II. Population Demographics

In the OMEGA Region, there are 10 total counties that make up the entire region population of 584,566 (2017 estimated population). In order of largest to the smallest county in population, these include:

- Columbiana County (2017 Population: 106,670);
- Tuscarawas County (2017 Population: 92,531);
- Muskingum County (2017 Population: 85,933);
- Belmont County (2017 Population: 69,228);
- Jefferson County (2017 Population: 67,607);
- Holmes County (2017 Population: 43,702);
- Guernsey County (2017 Population: 38,555);
- Coshocton County (2017 Population: 36,602);
- Carroll County (2017 Population: 28,108);
- Harrison County (2017 Population: 15,630).

The three largest cities in the region are:

- Zanesville (2017 Population: 25,388);
- Steubenville (2017 Population: 18,003);
- New Philadelphia (2017 Population: 17,424)

Population Trend and Projection for Every Five Years Until 2040

As shown in **Exhibit 2-1A**, the population in the OMEGA Region is projected to decline by about 4% between now and 2040. Although the population for the region is forecasted to decline over the next 20 years, it is very gradual at 0.6% every 5 years. These projections may very well change and increase depending on the impacts of the oil and gas industry in the eastern part of the region with the proposed ethane cracker plant in Belmont County in the near future.
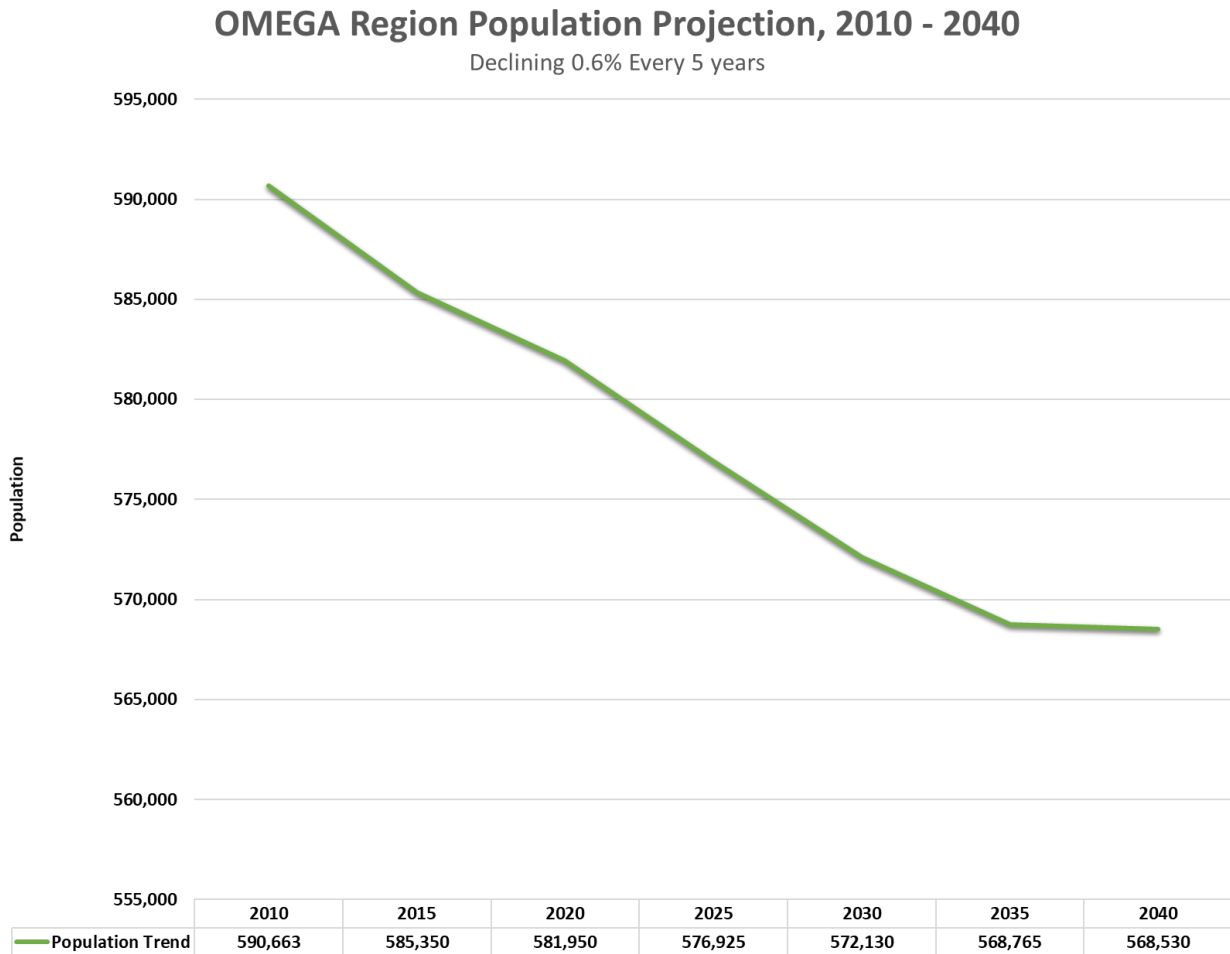
OMEGA Region Population Projection, 2010 - 2040

Declining 0.6% Every 5 years

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Population Trend	590,663	585,350	581,950	576,925	572,130	568,765	568,530

EXHIBIT 2-1A TOTAL POPULATION PROJECTION

Source: Ohio Development Services Agency, Office of Research; April 2018

Total Population Projection by Age Group

From the onset, the population projection by age group in the OMEGA Region will have two age groups with significant growth as shown in **Exhibit 2-1B**. These two age groups are 0-14 years old and 65 and over as they make up a significant portion of the population over the next 20 years. The 55-64 years old age group as well as the 45-54 years old age group show a steep decline over the same length of time. All other age groups seem to be level with neither a significant increase nor decrease. The senior population age 65 years old and over is projected to be the largest age group population in the region by year 2020 and continuing through 2040.

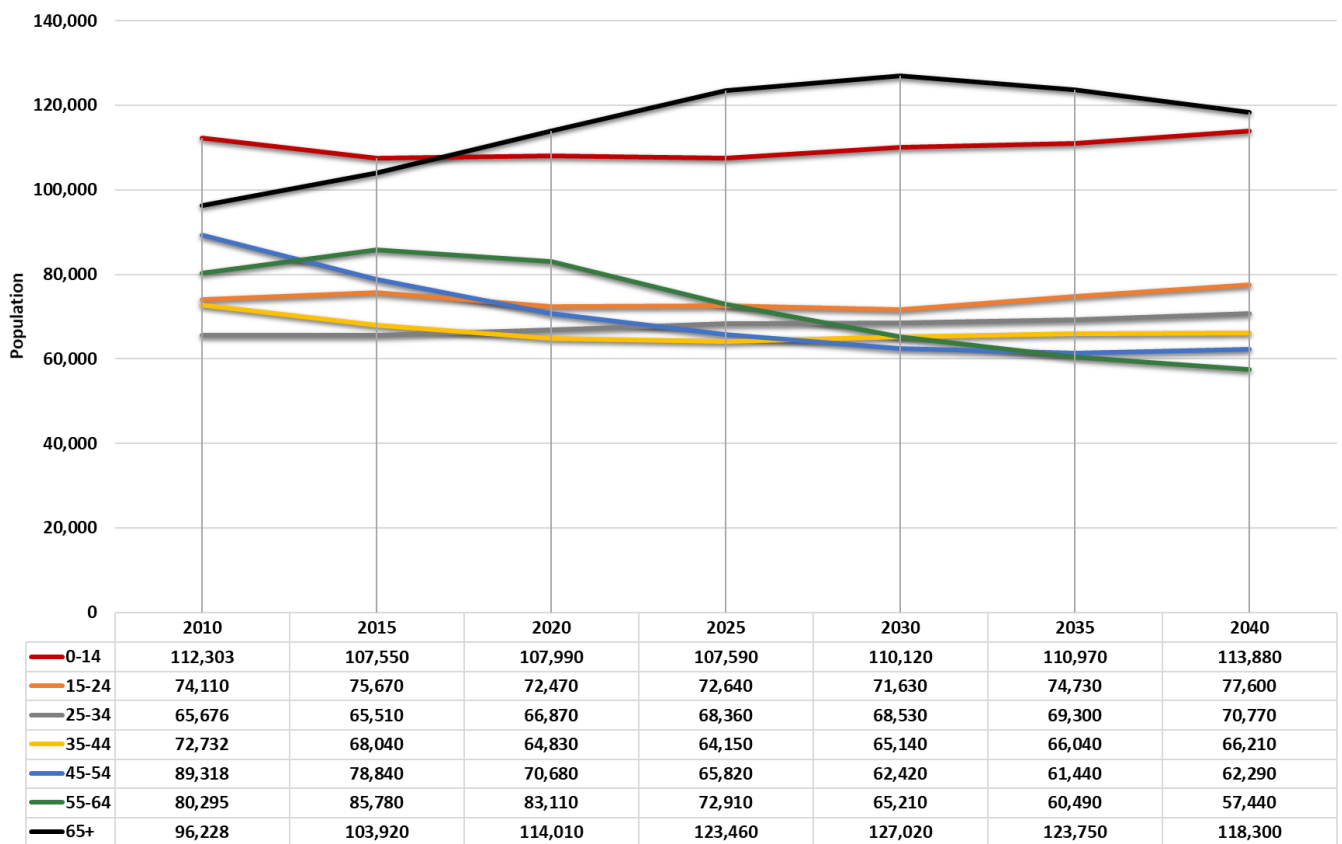### OMEGA Region Population Project by Age, 2010 - 2040

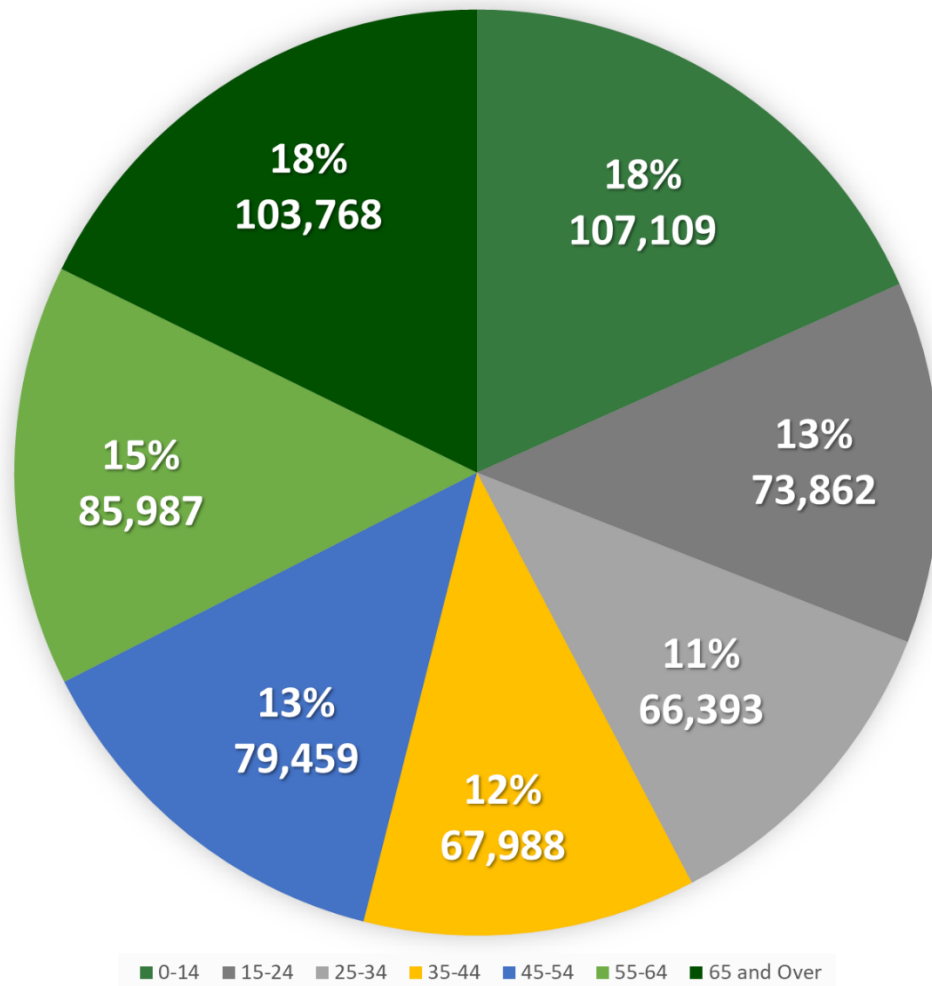|	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
0-14	112,303	107,550	107,990	107,590	110,120	110,970	113,880
15-24	74,110	75,670	72,470	72,640	71,630	74,730	77,600
25-34	65,676	65,510	66,870	68,360	68,530	69,300	70,770
35-44	72,732	68,040	64,830	64,150	65,140	66,040	66,210
45-54	89,318	78,840	70,680	65,820	62,420	61,440	62,290
55-64	80,295	85,780	83,110	72,910	65,210	60,490	57,440
65+	96,228	103,920	114,010	123,460	127,020	123,750	118,300

EXHIBIT 2-1B TOTAL POPULATION PROJECTION BY AGE

Source: Ohio Development Services Agency, Office of Research; April 2018

Total Population by Age Group

Currently, the two largest age groups in the OMEGA region are the 0-14 years old and 65 and over age group. They both have an equal share in population at 18% of the population age groups. A little more than half the population in the region, 54%, is younger than the age of 44 years old. Only a third of the overall population is age 55 years old or older and in the next 10 years will influence the growth of the senior age population even larger than it currently is.

OMEGA Region Total Population by Age Group
Total Population: 584,566

18% 103,768	18% 107,109
15% 85,987	13% 73,862
13% 79,459	11% 66,393
12% 67,988	

Legend: ■ 0-14 ■ 15-24 ■ 25-34 ■ 35-44 ■ 45-54 ■ 55-64 ■ 65 and Over

EXHIBIT 2-2 - TOTAL POPULATION BY AGE

Source: Ohio Development Services Agency, Office of Research; April 2018

Total Population by Race

Over 93% of the population in the OMEGA region is white (non-Hispanic), 2.5% of the population is black/African American, 1.35% are Hispanic/Latino, and under 1% are either Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American or other. Another portion of the population at 1.7% is a combination of two or more races.
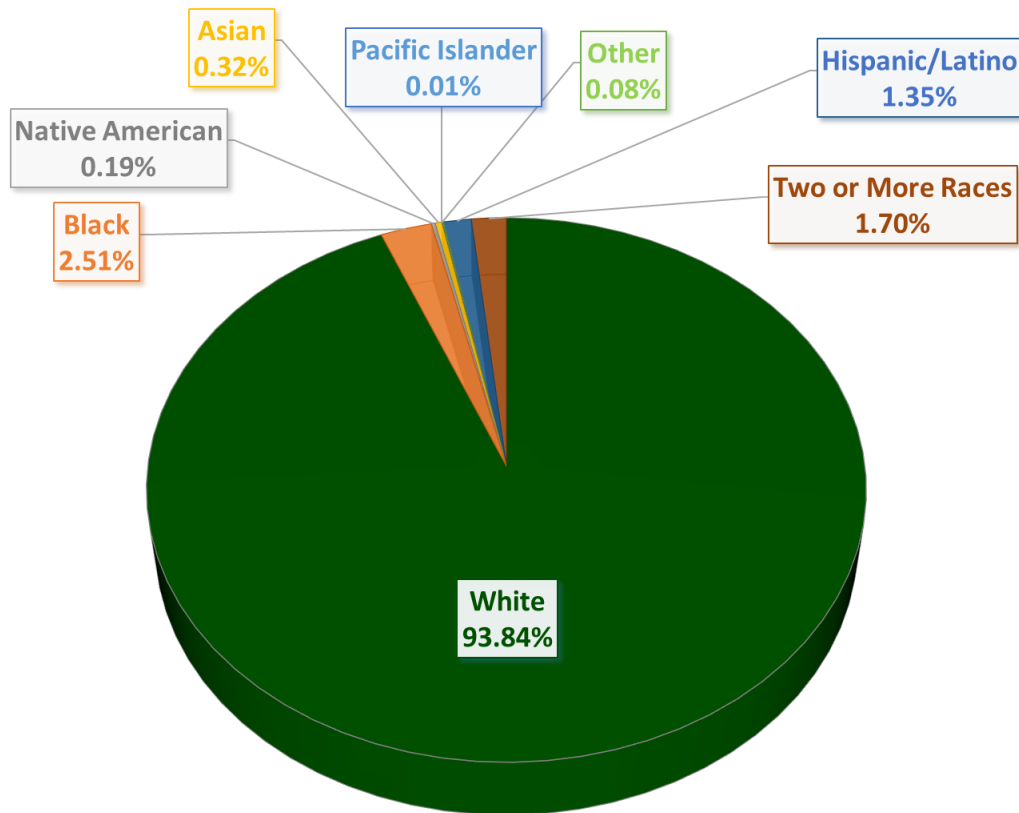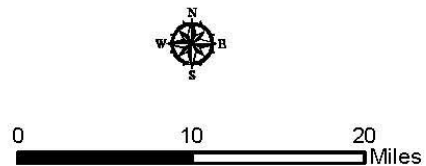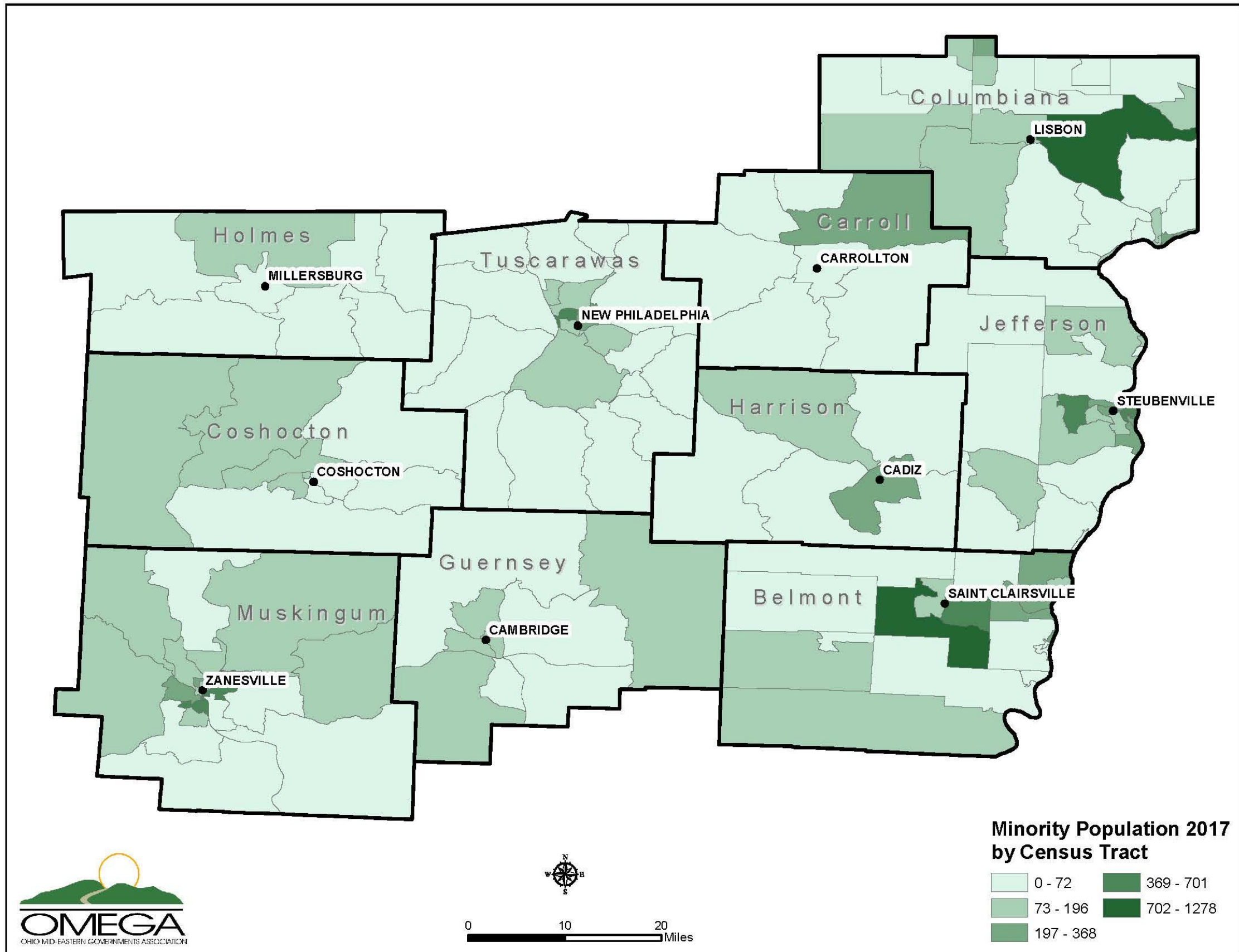
OMEGA REGION POPULATION BY RACE

EXHIBIT 2-3 - TOTAL POPULATION BY RACE

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

According to **Map 2-1**, the approximate 6% of the minority population in the region is distributed proportionately throughout the 10 counties. The range of the population concentration in the map is from 0 (light green) to at most 1,278 people (dark green) per census tract. Only a few counties have a higher concentration of minority population compared to the rest of the region: Belmont, Columbiana, Jefferson, and Muskingum. In these counties the minority population appears to be in or around the county seats, such as Lisbon, Steubenville, St. Clairsville, and Zanesville.

Map 2-1 – OMEGA Region minority Population

Number and Percentage of People with Disabilities

The disability rate is very important relating to transit and human services transportation use. Many people with disabilities lack mobility to transport themselves and rely on other modes of transportation. Often, they rely on their family, friends, neighbors, or other public transit options. The current disability rate in the OMEGA region is 15%, which is slightly greater than the state of Ohio's disability rate at 13.9%. This means that 88,860 people who live in the region are living with a disability either mental, cognitive or physical that may require assistance with their transportation needs for their daily activities. As the population continues to age the disability rate may increase as well.

OMEGA Region Disability Rate

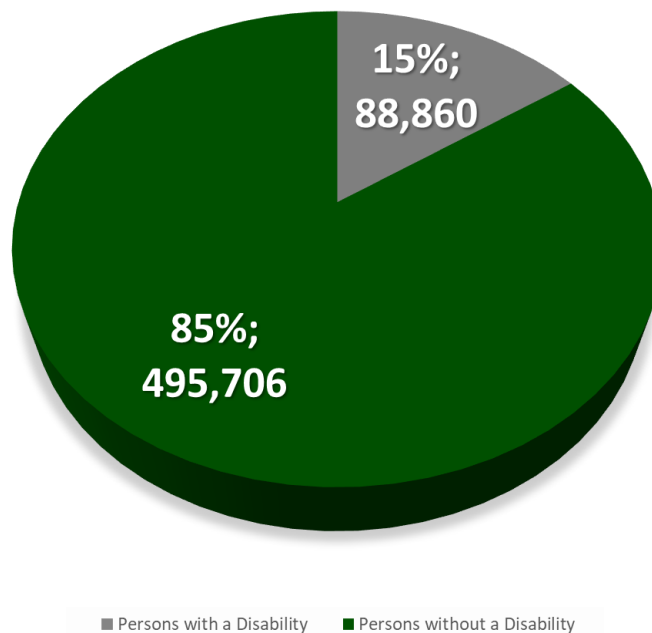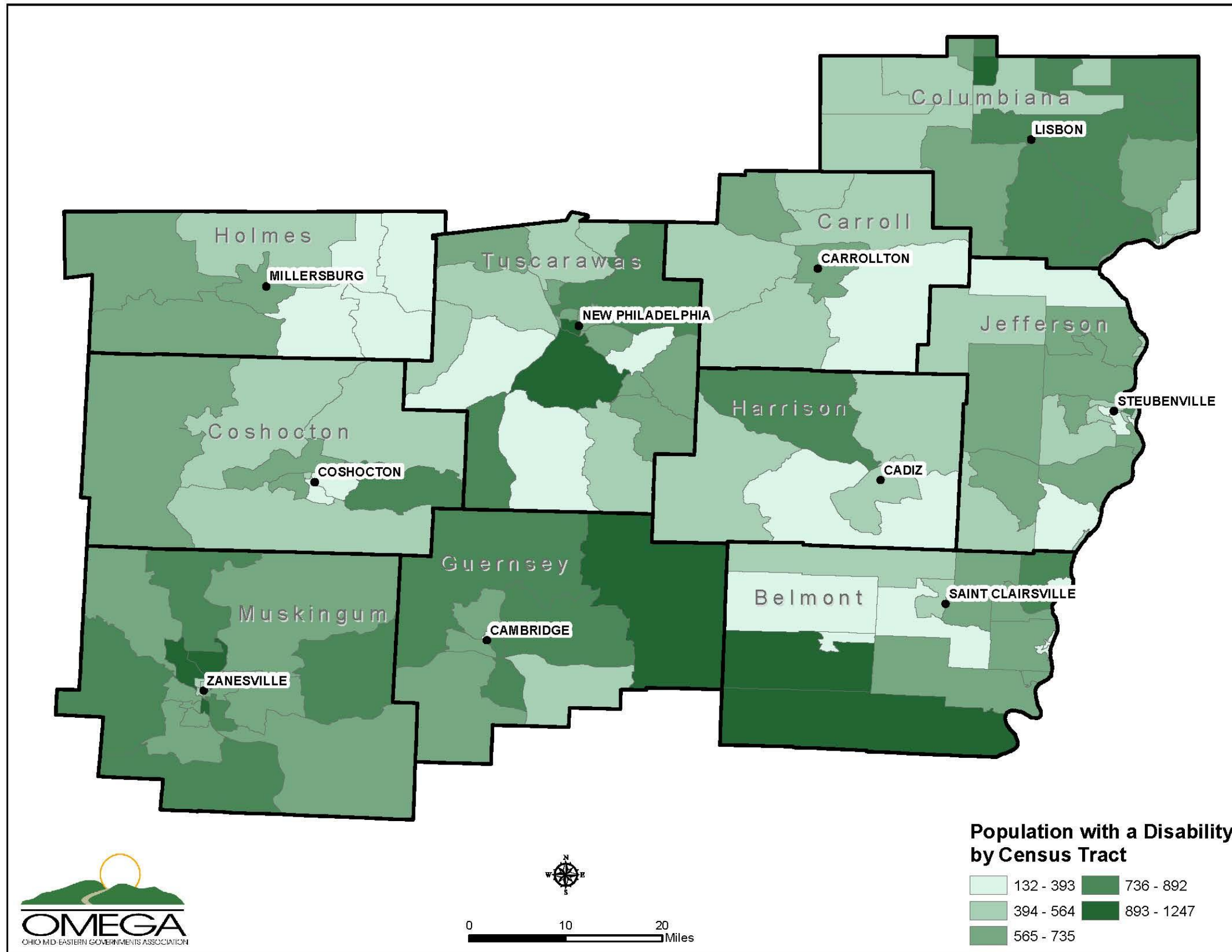State of Ohio Disability Rate - 13.9%

15%;
88,860

85%;
495,706

■ Persons with a Disability   ■ Persons without a Disability

EXHIBIT 2-4 – DISABILITY RATE

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Map 2-2 shows the distribution of persons with any disability throughout the OMEGA region. The number of disabled persons per census tract ranges from 132 people (light green) up to 1,247 people (dark green). The areas in the region that have the highest number of people with disabilities are south and southwest Belmont County, north, central and east Guernsey County, north Zanesville in Muskingum County, south of New Philadelphia in Tuscarawas County, northwest Harrison County, and most of Columbiana County in the south, central and northeastern parts of the county. Every census tract in the western extreme of the region in Coshocton, Muskingum, and Holmes counties have a minimum 565 people with a disability per each census tract. These are the areas that may benefit from more presence of services for people with disabilities.

MAP 2-2: OMEGA REGION POPULATION WITH ANY DISABILITY, BY CENSUS TRACT

Number and Percentage of Households with Incomes Below the Federal Poverty Level

The federal household poverty level is defined as a four-member household with a combined income below $24,600 for the year, or $2,050 for the month. In the OMEGA Region, there are currently 58,874 households (13.7%) below the federal poverty level and this is greater than Ohio's average households below poverty rate of 13.2%. Access to affordable transportation options may be beneficial to households with incomes below the federal poverty level.

OMEGA Region Households Below Poverty
State of Ohio - Households Below Poverty - 13.2%

58,874; 13.7%

371,062; 86.3%

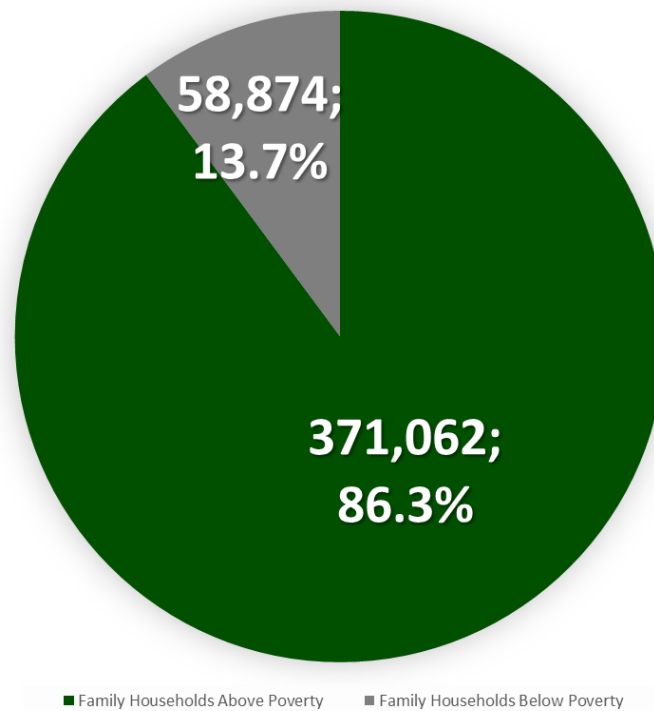■ Family Households Above Poverty   ■ Family Households Below Poverty

EXHIBIT 2-5 – OMEGA REGION HOUSEHOLDS BELOW FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Number and Percentage of Individuals with Incomes Below the Federal Poverty Level

The federal poverty level for an individual is one person with an annual income of $12,490 or less. Individuals who live below the poverty level generally are unable to afford many services. Many of these individuals who live below poverty are unable to afford their own vehicles, and may have to rely on family, friends, or neighbors to help them meet their daily transportation needs. In the OMEGA Region, there are 87,800 individuals who live below the poverty level which equates to 15.5% of the total population. This is similar to the individual poverty level in the state of Ohio of 15.4%. Connecting these individuals to employment opportunities in the region with more transit or transportation options may strengthen the regional economy.

OMEGA Regional Population Poverty Level

State of Ohio Average - 15.4%

15.5%; 87,800
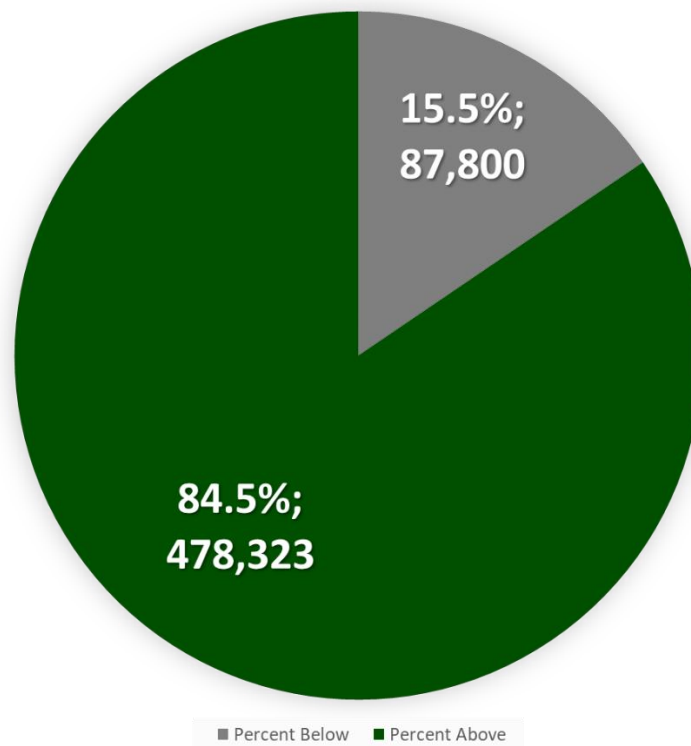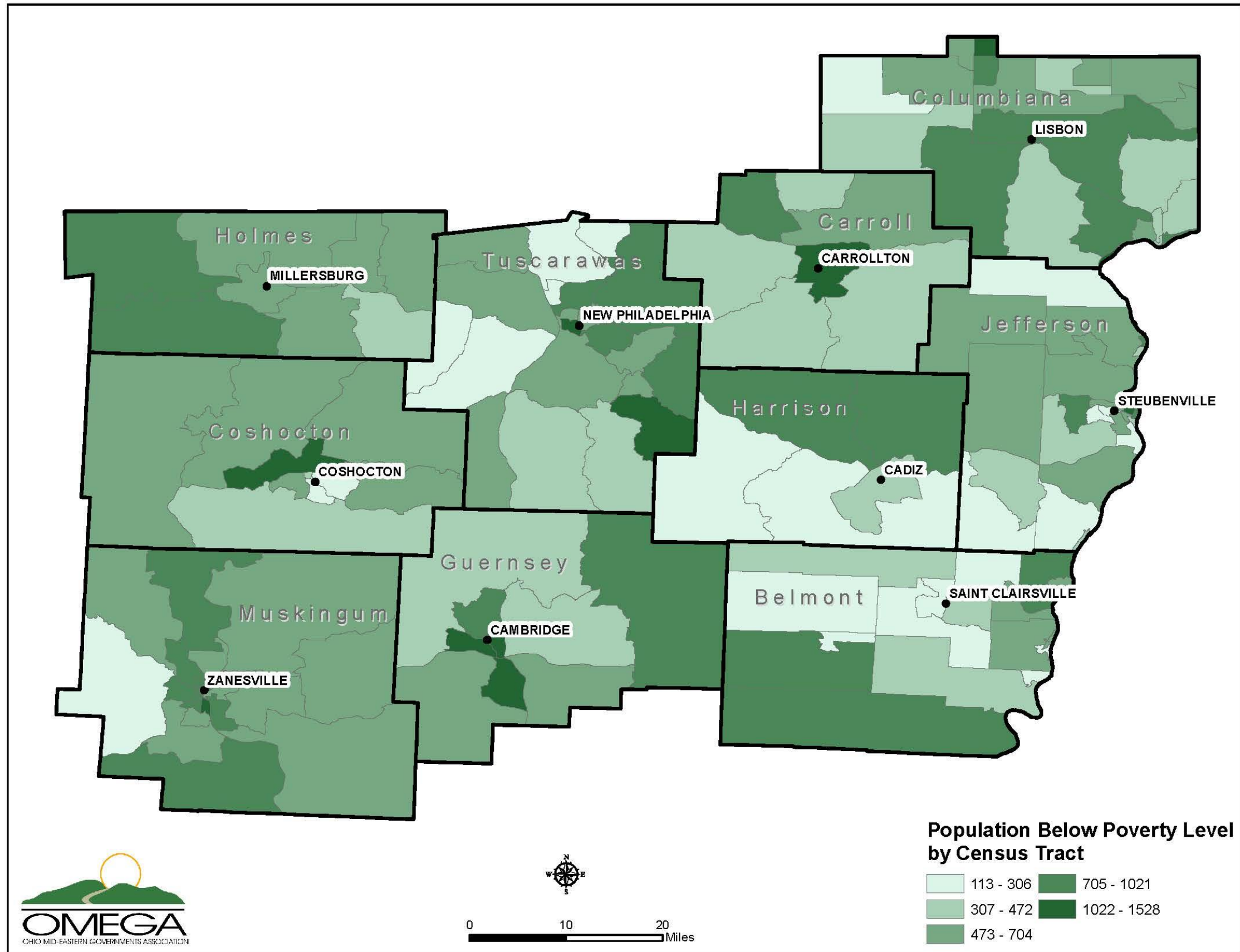
84.5%; 478,323

■ Percent Below   ■ Percent Above

EXHIBIT 2-6 – OMEGA REGION INDIVIDUALS BELOW FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Map 2-3 displays the population of individuals that live below the poverty level in the region by census tract. Each county in the region has different concentrations where poverty exists. Guernsey County has the highest level of poverty at 20.2% or 7,857 individuals. Harrison and Jefferson County have the next two highest poverty levels in the region at 18.1%, 2,756 individuals, and 17.2%, 11,208 individuals, respectively. The county with the lowest poverty rate is Holmes County at 12.9% of the entire county population, or 5,504 individuals. The counties that have higher rates of individual poverty may benefit from more availability of transportation services.

Map 2-3 – OMEGA Region Poverty Level by Individual

Percent of Population that Speak English "Less than Very Well"

The age for determining English language proficiency is 5 years old. In the OMEGA Region, the total population that is 5 years and over is 548,524. This is the population from which the percentage of the region's limited English proficiency is determined. According to **Exhibit 2-7**, there are 14,271 individuals in the region, 8,158 who live in Holmes County, that are considered to speak English less than very well. This equates to 2.6% of the total population aged 5 years and over and is slightly higher than the 2.4% in the state of Ohio. The presence of a growing Amish population, especially prevalent in Holmes County, is unique for the region.

OMEGA REGION LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

■ Percent Speak English "Very Well"   ■ Percent Speak English "Less than Very Well"
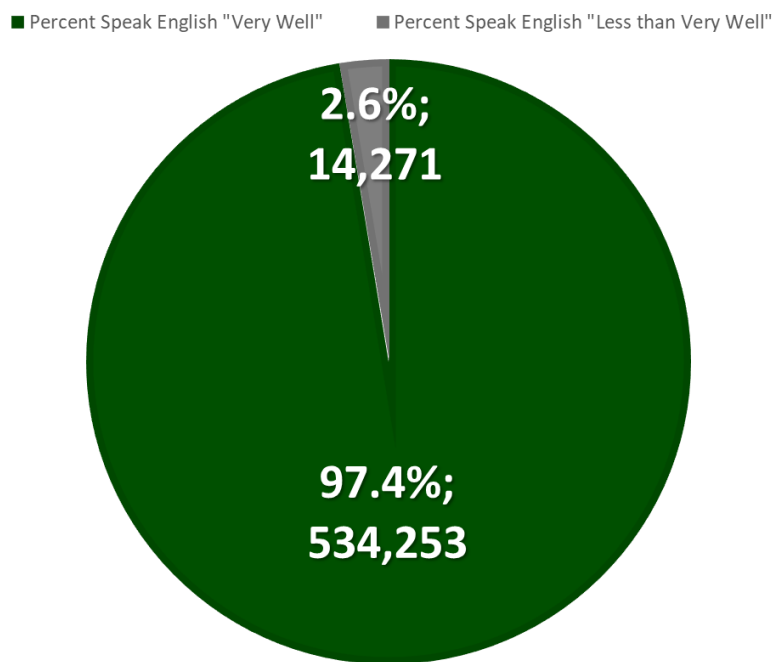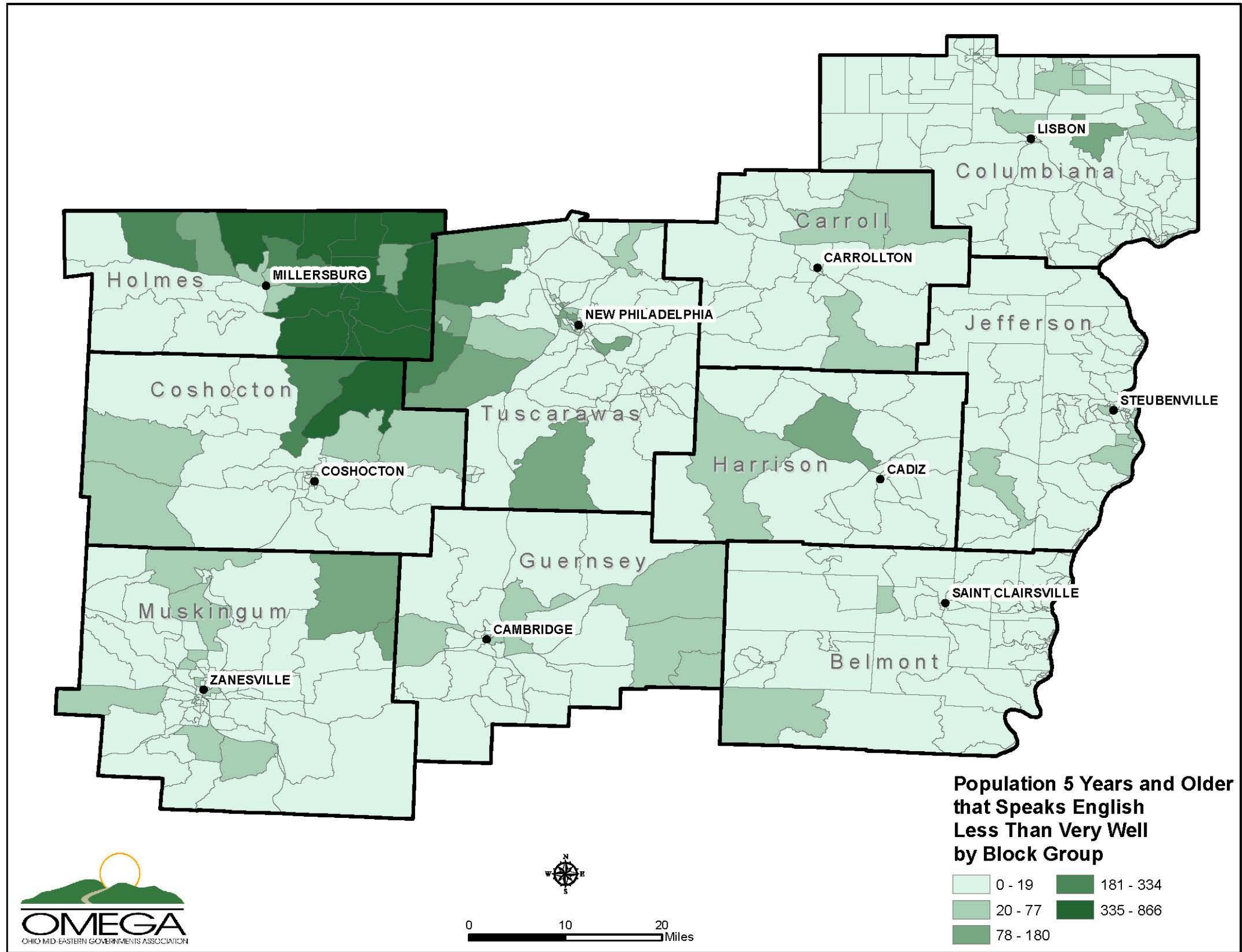
2.6%; 14,271

97.4%; 534,253

EXHIBIT 2-7 – OMEGA REGION POPULATION WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Map 2-4 illustrates the OMEGA region population with limited English proficiency. This map clearly illustrates that only 2.6% of the entire region has limited English proficiency. More than half, 57.2%, of the population with limited English proficiency reside in Holmes County. Persons with limited English proficiency are located primarily in the eastern part of the county as well as north and south of the county seat, Millersburg. This population also trickles into northeastern Coshocton County, northwestern Tuscarawas County and most of this population may be primarily Amish. These areas of the region that have limited English proficiency may benefit from bilingual and other language services that can help them be more mobile throughout the region.

MAP 2-4: OMEGA REGION LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY POPULATION

Employment Status

The population that is eligible to be employed is the population 16 years old and older. In the OMEGA region, the population that is 16 years old and older is estimated at 455,060. The civilian labor force are the individuals eligible to work and who are currently employed or unemployed but are actively seeking employment. There are an estimated 260,300 individuals considered to be in the civilian labor force in the entire region. Of the total civilian labor force, there is an estimate of 14,100 individuals who are unemployed and 246,200 individuals who are employed. This population that is unemployed is roughly 3.1% of the total population 16 years old and older.

According to the 2017 US Census American Community Survey, for the civilian labor force, the unemployment rate is currently 5.5%, which is considered to be the percent of the civilian labor force that is unemployed and actively seeking employment. This is 0.8% more than the state of Ohio's unemployment rate at 4.7%. Transportation for a strong employment force is a key issue that faces the region. Access to reliable transportation is a key component to remaining employed.

OMEGA REGION EMPLOYMENT STATUS
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (FROM CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE) - 5.5%

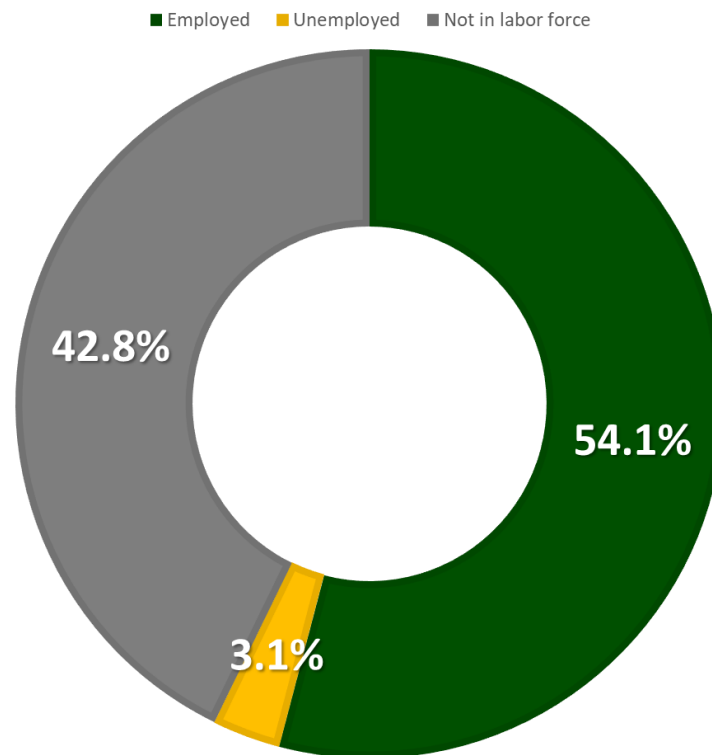■ Employed   ■ Unemployed   ■ Not in labor force

42.8%

54.1%

3.1%

EXHIBIT 2-8 – EMPLOYMENT STATUS IN THE OMEGA REGION

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Number and Percentage of Zero-Vehicle Households

There are 229,247 occupied housing units, both renter and owner occupied, in the OMEGA region. Approximately 8% of the total households in the OMEGA region, or 18,642, do not own a vehicle or have access to a vehicle for their personal use. Often, people who don't own a vehicle have to rely on family, friends, neighbors and coworkers.

OMEGA Region Zero-Vehicle Households
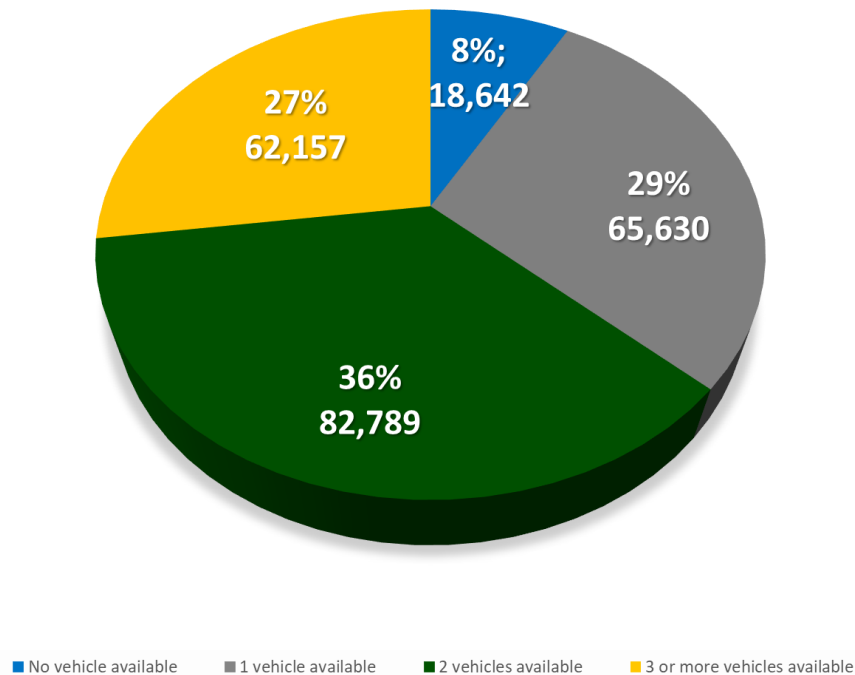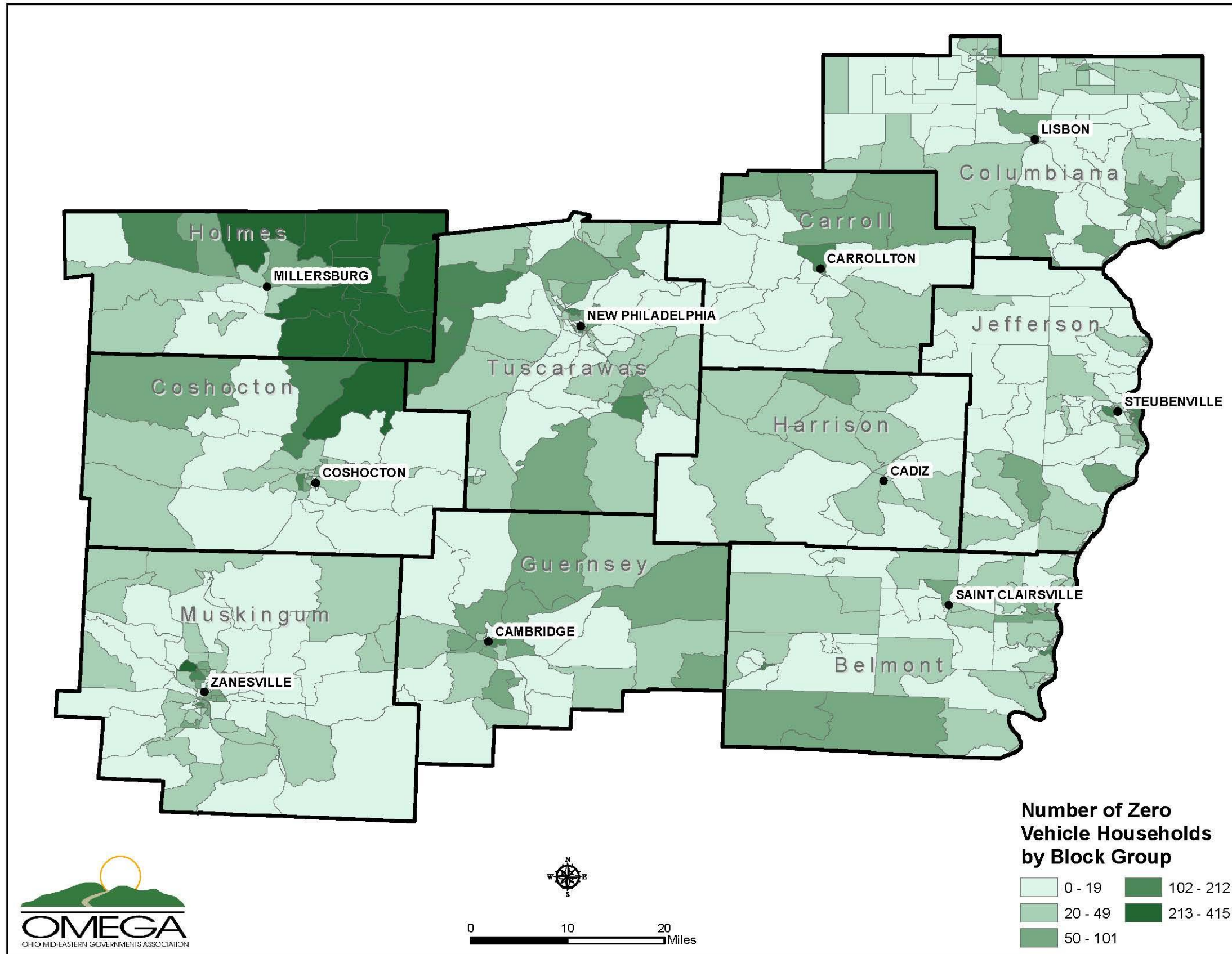Total Occupied Housing Units: 229,247

Legend:
- No vehicle available
- 1 vehicle available
- 2 vehicles available
- 3 or more vehicles available

Pie chart values:
- 8%; 18,642 (No vehicle available)
- 29% 65,630 (1 vehicle available)
- 36% 82,789 (2 vehicles available)
- 27% 62,157 (3 or more vehicles available)

EXHIBIT 2-9 – OMEGA REGION ZERO-VEHICLE HOUSEHOLDS

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Map 2-5 represents all the occupied households, both owned and rented, in the region that do not own a vehicle. Not owning a vehicle may be due to financial circumstances that inhibits the household from being regularly mobile. The areas in the region that have a high concentration of households with zero-vehicles, primarily located in large Amish populations, which are eastern Holmes County and north and south of Millersburg, north Coshocton County, west Tuscarawas County. Other areas in the region with zero-vehicle households are north Carroll County, several block groups in Columbiana County, south and east Jefferson County along the river, south and east Belmont County along the river, central and north Harrison County, north central and east Guernsey County, and in Muskingum County surrounding the county seat of Zanesville. These areas of the region may benefit from more available transportation services. The most important piece of this puzzle is that persons who are currently employed have reliable transportation to their place of employment.

Map 2-5 – OMEGA Region Households with zero-vehicles

Commuting to Work

The average worker commuting to their place of employment matters as it relates to transit and human service transportation because these trips make up most of the trips in the week. The total workers 16 years old and over employed in the region is 246,200. Those who drive alone to work make up 82.6% (203,361 employees) of the commuters, which is the majority. The second largest group of commuters are those who carpool in the region, which is 9.1% (22,404 employees). The third largest group is the 3.4% (8,370 employees) who work from home. Next largest group of commuters are the employees who walk to work, which is 2.7% (6,647 employees). Only 1.1% (2,708 employees) of the total commuters use a taxicab, motorcycle, or other means to get to work. Roughly 0.8% (1,970 employees) bicycle to work and lastly only 0.3% (739 employees) use public transit to get to work. The average commute time to work in the OMEGA Region is 24.6 minutes which is 1.2 minutes longer compared to Ohio's average of 23.4 minutes.

OMEGA REGION COMMUTING TO WORK
WORKERS 16 YEARS AND OVER - 246,200

Legend:
- Drove alone
- Carpooled
- Public transportation (excluding taxicab)
- Walked
- Bicycle
- Taxicab, motorcycle, or other means
- Worked at home

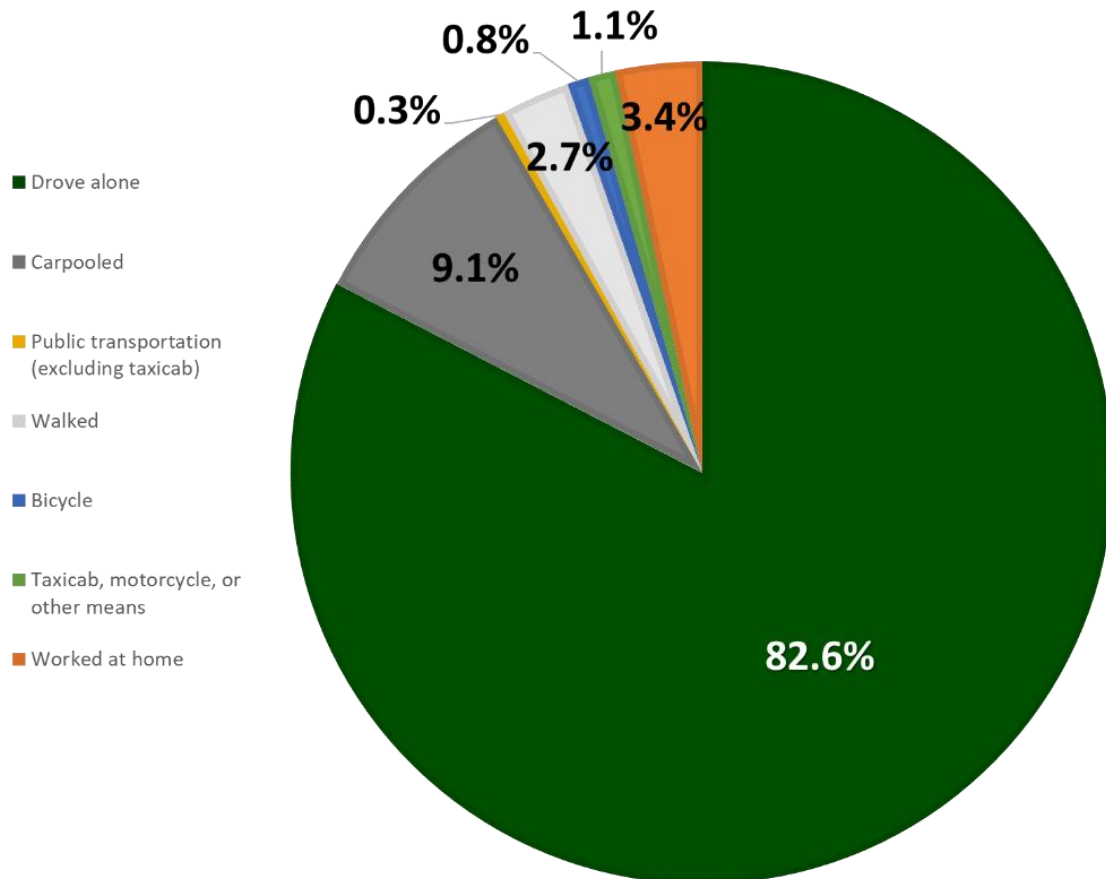Pie chart values: 0.8%, 1.1%, 0.3%, 3.4%, 2.7%, 9.1%, 82.6%

EXHIBIT 2-10 – OMEGA REGION COMMUTING TO WORK (AVERAGE COMMUTE TIME: 24.6 MINUTES)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Region Place of Work – State

Where people work may be due to job availability, access to transportation, and their location geographically. All counties in the region excluding Harrison County border another county in another region or state. Three counties, Belmont, Columbiana, and Jefferson border West Virginia or Pennsylvania. Many of the residents in these counties cross state lines for employment opportunities. Approximately 10% (25,971 employees) of the employees in the OMEGA region leave the state of Ohio for work in neighboring states.

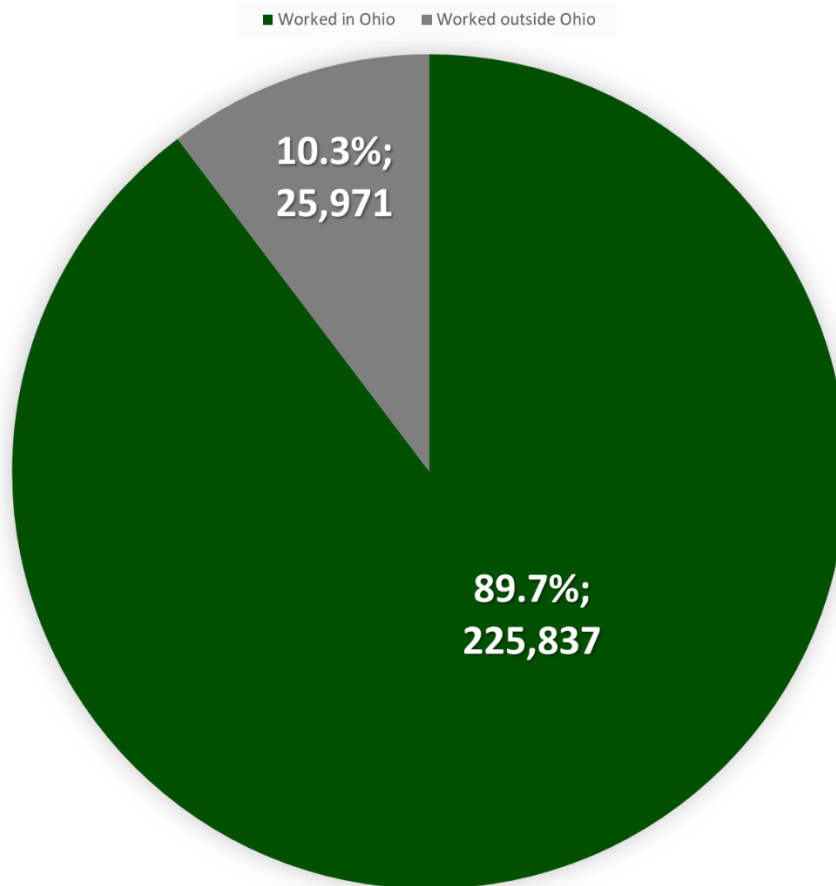**OMEGA Region Place of Work - State of Ohio**

■ Worked in Ohio   ■ Worked outside Ohio

10.3%;
25,971

89.7%;
225,837

EXHIBIT 2-11A – OMEGA REGION EMPLOYEES' PLACE OF WORK - STATE

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Region Place of Work – County of Residence

Approximately 28% (63,821) of the workers in the OMEGA region that work in Ohio, work in a different county than which they live. In many cases, there may be many job opportunities for people that live on the fringe of county lines and it is easier and closer for them to travel across to the next county than stay in their home county for work. Since 28.5% travel out of the county they live for work, then there may be an opportunity to provide more human services transportation or regional public transit to help people get to and from their job with reliable transportation.
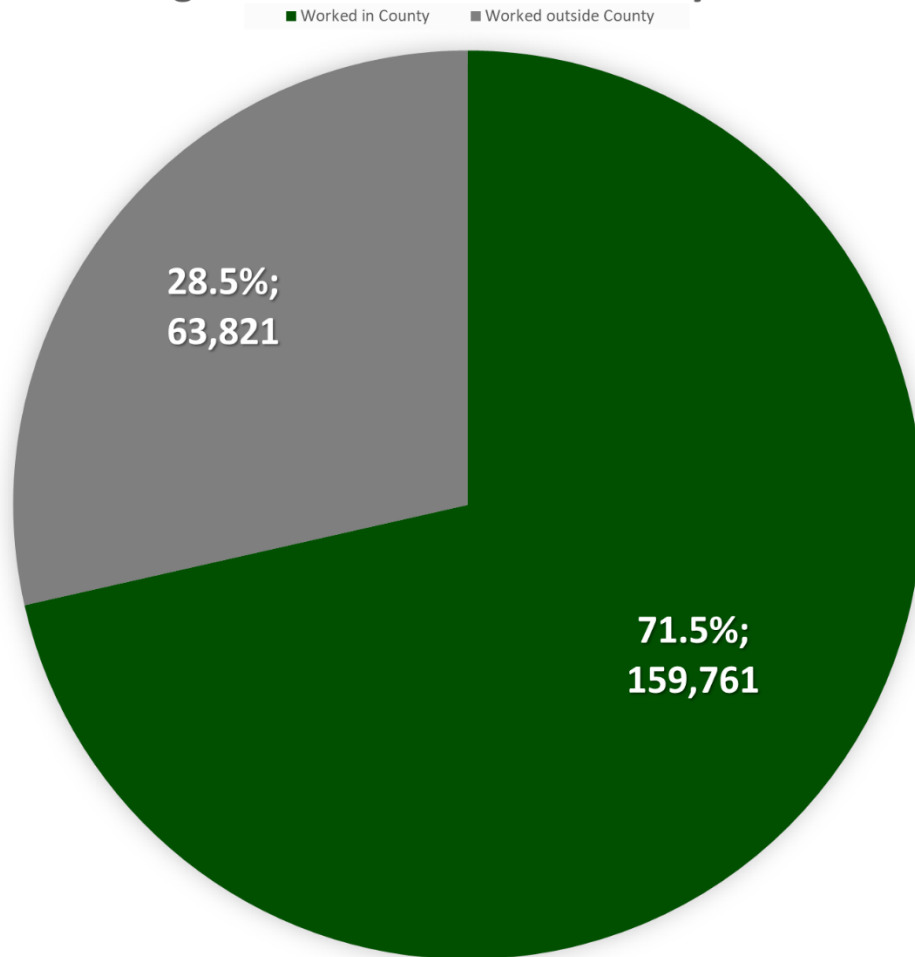

OMEGA Region Place of Work - County of Residence

■ Worked in County   ■ Worked outside County

28.5%;
63,821

71.5%;
159,761

EXHIBIT 2-11B – OMEGA REGION EMPLOYEES' PLACE OF WORK - COUNTY

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates