3
SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE

BACK OF SECTION DIVIDER

3.0 Socioeconomic Profile

3.1 Regional Profile

This section of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) provides a snapshot of regional demographics including population, housing, employment and age cohort distribution in the region. A section on Environmental Justice is also provided.

3.1.1 Population

Population Growth Trends

In 2010, the Pueblo County population count was 159,063 people, with 67 percent of those living within the City of Pueblo. Growth fluctuated in the 1980s and early nineties as a major shift in employment occurred. From 1990-2013, population in Pueblo County has grown by 31 percent. This growth occurred despite the recession which took place in 2007-2009. Pueblo County's estimated 2013 population stood at 161,258 residents.

Table 3.1 shows historic and future population growth trends. By 2040, the County population is projected to increase to approximately 228,300 people with about 60 percent living within the City of Pueblo. The population projections for 2020-2040, depicted in Table 3.1 are, on average, 6.6 percent higher than the forecasts developed by the Colorado State Demography Office.

It is assumed that over time, Pueblo will become increasingly integrated into the economy of El Paso County, thereby accounting for the increased growth.

Table 3.1: Pueblo Area Population Trends 1970 – 2040

Metric/Location	Measured					Projected		
	1970	**1980**	**1990**	**2000**	**2010**	**2020**	**2030**	**2040**
Population								
City of Pueblo	97,774	101,686	98,640	102,121	106,595	*110,761*	*128,664*	*136,241*
Pueblo County	118,238	125,972	123,051	141,472	159,063	*180,321*	*206,306*	*228,300*
Percent in City	83%	81%	80%	72%	67%	*65%*	*62%*	*60%*
Rate of Growth								
City of Pueblo		4.0%	-3.0%	3.5%	4.4%	*3.9%*	*16.2%*	*5.9%*
Pueblo County		6.5%	-2.3%	15.0%	12.4%	*13.4%*	*14.4%*	*10.7%*

Composition of the Population

The racial and ethnic composition of Pueblo's population has undergone significant changes in the past three decades. This is particularly the case with the City of Pueblo, which has experienced a substantial growth in its Hispanic population. **Table 3.2** depicts these changes.

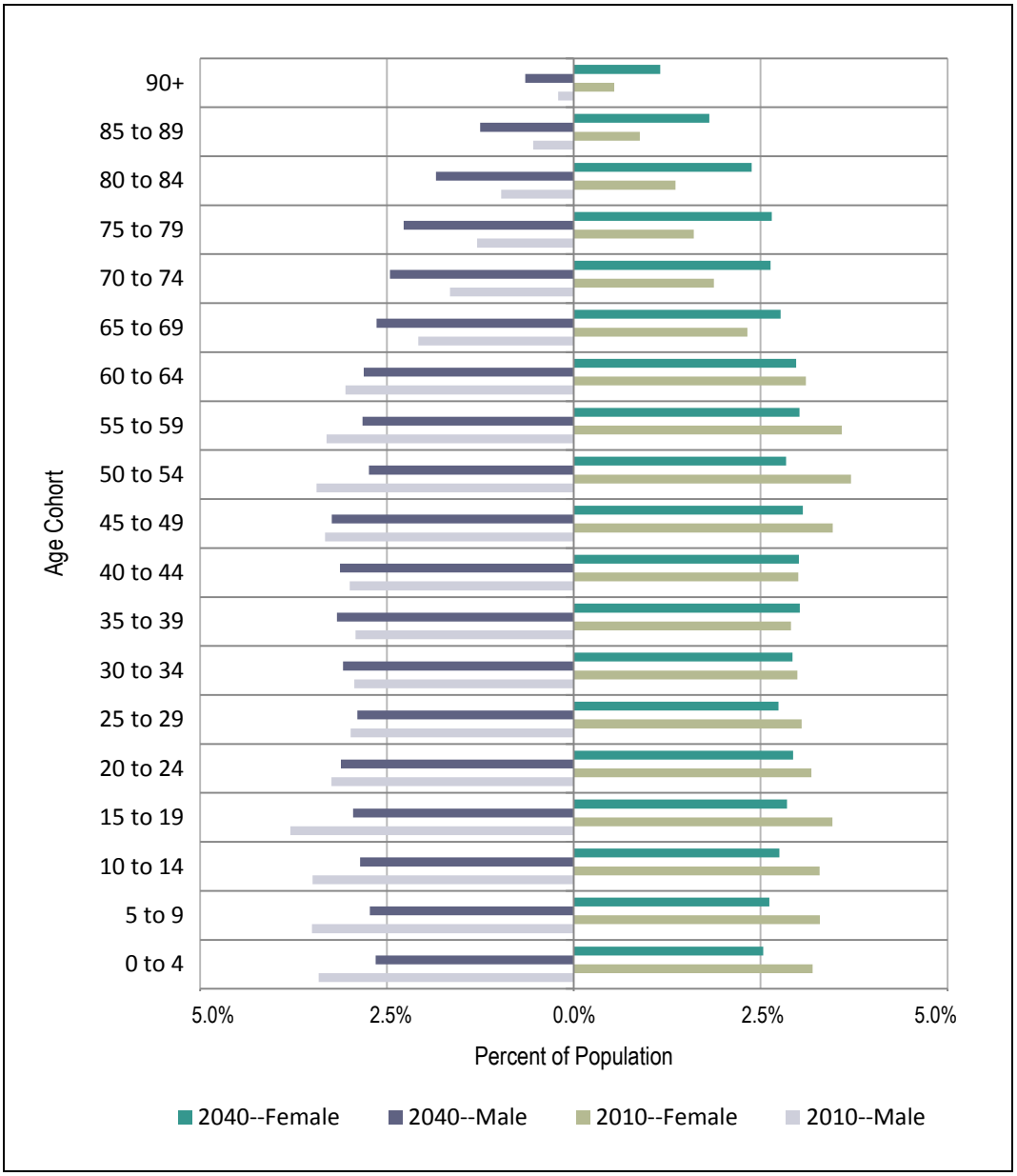
Pueblo's population can be expected to see some fundamental changes in its age composition in the next thirty years. **Figure 3.1** illustrates the changes as the "Baby Boom" generation joins the ranks of the elderly.

Over the thirty year period of 2010-2040, the population under age 20 is expected to decrease from 27.4 percent to 21.9 percent. Conversely, those age 65 and above are expected to increase from 15.3 to 24.5 percent of the population, so that by 2040, almost one in four persons will be this age. The working age population, classically defined as being those age 20 to 65, is slated to shrink from 57.2 to 53.5 percent of total population. Median age, the interval where one-half of the population is older than this value, and one-half younger, is expected to increase from 38.7 years in 2010 to 43.5 years by 2040.

Table 3.2: Population by Race and Hispanic Origin

	City of Pueblo			Pueblo County		
Population Count						
	1990	**2000**	**2010**	**1990**	**2000**	**2010**
NON-HISPANIC ORIGIN						
White	56,451	52,202	48,195	75,382	82,266	86,054
Black	1,932	2,199	2,221	2,029	2,421	2,646
American Indian, Alaska Native	484	622	682	614	950	985
Asian	504	623	792	605	866	1,123
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	-	39	79	-	59	111
Other, including 2 or More Races	300	1,370	1,528	331	1,200	2,333
HISPANIC OR LATINO	**38,969**	**45,066**	**53,098**	**44,090**	**53,710**	**65,811**
TOTALPOPULATION	**98,640**	**102,121**	**106,595**	**123,051**	**141,472**	**159,063**
Percent of Total Population						
	1990	**2000**	**2010**	**1990**	**2000**	**2010**
NON-HISPANIC ORIGIN						
White	57.2%	51.1%	45.2%	61.3%	58.2%	54.1%
Black	2.0%	2.2%	2.1%	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%
American Indian, Alaska Native	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%
Asian	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Other, including 2 or More Races	0.3%	1.3%	1.4%	0.3%	0.8%	1.5%
HISPANIC OR LATINO	**39.5%**	**44.1%**	**49.8%**	**35.8%**	**38.0%**	**41.4%**
TOTAL POPULATION	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**99.9%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Figure 3.1: Pueblo County Age Distribution



Source: Colorado State Demography Office

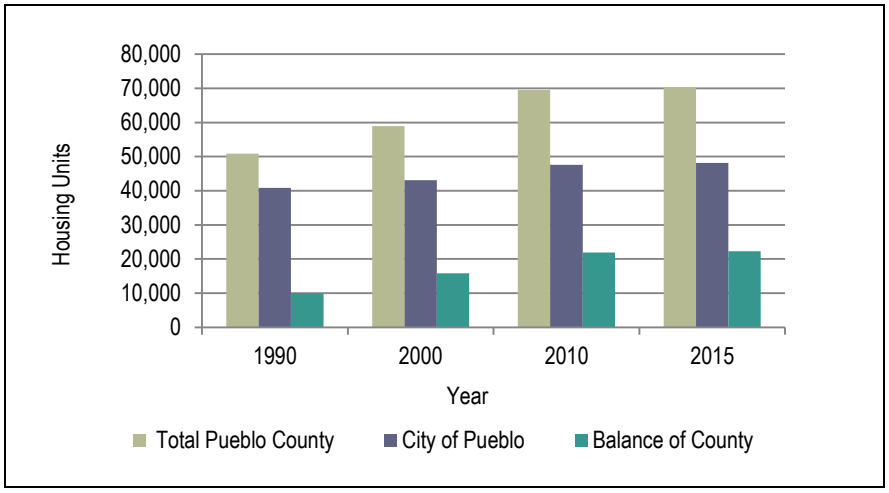
3.1.2 Housing

As was the case with communities nationwide, housing development in Pueblo slowed from 2007-2013, as shown by **Figure 3.2**. Prior to this, housing growth was steady, increasing slightly faster than population due to shrinking household size. At the beginning of 2015, Pueblo County had an estimated housing unit inventory of more than 70,000 units; representing a 38 percent rate of growth relative to the 1990 statistic. The City of Pueblo currently has 68 percent of the housing stock. A related statistic, home ownership showed a decline over that same period as shown by **Figure 3.3**.

Historically, Pueblo was, and continues to be, a community that is defined by its neighborhoods. An indication of the degree of cohesiveness within the community is the high rate of homeownership, as shown in **Figure 3.3**. This has changed in recent years as the general trend of owner-occupied housing has shown a decline, particularly within the City of Pueblo.

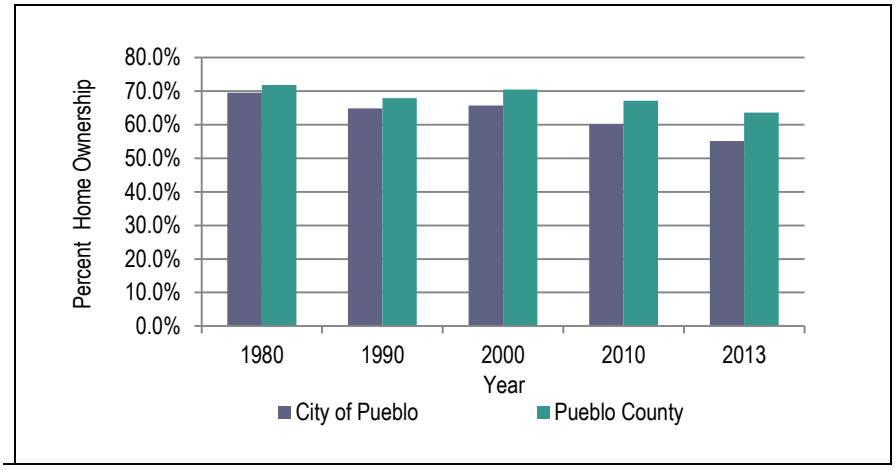
Figure 3.4 shows the relationships among home value in the Pueblo Metropolitan Area, the state and the nation. In rounded figures, median home value for the Pueblo metropolitan area is currently about 60 percent of the State of Colorado value, and 80 percent of the corresponding U.S. statistic. From 2010 to 2013, median home value in Pueblo showed no growth, at least based on Census Bureau data. A brief glance at recent statistics of the median price of sold homes shows a 19% gain in Pueblo during the 2011-2014 timeframe. This rate essentially matches the State of Colorado growth rate of 20% for the period.

Figure 3.2: Housing Growth Trends



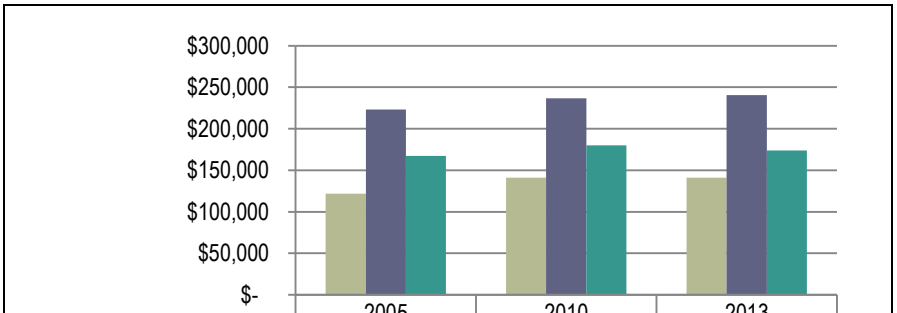
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey

Figure 3.3: Home Ownership



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Decennial Census; ACS, 2013, 1-yr. estimate

Figure 3.4: Median Home Value



	2005	2010	2013
Pueblo, CO Metro Area	$121,700	$141,200	$141,000
Colorado	$223,300	$236,600	$240,500
U.S.	$167,500	$179,900	$173,900

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey

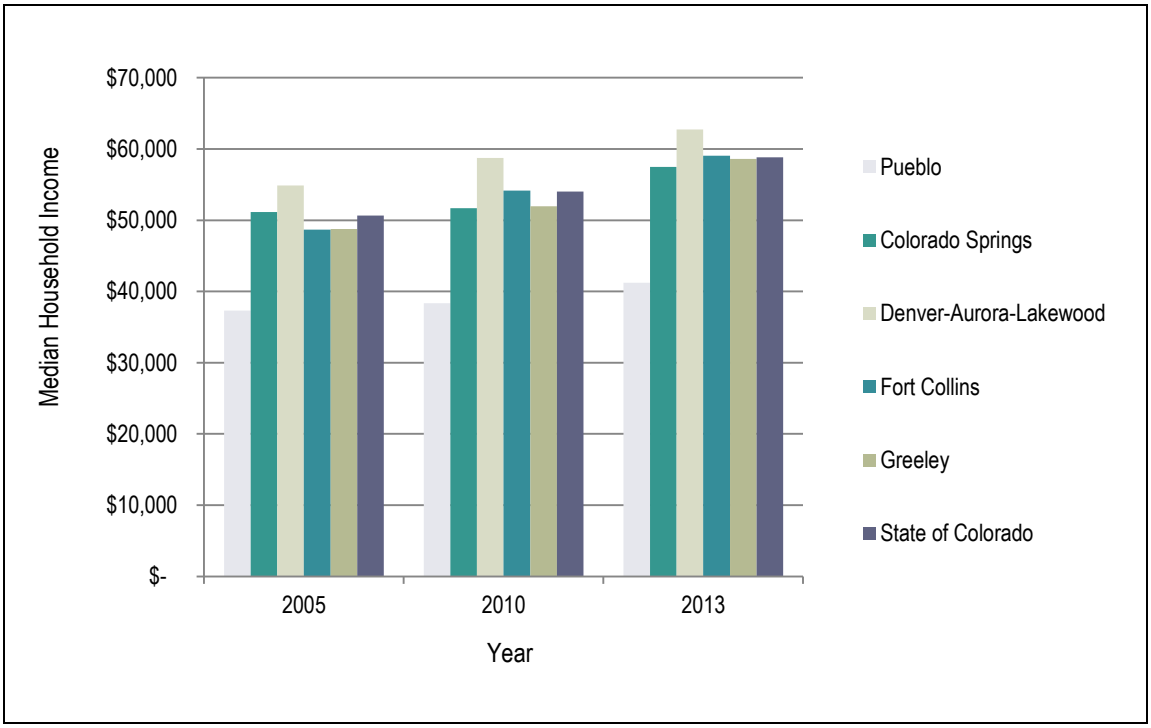
3.1.3 Income

Trends show the median income for Pueblo is increasing, but it remains low compared to other metropolitan areas. The 2013 median household income in Pueblo was $41,218 compared to Colorado's $58,823, and the U.S. value of $52,250.

On the basis of American Community Survey statistics compiled for 2009-2013, over 13 percent of Pueblo County's population lived in families with incomes below the poverty level as measured by the federal government's official poverty definitions. On average, areas within the City of Pueblo have higher concentrations of poverty than those outside the city. Over 17 percent of families citywide are living at or below the poverty line. This compares to 8.8 percent statewide

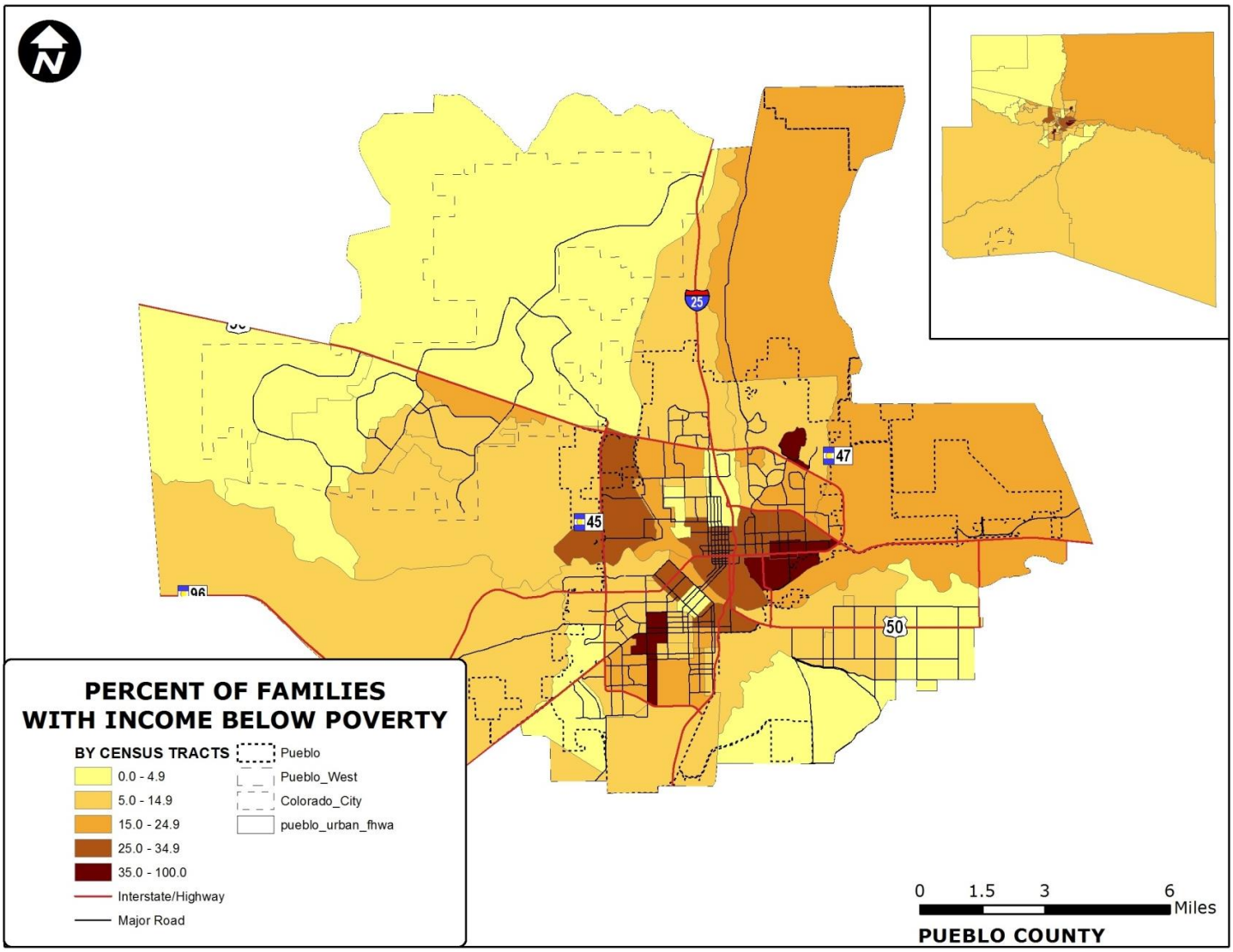
The Pueblo metro area is economically diverse. While many areas are impacted by high levels of poverty, others, such as Pueblo West, are economically relatively affluent. The following graph and map (**Figure 3.5** and **Figure 3.6**) illustrates this point.

Figure 3.5: Median Household Income of Select Colorado Metro Areas



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2005-2013

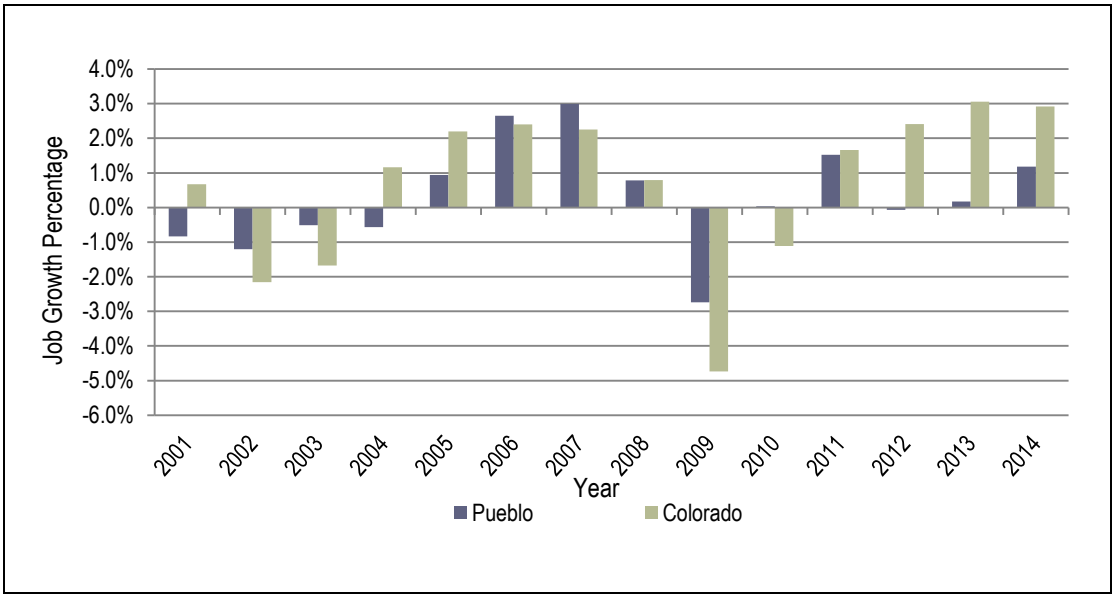
Figure 3.6: Families below Poverty Level



3.1.4 Employment

The following chart, **Figure 3.7**, depicts job growth for the Pueblo metropolitan area and the State of Colorado. The impacts of the recession of 2007-2009 are immediately apparent. Economic recovery commenced in 2010. Subsequent job growth reveals that while the Colorado economy has made good progress in overcoming the effects of the recession, Pueblo's economy has lagged in its rate of growth in jobs.

Figure 3.7: Job Growth (Percent Increase Over Prior Year)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; 2014 preliminary data, subject to revision

Table 3.3: Place of Work for Pueblo Residents (2000 and 2010)

Counties	2000		2006 - 2010	
	Count	**%**	**Count**	**%**
Pueblo County	**57,721**	**91.1%**	**57,390**	**89.2%**
El Paso County	3,137	5.4%	3,355	5.2%
Fremont County	1,129	2.0%	1,445	2.2%
Denver County	290	0.5%	315	0.5%
Huerfano County	216	0.4%	240	0.4%
Crowley County	250	0.4%	215	0.3%
Otero County	130	0.2%	120	0.2%
All other counties	835	1.4%	1,232	1.9%
Sub-Total Other Counties	**5,987**	**10.2%**	**6,922**	**10.8%**
Total	**58,706**		**64,312**	**100.0%**

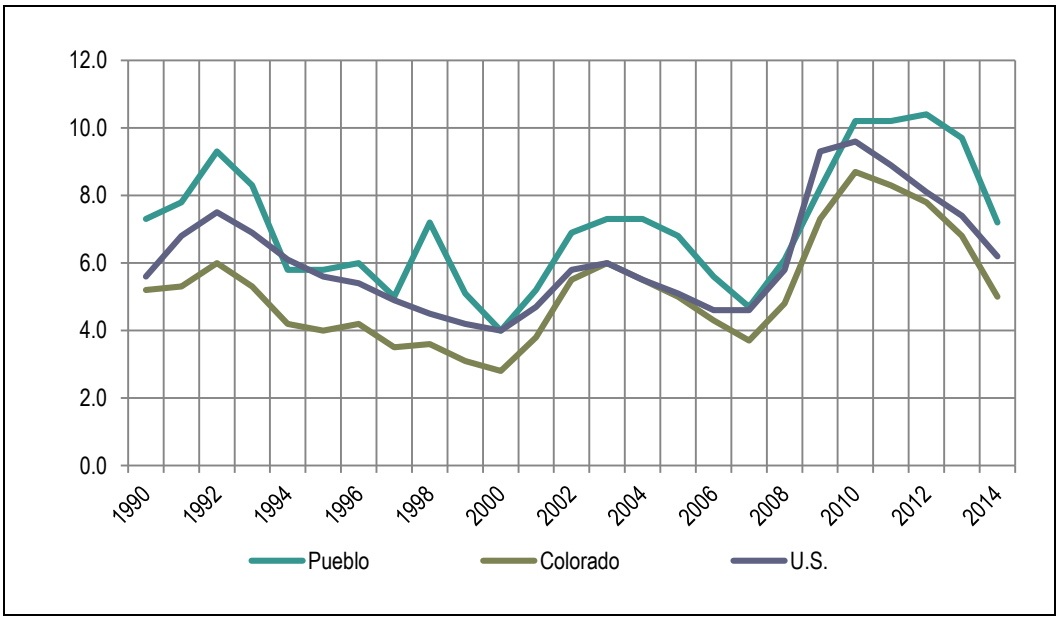
Source: U.S. Census. American Community Survey 2006-2010

Between 2000 and 2010 an increased percentage of the workforce travelled to neighboring counties for employment. In 2006-2010, approximately 89 percent of the 64,000 workers living in Pueblo County worked in the County. Approximately 6,900 commuted outside the county each day to work, as shown in **Table 3.3**. The majority of these commuters work at jobs in El Paso County or Fremont County. The following graph, Figure 3.8, shows the recent trend in the rate of unemployment for Pueblo, the State of Colorado, and the United States. Even a cursory perusal of it reveals the impact the recent recession has had on the level of unemployment. Examining the data from 1990 forward seems to reveal a cyclical trend in the rate of unemployment of approximately seven years duration. Since 2012, Pueblo's annual unemployment rate has dropped from 10.4 percent to 7.2 percent. The rate of unemployment, however, is nonetheless significantly higher than either the State of Colorado or the U.S. rates. It appears that the recovery of Pueblo's economy has lagged somewhat behind that of Colorado and the country as a whole. Nationally, and on a statewide basis, the reduction in the level of unemployment commenced in 2010. For Pueblo, the process appears to not have materialized until 2012.

3.1.5 The Communities of Pueblo County

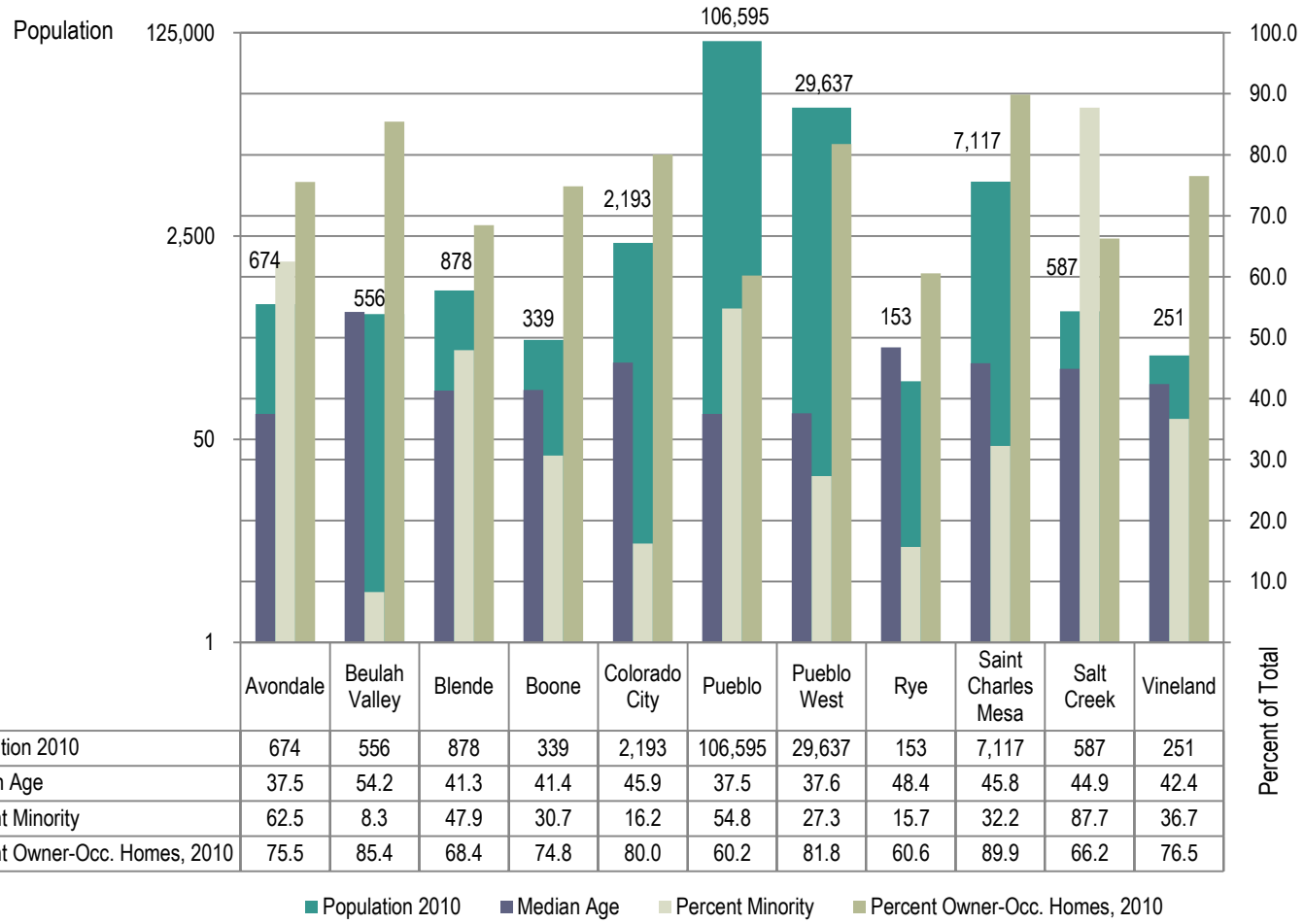
As briefly alluded to, the Pueblo Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) shows a great deal of diversity in its demographic makeup. Its communities consist of three incorporated places (the City of Pueblo, Town of Boone, and Town of Rye), two metropolitan districts (Pueblo West and Colorado City), and a variety of residentially developed areas which are generally known to long-time residents, but have no legally mandated boundaries. This last group is particularly interesting. Local residents know where they are located, more or less, but any attempt to define their boundaries precisely is likely to vary based upon whom one is speaking with about them. For purposes of this analysis, eleven are identified, and demographics are readily available for them from the Bureau of the Census (see **Figure 3.9**). The following map, **Figure 3.10**, shows the locations of these communities, but long-time resident might look in vain to find Baxter, North Avondale, Lombard Village, or West Park, though they are known by many.

Figure 3.8: Comparative Unemployment Rate Trends



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; 2014 data is preliminary

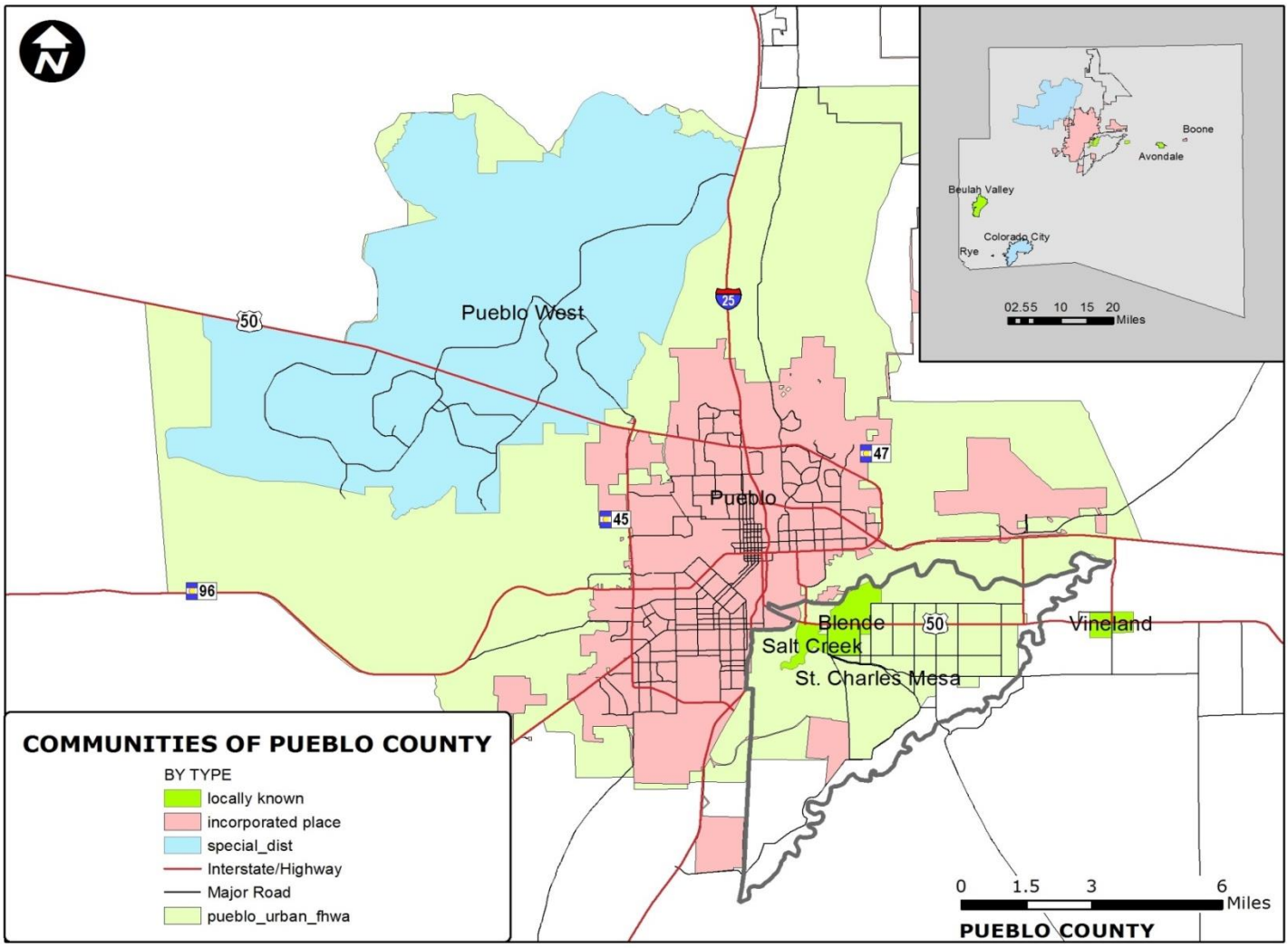
Figure 3.9: Pueblo County Communities Summary Demographics



	Avondale	Beulah Valley	Blende	Boone	Colorado City	Pueblo	Pueblo West	Rye	Saint Charles Mesa	Salt Creek	Vineland
Population 2010	674	556	878	339	2,193	106,595	29,637	153	7,117	587	251
Median Age	37.5	54.2	41.3	41.4	45.9	37.5	37.6	48.4	45.8	44.9	42.4
Percent Minority	62.5	8.3	47.9	30.7	16.2	54.8	27.3	15.7	32.2	87.7	36.7
Percent Owner-Occ. Homes, 2010	75.5	85.4	68.4	74.8	80.0	60.2	81.8	60.6	89.9	66.2	76.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census; in 1990 Pacific Islander included in Asian category

Figure 3.10: Communities in Pueblo County



3.1.6 Density of Population and Employment

Figure 3.11 and **Figure 3.12** show the density of population in the Pueblo Urbanized Area, and Pueblo County in 2010 and as forecast for 2040, respectively. **Figure 3.13** and **Figure 3.14** show the density of employment in the Pueblo Urbanized Area, and Pueblo County in 2010 and as forecast for 2040, respectively. Densities in Pueblo are relatively low in most areas. However, some of the older developed areas, and regional commercial centers, such as the Pueblo Mall have higher densities due to either employment centers or denser housing development.

Figure 3.11: Population Density (2010 Population per Acre)

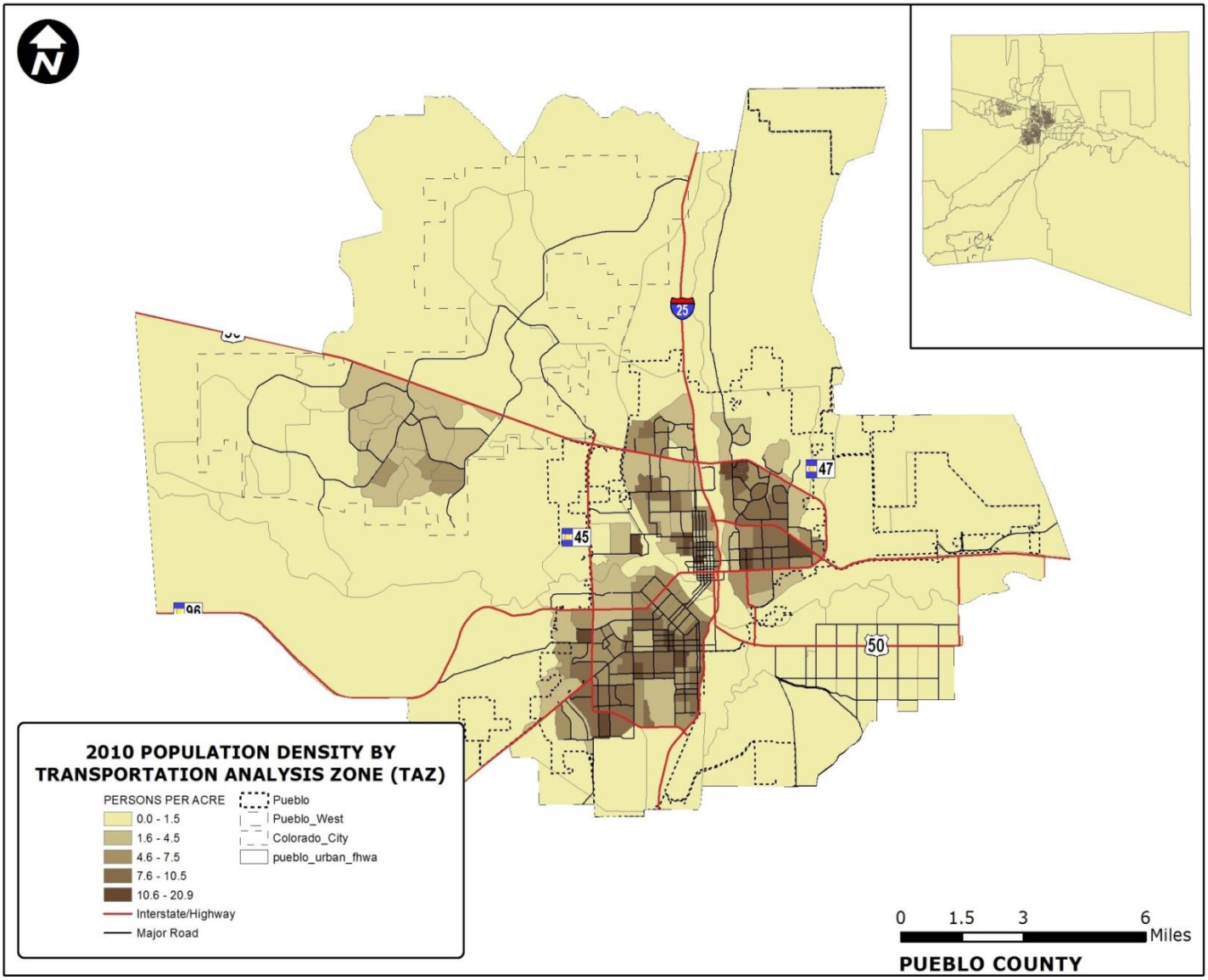


Figure 3.12: Population Density (2040 Population per Acre)

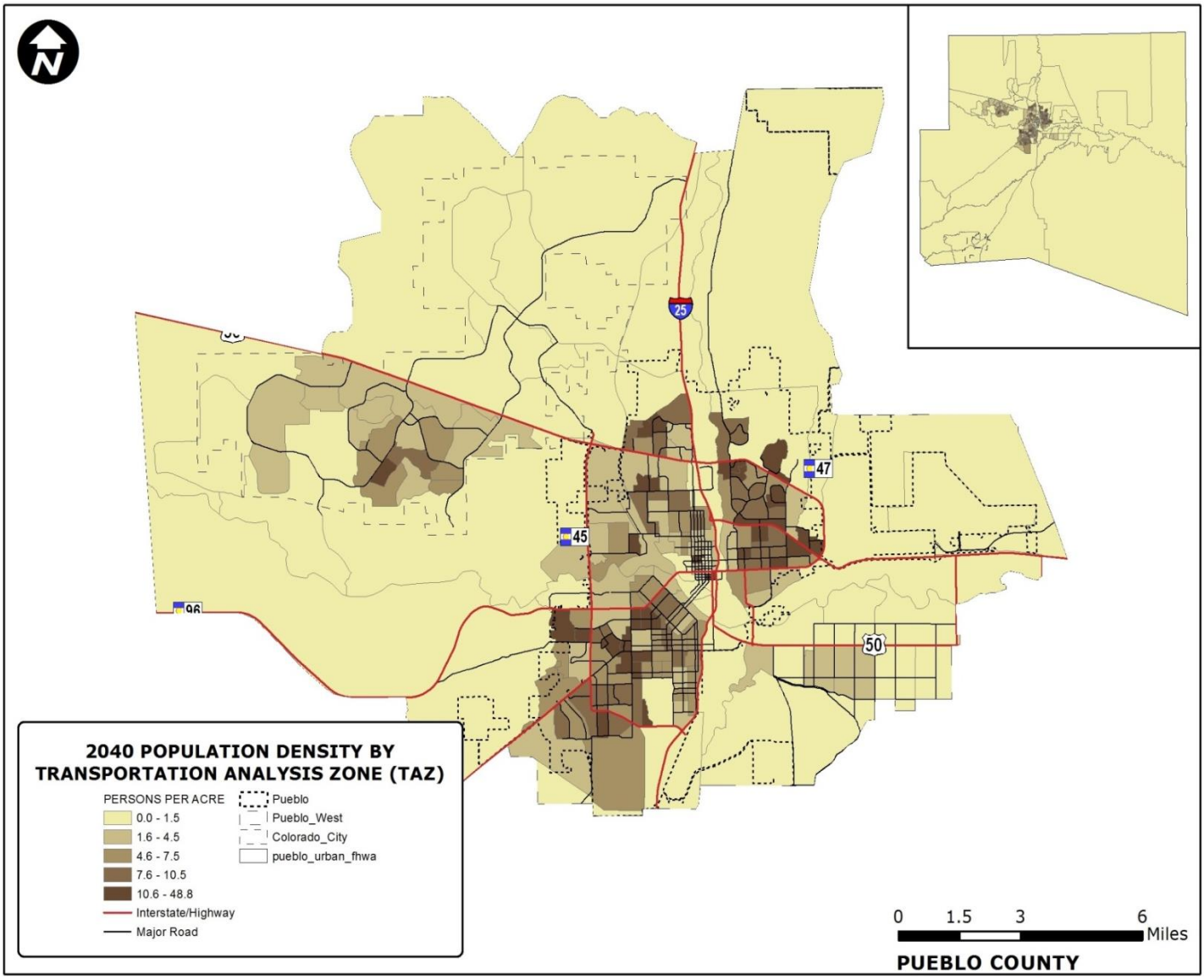


Figure 3.13: Employees per Acre, 2010

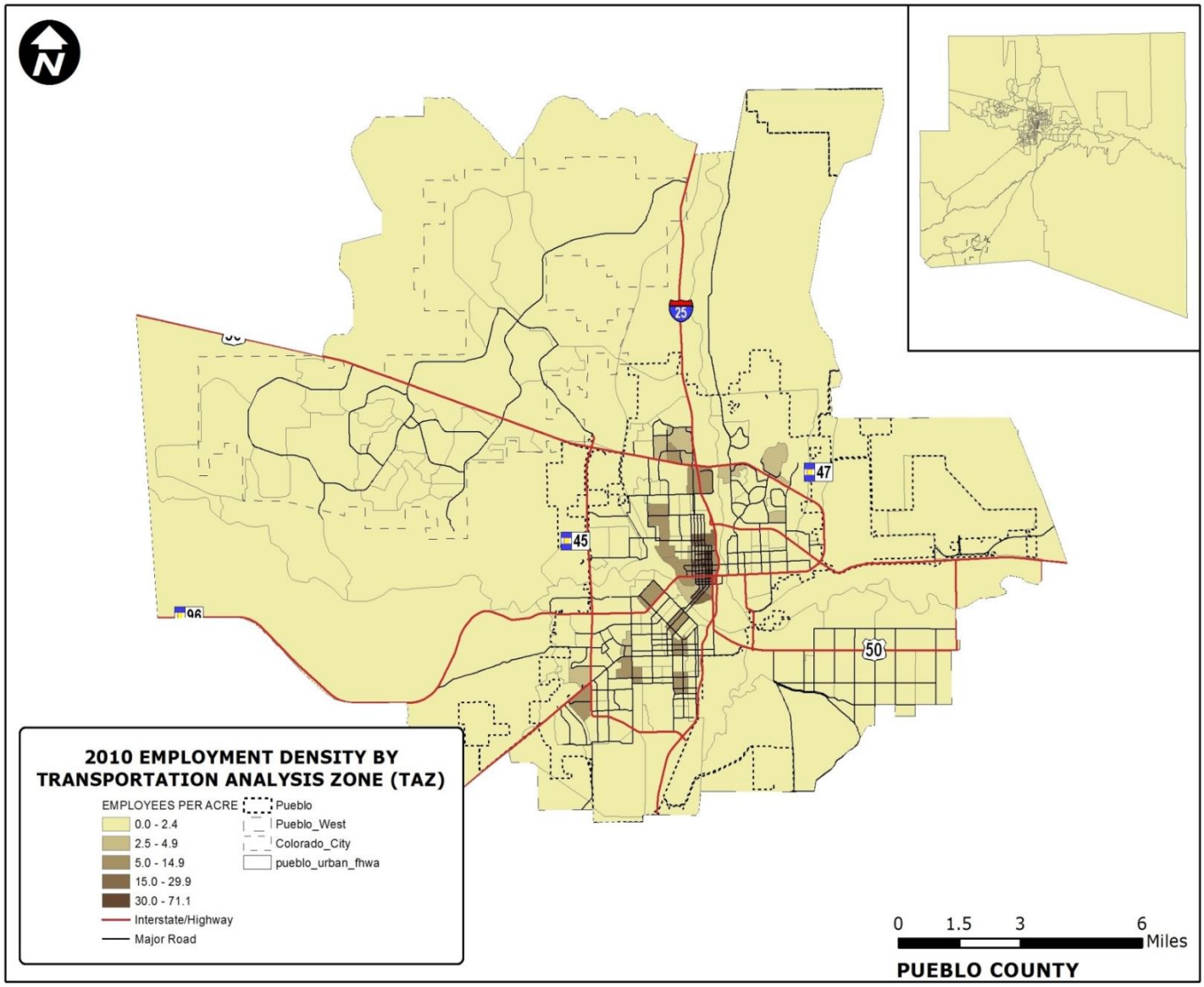
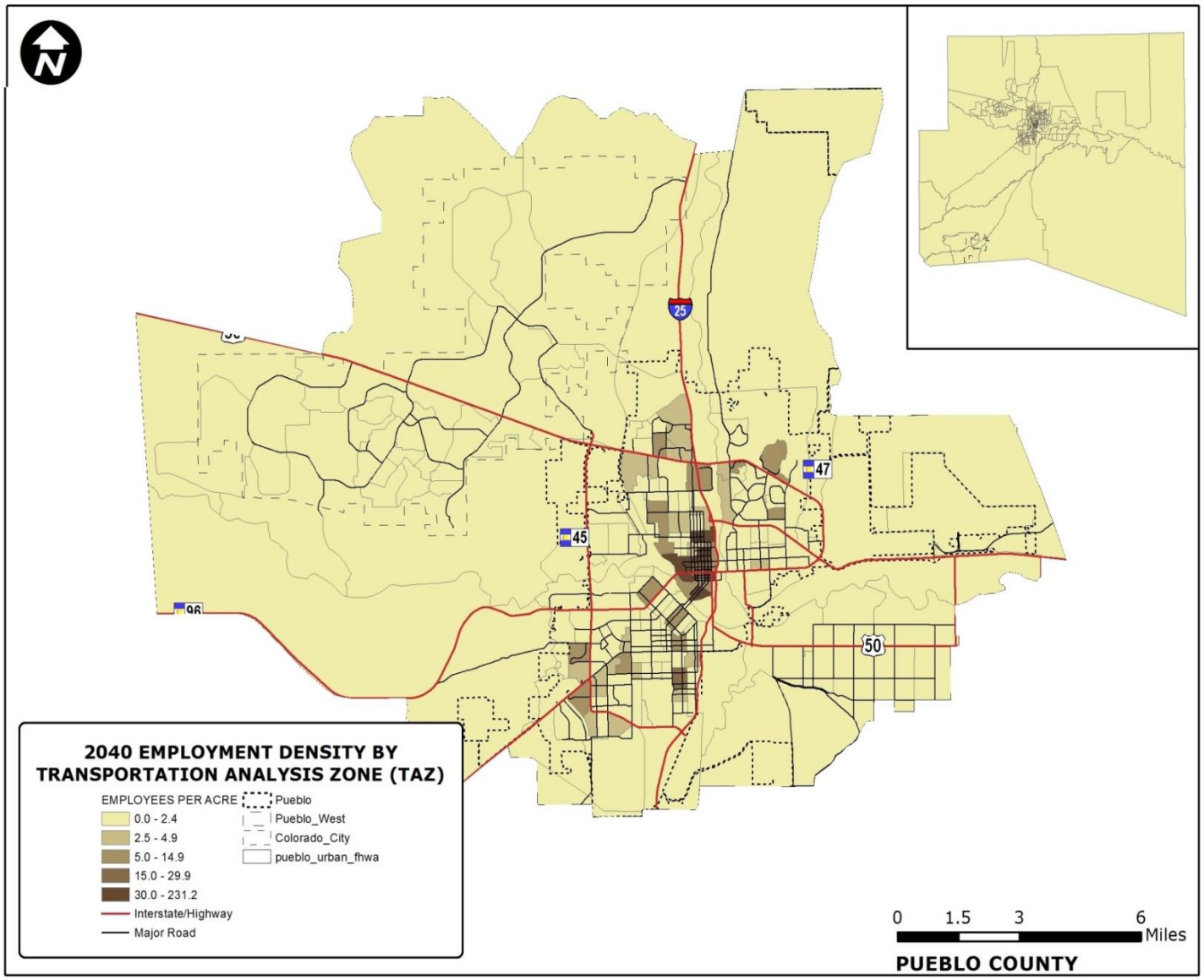


Figure 3.14: Employees per Acre, 2040



3.2 Environmental Justice

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice (EJ) in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." This Order elaborates upon and expands the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1994 by mandating that Federally-funded projects must be aware of the issues affecting minority and low-income populations. As a recipient of Federal funding, the Pueblo MPO is required to abide by the provisions of the legislation. Under Executive Order 12898, each Federal agency is required to develop a program which implements its provisions. The Federal agency which is most directly involved with the functioning of the Pueblo MPO is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

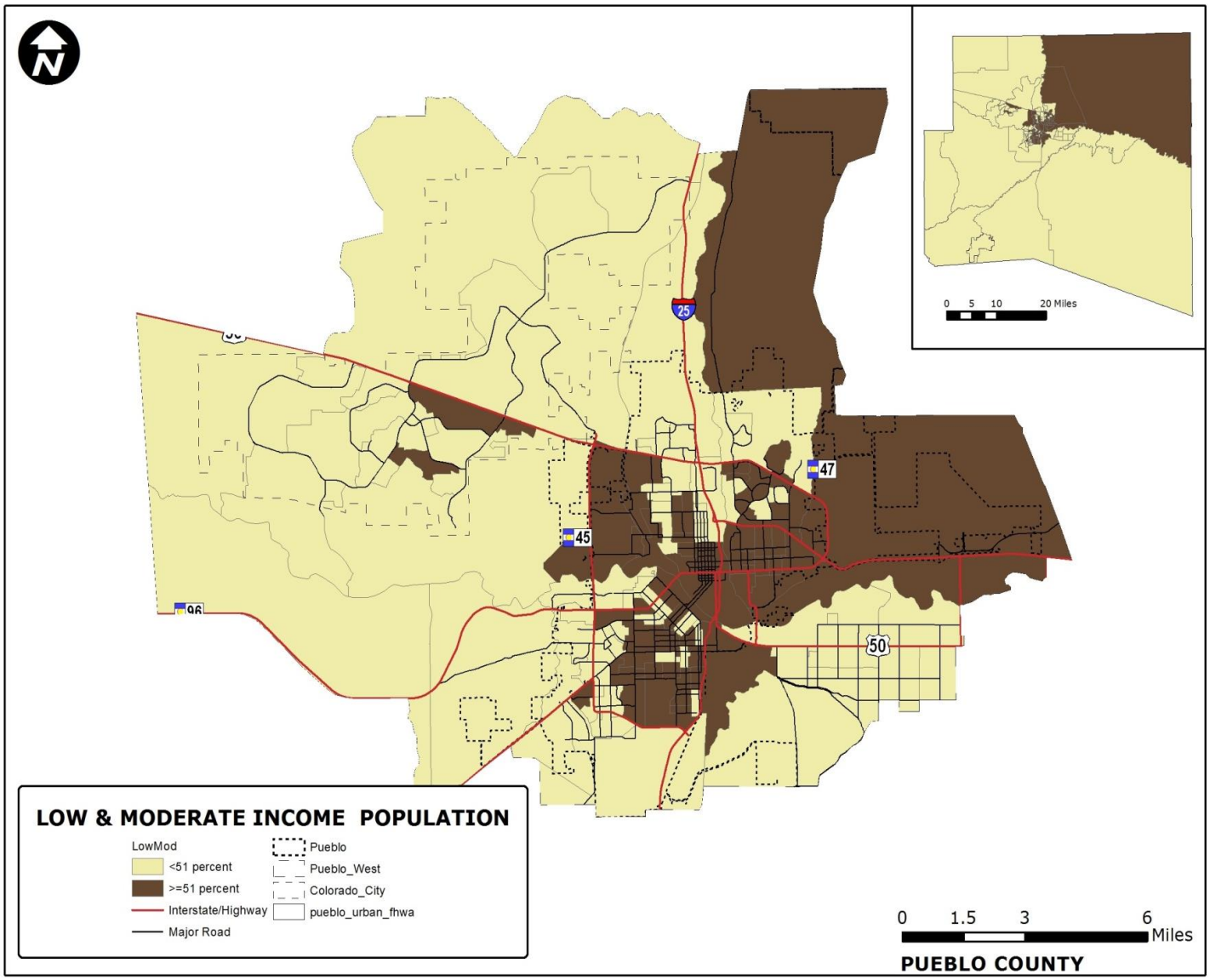
The intent of the analysis presented in this section is to identify concentrations of low-income and minority populations in Pueblo that are most readily at risk of being overlooked in the process of developing and implementing transportation-related projects. Four major components are evaluated: low-income, minority, the disabled population, and the population with no vehicle available. The first two are specifically mandated by the Order; the third and fourth, though not specifically mentioned, represent a demographic segment that historically has been overlooked in the transportation planning process. These four variables are identified on the basis of data aggregated by census block groups.

3.2.1 Low-Income Population

Estimates of the low and moderate income population are published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for evaluating the eligibility of local jurisdictions to receive Community Development Block-Grant (CDBG) funding. The U.S. Bureau of the Census is responsible for the compilation of the data for HUD. The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) provides the basis for the tabulation. The source of the data is the following website: https://www.hudexchange.info/manage-a-program/acs-low-mod-summary-data/

An area is considered entitled to receive CDBG funding if more than 51 percent of its residents fall within the low or moderate income household category. The following map, **Figure 3.15**, depicts these block groups.

Figure 3.15: Low-Moderate Income Block Groups



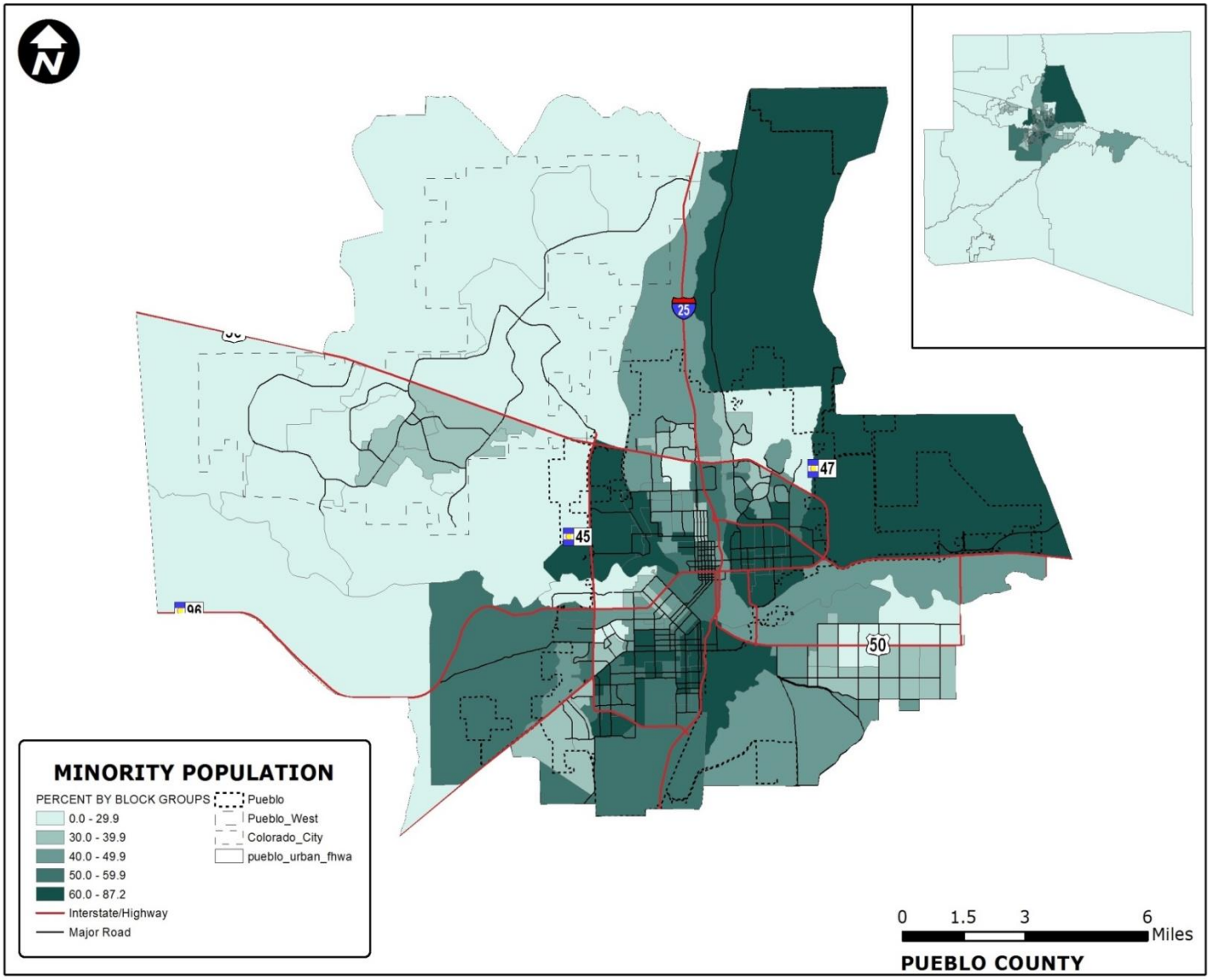
3.2.2 Minority Status

Data are readily available from the U. S. Bureau of the Census which facilitates identifying the concentrations of minority groups. For purposes of this report, "minority" is defined as follows:

- American Indian and Alaskan Native – a person having origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.
- Asian or Pacific Islander (including Native Hawaiian) – a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands.
- Black/African American – a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa, or
- Hispanic/Latino – a person or Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

The distribution of minority groups within the PACOG region is shown in **Figure 3.16**, below.

Figure 3.16: Minority Population Block Groups



3.2.3 Disabled Population and Households with No Vehicle

As noted previously, these two population components, while not specifically addressed in the Executive Order, have historically been placed at a disadvantage with regard to their fair access to transportation facilities. As will hopefully become apparent if the user examines the maps included below as **Figure 3.17** and **Figure 3.18**., there is, in many cases a high correlation between these population segments regarding their geographic distribution. Census block groups having a high minority concentration frequently also have a high proportion of low income households. Disabled population concentrations frequently reflect high numbers of persons without access to a vehicle. Data which can be portrayed in a format which can be mapped are readily available from the Census Bureau's ACS. The subsequent maps present this information.

Figure 3.17: Percent Disabled Aged 16-64 Years by Block Groups

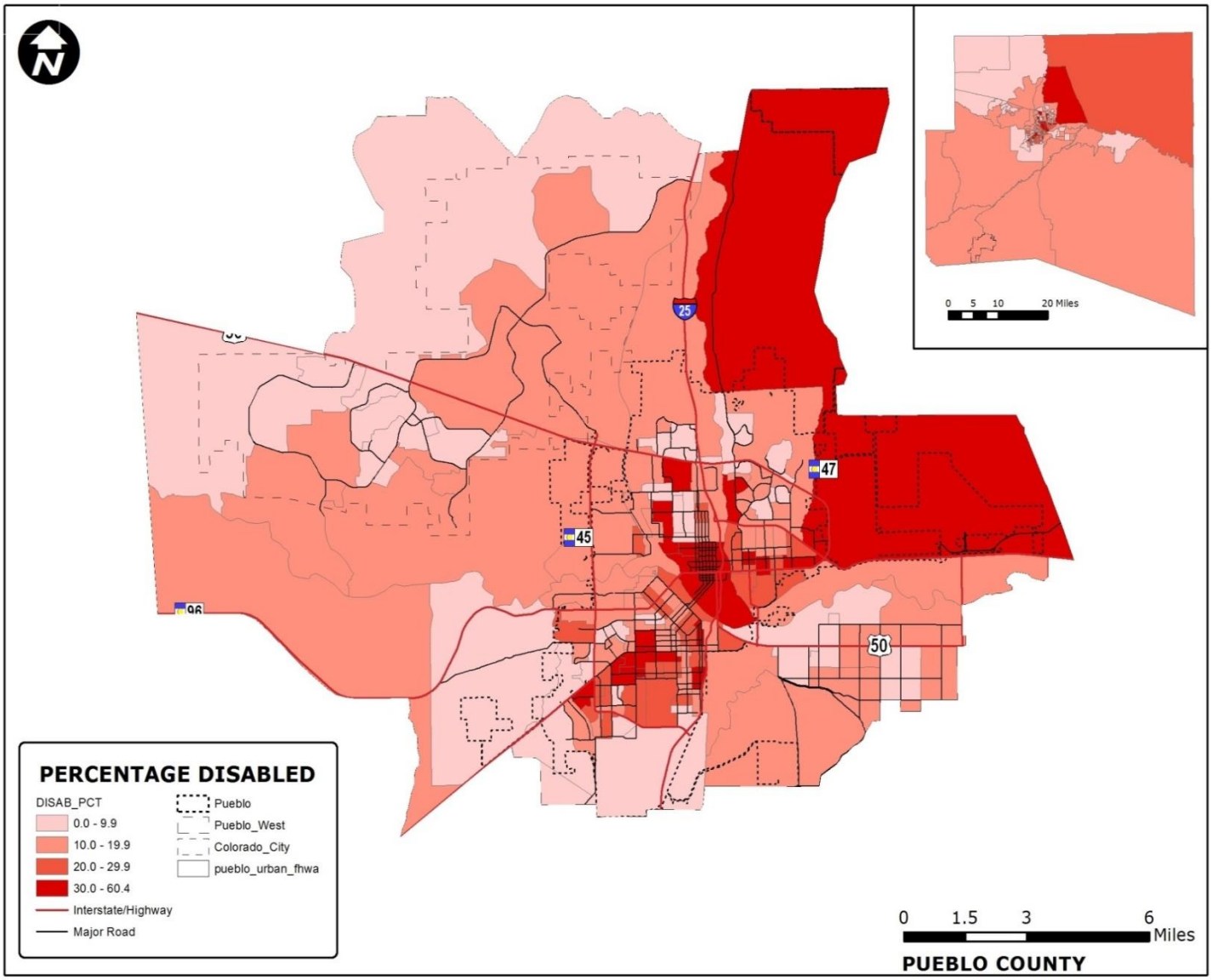
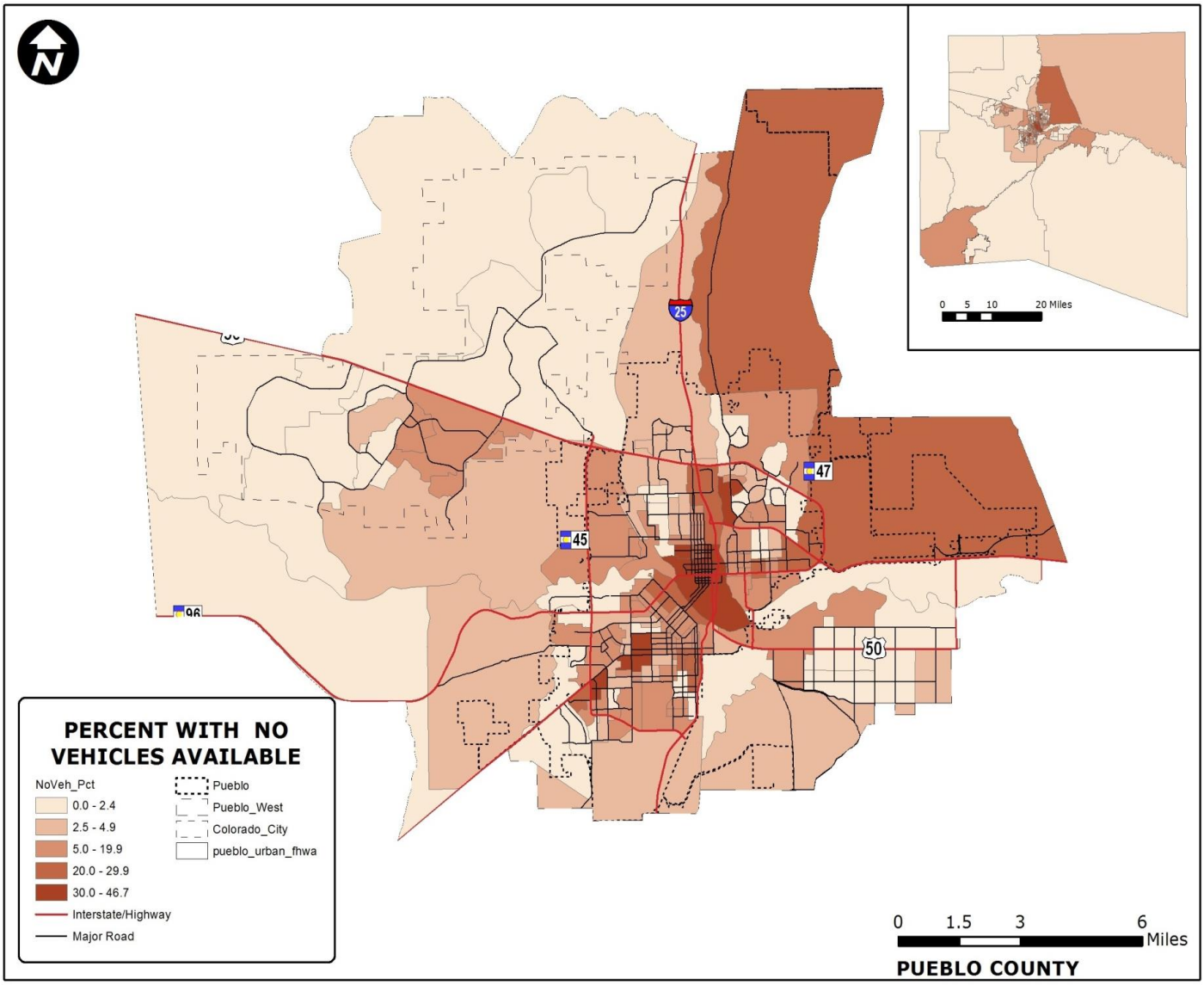


Figure 3.18: Percent with No Vehicle Available by Block Groups

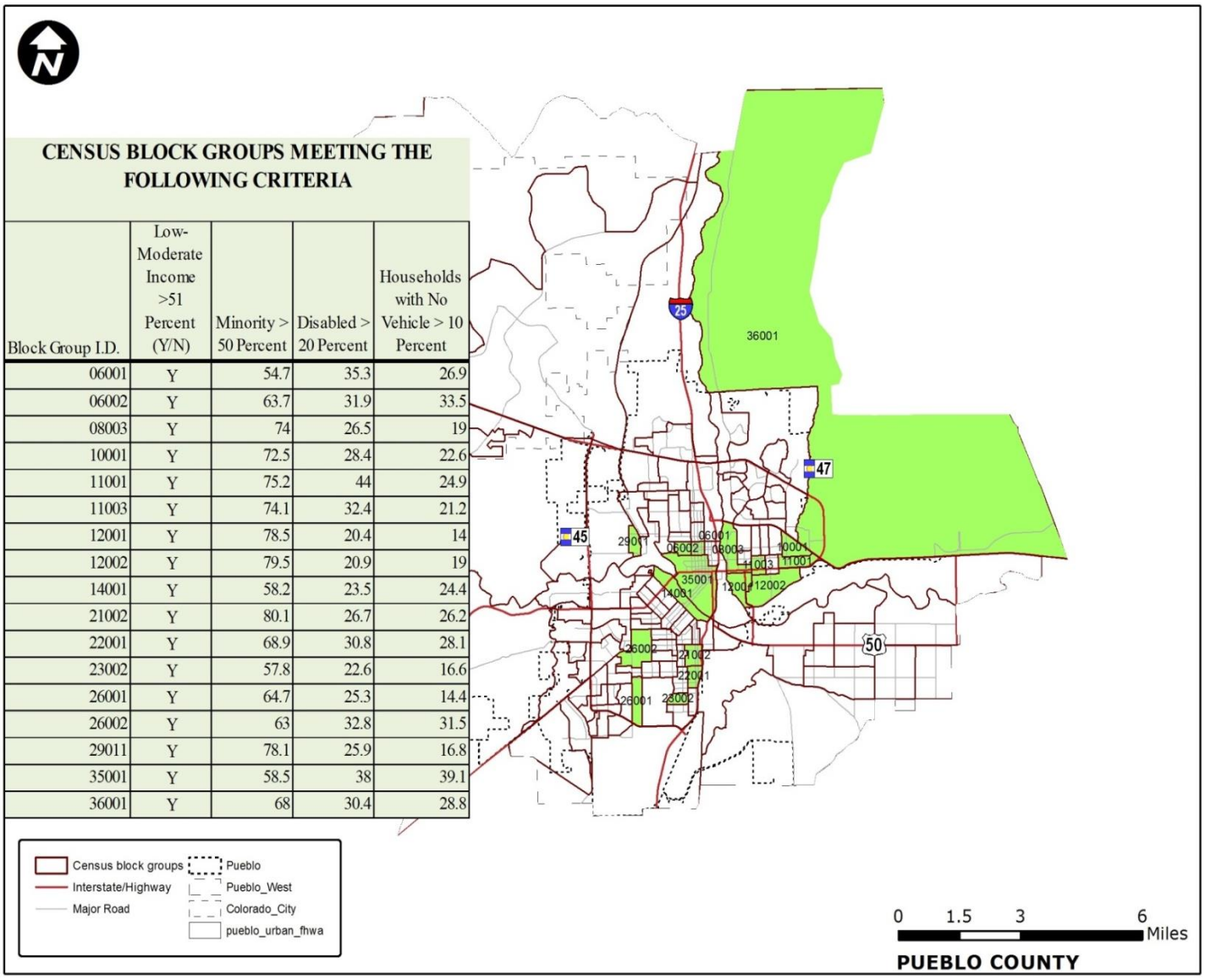


The final map of the series, **Figure 3.19**, shows block groups which fall within the following criteria:

- Low-moderate income >= 51 percent;
- Minority population >= 50 percent;
- Disabled population >= 20 percent;
- Households with no vehicles >= 10 percent

The census block groups that meet these criteria are also listed on this map.

Figure 3.19 Census Block Groups Meeting EJ Criteria



CENSUS BLOCK GROUPS MEETING THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA

Block Group I.D.	Low-Moderate Income >51 Percent (Y/N)	Minority > 50 Percent	Disabled > 20 Percent	Households with No Vehicle > 10 Percent
06001	Y	54.7	35.3	26.9
06002	Y	63.7	31.9	33.5
08003	Y	74	26.5	19
10001	Y	72.5	28.4	22.6
11001	Y	75.2	44	24.9
11003	Y	74.1	32.4	21.2
12001	Y	78.5	20.4	14
12002	Y	79.5	20.9	19
14001	Y	58.2	23.5	24.4
21002	Y	80.1	26.7	26.2
22001	Y	68.9	30.8	28.1
23002	Y	57.8	22.6	16.6
26001	Y	64.7	25.3	14.4
26002	Y	63	32.8	31.5
29011	Y	78.1	25.9	16.8
35001	Y	58.5	38	39.1
36001	Y	68	30.4	28.8

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