

HISPANIC POPULATION RVAMPO Demographic Profile



FY 2004-2005

Introduction

Staff of the Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC), the lead staffing agency of the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (RVAMPO), is in the process of generating a series of demographic profiles to identify special needs populations in the region. One such special needs population that is constantly growing and increasing at a fairly rapid rate is the Hispanic cultural population.

Before delving into statistical figures, some background information is in order. Federal non-discrimination authorities provide for the protection of several special needs populations from either intentional or unintentional discrimination by any federal agency or recipient/sub-recipient of federal funds. Specifically, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its implementing regulations prohibit recipients of federal financial assistance from intentionally or unintentionally discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin. Protections regarding national origin would certainly cover portions of the Hispanic population.

What does this mean to the RVAMPO?

The RVAMPO must take steps to ensure that it is not unintentionally discriminating against any special needs group, as defined by the federal government, in any of its activities. The most likely scenario for any unintentional discrimination might involve a recommendation in a transportation plan that would lead to a disproportionate impact on a racial or cultural minority population. Therefore, RVAMPO staff must consult these demographic profiles when conducting planning exercises and studies to ensure that such groups are not affected disproportionately. These profiles should also be provided to the MPO Policy Board and to advisory committees as information in the decision-making process. Another implication of the Title VI regulations for the RVAMPO is that staff must attempt to keep minority groups informed regarding upcoming public meetings and comment sessions.

Information of the type included in this demographic profile can also be used to better target community outreach efforts made to minority groups. If it is identified early on in the planning process that a minority neighborhood would be particularly affected by a project or measure being considered in a plan, then special means can be used to attempt to attract that group's participation and input in the planning process.

The RVAMPO Hispanic population is currently small in terms of proportional size. Within the RVAMPO study area, 2,769 respondents answered that they belong to the Hispanic cultural group in the 2000 Census. Therefore, the Hispanic population currently makes up 1.14% of the RVAMPO area population. There are, however, significant concentrations in certain block groups within the RVAMPO service area. Map 1 shows the numbers of Hispanic persons per block group and Map 2 shows the percentage of Hispanic persons within each block group.

These can be used for planning purposes to ensure that certain, planned projects do not lead to high and disproportionate impacts upon an increasingly important cultural minority group.

MPO staff recommends that the MPO review this profile when conducting planning exercises and preparing plans to ensure that the Hispanic group is not disproportionately affected by any planned projects. Furthermore, it is recommended that this profile be used to target minority outreach/public involvement efforts made by MPO staff.

With these measures, the MPO should not only be in compliance with Title VI provisions dealing with national origin, but also will be ensuring that all regional citizens are getting their fair chance to voice their opinions and have input into the transportation planning process.

APPENDIX

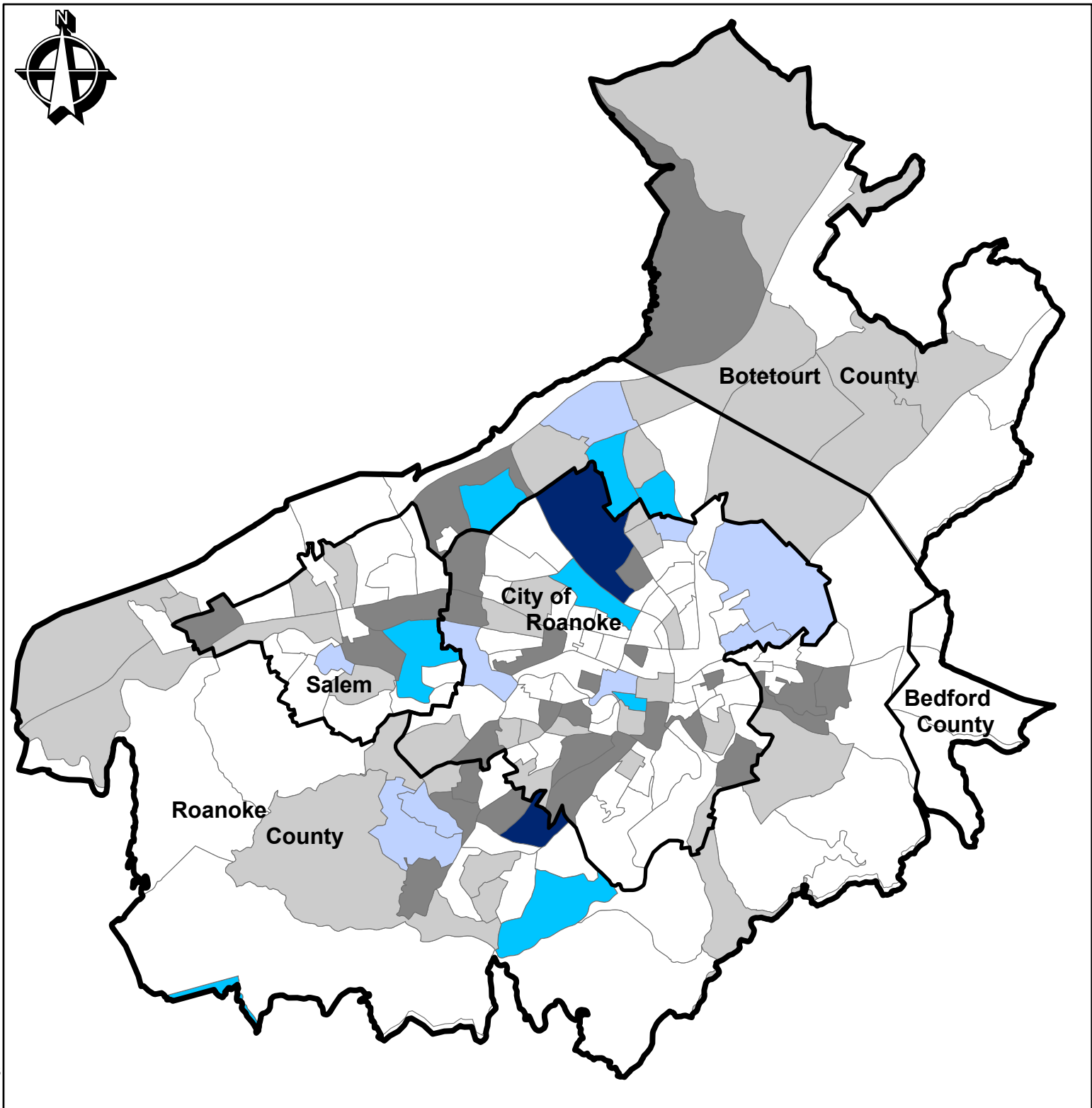
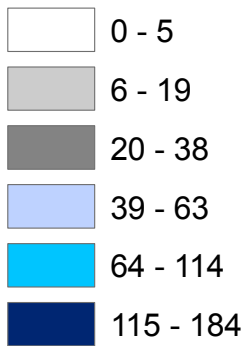
Demographic Profile



Map 1
Hispanic Persons
By Block Group
Within MPO
2025 Study Area

Legend

Numbers of Hispanic Persons



Demographic Profile



Map 2
Percent Hispanic
By Block Group
Within MPO
2025 Study Area

Percent Hispanic

