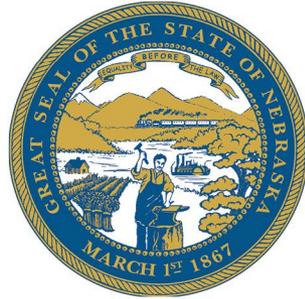


6 REGIONS   
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UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA  
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The Center for Public Affairs Research collaboratively produces and disseminates high-quality public scholarship about topics that impact the lives of Nebraskans.



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# SOURCES

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Nebraska Department of Education. County Membership by Grade. 2023-2024

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Public Data Request & Licensing Roster. Multiple Years.

Nebraska Statewide Workforce & Educational Reporting System. Analysis of data from NSWERS Data System. 2014-2023.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics. 2023.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. Multiple Years.

UNL Bureau of Business Research. Monthly Survey of Nebraska Business. Jan. - Dec. 2023.

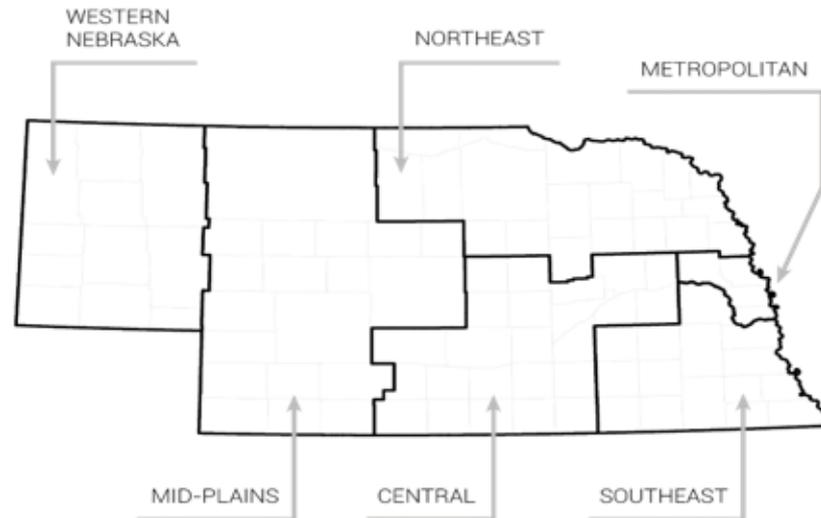
U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey. 5-Year Estimates. Multiple Years.

U.S. Census Bureau. Population Estimates. Multiple Years.

# CENTRAL REGION

The Central Region encompasses the counties of:

- Adams
- Boone
- Buffalo
- Butler
- Clay
- Colfax
- Dawson
- Franklin
- Furnas
- Gosper
- Greeley
- Hall
- Hamilton
- Harlan
- Howard
- Kearney
- Merrick
- Nance
- Nuckolls
- Phelps
- Platte
- Polk
- Sherman
- Valley
- Webster



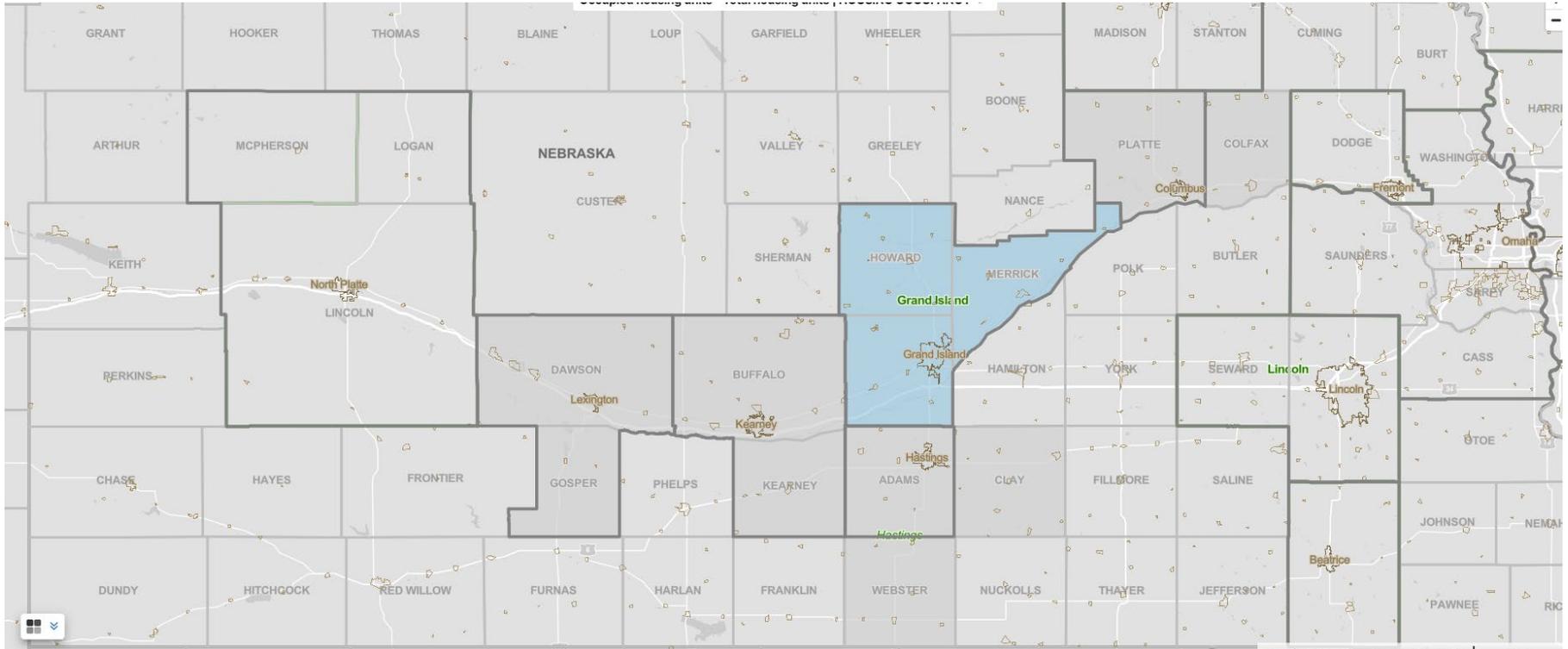
# DEMOGRAPHICS





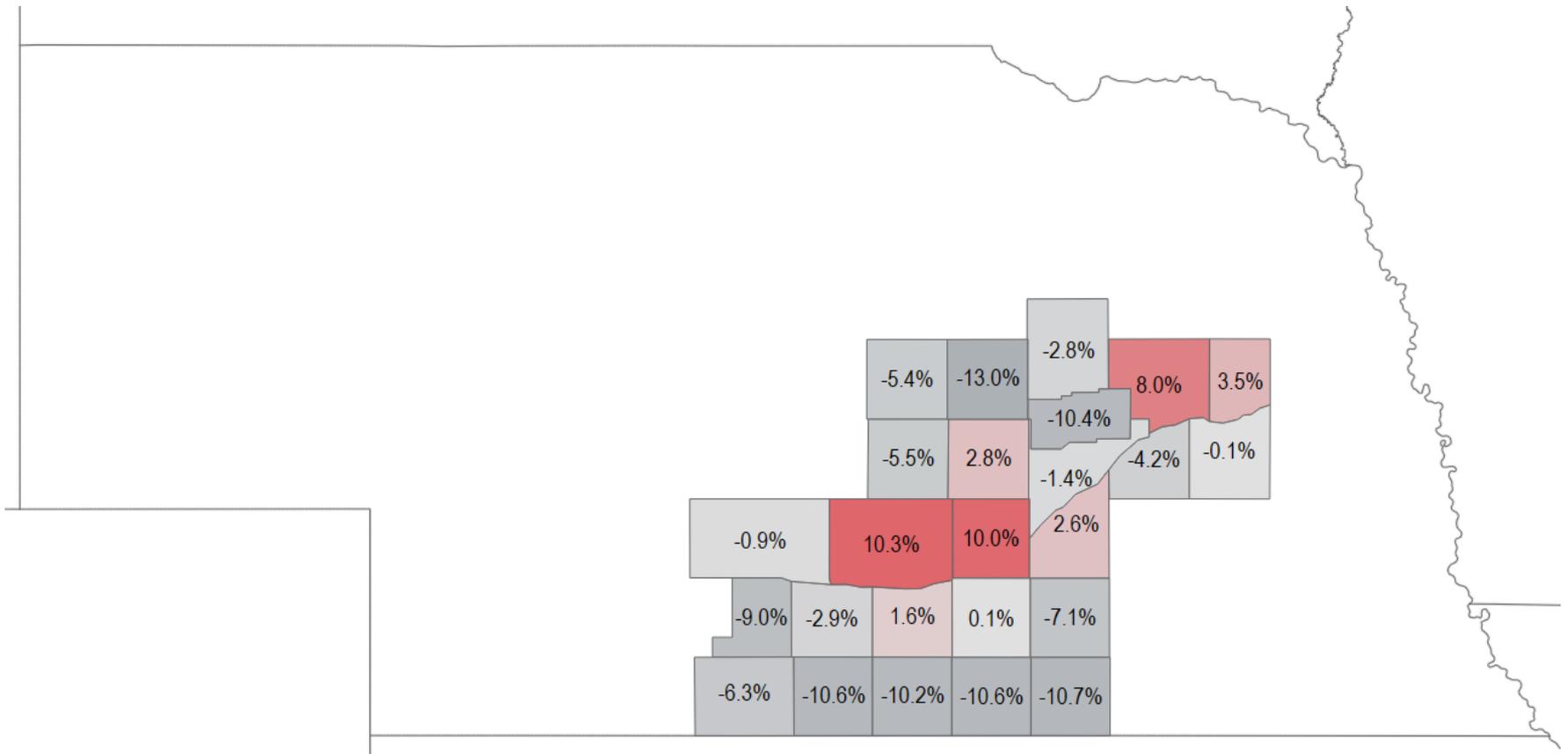
# METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN AREAS

The Central Region has one metropolitan area, Grand Island, and four micropolitan areas, Lexington, Kearney, Hastings, and Columbus.



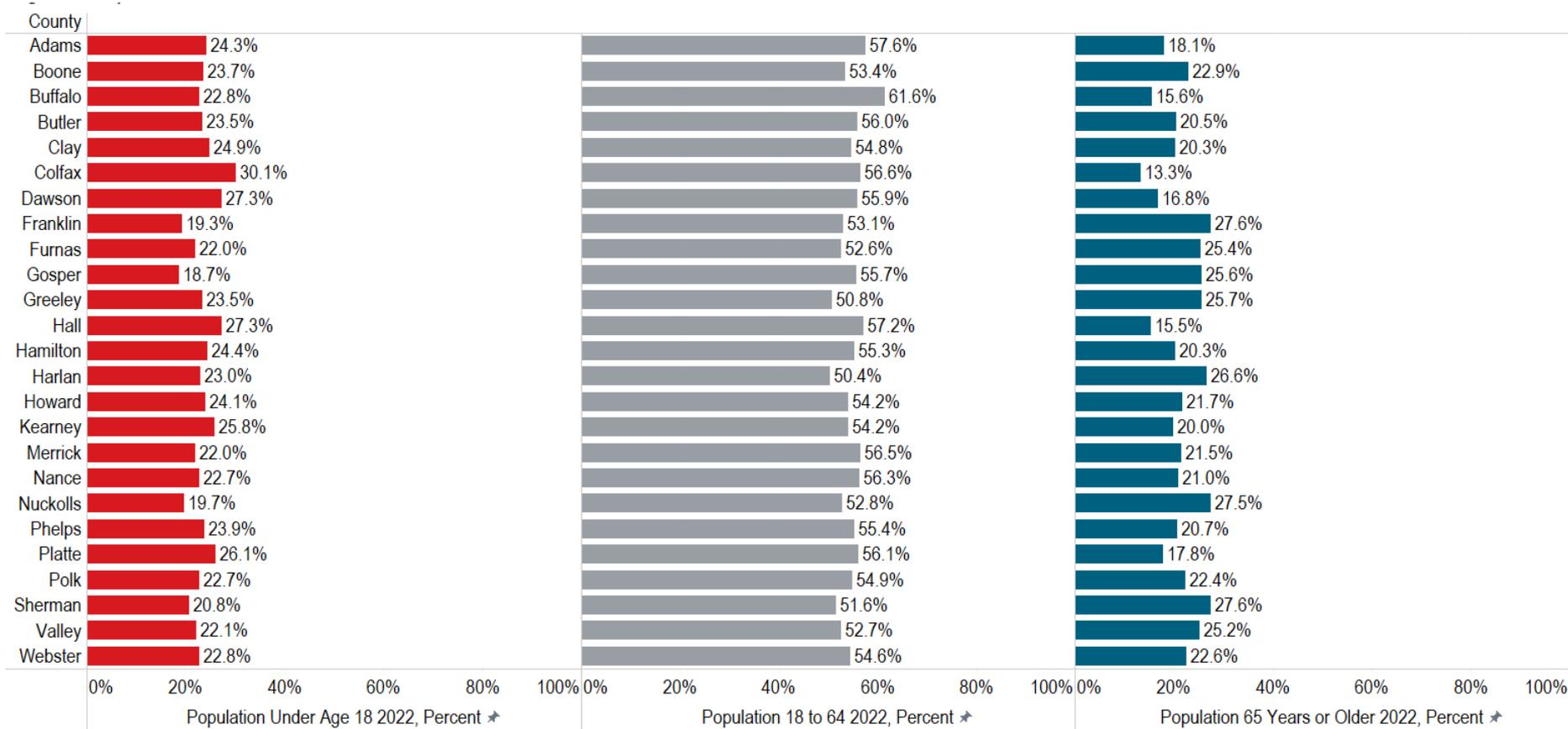
# POPULATION CHANGE 2010 TO 2022

Population change in the last decade in the Central Region varies by county, with an average decrease of -2.9%.



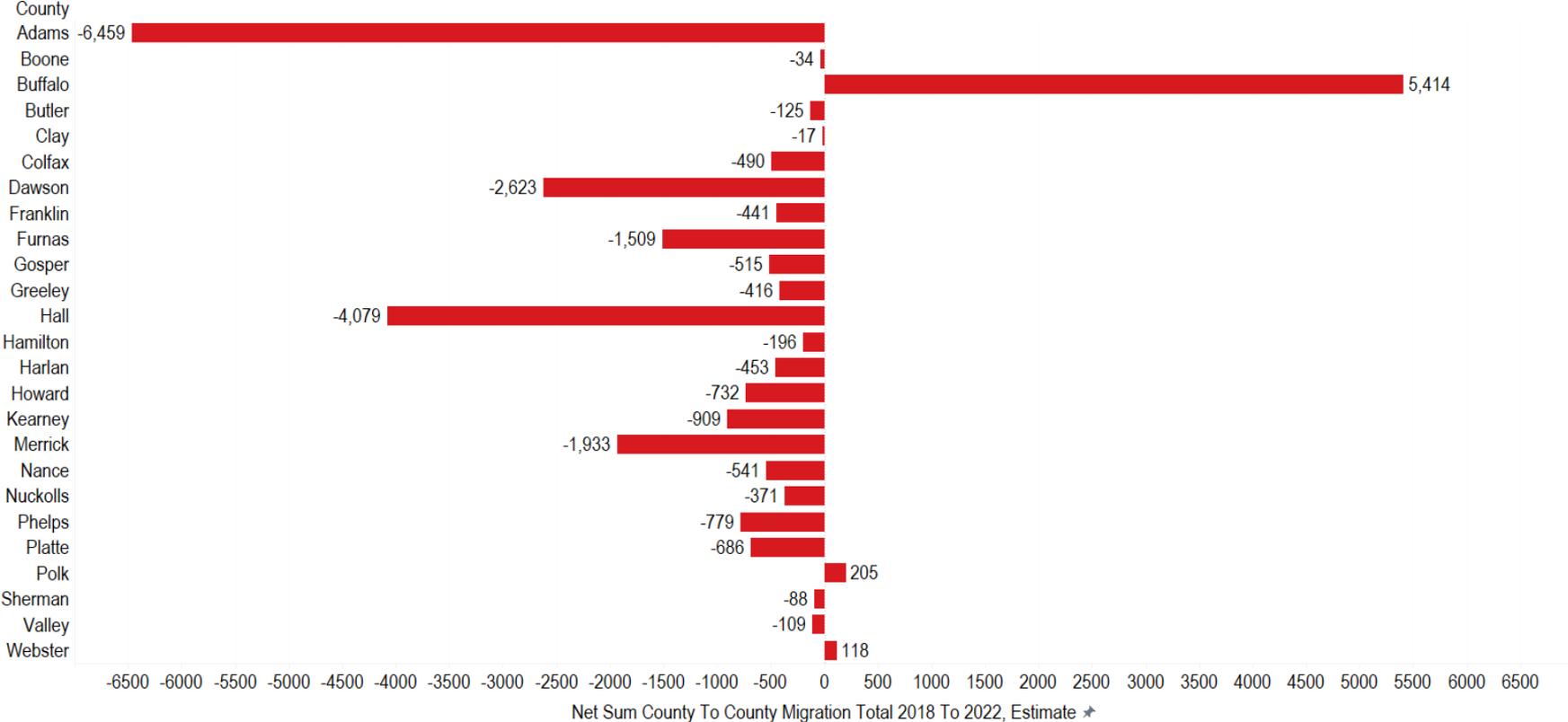
# POPULATION BY AGE, 2022

Across all counties, the largest age group, as a percentage of the population, is 18 to 64.



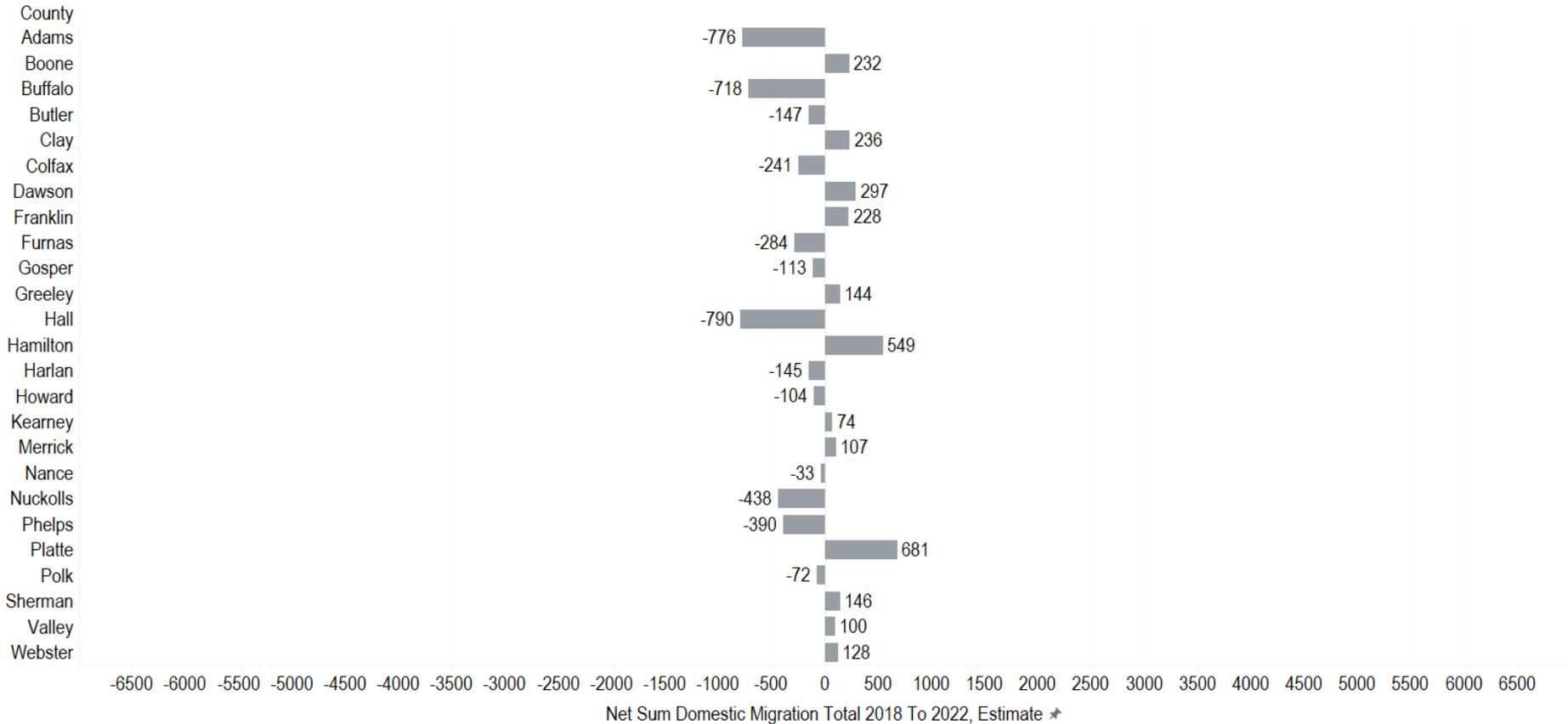
# NET COUNTY-TO-COUNTY MIGRATION, 2018 TO 2022

As a general trend, Nebraskans are leaving non-metro counties and moving to metro counties. However, Hall County loses population to other areas of the state, but Buffalo County, a micropolitan area, is the big gainer.



# NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION, 2018 TO 2022

Once in metro counties, some residents leave for other states, which is true in Hall County. However, several micropolitan counties net attract residents from other states.

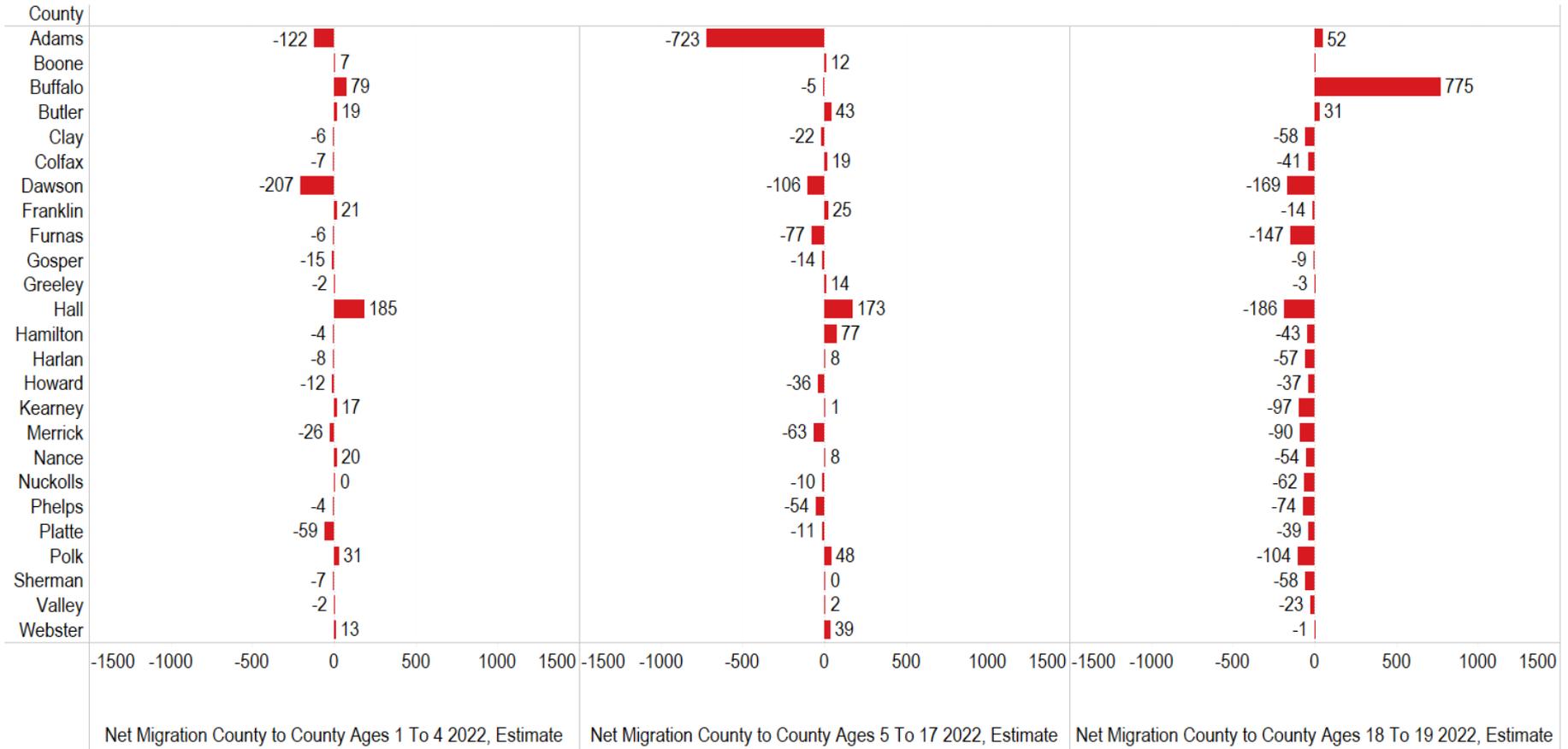


# NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION BY REGION, 2018 TO 2022

Region	Net Domestic Migration
Central	-1,329
Metropolitan	-12,244
Mid-Plains	-603
Northeast	781
Southeast	-1,756
Western	-259

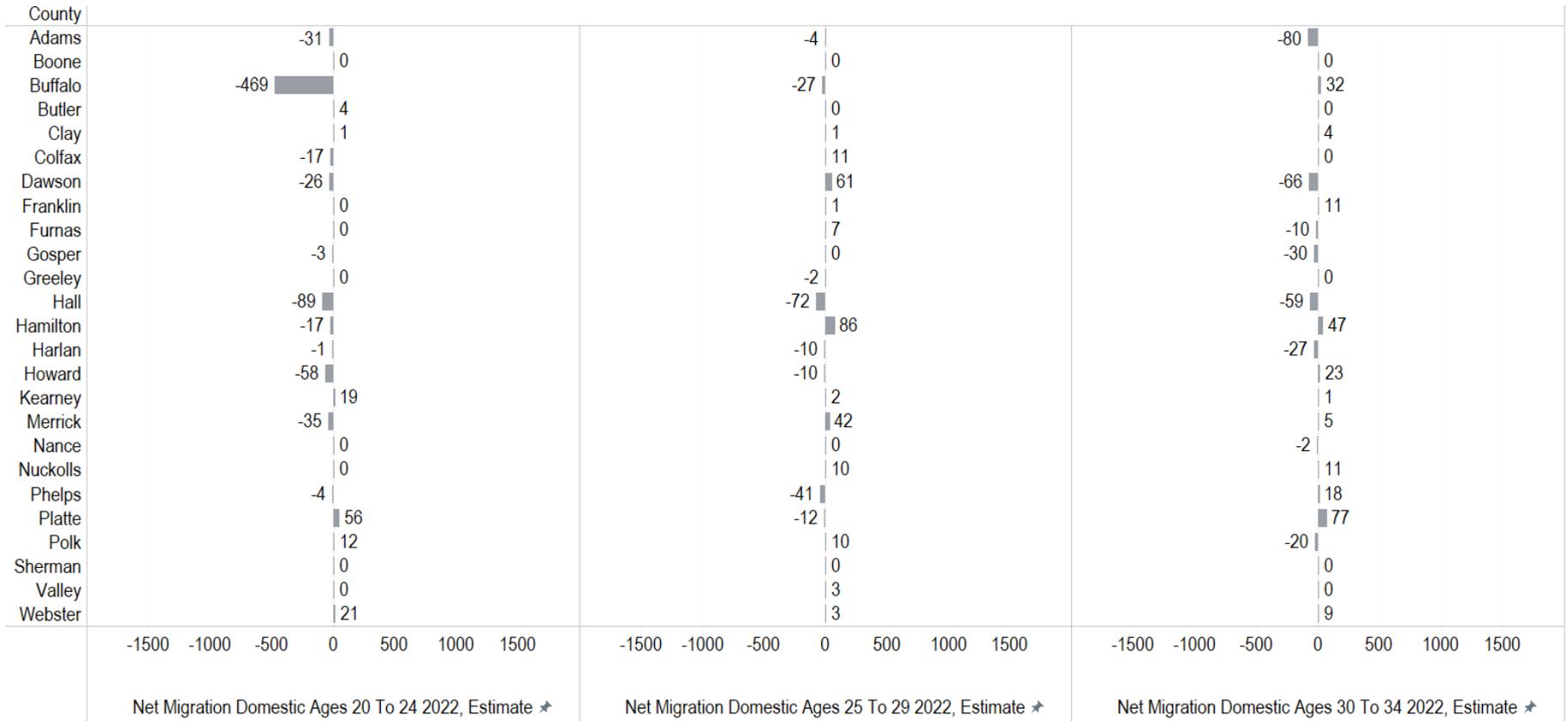
# NET COUNTY-TO-COUNTY BY AGE, 2022

The only counties in the region that net gained population of 18-to-19-year-olds were Adams, Buffalo, and Butler Counties.



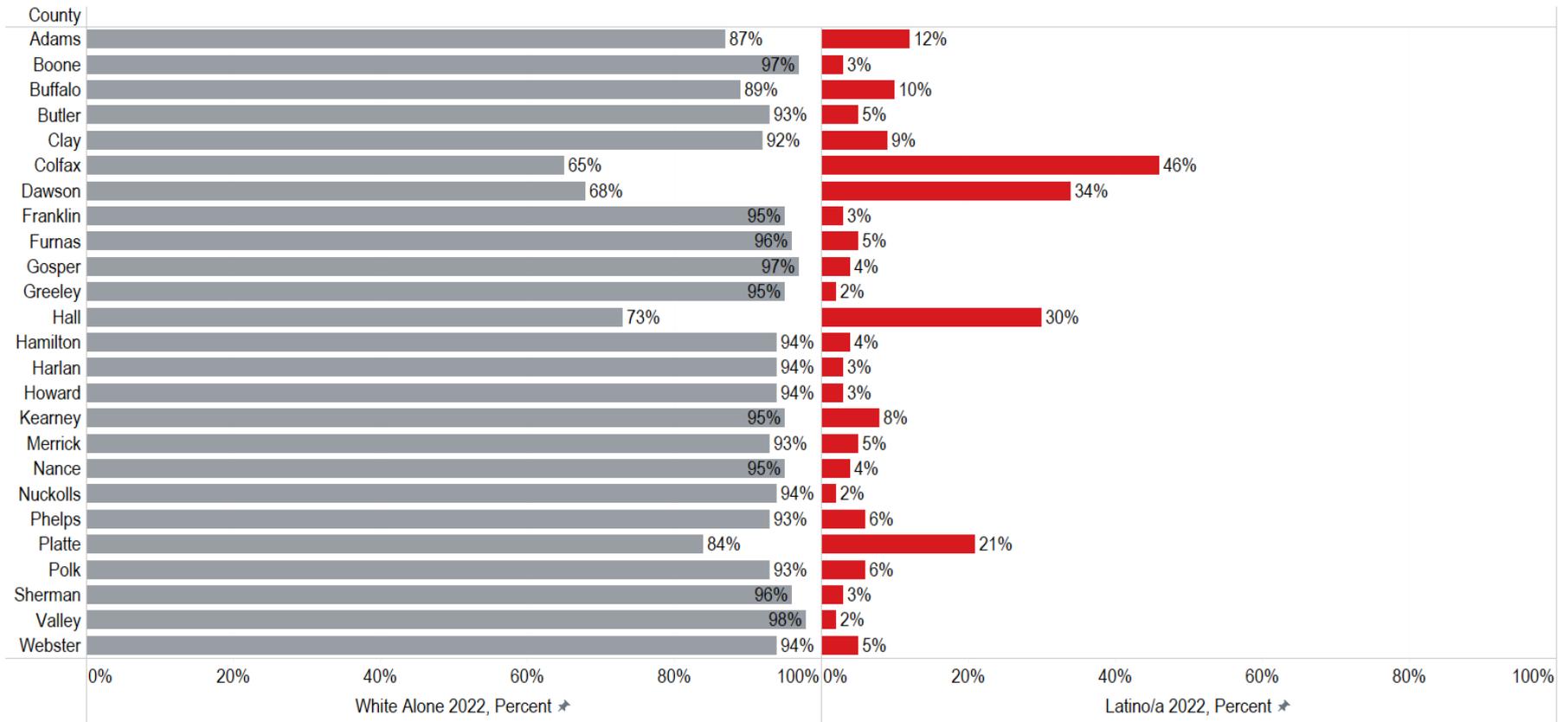
# NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION BY AGE, 2022

While Buffalo County attracts 18- to 19-year-olds from other parts of the state, it experiences a net loss of 20- to 24-year-olds to other states, like many other counties in the region. Domestic out-migration from the area decreases for those aged 65 years and older (not pictured).



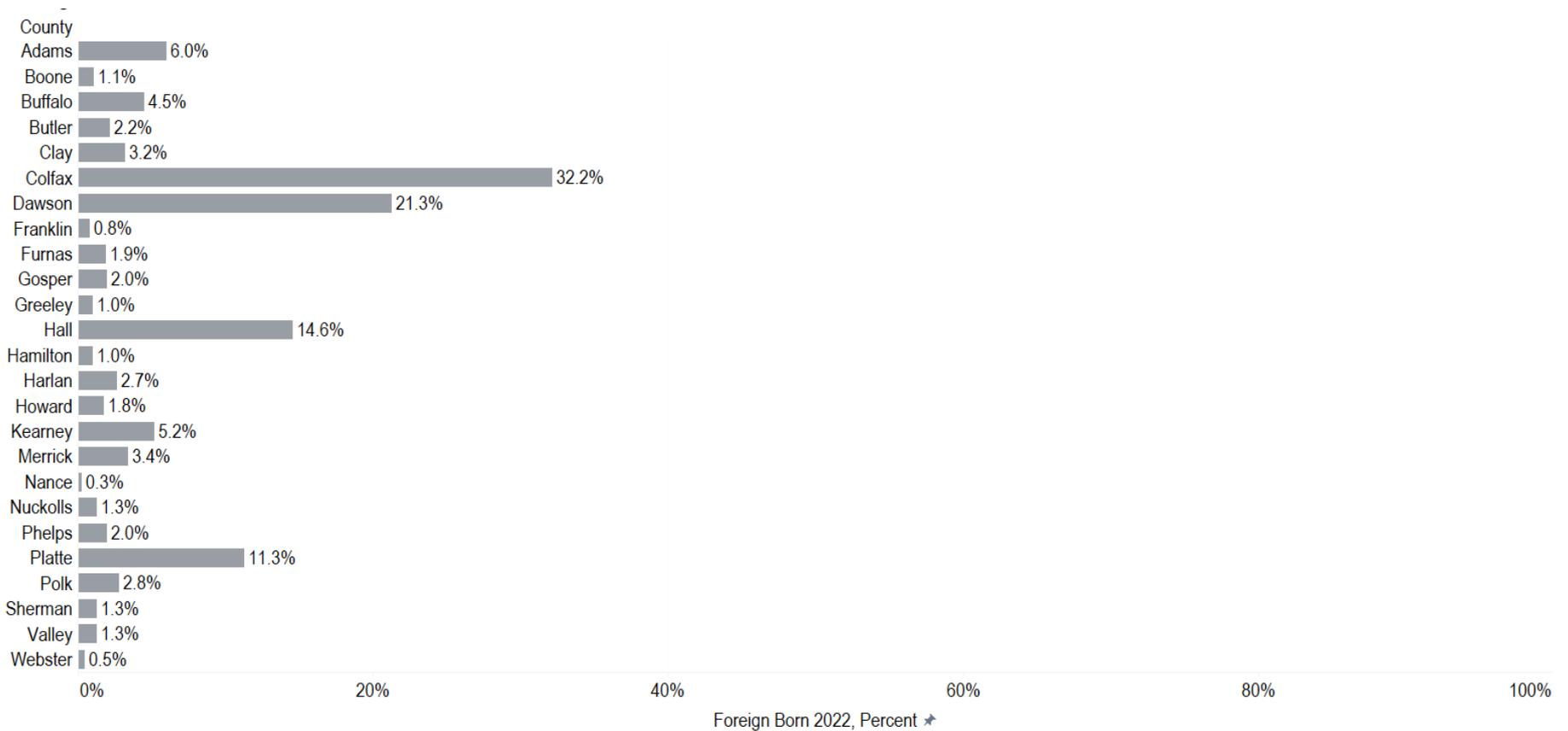
# POPULATION IDENTIFYING AS WHITE ALONE AND LATINO/A, 2022

The Central Region, like much of the state, is not particularly diverse, but several counties have a high percentage of the population that is Latino/a.



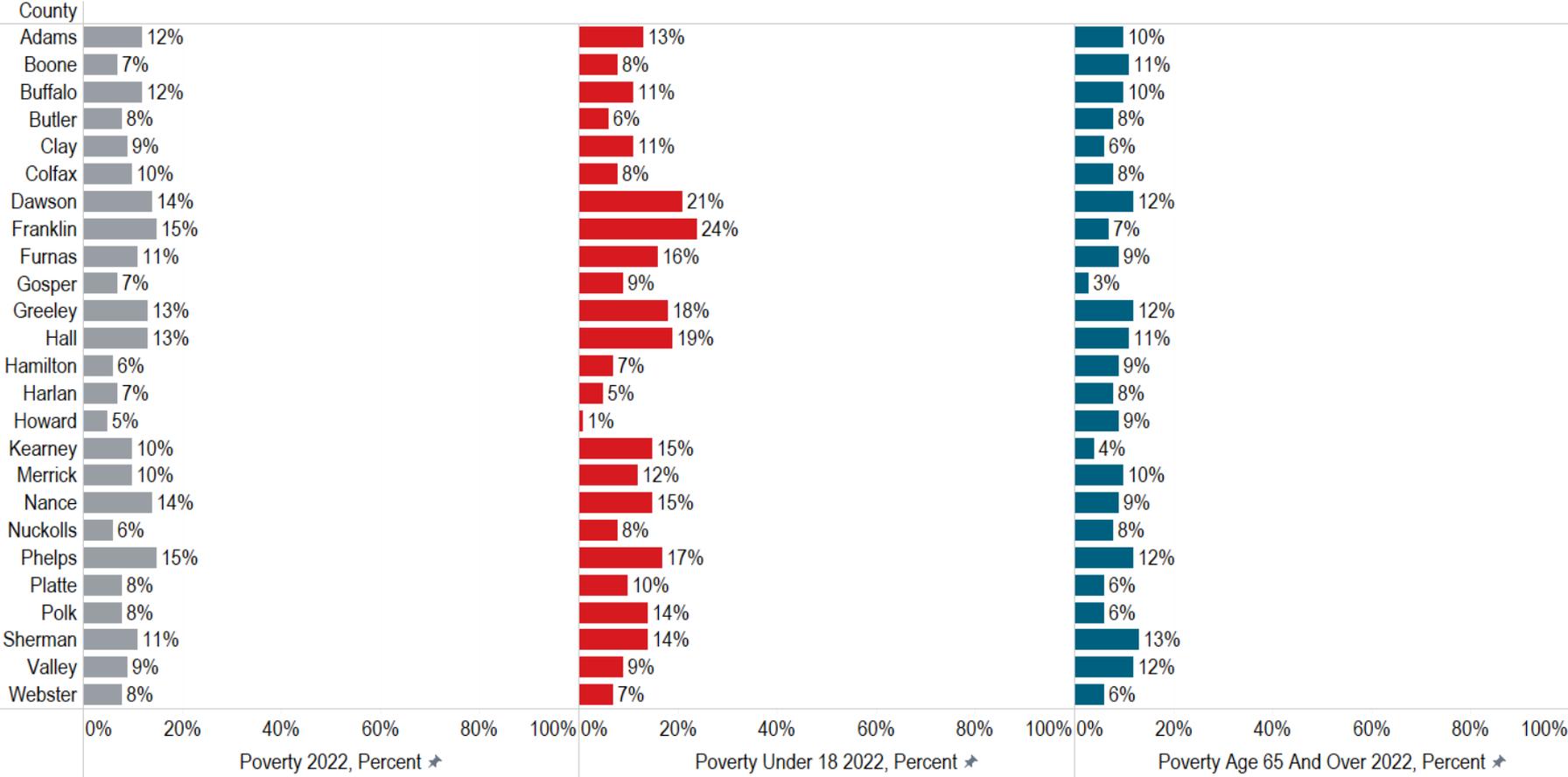
# PERCENT FOREIGN BORN, 2022

Several counties in the region have foreign born population rates above the state average of 7.5%.



# POPULATION IN POVERTY BY AGE GROUPS, 2022

Several counties in the region have higher than average poverty rates.

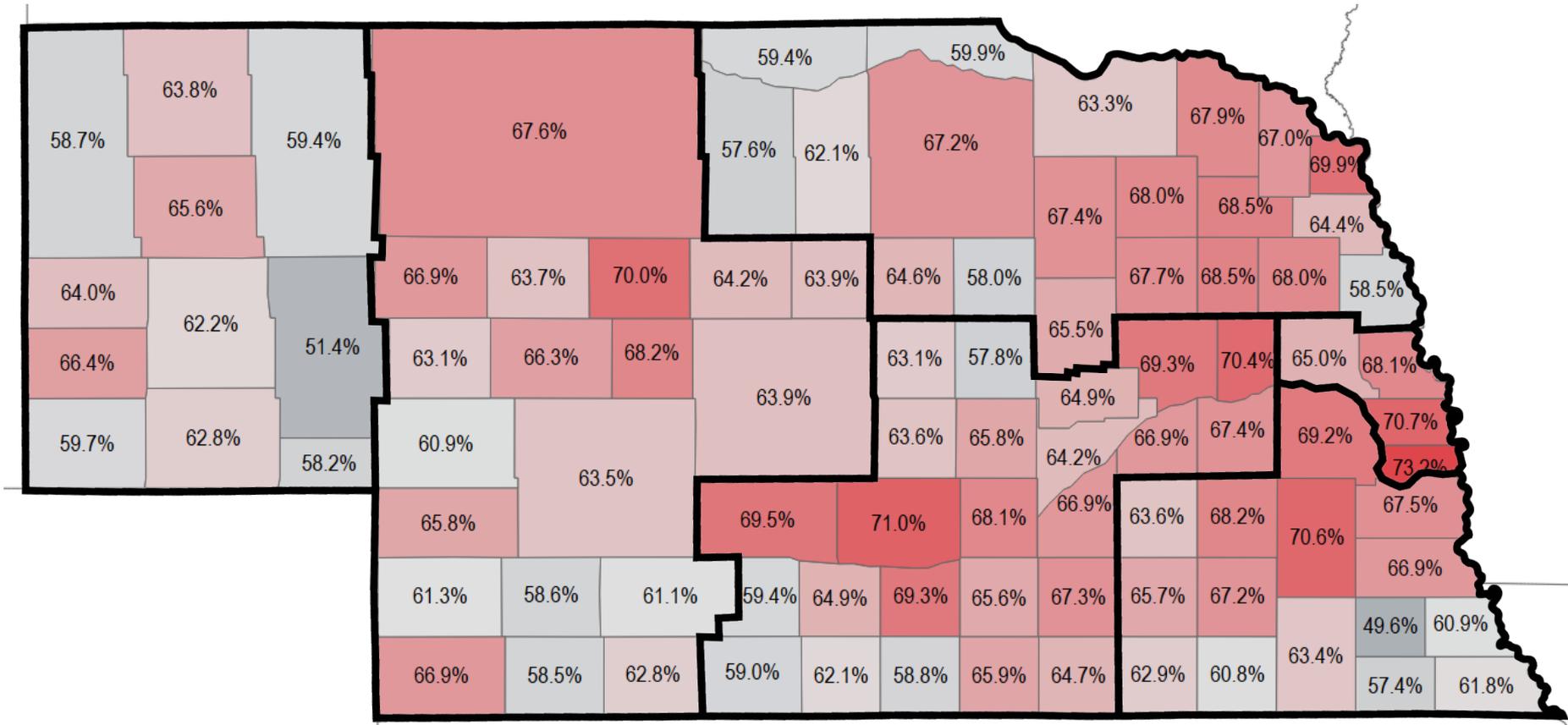


# WORKFORCE



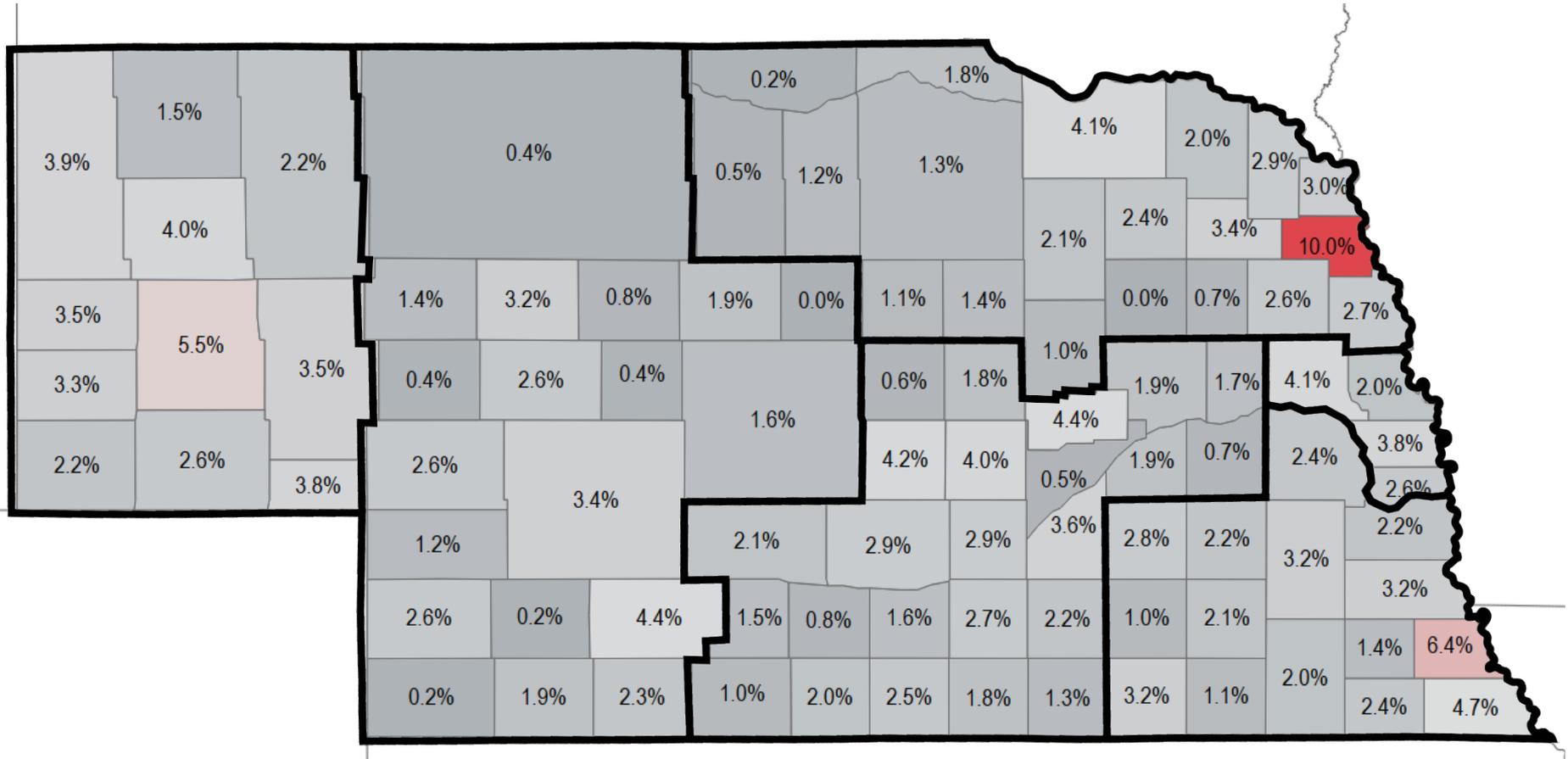
# LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES , 2022

Labor force participation rates are high in the Central Region and statewide.

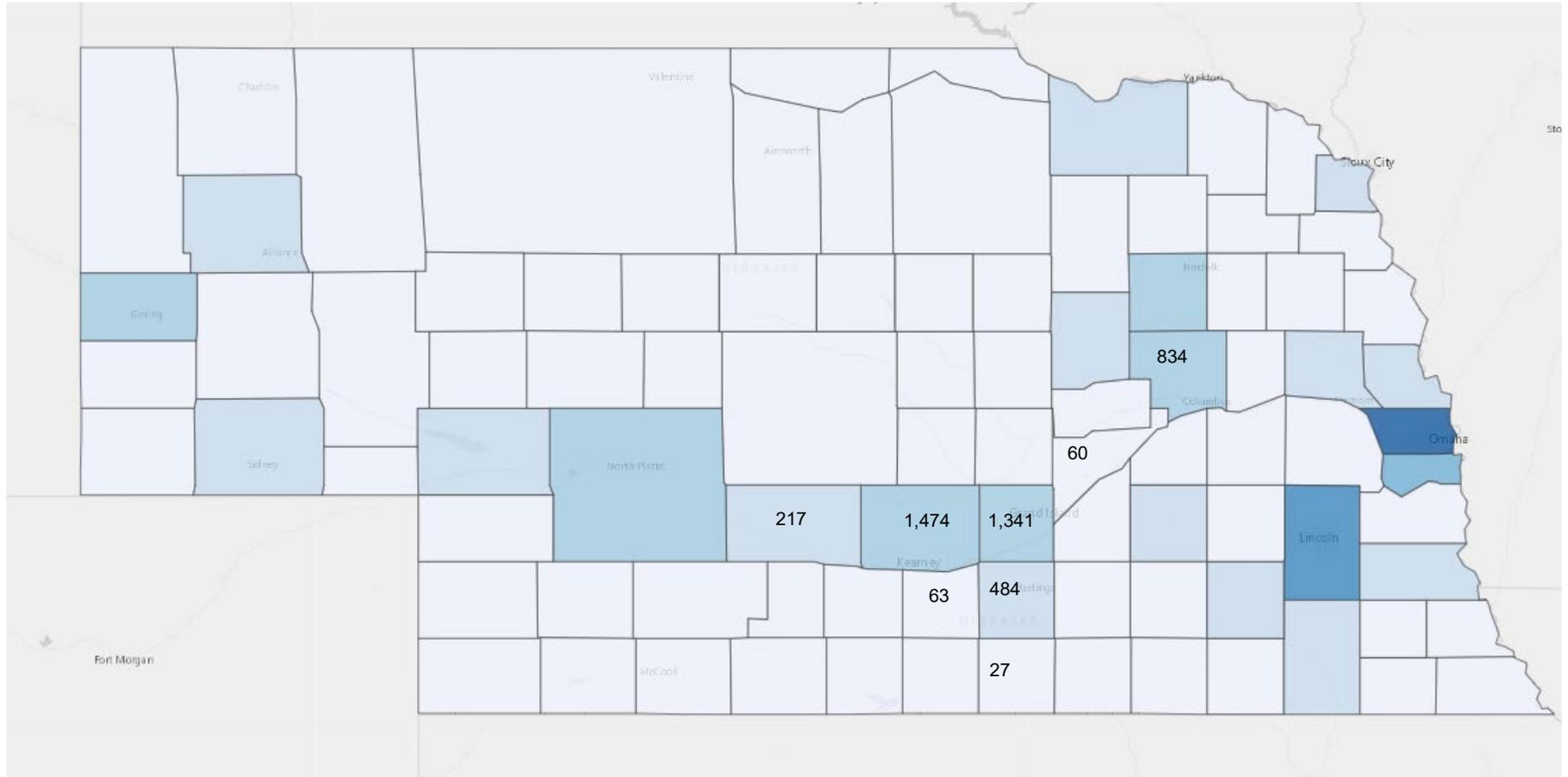


# UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, 2022

Nebraska has a low unemployment rate, as does the region. However, a few counties in the region have elevated rates, suggesting there are some opportunities to re-engage the workforce.



# JOB OPENINGS ON NETWORKS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AS OF 7/3/24



# Area Profile for Grand Island Metropolitan Statistical Area (2013 Def.), NE

## Occupations by Advertised Jobs Table

The table below shows the occupations with the highest number of job openings advertised online in on Grand Island Metropolitan Statistical Area (2013 Def.),

Rank	Occupation	Job Openings
1	Registered Nurses	149
2	Physicians, All Other	35
3	Nursing Assistants	35
4	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	34
5	Retail Salespersons	29
6	Customer Service Representatives	20
7	Fast Food and Counter Workers	17
8	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	17
9	General and Operations Managers	17
10	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	16

Source: Online advertised jobs data  
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# Area Profile for Central Region (2013 Def.), NE

## Occupations by Advertised Jobs Table

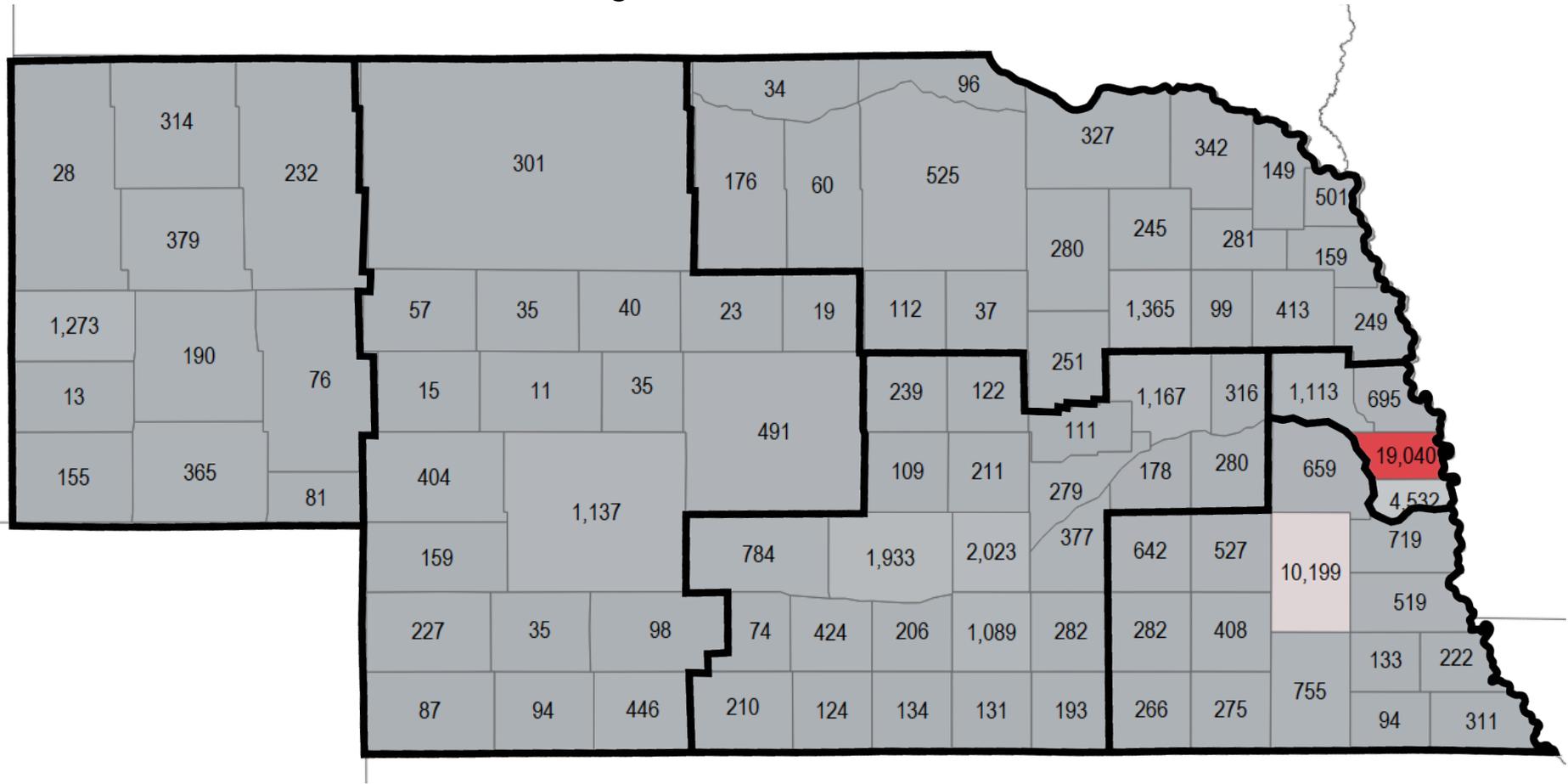
The table below shows the occupations with the highest number of job openings advertised online in on Central Region (2013 Def.)

Rank	Occupation	Job Openings
1	Registered Nurses	279
2	Retail Salespersons	71
3	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	45
4	Nursing Assistants	36
5	Agricultural Equipment Operators	34
6	Physicians, All Other	28
7	Critical Care Nurses	25
8	Agricultural Workers, All Other	25
9	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	23
10	Customer Service Representatives	22

Source: Online advertised jobs data  
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# TOTAL ESTABLISHMENTS

While occupations describe the type of work people do, establishments and industries describe the places where people work. The total number of establishments in the Central Region is 11,247.



# Area Profile for Central Region (2013 Def.), NE

## Employers by Number of Job Openings Table

The table below shows the employers with the highest number of job openings advertised online in Central Region (2013 Def.)

Rank	Employer Name	Job Openings
1	Bryan Health	109
2	CommonSpirit Health	88
3	The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society	66
4	KEARNEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER LLC	59
5	Mary Lanning Healthcare	58
6	The University of Nebraska at Kearney	51
7	Suppressed	49
8	Cooperative Producers, Inc.	44
9	Parker Hannifin Corp	41
10	Associated Staffing Inc.	38

Source: Online advertised jobs data  
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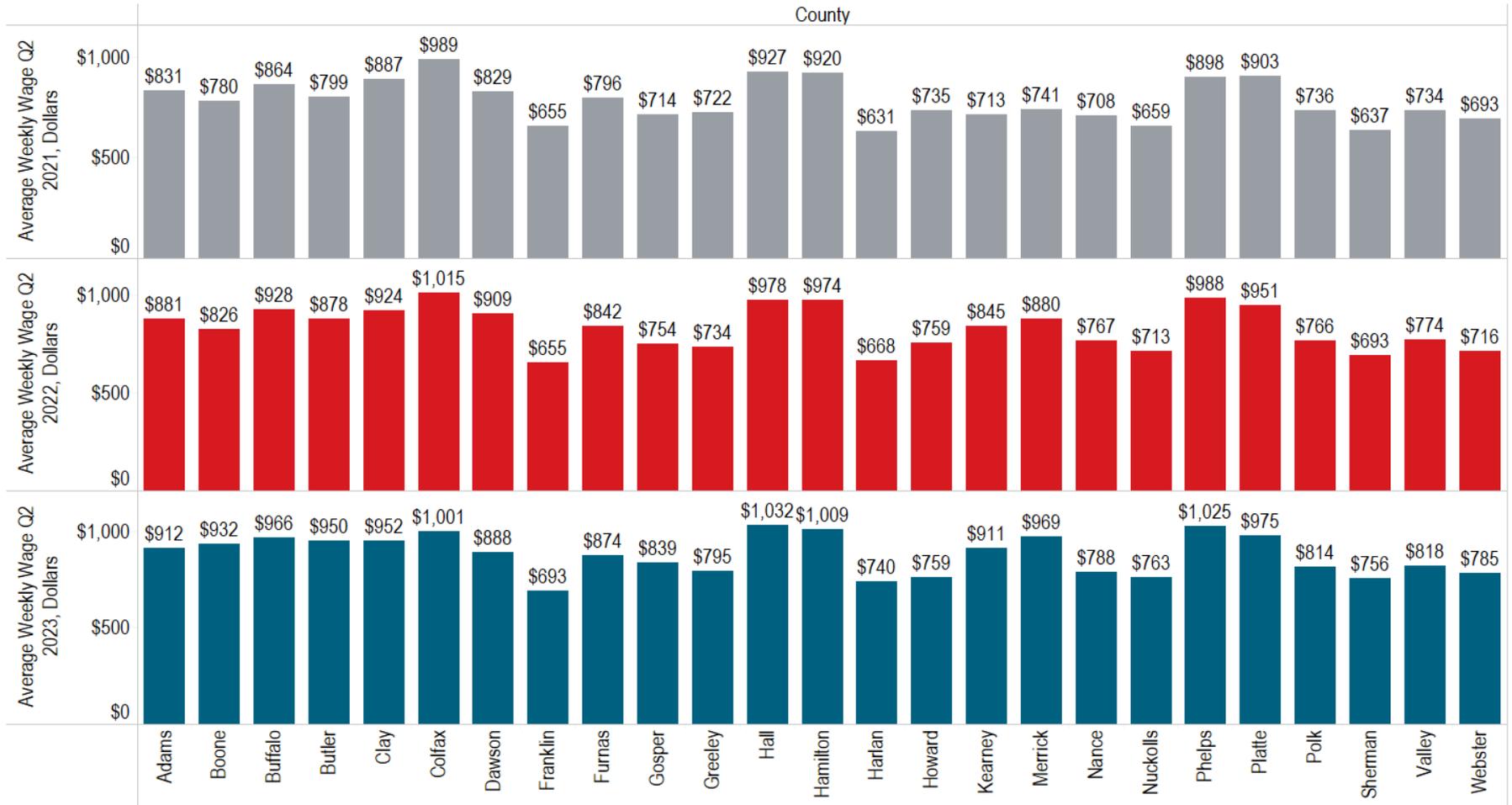
# TOTAL WAGES PAID BY INDUSTRY BY REGION

Region	Natural Resources and Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	Other Services Except Public Administration
Central	\$2,676,888	\$4,769,281	\$21,664,316	\$14,712,472	\$1,517,780
Metropolitan	\$3,967,432	\$128,428,831	\$126,315,601	\$291,871,965	\$33,896,194
Mid-Plains	\$1,692,742	\$1,926,913	\$1,886,910	\$5,823,512	\$680,778
Northeast	\$1,799,712	\$2,740,747	\$11,786,420	\$9,540,554	\$844,916
Southeast	\$2,354,722	\$14,492,020	\$25,722,539	\$37,405,559	\$4,747,174
Western	\$1,304,640	\$2,442,610	\$2,607,338	\$7,324,819	\$642,243

Region	Information	Financial Activities	Professional and Business Services	Education and Health	Public Administration	Leisure and Hospitality	Total Wages by Industry Total Q2 2023, Dollars
Central	\$900,739	\$3,340,008	\$5,123,704	\$17,789,290	\$3,804,877	\$2,535,860	<b>\$75,015,437</b>
Metropolitan	\$47,770,002	\$176,461,221	\$359,723,489	\$398,297,039	\$64,379,318	\$74,918,632	<b>\$1,706,029,722</b>
Mid-Plains	\$636,042	\$1,422,699	\$1,368,624	\$8,758,985	\$2,024,278	\$1,328,862	<b>\$23,074,781</b>
Northeast	\$568,623	\$3,138,829	\$2,412,349	\$12,388,136	\$2,687,709	\$1,310,934	<b>\$45,467,682</b>
Southeast	\$6,034,161	\$13,079,577	\$24,379,514	\$54,519,043	\$21,003,466	\$8,171,839	<b>\$210,962,992</b>
Western	\$830,581	\$1,624,669	\$3,168,811	\$11,999,775	\$2,659,054	\$1,579,037	<b>\$30,747,828</b>

# AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES

Average weekly wages have increased over time in the region.



# MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY REGION

Region	Average Median Household Income 2022	Average Change in Median Household Income 2018 to 2022
Central	\$65,952	23.3%
Metropolitan	\$82,115	24.1%
Mid-Plains	\$59,170	19.5%
Northeast	\$62,649	17.9%
Southeast	\$67,609	22.1%
Western	\$57,023	18.5%

# EDUCATION



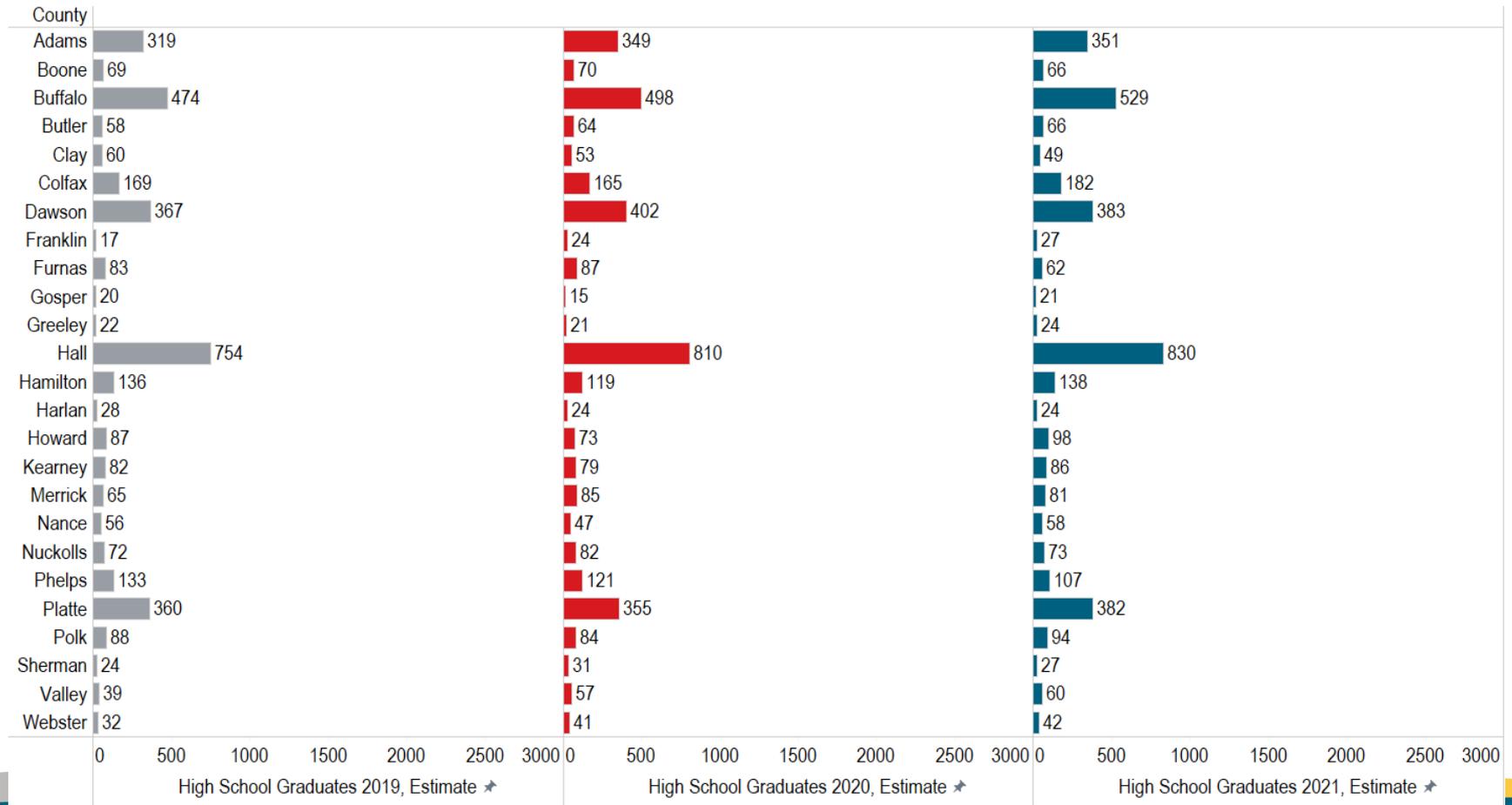
# EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, 2022

Compared to other regions, the Central Region has fewer residents aged 25 years or older with a bachelor's degrees or more. Most residents have completed high school or some college without earning a degree.

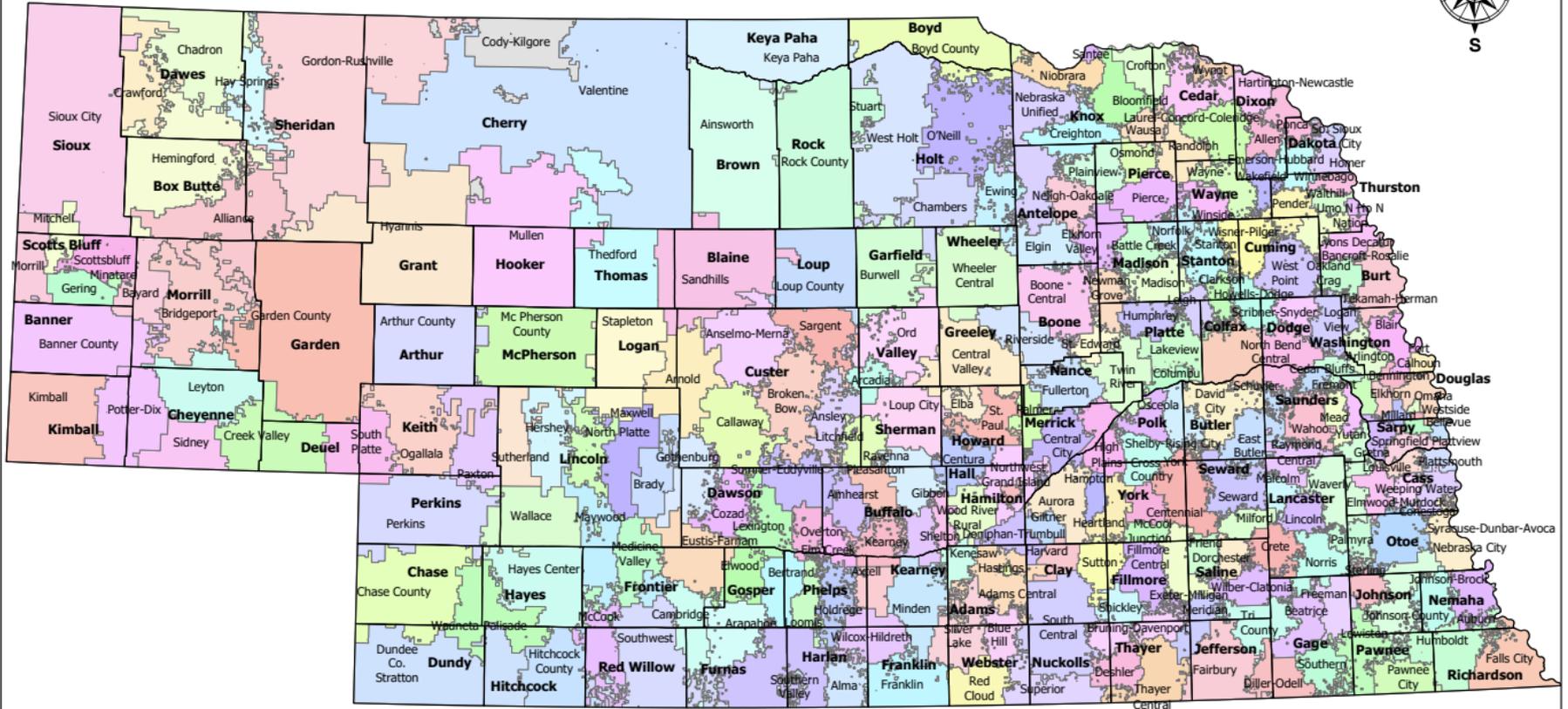
Region	Less Than 9th Grade	High School Graduate	Some College No Degree	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Central	3.8%	32.1%	23.4%	13.4%	16.0%	6.6%
Metropolitan	3.5%	25.8%	22.0%	10.3%	22.5%	12.0%
Mid-Plains	2.3%	30.1%	25.6%	14.8%	17.6%	5.6%
Northeast	3.2%	33.3%	22.6%	13.6%	16.7%	6.9%
Southeast	3.5%	32.6%	21.1%	12.5%	17.3%	8.1%
Western	2.9%	29.0%	27.7%	11.4%	16.6%	7.0%

# NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, 2019, 2020, 2021

The number of high school graduates has grown slightly in recent years. In 2021, 3,861 students graduated.



# Nebraska School Districts Boundaries with Counties



Map by Tim Erickson  
 9/19/2019  
 Sources: ESRI, OCIO,  
 Neb. Dept. of Education  
 US Census Bureau

# COLLEGE GOING RATES, 2019, 2020, 2021

College-going rates are high throughout Nebraska.

Region	2019	2020	2021
Central	76.5%	72.6%	73.6%
Metropolitan	71.1%	68.5%	69.3%
Mid-Plains	76.4%	74.8%	77.8%
Northeast	75.4%	75.0%	73.2%
Southeast	71.7%	68.9%	72.1%
Western	69.7%	65.7%	64.5%

# STUDENTS MATRICULATING IN REGION

There are three post-secondary institutions in the Central Region.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
<b>Central Community College</b>	2,174	2,076	2,380	3,661	4,202	3,910	<b>18,403</b>
<b>Hastings College</b>	342	356	273	288	299	226	<b>1,784</b>
<b>University of Nebraska at Kearney</b>	1,420	1,377	1,331	1,339	1,453	1,389	<b>8,309</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,936</b>	<b>3,809</b>	<b>3,984</b>	<b>5,288</b>	<b>5,954</b>	<b>5,525</b>	<b>28,496</b>

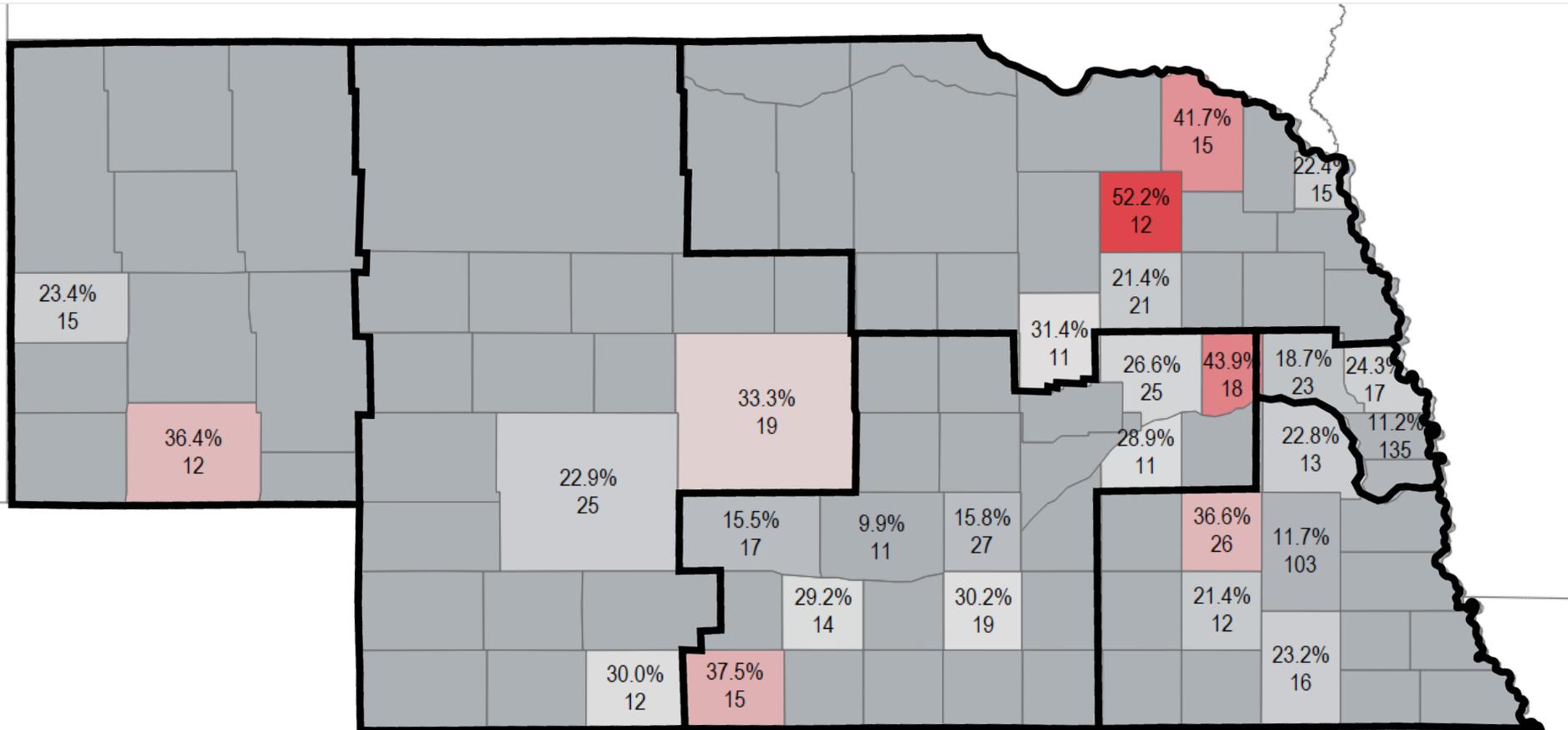
# POST-SECONDARY PERSISTENCE RATES BY REGION, 2019, 2020, 2021

Postsecondary persistence rates are high throughout the state.

Region	2019	2020	2021
Central	87.8%	87.4%	87.3%
Metropolitan	83.5%	84.1%	81.2%
Mid-Plains	84.4%	80.9%	79.7%
Northeast	78.7%	83.3%	86.3%
Southeast	81.7%	84.7%	79.8%
Western	84.6%	88.5%	84.6%

# POST-SECONDARY GRADUATION RATES, 2020

Post-secondary graduation rates are low statewide.



# TALENT RETENTION RATES BY REGION, 2019, 2020, AND 2021

Talent retention rates are high throughout the state, but the rates includes Nebraskans retrained anywhere within the state.

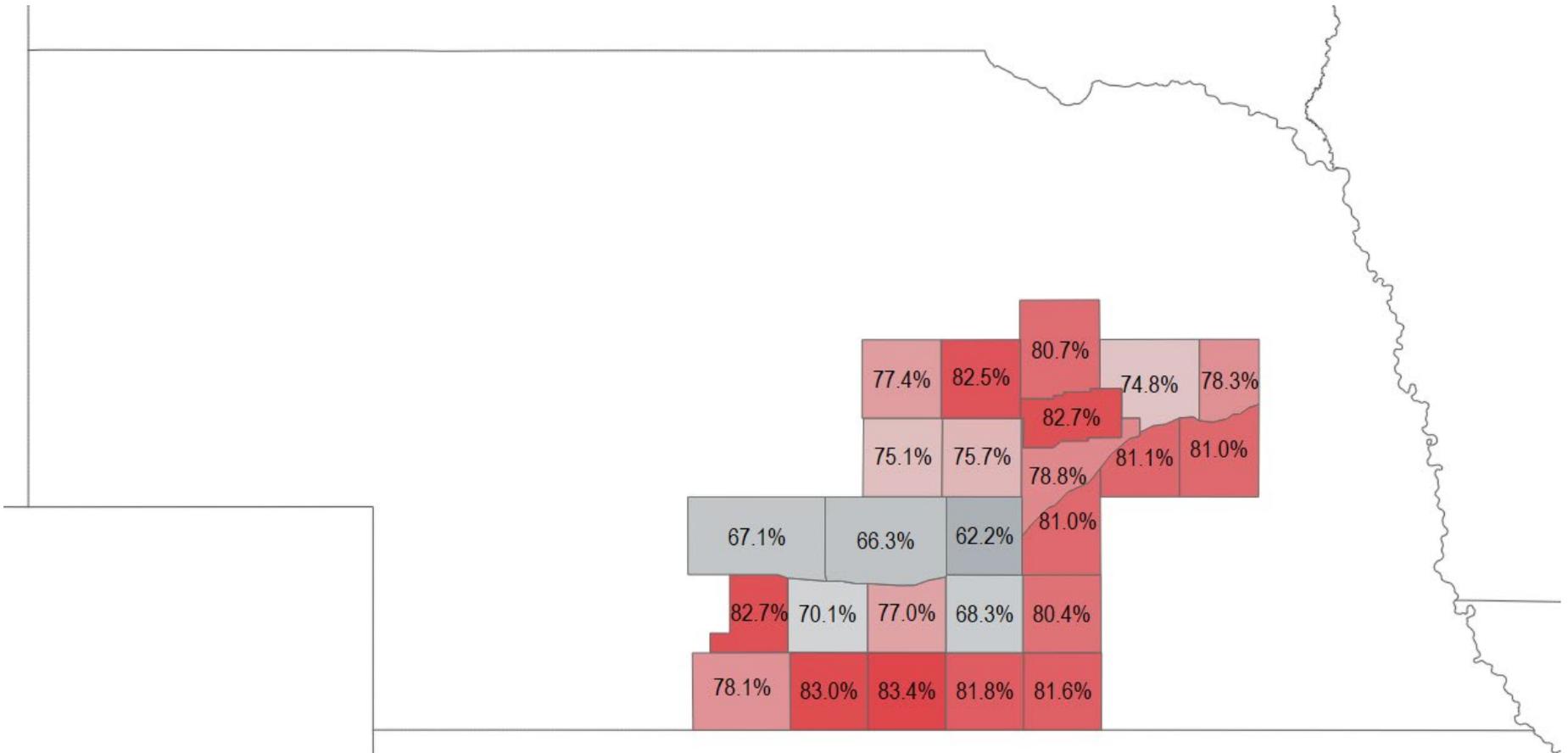
Region	2019	2020	2021
Central	80.1%	79.9%	83.4%
Metropolitan	80.4%	79.6%	80.7%
Mid-Plains	77.0%	79.1%	79.0%
Northeast	76.1%	78.4%	78.1%
Southeast	81.1%	77.8%	81.2%
Western	75.1%	74.8%	75.6%

# HOUSING



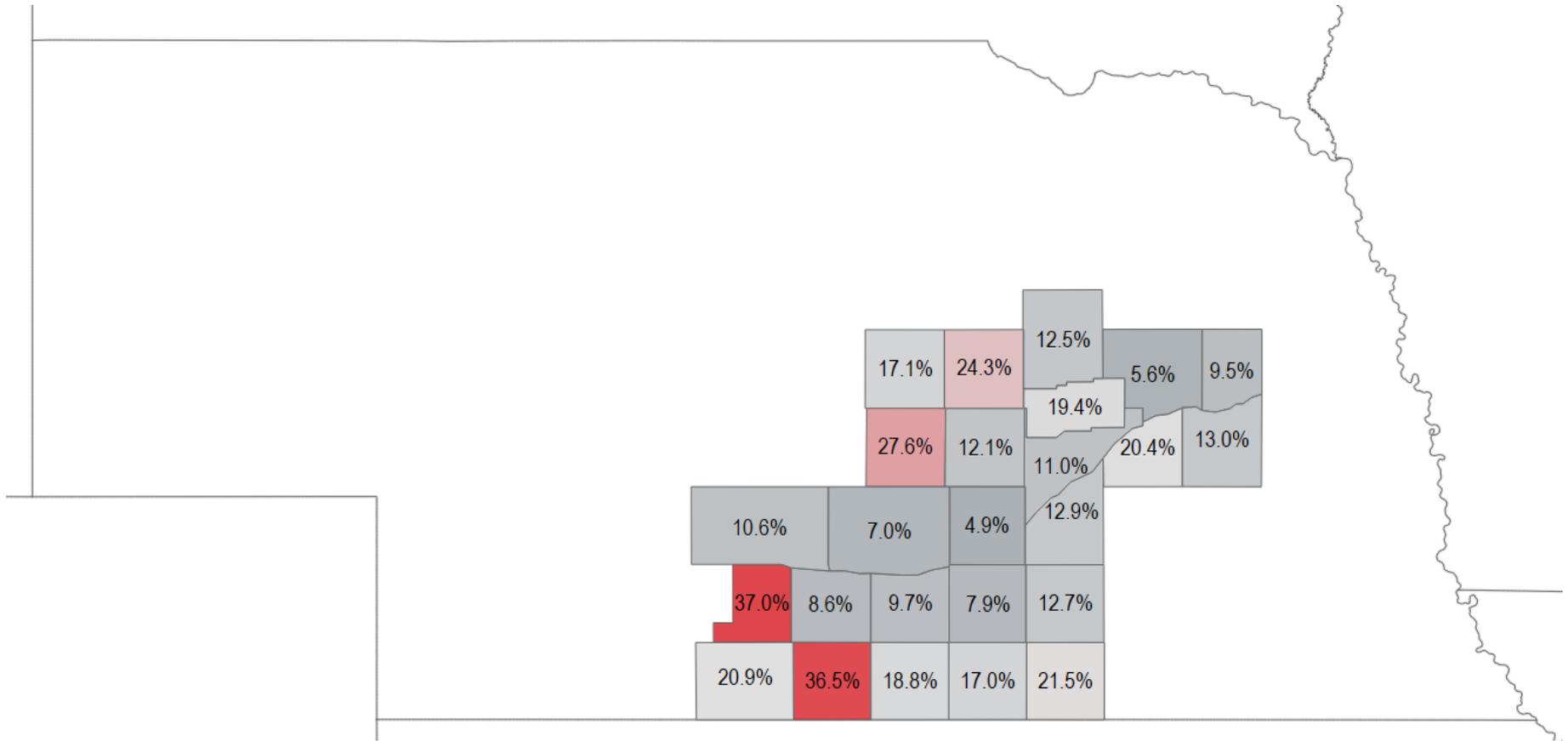
# OCCUPANCY RATES, 2022

Housing occupancy rates are below the state average of 93% in all counties in the Central Region.



# VACANCY RATES FOR HOUSING UNITS, 2022

Vacancy rates, which refer to homes listed for sale or rent but not occupied, are high in many counties of the Central Region.



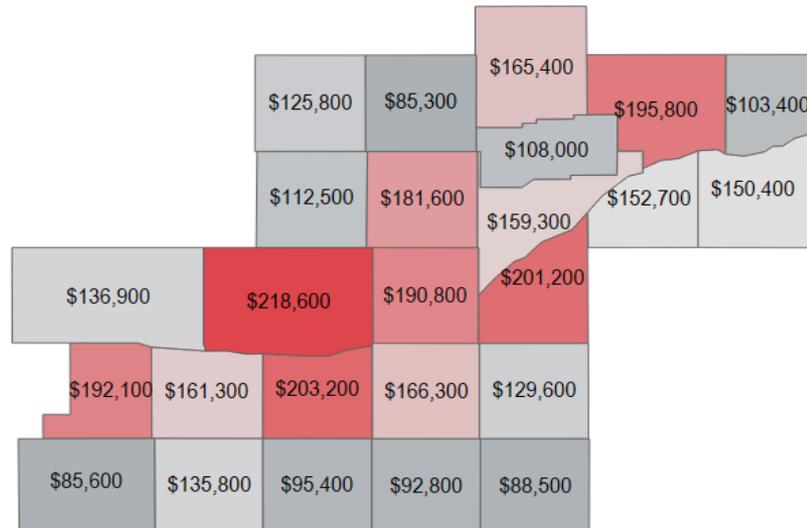
# MEDIAN HOUSING AGE AND MEDIAN YEAR OWNERS AND RENTERS MOVED IN BY REGION, 2022

A large gap between when the housing stock was built and when people move in suggests that the available stock may not meet the needs of contemporary buyers.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Median Housing Age</b>	<b>Median Year Owner Moved into Housing Unit</b>	<b>Median Year Renter Moved into Housing Unit</b>
Central	1962	2006	2016
Metropolitan	1978	2009	2017
Mid-Plains	1962	2004	2015
Northeast	1964	2004	2016
Southeast	1961	2006	2017
Western	1957	2005	2017

# MEDIAN VALUE OF OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS, 2022

Despite high vacancy rates, low housing stock increases home values, making homeownership less attainable for residents. Home prices in some counties in the region are below the state average, yet 19% of homeowners are housing cost burdened in the region.



# CHILDCARE



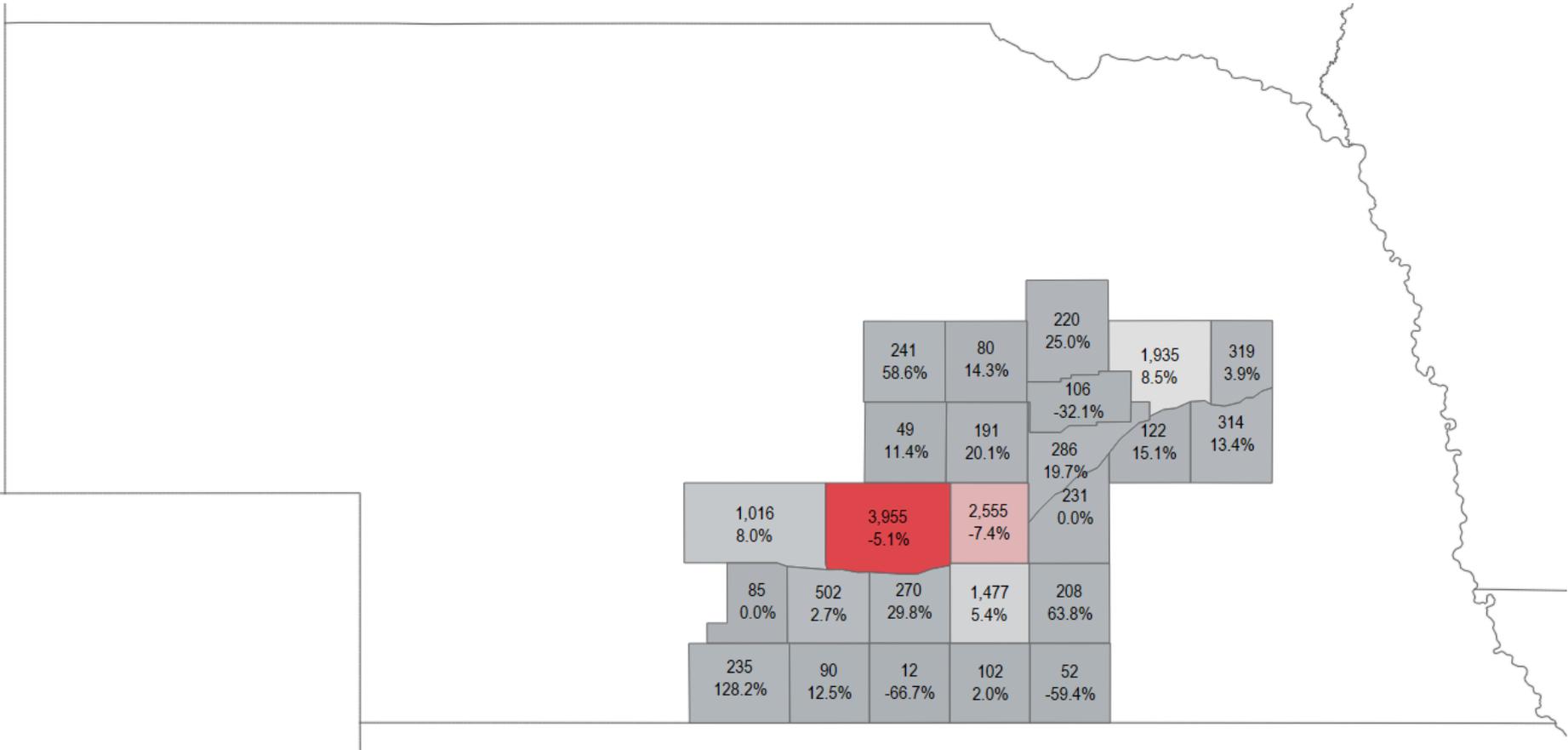


# NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 AND CHILDCARE CAPACITY IN THE REGION, 2022 AND 2023

For the 23,744 children under age 6 in the region, there are 14,653 spots available in licensed childcare facilities.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Number of Children Under 6 2022</b>	<b>Licensed Provider Capacity 2023</b>
Central	23,744	14,653
Metropolitan	69,077	68,196
Mid-Plains	6,254	3,017
Northeast	12,219	6,302
Southeast	34,589	29,334
Western	5,874	3,784

# NUMBER OF LICENSED PROVIDERS IN 2023 AND PERCENT CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PROVIDERS, 2019 TO 2023



# PUBLIC PRE-K PROGRAMS BY REGION, 2023/2024

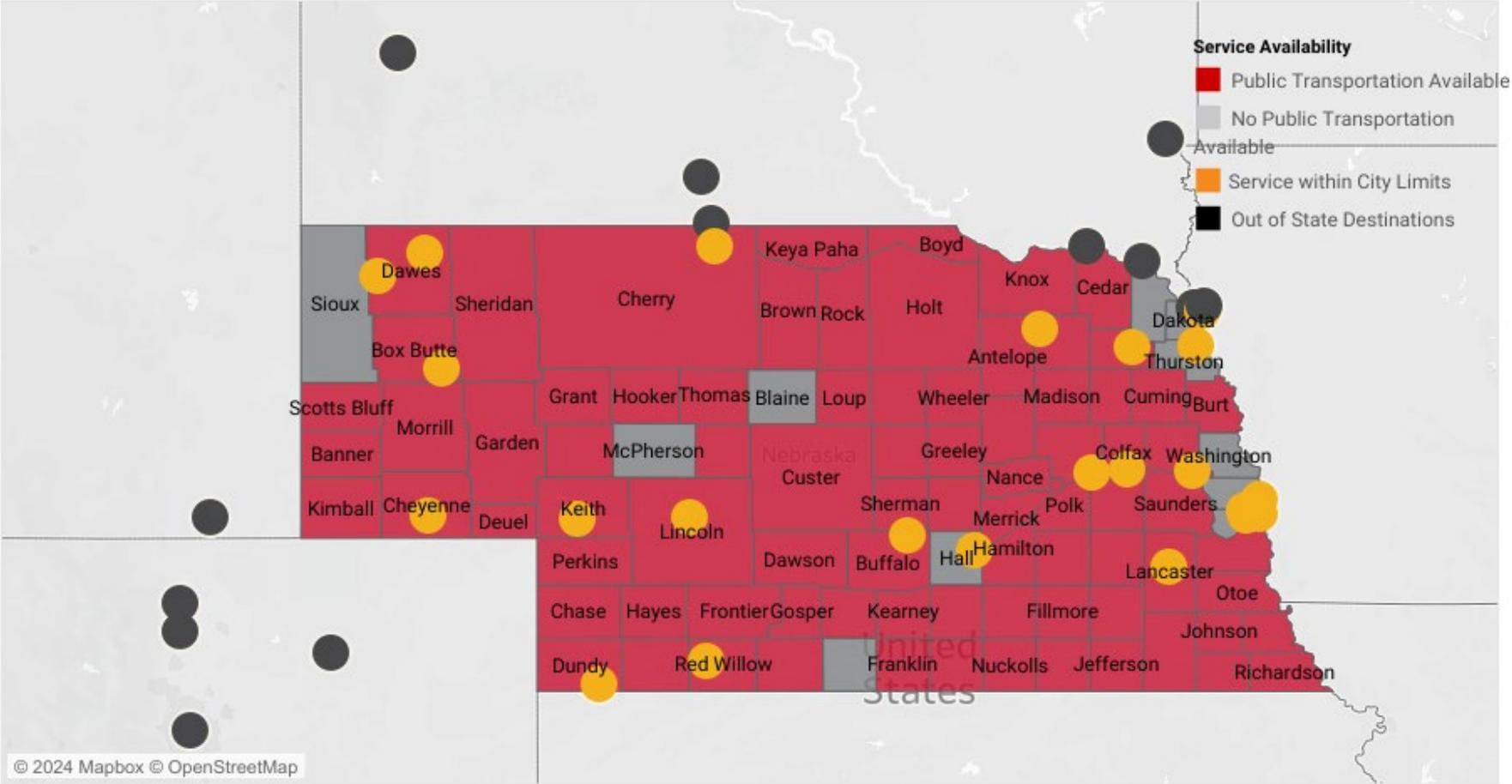
The Central Regions rate of enrollment in public pre-K programs falls short of maximum utilization.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Number of Pre-K Programs</b>	<b>Number of Children Enrolled</b>	<b>Average Percent Children Enrolled</b>
Central	119	4,962	7.6%
Metropolitan	195	7,092	6.7%
Mid-Plains	45	1,022	6.0%
Northeast	70	2,519	8.1%
Southeast	117	5,424	8.1%
Western	35	1,232	5.4%

# COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

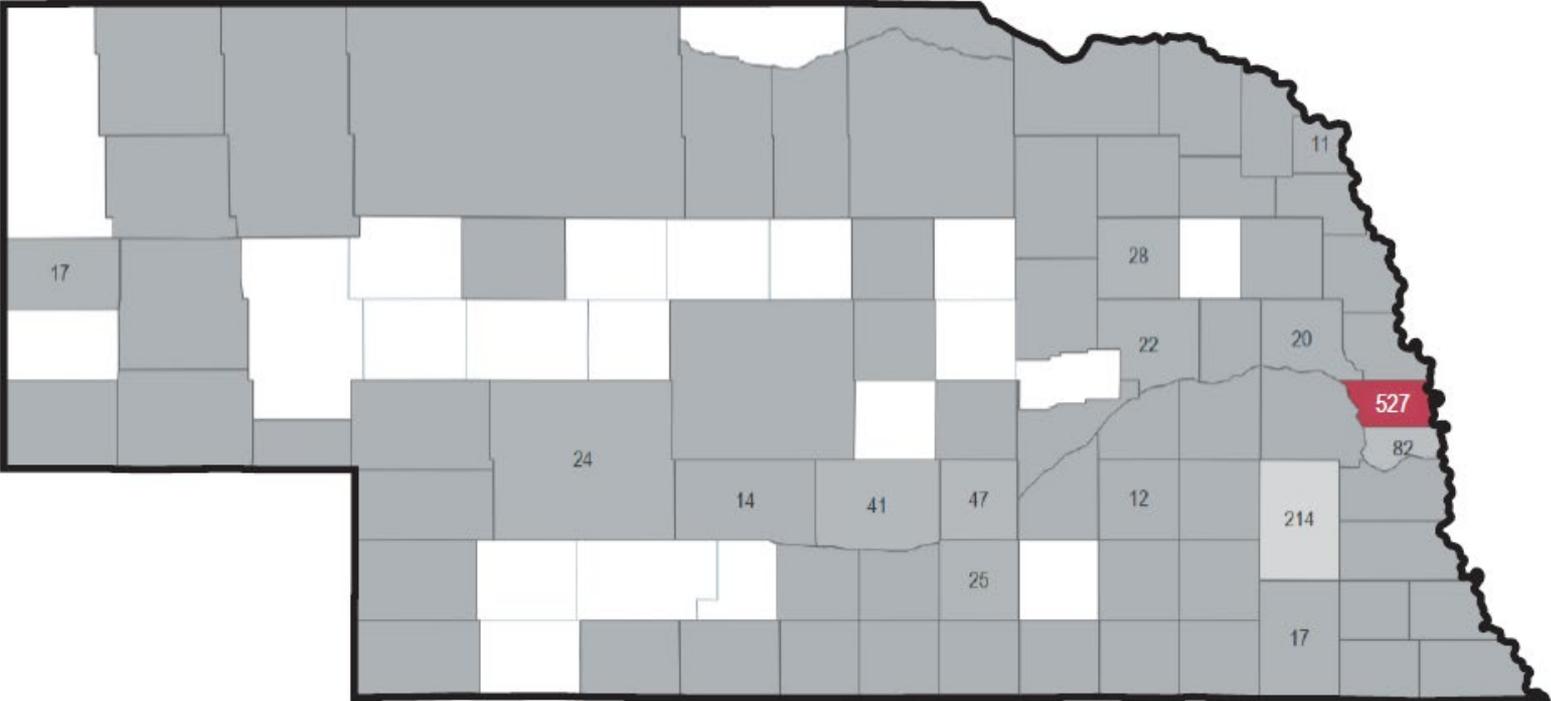


# RURAL TRANSIT AGENCIES, NEBRASKATRANSIT.COM

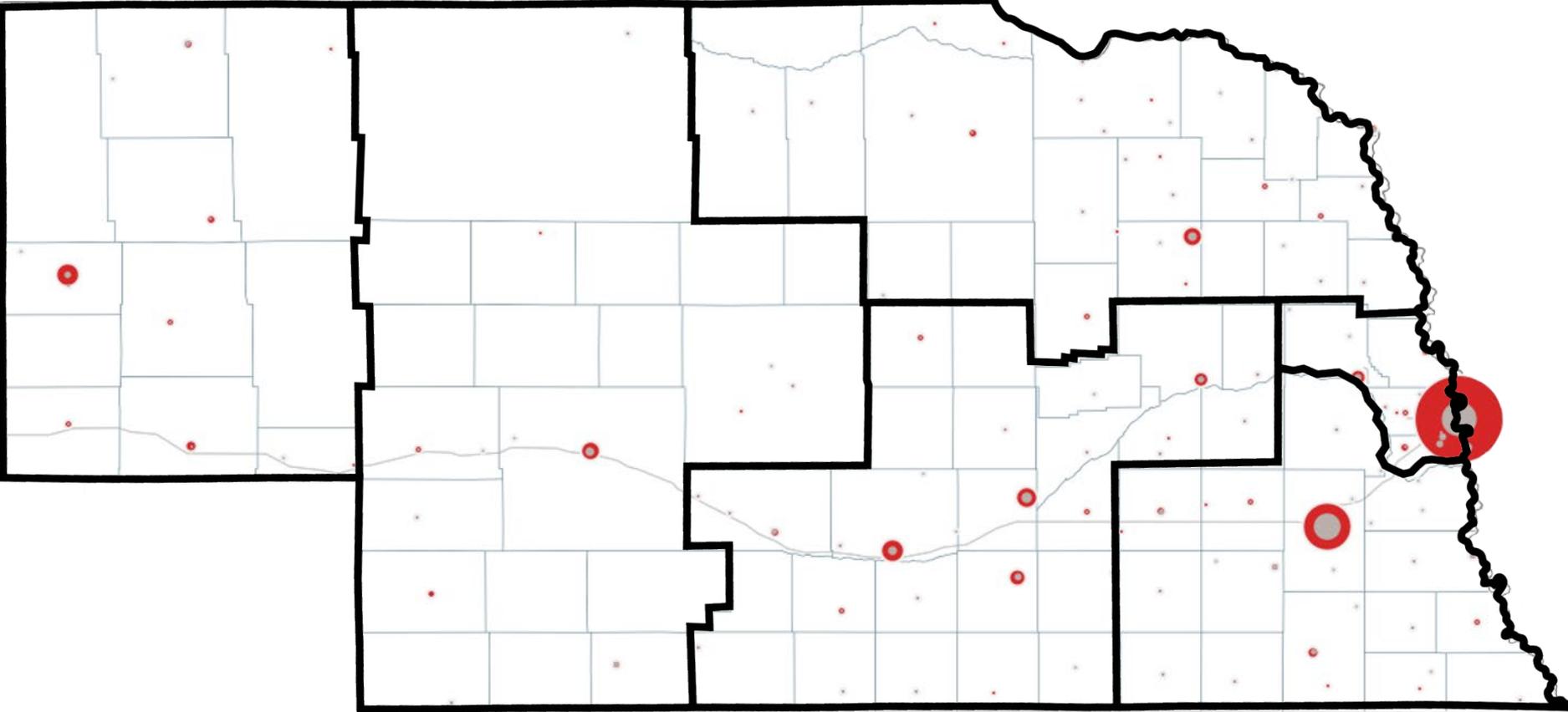
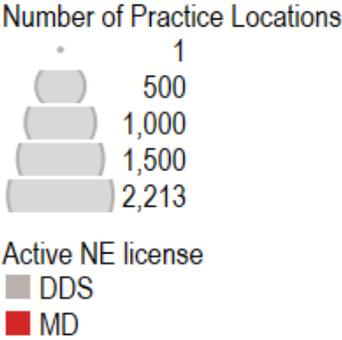


# PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS BY COUNTY, CPAR.UNOMAHA.EDU

## Primary Care Physicians by County | 2023

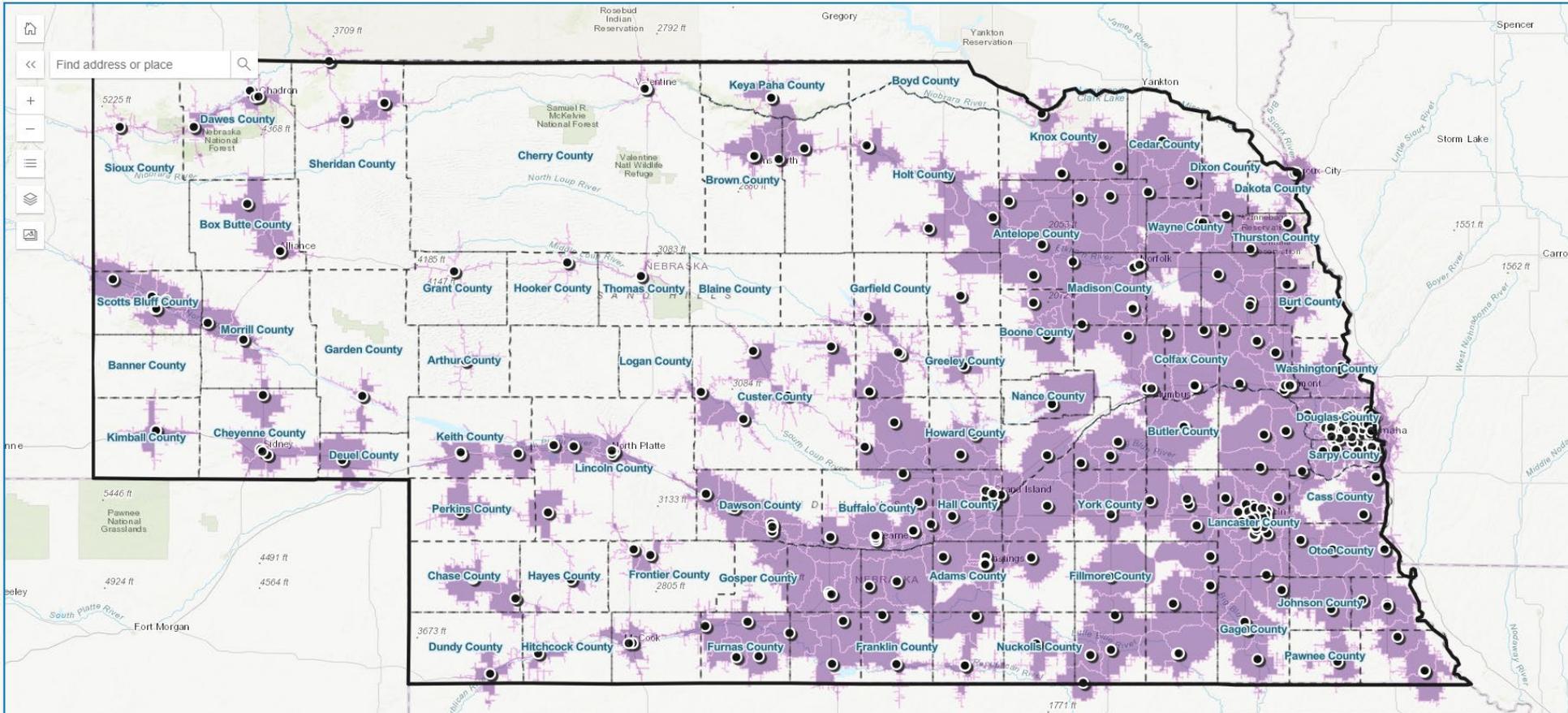


# MD AND DDS OFFICE LOCATIONS, CPAR.UNOMAHA.EDU



# GROCERY STORE LOCATIONS AND POPULATION WITHIN 15 MINUTES

Nebraska Grocery Access Review



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