

What is Rural?

An Overview of Urban/Rural Geographies and Classifications

Jennifer Zaroni

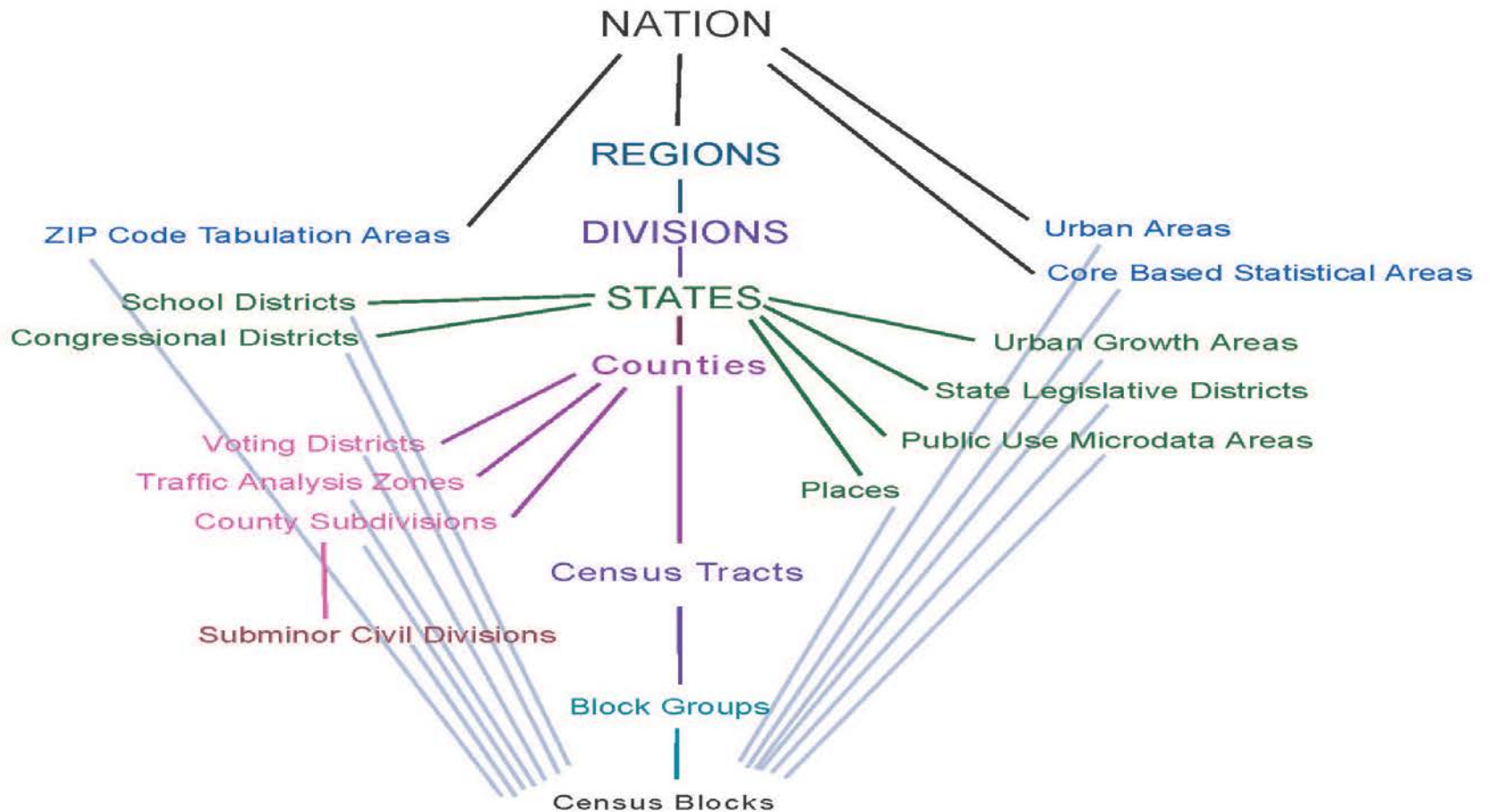
**Geography Division
U.S. Census Bureau**

**Albuquerque, New Mexico
November 15, 2018**

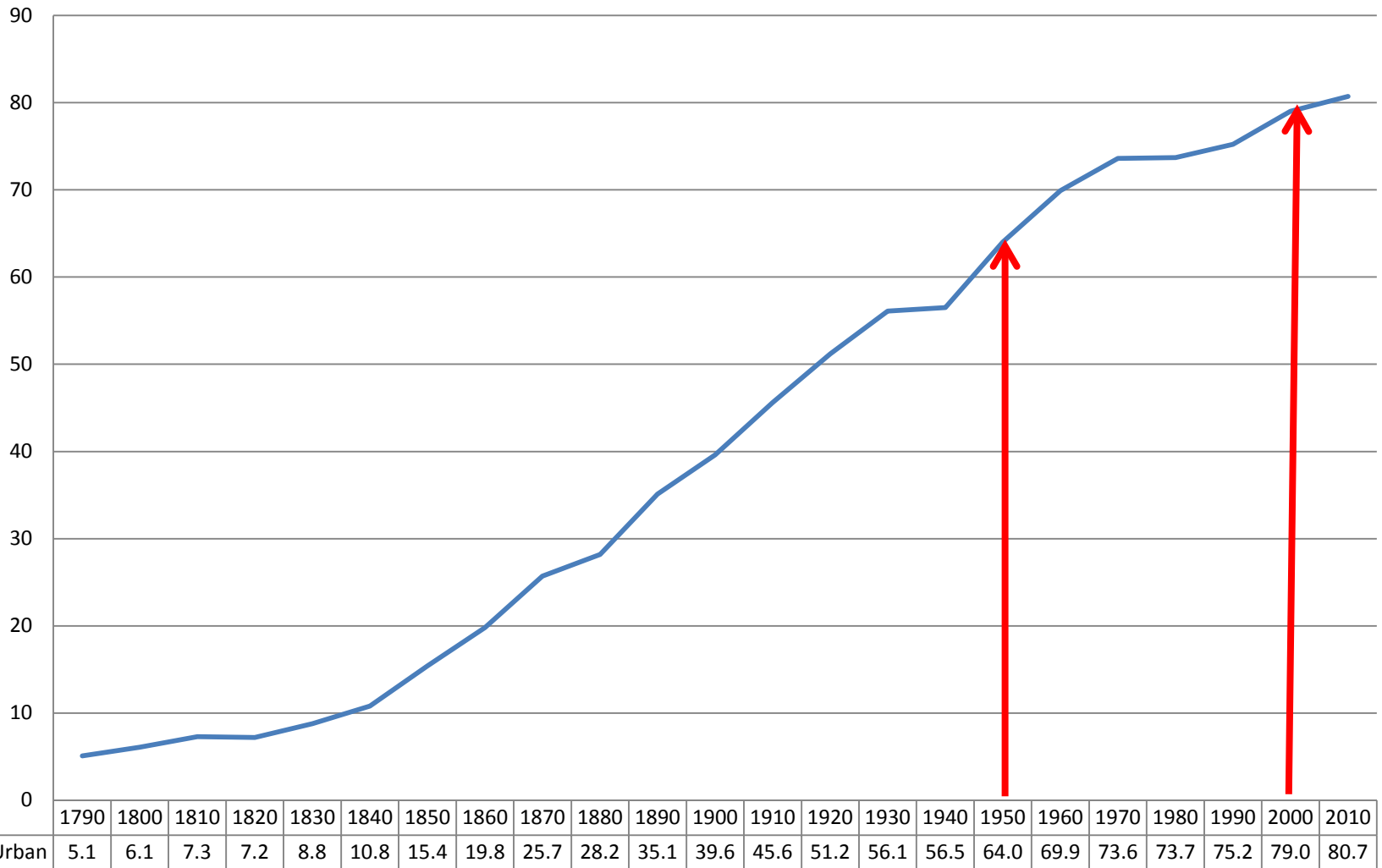
Agenda

- Census Geography
- Urban/Rural Definitions
- County-based Demographics
- 2020 Census
- Questions

Standard Hierarchy of Census Geographic Entities



Urban Population as a Percentage of Total US Population, 1790-2010



1950: urbanized areas of 50,000+ adopted.
 2000: urban clusters of 2,500-49,999 adopted.

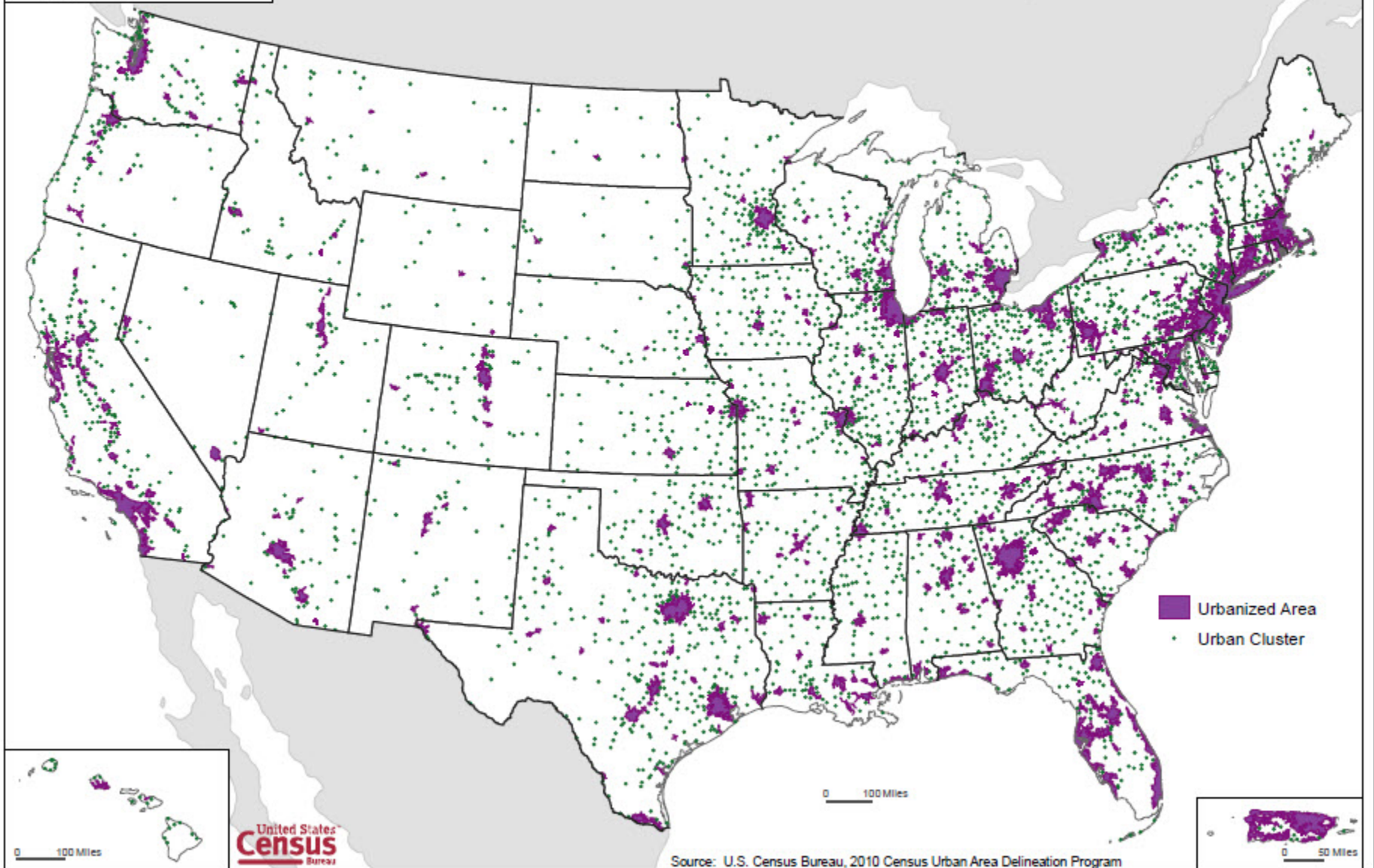
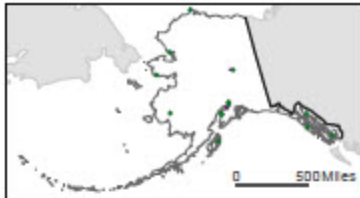
Census Bureau designated Urban Areas

- Delineated decennially
- Two types of urban areas:
 - Urbanized Areas (UAs) of 50,000 or more people
 - Urban Clusters (UCs) of at least 2,500 and less than 50,000 people

Urban and Rural Population in the United States: 2000 and 2010

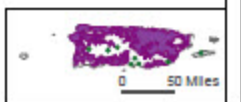
	2000 Population	2000 Percent	2010 Population	2010 Percent
Urban	222,360,539	79.0	249,253,271	80.7
Urbanized Area	192,323,824	68.3	219,922,123	71.2
Urban Cluster	30,036,715	10.7	29,331,148	9.5
Rural	59,061,367	21.0	59,492,267	19.3

Urbanized Areas and Urban Clusters: 2010

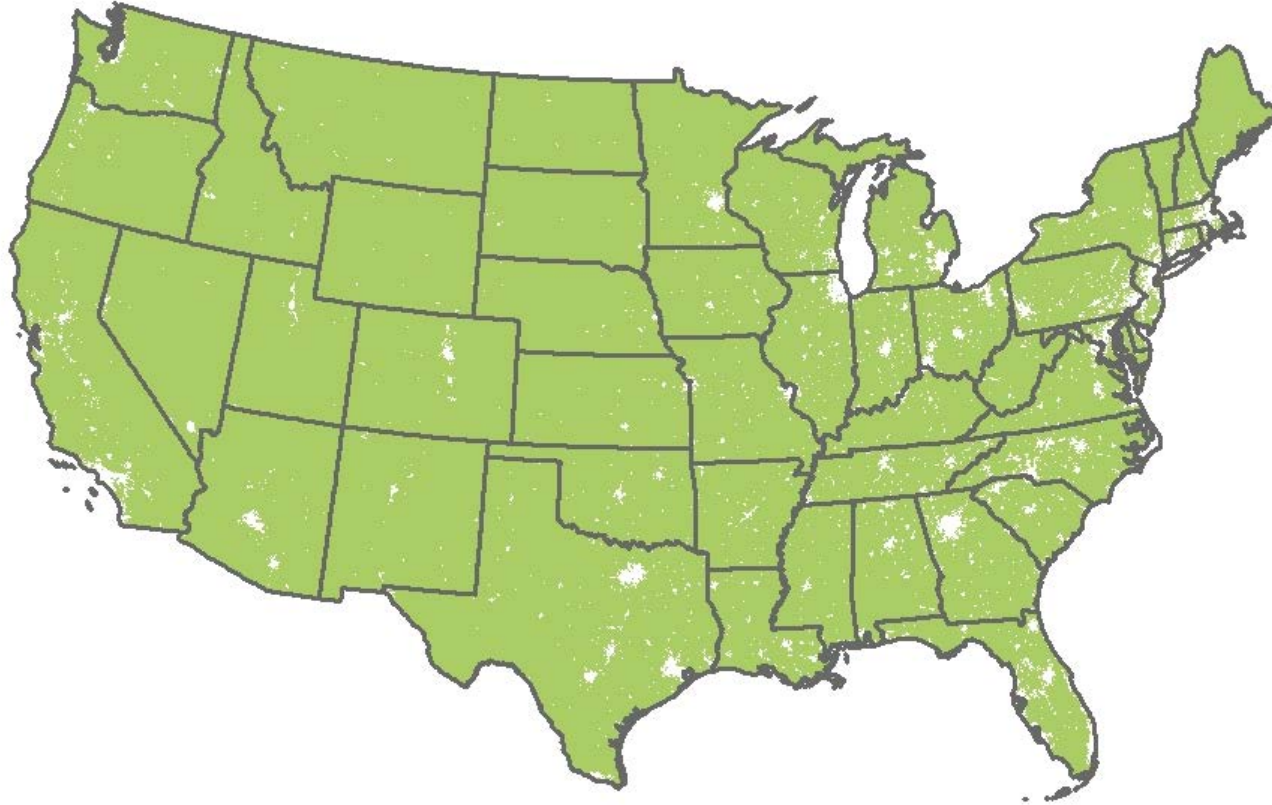


United States
Census
Bureau

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Urban Area Delineation Program

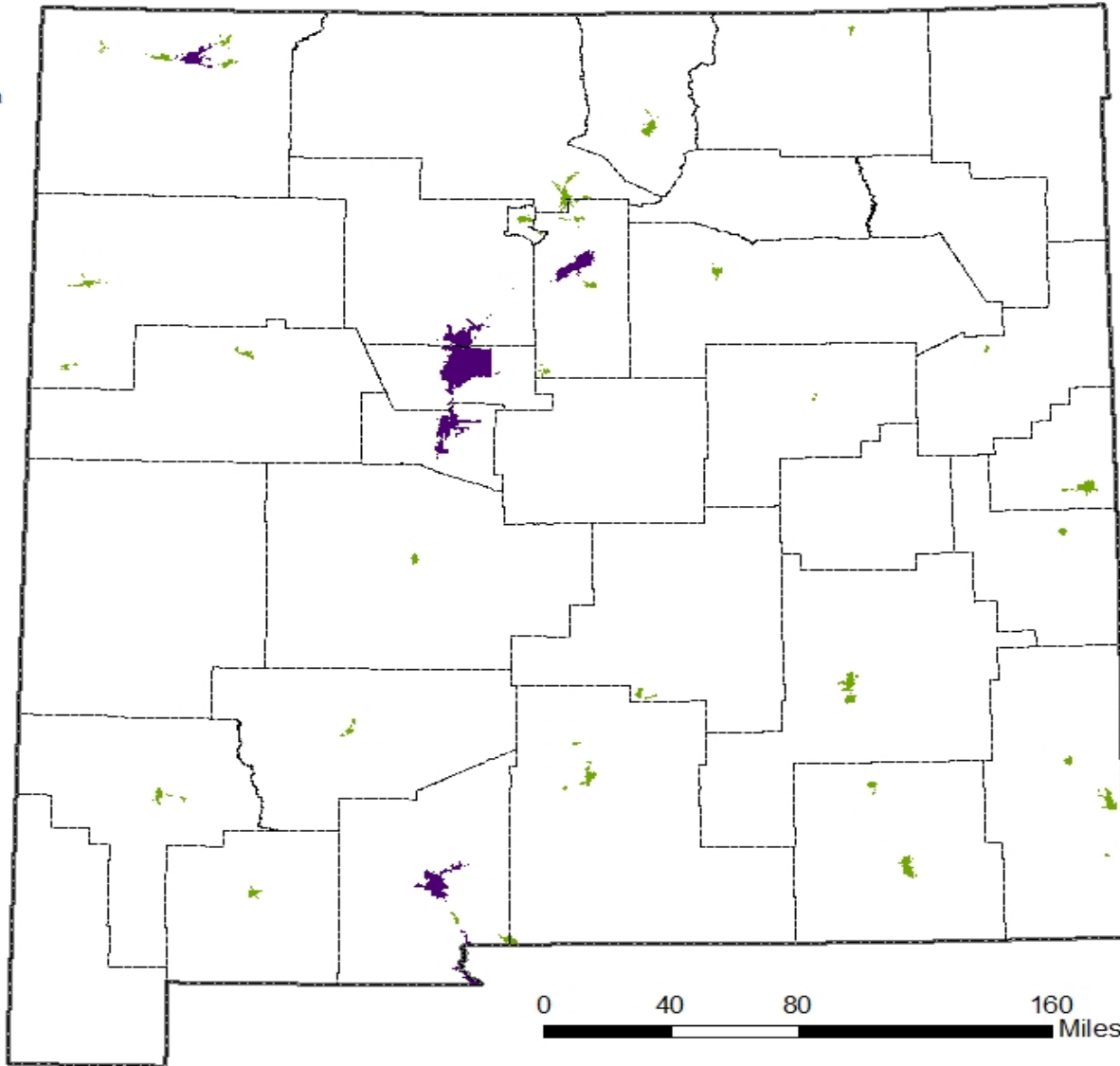


Rural Land Area vs. Rural Population: 2010

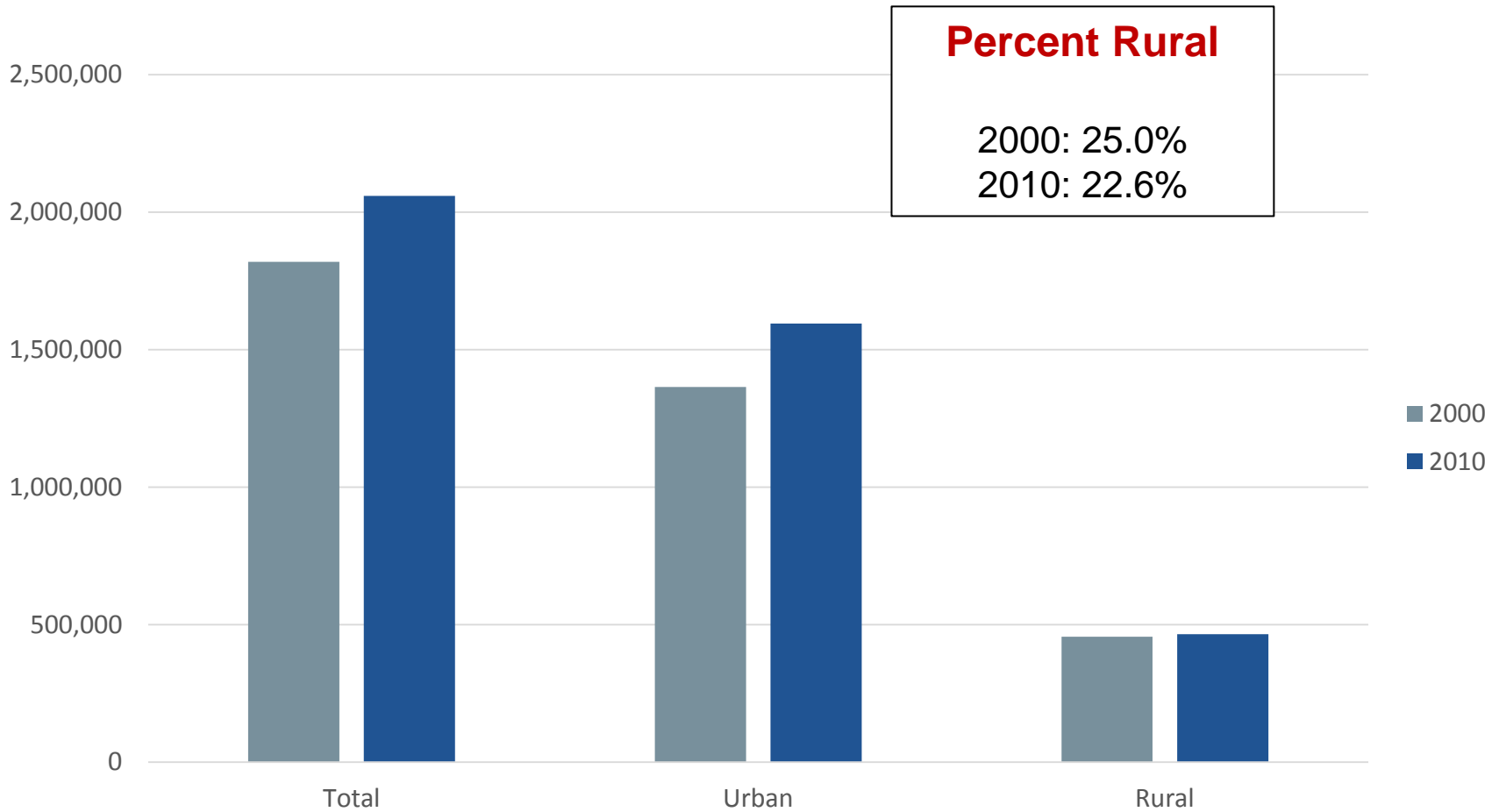


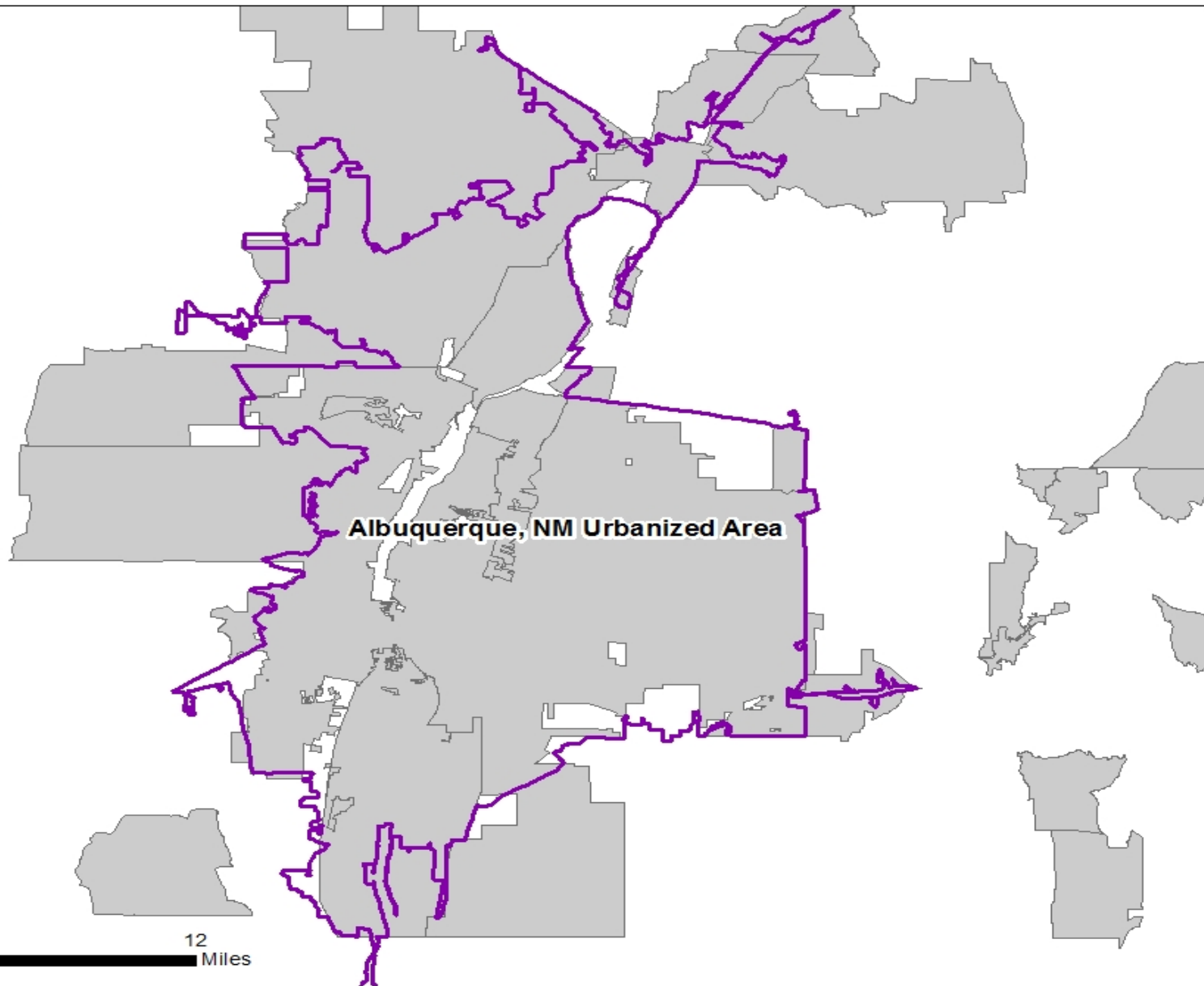
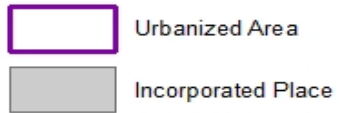
	Land Area percent	Population percent
Urban	3.0	80.7
Rural	97.0	19.3

2010 New Mexico Urban Areas

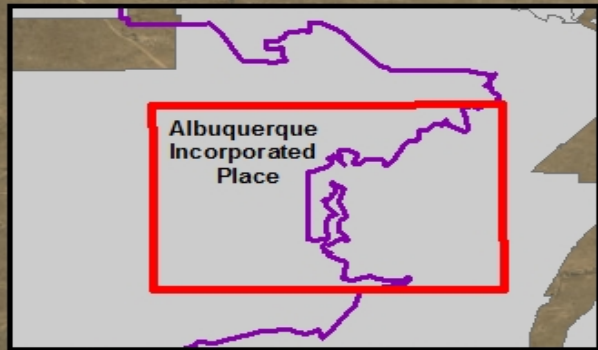


Urban/Rural Population: New Mexico



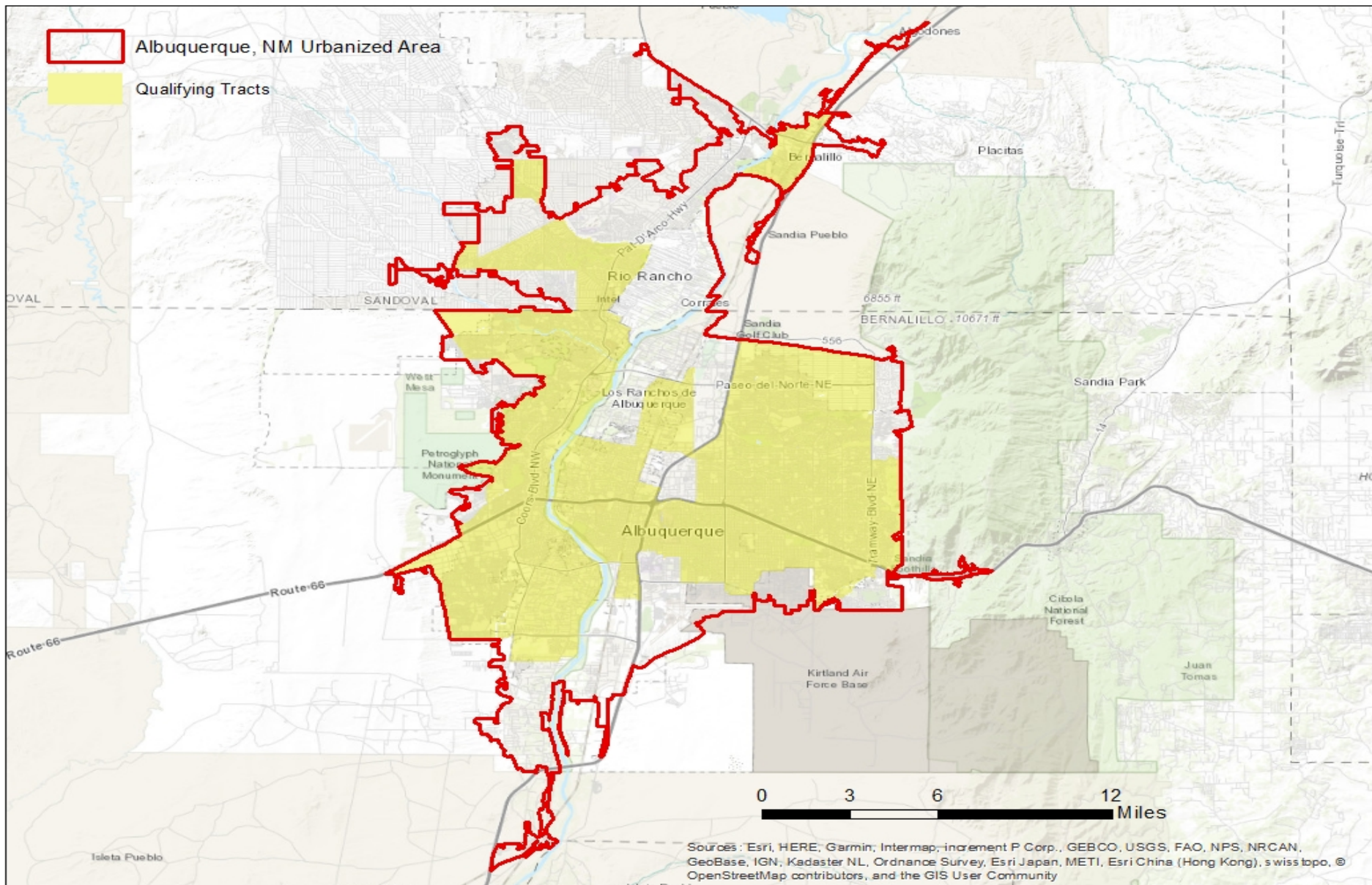


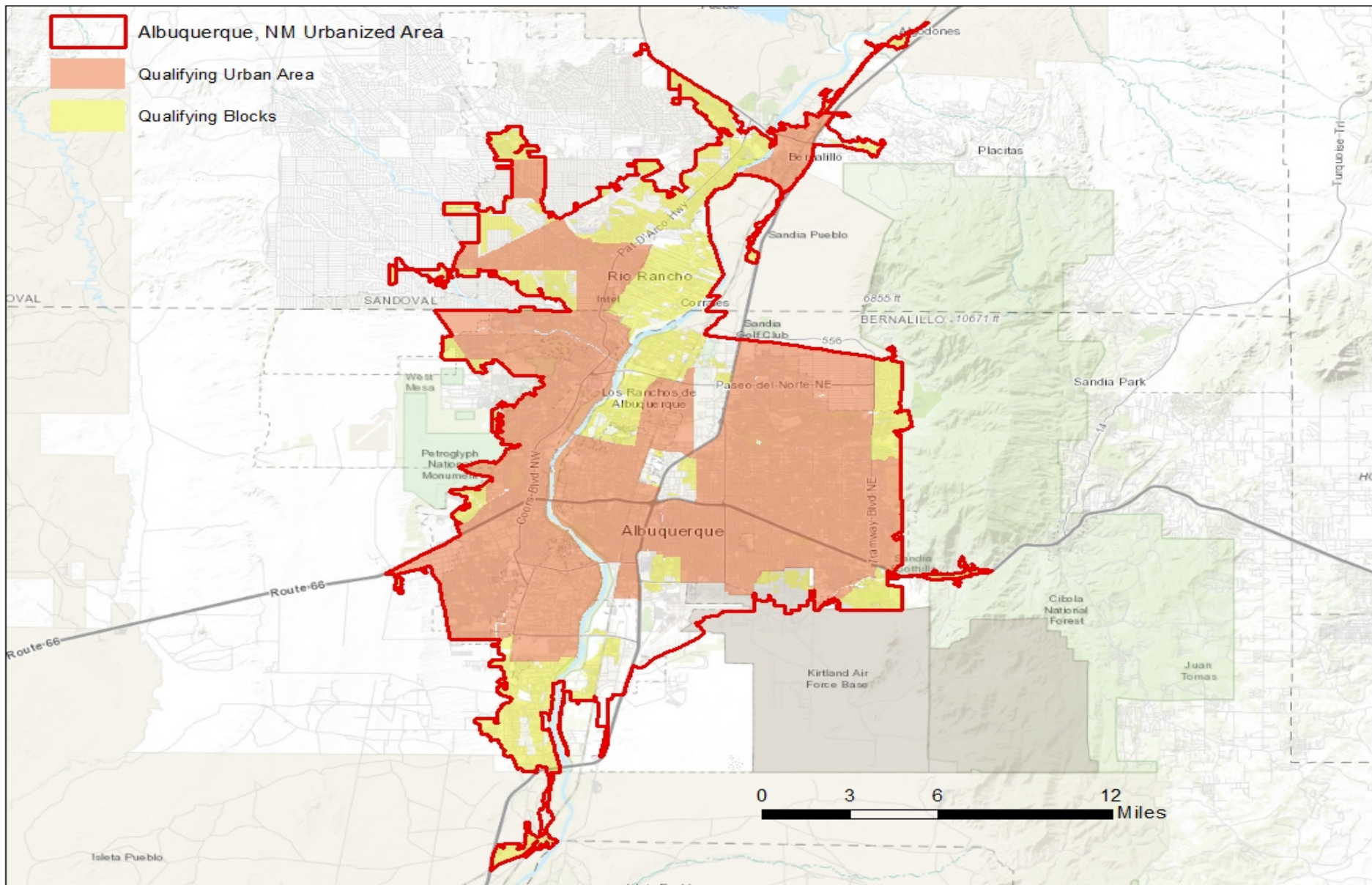
Albuquerque Urbanized Area

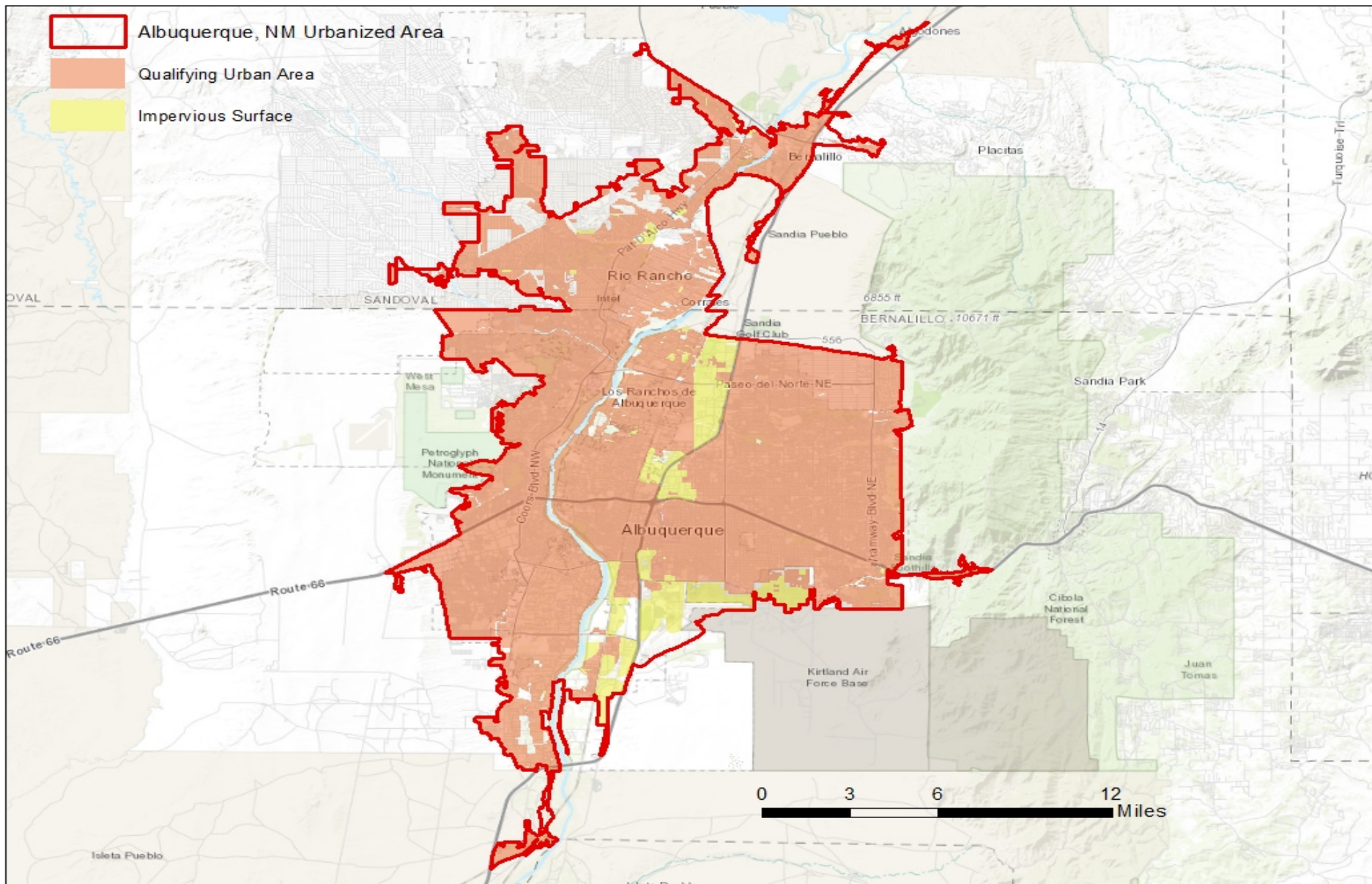


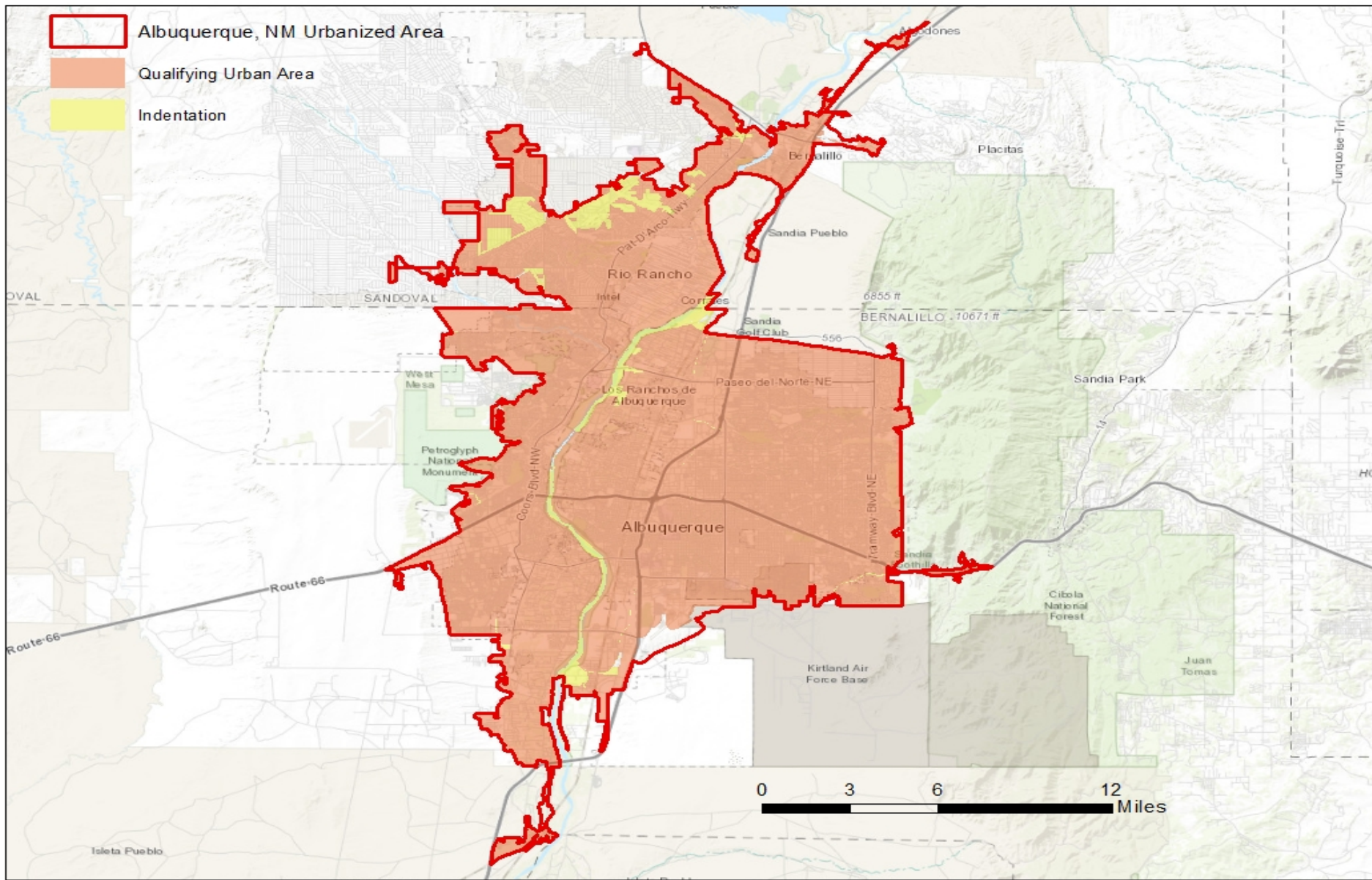
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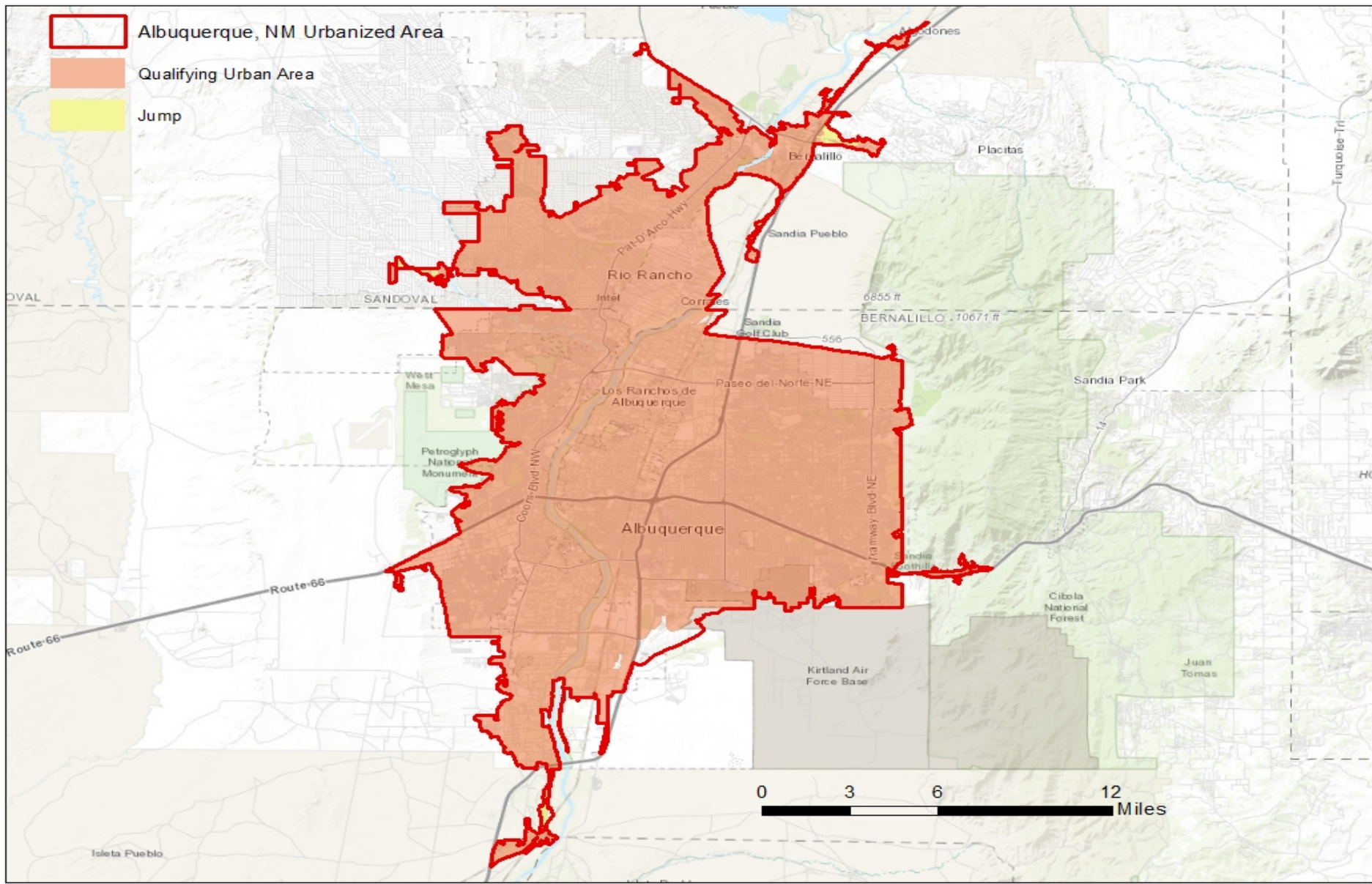
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

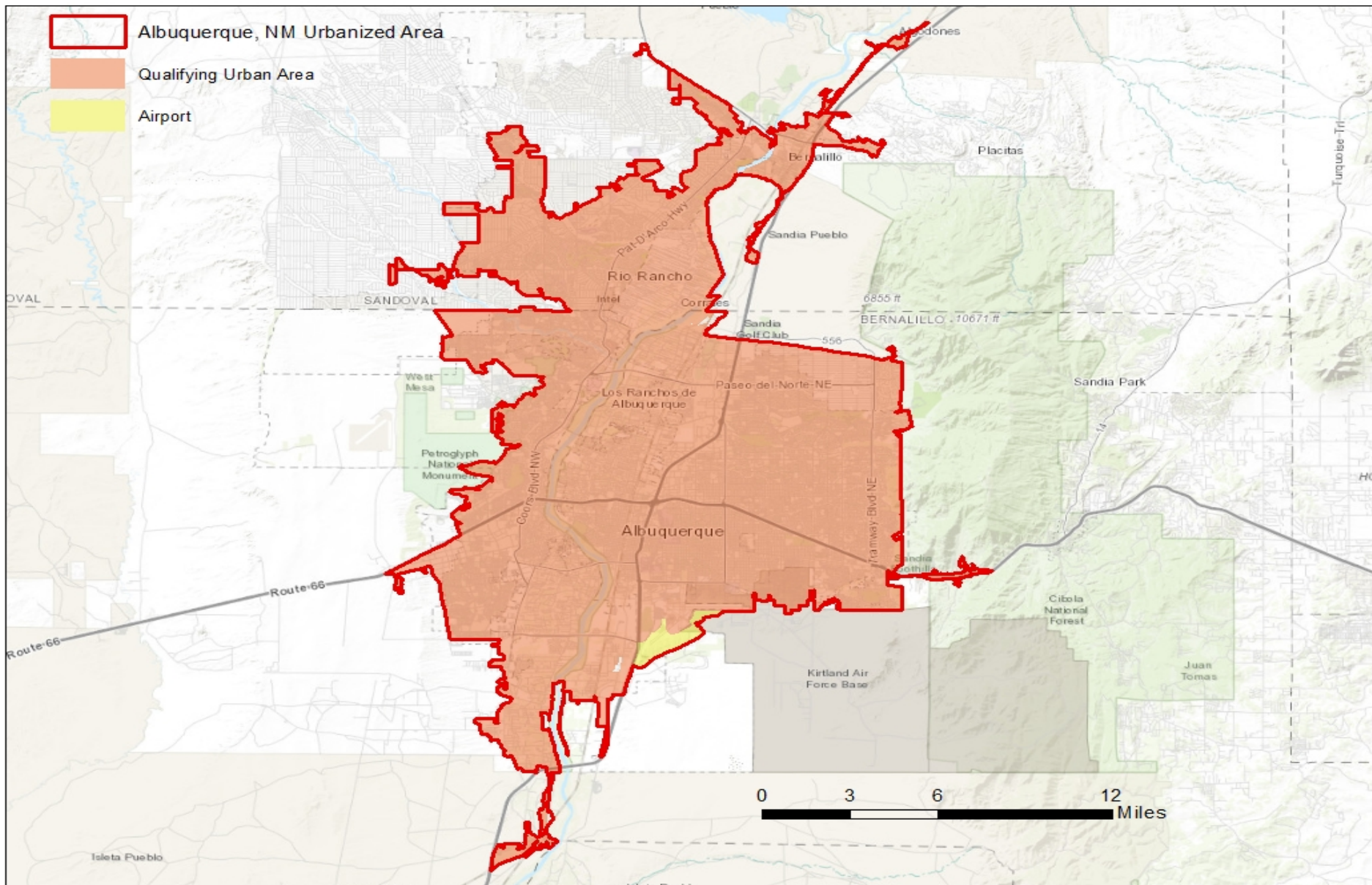


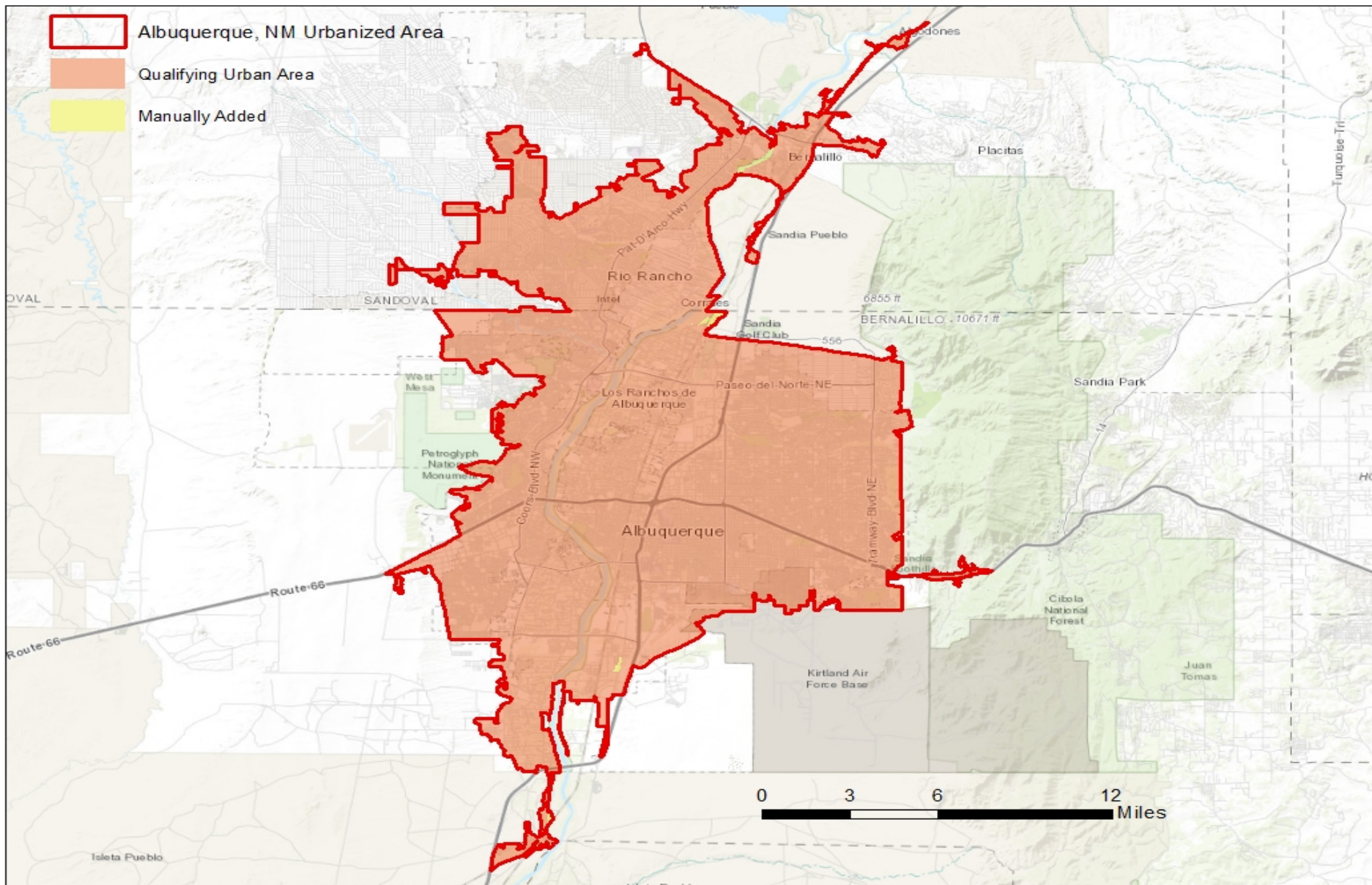








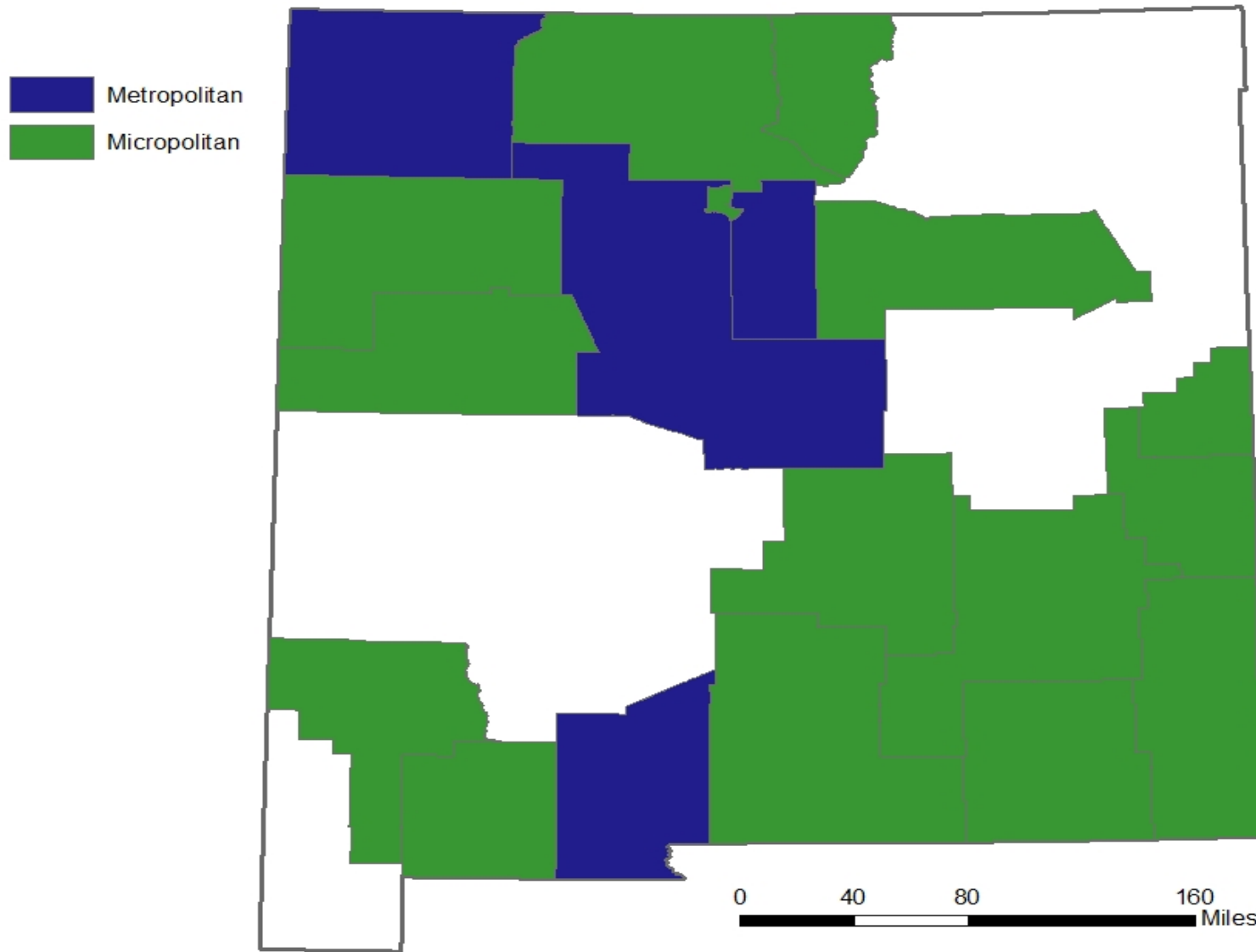




Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas

- Defined by U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- County Level
- Metropolitan Statistical Areas
 - associated with at least one urbanized area with 50,000 population
 - adjacent counties having a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured through commuting ties
- Micropolitan Statistical Areas
 - associated with at least one urban cluster of at least 10,000 population
 - adjacent counties having a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured through commuting ties

New Mexico Metropolitan and Micropolitan Areas 2017



USDA Rural Classifications

- County Level
 - Rural-Urban Continuum Codes
- Sub-County Level
 - Frontier and Remote Areas Codes

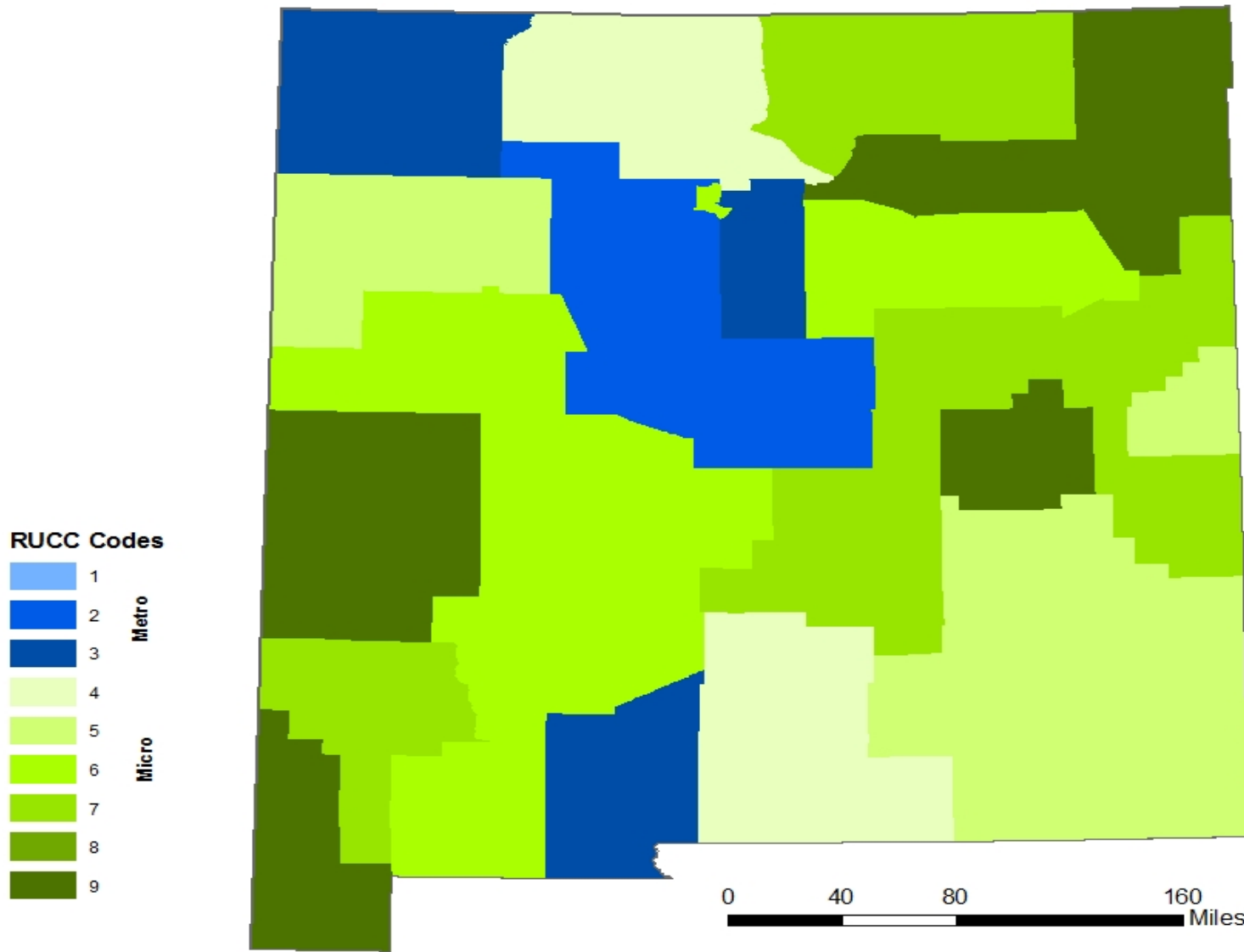
Rural-Urban Continuum Codes

- 2013 (update planned for mid-2023)
- Based on OMB Metropolitan and Micropolitan categories
 - Metropolitan counties by the population size of their metro area
 - Nonmetropolitan counties by degree of urbanization and adjacency to a metro area
 - Subdivided into three metro and six nonmetro categories
 - Every county assigned one of the 9 codes

Rural-Urban Continuum Codes

	Code	Description
Metro	1	Counties in metro areas of 1 million population or more
	2	Counties in metro areas of 250,000 to 1 million population
	3	Counties in metro areas of fewer than 250,000 population
Micro	4	Urban population of 20,000 or more, adjacent to a metro area
	5	Urban population of 20,000 or more, not adjacent to a metro area
	6	Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, adjacent to a metro area
	7	Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, not adjacent to a metro area
	8	Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, adjacent to a metro area
	9	Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, not adjacent to a metro area

New Mexico Rural-Urban Continuum Codes: 2013

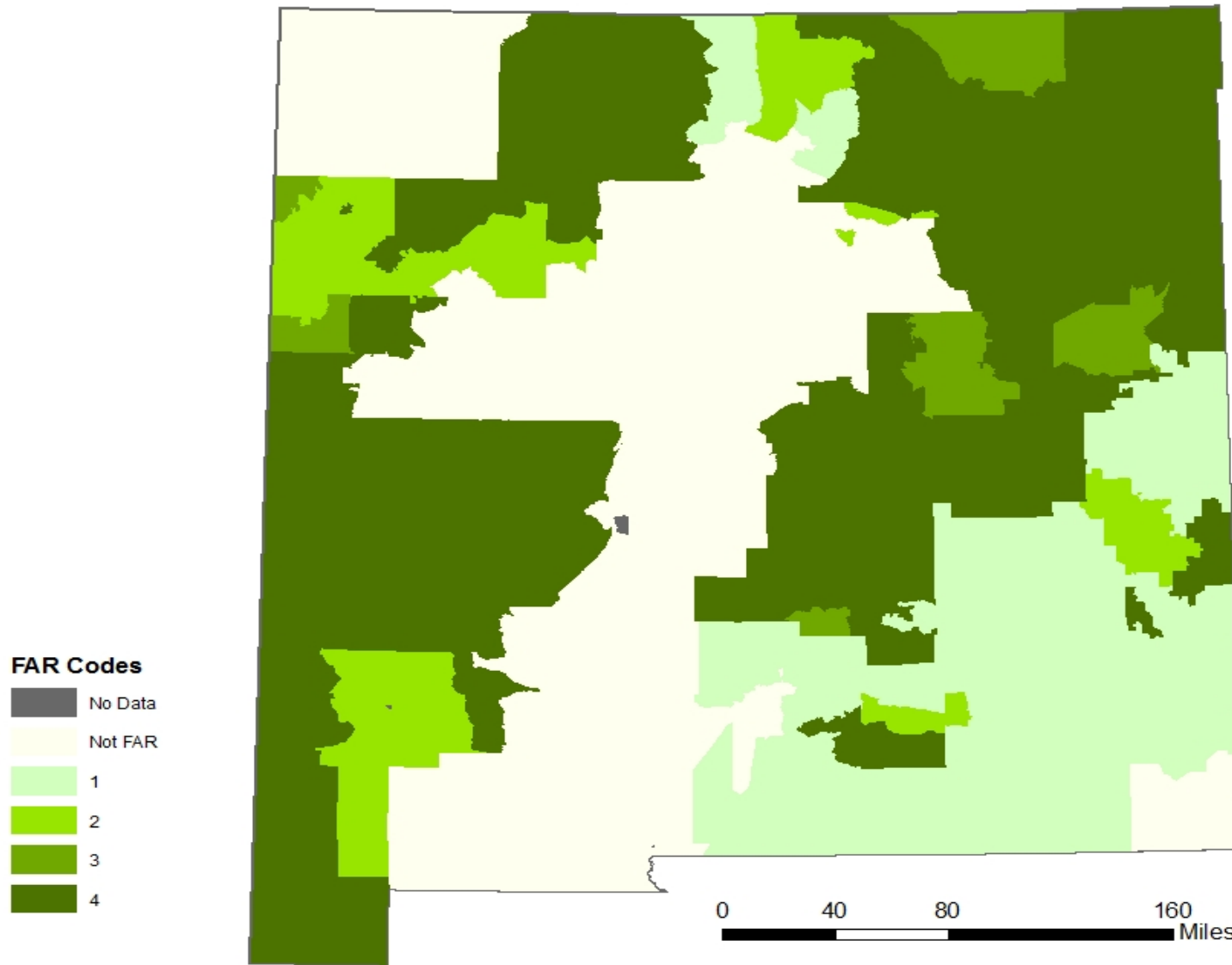


Frontier and Remote Area Codes

- ESRI zip code area level
 - Based on different population thresholds
 - Meant to reflect likely access to high order services (level one), low order services (level four), and intermediate order services (levels two and three)

Level	Description
1	Rural areas and urban areas up to 50,000 people that are 60 minutes or more from an urban area of 50,000 or more people
2	Rural areas and urban areas up to 25,000 people that are: 45 minutes or more from an urban area of 25,000-49,999 people; and 60 minutes or more from an urban area of 50,000 or more people
3	Rural areas and urban areas up to 10,000 people that are: 30 minutes or more from an urban area of 10,000-24,999; 45 minutes or more from an urban area of 25,000-49,999 people; and 60 minutes or more from an urban area of 50,000 or more people
4	Rural areas that are: 15 minutes or more from an urban area of 2,500-9,999 people; 30 minutes or more from an urban area of 10,000-24,999 people; 45 minutes or more from an urban area of 25,000-49,999 people; and 60 minutes or more from an urban area of 50,000 or more people

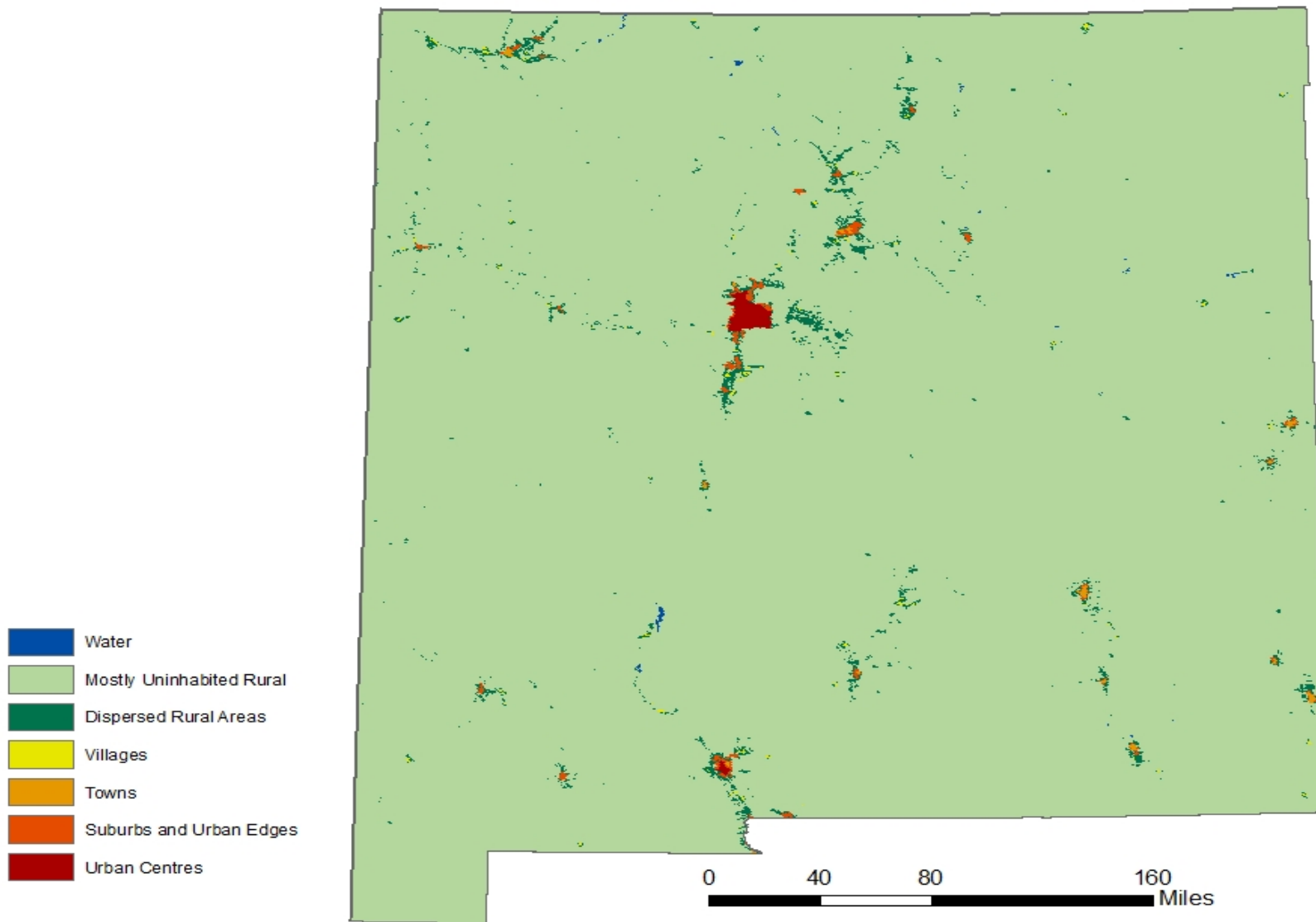
New Mexico Frontier and Remote Codes



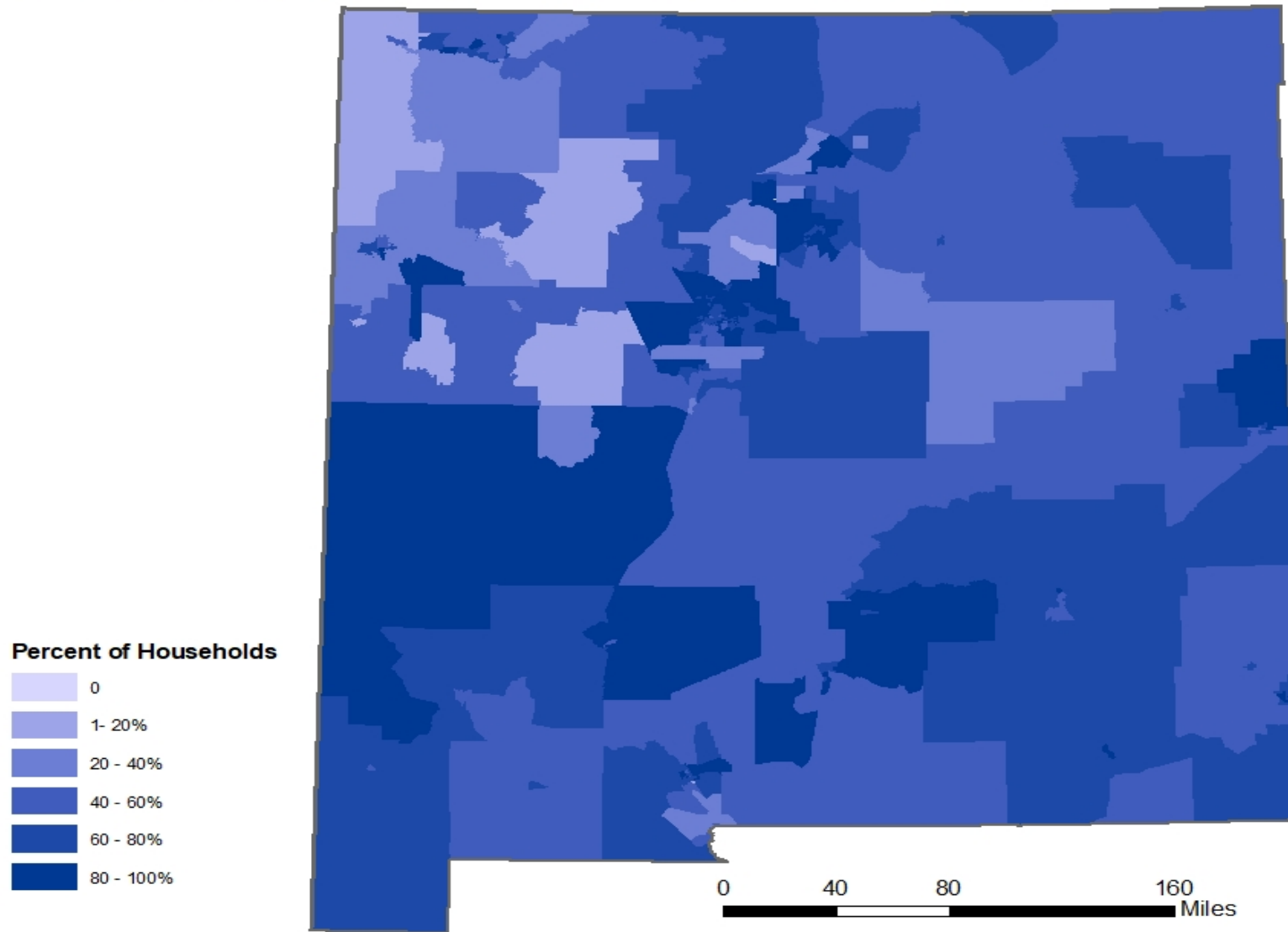
Refined Degree of Urbanisation

			Areas outside settlements	Settlements by population size		
				Small	Medium	Large
				500 – 5,000	5,000 – 50,000	>50,000
Cell level criteria Residents per sq km	High Density	>1,500	Not Applicable		Town	Urban Centre
	Medium Density	300 – 1,500		Village	Suburb & Urban Edge	
	Low Density	50 – 300	Rural Dispersed Areas			
	Very Low Density	<50	Mostly Uninhabited Areas			

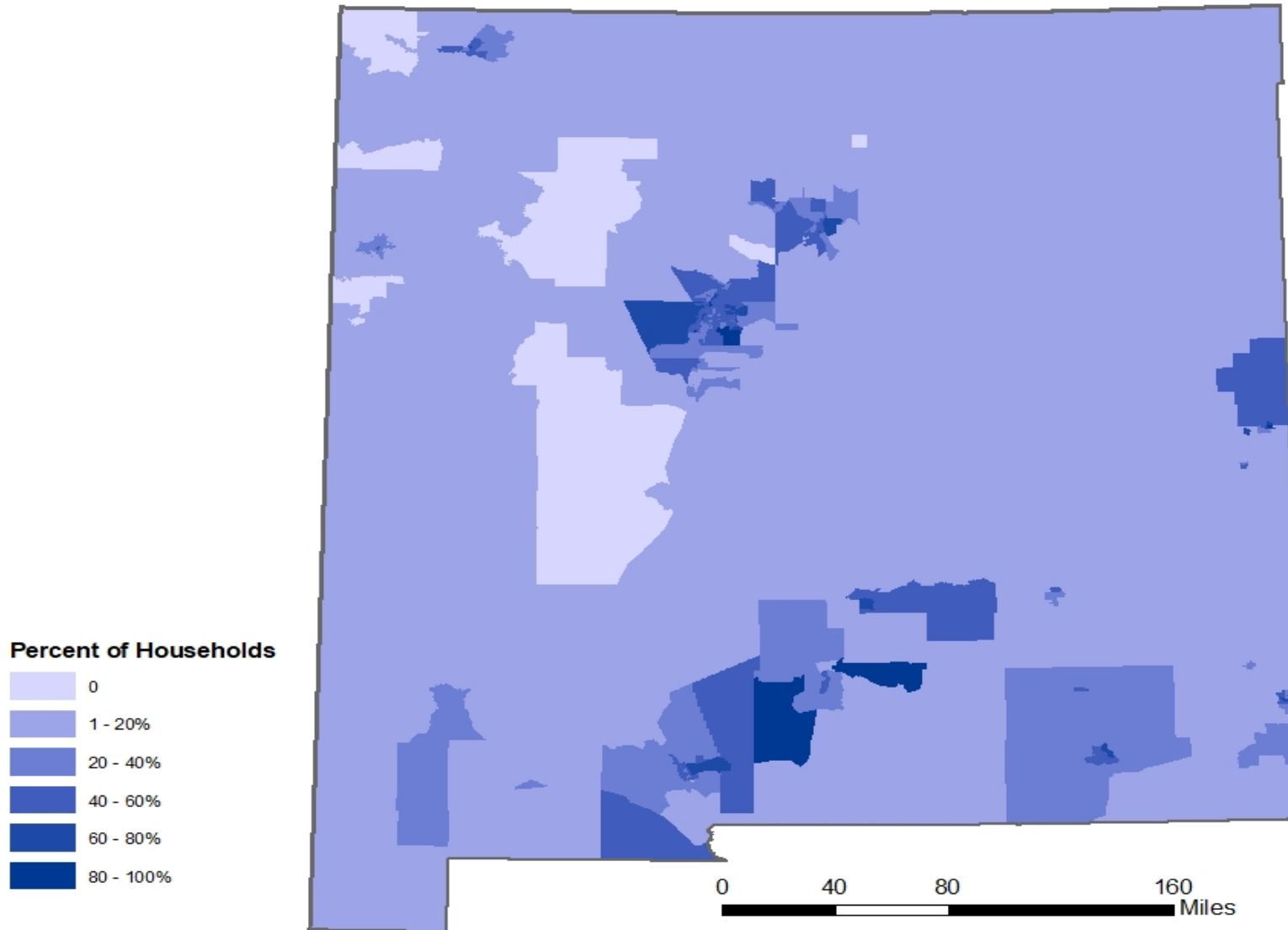
New Mexico Degree of Urbanisation



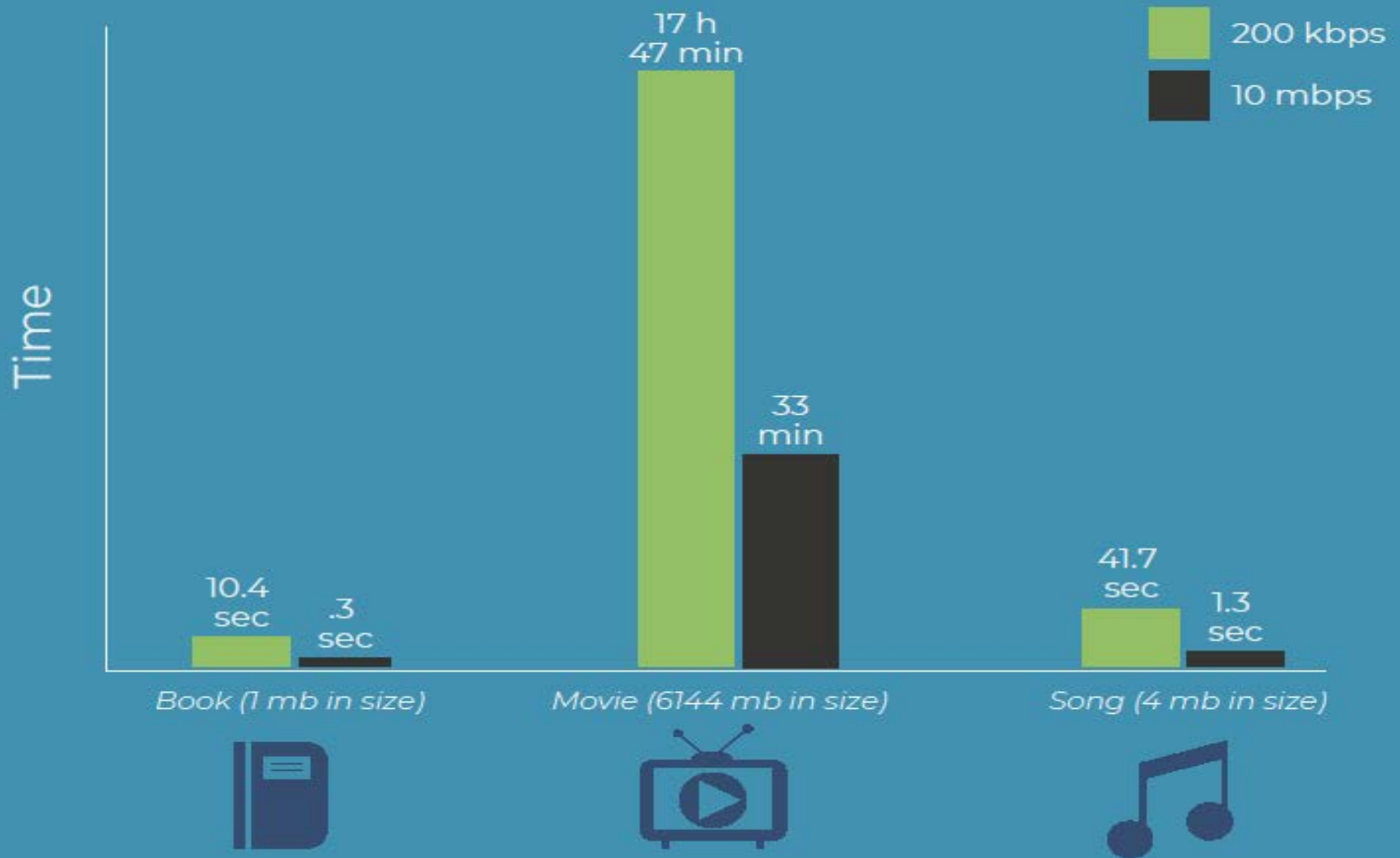
FCC Fixed Residential Internet Connections: 200 kbps



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How long does it take to download?



What is “rural?” What characterizes “rurality?”

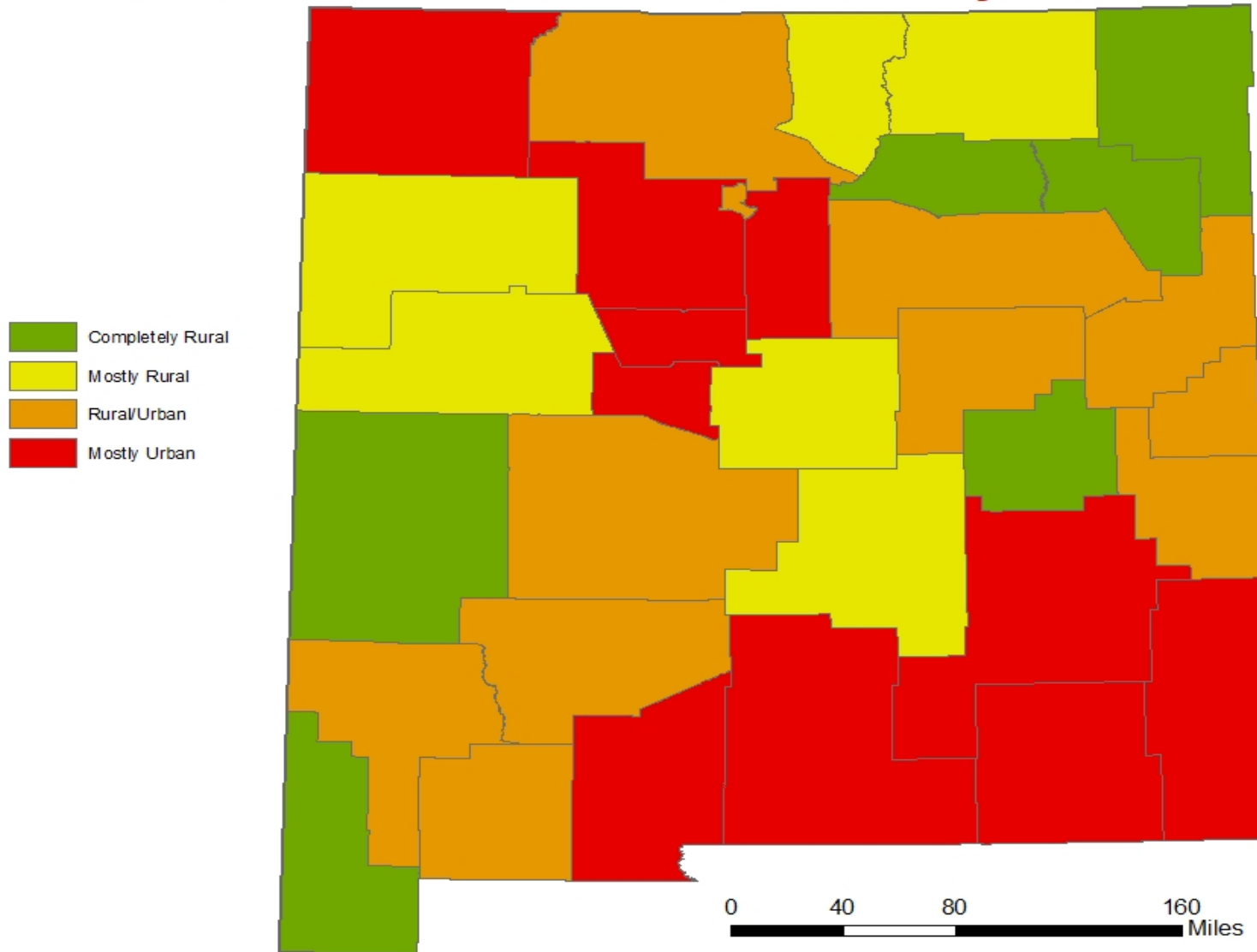
- Low population density
- Small numbers of people
- Low levels of urbanization/urban population
- Distance from/proximity to [larger] urban centers
- Isolation and remoteness

Rural often is defined as the residual. This could be “not urban” or “not metropolitan” in a dichotomous classification, or what remains after all other categories in a multi-category classification have been defined.

Rural New Mexico

- **Completely Rural:** 100% of population lives in areas that have lower population density with <1,000 people per square mile (Harding County)
- **Mostly Rural:** 50.1% to 99.9% of the population lives in areas with lower population density (Taos County)
- **Rural/Urban:** Counties with populations < 50,000 people that have >50% of people in higher population density (Los Alamos County)
- **Mostly Urban:** Counties with Populations > 50,000 people that have >50% of people in higher population density (San Juan County)

New Mexico Urban/Rural County Classifications



Search - Use the options on the left (topics, geographies, ...) to narrow your search results

Your Selections

'Your Selections' is empty

[load search](#) | [save search](#)

Search using the options below:

Topics

(age, income, year, dataset, ...)

Geographies

(states, counties, places, ...)

Race and Ethnic Groups

(race, ancestry, tribe)

Industry Codes

(NAICS industry, ...)

EEO Occupation Codes

(executives, analysts, ...)

To search for tables and other files in American FactFinder:

1 Enter search terms and an optional geography and click **GO**

topic or table name state, county or place (optional) **GO** [?](#)

topics race/ancestry industries occupations

-- or --

Select from [Topics](#), [Race and Ethnic Groups](#), [Industry Codes](#), [EEO Occupation Codes](#).

- these are added to 'Your Selections'
- the Search Results are updated

2 Next, select **Geographies** (states, counties, cities, towns, etc.)

- these are added to 'Your Selections'
- the Search Results are updated

3 Select one or more Search Results and click **View**



Search - Use the options on the left (topics, geographies, ...) to narrow your search results

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Topics

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Geographies

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(executives, analysts, ...)

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Enter search terms and an optional geography and click GO

Select Geographies

CLOSE X

List Name Address Map

Select geographies to add to Your Selections ?

Select from: most requested geographic types all geographic types

Select a geographic type:

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Didn't find your geographic type? Click the 'all geographic types' radio button above, or try the Name, Address or Map geography search options instead.

Search - Use the options on the left (topics, geographies, ...) to narrow your search results

Your Selections

Search using...

Dataset:
2016 ACS 5-year estimates ✕

United States
United States ✕

State
New Mexico ✕

County
All Counties within New Mexico ✕

clear all selections and start a new search

load search | save search

Search using the options below:

Topics
(age, income, year, dataset, ...)

Geographies
(states, counties, places, ...)

Race and Ethnic Groups
(race, ancestry, tribe)

Industry Codes
(NAICS industry, ...)

EEO Occupation Codes
(executives, analysts, ...)

Search Results: 1-25 of 973 tables and other products match 'Your Selections' per page: 25 ▾

Refine your search results: topics race/ancestry industries occupations

Selected: ◀◀ 1 2 3 4 5 ▶▶

Show results from:

ID	Table, File or Document Title	Dataset	About
<input type="checkbox"/>	S0101 AGE AND SEX	2016 ACS 5-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	S0102 POPULATION 60 YEARS AND OVER IN THE UNITED STATES	2016 ACS 5-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	S0103 POPULATION 65 YEARS AND OVER IN THE UNITED STATES	2016 ACS 5-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	S0501 SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NATIVE AND FOREIGN-BORN POPULATIONS	2016 ACS 5-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	S0502 SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION BY PERIOD OF ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES	2016 ACS 5-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	S0503 SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION BY REGION OF BIRTH: EUROPE	2016 ACS 5-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	S0504 SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION BY REGION OF BIRTH: AFRICA, NORTHERN AMERICA, AND OCEANIA	2016 ACS 5-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	S0505 SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION BY REGION OF BIRTH: ASIA	2016 ACS 5-year estimates	i
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<input type="checkbox"/>	S0801 COMMUTING CHARACTERISTICS BY SEX	2016 ACS 5-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	S0802 MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS	2016 ACS 5-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	S0901 CHILDREN CHARACTERISTICS	2016 ACS 5-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	S0902 CHARACTERISTICS OF TEENAGERS 15 TO 19 YEARS OLD	2016 ACS 5-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	S1001 GRANDCHILDREN CHARACTERISTICS	2016 ACS 5-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	S1002 GRANDPARENTS	2016 ACS 5-year estimates	i

S0101

AGE AND SEX

2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Table View

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Tell us what you think. Provide feedback to help make American Community Survey data more useful for you.

Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties.

<< 1 - 18 of 210 >>

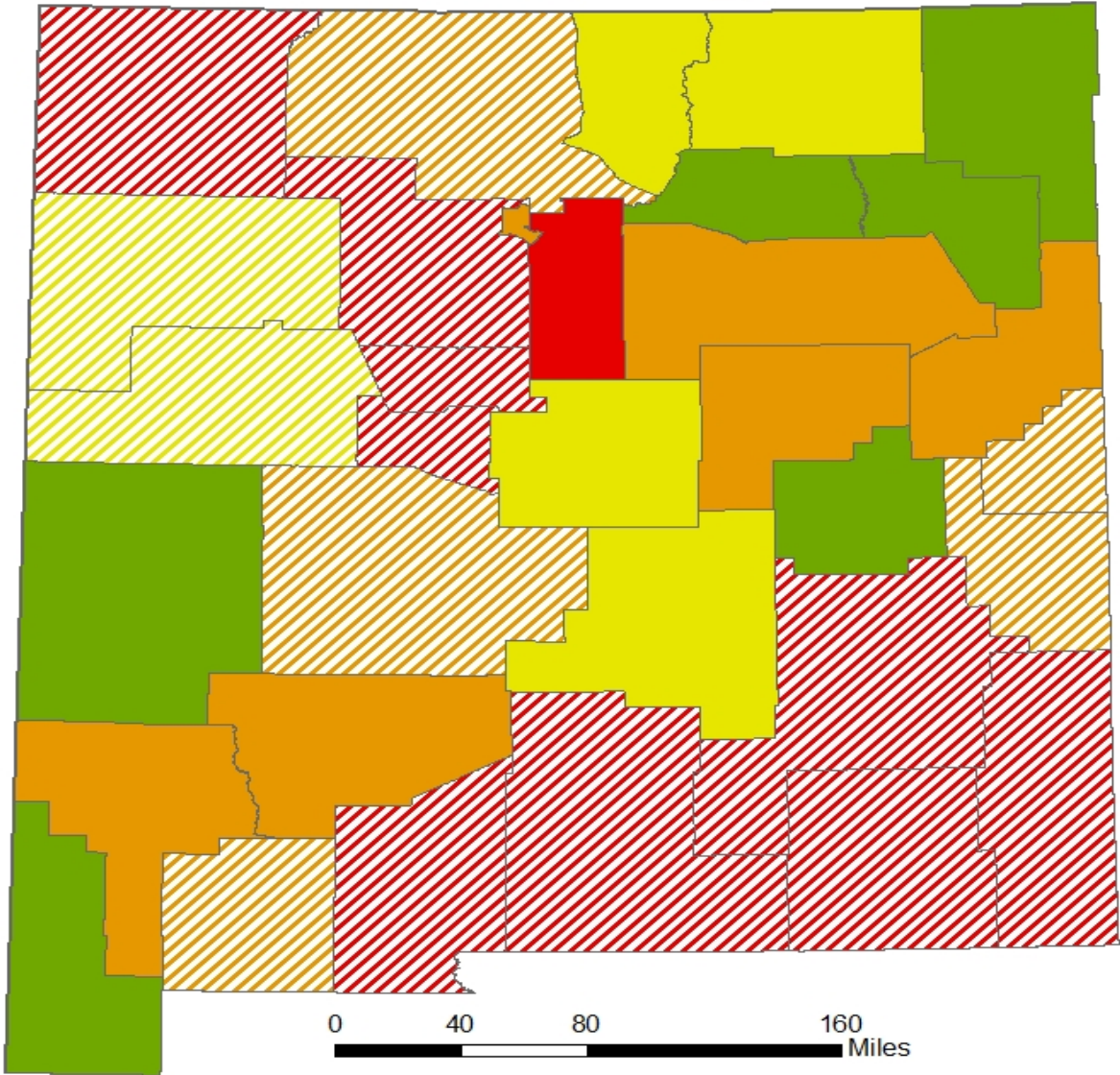
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- Versions of this table are available for the following years:
- 2016
 - 2015
 - 2014
 - 2013
 - 2012
 - 2011
 - 2010
 - 2009

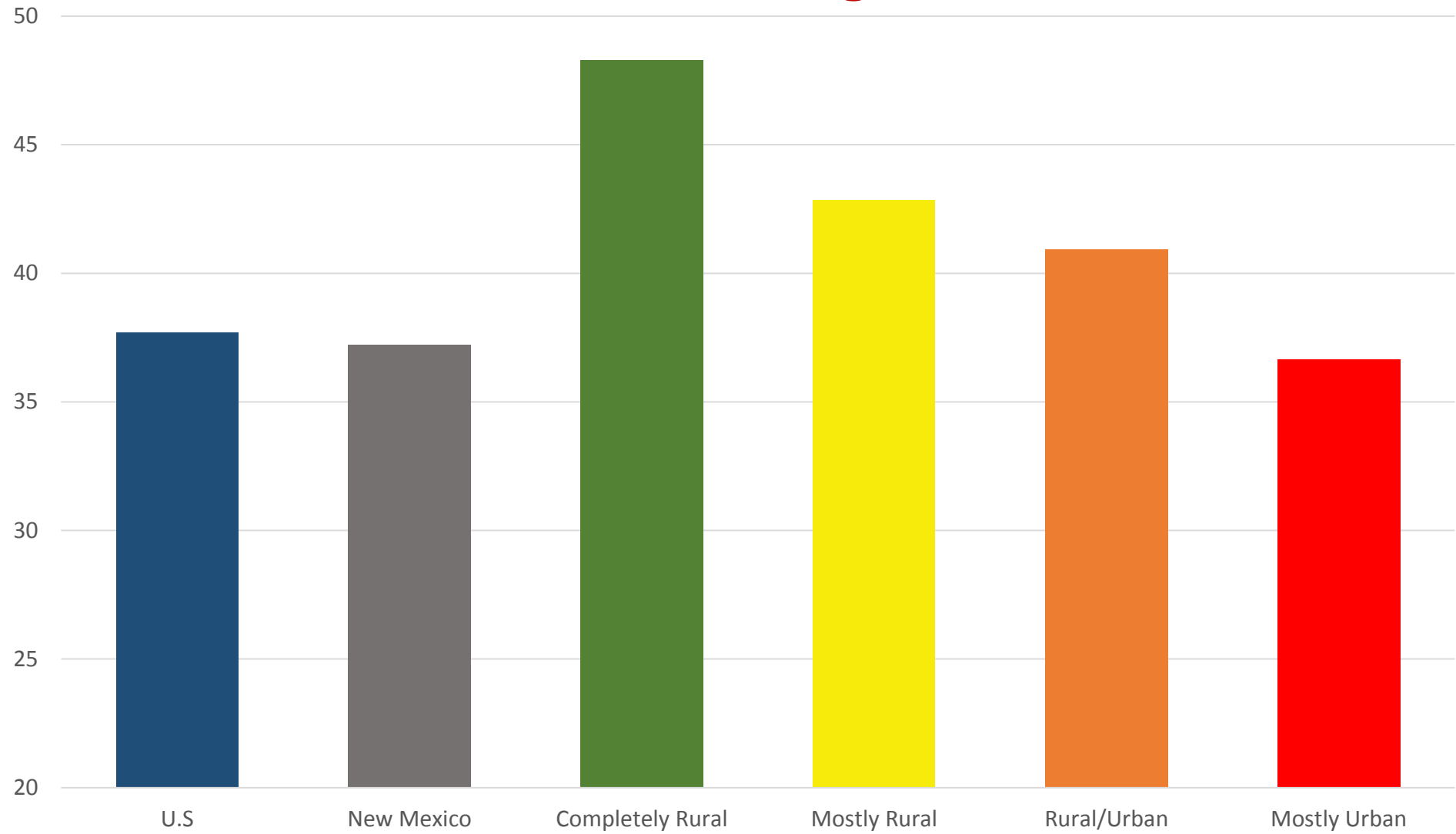
Subject	United States						New Mexico						Bernalillo County, New Mexico					
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	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total population	318,558,162	*****	156,765,322	+/-6,427	161,792,840	+/-6,432	2,082,669	*****	1,031,440	+/-762	1,051,229	+/-762	674,777	*****	330,751	+/-87	344,026	+/-87
AGE																		
Under 5 years	6.2%	+/-0.1	6.5%	+/-0.1	6.0%	+/-0.1	6.4%	+/-0.1	6.7%	+/-0.1	6.2%	+/-0.1	6.1%	+/-0.1	6.4%	+/-0.1	5.9%	+/-0.1
5 to 9 years	6.4%	+/-0.1	6.7%	+/-0.1	6.2%	+/-0.1	6.9%	+/-0.1	7.0%	+/-0.1	6.7%	+/-0.1	6.5%	+/-0.2	6.8%	+/-0.2	6.2%	+/-0.2
10 to 14 years	6.5%	+/-0.1	6.7%	+/-0.1	6.3%	+/-0.1	6.8%	+/-0.1	7.0%	+/-0.1	6.6%	+/-0.1	6.5%	+/-0.2	6.7%	+/-0.2	6.3%	+/-0.2
15 to 19 years	6.7%	+/-0.1	6.9%	+/-0.1	6.4%	+/-0.1	6.8%	+/-0.1	7.0%	+/-0.1	6.6%	+/-0.1	6.3%	+/-0.1	6.6%	+/-0.1	6.1%	+/-0.1
20 to 24 years	7.1%	+/-0.1	7.4%	+/-0.1	6.8%	+/-0.1	7.2%	+/-0.1	7.5%	+/-0.1	6.8%	+/-0.1	7.1%	+/-0.1	7.3%	+/-0.1	6.8%	+/-0.1
25 to 29 years	6.9%	+/-0.1	7.1%	+/-0.1	6.7%	+/-0.1	6.7%	+/-0.1	7.0%	+/-0.1	6.4%	+/-0.1	7.7%	+/-0.1	7.9%	+/-0.1	7.4%	+/-0.1
30 to 34 years	6.7%	+/-0.1	6.9%	+/-0.1	6.6%	+/-0.1	6.6%	+/-0.1	6.7%	+/-0.1	6.4%	+/-0.1	7.3%	+/-0.1	7.5%	+/-0.1	7.1%	+/-0.1
35 to 39 years	6.3%	+/-0.1	6.4%	+/-0.1	6.2%	+/-0.1	6.0%	+/-0.1	6.1%	+/-0.1	5.8%	+/-0.1	6.5%	+/-0.2	6.7%	+/-0.2	6.3%	+/-0.2
40 to 44 years	6.4%	+/-0.1	6.5%	+/-0.1	6.4%	+/-0.1	5.8%	+/-0.1	5.8%	+/-0.1	5.8%	+/-0.1	6.0%	+/-0.2	6.0%	+/-0.2	6.0%	+/-0.2
45 to 49 years	6.6%	+/-0.1	6.7%	+/-0.1	6.6%	+/-0.1	5.9%	+/-0.1	5.9%	+/-0.1	6.0%	+/-0.1	6.2%	+/-0.1	6.3%	+/-0.1	6.2%	+/-0.1
50 to 54 years	7.0%	+/-0.1	7.0%	+/-0.1	7.0%	+/-0.1	6.7%	+/-0.1	6.6%	+/-0.1	6.9%	+/-0.1	6.9%	+/-0.1	6.8%	+/-0.1	6.9%	+/-0.1
55 to 59 years	6.7%	+/-0.1	6.6%	+/-0.1	6.8%	+/-0.1	6.7%	+/-0.1	6.4%	+/-0.1	7.0%	+/-0.1	6.6%	+/-0.2	6.2%	+/-0.2	6.9%	+/-0.2
60 to 64 years	5.9%	+/-0.1	5.7%	+/-0.1	6.0%	+/-0.1	6.2%	+/-0.1	6.1%	+/-0.1	6.4%	+/-0.1	6.2%	+/-0.2	6.0%	+/-0.2	6.3%	+/-0.2
65 to 69 years	4.8%	+/-0.1	4.6%	+/-0.1	5.0%	+/-0.1	5.2%	+/-0.1	5.0%	+/-0.1	5.4%	+/-0.1	4.9%	+/-0.1	4.7%	+/-0.2	5.0%	+/-0.2
70 to 74 years	3.5%	+/-0.1	3.2%	+/-0.1	3.7%	+/-0.1	3.7%	+/-0.1	3.6%	+/-0.1	3.9%	+/-0.1	3.3%	+/-0.1	3.1%	+/-0.2	3.6%	+/-0.2
75 to 79 years	2.5%	+/-0.1	2.2%	+/-0.1	2.7%	+/-0.1	2.7%	+/-0.1	2.5%	+/-0.1	3.0%	+/-0.1	2.5%	+/-0.1	2.2%	+/-0.1	2.8%	+/-0.1

Median Age

- Completely Rural, Older than 40
- Mostly Rural, Younger than 40
- Mostly Rural, Older than 40
- Rural/Urban, Younger than 40
- Rural/Urban, Older than 40
- Mostly Urban, Younger than 40
- Mostly Urban, Older than 40

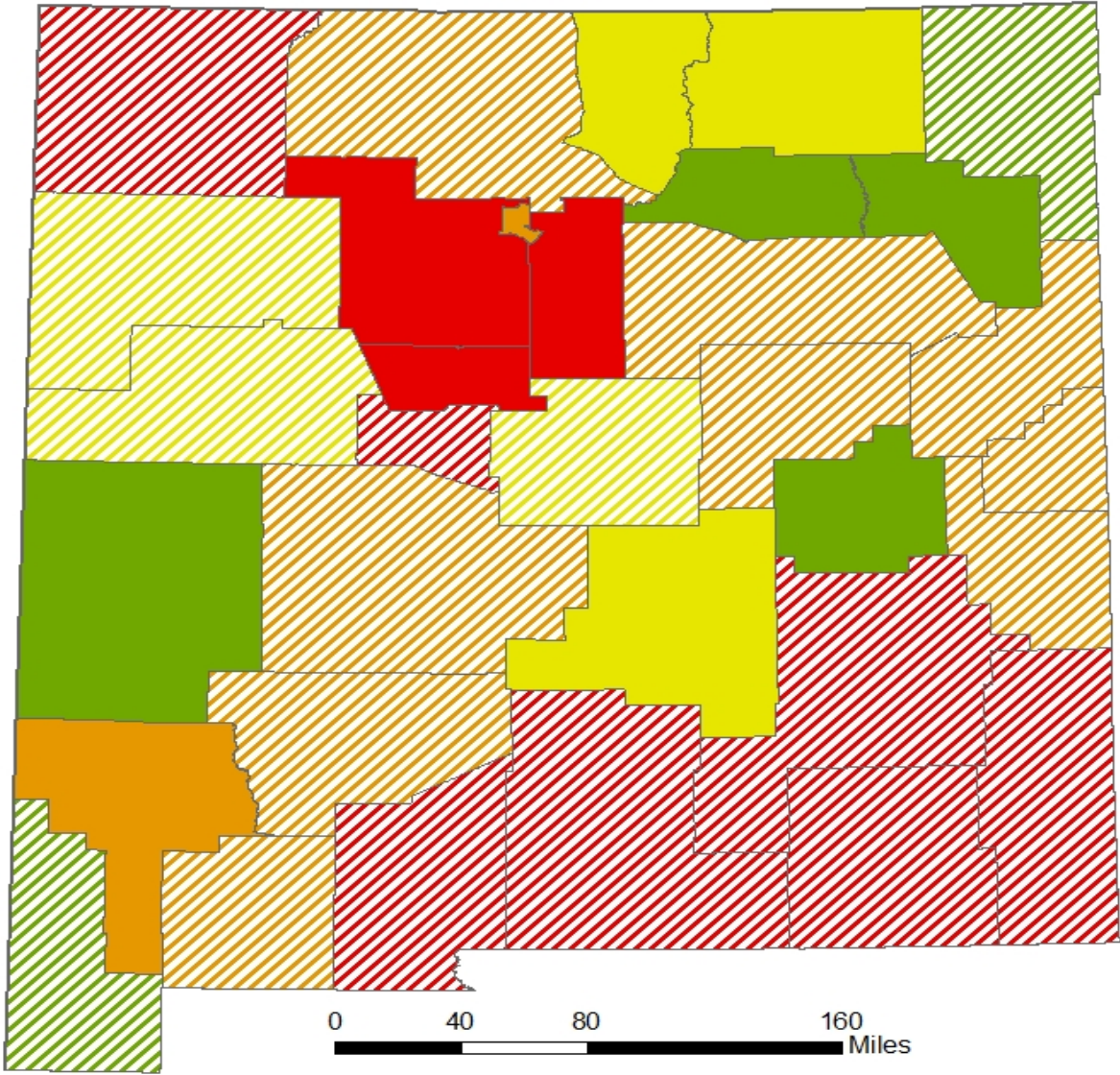


Median Age

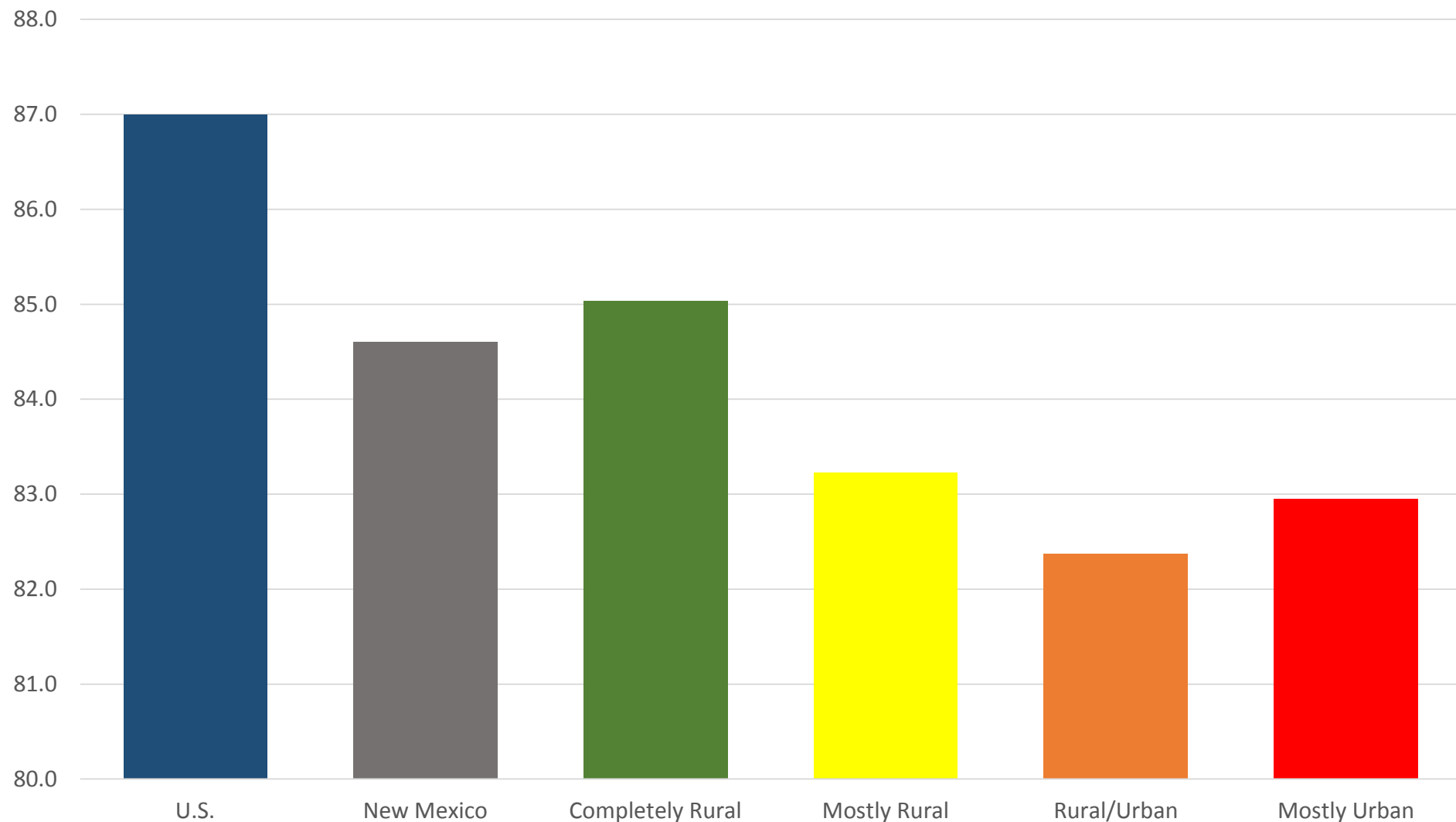


Educational Attainment: HS degree

- Completely Rural, Less than 85%
- Completely Rural, More than 85%
- Mostly Rural, Less than 85%
- Mostly Rural, More than 85%
- Rural/Urban, Less than 85%
- Rural/Urban, More than 85%
- Mostly Urban, Less than 85%
- Mostly Urban, More than 85%

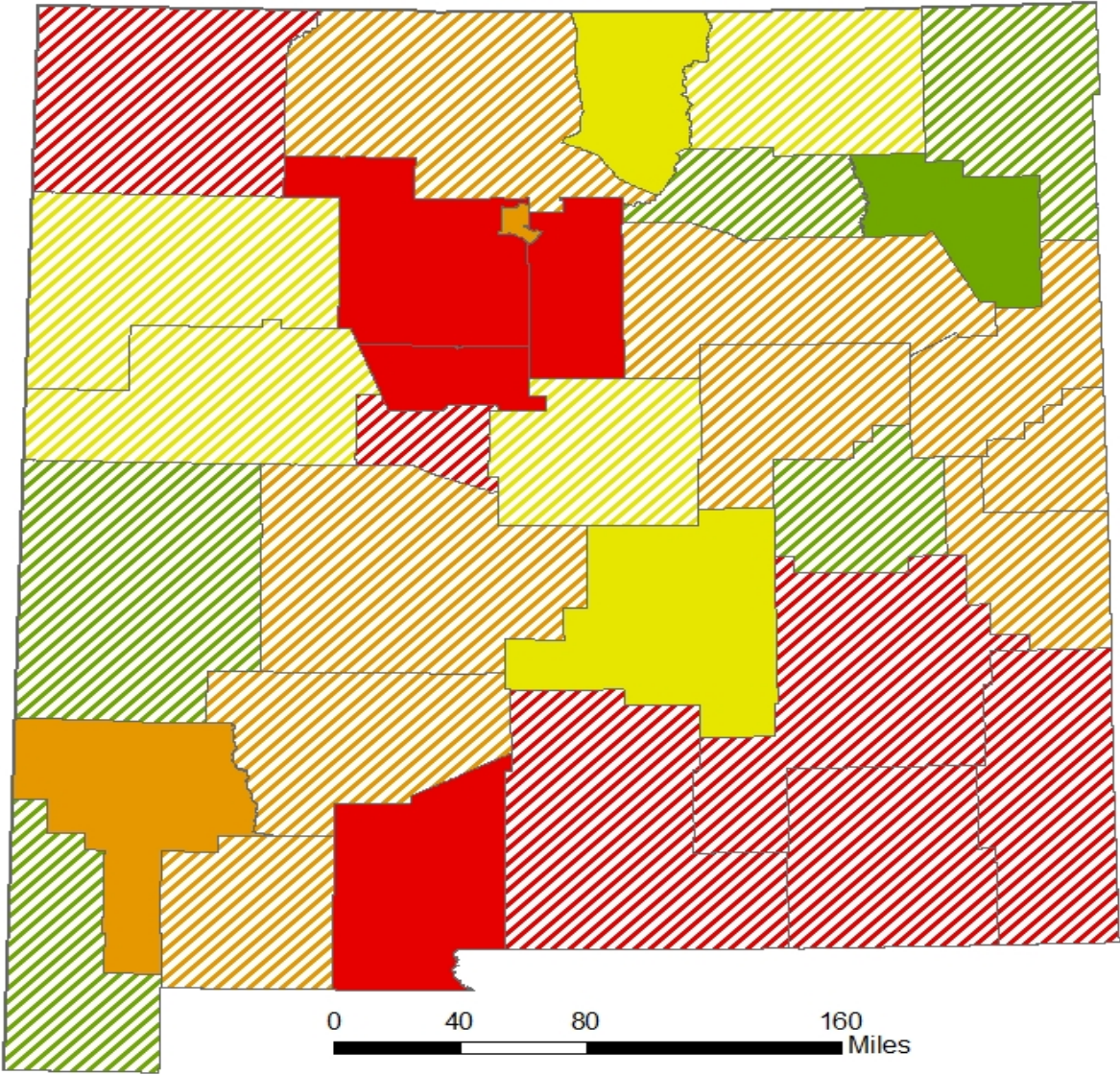


Educational Attainment: HS Degree

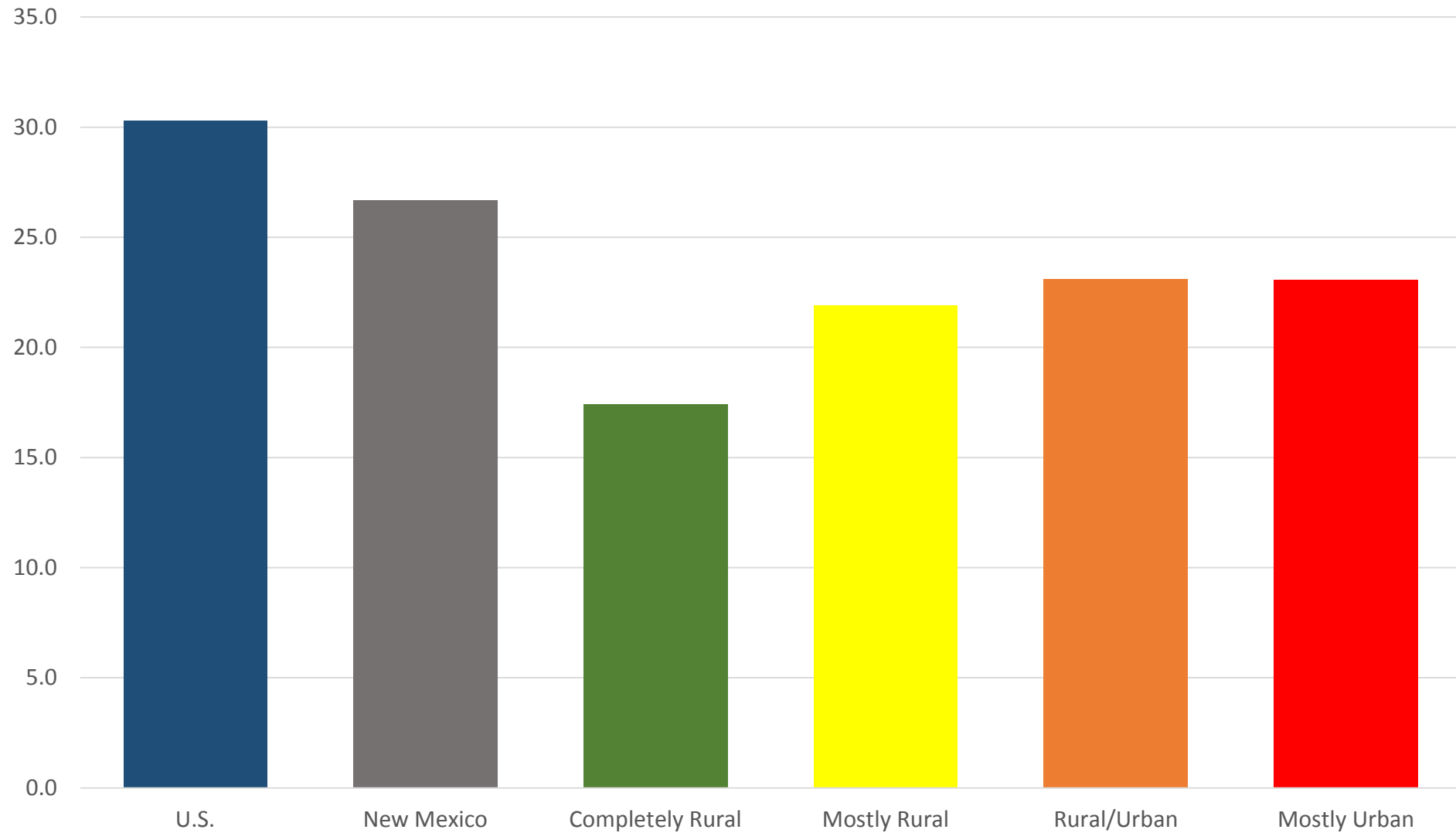


Educational Attainment: BS degree

- Completely Rural, Less than 25%
- Completely Rural, More than 25%
- Mostly Rural, Less than 25%
- Mostly Rural, More than 25%
- Rural/Urban, Less than 25%
- Rural/Urban, More than 25%
- Mostly Urban, Less than 25%
- Mostly Urban, More than 25%

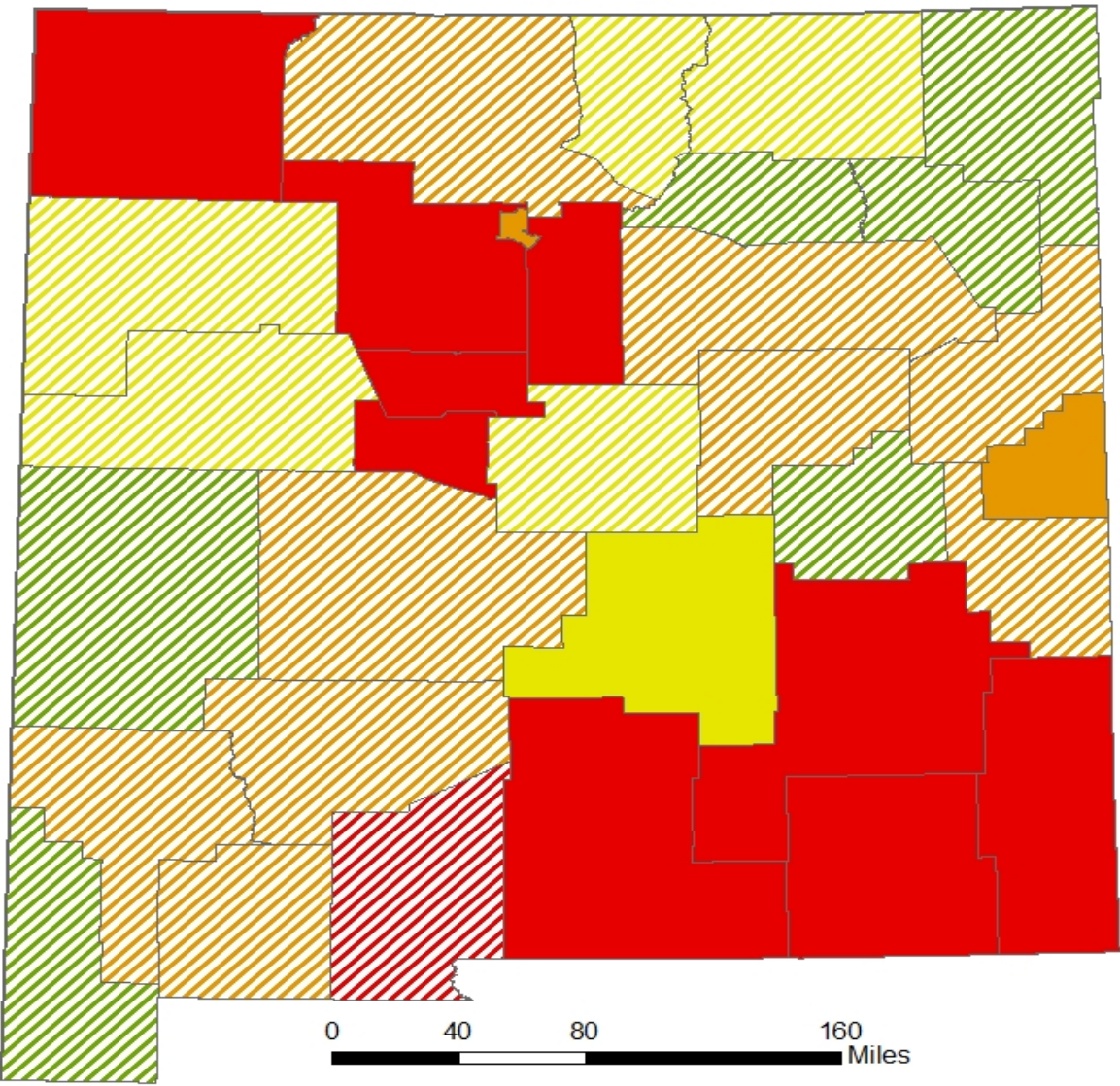


Educational Attainment: BS Degree

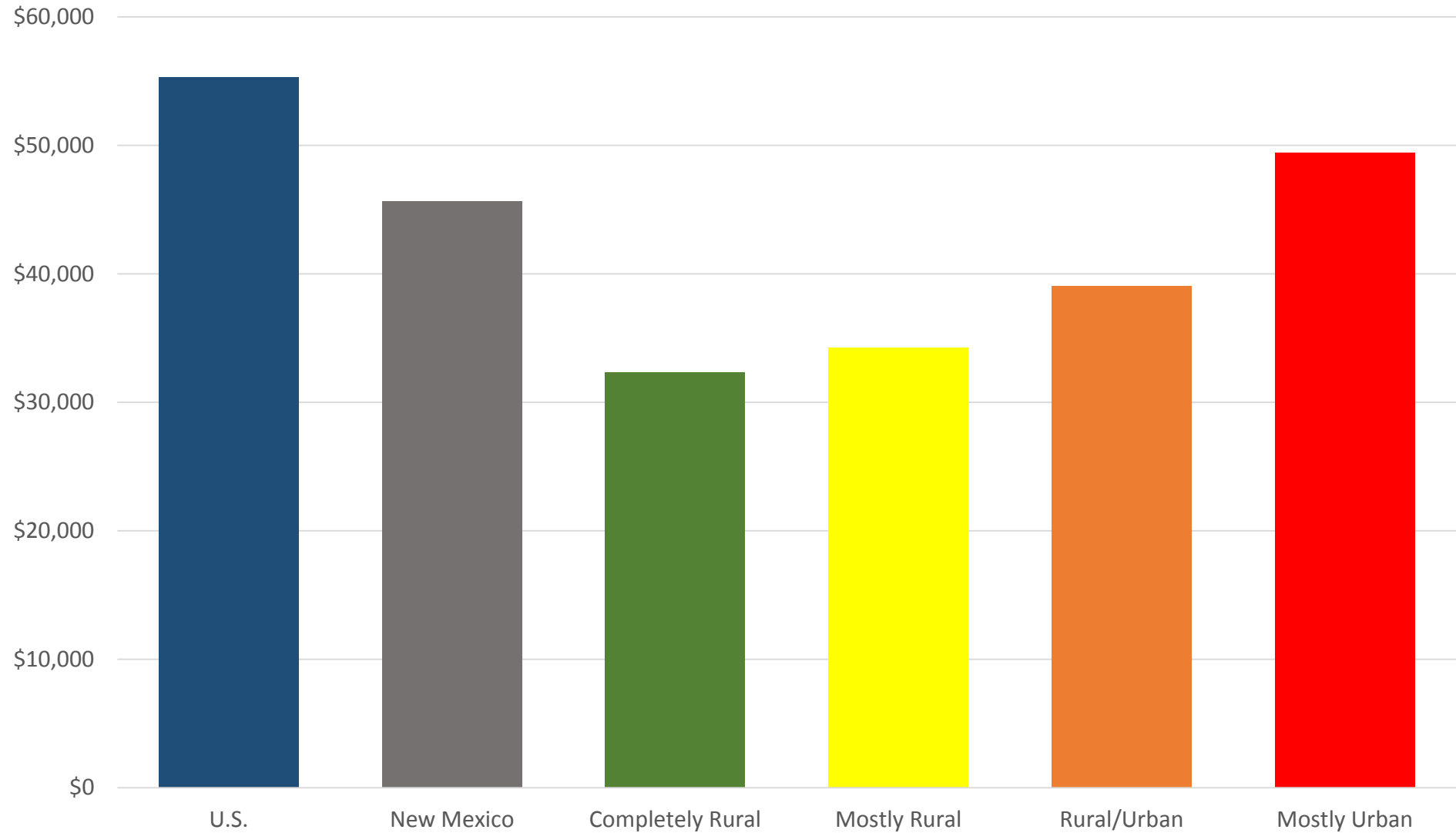


Median Income

- Completely Rural, Less than \$40,000
- Mostly Rural, Less than \$40,000
- Mostly Rural, More than \$40,000
- Rural/Urban, Less than \$40,000
- Rural/Urban, More than \$40,000
- Mostly Urban, Less than \$40,000
- Mostly Urban, More than \$40,000

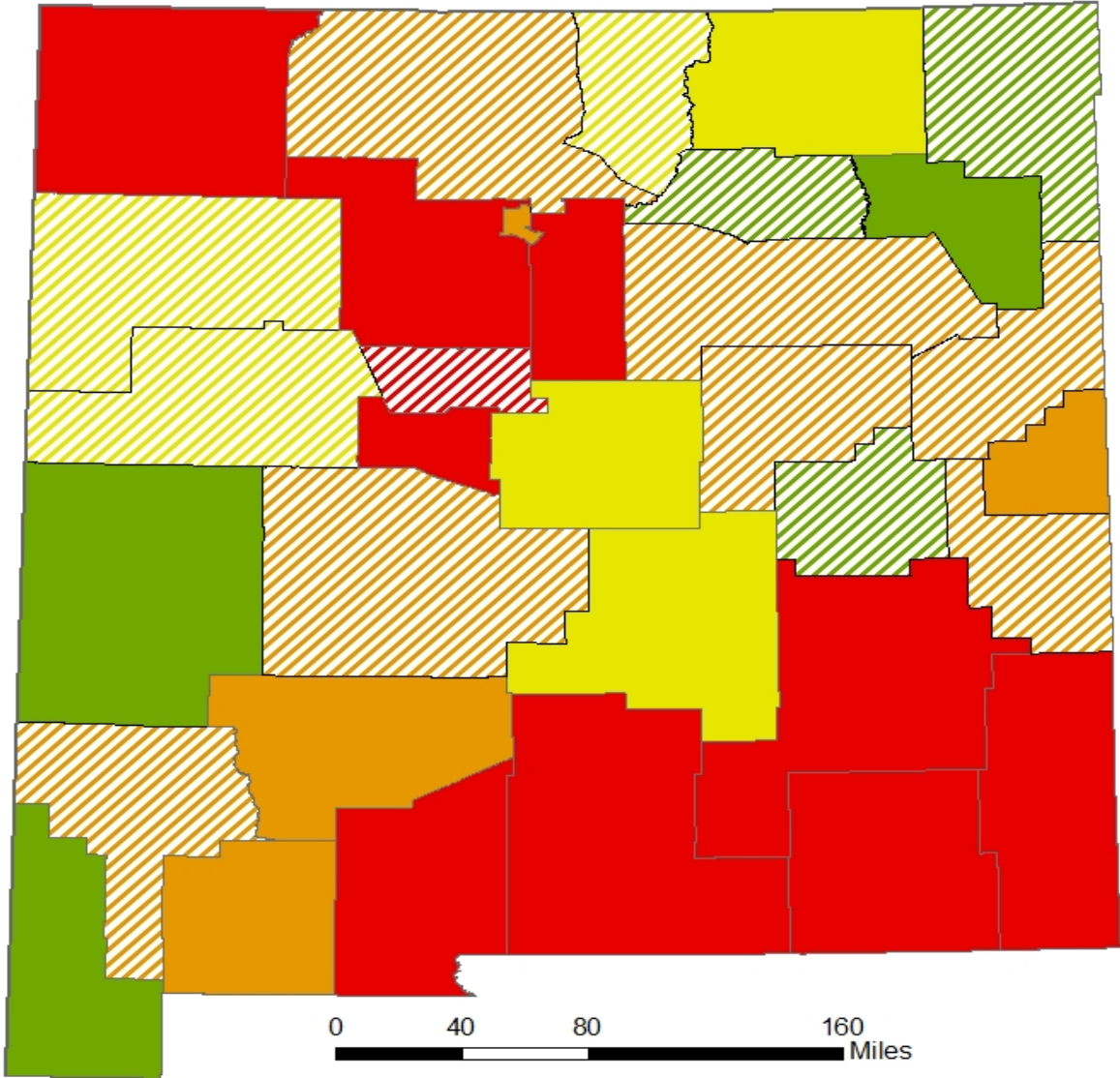


Median Income

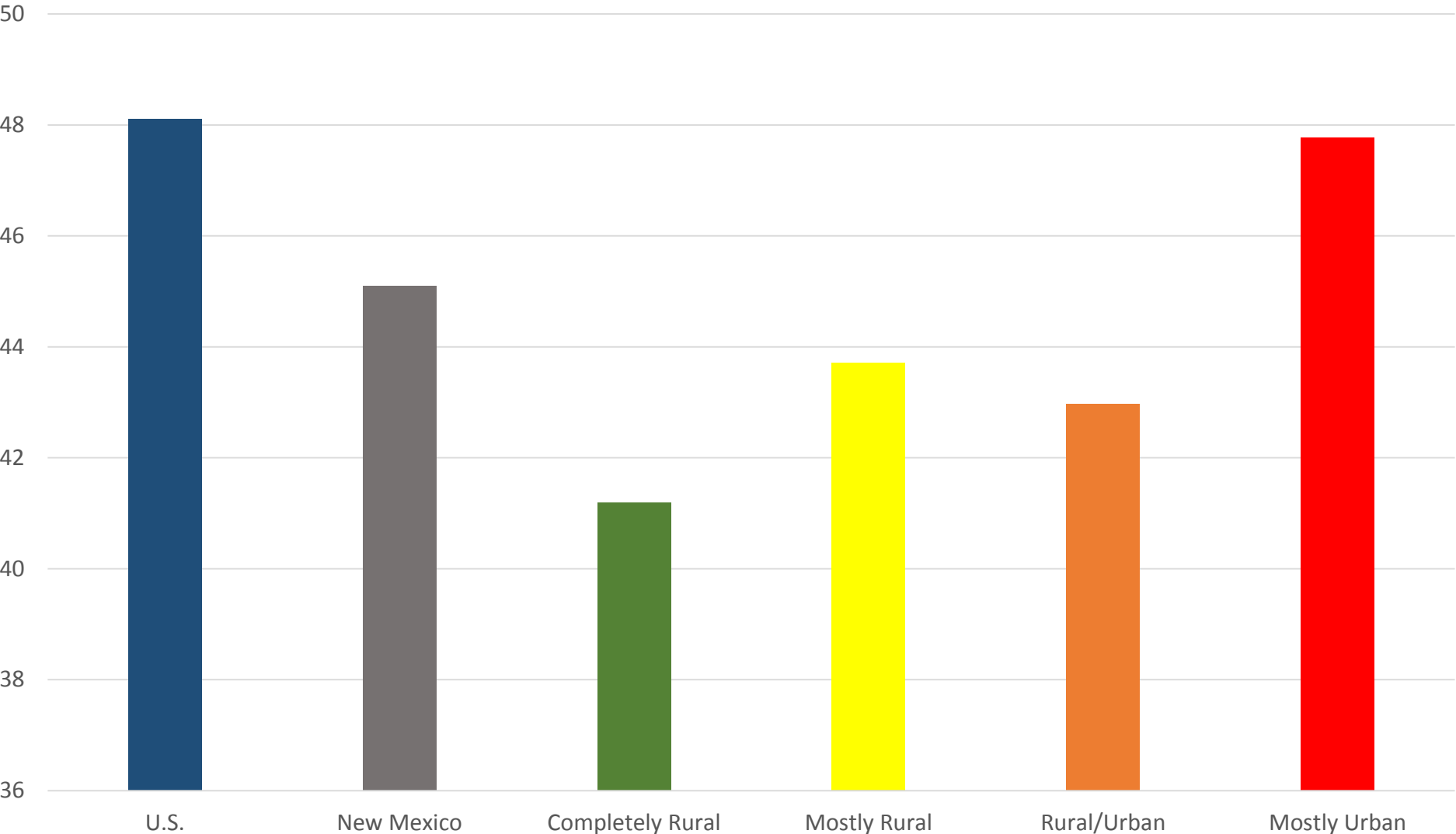


Married

- Completely Rural, Less than 45%
- Completely Rural, More than 45%
- Mostly Rural, Less than 45%
- Mostly Rural, More than 45%
- Rural/Urban, Less than 45%
- Rural/Urban, More than 45%
- Mostly Urban, Less than 45%
- Mostly Urban, More than 45%

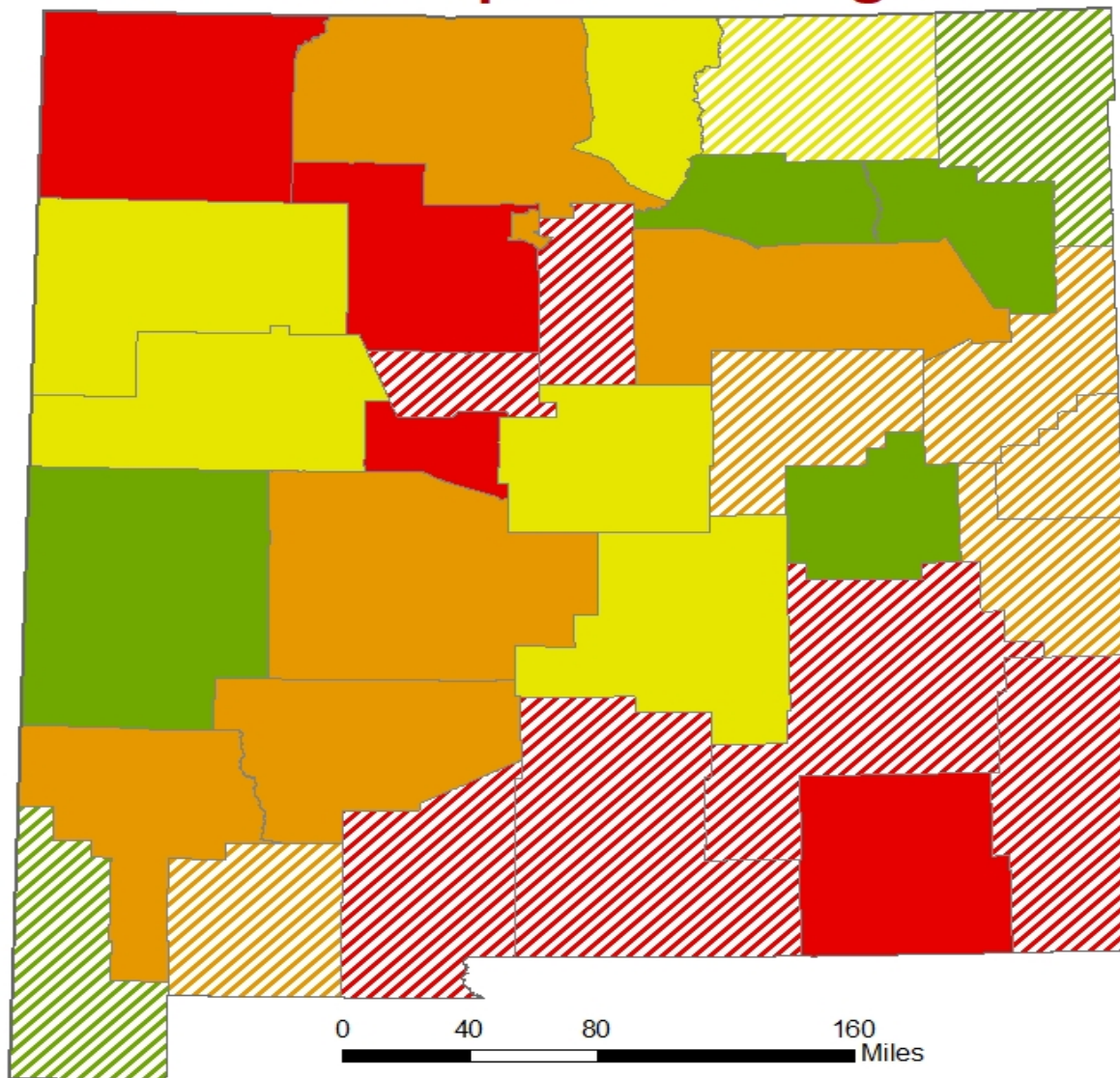


Married

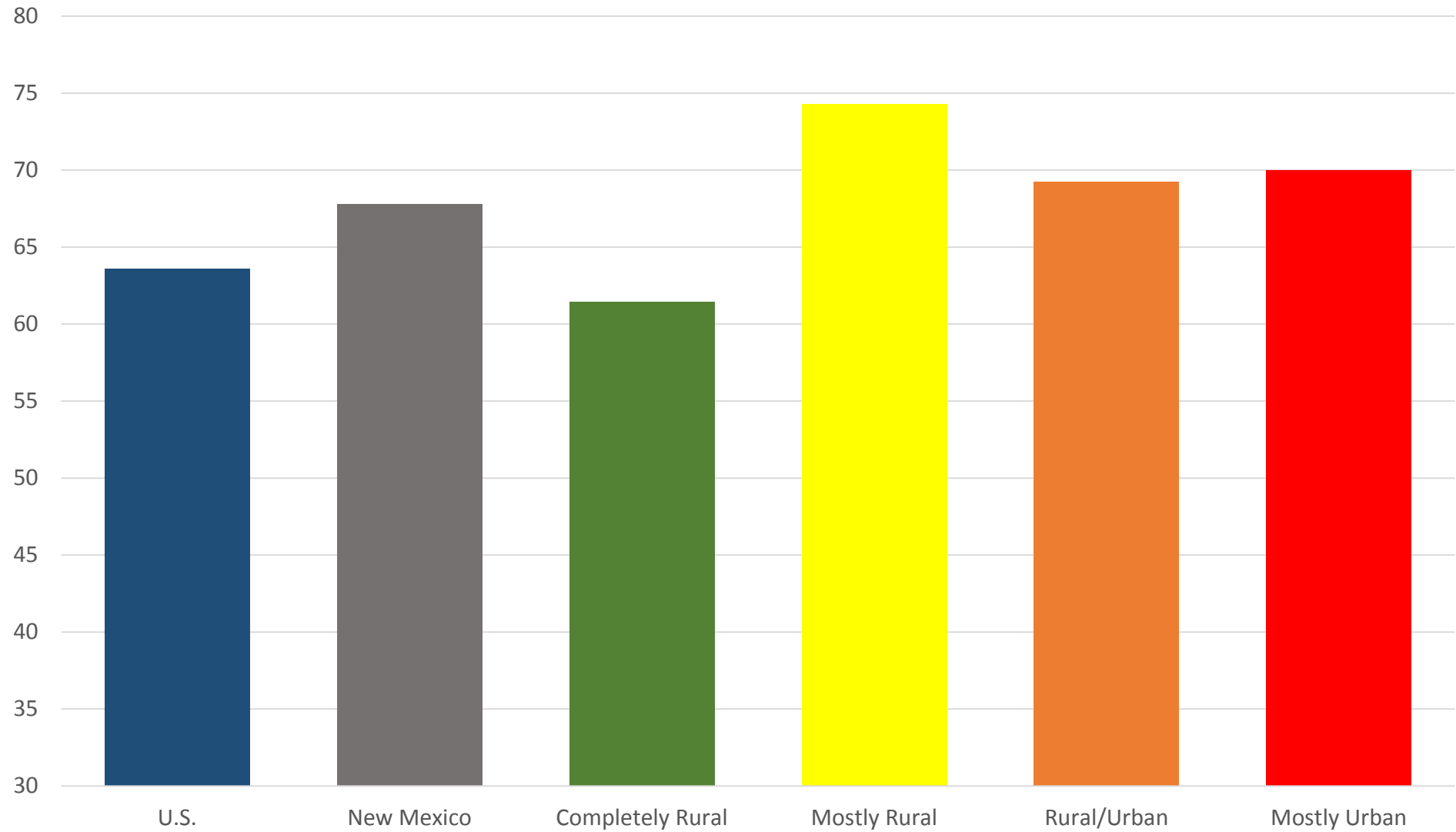


Owner Occupied Housing Units

- Completely Rural, Less than 70%
- Completely Rural, More than 70%
- Mostly Rural, Less than 70%
- Mostly Rural, More than 70%
- Rural/Urban, Less than 70%
- Rural/Urban, More than 70%
- Mostly Urban, Less than 70%
- Mostly Urban, More than 70%

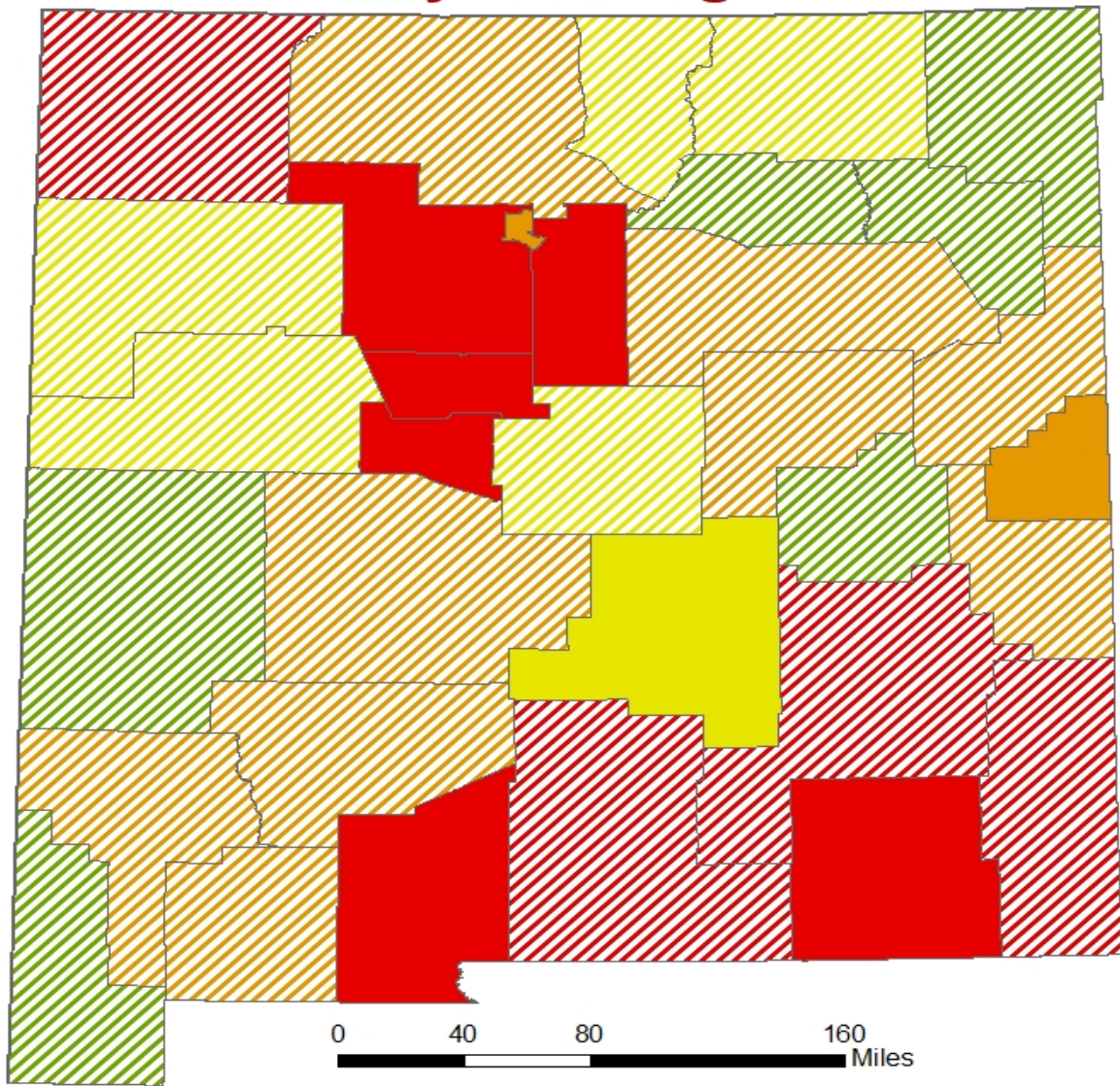


Owner Occupied Housing Units

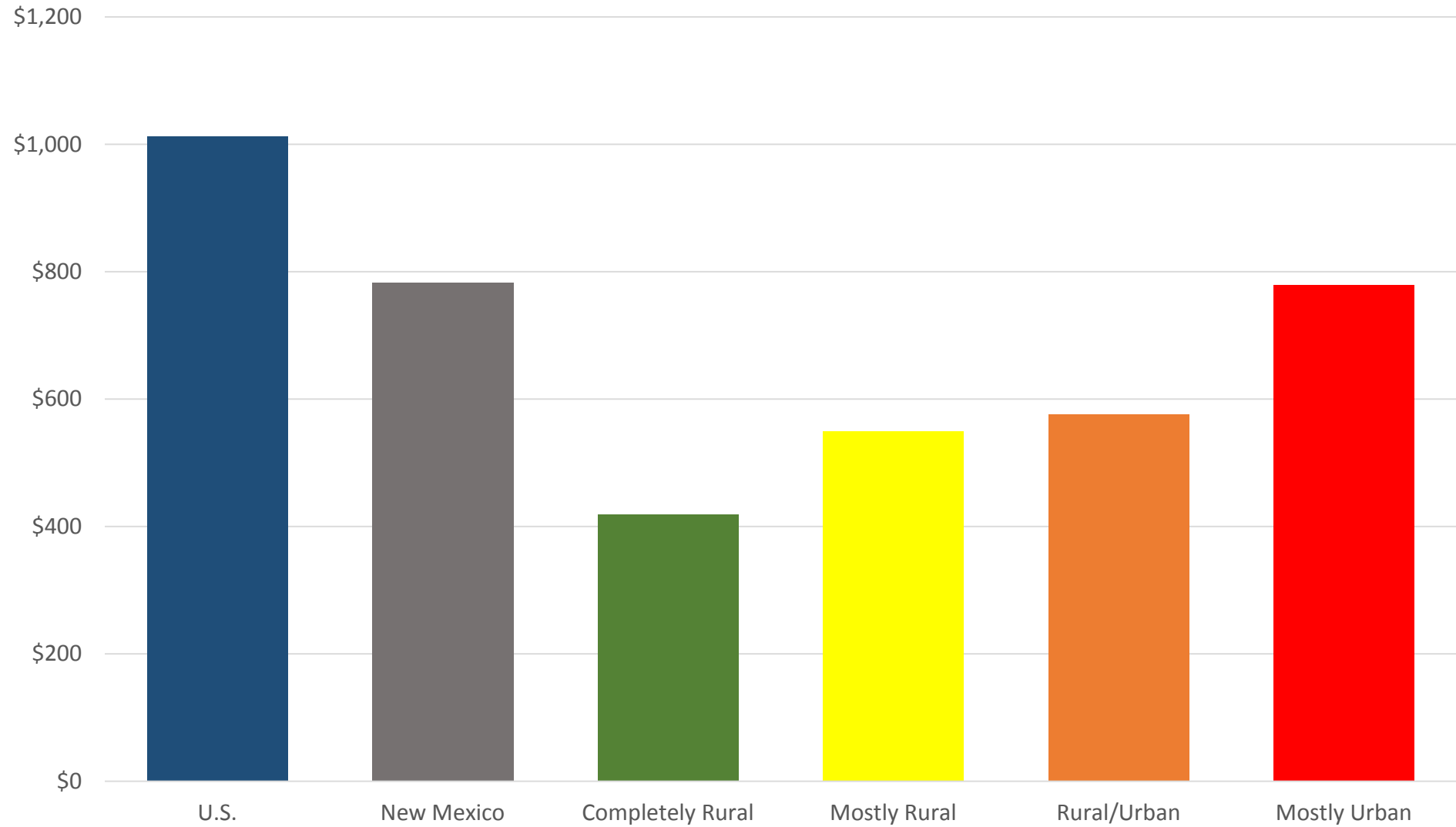


Monthly Housing Costs

- Completely Rural, Less than \$700
- Mostly Rural, Less than \$700
- Mostly Rural, More than \$700
- Rural/Urban, Less than \$700
- Rural/Urban, More than \$700
- Mostly Urban, Less than \$700
- Mostly Urban, More than \$700

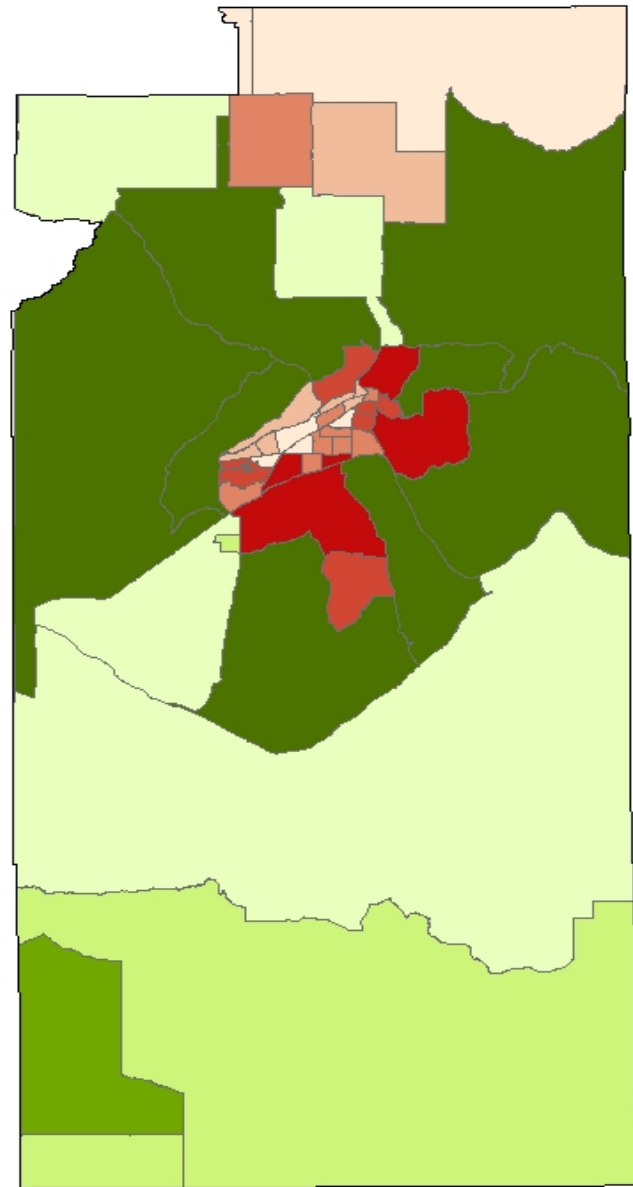
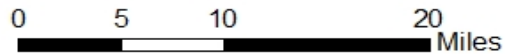
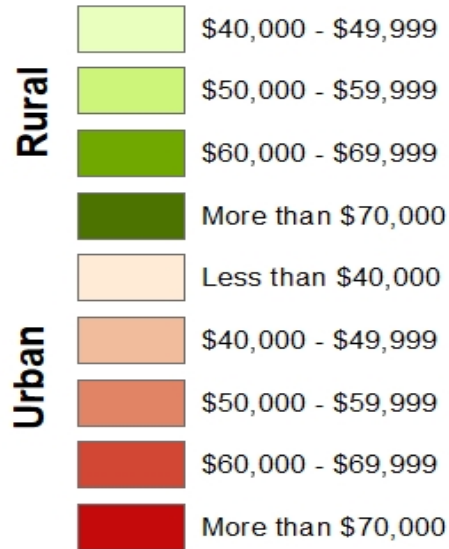


Monthly Housing Costs



Sante Fe County, New Mexico

County Median Income: \$55,370



2020 Urban Areas and Future

- 2020 Urban Areas Delineation Criteria
- How to define a Rural Statistical Area?

Questions? Comments?

Contact information:

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301-763-5647

Jennifer.zanoni@census.gov

- American Fact Finder

- <https://factfinder.census.gov/>

- Am I Rural tool

- <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/am-i-rural>

