

TODAY'S DELTA

REGIONAL IMPACT



RESOURCES TENNESSEE

ARKANSAS

Growing Small Businesses
Economic Development Infrastructure
POLICY
Investing in Transportation
SUSTAINABILITY
Supporting Delta Leadership
NEW JOBS
To Advance The Productivity and Economic Competitiveness of The Delta Workforce



MISSISSIPPI
21ST CENTURY Global ECONOMY
TALENT & INNOVATION

ACTION

To Create Critical Mass within the Delta

ALABAMA

Connecting an iDelta
Communication FOCUS

CRITICAL JOBS



Web Sites
HEALTH CARE
COMPETITIVE BUSINESS CLIMATE

To Strengthen the Delta's Physical and Digital Connections to the Global Economy

DEVELOPMENT
WORKFORCE

Supporting Delta Leadership
NEW JOBS

LOUISIANA

Entrepreneurship
Developing Clean Technology
TRANSPORTATION PORTS

PORTS



Healthy Delta Initiative

TOURISM

LIME MISSOURI ILLINOIS GOALS Strategic PLAN
RICE CORN KENTUCKY
Stimulate Investment





DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL CO-CHAIRMAN

September 10, 2012

I warmly present to you *Today's Delta*, a comprehensive resource that will enable users to compare and contrast county and state level statistics regarding important quality of life issues in the Delta region. The goal of this publication is simple: to provide a new tool to help our people and communities begin to address the needs and disparities evident throughout the Delta Regional Authority footprint.

For decades, Delta families have suffered fundamental economic, health, and educational disparities. Surrounding the Delta is a recurring conversation that includes extreme poverty, population migration, and an eroding economic base.

Over the last year, the Delta Regional Authority has teamed up with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to produce *Today's Delta*. This report presents county-by-county data across all eight Delta states on indicators of population, educational attainment, poverty, health, economics, and housing.

Raising prosperity levels in the Delta region must begin with a full assessment of our people's circumstances. *Today's Delta* is a tool that will allow us to take an unfiltered look at where we are in an effort to develop an informed blueprint for where we need to go. It is a document that puts aside politics to look at people and considers facts over assumptions.

Special thanks go to Jim Youngquist and his team at the UALR Institute for Economic Advancement, for their extensive work on this project. I hope you will take advantage of this report, and I appreciate your continued dedication to improving the lives of all people across the Delta.

Sincerely,

Chris Masingill

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
236 SHARKEY AVENUE, STE. 400
CLARKSDALE, MS 38614
PHONE: (662) 624-8600
FAX: (662) 624-8537

*Alabama · Arkansas · Illinois · Kentucky
Louisiana · Mississippi · Missouri · Tennessee*

www.dra.gov

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE:
444 NORTH CAPITOL, N.W., STE. 309
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001
PHONE: (202) 434-4870
FAX: (202) 434-4871



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 720
(573) 751-3222

October 2, 2012

As Governors, we all are focused on creating jobs, growing our economies and moving our states forward. To fulfill these critical obligations, it is important that we have a full, accurate, and up-to-date assessment of employment, education, income and other conditions in our states and throughout our region. That is why, as the State Co-Chairman of the Delta Regional Authority, I am pleased to join my fellow Governors and Chairman Masingill in presenting *Today's Delta*.

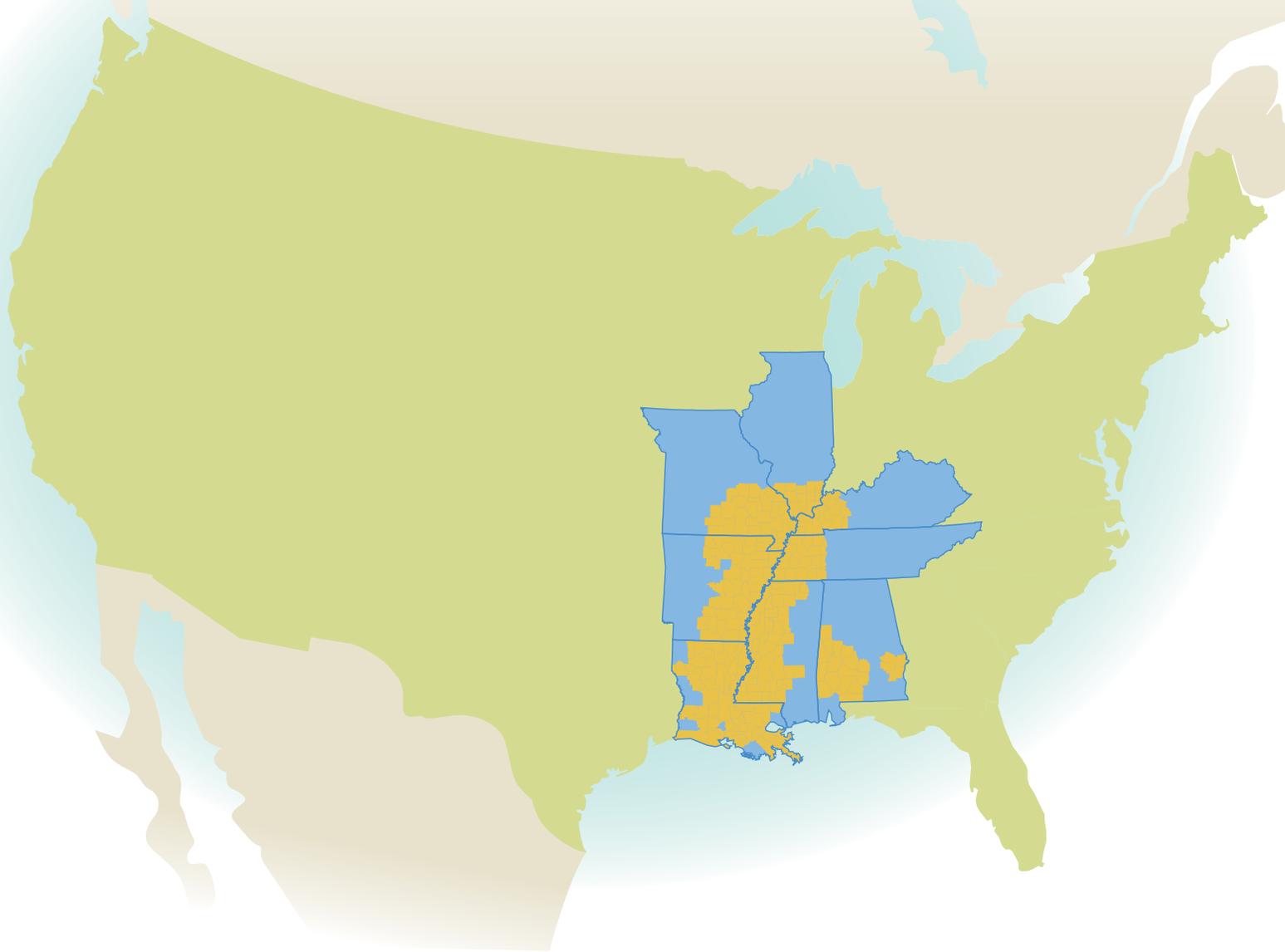
This valuable tool provides state-by-state and county-by-county data on issues important to each of our states, including educational attainment, poverty levels, and income levels. The data in *Today's Delta* give us a more thorough understanding of the issues facing these communities within our states, and will provide valuable insights as we continue to lead our states forward.

My fellow Governors and I hope that educators, researchers and other stakeholders will take full advantage of this comprehensive assessment of *Today's Delta*. Together, we will keep this vital region of our country growing for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jay Nixon', written over a white background.

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor



The Delta region, made up of 252 counties and parishes in eight states, is one of the most historic, culturally rich parts of the country yet daily life remains a struggle for many. The Delta Regional Authority supports job creation and improves quality of life through strategic economic development investments in the Delta region's communities, families and businesses.

Today's Delta is published by the Delta Regional Authority.

(888) GO-TO-DRA
www.dra.gov

Today's Delta: Addressing Perception and Reality

Oftentimes, we use the term “perception is reality”. Many of us whose professional and personal work is to help make the Delta region of the United States a better place to live, work, and learn know that perception does not always reflect the reality of the region. This report, *Today's Delta*, is just the first in a series of documents published in cooperation with the Institute for Economic Advancement (IEA). The mission of these documents will be to analyze and better understand the region's circumstances, to use that understanding to address areas of concern, and to work to achieve a better quality of life for the Delta's citizens.

Today's Delta has been produced to provide the region's leaders with data on each of the Delta's eight (8) states, covering topics such as population, educational attainment, poverty levels, health, economics, and housing. This kind of information can aid regional leaders and decision makers by creating an accurate picture of circumstances in the Delta today—*i.e. the reality, not just the perception.*

The information in *Today's Delta* is presented by state, the DRA region, and the United States as a whole. While there are a number of different data sets available for each state beyond the subsets contained in this report, the information provided in *Today's Delta* is unique as it is comparable, allowing an apples-to-apples analysis of each state.

Today's Delta presents data profiles by topic (e.g. educational attainment, poverty levels, and so on) for each of the Delta's 252 counties and parishes. Each profile contains a map of the region and the relevant percentage totals for each topic. The profiles also include a bar chart comparing state, Delta, and national totals by topic. IEA data analysts have included summary statements with each profile, so that local leaders can have the information they need to identify factors that are influencing the well-being of the region and can use this information to enhance the Delta's future.

In the coming months, IEA will develop individual state reports based on the data provided in this document. Data will be provided for every county or parish in each of the Delta states. Each of these state reports will also include Delta-wide and national comparisons, to allow users to compare Delta and Non-Delta areas.

In addition to the state reports, IEA will produce reports on various aspects of life in the Delta, e.g., education, health care, or the environment, etc. These topic reports will be released at regular intervals throughout the year. A complete set of state reports, data points, maps, and charts will be available on the Delta Regional Authority website (www.dra.gov).

* * * * *

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock Institute for Economic Advancement has made a good faith effort to take all reasonable measures to ensure that this product is accurate, up to date, and free of error at the time of publication. No statement in this report should be construed as an official position of the Delta Regional Authority Board.

**Delta Regional Authority
Co-Chairmen and Governors**



Christopher A. Masingill
Federal Co-Chairman



Michael G. Marshall
Alternate Federal Co-Chairman



Governor Jay Nixon
State Co-Chairman,
Missouri



Governor Robert Bentley
Alabama



Governor Mike Beebe
Arkansas



Governor Pat Quinn
Illinois



Governor Steve Beshear
Kentucky



Governor Bobby Jindal
Louisiana



Governor Phil Bryant
Mississippi



Governor Bill Haslam
Tennessee

Delta Regional Authority

Board Members and Alternates



Federal Co-Chairman
Christopher A. Masingill
 236 Sharkey Avenue, Suite 400
 Clarksdale, MS 38614
 Ph: (662) 624-8600
 Fax: (662) 624-8537

Alternate Federal Co-Chairman
Michael G. Marshall
 P.O. Box 70
 Sikeston, MO 63801
 Ph: (662) 624-8600
 Fax: (662) 624-8537
 E-mail: mmarshall@dra.gov



Governor Robert Bentley
 Office of the Governor
 600 Dexter Avenue
 Montgomery, AL 36130
 Ph: (334) 242-7100
 Fax: (334) 242-0937
 E-mail: info@governor.alabama.gov

Mr. Jim Byard, Jr., Designee
 Alabama Dept. of Economic &
 Community Affairs
 P.O. Box 5690
 Montgomery, AL 36103
 Ph: (334) 242-8672 • Fax: (334) 242-5099
 E-mail: jim.byard@adeca.alabama.gov

Ms. Bea Forniss, Alternate
 Alabama Dept. of Economic &
 Community Affairs
 P.O. Box 5690
 Montgomery, AL 36103
 Ph: (334) 242-5464 • Fax: (334) 242-0273
 E-mail: bea.forniss@adeca.alabama.gov



Governor Mike Beebe
 Office of the Governor
 State Capitol
 Room 250
 Little Rock, AR 72201
 Ph: (501) 682-2345 • Fax: (501) 682-1382
 E-mail: governor@governor.arkansas.gov

Mr. Steven B. Jones, Designee & Alternate
 Arkansas Department of Human Services
 P.O. Box 1437, Slot S201
 Little Rock, AR 72203
 Ph: (501) 682-8650
 Fax: (501) 682-6836
 E-mail: steven.b.jones@arkansas.gov



Governor Pat Quinn
 Office of the Governor
 207 Statehouse
 Springfield, IL 62706
 Ph: (217) 782-6830
 Fax: (217) 524-4049
 E-mail: governor@state.il.us

Mr. David Vaught, Designee & Alternate
 Department of Commerce and Economic
 Opportunity, Thompson Center
 100 W. Randolph, JRTC 3-3127
 Chicago, IL 60601
 Ph: (312) 814-2334 • Fax: (312) 814-1843
 E-mail: david.vaught@illinois.gov



Governor Steve Beshear
 Office of the Governor
 700 Capital Avenue, Suite 100
 Frankfort, KY 40601
 Ph: (502) 564-2611
 Fax: (502) 564-6858
 E-mail: governor@mail.state.ky.us

Mr. Tony Wilder, Designee
 Department for Local Government
 1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 340
 Frankfort, KY 40601
 Ph: (502) 573-2382
 Fax: (502) 573-2939
 E-mail: tony.wilder@ky.gov



Governor Bobby Jindal
 Office of the Governor
 P.O. Box 94004
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804
 Ph: (225) 342-7015
 Fax: (225) 342-7099
 E-mail: meg.vanderbrook@la.gov

Mr. Doyle Robinson, Designee
 Governor's Office of Community
 Programs
 6570 Main Street, Fourth Floor
 Winnsboro, LA 71295
 Ph: (225) 439-2144 • Fax: (318) 435-4416
 E-mail: doyle.robinson@la.gov

Mr. Matt Parker, Alternate
 Office of the Governor
 P.O. Box 94004
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804
 Ph: (225) 342-0919
 Fax: (225) 342-8365
 Email: matt.parker@la.gov



Governor Phil Bryant
 Office of the Governor
 P.O. Box 139
 Jackson, MS 39205
 Ph: (601) 359-3150
 Fax: (601) 359-3741
 E-mail: governor@governor.state.ms.us

Chris Champion, Designee
 Office of the Governor
 P.O. Box 139
 Jackson, MS 39205
 Ph: (601) 576-2901
 E-mail: Chris.Champion@governor.ms.gov



Governor Jay Nixon
 Office of the Governor
 Missouri Capitol, Room 216
 Jefferson City, MO 65101
 Ph: (573) 751-3222
 Fax: (573) 751-1495
 E-mail: constituent.services@mo.gov

Mr. Bill Ransdall, Designee
 Department of Economic Development
 301 West High Street, Room 770
 Jefferson City, MO 65101
 Ph: (573) 526-1608
 Fax: (573) 526-0463
 E-mail: bill.ransdall@ded.mo.gov

Dr. Jon Hagler, Alternate
 Missouri Department of Agriculture
 P.O. Box 630
 Jefferson City, MO 65102
 Ph: (573) 751-5617
 Fax: (573) 751-1784
 E-mail: mdadirector@mda.mo.gov



Governor Bill Haslam
 Office of the Governor
 State Capitol
 Nashville, TN 37243
 Ph: (615) 741-2001
 Fax: (615) 532-9711
 E-mail: bill.haslam@tn.gov

Mr. Allen Borden, Designee
 Dept. of Economic and Community Dev.
 TN Tower Building, 11th Floor
 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue
 Nashville, TN 37243
 Ph: (615) 532-1294 • Fax: (615) 741-5829
 E-mail: allen.borden@tn.gov

Ms. Brooxie Carlton, Alternate
 Dept. of Economic and Community Dev.
 TN Tower Building, 11th Floor
 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue
 Nashville, TN 37243
 Ph: (615) 741-8806 • Fax: (615) 741-5829
 Email: brooxie.carlton@tn.gov





CONTENTS

Population

| | |
|---|---|
| • Total Population | 1 |
| • Percent Change in Total Population | 2 |
| • White Population, Percent of Total Population | 3 |
| • Percent Change in White Population | 4 |
| • Black Population, Percent of Total Population | 5 |
| • Percent Change in Black Population | 6 |
| • Population 65 Years and Over | 7 |

Educational Attainment

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| • High School Diploma or GED | 9 |
| • Associate's Degree | 10 |
| • Bachelor's Degree | 11 |
| • Graduate/Professional Degree | 12 |
| • ACT Scores | 13 |

Families

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| • Children in Single Parent Families | 15 |
| • Population Living in Poverty | 16 |
| • Children in Poverty | 17 |
| • Elderly in Poverty | 18 |
| • Persistent Poverty | 19 |

Health

| | |
|--|----|
| • Obesity Rate | 21 |
| • Diabetes Rate | 22 |
| • Population Under 65 Without Health Insurance | 23 |

Economics

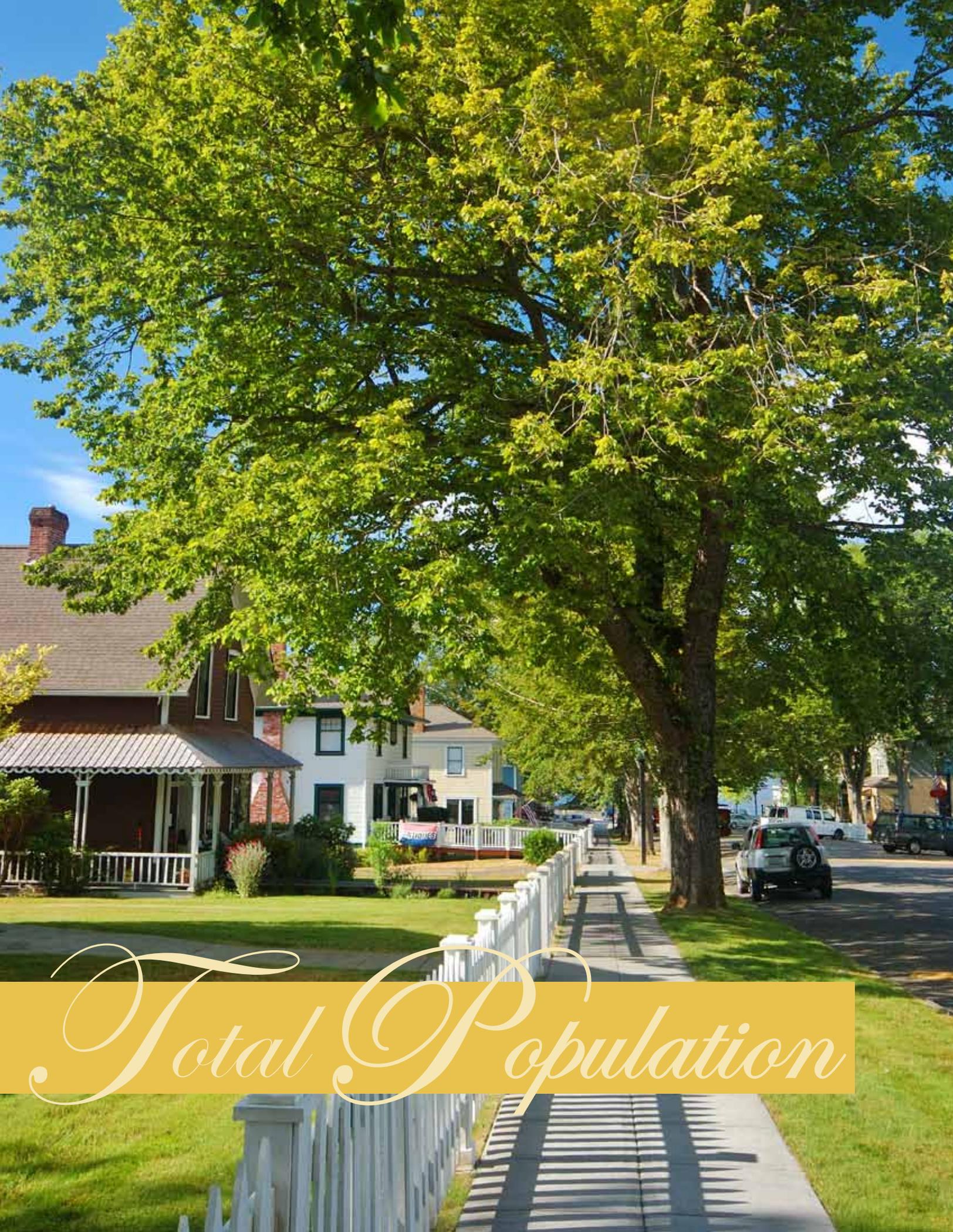
| | |
|---|----|
| • Median Household Income | 25 |
| • Per Capita Personal Income | 26 |
| • Transfer Receipts as a Percent of Total Personal Income | 27 |
| • Unemployment Rate | 28 |
| • Employment/Population Ratio | 29 |

Housing

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| • Renter Occupied Housing Units | 31 |
|---------------------------------|----|

Definitions and Sources

32



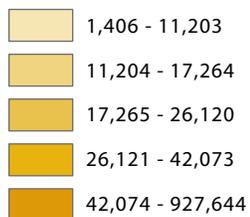
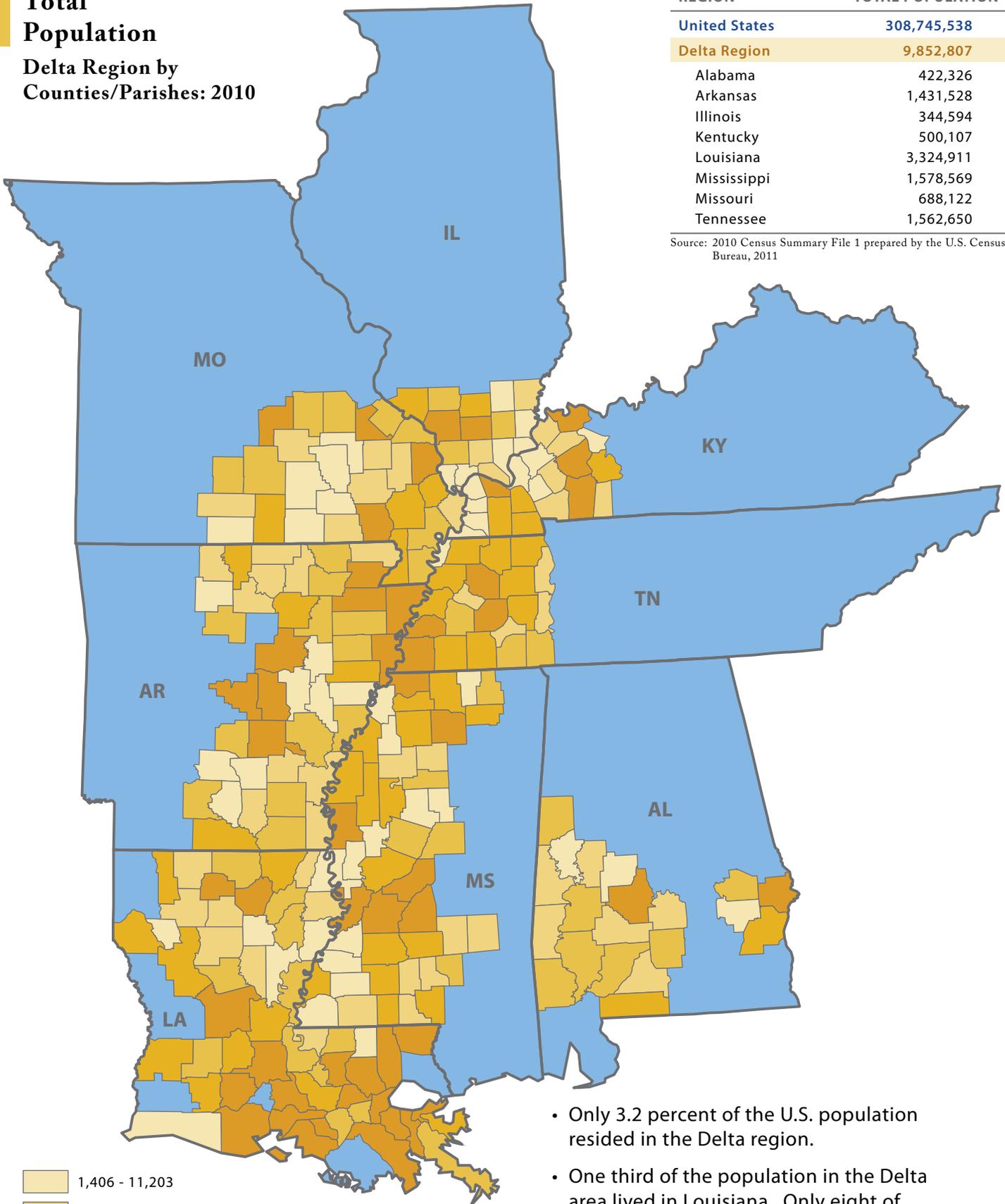
Total Population

Total Population

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2010

| REGION | TOTAL POPULATION |
|---------------------|------------------|
| United States | 308,745,538 |
| Delta Region | 9,852,807 |
| Alabama | 422,326 |
| Arkansas | 1,431,528 |
| Illinois | 344,594 |
| Kentucky | 500,107 |
| Louisiana | 3,324,911 |
| Mississippi | 1,578,569 |
| Missouri | 688,122 |
| Tennessee | 1,562,650 |

Source: 2010 Census Summary File 1 prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2011



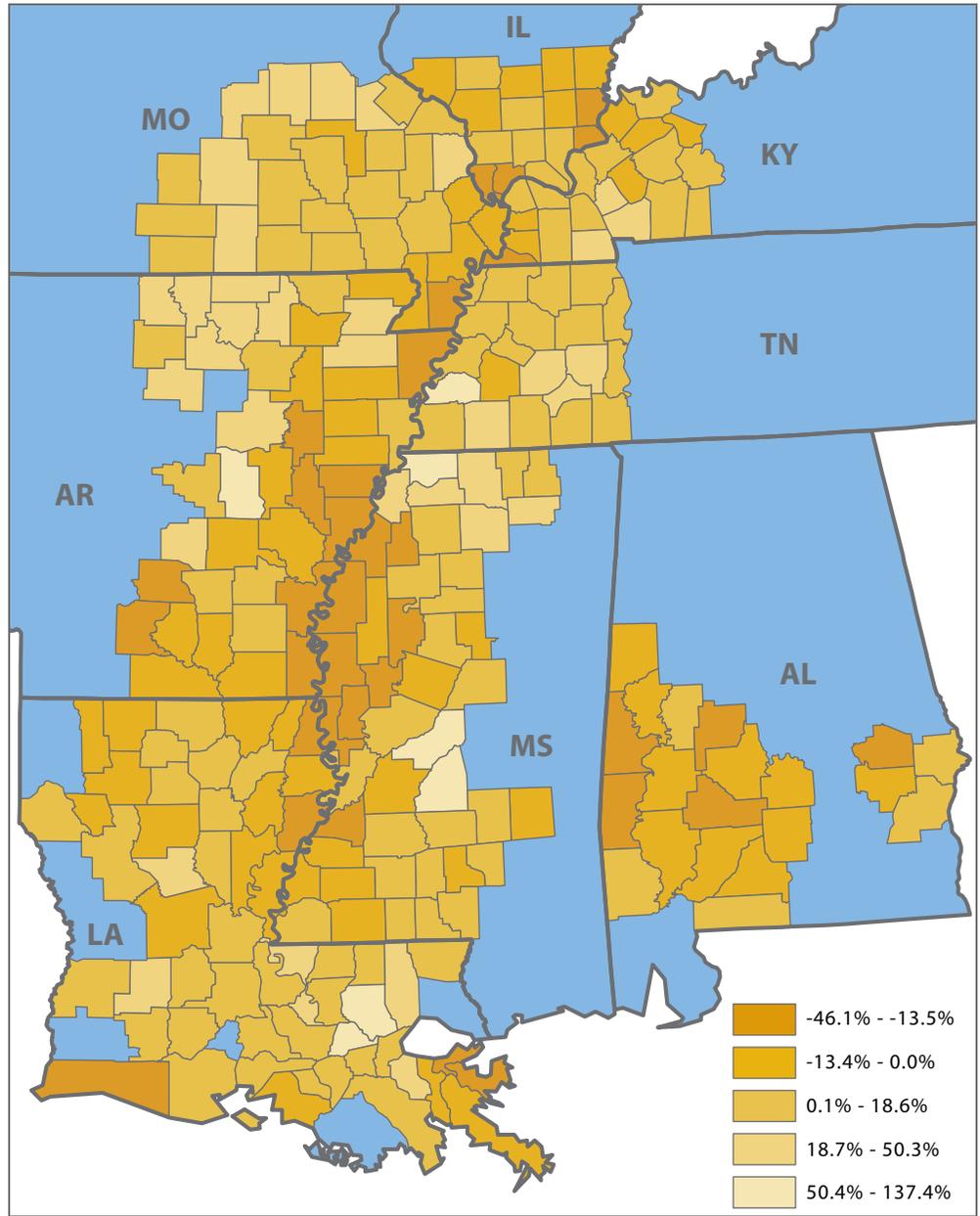
- Only 3.2 percent of the U.S. population resided in the Delta region.
- One third of the population in the Delta area lived in Louisiana. Only eight of Louisiana's 64 parishes were not included.
- Illinois, with only 16 of its 102 counties located in the Delta, had the lowest percentage of the population (3.5%).

Percent Change in Total Population

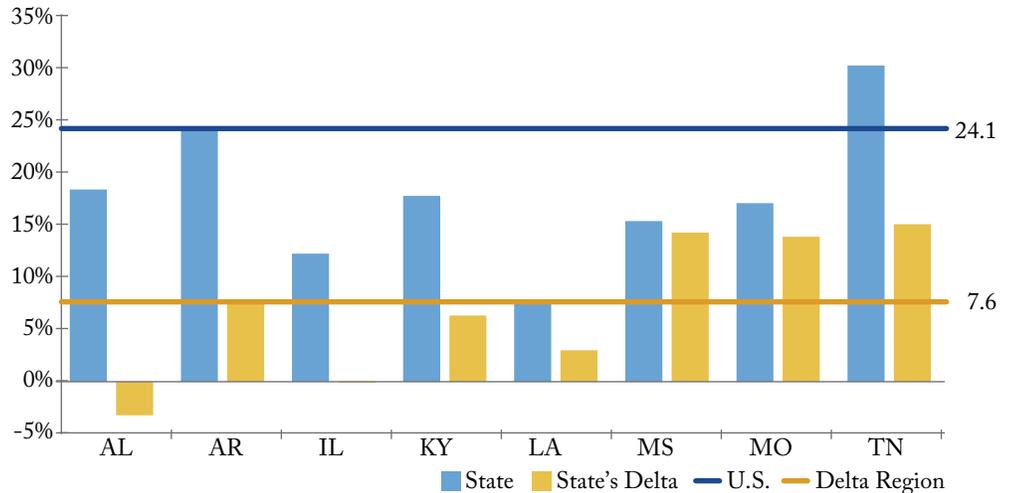
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 1990-2010

| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------|---------|
| United States | 24.1% |
| Delta Region | 7.6% |
| Alabama | -3.2% |
| Arkansas | 7.6% |
| Illinois | -0.1% |
| Kentucky | 6.3% |
| Louisiana | 3.0% |
| Mississippi | 14.2% |
| Missouri | 13.8% |
| Tennessee | 15.0% |

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1990: Summary Tape File 1 on CD-ROM prepared by the Bureau of the Census, 1991; and 2010 Census Summary File 1 prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2011



- Three-fourths of the Delta region counties in Alabama lost population from 1990-2010.
- While Tennessee's population increased between 1990 and 2010, Haywood County was its only county to experience a loss.



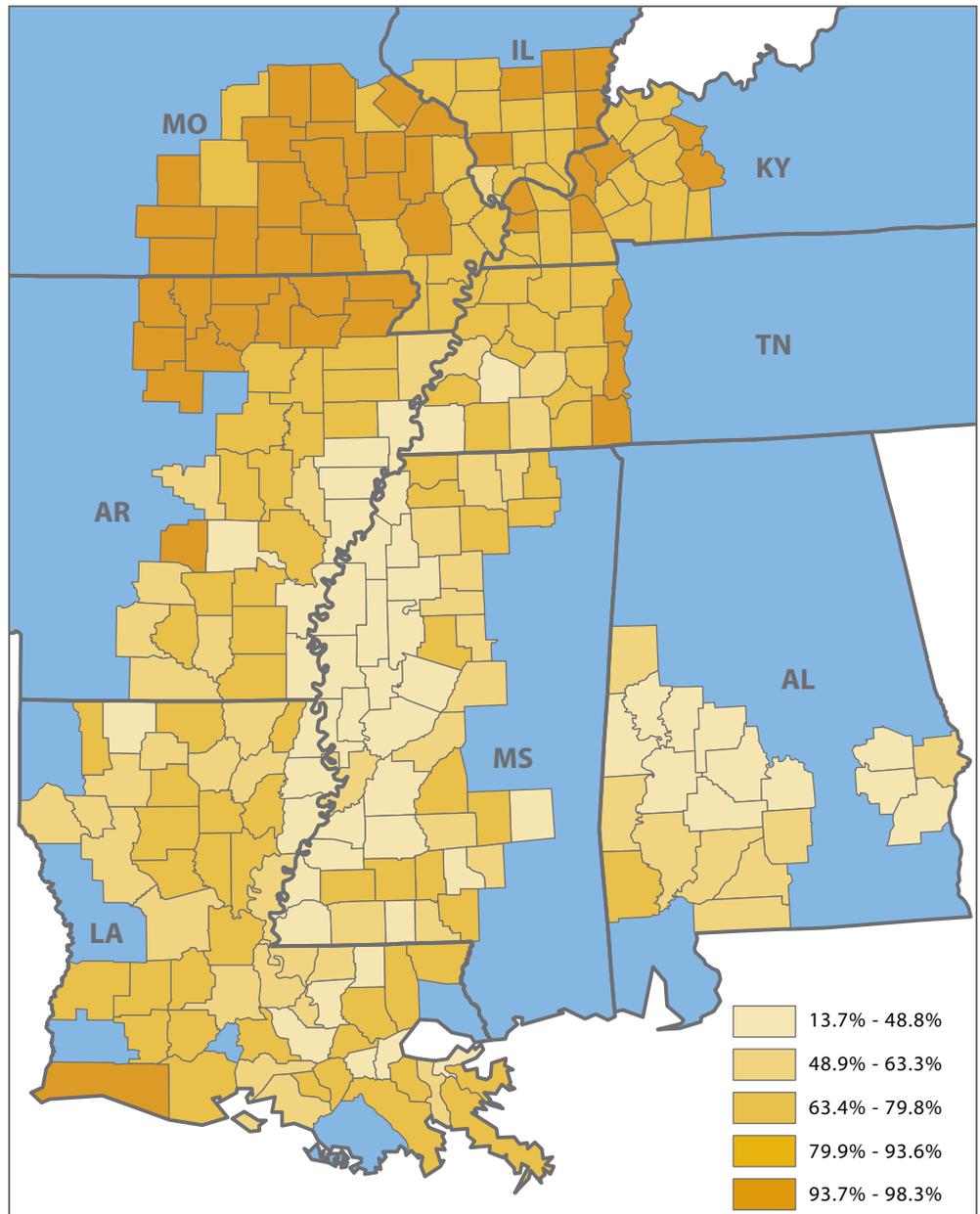
White Population*, Percent of Total Population

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2010

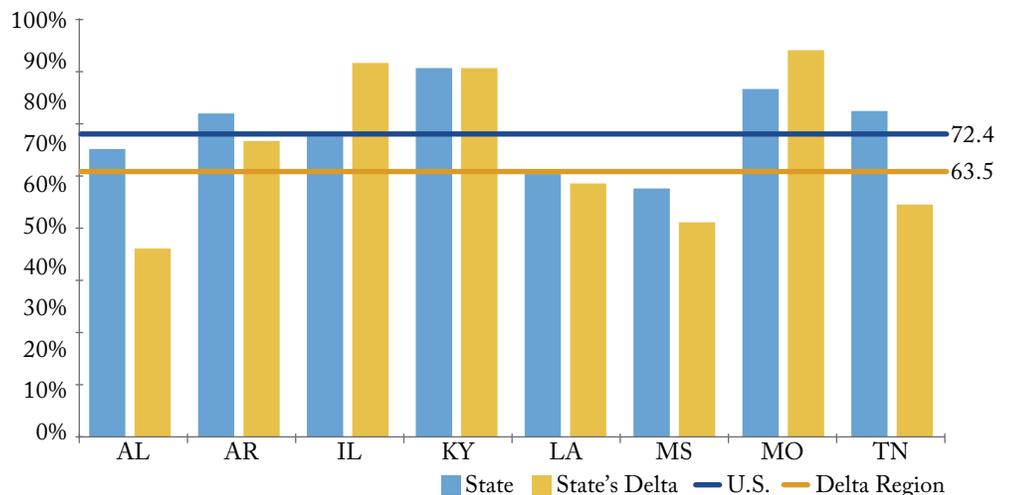
*one race only

| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------------|--------------|
| United States | 72.4% |
| Delta Region | 63.5% |
| Alabama | 44.9% |
| Arkansas | 70.4% |
| Illinois | 89.0% |
| Kentucky | 87.8% |
| Louisiana | 60.3% |
| Mississippi | 51.1% |
| Missouri | 92.0% |
| Tennessee | 55.3% |

Source: 2010 Census Summary File 1 prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2011



- The distribution of the White population in the Delta counties/parishes ranged from 13.7 percent to 98.3 percent.
- Missouri (92.0%) had the largest percentage of White population.



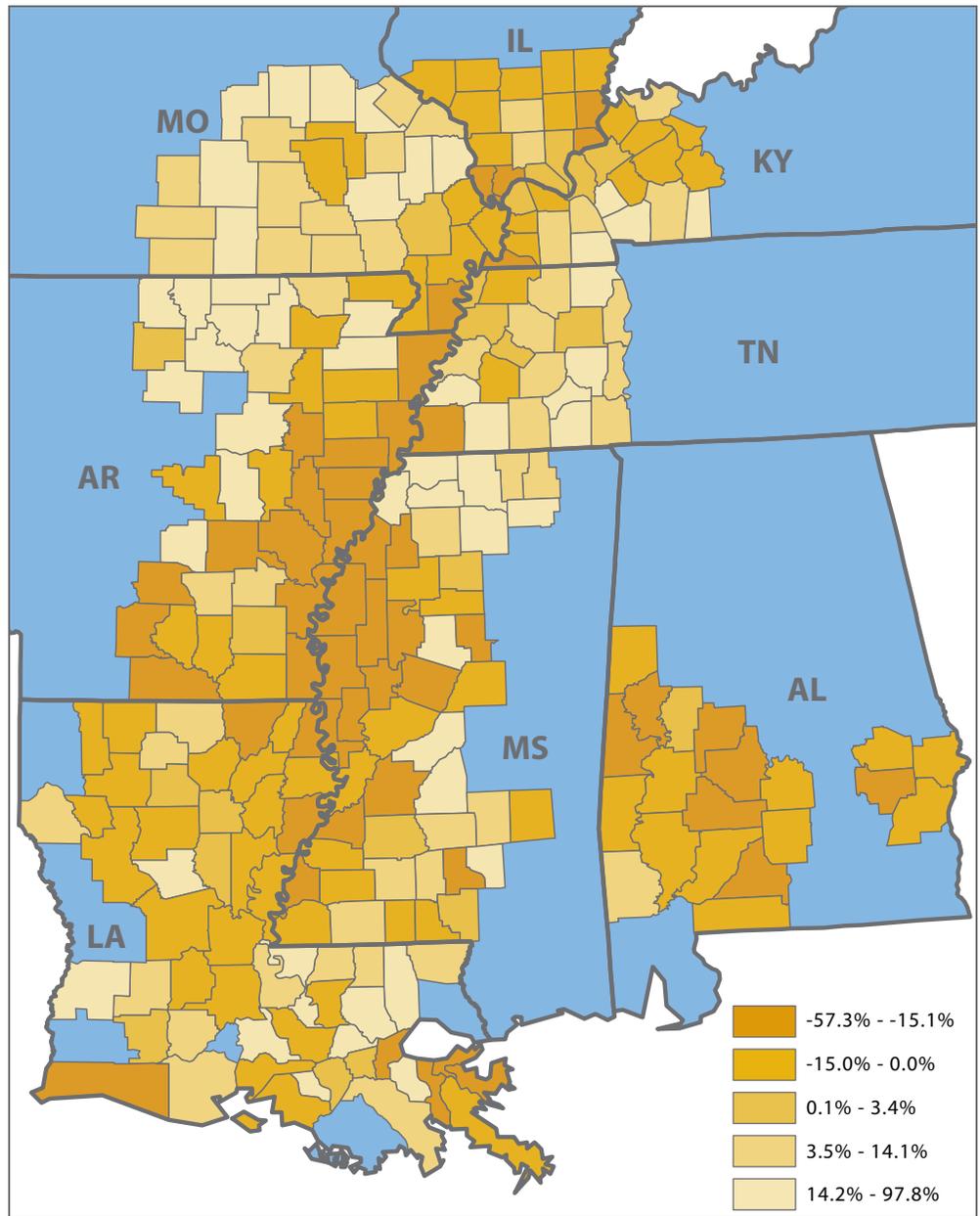
Percent Change in White Population*

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 1990-2010

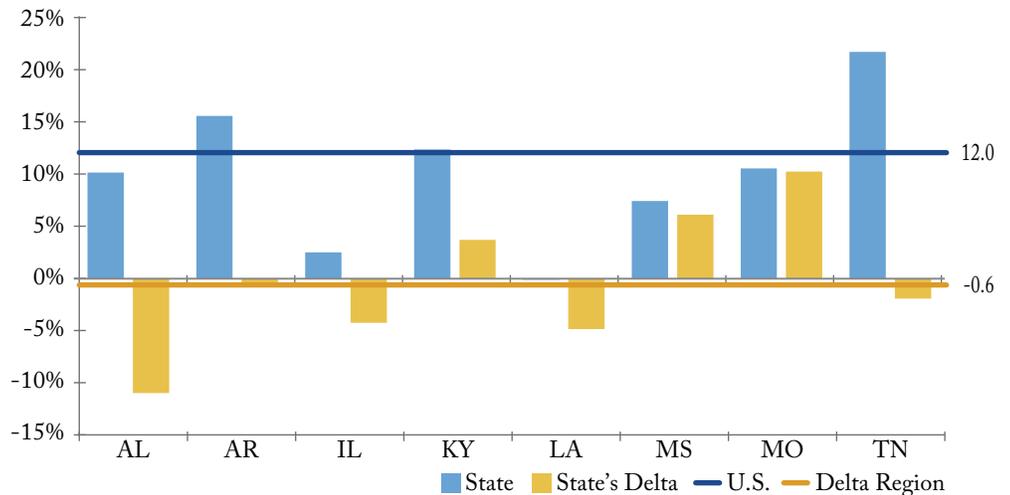
*one race only

| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------|---------|
| United States | 12.0% |
| Delta Region | -0.6% |
| Alabama | -10.9% |
| Arkansas | -0.6% |
| Illinois | -4.2% |
| Kentucky | 3.7% |
| Louisiana | -4.8% |
| Mississippi | 6.1% |
| Missouri | 10.2% |
| Tennessee | -1.9% |

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1990: Summary Tape File 1 on CD-ROM prepared by the Bureau of the Census, 1991; and 2010 Census Summary File 1 prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2011



- While the U.S. gained in White population over the past two decades, the Delta region experienced a loss.
- Kentucky, Mississippi, and Missouri were the only states to experience a growth during this period.



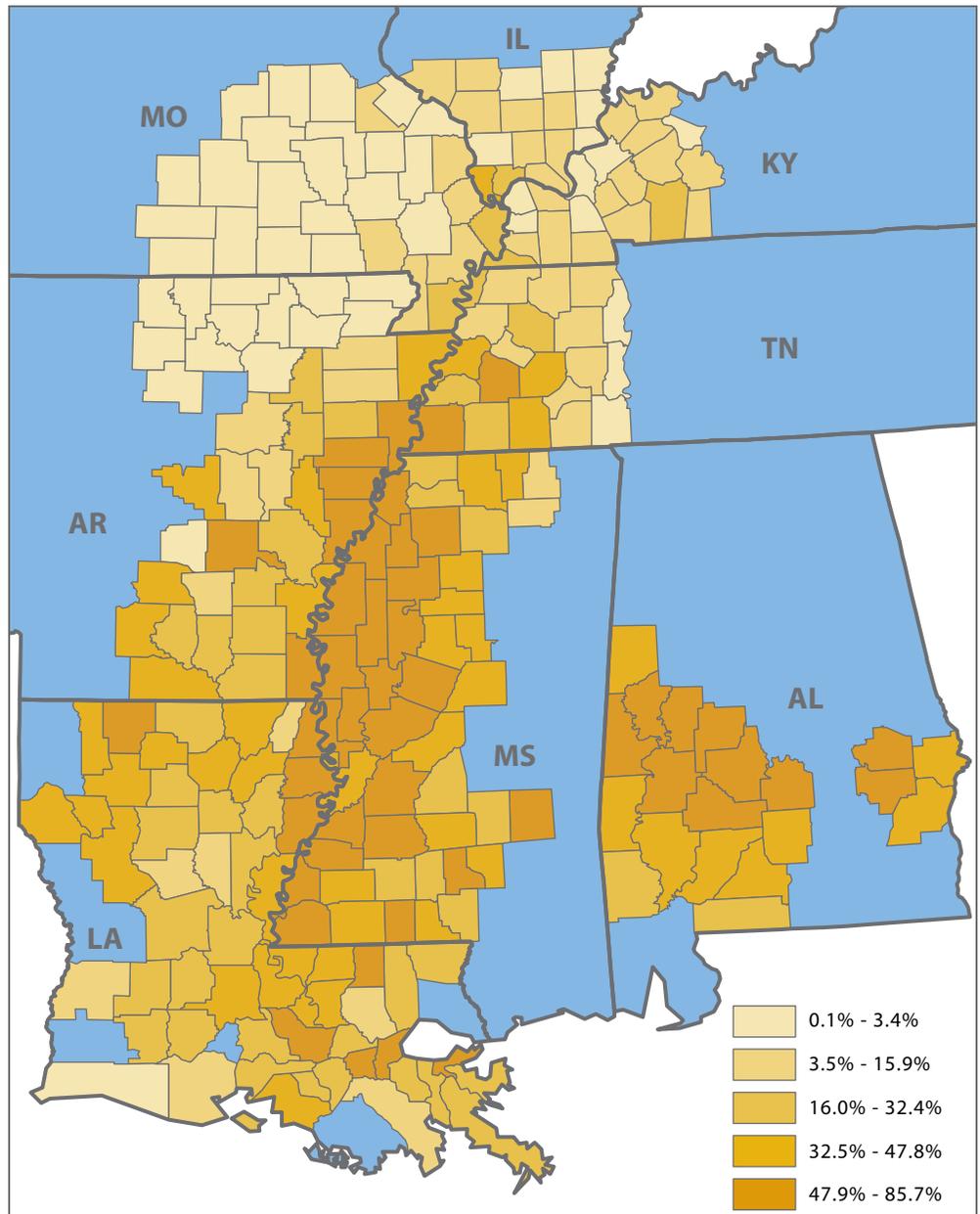
Black Population*, Percent of Total Population

Delta Region by Counties/ Parishes: 2010

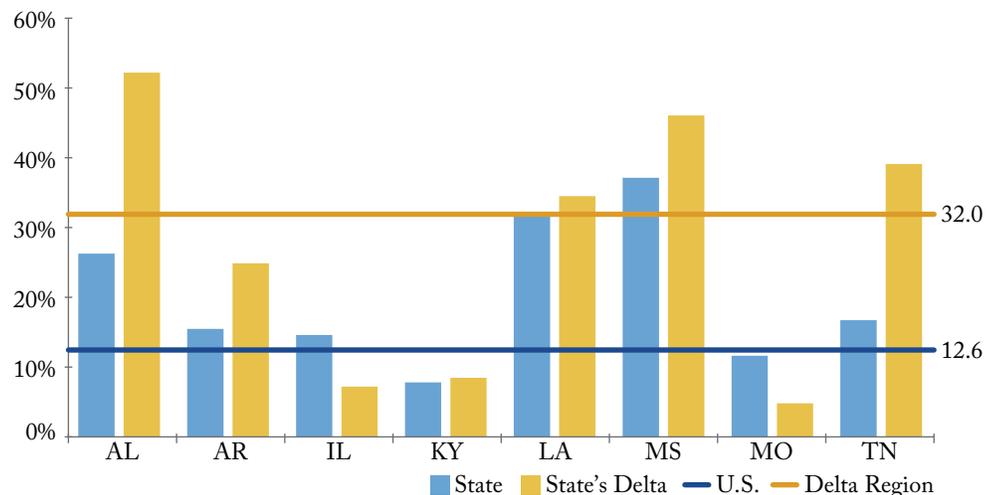
*one race only

| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------------|--------------|
| United States | 12.6% |
| Delta Region | 32.0% |
| Alabama | 52.0% |
| Arkansas | 24.8% |
| Illinois | 7.2% |
| Kentucky | 8.4% |
| Louisiana | 34.4% |
| Mississippi | 45.9% |
| Missouri | 4.8% |
| Tennessee | 39.0% |

Source: 2010 Census Summary File 1 prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2011



- The distribution of the Black population in the Delta counties/parishes ranged from 0.1 percent to 85.7 percent.
- Alabama had a higher percentage of Black population (52.0%) than the other Delta states.



Percent Change in Black Population*

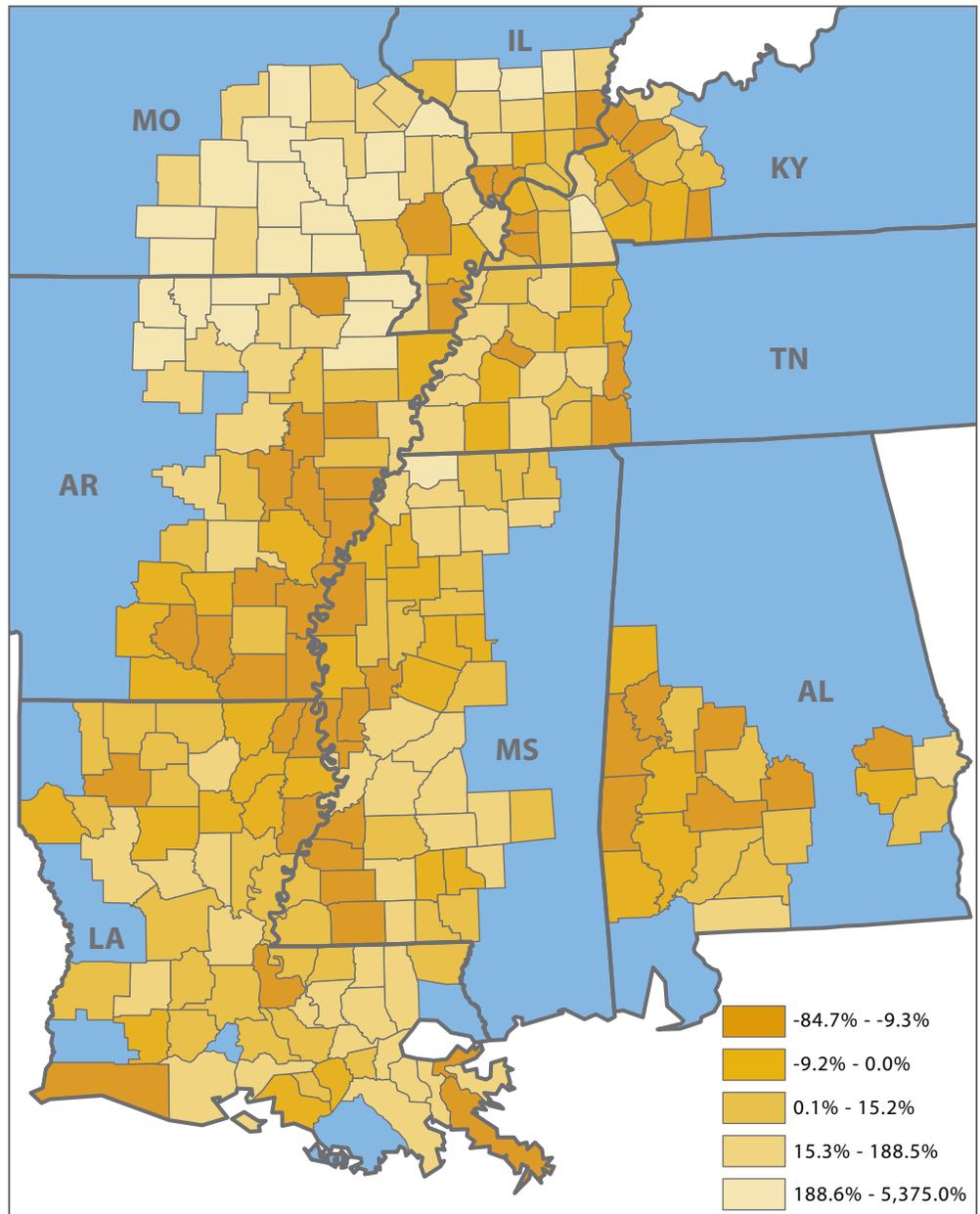
Delta Region by Counties/
Parishes: 1990-2010

*one race only

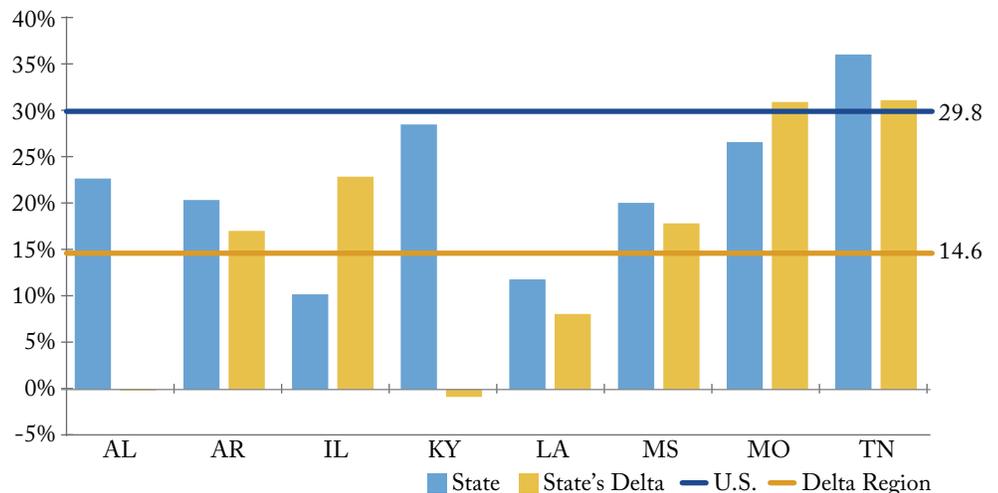
| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------|---------|
| United States | 29.8% |
| Delta Region | 14.6% |
| Alabama | -0.1% |
| Arkansas | 17.0% |
| Illinois | 22.8% |
| Kentucky | -0.8% |
| Louisiana | 8.1% |
| Mississippi | 17.8% |
| Missouri | 30.8% |
| Tennessee | 31.0% |

Note: In most cases the large 1990 - 2010 percent change in the black population is attributed to a small 1990 base population.

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1990: Summary Tape File 1 on CD-ROM prepared by the Bureau of the Census, 1991; and 2010 Census Summary File 1 prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2011



- The growth of the U.S. Black population (29.8%) was double that of the Delta region (14.6%).
- Alabama and Kentucky were the only states to experience a loss in the Black population over the last two decades.

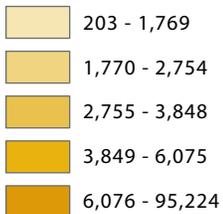
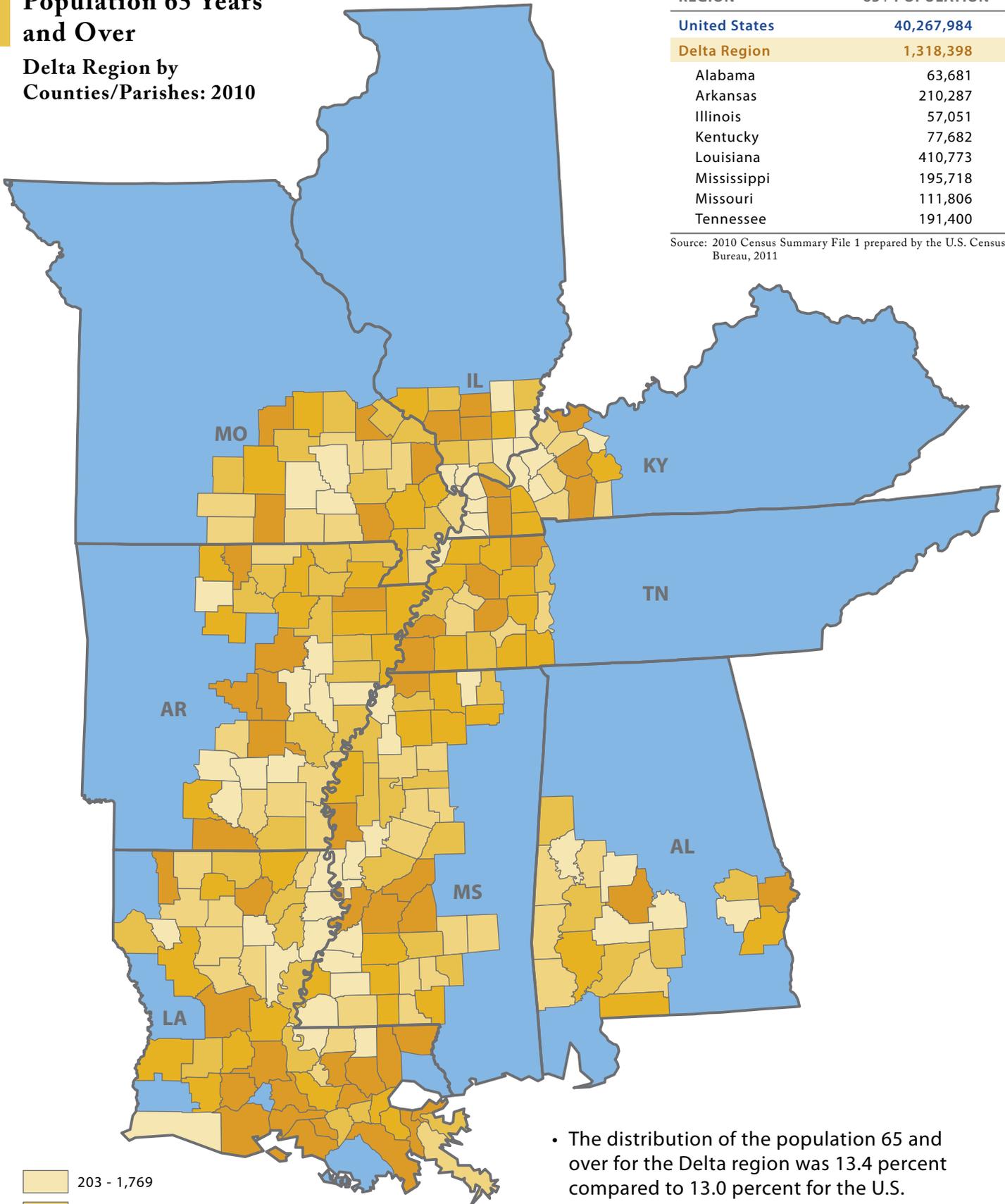


Population 65 Years and Over

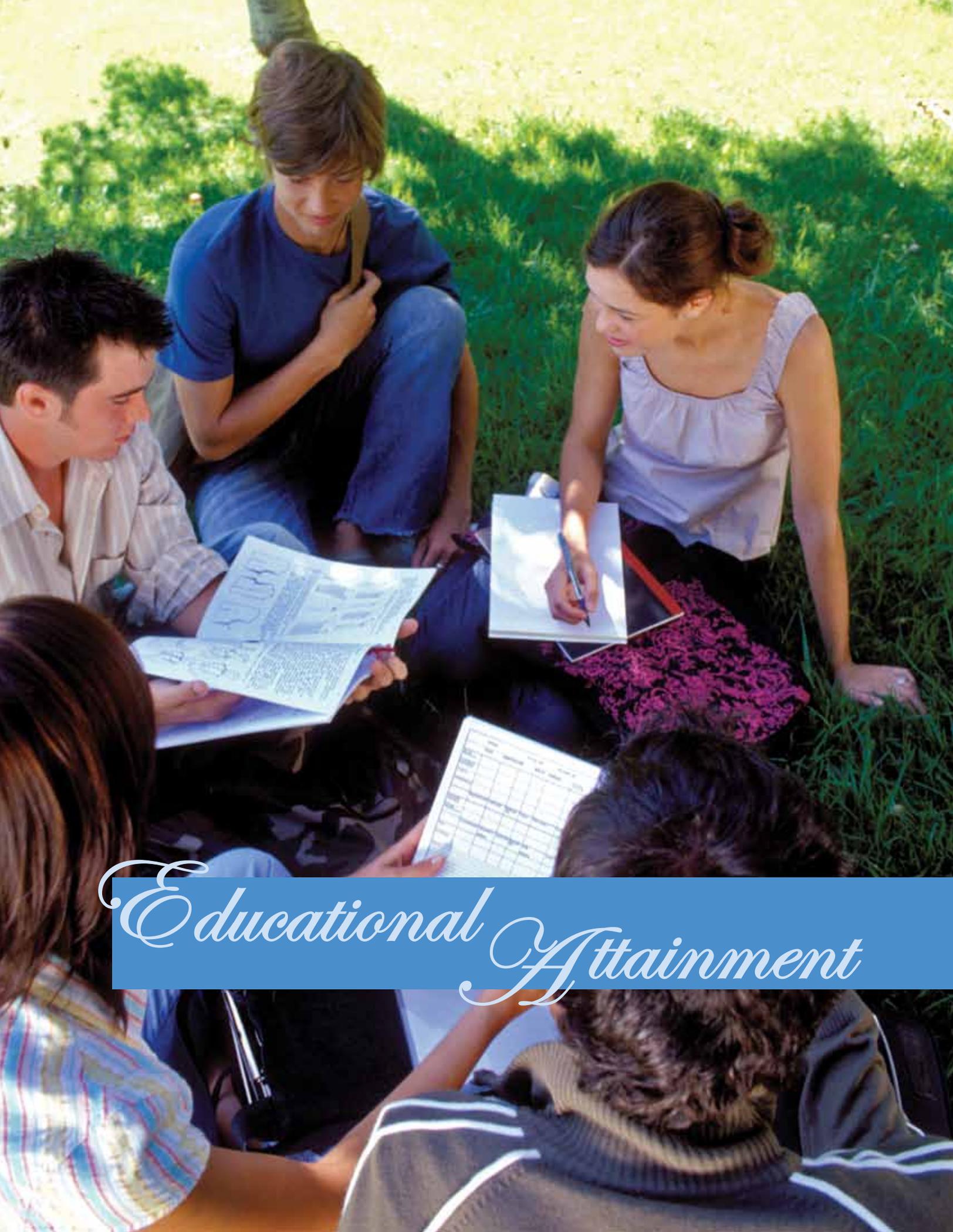
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2010

| REGION | 65+ POPULATION |
|---------------------|------------------|
| United States | 40,267,984 |
| Delta Region | 1,318,398 |
| Alabama | 63,681 |
| Arkansas | 210,287 |
| Illinois | 57,051 |
| Kentucky | 77,682 |
| Louisiana | 410,773 |
| Mississippi | 195,718 |
| Missouri | 111,806 |
| Tennessee | 191,400 |

Source: 2010 Census Summary File 1 prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2011



- The distribution of the population 65 and over for the Delta region was 13.4 percent compared to 13.0 percent for the U.S.
- All the states except Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee had a higher percentage of population over 65 years than both the Delta region and nation.



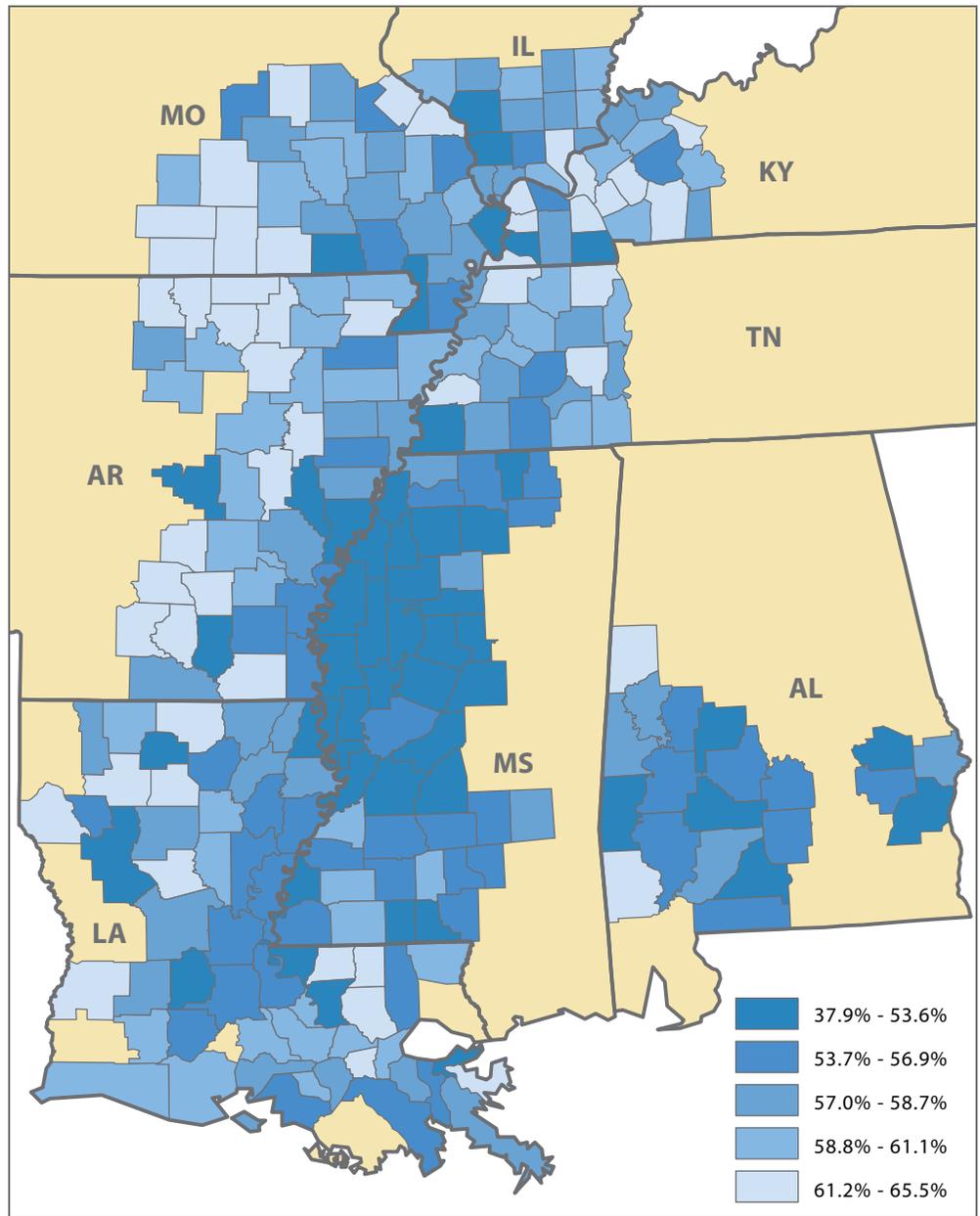
Educational Attainment

Population with a High School Diploma or GED

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2006-2010

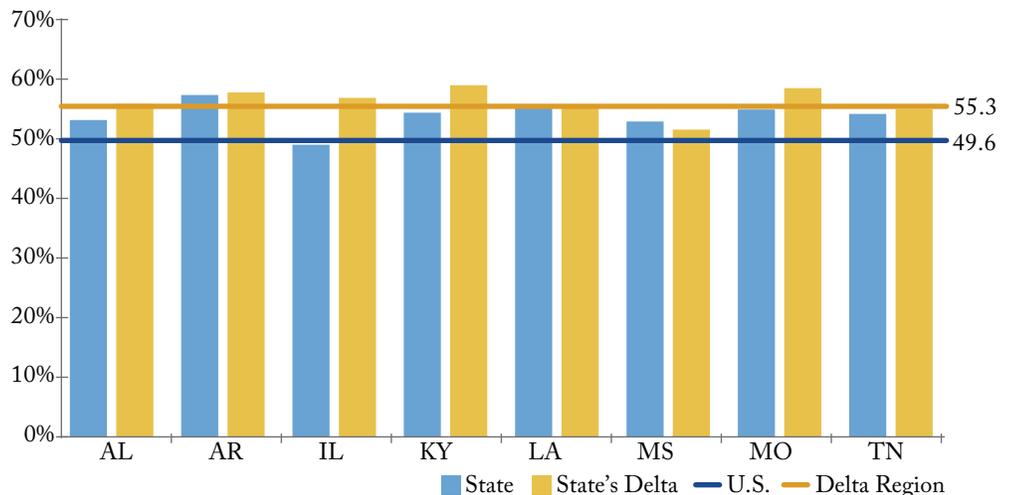
| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------------|--------------|
| United States | 49.6% |
| Delta Region | 55.3% |
| Alabama | 55.5% |
| Arkansas | 57.4% |
| Illinois | 56.5% |
| Kentucky | 58.6% |
| Louisiana | 55.3% |
| Mississippi | 51.2% |
| Missouri | 58.1% |
| Tennessee | 54.6% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey



- There were a larger percentage of adults, 25 years and over, in the Delta region who did not complete a higher level of education than high school, GED, or the equivalent than there were in the U.S.

- Illinois had the largest differential between its Delta region (56.5%) and the state as a whole (48.7%).

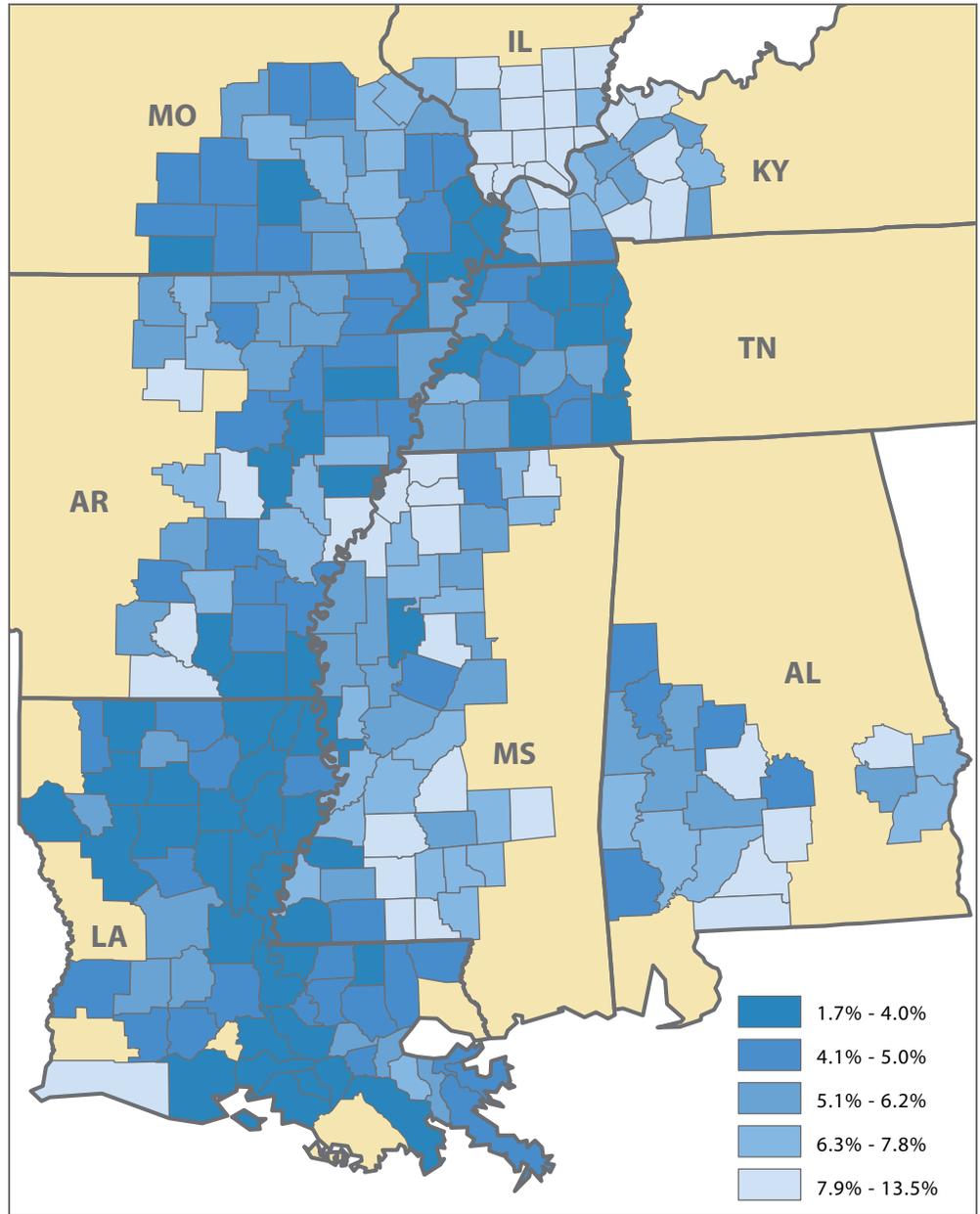


Population with an Associate's Degree

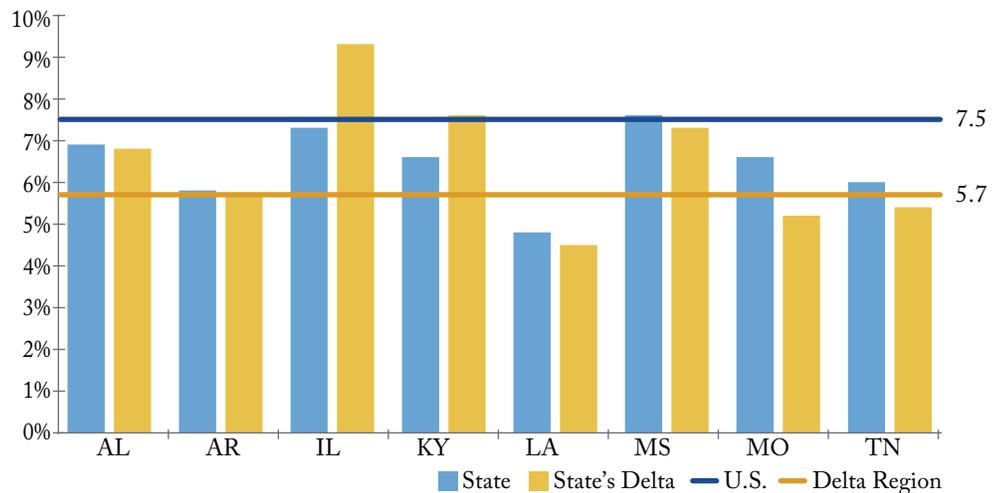
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2006-2010

| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------|---------|
| United States | 7.5% |
| Delta Region | 5.7% |
| Alabama | 6.8% |
| Arkansas | 5.7% |
| Illinois | 9.3% |
| Kentucky | 7.6% |
| Louisiana | 4.5% |
| Mississippi | 7.3% |
| Missouri | 5.2% |
| Tennessee | 5.4% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey



- The percent of the population 25 years and over whose highest degree was an Associate's Degree in the Delta region was 1.8 percent lower than that of the U.S. (7.5%).
- Illinois (9.3%) and Kentucky (7.6%) had a higher rate than the U.S.

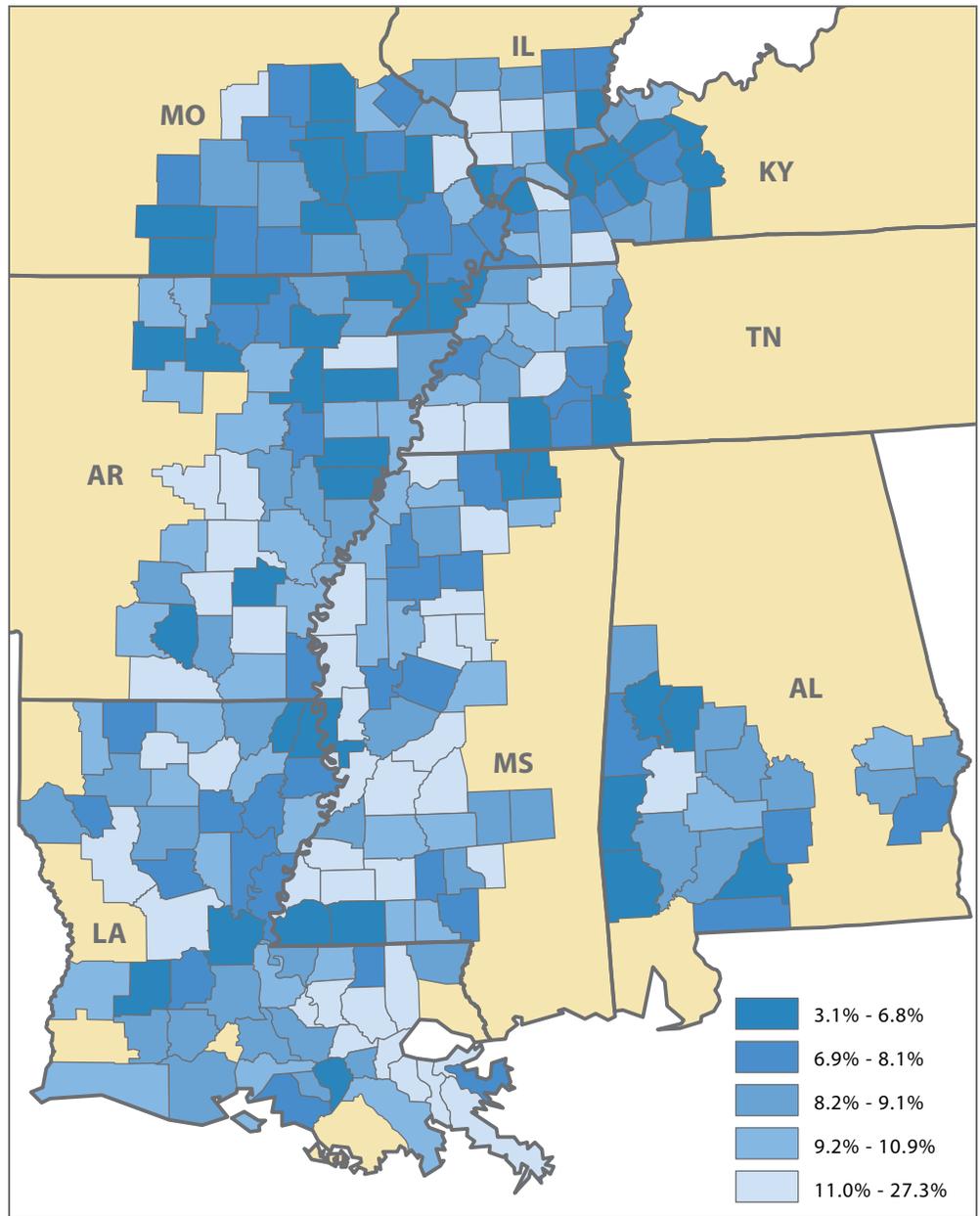


Population with a Bachelor's Degree

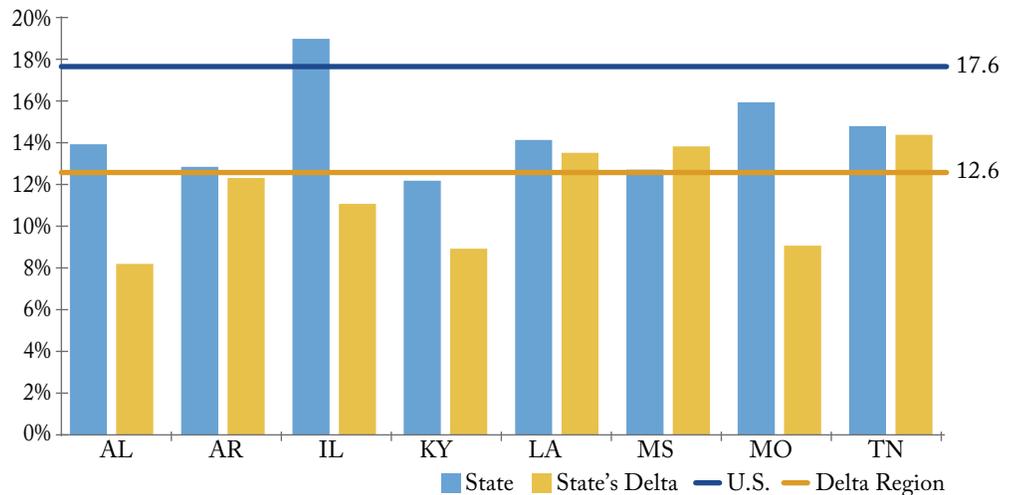
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2006-2010

| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------|---------|
| United States | 17.6% |
| Delta Region | 12.6% |
| Alabama | 8.1% |
| Arkansas | 12.2% |
| Illinois | 11.0% |
| Kentucky | 8.9% |
| Louisiana | 13.4% |
| Mississippi | 13.7% |
| Missouri | 9.0% |
| Tennessee | 14.3% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey



- The percent of the Delta population with a Bachelor's Degree was 12.6 as compared to the U.S. at 17.6 percent.
- The Delta counties/parishes within Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee exceeded the region's overall rate.

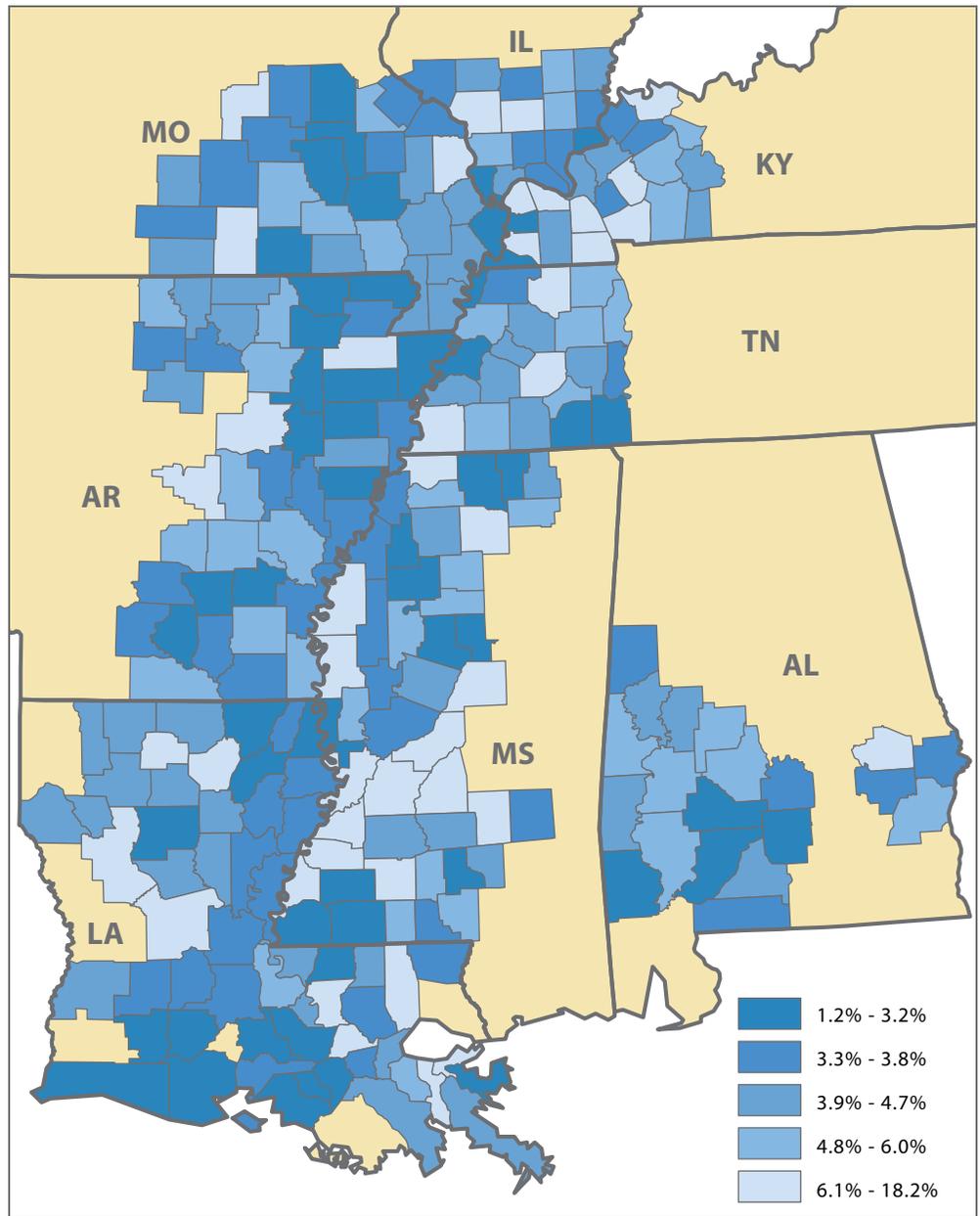


Population with a Graduate or Professional Degree

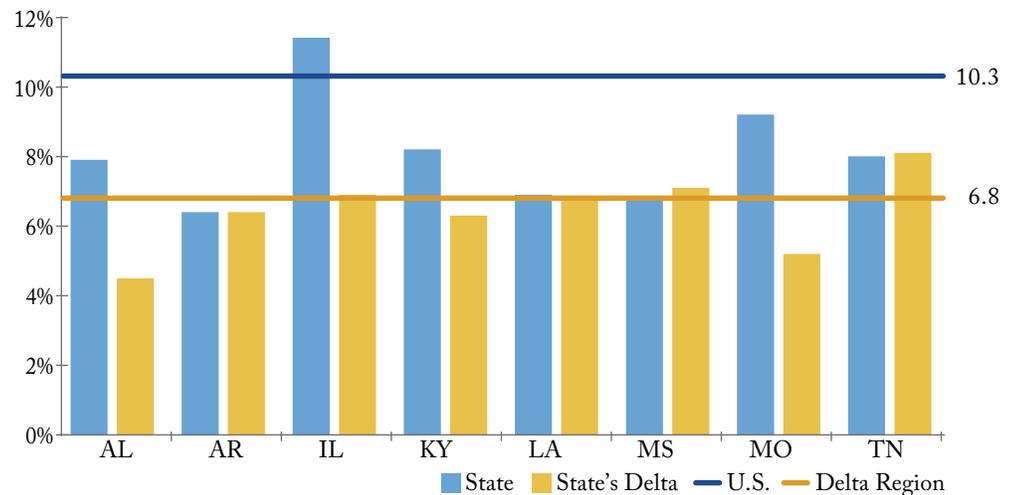
Delta Region by Counties/
Parishes: 2006-2010

| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------|---------|
| United States | 10.3% |
| Delta Region | 6.8% |
| Alabama | 4.5% |
| Arkansas | 6.4% |
| Illinois | 6.9% |
| Kentucky | 6.3% |
| Louisiana | 6.8% |
| Mississippi | 7.1% |
| Missouri | 5.2% |
| Tennessee | 8.1% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey



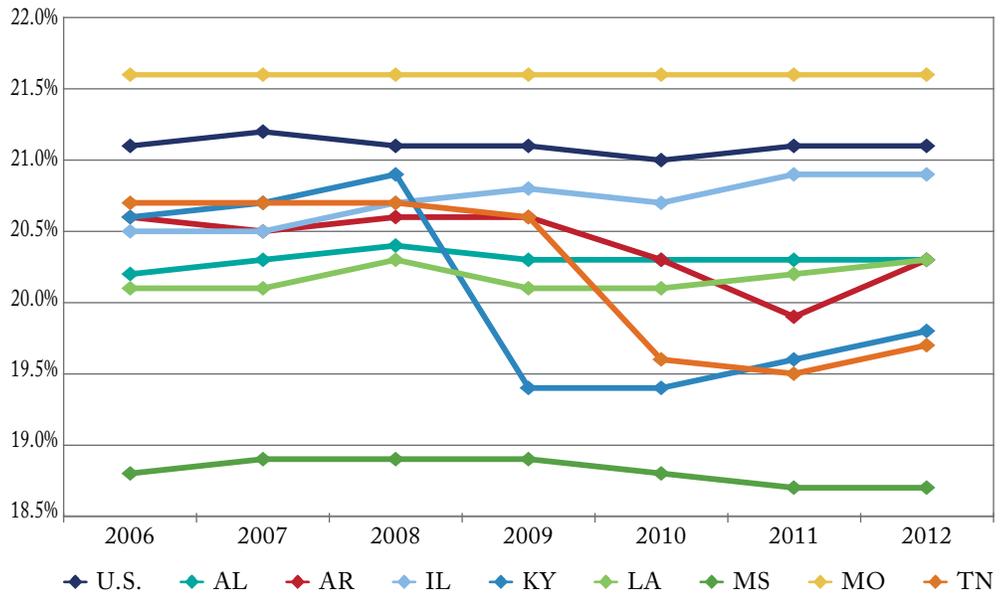
- The population with a graduate or professional degree in the Delta was 6.8 percent compared to the U.S. rate of 10.3 percent.
- Illinois (6.9%), Mississippi (7.1%), and Tennessee (8.1%) exceeded the Delta region rate.



Average Composite ACT Score

Delta Region States:
2006-2012

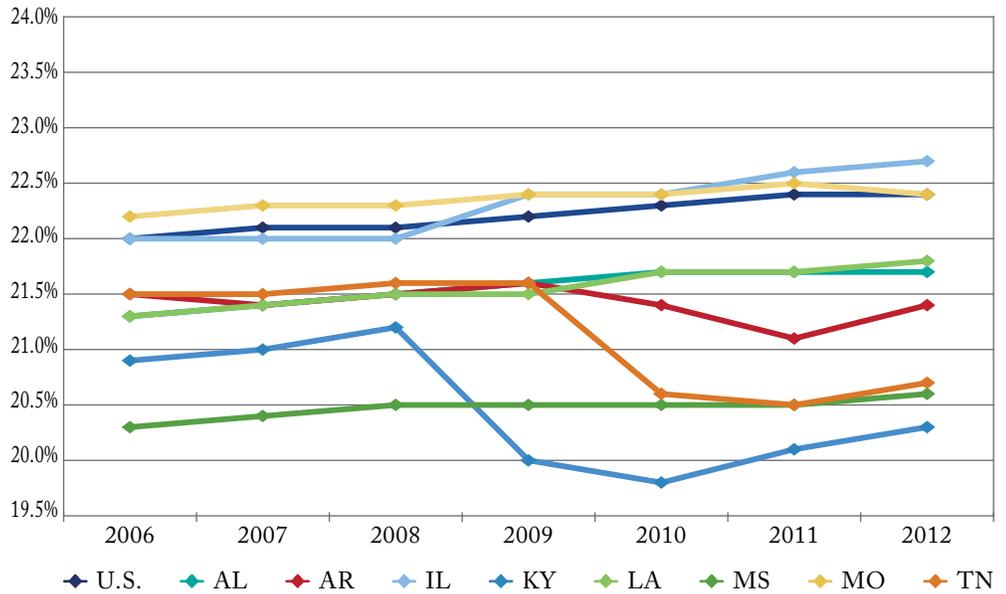
Source: ACT, <http://www.act.org/newsroom/data/>



Average Composite ACT Score for White Population

Delta Region States:
2006-2012

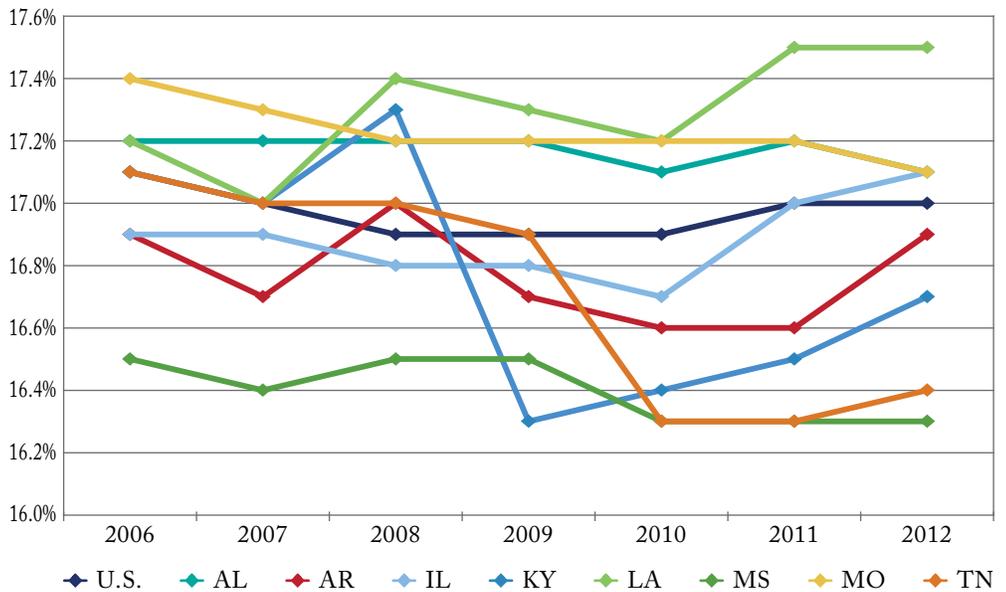
Source: ACT, <http://www.act.org/newsroom/data/>



Average Composite ACT Score for Black Population

Delta Region States:
2006-2012

Source: ACT, <http://www.act.org/newsroom/data/>



Families

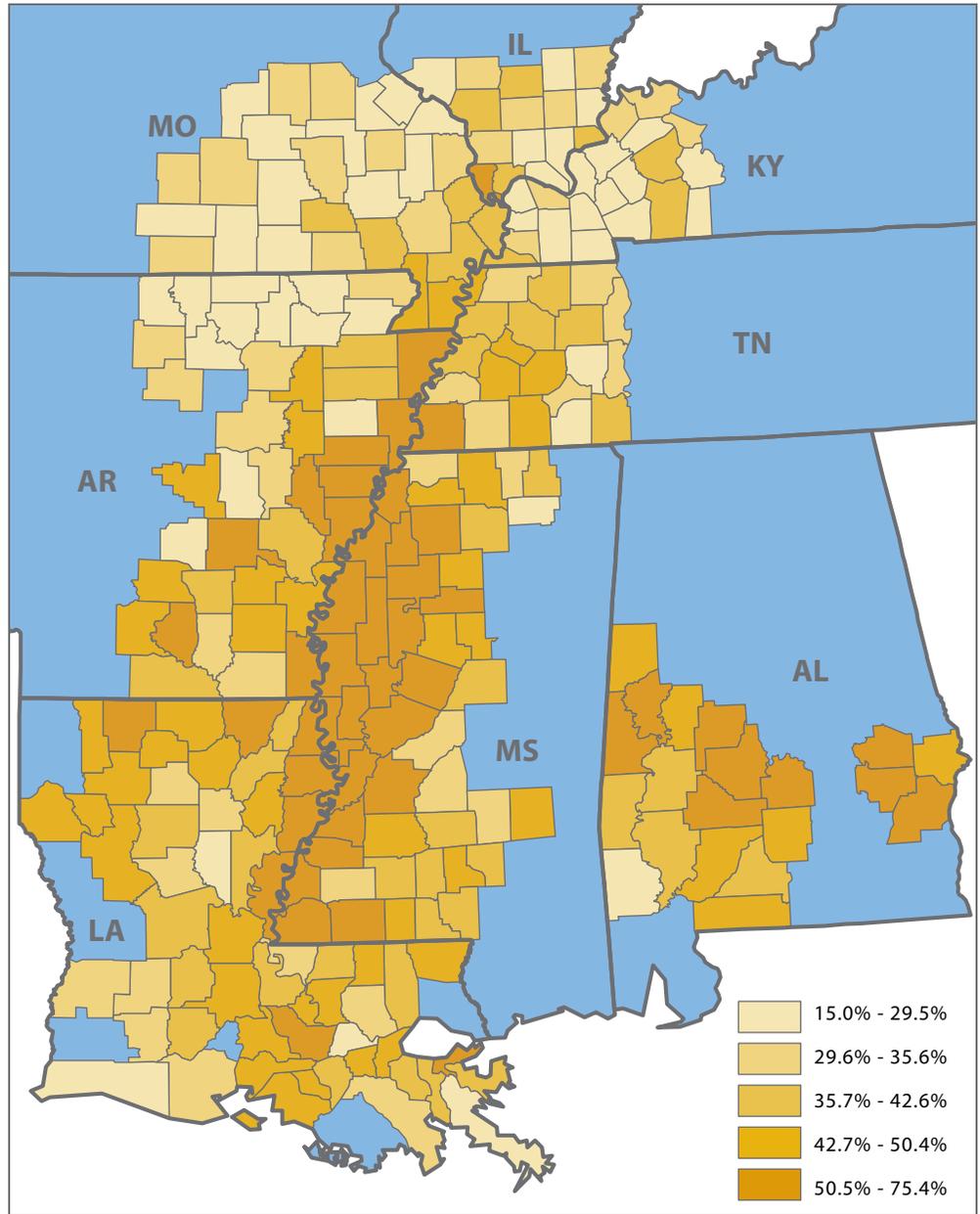


Children in Single Parent Families

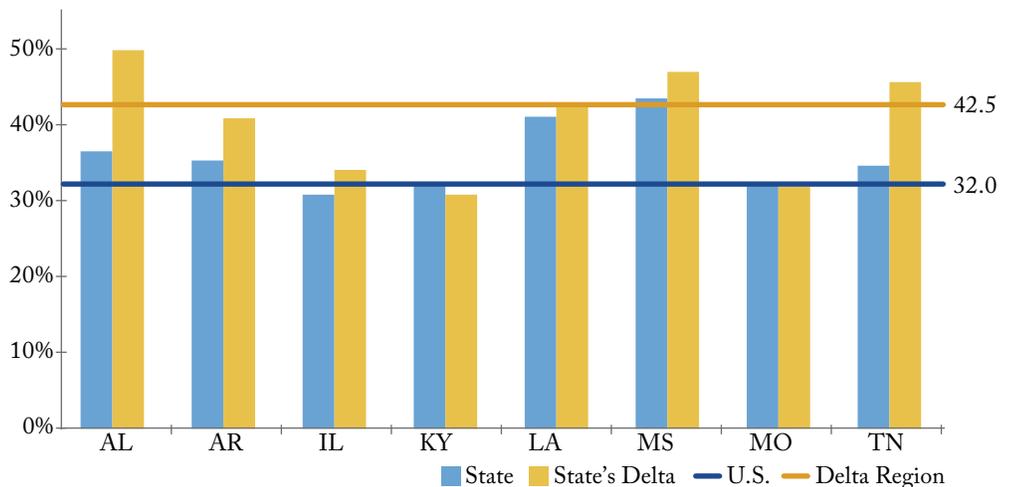
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2006-2010

| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------|---------|
| United States | 32.0% |
| Delta Region | 42.5% |
| Alabama | 50.0% |
| Arkansas | 41.0% |
| Illinois | 34.2% |
| Kentucky | 30.9% |
| Louisiana | 42.6% |
| Mississippi | 47.1% |
| Missouri | 31.9% |
| Tennessee | 45.8% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey



- Almost one third of the children in the U.S. lived in single parent families, while 42.5 percent of children in the Delta lived in single parent families.
- Half of the children in family households in Alabama's Delta region lived in single parent families.

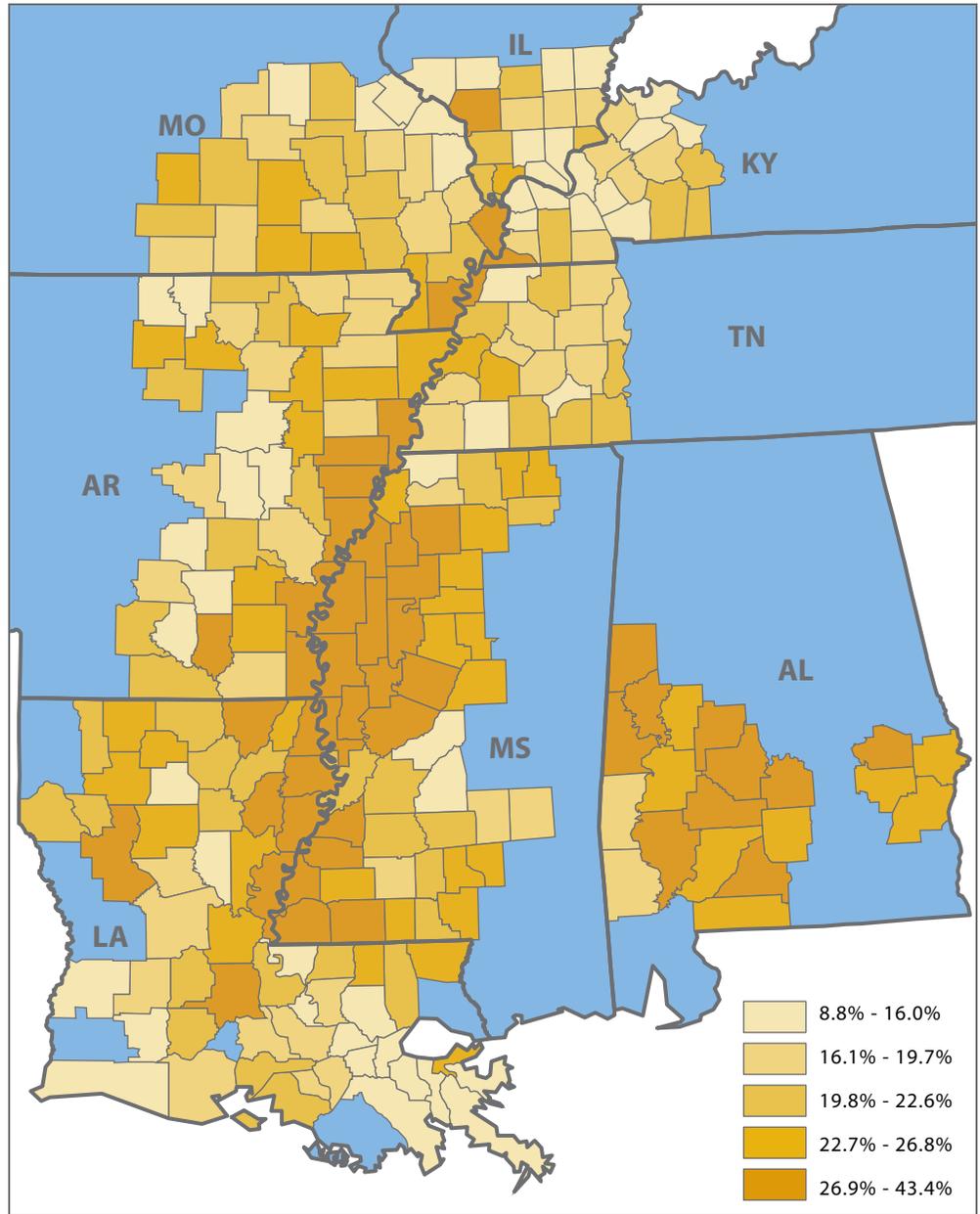


Population Living in Poverty

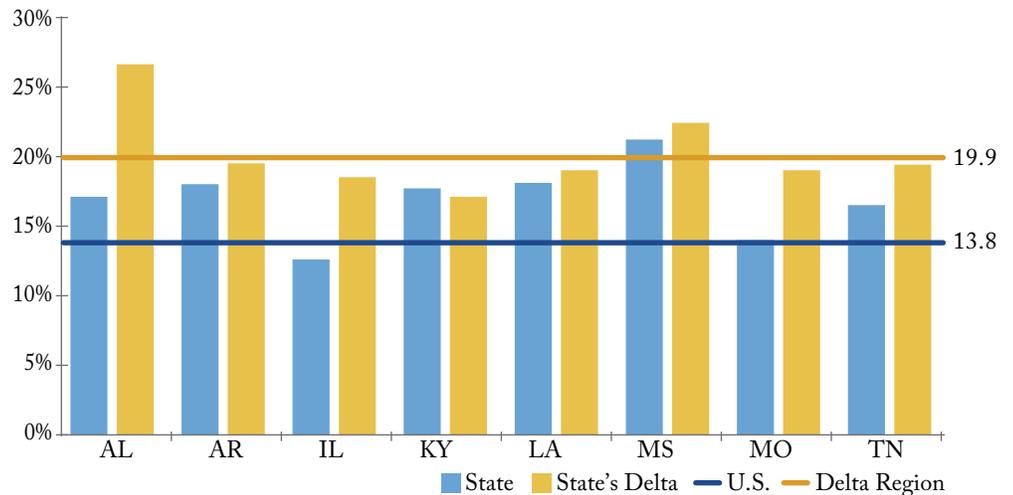
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2006-2010

| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------|---------|
| United States | 13.8% |
| Delta Region | 19.9% |
| Alabama | 26.6% |
| Arkansas | 19.5% |
| Illinois | 18.5% |
| Kentucky | 17.1% |
| Louisiana | 19.0% |
| Mississippi | 22.4% |
| Missouri | 19.0% |
| Tennessee | 19.4% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey



- Approximately 90 percent of the counties/parishes in the Delta exceeded the U.S. poverty rate (13.8%) and 56 percent of them surpassed the Delta region rate (19.9%).
- Alabama's poverty rate was almost double the U.S. rate.
- Mississippi had the region's second highest poverty rate of 22.4 percent.

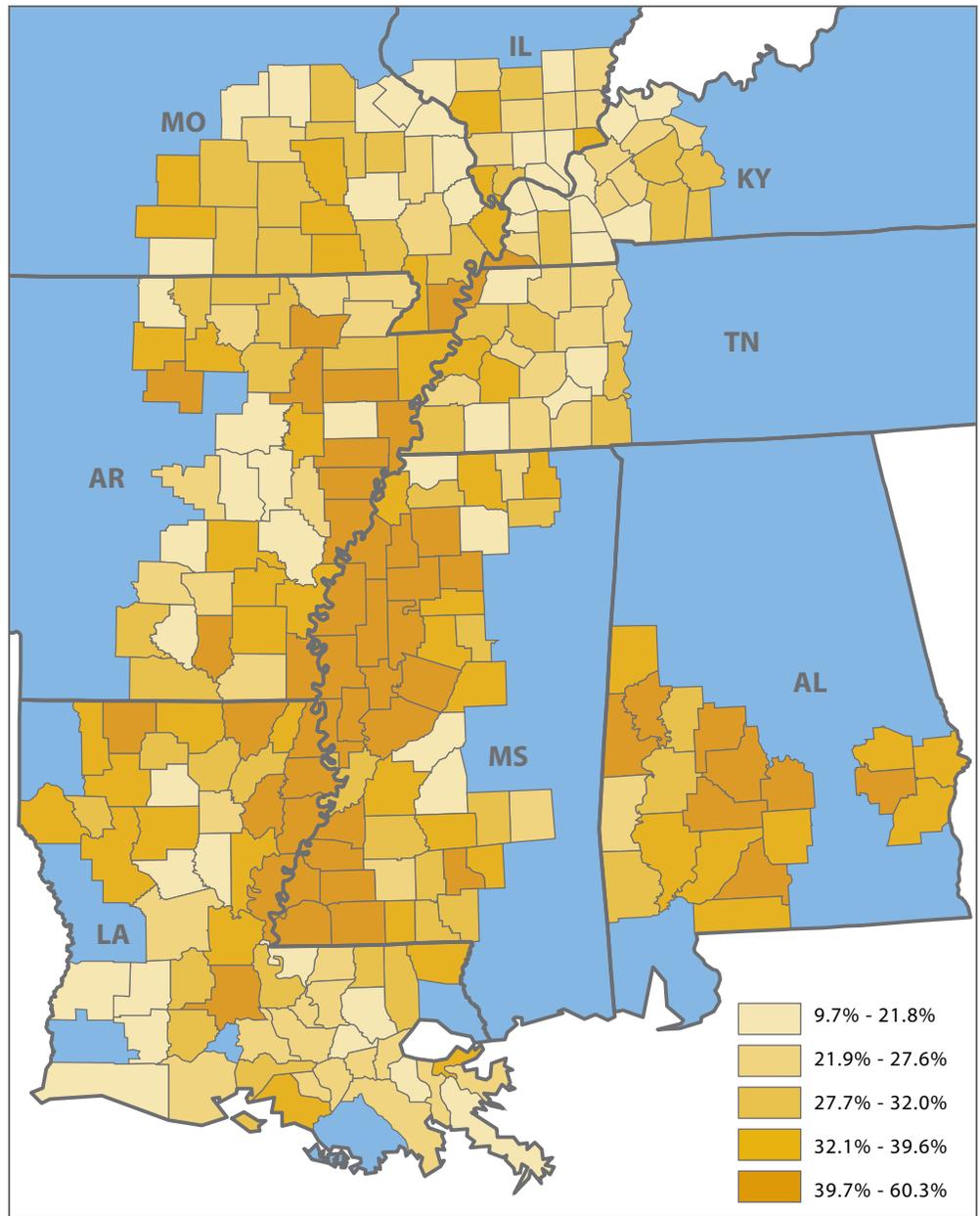


Population Under 18 Years of Age Living in Poverty

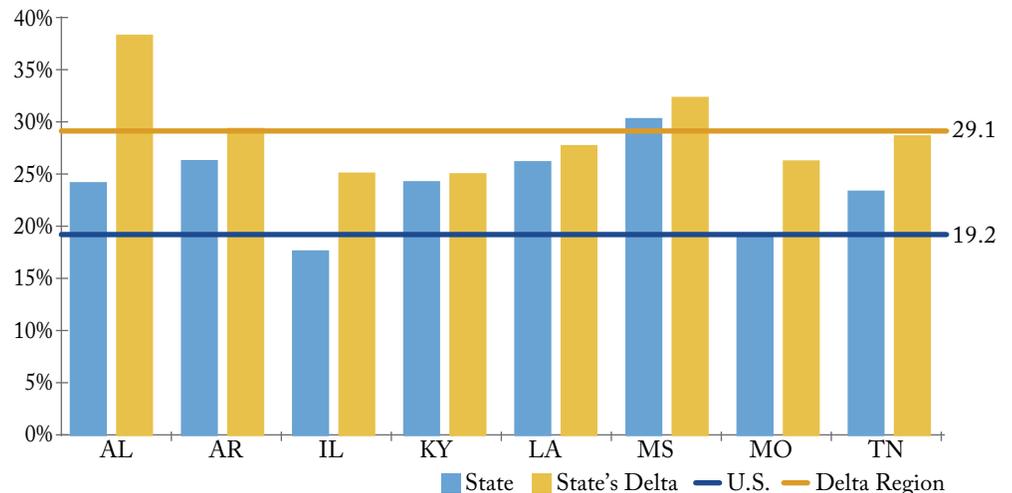
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2006-2010

| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------------|--------------|
| United States | 19.2% |
| Delta Region | 29.1% |
| Alabama | 38.2% |
| Arkansas | 29.4% |
| Illinois | 25.1% |
| Kentucky | 25.0% |
| Louisiana | 27.7% |
| Mississippi | 32.3% |
| Missouri | 26.3% |
| Tennessee | 28.7% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey



- Alabama (38.2%) and Mississippi (32.3%) had the highest poverty rates for children under 18 years of age in the region.
- The childhood poverty rate for Alabama was double the rate for the U.S.

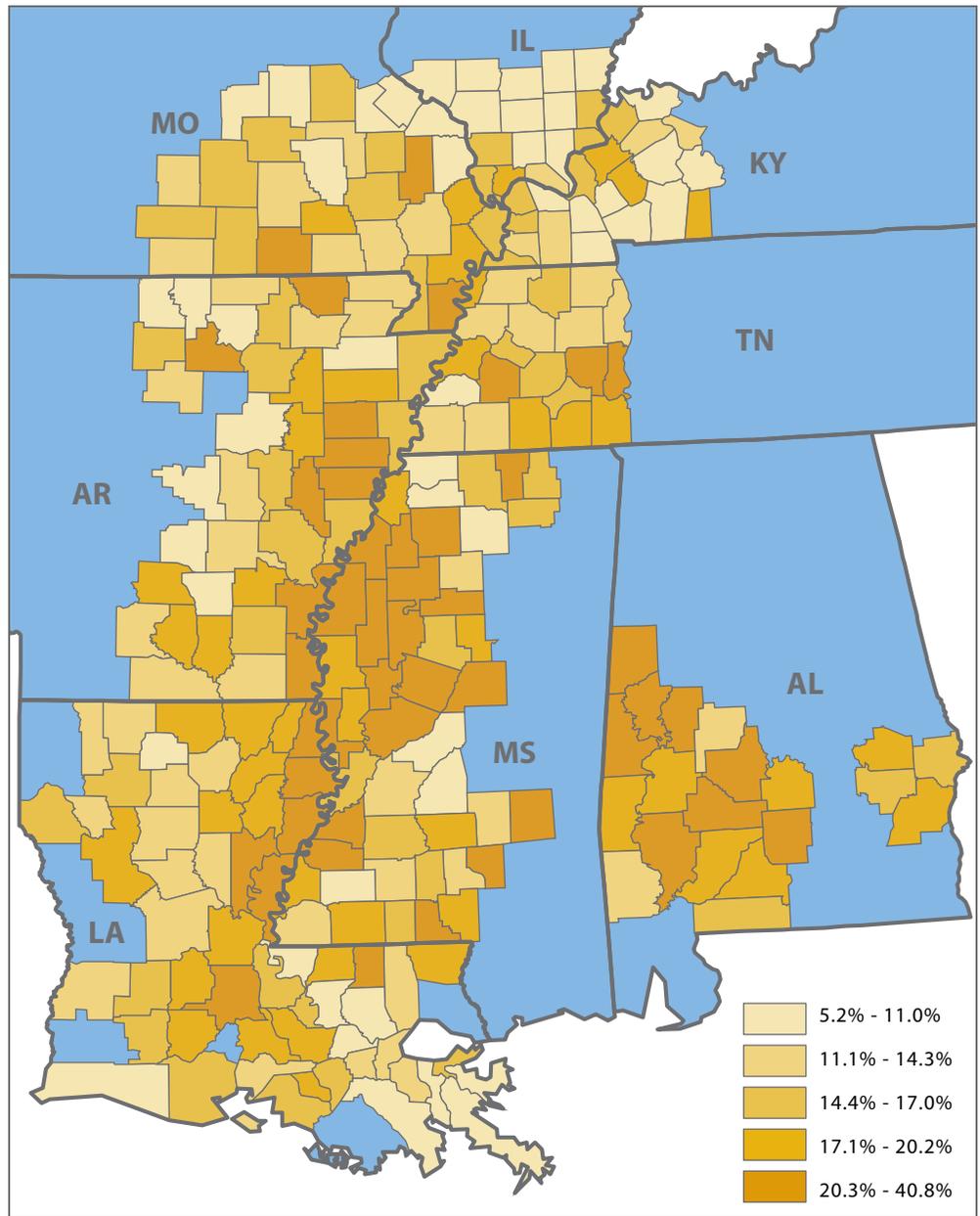


Population 65 Years and Over Living in Poverty

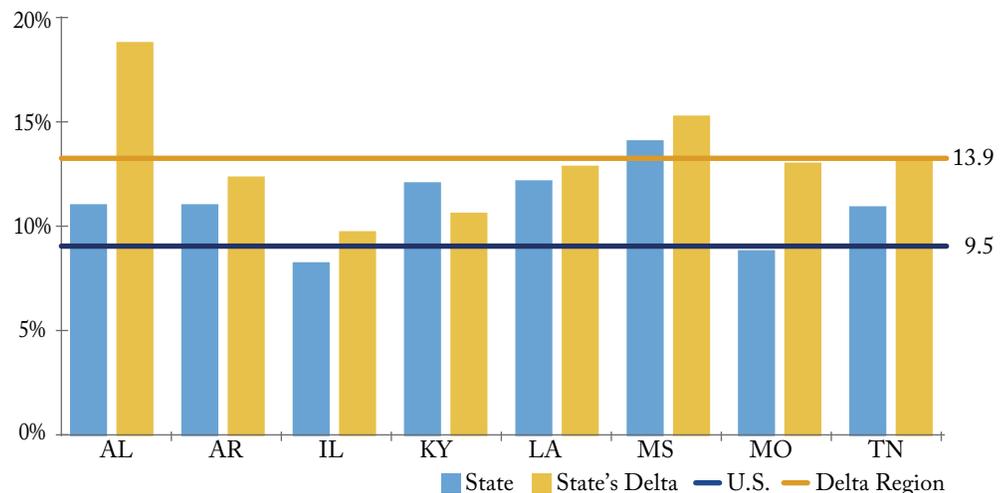
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2006-2010

| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------------|--------------|
| United States | 9.5% |
| Delta Region | 13.9% |
| Alabama | 19.7% |
| Arkansas | 13.0% |
| Illinois | 10.3% |
| Kentucky | 11.2% |
| Louisiana | 13.5% |
| Mississippi | 16.0% |
| Missouri | 13.7% |
| Tennessee | 13.8% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey



- The Delta region poverty rate for the population 65 years and over was 4.4 percentage points higher than that of the U.S.
- Approximately 88 percent of the counties/parishes in the Delta surpassed the U.S. rate (9.5%); 64 percent of them exceeded the Delta region rate (13.9%).



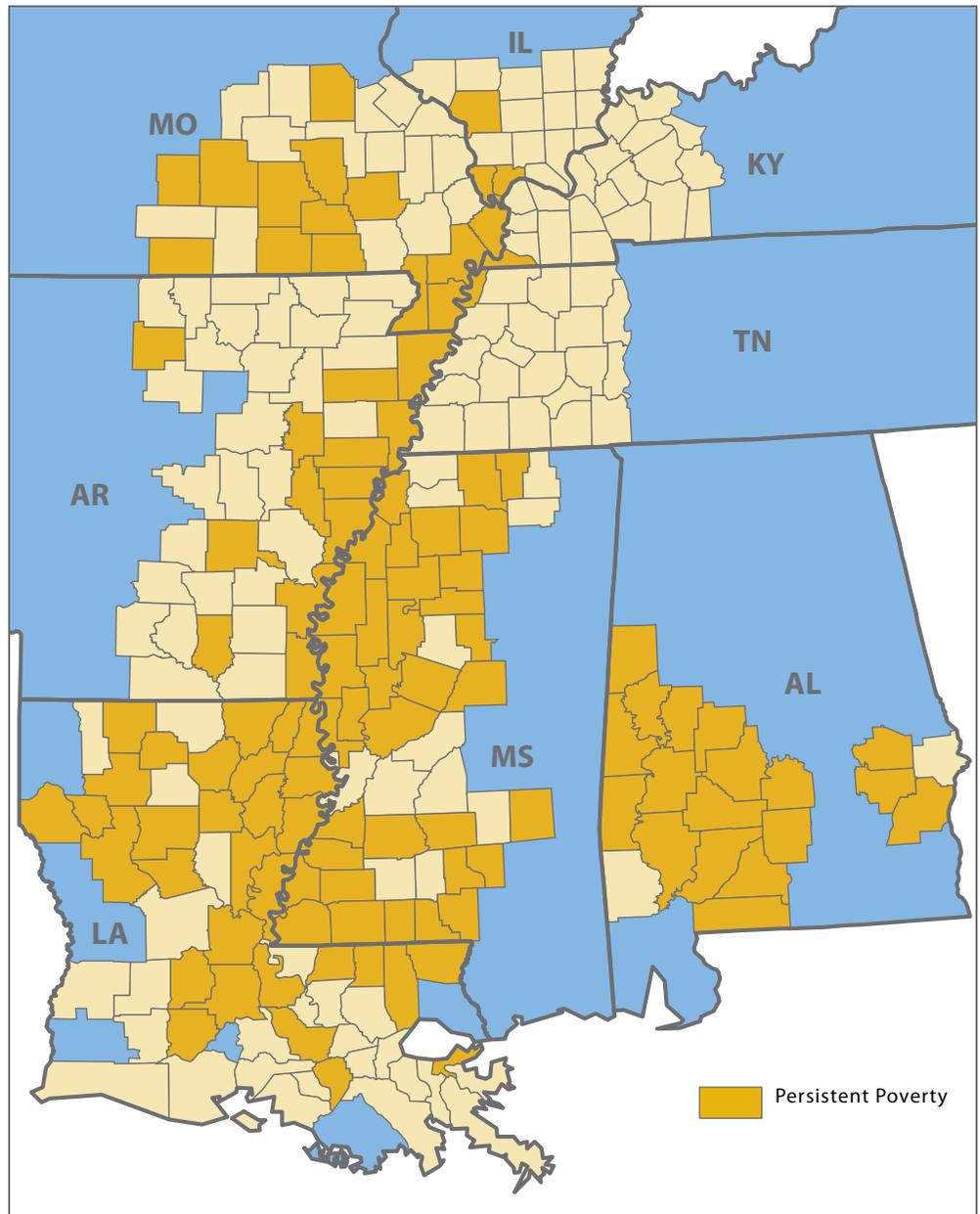
Persistent Poverty

Delta Region by Counties/ Parishes: 1970-2000

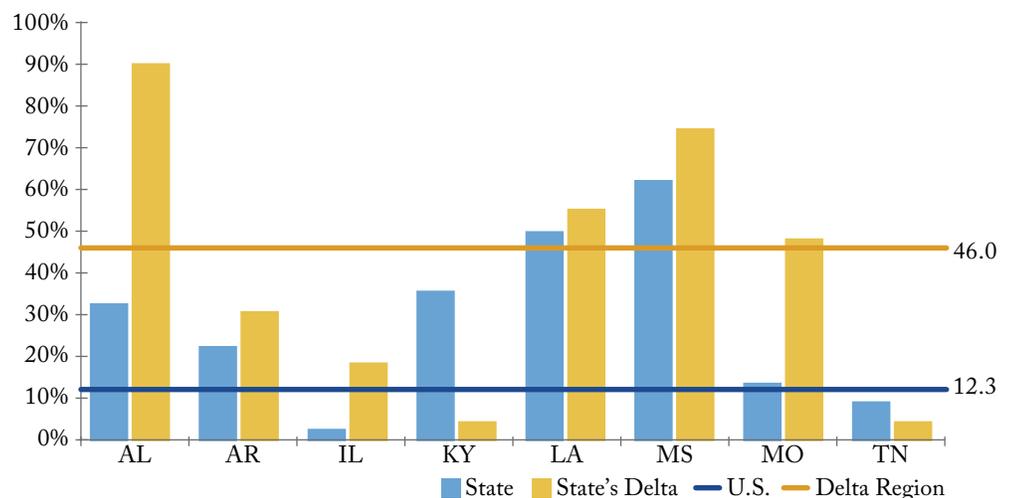
| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------------|--------------|
| United States | 12.3% |
| Delta Region | 46.0% |
| Alabama | 90.0% |
| Arkansas | 31.0% |
| Illinois | 18.8% |
| Kentucky | 4.8% |
| Louisiana | 55.4% |
| Mississippi | 74.5% |
| Missouri | 48.3% |
| Tennessee | 4.8% |

Note: A county is classified as in persistent poverty if 20 percent or more of its residents were poor as measured by each of the last four decennial censuses.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Atlas of Rural and Small-Town America



- In the Delta region, 46.0 percent of the counties/parishes were classified as “in persistent poverty” compared to 12.3 percent nationwide.
- Approximately 57 percent of the counties/parishes “in persistent poverty” were in Mississippi and Louisiana.



Health

Regional Hospital

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
|  P | EMERGENCY |
|  P | Children's Main Entry |
|  P | Main Entry |
|  P | Maternity Entry |
|  P | Medical Center |
|  P | Med Office Bldg |

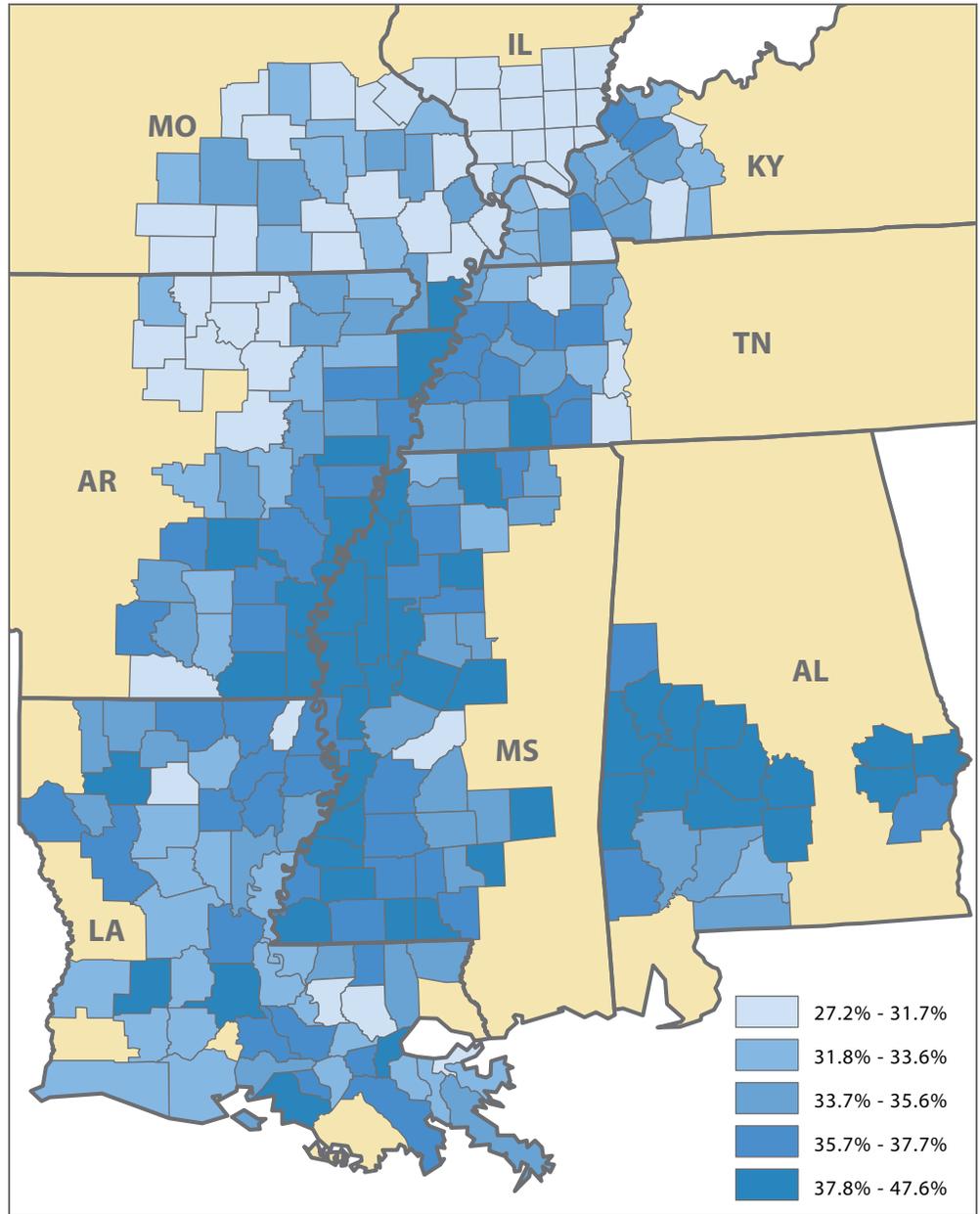
Adults* Who are Obese

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2009

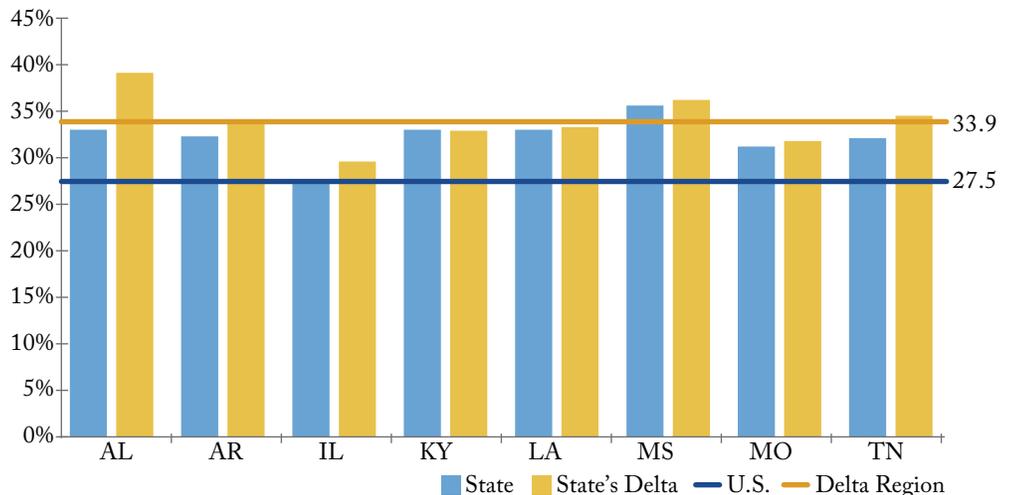
*Adults ≥ 20 Years

| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------|---------|
| United States | 27.5% |
| Delta Region | 33.9% |
| Alabama | 39.0% |
| Arkansas | 33.6% |
| Illinois | 29.5% |
| Kentucky | 32.8% |
| Louisiana | 33.2% |
| Mississippi | 36.1% |
| Missouri | 31.7% |
| Tennessee | 34.4% |

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Diabetes Surveillance System
 Available online at:
<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/DDTSTRS/default.aspx>
 Retrieved 5/15/2012



- Over one-fourth of adults, 20 years and over, in the U.S. were obese, compared to approximately one-third in the Delta.
- All of the states had an obesity rate higher than the nation, and three states had higher rates than the overall region.



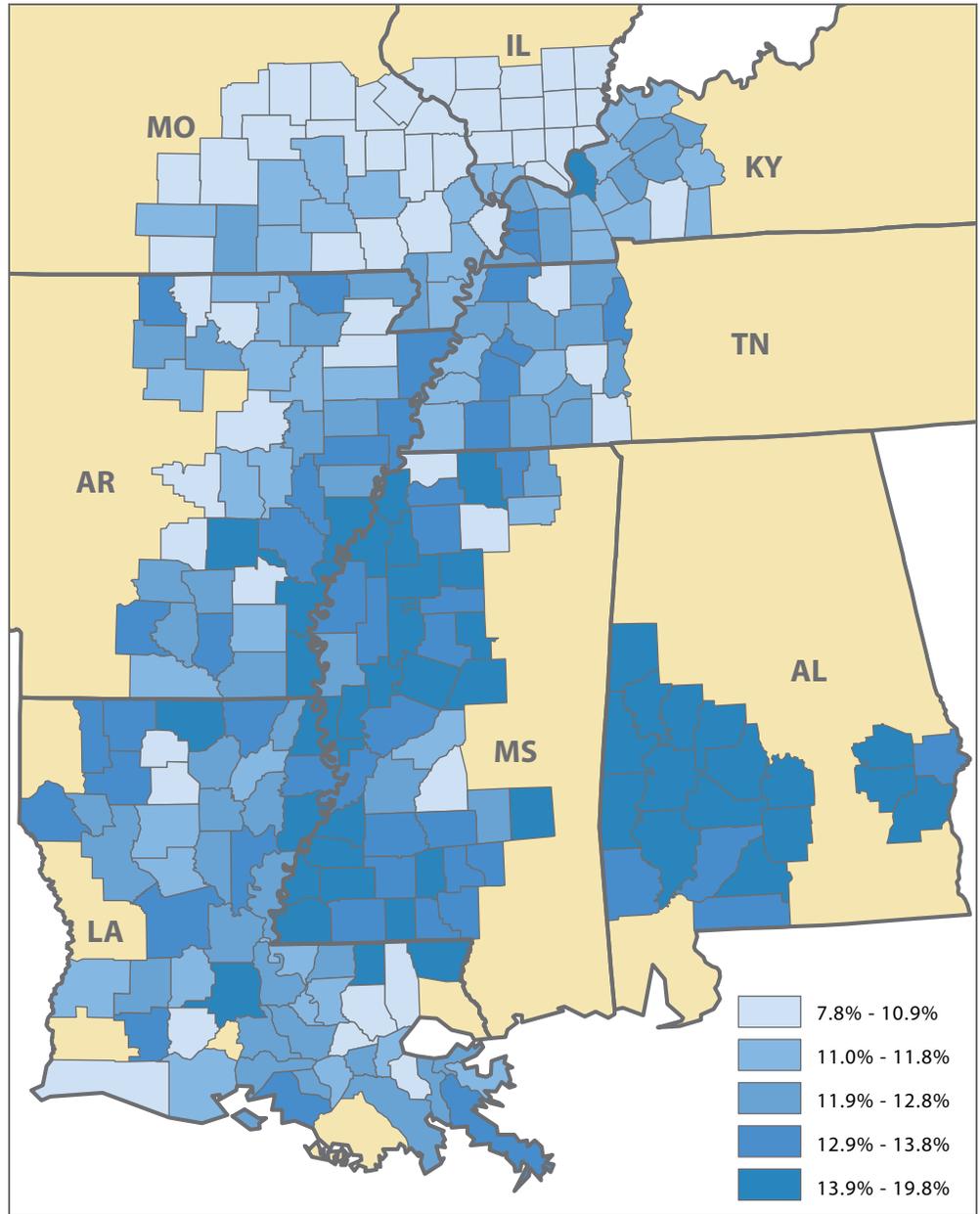
Adults* with Diagnosed Diabetes

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2009

*Adults ≥ 20 Years

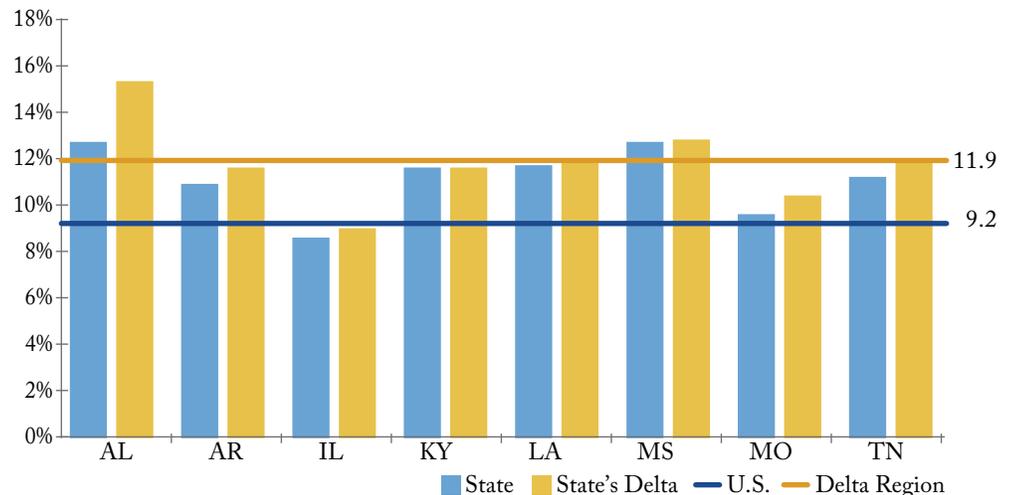
| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------|---------|
| United States | 9.2% |
| Delta Region | 11.9% |
| Alabama | 15.3% |
| Arkansas | 11.6% |
| Illinois | 9.0% |
| Kentucky | 11.6% |
| Louisiana | 11.9% |
| Mississippi | 12.8% |
| Missouri | 10.4% |
| Tennessee | 11.9% |

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Diabetes Surveillance System
 Available online at:
<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/DDTSTRS/default.aspx>
 Retrieved 5/15/2012



- The percent of adults, 20 years and over, with diagnosed diabetes in Illinois (9.0%) was lower than both the national (9.2%) and regional (11.9%) rates.

- Over half (56%) of the Delta counties/parishes exceeded the region rate whereas approximately 96 percent were higher than the U.S. rate.



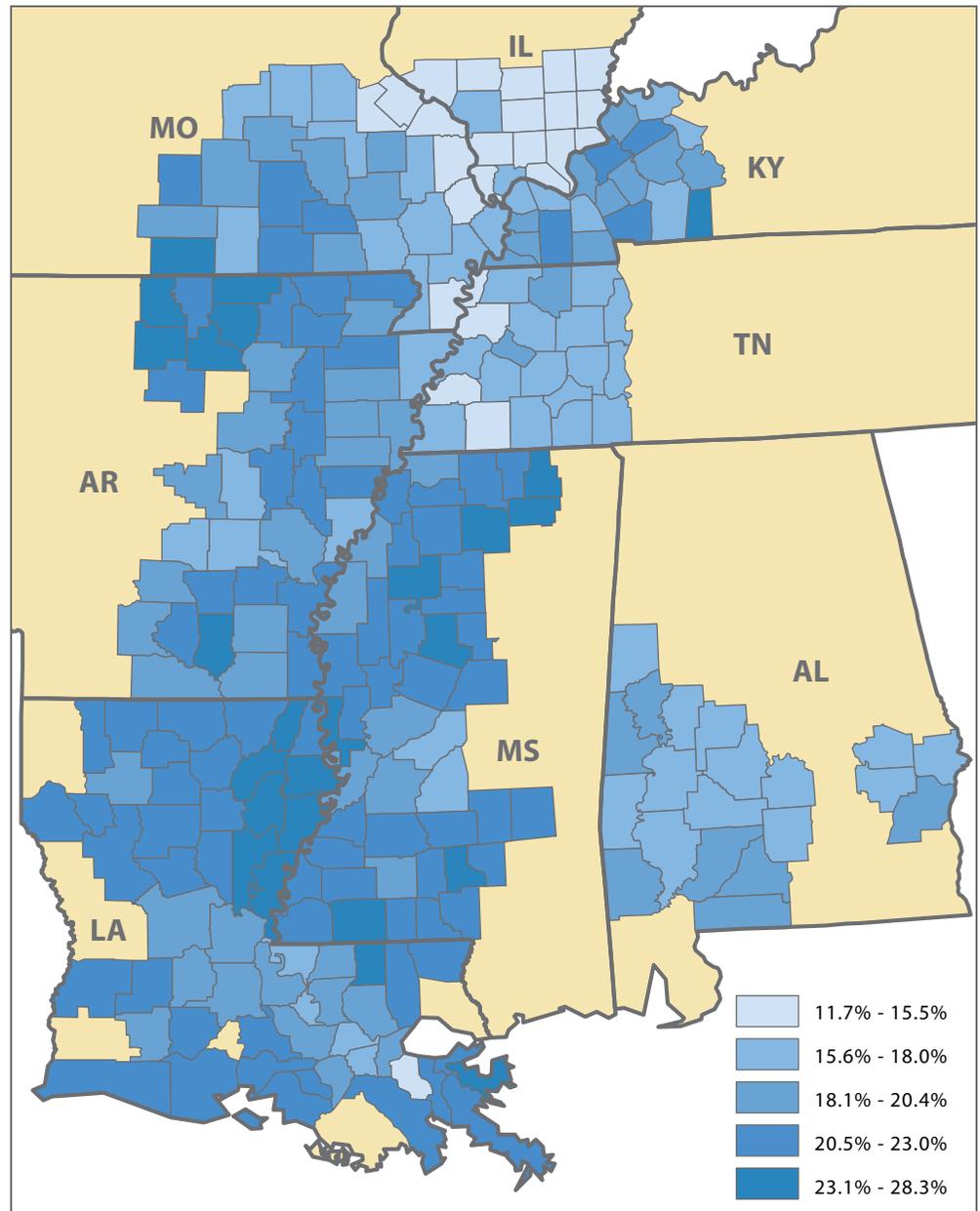
Population Under 65 Years of Age Without Health Insurance*

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2010

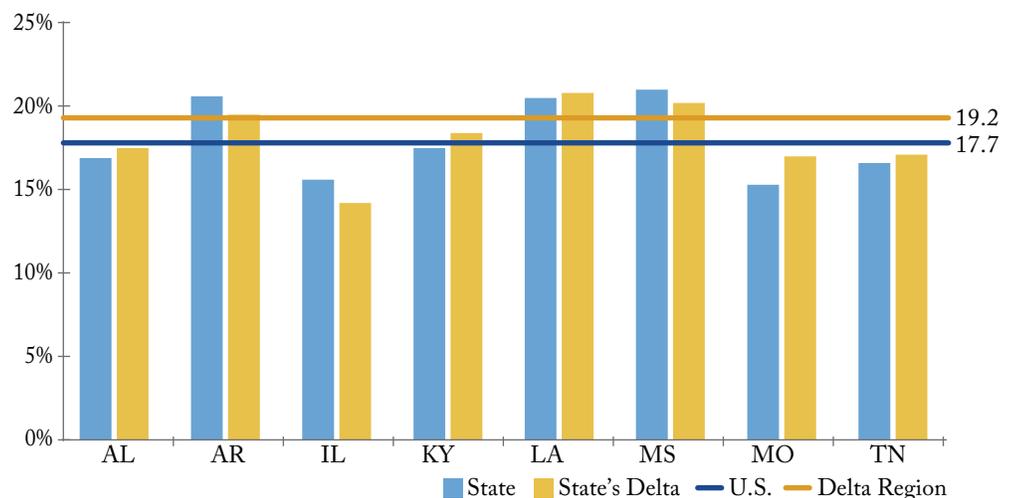
*all income levels

| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------------|--------------|
| United States | 17.7% |
| Delta Region | 19.2% |
| Alabama | 17.5% |
| Arkansas | 19.5% |
| Illinois | 14.2% |
| Kentucky | 18.4% |
| Louisiana | 20.8% |
| Mississippi | 20.2% |
| Missouri | 17.0% |
| Tennessee | 17.1% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates



- The population under 65 years of age without health insurance was higher in the Delta region (19.2%) than the nation (17.7%).
- Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi had a higher percentage than the Delta as a whole.





Economics

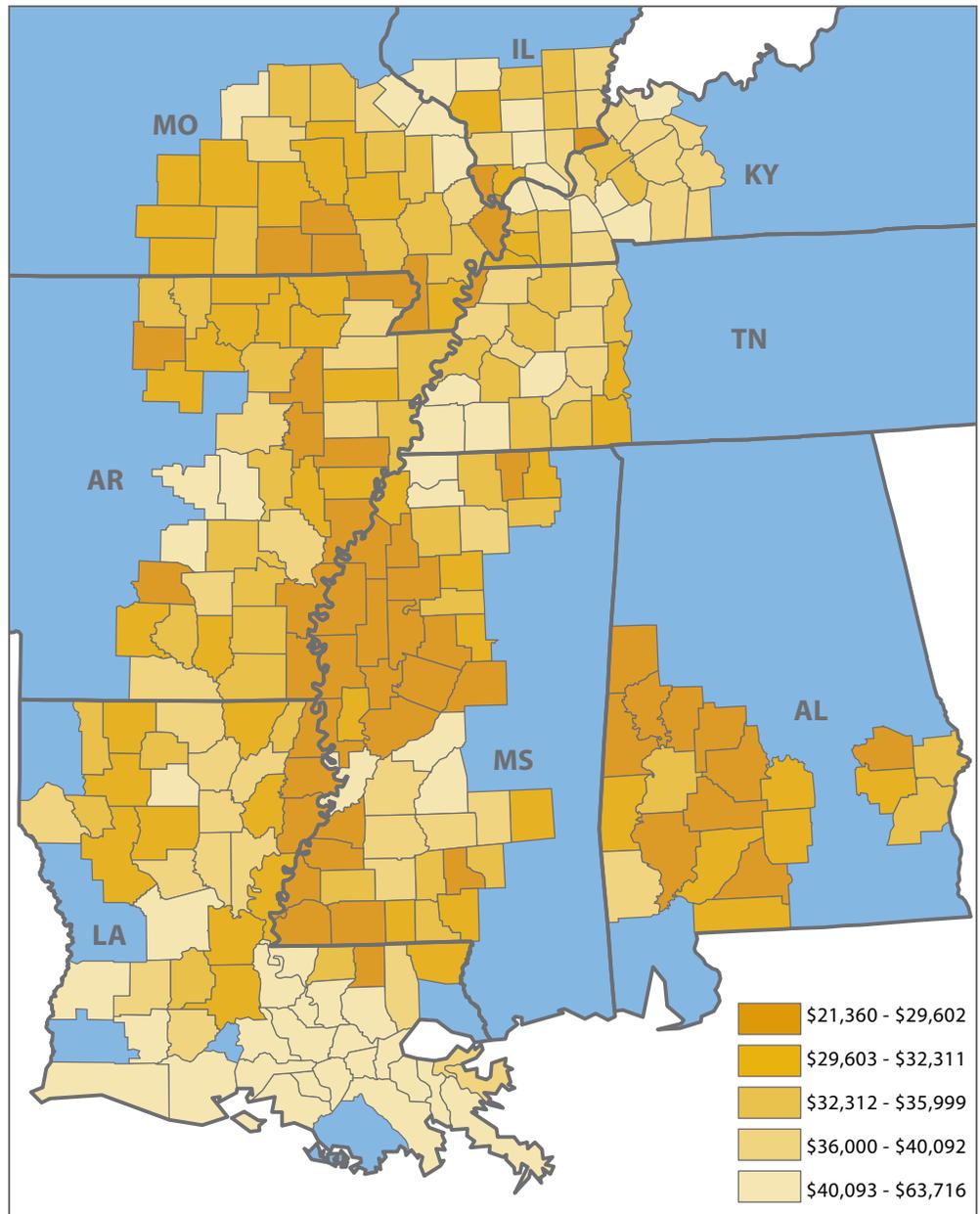
Median Household Income

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2006-2010

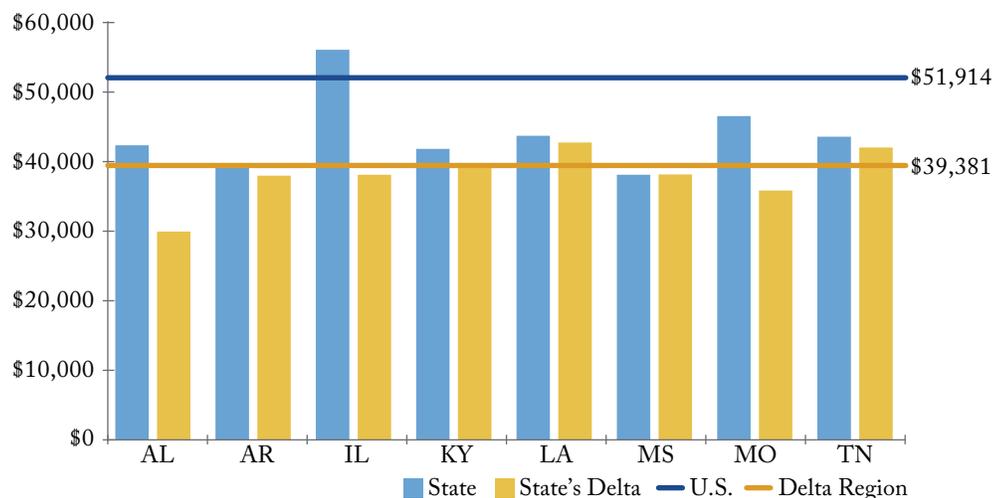
| REGION | INCOME |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| United States | \$51,914 |
| Delta Region | \$39,381 |
| Alabama | \$29,774 |
| Arkansas | \$37,746 |
| Illinois | \$37,875 |
| Kentucky | \$38,912 |
| Louisiana | \$42,487 |
| Mississippi | \$37,926 |
| Missouri | \$35,620 |
| Tennessee | \$41,764 |

Note: Household income, defined by the Census Bureau, includes income received on a regular basis, before payments for taxes and social insurance. It does not include income in the form of noncash benefits, such as food stamps, health benefits, subsidized housing.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey



- There was a \$12,533 difference between the median household income for the U.S. and the region.
- Louisiana and Tennessee had a higher median household income than the Delta region.



Per Capita Personal Income

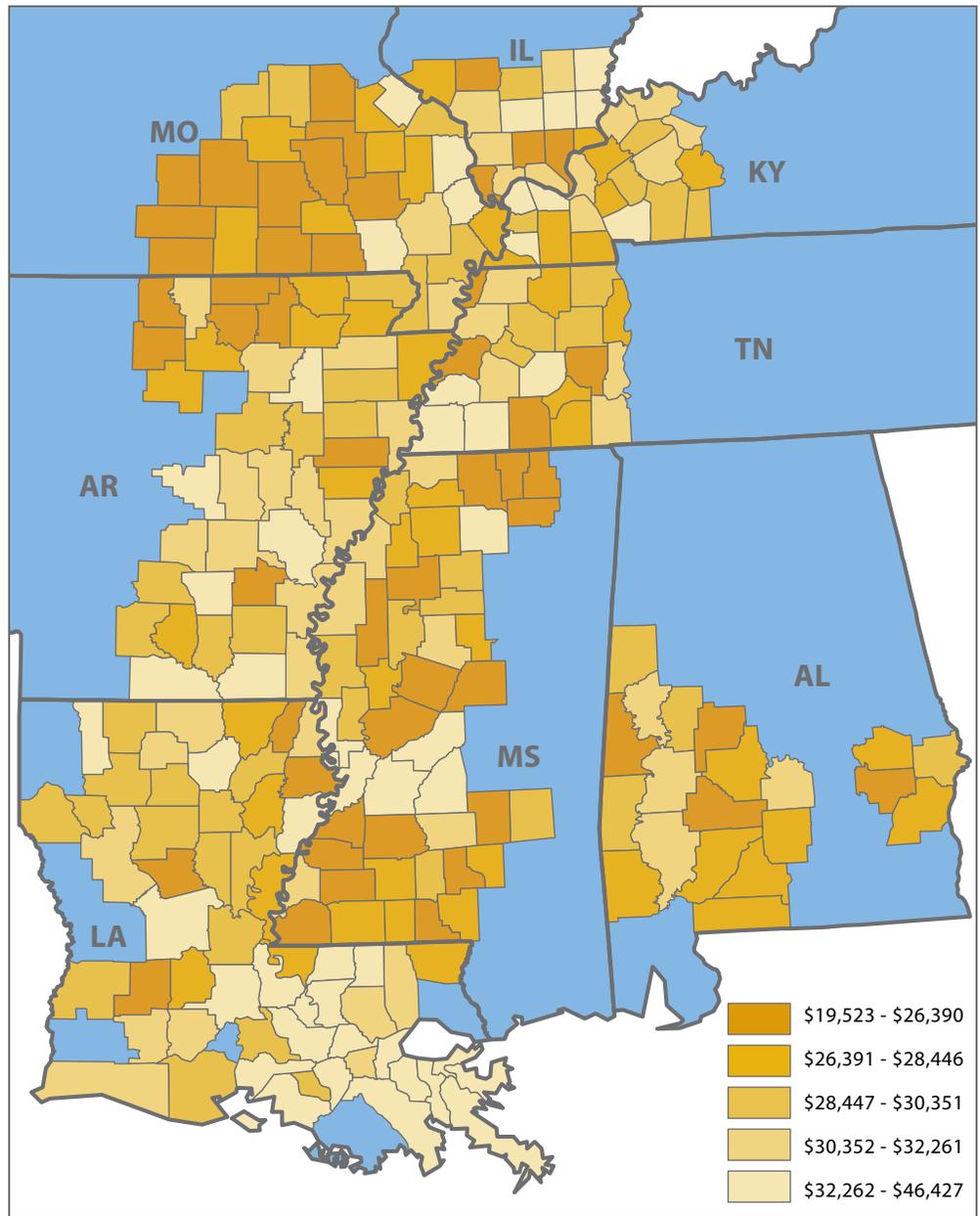
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2010

| REGION | INCOME |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| United States | \$39,937 |
| Delta Region | \$33,682 |
| Alabama | \$28,264 |
| Arkansas | \$33,659 |
| Illinois | \$30,655 |
| Kentucky | \$30,865 |
| Louisiana | \$36,099 |
| Mississippi | \$31,414 |
| Missouri | \$28,971 |
| Tennessee | \$35,948 |

Note: Per capita personal income was computed using Census Bureau midyear population estimates. Estimates for 2000–2010 reflect county population estimates available as of April 2012. All state and local area dollar estimates are in current dollars (not adjusted for inflation.)

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, April 2012

- The per capita personal income for the nation was \$6,255 higher than the Delta.
- Of the counties/parishes, 3.6 percent had a higher per capita personal income than the U.S.; however, 13.1 percent exceeded the region.

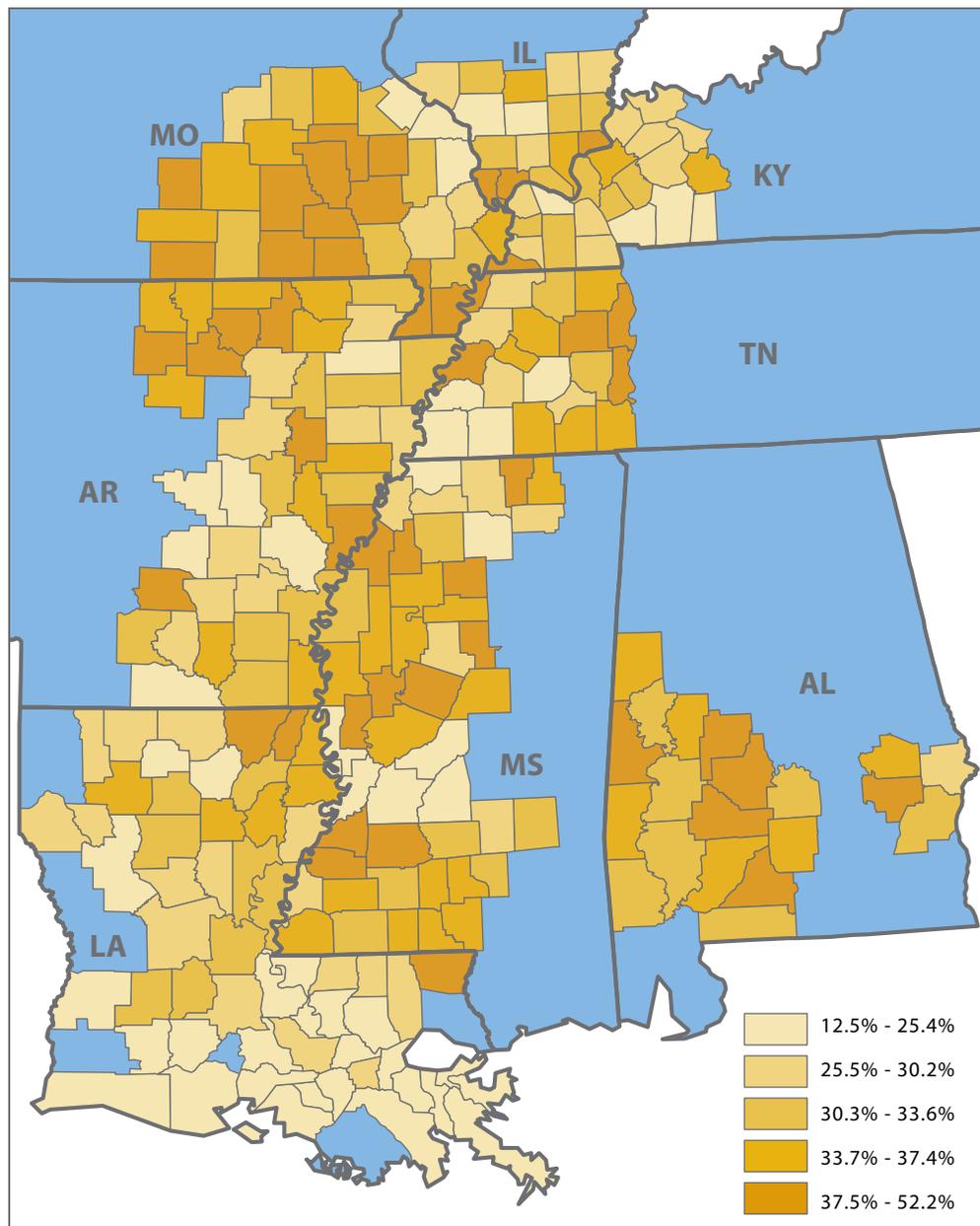


Transfer Receipts as a Percent of Total Personal Income

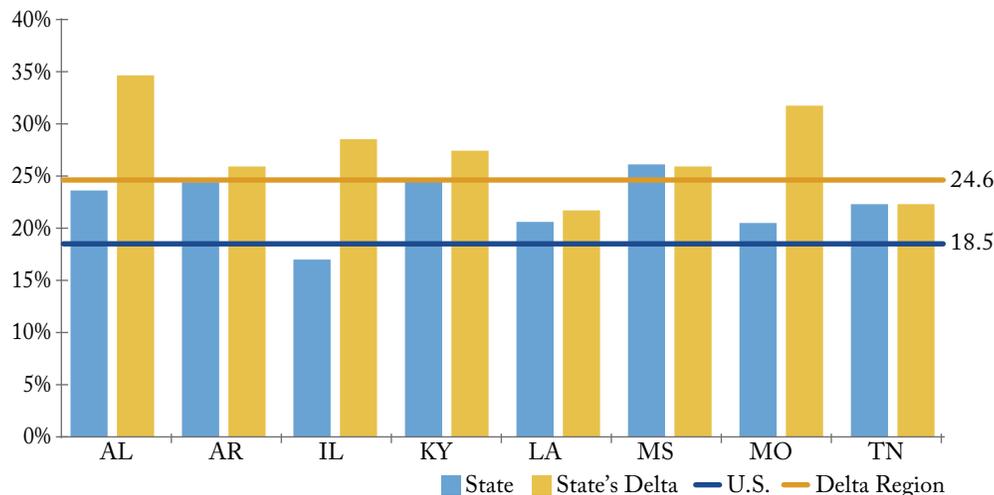
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2010

| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------------|--------------|
| United States | 18.5% |
| Delta Region | 24.6% |
| Alabama | 34.6% |
| Arkansas | 25.9% |
| Illinois | 28.5% |
| Kentucky | 27.4% |
| Louisiana | 21.7% |
| Mississippi | 25.9% |
| Missouri | 31.7% |
| Tennessee | 22.3% |

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, April 2012



- Measured as a fraction of total income, transfer receipts provide an indication of an area's dependency on income support programs.
- The Delta region rate was 24.6 percent compared to the U.S. at 18.5 percent, with Louisiana having the lowest rate (21.7%).

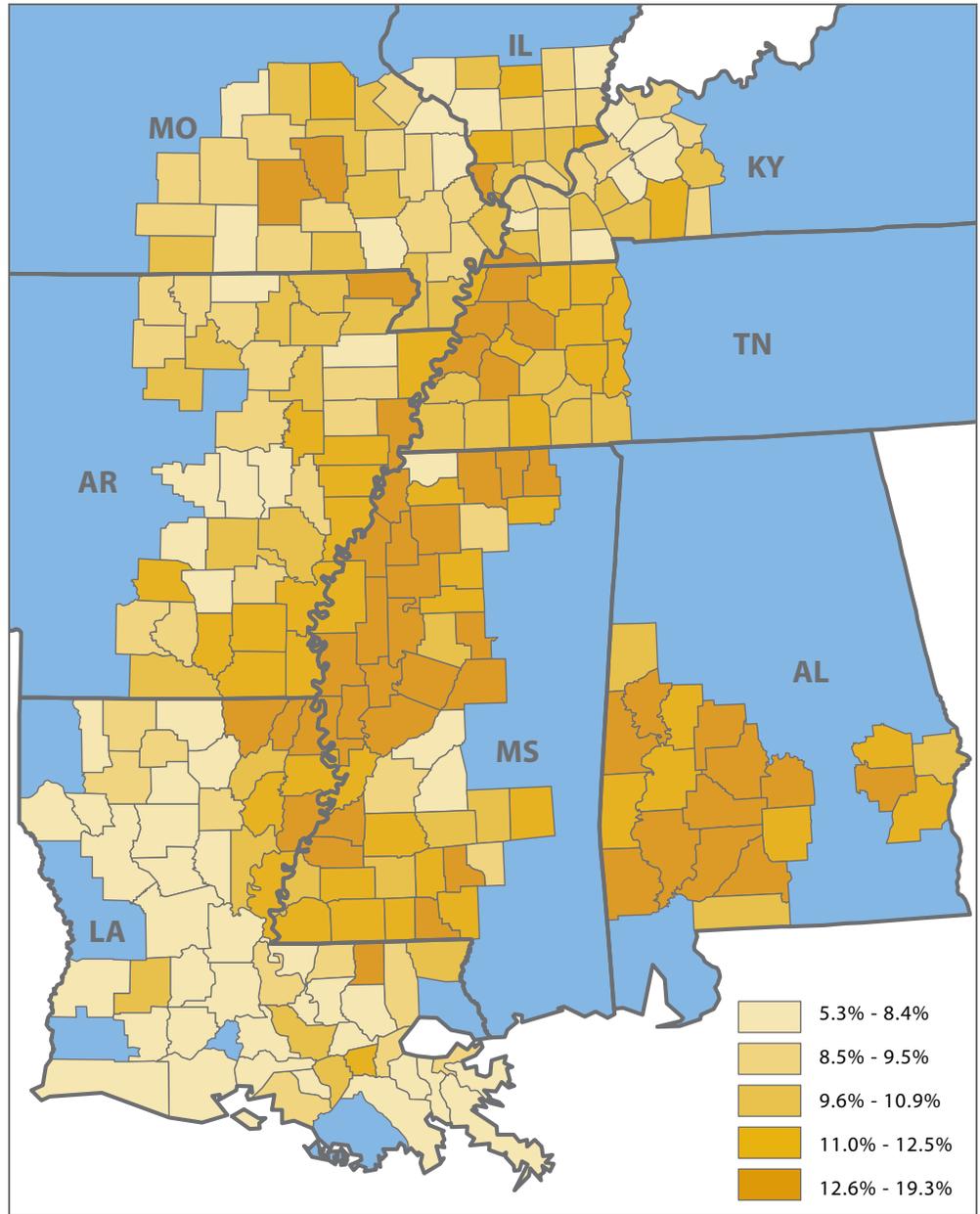


Unemployment Rate

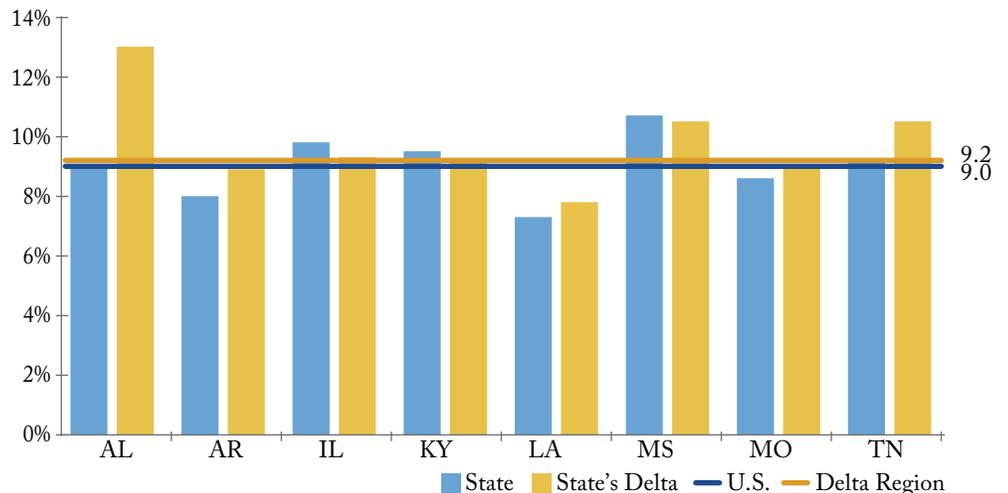
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2011

| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------|---------|
| United States | 9.0% |
| Delta Region | 9.2% |
| Alabama | 13.0% |
| Arkansas | 8.9% |
| Illinois | 9.3% |
| Kentucky | 9.2% |
| Louisiana | 7.8% |
| Mississippi | 10.5% |
| Missouri | 9.0% |
| Tennessee | 10.5% |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



- The Delta region (9.2%) was comparable to the U.S. unemployment rate of 9.0 percent.
- Louisiana and Arkansas had the lowest unemployment rates in the region, and their rates were lower than the nation.

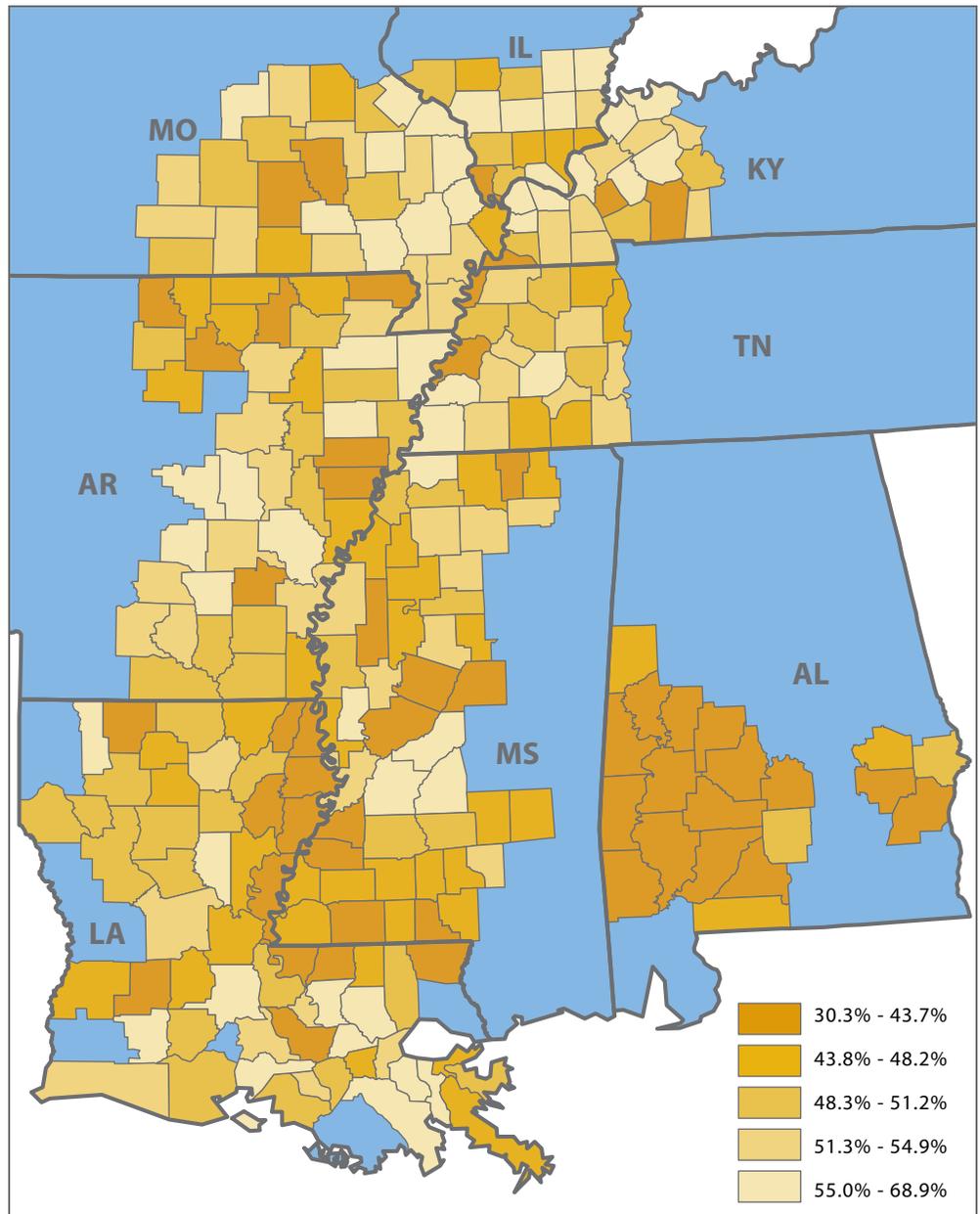


Employment/ Population Ratio

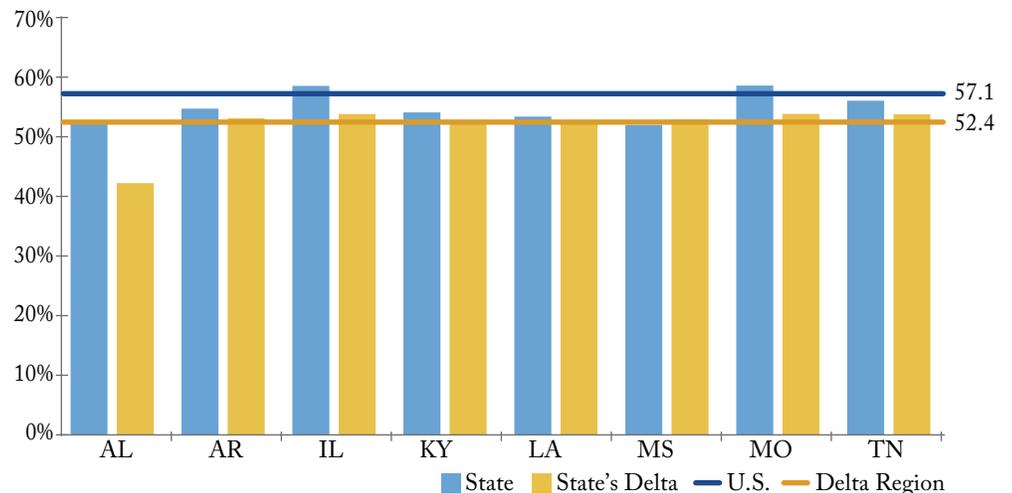
Delta Region by Counties/ Parishes: 2011

| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------|---------|
| United States | 57.1% |
| Delta Region | 52.4% |
| Alabama | 42.2% |
| Arkansas | 53.0% |
| Illinois | 53.7% |
| Kentucky | 52.6% |
| Louisiana | 52.1% |
| Mississippi | 52.8% |
| Missouri | 53.8% |
| Tennessee | 53.7% |

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, LAUS and U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division



- There was almost a 5 percent difference between the Delta and the nation in the percentage of total population who were employed.
- This ratio varied less than 2 percent for all Delta states, excluding Alabama.



Housing

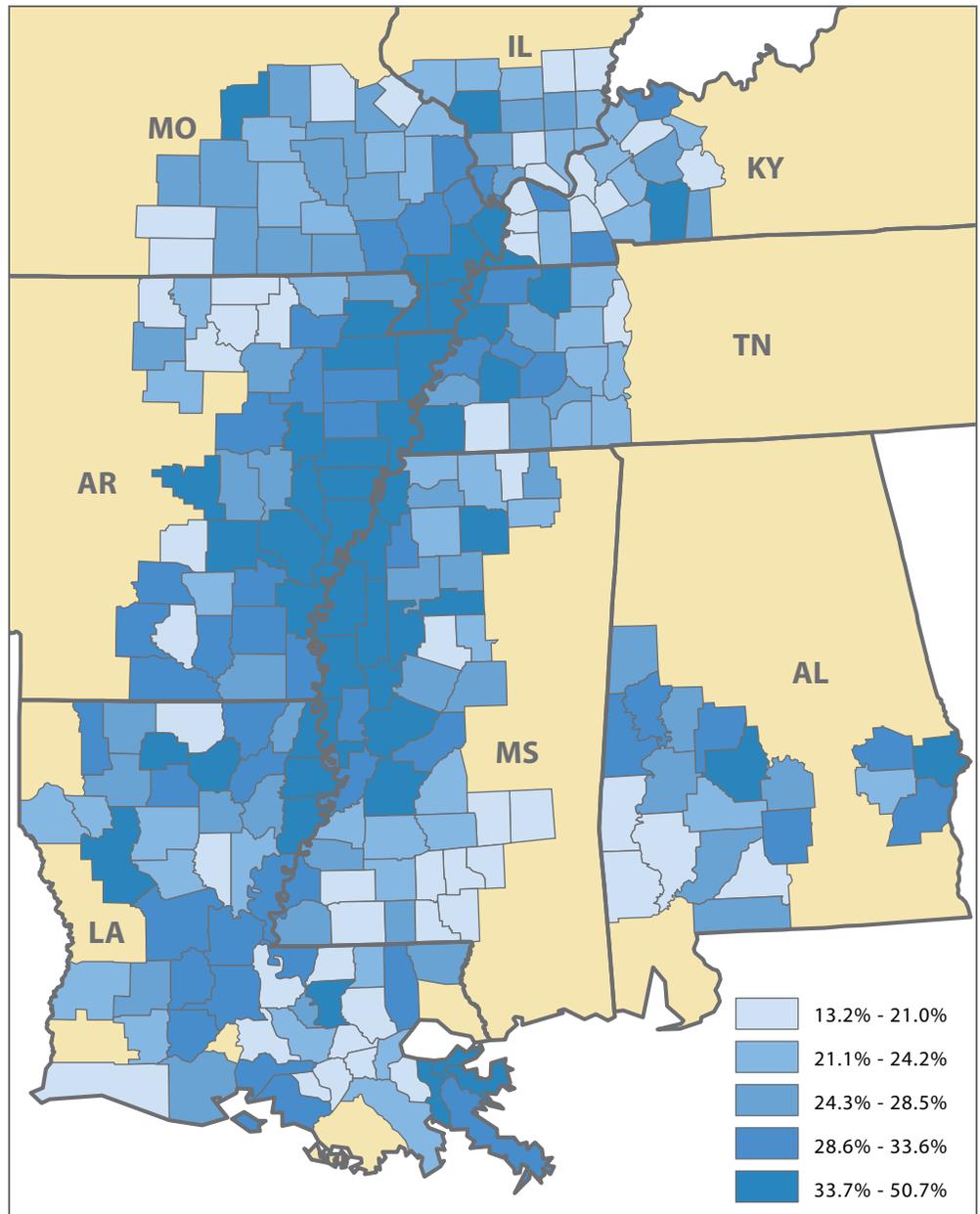


Renter Occupied Housing Units

Delta Region by Counties/
Parishes: 2006-2010

| REGION | PERCENT |
|---------------|---------|
| United States | 33.4% |
| Delta Region | 31.5% |
| Alabama | 28.6% |
| Arkansas | 33.6% |
| Illinois | 27.2% |
| Kentucky | 28.1% |
| Louisiana | 32.3% |
| Mississippi | 29.8% |
| Missouri | 28.7% |
| Tennessee | 33.9% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey



- The percent of renter occupied housing units in the Delta was 31.5 percent compared to the U.S. with 33.4 percent.
- Arkansas and Tennessee had a higher percentage of renter occupancy than the region and the nation.



Definitions and Sources

High School Graduates: The percent of the population over 25 years of age whose highest degree is a high school diploma, GED, or the equivalent.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2010 American Community Survey.

Population with Associate's Degree: The percent of the population over 25 years of age whose highest degree is an Associate's Degree.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2010 American Community Survey.

Population with Bachelor's Degree: The percent of the population over 25 years of age whose highest degree is a Bachelor's Degree.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2010 American Community Survey.

Population with Graduate or Professional Degree: The percent of the population over 25 years of age whose highest degree is a Graduate or Professional Degree.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2010 American Community Survey.

Children in Single Parent Families: The percent of children under 18 years of age in family households who live with a male/female householder with no spouse present.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2010 American Community Survey.

Population Living in Poverty: The percent of the population living in poverty is the sum of the population below the poverty level divided by the total population in families for whom poverty status has been determined. Poverty status is determined from income data. Poverty thresholds are arranged in a two dimensional matrix based on family size and number of children in the family. The total income of the family was tested against the appropriate threshold to determine the poverty status of the family. If the family income was less than the corresponding cutoff, the family was classified as below the poverty level.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2010 American Community Survey.

Children in Poverty: The percent of children under 18 years of age in poverty is the sum of children below the poverty level divided by the total number of children in families.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2001–2010 American Community Survey.

Elderly in Poverty: The percent of elderly in poverty is the sum of the population over 65 years of age below the poverty level divided by the total number of people age 65 and over. The Census Bureau uses a set of dollar value thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. Further, poverty thresholds for people living alone or with nonrelatives (unrelated individuals) and two-person families vary by age (under 65 years or 65 years and older.)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2010 American Community Survey.

Persistent Poverty: A county is classified as in persistent poverty if twenty percent or more of its residents were poor as measured by each of the last four decennial censuses.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Atlas of Rural and Small-Town America

Obesity Rate: The percent of adults, 20 years and over, who reported having a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30.0 on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Diabetes Rate: The percent of adults, 20 years and over, who reported having been diagnosed with diabetes by a doctor on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Percent Uninsured: The percent of persons without health insurance is the number of uninsured persons under 65 years of age divided by the total number of persons under 65 years of age.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates.

Median Household Income: Median household income divides the income distribution into two equal parts, one having incomes above the median and the other having incomes below the median.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2010 American Community Survey.

Per Capita Personal Income: The total personal income divided by the population.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2010.

Transfer Receipts Ratio: The ratio of personal current transfer receipts to total personal income. Personal current transfer receipts consists of income payments to persons for which no current services are performed and net insurance settlements. It is the sum of government social benefits and net current transfer receipts from business.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2010.

Unemployment Rate: The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed divided by the civilian labor force.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

Employment to Population Ratio: Calculated by dividing the total employed population by the total population over age 16.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.

Renter Occupied Housing Unit: All occupied housing units which are not owner occupied, whether they are rented or occupied without payment of rent, are classified as renter occupied. The number of renter occupied housing units is divided by the total number of occupied housing units.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2010 American Community Survey.

The Delta Regional Authority is a federal-state partnership that is congressionally mandated to help create jobs, build communities, and improve lives in the 252 counties and parishes of the Delta. The investments come through the DRA's States Economic Development Assistance Program. With 45 Local Development Districts as front-line project managers, these investments by the Delta Regional Authority support job creation and community development projects. In the past ten project cycles, the Authority created or retained nearly 17,000 jobs. They leveraged \$2.2 billion in other public and private investment with DRA projects, trained almost 4,000 for a 21st century workforce and helped more than 25,000 families gain access to clean water and sewer service.



(888) GO-TO-DRA

www.dra.gov

Clarksdale, MS

236 Sharkey Avenue, Suite 400

Clarksdale, MS 38614

Phone: (662) 624-8600 • Fax: (662) 624-8537