

Roanoke Valley — Alleghany Regional Commission

Demographic Profile



FY 2004-2005



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Region

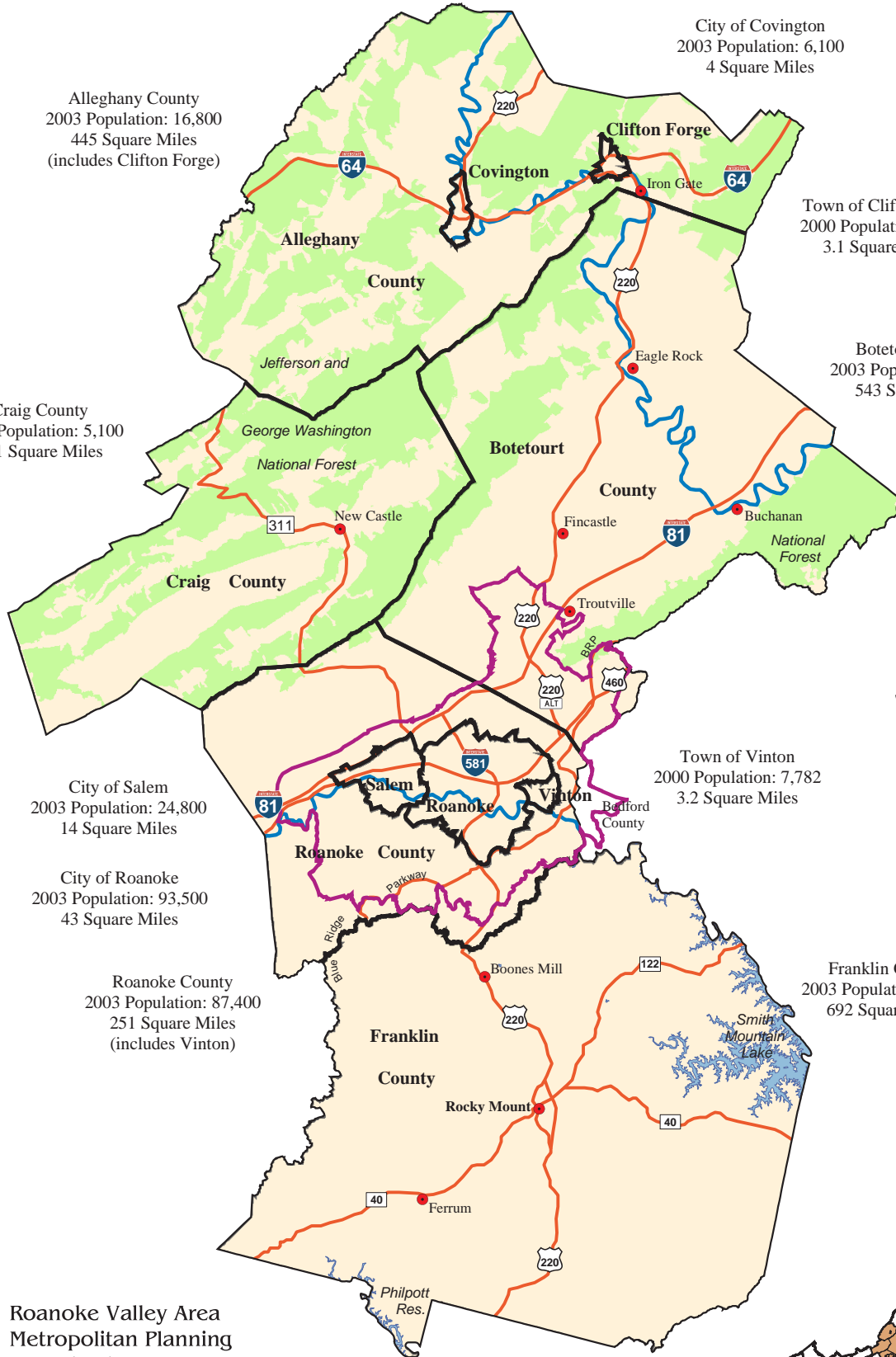
Alleghany County
2003 Population: 16,800
445 Square Miles
(includes Clifton Forge)

City of Covington
2003 Population: 6,100
4 Square Miles

Town of Clifton Forge
2000 Population: 4,289
3.1 Square Miles

Botetourt County
2003 Population: 31,200
543 Square Miles

Craig County
2003 Population: 5,100
331 Square Miles



City of Salem
2003 Population: 24,800
14 Square Miles

Town of Vinton
2000 Population: 7,782
3.2 Square Miles

City of Roanoke
2003 Population: 93,500
43 Square Miles

Roanoke County
2003 Population: 87,400
251 Square Miles
(includes Vinton)

Franklin County
2003 Population: 49,100
692 Square Miles


 Roanoke Valley Area
Metropolitan Planning
Organization



Table Of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction.....	1
Age and Gender.....	2
Table 1: Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission Size of Age Cohorts.....	3
Table 2: Virginia Size of Age Cohorts.....	3
Table 3: RVARC Rural Portion Size of Age Cohorts.....	3
Table 4: Percent Change of Selected Age Cohorts 1990-2000...	4
Table 5: 2003 Population Estimates for the Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional Commission...	5
Race.....	5
Table 6: Racial Demographics – RVARC Region.....	6
Table 7: Minority Population by Locality.....	6
Table 8: Racial Demographics – Rural Portion of RVARC Area.....	7
Hispanic Cultural Group.....	8
Table 9: Population Estimates Hispanic Origin.....	8
Limited English Proficiency.....	9
Table 10: LEP Population - Percent of RVARC Population.....	10
Table 11: LEP Breakdown by Language Cluster.....	10
Table 12: LEP Population Rural Portion of RVARC Area.....	10
Income and Poverty.....	11
Table 13: Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission Population Under Poverty.....	11
Disability.....	12
Table 14: RVARC Service Area – Disability Disability Status Population Over 5 Years of Age.....	12
Table 15: Employment for Those Aged 21 to 64 Years With Disabilities.....	13
Summary of Recommendations.....	15
Appendix.....	18

Introduction

In accordance with the Public Involvement Policy of the Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC), the staff of the RVARC has worked to prepare a demographic profile detailing various attributes of the population of the RVARC service area. The data in this document will serve as a vital input into the regional planning process and it is expected that it will be utilized on a frequent basis for the demographic information contained herein.

This demographic profile will also fulfill an important federal requirement and will satisfy Goal 2 of the Commission’s official Public Involvement Policy. This profile seeks to identify concentrations or otherwise describe certain special populations within the RVARC study area. These special populations are identified in and protected by various provisions of federal law from either intentional or unintentional discrimination in any program that receives federal funds.

A demographic profile for the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization was produced previously. The RVAMPO profile focused mostly on the Roanoke urbanized area and featured data at the block group level. This profile, the RVARC Demographic Profile, can be considered supplementary to this information. It includes Census 2000 data¹ at the tract level for the entire RVARC service area. For more detailed analysis of urban neighborhoods where minorities often predominate, the RVAMPO profile can be consulted. This report provides information on the entire Commission service area and specifically on its rural portion.

As with the MPO profile, this document will serve to inform the community, planners, policymakers, and stakeholders about the demographic makeup of their communities, especially as it relates to specially protected minorities and special needs groups. It is intended that this information will serve to assist in targeting public outreach efforts to minority groups, avoiding disproportionate impacts on minority or special needs groups, and serve as a general input into planning documents prepared for this larger region. Additionally, this information will be posted on the internet and will be available free-of-charge to anyone in the region.

The profile is divided into 6 sections; each section addresses one of the special federal nondiscrimination protections: age and gender, race, limited English proficiency (national origin), Hispanics (national origin), poverty, and disability. Applicable recommendations regarding each protected group are made in each section and are summarized in the ‘Summary of Recommendations’ section of the profile.

More information on the public participation policies of either the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission or the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization can be found in the Public Participation Manual, which includes the Public Involvement Policy, Title

¹ Please note that all data contained in this report, unless otherwise noted, is Census 2000 data. Tabulated data represents characteristics of the Roanoke Valley –Alleghany Regional Commission Service Area (see inside cover), unless otherwise noted. Some data collected by the US Census Bureau is subject to sampling error.

VI Complaint Procedure, and the Responsibilities of the Designated Officer for Civil Rights Complaints. Generally, however, it is the policy of the RVARC and the RVAMPO to ensure nondiscrimination in all programs, services and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other nondiscrimination authorities.

Age and Gender

Discrimination is prohibited on the basis of age and gender in any program receiving federal financial assistance. Special protections granted to the elderly and to women in federal programs date back to the 1970's with the passage of the 1975 Age Discrimination Act and the Federal Highway Act of 1973.

The RVARC can ensure that these groups are included in the regional planning process by taking simple steps to invite a large number and a wide variety of civic organizations and groups to comment on documents of regional significance. Contact and ongoing communication with groups like the Local Area Agency on Aging should be encouraged and maintained. The Local Area Agency on Aging, for instance, should be included in any mailings or other communications to regional civic organizations.

When holding meetings of great regional significance, other accommodations may be made for the elderly and for women. In terms of accommodating the elderly, staff can ensure that meetings are held in locations accessible by transit, for instance. Special accommodations for the female population may include considering the provision of free childcare at large public meetings. Since childcare is often the responsibility of a child's mother (especially in situations where there is a single parent), it is understood that the lack of childcare could present a significant obstacle to a mother who cannot afford or cannot otherwise arrange childcare prior to an opportunity for public comment. It should be noted, however, that such an accommodation will only be provided for the most significant of public input sessions and only if there are adequate financial and/or staff resources. Furthermore, in these instances, this childcare would consist mainly of allotting one staff member to watch any children brought to the meeting.

Knowing where elderly concentrations exist and the overall age distribution of a region's demographic is important and is useful for more than ensuring civil rights compliance. Age distributions similar to the RVARC's suggest that the elderly population will probably grow tremendously over the next 20 years, given the size of certain age cohorts and the increase in life expectancy. This suggests that more specialized transportation services and other community services targeted at the elderly will probably be necessary in the future.

How large is the elderly and the female population in the RVARC service area? Table 1 shows the sizes of various age cohorts in the RVARC service area, while Table 2 shows the same information for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The trend of aging within the region is not an isolated one. The regional trend mirrors state and national demographic figures. The region does, however, appear to have a slightly higher proportion of elderly (at 15.7%) than the entire State (at 11.2%). It is important to note that it appears as though the elderly cohort will

increase significantly in the future. Consider the fact that those between the ages of 30-49 make up 30.5%, approximately a third, of the RVARC area. In 20-30 years, this age cohort will be approaching retirement. With continuing improvements in health care, one can only assume that such a large middle age cohort will eventually translate into an extraordinarily large elderly cohort.

**Table 1: Roanoke Valley - Alleghany Regional Commission
Size of Age Cohorts**

Age Cohort	Raw Number	Percent
0-18	73,885	23.7%
19-24	19,939	6.4%
25-29	18,736	6.0%
30-49	94,969	30.5%
50-64	55,153	17.7%
65-84	43,490	13.9%
85+	5,655	1.8%
TOTAL	311,827	100.0%

**Table 2: Virginia
Size of Age Cohorts**

Age Cohort	Raw Number	Percent
0-18	1,832,911	25.9%
19-24	579,030	8.2%
25-29	493,450	7.0%
30-49	2,283,748	32.3%
50-64	1,098,809	15.5%
65-84	704,899	10.0%
85+	85,668	1.2%
TOTAL	7,078,515	100.0%

**Table 3: RVARC Rural Portion
Size of Age Cohorts**

Age Cohort	Raw Number	Percent
0-18	27,070	23.6%
19-24	6,630	5.8%
25-29	5,820	5.1%
30-49	35,716	31.2%
50-64	22,474	19.6%
65-84	15,229	13.3%
85+	1,593	1.4%
TOTAL	114,532	100.0%

Indeed, current regional demographic trends have included notable levels of growth among the older age cohorts. Table 4, on the following page, shows that the age cohorts representing groups between the ages of 45 and 64 and age 85 and over grew faster than any of the younger cohorts in the period between 1990 and 2000.

It is important to realize that, given the continuation of present trends, the elderly population of this region will be larger than ever before in the coming years.

Population pyramids for both the RVARC and the Commonwealth of Virginia have been constructed and are included in the Appendix (See Figures 1 and 2). These figures can be

consulted for information regarding the size of the male/female population in the RVARC service area and for more detailed information on the size of various age cohorts in the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany region.

As is the case in most American communities, the RVARC regional population is growing older. As mentioned previously, this has important and far-reaching regional implications and must be considered in the planning process in the future. Table 4 below demonstrates how this demographic trend occurred for most RVARC localities between 1990 and 2000. Consult Map 1 for information regarding the concentration of elderly individuals within the RVARC service area.

Table 4: Percent Change of Selected Age Cohorts 1990 - 2000

1990 Census Age Data

Locality	Total	under 5	5 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 84	85 and over	65 and over
Alleghany	13,176	768	2,387	1,155	3,910	3,160	1,681	115	1,796
Botetourt	24,992	1,423	4,385	2,071	8,332	5,708	2,843	230	3,073
Craig	4,372	282	732	374	1,370	1,000	584	30	614
Franklin	39,549	2,451	6,584	4,470	12,014	8,919	4,778	333	5,111
Roanoke Co.	79,332	4,321	13,601	7,003	25,326	18,381	9,609	1,091	10,700
Clifton Forge	4,679	230	803	303	1,215	984	941	203	1,144
Covington	6,991	406	1,001	728	1,869	1,440	1,405	142	1,547
Roanoke City	96,397	6,798	14,655	9,089	31,422	17,962	14,308	2,163	16,471
Salem City	23,756	1,217	3,451	2,914	7,215	5,064	3,491	404	3,895
Total	293,244	17,896	47,599	28,107	92,673	62,618	39,640	4,711	44,351

2000 Census Age Data

Locality	Total	under 5	5 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 84	85 and over	65 and over
Alleghany	12,926	721	2,230	804	3,462	3,684	1,818	207	2,025
Botetourt	30,496	1,749	5,389	1,755	8,800	8,791	3,679	333	4,012
Craig	5,091	292	910	328	1,510	1,360	617	74	691
Franklin	47,286	2,569	7,931	3,836	13,331	12,854	6,122	643	6,765
Roanoke Co.	85,778	4,553	14,947	5,691	23,625	23,317	11,941	1,704	13,645
Clifton Forge	4,289	227	678	286	1,089	994	840	175	1,015
Covington	6,303	395	957	514	1,655	1,508	1,085	189	1,274
Roanoke City	94,911	6,200	15,257	7,744	28,948	21,202	13,362	2,198	15,560
Salem City	24,747	1,212	3,950	2,890	6,617	5,930	3,660	488	4,148
Total	311,827	17,918	52,249	23,848	89,037	79,640	43,124	6,011	49,135

Percent Change

Locality	Total	under 5	5 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 84	85 and over	65 and over
Alleghany	-1.9%	-6.1%	-6.6%	-30.4%	-11.5%	16.6%	8.1%	80.0%	12.8%
Botetourt	22.0%	22.9%	22.9%	-15.3%	5.6%	54.0%	29.4%	44.8%	30.6%
Craig	16.4%	3.5%	24.3%	-12.3%	10.2%	36.0%	5.7%	146.7%	12.5%
Franklin	19.6%	4.8%	20.5%	-14.2%	11.0%	44.1%	28.1%	93.1%	32.4%
Roanoke Co.	8.1%	5.4%	9.9%	-18.7%	-6.7%	26.9%	24.3%	56.2%	27.5%
Clifton Forge	-8.3%	-1.3%	-15.6%	-5.6%	-10.4%	1.0%	-10.7%	-13.8%	-11.3%
Covington	-9.8%	-2.7%	-4.4%	-29.4%	-11.4%	4.7%	-22.8%	33.1%	-17.6%
Roanoke City	-1.5%	-8.8%	4.1%	-14.8%	-7.9%	18.0%	-6.6%	1.6%	-5.5%
Salem City	4.2%	-0.4%	14.5%	-0.8%	-8.3%	17.1%	4.8%	20.8%	6.5%
Total	6.3%	0.1%	9.8%	-15.2%	-3.9%	27.2%	8.8%	27.6%	10.8%

Table 5: 2003 Population Estimates for the Roanoke Valley - Alleghany Region

	Total	Under 5	5 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 84	85 and over	65 and over	Percent Elderly
Alleghany*	16,816	951	3,158	935	4,011	4,811	2,556	394	2,950	17.54%
Botetourt	31,448	1,504	6,070	1,901	8,217	9,446	3,964	346	4,310	13.71%
Craig	5,159	298	1,001	300	1,392	1,476	615	77	692	13.41%
Franklin	49,095	2,728	9,296	3,303	12,885	13,588	6,497	798	7,295	14.86%
Roanoke	87,329	4,869	16,855	4,953	21,886	25,203	11,751	1,812	13,563	15.53%
Covington City	6,284	414	1,116	412	1,605	1,511	990	236	1,226	19.51%
Roanoke City	92,863	6,297	17,149	5,255	26,442	22,348	12,874	2,498	15,372	16.55%
Salem City	24,603	1,183	4,873	2,059	6,081	6,304	3,608	495	4,103	16.68%
RVARC Region	313,597	18,244	59,518	19,118	82,519	84,687	42,855	6,656	49,511	15.79%

*Includes the Town of Clifton Forge
 Source: US Census Bureau, 2004.

Population estimates from the US Census Bureau released in 2004 (see Table 5) show that since 2000, the elderly population has remained fairly stable region-wide since the last decennial Census. In 2000, the elderly (over 65) made up 15.76% of the regional population. In 2003, the elderly made up 15.79%. Slow population growth rates, however, ensure that the overall trend will be marked by slow growth in the elderly population as the population of the region grows older.

Race

Discrimination on the basis of race in federally assisted programs has been prohibited since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI of this act prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any federally funded program.

As with other special populations to be discussed in this profile, the RVARC must ensure that racial minorities are included in the planning process. The RVARC already routinely advertises in a regional minority-focused periodical, *The Roanoke Tribune*, for RFPs, job advertisements, and comment sessions of regional significance. RVARC staff also seeks to cultivate contacts with minority groups by sharing demographic profiles and public involvement information with groups like the NAACP. This cultivation of contacts in the minority community is another worthy endeavor and should be pursued, given adequate staff time and resources.

Additionally, advisory groups, planning staff, and policymakers must be aware that a capital project that leads to a disproportionate impact upon a group of racial minorities is a form of discrimination, although unintentional, that the federal government prohibits. Therefore, the information contained in this demographic profile should be consulted early in the planning process for any project in order to ensure that minority communities are not disproportionately affected in an adverse fashion. More detailed and localized analyses are, then, often required to

ensure that environmental impacts are not disproportionately felt across a community before actual implementation/construction.

Data concerning each racial minority has been collected from the 2000 Census and mapped out at the tract level (See Maps 2 through 7 in the Appendix). Geographic concentrations of racial minorities can be identified using these maps. Knowledge of this type is useful for various public involvement purposes. Most notably, this information can be used to target public involvement efforts aimed at encouraging minority participation and to avoid disproportionately high impacts upon racial minorities. If, for instance, it is identified early on in the planning process that a minority neighborhood would be particularly affected by a project or measure being considered in a plan, then special means can be used to attempt to attract that group’s participation and input in the planning process.

Table 6 can be used for reference and for general information regarding the size and character of the RVARC’s population of racial minorities. This table demonstrates that the largest racial minority group within the RVARC service area is the ‘Black

Table 6: Racial Demographics - RVARC Region

Race	Number	Percent
White Alone	266,378	85.4%
Black or African American Alone	36,994	11.9%
American Indian and Alaskan Native Alone	535	0.2%
Asian Alone	2,594	0.8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Alone	85	0.0%
Some Other Race Alone	1,444	0.5%
Two or More Races	3,797	1.2%
Total	311,827	100.0%

or African American Alone’ group at 11.9% of the total RVARC population. The second and third largest minority groups are the ‘Two or More Races’ group and the ‘Asian Alone’ group at 1.2% and .8% respectively.

Consult Table 7, below, for information regarding the percent minority population in each locality.

Table 7: Minority Population by Locality

Locality	Total Pop.	White	Black	American Indian and Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Two or More Races	Percent Minority
Alleghany County	12,926	12,475	328	0	73	0	0	50	3.5%
Botetourt County	30,496	28,916	1,118	46	120	0	90	206	5.2%
Craig County	5,091	5,045	13	6	17	0	0	10	0.9%
Franklin County	47,286	42,050	4,516	53	91	0	103	473	11.1%
Roanoke County	85,778	80,732	2,701	131	999	14	353	848	5.9%
Clifton Forge city	4,289	3,529	690	0	11	0	0	59	17.7%
Covington city	6,303	5,351	826	0	25	4	15	82	15.1%
Roanoke city	94,911	65,551	25,387	263	1,004	59	761	1,886	30.9%
Salem city	24,747	22,729	1,415	36	254	8	122	183	8.2%
RVARC REGION	311,827	266,378	36,994	535	2,594	85	1,444	3,797	14.6%

When considered separately from the urban portion of the region, the rural portions of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission have fewer minorities both numerically and proportionally. The largest minority group in the rural portion of the service area is the ‘Black or African-American Alone’ group which comprises 6.7% of the RVARC’s rural portion population. The minority population of the RVARC rural area comprises 8.1% of the total rural population. Racial demographics for the RVARC rural portion have been tabulated in Table 8.

Table 8: Racial Demographics - Rural Portion of RVARC Area

White Alone	105,202	91.9%
Black or African-American Alone	7,712	6.7%
American Indian and Alaskan Native Alone	135	0.1%
Asian Alone	343	0.3%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Alone	4	0.0%
Some Other Race Alone	216	0.2%
Two or More Races	920	0.8%
Total	114,532	100.0%

Hispanic Cultural Group

Another group that often is granted federal protections is the Hispanic Cultural Group. Contrary to popular belief, the term ‘Hispanic’ is not indicative of a racial group. It is, however, a cultural term, and a term that often refers to a Latin American national origin.

This group is of particular importance, because it is a group that is rapidly growing in the region. Table 9 contains figures recently compiled from 2003 Census Bureau population estimate files. These figures suggest that the localities represented in the RVARC service area have experienced a 15.16% growth in the Hispanic population between 2000 and 2002.

Table 9: Population Estimates: Hispanic Origin

Locality	2000	2001	2002	Percent Change 2000-2002
Alleghany County	86	90	91	5.81%
Botetourt County	179	198	227	26.82%
Covington	40	40	40	0.00%
Craig County	17	17	17	0.00%
Franklin County	560	604	605	8.04%
Roanoke	1,391	1,527	1,604	15.31%
Roanoke County	886	901	1,049	18.40%
Salem	205	239	241	17.56%
RVARC Region	3,364	3,616	3,874	15.16%

The RVARC Hispanic population is currently small in terms of proportional size. Within the RVARC study area, 3,329 respondents answered that they belong to the Hispanic cultural group in the 2000 Census. Therefore, the regional Hispanic population made up 1.07% of the RVARC area population in the year 2000. Note that the Hispanic population of the rural portion of the Commission area alone makes up only .78%. There are, however, significant concentrations in certain Census tracts within the RVARC service area that should be noted. In the Appendix, Map 8 shows the numbers of Hispanic persons per tract and Map 9 shows the percentage of Hispanic persons within each tract.

Limited English Proficiency

Failure to properly accommodate those with limited English proficiency (LEP)² is generally considered a form of national origin discrimination, as many recent immigrants often speak English as a second language. As such, those with limited English proficiency are now generally understood to have federal protection from discrimination in federally assisted programs.

What does this mean for the RVARC? Like other organizations receiving federal funding, the RVARC must make reasonable accommodations for LEP populations to ensure that such populations have meaningful access to the programs, services, and information of the Commission.

This statement prompts the obvious question, What then, constitutes a reasonable accommodation? The US Department of Justice, which is the lead federal agency on Civil Rights, non-discrimination matters, states that “[w]hat constitutes reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access will be contingent on a number of factors. Among the factors to be considered are the number or proportion of LEP persons in the eligible service population, the frequency with which LEP individuals come in contact with the program, the importance of the service provided by the program, and the resources available to the recipient.”

The question of what accommodations should be made by the RVARC to LEP populations is a question that is somewhat contingent upon the size of the LEP population in the region.

The US Census Bureau collects data on nativity, language spoken at home, and English proficiency.³ When completing the census survey form question on English proficiency, the respondent is asked whether he/she speaks English ‘Very Well’, ‘Well’, ‘Not Well’, or ‘Not at All’. Since the LEP definition states that a person is LEP if he/she have a primary language other than English and must communicate in this language as a result of limited proficiency in English, an LEP individual is defined here (for statistical purposes) as someone who stated that he or she speaks English ‘Not Well’ or ‘Not at All’. It is assumed that an individual who answered that he or she speaks English ‘Well’ is therefore able to communicate in English and is not LEP.

This Census Bureau data is summarized in Table 10, 11 and 12 below. Table 10 shows the proportion of LEP individuals of the total RVARC regional population (.64%). It is clear that

² According to several federal agencies’ LEP policies and guidelines, LEP persons are individuals with a primary or home language other than English who must, due to the limited fluency in English, communicate in that primary or home language if the individuals are to have an equal opportunity to participate effectively in or benefit from any aid, service, or benefit provided by the federal recipient or sub-recipient.

³ Please note that this data is from the Census Bureau’s long form. Practically, this means that the resulting data is subject to sampling error, as the long form is not made available to every citizen in the Census process. This is still, however, the most accurate source of data on LEP populations in the United States. In the future this data will be collected through the US Census Bureau’s new American Community Survey (ACS) program.

the entire limited English proficiency group composes up a very small proportion of the RVARC service area’s population. The largest LEP group is made up of Spanish speakers, but it is a minute proportion of the total RVARC population. Approximately .33% of the RVARC population speaks Spanish primarily and has limited proficiency in English. Table 10 shows that among LEP individuals, Spanish-speakers make up over half.

**Table 10: LEP Population
Percent of RVARC Population**

Language Cluster	Percent
Spanish	0.33%
Other Indo-European	0.13%
Asian and Pacific Islander	0.15%
Other	0.03%
Total LEP	0.64%

**Table 11: LEP Breakdown
by Language Cluster**

Language Cluster	Percent
Spanish	52.00%
Other Indo-European	20.20%
Asian and Pacific Islander	23.50%
Other	4.30%
Total LEP	100%

**Table 12: LEP Population
Rural Portion of RVARC Area**

Language Cluster	Percent
Spanish	0.25%
Other Indo-European	0.11%
Asian and Pacific Islander	0.01%
Other	0.00%
Total LEP	0.37%

In the rural portion of the region, the LEP population is proportionally smaller. The rural portion of the RVARC service area alone (comprised essentially of all areas not included within the MPO boundary) features an even smaller LEP population of .37% of the total rural population (See Table 12). Worthy of mention is the fact that among the rural portion LEP population, Spanish speakers make up an even greater proportion at 66.9%. For statistics on LEP individuals in the rural portion of the RVARC service area, consult Table 10 above.

It has thus been demonstrated that the LEP population within the RVARC service area is extremely small. This does not mean that no attempt at accommodation should be made, whatsoever. The RVARC has already contracted out with a telephone translation service so that any LEP individual who visits the Commission office can be properly accommodated. If a unique situation arises where it is clear that translation will be necessary at a public hearing, RVARC staff will be able to acquire professional translation services from a local, private firm specializing in providing translation services.

Additionally, the RVARC currently has two staff members who are proficient in Spanish as a second language, so providing translation services to the majority of the LEP population at public hearings on major regional plans or projects and other such events should not present a problem. Furthermore, internet-based machine translation can be utilized at low cost to the RVARC to translate policy documents, plans, and/or studies if such translations are requested

or deemed proper given the nature of the study area for any given document. Decisions on whether to publish public ads in another language will be made based on the size and population characteristics of a given document’s study area.

Map 10, in the Appendix, identifies certain Census tracts where LEP groups are concentrated. As one might expect, LEP individuals are clustered in urban areas. The Spanish-speaking population is concentrated in the same areas according to Map 11, also found in the Appendix.

Income and Poverty

A more recent federal action has done much to change the face of public involvement efforts across the nation. Executive Order 12898, issued by President Clinton in 1994, requires that federal agencies and other entities making use of federal funding avoid “disproportionately high and adverse” effects on minority and low-income populations and to seek involvement of the public toward the ends of ensuring environmental justice in governmental operations.

Executive Order 12898 and the concept of environmental justice essentially add low-income populations to the special groups afforded special federal protections against discrimination in federally funded programs.

The RVARC must take steps to ensure that it is not unintentionally discriminating against low-income individuals in any of its activities. By following the RVARC and RVAMPO Public Involvement Policy, staff will be ensuring that low-income populations are accommodated and have the opportunity to voice concerns and policy preferences in public meetings. Attempting to use existing neighborhood groups as a vehicle for the collection of public comments and as an avenue for public participation will also help in the area of ensuring the participation of low-income individuals. Not only will the meetings generally be held in the evenings after the close of the regular workday, but staff will also be reaching out to the region’s neighborhoods by going to the neighborhood center where such meetings are generally held.

**Table 13: Roanoke Valley - Alleghany Regional Commission
Population Under Poverty**

Locality	Individuals Under Poverty	Percent Under Poverty
Alleghany County	905	7.14%
Botetourt County	1,559	5.19%
Craig County	520	10.26%
Franklin County	4,481	9.70%
Roanoke County	3,732	4.46%
Clifton Forge city	786	19.42%
Covington city	806	12.89%
Roanoke city	14,793	15.95%
Salem city	1,545	6.71%
RVARC Region	29,127	9.59%

The poor represents a significant proportion of the Regional Commission’s population at nearly 10%. Please note that 9,441 individuals within the rural portion alone are under poverty or approximately 8% of the rural area’s population is under poverty. Table 13 details poverty statistics for the Commission area.

Map 12, included in the Appendix, shows geographic concentrations of individuals who are below the federal poverty level, according to the US Census Bureau. For information on a related variable, households without access to a vehicle, review Map 13, also included in the appendix.

Disability

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits recipients of federal financial assistance from intentionally or unintentionally discriminating against anyone on the basis of disability. It states that “[n]o Qualified Handicapped Person shall, be solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that receives or benefits from Federal financial assistance.”

**Table 14: RVARC Service Area - Disability Status
Population Over 5 Years of Age**

Locality	Number Disabled	Percent Disabled
Alleghany County	2,573	21.3%
Botetourt County	5,167	18.2%
Craig County	1,025	21.3%
Franklin County	8,964	20.2%
Roanoke County	13,425	16.8%
Town of Clifton Forge	1,058	27.5%
City of Covington	1,651	28.0%
City of Roanoke	22,161	25.5%
City of Salem	4,375	19.0%
RVARC Region	60,399	20.9%

The disabled group is of particular importance in this region, because of its size as reported by the US Census Bureau. Table 14 shows the percent disabled in each locality. The total disabled population for the localities in the RVARC area is 60,399 people, nearly 20.9% of the total population of the RVARC localities. The disabled population of the rural portion of the Commission area number 21,902 people or approximately 20% of the rural portion’s population.

A noteworthy number of these disabled individuals are significantly hindered from performing key life activities, such as work. The data shows that among those who are 21 to 64 and who have a disability, relatively few are employed. This suggests that their disabilities are so serious as to present an impediment to employment as illustrated in Table 15.

Table 15: Employment for Those Aged 21 to 64 Years With Disabilities

Locality	Persons With A Disability	% Employed
Alleghany County	1,513	38.9
Botetourt County	3,052	57.7
Craig County	599	38.2
Franklin County	5,803	56.0
Roanoke County	7,554	61.0
Town of Clifton Forge	527	39.8
City of Covington	929	26.7
City of Roanoke	13,229	54.8
City of Salem	2,389	57.0

Maps 14 through 20 in the Appendix reveal concentrations of the disabled throughout the RVARC region and demonstrate the number of disabilities as tallied by the US Census Bureau by block group. The US Census Bureau asks respondents on in Question 16 of its “long form” questionnaire if they suffer from any of the following long-lasting conditions: (a) blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment, (sensory disability) and (b) a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying (physical disability). In Question 17 on the long form, respondents are asked if they have any physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more that make it difficult to perform certain activities. The four activity categories were: (a) learning, remembering, or concentrating (mental disability); (b) dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home (self-care disability); (c) going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor’s office (going outside the home disability); and (d) working at a job or business (employment disability). The appendix provides maps for each of the six categories mentioned above.

How can the RVARC accommodate the disabled population within its service area? First of all, in ensuring that this special group can have a fair chance to attend public meetings and voice concerns, certain actions are in order. Staff must, for instance, ensure that meetings are held in locations that are accessible to the physically disabled. Staff must also ensure that the statewide TTY/TTD number and the toll free voice line are advertised in all public notices so that those with sensory disabilities are able to communicate with staff and to comment on the plans, projects, and/or activities. Finally, staff must be proactive in identifying potential needs of the disabled in arranging public meetings and must provide reasonable accommodation if and when a new need is identified.

As with all other protected groups that may require some sort of special accommodation in the transportation system of the future, information of this sort should be considered when conducting planning exercises. High and negative impacts upon the disabled population should be avoided.

Summary of Recommendations

In order to ensure that all groups are included in the public involvement process, the following recommendations have been made in the previous pages of this document. They are summarized here in this section. Staff should seek to incorporate these recommendations into operations of the RVARC if adequate resources are available for implementation (i.e. time, financial resources, et cetera).

General

- The RVARC Demographic Profile must be provided to RVARC planning staff and to the policy board.
- The RVARC Demographic Profile, and information contained therein, should be consulted and considered throughout the planning process.
- The RVARC Demographic Profile should be used with the goal of avoiding high and disproportionately adverse effects upon populations protected by federal nondiscrimination law.
- The RVARC Demographic Profile should be used to aid in public outreach efforts.
- The RVARC Demographic Profile should be posted on the Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional Commission web site and should be provided to any citizens and businesses upon request.
- The RVARC and RVAMPO must follow the Public Involvement Policy, as contained in the Public Involvement Manual.
- The RVARC staff must ensure that a wide variety and a large number of civic organizations and community groups are included in regular RVARC and RVAMPO mass mailings to enhance participation of all protected groups.

Age and Gender

- Contact the Local Area Agency on Aging and the Council of Community Services. Include these groups in future mailings and other communications to regional civic organizations.
- Consider the provision of free childcare at the most significant opportunities for public comment (if resources are available).

Race

- Utilize existing neighborhood groups in public participation efforts.
- Cultivate contacts in the minority community.
- Consider posting notices in retail establishments in areas where there is a large ethnic population.

Limited English Proficiency

- Plans should identify how the special needs of the limited English proficiency population will be met.
- Consideration should be given to publishing certain documents in a second language and providing translation services at certain meetings if it is known that these documents and meetings are related to a specific plan and or action that is expected to have a significant impact upon a concentration of Limited English Proficiency individuals.
- Contract out with a telephone translation service so that, if an individual with limited English proficiency should request data or technical assistance services, staff will be able to understand and assist the person.

Hispanic Cultural Group

- Utilize existing neighborhood groups in public participation efforts.
- Cultivate contacts in the minority community.
- Consider posting notices in retail establishments in areas where there is a large ethnic population.

Income and Poverty

- Utilize existing neighborhood groups in public participation efforts.

Disability

- Ensure meetings are held in locations that are accessible to the physically disabled.

- Ensure that the statewide TTY/TTD number and the toll free voice line are advertised in all public notices so that those with sensory disabilities are able to communicate with staff and to comment on the plans, projects, and/or activities of the RVAMPO.
- Be proactive in identifying any potential needs of the disabled in arranging public meetings.
- Provide reasonable accommodations as new needs are identified.

With these measures, the RVARC should not only be in compliance with federal non-discrimination provisions, but also will be ensuring that all citizens in the region are getting their fair chance to voice their opinions and have input into the regional planning process.

APPENDIX

Figure 1: RVARC Region Population Pyramid

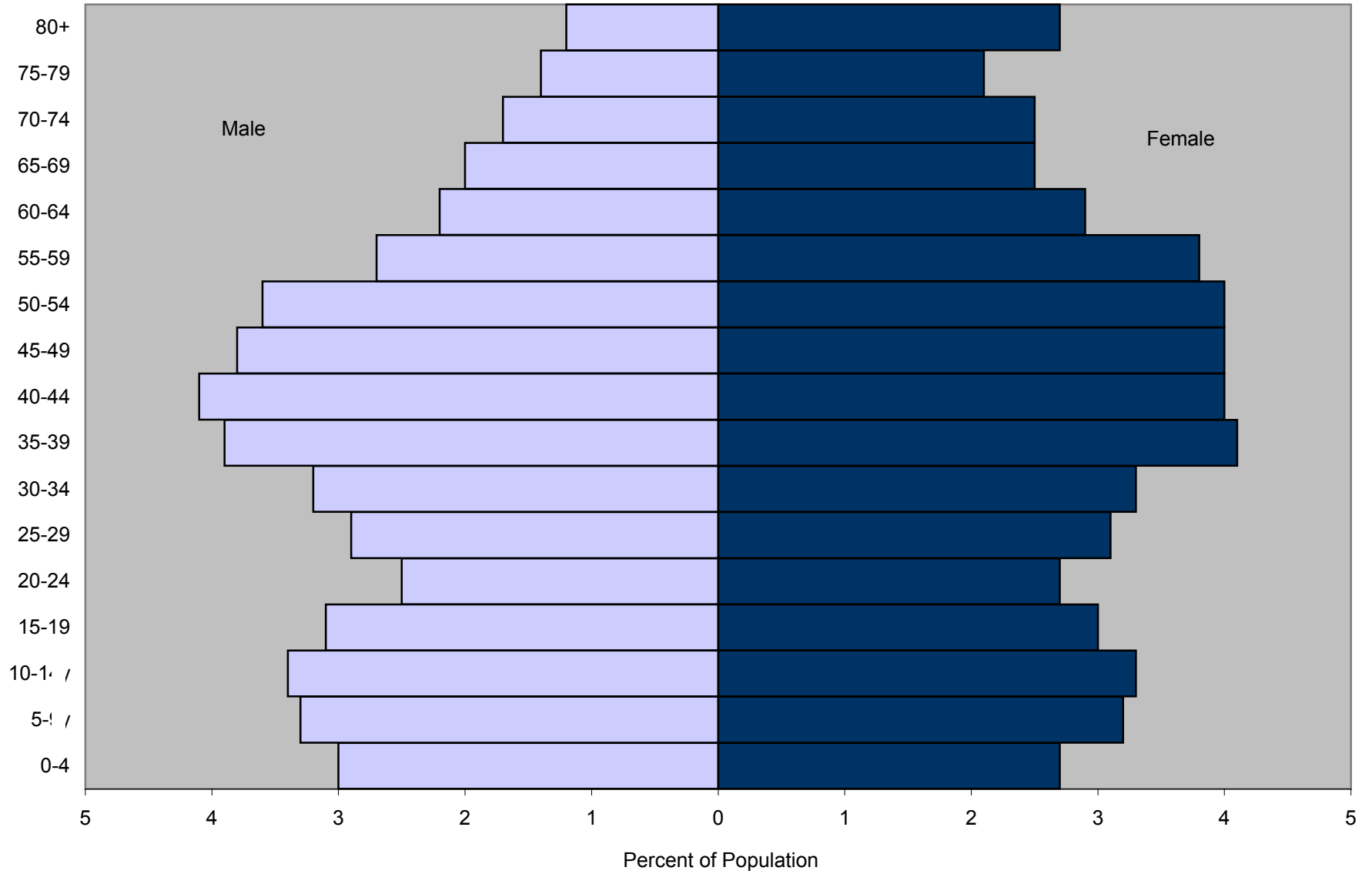
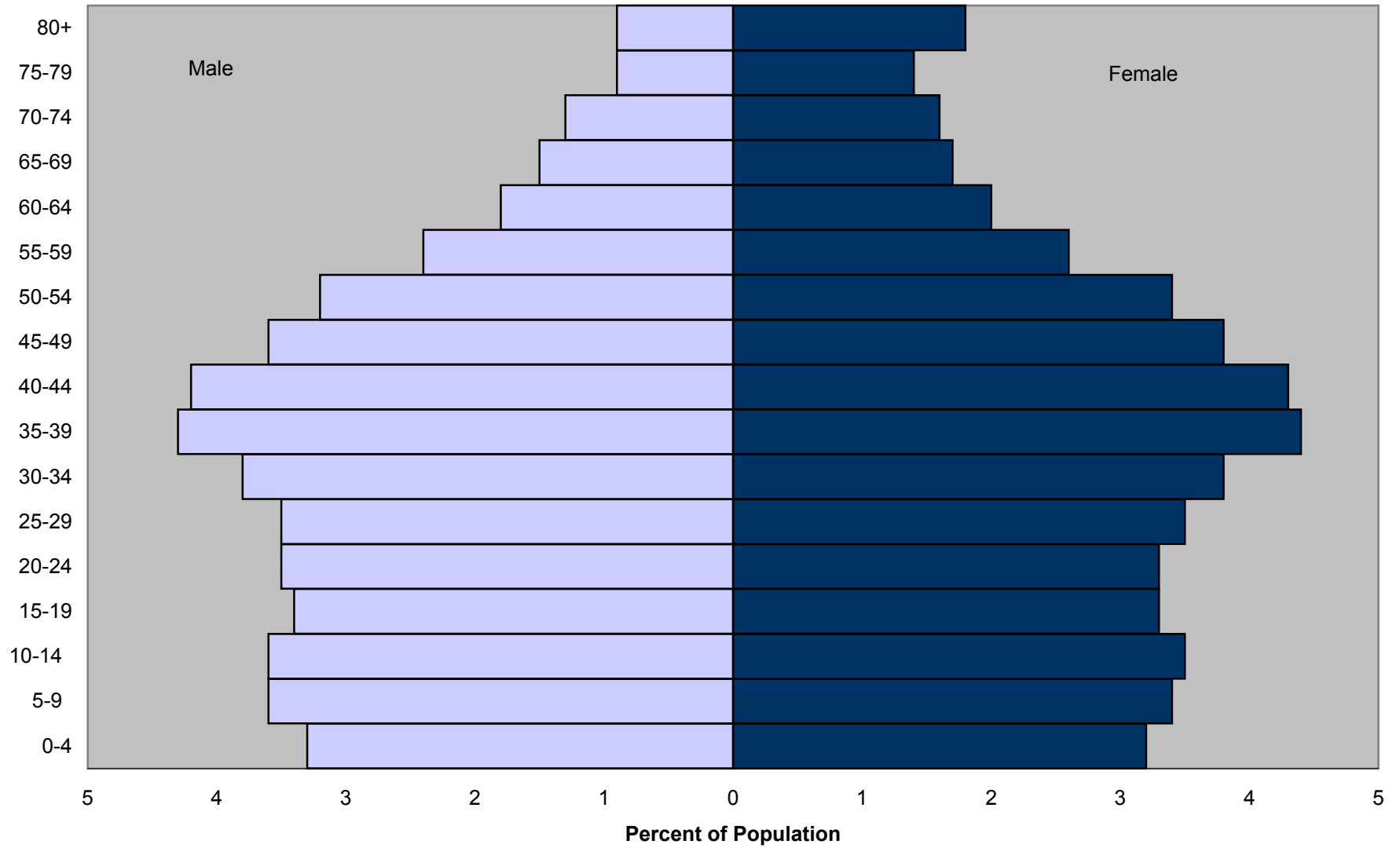


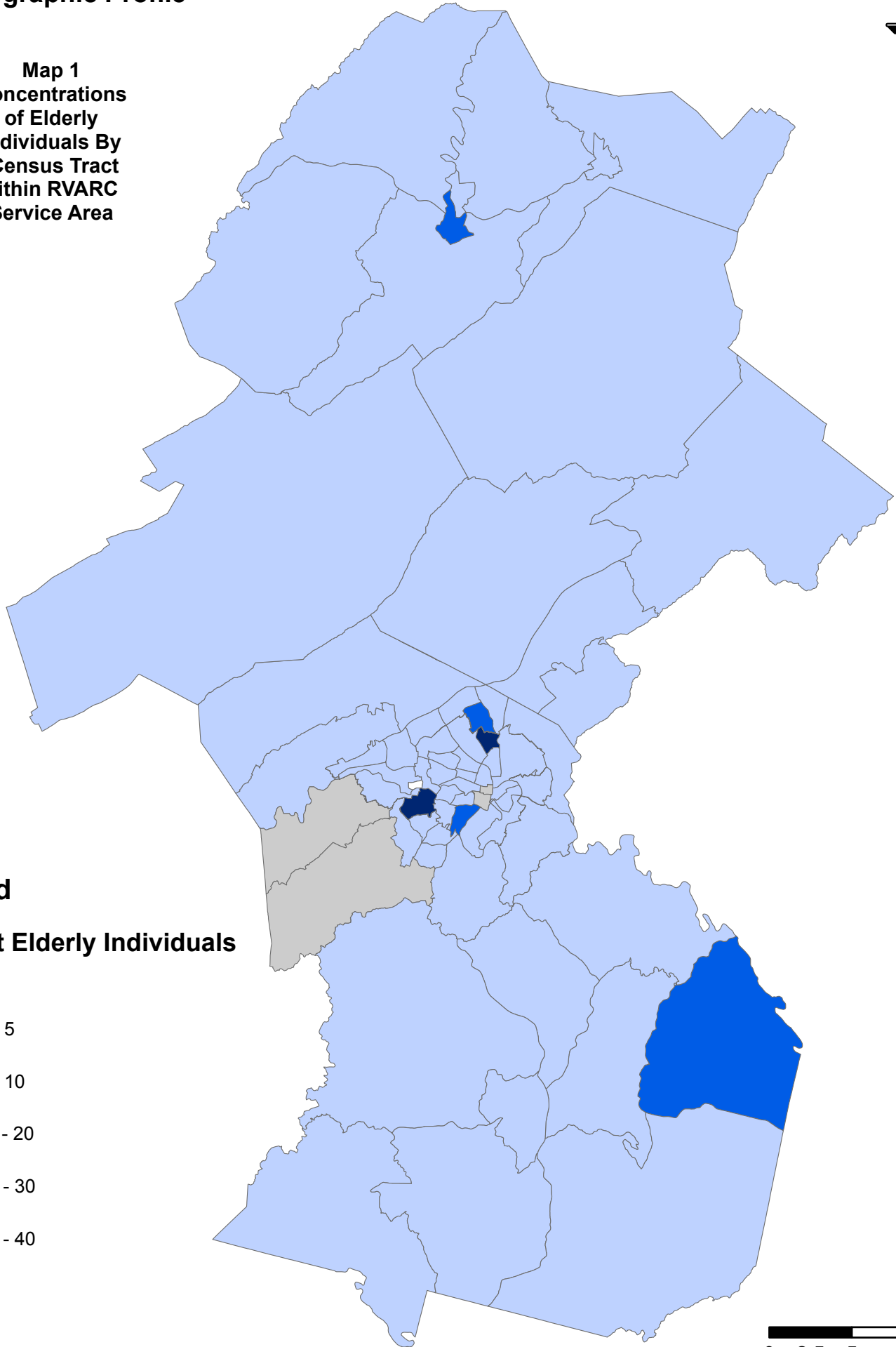
Figure 2: Commonwealth of Virginia Population Pyramid



Demographic Profile

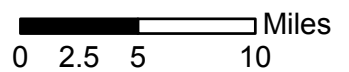
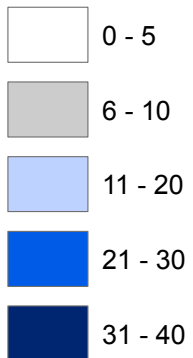


**Map 1
Concentrations
of Elderly
Individuals By
Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area**



Legend

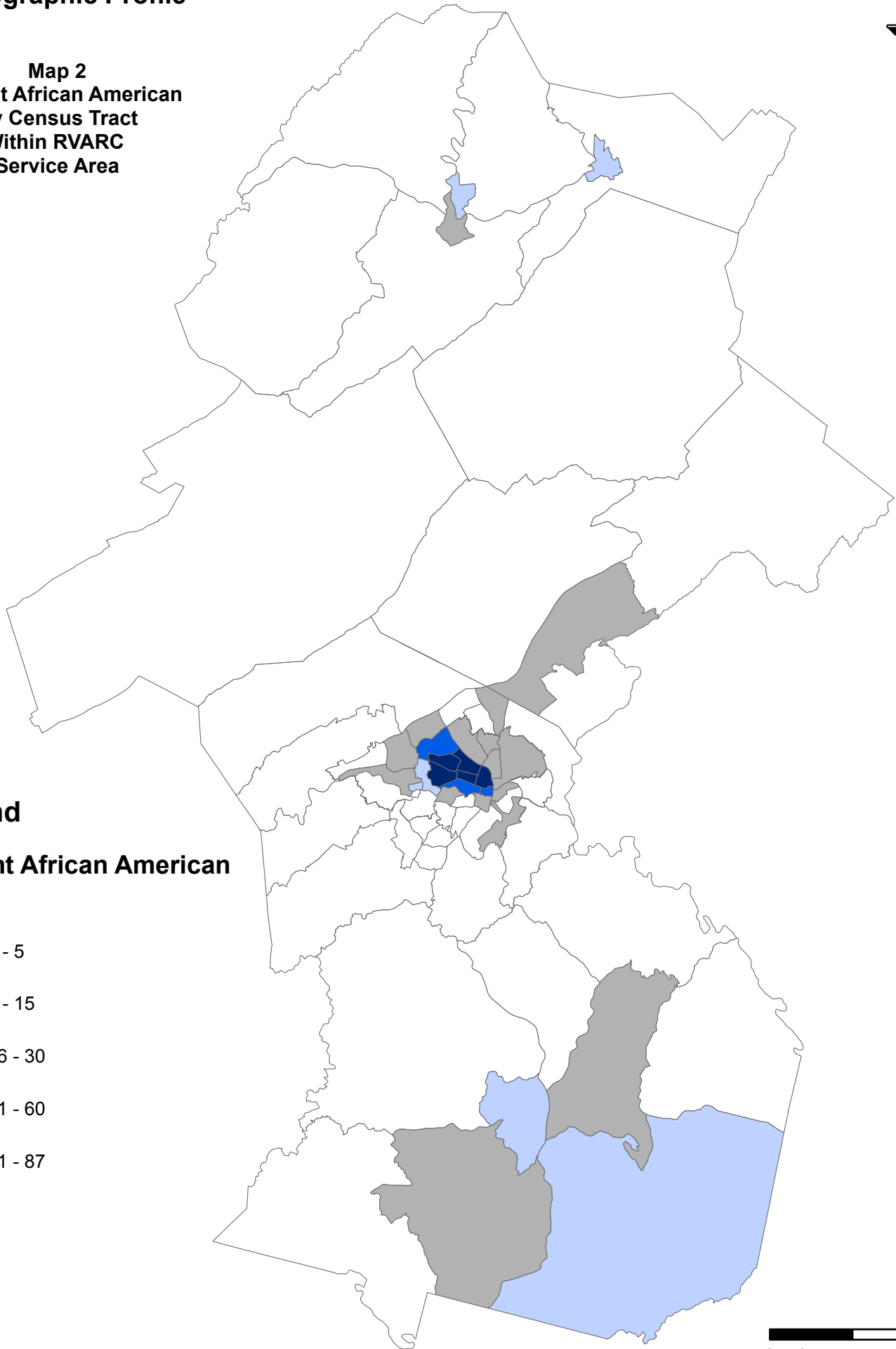
Percent Elderly Individuals



Demographic Profile

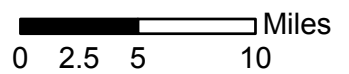
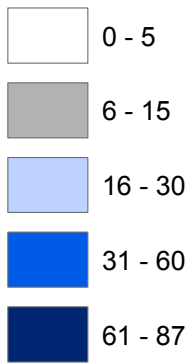


Map 2
Percent African American
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

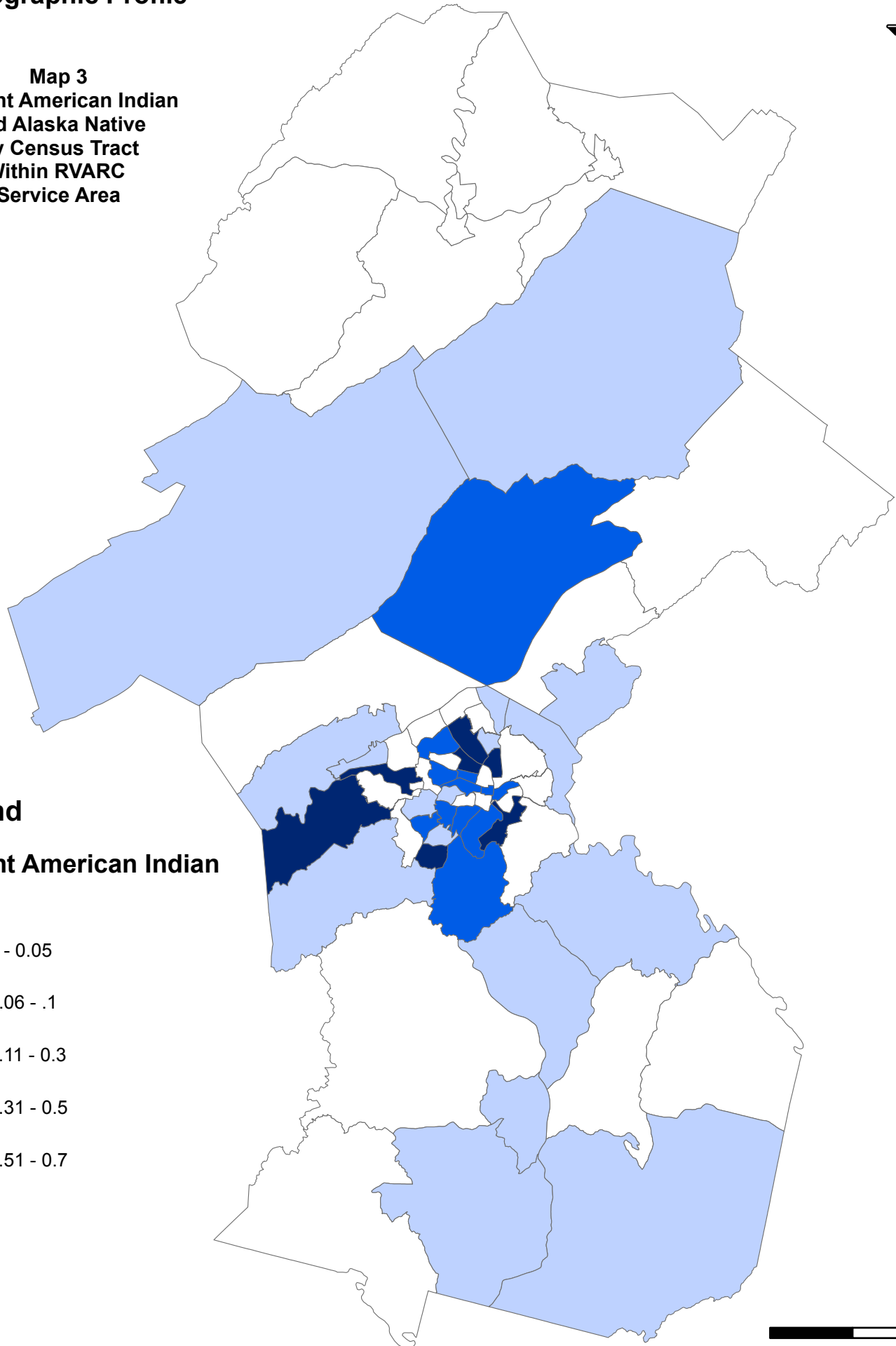
Percent African American



Demographic Profile








Map 3
Percent American Indian and Alaska Native
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

Percent American Indian

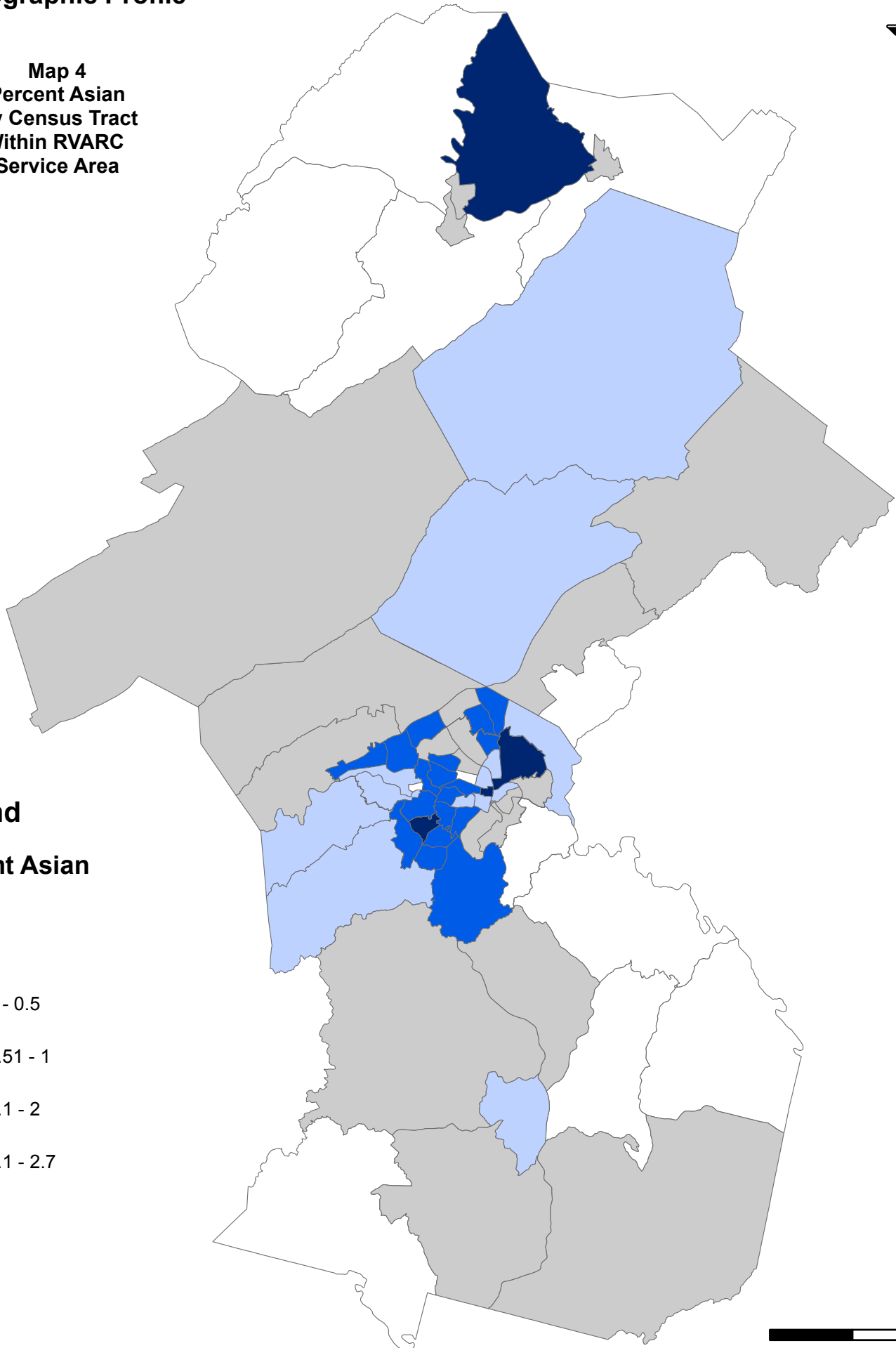
-  0 - 0.05
-  0.06 - .1
-  0.11 - 0.3
-  0.31 - 0.5
-  0.51 - 0.7

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Demographic Profile

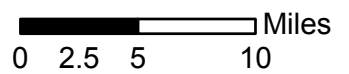
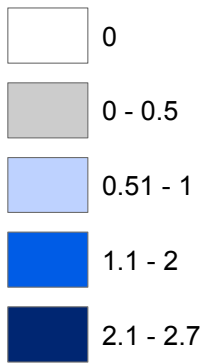


**Map 4
Percent Asian
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area**



Legend

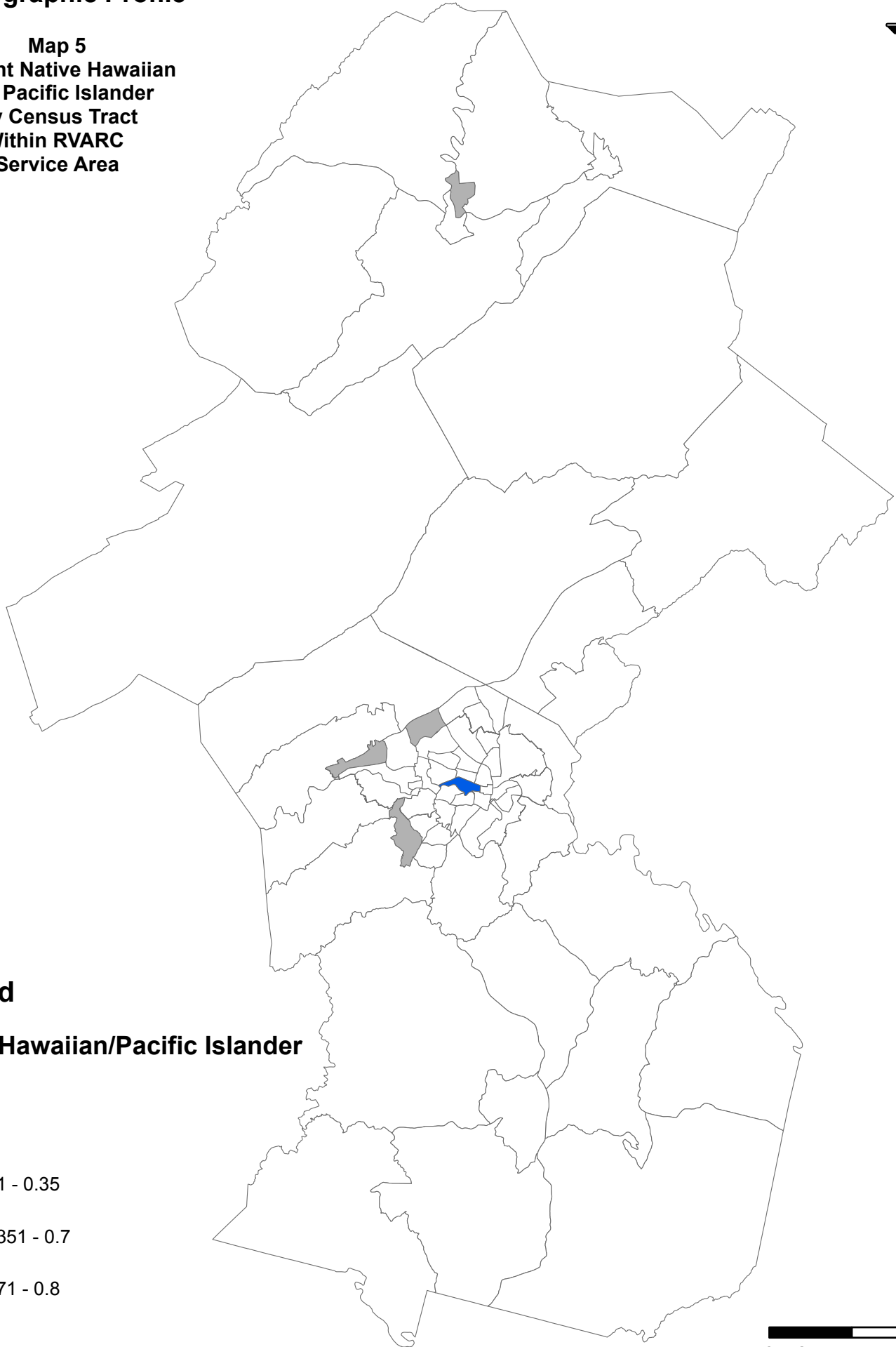
Percent Asian



Demographic Profile



Map 5
Percent Native Hawaiian
and Pacific Islander
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

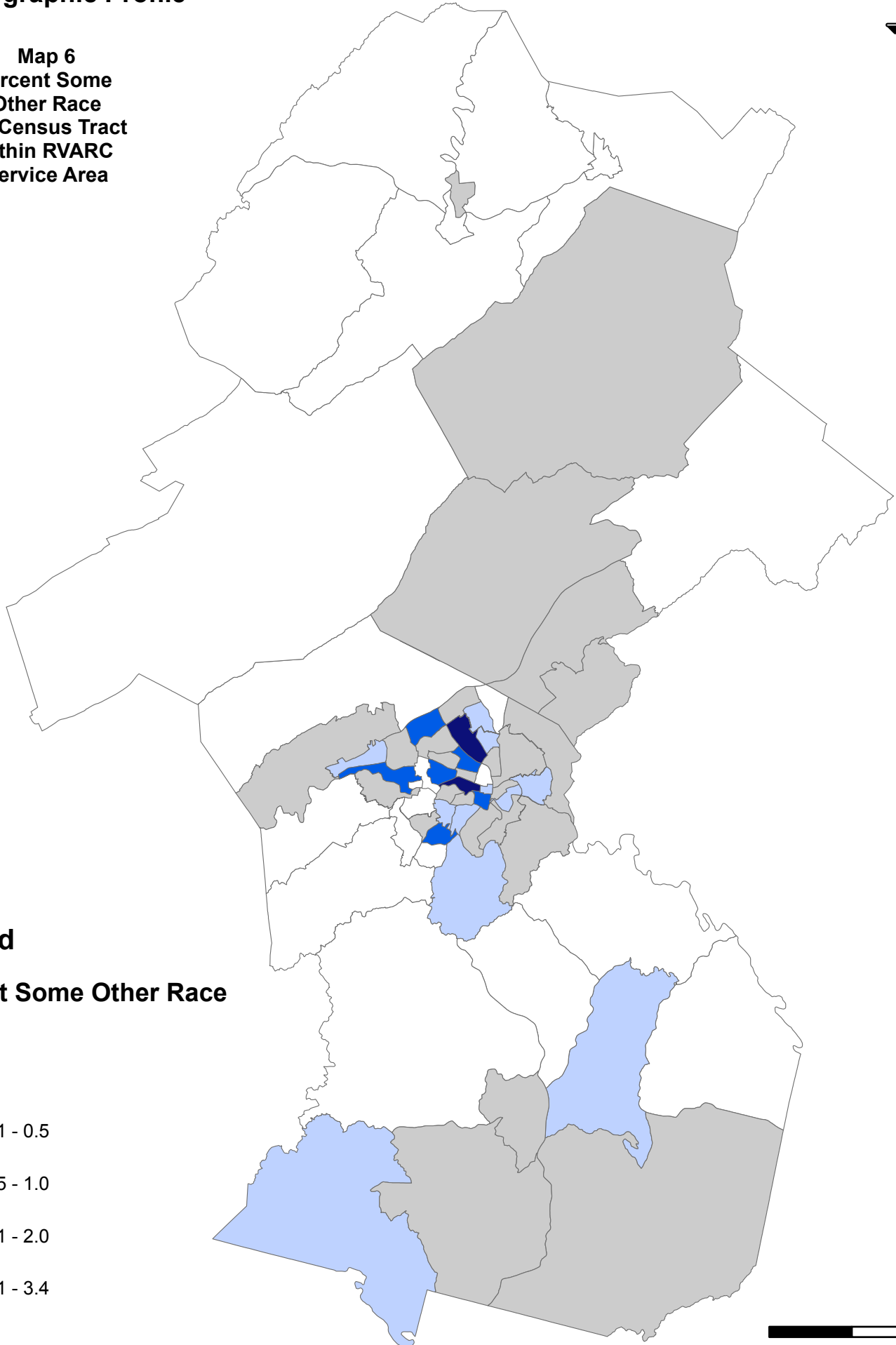
- 0
- 0.1 - 0.35
- 0.351 - 0.7
- 0.71 - 0.8

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Demographic Profile

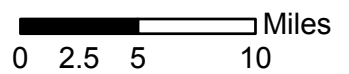
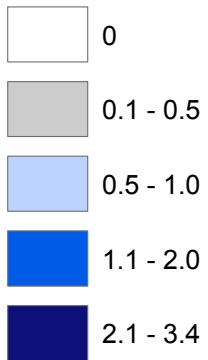


Map 6
Percent Some
Other Race
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

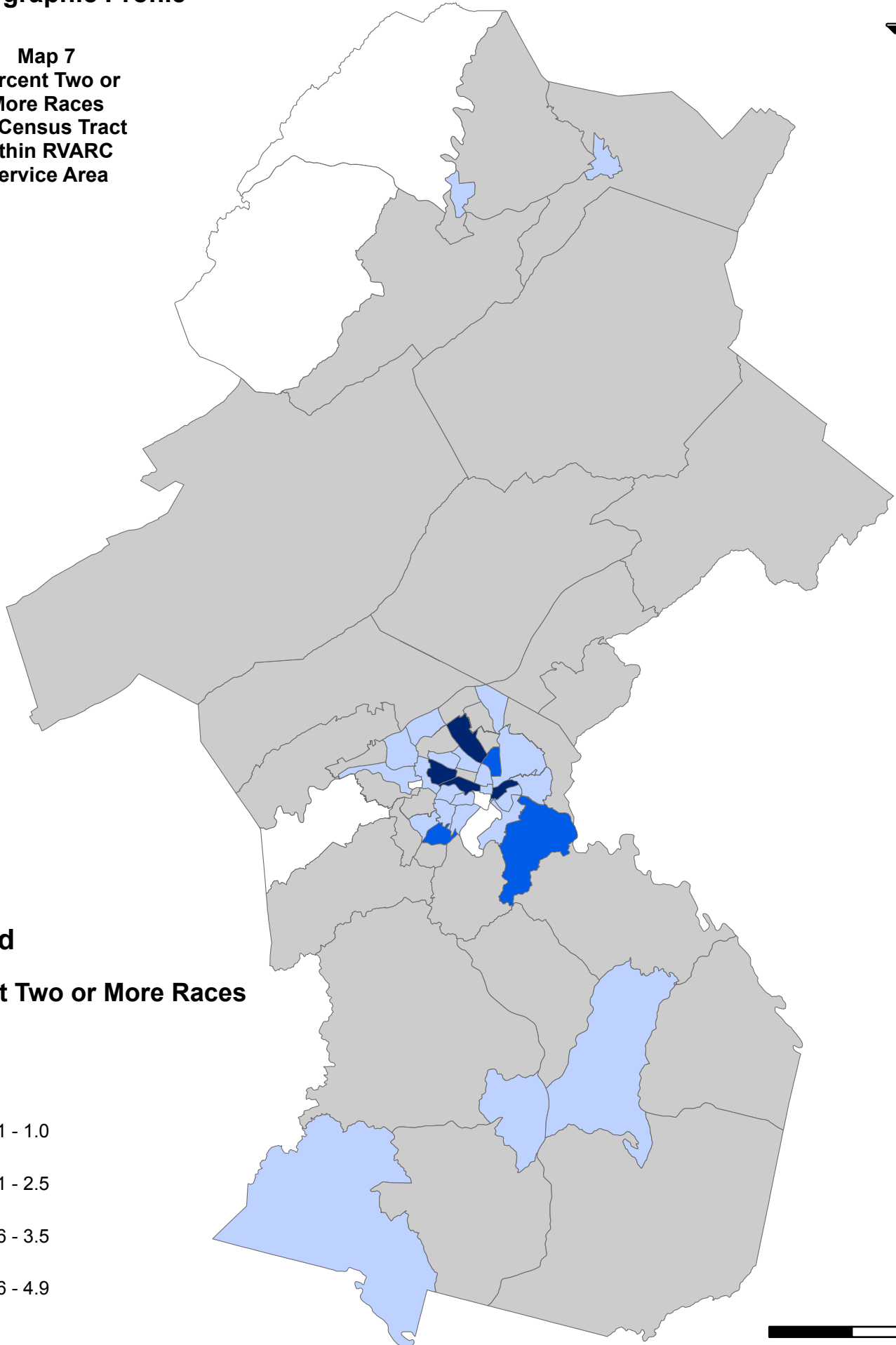
Percent Some Other Race



Demographic Profile

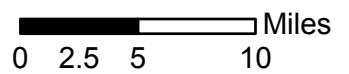
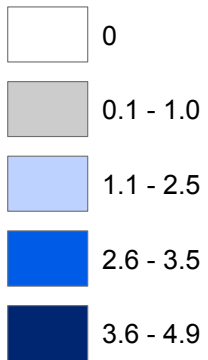


Map 7
Percent Two or
More Races
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

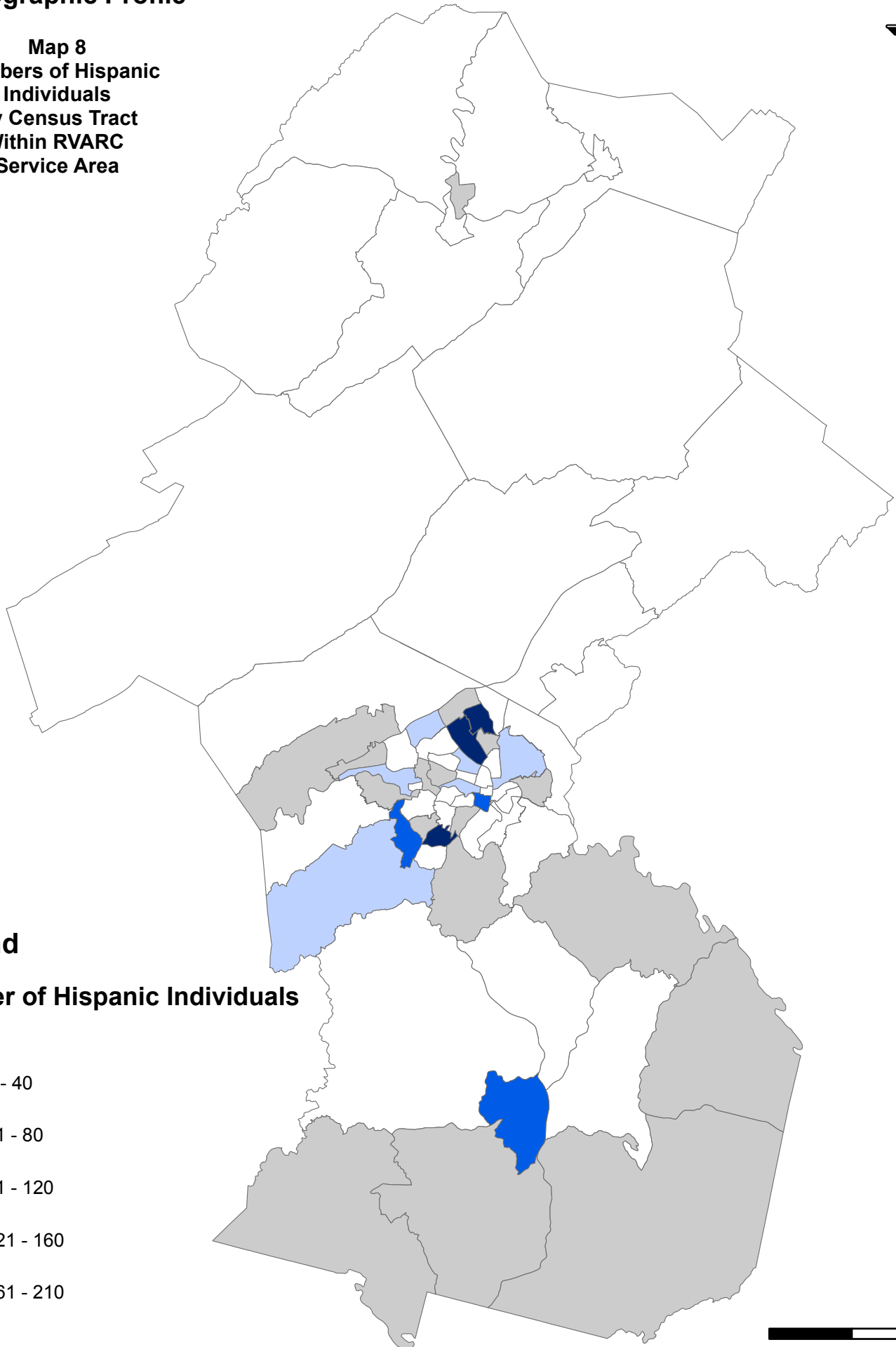
Percent Two or More Races



Demographic Profile








Map 8
Numbers of Hispanic
Individuals
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

Number of Hispanic Individuals

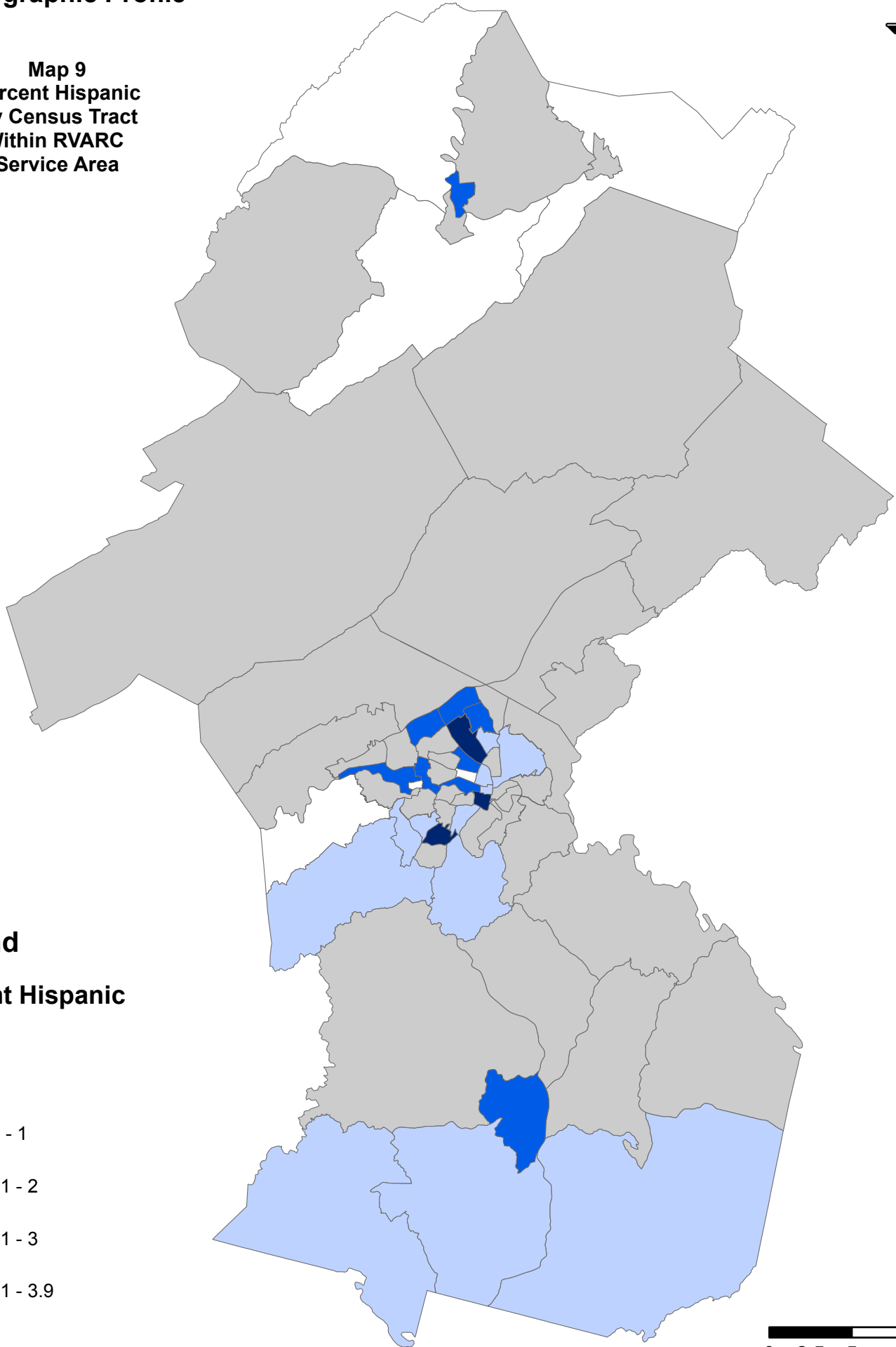
-  0 - 40
-  41 - 80
-  81 - 120
-  121 - 160
-  161 - 210

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Demographic Profile

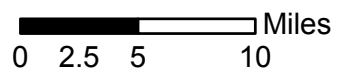
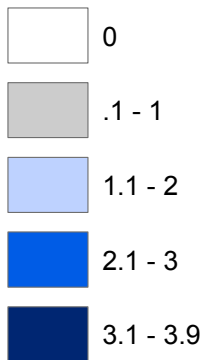


Map 9
Percent Hispanic
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

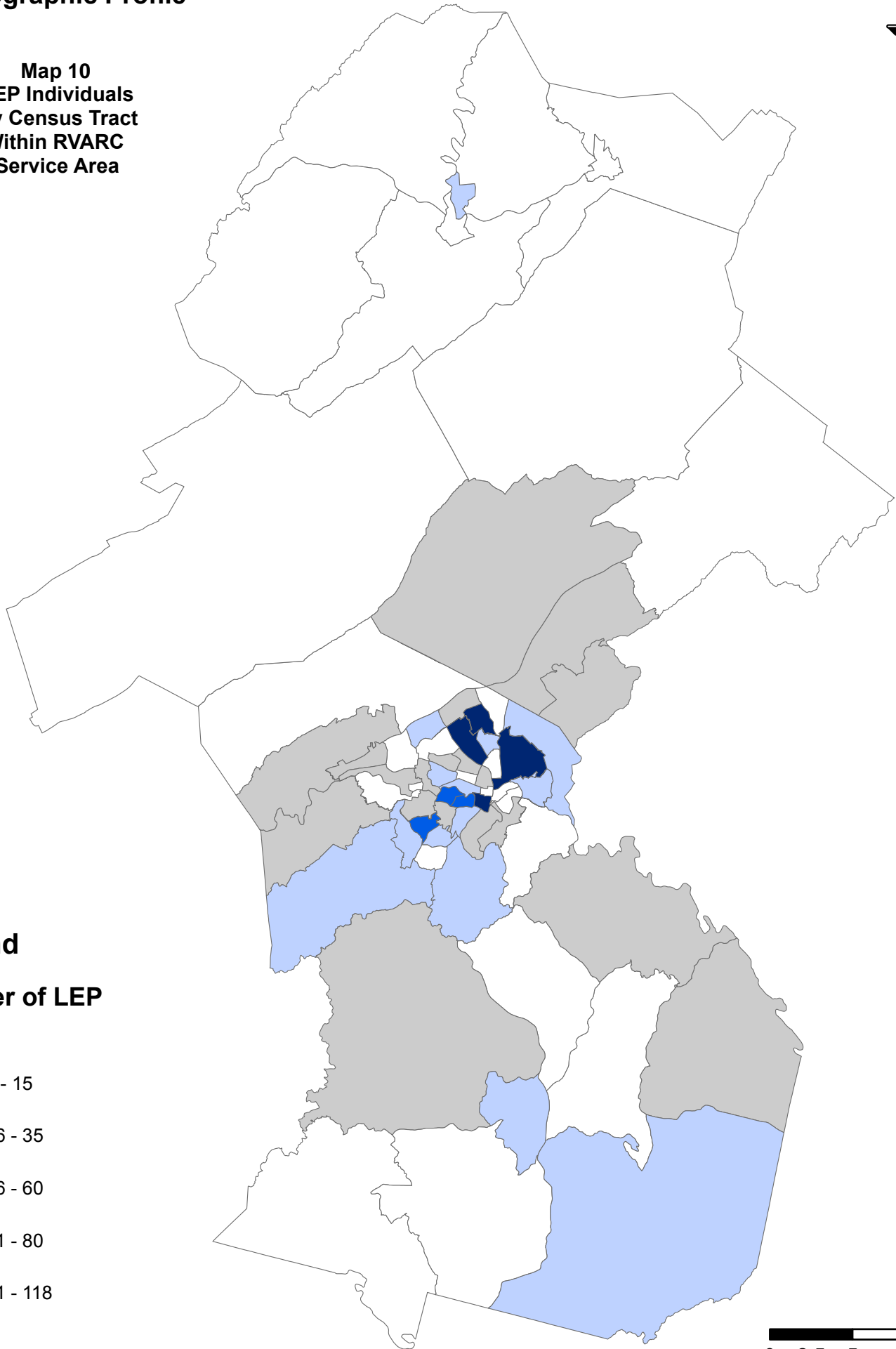
Percent Hispanic



Demographic Profile

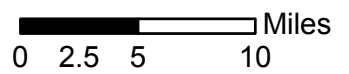
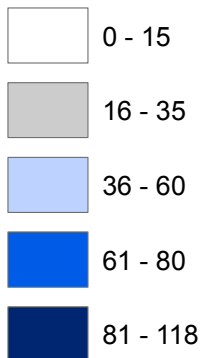


Map 10
LEP Individuals
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

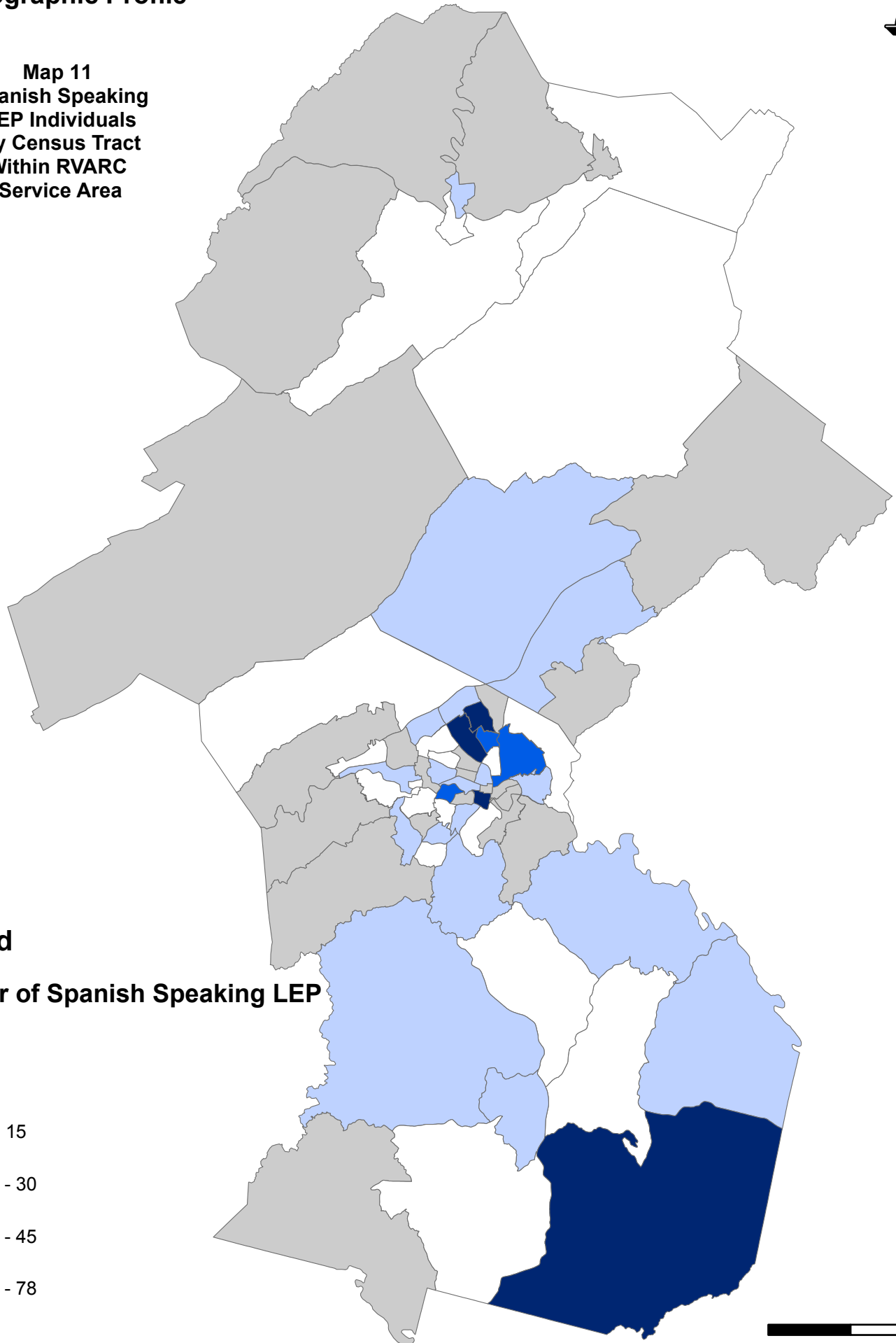
Number of LEP



Demographic Profile



Map 11
Spanish Speaking
LEP Individuals
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

Number of Spanish Speaking LEP

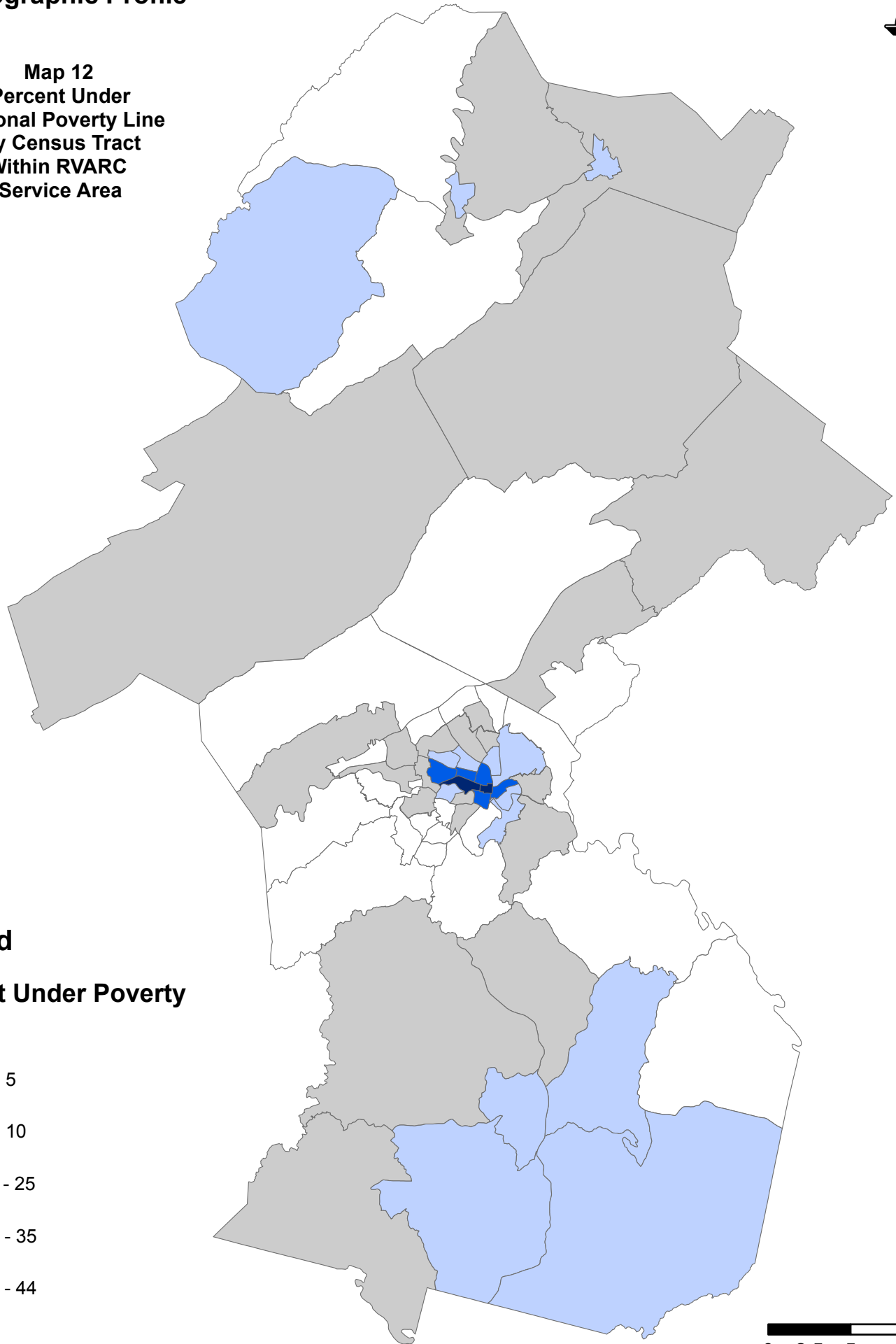
- 0
- 1 - 15
- 16 - 30
- 31 - 45
- 46 - 78

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Demographic Profile



Map 12
Percent Under
National Poverty Line
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

Percent Under Poverty

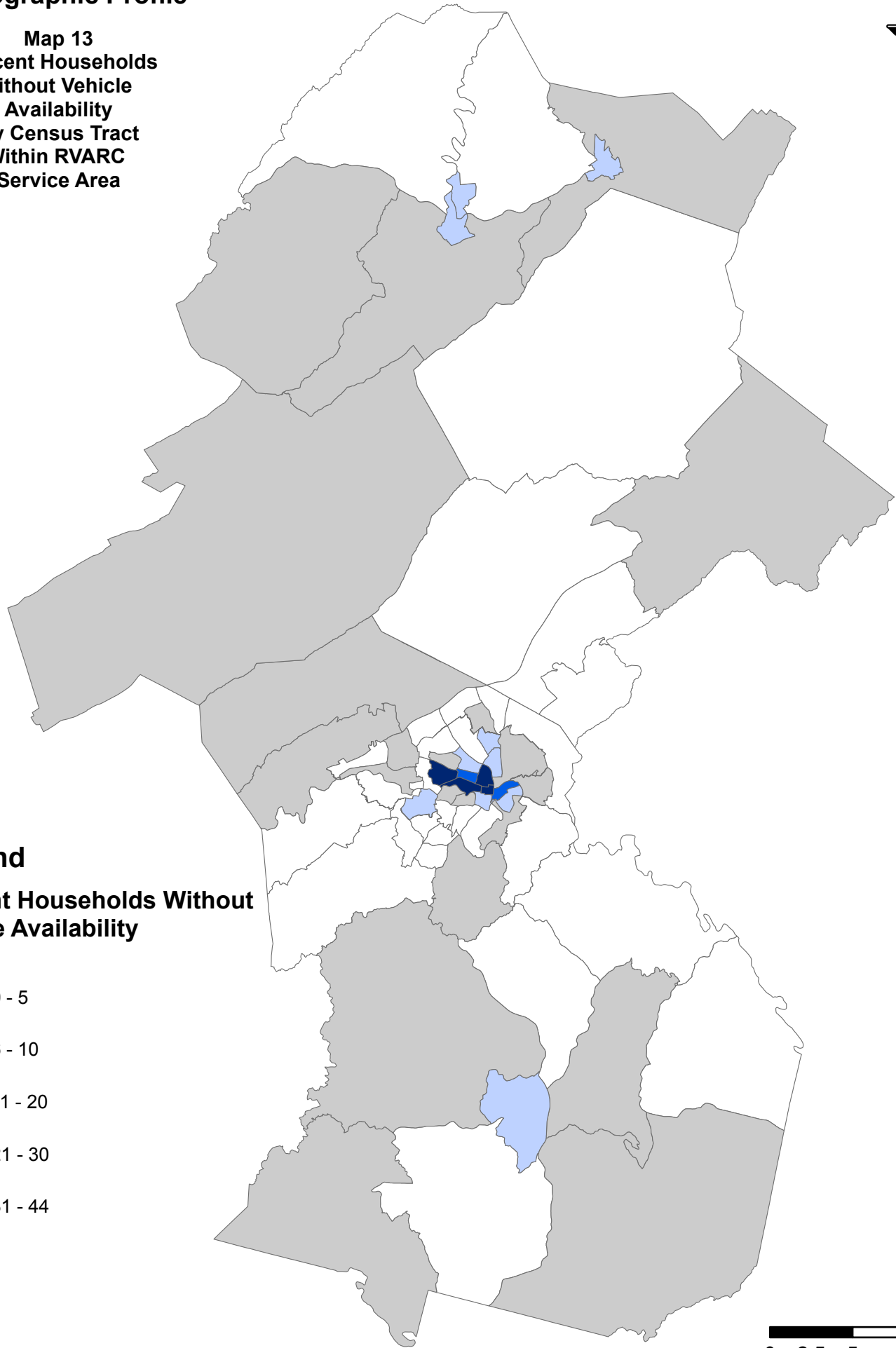
- 0 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 25
- 26 - 35
- 36 - 44

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Demographic Profile








Map 13
Percent Households
Without Vehicle
Availability
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

Percent Households Without Vehicle Availability

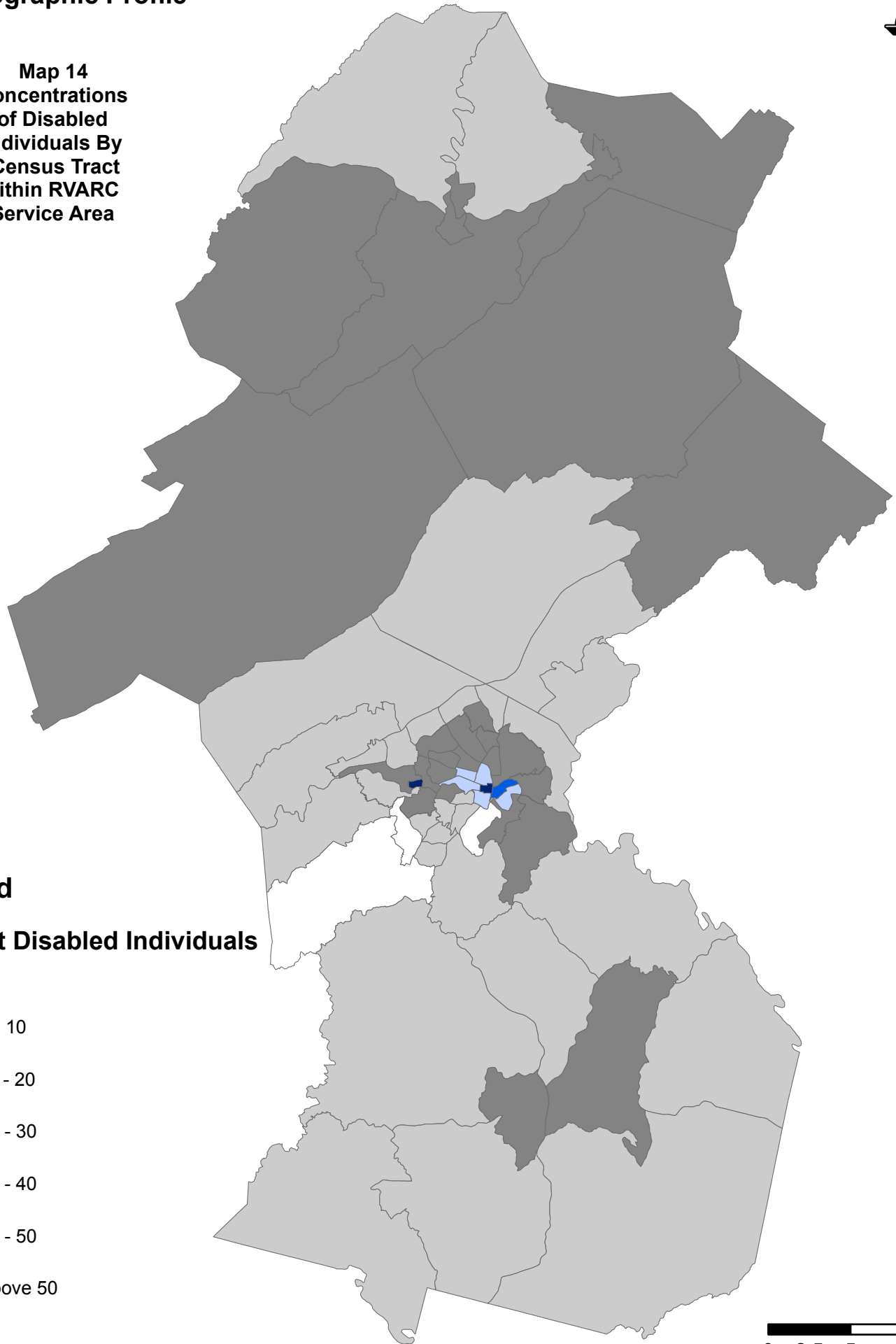
-  0 - 5
-  6 - 10
-  11 - 20
-  21 - 30
-  31 - 44

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Demographic Profile









Map 14
Concentrations
of Disabled
Individuals By
Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

Percent Disabled Individuals

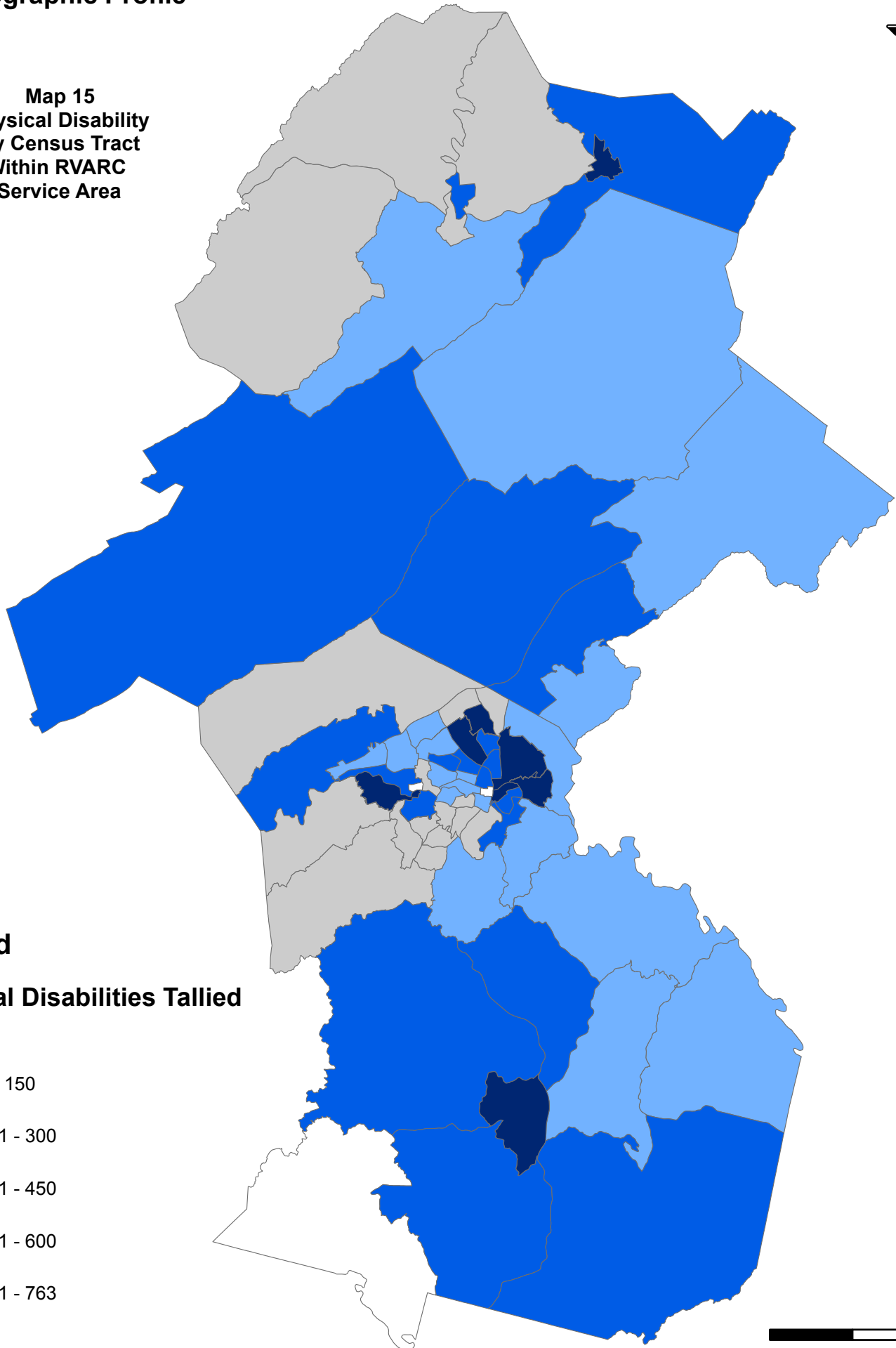
-  0 - 10
-  11 - 20
-  21 - 30
-  31 - 40
-  41 - 50
-  Above 50

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Demographic Profile



Map 15
Physical Disability
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

Physical Disabilities Tallied

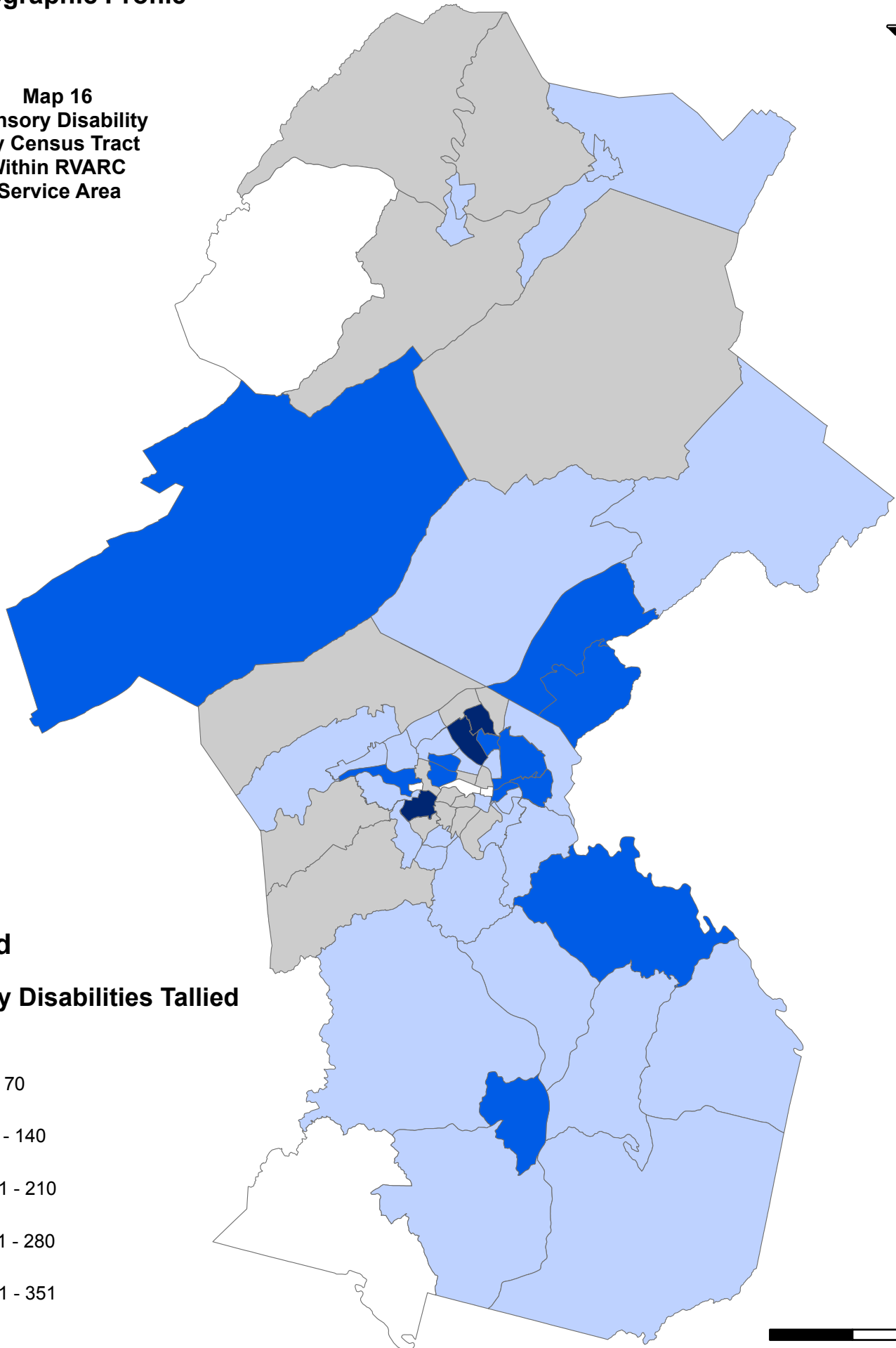
- 0 - 150
- 151 - 300
- 301 - 450
- 451 - 600
- 601 - 763

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Demographic Profile








Map 16
Sensory Disability
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

Sensory Disabilities Tallied

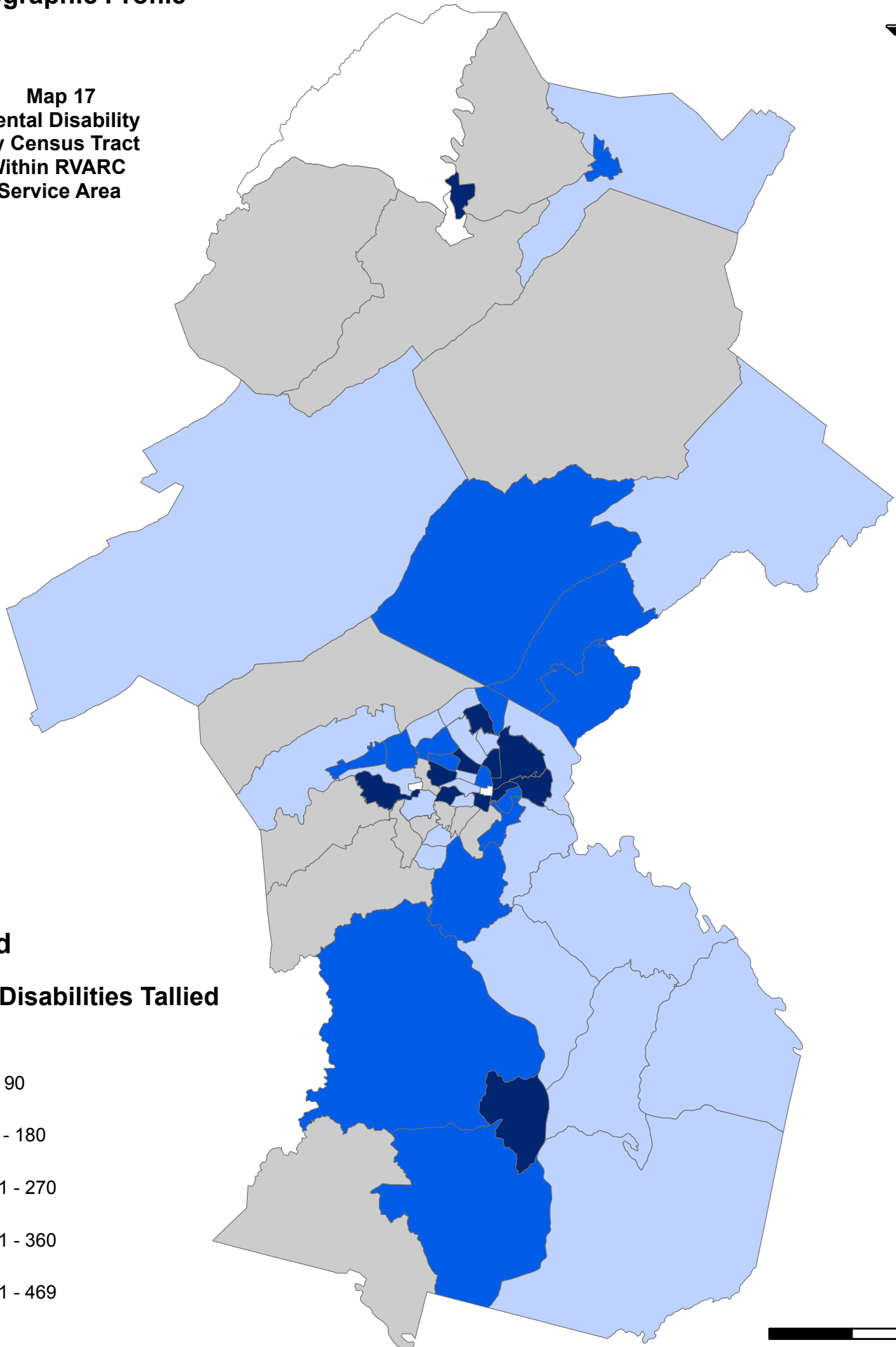
-  0 - 70
-  71 - 140
-  141 - 210
-  211 - 280
-  281 - 351

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Demographic Profile








Map 17
Mental Disability
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

Mental Disabilities Tallied

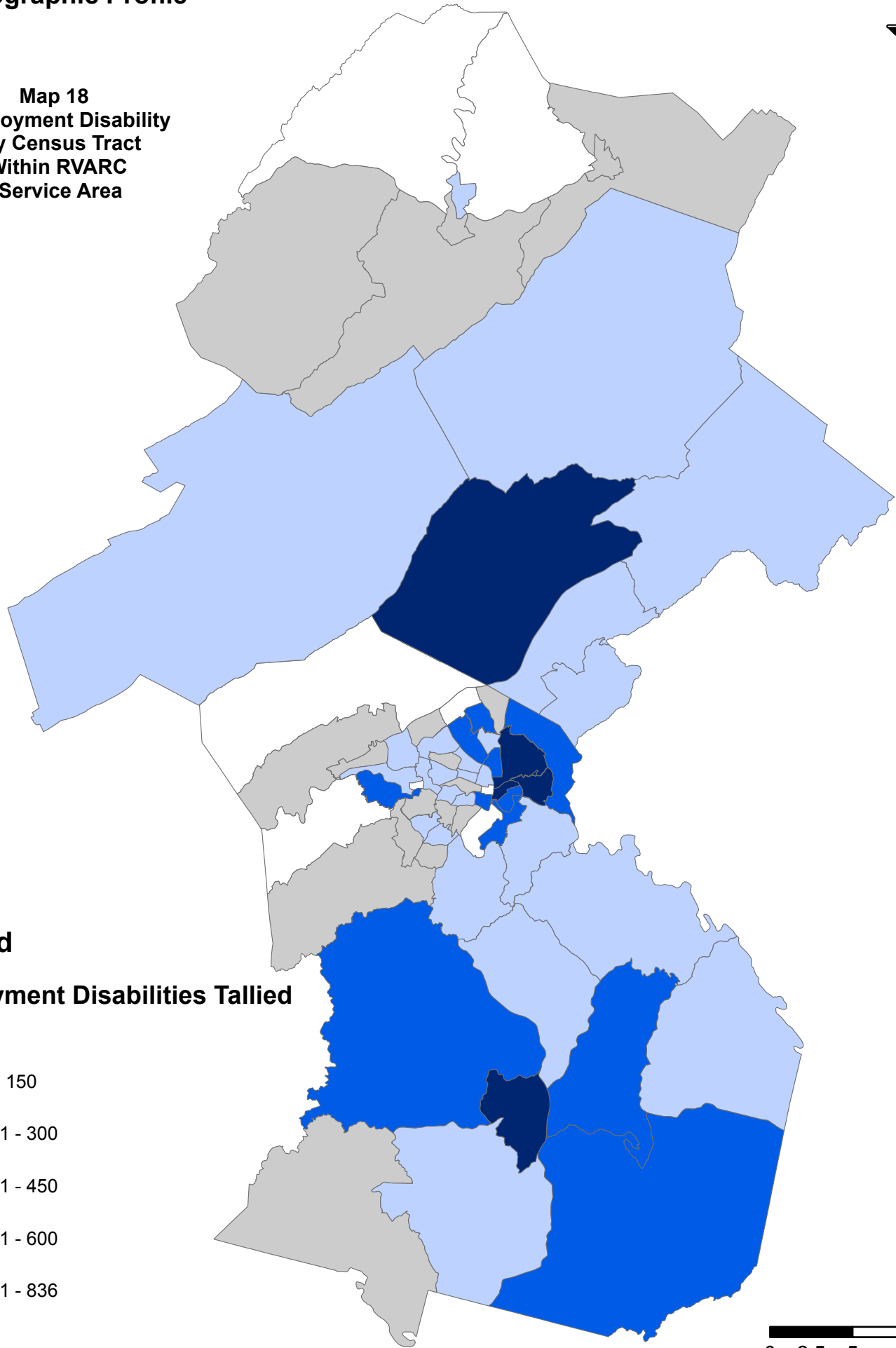
-  5 - 90
-  91 - 180
-  181 - 270
-  271 - 360
-  361 - 469

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Demographic Profile








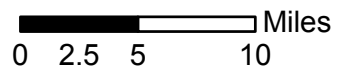
Map 18
Employment Disability
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

Employment Disabilities Tallied

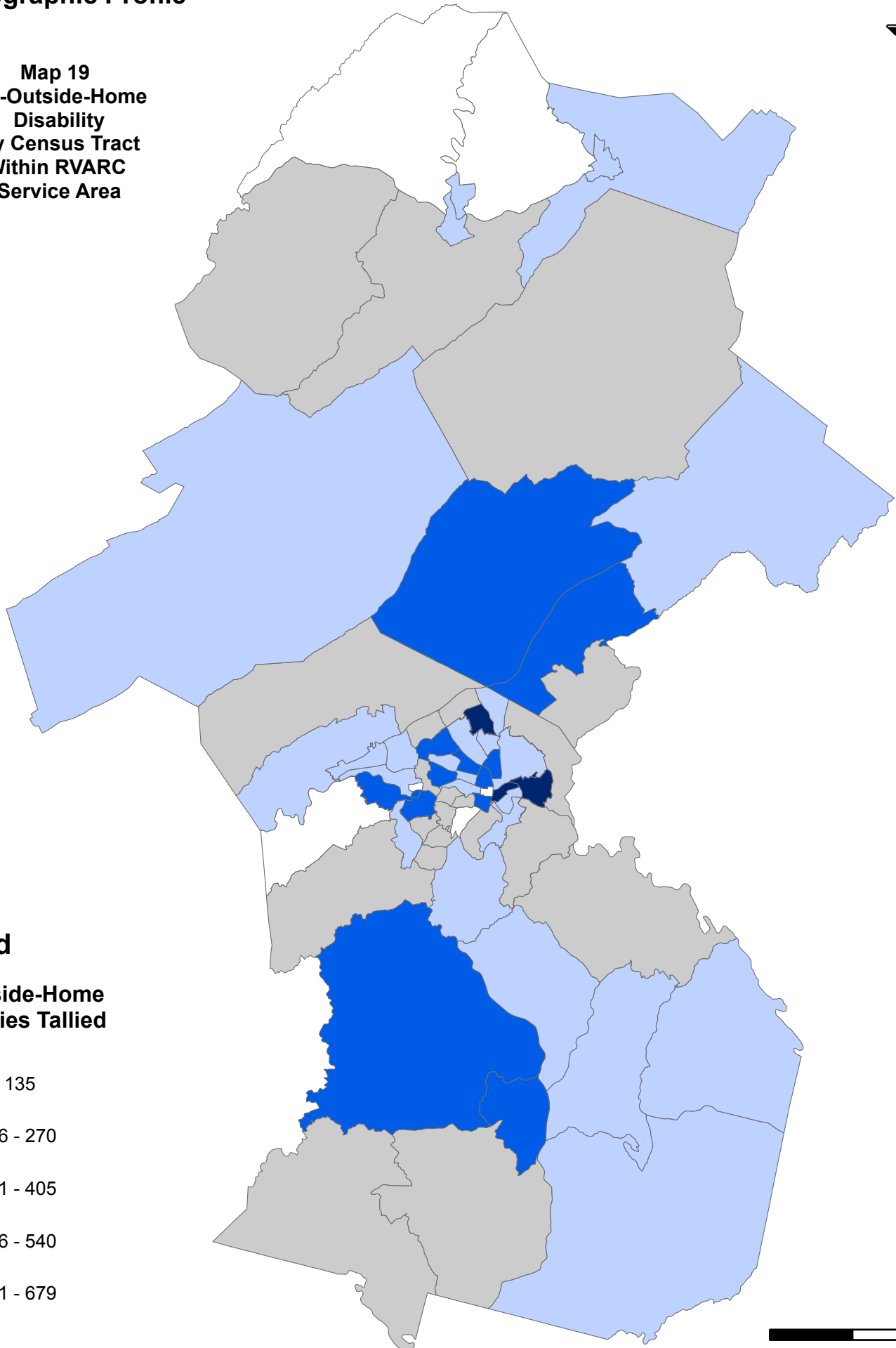
-  0 - 150
-  151 - 300
-  301 - 450
-  451 - 600
-  601 - 836



Demographic Profile



Map 19
Go-Outside-Home
Disability
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

Go-Outside-Home Disabilities Tallied

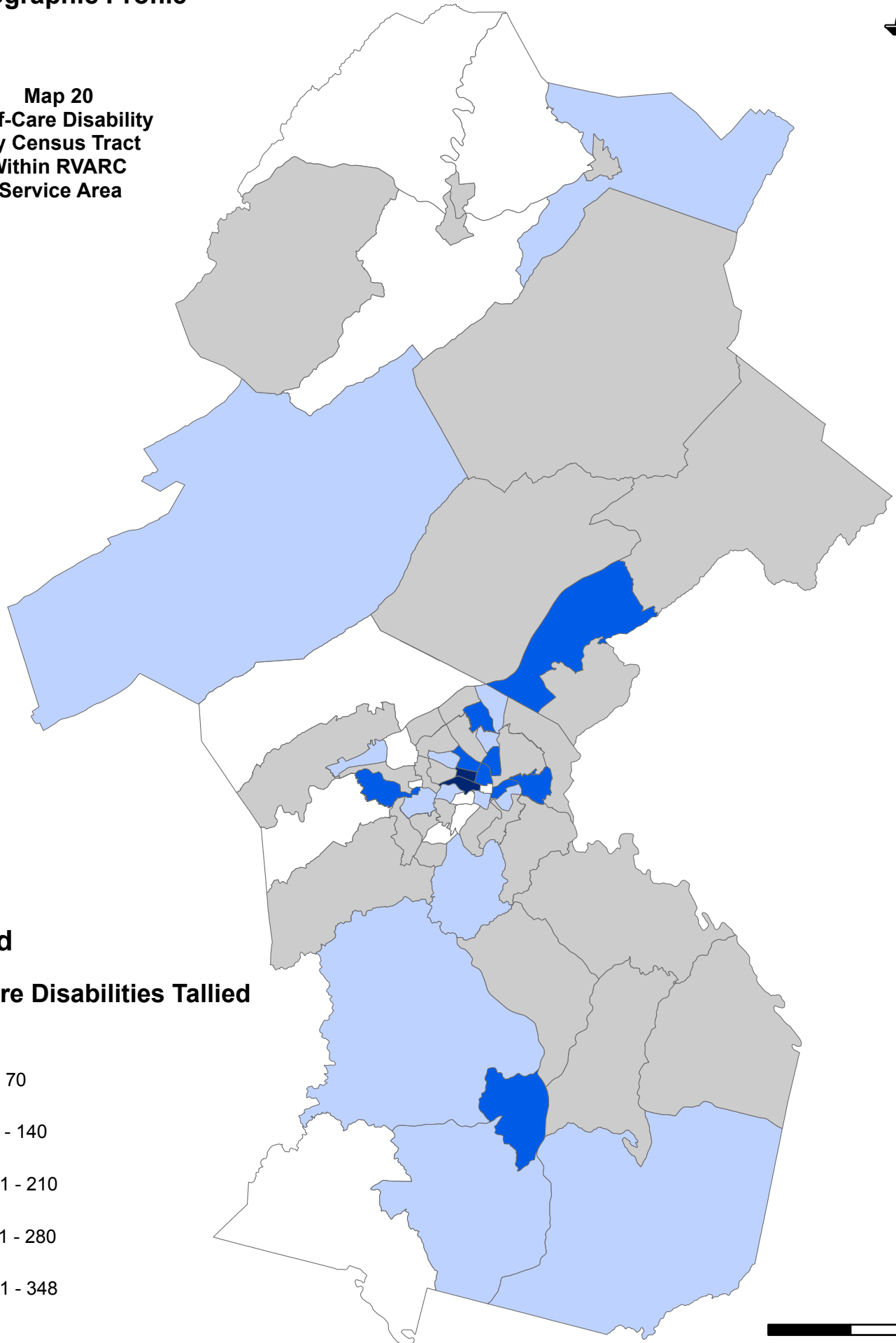
- 0 - 135
- 136 - 270
- 271 - 405
- 406 - 540
- 541 - 679

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Demographic Profile



Map 20
Self-Care Disability
By Census Tract
Within RVARC
Service Area



Legend

Self-Care Disabilities Tallied

- 0 - 70
- 71 - 140
- 141 - 210
- 211 - 280
- 281 - 348

0 2.5 5 10 Miles