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FACTBOOK

FOREWORD BY SELA WARD



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Mississippi KIDS COUNT team is pleased to present the 2017 Mississippi KIDS COUNT Factbook.

We are honored to have Mississippi's own Sela Ward featured in the foreword. She not only shares her love of Mississippi, but her commitment for improving outcomes for children. This is evidenced by the work that she continues to support in her hometown of Meridian, Mississippi.

The 2017 Factbook includes information in the areas of children's education, health, and economic well-being within the context of their family and community. By using infographics and other visualizations, we synthesize a great deal of data from a myriad of research studies to answer a number of important questions such as:

- What would it take to go from our current overall ranking of 50th in the U.S. to number one in the Southeast?
- Is poverty level income enough to support a family in Mississippi?
- What is the percentage of food insecure children in Mississippi?
- What are the numbers of children in the child protective services in Mississippi?
- What percentage of Mississippi's children are kindergarten ready?
- What districts have the highest rates of suspension?
- How does Mississippi fare on childhood immunizations?
- Which Mississippi municipalities are smoke-free and how does that impact children's health?

In addition to the national KIDS COUNT indicators that reflect public school students improving in reading and math scores, children attending preschool and high school students graduating on time, the high school graduation rate (2016) was 82.3% compared to 73.7% in 2011.

Among the KIDS COUNT indicators on children's health, there are fewer low birthweight babies, an increasing percentage of children who have health insurance, a decrease in child and teen deaths per 100,000 and a decrease in the percentage of teens abusing alcohol and drugs. There was also a significant decrease in the number of Mississippi's children who are without health insurance. In 2008, 13% of Mississippi's children were uninsured, compared to 5% in 2014.

It is well recognized that parents are children's first and most important teachers and this is as it should be. However, given the high rate of children in poverty, coupled with the steep percentage of children whose parents lack secure employment, a great number of Mississippi children find their pathway to success is an even steeper terrain.

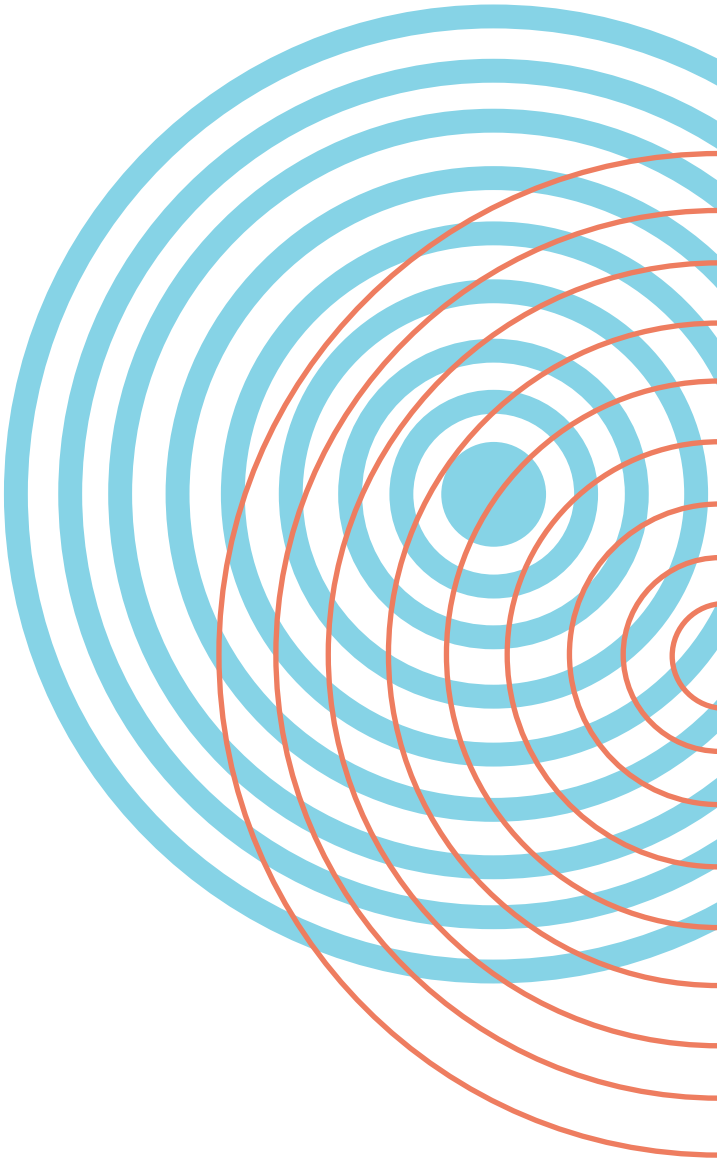
Our role at Mississippi KIDS COUNT is to analyze and report solid data and to serve as an information source, by which there can be an action for change through improved public policies, increased community involvement and collaboration to make a positive difference for Mississippi's children. This publication is printed with the goal of having a message on each page that can be downloaded or shared, individually or as a whole. Each year we print and distribute several hundred copies of the Factbook, but we also encourage you to utilize our webpage, (<http://kidscount.ssrc.msstate.edu>), and the national KIDS COUNT Data Center, (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org>) for additional information.



Linda H. Southward, Ph.D.
Director, Mississippi KIDS COUNT

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Corey Wiggins, Ph.D.	Director	Hope Policy Institute

FOREWORD

BY SELA WARD

I am a product of Mississippi. In Meridian, where I was born and raised, my childhood days were filled with long summer bike rides that ended when the sun set in the hills, cane pole fishing in the neighborhood lake, playing flag football in the yard, endless conversations with friends, and dinners around the family table. My father taught me to believe in myself while my mother instilled in me the sense of the importance of virtues such as self-respect, grace and sacrifice. The West Coast may occupy a lot of my time, but my heart always remains in Mississippi. It has been important to my husband and me to ensure that our two children appreciate the lessons I learned in Meridian—genuineness, belonging, caring about others. We want them to treat people as valuable in themselves, not for what they can do for you.

That's why I know that we Mississippians can work together to improve outcomes for the children and families of our great state. For the last twenty-seven years, the Annie E. Casey Foundation has looked at indicators affecting the health, education, and economic well-being of the nation's children. Each year Mississippi falls at or near the bottom. One child out of every three (29%) lives in poverty; 36% live in homes where parents lack secure employment. Three-fourths of our fourth graders are not reading proficiently (74%), and 78% of our eighth graders are not proficient in math.

But we continue to chip away at changing these outcomes. In fact, in 2016 Mississippi had improved in 11 of the 16 indicators the Casey Foundation uses to determine its annual rankings. Only 5% of Mississippi children are without health insurance compared to 13% in 2008. Teen births went from 64 per 1,000 in 2008 to 38 per 1,000 in 2014. We have improved in the number of high school

students who are graduating on time as our reading and math proficiency levels are increasing. But we can do more when we work together.

In 1998, I visited a local emergency shelter in Meridian and was profoundly moved by the children I met, yet disturbed by the stories they shared. They had been separated from their siblings and had experienced many moves since first being taken into custody by the Mississippi Department of Human Services. Two years later, my husband Howard Sherman and I recruited local community leaders to join us in a campaign to improve the lives of foster children in our state. With the help of the community and other philanthropic agencies, 30 acres was secured, and Hope Village for Children was born. The Riley Foundation of Meridian provided the necessary funds to renovate and upgrade the property we purchased.

Since 2002, Hope Village for Children has provided services to over 2000 children in Mississippi's foster care system. These children have ranged in age from birth to 21 years. Unfortunately the majority of these children have been in the system for many years. They have been uprooted countless times and have never really had the security of knowing where they will lay their head tomorrow. It is our goal to stop this movement and to ensure that their next home is a permanent one. While at Hope Village we focus on their trauma, enhance their education and ensure they have the necessary skills to be successful when they leave. In addition to providing emergency shelter and therapeutic group home services, Hope Village also offers transitional homes for residents who "age out" of the foster care system. Without family or any other dependable adults to rely on for assistance, these young people are, not

surprisingly, at high risk of homelessness, joblessness, illness, incarceration, welfare dependency, early childbearing, and sexual and physical victimization. The Therapeutic Transitional Living Program involves two transitional homes for high school seniors and graduates living at Hope Village for Children. These homes provide our residents with the opportunity to experience living in a less structured environment while working and attending college. This helps ensure they are adequately prepared for independent living upon leaving the foster care system.

The creation of the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (MDCPS) is a step in moving our foster care system in the right direction. This cabinet-level agency is charged with promoting safe and stable families, preventing child abuse and neglect, providing foster care and adoption services, and protecting children from abuse and neglect. The governor signed the bill into law in May 2016.

In order to address the demand for more foster homes in Mississippi, MDCPS is partnering with Mississippi Children's Home Services, Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, the Mississippi Community Education Center, and 200 Million Flowers to host foster parent training weekends across the state. This initiative, called "Rescue 100," has already seen some success. Last July a training was held in Hattiesburg. At the time, there were 802 children in foster care in Region 6 with only 302 foster homes, 150 of which were only licensed for relatives. During the three-day training period, 76 families completed the training required prior to becoming licensed to care for children involved in the child welfare system.

The Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services receives and investigates around 30,000 reports of child abuse and neglect annually. These investigations uncover between 7,000 to 8,000 child victims of abuse or neglect each year. That number is far too many. We must protect our children and youth from abuse and neglect and give them safe and stable environments to live, but our ultimate goal is to decrease the numbers. How? We must help parents and caregivers to prevent child abuse and neglect. We can offer support through our communities and neighborhoods. For children to reunite with their parents, we must help parents improve their ability to care for their children so that they may be reunited.

Pearl S. Buck writes, "If our American way of life fails the child, it fails us all." These are words to live by. We have a responsibility to improve outcomes for the children of Mississippi. Many of us may not be

in a position to adopt or become a foster parent, but we can support all children and families in need and have a responsibility to report any concerns or suspicious activity we might encounter regarding the children of our state. Indeed, one person can make a difference in a child's life, but having supportive communities in which children and families live can make an even bigger difference.

SELA WARD



Award-winning actress Sela Ward has a heart for giving back to her native Mississippi. She is the founder of Hope Village for Children, located in her home town of Meridian. The safe haven offers a more permanent home that provides a continuum of specialized treatment programs, services and facilities to meet the individual needs of neglected and abused children. Currently Ward takes on the role of former First Lady in the new EPIX series "Graves" starring opposite Nick Nolte. Previously she won a Best Actress Emmy for her performance in "Sisters" and earned another Best Actress Emmy and a Golden Globe for the television series "Once and Again." Other television credits include "CSI:NY" and a recurring role on "House." Her film credits include "Independence Day: Resurgence," "Gone Girl," "The Day After Tomorrow" and "The Fugitive" among others. When not working or tending to her philanthropic projects, Ward is an accomplished painter and a NY Times bestselling author. Her first book, *Homesick*, is part inspirational story, part memoir that tells Ward's quest for a balance of the comforts of her small-town childhood and the big city way of life.

A handwritten signature of Sela Ward in dark ink. The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name 'Sela' being more prominent than the last name 'Ward'.

INDICATORS OF CHILD WELL-BEING BY DOMAIN

The Annie E. Casey Foundation tracks the well-being of the nation's children state by state using a comprehensive index. The KIDS COUNT index includes child-level indicators across four domains. In 2016, Mississippi was ranked 50th overall, 47th in education, 49th in health, 49th in economic well-being, and 50th in family and community.

EDUCATION

	MS	U.S.
• Children not attending preschool	51%	53%
• 4 th graders not proficient in reading	74%	65%
• 8 th graders not proficient in math	78%	68%
• High schoolers not graduating on time	32%	18%

HEALTH

	MS	U.S.
• Child and teen deaths (rate per 100,000)	39	24
• Low birthweight babies	11.3%	8%
• Children without health insurance	5%	6%
• Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs	5%	5%

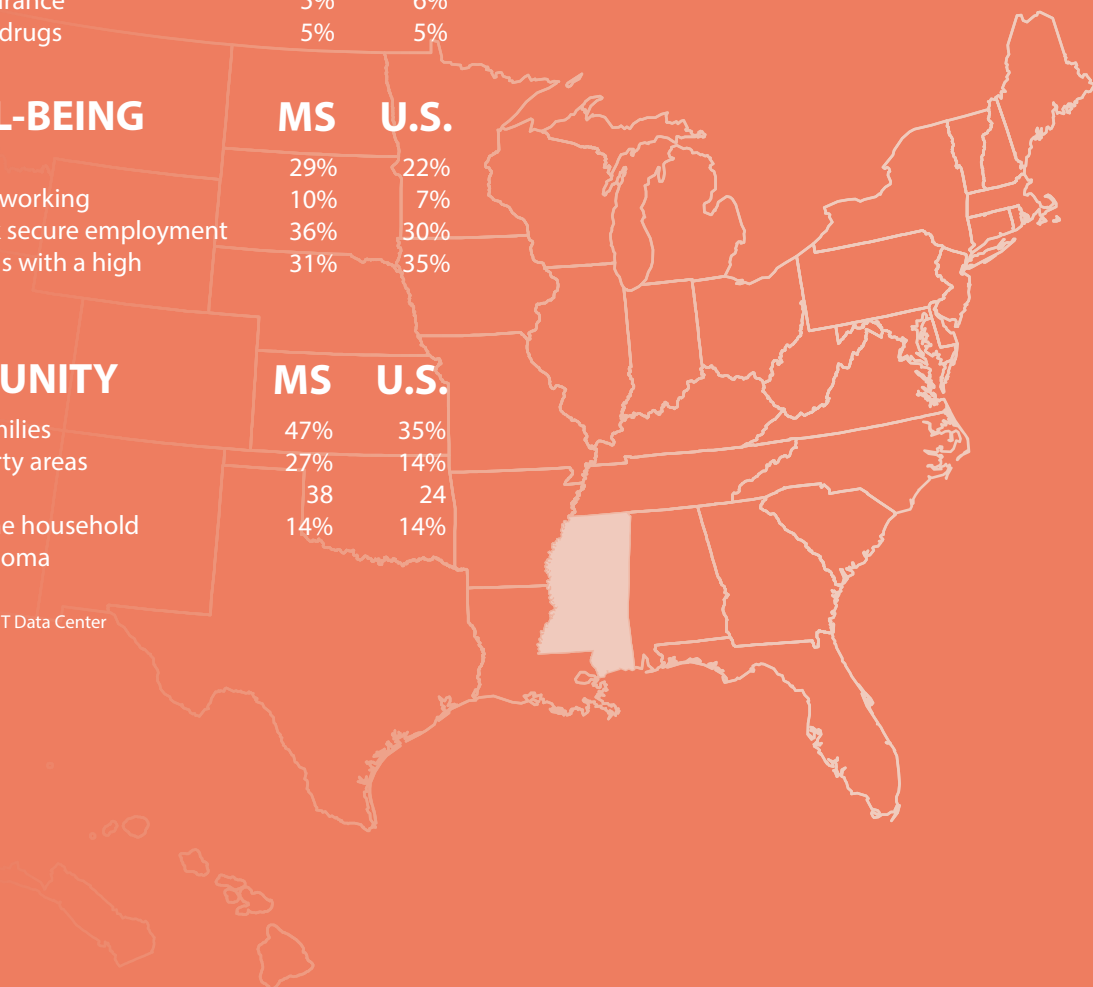
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

	MS	U.S.
• Children in poverty	29%	22%
• Teens not in school and not working	10%	7%
• Children whose parents lack secure employment	36%	30%
• Children living in households with a high housing cost burden	31%	35%

FAMILY & COMMUNITY

	MS	U.S.
• Children in single-parent families	47%	35%
• Children living in high-poverty areas	27%	14%
• Teen births (rate per 1,000)	38	24
• Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma	14%	14%

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center
<http://datacenter.kidscount.org>



WHAT WOULD IT TAKE?

FOR MISSISSIPPI TO BE **NUMBER ONE** IN THE **SOUTHEAST**

For almost three decades, the Annie E. Casey Foundation has produced state rankings of child well-being. Mississippi continues to be at or near last in the Southeast for all of the following indicators. What would have to change to move Mississippi to number one in the Southeast?

INDICATORS:	WHERE WE ARE	TO BE #1	CURRENTLY #1
Children in poverty (2014)	29%	24%	FLORIDA, NORTH CAROLINA
Children whose parents lack secure employment (2014)	36%	30%	NORTH CAROLINA
Low birthweight babies (2014)	11.3%	8.7%	FLORIDA
Children without health insurance (2014)	5%	4%	ALABAMA, KENTUCKY
Children in households that spend more than 30% of income on housing (2014)	31%	28%	ARKANSAS, KENTUCKY
Fourth graders who scored below proficient in reading (2015)	74%	60%	KENTUCKY
High school students not graduating on time (2012-2013)	32%	17%	KENTUCKY
Teens 12 to 17 who abused drugs or alcohol in the past year (2013-2014)	5%	4%	KENTUCKY
Children living in single-parent families (2014)	47%	35%	KENTUCKY
Households head lacks a high school diploma (2014)	14%	12%	FLORIDA, KENTUCKY
Children living in high-poverty areas (2011-2014)	27%	14%	NORTH CAROLINA
Child & teen death rate per 100,000 (2014)	39	26	FLORIDA, GEORGIA

States included in the Southeast are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Louisiana.

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center.
More recent data may be available for some indicators, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>

EDUCATION

CHRONIC ABSENCE

Definition: Percentage of students who miss too much school for any reason including excused and unexcused absences. Reflecting numerous studies and the practices of a growing number of states, we define chronic absence as missing 10% of the school year (about 18 days in a 180 day school year).

During the 2014/15 school year, **9.7% of Mississippi students in grades K-3 were chronically absent** (excluding special education). Across all grades (K-12), 13.2% of Mississippi students were chronically absent.¹

In a previous study by Mississippi KIDS COUNT, it was found that chronic absence in early grades (K-3) significantly reduces the likelihood that Mississippi students will be reading proficiently by third grade.²

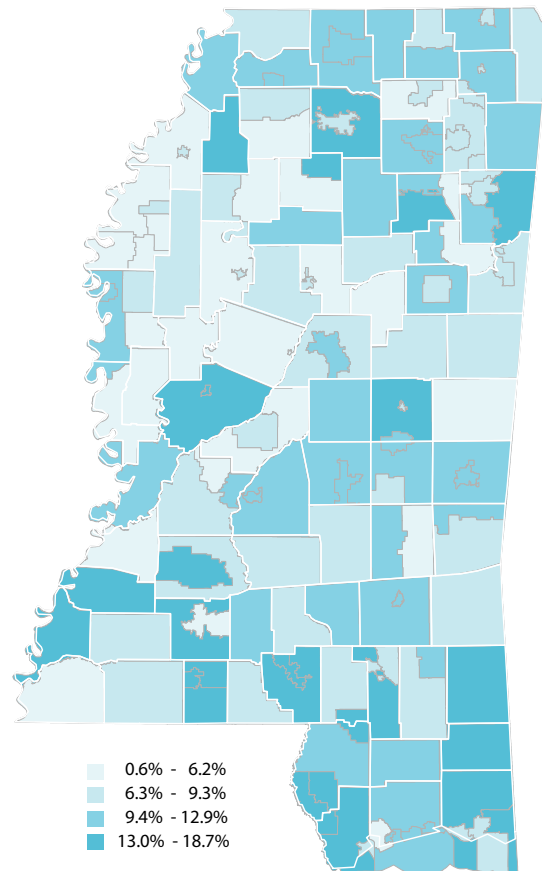
HIGHEST

NATCHEZ-ADAMS	18.7%
HAZLEHURST CITY	18.5%
HANCOCK	16.4%
GREENE	16.2%
GEORGE	16.1%

LOWEST

HOLLANDALE	0.6%
SOUTH DELTA	2.9%
KEMPER	3.2%
HUMPHREYS	3.2%
OKOLONA	3.5%

STUDENTS CHRONICALLY ABSENT BY SCHOOL DISTRICT (K-3), 2014/15¹

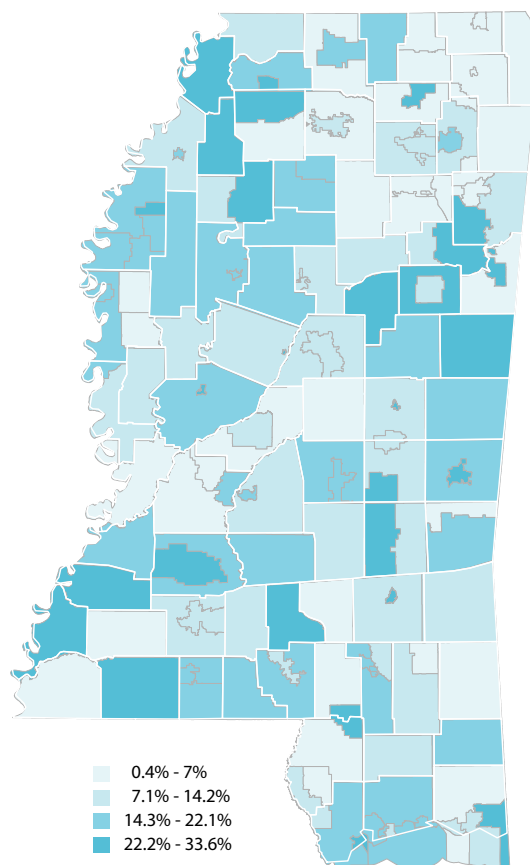


SUSPENSION

SUSPENSION BY SCHOOL DISTRICT (K-12), 2014/15³

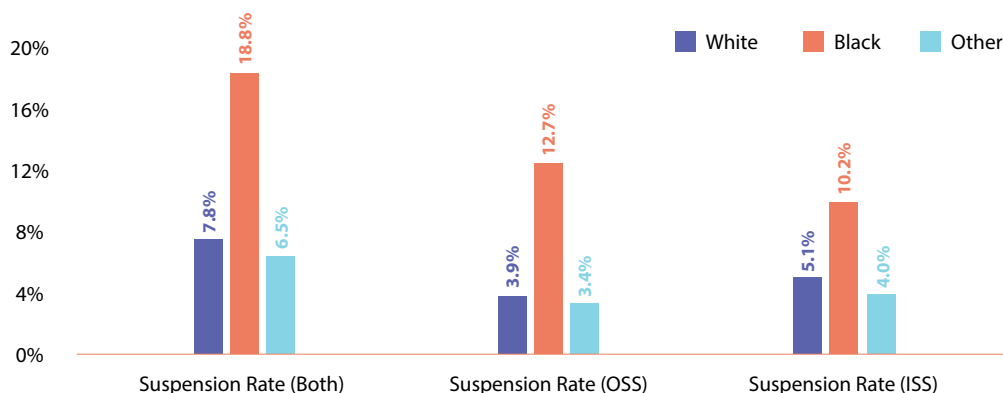
During the 2014-2015 school year, approximately 13% of Mississippi students were given one or more in-school or out-of-school suspensions. In the same year, 42,100 (8.3%) Mississippi students were given one or more out-of-school suspensions. Moss Point Separate had the highest suspension rate (42.7%) followed by Senatobia (33.6%), Noxubee County (32.6%), Hazlehurst (32.5%), and Yazoo City (32.3%). Wilkinson County had the lowest suspension rate (0.4%) followed by Hollandale (0.8%), Tishomingo County (0.9%), Hinds County (1.0%), and Vicksburg Warren (1.0%).

Mississippi Data Project, W.K. Kellogg Foundation. (2017)
<http://msdataproject.com>



SUSPENSION RATE BY RACE (K-12), 2014/15³

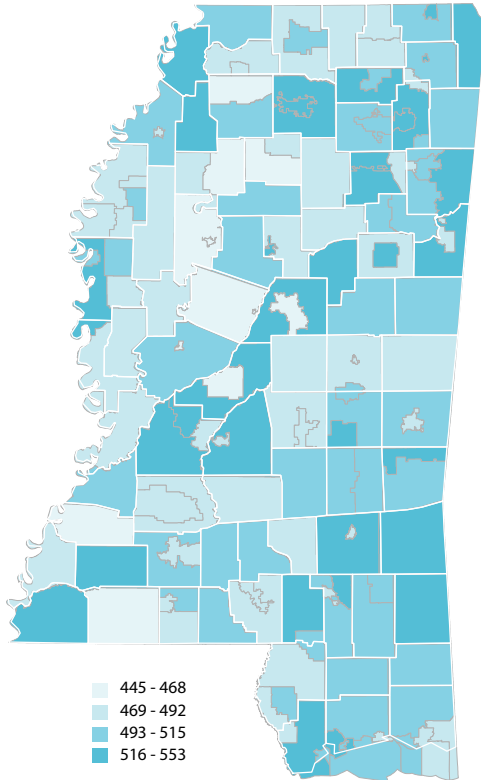
There is an apparent racial disparity in suspension rates of students in Mississippi. During the 2014-2015 school year, Black students were more than twice as likely to receive a suspension compared to White students. The extent of this disparity also varies by the type of suspension provided (in-school versus out-of-school suspension). Black students were more than three times as likely to receive an OSS (12.7%) compared to White students (3.9%) and were twice as likely to receive an ISS (10.2%) compared to White students (5.1%).



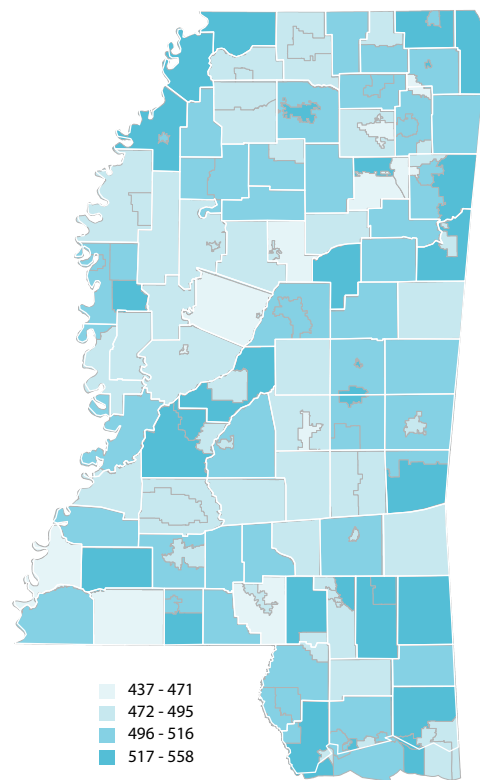
Mississippi Data Project, W.K. Kellogg Foundation. (2017)
<http://msdataproject.com>

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

**AVERAGE KINDERGARTEN READINESS
SCORE BY DISTRICT, 2014/15⁴**



**AVERAGE KINDERGARTEN READINESS
SCORE BY DISTRICT, 2015/16⁵**



KINDERGARTEN READINESS BY PRIOR ENROLLMENT⁶

	Fall 2015 Average Score	Fall 2015 Student Count	Fall 2016 Average Score	Fall 2016 Student Count
Pre-K Public	529.5	6,260	537.4	5,924
Pre-K Private	545.6	4,221	541.7	4,083
Licensed Childcare Center	521.8	4,739	513.2	4,407
Family Care	494.3	852	483.2	1,019
Head Start	478.6	10,874	475.0	9,407
Home	482.7	9,138	473.9	7,822
Repeater	-	-	554.6	1,920
No Data Entered	520.1	995	494.0	2,028
Grand Total	502.8	37,079	502.3	36,610

THIRD GRADE READING

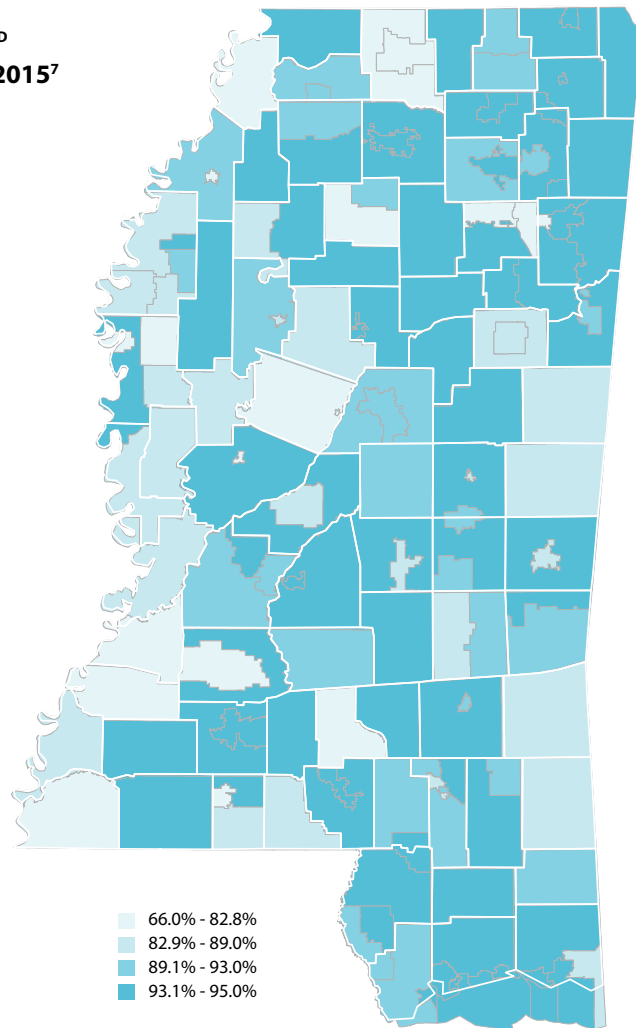
PERCENT OF 3RD GRADERS PASSING MKAS² 3RD GRADE READING ASSESSMENT BY DISTRICT, 2015⁷

This map shows the percentage of third grade students in each school district who passed the Third Grade Reading Summative Assessment in either the initial, first, or second retest window. Statewide, 92% (N = 35,022) of students scored at or above the minimum passing score of 926 while 8% (N = 2,907) scored below.

State Average

Passing – 92%
Failing – 8%

Note: Map based on combined results from Initial assessment window (May 2015), first retest window (July 2015), and second retest window (September 2015).



“We need a generation of high school graduates prepared for college and a career, for military service and to become a workforce that can compete in the global economy. With that in mind, the first thing we must do is teach our children to read.”

- Ralph Smith, Sr. Vice President, Annie E. Casey Foundation,
Managing Director, Campaign for Grade Level Reading

GRADUATION IN MISSISSIPPI

This map shows the percentage of students who graduated high school in the 2015-2016 school year. Districts that were consolidated after the 2012-2013 school year are disaggregated into their original configurations to reflect the graduation rates of the district where students were initially enrolled.

HIGHEST

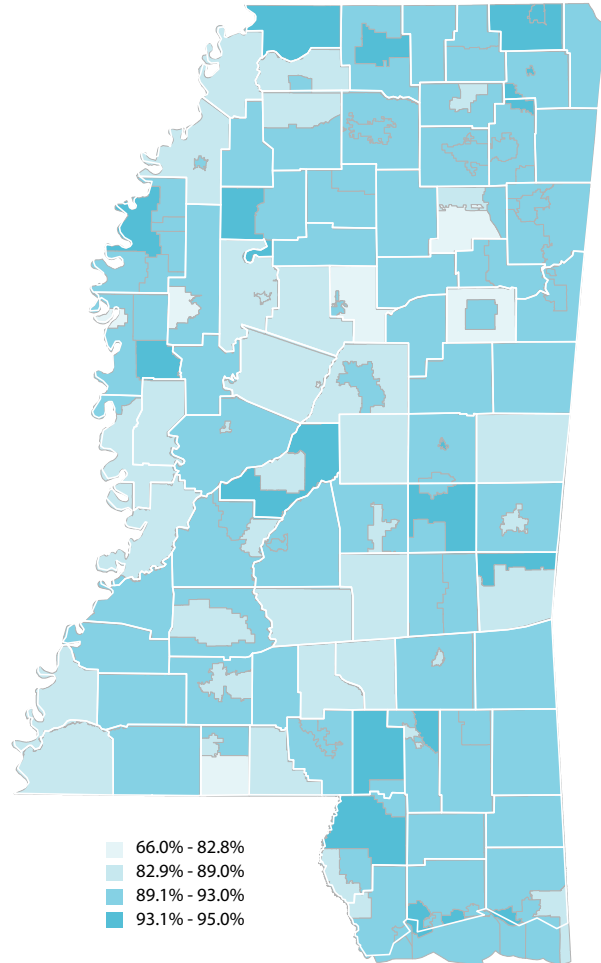
HOLLANDALE	97.6%
ENTERPRISE	97.5%
HOLLY SPRINGS	96.0%
LAMAR COUNTY	94.7%
WEST TALLAHATCHIE	92.5%

LOWEST

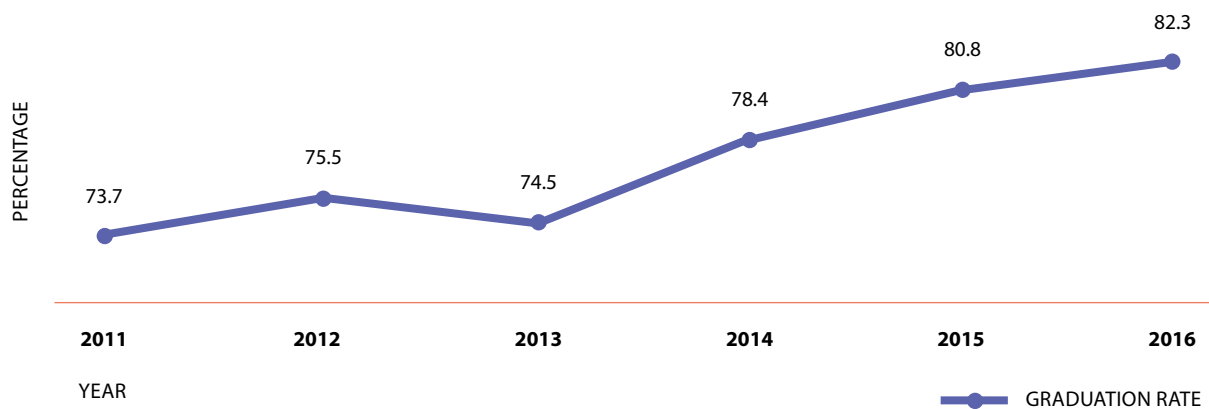
OKTIBBEHA*	60.5%
GREENVILLE	62.0%
MONTGOMERY	65.0%
DURANT	65.1%
HINDS AHS	66.4%

*Now consolidated with former Starkville School District

**GRADUATION RATE BY DISTRICT,
2015/16⁸**

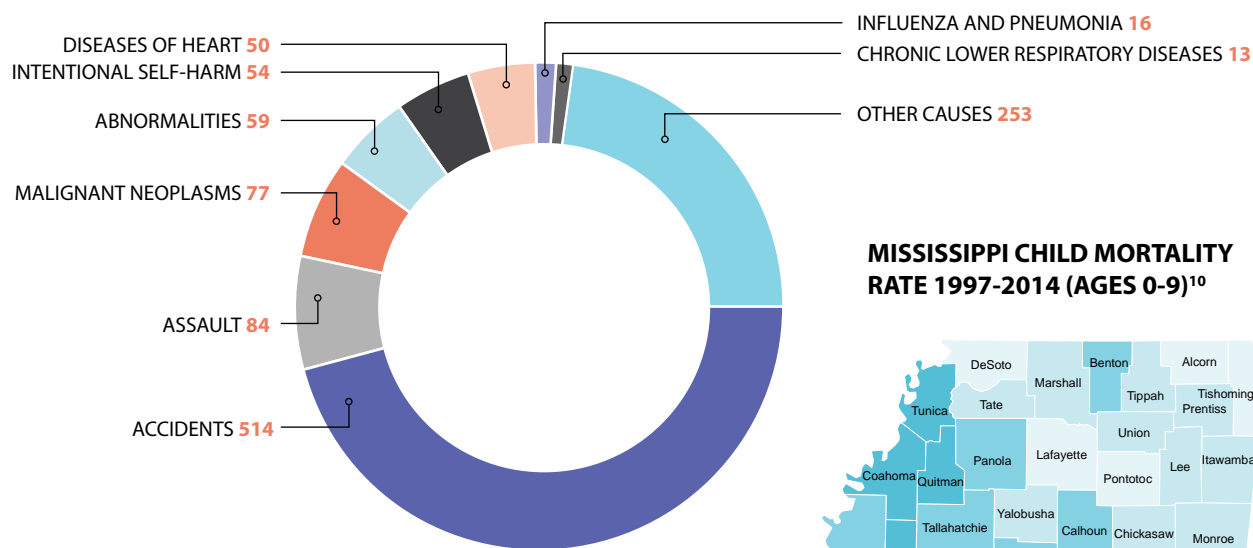


STATEWIDE GRADUATION RATE 6-YEAR HISTORY⁹



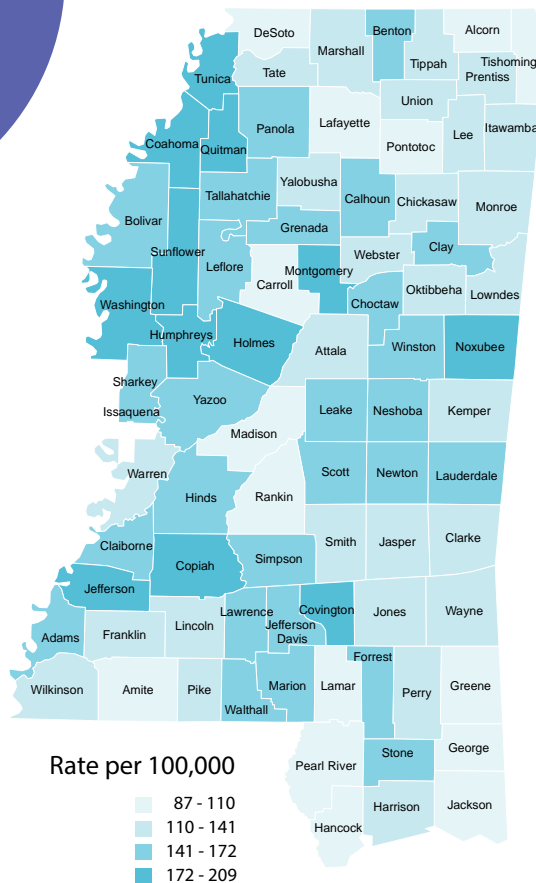
HEALTH

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH FOR CHILDREN IN MISSISSIPPI 2011-2015 (AGES 1-17)¹⁰



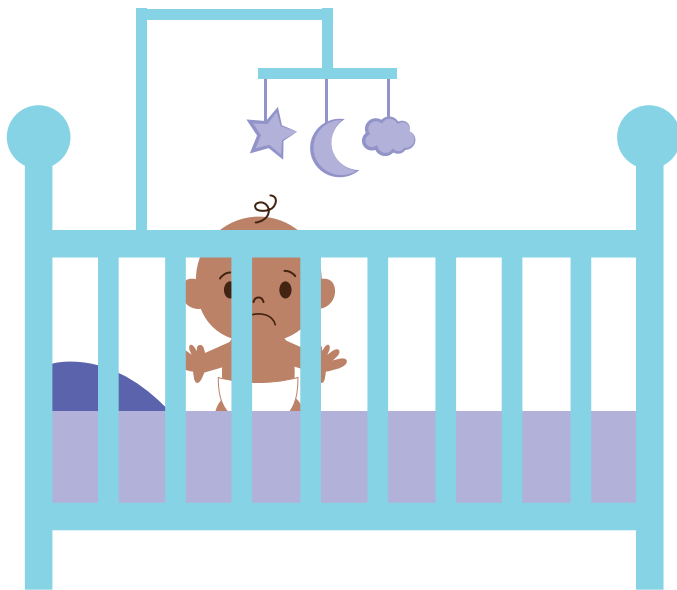
Between 2011 and 2015, there were 1,120 child deaths in Mississippi. Accidents were the leading cause of death of children under 18 in Mississippi (514 deaths) followed by assault (84), malignant neoplasms (77), and congenital malformations, deformations, and chromosomal abnormalities (59). Other causes may include septicemia, anemias, meningitis, diabetes, and cerebrovascular diseases.

MISSISSIPPI CHILD MORTALITY RATE 1997-2014 (AGES 0-9)¹⁰



TOBACCO POLICY AND AWARENESS

Currently, 17% of adults smoke, which leaves over 30% of U.S. children living in homes with at least one smoker. Secondhand smoke (SHS) is toxic with over 4,000 chemicals and poison gasses including 50 known cancer-causing chemicals. "Smoking is the most modifiable risk factor for poor birth outcomes, considering SHS doubles the risk of death from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)."¹¹ The documented health risks from exposure can be attributed to either SHS or thirdhand smoke.



SECONDHAND SMOKE
DOUBLES THE
RISK OF DEATH FROM
SUDDEN INFANT DEATH
SYNDROME (SIDS)

In 2013, it was estimated that "25% of U.S. residents live in multiunit housing."^{12,13}

A study conducted in Boston has shown that children living in multiunit housing (MUH), not smoke-free, have 45% higher levels of nicotine than children living in detached homes.¹⁴

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) strongly encouraged all housing to go smoke-free, but it is not yet a requirement.¹⁵ Researchers examined data collected from MUH residents and found that 46% experienced smoke entering their unit from somewhere else in the building "often, sometimes, or rarely."¹² In Mississippi, the 34 Tobacco Free Coalition directors conduct

MUH presentations around the state, at MUH locations, educating parents and housing authorities on the dangers of SHS and thirdhand smoke.¹⁶

Policy work, advocacy, and education have been effective as smoking rates in Mississippi have decreased while smoke-free ordinances have increased (Mississippi Tobacco Data, 1999-2016). As shown in the map, Mississippi has 130 communities that have adopted smoke-free ordinances out of 298, while 87 communities have included a restriction on electronic cigarettes as well.¹⁶

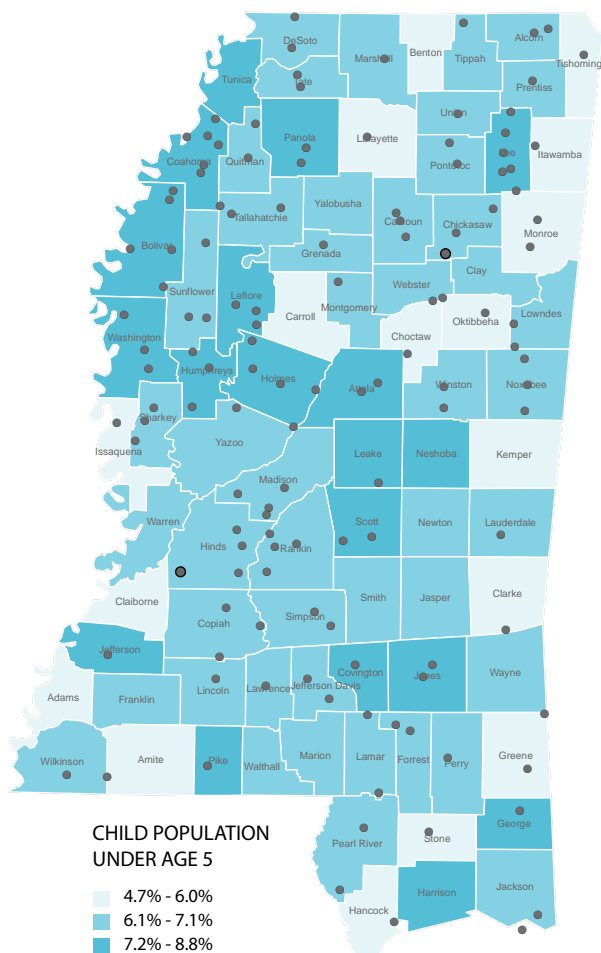
MISSISSIPPI SMOKE-FREE MUNICIPALITIES AS OF 12/1/16

Aberdeen	Flora	Moss Point
Alligator	Florence	Nettleton
Amory	Flowood	New Albany
Anguilla	Forest	New Augusta
Arcola	Friars Point	Noxapater
Artesia	Georgetown	Okolona
Baldwyn	Greenwood	Oxford
Bassfield	Grenada	Pascagoula
Batesville	Hattiesburg	Pearl
Belzoni	Hernando	Picayune
Beulah	Hollandale	Pickens
Booneville	Holly Springs	Pittsboro
Brandon	Houston	Plantersville
Brookhaven	Indianola	Pontotoc
Brooksville	Isola	Poplarville
Bruce	Itta Bena	Prentiss
Byram	Iuka	Renova
Calhoun City	Jackson	Ridgeland
Canton	Jonestown	Rolling Fork
Cary	Kosciusko	Saltillo
Centreville	Laurel	Senatobia
Charleston	Leakesville	Shaw
Clarksdale	Lexington	Shubuta
Clinton	Louise	Shuqualak
Coahoma	Louisville	Sidon
Coldwater	Lucedale	Sledge
Collins	Lula	Southaven
Corinth	Lumberton	Starkville
Courtland	Lyon	State Line
Crawford	Macon	Sumner
Cruger	Madison	Sumrall
Crystal Springs	Magee	Tchula
Diamondhead	Magnolia	Tupelo
Drew	Mantachie	Tutwiler
Duck Hill	Marks	Utica
Duncan	Mathiston	Verona
Durant	Mayersville	Walnut
Ecru	Mendenhall	Walnut Grove
Eden	Meridian	Weir
Ellisville	Metcalfe	Wesson
Ethel	Monticello	Wiggins
Farmington	Moorhead	Woodland
Fayette	Morton	Woodville

COMPREHENSIVE SMOKE-FREE MUNICIPALITIES BY POPULATION SEPTEMBER 2016¹⁷

SMOKE-FREE TO DATE: 12/1/16

Total Number of Municipalities in Mississippi	298
Smoke-Free Municipalities in Mississippi	130 (31.8%)
Municipalities with E-cigarette Regulations	87



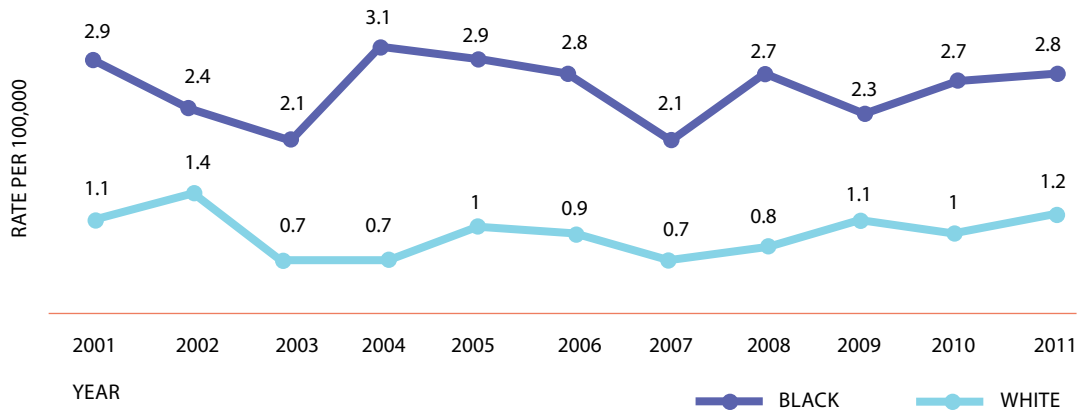
1 IN 3 MUNICIPALITIES IN
MISSISSIPPI IS SMOKE-FREE



Source: Mississippi Tobacco Data, Mississippi State University; 2015 Census Population. For more details, <http://traps.msussrc.com/smokefree/map>

ASTHMA IN MISSISSIPPI

RATE OF ASTHMA DEATHS PER 100,000 BY RACE, MISSISSIPPI, 2001-2011¹⁸



CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA BY WEIGHT (AGE 0-17)¹⁸

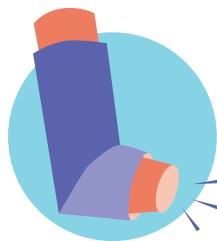


EFFECTS OF SECONDHAND SMOKE ON CHILDREN

The Mississippi Department of Health notes that “68,000 Mississippi children have asthma, which can be aggravated by secondhand smoke” (2016). Other respiratory issues are also attributed to SHS affecting pregnant women, babies, and children including ear infections, bronchitis, coughing, pneumonia and SIDS (MSDH, 2016).



**EAR
INFECTIONS**



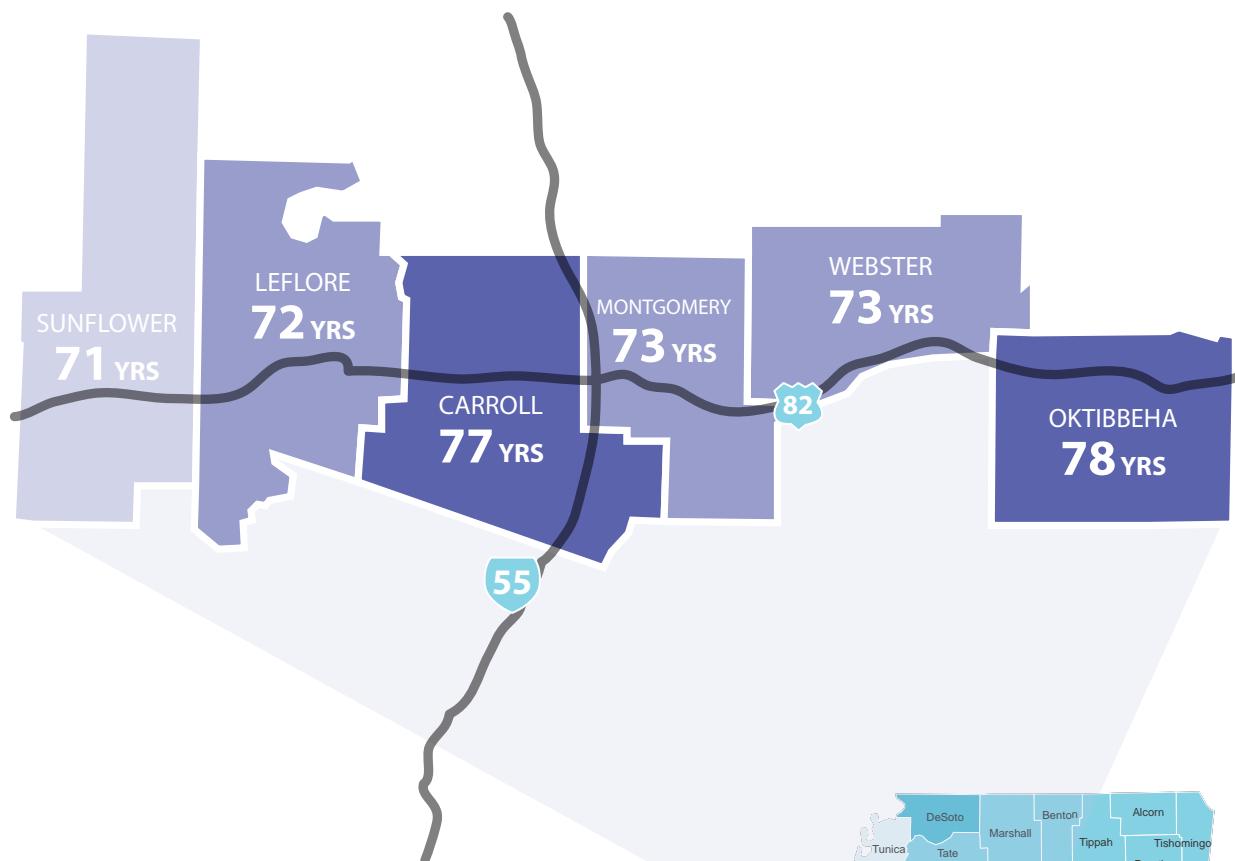
**ASTHMA
ATTACKS**



**RESPIRATORY
INFECTIONS**

Recent data show that 6,200 children die each year in the U.S. as a result of SHS, with 5.4 million childhood illnesses attributed to SHS exposure. More common risks are asthma episodes, lower respiratory episodes, middle ear infections, low birthweight & preterm births, and SIDS. The short-term effects of SHS in children include respiratory infections, tooth decay, decreased pulmonary function, and house fires.^{17, 11}

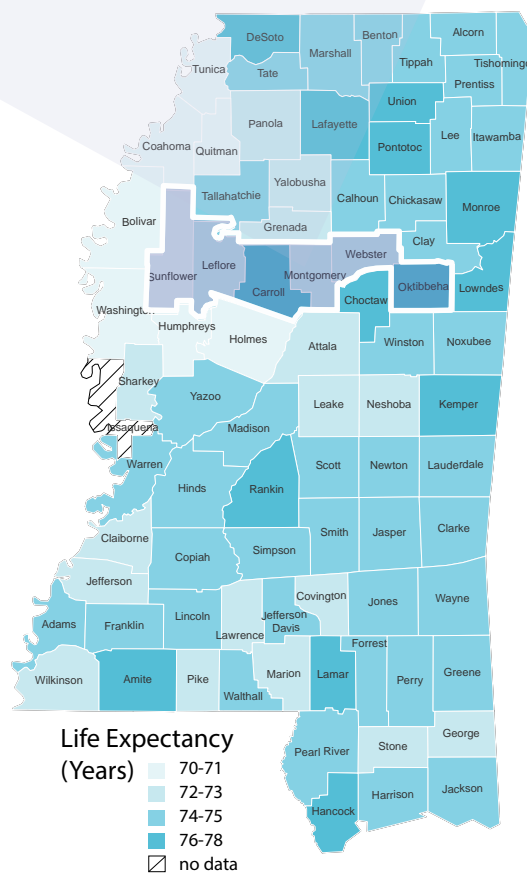
CONTEXTUAL EFFECTS ON LIFE EXPECTANCY



LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH¹⁹

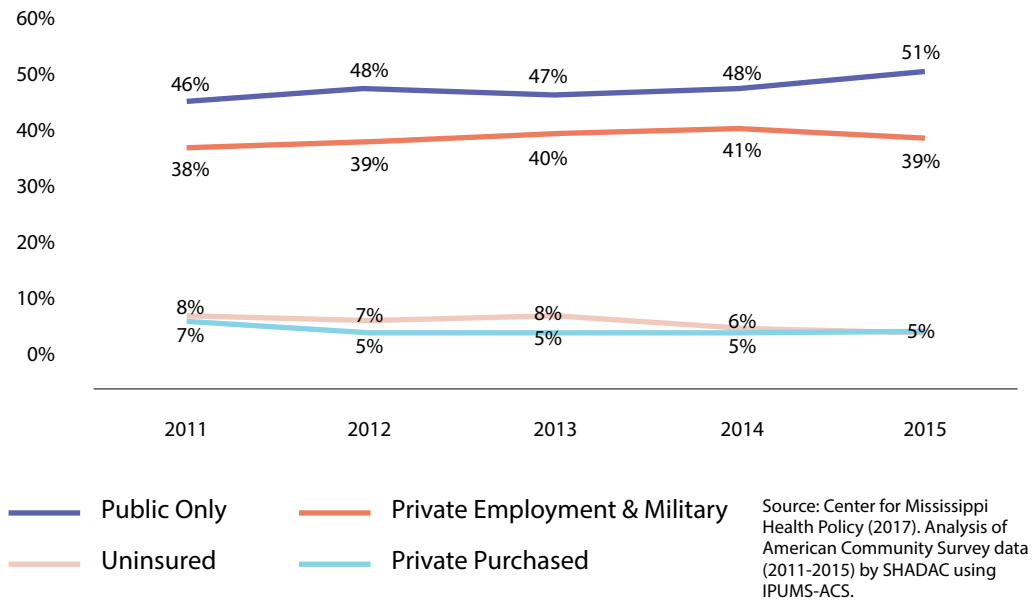
As this map reflects, life span varies dramatically by county of residence across Mississippi. Children born in the same year in Mississippi **may experience an 8-year difference in life expectancy based on their county of birth.** The overall life expectancy for children born in Mississippi in the past decade (2004-2013) is 75 years. The above map shows the average life expectancy among six counties located on Mississippi Highway 82. The average life expectancy of children born in Sunflower County is 7 years shorter than children born in Oktibbeha County. The life expectancy for children born in Quitman County is 70 years, the lowest in the state. Based on World Health Organization data for 2000-2015, Quitman County's life expectancy is similar to Fiji, Belize, Bhutan, and Kazakhstan and lower than El Salvador, Libya, Honduras, and Bangladesh.

Source: Center on Society and Health, Virginia Commonwealth University



HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

HEALTH COVERAGE OF CHILDREN 0-18, 2011-2015²⁰



From 2011 to 2015, rates of uninsured children in Mississippi declined significantly. Most of this decrease has been due to increases in the percentage of children with public coverage, though there have also been increases in private employment and military coverage. In 2015, the majority of children were covered by public programs such as Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (51%). The rate of public coverage for children is significantly higher in Mississippi than in the United States (51% versus 36%).

CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) and Medicaid are different programs. Children with health insurance at the time of application are not eligible for CHIP.

Children may qualify for CHIP or Medicaid – not both.



IMMUNIZATION

ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF THE ROUTINE CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES, 2009²¹

Estimated Effects of Vaccination in 2009	Lives Saved	Direct Costs Saved, Millions*	Societal Costs Saved (Direct+Indirect), Millions*
Diphtheria	27,503	\$3,654	\$39,296
Tetanus	25	\$12	\$45
Pertussis	1,062	\$4,443	\$7,017
Hib	741	\$1,810	\$3,756
Polio	800	\$2,898	\$7,259
Measles	3,106	\$3,762	\$8,862
Mumps	12	\$1,411	\$2,374
Rubella	15	\$187	\$721
Congenital Rubella	70	\$133	\$257
Hepatitis B	3,514	\$240	\$1,170
Varicella	73	\$373	\$1,598
Hepatitis A	36	\$52	\$114
Pneumococcus-related	5,056	\$965	\$2,696
Rotavirus	19	\$327	\$595
Total	42,032	\$20,267	\$76,360

*costs are rounded and presented in US dollars

The above cost benefit analysis research by Zhou et al. was conducted on historical data before vaccinations and disease incidence from 2005-2009 (2009). Projecting births and costs versus net savings, vaccinations would save ~42,000 early deaths, and 20 million cases of disease. The overall estimated savings of \$13.5 billion in direct cost and \$68.8 billion in total societal costs (Zhou et al., 2009).

VACCINE ABBREVIATIONS

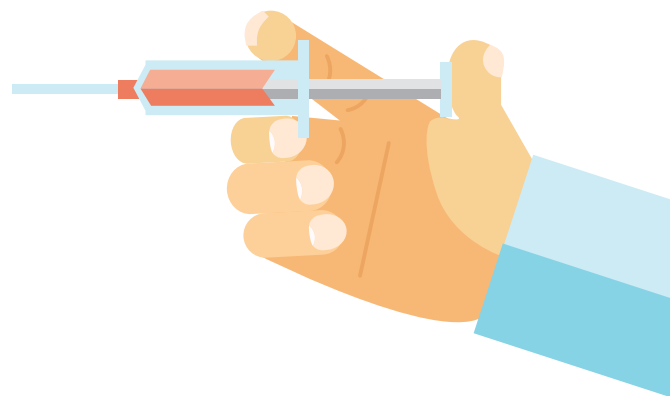
DTaP – diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis

Hib – Haemophilus influenza type b conjugate

2014 MEASLES MUMPS RUBELLA VACCINATION RATE²²

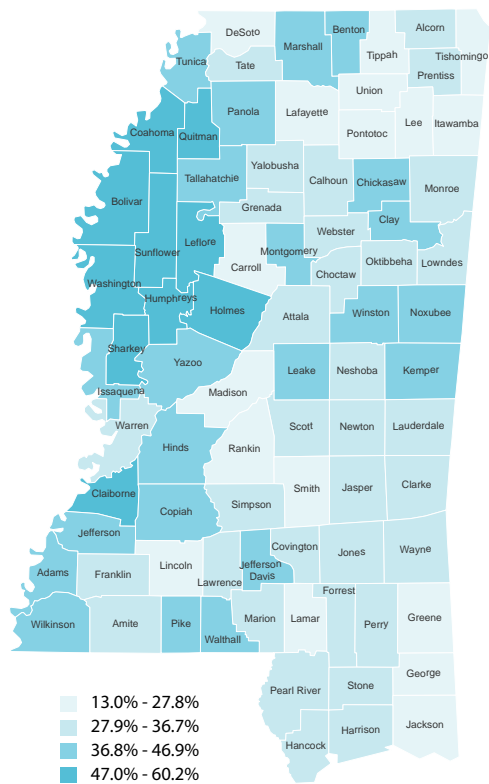
The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have stated that there is **no evidence** of immunizations causing Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

UNITED STATES 91.5%
MISSISSIPPI 95.0% *9th highest nationally*



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

CHILDREN IN POVERTY



HIGHEST

HUMPHREYS	60.2%
QUITMAN	56.8%
LEFLORE	55.3%
CLAIBORNE	54.0%
SHARKEY	53.7%

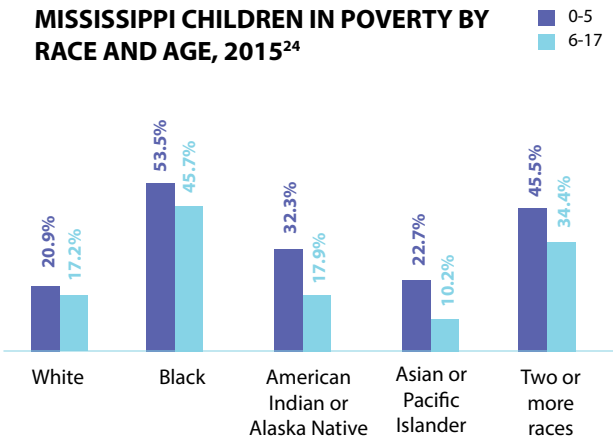
LOWEST

DESOTO	13.0%
RANKIN	14.2%
MADISON	18.5%
LAFAYETTE	20.2%
LAMAR	21.3%

CHILDREN IN POVERTY (AGES 0-17)²³

In 2015, approximately one in three (225,347) Mississippi children under 18 years old were living in poverty (based on SAIPE data). Despite being the population that is the most vulnerable to the effects of poverty, young children (ages 0-5) in Mississippi are more likely to experience poverty than any other age group. Humphreys County (60.2%) has the highest child poverty percentage in the state of Mississippi and second highest percentage in the U.S. Of the 15 highest ranking counties in poverty in the nation, five are located in Mississippi (Humphreys, Quitman, Leflore, Claiborne, Sharkey Counties).

MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN IN POVERTY BY RACE AND AGE, 2015²⁴

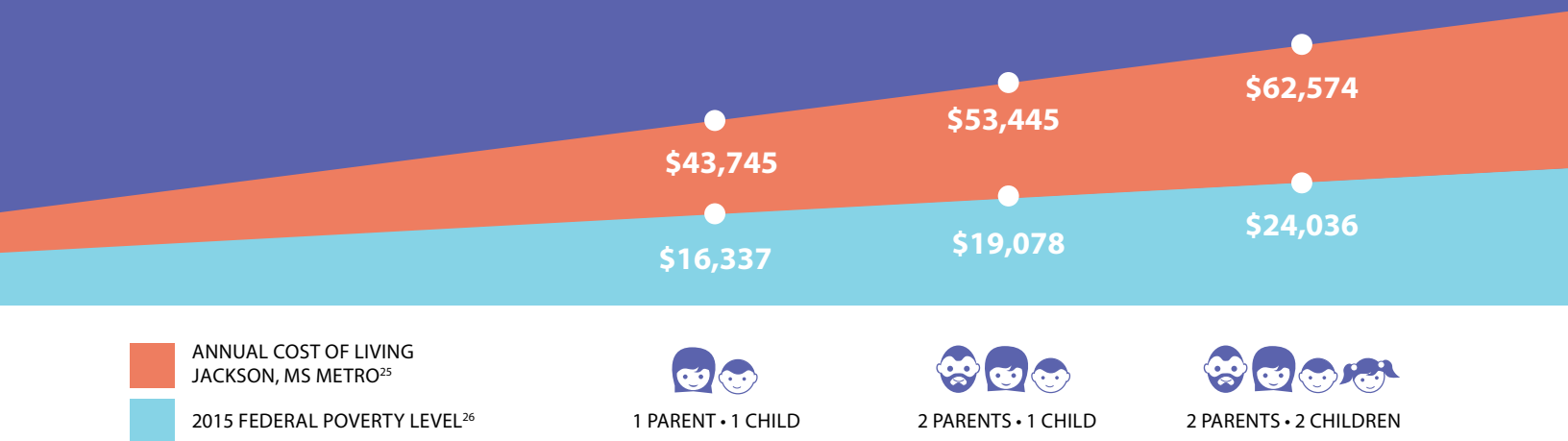


HUMPHREYS COUNTY HAS THE **HIGHEST** POVERTY LEVEL IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND **SECOND HIGHEST RATE IN THE U.S.**

OF THE 15 COUNTIES WITH THE HIGHEST POVERTY RATES IN THE U.S., **5 ARE LOCATED IN MISSISSIPPI**

IS A POVERTY-LEVEL INCOME ENOUGH TO SUPPORT A FAMILY?

In order to meet their basic needs, Mississippi families may need incomes of at least twice the federal poverty level. For instance, a family of two parents and one child living in the Jackson, Mississippi Metro area would need a total family income of \$53,445 per year, more than double the federal poverty level for a family of that size (\$19,078).^{25,26}

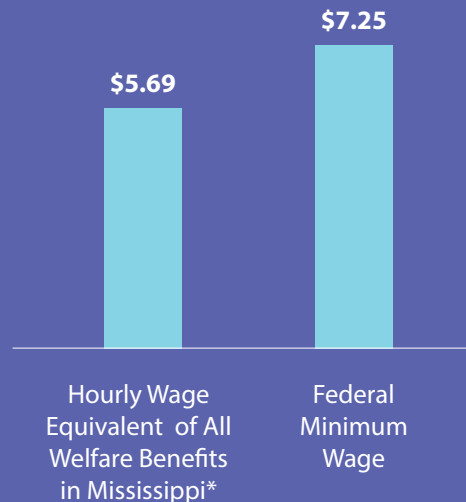


²⁵ Based on estimates from the Economic Policy Institute's Family Budget Calculator (as of November 2016)

²⁶ Based on 2015 Census Bureau Poverty thresholds

WHAT IS THE TOTAL VALUE OF WELFARE PROGRAMS IN MISSISSIPPI?²⁷

It is often believed that welfare programs discourage active employment seeking because the total value of welfare benefits exceeds the minimum wage and federal poverty level. According to a report by the CATO Institute, the total value of welfare benefits in Mississippi is the lowest of any state (\$16,984). Even in the unlikely event that an individual does receive all possible welfare benefits in Mississippi, this would still be \$1.56 less per hour than the federal minimum wage. This would be within 87% of the federal poverty level.

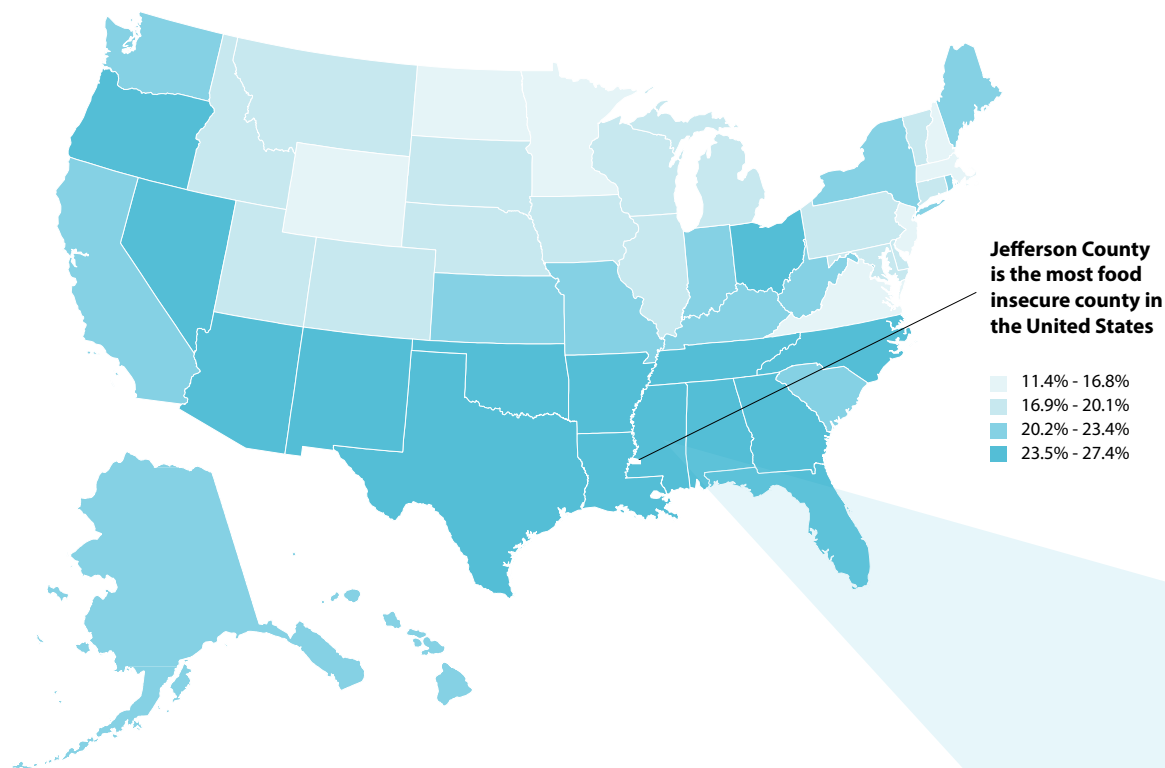


**THAT'S \$1.56 LESS
THAN THE FEDERAL
MINIMUM WAGE**

*Based on total welfare benefits for a single mother with two children

FOOD INSECURITY

FOOD INSECURE CHILDREN BY STATE, 2014²⁸



FOOD INSECURE CHILDREN IN MISSISSIPPI, 2014²⁸



Average cost of a meal in MS **\$2.88**

Source: Feeding America (2014)



DAVIS WADE
holds 61,337 people



VAUGHT-HEMMINGWAY
holds 64,580 people



VETERANS MEMORIAL
holds 60,492 people

If all of these stadiums were filled with Mississippi's **200,600** children who are food insecure, there would still be **14,191 REMAINING.**

22.3% Overall Food Insecurity Rate in MS

27.4% Child Food Insecurity Rate in MS

27% Likely ineligible for federal nutrition programs (incomes above 185% of poverty)

73% Income-eligible for nutrition programs (incomes at or below 185% of poverty)

\$338,917,000 Additional money required to meet food needs

HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING SNAP BENEFITS
BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT²⁹

DISTRICT 1

Households	45,811
W/ Children Under 18	51.3%
Below Poverty Level	55.8%
White	48.3%
Black	50.6%
Other Race	1.1%
Median Income	\$18,132

DISTRICT 2

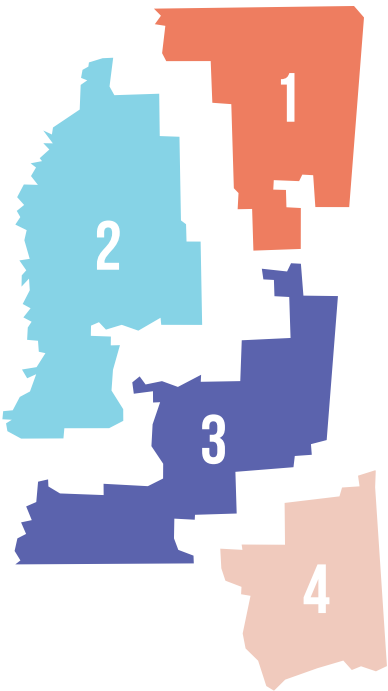
Households	66,609
W/ Children Under 18	57.7%
Below Poverty Level	61.5%
White	13.5%
Black	85.0%
Other Race	1.5%
Median Income	\$15,441

DISTRICT 3

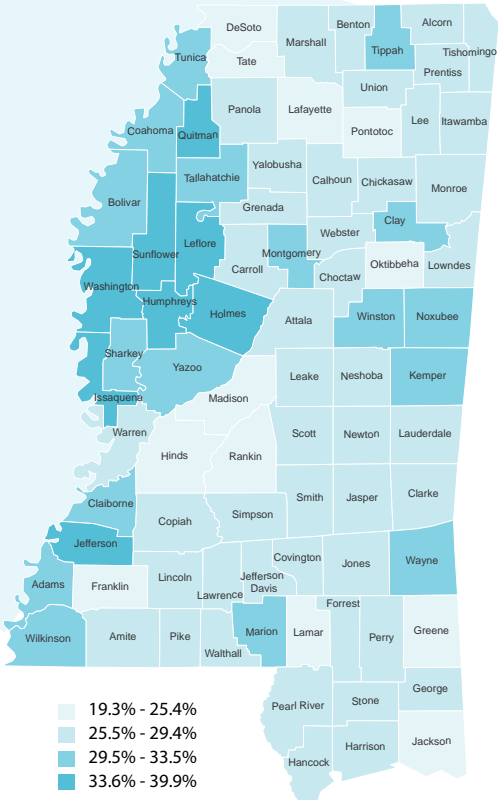
Households	39,712
W/ Children Under 18	52.8%
Below Poverty Level	60.8%
White	34.0%
Black	63.8%
Other Race	2.2%
Median Income	\$15,490

DISTRICT 4

Households	48,971
W/ Children Under 18	56.3%
Below Poverty Level	58.4%
White	50.9%
Black	44.2%
Other Race	4.9%
Median Income	\$17,829



FOOD INSECURE CHILDREN
(FIC) BY COUNTY²⁸



HIGHEST

	Percent FIC	# of FIC	Cost of Meal	Additional \$ required to meet food needs
JEFFERSON	39.9%	730	\$2.93	\$1,477,000
ISSAQUENA	38.7%	80	\$2.97	\$220,000
HOLMES	37.8%	1970	\$3.23	\$3,861,000
HUMPHREYS	36.0%	910	\$2.98	\$1,716,000
LEFLORE	35.8%	3090	\$3.09	\$5,872,000

LOWEST

	Percent FIC	# of FIC	Cost of Meal	Additional \$ required to meet food needs
MADISON	19.3%	4990	\$3.38	\$10,150,000
DESOTO	20.1%	9160	\$2.89	\$12,311,000
RANKIN	20.8%	7460	\$3.01	\$10,974,000
LAMAR	22.7%	3420	\$2.90	\$4,884,000
PONTOTOC	24.2%	1960	\$3.04	\$2,544,000

This map shows the percentage of food insecure children for each county. Food insecure children are those children living in households experiencing food insecurity. Based on USDA's measure, food insecurity refers to lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods.

UNEMPLOYMENT

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY COUNTY, 2015³⁰

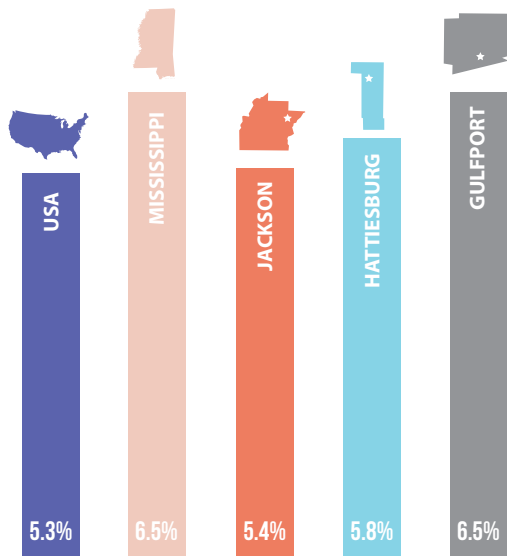
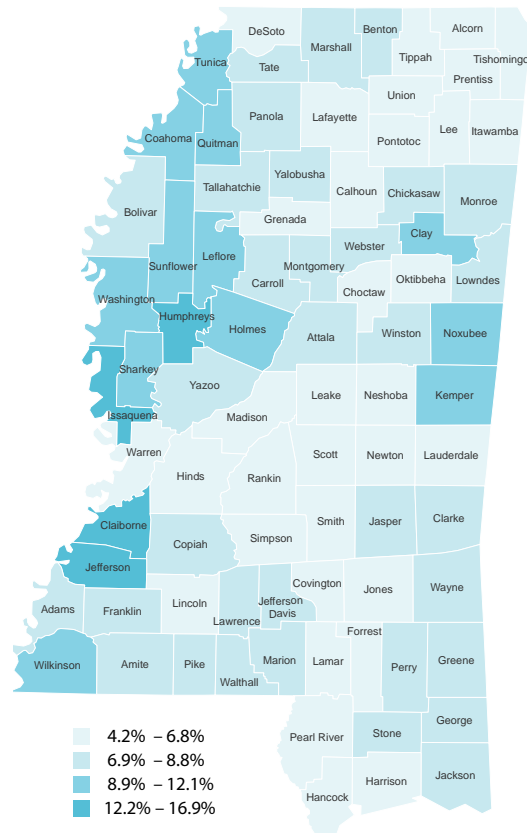
This map shows the percentage of the civilian labor force who were not employed in each county of Mississippi in 2015. Individuals who are not looking for work are not considered to be in the labor force and are therefore not considered in the unemployment rate. Compared to 2014 (7.6%), the unemployment rate has decreased (6.5%).

HIGHEST

ISSAQUENA	16.9%
JEFFERSON	14.9%
HUMPHREYS	12.9%
CLAIBORNE	12.9%
HOLMES	12.1%

LOWEST

RANKIN	4.2%
MADISON	4.6%
DESOTO	4.9%
LAMAR	4.9%
SCOTT	4.9%



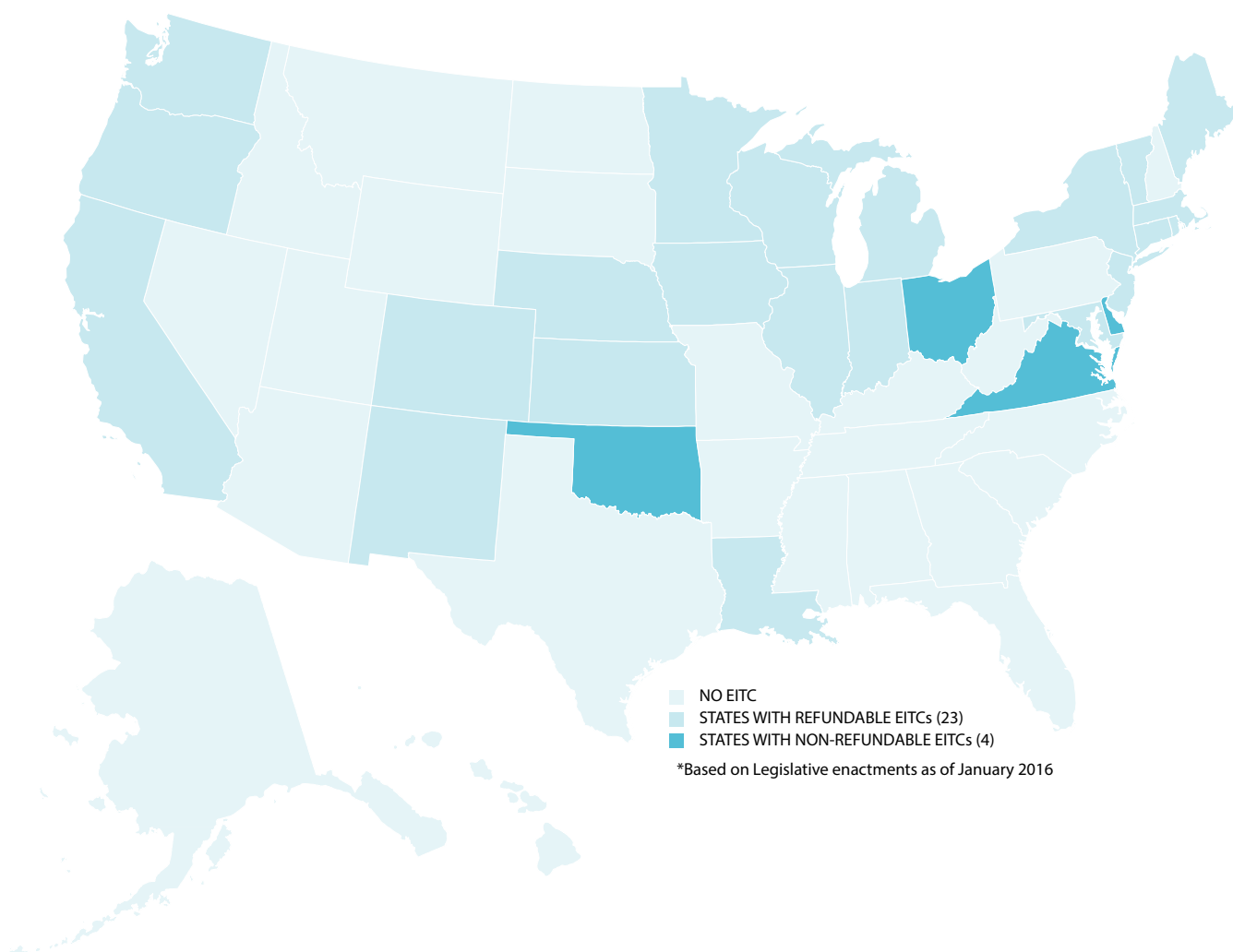
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY METRO AREA, 2015³¹

Millions of jobs were lost during the Great Recession between 2007 and 2009 in the U.S. Although some of those jobs were recovered, major cities in Mississippi still have high rates of unemployment. The highest unemployment rate is in the Gulfport metropolitan statistical area (MSA; 6.5%). All MSAs in Mississippi have higher rates of unemployment than the nation as a whole.

STATE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDITS

TWENTY-SIX STATES AND DC HAVE ENACTED EITCs, 2016³²

- Like the Federal EITC, state EITCs provide a tax credit to low income working people. State EITCs are set as a percentage of the Federal EITC. The specific percentage varies considerably across states.
- Twenty-six states and the District of Columbia offer state-level earned income tax credits.
- The credit may reduce the amount of tax owed or may refund the difference. This varies by state.
- Refundable EITCs (23 states) reflect the full amount of the credit regardless of whether the credit exceeds their income tax liability.
- Non-Refundable EITCs (4 states) can only be used toward the balance of family's tax liability.





FAMILY & COMMUNITY

FOSTER CARE

During the 2016 Mississippi legislative session, Senate Bill 2179 was passed to establish the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (MDCPS), separating the former Division of Family & Children's Services from the Mississippi Department of Human Services into its own state agency, effective July 2016. The overall mission of the MDCPS is to protect Mississippi's children. This is done through a wide array of services and programs ranging from child abuse and neglect prevention, to foster care services and family preservation and reunification.

STATUS OF CHILDREN IN CARE³³

Of Children

In Foster Care at some time during FFY 2016	8,938
Number of Resource Homes	2,078
Relative Homes	980
Non-Relative Homes	1,098
Reunified	1,829
Reunified within 12 months	1,205

Source: Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (2016, November)

“The goal of FOSTER CARE is to house children in a loving and safe environment while their parents improve their ability to care for their children. The ultimate goal is to reunite children with their parents.”

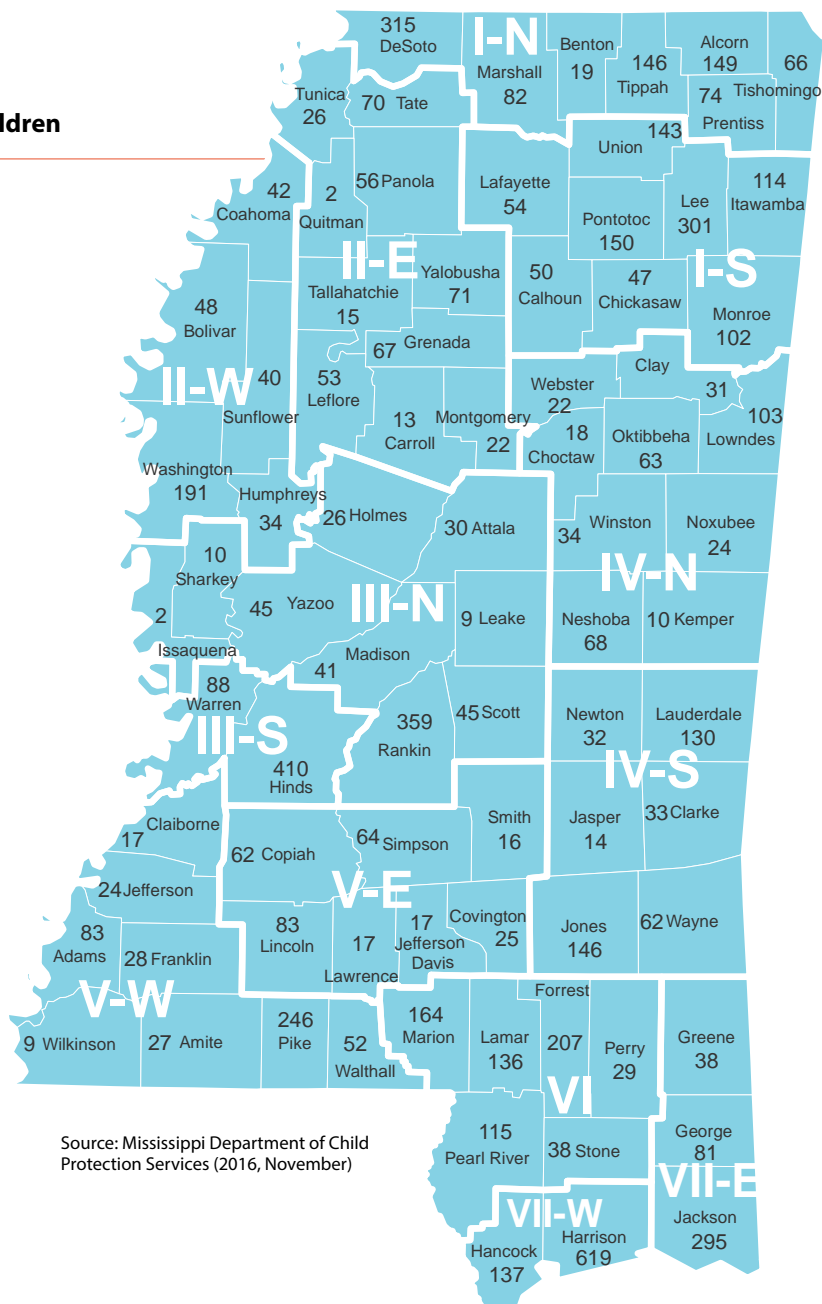
- Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services, November 2016

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

UNIQUE EVIDENCED CASES, 2016³³DISTRICTS³³

of Children

I - North	760
I - South	843
II - East	353
II - West	328
III - North	531
III - South	459
IV - North	337
IV - South	379
V - West	434
V-East	263
VI	620
VII - East	372
VII - West	684
Total	6,363



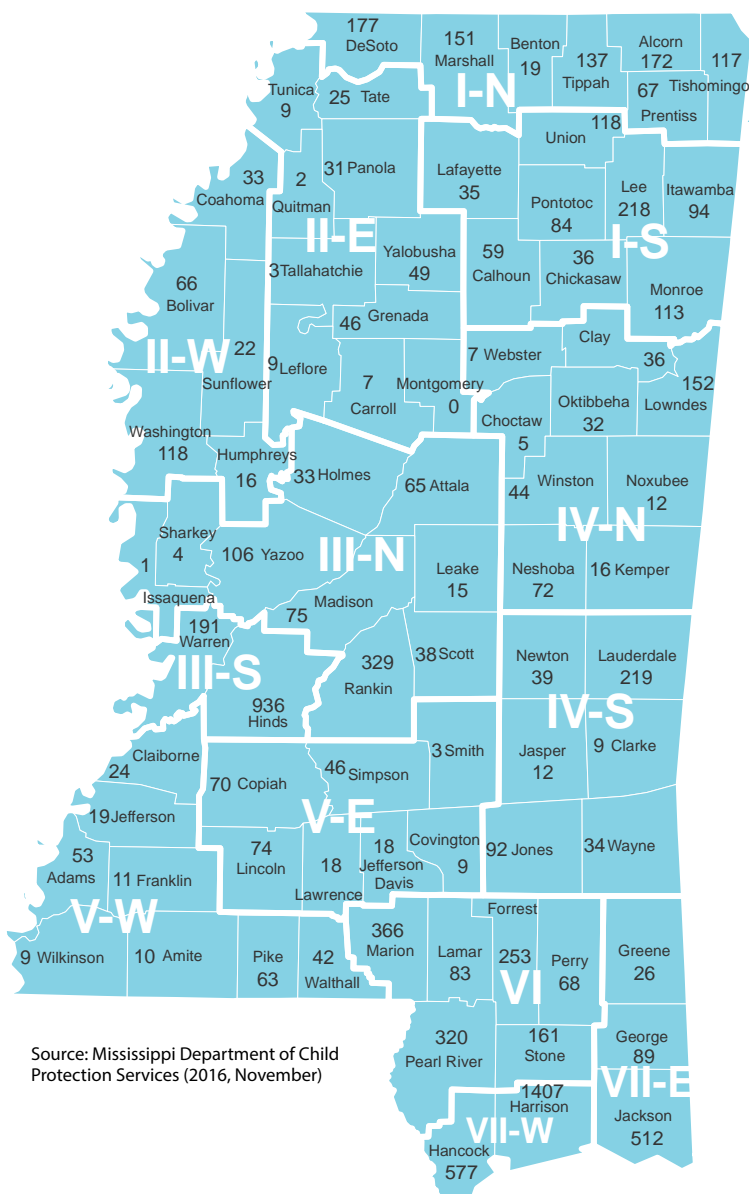
Source: Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (2016, November)

FOSTER CARE

FOSTER CARE STATISTICS, 2016³³

In Mississippi (as of November 2016), almost nine thousand children (8,938) were in foster care at any point in FFY 2016. While there is a tremendous range in the number of children in foster care across counties within the state as indicated on the maps, one of the areas that is of most concern is the difference in the number of available resource (foster) homes per county compared to the number of children in each county who are in need of a resource home. For 2017, MDCPS has a goal of recruiting and licensing more than 100 additional resource homes for children in need of foster care.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE³³



DISTRICTS³³

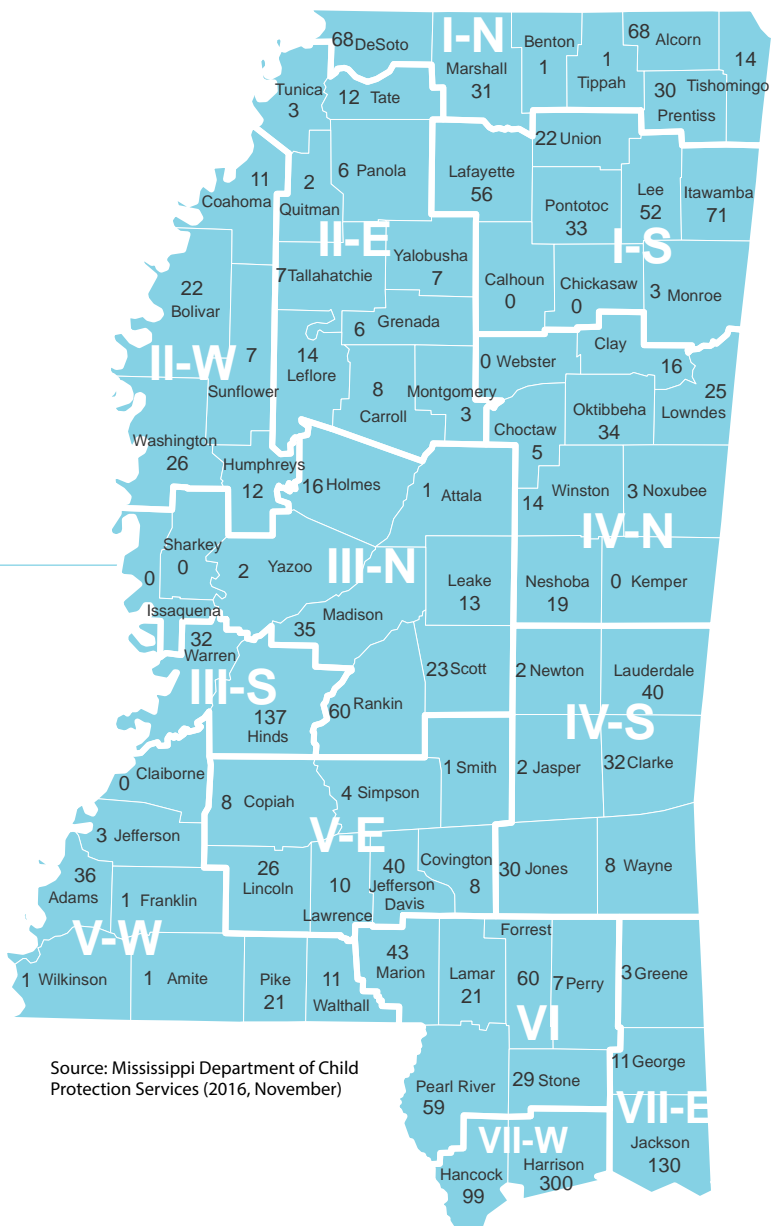
- I - North
- I - South
- II - East
- II - West
- III - North
- III - South
- IV - North
- IV - South
- V - West
- V - East
- VI
- VII - East
- VII - West

State Totals

Source: Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (2016, November)

NUMBER OF RESOURCE HOMES³³

# of Children in Foster Care	# of Resource Homes
840	213
757	237
181	68
255	78
666	150
1,127	169
376	116
405	114
231	74
238	97
1,251	219
627	144
1,984	399
8,938	2,078



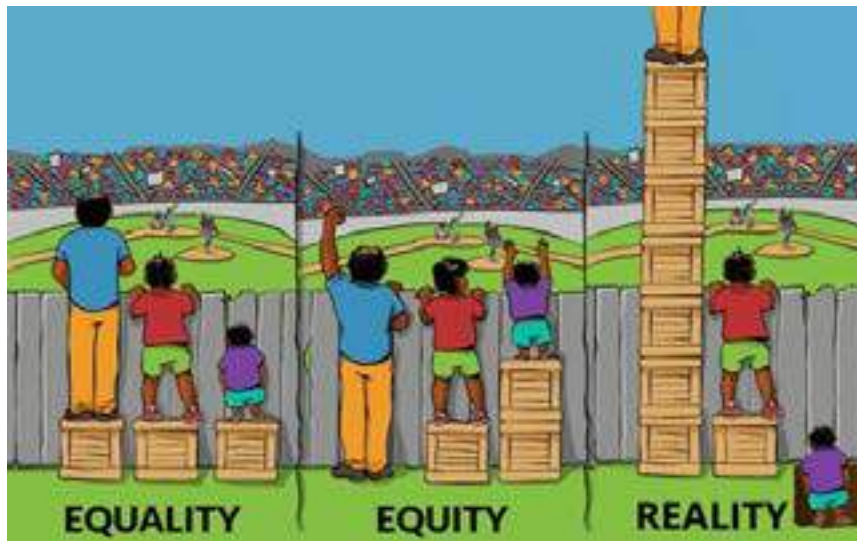
“Simple, focused and persistent actions can change a child’s lifetime, their landscape, the end of their story.”

- Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services, November 2016

EQUALITY \neq EQUITY

“If we expect all children to succeed, we must do more than closing gaps and pointing to disparities. All of our work must strive to achieve race equity, a state in which all children have the same opportunity to reach the potential we know they have.”

- Patrick McCarthy, President & CEO
The Annie E. Casey Foundation



Source: The Haas Institute for a Fair & Inclusive Society

POLICY/PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

Mississippi KIDS COUNT promotes evidence-based policy and program recommendations in each of the four domains below. Given the interconnectedness of each of these areas, promoting policies in each domain yields a much stronger potential to increase the positive outcomes for Mississippi's children.

EDUCATION

- Promote quality early care and education programs
- Increase the number of Pre-K Collaborative classrooms to have one (at a minimum) per school district over the next 5 years, beginning with the geographical areas where the state's most disenfranchised children live
- Ensure that all school districts have the necessary funding to provide for children's maximum educational experiences
- Promote the use of conscious discipline techniques across all of Mississippi's school districts
- Support drop-out prevention programs for all students to increase high school graduation rates

HEALTH

- Support the current policies to promote strong immunization programs and maintain Mississippi's stellar ranking in childhood immunizations
- Increase community and state-wide policies to promote smoke-free communities across the state
- Increase the number of school based nurses to the recommended national standards of child-nurse ratios across each school district
- Promote early developmental and social-emotional screening, referral and follow-up for all children
- Promote comprehensive, coordinated, sequential health education Pre-K through 12th grade

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

- Promote a refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to reduce family poverty
- Promote programs aimed at increasing high school and college students' knowledge on financial literacy, with a particular focus on student loans and subsequent debt repayment
- Increase programs and access to workforce development training to advance a more highly-skilled workforce
- Promote college preparation programs throughout each school district
- Increase employment opportunities for college graduates

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

- Promote home visiting programs across all school districts, with a particular focus on reaching out to families of children who are chronically absent, children who are reading below grade level and children who have been given an in school and/or out of school suspension
- Increase the number of resource (foster) homes in each county
- Increase the number of smoke-free municipalities throughout the state
- Decrease the number of food insecure households
- Increase parental and community involvement in school health councils

LOOKING FOR COUNTY LEVEL DATA?



SCAN TO VIEW
COUNTY DATA

VISIT [HTTP://WWW.DATACENTER.KIDSCOUNT.ORG/MS](http://www.datacenter.kidscount.org/ms)

Rank states, counties, and school districts on various indicators of child well-being, family and community, health, and safety and risk behaviors.

Generate customized visuals, such as maps, line graphs, and bar graphs to show how Mississippi's children fare across the state and over time.

Feature maps and graphs on your own website or blog that are automatically updated when new data is available.

Download raw data.

View and share data quickly and easily anytime and anywhere with the enhanced mobile site for smart phones (mobile.kidscount.org).



HIGHLIGHTING LAUDERDALE COUNTY

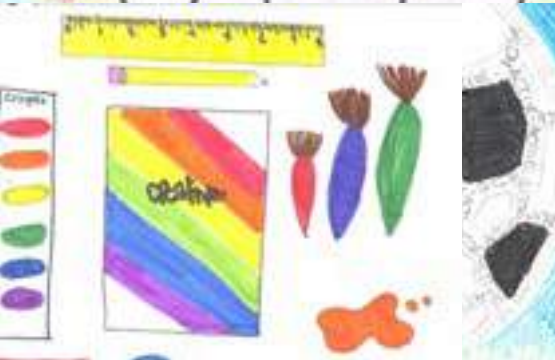
Mississippi KIDS COUNT maintains over 70 indicators on the KIDS COUNT Data Center website for all 82 counties and 152 school districts in Mississippi. This table of Lauderdale County is a small example of the current data available. Counties are ranked according to the favorability of the outcome so that the "best" county is ranked 1st and the "worst" county is ranked 82nd.

INDICATORS:	YEAR	MS	LAUDERDALE	COUNTY RANK
Children in poverty*	2014/15	29%	33.2%	37
Unemployment rate	2015	6.5%	6.7%	32
Receiving supplemental nutrition	2016	18.6%	19.4%	41
Low birthweight babies	2015	11.5%	12.3%	45
Premature births	2015	13.0%	15.4%	62
Teen pregnancy rate	2014	43.7	43.7	31
Adults who could not see a doctor	2015	19.9%	18.8%	24
Children living in single parent homes	2011-2015	45.4%	49.5%	51
3&4 Year olds enrolled in pre-k	2011-2015	51.6%	56.3%	27
High school diploma	2011-2015	82.3%	85.7%	10
Instances of child abuse & neglect	2016	6,865	130	NR
Child population	2011-2015	736,173	19,236	NR

*State-level poverty data based on American Community Survey estimates for 2014 and county-level data based on Census Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates for 2015

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The Mississippi 5th graders who contributed their beautiful artwork to our 2017 Fact book. We hope they will inspire you.

Mississippi State University

Social Science Research Center—Dr. Arthur G. Cosby, Director

Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine—Dr. George Hopper, Director

Mississippi KIDS COUNT Team:

STAFF

Laure Bell

Anne Buffington

Colleen Harris

John McCown

Ben Walker

Ismail Yigit

Linda H. Southward, Director

STUDENTS

Sarah Gresham Barr

Celina Thomas

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Layne Smith

Anna Zollicoffer

The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation's children by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity, and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work, and grow. Mississippi KIDS COUNT is part of the national KIDS COUNT network of state-based organizations supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. For more information about Mississippi KIDS COUNT, visit www.kidscount.ssrc.msstate.edu.



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www.KIDSCOUNT.ssrc.msstate.edu
Email: mskidscount@ssrc.msstate.edu

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