Warren St. at Frank E. Rodgers Blvd.
Harrison, NJ

West Hudson County Circulation Plan

Demographic Assessment
Technical Memorandum
April 2025

CONTENTS

Executive Summary

Purpose

The project team conducted this analysis as part of the West Hudson Circulation and Connectivity Study to identify underserved communities, inform the outreach process to help identify their needs and incorporate equity and underserved communities into the plan. This document was preceded by the project's Public Involvement Action Plan which laid out a detailed series of actions to engage the communities of the West Hudson study area as part of this study. At the time of this study, the ongoing Hudson County Vision Zero Action Plan had investigated equity across Hudson County. Data from this effort was utilized in formulating the West Hudson Circulation and Connectivity Study Public Involvement Action Plan and this Demographic Assessment technical memorandum. While the ongoing Vision Zero Action Plan focuses on the entire County, this technical memorandum is specific to the three municipalities of the West Hudson study area. The data gathered while developing this Demographic Assessment technical memorandum has been actively used and considered in performing outreach activities. At the time of publishing this technical memorandum, outreach for the West Hudson Circulation and Connectivity Study is largely complete.

By understanding underserved communities within the study area (the Borough of East Newark, Town of Harrison, and Town of Kearny), the project team has been able to identify their locations, conduct outreach that addresses their needs, reduce barriers to participation, ensure benefits of the plan are shared equitably, and minimize the likelihood of disproportionate adverse impacts.

The analysis relies on the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority's (NJTPA's) guidance for environmental justice and equity analyses.[1] NJTPA follows all relevant federal requirements in sub-regional plans, such as this one, to ensure compliance.

Key Findings

All census tracts in the West Hudson study area except one are home to an underserved community (ranking "Well Above Average" or "Above Average" in one of the identified categories). The one exception is a census tract in the southwestern corner of Harrison. Areas scoring Above Average overall include the census tract comprising East Newark and surrounding tracts in Harrison. No census tract in Kearny scored Above Average overall. Census tracts scoring Above Average overall are mapped in Figure 1 below. These underserved communities have a total population of 13,207, comprising approximately 20.9 percent of the West Hudson study area's

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[1] "Title VI and Environmental Justice Assessment Guide for Planning Studies," https://www.njtpa.org/NJTPA/media/Documents/About-NJTPA/Federal-Regulations/Title-VI/Equity-Assessment-Guide-2020-07.pdf, accessed August 23, 2022.

population. Additional data about each tract can be found by matching these IDs to those in Table 4.

Outreach efforts have focused on underserved communities with different densities and contexts (e.g., urban or suburban), as their community needs can vary. Additionally, some outreach strategies, formats, and methods are more effective with some underserved communities than others and have been customized to best engage the intended groups. For example, translated materials have been needed to engage effectively with LEP populations. In-person outreach can reach more people, particularly those who are not comfortable using digital engagement technologies or who cannot afford smartphones.

This demographic assessment provides an overview of the underserved communities in the study area. Projects and recommendations made as part of this study should be conceived, developed, and designed with the needs of these communities in mind, particularly in locations with high proportions of one or more underserved community.
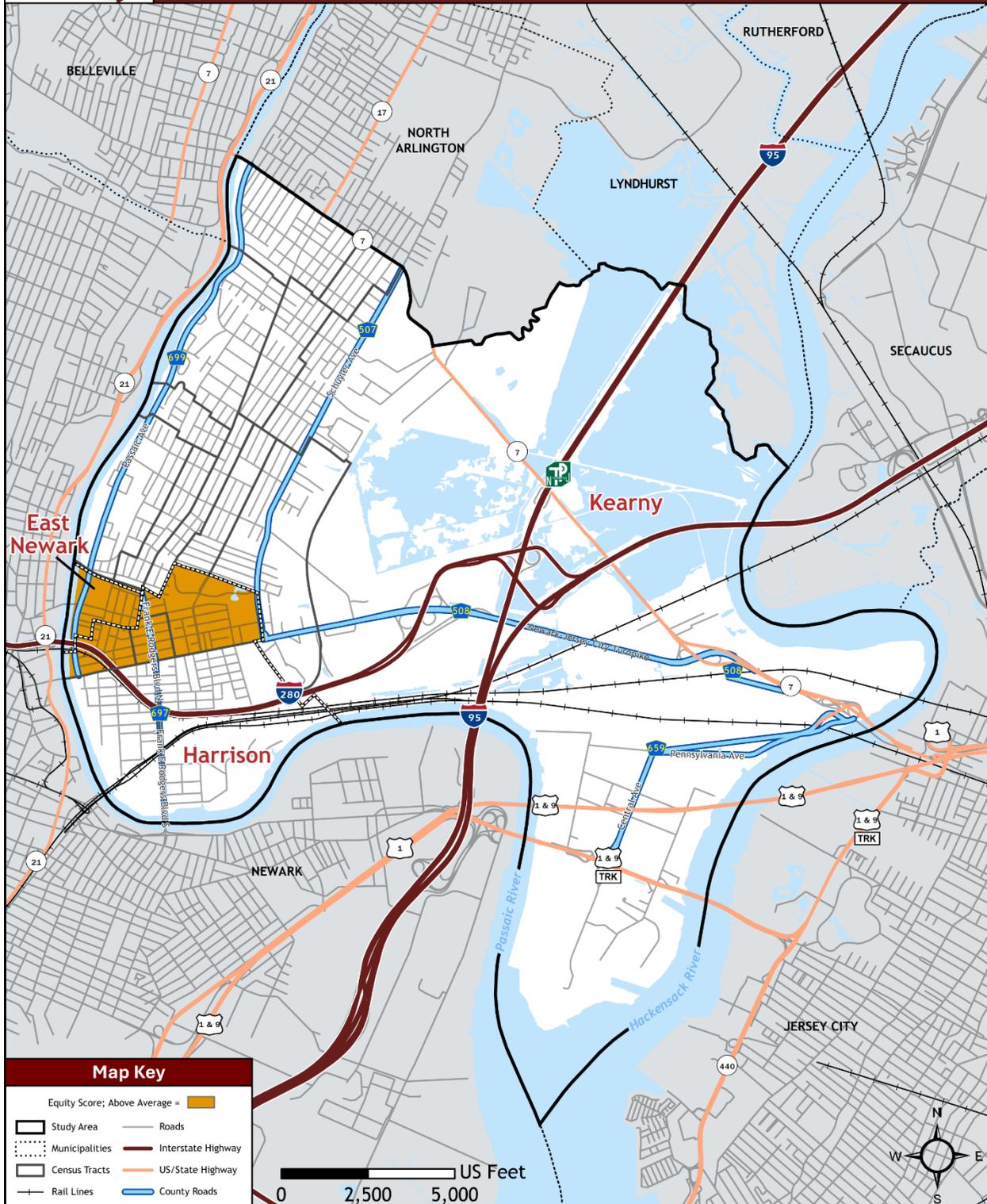
Figure 1: Above Average Underserved Communities – Composite Scores - Census Tracts, 2022

Recommended Goals

The findings from this analysis have been used to support potential equity goals and recommendations that have guided the development and implementation of the plan. The demographic assessment indicates that nearly all census tracts in the West Hudson study area have at least one underserved community, so the plan's equity goals have been broad and comprehensive to address this wide set of needs and circumstances. The equity goals below have been used to evaluate plan recommendations, along with equity scores. During the outreach period, these goals have been adapted based on public input.

Equity Goals

- Community outreach methods and materials have been proactively informed based on where the underserved communities are particularly concentrated within the project area (e.g., people with disabilities, low-income, limited English proficiency, etc.)
- Advance equity by focusing on transportation and mobility recommendations that may benefit people who experience higher rates of disadvantage, lower life expectancy due to higher rates of asthma, diabetes, other health-related conditions, social isolation, lower income, higher chance of unemployment or underemployment[2], and possible safety and/or mobility impacts. Conversely, avoid recommendations that would have disproportionately adverse impact on underserved communities.

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[2] Underemployment - https://corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/economics/underemployment/

1. Purpose

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The analysis relies on the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority's (NJTPA's) guidance for environmental justice and equity analyses.[3] NJTPA follows all relevant federal requirements in sub-regional plans, such as this one, to ensure compliance.

Using data from the United States Census 2018-2022 American Community Survey, there are 63,092 people living in the West Hudson study area. Kearny is home to nearly two-thirds of the area's population (41,157 people) while Harrison has 19,217 residents and East Newark has 2,718 residents. These more than 60,000 residents are the focus of this Demographic Assessment technical memorandum.

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[3] "Title VI and Environmental Justice Assessment Guide for Planning Studies," https://www.njtpa.org/NJTPA/media/Documents/About-NJTPA/Federal-Regulations/Title-VI/Equity-Assessment-Guide-2020-07.pdf, accessed August 23, 2022.
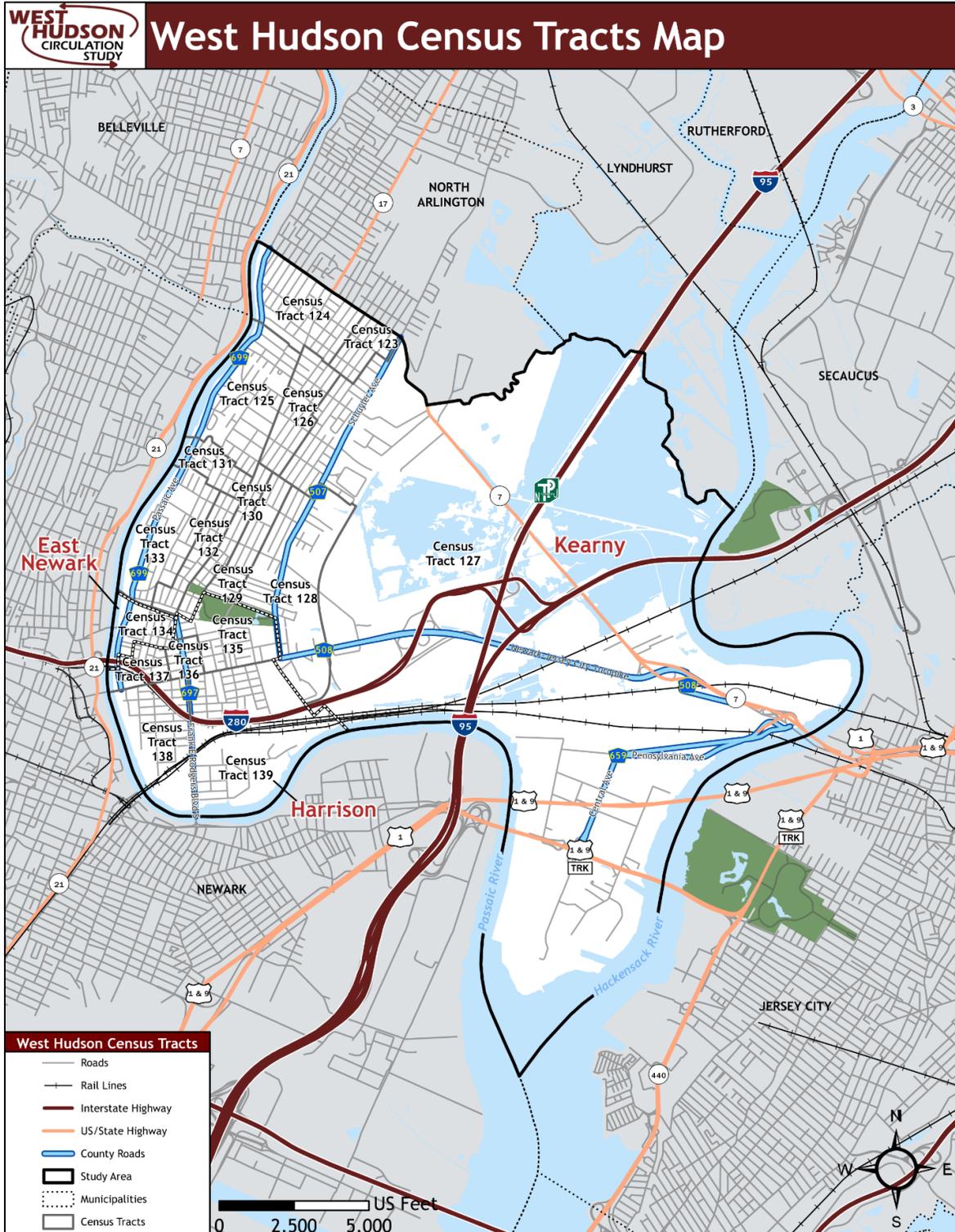
2. Methodology

2.1 Approach

Figure 2: Census Tracts, 2022

Step 1

The Demographic Assessment for the West Hudson Study Area followed the NJTPA *2022 Equity Analysis* methodology. The project team examined the equity factors below using 2018-2022 5-Year American Community Survey (ACS) data at the census tract level for the three study area municipalities: East Newark, Harrison, and Kearny (the West Hudson Study Area). These variables were selected based on NJTPA's methodology. The census tract level is the most appropriate geographic unit of analysis due to very high margins of error at the more granular block group level.

- Racial/Ethnic Minority (Minority)– percentage of individuals who are not White Alone (not White and Non-Hispanic or Latino)
- Foreign-Born – percentage of individuals who were not born in the United States
- Low Income – percentage of households whose income is less than or equal to twice the federal poverty level
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP)– percentage of individuals who speak a language other than English and speak English "less than very well"
- Age – percentage of people aged 65 or older, children under five years old, or children and young adults between 5 and 17 years of age (school-aged population)
- People with Disabilities – percentage of individuals with one or more physical or mental disability
- Female Population – percentage of individuals who identify as female
- No High School Degree – percentage of adults aged 25 and over who do not have a high school degree (or equivalent)

Step 2

A composite scoring index was calculated that compares census tract values to the County as a whole (see Table 1 for the thresholds and standard deviations for each score).[4] Each indicator was then mapped to identify where there are concentrations of populations that are much higher than the County average to focus outreach and planning efforts in those areas. Census tracts that are at least 0.5 standard deviations above the average are considered underserved communities. This analysis also refers to census tracts that score "Above Average" (between 0.5 and 1.5 standard deviations above) or "Well Above Average" (more than 1.5 standard deviations above) across multiple variables and are home to several underserved communities. Individuals and groups that fall under more than one equity category may face even greater or unique challenges (often called "intersectionality").

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[4] "NJTPA 2022 Equity Analysis," https://equity-resources-njtpa.hub.arcgis.com/pages/equity-analysis-tool, accessed August 4, 2023.

Each map in this document symbolizes census tracts by the indicators listed in Table 1. These scores were used to identify census tracts home to a higher concentration of several underserved communities.

Table 1: Scoring Thresholds and Standard Deviations

Interval	Standard Deviation (Std. Dev.) Range	Score (0-4)
Well Below Average	Less than or equal to -1.5 Std. Dev.	Score 0
Below Average	From -1.5 to -0.5 Std. Dev.	Score 1
Average	From -0.5 to 0.5 Std. Dev.	Score 2
Above Average	From 0.5 to 1.5 Std. Dev.	Score 3
Well Above Average	Greater than 1.5 Std. Dev.	Score 4

Step 3

The next step was to integrate an equitable approach into the plan and equity goals, guided by the results of Step 2. The identified underserved communities have informed outreach strategies, languages, locations, and potential community needs. Lastly, the presence and character of underserved communities will be factored into the development of recommendations later in the project.

3.   Analysis Findings

3.1   Summary of Findings

Based on the NJTPA 2022 Equity Analysis methodology, the West Hudson study area has Well Above Average and Above Average areas of concentrated underserved communities in all but one census tract. The most underserved communities are those located in East Newark and adjacent areas.

Of the study area's 17 census tracts, 11 are in Kearny (approximately 65 percent), five are in Harrison (approximately 30 percent), and one comprises the entirety of East Newark (approximately 5 percent).
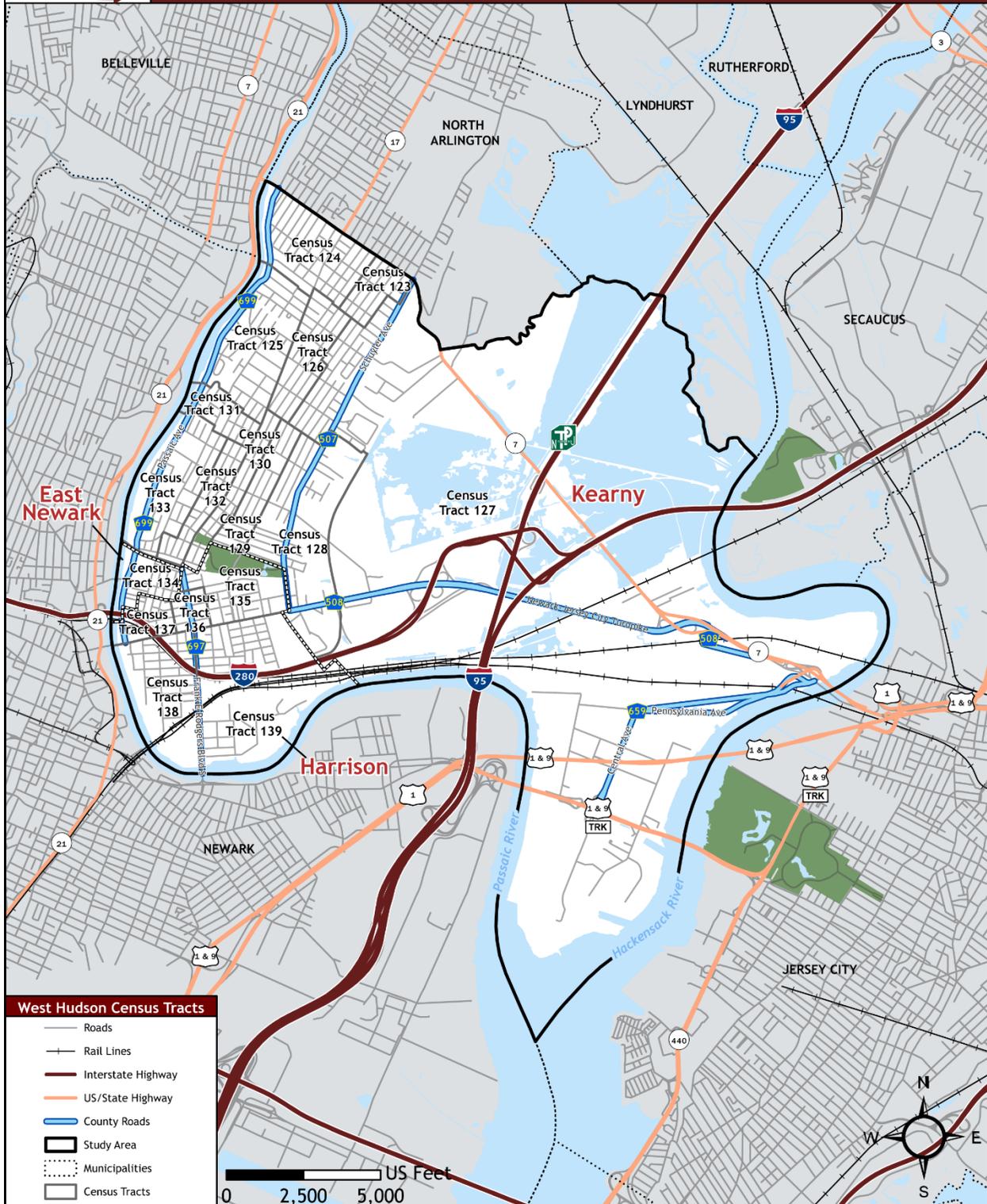
Figure 3: Census Tracts, 2022

In each map, the entirety of each tract is shown. The large tract in the east comprising the majority of the West Hudson study area's geography is the primarily industrial and environmentally constrained area of the Meadowlands and South Kearny. This tract is home to 6,554 people, mostly in the northwestern portion closest to Schuyler Avenue. Relative to its geographic size, this tract is home to a very small population.

For individual equity factors, the West Hudson study area as a whole has higher rates of the following populations than the NJTPA region and State:

- Minorities
- Foreign-born
- Low-income
- Limited-English proficiency
- Children under five years old
- No high school degree

Using NJTPA's methodology to calculate a composite score of underserved communities, two census tracts score Above Average, as shown in Figure 4.

The presence of Well Above Average and Above Average levels of the identified underserved communities for each variable is shown in Figure 5. This data is also presented in larger, more detailed maps later in the document. The implications for public reach concerning these underserved communities are discussed in more detail throughout this document.
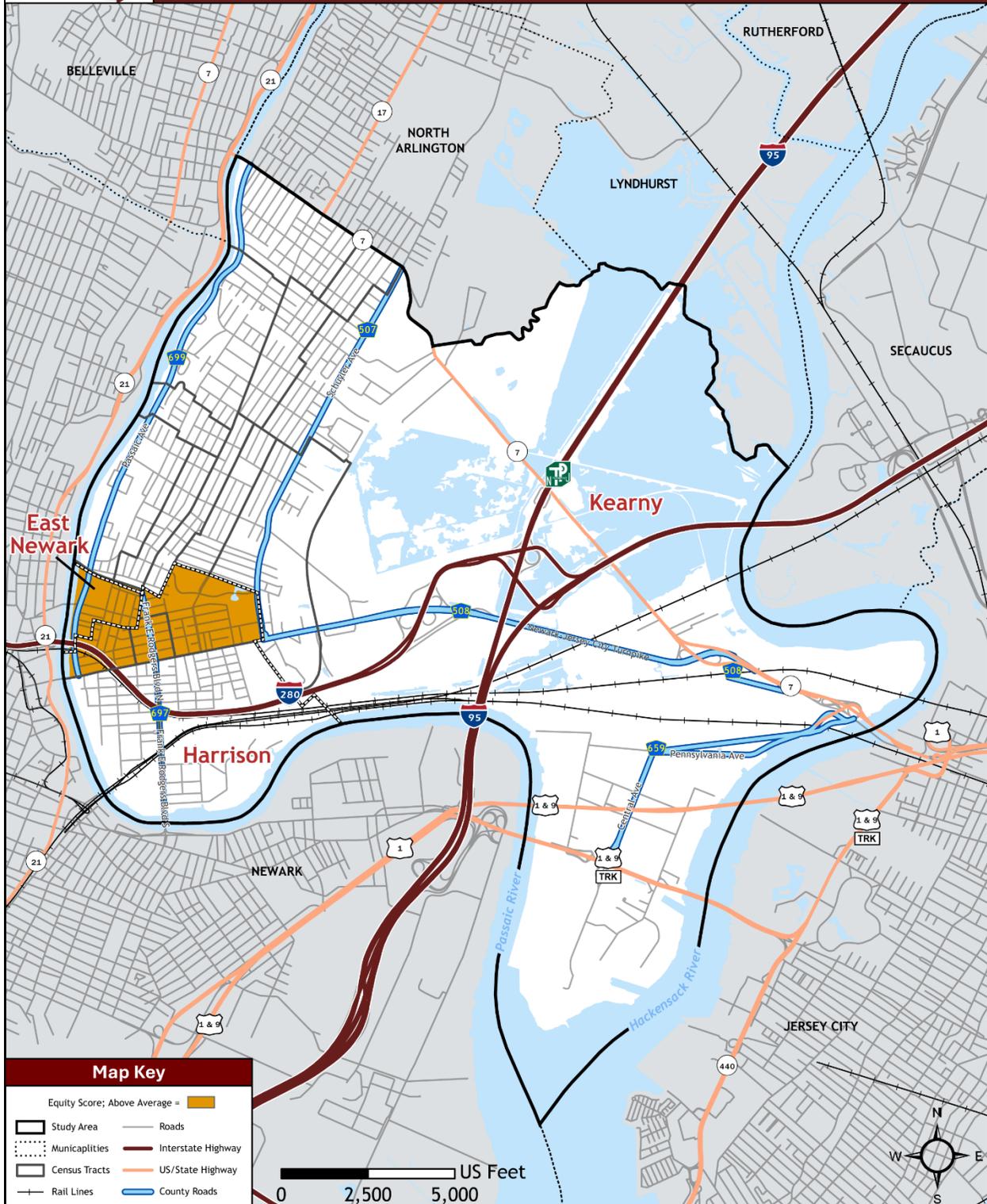
Figure 4: Above Average Underserved Communities – Composite Scores - Census Tracts, 2022

MINORITY

FOREIGN BORN

LOW INCOME

LEP

AGE UNDER 5

AGE 5 TO 17

AGE OVER 65

DISABILITY

FEMALE

LESS THAN HS DEGREE

Above Average
Well Above Average

Figure 5: Well Above Average and Above Average Areas of Underserved Communities Within the West Hudson Study Area, 2022

3.2   Comparative Demographic Analysis

Table 2 provides the percentages of the ten equity indicator populations in the West Hudson study area, Hudson County, the NJTPA region, and statewide, based on 2018-2022 ACS Census data. The project team reviewed these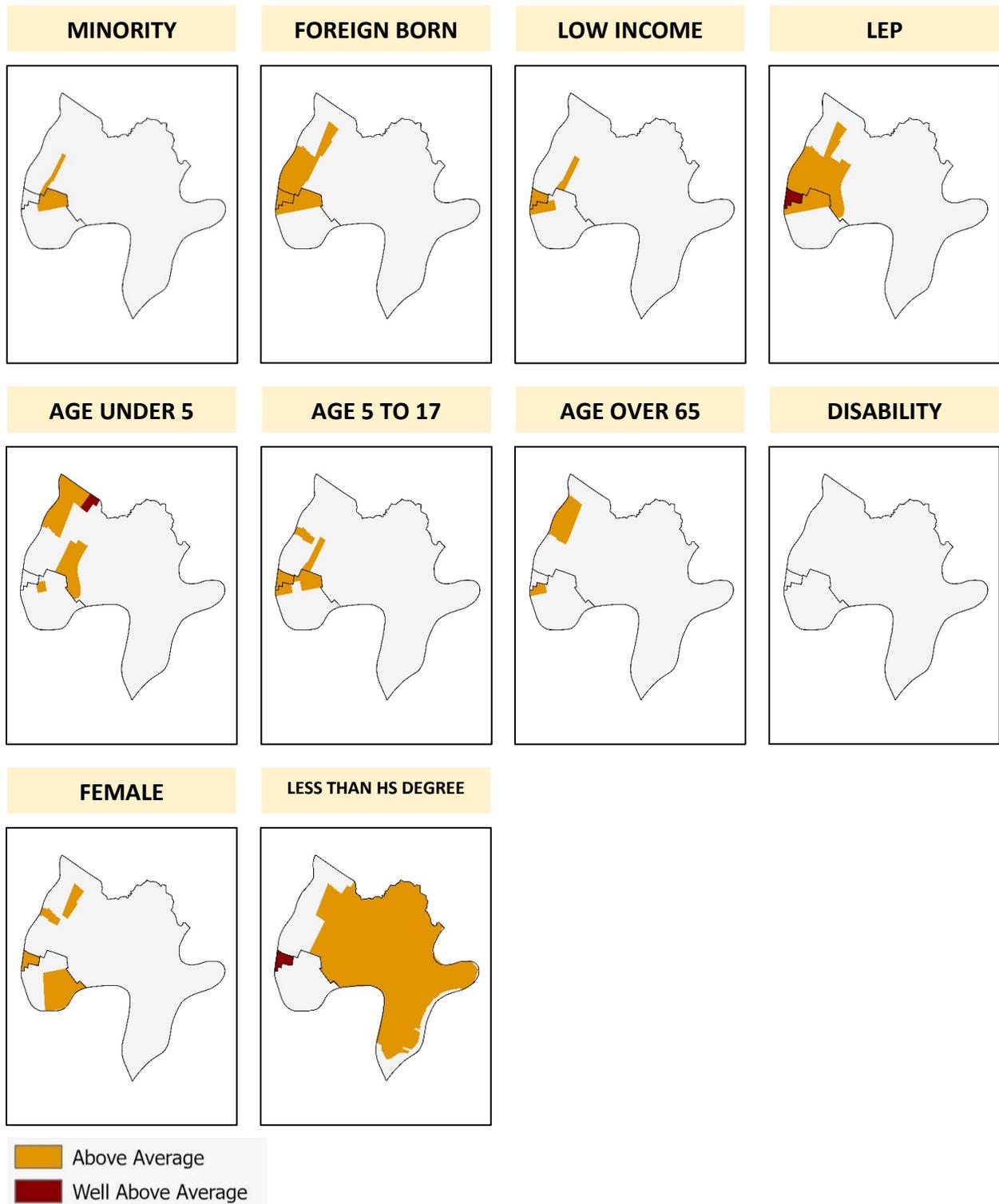 numbers to contextualize underserved communities in the study area compared to the County, region and state. The analysis shows that the West Hudson study area has a larger presence of nearly every underserved community, compared to the region and the state. The West Hudson study area has a similar presence of underserved communities compared to Hudson County. Observed differences include:

- The West Hudson study area has a higher proportion of minority residents (70.5 percent) than the NJTPA region (49 percent) and state (47 percent). The percent of the population who are a minority is slightly higher in the study area than the County as a whole.
- The West Hudson study area has a higher proportion of foreign-born residents (49.1 percent) than the NJTPA region (26.5 percent) and state (23.2 percent). The percent of the population who are foreign-born within the study area is slightly higher than the County as a whole.
- The West Hudson study area has a higher proportion of LEP residents (30.1 percent) than the NJTPA region (13.7 percent) and state (12.3 percent).
- The West Hudson study area has lower proportions of residents who are over 65 and 5-17 years old (school-age population) than the NJTPA region and state.
- The West Hudson study area has similar equity indicators as Hudson County except for having a higher proportion of LEP residents (30.1 percent vs. 22.2 percent, respectively).
- The West Hudson study area has a higher proportion of residents without a high school degree (15.1 percent) than the NJTPA region (9.3 percent) and state (10.0 percent)

For the West Hudson study area data in Table 2, data points scoring above the County average are bolded, data points scoring above the NJTPA region average are *italicized,* and data points scoring above the statewide average have a grey background. Indicators that are above two of the comparative regions are highlighted in yellow, while indicators above all three comparative regions are highlighted in darker yellow. Each of these distinctions indicate where the West Hudson study area has a higher percentage of underserved community members when compared to these other geographies. Further analysis of these variables mainly compares to Hudson County while the data in Table 2 below provides a more holistic view of the equity data for the overall West Hudson study area. Section 4 of this document, "Implications for Public Outreach and Community Needs" addresses how this data has been used to conduct outreach.

Table 2: Equity Indicators, Comparison, 2022

Equity Indicator	West Hudson Study Area	Hudson County	NJTPA Region	Statewide
Minority	*70.5%*	72.3%	49.0%	47.0%
Foreign-Born	***49.1%***	42.7%	26.5%	23.2%
Low Income	*29.3%*	29.8%	21.3%	21.8%
Limited English Proficiency	***30.1%***	22.2%	13.7%	12.3%
Age: People Over 65 Years	**12.4%**	12.2%	16.4%	16.6%
Age: Youth 5 to 17 Years (School-age Population)	**13.9%**	13.6%	16.1%	16.1%
Age: Children Under 5 Years	*6.3%*	6.6%	5.8%	5.7%
Disability	7.9%	8.6%	9.8%	10.6%
Female	48.0%	49.9%	50.7%	50.7%
No High School Degree	***15.1%***	12.8%	9.3%	10.0%

Source: NJTPA, U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2018-2022

3.3   Individual Equity Indicators

In addition to reviewing data for the West Hudson study area and Hudson County, the project team analyzed each of the ten individual equity indicators at a census tract level against the NJTPA region and state, mapping each variable. For each indicator, areas that scored Above Average or Well Above Average are shown in the darker shades of yellow in the subsequent maps

3.3.1   Minority

The minority factor represents all individuals who are not White Alone (non-Hispanic or Latino).[5] This population has historically experienced higher rates of discrimination, lower life expectancy due to higher rates of asthma, diabetes, other health-related conditions, lower earnings, higher rates of unemployment or underemployment, and social isolation due to less access to transportation.

Figure 6 shows Above Average concentrations in the following areas:

- northern Harrison
- western Kearny along Chestnut Street

The study area has a similar concentration of minorities compared to Hudson County (70.5 percent compared to 72.3 percent, respectively). The rate of the minority population in the study area is considerably higher than the NJTPA region, which has a concentration of 49 percent (see Table 2).

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[5] NJTPA. (2020). *Title VI and Environmental Justice Assessment Guide for Planning Studies.* NJTPA. Retrieved from Equity Resources: https://equity-resources-njtpa.hub.arcgis.com/
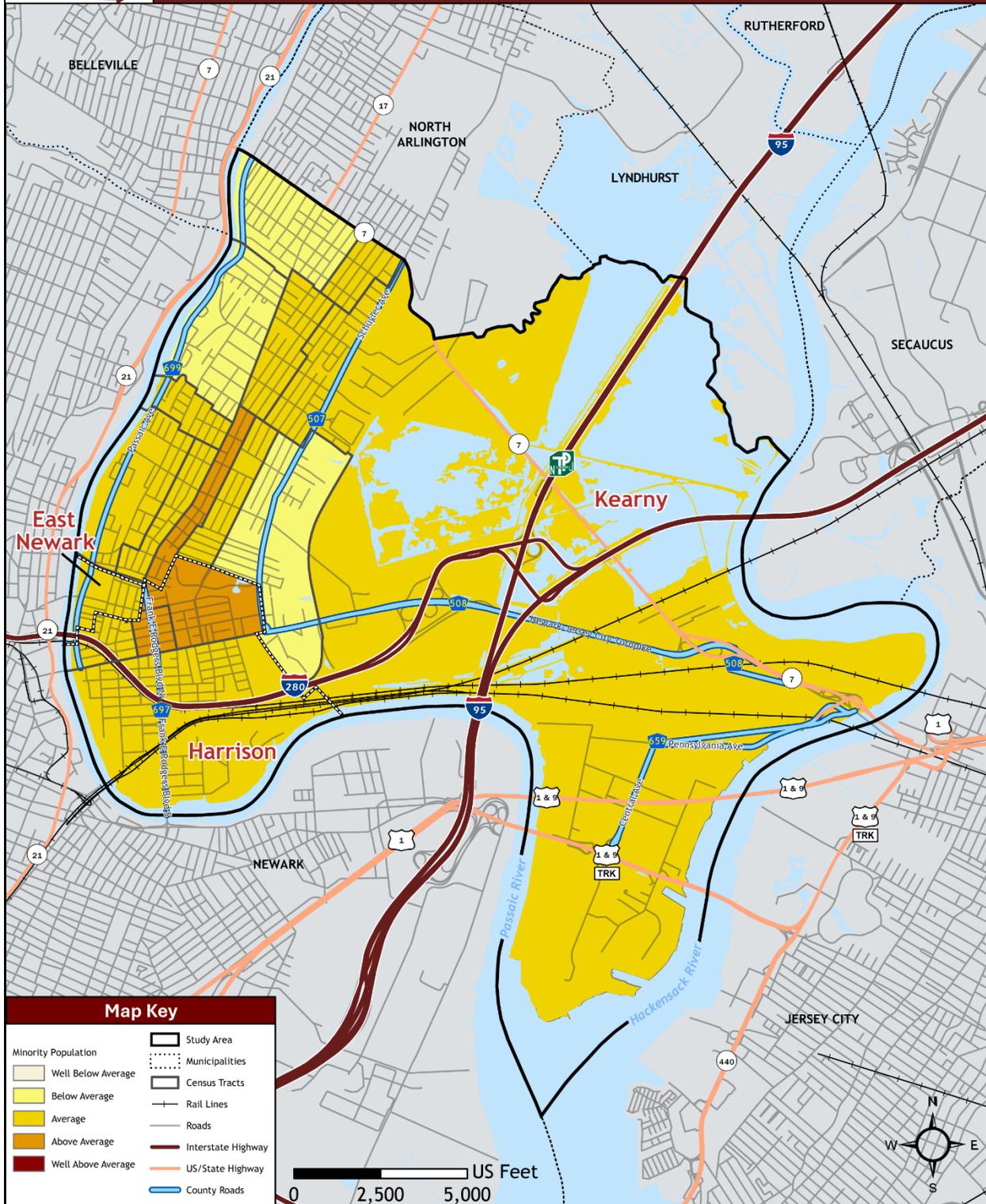
Figure 6: Minority Population, 2022

3.3.2 Foreign-Born

The foreign-born factor includes all individuals who indicated that they were not born in the United States.[6] This segment of the population historically experiences higher rates of discrimination, social isolation due to less access to transportation, lower earnings, and lack of access to opportunities.

Figure 7 shows Above Average concentrations in the following areas:

- East Newark
- northern Harrison
- western Kearny

The rate of the foreign-born population is higher in the study area (49.1 percent) than Hudson County and significantly higher than the NJTPA region and statewide (26.5 percent and 23.2 percent, respectively).

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[6] NJTPA. (2020). *Title VI and Environmental Justice Assessment Guide for Planning Studies*. NJTPA. Retrieved from Equity Resources: https://equity-resources-njtpa.hub.arcgis.com/
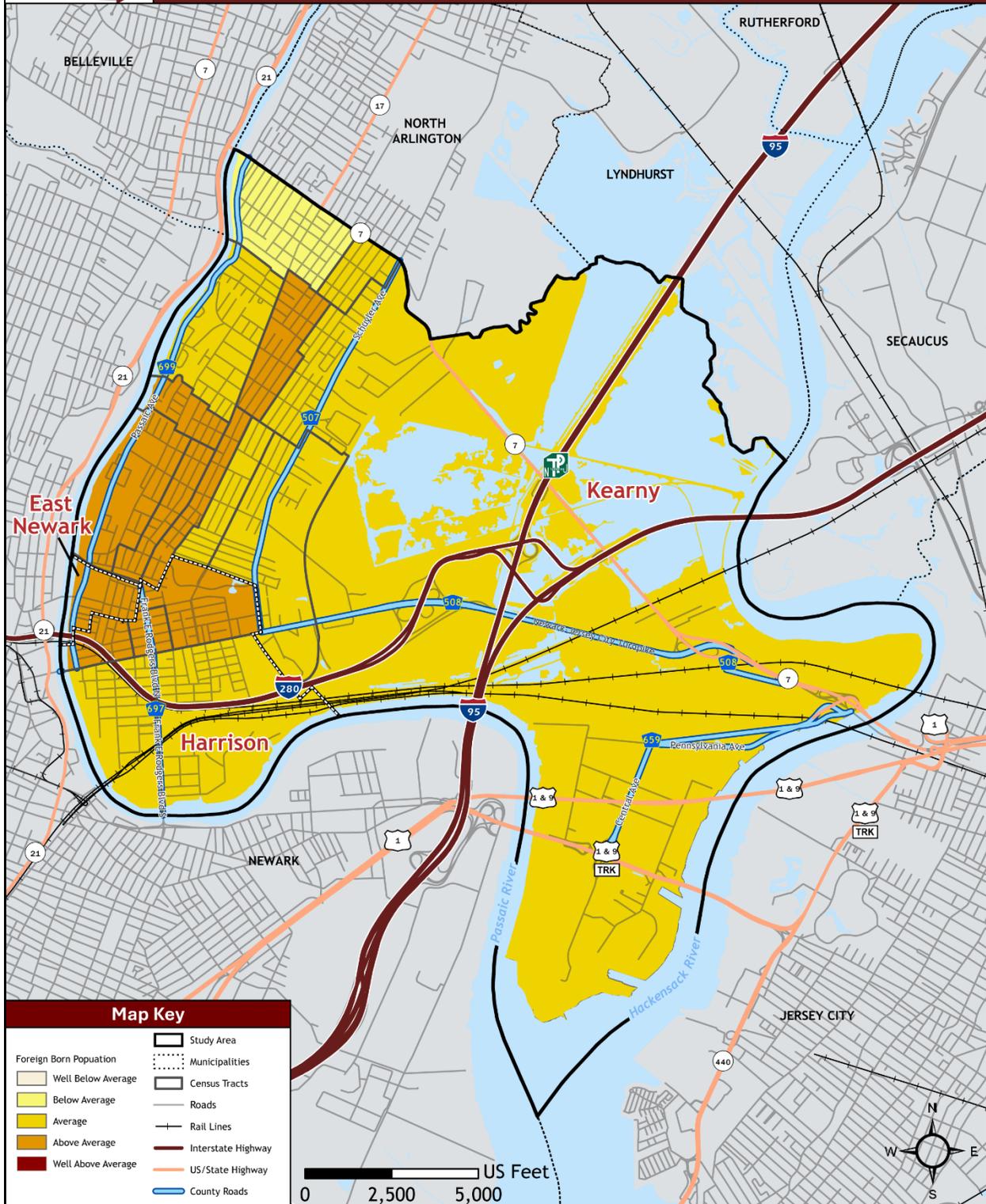
Figure 7: Foreign-Born Population, 2022

3.3.3 Low-Income

Low-income populations are defined as households whose income is less than or equal to twice the federal poverty level.[7] This segment of the population historically experiences higher rates of social isolation due to less access to transportation, lowered life expectancy due to higher rates of asthma, diabetes, other health-related conditions, lower earnings, a higher rate of unemployment, underemployment, lack of access to opportunities, and fewer mobility options.

Figure 8 shows Above Average concentrations in the following areas:

- northwestern Harrison
- East Newark
- western Kearny

The low-income population is close to County levels (29.3 percent compared to 29.8 percent, respectively) but higher than the NJTPA region (21.3 percent) and state (21.8 percent).

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[7] NJTPA. (2020). *Title VI and Environmental Justice Assessment Guide for Planning Studies*. NJTPA. Retrieved from Equity Resources: https://equity-resources-njtpa.hub.arcgis.com/
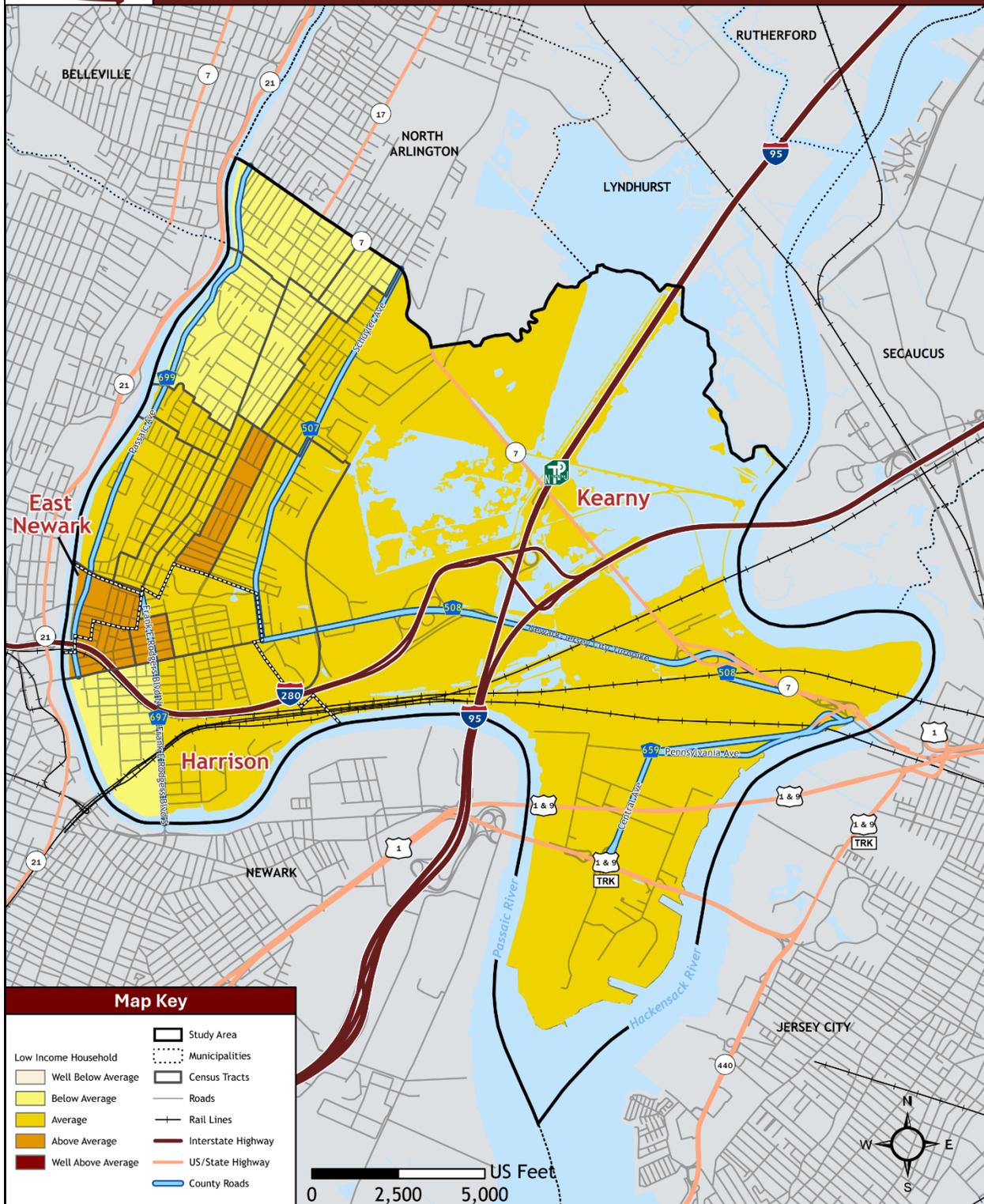
Figure 8: Low-Income Households, 2022

3.3.4 Limited English Proficiency

People with limited English proficiency include individuals who speak a language other than English at home and speak English "less than very well." This group represents populations who may need additional assistance, such as language translations, to participate and engage in programs, receive information, or provide input.[8] People in this category may experience higher rates of discrimination, lower earnings, a higher chance of unemployment or underemployment, social isolation, and lack of access to opportunities.

Figure 9 shows census tracts Well Above Average in:

- East Newark

Figure 9 shows census tracts Above Average in the following areas:

- northern Harrison
- western Kearny

East Newark's rate of limited English proficiency (45.1 percent) is Well Above Average. In general, the study area has a higher percentage of limited English proficiency (29.3 percent) compared to all three comparative regions: the County at 22.2 percent, the NJTPA region at 13.7 percent, and the state at 12.3 percent, respectively.

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[8] NJTPA. (2020). *Title VI and Environmental Justice Assessment Guide for Planning Studies*. NJTPA. Retrieved from Equity Resources: https://equity-resources-njtpa.hub.arcgis.com/
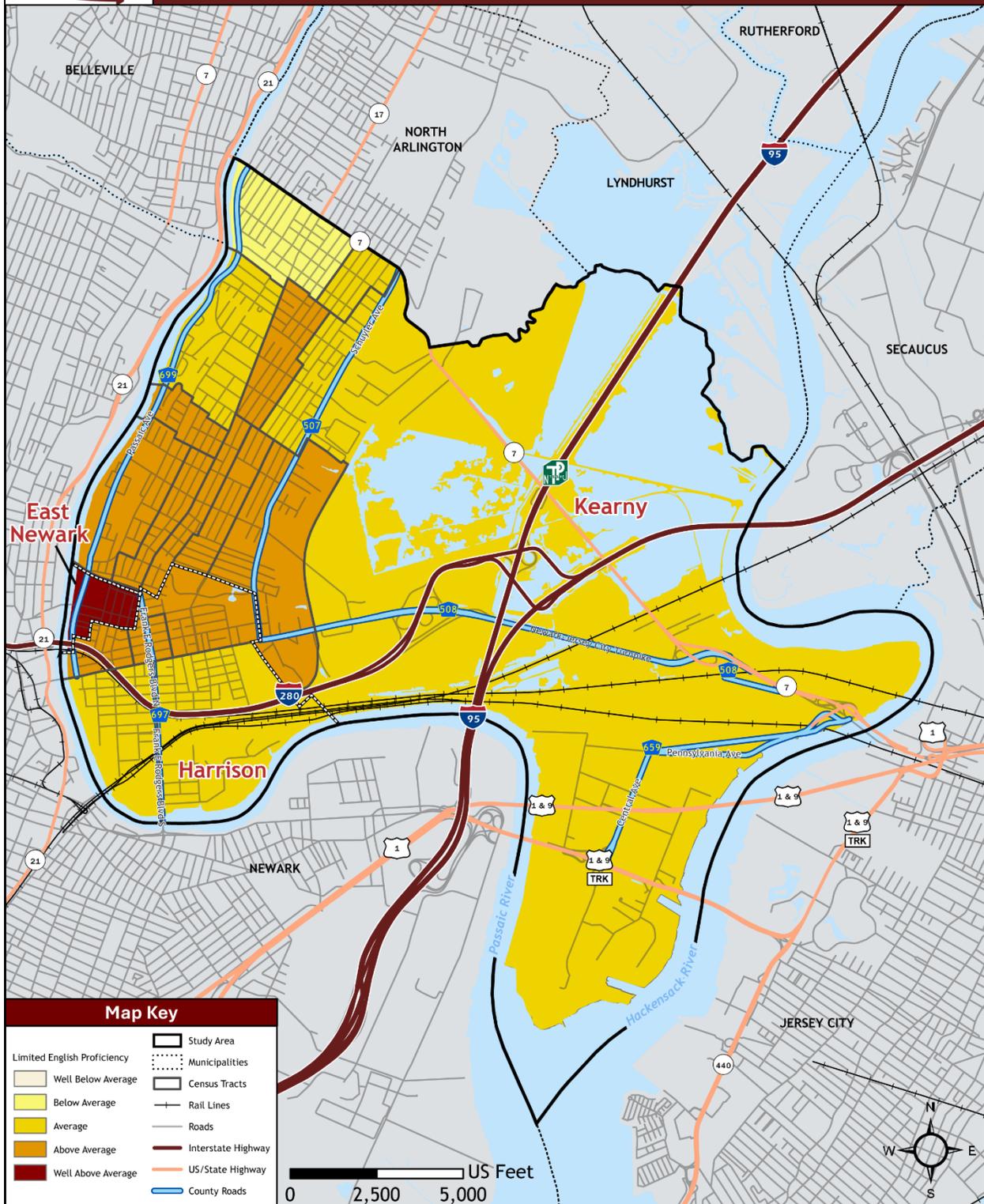
Figure 9: Population with Limited English Proficiency, 2022

3.3.5 Age

Consideration of age factors helps improve understanding of the unique needs of community members from different age groups. The age-specific needs may include proximity to amenities (like childcare, schools, parks, or adult living facilities) or accessibility to transit that can help inform the planning process.[9]

3.3.5.1 Age: Children Under 5

Children under five years old may experience fewer mobility options, physical mobility challenges, dependence on others for mobility, and physical vulnerability to crashes.

Figure 10 shows census tracts Well Above Average in the following areas:

- northern Kearny

Figure 10 shows census tracts Above Average in the following areas:

- northwest Kearny
- Kearny between Harrison and the Meadowlands
- northern Harrison along Frank E. Rodgers Boulevard

Despite some census tracts being Well Above Average and Above Average, the concentration of children under five years old in the study area is relatively similar to the three comparative regions. The study area has approximately six percent, while the County has approximately seven percent, the NJTPA region approximately six percent, and statewide approximately six percent.

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[9] NJTPA. (2020). *Title VI and Environmental Justice Assessment Guide for Planning Studies*. NJTPA. Retrieved from Equity Resources: https://equity-resources-njtpa.hub.arcgis.com/
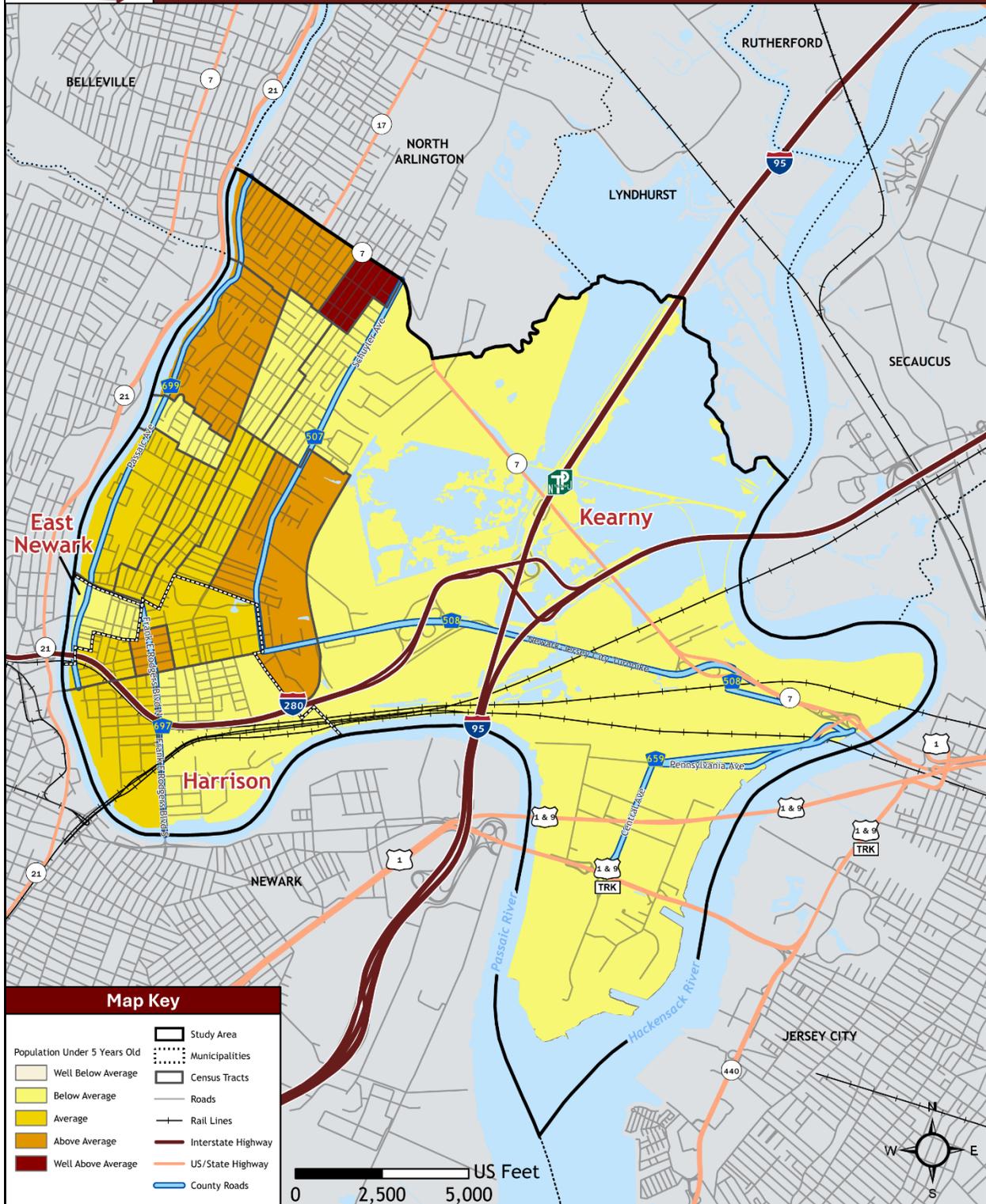
Figure 10: Population Under 5 Years Old, 2022

3.3.5.2   Age: Youth 5-17 Years Old

The school-aged population may experience fewer mobility options, dependence on others for mobility, lack of access to opportunities, social isolation due to financial and transportation dependence on others, and physical vulnerability to crashes.

Figure 11 shows census tracts Above Average in the following areas:

- East Newark
- northern Harrison
- western Kearny

The percentage of school-age children in the West Hudson study area (13.9 percent) is similar to Hudson County (13.6 percent) and lower than the NJTPA region (16.1 percent) and statewide (16.1 percent).

Each of the three municipalities in the West Hudson study area do not provide school buses to public school students. Students must walk, bike, or be driven to public schools. As many students walk or bike to school, providing infrastructure to schools for these non-motorized modes is a priority. Additionally, for the many students who are dropped off at school, it is important to have in place proper and efficient drop-off and pick-up procedures.
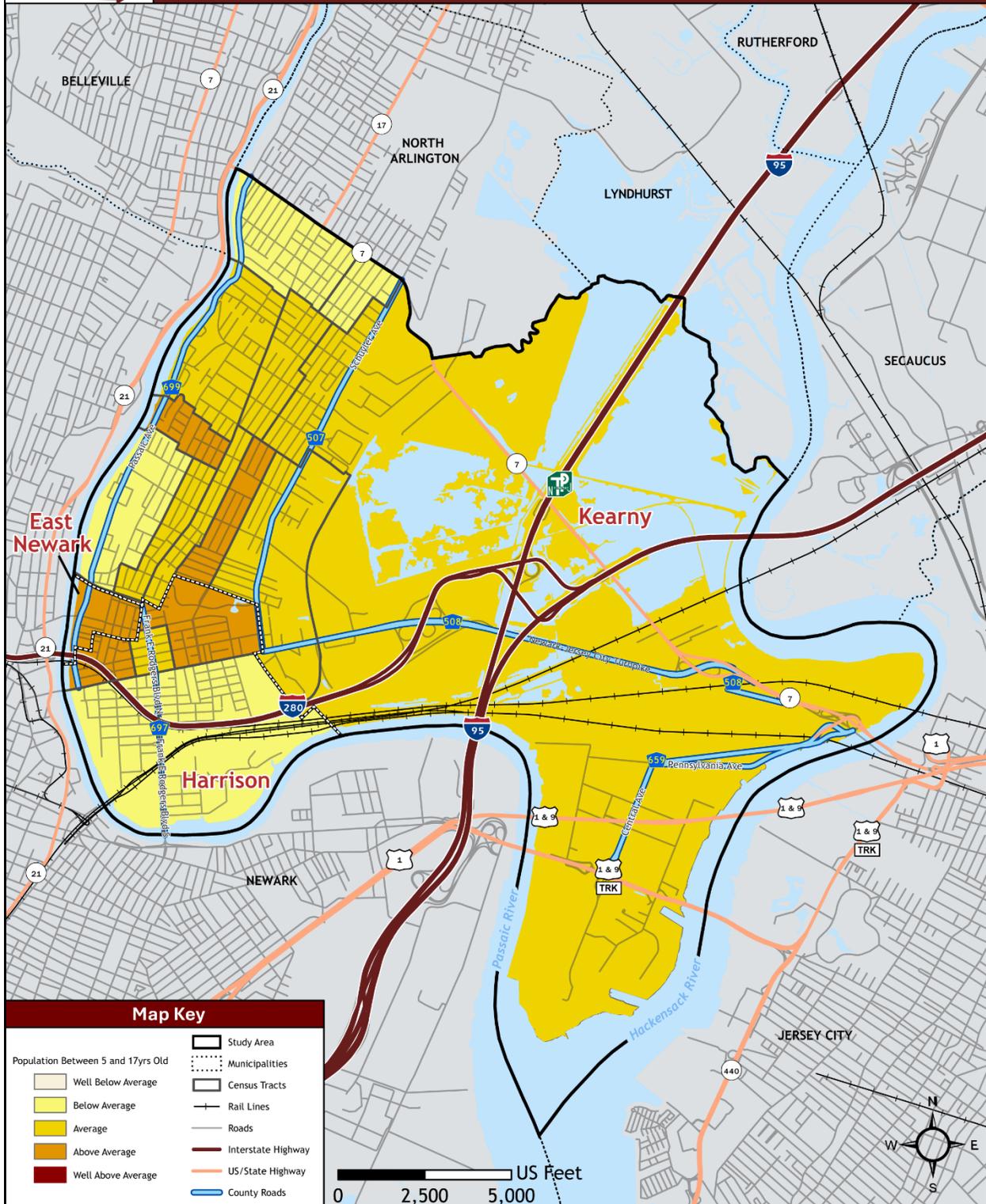
Figure 11: Population 5 to 17 Years Old, 2022

3.3.5.3　　　Age: People Over 65

The senior population historically experiences higher rates of discrimination, social isolation due to dependence on others for mobility, lack of access to opportunities, physical mobility challenges, fewer mobility options, and physical vulnerability to crashes.

Figure 12 shows census tracts Above Average in the following areas:

- northwestern Harrison
- western Kearny

The West Hudson study area has a similar concentration of people over 65 years old as Hudson County, 12.4 percent and 12.2 percent, respectively. This population concentration is lower than the NJTPA region (16.4 percent) and state (16.6 percent).
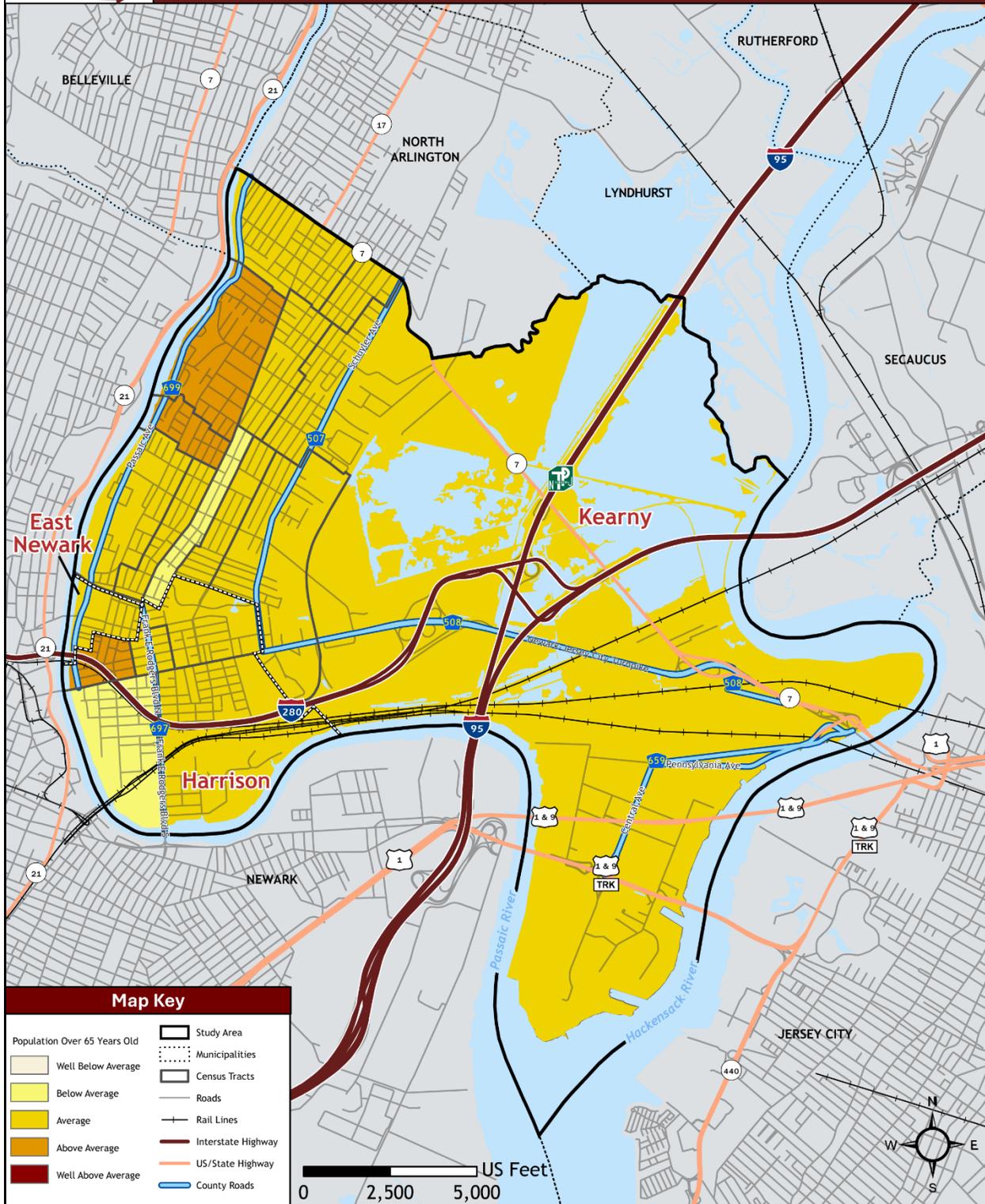
Figure 12: Population Over 65 Years, 2022

3.3.6 People with Disabilities

People with disabilities include any person who indicated having one or more physical or mental disabilities.[10] People with disabilities historically experience higher rates of discrimination, social isolation, physical mobility challenges, fewer mobility options, dependence on others for mobility, lack of access to opportunities, and physical vulnerability to crashes. This factor is vital in considering the needs and impacts of improvements on persons with disabilities and helps ensure inclusivity in planning and outreach processes.

Figure 13 shows that all census tracts in the study area have an Average percentage of people with disabilities except one in Kearny which has a Below Average concentration.

The percentage of people with disabilities in the West Hudson study area is 7.9 percent, while in the County it is 8.6 percent, the NJTPA region is 9.8 percent, and the state is 10.6 percent.

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[10] NJTPA. (2020). *Title VI and Environmental Justice Assessment Guide for Planning Studies.* NJTPA. Retrieved from Equity Resources: https://equity-resources-njtpa.hub.arcgis.com/
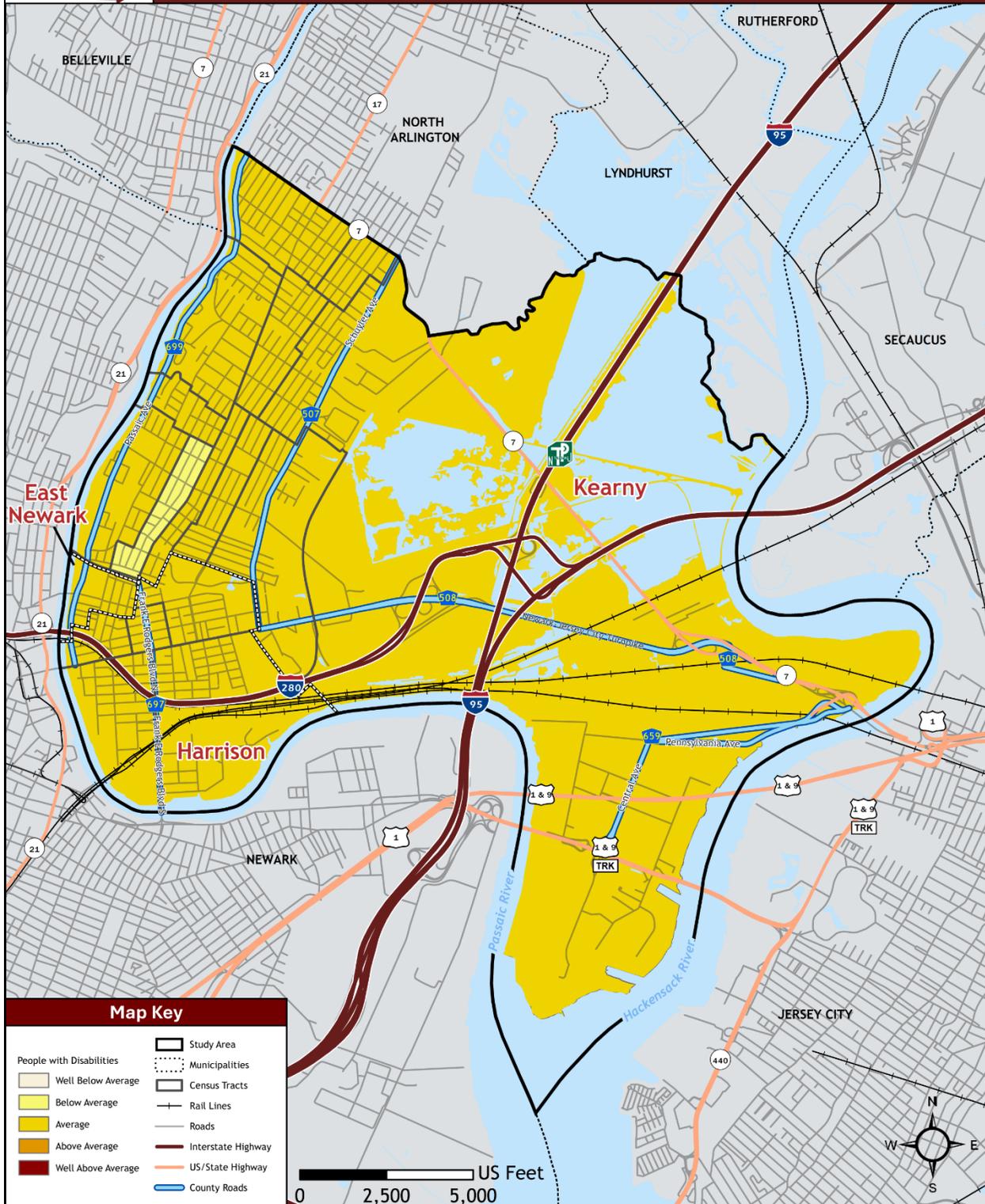
Figure 13: People with Disabilities, 2022

3.3.7 Female Population

This factor includes individuals who identified themselves as female.[11] The female segment of the population historically experiences higher rates of discrimination, lack of access to opportunities, fewer mobility options, and added personal safety concerns.

Figure 14 indicates that several census tracts in the following areas score Above Average:

- East Newark
- southeast Harrison
- Portions of northwest Kearny

The concentration of the female population in the West Hudson study area (48.0 percent) is similar to the County (49.9 percent), the NJTPA region (50.7 percent), and state (50.7 percent).

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[11] NJTPA. (2020). *Title VI and Environmental Justice Assessment Guide for Planning Studies*. NJTPA. Retrieved from Equity Resources: https://equity-resources-njtpa.hub.arcgis.com/
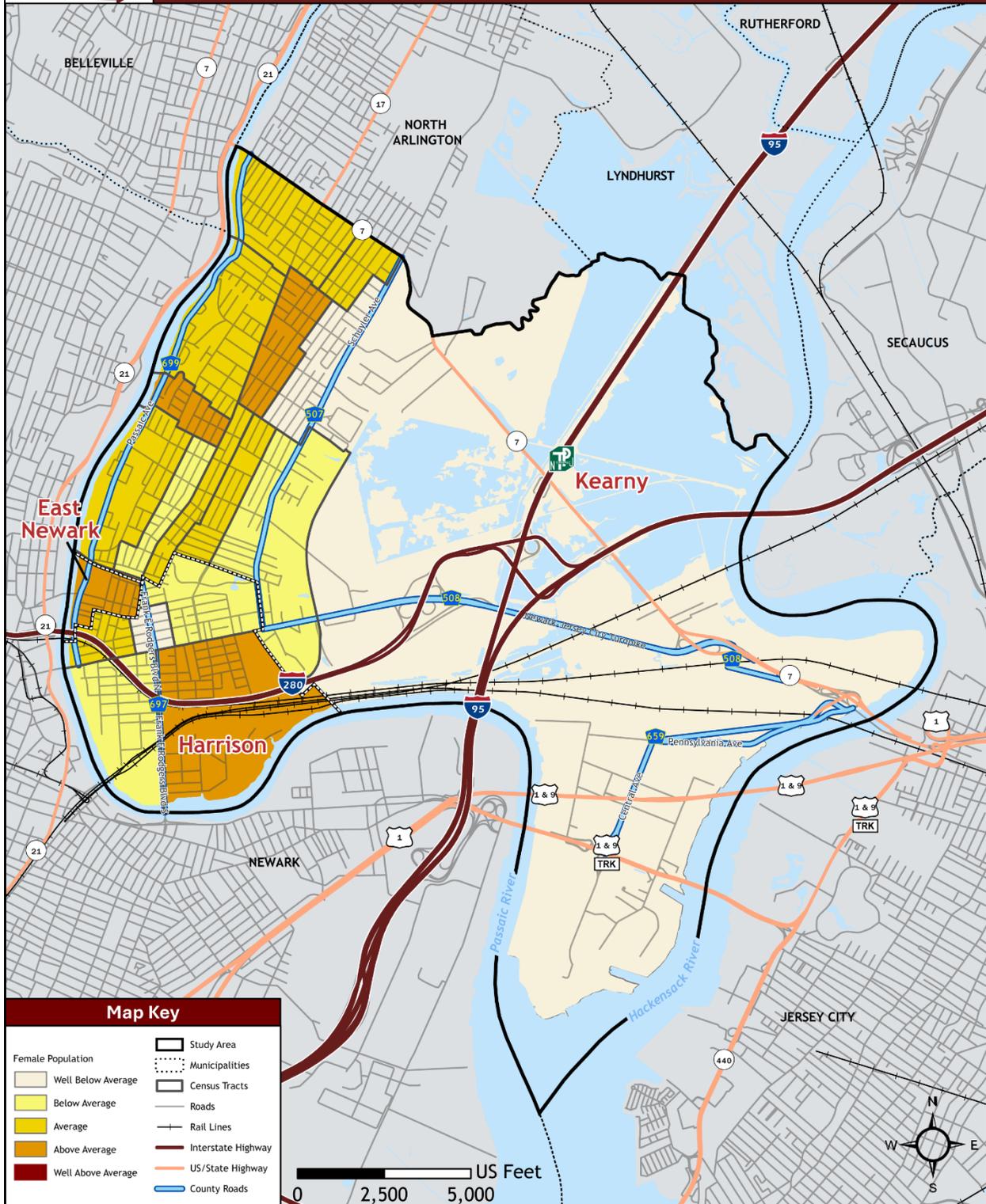
Figure 14: Female Population, 2022

3.3.9 Less Than High School Education

This factor includes all adults ages 25 and older who are not high school graduates (or equivalent). People in this category may fewer options for obtaining employment.

Figure 15 shows census tracts Above Average in the following areas:

- eastern Harrison
- western and northern Kearny

Figure 15 shows census tracts Well Above Average in the following areas:

- East Newark

The percentage of adults without a high school education is higher in the West Hudson study area (15.1 percent) than the County (12.8 percent), the NJTPA region (9.3 percent), and state (10.0 percent).

Figure 15: Less Than High School Education, 2022

3.4 Underserved Communities

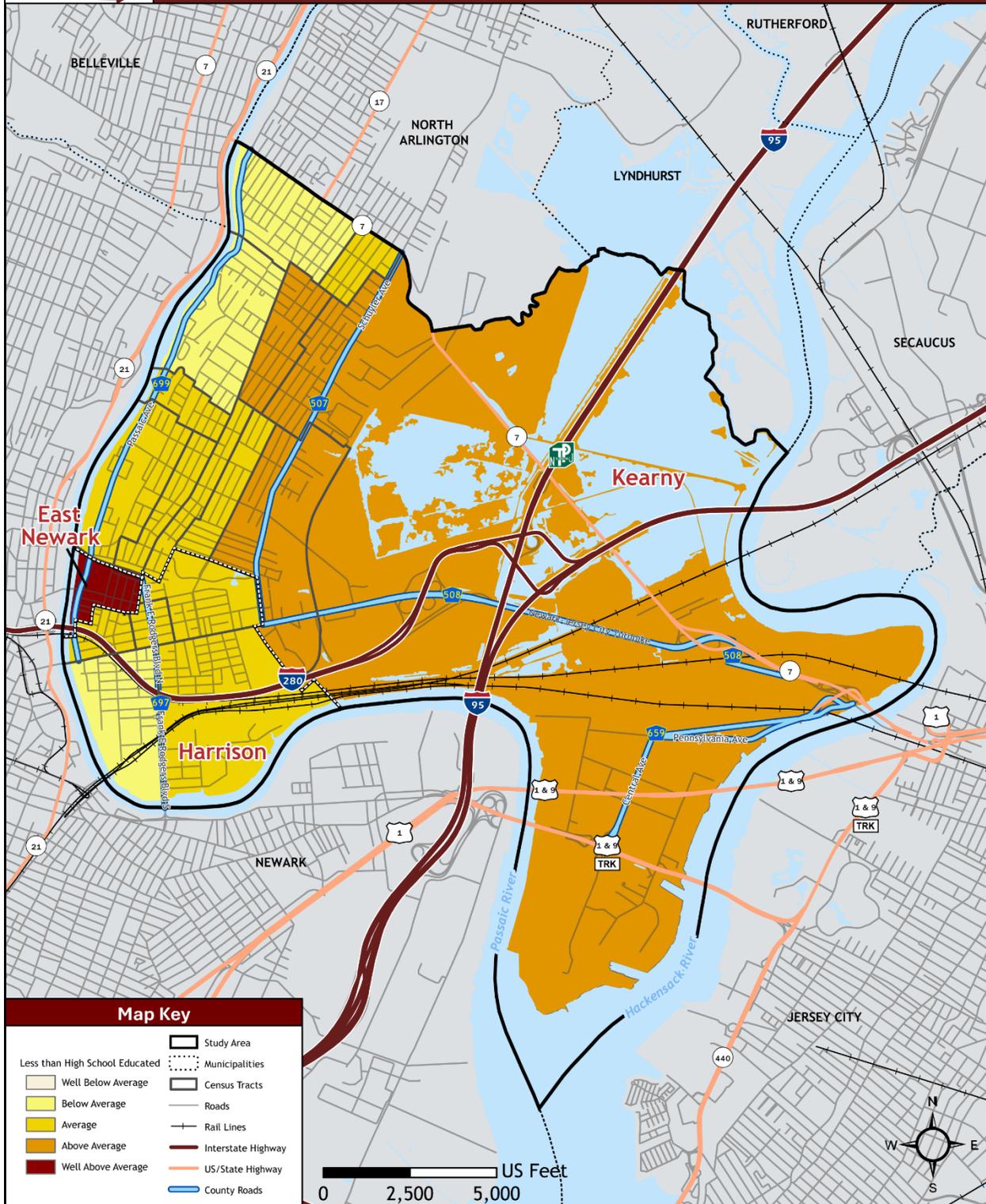Census tracts home to higher concentrations of underserved communities (combining the ten equity indicators discussed above) are mapped in Figure 16, highlighted in orange. Underserved communities in the West Hudson study area are concentrated in and around East Newark. These areas have composite equity scores ranging from 23 to 27 on a scale where 40 represents the highest possible score and zero (0) the lowest. Table 3 lists the composite equity scores for all study area census tracts. Tracts are sorted by municipality and equity score.

Note: The analysis at the census tract level does not represent the spatial distribution of populations within a tract. This would require an understanding of local land uses, local knowledge, and findings from the stakeholder and community outreach process when looking at more detailed geographic levels, such as block groups or blocks. Census data for these geographies are less reliable than data for census tracts.
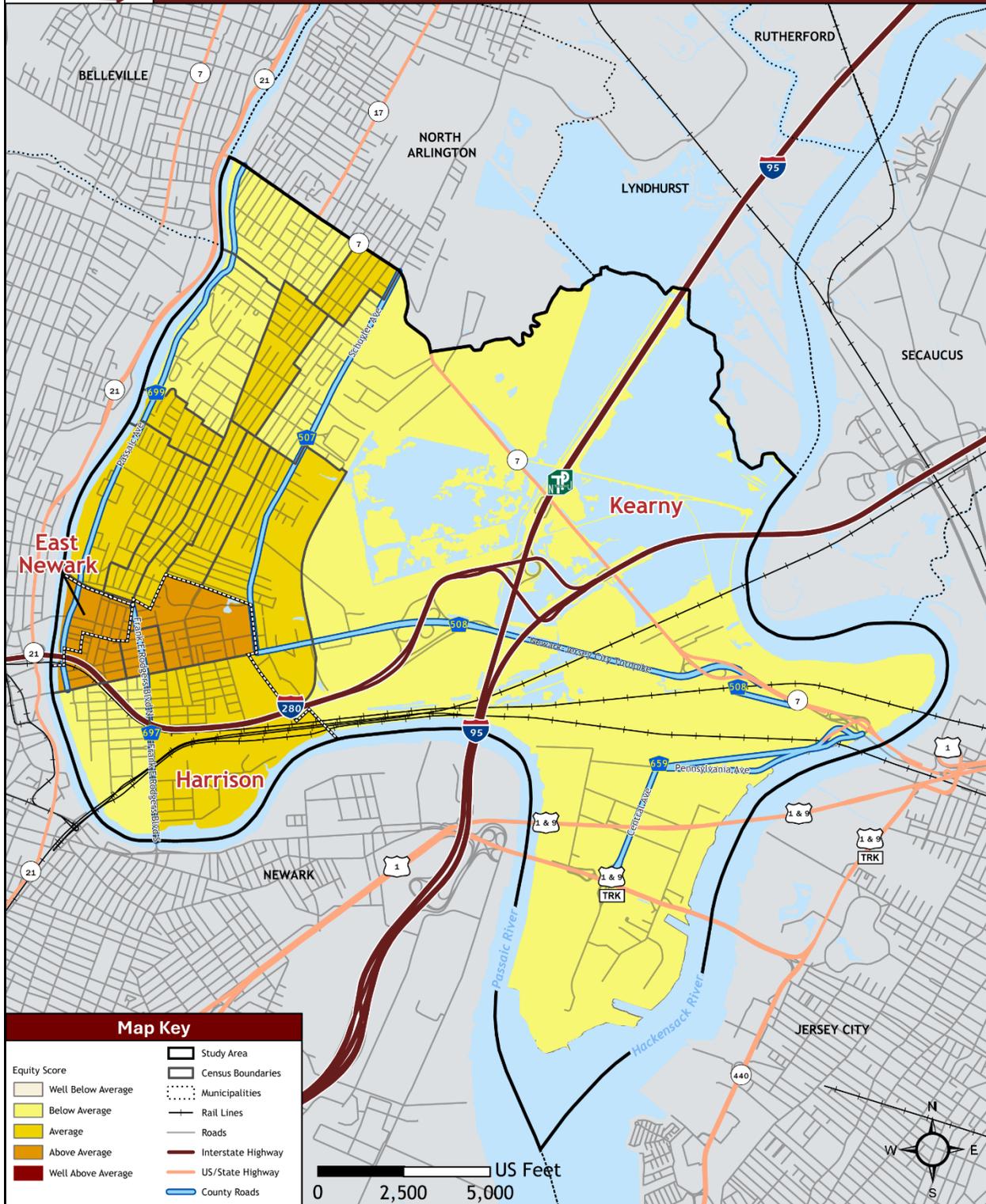
Figure 16: Underserved Communities, Composite Scores - 2022

Table 3: Census Tracts in the West Hudson Study Area, 2022

Municipality	Census Tract (CT)	Composite Equity Score	Composite Equity Designation
East Newark	134	27	Above Average
Harrison	135	23	Above Average
	136	23	Above Average
	137	25	Above Average
	138	15	Below Average
	139	19	Average
Kearny	123	19	Average
	124	15	Below Average
	125	19	Below Average
	126	21	Average
	127	18	Below Average
	128	21	Average
	129	23	Average
	130	22	Average
	131	24	Average
	132	20	Average
	133	21	Average

All census tracts in the West Hudson study area, except one, score Above Average or Well Above Average for at least one category. The maximum score for each census tract across all variables is mapped in Figure 17. This data conveys that although only four census tracts score Above Average overall, nearly all census tracts in the West Hudson study area are home to an underserved community.
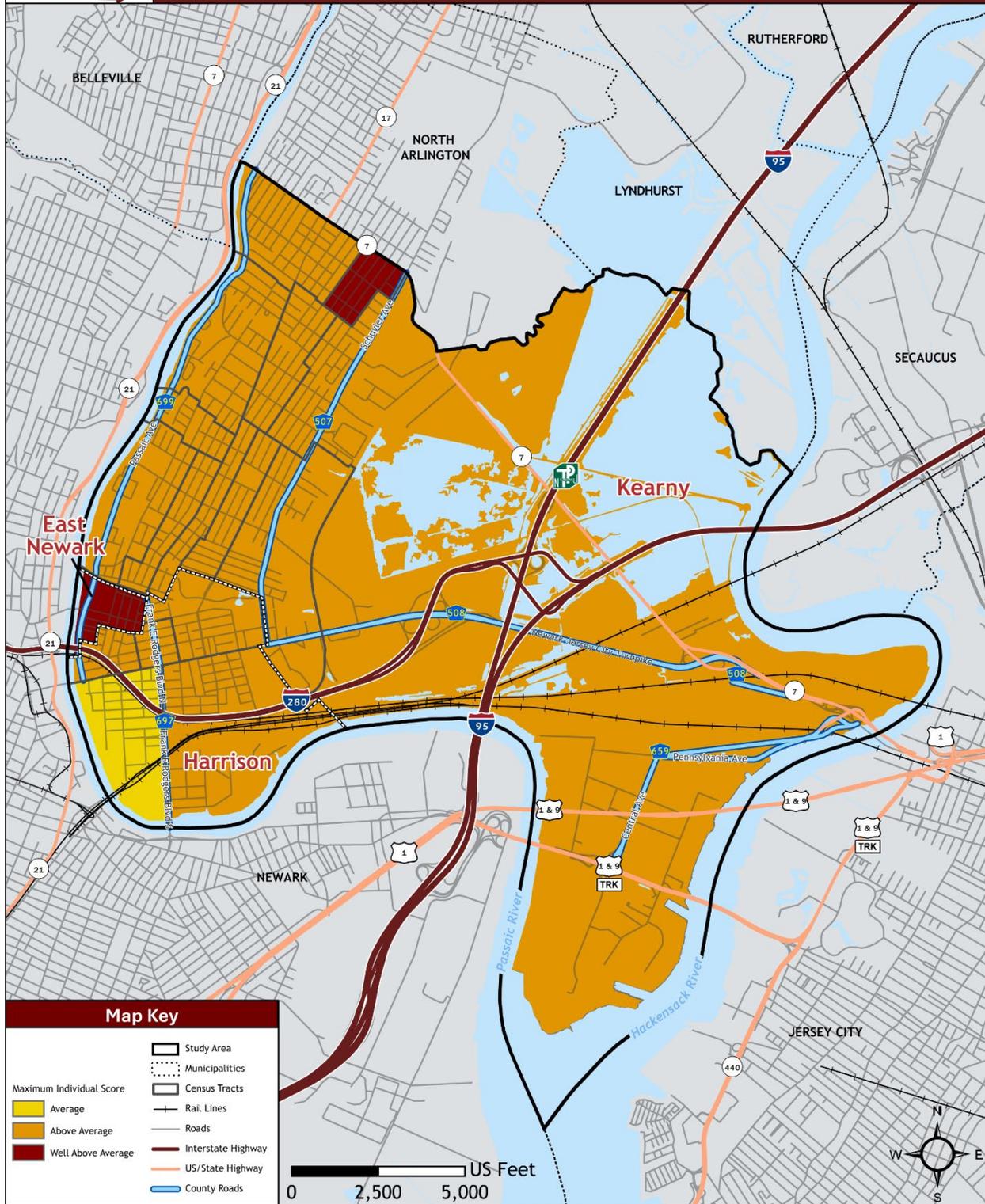
Figure 17: Maximum Individual Score, 2022

4. Implications for Public Outreach and Community Needs

4.1 Public Outreach

Based on the mapping and analysis above, additional attention to public outreach efforts have been targeted in East Newark and the surrounding communities, where there are multiple underserved communities. These additional outreach efforts include translating study materials, participating in pop-up events, and distributing materials in these areas. Census tracts ranking highly in multiple underserved communities are mapped in Figure 16.

Outreach efforts have also focused on underserved communities with different densities and contexts (e.g., more urbanized in Harrison and surrounding area and more suburban in northern Kearny), as their circulation needs can vary. While public transit is a concern throughout the populated portions of the West Hudson study area, the demand for public transit, and significance of automobile ownership, varies between the more urban and suburban portions of the area. Additionally, some outreach strategies, formats, and methods are more effective with some underserved communities than others and have been customized to best engage the intended groups. For example, translated materials have been translated into Spanish and Portuguese, the two most commonly spoken non-English languages in the study area, to engage effectively with LEP populations. In-person outreach can reach more people, particularly those who are not comfortable using newer engagement methods or who do not have smartphones. The project's Public Involvement Action Plan is a resource for additional, more specific details of what outreach and engagement efforts have been conducted.

4.2 Community Needs

The equity analysis provides an understanding of the unique needs that underserved communities and people who identify with any of the equity indicators may have. Recommendations should be conceived, developed, and designed with these needs in mind, particularly in locations with high proportions of one or more of the below underserved communities. Each of the equity indicators analyzed in this document identify the needs of communities facing challenges associated with that indicator. These can include social isolation, lower life expectancy, lack of access to employment, and fewer mobility options. Recommendations developed as part of this study will, in part, aim to address these equity challenges.

5.   Conclusion

The West Hudson study area's underserved communities are concentrated in and around East Newark although residents meeting the criteria of the various equity indicators are located throughout the West Hudson study area. These communities score Above Average for multiple equity factors compared to Hudson County. The overall scores indicating a census tract's presence of underserved communities are mapped in Figure 16. Public engagement considerations have and study recommendations should consider the following:

- Study recommendations should consider the needs of low-income communities to potentially increase access to jobs.
- Meeting materials have been translated into other languages, based on the particular language needs of limited-English proficiency residents. Additional analysis revealed that some of the most commonly spoken non-English languages in the West Hudson Study Area are Spanish, Portuguese, and Chinese.
- Where feasible, public meetings have been held near public transit to better allow people without access to an automobile to attend and participate.
- A mix of events have been utilized, including virtual and in-person, as well as a mix of engagement tools that allow for online and hand-written comments.
- Additional public outreach efforts have been focused on the underserved communities of East Newark and north Harrison. While these two municipalities/areas have the highest prevalence of underserved communities, various underserved communities are located throughout the study area (as illustrated and listed earlier in this document for individual equity indicators) and have been considered in the outreach process.

Each equity indicator has associated inequities, which can be at least partially addressed through proactive planning and infrastructure investment. The equity analysis gives a broad indication of what needs equity priority communities and/or individuals who fall under the ten equity indicator categories may have. Projects should be conceived, developed, and designed with these needs in mind, particularly in locations with high concentrations of one or more equity groups.

A full list of census tracts with their score of equity indicators (based on methodology shown in Table 1) is provided in Table 4. Those census tracts that scored Above Average are at the top of the table, while those with lower scores are at the bottom. Areas with much higher levels of particular underserved communities are shown in orange. Grey cells indicate lower proportions.

Table 4: Equity Indicator Concentrations by Census Tract, 2022

| Census Tract | Municipality | Equity Indicators | | | | | | | | | | Score Category |
		Minority	Foreign-Born	Low Income	LEP	Age Over 65	Age Under 5	Ages 5 to 17	Disabled	Female	No HS Degree	
134	East Newark	2	3	3	4	2	1	3	2	3	4	Above
137	Harrison	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	Above
136	Harrison	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	0	2	Above
135	Harrison	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	1	2	Above
130	Kearny	3	3	2	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	Average
129	Kearny	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	Average
131	Kearny	2	3	2	3	3	1	3	2	3	2	Average
133	Kearny	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	Average
139	Harrison	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	3	2	Average
128	Kearny	1	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	3	Average
126	Kearny	1	3	1	3	2	1	2	2	3	3	Average
132	Kearny	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	2	Average
123	Kearny	2	1	1	2	2	4	1	2	2	2	Average
125	Kearny	1	2	1	2	3	3	2	2	2	1	Below
127	Kearny	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	0	3	Below
138	Harrison	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	Below
124	Kearny	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	2	1	Below