

# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN APPALACHIA

Maysville Rotary

1/25/2022



# OVERVIEW

Considerations-land, people

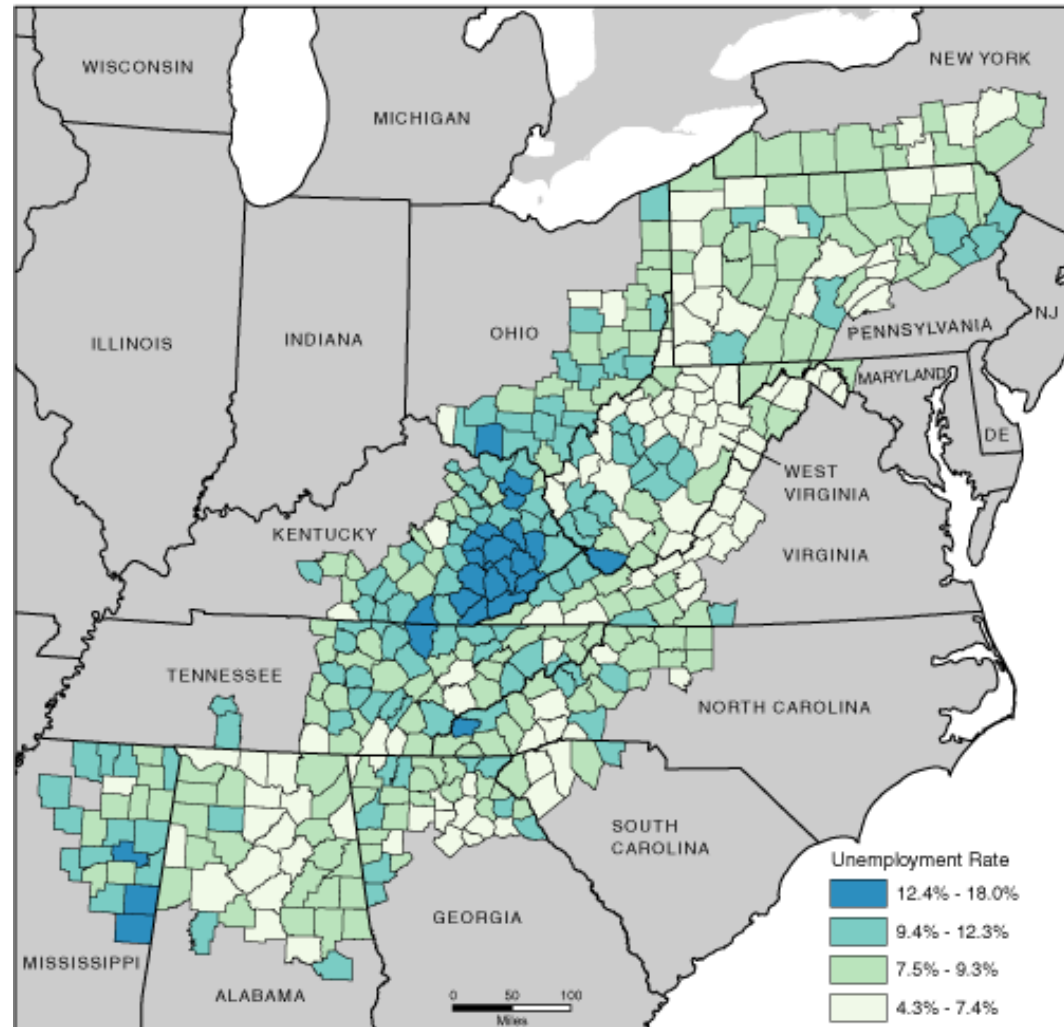
Challenges-Poverty, Population loss, Aging, Decline of Traditional Industries, Failures-Personal and Societal

Opportunities-National Resources, People

# CONSIDERATIONS -THE LAND

*Appalachia is made up of 423 counties across 13 states and spans 206,000 square miles, from southern New York to northern Mississippi. The Region's 26 million residents live in parts of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, and all of West Virginia. (Expanded from original 360 counties)*

<https://www.arc.gov/about-the-appalachian-region/>



Created by the Appalachian Regional Commission, March 2016  
Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, LAUS, 2013  
Data Classification Scheme: Natural Breaks



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# CONSIDERATIONS-LAND

## APPALACHIAN COUNTIES, KENTUCKY AND OHIO

<https://www.arc.gov/appalachian-counties-served-by-arc/> Appalachian Regional Commission

- **Kentucky (54 counties):** Adair, Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Edmonson, Elliott, Estill, Fleming, Floyd, Garrard, Green, Greenup, Harlan, Hart, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Lincoln, McCreary, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, Menifee, Metcalfe, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Nicholas, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Robertson, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Wayne, Whitley, and Wolfe
- **Ohio (32 counties):** Adams, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mahoning, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Vinton, and Washington
- There are nineteen counties in the MCTC service area, fifteen are Appalachia defined by the Appalachian Regional Commission. Only Mason, Bracken, Harrison, and Bourbon are not on that Appalachia list.



# CONSIDERATIONS-PEOPLE

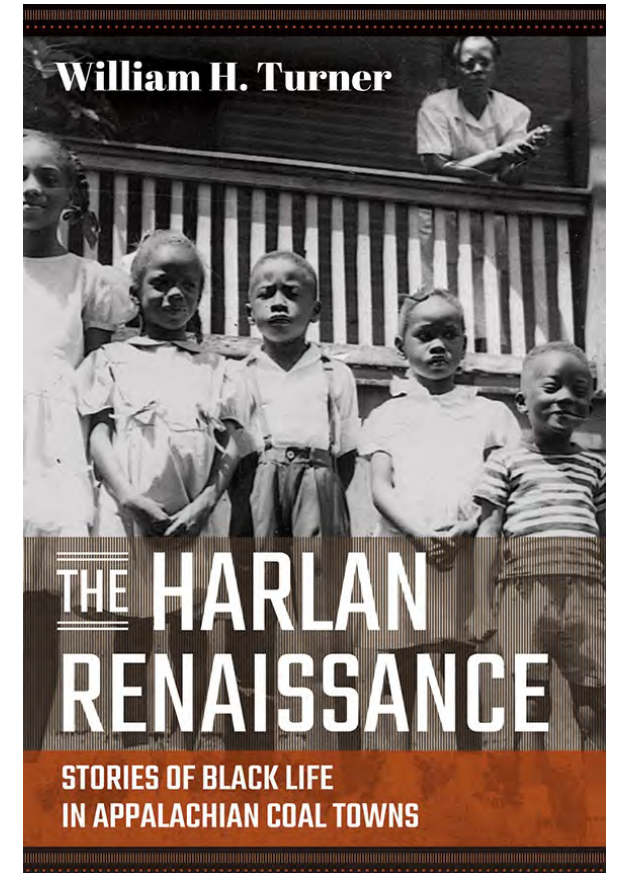
## Diversity Always Present

- First Native-Americans, even today Cherokee, NC is in Appalachia
- Scotch-Irish legends but also Germans and others-dulcimer, clogging
- African-Americans, over 10% in 1860, William Turner, Aaron Thompson CPE, Berea 1867 first class 96 African-American, 91 White

<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2014/04/03/298892382/stereotypes-of-appalachia-obscure-a-diverse-picture>



<https://www.kentuckytourism.com/lynch/history-heritage/african-american-heritage/lynch-colored-school>



[https://wvupressonline.com/sites/default/files/related\\_images/turner\\_harlan\\_des\\_cov\\_sm\\_rgb.jpg](https://wvupressonline.com/sites/default/files/related_images/turner_harlan_des_cov_sm_rgb.jpg)



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# CONSIDERATIONS-PEOPLE

## Diversity Always Present

- Eastern Europeans-Turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Middlesboro, Alexander Arthur
- Lynch, KY had residents from 38 nations, recruited at Ellis Island  
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4332054/Lynch-Kentucky-turns-100-year-fights-survive.html>
- Hispanics-Nearly half of Appalachia's 321,000 new residents since 2000 are minorities, about 80,000 of them Latino.  
<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2005-may-15-adna-appala15-story.html>
- "Hillbilly" -largely a creation of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Dogpatch and Beverly Hillbillies



<https://newstaco.com/2018/08/01/appalachia-booming-hispanic-population>



# CHALLENGES-POVERTY

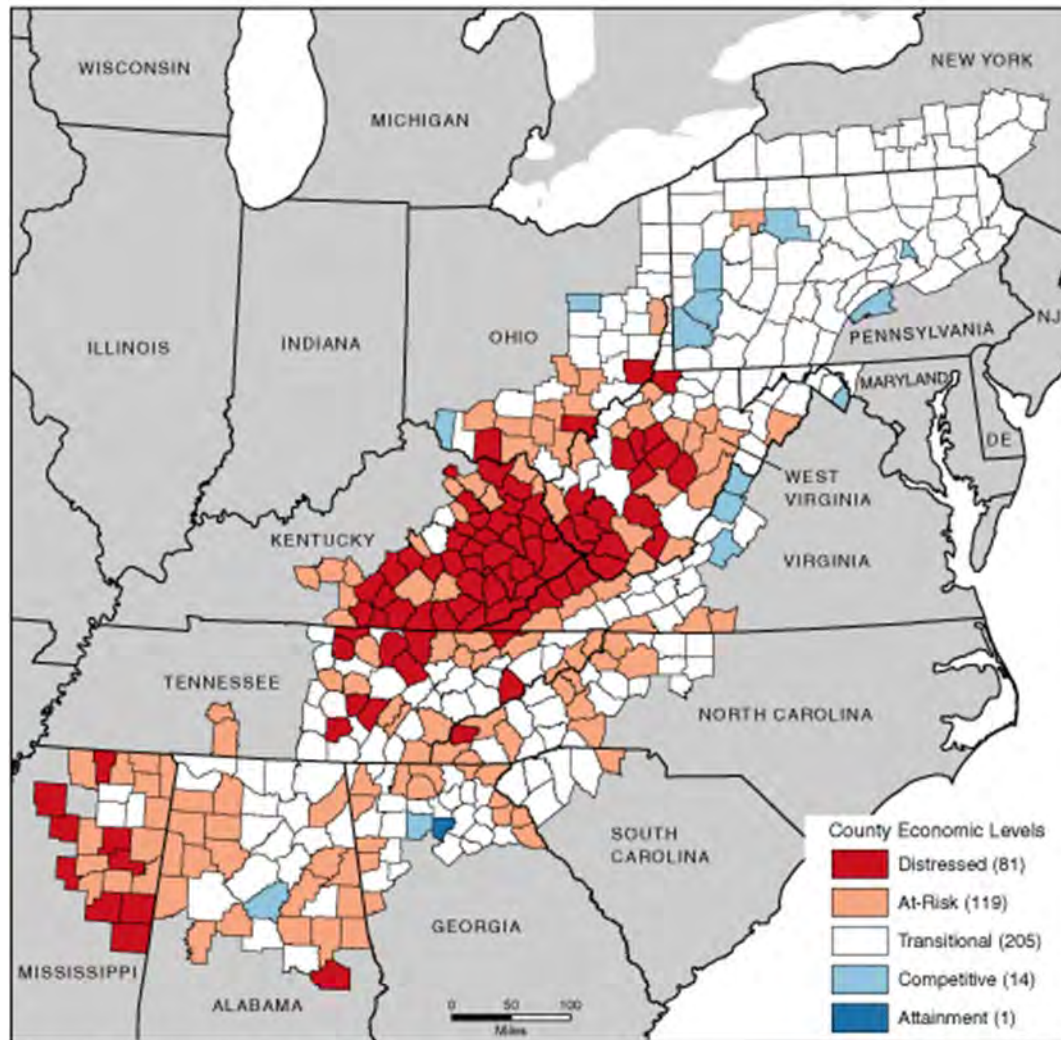
- USA Today 2019 Worst Counties to Live  
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/03/13/worst-places-live-us-counties-ranked-poverty-life-expectancy/39163929/>

5. McCreary
6. Clay
7. Breathitt
8. Leslie
9. Bell
10. Harlan
16. Knox
20. Martin

4. McDowell County, West Virginia
17. Mingo County, WV

*Based on poverty, the percentage of adults who have at least a bachelor's degree, and average life expectancy at birth*

# Challenges-Poverty



Created by the Appalachian Regional Commission, August 2018

Data Sources:

Unemployment data: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, LAUS, 2014–2016

Income data: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, REIS, 2016

Poverty data: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012–2016

Effective October 1, 2018  
through September 30, 2019

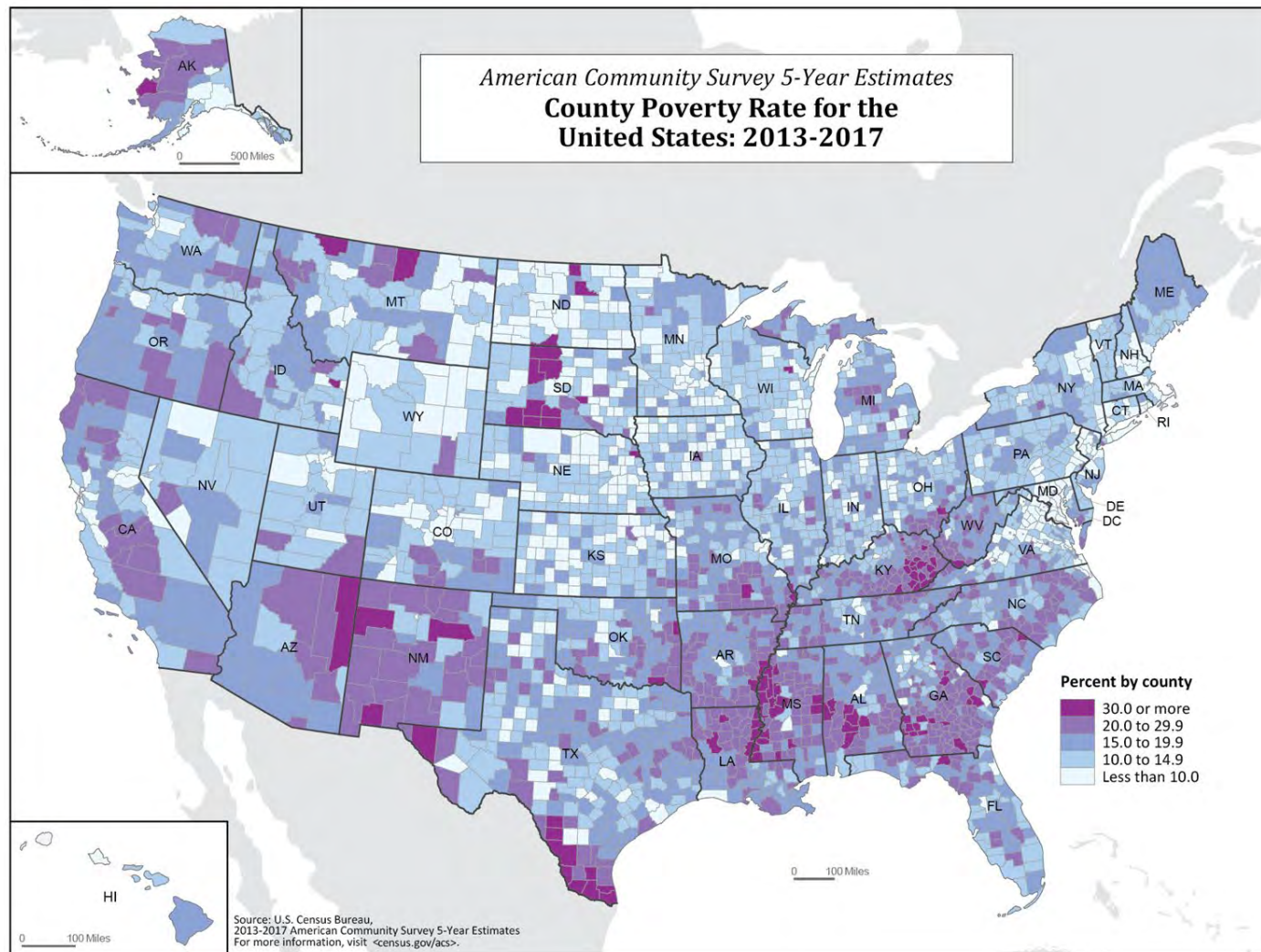
- Of the fifteen Appalachian counties in the MCTC service area, eleven are considered distressed using the ARC map on the left, three (Fleming, Montgomery, and Nicholas) are listed at-risk, and Brown in Ohio is designated transitional.
- The designation of a distressed county is determined using “three-year average unemployment rates, per capita market income, and poverty rates”  
<https://www.arc.gov/about-the-appalachian-region/>
- There are five different designations with distressed as the lowest.

[https://th.bing.com/th/id/Rbccfe6d26bea2c2d20dd02ecaa864e06?rik=ppJCPH8ADyS60g&riu=http%3a%2f%2fwww.arc.gov%2fwp-content%2fuploads%2f2020%2f06%2fCounty-Economic-Status\\_FY2019\\_Map-1.gif&ehk=8IUssbKtvr%2f5m7MaMBdMFgV67BNBMz2i93Ksm4rubpY%3d&risl=&pid=ImgRaw](https://th.bing.com/th/id/Rbccfe6d26bea2c2d20dd02ecaa864e06?rik=ppJCPH8ADyS60g&riu=http%3a%2f%2fwww.arc.gov%2fwp-content%2fuploads%2f2020%2f06%2fCounty-Economic-Status_FY2019_Map-1.gif&ehk=8IUssbKtvr%2f5m7MaMBdMFgV67BNBMz2i93Ksm4rubpY%3d&risl=&pid=ImgRaw)



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[2014-2018 Poverty Rate in the United States by County \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov)

# CHALLENGES-HEALTH

[Counties With the Highest Cancer Rates in the U.S. | Healthiest Communities | US News \(Source\)](#)

Ten of the 20 counties in America are in Kentucky, most of them in what the ARC deems Appalachia, two of them in MCTC service area. This is a 2020 *U.S. News and World Report* source.

1. [Union County, Florida](#)
2. [Logan County, Nebraska](#)
3. [Powell County, Kentucky](#)
4. [Taylor County, Kentucky](#)
5. [Robertson County, Kentucky](#)
6. [Nicholas County, Kentucky](#)
7. [Blaine County, Nebraska](#)
8. [Kingsbury County, South Dakota](#)
9. [Estill County, Kentucky](#)
10. [Carroll County, Kentucky](#)
11. [Golden Valley County, Montana](#)
12. [Thomas County, Nebraska](#)
13. [Sherman County, Nebraska](#)
14. [Palo Alto County, Iowa](#)
15. [Woodruff County, Arkansas](#)
16. [Catahoula Parish, Louisiana](#)
17. [Perry County, Kentucky](#)
18. [Floyd County, Kentucky](#)
19. (tie) [Trimble County, Kentucky](#) & [Lawrence County, Kentucky](#)



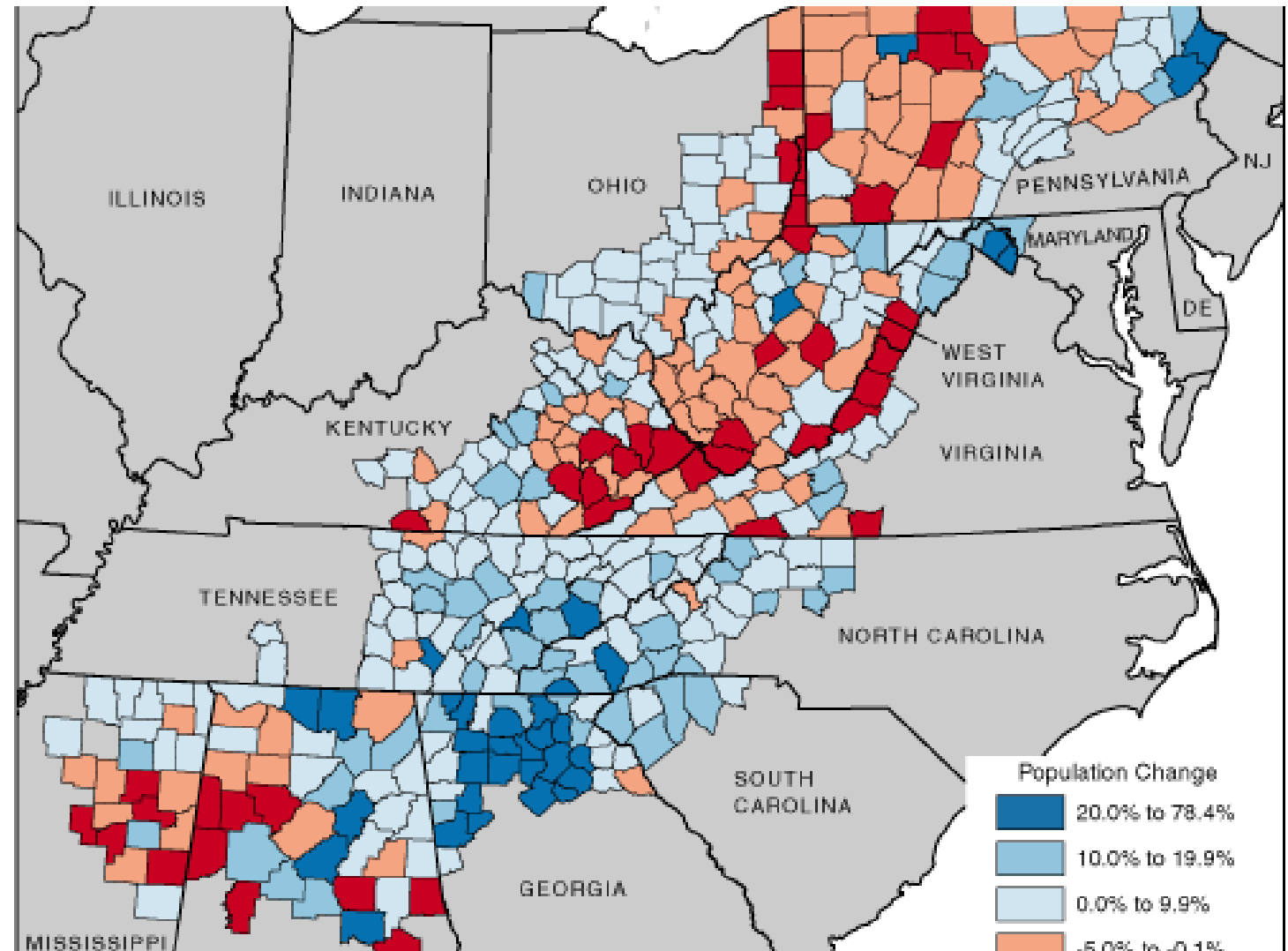
# CHALLENGES- POPULATION

Orange represents a 0.1 to 5 percent loss.

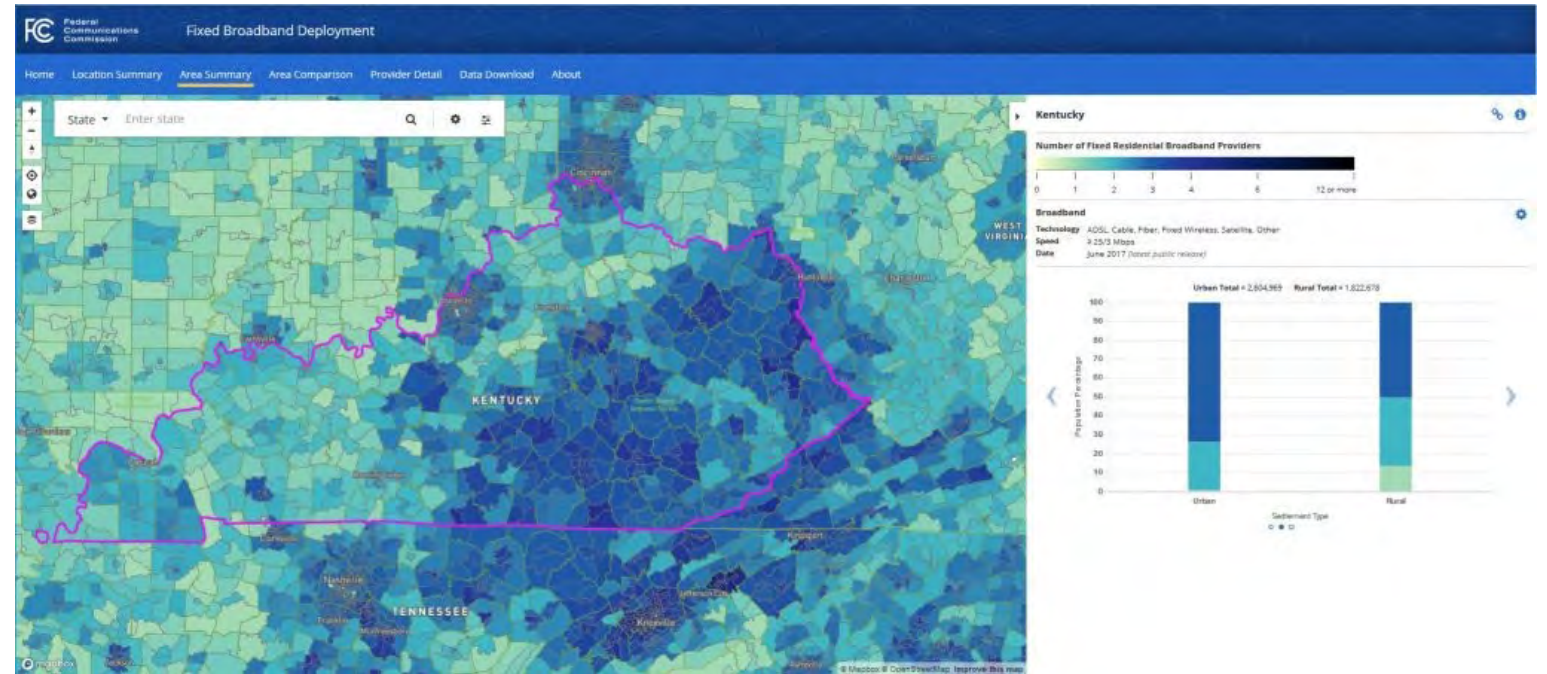
Red represents a 5 to 19 percent loss.

ARC 2000-2010

<https://www.arc.gov/map/population-change-in-appalachia-2000-2010/>



# Challenges- Infrastructure



<https://ohiostate.pressbooks.pub/app/uploads/sites/189/2019/03/kentuckybroadband-1-1024x451.jpg>

“Many of the Appalachian counties have access to fiber broadband, however, high poverty rates and lack of job opportunities make it unaffordable.”

[EASTERN KY LAGGING BEHIND IN CENSUS COUNT — AS EXPECTED —](#)  
[TheLevisaLazer.com — The Levisa Lazer](#)

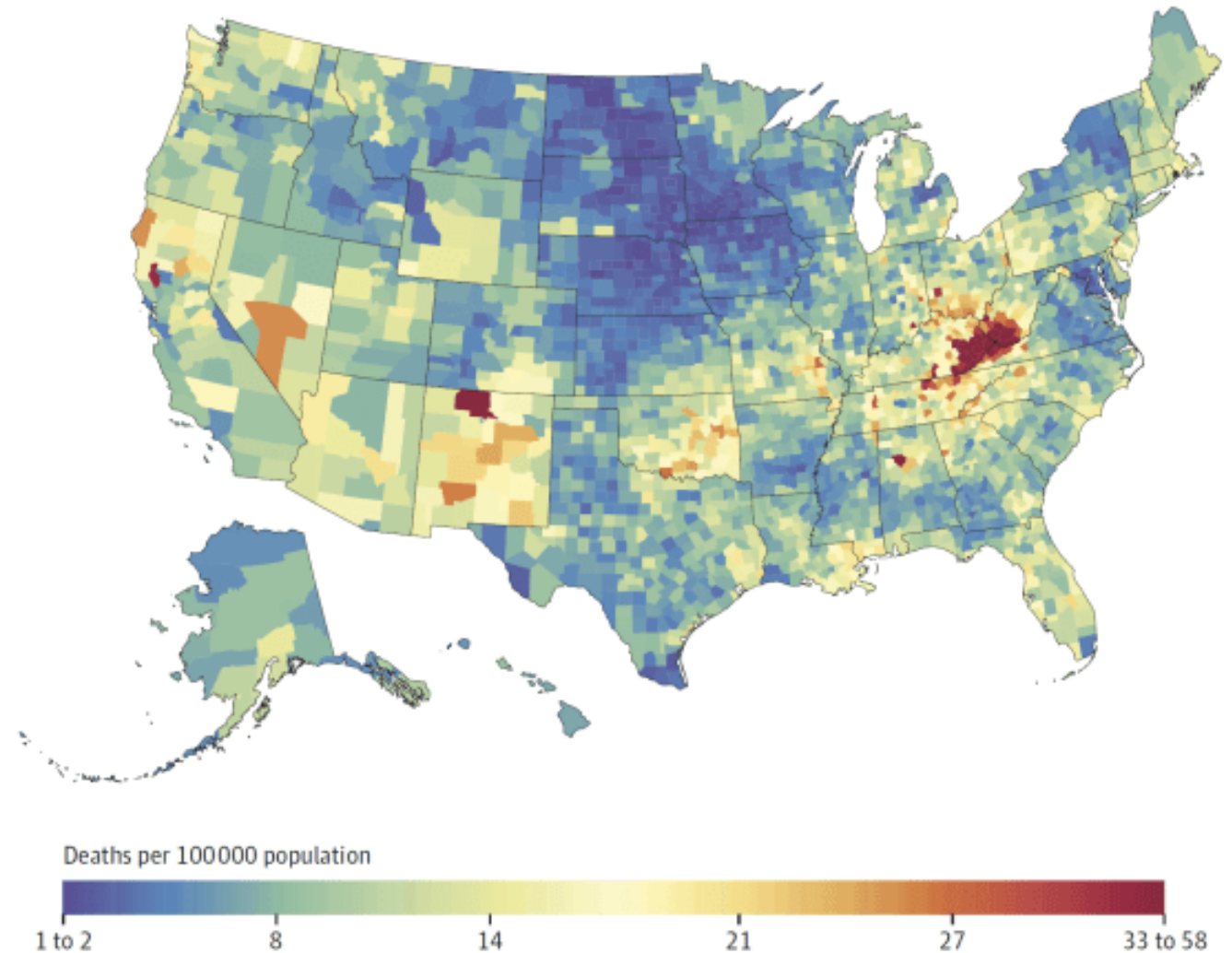
# CHALLENGES- DRUG ABUSE

<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/death-maps-show-where-despair-killing-americans-n856231>

Death rates from drug abuse have increased by more than 600 percent since 1980, county-level data from the University of Washington shows .IHME/University of Washington

Figure 2. County-Level Mortality From Drug Use Disorders

A Age-standardized mortality rate from drug use disorders, both sexes, 2014



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# CHALLENGES-CHANGING EMPLOYMENT

There are twice as many employees at Toyota in Georgetown than coal miners in KY.

<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/SMU21000001021210001A>



# CHALLENGES

## ANTI-INTELLECTUALISM/EDUCATION

### RESIGNATION/FATALISM

- “There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.'”

— Issac Asimov

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/anti-intellectualism>

- Inequity begins at birth but we are all in the game.

“Oh, I am heartily tired of hearing about what Lee is going to do. Some of you always seem to think he is suddenly going to turn a double somersault, and land in our rear and on both of our flanks at the same time. Go back to your command, and try to think what we are going to do ourselves, instead of what Lee is going to do.” U S Grant

- <https://civilwartalk.com/threads/grant-loses-his-temper-in-the-wilderness.99028/>



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# OPPORTUNITIES



# OPPORTUNITIES-NATURAL RESOURCES

- Coal, shale, timber, natural gas, oil
- Extraction has to benefit inhabitants, value added
- Beautiful setting
- Crops, animals

<https://www.mountain-forecast.com/system/images/5517/large/Black-Mountain.jpg?1344439178>



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# OPPORTUNITIES

- People
- Reputation for work, values
- Largely positive image in the country
- Unique heritage and products
- Location-Central to the country's population
- AppHarvest



• [https://www.appharvest.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/xMorehead-1.jpg.pagespeed.ic.gR1TL\\_YWcQ.webp](https://www.appharvest.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/xMorehead-1.jpg.pagespeed.ic.gR1TL_YWcQ.webp)

# READ MORE ABOUT IT, QUESTIONS

- <https://www.arc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/AppalachiaThenAndNowCompiledReports.pdf> (200+ 50 year report, 2015)
- Arc.gov

