



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Alabama health data sheet is now available

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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In what county does the population have the greatest life expectancy? The shortest? The highest death rate from cancer, heart disease or stroke? The answers to these and many other questions can be found on the Alabama Health Data Sheet, a joint publication of the Center for Demographic Research at Auburn University Montgomery and the Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics.

The answers: For the year 2000, the population of Madison County has the highest life expectancy at 76.4 years; the shortest is Conecuh at 69.9 years. The highest death rate from cancer is found in Covington County at 311.5 deaths per 100,000 population, while Limestone County was lowest. The highest rate for heart disease was in Butler County and the lowest in Shelby County. Chambers County had the highest mortality rate for strokes, with Shelby County having the lowest.

A special feature of this year's sheet is a comparison of 2000 data with statistics from the mid-20th century. The percent of the population over the age of 65 has doubled from 6.5 percent in 1950 to 13.0 percent in 2000. From 1947 to 1949, 9,720 infants died, a rate of 37.7 per 1,000 births. In the period from 1998 to 2000 only 1,832 infants died, with the rate decreasing to 9.8 per 1,000 live births. This is indicative of the tremendous advances which have been made in public health in the last half century.

Copies of the data sheet are available by contacting either the director of the Center for Demographic Research at Auburn University Montgomery, P.O. Box 244023, Montgomery, Ala. 36124-4023, (334) 244-3463 (TDD number [334] 244-3800), or the Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health, P.O. Box 5625, Montgomery, Ala. 36103-5625, (334) 206-5429.

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