Chapter 2: Regional Profile

This chapter describes the existing demographic and socio-economic conditions for the region and the Quad Cities Metropolitan Area, as well as regional economic and service centers that attract people for employment, medical, educational, or other needs.

Beginning with the 2010 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau redesigned how the decennial census will be conducted. New for the 2010 decennial census was the additional use of the annual American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS was created to replace the former long survey data found in previous decennial censuses. The 2010 Census used only a "short form" for data collection (10 basic questions) with the purpose of showing the number of people that live in the U.S. The ACS is an annual survey that collects more in-depth census statistics of how people live (i.e. housing, employment, education, income) from approximately 1 in 6 households a year. The U.S. Census Bureau began collecting ACS data in 2005 with the first data released in 2006. The U.S. Census Bureau releases ACS surveys for two different time periods: 1-year estimates (for geographies over 65,000) and 5-year estimates (for most geographies). All ACS data are survey estimates and have a stated margin of error.

Datasets from the 2020 Census and the 2023 ACS (2019-2023 5-year estimates) will be used in this document to incorporate all six counties within the Greater Bi-State Region unless otherwise noted. The MPA data is only available from a spatial data analysis program in ArcGIS Business Analyst. The MPA follows census block geographies, and ACS data is generally only available down to census tract level. Currently, 2016-2020 5-year ACS data is available for county-to-county commuting flow patterns.

Planning Area Description

The Greater Bi-State Region, which includes Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Whiteside Counties in Illinois and Scott and Muscatine Counties in Iowa, covers 3,393 square miles. It is located along the Mississippi River in eastern Iowa and western Illinois. Map 1.1 represents the region geographically and outlines the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) urban planning boundary as well as the Iowa Region 9 and Illinois Region 2 rural planning boundaries.

Regional Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

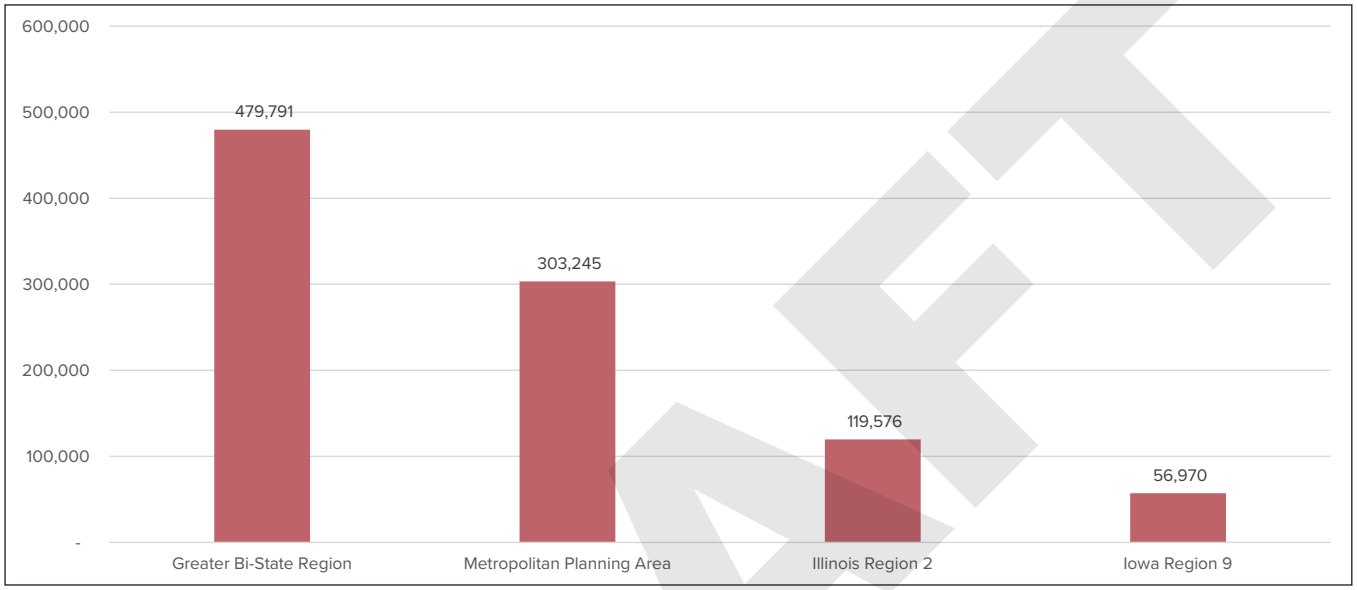
Information on backgrounds and trends will be analyzed for the region and MPA geographic areas. This includes information on population, households, income, employment, and commuting patterns. This regional profile is based on data derived from the 2020 decennial census, the 2019-2023 ACS 5-year estimates, and the 2025 ArcGIS Business Analyst estimates, unless otherwise noted.

To show the relevance and significance of the data presented, comparisons are made between the region and the MPA. Table 2.7 depicts the language spoken at home for the population 5 years and over. Table 2.8 provides a comprehensive listing of socio-economic data for the Greater Bi-State Region, and Table 2.9 provides a comprehensive listing of socio-economic data for the MPA based on Census data. In addition, socio-economic data for the six individual counties can be found in Appendix A. Having a regional profile can aid in the development of mobility options and patterns by understanding the regional background and trends.

Population

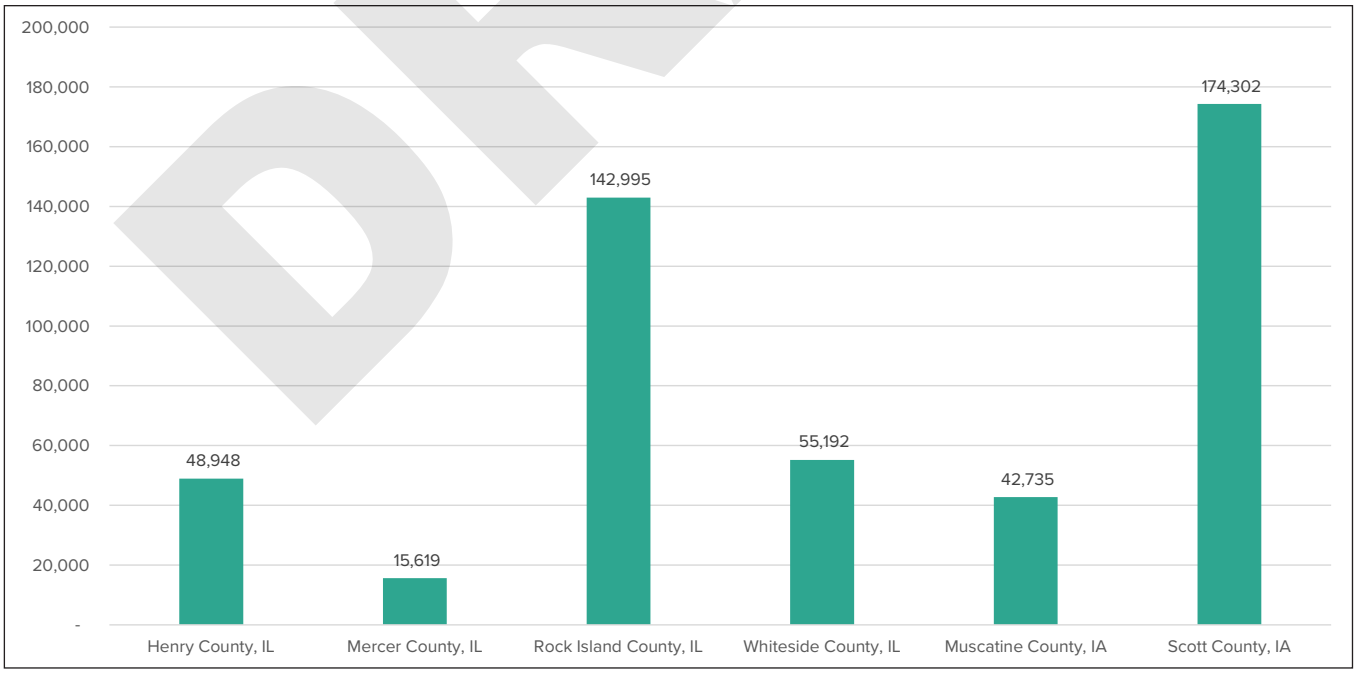
The Greater Bi-State Region is an area with a population of 479,791 according to 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates. The Quad Cities Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary (a boundary within the Greater Bi-State Region) has a 2025 population of 303,205 according to ArcGIS Business Analyst. The MPA makes up approximately 63.2 percent of the population within the Greater Bi-State Region. Figure 2.1 graphically depicts population levels for the Greater Bi-State Region compared to population levels of the MPA, and Figure 2.2 represents population levels for individual counties.

Figure 2.1 – Total Population by Region



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

Figure 2.2 – Total Population by County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

Census data can also be used to show diversity within a population. The Census Bureau records information on sex, age, race, and ancestry of the nation's population.

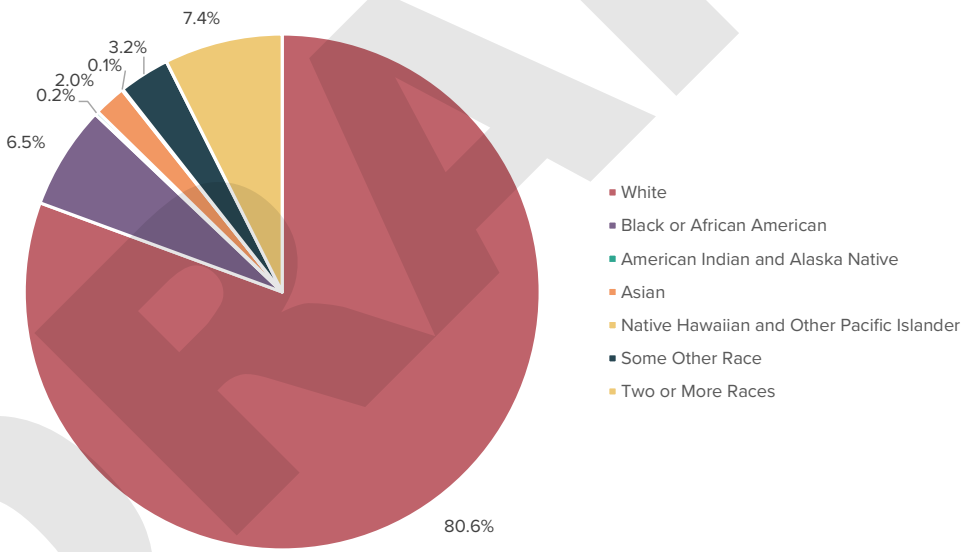
According to 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, the population of the Greater Bi-State Region was 49.6 percent male and 50.4 percent female.

The race ethnicity of a population are determined through self-identification, where respondents choose the race and ethnicity with which they most closely identify. Race data are tabulated into seven main categories:

- White alone
- Black or African American alone
- American Indian or Alaska Native alone
- Asian alone
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander alone
- Some other race
- Two or more races

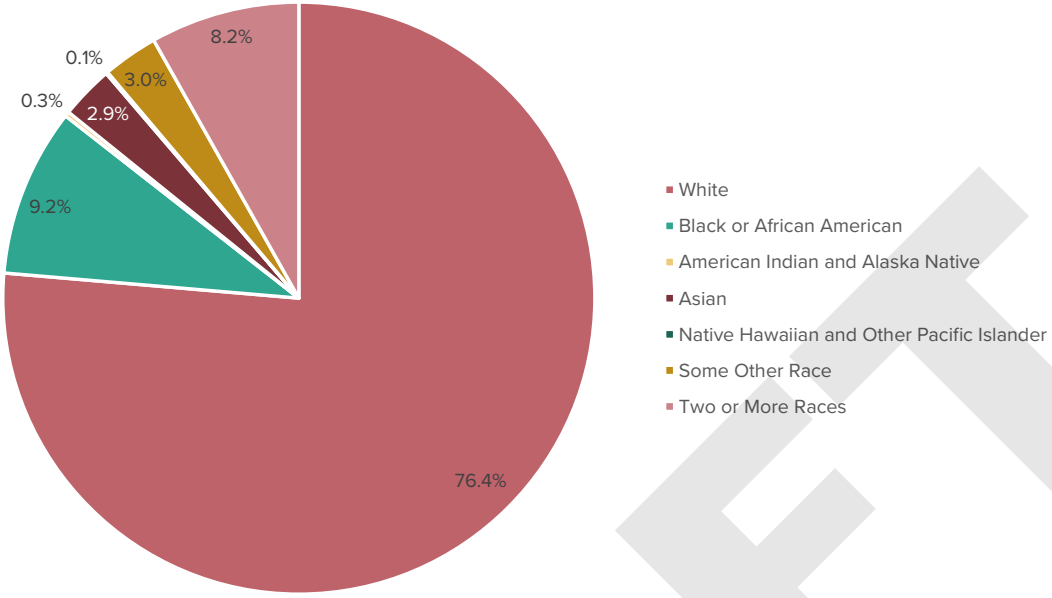
Figures 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, and 2.6 show the racial characteristics of the Greater Bi-State Region, MPA, Illinois Region 2, and Iowa Region 9. Map 2.1 identifies the percent minority population distributed by Census tract.

Figure 2.3 – Racial Makeup of the Greater Bi-State Region



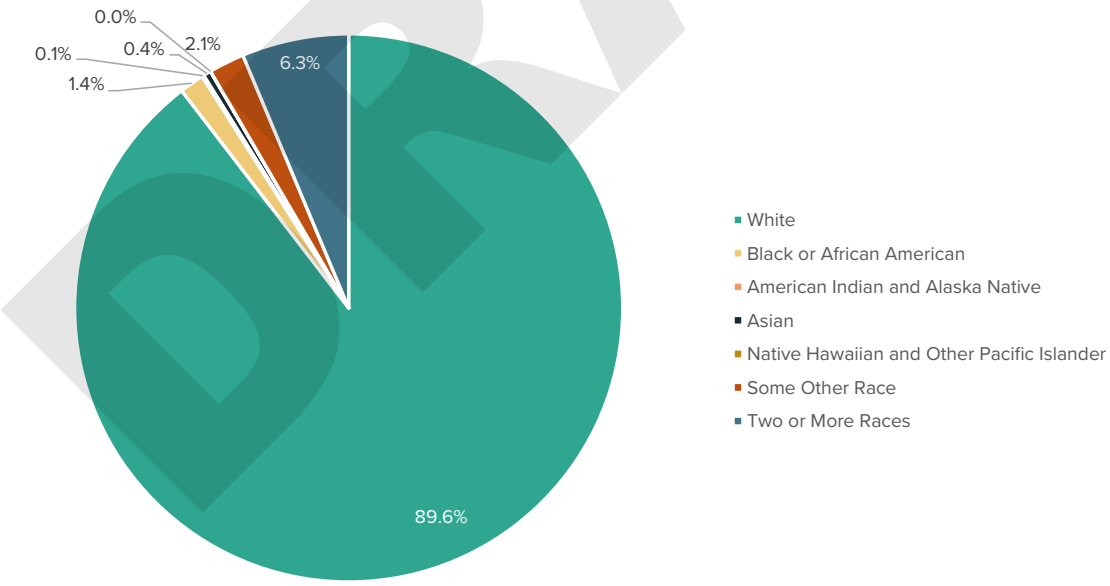
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

Figure 2.4 – Racial Makeup of the MPA



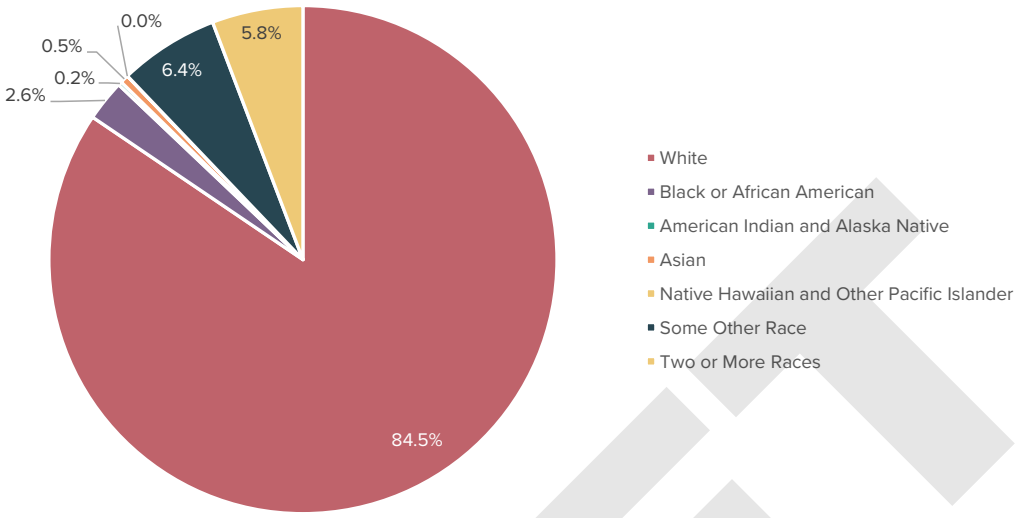
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

Figure 2.5 – Racial Makeup of Illinois Region 2



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

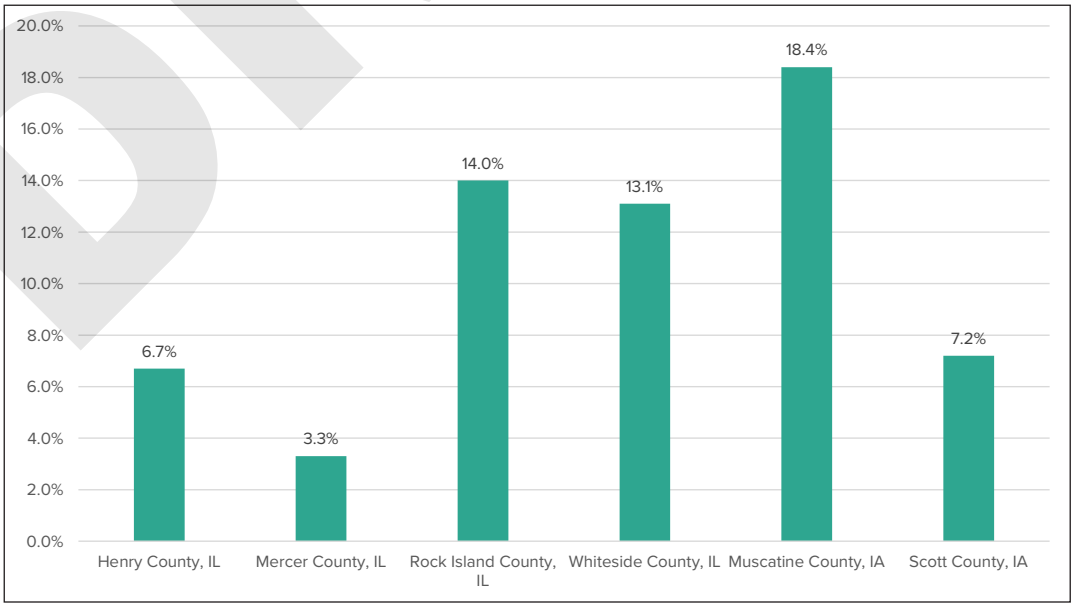
Figure 2.6 – Racial Makeup of Iowa Region 9



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

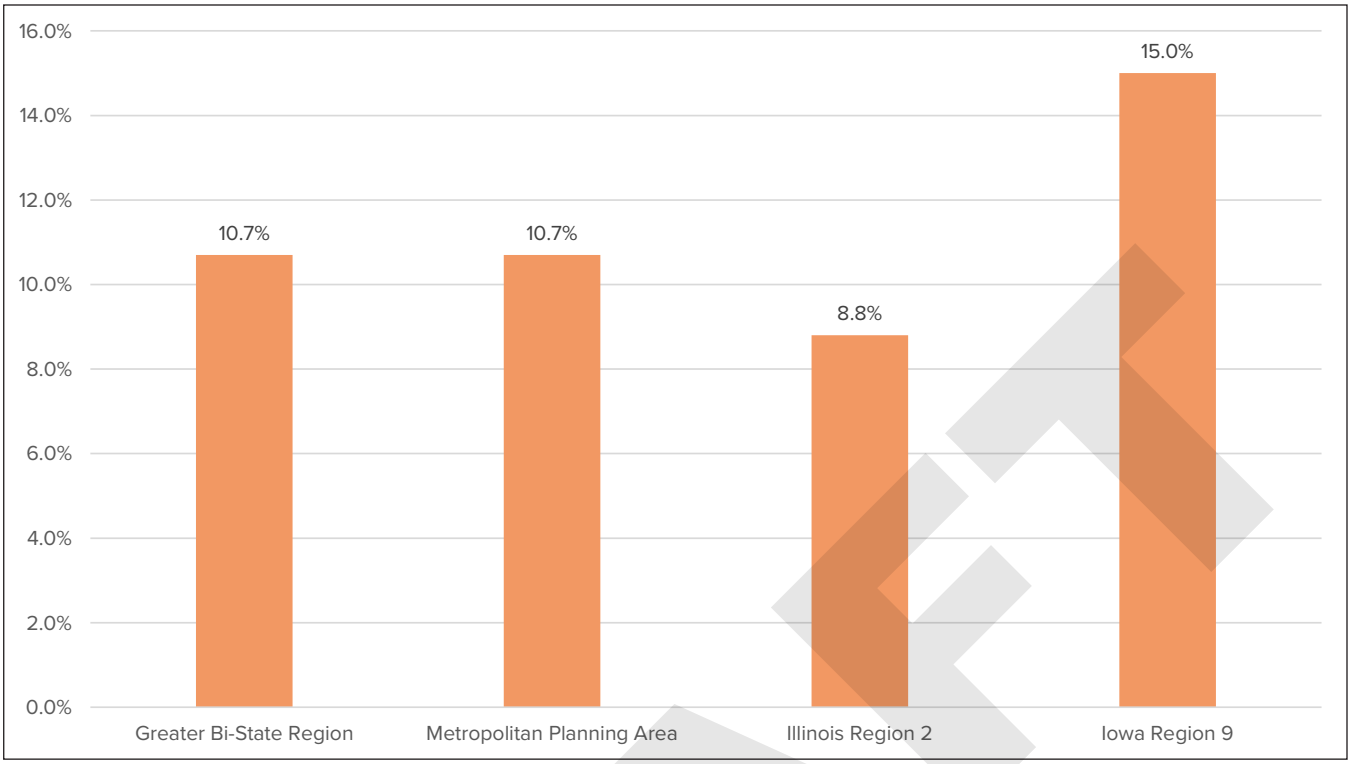
Figure 2.7 displays the number of persons with Hispanic or Latino ethnicity by county in the Greater Bi-State Region. In 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, 10.7% of the Greater Bi-State Region was Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. Figure 2.8 displays the percentage of persons with Hispanic or Latino ethnicity for the MPA, in rural regions 2 and 9, and the Greater Bi-State area. In the MPA, fixed-route transit already serves areas with high concentrations of minority populations. In rural regions 2 and 9, fewer transit alternatives may be available to serve minority needs. Map 2.2 identifies the percent minority population by Hispanic or Latino origin distributed by Census tract.

Figure 2.7 – Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity Population by County



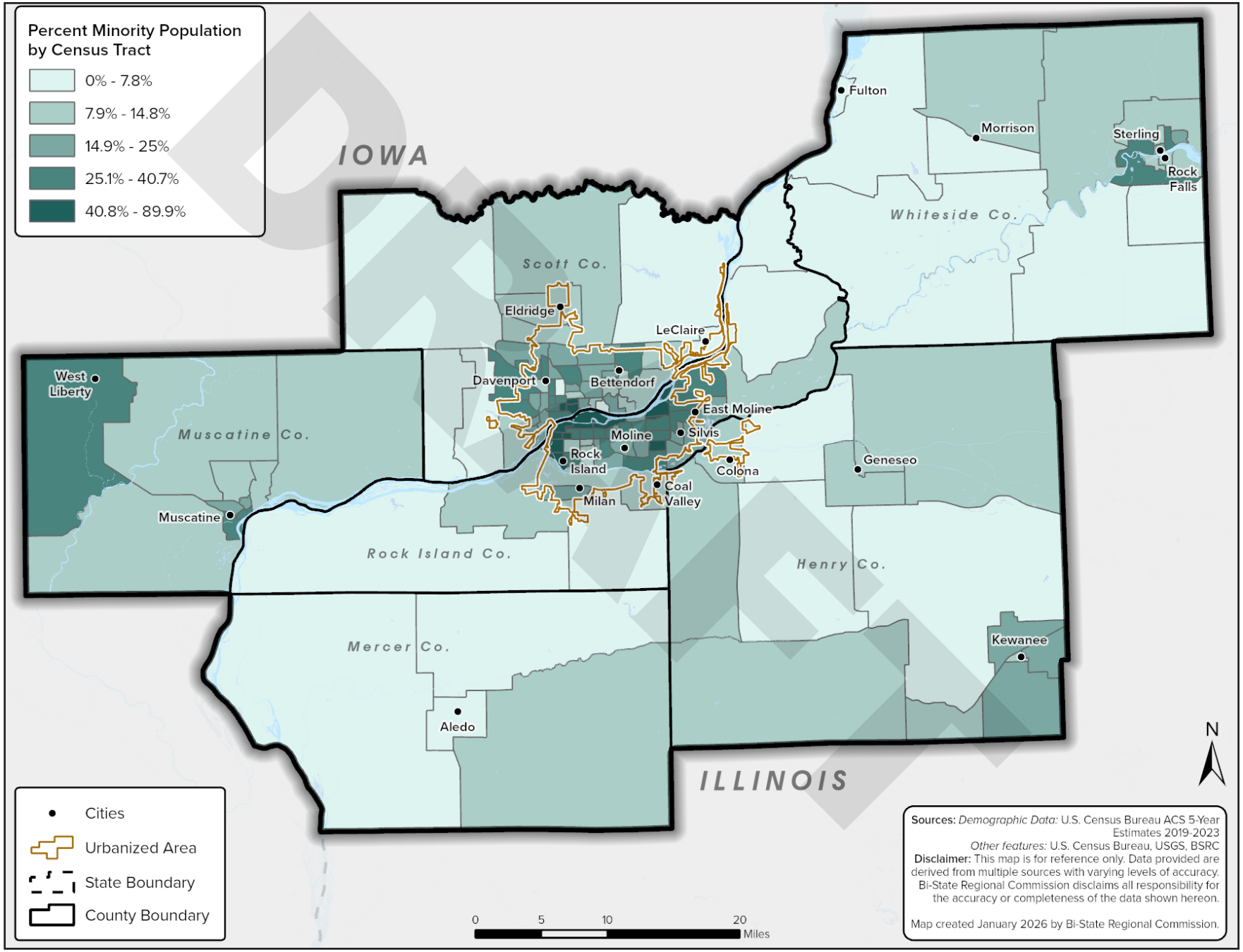
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

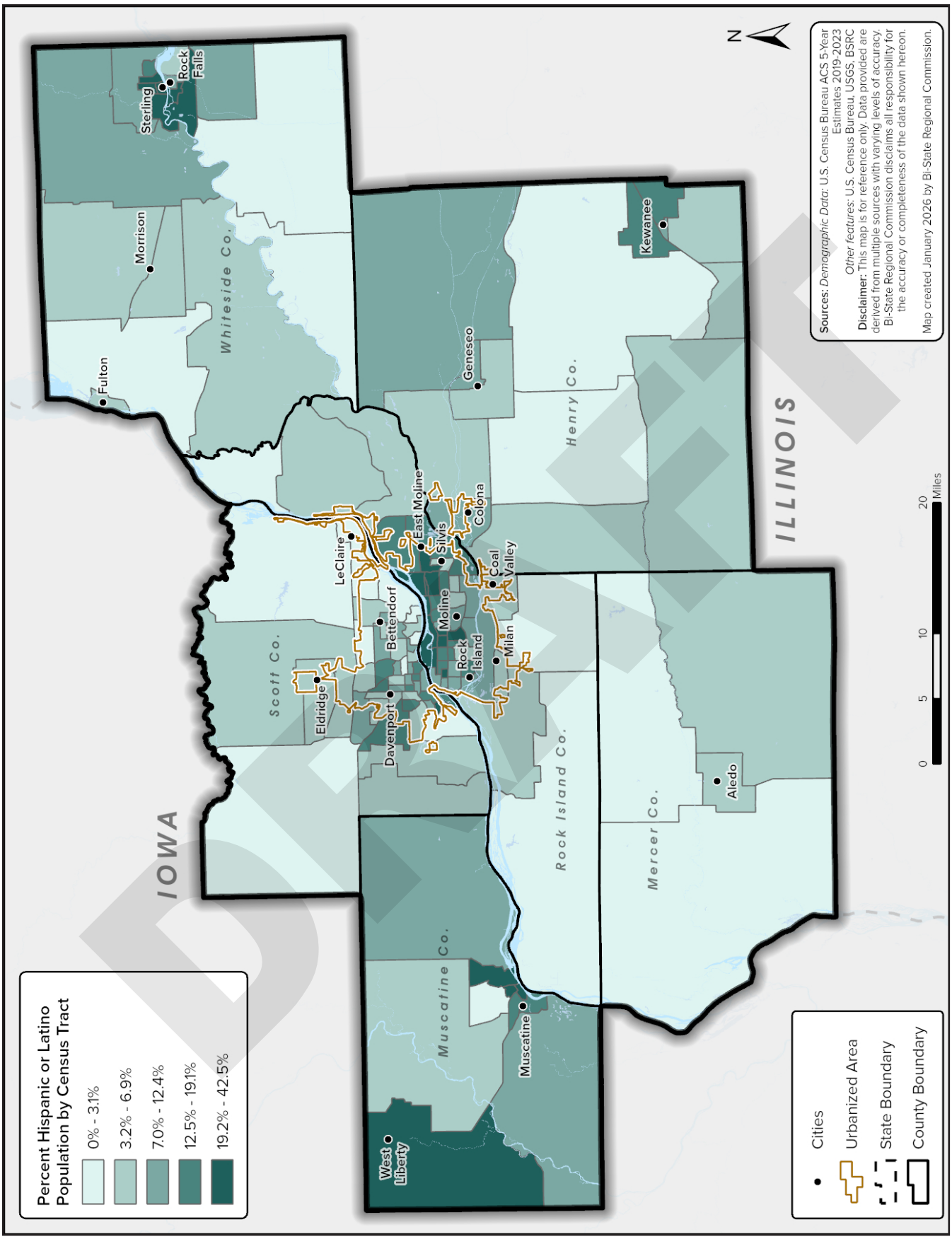
Figure 2.8 – Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity by Region



Source, U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

The median age of a population provides indication of a particular population's overall age. At the time of the 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, the most populous age cohort in the Greater Bi-State Region was 60-64 years at 7.0%, followed by the 10-14 years age cohort at 6.7%. The age group of 80-84 was the smallest at 2.2%. Map 2.3 illustrates the concentration of population 65 and older within the region. Figure 2.9 depicts the population of the Bi-State Region as it relates to age. A population pyramid is an important tool for making informed decisions about the needs of the population for the present and the future. Specifically, Figure 2.9 illustrates the growing population of the Bi-State region's Baby Boomer generation, allowing transit providers to recognize the potential increase in demand for public transit by seniors in the near future.


Percent Minority Population by Census Tract
0% - 7.8%
7.9% - 14.8%
14.9% - 25%
25.1% - 40.7%
40.8% - 89.9%
IOWA
ILLINOIS
Scott Co.
Whiteside Co.
Muscatine Co.
Rock Island Co.
Henry Co.
Mercer Co.
Fulton
Morrison
Sterling
Rock Falls
Eldridge
LeClaire
Davenport
Bettendorf
East Moline
Silvis
Moline
Rock Island
Colona
Coal Valley
Milan
West Liberty
Muscatine
Geneseo
Kewanee
Aledo
Cities
Urbanized Area
State Boundary
County Boundary
0
5
10
20
Miles
N
Sources: Demographic Data: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-Year Estimates 2019-2023
Other features: U.S. Census Bureau, USGS, BSRC
Disclaimer: This map is for reference only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy. Bi-State Regional Commission disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the data shown hereon.
Map created January 2026 by Bi-State Regional Commission.


Percent Hispanic or Latino Population by Census Tract
0% - 3.1%
3.2% - 6.9%
7.0% - 12.4%
12.5% - 19.1%
19.2% - 42.5%
Cities
Urbanized Area
State Boundary
County Boundary
IOWA
ILLINOIS
Scott Co.
Whiteside Co.
Rock Island Co.
Henry Co.
Mercer Co.
Muscatine Co.
Fulton
Morrison
Sterling
Rock Falls
Eldridge
Davenport
Bettendorf
LeClaire
East Moline
Silvis
Moline
Rock Island
Milan
Coal Valley
Colona
Geneseo
Kewanee
Aledo
Muscatine
West Liberty
0
5
10
20
Miles
N
Sources: Demographic Data: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-Year Estimates 2019-2023
Other features: U.S. Census Bureau, USGS, BSRC
Disclaimer: This map is for reference only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy. Bi-State Regional Commission disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the data shown hereon.
Map created January 2026 by Bi-State Regional Commission.

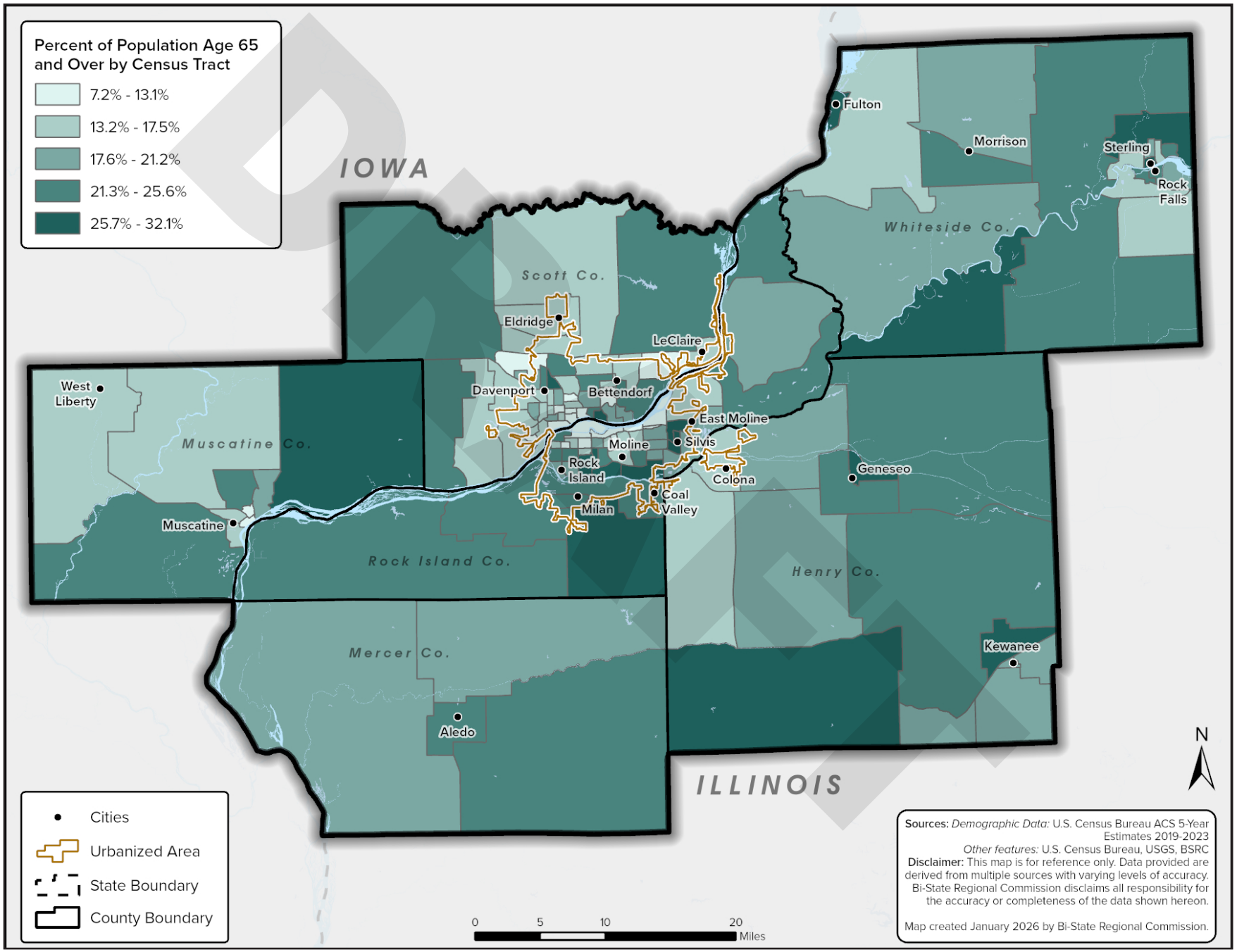
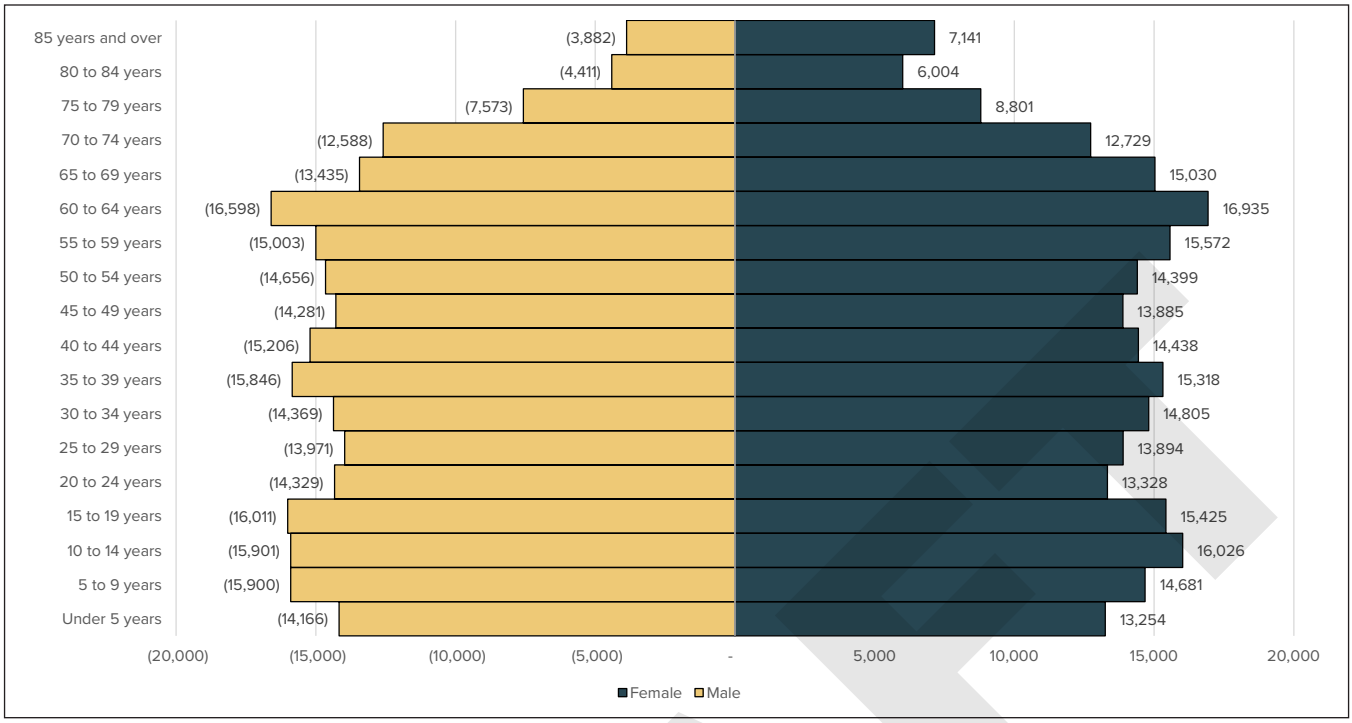

Percent of Population Age 65 and Over by Census Tract
7.2% - 13.1%
13.2% - 17.5%
17.6% - 21.2%
21.3% - 25.6%
25.7% - 32.1%
IOWA
ILLINOIS
Scott Co.
Whiteside Co.
Muscatine Co.
Rock Island Co.
Henry Co.
Mercer Co.
Fulton
Morrison
Sterling
Rock Falls
Eldridge
LeClaire
Davenport
Bettendorf
West Liberty
East Moline
Silvis
Moline
Rock Island
Colona
Coal Valley
Milan
Muscatine
Geneseo
Kewanee
Aledo
Cities
Urbanized Area
State Boundary
County Boundary
0
5
10
20
Miles
N
Sources: Demographic Data: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-Year Estimates 2019-2023
Other features: U.S. Census Bureau, USGS, BSRC
Disclaimer: This map is for reference only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy. Bi-State Regional Commission disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the data shown hereon.
Map created January 2026 by Bi-State Regional Commission.

Figure 2.9 – Greater Bi-State Region – Population Pyramid



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

Disability

The 2019-2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates show that within the Greater Bi-State Region there are approximately 64,666 persons or 13.7 percent of the civilian population with a disability. Additionally, of those who are in the labor force, which is those employed and those unemployed, but actively seeking work (ages 18-64), approximately 7.0 percent report having a disability. Table 2.1 shows the population by disability in more detail.

Map 2.4 shows the concentration of individuals with a disability in the Greater Bi-State Region by census tract. The impact of people with disabilities on transit pertains to individuals' ability to drive or not. If it is assumed a significant number of individuals with disabilities are not able to drive a personal vehicle, then transit service may be necessary to allow mobility within the region.

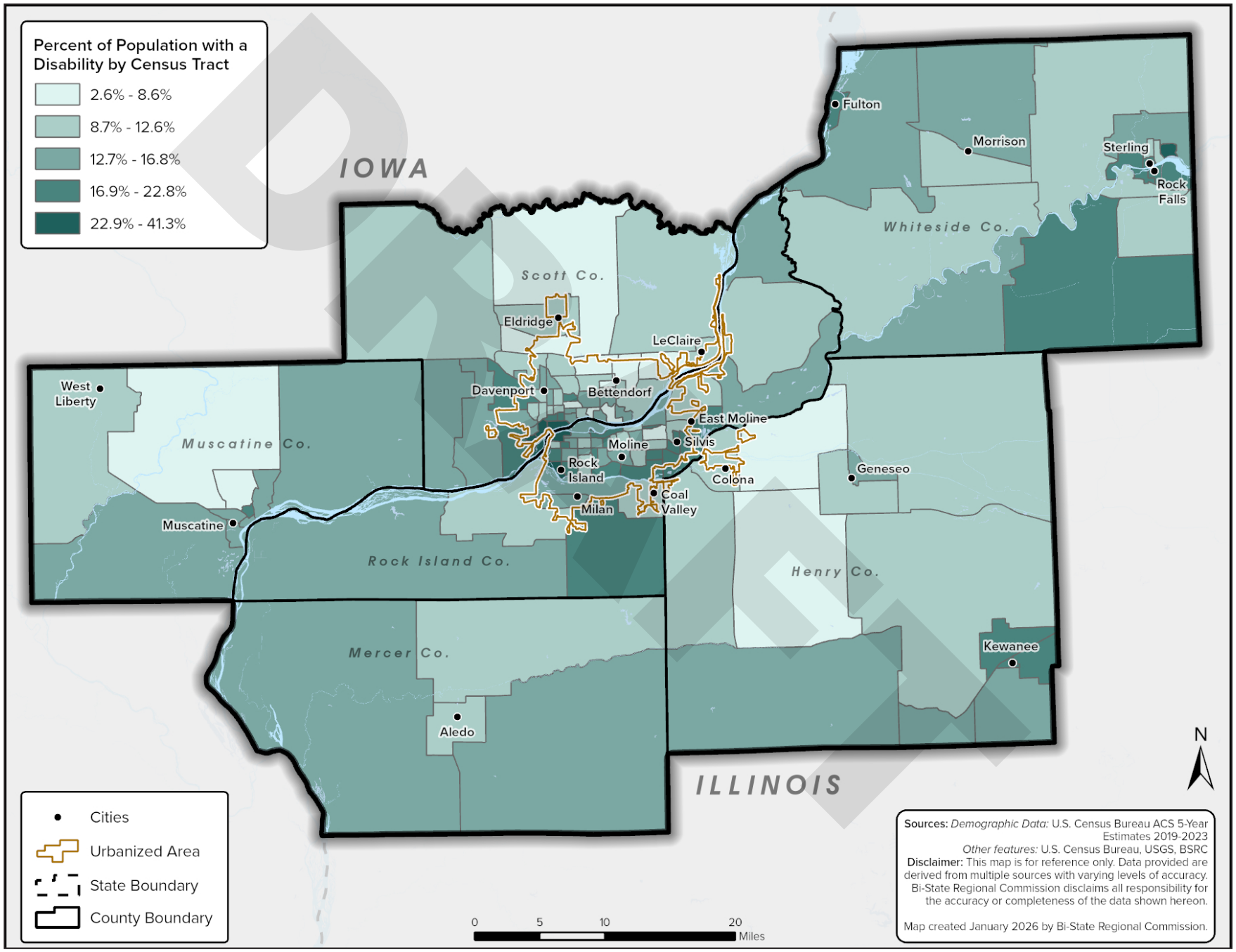

Percent of Population with a Disability by Census Tract
2.6% - 8.6%
8.7% - 12.6%
12.7% - 16.8%
16.9% - 22.8%
22.9% - 41.3%
IOWA
ILLINOIS
Scott Co.
Whiteside Co.
Muscatine Co.
Rock Island Co.
Mercer Co.
Henry Co.
Fulton
Morrison
Sterling
Rock Falls
Eldridge
LeClaire
West Liberty
Davenport
Bettendorf
East Moline
Moline
Silvis
Rock Island
Colona
Coal Valley
Milan
Muscatine
Geneseo
Kewanee
Aledo
Cities
Urbanized Area
State Boundary
County Boundary
0
5
10
20
Miles
N
Sources: Demographic Data: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-Year Estimates 2019-2023
Other features: U.S. Census Bureau, USGS, BSRC
Disclaimer: This map is for reference only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy. Bi-State Regional Commission disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the data shown hereon.
Map created January 2026 by Bi-State Regional Commission.

Table 2.1 – Total Civilian Population with a Disability in the Greater Bi-State Region

	Henry County, Illinois	Mercer County, Illinois	Rock Island County, Illinois	Whiteside County, Illinois	Muscatine County, Iowa	Scott County, Iowa
Total Civilian Population	48,247	15,448	140,477	54,412	41,955	172,594
Civilians with a Disability	6,549	1,971	21,267	8,341	5,605	20,933
Under 5 years	0	8	127	76	21	152
5 to 17 years	370	56	2,373	430	518	1,908
18 to 34 years	688	103	2,574	917	547	2,749
35 to 64 years	2,355	743	7,148	2,894	2,112	7,658
65 to 74 years	1,373	364	3,789	1,618	1,189	3,776
75 years and over	1,763	697	5,256	2,406	1,218	4,690

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.*
Note: *Civilian population does not include institutionalized individuals.*

Table 2.2 – Employment and Disability Status (ages 18-64)

	Henry County, Illinois	Mercer County, Illinois	Rock Island County, Illinois	Whiteside County, Illinois	Muscatine County, Iowa	Scott County, Iowa
In the Labor Force	22,432	7,012	64,294	25,219	20,252	83,805
Employed	21,570	6,797	60,636	24,044	19,544	80,725
With a disability	1,344	323	4,669	1,653	1,311	4,894
No disability	20,226	6,474	55,967	22,391	18,233	75,831
Unemployed	862	215	3,658	1,175	708	3,080
With a disability	195	25	353	227	66	515
No disability	667	190	3,305	948	642	2,565
Not in the Labor Force	4,964	1,855	16,123	5,496	4,235	19,074
With a disability	1,504	498	4,700	1,931	1,282	4,998
No disability	3,460	1,357	11,423	3,565	2,953	14,076

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.*

Table 2.3 – Households by Type

	Henry County	Mercer County	Rock Island County	Whiteside County	Muscatine County	Scott County
Total households	20,261	6,413	61,192	23,215	17,170	72,675
Female householder, no spouse/ partner present	4,636	1,211	18,493	6,192	3,939	19,125
With children of the householder under 18 years	829	212	3,923	1,100	876	3,604
Male householder, no spouse/partner present	3,597	1,011	11,966	4,857	3,461	13,503
With children of the householder under 18 years	163	115	811	405	343	1,106

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.*

Households Profile and Income

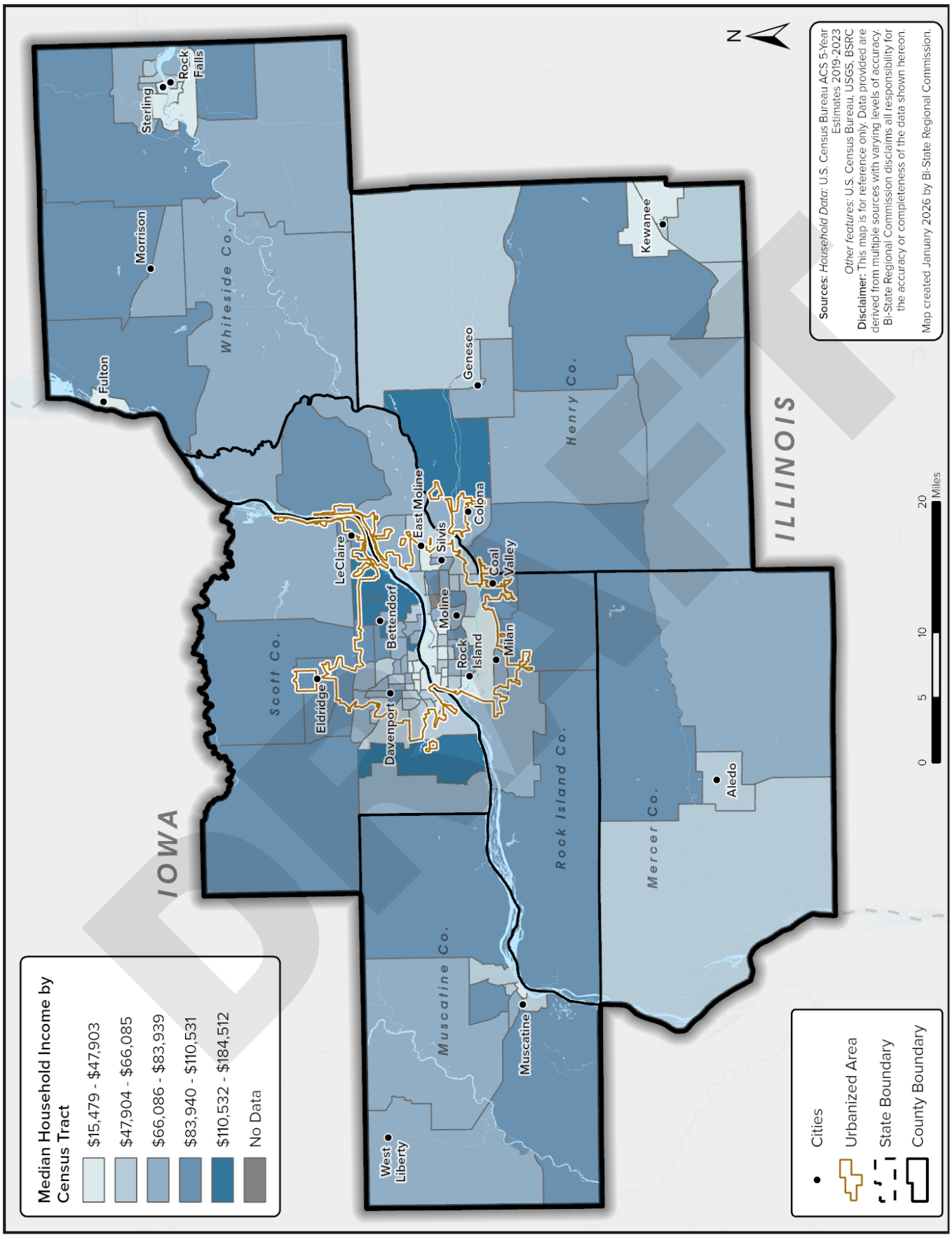
According to the 2019-2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, there are approximately 200,926 households within the Greater Bi-State Region. Approximately 15.9 percent of the total households have a household income of less than $25,000. Single-headed households account for approximately 45.8 percent of all households. There are approximately 53,596 (26.7 percent) female-headed households with no spouse or partner present; comparatively there are approximately 38,395 (19.1 percent) male-headed households with no spouse or partner present. Among the female-headed households, 19.7 percent have children present under the age of 18, compared to 7.7 percent of male-headed households. The availability of transit services is important to low-income households that may not have the necessary funds to purchase and/or maintain a personal vehicle to access employment or social services. Without accessibility and expanded hours of service, it often times becomes even harder for low-income individuals to utilize public transit.

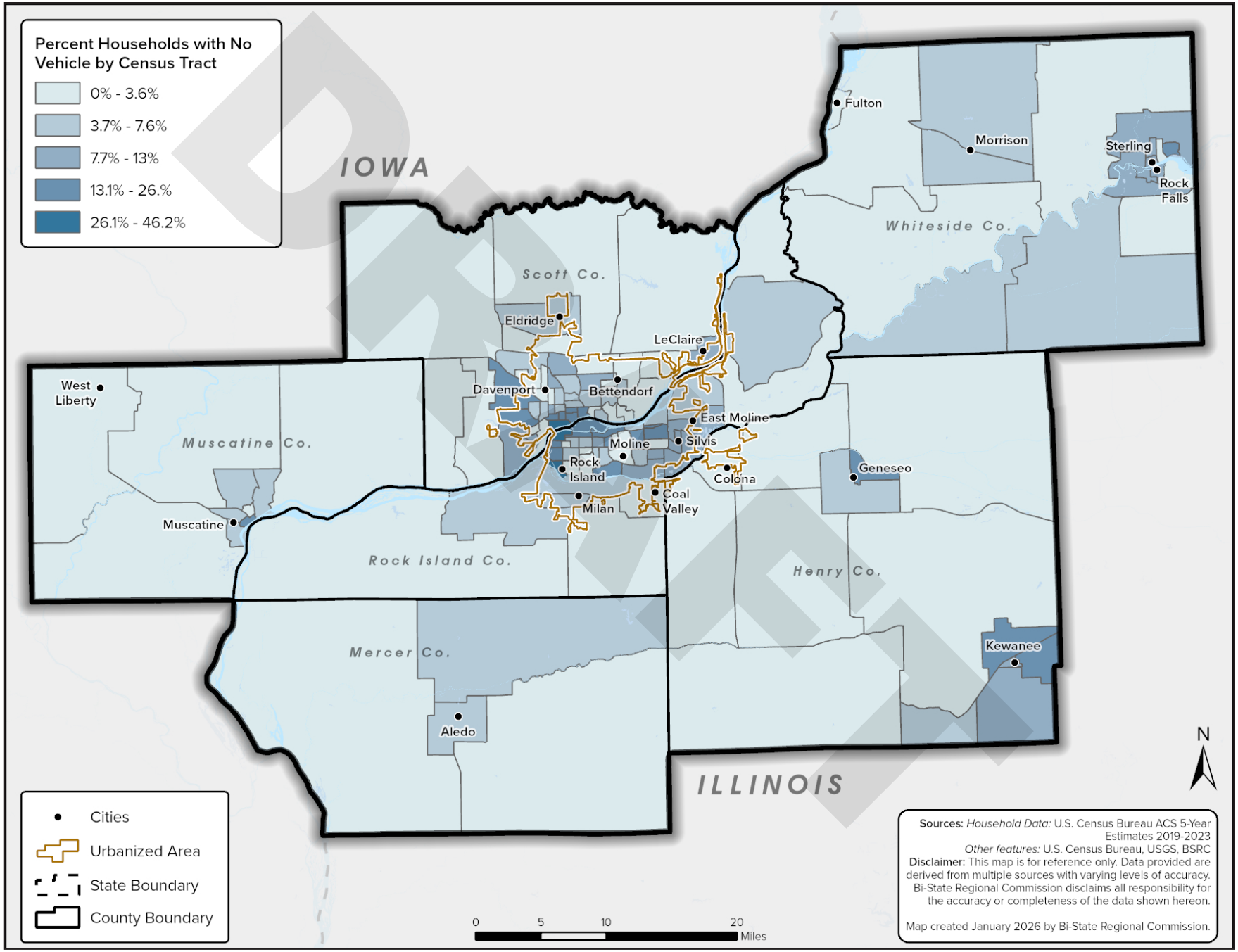
Table 2.4 – Households with No Vehicles Available

	Henry County	Mercer County	Rock Island County	Whiteside County	Muscatine County	Scott County
Occupied housing units	20,261	6,413	61,192	23,215	17,170	72,675
No vehicle available	1,312	236	5,442	1,330	780	4,707
Percentage	6.5%	3.7%	8.9%	5.7%	4.5%	6.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

Of all occupied housing units surveyed in the Greater Bi-State Region, 13,807, or about 6.9 percent of the total had no vehicles available. Maps 2.5 and 2.6 identify concentrations of households by income and those without a vehicle, respectively.


Median Household Income by Census Tract
$15,479 - $47,903
$47,904 - $66,085
$66,086 - $83,939
$83,940 - $110,531
$110,532 - $184,512
No Data
Cities
Urbanized Area
State Boundary
County Boundary
IOWA
ILLINOIS
Scott Co.
Whiteside Co.
Rock Island Co.
Muscatine Co.
Mercer Co.
Henry Co.
Fulton
Morrison
Sterling
Rock Falls
Eldridge
Davenport
Bettendorf
LeClaire
Moline
East Moline
Silvis
Rock Island
Milan
Colona
Coal Valley
Geneseo
Kewanee
Aledo
Muscatine
West Liberty
N
0
5
10
20
Miles
Sources: Household Data: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-Year Estimates 2019-2023
Other features: U.S. Census Bureau, USGS, BSRC
Disclaimer: This map is for reference only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy. Bi-State Regional Commission disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the data shown hereon.
Map created January 2026 by Bi-State Regional Commission.


Percent Households with No Vehicle by Census Tract
0% - 3.6%
3.7% - 7.6%
7.7% - 13%
13.1% - 26.%
26.1% - 46.2%
IOWA
ILLINOIS
Scott Co.
Muscatine Co.
Rock Island Co.
Mercer Co.
Whiteside Co.
Henry Co.
Fulton
Morrison
Sterling
Rock Falls
Eldridge
LeClaire
West Liberty
Davenport
Bettendorf
East Moline
Moline
Silvis
Rock Island
Colona
Coal Valley
Milan
Muscatine
Geneseo
Kewanee
Aledo
Cities
Urbanized Area
State Boundary
County Boundary
0
5
10
20
Miles
N
Sources: Household Data: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-Year Estimates 2019-2023
Other features: U.S. Census Bureau, USGS, BSRC
Disclaimer: This map is for reference only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy. Bi-State Regional Commission disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the data shown hereon.
Map created January 2026 by Bi-State Regional Commission.

Employment

According to the 2019-2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, the total civilian labor force for the population of 16 years and over in the Greater Bi-State Region was 243,364. The most common industry sectors identified in the region include education, health, and social service, which employ approximately 22.8 percent, followed by manufacturing, (18.0 percent) and retail trade (11.2 percent). Table 2.10 lists the largest employers by county in the region. Map 2.8 and Map 4.1 illustrate the concentration of labor force employees and access to employment in the region. It appears that most of the large employers in the MPA are served by fixed-route transit operations, but many of the rural employers are underserved. Employee shuttles, carpool programs, telework and work from home options may reduce employee turnover rates and increase the geographic area from which these businesses may recruit employees.

Commuting Patterns

Currently, 2016-2020 5-year ACS data is available for county-to-county commuting flow patterns. Table 2.5 shows the commuting flows within and out of the six-county Transit Planning Area. Table 2.6 identifies commuting flows among counties within the six-county Transit Planning Area. Map 2.7 shows the commuting flows throughout the Greater Bi-State Region.

Table 2.5 – Commuting Flows in the Greater Bi-State Region for Workers 16 and Over

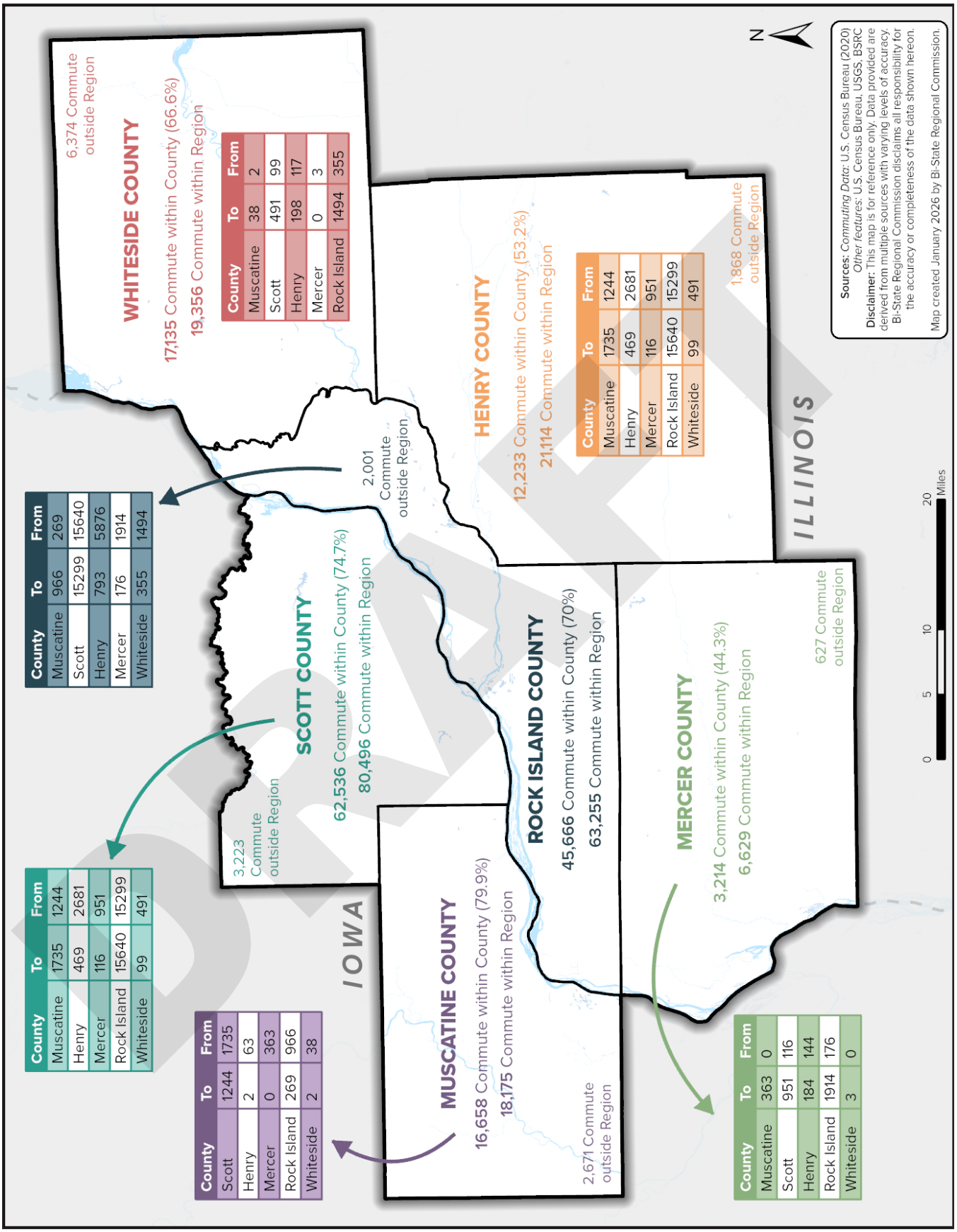
	Henry County, IL	Mercer County, IL	Rock Island County, IL	Whiteside County, IL	Muscatine County, IA	Scott County, IA
Residents who commute within the 6 County Area	21,114	6,629	63,255	19,356	18,175	80,595
Residents who commute outside the 6 County Area	1,868	627	2,001	6,374	2,671	3,124
Total Residents who commute	22,982	7,256	65,256	25,730	20,846	83,719

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2016-2020, Commuting Flows.

Table 2.1 **Commuting Flows Among Counties in the Greater Bi-State Region for Workers 16 and Over**

Residents of ➡ / Commuting to ⬇	Henry County, IL	Mercer County, IL	Rock Island County, IL	Whiteside County, IL	Muscatine County, IA	Scott County, IA
Henry County, IL	12,233	184	793	198	2	469
Mercer County, IL	144	3,214	176	0	0	116
Rock Island County, IL	5,876	1,914	45,666	1,494	269	15,640
Whiteside County, IL	117	3	355	17,135	2	99
Muscatine County, IA	63	363	966	38	16,658	1,735
Scott County, IA	2,681	951	15,299	491	1,244	62,536

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2016-2020, Commuting Flows.



County	To	From
Muscatine	966	269
Scott	15299	15640
Henry	793	5876
Mercer	176	1914
Whiteside	355	1494

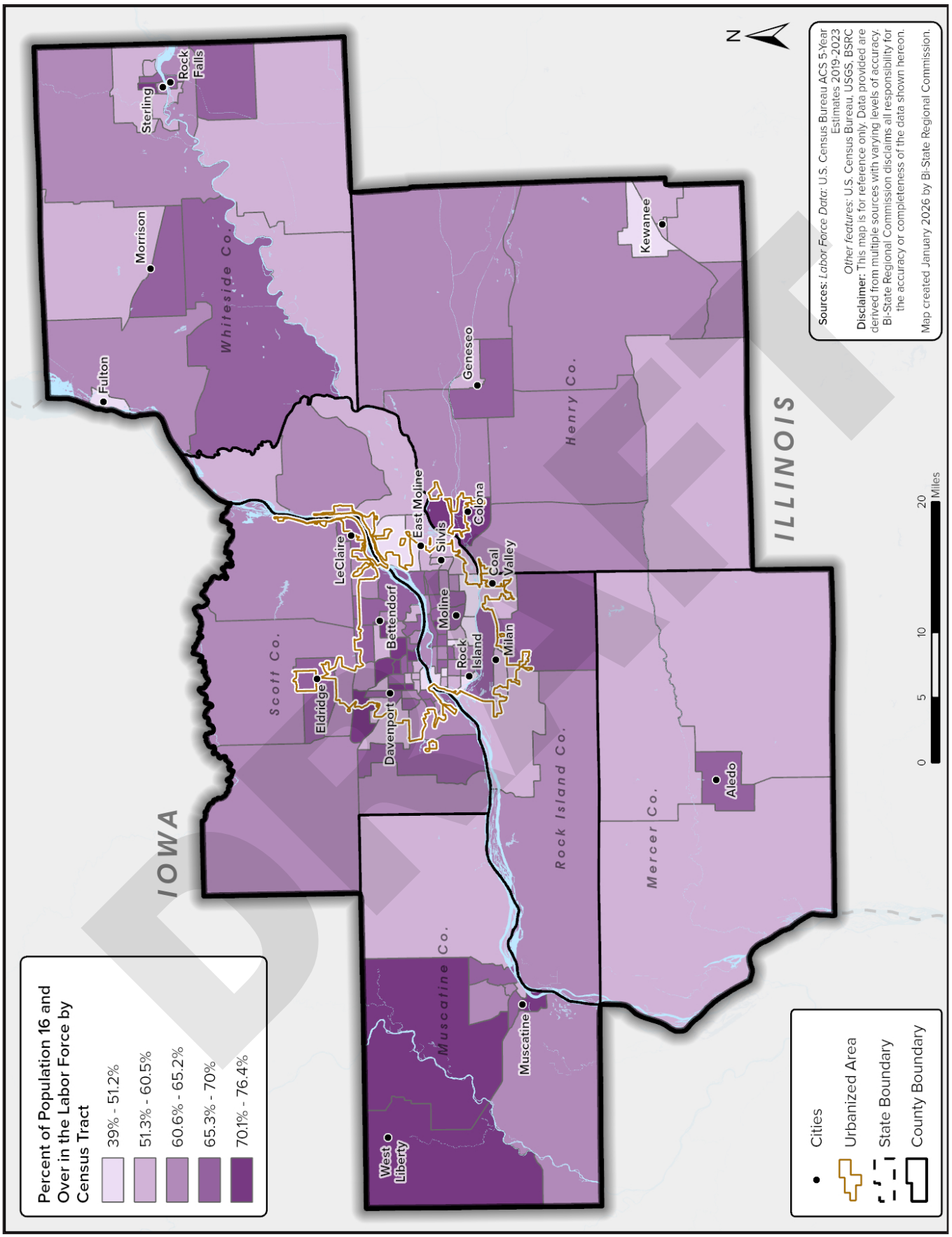
County	To	From
Muscatine	38	2
Scott	491	99
Henry	198	117
Mercer	0	3
Rock Island	1494	355

County	To	From
Muscatine	1735	1244
Henry	469	2681
Mercer	116	951
Rock Island	15640	15299
Whiteside	99	491

County	To	From
Muscatine	1735	1244
Henry	469	2681
Mercer	116	951
Rock Island	15640	15299
Whiteside	99	491

County	To	From
Scott	1244	1735
Henry	2	63
Mercer	0	363
Rock Island	269	966
Whiteside	2	38

County	To	From
Muscatine	363	0
Scott	951	116
Henry	184	144
Rock Island	1914	176
Whiteside	3	0

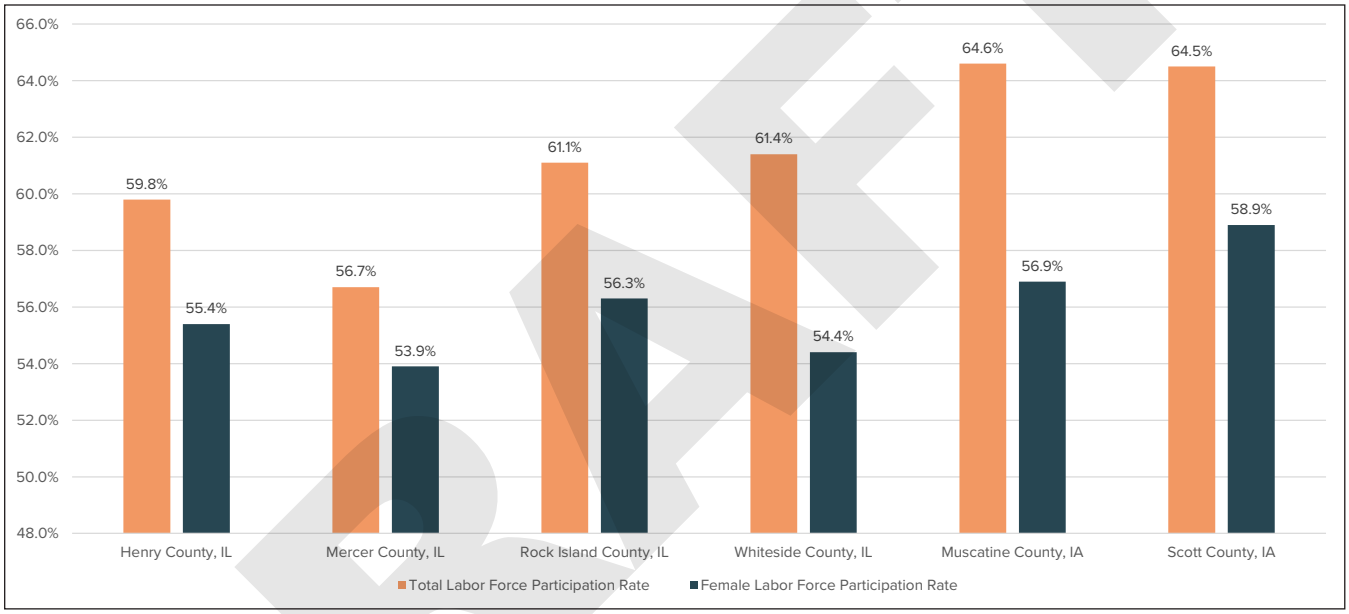

Percent of Population 16 and Over in the Labor Force by Census Tract
39% - 51.2%
51.3% - 60.5%
60.6% - 65.2%
65.3% - 70%
70.1% - 76.4%
Cities
Urbanized Area
State Boundary
County Boundary
IOWA
ILLINOIS
Scott Co.
Rock Island Co.
Muscatine Co.
Mercer Co.
Henry Co.
Whiteside Co.
Sterling
Rock Falls
Morrison
Fulton
Kewanee
Geneseo
Colona
East Moline
Silvis
Coal Valley
LeClaire
Bettendorf
Moline
Rock Island
Milan
Eldridge
Davenport
West Liberty
Muscatine
Aledo
N
0
5
10
20
Miles
Sources: Labor Force Data: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-Year Estimates 2019-2023
Other features: U.S. Census Bureau, USGS, BSRC
Disclaimer: This map is for reference only. Data provided are derived from multiple sources with varying levels of accuracy. Bi-State Regional Commission disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the data shown hereon.
Map created January 2026 by Bi-State Regional Commission.

Workforce Trends

Using the regional profile and trends, the Greater Bi-State Region can examine regional strengths and opportunities. As a result, future economic development and opportunities may be addressed through the delivery of mobility choices in the region. There are several key trends shaping the future workforce that will have an impact on regions.

While the long-term trend has seen a growing number of women participating in the workforce, the short-term trend has witnessed mixed results. Figure 2.10 shows the labor force participation rates in the six counties. These figures often vary by the presence or lack of children in the home by age cohort. This trend should continue to be monitored in future plans. Map 2.8 identifies the percent of the population in the labor force by Census tract.

Figure 2.10 – Labor Force Participation Rates for the Population 16 and over



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

Following global market disruptions caused by COVID-19 and its aftermath, many regions around the country describe a labor shortage, where employers cannot find people to fill open positions. This is in addition to the Baby Boomer generation, those born between 1946 and 1962, reaching retirement age. Increased automation and remote work capabilities will affect transportation and commuting patterns in years to come. The economy must adapt to the evolving conditions, as the Greater Bi-State Region must, too. Drawing people to the community who have technical expertise will be important to compete on a global scale. Transportation plays a major role in global competition, as the movement of people and goods can help or harm a region depending on its ease of access.

The Greater Bi-State Region is uniquely poised to offer many economic and logistical advantages through the multi-modal transportation network including highways, rail networks, airports, and the Mississippi River. Understanding how a community and its workforce can connect to global supply chains is vitally important for community and regional development. Communities that offer a high quality of life, or a high-tech telecommunications network, or access to global markets will benefit in the future. Having a well-connected telecommunications infrastructure in place will enhance transit

providers' abilities to communicate between systems and/or regions as well as with their customers.

Health, safety, and security issues in the post Covid-19 era will continue as companies adapt to this reality. Development of inter-jurisdictional and interagency agreements and cooperation, as needed by a transit mobility system, will aid the region in meeting routine needs as well as for natural and man-made hazard response and mitigation. Transit providers in the Greater Bi-State Region have diligently trained their individual operators to handle emergency situations, should they ever arise.

Aging and Mobility

Within the 2050 planning horizon of MPA transportation planning, a major change in the demographic profile of the nation and this region is expected. According to the U.S. Census Bureaus' National Population Projections, the size of the baby boomer population will expand to the point that 1 in every 5 residents will be retirement age by 2030. Older people are projected to outnumber children for the first time in U.S. history, according to Jonathan Vespa, a demographer with the U.S. Census Bureau. "By 2034, there will be 77.0 million people 65 years and older compared to 76.5 million under the age of 18."

The aging of the population will have implications for transportation infrastructure. As people age, they develop physical, sensory, and cognitive limitations that often restrict their ability to drive, walk, or use traditional public transportation. Transportation planners must prepare for a population where at least one in five or one in four people may be seniors. Enabling the continued safety and mobility of this changing population will increase pressure for changes in transportation planning and investment.

The change in population is coming quickly. The first of the Baby Boomer generation began to turn 65 years old in 2011. By 2030, all baby boomers will be older than age 65. Within the Greater Bi-State Region, those within the ages of 45 to 64, according to the 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, accounted for 25.3 percent of the total population, representing 121,329 people. In addition to population numbers, there are other characteristics of this age group that may have bearing on their transportation choices as they age. Compared to previous generations, the upcoming age wave is characterized by improved health, increased education levels, greater income, and vehicle dependence.

While it is difficult to predict how this age wave will affect transportation planning, it may be assumed that more people will continue driving into older ages, particularly if they live in areas without other transportation options. The most immediate solutions would be to make safety improvements to roadways that address the limitations that aging may impose on older drivers. These would include such things as larger lettering and more contrast for signs, distance and repetition of warnings and information, and other safety features. From an investment standpoint, roadway improvements that address limitations for older drivers generally improve safety for all drivers. For the longer term, people who experience limitations in their ability to drive will be looking for housing and transportation alternatives. Areas with the population density to support public transportation options would seem to be more likely to retain and attract seniors. Considering the increasing disposable income levels projected for older individuals, this would make transportation alternatives an economic development issue as well as a transportation planning issue.

Enhanced mobility related projects in some areas have been implemented to allow greater accessibility and convenience for the growing senior population, providing public transportation services and alternatives beyond those required by ADA. With the implementation of these services, effective training on how to utilize them should be provided to seniors to encourage a sense of security and comfort.

Regional Economic and Service Centers

The Greater Bi-State Region offers a variety of employment and housing opportunities within the six-county area. However, there are additional opportunities in neighboring regions that are attractive for employment, medical, retail, or social service needs. Some of these extra-regional needs, especially transportation to medical facilities, have been identified in surveys of human services providers and transportation providers. Others are identified using commuting patterns.

In order to demonstrate which areas of the region may have a greater need for transit service to regional economic and service centers, Chapter 4 contains several maps that include locations of employment centers as well as census tracts with a higher density of target populations. Map 4.1 identifies major employers in the region and also identifies census tracts containing a greater population of labor force employees, households without a vehicle, and low-income households. Similarly, Maps 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4 display census data for individuals with disabilities, seniors, and households without a vehicle as well as locations of regional service centers, medical facilities, and social service centers.

Language Accessibility Analysis The purpose of this Language Accessibility analysis is to outline how the Bi-State Regional Commission and area transit systems identify persons who may need language assistance, the ways in which assistance may be provided, staff training that may be required, and how to notify persons that need language assistance that help is available. For the purposes of this analysis, persons who speak another language at home and speak English less than "very well" are considered to need language assistance. According to the 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, approximately 40,817 people, or 9.0 percent of the population, 5 years and older in the Greater Bi-State Region speak a language other than English at home, with 1.3 percent speaking English less than "very well." The counties with the largest populations that need language assistance are Rock Island (2.1 percent), Muscatine (2.3 percent), and Scott (1.1 percent). Table 2.6 provides data on English speaking abilities by county. Transit systems have taken measures, such as translating key rider information, educating drivers and dispatching staff on the awareness of language services, maintaining communication with community-based organizations that commonly work with persons that need language assistance, and in some cases, developing transit brochures in Spanish to cater to the Spanish-speaking population. Demographic data and the frequency of requests for language assistance are monitored to determine when additional services are needed. A detailed Four-Factor Language Accessibility Analysis for the Greater Bi-State Region is provided in Appendix D.

Table 2.6 – Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over

	Henry	Mercer	Rock Island	Whiteside	Muscatine	Scott
Population 5 years and over	46,428	14,862	134,591	52,264	40,194	164,032
English only	44,547	14,435	116,471	48,300	34,173	153,628
Language other than English	1,658	361	15,340	3,620	5,105	8,680
Speak English less than "very well"	223	66	2,780	344	916	1,724

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

Table 2.7 – Regional Profile – Greater Bi-State Region

2000 Total Population	478,394	**Median Home Value**	
2010 Total Population	480,933	2020	$143,166
2020 Total Population	482,720	2025	$187,379
2020 Group Quarters Population	10,453	**Per Capita Income**	
2025 Total Population	474,570	2020	$30,923
2020-2025 Annual Rate	-1.7%	2025	$39,901
2025 Total Daytime Population	475,237	**Median Age**	
Workers	230,851	2010	39.5
Residents	244,386	2020	40.7
Household Summary		2025	41.4
2000 Households	189,257	**2010 Population by Race/Ethnicity**	
2000 Average Household Size	2.47	Total	480,933
2010 Households	195,327	White Alone	87.0%
2010 Average Household Size	2.41	Black Alone	5.7%
2020 Households	197,612	American Indian Alone	0.3%
2020 Average Household Size	2.39	Asian Alone	1.4%
2025 Households	200,719	Pacific Islander Alone	0.0%
2025 Average Household Size	2.31	Some Other Race Alone	3.0%
2020-2025 Annual Rate	0.02	Two or More Races	2.6%
2010 Families	127,864	Hispanic Origin	8.8%
2010 Average Family Size	2.95	Diversity Index	36.1
2020 Families	127,059	**2020 Population by Race/Ethnicity**	
2020 Average Family Size	2.94	Total	482,720
2025 Families	122,943	White Alone	83.4%
2025 Average Family Size	2.95	Black Alone	6.9%
2020-2025 Annual Rate	-0.03	American Indian Alone	0.3%
Housing Unit Summary		Asian Alone	2.4%
2000 Housing Units	200,328	Pacific Islander Alone	0%
Owner Occupied Housing Units	68.4%	Some Other Race Alone	3.6%
Renter Occupied Housing Units	26.1%	Two or More Races	3.3%
Vacant Housing Units	5.5%	Hispanic Origin	10.5%
2010 Housing Units	210,790	Diversity Index	43.1
Owner Occupied Housing Units	66.6%	**2025 Population by Race/Ethnicity**	
Renter Occupied Housing Units	26.0%	Total	474,570
Vacant Housing Units	7.3%	White Alone	77.6%
2020 Housing Units	216,004	Black Alone	7.5%
Owner Occupied Housing Units	64.6%	American Indian Alone	0.4%
Renter Occupied Housing Units	26.9%	Asian Alone	2.2%
Vacant Housing Units	8.5%	Pacific Islander Alone	0.0%
2025 Housing Units	220,709	Some Other Race Alone	4.0%
Owner Occupied Housing Units	71.8%	Two or More Races	8.3%
Renter Occupied Housing Units	28.2%	Hispanic Origin	11.4%
Vacant Housing Units	9.1%	Diversity Index	50.8
Median Household Income			
2020	$55,929		
2025	$73,314		

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 2000, 2010 and 2020. ArcGIS Business Analyst, 2025 Estimates.

Table 2.8 – Regional Profile – MPA
(Quad Cities Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary)

2000 Total Population	293,732	Average Home Value	$248,854
2010 Total Population	297,986	**2020 Population by Race/Ethnicity**	
2020 Total Population	302,452	Total	302,452
2020 Group Quarters	7,962	White Alone	78.90%
2025 Total Population	301,070	Black Alone	9.90%
2020-2025 Annual Rate	-0.5%	American Indian Alone	0.30%
2025 Total Daytime Population	313,530	Asian Alone	3.40%
Workers	158,749	Pacific Islander Alone	0.10%
Residents	154,781	Some Other Race Alone	3.50%
Household Summary		Two or More Races	3.90%
2000 Households	117,910	Hispanic Origin	10.60%
2000 Average Household Size	2.43	Diversity Index	48.7
2010 Households	122,350	**2025 Population by Race/Ethnicity**	
2010 Average Household Size	2.37	Total	301,071
2020 Households	124,928	White Alone	73.0%
2020 Average Household Size	2.36	Black Alone	10.6%
2025 Households	127,821	American Indian Alone	0.4%
2025 Average Household Size	2.30	Asian Alone	3.1%
2020-2025 Annual Rate	2.3%	Pacific Islander Alone	0.0%
2010 Families	77,097	Some Other Race Alone	3.9%
2010 Average Family Size	2.96	Two or More Races	8.9%
2020 Families	77,264	Hispanic Origin	11.3%
2020 Average Family Size	2.95	Diversity Index	55.6
2025 Families	75,674	**2010 Population by Relationship and Household Type**	
2025 Average Family Size	2.98	Total	297,986
2020-2025 Annual Rate	-2.1%	In Households	97.40%
Housing Unit Summary		In Family Households	79.00%
2000 Housing Units	124,716	Householder	25.90%
Owner Occupied Housing Units	65.80%	Spouse	18.80%
Renter Occupied Housing Units	28.70%	Child	29.40%
Vacant Housing Units	5.50%	Other relative	2.40%
2010 Housing Units	131,356	Nonrelative	2.40%
Owner Occupied Housing Units	64.20%	In Nonfamily Households	18.50%
Renter Occupied Housing Units	29.00%	In Group Quarters	2.60%
Vacant Housing Units	6.90%	Institutionalized Population	1.30%
2020 Housing Units	135,525	Noninstitutionalized Population	1.20%
Owner Occupied Housing Units	62.60%	**2020 Population 25+ by Educational Attainment**	
Renter Occupied Housing Units	29.60%	Total	209,749
Vacant Housing Units	7.80%	Less than 9th Grade	2.90%
2025 Housing Units	140,502	9th - 12th Grade, No Diploma	5.90%
Owner Occupied Housing Units	68.1%	High School Graduate	24.60%
Renter Occupied Housing Units	31.9%	GED/Alternative Credential	4.70%

Vacant Housing Units	9.1%	Some College, No Degree	22.50%
Median Age		Associate Degree	10.50%
2010	38.4	Bachelor's Degree	18.40%
2020	39.7	Graduate/Professional Degree	10.60%
2025	40.3	**2020 Population 15+ by Marital Status**	
		Total	246,797
		Never Married	32.20%
		Married	48.50%
		Widowed	6.60%
		Divorced	12.70%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 2000, 2010 and 2020. ArcGIS Business Analyst, 2025Estimates.

Table 2.9 – Largest Employers by County

HENRY COUNTY, IL		MERCER COUNTY, IL	
EMPLOYER	TOTAL EMPLOYEES	EMPLOYER	TOTAL EMPLOYEES
Great Dane Trailers	600	Mercer County Board-Education	220
Hammond-Henry Hospital	260	General Grind & Machine Inc	150
Walmart Supercenter	250	YMCA	65
OSF Medical Group	250	Walmart	97
Henry County Courthouse	230	United North Elementary School	60
KONE Inc	190	Sherrard Senior High School	90
Kewanee Park District	150	Mercer County Nursing Home	50
Veterans of Foreign Wars	125	Mercer County High School	50
Hillcrest Home	122	Meminger Metal Finishing	75
Royal Oaks Care Ctr	120	Mc Donald's	50
MUSCATINE COUNTY, IA		**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, IL**	
EMPLOYER	TOTAL EMPLOYEES	EMPLOYER	TOTAL EMPLOYEES
HNI Corporation (The HON Company, Allsteel)	3,200	Rock Island Arsenal	6,300
Kent Corporation	1,011	XPAC	1000
Muscatine Community School District	823	Unity Point Health-Trinity Rock Is	2048
Trinity Hospital Muscatine	483	Unity Point Health-Trinity Moline	2700
SSAB	410	Tyson Fresh Meats	2400
Musco Sports Lighting	400	John Deere Harvester Works E Moline	2800
Monsanto Company	381	Deere & Co Moline Branch	1600
Walmart	350	Vibrant Arena	500
Heinz, USA	305	Pfg Tpc Roma Foods	530
The Stanley Group	279	Jumer's Casino & Hotel	550
SCOTT COUNTY, IA		**WHITESIDE COUNTY, IL**	
EMPLOYER	TOTAL EMPLOYEES	EMPLOYER	TOTAL EMPLOYEES
John Deere Davenport Works	2,000	CGH Medical Ctr	1,197
Arconic	2,000	Wahl Clipper Corp	900
MercyOne-Genesis Medical Ctr Davenport	1,574	Walmart Distribution Ctr	500
Tri City Engrng & Integration	1,200	Cgh Medical Ctr Main Clinic	500
Elite Casino Resorts LLC	1,000	Timken Drives LLC	430
Eaton Mission Systems	900	Walmart Supercenter	420
Davenport City Hall Civil	800	Self Help Enterprises Inc	400
Scott County Family Y	600	HALO Branded Solutions Inc	400
Directv Authorized Retailer	600	Sterling Coliseum	200
Bettendorf Event Ctr	600	Focus Services	200

Sources: Data Axle Reference Solutions, Reference USA Gov, 2025.

Table 2.10 – Employment by Industry Sector

INDUSTRY	Henry County, Illinois	Mercer County, Illinois	Rock Island County, Illinois	Whiteside County, Illinois	Muscatine County, Iowa	Scott County, Iowa	TOTAL	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	23,624	7,398	66,223	26,390	21,242	87,119	231,996	100.0%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	725	338	652	683	558	779	3,735	1.6%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	47	7	35	64	25	231	409	0.2%
Construction	1,873	807	4,169	1,477	1,133	6,253	15,712	6.8%
Manufacturing	3,888	999	10,719	5,113	5,955	15,144	41,818	18.0%
Wholesale trade	706	215	1,505	573	529	2,137	5,665	2.4%
Retail trade	2,884	1,026	7,668	3,179	1,908	9,396	26,061	11.2%
Transportation and warehousing	1,161	399	4,059	1,375	799	3,701	11,494	5.0%
Utilities	200	78	662	470	493	972	2,875	1.2%
Information	299	65	856	138	127	1,323	2,808	1.2%
Finance and insurance	1,192	351	2,695	833	521	3,648	9,240	4.0%
Real estate and rental and leasing	246	49	1,041	165	136	1,217	2,854	1.2%
Professional, scientific, and technical services	616	187	2,491	810	586	3,914	8,604	3.7%
Management of companies and enterprises	27	0	27	26	0	191	271	0.1%
Administrative/Support/Waste management services	553	190	3,210	877	712	3,239	8,781	3.8%
Educational services	2,139	568	5,716	2,210	1,913	7,235	19,781	8.5%
Health care and social assistance	2,940	950	9,217	4,387	2,852	12,658	33,004	14.2%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	301	105	1,018	282	328	1,637	3,671	1.6%
Accommodation and food services	1,322	328	4,889	1,408	1,003	5,621	14,571	6.3%
Other services, except public administration	1,141	390	2,509	1,058	994	3,602	9,694	4.2%
Public administration	1,364	346	3,085	1,262	670	4,221	10,948	4.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.