

# COUNTIES IN **CRISIS**

ASSESSING QUALITY OF LIFE  
IN ALABAMA



ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC POLICY

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CENTER FOR  
LEADERSHIP AND  
PUBLIC POLICY

Dear Alabamians:


As Alabamians, we must find ways to improve the quality of life in our state. Thus, I commend to you Counties in Crisis.

For the past year the research staff of the Center for Leadership and Public Policy (CLPP) has compiled and analyzed a massive amount of data about Alabama's quality of life. The collected data herein are focused on Alabama's economy, education, healthcare, and public safety. What is not surprising, but especially well documented in this report, is that the quality of life varies dramatically from one area of Alabama to another and that it is very much in the interest of the state as a whole to focus on public policies that can lift the poorest areas of Alabama to a position where its citizens have life chances that allow them to participate in the American Dream.

This report is the first of a number of ongoing CLPP studies that focus on critical Alabama public policy issues. Other studies in progress are: an assessment of national and international best practices for teaching reading and math that can be adapted to Alabama, access to transportation in rural areas of Alabama, social entrepreneurship in Alabama's Black Belt, unmet healthcare needs in Alabama, and an evaluation of the quality of services for Alabama's elderly. These studies will be published later in 2011 and throughout 2012.

These publications, along with Counties in Crisis, should help inform Alabama public policy makers and others of the state of current policy, identify problem areas requiring attention, and provide recommendations for the improvement of these areas of public policy. In this regard, we would appreciate your feedback on this or any other of the Center's publications and we welcome suggestions of issues that could be the focus of future Center research and analysis.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. William H. Harris, ASU President and Dr. John F. Knight Jr., ASU Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, who have been highly supportive of this and other outreach initiatives of the Center for Leadership and Public Policy.

Sincerely,  
  
Thomas Vocino  
Executive Director

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## FOREWORD

In assembling and analyzing scores of data used to assess quality of life in Alabama, it is glaringly apparent that no county exists separate from the state as a whole. An above-average high school dropout rate is not only a problem for the specific county reporting that figure but a problem for *all* of Alabama. The impact a specific statistic has on a wide range of quality of life issues seldom confines itself to that particular topic, much less a single county. Instead, what we've found is that seemingly localized problems have far-reaching detrimental ramifications throughout all of Alabama.

Poorly performing and underfunded schools have a detrimental impact on Alabama's ability to recruit new industry because many students do not have the skills to compete in today's workforce. High obesity rates threaten to become a major financial hardship for local and statewide communities, and counties with high incidences of juvenile crime speak volumes about steps that must be taken to provide for the future of all Alabama. None of these problems can be truly called a "local issue," or an issue that easily confines itself within a small, well-quarantined set of variables. These issues have a widespread impact throughout the state—over an incredibly wide range of quality of life indicators—and therefore warrant the attention of policymakers, social and educational advocates, community leaders and other stakeholders.

The *Counties in Crisis* report provides a ranked assessment of the 67 Alabama counties according to quality of life indicators culled primarily from state, local and federal agencies, allowing readers an unprecedented glimpse into conditions throughout the state. The fundamental structure of any ordinal study dictates that there will be a county that is found to be No. 1 and a county that is No. 67, but the value of this study is far more relevant than a simple ranking of counties by quality of life. Of the four key indicators used to examine Alabama, no county scores perfectly, and, most importantly, not one is immune to the impact of these indicators' deficiencies or their ramifications.

For the purposes of this study we have defined quality of life as not just an object of analysis but as a goal that must be shared throughout the state: the findings of our study support this assertion. No region or demographic is unaffected by these issues and, therefore, the need to address causes falls on the state as a whole.

Our hope is that this assessment will be read as intended, as a very bright light cast upon issues detrimental to quality of life for all Alabamians. **It is a call to every resident of this state—from elected officials to citizenry—to recognize ours as a community with which all have a vested interest and an inherent responsibility to vastly improve the current standard of quality of life.**



## INTRODUCTION TO *COUNTIES IN CRISIS*

*Counties in Crisis* is an assessment tool for quality of life indicators throughout Alabama. By compiling data from state, local and federal sources on variables widely accepted to be indicators of quality of life, the Center for Leadership and Public Policy constructs an academic synopsis of quality of life throughout Alabama that is unparalleled in scope. Utilizing a predetermined list of quality of life indicators, *Counties in Crisis* provides a ranking of all the counties within the state from highest to lowest and an analysis of the impact these indicators have throughout Alabama.

On a county by county basis, data are compiled on a variety of issues that fall under four major categories of quality of life indicators. These indicators were selected by research staff and verified by contemporary scholarship as being indicative of quality of life. These major categories include ECONOMY, HEALTHCARE, PUBLIC SAFETY and EDUCATION. Determining factors in selecting the data to be isolated for consideration include concurrence with academia on studies of these ilk and primary data sources that are both reliable and credible. The project primarily utilizes existing sources of data from local, state and federal government entities.

The indicators chosen for consideration are vetted by contemporary scholarship, regional experts in the field, and the faculty and staff of both the Center for Leadership and Public Policy and Alabama State University, and fall into two categories: Tier I Data and Tier II Supplemental Data. Tier I indicators are chosen because they reflect a consensus among scholars as a clear determinant required for assessing quality of life in a region. This group of data is used to rank the counties and is the primary focus of the individual chapters of this report. Tier II data consist of indicators that, though not used in the rankings of the counties, nonetheless serve as compelling evidence of the state of quality of life in the counties. Within each category the indicators were weighted equally to determine a county's score in the areas of Economy, Healthcare, Public Safety and Education.<sup>1</sup> The indicators used in this study are arranged as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> In this ordinal study prominence was given to the areas of Economy, Healthcare and Education, that had a maximum score of 40, while Public Safety was given a maximum score of 20. This is not to suggest that Public Safety is any less a determinant of quality of life but is instead a reflection of the extremely limited amount of Public Safety data available at the county level. See Public Safety section in this paper for further discussion of data available in the area of Public Safety.

**Economic Data***Tier I*

Income Per Capita  
 Unemployment Rate  
 Poverty Rate  
 Average Salary  
 Tier II  
 New Building Permits  
 Value of New Buildings  
 County Revenues

**Healthcare Data***Tier I*

Life Expectancy  
 Infant Mortality Rate  
 Percent of Uninsured Population  
 Low Birth Weight  
 Obesity

*Tier II*

New HIV Cases  
 HIV Related Deaths  
 Heart Disease Deaths  
 Cancer Deaths  
 Stroke Deaths  
 Diabetes Deaths

**Public Safety Data***Tier I*

Homicides  
 Rapes  
 Juvenile Arrests  
 Adult Arrests  
 Robbery  
 Assaults  
 Burglaries  
 Theft  
 Motor Vehicle Thefts  
 Number of Law Enforcement Officers

*Tier II*

Total Motor Vehicle Deaths  
 Traffic Fatalities with an Impaired Driver

**Education Data***Tier I*

Percent of Population Lacking  
 Basic Literacy Skills  
 High School Dropout Rate  
 Teacher to Student Ratio  
 Funding per Student  
 Percentage of Population with a  
 Bachelor's Degree or Higher

*Tier II*

Percentage of Population  $\geq 25$  Years Old  
 with High School Diploma  
 Students on Free or Reduced Meals  
 Student per Computer  
 Student per Computer with Internet  
 SAT-10 Scores for 3rd and 8th Grade  
 in Reading and Math  
 Incident Reports  
 Teacher Qualifications

By approaching quality of life research in a holistic and solution-oriented manner, research is compiled in a format that readily lends itself to an unprecedented understanding of a given county's current social and economic situation. This format also allows users to take on concrete actions that can remedy problems. This is done by considering statistical data from the various public agencies that address components of the indicators used in the index and also documenting the history of areas highlighted in *Counties in Crisis*. This provides a vital understanding of the emergence of issues in a given county and begins to shine a light on potential solutions for problems within the county. Another aspect of this report's holistic approach to policy research is the

comparison drawn between foreign nations and counties within the state. By analyzing data from the United Nations and federal sources on failed states, and comparing those statistics to the *Counties in Crisis* index, the Center for Leadership and Public Policy provides a compelling frame of reference for the public and policymakers alike. This serves to highlight unacceptable conditions within the state that are comparable to developing countries with the aim of motivating real and substantive change by taking away the option of ignoring problems in Alabama that many citizens have no choice but to confront every day.

The purpose of the project is twofold and serves the interests of both the people of Alabama and the mission of the Center for Leadership and Public Policy. First, the *Counties in Crisis* index serves as a clearinghouse for quality of life data in Alabama, bringing much needed attention to issues that have long gone unaddressed or even ignored. The second purpose of the index is to provide the Center for Public Policy with a much needed indicator of areas of policy upon which its efforts should be focused, using the index to identify issues that the Center needs to address through research, policy recommendations and substantive action in the coming years.

Following the release of this study, the Center for Leadership and Public Policy will determine key issues it will address through extensive research, recommended changes and advise on implementing those changes. The selection of these issues will be based on a determination of the detrimental factors that are impediments to quality of life in Alabama. As research is completed on each of these issues, the Center will publish reports that will be distributed to opinion leaders in the state of Alabama including legislators, executive branch officers and newspaper editorial boards. It is in this capacity that the Center for Leadership and Public Policy and the *Counties in Crisis* report will serve to be a valuable tool for stimulating and informing the vital dialogue on improving quality of life for the residents of the state of Alabama. ■



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Center for Leadership and Public Policy would like to thank the many scholars, analysts and ASU students who made this report possible. Dr. Le-Quita Booth, for her valuable input and leadership in focusing the resources of the ASU faculty, chief among which were Dr. Gow-Cheng Huang, Department of Accounting and Finance, Dr. Chiou-nan Yeh, Department of Business Administration, Dr. John Gooden, Dean of the College of Education, and Dr. Cheryl Plettenberg, Director of the Health Information Management program at Alabama State University. These scholars' input on the complicated process of analyzing quality of life was invaluable in assembling this report, and their participation and advice speak volumes on the caliber of expertise available at ASU.

Within the CLPP, this report owes a great debt to the efforts of Myles Mayberry and his student assistants, Ryan Davis and Louis Hines, for their work in assembling data from around the state and country to be used in this report. Dr. Elisabeth Harrison and the CLPP's archivist, Carolyn Eaves, also played an important role in compiling research material needed for this study. Joshua Jones and Edin Mujkic assisted in the writing, research and conceptualization for this study. Finally, thanks to Dr. Thomas Vocino and his years of experience and guidance that he brought to bear in the role of the report's editor. ■



# Where Alabama Excels



There is a sharp divide between the mental images many Americans conjure up when speaking of Alabama and the way its citizens perceive the state. Alabama—in spite of its tumultuous social, political and economic past—has made significant strides in improving quality of life for its citizens. This fact has not gone unnoticed by residents of the state, who have slowly begun to embrace improvements that will empower Alabama's next generation for a competitive economy. Even in areas of the state where change is slowest—the chronically impoverished central and southwest regions—history, traditions and fellowship continue to enrich lives and instill a sense of optimism and pride in their citizens. In spite of central and southwest Alabama's poor performing economic numbers, a recent survey on quality of life in the region found that only 22% of residents interviewed had a negative opinion of their quality of life. This remarkable assessment by residents of one of the poorest regions in the nation is evidence that data used to measure these counties only tell half the story. For many, there is no better place to call home than the state of Alabama.<sup>1</sup>

Whether driven by loyalty to one's home state or an eternal sense of optimism, Alabamians have a lot of which to be proud. The state continues to make progress from the era of racial conflict that has defined the region for many outside the state. In a recent statewide survey of public perceptions of race relations in comparison with previous years, more than 68% of respondents felt that race relations were far better than they had been, and 62% felt they were still improving. These numbers show a sharp contrast to what stereotypes about the state would generally suggest are true.<sup>2</sup>

This sense of heritage and commitment that many Alabamians feel is evident at many levels and serves too as a catalyst for many of the improvements that have taken place in the state's history. Perhaps as either a cause or effect, homeownership rates in the state are higher than those of the U.S.,

with 72% of residents owning their homes. Alabama residents also have a higher than average voter participation percentage than the nation, with 60% participating in elections compared to a national average of 58%. This can be interpreted as a population of stakeholders eager to impact their future.<sup>3</sup>

Alabama has also excelled in preserving its natural beauty and resources through the Forever Wild Land Trust. This unique program—established by a constitutional amendment in 1992—has acquired more than 222,000 acres of land within the state for use as wildlife preserves, public land and state parks. This is an invaluable conservation tool for the state's residents and ensures future generations will continue to enjoy outdoor activities and the natural beauty of the state.<sup>4</sup>

Perhaps one of the most recognized sources of pride and participation for many Alabama residents is college football, but these universities provide the state with far more than weekend entertainment. Alabama's nationally recognized universities provide top tier education and draw students from across the nation and even the globe. The state's universities provide world-class instruction in education, law and medicine and are quickly becoming known for their advances in fields like biomedical research and agriculture as well as their abilities on the football field. With back to back national football championships and incredible growth and expansion on some university campuses these

<sup>1</sup> Center for Leadership and Public Policy, *Black Belt Survey 2009* (Montgomery: Alabama State University, Center for Leadership and Public Policy, 2009).

<sup>2</sup> Center for Leadership and Public Policy, *Race Relations Survey* (Montgomery: Alabama State University, Center for Leadership and Public Policy, 2007).

<sup>3</sup> Census Bureau, State and County QuickFacts, [www.quickfacts.census.gov](http://www.quickfacts.census.gov); "Mapping the Measure of America." American Human Development Project. Accessed February 23, 2011.

<sup>4</sup> Forever Wild Land Trust. *The Forever Wild Land Trust: An Interim Report to the Citizens of Alabama-1992 Through 2009*. <http://www.outdooralabama.com/public-lands/stateLands/foreverWild/foreverwildreport.pdf>

schools are providing the state with a powerful regional economic engine, fueling not only the intellectual development of the next generation of Alabama's workforce but also the economy of the region in which they are hosted.

Alabama's economy is another source of pride for residents as the region quickly emerges as a modern state capable of competing with any in the nation. With attractions such as the Barber Motorsports Park, Birmingham's Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival, the Talladega Superspeedway and a host of vacation destinations on the state's Gulf coast, Alabama is well positioned to attract visitors to the state. Through an aggressive approach to economic development, Alabama has also provided itself much-needed shelter from some of the recent economic meltdown. In the last few years, officials have had great successes in luring major investments to the state with incentives like the internationally recognized Alabama Industrial Development Training program. This trend began in 1993 when manufacturer Mercedes Benz announced its first facility in the United States in Tuscaloosa. Since that time, Alabama has begun to develop a reputation with both foreign and domestic companies as a safe place to invest and do business, and several major companies have followed the German auto manufacturer's lead in locating in the state.<sup>5</sup> Due in no small part to the environment created by the influx of foreign investment, Alabama experienced lower unemployment numbers than much of the country, and the state's average salary is not far from that of the nation.<sup>6</sup>

The state has also invested wisely in some of the most advanced medical facilities in the country, providing research and treatments on the cutting edge of medical science. With renowned medical schools teaching students the latest in medical advancements, Alabama is well positioned to provide top tier care for patients throughout the state. ALL Kids, an Alabama program to provide parents with affordable healthcare coverage for children, was the first of its kind in the nation and has served as a model for other states. Due in part to aggressive programs like ALL Kids, the state has insured more of its children than compared to national averages, leading to higher childhood immuniza-

tions than the national average. For these services and more, Alabama residents spend a slightly smaller portion of their income on healthcare services than does the U.S., amounting to a little over \$100 per capita in savings.<sup>7</sup>

Alabama has also served the country as a model in homeland security, becoming one of the first states to establish a cabinet level Department of Homeland Security in 2003. With innovative programs such as the Virtual Alabama database, which gives officials a wealth of knowledge to assess and respond to situations, the state has led the way for the rest of the nation in the development of an effective department for providing for the safety and well being of its citizens. Through an effective use of its assets Alabama has also maintained the 10th lowest spending per capita rate for its entire criminal justice system, and the 15th lowest in the nation on its expenditures for police protection.<sup>8</sup>

There is no shortage of actions being taken in the state to dramatically improve the quality of life for Alabamians, nor is there a shortage of evidence of its effectiveness. Nationally, leaders are taking note of the state's policies and programs that mitigate problems troubling our communities. The value these policies bring – in particular to a study on quality of life in the state's 67 counties – is that of a prime example of what works in Alabama. In looking at the *Counties in Crisis* rankings and scores, it is important to remember that those counties not performing well in certain areas have assets that are not overtly addressed by the data in this study. Chief among these are the residents of these counties, their families and deep ties to the community, and the state's commitment to overcome any obstacle placed before them.

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<sup>5</sup> State of Alabama, Alabama Development Office, accessed February 23, 2011, <http://www.ado.alabama.gov/>.

<sup>6</sup> United States, Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, *State & County QuickFacts*, November 4, 2010, accessed April 6, 2011, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/01000.html>.

<sup>7</sup> *The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and Uninsured*, report, accessed February 15, 2011, [www.statehealthfacts.org](http://www.statehealthfacts.org).

<sup>8</sup> Census Bureau, *State and Local Government Expenditures Per Capita by Criminal Justice Function and State: 2006*. [http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/law\\_enforcement\\_courts\\_prisons/criminal\\_justice\\_expenditures.html](http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/law_enforcement_courts_prisons/criminal_justice_expenditures.html)

# The Counties in Crisis Rankings



**The Counties in Crisis Rankings** *Table 1.1*

Rank	County	Economy	Health	Public Safety	Education	Total
<b>Maximum Score</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>140</b>
1	Shelby	39	37	10	36	122
2	Madison	37	37	3	32	109
3	Baldwin	32	40	4	27	103
4	Jefferson	35	35	2.5	29	101.5
5	Limestone	30	40	5	25	100
6	Houston	29	39	7	23	98
7	Dale	31	40	1	25	97
7	Morgan	30	34	7	26	97
9	Autauga	29	37	8	22	96
9	Lawrence	26	36	12	22	96
9	Montgomery	30	38	5	23	96
12	Colbert	29	33	8.5	25	95.5
12	Lee	26	38	2.5	29	95.5
14	Coffee	27	36	2.5	27	92.5
14	Lauderdale	24	37	3.5	28	92.5
16	Marion	20	37	12.5	21	90.5
17	Elmore	28	40	3	19	90
18	Calhoun	27	36	1.5	24	88.5
19	Choctaw	23	27	20	18	88
19	Geneva	23	39	10	16	88
21	Blount	24	35	10.5	18	87.5
21	Lamar	19	32	15.5	21	87.5
21	Tuscaloosa	28	32	2.5	25	87.5
24	Randolph	21	35	10.5	20	86.5
25	Cleburne	25	40	2	19	86
25	Cullman	25	34	5	22	86
25	Jackson	23	33	7	23	86
25	Marshall	23	36	2	25	86

Indicators in gray denote scores deemed to fall below critical levels

*Continued*

**The Counties in Crisis Rankings** *Table 1.1 Continued*

Rank	County	Economy	Health	Public Safety	Education	Total
29	Cherokee	23	29	13	19	84
29	Washington	24	33	9	18	84
31	Mobile	24	36	4.5	19	83.5
31	St. Clair	27	34	3.5	19	83.5
33	Clay	21	33	9	20	83
33	Walker	24	31	4	24	83
33	Winston	18	32	10	23	83
36	Fayette	20	34	8.5	20	82.5
37	Pike	24	29	7	21	81
38	DeKalb	21	37	4.5	18	80.5
38	Etowah	25	33	2.5	20	80.5
40	Franklin	21	31	7	21	80
41	Escambia	20	32	2.5	25	79.5
42	Crenshaw	23	21	8	27	79
42	Marengo	21	34	3	21	79
44	Chilton	23	29	6.5	20	78.5
44	Covington	22	35	1.5	20	78.5
46	Tallapoosa	21	32	3	22	78
47	Talladega	24	32	4.5	17	77.5
48	Chambers	20	34	8	15	77
49	Coosa	21	33	7.5	15	76.5
50	Barbour	18	32	7.5	18	75.5
50	Henry	23	32	4.5	16	75.5
50	Monroe	20	29	4.5	22	75.5
53	Bibb	21	31	11	11	74
53	Clarke	19	35	2	18	74
53	Pickens	19	25	10	20	74
56	Butler	20	28	6.5	19	73.5
57	Conecuh	17	28	4.5	22	71.5
57	Sumter	15	24	10.5	22	71.5
59	Russell	22	31	4.5	12	69.5
60	Hale	17	26	7.5	14	64.5
60	Lowndes	18	25	3.5	18	64.5
60	Perry	13	16	12.5	23	64.5
63	Macon	16	26	4.5	17	63.5
64	Bullock	14	23	10	16	63
65	Dallas	15	27	3	14	59
66	Wilcox	11	16	8	18	53
67	Greene	14	17	6.5	12	49.5

Indicators in gray denote scores deemed to fall below critical levels

# The State of the Economy in Alabama



**Economy Rank and Score** *Table 2.1*  
Maximum Score 40

Rank in Economy	County	Economy Score	Rank in Economy	County	Economy Score
1	Shelby	39	29	Crenshaw	23
2	Madison	37	29	Henry	23
3	Jefferson	35	37	Covington	22
4	Baldwin	32	37	Russell	22
5	Dale	31	39	Randolph	21
6	Limestone	30	39	Fayette	21
6	Morgan	30	39	Clay	21
6	Montgomery	30	39	DeKalb	21
9	Houston	29	39	Marengo	21
9	Colbert	29	39	Franklin	21
9	Autauga	29	39	Tallapoosa	21
12	Elmore	28	39	Coosa	21
12	Tuscaloosa	28	39	Bibb	21
13	Coffee	27	48	Marion	20
13	Calhoun	27	48	Escambia	20
13	St. Clair	27	48	Chambers	20
17	Lawrence	26	48	Monroe	20
17	Lee	26	48	Butler	20
19	Cullman	25	53	Lamar	19
19	Cleburne	25	53	Clarke	19
19	Etowah	25	53	Pickens	19
22	Lauderdale	24	56	Winston	18
22	Blount	24	56	Barbour	18
22	Washington	24	56	Lowndes	18
22	Mobile	24	59	Conecuh	17
22	Walker	24	59	Hale	17
22	Pike	24	61	Macon	16
22	Talladega	24	61	Sumter	15
29	Choctaw	23	61	Dallas	15
29	Geneva	23	64	Bullock	14
29	Jackson	23	64	Greene	14
29	Cherokee	23	66	Perry	13
29	Marshall	23	67	Wilcox	11
29	Chilton	23			

Gray indicates scores below levels deemed to be critical

In 2008, the economy of the United States of America experienced one of the biggest shocks in its history: the resulting recession that impacted the country and the world was the worst since the Great Depression. Unemployment skyrocketed, the housing bubble burst and consumer debt became far more apparent. The United States faced the realization that many of its citizens lived well above their means and had turned to credit to sustain this lifestyle.

On the national scene, there was a huge debate as to whether or not the country was heading in the right direction. In 2008, the Dow Jones, NASDAQ and S&P 500 had one of the biggest losses in their history. Compounding this economic crisis, the country faced national security issues. After the attacks on September 11, 2001, the nation entered into two wars: one in Afghanistan and one in Iraq. At the same time the United States had to maintain its many obligations as the only remaining super-power: guarding naval routes (most notably the Horn of Africa in recent years) and working to maintain stability throughout the globe.

The end of the Cold War and collapse of the Soviet Union created a new global economy. Many countries opened their markets after becoming democratic and offered numerous new opportunities for Western companies. This was especially true for Eastern Europe. The opening of Eastern Europe and increased trade with China during the 1990s created many opportunities, but it also brought a change in how Americans invest and produce. What became apparent is that after the Iron Curtain fell in

Eastern Europe, manufacturing moved away from the wealthy West to the East, especially in the case of China.

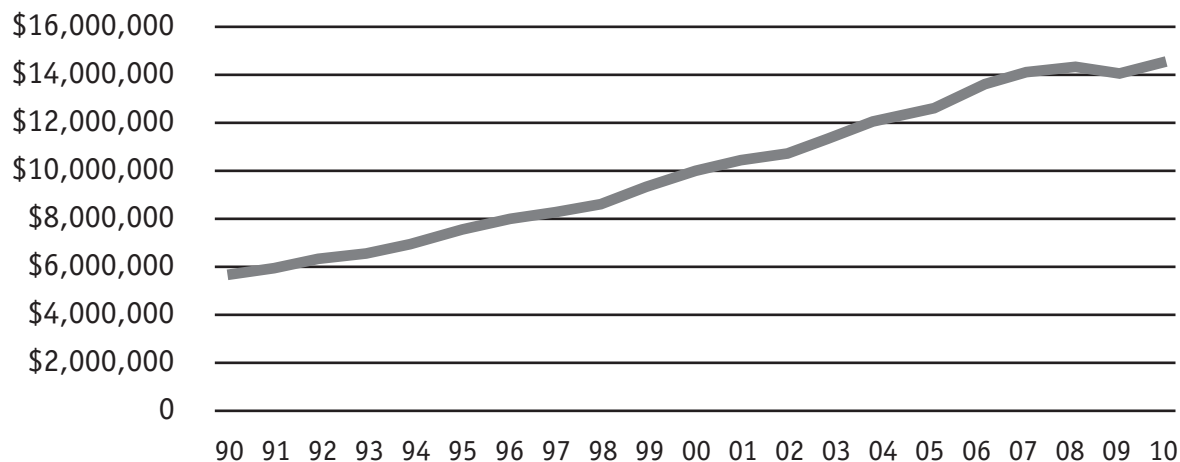
The United States witnessed many shocks during the 1990s, especially nearing the close of the decade when the world was impacted by a financial crisis that originated in Asia and later devastated the Russian economy.<sup>9</sup> It became apparent during the '90s that many former communist countries had difficulty fully adapting to a free market system. This was especially true for Russia, as it had never undergone an extensive political and legal reform. One could argue that after the financial crisis that hit Russia in 1998, the environment became far worse for democracy and less tolerant of proposed legal reforms.<sup>10</sup> Many scholars attribute the International Monetary Fund (IMF) aid to Russia as having played a pivotal role when it comes to that country's financial problems, especially when considering China's refusal of help from the IMF during the 1990s and that country's subsequent avoidance of an economic disaster on par with that of Russia.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>9</sup> For further explanation of the financial crisis that hit Asia and the rest of the world in 1998 see Ravenhill, John, *Global Political Economy* (New York: Oxford University Press 2008), 3-7.

<sup>10</sup> John Ravenhill explains in great detail the financial crisis that hit transitional societies in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union in the global political economy. 3-7, 265-269.

<sup>11</sup> For further explanation of the financial crisis of 1998, its impact on Russia and the role of IMF, see Stiglitz, Joseph E. *Globalization and its Discontents* (New York: W.W. Norton and Company Inc, 2003).

**US GDP 1990–2010** *Table 2.2*<sup>12</sup>  
In Millions



<sup>12</sup>U.S. Census Bureau

After the economic troubles of the 1990s, the United States and the rest of the world experienced another economic crisis created by the DOT-com bubble that finally burst in 2000. The United States, however, was in better shape until 2001, when the terrorist attacks happened on September 11. As a result of the attacks, a sharp economic decline took place immediately, and the country was further financially drained with the two wars that ensued.

Still, the United States remains the world's largest economy. As such, the United States carries a heavy load of responsibility for many global affairs, working to promote stability and growth to protect its interests. Monumental political changes in North Africa in January and February 2011 will have a lasting but yet undetermined impact on the region, as well as on United States' foreign policy. These are changes that will not be confined to North Africa, as the Middle East is also influenced by changes in Tunisia and Egypt. Bahrain, a harbor that hosts the United States Navy's Fifth Fleet, may also be facing an uncertain future, along with many other countries in the region. Aside from the threat to U.S. military presence in the region, this could also threaten the flow of oil. This could potentially send the price of a barrel of oil skyrocketing again, even higher than 2008 prices that were hovering close to \$150. Disruption in oil flow similar to the 2008 crisis could hit the United States heavily, and Alabama would feel the impact of that disruption along with rest of the nation.

The recession that hit the U.S. and the rest of the world in 2008 is still being felt across the country. Many states are fighting huge deficits and budget cuts. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 may prove effective, but this will not be known for some time.

Although Alabama experienced an increase in unemployment in recent years, the state did not sustain a crippling blow to its economy as was seen in California and Nevada – two of several states that experienced a dramatic loss with the implosion of the housing market. Since the beginning of the 1990s, Alabama has attracted several large auto manufacturers, as well as the hundreds of suppliers that followed those companies. It is a familiar trend that can be seen across the Southeast in the last two decades; a good business climate and a generally good infrastructure made the Southeast more desirable for investors than many other states in the country. Mercedes, Honda, Toyota and Hyundai have opened major manufacturing plants in Alabama in the last two decades, and investors around the world have taken note of this trend. These known and well-respected companies not

only provide jobs and new industry to the state, but also serve as a highly visible signal to other industries that Alabama is a safe place to invest. Despite Volkswagen recently selecting to build its factory in Tennessee rather than Alabama in 2008, the fact that Alabama was in the final draw for the plant shows the respect that foreign investors have for the state as a contender for major foreign investment in manufacturing.

Although Alabama has worked toward improving its economic standing in the last two decades with the influx of these new industries, it is quite apparent that some counties suffered a decline in quality of life as a consequence of the economic downturn. The economy of many counties has not managed to shift to the new economic climate of globalization that is quickly becoming the standard. Globalization has always been present in the world, but the emerging difference is that, with new technologies, doing business has become much more international than 20 years ago. This puts traditionally agricultural counties without diversification at a severe disadvantage when compared to counties that are far more reliant on modern technology and industry.<sup>13</sup>

While some are doing well, counties like Dallas or Wilcox—with staggering unemployment rates of 17.2% and 20.9%, respectively, are an alarming sign of discrepancies within the state's overall economic picture. These discrepancies become even more apparent when income per capita is considered. On average, people living in Shelby County are making more than twice the income than those in Wilcox County.<sup>14</sup>

Income inequality is one of the most prevalent problems in Alabama and around the world.<sup>15</sup> This trend is usually accompanied by high poverty rates, as is the case in Alabama.<sup>16</sup> In Madison County, the poverty rate is at 11.3%, while in Dallas County it is 29.9%, nearly a third of the population. These startling differences are all happening in the same state, not on two different continents or in two different countries. On further examination of these two counties, one finds there are also corresponding differences in high school dropout rates and in literacy

<sup>13</sup> Joseph Stiglitz extensively discusses globalization issues, pros and cons, and why the word "globalization" has become a synonym for a bigger gap in inequality in *Globalization and its Discontents*.

<sup>14</sup> See Economy Indicator Tables at the end of this report.

<sup>15</sup> For further explanation, please see University of California Santa Cruz, *Atlas of Global Inequality*, <http://ucatlans.ucsc.edu/income.php>

<sup>16</sup> For further explanation of poverty rates in the United States throughout history and how it is calculated, please see The University of Michigan, *Poverty in the United States*, <http://www.npc.umich.edu/poverty/>

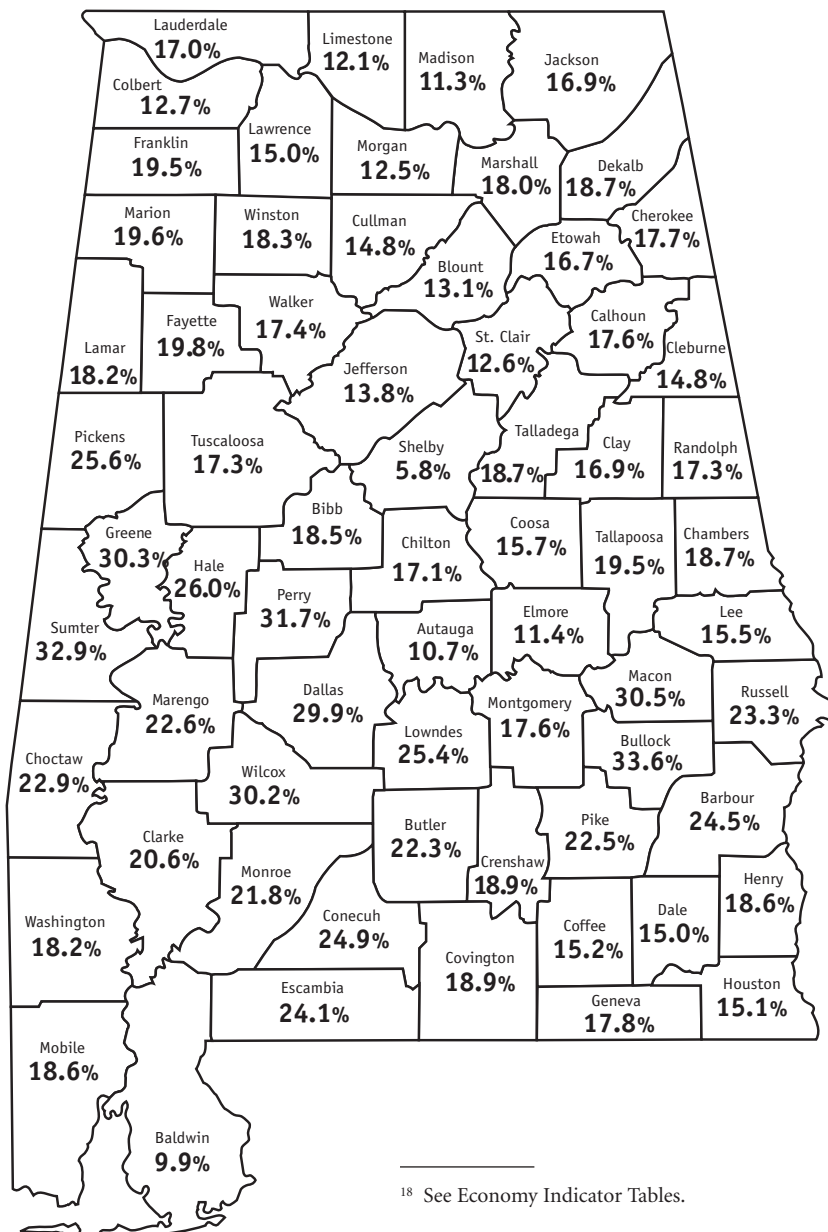
skills, which can have a severely negative impact on potential investors in counties and the state as a whole.<sup>17</sup>

Widespread income inequality in Alabama is nothing new, and the state has always ranked as one of the poorest in the country. This economy manifested itself in part as a consequence of the Civil War and some of the worst social and economic policies in the country that came about after the war. Jim Crow laws left a devastating impact on the African-American population in the state, one that can still be evidenced today. Further compounding the problem, various tax exemptions that initially

attracted low-wage manufacturing jobs to Alabama primarily brought short-term economic development, further increasing poverty in the state. Various tax exemptions translated directly into poor tax revenues, which meant funding for education and health care suffered greatly in the state. The impact of these policies was most severe to the poorest of the population, as they were most dependent on the vital services that these revenues provide.

<sup>17</sup> See Economic Indicator Tables.

**Map of Alabama Counties and Poverty Rate** *Table 2.3*<sup>18</sup>



<sup>18</sup> See Economy Indicator Tables.



Birmingham is one of the cities that felt the consequences of such policies. Birmingham was originally intended to be one of the greatest industrial cities in the United States. Founders and businessmen, however, did not realize that heavy industry and cheap labor are not a recipe for success. Neglecting education and advancement of the population – as a consequence of segregation and rush for quick profits – kept Birmingham from becoming the much-anticipated “Pittsburgh of the South.”

On the other hand, Huntsville is an example of a city with an economy based on industry that requires constant improvements in education and skills. After the Civil War, where Huntsville had previously served as an important artillery ordnance supplier, the city invested in technology. Its leaders endowed electric and gas lights, established a rail line with Nashville and created a telephone exchange. But the major advancement for Huntsville, and greater Madison County, happened during World War II when the U.S. military established the missile research facility at Redstone Ordnance Plant in 1941.<sup>19</sup> Due in no small part to the county’s background in highly skilled technology and industry, the U.S. government in 1949 declared Huntsville the hub for a new missile research program. This decision changed the destiny of Huntsville, and high-tech industries became what the city is known for today. Huntsville has been an integral part of the U.S. Space Program, and products like Saturn V rockets, the role that

Marshall Space Flight Center played in the Space Shuttle program and the new International Space Station are something that not only reflects well on Huntsville, but on all of Alabama and the United States as a whole.

One of the biggest economic advantages of Madison County and Huntsville is the Cummings Research Park. The concentration of high-tech industries in this park makes it the second largest in the United States, and various industry entities employ around 25,000 people in the park.<sup>20</sup>

The advantages of this type of industry are more than readily apparent when looking at the economic, educational and healthcare data. Madison County has an unemployment rate of only 7.1% - 2% lower than the state average - and a poverty rate of 11.3%, which is 4.6% lower than the state average. Income per capita is another indicator with which Madison County is doing better than the rest of the state: income per capita in Madison County is \$39,954, while the state average is \$33,655. The difference is further highlighted by the comparison of average wages between Madison County and state of Alabama. Madison County residents make an average of \$48,040 per year. For the same period, residents of Alabama on average are making \$38,055 per year. This means the average person in Madison County makes per year \$9,985 more than other Alabamians and \$8,985 more than the average American.<sup>21</sup>

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### Madison County and Alabama in Unemployment, Poverty Rate & Income Per Capita *Table 2.4*<sup>22</sup>

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Region	Unemployment rate	Poverty rate	Income per Capita	Average Salary
United States	9.6%	14.3%	\$40,673	\$39,055
Alabama	9.1%	15.9%	\$33,655	\$38,055
<b>Madison</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>\$39,954</b>	<b>\$48,040</b>

The type of industry that is predominant in Huntsville also has created a very different climate for doing business. NASA and its suppliers have attracted highly skilled workers and a well-educated population to live in Huntsville and Madison County in general. In April 2010, *Forbes* magazine ranked Huntsville eighth in the United States for career development and conducting business; this speaks volumes about the economy and the work done in Huntsville and Madison County. Unfortunately, there are many counties in Alabama

on the opposite side of the spectrum, coping with high unemployment and poverty.

One of these is Dallas County, best known for the city of Selma, the point of origin for the famous 1965 civil rights march. Today, Selma and Dallas County represent a good example of many of the

<sup>19</sup> See the Encyclopedia of Alabama’s County Histories, Madison County, for additional information. Encyclopedia of Alabama. Montgomery: *Encyclopedia of Alabama*, 2011. Accessed March 23, 2011. <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Home.jsp>.

<sup>20</sup> County Histories, Madison County.

<sup>21</sup> See Economy Indicator Tables.

<sup>22</sup> See Economy Indicator Tables.

problems that Alabama is facing. During the Civil War, Dallas County was an important supply and manufacturing point for Confederate Army. The county heavily based its economy on agriculture, which has unfortunately translated to a rapid decline in economic activity in the last several

decades. With a 17.2% unemployment rate, Dallas County ranks among the worst in Alabama. The poverty level is even more startling: 29.9% of people are living below the poverty line, meaning nearly one-third of the population lives below the poverty line.

### Dallas County Unemployment and Poverty Rate Compared to Madison County and State *Table 2.5*<sup>23</sup>

Region	Unemployment rate	Poverty rate	Income per Capita	Average Salary
United States	9.6%	14.3%	\$40,673	\$39,055
Alabama	9.1%	15.9%	\$33,655	\$38,055
Madison	7.1%	11.3%	\$39,954	\$48,040
<b>Dallas</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>29.9%</b>	<b>\$28,065</b>	<b>\$31,228</b>

One of the limitations that Selma and Dallas County face is the lack of vital infrastructure needed to secure new industry. Dallas County would be positively impacted by a proposed extension of Interstate 85, which will connect Montgomery and Jackson, Mississippi, but construction on this project will not start for several years.

Another county's economic picture worth mentioning is that of Dale County. Dale County is located in the southeastern part of Alabama and had traditionally existed as a producer of agriculture, primarily cotton, corn and livestock. However, in 1955, the WWII-era Camp Rucker was renamed Fort Rucker and in 1973 became the primary aviation center for the U.S Army and main training center for Army helicopter pilots.<sup>24</sup>

Considering the location and economy that was the primary driving force since the establishment of the county in 1824, one would expect Dale County to face the same hurdles as Dallas, Greene or Wilcox counties. Dale County, however, is an example of how the military has a significant impact on the

local economy. In fact, no other factor has more impact on the data available on Dale County than the population and economic contribution of Fort Rucker. The most surprising indicator for Dale County is the average salary. On average, the Dale County wage is \$47,767, which makes Dale County one of the top counties in Alabama when it comes to this measurement, just under Madison.<sup>25</sup> A far lower rate than state and national average of a 7.8% unemployment rate proves that this number is not an anomaly for Dale County, and that the majority of residents are living well above state averages. However, data indicating poverty rates show that 15% of the population in Dale County lives below the poverty line, which is 0.9% lower than the average found throughout the state.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>23</sup> See Economy Indicator Tables.

<sup>24</sup> See County Histories, Dale County, for further explanation.

<sup>25</sup> For further analysis and explanation, please see U.S Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, <http://www.bea.gov/regional/reis/drill.cfm>

<sup>26</sup> See Economy Indicator Tables.

<sup>27</sup> See Economy Indicator Tables.

### Dale County Economic Indicators Compared to High and Low Performing Counties *Table 2.6*<sup>27</sup>

County	Income per Capita	Unemployment Rate	Poverty Rate	Average Salary
<b>Dale</b>	<b>\$29,438</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>\$47,767</b>
Madison	\$39,954	7.1%	11.3%	\$48,040
Dallas	\$28,065	17.2%	29.9%	\$31,228
Wilcox	\$21,228	20.9%	30.2%	\$32,761
Greene	\$31,713	19.8%	30.3%	\$30,345

In contrast, the county with the highest unemployment rate in Alabama is Wilcox County. As seen in the rest of the state, agriculture was the predominant economy for the county since its founding in 1819. The county is part of section of rural southern Alabama that has been historically plagued with high levels of poverty. Today, like many rural counties without access to interstates or other major highways, economic deprivation is reaching near

critical levels, and the unemployment rate of 20.9% makes Wilcox County one of the most economically challenged areas in Alabama. As a result, 30.2% of the people live below the poverty line. The average income is \$21,228, while average wage is \$32,761. The fact that Wilcox County lacks any major highways makes attraction of foreign or domestic investors extremely difficult.

### Unemployment and Poverty Rates in Wilcox County Compared to Top Performing Counties *Table 2.7*<sup>28</sup>

Region	Unemployment Rate	Poverty Rate	Income Per Capita	Average Salary
United States	9.6%	14.3%	\$40,673	\$39,055
Alabama	9.1%	15.9%	\$33,655	\$38,055
<b>Wilcox</b>	<b>20.9%</b>	<b>30.2%</b>	<b>\$21,228</b>	<b>\$32,761</b>
Baldwin	8.2%	9.9%	\$35,738	\$31,005
Madison	7.1%	11.3%	\$39,954	\$48,040
Shelby	6.8%	5.8%	\$44,658	\$43,294

In contrast, Alabama's capital, Montgomery, and Montgomery County are making headlines throughout the nation for its economic activities.<sup>29</sup> Montgomery, as a government city, naturally has many good paying jobs through institutions of the state. One of the factors that makes a significant impact to both the economy and citizens of Montgomery is the existence of Maxwell Air Force Base. As with any AFB, Maxwell is home to many officers and their families. What makes Maxwell different is the presence of the Air University, which operates inside Maxwell AFB. The Air University is a world renowned advanced education institution for the U.S Air Force, and houses the Squadron Officers School (SOS), Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) and Air War College (AWC). Hundreds of officers from across the country come to the Air University for further advancement of their education and career. Aside from the hundreds of U.S officers attending these schools, Air University also hosts hundreds of foreign officers each year.<sup>30</sup> Most of these foreign officers come to Montgomery with their families, and their children attend local schools or various programs at local universities. This brings much-needed diversity to Montgomery, as well as an exchange of culture between citizens of this part of Alabama and other nations.

Of course, Montgomery County is also home to many other post-secondary education facilities.

Auburn University Montgomery, an extension campus of Auburn University, and Troy University Montgomery both have campuses within the city. While those two institutions are part of larger systems outside Montgomery County, Alabama State University (ASU) is also located downtown in Alabama's capital city. With its location and mission, ASU plays a vital role in city life and generates tens of millions in economic activity through its existence, especially in light of the school's ongoing growth.<sup>31</sup>

One of the most prominent investors in Alabama is Hyundai Motor Company, which established its American home in Montgomery County in 2002. This acquisition represented a concerted effort to actively recruit foreign investment to Montgomery County, as officials from the state, county and city have worked hard to attract the South Korean company. With a manufacturing plant in Montgomery, Hyundai also brought many suppliers that contribute to the economy of Alabama. This investment

<sup>28</sup> See Economy Indicator Tables.

<sup>29</sup> For the complete story about Montgomery and the Hyundai plant, please see "Hyundai's Swift Growth Lifts Alabama's Economy," *New York Times*, 18 February, 2011 . [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/19/business/19hyundai.html?\\_r=1&scp=1&sq=hyundai&st=cse](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/19/business/19hyundai.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=hyundai&st=cse)

<sup>30</sup> For further information, please visit official web site of Air University, <http://www.au.af.mil/au/>

<sup>31</sup> Alabama State University, accessed November 8, 2010, [www.alasu.edu](http://www.alasu.edu)

brought 3,200 jobs to the county along with an investment in the plant of \$1.4 billion. On top of that, its suppliers followed Hyundai to the region, and now 35 out of 78 Hyundai suppliers in the U.S. are located here in Alabama. Hyundai suppliers combined employ 6,000 people and have invested \$650 million in Alabama.<sup>32</sup>

Taking the example of Hyundai and its country of origin, we see that South Korea has come a long way in the last few decades. In 1961, when General Park Chung-hee came to power, South Korea was one of the poorest countries in the world.<sup>33</sup> Although this country did not become democratic until the 1980s, the economic development that took place was extraordinary. One of the reasons often cited to explain how South Korea experienced such an increase in economic development was its investment in education. Today, South Korea is educating around 100,000 students in the United States, many in universities right here in Alabama. This does not mean that South Korea lacks world-class universities; rather that South Korea is importing different ideas from all across the world. All of this remarkable development has taken place in spite of the country's close proximity to one of the world's least stable countries: North Korea. Today, North Korea is probably the most repressive country, yet its neighbor is leading the market in the production of highly profitable LCD televisions and builds around one-third of the shipping tonnage in the world on a yearly basis.<sup>34</sup>

Using South Korea as an example, it is clear that rapid changes in economic activities are possible even in the direst of conditions. While the economy of Alabama today is stable, steps must be taken to provide more equality throughout the counties in regard to quality of life, and good economic development drives good quality of life.

With the exception of Brazil, the fastest growing economies today are all located in Asia. These emerging economies all have one thing in common: cheap labor. For many countries, this growth has had a significant impact on manufacturing, as it is much cheaper to produce in China, Taiwan etc., than in the U.S. As a result, the United States is a country that designs products, but manufacturing is primarily carried out in China. Apple is a good example of this paradigm: on most of the products from this company it reads, "*Designed in California, Assembled in China.*" This small sentence sums up much of the economic climate between the United States and developing countries that offer a cheap and readily available labor pool. While there are several lessons that could be taken from this statement, chief among them is that the United States is capa-

ble of designing the most sophisticated equipment in the world. Apple is a global leader in information technology, and for that kind of advanced status a company needs people who are well educated and equipped with skills in hi-tech engineering and production.

In the field of creating a knowledgeable and skilled workforce, Alabama presents a mixed picture. Many counties in Alabama – especially in central and southern Alabama – are suffering from serious unemployment numbers. When looking at other indicators provided in later chapters of this report, it becomes clear that the unemployment correlates with poor education indicators. Without breaking the cycle and working to develop a properly trained and educated workforce, counties like Barbour, Bibb, Bullock, Dallas or Wilcox could be destined for a chronically high unemployment rate.

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### Unemployment in Alabama: Bottom 10 Counties *Table 2.8.*<sup>35</sup>

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County	Unemployment
Wilcox	20.9%
Greene	19.8%
Dallas	17.2%
Perry	16.1%
Monroe	15.6%
Bullock	15.4%
Clarke	15.3%
Conecuh	15.1%
Lowndes	14.6%
Winston	14.1%

One indicator that shows Alabama as a whole is not far behind the rest of the country is the indicator of average wages. Average wage on the national level is \$39,055, and Alabama it is not far behind at \$38,055. These data disprove old opinions that the state is far behind the rest of the country when it comes to earnings. With an unemployment rate

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<sup>32</sup> City of Montgomery, Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, by David Zaslavsky, July 2009, accessed December 02, 2010, <http://www.montgomerychamber.com/Page.aspx?pid=765>.

<sup>33</sup> For further explanation of South Korean regime change and human development, please see Doh Chull Shin and Byong-Kuen Jhee, *How Does Democratic Regime Change Affect Mass Political Ideology? A Case Study of South Korea in Comparative Perspective* (International Political Science Review / Revue Internationale de Science Politique, Vol. 26, No. 4, Oct 2005), 381-396.

<sup>34</sup> Stiglitz, *Globalization and its Discontents*, 94.

<sup>35</sup> See Economy Indicator Tables.

lower than the rest of the country, Alabama is doing better than many states on average. However, Alabama has substantial income disparities within the state. Beyond the obvious concern for quality of life in the less prosperous regions of the state, unequal development acts as a constraint for further development, and this has proven to be the case in Alabama.<sup>36</sup>

Since the recession hit the country in 2008, a high unemployment rate has remained longer than usual. This is due in part to the fact that many employers have managed to continue operations with fewer workers, making adjustments to work more efficiently. What this trend means for Alabama is that the creation of more jobs may be hinged on the state's ability to attract more domestic and foreign businesses, thereby creating more jobs.

Mobile County, because it has a harbor, naturally attracts foreign and domestic investment, bringing new industry and jobs to that region. Although Mobile had hoped that the European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company, a global aerospace and defense corporation, would build the Air Force's next generation refueling tanker in this county, they will continue to benefit from a large European company previously choosing to locate to the area. ThyssenKrupp, a German steel company, invested an extraordinary \$3.7 billion in the Mobile area.<sup>37</sup> Mobile County's geographic assets of a deep-water harbor and its role as a central transportation hub for trade in the United States have benefited the area's economy for years. However, the unemployment rate in Mobile is at 10%, which is higher than the state average, and the poverty rate is 18%, which is also higher than Alabama on average. Other indicators are similarly situated in perspective to the state's averages, with income per capita at \$30,567, lower than state average, and average salaries at \$37,992, which is \$133 lower than average for Alabama.<sup>38</sup>

The state, however, is part of the largest economy in the world. Although the prevalent self-critique is that the state is far behind the rest of the country, the selected indicators for this study show that the state is doing relatively well. As previously mentioned in the discussion on emerging markets in Asia, manufacturing is trending toward relocating to areas that offer cheap labor, and this could pose a significant risk for Alabama in the future. Investment in manufacturing in Alabama could become too expensive at some point in the near future, because there are now more and more countries opening their markets for foreign investment. A new wave of democratic movements in the Arab

world could potentially attract the attention of investors from around the globe, and it would quickly become far more inexpensive to invest in manufacturing facilities in that region than here in Alabama.

The critical question Alabama needs answered is, "What kind of economy does the state need to strive for in the next 10 or 20 years? Should it be a manufacturing economy, or a hi-tech economy?" From available comparative data through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Human Development Report (HDR) and other sources, it is clear that many countries have managed to make huge leaps forward when it comes to their ability to produce goods and services that were at one time the cornerstone of the U.S. economy.<sup>39</sup> These manufacturing jobs have mostly gone to countries with emerging economies. Although Alabama has received a significant amount of foreign direct investments, or FDIs, the state cannot depend on these kinds of investments in the future. **To endure this climate of inexpensive labor dominating the market of production, Alabama must focus its efforts on new technologies and highly skilled industries in order to maintain growth and further progress.**

The data on education as it relates to a region's ability to recruit new investment and create an educated workforce present some problems for future growth and the state's ability to attract quality investments. Many counties have tremendous problems when it comes to basic literacy skills. A high percentage of those lacking literacy skills in today's economy will also have problems finding even the simplest jobs, not to mention jobs in today's hi-tech industries.<sup>40</sup> Counties with stronger economies like Madison, Montgomery, Jefferson, Mobile or Shelby have a lower percentage of people who lack basic literacy and also have a much higher percentage of people who hold a bachelor's degree or higher. That being said, it is not at all surprising to see that unemployment rates in those counties are lower than in counties like Dallas, Wilcox or Bibb, where the data on education are alarming.

<sup>36</sup> See Economy Indicator Tables.

<sup>37</sup> City of Montgomery, Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, by David Zaslawsky, July 2009, accessed December 02, 2010, <http://www.montgomerychamber.com/Page.aspx?pid=765>

<sup>38</sup> See Economy Indicator Tables.

<sup>39</sup> For a discussion on human development and why some countries are making extraordinary progress and some not please see UNDP, *HDR 2010 The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathway to Human Development* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan).

<sup>40</sup> Extensive discussion of the need for a skilled workforce in the United States is offered in Jasinowski, Jerry, Eisen, Phyllis, and Kleinert, Richard A. *Skills Gap Report – A Survey of the American Manufacturing Workforce* (Deloitte Development LLC, 2005).

**Top Five Counties in  
Percent of Population  
Holding Bachelor's Degrees  
with Average Salary** *Table 2.9.*<sup>41</sup>

Region	Persons with Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Average Salary
United States	24.4%	\$39,055
Alabama	19.0%	\$38,055
Shelby	36.8%	\$43,294
Madison	34.3%	\$48,040
Montgomery	28.5%	\$39,582
Lee	27.9%	\$31,731
Tuscaloosa	24.0%	\$37,459

Overcoming these challenges to economic growth will prove to be an imperative but daunting task in the state's near future. In the 2011 State of the Union address, President Barack Obama said of the country's economic recovery, "this is our Sputnik moment," implying that the country's bleak economic picture should serve as a call to action for all Americans. Countries that seek out solutions to issues impeding growth and are actively working on their development are the ones that will keep progressive momentum.<sup>42</sup> Emerging countries have a large number of their youth studying in the U.S. and in Alabama, and the majority of those students are going back to their countries well equipped to apply their broad knowledge of foreign and domestic economic systems to the improvement of their home regions. Of course, that does not mean that, because Alabama is faced with economic challenges, the only recourse is to accept someone else's models; the free markets in eastern Europe in the 1990s proved that imposing one region's economic model

on another usually leads to disaster.<sup>43</sup> What it does prove is that these quickly emerging countries are looking well beyond their borders—and well outside the confines of their systems that have existed for centuries—to find solutions to keep themselves competitive; the same paradigm needs to be employed in Alabama in order to continue to grow.

Counties in Alabama, especially those with staggering unemployment, will have to address economic issues somewhat differently. Alabamians, like much of the country, largely subscribe to the belief that lower taxes solve many economic problems. Though there is truth to that statement, without a properly educated workforce counties in Alabama may soon become uncompetitive in the world market when it comes to attracting foreign investment. This also gives rise to the question of whether or not Alabama wants the next generation of its workforce to compete as cheap labor in manufacturing plants, or give them the tools to prepare for a skilled labor market that relies more heavily on a quality education.

As an example, Sumter County provides a clear picture of what a lack of investment in education brings to a region's economy. Of all the counties in Alabama, Sumter has the second highest poverty rate at 32.9%. Although other economic indicators for this county are not the worst in the state, with a 14.1% unemployment rate and an income per capita of \$24,129, Sumter County is most certainly a county in crisis. There exists a clear correlation between Sumter's troubling economic numbers and the rate of residents lacking basic literacy skills, at a high 28% and a rate of less than 64% of students finishing high school.

<sup>41</sup> See Economy Indicator Tables and Education Indicator Tables.

<sup>42</sup> For the entire 2011 State of the Union speech, please visit the official web site of The White House <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/01/25/remarks-president-state-union-address>

<sup>43</sup> Stiglitz, *Globalization and its Discontents*, 153-180.

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**Bottom Ten Counties in Poverty Rate With  
Unemployment Statistics and Literacy Rate** *Table 2.10<sup>44</sup>*

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<b>County</b>	<b>Poverty Rate</b>	<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>Percentage Lacking Basic Literacy Skills</b>
Bullock	33.6%	15.4%	34%
Sumter	32.9%	14.1%	28%
Perry	31.7%	16.1%	27%
Macon	30.5%	12.3%	25%
Greene	30.3%	19.8%	31%
Wilcox	30.2%	20.9%	30%
Dallas	29.9%	20.9%	24%
Hale	26.0%	11.1%	26%
Pickens	25.6%	10.6%	21%
Lowndes	25.4%	14.6%	28%

There are new challenges in front of our state and nation; developments in the past century have presented an entirely new economic climate, one full of challenges that must be met with a completely different set of skills than those of even a few decades ago. Technology and an increased economic dialogue between formerly disparate nations have brought a rapid advance to the trending global economy, and the task of keeping pace is daunting. Though the economic disparity among the 67

Alabama counties is an impediment to further growth in the state, it also provides an indication of what types of innovations are necessary to make a county competitive in the 21st century. **In order to continue to improve quality of life, Alabamians need to substantially change their understanding of the world and globalization in order to effectively participate in a world economy.**

<sup>44</sup> See Economy Indicator Tables and Education Indicator Tables.

# The State of Healthcare in Alabama



**Healthcare Rank and Score** *Table 3.1*  
*Maximum Score 40*

Rank in Healthcare	County	Healthcare Score	Rank in Healthcare	County	Healthcare Score
1	Baldwin	40	31	Etowah	33
1	Limestone	40	31	Coosa	33
1	Dale	40	37	Lamar	32
1	Elmore	40	37	Tuscaloosa	32
1	Cleburne	40	37	Winston	32
6	Houston	39	37	Escambia	32
6	Geneva	39	37	Barbour	32
8	Montgomery	38	37	Tallapoosa	32
8	Lee	38	37	Talladega	32
10	Shelby	37	37	Henry	32
10	Madison	37	45	Walker	31
10	Autauga	37	45	Fayette	31
10	Marion	37	45	Franklin	31
10	Lauderdale	37	45	Bibb	31
10	DeKalb	37	45	Russell	31
16	Lawrence	36	50	Cherokee	29
16	Coffee	36	50	Pike	29
16	Calhoun	36	50	Chilton	29
16	Marshall	36	50	Monroe	29
16	Mobile	36	54	Butler	28
21	Jefferson	35	54	Conecuh	28
21	Randolph	35	56	Choctaw	27
21	Blount	35	56	Dallas	27
21	Covington	35	58	Hale	26
21	Clarke	35	58	Macon	26
26	Morgan	34	60	Pickens	25
26	Cullman	34	60	Lowndes	25
26	St. Clair	34	62	Sumter	24
26	Marengo	34	63	Bullock	23
26	Chambers	34	64	Crenshaw	21
31	Colbert	33	65	Greene	17
31	Jackson	33	66	Perry	16
31	Washington	33	67	Wilcox	16
31	Clay	33			

*Gray indicates scores below levels deemed to be critical*



Alabama is home to some of the most technologically advanced medical facilities in the world. These facilities provide state of the art treatments and life saving procedures that dramatically improve quality of life for patients and their families. With a nationally ranked teaching and research center in Birmingham and several award-winning facilities in Mobile, Huntsville and Montgomery, it would seem that Alabama has an advantage over other states in terms of healthcare. Contrary to this assumption, much of the healthcare data for Alabama indicate that the state is below national averages in many areas of public health.

Healthcare has dominated the airwaves in the last few decades, and the Affordable Care Act, which passed in 2010, has been heralded by many proponents as a much needed relief to the citizens of this country. As with many issues, healthcare inspires heated debates throughout the population. Though the healthcare reform bill could bring relief to many Americans and their businesses, a heated debate on this topic persists and many do not agree it will prove effective. The problem is that much of this debate is lacking the necessary facts on the true state of healthcare both nationally and locally. Many experts in the field agree, though, that healthcare in the U.S. is in disarray, and that far more needs to be

done in order to ensure for the health and safety of citizens.

One of the problems having the most impact on the current system is the exorbitant expenditure committed to healthcare. By comparing data on health-related expenditures from other developed countries, it becomes clear that the United States desperately needs to more effectively manage healthcare costs. According to the World Health Report for 2005, the United States was spending 14.6% of its GDP on healthcare in 2002. In sharp contrast, the United Kingdom was spending 7.7% of its GDP on healthcare; Germany was spending 10.6%, Japan 7.9% and Norway was spending 9.6% of its GDP. In real numbers, the United States was spending \$5,274 per capita in 2002, and the U.S. government was responsible for \$2,368 per capita of this total. Further adding to the sharp contrast, governments in other developed countries were responsible for a far higher percentage of the total expenditure for healthcare, with the UK government paying \$1,693 of the \$2,031 spent, and the Japanese government paying \$2,066 of the \$2,631 spent per capita.<sup>45</sup> These exorbitant expenditures in healthcare in the United States create an unnecessary hardship for families already struggling with a slow economy, particularly in Alabama.

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### Top Five Countries in Per Capita Healthcare Expenditures and Total Government Contribution *Table 3.2*<sup>46</sup>

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Rank	Country	Expenditure	Government Participation in Expenditure	Government Participation Percentage
1	United States	\$5,274	\$2,368	44.90%
2	Switzerland	\$4,219	\$1,995	47.29%
3	Norway	\$4,033	\$2,845	70.54%
4	Monaco	\$3,656	\$3,388	92.67%
5	Luxemburg	\$2,951	\$2,620	88.78%

In addition to the financial burden these expenditures create for families around the country, the United States has other challenges in the field of healthcare. As a developed industrial society, the United States has overcome many of the basic problems that have devastated societies for thousands of years. For example, seasonal influenza is considered by most to be merely an inconvenience today, but in 1918 a flu pandemic killed millions of people throughout the U.S. and the world. Advances in healthcare, the economy and education have contributed to skyrocketing life expectancy estimations

in the last century; for 2010, the United States has an average life expectancy of 79.6 years.<sup>47</sup> Although the United States is not the leader in the world when it comes to this specific indicator, the country ranks near the top. The country that currently has the

<sup>45</sup> For additional data and expenditure analysis of all countries in the world, please see World Health Organization, *The World Health Report 2005: Make Every Mother and Child Count* (Geneva, Switzerland: The World Health Organization, 2005) 200-203.

<sup>46</sup> W.H.O., *The World Health Report 2005: Make Every Mother and Child Count*, 200-203.

<sup>47</sup> UNDP, *HDR 2010*, 143-146.

highest life expectancy is Japan, with 83.2 years.<sup>48</sup> Many countries have higher life expectancy statistics than the United States, such as Malta at 80 years and Germany at 80.2 years, but life expectancy alone does not give a true picture of the state of healthcare in a region.<sup>49</sup> High life expectancy rates do not indicate that all aspects of a society are functioning properly, as is the case for the United States.

In the Human Development Report for 2010, the United States is ranked No. 4 among 169 countries for which data were available on life expectancies.<sup>50</sup> The United States, however, is facing another set of issues and challenges in the area of healthcare that are unique for highly developed countries, waging a difficult fight against obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

### Top Five Counties with Highest Life Expectancy and Top Five Nation States *Table 3.3*<sup>51</sup>

County	Life Expectancy	Country	Life expectancy
Barbour	78.9	Japan	83.2
Shelby	78.6	Hong Kong	82.5
Clarke	78.5	Switzerland	82.2
Baldwin	78.2	Iceland	82.1
Geneva	77.7	Australia	81.9

On the national level, Alabama does not compare well to other states in healthcare indicators. Obesity rates, diabetes rates and deaths caused by cardiovascular diseases are staggering in the state. The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) ranked Alabama fifth in the nation in 2009 for high obesity rates, with a staggering 31% of the population in the state qualifying as obese.<sup>52</sup> This specific healthcare crisis is almost unique to the United States, and America's "car culture" and large cities with limited parks or other areas encouraging physical activity are significant contributors to these rates. Obesity is the main cause of diabetes, and in the United States in 2010 there were 25.8 million people with diabetes, more than 8% of the entire U.S. population.<sup>53</sup> Diabetes is also the seventh leading cause of death in the United States, and total costs caused by this disease for 2007 were \$174 billion, while direct medical costs were \$116 billion.<sup>54</sup>

Diabetes is directly linked to other diseases, such as stroke, heart disease, hypertension, blindness, kidney disease and nervous system diseases. In 2004, heart disease was connected to 64% of all

<sup>48</sup> UNDP, *HDR 2010*, 143-146.

<sup>49</sup> UNDP, *HDR 2010*, 143-146.

<sup>50</sup> UNDP, *HDR 2010*, 143-146.

<sup>51</sup> *HDR 2010* 143-146. Sarah Burd-Sharps and Kristen Lewis, "Mapping the Measure of America." American Human Development Project. Accessed February 23, 2011. <http://www.measureofamerica.org/maps/>.

<sup>52</sup> For further rankings and information, please see National Council of State Legislators, *Obesity Statistics in the United States, 2010*. (Denver, CO: National Conference of State Legislatures, 2010).

<sup>53</sup> The report extensively discusses how diabetes affects livelihood and productivity in the country. CDC, *National Diabetes Fact Sheet 2011* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011)

<sup>54</sup> CDC, *National Diabetes Fact Sheet 2011*.

<sup>55</sup> CDC, *National Diabetes Fact Sheet* and *Obesity Statistics in the United States*.

### Top Five Highest Obesity States and Top Five Highest Diabetes States *Table 3.4*<sup>55</sup>

Rank	State	% of Obese Population	Rank	State	% of Diabetic Population
1	Mississippi	34.4%	1	Tennessee	11.9%
2	Louisiana	33%	2	Mississippi	11.1%
3	Oklahoma	31.4%	3	West Virginia	10.8%
4	West Virginia	31.1%	4	Texas	10.3%
5	Alabama	31%	5	Alabama	10.3%

diabetes-related deaths among people 65 years and older, while strokes were connected to 16% of the diabetes-related deaths among same age group. When it comes to hypertension, 67% of those who reported diabetes had blood pressure higher or equal to the critical level of 140/90 mmHg. Diabetes is also a leading cause in new cases of blindness in the age group of 20-74 years old, and it is the leading cause of kidney failure with 44% of cases of kidney failure directly linked to the disease. Another staggering statistic is that over 60% of the non-traumatic amputations in the United States happen to people with diabetes.<sup>56</sup>

The causal relationship between obesity and diabetes is a major concern for a state with the fifth highest obesity rate in the nation. According to the Alabama Department of Public Health's statistics, Alabama's ranking has improved slightly, but far more needs to be done to adequately address this epidemic and its impact on not only the quality of life for those directly affected, but the extreme financial burden it places on states and families alike. The Alabama Media Portal's recent article, *Alabama's Obesity Prevalence Hits 31 Percent*, noted that people who are obese have \$1,429 more expenses in medical treatment than people with normal weight. In 2009 alone, total medical expenses in the United States related to obesity were \$147 billion.<sup>57</sup>

This expense is causing additional burdens on families budgets and, most importantly, such a high obesity rate in the state is causing enormous problems among communities and their quality of life. Looking at the data collected, some counties are experiencing far higher obesity rates than others, and obesity rates are also statistically correlated with diabetes related deaths. For example, in Bullock County obesity rates are at 37.1%, 6.1% higher than the average in the state. Diabetes-related deaths in this county are at 55.6 per 100,000, one of the highest in Alabama. Higher diabetes-related deaths are also in Marengo County at 71.2 per 100,000, where the obesity rate is at 37.1%. Both counties are experiencing high poverty rates, with Bullock at 33.6% and Marengo County at 22.6%. Marengo County is part of Alabama's impoverished central and southwest region, and as with other rural counties in Alabama, farming was the prevailing economy throughout recent decades. Marengo has an above average poverty rate, and although this county is not the poorest in the state, its healthcare indicators are staggering. Additionally, 71.9% of the population 25 years and older are high school graduates, and 22% of the population lacks basic literacy skills. Linked with these poor economic statistics for Marengo are 13.1% of the population without health insurance and a staggering rate of 356.2 per 100,000 deaths due to heart disease.

### Marengo and Bullock Health, Education and Economic Snapshot *Table 3.5*<sup>58</sup>

Marengo		Bullock	
Obesity in %	37.1%	Obesity in %	37.1%
Uninsured population	13.1%	Uninsured population	15.0%
HS Dropout Rate	32.7%	HS Dropout Rate	38.8%
% Lacking Basic Literacy	22%	% Lacking Basic Literacy	34%
Unemployment Rate	12.4%	Unemployment Rate	15.4%
Poverty Rate	22.6%	Poverty Rate	33.6%

Another county with an extremely high obesity rate is Greene County, with a dangerous 43.7% of the residents reported as obese. Although this county's rate of deaths that are related to diabetes is lower than counties like Bullock with a rate of 21.8 per 100,000, deaths that are related to heart disease are extremely high at 566.9 per 100,000. Greene County has the distinction of the highest rate of deaths that are related to heart disease among all counties in Alabama, as well as the highest obesity

rate. Also in Greene County, the unemployment rate is at 19.8% and the poverty rate is at 30.3%. In this county, 31% of residents are lacking basic literacy skills, while 56.6% of high school students drop out of school.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>56</sup> CDC, *National Diabetes Fact Sheet*, 8.

<sup>57</sup> Miriam Gaines, "Alabama's Obesity Prevalence Hits 31 Percent," *Alabama Media Portal* 2010.

<sup>58</sup> See Healthcare Indicator Tables.

<sup>59</sup> See Healthcare Indicator Tables.

When it comes to urban areas, it would seem that obesity rates would be significantly lower than in rural, more poverty-stricken areas, but this is not the case. The most populated county in the state of Alabama, Jefferson County, has an obesity rate just around the state average for Alabama at 30.9%. This county also has 33.5 diabetes-related deaths per 100,000. For Montgomery County obesity rates are higher than the average in Alabama, standing at 32.9%, and deaths related to diabetes are at 60.5 per 100,000. Madison County has an obesity rate at 30.8%, which is on par with Jefferson's and the state average, and deaths related to diabetes are 29.7 per 100,000. The lowest obesity rate of the four largest urban areas in Alabama, however, is in Mobile County with 29.7%. Mobile also has the lowest rate of deaths related to diabetes at 27.6 per 100,000. Considering that on average all four counties have better economic outlooks than the rest of the state, and that all four counties have a better education profile than the state average, it is surprising to have such high obesity rates when considering that the population in those counties should be more informed about causes and consequences of this condition. One possible explanation for the high obesity rates in better educated, large urban areas is that the population is faced with for a lack of physical activity due to the "commuter lifestyle" and the stagnant nature of living and working in an urban environment.<sup>60</sup>

The urban counties, along with Lee County, home to Auburn University, and Tuscaloosa County, home to University of Alabama, have far fewer deaths related to certain diseases than their rural counterparts. For example, in Jefferson County there are 238.8 deaths related to heart disease, 212.7 deaths related to cancer and 77 deaths

related to stroke in a rate of a 100,000-person population. Similarly, for Madison County there are 186.5 deaths related to heart disease, 172.5 related to cancer and 34.4 related to stroke in the same rate. In Mobile County, the rate per 100,000 is 251 deaths related to heart disease, 214.1 related to cancer and 61.5 related to stroke. In Montgomery County there are 196.2 deaths related to heart disease, 197.5 deaths related to cancer and 54.7 deaths related to stroke per 100,000. Tuscaloosa County has a somewhat lower 204 deaths that are related to heart disease, 182.8 that are related to the cancer and 45.7 that are related to stroke per 100,000. The lowest rates, however, are in Lee County, with 157.1 per 100,000 persons for deaths related to heart disease, 156.4 related to cancer and 28.6 that are related to stroke. In comparing the numbers from the four most populated, highly urbanized counties and two that are home to large university populations with several rural counties, **data indicate that counties with populations that have a lower rate of people with bachelor's degrees and a generally worse educational and economic profile also present a worse healthcare profile.** For example, in Wilcox County, where 30% of people lack basic literacy skills and only 10.1% of residents possess a bachelor's degree, the number of deaths related to heart diseases is at 390.5, 140.6 that are related to cancer and 39.1 that are related to stroke per 100,000 population. A similar correlation is also found in Winston County. In this county there are 337.9 heart disease-related deaths, 275.3 cancer-related deaths and 83.4 stroke-related deaths per 100,000 population.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>60</sup> See Healthcare Indicator Tables.

<sup>61</sup> See Healthcare Indicator Tables.

<sup>62</sup> See Healthcare Indicator Tables.

### Health and Education Correlations for Eight Alabama Counties *Table 3.6<sup>62</sup>*

County	Heart Disease (deaths)*	Cancer (deaths)*	Stroke (deaths)*	Diabetes (deaths)*	Population Lacking Basic Literacy Skills	Population with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Population with a High School Diploma
Lee	157.1	156.4	28.6	22.6	13%	27.9%	81.4%
Tuscaloosa	204	182.8	45.7	13.4	14%	24.0%	78.8%
Jefferson	238.8	212.7	77	33.5	13%	24.6%	80.9%
Madison	186.5	172.5	34.4	29.7	10%	34.3%	85.4%
Mobile	251	214.1	61.5	27.6	16%	18.6%	76.7%
Montgomery	196.2	197.5	54.7	60.5	14%	28.5%	80.3%
Wilcox	390.5	140.6	39.1	31.2	30%	10.1%	59.5%
Winston	337.9	275.3	83.4	29.2	16%	8.3%	62.6%

\*per 100,000 population

The lowest obesity rate in all of Alabama is found in Baldwin County at 24.6%. However, with heart related deaths at 241.9, cancer related deaths at 229.9 and stroke related deaths at 61.9 per 100,000 populations, these figures show that a low obesity rate in Alabama does not necessarily mean that the general healthcare profile of a county is better than the rest of the state. In a striking correlation between health indicators and the economic picture of a region, the low obesity rates in Baldwin County are accompanied by one of the lowest poverty rates in the state at 9.9%, a low unemployment rate of 8.2%, and a relatively high-income rate at \$35,738 and also a high percentage of people with bachelor's degrees at 23.1%. Also likely a contributing factor, Baldwin County has one of the lowest rates of residents lacking basic literacy skills at 11%.<sup>63</sup>

**The highly urbanized areas of Alabama have lower numbers of deaths related to heart disease, stroke and cancer, and one possible explanation for this trend is that these communities have better access to the best hospitals in the state, like the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Baptist and Jackson hospitals in Montgomery, and other top facilities throughout the state.** These hospitals are excellent healthcare providers, with state of the art equipment and very capable staffs; the same cannot be expected from small hospitals in rural counties. Access to healthcare is definitely more difficult in these counties, and it is often necessary for residents of one county to drive to another to receive adequate medical attention.

Overall, Alabama's healthcare profile is lacking in many areas; disease attributed to lifestyle is alarmingly high, as is the number of uninsured residents in the state. The obesity epidemic in the state is threatening the quality of life for all of its residents, either as direct consequences to health or by the diversion of both private and public funds to massive expenditures in healthcare. Although 2010 saw a major overhaul of healthcare, residents in the United States and Alabama are still going to pay more for healthcare than people in other countries.

Even under the new healthcare law, people in the U.S. and Alabama will still not have universal healthcare, and the debate over this issue was so heated and polarized that supporters have largely abandoned the topic. Studies have shown that citizens who do have a universal healthcare system do live longer than those who do not, as seen in the UK where residents live 0.2 years longer than their American counterparts. The British also spend \$3,243 per capita less on average than do people in the United States on healthcare.<sup>64</sup> What is particularly alarming about this number is that the U.S.

government, without a similar universal healthcare system as found in the UK, still spends \$675 more per capita than does the government in England.

Although the United States has arguably the most technologically advanced medical facilities, the problem is that extremely sophisticated treatments often require an equally extreme expense. In all the countries that are ranked ahead of the United States there is a certain participation from the public in paying for services, but nothing like in the United States, where healthcare bills are the leading cause of bankruptcy. In fact, in 2007 62% of all bankruptcies in the United States were linked to medical costs, and 78% of those who had to file for bankruptcy because of the high medical bills had no insurance. What is more alarming is that in 1981, 8% of families were filing bankruptcy because of the medical bills, while in 2001, 50% of bankruptcies were directly connected to medical expenditures.<sup>65</sup> Supporting this contrast between the quality of a healthcare facility and the quality of a healthcare system, a World Health Organization report, *Measuring Overall Health Systems in 191 Countries*, has the United States ranked No. 37 in best healthcare system in the world, far behind countries such as France (1), Italy (2), Oman (8), Portugal (12), Germany (25), Canada (30) or Costa Rica (36). While the facilities in this country are far above par, access is limited and even unattainable for some.<sup>66</sup>

Another disturbing trend in the state's healthcare indicators is the infant mortality rate. Infant mortality rates are measured per 1,000-person population, and calculate the number of deaths of newborns that are not older than one year. These rates are typically used to show the well being of populations across an area such as a state or country, or to compare with another distinct region.<sup>67</sup> In the Human Development Report of 2010, the United States had seven deaths per 1,000 newborns on average, but when comparing the United States with other countries the rates become even more shocking. In this comparison, researchers have limited

<sup>63</sup> See Healthcare Indicator Tables and Economy Indicator Tables.

<sup>64</sup> WHO, *World Health Report* 2005.

<sup>65</sup> Catherine Arnst, "Study Links Medical Costs and Personal Bankruptcy," *Business Week*, June 04, 2009, accessed October 23, 2010, [http://www.businessweek.com/bwdaily/dnflash/content/jun2009/db2009064\\_666715.htm](http://www.businessweek.com/bwdaily/dnflash/content/jun2009/db2009064_666715.htm).

<sup>66</sup> For further information and analysis of the performance of healthcare systems of 191 countries, please see WHO, *Measuring Overall Health System Performance for 191 Countries* (Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization, 2000).

<sup>67</sup> Also discussed are the goals of CDC in improving infant mortality rates and disparities between races. CDC, *Eliminate Disparities in Infant Mortality*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011).

parallels to developed countries with universal healthcare. One example, France, is ranked as the most effective healthcare system by the World Health Organization and has an infant mortality rate of 3 per 1,000.<sup>68</sup> Italy, ranked second in the world for healthcare systems, also has an infant mortality rate of 3 per 1,000.<sup>69</sup>

In the state of Alabama infant mortality rates are staggering, as Perry, Pickens, Sumter, Conecuh and Barbour Counties are experiencing tremendous difficulties with this measurement of a region's healthcare profile. Shockingly, Conecuh County experiences 20.7 infant mortality deaths per 1,000, and it also has an obesity rate of 32.8%, heart disease-related deaths at 405.6, cancer-related deaths at 244.9, and stroke-related deaths at 30.6 per 100,000 population. This county also has a poverty level of 24.9%, which is among highest in the state, while 23% of residents are lacking basic literacy skills. Conecuh, as are many other rural counties, is battling a stagnant economy, the absence of any measurable amount of new investment, and a shrinking population.<sup>70</sup>

Another county that is battling staggering infant mortality rates is Pickens, with mortality rates at 19.2 per 1,000. Pickens County has other critical healthcare issues with an obesity rate at a very high 35.9%, and the economic and education data are not much better. In Pickens County, 21% of residents lack basic literacy skills, and more than 10% of the population is unemployed. Perry County is very similar to Pickens with a 19.1 per 1,000 infant mortality deaths, just 0.1 per 1,000 better than that of Pickens County. Perry County also has staggering data when it comes to disease-related deaths with 328.9 heart related deaths per 100,000, 375.8 cancer-related deaths per 100,000 and 65.8 stroke-related deaths per 100,000. Deaths that are caused by diabetes are also alarmingly high at 28.2 per 100,000.<sup>71</sup>

When comparing infant mortality deaths alone to those of other countries there are some shocking revelations on the state of healthcare in the United States. For example, in Libyan Arab Jamahiriya the rate of infant mortality deaths is 15 per 1,000, and in Saudi Arabia the rate is 18 per 1,000 births. Vietnam has better infant mortality rates than that of Jefferson County, with 12 per 1,000, compared to Jefferson County's rate of 13.2 per 1,000. Cuba, on the other hand, falls in line with countries with very high human development as cited by HDR 2010, with an infant mortality rate of 5 deaths per 1,000.<sup>72</sup> To put it in perspective, the lowest infant mortality rates found in all of Alabama are in Marengo County with 3.4 per 1,000 and in Dale and DeKalb Counties with 3.9 per 1,000.

### Five Best International Infant Mortality Rates and Best Alabama Counties *Table 3.7*<sup>73</sup>

County	Deaths per 1,000 Live Births	Country	Deaths per 1,000 Live Births
Marengo	3.4	San Marino	1
Dale	3.9	Liechtenstein	2
DeKalb	3.9	Iceland	2
Shelby	4.2	Sweden	2
Cleburne	5.1	Singapore	2

These disturbing numbers should serve as a call for action in the state of Alabama. It is known that Cuba has a well developed healthcare system, so it should be no surprise that infant mortality rates are at such a low level; it should, however, shock residents of Alabama to learn that Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Qatar or Bahrain have lower infant mortality rates than many counties in this state. With the resources available domestically, these numbers are simply not acceptable, and it should serve as a final wake up call not just for counties like Conecuh, Perry, Pickens and Sumter, but most importantly, the state as a whole.

The healthcare problems in many of these counties are not isolated exclusively to the indicator of infant mortality; low birth weight is also a problem. For example, in Conecuh low birth weight is at 15.2%, while in Pickens it is 13.1%. Similarly, rural Perry County has low birth weight at 10.8% and Wilcox is at 16.8%. Surprisingly, urban counties are not faring much better than rural areas. Montgomery County has low birth weight at 12.4%, Mobile at 12%, Madison at 11.3% and Jefferson at 12.3%. Although these urban counties are showing better indicators when it comes to disease-related deaths, particularly heart-related deaths, when it comes to low birth weight there is almost no difference among the counties. The lowest percentages in this indicator are found in Cleburne County at 5.4% and Henry County at 6.1%.

<sup>68</sup> WHO, *Measuring Overall Health System Performance for 191 Countries*.

<sup>69</sup> UNDP, *HDR 2010*, 197-201.

<sup>70</sup> See Healthcare Indicator Tables.

<sup>71</sup> See Healthcare Indicator Tables.

<sup>72</sup> UNDP, *HDR 2010*, 197-201.

<sup>73</sup> UNDP, *HDR 2010*, Healthcare Indicator Tables.

## Low Birth Weight in Alabama Counties: Top Performers and Low Performers *Table 3.8*<sup>74</sup>

5 Highest	County	Low Birth Weight	5 Lowest	County	Low Birth Weight
1	Greene	21.0%	1	Cleburne	5.4%
2	Monroe	18.7%	2	Henry	6.1%
3	Wilcox	16.8%	3	Lee	6.4%
4	Sumter	16.1%	4	Washington	7.1%
5	Conecuh	15.2%	5	Randolph	7.6%

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only 8.2% of babies are born with low birth weight. Low birth is defined as below 2,500 grams, and particularly at risk are African-American mothers and teen mothers.<sup>75</sup> The data used in this study show disproportionately higher low birth weights in Alabama when compared to national data. The average rate for the United States is 8.2%, meaning that Greene County, the county with the highest percentage of low weight births, has more than double the rate of low weight births than the average for the United States.

Looking at data on the number of teen pregnancies per 1,000, it's clear that all counties have similar problems, and that higher low birth weight rates are not confined exclusively to counties with higher teen pregnancies (defined as 10-17 years old).<sup>76</sup> Cleburne County, with the smallest low birth weight numbers, has a rate of 12.3 per 1,000 of teen pregnancies, while Bullock County, with 12.4% low birth weight, has a staggering 53.7 per 1,000 teen pregnancy rate. Closest counties to Bullock in teen pregnancies are Crenshaw with 29.2 per 1,000 and Dallas with 26.9 per 1,000.<sup>77</sup> Teen pregnancies are not just an Alabama problem; in the United States one in three girls will get pregnant before the age of 20, which is lower than the previous year's estimates when it was four out of 10 girls in that age group. In 2002, in the United States, there were 750,000 teen pregnancies that resulted in 215,000 abortions. Teen pregnancies are a very complicated issue and present long-term difficulties for not only teen parents but also their families.<sup>78</sup> These pregnancies often bring with them a number of hardships for all parties involved and are a long lasting problem that counties in Alabama must address. Teen parents are much more likely to drop out of school and face greater problems in the job market.<sup>79</sup>

Healthcare is a complex issue and there are few solutions to be found in the examples of the Alabama counties. Some of the highest obesity

rates in the United States and higher infant mortality rates than in many so called "third" world countries strongly suggest that Alabamians cannot pretend that the current healthcare system is performing adequately. The heated debate in the media as to whether healthcare reform is needed or not is polarizing American society on two sides to the extreme, and this vital dialogue is often reduced to scare tactics and misinformation. What cannot be denied is that the historical approach to healthcare both in the U.S. and Alabama is flawed and is having a severe impact on quality of life for all citizens, both as patients and as taxpayers.<sup>80</sup>

Alabama and its counties will have to fundamentally alter their understanding and approach to healthcare in order to continue to progress. It is also important to emphasize that Alabamians must abandon the paradigm of reacting only to the problem, instead taking a more preventive approach to

<sup>74</sup> See *Healthcare Indicator Tables*.

<sup>75</sup> CDC, *Birthweight and Gestation* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009). <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/birthwt.htm> Text discusses causes of low birth weight. By the source, the main cause of low birth weight is premature birth and problems with placenta (IUGR). Article also provides information on how to prevent low birth weight. *Very Low Birth Weight*, (Palo Alto, CA: The Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, 2011). <http://www.lpch.org/DiseaseHealthInfo/HealthLibrary/hrnewborn/vlbw.html>

<sup>76</sup> Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, *Very Low Birth Weight*.

<sup>77</sup> State of Alabama, Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, *Selected Maternal and Child Health Statistics Alabama 2008*, by Louie Albert Woolbright and Qun Zheng, December 2009, accessed October 20, 2010, [http://adph.org/healthstats/assets/MCHbook\\_Final%2008.pdf](http://adph.org/healthstats/assets/MCHbook_Final%2008.pdf)

<sup>78</sup> United States, Department of Health and Human Services, *Teen Pregnancies*, 2009, accessed November 21, 2010, [http://www.4parents.gov/sexrisky/teen\\_preg/teen\\_preg.html](http://www.4parents.gov/sexrisky/teen_preg/teen_preg.html)

<sup>79</sup> *Teen Pregnancies*.

<sup>80</sup> The book extensively discusses methods of comparative politics and approaches to that field of Political Science. Author also explains various subjects such as poverty, rapid economic development in Asia, terrorism and political violence, through the science of comparative politics. Lim, Timothy, *Doing Comparative Politics*, (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers Inc, 2006), 254-255. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs172/en/index.html>

addressing the health of the state by confronting the causes of disease and stopping them from becoming widespread. If significant efforts are made to lower obesity rates, this will translate directly to Alabama and Alabamians having lower healthcare costs. The World Health Organization warns that human advances in technology, economy and general living conditions allow people to live much longer than ever before. Additionally, people with chronic diseases, such as cardio-vascular diseases, are living much longer. This trend is placing huge financial constraints on both governmental budgets as well as personal budgets. Prevention is the only way to cut financial costs and to increase quality of life for the residents of Alabama and the nation as a whole.<sup>81</sup>

It is a staggering statistic that in the United States 61% of obese children between ages 5 and 10 are already at risk for developing heart disease, and this alarming fact should serve as a very powerful call to action for all in this country. By developing an Alabama healthcare system focused on prevention, the state could take the necessary actions to address this disease at its earliest stages, as 70% of these obese children would eventually become overweight or obese adults.<sup>82</sup> It is vital that counties in Alabama address children's obesity and prevent the development of obesity later in life, along with its many associated health problems. If adequately addressed, that would tremendously reduce healthcare costs in the future, especially when it comes to diabetes and its many related diseases.

Alabama and its counties are going to have to address many issues related to healthcare, especially in areas lacking access to out-of-door and other recreational facilities. While weather conditions in this state are almost perfect for recreation, counties

would benefit from providing better access to recreational facilities and working on developing a culture among children to utilize those facilities; this is the most direct preventative measure to reduce childhood obesity. With recent widespread attention on this issue, attempts to monitor nutrition and encourage an increase in physical exercise among children, there is an emerging trend to address this problem, but far more needs to be done.<sup>83</sup>

No indicator speaks more to the public's perception of the concept of "quality of life" than that of healthcare, and it often serves as one of the most compelling bodies of evidence to truly describe a region. The profile presented by the counties in Alabama has problems, but the state has far too many assets to simply give up. With some of the best healthcare facilities in the nation, the state has a unique opportunity to make reforms that would benefit generations to come. Alabama has made progress in nurturing its economy; it should also focus its efforts on healthcare, as there is a limit to what the state can achieve with these serious and widespread healthcare concerns.

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<sup>81</sup> Text discusses the importance of preventive health care in order to cut costs and to lower burdens on budgets. WHO, *Integrating Prevention Into Health Care*, (Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization, 2002).

<sup>82</sup> For further analysis and data on obesity, especially childhood obesity, and ways to prevent it, please see CDC, *Make a Difference at Your School*, (Atlanta, GA: Center for Disease Control, 2008). <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/keystrategies/pdf/make-a-difference.pdf>

<sup>83</sup> For further information on the fight against childhood obesity, please see Debellis, Ann B. *HEAL Alabama Fights Childhood Obesity with Nutrition and Activity*, (Birmingham, AL: Birmingham Medical News, 2008). <http://www.birminghammedicalnews.com/news.php?viewStory=1080>





# The State of Public Safety in Alabama



**Public Safety Rank and Score** *Table 4.1*  
Maximum Score 20

Rank in Public Safety	County	Public Safety Score	Rank in Public Safety	County	Public Safety Score
1	Choctaw	20	35	Limestone	5
2	Lamar	15.5	35	Montgomery	5
3	Cherokee	13	35	Cullman	5
4	Marion	12.5	38	Mobile	4.5
4	Perry	12.5	38	DeKalb	4.5
6	Lawrence	12	38	Talladega	4.5
7	Bibb	11	38	Monroe	4.5
8	Randolph	10.5	38	Henry	4.5
8	Blount	10.5	38	Conecuh	4.5
8	Sumter	10.5	38	Russell	4.5
11	Shelby	10	38	Macon	4.5
11	Geneva	10	46	Baldwin	4
11	Winston	10	46	Walker	4
11	Pickens	10	48	Lauderdale	3.5
11	Bullock	10	48	St. Clair	3.5
16	Washington	9	48	Lowndes	3.5
16	Clay	9	51	Madison	3
18	Colbert	8.5	51	Elmore	3
19	Autauga	8	51	Marengo	3
19	Chambers	8	51	Tallapoosa	3
19	Crenshaw	8	51	Dallas	3
19	Wilcox	8	56	Jefferson	2.5
23	Barbour	7.5	56	Lee	2.5
23	Coosa	7.5	56	Coffee	2.5
23	Hale	7.5	56	Tuscaloosa	2.5
26	Houston	7	56	Escambia	2.5
26	Morgan	7	56	Etowah	2.5
26	Jackson	7	62	Cleburne	2
26	Fayette	7	62	Marshall	2
26	Pike	7	62	Clarke	2
26	Franklin	7	65	Calhoun	1.5
32	Chilton	6.5	65	Covington	1.5
32	Butler	6.5	67	Dale	1
32	Greene	6.5			

*Gray indicates scores below levels deemed to be critical*

Historically, Alabama and the United States are still young. Immigration began on this continent a little over 400 years ago with the founding of Jamestown in 1607. The United States is fairly new when compared to countries like China, Egypt, Iran or similar European countries that have developed over thousands of years. In this short time, however, the United States has managed to produce two documents that are among the most important in human history: the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and the Constitution of the United States, which was written in 1787. Since the formal establishment of the U.S. government, the country has experienced its share of turmoil: the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and two current wars, Afghanistan and Iraq. Throughout the globe, the United States is thought by many to have a reputation as a violent society both within its borders and on the world stage. This is due in part to not only the violent themes for many elements of popular culture but also because the United States has shockingly high rates of murder and other violent crimes.<sup>84</sup>

This is a reputation that is not always a fair assessment of life in the United States. Internet, Hollywood, Facebook, Twitter and other elements of popular culture are fueling a biased opinion about the U.S. as a violent culture. Adding to this perception are the near constant partisan arguments over interpretation of the Second Amendment. This has led many Americans to have a mixed picture about how the Second Amendment truly impacts safety in our communities. The issue of gun control and how it relates to violent crime has become so widely debated in recent years that the National Rifle Association (NRA) is recognized as one of the most influential special interest groups in Washington, D.C. supporting any legislation they deem to be supportive of their view of the Second Amendment and staunchly opposing legislation they feel would curtail the rights of gun owners. As a result of the massive amount of money the group is able to raise from supporters in the public and industry, the NRA has one of the most sophisticated influence networks in U.S. politics.<sup>85</sup>

Looking at the issue objectively, it would be hard to expect that the debate over the Second Amendment would be settled in the near future. The Second Amendment is part of the Bill of Rights, the part of the Constitution that makes the boldest statements on who Americans are and what they stand for. The Bill of Rights was the product of a political compromise when the Constitution was drafted: Thomas Jefferson and others insisted the Bill of Rights be incorporated into the document in

order to protect citizens from infringements by a powerful central government. These rights are among the most fiercely defended provisions in the U.S. Constitution.

The often heated debate over the Second Amendment does have the tendency to drive policy toward extremes. For example, Texas is proposing to give rights to college students and professors to carry guns on college campuses.<sup>86</sup> This is a reaction to recent events like the massacre of 32 students on the campus of Virginia Tech University in 2007 or, closer to home, the killing of three faculty members at the University of Alabama at Huntsville in 2010. With many universities employing armed campus police to protect the students and staff, this measure may seem reactive and dangerous. Studies have shown that the opposite end of this policy spectrum has proved to be ineffective in curtailing crime.

Guns are used 60 times more in the prevention of crimes and for self-defense than they are used to commit crimes. During the 1990s, the U.S. experienced a sharp drop in crimes around the country, one that some have attributed to stricter regulations on the purchasing of firearms. In actuality, President Bill Clinton signed the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act in 1993, and it went into effect in 1994, yet the decline in violence had started two years prior to that due to what many scholars argue was as a consequence of more imprisonment and better prosecution of crimes.<sup>87</sup> The Brady Bill, however, did make it much more difficult to purchase a gun, requiring background checks before and not after the sale of firearms. According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, these measures successfully stopped 1.9 million attempts to purchase guns by dangerous individuals.<sup>88</sup>

A CATO Institute article from 2000 noted that stricter gun control is not going to prevent criminals from committing a crime if they are determined to do so. David Lampo, author of the CATO

<sup>84</sup> United Nations. New York, NY, Office on Drugs and Crime Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, *Seventh United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, Covering the Period 1998-2000*.

<sup>85</sup> National Rifle Association, accessed February 22, 2011, [www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org).

<sup>86</sup> Jim Vertuno, "Texas Poised To Pass Bill Allowing Guns On Campus," The Huffington Post. Accessed March 03, 2011, [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/02/20/texas-guns-campus-colleges\\_n\\_825718.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/02/20/texas-guns-campus-colleges_n_825718.html).

<sup>87</sup> The article discusses whether strict gun laws reduced criminal activity and how guns play a pivotal role in self-defense and reducing crime rates. LaRosa, Benedict D. *Can Gun Control Reduce Crime* (Faifax, VA: The Future of Freedom Foundation, 2002).

<sup>88</sup> Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. Accessed March 27, 2011, <http://www.bradiycampaign.org/legislation/backgroundchecks/bradylaw>

publication *Gun Control: Myths and Realities*, found that criminals will commit crimes whether the U.S. enforces strict gun control or not. The author claims that the teens responsible for the Columbine High School massacre in Colorado in 1999 breached 20 separate gun laws in preparing for and committing their crimes, and were still not effectively deterred. In spite of scores of regulations pertaining to minors and firearms, the assailants were still not prevented from killing 12 students and wounding another 23. Another argument offered by

Lampo was that there is little evidence that stricter gun control and fewer weapons in the hand of citizens could lead to a lower homicide rate. Supporting this assertion, he gives the example of Switzerland and Israel, where guns are readily available on demand to every law-abiding citizen, and the homicide rates are extremely low.<sup>90</sup>

In contrast, Alabama has alarmingly high rates of firearm deaths. According to the 2007 Henry J. Kaiser Foundation statistical report, Alabama is ranked fifth in the nation for deaths caused by firearms with 17.5 deaths per 100,000, right behind the District of Columbia (21.7 deaths per 100,000), Louisiana (20.2 deaths per 100,000), Mississippi (18.5 deaths per 100,000) and Alaska (17.8 deaths per 100,000). This serves as a shocking contrast to the national average of 10.2 deaths per 100,000.<sup>91</sup> These statistics strongly suggest a clear threat to both the lives of citizens and the quality of life for all of Alabama.

Solving the problem of high homicide rates in Alabama or the U.S. is not as simple as advocating for stricter gun control laws. Since 1976, Washington, D.C. has had a complete ban on the purchase of guns and the rate of homicides has rapidly increased. Justice Stephen G. Breyer, in a 2008 Supreme Court ruling on a case involving D.C.'s gun control laws, said that based on empirical research it is impossible to make a decision as to whether or not gun control works as intended. There are too many variables that influence crimes and homicides to simply isolate guns as the main culprit. Further validating this assertion, Professor Gery Kleck's 2008 article on the subject in the *New York Times* noted that Baltimore, Maryland did not have strict gun control like Washington, D.C., but had almost the same rate of homicides.<sup>92</sup>

It is difficult to isolate an adequate solution to the problem of homicides in Alabama with the manner in which the issue is presented in the media. A Mobile television news report on the

### Homicides in Alabama Counties: Highest, Lowest and State and National Rates *Table 4.2*<sup>89</sup>

Rank	County	Homicide Rate Per Capita
1	Macon	1 : 3632
2	Covington	1 : 5240
3	Bullock	1 : 5493
4	Lowndes	1 : 6147
5	Clarke	1 : 6511
67	Autauga	0
67	Barbour	0
67	Blount	0
67	Butler	0
67	Chambers	0
67	Cherokee	0
67	Chilton	0
67	Choctaw	0
67	Clay	0
67	Colbert	0
67	Crenshaw	0
67	Fayette	0
67	Geneva	0
67	Lamar	0
67	Marion	0
67	Perry	0
67	Pickens	0
67	Pike	0
67	Randolph	0
67	Sumter	0
67	Washington	0
67	Winston	0
	United States	1 : 9804
	Alabama	1 : 5714

<sup>89</sup> See Public Safety Indicator Tables.

<sup>90</sup> David Lampo, "Gun Control: Myths and Realities," *CATO Institute*, Washington, D.C. May 13, 2000, accessed February 05, 2011, [http://www.cato.org/pub\\_display.php?pub\\_id=4706](http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=4706).

<sup>91</sup> "Number of Deaths Due to Injury by Firearms per 100,000 Population in 2007," The Kaiser Family Foundation, 2007, accessed February 09, 2011, <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/com-paretable.jsp?ind=113&cat=2?32&yr=18&typ=3&sort=a>.

<sup>92</sup> Professor Eugene Volokh from University of California at Los Angeles argues that gun laws disproportionately affect ordinary people that he calls "gun users," not "gun abusers." Prof. Volokh argues that it does not matter what kind of gun laws we have, criminals will not obey laws. Volokh also argues that, in actuality, stricter gun laws will in some cases increase crime since victims will not be able to deter criminals. Liptak, Adam, *Gun Laws and Crime: A Complex Relationship* (New York: The New York Times, 2008).

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/29/weekinreview/29liptak.html>

Violence Policy Center findings in 2009 said that Alabama ranks second in the nation when it comes to deaths by firearms, with 16.99 per 100,000 population. As with many media accounts of this nature, the story was then accompanied by a short news report pointing to guns as the main cause of violent crime. The report went on to note that the states

with the lowest rates were also the states that had the most stringent gun control laws, but omitted the fact that Washington, D.C., with the *highest* rate of firearm deaths, actually has the *most* restrictive gun laws in the U.S.<sup>93</sup>

When it comes to homicides, it becomes clear that urban areas are the ones that exhibit the high-

### Top States for Restrictive Gun Control Laws and States with Most Firearm Deaths *Table 4.3*<sup>94</sup>

Rank	Strictest Gun Control Laws	Number of Deaths per 100,000	Highest Number of Deaths by Firearm	Number of Deaths per 100,000	Rank
1	District of Columbia	21.7	District of Columbia	21.7	1
2	Massachusetts	3.6	Louisiana	20.2	2
3	Hawaii	2.6	Mississippi	18.5	3
4	California	8.8	Alaska	17.8	4
5	Connecticut	4.2	Alabama	17.5	5
6	Maryland	12.1	Arkansas	15.2	6

Reports like this actually create more confusion on this issue and provide a very poor analysis of the true nature of the problem. This pattern is common throughout all media, regardless whether it is TV, Internet, print or some other source. Instead of informing the public on the issue, the media's take on gun control and violent crime may actually be creating an environment where less is known about the true causes of Alabama's high crime rates.

There is a clear connection between other indicators in society and crime; unemployment rate, the state of the economy and education all have a causal effect on crime and violence. Large cities are also more prone to the high crime rates. In Jefferson County, for example, there is roughly one homicide for every 7,151 residents, and in 2009, it had an alarming 93 homicides. Madison County, on the other hand, had 19 homicides that year, or one homicide for roughly every 17,250 residents. It could be argued that the more urban environment of Birmingham contributed to these numbers, and that Madison benefited from its better education and economic profile to cause this disparity in the homicide rate. As previously stated in the earlier

discussion on gun control, it is very difficult to isolate a main cause of homicides. There are various factors influencing homicide rates, and what would generally be thought of as a strong deterrent, like strict gun control laws and increased law enforcement, often do not have the anticipated effect. For example, Madison County, with a relatively low homicide rate, has less law enforcement officers per capita than Jefferson County, which has a substantially higher homicide rate. Madison County has one law enforcement officer per 1,075 residents, while in Jefferson County there is one law enforcement officer for every 977 residents. Similarly, Dale County, with a good economic and education portfolio, has one homicide per roughly 9,629 residents and the number of law enforcement officers per capita is 1 per 1,301 residents.<sup>95</sup>

<sup>93</sup> Fox 10, "Alabama Ranked Second in Gun Deaths," June 14, 2009, accessed February 13, 2011, [http://www.fox10tv.com/dpp/news/crime/Alabama\\_ranked\\_second\\_in\\_gun\\_deaths](http://www.fox10tv.com/dpp/news/crime/Alabama_ranked_second_in_gun_deaths).

<sup>94</sup> "Number of Deaths Due to Injury by Firearms per 100,000 Population in 2007," The Kaiser Family Foundation, 2007, accessed February 09, 2011, <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/com-paretable.jsp?ind=113&cat=2?&yr=18&typ=3&sort=a>.

<sup>95</sup> See Public Safety Indicator Tables.

## Homicide in Alabama: Top and Bottom Performing Counties with Law Enforcement Per Capita *Table 4.4*<sup>96</sup>

Rank	County	Number of Homicides	Law Enforcement Officers Per Capita	Rank	County	Number of Homicides	Law Enforcement Officers Per Capita
1	Jefferson	93	1 : 977	1	Autauga	0	1 : 875
2	Mobile	35	1 : 852	2	Barbour	0	N/A
3	Montgomery	31	1 : 1311	3	Blount	0	1 : 1241
				4	Butler	0	1 : 907
				5	Chambers	0	1 : 686
				6	Cherokee	0	1 : 611
				7	Chilton	0	1 : 741
				8	Choctaw	0	1 : 1076
				9	Clay	0	1 : 525
				10	Colbert	0	1 : 993
				11	Crenshaw	0	1 : 1253
				12	Fayette	0	1 : 1086
				13	Geneva	0	1 : 962
				14	Lamar	0	1 : 710
				15	Marion	0	N/A
				16	Perry	0	1 : 590
				17	Pickens	0	1 : 663
				18	Pike	0	1 : 1050
				19	Randolph	0	1 : 1613
				20	Sumter	0	1 : 514
				21	Washington	0	1 : 1707
				22	Winston	0	1 : 1043

est numbers across Alabama. Rural counties such as Wilcox, Greene or Bibb have a small population and a much lower number of homicides. Arguably, the more densely populated urban setting is a contributing factor toward the high homicide numbers, and not just the economic or educational profiles of the county or its inhabitants. For example, in Montgomery there were 31 homicides in 2009, or one homicide per roughly every 7,230 residents, which put Montgomery County in line with Jefferson County. Mobile County fares a bit better than Jefferson or Montgomery County when it comes to homicide rates; in Mobile County in 2009 there were 35 homicides or roughly one for every 11,763 residents.

Throughout the nation homicides committed by guns actually increased during the 1990s, but homicides in general have dropped. Since 1991, there has been a steady drop in homicides, which some schol-

ars attribute to the general increase in a sense of morality and responsibility in society.<sup>97</sup> Also, during the 1990s there was a very stable and improving economic situation that had a positive impact on the welfare of the country.

Though homicides are down nationwide, there is still the problem of urban violence and the overwhelming amount of data that show most of the homicides in Alabama are grouped in the largest cities in the state. Similarly, rapes, juvenile arrests, robberies etc., are also more prevalent in urban areas. For example, in Jefferson County in 2009 there were 315 rapes, or one rape for roughly every 2,111 residents. Montgomery County also follows Jefferson with 91 rapes in 2009, or one rape for roughly every 2,463 residents. In Mobile County in

<sup>96</sup> See Public Safety Indicator Tables.

<sup>97</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, *Number of Deaths Due to Injury by Firearms per 100,000 Population in 2007*.

2009 there were 61 rapes or one rape for roughly every 6,750 residents; this is almost three times lower than the rate in Montgomery or Jefferson County. Madison County also follows Jefferson and Montgomery Counties with 112 rapes in 2009, or one rape for roughly every 2,926 residents. In rural counties, the numbers are quite different. For example, in Greene County in 2009 there was only one reported rape. Greene County has a total of 8,829 residents, which gives it roughly four times lower the rate compared to those of the largest cities in Alabama. Wilcox County also had only one reported rape, and considering that the total population of that county is 12,384, that is almost six times lower than the rate of larger cities.<sup>98</sup>

**Instances of Rape in Alabama Counties: Highest and Lowest Counties** *Table 4.5*<sup>99</sup>

Counties Reporting High Instances		
Rank	County	Rapes
1	Jefferson	315
2	Madison	112
3	Montgomery	91
4	Calhoun	63
5	Mobile	61

Counties Reporting Zero		
Rank	County	Rapes
1	Choctaw	0
1	Lamar	0
1	Coosa	0
1	Greene	0
1	Wilcox	0
1	Bullock	0

Many scholars argue that large cities are prone to more violence because of wide socioeconomic differences among the population.<sup>100</sup> Although

Alabama's large cities, especially Huntsville in Madison County, are experiencing far better economic pictures than rural counties like Wilcox or Greene County, there are problems for public safety needing to be addressed that are largely isolated to metropolitan areas in Alabama.

Juvenile crime is another indicator of general quality of life and a long-term indicator of problems that counties are going to face in the future. Like homicides and rapes, counties within metropolitan areas predominantly experience this issue. In Jefferson County in 2009 there were 1,638 juvenile arrests, or one juvenile arrest for roughly 406 residents. In Mobile County, that number in total was 2,883 arrests or one arrest for roughly every 143 residents of that county. In Madison County, the total number of juvenile arrests was 1,255, or one arrest for roughly 261 residents. Montgomery County is no different; in 2009 there were 903 juvenile arrests, or one arrest per roughly 248 residents. If these numbers are compared to those of rural counties, the differences are startling. In Wilcox County in 2009, there were five juvenile arrests or one juvenile arrest per roughly 2,477 residents. In Shelby County, with a population of 192,503 and similar in size to Montgomery County, there have been 67 juvenile arrests, or one arrest per roughly 2,873 residents.<sup>101</sup>

<sup>98</sup> See Public Safety Indicator Tables.

<sup>99</sup> See Public Safety Indicator Tables.

<sup>100</sup> See "Metropolitan Structure and Violent Crime: Which Measure of Crime?" For further analysis and information about crime in urban areas. The paper discusses how different socioeconomic profiles among races influence crime rates in metropolitan areas O'Brien, Robert, "Metropolitan Structure and Violent Crime: Which Measure of Crime?" (*American Sociological Review*, Vol. 48, No. 3, Jun 1983), 434-437.

<sup>101</sup> See Public Safety Indicator Tables.

<sup>102</sup> See Public Safety Indicator Tables.

**Highest and Lowest Five Counties in Juvenile Arrests** *Table 4.6*<sup>102</sup>

Most Juvenile Arrests	County	# of Juvenile Arrests	High School Drop Out Rates	Least Juvenile Arrests	County	# of Juvenile Arrests	High School Drop Out Rates
67	Mobile	2,883	50.0%	1	Choctaw	1	31.3%
66	Jefferson	1,638	40.0%	2	Bullock	2	38.8%
65	Madison	1,255	39.1%	2	Bibb	2	55.3%
64	Montgomery	903	54.7%	3	Perry	3	29.8%
63	Tuscaloosa	811	42.9%	3	Lawrence	3	31.6%

Juvenile crime is a clear and unavoidable problem in this state; these young people represent not only the children and future of Alabama, but also the next generation of taxpaying citizens. It has been shown that repressive measures and harsh punishments do not work as a preventative measure, and some studies suggest therapeutic measures have been the most effective deterrent for juvenile crime.<sup>103</sup> Government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are taking the usual steps well after the fact, reacting to the problem and working with known juvenile offenders. Effective prevention of juvenile crimes should take place within families long before crimes are committed. A study of 232 boys born in the urban area of Boston, Massachusetts showed that competent mothers and high family expectations work in preventing juvenile crime. The study also points out that the issue of criminal behavior and the role of the family date all the way back to ancient Greece, where Plato and Aristotle discussed how to raise children.<sup>104</sup>

To address the issue of juvenile delinquency, Alabama needs first to understand why juveniles are committing crimes. Juveniles in a vast majority of these cases are part of a larger group of similarly minded youth or gangs, and it is very rare that juveniles commit crimes on their own.<sup>105</sup>

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that, among juvenile offenders, boys are responsible for 70% of juvenile crimes. In 2006, DHHS concluded that although only 16% of juvenile population in the United States is African-American, yet this same group commits 30% of the juvenile crimes. It is also troublesome that almost 20% of people arrested for violent crimes in the country were under the age of 18. The DHHS found that deterrence could play an important role in preventing juvenile crimes, but the most important role in prevention lies with the family, as well as the juvenile's commitment to school and other social activities.<sup>106</sup>

Not surprisingly, the counties in Alabama with higher numbers of police officers also have higher crime rates. With few exceptions, there are fewer per capita officers in rural areas than in urban counties, and also less violent and non-violent crime. When it comes to quality of life and public safety, counties facing the greatest challenges are urban counties, mainly Jefferson, Mobile, Madison and Montgomery. Those counties are very similar when it comes to the number of police officers per capita, and similar in their economic and educational portfolios. What seems to be fueling high crime rates is the urban environment and not lack of an effective

police force, but rather economic deprivation or poor educational profiles.

In Montgomery County, however, data show a disproportionately small number of adult arrests. According to statistics provided by the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center, in Montgomery County in 2009 there were only 2,270 adult arrests.<sup>107</sup> That number is extremely low for a county as large as Montgomery County and shows a discrepancy when compared to other counties. For example, by the same source (Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center) and in the same year, in Mobile County there were 27,553 adult arrests, nearly 10 times as many as in Montgomery. In Jefferson County there were 21,896 arrests and in Madison County there were 10,677 arrests.<sup>108</sup>

Although there are counties such as Etowah, Dale, Chilton, Calhoun, Talladega and Dallas that are experiencing high violent crime rates, urban counties are among the worse when it comes to rapes per capita. For example, in Jefferson County in 2009 there was one rape for every 2,111 citizens, far higher than neighboring Walker County's rate of 1 for every 3,437. Similar to Jefferson, in Montgomery County there was one rape for every 2,463 residents, one for every 2,926 residents in Madison, and Mobile County reported the least

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<sup>103</sup> The report extensively discusses whether juvenile treatment programs are having any real effect on juvenile crimes rates. Findings in the report indicate that therapeutic treatments are a much better way of dealing with juvenile offenders than repressive measures such as prisons or probation. The report provides data that support their argument that counseling, skills building programs and multiple services have much better recidivism numbers than programs that are founded on discipline or deterrence. Mark, Howell C., James, Kelly R., Marion, Chapman Gabrielle and Carver, Darin, *Improving the Effectiveness of Juvenile Justice Programs: A New Perspective on Evidence Based Practice* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, 2010).

<sup>104</sup> The study follows in detail the life of 232 boys born in 1926 and 1933 into their adult life. Please see McCord, Joan, *Family Relationships, Juvenile Delinquency, and Adult Criminality* (Criminology Vol. 29, No 3, 1991), 397-417.

<sup>105</sup> The report analyzes the problems of juvenile delinquency around the world and what leads juveniles to commit crimes. The report finds that economic inequality, especially in urban areas, leads to the juvenile crimes. Urban surroundings, where ties among people are not emphasized as in rural communities, are a breeding ground for juvenile delinquency. The report finds that it is generally a proven pattern that countries with higher urbanization have much more juvenile delinquency. UN, *World Youth Report* (New York: United Nations, 2003).

<sup>106</sup> United States, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, *Fact Sheet: Juvenile Delinquency*, accessed February 17, 2011.

<sup>107</sup> State of Alabama, Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center, *Crime in Alabama, 2009*, accessed November 20, 2010, [http://acjic.state.al.us/cia/2009\\_cia.pdf](http://acjic.state.al.us/cia/2009_cia.pdf).

<sup>108</sup> State of Alabama, *Crime Report 2009*.



number of rapes per capita for all the urban counties with one for every 6,750 residents.<sup>109</sup>

Though reports of rape are present in nearly all the counties, there is a clear trend correlating rape with the larger metropolitan areas. At first glance, it is encouraging that there are fewer rape cases in Alabama than in the rest of the country; the national average is nearly double that of the state.<sup>110</sup> That being said, it is still vitally important that the state continues to work to address causes of violent crimes against women as these statistics may represent only a portion of actual incidents. Rape is still a crime that quite often goes unreported, although many steps have been taken to make reporting much easier for victims.<sup>111</sup>

Though there is a large gap between urban and rural counties in many other indicators, one of the most startling differences in public safety is the number of robberies per capita. While Winston County reported only one robbery in total, or one robbery per 23,997 residents, Jefferson County reported 1,989 robberies, or one robbery per 334 residents. Similarly, Shelby County reported a low 42 robberies, or one robbery for every 4,583 residents, and urban Mobile County reported far higher rate of one robbery for every 342 residents. This trend in robbery statistics is reflected across all the counties, with urban Montgomery and Madison counties fairing slightly better than Jefferson and Mobile counties. More stark is the difference between property thefts specifically targeting automobiles in urban and rural counties, as the urban areas account for a tremendous percentage of Alabama's total for this indicator. In thefts involving automobiles, Jefferson, Montgomery and Mobile counties have the highest rates among the 67 counties, with Madison County as the 5th worst for this indicator. Though it is clear that this issue is concentrated in the few urban areas of the state, there is also a regional trend as the Insurance Information Institute ranks the southern United States as the

area with the highest number of stolen vehicles in the country.<sup>112</sup> For Alabama residents, this translates to not only higher costs to insure vehicles, but the creation of a dangerous and troubling environment in which to live, work and raise a family.

**The issue of public safety plays a pivotal role in assessing quality of life in Alabama; both *being safe* and *feeling safe* are two conditions necessary for a successful and prosperous community.** Alabama's counties, especially those housing large metropolitan cities, will need to do more when it comes to crime prevention, especially in the area of juvenile crime. It is imperative that these metropolitan counties implement strategies that address these issues. Also, as one of the top states for deaths by firearms in the country, Alabama needs to address violent crime more fundamentally, armed with a better understanding of the causes of these crimes. The state of Alabama must mitigate these detrimental factors to quality of life, and special attention should be paid to the counties that are most affected. The urban areas of this state have the best vantage point to assess potential causes in the community. They must play a key role in developing a strategy to fight and, most importantly, prevent criminal activities. That is especially important when it comes to juvenile crime rates because not only do these offenders represent the next generation of leadership in Alabama, but their incarceration takes a heavy toll on state and local finances.

<sup>109</sup> See Public Safety Indicator Tables.

<sup>110</sup> The article discusses a drop in rape cases in the United States and trends since the 1970s. Please see, Fahrenthold, A. David, "Statistics Show Drop in U.S Rape Cases: Many Say Crime is Still Often Unreported," (Washington, DC: *The Washington Post*, 2006). <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2006/06/18/AR2006061800610.html>

<sup>111</sup> Fahrenthold, "Statistics Show Drop in U.S Rape Cases."

<sup>112</sup> See *Auto Theft* for further discussion of auto theft in the United States with statistical explanations and rankings for the largest metro areas in the U.S.. *Auto Theft* (New York: Insurance Information Institute, 2010). <http://www.iii.org/media/hot-topics/insurance/test4/>

# The State of Education in Alabama



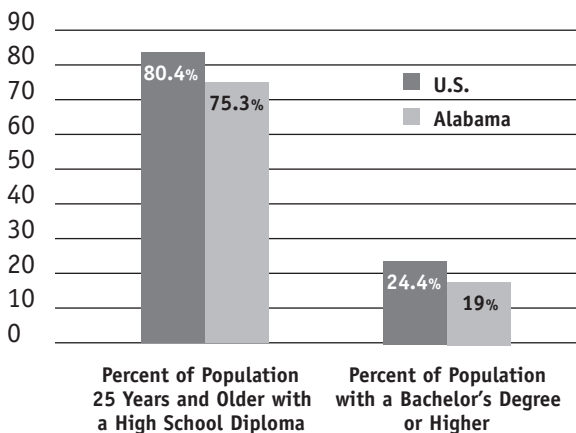
**Education Rank and Score** *Table 5.1*  
Maximum Score 40

Rank in Education	County	Education Score	Rank in Education	County	Education Score
1	Shelby	36	35	Randolph	20
2	Madison	32	35	Clay	20
3	Jefferson	29	35	Fayette	20
3	Lee	29	35	Etowah	20
5	Lauderdale	28	35	Chilton	20
6	Baldwin	27	35	Covington	20
6	Coffee	27	35	Pickens	20
6	Crenshaw	27	42	Elmore	19
9	Morgan	26	42	Cleburne	19
10	Limestone	25	42	Cherokee	19
10	Dale	25	42	Mobile	19
10	Colbert	25	42	St. Clair	19
10	Tuscaloosa	25	42	Butler	19
10	Marshall	25	48	Choctaw	18
10	Escambia	25	48	Blount	18
16	Calhoun	24	48	Washington	18
16	Walker	24	48	DeKalb	18
18	Houston	23	48	Barbour	18
18	Montgomery	23	48	Clarke	18
18	Jackson	23	48	Lowndes	18
18	Winston	23	48	Wilcox	18
18	Perry	23	56	Talladega	17
23	Autauga	22	56	Macon	17
23	Lawrence	22	58	Geneva	16
23	Cullman	22	58	Henry	16
23	Tallapoosa	22	58	Bullock	16
23	Monroe	22	61	Chambers	15
23	Conecuh	22	61	Coosa	15
23	Sumter	22	63	Hale	14
30	Marion	21	63	Dallas	14
30	Lamar	21	65	Russell	12
30	Pike	21	65	Greene	12
30	Franklin	21	67	Bibb	11
30	Marengo	21	<i>Gray indicates scores below levels deemed to be critical</i>		

In the State of the Union speech that President Barack Obama gave in January 2011, he stated that our way forward is through education, and that the country is lagging behind other nations.<sup>113</sup> To some extent, this is true; the United States is falling behind by almost all comparisons when it comes to education compared to other OECD (Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development) countries, as well as to some emerging countries.<sup>114</sup> The United States, though, still has one of the top university systems in the world, and the largest percentage of foreign students compared to other countries. Though Alabama has its share of foreign students and top-class universities, data pertaining to the state of education among its 67 counties portray a grim picture.

Alabama is not the most troubled state in the U.S. in this indicator, but with a high school dropout rate of 41.4% statewide, there is an obvious need for improvement.<sup>115</sup> With one of the highest dropout rates in the nation, Alabama is not providing a quality education for all its citizens when so many of its youth are not participating. Also below national average, only 75.3% of the population 25 years and older have a high school diploma. This crisis in education threatens to impede further growth in Alabama because it hinders the goal of creating and maintaining a skilled, educated workforce, and saddles the state with the costs often associated with high school dropouts. With these alarming statistics, citizens from all walks of life in Alabama have good reason to fear for the future of this state and the next generation's ability to take the reins of leadership, much less compete in the job market.

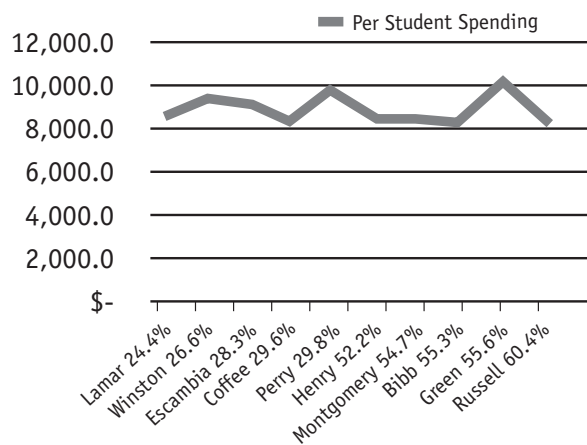
**Percent of Population with a High School Diploma or Bachelor's Degree in Alabama and the Nation** *Table 5.2*<sup>116</sup>



Some Alabama counties are doing much better than others in key areas of education, and this inequality among the counties limits the state as a whole. Data collected demonstrate there are significant differences among counties when it comes to spending per student, basic literacy skills and high school dropout rates.

The data collected show that some counties are spending more money per student and obtaining less beneficial results than counties that are spending less per student. For example, Barbour County is spending \$9,661 per student, but still has a dropout rate of 50.9%. The dropout rate is higher than the state average, and the number of high school graduates throughout the county is much lower than the state average of 64.7%. On the other hand, Shelby County spends \$8,000 per student on a yearly basis, and has a high school dropout rate of 33.5%. These numbers are a serious warning that Alabama desperately needs to engage its students in a more effective manner.<sup>117</sup>

**Dropout Rates in Alabama Counties: Highest and Lowest Performing Counties with Per Student Expense** *Table 5.3*<sup>118</sup>



<sup>113</sup> President of the United States of America, "Remarks by the President in State of Union Address," news release, January 25, 2011, The White House, accessed January 26, 2011, Remarks by the President in State of Union Address.

<sup>114</sup> Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org).

<sup>115</sup> The report discusses the problem of dropout rates and what effect that has on a nation as a whole. The method of calculation for the rates used in this report conform to federal standards of high school dropout rate reporting. *High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 2007*. (Washington, DC: U.S Department of Education: National Center for Education Statistics, 2009), 21.

<sup>116</sup> See Education Indicator Tables.

<sup>117</sup> See Education Indicator Tables.

<sup>118</sup> See Education Indicator Tables.

The current state of education in Alabama is born of the conflict and checkered past of Alabama's history. The state has long struggled with inequalities and injustice; Jim Crow laws, separate but equal, and *de jure* and *de facto* segregation have left an enduring smear on the state in the eyes of many. Though gone are the days of legal segregation, the long-term impact of repressive laws is still felt both in the state and throughout the Deep South. With the abolition of *de jure* segregation in 1954 with the landmark *Brown vs. Board of Education* case, the country moved toward a more egalitarian society.<sup>119</sup> Today the consequences of these laws are still evident, although *Brown vs. Board of Education*, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 are almost distant history.<sup>120</sup> Fundamental changes in a society take time, both in their fruition and in their proper adaptation, and although Alabama has come a long way from this period, the consequences of the past are still being felt.

Central and southwest Alabama continues to lag behind the rest of the state in many areas. Much of the region was initially prized for agricultural uses and the rich black soil that is prevalent throughout the area. This region has been home to the state's capital and some of the most monumental events in the Civil Rights Movement, but it is also has the distinction of being the most economically challenged region the state.

Central and Southwest Alabama Lowest  
Income Per Capita Table 5.4<sup>121</sup>

County	Income Per Capita
Wilcox	\$21,228
Bullock	\$21,634
Barbour	\$23,764
Sumter	\$24,129
Macon	\$24,725

Looking at the example of southwest Alabama's Wilcox County, a cursory glance at education indicators shows a high school dropout rate that is alarming, but still not as high as other counties in the state. The indicator that is particularly troubling for this county is the measurement of residents who lack basic literacy skills. In Wilcox County, 30% of residents are lacking basic literacy skills, nearly one-third of the entire population. Wilcox County is not alone when it comes to this indicator. In Bullock County, 34% of residents lack basic literacy skills and only 60.5% of the population 25 years and over

is a high school graduate. Bullock County is not only impacted by problems in education, but is also crippled with a bad economy. For all Alabama rural counties, agriculture was historically the dominant economic force, and agriculture and forestry still maintain this role in many rural areas today. The unemployment rate in Bullock, although not the worst in the state, is still high at 15.4%. The county is also lagging far behind others in income per capita (\$21,634) and in average wages (\$27,797). Even more devastating for this county, though, is the poverty rate. With a 33.6% poverty rate, Bullock County is by definition the poorest county in Alabama.<sup>122</sup>

Education plays possibly the most important role when it comes to creating a skilled workforce. Quality education is a good determinant of future economic growth, potential future earnings and an area's ability to attract business. It is also one of the most effective ways to fight against poverty by ensuring future growth and providing potential investors to the area with a skilled, well-educated workforce.<sup>123</sup>

For the affected counties in Alabama, the United States is definitely not an example to follow today when it comes to K through 12 education, as the country is lagging behind others in many areas of education. Scholars are going as far as to state that low quality education is almost as dangerous as having no education at all.<sup>124</sup>

In 2006, the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) compared various countries (mainly OECD countries) and their cognitive skills. The authors of the study used scores in math and science as indicators of the cognitive abilities of the students. They found that the United States performed far from the top when compared to other

<sup>119</sup> United States, Department of Justice, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *History of Brown V. Board of Education*, accessed February 23, 2011, <http://www.uscourts.gov/EducationalResources/ConstitutionResources/LegalLandmarks/HistoryOfBrownVBoardOfEducation.aspx>.

<sup>120</sup> United States, The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, *Teaching With Documents: The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*, accessed January 22, 2011, <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/civil-rights-act/>.

<sup>121</sup> See Education Indicator Tables.

<sup>122</sup> See Education Indicator Tables.

<sup>123</sup> Authors discuss education quality and how education contributes to economic growth. Please see, Hanushek, Eric and Woessmann, Ludger, *Education and Economic Growth* (Washington DC: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, 2007), 2.

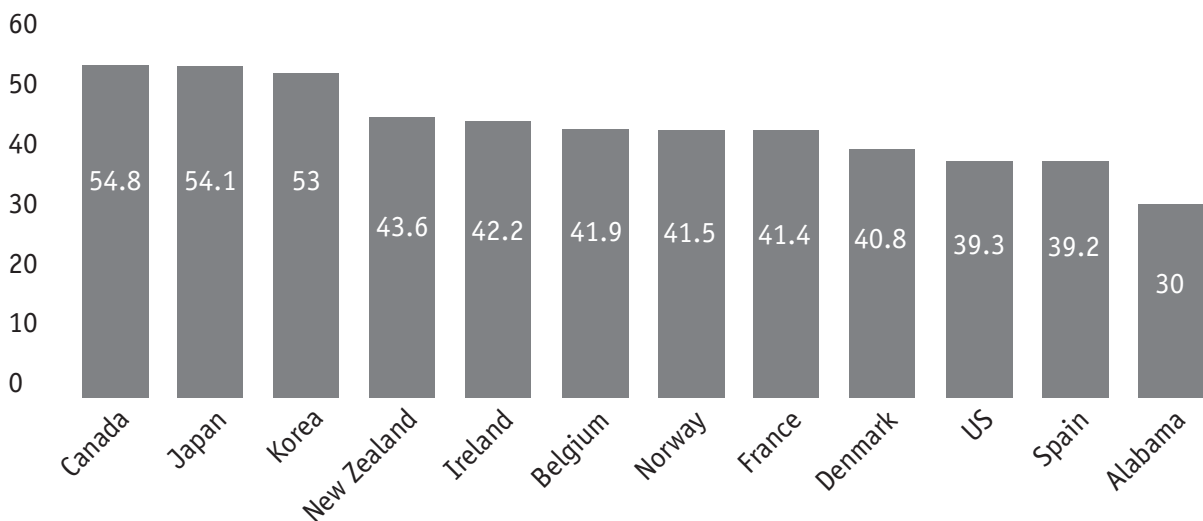
<sup>124</sup> For further information on low quality education and its impact on the population, please see Hanushek, Eric and Woessmann, Ludger *Education and Economic Growth* (Washington DC: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, 2007), 12.

developed nations, and that indicators in K through 12 education are alarming. According to the study, the United States, even with an outstanding university system that provides hope for the future of the U.S economy, has serious flaws in its K through 12 education system that threaten the U.S economy in the long run.<sup>125</sup>

Education is not only fundamental to quality of life, but it plays a vital role in developing the type of workforce needed to grow an economy. For Bullock or any other county facing severe economic problems, high quality education could lead the way out of poverty and economic deprivation. In a 2010 report by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, entitled *Higher Education, Globalization and Economic Development in Virginia*, the Council gave recommendations pertaining to education in

Virginia and in the United States as a whole, making a clear correlation between education and economic development. The Council takes a firm stand on the role of a high quality education in today's globalized world as a vital aspect of future economic growth, especially when considering the shift from manufacturing-based industry to knowledge-based, highly skilled industries.<sup>126</sup> Also, the report argues that in recent years, other developed countries have surpassed the United States when it comes to the percentage of citizens with associate's or bachelor's degrees. Although the U.S. did not experience a decline or an increase in these numbers (39% of the population have a bachelor's degree), other developed countries have made huge steps forward in reaching over 50% of their population holding associate's or bachelor's degrees.<sup>127</sup>

**Percent of Population 25-34 with Associate's Degree or Higher Internationally and in Alabama** *Table 5.5*<sup>128</sup>



Scholars from the Arise Citizens Policy Project provide insight into the kind of problem Alabama is facing today. They argue that, based on the Southern Poverty Law Center's statistics on high school dropout rates, every day in Alabama a full classroom of students quits school; this is a startling number. The numbers that really command attention are the salary projections for Alabama high school students who dropped out in 2007 and would have earned an additional \$6.7 billion in their lifetime had they finished high school.<sup>129</sup>

The specific economic impact that dropout rates have on Alabama counties is hard to measure, but correlations between the many indicators are strong

<sup>125</sup> Authors discuss test scores of students in the U.S compared to students in other countries. Also, the report provides tables with scores from many countries. Please see Hanushek, Eric A., Jamison, Dean T., Jamison, Eliot A. and Woessmann, Ludger, *Education and Economic Growth: It's Not Just Going to School, but Learning Something While There That Matters* (Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), 2006).

<sup>126</sup> *Higher Education, Globalization and Economic Development in Virginia*, April 27, 2010, accessed November 12, 2010, <http://www.schev.edu/Reportstats/GlobalizationReport.pdf>. 1-16.

<sup>127</sup> *Higher Education, Globalization and Economic Development in Virginia*.

<sup>128</sup> *Education at a Glance 2008*, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, accessed 6 February 2011, [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org).

<sup>129</sup> Stephen Stetson, "Dead End: Dropout Crisis Imperils Alabama's Economy," *Arise Citizens Policy Project*, Montgomery, AL 2008.

evidence of a relationship. The counties with low basic literacy skills are the ones that are poorest and most economically deprived in the state. For one county in Alabama, the fight to provide adequate education is proving to be more than simply an issue of funding. Greene County, with 31% of residents who are lacking basic literacy skills, is expending comparatively larger amounts of financial resources on education. With \$10,320 per student, Greene County has one of the highest expenditures per student in the state, but also has a very high dropout rate of 56.6%. This is strong evidence to suggest that funding alone does not necessarily translate into immediate or desirable results that would alleviate a population from poverty. With a

poverty rate of 30.3%, Greene County is among the poorest counties in the state. Even the number of teachers per student in Greene County suggests that funding is not the only factor that contributes to the poor performance of the system and the low basic literacy skills. In Greene County, there is one teacher per 15.61 students. To put this number in perspective, Madison County—with only 10% of residents lacking basic literacy skills—has one teacher per every 15.5 students. Also, Madison County spends less on education for a single student; Madison County spends \$9,194 per student, and 85.4% of the residents 25 and older have a high school diploma, while the dropout rate is a far lower 39.1%.<sup>130</sup>

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### Top Five Counties in Spending Per Student with Dropout Rates and Teacher/Student Ratios *Table 5.6*<sup>131</sup>

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County	Spending Per Student	Rank	Dropout Rate	Teacher/Student Ratio
Conecuh	\$10,662	1	43.4%	1:14
Sumter	\$10,373	2	34.6%	1:16
Greene	\$10,320	3	56.6%	1:16
Lowndes	\$10,312	4	41.0%	1:18
Baldwin	\$9,927	5	44.6%	1:17

There are solutions in addition to increased financing to improve the educational and, inevitably, the economic picture of Greene and other similarly profiled counties. Sumter County, another area with a deprived economic profile, also has a problem with high percentages of low basic literacy skills. With 28% of residents lacking basic literacy skills, Sumter County is among those counties that top the list of counties in crisis. Unlike Greene County, 34.6% of Sumter’s high school students dropout, and only 64.8% of the adult residents have a high school diploma. Similar to Greene County, Sumter also spends \$10,373 per student without the desired return on its investment. **Though this number is higher than many counties in the state, it is still below national averages.**<sup>132</sup>

As many scholars have argued, merely attending school does not prepare youth for the “real world” or its associated challenges, nor does it impart the importance of a formal education.<sup>133</sup> In *Dead End: Dropout Crisis Imperils Alabama’s Economy*, scholars give a startling synopsis of historical data that show a better educated population produces a higher Gross Domestic Product. In the historical analysis of education’s influence on economic development

and quality of life, the authors look back at the formative years of many large, developed countries and found that an early emphasis on education allows countries like the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States to reach ahead of other nations in producing GDP.<sup>134</sup>

Similar to the case of the economic indicators – where popular opinion is that Alabama is if not the worst then at least one of the worst states in the country – educational indicators prove that Alabama is actually closer to the middle of the spectrum. The average percentage of the population 25 years and older with a high school diploma in the United States is 80.4%, while in Alabama it is 75.3%. In a 2007 Department of Education report on high school completion rates in 2005, Alabama

<sup>130</sup> See Education Indicator Tables.

<sup>131</sup> See Education Indicator Tables.

<sup>132</sup> See Education Indicator Tables.

<sup>133</sup> *Higher Education, Globalization and Economic Development in Virginia*.

<sup>134</sup> Authors provide detailed analysis of educational achievements throughout the world and an extensive discussion as to why education matters when it comes to a society’s well being. Please see Stevens, Philip and Weale, Martin *Education and Economic Growth* (London, UK: National Institute of Economic and Social Research, 2003), 1-28.

ranked higher than the economically more developed Georgia at 62.4%, and Florida at 63.6%, with an overall high school graduation rate for the state of Alabama of 66.2%. Alabama ranked better that year than Nevada (55.8%), Mississippi (63.5%) and Louisiana (59.5%) in graduation rates, but trailed behind much of the country in percentage of students completing high school. Wisconsin had the highest percentage of high school completions with 87.5% of students graduating.<sup>135</sup> Looking again at data on the population 25 years and older with a high school diploma, what is worrisome is that so few of the counties in Alabama have higher percentages of graduates than the rate for the entire state of Wisconsin at 85.1%. The only two counties in Alabama to outperform Wisconsin in this measurement are Shelby county at 86.8%, and Madison County at 85.4% of the population 25 years and older with a high school diploma.

**Population 25 Years and Older with Diploma: Top, Middle and Low Performing Counties with Dropout Rates**

*Table 5.7*<sup>136</sup>

County	H.S. Grads >25	Dropout Rate
Shelby	86.8%	33.5%
Madison	85.4%	39.1%
Baldwin	82.0%	44.6%
Lee	81.4%	42.4%
Jefferson	80.9%	40.0%
Marshall	69.4%	46.5%
Pike	69.1%	48.4%
Escambia	68.5%	28.3%
Covington	68.4%	43.4%
Monroe	67.9%	33.9%
Franklin	62.1%	32.1%
Randolph	61.9%	34.5%
Bullock	60.5%	38.8%
Crenshaw	60.1%	33.1%
Wilcox	59.5%	38.6%

One of the indicators that demonstrated the competitive advantages or disadvantages of counties in regard to education is the percent of residents who have bachelor's degrees. It is not surprising that Shelby County has the highest percentage of residents with bachelor's degrees. Many people working in Birmingham and Jefferson County – the largest city and county in Alabama – live in Shelby County. Next on the list of counties that are in the top when

it comes to residents that hold a bachelor's degree is Madison County, with 34.3%. As host to the NASA center and numerous other companies and institutions that require a highly skilled workforce, this should serve as no surprise either, as the driving force of Madison's economy requires a highly skilled, well-educated workforce.<sup>137</sup>

**Percent of Population with Bachelor's Degrees in Alabama Counties; Top and Low Performing Counties** *Table 5.8*<sup>138</sup>

Highest % of Population	
County	Persons with Bachelor Degree or Higher
Jefferson	24.6%
Lee	27.9%
Montgomery	28.5%
Madison	34.3%
Shelby	36.8%

Lowest % of Population	
County	Persons with Bachelor Degree or Higher
Bibb	7.1%
Lawrence	7.5%
Bullock	7.7%
Clay	7.8%
Lamar	7.8%

The county with the lowest percentage of residents with a bachelor's degree is Bibb County, with only 7.1%. Although Bibb County has a 17% rate of people lacking basic literacy skills, this does not put Bibb County in the worst category when it comes to this indicator; however, this county also had a staggering 55.3% high school dropout rate and only 63.2% of the residents 25 and older finished high school. Although the unemployment rate in Bibb is not extremely high at 10.1%, the poverty rate is above average at 18.5%. These data suggest a strong correlation between higher education and wages, as Bibb County is severely lacking in both.

<sup>135</sup> United States, Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 2007*. (Washington D.C: U.S Department of Education, 2009), accessed November 21, 2010.

<sup>136</sup> See Education Indicator Tables.

<sup>137</sup> See Education Indicator Tables.

<sup>138</sup> See Education Indicator Tables.

Another county that has a surprisingly low rate of residents who hold bachelor's degrees is Mobile County. For a county that has an active maritime port, is on the well-travelled Interstate 10 corridor, and has a better than average economic profile, 18.5% of the population having a bachelor's degree is quite low when compared to similarly sized counties such as Montgomery (28.5%), Jefferson (24.6%) and Madison (34.3%).<sup>139</sup>

On the other end of the spectrum, in Montgomery County it is not surprising that 28.5% of its residents hold a bachelor's degree. Montgomery County has not only attracted Hyundai Motor Company but is also home to numerous state institutions as well as Maxwell AFB and the Air University. Similarly, Jefferson County and Birmingham are home to numerous corporate headquarters, universities and research facilities that require skilled and highly educated workers. Placing value on nurturing a highly educated workforce to continue growth has proven successful for several Alabama counties, but this paradigm is best illustrated by Germany and the German companies heavily invested in Alabama. In light of Mercedes-Benz in Tuscaloosa and ThyssenKrupp in the Mobile area, this will hopefully be a relationship that continues to grow in the future.

The German educational system, with greater emphasis on availability and the creation of a strong, vibrant and readily available workforce, has provided the country with a firm foundation for economic growth. Although the country experienced an initial drop in economic activity in 2008 as a consequence of lower exports, Germany was quick to rebound and managed to exit the recession quicker than most countries. This feat is especially remarkable given the European Union's current financial problems and the troubling economies of member states Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain. In spite of this precarious environment, the unemployment rate in Germany is around 7.2%, and the country is currently experiencing a huge trade surplus. Germany heavily exports cars and other sophisticated machinery, with the main exporters being Audi, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, VW, Siemens and Bosch. Those companies are the backbone of the German economy, and they have managed to keep their exports at a very high level both in quality and in size, exporting to the United States, China and the rest of European Union. Germany has faced many challenges throughout the last century, especially after WWII and with unification after the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Education is often cited as the primary reason Germany managed to have such a jump start in the few decades after

WWII, and also why the country managed to avoid the last recession almost entirely. Vocational education in Germany continually provides highly skilled workers to the economy. This investment in the education of the country's workforce will continue to make Germany a safe place for foreign investment and new industries.<sup>140</sup>

For Alabama to be on par with other countries there needs to be a fundamental change in funding education, implementing education and, most importantly, valuing education as a vital tool for development. The state cannot allow itself to ignore the importance of education as an investment in the next generation of taxpaying citizens, and many counties in the state need a more comprehensive approach to funding education.

Education in Alabama is funded from several earmarked sources, the largest of which is individual and corporate tax, sales, utility and use taxes. This presents challenges in funding schools, as these sources are much more susceptible to the whims of a fickle economy than the historically more stable revenue sources many other states base a larger percentage of their budgeting upon. In the past this has translated to severe budget cuts in education preceding years where the economy underperformed. Although the concept of an increased property tax has been considered for years, it has never been adequately employed as solution to fund the state's ailing schools. Alabama's educational system could obviously benefit from funding education with a comparatively more stable higher property tax if the additional funds were effectively spent.

Scholars recognize that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) erred in imposing a Value Added Tax on many developing countries in the 1990s, and this tax's negative impact is still apparent in these regions today. Those taxes usually fueled an unnecessary bureaucratic apparatus and served to further deprive and push into poverty an already poor class of society.<sup>141</sup> Some of the counties in Alabama are poorer than many municipalities in Eastern Europe or Asia, with a much worse portfolio than many in the developing world. An increase in sales or income tax could further devastate these counties, garnering short-term gains in a potential trade for long term loss.

Alabama enjoys the lowest property taxes in the United States and, as a result, ranks No. 50 in revenue collected to fund services through ad valorem taxes in the nation. In fact, Alabama rates are so low

<sup>139</sup> See Education Indicator Tables.

<sup>140</sup> Kesselman, *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, 172-173.

<sup>141</sup> Stiglitz, *Globalization and its Discontents*, 20.



that only when doubled would they be comparable to the next lowest state, and tripled to reach the national average. While this creates an environment that is very appealing for large landowners and the timber industry, it deprives the state of a significant source of stable income for chronically underfunded schools. Though increased funding through higher property taxes is not a catch-all solution to the problems plaguing Alabama schools, there are some examples of its effectiveness in providing a quality education for the state's youth. The City of Mountain Brook in Jefferson County levies what is likely one of the highest property tax rates in Alabama and boasts some of the best schools in the state, spending an average of \$12,006 per student. More than 53% of the system's funding is obtained through the higher 9.9-mill tax on real estate, which has received widespread public support and was recently renewed by a public referendum in 2010 by an overwhelming 97%. Mountain Brook is a very affluent community and there are certainly other factors contributing to the excellent performance of this system, but the fact that only 4.7% of the students drop out of high school supports the concept of increasing funding through higher taxes to more effectively fund the state's schools.<sup>142</sup>

In *Comparing Public Policies: Issues and Choices in Six Industrial Countries*, scholars note that the U.S. is in an almost constant 30-year battle to determine what kind of education reform is needed. Since a federal commission first issued the *Nation at Risk* report in 1983, the United States has been working to determine the best approach to fixing education as it becomes more and more apparent that U.S. students are lagging behind their foreign counterparts.<sup>143</sup> The constant battle over education has led to some significant reforms, but also showed that far more needs to be done to adequately address a quickly worsening situation.<sup>144</sup>

One of the disappointing reforms that has been tried in this country is the No Child Left Behind program, which fell short of its desired results. This program emphasized standardized testing as a means to achieve measurable goals in improving education. What it became for the many vocal critics of the 2001 act was an inadequately funded mandate and a hindrance to an educator's ability to teach. As previously stated in this report, simply having a higher graduation rate does not mean that the country is producing an educated and skilled workforce, it is instead a question of quality, and today the workforce that will meet the demands of new industries has to be extremely sophisticated.<sup>145</sup> No Child Left Behind found little common ground when it comes to support; many argued that the

program overemphasized standardized testing, although many scholars agree that a provision that requires schools to bring low-achieving students on par with their peers is simply good policy.<sup>146</sup>

President Obama's "Race to the Top" education grant initiative created some changes in education in many states. In Phase I, Delaware and Tennessee were awarded funds, while Phase II funds were allocated to 10 states: District of Columbia, Georgia, Maryland, Hawaii, Florida, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Ohio and Rhode Island. Ranking 36th in Phase II competition, Alabama was not awarded funding in either of these phases. The program brought changes to education in the states that successfully participated in the competition; it will, however, take some time before an assessment of an impact of this program can be made on the state of the educational system.<sup>147</sup>

The problem of repairing the state's system of education is one of the most important—if not the most important—question for the future of Alabama. Nearly all academics agree that education is the foundation of economic growth. Countries like China that have been living in society reminiscent of the 18th century just a few decades ago have managed to make huge steps forward, mainly due to education.<sup>148</sup> China, as has been mentioned in the economic chapter, will likely need several more decades before the country's entire population gets access to equal opportunities and education. The example of China, however, does provide evidence that a huge step forward can be made, and that leaps of this kind are only possible by investing in education and developing a strong workforce. The state of Alabama and its counties are in a much better

<sup>142</sup> William Thorton, "97% of Mountain Brook Voters OK Renewing School Property Tax" *The Birmingham News*, Jan 6, 2006.

<sup>143</sup> "A Nation at Risk," April 1983, accessed December 04, 2010, <http://www2.ed.gov/pubs/NatAtRisk/index.html>.

<sup>144</sup> In this book authors extensively discuss economic, social, educational and other policies in six industrialized countries, including the United States Adolino, Jessica R., and Blake, Charles H., *Comparing Public Policies: Issues and Choices in Six Industrial Countries* (Washington DC: CQ Press, 2001), 287-290.

<sup>145</sup> Hanushek, *Education and Economic Growth: It's Not Just Going to School, but Learning Something While There That Matters*.

<sup>146</sup> This article from the Pew Research Center discusses advantages and disadvantages of the program. Also, Pew Research Center conducted a survey among parents to gauge support for the program *No Child Left Behind Gets Mixed Grades* (Washington DC: The Pew Research Center for the People and Press, 2007).

<sup>147</sup> This article discusses what states did in order to win Phase II competition and how much money was appropriated. *Nine States and the District of Columbia Win Second Round Race to the Top Grants* (Washington DC: U.S Department of Education, 2010). <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/nine-states-and-district-columbia-win-second-round-race-top-grants>

<sup>148</sup> Kesselman, *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, 625-682.

starting position than nearly all other regions in the world, because this state has the benefit of being an integral part of the country that is the largest economy. This opportunity, however, is in danger if not acted on soon because other countries are innovating more and more, and pacing their development with increased investment in educating their workforce.<sup>149</sup>

It is hard not to be worried about the indicators that show the state of education in Alabama, as there are a lot of challenges in front of Alabama and its counties when it comes to educational improvement. Alabama can also hold out hope that the state of the economy in the United States will drastically improve and fuel additional tax revenues that can be used for educational improvements, but it would be unwise for the state to place its future in the

hands of something as abstract as hope. The state should take concrete actions to ensure education is invested in and valued as a fundamental tool in building Alabama's economy. Aside from the need for additional funding, Alabama has to address several key issues when it comes to the effectiveness of the educational system, paying specific attention to addressing the alarmingly high number of residents that lack basic literacy skills and the state's high school dropout rate. It may be true that Alabama is not the worst in the country when it comes to education, but is that really an acceptable benchmark for the state to measure its success?

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<sup>149</sup> The report discusses the current state of innovations in the U.S and other countries, especially Asia. Noris, Teryn, *Asia Challenges U.S Innovation Leadership*, New Report Shows (Washington DC: Americans for Energy Leadership, 2010).

# *Counties in Crisis* Rankings: Counties Scoring at Crisis Levels



**Counties with a Cumulative Score Less Than 80** *Table 6.1*

Rank	County	Economy	Health	Public Safety	Education	Total
67	Greene	14	17	6.5	12	49.5
66	Wilcox	11	16	8	18	53
65	Dallas	15	27	3	14	59
64	Bullock	14	23	10	16	63
63	Macon	16	26	4.5	17	63.5
60	Perry	13	16	12.5	23	64.5
60	Lowndes	18	25	3.5	18	64.5
60	Hale	17	26	7.5	14	64.5
59	Russell	22	31	4.5	12	69.5
57	Sumter	15	24	10.5	22	71.5
57	Conecuh	17	28	4.5	22	71.5
56	Butler	20	28	6.5	19	73.5
53	Pickens	19	25	10	20	74
53	Clarke	19	35	2	18	74
53	Bibb	21	31	11	11	74
50	Monroe	20	29	4.5	22	75.5
50	Henry	23	32	4.5	16	75.5
50	Barbour	18	32	7.5	18	75.5
49	Coosa	21	33	7.5	15	76.5
48	Chambers	20	34	8	15	77
47	Talladega	24	32	4.5	17	77.5
46	Tallapoosa	21	32	3	22	78
44	Covington	22	35	1.5	20	78.5
44	Chilton	23	29	6.5	20	78.5
42	Marengo	21	34	3	21	79
42	Crenshaw	23	21	8	27	79
41	Escambia	20	32	2.5	25	79.5

*Cumulative scores below 80 were deemed to be critical*

# Summary



Throughout the state of Alabama there are alarming trends of poverty, crime, poor health and insufficient education. There are numerous examples of quality of life indicators in Alabama's counties that fall below those of Third World countries, and a growing gap between areas that are performing well and their strained counterparts. For Alabama, as part of one of the most powerful nations in the world, these numbers are simply unacceptable. Addressing these trends is imperative, and the task will require a serious commitment reflected in not only public policy but also the attitudes and values that these issues demand.

Looking at the state's economy, there is a dangerous disparity between the top performing counties and those that have never emerged from a period in history when an agrarian economy dominated. Bringing these counties up to par with the rest of the state is imperative to the continued growth and progress of Alabama, as research has shown that wide gaps in a region's development act as a crippling constraint to further growth in the entire area. The onus for this charge falls on the state as a whole, and the task of addressing economic reforms in blighted areas is an imperative step in ensuring future development for all of Alabama. Though this challenge seems daunting, the advantage that these counties have is an economic model that works, as there are counties that have been able to effectively begin their transition into a modern, global economy.

The correlation between a quality education and a vibrant economy is another striking trend that becomes apparent through the data analyzed in this report. Through examples provided by large modern economic systems present in foreign countries and those of counties right here in Alabama, it becomes clear that the foundation of a strong economy is a well-educated workforce. With a statewide average of 41.4% of students failing to graduate high school and only 19% of the state's workforce holding a bachelor's degree, there is a valid concern for our state's economic future. Though there are measures that have proven successful both in the state and abroad for providing quality education and instilling the value of education in students and leaders alike, many of these improvements rely on a fundamental redefinition of the importance of education both in future earnings and quality of life.

Juvenile crime is also a difficult issue to address, and will call for a similar plan of attack rooted in strong support from family and peers and a redefinition of what is acceptable in modern society. Crime among juveniles at current levels in Alabama deserves immediate attention. These offenders represent not only the next generation of Alabama citizens, but also a potential financial hardship to the state in costs associated with incarceration, law enforcement and loss of productive, taxpaying members of society. Illustrating further the interconnectivity between the individual indicators that comprise quality of life, juvenile crime can begin to be abated by getting youth more actively involved in their education, an undertaking that will take an extensive effort from families and policymakers alike.

Similarly, health and healthcare in Alabama require comparable attention in reevaluating priorities and lifestyles. Trends in obesity, diabetes and other preventable diseases, especially in the next generation of Alabamians, are at alarming levels and pose a great threat to not only those individuals lives but also present a substantial financial hardship to the state. Systems that have a proven track record of success in delivering quality and affordable healthcare in other regions deserve further examination for possible replication. The fact that this state has some of the most competent medical facilities in the country – yet so many Alabamians suffer from preventable diseases – should represent a unique opportunity to dramatically improve the state of healthcare in Alabama.

Noticeably absent from this report are substantive recommendations on how to specifically implement improvements to address problems the data suggest are detrimental to quality of life in Alabama. Instead, this report restricts its analysis to a thorough examination of the indicators that contribute to living standards, the degree to which they present themselves in areas in the state, and general trends in these indicators that need to be addressed to ensure for the future of the state. The intent of this report is not to provide specific, detailed steps necessary for Alabama to become prosperous; it would take far more than a hundred page report to substantively bring change to trends that have taken hundreds of years to come into being. The value of this work will be in illustrating the nature of problems inextricably linked to quality of life in

Alabama, their impact felt by its citizens and the difficulties they place on future generations. Additionally, the *Counties in Crisis* report also provides a glimpse at an answer to the policymaker's question, "what works and what does not?"

By ranking the 67 counties in the state from the highest to lowest performing, there will undoubtedly be those who interpret this as "best" and "worst," causing pride for the former, and concern for the latter. By no means is that the intent of this study and it is an unfortunate byproduct of a key asset to both this project and future reforms in this state. By ranking the counties in this manner, *Counties in Crisis* provides a clear indication of reforms that have worked for better performing counties and the reforms that have not worked in counties faring worse. What this should provide policy analysts is a clear indication of well-performing systems seen in areas of the state that excel in specific indicators and provide evidence of a policy that has served to alleviate problems of other struggling regions. The advantage of having a functional model is an incalculable asset in addressing quality of life issues in an informed and effective manner.

That being said, no county in Alabama is an island, and even the top performing counties fell short in many areas. While the areas that these counties excel in provide great insight into what works for Alabama, their shortcomings provide further support for the assertion that problems with quality of life exist throughout the state. Furthermore, what is evidenced by much of the discussion of these quality of life indicators is that while the impact is most readily apparent at the local level, all of these issues strongly impact the state as a whole. Aside from a moral obligation to improve the lives of fellow citizens, improving qual-

ity of life is an inherent self-interest for all Alabamians to remove serious limitations to our state's future.

All of the indicators addressed by this study directly translate into an expense that must be shouldered by every taxpayer in the state. Tax dollars are disproportionately allocated to pay for the consequences of poor public health while less costly preventative measures are not prioritized. High school dropouts are statistically shown to have significantly lower incomes on average and generate less revenue for the state. Many also become wards of the state penal system, consuming even more tax dollars. Communities unable to adequately provide education to properly develop the state's workforce often serve as a repellent to new industry, making employment for all in the state increasingly more difficult. In examining quality of life issues in this manner, as an inexcusable personal cost to every Alabamian, it becomes clear that no citizen can afford to ignore these indicators' impact on the state.

Every citizen of this state has a stake in Alabama's progress, and progress is inextricably tied to quality of life. This charge falls not just on an individual city or a county, but the entire state. When considering the quality of life indicators addressed in this report and the interconnectivity many issues have on a wide range of factors and geographical regions, there is little question that as long as these types of problems exist at significant levels anywhere in the state they present a clear threat to all of Alabama. By illustrating and explaining issues found to be detrimental to quality of life in the state, the *Counties in Crisis* report will better inform policy makers and the public on the need for systemic change in many areas of public policy in order to provide for the future of Alabama.

# Counties in Crisis Data Tables



## TIER I

**Economic Indicators** *Table 6.2* <sup>150</sup>

Region	Income per Capita	Unemployment Rate	Poverty Rate	Average Salary
United States	\$40,673	9.6%	14.3%	\$39,055
Alabama	\$33,655	9.1%	15.9%	\$38,055
Autauga	\$32,547	8.2%	10.7%	\$30,776
Baldwin	\$35,738	8.2%	9.9%	\$31,005
Barbour	\$23,764	11.3%	24.5%	\$29,127
Bibb	\$24,401	10.1%	18.5%	\$31,198
Blount	\$25,868	8.1%	13.1%	\$28,964
Bullock	\$21,634	15.4%	33.6%	\$27,797
Butler	\$27,800	11.8%	22.3%	\$28,105
Calhoun	\$32,199	8.9%	17.6%	\$35,840
Chambers	\$26,020	12.9%	18.7%	\$29,649
Cherokee	\$26,780	8.4%	17.7%	\$29,398
Chilton	\$27,477	8.8%	17.1%	\$28,943
Choctaw	\$26,763	11.2%	22.9%	\$41,409
Clarke	\$28,949	15.3%	20.6%	\$31,129
Clay	\$26,710	12.6%	16.9%	\$27,384
Cleburne	\$27,593	8.2%	14.8%	\$32,814
Coffee	\$33,884	7.2%	15.2%	\$28,444
Colbert	\$29,314	9.0%	12.7%	\$36,513
Conecuh	\$26,981	15.1%	24.9%	\$30,507
Coosa	\$25,342	12.1%	15.7%	\$30,525
Covington	\$28,271	8.6%	18.9%	\$28,688
Crenshaw	\$30,040	8.7%	18.9%	\$29,335
Cullman	\$28,930	8.4%	14.8%	\$31,471
Dale	\$29,438	7.8%	15.0%	\$47,767
Dallas	\$28,065	17.2%	29.9%	\$31,228
DeKalb	\$26,059	10.7%	18.7%	\$29,756
Elmore	\$31,043	8.2%	11.4%	\$30,083
Escambia	\$26,612	10.6%	24.1%	\$32,039
Etowah	\$29,947	9.1%	16.7%	\$31,593
Fayette	\$25,014	11.5%	19.8%	\$26,474
Franklin	\$25,698	9.5%	19.5%	\$28,318

*Continued*

Region	Income per Capita	Unemployment Rate	Poverty Rate	Average Salary
Geneva	\$29,419	8.5%	17.8%	\$25,377
Greene	\$31,713	19.8%	30.3%	\$30,345
Hale	\$25,431	11.1%	26.0%	\$29,332
Henry	\$28,022	8.9%	18.6%	\$32,593
Houston	\$35,289	7.8%	15.1%	\$33,818
Jackson	\$28,842	9.0%	16.9%	\$30,321
Jefferson	\$43,180	9.3%	13.8%	\$45,505
Lamar	\$25,502	12.7%	18.2%	\$30,386
Lauderdale	\$31,118	8.4%	17.0%	\$28,657
Lawrence	\$28,946	9.7%	15.0%	\$36,994
Lee	\$27,749	7.7%	15.5%	\$31,731
Limestone	\$31,130	7.4%	12.1%	\$38,368
Lowndes	\$27,568	14.6%	25.4%	\$34,452
Macon	\$24,725	12.3%	30.5%	\$30,572
Madison	\$39,954	7.1%	11.3%	\$48,040
Marengo	\$30,422	12.4%	22.6%	\$31,395
Marion	\$26,816	12.4%	19.6%	\$29,163
Marshall	\$30,046	8.0%	18.0%	\$28,938
Mobile	\$30,567	10.0%	18.6%	\$37,922
Monroe	\$27,628	15.6%	21.8%	\$36,399
Montgomery	\$39,182	9.2%	17.6%	\$39,582
Morgan	\$33,519	9.1%	12.5%	\$36,458
Perry	\$26,101	16.1%	31.7%	\$25,765
Pickens	\$27,887	10.6%	25.6%	\$27,905
Pike	\$32,889	7.5%	22.5%	\$30,661
Randolph	\$25,245	11.8%	17.3%	\$27,823
Russell	\$28,548	9.6%	23.3%	\$31,354
St. Clair	\$30,316	8.7%	12.6%	\$30,876
Shelby	\$44,658	6.8%	5.8%	\$43,294
Sumter	\$24,129	14.1%	32.9%	\$29,361
Talladega	\$30,324	11.0%	18.7%	\$37,901
Tallapoosa	\$29,889	12.0%	19.5%	\$30,671
Tuscaloosa	\$34,492	7.5%	17.3%	\$37,459
Walker	\$30,572	9.8%	17.4%	\$30,686
Washington	\$25,506	13.3%	18.2%	\$48,210
Wilcox	\$21,228	20.9%	30.2%	\$32,761
Winston	\$25,707	14.1%	18.3%	\$28,192

<sup>150</sup> Income Per Capita (2008): United States, Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Regional Economic Accounts* (Washington DC: U.S Department of Commerce, 2010).  
Unemployment Rate (2010): State of Alabama, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information Division, *County Unemployment Rates*.

Poverty Rate (2008): United States, Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Services, *State Fact Sheets: Alabama*, accessed November 30, 2010.

Average Salary (2008): United States, Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Regional Economic Accounts* (Washington DC: U.S Department of Commerce, 2010).

## Healthcare Indicators *Table 6.3*<sup>151</sup>

County	Life Expectancy	Infant Mortality Rate Per 1000 Births	Uninsured Population	Low Birth Weight in %	Obesity in %
Autauga	74.3	11.7	13.7	9.3	29.8
Baldwin	78.2	7.0	18.3	8.7	24.6
Barbour	78.9	17.0	13.5	11.6	36.3
Bibb	72.4	7.4	16.5	11.4	31.7
Blount	75.9	5.7	18.3	8.2	31.5
Bullock	75.0	N/A	15.0	12.4	37.1
Butler	72.1	13.5	14.4	11.1	35.8
Calhoun	74.5	8.5	13.1	8.5	33.3
Chambers	74.6	7.2	12.9	10.3	36.0
Cherokee	73.7	17.2	16.2	9.9	31.0
Chilton	73.8	13.1	16.6	9.5	33.9
Choctaw	77.2	N/A	14.7	10.5	36.5
Clarke	78.5	6.3	16.0	12.3	35.3
Clay	75.6	12.2	16.0	9.3	31.9
Cleburne	76.7	5.1	15.2	5.4	29.3
Coffee	76.6	8.7	15.7	9.6	32.6
Colbert	76.1	6.2	14.0	13.3	36.1
Conecuh	75.5	20.7	13.2	15.2	32.8
Coosa	75.2	8.7	15.4	9.6	34.7
Covington	75.1	11.3	14.8	9.0	32.2
Crenshaw	72.7	N/A	17.3	8.9	34.9
Cullman	74.4	10.8	16.0	10.1	29.5
Dale	77	3.9	14.5	8.5	33.0
Dallas	71.1	13.5	11.4	12.1	41.6
DeKalb	75.9	3.9	17.6	8.6	31.7
Elmore	76.9	5.8	15.1	8.9	28.3
Escambia	74.3	7.1	15.1	10.6	35.3
Etowah	73	15.0	13.7	8.6	32.8
Fayette	74.8	10.5	13.3	10.5	33.3
Franklin	72.4	8.3	17.3	10.2	30.0
Geneva	77.7	6.0	14.6	10.7	32.5
Greene	73.9	N/A	12.6	21.0	43.7
Hale	70.9	13.9	13.8	12.5	38.6
Henry	74.1	11.0	17.2	6.1	33.6
Houston	77.5	7.9	13.8	8.9	33.0
Jackson	73.5	12.8	14.0	10.4	30.9

*Continued*

<sup>151</sup> Life Expectancy, Infant Mortality, and Low Birth Weight: Louie Albert Woolbright, *County Health Profiles 2008*, report, (Montgomery: State of Alabama, Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, 2009).

Percent of Uninsured Population: United States, Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, *2007 Health Insurance Coverage (Uninsured Only) in Alabama for Age (Under 65 Years), Income (All Income Levels), and Sex (Both Sexes)*, accessed December 10, 2010. Obesity: CDC, *National Diabetes Fact Sheet 2011*.



<b>County</b>	<b>Life Expectancy</b>	<b>Infant Mortality Rate Per 1000 Births</b>	<b>Uninsured Population</b>	<b>Low Birth Weight in %</b>	<b>Obesity in %</b>
Jefferson	74.5	13.2	12.0	12.3	30.9
Lamar	74.4	11.3	15.5	13.1	30.0
Lauderdale	76.9	7.8	15.5	9.2	30.4
Lawrence	74.4	9.4	14.5	9.2	31.8
Lee	77.3	6.7	21.0	6.4	29.9
Limestone	77	6.6	16.3	10.0	27.5
Lowndes	73.1	5.6	17.9	13.4	40.3
Macon	73.2	12.1	13.7	13.3	40.6
Madison	77.6	11.1	14.7	11.3	30.8
Marengo	75.3	3.4	13.1	13.6	37.1
Marion	73.9	6.1	14.9	9.5	29.6
Marshall	73.8	5.3	17.1	7.7	27.5
Mobile	74.5	6.9	15.2	12.0	29.7
Monroe	74.3	6.9	14.2	18.7	36.3
Montgomery	76	9.8	12.5	12.4	32.9
Morgan	75.7	8.6	14.5	9.6	35.0
Perry	72.1	19.1	14.9	10.8	40.7
Pickens	74.6	19.2	15.8	13.1	35.9
Pike	73.6	12.7	15.6	8.9	36.8
Randolph	73.5	7.9	14.6	7.6	32.1
Russell	72.9	10.7	14.9	8.1	34.7
St. Clair	74.9	5.3	16.3	8.6	33.8
Shelby	78.6	4.2	12.4	7.9	27.5
Sumter	75	17.1	14.8	16.1	40.2
Talladega	73.1	14.4	11.0	13.2	32.8
Tallapoosa	74.6	13.0	13.1	12.5	33.2
Tuscaloosa	75.2	12.3	15.7	11.1	32.1
Walker	71.4	15.1	12.6	9.8	32.6
Washington	76.9	10.9	16.1	7.1	34.6
Wilcox	74.2	N/A	18.7	16.8	39.7
Winston	70.9	14.1	12.8	10.6	28.4

**Public Safety Indicators** *Table 6.4*<sup>152</sup>

<b>County</b>	<b>Homicide</b>	<b>Rape</b>	<b>Juvenile Arrests</b>	<b>Adult Arrests</b>	<b>Robbery</b>
Autauga	0	15	139	1,315	32
Baldwin	8	39	520	7,845	76
Barbour	0	10	60	920	12
Bibb	1	2	2	1,116	3
Blount	0	10	25	1,197	9
Bullock	2	0	2	218	6
Butler	0	7	63	1,293	6
Calhoun	6	63	322	6,704	177
Chambers	0	7	52	1,341	22
Cherokee	0	3	9	384	0
Chilton	0	26	37	2,453	16
Choctaw	0	0	1	7	1
Clarke	4	10	49	1,130	6
Clay	0	2	18	552	1
Cleburne	2	5	11	623	2
Coffee	3	18	76	1,720	24
Colbert	0	11	46	2,670	33
Conecuh	1	3	12	431	5
Coosa	1	0	5	542	6
Covington	7	15	131	2,132	10
Crenshaw	0	3	13	599	4
Cullman	3	16	62	4,535	6
Dale	5	29	130	2,887	26
Dallas	5	20	36	868	56
DeKalb	2	16	95	2,731	7
Elmore	6	18	158	4,775	27
Escambia	4	12	39	1,900	9
Etowah	3	53	209	5,398	112
Fayette	0	5	25	360	1
Franklin	1	4	27	1,019	11
Geneva	0	3	34	931	2
Greene	1	0	10	238	7
Hale	2	1	13	403	14
Henry	1	4	18	548	3
Houston	1	33	409	6,131	169
Jackson	3	10	13	1,303	10
Jefferson	93	315	1,638	21,896	1,989
Lamar	0	0	5	85	0
Lauderdale	7	21	196	3,169	56
Lawrence	1	3	3	1,428	3

*Continued*

<b>County</b>	<b>Homicide</b>	<b>Rape</b>	<b>Juvenile Arrests</b>	<b>Adult Arrests</b>	<b>Robbery</b>
Lee	9	54	418	5,840	141
Limestone	2	12	175	4,643	28
Lowndes	2	3	5	738	11
Macon	6	4	24	490	16
Madison	19	112	1,255	10,677	523
Marengo	1	7	72	924	19
Marion	0	2	31	436	3
Marshall	7	29	273	7,871	40
Mobile	35	61	2,883	27,553	1,203
Monroe	3	3	31	957	13
Montgomery	31	91	903	2,270	466
Morgan	1	31	238	6,565	83
Perry	0	1	3	283	3
Pickens	0	3	13	570	8
Pike	0	11	54	1,110	47
Randolph	0	3	10	1,023	1
Russell	2	14	24	2,352	91
St. Clair	5	14	181	5,816	9
Shelby	2	31	67	4,905	42
Sumter	0	2	7	264	11
Talladega	6	39	20	3,668	58
Tallapoosa	2	11	121	2,928	39
Tuscaloosa	11	57	811	9,670	261
Walker	2	20	35	3,793	47
Washington	0	5	8	535	0
Wilcox	1	0	5	215	1
Winston	0	6	6	1,057	1

<sup>152</sup> *Crime in Alabama 2009*. Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center.

## Public Safety Indicators *Continued*

County	Assault	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Law Enforcement Officers Per Capita
Autauga	48	172	974	96	1 : 875
Baldwin	256	802	3,240	146	1 : 676
Barbour	38	135	550	24	N/A
Bibb	48	90	199	19	1 : 1799
Blount	36	341	792	19	1 : 1241
Bullock	39	101	142	4	1 : 845
Butler	74	161	362	19	1 : 907
Calhoun	601	1,865	3,511	278	1 : 2194
Chambers	169	239	857	72	1 : 686
Cherokee	69	60	200	17	1 : 611
Chilton	481	322	967	28	1 : 741
Choctaw	13	31	38	2	1 : 1076
Clarke	120	157	228	28	1 : 704
Clay	38	52	114	7	1 : 525
Cleburne	36	117	240	28	1 : 568
Coffee	92	279	454	53	1 : 1131
Colbert	183	389	1,272	46	1 : 993
Conecuh	34	22	95	6	1 : 359
Coosa	15	133	177	14	1 : 440
Covington	116	166	713	23	1 : 1467
Crenshaw	29	82	195	19	1 : 1253
Cullman	120	426	1,449	86	1 : 606
Dale	154	321	749	42	1 : 1301
Dallas	205	575	1,280	133	1 : 839
DeKalb	78	391	886	77	1 : 674
Elmore	90	517	1,294	53	1 : 943
Escambia	146	197	629	31	1 : 468
Etowah	195	857	2,622	205	1 : 624
Fayette	13	35	170	23	1 : 1086
Franklin	34	137	326	19	1 : 1943
Geneva	103	67	247	20	1 : 962
Greene	57	172	152	24	1 : 268
Hale	87	159	255	28	1 : 1634
Henry	53	101	179	19	1 : 666
Houston	345	855	2,409	148	1 : 1125
Jackson	132	164	827	66	1 : 629
Jefferson	2,308	11,286	25,741	2,942	1 : 977
Lamar	8	6	35	4	1 : 710

*Continued*

<b>County</b>	<b>Assault</b>	<b>Burglary</b>	<b>Theft</b>	<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	<b>Law Enforcement Officers Per Capita</b>
Lauderdale	98	793	1,783	88	N/A
Lawrence	128	107	414	23	1 : 758
Lee	216	1,707	3,852	127	1 : 871
Limestone	37	342	1,036	76	1 : 756
Lowndes	53	261	247	9	1 : 300
Macon	179	276	617	59	1 : 573
Madison	903	3,495	8,488	1,118	1 : 1075
Marengo	96	122	434	28	1 : 776
Marion	47	96	344	31	N/A
Marshall	209	839	2,427	172	1 : 1130
Mobile	1,622	5,723	12,352	1,557	1 : 852
Monroe	88	129	364	29	1 : 415
Montgomery	370	3,347	7,592	947	1 : 1311
Morgan	149	1,043	3,071	129	1 : 637
Perry	45	108	189	29	1 : 590
Pickens	39	112	108	9	1 : 663
Pike	40	349	774	44	1 : 1050
Randolph	53	105	340	15	1 : 1613
Russell	165	801	1,079	190	1 : 571
St. Clair	134	402	1,241	96	1 : 1780
Shelby	124	686	1,969	153	1 : 934
Sumter	37	70	149	14	1 : 514
Talladega	198	1,160	2,253	216	1 : 802
Tallapoosa	182	259	864	54	1 : 746
Tuscaloosa	487	2,490	5,741	486	1 : 889
Walker	93	438	2,016	176	1 : 859
Washington	35	34	105	13	1 : 1707
Wilcox	38	69	84	14	1 : 538
Winston	37	127	396	23	1 : 1043

**Education Indicators** *Table 6.5*<sup>153</sup>

<b>Region</b>	<b>% Lacking Basic Literacy Skills</b>	<b>High School Drop Out Rates</b>	<b>Students Per Teacher</b>	<b>Funding Per Student</b>	<b>% Persons with Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>
U.S					24.4
Alabama	15%	41.4%			19.0
<b>County</b>					
Autauga	13%	40.0%	16.20	\$7,650	18.0
Baldwin	11%	44.6%	16.90	\$9,927	23.1
Barbour	23%	50.9%	14.41	\$9,661	10.9
Bibb	17%	55.3%	16.51	\$8,359	7.1
Blount	14%	36.4%	16.38	\$7,711	9.6
Bullock	34%	38.8%	15.55	\$9,519	7.7
Butler	21%	38.6%	17.97	\$9,070	10.4
Calhoun	15%	38.9%	16.81	\$8,667	15.2
Chambers	20%	41.6%	17.07	\$8,387	9.5
Cherokee	16%	41.4%	16.80	\$9,040	9.7
Chilton	15%	36.4%	15.63	\$7,814	9.9
Choctaw	23%	31.3%	18.53	\$9,094	9.6
Clarke	21%	45.1%	15.79	\$8,960	12.1
Clay	18%	37.0%	15.47	\$8,546	7.8
Cleburne	17%	35.7%	17.89	\$8,661	9.2
Coffee	13%	29.6%	16.01	\$8,480	19.3
Colbert	15%	38.8%	16.37	\$9,827	14.1
Conecuh	23%	43.4%	13.93	\$10,662	9.2
Coosa	21%	51.2%	16.17	\$9,720	8.0
Covington	16%	43.4%	15.74	\$8,880	12.2
Crenshaw	19%	33.1%	14.84	\$8,625	11.2
Cullman	13%	38.8%	16.55	\$8,773	11.9
Dale	13%	38.1%	15.79	\$9,147	14.0
Dallas	24%	49.8%	17.42	\$8,986	13.9
DeKalb	18%	44.2%	15.32	\$8,724	8.3
Elmore	13%	44.7%	17.43	\$7,816	16.6
Escambia	19%	28.3%	14.70	\$9,164	10.6
Etowah	14%	38.1%	17.13	\$8,344	13.4
Fayette	17%	33.5%	17.29	\$9,076	9.2
Franklin	19%	32.1%	15.06	\$9,322	9.7
Geneva	16%	44.3%	16.91	\$8,367	8.7
Greene	31%	56.6%	15.61	\$10,320	10.5
Hale	26%	42.8%	16.94	\$8,853	8.1
Henry	18%	52.2%	17.82	\$8,742	14.1

*Continued*

County	% Lacking Basic Literacy Skills	High School Drop Out Rates	Students Per Teacher	Funding Per Student	% Persons with Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Houston	12%	44.8%	17.40	\$8,617	18.4
Jackson	15%	37.1%	16.53	\$9,509	10.4
Jefferson	13%	40.0%	15.04	\$9,685	24.6
Lamar	18%	24.4%	17.78	\$8,613	7.8
Lauderdale	13%	38.5%	14.92	\$9,340	18.5
Lawrence	21%	31.6%	15.62	\$9,156	7.5
Lee	13%	42.4%	14.76	\$9,223	27.9
Limestone	14%	37.2%	16.35	\$9,350	16.9
Lowndes	28%	41.0%	17.52	\$10,312	11.0
Macon	25%	51.5%	16.63	\$9,150	18.8
Madison	10%	39.1%	15.50	\$9,194	34.3
Marengo	22%	32.7%	16.04	\$8,912	12.1
Marion	16%	31.9%	15.23	\$8,415	8.0
Marshall	15%	46.5%	15.92	\$8,854	13.9
Mobile	16%	50.0%	17.48	\$8,948	18.6
Monroe	20%	33.9%	15.49	\$8,500	11.8
Montgomery	14%	54.7%	16.90	\$8,746	28.5
Morgan	20%	41.7%	15.24	\$9,472	18.4
Perry	27%	29.8%	14.47	\$9,455	10.0
Pickens	21%	34.2%	16.18	\$8,711	9.8
Pike	19%	48.4%	15.24	\$9,462	18.4
Randolph	19%	34.5%	16.45	\$8,657	10.0
Russell	21%	60.4%	15.78	\$8,949	9.7
St. Clair	12%	48.1%	14.88	\$9,311	11.1
Shelby	7%	33.5%	15.92	\$8,000	36.8
Sumter	28%	34.6%	15.36	\$10,373	12.4
Talladega	18%	48.5%	16.25	\$8,983	11.2
Tallapoosa	16%	42.2%	15.07	\$9,113	14.1
Tuscaloosa	14%	42.9%	16.09	\$8,886	24.0
Walker	14%	35.4%	15.36	\$9,432	9.1
Washington	20%	34.2%	17.14	\$8,558	8.6
Wilcox	30%	38.6%	16.17	\$9,623	10.1
Winston	16%	26.6%	16.58	\$9,216	8.3

<sup>153</sup> Percent Lacking Basic Literacy Skills: United States, Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, *State & County Estimates of Low Literacy, 2003*, accessed January 24, 2011.  
 High School Dropout Rates: "High School Dropouts: Alabama's Number One Education & Economic Problem," The Southern Education Foundation, 2008, accessed October 23, 2010. January 24, 2011.  
 Teacher Student Ratio: State of Alabama, Alabama State Department of Education, Accountability Reporting System,

*System Profile Report 2008-2009* (Montgomery, 2010), accessed November 19, 2010.  
 Funding Per Student: State of Alabama, Alabama State Department of Education, Accountability Reporting System, *Financial Profile Report 2008-2009* (Montgomery, 2010), accessed November 19, 2010.  
 Percentage of Population with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher (2000): United States, Census Bureau, *State & County QuickFacts*, November 4, 2010, accessed April 6, 2011  
*Statistics are for the entire county, not just county system.*



## TIER II SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

**Economy Supplemental Data Table 6.6<sup>154</sup>**

<b>County</b>	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>Number of New Building Permits</b>	<b>Value of New Buildings</b>
Autauga	\$9,322,746	313	\$41,771,399
Baldwin	\$52,458,960	6604	\$989,506,469
Barbour	\$4,119,735	23	\$3,085,770
Bibb	\$2,825,476	3	\$404,550
Blount	\$909,870	49	\$6,741,770
Bullock	N/A	0	\$-
Butler	\$3,301,321	52	\$4,476,022
Calhoun	\$16,398,217	264	\$30,108,997
Chambers	\$5,085,781	3	\$216,900
Cherokee	\$5,986,411	27	\$2,458,465
Chilton	\$6,157,681	136	\$12,277,777
Choctaw	\$2,708,714	5	\$600,000
Clarke	\$7,085,818	13	\$1,652,240
Clay	\$2,267,219	7	\$337,105
Cleburne	\$2,879,845	34	\$1,600,000
Coffee	\$6,195,270	525	\$56,386,936
Colbert	\$7,701,739	100	\$9,943,693
Conecuh	\$7,028,912	5	\$403,320
Coosa	\$2,070,411	44	\$2,200,000
Covington	\$6,569,794	11	\$1,614,246
Crenshaw	\$3,025,884	38	\$2,494,000
Cullman	\$18,434,030	44	\$6,193,367
Dale	\$4,090,411	52	\$5,398,020
Dallas	\$9,951,601	0	\$-
DeKalb	\$8,341,282	79	\$9,874,449
Elmore	\$10,280,803	512	\$75,698,334
Escambia	\$6,532,277	75	\$5,404,048
Etowah	\$16,578,384	354	\$39,865,373
Fayette	\$2,355,315	0	\$-
Franklin	\$4,814,405	30	\$2,896,000
Geneva	\$2,660,260	13	\$1,001,075
Greene	\$2,851,276	0	\$-
Hale	\$2,499,588	76	\$6,460,000

*Continued*



<b>County</b>	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>Number of New Building Permits</b>	<b>Value of New Building</b>
Henry	\$2,812,383	50	\$7,897,000
Houston	\$18,538,495	629	\$46,734,028
Jackson	\$7,204,665	74	\$8,625,980
Jefferson	\$224,366,000	3832	\$651,290,432
Lamar	\$3,267,874	0	\$-
Lauderdale	\$12,321,792	169	\$15,682,965
Lawrence	\$3,405,325	0	\$-
Lee	\$18,394,866	1766	\$230,736,997
Limestone	\$11,090,165	284	\$35,829,767
Lowndes	\$4,894,693	3	\$375,000
Macon	\$3,795,287	5	\$697,000
Madison	\$48,645,756	3152	\$392,094,539
Marengo	\$3,996,722	24	\$1,674,400
Marion	N/A	25	\$2,406,000
Marshall	\$10,301,280	334	\$36,686,823
Mobile	\$121,872,953	2118	\$242,967,830
Monroe	\$4,851,337	8	\$877,900
Montgomery	\$77,132,015	1558	\$165,261,794
Morgan	\$19,855,962	393	\$61,726,817
Perry	\$2,714,321	0	\$-
Pickens	\$3,203,226	0	\$-
Pike	\$5,303,423	123	\$12,140,424
Randolph	\$3,214,844	0	\$-
Russell	\$10,645,317	512	\$57,377,318
St. Clair	\$15,625,022	810	\$83,250,059
Shelby	\$51,824,550	2730	\$435,285,906
Sumter	\$3,560,894	1	\$57,000
Talladega	\$9,445,696	185	\$21,545,278
Tallapoosa	\$6,974,140	91	\$8,274,449
Tuscaloosa	\$51,158,329	1544	\$196,667,003
Walker	\$13,365,794	70	\$9,861,665
Washington	\$3,919,122	3	\$415,750
Wilcox	\$4,750,493	0	\$-
Winston	\$2,924,530	0	\$-

<sup>154</sup> Total County Revenues: Ronald L. Jones, Financial Statements; All Counties for the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year, report (Montgomery: Department of Examiners of Public Accounts, 2010).  
Number of New Building Permits and Value of New Buildings: United States, Census Bureau, *2005-2009 Building Permits*, accessed January 24, 2011

**Healthcare Supplemental Data Table 6.7<sup>155</sup>**

<b>County</b>	<b>New HIV Cases</b>	<b>HIV Related Deaths</b>	<b>Heart Disease (deaths)*</b>	<b>Cancer (deaths)*</b>	<b>Stroke (deaths)*</b>	<b>Diabetes (deaths)*</b>
Autauga	6	1	244.2	234.3	37.7	19.9
Baldwin	11	5	241.9	229.9	61.9	19.5
Barbour	4	2	211.5	218.4	40.9	23.9
Bibb	1	0	300.5	235.8	69.4	32.4
Blount	1	0	264.6	189.8	67.9	13.9
Bullock	3	1	213	203.8	74.1	55.6
Butler	5	2	373.3	318.6	99.6	44.8
Calhoun	5	6	321.8	236.3	51.1	19.4
Chambers	2	0	305	284.7	107.5	58.1
Cherokee	3	1	313.7	281.1	81.5	20.4
Chilton	1	0	282.7	270.9	56.5	18.8
Choctaw	3	0	327.3	220.6	106.7	21.3
Clarke	2	0	269.9	182.5	49.4	41.8
Clay	1	0	405.5	231.7	94.1	36.2
Cleburne	0	0	297.3	304.1	40.5	0
Coffee	6	0	299.5	201	35.6	10.5
Colbert	1	1	342.1	245.1	62.2	43.9
Conecuh	2	0	405.6	244.9	30.6	23
Coosa	2	0	360.6	184.9	101.7	37
Covington	0	2	379.9	263.2	86.8	32.6
Crenshaw	0	3	399.9	276.3	87.2	58.2
Cullman	3	0	370.1	244.7	72.5	19.7
Dale	12	1	246.4	242.3	35.2	29
Dallas	14	2	384.9	249.6	112	23.3
DeKalb	0	1	325.5	216	35	26.3
Elmore	7	1	220.2	171.6	42.3	20.5
Escambia	2	2	213.4	282.7	69.4	50.7
Etowah	3	2	377.5	271	68.7	41.6
Fayette	3	1	316.5	277	101.7	17
Franklin	0	0	379.9	250	74.7	55.2
Geneva	2	2	324.5	255	96.6	38.6
Greene	1	1	566.9	207.2	43.6	21.8
Hale	3	1	358.2	275.6	38.6	11
Henry	2	1	337.5	271.2	48.2	42.2
Houston	2	7	212.2	209.2	69	19.3
Jackson	0	0	314.3	284.2	56.5	37.6
Jefferson	154	35	238.8	212.7	77	33.5
Lamar	1	0	419.7	328.8	90.9	28

*Continued*

County	New HIV Cases	HIV Related Deaths	Heart Disease (deaths)*	Cancer (deaths)*	Stroke (deaths)*	Diabetes (deaths)*
Lauderdale	3	2	233.4	254.7	71.8	23.6
Lawrence	3	0	269.3	254.6	70.2	20.5
Lee	14	3	157.1	156.4	28.6	22.6
Limestone	12	0	195.7	190.5	44.7	26.3
Lowndes	1	2	237.3	150.3	47.5	47.5
Macon	5	1	309.6	269.2	71.8	26.9
Madison	36	7	186.5	172.5	34.4	29.7
Marengo	1	0	356.2	304	76	71.2
Marion	0	0	519.3	254.5	91.6	23.8
Marshall	2	1	333.4	236.2	79.1	19.2
Mobile	71	43	251	214.1	61.5	27.6
Monroe	1	1	310.4	230.6	44.3	66.5
Montgomery	72	15	196.2	197.5	54.7	60.5
Morgan	4	1	283.7	211.3	71.6	28.5
Perry	0	0	328.9	375.8	65.8	28.2
Pickens	1	0	291.9	251	66.6	10.2
Pike	0	2	273.2	243.6	69.1	29.6
Randolph	0	1	358.1	252	75.2	44.2
Russell	11	6	279.2	257.4	71.3	69.3
St. Clair	1	1	249.3	190.4	45.1	20
Shelby	12	3	121.9	141.7	27.7	13.3
Sumter	2	0	309.1	203.5	90.5	30.2
Talladega	6	2	286.5	247.9	72.2	33.6
Tallapoosa	1	1	345.8	255.1	66.2	51.5
Tuscaloosa	21	4	204	182.8	45.7	13.4
Walker	1	1	361	281.3	72.5	27.5
Washington	0	0	337.1	209.3	46.5	11.6
Wilcox	1	0	390.5	140.6	39.1	31.2
Winston	0	2	337.9	275.3	83.4	29.2

\* per 100,000

<sup>155</sup> New HIV, HIV Deaths, Heart Disease Deaths, Cancer Deaths, Stroke Deaths, Diabetes Deaths: Louie Albert Woolbright, *County Health Profiles 2008*, report (Montgomery: Alabama Department of Public Health. Center for Health Statistics, 2009).

**Public Safety Supplemental Data** *Table 6.8*<sup>156</sup>

<b>Total Traffic Fatalities</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Autauga	14	19	12	15	14
Baldwin	47	45	35	31	28
Barbour	13	5	6	3	4
Bibb	5	8	6	5	4
Blount	12	18	15	12	15
Bullock	8	5	10	3	4
Butler	17	12	10	6	4
Calhoun	22	22	23	23	24
Chambers	9	11	9	10	7
Cherokee	7	10	9	6	5
Chilton	20	20	25	12	15
Choctaw	7	7	4	8	7
Clarke	10	7	8	4	5
Clay	2	2	3	2	3
Cleburne	14	7	13	6	7
Coffee	9	14	10	11	8
Colbert	17	9	14	5	12
Conecuh	12	8	8	11	3
Coosa	3	7	3	2	3
Covington	17	12	17	10	5
Crenshaw	4	2	4	2	4
Cullman	28	32	39	24	20
Dale	10	12	10	10	7
Dallas	7	19	7	15	12
Dekalb	19	17	22	10	10
Elmore	20	22	16	18	19
Escambia	19	17	8	12	9
Etowah	25	28	25	20	15
Fayette	5	7	5	4	3
Franklin	7	4	6	14	7
Geneva	11	5	8	5	7
Greene	12	7	8	9	4
Hale	8	5	14	8	5
Henry	7	2	2	2	1
Houston	10	21	31	10	18
Jackson	17	21	25	11	18
Jefferson	71	80	98	104	83
Lamar	2	6	5	2	4
Lauderdale	19	14	8	15	12

*Continued*

**Total Traffic Fatalities**

<b>County</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Lawrence	9	14	10	12	12
Lee	26	23	21	26	22
Limestone	30	29	23	15	18
Lowndes	6	15	10	9	5
Macon	18	13	14	7	5
Madison	69	75	34	46	41
Marengo	7	8	6	3	6
Marion	10	11	11	7	6
Marshall	19	13	13	26	25
Mobile	95	100	105	81	58
Monroe	8	5	9	10	9
Montgomery	48	45	43	43	22
Morgan	27	33	22	16	16
Perry	7	4	2	2	6
Pickens	4	5	3	2	3
Pike	11	12	11	9	14
Randolph	3	8	6	3	4
Russell	18	29	12	19	12
Shelby	25	27	30	24	15
St. Clair	16	17	20	14	15
Sumter	6	14	10	4	3
Talladega	31	24	18	17	26
Tallapoosa	5	13	8	13	7
Tuscaloosa	36	44	45	34	36
Walker	22	32	27	24	16
Washington	6	8	6	4	1
Wilcox	12	9	5	10	3
Winston	7	8	5	9	7

*Continued*

<sup>156</sup> Total Traffic Fatalities and Traffic Fatalities with an Impaired Driver: United States, Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, *Traffic Safety Facts for Alabama: 2005-2009*.

**Public Safety Supplemental Data** *Continued*

<b>Fatalities per 100,000 Population</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Autauga	29.25	38.69	24.08	29.79	27.58
Baldwin	28.91	26.7	20.25	17.59	15.57
Barbour	44.14	16.92	20.18	10.05	13.45
Bibb	23.39	37.59	27.93	23.16	18.53
Blount	21.8	32.16	26.38	20.76	25.71
Bullock	72.89	46.56	91.19	27.47	36.41
Butler	83.59	59.31	49.4	29.75	20.04
Calhoun	19.63	19.56	20.39	20.28	21.04
Chambers	25.59	31.59	25.91	29.01	20.4
Cherokee	28.84	40.76	36.77	24.58	20.45
Chilton	48.18	47.82	59.02	28.11	34.91
Choctaw	48.25	48.65	28.21	56.81	50.04
Clarke	37.4	26.19	30.28	15.23	19.2
Clay	14.44	14.52	21.78	14.49	21.99
Cleburne	98.07	48.5	88.48	40.72	47.43
Coffee	19.93	30.68	21.36	23.03	16.45
Colbert	31.25	16.53	25.64	9.15	21.96
Conecuh	91.07	60.11	60.98	84.37	23.2
Coosa	27.36	64.47	27.82	18.65	28.42
Covington	46.46	32.68	46.19	27.29	13.63
Crenshaw	29.54	14.61	29.11	14.61	29.03
Cullman	35.27	40.06	48.39	29.44	24.46
Dale	20.7	24.98	20.72	20.66	14.54
Dallas	16.14	44.13	16.36	35.19	28.62
Dekalb	28.39	25.2	32.22	14.52	14.41
Elmore	27.31	29.13	20.66	23.04	23.98
Escambia	50.48	45.25	21.26	31.97	24.04
Etowah	24.37	27.22	24.22	19.34	14.47
Fayette	27.76	39.42	28.51	22.76	17.27
Franklin	22.82	12.99	19.59	45.09	22.51
Geneva	43	19.4	31.11	19.25	26.96
Greene	126.69	76.76	87.91	99.57	45.31
Hale	44.64	27.93	77.39	44.24	27.82
Henry	42.62	12.08	12.01	12.03	6.01
Houston	10.68	21.99	31.83	10.12	17.98
Jackson	32.12	39.62	47.35	20.78	34.07
Jefferson	10.76	12.09	14.82	15.68	12.48
Lamar	13.6	41.51	34.52	13.95	28.17
Lauderdale	21.73	15.91	9.04	16.82	13.39

*Continued*

**Fatalities per 100,000 Population**

<b>County</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Lawrence	26.24	41.33	29.28	35.25	35.18
Lee	20.74	17.94	16.06	19.53	16.19
Limestone	42.98	40.39	31.12	19.66	22.91
Lowndes	46.52	118.01	78.96	71.47	40.67
Macon	79.17	57.67	62.9	31.54	22.95
Madison	22.98	24.39	10.84	14.33	12.51
Marengo	32.7	37.5	28.22	14.22	28.65
Marion	33.91	37.18	37.29	23.83	20.61
Marshall	22.27	14.98	14.78	29.15	27.66
Mobile	23.85	24.86	25.91	19.8	14.09
Monroe	34.53	21.75	39.54	44.15	40.2
Montgomery	21.6	19.97	19.06	19.15	9.82
Morgan	23.9	28.87	19.11	13.76	13.64
Perry	64.89	37.9	18.65	18.6	56.48
Pickens	20.17	25.38	15.38	10.32	15.61
Pike	37.06	40.03	36.44	29.63	45.96
Randolph	13.35	35.62	26.8	13.26	17.72
Russell	36.66	58.36	23.89	37.78	23.6
Shelby	14.56	15.1	16.35	12.73	7.79
St. Clair	22.22	22.6	25.47	17.44	18.32
Sumter	43.99	103.93	75.36	30.53	23.34
Talladega	38.8	29.95	22.45	21.12	32.4
Tallapoosa	12.36	31.93	19.61	31.77	17.07
Tuscaloosa	20.92	24.87	25.14	18.7	19.56
Walker	31.83	46.39	39.33	34.83	23.28
Washington	34.46	46.06	35.04	23.41	5.86
Wilcox	94.92	71.78	39.75	79.26	24.22
Winston	28.88	32.89	20.55	37.39	29.17

*Continued*

**Public Safety Supplemental Data** *Continued*

**Traffic Fatalities with an Impaired Driver**

<b>County</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Autauga	2	6	6	3	4
Baldwin	22	15	11	11	6
Barbour	2	0	0	1	2
Bibb	1	0	4	1	0
Blount	8	5	3	6	4
Bullock	2	1	2	1	2
Butler	6	2	3	2	1
Calhoun	7	5	5	3	5
Chambers	4	6	4	1	3
Cherokee	2	2	4	1	2
Chilton	8	5	7	2	3
Choctaw	3	4	1	4	1
Clarke	7	3	4	0	1
Clay	0	0	0	1	0
Cleburne	8	1	4	2	0
Coffee	2	3	1	2	3
Colbert	3	3	2	1	7
Conecuh	4	2	5	4	2
Coosa	1	4	0	1	0
Covington	6	5	5	3	0
Crenshaw	1	1	3	1	1
Cullman	5	7	19	9	7
Dale	2	4	3	6	4
Dallas	3	9	2	4	4
Dekalb	4	3	5	1	2
Elmore	8	4	7	8	8
Escambia	9	6	4	6	2
Etowah	6	10	6	8	7
Fayette	0	2	2	1	1
Franklin	2	1	2	9	0
Geneva	4	3	2	1	2
Greene	2	2	3	2	1
Hale	3	2	5	3	1
Henry	2	0	1	1	1
Houston	2	10	17	3	8
Jackson	6	5	5	3	8
Jefferson	20	23	36	34	22
Lamar	1	2	1	0	2
Lauderdale	8	6	1	4	7

*Continued*



**Traffic Fatalities with an Impaired Driver**

<b>County</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Lawrence	0	5	4	5	3
Lee	6	7	6	10	6
Limestone	9	6	8	6	6
Lowndes	2	5	3	4	1
Macon	6	2	3	3	3
Madison	25	19	10	13	14
Marengo	4	2	4	1	2
Marion	3	2	4	1	2
Marshall	4	1	6	6	9
Mobile	34	36	40	23	31
Monroe	4	1	3	3	5
Montgomery	16	19	18	12	7
Morgan	6	11	4	3	7
Perry	2	1	0	2	5
Pickens	2	0	0	2	0
Pike	5	5	6	5	7
Randolph	2	2	2	1	2
Russell	6	11	4	4	4
Shelby	9	9	11	7	4
St. Clair	4	8	8	6	8
Sumter	1	5	4	3	1
Talladega	7	11	7	5	5
Tallapoosa	3	7	3	6	1
Tuscaloosa	15	12	12	16	14
Walker	9	11	10	8	1
Washington	1	3	2	0	0
Wilcox	1	4	1	3	0
Winston	3	2	1	3	2

**Public Safety Supplemental Data** *Continued*

<b>Fatalities per 100,000 Population</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Autauga	4.18	12.22	12.04	5.96	7.88
Baldwin	13.53	8.9	6.37	6.24	3.34
Barbour	6.79	0	0	3.35	6.73
Bibb	4.68	0	18.62	4.63	0
Blount	14.54	8.93	5.28	10.38	6.86
Bullock	18.22	9.31	18.24	9.16	18.21
Butler	29.5	9.89	14.82	9.92	5.01
Calhoun	6.25	4.45	4.43	2.64	4.38
Chambers	11.37	17.23	11.52	2.9	8.74
Cherokee	8.24	8.15	16.34	4.1	8.18
Chilton	19.27	11.96	16.52	4.68	6.98
Choctaw	20.68	27.8	7.05	28.4	7.15
Clarke	26.18	11.22	15.14	0	3.84
Clay	0	0	0	7.24	0
Cleburne	56.04	6.93	27.23	13.57	0
Coffee	4.43	6.57	2.14	4.19	6.17
Colbert	5.51	5.51	3.66	1.83	12.81
Conecuh	30.36	15.03	38.12	30.68	15.47
Coosa	9.12	36.84	0	9.32	0
Covington	16.4	13.62	13.59	8.19	0
Crenshaw	7.38	7.31	21.83	7.31	7.26
Cullman	6.3	8.76	23.57	11.04	8.56
Dale	4.14	8.33	6.22	12.4	8.31
Dallas	6.92	20.91	4.68	9.38	9.54
Dekalb	5.98	4.45	7.32	1.45	2.88
Elmore	10.92	5.3	9.04	10.24	10.1
Escambia	23.91	15.97	10.63	15.99	5.34
Etowah	5.85	9.72	5.81	7.73	6.75
Fayette	0	11.26	11.4	5.69	5.76
Franklin	6.52	3.25	6.53	28.98	0
Geneva	15.63	11.64	7.78	3.85	7.7
Greene	21.11	21.93	32.97	22.13	11.33
Hale	16.74	11.17	27.64	16.59	5.56
Henry	12.18	0	6	6.02	6.01
Houston	2.14	10.47	17.46	3.03	7.99
Jackson	11.34	9.43	9.47	5.67	15.14
Jefferson	3.03	3.48	5.44	5.13	3.31
Lamar	6.8	13.84	6.9	0	14.08
Lauderdale	9.15	6.82	1.13	4.48	7.81

*Continued*

**Fatalities per 100,000 Population**

<b>County</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Lawrence	0	14.76	11.71	14.69	8.8
Lee	4.79	5.46	4.59	7.51	4.42
Limestone	12.9	8.36	10.82	7.86	7.64
Lowndes	15.51	39.34	23.69	31.77	8.13
Macon	26.39	8.87	13.48	13.52	13.77
Madison	8.33	6.18	3.19	4.05	4.27
Marengo	18.69	9.37	18.81	4.74	9.55
Marion	10.17	6.76	13.56	3.4	6.87
Marshall	4.69	1.15	6.82	6.73	9.96
Mobile	8.53	8.95	9.87	5.62	7.53
Monroe	17.26	4.35	13.18	13.25	22.33
Montgomery	7.2	8.43	7.98	5.34	3.12
Morgan	5.31	9.62	3.47	2.58	5.97
Perry	18.54	9.48	0	18.6	47.07
Pickens	10.08	0	0	10.32	0
Pike	16.84	16.68	19.88	16.46	22.98
Randolph	8.9	8.9	8.93	4.42	8.86
Russell	12.22	22.14	7.96	7.95	7.87
Shelby	5.24	5.03	6	3.71	2.08
St. Clair	5.56	10.64	10.19	7.47	9.77
Sumter	7.33	37.12	30.15	22.9	7.78
Talladega	8.76	13.73	8.73	6.21	6.23
Tallapoosa	7.42	17.19	7.35	14.66	2.44
Tuscaloosa	8.72	6.78	6.7	8.8	7.61
Walker	13.02	15.95	14.57	11.61	1.45
Washington	5.74	17.27	11.68	0	0
Wilcox	7.91	31.9	7.95	23.78	0
Winston	12.38	8.22	4.11	12.46	8.33

*Continued*

**Education Supplemental Data Table 6.9<sup>157</sup>**

<b>County</b>	<b>Grade 3 Mathematics in %</b>	<b>Grade 3 Reading in %</b>	<b>Grade 8 Mathematics in %</b>	<b>Grade 8 Reading in %</b>
Autauga	60	61	74	63
Baldwin	64	62	61	59
Barbour	41	33	32	23
Bibb	50	50	47	42
Blount	57	56	41	45
Bullock	53	54	23	26
Butler	51	48	47	41
Calhoun	66	62	48	48
Chambers	52	46	37	42
Cherokee	57	51	53	44
Chilton	61	56	44	47
Choctaw	42	39	34	34
Clarke	49	50	39	42
Clay	57	50	41	42
Cleburne	71	65	57	52
Coffee	60	55	52	53
Colbert	56	56	53	47
Conecuh	50	34	44	37
Coosa	55	54	49	37
Covington	N/A	61	67	58
Crenshaw	46	47	40	44
Cullman	68	62	54	53
Dale	53	54	58	51
Dallas	43	38	38	35
DeKalb	49	49	46	45
Elmore	59	59	54	52
Escambia	51	47	49	44
Etowah	63	63	57	57
Fayette	69	61	53	49
Franklin	66	57	50	47
Geneva	51	54	63	51
Greene	42	38	44	40
Hale	55	43	36	35
Henry	53	46	39	44
Houston	56	59	46	50
Jackson	64	55	63	57
Jefferson	49	48	48	47
Lamar	59	55	44	44
Lauderdale	68	64	64	59

*Continued*

<b>County</b>	<b>Grade 3 Mathematics in %</b>	<b>Grade 3 Reading in %</b>	<b>Grade 8 Mathematics in %</b>	<b>Grade 8 Reading in %</b>
Lawrence	60	52	52	49
Lee	59	55	49	46
Limestone	51	52	56	58
Lowndes	36	29	34	30
Macon	50	52	26	30
Madison	69	66	66	61
Marengo	45	41	39	34
Marion	61	57	52	46
Marshall	61	59	53	51
Mobile	58	55	51	45
Monroe	51	56	N/A	41
Montgomery	50	50	38	37
Morgan	57	57	50	52
Perry	41	47	34	31
Pickens	45	42	50	42
Pike	56	50	50	40
Randolph	37	41	44	46
Russell	49	44	32	36
St. Clair	58	61	59	57
Shelby	63	61	64	61
Sumter	34	32	34	29
Talladega	51	49	48	50
Tallapoosa	43	47	44	45
Tuscaloosa	52	51	47	48
Walker	53	54	50	50
Washington	46	49	43	44
Wilcox	32	34	33	31
Winston	59	58	49	51

*Continued*

<sup>157</sup> Teacher Qualifications, SAT-10 scores, Incident reports, Access to Computers and Computers with Internet Ratio, Students on Food Assistance: State of Alabama, Alabama State Department of Education, Accountability Reporting System, *System Profile Report 2008-2009* (Montgomery, 2010), accessed November 19, 2010. Statistics are for County systems only.  
High School Graduates Over 25: United States, Census Bureau, *State & County QuickFacts*, November 4, 2010, accessed April 6, 2011.

## Education Supplemental Data *Continued*

County	Action Taken				Action Taken			
	Assault	Suspension	Expulsion	Alternative School	Drug Related	Suspension	Expulsion	Alternative School
Autauga	1	0	0	1	29	16	14	12
Baldwin	133	112	8	1	81	71	45	2
Barbour	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bibb	10	9	0	2	2	1	0	2
Blount	2	2	0	0	13	10	2	8
Bullock	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0
Butler	2	0	1	1	13	1	0	12
Calhoun	80	75	1	6	16	8	0	14
Chambers	1	1	0	0	10	10	0	0
Cherokee	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1
Chilton	0	0	0	0	10	8	5	0
Choctaw	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clarke	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Clay	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Cleburne	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Coffee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colbert	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0
Conecuh	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coosa	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	0
Covington	0	0	0	0	12	6	0	3
Crenshaw	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cullman	4	4	0	1	8	3	0	4
Dale	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Dallas	4	3	1	0	4	2	0	2
DeKalb	5	1	0	4	23	9	0	13
Elmore	4	1	0	3	25	5	0	19
Escambia	0	0	0	0	9	6	0	1
Etowah	10	6	0	4	7	5	0	3
Fayette	4	4	0	0	1	1	0	0
Franklin	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Geneva	4	4	0	0	4	4	0	0
Greene	4	4	0	0	3	2	0	0
Hale	2	2	0	0	3	2	0	1
Henry	4	0	0	4	7	2	0	5
Houston	10	0	0	8	15	0	0	15
Jackson	10	0	0	7	13	0	0	13
Jefferson	1	1	0	0	137	129	2	0
Lamar	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0

*Continued*

County	Action Taken				Drug Related	Action Taken		
	Assault	Suspension	Expulsion	Alternative School		Suspension	Expulsion	Alternative School
Lauderdale	1	1	0	0	21	5	0	12
Lawrence	6	6	0	0	13	12	0	1
Lee	7	7	0	0	25	19	0	6
Limestone	4	3	0	1	27	9	0	22
Lowndes	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Macon	4	1	0	2	11	3	0	8
Madison	13	12	0	1	34	29	1	24
Marengo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marion	4	3	0	1	6	2	0	4
Marshall	6	4	0	3	14	8	0	8
Mobile	8	8	0	0	166	112	12	38
Monroe	3	3	0	0	5	2	0	4
Montgomery	10	9	4	1	60	57	7	16
Morgan	1	1	0	0	32	24	0	23
Perry	4	2	0	1	3	0	0	3
Pickens	0	0	0	0	7	2	4	0
Pike	2	0	0	2	9	0	0	9
Randolph	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
Russell	13	11	0	2	11	1	0	11
St. Clair	14	7	0	5	15	10	0	5
Shelby	18	16	0	6	30	28	0	25
Sumter	0	0	0	0	6	3	0	2
Talladega	6	4	0	2	11	9	0	3
Tallapoosa	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Tuscaloosa	13	12	1	0	39	36	3	0
Walker	4	0	0	4	42	0	0	42
Washington	14	12	0	2	0	0	0	0
Wilcox	7	2	0	1	4	0	0	4
Winston	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

*Continued*

## Education Supplemental Data *Continued*

County	Weapon Related	Action Taken			Bomb Threat	Action Taken		
		Suspension	Expulsion	Alternative School		Suspension	Expulsion	Alternative School
Autauga	14	7	3	7	0	0	0	0
Baldwin	57	54	13	1	1	0	1	0
Barbour	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Bibb	13	11	0	3	0	0	0	0
Blount	17	12	1	2	0	0	0	0
Bullock	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Butler	8	7	0	1	0	0	0	0
Calhoun	21	14	1	7	3	2	0	1
Chambers	21	19	2	0	0	0	0	0
Cherokee	10	6	0	3	0	0	0	0
Chilton	10	10	0	0	1	1	0	0
Choctaw	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clarke	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clay	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleburne	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coffee	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colbert	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Conecuh	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coosa	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Covington	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Crenshaw	6	5	0	2	0	0	0	0
Cullman	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dale	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dallas	17	12	0	3	1	1	0	0
DeKalb	10	4	0	4	0	0	0	0
Elmore	38	25	1	13	0	0	0	0
Escambia	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Etowah	14	12	0	2	0	0	0	0
Fayette	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Franklin	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Geneva	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Greene	11	8	0	3	4	0	0	4
Hale	9	8	0	1	0	0	0	0
Henry	10	1	0	9	0	0	0	0
Houston	36	14	0	19	0	0	0	0
Jackson	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	91	86	5	0	4	4	0	0
Lamar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Continued*



County	Weapon Related	Action Taken			Bomb Threat	Action Taken		
		Suspension	Expulsion	Alternative School		Suspension	Expulsion	Alternative School
Lauderdale	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lawrence	57	54	0	2	0	0	0	0
Lee	23	21	2	4	0	0	0	0
Limestone	18	13	0	5	0	0	0	0
Lowndes	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Macon	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Madison	28	27	3	7	0	0	0	0
Marengo	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Marion	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marshall	25	14	0	12	1	1	0	0
Mobile	124	82	14	24	1	1	0	0
Monroe	5	2	3	1	0	0	0	0
Montgomery	78	72	14	8	2	2	0	0
Morgan	20	19	0	0	2	0	0	2
Perry	15	9	0	6	0	0	0	0
Pickens	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pike	12	2	0	10	0	0	0	0
Randolph	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Russell	10	2	0	10	0	0	0	0
St. Clair	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shelby	49	47	1	14	0	0	0	0
Sumter	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Talladega	22	20	0	8	2	2	0	0
Tallapoosa	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuscaloosa	37	28	6	4	0	0	0	0
Walker	13	2	0	6	1	0	0	1
Washington	10	6	0	1	0	0	0	0
Wilcox	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Winston	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

*Continued*

## Education Supplemental Data *Continued*

County	Teacher's Qualification:	Teacher's Qualification:	County	Teacher's Qualification:	Teacher's Qualification:
	Master's Degree (Class A)	Bachelor's Degree (Class B)		Master's Degree (Class A)	Bachelor's Degree (Class B)
Autauga	55.1%	34.3%	Houston	48.7%	43.4%
Baldwin	51.8%	41.4%	Jackson	57.7%	32.6%
Barbour	43.5%	48.9%	Jefferson	51.9%	38.3%
Bibb	50.0%	38.3%	Lamar	56.7%	36.8%
Blount	54.9%	35.3%	Lauderdale	57.7%	35.1%
Bullock	43.4%	38.0%	Lawrence	54.2%	37.9%
Butler	50.4%	39.4%	Lee	47.0%	41.1%
Calhoun	56.8%	32.9%	Limestone	50.5%	42.4%
Chambers	42.8%	44.8%	Lowndes	42.8%	37.7%
Cherokee	60.4%	28.0%	Macon	49.3%	38.8%
Chilton	52.8%	38.1%	Madison	47.7%	44.3%
Choctaw	60.1%	35.7%	Marengo	57.5%	34.6%
Clarke	58.8%	34.5%	Marion	63.8%	26.1%
Clay	54.4%	33.5%	Marshall	49.8%	38.7%
Cleburne	57.0%	30.0%	Mobile	51.4%	42.2%
Coffee	48.7%	41.7%	Monroe	49.1%	42.7%
Colbert	63.3%	27.4%	Montgomery	48.9%	38.2%
Conecuh	43.4%	41.4%	Morgan	59.3%	34.6%
Coosa	40.7%	47.2%	Perry	41.4%	42.8%
Covington	46.8%	43.5%	Pickens	51.1%	42.4%
Crenshaw	46.5%	45.4%	Pike	54.3%	35.3%
Cullman	53.5%	33.8%	Randolph	50.0%	34.5%
Dale	48.6%	37.5%	Russell	36.7%	46.2%
Dallas	49.8%	39.7%	St. Clair	56.8%	36.7%
DeKalb	59.5%	30.6%	Shelby	56.6%	35.3%
Elmore	50.6%	43.5%	Sumter	51.2%	43.9%
Escambia	42.0%	49.6%	Talladega	48.8%	32.9%
Etowah	60.7%	27.9%	Tallapoosa	45.7%	44.1%
Fayette	51.5%	44.8%	Tuscaloosa	52.6%	40.1%
Franklin	45.5%	44.0%	Walker	42.4%	44.1%
Geneva	39.0%	52.5%	Washington	50.6%	42.7%
Greene	54.1%	38.7%	Wilcox	37.3%	48.8%
Hale	59.0%	34.5%	Winston	56.0%	33.3%
Henry	44.3%	47.3%			

Region	% High School Graduates Over 25 Years Old	Percentage of Students Receiving Free or Reduced Meals			Student to Computer Ratio	Student to Computer w/Internet Ratio
<b>U.S</b>	<b>80.4</b>					
<b>Alabama</b>	<b>75.3</b>				3.5	3.6
<b>County</b>		<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>		
Autauga	78.7	37.40%	36.00%	37.60%	5.6	5.9
Baldwin	82.0	36.80%	36.20%	37.50%	4.1	4.2
Barbour	64.7	92.80%	99.60%	98.80%	3.3	3.5
Bibb	63.2	61.00%	61.30%	61.00%	3.5	3.6
Blount	70.4	42.90%	45.00%	49.90%	4.4	4.4
Bullock	60.5	89.60%	99.50%	92.30%	4.7	4.7
Butler	67.8	73.50%	74.80%	74.40%	4.4	4.4
Calhoun	73.9	49.70%	51.70%	51.30%	3.2	3.2
Chambers	64.2	65.10%	65.60%	65.70%	2.8	2.8
Cherokee	63.5	50.90%	53.00%	54.00%	2.6	2.6
Chilton	66.2	49.80%	50.10%	52.40%	5.1	5.1
Choctaw	65.0	77.10%	76.50%	75.80%	3.4	3.4
Clarke	70.8	69.50%	68.80%	72.20%	4.5	4.5
Clay	66.0	57.50%	57.30%	60.80%	5.0	5.0
Cleburne	62.9	55.20%	56.20%	58.80%	3.7	3.7
Coffee	73.2	51.20%	45.90%	51.00%	2.6	2.6
Colbert	73.3	59.20%	59.10%	62.30%	2.5	2.5
Conecuh	67.7	86.30%	87.70%	87.50%	3.2	3.2
Coosa	65.7	64.30%	67.80%	71.20%	6.1	6.1
Covington	68.4	55.80%	55.60%	56.30%	2.5	2.8
Crenshaw	60.1	62.40%	58.30%	59.60%	2.1	2.1
Cullman	70.4	51.00%	51.50%	54.40%	2.9	2.9
Dale	77.8	55.10%	54.20%	52.20%	5.0	5.0
Dallas	70.3	83.70%	83.00%	83.30%	3.8	3.8
DeKalb	63.8	59.90%	60.00%	63.10%	3.9	4.2
Elmore	77.6	42.90%	42.90%	44.20%	3.6	3.6
Escambia	68.5	70.00%	71.80%	73.60%	3.4	3.3
Etowah	74.1	41.00%	42.20%	44.20%	5.8	6.2
Fayette	66.1	46.00%	39.90%	49.70%	4.4	4.6
Franklin	62.1	60.30%	62.60%	64.30%	3.1	3.7
Geneva	65.6	55.60%	53.30%	56.20%	2.2	2.2
Greene	64.8	91.80%	92.70%	92.40%	3.0	3.9
Hale	65.2	73.20%	71.20%	74.00%	3.3	3.3
Henry	66.7	65.20%	60.60%	64.30%	4.3	4.1
Houston	76.5	52.90%	53.20%	54.20%	3.7	3.7
Jackson	67.0	59.60%	58.30%	59.60%	2.7	2.7
Jefferson	80.9	39.90%		39.90%	5.5	5.8

*Continued*

County	% High School Graduates Over 25 Years Old	Percentage of Students Receiving Free or Reduced Meals			Student to Computer Ratio	Student to Computer w/Internet Ratio
		2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009		
Lamar	65.1	50.20%	50.40%	52.10%	3.5	3.5
Lauderdale	76.4	38.30%	37.00%	38.20%	4.7	4.7
Lawrence	65.6	52.00%	50.70%	52.10%	3.3	3.3
Lee	81.4	43.60%	43.40%	46.40%	4.8	5.1
Limestone	74.5	37.60%	35.70%	39.30%	3.8	4.0
Lowndes	64.3	88.90%	94.80%	95.30%	2.2	2.2
Macon	70.0	81.90%	95.30%	99.90%	3.0	3.0
Madison	85.4	28.40%	27.10%	29.10%	4.2	4.2
Marengo	71.9	85.70%	83.30%	81.80%	3.2	3.2
Marion	63.2	50.80%	56.10%	54.80%	4.4	4.6
Marshall	69.4	62.40%	61.60%	65.00%	3.6	3.5
Mobile	76.7	64.90%	65.50%	66.00%	3.5	3.6
Monroe	67.9	64.50%	64.30%	65.80%	4.4	5.0
Montgomery	80.3	65.10%	67.80%	70.10%	4.4	4.4
Morgan	76.3	42.60%	41.30%	42.30%	3.0	3.0
Perry	62.4	96.00%	99.90%	99.60%	2.8	3.0
Pickens	69.7	67.50%	70.10%	70.40%	3.0	3.0
Pike	69.1	76.00%	75.30%	72.60%	3.9	3.9
Randolph	61.9	53.30%	52.10%	56.50%	3.8	4.1
Russell	66.5	66.50%	72.20%	73.10%	3.7	3.7
St. Clair	71.3	40.00%	38.50%	38.60%	5.0	5.0
Shelby	86.8	23.70%	24.60%	25.90%	3.2	3.2
Sumter	64.8	74.30%	70.70%	86.50%	4.2	4.2
Talladega	69.7	65.40%	66.40%	69.80%	3.1	3.2
Tallapoosa	70.1	60.20%	63.90%	62.40%	3.0	3.0
Tuscaloosa	78.8	41.90%	41.30%	45.20%	4.0	4.4
Walker	67.2	53.90%	57.10%	58.10%	3.3	3.7
Washington	72.3	55.20%	56.50%	55.20%	3.3	3.6
Wilcox	59.5	89.20%	100.00%	100.00%	2.8	2.8
Winston	62.6	57.40%	57.40%	58.20%	3.9	4.0

**General Census Table Table 6.10<sup>158</sup>**

Region	Population	Percent Change in Population (from 2009 estimate)	Persons under 18 years old	Persons 65 years and older*	Female*	White Persons	African American	American Indians and Alaskans	Asians
<b>U.S</b>	308745538	9.1	24.3	12.9	50.7	79.6	12.9	1.0	4.6
<b>Alabama</b>	4708708	5.9	24.0	13.8	51.5	70.9	26.3	0.5	1.0
<b>County</b>									
Autauga	54571	7.5%	26.8%	11.6	51.4	78.5%	17.7%	0.4%	0.9%
Baldwin	182265	1.3%	23.0%	17.0	51.0	85.7%	9.4%	0.7%	0.7%
Barbour	27457	-7.7%	21.9%	13.8	46.8	48.0%	46.9%	0.4%	0.4%
Bibb	22915	6.2%	22.7%	13.5	48.0	75.8%	22.0%	0.3%	0.1%
Blount	57322	-1.8%	24.6%	14.7	50.2	92.6%	13.7%	0.5%	0.2%
Bullock	10914	-0.6%	22.3%	10.8	44.5	23.0%	70.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Butler	20947	4.9%	24.1%	16.2	52.9	54.4%	43.4%	0.3%	0.8%
Calhoun	118572	3.9%	22.9%	15.0	52.1	74.9%	20.6%	0.5%	0.7%
Chambers	34215	-0.3%	22.5%	16.8	52.6	58.8%	38.7%	0.2%	0.5%
Cherokee	25989	6.3%	21.4%	18.6	51.4	92.7%	4.6%	0.5%	0.2%
Chilton	43643	1.6%	25.1%	13.4	50.3	84.1%	9.7%	0.4%	0.3%
Choctaw	13859	-0.9%	22.7%	17.5	53.1	55.8%	43.4%	0.1%	0.1%
Clarke	25833	-0.8%	24.7%	15.9	52.3	54.5%	43.9%	0.4%	0.3%
Clay	13932	2.1%	22.6%	18.3	50.6	81.7%	14.8%	0.4%	0.2%
Cleburne	14972	1.4%	23.7%	15.2	49.6	94.0%	3.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Coffee	49948	2.7%	24.2%	14.3	51.4	74.7%	16.7%	1.3%	1.3%
Colbert	54428	-0.4%	22.1%	16.8	52.0	80.5%	16.1%	0.5%	0.4%
Conecuh	13228	2.3%	23.0%	17.8	52.8	51.3%	46.5%	0.3%	0.1%
Coosa	11539	9.3%	20.5%	17.4	50.2	66.3%	31.0%	0.3%	0.1%
Covington	37765	3.0%	22.6%	18.8	52.1	84.8%	12.5%	0.6%	0.4%
Crenshaw	13906	0.9%	23.8%	16.2	52.3	72.6%	23.4%	0.4%	1.4%
Cullman	80406	-1.7%	23.2%	15.6	50.4	94.7%	1.1%	0.5%	0.4%
Dale	50251	4.4%	24.8%	13.0	51.3	74.1%	19.3%	0.7%	1.1%
Dallas	43820	4.5%	26.5%	14.8	54.3	29.1%	69.4%	0.2%	0.3%
DeKalb	71109	2.5%	25.8%	14.3	50.7	84.5%	1.5%	1.4%	0.3%
Elmore	79303	0.1%	23.6%	12.1	49.6	76.2%	20.0%	0.4%	0.7%
Escambia	38319	2.4%	22.6%	15.2	49.1	62.1%	31.9%	3.4%	0.2%
Etowah	104430	0.8%	23.0%	16.2	52.0	80.3%	15.1%	0.4%	0.6%
Fayette	17241	-0.7%	22.3%	17.3	51.4	86.5%	11.4%	0.3%	0.2%
Franklin	31704	2.0%	24.8%	15.0	49.7	83.0%	3.9%	0.7%	0.2%
Geneva	26790	3.2%	22.4%	17.5	51.2	86.3%	9.5%	0.8%	0.3%
Greene	9045	2.4%	24.3%	15.4	53.4	17.4%	81.5%	0.2%	0.2%
Hale	15760	-12.3%	24.8%	13.5	49.6	39.8%	59.0%	0.2%	0.2%
Henry	17302	3.9%	22.6%	16.9	51.9	68.6%	28.6%	0.3%	0.3%
Houston	101547	1.5%	24.5%	15.8	52.4	70.0%	25.8%	0.4%	0.8%

*Continued*

## General Census Table *Continued*

County	Population	Percent Change in Population (from 2009 estimate)	Persons under 18 years old	Persons 65 years and older*	Female*	White Persons	African American	American Indians and Alaskans	Asians
Jackson	53227	0.7%	22.5%	16.1	51.2	90.8%	3.3%	1.4%	0.3%
Jefferson	658466	-1.0%	23.5%	13.6	52.6	53.0%	42.0%	0.3%	1.4%
Lamar	14564	2.6%	22.2%	18.2	51.5	86.7%	11.3%	0.2%	0.0%
Lauderdale	92709	3.5%	21.6%	17.1	52.3	86.4%	10.0%	0.4%	0.7%
Lawrence	34339	0.7%	23.2%	13.5	50.9	77.6%	11.5%	5.7%	0.1%
Lee	140247	3.2%	22.5%	8.8	50.7	71.3%	22.7%	0.3%	2.6%
Limestone	82782	5.4%	24.0%	11.9	49.3	80.3%	12.6%	0.7%	1.1%
Lowndes	11299	-8.1%	24.2%	14.1	53.5	25.3%	73.5%	0.2%	0.1%
Macon	21452	-1.5%	20.6%	15.6	54.1	15.5%	82.6%	0.1%	0.4%
Madison	334811	2.2%	23.7%	12.6	51.1	68.2%	24.0%	0.8%	2.5%
Marengo	21027	0.4%	24.7%	15.4	52.7	46.4%	51.7%	0.2%	0.3%
Marion	30776	5.7%	21.7%	18.6	50.3	93.6%	3.8%	0.3%	0.2%
Marshall	93019	2.9%	25.0%	14.6	51.0	87.6%	1.6%	0.8%	0.5%
Mobile	412992	0.3%	25.1%	12.5	52.2	60.2%	34.6%	0.9%	1.8%
Monroe	23068	3.0%	25.3%	15.3	52.2	55.1%	41.7%	1.1%	0.3%
Montgomery	229363	2.3%	24.5%	12.2	52.4	39.5%	54.7%	0.3%	2.1%
Morgan	119490	1.9%	24.0%	14.3	50.7	79.8%	11.9%	0.9%	0.6%
Perry	10591	-0.3%	24.1%	15.1	53.7	30.3%	68.7%	0.2%	0.3%
Pickens	19746	2.7%	23.3%	17.0	52.9	56.3%	41.6%	0.1%	0.2%
Pike	32899	8.0%	20.3%	13.0	52.6	58.2%	36.6%	0.6%	2.0%
Randolph	22913	1.5%	23.9%	17.1	51.8	76.5%	20.1%	0.4%	0.2%
Russell	52947	4.1%	25.5%	14.0	52.7	53.7%	41.8%	0.4%	0.4%
St. Clair	83593	2.1%	23.7%	13.0	49.7	88.2%	8.6%	0.3%	0.6%
Shelby	195085	1.3%	25.6%	9.2	50.7	83.0%	10.6%	0.3%	1.9%
Sumter	13763	7.1%	22.3%	14.9	54.7	24.2%	75.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Talladega	82291	2.6%	23.4%	14.3	51.0	65.3%	31.7%	0.3%	0.4%
Tallapoosa	41616	1.5%	22.2%	18.2	52.0	69.9%	26.6%	0.3%	0.5%
Tuscaloosa	194656	5.8%	21.5%	11.0	51.8	66.3%	29.6%	0.3%	1.2%
Walker	67023	-2.5%	22.5%	16.7	51.7	91.2%	5.9%	0.4%	0.3%
Washington	17581	3.0%	25.5%	15.2	51.4	65.5%	24.9%	8.0%	0.1%
Wilcox	11670	-5.8%	27.0%	13.9	54.2	26.8%	72.5%	0.1%	0.0%
Winston	24484	2.0%	21.6%	16.7	50.7	95.6%	0.5%	0.7%	0.2%

\* 2009 Estimate

<sup>158</sup> United States, Census Bureau, *State & County QuickFacts*, November 4, 2010, accessed April 6, 2011

<b>Region</b>	<b>Hispanic Latino</b>	<b>Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander</b>	<b>Persons reporting two or more races</b>	<b>Foreign born persons (2000 Census)</b>	<b>High School Graduates (2000 Census)</b>	<b>Persons with Bachelor's Degree or Higher (2000 Census)</b>
<b>U.S</b>	15.8	0.2	1.7	11.1	80.4	24.4
<b>Alabama</b>	3.2	N/A	1.1	2.0	75.3	19.0
<b>County</b>						
Autauga	2.4%	0.1%	1.6%	1.2	78.7	18.0
Baldwin	4.4%	0.0%	1.5%	2.1	82.0	23.1
Barbour	5.1%	0.1%	0.9%	1.5	64.7	10.9
Bibb	1.8%	0.1%	0.9%	0.4	63.2	7.1
Blount	8.1%	0.1%	1.2%	3.1	70.4	9.6
Bullock	7.1%	0.4%	0.8%	3.1	60.5	7.7
Butler	0.9%	0.0%	0.8%	0.4	67.8	10.4
Calhoun	3.3%	0.1%	1.7%	1.7	73.9	15.2
Chambers	1.6%	0.0%	1.1%	0.8	64.2	9.5
Cherokee	1.2%	0.0%	1.5%	1.1	63.5	9.7
Chilton	7.8%	0.1%	1.2%	1.9	66.2	9.9
Choctaw	0.5%	0.0%	0.4%	0.6	65.0	9.6
Clarke	1.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.5	70.8	12.1
Clay	2.9%	0.0%	1.7%	0.9	66.0	7.8
Cleburne	2.1%	0.1%	1.1%	0.9	62.9	9.2
Coffee	6.4%	0.2%	2.5%	2.7	73.2	19.3
Colbert	2.0%	0.0%	1.6%	0.9	73.3	14.1
Conecuh	1.2%	0.0%	1.0%	0.4	67.7	9.2
Coosa	2.0%	0.1%	0.9%	0.3	65.7	8.0
Covington	1.3%	0.0%	1.4%	0.6	68.4	12.2
Crenshaw	1.5%	0.1%	1.5%	0.3	60.1	11.2
Cullman	4.3%	0.0%	1.1%	1.7	70.4	11.9
Dale	5.6%	0.1%	3.0%	3.1	77.8	14.0
Dallas	0.7%	0.0%	0.7%	0.7	70.3	13.9
DeKalb	13.6%	0.2%	2.2%	4.1	63.8	8.3
Elmore	2.7%	0.1%	1.4%	1.1	77.6	16.6
Escambia	1.9%	0.0%	1.5%	0.6	68.5	10.6
Etowah	3.3%	0.2%	1.5%	1.6	74.1	13.4
Fayette	1.2%	0.0%	1.0%	0.7	66.1	9.2
Franklin	14.9%	0.0%	1.7%	5.6	62.1	9.7
Geneva	3.4%	0.0%	1.6%	0.8	65.6	8.7
Greene	0.8%	0.0%	0.5%	0.7	64.8	10.5
Hale	0.9%	0.0%	0.6%	0.3	65.2	8.1
Henry	2.2%	0.0%	1.0%	1.1	66.7	14.1
Houston	2.9%	0.0%	1.7%	1.6	76.5	18.4
Jackson	2.5%	0.1%	2.6%	0.7	67.0	10.4

*Continued*

## General Census Table *Continued*

County	Hispanic Latino	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	Persons reporting two or more races	Foreign born persons (2000 Census)	High School Graduates (2000 Census)	Persons with Bachelor's degree or Higher (2000 Census)
Jefferson	3.9%	0.0%	1.1%	2.3	80.9	24.6
Lamar	1.2%	0.0%	1.3%	0.8	65.1	7.8
Lauderdale	2.2%	0.0%	1.4%	1.0	76.4	18.5
Lawrence	1.7%	0.0%	4.3%	0.5	65.6	7.5
Lee	3.3%	0.1%	1.6%	2.7	81.4	27.9
Limestone	5.5%	0.1%	1.8%	1.7	74.5	16.9
Lowndes	0.8%	0.0%	0.5%	0.3	64.3	11.0
Macon	1.1%	0.0%	1.1%	1.5	70.0	18.8
Madison	4.6%	0.1%	2.5%	4.0	85.4	34.3
Marengo	1.7%	0.1%	0.8%	0.7	71.9	12.1
Marion	2.1%	0.0%	1.1%	0.5	63.2	8.0
Marshall	12.1%	0.1%	1.7%	4.0	69.4	13.9
Mobile	2.4%	0.0%	1.5%	2.3	76.7	18.6
Monroe	1.0%	0.0%	1.4%	0.3	67.9	11.8
Montgomery	3.6%	0.1%	1.3%	2.0	80.3	28.5
Morgan	7.7%	0.1%	2.0%	2.7	76.3	18.4
Perry	1.1%	0.0%	0.4%	0.5	62.4	10.0
Pickens	1.6%	0.0%	1.2%	0.4	69.7	9.8
Pike	2.2%	0.1%	1.5%	1.9	69.1	18.4
Randolph	2.8%	0.0%	1.1%	1.2	61.9	10.0
Russell	3.7%	0.2%	2.1%	2.0	66.5	9.7
St. Clair	2.1%	0.1%	1.3%	0.6	71.3	11.1
Shelby	5.9%	0.0%	1.4%	2.4	86.8	36.8
Sumter	0.6%	0.0%	0.3%	0.5	64.8	12.4
Talladega	2.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.7	69.7	11.2
Tallapoosa	2.5%	0.0%	1.0%	0.4	70.1	14.1
Tuscaloosa	3.1%	0.1%	1.1%	2.1	78.8	24.0
Walker	2.0%	0.1%	1.2%	0.7	67.2	9.1
Washington	0.9%	0.1%	1.2%	0.5	72.3	8.6
Wilcox	0.6%	0.0%	0.4%	0.3	59.5	10.1
Winston	2.6%	0.1%	1.4%	1.0	62.6	8.3

\* 2009 Estimate



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