

Appendix E: Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Baseline Report

Executive Order 13166 “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency” requires all recipients of federal funds to provide meaningful access to persons who are limited in their English proficiency (LEP). The United States (U.S.) Department of Justice defines LEP individuals as those “who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English” (67 FR 41459). Data about LEP populations was gathered in the U.S. Census 2000. For data analysis purposes, the Census divides the states of the United States into counties, divides counties into tracts and divides tracts into block groups.

Within area block groups, Census data do not record the presence of persons who describe their ability to speak English as less than “Very Well.” The table below shows the percentages of adults who speak English less than “Very Well” by language category. Additionally,

0 households or 0.0% of households within area block groups reported to the Census that their household was linguistically isolated, meaning that all household members over the age of fourteen had at least some difficulty with English. Thus, Census data do not indicate the presence of LEP populations.

Since LEP is partially defined as a limited ability to read and write English, literacy data were also consulted. Indirect literacy estimates for adults were calculated by the National Center for Education Statistics based on 2003 survey data for states and counties. The percentages of adults who lack basic prose literacy skills for Anderson County, Blount County, Jefferson County, Knox County, Loudon County and Sevier County are 11%, 11%, 14%, 10%, 12% and 12% respectively. While literacy estimates do not differentiate between low literate English speakers and low literate LEP populations, literacy data should be considered along with other LEP

Table 40. Census Data: Percent of Adult Speakers Who Speak English Less than Very Well*

Census Geographies	Total Adult Population	Percent of Adult Speakers Who Speak English Less than Very Well			
		Spanish Language Speakers	Other Indo European Language Speakers	Asian and Pacific Island Language Speakers	Other Language Speakers
Block group 2 Tract 307.00	591	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Anderson County Tennessee	54,822	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%
Blount County Tennessee	81,676	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%
Jefferson County Tennessee	34,146	1.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Knox County Tennessee	297,011	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.1%
Loudon County Tennessee	30,551	1.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
Sevier County Tennessee	54,811	0.7%	0.4%	0.2%	0.0%

Data Source: United States Census 2000 (Table P19) as of February 9, 2008 for persons age 18 and older.

** The data on ability to speak English represent the Census respondent's own perception about his ability to speak English (United States Census 2000 Metadata).*

indicators in determining how to best provide access to LEP populations.

To supplement Census and literacy data, area school district (ISD) data were consulted for indicators of LEP populations. School districts collect data on the number of English Language Learners as defined by each state’s Department of Education and migrant students as defined in 34 CFR 200.81(d). For school year 2005-06, ROANE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT reported unknown percent of students as English Language Learners and unknown percent as migrant students. In conclusion, the data do not indicate the likelihood of LEP populations in the area.

To determine the languages of the LEP populations, Census data were consulted for project area counties. The table below details the top five languages spoken by the total adult population (LEP and non-LEP) for each county.

Therefore, the block groups data does not indicate the presence of LEP language groups that exceed the Department of Justice’s Safe Harbor threshold of 5% or 1,000 persons. Thus, the requirements of Executive Order 13166 appear to be satisfied.

Table 41. Census Data: Top Five Languages Spoken by the Adult Population

Census Geographies	Language 1	Language 2	Language 3	Language 4	Language 5
Anderson County Tennessee	English 96.5%	Spanish/Spanish Creole 1.5%	German 0.5%	French (Patois, Cajun) 0.4%	Chinese 0.2%
Blount County Tennessee	English 96.7%	Spanish/Spanish Creole 1.3%	German 0.5%	French (Patois, Cajun) 0.5%	Japanese 0.2%
Jefferson County Tennessee	English 97.0%	Spanish/Spanish Creole 2.0%	German 0.3%	French (Patois, Cajun) 0.2%	Italian 0.1%
Knox County Tennessee	English 95.3%	Spanish/Spanish Creole 1.7%	German 0.4%	French (Patois, Cajun) 0.4%	Chinese 0.2%
Loudon County Tennessee	English 97.0%	Spanish/Spanish Creole 2.1%	French (Patois, Cajun) 0.2%	Other West Germanic languages 0.1%	Italian 0.1%
Sevier County Tennessee	English 97.0%	Spanish/Spanish Creole 1.4%	German 0.3%	French (Patois, Cajun) 0.3%	Italian 0.1%

Data Source: United States Census 2000 (Table PCT10) as of February 9, 2008.