

# The Green Route

A transportation system connecting communities to their public lands, in and around Charlottesville, Virginia

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## Equitable Access to Public Lands

Access to our parks is a complex issue involving race, age, vehicle-access, and the availability of information. Increasingly, environmental justice activists, planners, and policymakers alike are prioritizing access to parks due to their recognized health, social, and environmental benefits. Now more than ever, there is a focus on **breaking down barriers between populations and their natural spaces**. While progress has been made at the federal level, particularly through National Park Service initiatives, there is an equally urgent need to address the same accessibility issues within local communities such as Charlottesville.

## Transportation Challenges

Transportation is a primary obstacle deterring groups from visiting natural parks. Disadvantaged groups, such as those with low-income, households with children, older adults, and people with a disability status are more likely to:

- 1) **Rely on public transportation**
- 2) **Live farther away from parks, and**
- 3) **Live farther away from public transportation services**

Furthermore, in comparison to previous generations, young adults are less likely to rely on personal vehicles, instead electing to use multimodal or shared vehicles. On the other side of the age spectrum, adults over 65 in age drive, walk, and bike less.

## Demographic Disparities

The National Park Service found that those who visited parks in the last two years were disproportionately white and more educated. They also found that while visitation had increased since 2000, the makeup of their visitors had not changed greatly. The most common reason cited by visitors who had not visited in the last two years was that they **‘don’t know much about national parks’**. This statement was more likely to be agreed upon by Hispanic, Asian, and African Americans, indicating a concurrent lapse in information that is readily available to these populations.

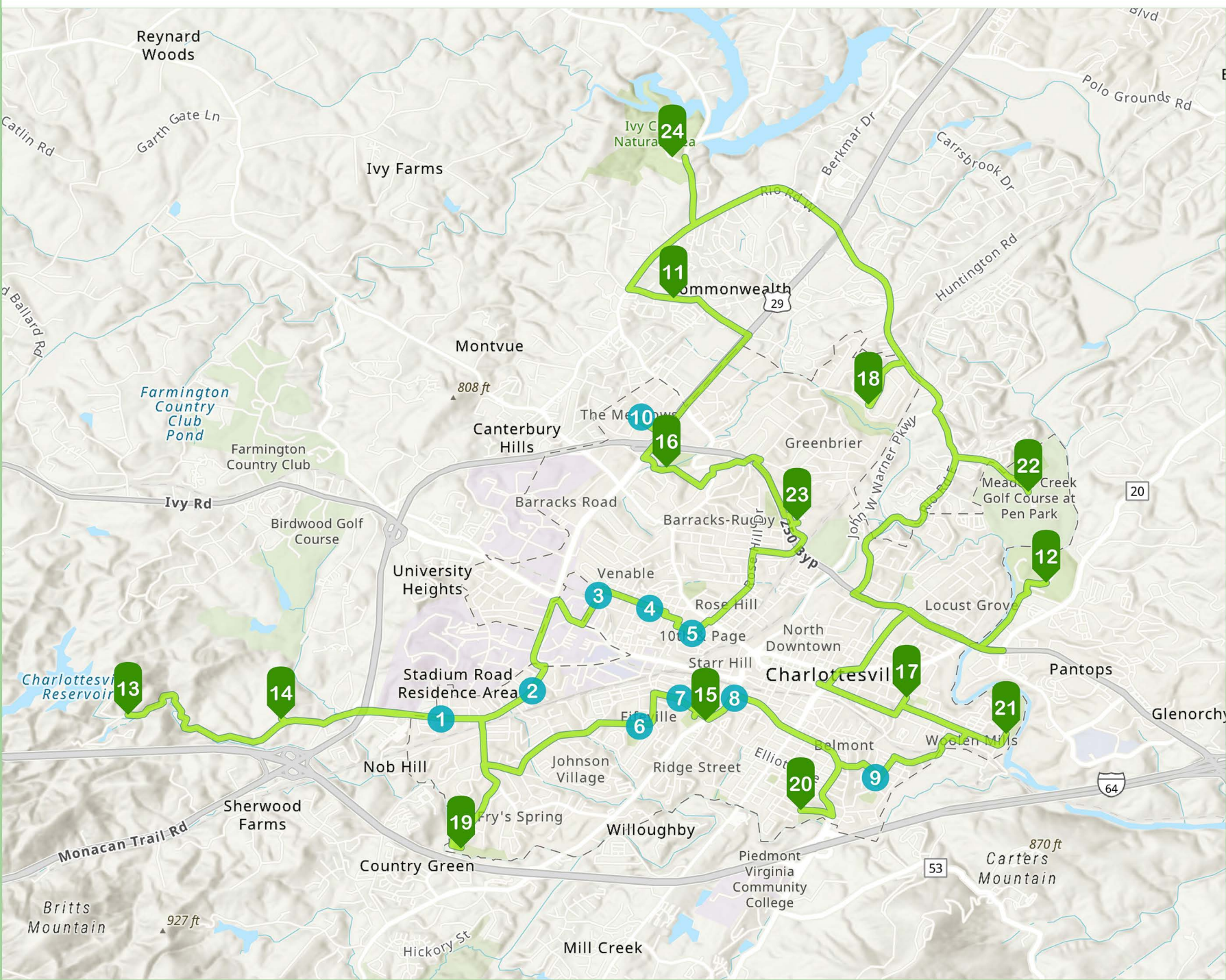


Link to detailed  
Green Route Information

# The Green Route

Through identification of critical communities, selection of natural spaces, and route optimization, the public bus system will connect historically underrrserved populations to their public lands. The system involves two primary routes:

## Local Green Route

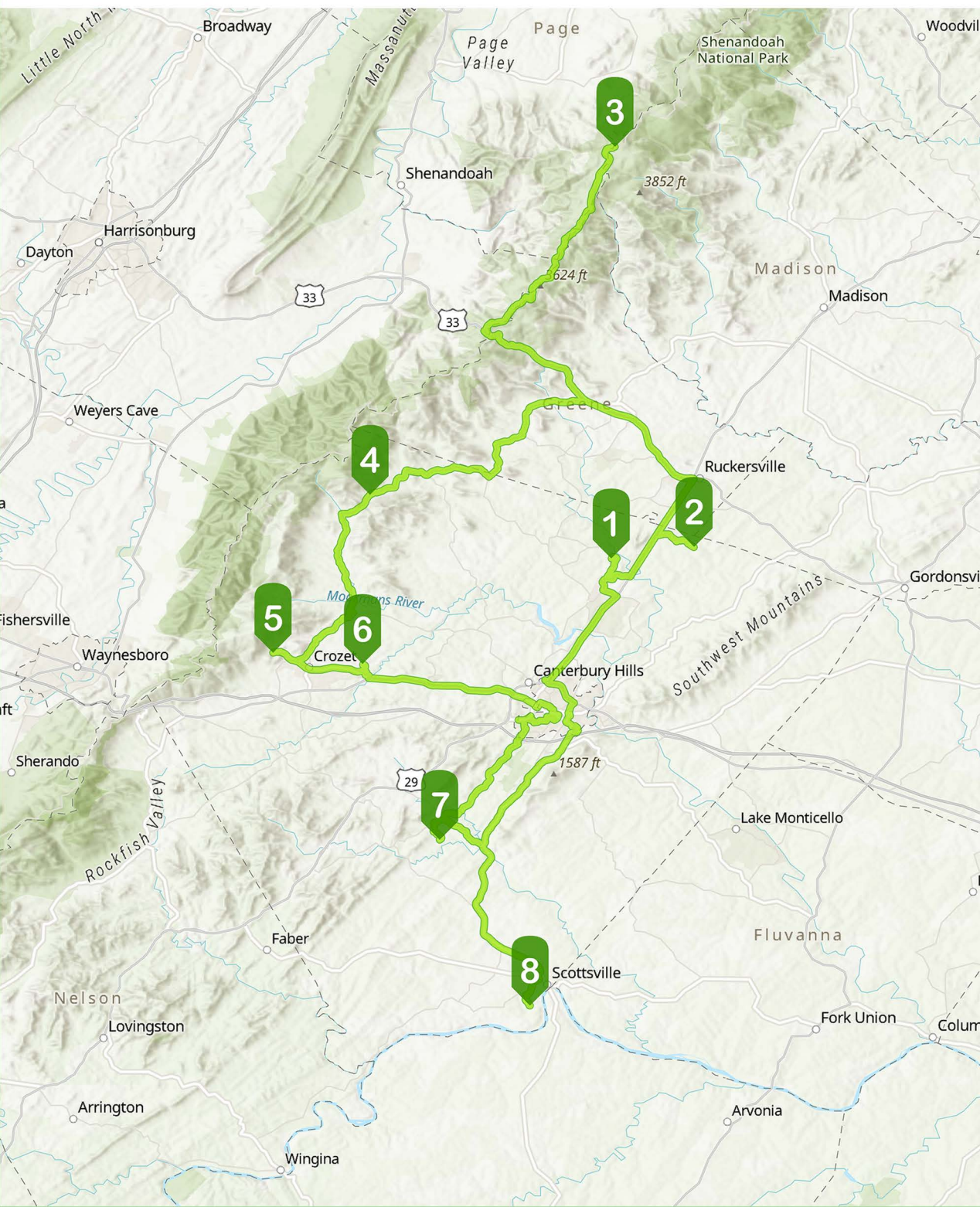


**The Local Green Route:** aims to service visitors daily after work to primarily city parks

- Dropoff Bus Departure Time: 4pm
- Pickup Bus Departure Time: 7pm
- Est. Time Between Buses: 3 hrs
- Entire Route Length: 3 hr 45 min

- Community Bus Stop
- 11 Charlotte Y. Humphris Park
- 12 Darden Towe Park
- 13 Heyward Community Forest
- 14 Foxhaven Farm
- 15 Tonsler Park
- 16 Meadowcreek Park
- 17 Meade Park
- 18 Greenbrier Park
- 19 Azaela Park
- 20 Quarry Park
- 21 Meade Park
- 22 Pen Park
- 23 McIntire Park
- 24 Ivy Creek Park

## County Green Route

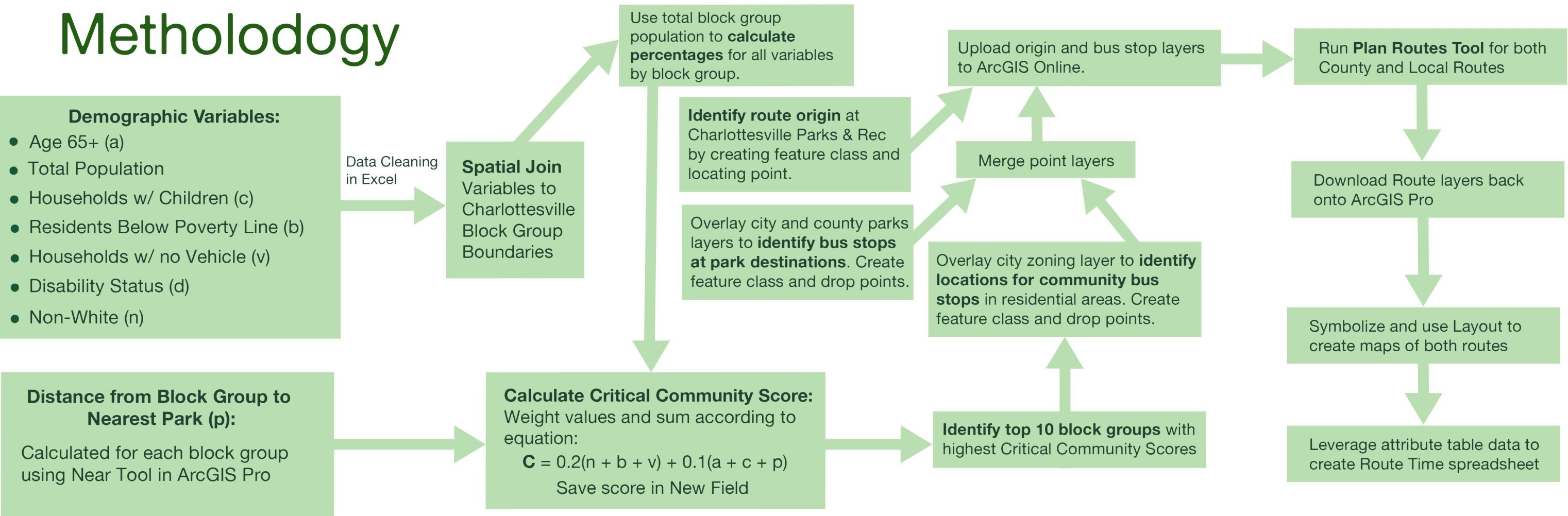


- 1 Chris Greene Lake Park
- 2 Preddy Creek Trails Park
- 3 Shenandoah National Park
- 4 Patricia Ann Byrom Forest Preserve Park
- 5 Mint Springs Valley Park
- 6 Beaver Creek Park
- 7 Walnut Creek Park
- 8 Totier Creek Park

**The County Green Route:** provides weekend access to more distant parks throughout Albemarle County

- Dropoff Bus Departure Time: 8am
- Pickup Bus Departure Time: 12pm
- Est. Time Between Buses: 4hrs
- Entire Route Length: 6 hr 30 min

## Metholodogy



## Data Sources

Geospatial Data	Source
Charlottesville Block Group Boundaries	US Census Bureau
City Parks	Charlottesville Open Data
County Parks	Albemarle County GIS Data
Shenandoah National Park	Albemarle County GIS Data
Charlottesville City Zoning Layer	Charlottesville Open Data
Landcover Data	National Landcover Dataset
American Community Survey (US Census Bureau) Data	
B02001: Race (2022)	
B01003: Total Population (2022)	
B09002: Own Children Under 18 Years by Family Type and Age (2022)	
B17101: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of People in Housing Units (2022)	
B23024: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Disability Status by Employment Status for the Population 20 to 64 Years (2022)	
B25044: Tenure by Vehicles Available (2022)	
B01001: Sex by Age (2022)	