

Analysis of Donald Trump's victory in Massachusetts

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Analysis of Donald Trump's Victory in Massachusetts

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Abstract

This project focuses on analyzing the factors behind Donald Trump's win in the 2016 Republican Primary in Massachusetts. Trump received a majority of the vote throughout the state, but the results were polarizing, ranging from a low of 18% of the vote to a high of 73%. While Massachusetts is not an anomaly, Trump is predicted to enter the Republican National Convention with the most delegates, we wanted to take a closer look at demographics across Massachusetts towns to find the factors that best indicate his success. We chose to focus on comparing median household income and education level by town to votes received.

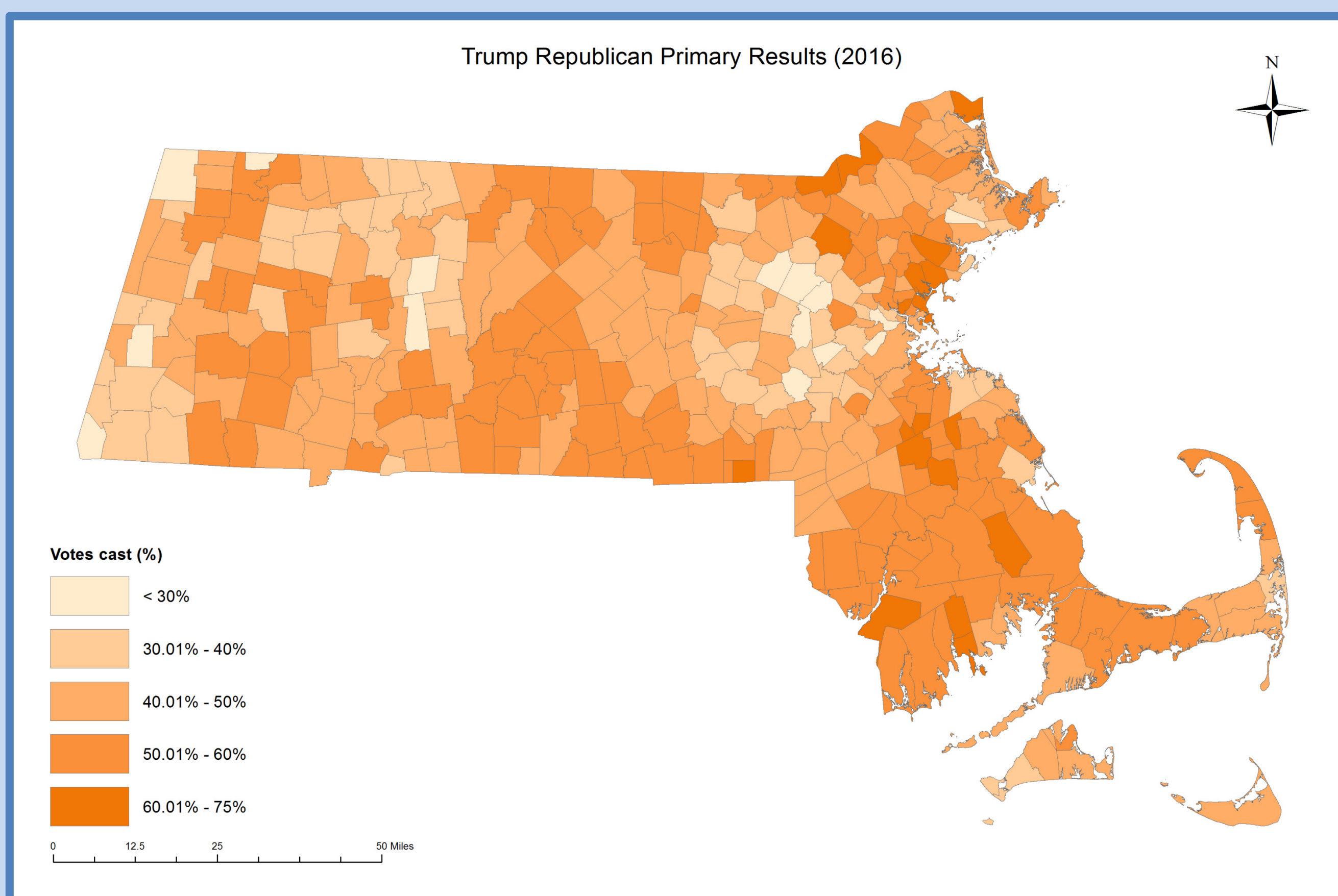


Figure 1: Percentage of votes for Trump by town.

Discussion

When comparing vote percentages to median household income, it is apparent that towns with higher median household incomes voted for Trump consistently less than lower income towns (Fig. 1, Fig. 2). When comparing vote percentages to education attainment, there was not a clear correlation between high vote percentages for Trump and towns where large amount of the population have at most a high school degree (Fig. 1, Fig. 3). These two observations suggest that Trump attracts significant amounts of voters for economic reasons. The low-income block of the Republican voter base are attracted to Trump's platform regardless of their levels of education. This can be seen as part of the backlash against political insiders whose policies and platforms have largely ignored the issues of low-income Republican voters.

Roles of GIS

1. Consolidated multiple attribute tables to categorical data layers in ArcMap.
2. Plotted data spatially using color ramping in symbology.

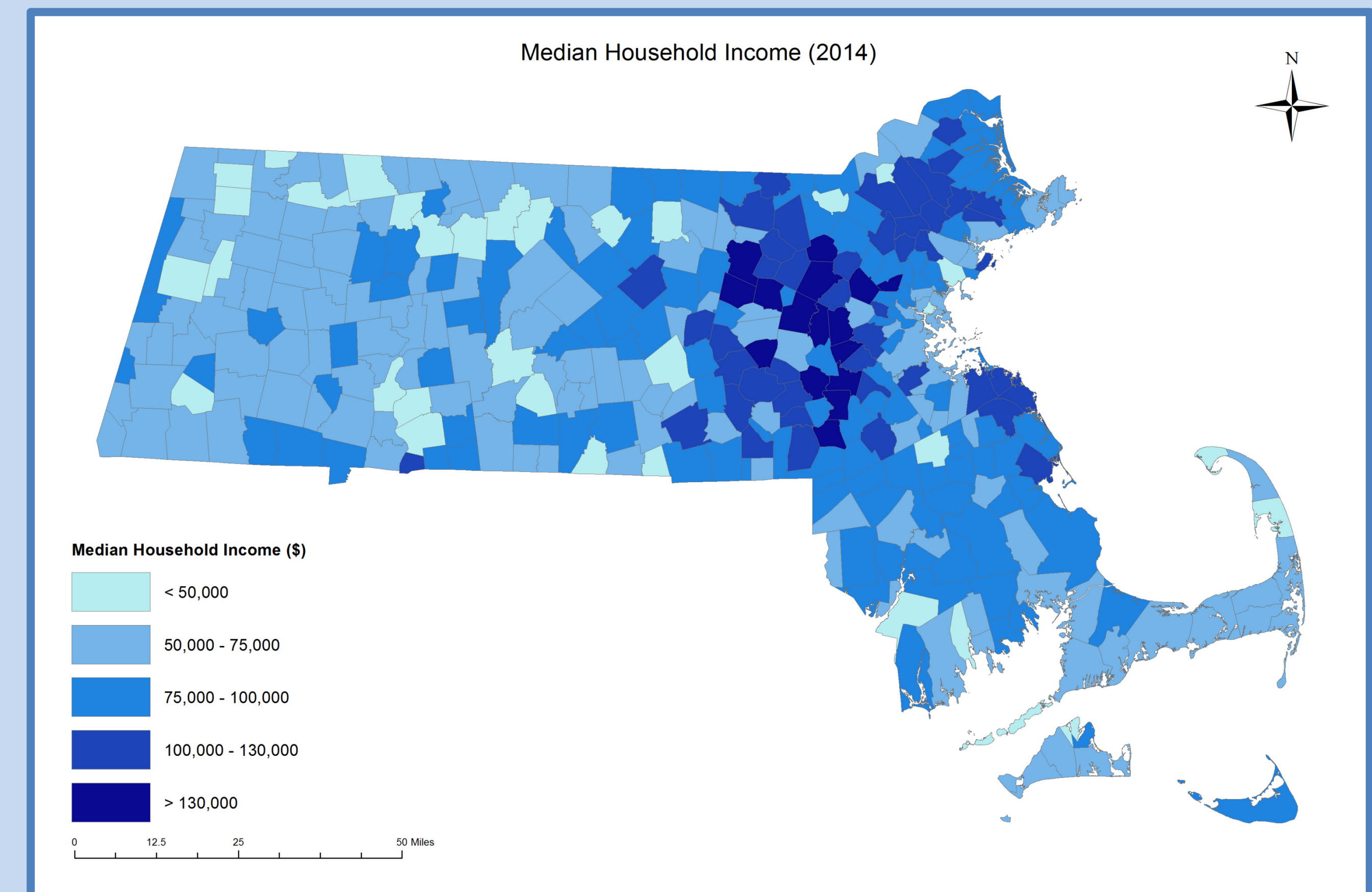


Figure 2: Median household income by town.

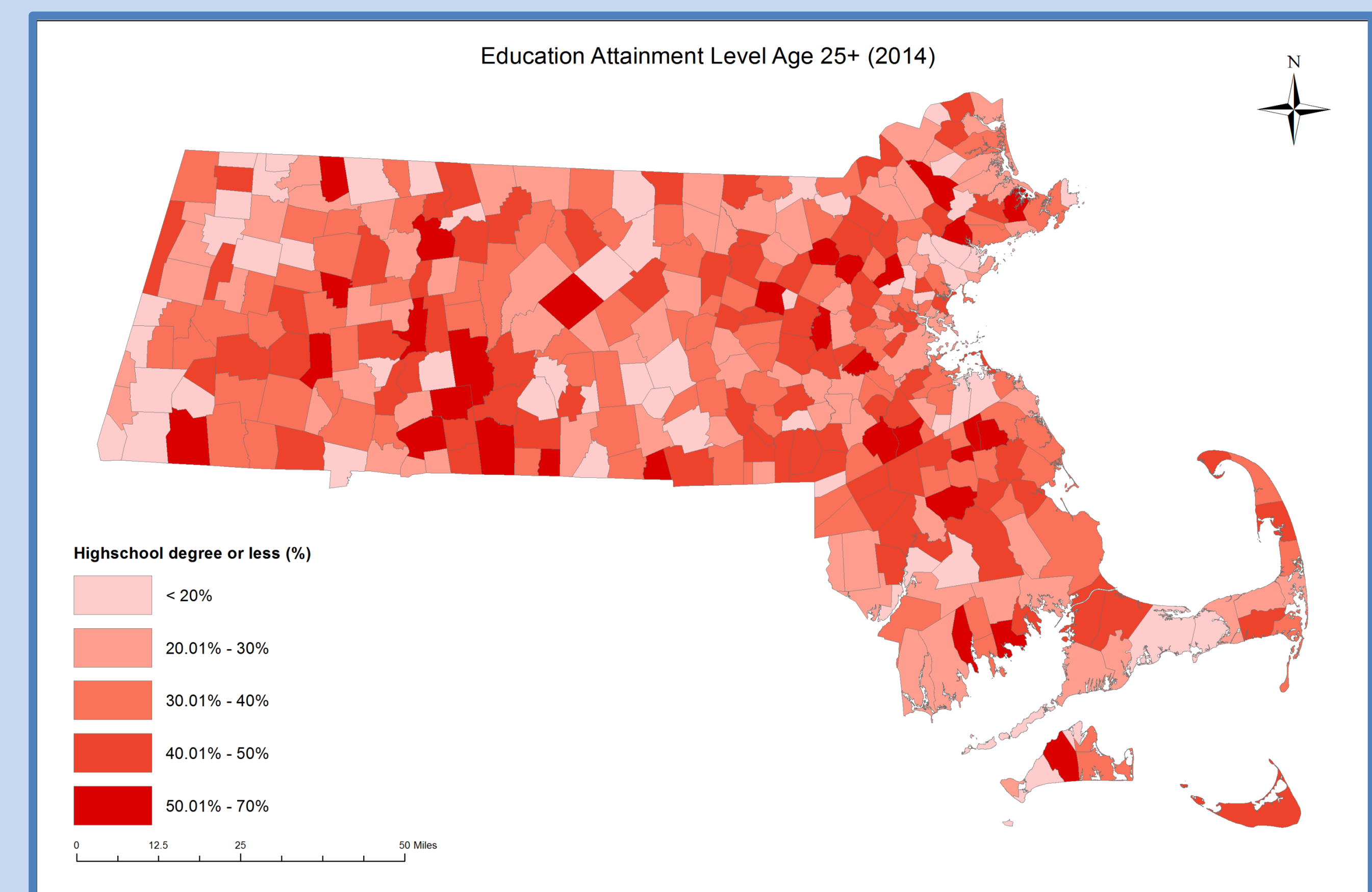


Figure 3: Percentage of town population with highest level of education being high school graduate or below for residents ages 25 and above.

References:

1. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2015/12/18/town-town-look-income-massachusetts/cFBfhWvzEDp5tWUSfIBVJ/story.html>
2. <http://www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/it-serv-and-support/application-serv/office-of-geographic-information-massgis/datalayers/census2010.html>
3. <https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/tiger-data.html>