

**Northeastern Pennsylvania
Metropolitan Planning Organization**
Final Draft Public Involvement Plan

Appendix C
**Demographic Analysis for Environmental
Justice and Other Traditionally
Underserved Populations**

Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance

NEPA



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Appendix C

Demographic Analysis For Environmental Justice And Other Traditionally Underserved Populations

In response to the identified Environmental Justice (EJ) policies (refer to Appendix A), a geographic analysis was conducted to identify the locations and concentrations of minority, low-income, limited-English proficiency (LEP) and other traditionally underserved populations (TUP). Individuals from TUPs have historically experienced barriers to involvement in the transportation decisionmaking process. These barriers may arise from cultural, linguistic and economic differences. The preparation of such a demographic profile describes the social composition of the NEPA MPO region and illustrates how demographic patterns vary spatially.

The identification of these populations is a first step toward establishing effective strategies for engaging TUPs in the transportation planning process. Mapping the data helps in the development of an effective public involvement program and also provides a baseline for assessing impacts of the transportation investment program.

Distributive Analysis Methodology

Datasets and maps were assembled as a baseline inventory of demographic attributes for the following populations that are traditionally underserved by the transportation system:

- Minority
- Hispanic or Latino
- Low-Income (In-Poverty)
- Senior (Elderly)
- Disabled
- Those with Limited-English Proficiency (LEP)
- Those with no personal vehicle available (zero-vehicle households)
- Female Head of Household with Own Children Present

The primary and most comprehensive data source for information on these populations is the U.S. Census Bureau—particularly the American Community Survey (ACS). The primary dataset referenced in this Appendix is the 5-Year Estimates for 2009-2013.

U.S. Census Data

Using a geographic information system, spatial and demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau were compiled by geographic level of detail for either the Census tract or county —whichever was the smallest and most detailed Census geography available for that dataset. **Table C.1** provides a profile of the Environmental Justice and Other Traditionally Underserved Populations in the NEPA MPO region according

to data from the U.S. Census Bureau's ACS. The regional thresholds for each population are calculated as the average concentration of that population across the entire NEPA MPO. The Data Universe (total population) varies according to U.S. Census data collection and accounting methodology for that population.

Table C.1. Profile of Environmental Justice and Other Traditionally Underserved Populations in the NEPA MPO Region

	NEPA MPO Region	
	Population	Regional Threshold (Average Concentration)
Data Universe: Total Population	438,900	
<i>Non-Hispanic Minority Population</i> ¹	41,002	9.3%
<i>Hispanic or Latino Minority Population</i> ²	34,979	8.0%
<i>Senior Population</i> ³	71,727	16.3%
Data Universe: Total Population for whom Poverty Status is determined	426,228	
<i>Low-Income Population</i> ⁴	50,295	11.8%
Data Universe: Total Population Age 5 or Older	417,427	
<i>Limited-English Proficiency Population</i> ⁵	11,658	2.8%
Data Universe: Total Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	429,863	
<i>Disabled Population</i> ⁶	65,671	15.3%
Data Universe: Total Households	166,017	
<i>Zero Vehicle Households</i> ⁷	12,038	7.3%
<i>Female Head of Household with own Children</i> ⁸	10,330	6.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year Estimate (2009-2013)

Notes:

- ¹ *Non-Hispanic Minority Population: Table B03002 Hispanic or Latino Origin – Calculated as “Not Hispanic or Latino” minus “White Alone”*
- ² *Hispanic or Latino Population Table B03002 Hispanic or Latino Origin – Value given as “Hispanic or Latino”*
- ³ *Senior Population: Table S0103, ACS Population 65 Years And Over In The United States – Value given as “Total Population: 65 years and over”.*
- ⁴ *Low-Income Population: Table S1701, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months – Value given as “Population for whom poverty status is determined: Below poverty level”.*
- ⁵ *Limited-English Proficiency Population: Table S1601, Language Spoken At Home – Value given as “Population 5 years and over: Language other than English: Speak English less than “very well”.*
- ⁶ *Disabled Population: Table S1810, Disability Characteristics – Value given as “Total civilian non-Institutionalized population: With a disability”.*
- ⁷ *Zero Vehicle Households: Table B08201, Household Size by Vehicles Available – Value given as “Total Households: No vehicle available”.*
- ⁸ *Female Head of Household with Children: Table DP02, Selected Social Characteristics in the United States, Households By Type – Value given as “Family households: Female householder, no husband present family: With own children under 18 years”.*

Mapping Methodology

Mapping of Census data was completed individually for each population according to the concentration of the population within each geographic area (tract or county). The mapped concentration is represented using 5 classes, which are related to the Regional Average Concentration (Regional Threshold) shown in **Table C.1**, as follows:

Table C.2. Regional Average Concentration (Regional Threshold)

Class 1	0 to ½ of the Regional Threshold
Class 2	½ of the Regional Average to Regional Threshold
Class 3	Regional Threshold to 1½ times the Regional Threshold
Class 4	1½ times the Regional Threshold to 2 times the Regional Threshold
Class 5	Greater than 2 times the Regional Threshold

Racial Non-Hispanic Minority Populations

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin. Specifically, the racial minority populations represent the following:

- **Black** – A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
- **Asian** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia or the Indian subcontinent.
- **American Indian and Alaskan Native** – A person having origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.
- **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa or other Pacific Islands.
- **Other** – Persons who identified themselves as some other race besides those identified above have been classified as “Other” in the 2000 U.S. Census, and included as minorities when identifying minority populations in this region.
- **Two or more Races** – For the first time in the 2000 U.S. Census, people were allowed to identify themselves as belonging to multiple races. For calculation purposes, persons identifying themselves as having two or more races have been included as part of the minority population.

Approximately 9% of the NEPA MPO population identifies as a racial minority. Refer to **Figure C.1**, Non-Hispanic Minority Population. The larger racial minority populations are generally located in the areas of:

- Monroe County
 - ✓ Coolbaugh Township, Middle Smithfield Township, Price Township, Tunkhannock Township, Pocono Township, Stroud Township, East Stroudsburg Borough, Smithfield Township, Delaware Water Gap
- Pike County
 - ✓ Blooming Grove Township, Lehman Township

Note: The Pike County Jail is located in Blooming Grove Township. The inmate population as of June 2015 was 267.

- Schuylkill County
 - ✓ Mahanoy Township, Ryan Township

Note: The State Correctional Institution Mahanoy is located in Mahanoy Township. The inmate population as of June 2015 was 2,473. The State Correctional Institution Frackville is located in Ryan Township with inmate population of 1,159 in June 2015. Both populations are included in the minority population for Schuylkill County.

Ethnic Minority Population

U.S. federal government agencies, including the Census Bureau, adhere to standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) which specify that race and Hispanic origin (also known as ethnicity) are two separate and distinct concepts. These standards generally reflect a social definition of race and ethnicity recognized in this country, and they do not conform to any biological, anthropological or genetic criteria.

Ethnic minority population includes those who self-identify as “Hispanic or Latino (of any race),” which refers to a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. Approximately 8% of the NEPA MPO identifies as Hispanic or Latino. Refer to **Figure C.2**, Percent of Population Hispanic or Latino. The larger Hispanic or Latino populations are generally located in the areas of:

- Monroe County
 - ✓ Middle Smithfield Township, Paradise Township, Mt. Pocono Borough, Coolbaugh Township, Stroud Township, Tobyhanna Township, Tunkhannock Township, Chestnuthill Township
- Pike County
 - ✓ Lehman Township
- Schuylkill County
 - ✓ Shenandoah Borough

Low-Income Populations

Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice and the USDOT *Order on Environmental Justice* specifically identify low-income populations as a group to be considered in the long-range transportation plan when identifying and addressing the impacts of the transportation investment program. USDOT defines “low-income populations” as those having a median household income that is at or below the Department of Health and Human Services’ poverty guidelines. Since information from the U.S. Census Bureau informs these guidelines, the Census’ “In Poverty Status” indicator was used to identify low-income populations.

To prevent bias, the percentage below poverty level is calculated using the “Population for which Poverty Status is determined.” The Census determination of poverty level is based on family size, composition and income. If a family’s total income is less than the threshold for that family type, then each person in the family is considered to be “in-poverty.” While the income thresholds do not vary by geographic region, they are updated annually according to the Consumer Price Index. Approximately 11.8% of the NEPA MPO population meets the criteria of low-income. Refer to **Figure C.3**, Percent of Population Below Poverty Level. The low-income populations are generally located in the areas of:

- Monroe County
 - ✓ Stroudsburg Township
- Schuylkill County
 - ✓ Coaldale Borough, Tamaqua Borough, Shenandoah Borough, and Pottsville.

Limited-English Proficiency Population

Executive Order 13166 “*Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited-English Proficiency (LEP)*” aims “to improve access to federally-conducted and federally-assisted programs and activities for persons who, as a result of national origin, are limited in their English proficiency”. An operative definition for an individual with limited-English proficiency may be stated as those individuals who have a limited ability to read, write, speak or understand the English language. This Department of Justice definition is derived from *Title VI of the Civil Rights Act*, which prohibits recipients from discriminating on the basis of race, color or national origin, and contemplates a close relationship between one’s national origin and one’s language. For the purpose of this analysis, LEP persons include those who speak the English language “less than very well,” as classified by the Census. It should be noted that Census data on ability to speak English is based upon self-reporting and may be based upon an answer given by another member of the household. Approximately 2.8% of the NEPA MPO population speaks English “less than very well”. Refer to **Figure C.4**, Percent of Population with Limited-English Proficiency. The larger LEP populations are generally located in the areas of:

- Monroe County
 - ✓ Paradise Township, Mt. Pocono Borough, Coolbaugh Township, Middle Smithfield Township, Smithfield Township, Stroud Township, Tunkhannock Township
- Pike County
 - ✓ Blooming Grove Township, Delaware Township, Lehman Township
- Schuylkill County
 - ✓ Shenandoah Borough

Disabled Population

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), along with the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, prohibit discrimination on the basis of disabilities. The term “disability” means, with respect to an individual:

- A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual;
- A record of such an impairment; or

NON-HISPANIC MINORITY POPULATION

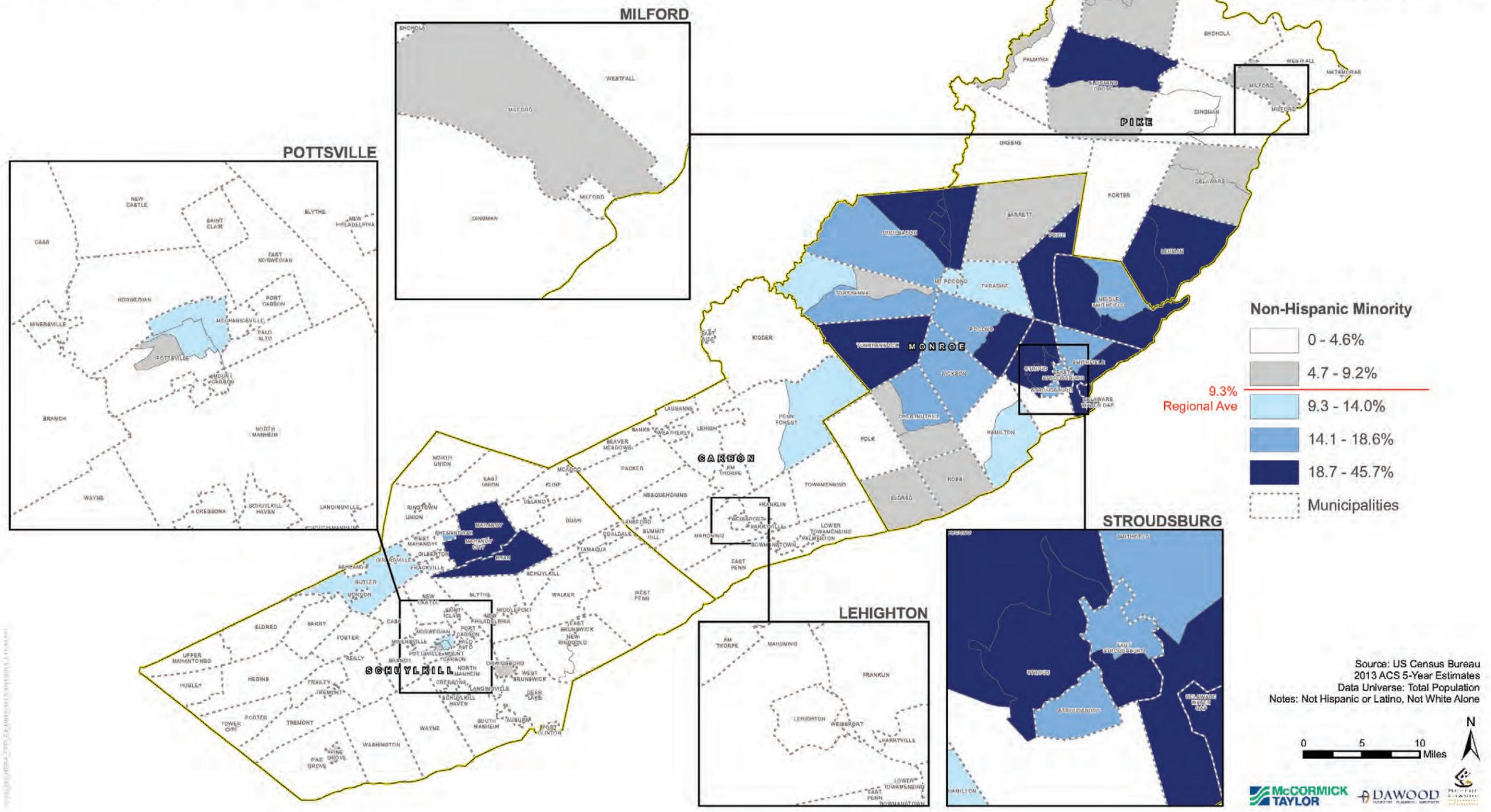
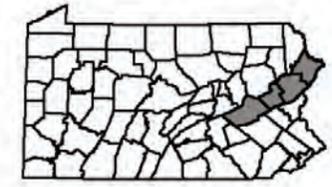


Figure C.1 - Non-Hispanic Minority Population

PERCENT OF POPULATION HISPANIC OR LATINO (ANY RACE)

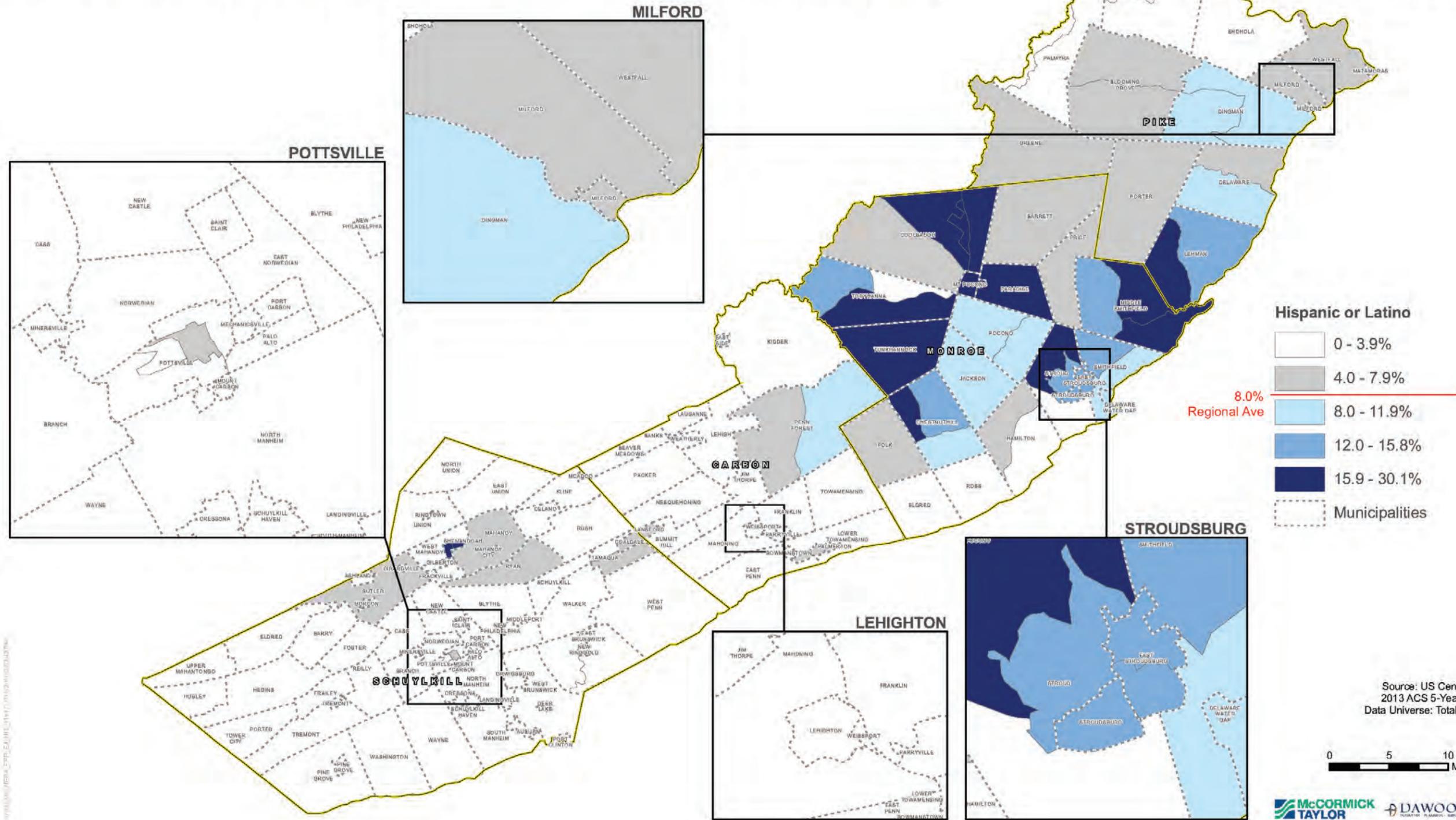
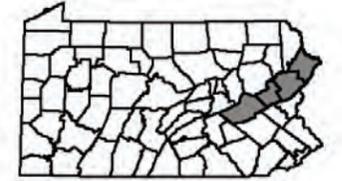


Figure C.2 - Percent of Population Hispanic or Latino

PERCENT OF POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

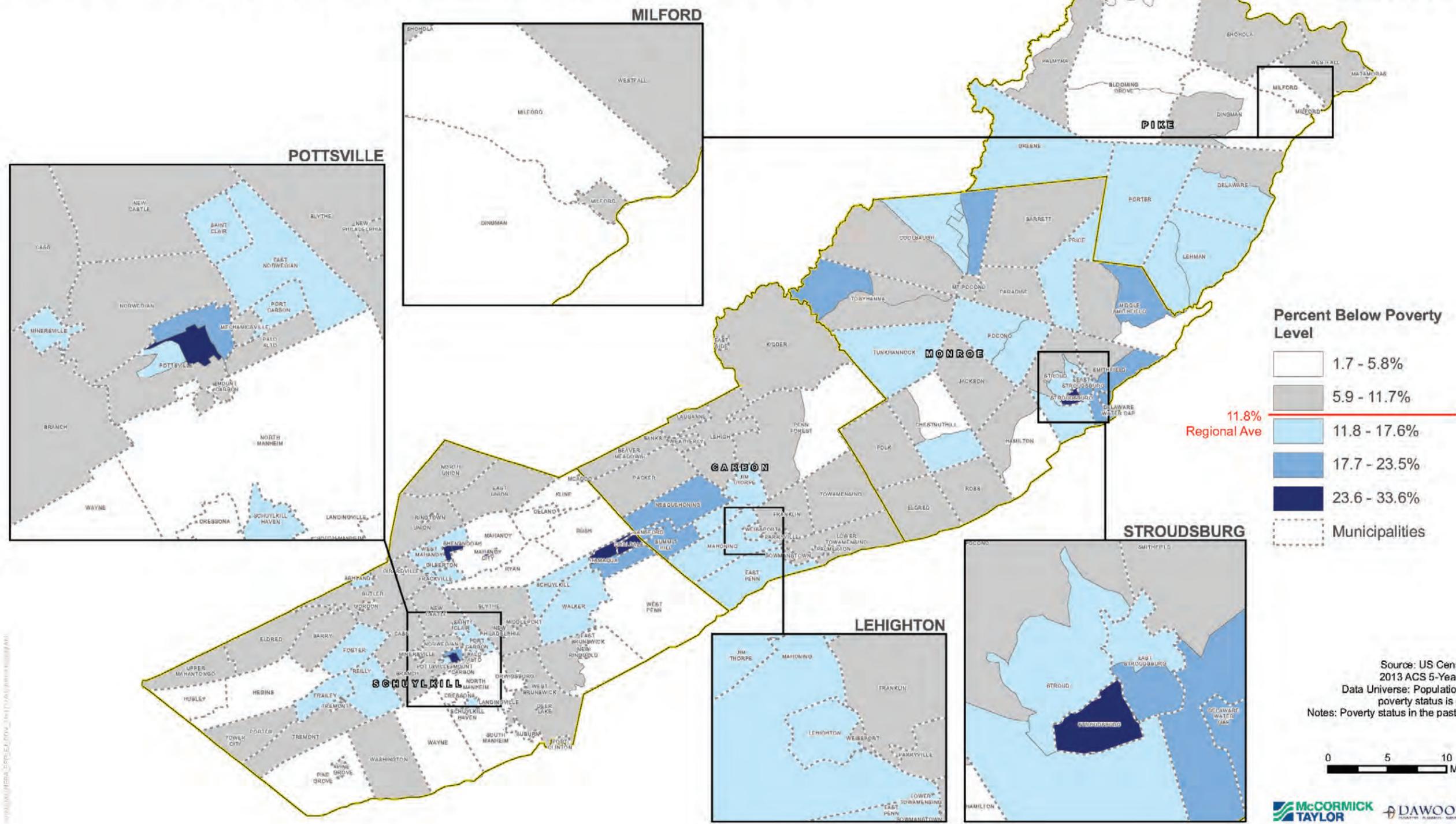


Figure C.3 - Percent of Population Below Poverty Level

PERCENT OF POPULATION WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

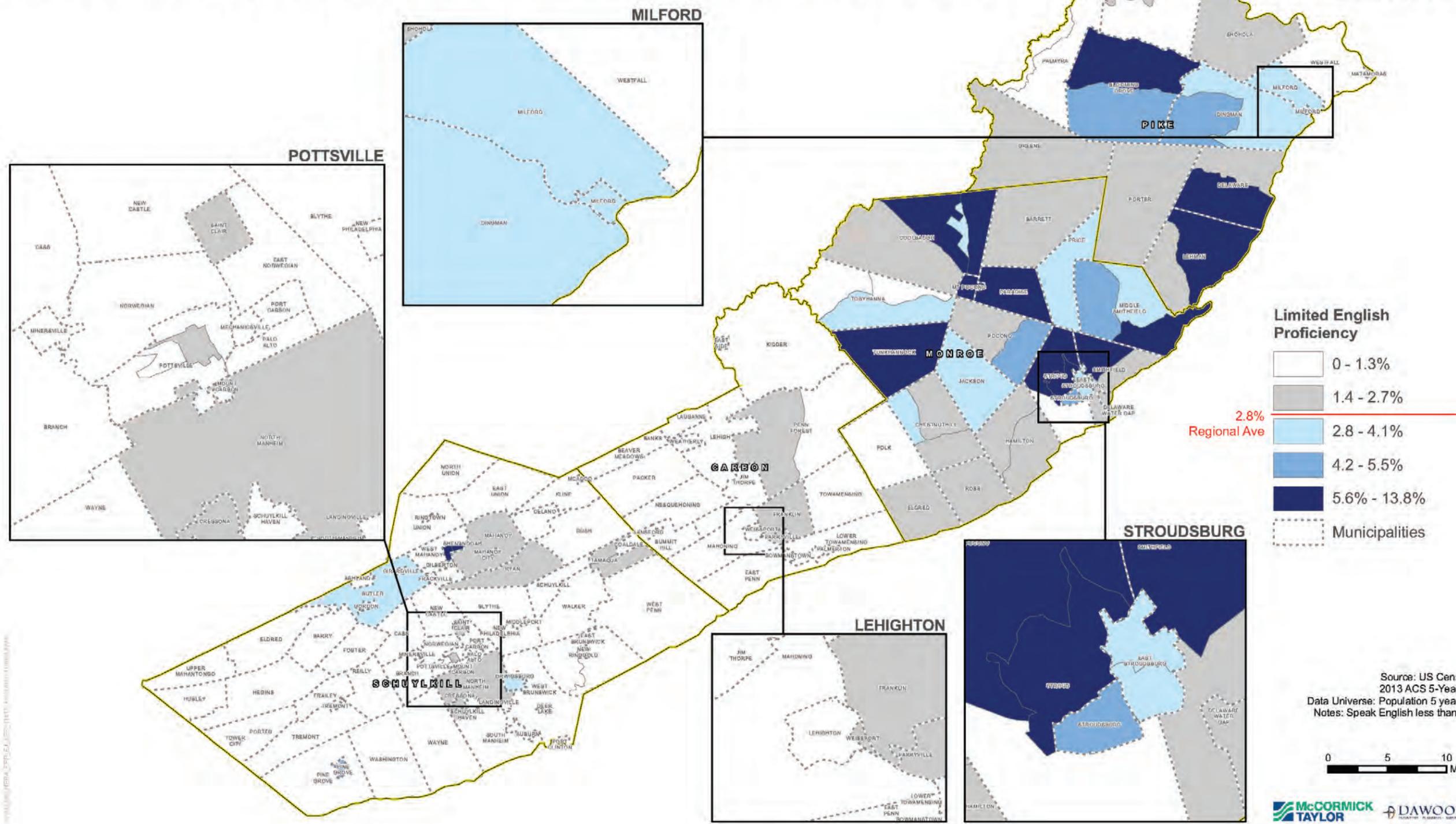
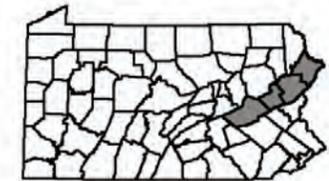


Figure C.4 - Percent of Population with Limited-English Proficiency (LEP)

- Being regarded as having such an impairment, which includes the circumstance where an individual has been subjected to actions prohibited under the ADA Act because of an actual or perceived physical or mental impairment.

The ADA Amendments of 2008 were enacted to provide “a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination” and “clear, strong, consistent, enforceable standards addressing discrimination.” In doing so, the Act Amendments reject several Supreme Court rulings that limit the scope of protection provided under the ADA. Approximately 15.3% of the NEPA MPO population is classified as disabled. Refer to **Figure C.5**, Percent of Population with a Disability. Areas with highest disabled populations include:

- Carbon County
 - ✓ Lansford Borough
- Schuylkill County
 - ✓ Tamaqua Borough, Shenandoah Borough, Saint Clair Borough, Pottsville, Girardville Borough, Butler Township, Gordon Borough, Foster Township, Reilly Township, Frailey Township, Tremont Borough

Senior Population

The *Age Discrimination Act of 1975* prohibits discrimination on the basis of age and states:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

For the purposes of this Public Involvement Plan, the application of this Act is made for the Senior (Elderly) population—persons age 65 and over. The population of the United States is aging rapidly, with the median age increasing from 28 in 1970 to 37.2 in 2010. In the upcoming decades, cumulative advances in medicine and nutrition as well as improvements in environmental quality, are anticipated to amplify this trend, and the Senior population will continue to expand as the “Baby Boomer” generation ages. Approximately 16.3% of the NEPA MPO population is age 65 or over. Refer to **Figure C.6**, Percent of Population Age 65 and Over. Greater senior populations are located in the areas of:

- Monroe County
 - ✓ Stroud Township, Hamilton Township
- Pike County
 - ✓ Lackawaxen Township, Blooming Grove Township, Palmyra Township
- Schuylkill County
 - ✓ Kline Township, Rush Township, Delano Township, Pottsville

PERCENT OF POPULATION WITH A DISABILITY

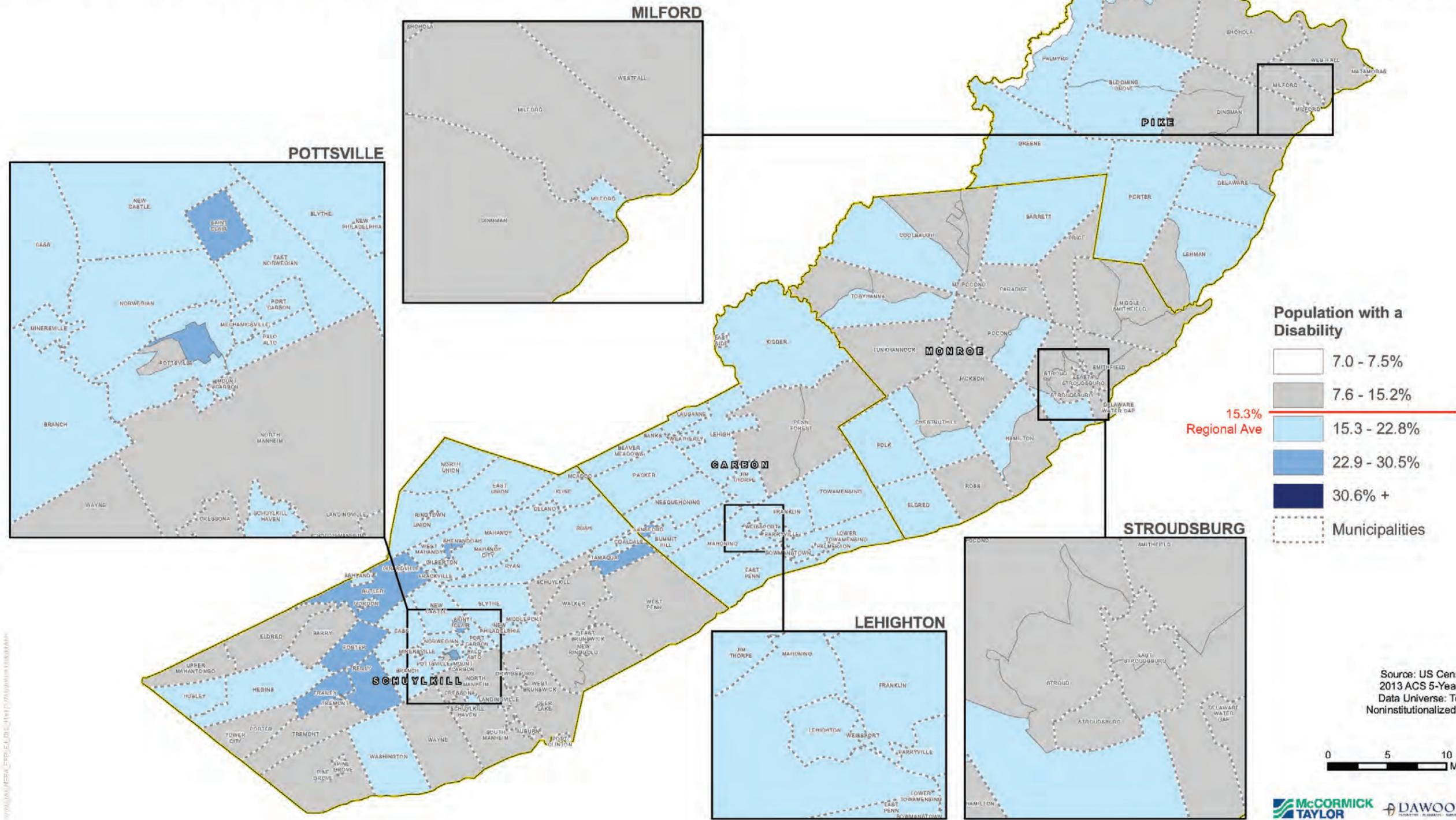
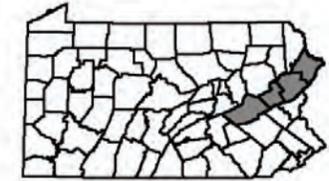


Figure C.5 - Percent of Population with a Disability

PERCENT OF POPULATION AGE 65 AND OVER

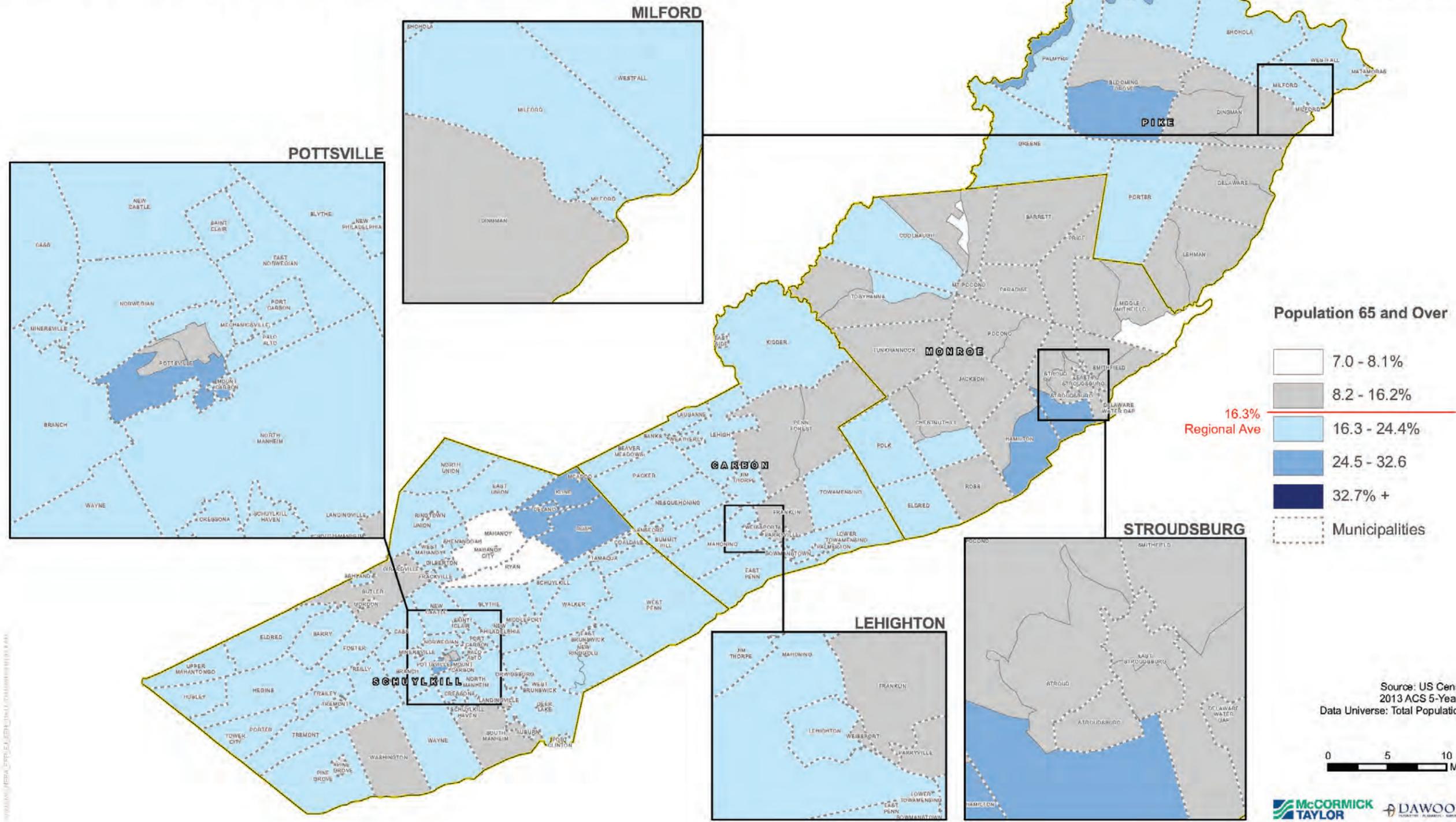
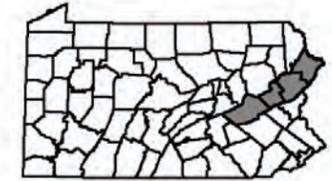


Figure C.6 - Percent of Population Age 65 and Over

Zero-Vehicle Households

While not afforded specific protections under an Executive Order or Federal or State Act, households with particular demographic characteristics face unique transportation challenges and are considered in this analysis as traditionally underserved populations.

Zero-vehicle households are households without direct ownership of an automobile and tend to be highly transit-dependent. In the U.S., the transportation program has traditionally favored investments in highway infrastructure, and currently, more than 90 percent of all personal travel occurs on the highway system via personal automobile. Approximately 7.3% of households within the NEPA MPO do not have access to a vehicle. Refer to **Figure C.7**, Percent of Households without Vehicle Access. Areas with the highest population of zero-vehicle households include:

- Carbon County
 - ✓ Palmerton Borough, Lehighon Borough, Lansford Borough
- Monroe County
 - ✓ Stroudsburg Borough, East Stroudsburg Borough
- Pike County
 - ✓ Milford Township
- Schuylkill County
 - ✓ Tamaqua Borough, Shenandoah Borough, Saint Clair Borough, Pottsville, Ashland Borough, Minersville Borough

Female Headed Households with Own Children Present

Female headed households with own children present tend to have lower income (nearly half at or below poverty level). Approximately 6% of households within the NEPA MPO are headed by females. Refer to **Figure C.8**, Percent of Female Headed Households with Own Children Present. The areas with the highest percentage of female headed households with own children present include:

- Carbon County
 - ✓ Penn Forest Township
- Monroe County
 - ✓ Coolbaugh Township, Tobyhanna Township, East Stroudsburg Borough
- Schuylkill County
 - ✓ Pottsville

Indicators of Potential Disadvantage

The eight (8) maps of the various EJ and other traditionally underserved populations were combined into a single map of “Indicators of Potential Disadvantage,” which illustrates the overlap of populations within the region’s census tracts. The intensity of the overlap is represented by the number of populations in each tract that exceed the regional thresholds established in **Table C.1**. Twenty-seven tracts were identified that have five (5) or six (6) EJ or TUPs populations above the regional average. Three census tracts were identified that have seven (7) or eight (8) EJ or TUPs populations above the regional average (located in Lehman Township, Pike County and Shenandoah Borough, Schuylkill County). Refer to **Figure C.9**, Indicators of Potential Disadvantage.

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT VEHICLE ACCESS

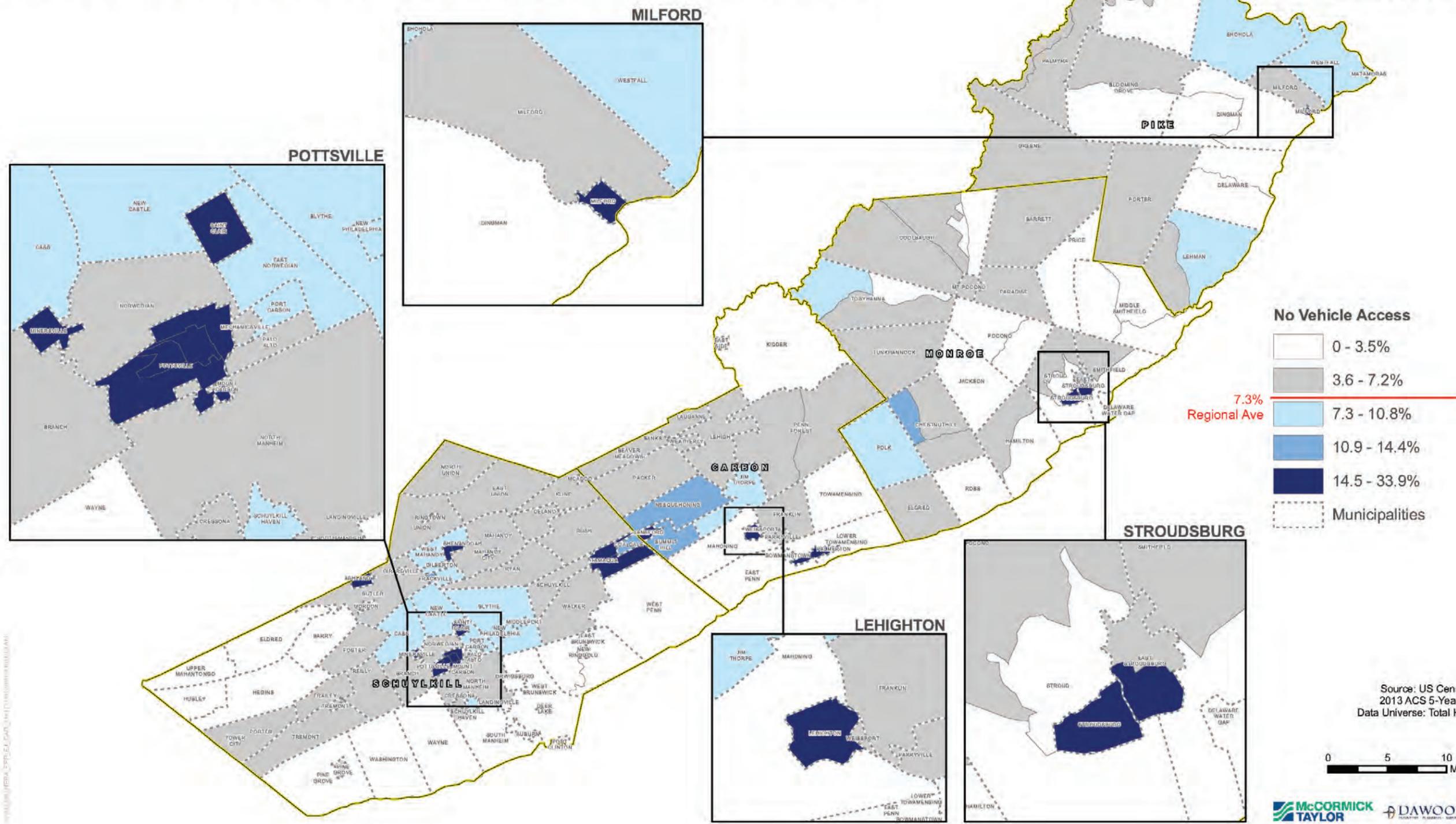
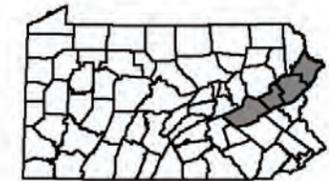


Figure C.7 - Percent of Households without Vehicle Access

PERCENT OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS WITH OWN CHILDREN

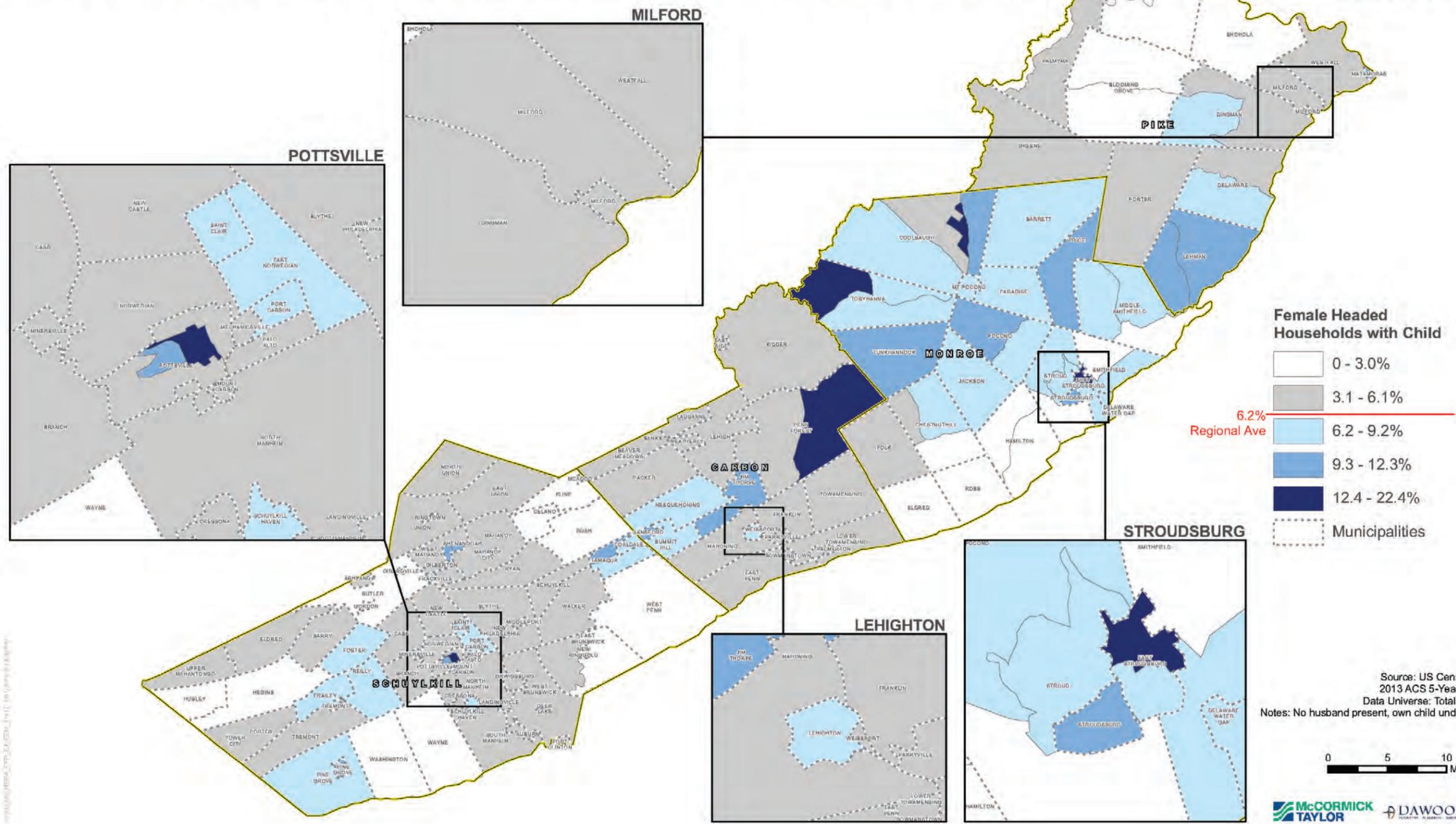


Figure C.8 - Percent of Female Headed Households with Own Children

INDICATORS OF POTENTIAL DISADVANTAGE

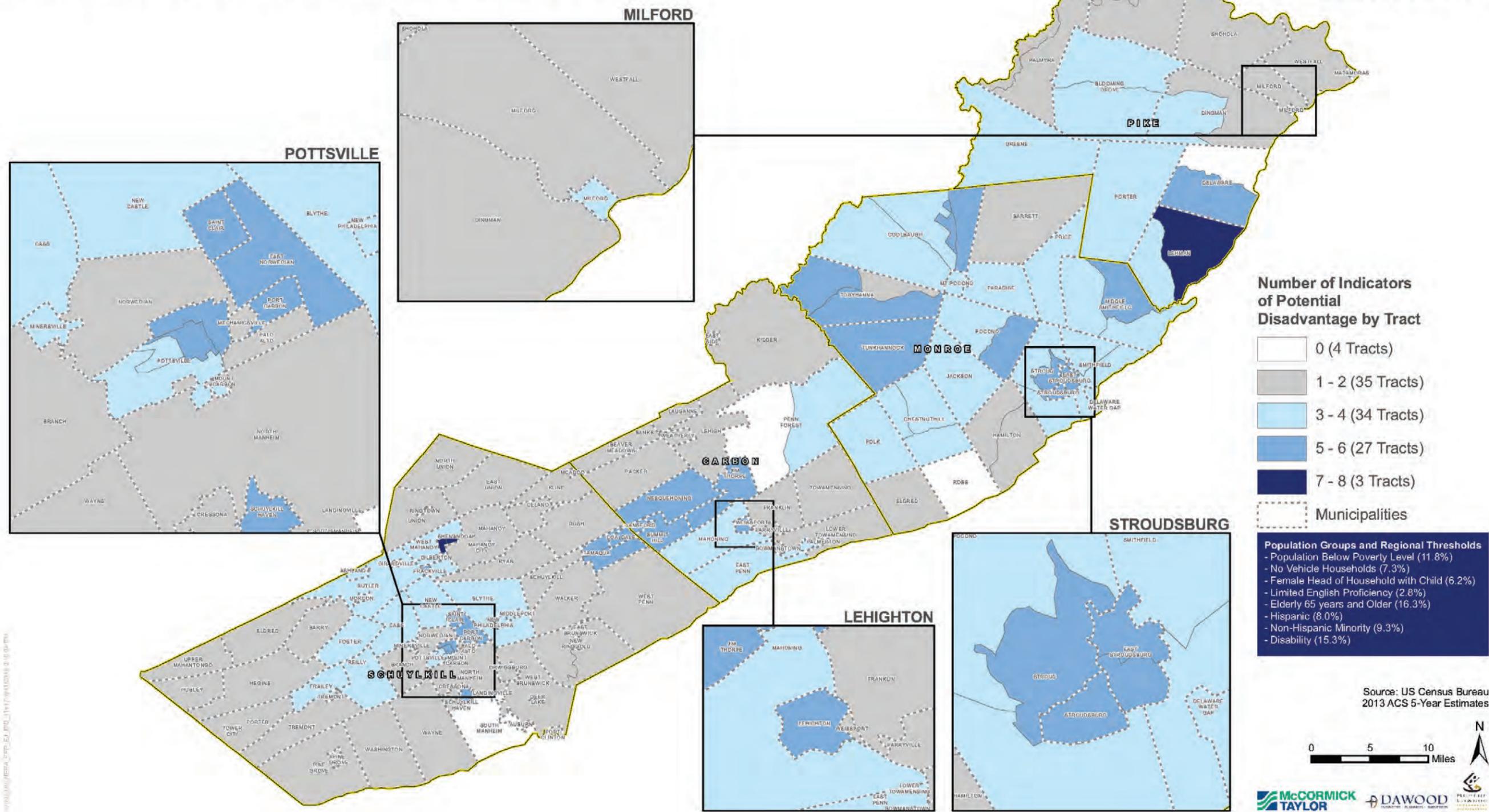


Figure C.9 - Indicators of Potential Disadvantage

Evaluating Trigger Criteria for Conducting Targeted Outreach

In Section 6 of the PIP, the Process Checklists for the Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment (Step 2, p. 27) and Transportation Improvement Program Major Amendment (Step 2, p. 31) include trigger criteria for conducting targeted outreach to minority, in-poverty, limited-English proficient (LEP) and disabled populations. The data and maps below are intended to assist in evaluating these criteria.

Trigger Criteria

The trigger criteria for conducting targeted outreach are stated within the Process Checklists as follows:

Determine the need to provide targeted outreach for project amendments that disproportionately burden populations or concentrations of Minority, In-Poverty, LEP or Disabled Persons.

TRIGGER*: *Burdensome action or project in an area defined by one or both of the following:*

- a. In a project area where the likely affected Minority, In-Poverty, LEP or Disabled persons exceeds 1,000 persons or,*
- b. In a Census tract where the concentration of Minority, In-Poverty, LEP or Disabled persons exceeds two times the regional average for that population.*

** Targeted outreach will be required in the event that the trigger results from an institutionalized population (e.g., within a prison, penitentiary, etc.).*

Tracts Meeting Trigger Criteria

The following provides an initial evaluation of the two triggers and describes the tracts where the criteria are met, according to the current data.

Trigger (a) – According to the 2009-2013 ACS data, there are 28 tracts that meet this trigger criteria for Minority, In-Poverty or Disabled. There are no tracts that meet this trigger for LEP. This is considering the entire Minority, In-Poverty, LEP or Disabled populations residing within each tract as “likely affected”. The 1,000 persons standard was adapted from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Safe Harbor Provision. The table on page 19 and **Figure C.10** depict the tracts that meet these trigger criteria. Note that more than one tract may be present in an identified community.

TRACTS WHERE MINORITY, IN-POVERTY OR DISABLED PERSONS EXCEED 1,000 PERSONS

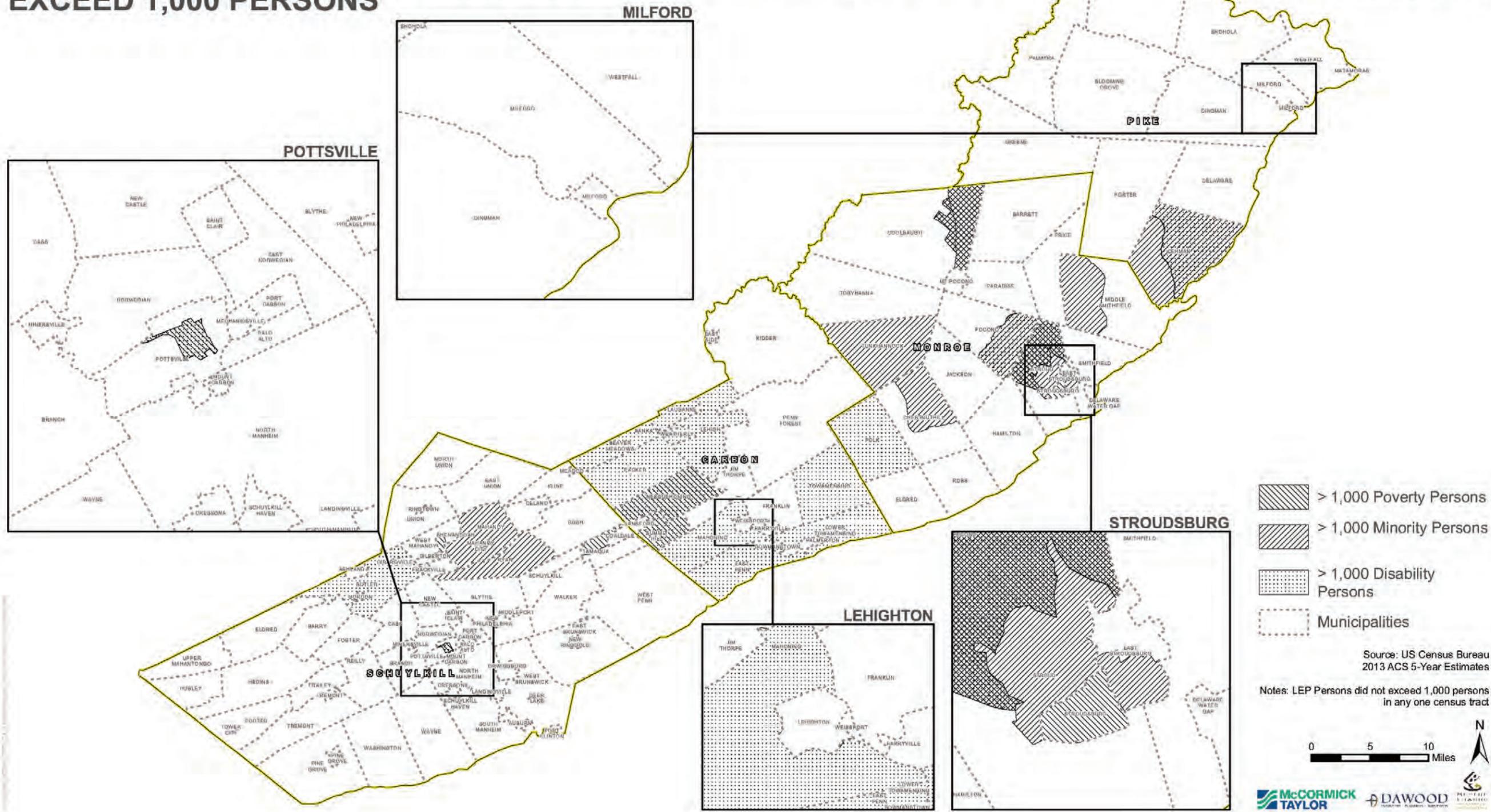
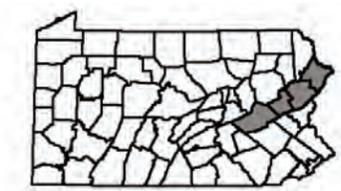


Figure C.10 - Tracts where Minority, In-Poverty or Disabled Persons Exceed 1,000 Persons

County	# of Tracts	Description of Tracts and Communities	Triggering Populations
Carbon	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nesquehoning Borough • Summit Hill Borough • Lausanne Township • Lehigh Township • Lower Towamensing Township • Mahoning Township • Packer Township • Banks Township • Beaver Meadows Borough • Bowmanstown Borough • East Penn Township • Towamensing Township • Weatherly Borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty, Disabled • Poverty, Disabled • Disabled
Monroe	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coolbaugh Township • Stroud Township • Stroudsburg Borough • Middle Smithfield Township • East Stroudsburg Borough • Chestnuthill Township • Tunkhannock Township • Pocono Township • Polk Township 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minority, Poverty • Minority, Poverty, Disabled • Poverty • Minority • Minority • Minority • Minority • Minority, Disabled • Disabled
Pike	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lehman Township 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minority, Disabled
Schuylkill	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamaqua Borough • Shenandoah Borough • Pottsville • Mahanoy City Borough • Ryan Township • Mahanoy Township • Butler Township • Girardville Borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty • Poverty • Poverty, Disabled • Poverty, Disabled • Minority - <i>State Correctional Institution Frackville</i> • Minority - <i>State Correctional Institution Mahanoy</i> • Disabled • Disabled
TOTAL	28		

Trigger (b) – The table below and **Figure 3.11** describe the 22 tracts that exceed this trigger criterion for one or more of the Minority, In-Poverty, LEP or Disabled population groups. Note that more than one tract may be present in an identified community.

County	# of Tracts	Description of Tracts and Communities	Triggering Populations
Carbon	0		
Monroe	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coolbaugh Township • Middle Smithfield Township • Stroud Township • Smithfield Township • Price Township • East Stroudsburg Borough • Pocono Township • Mount Pocono Borough • Stroudsburg Borough • Paradise Township • Tunkhannock Township 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minority, LEP • Minority, LEP • Minority, LEP • Minority, LEP • Minority • Minority • Minority • Minority, LEP • Poverty • LEP • Minority, LEP
Pike	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blooming Grove Township • Delaware Township • Lehman Township 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minority, LEP- <i>Pike County Jail</i> • LEP • Minority, LEP
Schuylkill	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaldale Borough • Tamaqua Borough • Pottsville • Mahanoy City Borough • Shenandoah Borough • Mahanoy Township • Ryan Township 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minority, Poverty • Minority, Poverty • Minority, Poverty • Minority, Poverty • Minority, Poverty, LEP • Minority - <i>State Correctional Institution Mahanoy</i> • Minority - <i>State Correctional Institution Frackville</i>
TOTAL	22		

TRACTS THAT EXCEED DOUBLE THE REGIONAL THRESHOLD FOR: NON-HISPANIC MINORITY BELOW POVERTY DISABILITY OR LEP

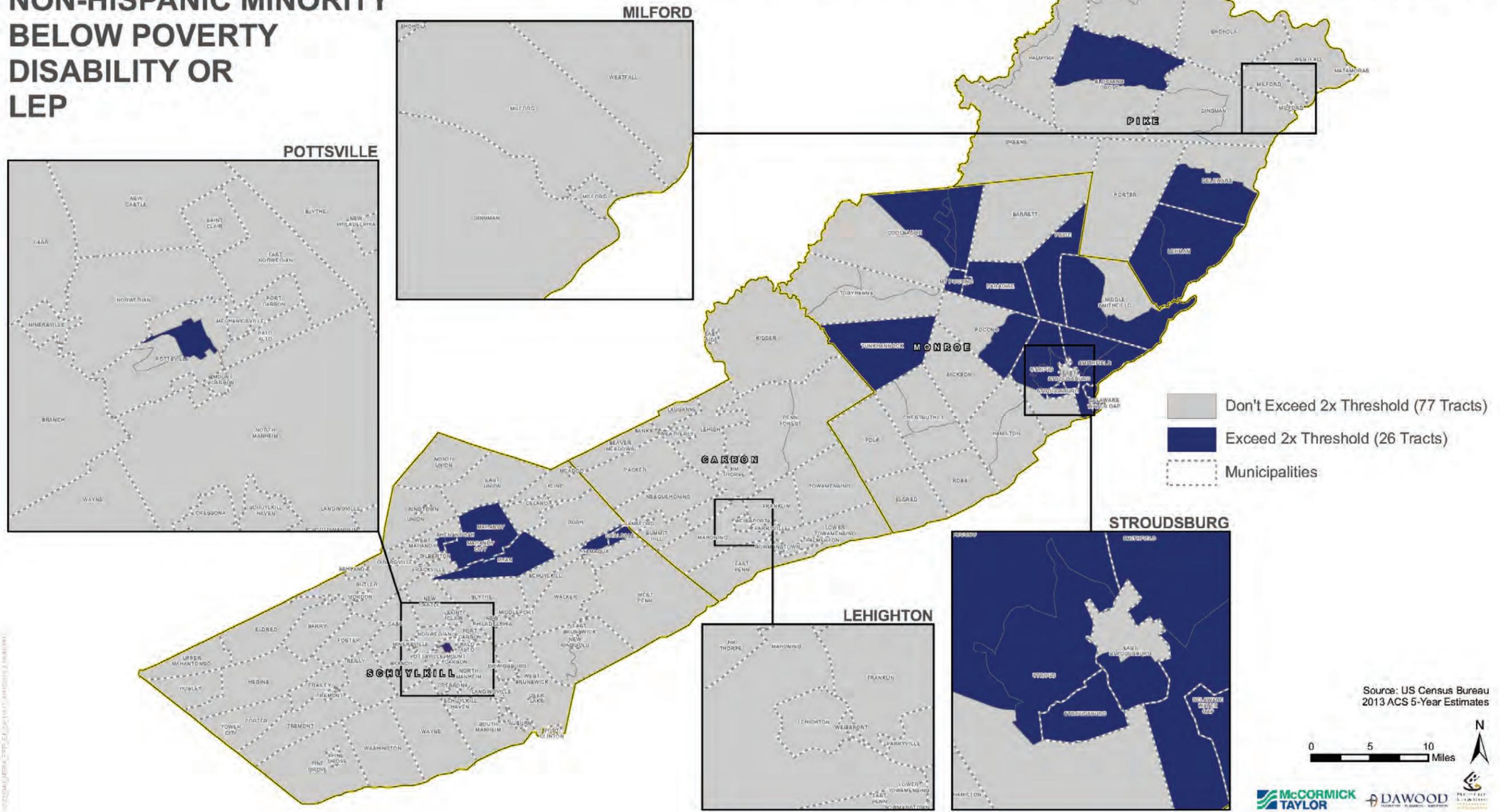


Figure C.11 - Tracts that Exceed Double the Regional Threshold