

THE APPALACHIAN REGION: A DATA OVERVIEW FROM THE 2019-2023 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY Chartbook

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**Prepared for the Appalachian Regional Commission
Under Contract #CO-22024-24
June 2025**

**The authors wish to thank Keith Witt of ARC
for his support and guidance.**

We would like to acknowledge the following PRB staff who provided valuable assistance in the development of this report: Jean D'Amico, Senior Research Associate and Lillian Kilduff, Research Analyst.



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FOREWORD

This document, “The Appalachian Region: A Data Overview from the 2019-2023 American Community Survey Chartbook” (“the Chartbook”) is the 15th 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 2019-2023 Chartbook describe how residents in the Appalachian Region were faring during 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. Future data releases will reflect 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 2019-2023 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 2019 through December 2023. 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 (2019-2023 and 2014-2018) to present trends in the data 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 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 ACS data is available on the Web page, [“Comparing 2023 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 2019-2023 ACS data illustrate this problem, as they are for a time period that covers distinct periods of economic activity: the year and two months prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States (January 2019 through February 2020), the three years and two months of the pandemic (March 2020 through May 2023), and the remaining months of 2023. Since the 2019-2023 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 2023 estimates is available on the Web page, [“Methodology Updates for the Vintage 2023 Estimates”](#) through the Census Bureau’s website.

This year’s Chartbook includes a new chapter – “Chapter 5: Household Characteristics” – which contains five new tables and two new maps covering the topics of housing cost burden and the types of householders with whom children under 18 reside. The 2019-2023 Chartbook also contains two 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.

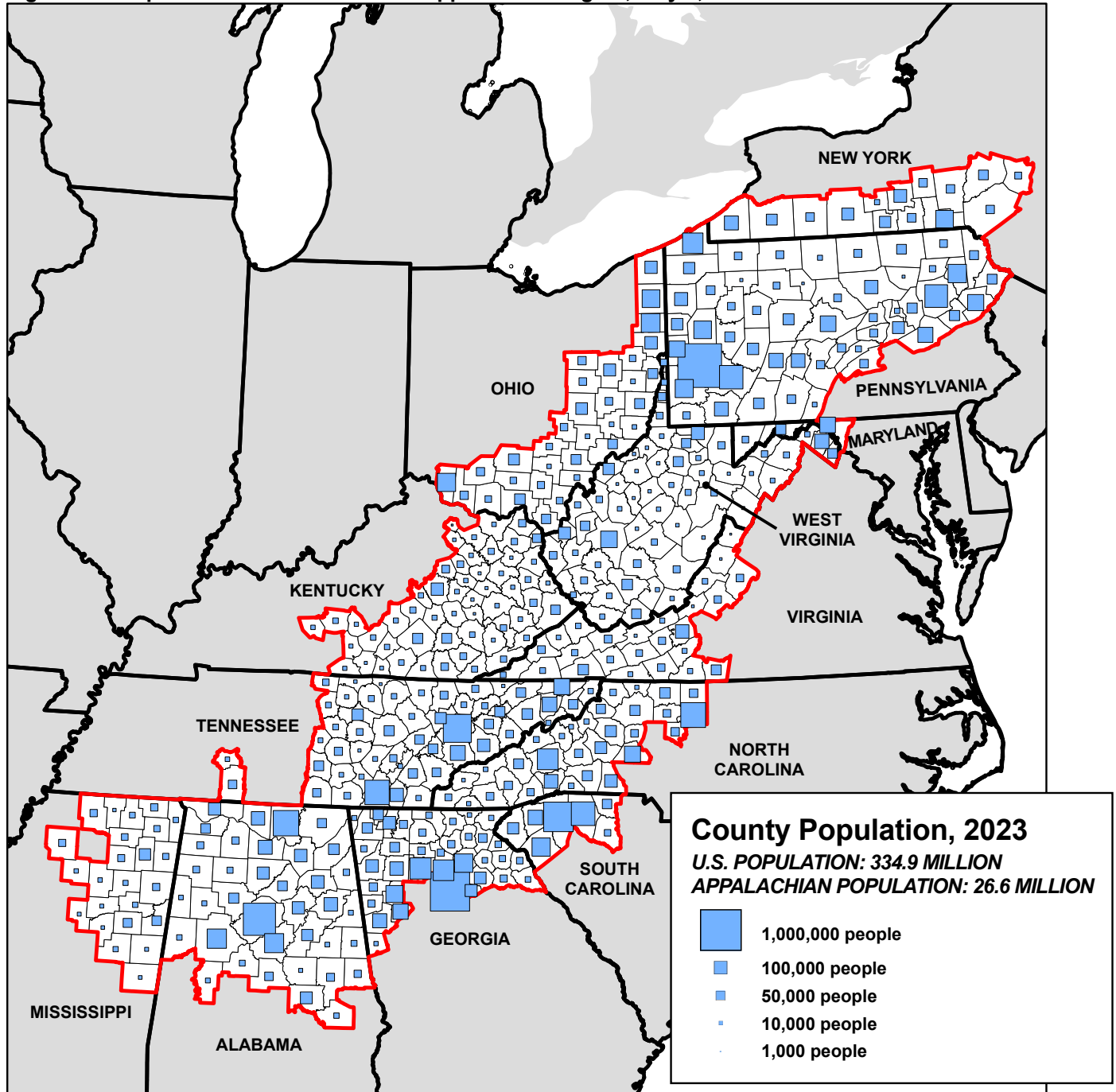
CHAPTER 1: POPULATION BASICS

Table 1.1: Population, Land Area, and Population Density in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2023

Population, Land Area, and Density	Population, July 1, 2023	Change Since July 1, 2010		Land Area (Square Miles)	Population per Square Mile of Land Area, July 1, 2023
		Number	Percent		
United States	334,914,895	+ 25,587,752	+ 8.3	3,533,038	94.8
Appalachian Region	26,554,853	+ 1,010,284	+ 4.0	205,840	129.0
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	8,001,878	- 249,995	- 3.0	56,396	141.9
North Central Appalachia	2,481,332	- 76,442	- 3.0	29,923	82.9
Central Appalachia	1,853,687	- 66,128	- 3.4	29,773	62.3
South Central Appalachia	5,344,477	+ 369,453	+ 7.4	35,866	149.0
Southern Appalachia	8,873,479	+ 1,033,396	+ 13.2	53,883	164.7
County Types					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	6,388,415	+ 534,582	+ 9.1	18,817	339.5
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	11,439,157	+ 613,054	+ 5.7	55,213	207.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	2,325,046	+ 11,167	+ 0.5	25,847	90.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	3,942,444	- 52,577	- 1.3	58,598	67.3
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	2,459,791	- 95,942	- 3.8	47,364	51.9
Alabama	5,108,468	+ 322,954	+ 6.7	50,647	100.9
Appalachian Alabama	3,302,235	+ 234,606	+ 7.6	25,763	128.2
Non-Appalachian Alabama	1,806,233	+ 88,348	+ 5.1	24,884	72.6
Georgia	11,029,227	+ 1,317,018	+ 13.6	57,717	191.1
Appalachian Georgia	3,537,542	+ 596,731	+ 20.3	11,380	310.9
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7,491,685	+ 720,287	+ 10.6	46,337	161.7
Kentucky	4,526,154	+ 177,690	+ 4.1	39,492	114.6
Appalachian Kentucky	1,161,736	- 24,017	- 2.0	18,230	63.7
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	3,364,418	+ 201,707	+ 6.4	21,261	158.2
Maryland	6,180,253	+ 391,469	+ 6.8	9,711	636.4
Appalachian Maryland	251,509	- 1,330	- 0.5	1,529	164.5
Non-Appalachian Maryland	5,928,744	+ 392,799	+ 7.1	8,182	724.6
Mississippi	2,939,690	- 30,925	- 1.0	46,924	62.6
Appalachian Mississippi	605,833	- 23,117	- 3.7	12,401	48.9
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	2,333,857	- 7,808	- 0.3	34,523	67.6
New York	19,571,216	+ 171,260	+ 0.9	47,124	415.3
Appalachian New York	1,011,799	- 54,067	- 5.1	11,682	86.6
Non-Appalachian New York	18,559,417	+ 225,327	+ 1.2	35,442	523.7
North Carolina	10,835,491	+ 1,260,905	+ 13.2	48,623	222.8
Appalachian North Carolina	2,065,317	+ 112,909	+ 5.8	12,752	162.0
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	8,770,174	+ 1,147,996	+ 15.1	35,871	244.5
Ohio	11,785,935	+ 246,486	+ 2.1	40,859	288.5
Appalachian Ohio	1,970,170	- 71,884	- 3.5	15,978	123.3
Non-Appalachian Ohio	9,815,765	+ 318,370	+ 3.4	24,881	394.5
Pennsylvania	12,961,683	+ 250,277	+ 2.0	44,742	289.7
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5,648,190	- 144,525	- 2.5	36,443	155.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	7,313,493	+ 394,802	+ 5.7	8,299	881.2
South Carolina	5,373,555	+ 737,709	+ 15.9	30,064	178.7
Appalachian South Carolina	1,427,869	+ 225,176	+ 18.7	4,338	329.2
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	3,945,686	+ 512,533	+ 14.9	25,726	153.4
Tennessee	7,126,489	+ 770,971	+ 12.1	41,232	172.8
Appalachian Tennessee	3,073,465	+ 285,102	+ 10.2	20,123	152.7
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	4,053,024	+ 485,869	+ 13.6	21,110	192.0
Virginia	8,715,698	+ 691,694	+ 8.6	39,482	220.8
Appalachian Virginia	729,117	- 41,106	- 5.3	11,180	65.2
Non-Appalachian Virginia	7,986,581	+ 732,800	+ 10.1	28,302	282.2
West Virginia (entire state)	1,770,071	- 84,194	- 4.5	24,041	73.6

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2020 and Vintage 2023 Population Estimates.

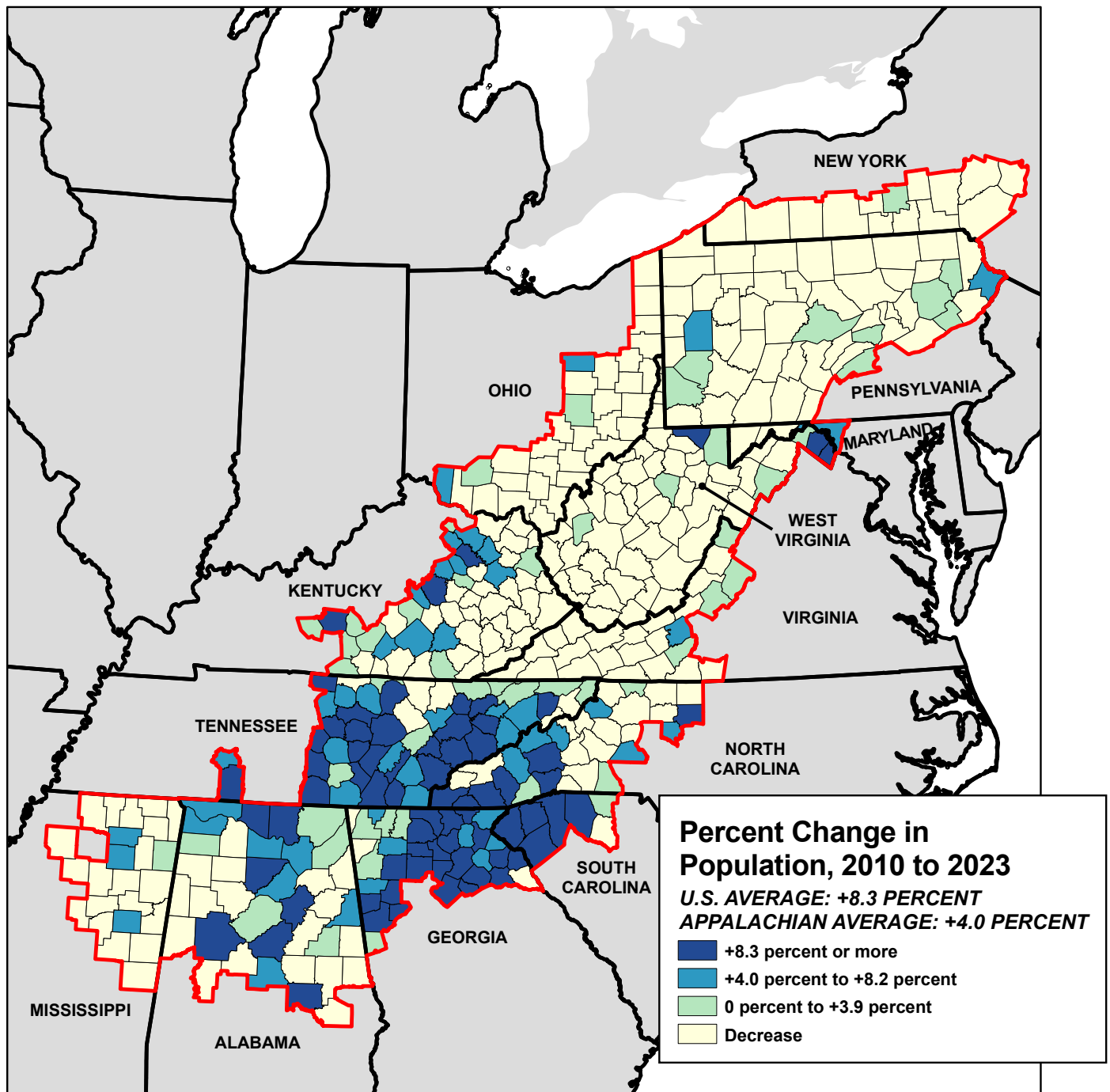
Figure 1.1: Population Distribution in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2023



Map Title: Population Distribution in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2023 Population Estimates.

Of the 334.9 million persons in the United States as of July 1, 2023, 26.6 million lived in the Appalachian Region – an increase of more than one million residents compared with July 1, 2010. Yet, throughout the region’s 423 counties population size varied greatly. While most counties had fairly small population sizes – two-thirds of the counties had populations of fewer than 50,000 people, and 129 counties had fewer than 20,000 residents – pockets of the region include large and mid-sized metropolitan areas, including Pittsburgh, Birmingham, and the Atlanta suburbs. The most populous county in the region was Allegheny County, Pennsylvania (where Pittsburgh is located) which had more than 1.2 million residents in 2023.

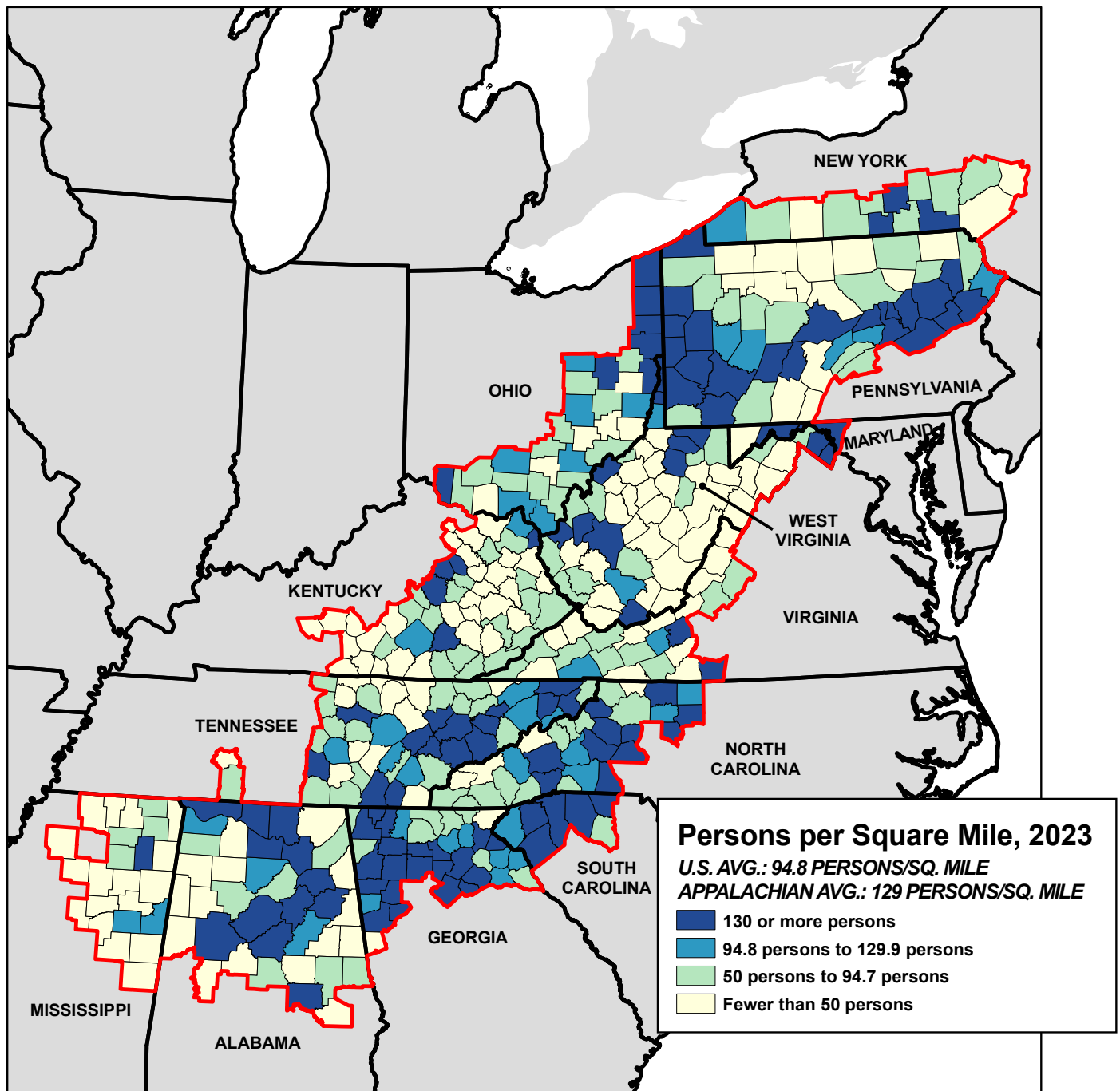
Figure 1.2: Population Change in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2023



Map Title: Population Change in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2023
 Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2020 and 2023 Population Estimates.

The size of the Appalachian Region’s population has grown by four percent between 2010 and 2023. However, the region’s growth was less than half that of the national population increase of 8.3 percent. Despite the overall pattern of growth in the region, in the Appalachian sections of eight states (including all of West Virginia) population declined since 2010. On the other hand, at 13.2 percent, population growth in Southern Appalachia exceeded the national average. Of the 72 counties where population grew at or above the national rate, 66 were in the five states (Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas, and Tennessee) whose Appalachian sections gained population. Population growth was particularly high in the Appalachian parts of South Carolina and Georgia, with increases of 18.7 percent and 20.3 percent, respectively. Many of the highest growth counties were retirement destination communities. In fact, seven in ten of the most rapidly growing counties – those with population growth exceeding 20 percent – were retirement destination communities.

Figure 1.3: Population per Square Mile of Land Area in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2023



Map Title: Population per Square Mile of Land Area in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2023 Population Estimates.

While the Appalachian Region’s population density was noticeably greater than the United States average in 2023, less than two-fifths of the region’s counties had population concentrations at or above the national average. Throughout the region, there were 161 high-density counties (defined as those where the population concentration matched or exceeded the national average). Of these, 107 were in metropolitan areas, both large (Pittsburgh, suburban Atlanta) and small (Knoxville, Tennessee; Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Greenville, South Carolina; Chattanooga, Tennessee). 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 26.6 million persons in 2023 – just over one million more residents than in mid-2010 (see Table 1.1). However, compared with the United States growth rate of 8.3 percent, growth in the region has been slower, at four percent.
- The Appalachian portion of eight states lost population between July 2010 and July 2023. 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 269 non-metropolitan counties in the region, 176 saw a decrease in population since 2010. Rural counties and counties adjacent to small metropolitan areas were especially susceptible to declining population size, with 76 of the 107 rural Appalachian counties – and 75 of the 117 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 2023. Southern Appalachia saw a particularly sharp rise of 13.2 percent –nearly 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, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Georgia’s and South Carolina’s Appalachian sections have grown especially rapidly since 2010, with increases of 20.3 and 18.7 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 72 counties with growth rates matching or exceeding that of the U.S. as a whole had at least one college or university, such as Lumpkin County, Georgia (University of North Georgia); Buncombe County, North Carolina (University of North Carolina- Asheville); and Madison County, Kentucky (Eastern Kentucky University). Many of these high-growth counties also boast a diversified economy. Of the 72 counties where population growth met or exceeded the U.S. average, 33 were classified as “non-specialized” by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (ERS) – meaning that their economies were not dependent on a single economic factor or industry. Yet, being a retirement-friendly county may have been the most impactful factor driving population growth in the region. Of the 72 Appalachian counties where population growth exceeded the national average, more than half were also “retirement destination” counties according to ERS.
- In contrast to high-growth counties, 246 of the 423 counties in the region saw a decline in population between July 2010 and July 2023. Of these, more than 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 six in ten of the 246 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).

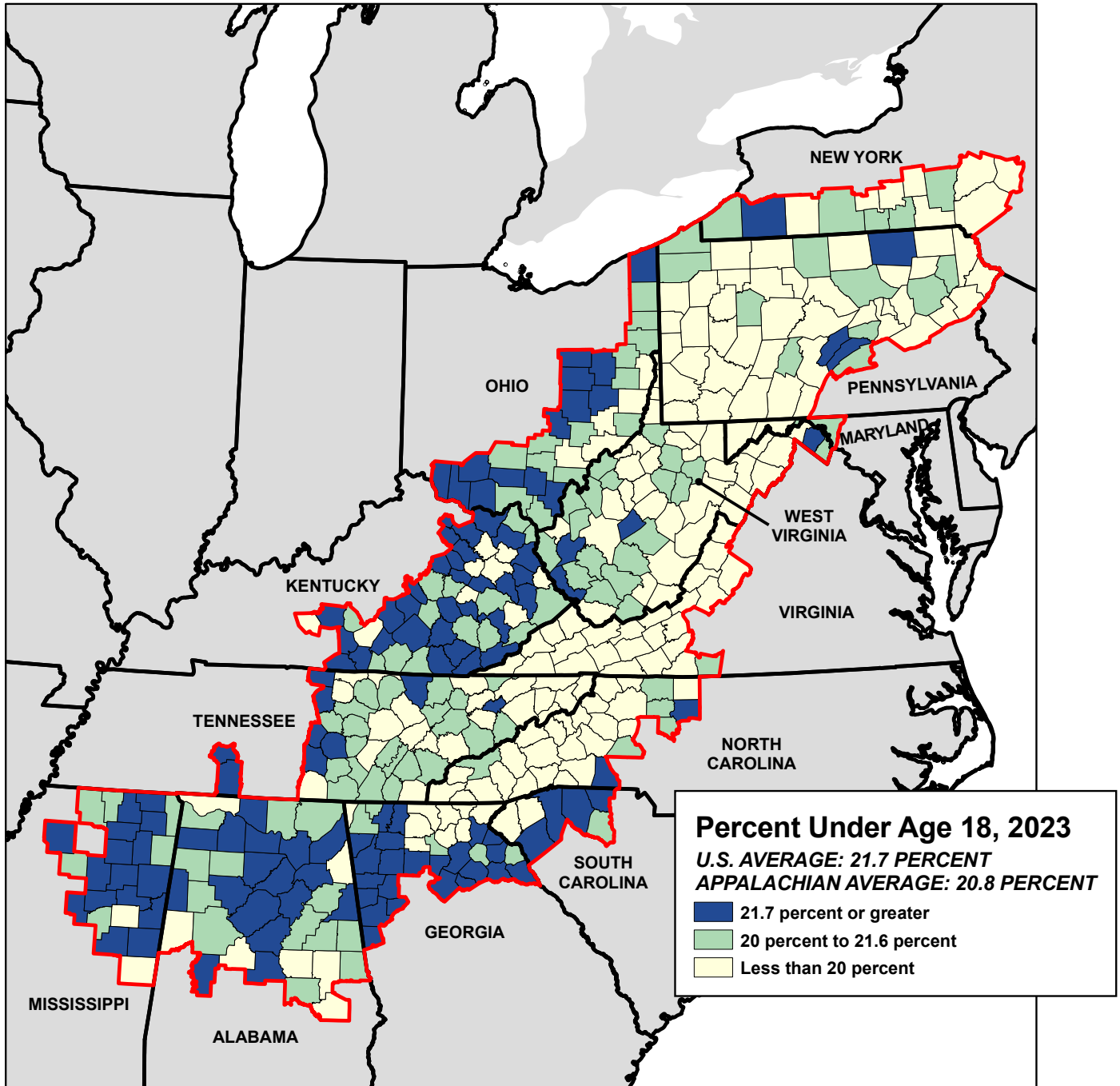
CHAPTER 2: AGE

Table 2.1: Population in the Appalachian Region by Age Group, July 1, 2023

Population by Age Group	Total Population, July 1, 2023	Percent of Population				Median Age (Years)
		Under Age 18	Ages 18-24	Ages 25-64	Ages 65 and over	
United States	334,914,895	21.7	9.1	51.4	17.7	39.1
Appalachian Region	26,554,853	20.8	9.2	50.2	19.8	41.3
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	8,001,878	19.4	9.3	49.6	21.8	42.7
North Central Appalachia	2,481,332	20.4	9.0	49.9	20.7	42.2
Central Appalachia	1,853,687	21.3	8.1	50.5	20.1	42.1
South Central Appalachia	5,344,477	19.7	9.3	50.1	20.9	42.5
Southern Appalachia	8,873,479	22.8	9.3	51.0	16.9	39.0
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	6,388,415	21.8	8.5	51.8	17.8	40.1
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	11,439,157	20.4	9.8	50.2	19.6	40.9
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	2,325,046	21.0	9.2	49.4	20.4	41.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	3,942,444	20.3	8.4	49.3	22.0	43.6
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	2,459,791	20.7	9.4	48.8	21.1	42.3
Alabama	5,108,468	22.1	9.4	50.2	18.3	39.4
Appalachian Alabama	3,302,235	22.0	9.5	50.5	18.0	39.5
Non-Appalachian Alabama	1,806,233	22.5	9.3	49.6	18.6	39.5
Georgia	11,029,227	23.0	9.5	52.1	15.4	37.5
Appalachian Georgia	3,537,542	23.7	9.0	52.0	15.3	38.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7,491,685	22.7	9.7	52.2	15.4	37.4
Kentucky	4,526,154	22.5	9.0	50.7	17.8	39.3
Appalachian Kentucky	1,161,736	22.0	8.5	50.4	19.0	41.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	3,364,418	22.6	9.2	50.8	17.4	38.8
Maryland	6,180,253	22.0	8.4	52.3	17.3	39.5
Appalachian Maryland	251,509	20.1	8.7	51.2	19.9	41.7
Non-Appalachian Maryland	5,928,744	22.1	8.4	52.3	17.1	39.7
Mississippi	2,939,690	23.1	9.6	49.6	17.6	38.5
Appalachian Mississippi	605,833	22.7	10.7	48.6	18.1	38.4
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	2,333,857	23.2	9.4	49.9	17.5	38.7
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Appalachian New York	1,011,799	18.9	12.9	46.9	21.2	41.2
Non-Appalachian New York	18,559,417	20.3	8.7	52.6	18.4	40.1
North Carolina	10,835,491	21.6	9.4	51.4	17.6	39.2
Appalachian North Carolina	2,065,317	19.4	8.8	50.0	21.9	43.5
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	8,770,174	22.1	9.6	51.7	16.6	38.4
Ohio	11,785,935	21.9	8.9	50.5	18.7	39.7
Appalachian Ohio	1,970,170	21.3	8.4	49.5	20.7	42.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	9,815,765	22.0	9.0	50.7	18.3	39.4
Pennsylvania	12,961,683	20.3	9.0	50.7	20.0	40.9
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5,648,190	19.0	9.0	50.1	22.0	43.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	7,313,493	21.3	9.0	51.2	18.5	39.7
South Carolina	5,373,555	21.3	9.1	50.3	19.3	40.2
Appalachian South Carolina	1,427,869	22.2	9.3	50.7	17.8	39.0
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	3,945,686	21.0	9.0	50.2	19.9	40.9
Tennessee	7,126,489	22.0	8.9	51.6	17.4	38.9
Appalachian Tennessee	3,073,465	20.4	8.8	50.7	20.0	41.8
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	4,053,024	23.3	9.0	52.3	15.4	37.2
Virginia	8,715,698	21.6	9.2	52.0	17.2	39.0
Appalachian Virginia	729,117	18.1	11.1	48.4	22.4	43.6
Non-Appalachian Virginia	7,986,581	21.9	9.0	52.3	16.7	38.9
West Virginia (entire state)	1,770,071	19.9	8.8	49.8	21.5	42.8

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2023 Population Estimates.

Figure 2.1: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Under Age 18, July 1, 2023

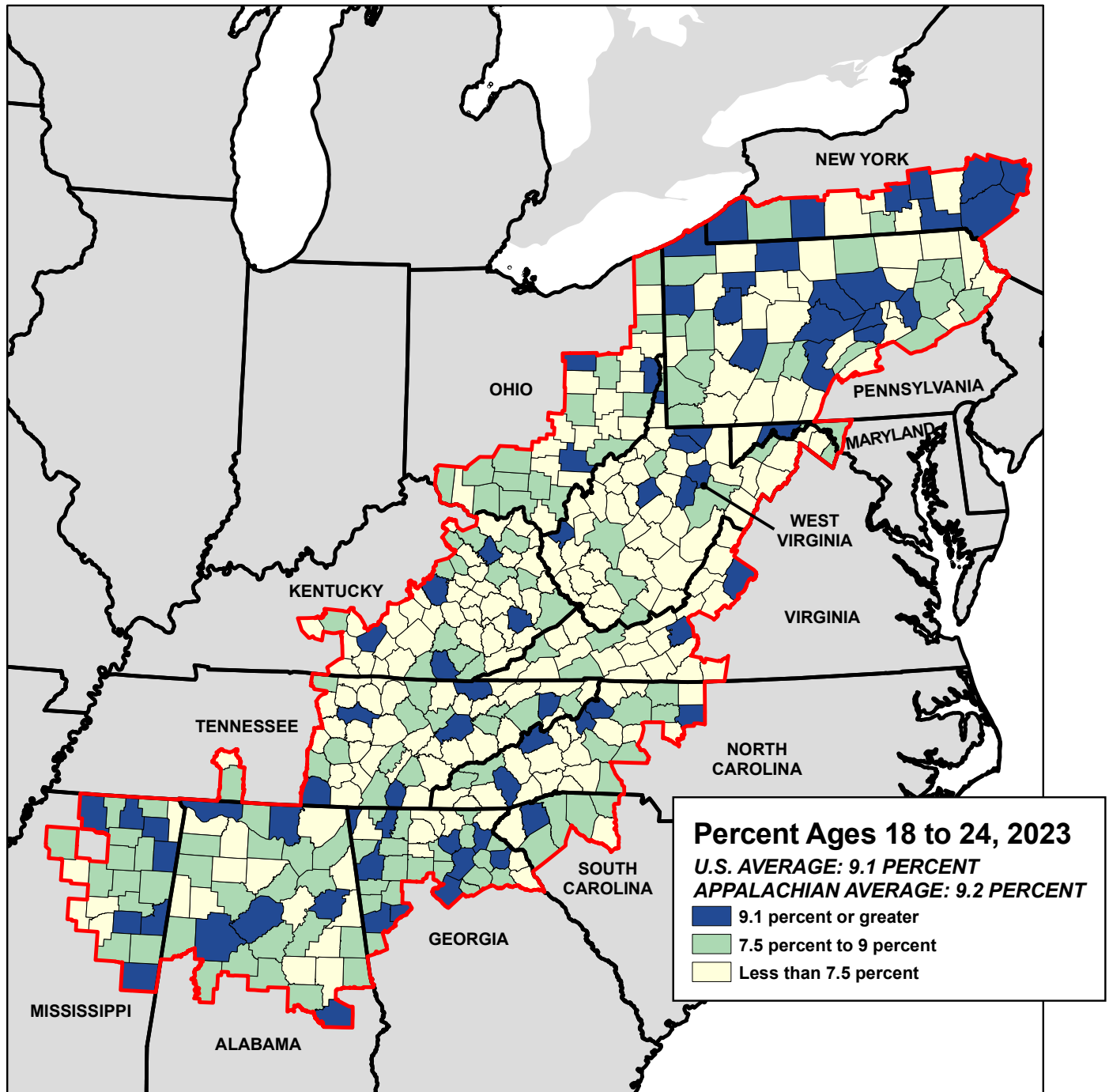


Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Under Age 18, July 1, 2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2023 Population Estimates.

As of mid-2023, the share of children and youth under age 18 in the Appalachian population was slightly below the national average of 21.7 percent. In 184 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 39 of the 184 counties with a low share of children and youth under 18 – the highest concentration among the Appalachian states – there were also pockets throughout North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. On the other hand, in 124 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 more than one in four were in Central Appalachia – with concentrations in Georgia and Kentucky.

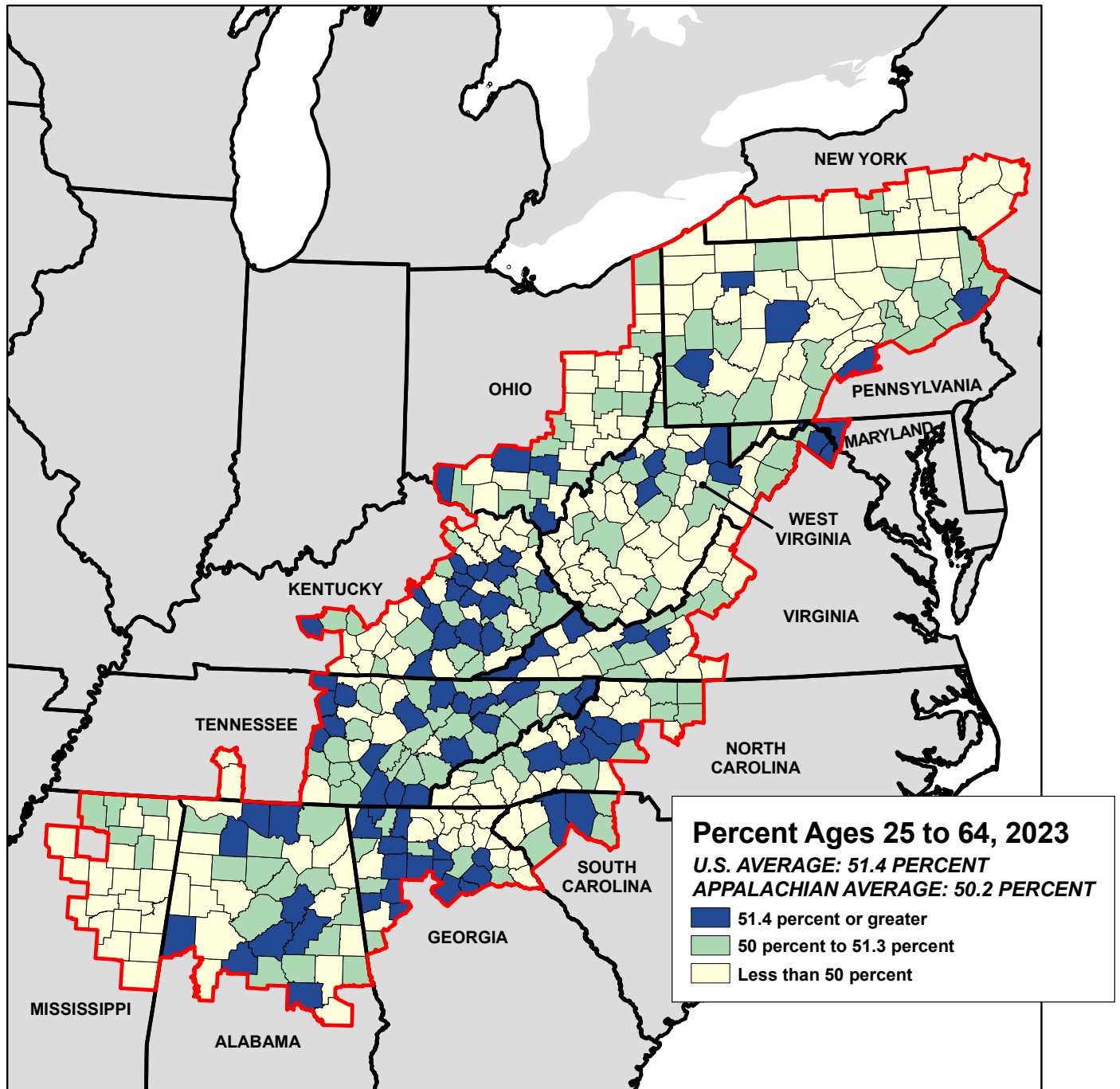
Figure 2.2: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 18 to 24, July 1, 2023



Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 18 to 24, July 1, 2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2023 Population Estimates.

At 9.2 percent, the share of young adults (ages 18 to 24) in the Appalachian Region in 2023 was on par with the national average of 9.1 percent. Young adults in this age group comprised at least 15 percent of the population in just 20 of the region’s 423 counties, and all but one of these counties are home to colleges and universities, such as Athens County, Ohio (Ohio University); Centre County, Pennsylvania (Penn State University); and Macon County, Alabama (Tuskegee University). In contrast, 18-to-24-year-olds made up less than 7.5 percent of the population in 202 Appalachian counties. Of those counties, 143 were outside of metropolitan areas – including 58 rural counties – 57 were classified as low-education counties, and 124 of these were classified as low-employment counties, suggesting a lack of educational and employment opportunities for young adults in this age group.

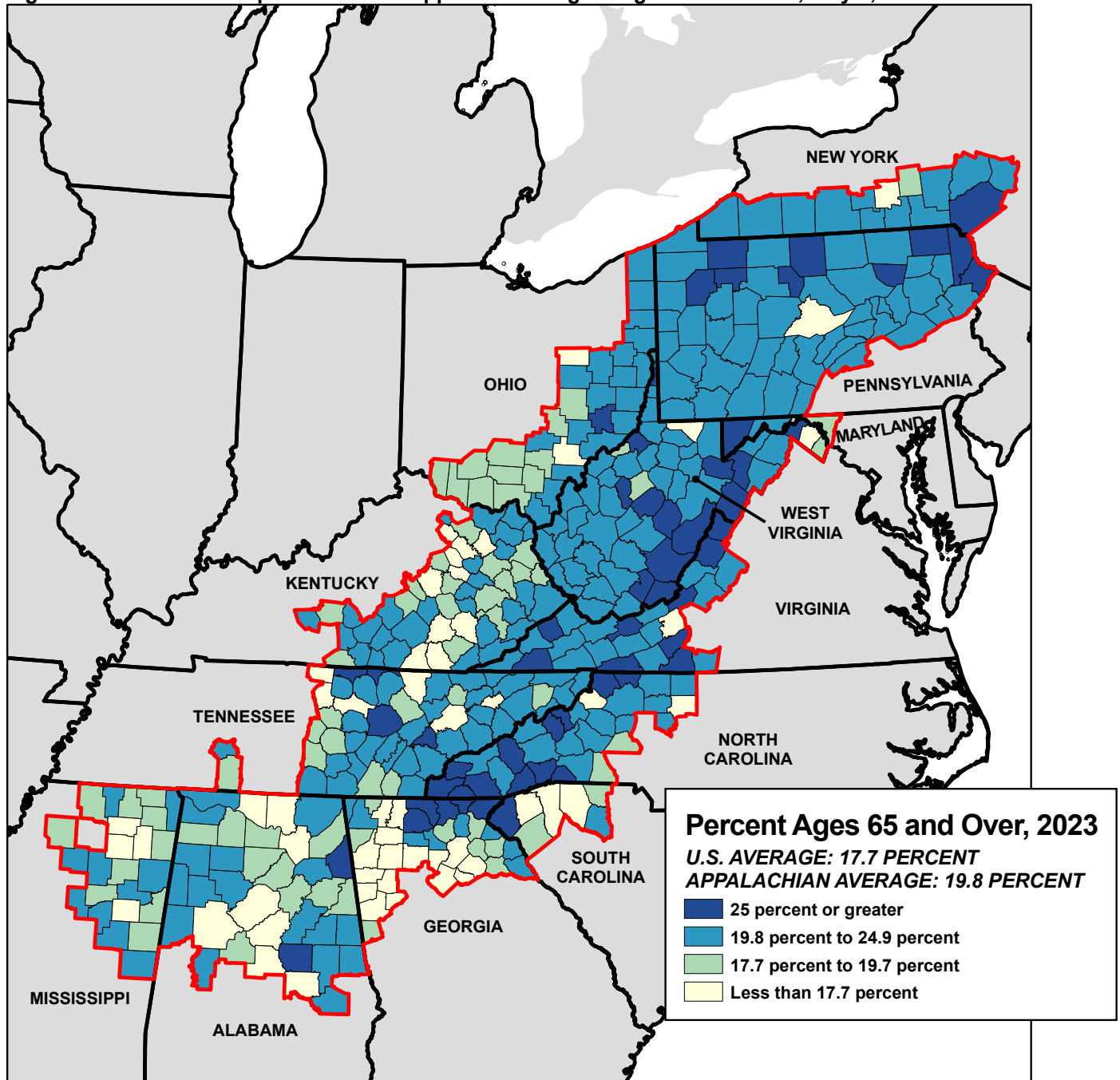
Figure 2.3: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 25 to 64, July 1, 2023



Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 25 to 64, July 1, 2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2023 Population Estimates.

Adults ages 25 to 64 made up a slight majority of residents in the Appalachian Region and 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 51.4 percent. In 209 of the region’s 423 counties, less than half of the population was comprised of persons in this age group – 158 of which were outside of metropolitan areas. These 209 counties generally had a lower percentage of the working age population because of above average populations of either college students (Oktibbeha County, Mississippi) or retirees (Highland County, Virginia). On the other hand, in 89 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.

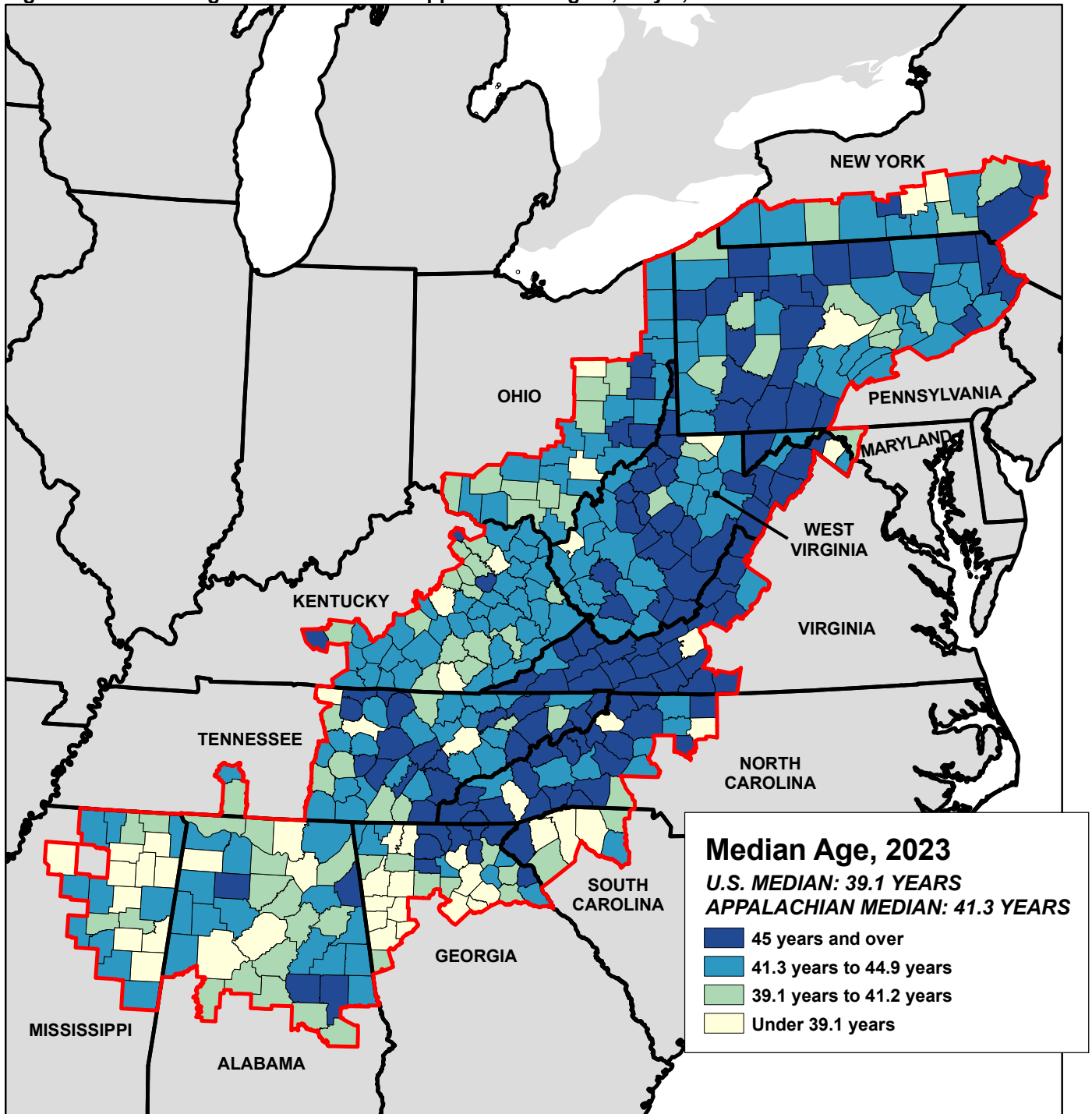
Figure 2.4: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 65 and Over, July 1, 2023



Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Ages 65 and Over, July 1, 2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2023 Population Estimates.

In the Appalachian Region, the share of adults ages 65 and older exceeded the national average of 17.7 percent by more than two percentage points in 2023. Moreover, the percentage of persons in this age group matched or exceeded the U.S. share in 367 of the 423 Appalachian counties – and was at least 19.8 percent in 293 of them. In fact, there were 58 counties in the region where older people made up 25 percent or more of the population, and all but eight of these were outside metropolitan areas. In contrast, of the 56 Appalachian counties with older population shares below the national average, most were either in metro areas or 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, 2023



Map Title: Median Age of Persons in the Appalachian Region, July 1, 2022

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2022 Population Estimates.

At 41.3 years, the median age of the Appalachian population (the point at which half of the population is older and half is younger) was 2.2 years older than that of the United States as of mid-2023. In fact, 373 Appalachian counties had median ages at or above the national average, and more than two-thirds of the region's 423 counties had median ages exceeding the regional average as well. Meanwhile, in 132 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, 2023

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	-2.3	-0.8	-1.6	+ 4.6	+ 1.9
Appalachian Region	-1.6	-0.5	-2.6	+ 4.6	+ 1.4
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	-1.5	-0.8	-2.7	+ 5.0	+ 1.0
North Central Appalachia	-1.3	-0.5	-3.4	+ 5.2	+ 1.7
Central Appalachia	-0.9	-0.6	-3.5	+ 5.0	+ 1.7
South Central Appalachia	-1.8	-0.4	-2.5	+ 4.6	+ 1.7
Southern Appalachia	-2.1	-0.2	-2.0	+ 4.2	+ 1.8
County Types					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	-2.0	-0.3	-2.3	+ 4.5	+ 1.5
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	-1.5	-0.6	-2.3	+ 4.4	+ 1.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	-1.5	-0.6	-2.6	+ 4.8	+ 1.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	-1.4	-0.4	-3.2	+ 5.0	+ 1.8
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	-1.4	-0.4	-3.4	+ 5.2	+ 1.9
Alabama	-1.5	-0.6	-2.3	+ 4.5	+ 1.5
Appalachian Alabama	-1.4	-0.3	-2.5	+ 4.2	+ 1.3
Non-Appalachian Alabama	-1.6	-1.2	-2.1	+ 4.8	+ 2.3
Georgia	-2.6	-0.5	-1.5	+ 4.7	+ 2.1
Appalachian Georgia	-3.4	0.4	-1.7	+ 4.7	+ 2.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	-2.3	-1.0	-1.4	+ 4.6	+ 2.3
Kentucky	-1.0	-0.6	-2.8	+ 4.5	+ 1.2
Appalachian Kentucky	-0.7	-0.7	-3.3	+ 4.6	+ 1.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	-1.3	-0.5	-2.7	+ 4.4	+ 1.4
Maryland	-1.4	-1.3	-2.4	+ 5.0	+ 1.5
Appalachian Maryland	-1.2	-1.0	-2.1	+ 4.1	+ 1.3
Non-Appalachian Maryland	-1.4	-1.3	-2.4	+ 5.0	+ 1.9
Mississippi	-2.3	-0.7	-1.9	+ 4.7	+ 2.5
Appalachian Mississippi	-1.9	-0.1	-1.9	+ 4.0	+ 1.4
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	-2.4	-0.8	-1.8	+ 5.0	+ 3.0
New York	-2.1	-1.3	-1.7	+ 5.0	+ 1.9
Appalachian New York	-2.1	0.1	-3.7	+ 5.6	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian New York	-2.0	-1.4	-1.6	+ 5.0	+ 2.3
North Carolina	-2.2	-0.6	-1.8	+ 4.6	+ 1.8
Appalachian North Carolina	-2.4	-0.2	-2.6	+ 5.3	+ 2.3
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	-2.3	-0.6	-1.7	+ 4.5	+ 2.0
Ohio	-1.7	-0.7	-2.3	+ 4.6	+ 0.9
Appalachian Ohio	-1.6	-0.6	-2.9	+ 5.1	+ 1.4
Non-Appalachian Ohio	-1.7	-0.7	-2.1	+ 4.5	+ 1.1
Pennsylvania	-1.6	-0.9	-2.0	+ 4.6	+ 0.7
Appalachian Pennsylvania	-1.5	-1.0	-2.4	+ 5.0	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	-1.8	-0.9	-1.6	+ 4.4	+ 1.1
South Carolina	-2.0	-1.2	-2.4	+ 5.6	+ 2.3
Appalachian South Carolina	-1.4	-0.9	-1.6	+ 3.9	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	-2.2	-1.3	-2.6	+ 6.2	+ 3.2
Tennessee	-1.5	-0.7	-1.8	+ 3.9	+ 0.8
Appalachian Tennessee	-1.4	-0.4	-2.3	+ 4.0	+ 1.2
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	-1.5	-0.8	-1.5	+ 3.8	+ 1.2
Virginia	-1.5	-0.8	-2.6	+ 4.9	+ 1.5
Appalachian Virginia	-1.4	-0.6	-3.6	+ 5.6	+ 2.3
Non-Appalachian Virginia	-1.6	-0.8	-2.6	+ 4.9	+ 1.9
West Virginia (entire state)	-1.0	-0.3	-4.1	+ 5.4	+ 1.5

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2020 and Vintage 2023 Population Estimates.

TRENDS IN AGE

- Keeping with the national trend, Appalachia’s population became older between 2010 and 2023. The region’s pace of aging has been similar – albeit slightly slower – than the nation’s, with a rise in age of 1.4 years compared with the U.S. increase of 1.9 years during this 13-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 increase of less than the regional average of 1.4 years. And while large and small metropolitan counties had increases of median age similar to the region as a whole, rural Appalachian counties had an increase in median age on par with the national average. Among the states, median age ranged from nearly 44 years in the Appalachian sections of North Carolina and Virginia, to just over 38 years in Appalachian Mississippi (See Table 2.1). Of the Appalachian subregions, only Northern Appalachia’s change in median age (1.0 years) was slower than the regional average of 1.4 years.
- In Appalachia, the share of adults ages 25 to 64 decreased by 2.6 percentage points between 2010 and 2023, while the share of persons aged 18-years or younger decreased by 1.6 percentage points. Meanwhile, the share of young adults in the region – those aged 18 to 24 – declined by 0.5 percentage points. The decline in the share of adults ages 25 to 64 is largely because older members of the baby boom cohort are now ages 65 and older, which has increased the share of this older population group. The share of adults ages 65 or older in the region increased by 4.6 percentage points between mid-2010 and mid-2023, matching the increase in this group for the nation as a whole. The share of adults 65 and older grew most in North Central (5.2 percentage points), Northern and Central Appalachia (5.0 percentage points each), in nonmetropolitan counties adjacent to small metros (5.0 percentage points), and in rural counties (5.2 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, one quarter of the 132 Appalachian counties where the median age is at least 45 years – such as Union County, Georgia; Wayne County, Pennsylvania; Clay County, North Carolina; and Pickett County, Tennessee – have been designated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service as “retirement destination” counties.

CHAPTER 3: RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

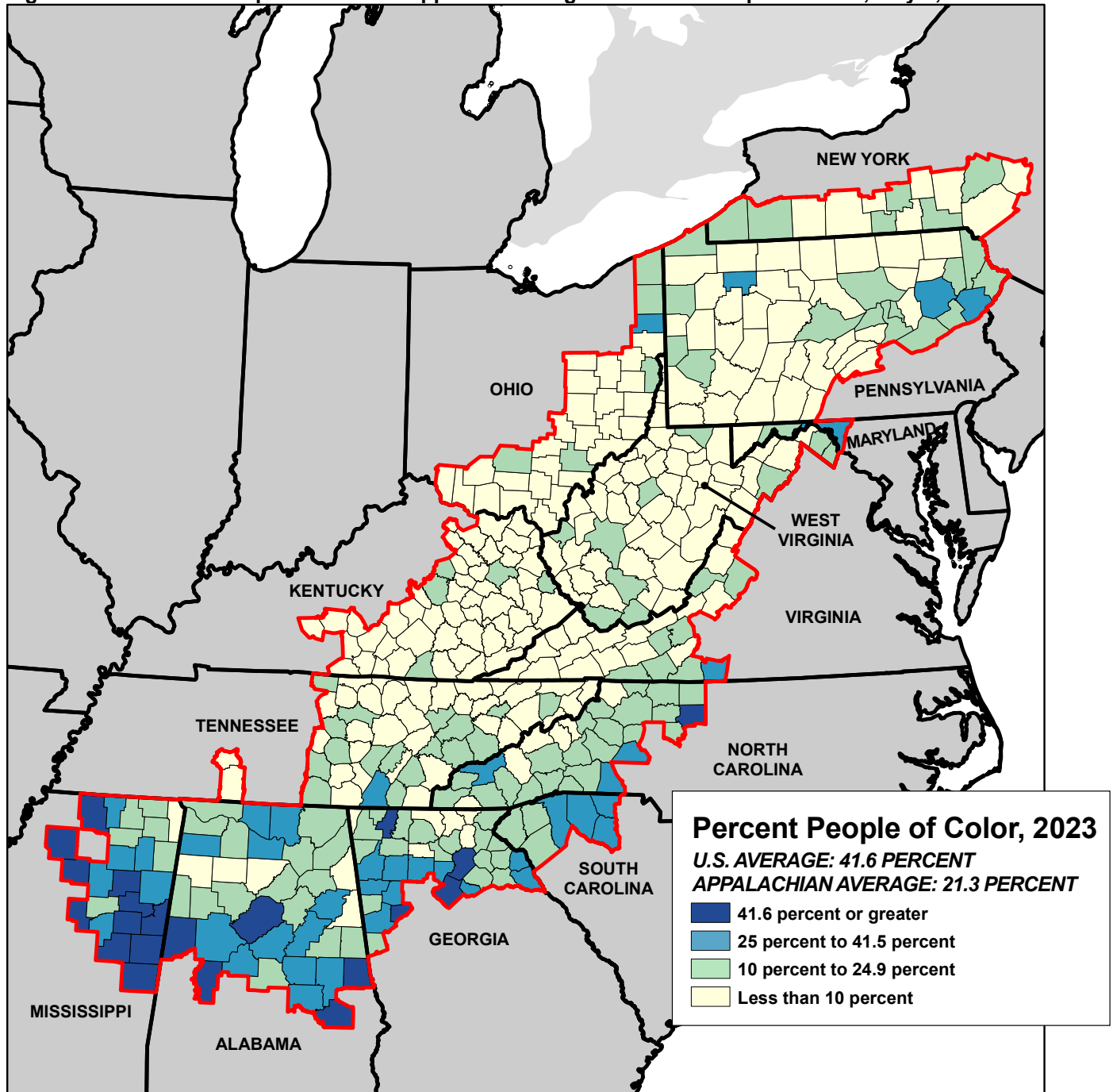
Table 3.1: Population in the Appalachian Region by Race and Hispanic Origin, July 1, 2023

Population by Race and Hispanic Origin	Total Population, July 1, 2023	Percent of Population				
		White Alone, Not Hispanic	People of Color			
			Total	Black Alone, Not Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Other, Not Hispanic
United States	334,914,895	58.4	41.6	12.6	19.5	9.5
Appalachian Region	26,554,853	78.7	21.3	10.2	6.6	4.4
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	8,001,878	85.7	14.3	5.7	4.5	4.1
North Central Appalachia	2,481,332	91.4	8.6	3.2	2.1	3.3
Central Appalachia	1,853,687	93.5	6.5	2.1	2.2	2.2
South Central Appalachia	5,344,477	81.6	18.4	7.2	7.2	4.0
Southern Appalachia	8,873,479	64.0	36.0	19.8	10.3	5.9
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	6,388,415	67.8	32.2	16.9	8.3	7.1
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	11,439,157	78.4	21.6	9.9	7.5	4.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	2,325,046	86.0	14.0	6.0	4.8	3.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	3,942,444	87.9	12.1	4.5	4.8	2.8
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	2,459,791	87.1	12.9	7.9	2.7	2.3
Alabama	5,108,468	64.1	35.9	26.2	5.7	4.0
Appalachian Alabama	3,302,235	67.5	32.5	22.4	6.4	3.7
Non-Appalachian Alabama	1,806,233	57.9	42.1	33.2	4.5	4.4
Georgia	11,029,227	49.6	50.4	32.1	11.1	7.2
Appalachian Georgia	3,537,542	58.5	41.5	16.6	15.8	9.0
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7,491,685	45.3	54.7	39.4	8.9	6.3
Kentucky	4,526,154	82.4	17.6	8.4	5.0	4.2
Appalachian Kentucky	1,161,736	93.6	6.4	2.0	2.2	2.2
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	3,364,418	78.5	21.5	10.7	6.0	4.9
Maryland	6,180,253	47.3	52.7	30.2	12.6	9.9
Appalachian Maryland	251,509	79.1	20.9	10.3	5.9	4.6
Non-Appalachian Maryland	5,928,744	45.9	54.1	31.0	12.9	10.1
Mississippi	2,939,690	55.6	44.4	37.4	3.9	3.1
Appalachian Mississippi	605,833	62.4	37.6	31.9	3.2	2.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	2,333,857	53.9	46.1	38.8	4.1	3.2
New York	19,571,216	54.0	46.0	14.3	19.8	11.9
Appalachian New York	1,011,799	86.5	13.5	3.1	4.8	5.6
Non-Appalachian New York	18,559,417	52.3	47.7	14.9	20.6	12.2
North Carolina	10,835,491	60.7	39.3	21.0	11.4	6.9
Appalachian North Carolina	2,065,317	76.8	23.2	9.4	9.5	4.4
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	8,770,174	56.9	43.1	23.7	11.9	7.5
Ohio	11,785,935	76.7	23.3	12.9	4.8	5.5
Appalachian Ohio	1,970,170	89.9	10.1	4.4	2.6	3.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	9,815,765	74.1	25.9	14.7	5.3	6.0
Pennsylvania	12,961,683	74.1	25.9	10.8	8.9	6.2
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5,648,190	85.5	14.5	5.9	4.6	4.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	7,313,493	65.2	34.8	14.7	12.2	7.9
South Carolina	5,373,555	62.9	37.1	25.3	7.5	4.4
Appalachian South Carolina	1,427,869	70.4	29.6	16.3	8.9	4.4
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	3,945,686	60.2	39.8	28.5	6.9	4.4
Tennessee	7,126,489	72.0	28.0	16.1	7.5	4.4
Appalachian Tennessee	3,073,465	85.4	14.6	5.3	5.7	3.5
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	4,053,024	61.8	38.2	24.2	8.9	5.1
Virginia	8,715,698	59.1	40.9	19.1	11.2	10.6
Appalachian Virginia	729,117	87.7	12.3	5.7	3.2	3.4
Non-Appalachian Virginia	7,986,581	56.5	43.5	20.3	11.9	11.3
West Virginia (entire state)	1,770,071	90.9	9.1	3.7	2.2	3.2

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 2023 Population Estimates.

Figure 3.1: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are People of Color, July 1, 2023

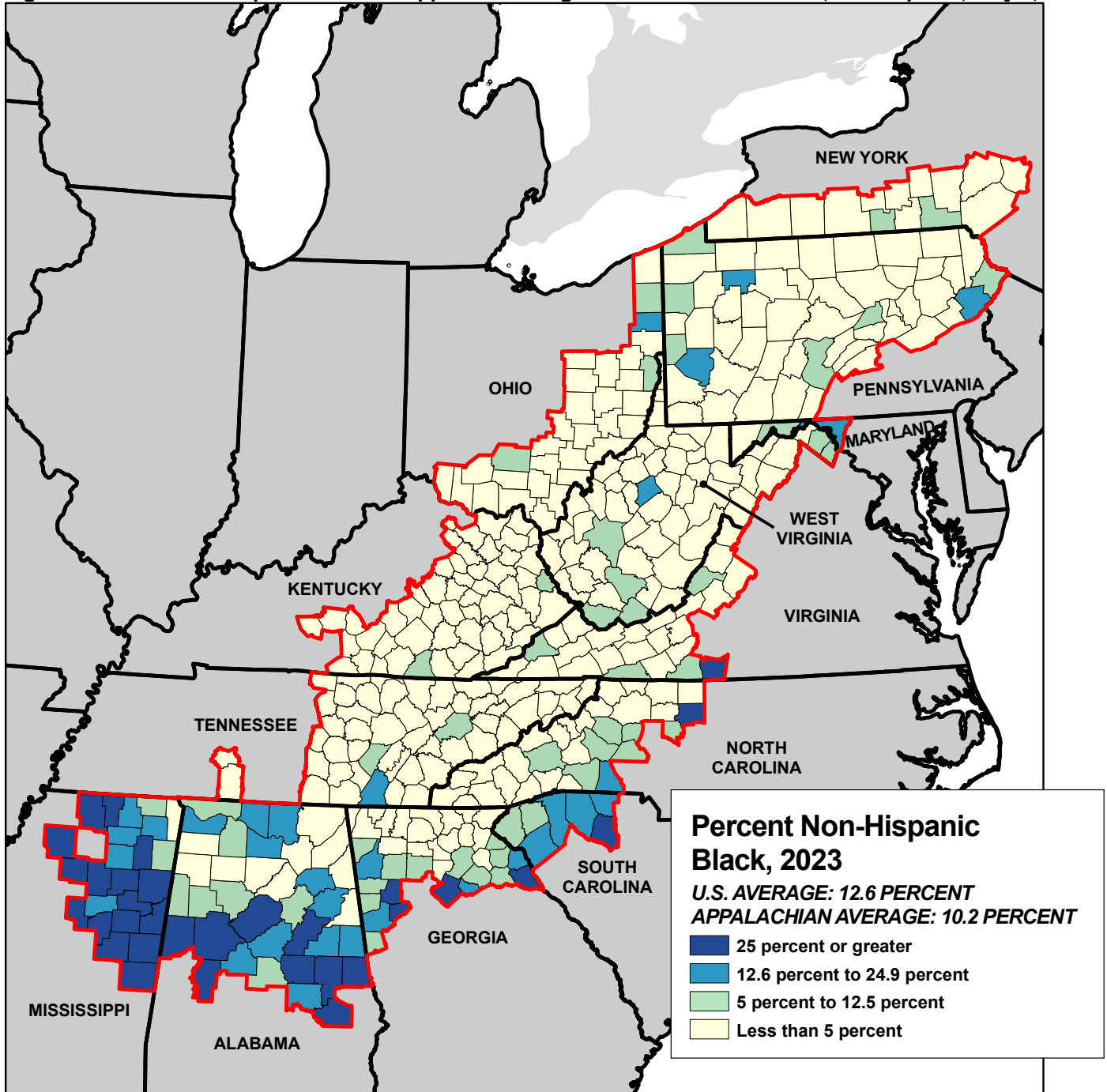


Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are People of Color, July 1, 2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2023 Population Estimates.

The Appalachian Region is significantly less racially and ethnically varied than the nation as a whole at just 21.3 percent, compared with the U.S. average of 41.6 percent. In fact, in more than half of Appalachia’s 423 counties less than 10 percent of the population was comprised by 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 large- and 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 the South and half of which were in Mississippi.

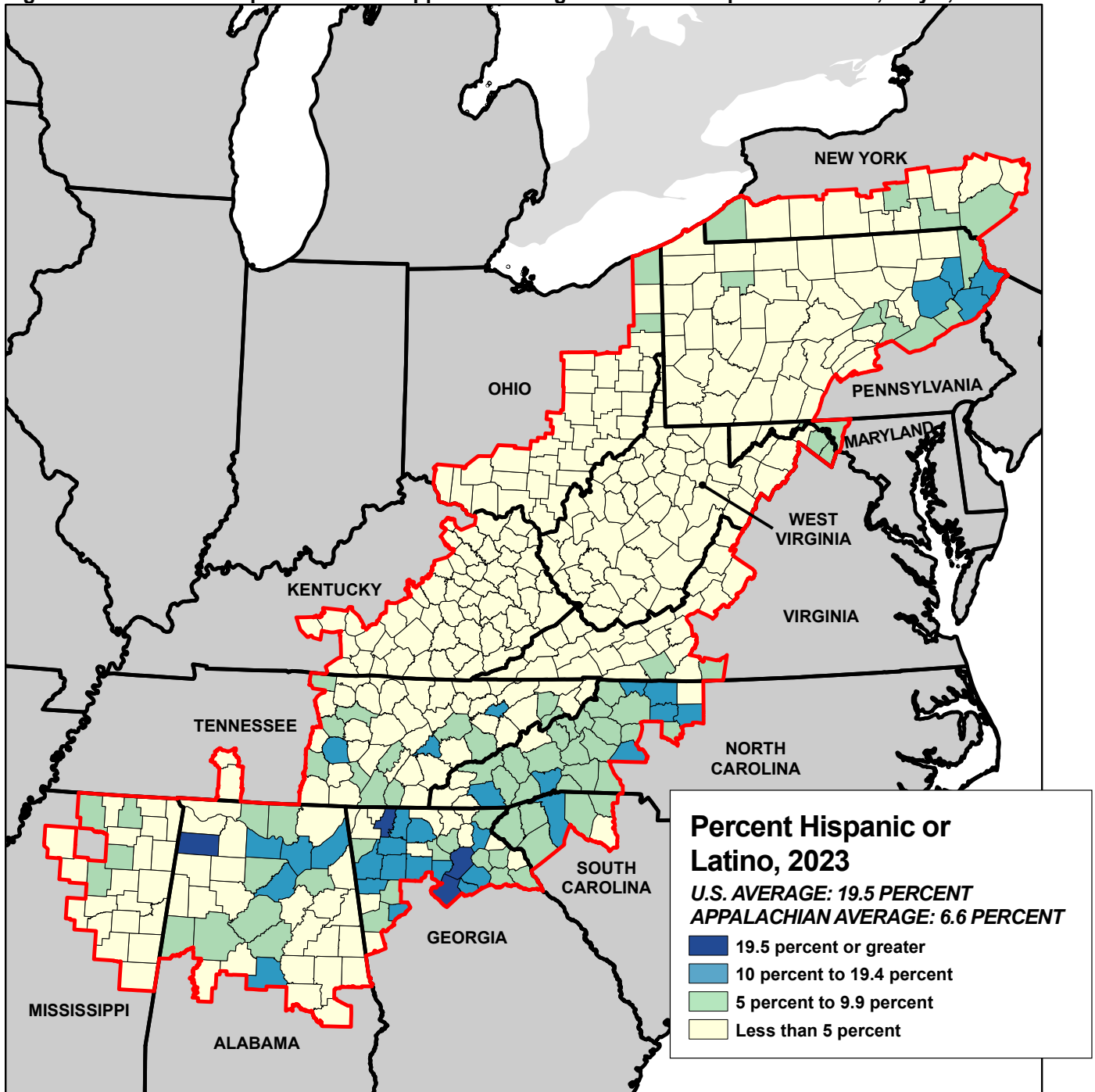
Figure 3.2: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are Black Alone, not Hispanic, July 1, 2023



Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are Black Alone, not Hispanic, July 1, 2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2023 Population Estimates.

Non-Hispanic Black people are the largest group of color represented in Appalachia as of 2023, yet their share of the region’s population (10.2 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 those with large metropolitan areas. In most of Appalachia – 353 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 10.2 percent. And in 304 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 Southern Appalachian population. In fact, the share of the population made up of Black residents in Southern Appalachia exceeds the national average in 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, 2023



Map Title: Percent of Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are Hispanic or Latino, July 1, 2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2023 Population Estimates.

While Hispanic and Latino people are the largest population of color in the United States as of 2023, comprising 19.5 percent of the total population, in Appalachia just 6.6 percent of the region’s population identified as Hispanic or Latino. One in four Appalachian counties had a Hispanic or Latino population of at least five percent, most of which were located in Southern and South Central Appalachia. In fact, of the 36 counties where Hispanic and Latino people comprised at least 10 percent of the population, 32 were located in Southern and South Central Appalachian states. The share of Hispanic or Latino residents exceeded the national average in only four of the region’s 423 counties – Whitfield County, Georgia; Hall County, Georgia; Gwinnett County, Georgia; and Franklin County, Alabama.

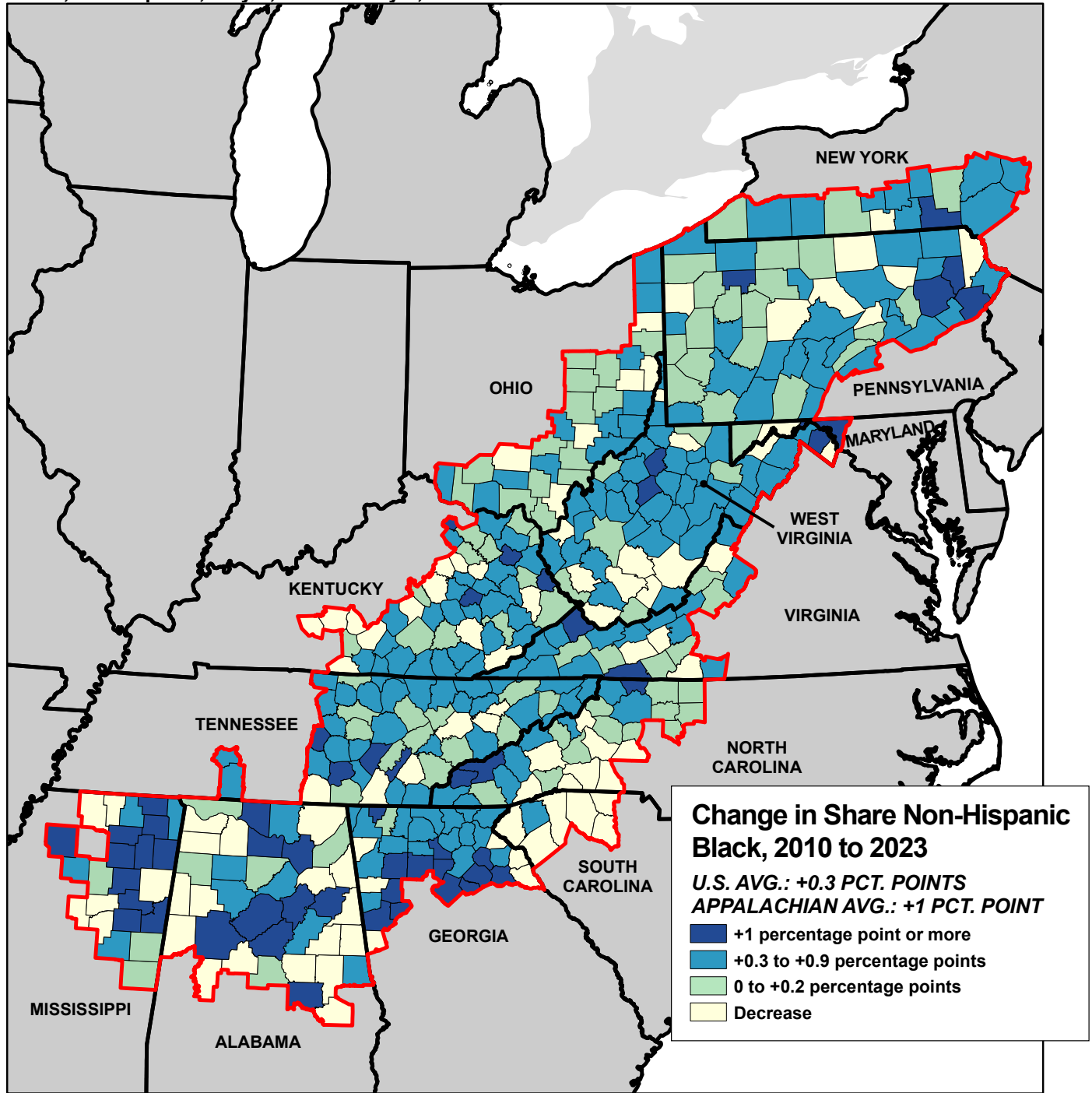
Table 3.2: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region, by Race and Hispanic Origin, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2023

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	- 5.4	+ 5.4	+ 0.3	+ 3.1	+ 2.0
Appalachian Region	- 4.8	+ 4.8	+ 1.0	+ 2.4	+ 1.4
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	- 3.8	+ 3.8	+ 0.5	+ 2.0	+ 1.3
North Central Appalachia	- 2.1	+ 2.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.9	+ 1.0
Central Appalachia	- 2.0	+ 2.0	+ 0.3	+ 0.9	+ 0.8
South Central Appalachia	- 3.6	+ 3.6	0.0	+ 2.5	+ 1.1
Southern Appalachia	- 6.0	+ 6.0	+ 1.2	+ 2.8	+ 2.0
County Types					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	- 7.3	+ 7.3	+ 2.1	+ 2.6	+ 2.7
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	- 4.7	+ 4.7	+ 0.7	+ 2.8	+ 1.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	- 2.8	+ 2.8	+ 0.2	+ 1.6	+ 1.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	- 2.7	+ 2.7	+ 0.1	+ 1.8	+ 0.8
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 2.2	+ 2.2	+ 0.5	+ 1.0	+ 0.7
Alabama	- 3.0	+ 3.0	+ 0.1	+ 1.8	+ 1.1
Appalachian Alabama	- 3.6	+ 3.6	+ 0.7	+ 2.0	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 2.0	+ 2.0	- 0.7	+ 1.5	+ 1.2
Georgia	- 6.3	+ 6.3	+ 1.9	+ 2.3	+ 2.2
Appalachian Georgia	- 9.7	+ 9.7	+ 3.4	+ 3.1	+ 3.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 5.3	+ 5.3	+ 1.8	+ 1.8	+ 1.6
Kentucky	- 4.0	+ 4.0	+ 0.7	+ 1.9	+ 1.4
Appalachian Kentucky	- 1.8	+ 1.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.8	+ 0.8
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 4.5	+ 4.5	+ 0.7	+ 2.3	+ 1.6
Maryland	- 7.4	+ 7.4	+ 1.1	+ 4.4	+ 1.9
Appalachian Maryland	- 7.3	+ 7.3	+ 2.3	+ 3.3	+ 1.6
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 7.4	+ 7.4	+ 0.9	+ 4.4	+ 1.9
Mississippi	- 2.4	+ 2.4	+ 0.5	+ 1.1	+ 0.8
Appalachian Mississippi	- 2.4	+ 2.4	+ 0.6	+ 0.9	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 2.3	+ 2.3	+ 0.4	+ 1.2	+ 0.7
New York	- 4.4	+ 4.4	- 0.3	+ 2.1	+ 2.6
Appalachian New York	- 3.6	+ 3.6	+ 0.5	+ 1.7	+ 1.4
Non-Appalachian New York	- 4.3	+ 4.3	- 0.4	+ 2.1	+ 2.6
North Carolina	- 4.6	+ 4.6	- 0.2	+ 3.0	+ 1.9
Appalachian North Carolina	- 3.9	+ 3.9	+ 0.2	+ 2.7	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 4.5	+ 4.5	- 0.6	+ 3.1	+ 2.1
Ohio	- 4.5	+ 4.5	+ 0.8	+ 1.7	+ 1.9
Appalachian Ohio	- 2.0	+ 2.0	+ 0.1	+ 1.0	+ 0.8
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 4.8	+ 4.8	+ 0.9	+ 1.9	+ 2.1
Pennsylvania	- 5.4	+ 5.4	+ 0.3	+ 3.2	+ 1.9
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 4.1	+ 4.1	+ 0.5	+ 2.2	+ 1.4
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 5.9	+ 5.9	- 0.1	+ 3.7	+ 2.2
South Carolina	- 1.2	+ 1.2	- 2.4	+ 2.4	+ 1.4
Appalachian South Carolina	- 3.9	+ 3.9	- 0.6	+ 3.2	+ 1.3
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.4	+ 0.4	- 3.0	+ 2.0	+ 1.4
Tennessee	- 3.7	+ 3.7	- 0.5	+ 2.9	+ 1.3
Appalachian Tennessee	- 3.4	+ 3.4	- 0.1	+ 2.4	+ 1.0
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 3.6	+ 3.6	- 1.2	+ 3.3	+ 1.5
Virginia	- 5.8	+ 5.8	0.0	+ 3.3	+ 2.5
Appalachian Virginia	- 2.8	+ 2.8	+ 0.4	+ 1.3	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 5.7	+ 5.7	- 0.3	+ 3.3	+ 2.6
West Virginia (entire state)	- 2.3	+ 2.3	+ 0.3	+ 1.0	+ 1.0

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 2023 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, 2023

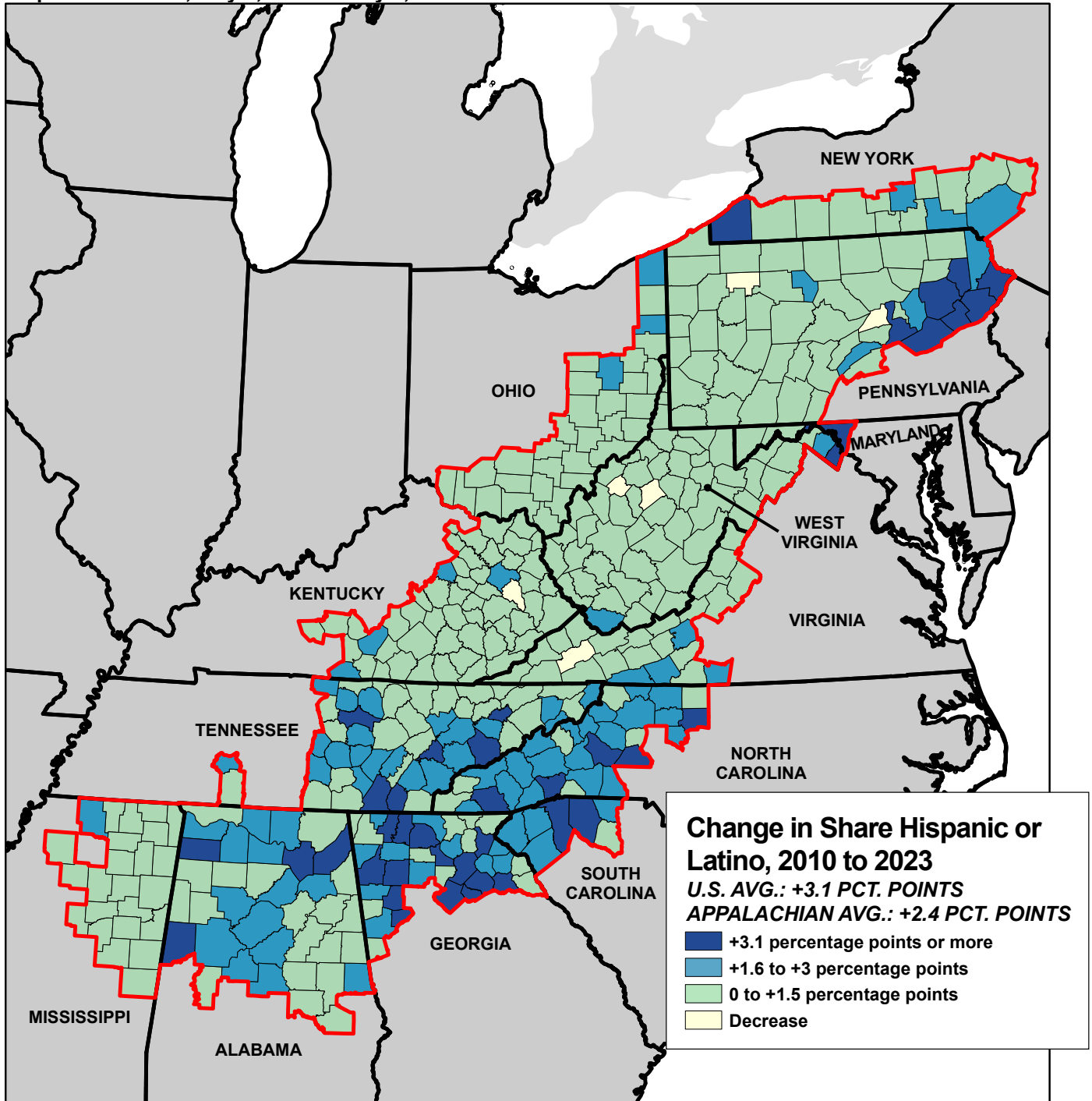


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in the Appalachian Region Who Are Black Alone, not Hispanic, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2020 and Vintage 2023 Population Estimates.

Although the Black share of the U.S. population barely changed between 2010 and 2023, their share of the Appalachian population increased a full percentage point, from 9.2 percent to 10.2 percent. And in 55 of the region's counties, the share of the Black population increased by at least one percentage point. 33 of these counties were in Southern Appalachian states, with concentrations in Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. In fact, in Appalachian Georgia, the share increased by more than three percentage points during this period. On the other hand, the share of the Black population decreased in 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, 2023



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, 2023
 Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2020 and Vintage 2023 Population Estimates.

The Hispanic/Latino share of the Appalachian population rose by 2.4 percentage points from 2010 to 2023 – although this increase was below the national average over the past decade. 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 3.1 percentage points and in 66 counties the rate of growth met or exceeded the regional average. Meanwhile, six counties – Union and Forest Counties in Pennsylvania; 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, 2023, the share of people of color in the Appalachian Region rose by 4.8 percentage points, for a total of 21.3 percent (See Tables 3.1 and 3.2). Yet, compared with the national increase of 5.4 percentage points during the same period, the Appalachian Region's racial composition is changing more slowly and there are fewer people of color residing there than in the nation as a whole.
- Southern Appalachia saw the most pronounced increase in residents of color, with an increase of six percentage points from 2010 to 2023. At the same time, large metropolitan areas (those with a population of 1 million or more) saw a 7.3 percentage point increase in such populations. Among the states, the share of people of color in Appalachian Georgia's population increased most, growing by 9.7 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 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 – has fueled racial and ethnic variation in particular in that state. The Hispanic/Latino share of the Appalachian population rose by 2.4 percentage points between July 2010 and July 2023, while the share of Black residents rose by one percentage point. The share of the Black and Hispanic/Latino population rose most in Southern Appalachia and the Appalachian portions of Georgia and Maryland. While the Black share of the population increased most in large metropolitan areas, the Hispanic/Latino share of the population rose most in smaller metropolitan counties.

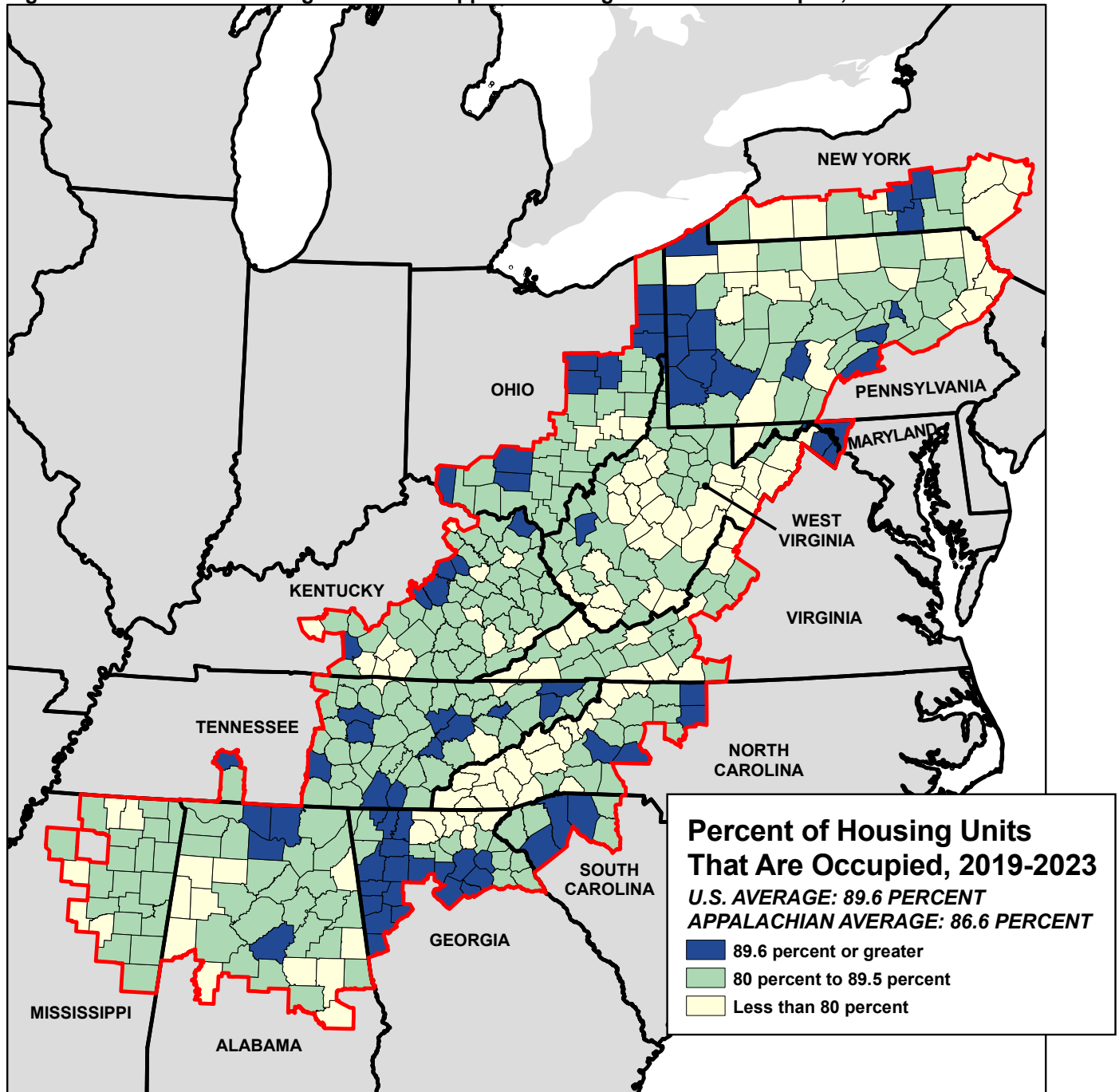
CHAPTER 4: HOUSING OCCUPANCY, TENURE, AND TYPE

Table 4.1: Occupancy and Tenure of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023

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	142,332,876	127,482,865	89.6	10.4	65.0	35.0
Appalachian Region	12,070,947	10,449,301	86.6	13.4	71.7	28.3
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	3,864,332	3,337,636	86.4	13.6	71.4	28.6
North Central Appalachia	1,165,777	1,000,607	85.8	14.2	73.6	26.4
Central Appalachia	869,766	727,335	83.6	16.4	73.2	26.8
South Central Appalachia	2,494,425	2,125,442	85.2	14.8	70.7	29.3
Southern Appalachia	3,676,647	3,258,281	88.6	11.4	71.7	28.3
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	2,712,331	2,466,604	90.9	9.1	71.6	28.4
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	5,121,163	4,523,363	88.3	11.7	70.1	29.9
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	1,082,415	908,939	84.0	16.0	73.0	27.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	1,928,049	1,575,832	81.7	18.3	74.5	25.5
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	1,226,989	974,563	79.4	20.6	73.4	26.6
Alabama	2,316,192	1,969,105	85.0	15.0	69.9	30.1
Appalachian Alabama	1,466,907	1,270,615	86.6	13.4	71.4	28.6
Non-Appalachian Alabama	849,285	698,490	82.2	17.8	67.3	32.7
Georgia	4,483,873	4,008,013	89.4	10.6	65.4	34.6
Appalachian Georgia	1,319,542	1,203,037	91.2	8.8	72.6	27.4
Non-Appalachian Georgia	3,164,331	2,804,976	88.6	11.4	62.3	37.7
Kentucky	2,010,655	1,791,991	89.1	10.9	68.3	31.7
Appalachian Kentucky	536,225	453,697	84.6	15.4	72.0	28.0
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,474,430	1,338,294	90.8	9.2	67.0	33.0
Maryland	2,545,532	2,339,510	91.9	8.1	67.5	32.5
Appalachian Maryland	115,342	99,412	86.2	13.8	69.0	31.0
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,430,190	2,240,098	92.2	7.8	67.4	32.6
Mississippi	1,332,811	1,131,760	84.9	15.1	69.5	30.5
Appalachian Mississippi	287,188	239,456	83.4	16.6	69.8	30.2
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	1,045,623	892,304	85.3	14.7	69.4	30.6
New York	8,539,536	7,668,956	89.8	10.2	54.3	45.7
Appalachian New York	510,656	421,544	82.5	17.5	69.7	30.3
Non-Appalachian New York	8,028,880	7,247,412	90.3	9.7	53.4	46.6
North Carolina	4,815,195	4,186,924	87.0	13.0	66.4	33.6
Appalachian North Carolina	1,011,654	827,673	81.8	18.2	70.9	29.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	3,803,541	3,359,251	88.3	11.7	65.2	34.8
Ohio	5,271,573	4,829,571	91.6	8.4	67.0	33.0
Appalachian Ohio	897,500	798,669	89.0	11.0	72.2	27.8
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,374,073	4,030,902	92.2	7.8	66.0	34.0
Pennsylvania	5,779,663	5,235,339	90.6	9.4	69.3	30.7
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,730,659	2,364,244	86.6	13.4	71.8	28.2
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	3,049,004	2,871,095	94.2	5.8	67.3	32.7
South Carolina	2,401,638	2,070,390	86.2	13.8	71.4	28.6
Appalachian South Carolina	603,010	545,173	90.4	9.6	71.5	28.5
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,798,628	1,525,217	84.8	15.2	71.4	28.6
Tennessee	3,095,472	2,768,743	89.4	10.6	67.0	33.0
Appalachian Tennessee	1,371,116	1,209,095	88.2	11.8	70.9	29.1
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,724,356	1,559,648	90.4	9.6	64.0	36.0
Virginia	3,654,784	3,326,260	91.0	9.0	67.2	32.8
Appalachian Virginia	361,495	295,238	81.7	18.3	72.1	27.9
Non-Appalachian Virginia	3,293,289	3,031,022	92.0	8.0	66.7	33.3
West Virginia (entire state)	859,653	721,448	83.9	16.1	74.3	25.7

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

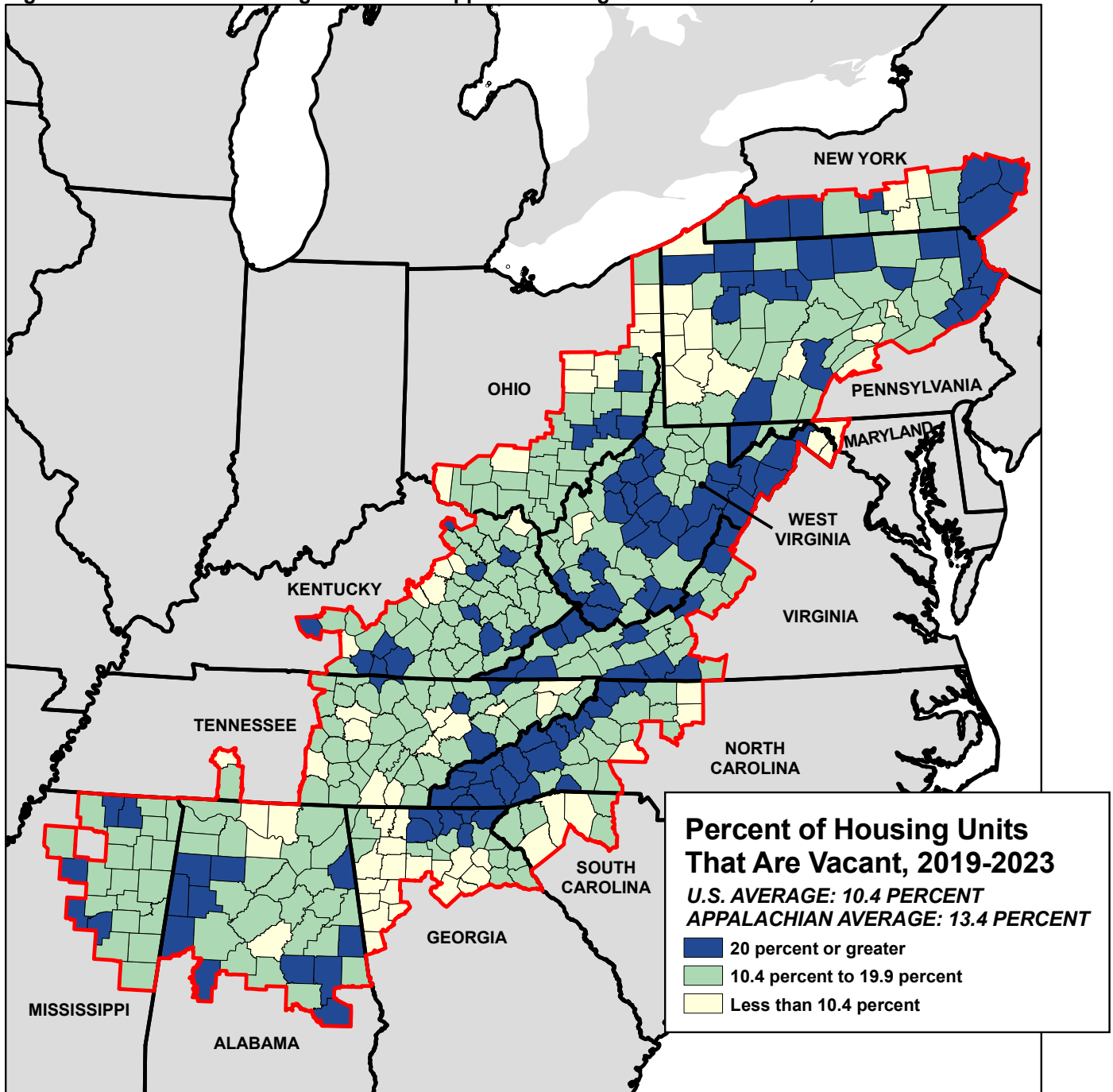
Figure 4.1: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Occupied, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Occupied, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

The home occupancy rate in Appalachia was three percentage points lower than the national average of 89.6 percent. However, throughout Appalachia there were 77 counties where the home occupancy rate matched or exceeded the national average with larger concentrations in Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. Among these 77 counties, 56 were located in metropolitan areas – such as the suburbs of Atlanta and Pittsburgh. On the other hand, in 115 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, 98 were located outside of metropolitan areas, in counties adjacent to metropolitan areas and rural counties.

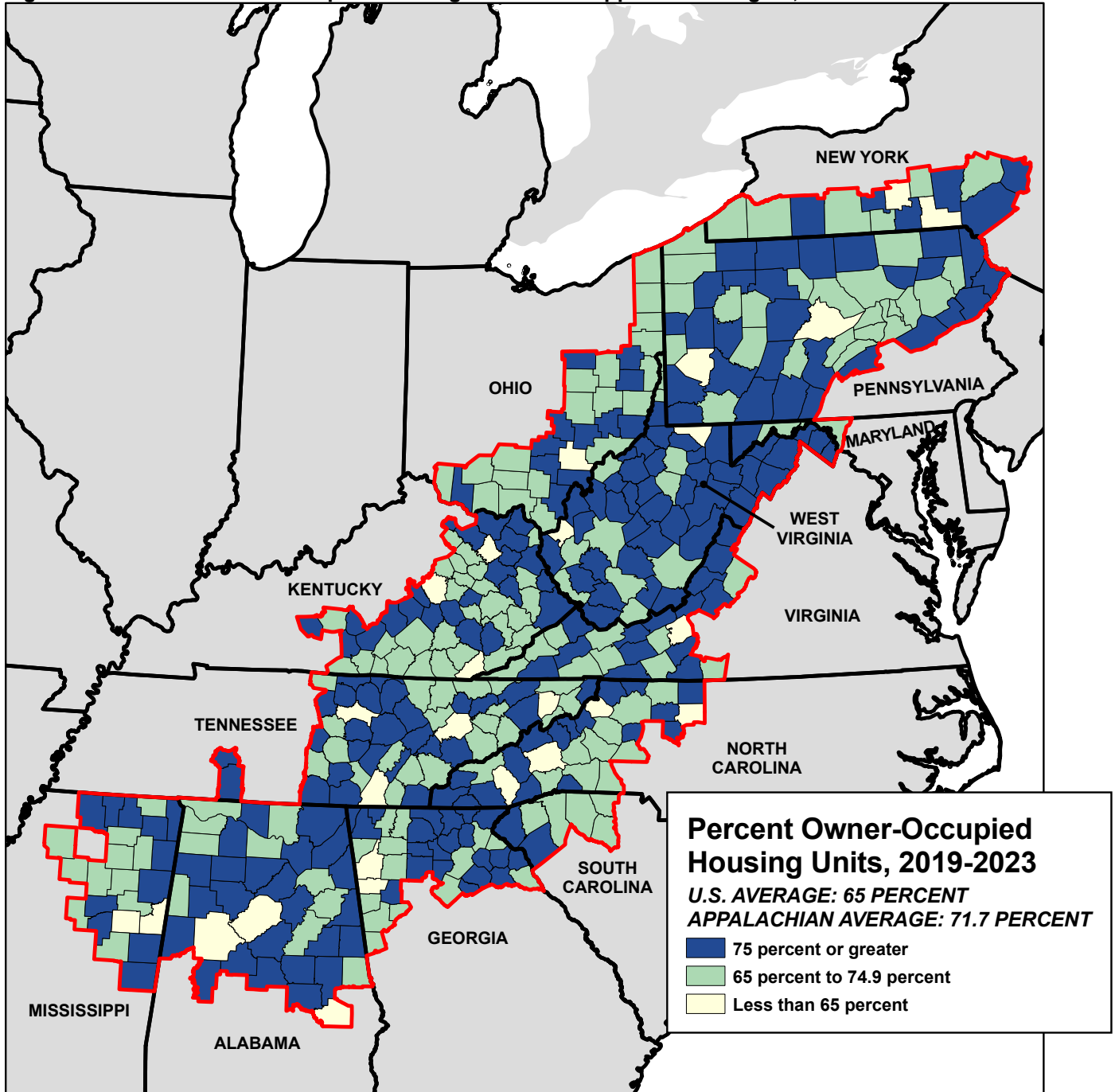
Figure 4.2: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Vacant, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Vacant, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Slightly more than 13 percent of housing units in Appalachia were vacant during the 2019-2023 period, compared with just 10.4 percent for the nation as a whole. Yet, the share of vacant housing units varied throughout the region. In 117 Appalachian counties – all but 18 of which were outside of metropolitan areas – the share of housing units that were vacant was at least 20 percent. On the other hand, 75 of Appalachia’s 423 counties had vacancy rates below the national average of 10.4 percent. It is important to note that in 87 of the 117 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 such areas include the Potomac Highlands region of West Virginia and the Blueridge Mountains along the border of Tennessee and North Carolina.

Figure 4.3: Percent Owner-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023

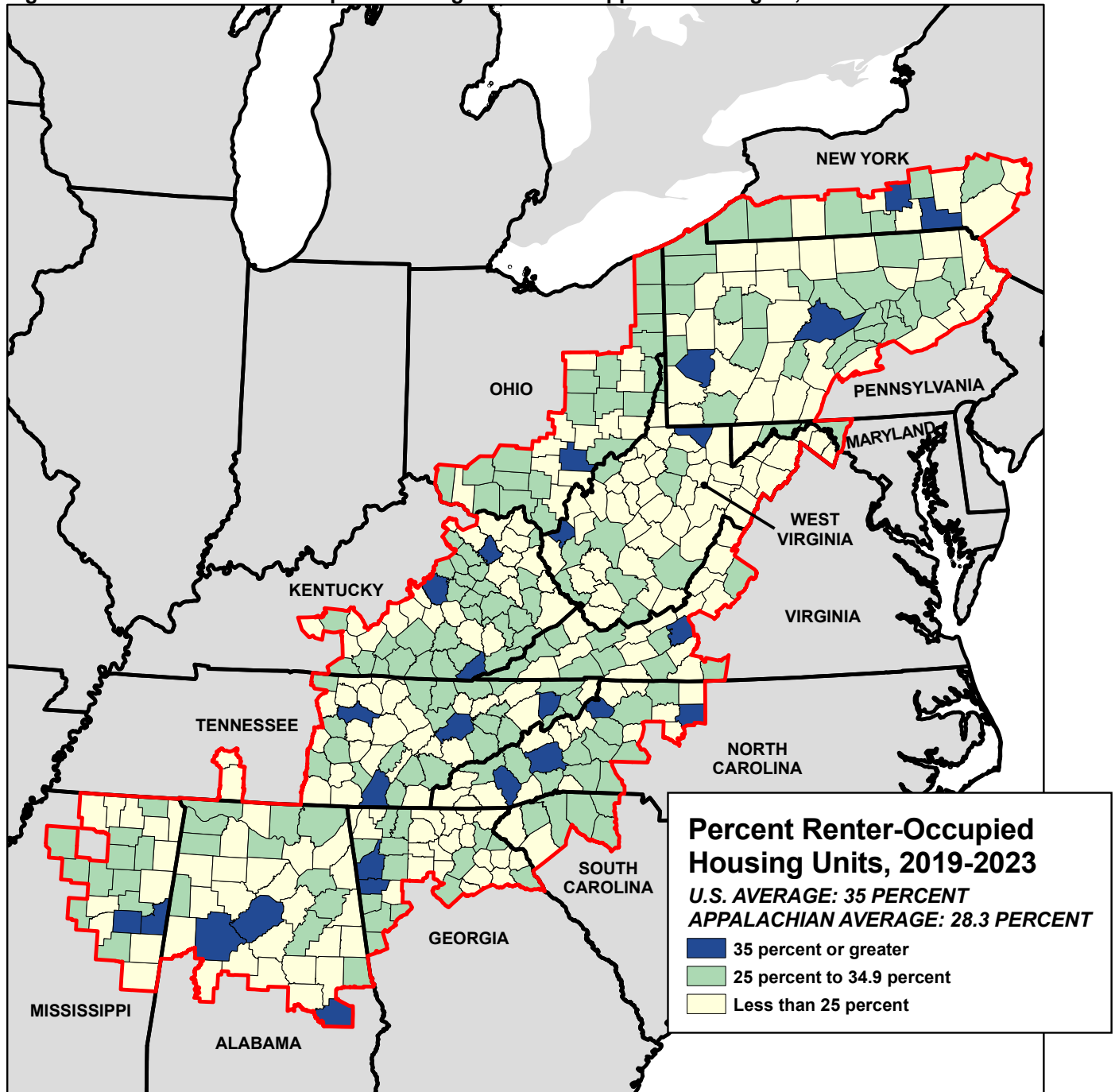


Map Title: Percent Owner-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

The Appalachian Region boasted higher rates of homeownership than the nation as a whole in the 2019-2023 period. In all but 26 Appalachian counties, the share of owner-occupied housing units exceeded the national average of 65 percent. And in 227 of Appalachia’s 423 counties – scattered throughout the region – the share was at least 75 percent. Of the 26 counties where homeownership rates fell below 65 percent, 20 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, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent Renter-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

The share of renter-occupied housing units in Appalachia was 6.7 percentage points lower than the national average. Throughout Appalachia, 224 counties had a share of renter-occupied units that was less than 25 percent. The share matched or exceeded the national average in just 26 of the region’s counties, and more than three-quarters of these were home to colleges or universities – such as Montgomery County, Virginia (Virginia Tech); Broome County, New York (SUNY-Binghamton); and Putnam County, Tennessee (Tennessee Tech) – where student populations contribute to higher demand for rental housing.

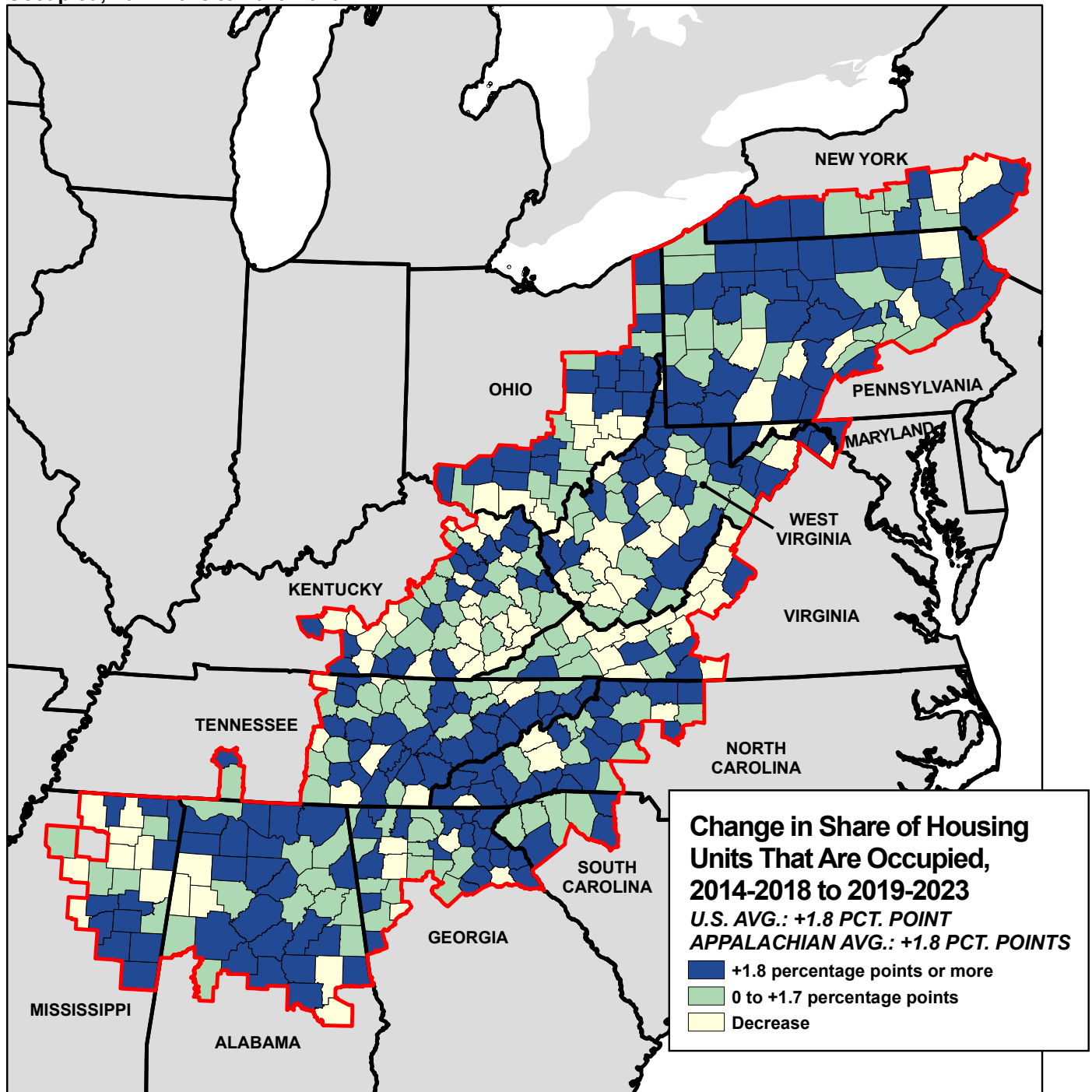
Table 4.2: Percentage Point Change in Occupancy and Tenure of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	+ 1.8	- 1.8	+ 1.2	- 1.2
Appalachian Region	+ 1.8	- 1.8	+ 1.3	- 1.3
Subregions				
Northern Appalachia	+ 1.9	- 1.9	+ 0.7	- 0.7
North Central Appalachia	+ 1.5	- 1.5	+ 1.4	- 1.4
Central Appalachia	+ 0.9	- 0.9	+ 1.3	- 1.3
South Central Appalachia	+ 1.3	- 1.3	+ 1.4	- 1.4
Southern Appalachia	+ 2.0	- 2.0	+ 1.8	- 1.8
County Types				
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	+ 1.6	- 1.6	+ 1.2	- 1.2
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	+ 1.5	- 1.5	+ 1.2	- 1.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	+ 1.5	- 1.5	+ 1.8	- 1.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	+ 2.2	- 2.2	+ 1.4	- 1.4
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 1.6	- 1.6	+ 1.2	- 1.2
Alabama	+ 2.1	- 2.1	+ 1.3	- 1.3
Appalachian Alabama	+ 2.4	- 2.4	+ 1.3	- 1.3
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 1.7	- 1.7	+ 1.6	- 1.6
Georgia	+ 1.9	- 1.9	+ 2.3	- 2.3
Appalachian Georgia	+ 2.1	- 2.1	+ 2.2	- 2.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 1.8	- 1.8	+ 2.3	- 2.3
Kentucky	+ 1.5	- 1.5	+ 1.3	- 1.3
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 1.1	- 1.1	+ 1.3	- 1.3
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 1.7	- 1.7	+ 1.4	- 1.4
Maryland	+ 2.0	- 2.0	+ 0.7	- 0.7
Appalachian Maryland	+ 1.9	- 1.9	+ 1.1	- 1.1
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 2.0	- 2.0	+ 0.7	- 0.7
Mississippi	+ 0.9	- 0.9	+ 1.3	- 1.3
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.4	- 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 1.0	- 1.0	+ 1.6	- 1.6
New York	+ 1.5	- 1.5	+ 0.4	- 0.4
Appalachian New York	+ 2.0	- 2.0	+ 0.6	- 0.6
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 1.5	- 1.5	+ 0.4	- 0.4
North Carolina	+ 1.3	- 1.3	+ 1.4	- 1.4
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 0.7	- 0.7	+ 1.8	- 1.8
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 1.3	- 1.3	+ 1.2	- 1.2
Ohio	+ 1.9	- 1.9	+ 1.0	- 1.0
Appalachian Ohio	+ 1.7	- 1.7	+ 1.0	- 1.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 2.0	- 2.0	+ 1.1	- 1.1
Pennsylvania	+ 2.0	- 2.0	+ 0.3	- 0.3
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.8	- 1.8	+ 0.7	- 0.7
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 2.0	- 2.0	+ 0.1	- 0.1
South Carolina	+ 2.2	- 2.2	+ 2.5	- 2.5
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 1.8	- 1.8	+ 3.1	- 3.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 2.4	- 2.4	+ 2.3	- 2.3
Tennessee	+ 1.8	- 1.8	+ 0.7	- 0.7
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 2.0	- 2.0	+ 1.4	- 1.4
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 1.6	- 1.6	+ 0.3	- 0.3
Virginia	+ 1.4	- 1.4	+ 1.0	- 1.0
Appalachian Virginia	- 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.7	- 0.7
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 1.5	- 1.5	+ 1.1	- 1.1
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 1.4	- 1.4	+ 1.4	- 1.4

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, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

Figure 4.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Occupied, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

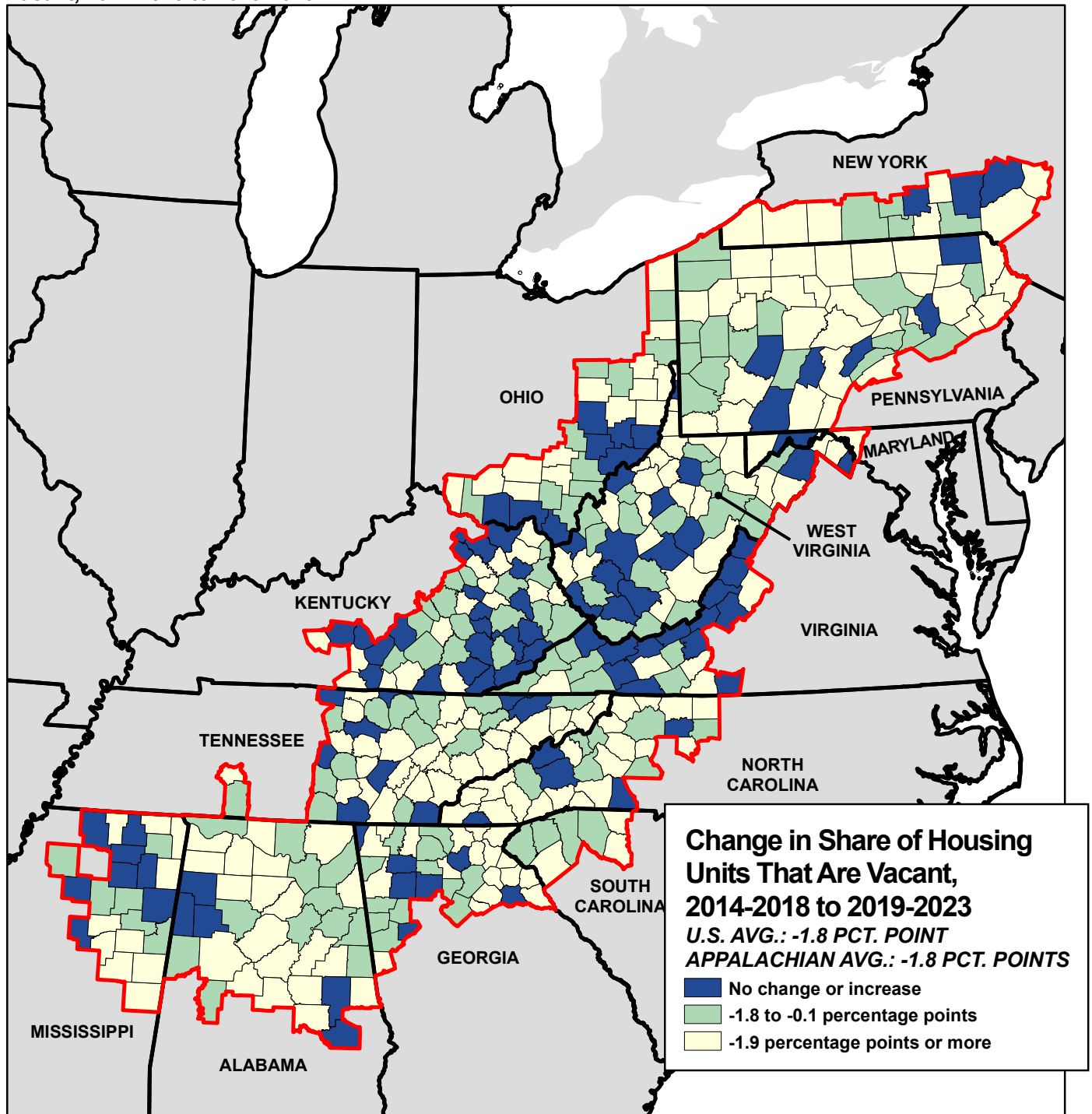


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Occupied, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

The home occupancy rate in Appalachia increased 1.8 percentage points between the 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 periods, matching the national rate of increase. In fact, in 204 of Appalachia's 423 counties the increase matched or exceeded the national average. While the Appalachian Region overall saw increasing occupancy, 95 counties saw a decrease during this period.

Figure 4.6: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Vacant, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

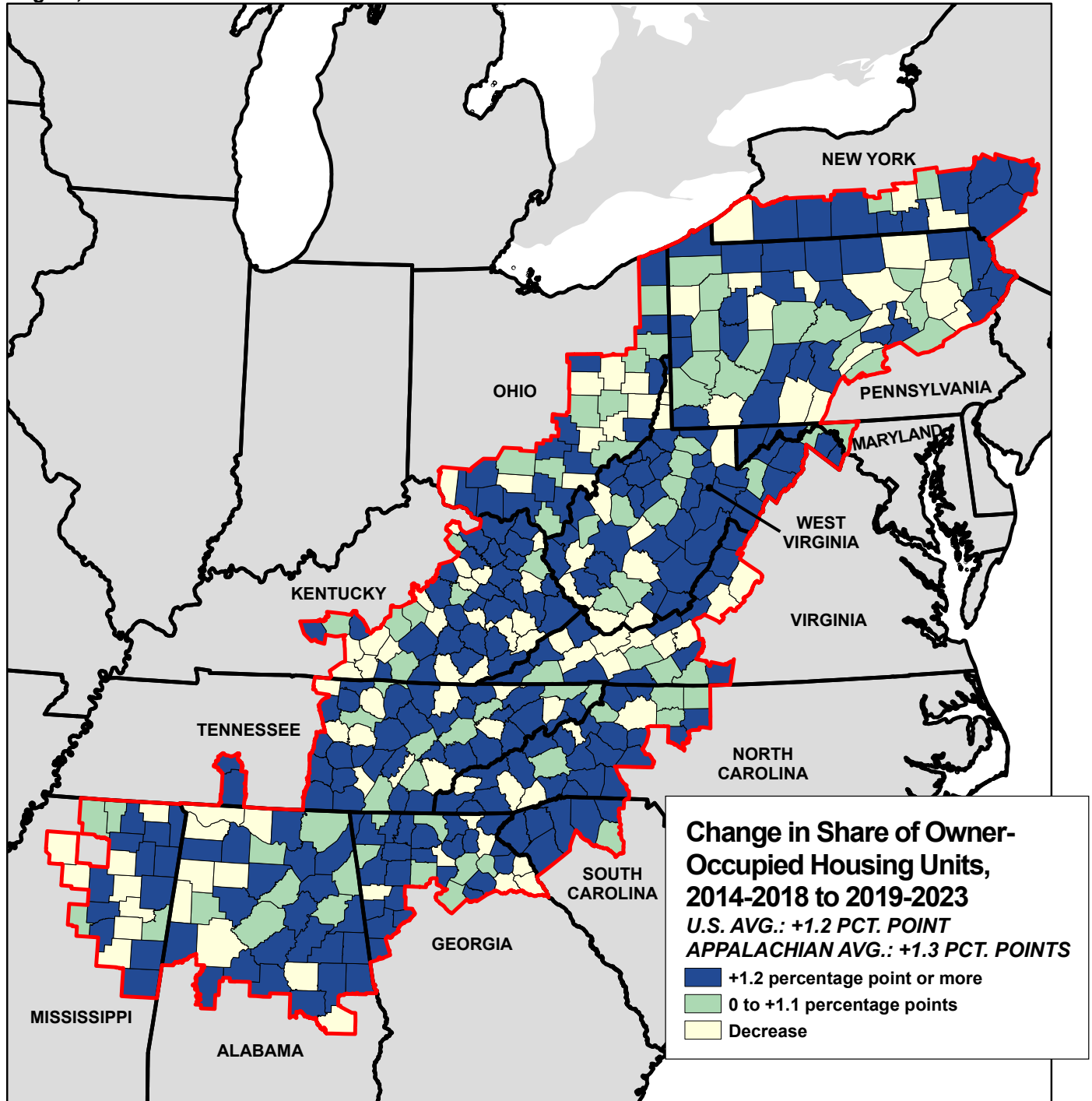


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Vacant, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

Between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023, the share of vacant housing units declined 1.8 percentage points in Appalachia and in the nation as a whole. Despite the overall decline throughout the region, 101 counties remained constant or saw an increase in vacant housing units during this period. All of the subregions, every county type, and the Appalachian portions of every state in the region except Virginia saw a decline in vacant housing units between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023.

Figure 4.7: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Owner-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

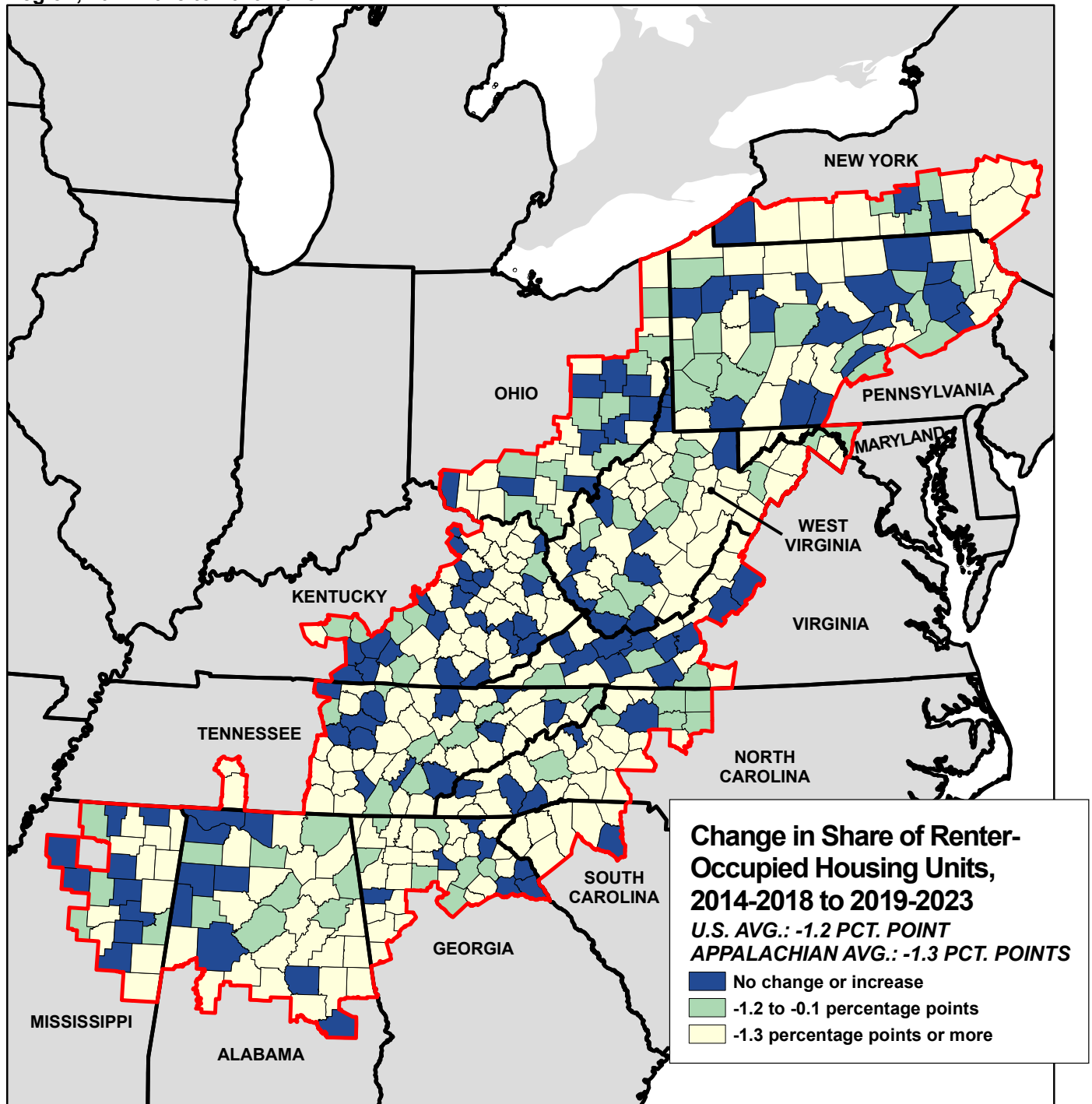


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Owner-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

The share of owner-occupied housing units rose slightly more in Appalachia than it did nationwide between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023. In fact, the increase was at or above the national average in more than half of Appalachia’s 423 counties. Yet, in 106 of the region’s counties homeownership rates fell during this period – and 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Renter-Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

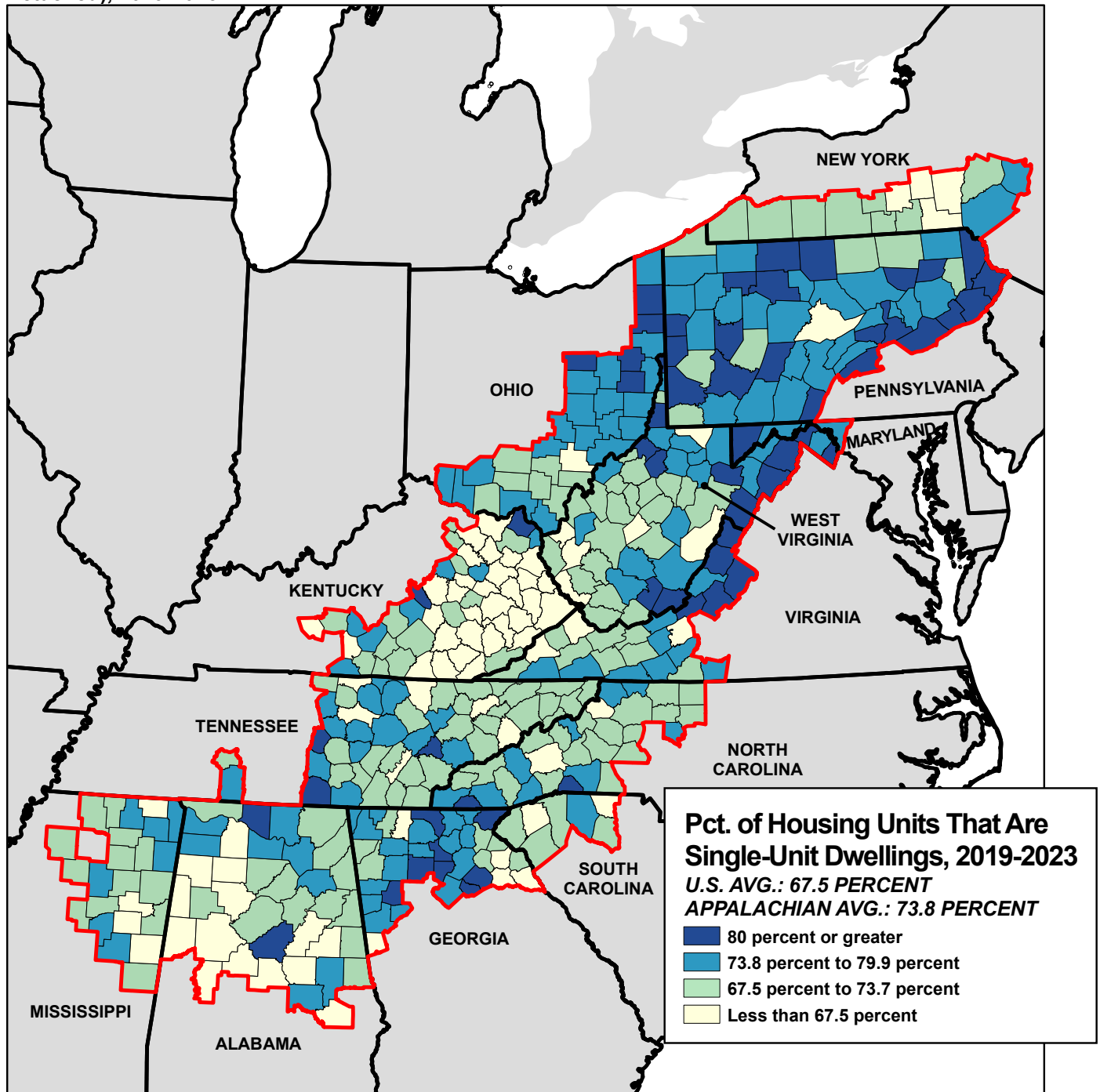
The share of renter-occupied housing units decreased slightly more in Appalachia than it did nationwide between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023. Yet variations were present within the region: For example, there were 228 Appalachian counties where the decrease in rental shares exceeded the national average of -1.2 percentage points, and the Appalachian portions of all of the region’s states saw an overall decrease in renter-occupied units. At the same time, in 114 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, 2019-2023

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	142,332,876	67.5	26.7	7.7	19.0	5.7	0.1
Appalachian Region	12,070,947	73.8	15.3	5.8	9.5	10.8	0.1
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	3,864,332	76.1	17.9	8.3	9.6	6.0	0.1
North Central Appalachia	1,165,777	73.7	13.2	5.0	8.2	12.9	0.1
Central Appalachia	869,766	67.8	9.3	4.2	5.0	22.8	0.2
South Central Appalachia	2,494,425	72.0	15.3	5.2	10.1	12.5	0.2
Southern Appalachia	3,676,647	74.2	14.5	4.2	10.3	11.1	0.2
County Types							
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	2,712,331	77.1	17.6	5.0	12.5	5.3	0.1
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	5,121,163	73.1	17.6	6.5	11.1	9.1	0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	1,082,415	73.9	12.4	6.4	6.0	13.5	0.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	1,928,049	73.4	10.6	5.2	5.4	15.8	0.2
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	1,226,989	70.2	10.3	5.0	5.3	19.4	0.1
Alabama	2,316,192	70.7	16.5	4.8	11.7	12.5	0.2
Appalachian Alabama	1,466,907	71.9	16.0	4.5	11.4	12.0	0.2
Non-Appalachian Alabama	849,285	68.8	17.4	5.1	12.3	13.6	0.2
Georgia	4,483,873	70.7	21.1	5.1	16.0	8.0	0.1
Appalachian Georgia	1,319,542	78.9	12.9	3.4	9.5	8.1	0.1
Non-Appalachian Georgia	3,164,331	67.3	24.5	5.7	18.8	8.0	0.1
Kentucky	2,010,655	70.4	18.7	7.1	11.6	10.8	0.1
Appalachian Kentucky	536,225	66.4	10.4	4.9	5.5	23.1	0.2
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,474,430	71.9	21.7	7.8	13.8	6.4	0.1
Maryland	2,545,532	72.4	26.3	3.7	22.6	1.3	0.0
Appalachian Maryland	115,342	78.8	17.5	6.3	11.2	3.7	0.1
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,430,190	72.1	26.7	3.5	23.1	1.2	0.0
Mississippi	1,332,811	70.6	14.8	5.6	9.2	14.4	0.2
Appalachian Mississippi	287,188	70.2	12.6	6.0	6.5	17.2	0.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	1,045,623	70.7	15.5	5.5	9.9	13.6	0.2
New York	8,539,536	46.7	51.1	16.6	34.5	2.1	0.0
Appalachian New York	510,656	67.5	22.9	13.4	9.5	9.5	0.1
Non-Appalachian New York	8,028,880	45.4	52.9	16.8	36.1	1.7	0.0
North Carolina	4,815,195	69.9	18.7	4.6	14.1	11.3	0.1
Appalachian North Carolina	1,011,654	71.4	14.2	4.6	9.6	14.2	0.2
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	3,803,541	69.5	19.9	4.6	15.3	10.5	0.1
Ohio	5,271,573	73.7	22.7	8.0	14.7	3.5	0.0
Appalachian Ohio	897,500	76.6	13.7	5.7	8.0	9.6	0.1
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,374,073	73.1	24.6	8.5	16.1	2.2	0.0
Pennsylvania	5,779,663	75.5	20.9	8.2	12.6	3.6	0.0
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,730,659	77.0	17.6	7.7	9.9	5.3	0.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	3,049,004	74.2	23.8	8.7	15.1	2.0	0.0
South Carolina	2,401,638	67.8	17.4	4.5	12.9	14.7	0.2
Appalachian South Carolina	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,798,628	66.5	18.0	4.5	13.4	15.4	0.1
Tennessee	3,095,472	72.2	19.4	5.6	13.7	8.3	0.2
Appalachian Tennessee	1,371,116	72.2	15.6	5.6	10.1	11.9	0.2
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,724,356	72.1	22.4	5.7	16.7	5.4	0.1
Virginia	3,654,784	72.6	23.0	4.4	18.5	4.4	0.0
Appalachian Virginia	361,495	72.3	11.6	3.9	7.7	16.0	0.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	3,293,289	72.6	24.2	4.5	19.7	3.1	0.0
West Virginia (entire state)	859,653	73.3	12.8	5.0	7.8	13.8	0.1

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Figure 4.9: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached), 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached), 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

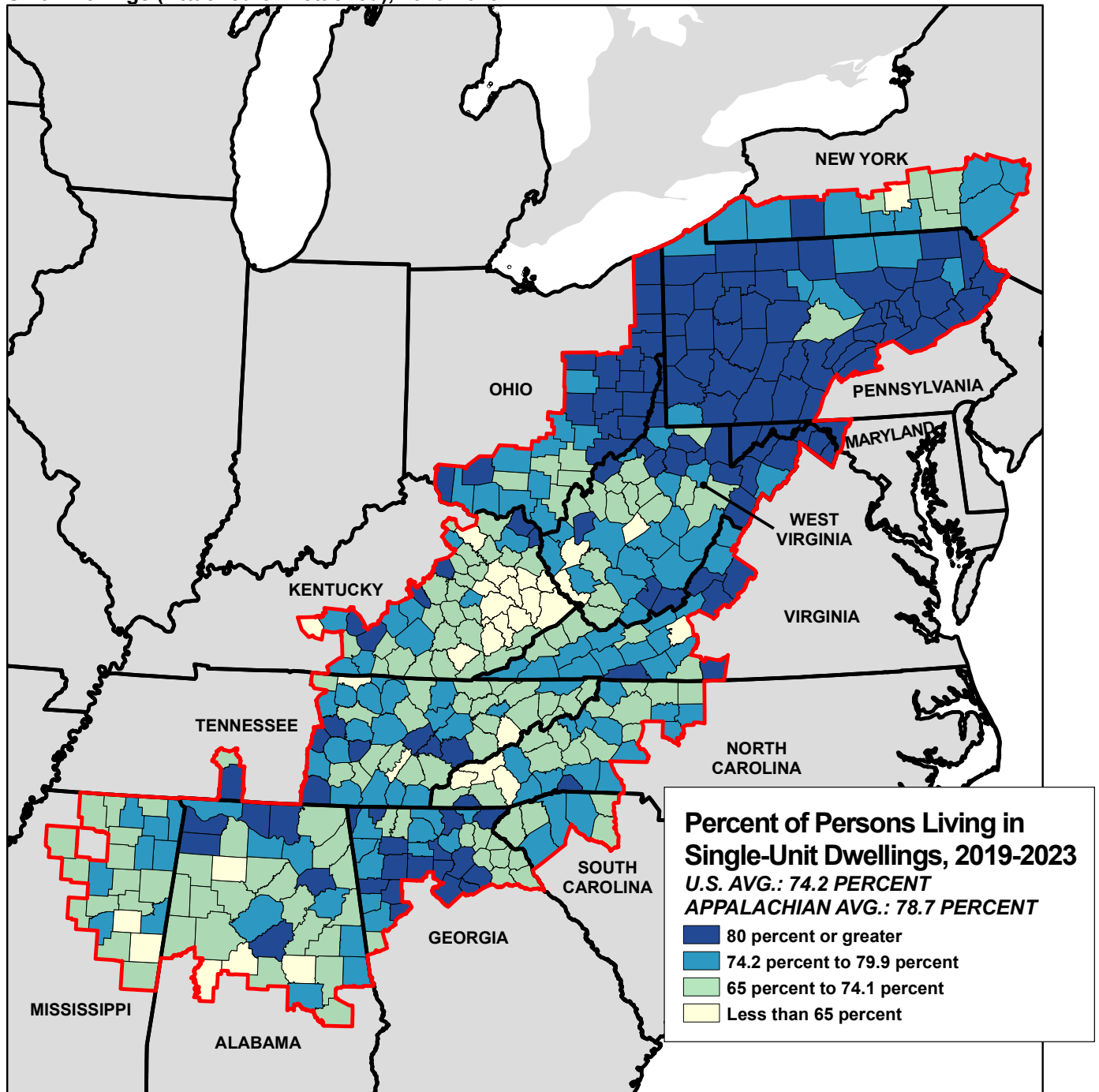
The share of housing units in the Appalachian Region that were single-unit dwellings (whether attached or detached) during the 2019-2023 period was more than six percentage points higher than the national average of 67.5 percent. In 193 of Appalachia’s 423 counties, the share was higher than the regional average of 73.8 percent – with the largest concentration in Appalachian Pennsylvania. Furthermore, in 61 counties the share of the housing stock that was single-unit dwellings was at least 80 percent. Conversely, in 79 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, 2019-2023

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	324,275,237	74.2	20.5	6.8	13.8	5.2	0.1
Appalachian Region	25,561,608	78.7	10.9	4.3	6.6	10.3	0.1
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	7,736,972	82.5	12.5	6.3	6.2	4.9	0.1
North Central Appalachia	2,416,261	78.5	9.2	3.4	5.8	12.2	0.1
Central Appalachia	1,799,423	71.0	6.9	3.2	3.6	22.0	0.2
South Central Appalachia	5,115,276	75.8	11.4	4.0	7.4	12.7	0.1
Southern Appalachia	8,493,676	78.8	10.5	3.2	7.2	10.6	0.1
County Types							
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	6,209,145	83.1	11.8	3.5	8.3	5.1	0.0
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	10,935,351	78.4	12.6	4.9	7.7	8.9	0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	2,233,563	78.3	9.0	4.8	4.2	12.6	0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	3,810,763	76.5	7.6	3.9	3.6	15.8	0.2
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	2,372,786	73.0	7.7	3.9	3.8	19.2	0.1
Alabama	4,917,955	76.0	11.4	3.6	7.8	12.4	0.2
Appalachian Alabama	3,171,895	76.6	11.2	3.5	7.8	12.0	0.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	1,746,060	75.0	11.7	3.9	7.8	13.1	0.2
Georgia	10,571,720	76.8	15.4	4.1	11.3	7.7	0.1
Appalachian Georgia	3,385,973	82.8	9.7	2.8	6.9	7.5	0.1
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7,185,747	74.0	18.1	4.7	13.4	7.9	0.1
Kentucky	4,388,482	76.1	13.6	5.5	8.1	10.2	0.1
Appalachian Kentucky	1,126,461	69.8	7.8	3.8	4.0	22.3	0.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	3,262,021	78.3	15.6	6.1	9.5	6.0	0.1
Maryland	6,045,148	79.6	19.3	2.9	16.4	1.1	0.0
Appalachian Maryland	236,525	83.8	12.8	4.6	8.2	3.3	0.1
Non-Appalachian Maryland	5,808,623	79.4	19.6	2.8	16.8	1.0	0.0
Mississippi	2,857,336	74.5	11.2	4.6	6.6	14.2	0.1
Appalachian Mississippi	590,663	72.9	9.4	4.7	4.7	17.6	0.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	2,266,673	74.9	11.6	4.6	7.1	13.3	0.1
New York	19,274,231	52.6	45.6	16.8	28.8	1.7	0.0
Appalachian New York	962,240	73.8	17.9	11.2	6.7	8.2	0.1
Non-Appalachian New York	18,311,991	51.5	47.1	17.1	30.0	1.4	0.0
North Carolina	10,304,978	74.7	13.8	3.6	10.2	11.4	0.1
Appalachian North Carolina	1,986,990	74.1	10.5	3.4	7.1	15.2	0.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	8,317,988	74.9	14.6	3.6	10.9	10.5	0.1
Ohio	11,487,883	81.2	15.7	5.9	9.8	3.0	0.0
Appalachian Ohio	1,923,337	81.8	9.4	4.0	5.4	8.7	0.1
Non-Appalachian Ohio	9,564,546	81.1	17.0	6.2	10.7	1.9	0.0
Pennsylvania	12,564,867	82.8	14.3	6.2	8.1	2.8	0.0
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5,469,251	83.5	12.1	5.8	6.3	4.3	0.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	7,095,616	82.3	16.1	6.5	9.5	1.7	0.0
South Carolina	5,074,803	72.9	12.0	3.5	8.5	15.0	0.1
Appalachian South Carolina	1,345,145	76.4	11.2	3.2	8.0	12.2	0.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	3,729,658	71.6	12.2	3.6	8.7	16.0	0.1
Tennessee	6,837,352	77.8	14.2	4.6	9.6	7.9	0.1
Appalachian Tennessee	2,932,806	76.5	11.5	4.4	7.1	11.9	0.2
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	3,904,546	78.7	16.2	4.7	11.4	5.0	0.1
Virginia	8,421,111	79.2	17.1	3.5	13.6	3.7	0.0
Appalachian Virginia	697,765	76.1	9.4	3.0	6.4	14.5	0.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	7,723,346	79.5	17.8	3.5	14.3	2.7	0.0
West Virginia (entire state)	1,732,557	78.0	8.7	3.4	5.3	13.2	0.1

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 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), 2019-2023



Map Title: Among Persons in the Appalachian Region in Occupied Housing Units, Percent Living in Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached), 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

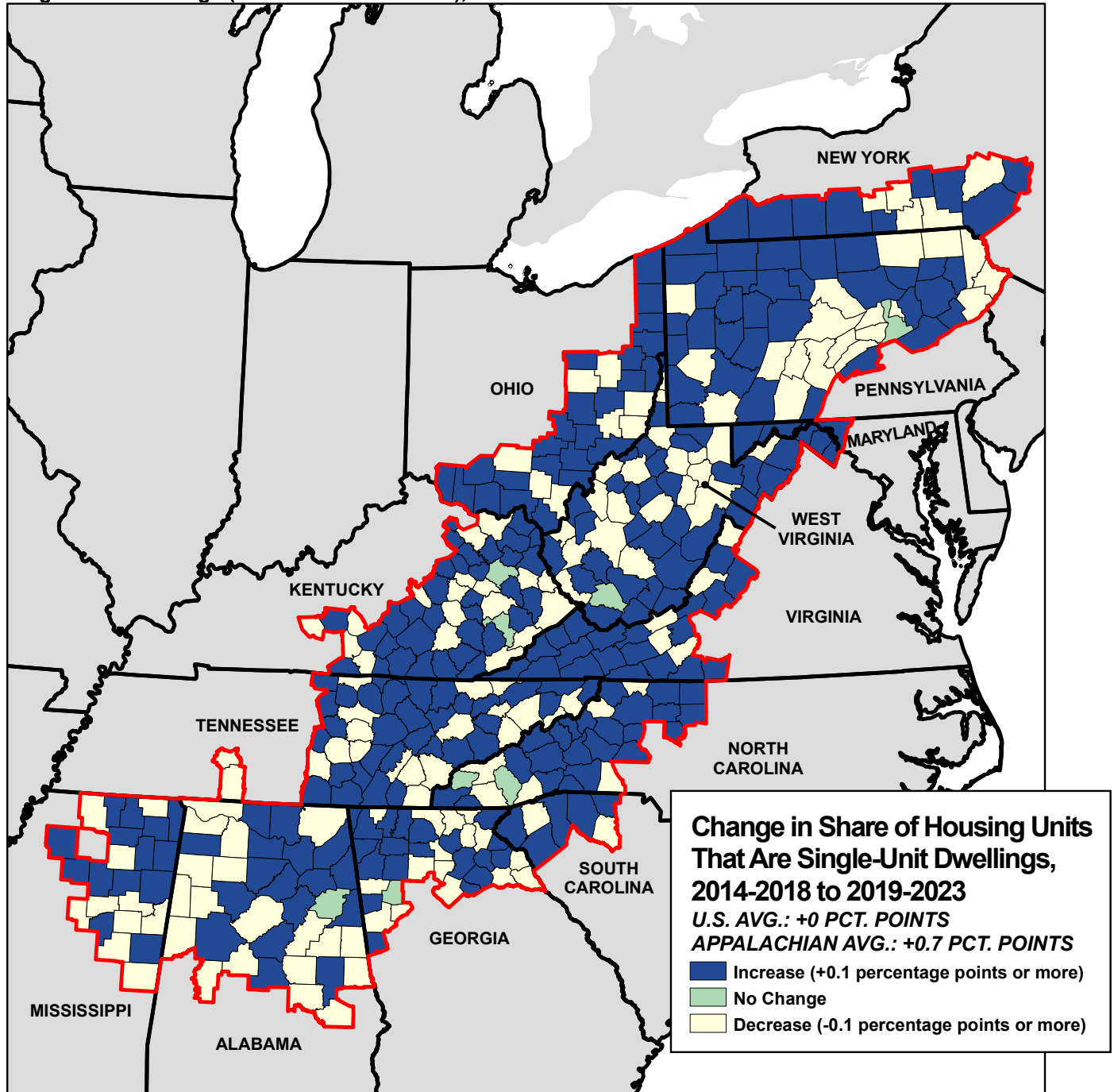
Of the Appalachian population who live in occupied housing units, 78.7 percent lived in single-unit dwellings during the 2019-2023 period, more than four percentage points above the national average. And the share was even greater in 130 counties throughout Appalachia, where at least four in five residents lived in single-unit homes. While pockets existed throughout the region, Northern Appalachia had the highest concentration of counties with the largest share of residents living in single-unit homes. On the other hand, in 169 of the region's counties the share living in single-unit dwellings was below the national average of 74.2 percent while in 31 counties – primarily in Central Appalachia – the share was below 65 percent. In 27 of these 31 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	0.0	+ 0.5	- 0.3	+ 0.8	- 0.5	0.0
Appalachian Region	+ 0.7	+ 0.3	- 0.1	+ 0.5	- 1.0	0.0
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.4	- 0.6	+ 0.1
North Central Appalachia	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	- 1.2	0.0
Central Appalachia	+ 1.7	+ 0.1	- 0.1	+ 0.1	- 1.8	+ 0.1
South Central Appalachia	+ 0.9	+ 0.6	0.0	+ 0.6	- 1.6	+ 0.1
Southern Appalachia	+ 0.7	+ 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3	- 1.1	+ 0.1
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.4	- 0.4	+ 0.1
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	+ 0.7	+ 0.3	- 0.3	+ 0.5	- 1.1	0.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	+ 1.3	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 1.2	+ 0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	+ 0.8	+ 0.3	- 0.1	+ 0.3	- 1.2	+ 0.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 0.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	- 1.0	0.0
Alabama	+ 0.6	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.2	- 0.8	+ 0.1
Appalachian Alabama	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.6	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 1.0	- 0.2	- 0.6	+ 0.4	- 0.9	+ 0.1
Georgia	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	0.0	+ 0.5	- 1.0	0.0
Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	- 0.1	+ 0.6	- 1.0	0.0
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	- 0.1	+ 0.6	- 1.0	0.0
Kentucky	+ 0.8	+ 0.4	- 0.3	+ 0.7	- 1.2	0.0
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 1.5	+ 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.2	- 1.7	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.5	+ 0.3	- 0.5	+ 0.7	- 0.7	0.0
Maryland	- 0.4	+ 0.6	- 0.1	+ 0.7	- 0.1	0.0
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	- 0.2	+ 0.6	- 0.6	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 0.5	+ 0.6	- 0.1	+ 0.6	- 0.1	0.0
Mississippi	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	- 0.8	+ 0.1
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.8	+ 0.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	- 1.5	0.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	0.0	- 0.6	+ 0.1
New York	- 0.3	+ 0.4	- 0.8	+ 1.3	- 0.2	0.0
Appalachian New York	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	- 0.1	+ 0.6	- 0.9	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian New York	- 0.2	+ 0.4	- 0.9	+ 1.3	- 0.1	0.0
North Carolina	+ 0.7	+ 1.0	- 0.2	+ 1.2	- 1.7	0.0
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 1.5	+ 0.6	- 0.1	+ 0.8	- 2.3	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 0.5	+ 1.0	- 0.3	+ 1.3	- 1.6	+ 0.1
Ohio	+ 0.6	- 0.4	- 0.7	+ 0.4	- 0.3	0.0
Appalachian Ohio	+ 1.1	- 0.3	- 0.4	+ 0.1	- 0.8	0.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.5	- 0.4	- 0.8	+ 0.4	- 0.2	0.0
Pennsylvania	- 0.2	+ 0.6	- 0.3	+ 0.7	- 0.3	0.0
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.4	- 0.6	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.4	+ 0.6	- 0.3	+ 1.0	- 0.1	0.0
South Carolina	+ 1.9	- 0.2	- 0.4	+ 0.2	- 1.7	+ 0.1
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 2.0	- 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.1	- 1.9	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 1.8	- 0.2	- 0.4	+ 0.2	- 1.7	0.0
Tennessee	+ 0.6	+ 0.4	- 0.5	+ 0.8	- 1.0	+ 0.1
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.7	+ 0.4	0.0	+ 0.5	- 1.2	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.5	+ 0.2	- 0.8	+ 1.0	- 0.8	0.0
Virginia	- 0.1	+ 0.9	0.0	+ 0.8	- 0.8	0.0
Appalachian Virginia	+ 1.8	- 0.1	- 0.3	+ 0.2	- 1.8	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 0.3	+ 0.8	0.0	+ 0.8	- 0.6	0.0
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 0.4	+ 0.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.6	- 1.3	0.0

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 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), 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Housing Units in the Appalachian Region That Are Single-Unit Dwellings (Attached or Detached), 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

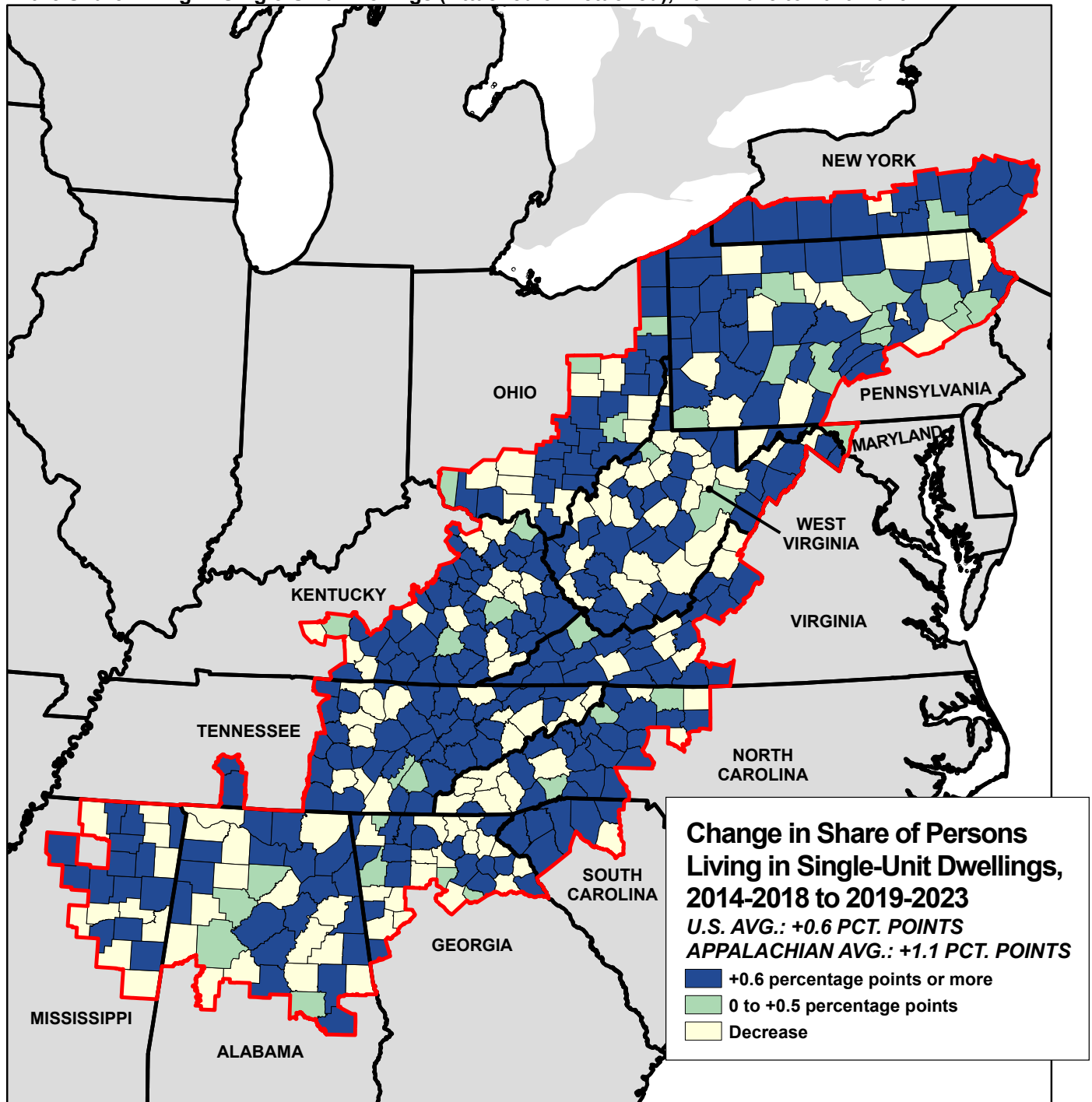
The share of single-unit dwellings among the housing stock increased 0.7 percentage points in Appalachia between the 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 periods, while the nation's share remained constant. Indeed, in 267 of Appalachia's 423 counties the share of single-unit dwellings increased. On the other hand, in 148 of the region's counties the share of single-unit homes decreased. The slight rise in the share of single-unit homes in Appalachia seems largely due to a decrease in mobile homes, the share of which fell one percentage point between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023.

Table 4.6: Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population in Occupied Housing Units in the Appalachian Region, by Type of Housing, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	+ 0.6	- 0.3	- 0.3	+ 0.2	- 0.4	0.0
Appalachian Region	+ 1.1	- 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.1	- 1.0	0.0
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.8	- 0.2	- 0.2	0.0	- 0.6	+ 0.1
North Central Appalachia	+ 1.1	- 0.1	- 0.3	+ 0.2	- 1.1	0.0
Central Appalachia	+ 2.2	- 0.2	- 0.4	+ 0.1	- 2.1	+ 0.2
South Central Appalachia	+ 1.5	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.2	- 1.5	0.0
Southern Appalachia	+ 1.2	- 0.2	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 1.0	0.0
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	+ 0.6	- 0.2	- 0.3	0.0	- 0.3	0.0
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	+ 1.3	- 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.1	- 1.1	+ 0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	+ 1.5	- 0.5	- 0.4	- 0.1	- 1.1	0.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	+ 1.3	- 0.1	- 0.3	0.0	- 1.1	+ 0.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	- 1.0	0.0
Alabama	+ 1.0	- 0.5	- 0.5	0.0	- 0.6	+ 0.1
Appalachian Alabama	+ 0.8	- 0.5	- 0.3	0.0	- 0.5	0.0
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 1.3	- 0.5	- 0.6	+ 0.1	- 0.9	+ 0.1
Georgia	+ 1.3	- 0.5	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.8	0.0
Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.7	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.7	0.0
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 1.4	- 0.6	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.8	0.0
Kentucky	+ 1.1	- 0.2	- 0.5	+ 0.4	- 1.0	+ 0.1
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 2.0	- 0.3	- 0.5	+ 0.1	- 1.7	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.7	- 0.2	- 0.5	+ 0.4	- 0.6	0.0
Maryland	- 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	0.0	0.0
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.4	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.4	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	0.0	0.0
Mississippi	+ 0.8	- 0.2	0.0	- 0.2	- 0.7	0.0
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.7	+ 0.3	0.0	+ 0.2	- 1.0	0.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.8	- 0.4	+ 0.1	- 0.4	- 0.6	0.0
New York	+ 0.8	- 0.7	- 1.1	+ 0.3	- 0.1	0.0
Appalachian New York	+ 1.4	- 0.3	- 0.4	+ 0.1	- 1.2	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.8	- 0.7	- 1.1	+ 0.4	0.0	0.0
North Carolina	+ 1.5	+ 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.5	- 1.7	0.0
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 1.7	- 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.1	- 1.7	0.0
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 1.5	+ 0.2	- 0.4	+ 0.5	- 1.7	+ 0.1
Ohio	+ 0.5	- 0.4	- 0.5	+ 0.1	- 0.2	0.0
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.8	- 0.3	- 0.4	+ 0.1	- 0.5	0.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.5	- 0.4	- 0.6	+ 0.1	- 0.1	0.0
Pennsylvania	+ 0.3	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.2	- 0.4	0.0
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.7	- 0.2	- 0.2	0.0	- 0.5	0.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	0.0	+ 0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.4	- 0.1	0.0
South Carolina	+ 2.4	- 0.3	- 0.4	+ 0.1	- 2.1	+ 0.1
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 2.7	- 0.6	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 2.3	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 2.2	- 0.3	- 0.5	+ 0.2	- 2.0	+ 0.1
Tennessee	+ 1.3	- 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.2	- 1.1	0.0
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 1.3	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.2	- 1.3	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 1.2	- 0.4	- 0.5	0.0	- 0.8	0.0
Virginia	+ 0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	- 0.6	0.0
Appalachian Virginia	+ 2.2	- 0.2	- 0.2	0.0	- 2.0	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	- 0.5	0.0
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 1.2	+ 0.1	- 0.1	+ 0.3	- 1.4	+ 0.1

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 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), 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



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), 2014-2018 to 2019-2023
 Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachian residents living in single-unit homes was just over a full percentage point higher in 2019-2023 than in 2014-2018, higher than the national increase of 0.6 percentage points. Likewise, the share increased at or above the national average in 255 of the Appalachian Region’s 423 counties. Among the states, South Carolina in particular had a sharp rise of 2.7 percentage points. On the other hand, the share declined in 132 of the region’s counties. As with the share of housing units, this increase has largely happened because the percentage of the Appalachian population living in mobile homes fell one percentage point between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023.

TRENDS IN HOUSING OCCUPANCY, TENURE, AND TYPE

- At 86.6 percent during the 2019-2023 period, Appalachia's home occupancy rate increased by 1.8 percentage points relative to the 2014-2018 period (see Tables 4.1 and 4.2). Occupancy rates increased in all Appalachian subregions and county types. Among the states, only the Appalachian portion of Virginia had declining home occupancy during this time.
- Homeownership in the Appalachian Region rose by 1.3 percentage points between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 (see Table 4.2). While all of the subregions had a rise in homeownership during this time, North Central, South Central, and Southern Appalachia had increases exceeding the regional average. Counties adjacent to large metropolitan areas increased homeownership rates most (1.8 percentage points).
- Of the housing units in the Appalachian Region, single-unit dwellings accounted for 73.8 percent in 2019-2023, an increase of 0.7 percentage points compared with the 2014-2018 period (see Tables 4.3 and 4.5). The share increased in all county types and subregions, and particularly in Central Appalachia (1.7 percentage points) and counties adjacent to large metropolitan areas (1.3 percentage points). The share also rose in the Appalachian portion of all 13 states, but especially in Appalachian Virginia (1.8 percentage points) and South Carolina (two percentage points). Throughout Appalachia, the rising share of single-unit homes is largely driven by the decline in mobile homes, the share of which has fallen one percentage point since 2014-2018, with the largest drops in Central and South Central Appalachia, as well as the Appalachian sections of the Carolinas.
- The share of the Appalachian population residing in single-unit dwellings was 78.7 percent in 2019-2023, a 1.1 percentage point increase compared with the 2014-2018 period (see Tables 4.4 and 4.6). The share rose in all Appalachian subregions, county types, and portions of states. The states however, varied considerably, from a 2.7 percentage point increase in Appalachian South Carolina to a 0.4 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 2014-2018 and 2019-2023.

CHAPTER 5: HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Table 5.1: Population in Households and Group Quarters in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023

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	332,387,540	97.6	80.4	17.2	2.4
Appalachian Region	26,334,466	97.1	80.0	17.1	2.9
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	8,054,884	96.1	76.5	19.6	3.9
North Central Appalachia	2,491,261	97.0	79.0	18.0	3.0
Central Appalachia	1,856,398	96.9	81.3	15.6	3.1
South Central Appalachia	5,254,258	97.4	79.4	18.0	2.6
Southern Appalachia	8,677,665	97.9	83.6	14.3	2.1
County Types					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	6,324,857	98.2	82.0	16.1	1.8
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	11,297,906	96.8	78.8	18.0	3.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	2,307,873	96.8	80.2	16.6	3.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	3,933,313	96.9	80.3	16.6	3.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	2,470,517	96.0	79.5	16.6	4.0
Alabama	5,054,253	97.3	80.9	16.4	2.7
Appalachian Alabama	3,262,086	97.2	81.2	16.0	2.8
Non-Appalachian Alabama	1,792,167	97.4	80.4	17.0	2.6
Georgia	10,822,590	97.7	82.1	15.6	2.3
Appalachian Georgia	3,427,582	98.8	87.3	11.5	1.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7,395,008	97.2	79.7	17.5	2.8
Kentucky	4,510,725	97.3	79.8	17.5	2.7
Appalachian Kentucky	1,163,915	96.8	81.2	15.5	3.2
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	3,346,810	97.5	79.3	18.1	2.5
Maryland	6,170,738	98.0	81.6	16.4	2.0
Appalachian Maryland	251,508	94.0	76.7	17.3	6.0
Non-Appalachian Maryland	5,919,230	98.1	81.8	16.4	1.9
Mississippi	2,951,438	96.8	81.1	15.7	3.2
Appalachian Mississippi	609,649	96.9	80.4	16.4	3.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	2,341,789	96.8	81.3	15.5	3.2
New York	19,872,319	97.0	78.4	18.6	3.0
Appalachian New York	1,019,500	94.4	73.0	21.4	5.6
Non-Appalachian New York	18,852,819	97.1	78.7	18.4	2.9
North Carolina	10,584,340	97.4	79.9	17.4	2.6
Appalachian North Carolina	2,039,937	97.4	79.5	17.9	2.6
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	8,544,403	97.4	80.0	17.3	2.6
Ohio	11,780,046	97.5	78.2	19.3	2.5
Appalachian Ohio	1,978,138	97.2	79.7	17.5	2.8
Non-Appalachian Ohio	9,801,908	97.6	77.9	19.7	2.4
Pennsylvania	12,986,518	96.8	78.4	18.4	3.2
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5,686,683	96.2	76.6	19.6	3.8
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	7,299,835	97.2	79.8	17.4	2.8
South Carolina	5,212,774	97.4	80.3	17.1	2.6
Appalachian South Carolina	1,378,348	97.6	81.3	16.3	2.4
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	3,834,426	97.3	79.9	17.4	2.7
Tennessee	6,986,082	97.9	80.4	17.4	2.1
Appalachian Tennessee	2,998,742	97.8	80.5	17.3	2.2
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	3,987,340	97.9	80.4	17.5	2.1
Virginia	8,657,499	97.3	80.3	16.9	2.7
Appalachian Virginia	733,916	95.1	75.7	19.4	4.9
Non-Appalachian Virginia	7,923,583	97.5	80.8	16.7	2.5
West Virginia (entire state)	1,784,462	97.1	78.8	18.3	2.9

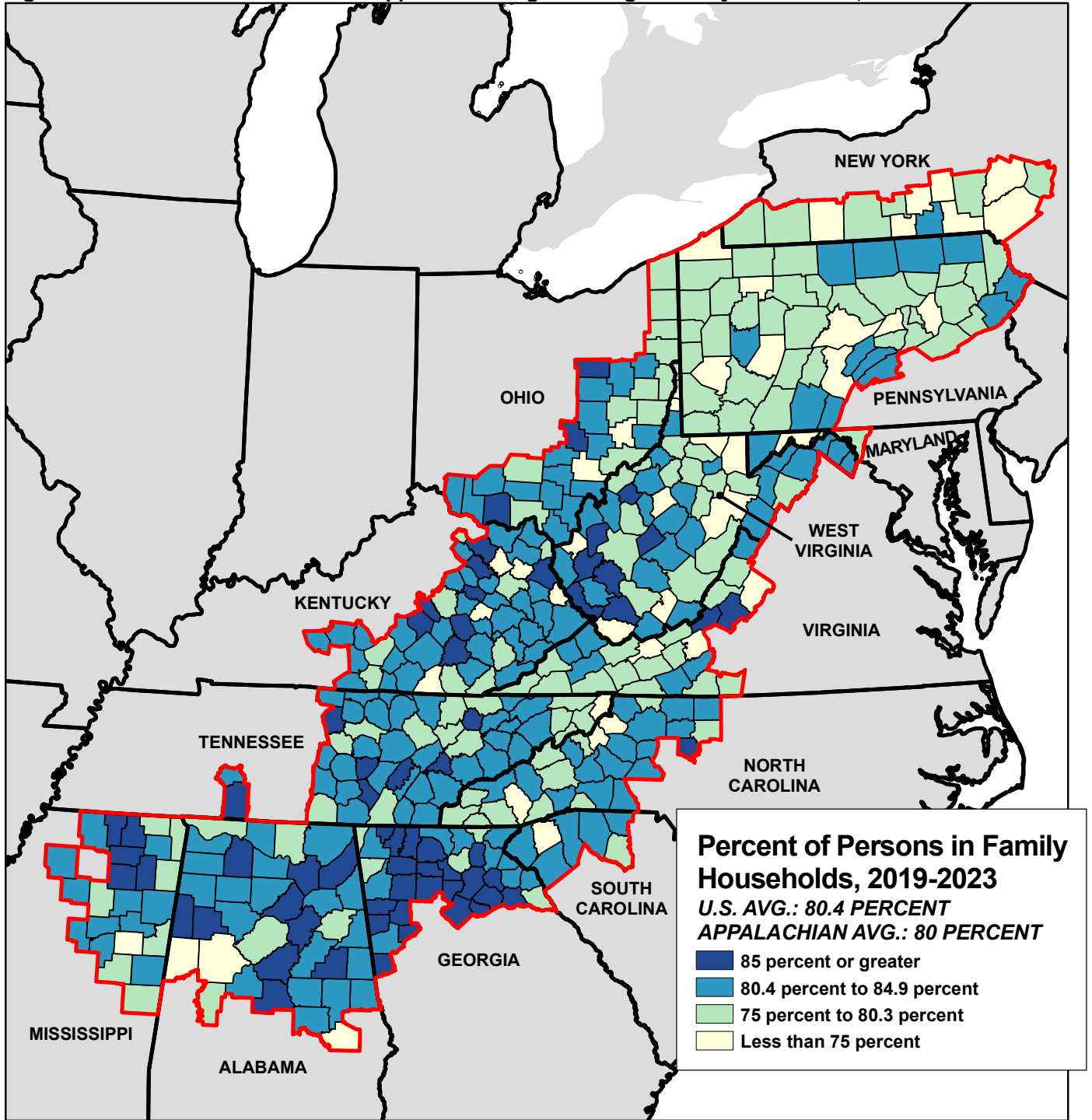
Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Table 5.2: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Living in Households and Group Quarters, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	- 0.7	+ 0.8	- 0.1
Appalachian Region	+ 0.1	- 0.6	+ 0.7	- 0.1
Subregions				
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.2	- 1.0	+ 1.2	- 0.2
North Central Appalachia	0.0	- 1.0	+ 1.0	0.0
Central Appalachia	0.0	- 0.6	+ 0.6	0.0
South Central Appalachia	+ 0.1	- 0.4	+ 0.5	- 0.1
Southern Appalachia	- 0.1	- 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.1
County Types				
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	0.0	- 0.7	+ 0.6	0.0
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	0.0	- 0.7	+ 0.7	0.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	+ 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.5	- 0.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	+ 0.1	- 0.6	+ 0.6	- 0.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 0.2	- 0.9	+ 0.8	+ 0.2
Alabama	- 0.3	- 1.0	+ 0.8	+ 0.3
Appalachian Alabama	- 0.3	- 1.1	+ 0.8	+ 0.3
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	- 0.6	+ 0.9	- 0.3
Kentucky	+ 0.3	- 0.6	+ 0.8	- 0.3
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.1	- 0.4	+ 0.4	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.3	- 0.6	+ 0.8	- 0.3
Maryland	+ 0.3	- 0.5	+ 0.9	- 0.3
Appalachian Maryland	+ 1.0	- 0.3	+ 1.2	- 1.0
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.2	- 0.6	+ 0.9	- 0.2
Mississippi	0.0	- 1.0	+ 1.1	0.0
Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.2	- 1.5	+ 1.2	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.1	- 0.9	+ 1.0	- 0.1
New York	- 0.1	- 1.2	+ 1.2	+ 0.1
Appalachian New York	0.0	- 1.3	+ 1.4	0.0
Non-Appalachian New York	- 0.1	- 1.2	+ 1.1	+ 0.1
North Carolina	+ 0.1	- 0.7	+ 0.7	- 0.1
Appalachian North Carolina	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.4	0.0
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 0.1	- 0.8	+ 0.8	- 0.1
Ohio	+ 0.2	- 1.1	+ 1.3	- 0.2
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.2	- 0.9	+ 1.1	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.2	- 1.1	+ 1.3	- 0.2
Pennsylvania	+ 0.1	- 0.9	+ 1.0	- 0.1
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.1	- 1.0	+ 1.1	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	0.0	- 0.9	+ 0.9	0.0
South Carolina	+ 0.2	- 0.6	+ 0.8	- 0.2
Appalachian South Carolina	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.2	0.0
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 0.2	- 0.8	+ 1.0	- 0.2
Tennessee	+ 0.2	- 0.9	+ 1.0	- 0.2
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.2	- 0.4	+ 0.7	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.2	- 1.2	+ 1.3	- 0.2
Virginia	+ 0.2	- 0.5	+ 0.6	- 0.2
Appalachian Virginia	- 0.4	- 0.9	+ 0.5	+ 0.4
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.2	- 0.4	+ 0.7	- 0.2
West Virginia (entire state)	- 0.3	- 1.1	+ 0.8	+ 0.3

Data sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

Figure 5.1: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Living in Family Households, 2019-2023

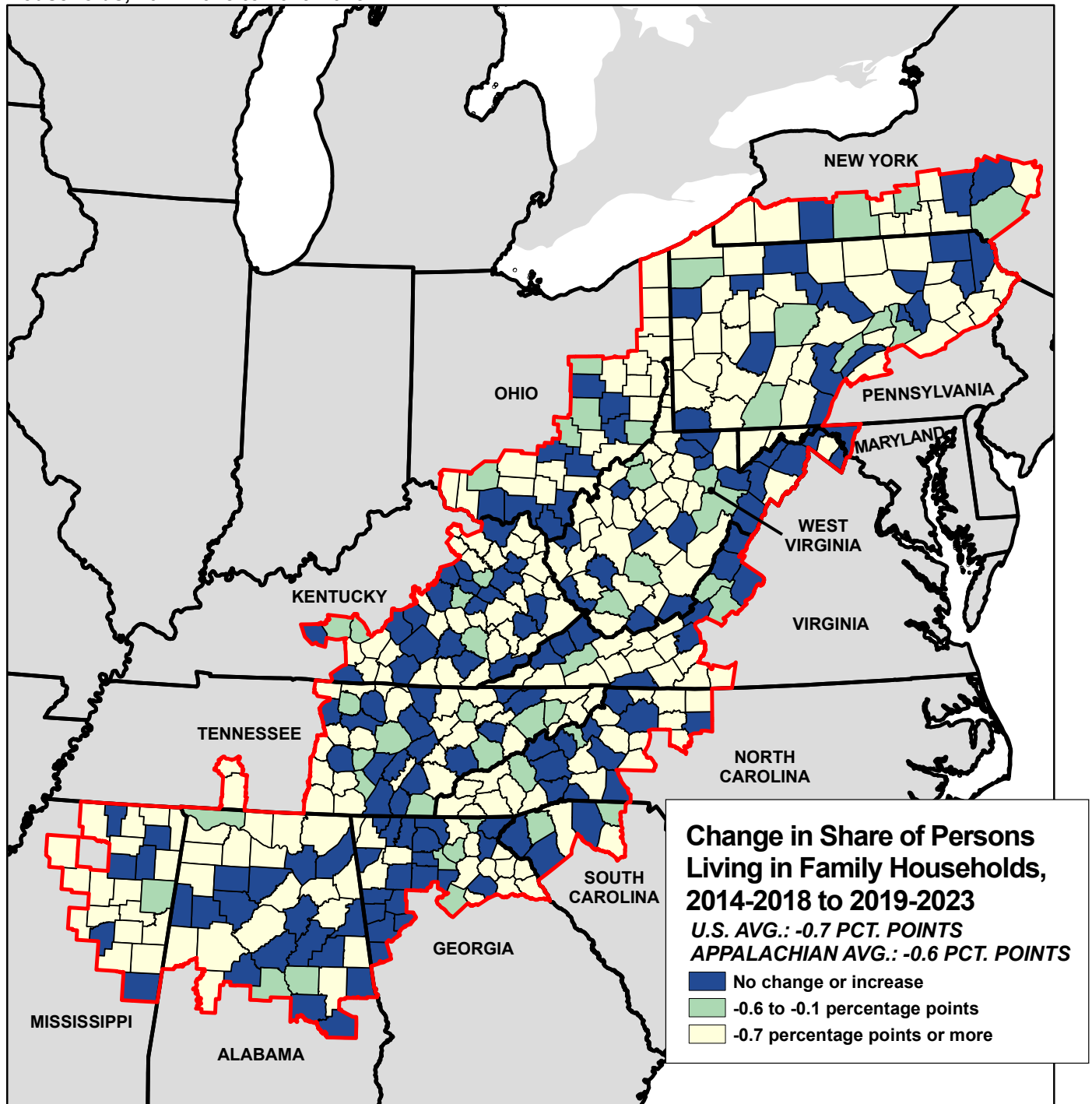


Map Title: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Living in Family Households, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Among Appalachian residents, 80 percent lived in family households during 2019-2023, which was just below the national average. Yet in 65 counties in the Appalachian Region, at least 85 percent of the population lived in family households. In contrast, there were 41 Appalachian counties where less than three-fourths of the residents were in family households. Of those 41 counties, 22 had at least 10 percent of their residents living in group quarters, whether dormitories, nursing care facilities, or prisons. Counties such as Forest County, Pennsylvania and Gilmer County, West Virginia are noteworthy examples: these counties house prisons, and more than one in four people living there are in group quarters. A more typical example is Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, where Mississippi State University is located and 10.8 percent of residents reside in group quarters.

Figure 5.2: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Living in Family Households, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Living in Family Households, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

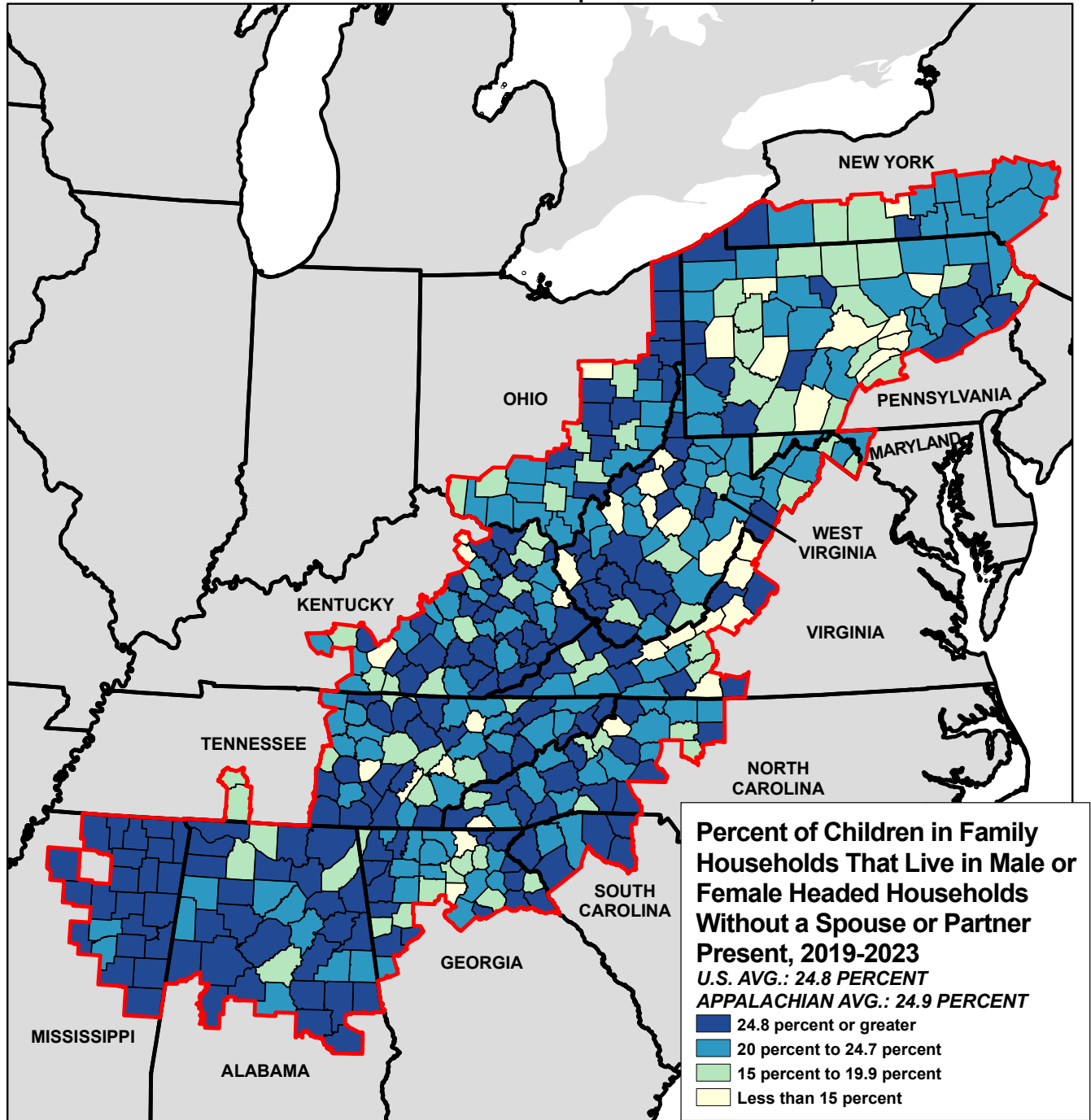
In the Appalachian Region, the share of persons living in family households fell 0.6 percentage points between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023, nearly the same rate as the U.S. as a whole. In fact, in 227 of Appalachia's 423 counties, the share of persons living in family households declined by at least 0.7 percentage points. And in 181 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 147 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, 2019-2023

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	73,466,592	66.7	8.5	24.8
Appalachian Region	5,529,514	66.4	8.7	24.9
Subregions				
Northern Appalachia	1,571,221	65.4	10.7	23.9
North Central Appalachia	512,561	66.7	10.2	23.1
Central Appalachia	397,396	65.5	9.3	25.3
South Central Appalachia	1,047,032	66.1	8.7	25.3
Southern Appalachia	2,001,304	67.4	6.7	26.0
County Types				
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	1,400,897	69.6	6.8	23.6
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	2,325,274	65.0	9.0	25.9
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	488,631	65.5	10.4	24.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	802,230	65.7	10.4	23.9
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	512,482	65.1	8.3	26.5
Alabama	1,125,290	62.3	7.0	30.6
Appalachian Alabama	721,112	64.9	6.8	28.3
Non-Appalachian Alabama	404,178	57.8	7.5	34.8
Georgia	2,537,448	62.5	7.1	30.4
Appalachian Georgia	832,491	71.2	6.1	22.7
Non-Appalachian Georgia	1,704,957	58.2	7.7	34.1
Kentucky	1,019,516	65.8	8.8	25.5
Appalachian Kentucky	256,770	65.4	9.1	25.5
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	762,746	65.9	8.7	25.4
Maryland	1,374,017	66.2	8.1	25.7
Appalachian Maryland	51,024	63.3	13.9	22.9
Non-Appalachian Maryland	1,322,993	66.3	7.9	25.8
Mississippi	691,116	56.3	6.7	37.0
Appalachian Mississippi	139,251	57.8	6.5	35.7
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	551,865	55.9	6.8	37.3
New York	4,087,617	65.8	7.9	26.3
Appalachian New York	194,846	63.0	14.0	22.9
Non-Appalachian New York	3,892,771	65.9	7.6	26.4
North Carolina	2,317,725	65.1	8.0	27.0
Appalachian North Carolina	401,644	64.3	8.9	26.9
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	1,916,081	65.2	7.8	27.0
Ohio	2,605,587	64.1	9.8	26.1
Appalachian Ohio	425,023	64.5	11.3	24.2
Non-Appalachian Ohio	2,180,564	64.0	9.5	26.4
Pennsylvania	2,666,322	65.7	9.0	25.3
Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,090,740	66.6	9.8	23.6
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,575,582	65.0	8.5	26.5
South Carolina	1,124,066	62.4	8.0	29.6
Appalachian South Carolina	308,450	67.1	8.2	24.7
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	815,616	60.6	7.9	31.5
Tennessee	1,554,764	64.7	8.0	27.3
Appalachian Tennessee	617,176	66.8	8.7	24.5
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	937,588	63.4	7.5	29.2
Virginia	1,890,141	69.6	6.8	23.6
Appalachian Virginia	132,528	67.5	8.7	23.9
Non-Appalachian Virginia	1,757,613	69.7	6.7	23.6
West Virginia (entire state)	358,459	66.0	9.8	24.2

Data sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 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, 2019-2023



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, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

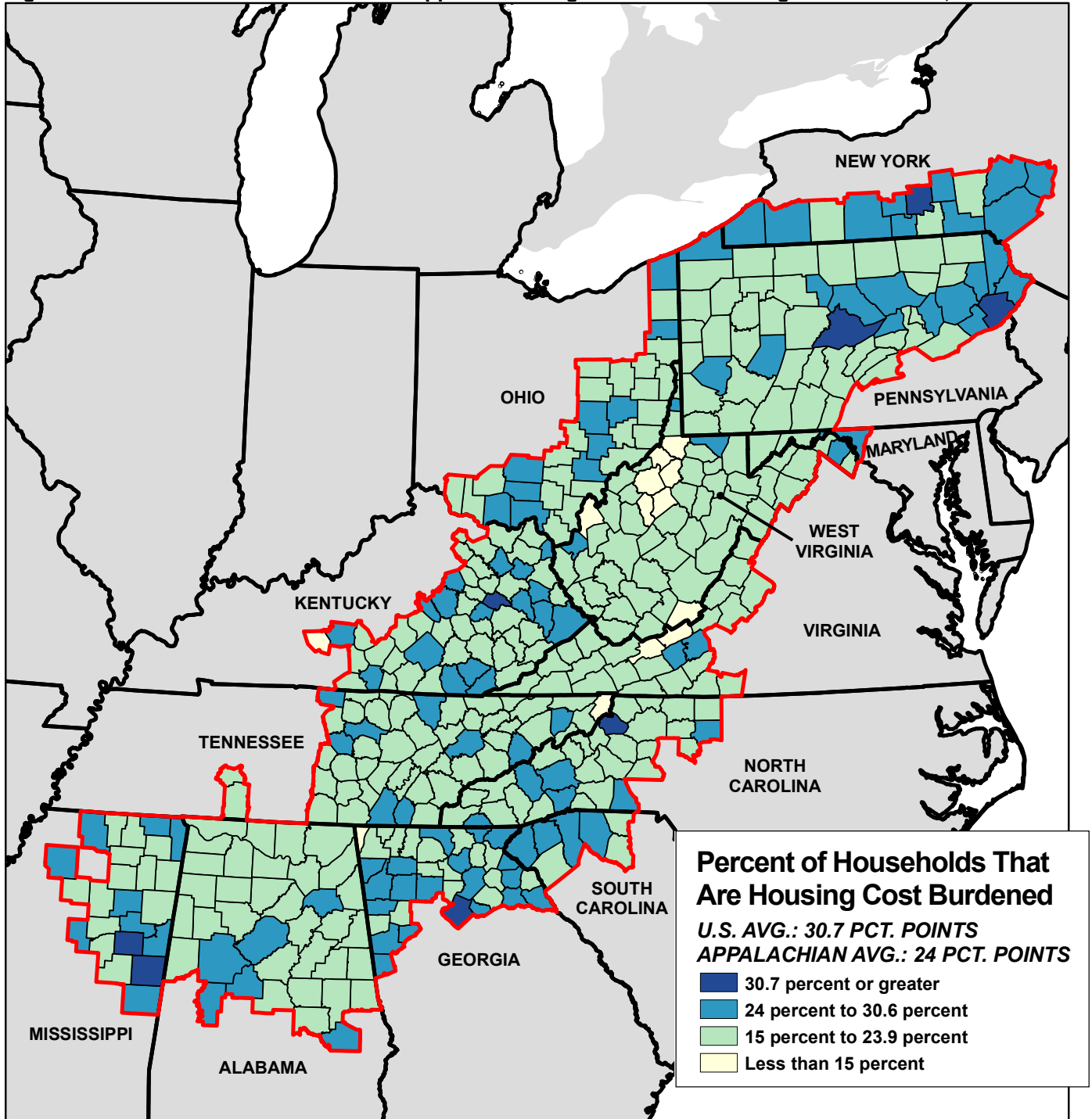
Among children living in family households in the Appalachian Region, nearly one in four lived with a male or female householder who did not have a spouse or partner present, just slightly above the national share of 24.8 percent. In 171 of the Appalachian Region's 423 counties, the share of children living with a householder who had no spouse or partner present was higher than the regional average, and the share was highest in Southern Appalachia and the region's rural counties. On the other hand, in 109 counties throughout the Appalachian Region less than one in five children lived with a householder who had no spouse or partner present, more often in South Central and Northern Appalachia.

Table 5.4: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region that Are Housing Cost Burdened, by Tenure, 2019-2023

Housing Cost Burden	All Households	Percent of Households that Are Housing Cost Burdened		
		Total	Renter Households	Owner Households
United States	127,482,865	30.7	46.9	22.1
Appalachian Region	10,449,301	24.0	41.6	17.0
Subregions				
Northern Appalachia	3,337,636	24.3	41.4	17.4
North Central Appalachia	1,000,607	21.8	40.5	15.1
Central Appalachia	727,335	21.9	35.3	17.0
South Central Appalachia	2,125,442	23.5	40.4	16.5
Southern Appalachia	3,258,281	25.1	44.1	17.7
County Types				
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	2,466,604	25.5	44.2	18.1
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	4,523,363	24.4	42.8	16.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	908,939	23.6	40.8	17.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	1,575,832	21.4	36.0	16.4
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	974,563	22.4	37.4	17.0
Alabama	1,969,105	24.8	42.4	17.3
Appalachian Alabama	1,270,615	23.6	41.6	16.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	698,490	27.0	43.7	18.9
Georgia	4,008,013	29.6	47.5	20.1
Appalachian Georgia	1,203,037	27.1	47.3	19.5
Non-Appalachian Georgia	2,804,976	30.7	47.6	20.4
Kentucky	1,791,991	24.6	39.9	17.5
Appalachian Kentucky	453,697	22.7	36.0	17.5
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,338,294	25.2	41.0	17.5
Maryland	2,339,510	30.9	48.4	22.4
Appalachian Maryland	99,412	25.5	42.4	17.9
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,240,098	31.1	48.6	22.6
Mississippi	1,131,760	26.2	42.7	19.0
Appalachian Mississippi	239,456	24.6	39.6	18.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	892,304	26.7	43.6	19.2
New York	7,668,956	36.9	48.7	26.9
Appalachian New York	421,544	26.6	46.0	18.1
Non-Appalachian New York	7,247,412	37.5	48.8	27.6
North Carolina	4,186,924	27.2	43.7	18.8
Appalachian North Carolina	827,673	24.0	41.1	17.0
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	3,359,251	28.0	44.3	19.3
Ohio	4,829,571	25.3	41.7	17.2
Appalachian Ohio	798,669	23.2	40.9	16.4
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,030,902	25.7	41.9	17.3
Pennsylvania	5,235,339	27.1	44.1	19.6
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,364,244	24.0	40.5	17.5
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,871,095	29.6	46.6	21.4
South Carolina	2,070,390	26.3	45.3	18.7
Appalachian South Carolina	545,173	24.6	45.5	16.3
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,525,217	27.0	45.2	19.6
Tennessee	2,768,743	26.5	43.6	18.1
Appalachian Tennessee	1,209,095	23.3	40.0	16.4
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,559,648	29.0	45.9	19.5
Virginia	3,326,260	28.1	44.7	20.0
Appalachian Virginia	295,238	21.6	36.7	15.8
Non-Appalachian Virginia	3,031,022	28.8	45.4	20.5
West Virginia (entire state)	721,448	20.7	39.8	14.2

Data sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

Figure 5.4: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region That Are Housing Cost Burdened, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Households that are Housing Cost Burdened, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 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 more than five percentage points lower than the nation as a whole. In 305 counties throughout Appalachia, the share is even lower – at less than 24 percent of households. In fact, the share of cost burdened households exceeds the national average in just eight 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, 2019-2023

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	44,590,828	45.1	56.6	43.8	55.6
Appalachian Region	2,956,657	40.5	52.0	38.8	46.3
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	953,513	39.8	52.3	38.0	47.0
North Central Appalachia	264,486	40.3	53.7	37.9	41.4
Central Appalachia	194,905	34.6	40.3	33.9	38.1
South Central Appalachia	622,631	39.2	53.2	37.0	45.9
Southern Appalachia	921,122	43.2	52.6	41.9	49.4
County Types					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	700,466	42.8	54.7	41.4	50.9
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	1,350,708	41.5	54.8	39.3	48.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	245,218	39.8	52.0	38.0	44.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	401,380	35.2	39.9	34.6	39.0
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	258,885	37.3	47.6	35.6	37.8
Alabama	592,043	41.7	53.8	40.0	46.1
Appalachian Alabama	363,685	40.9	50.9	39.5	45.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	228,358	42.9	59.0	40.9	47.8
Georgia	1,388,484	46.5	58.6	45.0	54.0
Appalachian Georgia	329,881	46.0	54.0	45.2	55.4
Non-Appalachian Georgia	1,058,603	46.6	59.8	45.0	53.5
Kentucky	568,417	38.7	50.6	36.8	45.9
Appalachian Kentucky	126,942	35.3	40.7	34.5	39.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	441,475	39.7	53.2	37.5	48.0
Maryland	760,808	46.7	60.9	45.5	56.2
Appalachian Maryland	30,793	42.5	48.8	41.6	41.9
Non-Appalachian Maryland	730,015	46.9	61.7	45.7	57.0
Mississippi	345,471	42.2	50.5	41.1	45.9
Appalachian Mississippi	72,288	39.9	47.8	38.3	37.7
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	273,183	42.8	51.7	41.8	48.0
New York	3,504,163	46.5	57.8	45.7	56.9
Appalachian New York	127,833	45.2	57.8	42.1	49.5
Non-Appalachian New York	3,376,330	46.5	57.8	45.8	57.1
North Carolina	1,408,252	42.2	55.6	40.4	52.1
Appalachian North Carolina	240,622	39.7	54.6	37.6	46.9
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	1,167,630	42.7	55.8	40.9	53.5
Ohio	1,594,003	39.4	50.0	37.9	52.4
Appalachian Ohio	222,065	39.6	47.3	38.5	45.4
Non-Appalachian Ohio	1,371,938	39.4	50.4	37.8	53.8
Pennsylvania	1,605,715	41.7	54.1	40.3	52.9
Appalachian Pennsylvania	667,352	38.7	52.0	36.9	46.7
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	938,363	43.7	56.0	42.5	57.9
South Carolina	591,532	44.1	57.1	42.4	51.8
Appalachian South Carolina	155,268	43.9	56.9	41.9	53.6
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	436,264	44.2	57.3	42.6	51.1
Tennessee	912,950	42.8	53.2	41.3	48.7
Appalachian Tennessee	352,235	38.8	52.0	36.7	46.0
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	560,715	45.1	54.1	44.0	50.9
Virginia	1,091,768	43.2	58.1	41.5	53.2
Appalachian Virginia	82,327	36.9	50.0	34.2	36.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	1,009,441	43.7	59.1	42.0	54.9
West Virginia (entire state)	185,366	39.8	55.0	37.1	40.1

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 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, 2019-2023

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	82,892,037	20.3	33.7	20.1	25.7
Appalachian Region	7,492,644	15.6	26.5	15.4	19.7
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	2,384,123	15.4	27.2	15.2	21.2
North Central Appalachia	736,121	13.9	20.2	13.8	17.1
Central Appalachia	532,430	16.0	21.1	15.9	18.6
South Central Appalachia	1,502,811	15.2	25.1	15.0	18.6
Southern Appalachia	2,337,159	16.5	29.8	16.3	20.2
County Types					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	1,766,138	16.3	30.7	16.1	22.3
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	3,172,655	15.2	25.8	15.0	19.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	663,721	16.0	28.8	15.8	19.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	1,174,452	15.3	22.7	15.1	18.3
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	715,678	15.9	24.4	15.8	18.8
Alabama	1,377,062	16.0	30.6	15.7	19.8
Appalachian Alabama	906,930	14.9	26.7	14.7	19.5
Non-Appalachian Alabama	470,132	18.1	37.1	17.7	20.5
Georgia	2,619,529	18.6	34.9	18.4	23.7
Appalachian Georgia	873,156	18.4	35.8	18.2	22.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	1,746,373	18.7	34.4	18.5	24.3
Kentucky	1,223,574	16.0	29.9	15.7	20.6
Appalachian Kentucky	326,755	16.4	21.5	16.3	19.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	896,819	15.9	32.8	15.5	20.9
Maryland	1,578,702	20.4	42.8	20.1	27.2
Appalachian Maryland	68,619	16.6	30.9	16.3	20.6
Non-Appalachian Maryland	1,510,083	20.5	43.9	20.3	27.5
Mississippi	786,289	18.4	26.5	18.3	20.0
Appalachian Mississippi	167,168	17.1	25.7	16.9	20.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	619,121	18.8	26.8	18.7	20.1
New York	4,164,793	24.8	38.0	24.7	31.1
Appalachian New York	293,711	16.9	34.7	16.5	20.4
Non-Appalachian New York	3,871,082	25.4	38.4	25.3	31.9
North Carolina	2,778,672	16.7	29.3	16.5	23.1
Appalachian North Carolina	587,051	15.6	24.3	15.5	19.2
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	2,191,621	17.0	30.4	16.8	24.4
Ohio	3,235,568	14.6	25.9	14.4	22.5
Appalachian Ohio	576,604	14.7	20.8	14.6	19.6
Non-Appalachian Ohio	2,658,964	14.6	27.2	14.4	23.2
Pennsylvania	3,629,624	17.2	31.6	17.0	24.3
Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,696,892	15.2	27.3	15.0	21.8
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,932,732	18.9	35.7	18.7	26.8
South Carolina	1,478,858	17.3	31.4	17.0	21.5
Appalachian South Carolina	389,905	15.6	27.9	15.4	17.8
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,088,953	17.9	32.9	17.7	22.6
Tennessee	1,855,793	17.0	26.5	16.8	20.3
Appalachian Tennessee	856,860	15.2	24.0	15.0	18.5
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	998,933	18.4	28.7	18.2	22.1
Virginia	2,234,492	18.5	40.0	18.3	23.3
Appalachian Virginia	212,911	14.8	25.4	14.6	17.2
Non-Appalachian Virginia	2,021,581	18.9	41.9	18.6	24.2
West Virginia (entire state)	536,082	13.4	20.1	13.3	15.4

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Table 5.7: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region That Are Housing Cost Burdened, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Housing Cost Burden	Percentage Point Change in Cost Burdened Households		
	Total	Renter Households	Owner Households
United States	- 0.8	+ 0.4	- 1.0
Appalachian Region	- 1.3	+ 0.1	- 1.5
Subregions			
Northern Appalachia	- 1.3	- 0.6	- 1.4
North Central Appalachia	- 1.1	+ 0.5	- 1.2
Central Appalachia	- 2.1	- 2.3	- 1.7
South Central Appalachia	- 2.1	- 1.2	- 2.0
Southern Appalachia	- 0.8	+ 2.0	- 1.3
County Types			
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	- 0.9	+ 1.4	- 1.4
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	- 1.3	+ 0.4	- 1.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	- 1.7	- 0.6	- 1.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	- 2.3	- 2.3	- 1.9
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 1.6	- 0.8	- 1.5
Alabama	- 1.2	+ 0.4	- 1.4
Appalachian Alabama	- 1.4	+ 0.6	- 1.8
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 0.9	+ 0.2	- 0.8
Georgia	- 0.8	+ 1.7	- 1.4
Appalachian Georgia	- 0.5	+ 3.4	- 1.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 0.9	+ 1.2	- 1.4
Kentucky	- 0.9	- 0.3	- 0.7
Appalachian Kentucky	- 2.3	- 2.1	- 2.0
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.5	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Maryland	- 1.2	+ 0.8	- 2.0
Appalachian Maryland	- 2.0	+ 1.1	- 3.1
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 1.2	+ 0.7	- 2.0
Mississippi	- 0.7	+ 0.4	- 0.8
Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.7	+ 0.4	- 1.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.7	+ 0.5	- 0.7
New York	- 1.7	- 1.3	- 1.9
Appalachian New York	- 1.1	- 1.1	- 0.9
Non-Appalachian New York	- 1.8	- 1.4	- 2.0
North Carolina	- 1.7	- 0.4	- 1.9
Appalachian North Carolina	- 2.4	- 1.9	- 2.0
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 1.5	0.0	- 1.9
Ohio	- 1.4	- 0.7	- 1.4
Appalachian Ohio	- 1.6	- 1.0	- 1.5
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 1.4	- 0.6	- 1.5
Pennsylvania	- 1.7	- 0.5	- 2.1
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 1.4	- 0.5	- 1.5
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 2.2	- 0.7	- 2.8
South Carolina	- 1.5	+ 1.1	- 1.7
Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.3	+ 3.3	- 0.6
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 1.8	+ 0.3	- 2.0
Tennessee	- 0.9	+ 0.4	- 1.2
Appalachian Tennessee	- 1.7	- 0.4	- 1.9
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.3	+ 0.8	- 0.7
Virginia	- 1.8	- 0.6	- 2.0
Appalachian Virginia	- 2.3	- 2.5	- 1.9
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 1.7	- 0.4	- 2.0
West Virginia (entire state)	- 0.7	+ 1.0	- 0.7

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

TRENDS IN HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

- At 80 percent, the share of Appalachian residents living in family households in 2019-2023 was 0.6 percentage points lower than in the 2014-2018 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 one percentage point. 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, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Mississippi, and Virginia saw declines exceeding the regional average.
- The majority of children living in family households in Appalachia live in married couple households (66.4 percent) (see Table 5.3). The share in married couple households is highest in large metropolitan areas (69.6 percent), while the Appalachian Region's small metropolitan and rural counties have the lowest share at 65 percent and 65.1 percent, respectively. Among the subregions, Southern and North Central Appalachia both had higher shares of children living in married couple households compared to the regional average. At the same time, nearly one in four children in Appalachia lived with householders who had no spouse or partner present, and the share was higher in Southern Appalachia and the region's rural counties. A low share of children living in cohabiting couple households in both Southern Appalachia and rural counties throughout the region account for the higher shares of both those living with married couples and householders with no spouse or partner present.
- The share of households in the Appalachian Region facing housing cost burden – defined by housing costs exceeding 30 percent of household income – declined by 1.3 percentage points between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 (see Table 5.7). The prevalence of housing cost burden in the Appalachian Region fell more between the two time periods than in the nation overall (0.8 percentage points), and the decline was seen in all Appalachian subregions and county types. Yet, this decline reflects a decrease in cost burden prevalence for owner-occupied households only; during the same period housing cost burden among renters in Appalachia increased slightly (0.1 percentage points). In fact, in Southern Appalachia cost burden rose among renters by two percentage points between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023, while large metropolitan counties had an increased cost burden for renter households of 1.4 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, 2019-2023

Education (Highest Level Attained)	Total Population Ages 25 and Over, 2019-2023	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	228,434,661	10.6	89.4	45.6	43.8	8.8	35.0
Appalachian Region	18,372,747	10.9	89.1	52.3	36.7	9.4	27.3
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	5,730,763	8.0	92.0	53.3	38.7	10.3	28.4
North Central Appalachia	1,754,697	10.6	89.4	57.3	32.1	8.7	23.4
Central Appalachia	1,307,053	17.1	82.9	58.3	24.6	8.3	16.2
South Central Appalachia	3,715,684	11.0	89.0	51.6	37.4	9.4	27.9
Southern Appalachia	5,864,550	12.4	87.6	49.1	38.6	9.0	29.6
County Types							
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	4,385,675	8.3	91.7	46.9	44.8	9.4	35.4
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	7,857,981	10.3	89.7	51.4	38.3	9.4	28.9
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	1,607,276	12.3	87.7	57.2	30.5	10.0	20.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	2,798,695	13.1	86.9	58.2	28.8	9.3	19.4
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	1,723,120	15.8	84.2	56.2	28.0	9.0	19.0
Alabama	3,448,302	11.9	88.1	51.4	36.7	9.0	27.8
Appalachian Alabama	2,231,996	11.9	88.1	50.6	37.5	8.9	28.6
Non-Appalachian Alabama	1,216,306	11.8	88.2	52.9	35.3	9.1	26.1
Georgia	7,253,060	11.0	89.0	46.4	42.5	8.3	34.2
Appalachian Georgia	2,287,801	12.6	87.4	47.6	39.8	8.3	31.4
Non-Appalachian Georgia	4,965,259	10.3	89.7	45.9	43.8	8.3	35.5
Kentucky	3,078,157	11.5	88.5	52.7	35.9	8.9	27.0
Appalachian Kentucky	806,517	17.4	82.6	57.1	25.5	8.4	17.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	2,271,640	9.4	90.6	51.1	39.6	9.1	30.5
Maryland	4,272,813	9.0	91.0	41.4	49.6	6.9	42.7
Appalachian Maryland	178,008	10.9	89.1	57.5	31.6	8.6	23.0
Non-Appalachian Maryland	4,094,805	8.9	91.1	40.7	50.4	6.8	43.6
Mississippi	1,970,298	13.4	86.6	51.7	34.9	10.8	24.2
Appalachian Mississippi	404,992	15.8	84.2	53.1	31.1	10.2	20.9
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	1,565,306	12.7	87.3	51.3	35.9	10.9	25.0
New York	13,996,138	12.1	87.9	39.4	48.4	8.9	39.6
Appalachian New York	693,055	8.7	91.3	48.8	42.4	12.9	29.5
Non-Appalachian New York	13,303,083	12.3	87.7	38.9	48.7	8.7	40.1
North Carolina	7,261,810	10.3	89.7	45.0	44.8	10.1	34.7
Appalachian North Carolina	1,457,167	11.2	88.8	48.7	40.0	10.5	29.5
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	5,804,643	10.0	90.0	44.0	46.0	10.0	36.0
Ohio	8,123,344	8.4	91.6	51.7	39.9	9.0	30.9
Appalachian Ohio	1,385,853	10.9	89.1	59.2	29.9	9.5	20.4
Non-Appalachian Ohio	6,737,491	7.9	92.1	50.2	42.0	8.8	33.1
Pennsylvania	9,153,146	8.1	91.9	48.6	43.4	8.9	34.5
Appalachian Pennsylvania	4,084,959	7.2	92.8	52.6	40.2	10.1	30.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	5,068,187	8.8	91.2	45.3	45.9	7.9	38.1
South Carolina	3,610,374	10.4	89.6	48.2	41.4	9.9	31.5
Appalachian South Carolina	939,761	11.5	88.5	47.2	41.3	10.1	31.2
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	2,670,613	10.0	90.0	48.5	41.4	9.9	31.6
Tennessee	4,805,533	10.4	89.6	51.4	38.2	7.8	30.4
Appalachian Tennessee	2,115,489	11.5	88.5	54.2	34.3	8.3	26.0
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	2,690,044	9.5	90.5	49.2	41.2	7.4	33.8
Virginia	5,958,915	8.7	91.3	42.1	49.3	7.8	41.5
Appalachian Virginia	517,947	12.2	87.8	55.3	32.5	10.0	22.5
Non-Appalachian Virginia	5,440,968	8.3	91.7	40.8	50.8	7.6	43.3
West Virginia (entire state)	1,269,202	11.4	88.6	57.1	31.5	8.2	23.3

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Table 6.2: Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023

Education (Highest Level Attained)	Total Population Ages 25 to 64, 2019-2023	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	172,464,614	10.0	90.0	44.3	45.8	9.2	36.5
Appalachian Region	13,368,972	10.0	90.0	50.9	39.1	10.3	28.8
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	4,056,632	7.4	92.6	50.4	42.2	11.4	30.7
North Central Appalachia	1,259,783	9.4	90.6	56.1	34.6	9.8	24.7
Central Appalachia	946,655	14.5	85.5	58.9	26.6	9.5	17.0
South Central Appalachia	2,649,440	10.0	90.0	51.1	38.9	10.2	28.7
Southern Appalachia	4,456,462	11.7	88.3	47.9	40.4	9.5	30.9
County Types							
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	3,311,740	7.7	92.3	44.3	48.0	10.0	38.0
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	5,719,132	9.6	90.4	50.0	40.4	10.2	30.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	1,154,315	11.6	88.4	56.4	32.0	11.0	21.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	1,962,394	11.8	88.2	57.9	30.3	10.4	19.8
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	1,221,391	14.0	86.0	56.2	29.8	10.3	19.5
Alabama	2,564,092	11.1	88.9	50.5	38.4	9.7	28.7
Appalachian Alabama	1,666,725	11.2	88.8	49.5	39.3	9.5	29.8
Non-Appalachian Alabama	897,367	10.9	89.1	52.4	36.8	10.0	26.8
Georgia	5,671,797	10.3	89.7	45.3	44.5	8.7	35.8
Appalachian Georgia	1,789,112	12.2	87.8	46.3	41.5	8.7	32.8
Non-Appalachian Georgia	3,882,685	9.4	90.6	44.8	45.9	8.7	37.2
Kentucky	2,310,162	10.2	89.8	51.4	38.4	9.9	28.6
Appalachian Kentucky	592,851	14.7	85.3	57.6	27.7	9.6	18.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,717,311	8.6	91.4	49.2	42.2	10.0	32.2
Maryland	3,269,594	8.3	91.7	40.2	51.5	7.2	44.3
Appalachian Maryland	129,420	9.9	90.1	55.9	34.2	9.6	24.6
Non-Appalachian Maryland	3,140,174	8.3	91.7	39.5	52.2	7.1	45.1
Mississippi	1,475,183	12.0	88.0	51.2	36.8	12.1	24.7
Appalachian Mississippi	298,589	14.0	86.0	52.8	33.3	11.7	21.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	1,176,594	11.5	88.5	50.8	37.7	12.2	25.6
New York	10,534,952	10.8	89.2	37.8	51.4	9.3	42.1
Appalachian New York	487,329	8.5	91.5	46.7	44.8	13.8	31.0
Non-Appalachian New York	10,047,623	10.9	89.1	37.4	51.8	9.1	42.7
North Carolina	5,474,783	9.6	90.4	43.6	46.8	10.4	36.4
Appalachian North Carolina	1,026,264	10.8	89.2	48.3	40.9	11.2	29.7
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	4,448,519	9.3	90.7	42.5	48.2	10.3	37.9
Ohio	6,020,301	7.6	92.4	49.6	42.8	9.7	33.1
Appalachian Ohio	993,793	10.2	89.8	57.4	32.4	10.7	21.6
Non-Appalachian Ohio	5,026,508	7.1	92.9	48.1	44.8	9.5	35.3
Pennsylvania	6,676,905	7.2	92.8	45.9	46.9	9.6	37.2
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,893,428	6.4	93.6	49.5	44.1	11.3	32.8
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	3,783,477	7.8	92.2	43.2	49.0	8.4	40.6
South Carolina	2,646,805	9.6	90.4	47.5	42.8	10.5	32.4
Appalachian South Carolina	702,036	10.7	89.3	46.2	43.2	10.6	32.6
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,944,769	9.3	90.7	48.0	42.7	10.4	32.3
Tennessee	3,632,793	9.4	90.6	50.2	40.4	8.3	32.0
Appalachian Tennessee	1,530,767	10.3	89.7	53.6	36.1	9.2	26.9
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	2,102,026	8.8	91.2	47.7	43.5	7.7	35.8
Virginia	4,548,755	7.7	92.3	40.7	51.6	8.1	43.4
Appalachian Virginia	358,445	9.5	90.5	55.8	34.8	11.1	23.6
Non-Appalachian Virginia	4,190,310	7.5	92.5	39.4	53.0	7.9	45.1
West Virginia (entire state)	900,213	10.0	90.0	56.0	33.9	9.3	24.6

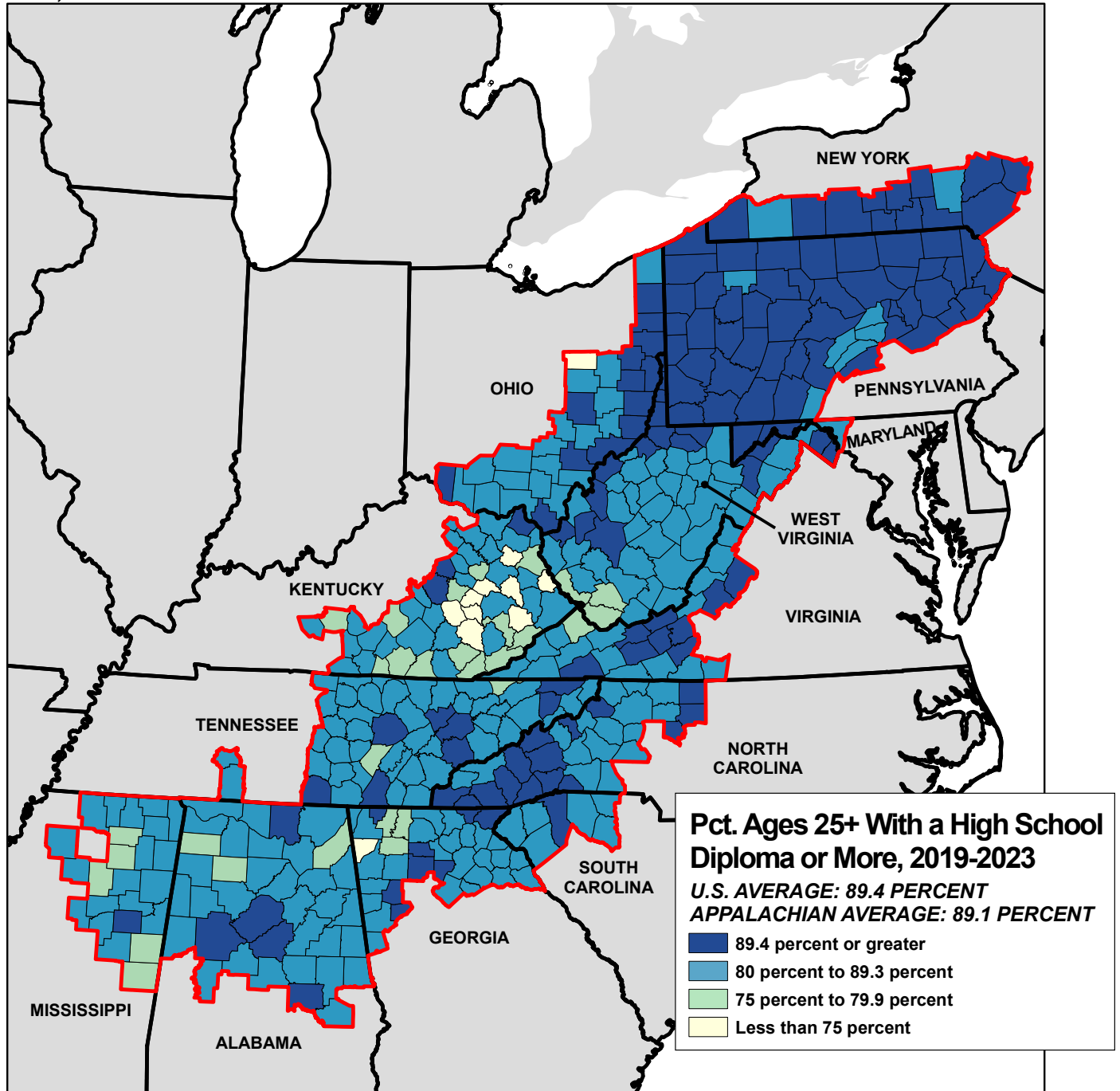
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Table 6.3: Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023

Education (Highest Level Attained)	Total Population Ages 65 and Over, 2019-2023	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	55,970,047	12.6	87.4	49.7	37.7	7.4	30.3
Appalachian Region	5,003,775	13.3	86.7	56.3	30.5	7.1	23.4
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	1,674,131	9.6	90.4	60.1	30.3	7.5	22.7
North Central Appalachia	494,914	13.7	86.3	60.5	25.8	5.9	19.9
Central Appalachia	360,398	24.0	76.0	56.6	19.4	5.2	14.2
South Central Appalachia	1,066,244	13.5	86.5	52.9	33.6	7.5	26.1
Southern Appalachia	1,408,088	14.5	85.5	52.7	32.8	7.2	25.6
County Types							
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	1,073,935	10.0	90.0	54.9	35.1	7.6	27.5
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	2,138,849	12.1	87.9	55.3	32.6	7.2	25.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	452,961	14.1	85.9	59.3	26.6	7.3	19.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	836,301	16.0	84.0	58.8	25.3	6.7	18.6
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	501,729	20.1	79.9	56.3	23.6	5.9	17.7
Alabama	884,210	14.1	85.9	54.1	31.8	6.8	24.9
Appalachian Alabama	565,271	13.9	86.1	53.9	32.2	6.9	25.3
Non-Appalachian Alabama	318,939	14.6	85.4	54.4	31.0	6.7	24.3
Georgia	1,581,263	13.9	86.1	50.6	35.6	7.0	28.6
Appalachian Georgia	498,689	14.2	85.8	52.2	33.6	6.9	26.7
Non-Appalachian Georgia	1,082,574	13.7	86.3	49.8	36.5	7.0	29.5
Kentucky	767,995	15.4	84.6	56.5	28.1	5.9	22.2
Appalachian Kentucky	213,666	24.8	75.2	55.7	19.5	5.1	14.4
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	554,329	11.7	88.3	56.8	31.5	6.2	25.2
Maryland	1,003,219	11.0	89.0	45.4	43.6	5.9	37.7
Appalachian Maryland	48,588	13.5	86.5	61.7	24.8	6.0	18.8
Non-Appalachian Maryland	954,631	10.9	89.1	44.6	44.6	5.9	38.7
Mississippi	495,115	17.3	82.7	53.3	29.4	6.9	22.4
Appalachian Mississippi	106,403	20.8	79.2	54.1	25.2	6.0	19.2
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	388,712	16.4	83.6	53.1	30.5	7.2	23.3
New York	3,461,186	16.3	83.7	44.4	39.3	7.6	31.7
Appalachian New York	205,726	9.3	90.7	53.8	36.9	10.9	26.0
Non-Appalachian New York	3,255,460	16.8	83.2	43.8	39.4	7.4	32.0
North Carolina	1,787,027	12.2	87.8	49.2	38.6	8.9	29.7
Appalachian North Carolina	430,903	12.3	87.7	49.8	37.8	8.8	29.0
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	1,356,124	12.2	87.8	49.0	38.8	8.9	29.9
Ohio	2,103,043	10.5	89.5	57.7	31.7	6.8	24.9
Appalachian Ohio	392,060	12.7	87.3	63.7	23.6	6.3	17.3
Non-Appalachian Ohio	1,710,983	10.1	89.9	56.3	33.6	6.9	26.7
Pennsylvania	2,476,241	10.5	89.5	55.6	33.8	6.8	27.1
Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,191,531	9.1	90.9	60.2	30.7	7.3	23.4
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,284,710	11.9	88.1	51.4	36.8	6.3	30.5
South Carolina	963,569	12.5	87.5	49.9	37.5	8.5	29.0
Appalachian South Carolina	237,725	13.8	86.2	50.3	35.9	8.7	27.2
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	725,844	12.1	87.9	49.8	38.1	8.5	29.6
Tennessee	1,172,740	13.4	86.6	55.1	31.5	6.2	25.3
Appalachian Tennessee	584,722	14.7	85.3	55.5	29.8	6.2	23.6
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	588,018	12.1	87.9	54.8	33.2	6.1	27.0
Virginia	1,410,160	11.8	88.2	46.5	41.7	6.6	35.1
Appalachian Virginia	159,502	18.3	81.7	54.3	27.4	7.3	20.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	1,250,658	11.0	89.0	45.5	43.5	6.5	37.0
West Virginia (entire state)	368,989	14.7	85.3	59.7	25.6	5.6	20.1

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

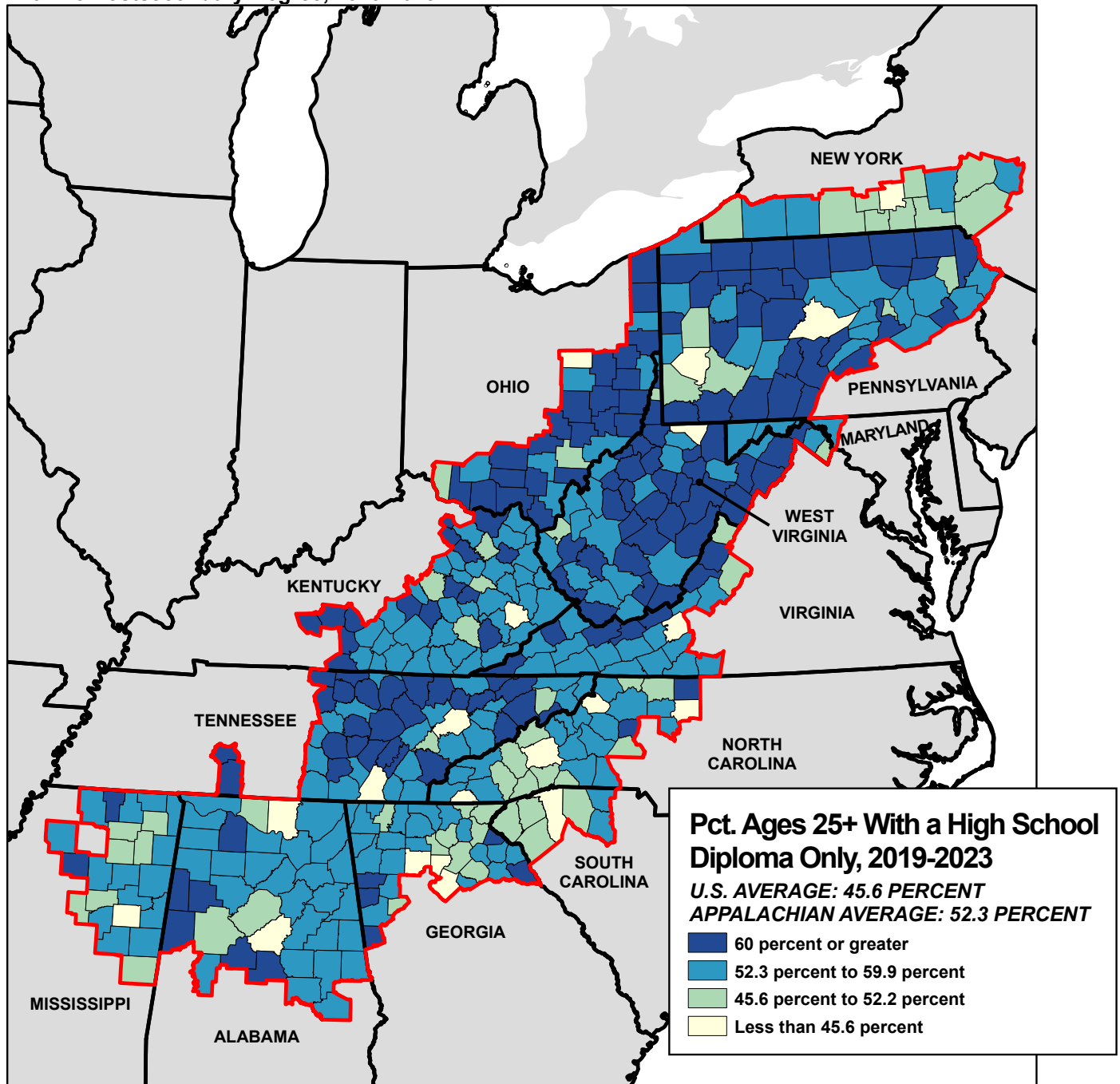
Figure 6.1: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Although the share of Appalachian adults with at least a high school diploma was below the national average for the 2019-2023 period, it matched or exceeded the national share in 140 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 (92.8 percent) and New York (91.3 percent), and in large metropolitan areas (91.7 percent). In just 11 Appalachian counties, less than three-fourths of adults had at least a high school diploma. Of these 11 counties, nine were located in Central Appalachia and 10 were in rural counties. Appalachian Kentucky, which includes nine of the 11 counties where less than three-fourths of adults had completed high school, had the lowest share of high school completion among the region's states, at 82.6 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, 2019-2023

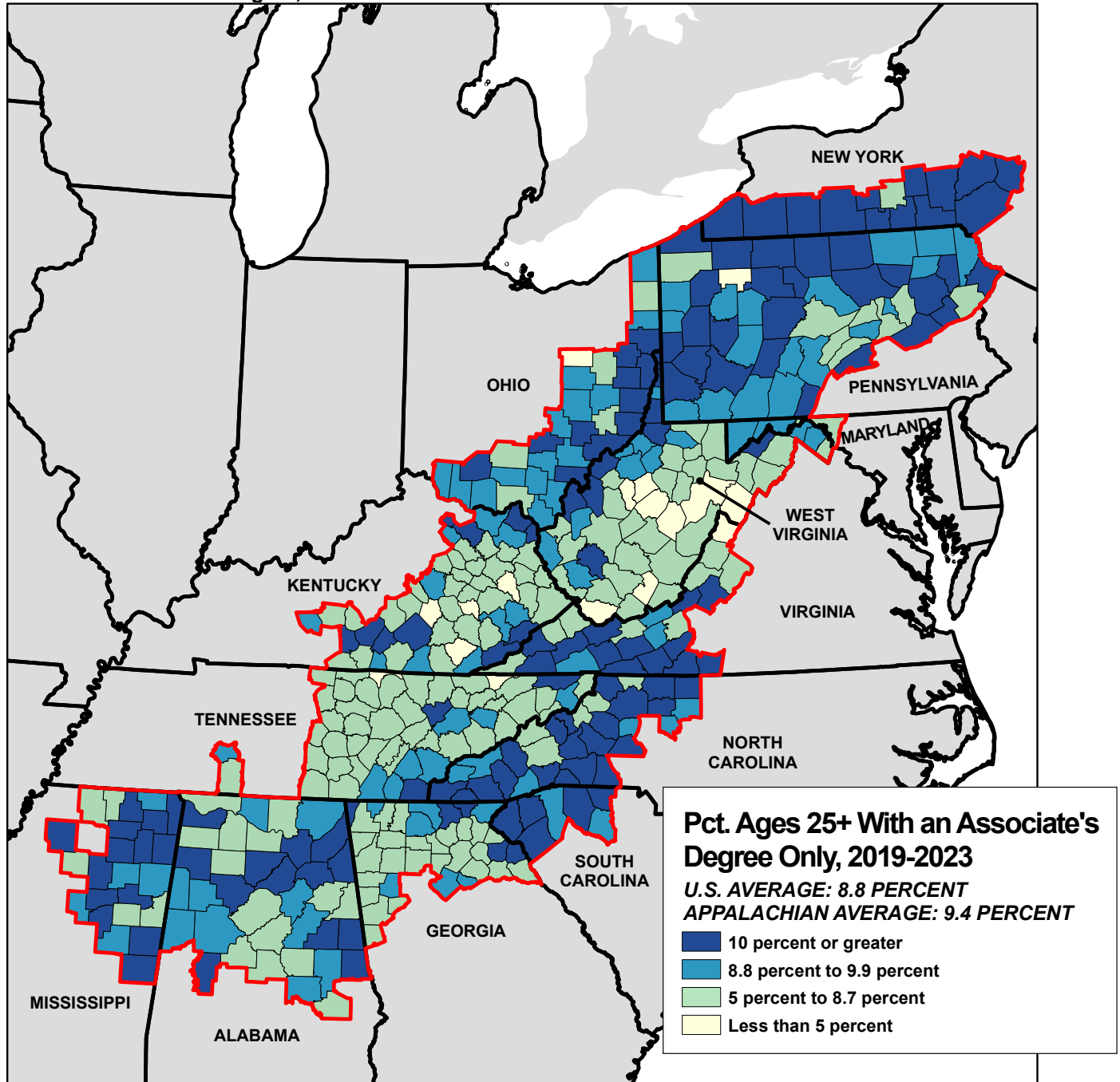


Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma but With No Postsecondary Degree, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

During the 2019-2023 period, 52.3 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 more than one-third 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 52.3 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, 2019-2023

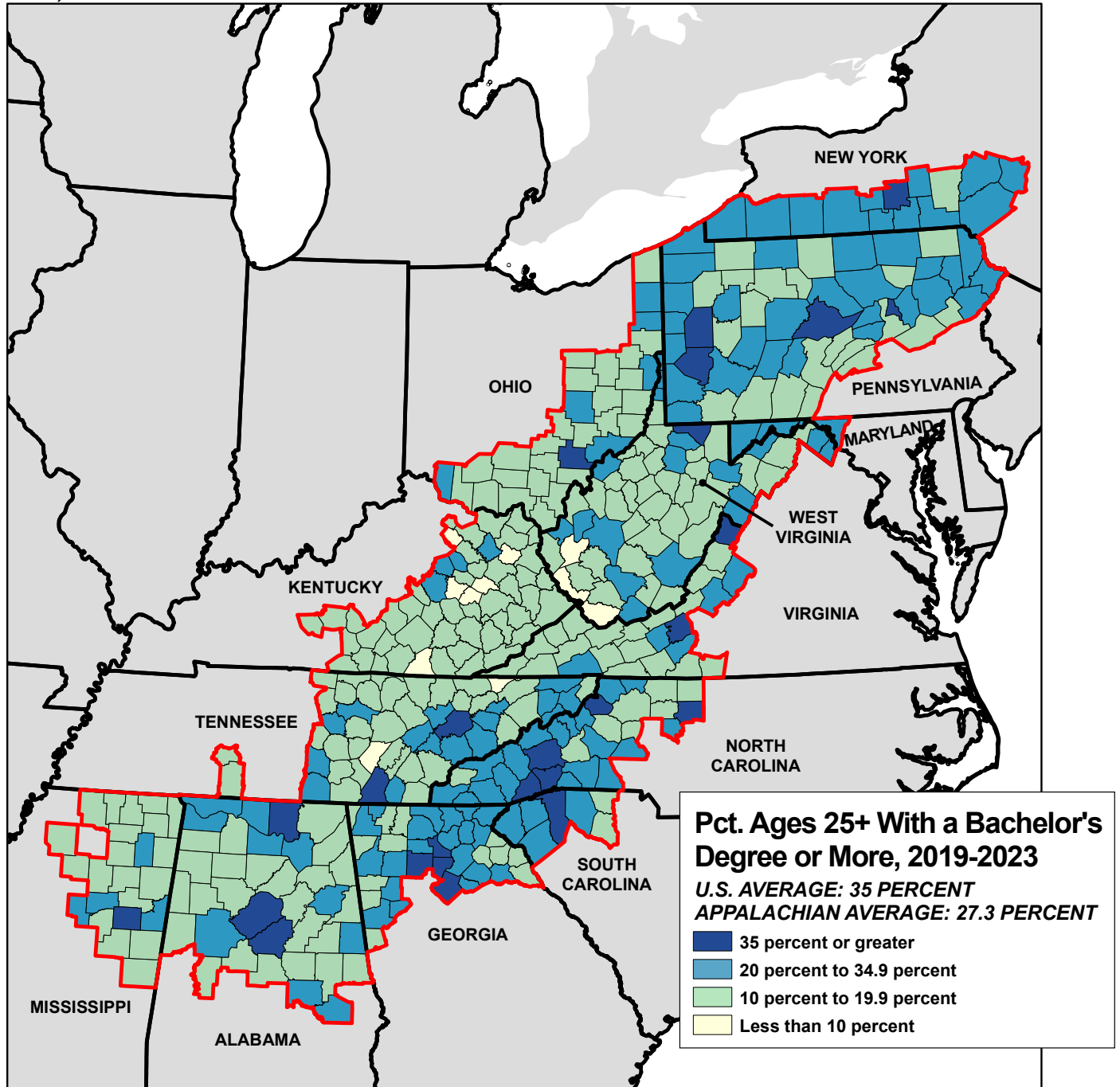


Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With an Associate's Degree but Without a Bachelor's Degree, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

In the Appalachian Region, the share of adults ages 25 and over with an associate's degree was 9.4 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 17 Appalachian counties – eight of which were located in West Virginia, where the overall share of adults with associate's degrees throughout the state is just 8.2 percent. In all but one of these counties, the share of adults who have completed high school or more is also below the regional average, indicating that lower overall educational attainment in these counties contributes to differences in associate's degree holders.

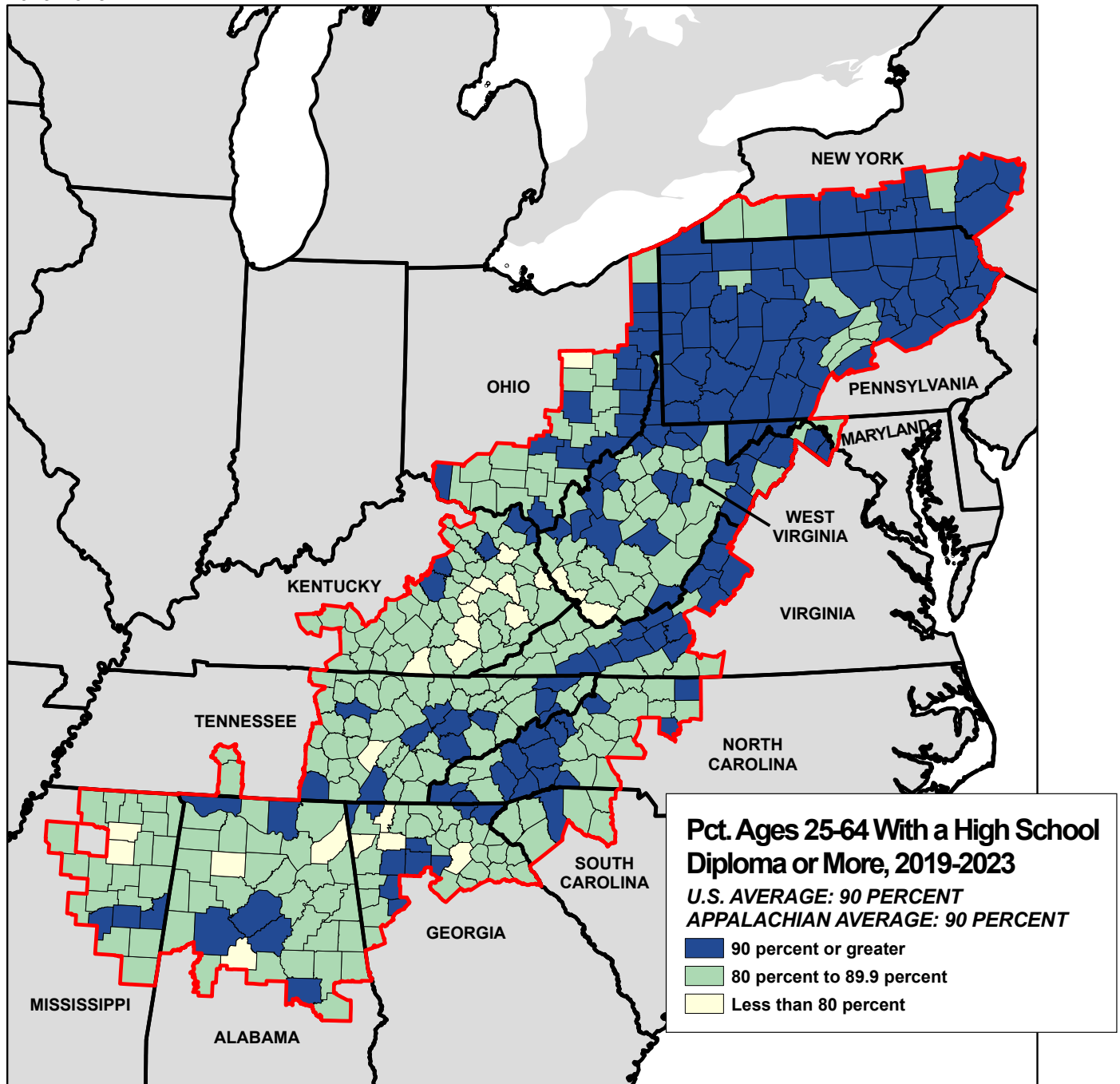
Figure 6.4: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 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 2019-2023 period than in the nation as a whole. This was lower than the national average in 398 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 252 Appalachian counties. Of these counties, rural counties comprised one-third while nonmetropolitan counties adjacent to small metropolitan areas made up yet another one-third. Conversely, in 25 of Appalachia's counties, the share of adults with a bachelor's degree matched or exceeded the national average of 35 percent. These counties were primarily in metropolitan areas and nearly half were home to colleges or universities, such as Forsyth and Watauga Counties in North Carolina (Wake Forest University and Appalachian State University).

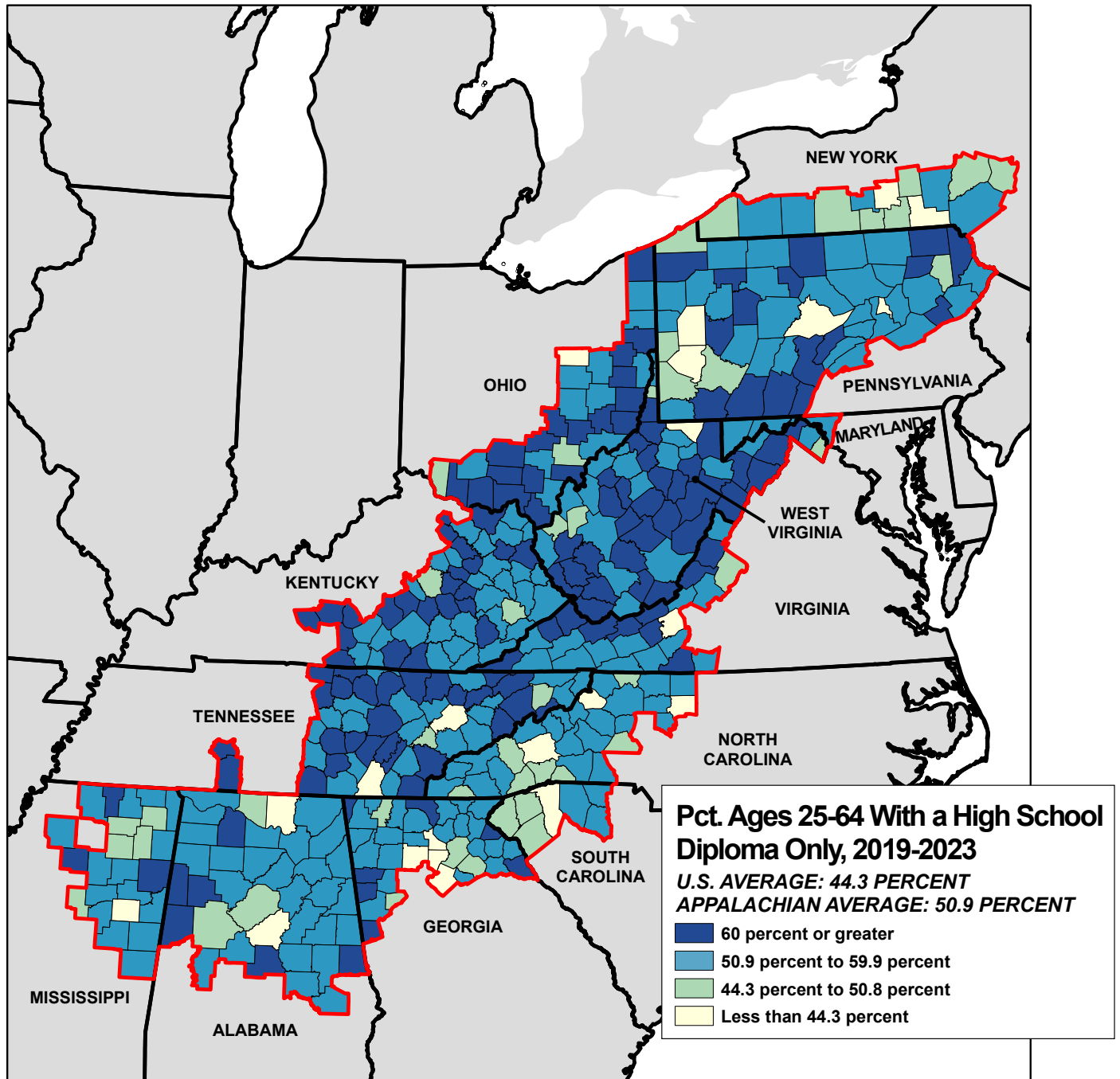
Figure 6.5: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

In 2019-2023, 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 percent, and the share exceeded the national rate in 152 counties. Over 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 Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, 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 23 Appalachian counties. More than half of these counties were in Central Appalachia and 14 of the 23 counties were rural, and the heaviest concentration (10 counties) was in Appalachian Kentucky.

Figure 6.6: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma but With No Postsecondary Degree, 2019-2023

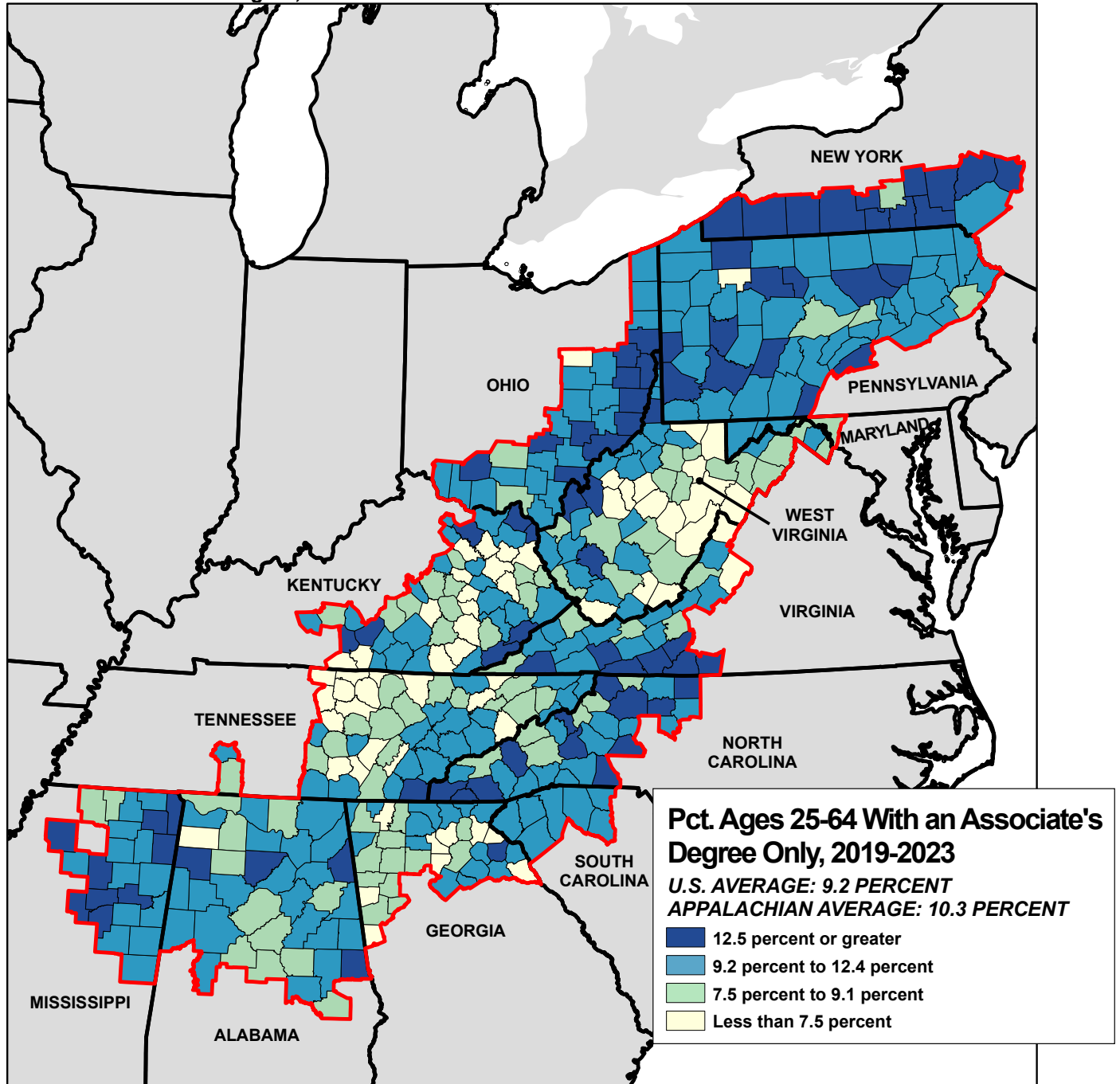


Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma but With No Postsecondary Degree, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

In 2019-2023, 50.9 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 44.3 percent nationally. The share of adults in this age group was at least 60 percent in 141 of Appalachia’s 423 counties, with concentrations in Appalachian Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia. In Appalachia’s non-metropolitan and rural counties, the share with a high school diploma exceeded 56 percent. In contrast, there were 22 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 located in South Central and Southern Appalachia, and more than four-fifths were located 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, 2019-2023

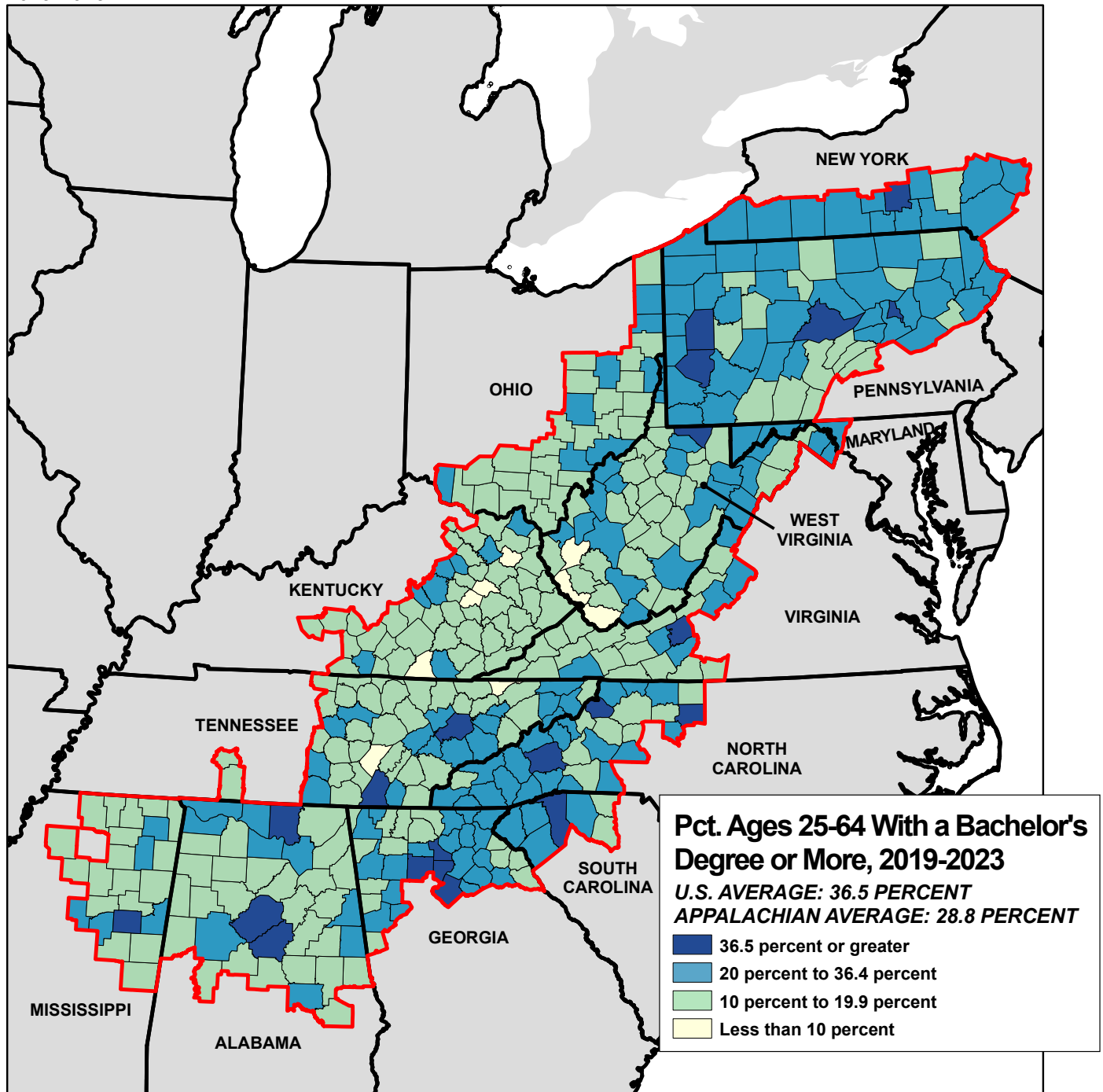


Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With an Associate's Degree but Without a Bachelor's Degree, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

In 2019-2023, 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 81 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, Pennsylvania, and Virginia the share exceeded 11 percent. On the other hand, there were 60 counties in Appalachia where less than 7.5 percent of 25-to-64-year-olds had attained an associate's degree only. More than three-quarters of those 60 counties were in the Appalachian portions of four states – Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

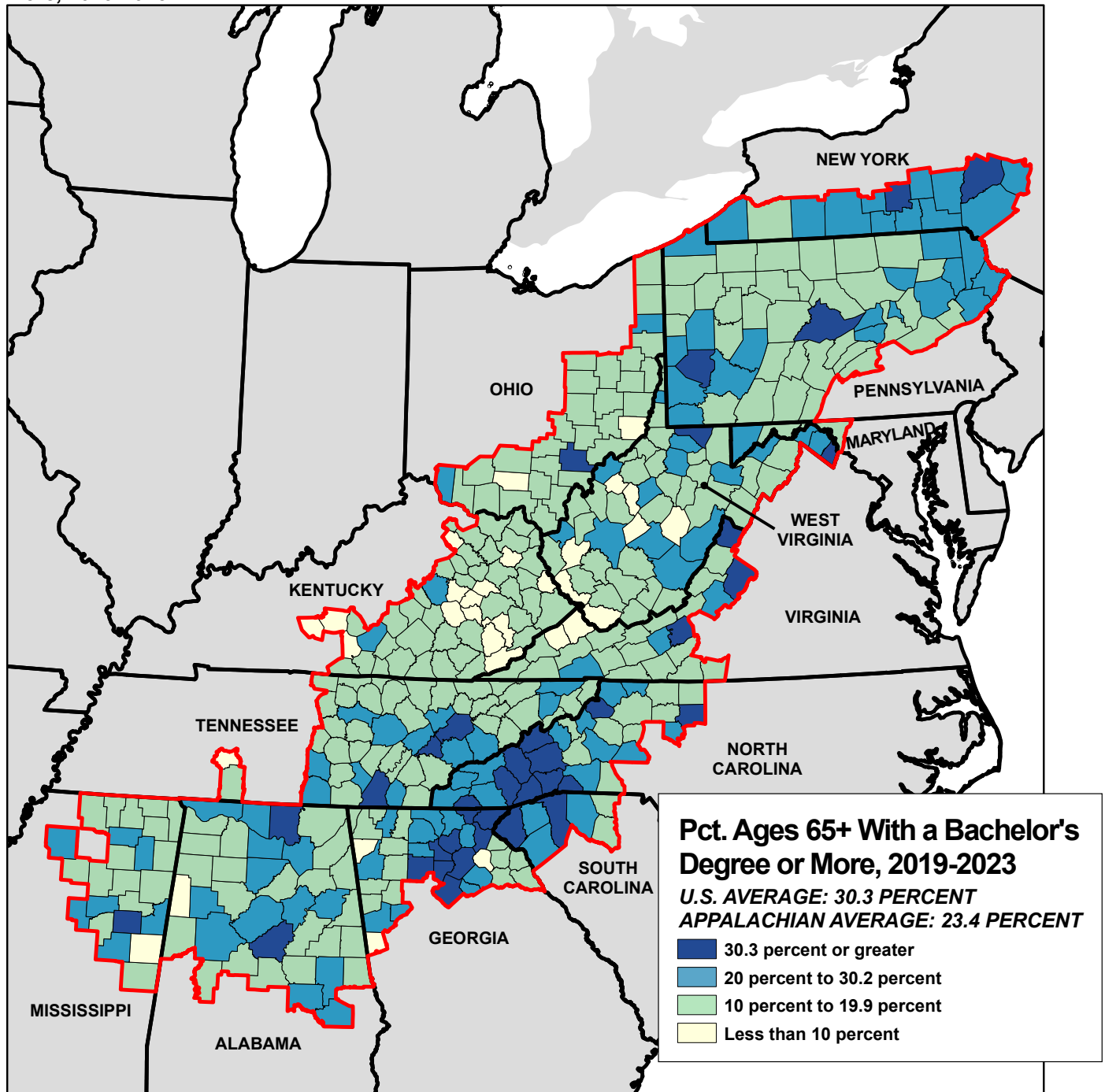
Figure 6.8: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor’s Degree or More, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor’s Degree or More, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 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 2019-2023 was 7.7 percentage points lower than the U.S. average of 36.5 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 percent of residents in this age group had at least a bachelor’s degree and in non-metropolitan 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 1.5 percentage points. 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 two of which were in metropolitan areas and more than half of which were home to a college or university.

Figure 6.9: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

The share of older Americans in Appalachia (those ages 65 and over) who attained a bachelor's degree or higher was nearly seven percentage points lower than the national average for their age group in 2019-2023. In 31 of Appalachia's 423 counties, less than one in ten older adults had completed at least a bachelor's degree. And in North Central and Central Appalachia, non-metro 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 37 of Appalachia's counties, the share of older adults who had a bachelor's degree or higher matched or exceeded the national average of 30.3 percent. These latter counties were primarily in metropolitan areas. Further, nearly half of these counties had a college or university – such as Montgomery County, Virginia (Virginia Tech University) and Rockbridge County, Virginia (Virginia Military Institute and Washington and Lee University).

Table 6.4: Percentage Point Change in Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	- 1.7	+ 1.7	- 2.1	+ 3.9	+ 0.4	+ 3.5
Appalachian Region	- 2.3	+ 2.3	- 1.6	+ 3.8	+ 0.7	+ 3.1
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	- 1.4	+ 1.4	- 2.2	+ 3.6	+ 0.7	+ 2.9
North Central Appalachia	- 2.1	+ 2.1	- 1.7	+ 3.8	+ 0.8	+ 3.0
Central Appalachia	- 4.4	+ 4.4	+ 1.0	+ 3.4	+ 1.1	+ 2.1
South Central Appalachia	- 2.9	+ 2.9	- 1.3	+ 4.2	+ 0.7	+ 3.4
Southern Appalachia	- 2.4	+ 2.4	- 1.5	+ 4.0	+ 0.6	+ 3.4
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	- 1.3	+ 1.3	- 2.5	+ 3.8	+ 0.4	+ 3.5
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	- 2.2	+ 2.2	- 1.9	+ 4.1	+ 0.7	+ 3.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	- 2.5	+ 2.5	- 1.3	+ 3.8	+ 1.0	+ 2.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	- 2.8	+ 2.8	- 0.4	+ 3.3	+ 0.9	+ 2.3
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 3.4	+ 3.4	+ 0.1	+ 3.3	+ 0.9	+ 2.3
Alabama	- 2.3	+ 2.3	- 1.1	+ 3.5	+ 0.7	+ 2.9
Appalachian Alabama	- 2.2	+ 2.2	- 1.5	+ 3.7	+ 0.7	+ 3.0
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 2.7	+ 2.7	- 0.5	+ 3.2	+ 0.7	+ 2.4
Georgia	- 2.3	+ 2.3	- 2.0	+ 4.2	+ 0.7	+ 3.5
Appalachian Georgia	- 2.4	+ 2.4	- 1.6	+ 4.0	+ 0.4	+ 3.5
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 2.3	+ 2.3	- 2.1	+ 4.4	+ 0.8	+ 3.6
Kentucky	- 2.8	+ 2.8	- 1.2	+ 4.1	+ 0.8	+ 3.4
Appalachian Kentucky	- 4.3	+ 4.3	+ 1.0	+ 3.3	+ 1.0	+ 2.3
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 2.2	+ 2.2	- 2.0	+ 4.3	+ 0.7	+ 3.7
Maryland	- 1.0	+ 1.0	- 2.4	+ 3.3	+ 0.3	+ 3.1
Appalachian Maryland	- 1.1	+ 1.1	- 1.4	+ 2.4	- 0.2	+ 2.6
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 1.0	+ 1.0	- 2.4	+ 3.4	+ 0.2	+ 3.1
Mississippi	- 2.7	+ 2.7	- 1.0	+ 3.7	+ 1.4	+ 2.4
Appalachian Mississippi	- 3.2	+ 3.2	- 0.4	+ 3.6	+ 1.4	+ 2.2
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 2.6	+ 2.6	- 1.2	+ 3.7	+ 1.4	+ 2.4
New York	- 1.4	+ 1.4	- 2.4	+ 3.8	+ 0.2	+ 3.7
Appalachian New York	- 1.1	+ 1.1	- 2.6	+ 3.7	+ 0.6	+ 3.0
Non-Appalachian New York	- 1.4	+ 1.4	- 2.4	+ 3.8	+ 0.2	+ 3.7
North Carolina	- 2.3	+ 2.3	- 2.4	+ 4.8	+ 0.6	+ 4.2
Appalachian North Carolina	- 2.9	+ 2.9	- 1.5	+ 4.3	+ 0.6	+ 3.7
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 2.3	+ 2.3	- 2.6	+ 4.9	+ 0.6	+ 4.3
Ohio	- 1.5	+ 1.5	- 2.0	+ 3.5	+ 0.4	+ 3.1
Appalachian Ohio	- 1.9	+ 1.9	- 1.5	+ 3.4	+ 0.9	+ 2.6
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 1.4	+ 1.4	- 2.0	+ 3.5	+ 0.2	+ 3.2
Pennsylvania	- 1.7	+ 1.7	- 2.5	+ 4.3	+ 0.6	+ 3.7
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 1.5	+ 1.5	- 2.2	+ 3.7	+ 0.7	+ 3.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 2.0	+ 2.0	- 2.7	+ 4.7	+ 0.5	+ 4.3
South Carolina	- 2.5	+ 2.5	- 1.9	+ 4.4	+ 0.3	+ 4.1
Appalachian South Carolina	- 2.8	+ 2.8	- 1.7	+ 4.5	+ 0.2	+ 4.3
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 2.4	+ 2.4	- 2.1	+ 4.3	+ 0.4	+ 4.0
Tennessee	- 2.6	+ 2.6	- 1.8	+ 4.4	+ 0.7	+ 3.8
Appalachian Tennessee	- 2.9	+ 2.9	- 1.3	+ 4.2	+ 0.9	+ 3.3
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 2.4	+ 2.4	- 2.2	+ 4.5	+ 0.5	+ 4.0
Virginia	- 2.0	+ 2.0	- 1.4	+ 3.5	+ 0.2	+ 3.3
Appalachian Virginia	- 4.4	+ 4.4	+ 1.5	+ 2.9	+ 0.8	+ 2.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 1.8	+ 1.8	- 1.7	+ 3.4	+ 0.1	+ 3.3
West Virginia (entire state)	- 2.1	+ 2.1	- 2.0	+ 4.1	+ 1.1	+ 3.0

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

Table 6.5: Percentage Point Change in Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	- 1.2	+ 1.2	- 2.5	+ 3.8	+ 0.1	+ 3.6
Appalachian Region	- 1.3	+ 1.3	- 2.2	+ 3.6	+ 0.5	+ 3.1
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	- 0.4	+ 0.4	- 2.9	+ 3.3	+ 0.3	+ 2.9
North Central Appalachia	- 0.9	+ 0.9	- 2.6	+ 3.6	+ 0.7	+ 2.8
Central Appalachia	- 2.8	+ 2.8	- 0.6	+ 3.3	+ 1.1	+ 2.2
South Central Appalachia	- 1.9	+ 1.9	- 1.9	+ 3.7	+ 0.5	+ 3.3
Southern Appalachia	- 1.7	+ 1.7	- 2.1	+ 3.7	+ 0.3	+ 3.5
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	- 0.7	+ 0.7	- 2.9	+ 3.6	0.0	+ 3.6
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	- 1.2	+ 1.2	- 2.4	+ 3.6	+ 0.4	+ 3.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	- 1.4	+ 1.4	- 1.9	+ 3.2	+ 0.7	+ 2.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	- 1.7	+ 1.7	- 1.2	+ 2.8	+ 0.6	+ 2.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 2.2	+ 2.2	- 1.0	+ 3.2	+ 1.0	+ 2.3
Alabama	- 1.5	+ 1.5	- 1.6	+ 3.1	+ 0.4	+ 2.7
Appalachian Alabama	- 1.3	+ 1.3	- 1.9	+ 3.2	+ 0.3	+ 2.9
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 1.8	+ 1.8	- 1.1	+ 3.0	+ 0.6	+ 2.4
Georgia	- 1.7	+ 1.7	- 2.5	+ 4.3	+ 0.5	+ 3.8
Appalachian Georgia	- 1.7	+ 1.7	- 2.1	+ 3.9	+ 0.2	+ 3.7
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 1.8	+ 1.8	- 2.7	+ 4.6	+ 0.7	+ 3.9
Kentucky	- 1.7	+ 1.7	- 2.4	+ 4.1	+ 0.6	+ 3.5
Appalachian Kentucky	- 3.0	+ 3.0	- 0.3	+ 3.3	+ 0.9	+ 2.4
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 1.2	+ 1.2	- 3.2	+ 4.3	+ 0.5	+ 3.8
Maryland	- 0.5	+ 0.5	- 2.7	+ 3.2	+ 0.1	+ 3.1
Appalachian Maryland	- 0.4	+ 0.4	- 2.5	+ 2.9	- 0.5	+ 3.4
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 0.4	+ 0.4	- 2.8	+ 3.2	+ 0.1	+ 3.0
Mississippi	- 2.1	+ 2.1	- 1.8	+ 3.8	+ 1.5	+ 2.3
Appalachian Mississippi	- 2.5	+ 2.5	- 1.1	+ 3.7	+ 1.5	+ 2.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 2.0	+ 2.0	- 1.9	+ 3.9	+ 1.5	+ 2.4
New York	- 0.9	+ 0.9	- 2.8	+ 3.7	- 0.2	+ 3.8
Appalachian New York	- 0.2	+ 0.2	- 3.4	+ 3.6	+ 0.1	+ 3.4
Non-Appalachian New York	- 0.9	+ 0.9	- 2.7	+ 3.7	- 0.2	+ 3.9
North Carolina	- 1.6	+ 1.6	- 2.9	+ 4.5	+ 0.2	+ 4.3
Appalachian North Carolina	- 1.9	+ 1.9	- 1.7	+ 3.6	+ 0.1	+ 3.5
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 1.5	+ 1.5	- 3.1	+ 4.7	+ 0.3	+ 4.4
Ohio	- 0.8	+ 0.8	- 2.6	+ 3.3	0.0	+ 3.3
Appalachian Ohio	- 0.9	+ 0.9	- 2.3	+ 3.2	+ 0.5	+ 2.6
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 0.7	+ 0.7	- 2.5	+ 3.2	- 0.1	+ 3.3
Pennsylvania	- 0.9	+ 0.9	- 3.2	+ 4.0	+ 0.2	+ 3.7
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.5	+ 0.5	- 2.7	+ 3.2	+ 0.3	+ 2.9
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 1.2	+ 1.2	- 3.3	+ 4.6	+ 0.2	+ 4.3
South Carolina	- 1.8	+ 1.8	- 2.7	+ 4.4	+ 0.1	+ 4.3
Appalachian South Carolina	- 2.0	+ 2.0	- 2.3	+ 4.4	- 0.1	+ 4.5
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 1.6	+ 1.6	- 2.7	+ 4.4	+ 0.2	+ 4.2
Tennessee	- 1.5	+ 1.5	- 2.8	+ 4.4	+ 0.4	+ 3.9
Appalachian Tennessee	- 1.6	+ 1.6	- 2.4	+ 4.1	+ 0.8	+ 3.2
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 1.4	+ 1.4	- 3.1	+ 4.5	+ 0.1	+ 4.4
Virginia	- 1.3	+ 1.3	- 2.0	+ 3.3	- 0.1	+ 3.3
Appalachian Virginia	- 3.0	+ 3.0	+ 1.2	+ 2.0	+ 0.6	+ 1.2
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 1.2	+ 1.2	- 2.2	+ 3.3	- 0.1	+ 3.4
West Virginia (entire state)	- 0.7	+ 0.7	- 3.3	+ 4.0	+ 1.1	+ 2.8

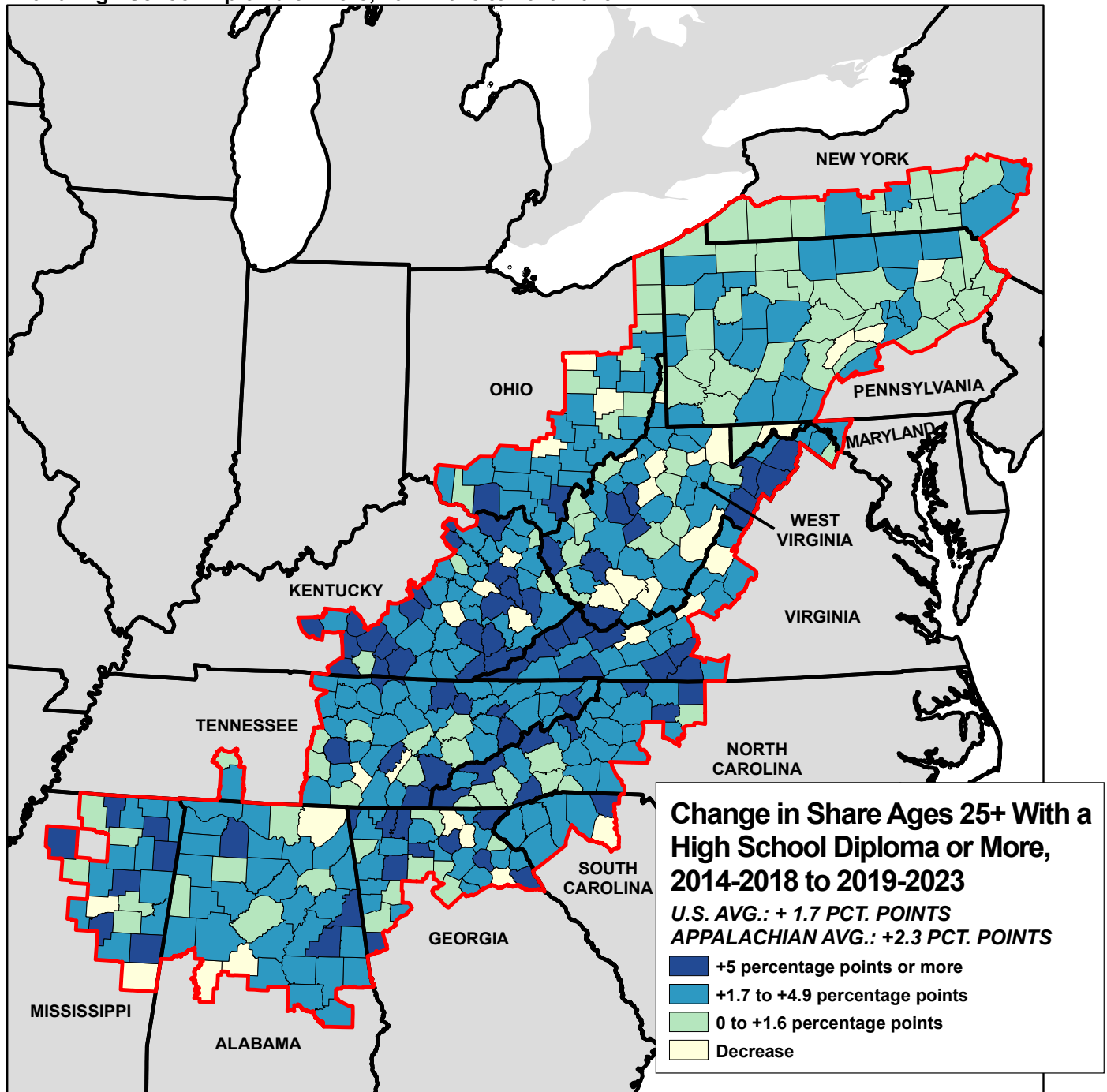
Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

Table 6.6: Percentage Point Change in Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	- 3.8	+ 3.8	- 1.2	+ 5.0	+ 1.4	+ 3.6
Appalachian Region	- 5.4	+ 5.4	0.0	+ 5.5	+ 1.8	+ 3.7
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	- 4.3	+ 4.3	- 1.4	+ 5.6	+ 2.0	+ 3.5
North Central Appalachia	- 5.9	+ 5.9	+ 0.7	+ 5.2	+ 1.5	+ 3.7
Central Appalachia	- 9.8	+ 9.8	+ 5.7	+ 4.1	+ 1.7	+ 2.4
South Central Appalachia	- 6.0	+ 6.0	+ 0.3	+ 5.7	+ 1.6	+ 4.1
Southern Appalachia	- 5.4	+ 5.4	0.0	+ 5.4	+ 1.7	+ 3.7
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	- 4.0	+ 4.0	- 1.8	+ 5.9	+ 2.0	+ 3.9
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	- 5.2	+ 5.2	- 0.4	+ 5.7	+ 1.7	+ 4.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	- 5.8	+ 5.8	+ 0.3	+ 5.5	+ 1.8	+ 3.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	- 6.1	+ 6.1	+ 1.4	+ 4.8	+ 1.7	+ 3.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 7.2	+ 7.2	+ 3.3	+ 3.9	+ 1.3	+ 2.6
Alabama	- 5.5	+ 5.5	+ 0.2	+ 5.3	+ 1.6	+ 3.6
Appalachian Alabama	- 5.3	+ 5.3	- 0.4	+ 5.8	+ 1.8	+ 4.0
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 5.5	+ 5.5	+ 1.2	+ 4.3	+ 1.4	+ 2.9
Georgia	- 4.7	+ 4.7	- 0.3	+ 5.0	+ 1.6	+ 3.4
Appalachian Georgia	- 4.9	+ 4.9	- 0.1	+ 5.0	+ 1.5	+ 3.4
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 4.6	+ 4.6	- 0.4	+ 5.1	+ 1.6	+ 3.5
Kentucky	- 7.1	+ 7.1	+ 2.2	+ 4.9	+ 1.5	+ 3.4
Appalachian Kentucky	- 9.3	+ 9.3	+ 5.3	+ 4.0	+ 1.6	+ 2.4
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 6.1	+ 6.1	+ 0.9	+ 5.2	+ 1.4	+ 3.7
Maryland	- 3.3	+ 3.3	- 1.5	+ 4.8	+ 0.8	+ 3.9
Appalachian Maryland	- 3.3	+ 3.3	+ 1.5	+ 1.8	+ 1.0	+ 0.8
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 3.2	+ 3.2	- 1.6	+ 4.9	+ 0.8	+ 4.1
Mississippi	- 5.6	+ 5.6	+ 1.3	+ 4.2	+ 1.6	+ 2.6
Appalachian Mississippi	- 5.9	+ 5.9	+ 1.7	+ 4.3	+ 1.4	+ 2.9
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 5.4	+ 5.4	+ 1.2	+ 4.1	+ 1.7	+ 2.5
New York	- 3.6	+ 3.6	- 1.8	+ 5.4	+ 1.5	+ 3.8
Appalachian New York	- 3.7	+ 3.7	- 1.2	+ 4.9	+ 2.4	+ 2.6
Non-Appalachian New York	- 3.5	+ 3.5	- 1.8	+ 5.3	+ 1.5	+ 3.8
North Carolina	- 5.3	+ 5.3	- 1.3	+ 6.6	+ 2.0	+ 4.6
Appalachian North Carolina	- 5.3	+ 5.3	- 0.9	+ 6.2	+ 2.0	+ 4.2
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 5.3	+ 5.3	- 1.4	+ 6.6	+ 1.9	+ 4.7
Ohio	- 4.3	+ 4.3	- 1.0	+ 5.2	+ 1.8	+ 3.4
Appalachian Ohio	- 4.8	+ 4.8	+ 0.1	+ 4.8	+ 1.9	+ 2.8
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 4.1	+ 4.1	- 1.2	+ 5.3	+ 1.7	+ 3.6
Pennsylvania	- 4.5	+ 4.5	- 1.7	+ 6.0	+ 1.8	+ 4.4
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 4.3	+ 4.3	- 1.7	+ 6.0	+ 2.1	+ 3.9
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 4.5	+ 4.5	- 1.5	+ 6.1	+ 1.5	+ 4.6
South Carolina	- 5.0	+ 5.0	- 0.1	+ 5.0	+ 1.3	+ 3.7
Appalachian South Carolina	- 5.9	+ 5.9	+ 0.3	+ 5.6	+ 1.4	+ 4.2
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 4.6	+ 4.6	- 0.2	+ 4.8	+ 1.3	+ 3.5
Tennessee	- 6.6	+ 6.6	+ 1.3	+ 5.3	+ 1.6	+ 3.8
Appalachian Tennessee	- 6.7	+ 6.7	+ 1.6	+ 5.1	+ 1.3	+ 3.7
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 6.5	+ 6.5	+ 1.1	+ 5.5	+ 1.7	+ 3.7
Virginia	- 5.1	+ 5.1	0.0	+ 5.0	+ 1.0	+ 4.1
Appalachian Virginia	- 8.6	+ 8.6	+ 2.7	+ 5.9	+ 1.4	+ 4.5
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 4.5	+ 4.5	- 0.3	+ 4.8	+ 0.9	+ 3.8
West Virginia (entire state)	- 6.3	+ 6.3	+ 1.0	+ 5.3	+ 1.4	+ 4.0

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

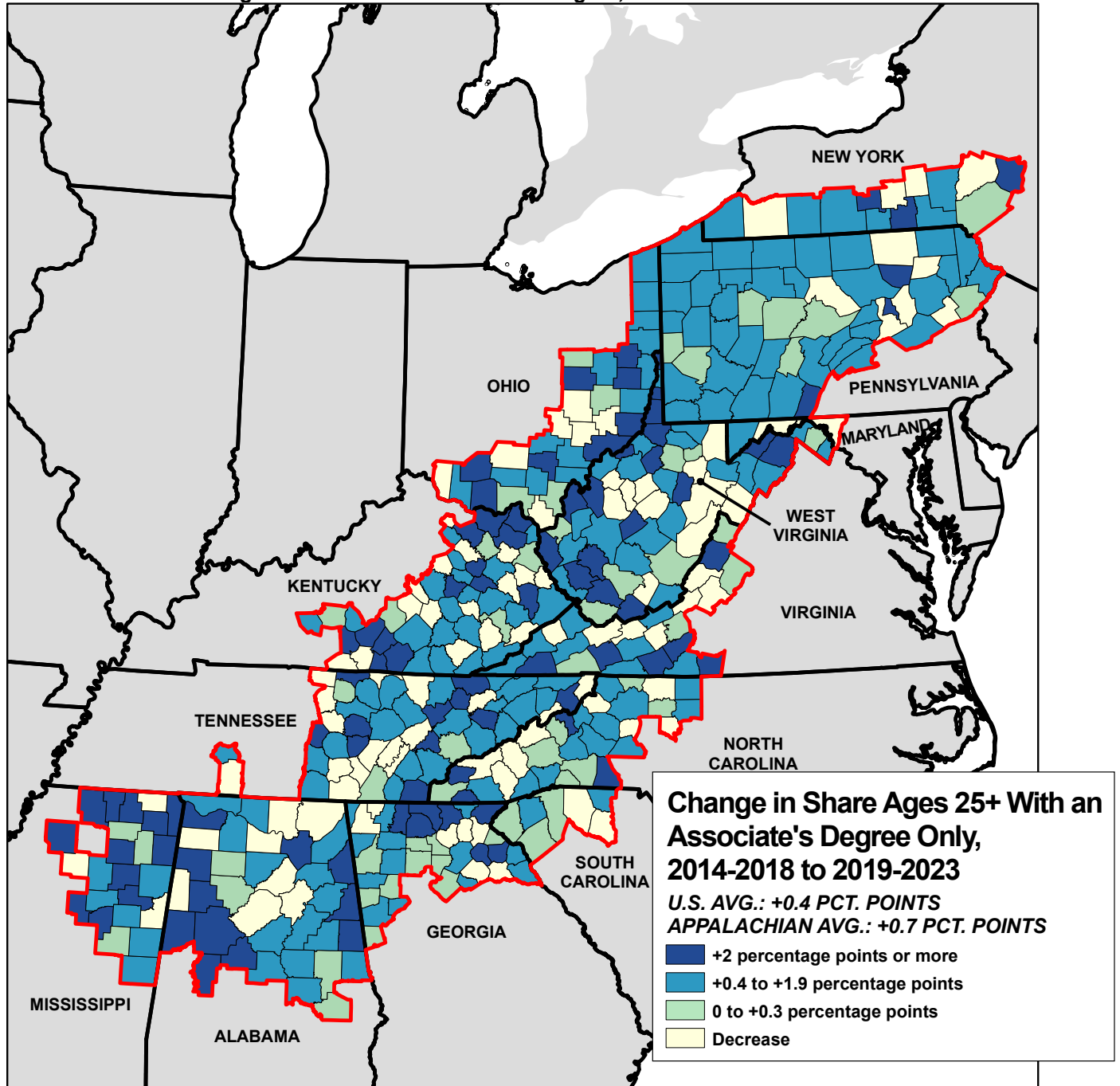


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a High School Diploma or More, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

The Appalachian Region had gains in educational attainment between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023, 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 189 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 81 of these counties the share rose by at least five percentage points. Nearly half of these 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

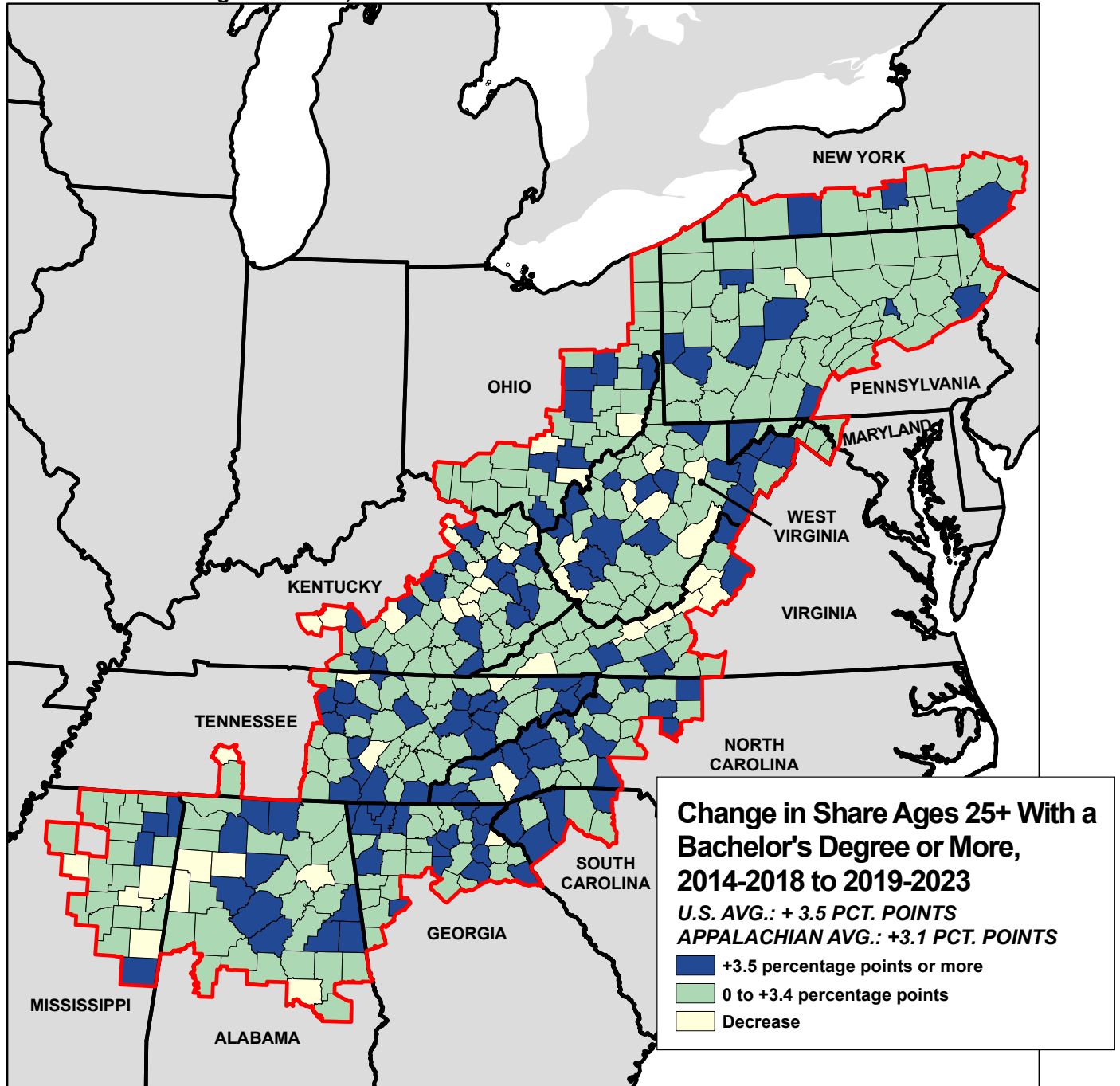


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With an Associate's Degree but Without a Bachelor's Degree, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 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 0.7 percentage points from 2014-2018 to 2019-2023, slightly more than the increase of 0.4 percentage points seen at the national level. And in 221 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 95 counties, the share rose by at least two percentage points. Conversely, in 97 counties the share decreased; however, of these counties 82 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



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, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

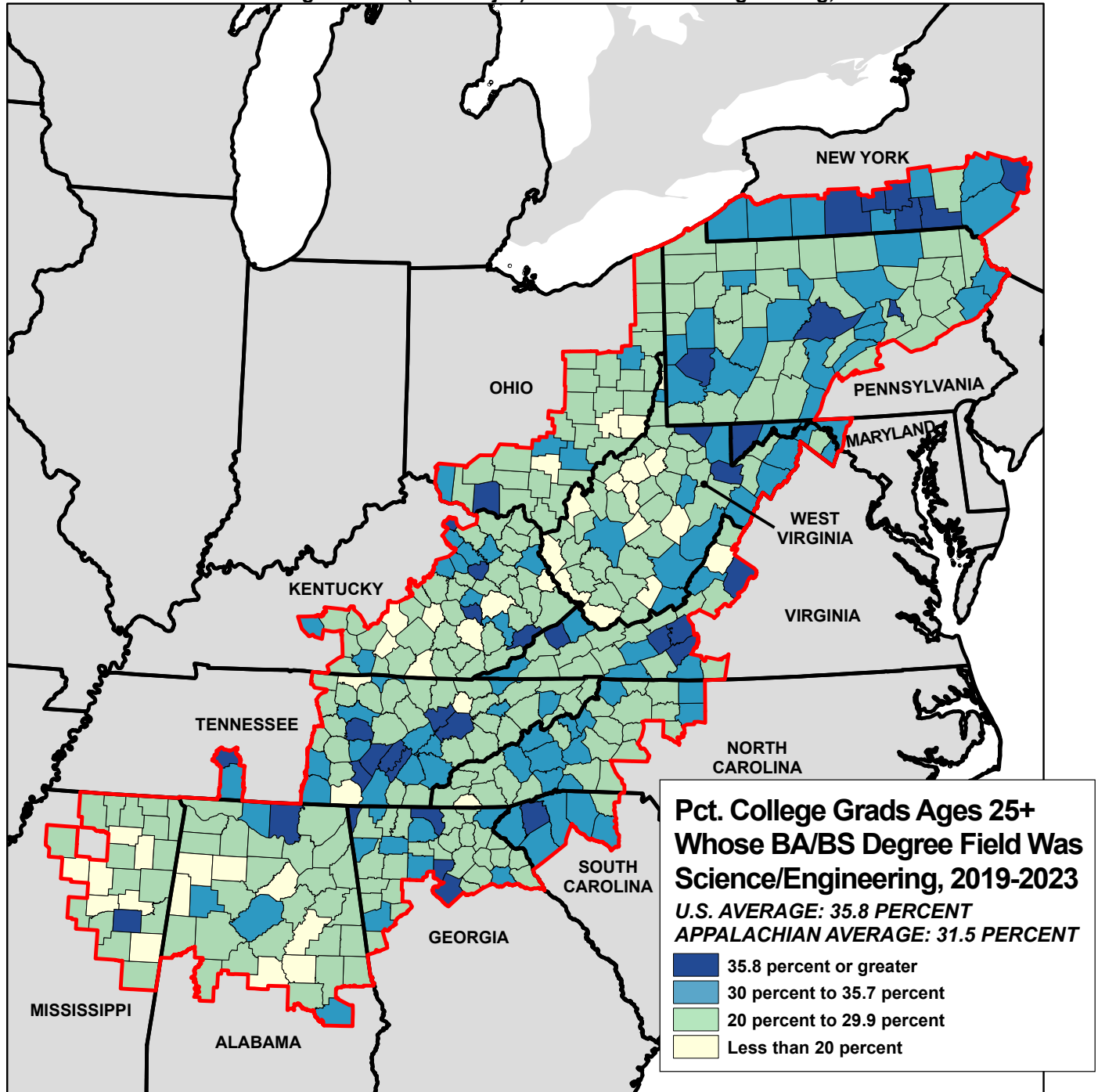
The percentage of Appalachian adults ages 25 and over with at least a bachelor's degree increased more than three percentage points between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023, suggesting a continued trend toward greater educational attainment in the Appalachian Region. And in 122 of the region's 423 counties – 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 3.5 percent. Yet not all counties in the region saw a rise in attainment of bachelor's degrees and higher – in 44 counties the share with this level of education declined, more than three-fourths 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, 2019-2023

Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major)	Total Population Ages 25 and Over With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2019-2023	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	79,954,302	35.8	9.9	20.2	11.2	23.0
Appalachian Region	5,023,806	31.5	11.5	19.9	15.8	21.2
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	1,627,252	32.4	11.9	17.9	16.2	21.6
North Central Appalachia	410,000	28.9	13.4	18.2	19.0	20.5
Central Appalachia	212,393	26.9	13.8	16.4	22.9	20.0
South Central Appalachia	1,037,751	31.7	11.2	19.0	14.5	23.6
Southern Appalachia	1,736,410	31.8	10.6	23.3	14.6	19.7
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	1,554,029	33.4	10.7	22.7	12.6	20.6
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	2,267,744	32.4	11.6	19.2	15.0	21.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	330,090	27.9	12.4	18.2	21.2	20.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	544,252	28.0	12.6	17.4	20.9	21.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	327,691	26.3	12.5	17.6	23.1	20.6
Alabama	957,081	30.2	10.9	23.1	15.5	20.3
Appalachian Alabama	639,363	30.7	10.9	23.5	15.1	19.9
Non-Appalachian Alabama	317,718	29.3	10.9	22.5	16.4	20.9
Georgia	2,480,907	33.6	9.5	23.5	11.7	21.8
Appalachian Georgia	719,136	33.2	10.2	24.3	13.3	19.0
Non-Appalachian Georgia	1,761,771	33.7	9.2	23.1	11.0	22.9
Kentucky	830,856	29.6	12.0	19.7	15.1	23.7
Appalachian Kentucky	138,147	25.8	13.9	15.8	23.2	21.3
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	692,709	30.3	11.6	20.5	13.4	24.2
Maryland	1,826,045	41.7	8.8	18.1	8.8	22.5
Appalachian Maryland	40,961	33.8	10.4	16.1	16.5	23.1
Non-Appalachian Maryland	1,785,084	41.9	8.8	18.2	8.7	22.5
Mississippi	475,997	26.7	13.1	21.4	19.6	19.3
Appalachian Mississippi	84,766	24.9	11.6	20.0	25.1	18.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	391,231	27.0	13.5	21.6	18.4	19.5
New York	5,535,503	35.3	9.3	18.4	10.2	26.8
Appalachian New York	204,392	37.1	9.9	12.5	16.6	23.8
Non-Appalachian New York	5,331,111	35.2	9.2	18.7	10.0	26.9
North Carolina	2,521,353	34.8	9.9	20.5	11.5	23.4
Appalachian North Carolina	430,149	30.5	11.1	18.2	14.7	25.5
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	2,091,204	35.6	9.6	20.9	10.9	22.9
Ohio	2,514,129	31.3	12.1	21.0	14.5	21.0
Appalachian Ohio	282,809	26.6	14.3	19.2	20.1	19.9
Non-Appalachian Ohio	2,231,320	31.9	11.8	21.2	13.8	21.2
Pennsylvania	3,157,318	34.0	10.9	19.5	13.3	22.3
Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,228,636	32.5	12.0	18.6	15.5	21.4
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,928,682	35.0	10.2	20.0	12.0	22.9
South Carolina	1,136,208	32.4	10.2	22.6	13.7	21.0
Appalachian South Carolina	293,145	33.0	10.6	21.2	13.8	21.4
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	843,063	32.2	10.1	23.2	13.7	20.9
Tennessee	1,460,501	30.5	10.8	22.5	12.7	23.4
Appalachian Tennessee	550,039	31.8	11.5	20.2	14.8	21.6
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	910,462	29.8	10.4	23.9	11.5	24.5
Virginia	2,471,630	40.7	8.1	18.5	8.8	23.9
Appalachian Virginia	116,722	34.7	10.9	15.4	15.5	23.5
Non-Appalachian Virginia	2,354,908	41.0	7.9	18.7	8.5	23.9
West Virginia (entire state)	295,541	28.7	13.6	17.9	19.7	20.2

Note: Examples of "Science- and Engineering-Related Fields" include nursing, architecture, and mathematics teacher education.
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 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, 2019-2023



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, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Among the more than five million adults in Appalachia with a bachelor's degree or more, just over 31.5 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 37 counties, the share of BA/BS holders with a degree in this field matched or exceeded the national average of 35.8 percent – more than one-fourth of which were home to a college or university, including major research universities such as Virginia Tech and Penn State. In contrast, in 41 counties in the Appalachian Region less than one-fifth of adult college graduates had a science and engineering degree - more than half of which were in the region's rural areas.

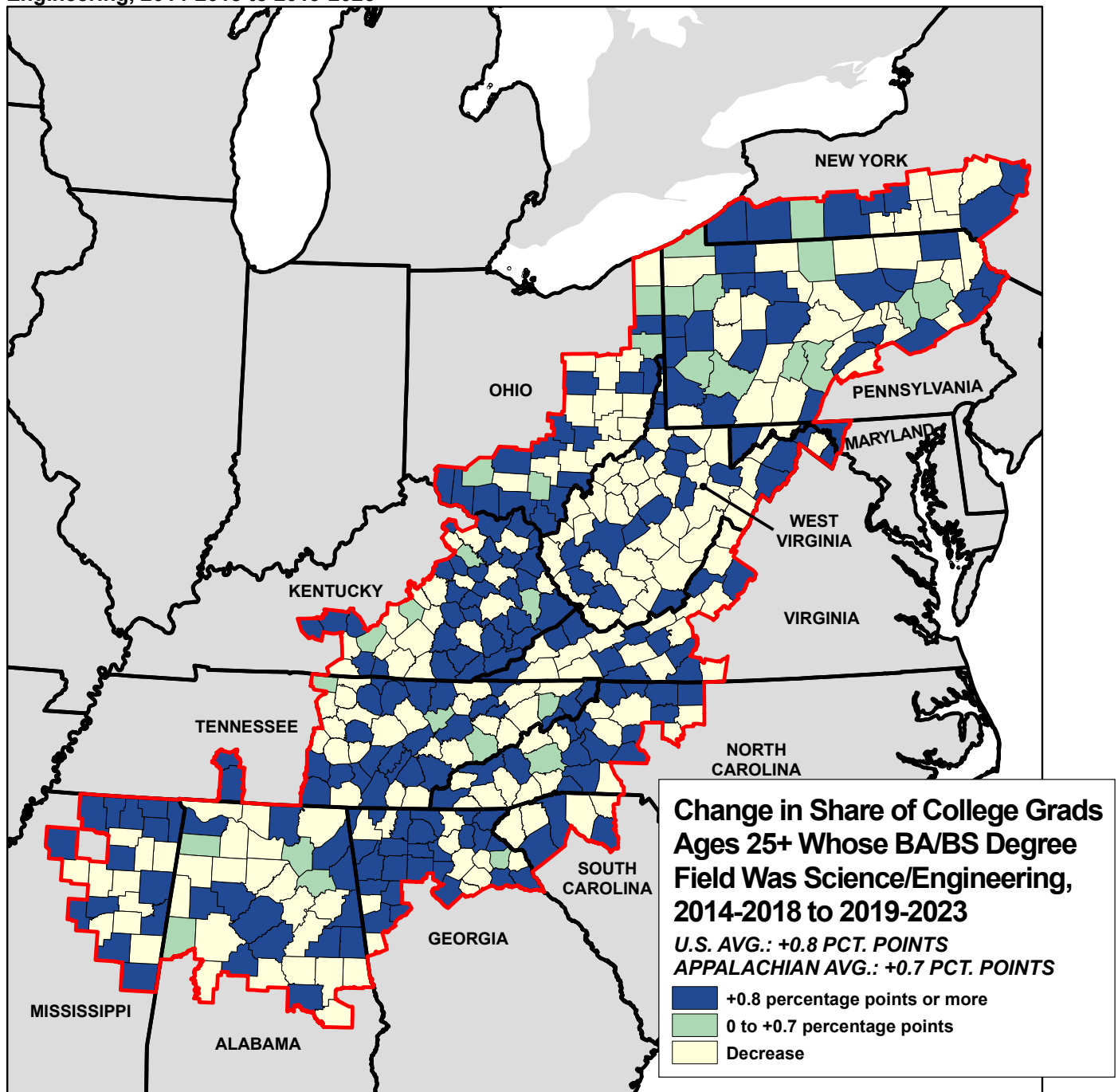
Table 6.8: Percentage Point Change in Bachelor's Degree Field (First Major) for Persons Ages 25 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Bachelor's Degree or More, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	+ 0.8	+ 0.5	- 0.2	- 1.3	+ 0.2
Appalachian Region	+ 0.7	+ 0.5	- 0.2	- 1.7	+ 0.6
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	- 0.1	- 1.8	+ 0.8
North Central Appalachia	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	- 0.8	- 1.3	+ 1.1
Central Appalachia	+ 1.2	- 0.2	+ 0.9	- 3.1	+ 1.3
South Central Appalachia	0.0	+ 0.4	+ 0.1	- 1.5	+ 1.1
Southern Appalachia	+ 1.4	+ 0.7	- 0.6	- 1.5	0.0
County Types					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	+ 1.5	+ 0.6	- 1.0	- 1.4	+ 0.2
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	- 0.2	- 1.5	+ 0.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	+ 0.3	+ 0.7	+ 0.9	- 2.1	+ 0.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	- 1.9	+ 1.0
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	+ 1.1	- 2.3	+ 0.8
Alabama	+ 0.9	+ 0.3	- 0.3	- 1.4	+ 0.4
Appalachian Alabama	+ 0.8	+ 0.4	- 0.1	- 1.2	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 1.4	0.0	- 0.4	- 1.6	+ 0.6
Georgia	+ 1.4	+ 0.3	- 0.9	- 1.3	+ 0.6
Appalachian Georgia	+ 2.4	+ 0.9	- 1.3	- 1.4	- 0.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 1.0	+ 0.1	- 0.8	- 1.4	+ 1.1
Kentucky	+ 0.7	+ 0.3	- 0.1	- 1.7	+ 0.9
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 1.2	+ 0.2	+ 1.4	- 3.5	+ 0.7
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.5	+ 0.3	- 0.4	- 1.3	+ 1.0
Maryland	+ 0.7	0.0	+ 0.1	- 0.9	+ 0.1
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	0.0	- 2.1	+ 1.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.7	0.0	+ 0.1	- 0.8	0.0
Mississippi	+ 1.4	+ 0.6	+ 0.2	- 1.7	- 0.4
Appalachian Mississippi	0.0	- 0.6	+ 1.0	- 0.7	+ 0.4
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 1.6	+ 0.9	0.0	- 1.9	- 0.6
New York	+ 1.0	+ 0.5	- 0.5	- 1.0	- 0.1
Appalachian New York	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	- 0.3	- 1.6	+ 0.8
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 1.0	+ 0.5	- 0.4	- 1.0	- 0.1
North Carolina	+ 0.8	+ 0.5	+ 0.2	- 1.6	+ 0.2
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.5	- 1.7	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 0.8	+ 0.5	0.0	- 1.5	0.0
Ohio	+ 0.6	+ 1.0	- 0.5	- 1.5	+ 0.4
Appalachian Ohio	+ 1.0	+ 1.0	+ 0.1	- 2.4	+ 0.4
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.5	+ 0.9	- 0.7	- 1.4	+ 0.5
Pennsylvania	+ 0.7	+ 0.3	- 0.2	- 1.6	+ 0.8
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	- 0.2	- 1.8	+ 0.8
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.8	+ 0.1	- 0.2	- 1.3	+ 0.7
South Carolina	+ 0.9	+ 0.8	+ 0.1	- 1.9	- 0.1
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 0.7	+ 1.2	- 0.9	- 2.0	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 1.0	+ 0.7	+ 0.6	- 1.8	- 0.4
Tennessee	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	- 2.0	+ 1.1
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	- 0.2	- 1.6	+ 1.3
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	- 2.2	+ 1.0
Virginia	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	- 0.4	- 0.8	+ 0.5
Appalachian Virginia	- 1.0	+ 0.7	- 1.0	- 0.7	+ 2.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	- 0.3	- 0.7	+ 0.5
West Virginia (entire state)	0.0	+ 0.6	- 1.0	- 0.6	+ 1.1

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

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 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 0.7 percentage points greater in 2019-2023 than it was in 2014-2018. And in 202 Appalachian counties, the increase matched or exceeded the national average (0.8 percentage points). The share with a degree in science and engineering increased most in Southern Appalachia (1.4 percentage points) and in the Appalachian Region’s large metropolitan counties (1.5 percentage points). Yet in 192 of Appalachia’s counties, the share actually decreased – more than half of which were small metropolitan counties and those adjacent to them.

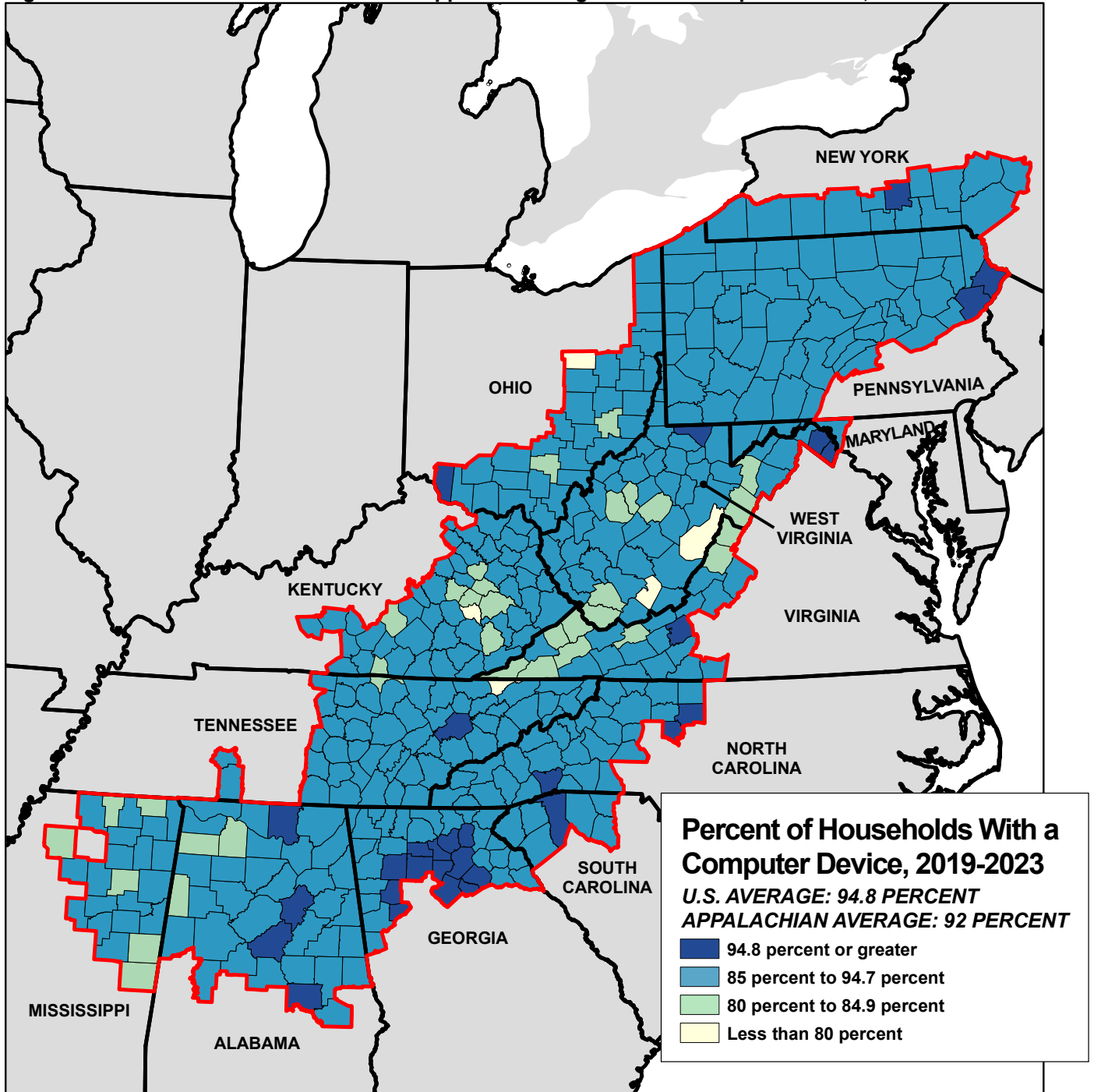
Table 6.9: Households in the Appalachian Region With a Computer Device, By Type of Device, 2019-2023

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	127,482,865	94.8	79.8	89.8	63.6	2.5	5.2
Appalachian Region	10,449,301	92.0	73.3	85.5	58.9	2.0	8.0
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	3,337,636	91.2	74.5	83.2	58.8	1.9	8.8
North Central Appalachia	1,000,607	90.7	70.3	83.0	57.0	1.8	9.3
Central Appalachia	727,335	88.7	64.4	80.9	54.6	1.6	11.3
South Central Appalachia	2,125,442	92.1	72.9	86.2	57.7	2.3	7.9
Southern Appalachia	3,258,281	93.8	75.3	89.2	61.4	2.2	6.2
County Types							
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	2,466,604	94.3	79.8	88.9	64.7	2.3	5.7
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	4,523,363	92.6	74.4	86.4	59.5	2.1	7.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	908,939	90.6	69.8	83.4	56.0	1.7	9.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	1,575,832	89.5	67.2	81.6	53.7	1.8	10.5
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	974,563	88.5	65.0	81.1	52.8	1.7	11.5
Alabama	1,969,105	92.5	71.0	87.7	57.2	2.1	7.5
Appalachian Alabama	1,270,615	92.9	72.1	88.0	58.5	2.1	7.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	698,490	92.0	68.8	87.1	54.8	2.2	8.0
Georgia	4,008,013	95.0	80.0	90.9	64.4	2.4	5.0
Appalachian Georgia	1,203,037	95.7	81.8	91.7	66.8	2.5	4.3
Non-Appalachian Georgia	2,804,976	94.7	79.2	90.6	63.4	2.4	5.3
Kentucky	1,791,991	92.8	72.9	87.1	60.2	2.4	7.2
Appalachian Kentucky	453,697	89.2	65.5	82.0	56.3	1.7	10.8
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,338,294	94.0	75.4	88.9	61.5	2.6	6.0
Maryland	2,339,510	96.0	84.7	91.0	68.9	3.0	4.0
Appalachian Maryland	99,412	92.0	74.3	84.0	59.1	1.7	8.0
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,240,098	96.2	85.1	91.3	69.4	3.1	3.8
Mississippi	1,131,760	91.4	66.3	86.9	53.3	2.0	8.6
Appalachian Mississippi	239,456	88.9	60.7	84.8	48.6	1.4	11.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	892,304	92.1	67.8	87.5	54.5	2.2	7.9
New York	7,668,956	94.0	79.5	88.1	63.8	2.7	6.0
Appalachian New York	421,544	92.2	75.8	83.2	59.1	1.9	7.8
Non-Appalachian New York	7,247,412	94.1	79.8	88.4	64.1	2.7	5.9
North Carolina	4,186,924	94.1	78.5	89.1	61.7	2.4	5.9
Appalachian North Carolina	827,673	92.1	73.8	85.8	57.3	2.8	7.9
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	3,359,251	94.6	79.6	90.0	62.8	2.3	5.4
Ohio	4,829,571	93.6	77.0	87.5	61.8	2.2	6.4
Appalachian Ohio	798,669	90.2	69.9	82.7	56.6	1.6	9.8
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,030,902	94.3	78.4	88.4	62.8	2.4	5.7
Pennsylvania	5,235,339	92.9	78.3	86.1	62.3	2.3	7.1
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,364,244	91.4	75.2	83.4	59.4	1.9	8.6
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,871,095	94.2	80.8	88.2	64.8	2.5	5.8
South Carolina	2,070,390	93.7	75.3	88.7	61.1	3.5	6.3
Appalachian South Carolina	545,173	93.7	74.9	88.7	61.8	2.3	6.3
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,525,217	93.7	75.5	88.7	60.9	4.0	6.3
Tennessee	2,768,743	93.5	74.7	88.7	60.8	2.8	6.5
Appalachian Tennessee	1,209,095	92.2	71.9	86.8	58.3	1.9	7.8
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,559,648	94.5	76.9	90.2	62.6	3.5	5.5
Virginia	3,326,260	94.8	82.0	89.9	65.8	2.5	5.2
Appalachian Virginia	295,238	89.2	67.4	81.5	51.8	2.0	10.8
Non-Appalachian Virginia	3,031,022	95.3	83.4	90.8	67.2	2.6	4.7
West Virginia (entire state)	721,448	90.1	69.3	81.8	56.3	1.8	9.9

Note: Device percentages are not mutually exclusive.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Figure 6.15: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Computer Device, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Computer Device, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

In 2019-2023, 92 percent of households in the Appalachian Region had one or more computer devices (desktop or laptop, smartphone, tablet, or other device) – 2.8 percentage points below the national average. The share was below 85 percent in 40 of Appalachia’s 423 counties. Among those counties, all but three were outside of metropolitan areas and more than two in five were in Central Appalachia. On the other hand, in 30 Appalachian counties the share of households with a computer device matched or exceeded the national average of 94.8 percent. Of these, 60 percent were in Southern Appalachia and nearly half were in large 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 2019-2023 time period.

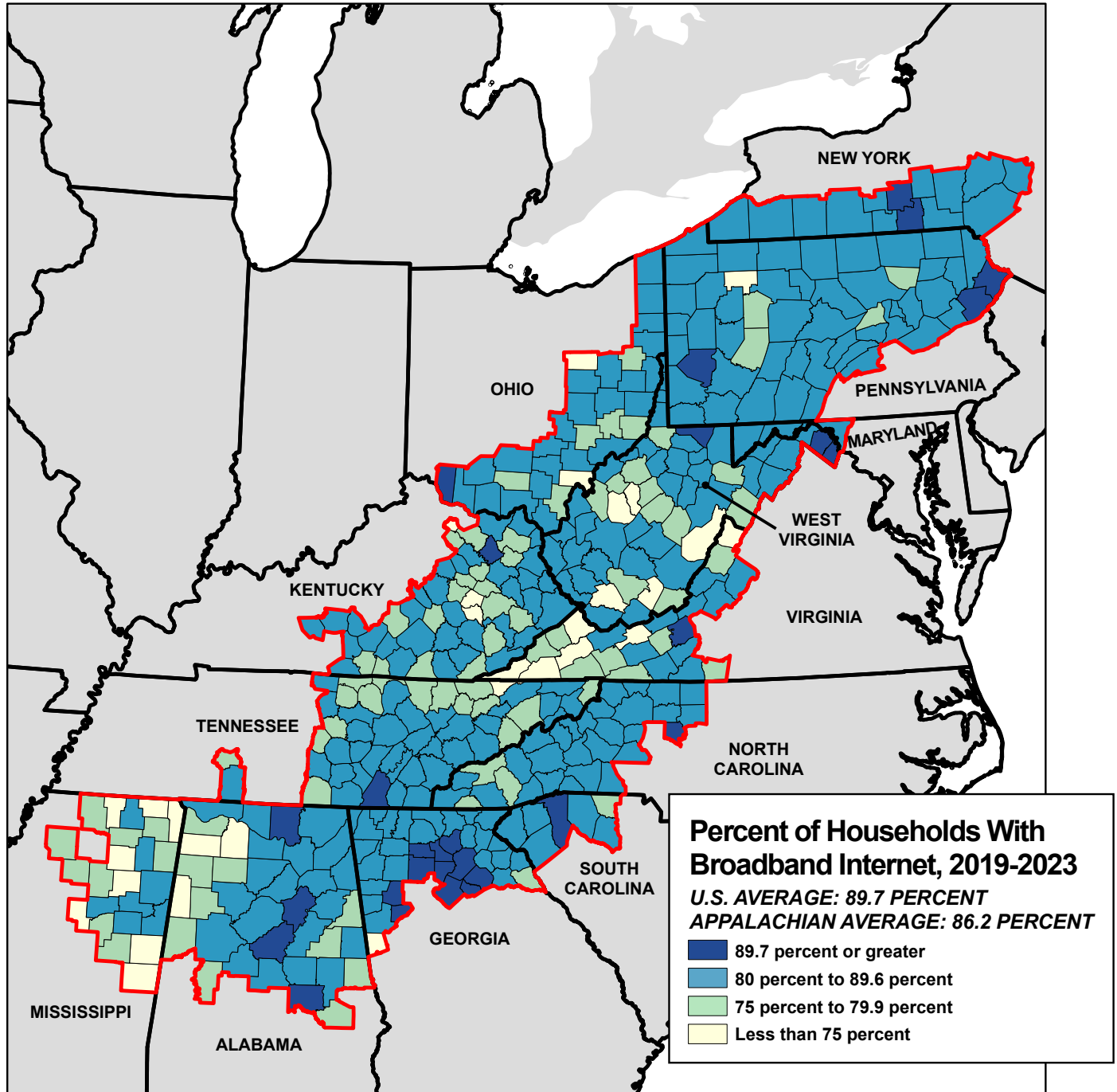
Table 6.10: Households in the Appalachian Region With an Internet Subscription, By Type of Subscription, 2019-2023

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	127,482,865	89.9	0.2	89.7	74.6	83.2	6.6
Appalachian Region	10,449,301	86.4	0.2	86.2	69.8	77.6	6.6
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	3,337,636	86.7	0.3	86.3	71.4	76.9	5.2
North Central Appalachia	1,000,607	85.0	0.3	84.7	67.0	74.5	7.3
Central Appalachia	727,335	82.1	0.2	81.9	66.0	70.8	7.0
South Central Appalachia	2,125,442	85.7	0.2	85.5	69.0	76.7	6.4
Southern Appalachia	3,258,281	88.0	0.1	87.9	70.4	81.5	8.0
County Types							
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	2,466,604	90.1	0.2	90.0	76.6	83.2	5.9
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	4,523,363	87.0	0.2	86.8	71.2	78.3	6.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	908,939	84.3	0.2	84.1	64.7	74.5	7.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	1,575,832	82.9	0.4	82.5	62.2	72.6	8.0
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	974,563	81.6	0.2	81.4	63.2	71.7	8.3
Alabama	1,969,105	85.9	0.3	85.6	65.5	78.8	8.7
Appalachian Alabama	1,270,615	86.7	0.1	86.6	67.5	79.3	8.3
Non-Appalachian Alabama	698,490	84.4	0.5	83.9	62.0	77.9	9.4
Georgia	4,008,013	89.5	0.1	89.4	74.8	83.3	7.4
Appalachian Georgia	1,203,037	91.1	0.1	91.0	76.5	85.7	7.5
Non-Appalachian Georgia	2,804,976	88.8	0.1	88.7	74.1	82.3	7.3
Kentucky	1,791,991	87.4	0.2	87.2	69.7	80.0	6.8
Appalachian Kentucky	453,697	83.3	0.2	83.1	66.8	73.9	7.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,338,294	88.7	0.1	88.6	70.7	82.0	6.7
Maryland	2,339,510	91.6	0.1	91.5	79.2	85.2	4.7
Appalachian Maryland	99,412	85.9	0.1	85.7	69.9	77.7	5.4
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,240,098	91.9	0.1	91.7	79.7	85.5	4.7
Mississippi	1,131,760	82.0	0.1	81.9	58.2	75.8	10.4
Appalachian Mississippi	239,456	79.2	0.1	79.1	52.8	73.8	10.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	892,304	82.8	0.2	82.6	59.7	76.4	10.4
New York	7,668,956	89.7	0.2	89.6	76.5	82.4	4.2
Appalachian New York	421,544	87.1	0.3	86.8	72.1	75.6	6.4
Non-Appalachian New York	7,247,412	89.9	0.1	89.7	76.8	82.8	4.0
North Carolina	4,186,924	88.7	0.1	88.6	74.9	81.5	6.1
Appalachian North Carolina	827,673	85.8	0.2	85.6	69.4	77.1	6.6
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	3,359,251	89.4	0.1	89.3	76.2	82.6	5.9
Ohio	4,829,571	89.0	0.2	88.8	74.6	81.5	5.8
Appalachian Ohio	798,669	84.8	0.3	84.5	65.2	74.6	7.5
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,030,902	89.8	0.2	89.7	76.5	82.8	5.5
Pennsylvania	5,235,339	88.8	0.2	88.5	75.2	81.0	4.5
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,364,244	87.0	0.3	86.7	72.5	77.6	4.7
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,871,095	90.2	0.2	90.0	77.5	83.8	4.3
South Carolina	2,070,390	87.0	0.1	86.8	70.7	80.4	7.4
Appalachian South Carolina	545,173	87.9	0.1	87.8	71.3	80.9	7.3
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,525,217	86.6	0.2	86.5	70.5	80.2	7.4
Tennessee	2,768,743	87.6	0.1	87.4	71.1	80.3	6.2
Appalachian Tennessee	1,209,095	85.5	0.1	85.4	69.2	76.2	5.4
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,559,648	89.1	0.1	89.0	72.6	83.5	6.9
Virginia	3,326,260	90.1	0.1	89.9	74.9	84.0	6.2
Appalachian Virginia	295,238	81.3	0.3	81.0	62.6	70.0	10.2
Non-Appalachian Virginia	3,031,022	91.0	0.1	90.8	76.0	85.4	5.8
West Virginia (entire state)	721,448	84.7	0.3	84.4	68.5	73.2	6.6

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, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Figure 6.16: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Broadband Internet Subscription, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Broadband Internet Subscription, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

During the 2019-2023 period, the share of Appalachian households with access to broadband internet (including cable, fiber optic, DSL, cellular, or satellite) was 3.5 percentage points lower than the national average of 89.7 percent. There are also signs of a rural-urban “digital divide” within the Appalachian Region: In 116 Appalachian counties, less than 80 percent of households had broadband internet – more than four in five of these were outside metropolitan areas and about forty percent of these were in rural counties. In contrast, all but three of the 29 counties with subscription rates at or above the national average were in metro areas. With high-speed internet access becoming even more important in light of trends toward increased remote interaction during the COVID-19 pandemic, these are signs that many communities in Appalachia continue to be at risk of being left behind.

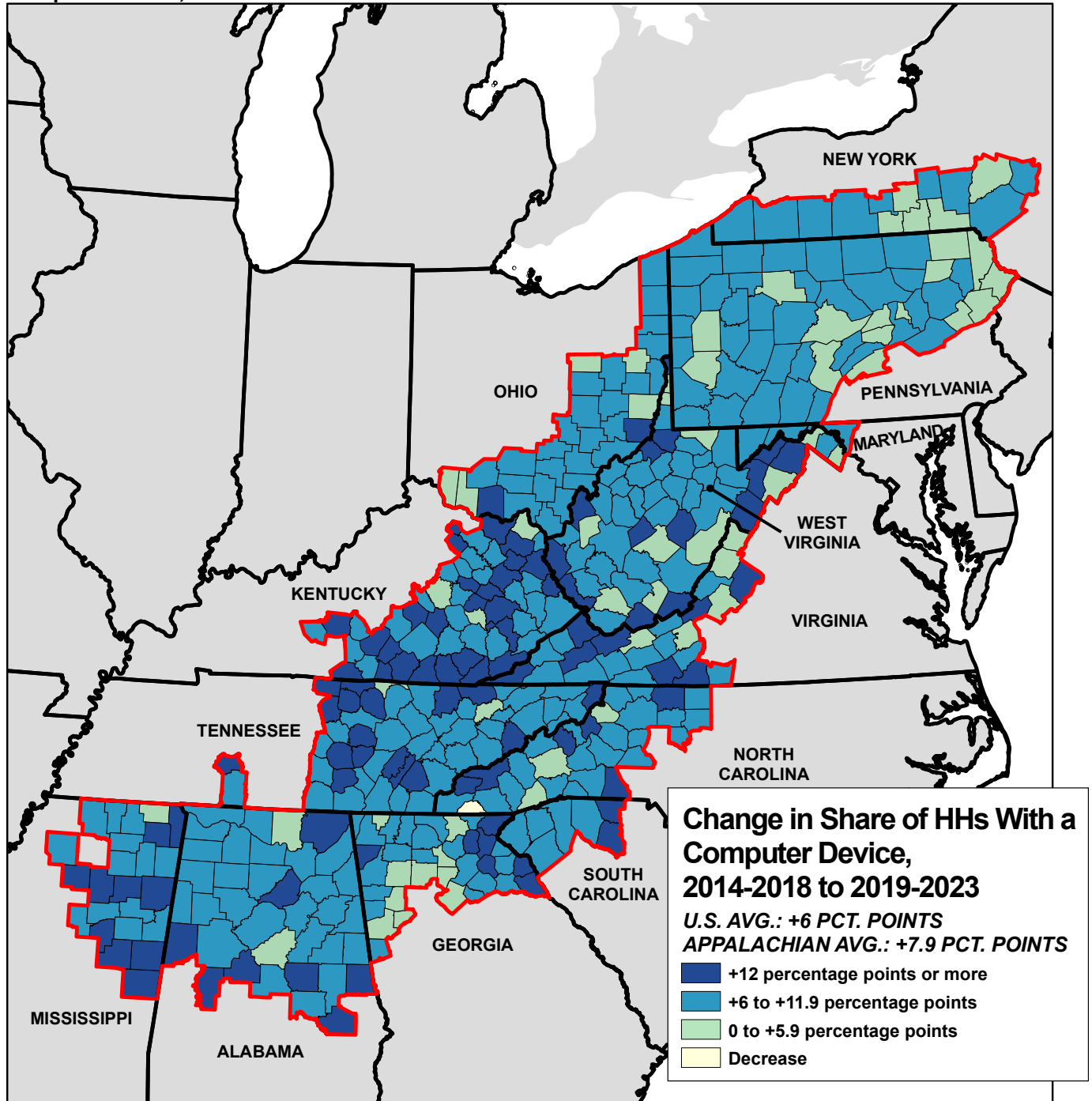
Table 6.11: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Computer Device, By Type of Device, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	+ 6.0	+ 1.9	+ 13.9	+ 6.4	- 1.8
Appalachian Region	+ 7.9	+ 1.4	+ 16.5	+ 6.9	- 1.2
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	+ 6.7	+ 0.4	+ 16.3	+ 7.3	- 1.1
North Central Appalachia	+ 7.9	+ 0.3	+ 17.1	+ 7.0	- 1.3
Central Appalachia	+ 11.5	+ 1.4	+ 20.7	+ 8.7	- 1.4
South Central Appalachia	+ 8.4	+ 1.9	+ 17.3	+ 6.8	- 0.6
Southern Appalachia	+ 7.6	+ 2.6	+ 14.7	+ 6.0	- 1.6
County Types					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	+ 5.8	+ 1.8	+ 13.5	+ 6.6	- 1.4
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	+ 7.5	+ 1.6	+ 15.9	+ 6.6	- 1.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	+ 8.8	+ 1.2	+ 18.4	+ 7.7	- 0.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	+ 9.4	+ 0.4	+ 19.2	+ 7.0	- 0.8
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 10.3	+ 0.7	+ 19.9	+ 7.3	- 0.7
Alabama	+ 9.1	+ 2.7	+ 16.8	+ 6.1	- 1.3
Appalachian Alabama	+ 8.5	+ 2.4	+ 15.7	+ 5.8	- 1.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 10.5	+ 2.9	+ 18.8	+ 6.5	- 1.4
Georgia	+ 6.4	+ 3.2	+ 13.4	+ 6.6	- 1.9
Appalachian Georgia	+ 5.8	+ 2.5	+ 13.1	+ 6.0	- 2.5
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 6.6	+ 3.4	+ 13.6	+ 6.8	- 1.7
Kentucky	+ 8.5	+ 1.9	+ 16.3	+ 6.9	- 1.3
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 11.3	+ 1.5	+ 20.5	+ 9.6	- 1.4
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 7.3	+ 1.9	+ 14.8	+ 5.9	- 1.3
Maryland	+ 4.7	+ 1.8	+ 11.8	+ 7.2	- 2.5
Appalachian Maryland	+ 9.2	+ 2.4	+ 17.2	+ 7.6	- 1.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 4.5	+ 1.7	+ 11.5	+ 7.2	- 2.5
Mississippi	+ 9.9	+ 2.7	+ 16.1	+ 4.7	- 1.4
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 9.9	+ 1.9	+ 16.0	+ 2.9	- 0.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 9.9	+ 2.9	+ 16.1	+ 5.2	- 1.6
New York	+ 5.8	+ 0.7	+ 13.6	+ 7.2	- 2.6
Appalachian New York	+ 6.3	- 0.8	+ 18.0	+ 8.2	- 0.9
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 5.7	+ 0.9	+ 13.4	+ 7.2	- 2.7
North Carolina	+ 6.7	+ 2.6	+ 14.5	+ 6.1	- 1.6
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 8.3	+ 2.3	+ 17.5	+ 7.2	0.0
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 6.3	+ 2.6	+ 13.8	+ 5.7	- 2.0
Ohio	+ 6.2	+ 1.3	+ 14.5	+ 6.1	- 1.1
Appalachian Ohio	+ 7.4	+ 0.3	+ 16.3	+ 6.4	- 0.9
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 5.9	+ 1.5	+ 14.1	+ 6.0	- 1.1
Pennsylvania	+ 6.4	+ 1.7	+ 15.2	+ 7.8	- 1.1
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 6.7	+ 0.4	+ 16.0	+ 7.4	- 1.2
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 6.2	+ 2.6	+ 14.3	+ 8.0	- 1.3
South Carolina	+ 7.5	+ 2.4	+ 14.8	+ 7.0	- 2.1
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 8.1	+ 2.6	+ 15.7	+ 7.2	- 1.5
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 7.3	+ 2.4	+ 14.5	+ 6.9	- 2.3
Tennessee	+ 8.3	+ 2.8	+ 16.0	+ 6.9	- 1.5
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 8.9	+ 2.0	+ 17.6	+ 7.1	- 0.9
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 7.8	+ 3.4	+ 14.7	+ 6.6	- 2.0
Virginia	+ 4.9	+ 1.3	+ 12.3	+ 6.1	- 1.9
Appalachian Virginia	+ 9.5	+ 0.5	+ 18.8	+ 4.6	- 0.8
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 4.4	+ 1.2	+ 11.6	+ 6.2	- 2.0
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 8.3	+ 0.2	+ 17.6	+ 7.1	- 1.7

Note: Device percentages are not mutually exclusive.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Figure 6.17: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Computer Device, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Computer Device, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

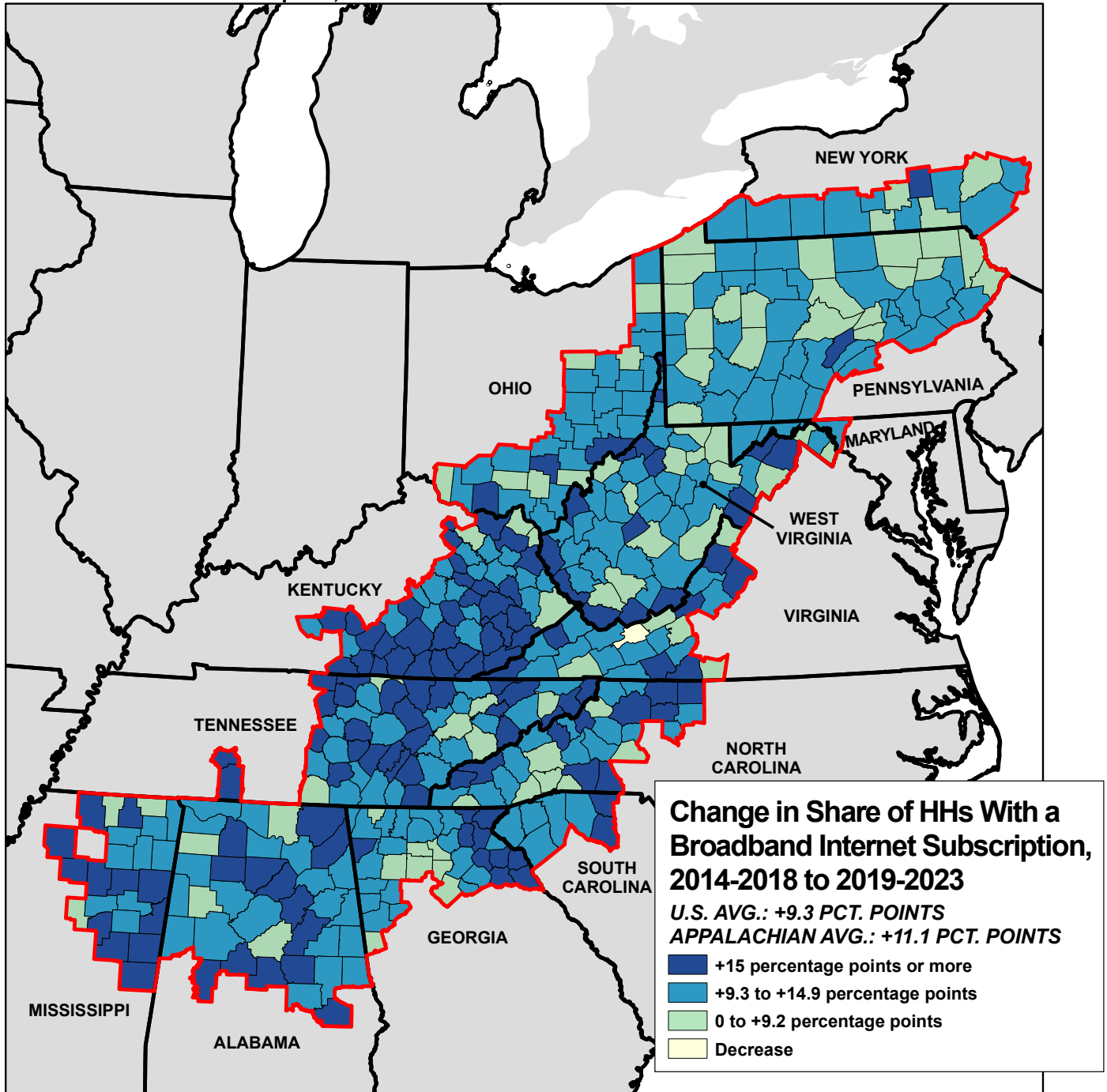
The share of Appalachian households with at least one computer device (desktop or laptop, smartphone, tablet, or other device) increased by 7.9 percentage points – nearly two percentage points more than in the U.S. as a whole. More than four in five Appalachian counties had an increase at least that of the national average, and in 100 of Appalachia’s counties the share increased even further, by at least 12 percentage points. Of these 100 counties, all but 14 were outside of metropolitan areas, and nearly forty percent were concentrated in Central Appalachia, where the overall increase in device ownership was highest at 11.5 percentage points. Meanwhile, rural Appalachian counties had an overall increase in device ownership of more than 10 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	+ 9.0	- 0.3	+ 9.3	+ 6.7	+ 25.4	+ 0.7
Appalachian Region	+ 10.7	- 0.4	+ 11.1	+ 8.0	+ 26.5	+ 0.7
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	+ 9.2	- 0.5	+ 9.6	+ 5.9	+ 26.1	+ 0.5
North Central Appalachia	+ 11.0	- 0.4	+ 11.4	+ 7.3	+ 26.9	+ 0.6
Central Appalachia	+ 14.5	- 0.5	+ 14.9	+ 11.7	+ 29.1	+ 0.7
South Central Appalachia	+ 11.2	- 0.4	+ 11.6	+ 9.1	+ 26.9	+ 0.5
Southern Appalachia	+ 11.0	- 0.3	+ 11.3	+ 8.8	+ 25.7	+ 1.0
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	+ 8.8	- 0.2	+ 9.1	+ 6.5	+ 25.2	+ 0.7
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	+ 10.2	- 0.3	+ 10.5	+ 7.6	+ 26.1	+ 0.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	+ 12.2	- 0.6	+ 12.9	+ 9.5	+ 27.4	+ 0.9
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	+ 12.4	- 0.4	+ 12.8	+ 8.1	+ 27.1	+ 0.8
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 13.2	- 0.5	+ 13.6	+ 10.9	+ 29.1	+ 0.8
Alabama	+ 12.1	- 0.2	+ 12.3	+ 9.1	+ 25.5	+ 1.8
Appalachian Alabama	+ 11.7	- 0.3	+ 12.1	+ 9.5	+ 25.2	+ 1.5
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 12.6	- 0.1	+ 12.7	+ 8.5	+ 25.9	+ 2.4
Georgia	+ 10.1	- 0.2	+ 10.4	+ 8.4	+ 25.8	+ 0.9
Appalachian Georgia	+ 8.9	- 0.3	+ 9.2	+ 6.5	+ 26.1	+ 0.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 10.6	- 0.2	+ 10.8	+ 9.3	+ 25.7	+ 1.0
Kentucky	+ 11.3	- 0.3	+ 11.7	+ 8.2	+ 25.6	+ 0.5
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 14.7	- 0.5	+ 15.2	+ 11.4	+ 29.6	+ 0.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 10.0	- 0.4	+ 10.4	+ 7.0	+ 24.0	+ 0.5
Maryland	+ 6.6	- 0.3	+ 6.9	+ 4.3	+ 23.3	+ 0.6
Appalachian Maryland	+ 11.1	- 0.7	+ 11.7	+ 9.6	+ 25.7	- 0.7
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 6.4	- 0.3	+ 6.6	+ 4.1	+ 23.2	+ 0.7
Mississippi	+ 13.5	- 0.4	+ 13.9	+ 11.4	+ 26.3	+ 1.6
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 14.3	- 0.4	+ 14.7	+ 13.9	+ 26.4	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 13.4	- 0.3	+ 13.6	+ 10.7	+ 26.4	+ 1.7
New York	+ 8.5	- 0.2	+ 8.7	+ 4.3	+ 28.1	+ 0.8
Appalachian New York	+ 9.8	- 0.5	+ 10.3	+ 9.0	+ 28.2	- 0.4
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 8.4	- 0.3	+ 8.6	+ 4.1	+ 28.0	+ 0.8
North Carolina	+ 10.0	- 0.3	+ 10.3	+ 8.5	+ 25.8	+ 0.6
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 11.1	- 0.4	+ 11.5	+ 8.6	+ 28.0	+ 0.6
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 9.7	- 0.3	+ 10.0	+ 8.3	+ 25.2	+ 0.6
Ohio	+ 8.8	- 0.3	+ 9.1	+ 7.1	+ 25.2	+ 0.5
Appalachian Ohio	+ 10.6	- 0.5	+ 11.0	+ 6.9	+ 27.0	+ 0.8
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 8.3	- 0.3	+ 8.7	+ 7.2	+ 24.7	+ 0.5
Pennsylvania	+ 8.9	- 0.5	+ 9.3	+ 5.4	+ 26.1	+ 0.9
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 8.8	- 0.5	+ 9.3	+ 5.3	+ 25.6	+ 0.6
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 8.9	- 0.3	+ 9.2	+ 5.4	+ 26.4	+ 1.1
South Carolina	+ 11.2	- 0.3	+ 11.5	+ 8.6	+ 26.2	+ 1.3
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 11.8	- 0.2	+ 12.0	+ 8.8	+ 25.6	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 10.9	- 0.3	+ 11.3	+ 8.6	+ 26.4	+ 1.3
Tennessee	+ 11.8	- 0.3	+ 12.0	+ 10.5	+ 25.5	+ 0.1
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 11.8	- 0.4	+ 12.3	+ 10.3	+ 26.7	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 11.6	- 0.3	+ 11.8	+ 10.6	+ 24.5	+ 0.3
Virginia	+ 7.6	- 0.4	+ 7.9	+ 5.7	+ 22.9	+ 0.7
Appalachian Virginia	+ 10.9	- 0.5	+ 11.4	+ 8.9	+ 24.6	+ 2.8
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 7.2	- 0.3	+ 7.5	+ 5.2	+ 22.6	+ 0.5
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 11.3	- 0.2	+ 11.5	+ 7.2	+ 27.3	+ 0.6

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, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

Figure 6.18: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Broadband Internet Subscription, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region With a Broadband Internet Subscription, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 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 11.1 percentage points between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023, nearly two percentage points higher than the national rate of increase. And this increase was even more pronounced in some areas – in 133 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 counties with the highest rate of increase, more than three-fourths were outside of metropolitan areas and about one-third 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 2014-2018 period, the share of Appalachian adults ages 25 and over with at least a high school diploma has risen 2.3 percentage points, to 89.1 percent in 2019-2023, 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 Appalachia's rural counties. With these changes, the share of adults who have at least a high school education as of 2019-2023 has reached 82.9 percent in Central Appalachia and 84.2 percent in the region's rural areas. The Appalachian sections of Kentucky, Mississippi, and Virginia had the largest increases among the states – more than three percentage points in all three states.
- The share of Appalachian adults ages 25 and over with an associate's degree as their highest level of education increased by 0.7 percentage points, to 9.4 percent, between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023. Central Appalachia and the Appalachian sections of Kentucky, Mississippi, 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 3.1 percentage points, with more than one in four Appalachian adults having a bachelor's degree or more in 2019-2023. 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. Appalachian Georgia and the Carolinas had notable increases in the share of adults with at least a bachelor's degree – rising by 3.5 percentage points or more since 2014-2018.
- The group with the most notable changes in educational attainment since 2014-2018 has been adults ages 65 and over. The share of older adults in Appalachia with at least a high school diploma has risen 5.4 percentage points; the share with at least a bachelor's degree has increased 3.7 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 2014-2018, 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 2019-2023 (see Tables 6.1 through 6.3). For example, in Central Appalachia, the share of adults 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or more (16.2 percent) was less than half the national average (35 percent) – as were the shares of working-age and older adults.
- Among adults in Appalachia with a bachelor's degree or more, the share with a degree in the science and engineering field was 31.5 percent in 2019-2023 – 0.7 percentage points higher than it was in 2014-2018 – and comparable to national increases (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 2014-2018 and 2019-2023. The share of households in Appalachia with at least one computer device rose 7.9 percent since 2014-2018, while the share with broadband internet access increased by 11.1 percentage points (see Tables 6.11 and 6.12). These increases were above the national average. 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.

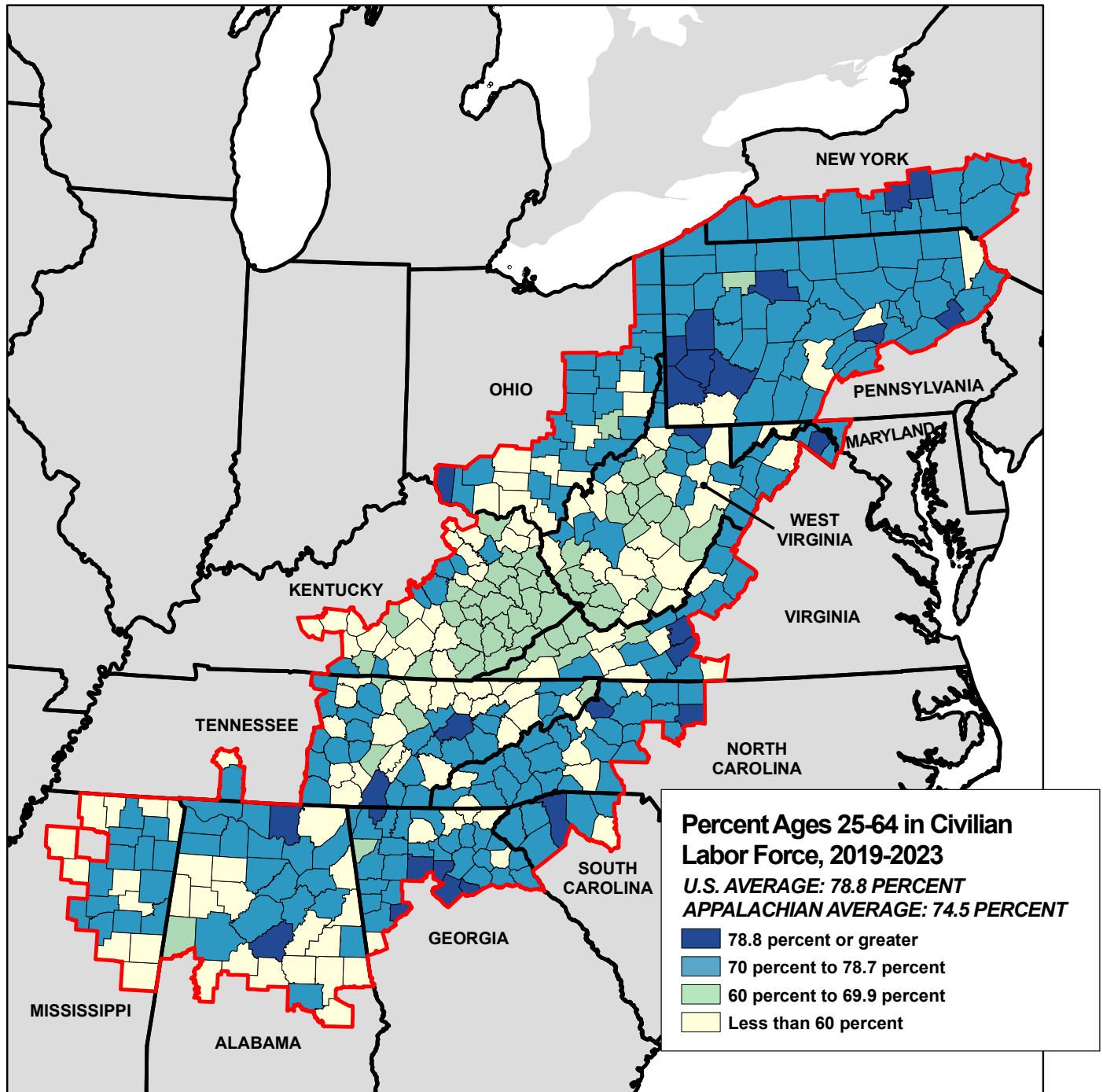
CHAPTER 7: LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Table 7.1: Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Status of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023

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	171,624,000	135,319,868	78.8	95.6	4.4
Appalachian Region	13,349,665	9,948,603	74.5	95.9	4.1
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	4,052,290	3,102,177	76.6	95.5	4.5
North Central Appalachia	1,257,586	894,254	71.1	95.6	4.4
Central Appalachia	946,158	586,406	62.0	94.9	5.1
South Central Appalachia	2,645,508	1,975,274	74.7	96.2	3.8
Southern Appalachia	4,448,123	3,390,492	76.2	96.3	3.7
County Types					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	3,307,404	2,625,208	79.4	96.1	3.9
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	5,709,338	4,308,538	75.5	96.0	4.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	1,152,870	833,432	72.3	95.7	4.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	1,960,689	1,378,676	70.3	95.8	4.2
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	1,219,364	802,749	65.8	95.2	4.8
Alabama	2,551,076	1,865,393	73.1	96.0	4.0
Appalachian Alabama	1,663,386	1,232,442	74.1	96.2	3.8
Non-Appalachian Alabama	887,690	632,951	71.3	95.6	4.4
Georgia	5,631,646	4,374,258	77.7	95.8	4.2
Appalachian Georgia	1,786,544	1,402,684	78.5	96.6	3.4
Non-Appalachian Georgia	3,845,102	2,971,574	77.3	95.4	4.6
Kentucky	2,301,308	1,683,624	73.2	96.1	3.9
Appalachian Kentucky	592,551	369,036	62.3	94.8	5.2
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,708,757	1,314,588	76.9	96.4	3.6
Maryland	3,243,317	2,678,684	82.6	96.0	4.0
Appalachian Maryland	129,085	92,960	72.0	95.5	4.5
Non-Appalachian Maryland	3,114,232	2,585,724	83.0	96.0	4.0
Mississippi	1,465,622	1,061,074	72.4	95.1	4.9
Appalachian Mississippi	297,118	213,923	72.0	95.4	4.6
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	1,168,504	847,151	72.5	95.0	5.0
New York	10,517,531	8,344,977	79.3	94.7	5.3
Appalachian New York	486,928	367,370	75.4	95.1	4.9
Non-Appalachian New York	10,030,603	7,977,607	79.5	94.7	5.3
North Carolina	5,417,311	4,216,338	77.8	96.0	4.0
Appalachian North Carolina	1,024,840	772,429	75.4	96.2	3.8
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	4,392,471	3,443,909	78.4	96.0	4.0
Ohio	6,010,598	4,739,853	78.9	95.9	4.1
Appalachian Ohio	993,128	721,545	72.7	95.7	4.3
Non-Appalachian Ohio	5,017,470	4,018,308	80.1	96.0	4.0
Pennsylvania	6,668,941	5,314,629	79.7	95.6	4.4
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,890,241	2,239,903	77.5	95.6	4.4
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	3,778,700	3,074,726	81.4	95.5	4.5
South Carolina	2,626,534	2,002,997	76.3	96.0	4.0
Appalachian South Carolina	701,075	541,443	77.2	96.3	3.7
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,925,459	1,461,554	75.9	95.8	4.2
Tennessee	3,618,069	2,765,647	76.4	96.0	4.0
Appalachian Tennessee	1,528,676	1,127,203	73.7	96.0	4.0
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	2,089,393	1,638,444	78.4	96.0	4.0
Virginia	4,457,546	3,585,206	80.4	96.6	3.4
Appalachian Virginia	357,933	244,850	68.4	96.7	3.3
Non-Appalachian Virginia	4,099,613	3,340,356	81.5	96.6	3.4
West Virginia (entire state)	898,160	622,815	69.3	95.1	4.9

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

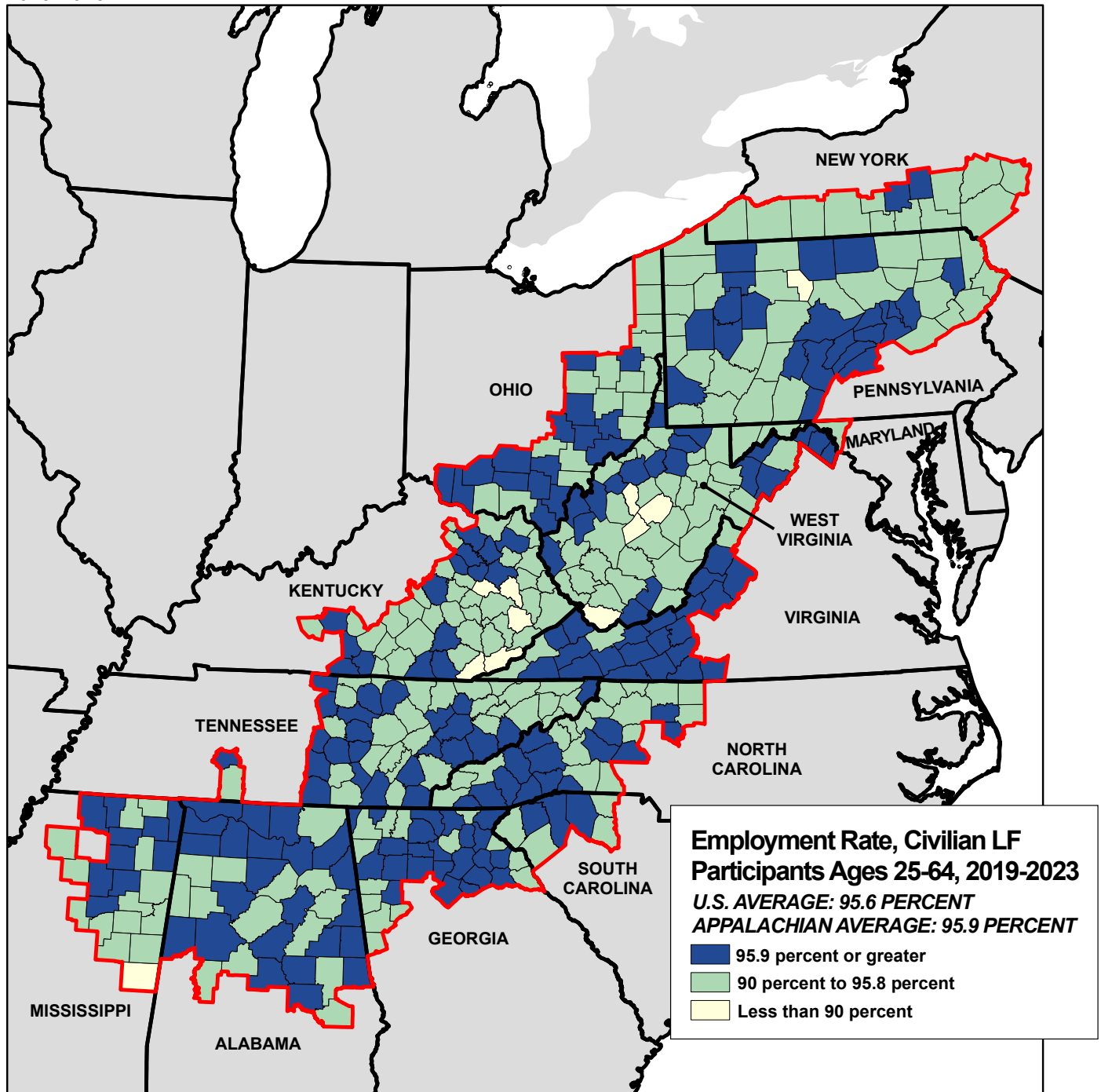
Figure 7.1: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the Civilian Labor Force, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the Civilian Labor Force, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

In the 2019-2023 period, 74.5 percent of Appalachia’s civilian population in the prime working ages (ages 25 to 64) were in the civilian labor force, more than four percentage points below the U.S. average of 78.8 percent. In 28 Appalachian counties (24 of which were in metropolitan areas), the share was at or above the national average, yet there were 55 counties where less than 60 percent of 25-to-64-year-olds were in the civilian labor force. All but four of the counties in the latter group were outside of metropolitan areas, and 38 were in Central Appalachia. Indeed, just 62 percent of working-age residents in Central Appalachia and 65.8 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 23 of the 28 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.

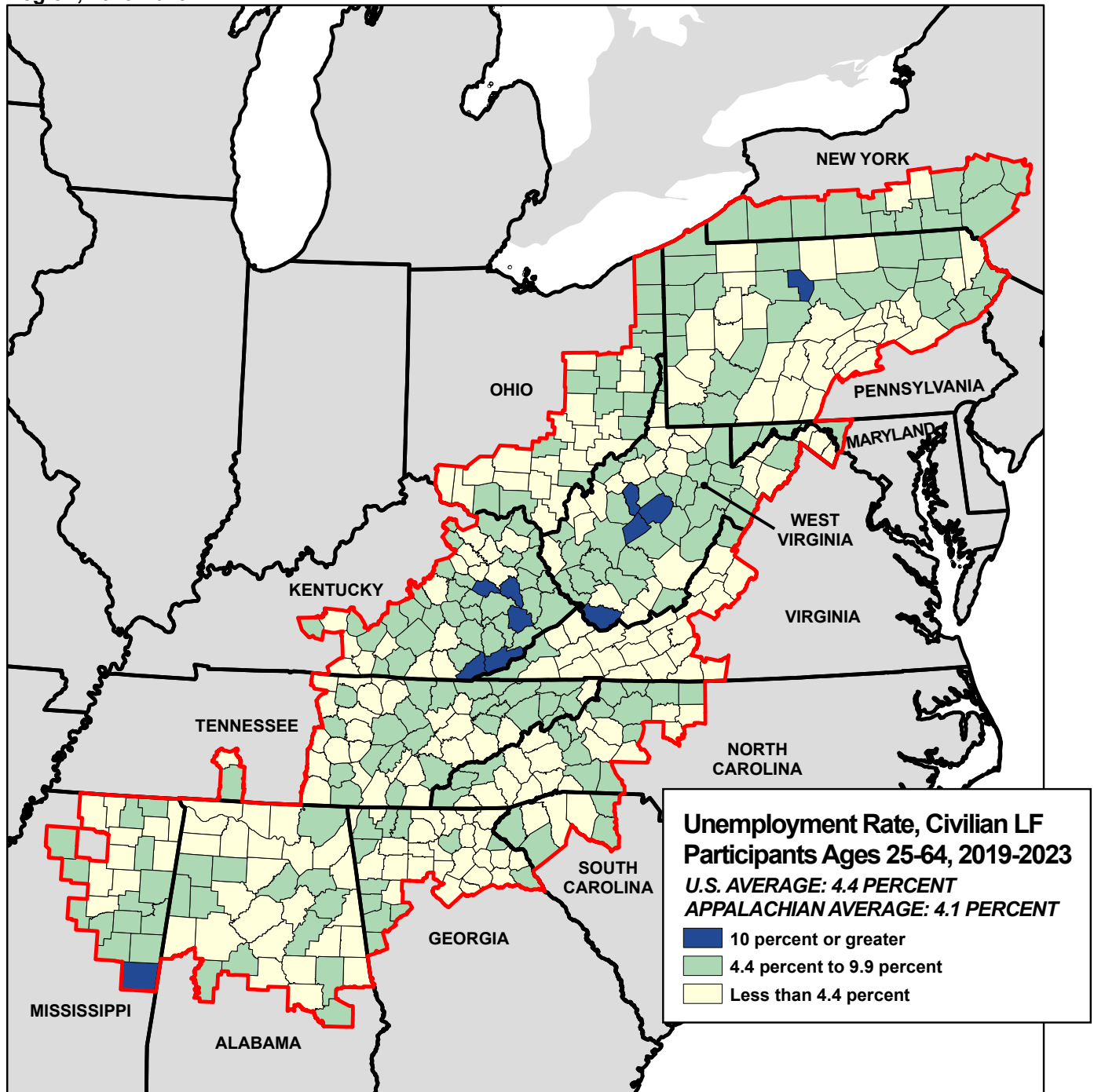
Figure 7.2: Employment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023



Map Title: Employment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

At 95.9 percent, the employment rate in Appalachia among members of the civilian labor force ages 25 to 64 was slightly above the national rate during the 2019-2023 period. Although there were only slight differences among subregions and urban/rural county types, there was some variation at the county level. In 231 of Appalachia’s 423 counties, the employment rate matched or exceeded the national average, yet there were 11 counties in the Appalachian Region (six of which were in Central Appalachia) where employment among 25-to-64-year-olds was less than 90 percent – all but one of which were outside metropolitan areas. Because the 2019-2023 period includes the entirety of the COVID-19 pandemic period – from March 2020 to May 2023 – the above numbers reflect some of the pandemic’s immediate impacts, but also the months immediately preceding and following the pandemic.

Figure 7.3: Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023



Map Title: Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

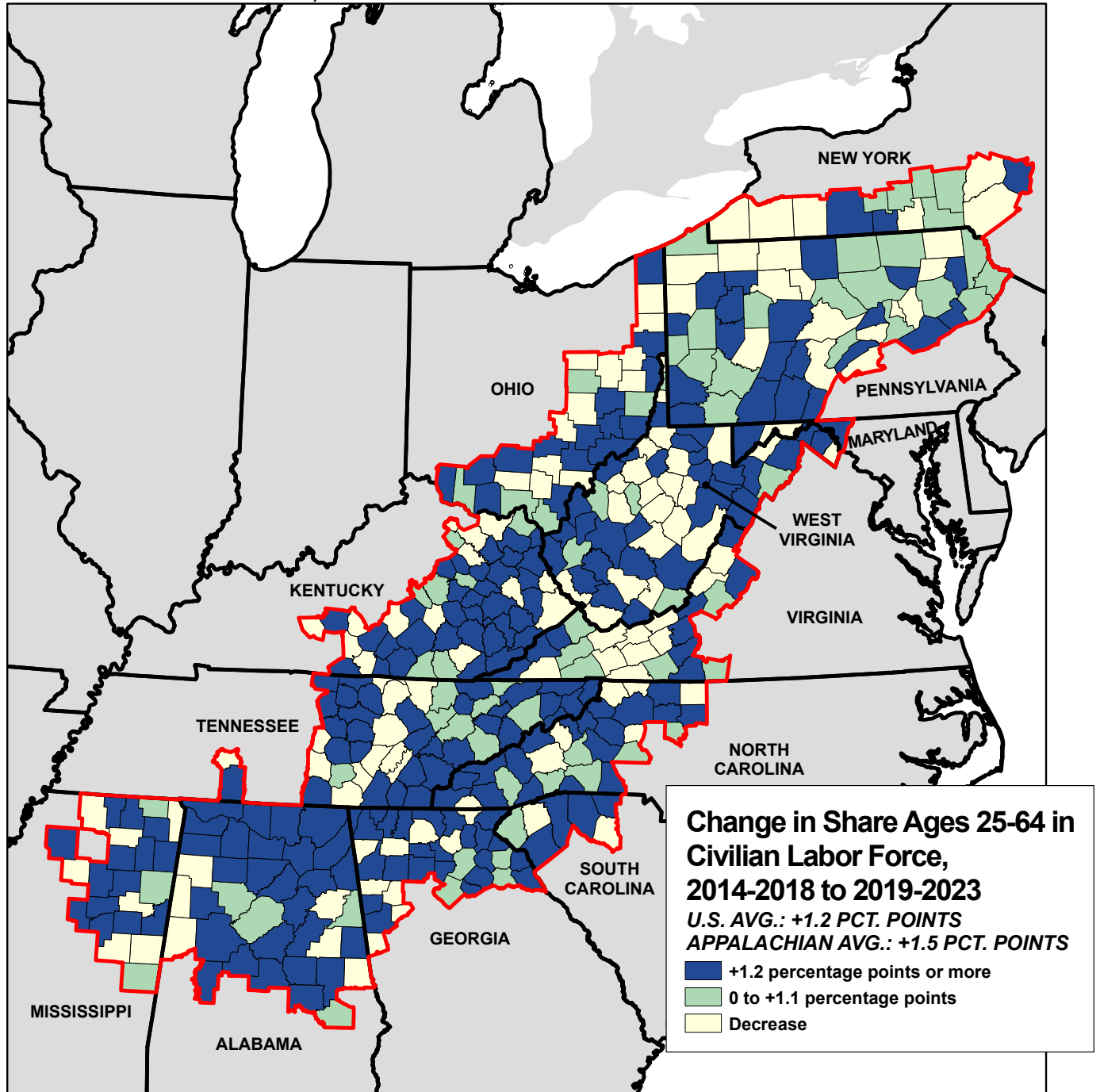
Unemployment in the Appalachian Region among persons ages 25 to 64 was just below the national average of 4.4 percent during the 2019-2023 period. Yet, the jobless rate was at least 10 percent in 11 Appalachian counties – all but one of which were outside metropolitan areas and six of which were in Central Appalachia – the subregion with the highest overall rate of unemployment. Conversely, the unemployment rate was below the national average in 213 other counties, with 115 of these located in South Central and Southern Appalachia – the subregions where the jobless levels were below the national rate. There are indications of a connection between unemployment and educational attainment: In 10 of the 11 Appalachian counties with double-digit unemployment, the share of 25-to-64-year-olds with at least a high school diploma was below the national average of 90 percent; in seven 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	+ 0.4	- 0.4
Appalachian Region	+ 1.5	+ 0.8	- 0.8
Subregions			
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.8	+ 0.1	- 0.1
North Central Appalachia	+ 1.7	+ 0.8	- 0.8
Central Appalachia	+ 2.4	+ 1.8	- 1.8
South Central Appalachia	+ 1.6	+ 1.0	- 1.0
Southern Appalachia	+ 1.7	+ 1.0	- 1.0
County Types			
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	+ 1.2	+ 0.5	- 0.5
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	+ 1.6	+ 0.8	- 0.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	+ 1.7	+ 0.9	- 0.9
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	+ 1.4	+ 1.0	- 1.0
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 1.3	+ 1.1	- 1.1
Alabama	+ 1.8	+ 1.3	- 1.3
Appalachian Alabama	+ 2.2	+ 1.3	- 1.3
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 1.2	+ 1.3	- 1.3
Georgia	+ 1.5	+ 0.9	- 0.9
Appalachian Georgia	+ 1.1	+ 0.8	- 0.8
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 1.6	+ 1.0	- 1.0
Kentucky	+ 1.5	+ 1.1	- 1.1
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 2.4	+ 1.8	- 1.8
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 1.0	+ 0.9	- 0.9
Maryland	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	- 0.6
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.6	+ 0.8	- 0.8
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	- 0.5
Mississippi	+ 1.1	+ 1.7	- 1.7
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 1.5	+ 1.6	- 1.6
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 1.0	+ 1.7	- 1.7
New York	+ 0.8	- 0.4	+ 0.4
Appalachian New York	- 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.9	- 0.3	+ 0.3
North Carolina	+ 1.1	+ 1.0	- 1.0
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 1.2	+ 0.9	- 0.9
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 1.1	+ 1.0	- 1.0
Ohio	+ 1.3	+ 0.6	- 0.6
Appalachian Ohio	+ 1.2	+ 0.8	- 0.8
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 1.3	+ 0.6	- 0.6
Pennsylvania	+ 1.2	+ 0.3	- 0.3
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.0	0.0	0.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.4	+ 0.4	- 0.4
South Carolina	+ 1.2	+ 1.2	- 1.2
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 1.9	+ 0.7	- 0.7
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 0.9	+ 1.3	- 1.3
Tennessee	+ 1.9	+ 0.8	- 0.8
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 2.0	+ 1.0	- 1.0
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 1.8	+ 0.7	- 0.7
Virginia	+ 0.8	+ 0.6	- 0.6
Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.8	+ 1.9	- 1.9
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.8	+ 0.5	- 0.5
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 1.8	+ 0.6	- 0.6

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

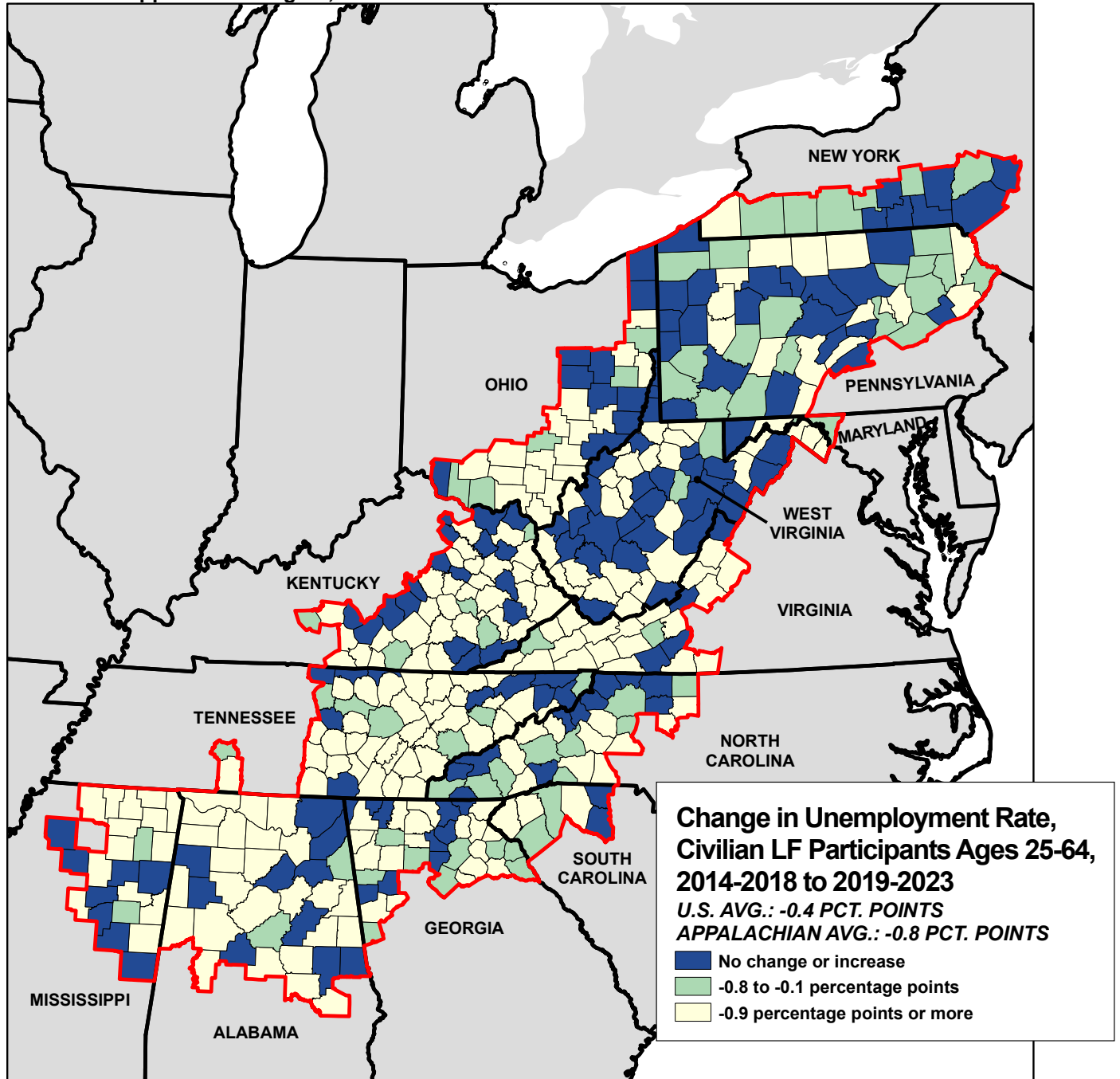


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the Civilian Labor Force, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

In the Appalachian Region, the labor force participation rate among civilians ages 25 to 64 was 1.5 percentage points higher in 2019-2023 than it was in 2014-2018, slightly outpacing the national increase of 1.2 points. In fact, 228 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 33 of the 54 Kentucky counties; that state’s Appalachian section saw an increase of 2.4 percentage points. Yet participation rates also fell in some parts of Appalachia – there were 123 counties in the Appalachian Region where the share of adults in the labor force decreased between the two periods. In Appalachian New York where six of the 14 Appalachian counties saw a decrease, the labor force participation rate declined by 0.1 percentage points between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023, while non-Appalachian New York saw an increase of 0.9 percentage points.

Figure 7.5: Percentage Point Change in the Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023
 Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

Unemployment among civilian labor force participants in Appalachia declined by 0.8 percentage points between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023, compared with the national decrease of 0.4 percentage points. Of Appalachia's 423 counties, 215 of the counties in the region had an unemployment rate decrease that exceeded the Appalachian average and half of those counties were in South Central and Southern Appalachia. These numbers suggest that slow recovery from more recent economic forces such as the early period of the COVID-19 pandemic may be at play in some areas.

TRENDS IN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT

- Among working-age adults (ages 25 to 64), Appalachia's labor force participation rate in 2019-2023 was 74.5 percent, 1.5 percentage points higher than its rate in 2014-2018 (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 12 states. The largest increase was in Kentucky and Alabama's Appalachian section, where labor force participation increased 2.4 and 2.2 percentage points, respectively. Meanwhile, the participation rate fell 0.1 percentage points in Appalachian New York.
- Within the civilian labor force, the employment rate in Appalachia was 95.9 percent, which was 0.8 percentage points higher than the employment rate in 2014-2018. Among the subregions, the increase was greatest in Central Appalachia, where employment rose by 1.8 percentage points. Employment in Northern Appalachia, however, rose by 0.1 percentage points – less than the national average of 0.4 percentage points. Elsewhere in the Appalachian Region, the employment rate rose above the national average in all county types throughout the region. Among the states, employment increased the most in the Appalachian sections of Virginia, Kentucky, and Mississippi (1.9 percentage points in Virginia, 1.8 percentage points in Kentucky and 1.6 percentage points in Mississippi). Conversely, Appalachian Pennsylvania and New York had either no change or a decrease in employment rate.
- As Appalachia's employment rate rose between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023, its unemployment rate fell. The Appalachian Region's unemployment rate of 4.1 percent in the later period is 0.8 percentage points lower than its rate in 2014-2018.
- Although there are some parts of the Appalachian Region that likely have not yet rebounded from the economic downturn of 2007-2009 and the labor force impacts from 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, 2019-2023

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	157,645,183	70.2	8.5	3.5	2.4	1.9	13.5
Appalachian Region	11,701,372	77.3	8.7	0.8	2.0	1.3	10.0
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	3,658,532	74.6	8.2	1.8	3.2	1.5	10.6
North Central Appalachia	1,054,676	79.5	8.3	0.5	2.3	1.2	8.2
Central Appalachia	678,092	80.2	10.2	0.2	1.8	1.0	6.6
South Central Appalachia	2,348,847	79.0	8.4	0.4	1.6	1.1	9.6
Southern Appalachia	3,961,225	77.6	9.1	0.3	1.0	1.2	10.7
County Types							
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	3,035,460	72.4	8.3	1.7	1.6	1.3	14.7
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	5,101,536	78.2	8.4	0.7	1.9	1.3	9.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	987,022	79.6	9.4	0.3	2.4	1.2	7.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	1,625,893	80.3	9.4	0.3	2.2	1.1	6.8
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	951,461	80.0	9.5	0.3	2.3	1.6	6.4
Alabama	2,202,219	81.5	8.2	0.3	1.1	1.1	7.8
Appalachian Alabama	1,450,611	80.8	8.5	0.3	1.1	1.0	8.3
Non-Appalachian Alabama	751,608	82.7	7.8	0.4	1.3	1.2	6.7
Georgia	5,071,788	72.3	9.0	1.3	1.3	1.8	14.2
Appalachian Georgia	1,621,918	73.1	10.0	0.4	0.9	1.3	14.3
Non-Appalachian Georgia	3,449,870	71.9	8.5	1.7	1.5	2.1	14.2
Kentucky	2,002,703	77.8	9.2	0.7	2.0	1.3	9.1
Appalachian Kentucky	427,263	79.5	10.8	0.2	1.9	0.9	6.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,575,440	77.3	8.7	0.8	2.0	1.4	9.8
Maryland	3,104,587	66.3	7.7	4.9	2.0	1.9	17.2
Appalachian Maryland	109,035	76.5	9.0	0.9	1.6	1.5	10.5
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,995,552	66.0	7.7	5.0	2.0	1.9	17.4
Mississippi	1,236,023	82.5	9.1	0.3	1.3	1.5	5.3
Appalachian Mississippi	252,003	86.1	7.6	0.1	1.0	1.0	4.2
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	984,020	81.6	9.5	0.3	1.4	1.6	5.6
New York	9,350,213	49.7	6.3	22.4	5.7	2.6	13.3
Appalachian New York	444,233	73.6	8.8	1.5	5.0	1.7	9.3
Non-Appalachian New York	8,905,980	48.5	6.2	23.4	5.7	2.7	13.5
North Carolina	4,991,806	73.3	8.4	0.7	1.6	1.4	14.5
Appalachian North Carolina	909,993	78.5	8.8	0.4	1.5	1.2	9.6
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	4,081,813	72.2	8.4	0.8	1.6	1.5	15.6
Ohio	5,591,912	76.6	7.5	1.1	2.0	1.3	11.5
Appalachian Ohio	855,765	80.3	8.5	0.4	2.0	1.7	7.2
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,736,147	75.9	7.4	1.3	2.0	1.3	12.2
Pennsylvania	6,195,018	69.6	7.6	3.9	3.3	1.8	13.8
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,628,829	73.7	8.0	2.1	3.2	1.4	11.6
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	3,566,189	66.6	7.3	5.2	3.4	2.0	15.4
South Carolina	2,381,241	77.9	8.4	0.4	1.7	1.6	10.0
Appalachian South Carolina	636,693	78.5	9.0	0.3	1.2	1.6	9.5
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,744,548	77.7	8.2	0.5	1.8	1.6	10.2
Tennessee	3,255,576	77.2	8.4	0.5	1.2	1.3	11.4
Appalachian Tennessee	1,337,512	79.5	8.3	0.3	1.4	1.0	9.6
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,918,064	75.7	8.5	0.6	1.1	1.4	12.6
Virginia	4,308,387	69.2	8.2	2.6	2.1	1.7	16.2
Appalachian Virginia	299,012	79.5	8.3	0.7	2.3	1.2	8.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	4,009,375	68.4	8.2	2.7	2.0	1.7	16.9
West Virginia (entire state)	728,505	79.0	8.5	0.6	2.6	1.3	8.0

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Table 8.2: Means of Transportation for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Below the Poverty Level, 2019-2023

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	8,514,980	64.3	12.4	6.0	5.2	3.5	8.7
Appalachian Region	706,952	69.9	13.3	2.2	4.8	2.6	7.1
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	202,133	63.8	12.1	4.9	8.4	3.3	7.6
North Central Appalachia	71,886	69.6	11.9	2.1	7.4	2.7	6.3
Central Appalachia	54,500	73.3	13.9	0.5	3.7	2.0	6.6
South Central Appalachia	147,420	73.4	12.2	1.4	3.3	2.3	7.6
Southern Appalachia	231,013	72.3	15.4	0.9	2.2	2.5	6.7
County Types							
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	138,791	64.3	15.1	4.5	5.0	2.5	8.5
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	319,757	70.6	12.8	2.4	4.5	2.8	6.9
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	68,469	71.0	12.0	0.9	6.5	3.0	6.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	105,658	71.6	14.6	0.7	4.8	1.8	6.5
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	74,277	73.9	11.5	0.7	4.5	2.9	6.4
Alabama	145,936	76.7	12.1	1.2	2.6	1.9	5.5
Appalachian Alabama	88,791	76.1	13.3	1.1	2.2	2.0	5.3
Non-Appalachian Alabama	57,145	77.8	10.4	1.4	3.2	1.6	5.8
Georgia	300,373	66.0	14.6	2.8	3.0	4.1	9.5
Appalachian Georgia	80,609	66.5	19.6	0.7	2.4	2.2	8.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	219,764	65.9	12.8	3.6	3.2	4.7	9.8
Kentucky	135,243	70.3	13.6	2.4	4.5	3.3	5.9
Appalachian Kentucky	37,503	72.8	14.2	0.4	4.0	2.0	6.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	97,740	69.4	13.4	3.2	4.7	3.8	5.6
Maryland	116,541	59.4	11.7	9.7	5.4	4.6	9.2
Appalachian Maryland	5,965	73.9	11.9	1.6	4.5	2.4	5.6
Non-Appalachian Maryland	110,576	58.7	11.7	10.1	5.4	4.7	9.4
Mississippi	100,841	77.8	12.7	0.5	2.3	2.6	4.1
Appalachian Mississippi	20,603	79.6	9.8	0.5	2.1	3.1	4.9
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	80,238	77.3	13.4	0.5	2.3	2.5	3.9
New York	470,992	37.0	7.9	30.3	11.2	4.1	9.5
Appalachian New York	30,486	58.8	12.8	5.0	10.5	3.8	9.1
Non-Appalachian New York	440,506	35.5	7.6	32.1	11.3	4.1	9.5
North Carolina	289,256	70.5	13.6	2.3	2.5	2.4	8.7
Appalachian North Carolina	59,522	72.8	14.6	1.4	2.7	1.8	6.7
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	229,734	69.9	13.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	9.2
Ohio	320,910	67.1	12.8	4.0	6.0	2.6	7.5
Appalachian Ohio	58,689	69.5	13.1	1.4	6.0	3.2	6.8
Non-Appalachian Ohio	262,221	66.6	12.7	4.6	6.0	2.5	7.7
Pennsylvania	292,527	58.1	11.3	9.9	8.0	4.0	8.7
Appalachian Pennsylvania	131,615	62.9	11.6	5.8	9.1	2.9	7.8
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	160,912	54.2	11.1	13.1	7.2	4.8	9.5
South Carolina	150,627	71.0	14.2	1.5	2.8	3.5	6.9
Appalachian South Carolina	41,010	71.8	14.4	1.1	2.0	3.5	7.2
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	109,617	70.7	14.2	1.6	3.1	3.6	6.8
Tennessee	186,215	72.2	12.9	1.6	2.5	2.7	8.1
Appalachian Tennessee	81,651	74.3	11.2	0.8	3.1	2.5	8.1
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	104,564	70.6	14.2	2.2	2.1	3.0	8.1
Virginia	186,450	64.7	12.9	4.4	4.3	3.7	10.1
Appalachian Virginia	19,807	70.9	10.1	3.1	5.4	2.7	7.7
Non-Appalachian Virginia	166,643	64.0	13.2	4.5	4.1	3.8	10.4
West Virginia (entire state)	50,701	70.7	11.5	2.7	6.7	3.3	5.1

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2023, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$30,900. 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, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Table 8.3: Availability of Vehicles for Households in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023

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	127,482,865	8.3	32.9	36.8	14.6	7.4
Appalachian Region	10,449,301	6.6	31.4	37.3	16.3	8.4
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	3,337,636	9.1	34.7	36.6	13.5	6.0
North Central Appalachia	1,000,607	7.4	32.1	36.7	15.9	7.9
Central Appalachia	727,335	7.3	30.8	35.5	17.2	9.3
South Central Appalachia	2,125,442	5.1	29.6	37.4	17.7	10.2
Southern Appalachia	3,258,281	4.6	29.1	38.5	18.1	9.7
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	2,466,604	6.5	31.5	38.8	15.6	7.6
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	4,523,363	6.6	32.0	37.1	16.1	8.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	908,939	6.6	30.4	36.8	16.8	9.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	1,575,832	6.5	30.1	36.3	17.4	9.7
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	974,563	7.4	31.1	36.4	16.5	8.6
Alabama	1,969,105	5.4	31.5	36.7	17.3	9.2
Appalachian Alabama	1,270,615	5.0	30.2	36.8	18.1	9.8
Non-Appalachian Alabama	698,490	6.0	33.8	36.4	15.8	7.9
Georgia	4,008,013	5.9	32.5	37.7	15.8	8.0
Appalachian Georgia	1,203,037	3.7	27.1	40.5	18.6	10.1
Non-Appalachian Georgia	2,804,976	6.9	34.9	36.5	14.6	7.1
Kentucky	1,791,991	6.7	32.1	37.4	15.8	7.9
Appalachian Kentucky	453,697	7.5	30.9	35.8	16.9	8.9
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,338,294	6.5	32.5	37.9	15.5	7.6
Maryland	2,339,510	8.7	33.3	35.9	14.7	7.4
Appalachian Maryland	99,412	8.4	30.9	35.8	16.6	8.4
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,240,098	8.7	33.4	36.0	14.6	7.3
Mississippi	1,131,760	6.2	32.1	36.5	16.6	8.6
Appalachian Mississippi	239,456	5.9	30.0	37.3	17.2	9.6
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	892,304	6.2	32.7	36.3	16.5	8.3
New York	7,668,956	29.0	33.4	25.6	8.3	3.7
Appalachian New York	421,544	10.3	36.2	36.7	11.8	5.0
Non-Appalachian New York	7,247,412	30.1	33.2	24.9	8.1	3.6
North Carolina	4,186,924	5.3	31.3	38.1	16.7	8.6
Appalachian North Carolina	827,673	5.2	30.2	37.0	17.6	9.9
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	3,359,251	5.4	31.6	38.4	16.4	8.2
Ohio	4,829,571	7.4	33.7	37.6	14.3	7.0
Appalachian Ohio	798,669	7.6	30.9	36.2	16.6	8.7
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,030,902	7.4	34.2	37.9	13.9	6.6
Pennsylvania	5,235,339	10.5	34.7	36.0	13.0	5.9
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,364,244	9.1	35.0	36.7	13.4	5.9
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,871,095	11.6	34.4	35.5	12.6	5.9
South Carolina	2,070,390	5.7	32.2	38.7	16.0	7.4
Appalachian South Carolina	545,173	5.2	30.4	38.6	17.5	8.3
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,525,217	5.9	32.8	38.7	15.5	7.1
Tennessee	2,768,743	5.2	30.9	37.9	16.8	9.1
Appalachian Tennessee	1,209,095	5.0	29.1	37.7	17.8	10.5
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,559,648	5.4	32.2	38.1	16.1	8.1
Virginia	3,326,260	6.0	30.7	37.5	16.9	8.9
Appalachian Virginia	295,238	6.4	29.2	35.5	18.6	10.3
Non-Appalachian Virginia	3,031,022	6.0	30.9	37.7	16.7	8.8
West Virginia (entire state)	721,448	8.2	34.1	36.8	14.4	6.6

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 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, 2019-2023

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	156,116,469	6,778,862	652,663	2,065,848	829,588	617,517	963,559
Appalachian Region	11,591,309	312,729	57,092	29,989	43,325	33,355	29,175
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	3,613,436	148,720	24,538	23,259	25,761	18,339	16,131
North Central Appalachia	1,045,949	27,375	4,535	1,477	4,490	2,554	2,103
Central Appalachia	672,649	15,390	3,490	208	2,120	1,084	1,347
South Central Appalachia	2,325,563	42,130	6,201	2,648	4,420	3,849	3,343
Southern Appalachia	3,933,712	79,114	18,328	2,397	6,534	7,529	6,251
County Types							
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	3,016,448	82,604	11,928	16,354	11,313	6,527	9,410
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	5,045,694	131,547	23,489	11,626	17,738	13,872	9,921
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	977,578	27,289	5,397	732	4,096	3,527	2,952
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	1,610,767	42,197	10,052	846	5,766	4,025	3,623
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	940,822	29,092	6,226	431	4,412	5,404	3,269
Alabama	2,184,327	42,746	8,962	1,504	3,455	3,399	2,675
Appalachian Alabama	1,438,735	26,116	5,024	919	2,408	1,949	1,413
Non-Appalachian Alabama	745,592	16,630	3,938	585	1,047	1,450	1,262
Georgia	5,028,691	144,170	28,600	18,494	11,185	19,327	15,685
Appalachian Georgia	1,615,563	33,498	9,445	752	2,478	3,435	3,142
Non-Appalachian Georgia	3,413,128	110,672	19,155	17,742	8,707	15,892	12,543
Kentucky	1,981,336	50,567	8,990	4,779	7,280	5,523	4,908
Appalachian Kentucky	422,690	9,979	2,236	124	1,341	713	989
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,558,646	40,588	6,754	4,655	5,939	4,810	3,919
Maryland	3,084,281	127,825	13,736	39,983	11,117	13,428	16,208
Appalachian Maryland	108,480	3,377	403	387	322	373	271
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,975,801	124,448	13,333	39,596	10,795	13,055	15,937
Mississippi	1,225,182	27,847	5,610	626	2,857	2,681	1,877
Appalachian Mississippi	250,344	5,453	1,064	67	730	531	449
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	974,838	22,394	4,546	559	2,127	2,150	1,428
New York	9,245,881	2,010,995	59,436	1,115,504	256,501	111,709	328,030
Appalachian New York	434,569	21,434	2,612	2,825	5,366	2,846	2,576
Non-Appalachian New York	8,811,312	1,989,561	56,824	1,112,679	251,135	108,863	325,454
North Carolina	4,923,224	108,028	18,660	9,661	8,904	11,793	13,767
Appalachian North Carolina	904,336	17,703	2,323	1,091	1,635	1,972	1,299
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	4,018,888	90,325	16,337	8,570	7,269	9,821	12,468
Ohio	5,548,308	172,550	32,599	25,812	22,529	20,299	16,285
Appalachian Ohio	850,269	31,896	7,815	1,083	3,482	6,960	2,831
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,698,039	140,654	24,784	24,729	19,047	13,339	13,454
Pennsylvania	6,117,539	312,286	36,631	83,269	49,278	29,996	41,615
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,596,133	100,286	15,229	19,135	17,549	8,858	11,156
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	3,521,406	212,000	21,402	64,134	31,729	21,138	30,459
South Carolina	2,344,574	55,830	11,948	3,506	4,241	8,137	4,069
Appalachian South Carolina	629,070	14,047	2,795	659	918	1,614	1,247
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,715,504	41,783	9,153	2,847	3,323	6,523	2,822
Tennessee	3,231,124	62,459	10,533	5,464	6,042	5,590	5,974
Appalachian Tennessee	1,325,442	22,032	3,889	1,157	2,613	1,632	1,826
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,905,682	40,427	6,644	4,307	3,429	3,958	4,148
Virginia	4,246,369	121,634	16,704	22,189	11,958	11,080	17,725
Appalachian Virginia	292,656	6,474	1,016	464	717	537	443
Non-Appalachian Virginia	3,953,713	115,160	15,688	21,725	11,241	10,543	17,282
West Virginia (entire state)	723,022	20,434	3,241	1,326	3,766	1,935	1,533

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 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, 2019-2023

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	4.3	1.5	4.9	38.1	26.0	20.9	4.6
Appalachian Region	2.7	1.3	5.6	33.0	23.5	22.7	2.5
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	4.1	1.5	8.2	36.4	26.9	33.4	4.2
North Central Appalachia	2.6	1.5	5.2	30.6	21.6	21.1	2.5
Central Appalachia	2.3	1.3	5.1	16.5	20.6	17.2	3.0
South Central Appalachia	1.8	1.2	3.2	30.4	16.6	15.3	1.5
Southern Appalachia	2.0	1.2	5.1	19.4	20.8	15.6	1.5
County Types							
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	2.7	1.2	4.8	32.8	27.0	16.7	2.1
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	2.6	1.4	5.5	35.6	23.2	21.8	2.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	2.8	1.4	5.9	30.4	20.8	29.0	4.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	2.6	1.4	6.6	21.7	19.8	23.2	3.4
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	3.1	1.2	7.0	18.9	25.0	36.9	5.5
Alabama	2.0	1.3	5.0	21.8	17.6	14.5	1.6
Appalachian Alabama	1.8	1.2	4.1	21.4	19.8	13.4	1.2
Non-Appalachian Alabama	2.2	1.3	6.8	22.3	14.0	16.4	2.5
Georgia	2.9	1.4	6.3	30.0	20.7	21.0	2.2
Appalachian Georgia	2.1	1.2	5.8	11.9	20.5	15.9	1.4
Non-Appalachian Georgia	3.2	1.5	6.6	32.1	20.7	22.6	2.6
Kentucky	2.6	1.2	4.9	36.4	24.1	22.3	2.7
Appalachian Kentucky	2.4	1.4	4.9	16.4	21.3	18.6	3.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	2.6	1.2	5.0	37.6	24.8	23.0	2.6
Maryland	4.1	1.6	5.8	26.6	20.9	22.7	3.1
Appalachian Maryland	3.1	1.9	4.1	45.2	20.3	23.4	2.4
Non-Appalachian Maryland	4.2	1.6	5.8	26.5	20.9	22.6	3.1
Mississippi	2.3	1.4	5.0	20.2	25.5	14.7	2.9
Appalachian Mississippi	2.2	1.2	5.6	28.8	38.9	20.3	4.3
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	2.3	1.4	4.9	19.5	22.8	13.8	2.6
New York	21.8	3.0	10.2	53.8	52.4	45.9	26.7
Appalachian New York	4.9	1.6	6.7	44.1	29.9	38.1	6.6
Non-Appalachian New York	22.6	3.1	10.4	53.8	53.3	46.1	27.4
North Carolina	2.2	1.2	4.6	28.1	15.5	16.9	1.9
Appalachian North Carolina	2.0	1.3	2.9	32.5	14.5	18.8	1.5
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	2.2	1.2	5.0	27.7	15.7	16.6	2.0
Ohio	3.1	1.3	7.8	42.8	24.3	27.4	2.6
Appalachian Ohio	3.8	1.4	10.9	38.0	24.2	49.1	4.6
Non-Appalachian Ohio	3.0	1.3	7.1	43.0	24.3	22.3	2.4
Pennsylvania	5.1	1.7	7.9	34.9	28.8	28.1	5.0
Appalachian Pennsylvania	3.9	1.5	7.3	35.0	25.9	25.5	3.7
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	6.0	1.8	8.3	34.8	30.6	29.4	5.6
South Carolina	2.4	1.3	6.1	39.1	18.6	21.5	1.7
Appalachian South Carolina	2.2	1.4	4.9	42.2	17.5	16.9	2.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	2.4	1.3	6.6	38.4	19.0	23.1	1.6
Tennessee	1.9	1.2	3.9	37.2	19.5	13.7	1.6
Appalachian Tennessee	1.7	1.0	3.5	31.9	20.0	12.2	1.4
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	2.1	1.2	4.1	38.9	19.2	14.4	1.7
Virginia	2.9	1.4	4.8	20.3	18.6	15.4	2.6
Appalachian Virginia	2.2	1.4	4.1	22.7	16.4	16.4	1.9
Non-Appalachian Virginia	2.9	1.4	4.8	20.2	18.7	15.4	2.6
West Virginia (entire state)	2.8	1.5	5.3	32.7	22.6	20.4	2.7

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 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, 2019-2023

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	93,530,334	5.1	6.9	51.9	36.1
Appalachian Region	7,088,647	3.2	4.7	49.0	43.1
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	2,242,182	4.9	5.8	52.4	36.9
North Central Appalachia	646,016	3.3	4.6	48.2	43.9
Central Appalachia	422,170	2.7	4.1	41.8	51.5
South Central Appalachia	1,424,022	2.2	3.8	46.9	47.2
Southern Appalachia	2,354,257	2.3	4.5	48.5	44.8
County Types					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	1,808,585	3.3	5.4	52.9	38.4
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	3,099,624	3.1	4.7	49.8	42.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	597,386	3.2	4.3	46.1	46.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	997,987	3.1	4.4	43.8	48.7
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	585,065	3.4	4.1	44.1	48.3
Alabama	1,349,545	2.3	3.7	47.7	46.3
Appalachian Alabama	883,830	2.2	3.6	47.3	47.0
Non-Appalachian Alabama	465,715	2.6	3.9	48.6	44.9
Georgia	3,009,704	3.4	6.0	51.9	38.7
Appalachian Georgia	921,987	2.2	5.5	49.9	42.4
Non-Appalachian Georgia	2,087,717	3.9	6.2	52.8	37.1
Kentucky	1,227,696	3.1	5.1	50.5	41.3
Appalachian Kentucky	266,588	2.8	4.3	43.0	49.9
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	961,108	3.2	5.3	52.6	38.9
Maryland	1,805,864	5.1	7.8	54.5	32.5
Appalachian Maryland	66,836	3.8	4.8	48.3	43.1
Non-Appalachian Maryland	1,739,028	5.2	8.0	54.7	32.1
Mississippi	767,012	2.7	4.3	46.6	46.3
Appalachian Mississippi	156,547	2.5	3.6	44.3	49.6
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	610,465	2.8	4.5	47.2	45.5
New York	5,539,168	24.5	12.9	41.9	20.7
Appalachian New York	277,689	5.9	6.4	53.0	34.7
Non-Appalachian New York	5,261,479	25.5	13.2	41.3	20.0
North Carolina	3,028,742	2.6	4.9	50.4	42.1
Appalachian North Carolina	549,869	2.3	4.1	46.8	46.8
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	2,478,873	2.7	5.1	51.2	41.0
Ohio	3,431,505	3.7	4.8	54.4	37.1
Appalachian Ohio	524,673	4.0	4.0	47.0	45.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	2,906,832	3.7	4.9	55.8	35.7
Pennsylvania	3,720,189	6.3	7.4	53.2	33.1
Appalachian Pennsylvania	1,600,890	4.7	6.0	53.2	36.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,119,299	7.4	8.4	53.3	30.9
South Carolina	1,449,501	2.9	5.0	50.4	41.8
Appalachian South Carolina	391,893	2.6	4.3	49.5	43.5
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,057,608	2.9	5.2	50.7	41.1
Tennessee	1,990,975	2.3	4.4	50.1	43.2
Appalachian Tennessee	814,720	2.0	3.6	46.8	47.7
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,176,255	2.6	4.9	52.4	40.2
Virginia	2,524,007	3.4	6.4	51.5	38.7
Appalachian Virginia	180,692	2.6	3.7	42.5	51.2
Non-Appalachian Virginia	2,343,315	3.5	6.6	52.2	37.7
West Virginia (entire state)	452,433	3.5	5.1	49.0	42.4

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, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Table 8.7: Travel Time to Work for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, by Amount of Time, 2019-2023

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	136,377,810	25.9	36.5	28.9	8.7	26.6
Appalachian Region	10,533,544	27.9	36.8	27.3	8.0	25.8
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	3,269,183	31.8	35.8	24.9	7.4	24.8
North Central Appalachia	968,690	27.9	35.7	26.7	9.7	26.9
Central Appalachia	633,220	30.2	31.9	27.7	10.2	27.3
South Central Appalachia	2,123,795	28.6	40.4	25.0	6.0	24.0
Southern Appalachia	3,538,656	23.3	36.8	31.1	8.9	27.4
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	2,590,057	20.9	33.9	34.9	10.3	29.2
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	4,618,781	28.5	40.8	24.6	6.0	24.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	917,721	32.7	32.9	24.7	9.6	25.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	1,516,011	31.2	33.2	26.6	9.0	26.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	890,974	33.8	34.7	23.4	8.1	24.6
Alabama	2,031,076	25.7	38.8	28.5	7.0	25.4
Appalachian Alabama	1,330,118	24.8	38.4	29.6	7.2	25.8
Non-Appalachian Alabama	700,958	27.3	39.8	26.4	6.6	24.7
Georgia	4,349,650	22.4	35.6	31.9	10.1	28.3
Appalachian Georgia	1,390,736	19.9	33.0	34.6	12.4	30.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	2,958,914	23.6	36.8	30.7	8.9	27.3
Kentucky	1,820,603	30.4	39.0	24.4	6.2	24.0
Appalachian Kentucky	399,067	32.1	32.5	25.8	9.5	26.7
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,421,536	29.9	40.8	24.0	5.3	23.3
Maryland	2,571,863	17.8	32.6	36.4	13.2	31.5
Appalachian Maryland	97,552	29.6	36.7	22.9	10.9	27.1
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,474,311	17.3	32.5	36.9	13.3	31.6
Mississippi	1,170,679	28.7	37.3	26.4	7.7	25.6
Appalachian Mississippi	241,377	30.5	36.8	26.0	6.6	24.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	929,302	28.2	37.4	26.4	7.9	26.0
New York	8,103,744	20.3	29.8	32.8	17.1	32.8
Appalachian New York	402,846	39.9	34.8	19.5	5.8	21.6
Non-Appalachian New York	7,700,898	19.3	29.6	33.4	17.7	33.4
North Carolina	4,269,317	26.4	39.3	27.6	6.6	25.1
Appalachian North Carolina	822,442	29.1	41.3	23.5	6.1	23.8
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	3,446,875	25.8	38.9	28.6	6.7	25.4
Ohio	4,951,268	29.0	40.7	25.1	5.2	23.6
Appalachian Ohio	793,796	30.5	35.5	25.2	8.7	25.8
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,157,472	28.7	41.6	25.1	4.5	23.2
Pennsylvania	5,341,881	26.5	35.9	29.1	8.4	26.6
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,323,849	30.2	35.8	26.5	7.5	25.4
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	3,018,032	23.7	36.1	31.1	9.1	27.5
South Carolina	2,143,817	25.0	39.0	29.4	6.6	25.6
Appalachian South Carolina	576,425	24.7	42.2	27.9	5.2	24.9
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,567,392	25.1	37.8	29.9	7.1	25.9
Tennessee	2,885,193	24.9	38.7	29.4	7.0	25.7
Appalachian Tennessee	1,209,755	27.1	39.2	27.2	6.5	24.7
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,675,438	23.3	38.4	31.0	7.4	26.3
Virginia	3,608,428	22.7	37.3	30.8	9.2	27.6
Appalachian Virginia	275,146	32.4	36.7	24.1	6.8	23.9
Non-Appalachian Virginia	3,333,282	21.9	37.4	31.4	9.4	27.9
West Virginia (entire state)	670,435	28.6	36.3	25.4	9.7	26.6

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

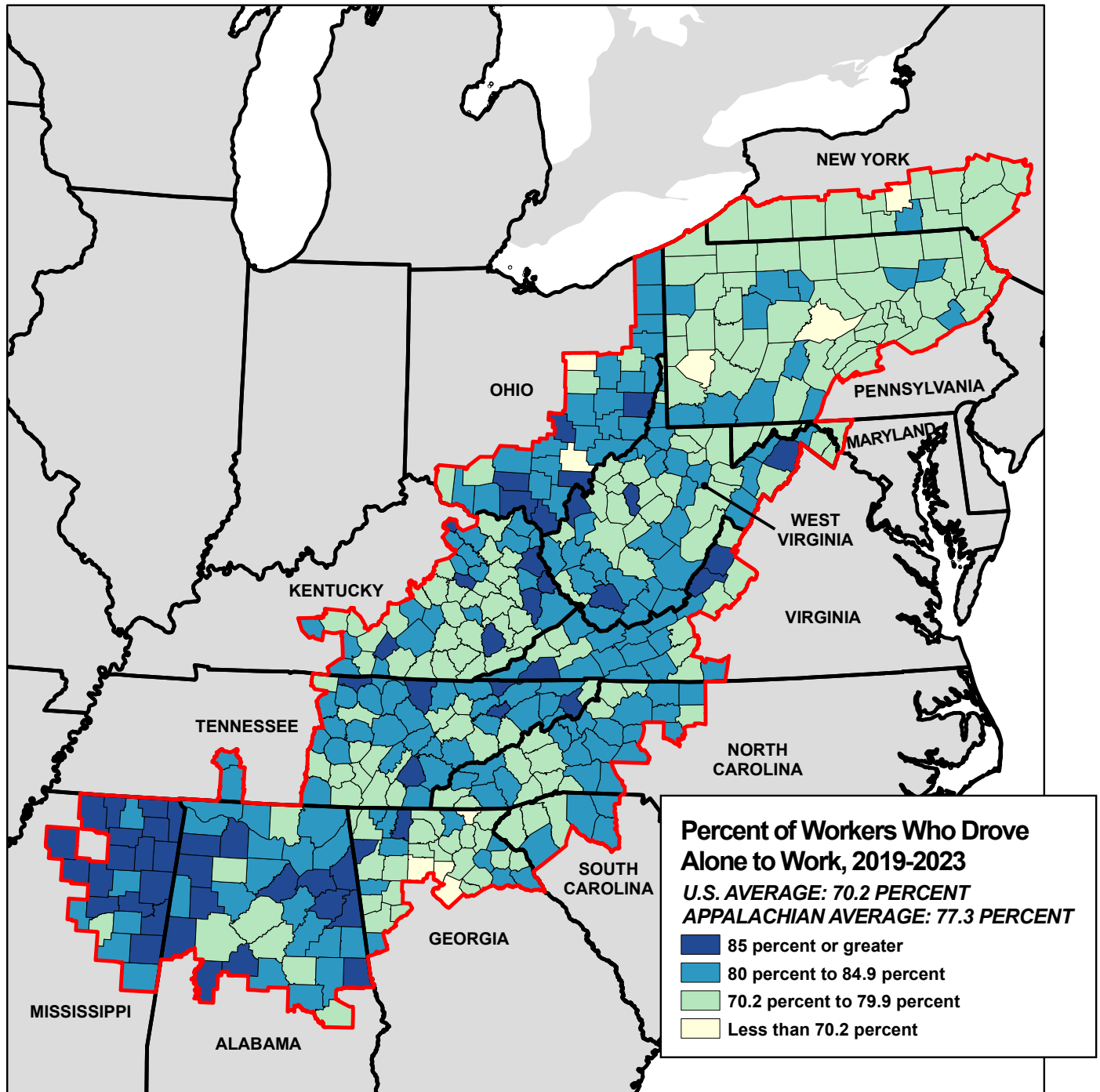
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Table 8.8: Place of Work (State and County Level) for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023

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	157,645,183	74.7	25.3	22.0	3.2
Appalachian Region	11,701,372	69.4	30.6	26.4	4.2
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	3,658,532	75.2	24.8	21.0	3.7
North Central Appalachia	1,054,676	63.6	36.4	24.4	11.9
Central Appalachia	678,092	60.2	39.8	34.1	5.8
South Central Appalachia	2,348,847	71.2	28.8	25.9	2.9
Southern Appalachia	3,961,225	66.1	33.9	30.9	3.1
County Types					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	3,035,460	67.2	32.8	30.5	2.3
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	5,101,536	72.8	27.2	22.2	5.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	987,022	66.9	33.1	29.4	3.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	1,625,893	65.0	35.0	29.2	5.8
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	951,461	68.1	31.9	27.9	3.9
Alabama	2,202,219	73.0	27.0	22.8	4.2
Appalachian Alabama	1,450,611	71.8	28.2	25.7	2.5
Non-Appalachian Alabama	751,608	75.4	24.6	17.3	7.3
Georgia	5,071,788	62.0	38.0	35.6	2.5
Appalachian Georgia	1,621,918	58.1	41.9	38.6	3.3
Non-Appalachian Georgia	3,449,870	63.8	36.2	34.1	2.1
Kentucky	2,002,703	68.7	31.3	25.1	6.2
Appalachian Kentucky	427,263	62.6	37.4	32.5	4.9
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,575,440	70.4	29.6	23.0	6.5
Maryland	3,104,587	61.0	39.0	25.7	13.4
Appalachian Maryland	109,035	72.8	27.2	14.8	12.4
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,995,552	60.5	39.5	26.1	13.4
Mississippi	1,236,023	63.2	36.8	28.3	8.6
Appalachian Mississippi	252,003	62.5	37.5	31.9	5.6
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	984,020	63.3	36.7	27.4	9.3
New York	9,350,213	68.7	31.3	29.4	1.9
Appalachian New York	444,233	78.2	21.8	19.5	2.3
Non-Appalachian New York	8,905,980	68.2	31.8	29.9	1.9
North Carolina	4,991,806	72.7	27.3	25.0	2.3
Appalachian North Carolina	909,993	72.2	27.8	25.5	2.2
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	4,081,813	72.8	27.2	24.9	2.3
Ohio	5,591,912	71.3	28.7	26.1	2.5
Appalachian Ohio	855,765	62.4	37.6	29.2	8.3
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,736,147	73.0	27.0	25.6	1.5
Pennsylvania	6,195,018	73.5	26.5	22.0	4.5
Appalachian Pennsylvania	2,628,829	76.3	23.7	20.7	3.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	3,566,189	71.5	28.5	22.9	5.6
South Carolina	2,381,241	71.6	28.4	23.3	5.1
Appalachian South Carolina	636,693	74.8	25.2	22.5	2.7
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,744,548	70.4	29.6	23.6	6.0
Tennessee	3,255,576	72.3	27.7	24.3	3.4
Appalachian Tennessee	1,337,512	70.7	29.3	26.4	2.9
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,918,064	73.5	26.5	22.9	3.7
Virginia	4,308,387	55.5	44.5	38.3	6.2
Appalachian Virginia	299,012	60.4	39.6	31.9	7.7
Non-Appalachian Virginia	4,009,375	55.1	44.9	38.8	6.1
West Virginia (entire state)	728,505	66.7	33.3	20.4	12.9

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

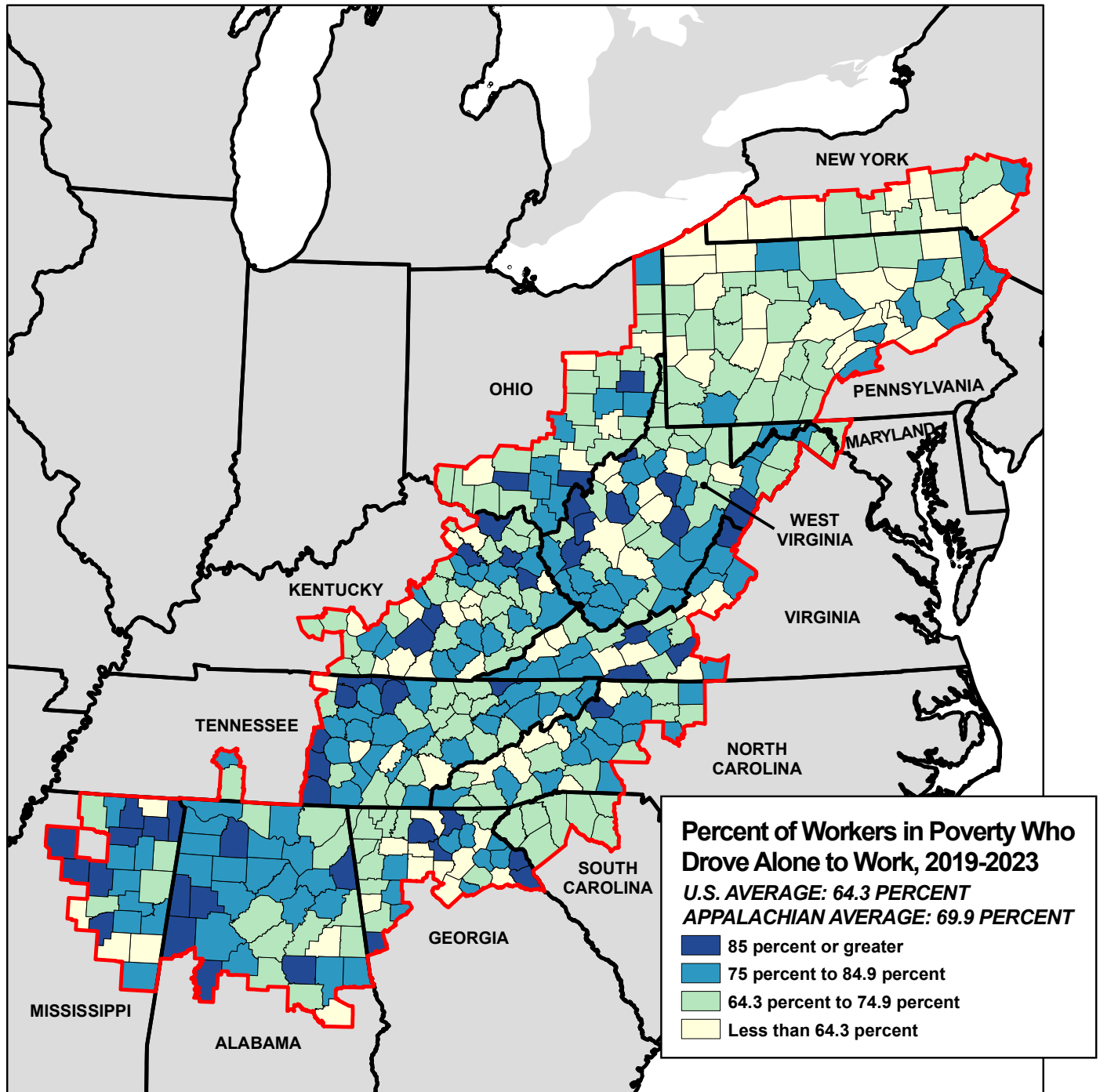
Figure 8.1: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Drove Alone to Work, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Drove Alone to Work, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

In the 2019-2023 period, 77.3 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 58 Appalachian counties, at least 85 percent of workers drove alone. Central, South Central, and Southern Appalachia accounted for 49 of these counties, including 30 in Alabama and Mississippi alone. (The share of workers driving alone were 80.8 and 86.1 percent in the Appalachian sections of both states, respectively.) In contrast, Northern Appalachia had four of the nine counties in the Appalachian Region where the share of workers driving alone was below the national average; it 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 72.4 percent.

Figure 8.2: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over Below the Poverty Level in the Appalachian Region Who Drove Alone to Work, 2019-2023

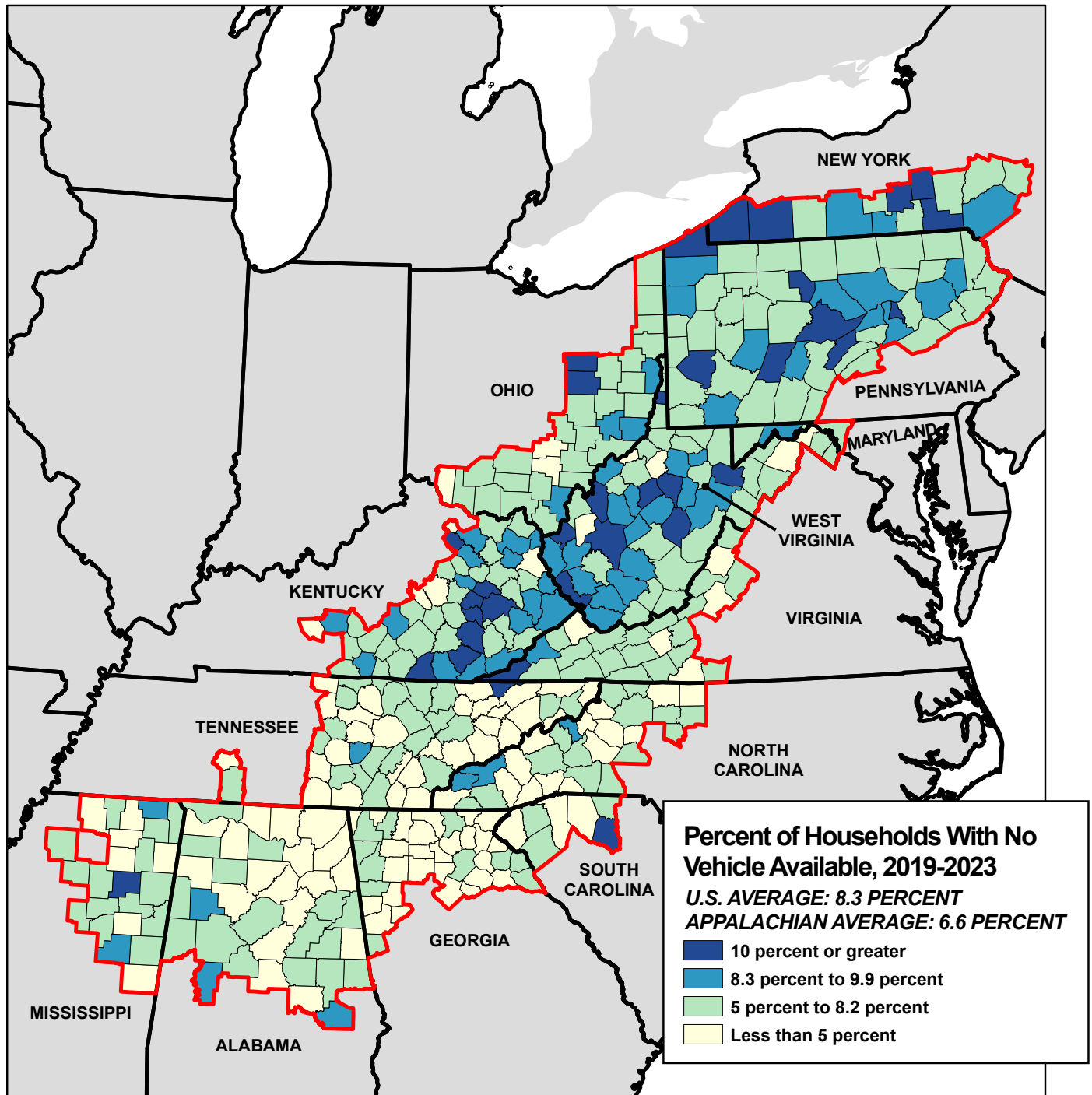


Map Title: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over Below the Poverty Level in the Appalachian Region Who Drove Alone to Work, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Among workers with incomes below the poverty level (\$30,900 for a family of two adults and two children in 2023), the share who drove alone to their places of employment was 69.9 percent in Appalachia, compared to just 64.3 percent nationally. The share was at least 75 percent in 180 of Appalachia’s 423 counties, and at least 85 percent in 51 of them. Of those 51 counties, 41 were in Central, South Central, and Southern Appalachia; the share of workers in poverty who drove alone exceeded 72 percent in all three subregions. In contrast, 29 of the 86 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 58.8 percent in Appalachian New York.

Figure 8.3: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region With No Vehicle Available, 2019-2023

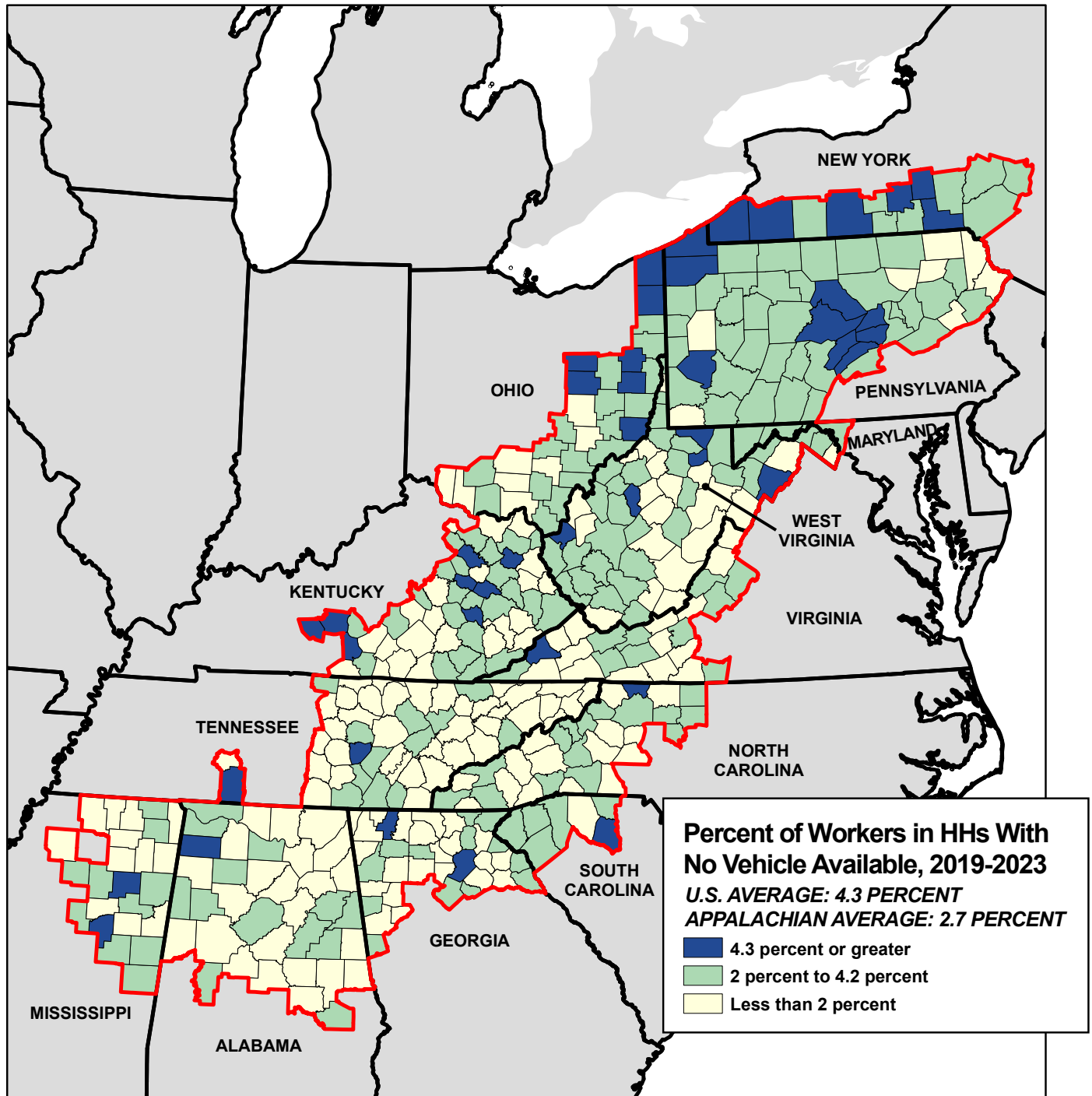


Map Title: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region With No Vehicle Available, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 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 8.3 percent, that is not the case in much of the Appalachian Region. In fact, there were 35 Appalachian counties where at least one in 10 households had no vehicle available; 29 of these counties were in four states – New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Kentucky. Yet in 115 other counties in the region, less than five percent of households were without any motor vehicle. South Central and Southern Appalachia had 96 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, 2019-2023

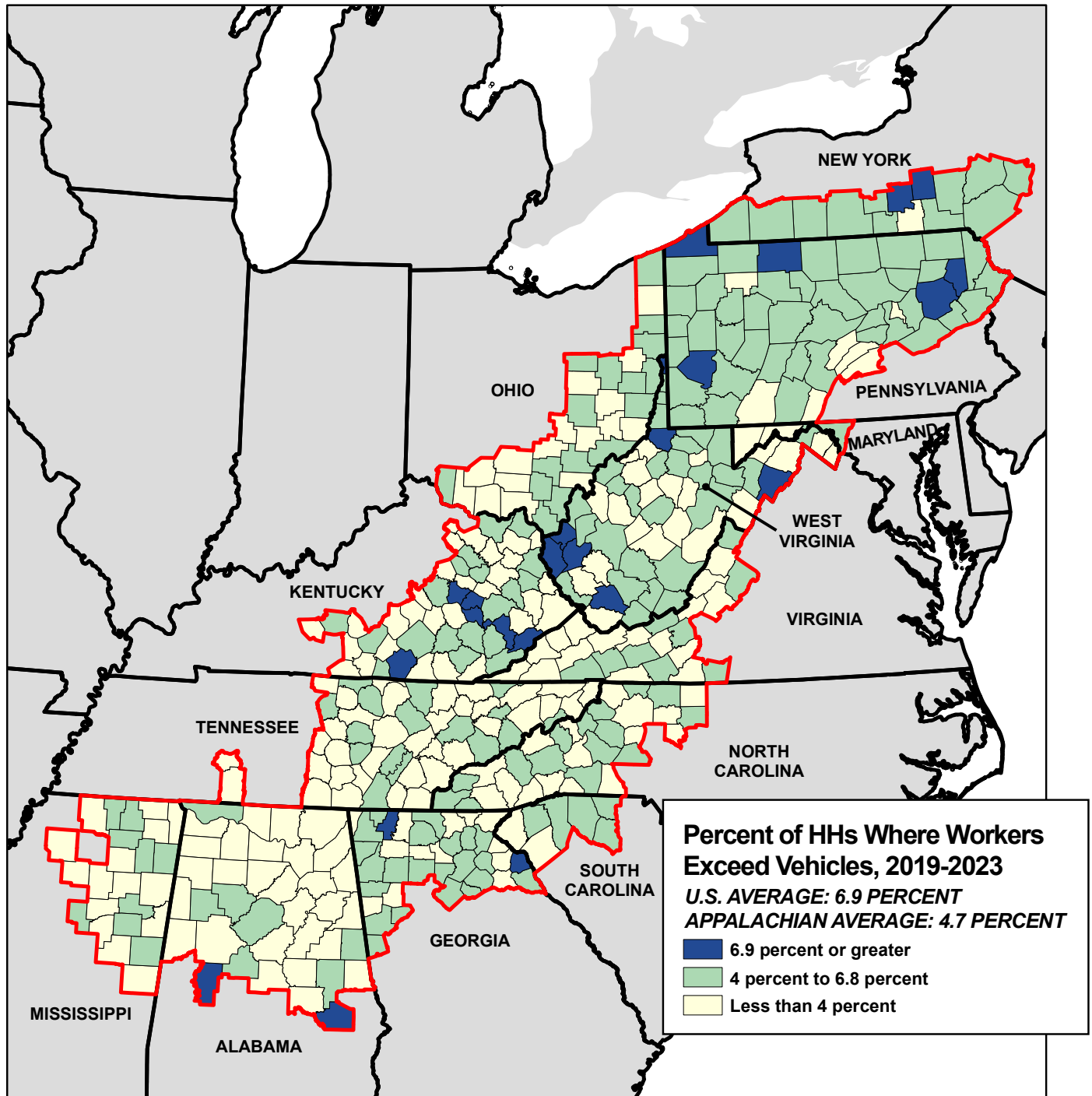


Map Title: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Live in Households With No Vehicle Available, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Just 2.7 percent of Appalachian workers live in households with no vehicle available, compared with 4.3 percent of workers nationally. And the share is even lower in a large part of the Appalachian Region: In 183 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 21 of the region’s 45 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, 2019-2023

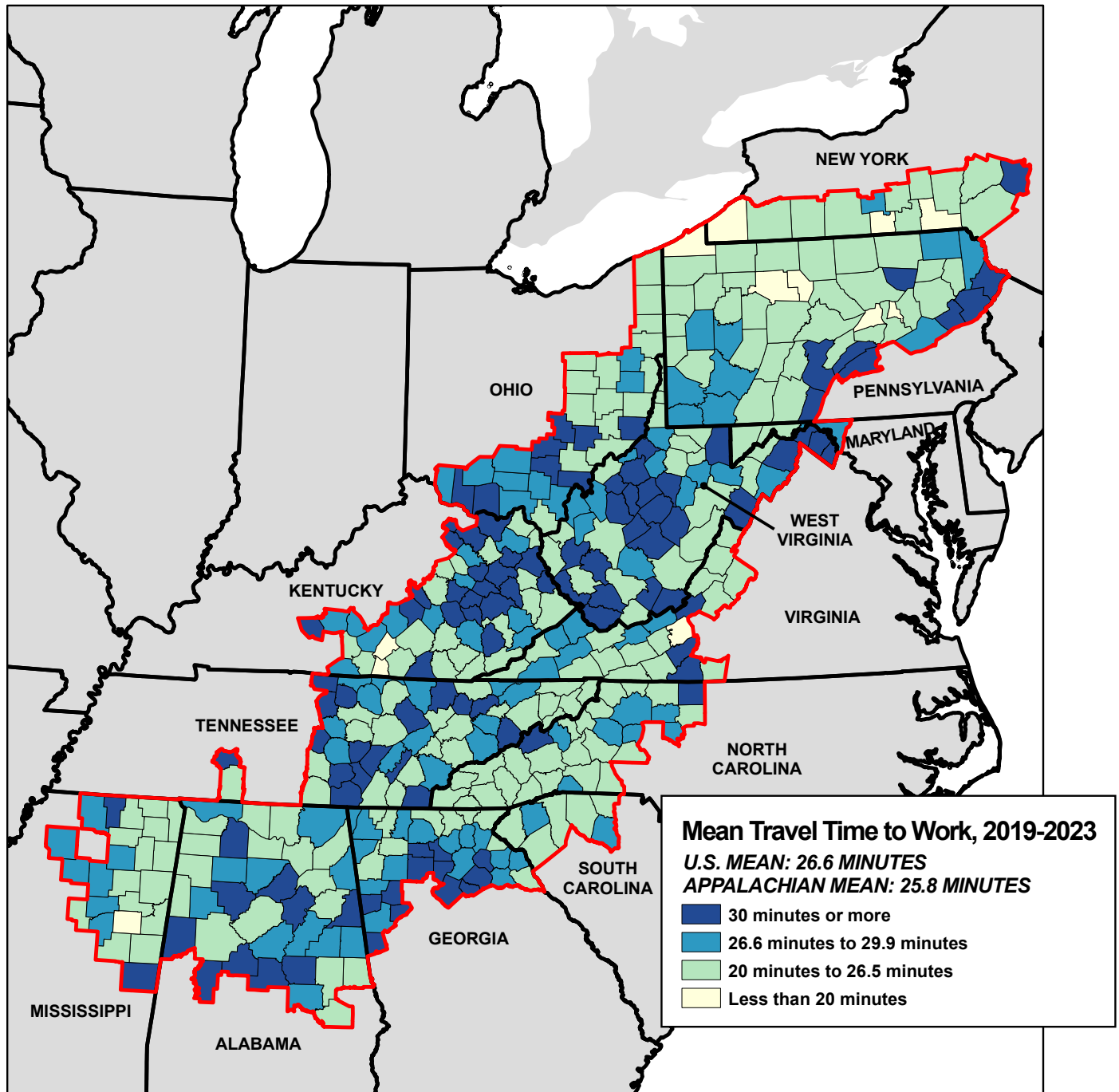


Map Title: Percent of Households With One or More Workers in the Appalachian Region Where the Number of Workers Exceeds the Number of Vehicles Available, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

In 4.7 percent of Appalachian households, the number of workers in the household exceeds the number of vehicles available, compared with 6.9 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 24 Appalachian counties, the share of households with more workers than vehicles matched or exceeded the national average. Seven 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.

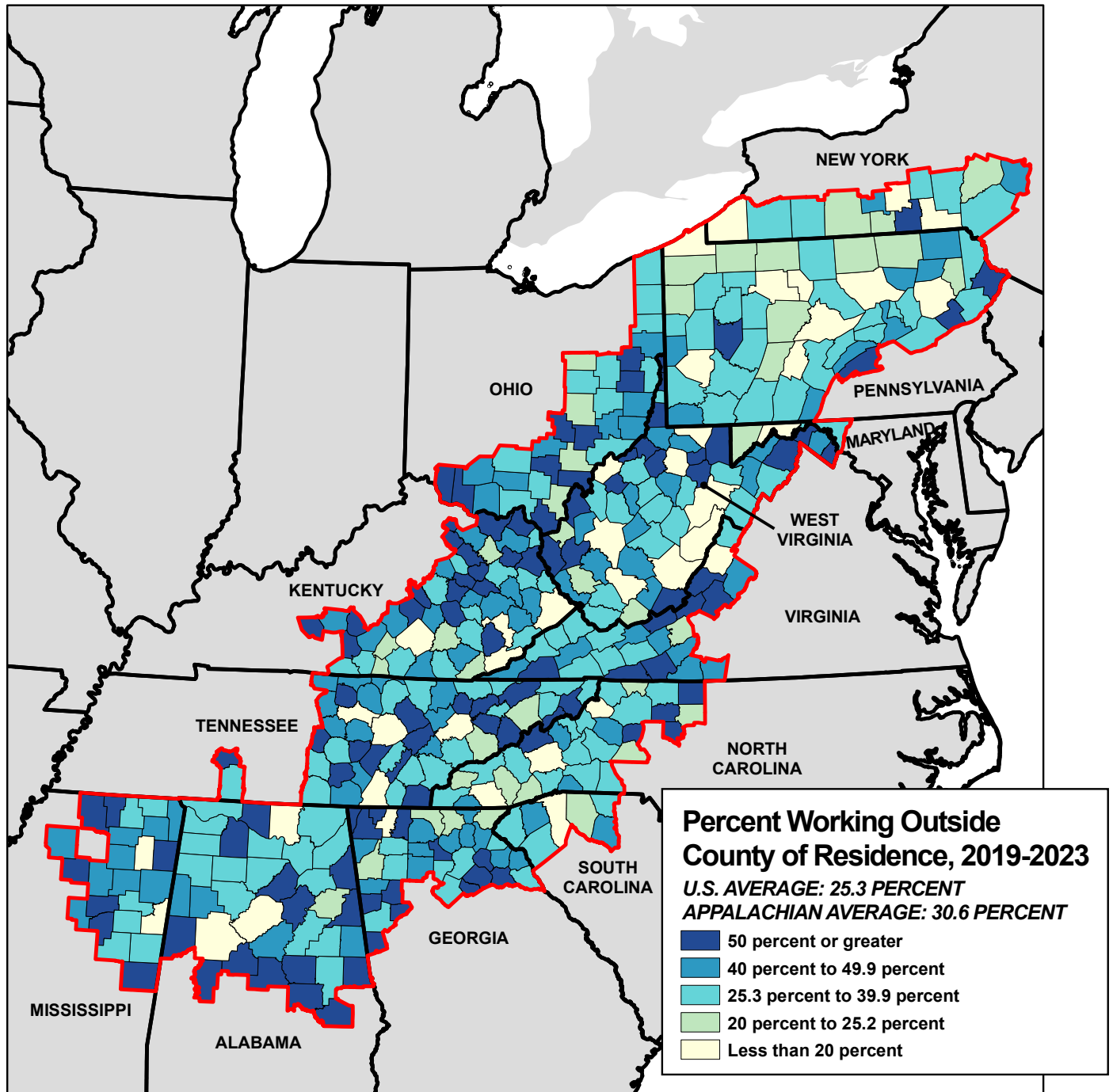
Figure 8.6: Mean Travel Time to Work for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023



Map Title: Mean Travel Time to Work for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 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 212 of Appalachia’s 423 counties, the mean travel time to work was at or above the national average. And in 108 Appalachian counties, workers averaged half an hour or more to get to their jobs. Nearly half of these 108 counties were in metropolitan areas, including suburban Atlanta and the exurban counties of New York City (Pike County, Pennsylvania) and Washington, D.C. (Jefferson County, West Virginia). Yet workers in 58 nonmetropolitan counties – 43 of which were in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia – faced similarly lengthy commutes. By comparison, workers in just 12 Appalachian counties had average commutes lasting less than 20 minutes. Four of these counties were home to colleges and universities (for example, Montgomery County, Virginia, home to Virginia Tech). It is important to note that these data cover the 2019-2023 period, so these commuting patterns include the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 8.7: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Work Outside Their County of Residence, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Work Outside Their County of Residence, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

In the Appalachian Region, 30.6 percent of workers ages 16 and older had jobs outside their county of residence during 2019-2023, over five percentage points above the national average. And the share is even higher in most of the Appalachian Region: In 207 of Appalachia’s 423 counties, at least 40 percent of workers had their primary employment outside their county of residence. And in 112 of these counties, at least half of workers were commuting to another county. Most of the counties in this latter group were in metropolitan areas, including the suburbs and exurbs of Atlanta, Birmingham, and Cincinnati. In contrast, just 39 Appalachian counties had fewer than one in five workers employed outside their residential county. One-third of those 39 counties housed colleges and universities (like Tompkins County, New York, home to Cornell University).

Table 8.9: Percentage Point Change in Means of Transportation for Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	- 6.2	- 0.6	- 1.5	- 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 8.6
Appalachian Region	- 4.8	- 0.5	- 0.4	- 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 5.9
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	- 5.0	- 0.7	- 0.8	- 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 6.5
North Central Appalachia	- 3.4	- 0.6	- 0.3	- 0.5	+ 0.1	+ 4.7
Central Appalachia	- 3.2	0.0	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.1	+ 3.5
South Central Appalachia	- 4.2	- 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.1	+ 5.1
Southern Appalachia	- 6.0	- 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 6.5
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	- 7.6	- 0.8	- 1.0	- 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 9.6
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	- 4.8	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 5.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	- 3.4	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 3.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	- 2.3	- 0.6	0.0	- 0.3	0.0	+ 3.3
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 2.3	- 0.4	- 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 2.9
Alabama	- 4.3	- 0.3	0.0	0.0	+ 0.1	+ 4.5
Appalachian Alabama	- 5.1	- 0.3	- 0.1	0.0	+ 0.1	+ 5.2
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 3.0	- 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 3.1
Georgia	- 7.2	- 0.8	- 0.8	- 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 8.7
Appalachian Georgia	- 7.9	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.1	0.0	+ 8.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 6.8	- 1.0	- 1.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 8.9
Kentucky	- 4.3	- 0.4	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.1	+ 5.5
Appalachian Kentucky	- 2.9	0.0	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 0.4	+ 3.5
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 4.7	- 0.5	- 0.5	- 0.2	0.0	+ 6.0
Maryland	- 7.6	- 1.3	- 3.7	- 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 12.5
Appalachian Maryland	- 4.5	- 0.9	- 0.4	- 1.2	+ 0.4	+ 6.4
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 7.6	- 1.3	- 3.8	- 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 12.7
Mississippi	- 2.8	- 0.1	0.0	- 0.1	- 0.1	+ 3.0
Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.1	- 1.2	- 0.1	0.0	- 0.1	+ 1.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 3.5	+ 0.2	0.0	- 0.1	- 0.1	+ 3.4
New York	- 3.4	- 0.2	- 5.6	- 0.5	+ 0.6	+ 9.1
Appalachian New York	- 4.3	- 0.4	- 0.4	- 0.7	+ 0.4	+ 5.3
Non-Appalachian New York	- 3.4	- 0.2	- 6.0	- 0.5	+ 0.7	+ 9.3
North Carolina	- 7.8	- 0.9	- 0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 9.1
Appalachian North Carolina	- 3.9	- 0.4	- 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.1	+ 4.6
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 8.7	- 1.0	- 0.3	- 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 10.1
Ohio	- 6.6	- 0.3	- 0.5	- 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 7.5
Appalachian Ohio	- 3.9	+ 0.4	- 0.1	- 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 3.7
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 7.1	- 0.3	- 0.5	- 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 8.1
Pennsylvania	- 6.5	- 0.9	- 1.7	- 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 9.2
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 5.2	- 1.0	- 1.0	- 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 7.3
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 7.4	- 0.8	- 2.3	- 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 10.5
South Carolina	- 4.5	- 1.0	- 0.1	- 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 5.9
Appalachian South Carolina	- 5.3	- 0.6	- 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.6	+ 5.7
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 4.2	- 1.1	- 0.1	- 0.5	0.0	+ 5.9
Tennessee	- 6.2	- 0.6	- 0.2	- 0.1	0.0	+ 7.0
Appalachian Tennessee	- 4.5	- 0.5	- 0.1	0.0	- 0.1	+ 5.4
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 7.2	- 0.6	- 0.3	- 0.2	0.0	+ 8.2
Virginia	- 8.0	- 1.0	- 1.8	- 0.3	0.0	+ 11.2
Appalachian Virginia	- 3.6	- 0.5	- 0.4	- 0.1	0.0	+ 4.5
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 8.3	- 1.0	- 2.0	- 0.4	- 0.1	+ 11.8
West Virginia (entire state)	- 3.6	- 0.7	- 0.3	- 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 4.7

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	- 0.7	- 0.4	- 2.1	- 0.9	0.0	+ 4.2
Appalachian Region	- 1.4	- 0.2	- 0.7	- 1.0	0.0	+ 3.2
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	- 0.2	- 0.5	- 1.5	- 1.8	+ 0.6	+ 3.4
North Central Appalachia	- 0.1	- 0.8	- 0.1	- 1.2	0.0	+ 2.2
Central Appalachia	- 2.2	- 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.8	0.0	+ 3.3
South Central Appalachia	- 0.4	- 1.3	- 0.6	+ 0.1	- 0.5	+ 2.9
Southern Appalachia	- 3.6	+ 0.9	- 0.2	- 0.6	- 0.1	+ 3.6
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	- 2.4	0.0	- 1.5	- 1.2	+ 0.3	+ 4.8
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	- 1.2	+ 0.1	- 0.7	- 1.2	- 0.1	+ 3.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	- 0.3	- 1.3	- 0.1	- 0.5	0.0	+ 2.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	- 1.0	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.4	- 0.6	+ 2.3
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 1.9	- 0.8	- 0.4	- 0.4	+ 0.7	+ 2.6
Alabama	- 2.0	- 0.7	0.0	- 0.1	- 0.1	+ 2.9
Appalachian Alabama	- 1.7	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.7	0.0	+ 2.8
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 2.4	- 1.0	+ 0.3	+ 0.7	- 0.5	+ 3.0
Georgia	- 2.9	- 0.2	- 2.1	- 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 5.3
Appalachian Georgia	- 6.0	+ 3.1	- 0.1	- 0.4	- 1.2	+ 4.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 1.7	- 1.4	- 2.7	- 0.4	+ 0.7	+ 5.5
Kentucky	- 0.7	+ 0.1	- 0.7	- 1.4	+ 0.3	+ 2.4
Appalachian Kentucky	- 1.9	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 1.1	- 0.1	+ 3.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.2	+ 0.2	- 0.9	- 1.5	+ 0.5	+ 1.9
Maryland	+ 2.1	- 1.5	- 4.9	- 1.0	+ 1.5	+ 3.9
Appalachian Maryland	+ 8.4	- 3.2	- 2.4	- 3.7	- 0.7	+ 1.4
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 1.9	- 1.4	- 5.1	- 0.9	+ 1.6	+ 4.0
Mississippi	- 2.0	+ 0.4	0.0	+ 0.1	- 0.4	+ 2.0
Appalachian Mississippi	- 4.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.7	+ 1.0	+ 1.9
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 1.5	+ 0.4	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.7	+ 2.0
New York	+ 2.3	0.0	- 6.4	- 1.7	+ 1.2	+ 4.5
Appalachian New York	- 2.8	+ 1.6	- 1.4	- 2.4	+ 0.7	+ 4.3
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 2.6	- 0.1	- 6.6	- 1.5	+ 1.2	+ 4.5
North Carolina	- 1.3	- 2.1	- 0.5	- 0.7	0.0	+ 4.7
Appalachian North Carolina	- 1.0	+ 1.0	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 1.0	+ 1.6
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 1.5	- 2.8	- 0.6	- 0.8	+ 0.2	+ 5.4
Ohio	- 1.5	+ 0.1	- 1.6	- 0.6	- 0.4	+ 4.0
Appalachian Ohio	- 3.9	+ 1.0	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 3.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 1.0	- 0.1	- 1.9	- 0.7	- 0.5	+ 4.2
Pennsylvania	+ 0.5	- 1.6	- 2.7	- 1.9	+ 1.2	+ 4.5
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.9	- 1.4	- 1.7	- 1.8	+ 0.4	+ 3.7
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.4	- 1.7	- 4.0	- 1.7	+ 1.7	+ 5.2
South Carolina	- 2.7	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.8	+ 0.4	+ 3.6
Appalachian South Carolina	- 2.8	- 0.6	- 0.8	- 1.1	+ 1.0	+ 4.4
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 2.7	- 0.3	0.0	- 0.6	+ 0.3	+ 3.4
Tennessee	- 2.3	- 1.3	- 0.7	- 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 4.3
Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.7	- 2.6	- 0.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 3.5
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 3.6	- 0.3	- 0.8	- 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 4.9
Virginia	- 0.9	- 0.2	- 2.5	- 1.0	- 0.7	+ 5.3
Appalachian Virginia	0.0	- 2.7	- 1.3	+ 1.2	- 0.9	+ 3.7
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 0.9	+ 0.1	- 2.7	- 1.3	- 0.7	+ 5.5
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 1.6	- 0.9	- 0.3	- 2.2	+ 0.8	+ 1.0

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2023, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$30,900. 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, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

Table 8.11: Percentage Point Change in Availability of Vehicles for Households in the Appalachian Region, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	-0.4	-0.1	-0.5	+0.2	+0.8
Appalachian Region	-0.6	-0.5	-0.2	+0.5	+0.9
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	-0.3	+0.5	-0.3	-0.1	+0.1
North Central Appalachia	-0.5	-0.2	-0.4	+0.5	+0.6
Central Appalachia	-1.1	-1.7	-0.4	+1.3	+1.9
South Central Appalachia	-0.6	-1.4	+0.1	+0.4	+1.5
Southern Appalachia	-0.8	-0.7	-0.4	+0.7	+1.1
County Types					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	-0.6	0.0	-0.2	+0.2	+0.6
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	-0.5	-0.6	-0.3	+0.6	+0.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	-0.9	-0.8	-0.2	+0.6	+1.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	-0.5	-0.9	-0.3	+0.4	+1.3
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	-0.8	-1.3	+0.2	+0.7	+1.2
Alabama	-0.8	-0.9	-0.2	+0.9	+1.2
Appalachian Alabama	-0.8	-1.1	-0.4	+1.1	+1.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	-0.9	-0.6	-0.1	+0.4	+1.0
Georgia	-0.7	-0.3	-0.5	+0.5	+1.0
Appalachian Georgia	-0.4	-0.1	-0.8	+0.2	+1.0
Non-Appalachian Georgia	-0.8	-0.2	-0.4	+0.5	+0.9
Kentucky	-0.7	-0.9	-0.4	+0.8	+1.1
Appalachian Kentucky	-1.0	-2.2	-0.2	+1.4	+1.9
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	-0.6	-0.4	-0.5	+0.7	+0.8
Maryland	-0.3	+1.2	-1.2	0.0	+0.3
Appalachian Maryland	-0.1	-1.3	+0.6	+0.9	0.0
Non-Appalachian Maryland	-0.3	+1.3	-1.2	0.0	+0.3
Mississippi	-0.3	-1.0	-0.4	+0.6	+1.1
Appalachian Mississippi	-0.5	-0.9	+0.5	-0.3	+1.2
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	-0.3	-1.0	-0.6	+0.9	+1.1
New York	-0.1	+0.7	-0.5	-0.2	+0.1
Appalachian New York	0.0	+0.4	+0.1	-0.6	+0.2
Non-Appalachian New York	-0.1	+0.6	-0.6	-0.2	+0.1
North Carolina	-0.6	-0.6	-0.3	+0.4	+1.1
Appalachian North Carolina	-0.5	-1.1	-0.3	+0.4	+1.4
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2	+0.3	+0.9
Ohio	-0.8	+0.6	0.0	-0.2	+0.4
Appalachian Ohio	-0.2	+0.1	-0.2	+0.1	+0.3
Non-Appalachian Ohio	-0.9	+0.6	0.0	-0.1	+0.4
Pennsylvania	-0.5	+0.7	-0.3	-0.1	+0.3
Appalachian Pennsylvania	-0.4	+0.7	-0.4	0.0	+0.3
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	-0.7	+0.8	-0.1	-0.3	+0.4
South Carolina	-0.8	-0.8	+0.2	+0.7	+0.7
Appalachian South Carolina	-1.4	-1.0	0.0	+1.5	+0.8
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	-0.5	-0.8	+0.2	+0.4	+0.7
Tennessee	-0.7	-0.8	-0.2	+0.4	+1.2
Appalachian Tennessee	-0.7	-1.7	+0.2	+0.6	+1.7
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	-0.7	-0.3	-0.4	+0.3	+1.0
Virginia	-0.2	+0.4	-0.5	-0.1	+0.4
Appalachian Virginia	-0.5	-0.8	+0.2	+0.2	+0.9
Non-Appalachian Virginia	-0.2	+0.6	-0.6	-0.1	+0.4
West Virginia (entire state)	-0.5	-0.4	-0.3	+0.5	+0.8

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	0.0	+ 0.3	- 0.3	+ 3.0	- 1.0	+ 1.3	+ 0.7
Appalachian Region	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.4	+ 4.2	- 0.3	+ 1.0	- 0.6
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 6.5	+ 0.3	+ 6.1	- 1.7
North Central Appalachia	0.0	+ 0.3	- 0.4	- 3.4	- 1.5	- 0.4	- 0.6
Central Appalachia	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	- 0.2	+ 8.3	- 1.8	0.0	+ 0.1
South Central Appalachia	0.0	+ 0.2	- 1.0	- 1.3	+ 0.1	- 1.6	- 0.1
Southern Appalachia	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.5	- 0.7	- 3.8	+ 0.2
County Types							
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	0.0	+ 0.2	- 0.5	+ 5.8	+ 0.7	0.0	+ 0.2
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.9	- 0.4	+ 1.1	- 0.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	- 0.1	+ 0.1	- 1.0	+ 6.6	- 4.5	+ 0.3	- 2.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	0.0	+ 0.1	- 0.2	+ 7.5	+ 0.3	+ 1.2	- 1.6
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 0.1	0.0	- 1.0	+ 2.4	+ 1.3	+ 5.1	- 0.5
Alabama	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.2	- 8.1	- 5.2	- 2.0	- 0.3
Appalachian Alabama	0.0	+ 0.1	- 0.3	- 9.9	- 2.8	- 0.9	- 0.6
Non-Appalachian Alabama	0.0	+ 0.1	0.0	- 4.5	- 9.1	- 3.3	+ 0.5
Georgia	- 0.1	+ 0.3	- 0.7	- 4.3	- 2.9	- 0.4	+ 0.2
Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	- 0.4	+ 1.2	- 5.1	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 0.3	+ 0.3	- 1.2	- 4.3	- 4.2	+ 1.1	+ 0.2
Kentucky	0.0	+ 0.2	- 0.9	- 4.6	+ 1.1	+ 0.2	- 0.4
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	- 0.9	+ 5.3	- 1.4	- 0.9	+ 0.7
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.8	- 5.3	+ 1.7	+ 0.2	- 0.6
Maryland	0.0	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	+ 4.1	- 1.1	+ 5.8	+ 0.6
Appalachian Maryland	0.0	+ 0.4	- 0.4	+ 13.3	- 6.4	+ 3.1	- 2.1
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	+ 4.0	- 0.9	+ 5.8	+ 0.6
Mississippi	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	- 1.4	+ 9.0	+ 6.9	+ 0.7	+ 1.2
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	- 0.2	+ 21.5	+ 21.4	- 3.2	+ 2.3
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	- 1.7	+ 7.8	+ 4.0	+ 1.4	+ 1.0
New York	- 0.1	+ 0.6	- 0.7	+ 1.0	- 1.8	- 1.6	+ 3.9
Appalachian New York	+ 0.5	+ 0.1	- 1.1	+ 4.9	+ 2.7	+ 11.4	+ 1.3
Non-Appalachian New York	- 0.2	+ 0.6	- 0.7	+ 1.0	- 1.9	- 2.1	+ 3.8
North Carolina	0.0	+ 0.1	- 1.4	- 0.4	- 1.9	- 1.5	+ 0.4
Appalachian North Carolina	0.0	+ 0.2	- 1.5	- 0.8	- 1.2	- 0.7	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.1	+ 0.1	- 1.4	- 0.3	- 2.2	- 1.5	+ 0.5
Ohio	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.4	+ 2.5	+ 1.7	+ 2.7	- 1.4
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.4	+ 0.1	- 0.4	+ 12.0	- 0.4	+ 12.1	- 3.1
Non-Appalachian Ohio	0.0	+ 0.2	- 0.5	+ 2.0	+ 2.2	+ 0.4	- 1.0
Pennsylvania	0.0	+ 0.4	- 0.5	+ 2.5	+ 0.6	+ 0.8	- 1.4
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.5	+ 6.2	- 0.2	+ 2.3	- 1.5
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.1	+ 0.5	- 1.5	+ 1.2	+ 1.0	- 0.1	- 1.6
South Carolina	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	- 1.5	+ 6.1	- 5.6	+ 1.6	+ 0.3
Appalachian South Carolina	0.0	+ 0.2	- 1.5	+ 14.7	- 7.9	- 5.7	+ 1.3
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	- 1.4	+ 3.8	- 4.8	+ 3.9	0.0
Tennessee	0.0	+ 0.2	- 0.6	+ 0.8	- 0.1	- 0.5	- 0.2
Appalachian Tennessee	0.0	+ 0.1	- 0.5	- 3.4	+ 1.6	- 1.5	- 0.3
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	0.0	+ 0.2	- 0.7	+ 2.2	- 1.4	0.0	- 0.1
Virginia	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	- 0.3	+ 4.1	+ 1.5	- 1.4	+ 0.3
Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	- 0.7	+ 2.6	+ 2.5	- 0.7	- 0.8
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	- 0.3	+ 4.1	+ 1.4	- 1.4	+ 0.4
West Virginia (entire state)	0.0	+ 0.4	- 0.6	- 5.3	- 2.5	- 0.8	- 0.4

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	0.0	+ 0.3	0.0	- 0.3
Appalachian Region	0.0	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.3
Subregions				
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.2	0.0	- 0.1	- 0.1
North Central Appalachia	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Central Appalachia	+ 0.3	0.0	- 1.3	+ 1.1
South Central Appalachia	0.0	- 0.1	- 0.6	+ 0.8
Southern Appalachia	0.0	+ 0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.1
County Types				
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	0.0	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	- 0.5
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	+ 0.1	0.0	- 0.4	+ 0.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.4	+ 0.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	0.0	+ 0.1	- 1.2	+ 1.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 0.1	- 0.3	- 0.8	+ 0.9
Alabama	0.0	- 0.1	- 0.5	+ 0.6
Appalachian Alabama	0.0	- 0.1	- 0.5	+ 0.7
Non-Appalachian Alabama	0.0	0.0	- 0.4	+ 0.3
Georgia	- 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	- 0.5
Appalachian Georgia	0.0	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	- 1.0
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	- 0.4
Kentucky	- 0.1	0.0	- 0.5	+ 0.6
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.2	- 0.2	- 1.3	+ 1.2
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.2	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.5
Maryland	+ 0.1	0.0	+ 0.7	- 0.9
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.1	- 0.6	- 1.1	+ 1.6
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.7	- 1.0
Mississippi	+ 0.1	- 0.1	- 1.4	+ 1.3
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 1.1	+ 0.8
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.1	- 0.1	- 1.5	+ 1.4
New York	+ 0.2	+ 0.7	- 0.2	- 0.8
Appalachian New York	+ 0.5	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.2	+ 0.7	- 0.2	- 0.7
North Carolina	- 0.1	+ 0.2	0.0	- 0.1
Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.1	0.0	- 1.1	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	- 0.4
Ohio	0.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	- 0.6
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	0.0	- 0.6
Non-Appalachian Ohio	0.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	- 0.5
Pennsylvania	+ 0.2	+ 0.5	- 0.1	- 0.6
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.1	0.0	0.0	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.1	+ 0.8	- 0.1	- 0.8
South Carolina	0.0	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.4
Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.3	- 0.4	- 0.2	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.4	+ 0.2
Tennessee	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.0	+ 0.2
Appalachian Tennessee	0.0	- 0.1	- 0.4	+ 0.6
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Virginia	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.3	- 0.9
Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.7	+ 0.6
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	- 1.0
West Virginia (entire state)	0.0	+ 0.2	- 0.3	0.0

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	0.0	+ 0.4	0.0	- 0.4	0.0
Appalachian Region	- 0.6	- 0.3	+ 0.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.1	- 0.1	+ 0.1
North Central Appalachia	- 1.3	0.0	+ 0.7	+ 0.5	+ 0.7
Central Appalachia	- 0.3	- 1.1	+ 0.4	+ 1.0	+ 1.1
South Central Appalachia	- 1.0	- 0.8	+ 1.0	+ 0.8	+ 0.9
Southern Appalachia	- 0.5	- 0.3	+ 1.0	- 0.1	+ 0.4
County Types					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	- 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	- 0.9	- 0.3
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	- 0.8	- 0.9	+ 1.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	- 1.0	- 0.8	+ 0.6	+ 1.1	+ 1.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	- 1.1	- 0.4	+ 0.7	+ 0.8	+ 0.9
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 1.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	+ 0.6
Alabama	- 0.4	- 0.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.8	+ 0.7
Appalachian Alabama	- 0.4	- 0.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.8	+ 0.7
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 0.4	+ 0.3	- 0.6	+ 0.9	+ 0.6
Georgia	0.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.6	- 0.7	- 0.1
Appalachian Georgia	0.0	+ 0.4	+ 0.9	- 1.4	- 0.4
Non-Appalachian Georgia	0.0	0.0	+ 0.5	- 0.5	0.0
Kentucky	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.5	+ 0.7
Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.9	- 0.6	+ 0.4	+ 1.0	+ 1.5
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.5
Maryland	+ 1.1	+ 1.4	- 0.1	- 2.4	- 1.4
Appalachian Maryland	- 0.1	- 0.4	+ 0.8	- 0.3	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 1.0	+ 1.5	- 0.1	- 2.5	- 1.5
Mississippi	- 1.5	- 0.2	+ 0.9	+ 0.9	+ 1.0
Appalachian Mississippi	- 1.3	- 0.6	+ 1.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 1.6	- 0.1	+ 0.7	+ 0.9	+ 1.2
New York	+ 0.6	+ 0.5	- 0.3	- 0.8	- 0.5
Appalachian New York	+ 0.3	- 1.6	+ 0.6	+ 0.7	+ 0.5
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.6	+ 0.7	- 0.5	- 0.9	- 0.6
North Carolina	- 0.6	- 0.7	+ 0.6	+ 0.5	+ 0.6
Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.9	- 0.9	+ 0.8	+ 1.0	+ 1.0
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.5	- 0.5	+ 0.7	+ 0.4	+ 0.6
Ohio	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	- 0.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.1	- 0.7	0.0	+ 0.6	+ 0.4
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	- 0.8	0.0	+ 0.1
Pennsylvania	+ 0.1	+ 0.6	- 0.1	- 0.8	- 0.3
Appalachian Pennsylvania	0.0	+ 0.4	0.0	- 0.3	0.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.3	+ 0.9	- 0.1	- 1.1	- 0.6
South Carolina	- 1.1	- 0.5	+ 0.9	+ 0.6	+ 1.0
Appalachian South Carolina	- 2.3	- 0.5	+ 1.9	+ 0.9	+ 1.7
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.7	- 0.5	+ 0.6	+ 0.5	+ 0.8
Tennessee	- 0.7	- 0.8	+ 0.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.7
Appalachian Tennessee	- 1.1	- 1.3	+ 1.6	+ 0.9	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.5	- 0.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.5
Virginia	+ 0.7	+ 1.2	- 0.7	- 1.2	- 0.8
Appalachian Virginia	0.0	+ 0.9	- 1.0	+ 0.1	0.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.8	+ 1.3	- 0.7	- 1.3	- 0.9
West Virginia (entire state)	- 1.3	- 0.2	+ 0.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.8

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

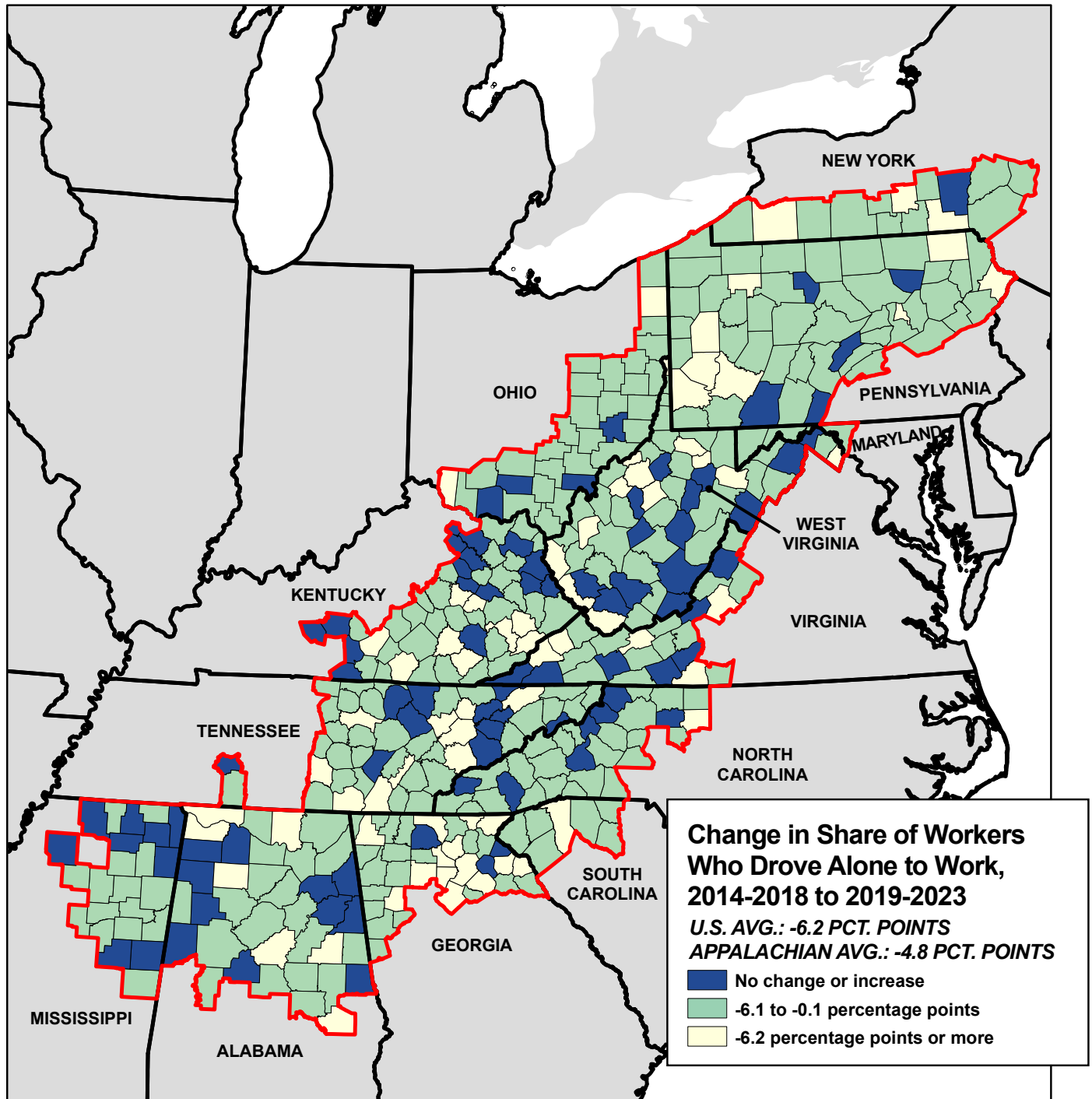
Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

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), 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	+ 2.4	- 2.4	- 2.0	- 0.5
Appalachian Region	+ 1.3	- 1.3	- 1.0	- 0.3
Subregions				
Northern Appalachia	+ 1.5	- 1.5	- 1.2	- 0.3
North Central Appalachia	+ 0.7	- 0.7	- 1.1	+ 0.2
Central Appalachia	- 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	- 0.2
South Central Appalachia	+ 0.4	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.2
Southern Appalachia	+ 2.3	- 2.3	- 2.0	- 0.2
County Types				
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	+ 3.7	- 3.7	- 3.4	- 0.3
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	+ 0.6	- 0.6	- 0.4	- 0.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	+ 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.2	- 0.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	+ 0.3	- 0.3	0.0	- 0.3
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	- 0.2
Alabama	+ 0.5	- 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.3
Appalachian Alabama	+ 0.7	- 0.7	- 0.3	- 0.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 0.4	- 0.4	- 0.1	- 0.3
Georgia	+ 3.8	- 3.8	- 3.5	- 0.2
Appalachian Georgia	+ 5.3	- 5.3	- 4.8	- 0.5
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 3.2	- 3.2	- 3.0	- 0.1
Kentucky	+ 0.9	- 0.9	- 0.6	- 0.3
Appalachian Kentucky	0.0	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 1.2	- 1.2	- 0.8	- 0.5
Maryland	+ 7.2	- 7.2	- 3.7	- 3.4
Appalachian Maryland	+ 1.0	- 1.0	- 1.1	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 7.4	- 7.4	- 3.8	- 3.6
Mississippi	- 0.2	+ 0.2	0.0	+ 0.2
Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.8	+ 0.8	+ 0.8	0.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2
New York	+ 4.7	- 4.7	- 4.1	- 0.6
Appalachian New York	+ 1.3	- 1.3	- 1.0	- 0.3
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 4.8	- 4.8	- 4.3	- 0.6
North Carolina	+ 1.4	- 1.4	- 1.1	- 0.3
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 0.3	- 0.3	0.0	- 0.3
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 1.7	- 1.7	- 1.3	- 0.4
Ohio	+ 1.7	- 1.7	- 1.6	- 0.2
Appalachian Ohio	+ 1.0	- 1.0	- 1.0	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 1.9	- 1.9	- 1.6	- 0.2
Pennsylvania	+ 3.2	- 3.2	- 2.5	- 0.7
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.8	- 1.8	- 1.4	- 0.4
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 4.5	- 4.5	- 3.5	- 1.0
South Carolina	+ 1.4	- 1.4	- 1.1	- 0.3
Appalachian South Carolina	0.0	0.0	- 0.5	+ 0.5
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 1.8	- 1.8	- 1.3	- 0.5
Tennessee	+ 0.8	- 0.8	- 0.6	- 0.3
Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 1.6	- 1.6	- 1.1	- 0.4
Virginia	+ 7.1	- 7.1	- 4.5	- 2.6
Appalachian Virginia	+ 1.5	- 1.5	- 0.9	- 0.6
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 7.5	- 7.5	- 4.8	- 2.7
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.8	+ 0.5

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

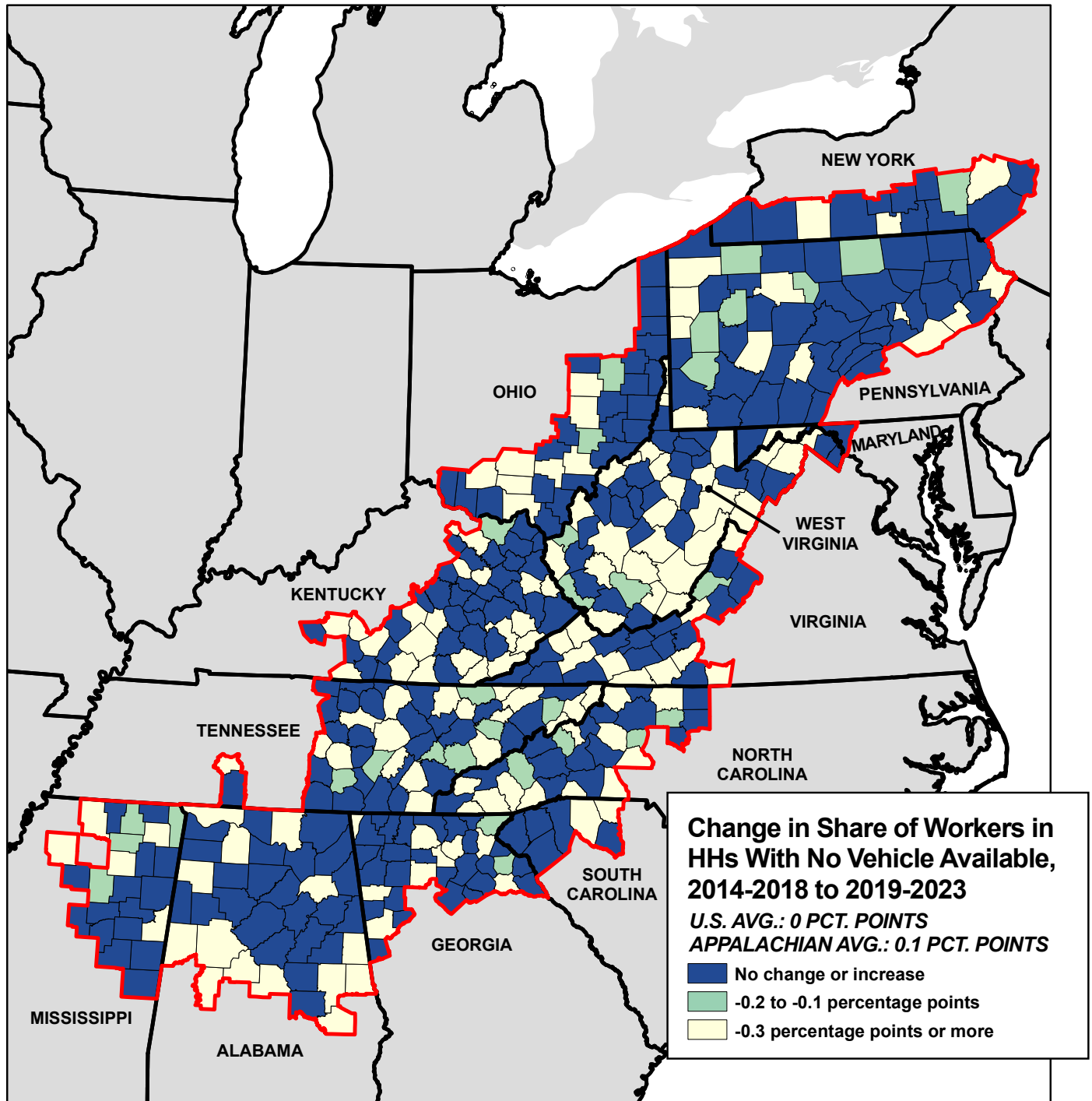


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Drove Alone to Work, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachian workers who drove alone to work fell by 4.8 percentage points between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023, compared with a decrease of 6.2 percentage points nationwide. Although more than three years of the latter period pre-date the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, early mitigation efforts (such as lockdown measures) may have had a minor impact on the change due to increases in remote work. The decrease between the two periods was greater than or equal to the national average of 6.2 percentage points in 73 of Appalachia's 423 counties and the largest decrease was in large metro counties, at 7.6 percentage points. Yet in 88 other counties, the percentage 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

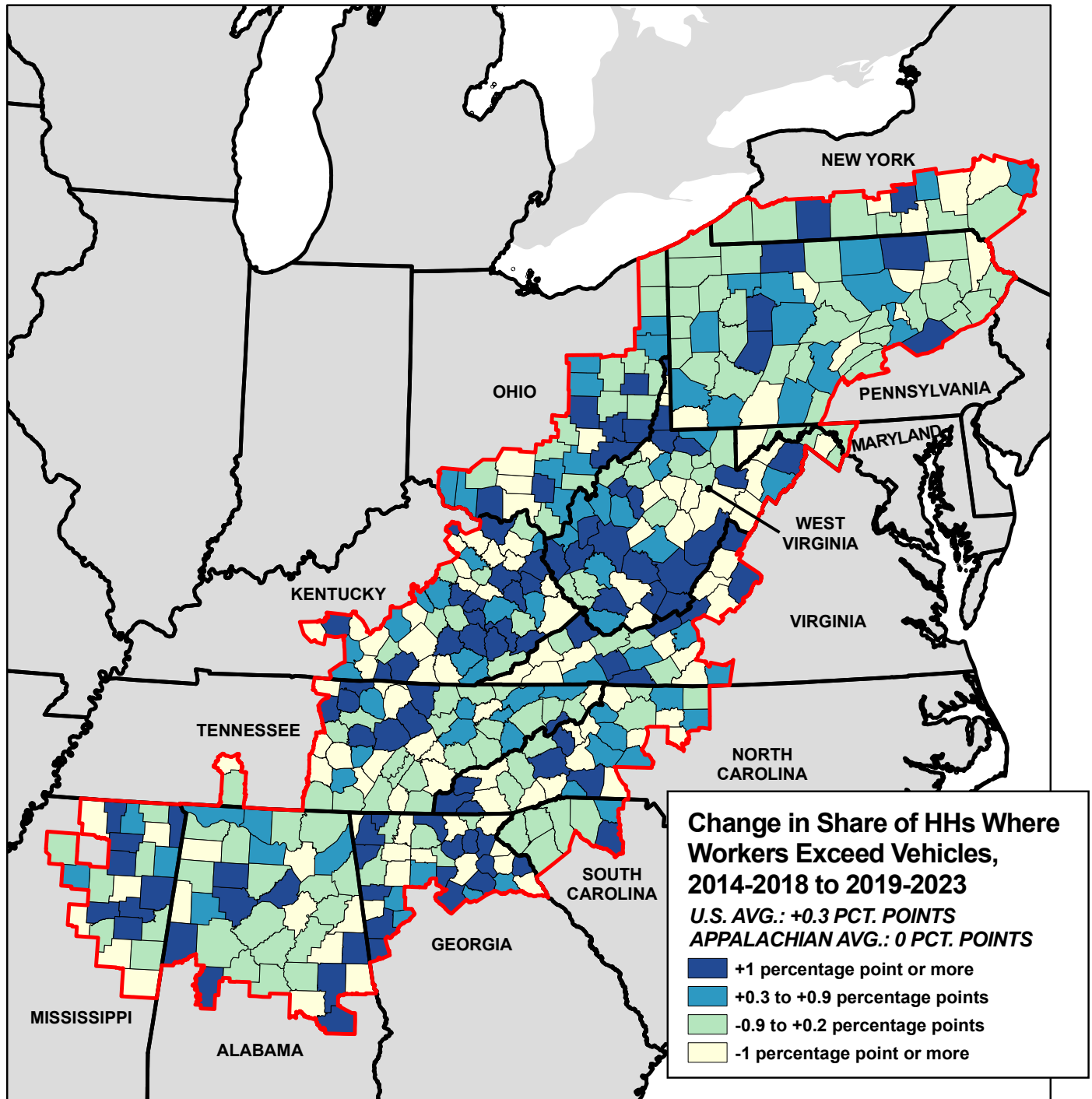


Map Title: Percentage Point Change in Share of Workers Ages 16 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Live in Households With No Vehicle Available, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

Between the 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 periods, the share of workers in households with no vehicle barely increased in Appalachia (0.1 percentage points) and remained unchanged in the nation as a whole (0 percentage points). Yet in 172 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 251 counties throughout the Appalachian Region, as well as in the Appalachian portions of all 13 Appalachian states. The increase exceeded the regional average in the Appalachian sections of six states, with the highest increases in the Appalachian portions of New York (0.5), Ohio (0.4), and Mississippi (0.3).

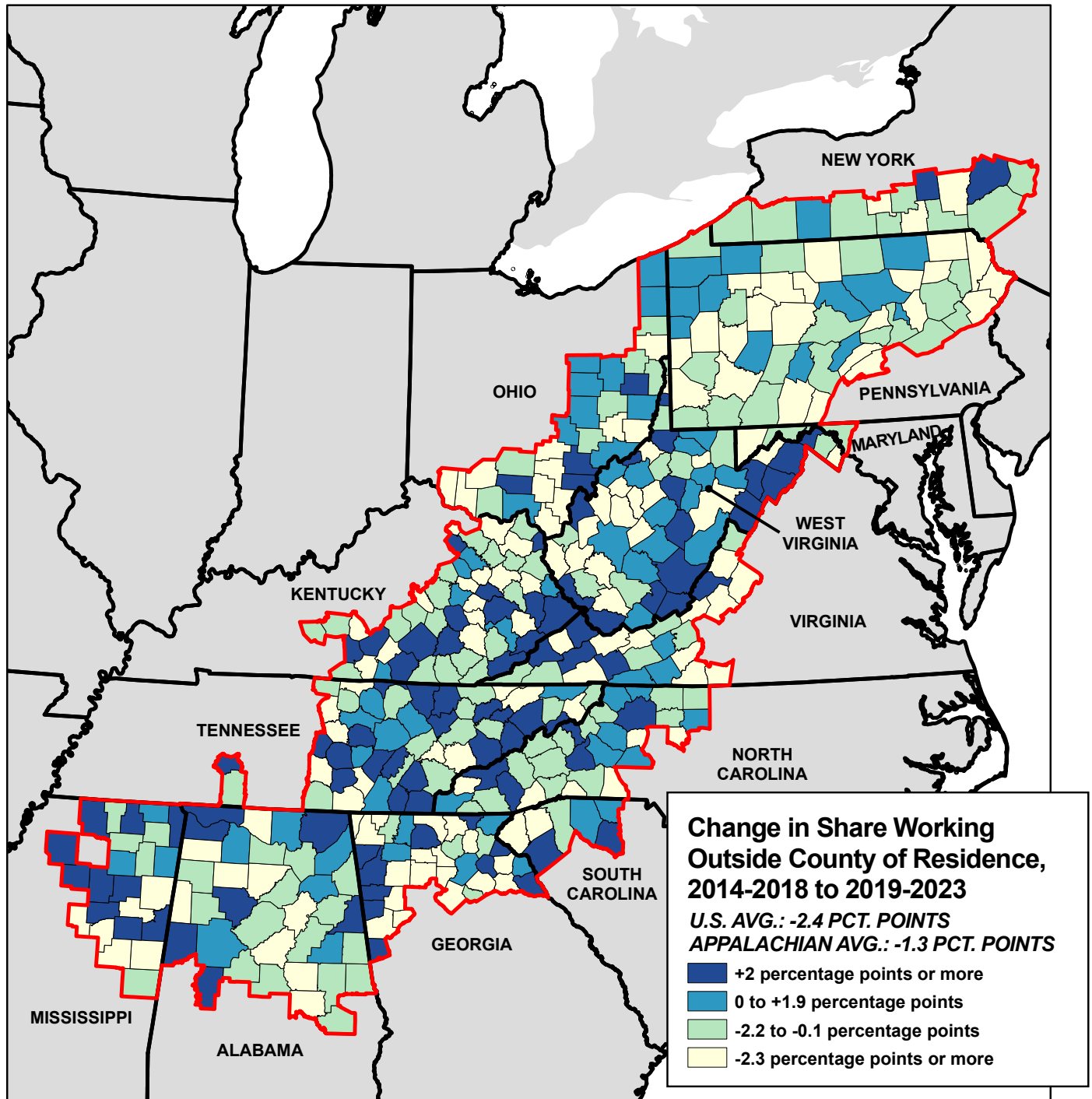
Figure 8.10: Percentage Point Change in Share of Households With One or More Workers in the Appalachian Region Where the Number of Workers Exceeds the Number of Vehicles Available, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023
 Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

Between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023, the percentage of Appalachian households where the number of workers exceeded the number of available vehicles remained unchanged in Appalachia (0 percentage points), compared with an increase of 0.3 percentage points nationwide. Within the Appalachian Region, however, changes were more noticeable. In 113 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 102 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023
 Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachian residents working outside their county of residence was 1.3 percentage points lower in 2019-2023 than in 2014-2018. And the decrease was even greater in much of the Appalachian Region: In 129 of Appalachia’s 423 counties, the share fell by at least the national average of 2.4 percentage points. On the other hand, there were 170 Appalachian counties where the share working outside their residential county was the same or higher in 2019-2023. In 95 of these counties, the increase was at least two percentage points.

TRENDS IN TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUTING PATTERNS

- At 77.3 percent, the share of Appalachian workers who drove alone to work in 2019-2023 was 4.8 percentage points lower than it was in 2014-2018 (see Tables 8.1 and 8.9) and likewise decreased in most parts of the Appalachian Region. The decreases were greatest in Southern Appalachia (six percentage points), counties in large metropolitan areas (7.6 percentage points), and in the Appalachian sections of Georgia (7.9 percentage points), South Carolina (5.3 percentage points), Pennsylvania (5.2 percentage points), and Alabama (5.1 percentage points). The percentage of Appalachian workers carpooling to their jobs also declined; that share fell 0.5 percentage points between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023.
- The share of those working at home increased 5.9 percentage points between the two periods, largely reflecting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, the increase in the share of those working at home for the nation as a whole was 2.7 percentage points greater than for the Appalachian Region. Non-metropolitan 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 (9.6 percentage points) which was greater than the national average.
- The share of Appalachian workers below the poverty level (\$30,900 for a family of two adults and two children in 2023) who drove alone to their jobs (69.9 percent in 2019-2023) was lower than the share for all Appalachian workers, although the change from 2014-2018 (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 (3.2 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 (8.4 percentage points), Pennsylvania (0.9 percentage points), and West Virginia (1.6 percentage points).
- In 2019-2023, 6.6 percent of Appalachian households lacked an available vehicle to get to current and/or potential employment, down 0.6 percentage points from 2014-2018 (see Tables 8.3 and 8.11). Within the region, the decline occurred among every subregion, every urban-rural county type, and in the Appalachian portions of every state except for New York, which experienced no change. The decline was largest in Appalachian Kentucky and South Carolina, where the share fell by one and 1.4 percentage points, respectively.
- The share of workers in households with no vehicle available (2.7 percent) barely increased in Appalachia (0.1 percentage points) between the 2014-2018 and the 2019-2023 periods (see Tables 8.5 and 8.12). Among the subregions and county types the share neither rose nor fell 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 Appalachian New York (0.5) and Appalachian Ohio (0.4). For workers lacking a vehicle in Appalachia, public transportation usage grew (4.2 percentage points) which was more than the national average increased (three percentage points).
- On average, Appalachian workers traveled 25.8 minutes to their jobs in 2019-2023, 0.4 minutes longer than they did in 2014-2018 (see Tables 8.7 and 8.14), and the average commute generally became longer throughout the region. The only exceptions where mean travel time decreased since 2014-2018 were in large metro counties (0.3 percentage points) and Appalachian Georgia (0.4 percentage points), whereas Appalachian Pennsylvania and Appalachian Virginia experienced no change in average time between the two time periods. Moreover, a greater percentage of workers had longer commutes: the share of workers taking between 30 minutes and 59 minutes to get to their jobs rose 0.7 percentage points. And the share who took at least an hour to get to work rose by 0.2 percentage points in Appalachia – the largest increases were in the Central subregion (1 point), nonmetro counties adjacent to large metros (1.1 percentage points), Appalachian Kentucky (one percentage point), and Appalachian North Carolina (one percentage point).
- In the Appalachian Region, 30.6 percent of employed residents ages 16 and over worked outside their county of residence in 2019-2023, representing a decrease of 1.3 percentage points from the 2014-2018 period (see Tables 8.8 and 8.15). There was considerable variation within the region, however: for example, the share decreased 3.7 percentage points in large metros while increasing 0.3 percentage points in rural counties and decreasing by 1.5 percentage points in Northern Appalachia and 2.3 percentage points in Southern Appalachia.

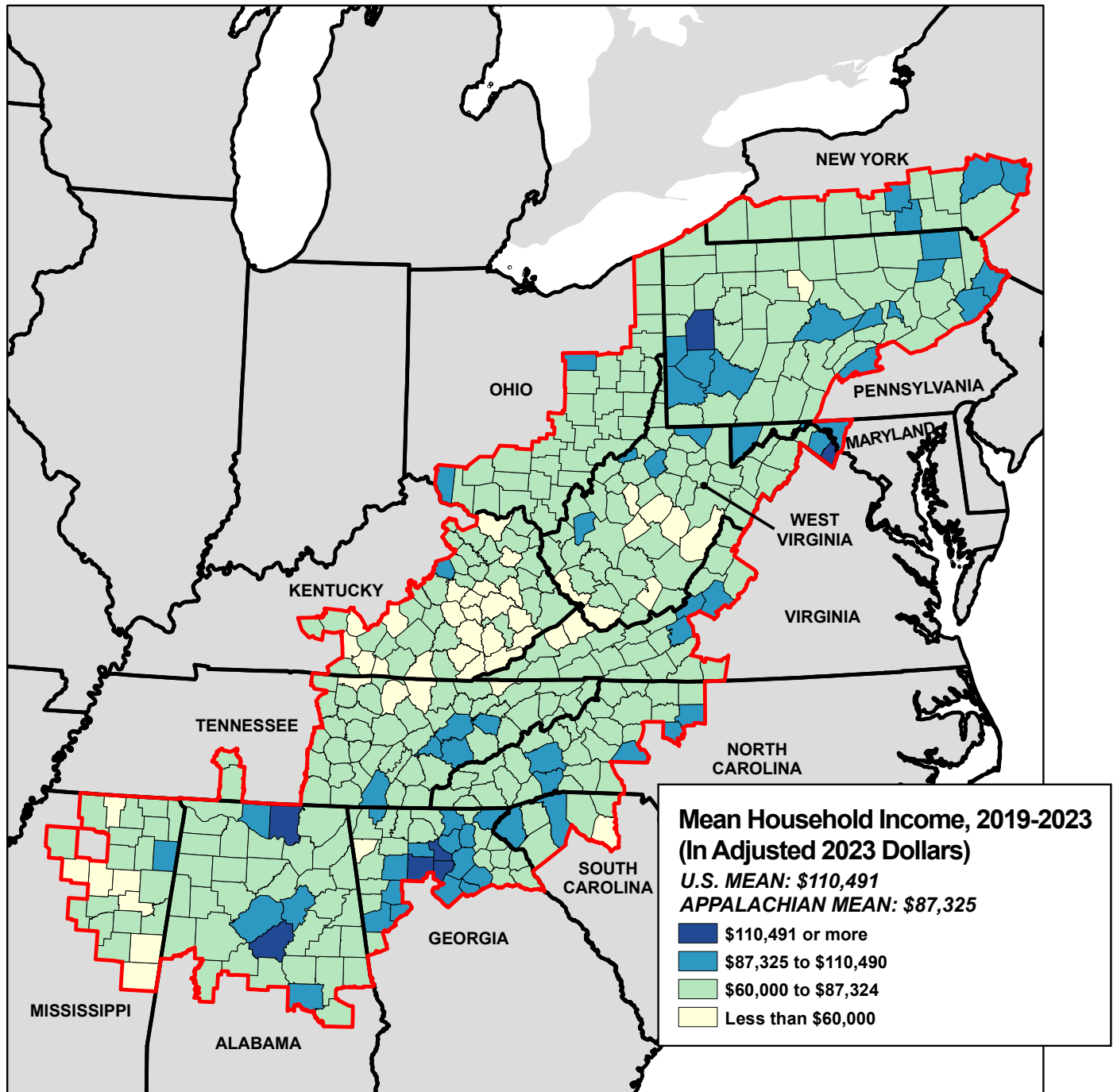
CHAPTER 9: INCOME AND POVERTY

Table 9.1: Household, Family, and Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2023 Dollars), 2019-2023

Income	Household Income, 2019-2023 (2023 Dollars)		Family Income, 2019-2023 (2023 Dollars)		Per Capita Income, 2019-2023 (2023 Dollars)
	Mean HH Income	Median HH Income	Mean Family Income	Median Family Income	
United States	\$110,491	\$78,538	\$130,215	\$96,922	\$43,289
Appalachian Region	\$87,325	\$64,588	\$104,580	\$82,360	\$35,598
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	\$88,504	\$66,273	\$107,940	\$86,480	\$37,486
North Central Appalachia	\$81,262	\$60,402	\$97,992	\$78,181	\$33,602
Central Appalachia	\$67,477	\$48,753	\$80,127	\$62,684	\$27,395
South Central Appalachia	\$84,547	\$61,780	\$101,753	\$78,783	\$35,265
Southern Appalachia	\$94,222	\$70,087	\$110,393	\$86,748	\$36,373
County Types					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	\$104,553	\$78,847	\$124,637	\$98,752	\$41,621
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	\$87,826	\$64,940	\$105,820	\$83,303	\$36,147
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	\$76,821	\$58,509	\$91,395	\$74,635	\$31,188
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	\$75,529	\$56,968	\$89,586	\$72,023	\$31,192
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	\$70,266	\$50,699	\$84,135	\$66,175	\$28,799
Alabama	\$86,225	\$62,027	\$104,486	\$80,385	\$34,835
Appalachian Alabama	\$89,924	\$65,389	\$108,281	\$83,923	\$36,197
Non-Appalachian Alabama	\$79,497	\$57,238	\$97,348	\$74,616	\$32,354
Georgia	\$103,618	\$74,664	\$120,846	\$90,337	\$39,525
Appalachian Georgia	\$104,557	\$81,389	\$117,572	\$94,522	\$37,639
Non-Appalachian Georgia	\$103,215	\$72,120	\$122,485	\$88,694	\$40,399
Kentucky	\$86,119	\$62,417	\$103,036	\$79,436	\$34,960
Appalachian Kentucky	\$67,373	\$48,418	\$79,155	\$62,049	\$27,051
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	\$92,474	\$68,066	\$111,588	\$87,239	\$37,711
Maryland	\$133,800	\$101,652	\$158,170	\$124,487	\$51,689
Appalachian Maryland	\$89,251	\$67,960	\$107,114	\$87,473	\$35,976
Non-Appalachian Maryland	\$135,777	\$103,834	\$160,383	\$126,688	\$52,356
Mississippi	\$76,995	\$54,915	\$92,303	\$70,821	\$30,529
Appalachian Mississippi	\$71,138	\$50,986	\$86,007	\$68,253	\$28,931
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	\$78,567	\$56,179	\$93,973	\$71,848	\$30,945
New York	\$125,909	\$84,578	\$148,673	\$105,060	\$49,520
Appalachian New York	\$84,566	\$63,640	\$103,173	\$84,141	\$35,487
Non-Appalachian New York	\$128,313	\$86,909	\$151,189	\$107,095	\$50,279
North Carolina	\$97,403	\$69,904	\$116,074	\$86,947	\$39,616
Appalachian North Carolina	\$83,500	\$60,931	\$100,186	\$77,182	\$35,103
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	\$100,829	\$72,234	\$119,971	\$90,495	\$40,694
Ohio	\$94,766	\$69,680	\$115,826	\$90,288	\$39,455
Appalachian Ohio	\$79,166	\$60,010	\$95,208	\$77,034	\$32,713
Non-Appalachian Ohio	\$97,857	\$71,809	\$120,101	\$93,961	\$40,815
Pennsylvania	\$104,925	\$76,081	\$126,984	\$97,349	\$43,104
Appalachian Pennsylvania	\$91,564	\$68,416	\$112,041	\$89,310	\$38,951
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	\$115,927	\$84,270	\$138,747	\$105,686	\$46,339
South Carolina	\$92,833	\$66,818	\$110,261	\$83,579	\$37,993
Appalachian South Carolina	\$91,571	\$66,598	\$108,091	\$82,654	\$36,931
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	\$93,284	\$67,136	\$111,061	\$84,841	\$38,374
Tennessee	\$93,479	\$67,097	\$111,007	\$84,212	\$37,866
Appalachian Tennessee	\$84,750	\$61,918	\$101,533	\$78,667	\$35,039
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	\$100,246	\$72,054	\$118,482	\$90,357	\$39,991
Virginia	\$125,226	\$90,974	\$147,886	\$112,146	\$49,217
Appalachian Virginia	\$75,393	\$54,817	\$93,450	\$73,484	\$31,893
Non-Appalachian Virginia	\$130,080	\$95,777	\$152,906	\$117,269	\$50,822
West Virginia (entire state)	\$78,799	\$57,917	\$94,941	\$74,981	\$32,949

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Figure 9.1: Mean Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2023 Dollars), 2019-2023

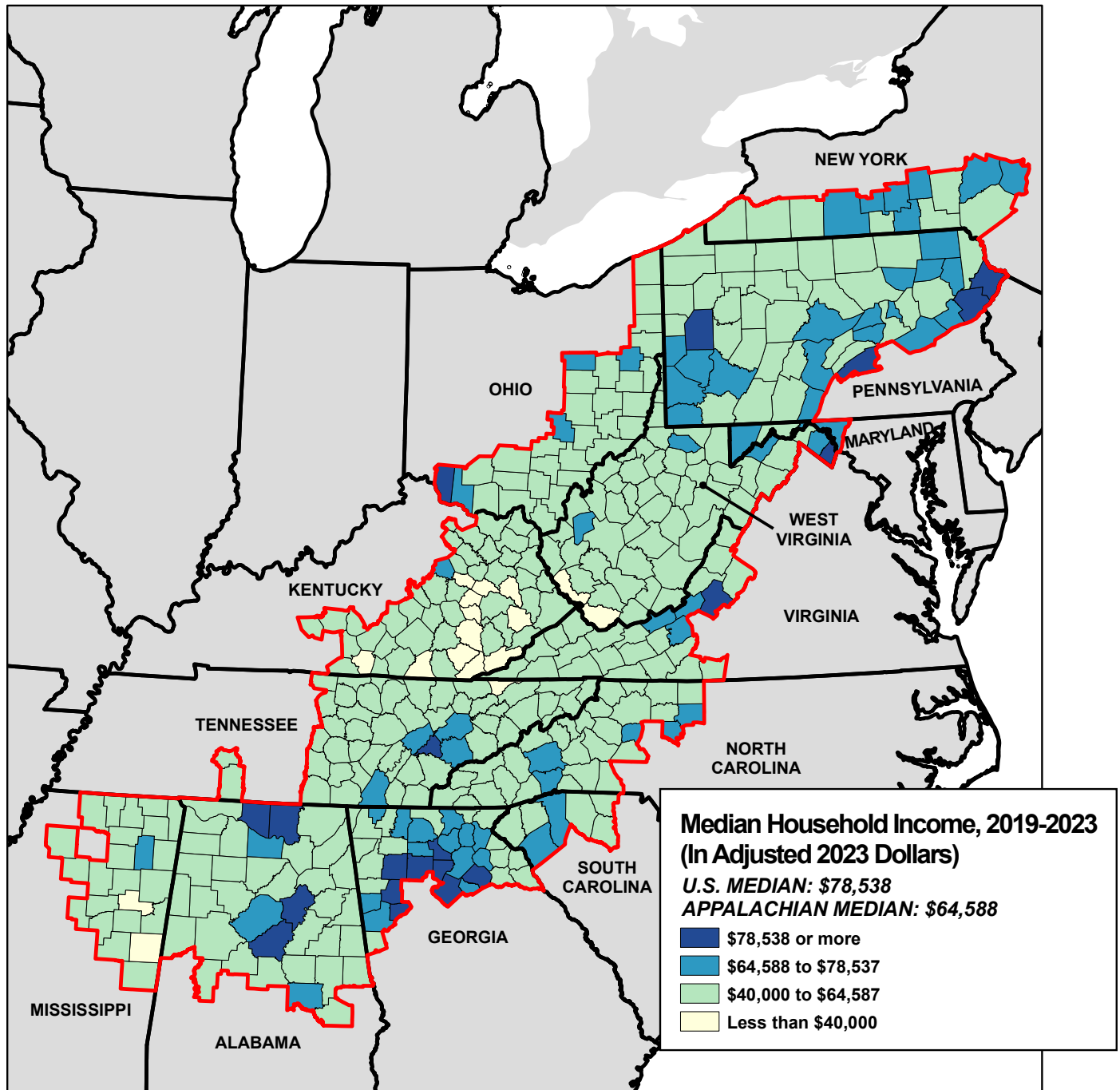


Map Title: Mean Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2023 Dollars), 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

In the 2019-2023 period, the mean income of Appalachian households was \$87,325, just 79 percent of the U.S. average (\$110,491). In 67 counties (53 of which in metropolitan areas), the average household income was at least the regional average – seven of these counties had average household income that matched or exceeded the national mean. All counties in the latter group were in metropolitan areas. In contrast, mean household income was less than \$60,000 in 46 counties – 43 of which were outside metro areas, and 30 of which were in Central Appalachia (22 in Kentucky alone).

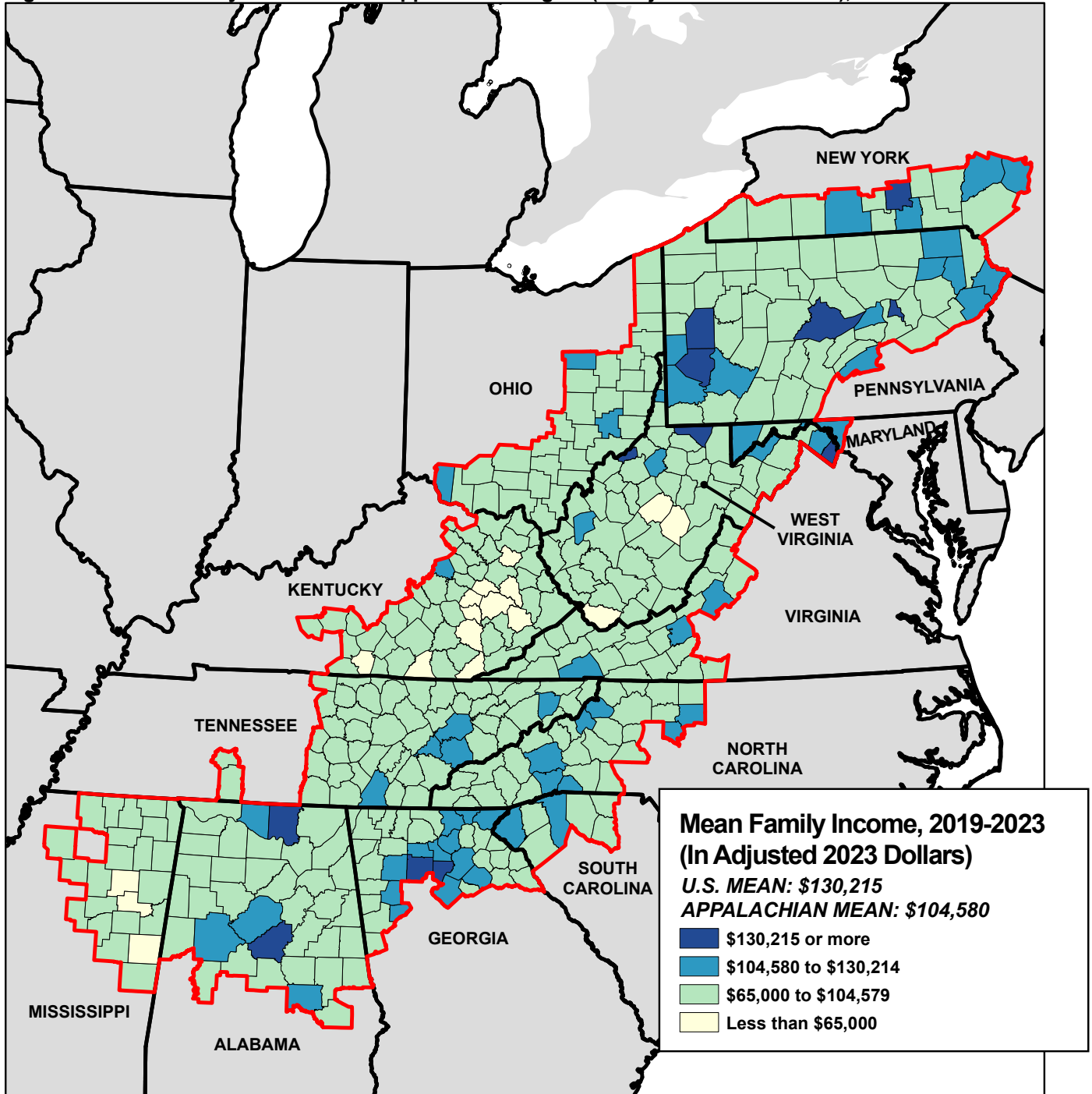
Figure 9.2: Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2023 Dollars), 2019-2023



Map Title: Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2023 Dollars), 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

At \$64,588, median household income in Appalachia (the point at which half the households have higher incomes and the other half have lower incomes) was 82 percent that of the United States (\$78,538) during the 2019-2023 period. There were 86 counties in Appalachia (63 of which were in metropolitan areas) that had household incomes at or above the Appalachian median, while 20 of these counties had incomes at or above the national median. On the other hand, 17 counties in the region had median household incomes below \$40,000 – all of which were outside metro areas and all but two were in Central Appalachia. This distribution is not surprising: median household income was \$50,699 for rural counties and \$48,753 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 coronavirus pandemic from 2020 through 2023.

Figure 9.3: Mean Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2023 Dollars), 2019-2023

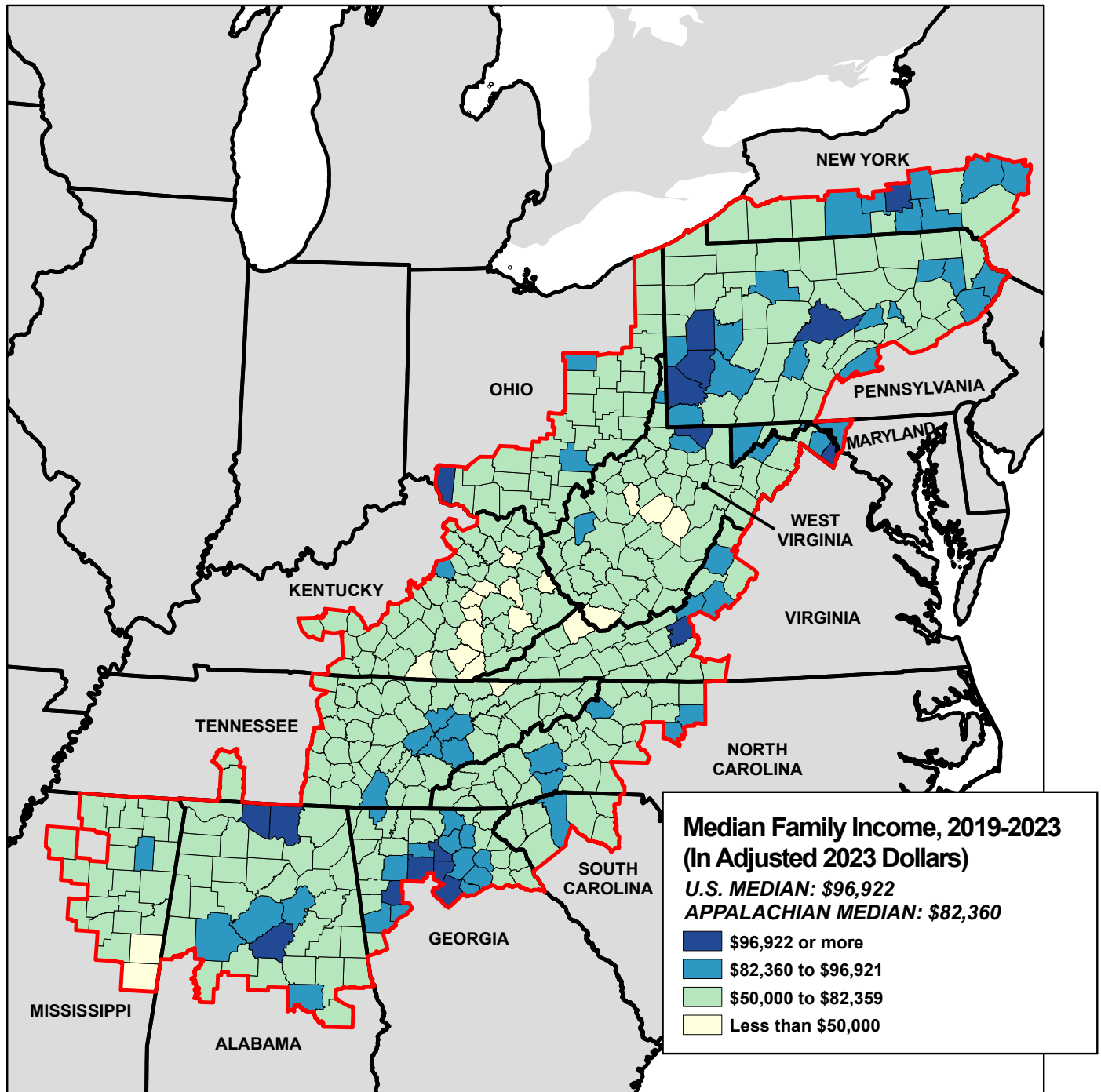


Map Title: Mean Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2023 Dollars), 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Average family income in Appalachia was just 80 percent of the national average of \$130,215 in 2019-2023. In 70 Appalachian counties (52 of which were in metropolitan areas), the average income of families matched or surpassed the regional average for the 2019-2023 period (\$104,580). And of this group, there were 12 counties (all but one 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 17 Appalachian counties. All of these counties were outside metropolitan areas and only one bordered any metro. Additionally, 12 of the counties in the lowest income group were in Central Appalachia and 11 were in Kentucky alone. Overall, the mean family income over the 2019-2023 period was just \$84,135 for rural counties, \$80,127 for Central Appalachia, and \$79,155 for Appalachian Kentucky.

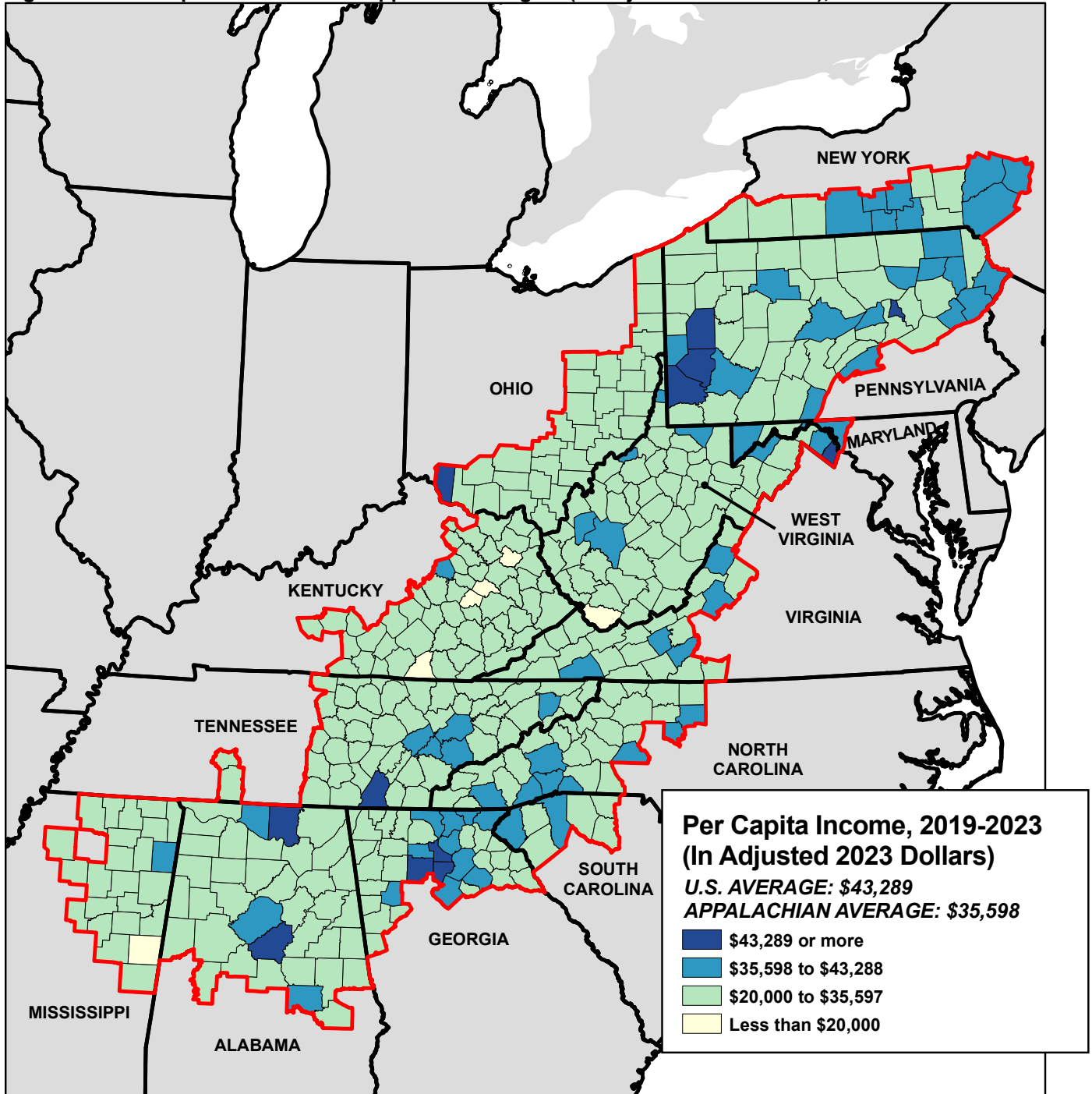
Figure 9.4: Median Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2023 Dollars), 2019-2023



Map Title: Median Family Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2023 Dollars), 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Median family income in Appalachia was 85 percent of the U.S. median of \$96,922 during the 2019-2023 period. Yet in 79 Appalachian counties – 60 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 (\$82,360). In 17 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 19 counties. All but three of the latter group were rural counties not adjacent to a metro area (median family income in those counties as a whole was \$66,175), and 11 were in Appalachian Kentucky (where median family income was \$62,049).

Figure 9.5: Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2023 Dollars), 2019-2023



Map Title: Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2023 Dollars), 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

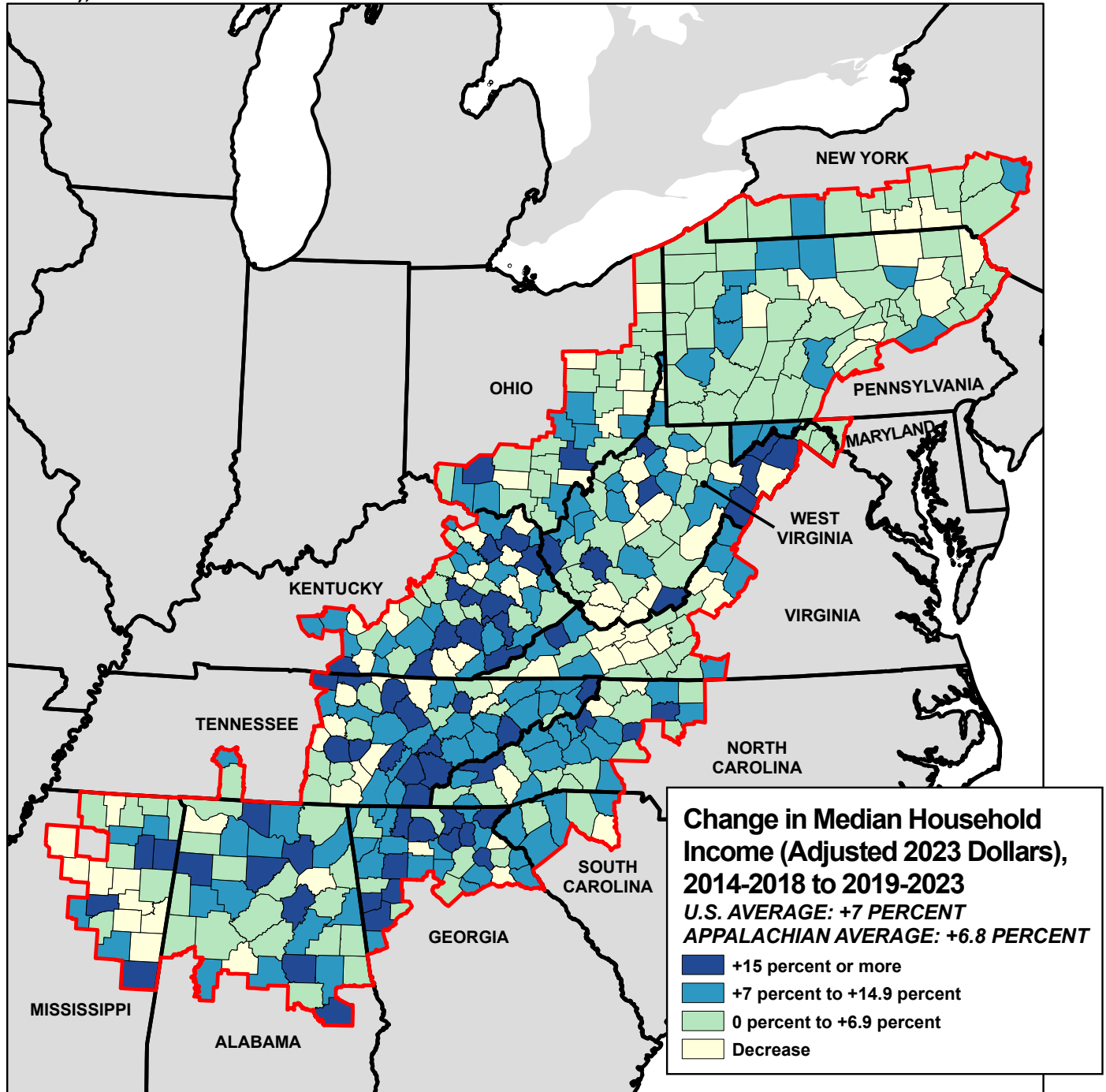
At \$35,598, per capita income in the Appalachian Region was 82 percent that of the U.S. average of \$43,289 during the 2019-2023 period. And there was considerable variation within the Appalachian Region. Per capita income was the same or higher than the regional average in 78 Appalachian counties; most of these counties were in Northern Appalachia with large pockets in South Central and Southern Appalachia. In 12 of these counties, per capita income was at or above the national average – all of which were in metro areas including Pittsburgh, suburban Atlanta, and the Cincinnati metropolitan area. Yet in six Appalachian counties, per capita income was less than \$20,000. As with other income measures, most of the counties with the highest per capita incomes were in metro areas, while those with the lowest were disproportionately in rural areas, particularly in Central Appalachia. Indeed, per capita income in 2019-2023 was only \$28,799 in rural Appalachian counties as a whole, and just \$27,395 in Central Appalachia.

Table 9.2: Change in Household, Family, and Per Capita Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2023 Dollars), 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Income	Percent Change in Household Income (In 2023 Dollars)		Percent Change in Family Income (in 2023 Dollars)		Percent Change in Per Capita Income (In 2023 Dollars)
	Mean HH Income	Median HH Income	Mean Family Income	Median Family Income	
United States	+ 6.9	+ 7.0	+ 7.6	+ 7.6	+ 9.0
Appalachian Region	+ 6.3	+ 6.8	+ 7.1	+ 7.5	+ 7.4
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	+ 4.1	+ 3.5	+ 5.3	+ 4.9	+ 6.0
North Central Appalachia	+ 5.4	+ 5.5	+ 6.8	+ 6.5	+ 6.5
Central Appalachia	+ 7.3	+ 8.3	+ 8.1	+ 9.2	+ 7.4
South Central Appalachia	+ 7.0	+ 8.8	+ 7.6	+ 8.9	+ 7.9
Southern Appalachia	+ 7.6	+ 8.0	+ 7.9	+ 8.9	+ 8.8
County Types					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	+ 6.3	+ 7.0	+ 7.2	+ 7.2	+ 7.3
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	+ 5.9	+ 6.1	+ 6.5	+ 6.5	+ 7.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	+ 5.2	+ 6.7	+ 5.7	+ 7.5	+ 6.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	+ 6.0	+ 6.7	+ 6.9	+ 6.7	+ 6.9
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 6.6	+ 5.2	+ 7.8	+ 8.3	+ 7.6
Alabama	+ 5.3	+ 5.1	+ 6.4	+ 6.5	+ 6.6
Appalachian Alabama	+ 6.3	+ 6.4	+ 7.4	+ 7.9	+ 7.3
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 3.4	+ 4.7	+ 4.4	+ 4.1	+ 5.0
Georgia	+ 8.3	+ 10.2	+ 8.9	+ 10.1	+ 10.0
Appalachian Georgia	+ 8.3	+ 10.6	+ 8.2	+ 10.1	+ 9.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 8.3	+ 9.5	+ 9.3	+ 10.0	+ 10.4
Kentucky	+ 5.4	+ 6.0	+ 6.4	+ 6.9	+ 6.6
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 8.3	+ 9.2	+ 8.5	+ 10.2	+ 8.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 4.3	+ 4.7	+ 5.5	+ 6.0	+ 6.0
Maryland	+ 2.3	+ 2.0	+ 3.7	+ 2.9	+ 4.8
Appalachian Maryland	+ 3.5	+ 4.5	+ 4.7	+ 6.9	+ 6.6
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 2.2	+ 1.7	+ 3.6	+ 2.7	+ 4.7
Mississippi	+ 4.3	+ 3.5	+ 5.9	+ 5.9	+ 7.0
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 5.3	+ 3.4	+ 7.2	+ 8.8	+ 8.9
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 4.0	+ 3.4	+ 5.6	+ 4.6	+ 6.6
New York	+ 6.2	+ 6.4	+ 7.1	+ 7.3	+ 8.6
Appalachian New York	+ 3.8	+ 1.9	+ 5.4	+ 4.9	+ 6.2
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 6.2	+ 6.6	+ 7.0	+ 7.1	+ 8.6
North Carolina	+ 8.5	+ 9.6	+ 9.3	+ 9.7	+ 10.5
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 6.5	+ 8.2	+ 7.3	+ 7.2	+ 7.6
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 8.7	+ 9.1	+ 9.6	+ 10.3	+ 11.0
Ohio	+ 5.0	+ 5.0	+ 6.7	+ 6.2	+ 7.0
Appalachian Ohio	+ 3.2	+ 3.6	+ 4.9	+ 4.1	+ 5.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 5.3	+ 4.5	+ 6.9	+ 6.9	+ 7.2
Pennsylvania	+ 5.7	+ 5.1	+ 6.5	+ 6.0	+ 7.7
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 4.7	+ 3.9	+ 5.8	+ 5.2	+ 6.3
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 5.8	+ 6.1	+ 6.3	+ 5.8	+ 8.3
South Carolina	+ 8.8	+ 7.6	+ 9.3	+ 8.2	+ 11.5
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 8.3	+ 7.8	+ 7.6	+ 5.9	+ 10.0
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 9.0	+ 7.6	+ 9.9	+ 9.8	+ 12.1
Tennessee	+ 7.5	+ 8.1	+ 8.0	+ 9.6	+ 9.1
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 7.5	+ 10.1	+ 8.0	+ 10.3	+ 8.2
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 7.2	+ 7.4	+ 8.0	+ 10.0	+ 9.6
Virginia	+ 5.0	+ 4.4	+ 6.4	+ 6.3	+ 7.1
Appalachian Virginia	+ 4.4	+ 3.7	+ 6.6	+ 6.6	+ 6.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 4.6	+ 4.2	+ 6.0	+ 5.4	+ 6.9
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 5.7	+ 5.9	+ 6.6	+ 6.9	+ 6.2

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

Figure 9.6: Percent Change in Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2023 Dollars), 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent Change in Median Household Income in the Appalachian Region (In Adjusted 2023 Dollars), 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 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 6.8 percent higher in 2019-2023 than it was in 2014-2018. While this was slightly less than the national increase of seven percent, household income rose at or above the national median in over two-fifths (187 counties) of Appalachia's 423 counties. Moreover, median household income rose at least 15 percent in 64 Appalachian counties between the two periods. But not all the news was positive: In 83 Appalachian counties, real median household income fell between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023. Of these counties, 58 were in non-metro areas.

Table 9.3: Number of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, by Age Group, 2019-2023

Poverty Status	All Ages	Under Age 18	Ages 18-64			Ages 65 and Over
			Total	Ages 18-24	Ages 25-64	
United States	40,390,045	11,829,878	22,905,636	5,118,439	17,787,197	5,654,531
Appalachian Region	3,642,936	1,032,323	2,095,158	453,394	1,641,764	515,455
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	1,021,943	278,075	591,146	134,184	456,962	152,722
North Central Appalachia	382,360	101,321	228,049	48,412	179,637	52,990
Central Appalachia	384,160	105,557	223,560	34,038	189,522	55,043
South Central Appalachia	732,261	198,206	425,132	100,246	324,886	108,923
Southern Appalachia	1,122,212	349,164	627,271	136,514	490,757	145,777
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	684,499	201,551	385,650	78,114	307,536	97,298
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	1,555,423	438,231	909,547	226,253	683,294	207,645
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	345,835	99,391	197,354	39,997	157,357	49,090
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	597,432	169,697	334,910	56,474	278,436	92,825
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	459,747	123,453	267,697	52,556	215,141	68,597
Alabama	768,185	239,040	431,130	98,629	332,501	98,015
Appalachian Alabama	458,613	139,388	257,536	56,873	200,663	61,689
Non-Appalachian Alabama	309,572	99,652	173,594	41,756	131,838	36,326
Georgia	1,423,159	467,864	787,753	177,709	610,044	167,542
Appalachian Georgia	365,817	119,655	201,393	38,746	162,647	44,769
Non-Appalachian Georgia	1,057,342	348,209	586,360	138,963	447,397	122,773
Kentucky	707,480	209,028	407,051	85,341	321,710	91,401
Appalachian Kentucky	252,821	71,255	147,178	24,351	122,827	34,388
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	454,659	137,773	259,873	60,990	198,883	57,013
Maryland	564,966	156,046	320,506	65,597	254,909	88,414
Appalachian Maryland	31,981	8,408	19,004	3,645	15,359	4,569
Non-Appalachian Maryland	532,985	147,638	301,502	61,952	239,550	83,845
Mississippi	543,697	179,522	295,597	62,244	233,353	68,578
Appalachian Mississippi	112,176	33,762	63,264	16,408	46,856	15,150
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	431,521	145,760	232,333	45,836	186,497	53,428
New York	2,656,674	731,672	1,497,341	290,631	1,206,710	427,661
Appalachian New York	151,597	37,687	94,640	29,021	65,619	19,270
Non-Appalachian New York	2,505,077	693,985	1,402,701	261,610	1,141,091	408,391
North Carolina	1,355,827	413,840	764,153	171,589	592,564	177,834
Appalachian North Carolina	283,912	79,941	160,535	34,034	126,501	43,436
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	1,071,915	333,899	603,618	137,555	466,063	134,398
Ohio	1,519,610	461,410	864,874	188,775	676,099	193,326
Appalachian Ohio	302,324	89,550	171,628	31,607	140,021	41,146
Non-Appalachian Ohio	1,217,286	371,860	693,246	157,168	536,078	152,180
Pennsylvania	1,480,981	420,291	835,127	174,493	660,634	225,563
Appalachian Pennsylvania	667,675	178,071	383,887	85,671	298,216	105,717
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	813,306	242,220	451,240	88,822	362,418	119,846
South Carolina	719,720	218,849	399,768	86,148	313,620	101,103
Appalachian South Carolina	185,606	56,359	105,078	24,487	80,591	24,169
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	534,114	162,490	294,690	61,661	233,029	76,934
Tennessee	940,092	286,069	530,401	109,053	421,348	123,622
Appalachian Tennessee	424,250	116,636	244,452	50,040	194,412	63,162
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	515,842	169,433	285,949	59,013	226,936	60,460
Virginia	834,866	236,443	484,270	119,964	364,306	114,153
Appalachian Virginia	118,504	26,479	74,213	23,091	51,122	17,812
Non-Appalachian Virginia	716,362	209,964	410,057	96,873	313,184	96,341
West Virginia (entire state)	287,660	75,132	172,350	35,420	136,930	40,178

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2023, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$30,900. 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, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

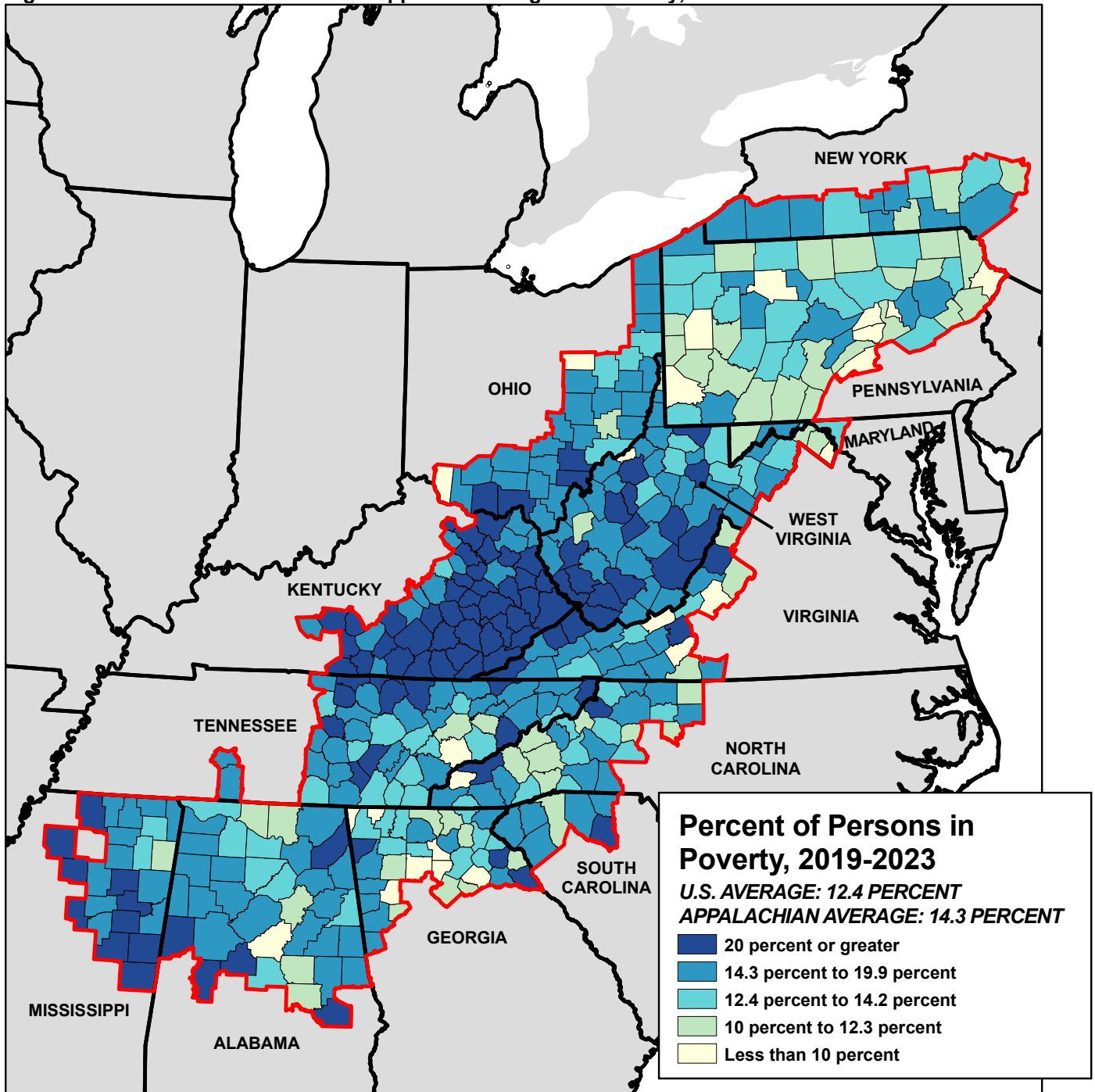
Table 9.4: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, by Age Group, 2019-2023

Poverty Status	All Ages	Under Age 18	Ages 18-64			Ages 65 and Over
			Total	Ages 18-24	Ages 25-64	
United States	12.4	16.3	11.6	18.9	10.4	10.4
Appalachian Region	14.3	19.0	13.8	21.8	12.5	10.6
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	13.2	18.0	12.9	22.2	11.5	9.5
North Central Appalachia	15.9	20.2	16.0	24.7	14.6	11.0
Central Appalachia	21.4	27.2	21.2	24.9	20.6	15.7
South Central Appalachia	14.3	19.3	14.0	23.8	12.4	10.5
Southern Appalachia	13.2	17.7	12.2	18.8	11.1	10.6
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	11.0	14.6	10.2	16.0	9.4	9.3
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	14.2	19.1	13.9	24.3	12.1	10.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	15.5	20.7	15.0	21.9	13.9	11.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	15.7	21.6	15.2	19.6	14.5	11.4
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	19.4	24.6	19.4	26.9	18.1	14.2
Alabama	15.6	21.5	14.7	23.6	13.2	11.4
Appalachian Alabama	14.5	19.6	13.5	21.2	12.2	11.2
Non-Appalachian Alabama	17.8	25.0	16.8	27.8	14.9	11.7
Georgia	13.5	18.7	12.1	19.2	10.9	10.8
Appalachian Georgia	10.8	14.5	9.7	13.3	9.2	9.1
Non-Appalachian Georgia	14.7	20.7	13.2	21.9	11.8	11.6
Kentucky	16.1	20.9	15.4	23.3	14.2	12.3
Appalachian Kentucky	22.5	28.4	22.1	27.6	21.3	16.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	13.9	18.3	13.2	21.9	11.8	10.6
Maryland	9.3	11.5	8.6	13.9	7.9	9.0
Appalachian Maryland	13.5	16.9	13.5	18.6	12.7	9.9
Non-Appalachian Maryland	9.2	11.3	8.4	13.7	7.7	9.0
Mississippi	19.1	26.4	17.5	24.8	16.2	14.3
Appalachian Mississippi	19.0	24.6	18.1	29.3	15.9	14.8
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	19.1	26.8	17.3	23.5	16.2	14.2
New York	13.7	18.2	12.5	18.9	11.5	12.7
Appalachian New York	15.7	19.8	16.5	31.6	13.6	9.7
Non-Appalachian New York	13.6	18.1	12.3	18.1	11.4	12.9
North Carolina	13.2	18.1	12.2	20.0	11.0	10.2
Appalachian North Carolina	14.3	20.2	13.7	21.8	12.5	10.3
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	12.9	17.7	11.8	19.6	10.6	10.1
Ohio	13.2	18.0	12.6	20.2	11.4	9.5
Appalachian Ohio	15.7	21.4	15.2	20.7	14.4	10.9
Non-Appalachian Ohio	12.7	17.3	12.0	20.1	10.8	9.2
Pennsylvania	11.8	16.0	11.1	18.2	10.0	9.4
Appalachian Pennsylvania	12.2	16.6	11.8	20.9	10.5	9.2
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	11.4	15.6	10.5	16.2	9.7	9.6
South Carolina	14.2	19.7	13.2	21.2	12.0	10.7
Appalachian South Carolina	13.8	18.5	13.0	22.1	11.6	10.4
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	14.3	20.2	13.3	20.8	12.2	10.8
Tennessee	13.8	18.7	12.8	19.3	11.7	10.8
Appalachian Tennessee	14.5	19.3	14.0	21.1	12.8	11.0
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	13.2	18.4	11.9	18.1	10.9	10.5
Virginia	9.9	12.7	9.4	17.5	8.1	8.3
Appalachian Virginia	17.0	20.3	18.0	35.9	14.7	11.5
Non-Appalachian Virginia	9.3	12.1	8.6	15.6	7.6	7.9
West Virginia (entire state)	16.6	21.4	16.9	25.7	15.6	11.2

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2023, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$30,900. 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, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

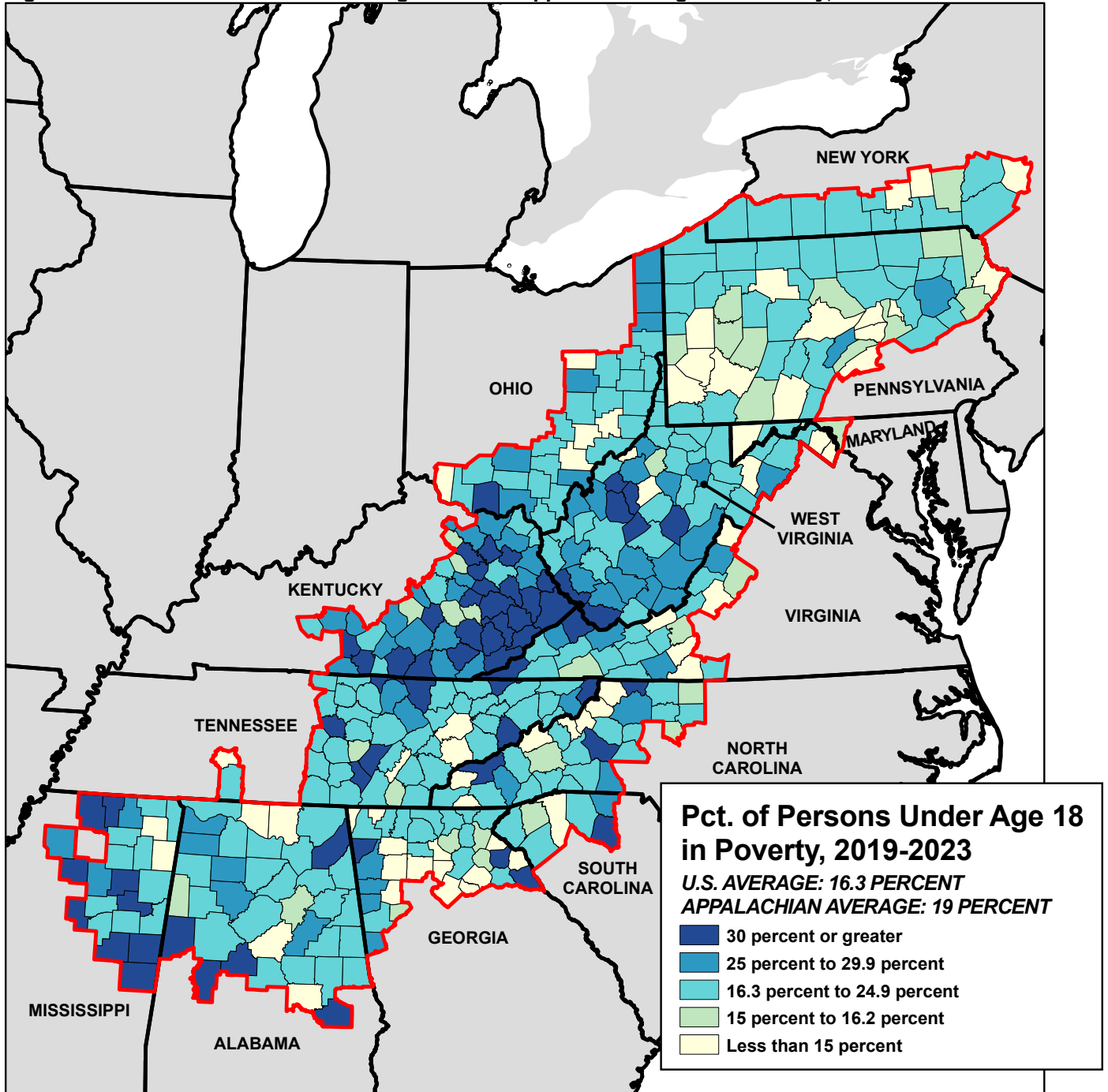
Figure 9.7: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Over the 2019-2023 period, 14.3 percent of Appalachian residents lived below the poverty level (income below \$30,900 for a family of two adults and two children in 2023) – nearly two percentage points more than the U.S. average. But there is a great deal of variation within Appalachia: In 97 counties, at least 20 percent of persons were in poverty, yet in 82 counties the poverty rate was lower than the national average of 12.4 percent. And there was a geographic and urban/rural pattern: All but 11 of the counties with poverty rates at or above 20 percent were outside metropolitan areas, and most of them were in Central Appalachia which had a poverty rate of 21.4 percent. (With a poverty rate of 22.5 percent, Appalachian Kentucky alone had 41 of these counties, and West Virginia, Tennessee, and Mississippi also had high poverty clusters.) In contrast, the counties where poverty was lower than the U.S. rate were mostly in Northern Appalachia and/or in metropolitan areas.

Figure 9.8: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2019-2023

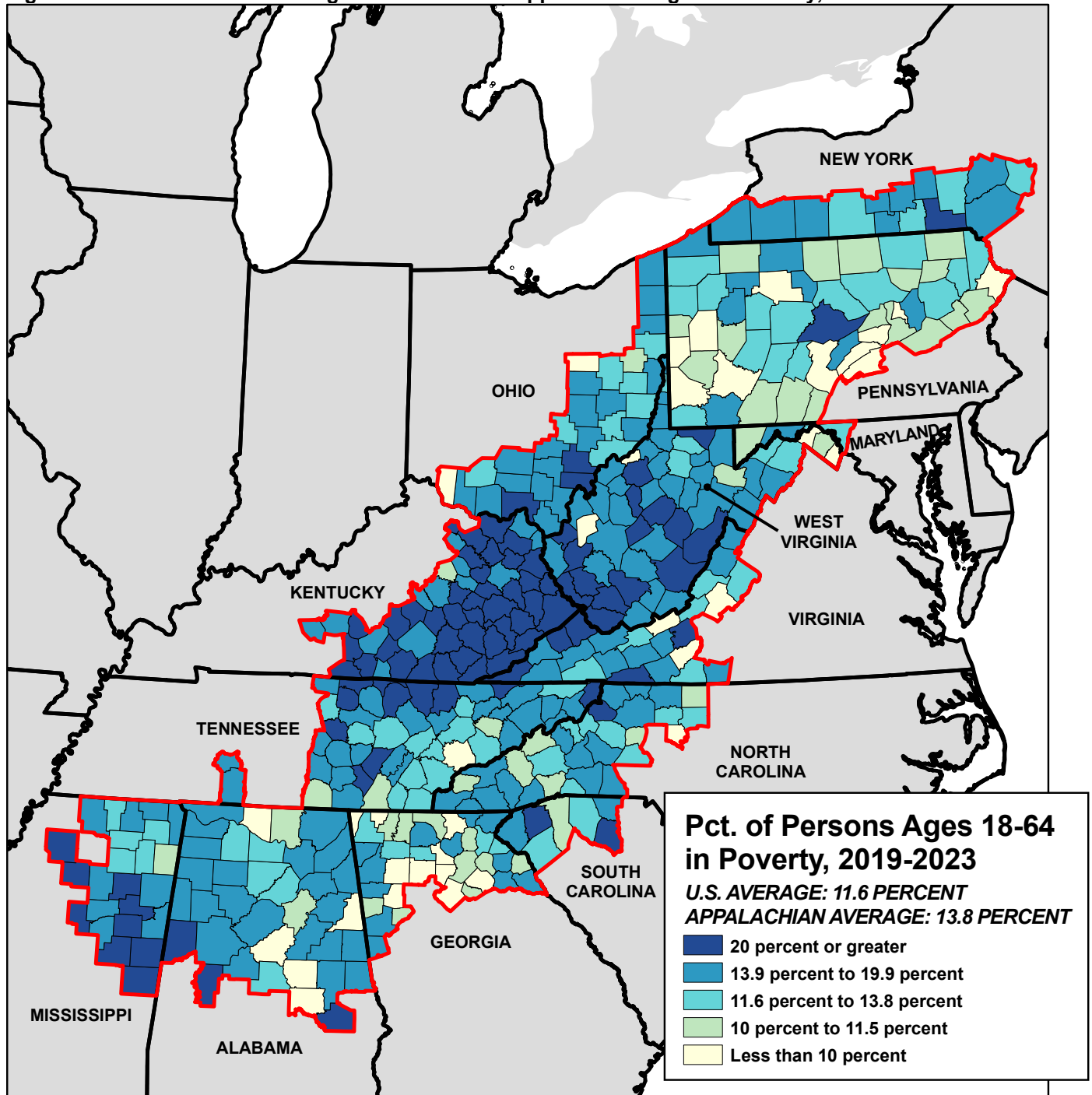


Map Title: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Child poverty in the Appalachian Region was 19 percent in 2019-2023 – 2.7 percentage points above the national rate of 16.3 percent. And the problem is even more acute in some parts of Appalachia. In 62 counties, at least 30 percent of children under age 18 lived below the poverty level (income below \$30,900 for a family of two adults and two children in 2023). All but 10 of these counties were outside metropolitan areas and over half were in the most isolated 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 96 counties (primarily in Northern Appalachia; with large pockets in Southern and South Central Appalachia) where child poverty rates were below the national average. Among counties where child poverty was less than 15 percent, 33 of the 62 were in metro areas, and 53 were in Northern, South Central, and Southern Appalachia.

Figure 9.9: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2019-2023

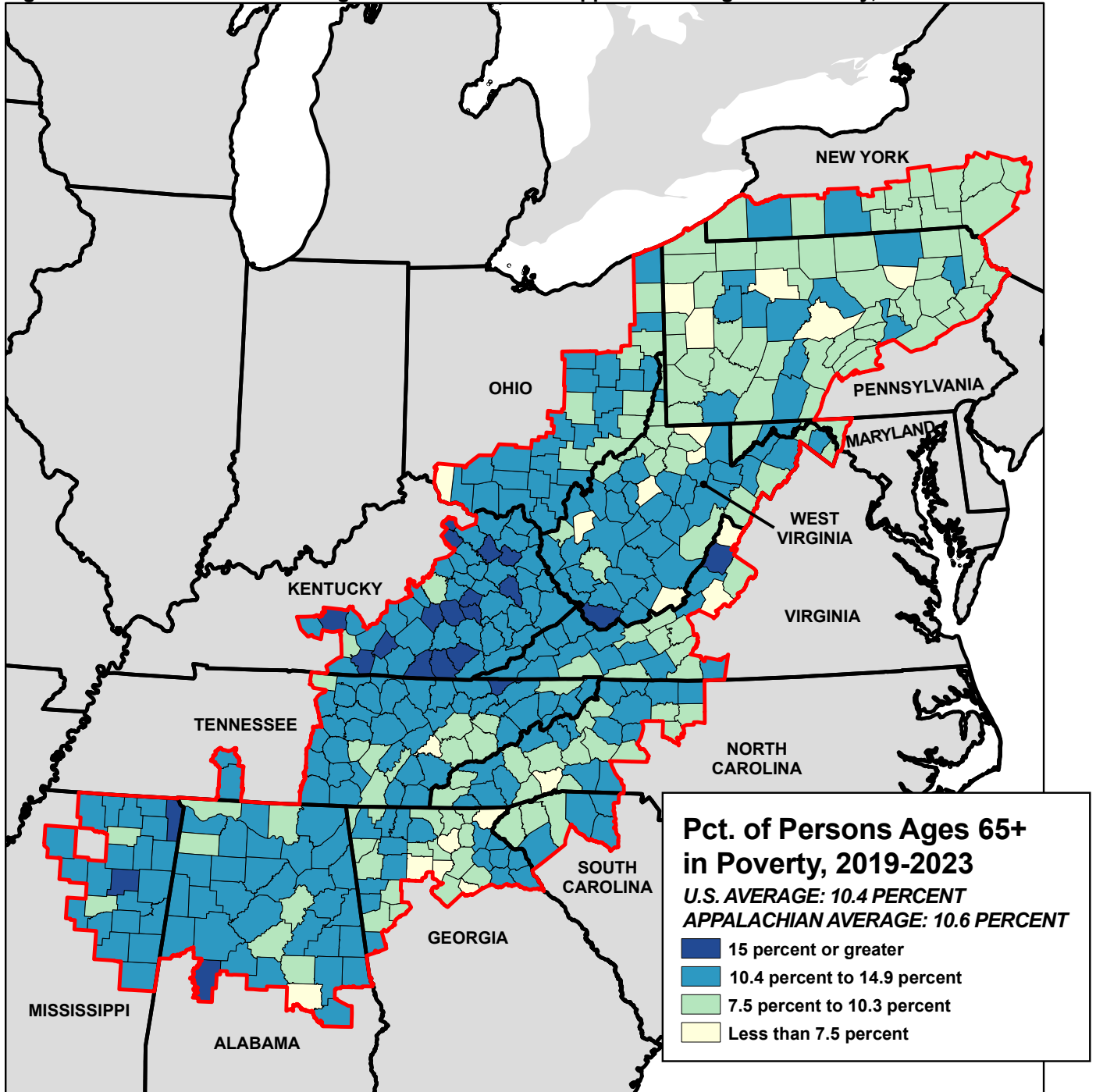


Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 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 2019-2023 period. The share of Appalachian residents in this age group with incomes below the poverty level (income of less than \$30,900 for a family of two adults and two children in 2023) was 13.8 percent, more than two percentage points above the U.S. average of 11.6 percent. Within the Appalachian Region, there were rural/urban and geographic patterns of poverty concentration. Of the 91 counties where at least one in five 18-to-64-year-olds were poor, 77 were outside metropolitan areas; 55 were in Central Appalachia and 40 were in Kentucky alone. Conversely, 50 of the 82 counties with rates below the national average were in metro areas and 31 were in Northern Appalachia.

Figure 9.10: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

The poverty rate for the oldest residents of Appalachia was 10.6 percent in 2019-2023, just above the national rate of 10.4 percent. Yet poverty among the 65-plus population was below the U.S. average in 158 counties, 60 of which were in Northern Appalachia alone. But as with other age groups, poverty was especially prevalent among the senior population in Appalachian Kentucky, where more than 16 percent of residents ages 65 and over were poor in 2019-2023. Moreover, the state had 37 of the 86 Appalachian counties where the poverty rate among seniors was 15 percent or higher. (Determined by a series of income thresholds based on family size and composition, the poverty level in 2023 was \$18,418 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	- 1.7	- 3.2	- 1.6	- 3.6	- 1.3	+ 1.1
Appalachian Region	- 1.5	- 3.0	- 1.6	- 3.9	- 1.3	+ 1.3
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	- 0.7	- 1.9	- 0.8	- 3.8	- 0.3	+ 1.4
North Central Appalachia	- 1.3	- 2.9	- 1.4	- 4.8	- 0.9	+ 1.6
Central Appalachia	- 2.4	- 4.5	- 2.6	- 5.5	- 2.2	+ 1.5
South Central Appalachia	- 2.1	- 3.7	- 2.4	- 4.8	- 2.0	+ 1.3
Southern Appalachia	- 1.8	- 3.1	- 1.8	- 2.8	- 1.6	+ 1.0
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	- 1.1	- 1.9	- 1.2	- 2.4	- 0.9	+ 0.9
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	- 1.4	- 2.8	- 1.5	- 3.6	- 1.2	+ 1.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	- 1.9	- 4.1	- 2.1	- 5.8	- 1.4	+ 1.5
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	- 1.8	- 3.3	- 2.2	- 5.6	- 1.7	+ 1.3
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 2.2	- 4.9	- 2.2	- 5.1	- 1.7	+ 1.7
Alabama	- 1.9	- 3.6	- 1.8	- 3.0	- 1.6	+ 1.1
Appalachian Alabama	- 1.7	- 3.6	- 1.8	- 2.6	- 1.8	+ 1.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 2.0	- 3.4	- 1.9	- 3.3	- 1.5	+ 0.4
Georgia	- 2.5	- 4.2	- 2.4	- 4.1	- 2.2	+ 0.5
Appalachian Georgia	- 1.9	- 3.0	- 1.8	- 2.4	- 1.6	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 2.8	- 4.8	- 2.7	- 4.7	- 2.3	+ 0.8
Kentucky	- 1.8	- 3.5	- 1.9	- 3.4	- 1.6	+ 1.5
Appalachian Kentucky	- 2.8	- 4.8	- 3.1	- 4.9	- 2.7	+ 1.5
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 1.4	- 3.1	- 1.4	- 2.9	- 1.1	+ 1.4
Maryland	- 0.1	- 0.9	- 0.2	- 1.6	+ 0.1	+ 1.4
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.1	- 1.9	+ 0.6	- 3.0	+ 1.2	+ 1.6
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 0.1	- 0.8	- 0.2	- 1.5	+ 0.1	+ 1.4
Mississippi	- 1.7	- 2.8	- 1.8	- 5.0	- 1.3	+ 1.6
Appalachian Mississippi	- 1.6	- 3.9	- 1.4	- 2.8	- 1.2	+ 1.9
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 1.7	- 2.5	- 2.0	- 5.6	- 1.4	+ 1.5
New York	- 0.9	- 2.4	- 0.9	- 2.1	- 0.7	+ 1.2
Appalachian New York	- 0.4	- 1.9	- 0.3	- 2.1	- 0.1	+ 1.9
Non-Appalachian New York	- 1.0	- 2.4	- 1.0	- 2.1	- 0.8	+ 1.2
North Carolina	- 2.2	- 3.9	- 2.3	- 4.9	- 1.8	+ 1.0
Appalachian North Carolina	- 1.8	- 2.9	- 2.2	- 4.2	- 1.8	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 2.4	- 4.1	- 2.4	- 5.0	- 1.9	+ 0.9
Ohio	- 1.3	- 2.8	- 1.3	- 3.7	- 0.9	+ 1.4
Appalachian Ohio	- 1.3	- 3.0	- 1.4	- 4.2	- 0.9	+ 1.7
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 1.3	- 2.7	- 1.4	- 3.6	- 0.9	+ 1.4
Pennsylvania	- 1.0	- 2.1	- 1.1	- 4.2	- 0.7	+ 1.3
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.8	- 1.8	- 1.0	- 4.4	- 0.4	+ 1.2
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 1.1	- 2.2	- 1.3	- 3.9	- 0.8	+ 1.4
South Carolina	- 1.8	- 4.0	- 1.9	- 3.6	- 1.5	+ 1.5
Appalachian South Carolina	- 1.0	- 1.8	- 1.4	- 3.5	- 0.9	+ 1.8
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 2.1	- 4.7	- 2.0	- 3.7	- 1.6	+ 1.3
Tennessee	- 2.3	- 4.6	- 2.4	- 5.1	- 2.0	+ 1.4
Appalachian Tennessee	- 2.2	- 4.1	- 2.5	- 4.8	- 2.2	+ 1.4
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 2.5	- 4.8	- 2.3	- 5.2	- 1.8	+ 1.2
Virginia	- 1.0	- 1.8	- 1.1	- 3.3	- 0.8	+ 0.7
Appalachian Virginia	- 1.9	- 3.7	- 2.0	- 5.6	- 1.4	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 0.9	- 1.6	- 1.0	- 3.0	- 0.6	+ 0.7
West Virginia (entire state)	- 1.2	- 2.8	- 1.3	- 4.6	- 0.7	+ 1.8

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2023, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$30,900. 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, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

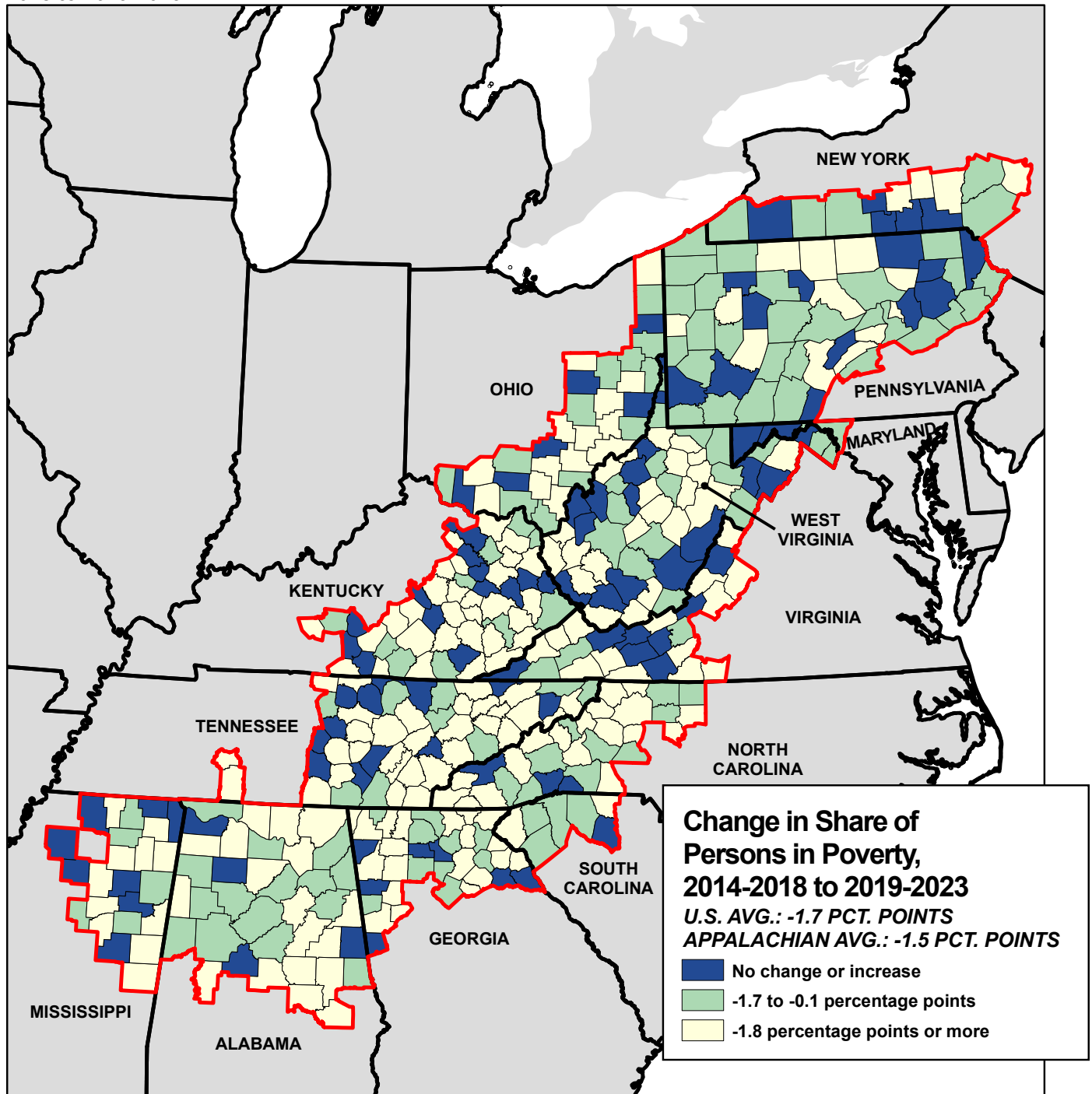
Table 9.6: Income-to-Poverty Ratio for Persons in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023

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	324,567,147	5.9	6.6	16.0	71.5
Appalachian Region	25,542,964	6.5	7.8	18.6	67.2
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	7,741,027	6.2	7.0	17.0	69.8
North Central Appalachia	2,410,941	7.2	8.7	19.1	65.0
Central Appalachia	1,794,130	9.2	12.2	23.1	55.5
South Central Appalachia	5,111,514	6.4	7.9	19.8	65.9
Southern Appalachia	8,485,352	6.0	7.2	18.2	68.6
County Types					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	6,210,103	5.3	5.7	14.8	74.1
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	10,927,526	6.7	7.6	18.2	67.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	2,231,984	6.8	8.7	21.3	63.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	3,803,959	6.5	9.2	21.7	62.6
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	2,369,392	8.5	10.9	22.7	57.9
Alabama	4,913,932	7.2	8.5	19.0	65.4
Appalachian Alabama	3,170,825	6.6	7.8	18.5	67.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	1,743,107	8.2	9.6	20.0	62.3
Georgia	10,560,625	6.4	7.1	17.6	68.9
Appalachian Georgia	3,380,943	4.9	5.9	17.0	72.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7,179,682	7.1	7.6	17.9	67.4
Kentucky	4,382,816	7.4	8.7	18.8	65.0
Appalachian Kentucky	1,123,439	9.8	12.7	22.9	54.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	3,259,377	6.6	7.3	17.4	68.6
Maryland	6,042,502	4.8	4.6	11.6	79.0
Appalachian Maryland	236,643	6.0	7.5	17.7	68.7
Non-Appalachian Maryland	5,805,859	4.7	4.4	11.4	79.4
Mississippi	2,851,847	8.6	10.5	21.4	59.6
Appalachian Mississippi	589,234	8.5	10.6	23.3	57.6
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	2,262,613	8.6	10.5	20.8	60.1
New York	19,391,750	6.7	7.0	14.4	71.9
Appalachian New York	964,762	7.8	7.9	17.8	66.4
Non-Appalachian New York	18,426,988	6.6	7.0	14.3	72.1
North Carolina	10,297,193	6.1	7.1	17.9	69.0
Appalachian North Carolina	1,986,833	6.3	8.0	20.1	65.6
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	8,310,360	6.0	6.9	17.3	69.8
Ohio	11,478,861	6.2	7.0	16.2	70.6
Appalachian Ohio	1,920,995	7.1	8.7	19.0	65.2
Non-Appalachian Ohio	9,557,866	6.0	6.7	15.6	71.6
Pennsylvania	12,575,248	5.6	6.2	15.0	73.2
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5,471,143	5.7	6.5	16.4	71.4
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	7,104,105	5.5	5.9	13.9	74.6
South Carolina	5,072,217	6.7	7.5	18.2	67.6
Appalachian South Carolina	1,344,350	6.5	7.3	18.5	67.7
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	3,727,867	6.8	7.5	18.1	67.6
Tennessee	6,825,291	6.3	7.4	18.3	67.9
Appalachian Tennessee	2,928,028	6.3	8.2	19.9	65.6
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	3,897,263	6.4	6.9	17.1	69.7
Virginia	8,413,302	4.9	5.0	13.4	76.7
Appalachian Virginia	697,189	8.4	8.6	20.6	62.4
Non-Appalachian Virginia	7,716,113	4.6	4.7	12.8	77.9
West Virginia (entire state)	1,728,580	7.6	9.0	19.7	63.7

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2023, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$30,900. 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, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Figure 9.11: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region in Poverty, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachian residents living below the poverty level (income of less than \$30,900 for a family of two adults and two children in 2023) decreased by 1.5 percentage points between the 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 periods, slightly lower than the 1.7 percentage point decline nationally. Yet the decrease in the poverty rate was even greater than the national average in 196 of Appalachia’s 423 counties (most of which were in South Central and Southern Appalachia). Conversely, there were 98 counties – 30 of which were in either West Virginia or Appalachian Kentucky – where poverty rates either 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, 2019-2023

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	19,099,941	5,522,046	11,518,607	2,852,665	8,665,942	2,059,288
Appalachian Region	1,659,688	485,579	1,005,158	263,359	741,799	168,951
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	481,535	135,059	294,138	81,290	212,848	52,338
North Central Appalachia	173,579	49,910	107,762	28,379	79,383	15,907
Central Appalachia	164,727	52,479	97,540	17,576	79,964	14,708
South Central Appalachia	328,572	88,322	206,373	59,583	146,790	33,877
Southern Appalachia	511,275	159,809	299,345	76,531	222,814	52,121
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	331,039	101,035	193,593	43,995	149,598	36,411
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	726,816	203,875	452,462	139,086	313,376	70,479
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	152,183	45,012	91,313	22,415	68,898	15,858
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	248,478	75,922	146,554	27,685	118,869	26,002
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	201,172	59,735	121,236	30,178	91,058	20,201
Alabama	352,821	113,748	205,343	56,696	148,647	33,730
Appalachian Alabama	209,830	65,699	122,208	32,474	89,734	21,923
Non-Appalachian Alabama	142,991	48,049	83,135	24,222	58,913	11,807
Georgia	675,374	217,523	398,677	101,043	297,634	59,174
Appalachian Georgia	164,691	53,357	94,798	19,776	75,022	16,536
Non-Appalachian Georgia	510,683	164,166	303,879	81,267	222,612	42,638
Kentucky	325,901	105,031	192,059	45,579	146,480	28,811
Appalachian Kentucky	110,100	36,173	64,493	13,042	51,451	9,434
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	215,801	68,858	127,566	32,537	95,029	19,377
Maryland	289,676	76,037	174,546	37,827	136,719	39,093
Appalachian Maryland	14,176	3,449	9,008	2,126	6,882	1,719
Non-Appalachian Maryland	275,500	72,588	165,538	35,701	129,837	37,374
Mississippi	244,374	87,488	135,628	34,104	101,524	21,258
Appalachian Mississippi	49,816	15,568	29,371	9,703	19,668	4,877
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	194,558	71,920	106,257	24,401	81,856	16,381
New York	1,298,279	352,684	790,892	166,344	624,548	154,703
Appalachian New York	75,253	17,799	50,541	19,802	30,739	6,913
Non-Appalachian New York	1,223,026	334,885	740,351	146,542	593,809	147,790
North Carolina	625,127	192,103	373,696	96,045	277,651	59,328
Appalachian North Carolina	124,509	34,387	76,243	18,693	57,550	13,879
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	500,618	157,716	297,453	77,352	220,101	45,449
Ohio	711,071	223,965	419,108	103,772	315,336	67,998
Appalachian Ohio	135,856	43,549	78,575	16,066	62,509	13,732
Non-Appalachian Ohio	575,215	180,416	340,533	87,706	252,827	54,266
Pennsylvania	706,792	206,985	418,427	102,689	315,738	81,380
Appalachian Pennsylvania	314,094	87,607	191,101	52,043	139,058	35,386
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	392,698	119,378	227,326	50,646	176,680	45,994
South Carolina	340,381	102,690	201,448	49,767	151,681	36,243
Appalachian South Carolina	86,938	25,185	52,968	14,578	38,390	8,785
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	253,443	77,505	148,480	35,189	113,291	27,458
Tennessee	432,776	135,608	255,922	58,207	197,715	41,246
Appalachian Tennessee	184,223	52,947	112,942	26,903	86,039	18,334
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	248,553	82,661	142,980	31,304	111,676	22,912
Virginia	415,552	116,414	256,233	73,759	182,474	42,905
Appalachian Virginia	58,802	12,631	40,506	17,110	23,396	5,665
Non-Appalachian Virginia	356,750	103,783	215,727	56,649	159,078	37,240
West Virginia (entire state)	131,400	37,228	82,404	21,043	61,361	11,768

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2023, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$30,900. 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, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

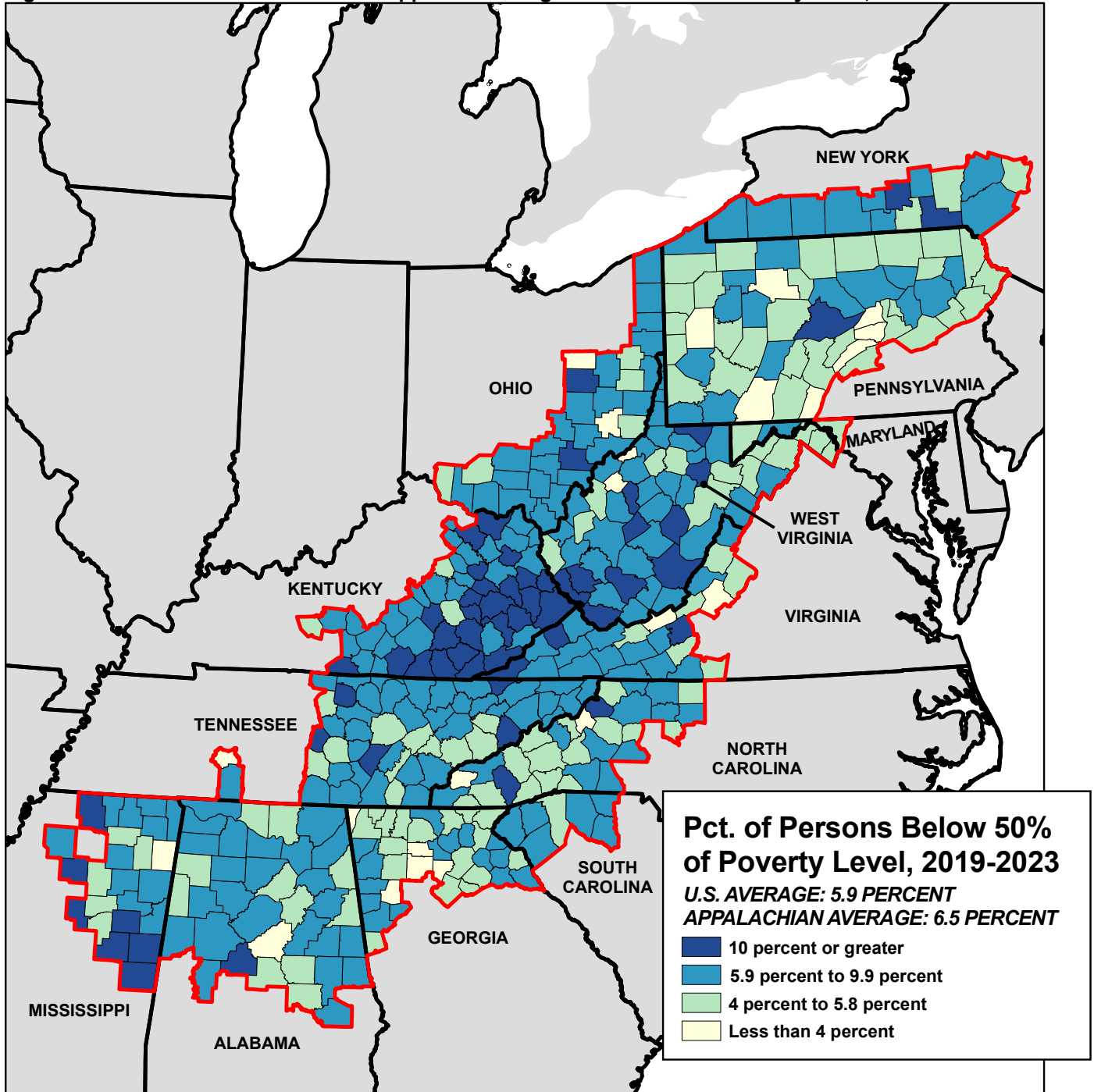
Table 9.8: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, by Age Group, 2019-2023

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	5.9	7.6	5.8	10.5	5.1	3.8
Appalachian Region	6.5	8.9	6.6	12.6	5.6	3.5
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	6.2	8.7	6.4	13.5	5.4	3.2
North Central Appalachia	7.2	9.9	7.5	14.5	6.4	3.3
Central Appalachia	9.2	13.5	9.2	12.9	8.7	4.2
South Central Appalachia	6.4	8.6	6.8	14.2	5.6	3.3
Southern Appalachia	6.0	8.1	5.8	10.5	5.1	3.8
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	5.3	7.3	5.1	9.0	4.6	3.5
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	6.7	8.9	6.9	15.0	5.6	3.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	6.8	9.4	7.0	12.3	6.1	3.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	6.5	9.6	6.6	9.6	6.2	3.2
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	8.5	11.9	8.8	15.4	7.7	4.2
Alabama	7.2	10.2	7.0	13.5	5.9	3.9
Appalachian Alabama	6.6	9.2	6.4	12.1	5.5	4.0
Non-Appalachian Alabama	8.2	12.0	8.0	16.1	6.7	3.8
Georgia	6.4	8.7	6.1	10.9	5.3	3.8
Appalachian Georgia	4.9	6.5	4.6	6.8	4.2	3.4
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7.1	9.8	6.8	12.8	5.8	4.0
Kentucky	7.4	10.5	7.3	12.4	6.5	3.9
Appalachian Kentucky	9.8	14.4	9.7	14.8	8.9	4.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	6.6	9.2	6.5	11.7	5.6	3.6
Maryland	4.8	5.6	4.7	8.0	4.2	4.0
Appalachian Maryland	6.0	6.9	6.4	10.8	5.7	3.7
Non-Appalachian Maryland	4.7	5.6	4.6	7.9	4.2	4.0
Mississippi	8.6	12.9	8.0	13.6	7.0	4.4
Appalachian Mississippi	8.5	11.3	8.4	17.3	6.7	4.8
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	8.6	13.2	7.9	12.5	7.1	4.4
New York	6.7	8.8	6.6	10.8	6.0	4.6
Appalachian New York	7.8	9.3	8.8	21.6	6.4	3.5
Non-Appalachian New York	6.6	8.7	6.5	10.2	6.0	4.7
North Carolina	6.1	8.4	6.0	11.2	5.1	3.4
Appalachian North Carolina	6.3	8.7	6.5	12.0	5.7	3.3
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	6.0	8.3	5.8	11.0	5.0	3.4
Ohio	6.2	8.7	6.1	11.1	5.3	3.3
Appalachian Ohio	7.1	10.4	7.0	10.5	6.4	3.6
Non-Appalachian Ohio	6.0	8.4	5.9	11.2	5.1	3.3
Pennsylvania	5.6	7.9	5.5	10.7	4.8	3.4
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5.7	8.2	5.9	12.7	4.9	3.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	5.5	7.7	5.3	9.2	4.7	3.7
South Carolina	6.7	9.3	6.7	12.2	5.8	3.8
Appalachian South Carolina	6.5	8.3	6.6	13.2	5.5	3.8
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	6.8	9.6	6.7	11.9	5.9	3.9
Tennessee	6.3	8.9	6.2	10.3	5.5	3.6
Appalachian Tennessee	6.3	8.8	6.5	11.4	5.7	3.2
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	6.4	9.0	6.0	9.6	5.4	4.0
Virginia	4.9	6.2	5.0	10.8	4.1	3.1
Appalachian Virginia	8.4	9.7	9.8	26.6	6.7	3.7
Non-Appalachian Virginia	4.6	6.0	4.5	9.1	3.8	3.0
West Virginia (entire state)	7.6	10.6	8.1	15.3	7.0	3.3

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2023, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$30,900. 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, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

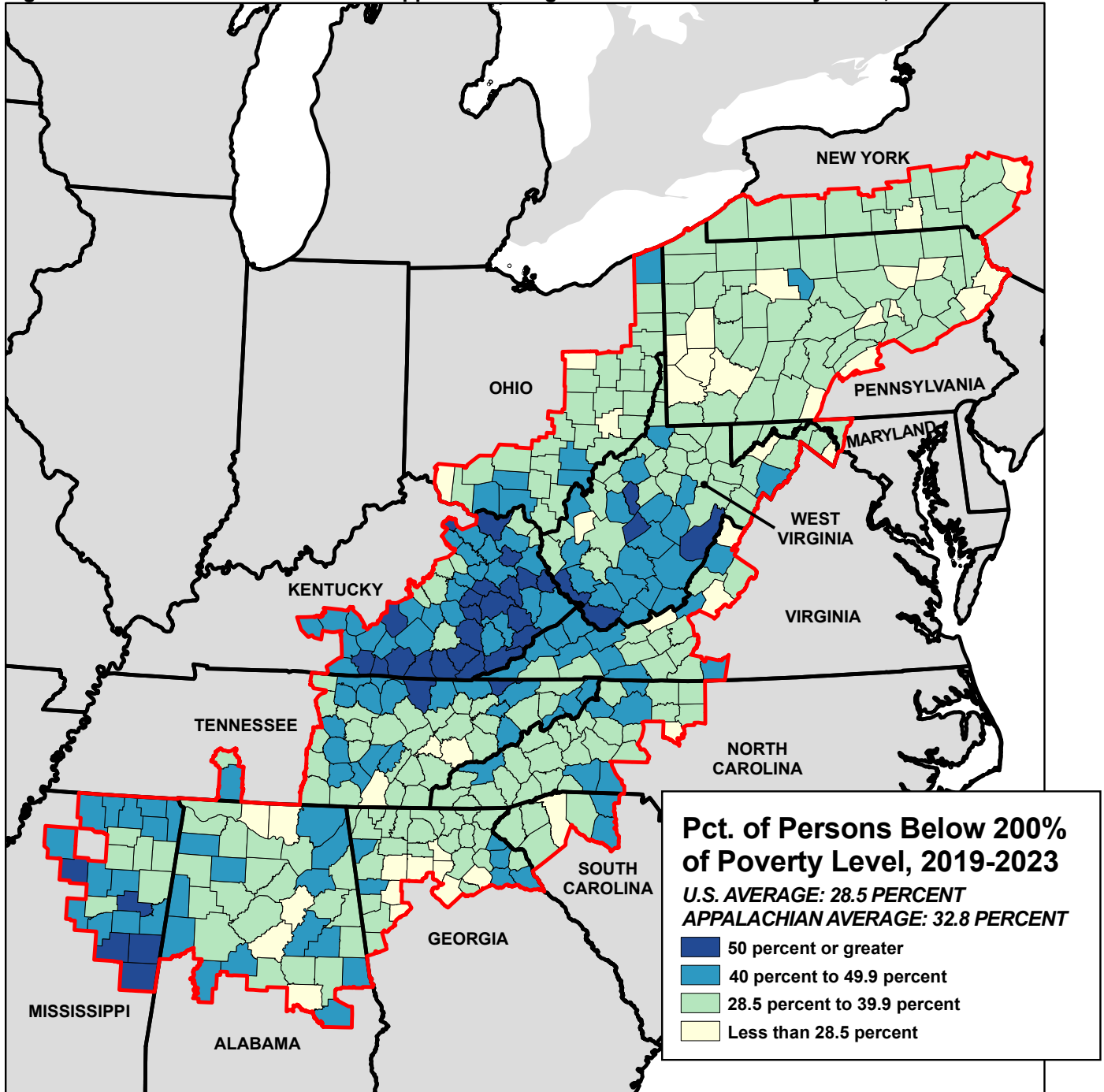
Figure 9.12: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

In the 2019-2023 period, 6.5 percent of Appalachian residents were in extreme poverty (incomes below 50 percent of the poverty level, or less than \$15,450 for a family of two adults and two children in 2023). This was slightly higher than the national average of 5.9 percent, and the situation was even worse in much of the Appalachian Region. For example, at least one in 10 residents were extremely poor in 58 Appalachian counties. All but 10 of these counties were outside metropolitan areas, and 32 of them were in Central Appalachia. (Kentucky alone had 25 counties in this group.) In contrast, there were 23 counties in Appalachia where less than four percent of the population had incomes below 50 percent of the poverty level. Northern and Southern Appalachia had 15 of these counties, although the group included suburban counties outside Atlanta and Birmingham.

Figure 9.13: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 200% of Poverty Level, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 200% of Poverty Level, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Nearly one-third (32.8 percent) of persons in the Appalachian Region had incomes less than twice the poverty level in 2019-2023, more than four percentage points higher than the national rate of 28.5 percent. (In 2023, a family of two adults and two children fell in this category if their income was less than \$61,800.) The share of persons 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 155 of Appalachia’s 423 counties; these were overwhelmingly in the Central and Southern subregions. And in 34 Appalachian counties, at least half of residents had incomes below 200 percent of poverty; 26 of these counties were in Central Appalachia and 22 were in Kentucky alone. In contrast, there were 43 counties in the Appalachian Region where the share of persons who were poor and low-income was below the national average. About two fifths of the counties in the latter group were in Northern Appalachia, although several were also outside Atlanta and Birmingham in the Southern Subregion.

Table 9.9: Percentage Point Change in Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region, by Income-to-Poverty Ratio, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	- 0.3	- 1.2	- 1.9	+ 3.4
Appalachian Region	- 0.3	- 1.2	- 1.6	+ 3.2
Subregions				
Northern Appalachia	0.0	- 0.7	- 1.2	+ 1.9
North Central Appalachia	- 0.3	- 1.0	- 1.3	+ 2.6
Central Appalachia	- 1.0	- 1.5	- 0.7	+ 3.2
South Central Appalachia	- 0.7	- 1.4	- 1.9	+ 4.0
Southern Appalachia	- 0.3	- 1.5	- 2.2	+ 4.0
County Types				
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	0.0	- 1.1	- 2.0	+ 3.0
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	- 0.1	- 1.1	- 1.6	+ 3.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	- 0.6	- 1.4	- 1.2	+ 3.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	- 0.8	- 1.0	- 1.5	+ 3.3
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 0.8	- 1.4	- 1.0	+ 3.2
Alabama	- 0.4	- 1.4	- 1.3	+ 3.2
Appalachian Alabama	- 0.1	- 1.7	- 1.5	+ 3.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 1.0	- 1.0	- 0.8	+ 2.9
Georgia	- 0.9	- 1.7	- 2.0	+ 4.5
Appalachian Georgia	- 0.3	- 1.6	- 2.8	+ 4.7
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 1.1	- 1.8	- 1.6	+ 4.4
Kentucky	- 0.4	- 1.5	- 0.9	+ 2.7
Appalachian Kentucky	- 1.1	- 1.7	- 0.8	+ 3.5
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.1	- 1.4	- 1.0	+ 2.3
Maryland	+ 0.2	- 0.3	- 1.2	+ 1.3
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.9	+ 0.7
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.2	- 0.4	- 1.2	+ 1.3
Mississippi	- 0.9	- 0.7	- 0.9	+ 2.7
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.2	- 1.7	- 1.5	+ 2.9
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 1.2	- 0.5	- 0.9	+ 2.6
New York	+ 0.1	- 1.0	- 1.7	+ 2.7
Appalachian New York	+ 0.3	- 0.7	- 1.6	+ 1.9
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.1	- 1.0	- 1.6	+ 2.6
North Carolina	- 0.6	- 1.6	- 2.2	+ 4.6
Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.4	- 1.3	- 2.1	+ 3.8
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.7	- 1.7	- 2.3	+ 4.7
Ohio	- 0.4	- 0.9	- 1.2	+ 2.6
Appalachian Ohio	- 0.4	- 0.8	- 1.1	+ 2.3
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 0.5	- 0.9	- 1.3	+ 2.5
Pennsylvania	- 0.2	- 0.8	- 1.3	+ 2.2
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.1	- 0.7	- 1.1	+ 1.9
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.3	- 0.9	- 1.4	+ 2.4
South Carolina	- 0.5	- 1.3	- 2.2	+ 4.0
Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.2	- 0.7	- 2.4	+ 3.4
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.6	- 1.6	- 2.2	+ 4.3
Tennessee	- 0.7	- 1.8	- 2.0	+ 4.3
Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.7	- 1.4	- 2.0	+ 4.2
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.5	- 1.9	- 1.9	+ 4.4
Virginia	- 0.3	- 0.7	- 1.1	+ 2.2
Appalachian Virginia	- 0.7	- 1.1	- 0.6	+ 2.5
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 0.2	- 0.6	- 1.1	+ 2.0
West Virginia (entire state)	0.0	- 1.1	- 1.5	+ 2.6

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2023, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$30,900. 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, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

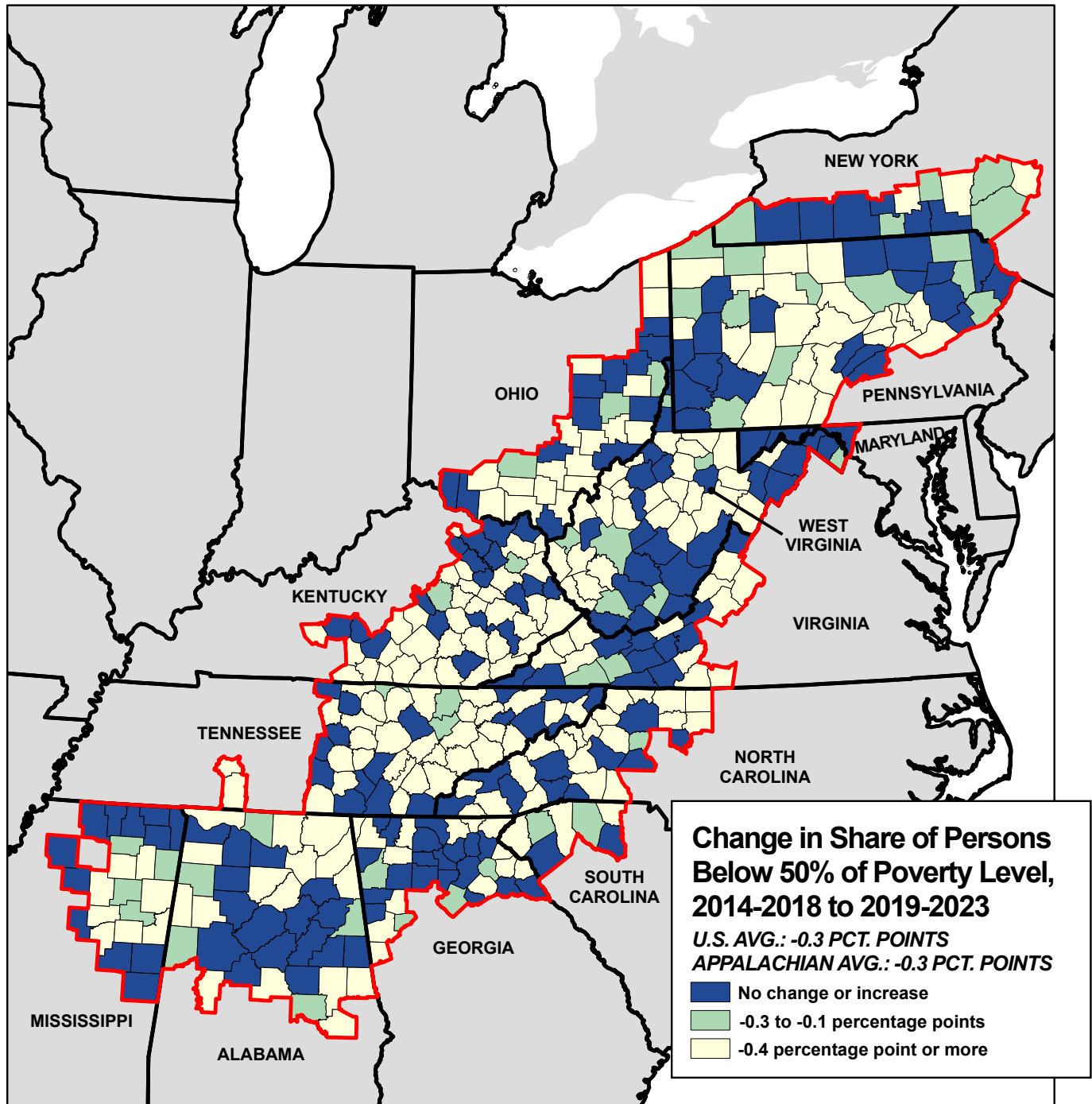
Table 9.10: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, by Age Group, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	- 0.3	- 1.0	- 0.4	- 1.8	- 0.1	+ 0.9
Appalachian Region	- 0.3	- 0.9	- 0.4	- 2.3	- 0.1	+ 0.9
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	0.0	- 0.3	0.0	- 2.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.7
North Central Appalachia	- 0.3	- 0.8	- 0.4	- 3.1	0.0	+ 1.0
Central Appalachia	- 1.0	- 2.2	- 1.0	- 3.2	- 0.6	+ 1.1
South Central Appalachia	- 0.7	- 1.5	- 0.7	- 2.8	- 0.4	+ 0.8
Southern Appalachia	- 0.3	- 0.6	- 0.4	- 1.2	- 0.2	+ 1.0
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	0.0	+ 0.2	- 0.1	- 1.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.7
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	- 0.1	- 0.8	- 0.2	- 1.8	+ 0.1	+ 1.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	- 0.6	- 1.2	- 0.6	- 3.5	- 0.1	+ 0.9
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	- 0.8	- 1.5	- 0.9	- 3.7	- 0.4	+ 0.7
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 0.8	- 2.1	- 0.9	- 3.5	- 0.4	+ 1.3
Alabama	- 0.4	- 1.4	- 0.4	- 1.1	- 0.3	+ 1.1
Appalachian Alabama	- 0.1	- 0.8	- 0.2	- 0.7	- 0.1	+ 1.3
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 1.0	- 2.4	- 0.9	- 1.5	- 0.5	+ 0.8
Georgia	- 0.9	- 1.5	- 0.8	- 2.0	- 0.6	+ 0.5
Appalachian Georgia	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.5	- 1.2	- 0.4	+ 0.4
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 1.1	- 2.1	- 0.9	- 2.2	- 0.7	+ 0.5
Kentucky	- 0.4	- 0.9	- 0.4	- 2.2	- 0.1	+ 1.3
Appalachian Kentucky	- 1.1	- 1.9	- 1.3	- 2.7	- 1.1	+ 1.4
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.1	- 0.5	- 0.1	- 2.0	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
Maryland	+ 0.2	- 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.6	+ 0.4	+ 1.1
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.3	- 1.5	+ 0.8	- 0.1	+ 0.9	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.2	- 0.3	+ 0.2	- 0.6	+ 0.4	+ 1.1
Mississippi	- 0.9	- 1.8	- 1.0	- 2.7	- 0.7	+ 1.0
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 0.2	- 0.2	0.0	- 0.8	+ 0.2	+ 1.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 1.2	- 2.3	- 1.2	- 3.3	- 0.9	+ 1.0
New York	+ 0.1	- 0.6	+ 0.2	- 0.7	+ 0.4	+ 1.1
Appalachian New York	+ 0.3	- 0.3	+ 0.4	- 0.7	+ 0.6	+ 1.2
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.1	- 0.7	+ 0.2	- 0.6	+ 0.4	+ 1.2
North Carolina	- 0.6	- 1.2	- 0.7	- 2.6	- 0.4	+ 0.9
Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.4	- 1.0	- 0.6	- 2.9	- 0.2	+ 0.8
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.7	- 1.3	- 0.8	- 2.6	- 0.4	+ 0.9
Ohio	- 0.4	- 1.1	- 0.4	- 1.9	- 0.2	+ 0.8
Appalachian Ohio	- 0.4	- 1.2	- 0.4	- 3.0	0.0	+ 0.9
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 0.5	- 1.1	- 0.4	- 1.7	- 0.2	+ 0.8
Pennsylvania	- 0.2	- 0.4	- 0.3	- 2.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 2.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.6
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.3	- 0.6	- 0.3	- 2.2	- 0.1	+ 1.0
South Carolina	- 0.5	- 1.6	- 0.4	- 1.4	- 0.3	+ 1.1
Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.2	- 1.0	- 0.3	- 1.9	0.0	+ 1.3
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.6	- 1.8	- 0.5	- 1.1	- 0.3	+ 1.2
Tennessee	- 0.7	- 1.6	- 0.6	- 2.4	- 0.3	+ 1.1
Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.7	- 1.7	- 0.7	- 2.5	- 0.5	+ 0.7
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.5	- 1.5	- 0.4	- 2.3	- 0.1	+ 1.4
Virginia	- 0.3	- 0.7	- 0.3	- 2.2	0.0	+ 0.7
Appalachian Virginia	- 0.7	- 2.3	- 0.6	- 3.6	- 0.2	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 0.2	- 0.5	- 0.3	- 2.1	0.0	+ 0.6
West Virginia (entire state)	0.0	- 0.6	- 0.1	- 2.8	+ 0.4	+ 1.3

Note: Poverty status is determined by a series of income thresholds that are based on family size and composition. In 2023, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$30,900. 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, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

Figure 9.14: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Below 50% of Poverty Level, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachian residents living in deep poverty (or 50 percent of the poverty level, and earning less than \$15,450 for a family of two adults and two children in 2023) fell 0.3 percentage points between the 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 periods, matching the national level decrease. But there was much variation within the Appalachian Region. On one hand, deep poverty decreased more than the national level in 206 counties. Yet in 168 other counties, deep poverty rates either remained constant or increased. All subregions in Appalachia decreased in the share from 2014-2018 with the exception of Northern Appalachia that had no change between the two time periods. In spite of overall declines in deep poverty throughout Appalachia, there were still some Appalachian portions of states – Maryland (0.3 points), New York (0.3 points), and Mississippi (0.2 points) – where deep poverty increased.

Table 9.11: Number and Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP, by Poverty Status, 2019-2023

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	15,004,950	11.8	6,447,353	40.6	8,557,597	7.7
Appalachian Region	1,400,162	13.4	681,951	44.8	718,211	8.0
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	496,803	14.9	226,087	50.5	270,716	9.4
North Central Appalachia	159,767	16.0	83,166	51.1	76,601	9.1
Central Appalachia	145,631	20.0	85,286	52.2	60,345	10.7
South Central Appalachia	249,846	11.8	120,558	39.3	129,288	7.1
Southern Appalachia	348,115	10.7	166,854	37.7	181,261	6.4
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	274,235	11.1	117,934	42.1	156,301	7.1
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	579,547	12.8	281,783	43.5	297,764	7.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	138,600	15.2	66,650	46.8	71,950	9.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	242,880	15.4	121,357	47.9	121,523	9.2
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	164,900	16.9	94,227	47.2	70,673	9.1
Alabama	267,155	13.6	136,659	43.6	130,496	7.9
Appalachian Alabama	157,267	12.4	80,096	42.6	77,171	7.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	109,888	15.7	56,563	45.1	53,325	9.3
Georgia	491,615	12.3	211,439	39.9	280,176	8.1
Appalachian Georgia	107,508	8.9	41,906	32.3	65,602	6.1
Non-Appalachian Georgia	384,107	13.7	169,533	42.4	214,574	8.9
Kentucky	226,825	12.7	126,732	43.1	100,093	6.7
Appalachian Kentucky	90,710	20.0	55,581	52.2	35,129	10.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	136,115	10.2	71,151	37.9	64,964	5.6
Maryland	257,146	11.0	86,937	38.7	170,209	8.0
Appalachian Maryland	17,378	17.5	7,341	53.4	10,037	11.7
Non-Appalachian Maryland	239,768	10.7	79,596	37.8	160,172	7.9
Mississippi	154,243	13.6	87,963	40.4	66,280	7.3
Appalachian Mississippi	30,712	12.8	18,144	36.8	12,568	6.6
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	123,531	13.8	69,819	41.5	53,712	7.4
New York	1,152,804	15.0	526,703	49.9	626,101	9.5
Appalachian New York	60,392	14.3	30,096	46.1	30,296	8.5
Non-Appalachian New York	1,092,412	15.1	496,607	50.2	595,805	9.5
North Carolina	524,968	12.5	226,926	41.6	298,042	8.2
Appalachian North Carolina	105,220	12.7	48,001	40.7	57,219	8.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	419,748	12.5	178,925	41.8	240,823	8.2
Ohio	598,938	12.4	303,075	47.2	295,863	7.1
Appalachian Ohio	124,853	15.6	66,201	52.4	58,652	8.7
Non-Appalachian Ohio	474,085	11.8	236,874	46.0	237,211	6.7
Pennsylvania	734,855	14.0	313,212	49.9	421,643	9.2
Appalachian Pennsylvania	347,754	14.7	150,881	50.8	196,873	9.5
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	387,101	13.5	162,331	49.0	224,770	8.8
South Carolina	217,015	10.5	105,803	36.0	111,212	6.3
Appalachian South Carolina	52,628	9.7	26,708	35.3	25,920	5.5
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	164,387	10.8	79,095	36.3	85,292	6.5
Tennessee	310,084	11.2	153,038	40.0	157,046	6.6
Appalachian Tennessee	140,639	11.6	72,346	40.4	68,293	6.6
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	169,445	10.9	80,692	39.6	88,753	6.5
Virginia	293,101	8.8	122,384	36.1	170,717	5.7
Appalachian Virginia	41,345	14.0	20,946	40.4	20,399	8.4
Non-Appalachian Virginia	251,756	8.3	101,438	35.3	150,318	5.5
West Virginia (entire state)	123,756	17.2	63,704	51.7	60,052	10.0

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 2023, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$30,900. 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, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

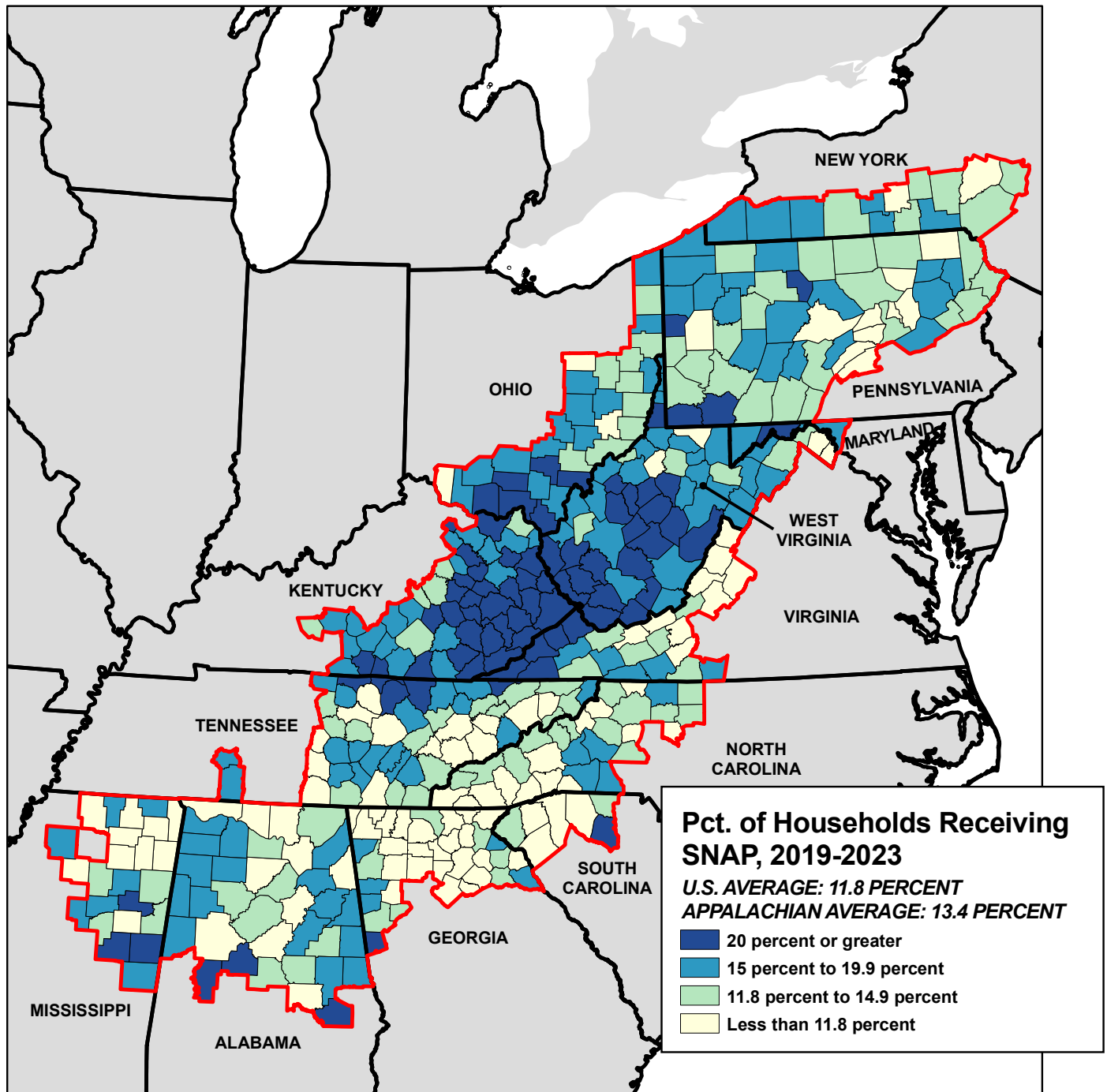
Table 9.12: Number and Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP, by Presence of Children Under Age 18, 2019-2023

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	15,004,950	11.8	7,079,036	18.6	7,925,914	8.9
Appalachian Region	1,400,162	13.4	626,623	21.3	773,539	10.3
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	496,803	14.9	193,776	23.0	303,027	12.2
North Central Appalachia	159,767	16.0	67,801	25.0	91,966	12.6
Central Appalachia	145,631	20.0	66,527	30.6	79,104	15.5
South Central Appalachia	249,846	11.8	117,107	20.7	132,739	8.5
Southern Appalachia	348,115	10.7	181,412	17.4	166,703	7.5
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	274,235	11.1	124,148	16.6	150,087	8.7
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	579,547	12.8	265,269	21.3	314,278	9.6
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	138,600	15.2	60,324	23.5	78,276	12.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	242,880	15.4	104,591	24.8	138,289	12.0
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	164,900	16.9	72,291	26.8	92,609	13.1
Alabama	267,155	13.6	130,863	22.9	136,292	9.8
Appalachian Alabama	157,267	12.4	77,100	20.7	80,167	8.9
Non-Appalachian Alabama	109,888	15.7	53,763	26.9	56,125	11.3
Georgia	491,615	12.3	253,340	19.7	238,275	8.8
Appalachian Georgia	107,508	8.9	61,269	14.1	46,239	6.0
Non-Appalachian Georgia	384,107	13.7	192,071	22.6	192,036	9.8
Kentucky	226,825	12.7	116,482	21.6	110,343	8.8
Appalachian Kentucky	90,710	20.0	42,737	30.5	47,973	15.3
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	136,115	10.2	73,745	18.4	62,370	6.6
Maryland	257,146	11.0	121,887	16.8	135,259	8.4
Appalachian Maryland	17,378	17.5	7,301	25.5	10,077	14.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	239,768	10.7	114,586	16.4	125,182	8.1
Mississippi	154,243	13.6	78,255	22.0	75,988	9.8
Appalachian Mississippi	30,712	12.8	14,838	20.7	15,874	9.5
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	123,531	13.8	63,417	22.3	60,114	9.9
New York	1,152,804	15.0	441,704	20.7	711,100	12.8
Appalachian New York	60,392	14.3	22,099	21.0	38,293	12.1
Non-Appalachian New York	1,092,412	15.1	419,605	20.7	672,807	12.9
North Carolina	524,968	12.5	261,681	21.2	263,287	8.9
Appalachian North Carolina	105,220	12.7	49,199	22.8	56,021	9.2
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	419,748	12.5	212,482	20.9	207,266	8.9
Ohio	598,938	12.4	266,305	19.5	332,633	9.6
Appalachian Ohio	124,853	15.6	52,796	23.8	72,057	12.5
Non-Appalachian Ohio	474,085	11.8	213,509	18.7	260,576	9.0
Pennsylvania	734,855	14.0	304,001	21.3	430,854	11.3
Appalachian Pennsylvania	347,754	14.7	133,887	22.7	213,867	12.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	387,101	13.5	170,114	20.3	216,987	10.7
South Carolina	217,015	10.5	111,759	18.9	105,256	7.1
Appalachian South Carolina	52,628	9.7	28,205	17.1	24,423	6.4
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	164,387	10.8	83,554	19.5	80,833	7.4
Tennessee	310,084	11.2	154,675	18.9	155,409	8.0
Appalachian Tennessee	140,639	11.6	66,139	19.7	74,500	8.5
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	169,445	10.9	88,536	18.3	80,909	7.5
Virginia	293,101	8.8	147,530	14.5	145,571	6.3
Appalachian Virginia	41,345	14.0	18,458	25.7	22,887	10.2
Non-Appalachian Virginia	251,756	8.3	129,072	13.7	122,684	5.9
West Virginia (entire state)	123,756	17.2	52,595	27.7	71,161	13.4

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, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Figure 9.15: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

In 2019-2023, 13.4 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 1.6 percentage points higher than the national share (11.8 percent), there were 103 Appalachian counties with SNAP participation rates below the U.S. average. More than four-fifths of these counties were in Southern and South Central Appalachia – the subregions with the lowest prevalence rates. Conversely, the SNAP prevalence rate matched or exceeded 20 percent in 80 other Appalachian counties. Most of the counties in the latter group were in Central Appalachia and 41 were in rural areas – both of which had the highest SNAP participation rates among Appalachia’s subregions and urban-rural county types.

Table 9.13: Percentage Point Change in Share of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP, by Poverty Status, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Receipt of SNAP	ALL HOUSEHOLDS	Households With Income Below Poverty Level	Households With Income At or Above Poverty Level
United States	- 0.4	- 3.6	+ 0.4
Appalachian Region	- 1.1	- 5.1	0.0
Subregions			
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.6	- 1.4	+ 1.0
North Central Appalachia	- 0.5	- 3.5	+ 0.4
Central Appalachia	- 2.7	- 7.4	- 0.2
South Central Appalachia	- 2.0	- 7.6	- 0.4
Southern Appalachia	- 1.7	- 6.8	- 0.5
County Types			
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	- 0.6	- 4.1	+ 0.2
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	- 1.0	- 5.2	+ 0.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	- 1.4	- 5.7	+ 0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	- 1.2	- 4.4	0.0
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 2.0	- 6.6	- 0.3
Alabama	- 0.9	- 4.0	+ 0.3
Appalachian Alabama	- 1.0	- 4.3	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 0.8	- 3.7	+ 0.5
Georgia	- 1.4	- 5.7	+ 0.1
Appalachian Georgia	- 2.0	- 8.0	- 0.7
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 1.1	- 4.9	+ 0.3
Kentucky	- 2.5	- 8.8	- 0.6
Appalachian Kentucky	- 3.2	- 7.6	- 0.5
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 2.1	- 9.0	- 0.7
Maryland	+ 0.4	- 6.1	+ 0.8
Appalachian Maryland	+ 1.0	- 3.9	+ 1.6
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.4	- 6.1	+ 0.9
Mississippi	- 2.9	- 7.5	- 1.3
Appalachian Mississippi	- 3.5	- 10.4	- 1.7
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 2.7	- 6.6	- 1.2
New York	0.0	- 2.0	+ 0.7
Appalachian New York	- 0.6	- 3.6	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.1	- 1.9	+ 0.7
North Carolina	- 0.7	- 3.9	+ 0.5
Appalachian North Carolina	0.0	- 3.0	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.8	- 4.2	+ 0.4
Ohio	- 1.3	- 5.1	- 0.2
Appalachian Ohio	- 1.4	- 5.3	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 1.2	- 4.9	- 0.3
Pennsylvania	+ 0.8	- 0.7	+ 1.3
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.9	- 0.4	+ 1.3
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.8	- 1.1	+ 1.1
South Carolina	- 2.7	- 9.5	- 1.0
Appalachian South Carolina	- 2.2	- 8.7	- 0.9
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 2.8	- 9.6	- 1.1
Tennessee	- 3.6	- 10.3	- 1.7
Appalachian Tennessee	- 4.1	- 11.8	- 1.9
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 3.2	- 9.0	- 1.6
Virginia	+ 0.1	- 4.0	+ 0.7
Appalachian Virginia	- 0.1	- 3.7	+ 1.1
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.2	- 3.9	+ 0.8
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 0.6	- 2.0	+ 1.3

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 2023, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$30,900. The poverty universe does not include unrelated individuals under age 15, people living in college dormitories, and people living in institutional group quarters.

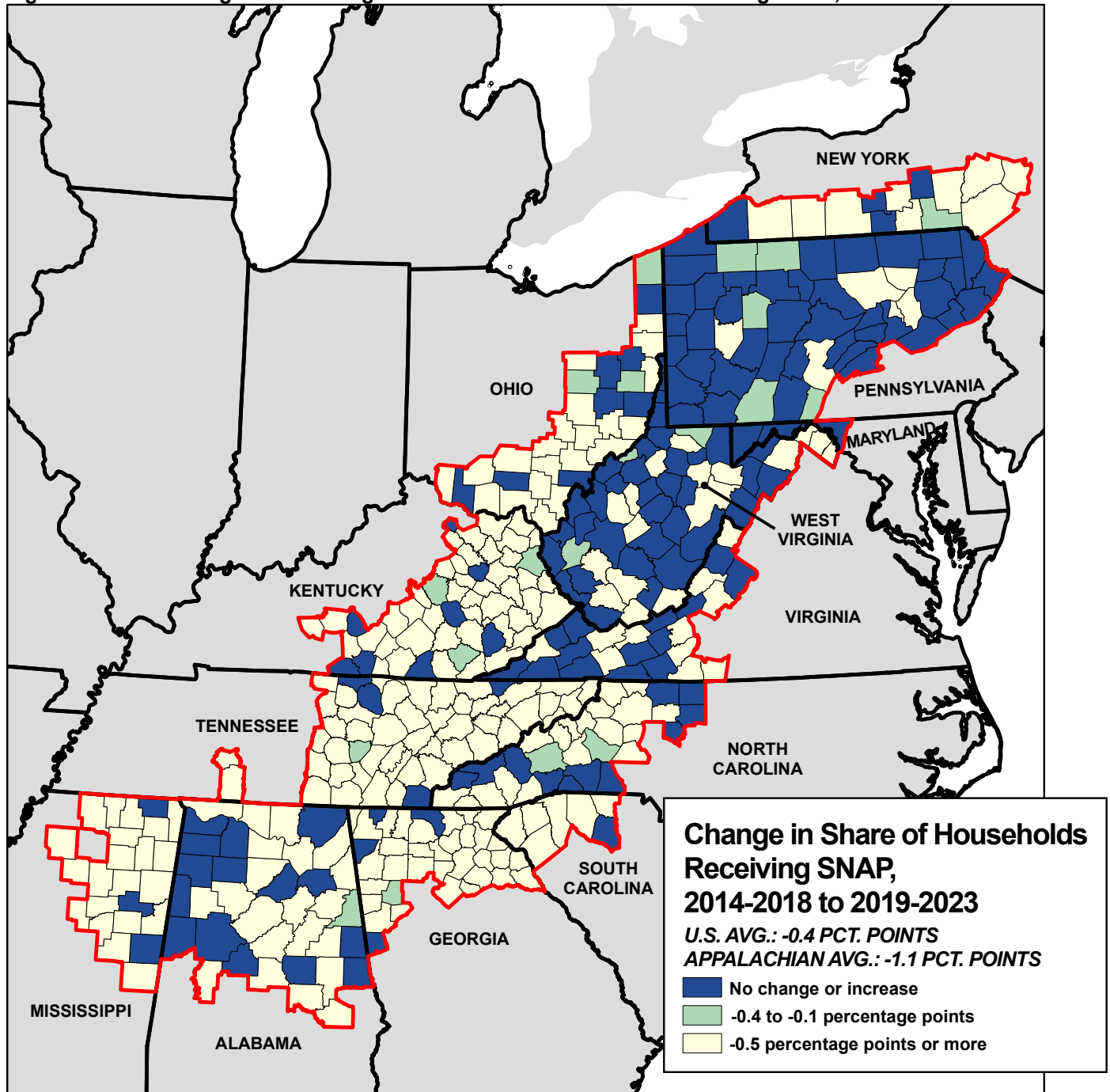
Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Table 9.14: Percentage Point Change in Share of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP Payments, by Presence of Children Under Age 18, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Receipt of SNAP	ALL HOUSEHOLDS	Households With Children Under Age 18	Households Without Children Under Age 18
United States	- 0.4	- 1.4	+ 0.2
Appalachian Region	- 1.1	- 2.0	- 0.6
Subregions			
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.6	+ 0.1	+ 1.0
North Central Appalachia	- 0.5	- 1.1	- 0.1
Central Appalachia	- 2.7	- 2.5	- 2.6
South Central Appalachia	- 2.0	- 3.3	- 1.4
Southern Appalachia	- 1.7	- 2.7	- 1.1
County Types			
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	- 0.6	- 1.3	- 0.1
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	- 1.0	- 1.8	- 0.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	- 1.4	- 2.5	- 0.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	- 1.2	- 2.3	- 0.6
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 2.0	- 2.6	- 1.5
Alabama	- 0.9	- 1.6	- 0.3
Appalachian Alabama	- 1.0	- 1.9	- 0.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 0.8	- 1.3	- 0.3
Georgia	- 1.4	- 2.5	- 0.5
Appalachian Georgia	- 2.0	- 2.7	- 1.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 1.1	- 2.2	- 0.2
Kentucky	- 2.5	- 2.0	- 2.5
Appalachian Kentucky	- 3.2	- 2.1	- 3.5
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 2.1	- 1.9	- 2.1
Maryland	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.7
Appalachian Maryland	+ 1.0	- 2.7	+ 2.6
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.6
Mississippi	- 2.9	- 5.3	- 1.4
Appalachian Mississippi	- 3.5	- 6.2	- 2.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 2.7	- 5.1	- 1.1
New York	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.4
Appalachian New York	- 0.6	- 1.2	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.5
North Carolina	- 0.7	- 0.6	- 0.4
Appalachian North Carolina	0.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.8	- 0.7	- 0.4
Ohio	- 1.3	- 2.5	- 0.6
Appalachian Ohio	- 1.4	- 2.4	- 0.7
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 1.2	- 2.5	- 0.5
Pennsylvania	+ 0.8	+ 0.4	+ 1.1
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.9	+ 0.5	+ 1.2
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.8	+ 0.3	+ 1.2
South Carolina	- 2.7	- 4.4	- 1.8
Appalachian South Carolina	- 2.2	- 2.9	- 1.9
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 2.8	- 5.0	- 1.7
Tennessee	- 3.6	- 5.2	- 2.6
Appalachian Tennessee	- 4.1	- 6.5	- 2.9
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 3.2	- 4.3	- 2.5
Virginia	+ 0.1	0.0	+ 0.4
Appalachian Virginia	- 0.1	+ 0.8	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 0.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.9

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, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Figure 9.16: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households Receiving SNAP, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Households in the Appalachian Region Receiving SNAP, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachian households participating in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – formerly the Food Stamps Program – fell 1.1 percentage points between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023, greater than the national decrease of 0.4 points. The declines were most pronounced in Central, South Central, and Southern Appalachia. Yet SNAP participation remained the same or increased in 151 Appalachian counties – 76 of which were in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. There is a correlation between the decrease in SNAP prevalence and the decline in poverty between the two periods. In 71 percent or 179 of the 252 counties that had declines in SNAP usage greater than the national average, there were also declines in poverty of at least a full percentage point.

TRENDS IN INCOME AND POVERTY

- Adjusting for inflation, income trends in the Appalachian Region were positive between the 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 periods (see Tables 9.1 and 9.2).
 - Mean income increased noticeably between the two periods. Mean household income, for example, rose 6.3 percent to \$87,325 in 2019-2023. Mean family and per capita income had slightly greater increases (more than seven percent each), reaching \$104,580 and \$35,598, respectively. (All monetary figures are in 2023 dollars.)
 - Although not affected by extreme values, the two median income measures likewise have registered healthy increases since 2014-2018. Median household income (the midpoint where half of all households have higher incomes while the other half have lower incomes) rose 6.8 percent to \$64,588 in 2019-2023. Median family income increased 7.5 percent to \$82,360.
- Despite these increases, the post 2014-2018 income gains were not quite as great in Appalachia as they were nationally. However, Appalachia's growth in three of the four household and family income measures was within at least a half percentage point of the national average. For example, the Appalachian median family income growth from 2014-2018 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, income growth was highest in Southern, South Central and Central Appalachia and lowest in Northern and North Central Appalachia, depending on the measure. Among the county types, the increases varied across the Appalachian Region. Median household income growth was highest in large metropolitan areas (7 points) and the lowest in rural areas (5.2 points). Meanwhile, the highest median family income growth was in rural areas (8.3 points) and lowest in small metropolitan areas (6.5 points). Income gains among the states generally were largest in the Appalachian portions of Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Yet despite the overall increases, there were still counties throughout the Appalachian Region that experienced income declines between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023.
- Since 2014-2018, the share of Appalachian residents in poverty (incomes below \$30,900 for a family of two adults and two children in 2020) has fallen 1.5 percentage points to 14.3 percent in 2019-2023 (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 0.1 percentage point since 2014-2018. The decline in poverty was greatest in the Appalachian portions of Kentucky and Tennessee: Poverty fell by at least two percentage points in each case. In contrast, poverty rates decreased by just 0.4 points in Appalachian New York and 0.8 points in Appalachian Pennsylvania, in addition to the poverty growth in Appalachian Maryland.
- Both child poverty and poverty among young adults (ages 18 to 24) have fallen noticeably in Appalachia since 2014-2018: Child poverty dropped three percentage points to 19 percent in 2019-2023, while poverty among 18-to-24-year-olds fell 3.9 points to 21.8 percent. Despite these decreases, nearly one-fifth of children and more than one-fifth of young adults were still in poverty. Appalachian Kentucky (4.8 points) and Tennessee (4.1 points) had the largest decrease in child poverty, and Appalachian Virginia (5.6 points), Kentucky (4.9 points) and Tennessee (4.8 points) had the largest decrease for young adults. Poverty rates among working-age adults (ages 25 to 64) in Appalachia had a more modest decline of only 1.3 points to 12.5 percent. As with the other two age groups, this decrease was present almost throughout the Appalachian Region – the exception was in Appalachian Maryland, where the rate among working-age adults rose by 1.2 percentage points. Appalachian Kentucky had the largest poverty decline among 25-to-64-year-olds, at 2.7 percentage points.
- Poverty increased 1.3 percentage points for older residents (ages 65 and over) between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 in Appalachia. Poverty among older residents increased for all county types, subregions, and states with the exception of Appalachian Georgia where it decreased by 0.1 percentage points. Among the states, increases were most notable in West Virginia and the Appalachian sections of New York, Mississippi, South Carolina, Ohio, and Maryland where poverty for older residents increased more than 1.5 percentage points.

TRENDS IN INCOME AND POVERTY (continued)

- In 2019-2023, the share of Appalachian residents with incomes below 50 percent of poverty (income below \$15,450 for a family of two adults and two children in 2023) was 6.5 percent, 0.3 percentage points lower than it was in 2014-2018 (see Tables 9.6 through 9.10). Compared to the rest of Appalachia, Appalachian Kentucky (1.1 points) and Central Appalachia (1 point) had the greatest decreases. By county types, rural and non-metro adjacent to small metropolitan areas counties had the largest decrease at 0.8 percentage points each. And the share decreased noticeably among children (0.9 points) and young adults ages 18-24 (2.3 points) in Appalachia, while increasing 0.9 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 13.4 percent in 2019-2023, a decrease of 1.1 percentage points from the Appalachian Region’s share in 2014-2018 (see Tables 9.11 and 9.13). Several parts of Appalachia registered even greater decreases: For example, the decrease was greater than three points in the Appalachian portions of Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Among county types and subregions, the largest decrease was in rural areas (2 points), South Central Appalachia (2 points) and Central Appalachia (2.7 points). However, SNAP prevalence did increase in some parts of Appalachia – most notably in Northern Appalachia (0.6 points), West Virginia (0.6 points), and the Appalachian portions of Maryland (1 point) and Pennsylvania (0.9).
- Among households with income below the poverty level (\$30,900 for a family of two adults and two children in 2020), SNAP prevalence rates fell 5.1 percentage points between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 (see Tables 9.11 and 9.13), to 44.8 percent in the latter period. However, among Appalachian households with income at or above the poverty level, receipt of SNAP remained unchanged from 2014-2018 to 2019-2023 at eight percent. The decrease in participation among households in poverty was present in all Appalachian state sections with Appalachian Mississippi (10.4 points) and Tennessee (11.8 points) showing the greatest declines among states. However, prevalence among households above the poverty level varied across Appalachia. SNAP participation among households above poverty increased in Northern and North Central Appalachia but decreased in Central, South Central, and Southern Appalachia. Among states, it increased the most in West Virginia (1.3 points) and the Appalachian portions of Maryland (1.6 points) and Pennsylvania (1.3 points) while it decreased the most in the Appalachian sections of Tennessee (1.9 points) and Mississippi (1.7 points).
- SNAP prevalence among Appalachian households with children under age 18 was 21.3 percent in 2019-2023, two percentage points lower than in 2014-2018 (see Tables 9.12 and 9.14). The decline in participation for households with children occurred throughout the Appalachian Region, with rates in Central, South Central and Southern Appalachia falling by at least than 2.5 points and the Appalachian sections of Mississippi and Tennessee showing decreases of at least six percentage points.
- Meanwhile, SNAP participation for Appalachian households without children fell 0.6 points to 10.3 percent from 2014-2018 to 2019-2023. SNAP prevalence among childless households increased in Northern Appalachia (1 point), West Virginia (0.9 points), and the Appalachian sections of Maryland (2.6 points), Pennsylvania (1.2 points) and North Carolina (0.2 points).
- Overall, the income and poverty trends in the Appalachian Region since 2014-2018 show that poverty levels have fallen while incomes have risen. However, the impact of economic events covered in these years – 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, 2019-2023

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	28,000,876	14,291,652	4,208,983	4,117,581	5,965,088	13,256,048	453,176
Appalachian Region	2,191,295	1,090,201	304,724	327,519	457,958	1,076,787	24,307
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	430,087	235,736	87,022	61,157	87,557	188,217	6,134
North Central Appalachia	152,895	74,107	19,605	22,380	32,122	77,228	1,560
Central Appalachia	121,165	58,884	15,125	18,937	24,822	61,273	1,008
South Central Appalachia	530,407	247,615	58,743	74,223	114,649	277,525	5,267
Southern Appalachia	956,741	473,859	124,229	150,822	198,808	472,544	10,338
County Types							
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	518,192	259,918	73,009	78,224	108,685	250,986	7,288
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	926,470	459,005	115,371	142,383	201,251	458,182	9,283
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	196,500	99,119	32,218	28,047	38,854	95,482	1,899
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	341,401	164,760	49,727	46,754	68,279	173,261	3,380
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	208,732	107,399	34,399	32,111	40,889	98,876	2,457
Alabama	467,422	227,993	42,109	81,505	104,379	235,032	4,397
Appalachian Alabama	292,340	139,789	26,907	49,217	63,665	150,108	2,443
Non-Appalachian Alabama	175,082	88,204	15,202	32,288	40,714	84,924	1,954
Georgia	1,338,959	688,457	185,515	215,584	287,358	635,020	15,482
Appalachian Georgia	457,851	229,524	69,714	68,151	91,659	222,055	6,272
Non-Appalachian Georgia	881,108	458,933	115,801	147,433	195,699	412,965	9,210
Kentucky	260,914	139,517	44,751	40,992	53,774	118,898	2,499
Appalachian Kentucky	68,720	35,532	10,676	11,385	13,471	32,582	606
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	192,194	103,985	34,075	29,607	40,303	86,316	1,893
Maryland	375,321	187,786	61,305	46,456	80,025	178,207	9,328
Appalachian Maryland	13,226	6,499	2,015	1,594	2,890	6,435	292
Non-Appalachian Maryland	362,095	181,287	59,290	44,862	77,135	171,772	9,036
Mississippi	334,916	174,831	43,581	58,880	72,370	158,002	2,083
Appalachian Mississippi	66,276	34,961	8,508	11,867	14,586	30,895	420
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	268,640	139,870	35,073	47,013	57,784	127,107	1,663
New York	1,002,173	473,817	110,648	124,141	239,028	497,993	30,363
Appalachian New York	44,234	25,834	8,864	7,955	9,015	17,848	552
Non-Appalachian New York	957,939	447,983	101,784	116,186	230,013	480,145	29,811
North Carolina	1,073,923	518,718	136,360	152,124	230,234	543,638	11,567
Appalachian North Carolina	231,342	108,827	24,888	32,845	51,094	120,456	2,059
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	842,581	409,891	111,472	119,279	179,140	423,182	9,508
Ohio	739,127	399,849	130,648	106,358	162,843	328,313	10,965
Appalachian Ohio	146,268	79,217	31,770	19,797	27,650	64,980	2,071
Non-Appalachian Ohio	592,859	320,632	98,878	86,561	135,193	263,333	8,894
Pennsylvania	715,495	389,487	140,142	97,967	151,378	313,836	12,172
Appalachian Pennsylvania	281,817	152,404	53,503	39,342	59,559	125,628	3,785
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	433,678	237,083	86,639	58,625	91,819	188,208	8,387
South Carolina	510,757	252,260	66,110	75,614	110,536	254,051	4,446
Appalachian South Carolina	140,274	69,585	19,100	21,587	28,898	69,486	1,203
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	370,483	182,675	47,010	54,027	81,638	184,565	3,243
Tennessee	696,019	344,530	92,146	98,731	153,653	344,486	7,003
Appalachian Tennessee	296,508	137,197	33,021	40,451	63,725	156,451	2,860
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	399,511	207,333	59,125	58,280	89,928	188,035	4,143
Virginia	597,774	302,991	93,609	83,250	126,132	282,320	12,463
Appalachian Virginia	43,982	19,581	4,492	6,613	8,476	23,748	653
Non-Appalachian Virginia	553,792	283,410	89,117	76,637	117,656	258,572	11,810
West Virginia (entire state)	108,457	51,251	11,266	16,715	23,270	56,115	1,091

Note: The health insurance universe consists of the civilian noninstitutional population.
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

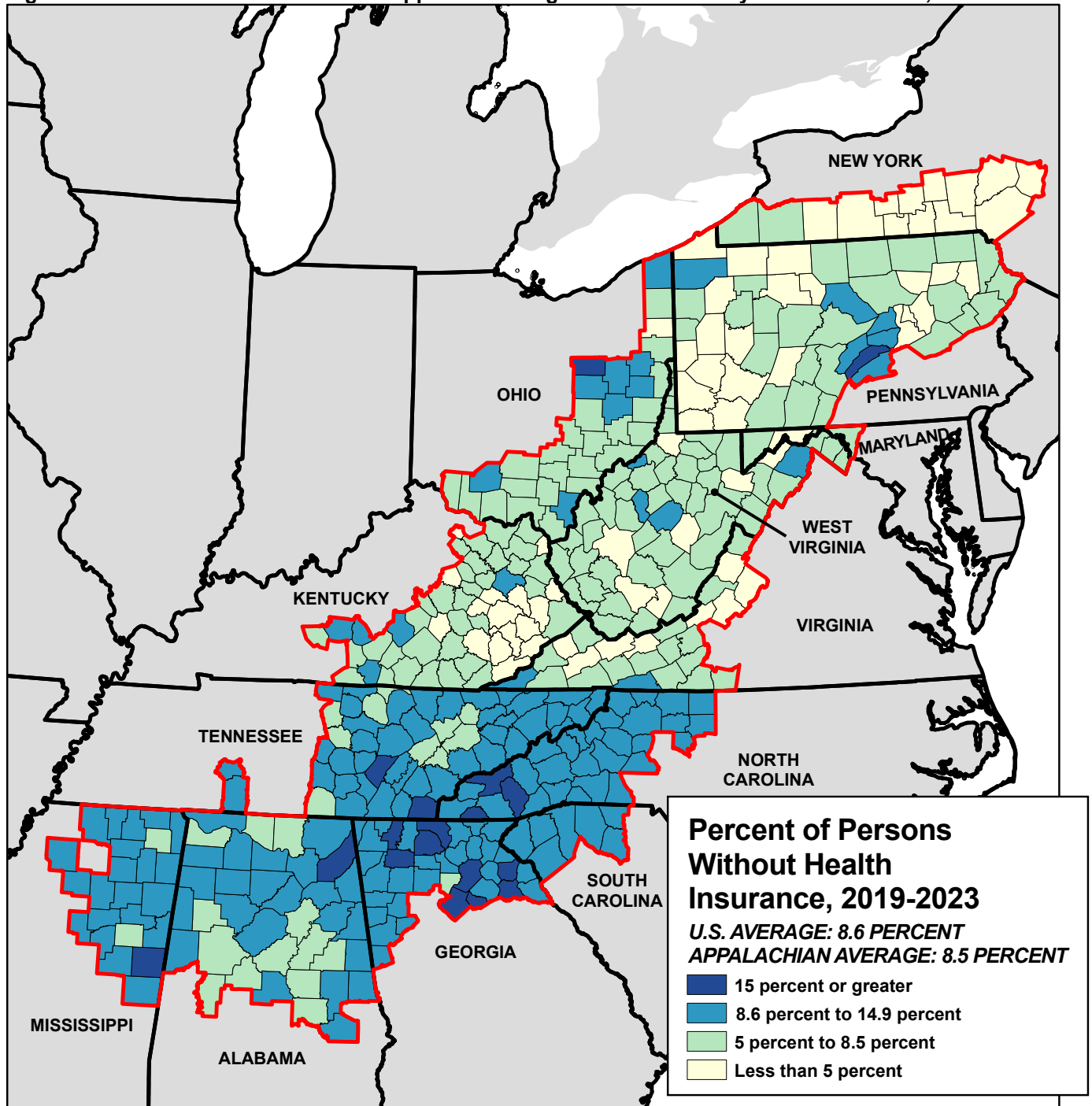
Table 10.2: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, by Age Group, 2019-2023

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	8.6	9.7	5.4	14.0	14.9	10.6	0.8
Appalachian Region	8.5	9.8	5.2	14.0	16.1	10.8	0.5
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	5.4	7.2	5.1	8.6	10.2	6.2	0.4
North Central Appalachia	6.3	7.3	3.6	10.4	12.4	8.2	0.3
Central Appalachia	6.7	7.8	3.6	12.7	13.0	8.7	0.3
South Central Appalachia	10.2	11.5	5.2	15.6	20.3	14.0	0.5
Southern Appalachia	11.2	12.2	5.8	19.1	20.3	14.3	0.8
County Types							
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	8.3	9.5	4.9	14.9	14.9	10.1	0.7
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	8.3	9.5	4.6	13.3	16.2	10.8	0.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	8.7	10.3	6.2	14.0	16.2	11.1	0.4
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	8.9	10.5	5.8	14.7	17.4	11.7	0.4
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	8.7	10.6	6.3	14.5	16.5	10.9	0.5
Alabama	9.4	10.2	3.5	17.5	18.3	12.5	0.5
Appalachian Alabama	9.1	9.7	3.5	16.5	17.0	12.3	0.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	10.0	11.1	3.5	19.5	20.8	13.0	0.6
Georgia	12.6	13.8	6.9	22.0	22.2	15.5	1.0
Appalachian Georgia	13.5	14.7	7.9	22.8	24.3	16.4	1.3
Non-Appalachian Georgia	12.2	13.4	6.4	21.6	21.3	15.0	0.9
Kentucky	5.9	7.0	4.2	10.1	10.5	7.0	0.3
Appalachian Kentucky	6.0	7.2	3.9	11.7	10.9	7.4	0.3
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	5.8	6.9	4.2	9.6	10.4	6.9	0.4
Maryland	6.2	7.0	4.2	9.3	11.1	7.4	1.0
Appalachian Maryland	5.5	6.5	3.7	7.7	11.2	7.0	0.6
Non-Appalachian Maryland	6.2	7.0	4.2	9.3	11.1	7.4	1.0
Mississippi	11.6	13.2	5.9	21.4	22.7	14.7	0.4
Appalachian Mississippi	11.1	12.6	5.7	19.0	22.0	14.1	0.4
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	11.8	13.3	6.0	22.2	22.8	14.8	0.4
New York	5.1	5.5	2.5	7.0	9.4	6.5	0.9
Appalachian New York	4.4	5.9	4.1	6.7	8.9	4.8	0.3
Non-Appalachian New York	5.1	5.4	2.5	7.1	9.5	6.6	0.9
North Carolina	10.4	11.2	5.5	16.3	18.8	13.6	0.7
Appalachian North Carolina	11.5	13.3	5.8	18.7	23.9	15.5	0.5
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	10.1	10.8	5.5	15.8	17.7	13.1	0.7
Ohio	6.4	7.7	4.7	10.3	11.9	7.4	0.5
Appalachian Ohio	7.5	9.7	7.1	12.3	13.4	8.7	0.5
Non-Appalachian Ohio	6.1	7.4	4.3	10.0	11.6	7.2	0.5
Pennsylvania	5.6	7.1	4.9	8.7	10.0	6.4	0.5
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5.1	6.7	4.6	8.1	9.7	5.8	0.3
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	6.0	7.4	5.2	9.2	10.3	6.8	0.7
South Carolina	10.0	11.3	5.5	17.0	18.9	13.1	0.5
Appalachian South Carolina	10.3	11.3	5.8	16.8	17.8	13.5	0.5
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	9.9	11.4	5.4	17.1	19.4	12.9	0.5
Tennessee	10.1	11.1	5.6	15.9	18.1	13.1	0.6
Appalachian Tennessee	10.0	11.0	5.0	15.4	19.1	13.7	0.5
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	10.2	11.2	6.0	16.4	17.5	12.6	0.7
Virginia	7.1	8.1	4.6	11.2	12.6	8.6	0.9
Appalachian Virginia	6.1	6.7	3.1	8.6	12.3	8.8	0.4
Non-Appalachian Virginia	7.2	8.2	4.8	11.5	12.7	8.6	1.0
West Virginia (entire state)	6.2	7.1	2.9	11.0	12.7	8.3	0.3

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

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Figure 10.1: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2019-2023

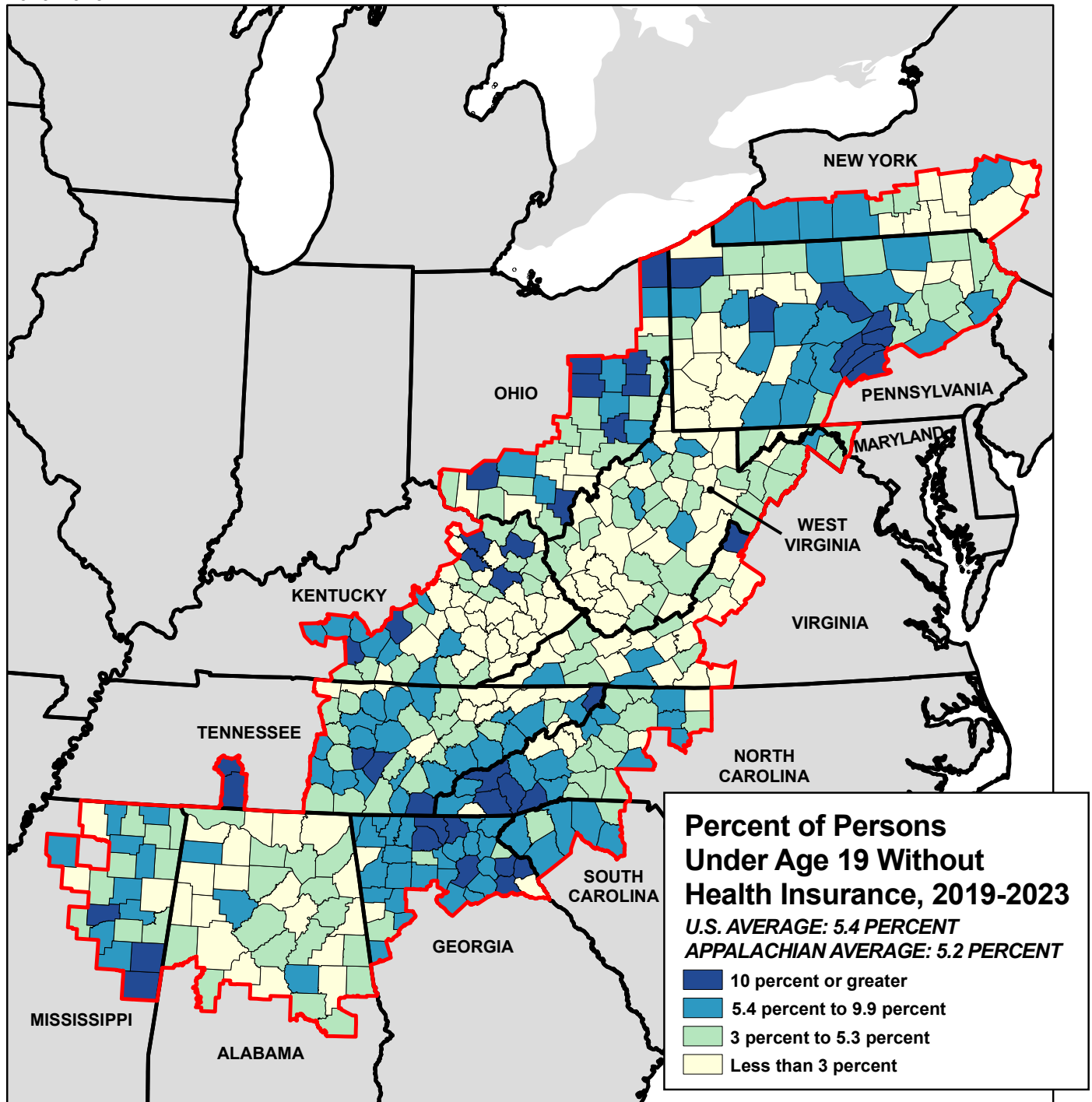


Map Title: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Nearly 2.2 million persons in the Appalachian Region lacked any kind of health insurance coverage in the 2019-2023 period – representing 8.5 percent of Appalachia’s residents. Although the percentage for the Appalachian Region is slightly lower than the U.S. share of 8.6 percent, 189 of the 423 Appalachian counties had non-coverage rates at least as high as the national average. And in 18 Appalachian counties – nine 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 (13.5 percent), Mississippi (11.1 percent), and North Carolina (11.5 percent). In contrast, 66 counties had uninsured rates below five percent, nearly a third of which were counties in Pennsylvania.

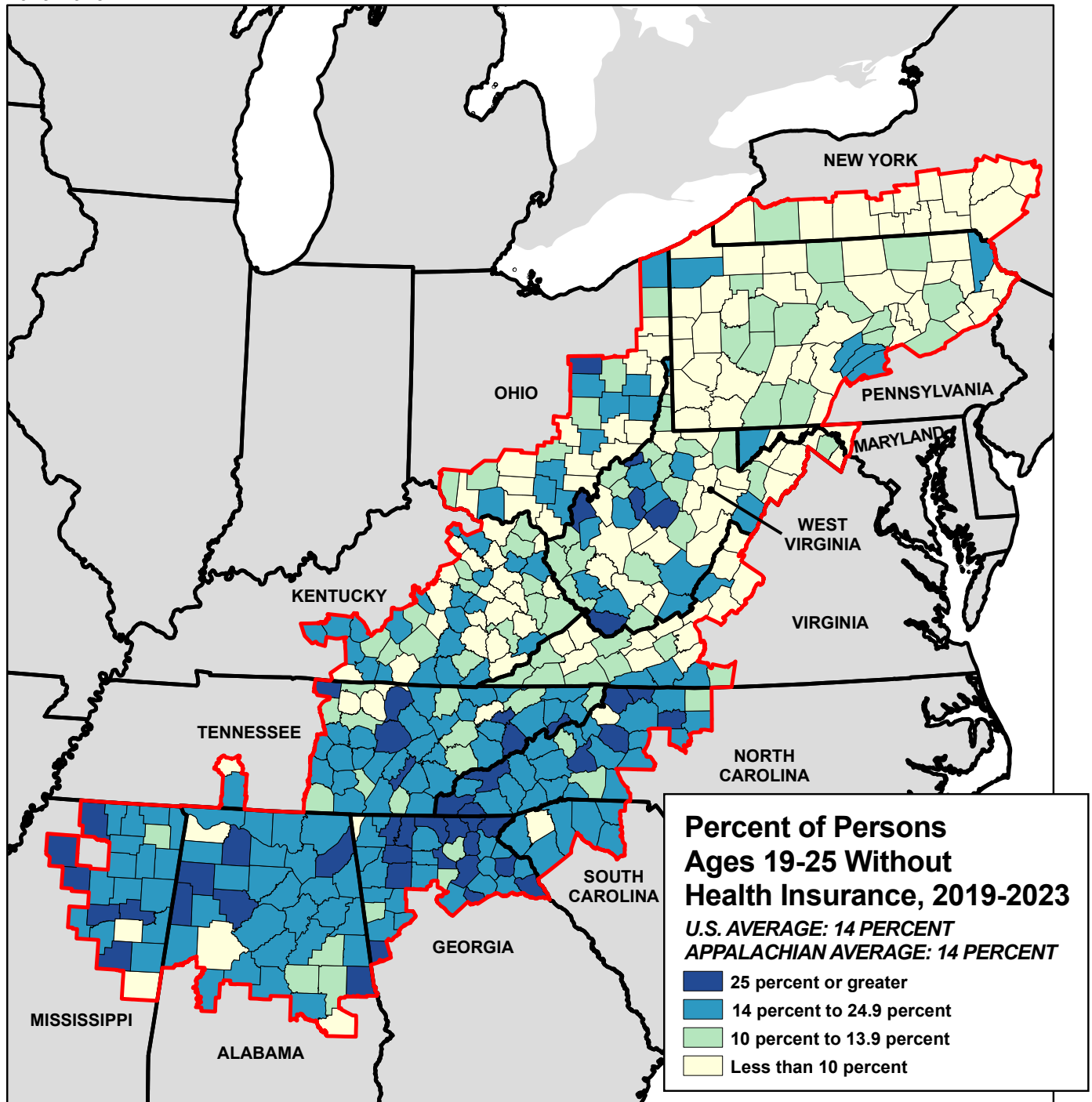
Figure 10.2: Percent of Persons Under Age 19 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Persons Under Age 19 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Just 5.2 percent of Appalachia’s children and youth under age 19 were uninsured during 2019-2023 – over 300,000 of the Appalachian Region’s children – slightly below the national average of 5.4 percent. But the rate varied throughout Appalachia. On one hand, 138 counties had non-coverage rates under three percent; 86 were in either West Virginia or the Appalachian portions of Kentucky, Alabama, Virginia, or Maryland – five 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 43 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 – 2.5 percentage points above the national average.

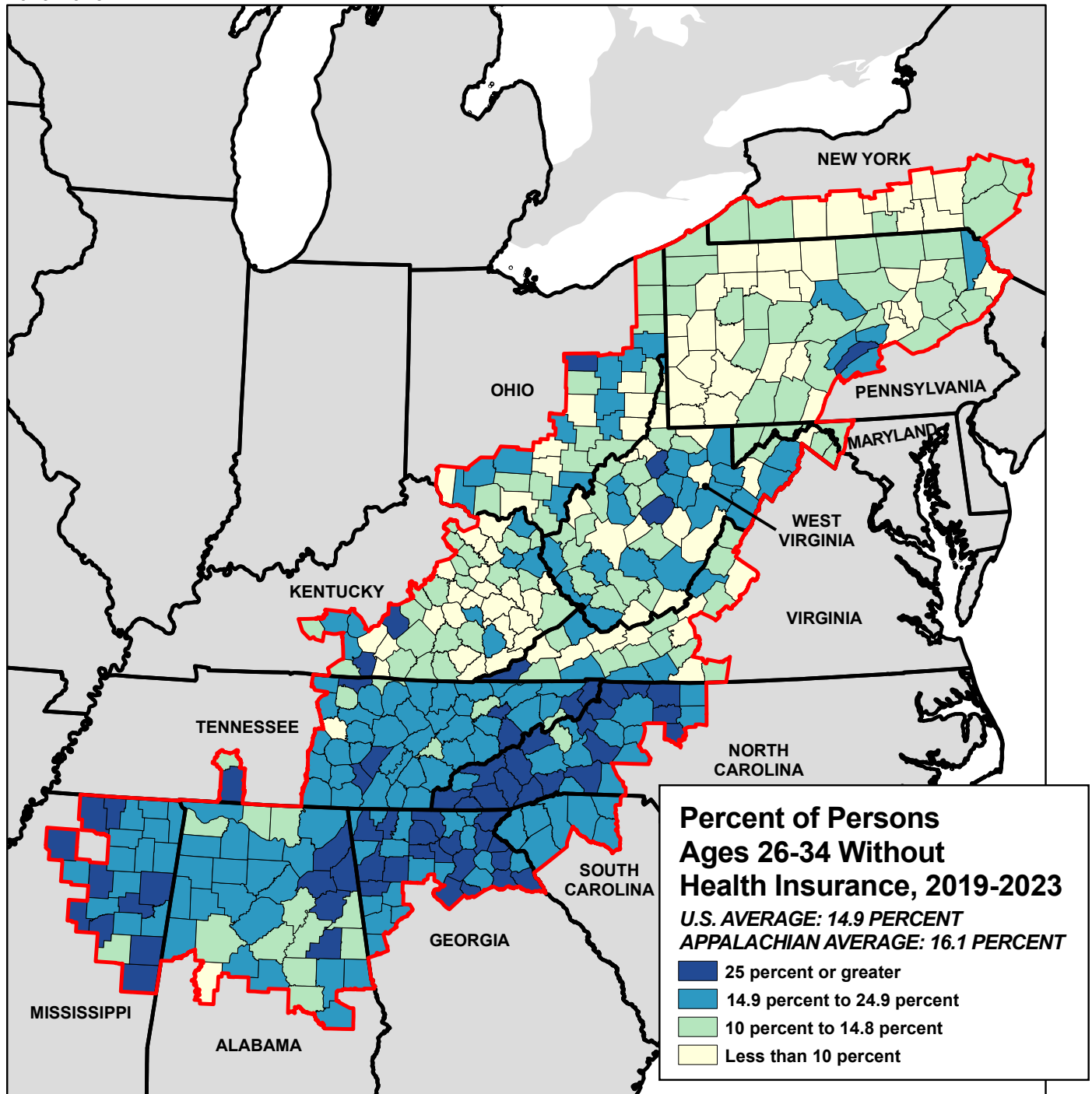
Figure 10.3: Percent of Persons Ages 19 to 25 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 19 to 25 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

During the 2019-2023 period, nearly one in seven Appalachian residents (14 percent) ages 19 to 25 did not have health insurance coverage. Although Appalachia’s rate matched the national average, 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 48 of Appalachia’s counties, at least one-in-four young adults did not have coverage— 15 of which were located in Appalachian Georgia, where the overall share of uninsured among this age group was the highest among the states at 22.8 percent. In contrast, 130 Appalachian counties had less than 10 percent of persons ages 19 to 25 without health insurance; most counties in this group were in Northern Appalachia, with pockets in North Central and Central Appalachia, and 22 of which had a four-year college or university within their boundaries.

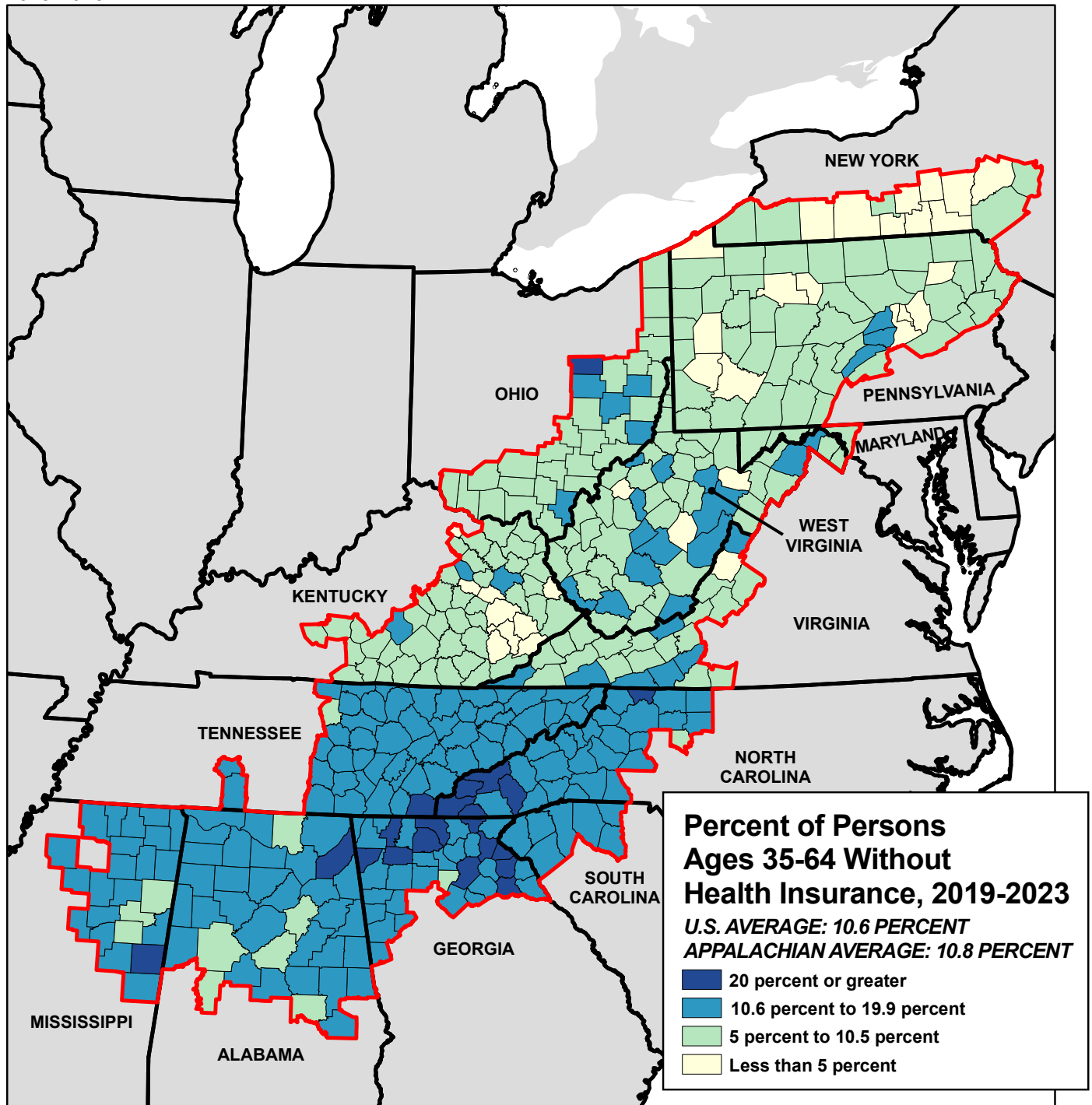
Figure 10.4: Percent of Persons Ages 26 to 34 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 26 to 34 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Lack of health insurance coverage was highest among young adults ages 26 to 34 – 16.1 percent of Appalachian residents in this group were uninsured during the 2019-2023 period. And the situation was even worse in South Central and Southern Appalachia, where one in five 26-to-34-year-olds were without insurance. In fact, these two subregions had 59 of the 67 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 14.9 percent; these were overwhelmingly located in Northern, North Central, and Central Appalachia. And in 89 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, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 35 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

In 2019-2023, 10.8 percent of Appalachia’s working-age population ages 35 to 64 were not covered by health insurance, slightly above the national rate of 10.6 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 209 Appalachian counties where the share of 35-to-64-year-olds were uninsured was at least the national average, four-fifths were in these two subregions. And of the 21 counties where at least one in five persons in this group had no health insurance all but one were located in South Central and Southern Appalachia – primarily within Georgia and North Carolina. On the other hand, in 32 of Appalachia’s counties the share was less than five percent. Of these counties, all but four were in Northern Appalachia or Central Appalachia.

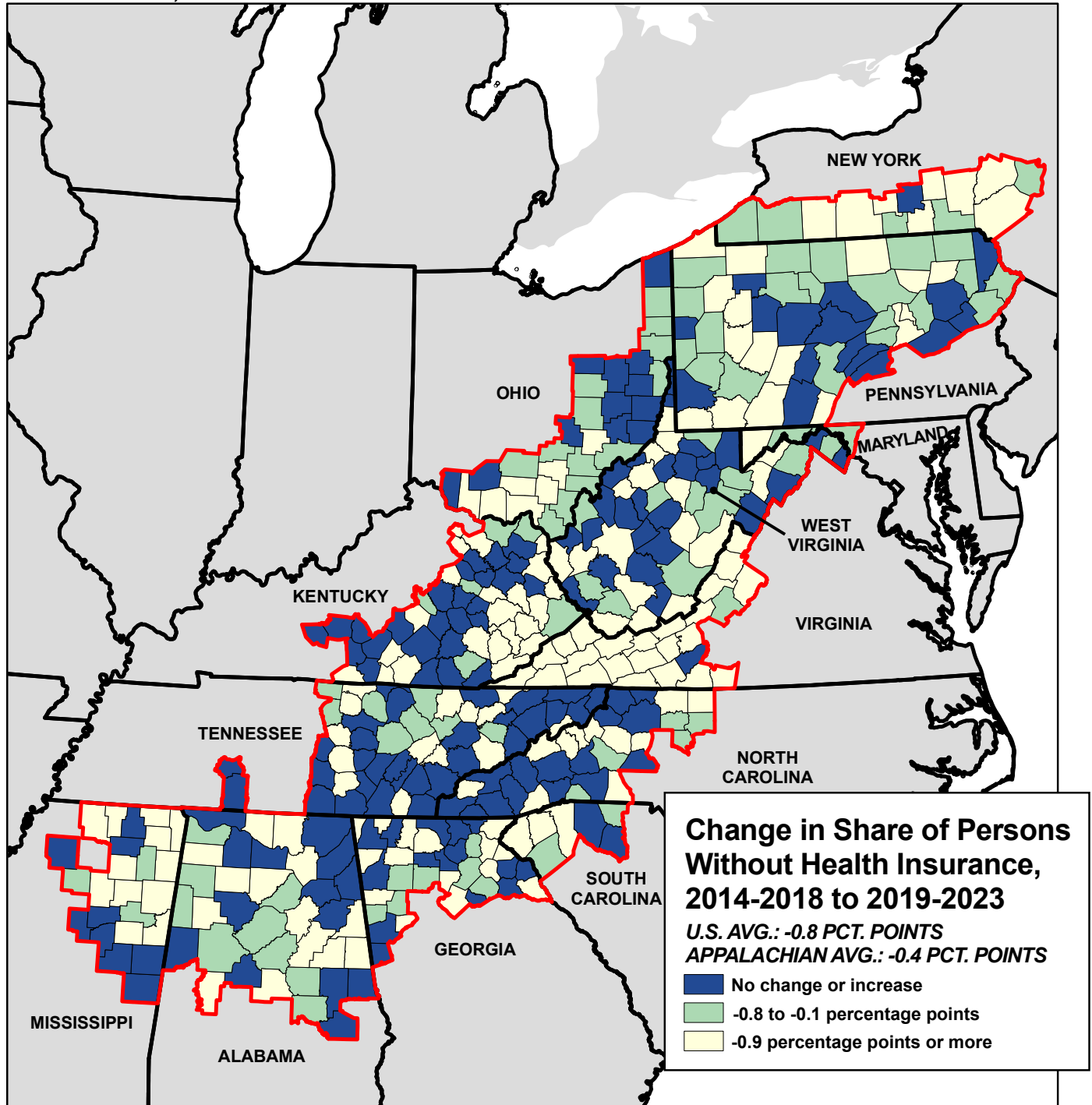
Table 10.3: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, by Age Group, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Health Insurance Status	All Ages	Under Age 35	Ages 35-64	Ages 65 and Over
United States	- 0.8	- 0.9	- 0.7	0.0
Appalachian Region	- 0.4	- 0.5	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Subregions				
Northern Appalachia	- 0.4	- 0.4	- 0.3	+ 0.1
North Central Appalachia	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Central Appalachia	- 0.9	- 1.0	- 0.7	0.0
South Central Appalachia	- 0.2	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Southern Appalachia	- 0.7	- 1.0	- 0.3	+ 0.2
County Types				
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	- 0.5	- 0.6	- 0.3	+ 0.2
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	- 0.3	- 0.3	0.0	+ 0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	- 0.5	- 0.8	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	- 0.3	- 0.4	- 0.1	0.0
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 0.9	- 1.0	- 0.9	+ 0.1
Alabama	- 0.6	- 1.0	0.0	+ 0.1
Appalachian Alabama	- 0.4	- 1.0	+ 0.4	0.0
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 0.8	- 1.0	- 0.6	+ 0.1
Georgia	- 1.1	- 1.4	- 0.8	+ 0.1
Appalachian Georgia	- 0.9	- 1.1	- 0.7	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	- 1.2	- 1.5	- 0.9	+ 0.1
Kentucky	- 0.2	- 0.4	+ 0.1	0.0
Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.3	- 0.4	- 0.1	0.0
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.2	- 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Maryland	- 0.3	- 0.4	0.0	0.0
Appalachian Maryland	- 0.4	- 0.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian Maryland	- 0.3	- 0.4	0.0	- 0.1
Mississippi	- 1.1	- 0.7	- 1.3	0.0
Appalachian Mississippi	- 1.5	- 1.3	- 2.2	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.9	- 0.6	- 1.2	0.0
New York	- 1.4	- 1.7	- 1.4	+ 0.1
Appalachian New York	- 0.7	- 0.8	- 0.7	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian New York	- 1.5	- 1.8	- 1.4	+ 0.1
North Carolina	- 0.7	- 0.9	- 0.4	+ 0.2
Appalachian North Carolina	0.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.8	- 1.1	- 0.5	+ 0.1
Ohio	- 0.1	0.0	- 0.1	0.0
Appalachian Ohio	- 0.2	0.0	- 0.1	0.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	- 0.1	+ 0.1	0.0	0.0
Pennsylvania	- 0.6	- 0.7	- 0.6	+ 0.1
Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.4	0.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	- 0.9	- 1.0	- 0.8	+ 0.1
South Carolina	- 1.0	- 1.0	- 1.1	+ 0.1
Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.7	- 1.0	- 0.4	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 1.1	- 0.8	- 1.4	+ 0.1
Tennessee	0.0	+ 0.3	0.0	+ 0.1
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.1	+ 0.3	- 0.3	+ 0.1
Virginia	- 2.1	- 2.3	- 2.3	- 0.1
Appalachian Virginia	- 3.5	- 4.2	- 4.1	0.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	- 2.0	- 2.2	- 2.1	- 0.1
West Virginia (entire state)	- 0.3	- 0.5	0.0	+ 0.1

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

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

Figure 10.6: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region Not Covered by Health Insurance, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachian residents not covered by health insurance fell 0.4 percentage points between the 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 periods. While the improvement is slightly less than in the nation as a whole, it was above the national average in many parts of the Appalachian Region. In fact, non-coverage rates fell by nearly one percentage point in Central Appalachia and in the region’s rural counties. Of the 163 counties where non-coverage decreased by more than the national average, about 70 percent or 114 counties were outside of metropolitan areas. Yet, in 168 counties – nearly half of which were located in West Virginia and the Appalachian portions of Kentucky and Tennessee– the share of uninsured persons remained constant or increased.

TRENDS IN HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

- Between the 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 periods, the share of Appalachian residents not covered by health insurance fell 0.4 percentage points to 8.5 percent (see Tables 10.2 and 10.3). And the share fell even further in Central Appalachia (0.9 points), the Appalachian Region's most rural counties (0.9 points), and the Appalachian sections of Virginia (3.5 points), Mississippi (1.5 points) and Georgia (0.9 points).
- The decline in health insurance non-coverage was greatest among children and younger adults under age 35. The uninsured rate in the under-35 population was 0.5 percentage points lower in 2019-2023 than in 2014-2018. Provisions to expand health insurance coverage, particularly among children and adults under age 26, have been cited as factors for this decline. As with the general population, declines in non-coverage among children and young adults were the greatest in Central and Southern Appalachia and the region's rural counties. And among the states, Appalachian Virginia saw the greatest decline at 4.2 points while Appalachian Georgia and Mississippi had a decline of more than one percentage point.
- Among adults in the region between the ages of 35 and 64, the share without health insurance declined by only 0.2 percentage points between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 – a slower rate of decline compared with the national average of 0.7 points. Yet, as with the other age groups non-coverage among 35-to-64-year-olds decreased most Central Appalachia and in rural counties throughout the region. The Appalachian sections of Mississippi and Virginia had the largest decline at 2.2 and 4.1 percentage points, respectively, since 2014-2018.
- The share of adults ages 65 and over who lacked health insurance remained unchanged in the nation – but increased slightly by 0.1 percentage points in the Appalachian Region between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023. Despite slight differences and fluctuations throughout the region, changes to the share of older adults with health insurance were minimal.
- Analysts cite programs designed to explain the decline in health insurance non-coverage, including expansion of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and provisions of the Affordable Care Act, including Medicaid expansion, as factors in the uptick of health insurance coverage of persons under age 65 – particularly younger persons – in 2019-2023. But the economic downturns during the 2019-2023 time period – which could have resulted in job losses and therefore, loss of employer-based health insurance – may lead to a reversal of some of these improvements in future years.

CHAPTER 11: DISABILITY STATUS

Table 11.1: Number of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, by Age Group, 2019-2023

Disability Status	All Ages	Under Age 18	Ages 18-64			Ages 65 and Over
			Total	Ages 18-34	Ages 35-64	
United States	42,703,063	3,451,805	21,269,700	5,676,539	15,593,161	17,981,558
Appalachian Region	4,206,550	306,298	2,145,500	504,514	1,640,986	1,754,752
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	1,240,883	94,493	614,805	159,927	454,878	531,585
North Central Appalachia	444,623	29,118	230,236	51,744	178,492	185,269
Central Appalachia	432,967	29,523	237,288	45,230	192,058	166,156
South Central Appalachia	848,339	55,574	420,940	93,805	327,135	371,825
Southern Appalachia	1,239,738	97,590	642,231	153,808	488,423	499,917
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	837,256	71,381	420,798	107,418	313,380	345,077
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	1,763,972	130,435	899,511	222,010	677,501	734,026
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	394,170	26,646	204,486	48,667	155,819	163,038
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	723,843	47,073	364,026	75,767	288,259	312,744
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	487,309	30,763	256,679	50,652	206,027	199,867
Alabama	807,069	53,379	424,491	96,608	327,883	329,199
Appalachian Alabama	525,275	35,900	277,790	63,905	213,885	211,585
Non-Appalachian Alabama	281,794	17,479	146,701	32,703	113,998	117,614
Georgia	1,375,224	124,457	718,943	184,679	534,264	531,824
Appalachian Georgia	412,395	36,552	210,316	53,137	157,179	165,527
Non-Appalachian Georgia	962,829	87,905	508,627	131,542	377,085	366,297
Kentucky	784,920	63,575	430,335	103,689	326,646	291,010
Appalachian Kentucky	261,879	18,219	146,145	28,909	117,236	97,515
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	523,041	45,356	284,190	74,780	209,410	193,495
Maryland	690,463	58,626	341,968	91,055	250,913	289,869
Appalachian Maryland	40,976	3,884	20,791	5,394	15,397	16,301
Non-Appalachian Maryland	649,487	54,742	321,177	85,661	235,516	273,568
Mississippi	500,688	41,144	263,182	61,192	201,990	196,362
Appalachian Mississippi	103,080	8,216	54,393	11,989	42,404	40,471
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	397,608	32,928	208,789	49,203	159,586	155,891
New York	2,394,964	177,333	1,151,101	299,045	852,056	1,066,530
Appalachian New York	158,830	12,545	82,722	23,972	58,750	63,563
Non-Appalachian New York	2,236,134	164,788	1,068,379	275,073	793,306	1,002,967
North Carolina	1,386,506	104,984	701,000	172,435	528,565	580,522
Appalachian North Carolina	316,370	19,793	154,668	34,982	119,686	141,909
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	1,070,136	85,191	546,332	137,453	408,879	438,613
Ohio	1,646,041	138,821	839,123	223,093	616,030	668,097
Appalachian Ohio	334,879	24,634	172,233	39,135	133,098	138,012
Non-Appalachian Ohio	1,311,162	114,187	666,890	183,958	482,932	530,085
Pennsylvania	1,820,613	154,918	905,409	249,097	656,312	760,286
Appalachian Pennsylvania	864,391	64,943	422,919	110,183	312,736	376,529
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	956,222	89,975	482,490	138,914	343,576	383,757
South Carolina	738,495	55,212	366,706	84,048	282,658	316,577
Appalachian South Carolina	198,988	16,922	99,732	24,777	74,955	82,334
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	539,507	38,290	266,974	59,271	207,703	234,243
Tennessee	1,034,275	81,159	532,882	126,211	406,671	420,234
Appalachian Tennessee	513,600	36,102	258,790	55,992	202,798	218,708
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	520,675	45,057	274,092	70,219	203,873	201,526
Virginia	1,032,353	86,646	513,773	135,216	378,557	431,934
Appalachian Virginia	141,843	8,487	72,940	14,524	58,416	60,416
Non-Appalachian Virginia	890,510	78,159	440,833	120,692	320,141	371,518
West Virginia (entire state)	334,044	20,101	172,061	37,615	134,446	141,882

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, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

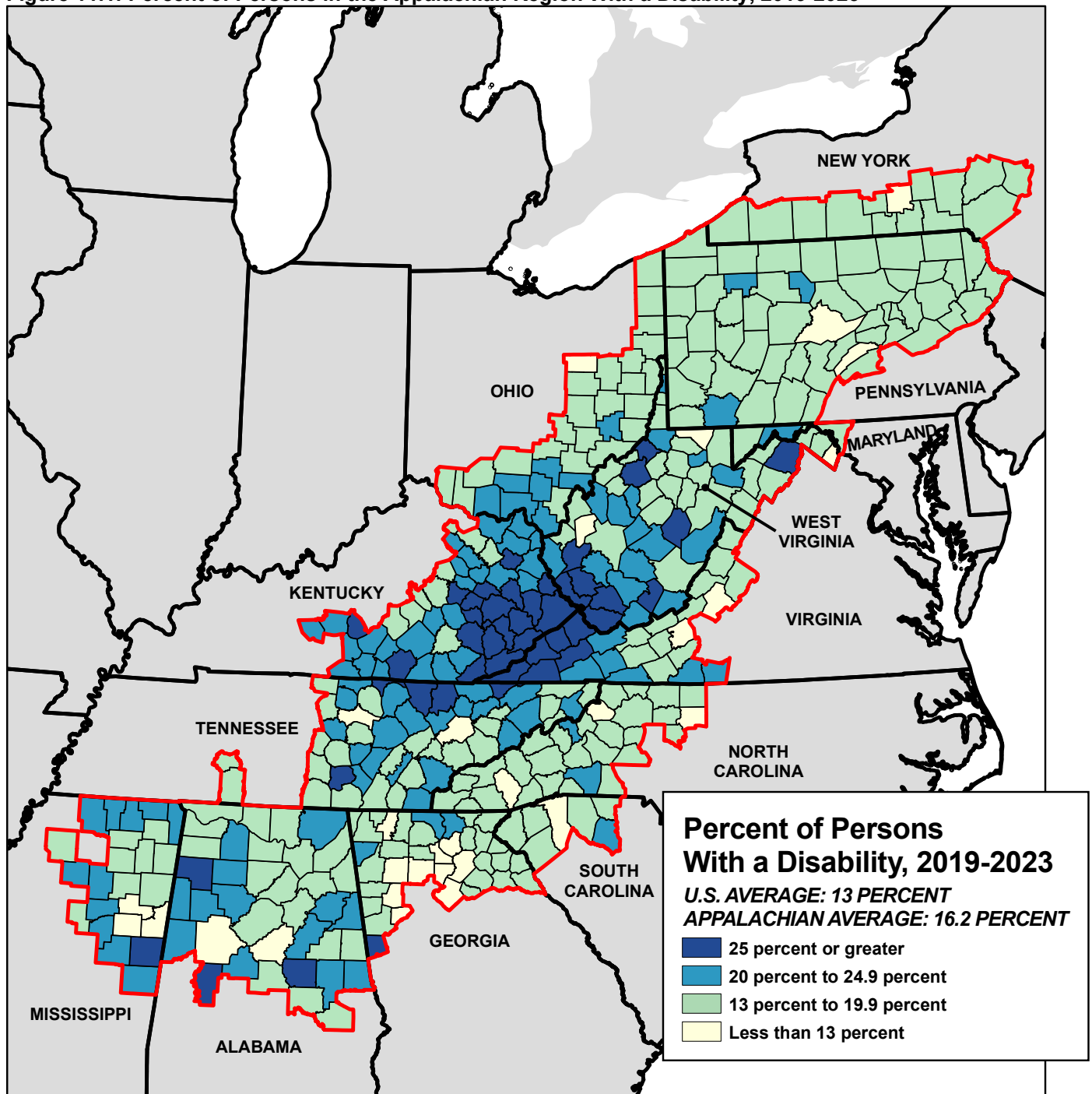
Table 11.2: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, by Age Group, 2019-2023

Disability Status	All Ages	Under Age 18	Ages 18-64			Ages 65 and Over
			Total	Ages 18-34	Ages 35-64	
United States	13.0	4.7	10.7	7.7	12.4	32.9
Appalachian Region	16.2	5.5	13.8	9.1	16.5	36.1
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	15.7	6.0	13.0	9.5	15.0	32.9
North Central Appalachia	18.2	5.7	15.9	10.2	18.9	38.6
Central Appalachia	23.8	7.4	22.2	12.5	27.2	47.4
South Central Appalachia	16.3	5.3	13.6	8.4	16.5	35.7
Southern Appalachia	14.5	4.9	12.4	8.1	14.8	36.4
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	13.4	5.1	11.0	8.0	12.6	32.9
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	15.9	5.6	13.4	8.9	16.0	35.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	17.4	5.4	15.3	10.3	18.0	37.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	18.8	5.9	16.2	10.0	19.5	38.5
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	20.2	6.0	18.1	10.0	22.6	41.2
Alabama	16.2	4.7	14.2	8.7	17.5	38.3
Appalachian Alabama	16.3	5.0	14.3	8.9	17.5	38.5
Non-Appalachian Alabama	16.0	4.3	14.1	8.4	17.4	37.8
Georgia	12.9	4.9	11.0	7.6	13.0	34.4
Appalachian Georgia	12.1	4.4	10.1	7.3	11.6	33.7
Non-Appalachian Georgia	13.3	5.2	11.4	7.7	13.7	34.7
Kentucky	17.7	6.2	16.2	10.7	19.3	39.0
Appalachian Kentucky	23.0	7.1	21.6	12.3	26.6	47.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	15.9	5.9	14.3	10.1	16.8	35.9
Maryland	11.4	4.3	9.2	7.0	10.4	29.6
Appalachian Maryland	17.1	7.6	14.6	10.9	16.6	35.3
Non-Appalachian Maryland	11.1	4.1	9.0	6.8	10.1	29.3
Mississippi	17.4	5.9	15.4	9.6	18.8	41.0
Appalachian Mississippi	17.2	5.9	15.2	8.7	19.4	39.7
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	17.4	6.0	15.4	9.8	18.6	41.4
New York	12.2	4.3	9.4	6.6	11.2	31.6
Appalachian New York	15.8	6.4	13.5	9.9	15.9	31.8
Non-Appalachian New York	12.0	4.2	9.2	6.4	10.9	31.6
North Carolina	13.4	4.5	11.1	7.5	13.2	33.2
Appalachian North Carolina	15.7	4.9	13.0	8.4	15.4	33.7
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	12.8	4.4	10.7	7.3	12.7	33.1
Ohio	14.2	5.3	12.0	8.7	14.0	32.9
Appalachian Ohio	17.3	5.8	15.1	10.0	17.9	36.6
Non-Appalachian Ohio	13.6	5.2	11.4	8.5	13.2	32.1
Pennsylvania	14.2	5.8	11.7	8.9	13.3	31.8
Appalachian Pennsylvania	15.5	5.9	12.7	9.3	14.5	32.7
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	13.2	5.7	11.0	8.5	12.4	30.9
South Carolina	14.4	4.9	12.0	7.6	14.5	33.6
Appalachian South Carolina	14.6	5.5	12.1	8.0	14.6	35.4
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	14.4	4.7	12.0	7.5	14.5	32.9
Tennessee	15.0	5.2	12.7	8.1	15.4	36.7
Appalachian Tennessee	17.3	5.8	14.6	8.8	17.8	38.2
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	13.3	4.8	11.4	7.6	13.7	35.1
Virginia	12.2	4.6	10.0	7.2	11.5	31.3
Appalachian Virginia	19.8	6.4	17.0	9.1	21.7	39.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	11.5	4.4	9.3	7.1	10.6	30.4
West Virginia (entire state)	19.1	5.6	16.7	10.5	20.0	39.5

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, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Figure 11.1: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2019-2023

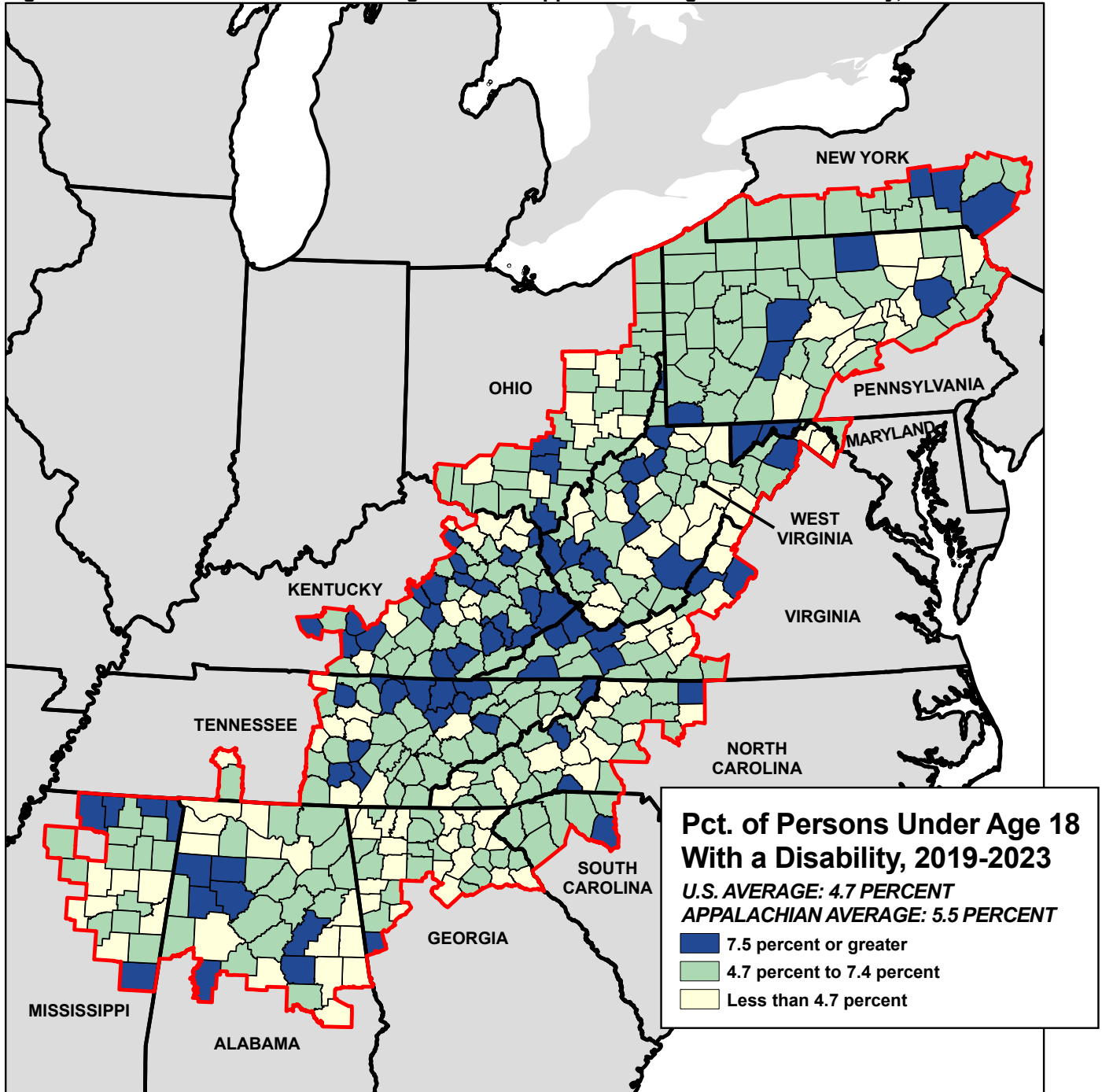


Map Title: Percent of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Nearly one in six (16.2 percent) Appalachian residents reported having a disability in the 2019-2023 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 more than three percentage points higher than the U.S. share (13 percent). And disability prevalence was particularly high in the region’s rural counties, Central Appalachia, and the Appalachian portion of Kentucky- where more than one in five residents reported having a disability. In fact, in 45 counties – over two fifths 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 45 counties with the highest disability prevalence, the share of residents ages 65 or older exceeded the national average (17.7 percent in 2019-2023) in all but two of them. By contrast, there were only 30 counties in Appalachia with a disability rate below the national average of 13 percent.

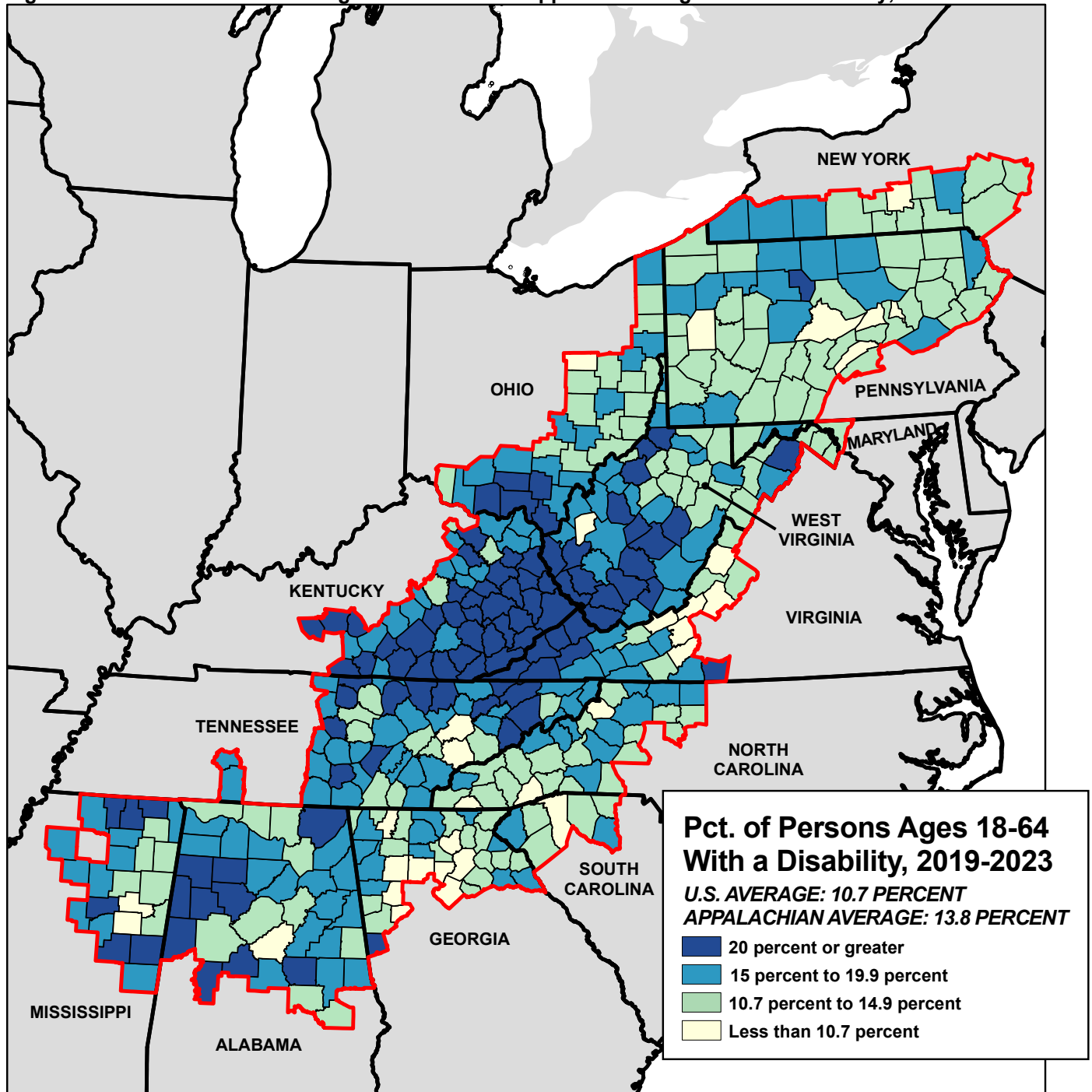
Figure 11.2: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Persons Under Age 18 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2019-2023
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

The prevalence of disability among children under age 18 in Appalachia was 0.8 percentage points higher than the national average during the 2019-2023 period. And the rate was at least 7.5 percent in 81 Appalachian counties, 44 percent of which were categorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (ERS) as having a history of persistent child poverty. Of the 81 counties, over two-thirds of them were outside of metropolitan areas, and 35 were in Central Appalachia, where the overall share of children with disabilities was the highest among subregions (7.4 percent). However, in 121 other counties throughout the Appalachian Region disability prevalence for children fell below the national average of 4.7 percent. These counties were largely in Southern Appalachia, the only subregion with an overall childhood disability prevalence below five percent. And just 28 counties, or 23 percent, of these counties met the ERS criteria for persistent childhood poverty – a stark 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, 2019-2023

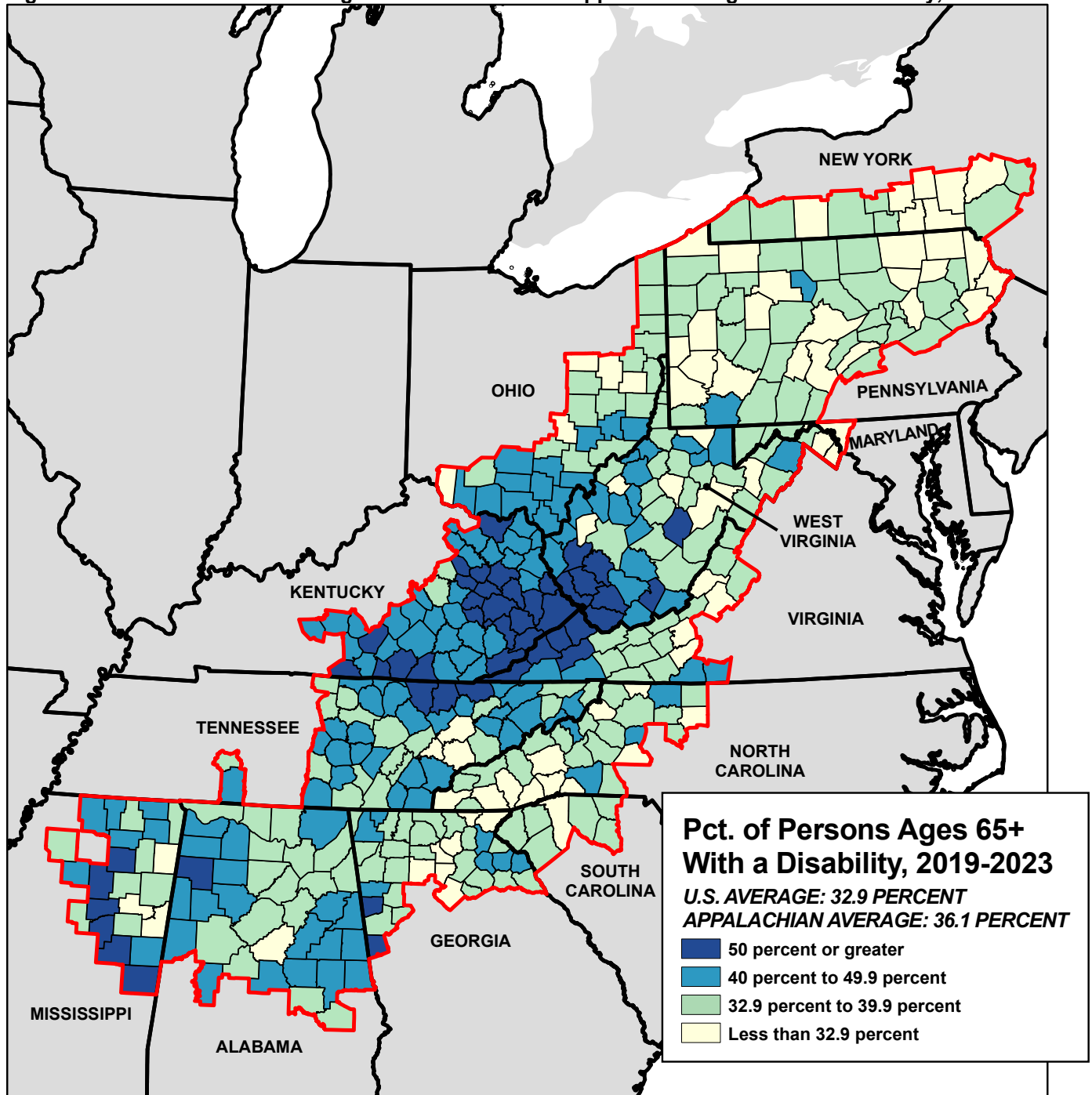


Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 18 to 64 in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

In the 2019-2023 period, 13.8 percent of adults ages 18 to 64 in Appalachia reported a disability, compared with 10.7 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 95 Appalachian counties where the disability rate among 18-to-64-year-olds was 20 percent or higher – and 35 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. Indeed, of the 95 counties where disability rates were at least 20 percent for this age group, more than one in four were designated as mining-dependent economies by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (ERS) and over three in five – including 46 Central Appalachian counties – had poverty rates exceeding 20 percent.

Figure 11.4: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

At 36.1 percent, about one in three adults ages 65 and over in the Appalachian Region reported a disability in the 2019-2023 period – a rate which was over three percentage points above the national share, 32.9 percent. And the prevalence was even greater in some parts of Appalachia: More than 47 percent of the older residents in Central Appalachia – and in Appalachian Kentucky – had at least one disability. In fact, 36 of the 47 Appalachian counties where at least half of the older residents reported a disability were located in Central Appalachia, and 22 of these were in Kentucky alone. And there are signs that disabled adults in Appalachia may be aging in place: In nearly half of these counties, the share of 18-to-64-year-olds with a disability was at or above 25 percent – more than double the national average for that age group. However, in 72 of Appalachia’s counties, the disability rate for the older population was actually lower than the national average. Yet, only the region’s large metropolitan areas and the Northern Appalachian subregion had a share of older adults equivalent to or below the national average.

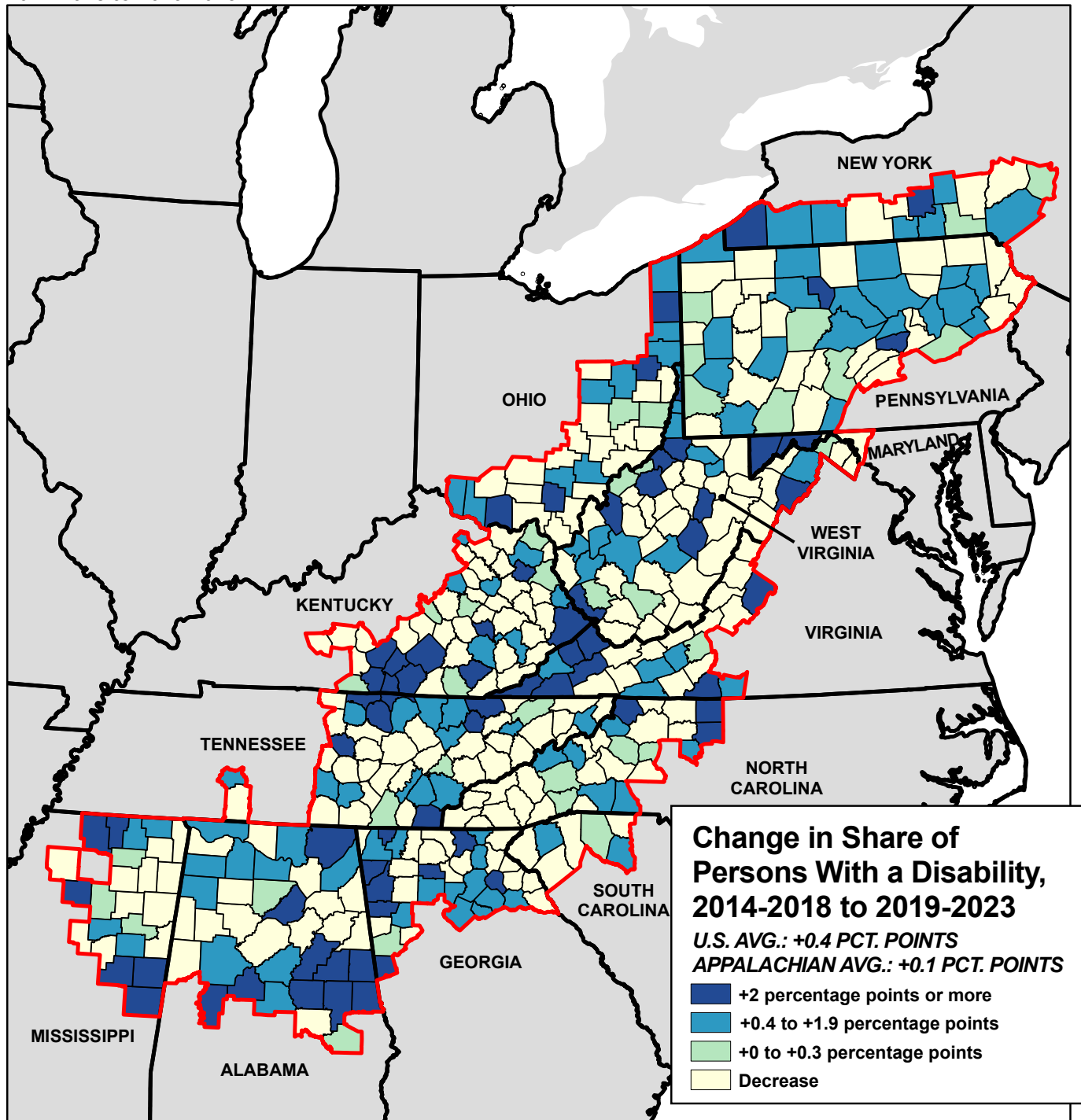
Table 11.3: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, by Age Group, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Disability Status	All Ages	Under Age 18	Ages 18-64			Ages 65 and Over
			Total	Ages 18-34	Ages 35-64	
United States	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 1.5	- 0.4	- 2.1
Appalachian Region	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	0.0	+ 1.3	- 0.6	- 2.0
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 1.9	- 0.1	- 2.1
North Central Appalachia	- 0.3	0.0	- 0.5	+ 1.0	- 1.3	- 2.4
Central Appalachia	+ 0.2	+ 1.0	- 0.4	+ 1.1	- 0.9	- 1.2
South Central Appalachia	- 0.3	+ 0.5	- 0.4	+ 0.8	- 1.0	- 2.0
Southern Appalachia	+ 0.3	+ 0.7	+ 0.1	+ 1.2	- 0.6	- 2.0
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	+ 0.5	+ 0.9	+ 0.2	+ 1.5	- 0.4	- 1.7
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	+ 0.2	+ 0.5	+ 0.1	+ 1.4	- 0.6	- 2.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	0.0	0.0	- 0.1	+ 1.4	- 0.8	- 1.7
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	- 0.2	+ 0.2	- 0.5	+ 0.6	- 0.8	- 2.0
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	- 0.1	+ 0.4	- 0.3	+ 0.8	- 0.8	- 2.4
Alabama	- 0.1	0.0	0.0	+ 0.8	- 0.4	- 2.6
Appalachian Alabama	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 1.0	- 0.1	- 2.2
Non-Appalachian Alabama	- 0.5	- 0.5	- 0.4	+ 0.4	- 1.0	- 3.4
Georgia	+ 0.6	+ 0.9	+ 0.4	+ 1.6	- 0.3	- 1.7
Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.6	+ 0.9	+ 0.3	+ 1.5	- 0.4	- 1.3
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 0.6	+ 0.9	+ 0.5	+ 1.5	- 0.2	- 1.9
Kentucky	+ 0.3	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	+ 2.1	- 0.7	- 2.3
Appalachian Kentucky	- 0.2	+ 0.6	- 0.7	+ 1.1	- 1.5	- 1.8
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 0.6	+ 0.5	+ 0.7	+ 2.3	- 0.2	- 2.3
Maryland	+ 0.5	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 1.3	- 0.1	- 1.7
Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.5	+ 1.4	- 0.1	+ 1.8	- 1.1	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.5	+ 1.2	- 0.1	- 1.8
Mississippi	+ 1.1	+ 1.3	+ 0.7	+ 1.9	- 0.1	- 1.1
Appalachian Mississippi	- 0.1	+ 1.7	- 0.5	+ 0.5	- 0.9	- 3.7
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 1.4	+ 1.3	+ 0.9	+ 2.3	0.0	- 0.3
New York	+ 0.7	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	+ 1.4	+ 0.2	- 1.4
Appalachian New York	+ 0.9	+ 0.4	+ 1.3	+ 2.4	+ 0.7	- 2.5
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.7	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	+ 1.3	+ 0.1	- 1.3
North Carolina	- 0.2	+ 0.1	- 0.4	+ 0.9	- 1.0	- 2.6
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 0.3	+ 0.7	+ 0.2	+ 1.5	- 0.4	- 2.0
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	- 0.3	0.0	- 0.4	+ 0.8	- 1.1	- 2.8
Ohio	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 1.5	- 0.6	- 1.7
Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	0.0	+ 0.9	- 0.3	- 0.5
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 1.6	- 0.6	- 2.0
Pennsylvania	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 1.8	- 0.4	- 2.3
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	+ 1.7	- 0.3	- 2.4
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 0.4	+ 0.8	+ 0.5	+ 1.8	- 0.3	- 2.2
South Carolina	- 0.3	+ 0.3	- 0.6	+ 0.8	- 1.4	- 2.3
Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.2	+ 0.7	- 0.5	+ 1.6	- 1.7	- 2.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	- 0.2	+ 0.1	- 0.6	+ 0.6	- 1.3	- 2.4
Tennessee	- 0.4	+ 0.5	- 0.8	+ 0.6	- 1.6	- 2.0
Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.5	+ 0.6	- 1.0	+ 0.6	- 1.8	- 1.6
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	- 0.3	+ 0.4	- 0.6	+ 0.6	- 1.3	- 2.5
Virginia	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	+ 1.3	0.0	- 1.6
Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.7	+ 0.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.1	+ 1.1	- 1.5
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 0.6	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	+ 1.5	0.0	- 1.5
West Virginia (entire state)	- 0.4	- 0.1	- 0.3	+ 1.6	- 1.2	- 3.6

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, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

Figure 11.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Persons in the Appalachian Region With a Disability, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

The share of Appalachian residents reporting a disability was 0.1 percentage points higher in 2019-2023 than it was in 2014-2018 – an increase that was 0.3 percentage points below the national average. Yet, there was variation throughout the Appalachian Region – in 213 counties the share of the population reporting a disability actually declined, while in 70 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 2014-2018, adults over 65 actually fell during this period. Even as the population of older adults rose between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023, the share with a disability decreased by two percentage points.

TRENDS IN DISABILITY STATUS

- At 16.2 percent in 2019-2023, the share of Appalachian residents reporting a disability was 0.1 percentage points higher than it was in 2014-2018 (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 (0.5 percentage points) and the Appalachian sections of New York (0.9 percentage points), Virginia (0.7 percentage points), Georgia (0.6 percentage points) and Maryland (0.5 percentage points). Conversely the share fell by at least 0.3 percentage points in North Central Appalachia, South Central Appalachia, West Virginia, and in Appalachian Tennessee.
- Disability prevalence in Appalachia increased among both children under age 18 and young adults ages 18-34 but decreased among persons ages 35-64 and adults 65 and over. In fact, older adults saw the most notable decrease in disability rates, dropping by two percentage points between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023. 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 – 1.3 percentage points – of adults in this age group who reported a disability in 2019-2023. Yet, there was also variation throughout the region. For example, in Appalachian Maryland and Mississippi, the share of children under 18 with a disability rose by more than one percentage point.
- The share of older adults in the Appalachian Region who reported a disability fell most notably of all – declining two percentage points between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023. West Virginia and Appalachian New York and Mississippi had notable decreases in disability incidence among this age group – with rates falling by at least 2.5 percentage points. The region's rural counties and the North Central subregion also had declines of 2.4 percentage points. Conversely, in the Appalachian portions of Ohio and Maryland, the share of older adults with a disability declined only slightly – by 0.5 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 and presumably better health overall, 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.

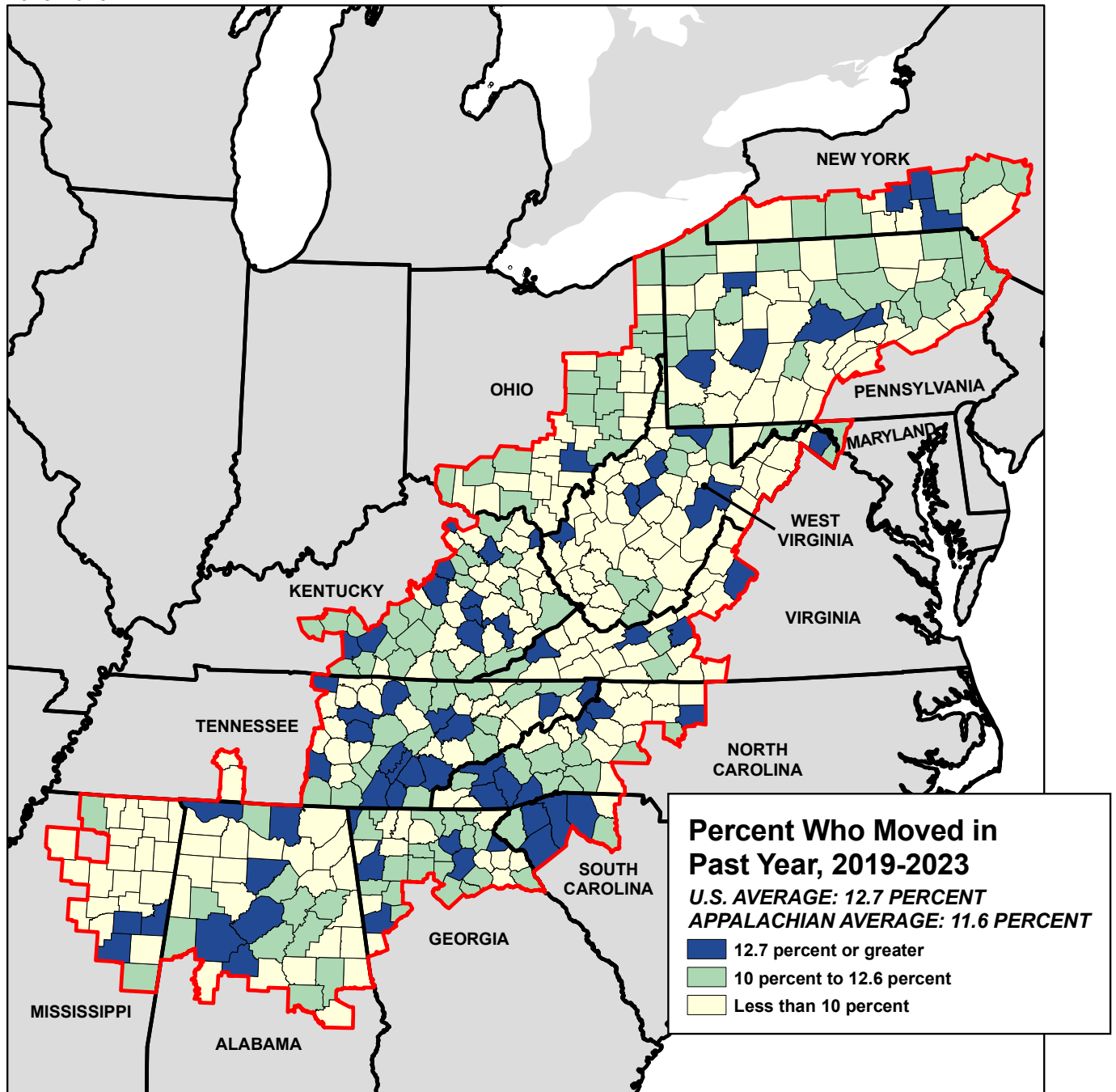
CHAPTER 12: MIGRATION

Table 12.1: Mobility Status of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2019-2023

Mobility Status in the Last Year	Total Population Ages 1 and Over, 2019-2023	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	328,888,644	87.3	12.7	6.6	6.1	3.2	2.9
Appalachian Region	26,070,175	88.4	11.6	5.8	5.8	3.3	2.5
Subregions							
Northern Appalachia	7,978,288	88.9	11.1	6.0	5.1	2.9	2.2
North Central Appalachia	2,464,958	88.8	11.2	5.7	5.5	3.1	2.4
Central Appalachia	1,838,225	89.4	10.6	5.3	5.3	3.5	1.8
South Central Appalachia	5,203,724	87.9	12.1	5.6	6.5	3.5	3.0
Southern Appalachia	8,584,980	88.0	12.0	5.7	6.3	3.6	2.7
County Types							
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	6,260,520	88.6	11.4	5.8	5.6	3.2	2.4
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	11,184,894	87.6	12.4	6.2	6.3	3.3	3.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	2,284,250	89.0	11.0	5.4	5.6	3.8	1.8
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	3,893,687	89.7	10.3	5.1	5.3	3.1	2.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	2,446,824	89.5	10.5	5.2	5.4	3.5	1.9
Alabama	5,000,035	87.8	12.2	6.6	5.6	2.9	2.7
Appalachian Alabama	3,226,811	87.8	12.2	6.6	5.5	3.2	2.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	1,773,224	87.7	12.3	6.6	5.7	2.4	3.3
Georgia	10,707,149	86.8	13.2	5.5	7.7	4.5	3.2
Appalachian Georgia	3,391,190	88.6	11.4	4.6	6.8	4.2	2.6
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7,315,959	85.9	14.1	5.9	8.2	4.6	3.5
Kentucky	4,463,103	87.1	12.9	6.7	6.2	3.4	2.7
Appalachian Kentucky	1,152,618	88.9	11.1	5.7	5.4	3.7	1.8
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	3,310,485	86.5	13.5	7.1	6.4	3.4	3.0
Maryland	6,104,094	88.3	11.7	5.6	6.1	2.9	3.2
Appalachian Maryland	249,147	88.3	11.7	6.5	5.2	2.9	2.3
Non-Appalachian Maryland	5,854,947	88.3	11.7	5.6	6.2	2.9	3.2
Mississippi	2,919,753	88.8	11.2	5.6	5.6	3.2	2.5
Appalachian Mississippi	603,353	89.6	10.4	5.2	5.3	3.3	1.9
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	2,316,400	88.6	11.4	5.7	5.7	3.2	2.6
New York	19,658,209	89.9	10.1	5.3	4.7	2.6	2.1
Appalachian New York	1,010,270	87.1	12.9	6.3	6.6	3.7	2.8
Non-Appalachian New York	18,647,939	90.1	9.9	5.3	4.6	2.6	2.1
North Carolina	10,474,040	86.7	13.3	6.0	7.3	3.7	3.6
Appalachian North Carolina	2,021,783	88.7	11.3	4.9	6.4	3.5	2.8
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	8,452,257	86.3	13.7	6.2	7.5	3.7	3.8
Ohio	11,651,784	87.6	12.4	7.2	5.3	3.2	2.0
Appalachian Ohio	1,958,350	89.5	10.5	5.7	4.8	3.1	1.7
Non-Appalachian Ohio	9,693,434	87.2	12.8	7.5	5.3	3.2	2.1
Pennsylvania	12,856,324	88.9	11.1	6.0	5.1	2.7	2.4
Appalachian Pennsylvania	5,633,057	89.0	11.0	6.0	4.9	2.8	2.2
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	7,223,267	88.8	11.2	5.9	5.2	2.7	2.5
South Carolina	5,159,595	86.9	13.1	5.8	7.3	3.2	4.1
Appalachian South Carolina	1,363,626	86.4	13.6	6.7	6.9	3.2	3.7
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	3,795,969	87.1	12.9	5.5	7.4	3.2	4.3
Tennessee	6,903,940	86.7	13.3	6.8	6.6	3.2	3.4
Appalachian Tennessee	2,967,357	87.4	12.6	6.2	6.4	3.4	3.1
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	3,936,583	86.1	13.9	7.2	6.7	3.1	3.6
Virginia	8,567,540	86.5	13.5	4.9	8.7	4.9	3.8
Appalachian Virginia	727,843	89.0	11.0	4.5	6.4	3.9	2.5
Non-Appalachian Virginia	7,839,697	86.2	13.8	4.9	8.9	5.0	3.9
West Virginia (entire state)	1,764,770	89.2	10.8	5.5	5.3	2.7	2.6

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

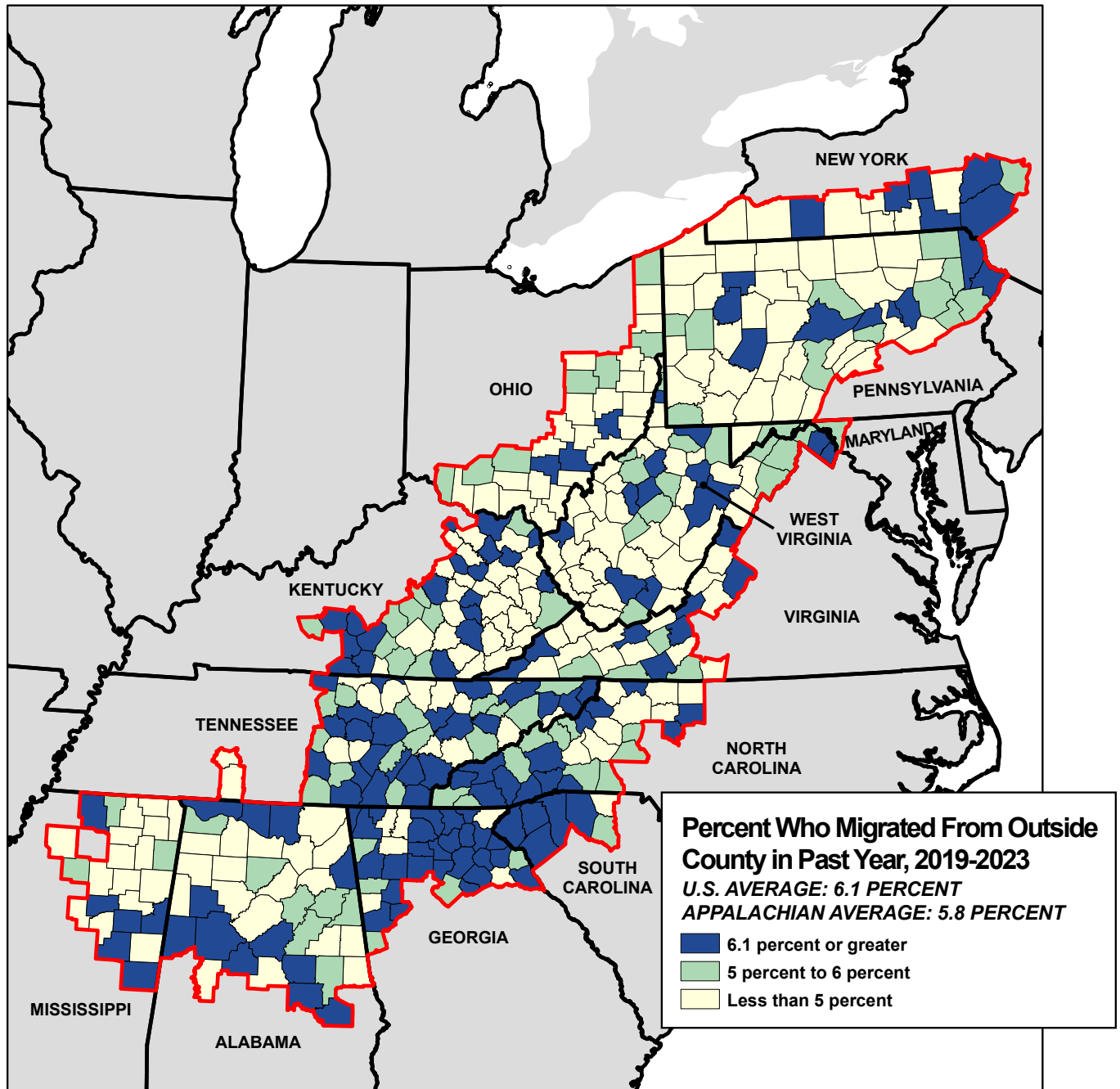
Figure 12.1: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Moved in the Past Year, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Moved in the Past Year, 2019-2023
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Residential mobility in the Appalachian Region was lower than the national average, including in all subregions and county types. In fact, the percentage of residents ages 1 and over who moved in the past year only matched or exceeded the U.S. average in 72 of Appalachia’s 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 (12.4 percent) among the county types. Among these 72 counties, 29 housed a four-year college or university and 22 had a share of renter-occupied housing units exceeding the national average of 35 percent. Conversely, in 222 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 143 had high rates of homeownership (with at least 75 percent of occupied housing units being owner-occupied in 2019-2023).

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, 2019-2023

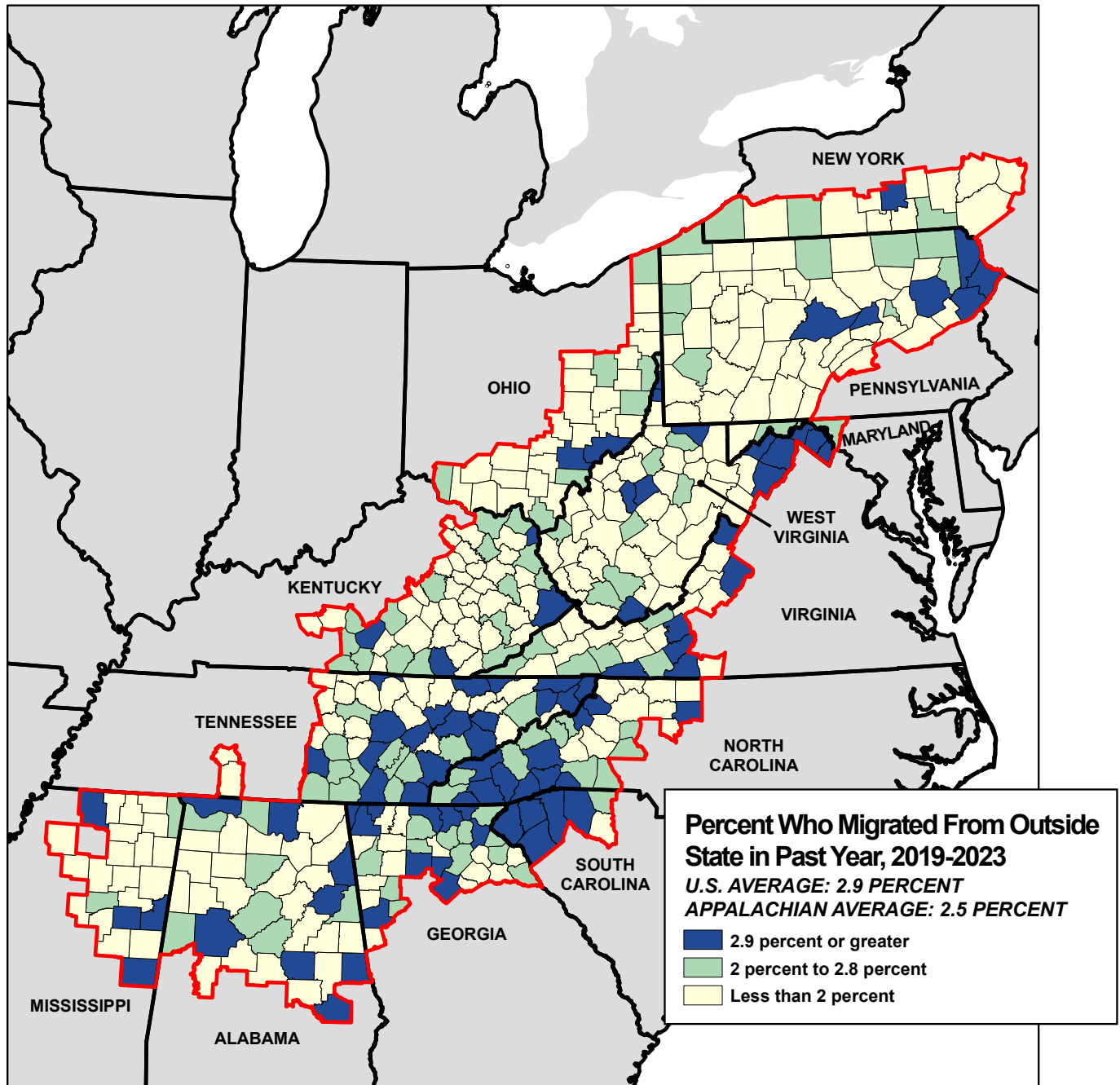


Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 1 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Had Migrated From Outside Their County of Residence in the Past Year, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

While people in Appalachia were slightly less likely to have migrated from outside their county of residence in the 2019-2023 period than Americans as a whole, residents in one-third of the Appalachian Region’s 423 counties had migration rates from outside their counties at or above the national average of 6.1 percent. These counties were mostly in the Southern and South Central subregions. 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 193 counties throughout Appalachia less than five percent of the residents had migrated from another county. More than two-thirds of these counties were outside metropolitan areas, and 58 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, 2019-2023



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, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

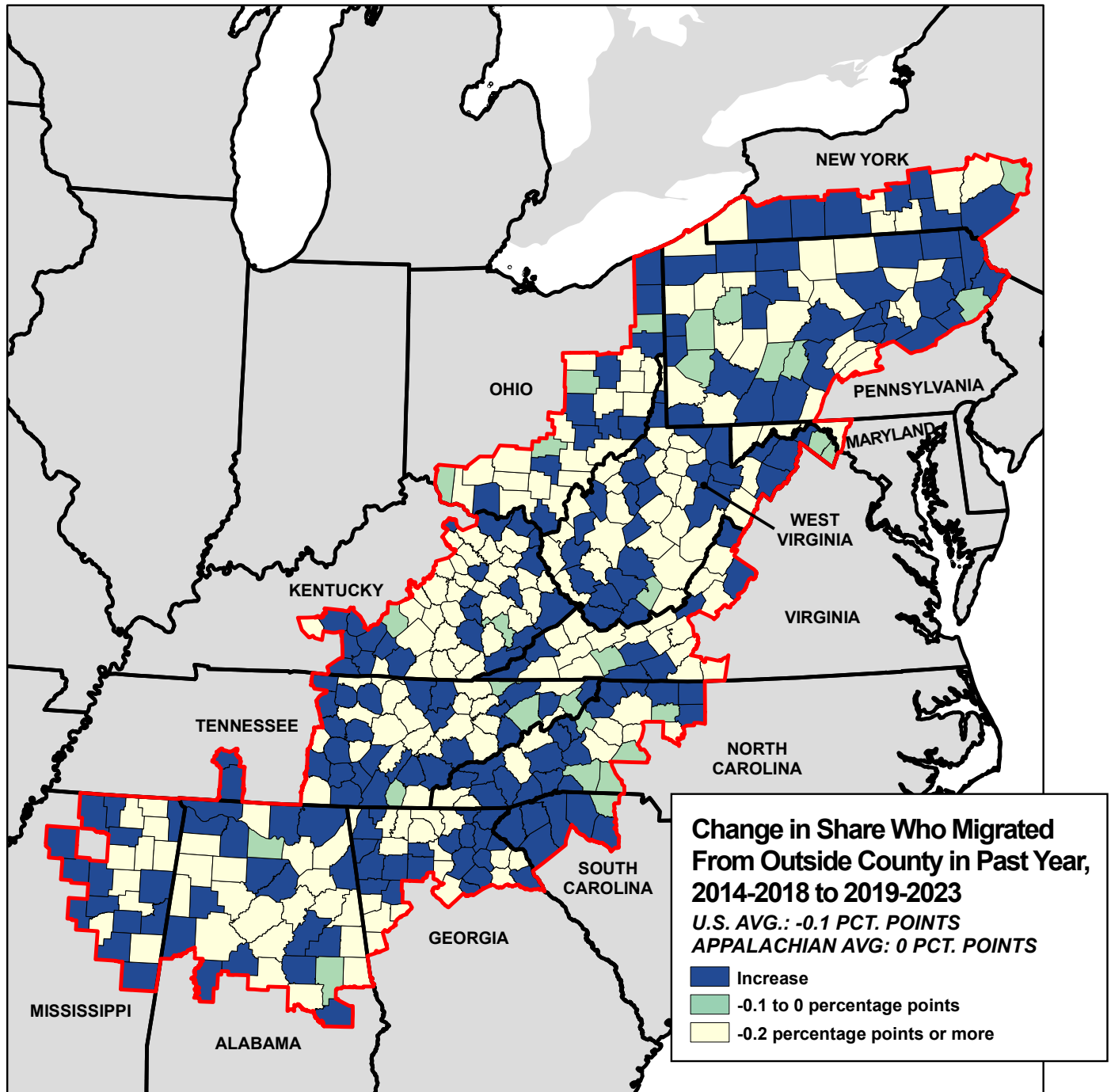
The share of people in the Appalachian Region who had migrated from outside their state of residence was 2.5 percent in the 2019-2023 period, compared with 2.9 percent of all Americans. Yet in 88 of Appalachia’s 423 counties, out-of-state migration levels were at or above the U.S. average. Most of these counties were in South Central and Southern Appalachia, and almost half 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 – nearly three in ten 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 – 24 of these counties was home to a four-year college or university. In contrast, in 240 Appalachian counties – primarily 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 2 and Over in the Appalachian Region, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	+ 1.8	- 1.8	- 1.6	- 0.1	0.0	- 0.1
Appalachian Region	+ 1.3	- 1.3	- 1.4	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	+ 1.2	- 1.2	- 1.4	+ 0.2	0.0	+ 0.1
North Central Appalachia	+ 1.1	- 1.1	- 1.0	- 0.2	- 0.2	0.0
Central Appalachia	+ 1.5	- 1.5	- 1.2	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.1
South Central Appalachia	+ 1.5	- 1.5	- 1.6	+ 0.1	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Southern Appalachia	+ 1.5	- 1.5	- 1.6	+ 0.1	- 0.1	+ 0.1
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	+ 1.3	- 1.3	- 1.2	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.0
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	+ 1.4	- 1.4	- 1.5	+ 0.2	0.0	+ 0.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	+ 1.4	- 1.4	- 1.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	+ 1.4	- 1.4	- 1.3	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	+ 1.4	- 1.4	- 1.2	- 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Alabama	+ 1.7	- 1.7	- 1.6	- 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Appalachian Alabama	+ 1.8	- 1.8	- 1.6	- 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Alabama	+ 1.6	- 1.6	- 1.6	- 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Georgia	+ 2.2	- 2.2	- 1.8	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.1
Appalachian Georgia	+ 1.2	- 1.2	- 1.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	0.0
Non-Appalachian Georgia	+ 2.5	- 2.5	- 2.1	- 0.4	- 0.4	- 0.1
Kentucky	+ 2.6	- 2.6	- 2.0	- 0.6	- 0.5	- 0.2
Appalachian Kentucky	+ 1.7	- 1.7	- 1.1	- 0.6	- 0.4	- 0.1
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	+ 2.9	- 2.9	- 2.3	- 0.6	- 0.4	- 0.2
Maryland	+ 2.1	- 2.1	- 1.8	- 0.3	0.0	- 0.3
Appalachian Maryland	+ 2.2	- 2.2	- 1.7	- 0.5	- 0.3	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	+ 2.1	- 2.1	- 1.8	- 0.2	0.0	- 0.3
Mississippi	+ 2.2	- 2.2	- 1.6	- 0.6	- 0.4	- 0.1
Appalachian Mississippi	+ 2.3	- 2.3	- 2.0	- 0.2	- 0.3	0.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	+ 2.2	- 2.2	- 1.5	- 0.7	- 0.4	- 0.2
New York	+ 0.4	- 0.4	- 0.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	0.0
Appalachian New York	+ 1.0	- 1.0	- 1.7	+ 0.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Non-Appalachian New York	+ 0.4	- 0.4	- 0.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	0.0
North Carolina	+ 1.9	- 1.9	- 2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Appalachian North Carolina	+ 1.4	- 1.4	- 1.7	+ 0.3	0.0	+ 0.2
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	+ 2.2	- 2.2	- 2.1	- 0.1	0.0	- 0.1
Ohio	+ 2.4	- 2.4	- 2.0	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.1
Appalachian Ohio	+ 1.8	- 1.8	- 1.6	- 0.2	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Ohio	+ 2.5	- 2.5	- 2.1	- 0.4	- 0.3	- 0.1
Pennsylvania	+ 1.2	- 1.2	- 1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.1	- 1.1	- 1.2	0.0	0.0	+ 0.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	+ 1.3	- 1.3	- 1.3	- 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.2
South Carolina	+ 1.6	- 1.6	- 1.8	+ 0.2	0.0	+ 0.2
Appalachian South Carolina	+ 1.5	- 1.5	- 1.8	+ 0.3	- 0.1	+ 0.4
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	+ 1.7	- 1.7	- 1.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Tennessee	+ 1.5	- 1.5	- 1.6	+ 0.2	0.0	+ 0.1
Appalachian Tennessee	+ 1.2	- 1.2	- 1.5	+ 0.2	0.0	+ 0.3
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	+ 1.6	- 1.6	- 1.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	0.0
Virginia	+ 2.0	- 2.0	- 1.7	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.2
Appalachian Virginia	+ 2.4	- 2.4	- 1.8	- 0.8	- 0.6	- 0.2
Non-Appalachian Virginia	+ 2.0	- 2.0	- 1.7	- 0.3	0.0	- 0.3
West Virginia (entire state)	+ 0.8	- 0.8	- 0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



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, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

In Appalachia, the share of individuals migrating from outside their county of residence remained unchanged between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023, while the national average decreased very slightly (-0.1 percentage points). Indeed, the share increased in 197 of the Appalachian Region’s 423 counties. In another 213 counties, the share decreased by at least as much as the national average between the two periods. There was considerable variation between states in the Appalachian Region – Appalachian New York and the Carolinas had higher increases in out-of-county migration (at least 0.3 percentage points in each), while the Appalachian sections of Kentucky, Maryland, and Virginia saw out-of-county migration fall by at least 0.5 percentage points during the same period.

TRENDS IN MIGRATION

- Like Americans as a whole, Appalachian residents were slightly less mobile in 2019-2023 than they were in 2014-2018. Between the two periods, the share of persons in Appalachia who had moved from a different residence in the past year decreased by 1.3 percentage points, to 11.6 percent in 2019-2023 (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 was greatest in Appalachian Virginia, where the share moving in the previous year fell 2.4 percentage points. Other portions of Appalachia where the decline exceeded the regional average of 1.3 percentage points included Central, South Central, and Southern Appalachia by 1.5 percentage points each and all county types decreased by 1.4 percentage points except for large metro counties. By states, the decline exceeded two percentage points in the Appalachian portions of Virginia (2.4), Mississippi (2.3), and Maryland (2.2).
- The percentage of Appalachian residents in 2019-2023 migrating from outside their county of residence stayed the same since 2014-2018. Meanwhile, there was a slight decline by 0.1 percentage points in out-of-county migration for the nation as a whole. However, increases were also clear in varying parts of the region. Notably, the Appalachian portions of New York (0.7), the Carolinas (0.3 each), Tennessee (0.2), and Georgia (0.1), small metropolitan counties (0.2), and nonmetropolitan counties adjacent to large metros (0.3) all had increases. On the other hand, the share decreased by at least half of a percentage point in the Appalachian sections of Virginia (0.8), Kentucky (0.6), and Maryland (0.5).
- 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 2019-2023 time period than was the case in 2014-2018.

CHAPTER 13: VETERAN STATUS

Table 13.1: Number of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, by Age Group and Gender, 2019-2023

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	16,569,149	1,390,967	7,019,301	8,158,881	14,907,774	1,661,375
Appalachian Region	1,501,753	104,964	607,600	789,189	1,381,006	120,747
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	476,346	29,637	181,466	265,243	442,748	33,598
North Central Appalachia	154,259	10,972	63,024	80,263	143,879	10,380
Central Appalachia	94,843	6,321	36,238	52,284	88,522	6,321
South Central Appalachia	318,229	20,570	122,440	175,219	290,720	27,509
Southern Appalachia	458,076	37,464	204,432	216,180	415,137	42,939
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	323,464	23,751	137,789	161,924	296,023	27,441
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	663,994	48,428	271,269	344,297	607,846	56,148
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	138,960	9,910	55,832	73,218	128,760	10,200
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	243,874	14,017	94,521	135,336	226,011	17,863
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	131,461	8,858	48,189	74,414	122,366	9,095
Alabama	310,187	24,116	142,971	143,100	277,052	33,135
Appalachian Alabama	186,409	14,649	84,652	87,108	167,613	18,796
Non-Appalachian Alabama	123,778	9,467	58,319	55,992	109,439	14,339
Georgia	608,876	53,581	303,695	251,600	531,371	77,505
Appalachian Georgia	169,050	13,241	77,419	78,390	153,748	15,302
Non-Appalachian Georgia	439,826	40,340	226,276	173,210	377,623	62,203
Kentucky	235,118	17,418	104,419	113,281	213,235	21,883
Appalachian Kentucky	55,596	3,859	21,853	29,884	51,867	3,729
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	179,522	13,559	82,566	83,397	161,368	18,154
Maryland	332,655	25,826	163,252	143,577	285,071	47,584
Appalachian Maryland	15,416	1,240	5,988	8,188	14,222	1,194
Non-Appalachian Maryland	317,239	24,586	157,264	135,389	270,849	46,390
Mississippi	153,838	13,267	69,705	70,866	137,144	16,694
Appalachian Mississippi	27,666	3,230	10,854	13,582	25,422	2,244
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	126,172	10,037	58,851	57,284	111,722	14,450
New York	607,728	44,141	228,564	335,023	558,698	49,030
Appalachian New York	58,809	4,004	22,495	32,310	54,365	4,444
Non-Appalachian New York	548,919	40,137	206,069	302,713	504,333	44,586
North Carolina	618,846	60,542	276,200	282,104	545,148	73,698
Appalachian North Carolina	117,214	7,264	42,117	67,833	106,671	10,543
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	501,632	53,278	234,083	214,271	438,477	63,155
Ohio	626,617	46,224	259,532	320,861	574,505	52,112
Appalachian Ohio	120,011	7,612	48,352	64,047	111,813	8,198
Non-Appalachian Ohio	506,606	38,612	211,180	256,814	462,692	43,914
Pennsylvania	656,112	43,279	249,054	363,779	605,976	50,136
Appalachian Pennsylvania	335,537	20,744	126,452	188,341	312,379	23,158
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	320,575	22,535	122,602	175,438	293,597	26,978
South Carolina	344,530	27,811	152,232	164,487	305,655	38,875
Appalachian South Carolina	74,951	6,344	31,507	37,100	68,354	6,597
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	269,579	21,467	120,725	127,387	237,301	32,278
Tennessee	406,307	34,237	179,098	192,972	365,809	40,498
Appalachian Tennessee	189,990	12,834	75,833	101,323	174,094	15,896
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	216,317	21,403	103,265	91,649	191,715	24,602
Virginia	637,971	58,384	334,494	245,093	544,533	93,438
Appalachian Virginia	41,647	2,554	16,292	22,801	38,488	3,159
Non-Appalachian Virginia	596,324	55,830	318,202	222,292	506,045	90,279
West Virginia (entire state)	109,457	7,389	43,786	58,282	101,970	7,487

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, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

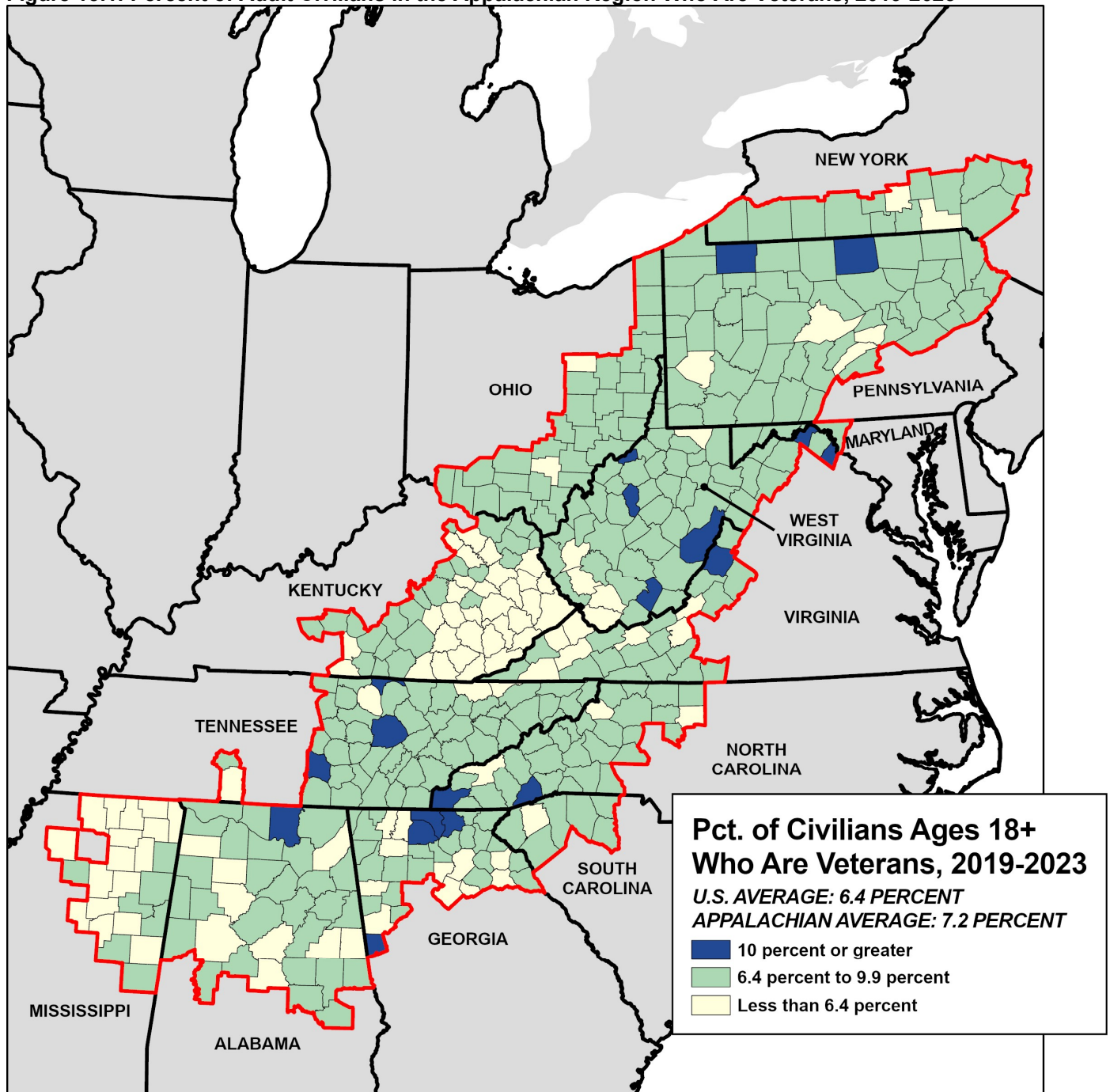
Table 13.2: Percent of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, by Age Group and Gender, 2019-2023

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	6.4	1.9	5.5	14.6	11.9	1.3
Appalachian Region	7.2	1.9	6.0	15.8	13.6	1.1
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	7.4	1.7	5.9	15.8	13.8	1.0
North Central Appalachia	7.8	2.1	6.6	16.2	14.7	1.0
Central Appalachia	6.5	1.7	5.0	14.5	12.3	0.9
South Central Appalachia	7.6	1.8	6.1	16.4	14.3	1.3
Southern Appalachia	6.9	2.0	6.1	15.4	12.9	1.2
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	6.6	1.8	5.5	15.1	12.4	1.1
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	7.4	1.9	6.3	16.1	13.9	1.2
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	7.7	2.1	6.3	16.2	14.3	1.1
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	7.8	1.8	6.3	16.2	14.6	1.1
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	6.7	1.7	5.2	14.8	12.7	0.9
Alabama	7.9	2.2	7.5	16.2	14.9	1.6
Appalachian Alabama	7.4	2.0	6.8	15.4	13.8	1.4
Non-Appalachian Alabama	9.0	2.4	8.8	17.6	16.9	2.0
Georgia	7.4	2.2	7.3	15.9	13.5	1.8
Appalachian Georgia	6.5	1.8	5.7	15.7	12.2	1.2
Non-Appalachian Georgia	7.8	2.3	8.1	16.0	14.1	2.1
Kentucky	6.8	1.8	6.1	14.8	12.6	1.2
Appalachian Kentucky	6.1	1.6	4.8	14.0	11.6	0.8
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	7.0	1.8	6.5	15.0	12.9	1.4
Maryland	7.0	2.0	6.7	14.3	12.5	1.9
Appalachian Maryland	7.7	2.3	6.1	16.9	13.9	1.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	7.0	1.9	6.7	14.2	12.5	1.9
Mississippi	6.9	2.0	6.3	14.3	12.8	1.4
Appalachian Mississippi	5.9	2.3	4.9	12.8	11.4	0.9
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	7.1	2.0	6.7	14.7	13.2	1.5
New York	3.9	1.0	3.0	9.7	7.4	0.6
Appalachian New York	7.1	1.6	6.0	15.7	13.4	1.1
Non-Appalachian New York	3.7	0.9	2.8	9.3	7.0	0.6
North Carolina	7.6	2.6	6.8	15.8	14.0	1.7
Appalachian North Carolina	7.2	1.7	5.4	15.7	13.5	1.2
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	7.7	2.8	7.2	15.8	14.1	1.9
Ohio	6.8	1.8	5.8	15.3	12.9	1.1
Appalachian Ohio	7.7	1.9	6.4	16.3	14.5	1.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	6.7	1.8	5.7	15.0	12.5	1.1
Pennsylvania	6.4	1.5	5.0	14.7	12.1	0.9
Appalachian Pennsylvania	7.3	1.7	5.8	15.8	13.8	1.0
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	5.6	1.4	4.4	13.7	10.7	0.9
South Carolina	8.5	2.5	7.7	17.1	15.8	1.8
Appalachian South Carolina	7.0	2.0	6.1	15.6	13.3	1.2
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	9.1	2.7	8.3	17.6	16.8	2.1
Tennessee	7.5	2.2	6.7	16.5	14.0	1.4
Appalachian Tennessee	8.0	2.0	6.6	17.3	15.0	1.3
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	7.1	2.3	6.8	15.6	13.2	1.6
Virginia	9.6	3.1	10.0	17.4	17.0	2.7
Appalachian Virginia	6.9	1.6	5.9	14.3	12.9	1.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	9.9	3.2	10.4	17.8	17.4	2.9
West Virginia (entire state)	7.7	2.0	6.4	15.8	14.5	1.0

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 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Figure 13.1: Percent of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2019-2023

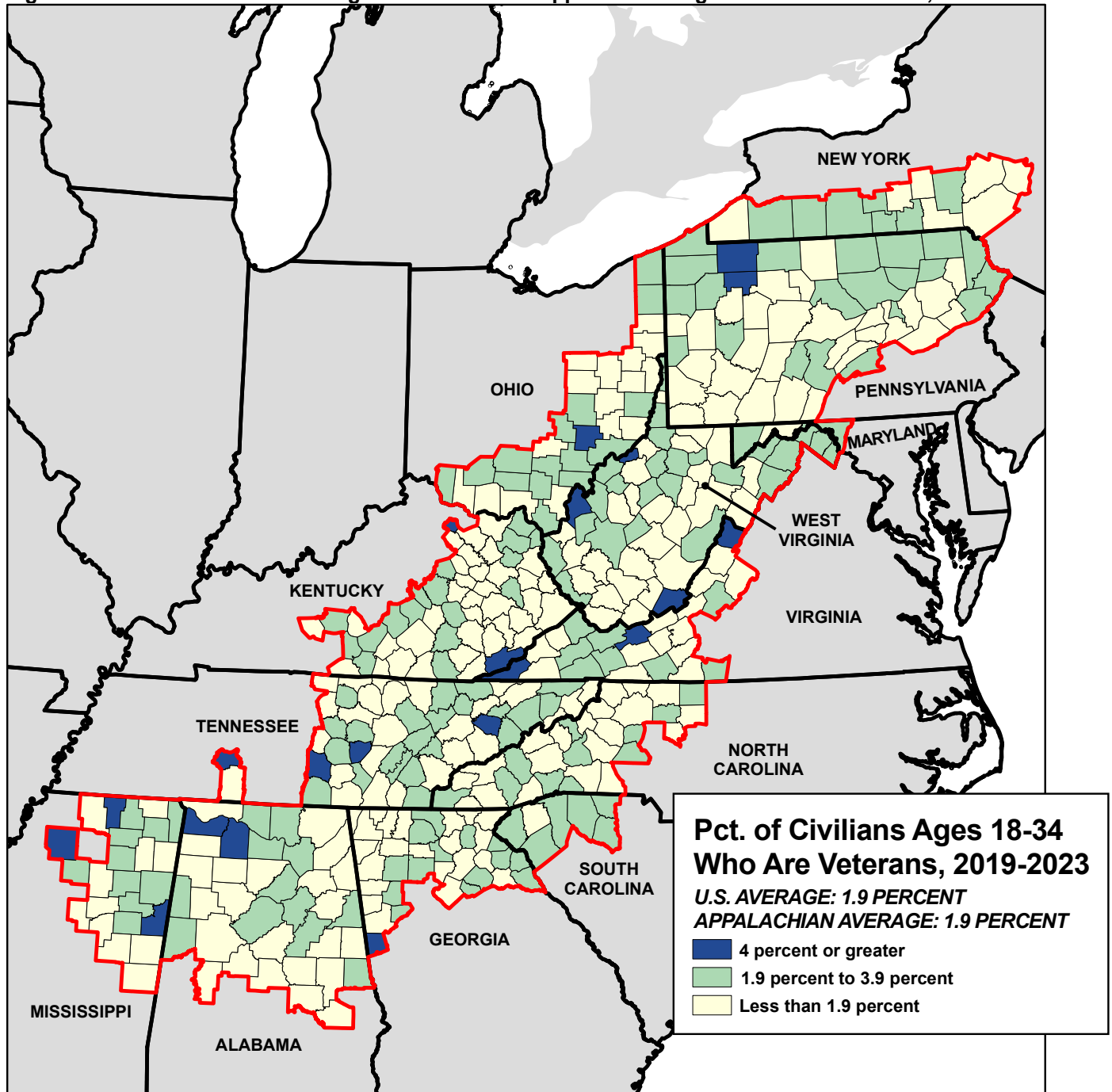


Map Title: Percent of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

In 2019-2023, 7.2 percent of adult civilians (more than 1.5 million) ages 18 and over in the Appalachian Region were veterans – 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). While the percentage is slightly higher than the national share of 6.4 percent, there was considerable variation throughout the Appalachian Region. In 19 Appalachian counties, for example, at least one in 10 civilian residents were veterans. Additionally, in West Virginia and the Appalachian portions of Alabama, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, 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 96 counties; a large majority of the counties in this group were in the Appalachian portions of Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Virginia – where the share of veterans among adult civilians was less than seven percent.

Figure 13.2: Percent of Civilians Ages 18 to 34 in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2019-2023

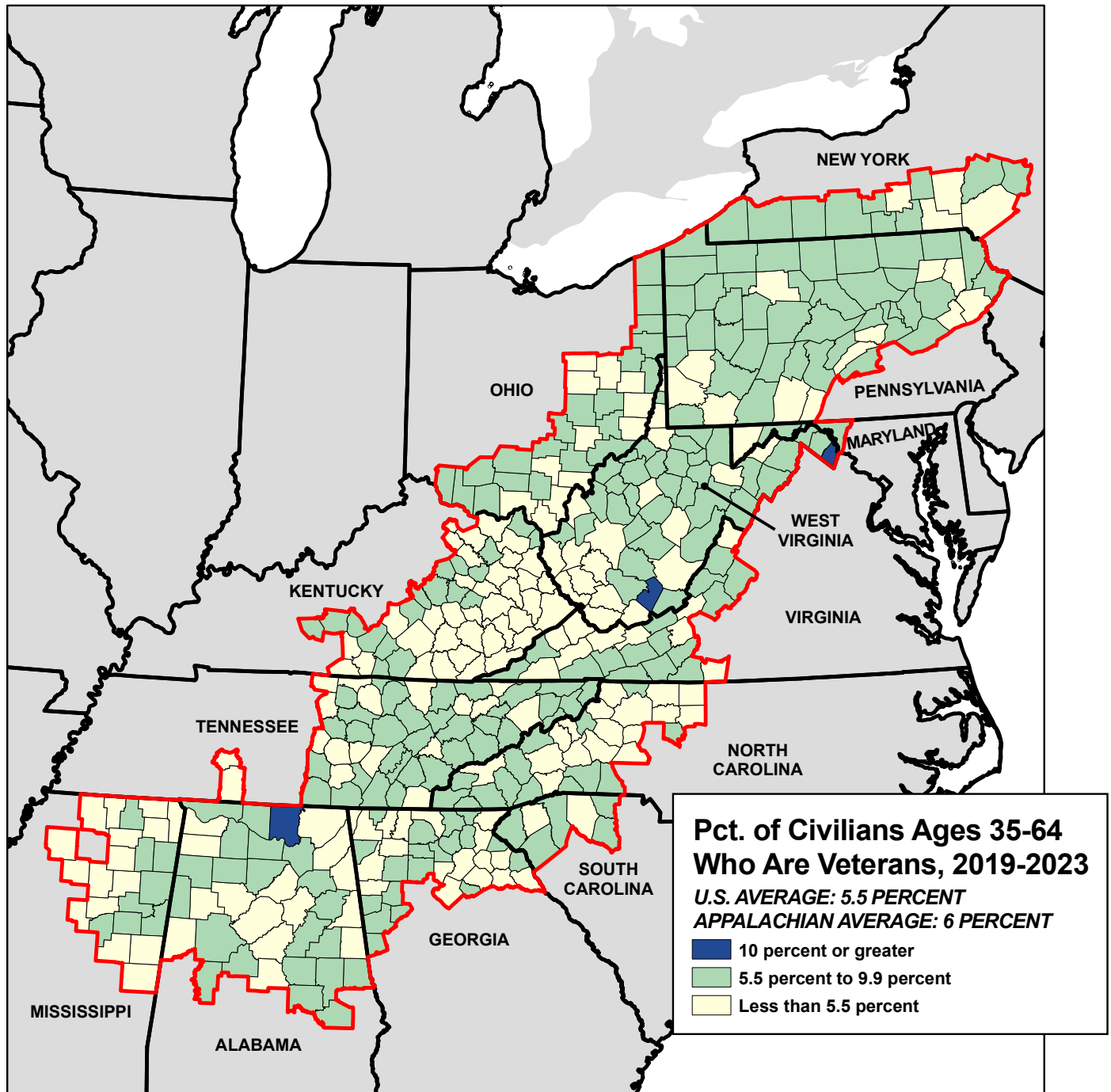


Map Title: Percent of Civilians Ages 18 to 34 in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Military veterans accounted for 1.9 percent of Appalachia’s young adult (ages 18-34) civilian population in the 2019-2023 period, the same share as it was nationally. Yet in 191 of Appalachia’s 423 counties, the prevalence was at or above 1.9 percent. 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, were in the post 9-11 era including Afghanistan.

Figure 13.3: Percent of Civilians Ages 35 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2019-2023

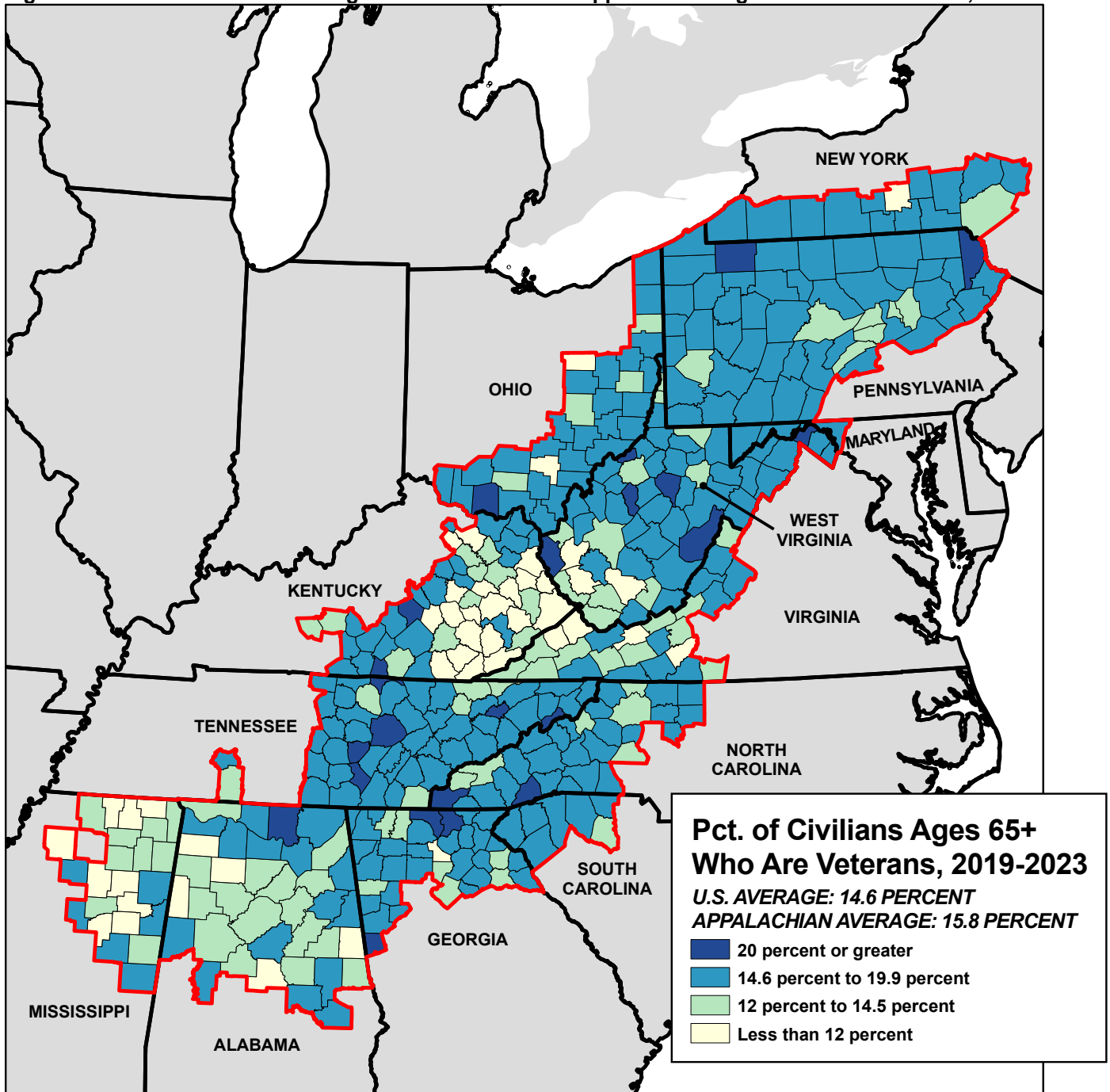


Map Title: Percent of Civilians Ages 35 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

In the Appalachian Region, six percent of 35-to-64-year-old civilian residents were military veterans in 2019-2023, compared with 5.5 percent in the U.S. overall. The prevalence was even higher in some counties: In 244 counties, the percentage of veterans among civilians ages 35 to 64 was equivalent to or greater than the national average of 5.5 (in three of which, veterans comprised at least one in 10 civilians ages 35 to 64). Yet in 179 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, both the largest metropolitan areas and rural counties had the lowest share of veterans in this age group at less than six percent of the 35-to-64-year-old civilian population. For context, veterans of the 1991 Gulf War fall into this age group.

Figure 13.4: Percent of Civilians Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2019-2023



Map Title: Percent of Civilians Ages 65 and Over in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2019-2023

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

In 2019-2023, 15.8 percent of Appalachia’s civilian residents ages 65 and over were military veterans – most of whom served during World War II and the wars in Korea and Vietnam. Yet there is some variation within the Appalachian Region. For example, at least one in five older civilians were veterans in 23 of Appalachia’s 423 counties – 13 of which were in North Central and South Central Appalachia, the only two subregions where the overall share exceeded 16 percent. In contrast, there were 45 counties where veterans comprised less than 12 percent of the older civilian residents. More than half of these counties were in Central Appalachia, where the overall share of older adult civilians who were veterans was less than 15 percent.

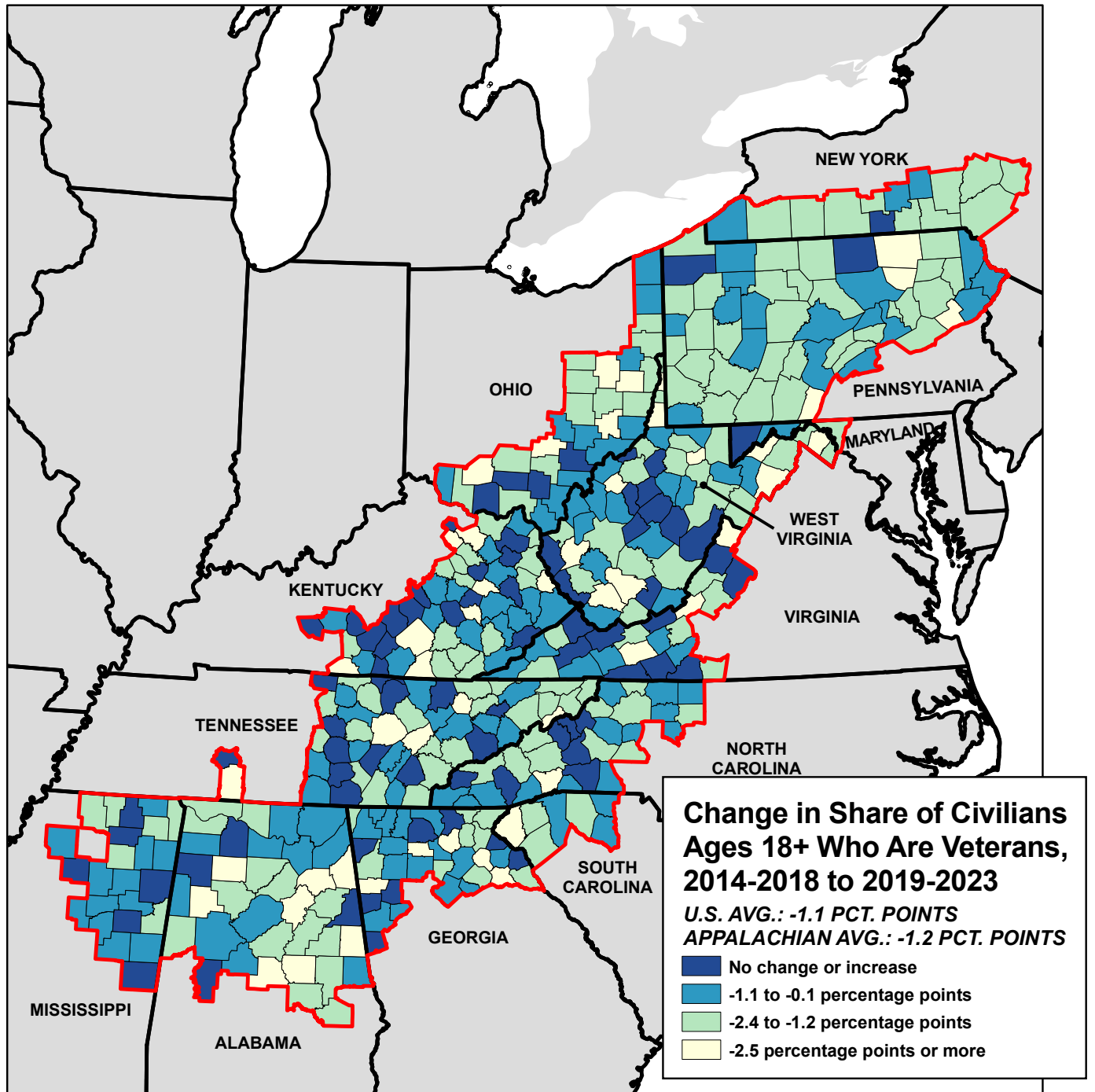
Table 13.3: Percentage Point Change in Veteran Status of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region, by Age Group and Gender, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

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	-0.7	-4.1	-2.2	0.0
Appalachian Region	-1.2	-0.2	-0.8	-4.2	-2.6	-0.1
Subregions						
Northern Appalachia	-1.5	-0.4	-0.9	-5.2	-3.2	-0.1
North Central Appalachia	-1.4	-0.2	-0.9	-4.8	-2.9	-0.2
Central Appalachia	-0.8	-0.2	-0.7	-2.8	-1.8	+0.1
South Central Appalachia	-1.1	-0.3	-0.7	-3.5	-2.5	+0.1
Southern Appalachia	-1.0	-0.1	-0.7	-3.7	-2.1	-0.1
County Types						
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	-1.3	-0.2	-0.8	-4.9	-2.7	-0.1
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	-1.3	-0.3	-0.9	-4.3	-2.9	0.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	-1.1	0.0	-0.8	-3.9	-2.4	0.0
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	-1.2	-0.5	-0.5	-3.8	-2.5	0.0
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	-0.8	0.0	-0.4	-3.2	-1.7	0.0
Alabama	-1.0	-0.2	-0.7	-3.5	-2.1	0.0
Appalachian Alabama	-1.1	-0.3	-0.8	-4.0	-2.5	0.0
Non-Appalachian Alabama	-0.7	-0.3	-0.6	-2.6	-1.4	0.0
Georgia	-0.8	-0.3	-0.6	-3.3	-1.7	0.0
Appalachian Georgia	-0.8	-0.2	-0.5	-3.5	-1.5	-0.1
Non-Appalachian Georgia	-0.8	-0.5	-0.6	-3.3	-1.8	0.0
Kentucky	-1.2	-0.5	-0.9	-4.0	-2.7	0.0
Appalachian Kentucky	-0.9	-0.2	-0.8	-3.0	-1.9	0.0
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	-1.4	-0.7	-1.0	-4.5	-3.0	+0.1
Maryland	-1.0	-0.6	-0.7	-4.0	-2.3	0.0
Appalachian Maryland	-1.4	-0.1	-1.8	-3.1	-2.7	-0.2
Non-Appalachian Maryland	-1.0	-0.7	-0.7	-4.1	-2.3	0.0
Mississippi	-0.6	-0.1	-0.6	-2.9	-1.4	0.0
Appalachian Mississippi	-0.6	+0.8	-0.7	-2.8	-1.2	0.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	-0.7	-0.2	-0.6	-2.9	-1.4	0.0
New York	-0.8	-0.1	-0.4	-3.9	-1.8	0.0
Appalachian New York	-1.4	-0.1	-1.2	-4.2	-2.6	0.0
Non-Appalachian New York	-0.8	-0.2	-0.4	-3.9	-1.8	0.0
North Carolina	-1.0	-0.4	-0.9	-3.2	-2.3	0.0
Appalachian North Carolina	-1.3	-0.5	-0.8	-3.9	-3.0	+0.1
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	-0.9	-0.3	-0.8	-3.0	-2.1	+0.1
Ohio	-1.3	-0.3	-0.9	-4.3	-2.6	0.0
Appalachian Ohio	-1.3	-0.3	-0.7	-4.7	-2.9	0.0
Non-Appalachian Ohio	-1.2	-0.3	-0.9	-4.3	-2.6	-0.1
Pennsylvania	-1.3	-0.2	-0.8	-5.1	-2.9	-0.1
Appalachian Pennsylvania	-1.6	-0.4	-0.8	-5.4	-3.2	-0.1
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	-1.2	-0.1	-0.7	-4.8	-2.5	0.0
South Carolina	-1.1	-0.5	-0.8	-3.7	-2.5	+0.1
Appalachian South Carolina	-1.3	-0.4	-0.8	-4.1	-2.8	+0.1
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	-0.9	-0.6	-0.8	-3.5	-2.3	+0.2
Tennessee	-1.0	-0.3	-0.7	-3.2	-2.1	0.0
Appalachian Tennessee	-1.0	-0.3	-0.7	-3.0	-2.3	+0.1
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	-1.0	-0.4	-0.7	-3.5	-2.0	0.0
Virginia	-1.0	-1.0	-0.6	-3.5	-2.2	0.0
Appalachian Virginia	-0.8	+0.1	-0.1	-3.6	-1.5	0.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	-1.1	-1.1	-0.7	-3.5	-2.3	0.0
West Virginia (entire state)	-1.5	-0.3	-1.0	-5.1	-3.2	-0.1

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 Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

Figure 13.5: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023



Map Title: Percentage Point Change in the Share of Adult Civilians in the Appalachian Region Who Are Veterans, 2014-2018 to 2019-2023

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 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 2019-2023 period than it was in 2014-2018 – 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 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, Mississippi, and Virginia. There was also significant variation at the county level – in 50 Appalachian counties, veterans’ share of the population fell by at least 2.5 percentage points. Yet the share actually stayed the same or increased in 82 other counties.

TRENDS IN VETERAN STATUS

- In Appalachia, the share of adult civilians who were military veterans declined by 1.2 percentage points between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023, falling to 7.2 percent (see Tables 13.2 and 13.3). The decrease was least pronounced in the Appalachian Region's rural counties (0.8 percentage points) and most pronounced in large and small metropolitan counties (1.3 percentage points each). Among the states, Appalachian Pennsylvania saw the largest decrease at 1.6 percentage points, while the share fell by just 0.6 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's share of civilian adults who were veterans fell most, by 1.5 percentage points.
- 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 0.2 percentage points among younger civilians ages 18 to 34, it declined 0.8 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 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 2014-2018 and 2019-2023, 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 13.6 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, 107 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 higher concentrations of rural counties in several states including Mississippi, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. There are 841 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 2023 than rural counties outside the Appalachian Region – 3.8 percent versus 0.4 percent (see Table A.1). The population in rural Appalachia is also older with a median age of 42.3 years versus 41.2 years and has a smaller share of residents under age 18 – 20.7 percent versus 22.1 percent.

Rural Appalachia is also much less racially and ethnically varied, with only 12.9 percent of the population being people of color, compared with 26.1 percent in the rest of rural America. However, the comparative shares vary among racial/ethnic groups. For example, there is a slightly higher concentration of non-Hispanic Black people in rural Appalachia than in rural counties outside the region – 7.9 percent compared with 6.4 percent, while there is a much smaller share of Hispanic people – 2.7 percent versus 11.9 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 2.2 percentage points between 2010 and 2023. This compares with an increase of 3.3 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 percent of rural Appalachian residents have completed high school or more, compared with 89.6 percent of rural residents outside the Appalachian Region. About 19.5 percent of working-age adults in rural Appalachia have completed a bachelor's degree or more, compared with 24.3 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 – 10.3 percent versus 11.3 percent.

Among adults ages 25 and over with a bachelor's degree, slightly more than one-fourth (26.3 percent) of rural Appalachian residents reported their first major was in a science and engineering field compared with 31.9 percent of rural adults outside Appalachia. These differences in education levels are also 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 five percentage points lower in rural Appalachia – 70.2 versus 75.4 percent – but the share of housing units that are mobile homes is much higher – 19.4 percent compared with only 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 (20.6 percent and 21 percent, respectively), rural Appalachia has a noticeably smaller share of these vacant units that are designated for seasonal or recreational use (38.6 percent versus 52.2 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 (88.5 percent) and the share with a broadband (high-speed) Internet connection (81.4 percent) are at least three percentage points lower than for households in rural counties outside the region. Further, 15.5 percent of rural Appalachian households had no access to the Internet in 2019-2023, compared with 12.3 percent of other rural households. Yet, access to digital resources is increasing more rapidly in the Appalachian Region than in the rest of the nation's rural counties – with a rise in device ownership two percentage points higher and a rise in broadband internet access that is 1.8 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 8.4 percentage points lower than in rural counties outside the Appalachian Region, and the unemployment rate is slightly higher – 4.8 percent versus 3.8 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 counties were more likely to drive alone to work (80 percent) than workers in rural counties outside the region (76.6 percent).

Almost 32 percent of rural Appalachian workers commuted outside their county of residence compared with about one-fifth of 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, with an average travel time of nearly 25 minutes. By comparison, 23.4 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 just over 20 minutes. These commuting patterns include the coronavirus pandemic beginning in March 2020 and reflect the experience of rural workers throughout the peak of pandemic shutdowns.

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 \$50,699, median household income in rural Appalachian counties is more than \$10,000 below that of households in rural counties in the rest of the country (\$62,346). Almost one-fifth of rural Appalachian residents live in poverty compared with less than 15 percent of persons in rural counties outside the Appalachian Region. This gap is even wider among children (5.5 percentage points) and young adults ages 18 to 24 (5.7 percentage points). Although the gap is smaller, even rural Appalachian adults ages 65 and over have a poverty rate that is nearly three 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 2019-2023, this share was nearly half (47.2 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 2019-2023 was much lower (by 4.3 and six percentage points, respectively). In the Appalachian Region, more than one-fourth (26.8 percent) of rural households with children received Food Stamps/SNAP compared with only 20.5 percent of such households 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 of residents in rural Appalachian counties lack health insurance coverage, 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 (0.9 percentage points) between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 than the share in rural areas in the rest of the country (one percentage point).

Adults between the ages of 26 and 34 were the highest share without health insurance coverage in Appalachia, with 16.5 percent lacking health insurance in 2019-2023. And although the share of young adults ages 19 to 25 in rural Appalachia who lack health insurance coverage is nearly three percentage points lower than for young adults in rural areas outside the region, it is important to note that 14.5 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-fifth of rural Appalachian residents have a disability compared with 16.5 percent of residents of rural counties outside the Appalachian Region. However, this gap widens to six percentage points among adults ages 35 to 64 and just over five percentage points among those ages 65 and older. In rural Appalachia, more than one in five (22.6 percent) working-age adults ages 35 to 64 and 41.2 percent of adults ages 65 and older have a disability. By comparison, the respective shares are only 16.6 percent and 36.1 percent for adults in these two age groups in rural counties in the rest of the country. 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

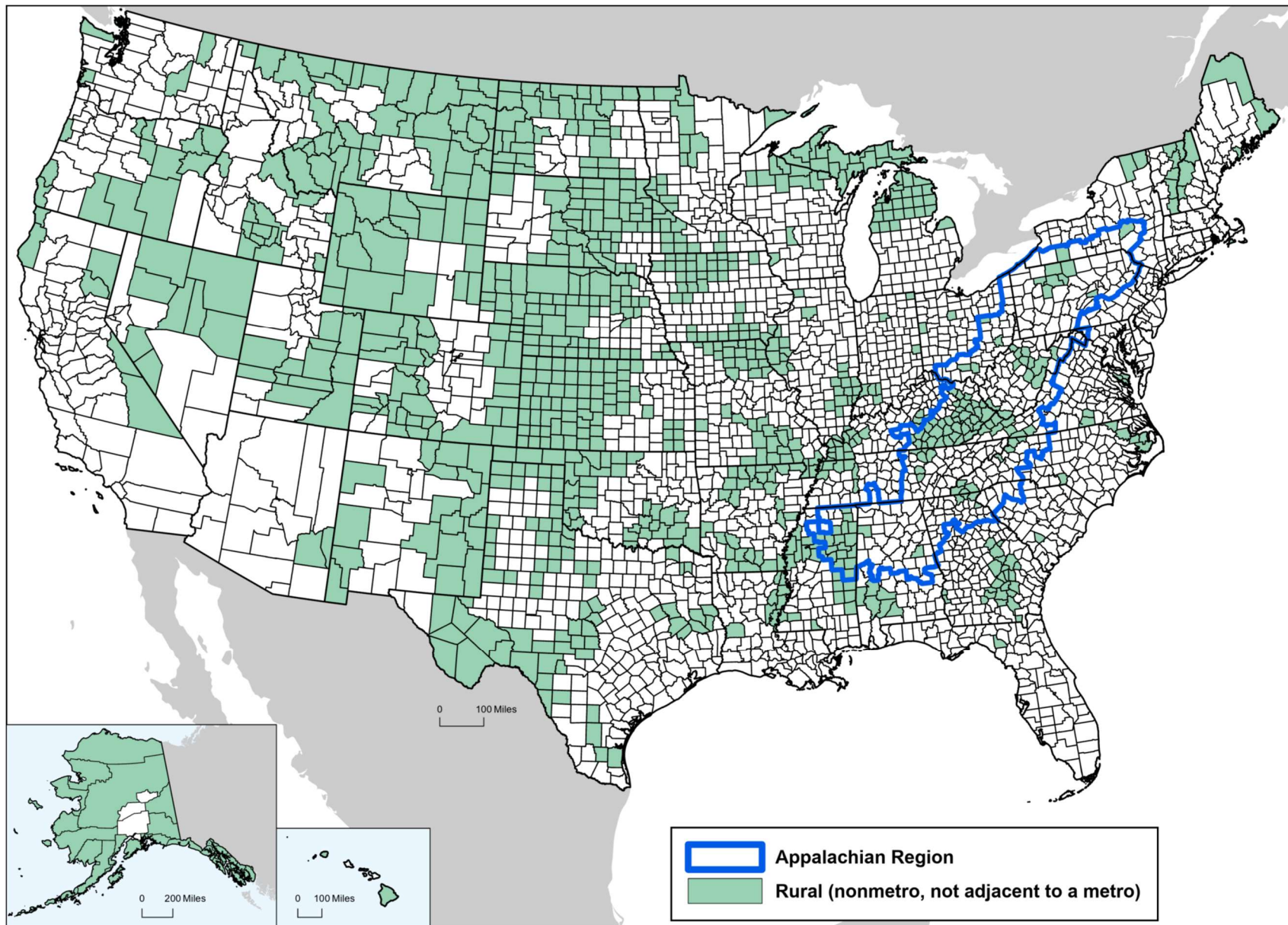
A slightly smaller share of the civilian population ages 65 and over in rural Appalachia are veterans (14.8 percent) than the share in rural counties in the rest of the country (16.4 percent). This gap is nearly the same between rural areas within and outside Appalachia among civilian males ages 18 and older. Only 12.7 percent of rural Appalachian adult male civilians are veterans compared with 14.1 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, 2013 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	107	841
Demographic and Housing Characteristics		
Population, July 1, 2023	2,459,791	13,206,230
Percent change (2010 to 2023), population	-3.8	-0.4
Median age, July 1, 2023	42.3	41.2
Percent of population under age 18, July 1, 2023	20.7	22.1
Percent of population who are people of color, July 1, 2023	12.9	26.1
Percent of population who are black alone, not Hispanic, July 1, 2023	7.9	6.4
Percent of population who are Hispanic or Latino, July 1, 2023	2.7	11.9
Percent of population who are American Indian or Alaska Native alone, not Hispanic, July 1, 2023	0.3	3.3
Percentage point change (2010 to 2023), Percent of population who are people of color	2.2	3.3
Percent of persons ages 25-64 with a high school diploma or more, 2019-23	86.0	89.6
Percent of persons ages 25-64 with an associate's degree but without a bachelor's degree, 2019-23	10.3	11.3
Percent of persons ages 25-64 with a bachelor's degree or more, 2019-23	19.5	24.3
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, 2019-23	26.3	31.9
Percent of all housing units that are single-unit dwellings, 2019-23	70.2	75.4
Percent of all housing units that are mobile homes, 2019-23	19.4	11.1
Percent of housing units that are vacant, 2019-23	20.6	21.0
Percent of vacant housing units that are for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use, 2019-23	38.6	52.2
Percent of households with one or more computer devices (including smartphone and tablet), 2019-23	88.5	91.9
Percentage point change in the share of households with a computer device, 2014-18 to 2019-2023	10.3	8.3
Percent of households with a broadband (high-speed) Internet subscription, 2019-23	81.4	84.4
Percentage point change in the share of households with a broadband (high-speed) internet subscription, 2014-18 to 2019-2023	13.6	11.8
Percent of households with no access to the Internet, 2019-23	15.5	12.3
Labor Force and Commuting		
Percent of civilian labor force universe ages 25-64 (excludes Armed Forces personnel) in civilian labor force, 2019-23	65.8	74.2
Unemployment rate, persons ages 25-64 (percent of civilian labor force), 2019-23	4.8	3.8
Percent of households with no vehicle available, 2019-23	7.4	6.0
Percent of workers ages 16 and over who drove alone to work, 2019-23	80.0	76.6
Percent of workers ages 16 and over who worked outside their county of residence, 2019-23	31.9	19.5
Percent of workers ages 16 and over (not working at home) whose travel time to work was 30 minutes or more, 2019-23	31.5	23.4
Mean travel time to work in minutes for all workers ages 16 and over who didn't work at home, 2019-23	24.6	20.4
Income and Poverty		
Median household income (in adjusted 2023 Dollars), 2019-23	50,699	62,346
Percent of persons in poverty, 2019-23	19.4	14.8
Percent of persons under age 18 in poverty, 2019-23	24.6	19.1
Percent of persons ages 18-24 in poverty, 2019-23	26.9	21.2
Percent of persons ages 25-64 in poverty, 2019-23	18.1	13.3
Percent of persons ages 65 and over in poverty, 2019-23	14.2	11.3
Percent of persons with income below 50 percent of poverty level, 2019-23	8.5	6.6
Percent of persons with income below 200 percent of poverty level, 2019-23	42.1	34.8
Percent of households receiving Food Stamps/SNAP, 2019-23	16.9	12.6
Percent of poor households receiving Food Stamps/SNAP, 2019-23	47.2	41.2
Percent of households with children receiving Food Stamps/SNAP, 2019-23	26.8	20.5
Health Insurance and Disability		
Percent of persons without health insurance coverage, 2019-23	8.7	9.7
Percentage point change (2014-18 to 2019-23), Percent of persons without health insurance coverage	-0.9	-1.0
Percent of persons ages 19-25 without health insurance coverage, 2019-23	14.5	17.2
Percent of persons ages 26-34 without health insurance coverage, 2019-23	16.5	17.9
Percent of persons ages 35-64 without health insurance coverage, 2019-23	10.9	12.4

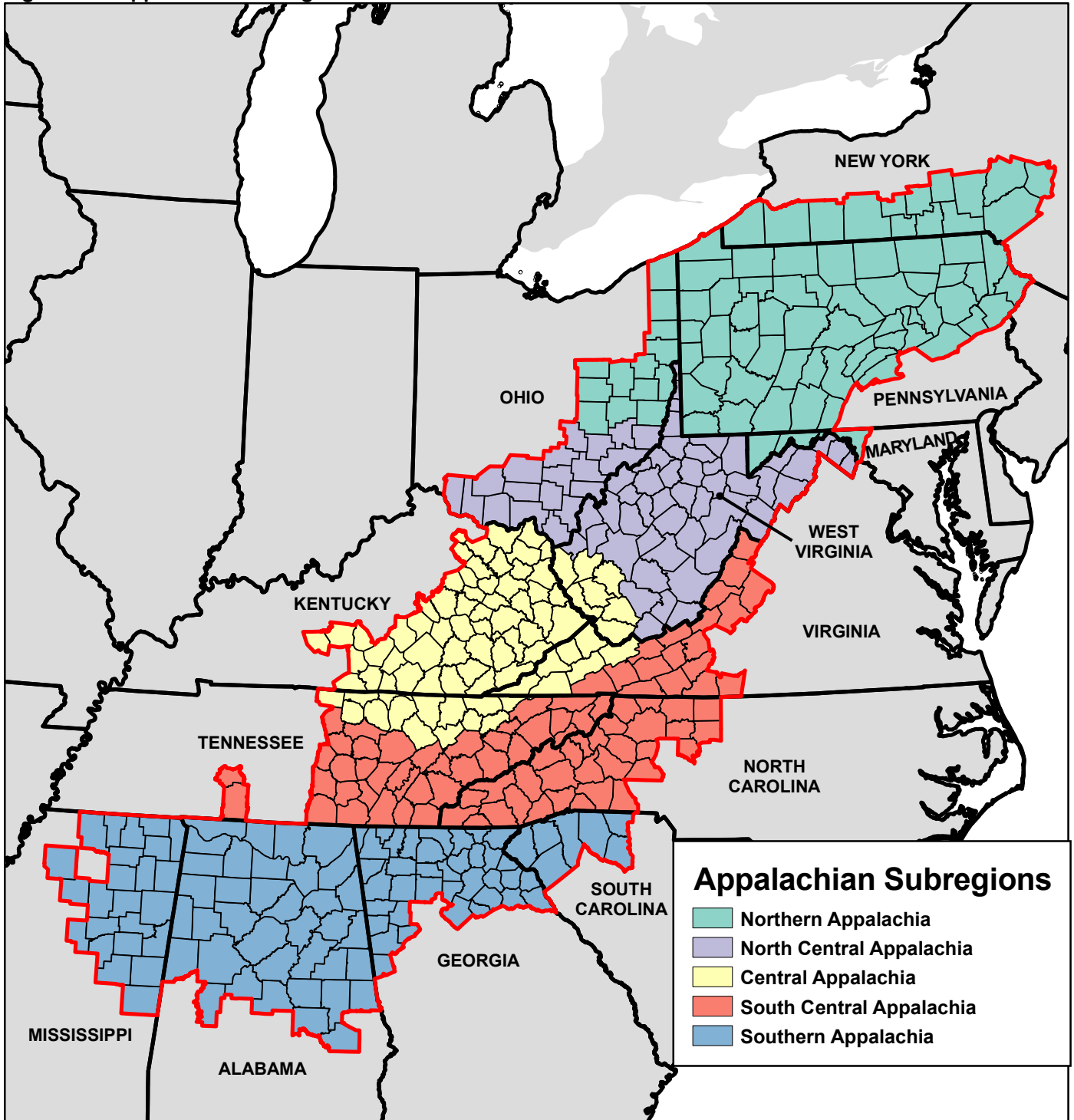
Table A.1: Selected Measures for Rural Appalachia and Rural Areas Outside Appalachia (continued)

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, 2019-23	20.2	16.5
Percent of persons ages 35-64 with a disability, 2019-23	22.6	16.6
Percent of persons ages 65 and over with a disability, 2019-23	41.2	36.1
<i>Veteran Status</i>		
Percent of civilian population ages 65 and over who are veterans, 2019-23	14.8	16.4
Percent of male civilian population ages 18 and over who are veterans, 2019-23	12.7	14.1

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2020 and Vintage 2023 Population Estimates; and 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 American Community Surveys.

APPENDIX B: REFERENCE MAPS

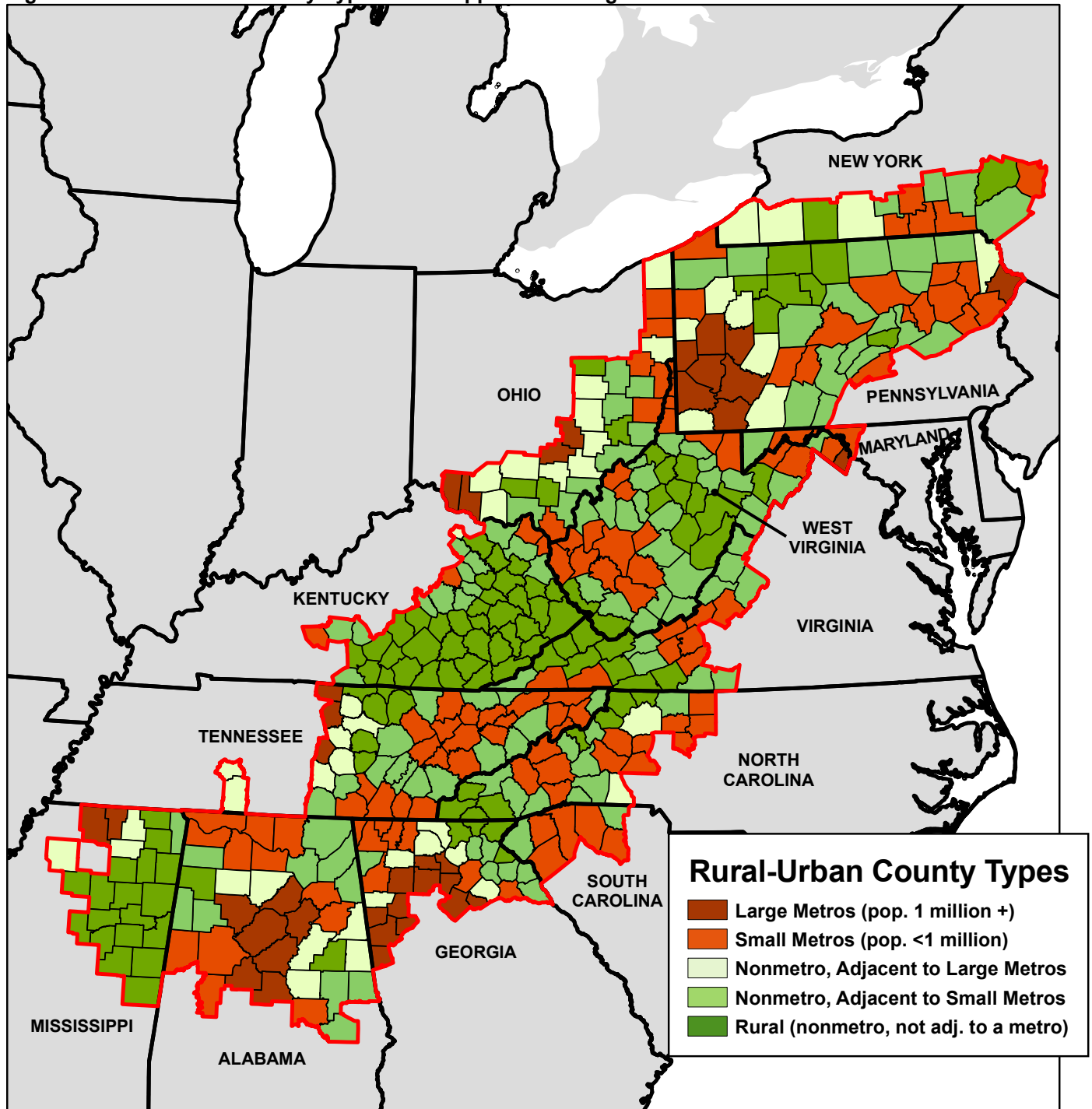
Figure B.1: Appalachian Subregions



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, 2013 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.