

Selected Indicators of Health Status in Alabama

Alabama's Rural and Urban Counties



Jointly produced to assist those seeking to improve health care in rural Alabama

by
The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health,
Alabama Department of Public Health

and

The Alabama Rural Health Association

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Dear Readers:

Knowing that quality health care is and will continue to be available when it is needed is an assurance that many Alabamians take for granted. Unfortunately, this assurance does not exist in many of Alabama's rural areas and is in danger of being lost in others. Important components of the rural healthcare industry have been lost and others are struggling to survive.

This publication and others that will follow present information on several of the major factors which are related to rural health care in Alabama. It attempts to paint a numerical and graphical picture of the current and future rural population and the greater health care needs of our rural residents.

The long-term economic struggles of Alabama's rural counties are documented. The severity of these economic struggles has placed many of our rural counties at great disadvantage when attempting to attract health care practitioners and in maintaining a local health care system. This report hopefully will identify many of the inter-related factors influencing rural health care, stimulate reflection, discussion, and action in responding to the needs of Alabama's rural health care industry and improving the health status of our rural residents.

We must realize that our rural areas greatly contribute to the livelihood of all Alabamians. Several of our primarily rural industries are among the greatest contributors to Alabama's economy. Every day we use products which can only come from rural areas. Many of our favorite recreational activities are only available in our rural areas. In our highly mobile society, anyone from anywhere can find themselves in need of health care through our rural health care system. Having quality health care in rural Alabama is everyone's concern.

We applaud the establishment of the Alabama Rural Action Commission and its predecessor, the Black Belt Action Commission. The main focus of this publication and those that will follow in this series is to provide information needed by those volunteering their service to these important efforts.

Sincerely,

Charles S. Lail, Director
Office of Primary Care and Rural Health Development,
Alabama Department of Public Health

Dale E. Quinney, Executive Director
Alabama Rural Health Association

SELECTED HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS
United States, Alabama, Rural Alabama Counties, and Urban Alabama Counties

Indicators	United States		Alabama		Rural Counties		Urban Counties	
	Number	Pct. of Total	Number	Pct. of Total	Number	Pct. of Total	Number	Pct. of Total
2006 Population								
Total	299,398,484	100.0	4,599,030	100.0	2,020,120	100.0	2,578,910	100.0
African American (alone)	38,342,549	12.8	1,211,583	26.3	427,128	21.1	784,455	30.4
White (alone)	239,746,254	80.1	3,276,561	71.2	1,552,622	76.9	1,723,939	66.8
American Indian (alone)	2,902,851	1.0	23,799	0.5	13,064	0.6	10,735	0.4
Asian (alone)	13,159,343	4.4	41,881	0.9	7,612	0.4	34,269	1.3
Hispanic	44,321,038	14.8	113,890	2.5	54,944	2.7	58,946	2.3
Age 19 Years or Less	82,079,106	27.4	1,240,643	27.0	532,043	26.3	708,600	27.5
Age 65 Years or More	37,260,352	12.4	615,597	13.4	292,694	14.5	322,903	12.5
Age 85 Years or More	5,296,817	1.8	79,530	1.7	37,909	1.9	41,621	1.6
Population Change	Number	Pct. Change	Number	Pct. Change	Number	Pct. Change	Number	Pct. Change
1910 – 2000	91,972,266 to 281,421,906	206.0	2,138,093 to 4,447,100	108.0	1,418,814 to 1,958,215	38.0	719,279 to 2,488,885	246.0
2000 – 2025 Projected	281,421,906 to 349,695,000	24.3	4,447,100 to 5,385,997	21.1	1,958,215 to 2,441,629	24.7	2,488,885 to 2,944,868	18.3
Age 65+: 2000 – 2025 Projected	34,991,753 to 63,042,500	80.2	579,907 to 999,769	72.4	273,757 to 491,636	79.6	306,150 to 508,133	66.0
Hispanic: 1990 – 2006 Estimated	22,354,059 to 44,321,038	98.3	24,629 to 113,890	362.4	9,113 to 54,944	502.9	15,516 to 58,946	279.9
Income Related Indicators	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure
Population Below Poverty Level – 2004	37,039,804	12.7%	727,308	16.1%	331,089	16.7%	397,803	15.7%
Children Under 18 Below Poverty Level - 2004	13,041,492	17.8%	245,017	22.6 %	110,845	23.5%	134,170	21.9%
Per Capita Personal Income – 2005	N.A.	\$34,471	N.A.	\$29,623	N.A.	\$25,589	N.A.	\$32,790
Medicaid Eligible Population – 2006	N.A.	N.A.	988,677	21.1%	484,384	23.3%	503,822	19.4%
Medicaid Eligible Children (Under 21) - 2006	N.A.	N.A.	520,256	38.9%	251,712	42.4%	268,078	35.2%
Medicaid Births - 2006	N.A.	N.A.	30,114	49.3%	13,690	54.7%	16,424	45.5%
Access to Health Care Indicators	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure
Primary Care Physicians – 2006 (Per 10,000 Pop.)	209,550	7.2	3,044	6.5	964	4.6	2,080	8.0
Dentists – 2003 (Per 10,000 Pop.)	86,110	2.9 (2006)	1,557	3.5	487	2.5	1,070	4.2
Psychiatrists – 2006 (Per 10,000 Pop.)	24,730	0.9	298	0.6	31	0.1	267	1.0
Hospital Beds (Per 10,000 Pop.)	N.A.	N.A.	16,917	36.1	5,061	24.3	11,856	45.6
Households With No Vehicle – 2000	10,861,067	10.3%	143,594	8.3%	64,550	8.5%	79,044	8.1%
Uninsured Population - 2003	39,803,527	14.2% (2001)	504,539	11.2%	237,946	12.0%	266,593	10.6%

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Indicators	United States		Alabama		Rural Counties		Urban Counties	
	2004 Number	2004 Rate Per 100,000	Number	Rate Per 100,000	Number	Rate Per 100,000	Number	Rate Per 100,000
All Causes	2,397,615	816.5	139,414	1,028.7	66,134	1,109.7	73,280	965.2
Septicemia	33,373	11.4	2,451	18.1	1,109	18.6	1,342	17.7
Cancer	553,888	188.6	29,389	216.9	13,759	230.9	15,630	205.9
Colon, Rectum, and Anus	53,772	18.3	2,696	19.9	1,279	21.5	1,417	18.7
Trachea, Bronchus, and Lung	158,091	53.8	9,286	68.5	4,486	75.3	4,800	63.2
Breast (female)	40,954	27.5	2,072	29.4	920	30.0	1,152	29.0
Cervix Uteri (female)	3,850	2.6	241	3.4	119	3.9	122	3.1
Ovary (female)	14,716	9.9	786	11.2	369	12.0	417	10.5
Prostate (male)	29,004	20.1	1,609	24.3	736	25.0	873	23.7
Meninges, Brain, Other Central Nervous System	12,829	4.4	611	4.5	291	4.9	320	4.2
Alzheimer's Disease	65,965	22.5	4,145	30.6	1,982	33.3	2,163	28.5
Diabetes Mellitus	73,138	24.9	4,273	31.5	1,881	31.6	2,392	31.5
Heart Diseases	675,562	230.1	38,683	285.4	19,704	330.6	18,979	250.0
Ischemic Heart Diseases	451,326	153.7	18,789	138.6	9,374	157.3	9,415	124.0
Heart Failure	57,120	19.5	6,606	48.7	3,747	62.9	2,859	37.7
Cerebrovascular Diseases (Stroke)	150,074	51.1	8,934	65.9	4,168	69.9	4,766	62.8
Pneumonia	58,564	19.9	3,111	23.0	1,466	24.6	1,645	21.7
Chronic Lower Respiratory Dis.	121,987	41.5	7,156	52.8	3,539	59.4	3,617	47.6
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	27,013	9.2	1,378	10.2	611	10.3	767	10.1
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, and Nephrosis	42,480	14.5	3,132	23.1	1,463	24.5	1,669	22.0
Accidents	112,012	38.1	6,931	51.1	3,546	59.5	3,385	44.6
Motor Vehicle Accidents	44,933	15.3	3,480	25.7	1,909	32.0	1,571	20.7
Drowning and Submersion	3,308	1.1	187	1.4	96	1.6	91	1.2
Smoke, Fire, and Flames	3,229	1.1	322	2.4	174	2.9	148	1.9
Poisoning and Exposure to Noxious Substances	20,950	7.1	646	4.8	262	4.4	348	5.1
Homicide	17,357	5.9	1,233	9.1	422	7.1	811	10.7
Suicide	32,439	11.0	1,586	11.7	719	12.1	867	11.4

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Indicators	United States		Alabama		Rural Counties		Urban Counties	
	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure
Natality Related								
2004-2006 Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)	28,534 (2005)	6.9	1,646	9.0	682	8.9	964	9.1
Low Weight Births - 2006 (Percent of All Births)	331,772 (2004)	8.1%	6,616	10.5 %	2,561	9.7 %	4,055	11.1 %
Births to Teens (10-19) - 2006 (Percent of All Births)	422,043 (2004)	10.3%	8,670	13.8 %	4,011	15.2 %	4,659	12.8 %
Births With Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care - 2006 (Percent of All Births)	Not Available	Not Available	14,390	23.1 %	6,607	25.2 %	7,783	21.5 %
Tobacco Use During Pregnancy - 2006 (Percent of All Births)	419,429	10.2%	7,394	11.8 %	3,902	14.8 %	3,492	9.6 %
Births Occurring Outside of the Mother's County of Residence - 2006 (Percent of All Births)	Not Available	Not Available	20,002	31.8 %	15,987	60.5 %	4,015	11.0 %
Births to Under-Educated Women - 2006 (Percent of All Births)	Not Available	Not Available	11,648	18.6 %	5,710	21.7 %	5,938	16.3 %
Other Indicators	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure
Age 65+ With "Go Outside" Disability - 2000	6,795,517	19.4 %	139,401	24.0%	68,529	25.0 %	70,872	23.1 %
Age 25+ With Less Than High School Education - 2000	35,715,625	19.6 %	714,081	24.7 %	391,305	30.3	322,776	20.2 %
Receiving Medicare Disability - 2003 (Percent of Total Population)	6,079,424	2.2 %	150,573	3.3 %	75,499	3.8 %	75,022	3.0 %
Obese - 2003 (Percent of Total Population)	Not Comparable	Not Comparable	1,073,329	23.9 %	465,494	23.5	607,835	24.1
Accidental Deaths Occurring Outside of a Health Care Facility: 2003-2005 (Percent of all Accidental Deaths)	Not Available	Not Available	3,621	52.2 %	1,974	55.7 %	1,647	48.7 %
Life Expectancy at Birth - 2005	--	77.9 years	--	74.8 years	--	74.4 years	--	75.1 years
Sexually Transmitted Disease Cases Reported in 2006 (Per 10,000 Population)	1,349,333	45.9	33,463	73.6	10,958	52.6	22,505	86.6
Cumulative HIV Cases as of December 31, 2006 (Per 10,000 Population)	Not Comparable	Not Comparable	14,737	32.4	3,755	18.0	10,949	42.1
Families Being Counseled for Drug Issues by the Alabama Department of Mental Health During FY 2004 (Percent of All Families)	Not Available	Not Available	20,881	1.7 %	7,750	1.4 %	13,131	2.0 %

Sources of Information and Special Notes

2006 Population: U.S. Census Bureau, County Population Estimates – characteristics; County Population by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2000 through July 1, 2006. <http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/asrh/CC-EST2006-alldata.html>

Population Change 1910-2000: U.S. Census Bureau, County Population Census Counts 1900-90, <http://www.census.gov/population/cencounts/al190090.txt> for 1910 data; U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data for 2000 data.

Population Change 2000-2025: U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data for 2000 data. Alabama State Data Center, Alabama County Population 2000 and Projections 2005-2025 for 2025. http://cber.cba.ua.edu/edata/est_prj.html

Age 65+ Population Change 2000-2025: Alabama State Data Center, Alabama County Population 65 and Over 2000 and Projections 2005-2025 for 2025. http://cber.cba.ua.edu/edata/est_prj.html

Hispanic Population Change 1990-2006: U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, Census 1990 Summary File 1 (STF 1) 100-Percent Data for 1990 data. Alabama State Data Center, Estimates of the Hispanic Population by County, 2006. http://cber.cba.ua.edu/edata/est_prj.html

Population Below Poverty Level - 2004: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saippe/saippe.html>

Children Under 18 Below Poverty Level - 2004: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saippe/saippe.html>

2005 Per Capita Personal Income: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Interactive Tables: Local Area Personal Income, Table CA1-3. <http://www.bea.gov/regional/reis/default.cfm?catable=CA1-3§ion=2>

Medicaid Eligible Population - 2006: Alabama Medicaid Agency, Alabama Medicaid Statistics by County – 2006. http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/resources/stats_reports.aspx?tab=5

Medicaid Eligible Children (Under 21) - 2006: Alabama Medicaid Agency, Alabama Medicaid Statistics by County – 2006. http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/resources/stats_reports.aspx?tab=5

Medicaid Births - 2006: Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2006 Birth Statistics File.

Primary Care Physicians in 2006: Medical Licensure Commission, Licensed Physician Data Base – 2006.
(In this publication, primary care physicians include family practitioners, internal medicine specialists, pediatricians, and obstetricians and gynecologists.)

Dentists in 2003: Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama, Licensed dentists data base - 2003.

Psychiatrists in 2006: Medical Licensure Commission, Licensed Physician Data Base – 2006.

Hospital Beds in 2007: Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of Provider Services, Healthcare Facilities Directory – Hospital Section. October 4, 2007. [http://ph.state.al.us/facilitiesdirectory/\(S\(ikg10gmp4ih5550hmu4t45\)\)/Default.aspx](http://ph.state.al.us/facilitiesdirectory/(S(ikg10gmp4ih5550hmu4t45))/Default.aspx)

Households With No Vehicle in 2000: U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) Sample Data, Table H44 - Tenure by Vehicles Available.

Uninsured Persons - 2003: State Health Access Data Assistance Center, Alabama County Chartbook: County-Level Estimates of Uninsurance July 2005. (Prepared for the Alabama Department of Public Health, Children's Health Insurance Program)

Cause of Death Indicators: Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special queries of the 2003, 2004, and 2005 Mortality Statistics Files for Alabama data. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC Wonder Interactive Program, Mortality – Underlying Cause of Death 2004 file. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/> (Cause of death data included in this publication is not age-adjusted)

Infant Mortality Rate - 2004-2006; Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special queries of the 2004, 2005, and 2006 Birth Statistics Files for birth data. Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Total Resident Infant Deaths and Infant Mortality Rates by County, Alabama, 2006, 2005, 2004, and Combined 2006-2004. <http://adph.org/healthstats/assets/06TotInfantDeaths.pdf>

Low Weight Births - 2006: Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2006 Birth Statistics File. (Births weighing less than 2,500 grams or 5 pounds and 8 ounces are defined as being of low weight.)

Births to Teenagers (Age 10-19) - 2006: Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2006 Birth Statistics File.

Births With Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care - 2006: Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2006 Birth Statistics File. (The Kotelchuck Index is used in determining adequacy of prenatal care. This index primarily considers the date when prenatal care was begun and the number of visits in determining adequacy.)

Births With Tobacco Use During Pregnancy - 2006: Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2006 Birth Statistics File.

Births Occurring Outside Mother's County of Residence - 2006: Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2006 Birth Statistics File.

(This indicator was included because of the serious decline in the number of rural hospitals where obstetrics are performed and the natural relationship between women receiving adequate prenatal care and the presence of obstetrical care in the county.)

Births to Undereducated Women - 2006: Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2006 Birth Statistics File. (Women are considered to be “undereducated” when their years of education is at least two years less than what would be expected for someone of their age.)

Age 65+ With "Home Bound" Disability - 2000: U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) Sample Data, Table P41 – Age by Types of Disability for the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population 5 Years and Over With Disabilities.

Age 25+ With Less Than High School Education - 2000: U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) Sample Data, Table P37 – Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over.

Persons Receiving Medicare Disability - 2003: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Medicare County Enrollment, As of July 1, 2003. <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareEnrpts/>

Obesity - Percent of Population in 2003: Chronic Disease in Alabama: Past, Present, and Future Trends. Pp. 16-17. <http://adph.org/ADMINISTRATION/chronicdisease.pdf>

Accidental Deaths Occurring Outside of a Health Care Facility - (2003-2005): Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2003, 2004, and 2005 Mortality Statistics File.

(This indicator was used in the place of an “emergency medical services emergency ambulance runs” data base. While there is such a data base maintained within the Alabama Department of Public Health, reporting to this data base is not complete and could produce confusing findings. The provision of adequate emergency medical service continues to be a serious issue in most rural Alabama counties.)

Life Expectancy at Birth - 2005: Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, County Health Profiles – 2005. <http://www.adph.org/healthstats/Default.asp?id=1521>

Sexually Transmitted Disease Cases - 2006: Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of STD Prevention and Control, Statistics, County Totals – 2006.
<http://www.adph.org/STD/Default.asp?id=1080>

Cumulative HIV Cases as of 12/31/2006: Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, Statistics, Public Health Area (January – December 2006). <http://www.adph.org/aids/Default.asp?id=984>

(National data for the cumulative number of HIV cases as of December 31, 2006 is not comparable due to the fact that not all states report this information to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and those that are reporting initiated this reporting at varying times.)

Families Served by the Division of Substance Abuse Services in the Alabama Department of Mental Health - FY 2004: Alabama Department of Mental Health, Department's Annual Report, '03-'04. p35. http://www.mh.alabama.gov/downloads/AnnualReports/ADMH_AnnualReport_03_04Part3.pdf

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For additional information please contact the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health Development at (334) 206-5396 or the Alabama Rural Health Association at (334) 281-3866.