Demographic Profile of Transportation Disadvantaged Populations in the SKATS Area

April 2022

Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments
100 High Street SE, Suite 200, Salem, Oregon 97301
www.mwvcog.org

Demographic Profile of Populations
in the SKATS Region

Introduction

A primary goal of transportation is to provide access to places people need to go to help them live vital, productive, and rewarding lives.

A demographic profile of the Salem-Keizer area provides an essential tool to help understand the relationship between key socio-economic indicators and the local transportation system. This report helps to provide a larger background to enable planning for functional and equitable access to goods, services and employment. In the transportation planning process, projects and their impacts are evaluated in an environmental justice analysis. Environmental justice analysis evaluates the geographic location of minority and low-income population groups with the location of major transportation investments. This report includes additional information about traditionally underserved populations in order to provide a broader view of the Salem-Keizer Area, and to help inform the transportation community.

In addition to minority and low-income populations, this summary identifies populations that may experience some level of limitation to convenient, accessible transportation. This affects their ability to travel, to access goods, services, and recreation. Predominately, this limitation is in the use of a personal vehicle; however, it may also include difficulty accessing public transportation, or walking and biking options due to any number of socio-economic factors.

This profile identifies populations in the Salem-Keizer Area Transportation Study (SKATS) area, a region that includes the City of Turner and portions of unincorporated Polk and Marion County. **Figure 1** shows the SKATS area boundary in reference to the cities of Salem, Keizer and Turner.

Figure 1: SKATS Boundary and City Limits

This report has been produced and updated over that last 20 years and always includes maps. For this update, the report itself is a shorter summation of areawide statistics, and instead of a series of printed maps, an online and interactive map has been created. This map (**see Figure 2**) is available at https://mwvcog.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c62511a653084df3a7391 095f6af8d6d and allows the user to turn on and off layers of interest, and see various statistics for each census tract in the SKATS area.
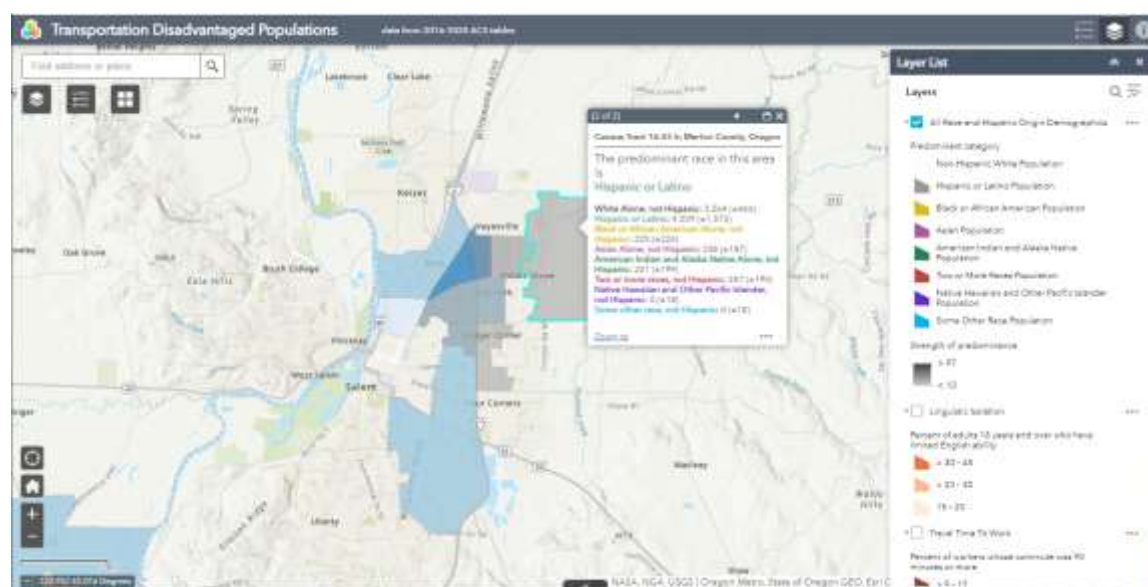

Figure 2 Online Map

SKATS Area Estimates

The information in this report is from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 2016-2020 data, release date March 17, 2022. The ACS is an ongoing national survey that produces period estimates rather than point in time estimates of the decennial census. Households across the nation are randomly sampled every month. *In this report, consider the values shown as estimates.*   This report includes the following:

- Poverty (persons with incomes below Census defined poverty level)
- Minority Population (Hispanic, Black, Native American, Islander, Asian, or other race)
- Elderly Population (aged 65 and older)
- Youth (age 15 to 17)
- Disabled (a Visual or Ambulatory Disability, within Age classifications)
- Limited English households (all members have at some difficulty with English)
- Households with no access to vehicles

Five-year summary data is available at the level of census tracts, which vary in size, and generally encompass between 2,500 to 8,000 people. For the SKATS area, 54 census tracts are wholly or partially included within the official boundary, **Figure 3** illustrates census tract boundaries in

Demographic Profile of Populations in SKATS - 2022   3

relation to the SKATS boundary. Data is reported and mapped for the whole tract and as a result includes a slightly larger population than the official SKATS area estimate. The population estimate is 276,588 made up of 99,376 households.   References to the SKATS area will refer to the data from all these census tracts.
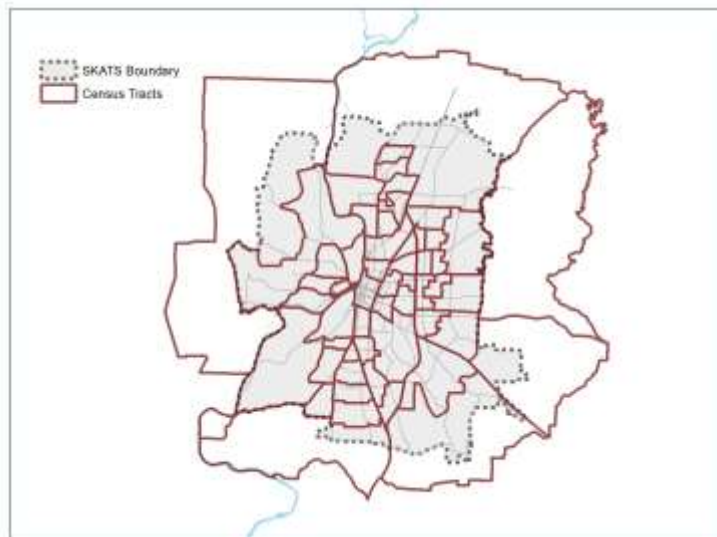

Figure 3 Map of Census Tract Coverage

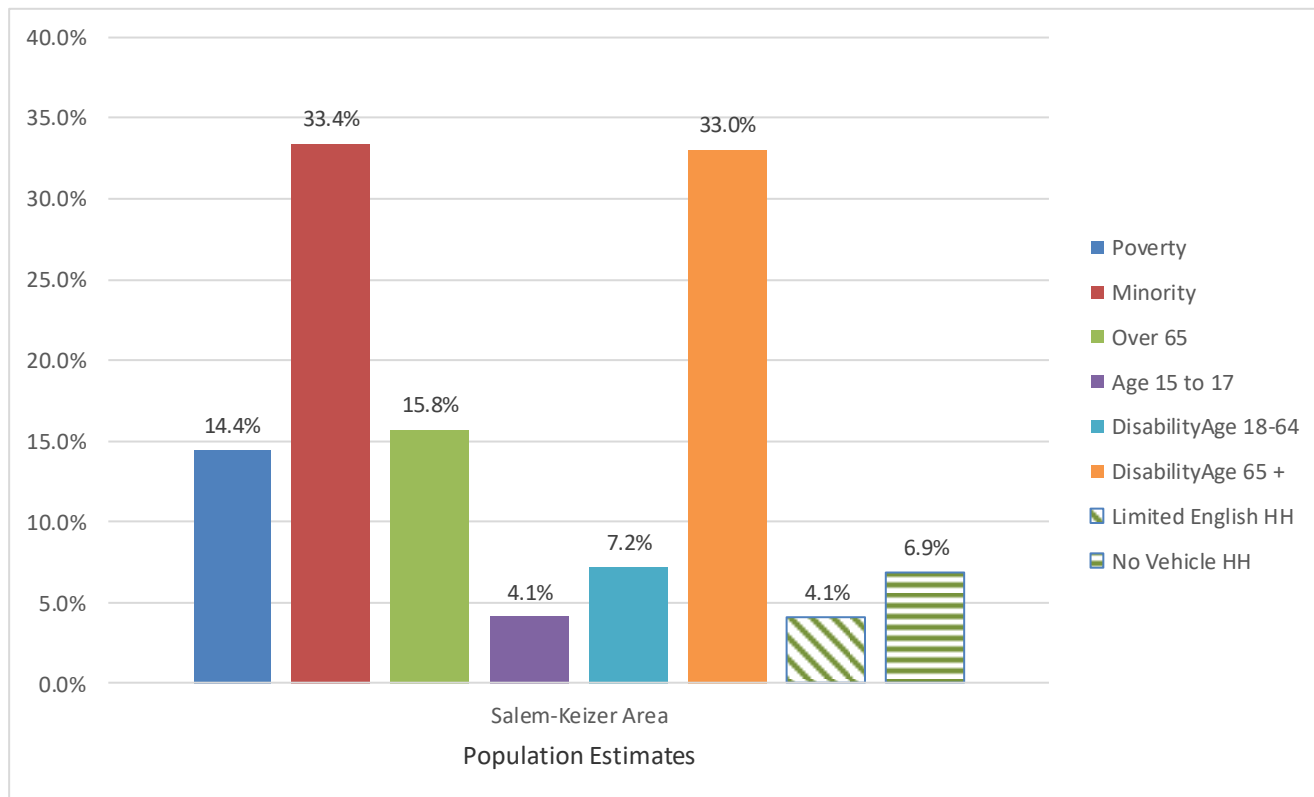For the demographic categories listed above, **Figure 4** shows the average value of each in the SKATS area.

Figure 4 Population Averages in SKATS

Demographic Profile of Populations in SKATS - 2022   4

General Long-Term Trends

In reviewing current population and demographic information the question often asked is how does this compare to previous years? **Figure 5** compares the last non-overlapping 5-year period with the current 5-year data. Minority, elderly, and disabled elderly populations increased, limited English speaking households remained the same, and all other categories decreased slightly.

Figure 5, Comparison of 2011-2015 ACS data and 2016-2020 ACS data for the census tracts covering the SKATS area:
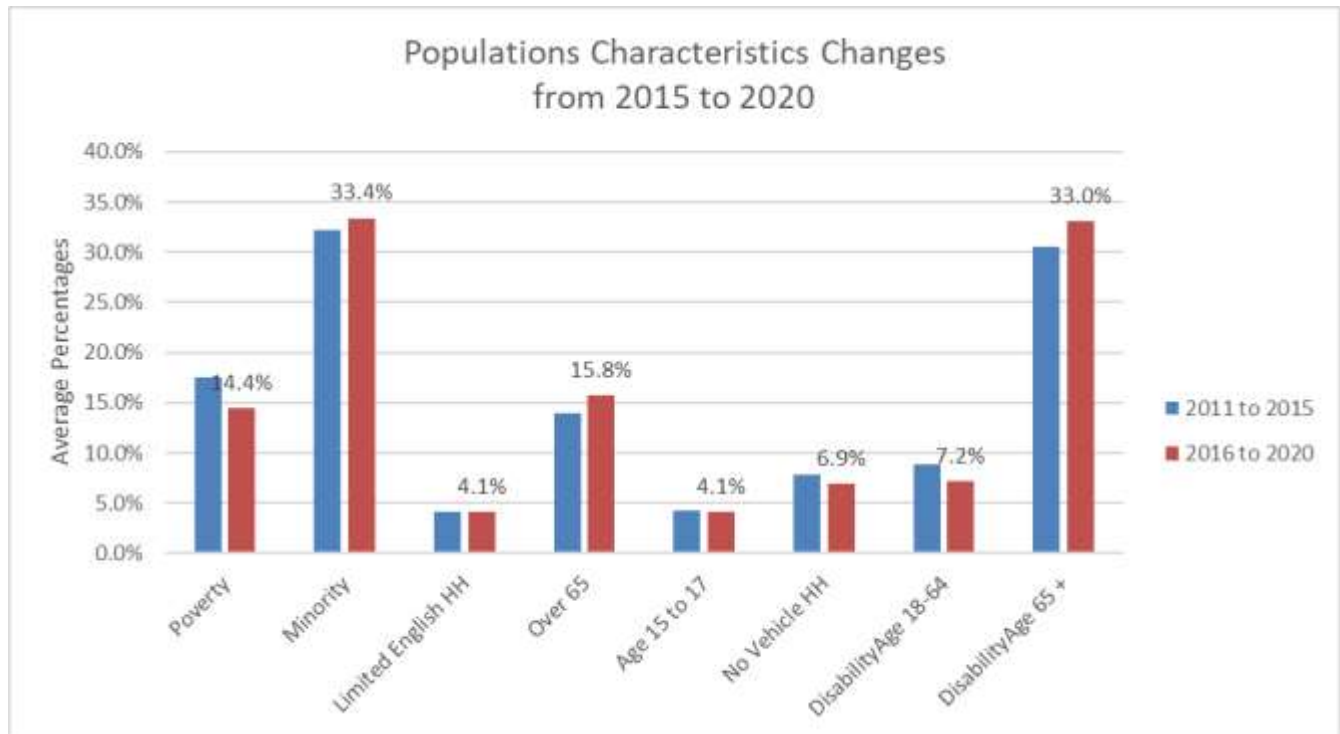

Figure 5 Population Change 2011-2015 to 2016-2020

Census tract boundaries often change over time, making a direct comparison of small geographic areas incompatible. However, some general trends can be observed. Summary data from previous reports included data from:
- 2000 Decennial Census
- 2006-2010 ACS
- 2011-2015 ACS

Including the recent 2016-2020 ACS data, in all four periods, the highest concentrations of minority populations are in east and northeast Salem. The highest concentrations of those living in poverty in the same periods were in central and northeast Salem.

Figure 6 shows SKATS area estimates for those demographic categories that had consistent or comparable data reporting for the last 20 years. (Statistical reporting for disabled populations changed over time and is not included.)
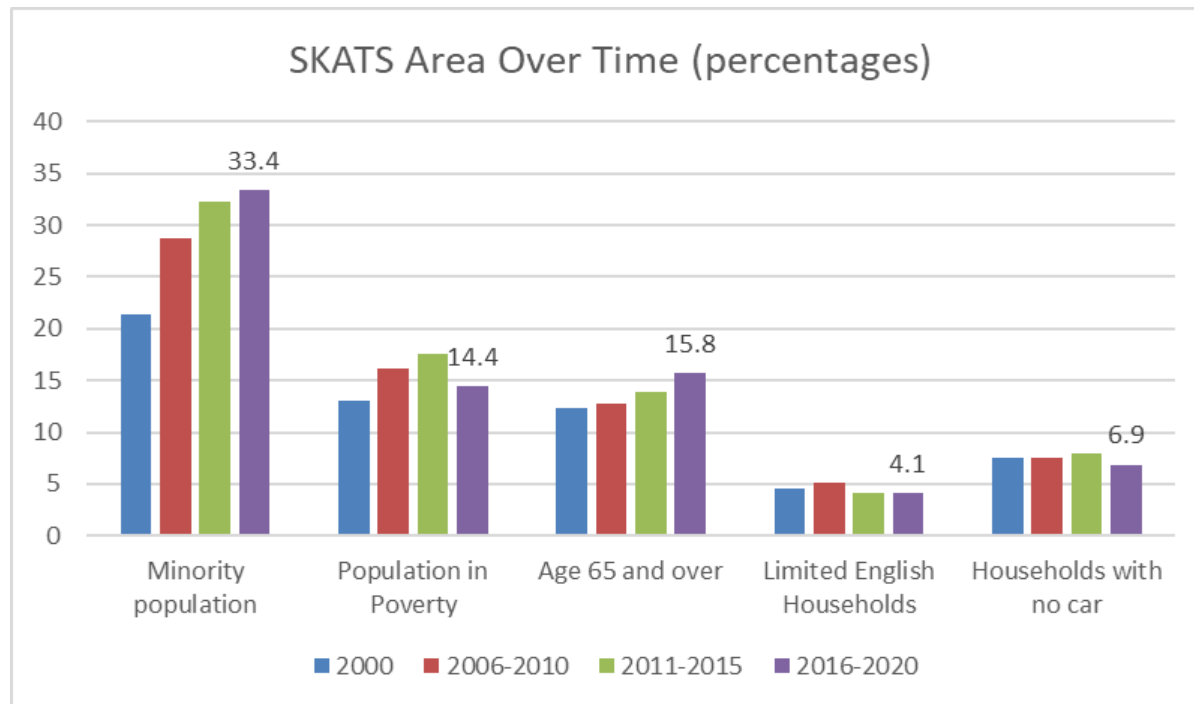

Figure 6 Population Percentages by Time Period in SKATS

Minority populations increased the greatest amount since 2000 growing from an average of 21% to over 33% in the 20-year time span. Poverty rates have fluctuated over the same period. The elderly population increased to almost 16%, largely due to the aging of the baby boomer generation, while limited English households and households without vehicles have remained relatively constant at 4% and almost 7%.

The total population of the SKATS area increased from 223,988 in 2000 to an estimate of 276,588 in the 2016-2020 survey (for the census tracts covering the same geographic area) as shown in **Figure 7**. This is a 23% increase from the year 2000.
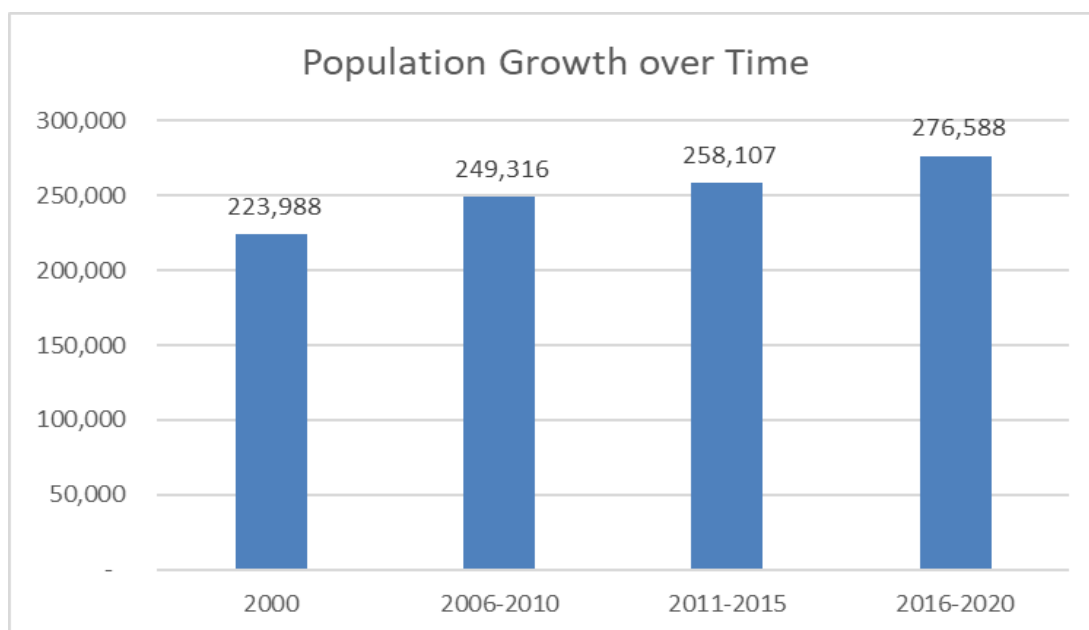
Population Growth over Time

300,000

250,000

200,000

150,000

100,000

50,000

-

| 2000 | 2006-2010 | 2011-2015 | 2016-2020 |

223,988 — 249,316 — 258,107 — 276,588

Figure 7 Population Growth over Time

Race and Ethnicity

Race and ethnicity are reported as separate demographic characteristics. When responding to the ACS survey, respondents answer whether they are of Hispanic origin or not, and additionally identify their race. Persons of Hispanic origins may identify themselves as any race including White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, some other race, or two or more races. Looking at just the race profile alone does not give a full picture of the area's demographics. Minorities are defined in this report as of Hispanic origin and/or by a race that is non-white. **Table 1** shows the SKATS area population broken out by White and Minority populations, with detailed subcategories by race or ethnicity characteristics.

Table 1 Minority Populations in SKATS

Total	White alone	Minority and/or Hispanic		Hispanic		Black	American Indian and Alaska native	Asian	Pacific Islander	All other races, or 2 or more races
276,588	181,384	95,204		68,297		2,577	2,063	7,003	3,334	11,930
	66%	34%		25%		1%	1%	3%	1%	4%

The minority/non-minority split of the SKATS area is 34%/66%, an estimate of 95,204 persons out of SKATS' total population of 276,588. This is a higher minority percentage (by 2 points) than

in the 2011-2015 period, and larger than the 2006-2010 period when the split was 29%/71%. The Hispanic population is the largest ethnicity at 25% of the population overall, see **Figure 8** for the distribution.
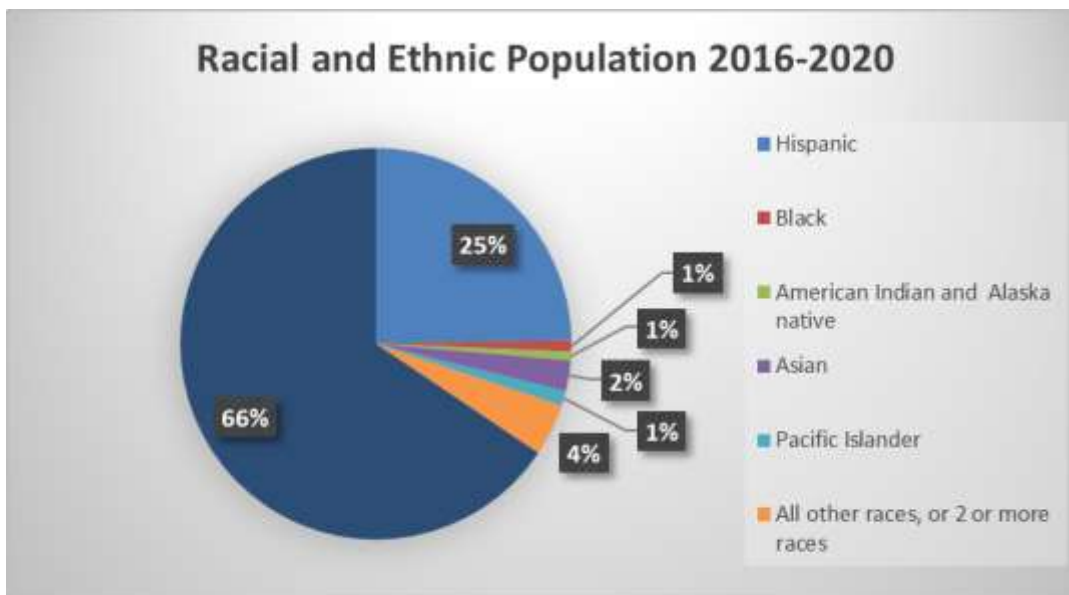

Figure 8 Racial and Ethnic Population

Multiple High Percentage Populations

There are some census tracts that have multiple higher than average populations. These are of interest from a planning standpoint to identify neighborhoods that may benefit from greater targeted outreach and involvement. To identify those areas, the top 10% of values were highlighted across all the populations data sets and summarized resulting in three census tracts with multiple occurrences of higher than average statistics. They are:

Tract 7.03, High in: minority population, poverty, no access to vehicle, and disabled over 65
Tract 16.05, High in: poverty, minority populations, and disabled over 65
Tract 16.07, High in: youth population, minority population, poverty and disabled over 65

Table 2 has the complete listing of percentages by census tract for each of the demographic parameters in this summary. To highlight the most affected census tracts, those that make up the top 10% are highlighted in red. Map 3 shows all tract numbers, and the five most affected census tracts highlighted in yellow.

Table 2 Census Tracts, top 10% of values highlighted

Average	15.8%	4.1%	33.4%	6.9%	4.1%	14.4%	7.2%	33.0%
Tract Number	Age 65 +	Age 15 to 17	Hispanic and/or non-white	No vehicle in Household	Limited English Household	In Poverty	Age 18 to 64 with a disability	Age 65+ with a disability
2	13%	1%	26%	16%	0	19%	8%	48%
3	11%	2%	38%	7%	5%	21%	15%	14%
4	10%	5%	41%	12%	7%	30%	6%	22%
5.01	11%	4%	56%	2%	6%	27%	6%	35%
5.02	9%	4%	52%	8%	14%	40%	8%	41%
6	11%	5%	35%	14%	9%	16%	10%	26%
7.02	14%	2%	42%	28%	8%	30%	6%	36%
7.03	7%	3%	61%	17%	9%	33%	6%	63%
9	9%	5%	25%	5%	2%	16%	6%	45%
10	10%	3%	40%	10%	5%	26%	13%	27%
11	18%	2%	14%	8%	0%	11%	8%	39%
12	19%	3%	18%	7%	0%	12%	5%	47%
13	17%	2%	17%	4%	1%	12%	5%	13%
14.01	22%	1%	26%	1%	3%	2%	9%	37%
14.02	14%	4%	25%	3%	2%	11%	16%	24%
15.01	18%	9%	19%	5%	0%	10%	6%	20%
15.02	9%	2%	39%	4%	2%	19%	6%	43%
15.03	12%	4%	44%	6%	2%	20%	8%	65%
16.01	16%	4%	47%	6%	4%	13%	8%	29%
16.03	18%	3%	60%	3%	7%	6%	5%	15%
16.05	3%	6%	60%	13%	8%	47%	7%	89%
16.06	7%	2%	65%	7%	23%	19%	7%	52%
16.07	5%	8%	66%	14%	9%	33%	11%	67%
16.08	12%	4%	52%	3%	10%	6%	15%	54%
17.01	18%	6%	54%	19%	3%	11%	11%	54%
17.02	15%	5%	52%	7%	11%	17%	11%	52%
17.03	19%	4%	39%	5%	6%	10%	14%	17%
18.01	14%	4%	54%	3%	3%	17%	15%	42%
18.02	11%	4%	54%	1%	6%	16%	9%	38%
18.03	15%	1%	37%	10%	3%	11%	8%	41%
20.01	15%	7%	26%	11%	1%	7%	4%	15%
20.02	18%	6%	27%	3%	5%	8%	9%	13%
21.01	24%	3%	23%	11%	1%	12%	6%	28%
21.02	27%	7%	12%	4%	0%	6%	4%	19%
22.01	28%	3%	29%	3%	1%	4%	4%	51%
22.02	18%	3%	18%	5%	0%	12%	1%	33%
23.01	14%	2%	21%	2%	1%	9%	5%	17%

23.03	13%	5%	27%	2%	2%	14%	5%	22%
23.04	19%	4%	21%	4%	2%	5%	2%	11%
24	21%	4%	26%	0%	0%	4%	3%	18%
25.02	19%	5%	37%	1%	4%	12%	7%	24%
25.03	16%	4%	24%	7%	4%	3%	11%	32%
25.04	16%	5%	22%	2%	6%	3%	6%	18%
26	20%	3%	12%	4%	2%	6%	3%	27%
27.01	28%	2%	13%	3%	1%	5%	4%	14%
27.02	23%	2%	5%	1%	0%	5%	6%	10%
28	19%	5%	16%	3%	1%	16%	8%	19%
51	10%	2%	38%	7%	1%	17%	13%	42%
52.03	14%	6%	28%	4%	1%	5%	5%	21%
52.04	20%	3%	23%	15%	2%	11%	5%	44%
52.05	17%	4%	15%	5%	0%	5%	2%	24%
52.06	15%	19%	21%	18%	0%	17%	0%	11%
53.01	26%	3%	19%	2%	4%	3%	3%	20%
53.02	29%	2%	19%	2%	10%	19%	4%	47%

Census Tracts, Numbered and Highlighted

Figure 9 Census Tracts

A Note about the Data Source

For the purposes of this report, the margins of errors are not mapped or detailed in the tables. A margin of error is the difference between an estimate and its upper or lower confidence bounds. Confidence bounds can be created by adding the margin of error to the estimate (for the upper bound) and subtracting the margin of error from the estimate (for the lower bound). All published ACS margins of error are based on a 90-percent confidence level. In this report, consider the values shown, both as totals and percentages, as estimates. Complete error reporting statistics for the data tables summarized here are available through the U.S. Census website at www.census.gov.

Margins of errors are available as part of the data in the online map link at the top of this report.

Appendix A: Poverty Definitions from the U.S. Census
Source: American Community Survey

How the Census Bureau Measures Poverty:

Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps).
For historical information, see the History of the Poverty Measure page in the About section of the Poverty subtopic site.

The History of the Official Poverty Measure
Learn about the history of the poverty measure through OMB Statistical Policy Directive 14, several reports, & a visualization on the topic.

Money Income: Income Used to Compute Poverty Status
The income used to compute poverty status includes (before taxes):
- Earnings
- Unemployment compensation
- Workers' compensation
- Social Security
- Supplemental Security Income
- Public assistance
- Veterans' payments
- Survivor benefits
- Pension or retirement income
- Interest

- Dividends
- Rents
- Royalties
- Income from estates
- Trusts
- Educational assistance
- Alimony
- Child support
- Assistance from outside the household
- Other miscellaneous sources

Money income does not include:
- Capital gains or losses
- Noncash benefits (e.g. food stamps and housing subsidies)
- Tax credits

Poverty Thresholds: Measure of Need

Poverty thresholds are the dollar amounts used to determine poverty status.

The Census Bureau assigns each person or family one out of 48 possible poverty thresholds.
- Thresholds vary by the size of the family and age of the members.
- The same thresholds are used throughout the United States (they do not vary geographically).
- Thresholds are updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U).
- Although the thresholds in some sense reflect a family's needs, they are intended for use as a statistical yardstick, not as a complete description of what people and families need to live.

Table
Poverty Thresholds
Poverty Thresholds by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years Source: Current Population Survey (CPS)

Computation

To calculate total family income, the incomes of all related family members that live together are added up to determine poverty status. If an individual or group of individuals (such as housemates) are not living with family members, their own individual income is compared with their individual poverty threshold.

Thus, all family members have the same poverty status, and some families may be composed of single unrelated individuals.

If total family income:
- Is less than the poverty threshold for that family - that family and everyone in it is considered to be in poverty.
- Equals or is greater than the poverty threshold - the family is not considered to be in poverty.

People Whose Poverty Status Cannot Be Determined

Poverty status cannot be determined for people in:
- Institutional group quarters (such as prisons or nursing homes)
- College dormitories
- Military barracks
- Living situations without conventional housing (and who are not in shelters)

Additionally, poverty status cannot be determined for unrelated individuals under age 15 (such as foster children) because income questions are asked of people age 15 and older and, if someone is under age 15 and not living with a family member, we do not know their income. Since we cannot determine their poverty status, they are excluded from the "poverty universe" (table totals).

Example

Situation
Family A has five members: two children, one mother, one father, and one great-aunt.
Step 1: Determine the family's poverty threshold for that year
The family's 2020 poverty threshold (below) is $31,661.

Table
Poverty Thresholds
Poverty Thresholds by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years Source: Current Population Survey (CPS)

Step 2: Calculate the total family income for the same year
Suppose the members' incomes in 2020 were:
- Child 1: $0
- Child 2: $0
- Mother: $11,000
- Father: $11,000
- Great-aunt: $10,000

Thus, Family A's total income for 2020 was $32,000.
Step 3: Compare the family's total income with the poverty threshold
The total family income divided by the poverty threshold is called the Ratio of Income to Poverty.
Income / Threshold = $32,000 / $31,661 = 1.01
The difference in dollars between family income and the family's poverty threshold is called the Income Deficit (for families in poverty) or Income Surplus (for families above poverty).
Income – Threshold = $32,000 - $31,661= $339

Conclusion
Since Family A's total income was greater than their poverty threshold, they are considered not "in poverty" according to the official definition.

For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar21.pdf [PDF - <1.0 MB].
The Census Bureau reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release. CBDRB-FY21-282.

Poverty Thresholds for 2020 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years										

Size of family unit	Weighted average thresholds	Related children under 18 years								
		None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more
One person (unrelated individual):	13,171									
Under age 65..............................	13,465	13,465								
Aged 65 and older........................	12,413	12,413								
Two people:	16,733									
Householder under age 65.............	17,413	17,331	17,839							
Householder aged 65 and older......	15,659	15,644	17,771							
Three people...................................	20,591	20,244	20,832	20,852						
Four people.....................................	26,496	26,695	27,131	26,246	26,338					
Five people......................................	31,417	32,193	32,661	31,661	30,887	30,414				
Six people.......................................	35,499	37,027	37,174	36,408	35,674	34,582	33,935			
Seven people..................................	40,406	42,605	42,871	41,954	41,314	40,124	38,734	37,210		
Eight people....................................	44,755	47,650	48,071	47,205	46,447	45,371	44,006	42,585	42,224	
Nine people or more.........................	53,905	57,319	57,597	56,831	56,188	55,132	53,679	52,366	52,040	50,035
Source: U.S. Census Bureau.										