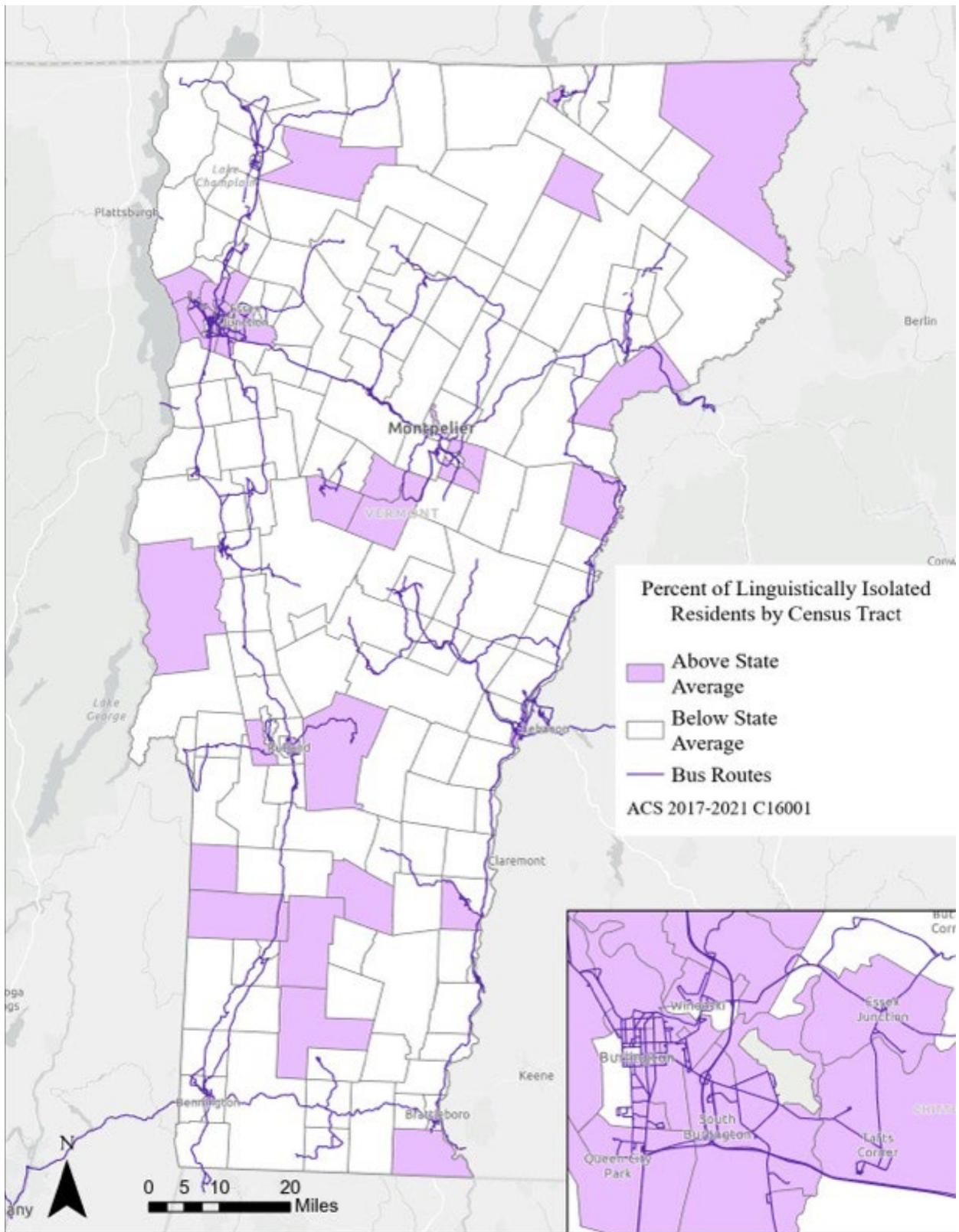


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It is clear from the data, as well as from the experience of the transit providers, that LEP is not a widespread issue in Vermont. Outside of the core of Chittenden County, there are only two tracts where there are 100 or more people who don't speak English very well: one in Barre Town and one in the center of Bennington. Note that the Census data do not reflect recent influxes of refugees from Afghanistan (2021-2022) or Ukraine (2022-2023).

As far as specific language groups and where there are concentrations of individuals who do not speak English well, in the maps above, it can be seen that at the tract level, other than in the core of Chittenden County, the numbers of people who do not speak English well are small. When these groups are broken down further into specific languages, the numbers become even smaller. The maps following display the number of persons who speak English "less than very well" and whose primary language is French, Spanish, Other Indo-European Languages, Chinese, Other Asian and Pacific Islander (primarily Burmese), Russian/Polish/Slavic, Vietnamese, and Korean. Statewide, these are the only languages (besides "Other and Unspecified") that have more than 100 individuals who speak English less than very well.

On the French map (1,619 total linguistic isolates), the highest numbers of linguistic isolates are in the center of Chittenden County and Barre Town. A pattern in prior Title VI patterns of a high incidence of French speakers among the northern tier has dissipated to some extent, as these tracts in northern Essex County and Orleans County now have between 20 and 35 linguistic isolates whereas in previous data sets had more than 40. This trend could represent older residents with ties to Quebec passing on in the intervening years. The higher numbers in Barre and the Burlington area likely reflect recent immigration from Haiti rather than legacy ties to Quebec. Indeed, the highest absolute numbers and highest percentages of French speakers are in the South End of Burlington, the southern part of Barre Town and the eastern part of South Burlington.

Compared to prior Census data, LEP individuals who speak Spanish are spread over a wider area with fewer concentrations. In 2015, there were three tracts with percentages well over 2 percent, but in the current data, only Tract 104 in Franklin County crosses that threshold at 2.07%. The highest absolute number in any tract is 72, in the Old North End of Burlington. Concentrations in prior analyses were attributed to migrant farmworkers. It is possible that there were fewer such farmworkers during the pandemic.

Other Indo-European Languages, spoken by 1,748 linguistically isolated individuals, mostly comprises Nepali, Marathi, or other Indic languages (1,205 of the 1,748) reflecting the many refugees from Bhutan that settled in Chittenden County from 2008 to 2017 (see Factor 2 below). The great majority of these individuals are located in the core of Chittenden County, in Winooski, the western part of Essex Junction and the Intervale neighborhood of Burlington. The percentages of total population in these tracts range from 3.7% in the Intervale to 11.4% in the western part of Winooski. The central part of Bennington has 103 linguistic isolates in this language group (2.45% of the population), but the Census data do not provide more detailed information on which specific language is spoken by these individuals.

On the Chinese map (737 total linguistic isolates), it can be seen that linguistically isolated Chinese speakers are clustered almost exclusively in tracts in Chittenden County. Earlier data sets showed a wider distribution. The highest concentrations are in the Route 116 corridor in South Burlington, the northern part of Williston, and the portion of Burlington containing UVM.

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Other Asian and Pacific Islander languages reflect primarily Burmese refugees who have settled in Chittenden County. There are scattered other tracts in St. Johnsbury, Hartford, Guilford, and Northfield where there are clusters of speakers of these languages.

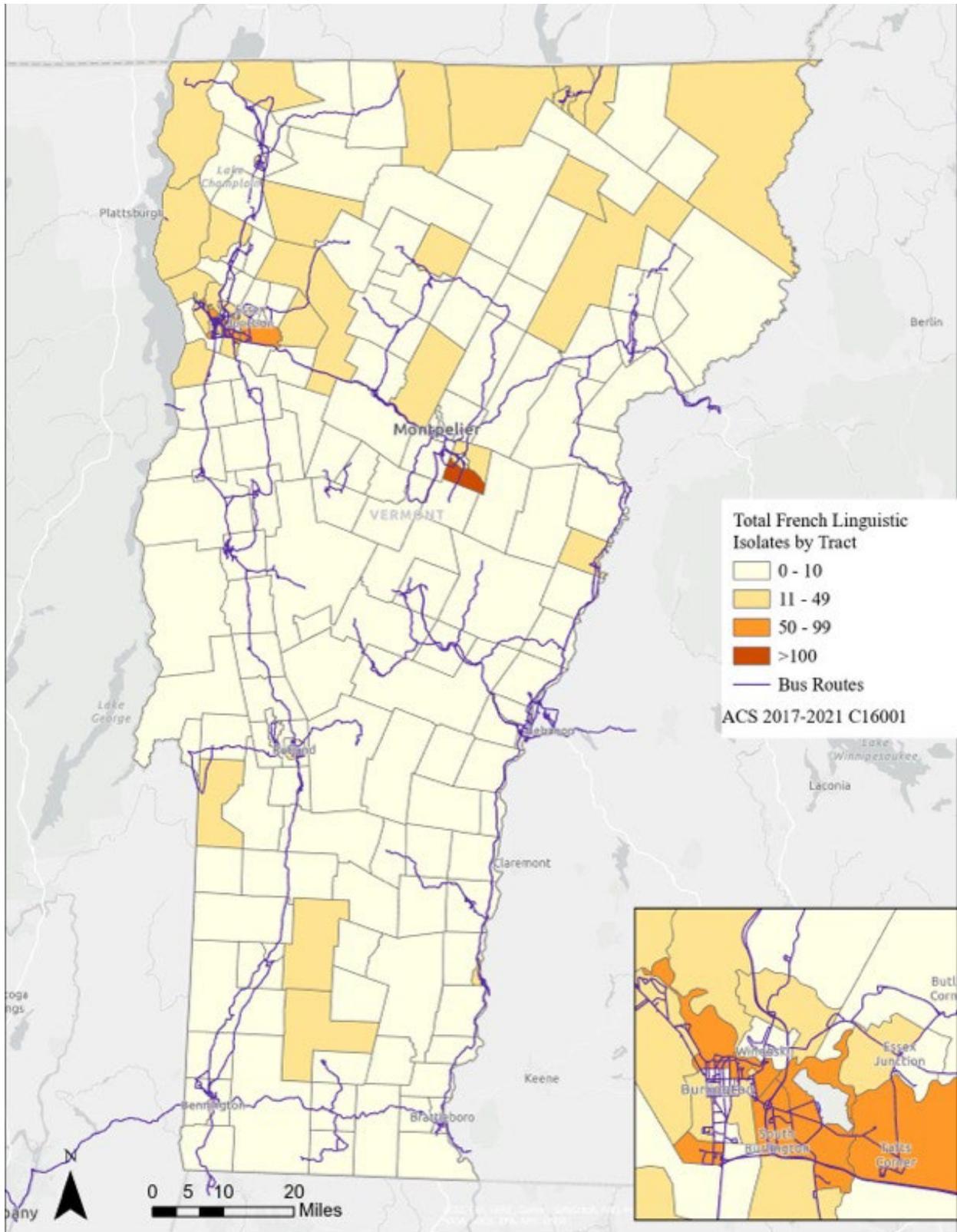
Speakers of Slavic languages also reflect an influx of refugees, this time Bosnians who speak Serbo-Croatian and arrived in Chittenden County more than a decade ago. There are other tracts as well, including Middlebury, Rutland, Northfield, Barre, and Newbury, among others.

Vietnamese and Korean have relatively fewer speakers in Vermont, with fewer than 200 speaking English less than very well. Vietnamese speakers are almost exclusively in the New North End of Burlington, as well as some in Essex Junction. Tracts with Korean speakers are spread over the state, with no significant clusters visible.

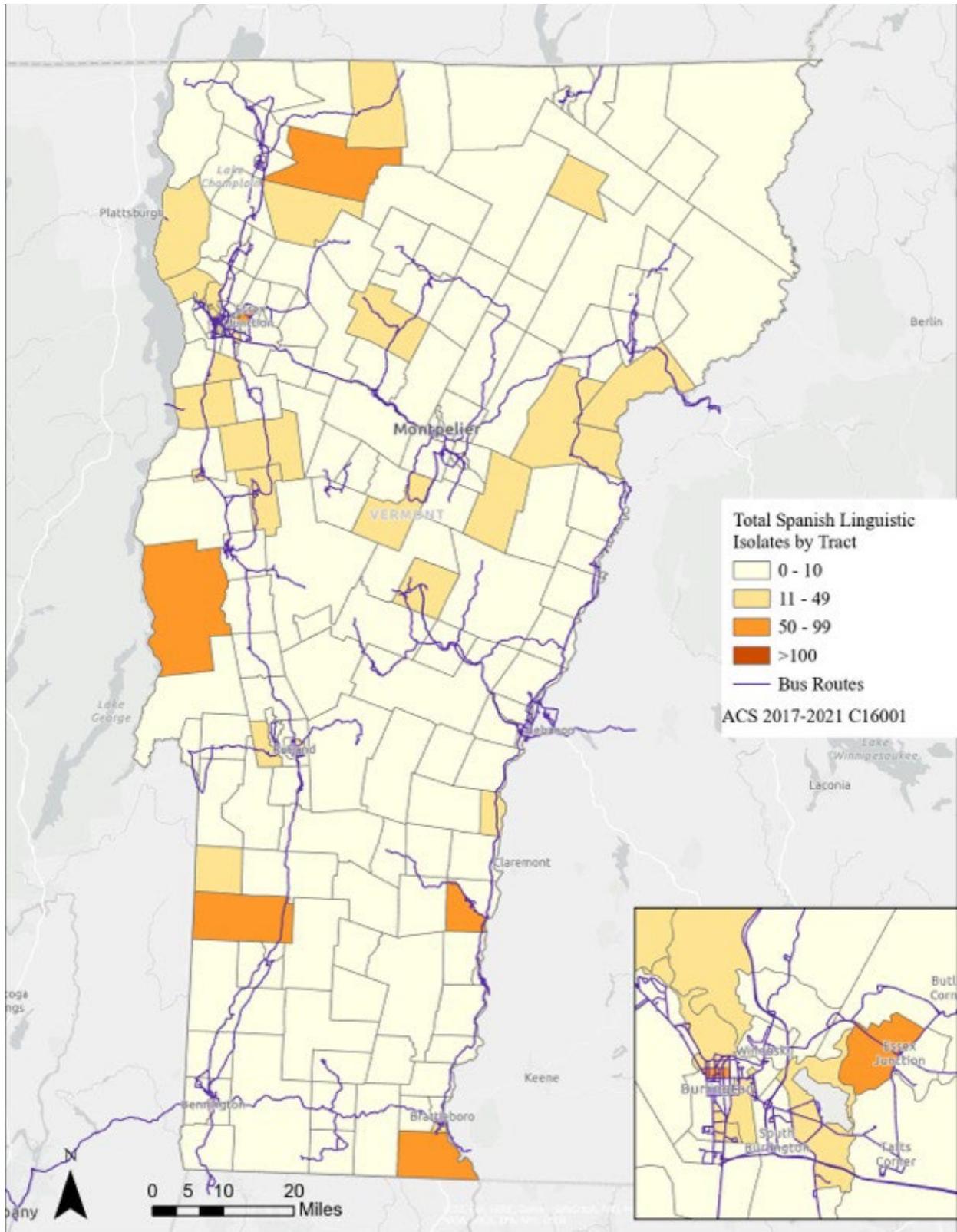
It can be seen that within any tract, no language group surpasses 400 individuals, however, there are three tracts in Chittenden County where linguistic isolates in one language surpass 5% of the population. These cases involve refugees from Bhutan and Burma in Tract 24, and additional Bhutanese refugees in Tract 25.01 and Tract 26.01.

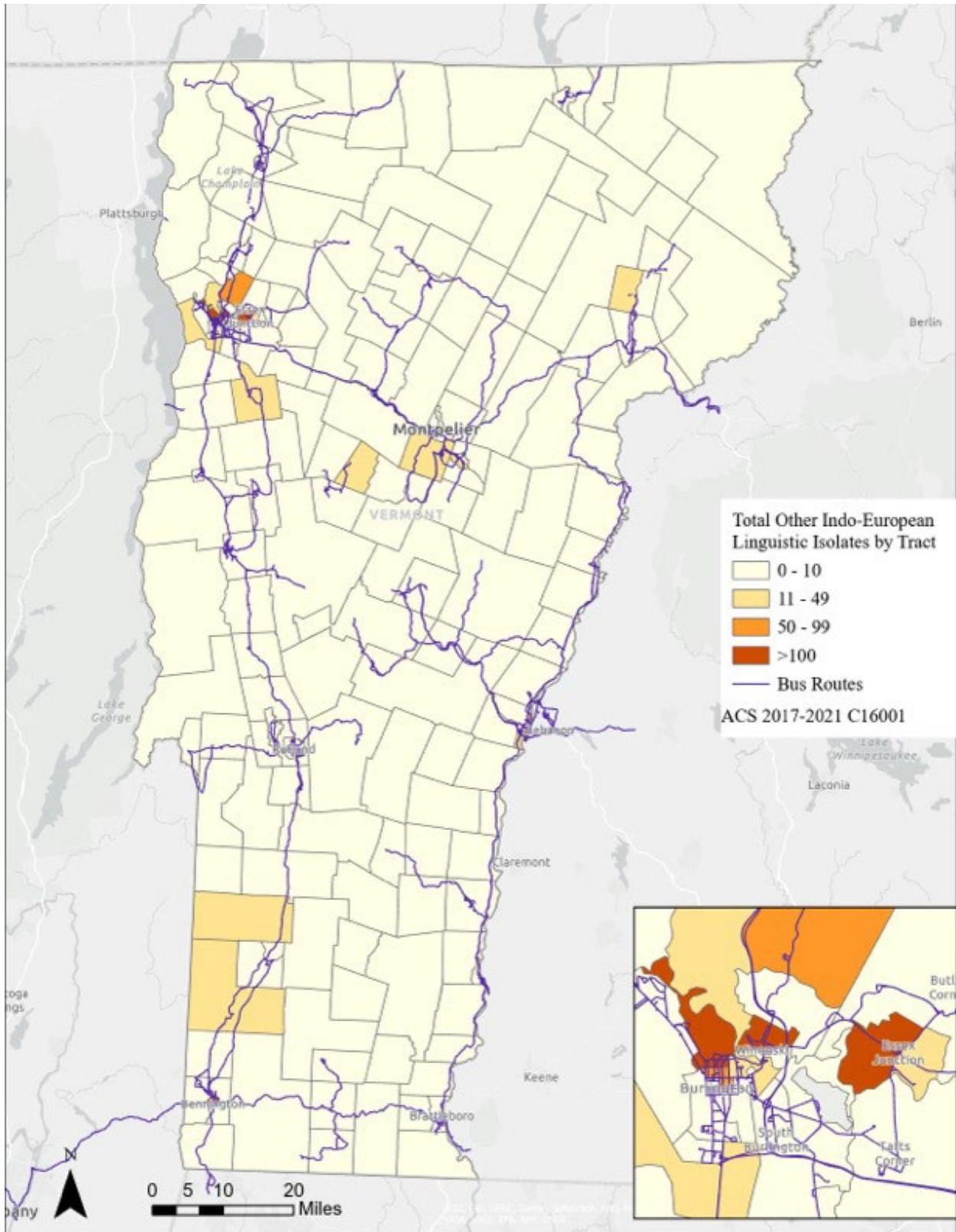
At the statewide level, French, Nepali and Spanish have more than 1,000 individuals, but as stated above, the French speakers are spread across the entire northern tier of the state with some newer concentrations in Chittenden County, and Spanish speakers are spread among many tracts. Refugees from Bhutan who speak Nepali are more concentrated and outreach activities in the central part of Chittenden County should always include outreach and accommodation of this population.

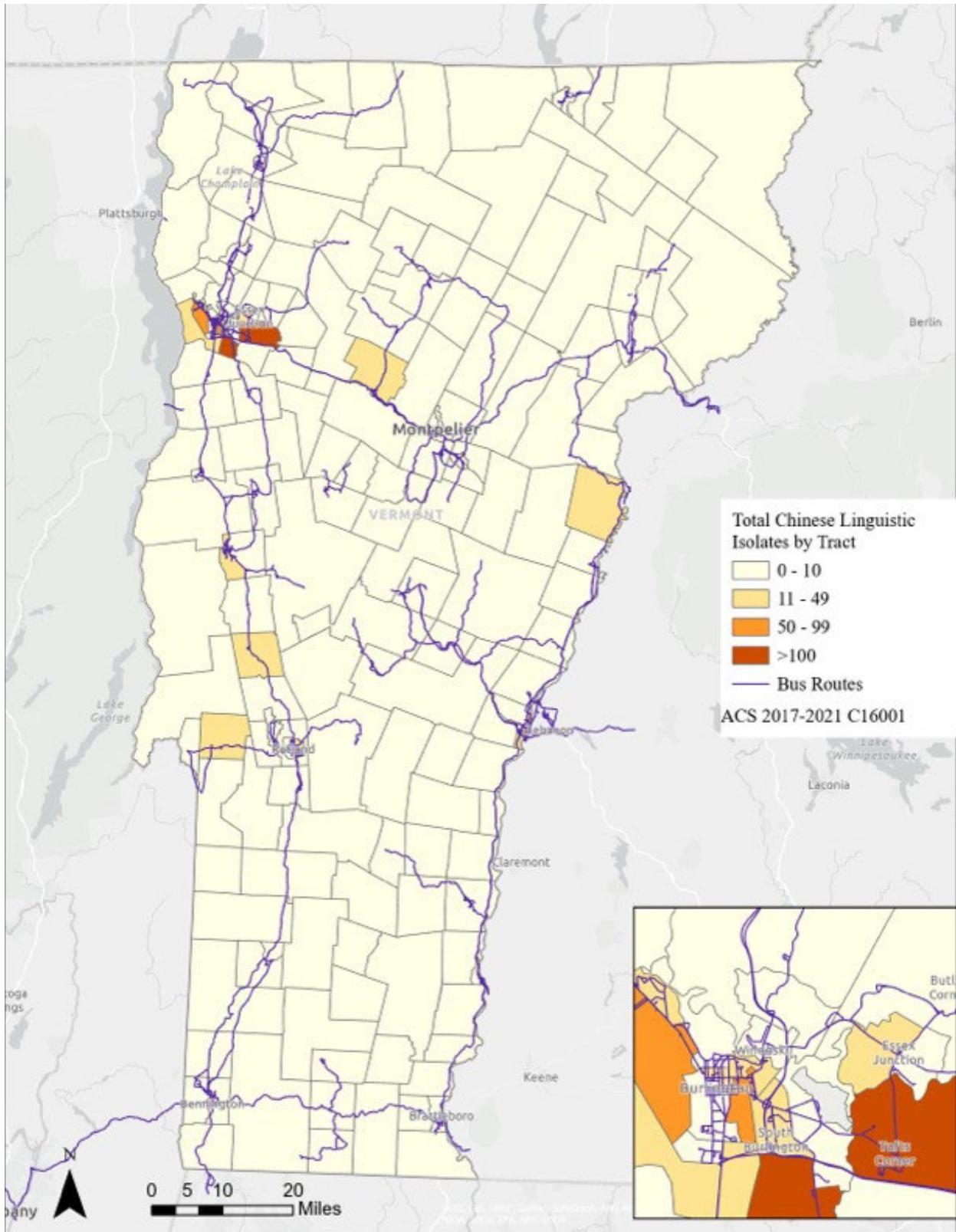
This data for the maps, is drawn from the 2017-2021 American Community Survey from the US Census.



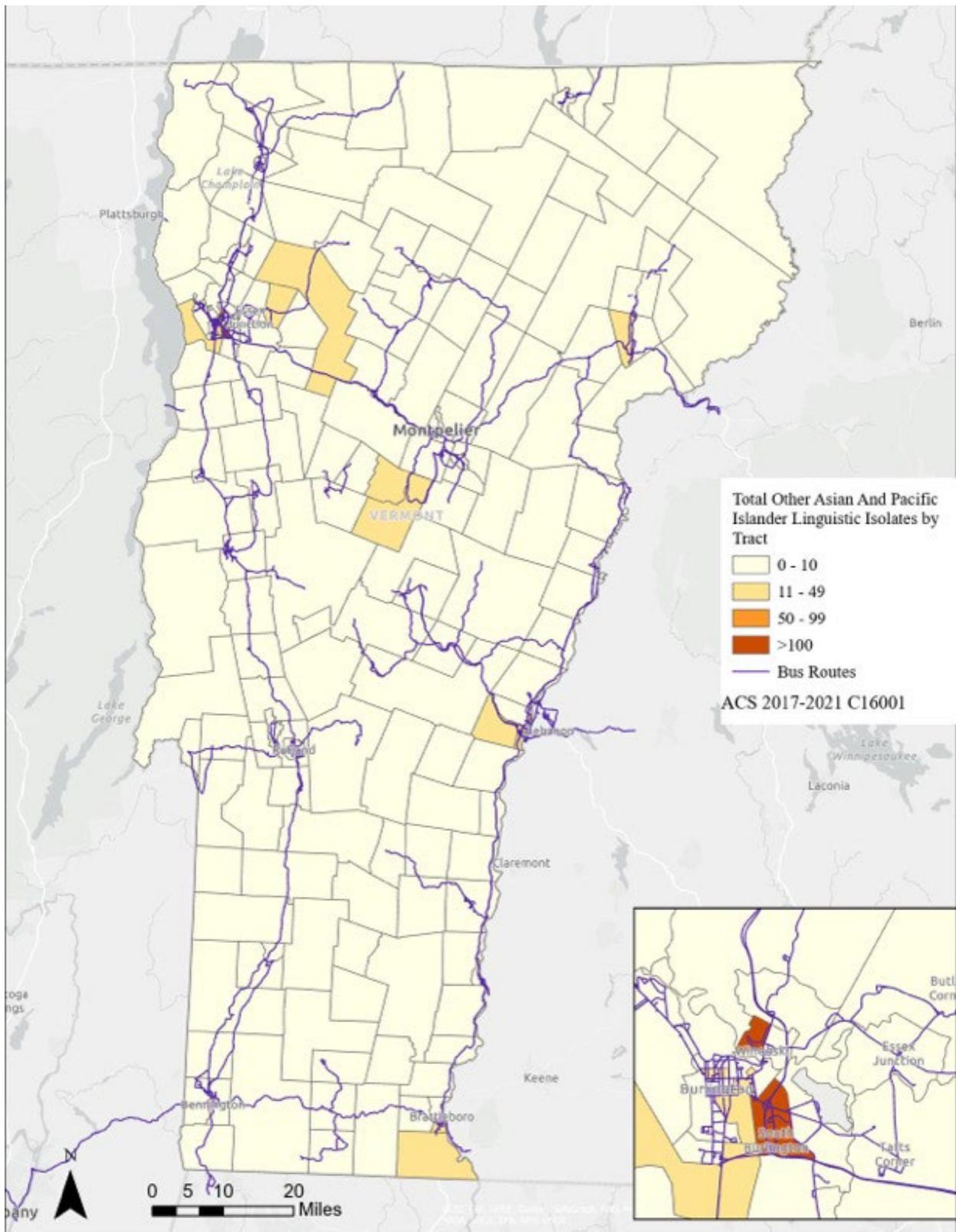
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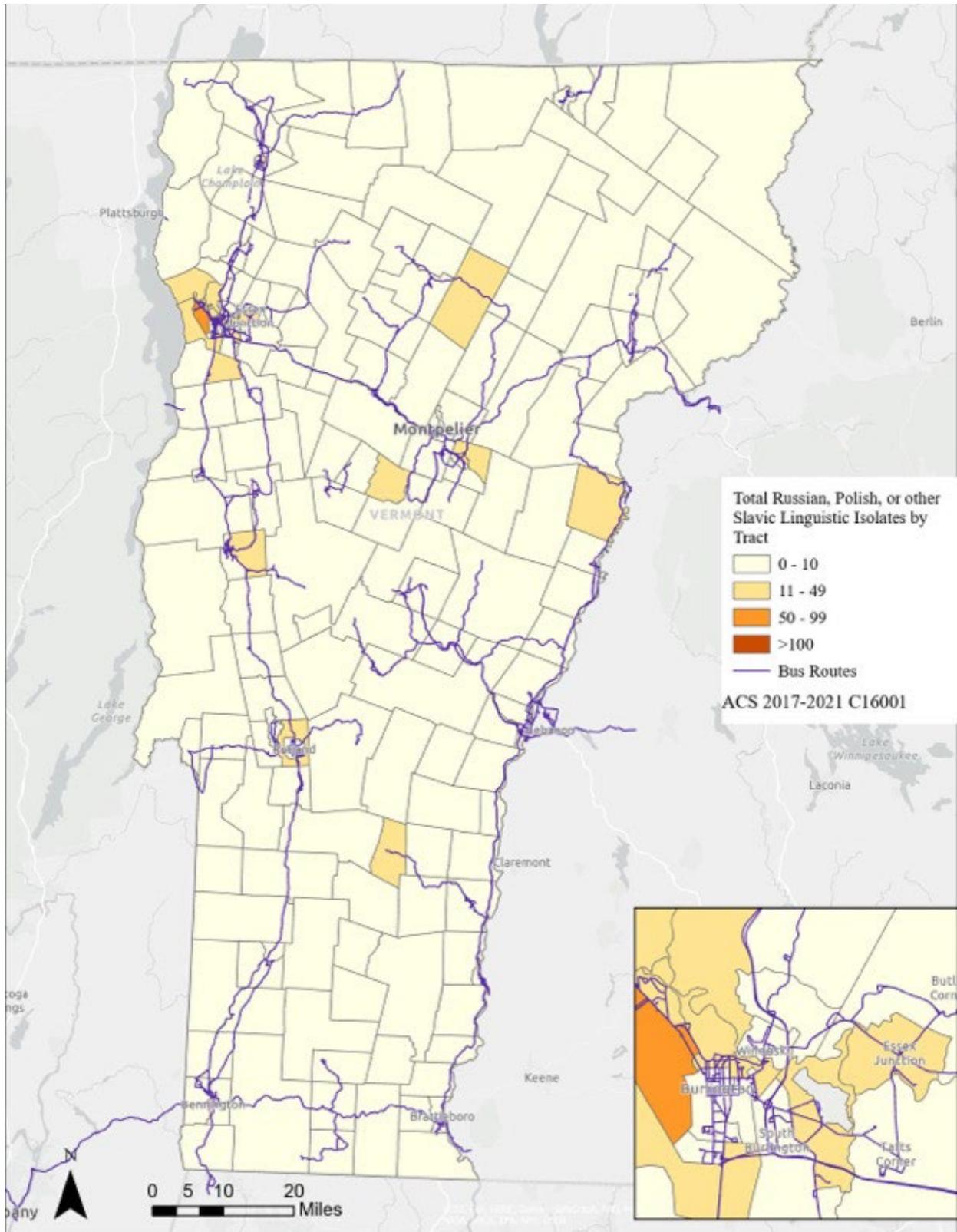


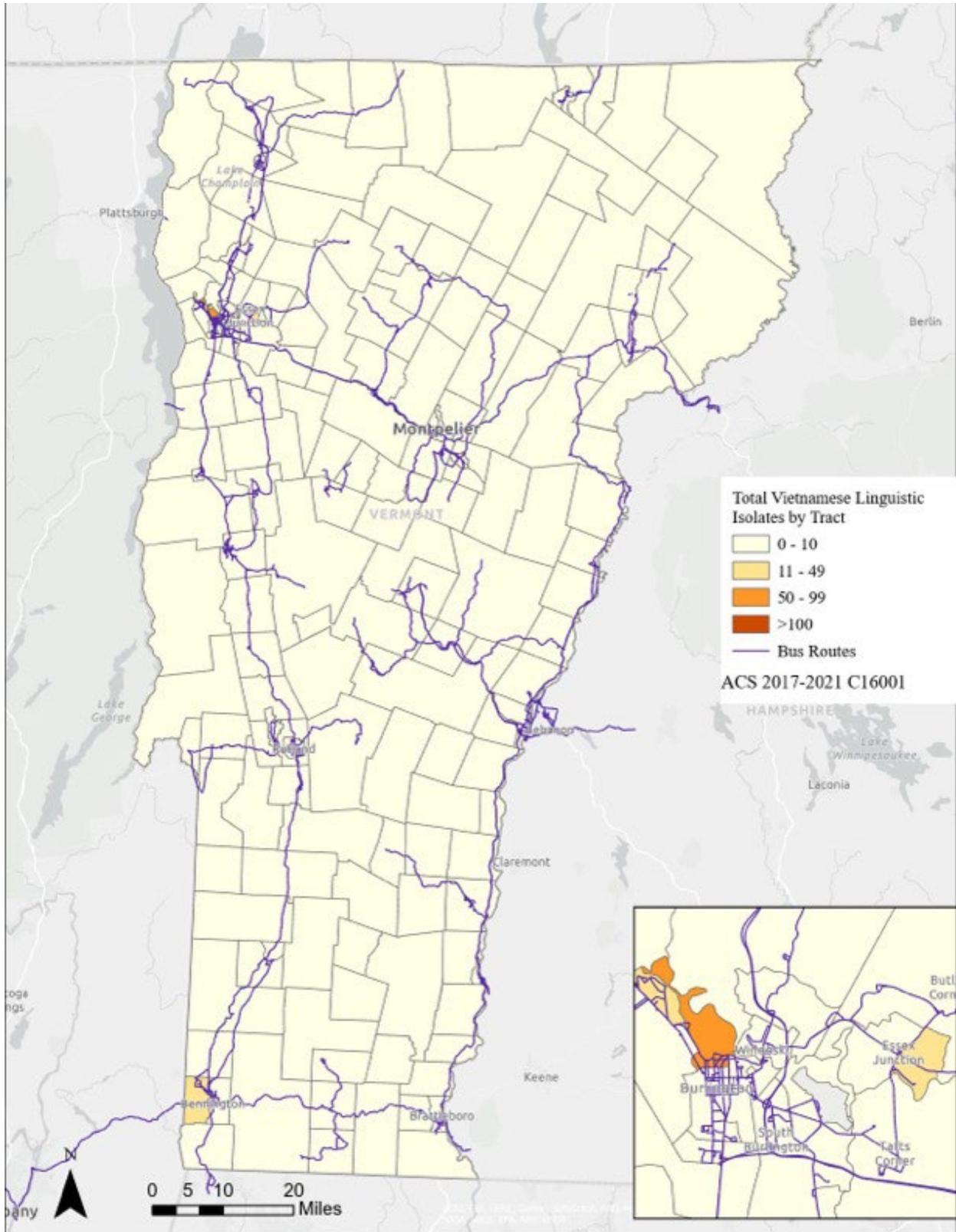


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