$111,743	\$86,706	\$37,399
Non-Appalachian Alabama	\$82,328	\$59,111	\$101,178	\$77,863	\$33,694
Georgia	\$106,944	\$77,353	\$124,976	\$93,754	\$40,924
Appalachian Georgia	\$108,423	\$84,420	\$121,966	\$97,851	\$39,142
Non-Appalachian Georgia	\$106,305	\$74,425	\$126,497	\$92,206	\$41,758
Kentucky	\$87,807	\$63,726	\$105,537	\$81,505	\$35,821
Appalachian Kentucky	\$67,522	\$49,616	\$80,276	\$63,698	\$27,328
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	\$94,707	\$69,703	\$114,558	\$89,371	\$38,752
Maryland	\$136,642	\$103,678	\$162,068	\$127,817	\$52,979
Appalachian Maryland	\$92,329	\$70,890	\$109,584	\$89,507	\$37,430
Non-Appalachian Maryland	\$138,596	\$105,771	\$164,318	\$130,182	\$53,636
Mississippi	\$78,922	\$56,447	\$94,579	\$73,163	\$31,549
Appalachian Mississippi	\$72,324	\$52,343	\$87,582	\$69,884	\$29,587
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	\$80,701	\$57,836	\$96,447	\$74,304	\$32,059
New York	\$128,247	\$85,974	\$151,821	\$106,873	\$50,712
Appalachian New York	\$86,112	\$65,329	\$105,388	\$85,747	\$36,184
Non-Appalachian New York	\$130,699	\$88,237	\$154,396	\$109,014	\$51,498
North Carolina	\$101,208	\$72,388	\$120,769	\$90,290	\$41,385
Appalachian North Carolina	\$86,720	\$63,274	\$104,419	\$80,223	\$36,670
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	\$104,739	\$74,790	\$124,751	\$93,644	\$42,501
Ohio	\$96,990	\$71,389	\$118,759	\$92,749	\$40,552
Appalachian Ohio	\$80,898	\$61,487	\$97,407	\$79,123	\$33,602
Non-Appalachian Ohio	\$100,175	\$73,625	\$123,160	\$96,546	\$41,947
Pennsylvania	\$107,538	\$77,971	\$130,780	\$100,262	\$44,355
Appalachian Pennsylvania	\$93,710	\$69,925	\$114,965	\$91,508	\$40,033
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	\$118,869	\$86,468	\$143,213	\$109,103	\$47,699
South Carolina	\$95,567	\$69,324	\$113,803	\$86,707	\$39,236
Appalachian South Carolina	\$93,912	\$68,742	\$111,386	\$86,043	\$37,920
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	\$96,157	\$69,632	\$114,686	\$87,914	\$39,712
Tennessee	\$96,820	\$69,595	\$114,915	\$87,314	\$39,437
Appalachian Tennessee	\$87,887	\$64,375	\$105,267	\$81,710	\$36,462
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	\$103,714	\$74,282	\$122,484	\$93,167	\$41,679
Virginia	\$128,260	\$93,170	\$151,714	\$115,213	\$50,666
Appalachian Virginia	\$77,878	\$56,552	\$96,347	\$75,854	\$33,016
Non-Appalachian Virginia	\$133,155	\$97,814	\$156,823	\$120,052	\$52,286
West Virginia (entire state)	\$81,190	\$59,608	\$98,068	\$77,710	\$34,203

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 9.1: Mean Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-2024

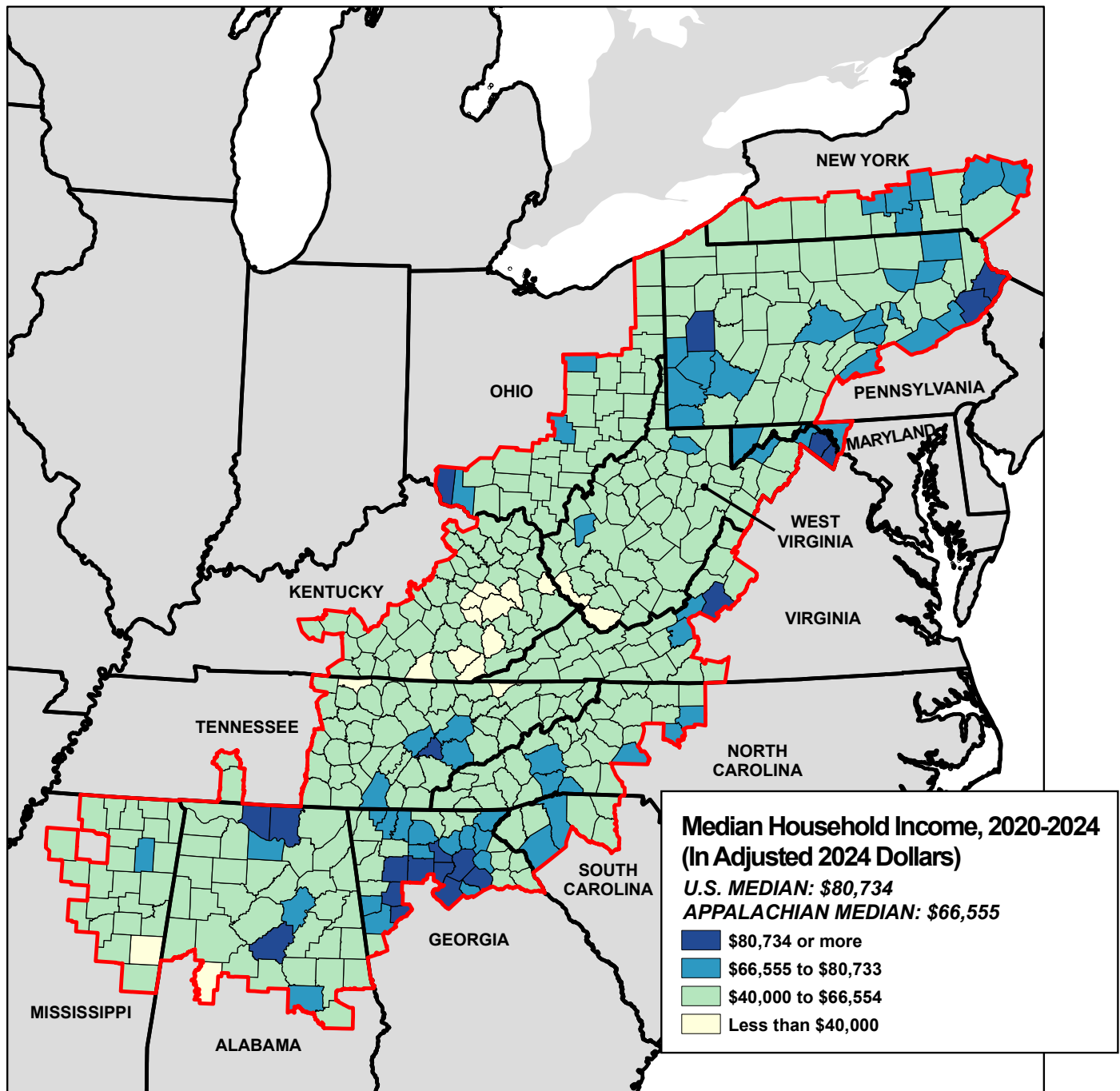


Map Title: Mean Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

In the 2020-2024 period, the mean income of Appalachian households was \$89,821, just 79 cents for every dollar of the U.S. average (\$113,530). In 70 counties (53 of which in metropolitan areas), the average household income was at least the regional average – eight of these counties, all of which were in metropolitan areas, had average household income that matched or exceeded the national mean. In contrast, mean household income was less than \$60,000 in 37 counties – all but two of which were outside metro areas, and 27 of which were in Central Appalachia (18 in Kentucky alone).

Figure 9.2: Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-2024

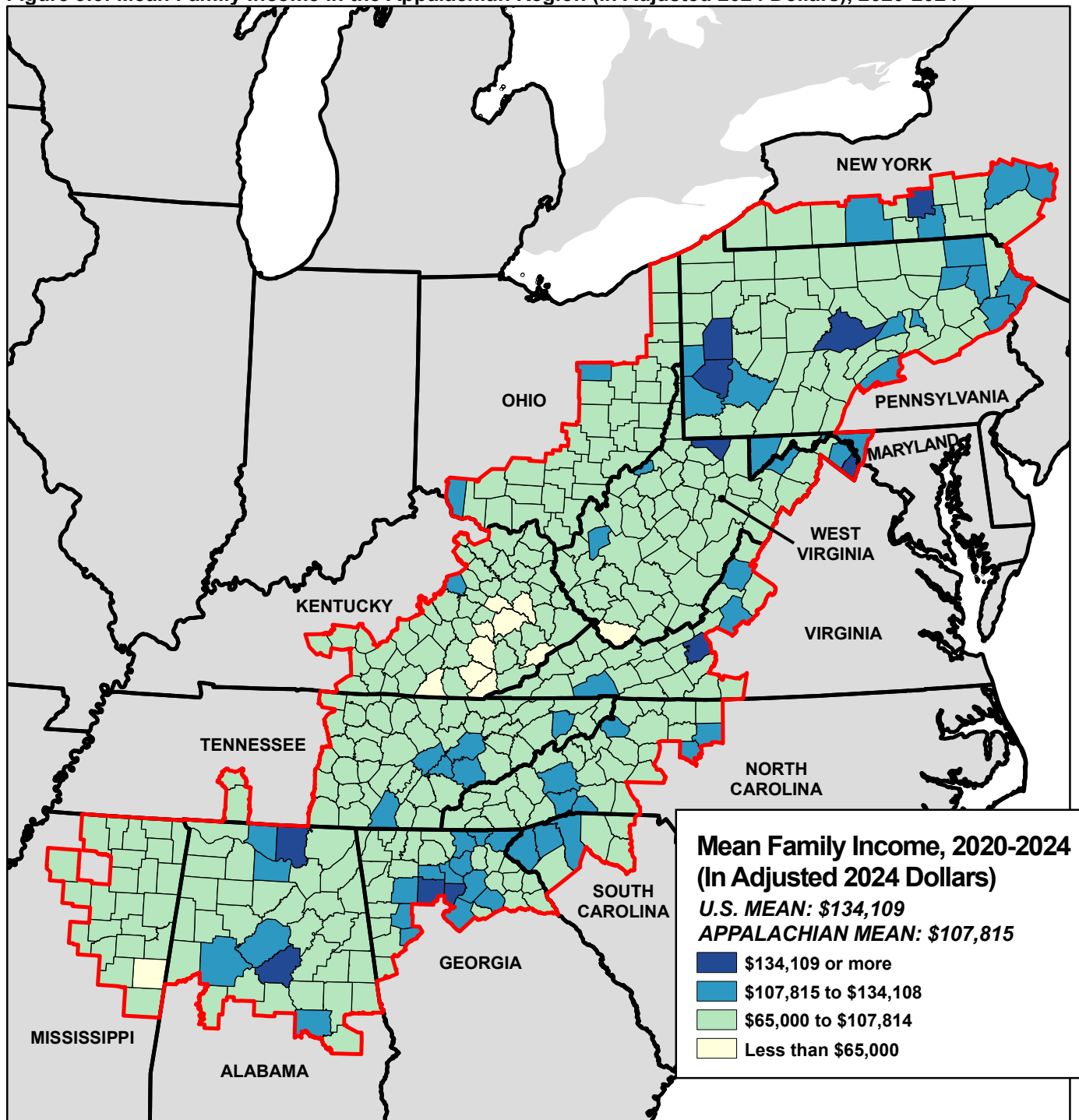


Map Title: Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

At \$66,555, median household income in Appalachia (the point at which half the households have higher incomes and the other half have lower incomes) was just 82 cents for every dollar of the United States median (\$80,734) during the 2020-2024 period. There were 81 counties in Appalachia (57 of which were in metropolitan areas) that had household incomes at or above the Appalachian median, and 20 of these counties had incomes at or above the national median. On the other hand, 16 counties in the region had median household incomes below \$40,000 – all but one of which were outside metro areas and all but two were in Central Appalachia. This distribution is not surprising: median household income was \$52,913 for rural counties and \$50,224 for Central Appalachia. It is useful to note that the income levels displayed here reflect income received during the five-year period inclusive of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 9.3: Mean Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-2024

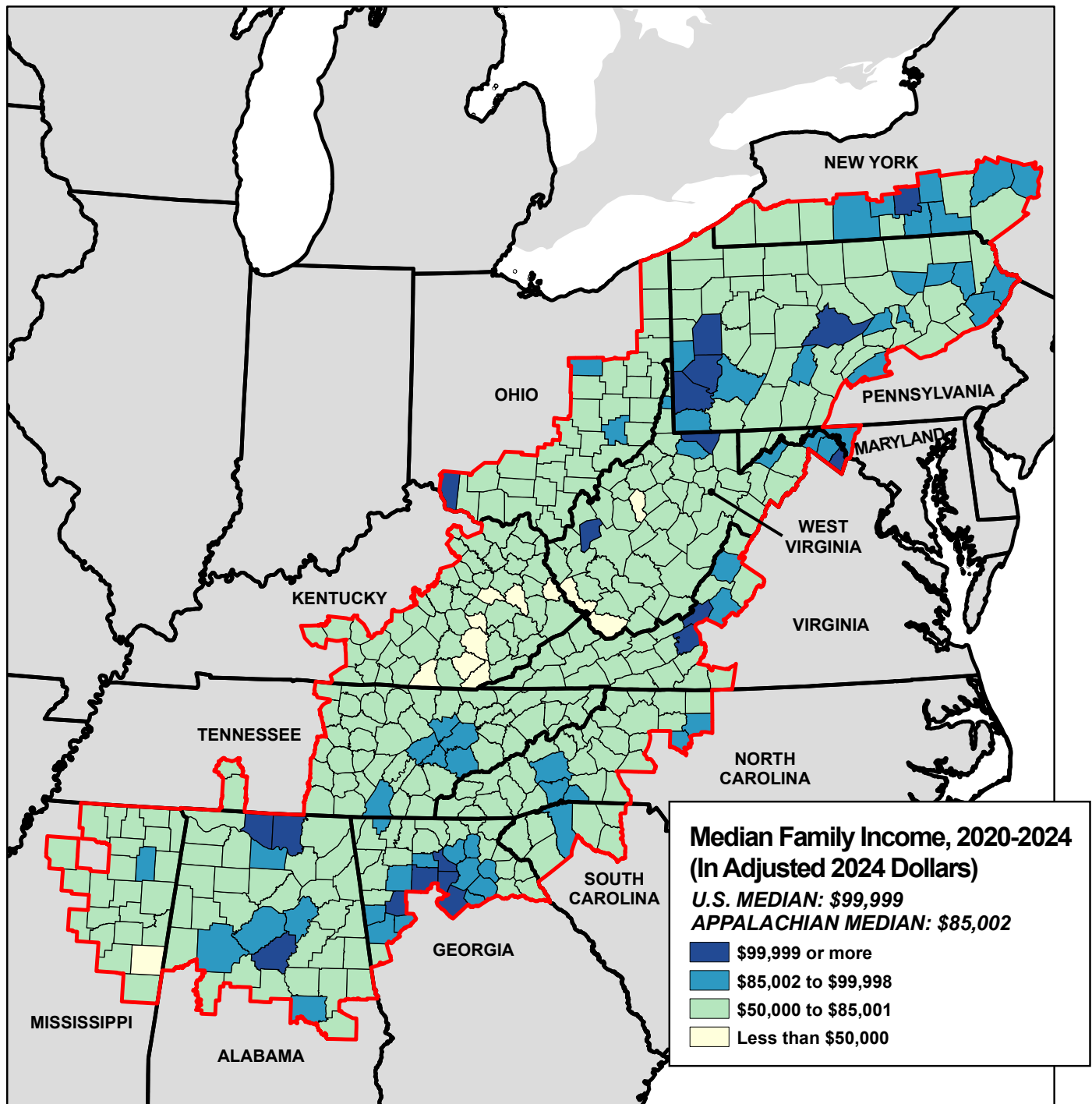


Map Title: Mean Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Average family income in Appalachia was just 80 percent of the national average of \$134,109 in 2020-2024. In 70 Appalachian counties (51 of which were in metropolitan areas), the average income of families matched or surpassed the regional average of \$107,815 for the 2020-2024 period. And of this group, there were 11 counties (all of which were part of metro areas) where the mean family income was equal to or greater than the national average. In contrast, mean family income was less than \$65,000 in 11 Appalachian counties, all of which were in rural areas. Additionally, all but one of the counties in the lowest income group were in Central Appalachia with nine of these in Kentucky alone. Overall, the mean family income over the 2020-2024 period was just \$86,963 for rural counties, \$81,681 for Central Appalachia, and \$80,276 for Appalachian Kentucky.

Figure 9.4: Median Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-2024

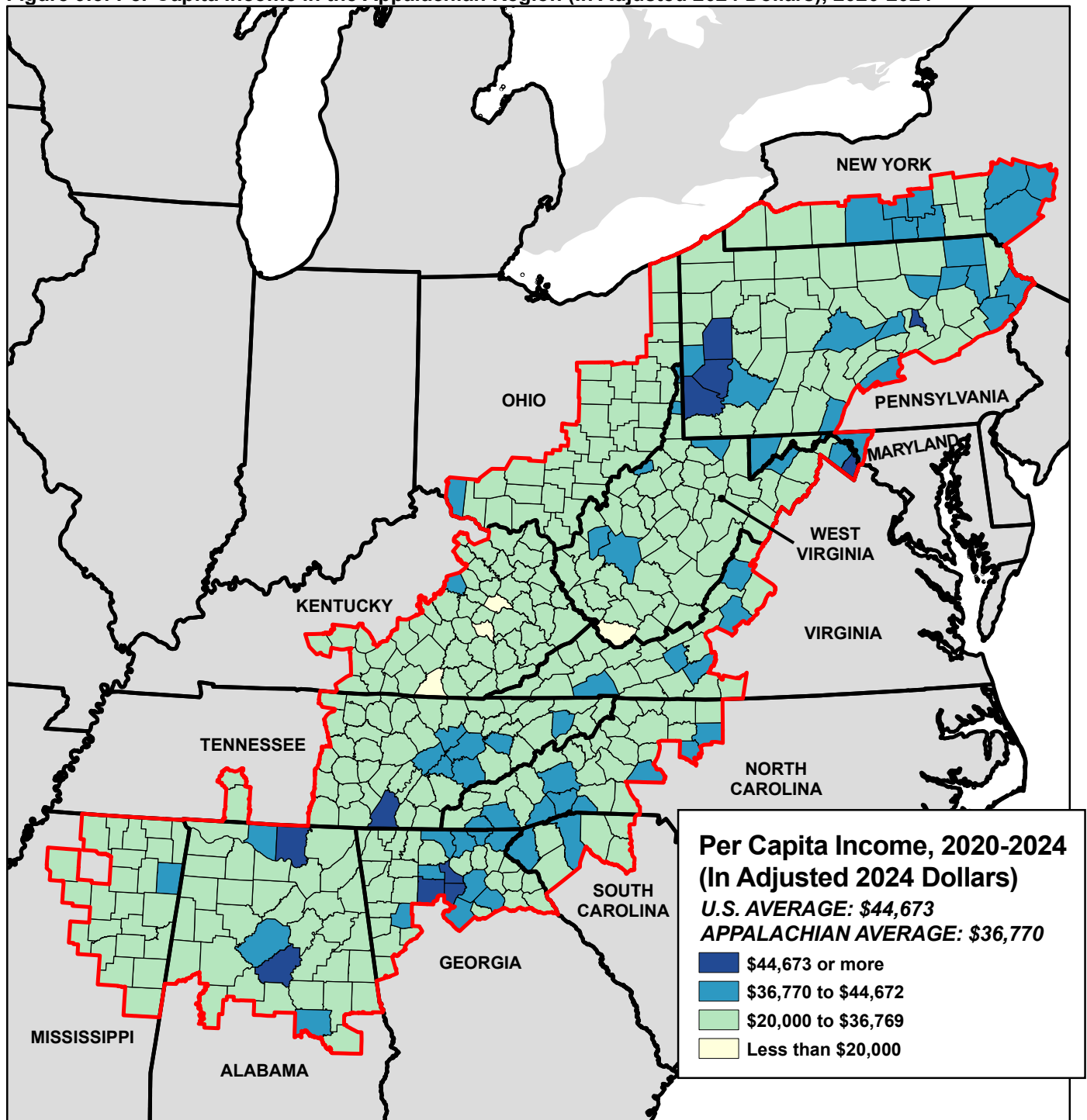


Map Title: Median Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

At \$85,002, median family income in Appalachia was just 85 cents for every dollar of the U.S. median (\$99,999) during the 2020-2024 period. Yet in 78 Appalachian counties – 58 of which were in metro areas – median family income (the level where half of all families have higher incomes while the other half have lower incomes) matched or exceeded the Appalachian Region's median (\$85,002). In 19 of these counties (all of which were in metros), median income was at or above the median for families in the U.S. In contrast, median family income was less than \$50,000 in 12 counties. All but three of the latter group were rural counties not adjacent to a metro area (where median family income in the region's rural counties overall was \$68,826), and eight were in Appalachian Kentucky (where median family income was \$63,698 – the lowest among the Appalachian portions of states).

Figure 9.5: Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-2024



Map Title: Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

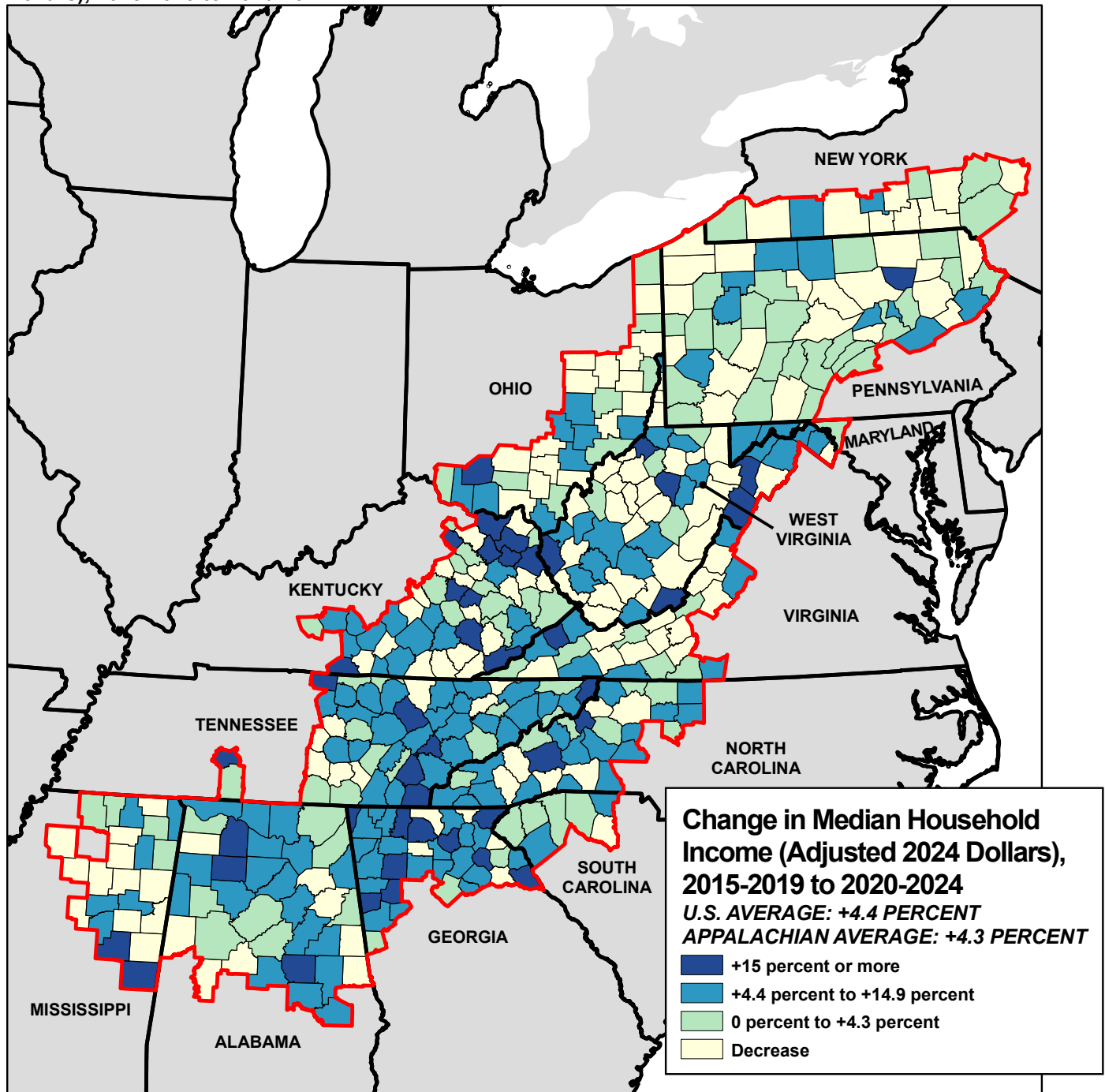
At \$36,770, per capita income in the Appalachian Region was just 82 cents for every dollar of the U.S. average of \$44,673 during the 2020-2024 period. And there was considerable variation within the Appalachian Region. Per capita income was the same or higher than the regional average in 79 Appalachian counties; most of these counties were in Northern Appalachia with large pockets in South Central and Southern Appalachia. In 11 of these counties, per capita income was at or above the national average – all but one of which were in metro areas including Pittsburgh and suburban Atlanta. Yet, per capita income was below the regional average in 344 counties – more than half (206) of which were rural or nonmetropolitan counties adjacent to small metros.

Table 9.2: Change in Household, Family, and Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Income	Percent Change in Household Income (In 2024 Dollars)		Percent Change in Family Income (in 2024 Dollars)		Percent Change in Per Capita Income (In 2024 Dollars)
	Mean HH Income	Median HH Income	Mean Family Income	Median Family Income	
United States	+ 4.1	+ 4.4	+ 4.9	+ 5.2	+ 6.4
Appalachian Region	+ 3.8	+ 4.3	+ 4.7	+ 5.0	+ 5.2
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	+ 1.6	+ 1.2	+ 2.8	+ 2.5	+ 3.3
North Central Appalachia	+ 3.0	+ 3.6	+ 4.1	+ 5.0	+ 4.8
Central Appalachia	+ 2.5	+ 6.3	+ 4.3	+ 7.4	+ 3.4
South Central Appalachia	+ 5.3	+ 6.3	+ 6.0	+ 6.2	+ 6.5
Southern Appalachia	+ 5.1	+ 5.6	+ 5.6	+ 6.3	+ 6.6
County Types					
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	+ 3.8	+ 4.3	+ 4.3	+ 4.1	+ 4.8
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	+ 4.0	+ 4.3	+ 4.9	+ 5.0	+ 5.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	+ 2.8	+ 4.5	+ 3.1	+ 4.4	+ 4.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	+ 3.3	+ 3.7	+ 4.4	+ 4.2	+ 4.8
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 2.6	+ 3.3	+ 4.5	+ 5.1	+ 4.1
Alabama	+ 3.4	+ 2.9	+ 4.7	+ 4.7	+ 5.0
Appalachian Alabama	+ 4.0	+ 4.5	+ 5.3	+ 5.5	+ 5.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 2.2	+ 2.1	+ 3.4	+ 3.2	+ 4.0
Georgia	+ 5.4	+ 7.1	+ 6.0	+ 7.5	+ 7.0
Appalachian Georgia	+ 6.5	+ 7.8	+ 6.4	+ 7.9	+ 7.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 5.0	+ 6.3	+ 5.9	+ 7.3	+ 6.9
Kentucky	+ 1.7	+ 2.4	+ 3.3	+ 4.0	+ 3.3
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 1.9	+ 6.6	+ 3.7	+ 6.8	+ 2.7
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 1.4	+ 1.8	+ 2.9	+ 3.0	+ 3.2
Maryland	- 0.4	- 0.7	+ 0.9	+ 0.7	+ 2.2
Appalachian Maryland	+ 3.2	+ 4.3	+ 2.7	+ 3.2	+ 6.6
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 0.5	- 1.2	+ 0.8	+ 0.5	+ 2.0
Mississippi	+ 2.1	+ 1.7	+ 3.3	+ 4.3	+ 5.2
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 2.4	+ 1.8	+ 3.9	+ 6.0	+ 6.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 2.0	+ 1.9	+ 3.2	+ 3.7	+ 5.0
New York	+ 2.2	+ 2.0	+ 3.2	+ 2.9	+ 4.8
Appalachian New York	+ 0.8	+ 0.3	+ 2.6	+ 2.2	+ 2.7
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 2.2	+ 2.2	+ 3.1	+ 2.6	+ 4.8
North Carolina	+ 6.9	+ 7.7	+ 7.6	+ 7.2	+ 9.2
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 4.9	+ 6.2	+ 6.0	+ 5.2	+ 6.4
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 7.1	+ 7.0	+ 7.8	+ 7.6	+ 9.8
Ohio	+ 2.4	+ 2.5	+ 4.1	+ 4.0	+ 4.4
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.4	+ 1.3	+ 2.2	+ 2.4	+ 2.5
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 2.6	+ 2.3	+ 4.3	+ 4.7	+ 4.6
Pennsylvania	+ 3.0	+ 2.6	+ 4.1	+ 3.8	+ 4.9
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 2.2	+ 1.5	+ 3.2	+ 2.7	+ 3.6
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 2.9	+ 3.4	+ 4.1	+ 3.8	+ 5.6
South Carolina	+ 5.6	+ 5.9	+ 6.1	+ 6.2	+ 8.3
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 4.2	+ 4.2	+ 3.6	+ 3.1	+ 5.9
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 6.1	+ 5.8	+ 7.1	+ 7.5	+ 9.2
Tennessee	+ 5.2	+ 6.1	+ 5.5	+ 7.1	+ 7.3
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 5.6	+ 7.4	+ 6.0	+ 7.4	+ 6.6
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 4.7	+ 4.8	+ 5.1	+ 7.0	+ 7.8
Virginia	+ 2.4	+ 2.0	+ 3.6	+ 3.9	+ 4.8
Appalachian Virginia	+ 3.5	+ 1.8	+ 5.1	+ 4.7	+ 5.2
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 2.1	+ 1.1	+ 3.3	+ 2.8	+ 4.6
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 3.6	+ 3.7	+ 4.9	+ 5.9	+ 5.0

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Figure 9.6: Percent Change in Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent Change in Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Adjusting for inflation, the median income for Appalachian households (the level where half of all households have higher incomes while the other half have lower incomes) was 4.3 percent higher in 2020-2024 than it was in 2015-2019. While this was just slightly less than the national increase of 4.4 percent, household income rose at or above the national median in over two-fifths (188 counties) of Appalachia's 423 counties. Moreover, median household income rose at least 15 percent in 44 Appalachian counties between the two periods. But not all the news was positive: In 139 Appalachian counties, real median household income fell between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. Of these counties, two-thirds (92) were in non-metro areas.

Table 9.3: Number of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, by Age Group, 2020-2024

Poverty Status	All Ages	Under Age 18	Ages 18-64			Ages 65 and Over
			Total	Ages 18-24	Ages 25-64	
United States	40,735,661	11,678,577	22,989,925	5,106,325	17,883,600	6,067,159
Appalachian Region	3,660,109	1,021,559	2,086,191	450,520	1,635,671	552,359
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	1,026,855	275,781	587,671	131,246	456,425	163,403
North Central Appalachia	383,059	100,158	225,676	48,514	177,162	57,225
Central Appalachia	380,662	101,826	220,056	33,377	186,679	58,780
South Central Appalachia	734,135	194,108	423,389	100,786	322,603	116,638
Southern Appalachia	1,135,398	349,686	629,399	136,597	492,802	156,313
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	719,899	209,008	402,493	82,940	319,553	108,398
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	1,502,193	417,810	869,965	216,612	653,353	214,418
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	346,212	98,891	193,548	38,478	155,070	53,773
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	634,198	174,560	354,809	59,887	294,922	104,829
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	457,607	121,290	265,376	52,603	212,773	70,941
Alabama	772,360	236,808	430,050	99,059	330,991	105,502
Appalachian Alabama	461,507	138,815	256,789	57,714	199,075	65,903
Non-Appalachian Alabama	310,853	97,993	173,261	41,345	131,916	39,599
Georgia	1,430,012	457,697	792,111	175,998	616,113	180,204
Appalachian Georgia	371,602	119,475	202,923	38,865	164,058	49,204
Non-Appalachian Georgia	1,058,410	338,222	589,188	137,133	452,055	131,000
Kentucky	708,321	203,892	406,946	84,772	322,174	97,483
Appalachian Kentucky	251,122	68,537	145,645	24,082	121,563	36,940
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	457,199	135,355	261,301	60,690	200,611	60,543
Maryland	574,017	156,135	322,253	66,852	255,401	95,629
Appalachian Maryland	31,869	8,859	18,316	3,248	15,068	4,694
Non-Appalachian Maryland	542,148	147,276	303,937	63,604	240,333	90,935
Mississippi	538,793	175,348	292,162	60,524	231,638	71,283
Appalachian Mississippi	112,911	34,271	63,306	14,993	48,313	15,334
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	425,882	141,077	228,856	45,531	183,325	55,949
New York	2,711,742	730,485	1,522,265	292,596	1,229,669	458,992
Appalachian New York	152,488	36,855	95,200	29,047	66,153	20,433
Non-Appalachian New York	2,559,254	693,630	1,427,065	263,549	1,163,516	438,559
North Carolina	1,360,882	406,744	763,187	170,326	592,861	190,951
Appalachian North Carolina	280,860	75,575	157,862	33,044	124,818	47,423
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	1,080,022	331,169	605,325	137,282	468,043	143,528
Ohio	1,529,692	454,817	865,885	187,243	678,642	208,990
Appalachian Ohio	304,718	88,910	171,596	31,497	140,099	44,212
Non-Appalachian Ohio	1,224,974	365,907	694,289	155,746	538,543	164,778
Pennsylvania	1,475,496	408,658	824,732	170,137	654,595	242,106
Appalachian Pennsylvania	670,244	176,099	380,908	83,748	297,160	113,237
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	805,252	232,559	443,824	86,389	357,435	128,869
South Carolina	725,690	217,364	400,987	85,625	315,362	107,339
Appalachian South Carolina	189,378	57,125	106,381	25,025	81,356	25,872
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	536,312	160,239	294,606	60,600	234,006	81,467
Tennessee	950,340	289,295	530,766	111,676	419,090	130,279
Appalachian Tennessee	427,287	116,889	243,907	51,606	192,301	66,491
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	523,053	172,406	286,859	60,070	226,789	63,788
Virginia	837,363	229,811	482,446	117,209	365,237	125,106
Appalachian Virginia	118,170	25,359	73,848	22,578	51,270	18,963
Non-Appalachian Virginia	719,193	204,452	408,598	94,631	313,967	106,143
West Virginia (entire state)	287,953	74,790	169,510	35,073	134,437	43,653

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2024, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$31,812. 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, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

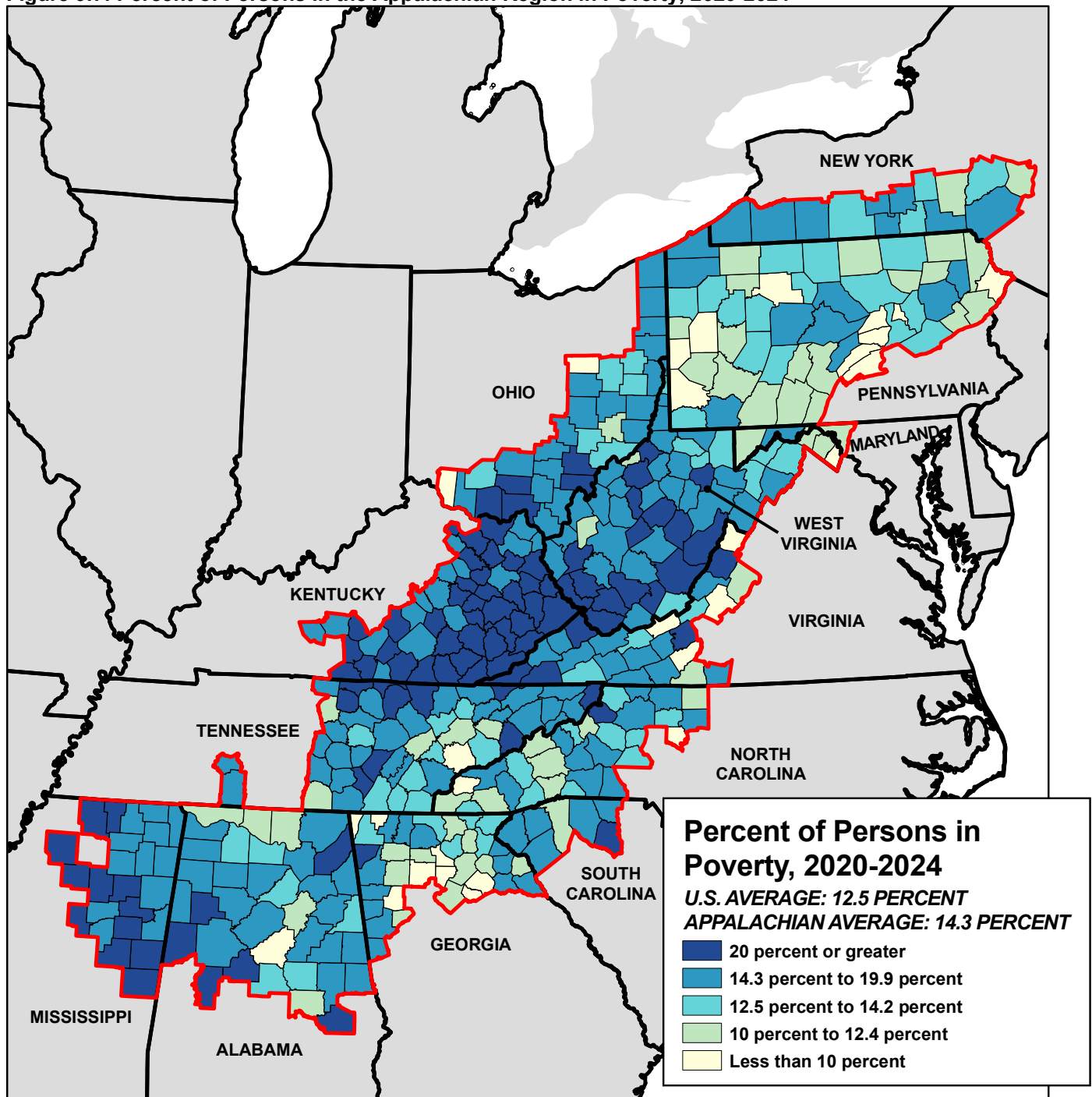
Table 9.4: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, by Age Group, 2020-2024

Poverty Status	All Ages	Under Age 18	Ages 18-64			Ages 65 and Over
			Total	Ages 18-24	Ages 25-64	
United States	12.5	16.1	11.6	18.7	10.5	10.8
Appalachian Region	14.3	18.8	13.7	21.5	12.4	11.1
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	13.3	18.0	12.9	21.9	11.6	9.9
North Central Appalachia	15.9	20.1	15.9	24.8	14.5	11.7
Central Appalachia	21.2	26.3	20.9	24.4	20.4	16.5
South Central Appalachia	14.2	18.8	13.8	23.9	12.2	10.9
Southern Appalachia	13.2	17.6	12.1	18.5	11.1	11.0
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	11.2	14.8	10.4	16.4	9.5	9.8
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	14.2	18.9	13.8	24.1	12.0	10.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	15.0	20.4	14.3	20.7	13.3	11.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	15.9	21.4	15.4	19.9	14.8	12.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	18.9	23.7	18.9	26.2	17.6	14.2
Alabama	15.6	21.3	14.6	23.6	13.1	12.0
Appalachian Alabama	14.5	19.4	13.4	21.3	12.1	11.7
Non-Appalachian Alabama	17.8	24.5	16.8	27.7	14.9	12.4
Georgia	13.4	18.3	12.1	18.7	10.9	11.3
Appalachian Georgia	10.8	14.4	9.6	13.0	9.1	9.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	14.6	20.1	13.2	21.3	11.8	12.0
Kentucky	16.1	20.3	15.4	23.0	14.2	12.8
Appalachian Kentucky	22.4	27.4	22.0	27.2	21.2	17.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	13.9	17.9	13.2	21.7	11.8	10.9
Maryland	9.4	11.5	8.7	14.1	7.9	9.5
Appalachian Maryland	13.4	17.7	13.0	16.4	12.5	10.0
Non-Appalachian Maryland	9.3	11.3	8.5	14.0	7.7	9.4
Mississippi	18.9	26.0	17.3	24.2	16.1	14.6
Appalachian Mississippi	19.2	25.1	18.2	26.7	16.5	14.8
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	18.8	26.2	17.1	23.4	16.0	14.5
New York	14.0	18.3	12.8	19.2	11.8	13.3
Appalachian New York	15.9	19.6	16.7	31.4	13.9	10.1
Non-Appalachian New York	13.9	18.3	12.6	18.4	11.7	13.5
North Carolina	13.0	17.7	12.0	19.6	10.8	10.6
Appalachian North Carolina	14.0	19.2	13.4	21.3	12.2	11.0
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	12.8	17.4	11.7	19.2	10.5	10.4
Ohio	13.3	17.8	12.6	20.0	11.4	10.0
Appalachian Ohio	15.9	21.4	15.4	20.7	14.5	11.5
Non-Appalachian Ohio	12.8	17.1	12.1	19.8	10.8	9.7
Pennsylvania	11.7	15.6	11.0	17.8	10.0	9.9
Appalachian Pennsylvania	12.3	16.5	11.8	20.7	10.6	9.6
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	11.3	15.0	10.3	15.6	9.5	10.1
South Carolina	14.1	19.4	13.1	20.7	11.9	11.0
Appalachian South Carolina	13.8	18.5	13.0	22.1	11.5	10.7
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	14.2	19.8	13.2	20.2	12.1	11.0
Tennessee	13.8	18.8	12.7	19.6	11.6	11.0
Appalachian Tennessee	14.4	19.2	13.8	21.6	12.6	11.3
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	13.3	18.6	11.9	18.2	10.9	10.8
Virginia	9.9	12.3	9.3	17.1	8.1	8.8
Appalachian Virginia	17.0	19.5	18.1	35.4	14.9	12.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	9.3	11.8	8.6	15.2	7.6	8.4
West Virginia (entire state)	16.7	21.5	16.8	25.4	15.4	12.0

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2024, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$31,812. 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, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 9.7: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2020-2024

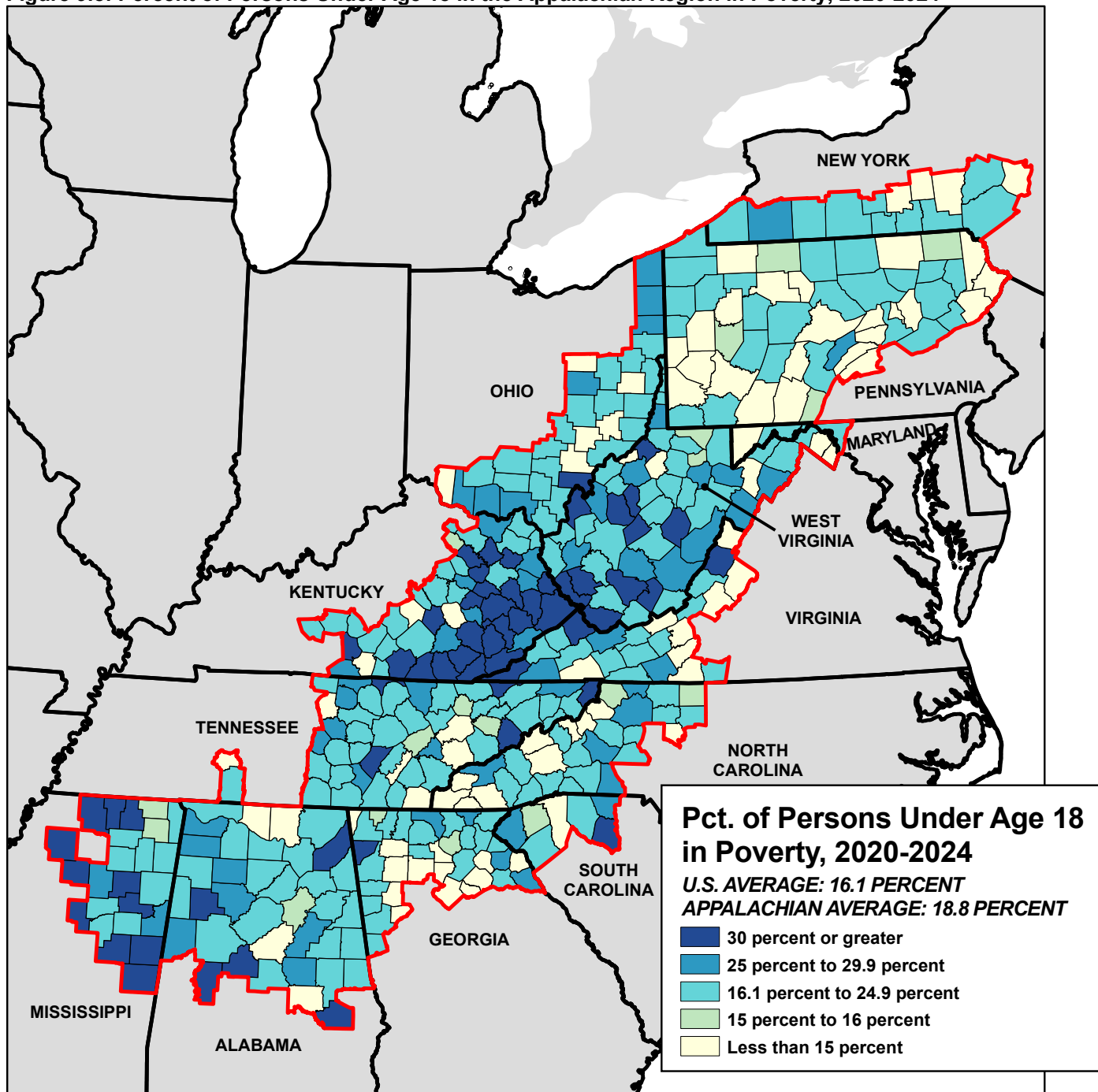


Map Title: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Over the 2020-2024 period, 14.3 percent of Appalachian residents lived below the poverty level (income below \$31,812 for a family of two adults and two children in 2024) – nearly two percentage points higher than the U.S. average. But there is a great deal of variation within Appalachia: In 95 counties, at least 20 percent of people were in poverty, yet in 86 counties the poverty rate was lower than the national average of 12.5 percent. And there was a geographic pattern: All but 13 of the counties with poverty rates at or above 20 percent were outside metropolitan areas, and more than half were in Central Appalachia which had a poverty rate of 21.2 percent. Appalachian Kentucky alone had 38 of these counties and a poverty rate of 22.4 percent, while West Virginia and the Appalachian portions of Mississippi and Tennessee also had high poverty clusters. In contrast, counties where poverty was lower than the U.S. rate were mostly in Northern Appalachia and/or metropolitan areas.

Figure 9.8: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2020-2024

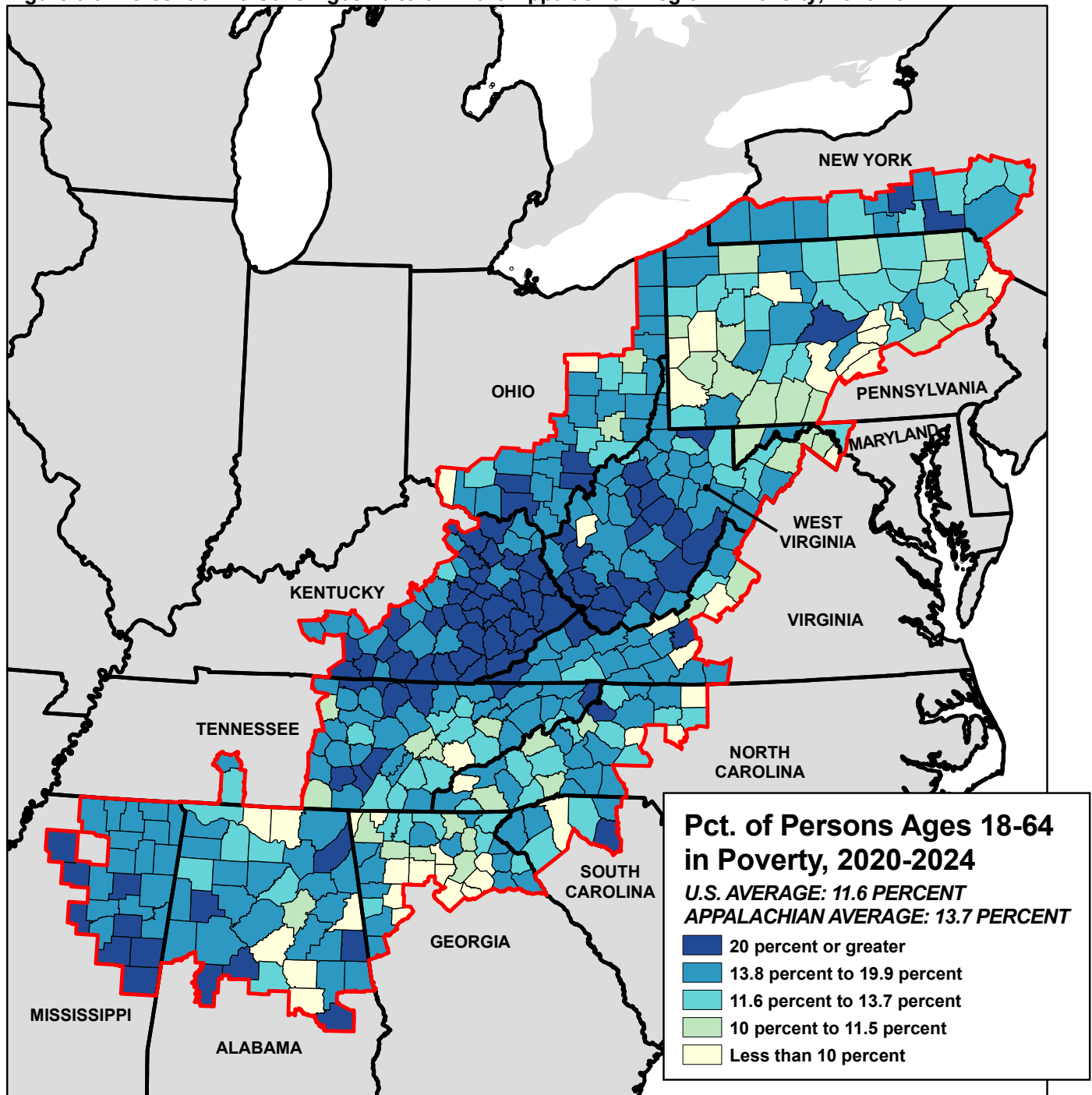


Map Title: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Child poverty in the Appalachian Region was 18.8 percent in 2020-2024 – 2.7 percentage points above the national rate of 16.1 percent. And the problem is even more acute in some parts of Appalachia. In 61 counties, at least 30 percent of children under age 18 lived below the poverty level (income below \$31,812 for a family of two adults and two children in 2024). All but eight of these counties were outside metropolitan areas and just over half were in the most rural areas. Central Appalachia was home to 30 of the counties with the highest child poverty rates, while another 18 were in Southern Appalachia. However, there were 102 counties (primarily in Northern Appalachia; with large pockets in Southern and South Central Appalachia) where child poverty rates were below the national average. And among the 84 counties where child poverty was less than 15 percent, 39 were in metro areas and 30 were in Northern Appalachia.

Figure 9.9: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2020-2024

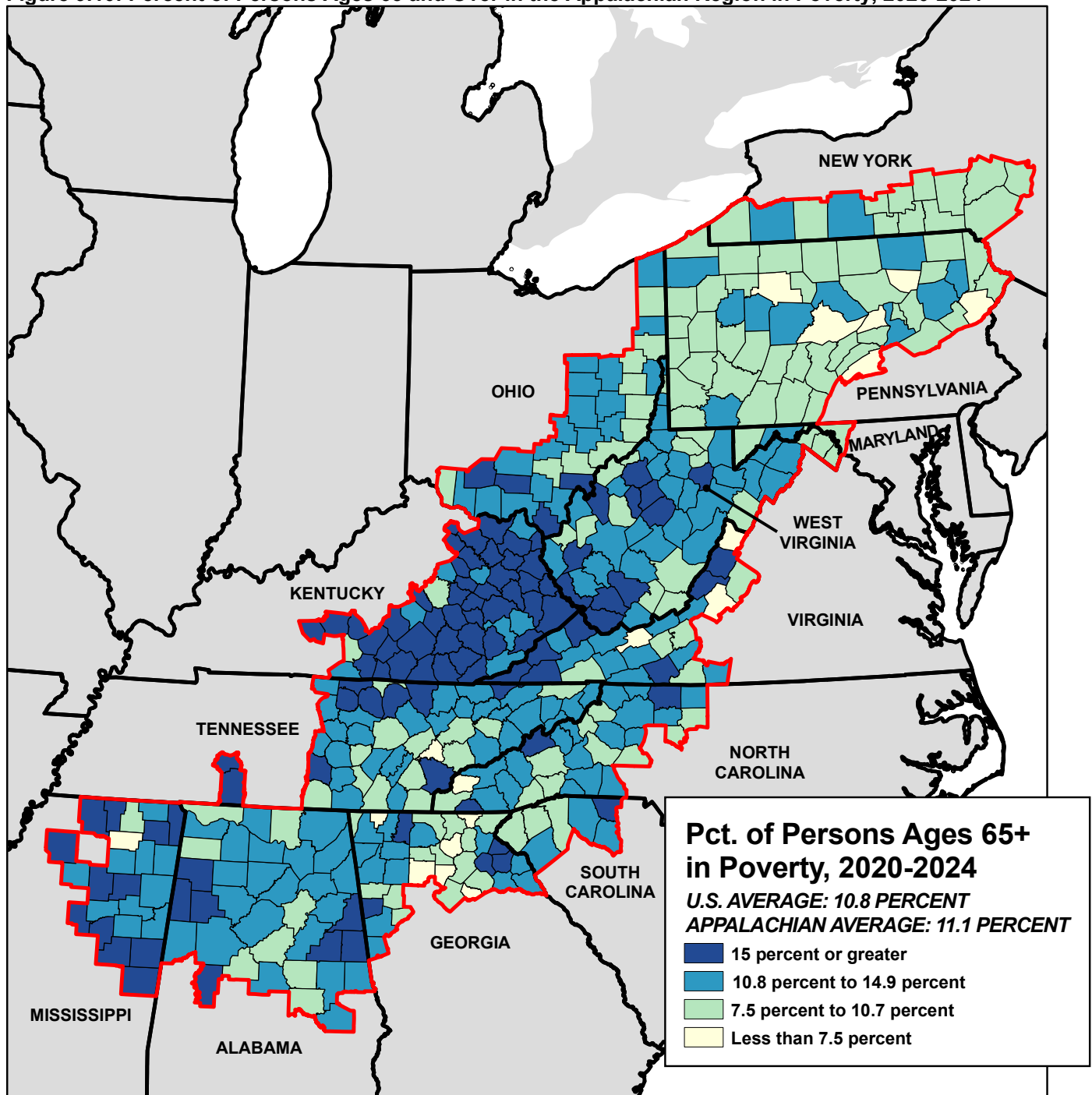


Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Though at slightly lower levels, the poverty pattern among adults ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region mirrored that for the overall population in the 2020-2024 period. The share of Appalachian residents in this age group with incomes below the poverty level (income of less than \$31,812 for a family of two adults and two children in 2024) was 13.7 percent, more than two percentage points above the U.S. average of 11.6 percent. Within the Appalachian Region, there were geographic patterns of poverty concentration. Of the 89 counties where at least one in five 18-to-64-year-olds were poor, 75 were outside metropolitan areas and 49 were in Central Appalachia – with 37 of these in Kentucky alone. Conversely, 50 of the 80 counties with rates below the national average were in metro areas and 28 were in Northern Appalachia, while another 26 were in Southern Appalachia – the two subregions with the lowest overall poverty rates for this age group.

Figure 9.10: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

The poverty rate for the oldest residents of Appalachia was 11.1 percent in 2020-2024, just above the national rate of 10.8 percent. Yet poverty among the 65-plus population was below the U.S. average in 149 counties, 61 of which were in Northern Appalachia alone, where the share of older adults in poverty was lowest at 9.9 percent. On the other hand, poverty was especially prevalent among the senior population in Central Appalachia, where 16.5 percent of residents ages 65 and over were poor in 2020-2024. Moreover, Appalachian Kentucky had 44 of the 104 Appalachian counties where the poverty rate among seniors was 15 percent or higher. (As determined by a series of income thresholds based on family size and composition, the poverty level in 2024 was \$18,961 for a family of two adults headed by someone age 65 or older.)

Table 9.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, by Age Group, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Poverty Status	Percentage Point Change in Share of Persons in Poverty					
	All Ages	Under Age 18	Ages 18-64			Ages 65 and Over
			Total	Ages 18-24	Ages 25-64	
United States	- 0.9	- 2.4	- 1.0	- 2.7	- 0.7	+ 1.5
Appalachian Region	- 1.0	- 2.4	- 1.2	- 3.3	- 0.9	+ 1.8
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	- 0.3	- 1.3	- 0.6	- 3.5	0.0	+ 1.7
North Central Appalachia	- 0.8	- 2.2	- 1.2	- 4.0	- 0.7	+ 2.2
Central Appalachia	- 2.3	- 4.9	- 2.5	- 5.4	- 2.1	+ 2.2
South Central Appalachia	- 1.5	- 3.6	- 1.8	- 3.2	- 1.6	+ 1.8
Southern Appalachia	- 1.0	- 2.1	- 1.2	- 2.1	- 1.0	+ 1.5
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	- 0.6	- 1.1	- 0.7	- 1.6	- 0.5	+ 1.4
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	- 1.0	- 2.3	- 1.3	- 3.3	- 1.0	+ 1.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 1.2	- 3.0	- 1.5	- 4.2	- 1.0	+ 2.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	- 1.0	- 2.9	- 1.2	- 4.3	- 0.7	+ 2.0
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 1.5	- 4.1	- 1.5	- 4.2	- 1.2	+ 2.0
Alabama	- 1.1	- 2.6	- 1.3	- 1.9	- 1.2	+ 1.8
Appalachian Alabama	- 1.0	- 2.5	- 1.4	- 1.7	- 1.3	+ 2.0
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 1.1	- 2.9	- 1.0	- 1.7	- 0.9	+ 1.4
Georgia	- 1.7	- 3.2	- 1.5	- 3.2	- 1.4	+ 1.1
Appalachian Georgia	- 1.3	- 2.3	- 1.3	- 2.0	- 1.1	+ 0.7
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 1.9	- 3.7	- 1.7	- 3.6	- 1.4	+ 1.2
Kentucky	- 1.2	- 3.2	- 1.3	- 2.7	- 1.0	+ 1.8
Appalachian Kentucky	- 2.1	- 4.7	- 2.4	- 4.3	- 2.1	+ 2.3
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.9	- 2.7	- 0.8	- 2.0	- 0.6	+ 1.7
Maryland	+ 0.2	- 0.6	+ 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 1.8
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.2	- 0.7	+ 0.3	- 3.0	+ 0.8	+ 1.3
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.3	- 0.6	+ 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 1.8
Mississippi	- 1.4	- 2.7	- 1.5	- 4.0	- 1.1	+ 1.8
Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.5	- 1.9	- 0.5	- 3.6	0.0	+ 1.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 1.6	- 2.9	- 1.8	- 4.2	- 1.4	+ 1.8
New York	- 0.1	- 1.3	0.0	- 0.9	+ 0.1	+ 1.8
Appalachian New York	0.0	- 1.9	+ 0.2	- 1.4	+ 0.4	+ 1.9
Non-Appalachian New York	- 0.1	- 1.2	- 0.1	- 0.9	+ 0.1	+ 1.8
North Carolina	- 1.7	- 3.5	- 1.8	- 3.7	- 1.4	+ 1.5
Appalachian North Carolina	- 1.6	- 3.7	- 1.8	- 3.7	- 1.5	+ 1.8
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 1.7	- 3.4	- 1.7	- 3.8	- 1.4	+ 1.3
Ohio	- 0.7	- 2.1	- 0.8	- 2.7	- 0.6	+ 1.9
Appalachian Ohio	- 0.5	- 2.0	- 0.7	- 2.8	- 0.4	+ 2.3
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 0.7	- 2.1	- 0.8	- 2.8	- 0.6	+ 1.8
Pennsylvania	- 0.7	- 2.0	- 0.9	- 4.0	- 0.4	+ 1.8
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.4	- 1.4	- 0.8	- 4.3	- 0.1	+ 1.5
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.9	- 2.4	- 1.1	- 3.7	- 0.7	+ 1.9
South Carolina	- 1.1	- 2.8	- 1.2	- 2.8	- 0.9	+ 1.6
Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.2	- 0.6	- 0.5	- 1.7	- 0.3	+ 2.0
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 1.4	- 3.6	- 1.4	- 3.2	- 1.1	+ 1.3
Tennessee	- 1.4	- 3.1	- 1.6	- 2.8	- 1.4	+ 1.6
Appalachian Tennessee	- 1.6	- 3.4	- 1.9	- 2.5	- 1.8	+ 1.8
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 1.4	- 2.8	- 1.4	- 3.0	- 1.1	+ 1.6
Virginia	- 0.7	- 1.6	- 0.8	- 2.8	- 0.5	+ 1.3
Appalachian Virginia	- 1.6	- 4.4	- 1.7	- 5.5	- 1.0	+ 1.9
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 0.5	- 1.3	- 0.6	- 2.5	- 0.3	+ 1.3
West Virginia (entire state)	- 0.9	- 2.3	- 1.3	- 4.9	- 0.7	+ 2.5

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2024, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$31,812. The poverty universe does not include unrelated individuals under age 15, people living in college dormitories, and people living in institutional group quarters.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

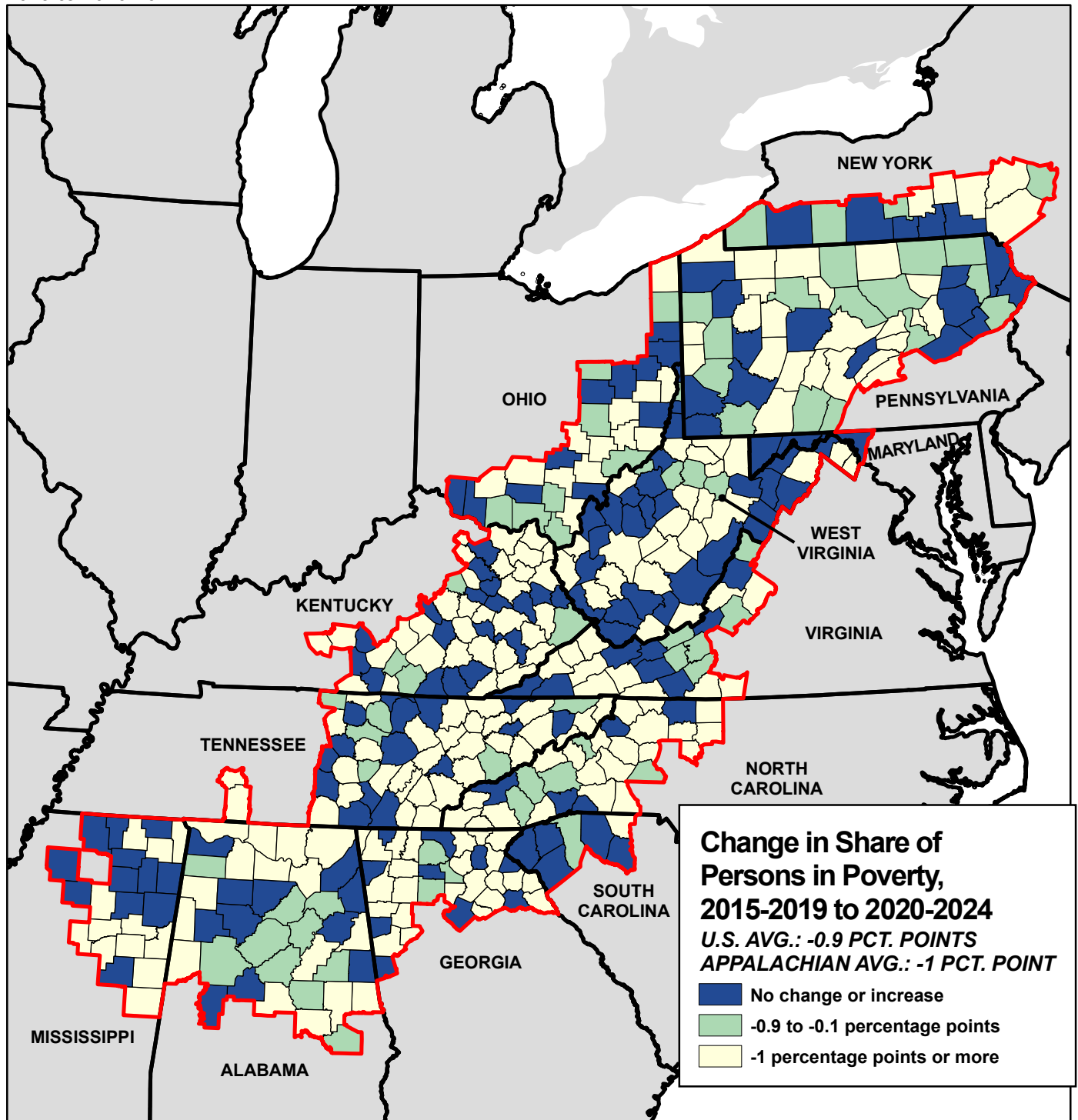
Table 9.6: Income-to-Poverty Ratio for Persons in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024

Income-to-Poverty Ratio	Persons for Whom Poverty Status Is Determined	Percent of Persons for Whom Poverty Status is Determined			
		Below 50% of Poverty Level	50% to 99% of Poverty Level	100% to 199% of Poverty Level	200% of Poverty Level and Greater
United States	327,079,188	6.0	6.4	15.8	71.8
Appalachian Region	25,679,306	6.6	7.6	18.4	67.4
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	7,725,164	6.4	6.9	16.9	69.8
North Central Appalachia	2,407,889	7.4	8.5	18.9	65.2
Central Appalachia	1,793,850	9.2	12.0	23.3	55.5
South Central Appalachia	5,158,126	6.5	7.7	19.5	66.3
Southern Appalachia	8,594,277	6.1	7.1	17.9	68.9
County Types					
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	6,402,937	5.5	5.8	14.8	74.0
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	10,566,551	6.8	7.4	18.0	67.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	2,308,650	6.8	8.2	20.4	64.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	3,983,195	6.8	9.2	21.4	62.7
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	2,417,973	8.5	10.4	22.7	58.4
Alabama	4,944,352	7.3	8.4	18.8	65.6
Appalachian Alabama	3,193,222	6.7	7.7	18.2	67.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	1,751,130	8.3	9.5	19.9	62.4
Georgia	10,679,691	6.5	6.9	17.2	69.5
Appalachian Georgia	3,440,999	5.0	5.8	16.5	72.7
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7,238,692	7.2	7.4	17.4	67.9
Kentucky	4,409,674	7.6	8.5	18.9	65.0
Appalachian Kentucky	1,123,162	9.9	12.5	23.1	54.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	3,286,512	6.8	7.1	17.5	68.6
Maryland	6,074,976	4.9	4.5	11.6	79.0
Appalachian Maryland	237,443	6.2	7.2	17.4	69.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	5,837,533	4.9	4.4	11.4	79.4
Mississippi	2,851,006	8.8	10.1	21.2	59.9
Appalachian Mississippi	589,153	8.7	10.5	23.2	57.6
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	2,261,853	8.8	10.0	20.6	60.6
New York	19,362,417	7.0	7.0	14.4	71.6
Appalachian New York	961,001	8.0	7.9	17.7	66.4
Non-Appalachian New York	18,401,416	6.9	7.0	14.2	71.8
North Carolina	10,444,377	6.2	6.8	17.5	69.4
Appalachian North Carolina	1,999,457	6.3	7.7	19.8	66.2
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	8,444,920	6.2	6.6	17.0	70.2
Ohio	11,512,055	6.3	7.0	16.0	70.7
Appalachian Ohio	1,918,211	7.3	8.6	19.1	65.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	9,593,844	6.1	6.6	15.4	71.8
Pennsylvania	12,600,920	5.7	6.1	14.9	73.4
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5,461,008	5.9	6.4	16.3	71.4
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	7,139,912	5.5	5.8	13.8	74.9
South Carolina	5,156,455	6.8	7.3	17.9	68.0
Appalachian South Carolina	1,370,903	6.5	7.3	18.5	67.7
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	3,785,552	6.8	7.3	17.7	68.2
Tennessee	6,907,625	6.5	7.3	18.1	68.2
Appalachian Tennessee	2,966,870	6.3	8.1	19.7	65.9
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	3,940,755	6.6	6.7	16.9	69.8
Virginia	8,462,722	5.0	4.9	13.3	76.8
Appalachian Virginia	694,970	8.7	8.3	20.7	62.3
Non-Appalachian Virginia	7,767,752	4.7	4.6	12.7	78.1
West Virginia (entire state)	1,722,907	7.7	9.0	19.3	64.0

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2024, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$31,812. 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, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 9.11: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachian residents living below the poverty level (income of less than \$31,812 for a family of two adults and two children in 2024) decreased by 1 percentage point between the 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 periods, slightly greater than the 0.9 percentage point decline nationally. In 213 of Appalachia's 423 counties, the poverty rate declined by at least the Appalachian average and nearly half were in South Central and Southern Appalachia. Conversely, there were 143 counties – 44 of which were in West Virginia and Appalachian Kentucky – where poverty rates stayed the same or increased between the two periods.

Table 9.7: Number of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, by Age Group, 2020-2024

Income-to-Poverty Ratio (Below 50%)	All Ages	Under Age 18	Ages 18-64			Ages 65 and Over
			Total	Ages 18-24	Ages 25-64	
United States	19,657,810	5,557,483	11,793,445	2,866,711	8,926,734	2,306,882
Appalachian Region	1,698,116	486,519	1,021,148	263,971	757,177	190,449
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	492,608	134,992	298,950	80,608	218,342	58,666
North Central Appalachia	177,930	49,737	109,706	29,231	80,475	18,487
Central Appalachia	164,926	51,215	97,603	17,615	79,988	16,108
South Central Appalachia	334,621	88,336	208,191	59,552	148,639	38,094
Southern Appalachia	528,031	162,239	306,698	76,965	229,733	59,094
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	350,202	102,687	204,531	47,196	157,335	42,984
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	716,255	199,002	440,653	134,761	305,892	76,600
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	156,116	45,823	92,924	21,507	71,417	17,369
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	269,050	78,753	158,559	30,222	128,337	31,738
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	206,493	60,254	124,481	30,285	94,196	21,758
Alabama	359,285	111,433	209,698	57,327	152,371	38,154
Appalachian Alabama	214,556	64,698	125,169	33,280	91,889	24,689
Non-Appalachian Alabama	144,729	46,735	84,529	24,047	60,482	13,465
Georgia	694,123	218,657	409,034	101,037	307,997	66,432
Appalachian Georgia	172,848	54,977	98,585	20,431	78,154	19,286
Non-Appalachian Georgia	521,275	163,680	310,449	80,606	229,843	47,146
Kentucky	335,476	104,575	198,428	47,055	151,373	32,473
Appalachian Kentucky	110,682	35,452	64,940	12,832	52,108	10,290
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	224,794	69,123	133,488	34,223	99,265	22,183
Maryland	299,319	77,407	177,384	39,012	138,372	44,528
Appalachian Maryland	14,799	3,991	8,680	1,967	6,713	2,128
Non-Appalachian Maryland	284,520	73,416	168,704	37,045	131,659	42,400
Mississippi	250,129	89,338	137,921	32,995	104,926	22,870
Appalachian Mississippi	51,051	16,242	29,894	8,352	21,542	4,915
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	199,078	73,096	108,027	24,643	83,384	17,955
New York	1,349,608	357,287	818,550	167,083	651,467	173,771
Appalachian New York	76,461	17,669	51,246	19,615	31,631	7,546
Non-Appalachian New York	1,273,147	339,618	767,304	147,468	619,836	166,225
North Carolina	646,536	195,891	383,006	97,027	285,979	67,639
Appalachian North Carolina	126,599	34,440	76,253	17,838	58,415	15,906
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	519,937	161,451	306,753	79,189	227,564	51,733
Ohio	729,204	224,088	428,412	102,745	325,667	76,704
Appalachian Ohio	139,474	43,341	81,103	16,220	64,883	15,030
Non-Appalachian Ohio	589,730	180,747	347,309	86,525	260,784	61,674
Pennsylvania	712,218	201,014	419,734	100,396	319,338	91,470
Appalachian Pennsylvania	322,361	87,470	194,834	51,949	142,885	40,057
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	389,857	113,544	224,900	48,447	176,453	51,413
South Carolina	348,614	104,626	203,142	49,260	153,882	40,846
Appalachian South Carolina	89,576	26,322	53,050	14,902	38,148	10,204
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	259,038	78,304	150,092	34,358	115,734	30,642
Tennessee	446,711	140,218	261,588	59,587	202,001	44,905
Appalachian Tennessee	187,136	52,832	114,453	28,094	86,359	19,851
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	259,575	87,386	147,135	31,493	115,642	25,054
Virginia	424,748	115,513	260,003	73,180	186,823	49,232
Appalachian Virginia	60,308	12,406	41,184	16,875	24,309	6,718
Non-Appalachian Virginia	364,440	103,107	218,819	56,305	162,514	42,514
West Virginia (entire state)	132,265	36,679	81,757	21,616	60,141	13,829

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2024, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$31,812. 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, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

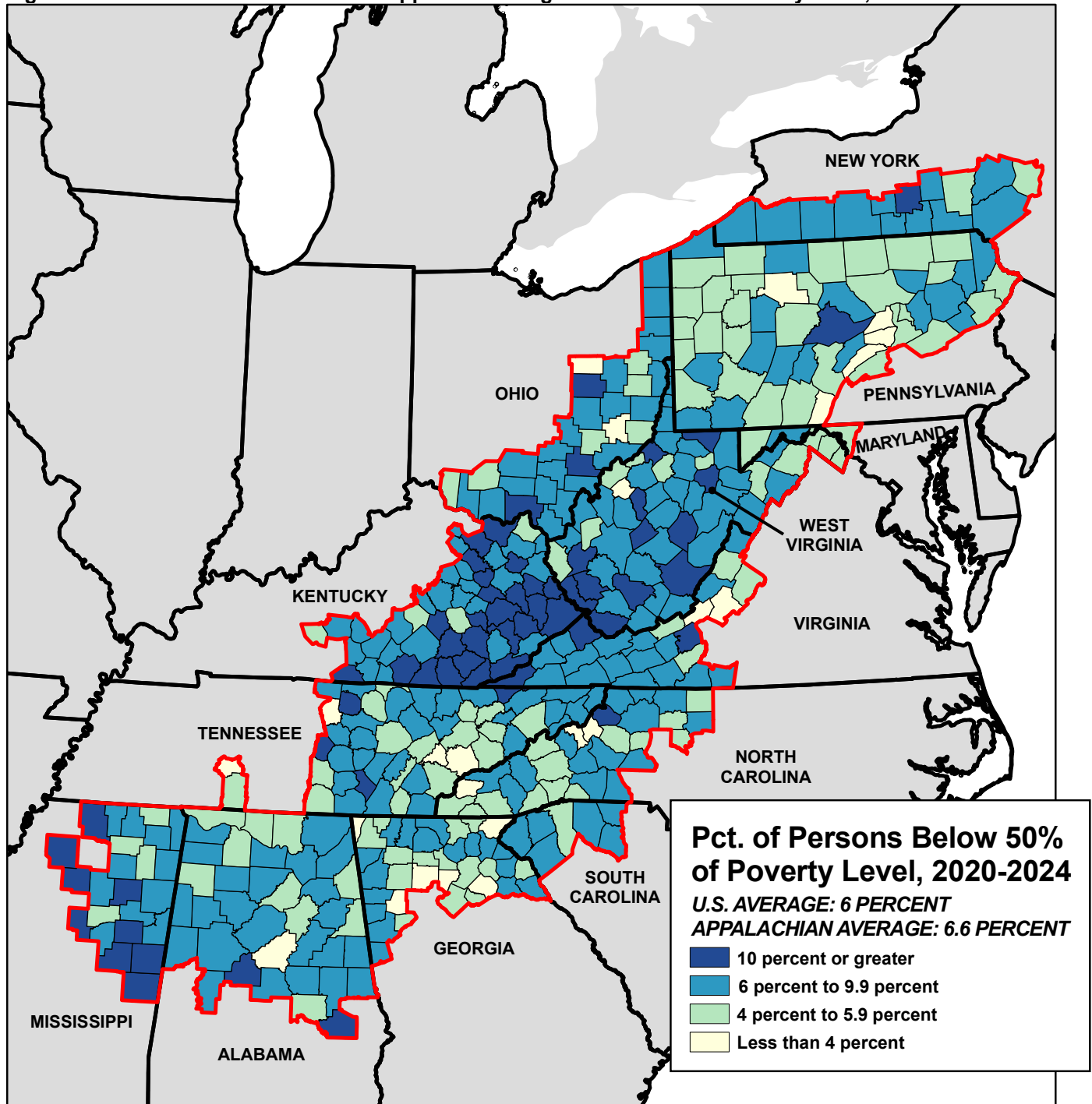
Table 9.8: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, by Age Group, 2020-2024

Income-to-Poverty Ratio (Below 50%)	All Ages	Under Age 18	Ages 18-64			Ages 65 and Over
			Total	Ages 18-24	Ages 25-64	
United States	6.0	7.7	5.9	10.5	5.2	4.1
Appalachian Region	6.6	8.9	6.7	12.6	5.7	3.8
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	6.4	8.8	6.6	13.4	5.5	3.6
North Central Appalachia	7.4	10.0	7.7	14.9	6.6	3.8
Central Appalachia	9.2	13.2	9.3	12.9	8.7	4.5
South Central Appalachia	6.5	8.6	6.8	14.1	5.6	3.6
Southern Appalachia	6.1	8.2	5.9	10.4	5.2	4.2
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	5.5	7.2	5.3	9.3	4.7	3.9
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	6.8	9.0	7.0	15.0	5.6	3.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	6.8	9.4	6.9	11.6	6.1	3.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	6.8	9.6	6.9	10.0	6.4	3.7
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	8.5	11.8	8.9	15.1	7.8	4.4
Alabama	7.3	10.0	7.1	13.7	6.0	4.3
Appalachian Alabama	6.7	9.1	6.5	12.3	5.6	4.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	8.3	11.7	8.2	16.1	6.8	4.2
Georgia	6.5	8.7	6.2	10.7	5.5	4.1
Appalachian Georgia	5.0	6.6	4.7	6.9	4.3	3.8
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7.2	9.7	6.9	12.5	6.0	4.3
Kentucky	7.6	10.4	7.5	12.8	6.7	4.3
Appalachian Kentucky	9.9	14.2	9.8	14.5	9.1	4.9
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	6.8	9.2	6.7	12.2	5.8	4.0
Maryland	4.9	5.7	4.8	8.2	4.3	4.4
Appalachian Maryland	6.2	8.0	6.2	9.9	5.6	4.5
Non-Appalachian Maryland	4.9	5.6	4.7	8.2	4.2	4.4
Mississippi	8.8	13.2	8.2	13.2	7.3	4.7
Appalachian Mississippi	8.7	11.9	8.6	14.9	7.4	4.7
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	8.8	13.6	8.1	12.7	7.3	4.7
New York	7.0	9.0	6.9	10.9	6.3	5.0
Appalachian New York	8.0	9.4	9.0	21.2	6.6	3.7
Non-Appalachian New York	6.9	8.9	6.8	10.3	6.3	5.1
North Carolina	6.2	8.5	6.0	11.2	5.2	3.7
Appalachian North Carolina	6.3	8.7	6.5	11.5	5.7	3.7
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	6.2	8.5	5.9	11.1	5.1	3.8
Ohio	6.3	8.8	6.2	11.0	5.5	3.7
Appalachian Ohio	7.3	10.4	7.3	10.7	6.7	3.9
Non-Appalachian Ohio	6.1	8.4	6.0	11.0	5.3	3.6
Pennsylvania	5.7	7.7	5.6	10.5	4.9	3.7
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5.9	8.2	6.1	12.8	5.1	3.4
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	5.5	7.3	5.2	8.8	4.7	4.0
South Carolina	6.8	9.3	6.6	11.9	5.8	4.2
Appalachian South Carolina	6.5	8.5	6.5	13.2	5.4	4.2
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	6.8	9.7	6.7	11.4	6.0	4.2
Tennessee	6.5	9.1	6.2	10.5	5.6	3.8
Appalachian Tennessee	6.3	8.7	6.5	11.7	5.6	3.4
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	6.6	9.4	6.1	9.5	5.5	4.2
Virginia	5.0	6.2	5.0	10.7	4.2	3.5
Appalachian Virginia	8.7	9.6	10.1	26.4	7.1	4.3
Non-Appalachian Virginia	4.7	5.9	4.6	9.0	3.9	3.4
West Virginia (entire state)	7.7	10.5	8.1	15.7	6.9	3.8

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2024, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$31,812. 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, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 9.12: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, 2020-2024

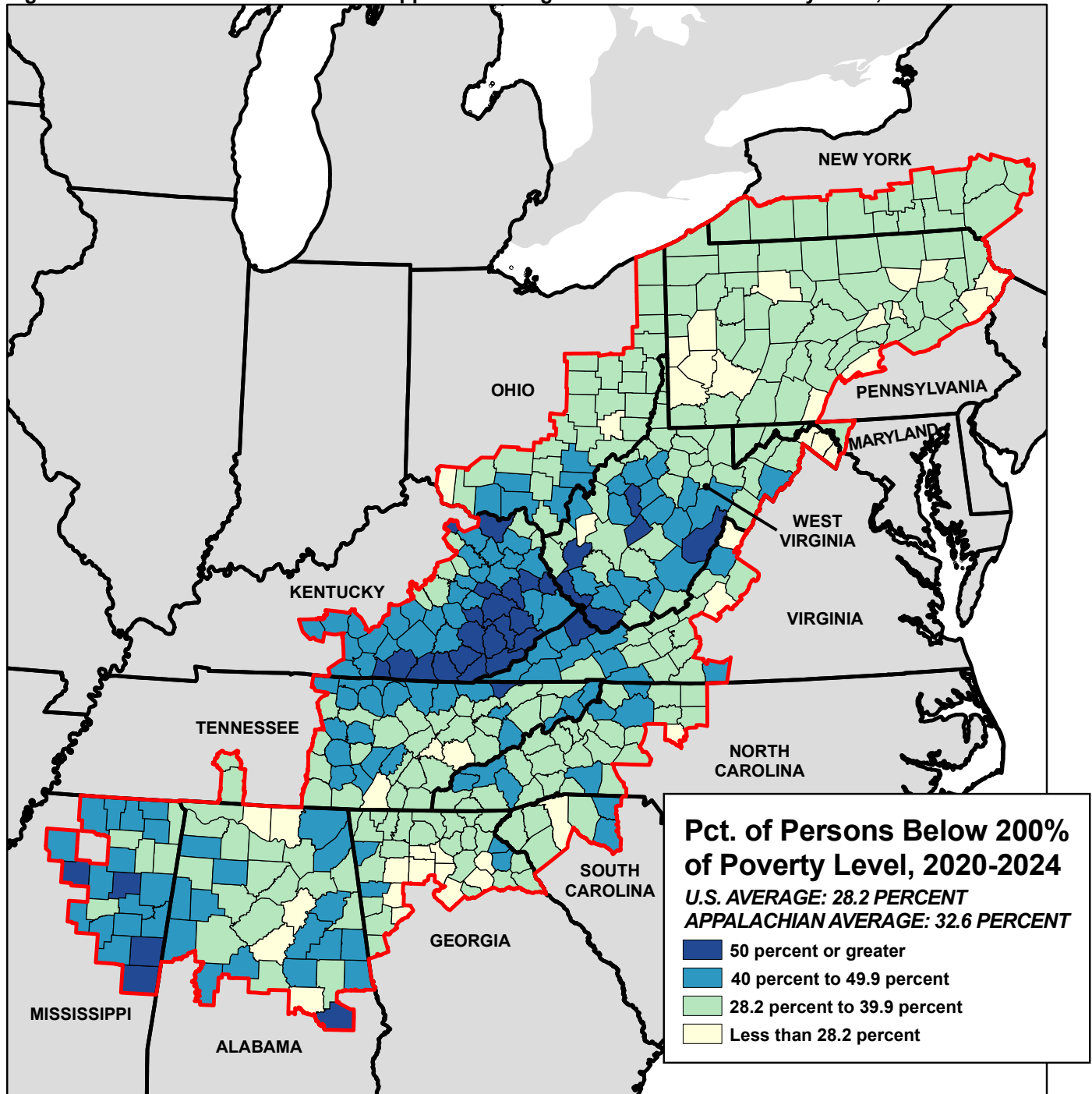


Map Title: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

In the 2020-2024 period, 6.6 percent of Appalachian residents were in deep poverty (incomes below 50 percent of the poverty level, or less than \$15,906 for a family of two adults and two children in 2024). This was slightly higher than the national average of six percent, and the situation was even worse in some parts of the Appalachian Region. For example, at least one in 10 residents lived in deep poverty in 61 Appalachian counties. All but 11 of these counties were outside metropolitan areas, and 33 of them were in Central Appalachia. (Kentucky alone had 25 counties in this group.) In contrast, there were 24 counties in Appalachia where less than four percent of the population had incomes below 50 percent of the poverty level. All but two of these 24 counties were in Northern, South Central, and Southern Appalachia, where the share of residents in deep poverty was lower than the regional average.

Figure 9.13: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 200% of Poverty Level, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 200% of Poverty Level, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Nearly one-third (32.6 percent) of people in the Appalachian Region had incomes less than twice the poverty level in 2020-2024, more than four percentage points higher than the national rate of 28.2 percent. (In 2024, a family of two adults and two children fell in this category if their income was less than \$63,624.) The share of people who were poor (below 100 percent of poverty) and low-income (between 100 percent and 199 percent of poverty) was 40 percent or more in 156 of Appalachia's 423 counties; these were overwhelmingly in the Central and Southern subregions. And in 33 Appalachian counties, at least half of residents had incomes below 200 percent of the poverty level; 25 of these counties were in Central Appalachia with 20 in Kentucky alone. In contrast, there were 42 counties in the Appalachian Region where the share of people who were poor and low-income was below the national average, 30 of which were in Northern Appalachia. Of these counties, 31 were in metropolitan areas, including counties outside of Atlanta and Birmingham.

Table 9.9: Percentage Point Change in Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region, by Income-to-Poverty Ratio, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Income-to-Poverty Ratio	Percentage Point Change in Share of Poverty Universe			
	Below 50% of Poverty Level	50% to 99% of Poverty Level	100% to 199% of Poverty Level	200% of Poverty Level and Greater
United States	0.0	- 1.0	- 1.6	+ 2.7
Appalachian Region	+ 0.1	- 1.1	- 1.4	+ 2.5
Subregions				
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.4	- 0.7	- 1.0	+ 1.3
North Central Appalachia	+ 0.1	- 0.9	- 1.2	+ 2.0
Central Appalachia	- 0.7	- 1.5	- 0.1	+ 2.4
South Central Appalachia	- 0.3	- 1.3	- 1.6	+ 3.1
Southern Appalachia	+ 0.1	- 1.2	- 2.1	+ 3.1
County Types				
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	+ 0.4	- 0.8	- 1.8	+ 2.3
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	+ 0.1	- 1.2	- 1.5	+ 2.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 0.1	- 1.1	- 1.0	+ 2.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	- 0.1	- 0.8	- 1.1	+ 2.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 0.3	- 1.3	- 0.7	+ 2.2
Alabama	- 0.1	- 0.9	- 1.3	+ 2.5
Appalachian Alabama	+ 0.1	- 1.3	- 1.6	+ 2.7
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 0.6	- 0.5	- 0.9	+ 2.1
Georgia	- 0.3	- 1.4	- 2.0	+ 3.8
Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.1	- 1.4	- 2.7	+ 4.0
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 0.4	- 1.4	- 1.7	+ 3.5
Kentucky	+ 0.1	- 1.3	- 0.5	+ 1.8
Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.6	- 1.5	- 0.5	+ 2.7
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.3	- 1.2	- 0.4	+ 1.3
Maryland	+ 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.8	+ 0.6
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.7	- 0.5	- 0.6	+ 0.4
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.8	+ 0.6
Mississippi	- 0.3	- 1.1	- 0.8	+ 2.2
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.7	- 1.2	- 1.4	+ 2.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.6	- 1.0	- 0.8	+ 2.4
New York	+ 0.6	- 0.7	- 1.3	+ 1.3
Appalachian New York	+ 0.7	- 0.7	- 1.3	+ 1.3
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.6	- 0.6	- 1.3	+ 1.2
North Carolina	- 0.3	- 1.4	- 2.1	+ 3.7
Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.2	- 1.3	- 1.7	+ 3.2
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.2	- 1.5	- 2.1	+ 3.8
Ohio	0.0	- 0.7	- 1.2	+ 1.9
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.2	- 0.7	- 0.9	+ 1.4
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 0.1	- 0.8	- 1.2	+ 2.0
Pennsylvania	+ 0.1	- 0.7	- 1.0	+ 1.7
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.3	- 0.7	- 0.9	+ 1.3
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.1	- 0.8	- 1.1	+ 2.0
South Carolina	0.0	- 1.1	- 2.0	+ 3.1
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 0.3	- 0.4	- 1.5	+ 1.7
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.2	- 1.4	- 2.2	+ 3.7
Tennessee	0.0	- 1.4	- 1.6	+ 3.1
Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.3	- 1.3	- 1.5	+ 3.1
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.1	- 1.5	- 1.6	+ 3.0
Virginia	- 0.1	- 0.6	- 0.9	+ 1.6
Appalachian Virginia	- 0.3	- 1.2	- 0.1	+ 1.7
Non-Appalachian Virginia	0.0	- 0.5	- 0.9	+ 1.5
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 0.1	- 0.9	- 1.4	+ 2.3

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2024, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$31,812. The poverty universe does not include unrelated individuals under age 15, people living in college dormitories, and people living in institutional group quarters.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

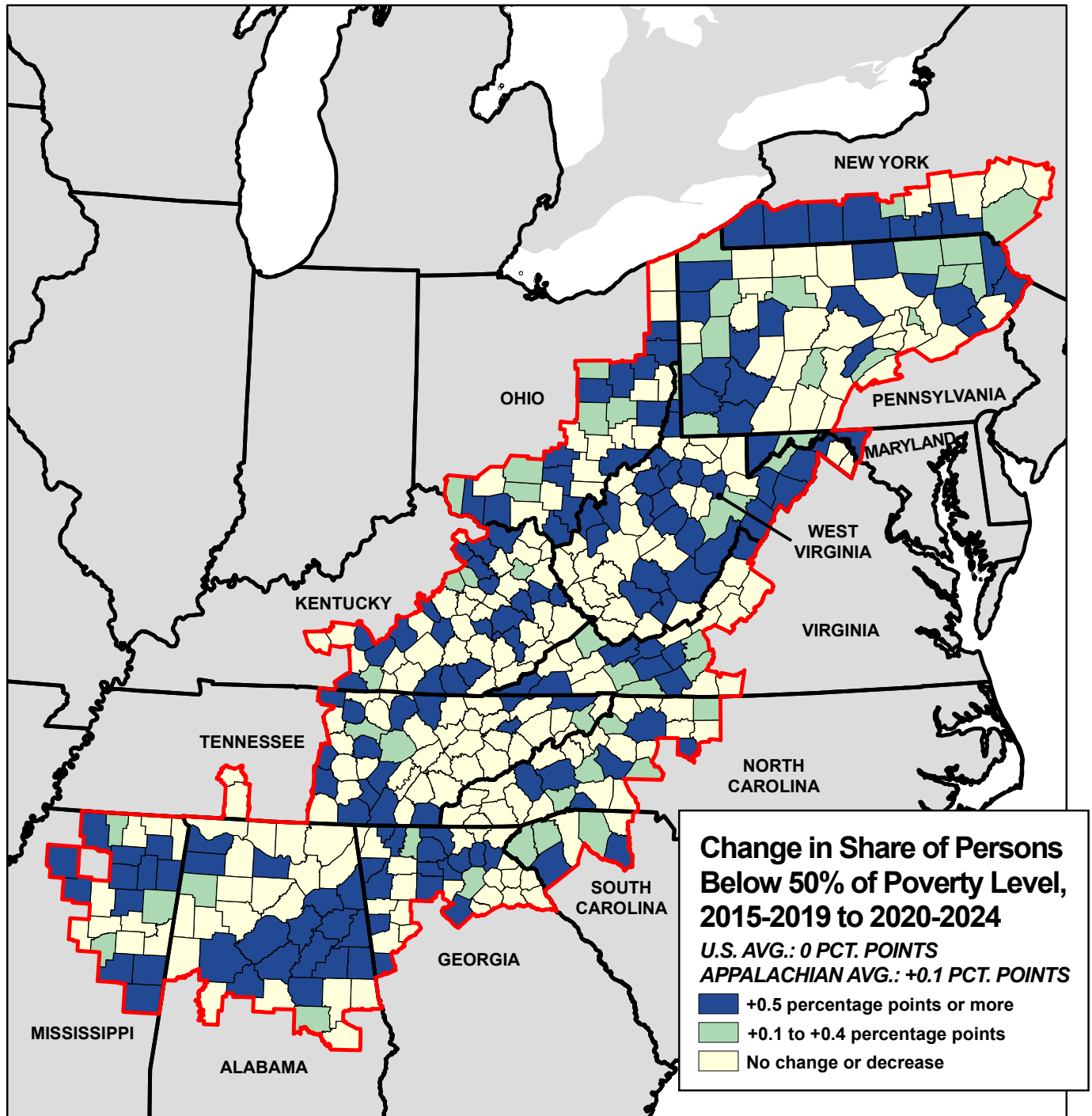
Table 9.10: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, by Age Group, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Income-to-Poverty Ratio (Below 50%)	Percentage Point Change in Share of Persons Below 50% of Poverty Level					
	All Ages	Under Age 18	Ages 18-64			Ages 65 and Over
			Total	Ages 18-24	Ages 25-64	
United States	0.0	- 0.5	0.0	- 1.3	+ 0.2	+ 1.1
Appalachian Region	+ 0.1	- 0.4	0.0	- 1.7	+ 0.2	+ 1.1
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	- 1.9	+ 0.7	+ 1.0
North Central Appalachia	+ 0.1	- 0.4	0.0	- 2.1	+ 0.3	+ 1.4
Central Appalachia	- 0.7	- 2.2	- 0.7	- 2.7	- 0.5	+ 1.3
South Central Appalachia	- 0.3	- 1.1	- 0.4	- 1.8	- 0.1	+ 1.1
Southern Appalachia	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	0.0	- 0.9	+ 0.2	+ 1.3
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	- 0.7	+ 0.4	+ 1.0
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	+ 0.1	- 0.3	0.0	- 1.4	+ 0.2	+ 1.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 0.1	- 0.5	- 0.2	- 2.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	- 0.1	- 0.9	- 0.2	- 2.7	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 0.3	- 1.2	- 0.2	- 2.7	+ 0.1	+ 1.5
Alabama	- 0.1	- 1.2	- 0.1	- 0.8	0.0	+ 1.4
Appalachian Alabama	+ 0.1	- 0.4	0.0	- 0.6	+ 0.2	+ 1.6
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 0.6	- 2.3	- 0.4	- 1.2	- 0.3	+ 1.1
Georgia	- 0.3	- 0.7	- 0.3	- 1.3	- 0.1	+ 0.8
Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.6	- 0.1	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 0.4	- 1.3	- 0.4	- 1.5	- 0.1	+ 0.8
Kentucky	+ 0.1	- 0.7	+ 0.1	- 1.0	+ 0.3	+ 1.6
Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.6	- 1.6	- 0.7	- 2.4	- 0.4	+ 1.5
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.3	- 0.3	+ 0.3	- 0.6	+ 0.5	+ 1.6
Maryland	+ 0.4	- 0.2	+ 0.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 1.5
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	+ 0.5	- 0.6	+ 0.7	+ 1.8
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.5	- 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 1.4
Mississippi	- 0.3	- 0.8	- 0.4	- 2.2	- 0.1	+ 1.1
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.7	+ 1.2	+ 0.5	- 3.3	+ 1.2	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.6	- 1.2	- 0.6	- 1.9	- 0.4	+ 1.1
New York	+ 0.6	0.0	+ 0.7	- 0.3	+ 0.8	+ 1.5
Appalachian New York	+ 0.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.8	- 0.1	+ 0.9	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.6	- 0.1	+ 0.7	- 0.3	+ 0.8	+ 1.5
North Carolina	- 0.3	- 0.9	- 0.4	- 1.8	- 0.1	+ 1.1
Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.2	- 1.0	- 0.3	- 2.6	0.0	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.2	- 0.8	- 0.4	- 1.7	- 0.1	+ 1.2
Ohio	0.0	- 0.5	0.0	- 1.5	+ 0.3	+ 1.1
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.2	- 0.5	+ 0.3	- 2.0	+ 0.6	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 0.1	- 0.6	- 0.1	- 1.4	+ 0.2	+ 1.1
Pennsylvania	+ 0.1	- 0.3	0.0	- 2.3	+ 0.3	+ 1.0
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	- 2.4	+ 0.6	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.1	- 0.7	- 0.3	- 2.2	+ 0.1	+ 1.2
South Carolina	0.0	- 0.6	- 0.2	- 1.2	0.0	+ 1.4
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.6	+ 0.2	+ 1.6
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.2	- 0.8	- 0.2	- 1.4	+ 0.1	+ 1.3
Tennessee	0.0	- 0.7	- 0.2	- 1.2	+ 0.1	+ 1.2
Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.3	- 1.1	- 0.3	- 0.9	- 0.3	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.1	- 0.4	0.0	- 1.6	+ 0.2	+ 1.6
Virginia	- 0.1	- 0.4	- 0.1	- 1.8	+ 0.2	+ 1.0
Appalachian Virginia	- 0.3	- 2.5	- 0.2	- 3.1	+ 0.3	+ 1.7
Non-Appalachian Virginia	0.0	- 0.3	0.0	- 1.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.9
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 0.1	- 0.7	- 0.1	- 2.0	+ 0.2	+ 1.7

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2024, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$31,812. The poverty universe does not include unrelated individuals under age 15, people living in college dormitories, and people living in institutional group quarters.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Figure 9.14: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachian residents living in deep poverty (or 50 percent of the poverty level and earning less than \$15,906 for a family of two adults and two children in 2024) increased by 0.1 percentage points between the 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 periods, while the share nationwide remained unchanged. But there was much variation within the Appalachian Region. On one hand, deep poverty either stayed the same or decreased in 214 counties. Yet in 156 other counties, deep poverty increased by at least 0.5 percentage points. The share of residents living in deep poverty increased the most in Appalachian Maryland, New York, and Mississippi (0.7 percentage points each) and decreased the most in Appalachian Kentucky (0.6 percentage points).

Table 9.11: Number and Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP, by Poverty Status, 2020-2024

Receipt of SNAP	ALL HOUSEHOLDS		Households With Income Below Poverty Level		Households With Income At or Above Poverty Level	
	Number Receiving SNAP	Percent Receiving SNAP	Number Receiving SNAP	Percent Receiving SNAP	Number Receiving SNAP	Percent Receiving SNAP
United States	15,572,114	12.1	6,598,381	40.6	8,973,733	7.9
Appalachian Region	1,438,132	13.6	690,904	44.5	747,228	8.3
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	511,516	15.3	229,242	50.1	282,274	9.7
North Central Appalachia	162,145	16.1	84,007	50.8	78,138	9.2
Central Appalachia	151,551	20.5	88,416	53.3	63,135	11.0
South Central Appalachia	258,105	12.0	120,873	38.8	137,232	7.4
Southern Appalachia	354,815	10.7	168,366	37.3	186,449	6.5
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	293,137	11.5	125,952	42.5	167,185	7.4
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	564,600	12.8	273,130	43.1	291,470	7.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	143,891	15.2	65,732	45.5	78,159	9.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	266,092	15.9	130,893	47.7	135,199	9.7
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	170,412	16.9	95,197	46.9	75,215	9.3
Alabama	273,037	13.7	138,751	43.6	134,286	8.0
Appalachian Alabama	158,976	12.4	80,658	42.4	78,318	7.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	114,061	16.1	58,093	45.3	55,968	9.6
Georgia	499,864	12.3	212,454	39.2	287,410	8.1
Appalachian Georgia	110,522	9.0	42,488	32.0	68,034	6.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	389,342	13.7	169,966	41.5	219,376	9.0
Kentucky	239,150	13.2	131,099	43.5	108,051	7.1
Appalachian Kentucky	95,299	20.7	58,039	53.2	37,260	10.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	143,851	10.6	73,060	38.0	70,791	6.1
Maryland	263,525	11.2	89,501	38.5	174,024	8.2
Appalachian Maryland	16,834	16.9	7,104	52.4	9,730	11.3
Non-Appalachian Maryland	246,691	10.9	82,397	37.6	164,294	8.0
Mississippi	154,756	13.5	88,535	40.1	66,221	7.2
Appalachian Mississippi	31,601	13.0	18,657	36.6	12,944	6.7
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	123,155	13.6	69,878	41.2	53,277	7.3
New York	1,204,048	15.6	542,538	49.9	661,510	10.0
Appalachian New York	62,303	14.7	30,891	45.7	31,412	8.8
Non-Appalachian New York	1,141,745	15.6	511,647	50.2	630,098	10.0
North Carolina	546,146	12.8	228,735	41.1	317,411	8.5
Appalachian North Carolina	112,171	13.4	48,971	41.2	63,200	8.8
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	433,975	12.6	179,764	41.1	254,211	8.5
Ohio	605,502	12.5	303,406	46.4	302,096	7.2
Appalachian Ohio	127,339	15.8	67,118	51.8	60,221	8.9
Non-Appalachian Ohio	478,163	11.8	236,288	45.0	241,875	6.8
Pennsylvania	758,140	14.4	315,795	49.5	442,345	9.5
Appalachian Pennsylvania	359,193	15.1	152,897	50.4	206,296	10.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	398,947	13.8	162,898	48.6	236,049	9.2
South Carolina	222,674	10.5	106,116	35.3	116,558	6.4
Appalachian South Carolina	53,716	9.6	26,563	34.3	27,153	5.7
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	168,958	10.8	79,553	35.7	89,405	6.7
Tennessee	306,318	10.8	150,250	38.5	156,068	6.4
Appalachian Tennessee	140,530	11.4	70,989	39.3	69,541	6.6
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	165,788	10.4	79,261	37.9	86,527	6.2
Virginia	307,649	9.1	125,712	36.4	181,937	6.0
Appalachian Virginia	43,921	14.7	21,590	41.0	22,331	9.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	263,728	8.6	104,122	35.6	159,606	5.8
West Virginia (entire state)	125,727	17.3	64,939	51.9	60,788	10.1

Note: SNAP is an acronym for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program). Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are determined by family size and composition. In 2024, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$31,812. 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, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

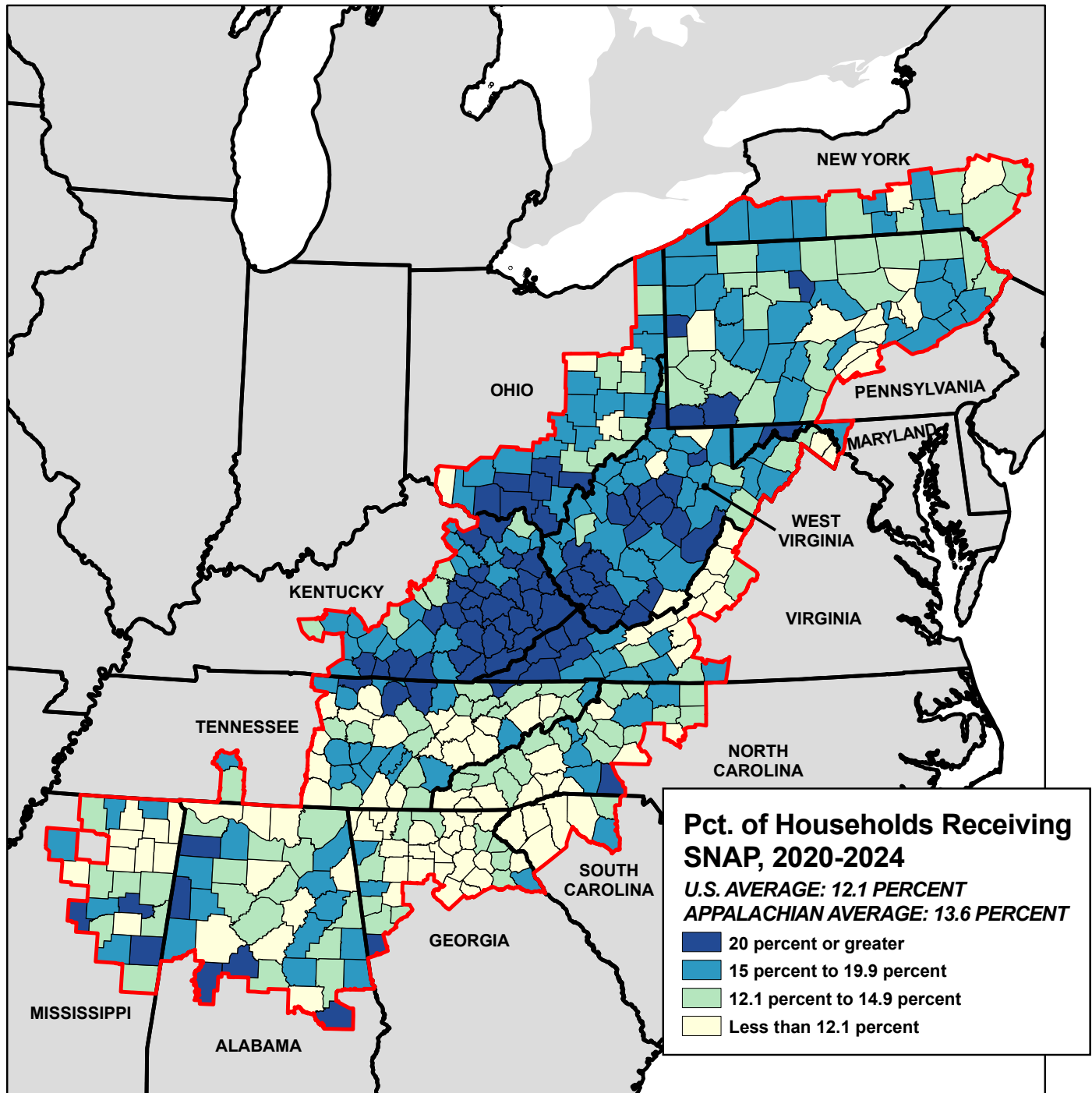
Table 9.12: Number and Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP, by Presence of Children Under Age 18, 2020-2024

Receipt of SNAP	ALL HOUSEHOLDS		Households With Children Under Age 18		Households Without Children Under Age 18	
	Number Receiving SNAP	Percent Receiving SNAP	Number Receiving SNAP	Percent Receiving SNAP	Number Receiving SNAP	Percent Receiving SNAP
United States	15,572,114	12.1	7,232,940	18.9	8,339,174	9.2
Appalachian Region	1,438,132	13.6	639,959	21.6	798,173	10.5
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	511,516	15.3	199,163	23.6	312,353	12.4
North Central Appalachia	162,145	16.1	67,988	24.9	94,157	12.8
Central Appalachia	151,551	20.5	68,130	31.0	83,421	16.1
South Central Appalachia	258,105	12.0	119,755	21.1	138,350	8.7
Southern Appalachia	354,815	10.7	184,923	17.5	169,892	7.5
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	293,137	11.5	133,056	17.3	160,081	9.0
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	564,600	12.8	257,304	21.4	307,296	9.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	143,891	15.2	62,496	23.5	81,395	12.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	266,092	15.9	113,372	25.6	152,720	12.4
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	170,412	16.9	73,731	26.4	96,681	13.2
Alabama	273,037	13.7	132,397	22.8	140,640	9.9
Appalachian Alabama	158,976	12.4	78,111	20.7	80,865	8.9
Non-Appalachian Alabama	114,061	16.1	54,286	26.8	59,775	11.8
Georgia	499,864	12.3	253,623	19.7	246,241	8.8
Appalachian Georgia	110,522	9.0	62,862	14.3	47,660	6.0
Non-Appalachian Georgia	389,342	13.7	190,761	22.5	198,581	9.9
Kentucky	239,150	13.2	119,537	22.1	119,613	9.4
Appalachian Kentucky	95,299	20.7	43,478	30.8	51,821	16.2
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	143,851	10.6	76,059	19.0	67,792	7.1
Maryland	263,525	11.2	124,597	17.2	138,928	8.5
Appalachian Maryland	16,834	16.9	7,154	25.5	9,680	13.5
Non-Appalachian Maryland	246,691	10.9	117,443	16.9	129,248	8.2
Mississippi	154,756	13.5	78,379	22.0	76,377	9.7
Appalachian Mississippi	31,601	13.0	15,131	20.8	16,470	9.7
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	123,155	13.6	63,248	22.3	59,907	9.7
New York	1,204,048	15.6	458,562	21.7	745,486	13.3
Appalachian New York	62,303	14.7	23,050	21.7	39,253	12.3
Non-Appalachian New York	1,141,745	15.6	435,512	21.7	706,233	13.3
North Carolina	546,146	12.8	270,798	21.7	275,348	9.1
Appalachian North Carolina	112,171	13.4	51,976	24.0	60,195	9.7
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	433,975	12.6	218,822	21.2	215,153	8.9
Ohio	605,502	12.5	267,352	19.7	338,150	9.7
Appalachian Ohio	127,339	15.8	52,562	23.8	74,777	12.8
Non-Appalachian Ohio	478,163	11.8	214,790	18.9	263,373	9.0
Pennsylvania	758,140	14.4	309,039	21.7	449,101	11.7
Appalachian Pennsylvania	359,193	15.1	138,493	23.5	220,700	12.3
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	398,947	13.8	170,546	20.5	228,401	11.1
South Carolina	222,674	10.5	114,035	18.8	108,639	7.2
Appalachian South Carolina	53,716	9.6	28,819	17.3	24,897	6.4
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	168,958	10.8	85,216	19.4	83,742	7.5
Tennessee	306,318	10.8	152,891	18.5	153,427	7.7
Appalachian Tennessee	140,530	11.4	66,007	19.6	74,523	8.3
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	165,788	10.4	86,884	17.7	78,904	7.1
Virginia	307,649	9.1	151,892	14.9	155,757	6.6
Appalachian Virginia	43,921	14.7	19,037	26.7	24,884	11.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	263,728	8.6	132,855	14.1	130,873	6.2
West Virginia (entire state)	125,727	17.3	53,279	27.7	72,448	13.5

Note: SNAP is an acronym for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program).

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 9.15: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

In 2020-2024, 13.6 percent of Appalachian households received payments from the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program. While the share for the Appalachian Region is 1.5 percentage points higher than the national share (12.1 percent), there were 102 Appalachian counties with SNAP participation rates below the U.S. average. Nearly four-fifths of these counties were in Southern and South Central Appalachia – the subregions with the lowest reciprocity rates. Conversely, the SNAP reciprocity rate matched or exceeded 20 percent in 80 other Appalachian counties. Most of the counties in the latter group were in Central Appalachia and 38 were in rural areas – both of which had the highest SNAP participation rates among Appalachia's subregions and county types.

Table 9.13: Percentage Point Change in Share of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP, by Poverty Status, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Receipt of SNAP	ALL HOUSEHOLDS	Households With Income Below Poverty Level	Households With Income At or Above Poverty Level
United States	+ 0.4	- 2.4	+ 0.8
Appalachian Region	- 0.3	- 4.2	+ 0.5
Subregions			
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.9	- 1.7	+ 1.1
North Central Appalachia	- 0.2	- 3.5	+ 0.4
Central Appalachia	- 1.1	- 4.2	+ 0.6
South Central Appalachia	- 0.8	- 6.0	+ 0.4
Southern Appalachia	- 0.9	- 5.2	- 0.1
County Types			
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	0.0	- 2.9	+ 0.4
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	- 0.5	- 4.2	+ 0.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 0.3	- 5.3	+ 0.9
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	- 0.3	- 4.6	+ 0.7
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 0.5	- 4.1	+ 0.6
Alabama	- 0.3	- 2.7	+ 0.5
Appalachian Alabama	- 0.5	- 3.2	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 0.2	- 2.2	+ 0.9
Georgia	- 0.5	- 4.5	+ 0.4
Appalachian Georgia	- 1.0	- 5.7	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 0.3	- 4.1	+ 0.8
Kentucky	- 0.8	- 5.9	+ 0.3
Appalachian Kentucky	- 1.2	- 4.4	+ 0.5
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.6	- 6.3	+ 0.3
Maryland	+ 1.0	- 5.3	+ 1.3
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.3	- 4.1	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 1.0	- 5.3	+ 1.3
Mississippi	- 1.9	- 5.7	- 0.8
Appalachian Mississippi	- 1.7	- 7.1	- 0.8
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 2.0	- 5.2	- 0.8
New York	+ 0.9	- 1.6	+ 1.3
Appalachian New York	- 0.2	- 3.9	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.9	- 1.4	+ 1.3
North Carolina	+ 0.2	- 3.2	+ 1.0
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 1.5	- 0.5	+ 2.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.1	- 3.9	+ 0.9
Ohio	- 0.6	- 4.5	+ 0.1
Appalachian Ohio	- 0.6	- 4.7	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 0.6	- 4.5	0.0
Pennsylvania	+ 1.1	- 0.9	+ 1.3
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.1	- 1.0	+ 1.5
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.1	- 0.8	+ 1.4
South Carolina	- 1.8	- 8.1	- 0.5
Appalachian South Carolina	- 1.3	- 8.1	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 2.0	- 8.0	- 0.5
Tennessee	- 2.8	- 9.2	- 1.2
Appalachian Tennessee	- 2.9	- 10.3	- 1.1
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 2.5	- 8.2	- 1.4
Virginia	+ 0.9	- 1.9	+ 1.2
Appalachian Virginia	+ 1.2	- 2.0	+ 2.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.9	- 1.7	+ 1.2
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 0.5	- 1.8	+ 1.0

Note: SNAP is an acronym for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program). Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are determined by family size and composition. In 2024, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$31,812. The poverty universe does not include unrelated individuals under age 15, people living in college dormitories, and people living in institutional group quarters.

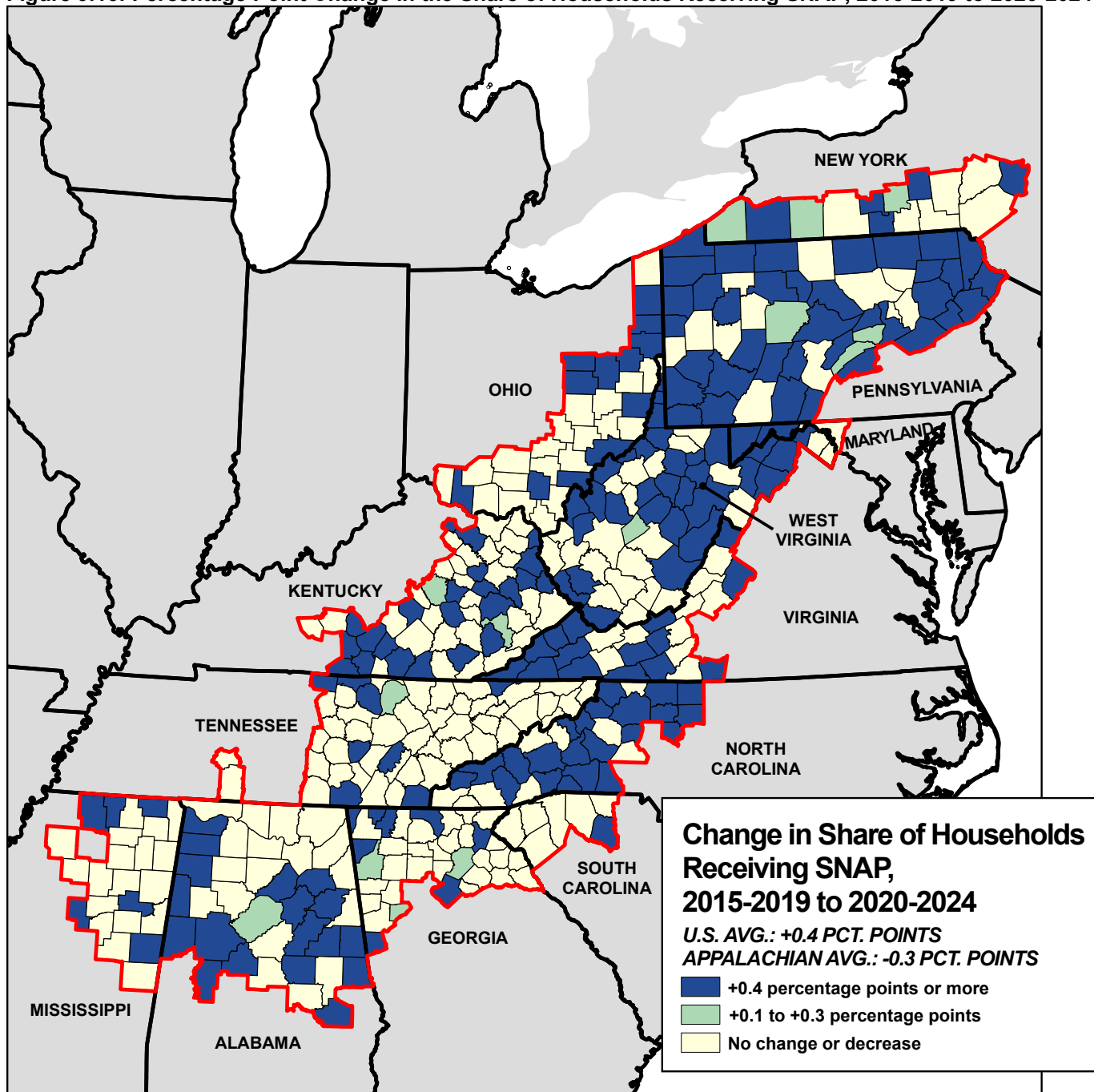
Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Table 9.14: Percentage Point Change in Share of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP Payments, by Presence of Children Under Age 18, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Receipt of SNAP	ALL HOUSEHOLDS	Households With Children Under Age 18	Households Without Children Under Age 18
United States	+ 0.4	- 0.1	+ 0.7
Appalachian Region	- 0.3	- 0.5	- 0.1
Subregions			
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.9	+ 1.1	+ 0.9
North Central Appalachia	- 0.2	- 0.6	+ 0.1
Central Appalachia	- 1.1	- 0.6	- 1.1
South Central Appalachia	- 0.8	- 1.3	- 0.5
Southern Appalachia	- 0.9	- 1.1	- 0.7
County Types			
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	0.0	+ 0.2	0.0
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	- 0.5	- 0.7	- 0.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 0.3	- 0.9	+ 0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	- 0.3	- 0.6	0.0
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 0.5	- 0.7	- 0.3
Alabama	- 0.3	- 0.6	0.0
Appalachian Alabama	- 0.5	- 0.8	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 0.2	0.0	+ 0.5
Georgia	- 0.5	- 1.0	0.0
Appalachian Georgia	- 1.0	- 0.9	- 0.8
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 0.3	- 0.8	+ 0.3
Kentucky	- 0.8	+ 0.1	- 1.0
Appalachian Kentucky	- 1.2	- 0.3	- 1.5
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.6	+ 0.2	- 0.8
Maryland	+ 1.0	+ 1.6	+ 0.9
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.3	- 1.7	+ 1.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 1.0	+ 1.7	+ 0.8
Mississippi	- 1.9	- 3.8	- 0.8
Appalachian Mississippi	- 1.7	- 3.6	- 0.7
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 2.0	- 3.8	- 0.8
New York	+ 0.9	+ 1.6	+ 0.9
Appalachian New York	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.9	+ 1.7	+ 0.9
North Carolina	+ 0.2	+ 1.0	+ 0.1
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 1.5	+ 2.8	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.1	+ 0.6	- 0.2
Ohio	- 0.6	- 1.1	- 0.2
Appalachian Ohio	- 0.6	- 1.3	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 0.6	- 1.1	- 0.3
Pennsylvania	+ 1.1	+ 1.0	+ 1.3
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.1	+ 1.6	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.1	+ 0.7	+ 1.5
South Carolina	- 1.8	- 3.1	- 1.1
Appalachian South Carolina	- 1.3	- 0.9	- 1.3
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 2.0	- 3.8	- 1.0
Tennessee	- 2.8	- 3.7	- 2.1
Appalachian Tennessee	- 2.9	- 4.6	- 2.1
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 2.5	- 3.1	- 2.1
Virginia	+ 0.9	+ 1.2	+ 0.9
Appalachian Virginia	+ 1.2	+ 2.5	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.9	+ 1.3	+ 1.0
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	+ 0.6

Note: SNAP is an acronym for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program).
Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Figure 9.16: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households Receiving SNAP, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachian households participating in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – formerly the Food Stamps Program – fell by 0.3 percentage points between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024, compared to a 0.4 percentage point increase in the national share of households. All subregions except Northern Appalachia had declines in the share of households receiving SNAP during this period, with Central Appalachia having the most pronounced decrease of over one percentage point. SNAP participation remained the same or decreased in 221 Appalachian counties – 63 percent of which were outside of metropolitan areas. In 72 percent, or 160, of these 221 counties, the change in the share of Appalachian residents living in poverty also remained the same or decreased from 2015-2019. Meanwhile, the share of Appalachian households receiving SNAP increased by at least the U.S. average in 188 counties. More than one in four of these counties were in Northern Appalachia – the only subregion that experienced an increase (0.9 percentage points) from 2015-2019.

TRENDS IN INCOME AND POVERTY

- Adjusting for inflation, income trends in the Appalachian Region were positive between the 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 periods (see Tables 9.1 and 9.2).
 - Mean income increased noticeably between the two periods. Mean household income, for example, rose 3.8 percent to \$89,821 in 2020-2024. Mean family income (4.7 percent) and per capita income (5.2 percent) had slightly greater increases, reaching \$107,815 and \$36,770, respectively. (All monetary figures are in 2024 dollars.)
 - Although not affected by extreme values, the two median income measures likewise have registered healthy increases since 2015-2019. Median household income (the midpoint where half of all households have higher incomes while the other half have lower incomes) rose 4.3 percent to \$66,555 in 2020-2024. Median family income increased five percent to \$85,002.
- Despite these increases, income gains since 2015-2019 were not quite as pronounced in Appalachia as they were nationally. However, Appalachia's growth in all four household and family income measures was within a half percentage point of the national average. For example, the Appalachian median household income growth from 2015-2019 was only 0.1 percentage point less than the national median.
- Within the Appalachian Region, all income measures increased for the subregions, county types, and states – even after adjusting for inflation. Among the subregions, mean income (household and family) and per capita income growth was highest in Southern and South Central Appalachia. When looking at median income (household and family), the highest growth was in those same subregions, with the addition of Central Appalachia. Meanwhile Northern Appalachia had the lowest income growth across all five income measures. Among rural-urban county types, mean household income growth was highest in small metropolitan areas (four percent) and lowest in rural areas (2.6 percent). Meanwhile, the highest median family income growth was in rural areas (5.1 percent) and lowest in large metropolitan areas (4.1 percent). Income gains among the states generally were largest in the Appalachian portions of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee – where each income measure had at least a 4 percent change. Yet despite the overall increases, there were still counties throughout the Appalachian Region that experienced income declines between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024.
- Since 2015-2019, the share of Appalachian residents in poverty (incomes below \$31,812 for a family of two adults and two children in 2024) has fallen 1 percentage point to 14.3 percent in 2020-2024 (see Tables 9.4 and 9.5). Poverty decreased in all subregions, county types, and Appalachian portions of all states, except for Appalachian Maryland which increased by 0.2 percentage points and Appalachian New York which remained unchanged since 2015-2019. The decline in poverty was greatest in Appalachian Kentucky, where poverty fell by 2.1 percentage points.
- Both child poverty and poverty among young adults (ages 18 to 24) have fallen noticeably in Appalachia since 2015-2019: Child poverty dropped 2.4 percentage points to 18.8 percent in 2020-2024, while poverty among 18-to-24-year-olds fell 3.3 percentage points to 21.5 percent. Despite these decreases, nearly one-fifth of children and more than one-fifth of young adults were still in poverty. Central Appalachia (4.9 percentage points), and the Appalachian parts of Kentucky (4.7 percentage points) and Virginia (4.4 percentage points) had the largest decrease in child poverty. When looking at the poverty of young adults, Central Appalachia (5.4 percentage points) and Appalachian parts of Kentucky (4.3 percentage points), Pennsylvania (4.3 percentage points), Virginia (5.5 percentage points), and the entire state of West Virginia (4.9 percentage points) had the largest declines.
- Poverty rates among working-age adults (ages 25 to 64) in Appalachia had a more modest decline of 0.9 percentage points to a poverty rate of 12.4 percent overall. As with the other two age groups, declines in poverty for 25-to-64-year-olds happened throughout the Appalachian Region – with exceptions in Appalachian Maryland and New York where rates increased by 0.8 and 0.4 percentage points respectively, and in Appalachian Mississippi where it remained unchanged. Appalachian Kentucky had the largest poverty decline among 25-to-64-year-olds, at 2.1 percentage points.
- Poverty increased 1.8 percentage points for older residents (ages 65 and over) between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 in Appalachia. Poverty among older residents increased for all county types, subregions, and states. Among the states, increases were most notable in West Virginia where poverty for older residents increased by 2.5 percentage points.

TRENDS IN INCOME AND POVERTY (continued)

- In 2020-2024, the share of Appalachian residents with incomes below 50 percent of the poverty level (income below \$15,902 for a family of two adults and two children in 2024) was 6.6 percent, a 0.1 percentage point increase from 2015-2019 (see Tables 9.6 through 9.10). Compared to the rest of Appalachia, Appalachian Maryland, Mississippi, and New York had the greatest increases, by 0.7 percentage points each. Among the county types, only counties in metropolitan areas had an increase in the share of Appalachian residents in deep poverty. Conversely, the share of residents with incomes below 50 percent of the poverty level decreased the most in Central Appalachia by 0.7 percentage points. The share also decreased notably among children (0.4 percentage points) and young adults ages 18-24 (1.7 percentage points) in Appalachia, while increasing 1.1 points among adults ages 65 and over.
- The share of Appalachian households participating in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – formerly the Food Stamps Program – was 13.6 percent in 2020-2024, a decrease of 0.3 percentage points from the Appalachian Region's share in 2015-2019 (see Tables 9.11 and 9.13). Several parts of Appalachia registered even greater decreases: For example, the decrease was notable in the Appalachian portions of Tennessee (2.9 percentage points) and Mississippi (1.7 percentage points). Among county types and subregions, the share decreased among all county types except for large metro counties where it remained unchanged. The largest decreases among subregions were in Central Appalachia (1.1 percentage points), Southern Appalachia (0.9 percentage points) and South Central Appalachia (0.8 percentage points). However, SNAP prevalence did increase in some parts of Appalachia – with the highest increases in Northern Appalachia (0.9 points) and the Appalachian portions of North Carolina (1.5 percentage points), Virginia (1.2 percentage points) and Pennsylvania (1.1 percentage points).
- Among households with income below the poverty level (\$31,812 for a family of two adults and two children in 2024), SNAP reciprocity rates fell 4.2 percentage points between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 (see Tables 9.11 and 9.13), to 44.5 percent in the latter period. However, among Appalachian households with income at or above the poverty level, receipt of SNAP increased by 0.5 percentage points from 2015-2019 to 2020-2024 to 8.3 percent. The decrease in participation among households in poverty was present in all Appalachian state sections with Appalachian Mississippi (7.1 percentage points), South Carolina (8.1 percentage points), and Tennessee (10.3 percentage points) having the greatest declines among states.
- Meanwhile, SNAP participation among households above the poverty level increased for all county types and subregions except Southern Appalachia. Looking at the Appalachian parts of states, SNAP participation among those above the poverty level increased by at least 1 percentage point in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and all of West Virginia and decreased by at least 1 percentage point in the Appalachian part of Tennessee.
- The SNAP reciprocity rate among Appalachian households with children under age 18 was 21.6 percent in 2020-2024, 0.5 percentage points lower than in 2015-2019 (see Tables 9.12 and 9.14). The decline in participation for households was notable in Southern and South Central Appalachia where it fell by at least one percentage point and in the Appalachian sections of Mississippi and Tennessee where it declined by 3.6 and 4.6 percentage points, respectively. On the other hand, Northern Appalachia had a notable 1.1 percentage point increase in SNAP reciprocity among households with children.
- Meanwhile, SNAP participation for Appalachian households without children fell 0.1 percentage points to 10.5 percent from 2015-2019 to 2020-2024. SNAP reciprocity among childless households increased in Northern Appalachia (0.9 percentage points) and by at least one percentage point in the Appalachian sections of Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Declines of at least one percentage point were notable in Central Appalachia and Appalachian portions of Kentucky, South Carolina, and Tennessee.
- Overall, income and poverty trends in the Appalachian Region since 2015-2019 show that poverty has fallen while incomes have risen. However, the impact of economic events covered in these years on family and household finances – including increased costs of living – may not be reflected fully by these data.

CHAPTER 10: HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Table 10.1: Number of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, by Age Group, 2020-2024

Health Insurance Status	All Ages	Under Age 35				Ages 35-64	Ages 65 and Over
		Total	Under Age 19	Ages 19-25	Ages 26-34		
United States	27,734,911	14,273,767	4,261,298	4,112,391	5,900,078	12,985,566	475,578
Appalachian Region	2,173,549	1,095,706	308,806	332,503	454,397	1,051,338	26,505
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	434,499	240,437	89,043	63,415	87,979	187,356	6,706
North Central Appalachia	150,439	74,233	19,121	22,515	32,597	74,489	1,717
Central Appalachia	119,071	59,037	15,742	18,918	24,377	58,747	1,287
South Central Appalachia	515,966	243,655	59,112	73,636	110,907	266,263	6,048
Southern Appalachia	953,574	478,344	125,788	154,019	198,537	464,483	10,747
County Types							
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	532,153	272,049	78,673	82,992	110,384	252,010	8,094
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	885,724	442,254	110,546	139,589	192,119	433,572	9,898
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	196,782	100,281	31,784	28,397	40,100	94,500	2,001
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	342,808	168,327	50,831	48,258	69,238	170,959	3,522
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	216,082	112,795	36,972	33,267	42,556	100,297	2,990
Alabama	459,841	226,121	43,655	80,789	101,677	229,278	4,442
Appalachian Alabama	289,960	140,335	27,646	50,149	62,540	146,879	2,746
Non-Appalachian Alabama	169,881	85,786	16,009	30,640	39,137	82,399	1,696
Georgia	1,329,511	689,147	186,797	216,120	286,230	623,565	16,799
Appalachian Georgia	458,792	233,230	70,338	70,597	92,295	219,310	6,252
Non-Appalachian Georgia	870,719	455,917	116,459	145,523	193,935	404,255	10,547
Kentucky	267,675	143,849	46,960	42,518	54,371	120,686	3,140
Appalachian Kentucky	68,772	35,862	11,135	11,720	13,007	32,162	748
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	198,903	107,987	35,825	30,798	41,364	88,524	2,392
Maryland	382,503	191,030	64,474	47,390	79,166	180,918	10,555
Appalachian Maryland	13,437	6,441	1,965	1,694	2,782	6,600	396
Non-Appalachian Maryland	369,066	184,589	62,509	45,696	76,384	174,318	10,159
Mississippi	317,977	167,637	42,850	55,501	69,286	148,086	2,254
Appalachian Mississippi	63,191	33,699	8,181	11,476	14,042	28,963	529
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	254,786	133,938	34,669	44,025	55,244	119,123	1,725
New York	993,274	471,512	113,831	124,776	232,905	490,736	31,026
Appalachian New York	44,805	26,179	9,174	7,842	9,163	17,998	628
Non-Appalachian New York	948,469	445,333	104,657	116,934	223,742	472,738	30,398
North Carolina	1,036,452	504,882	136,475	145,431	222,976	519,580	11,990
Appalachian North Carolina	218,161	102,600	23,941	30,498	48,161	113,245	2,316
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	818,291	402,282	112,534	114,933	174,815	406,335	9,674
Ohio	746,399	406,973	134,210	108,592	164,171	327,838	11,588
Appalachian Ohio	148,763	81,079	32,039	20,919	28,121	65,523	2,161
Non-Appalachian Ohio	597,636	325,894	102,171	87,673	136,050	262,315	9,427
Pennsylvania	721,936	397,514	144,133	100,347	153,034	311,829	12,593
Appalachian Pennsylvania	283,325	154,984	54,554	40,684	59,746	124,118	4,223
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	438,611	242,530	89,579	59,663	93,288	187,711	8,370
South Carolina	500,927	251,817	67,411	76,137	108,269	243,952	5,158
Appalachian South Carolina	141,631	71,080	19,623	21,797	29,660	69,331	1,220
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	359,296	180,737	47,788	54,340	78,609	174,621	3,938
Tennessee	699,452	352,520	96,973	101,448	154,099	338,967	7,965
Appalachian Tennessee	295,742	140,390	34,512	42,226	63,652	151,984	3,368
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	403,710	212,130	62,461	59,222	90,447	186,983	4,597
Virginia	586,299	299,657	94,860	81,325	123,472	274,120	12,522
Appalachian Virginia	42,092	18,849	4,551	6,264	8,034	22,493	750
Non-Appalachian Virginia	544,207	280,808	90,309	75,061	115,438	251,627	11,772
West Virginia (entire state)	104,878	50,978	11,147	16,637	23,194	52,732	1,168

Note: The health insurance universe consists of the civilian noninstitutional population.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

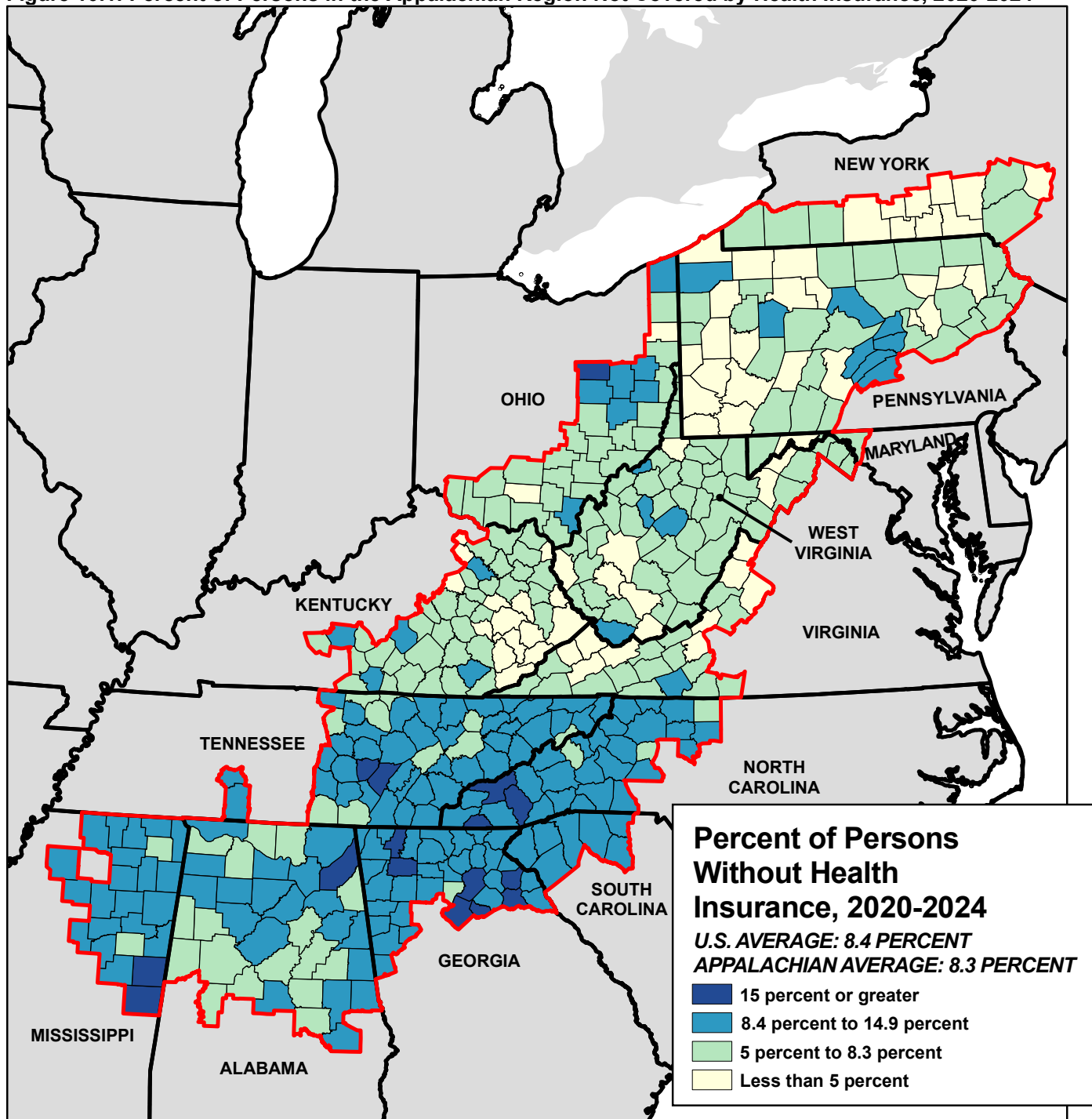
Table 10.2: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, by Age Group, 2020-2024

Health Insurance Status	All Ages	Under Age 35				Ages 35-64	Ages 65 and Over
		Total	Under Age 19	Ages 19-25	Ages 26-34		
United States	8.4	9.6	5.5	13.8	14.6	10.3	0.8
Appalachian Region	8.3	9.8	5.2	14.1	15.8	10.6	0.5
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	5.5	7.4	5.3	8.9	10.3	6.2	0.4
North Central Appalachia	6.2	7.3	3.5	10.5	12.5	8.0	0.4
Central Appalachia	6.6	7.8	3.8	12.8	12.6	8.4	0.4
South Central Appalachia	9.8	11.2	5.3	15.3	19.3	13.3	0.6
Southern Appalachia	11.0	12.1	5.9	19.3	19.9	13.9	0.8
County Types							
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	8.2	9.7	5.2	15.2	14.7	9.9	0.7
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	8.2	9.5	4.6	13.5	15.8	10.7	0.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	8.4	10.2	6.0	13.7	16.3	10.6	0.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	8.5	10.3	5.7	14.5	16.8	11.1	0.4
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	8.8	10.8	6.6	14.4	16.7	10.9	0.6
Alabama	9.2	10.1	3.6	17.3	17.7	12.2	0.5
Appalachian Alabama	9.0	9.7	3.6	16.6	16.6	12.0	0.5
Non-Appalachian Alabama	9.6	10.8	3.7	18.6	19.8	12.6	0.5
Georgia	12.4	13.8	6.9	21.8	21.8	15.0	1.0
Appalachian Georgia	13.3	14.8	7.9	23.2	23.8	16.0	1.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	11.9	13.3	6.4	21.2	21.0	14.6	1.0
Kentucky	6.0	7.2	4.4	10.5	10.5	7.2	0.4
Appalachian Kentucky	6.0	7.3	4.1	12.1	10.5	7.3	0.4
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	6.0	7.1	4.4	10.0	10.4	7.1	0.4
Maryland	6.3	7.1	4.4	9.4	11.0	7.5	1.0
Appalachian Maryland	5.6	6.4	3.6	8.1	10.9	7.2	0.8
Non-Appalachian Maryland	6.3	7.1	4.5	9.5	11.0	7.5	1.1
Mississippi	11.0	12.7	5.9	20.4	21.6	13.8	0.5
Appalachian Mississippi	10.6	12.2	5.5	18.2	21.3	13.3	0.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	11.1	12.8	6.0	21.0	21.7	14.0	0.4
New York	5.1	5.5	2.6	7.1	9.2	6.5	0.9
Appalachian New York	4.5	6.0	4.2	6.5	9.1	4.9	0.3
Non-Appalachian New York	5.1	5.5	2.5	7.1	9.2	6.5	0.9
North Carolina	9.9	10.8	5.5	15.3	17.8	12.9	0.7
Appalachian North Carolina	10.8	12.5	5.6	17.3	22.1	14.6	0.5
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	9.6	10.4	5.5	14.9	16.9	12.5	0.7
Ohio	6.4	7.9	4.9	10.5	11.9	7.5	0.6
Appalachian Ohio	7.7	9.9	7.2	13.0	13.6	8.9	0.6
Non-Appalachian Ohio	6.2	7.5	4.4	10.1	11.6	7.2	0.6
Pennsylvania	5.6	7.3	5.1	8.9	10.1	6.4	0.5
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5.1	6.9	4.7	8.4	9.8	5.8	0.4
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	6.0	7.5	5.3	9.3	10.4	6.8	0.7
South Carolina	9.6	11.2	5.6	16.9	18.2	12.4	0.5
Appalachian South Carolina	10.2	11.3	5.9	16.9	17.7	13.3	0.5
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	9.4	11.2	5.5	16.9	18.4	12.1	0.5
Tennessee	10.0	11.2	5.9	16.2	17.9	12.8	0.7
Appalachian Tennessee	9.8	11.1	5.2	15.8	18.7	13.2	0.6
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	10.2	11.3	6.3	16.4	17.4	12.4	0.8
Virginia	6.9	8.0	4.7	10.9	12.3	8.3	0.9
Appalachian Virginia	5.9	6.5	3.1	8.2	11.7	8.4	0.5
Non-Appalachian Virginia	7.0	8.1	4.8	11.2	12.3	8.3	0.9
West Virginia (entire state)	6.0	7.1	2.9	11.0	12.6	7.9	0.3

Note: The health insurance universe consists of the civilian noninstitutional population.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 10.1: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2020-2024

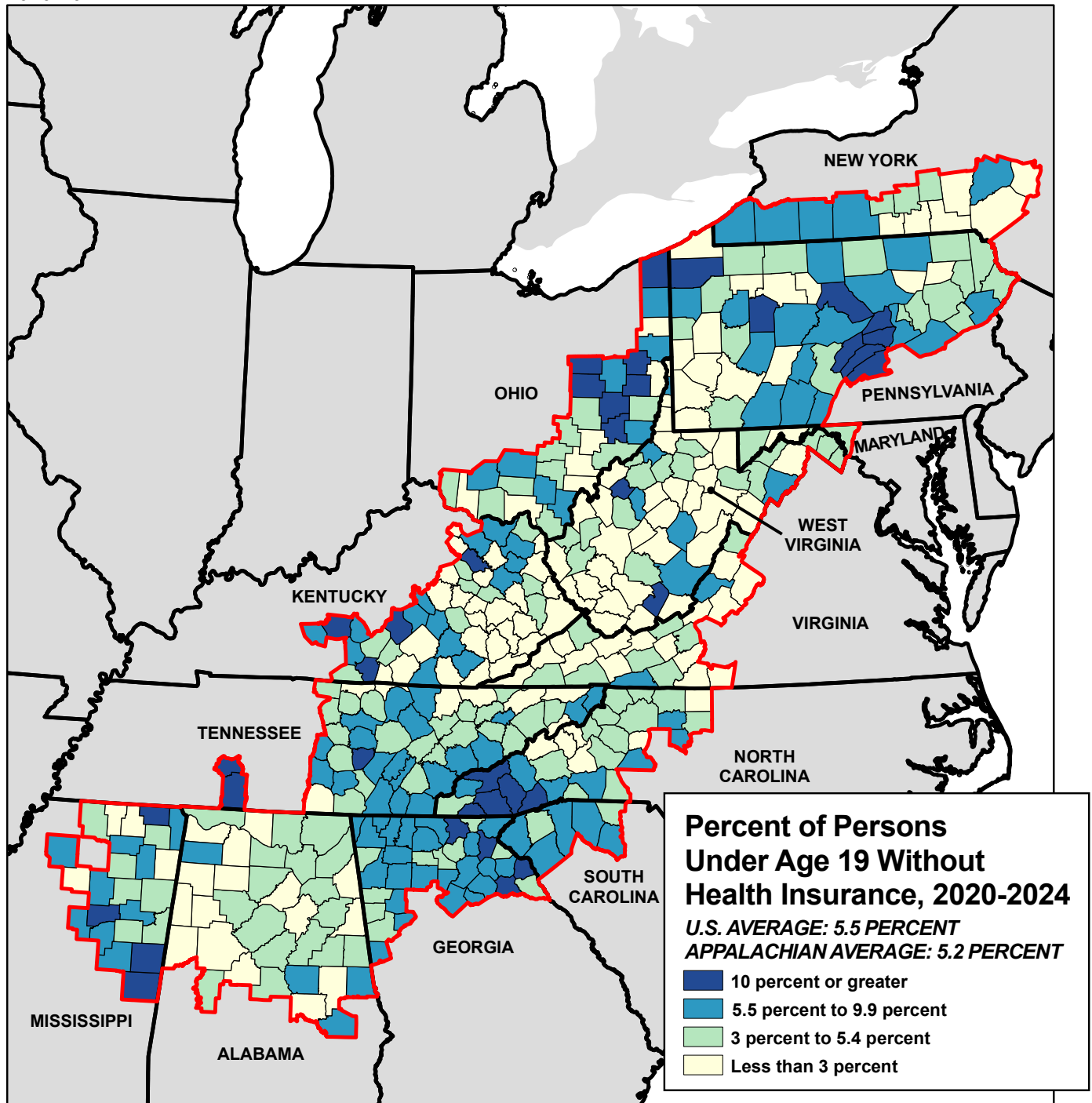


Map Title: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Nearly 2.2 million persons in the Appalachian Region lacked any health insurance coverage in the 2020-2024 period – representing 8.3 percent of Appalachia’s residents. Although the percentage for the Appalachian Region is slightly lower than the U.S. share of 8.4 percent, 181 of the 423 Appalachian counties had non-coverage rates at least as high as the national average. And in 16 Appalachian counties – seven of which were in Georgia – at least 15 percent of residents were not covered by insurance. The share without health insurance was highest in Appalachian Georgia (13.3 percent), Mississippi (10.6 percent), North Carolina (10.8 percent), and South Carolina (10.2 percent). In contrast, 65 counties had uninsured rates below five percent, nearly one-third of which were counties in Pennsylvania.

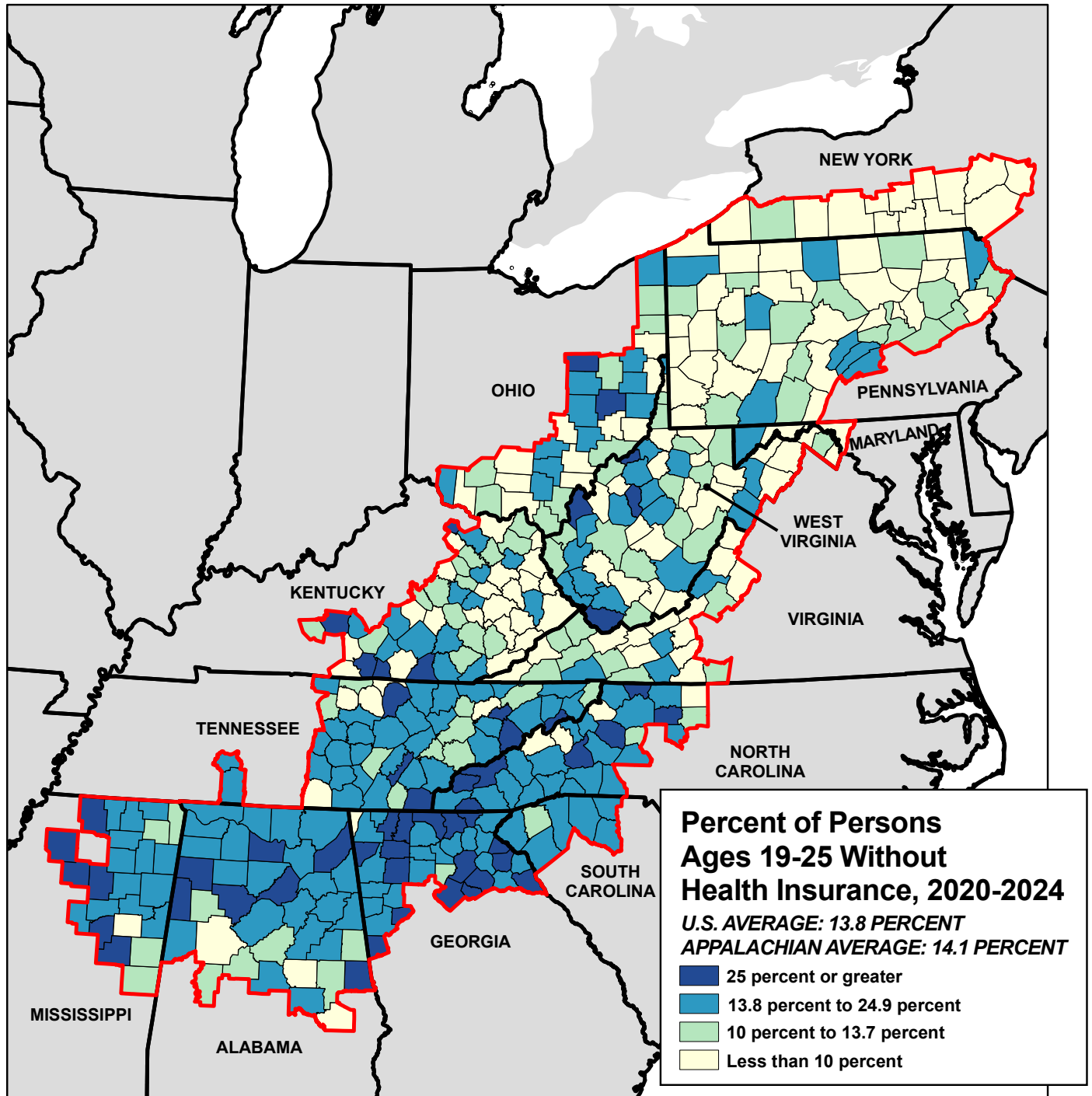
Figure 10.2: Percent of Persons Under Age 19 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Persons Under Age 19 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2020-2024
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Just 5.2 percent of Appalachia's children and youth under age 19 were uninsured during 2020-2024 – over 300,000 of the Appalachian Region's children – slightly below the national average of 5.5 percent. But the rate varied throughout Appalachia. On one hand, 133 counties had non-coverage rates under three percent; just under half of these counties (63) were in either West Virginia or the Appalachian portions of Alabama, Maryland, or Virginia – the four states in the region where less than four percent of children and youth lacked health insurance. Conversely, at least one in 10 persons under age 19 were without health insurance in 37 other counties. While the counties in the latter group were scattered throughout various parts of Appalachia, all but five of them were outside metropolitan areas. The uninsured rate for children and youth was highest in Appalachian Georgia at 7.9 percent – 2.4 percentage points above the national average.

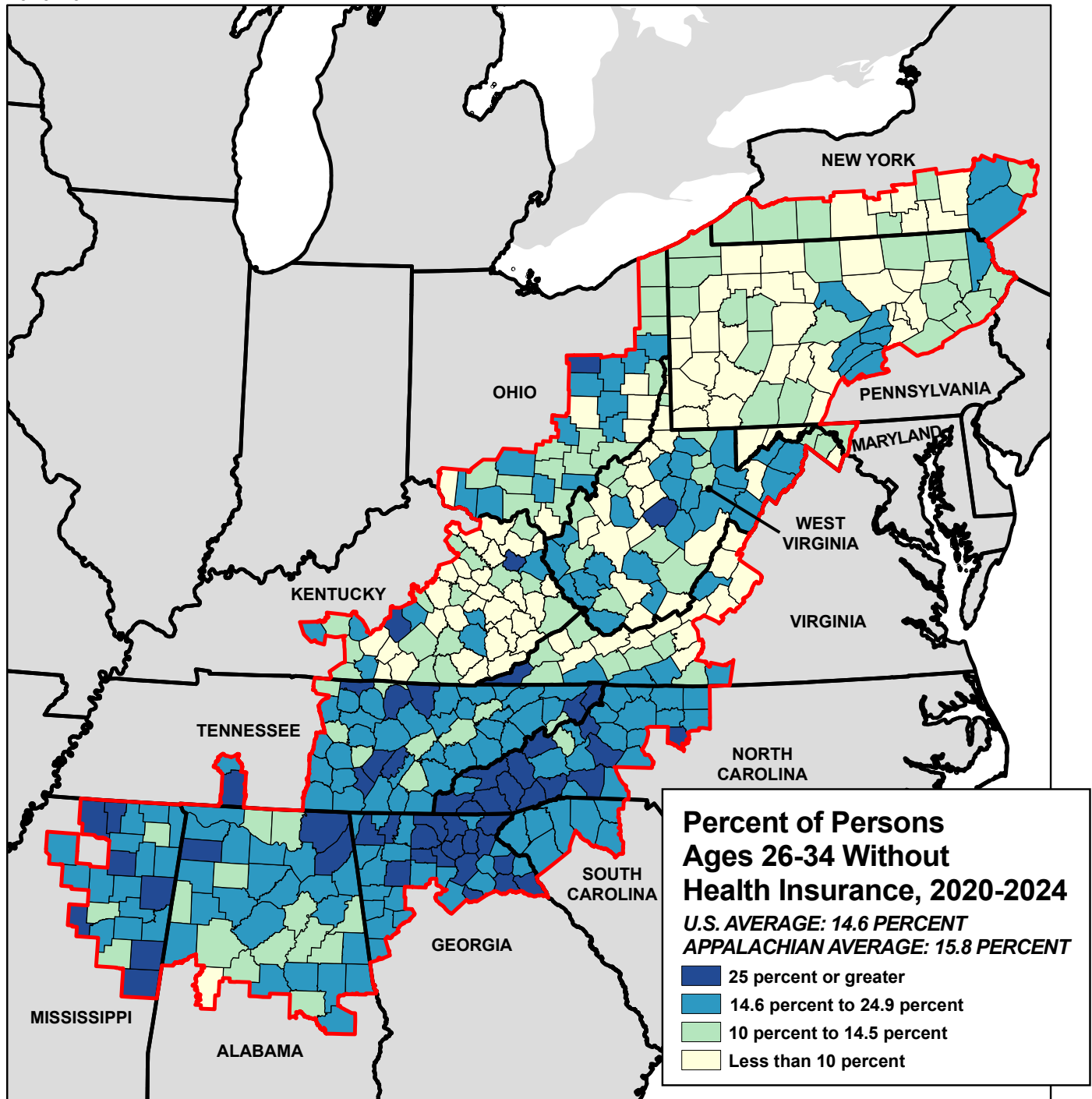
Figure 10.3: Percent of Persons Ages 19 to 25 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 19 to 25 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2020-2024
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

During the 2020-2024 period, nearly one in seven Appalachian residents (14.1 percent) ages 19 to 25 did not have health insurance coverage, slightly higher than the national average of 13.8 percent. Non-coverage was especially prevalent in much of Southern Appalachia, where close to one out of every five 19-to-25-year-olds did not have coverage. In 54 of Appalachia's counties, at least one-in-four young adults did not have coverage— 17 of which were located in Appalachian Georgia, where the overall share of uninsured among this age group was the highest among the states at 23.2 percent. In contrast, 125 Appalachian counties had less than 10 percent of people ages 19 to 25 without health insurance; more than one-third of the counties in this group were in Northern Appalachia, with pockets in North Central and Central Appalachia.

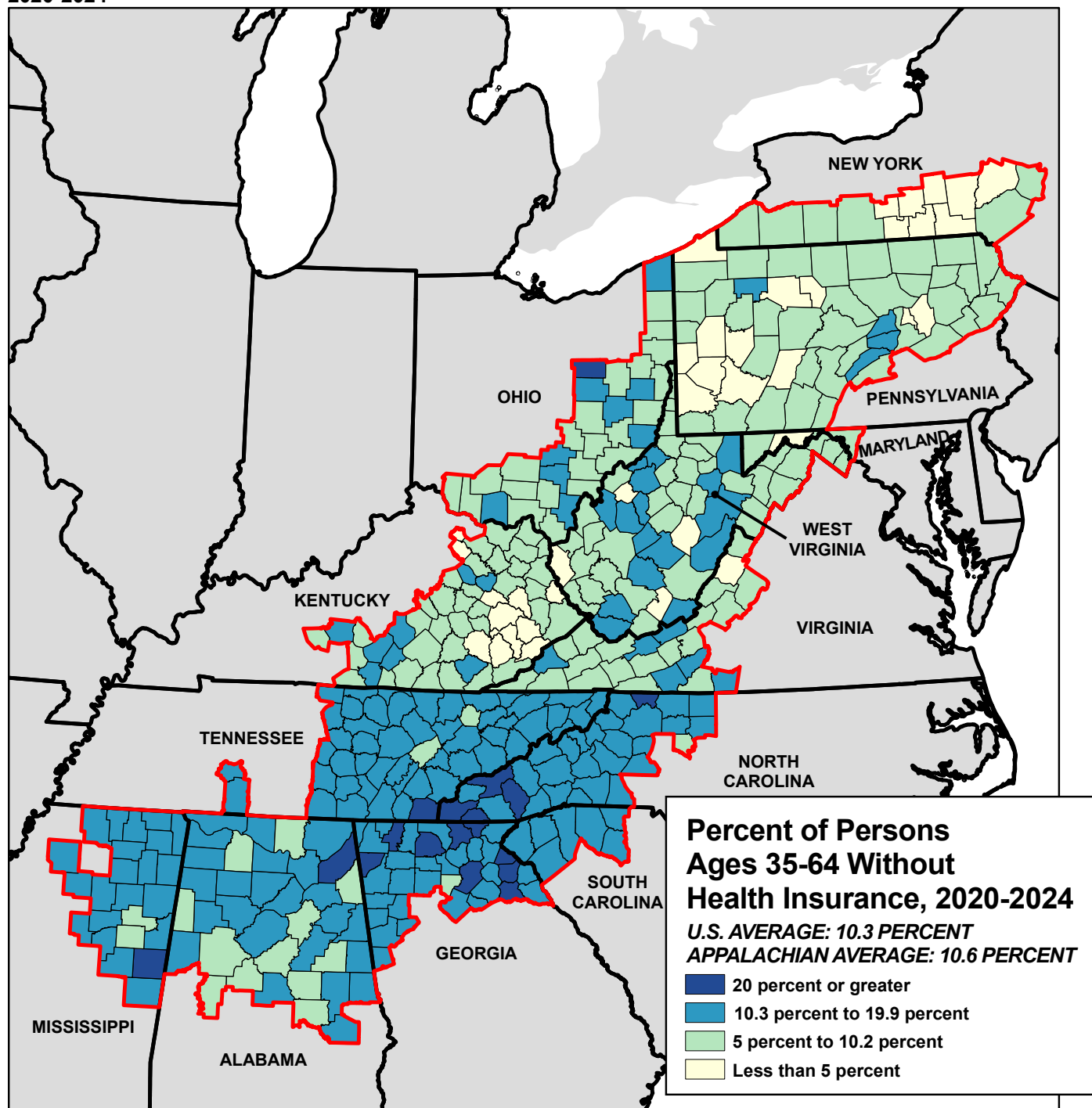
Figure 10.4: Percent of Persons Ages 26 to 34 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 26 to 34 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2020-2024
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Lack of health insurance coverage was highest among young adults ages 26 to 34 – 15.8 percent of Appalachian residents in this group were uninsured during the 2020-2024 period. And coverage was even lower in South Central and Southern Appalachia, where nearly one in five 26-to-34-year-olds were without insurance. In fact, these two subregions had 46 of the 54 counties where at least 25 percent of residents ages 26 to 34 lacked health insurance. However, 201 of Appalachia's 423 counties had non-coverage rates below the national average of 14.6 percent; these were overwhelmingly located in Northern, North Central, and Central Appalachia. And in 102 of the Appalachian Region's counties, less than 10 percent of young adults ages 26 to 34 were without health insurance.

Figure 10.5: Percent of Persons Ages 35 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 35 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2020-2024
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

In 2020-2024, 10.6 percent of Appalachia's working-age population ages 35 to 64 were not covered by health insurance, slightly above the national rate of 10.3 percent. And counties where the highest shares of adults in this age group were uninsured were largely located in the Southern and South Central portions of the Appalachian Region. In fact, of the 214 Appalachian counties where the share of 35-to-64-year-olds were uninsured was at least the national average, three-fourths were in these two subregions. And of the 18 counties where at least one in five persons in this group had no health insurance, all but one were located in South Central or Southern Appalachia – primarily within Georgia and North Carolina. On the other hand, in 37 of Appalachia's counties the share was less than five percent. Of these counties, all but four were in Northern Appalachia or Central Appalachia.

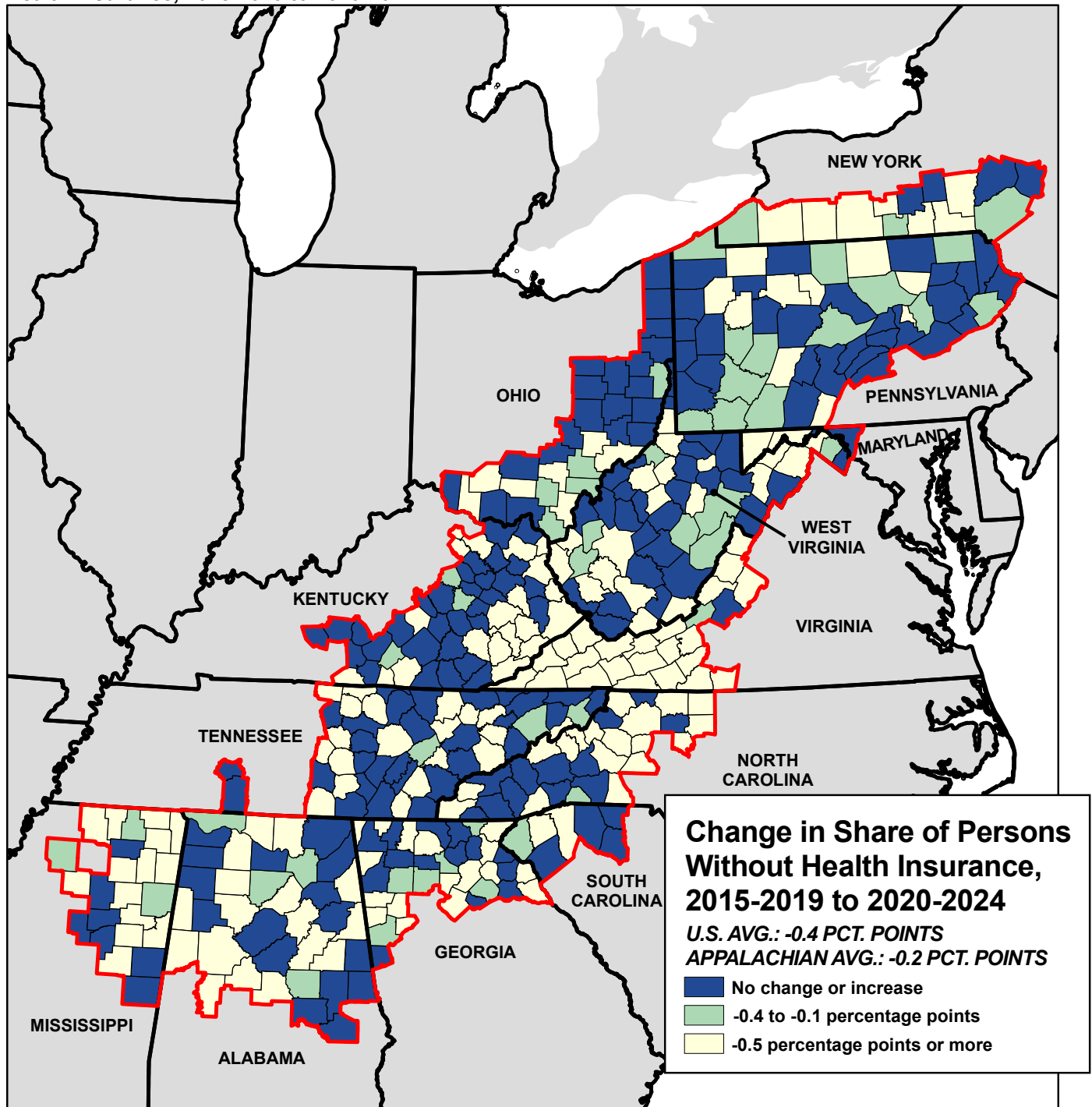
Table 10.3: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, by Age Group, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Health Insurance Status	All Ages	Under Age 35	Ages 35-64	Ages 65 and Over
United States	- 0.4	- 0.4	- 0.4	0.0
Appalachian Region	- 0.2	0.0	0.0	+ 0.1
Subregions				
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
North Central Appalachia	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Central Appalachia	- 0.6	- 0.6	- 0.6	+ 0.1
South Central Appalachia	- 0.3	+ 0.1	- 0.6	+ 0.3
Southern Appalachia	- 0.5	- 0.6	- 0.4	+ 0.2
County Types				
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	- 0.1	+ 0.2	0.0	+ 0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 0.2	- 0.3	0.0	0.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	0.0
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 0.5	- 0.4	- 0.5	+ 0.2
Alabama	- 0.3	- 0.5	0.0	+ 0.1
Appalachian Alabama	- 0.2	- 0.5	+ 0.3	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 0.6	- 0.5	- 0.5	+ 0.1
Georgia	- 0.8	- 0.8	- 0.8	+ 0.1
Appalachian Georgia	- 0.8	- 0.5	- 1.0	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 1.0	- 1.0	- 0.7	+ 0.2
Kentucky	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.7	+ 0.1
Appalachian Kentucky	0.0	0.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.8	+ 0.1
Maryland	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.5	0.0
Appalachian Maryland	0.0	- 0.9	+ 1.0	+ 0.6
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.5	+ 0.1
Mississippi	- 1.3	- 0.8	- 1.8	+ 0.1
Appalachian Mississippi	- 1.4	- 1.2	- 1.9	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 1.3	- 0.8	- 1.7	0.0
New York	- 0.7	- 0.8	- 0.7	+ 0.1
Appalachian New York	- 0.2	- 0.4	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian New York	- 0.7	- 0.8	- 0.8	+ 0.1
North Carolina	- 0.8	- 0.9	- 0.8	+ 0.1
Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.6	- 0.4	- 0.8	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.9	- 1.0	- 0.8	+ 0.1
Ohio	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	+ 0.1
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.5	+ 0.8	+ 0.6	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.1
Pennsylvania	- 0.1	+ 0.1	0.0	+ 0.1
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.2	+ 0.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.1
South Carolina	- 0.9	- 0.3	- 1.3	+ 0.1
Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.0	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 1.1	- 0.4	- 1.8	+ 0.1
Tennessee	+ 0.3	+ 0.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.3	+ 0.9	0.0	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.4	+ 0.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Virginia	- 1.7	- 1.7	- 1.9	0.0
Appalachian Virginia	- 3.1	- 3.5	- 3.9	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 1.6	- 1.6	- 1.7	- 0.1
West Virginia (entire state)	0.0	+ 0.1	0.0	0.0

Note: The health insurance universe consists of the civilian noninstitutional population.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Figure 10.6: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachian residents not covered by health insurance fell 0.2 percentage points between the 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 periods. While the improvement is slightly lower than for the U.S. overall, it was above the national average in many parts of the Appalachian Region. Non-coverage rates fell the most in the Central and Southern subregions and in the region's rural counties. Of the 176 counties where non-coverage decreased by more than the national average, about 64 percent (113 counties) were outside of metropolitan areas. Yet, in another 197 counties throughout the region, the share of uninsured people remained constant or increased.

TRENDS IN HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

- Between the 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 periods, the share of Appalachian residents not covered by health insurance fell 0.2 percentage points to 8.3 percent (see Tables 10.2 and 10.3). And the share fell even further in Central Appalachia (0.6 percentage points), Southern Appalachia (0.5 percentage points), the Appalachian Region's most rural counties (0.5 percentage points), and the Appalachian portions of Georgia (0.8 percentage points), Mississippi (1.4 percentage points), North Carolina (0.6 percentage points), and Virginia (3.1 percentage points).
- The uninsured rate in the Appalachian Region for the under-35 population did not change between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. Declines in non-coverage among children and young adults were the greatest in Central and Southern Appalachia and the region's rural counties. In fact, Central and Southern Appalachia were the only two subregions to experience a decrease in uninsured rates for the under-35 population: All other subregions increased from 2015-2019, with Northern Appalachia increasing most by 0.4 percentage points. Among the Appalachian parts of states, Virginia saw the greatest decline at 3.5 percentage points, while Ohio (0.8 percentage points), Pennsylvania (0.5 percentage points), and Tennessee (0.9 percentage points) all had notable increases in their uninsured under-35 population from 2015-2019 to 2020-2024.
- The share of 35-to-64-year-olds without health insurance in Appalachia also remained unchanged between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024, while the national average decreased by 0.4 percentage points. Non-coverage among 35-to-64-year-olds decreased most in Central and South Central Appalachia and in rural counties throughout the region. The Appalachian sections of Mississippi and Virginia had the largest decline at 1.9 and 3.9 percentage points, respectively, since 2015-2019. Meanwhile, the uninsured rate for this age group increased by a full percentage point in Appalachian Maryland during this period.
- Between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024, the share of uninsured adults in Appalachia increased only among the 65 and over age group, but only slightly, by 0.1 percentage points. While the share of uninsured people in this age group remained unchanged in the nation overall between the two years, Appalachia showed slight differences throughout the region. The share of uninsured adults ages 65 and over increased most in the Appalachian portion of Maryland by 0.6 percentage points.

CHAPTER 11: DISABILITY STATUS

Table 11.1: Number of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, by Age Group, 2020-2024

Disability Status	All Ages	Under Age 18	Ages 18-64			Ages 65 and Over
			Total	Ages 18-34	Ages 35-64	
United States	43,869,797	3,578,121	21,803,902	6,058,471	15,745,431	18,487,774
Appalachian Region	4,252,883	316,466	2,153,926	526,026	1,627,900	1,782,491
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	1,250,706	95,382	616,800	165,196	451,604	538,524
North Central Appalachia	444,753	29,863	228,730	53,882	174,848	186,160
Central Appalachia	436,019	29,772	235,612	46,410	189,202	170,635
South Central Appalachia	854,001	55,389	422,786	98,741	324,045	375,826
Southern Appalachia	1,267,404	106,060	649,998	161,797	488,201	511,346
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	873,723	76,039	435,110	116,915	318,195	362,574
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	1,713,015	128,123	868,772	222,231	646,541	716,120
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	405,453	27,638	206,971	48,921	158,050	170,844
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	768,180	51,678	385,853	84,044	301,809	330,649
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	492,512	32,988	257,220	53,915	203,305	202,304
Alabama	824,128	59,544	427,633	102,073	325,560	336,951
Appalachian Alabama	536,638	40,026	280,969	68,477	212,492	215,643
Non-Appalachian Alabama	287,490	19,518	146,664	33,596	113,068	121,308
Georgia	1,409,891	128,285	733,365	193,289	540,076	548,241
Appalachian Georgia	422,765	39,581	213,494	55,655	157,839	169,690
Non-Appalachian Georgia	987,126	88,704	519,871	137,634	382,237	378,551
Kentucky	797,116	65,085	433,074	107,026	326,048	298,957
Appalachian Kentucky	266,558	19,095	147,053	29,948	117,105	100,410
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	530,558	45,990	286,021	77,078	208,943	198,547
Maryland	710,452	60,062	352,047	96,308	255,739	298,343
Appalachian Maryland	41,609	3,854	20,934	5,319	15,615	16,821
Non-Appalachian Maryland	668,843	56,208	331,113	90,989	240,124	281,522
Mississippi	513,477	43,097	268,992	64,901	204,091	201,388
Appalachian Mississippi	105,969	8,918	55,827	13,016	42,811	41,224
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	407,508	34,179	213,165	51,885	161,280	160,164
New York	2,482,006	187,723	1,187,853	319,637	868,216	1,106,430
Appalachian New York	159,195	12,638	82,152	25,019	57,133	64,405
Non-Appalachian New York	2,322,811	175,085	1,105,701	294,618	811,083	1,042,025
North Carolina	1,428,780	108,854	722,957	186,219	536,738	596,969
Appalachian North Carolina	321,643	20,465	157,318	37,429	119,889	143,860
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	1,107,137	88,389	565,639	148,790	416,849	453,109
Ohio	1,678,429	143,201	853,777	235,778	617,999	681,451
Appalachian Ohio	338,560	24,813	174,013	41,052	132,961	139,734
Non-Appalachian Ohio	1,339,869	118,388	679,764	194,726	485,038	541,717
Pennsylvania	1,842,249	156,292	909,483	257,571	651,912	776,474
Appalachian Pennsylvania	870,640	65,579	423,555	113,553	310,002	381,506
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	971,609	90,713	485,928	144,018	341,910	394,968
South Carolina	761,090	58,502	377,162	89,715	287,447	325,426
Appalachian South Carolina	202,032	17,535	99,708	24,649	75,059	84,789
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	559,058	40,967	277,454	65,066	212,388	240,637
Tennessee	1,041,249	80,258	533,844	133,857	399,987	427,147
Appalachian Tennessee	512,284	34,269	256,452	57,920	198,532	221,563
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	528,965	45,989	277,392	75,937	201,455	205,584
Virginia	1,058,925	90,230	527,174	144,199	382,975	441,521
Appalachian Virginia	142,406	8,925	72,869	15,282	57,587	60,612
Non-Appalachian Virginia	916,519	81,305	454,305	128,917	325,388	380,909
West Virginia (entire state)	332,584	20,768	169,582	38,707	130,875	142,234

Note: The ACS defines persons with a disability as those 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, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

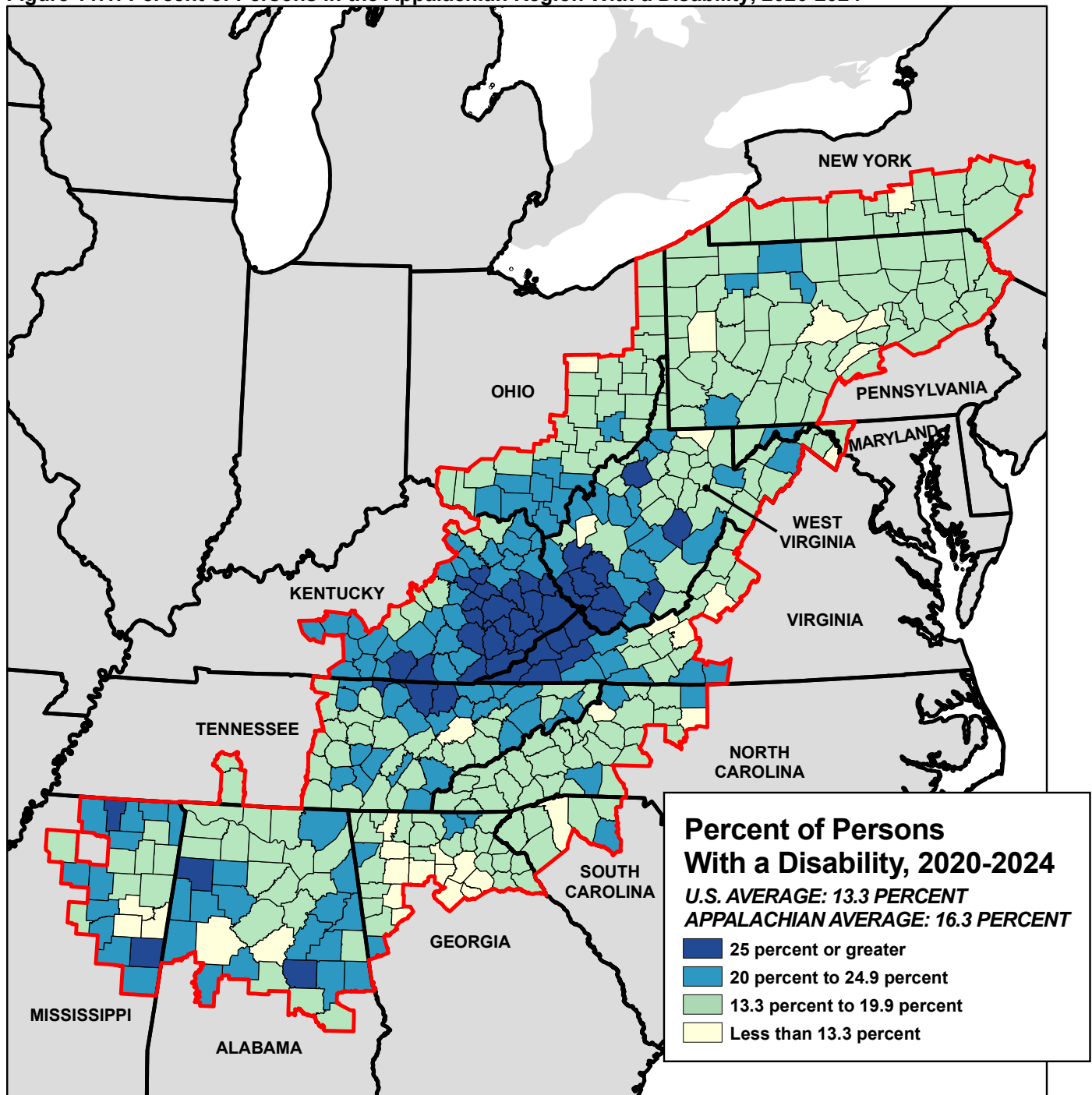
Table 11.2: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, by Age Group, 2020-2024

Disability Status	All Ages	Under Age 18	Ages 18-64			Ages 65 and Over
			Total	Ages 18-34	Ages 35-64	
United States	13.3	4.9	10.9	8.1	12.5	32.9
Appalachian Region	16.3	5.7	13.8	9.4	16.3	35.8
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	15.8	6.1	13.2	9.8	15.1	32.7
North Central Appalachia	18.2	5.9	15.9	10.6	18.7	38.0
Central Appalachia	24.0	7.5	22.2	12.8	27.0	48.0
South Central Appalachia	16.3	5.3	13.5	8.8	16.2	35.2
Southern Appalachia	14.6	5.3	12.4	8.4	14.7	36.1
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	13.5	5.3	11.1	8.4	12.5	32.7
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	15.9	5.7	13.4	9.2	15.9	35.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	17.3	5.6	15.0	10.1	17.6	36.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	19.0	6.2	16.5	10.6	19.6	38.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	20.0	6.3	17.8	10.3	22.1	40.5
Alabama	16.5	5.3	14.3	9.1	17.3	38.2
Appalachian Alabama	16.6	5.5	14.4	9.4	17.4	38.3
Non-Appalachian Alabama	16.3	4.8	14.1	8.7	17.3	38.1
Georgia	13.1	5.1	11.1	7.8	13.0	34.2
Appalachian Georgia	12.2	4.7	10.1	7.5	11.5	33.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	13.5	5.2	11.6	8.0	13.8	34.7
Kentucky	17.9	6.4	16.2	10.9	19.3	39.2
Appalachian Kentucky	23.4	7.4	21.9	12.8	26.7	47.8
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	16.0	6.0	14.3	10.3	16.7	35.9
Maryland	11.6	4.4	9.5	7.4	10.6	29.5
Appalachian Maryland	17.4	7.6	14.8	10.7	17.0	35.7
Non-Appalachian Maryland	11.4	4.2	9.2	7.2	10.3	29.2
Mississippi	17.8	6.3	15.7	10.2	19.1	41.2
Appalachian Mississippi	17.7	6.4	15.7	9.4	19.7	39.7
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	17.8	6.2	15.8	10.4	18.9	41.5
New York	12.6	4.6	9.8	7.0	11.4	32.0
Appalachian New York	15.8	6.5	13.5	10.3	15.6	31.7
Non-Appalachian New York	12.5	4.5	9.6	6.9	11.2	32.0
North Carolina	13.6	4.7	11.3	7.9	13.3	33.1
Appalachian North Carolina	15.9	5.1	13.1	8.9	15.4	33.4
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	13.0	4.6	10.9	7.7	12.8	33.0
Ohio	14.4	5.5	12.3	9.2	14.1	32.7
Appalachian Ohio	17.5	5.9	15.4	10.5	18.1	36.3
Non-Appalachian Ohio	13.8	5.4	11.7	8.9	13.3	31.9
Pennsylvania	14.4	5.9	11.8	9.1	13.3	31.7
Appalachian Pennsylvania	15.6	6.0	12.8	9.6	14.5	32.5
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	13.4	5.8	11.0	8.8	12.4	30.9
South Carolina	14.6	5.2	12.2	8.0	14.6	33.2
Appalachian South Carolina	14.5	5.6	11.9	7.8	14.4	35.2
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	14.7	5.0	12.4	8.1	14.7	32.6
Tennessee	14.9	5.1	12.6	8.5	15.1	36.2
Appalachian Tennessee	17.1	5.5	14.3	9.0	17.3	37.7
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	13.3	4.9	11.4	8.2	13.4	34.7
Virginia	12.5	4.8	10.2	7.7	11.6	31.1
Appalachian Virginia	19.9	6.8	17.1	9.6	21.6	38.6
Non-Appalachian Virginia	11.8	4.6	9.6	7.5	10.7	30.1
West Virginia (entire state)	19.1	5.8	16.6	10.8	19.7	39.0

Note: The ACS defines persons with a disability as those 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, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 11.1: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2020-2024

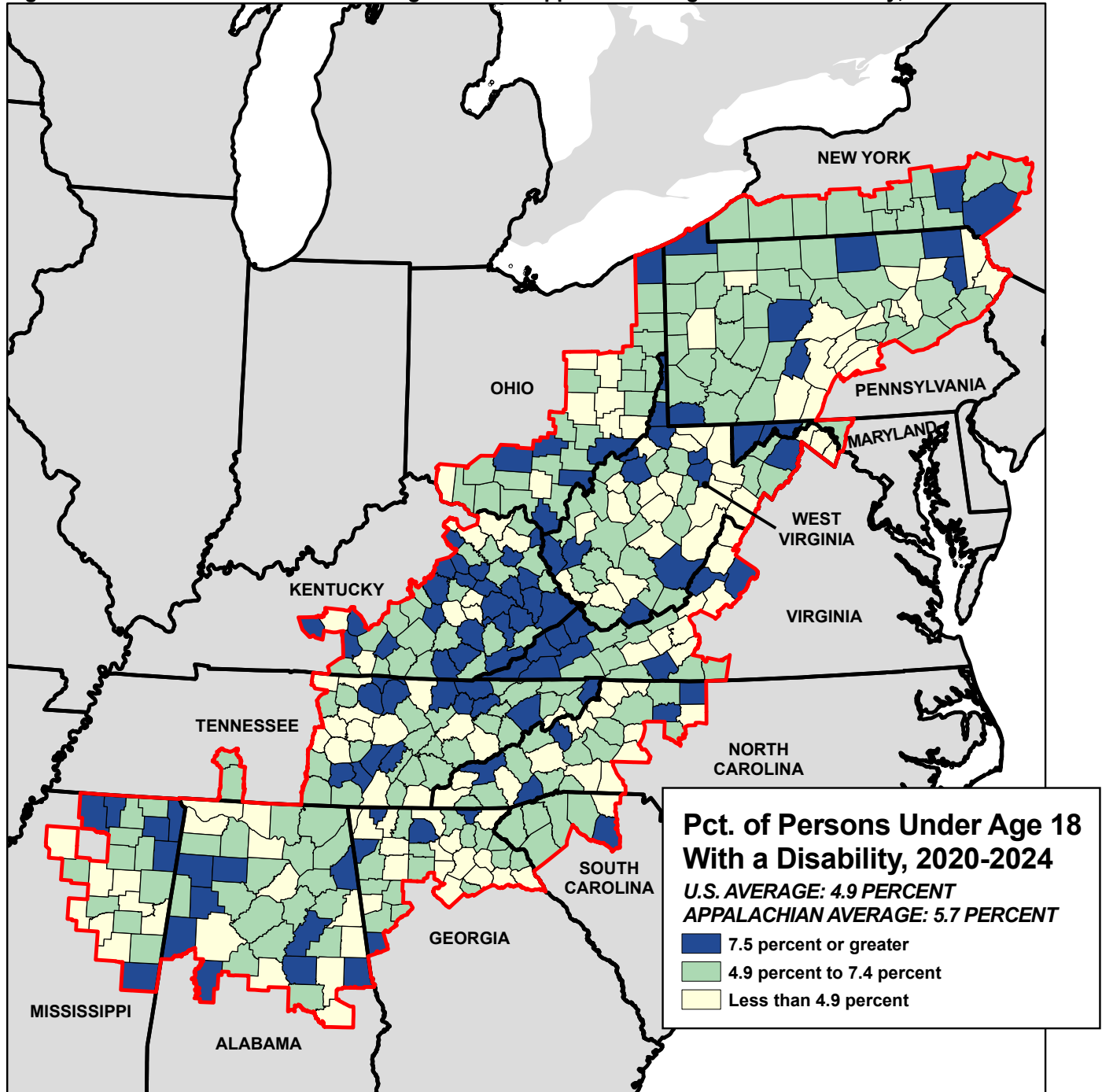


Map Title: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Nearly one in six (16.3 percent) Appalachian residents reported having a disability in the 2020-2024 period (defined by the ACS 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 Appalachian Region's share of residents with a disability is three percentage points higher than the U.S. share (13.3 percent). And disability prevalence was particularly high in the region's rural counties, Central Appalachia, and the Appalachian portion of Kentucky – where at least one in five residents reported having a disability. In fact, in 42 counties – almost half of which were in Kentucky – at least one in four persons reported a disability. Appalachia's relatively high disability rate corresponds to the population's older age structure: Among the 42 counties with the highest disability prevalence, the share of residents ages 65 or older exceeded the national average (18 percent in 2020-2024) in all but four of them. In contrast, there were only 33 counties in Appalachia with a disability rate below the national average of 13.3 percent.

Figure 11.2: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2020-2024

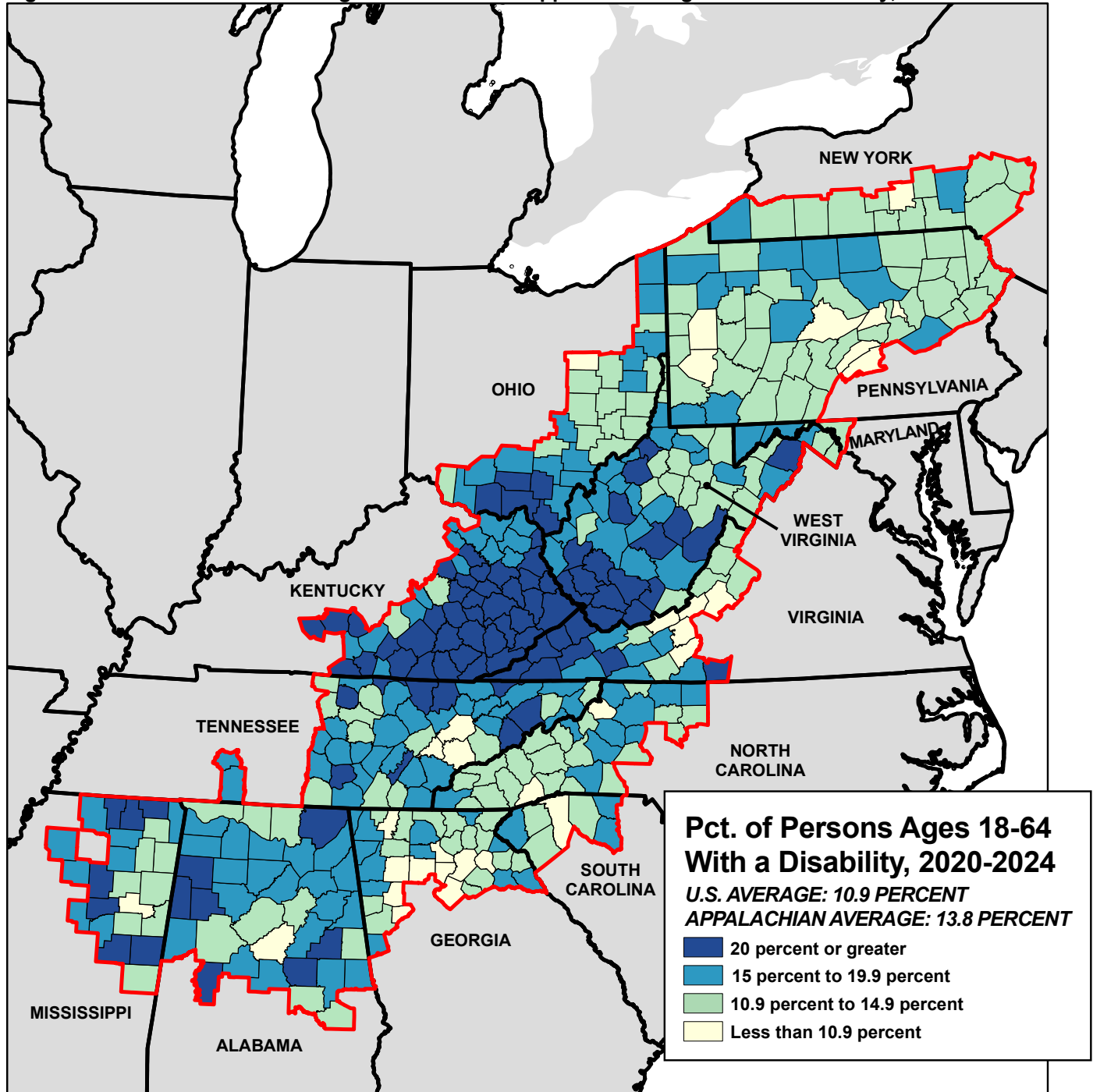


Map Title: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

At 5.7 percent, the prevalence of disability among children under age 18 in Appalachia was 0.8 percentage points higher than the national average during the 2020-2024 period. And the rate was at least 7.5 percent in 103 Appalachian counties, one in four of these counties were categorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (ERS) as having a history of persistent child poverty. Of these 103 counties, 73 percent (75) of them were outside of metropolitan areas, and 40 were in Central Appalachia, where the overall share of children with disabilities was the highest among subregions (7.5 percent). However, in 127 other counties throughout the Appalachian Region disability prevalence for children fell below the national average of 4.9 percent. These counties were largely in Southern and South Central Appalachia, the two subregions with the lowest overall childhood disability prevalence at 5.3 percent. And just one in seven (17) of these counties met the ERS criteria for persistent childhood poverty – a contrast compared with counties in the region which had the highest childhood disability rates.

Figure 11.3: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2020-2024

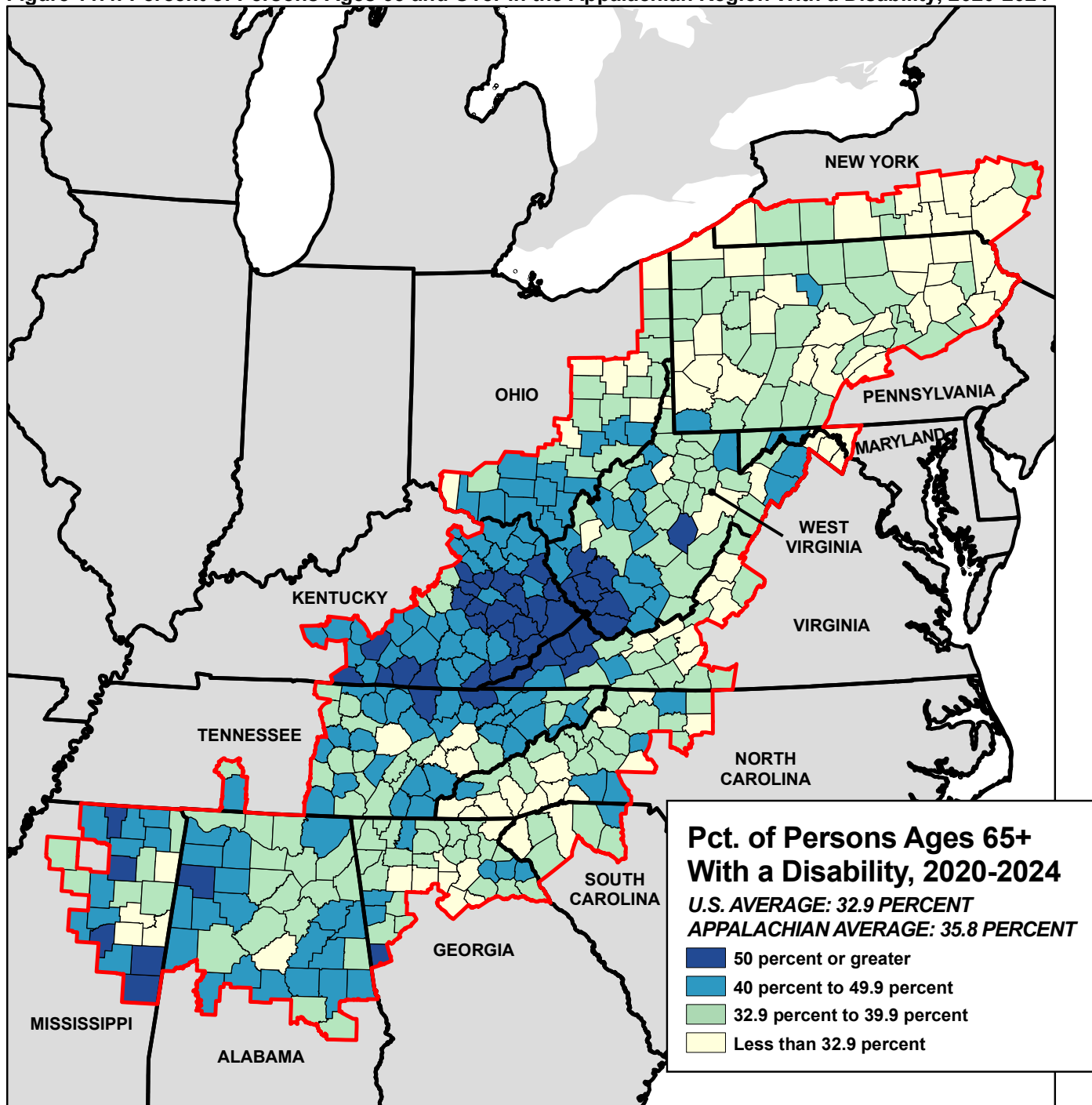


Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

In the 2020-2024 period, 13.8 percent of adults ages 18 to 64 in Appalachia reported a disability, compared with 10.9 percent nationally. Disability prevalence was particularly high in some parts of the Appalachian Region: In Central Appalachia, for example, more than one in five adults ages 18 to 64 had a disability. In fact, Central Appalachia had over half of the 90 Appalachian counties where the disability rate among 18-to-64-year-olds was 20 percent or higher – and 38 of these counties were in Kentucky alone. High rates of poverty, the Appalachian Region’s historic reliance on mining and related resource-based industries, and higher instances of cancer, heart disease, and diabetes in the region may be associated with the subregion’s high disability prevalence for this age group.

Figure 11.4: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

At 35.8 percent, over one in three adults ages 65 and over in the Appalachian Region reported a disability in the 2020-2024 period – a rate which was nearly three percentage points above the national share (32.9 percent). And the prevalence was even greater in some parts of Appalachia: 48 percent of the older residents in Central Appalachia and 47.8 in Appalachian Kentucky had at least one disability. In fact, 36 of the 44 Appalachian counties where at least half of the older residents reported a disability were located in Central Appalachia, and 23 of these were in Kentucky alone. However, in 87 of Appalachia's counties, the disability rate for the older population was lower than the national average. Only the region's large metropolitan areas, the Northern Appalachian subregion, and the Appalachian portions of Pennsylvania and New York had a share of older adults with disabilities below the national average.

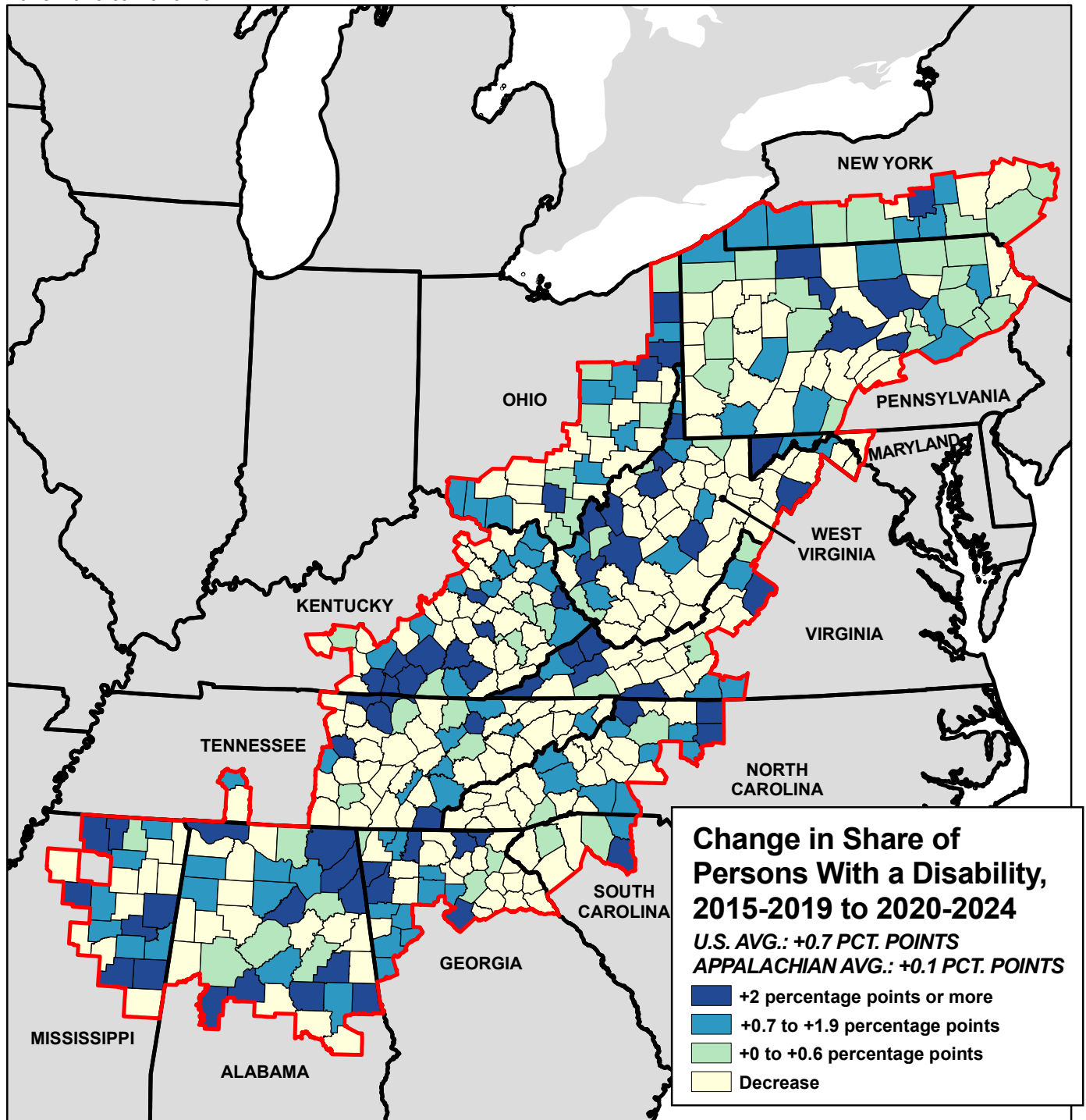
Table 11.3: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, by Age Group, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Disability Status	All Ages	Under Age 18	Ages 18-64			Ages 65 and Over
			Total	Ages 18-34	Ages 35-64	
United States	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	+ 0.6	+ 1.8	- 0.1	- 1.6
Appalachian Region	+ 0.1	+ 0.6	0.0	+ 1.5	- 0.7	- 1.9
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.6	+ 1.9	- 0.1	- 1.8
North Central Appalachia	- 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.4	+ 1.4	- 1.4	- 2.7
Central Appalachia	+ 0.3	+ 0.8	- 0.3	+ 1.3	- 0.9	0.0
South Central Appalachia	- 0.2	+ 0.4	- 0.3	+ 1.2	- 1.0	- 2.1
Southern Appalachia	+ 0.3	+ 1.2	+ 0.1	+ 1.4	- 0.6	- 1.8
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	+ 0.4	+ 1.0	+ 0.2	+ 1.6	- 0.6	- 1.8
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	+ 0.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.2	+ 1.7	- 0.6	- 1.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.3	+ 1.0	- 1.0	- 1.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	- 0.1	+ 0.3	- 0.2	+ 1.1	- 0.7	- 1.9
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 0.3	+ 0.7	+ 0.1	+ 1.1	- 0.3	- 1.9
Alabama	+ 0.2	+ 0.7	+ 0.1	+ 1.3	- 0.6	- 2.1
Appalachian Alabama	+ 0.4	+ 0.9	+ 0.3	+ 1.5	- 0.3	- 1.7
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.2	+ 1.0	- 1.0	- 2.7
Georgia	+ 0.7	+ 0.9	+ 0.6	+ 1.5	- 0.1	- 1.4
Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.5	+ 1.2	+ 0.2	+ 1.3	- 0.4	- 1.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.8	+ 0.7	+ 0.8	+ 1.6	+ 0.2	- 1.3
Kentucky	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	+ 0.2	+ 1.8	- 0.6	- 1.2
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.3	+ 0.6	- 0.2	+ 1.3	- 1.0	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	+ 0.5	+ 1.9	- 0.3	- 1.5
Maryland	+ 0.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.7	+ 1.4	+ 0.2	- 1.5
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.7	+ 1.3	+ 0.2	+ 1.5	- 0.5	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.6	+ 1.4	+ 0.2	- 1.5
Mississippi	+ 1.4	+ 1.4	+ 1.0	+ 2.3	+ 0.3	- 0.2
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.7	+ 2.3	+ 0.5	+ 1.3	0.0	- 2.4
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 1.6	+ 1.1	+ 1.3	+ 2.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.4
New York	+ 1.1	+ 0.7	+ 1.0	+ 1.6	+ 0.4	- 0.4
Appalachian New York	+ 0.6	+ 0.1	+ 1.0	+ 2.6	0.0	- 1.7
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 1.2	+ 0.7	+ 1.0	+ 1.7	+ 0.5	- 0.3
North Carolina	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	0.0	+ 1.3	- 0.6	- 2.0
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 0.5	+ 0.8	+ 0.4	+ 1.9	- 0.2	- 1.9
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	0.0	+ 0.3	0.0	+ 1.2	- 0.7	- 2.1
Ohio	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 1.8	- 0.4	- 1.5
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	+ 1.3	- 0.1	- 0.3
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 1.8	- 0.4	- 1.8
Pennsylvania	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	+ 1.8	- 0.4	- 1.9
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	+ 1.7	- 0.3	- 2.2
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.6	+ 0.8	+ 0.5	+ 2.0	- 0.3	- 1.7
South Carolina	+ 0.1	+ 0.6	- 0.1	+ 1.3	- 0.9	- 2.0
Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.2	+ 0.9	- 0.6	+ 1.2	- 1.6	- 1.9
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 0.2	+ 0.5	+ 0.1	+ 1.3	- 0.7	- 2.0
Tennessee	- 0.5	+ 0.3	- 0.7	+ 1.1	- 1.7	- 2.3
Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.6	+ 0.1	- 1.0	+ 0.8	- 1.9	- 1.9
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.3	+ 0.4	- 0.5	+ 1.3	- 1.5	- 2.6
Virginia	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	+ 1.6	+ 0.2	- 1.6
Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.7	+ 0.8	+ 0.7	+ 0.8	+ 0.9	- 1.5
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.8	+ 0.7	+ 0.8	+ 1.6	+ 0.2	- 1.6
West Virginia (entire state)	- 0.4	0.0	- 0.3	+ 2.0	- 1.3	- 3.7

Note: The ACS defines persons with a disability as those 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 Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Figure 11.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachian residents reporting a disability was 0.1 percentage points higher in 2020-2024 than it was in 2015-2019 – an increase that was 0.6 percentage points below the national average. Yet, there was variation throughout the Appalachian Region – in 214 counties the share of the population reporting a disability declined, while in 69 other counties the share increased by at least two percentage points. Most of the overall increase in disability status can be attributed to rising rates among adults ages 18 to 34. In fact, while Appalachia’s overall disability rate rose since 2015-2019, the rate for adults over 65 decreased by 1.9 percentage points, even as the population of older adults overall increased.

TRENDS IN DISABILITY STATUS

- At 16.3 percent in 2020-2024, the share of Appalachian residents reporting a disability was 0.1 percentage points higher than it was in 2015-2019 (see Tables 11.2 and 11.3). Within the Appalachian Region, the greatest increases in disability prevalence occurred in Northern Appalachia (0.4 percentage points), large metro areas (0.4 percentage points) and the Appalachian sections of Maryland, Mississippi, and Virginia (0.7 percentage points each). Conversely, the share fell by at least 0.2 percentage points in the North Central and South Central subregions, West Virginia, and in the Appalachian portions of South Carolina and Tennessee.
- Disability prevalence in Appalachia increased among both children under age 18 and young adults ages 18 to 34 but decreased among those ages 35 to 64 and 65 and over. In fact, the oldest adults saw the most notable decrease in disability rates, dropping by 1.9 percentage points between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. While the share of adults 18 to 34 who reported a disability was less than other adult age groups, much of the Appalachian Region's overall increase in disability status rates can be attributed to the rising share – 1.5 percentage points – of adults in this age group who reported a disability in 2020-2024. There are also notable increases in the share of children with disabilities throughout Appalachia between the two time periods. For example, in Appalachian Mississippi, the share of children under 18 with a disability increased by 2.3 percentage points.
- The share of older adults in the Appalachian Region who reported a disability fell most notably of all – declining nearly two percentage points between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. West Virginia and the Appalachian portions of Mississippi and Pennsylvania had notable decreases in disability incidence among this age group – with rates falling by more than two percentage points. The North Central and South Central subregions also had declines of 2.7 and 2.1 percentage points, respectively. Meanwhile, in the Appalachian portions of Kentucky, Maryland and Ohio, the share of older adults with a disability declined only slightly – by 0.3 percentage points or less in each.
- The aging of Appalachia's population has long been linked to the increase in disability prevalence in the Appalachian Region. Yet, incidence of disability among Appalachia's older adults has been declining more than for any other age group – even as the population of adults 65 and older continues to rise. At the same time, adults 18-to-34-years-old are seeing the sharpest increases in disability status of any age cohort. Despite their younger age, the higher share of uninsured persons in this age group – relative to children and adults 35 and older – may contribute to the rising rates of disability for this age group in the region and throughout the U.S.

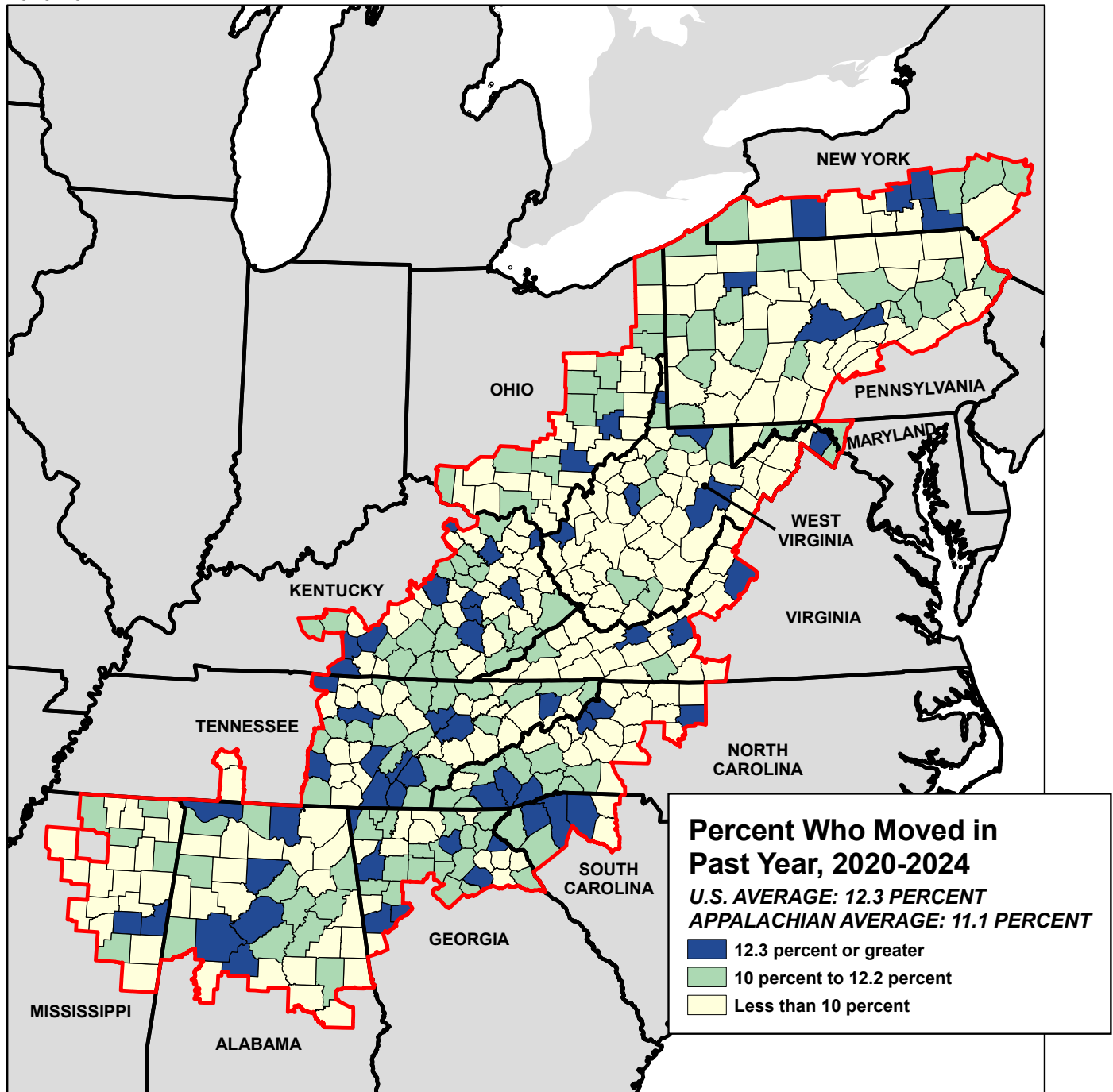
CHAPTER 12: MIGRATION

Table 12.1: Mobility Status of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2020-2024

Mobility Status in the Last Year	Total Population Ages 1 and Over, 2020-2024	Percent of Population Ages 1 and Over					
		Did Not Move in Past Year	Moved from a Different Residence in the Past Year				
			Within the County	Outside the County			
						Within the State	Outside the State
United States	331,439,985	87.7	12.3	6.3	6.0	3.1	2.9
Appalachian Region	26,212,889	88.9	11.1	5.4	5.8	3.2	2.5
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	7,969,029	89.3	10.7	5.6	5.0	2.8	2.2
North Central Appalachia	2,461,357	89.4	10.6	5.3	5.4	3.0	2.3
Central Appalachia	1,837,066	89.9	10.1	4.8	5.3	3.4	1.8
South Central Appalachia	5,250,860	88.4	11.6	5.1	6.4	3.5	3.0
Southern Appalachia	8,694,577	88.3	11.7	5.5	6.2	3.5	2.7
County Types							
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	6,460,525	89.0	11.0	5.5	5.5	3.2	2.3
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	10,814,614	87.9	12.1	5.8	6.3	3.2	3.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	2,358,587	89.7	10.3	4.9	5.5	3.5	1.9
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	4,079,198	90.2	9.8	4.7	5.2	3.1	2.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	2,499,965	89.7	10.3	4.8	5.5	3.5	1.9
Alabama	5,032,979	88.3	11.7	6.1	5.6	2.9	2.7
Appalachian Alabama	3,251,779	88.3	11.7	6.2	5.5	3.1	2.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	1,781,200	88.2	11.8	6.1	5.7	2.4	3.3
Georgia	10,823,693	87.0	13.0	5.3	7.7	4.4	3.2
Appalachian Georgia	3,450,778	88.7	11.3	4.5	6.8	4.2	2.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7,372,915	86.2	13.8	5.7	8.1	4.6	3.5
Kentucky	4,485,802	87.5	12.5	6.3	6.2	3.4	2.8
Appalachian Kentucky	1,151,648	89.3	10.7	5.2	5.4	3.6	1.8
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	3,334,154	86.9	13.1	6.6	6.5	3.3	3.2
Maryland	6,139,201	88.7	11.3	5.2	6.1	2.8	3.3
Appalachian Maryland	249,213	88.9	11.1	5.6	5.5	2.8	2.7
Non-Appalachian Maryland	5,889,988	88.7	11.3	5.2	6.1	2.8	3.3
Mississippi	2,915,113	89.1	10.9	5.3	5.7	3.1	2.5
Appalachian Mississippi	602,053	89.7	10.3	5.0	5.3	3.2	2.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	2,313,060	88.9	11.1	5.3	5.8	3.1	2.7
New York	19,644,100	90.1	9.9	5.1	4.8	2.6	2.2
Appalachian New York	1,009,028	87.4	12.6	5.9	6.7	3.8	2.9
Non-Appalachian New York	18,635,072	90.3	9.7	5.0	4.7	2.6	2.1
North Carolina	10,617,992	87.3	12.7	5.5	7.2	3.6	3.6
Appalachian North Carolina	2,036,439	89.1	10.9	4.5	6.4	3.6	2.8
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	8,581,553	86.8	13.2	5.7	7.4	3.6	3.8
Ohio	11,682,867	88.1	11.9	6.7	5.2	3.2	2.0
Appalachian Ohio	1,954,308	89.9	10.1	5.3	4.7	3.1	1.7
Non-Appalachian Ohio	9,728,559	87.7	12.3	7.0	5.3	3.2	2.1
Pennsylvania	12,889,946	89.3	10.7	5.6	5.0	2.6	2.4
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5,627,950	89.5	10.5	5.6	4.9	2.7	2.2
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	7,261,996	89.2	10.8	5.7	5.1	2.6	2.5
South Carolina	5,242,222	87.2	12.8	5.5	7.3	3.1	4.2
Appalachian South Carolina	1,389,967	86.7	13.3	6.5	6.8	3.0	3.8
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	3,852,255	87.4	12.6	5.2	7.4	3.1	4.3
Tennessee	6,983,749	87.1	12.9	6.4	6.5	3.1	3.4
Appalachian Tennessee	3,003,968	88.1	11.9	5.6	6.3	3.2	3.1
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	3,979,781	86.4	13.6	6.9	6.7	3.0	3.7
Virginia	8,615,973	86.9	13.1	4.6	8.5	4.7	3.8
Appalachian Virginia	725,938	89.5	10.5	4.1	6.4	4.0	2.4
Non-Appalachian Virginia	7,890,035	86.7	13.3	4.6	8.7	4.8	3.9
West Virginia (entire state)	1,759,820	89.7	10.3	5.1	5.3	2.7	2.6

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

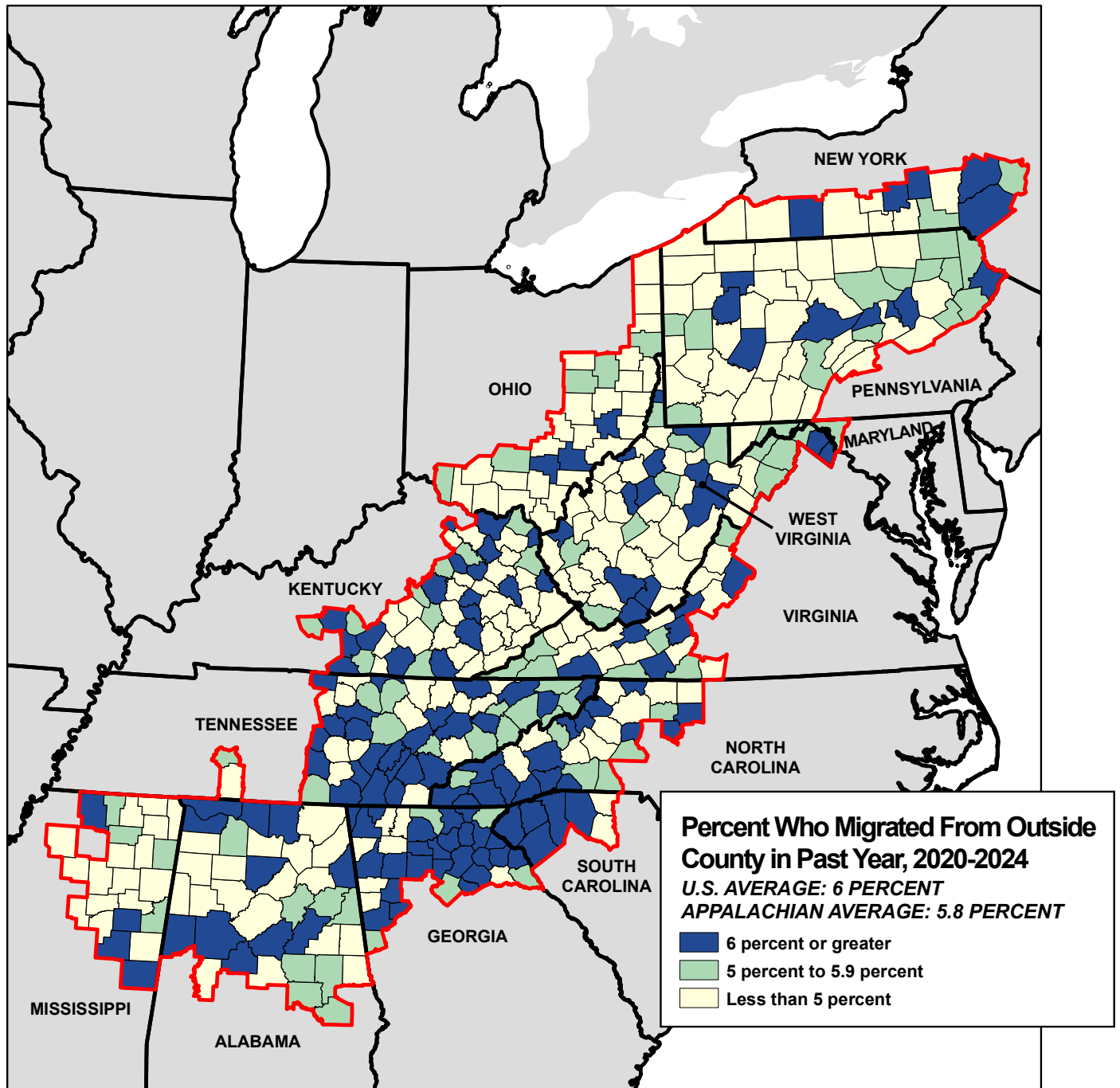
Figure 12.1: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Moved in the Past Year, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Moved in the Past Year, 2020-2024
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Residential mobility in the Appalachian Region was lower than the national average, including in all subregions and county types. Just 11.1 percent of residents ages 1 and over had moved in the past year during the 2020-2024 period. In fact, the percentage of residents ages 1 and over who moved in the past year matched or exceeded the U.S. average of 12.3 percent in just 64 of Appalachia's 423 counties. More than one-third of these counties were small metros – which saw the highest share of persons ages 1 and over who moved residence in the past year (12.1 percent) among the county types. Among these 64 counties, 28 housed a four-year college or university and 21 had a share of renter-occupied housing units that was at least the national average of 34.8 percent. Conversely, in 237 Appalachian counties, less than 10 percent of the residents had moved in the previous 12 months. Among these counties with low mobility rates, more than two-thirds were outside metro areas and 155 had high rates of homeownership (with at least 75 percent of occupied housing units being owner-occupied in 2020-2024).

Figure 12.2: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their County of Residence in the Past Year, 2020-2024

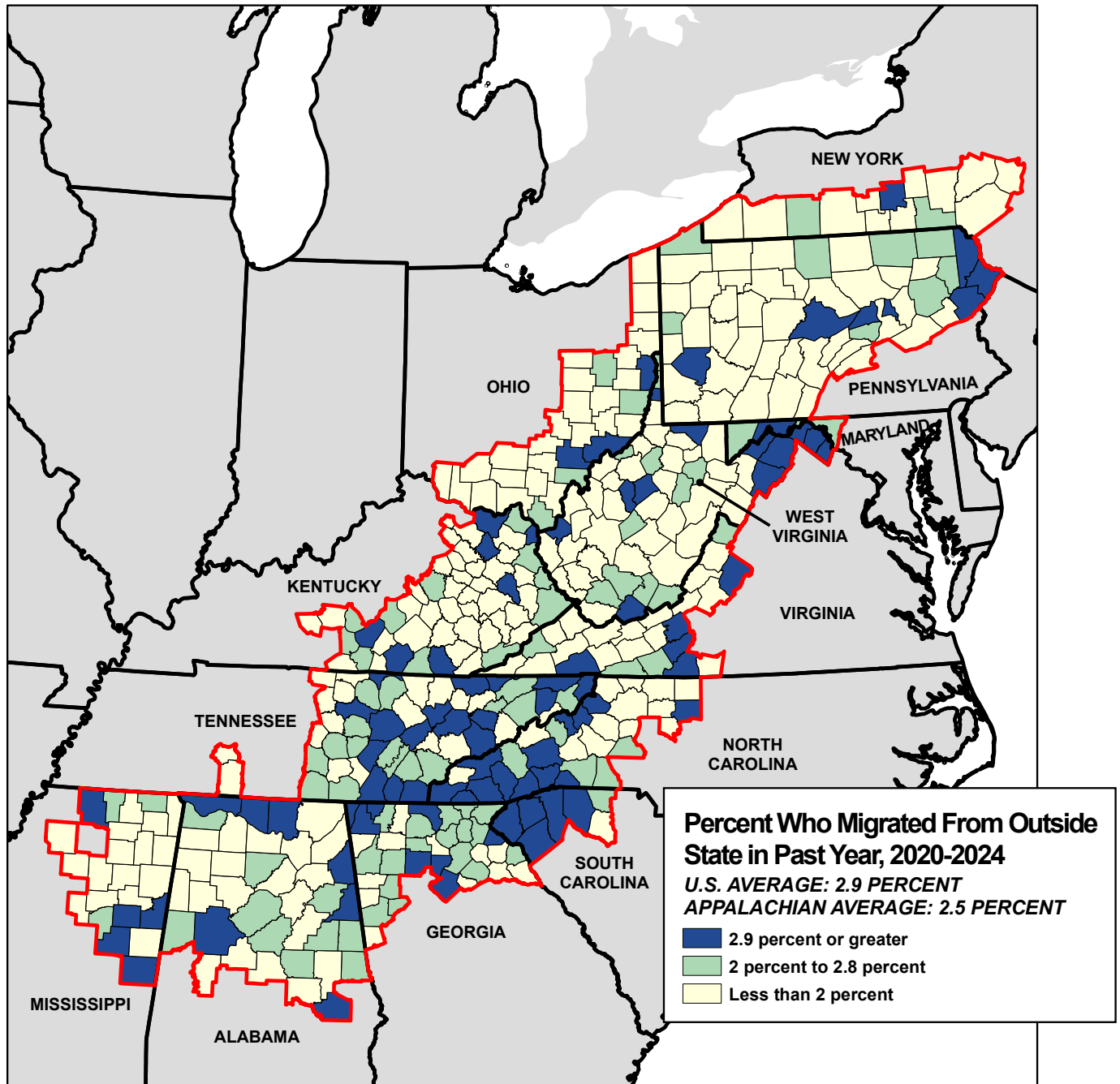


Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their County of Residence in the Past Year, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

While people in Appalachia were slightly less likely to have migrated from outside their county of residence in the 2020-2024 period than Americans as a whole, residents in one-third (139 counties) of the Appalachian Region's 423 counties had migration rates from outside their counties at or above the national average of six percent. These counties were mostly in the Southern and South Central subregions, where the average shares were also higher than the national average. Migration rates from outside of counties also exceeded the national average in the Appalachian sections of Georgia, New York, the Carolinas, Tennessee, and Virginia. On the other hand, in 198 counties throughout Appalachia less than five percent of the residents had migrated from another county – 70 percent (139) of these counties were outside metropolitan areas, and 59 of them were in rural parts of the region.

Figure 12.3: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their State of Residence in the Past Year, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their State of Residence in the Past Year, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

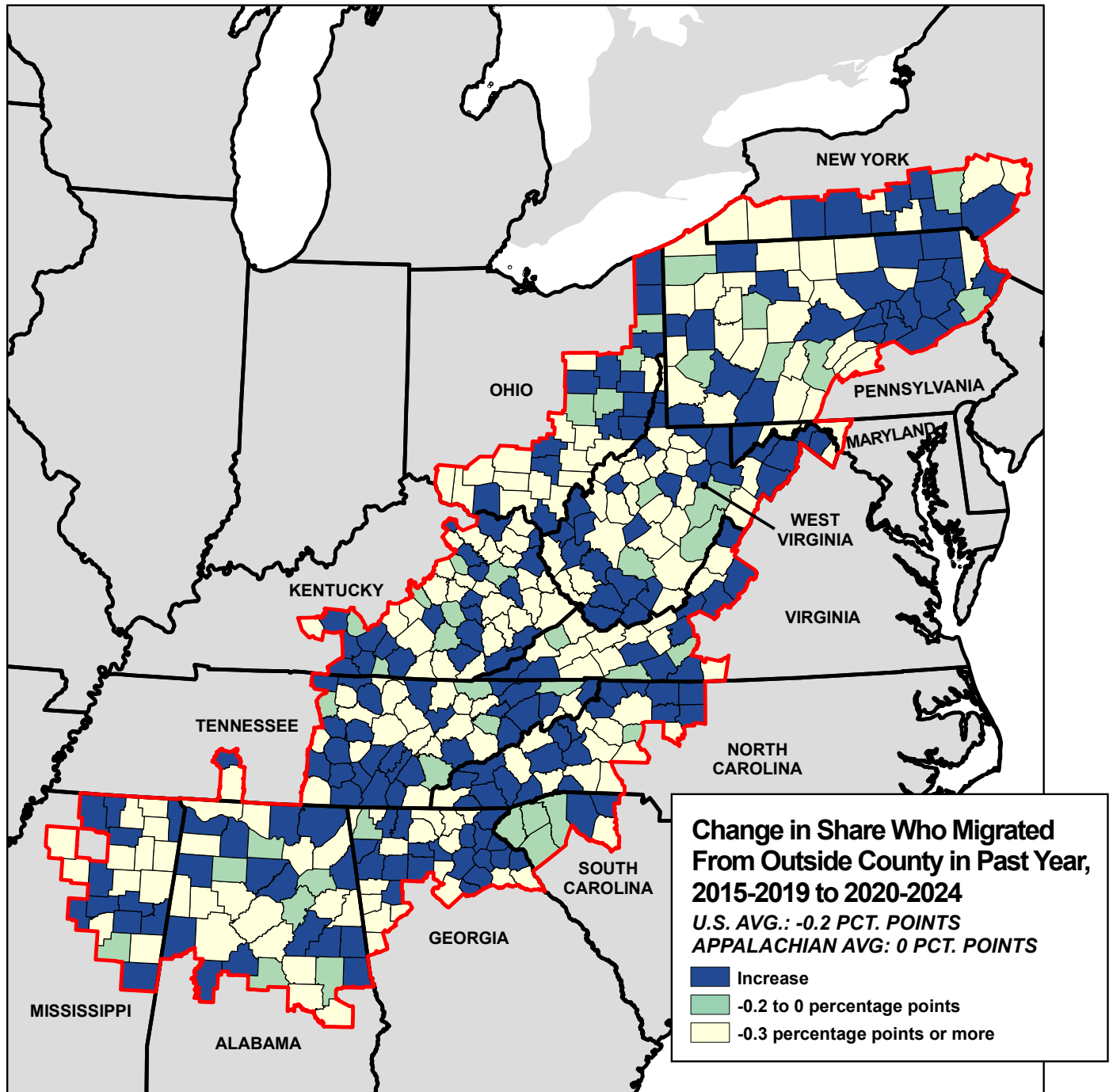
The share of people in the Appalachian Region who had migrated from outside their state of residence was 2.5 percent in the 2020-2024 period, compared with 2.9 percent for the nation overall. Yet in 91 of Appalachia's 423 counties, out-of-state migration levels were at or above the U.S. average. Most of these counties were in South Central and Southern Appalachia, and 43 were in metropolitan areas. Migration of older adults to retirement friendly communities may contribute to the higher share of out-of-state migration in these counties – one in five (19 counties) were designated as “retirement destination” counties by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service. At the same time, young adults moving to attend college may also play a role – 27 of these counties was home to a four-year college or university. In contrast, in 238 Appalachian counties – more than two-thirds of which were nonmetropolitan areas – less than two percent of residents had moved to the county from out-of-state in the past year.

Table 12.2: Percentage Point Change in Mobility Status of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Mobility Status in the Last Year	Percentage Point Change in Share of Population Ages 1 and Over					
	Did Not Move in Past Year	Moved from a Different Residence in the Past Year				
			Within the County	Outside the County		
					Within the State	Outside the State
United States	+ 1.9	- 1.9	- 1.7	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.1
Appalachian Region	+ 1.8	- 1.8	- 1.7	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	+ 1.6	- 1.6	- 1.7	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
North Central Appalachia	+ 1.9	- 1.9	- 1.5	- 0.3	- 0.4	0.0
Central Appalachia	+ 1.9	- 1.9	- 1.7	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.1
South Central Appalachia	+ 1.8	- 1.8	- 1.9	0.0	0.0	+ 0.2
Southern Appalachia	+ 1.7	- 1.7	- 1.6	- 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	+ 1.8	- 1.8	- 1.6	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.1
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	+ 1.7	- 1.7	- 1.8	+ 0.1	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	+ 2.0	- 2.0	- 1.8	- 0.1	- 0.3	0.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	+ 1.8	- 1.8	- 1.7	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 1.5	- 1.5	- 1.5	0.0	- 0.1	0.0
Alabama	+ 2.0	- 2.0	- 1.9	- 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Appalachian Alabama	+ 2.0	- 2.0	- 1.9	- 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 1.9	- 1.9	- 1.9	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Georgia	+ 2.1	- 2.1	- 1.7	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.1
Appalachian Georgia	+ 1.3	- 1.3	- 1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 2.4	- 2.4	- 1.9	- 0.5	- 0.4	- 0.1
Kentucky	+ 2.6	- 2.6	- 2.2	- 0.5	- 0.4	0.0
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 1.8	- 1.8	- 1.5	- 0.5	- 0.4	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 2.9	- 2.9	- 2.5	- 0.4	- 0.5	+ 0.1
Maryland	+ 2.3	- 2.3	- 2.0	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.1
Appalachian Maryland	+ 2.9	- 2.9	- 2.5	- 0.5	- 0.7	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 2.3	- 2.3	- 2.0	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.2
Mississippi	+ 2.2	- 2.2	- 1.7	- 0.4	- 0.4	- 0.1
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 1.6	- 1.6	- 1.7	+ 0.1	- 0.3	+ 0.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 2.3	- 2.3	- 1.8	- 0.5	- 0.4	- 0.1
New York	+ 0.6	- 0.6	- 0.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Appalachian New York	+ 1.2	- 1.2	- 2.0	+ 0.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.6	- 0.6	- 0.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	0.0
North Carolina	+ 2.5	- 2.5	- 2.3	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.1
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 1.6	- 1.6	- 1.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 2.7	- 2.7	- 2.4	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.1
Ohio	+ 2.8	- 2.8	- 2.4	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.1
Appalachian Ohio	+ 2.3	- 2.3	- 2.1	- 0.3	- 0.3	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 2.9	- 2.9	- 2.5	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.1
Pennsylvania	+ 1.7	- 1.7	- 1.6	- 0.2	- 0.2	0.0
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.7	- 1.7	- 1.6	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.7	- 1.7	- 1.5	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.1
South Carolina	+ 1.5	- 1.5	- 1.7	+ 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 1.8	- 1.8	- 1.8	0.0	- 0.5	+ 0.4
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 1.4	- 1.4	- 1.6	+ 0.2	0.0	+ 0.2
Tennessee	+ 1.6	- 1.6	- 1.7	+ 0.1	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 1.9	- 1.9	- 2.0	+ 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 1.4	- 1.4	- 1.5	+ 0.1	0.0	+ 0.1
Virginia	+ 2.2	- 2.2	- 1.7	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.2
Appalachian Virginia	+ 2.5	- 2.5	- 2.1	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 2.2	- 2.2	- 1.7	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.2
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 1.4	- 1.4	- 1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Figure 12.4: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their County of Residence in the Past Year, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their County of Residence in the Past Year, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

In Appalachia, the share of individuals migrating from outside their county of residence remained unchanged between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024, while the national average decreased very slightly by 0.2 percentage points. Indeed, the share increased in 191 of the Appalachian Region's 423 counties. In another 206 counties, the share decreased by at least the national average between the two periods. There was considerable variation between states in the Appalachian Region – Appalachian New York had highest increases in out-of-county migration by 0.8 percentage points, while the Appalachian sections of Kentucky and Maryland saw out-of-county migration fall by 0.5 percentage points during the same period.

TRENDS IN MIGRATION

- Like Americans as a whole, Appalachian residents were slightly less mobile in 2020-2024 than they were in 2015-2019. Between the two periods, the share of persons in Appalachia who had moved from a different residence in the past year decreased by 1.8 percentage points, to 11.1 percent in 2020-2024 (see Tables 12.1 and 12.2). However, this decline mainly involved within-county movement; the share of residents who migrated from outside their county remained unchanged between the two periods.
- Within the Appalachian Region, the decline in residential mobility between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 was greatest in Appalachian Maryland, where the share moving in the previous year fell 2.9 percentage points. Other portions of Appalachia where the decline exceeded the regional average of 1.8 percentage points included North Central and Central Appalachia (1.9 percentage points each) and non-metro counties adjacent to large metros by two percentage points. Other than Appalachian Maryland, the Appalachian portions of Ohio (2.3 percentage points) and Virginia (2.5 percentage points) also had notable declines.
- The percentage of Appalachian residents in 2020-2024 migrating from outside their county of residence stayed the same since 2015-2019. Meanwhile, there was a slight decline by 0.2 percentage points in out-of-county migration for the nation as a whole. Notably, the Appalachian portion of New York had a 0.8 percentage point increase during this period. On the other hand, the share decreased by half of a percentage point in the Appalachian sections of Kentucky and Maryland.
- The early years of the pandemic prompted some migration within the U.S., often from more expensive locations to less expensive ones. The Southern United States – characterized by lower housing costs relative to other parts of the country – may have had slightly more migration at the start of the pandemic relative to other parts of the U.S. But migration within the U.S. is still fairly uncommon, and our data show that nationally and throughout Appalachia, there were fewer movers in the 2020-2024 time period than was the case in 2015-2019.

CHAPTER 13: VETERAN STATUS

Table 13.1: Number of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, by Age Group and Gender, 2020-2024

Veteran Status	Total, Ages 18 and Over	By Age Group			By Gender	
		Ages 18-34	Ages 35-64	Ages 65 and Over	Males	Females
United States	16,185,883	1,357,212	6,868,753	7,959,918	14,505,802	1,680,081
Appalachian Region	1,460,095	101,134	593,705	765,256	1,340,024	120,071
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	457,573	27,683	175,212	254,678	424,391	33,182
North Central Appalachia	148,570	10,401	61,139	77,030	138,112	10,458
Central Appalachia	91,946	6,374	35,901	49,671	85,707	6,239
South Central Appalachia	312,614	20,254	120,525	171,835	284,692	27,922
Southern Appalachia	449,392	36,422	200,928	212,042	407,122	42,270
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	322,906	22,747	137,672	162,487	295,292	27,614
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	619,240	44,389	255,905	318,946	565,574	53,666
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	138,522	10,218	54,493	73,811	127,420	11,102
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	248,296	14,944	96,148	137,204	230,003	18,293
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	131,131	8,836	49,487	72,808	121,735	9,396
Alabama	303,253	23,639	140,237	139,377	271,044	32,209
Appalachian Alabama	182,514	14,768	83,113	84,633	164,726	17,788
Non-Appalachian Alabama	120,739	8,871	57,124	54,744	106,318	14,421
Georgia	601,304	51,739	300,327	249,238	521,413	79,891
Appalachian Georgia	165,607	12,539	75,333	77,735	150,136	15,471
Non-Appalachian Georgia	435,697	39,200	224,994	171,503	371,277	64,420
Kentucky	228,692	17,679	102,391	108,622	207,462	21,230
Appalachian Kentucky	54,018	4,055	22,025	27,938	50,489	3,529
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	174,674	13,624	80,366	80,684	156,973	17,701
Maryland	327,493	25,315	160,475	141,703	279,791	47,702
Appalachian Maryland	15,230	869	6,025	8,336	13,930	1,300
Non-Appalachian Maryland	312,263	24,446	154,450	133,367	265,861	46,402
Mississippi	151,757	12,183	69,449	70,125	134,373	17,384
Appalachian Mississippi	26,809	2,923	10,749	13,137	24,424	2,385
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	124,948	9,260	58,700	56,988	109,949	14,999
New York	581,776	41,253	218,924	321,599	533,264	48,512
Appalachian New York	56,773	3,456	21,682	31,635	52,559	4,214
Non-Appalachian New York	525,003	37,797	197,242	289,964	480,705	44,298
North Carolina	615,509	60,771	275,123	279,615	538,777	76,732
Appalachian North Carolina	115,104	7,162	41,339	66,603	104,166	10,938
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	500,405	53,609	233,784	213,012	434,611	65,794
Ohio	605,840	44,260	252,373	309,207	553,135	52,705
Appalachian Ohio	114,759	6,934	46,679	61,146	106,624	8,135
Non-Appalachian Ohio	491,081	37,326	205,694	248,061	446,511	44,570
Pennsylvania	632,183	40,829	240,334	351,020	582,281	49,902
Appalachian Pennsylvania	322,708	20,126	121,965	180,617	299,749	22,959
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	309,475	20,703	118,369	170,403	282,532	26,943
South Carolina	343,824	28,547	151,489	163,788	304,246	39,578
Appalachian South Carolina	74,462	6,192	31,733	36,537	67,836	6,626
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	269,362	22,355	119,756	127,251	236,410	32,952
Tennessee	399,814	34,045	176,338	189,431	359,241	40,573
Appalachian Tennessee	187,105	12,553	74,891	99,661	170,991	16,114
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	212,709	21,492	101,447	89,770	188,250	24,459
Virginia	629,500	56,408	328,119	244,973	535,445	94,055
Appalachian Virginia	40,065	2,444	15,766	21,855	37,104	2,961
Non-Appalachian Virginia	589,435	53,964	312,353	223,118	498,341	91,094
West Virginia (entire state)	104,941	7,113	42,405	55,423	97,290	7,651

Note: The ACS defines veterans as men and women who have served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, the National Guard or Reserves, or in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

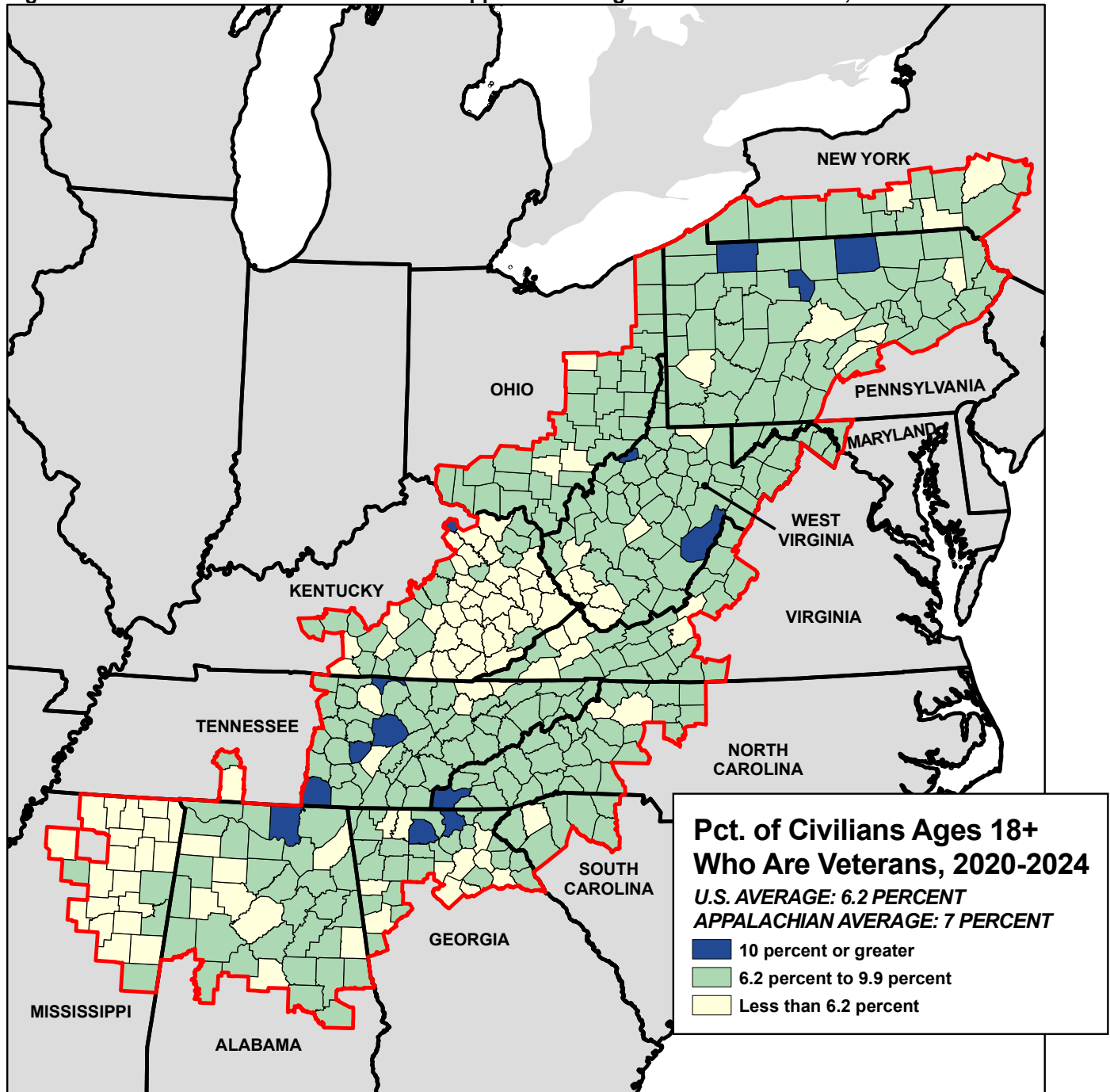
Table 13.2: Percent of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, by Age Group and Gender, 2020-2024

Veteran Status	Total, Ages 18 and Over	By Age Group			By Gender	
		Ages 18-34	Ages 35-64	Ages 65 and Over	Males	Females
United States	6.2	1.8	5.4	13.8	11.4	1.3
Appalachian Region	7.0	1.8	5.9	15.0	13.1	1.1
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	7.1	1.6	5.7	14.9	13.2	1.0
North Central Appalachia	7.5	2.0	6.4	15.3	14.1	1.1
Central Appalachia	6.3	1.7	5.0	13.6	11.9	0.8
South Central Appalachia	7.4	1.8	6.0	15.7	13.8	1.3
Southern Appalachia	6.6	1.9	6.0	14.6	12.5	1.2
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	6.3	1.6	5.4	14.3	12.0	1.1
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	7.1	1.8	6.2	15.3	13.4	1.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	7.3	2.1	6.0	15.3	13.7	1.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	7.6	1.8	6.1	15.4	14.2	1.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	6.6	1.6	5.2	14.1	12.3	0.9
Alabama	7.7	2.1	7.4	15.4	14.4	1.6
Appalachian Alabama	7.1	2.0	6.7	14.6	13.4	1.3
Non-Appalachian Alabama	8.7	2.3	8.6	16.8	16.3	2.0
Georgia	7.2	2.1	7.1	15.2	13.1	1.8
Appalachian Georgia	6.3	1.7	5.5	15.0	11.7	1.1
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7.7	2.2	8.0	15.3	13.7	2.2
Kentucky	6.5	1.8	6.0	13.8	12.1	1.2
Appalachian Kentucky	6.0	1.7	4.9	12.9	11.3	0.8
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	6.7	1.8	6.3	14.2	12.4	1.3
Maryland	6.8	1.9	6.6	13.7	12.2	1.9
Appalachian Maryland	7.6	1.6	6.2	16.9	13.6	1.3
Non-Appalachian Maryland	6.8	1.9	6.6	13.5	12.2	1.9
Mississippi	6.8	1.9	6.4	13.9	12.6	1.5
Appalachian Mississippi	5.7	2.1	4.9	12.2	10.9	1.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	7.0	1.8	6.7	14.3	13.0	1.6
New York	3.7	0.9	2.9	9.0	7.0	0.6
Appalachian New York	6.9	1.4	5.9	15.1	12.9	1.0
Non-Appalachian New York	3.5	0.9	2.7	8.7	6.7	0.6
North Carolina	7.4	2.6	6.8	15.2	13.6	1.8
Appalachian North Carolina	7.0	1.7	5.3	15.1	13.1	1.3
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	7.5	2.8	7.1	15.2	13.7	1.9
Ohio	6.6	1.7	5.7	14.3	12.3	1.1
Appalachian Ohio	7.4	1.7	6.2	15.3	13.9	1.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	6.4	1.7	5.6	14.1	12.0	1.1
Pennsylvania	6.1	1.4	4.8	13.8	11.5	0.9
Appalachian Pennsylvania	7.0	1.7	5.6	14.9	13.2	1.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	5.4	1.3	4.3	12.9	10.2	0.9
South Carolina	8.3	2.5	7.6	16.4	15.5	1.8
Appalachian South Carolina	6.8	1.9	6.0	14.8	12.9	1.2
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	8.9	2.7	8.2	16.9	16.4	2.1
Tennessee	7.3	2.1	6.6	15.7	13.6	1.4
Appalachian Tennessee	7.8	1.9	6.5	16.6	14.5	1.3
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	6.9	2.3	6.7	14.8	12.8	1.5
Virginia	9.4	3.0	9.8	16.9	16.6	2.7
Appalachian Virginia	6.7	1.5	5.8	13.5	12.4	1.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	9.7	3.1	10.2	17.3	17.0	2.9
West Virginia (entire state)	7.4	1.9	6.3	14.8	13.8	1.1

Note: The ACS defines veterans as men and women who have served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, the National Guard or Reserves, or in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 13.1: Percent of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2020-2024

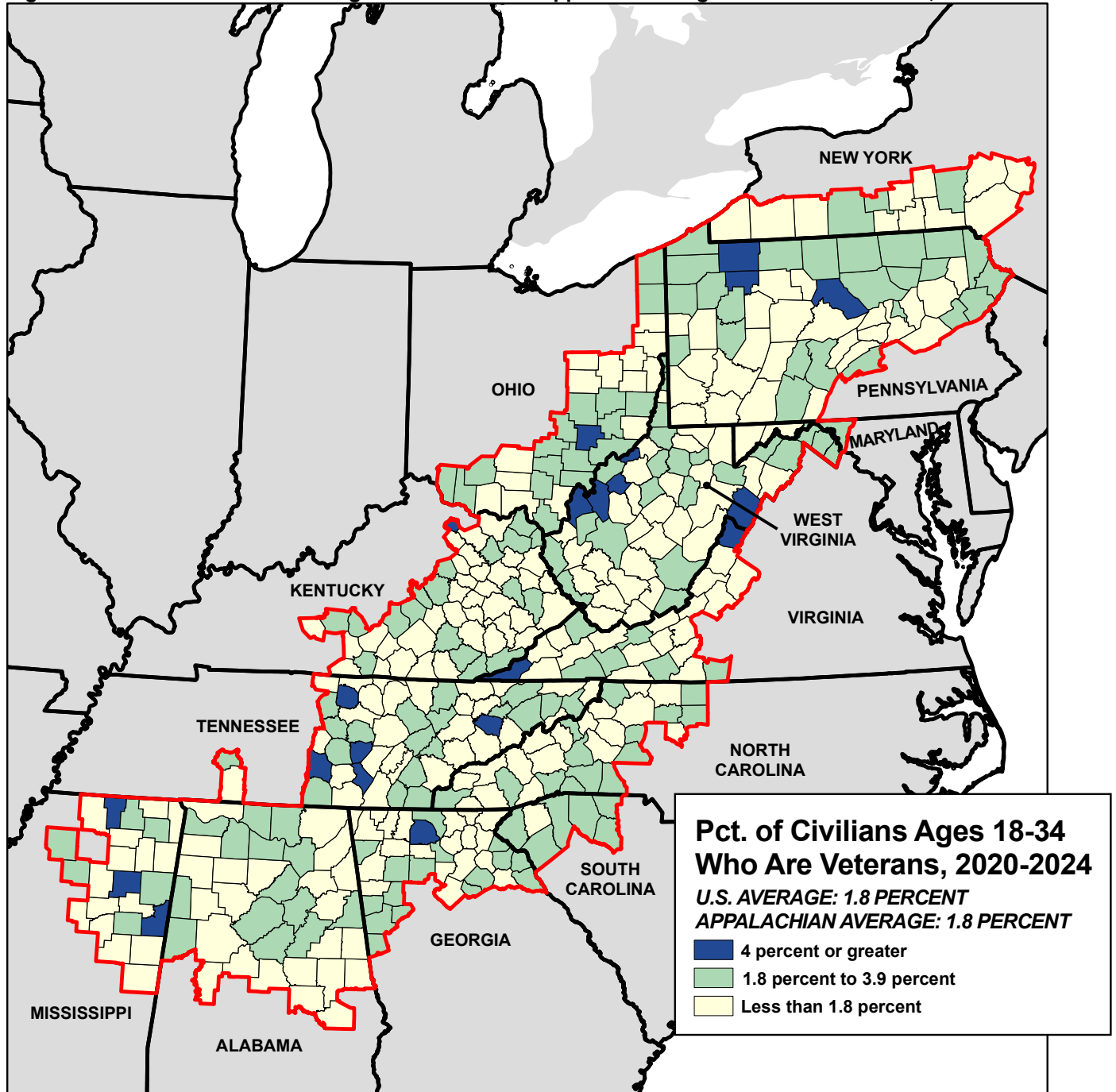


Map Title: Percent of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Seven percent of adult civilians (over 1.4 million) ages 18 and over in the Appalachian Region were veterans – men and women who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, the National Guard or Reserves, or in the U.S. Merchant Marine (during World War II) – during the 2020-2024 period. While the percentage is slightly higher than the national share of 6.2 percent, there was considerable variation throughout the Appalachian Region. In 14 Appalachian counties at least one in 10 civilian residents were veterans. Additionally, in West Virginia and the Appalachian portions of Alabama, Maryland, Ohio, and Tennessee, the share of civilians who were veterans was greater than the regional average. In contrast, the veteran prevalence rate was lower than the national average in 107 counties; more than half of the counties in this group were in the Appalachian portions of Georgia, Kentucky and Mississippi– where the share of veterans among adult civilians was the lowest across Appalachian portions of states.

Figure 13.2: Percent of Civilians Ages 18 to 34 in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2020-2024

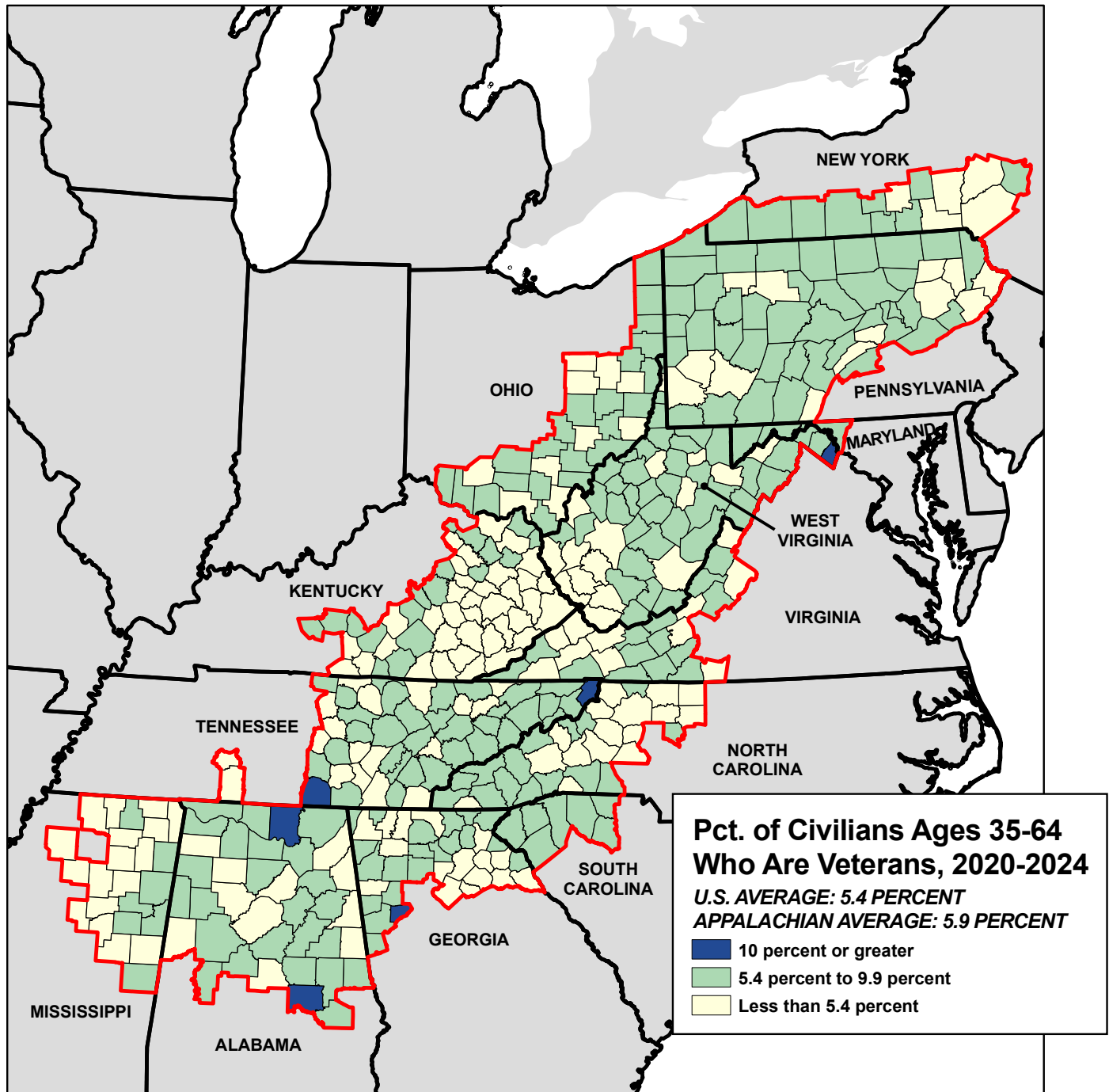


Map Title: Percent of Civilians Ages 18 to 34 in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Military veterans accounted for 1.8 percent of Appalachia's young adult (ages 18-34) civilian population in the 2020-2024 period, the same share as it was nationally. Yet in 187 of Appalachia's 423 counties, the prevalence was at or above the regional average. In fact, there were 21 Appalachian counties where at least four percent of 18-to-34-year-old civilians were veterans. Most veterans in this age group, if they served in conflicts, served in the post 9-11 era which includes the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars.

Figure 13.3: Percent of Civilians Ages 35 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2020-2024

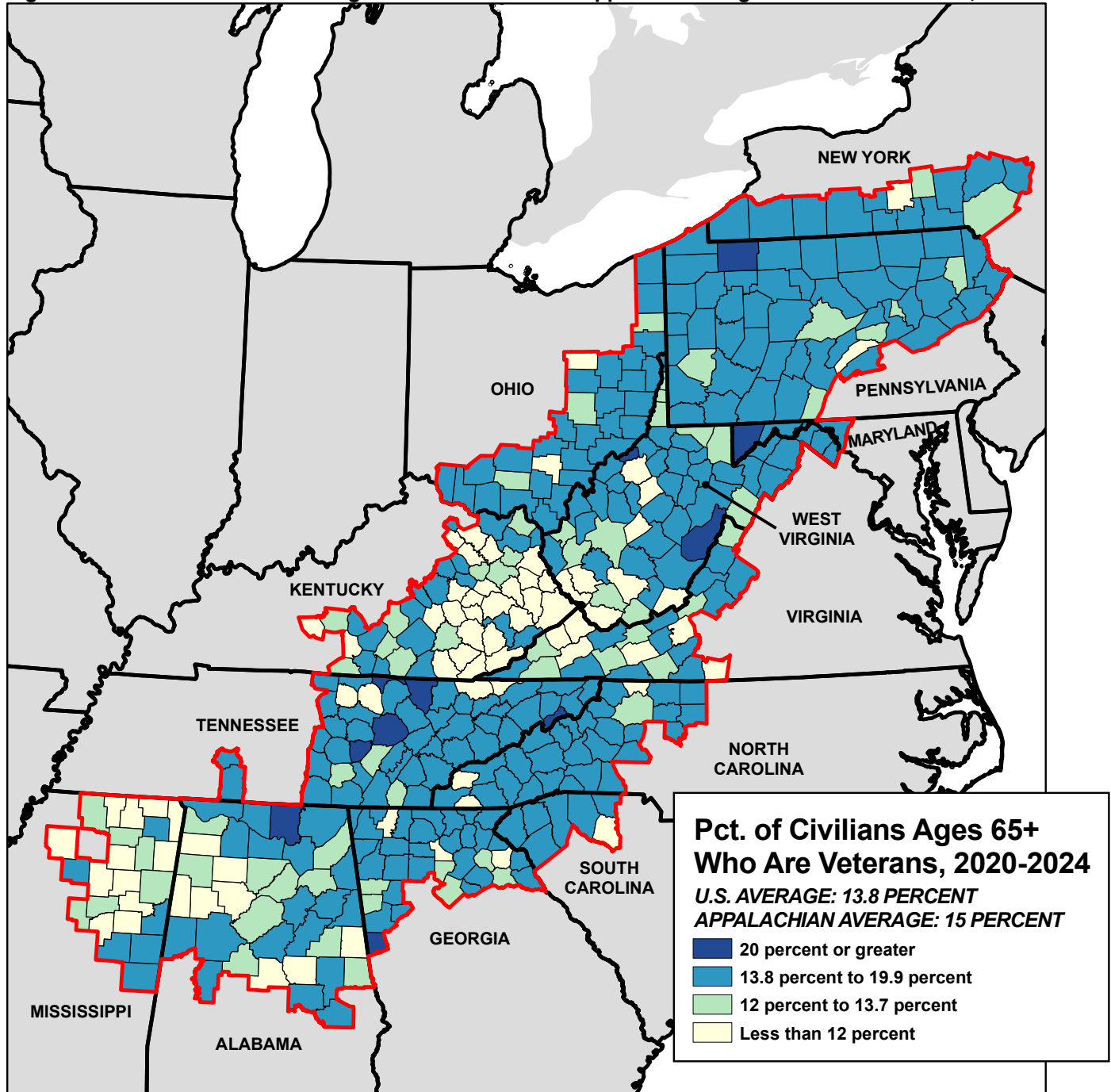


Map Title: Percent of Civilians Ages 35 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

In the Appalachian Region, 5.9 percent of 35-to-64-year-old civilian residents were military veterans in 2020-2024, compared with 5.4 percent in the U.S. overall. The prevalence was even higher in some counties: In 191 counties, the percentage of veterans among civilians ages 35 to 64 was even greater than the Appalachian average (and in six of these, veterans comprised at least one in 10 civilians ages 35 to 64). Yet in 169 counties, the veteran prevalence rate was lower than the national average; more than three in ten of the counties in this latter group were in Central Appalachia – where just five percent of 35-to-64-year-old civilians were veterans – the lowest share among the subregions. Among the county types, the largest metropolitan areas and rural counties had the lowest share of veterans in this age group at 5.4 and 5.2 percent, respectively. For context, veterans of the 1991 Gulf War fall into the higher end of this age group, while many veterans who served during periods of the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars fall into the lower end of this age range.

Figure 13.4: Percent of Civilians Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2020-2024



Map Title: Percent of Civilians Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2020-2024

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

In 2020-2024, 15 percent of Appalachia's civilian residents ages 65 and over were military veterans – most of whom served during the Korean and Vietnam wars. Yet there is some variation within the Appalachian Region. For example, at least one in five older civilians were veterans in 11 of Appalachia's 423 counties – five of which were in North Central and South Central Appalachia, the only two subregions where the overall share exceeded the region's average of 15 percent. In contrast, there were 75 counties where veterans comprised less than 12 percent of the older civilian residents. Nearly half of these counties were in Central Appalachia, where the overall share of older adult civilians who were veterans was the lowest among the subregions, at 13.6 percent.

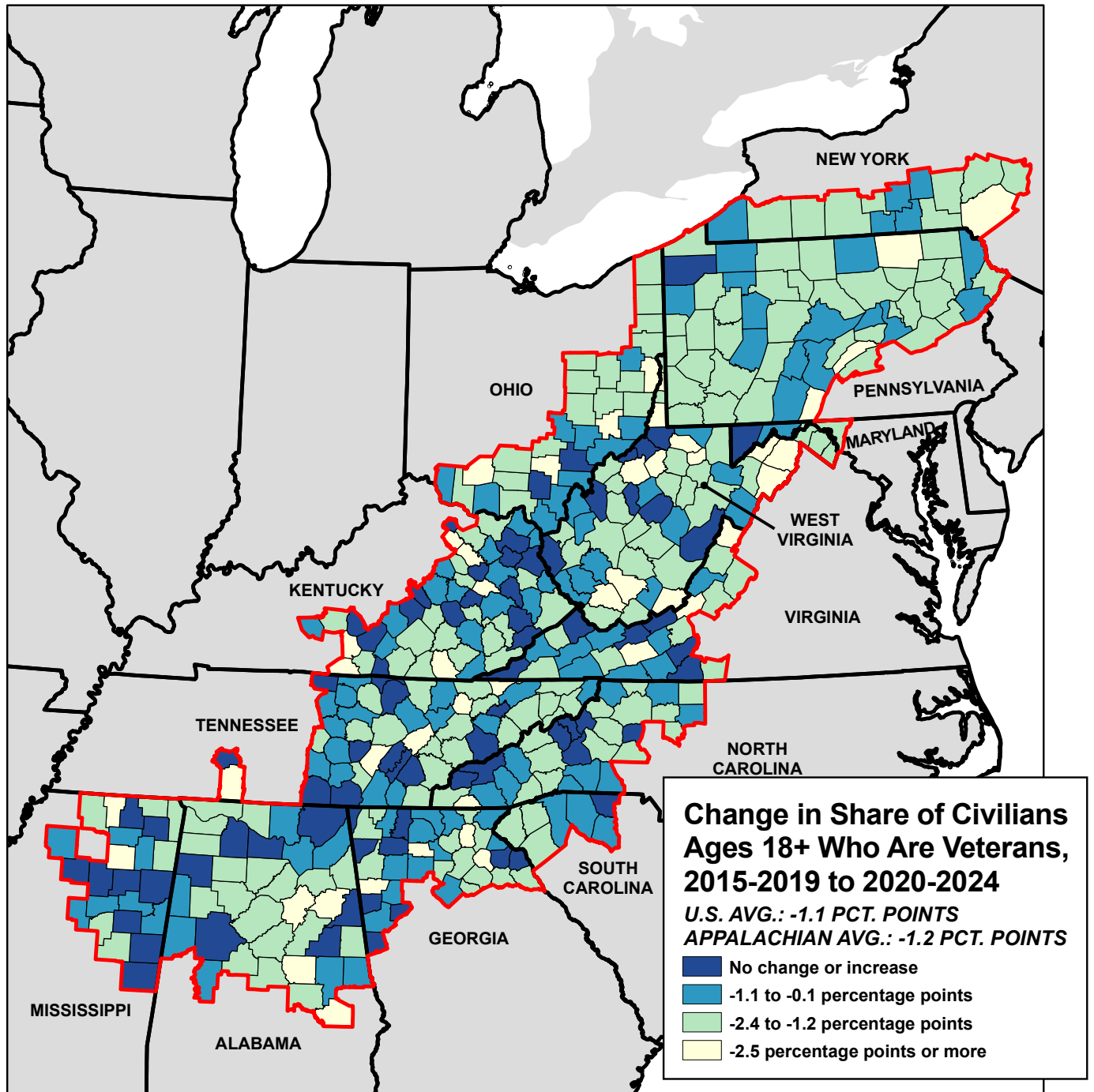
Table 13.3: Percentage Point Change in Veteran Status of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region, by Age Group and Gender, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Veteran Status	Percentage Point Change in Share of Adults Who Are Veterans					
	Total, Ages 18 and Over	By Age Group			By Gender	
		Ages 18-34	Ages 35-64	Ages 65 and Over	Males	Females
United States	- 1.1	- 0.3	- 0.6	- 4.1	- 2.3	0.0
Appalachian Region	- 1.2	- 0.3	- 0.7	- 4.2	- 2.6	- 0.1
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	- 1.5	- 0.5	- 0.9	- 5.2	- 3.3	- 0.1
North Central Appalachia	- 1.5	- 0.4	- 0.9	- 4.9	- 3.1	0.0
Central Appalachia	- 0.8	- 0.1	- 0.4	- 3.3	- 1.8	- 0.1
South Central Appalachia	- 1.1	- 0.3	- 0.6	- 3.6	- 2.5	+ 0.1
Southern Appalachia	- 1.1	- 0.2	- 0.6	- 3.6	- 2.0	- 0.1
County Types						
Large Metro (metro pop. 1 million +)	- 1.4	- 0.5	- 0.8	- 4.7	- 2.7	- 0.1
Small Metro (metro pop. <1 million)	- 1.4	- 0.4	- 0.8	- 4.2	- 2.8	0.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metro	- 1.3	0.0	- 0.9	- 4.2	- 2.6	+ 0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metro	- 1.1	- 0.4	- 0.4	- 3.9	- 2.3	0.0
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 0.9	- 0.1	- 0.4	- 3.6	- 1.9	0.0
Alabama	- 1.1	- 0.3	- 0.7	- 3.6	- 2.2	- 0.1
Appalachian Alabama	- 1.2	- 0.2	- 0.7	- 4.0	- 2.3	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 0.9	- 0.4	- 0.7	- 2.9	- 1.9	0.0
Georgia	- 0.8	- 0.4	- 0.6	- 3.2	- 1.7	0.0
Appalachian Georgia	- 0.9	- 0.4	- 0.6	- 3.2	- 1.8	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 0.7	- 0.4	- 0.5	- 3.2	- 1.7	+ 0.2
Kentucky	- 1.3	- 0.4	- 0.8	- 4.3	- 2.7	0.0
Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.8	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 3.6	- 1.7	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 1.5	- 0.6	- 1.1	- 4.6	- 3.1	- 0.1
Maryland	- 1.1	- 0.6	- 0.6	- 3.9	- 2.3	0.0
Appalachian Maryland	- 1.2	- 0.9	- 1.3	- 2.3	- 2.4	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 1.0	- 0.6	- 0.6	- 4.0	- 2.2	0.0
Mississippi	- 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.3	- 2.5	- 1.2	+ 0.1
Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.5	+ 0.6	- 0.5	- 2.6	- 1.2	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.6	- 0.5	- 0.4	- 2.6	- 1.3	0.0
New York	- 0.9	- 0.2	- 0.4	- 3.8	- 1.9	0.0
Appalachian New York	- 1.3	- 0.5	- 0.9	- 4.2	- 2.7	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian New York	- 0.9	- 0.2	- 0.4	- 3.7	- 1.8	0.0
North Carolina	- 1.0	- 0.3	- 0.7	- 3.1	- 2.2	+ 0.2
Appalachian North Carolina	- 1.1	- 0.3	- 0.6	- 3.6	- 2.7	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.9	- 0.2	- 0.7	- 2.9	- 2.1	+ 0.1
Ohio	- 1.2	- 0.4	- 0.8	- 4.4	- 2.7	0.0
Appalachian Ohio	- 1.4	- 0.6	- 0.6	- 4.9	- 3.0	0.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 1.2	- 0.4	- 0.8	- 4.3	- 2.6	- 0.1
Pennsylvania	- 1.4	- 0.3	- 0.8	- 5.0	- 3.0	- 0.1
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 1.6	- 0.3	- 0.9	- 5.3	- 3.3	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 1.2	- 0.2	- 0.6	- 4.6	- 2.6	0.0
South Carolina	- 1.1	- 0.4	- 0.7	- 3.7	- 2.3	0.0
Appalachian South Carolina	- 1.2	- 0.4	- 0.7	- 4.1	- 2.6	0.0
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 1.0	- 0.4	- 0.7	- 3.6	- 2.3	+ 0.1
Tennessee	- 1.0	- 0.4	- 0.6	- 3.5	- 2.1	- 0.1
Appalachian Tennessee	- 1.0	- 0.4	- 0.6	- 3.1	- 2.4	0.0
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 1.0	- 0.3	- 0.6	- 3.9	- 2.0	- 0.2
Virginia	- 1.1	- 0.9	- 0.7	- 3.3	- 2.2	- 0.1
Appalachian Virginia	- 1.0	- 0.1	- 0.2	- 4.1	- 1.9	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 1.1	- 1.0	- 0.7	- 3.3	- 2.3	0.0
West Virginia (entire state)	- 1.6	- 0.4	- 0.8	- 5.2	- 3.4	0.0

Note: The ACS defines veterans as men and women who have served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, the National Guard or Reserves, or in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

Figure 13.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2015-2019 to 2020-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachia's adult civilians ages 18 and over who were military veterans was 1.2 percentage points lower in the 2020-2024 period than it was in 2015-2019 – slightly more than the national decrease of 1.1 percentage points. The decrease was even more pronounced – at least 1.5 percentage points – in Northern and North Central Appalachia, West Virginia, and the Appalachian section of Pennsylvania. In contrast, the decrease was less than one percentage point in Central Appalachia, the region's rural counties, as well as the Appalachian portions of Georgia, Kentucky and Mississippi. There was also significant variation at the county level – in 45 Appalachian counties, veterans' share of the population fell by at least 2.5 percentage points while the share stayed the same or increased in 78 other counties.

TRENDS IN VETERAN STATUS

- In Appalachia, the share of adult civilians who were military veterans declined by 1.2 percentage points between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024, falling to seven percent (see Tables 13.2 and 13.3). The decrease was least pronounced in the Appalachian Region's rural counties (0.9 percentage points) and most pronounced in large and small metropolitan counties (1.4 percentage points each). Among the states, West Virginia and Appalachian Pennsylvania saw the largest decrease at 1.6 percentage points, while the share fell by just 0.5 percentage points in Appalachian Mississippi. And while all other Appalachian subregions saw a decline of at least one percentage point, Central Appalachia's share fell by just 0.8 percentage points. Northern Appalachia and North Central Appalachia's share of civilian adults who were veterans fell most, by 1.5 percentage points each.
- The decrease in veteran status was more pronounced among middle-aged and older civilians than among younger ones. While the share of veterans in Appalachia fell just 0.3 percentage points among younger civilians ages 18 to 34, it declined 0.7 percentage points among civilians ages 35 to 64, and 4.2 percentage points among civilians ages 65 and over. Veteran status is more prevalent among older residents than younger ones, and mortality among the oldest veterans, especially those who served during World War II and the Korean War, partially explains the notable decline among veterans ages 65 and over.
- The share of adult men in the Appalachian Region who were veterans fell 2.6 percentage points between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024, while the share among women remained virtually unchanged (declining by just one-tenth of a percentage point). Men remain far more likely than women to be military veterans – and the respective rates in Appalachia of 13.1 percent and 1.1 percent reflect this difference (see Table 13.2).

APPENDIX A: AN OVERVIEW OF RURAL APPALACHIA AND NON-APPALACHIAN RURAL AREAS

Comparing Rural Appalachia with Rural Areas Outside Appalachia

Of the 423 counties in the Appalachian Region, 108 are classified as rural counties that are neither part of nor adjacent to a metropolitan area. As shown in Figure A.1, rural counties are found in 11 of the 13 states in the Appalachian Region – only Appalachian Maryland and South Carolina are exceptions. However, there are notable concentrations of rural counties in the Appalachian parts of multiple states including Mississippi, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. There are 803 rural counties located outside the Appalachian Region, and these are scattered across the United States with higher concentrations in midwestern and western states (see Figure A.1). Given the socioeconomic disadvantages often found in rural counties throughout the country, it is instructive to compare the characteristics of rural counties within Appalachia to those of rural counties located outside the Appalachian Region.

Demographic and Housing Characteristics

Rural counties in Appalachia experienced a much higher rate of population decline between 2010 and 2024 than rural counties outside the Appalachian Region – 3.3 percent versus 0.8 percent (see Table A.1). The population in rural Appalachia is also older with a median age of 42 years versus 41.5 years in other rural areas and has a smaller share of residents under age 18 – 20.5 percent versus 21.8 percent.

Rural Appalachia is also much less racially and ethnically varied, with only 13.8 percent of the population being people of color, compared with 26.7 percent in the rest of rural America. Looking at differences among racial/ethnic groups, there is a slightly higher share of non-Hispanic Black people in rural Appalachia than other rural areas (8 percent and 6.1 percent, respectively) and a smaller share of Hispanic people (3 percent versus 12.2 percent). There is also a much smaller share of people who are non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native in rural Appalachia than in rural counties outside Appalachia. However, racial and ethnic variety is increasing in rural Appalachia – albeit more slowly than in the rest of the nation's rural counties – as the share of people of color in the population rose 2.6 percentage points between 2010 and 2024. This compares with an increase of 3.9 percentage points in the rest of rural America.

Education levels are lower in rural Appalachia than in rural areas in the rest of the country. Among adults ages 25 to 64, 86.7 percent of rural Appalachian residents have completed high school or more, compared with 89.7 percent of rural residents outside the Appalachian Region. About 20.6 percent of working-age adults in rural Appalachia have completed a bachelor's degree or more, compared with 24.4 percent of adults residing in rural counties in the rest of the country. However, the share within Appalachia whose highest education level is an associate's degree is much closer to the share outside the region – 10.5 percent versus 11.4 percent.

Among adults ages 25 and over with a bachelor's degree, slightly more than one-fourth (26.7 percent) of rural Appalachian residents reported their first major was in a science and engineering field compared with nearly one-third (32.2 percent) of rural adults outside Appalachia. These differences in education levels are reflected in differences in employment and income between rural Appalachia and the rest of rural America.

The share of housing units that are single-dwelling units is nearly five percentage points lower in rural Appalachia – 70.7 versus 75.3 percent – but the share of housing units that are mobile homes is much higher – 18.5 percent compared with 11.1 percent in rural counties outside the Appalachian Region. While housing vacancy rates are about the same for both rural Appalachia and the rest of rural America (20.1 percent and 20.6 percent, respectively), rural Appalachia has a noticeably smaller share of these vacant units that are designated for seasonal or recreational use (41.6 percent versus 53 percent).

Rural households within Appalachia are more likely to experience a digital divide than those outside Appalachia. Within rural counties in the Appalachian Region, the share of households with a computer device (90.1 percent) and the share with a broadband (high-speed) Internet connection (83.7 percent) are at least two percentage points lower than for households in rural counties outside the region. Further, 13.2 percent of rural Appalachian households had no access to the Internet in 2020-2024, compared with 10.7 percent of other rural households. However, this gap is closing, as access to digital resources is increasing more rapidly in the Appalachian Region than in the rest of the nation's rural counties – with rises in device ownership and broadband internet access that are nearly two percentage points higher compared with non-Appalachian rural counties.

Labor Force and Commuting

The share of rural Appalachian adults ages 25 to 64 in the civilian labor force is 7.4 percentage points lower than in rural counties outside the Appalachian Region, and the unemployment rate is slightly higher – 4.4 versus four percent. Commuting patterns among rural Appalachian residents who do not work at home also differ from those elsewhere in rural America. Although a higher share of rural Appalachian households had no vehicle available, workers ages 16 and over in rural Appalachia were more likely to drive alone to work (79.1 percent) than workers in rural counties outside the region (75.8 percent).

Almost 32 percent of rural Appalachian workers commuted outside their county of residence compared with about one in five rural workers in the rest of the country. More than three in 10 workers in rural Appalachian counties had a travel time to work of at least 30 minutes, but the average travel time for rural Appalachian workers was 24.5 minutes. By comparison, 23.6 percent of workers in rural counties outside Appalachia took at least a half-hour to get to their jobs, with an average travel time of 20.4 minutes. These commuting patterns include the coronavirus pandemic beginning in March 2020 and reflect the experience of rural workers throughout the pandemic period.

Income and Poverty

Adults in rural Appalachia have lower levels of income and higher rates of poverty and receipt of SNAP benefits than in rural counties outside the Appalachian Region. At \$52,913, median household income in rural Appalachian counties is nearly \$11,000 lower than that of households in rural counties in the rest of the country (\$63,631). Almost one in every five rural Appalachian residents live in poverty, compared with 15 percent of persons in rural counties outside of the Appalachian Region. This gap is even wider among children (4.7 percentage points) and young adults ages 18 to 24 (4.8 percentage points). Although the gap is smaller, even rural Appalachian adults ages 65 and over have a poverty rate that is 2.5 percentage points higher than for older adults in other rural counties.

A higher share of rural Appalachian residents also have incomes below 50 percent of the poverty level and more than four in 10 are classified as low-income because their income is below 200 percent of the poverty level. While only one-sixth (16.9 percent) of all rural Appalachian households received Food Stamps/SNAP in 2020-2024, this share was nearly half (46.9 percent) among households in poverty. In rural counties outside Appalachia, both the share of all households and the share of households in poverty who received Food Stamps/SNAP in 2020-2024 was much lower (by 3.8 and 4.9 percentage points, respectively). In the Appalachian Region, more than one in four (26.4 percent) rural households with children received Food Stamps/SNAP compared with 21 percent of households with children in rural areas outside Appalachia.

Health Insurance and Disability

One of the bright spots in rural Appalachia is the higher level of health insurance coverage compared with the rest of rural America. A smaller share (8.8 percent) of residents in rural Appalachian counties lack health insurance coverage compared with other rural counties (9.5 percent), and this gap is present among all age groups from ages 19 to 64. The share of rural Appalachian residents without health insurance declined slightly less (0.5 percentage points) between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 than the share in rural areas in the rest of the country (0.7 percentage points).

Adults between the ages of 26 and 34 were the highest share without health insurance coverage in Appalachia, with nearly 17 percent lacking health insurance in 2020-2024. And although the share of young adults ages 19 to 25 in rural Appalachia who lack health insurance coverage is more than two percentage points lower than for young adults in rural areas outside the region, it is important to note that 14.4 percent of young adults in rural Appalachian counties are still without health insurance. Lack of access to health care among young adults can contribute to the development of chronic conditions and negatively affect health at older ages. It may also have put them at greater risk of not receiving needed medical treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In contrast to health insurance coverage, levels of disability are much higher among residents of rural Appalachia than among residents in other rural areas. One of every five rural Appalachian residents have a disability compared with 16.9 percent of rural residents in counties outside the Appalachian Region. However, this gap widens to more than five percentage points among adults ages 35 to 64 and just over four percentage points among those ages 65 and older. In rural Appalachia, more than one in five (22.1 percent) working-age adults ages 35 to 64 and four in 10 (40.5 percent) adults ages 65 and older have a disability. By comparison, the respective shares are only 16.7 percent and 36.2 percent for these two age groups in rural counties outside of Appalachia. These higher levels of disability in rural Appalachia – especially among working-age adults – may correspond to lower levels of employment compared with rural areas outside the Appalachian Region.

Veteran Status

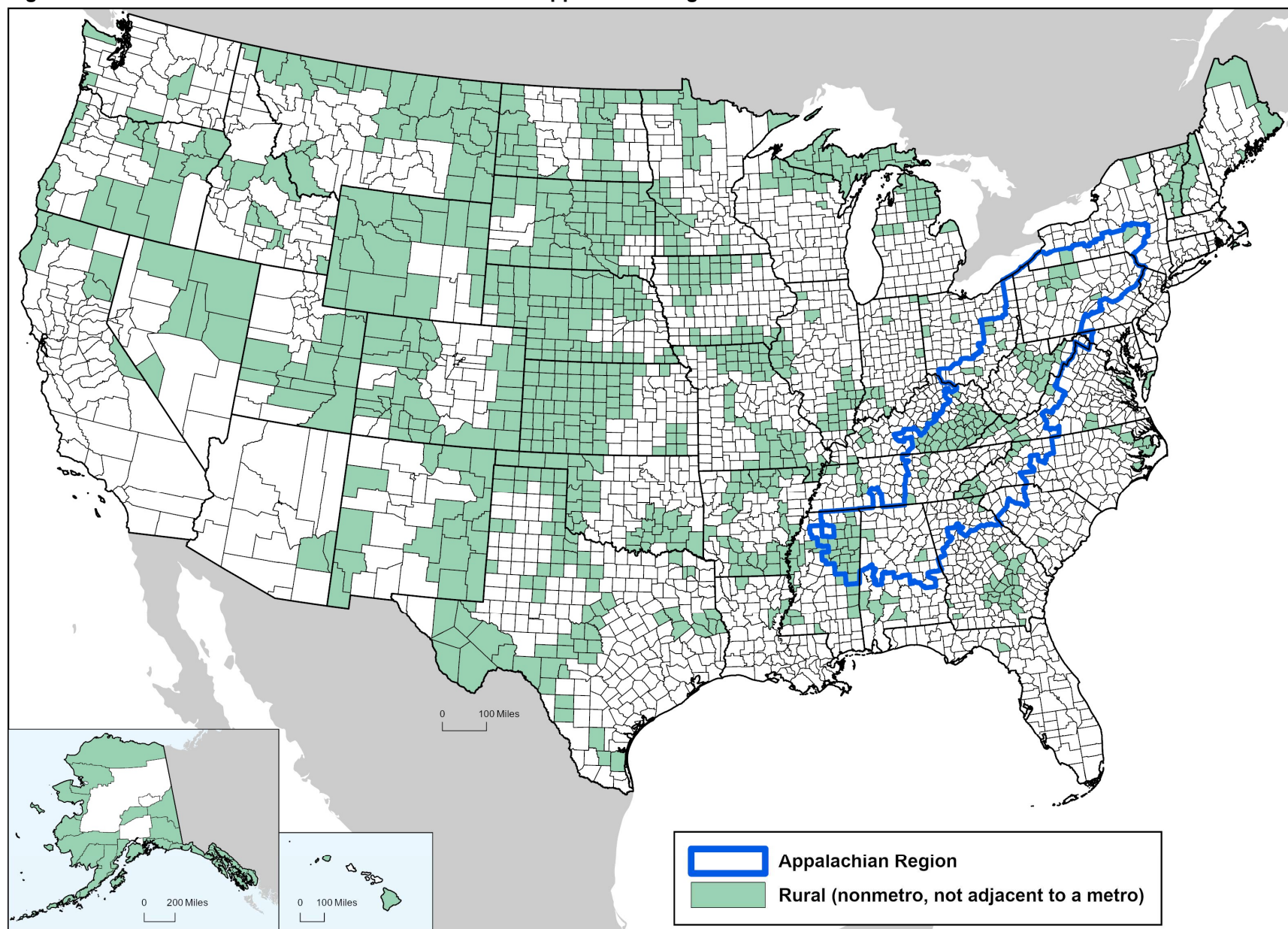
A slightly smaller share of the civilian population ages 65 and over in rural Appalachia are veterans (14.1 percent) than the share in rural counties in the rest of the country (15.6 percent). This gap is nearly the same between rural areas within and outside Appalachia among civilian males ages 18 and older. Only 12.3 percent of rural Appalachian adult male civilians are veterans compared with 13.6 percent of male civilians in rural areas outside Appalachia.

Summary

A comparison of rural counties within the Appalachian Region with those located outside Appalachia reveals some important contrasts in characteristics and overall levels of well-being between these areas. The population in rural Appalachian counties is older, less racially and ethnically varied, and has been declining in number faster since 2010 than the population in rural counties in the rest of the country.

With the exception of health insurance coverage, rural Appalachian counties continue to lag behind rural counties in the rest of the country on many key educational, health, and economic factors. Rural Appalachian residents have lower levels of education, employment, income, and access to the Internet, as well as higher levels of poverty, SNAP benefit receipt, and disability than rural residents in other areas of the United States.

Figure A.1: Rural Counties in the United States and the Appalachian Region



Map Title: Rural Counties in the United States and the Appalachian Region
Data Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, 2024 Urban Influence Codes condensed by ARC.

Table A.1: Selected Measures for Rural Appalachia and Rural Areas Outside Appalachia

Demographic, Social, or Economic Characteristic	Appalachian, Rural (nonmetro, not adjacent to a metro)	Non-Appalachian, Rural (nonmetro, not adjacent to a metro)
NUMBER OF COUNTIES	108	803
Demographic and Housing Characteristics		
Population, July 1, 2024	2,521,564	12,247,418
Percent change (2010 to 2024), population	-3.3	-0.8
Median age, July 1, 2024	42.0	41.5
Percent of population under age 18, July 1, 2024	20.5	21.8
Percent of population who are people of color, July 1, 2024	13.8	26.7
Percent of population who are Black alone, not Hispanic, July 1, 2024	8.0	6.1
Percent of population who are Hispanic or Latino, July 1, 2024	3.0	12.2
Percent of population who are American Indian or Alaska Native alone, not Hispanic, July 1, 2024	0.6	3.5
Percentage point change (2010 to 2024), Percent of population who are people of color	2.6	3.9
Percent of persons ages 25-64 with a high school diploma or more, 2020-24	86.7	89.7
Percent of persons ages 25-64 with an associate's degree but without a bachelor's degree, 2020-24	10.5	11.4
Percent of persons ages 25-64 with a bachelor's degree or more, 2020-24	20.6	24.4
Among persons ages 25 and over with a bachelor's degree or more, percent whose bachelor's degree field (first major) was science and engineering, 2020-24	26.7	32.2
Percent of all housing units that are single-unit dwellings, 2020-24	70.7	75.3
Percent of all housing units that are mobile homes, 2020-24	18.5	11.1
Percent of housing units that are vacant, 2020-24	20.1	20.6
Percent of vacant housing units that are for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use, 2020-24	41.6	53.0
Percent of households with one or more computer devices (including smartphone and tablet), 2020-24	90.1	92.8
Percentage point change in the share of households with a computer device, 2015-19 to 2020-24	9.3	7.4
Percent of households with a broadband (high-speed) Internet subscription, 2020-24	83.7	86.1
Percentage point change in the share of households with a broadband (high-speed) internet subscription, 2015-19 to 2020-24	12.9	11.0
Percent of households with no access to the Internet, 2020-24	13.2	10.7
Labor Force and Commuting		
Percent of civilian labor force universe ages 25-64 (excludes Armed Forces personnel) in civilian labor force, 2020-24	66.9	74.3
Unemployment rate, persons ages 25-64 (percent of civilian labor force), 2020-24	4.4	4.0
Percent of households with no vehicle available, 2020-24	7.3	6.1
Percent of workers ages 16 and over who drove alone to work, 2020-24	79.1	75.8
Percent of workers ages 16 and over who worked outside their county of residence, 2020-24	31.6	19.5
Percent of workers ages 16 and over (not working at home) whose travel time to work was 30 minutes or more, 2020-24	31.2	23.6
Mean travel time to work in minutes for all workers ages 16 and over who didn't work at home, 2020-24	24.5	20.4
Income and Poverty		
Median household income (in adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-24	52,913	63,631
Percent of persons in poverty, 2020-24	18.9	15.0
Percent of persons under age 18 in poverty, 2020-24	23.7	19.0
Percent of persons ages 18-24 in poverty, 2020-24	26.2	21.4
Percent of persons ages 25-64 in poverty, 2020-24	17.6	13.6
Percent of persons ages 65 and over in poverty, 2020-24	14.2	11.7
Percent of persons with income below 50 percent of poverty level, 2020-24	8.5	6.9
Percent of persons with income below 200 percent of poverty level, 2020-24	41.6	34.8
Percent of households receiving Food Stamps/SNAP, 2020-24	16.9	13.1
Percent of poor households receiving Food Stamps/SNAP, 2020-24	46.9	42.0
Percent of households with children receiving Food Stamps/SNAP, 2020-24	26.4	21.0
Health Insurance and Disability		
Percent of persons without health insurance coverage, 2020-24	8.8	9.5
Percentage point change (2015-19 to 2020-24), Percent of persons without health insurance coverage	-0.5	-0.7
Percent of persons ages 19-25 without health insurance coverage, 2020-24	14.4	16.8
Percent of persons ages 26-34 without health insurance coverage, 2020-24	16.7	17.5
Percent of persons ages 35-64 without health insurance coverage, 2020-24	10.9	12.2

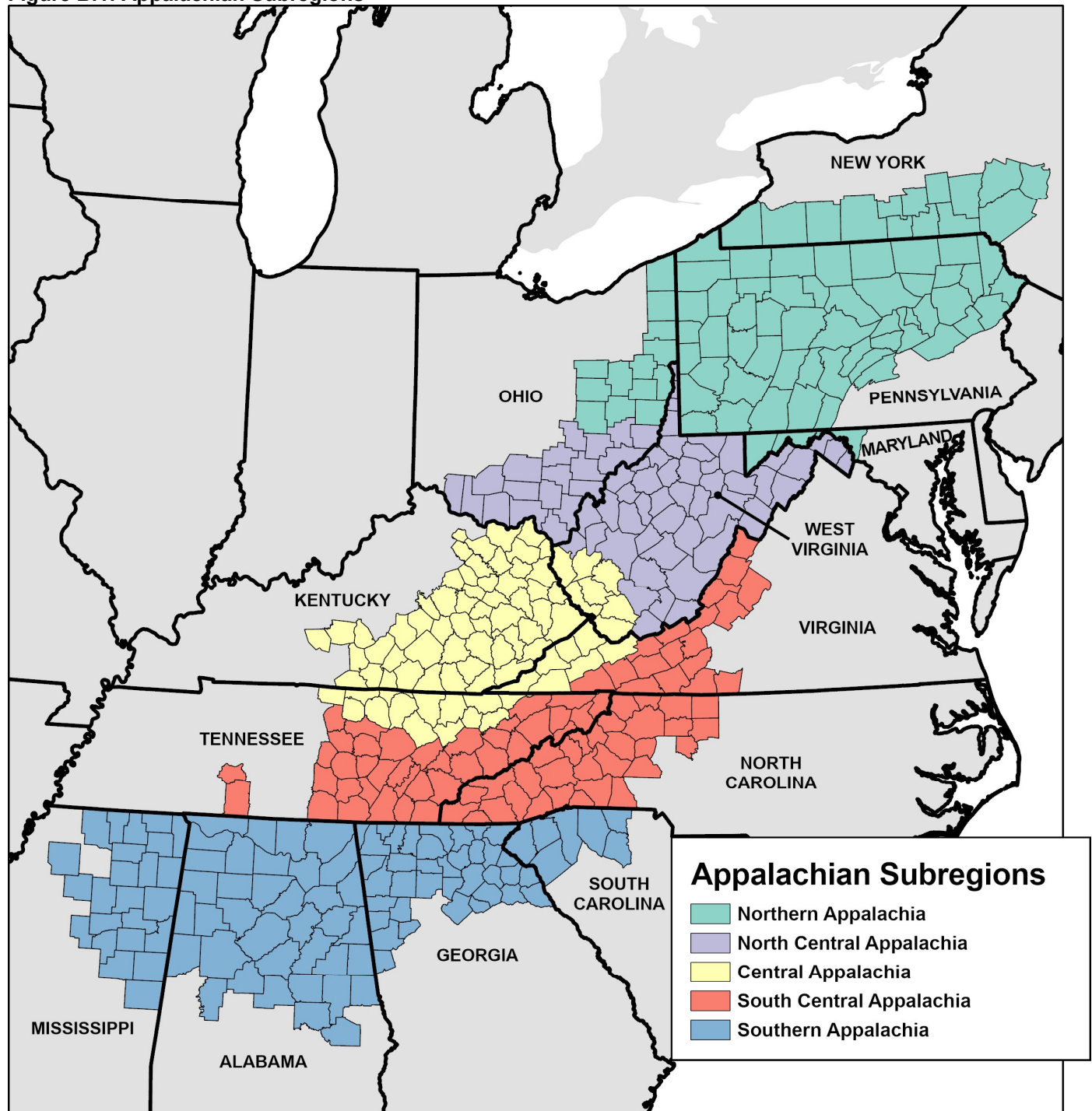
Table A.1: Selected Measures for Rural Appalachia and Rural Areas Outside Appalachia (continued)

Demographic, Social, or Economic Characteristic	Appalachian, Rural (nonmetro, not adjacent to a metro)	Non-Appalachian, Rural (nonmetro, not adjacent to a metro)
<i>Health Insurance and Disability (continued)</i>		
Percent of persons with a disability, 2020-24	20.0	16.9
Percent of persons ages 35-64 with a disability, 2020-24	22.1	16.7
Percent of persons ages 65 and over with a disability, 2020-24	40.5	36.2
<i>Veteran Status</i>		
Percent of civilian population ages 65 and over who are veterans, 2020-24	14.1	15.6
Percent of male civilian population ages 18 and over who are veterans, 2020-24	12.3	13.6

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2020 and Vintage 2024 Population Estimates; and 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 American Community Surveys.

APPENDIX B: REFERENCE MAPS

Figure B.1: Appalachian Subregions

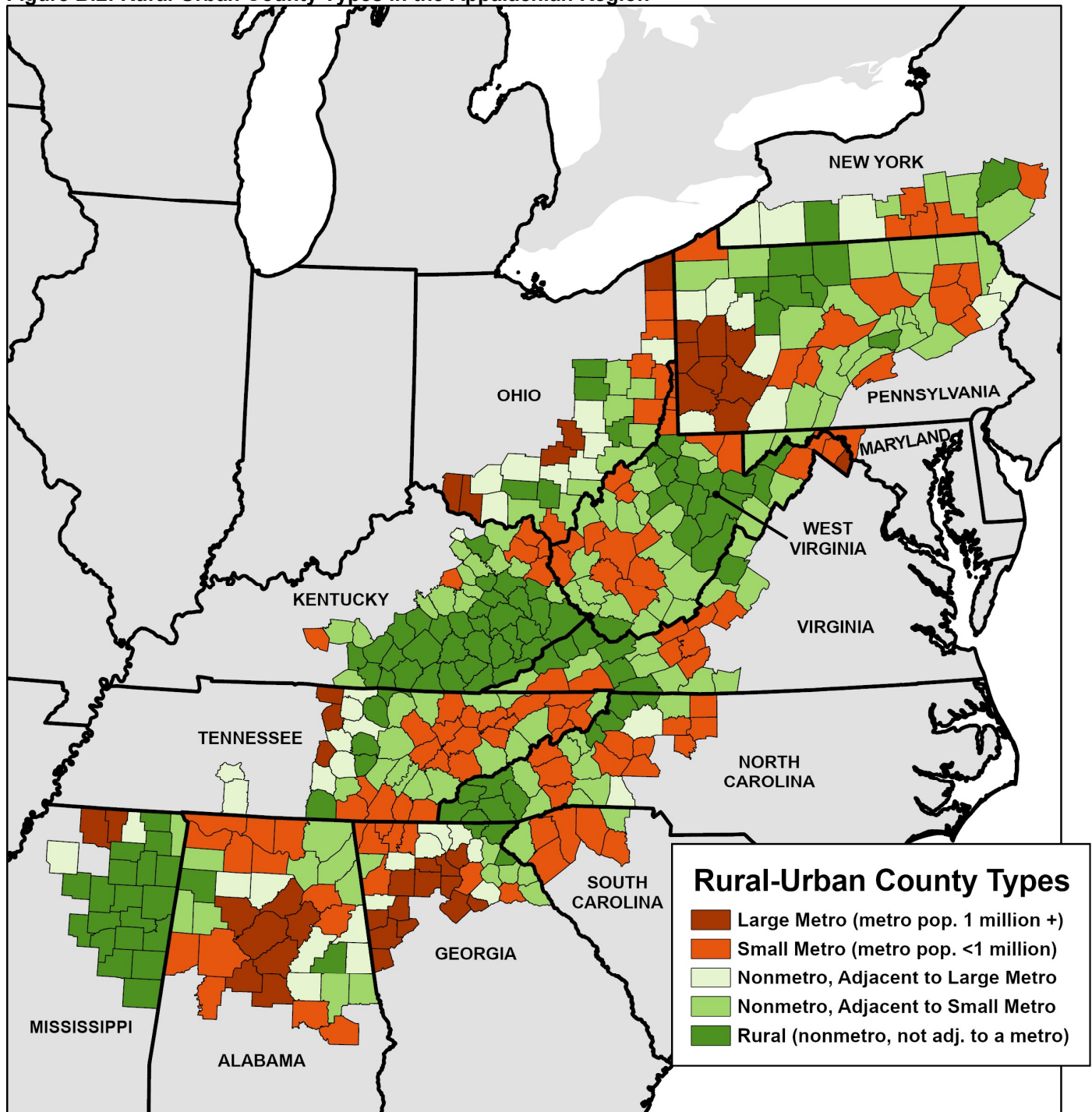


Map Title: Appalachian Subregions

Data Source: Appalachian Regional Commission.

The Appalachian Region covers 206,000 square miles and includes all of West Virginia and portions of 12 other states from New York to Mississippi. The 423 counties of the Appalachian Region are grouped into five subregions, based on similarities in economic and demographic characteristics and geographic location.

Figure B.2: Rural-Urban County Types in the Appalachian Region



Map Title: Rural-Urban County Types in the Appalachian Region

Data Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, 2024 Urban Influence Codes condensed by ARC.

While Appalachia is a distinct part of the United States, the Appalachian Region is far from homogeneous, including both rural counties and major metropolitan areas such as Pittsburgh, Birmingham, and parts of suburban Atlanta. This map shows the rural-urban type for each Appalachian county.

APPENDIX C: AN OVERVIEW OF APPALACHIAN COUNTIES BY ECONOMIC STATUS DESIGNATION

Comparing Appalachian Counties by Economic Status

Every year, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) applies an [index-based classification system](#) to compare each county in Appalachia with national averages to understand how counties are performing. After analyzing three-year average unemployment rates, per capita market income, and poverty rates, each one of Appalachia's 423 counties is classified within one of five economic status designations: distressed, at-risk, transitional, competitive or attainment. The designations are also used to determine the match requirements for ARC grants, as well as research topics and investment strategies targeting resources to the region's most distressed areas. This appendix uses selected demographic and socioeconomic measures to provide an overview comparing the five economic status designations in Appalachia. See the descriptions below of how the designations are ordered into economic levels.

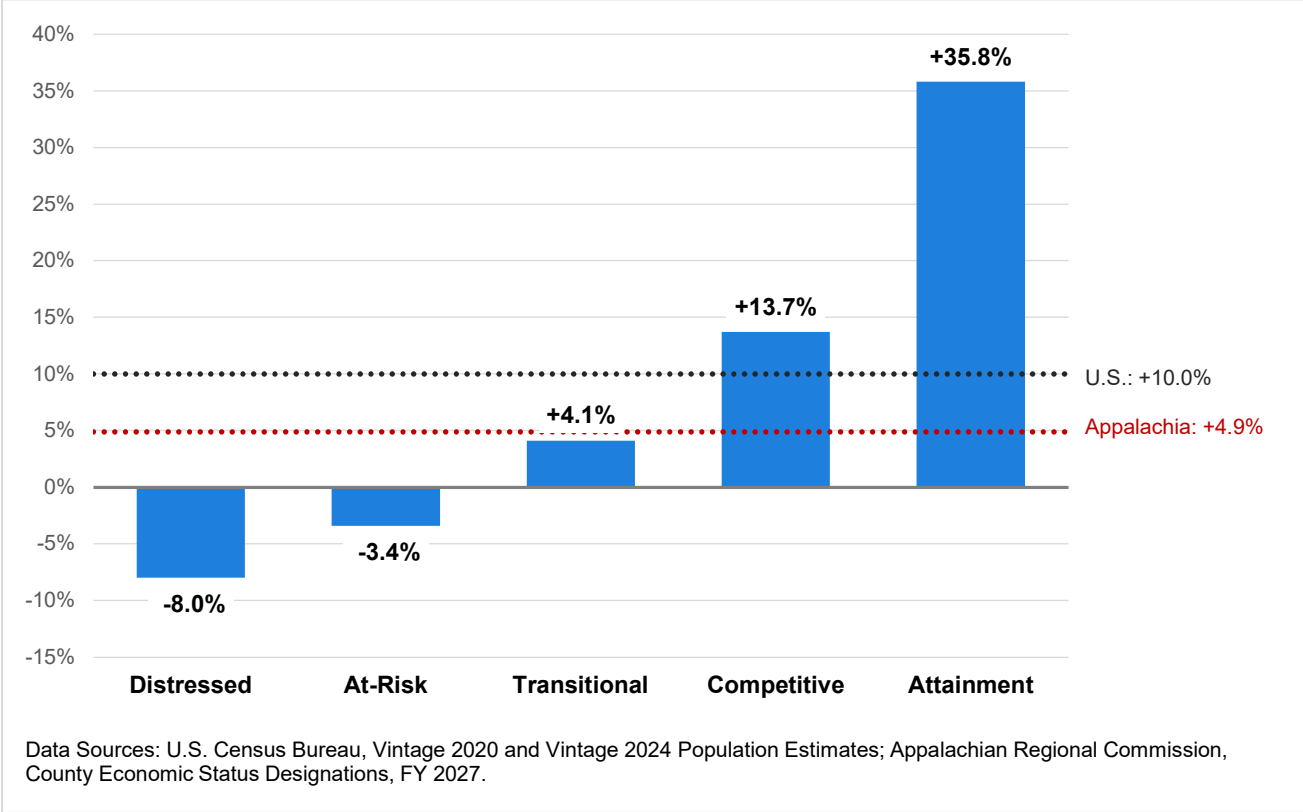
- **Distressed.** Distressed counties are the most economically depressed counties. They rank in the worst 10% of the nation's counties.
- **At-Risk.** At-Risk counties are those at risk of becoming economically distressed. They rank between the worst 10% and the worst 25% of the nation's counties.
- **Transitional.** Transitional counties are those transitioning between strong and weak economies. They make up the largest economic status designation. Transitional counties rank between the worst 25% and the best 25% of the nation's counties.
- **Competitive.** Competitive counties are those that are able to compete in the national economy but are not in the highest 10% of the nation's counties. Counties ranking between the best 10% and the best 25% of the nation's counties are classified competitive.
- **Attainment.** Attainment counties are the economically strongest counties. Counties ranking in the best 10% of the nation's counties are classified attainment.

Among the 423 counties of the Appalachian Region, 76 are considered distressed, 85 are at risk, 240 are transitional, 18 are competitive, and four are attainment.

Demographic and Housing Characteristics

The Appalachian Region's population grew between 2010 and 2024 (4.9 percent), but not at the same magnitude as the U.S. overall (10 percent) (see Table C.1). Looking within the Appalachian Region, distressed and at-risk counties experienced notable population declines between 2010 and 2024 (-8 and -3.4 percents, respectively), while transitional counties had modest population growth over this period (4.1 percent). Meanwhile, population change in the region's competitive (13.7 percent) and attainment counties (35.8 percent) was well above overall U.S. growth (see Figure C.1).

Figure C.1: Population Change by County Economic Status Among Counties in the Appalachian Region, 2010 to 2024



While the median age in the U.S. is 39.1 years, the Appalachian Region overall is slightly older (41.2 years) and varies within the region. In none of the economic status county designation groupings was median age younger than that of the U.S. overall. And only the region's competitive (39.9 years) and attainment counties (40.7 years) were below the region's overall median age. Further, attainment counties stood out for having a higher share of the population younger than 18 (22.7 percent) when compared with the U.S. (21.5 percent) and region as a whole (20.6 percent).

Relative to the nation, the Appalachian Region is less racially and ethnically varied. Overall, 42.5 percent of the population in the U.S. and 22.0 percent of the population of the region identify as people of color. Attainment counties (30.4 percent), competitive counties (25.2 percent), and transitional counties (22.8 percent) are above the region's average. Within attainment counties, the growth in the share of those identifying as a person of color increased by 11.8 percentage points between 2010 and 2024—higher than both the U.S. (6.3 percentage points) and overall Appalachian Region (5.5 percentage points).

Overall, educational attainment levels are lower in the Appalachian Region when compared with the U.S. and this gap is more pronounced among the region's distressed and at-risk counties. While 90.2 percent of the U.S. and region's populations have at least a high school degree, this is 84.4 percent of those in distressed counties and 88.3 percent of those in at-risk counties (see Figure C.2).

On the other hand, bachelor's degree attainment is higher than the U.S. average in Appalachia's competitive and attainment counties, where the share of people ages 25 to 64 with a bachelor's degree is well above shares in the U.S. (37.3 percent) and region (29.5 percent) (see Figure C.3). Half of the working age population in attainment counties (50.4 percent) and over 4 in 10 in competitive counties (41.6 percent) hold at least bachelor's degrees. More people in these counties also hold degrees in science and engineering relative to the Appalachian Region overall. In contrast, those in distressed and at-risk counties have lower educational attainment than the nation and region.

Figure C.2: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 With a High School Diploma or More in the Appalachian Region by County Economic Status, 2020-2024

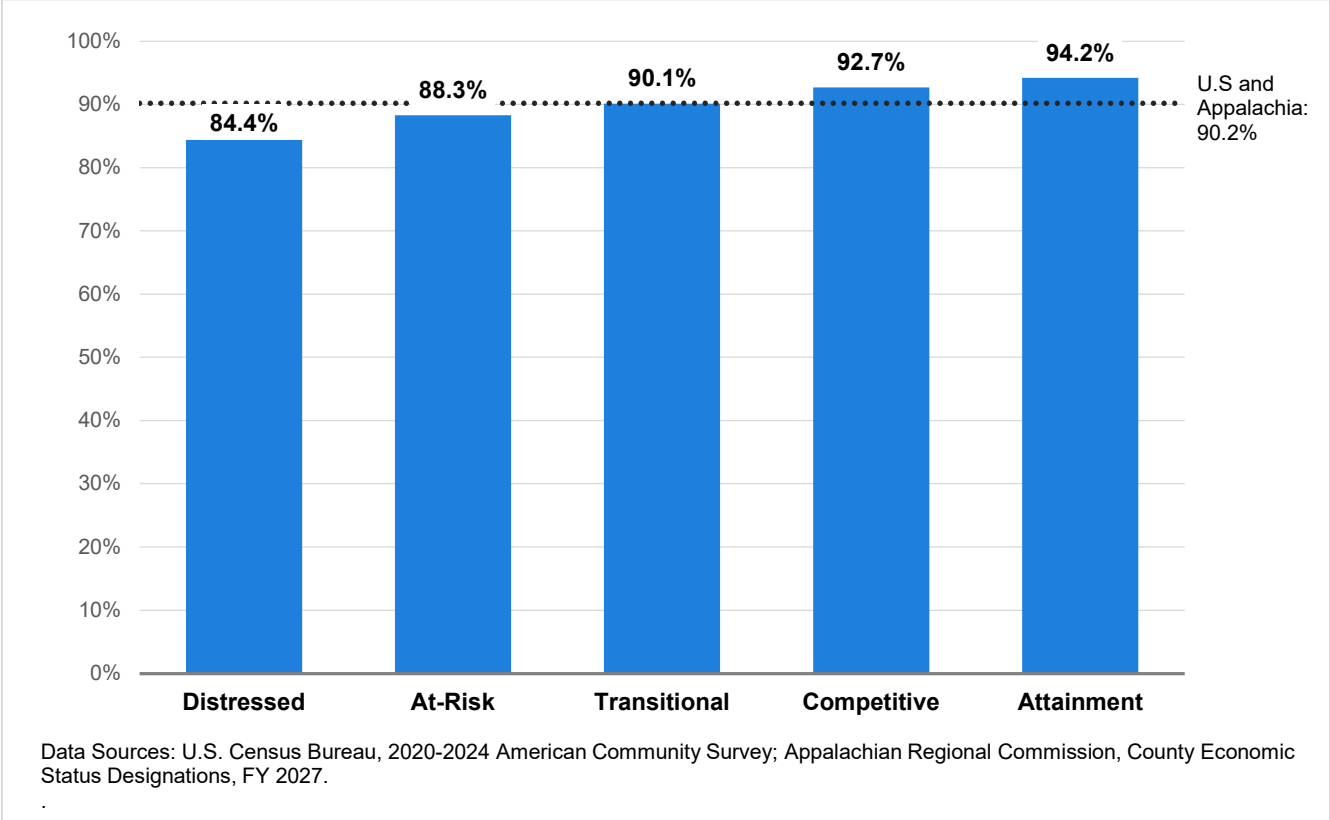
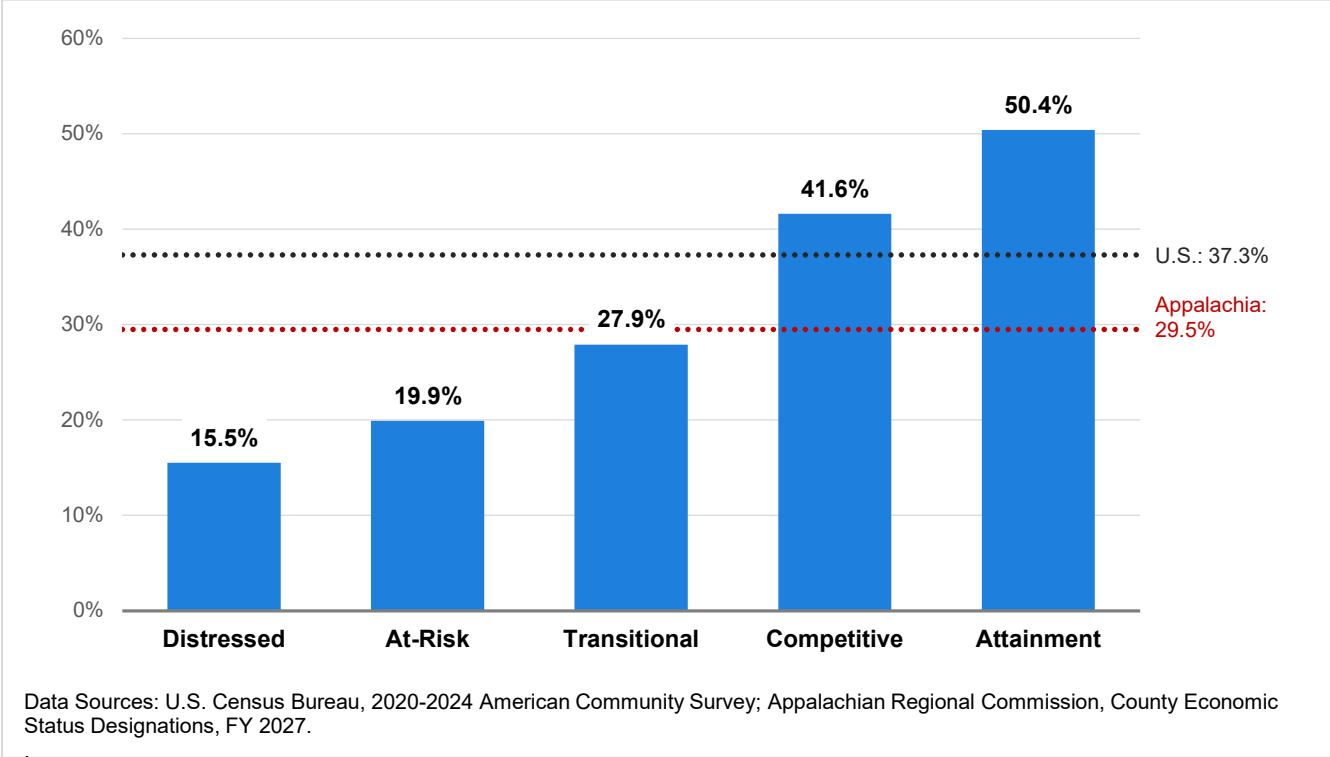


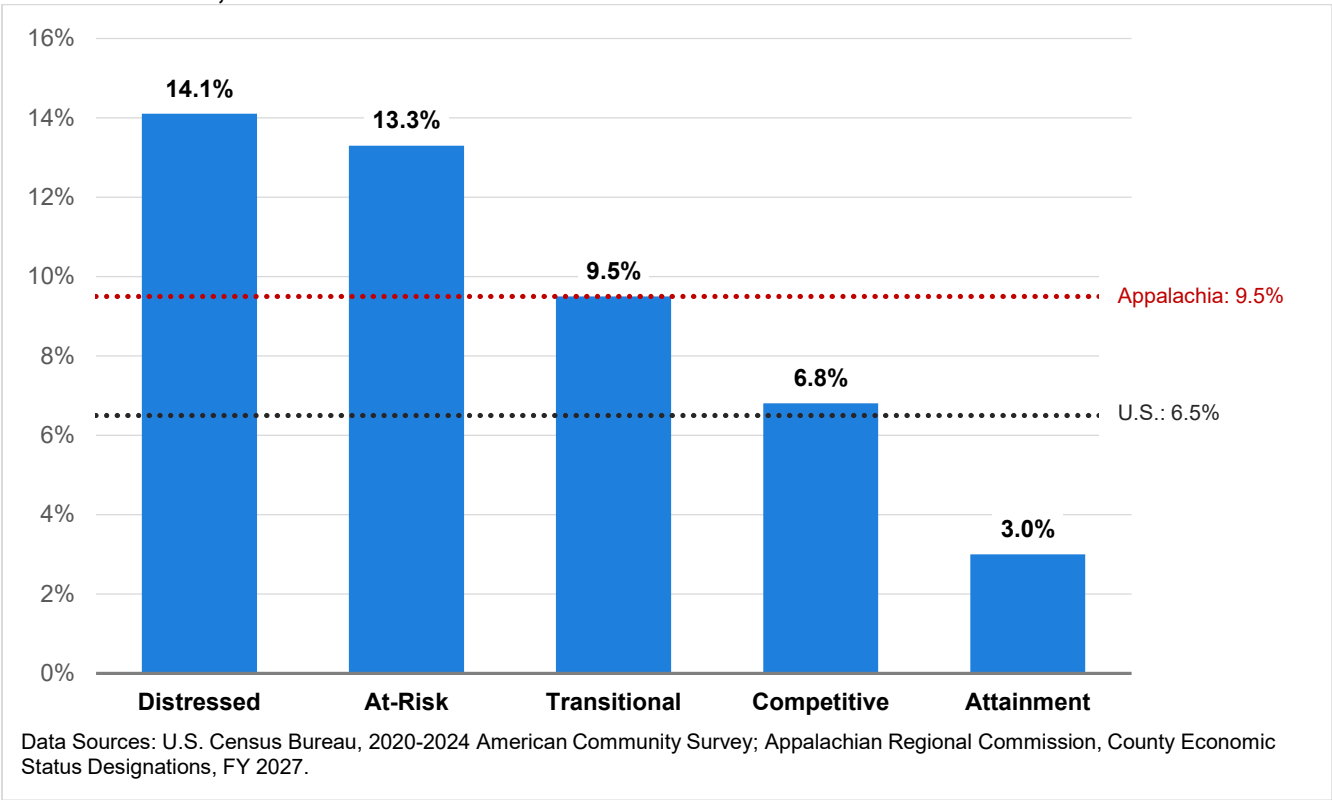
Figure C.3: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 With a Bachelor's Degree or More in the Appalachian Region by County Economic Status, 2020-2024



Housing also varies according to the economic designations of counties. Shares of single-unit dwellings vary among the region’s counties according to their economic status designation, ranging from 66.1 percent in distressed counties to 85.7 percent in attainment counties. Further, distressed counties have a greater share of mobile homes (25.5 percent) and vacant homes (17.4 percent) than the region’s averages (10.6 and 13.0 percent). In attainment counties, just 5 percent of homes are vacant.

Unsurprisingly, there is a digital divide that tracks with the continuum of economic status designations among counties in the region. Nearly all households in attainment counties have one or more computer devices (97.7 percent) which is above both the U.S. (95.5 percent) and Appalachian Region (93.0 percent). While fewer households in distressed counties have such access to computer devices (88.7 percent), this gap closed by 10.9 percentage points between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. Similarly, gaps in broadband and Internet access between the region’s counties are also closing. Although 82.8 percent of households in distressed counties report having high speed internet—as compared with near total coverage in attainment counties (95.7 percent)—distressed counties improved such access by 15.3 percentage points since 2015-2019. Efforts to continue improving high-speed access will certainly help these communities make digital progress considering a notable share of households in distressed (14.1 percent) and at-risk counties (13.3 percent) still lack any access to the internet (see Figure C.4).

Figure C.4: Percent of Households With No Access to the Internet in the Appalachian Region by County Economic Status, 2020-2024



Labor Force and Commuting

Overall, 74.9 percent of the working age population ages 25 to 64 is in the labor force in the Appalachian Region, slightly lower than the national average of 79.1 percent (see Figure C.5). Unsurprisingly, this varies tremendously within the region according to the economic status designations of counties. In attainment counties, 82.5 percent of the working-age population is in the labor force while just 59.3 percent of those in distressed counties are. Similarly, the unemployment rate in distressed counties (5.5 percent) is double that of attainment counties (2.7 percent) (see Figure C.6).

Figure C.5: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the Civilian Labor Force by County Economic Status, 2020-2024

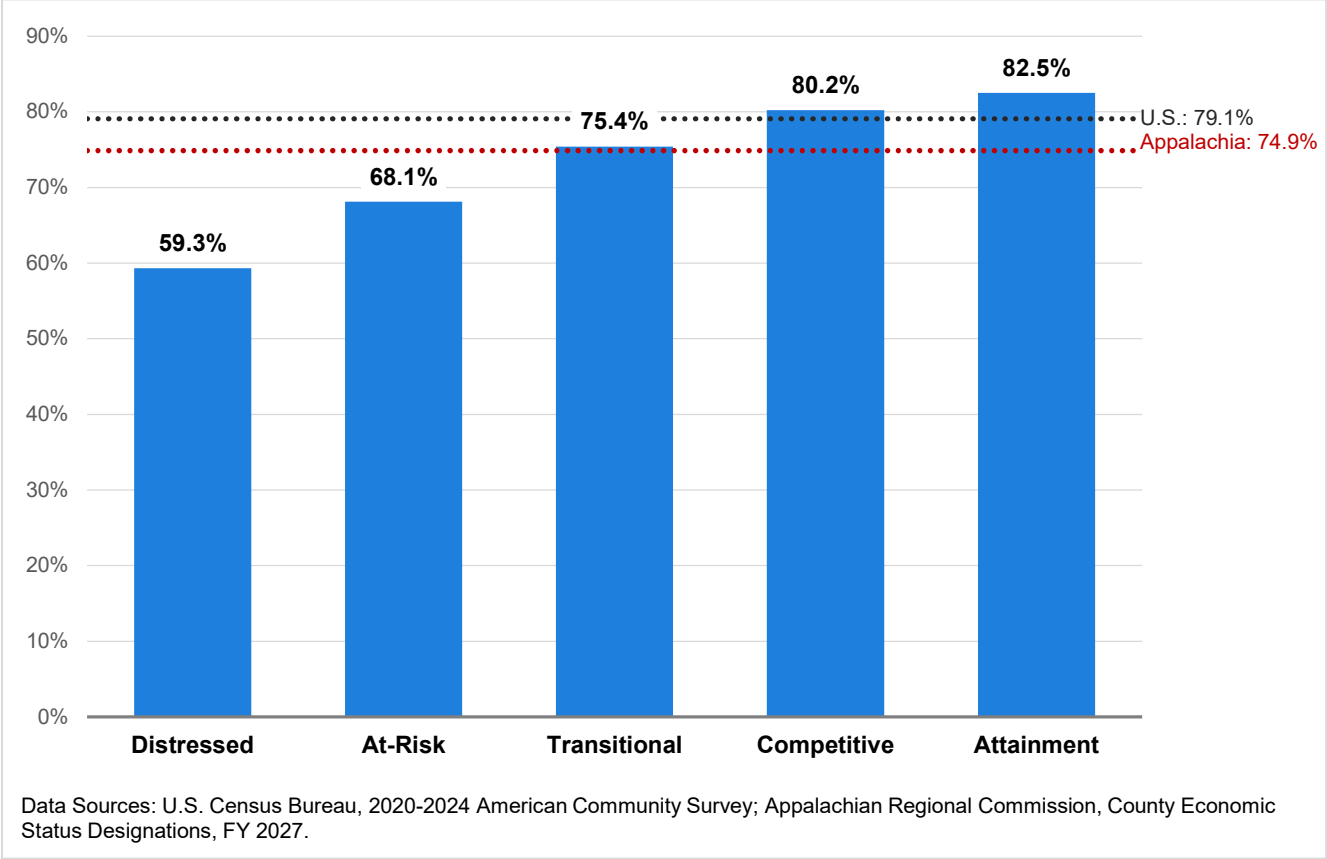
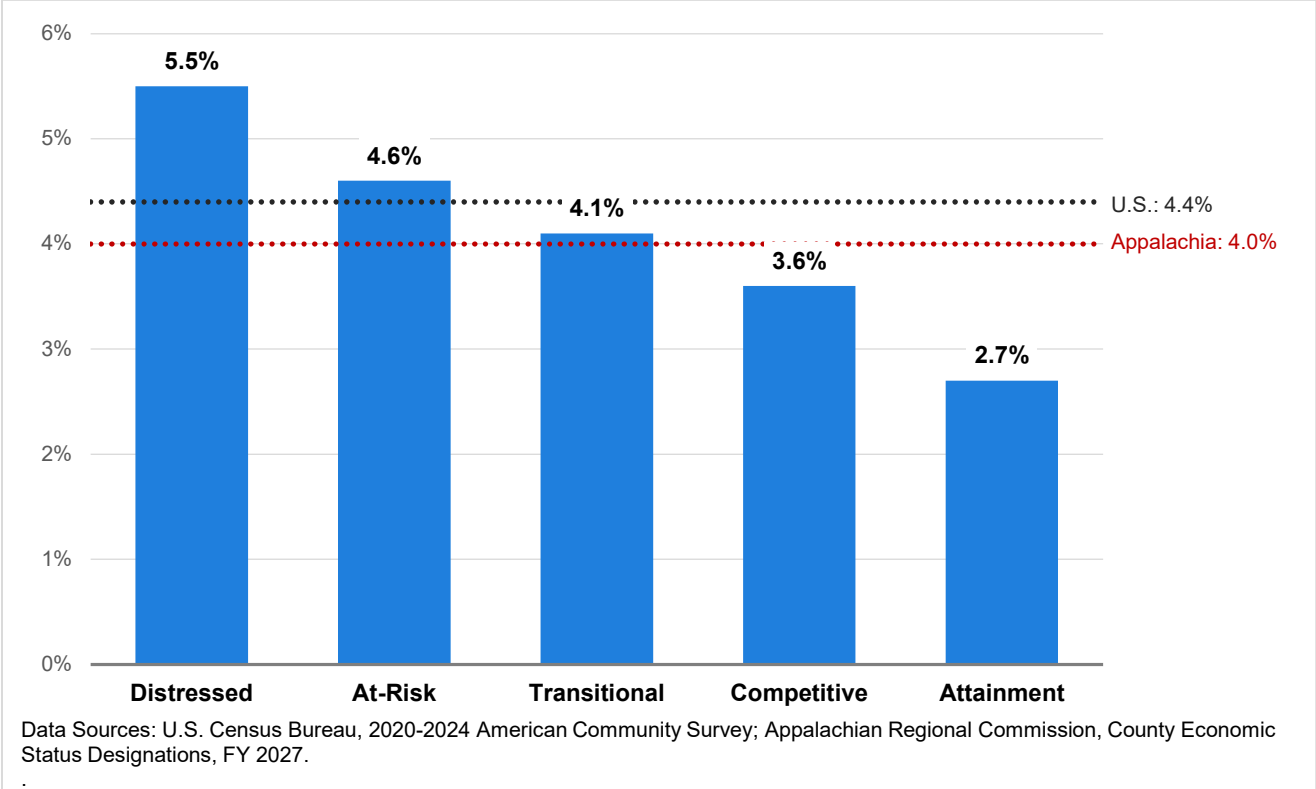


Figure C.6: Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region by County Economic Status, 2020-2024

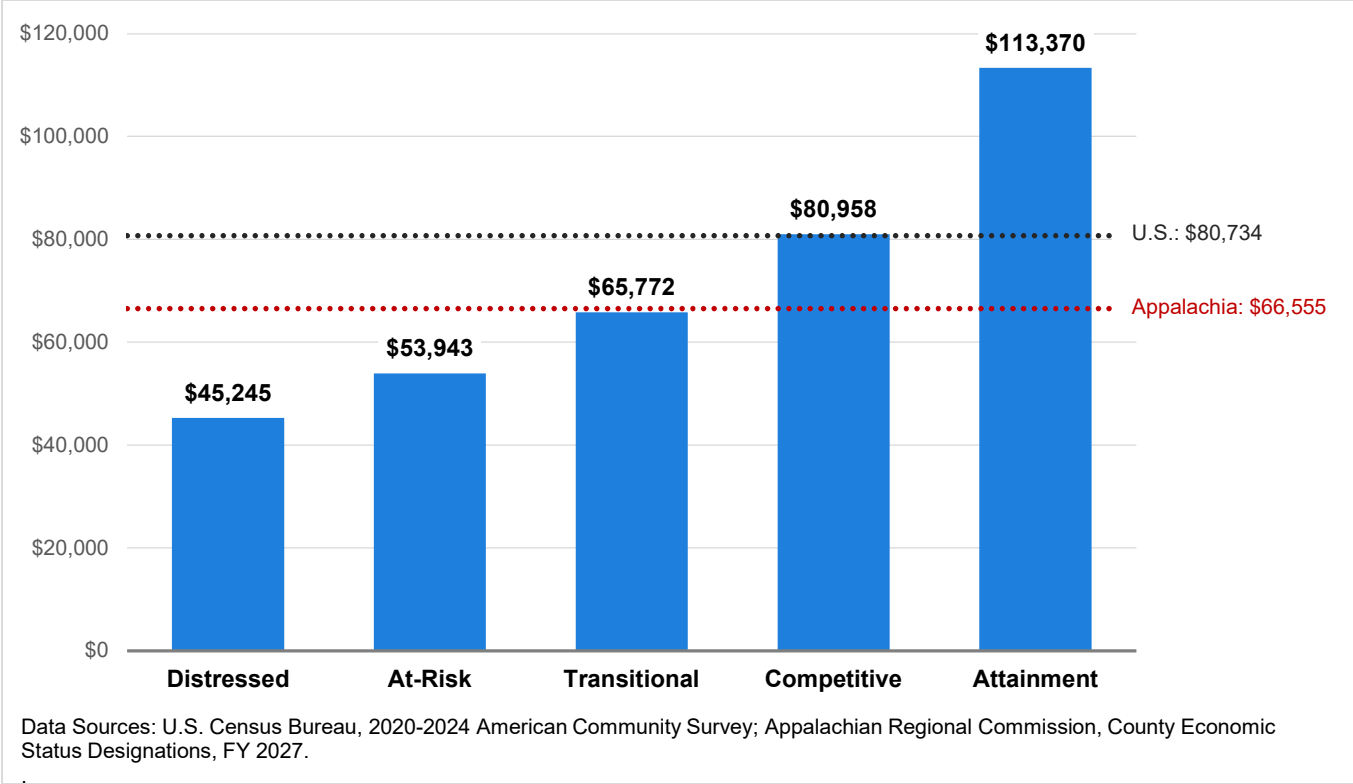


How people get to work also varies across economic status designations of counties. More workers in distressed and at-risk counties drove alone to work (80.3 and 80.4 percents, respectively) compared with those in attainment counties (67.3 percent). Meanwhile, 41.9 percent of those living in attainment counties worked outside their county of residence and many have long commutes—nearly half who worked outside of the home had a commute of 30 minutes or longer—well above both regional and national averages.

Income and Poverty

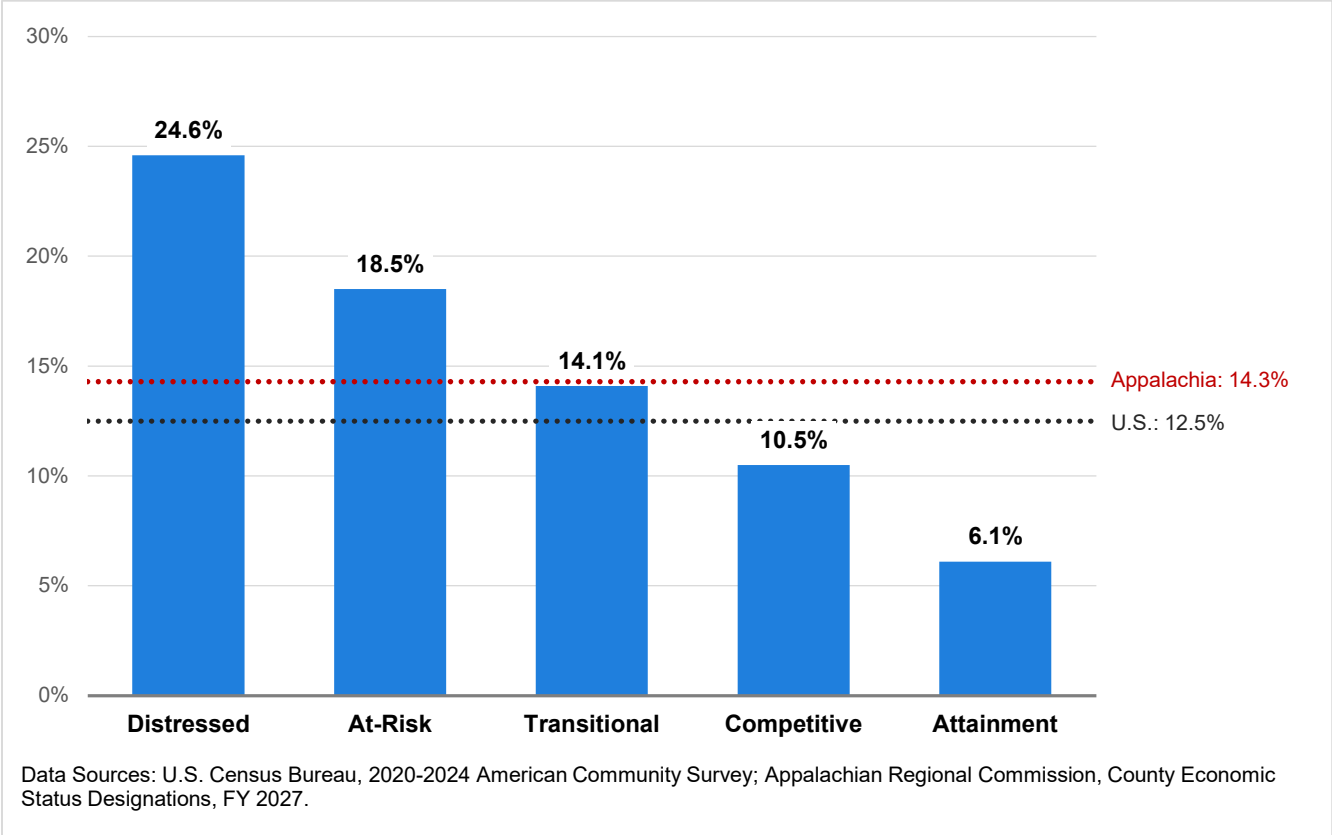
The economic conditions of residents are consistent with those of their counties of residence. The median household income in attainment counties in 2020-2024 (adjusted to 2024 dollars) was \$113,370—2.5 times greater than that of distressed counties (\$45,245) (see Figure C.7).

Figure C.7: Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2024 Dollars) by County Economic Status, 2020-2024



Not surprisingly, poverty rates in distressed counties were 4 times greater than those of attainment counties (24.6 percent versus 6.1 percent) (see Figure C.8). The child poverty rate in distressed counties was especially noteworthy at 32.4 percent—double the national rate (16.1 percent)—and over 4.5 times higher than attainment counties (6.8 percent). The gaps in poverty rates between distressed and attainment counties were also considerable for the working age population (23.9 percent and 5.1 percent respectively). Even among older people, distressed counties had a higher poverty rate (17 percent) than all other counties, and especially when compared with attainment counties (7 percent).

Figure C.8: Percent of Persons in Poverty in the Appalachian Region by County Economic Status, 2020-2024

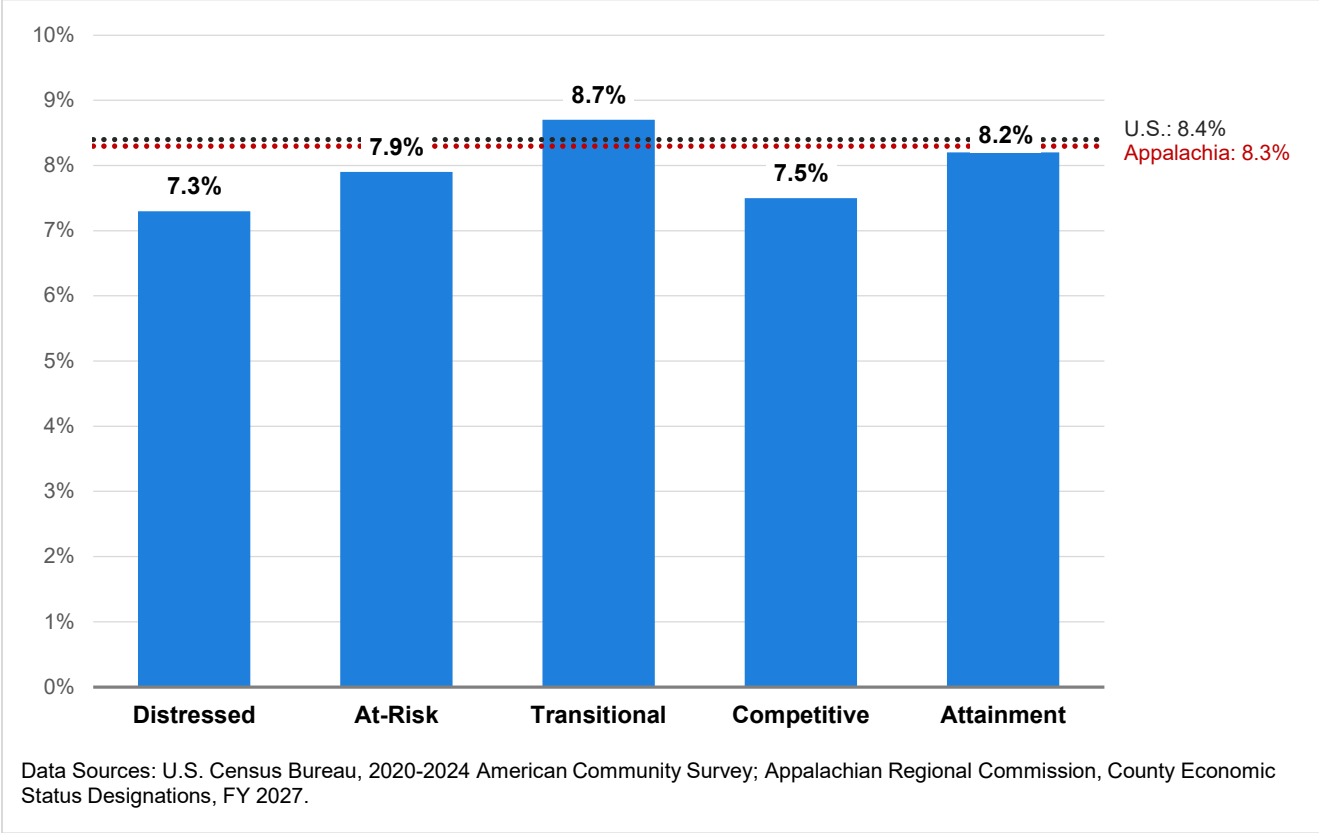


Overall, the share of people in the region with income below 50 percent of the poverty line (6.6 percent) is comparable to the national average, but the share is higher in distressed (10.9 percent) and at-risk counties (8.3 percent). And shares of low-income people, those with income below 200 percent of the poverty level, are higher in the Appalachian Region (32.6 percent) than the nation overall (28.2 percent) and especially in distressed and at-risk counties (48.8 percent and 40.3 percent, respectively). Consistent with these patterns, households in distressed and at-risk counties also had above-average Food Stamp/SNAP use (23.4 percent and 17.4 percent respectively). And households with children receiving Food Stamps/SNAP were accordingly higher in distressed counties (34.8 percent) and at-risk counties (28 percent) when compared with the regional average (21.6 percent).

Health Insurance and Disability

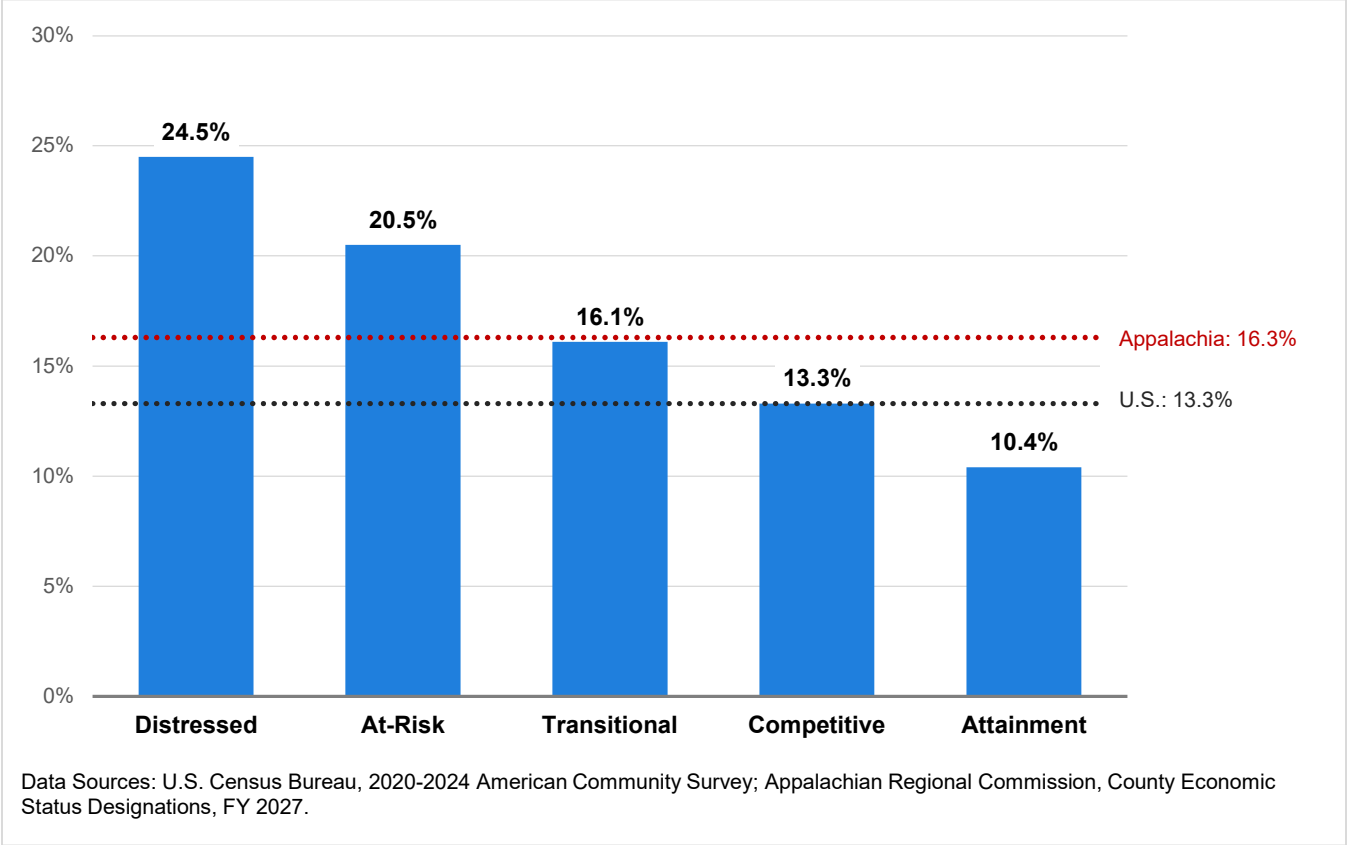
Across the counties, there were very few differences in health insurance coverage, and noncoverage rates were very comparable to the national average (8.4 percent) (see Figure C.9). Further, there were few notable differences in loss of coverage from 2015-2019 to 2020-2024 across the counties. Even across various age groups, noncoverage rates across the economic distress counties were comparable.

Figure C.9: Percent of Persons Without Health Insurance Coverage in the Appalachian Region by County Economic Status, 2020-2024



In contrast, disability levels varied considerably across counties by their economic status designations. While the percentage of people with disabilities in the region is 16.3 percent—3 percentage points higher than the national average—nearly one in four people in distressed counties have a disability (see Figure C.10). For those ages 35 to 64, almost 28 percent of those in distressed counties have a disability compared with just 8.1 percent in attainment counties. Among those 65 and older, nearly half of that population in distressed counties (48.1 percent) has a disability compared with almost 30 percent of those in attainment counties. Higher rates of disability in distressed counties also help to explain why there are fewer people actively in the labor force than in other parts of the region.

Figure C.10: Percent of Persons With a Disability in the Appalachian Region by County Economic Status, 2020-2024



Veteran Status

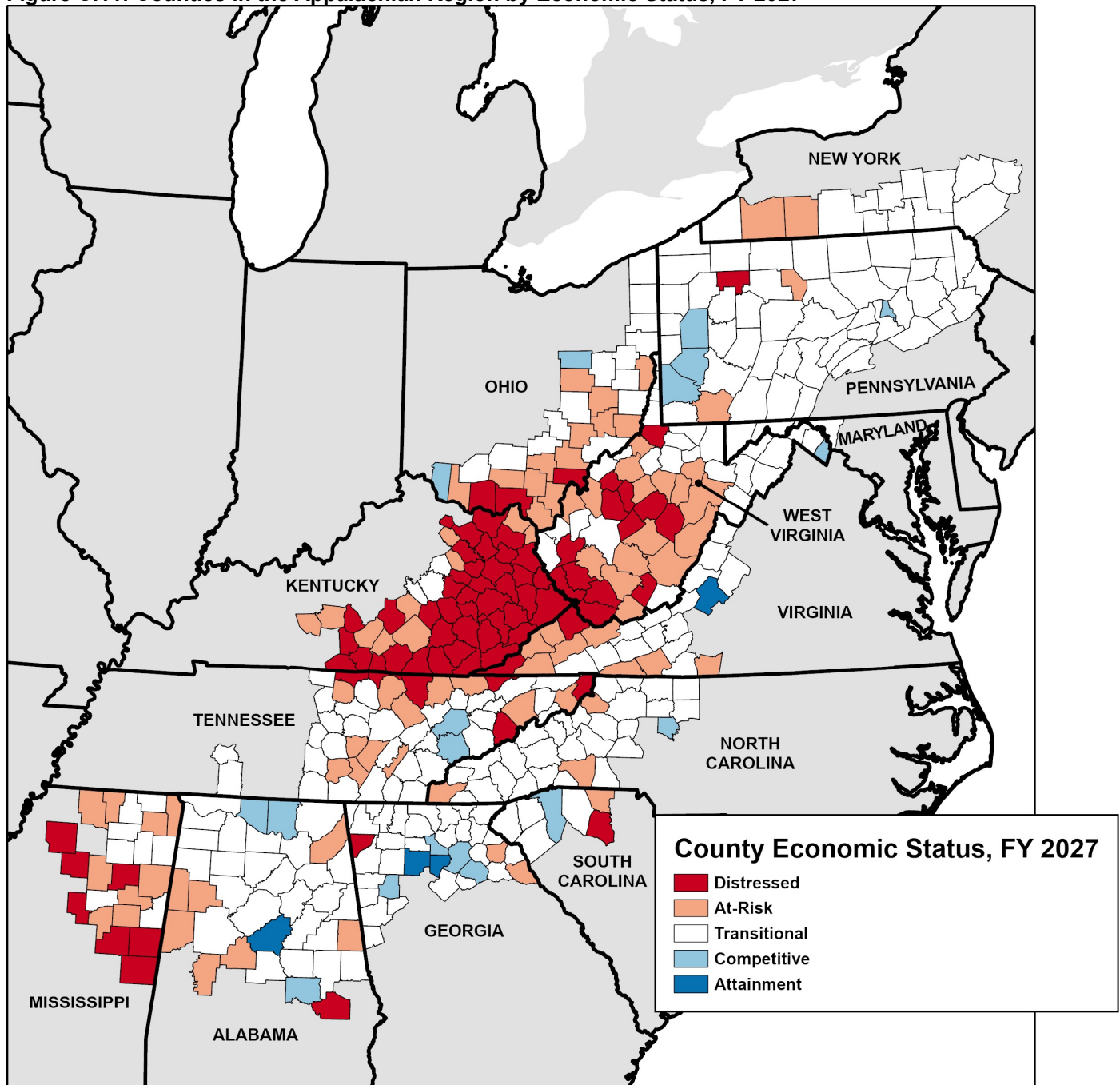
Across the economic status designation areas, there are few differences related to veteran status. The share of veterans age 65 and over in at-risk, transitional, and competitive counties are nearly the same as the regional average (15.0 percent), while those living in distressed counties (13.1 percent) and in attainment counties (14.6 percent) are slightly below this. Similar patterns follow when looking at the percent of the male civilian population ages 18 and over who are veterans—at-risk, transitional, and competitive counties are similar to the regional share (13.1 percent) while the shares are lower in distressed and attainment counties (11.2 and 11.6 percent respectively).

Summary

Perhaps not surprisingly, the economic well-being of those in attainment counties is higher than those in distressed counties. The population in attainment counties has more education, higher income, higher employment rates, lower poverty and food stamp rates, lower disability rates, and fewer vacant homes. These counties have higher shares of computers in their homes and higher rates of internet and broadband connectivity. In contrast, distressed communities exhibit lower rates of employment and economic well-being relative to other areas. In exchange for better economic well-being, people in attainment areas are working farther away from home and spending more time commuting to work.

On a positive note, regardless of economic status, all county groupings show robust health insurance coverage for all populations between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. Further, distressed counties have improved access to high-speed internet by 15.3 percentage points, signaling progress toward greater economic inclusivity in the future.

Figure C.11: Counties in the Appalachian Region by Economic Status, FY 2027



Map Title: Counties in the Appalachian Region by Economic Status, FY 2027.

Data Source: Appalachian Regional Commission, County Economic Status Designations, FY 2027.

Every year, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) applies an [index-based classification system](#) to compare each county in Appalachia with national averages to understand how counties are performing. After analyzing three-year average unemployment rates, per capita market income and poverty rates, each one of Appalachia's 423 counties is classified within one of five economic status designations: distressed, at-risk, transitional, competitive or attainment.

Table C.1: Selected Measures for Economic Status Designation Groupings in Appalachia, FY 2027

Demographic, Social, or Economic Characteristic	United States	Appalachian Region	Economic Status Designations Among Appalachian Counties				
			Distressed	At-Risk	Transitional	Competitive	Attainment
NUMBER OF COUNTIES	3115	423	76	85	240	18	4
<i>Demographic and Housing Characteristics</i>							
Population, July 1, 2024	340,110,988	26,785,329	1,358,002	2,612,705	17,554,863	4,416,052	843,707
Percent change (2010 to 2024), population	10.0	4.9	-8.0	-3.4	4.1	13.7	35.8
Median age, July 1, 2024	39.1	41.2	42.3	42.6	41.4	39.9	40.7
Percent of population under age 18, July 1, 2024	21.5	20.6	21.3	20.1	20.5	20.7	22.7
Percent of population who are people of color, July 1, 2024	42.5	22.0	11.5	13.6	22.8	25.2	30.4
Percent of population who are black alone, not Hispanic, July 1, 2024	12.6	10.3	7.3	7.3	10.5	12.3	8.5
Percent of population who are Hispanic or Latino, July 1, 2024	20.0	7.0	2.0	3.3	7.7	7.3	10.2
Percent of population who are American Indian or Alaska Native alone, not Hispanic, July 1, 2024	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Percentage point change (2010 to 2024), Percent of population who are people of color	6.3	5.5	1.8	2.4	5.7	5.6	11.8
Percent of persons ages 25-64 with a high school diploma or more, 2020-24	90.2	90.2	84.4	88.3	90.1	92.7	94.2
Percent of persons ages 25-64 with an associate's degree but without a bachelor's degree, 2020-24	9.2	10.3	9.1	11.3	10.6	9.7	8.2
Percent of persons ages 25-64 with a bachelor's degree or more, 2020-24	37.3	29.5	15.5	19.9	27.9	41.6	50.4
Among persons ages 25 and over with a bachelor's degree or more, percent whose bachelor's degree field (first major) was science and engineering, 2020-24	36.1	31.8	25.2	26.6	31.0	35.6	35.0
Percent of all housing units that are single-unit dwellings, 2020-24	67.5	73.9	66.1	71.6	74.2	74.8	85.7
Percent of all housing units that are mobile homes, 2020-24	5.6	10.6	25.5	17.8	9.9	4.6	4.4
Percent of housing units that are vacant, 2020-24	10.1	13.0	17.4	17.1	13.4	8.5	5.0
Percent of vacant housing units that are for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use, 2020-24	32.6	28.2	20.2	30.4	31.5	9.8	18.6
Percent of households with one or more computer devices (including smartphone and tablet), 2020-24	95.5	93.0	88.7	90.0	93.0	95.0	97.7
Percentage point change in the share of households with a computer device, 2015-19 to 2020-24	5.2	6.9	10.9	8.5	6.8	5.1	2.6
Percent of households with a broadband (high-speed) Internet subscription, 2020-24	91.0	87.8	82.8	83.2	87.7	91.1	95.7
Percentage point change in the share of households with a broadband (high-speed) internet subscription, 2015-19 to 2020-24	8.3	10.0	15.3	11.9	10.0	7.6	4.8
Percent of households with no access to the Internet, 2020-24	6.5	9.5	14.1	13.3	9.5	6.8	3.0
<i>Labor Force and Commuting</i>							
Percent of civilian labor force universe ages 25-64 (excludes Armed Forces personnel) in civilian labor force, 2020-24	79.1	74.9	59.3	68.1	75.4	80.2	82.5
Unemployment rate, persons ages 25-64 (percent of civilian labor force), 2020-24	4.4	4.0	5.5	4.6	4.1	3.6	2.7
Percent of households with no vehicle available, 2020-24	8.4	6.6	8.2	6.7	6.4	7.2	2.3
Percent of workers ages 16 and over who drove alone to work, 2020-24	68.8	76.1	80.3	80.4	77.1	71.4	67.3
Percent of workers ages 16 and over who worked outside their county of residence, 2020-24	24.7	30.2	39.0	37.6	30.1	22.8	41.9
Percent of workers ages 16 and over (not working at home) whose travel time to work was 30 minutes or more, 2020-24	37.4	35.3	39.1	35.9	34.0	36.9	49.6
Mean travel time to work in minutes for all workers ages 16 and over who didn't work at home, 2020-24	26.4	25.8	28.4	26.2	25.4	25.7	30.2

Table C.1: Selected Measures for Economic Status Designation Groupings in Appalachia, FY 2027 (continued)

Demographic, Social, or Economic Characteristic	United States	Appalachian Region	Economic Status Designations Among Appalachian Counties				
			Distressed	At-Risk	Transitional	Competitive	Attainment
Income and Poverty							
Median household income (in adjusted 2024 Dollars), 2020-24	80,734	66,555	45,245	53,943	65,772	80,958	113,370
Percent of persons in poverty, 2020-24	12.5	14.3	24.6	18.5	14.1	10.5	6.1
Percent of persons under age 18 in poverty, 2020-24	16.1	18.8	32.4	23.5	19.1	13.1	6.8
Percent of persons ages 18-24 in poverty, 2020-24	18.7	21.5	27.1	27.0	21.5	18.9	8.9
Percent of persons ages 25-64 in poverty, 2020-24	10.5	12.4	23.9	17.0	12.2	8.5	5.1
Percent of persons ages 65 and over in poverty, 2020-24	10.8	11.1	17.0	14.0	10.7	9.3	7.0
Percent of persons with income below 50 percent of poverty level, 2020-24	6.0	6.6	10.9	8.3	6.5	5.2	3.4
Percent of persons with income below 200 percent of poverty level, 2020-24	28.2	32.6	48.8	40.3	33.0	24.9	15.6
Percent of households receiving Food Stamps/SNAP, 2020-24	12.1	13.6	23.4	17.4	13.6	10.0	3.4
Percent of poor households receiving Food Stamps/SNAP, 2020-24	40.6	44.5	55.6	47.6	43.9	39.2	18.3
Percent of households with children receiving Food Stamps/SNAP, 2020-24	18.9	21.6	34.8	28.0	22.0	15.8	5.0
Health Insurance and Disability							
Percent of persons without health insurance coverage, 2020-24	8.4	8.3	7.3	7.9	8.7	7.5	8.2
Percentage point change (2015-19 to 2020-24), Percent of persons without health insurance coverage	-0.4	-0.2	0.0	-0.7	-0.1	-0.1	-0.3
Percent of persons ages 19-25 without health insurance coverage, 2020-24	13.8	14.1	14.1	13.4	14.5	13.1	14.6
Percent of persons ages 26-34 without health insurance coverage, 2020-24	14.6	15.8	14.6	16.2	16.6	13.0	15.5
Percent of persons ages 35-64 without health insurance coverage, 2020-24	10.3	10.6	9.3	10.5	11.1	9.2	9.6
Percent of persons with a disability, 2020-24	13.3	16.3	24.5	20.5	16.1	13.3	10.4
Percent of persons ages 35-64 with a disability, 2020-24	12.5	16.3	27.9	22.0	16.0	12.4	8.1
Percent of persons ages 65 and over with a disability, 2020-24	32.9	35.8	48.1	41.4	35.0	32.1	29.3
Veteran Status							
Percent of civilian population ages 65 and over who are veterans, 2020-24	13.8	15.0	13.1	15.0	15.1	15.2	14.6
Percent of male civilian population ages 18 and over who are veterans, 2020-24	11.4	13.1	11.2	13.4	13.3	13.1	11.6