

Potential Gaps in Service

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS PREPARED FOR LEGAL AID OF THE
BLUEGRASS

Prepared by the Center for Economic Analysis & Development

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY HAILE | US BANK COLLEGE OF BUSINESS | HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, KY

OVERVIEW

Legal Aid of the Bluegrass (LAB) provides legal services to low-income families with children, the elderly, veterans, and people needing access to healthcare. Through the legal system, attorneys at LAB are able to preserve the home, protect assets, stop the violence, remove employment barriers, and support families towards the goal of achieving maximum independence and safety.

LAB provides services to a 33-county region in Kentucky and operates out of four offices throughout the Commonwealth.

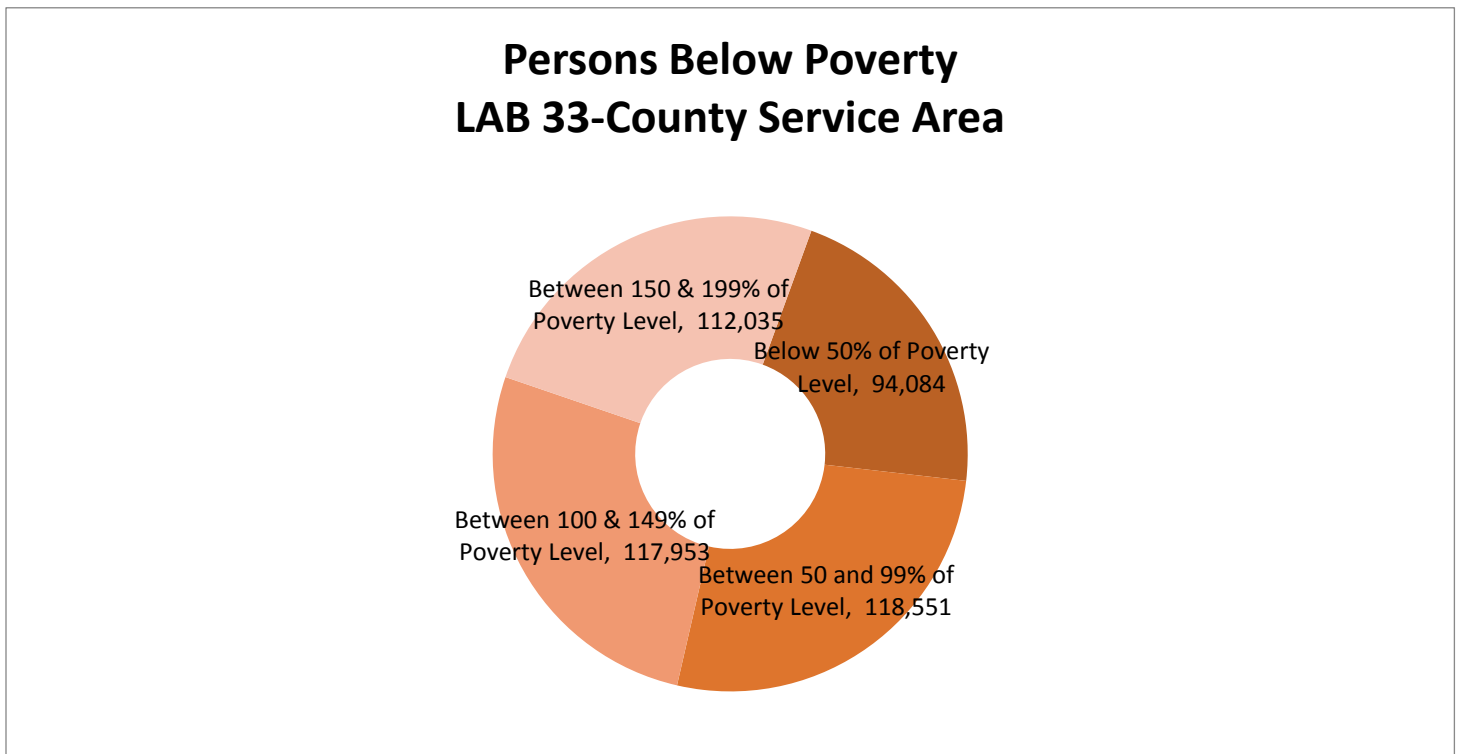
The Center for Economic Analysis and Development (CEAD) at Northern Kentucky University's Haile | US Bank College of Business provides demographic and economic analysis services to various organizations throughout Kentucky and the Greater Cincinnati metropolitan area.

In June 2016, LAB engaged CEAD to analyze the demographic differences between LAB's clients and the overall population of the LAB 33-county service area. This analysis covers the period 2011-2015.

Across the 33-county LAB service area, 442,623 persons lived below 200% of the poverty level during the time frame, 212,635 of those lived below the poverty level.

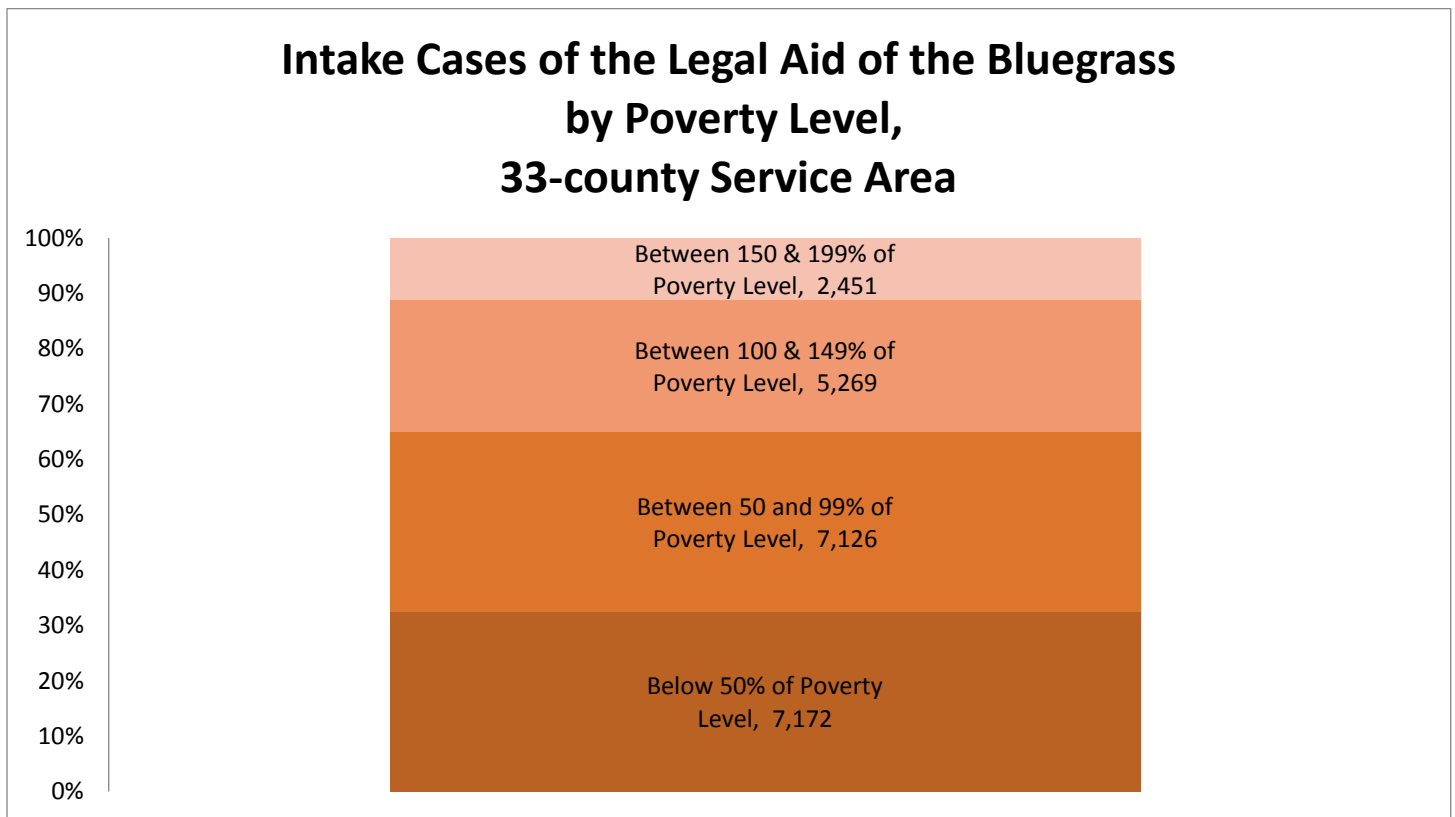
During this same time period, LAB provided services to 22,018 cases where the person seeking services lived at below 200% of poverty; 14,298, or 64.9%, were below the poverty level.

Figure 1. Persons below poverty by poverty threshold, 2011-2015. LAB 33-County Service Area Total.



Data sources: Total Persons in Poverty; U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2011-2015

Figure 2. Number of Intake Cases by Poverty Level, 2011-2015. LAB 33-county service area.



Data sources: Intake cases; Legal Aid of the Bluegrass

Gaps in service can be expressed in both percentages, and numbers of people. It is important to understand that the relative size of each demographic component should be considered. Larger counties typically have larger numbers of people living below poverty. To this point, demographic components that are relatively large and have high service levels (percentage of the demographic that received services from LAB), may still have a large number of people that did not receive services.

For example, in Kenton County, among the population below 100% of the poverty level, LAB reported 2,695 intake cases, representing one of the highest service levels (11.8%) across the LAB 33-county service area. However, there are still 20,084 persons that did not receive services from LAB during the time frame.

On the other hand, in Carter County, LAB reported 363 intake cases, representing a service level of 7.3%, which is also relatively high compared to the 33-county regional average of 6.7%. For Carter County, there were 4,599 persons that did not receive services from LAB.

Table 1 shows, for the population below poverty in each of the 33 counties in the LAB service area, the total number of persons below poverty, the number of intake cases, the difference (number of people not receiving services), and the service level (intake cases as a percentage of total persons below poverty).

The top five counties by service level were Kenton (11.8%), Campbell (10.5%), Boone (9.1%), Boyd (8.4%), and Rowan (8.2%). The five counties where service levels were lowest were: Garrard (1.7%), Robertson (1.9%), Lewis (2.1%), Elliott (3.0%), and Montgomery (3.0%).

Table 1. Total Persons In Poverty, Number of LAB Intake Cases that were Below Poverty, 2011-2015. Ranked in descending order by service level.

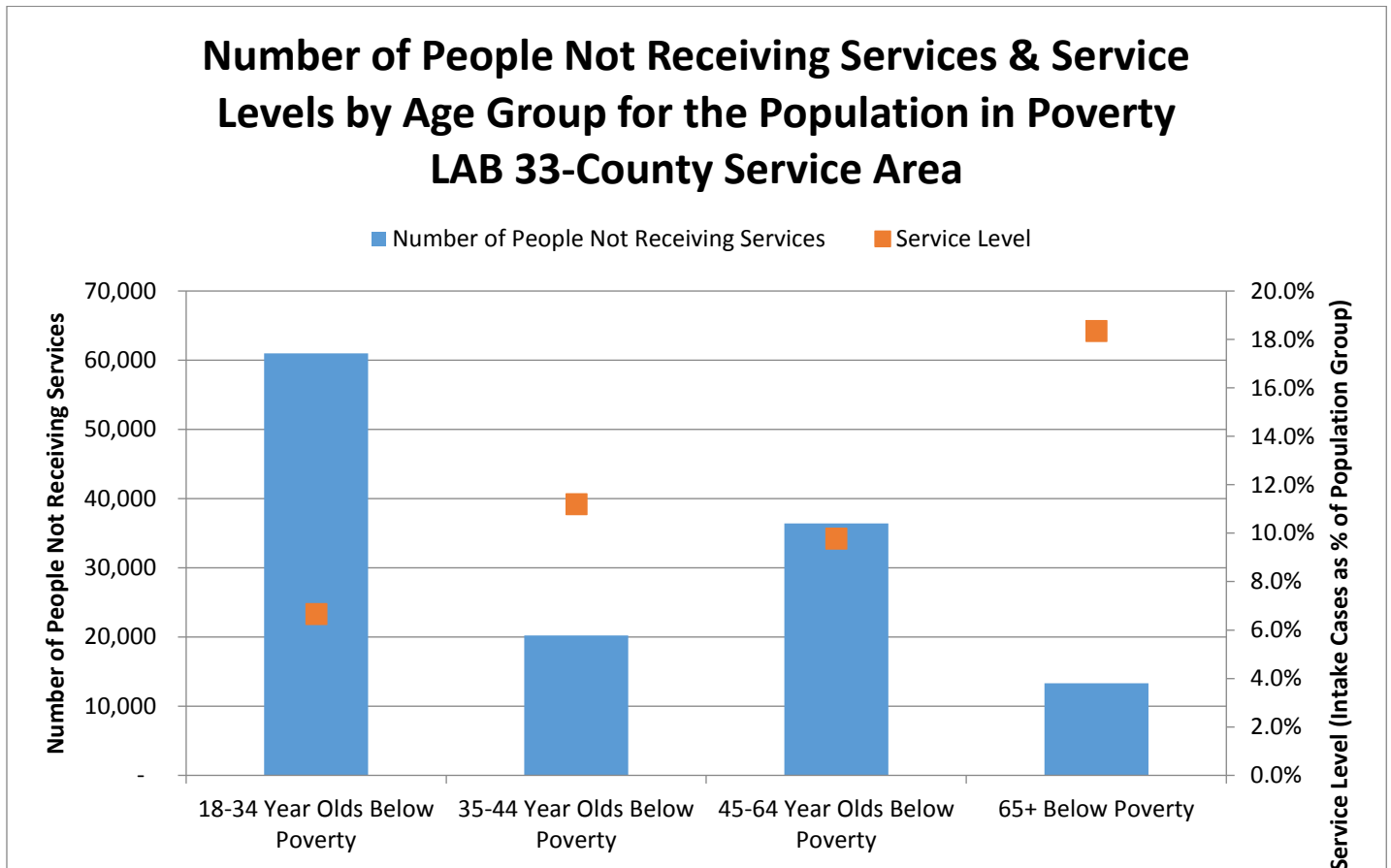
Below 100% of Poverty						
Geography	Total Persons	Number of Intake Cases	Difference	Service Level	Difference Rank	Service Level Rank
Kenton	22,779	2695	(20,084)	11.8%	32	1
Campbell	12,312	1298	(11,014)	10.5%	31	2
Boone	10,553	962	(9,591)	9.1%	30	3
Boyd	9,246	777	(8,469)	8.4%	29	4
Rowan	5,365	441	(4,924)	8.2%	24	5
Carter	4,962	363	(4,599)	7.3%	22	6
Service Area Total	212,635	14,298	(198,337)	6.7%	N/A	N/A
Grant	4,419	292	(4,127)	6.6%	20	7
Fayette	56,186	3683	(52,503)	6.6%	33	8
Gallatin	1,340	87	(1,253)	6.5%	3	9
Scott	5,012	314	(4,698)	6.3%	23	10
Pendleton	2,144	133	(2,011)	6.2%	8	11
Jessamine	8,092	473	(7,619)	5.8%	28	12
Bourbon	3,472	188	(3,284)	5.4%	15	13
Boyle	4,195	219	(3,976)	5.2%	19	14
Greenup	6,482	330	(6,152)	5.1%	25	15
Morgan	3,496	165	(3,331)	4.7%	16	16
Bracken	1,431	67	(1,364)	4.7%	4	17
Fleming	2,830	128	(2,702)	4.5%	10	18
Mercer	3,744	168	(3,576)	4.5%	18	19
Mason	3,392	152	(3,240)	4.5%	14	20
Owen	1,617	71	(1,546)	4.4%	5	21
Bath	3,121	137	(2,984)	4.4%	11	22
Woodford	3,201	139	(3,062)	4.3%	12	23
Nicholas	1,112	46	(1,066)	4.1%	2	24
Menifee	1,775	68	(1,707)	3.8%	6	25
Anderson	2,644	97	(2,547)	3.7%	9	26
Carroll	3,345	122	(3,223)	3.6%	13	27
Franklin	7,175	256	(6,919)	3.6%	27	28
Montgomery	6,695	204	(6,491)	3.0%	26	29
Elliott	1,983	60	(1,923)	3.0%	7	30
Lewis	4,471	93	(4,378)	2.1%	21	31
Robertson	582	11	(571)	1.9%	1	32
Garrard	3,462	59	(3,403)	1.7%	17	33

Data sources: Total Persons in Poverty; U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2011-2015 | Intake cases; Legal Aid of the Bluegrass

In addition to the total population below poverty, it is useful to analyze service levels by age group¹ and racial minority status. Figure 3 shows the number of people not receiving services and service levels by age group for the population in poverty. The blue bars correspond with the left axis and the orange squares correspond with the right axis.

Again, this becomes a question of rates versus numbers. From a service level standpoint, those persons 65 years and older below poverty experienced the highest service level (18.4%), but had the lowest number of people not receiving services (13,295). From a policy standpoint, LAB could ask: With more resources, do we continue to increase the service level and drive down the number of people not receiving services for the population that is arguably the most vulnerable? Or with decreased resources, which of the population groups do we divert resources from and by how much?

Figure 3. Number of People Not Receiving Services & Service Levels by Age Group for the Population in Poverty, 2011-2015. LAB 33-county service area.

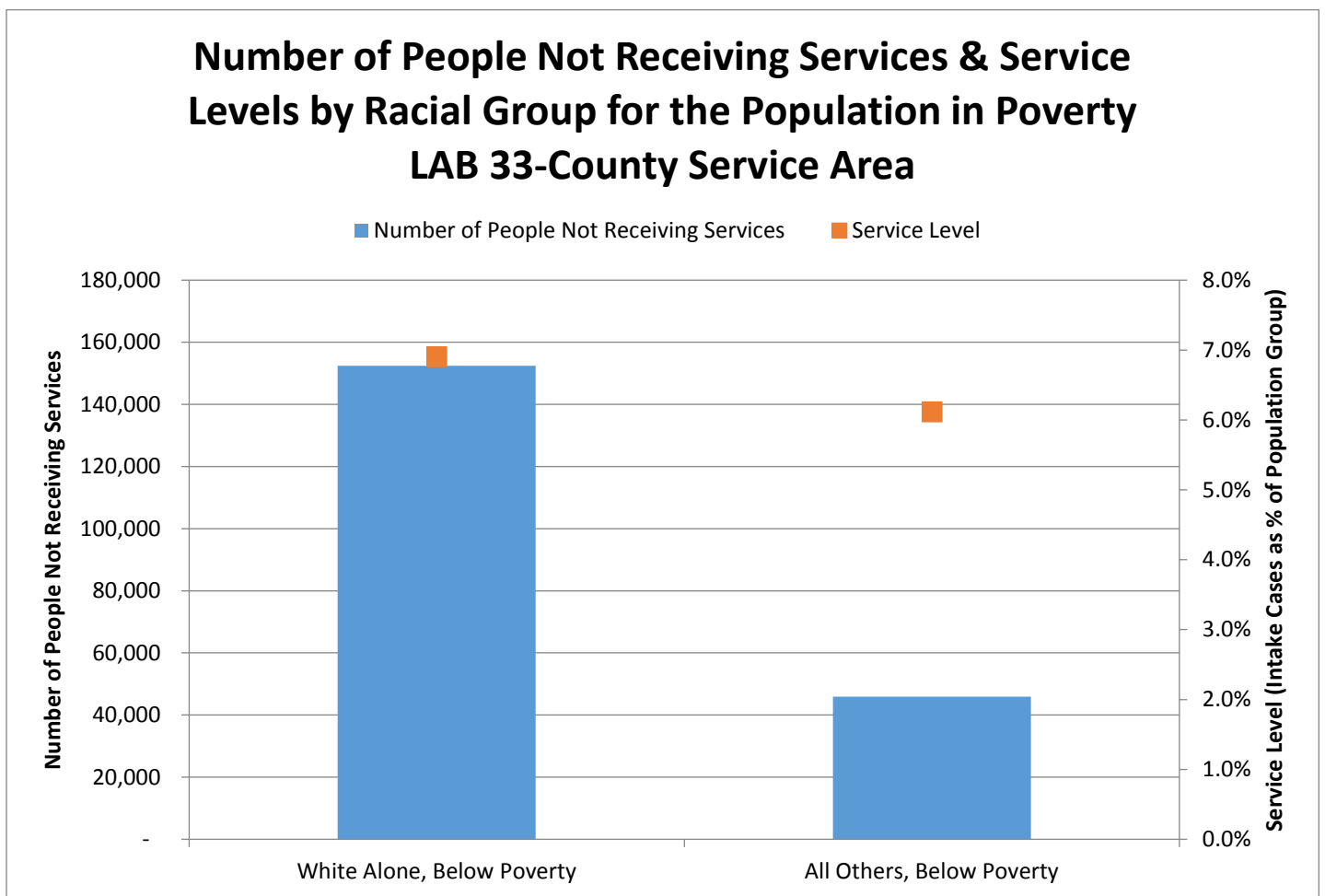


Data sources: Persons Not Receiving Services (Total Persons in Poverty Less Intake Cases); CEAD Calculations | Service Level (Intake Cases Divided by the Total Population Group); CEAD Calculations | Total Persons in Poverty; U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2011-2015 | Intake cases; Legal Aid of the Bluegrass

Because the minority population is relatively small across Kentucky, data by individual race is difficult to analyze. Figure 4 shows the same information as Figure 3, but is broken down by White and All Other races. Across the 33-county LAB service area, the service level is slightly lower for the non-white population (6.1%), compared to the service level of the white population (6.9%). The number of people not receiving services is also lower (45,904 for non-whites), compared to the population that is white (152,433).

¹ Population below 18 years old was not included due to the complexity of accounting for number of children in households below poverty.

Figure 4. Number of People Not Receiving Services & Service Levels by Racial Group for the Population in Poverty, 2011-2015. LAB 33-county service area.



Data sources: Persons Not Receiving Services (Total Persons in Poverty Less Intake Cases); CEAD Calculations | Service Level (Intake Cases Divided by the Total Population Group); CEAD Calculations | Total Persons in Poverty; U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2011-2015 | Intake cases; Legal Aid of the Bluegrass

ADDITIONAL DATA & RESOURCES

Additional data including the number of intake cases, total population, number of persons not receiving services, and service level are available in companion Excel files for each of the counties in the LAB 33-county service area for the following population groups:

- Below Poverty
- Below 50% Poverty
- Below 125% Poverty
- Below 150% Poverty
- Below 185% Poverty
- Below 200% Poverty
- Between 50 and 99% of Poverty
- Between 100 and 149% of Poverty
- Between 150 and 199% of Poverty
- 18-34 Year Olds Below Poverty
- 35-44 Year Olds Below Poverty
- 45-64 Year Olds Below Poverty
- 65 Years and Older Below Poverty
- Race: White Below Poverty
- Race: All Other Races Below Poverty

CAVEATS

Missing data. Of the intake cases that were in the service area, 1,531 of 25,592 cases (5.9%) did not have percent of poverty and 822 of 25,592 cases (3.2%) did not have age reported. This could possibly have a material effect on the data if the cases with missing data were clustered in any one county, particularly one with a small population.

Number of adults in household. Each case may have more than one adult in the household, but demographic data are only available for one of them. An intake case is counted only once, even if multiple adults are in the household. Counting the second (or third) adult in the household is difficult because race or age data were not available for the second adult in the household.

People versus cases. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau provide counts of people, whereas Legal Aid of the Bluegrass data provide counts of cases. We are inherently assuming that duplicate persons across unique cases is virtually or completely nonexistent.