

# TODAY'S DELTA

REGIONAL IMPACT



RESOURCES TENNESSEE

ARKANSAS

*Growing Small Businesses*  
*Economic Development Infrastructure*  
POLICY

Knowledge-based ENTERPRISES



SUSTAINABILITY

To Advance The Productivity and Economic Competitiveness of The Delta Workforce

MISSISSIPPI

TALENT & INNOVATION

Raising Prosperity

Railways

21ST CENTURY Global ECONOMY

ACTION

To Create Critical Mass within the Delta

ALABAMA



Connecting an iDelta

Communication

FOCUS

CRITICAL NEEDS



LOUISIANA

*Entrepreneurship*

Developing Clean Technology

TRANSPORTATION

PORTS



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

DEVELOPMENT

WORKFORCE

Supporting Delta Leadership

NEW JOBS



Investing in Transportation

HEALTH CARE

Digital Connections to the Global Economy

Web Sites

COMPETITIVE BUSINESS CLIMATE

Healthy Delta Initiative

TOURISM







# 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

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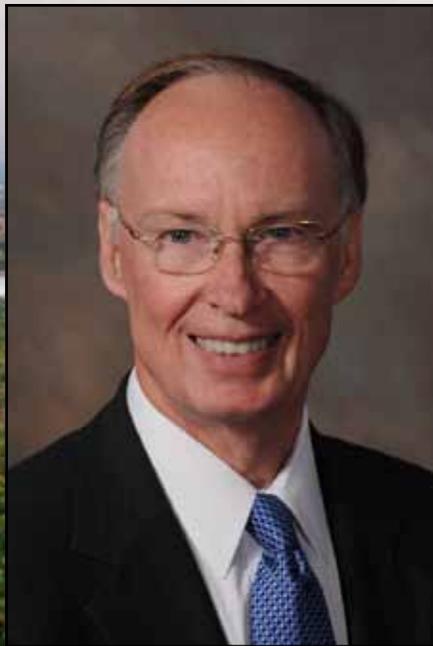
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Alternate Federal Co-Chairman**



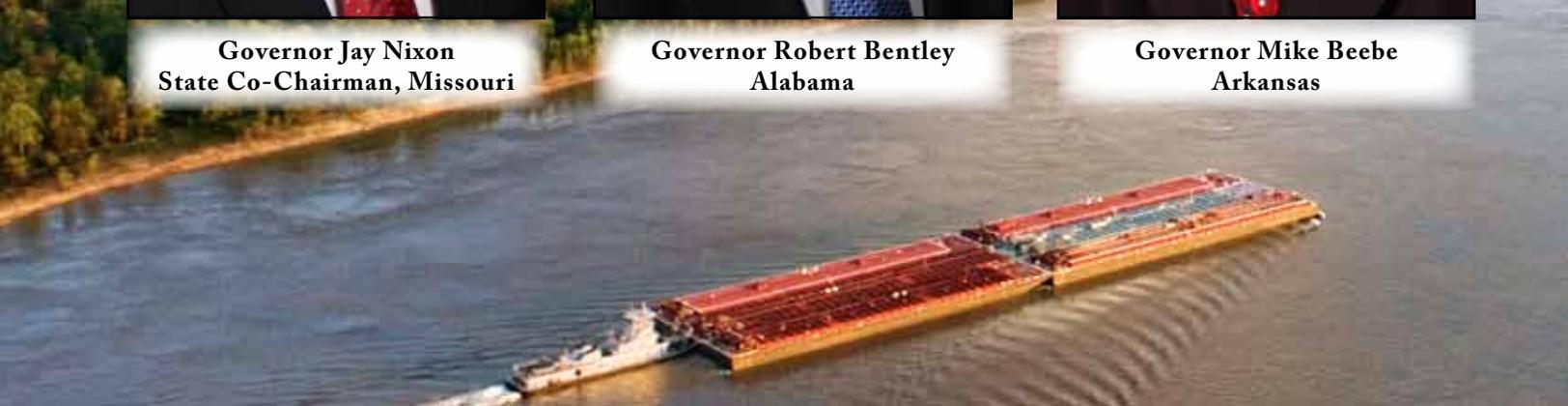
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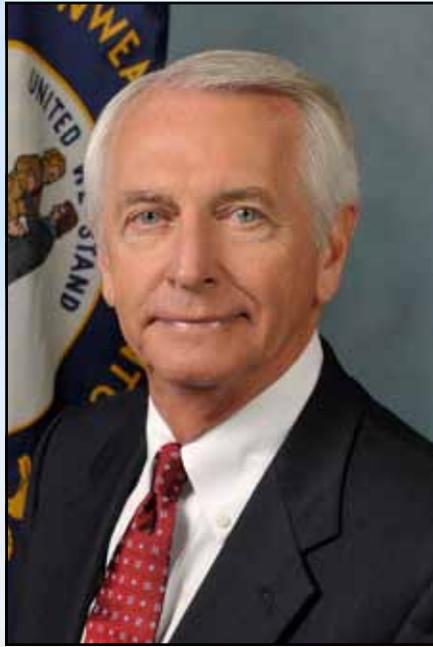


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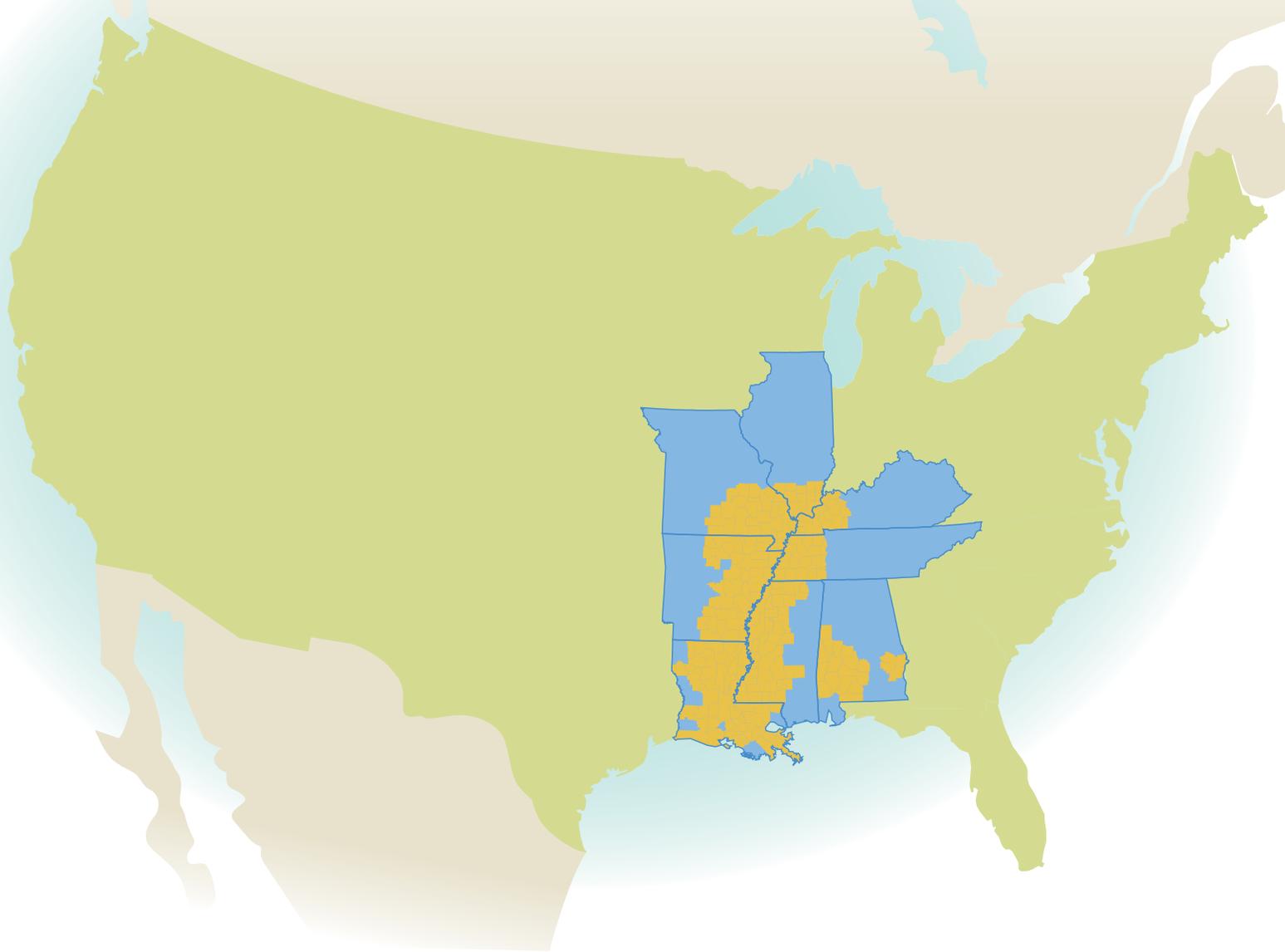
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The Delta region, made up of 252 counties and parishes in eight states, is one of the most historic, culturally rich parts of the country yet daily life remains a struggle for many. The Delta Regional Authority supports job creation and improves quality 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.

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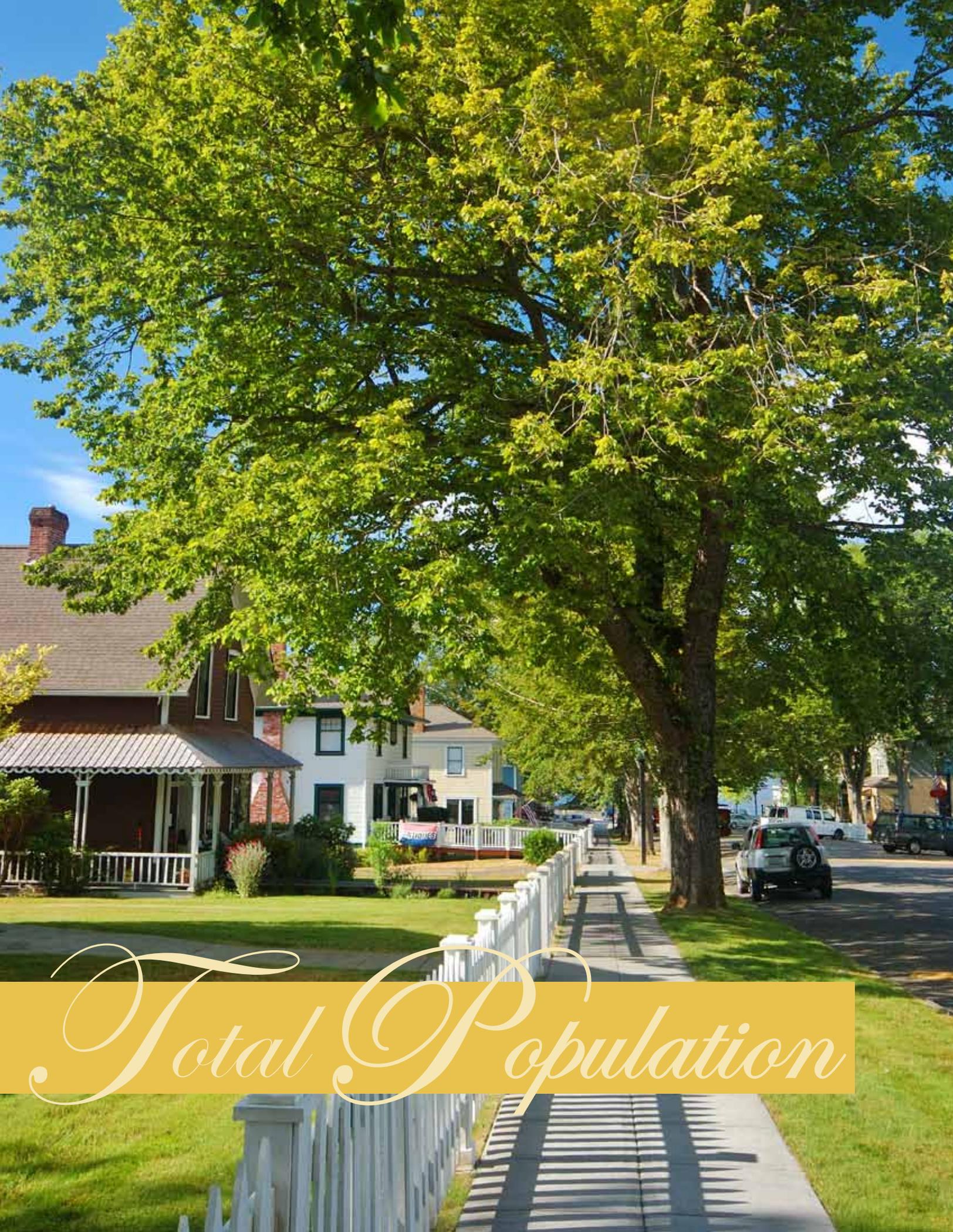
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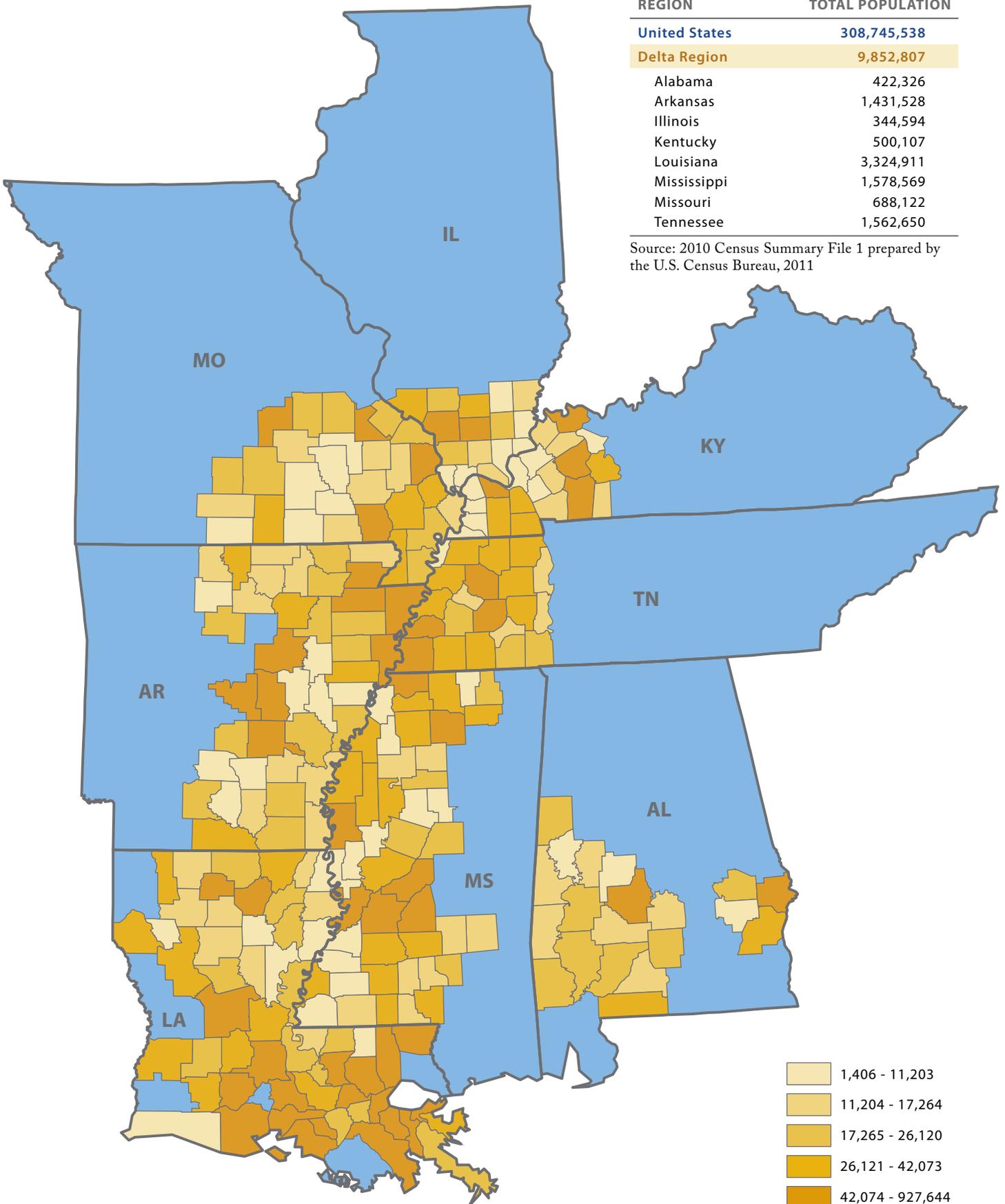
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*Total Population*

# Total Population

## Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2010



REGION	TOTAL POPULATION
United States	308,745,538
<b>Delta Region</b>	<b>9,852,807</b>
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

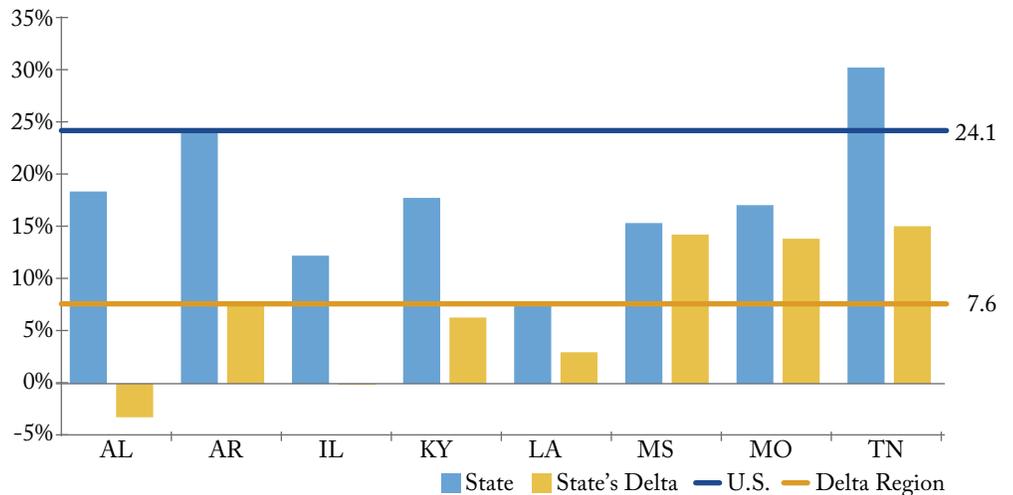
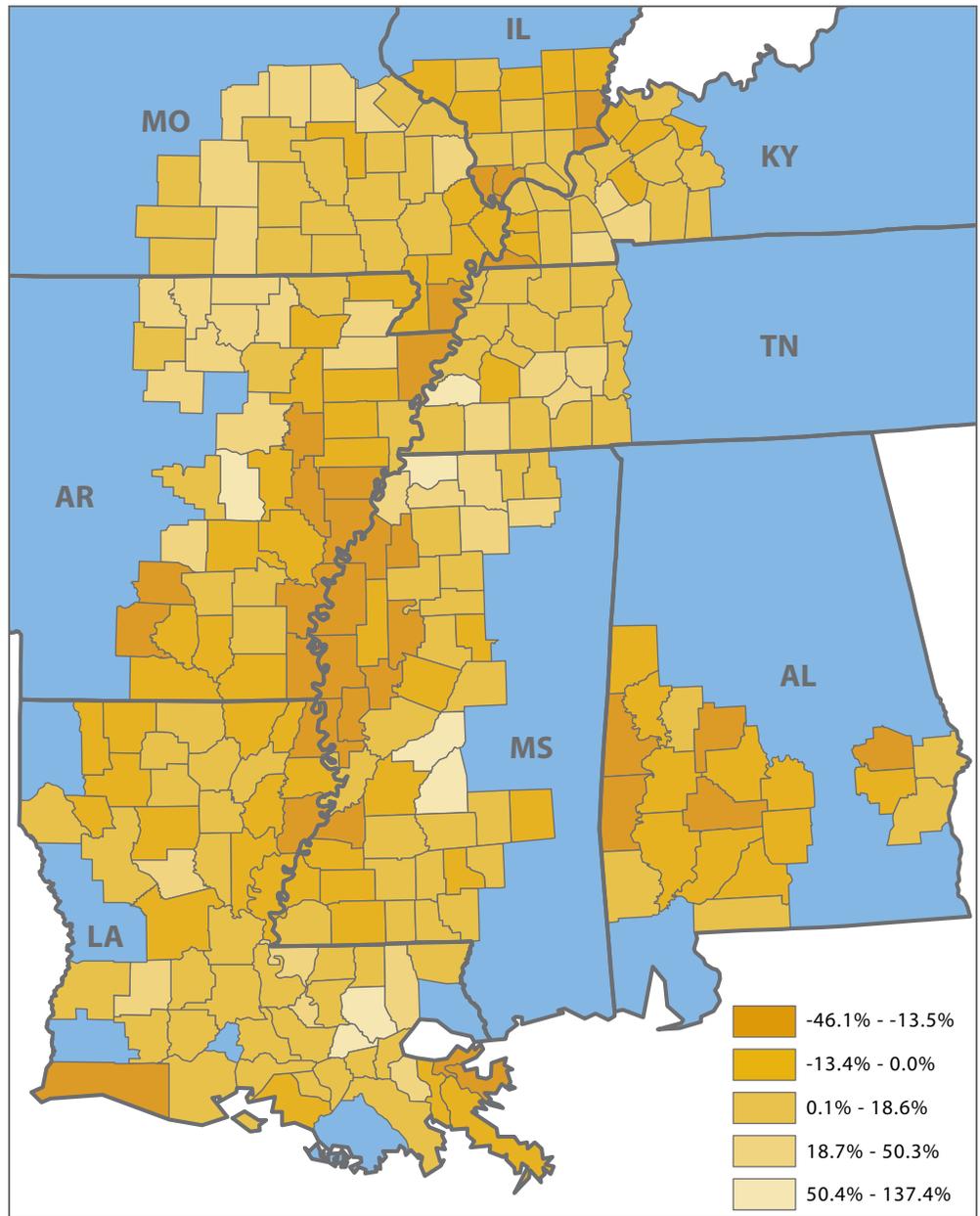
1,406 - 11,203
11,204 - 17,264
17,265 - 26,120
26,121 - 42,073
42,074 - 927,644

# Percent Change in Total Population

## Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 1990-2010

REGION	PERCENT
United States	24.1%
<b>Delta Region</b>	<b>7.6%</b>
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



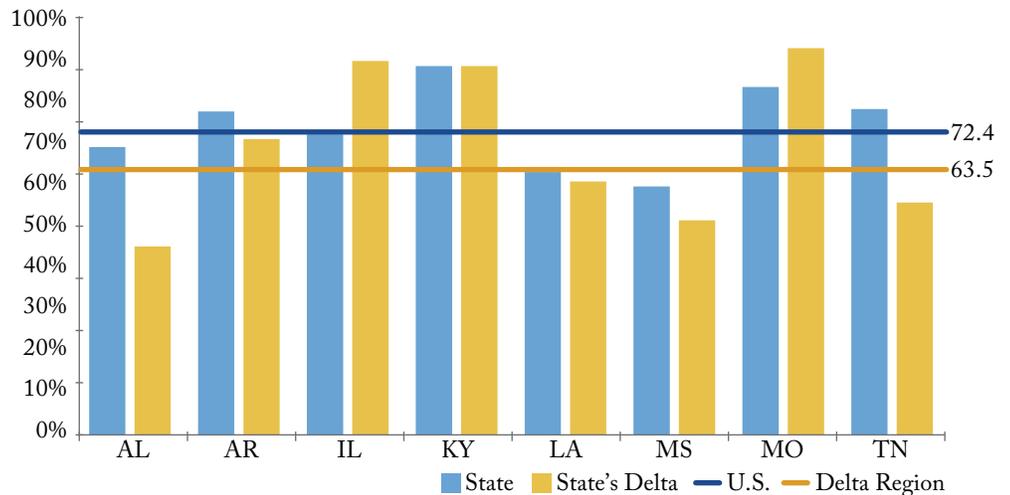
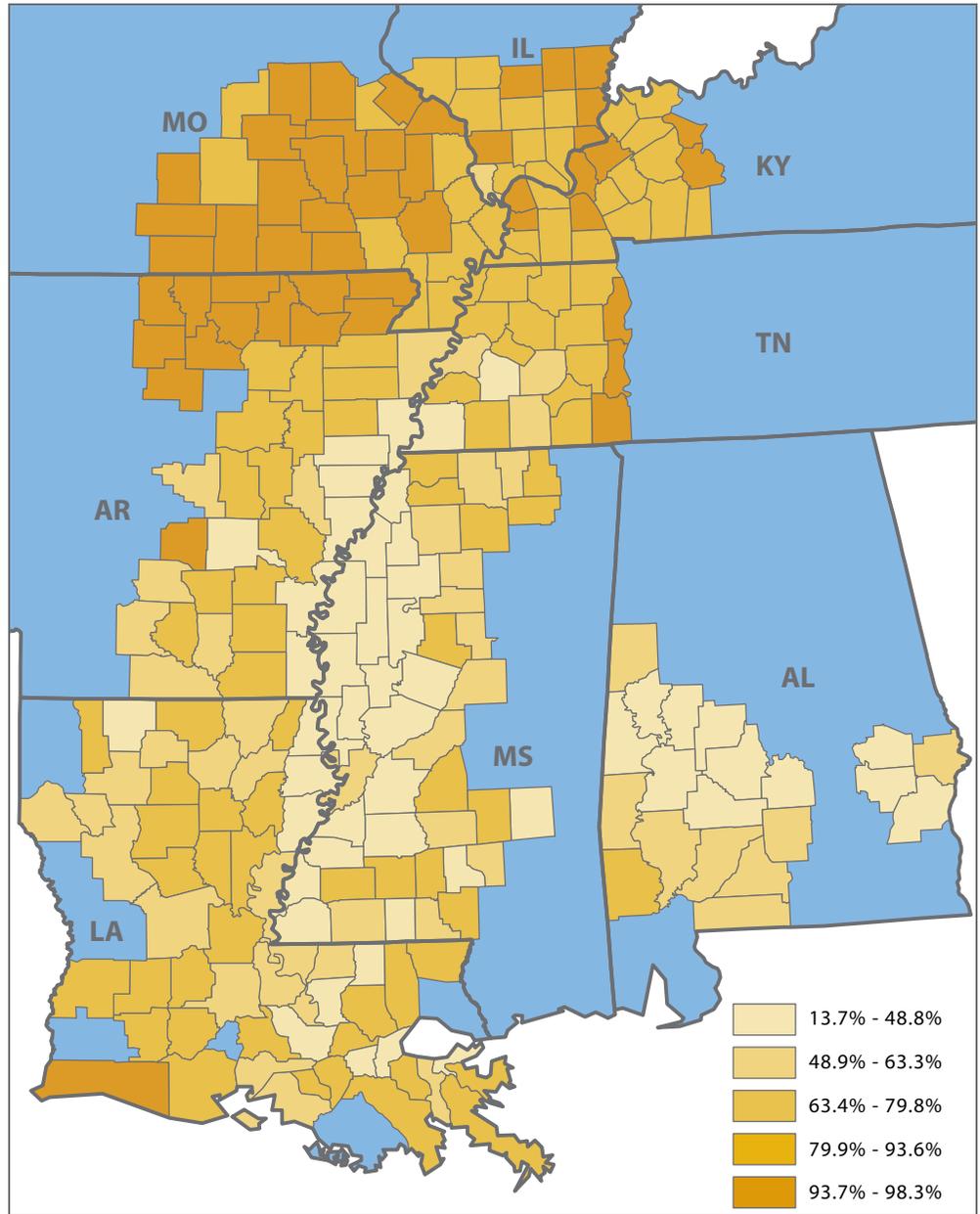
# White Population\*, Percent of Total Population

## Delta Region by Counties/ Parishes: 2010

\*one race only

REGION	PERCENT
United States	72.4%
<b>Delta Region</b>	<b>63.5%</b>
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



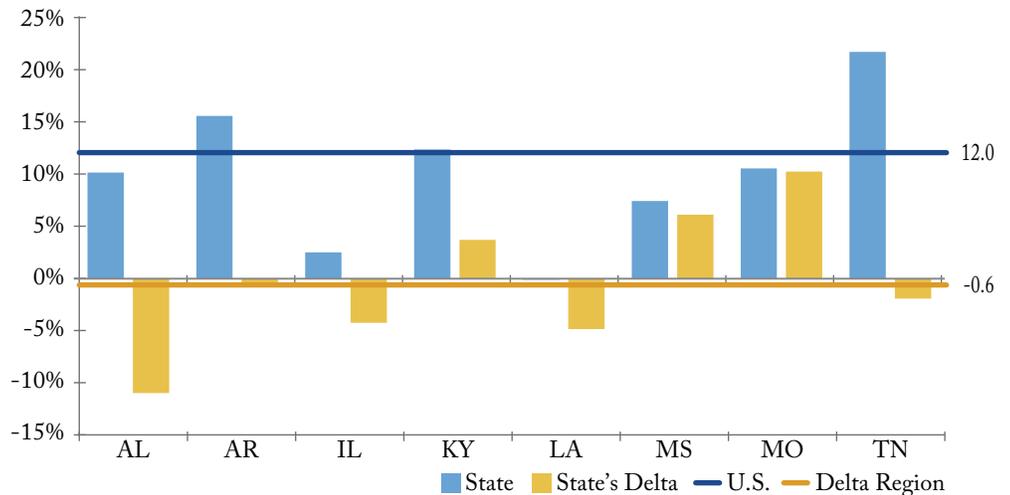
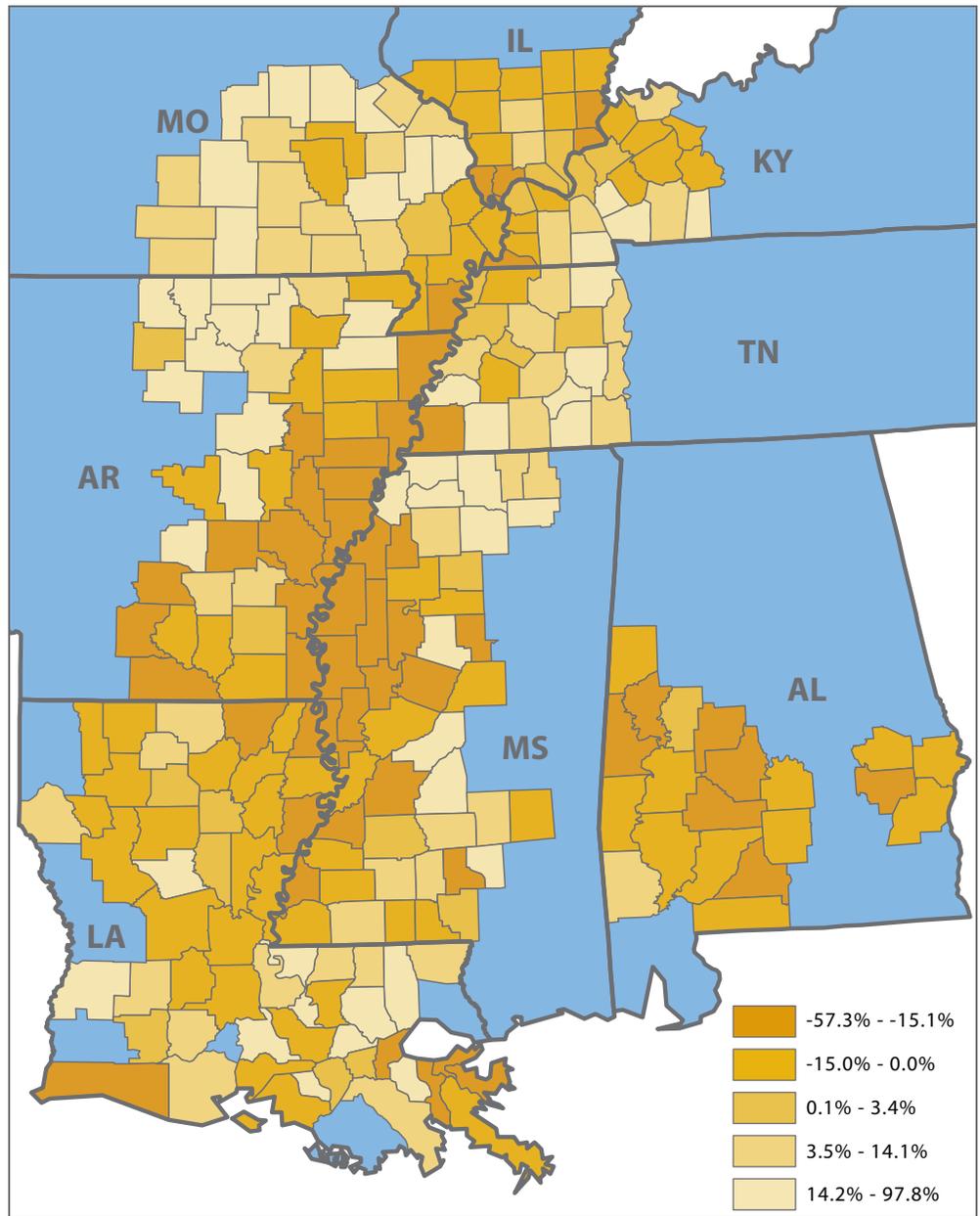
# Percent Change in White Population\*

## 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



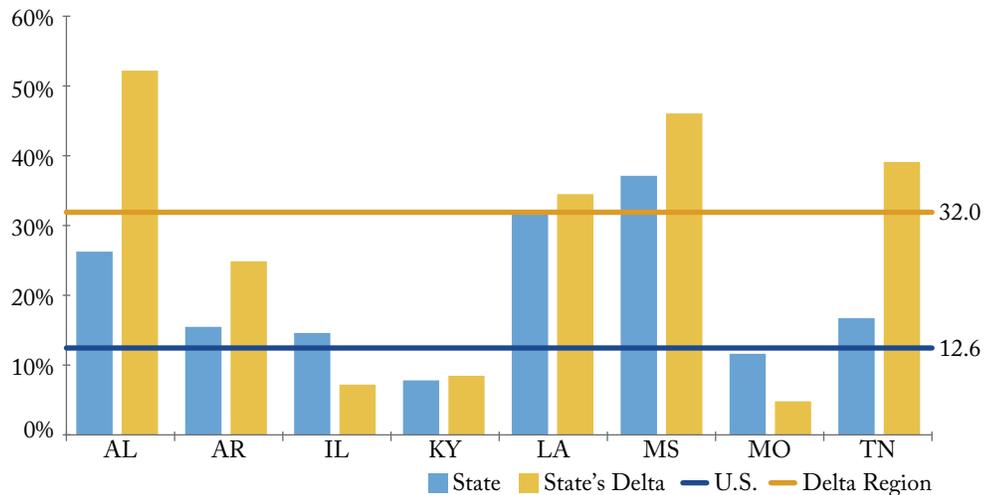
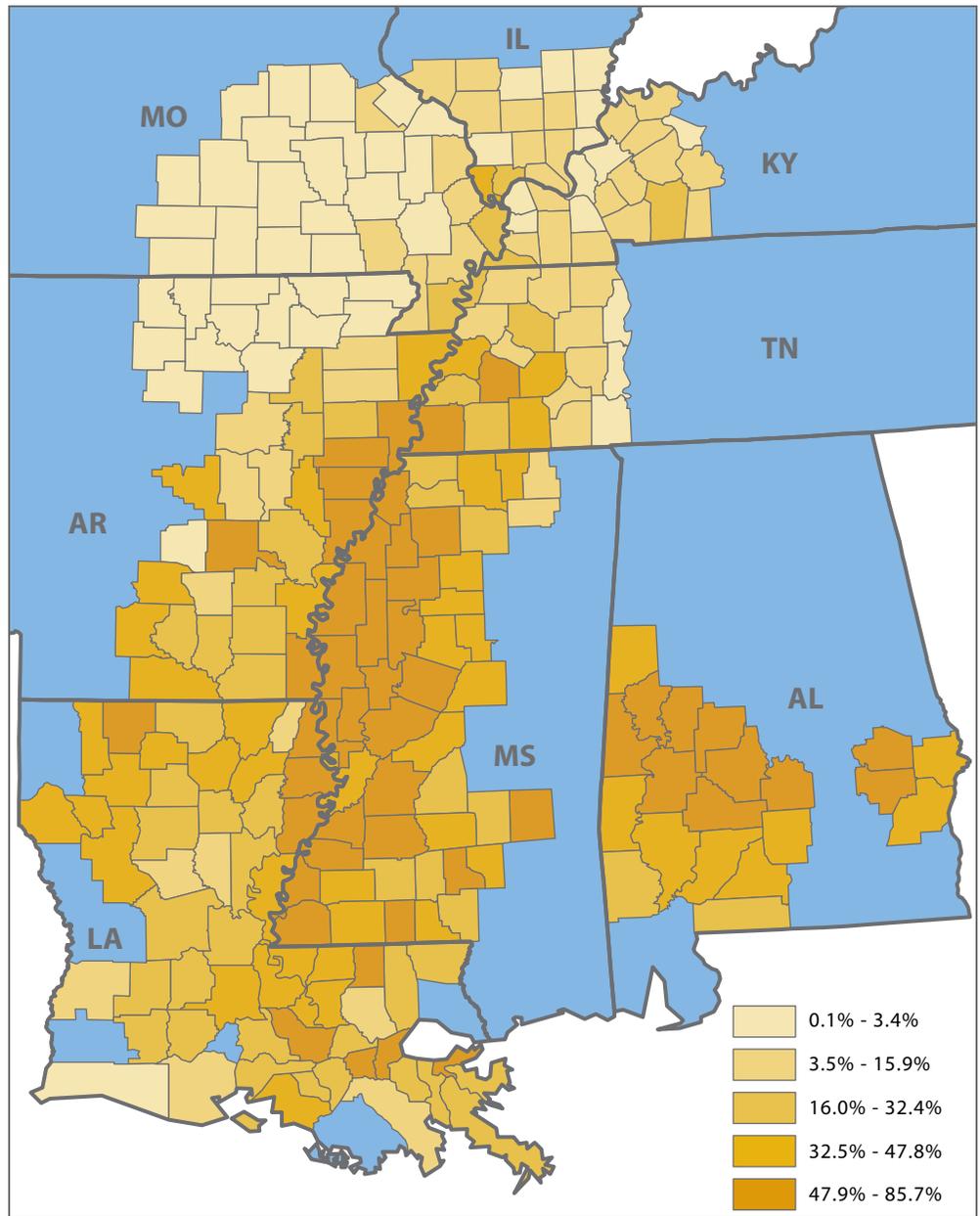
# Black Population\*, Percent of Total Population

## Delta Region by Counties/ Parishes: 2010

\*one race only

REGION	PERCENT
United States	12.6%
<b>Delta Region</b>	<b>32.0%</b>
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



# Percent Change in Black Population\*

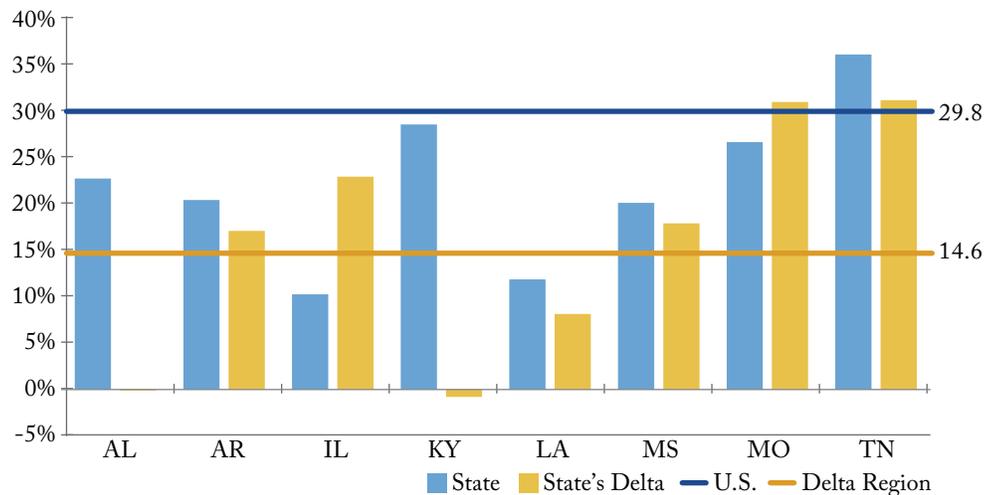
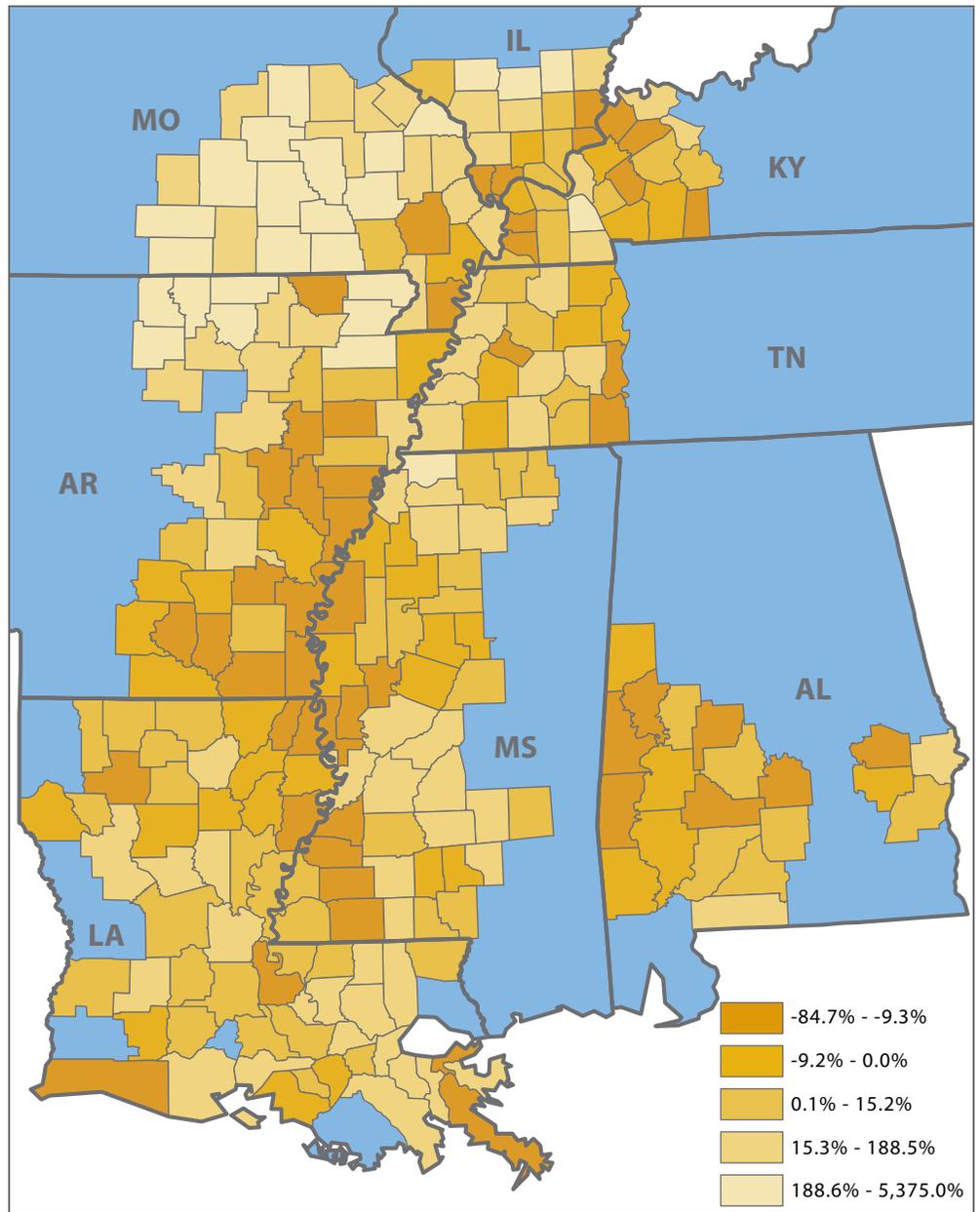
## Delta Region by Counties/ Parishes: 1990-2010

\*one race only

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

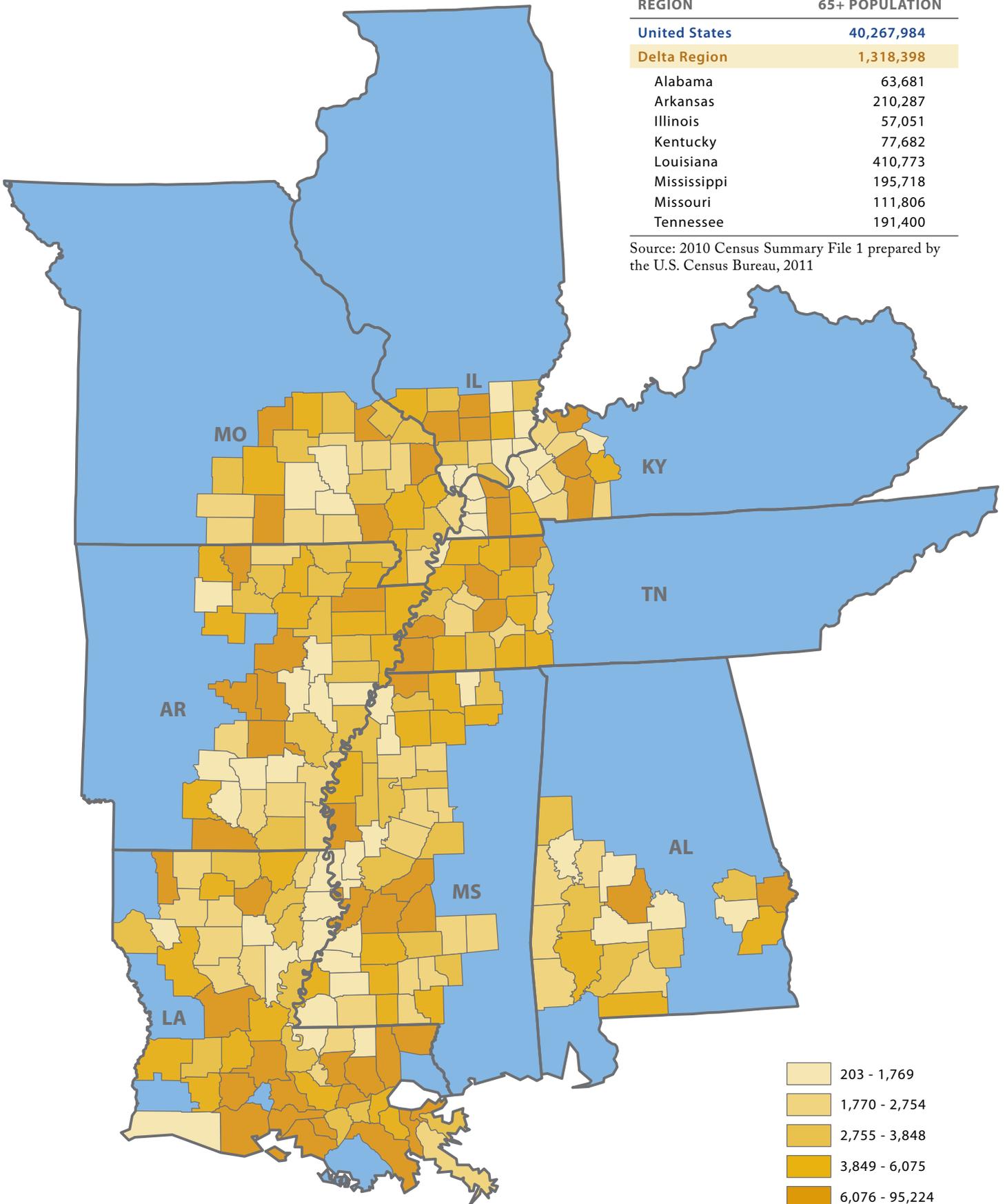
Note: In most cases the large 1990 - 2010 percent change in the black population is attributed to a small 1990 base population.

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



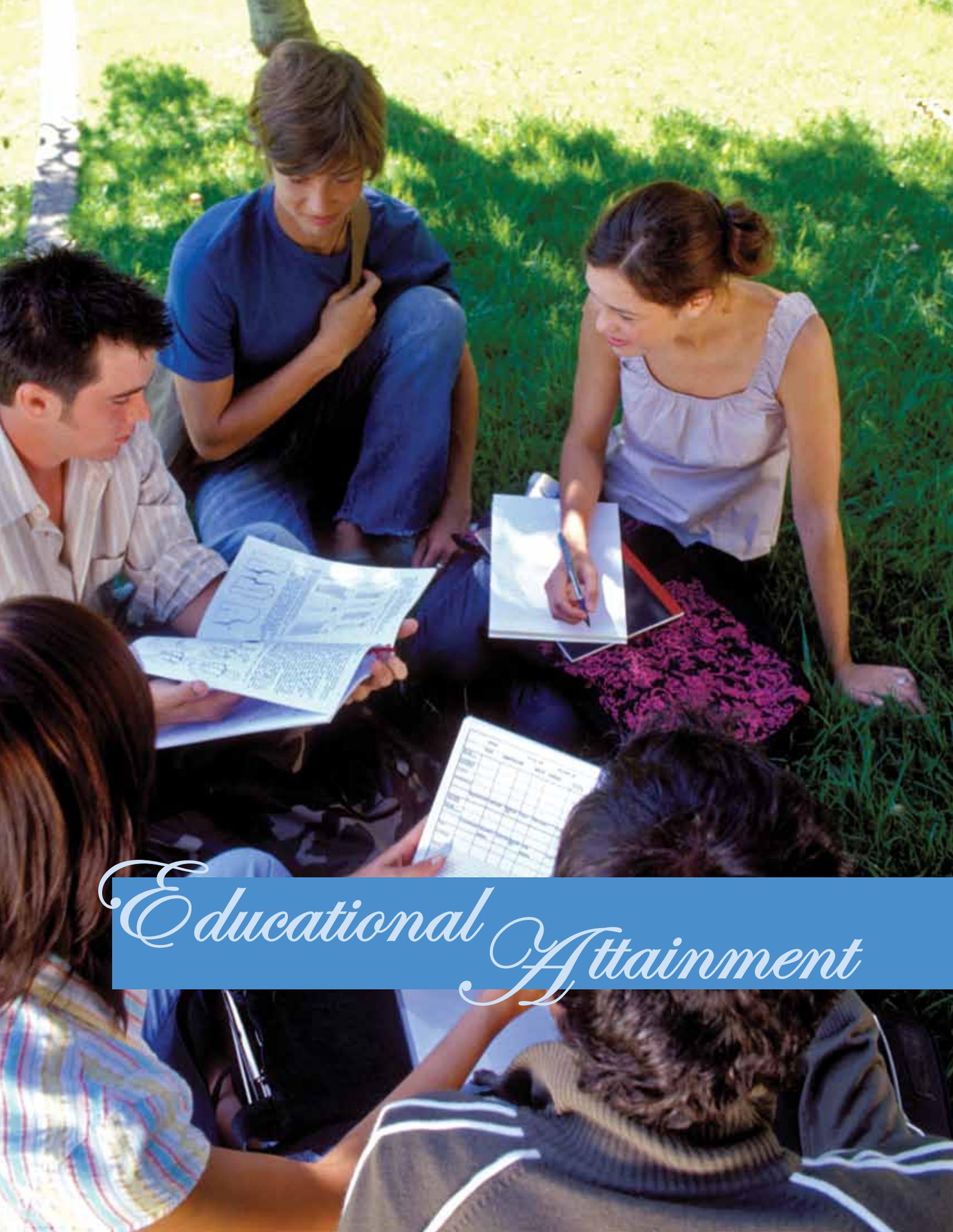
# Population 65 Years and Over

## Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2010



REGION	65+ POPULATION
United States	40,267,984
<b>Delta Region</b>	<b>1,318,398</b>
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



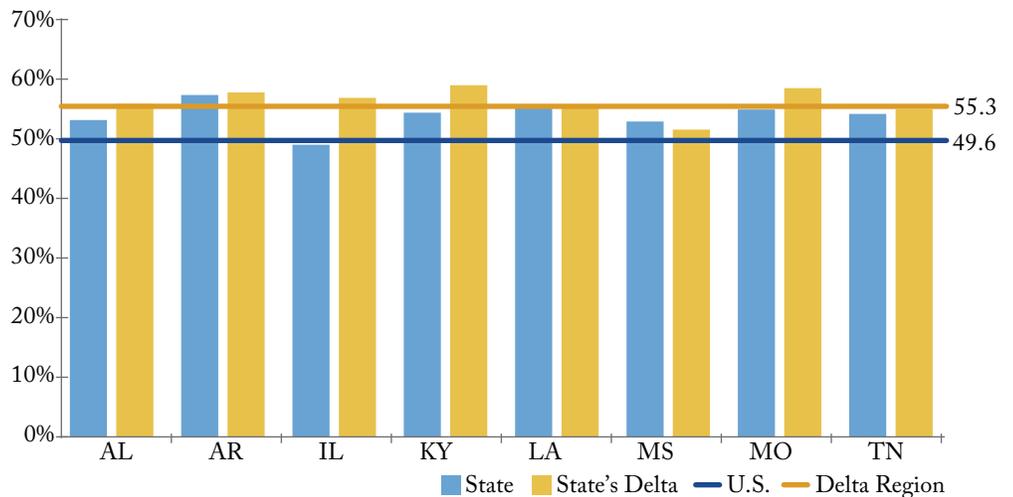
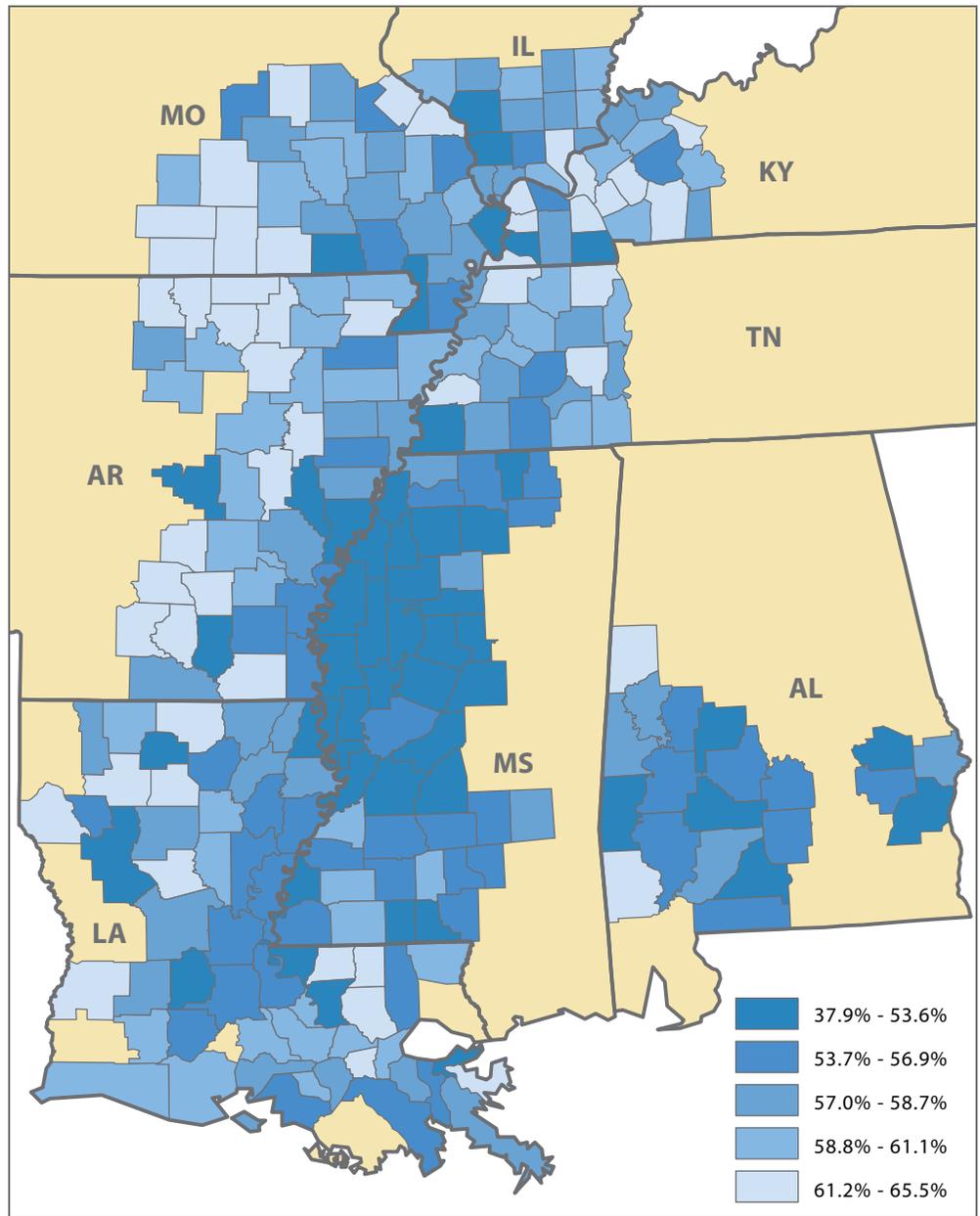
# *Educational Attainment*

# Population with a High School Diploma or GED

## Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2006-2010

REGION	PERCENT
United States	49.6%
<b>Delta Region</b>	<b>55.3%</b>
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

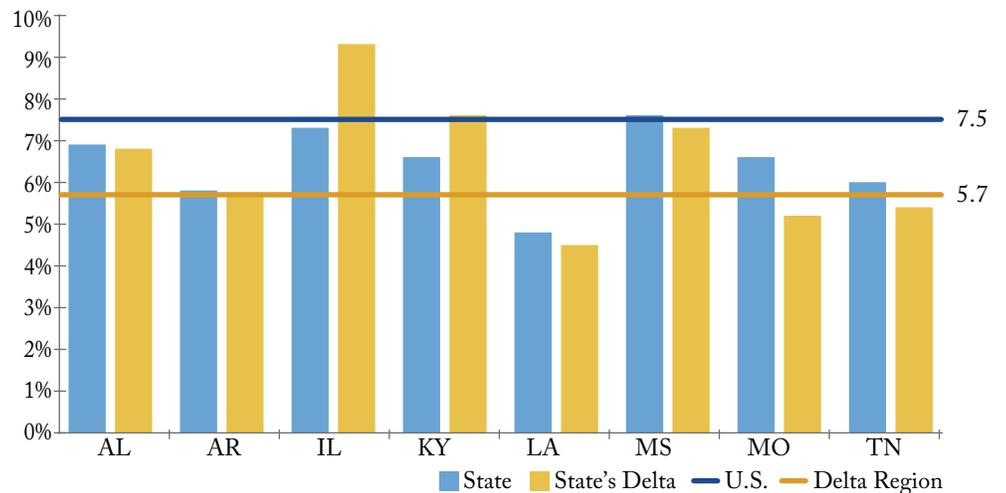
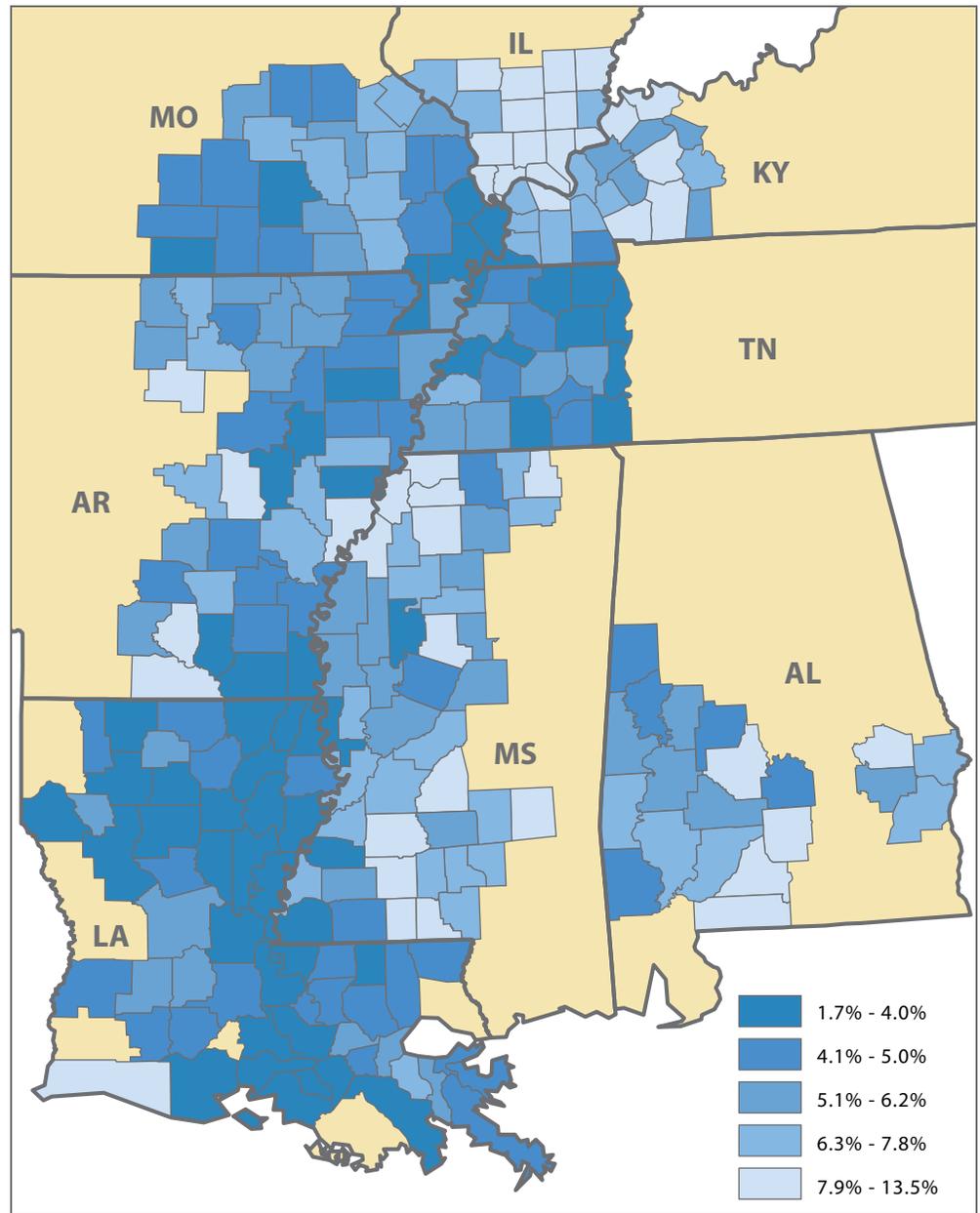


# Population with an Associate's Degree

## 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

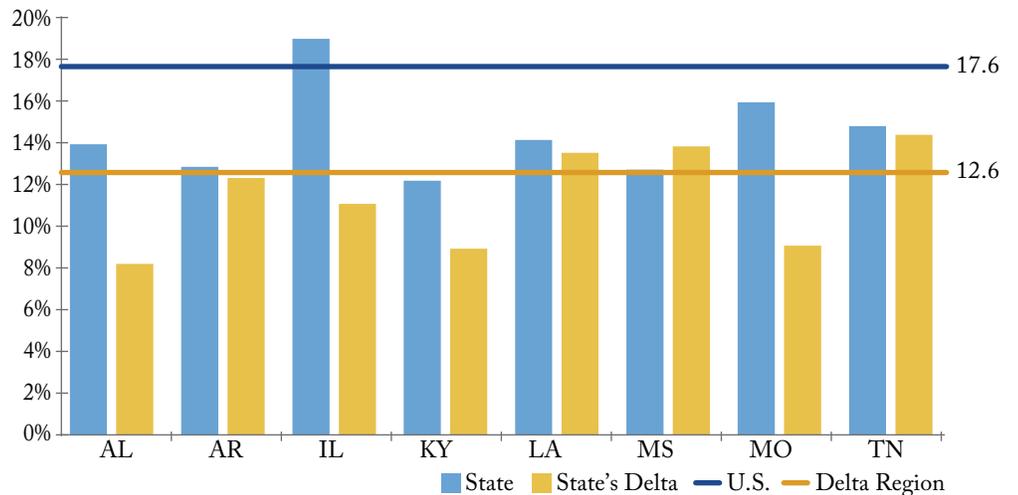
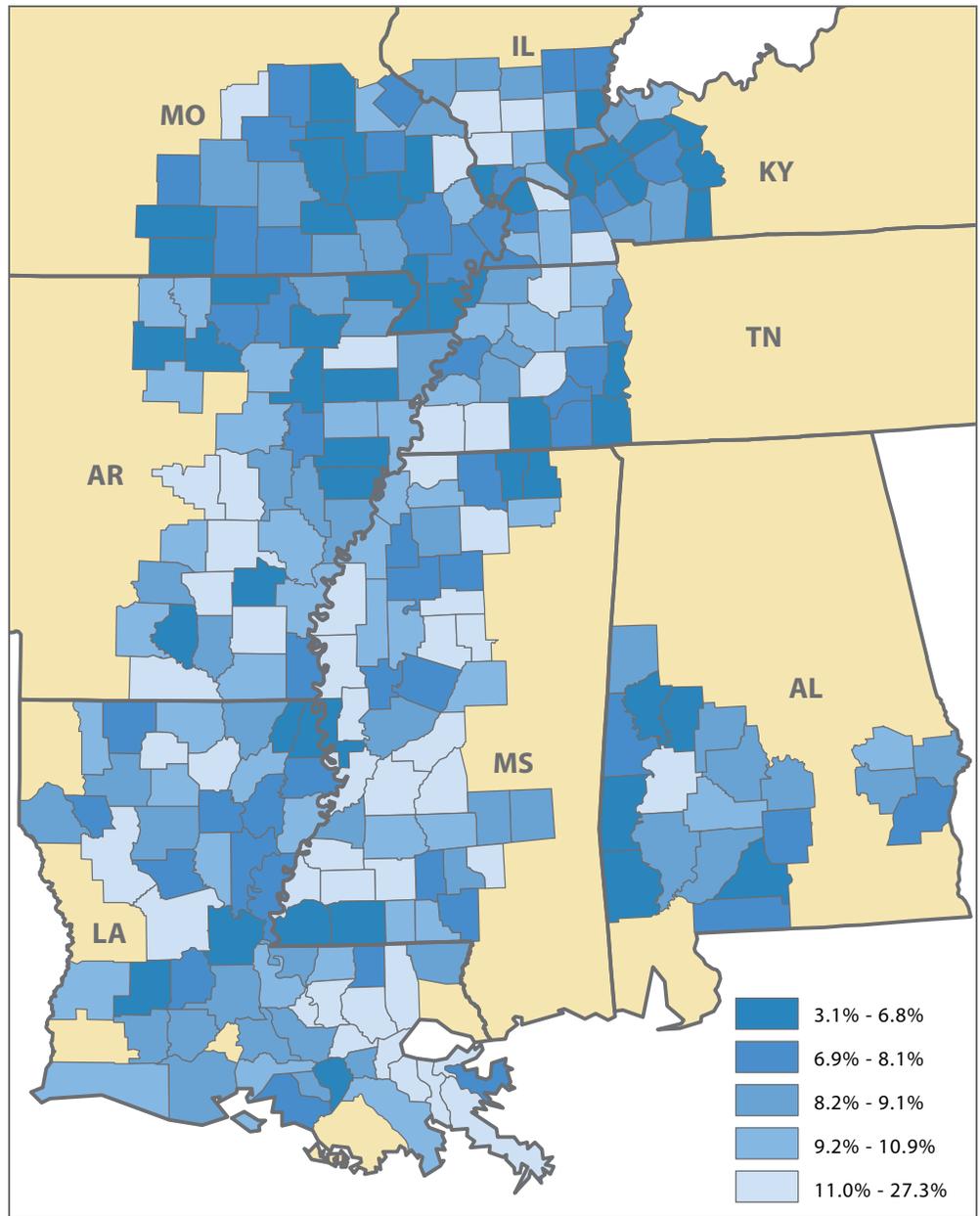


# Population with a Bachelor's Degree

## 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

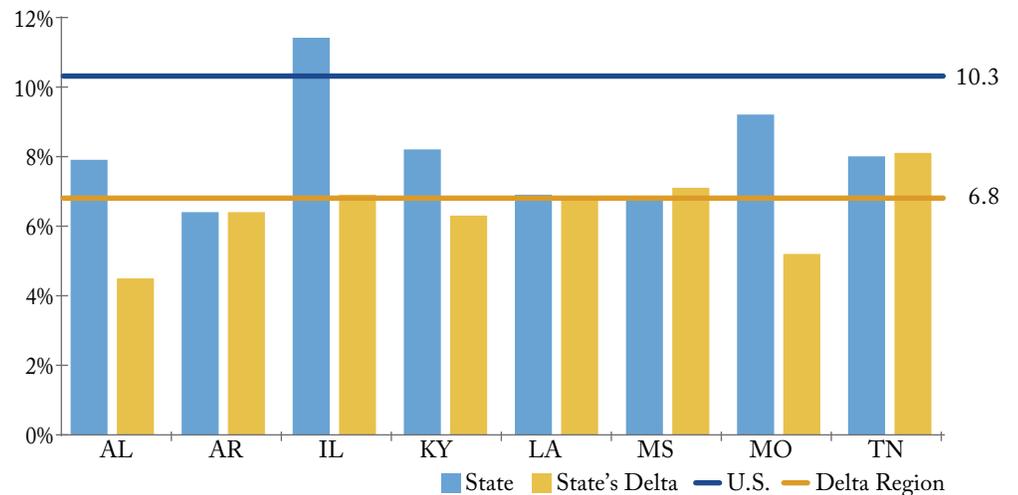
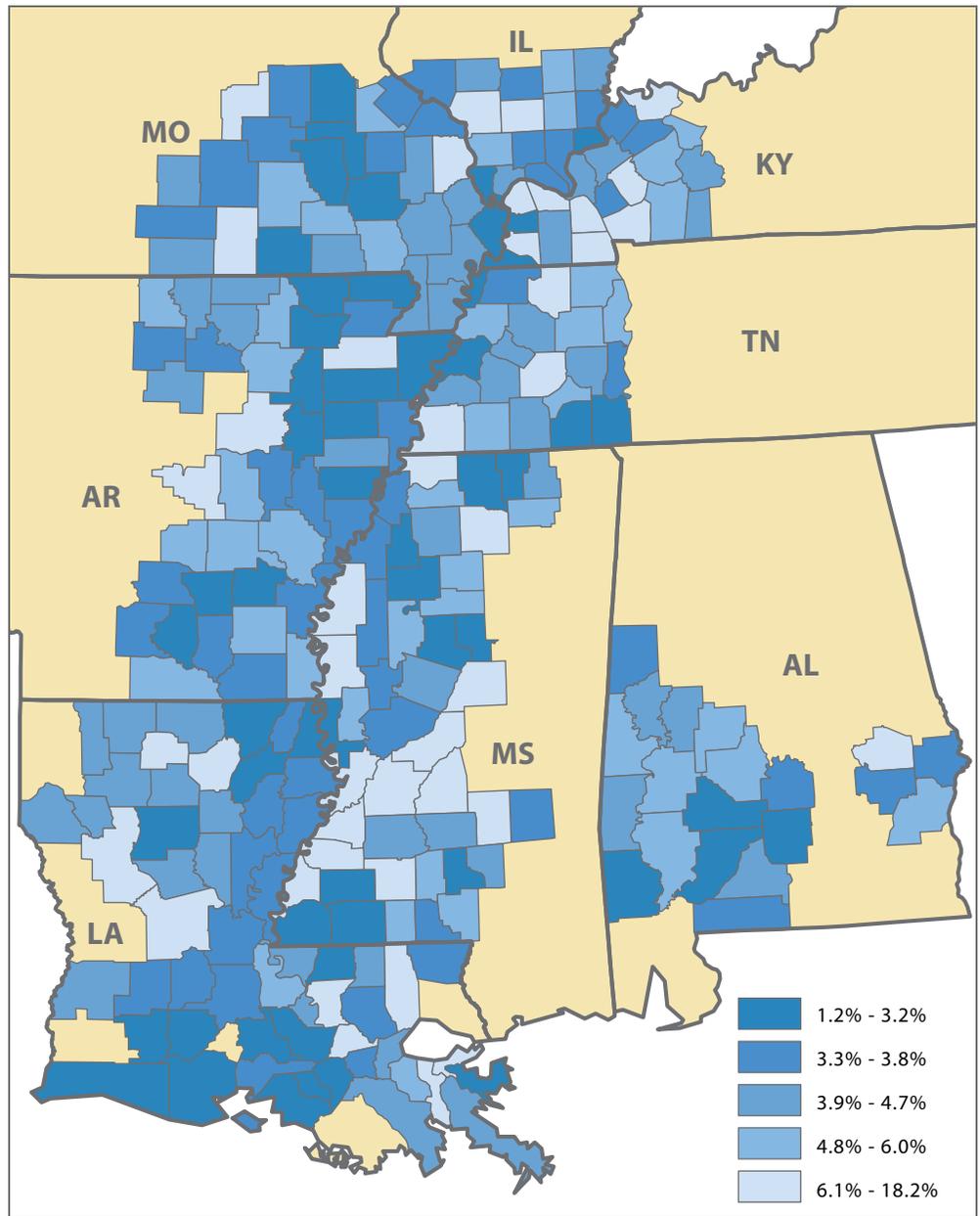


# Population with a Graduate or Professional Degree

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%

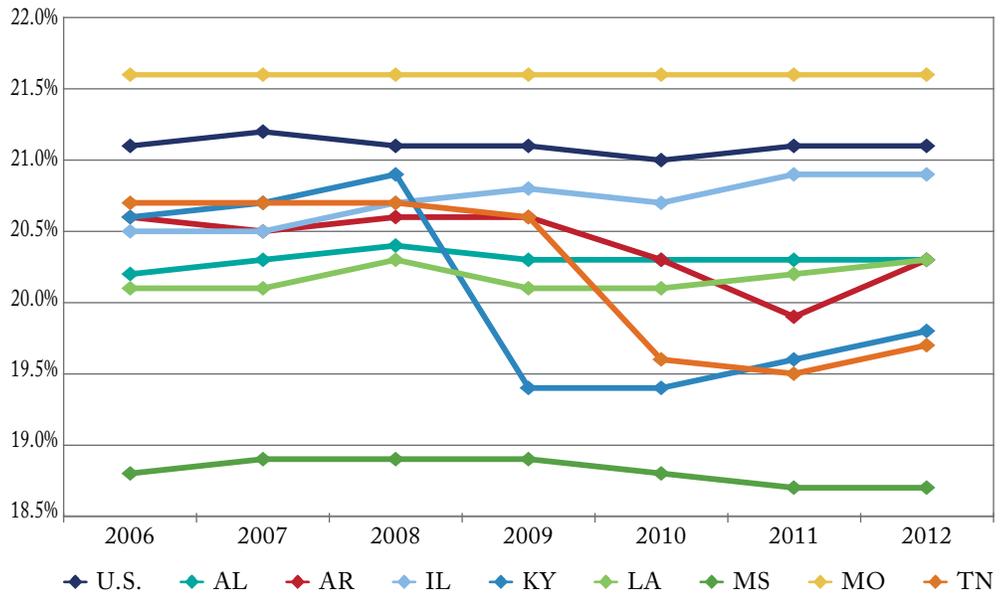
Source: U.S. Census Bureau,  
2006-2010 American Community Survey



## Average Composite ACT Score

Delta Region States:  
2006-2012

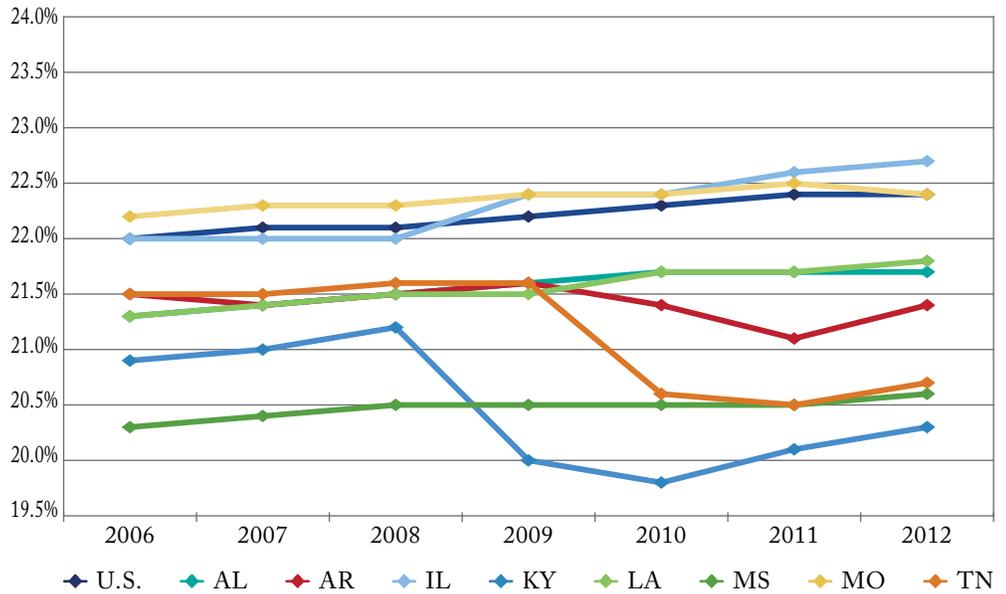
Source: ACT, <http://www.act.org/newsroom/data/>



## Average Composite ACT Score for White Population

Delta Region States:  
2006-2012

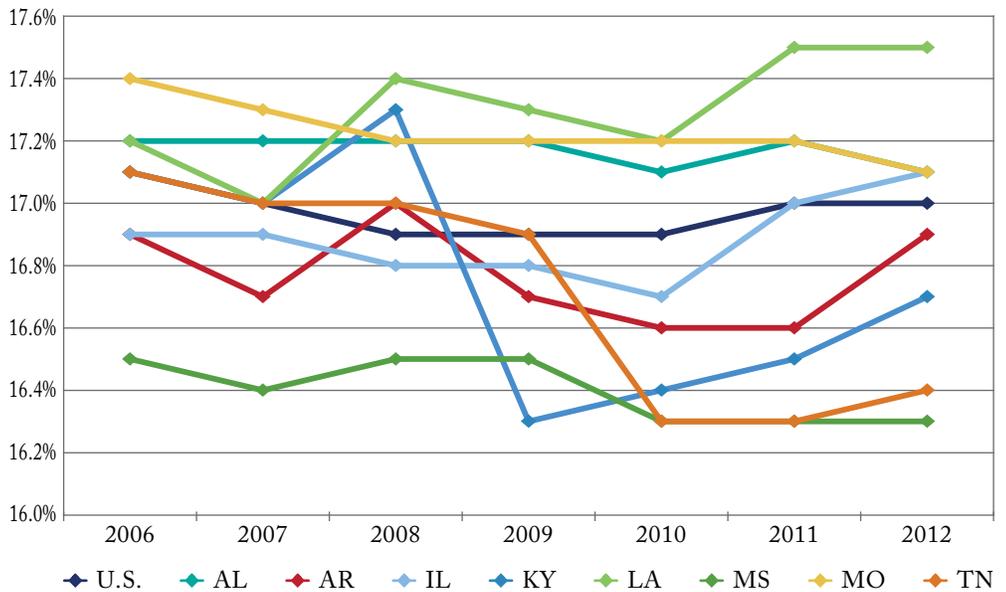
Source: ACT, <http://www.act.org/newsroom/data/>



## Average Composite ACT Score for Black Population

Delta Region States:  
2006-2012

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



# *Families*

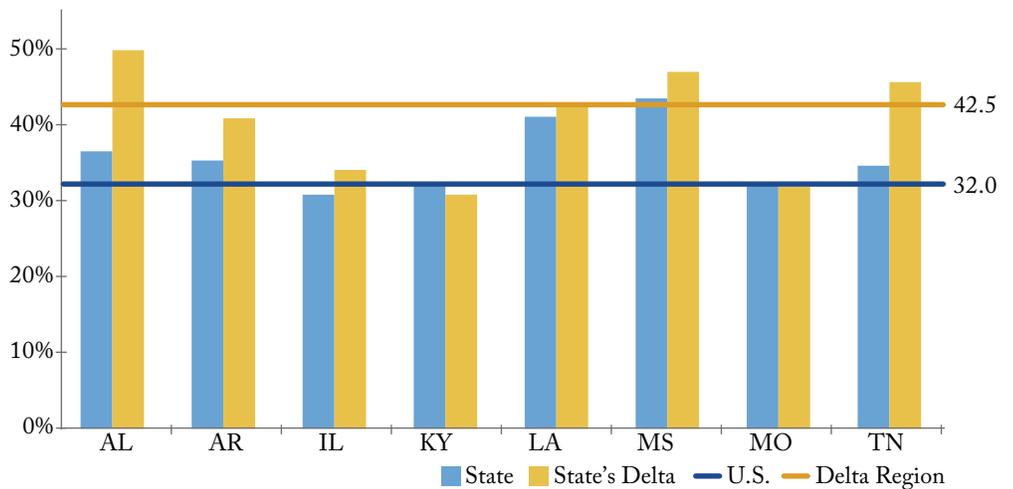
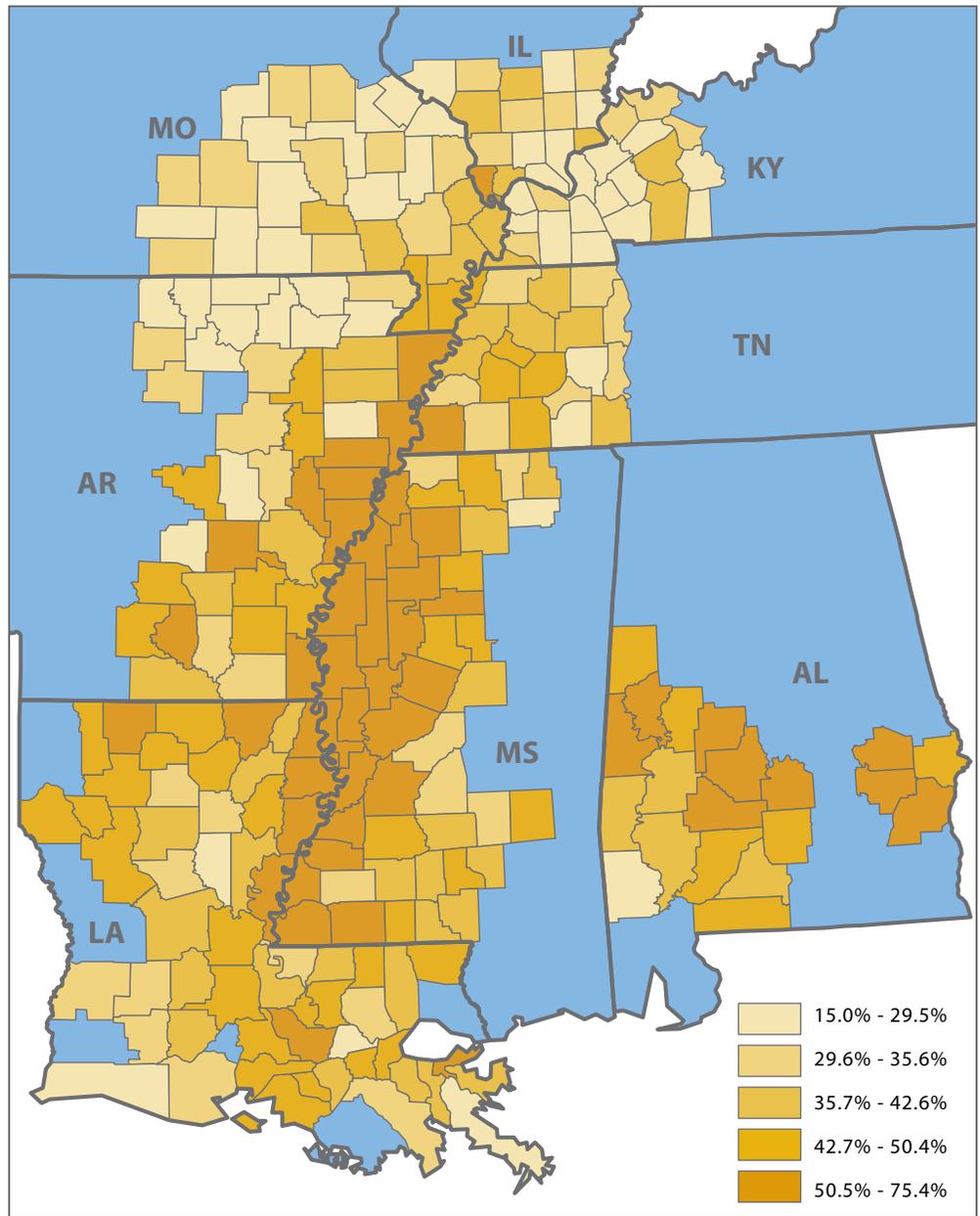


# Children in Single Parent Families

## 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

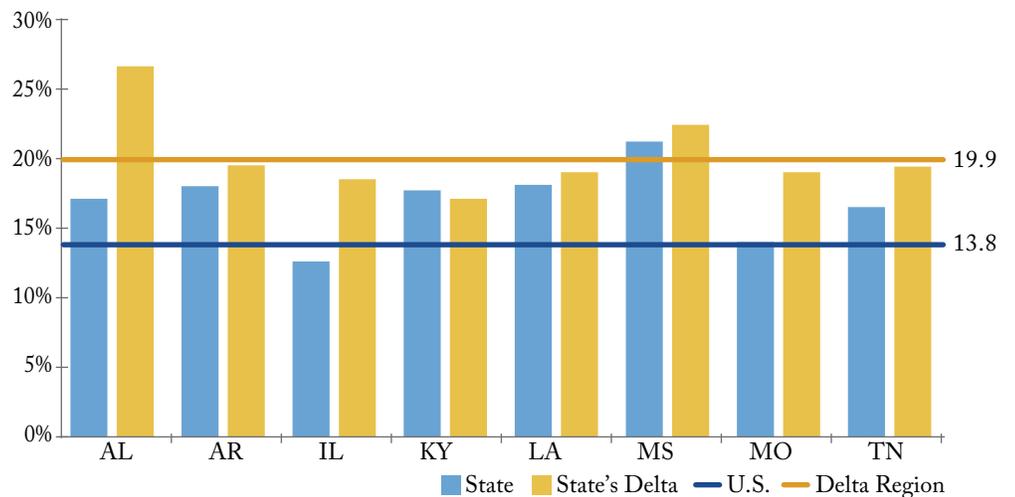
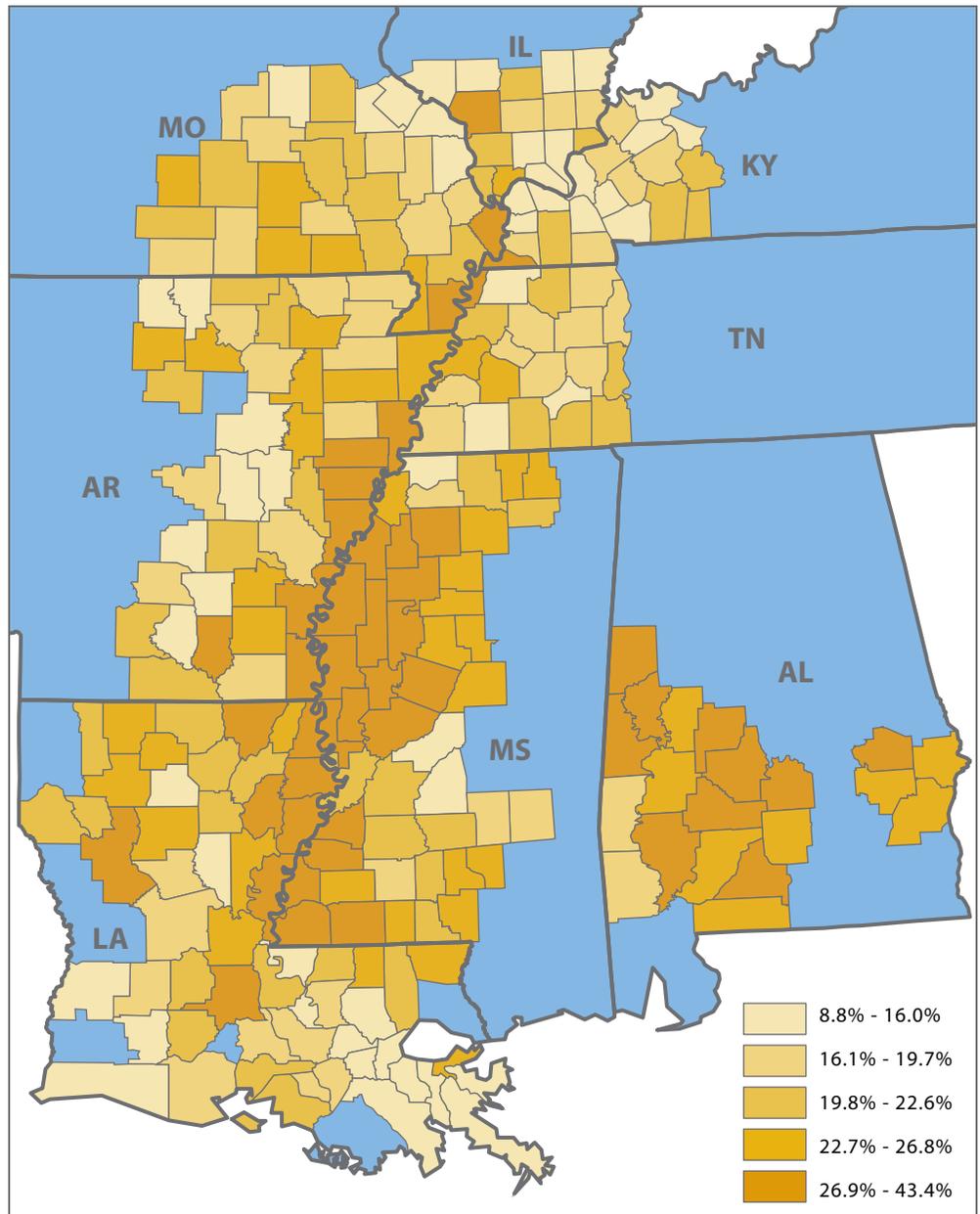


# Population Living in Poverty

## 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

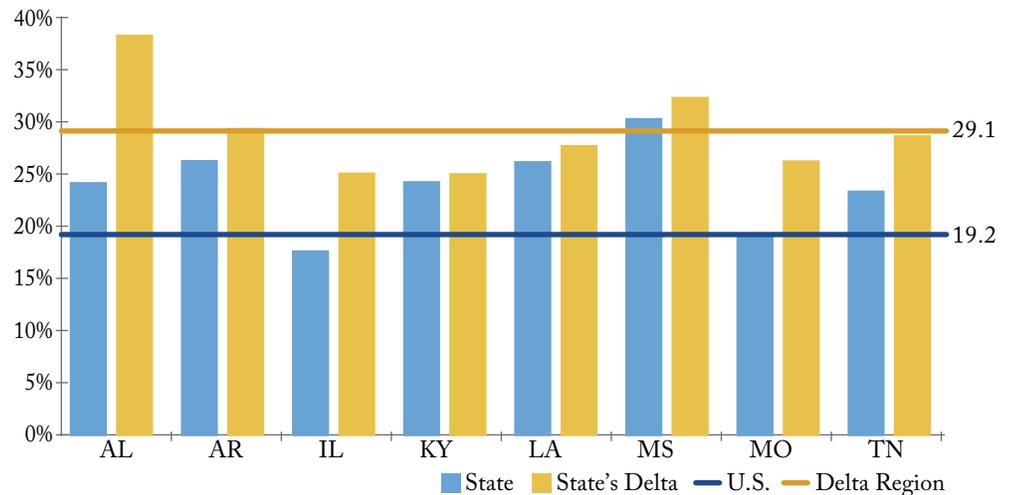
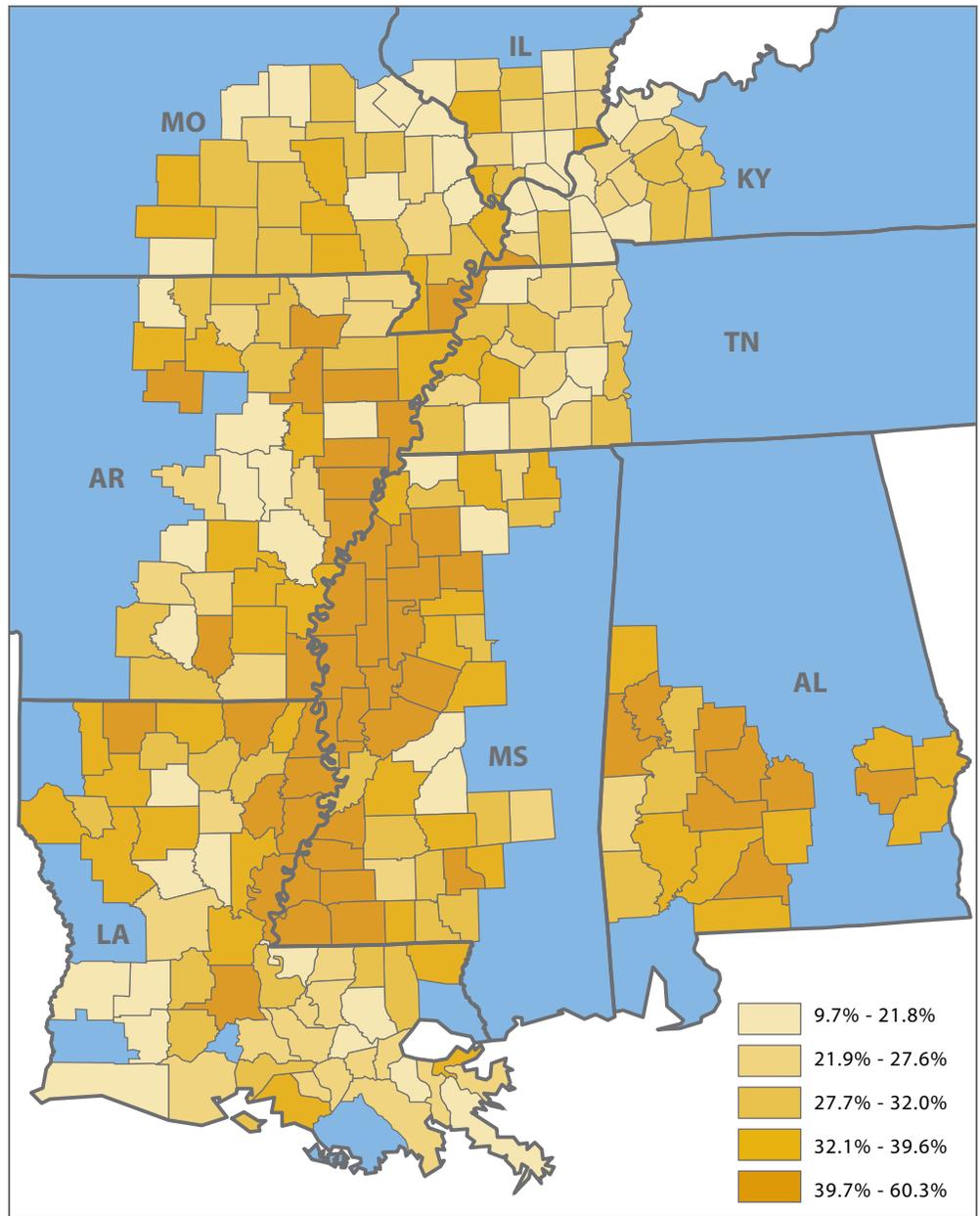


# Population Under 18 Years of Age Living in Poverty

## Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2006-2010

REGION	PERCENT
United States	19.2%
<b>Delta Region</b>	<b>29.1%</b>
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

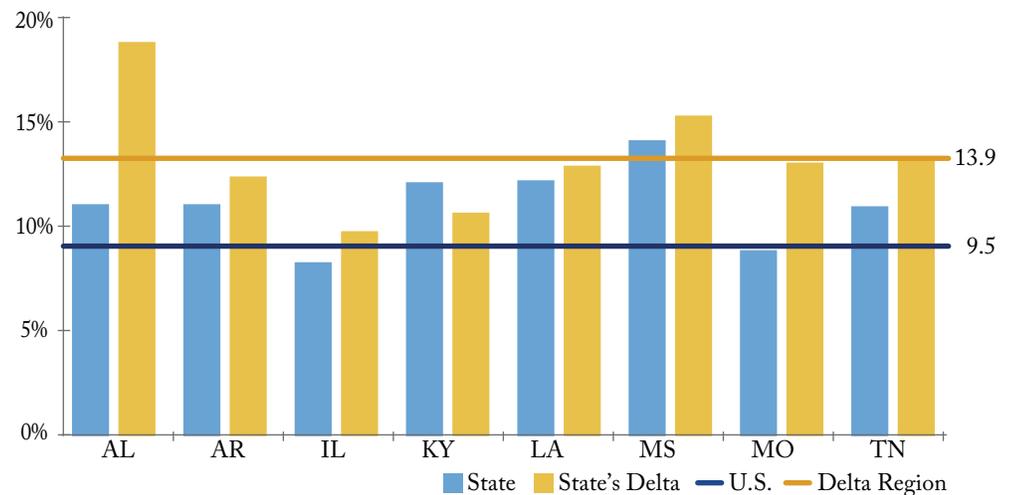
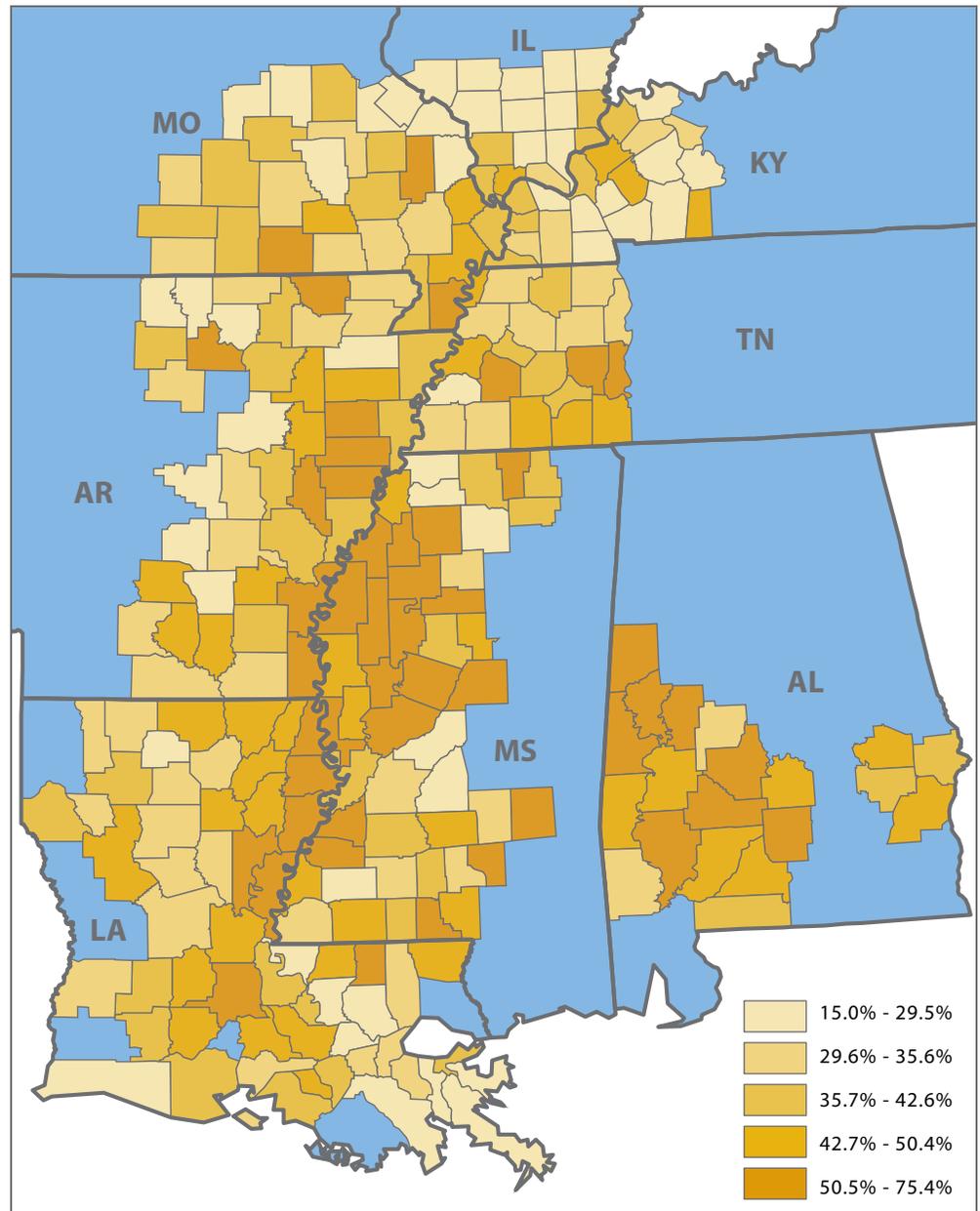


# Population 65 Years and Over Living in Poverty

## Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2006-2010

REGION	PERCENT
United States	9.5%
<b>Delta Region</b>	<b>13.9%</b>
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

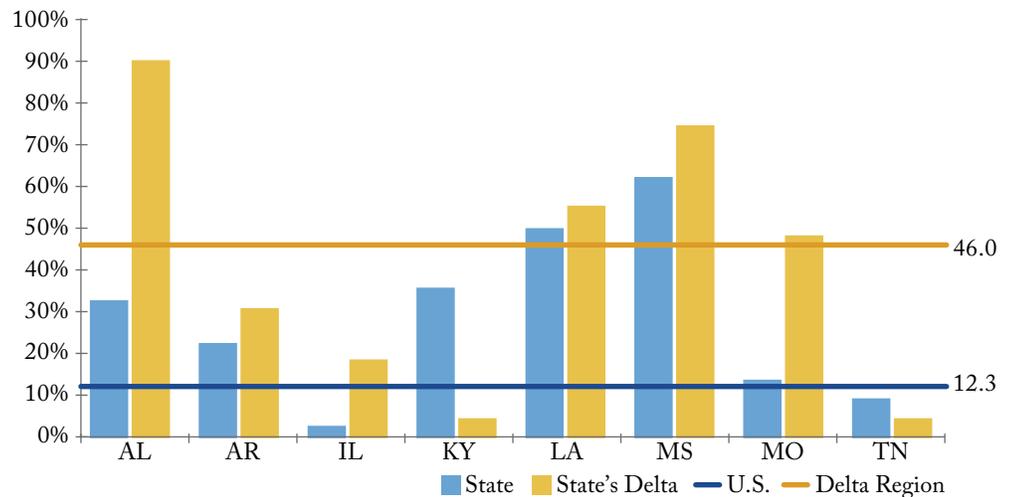
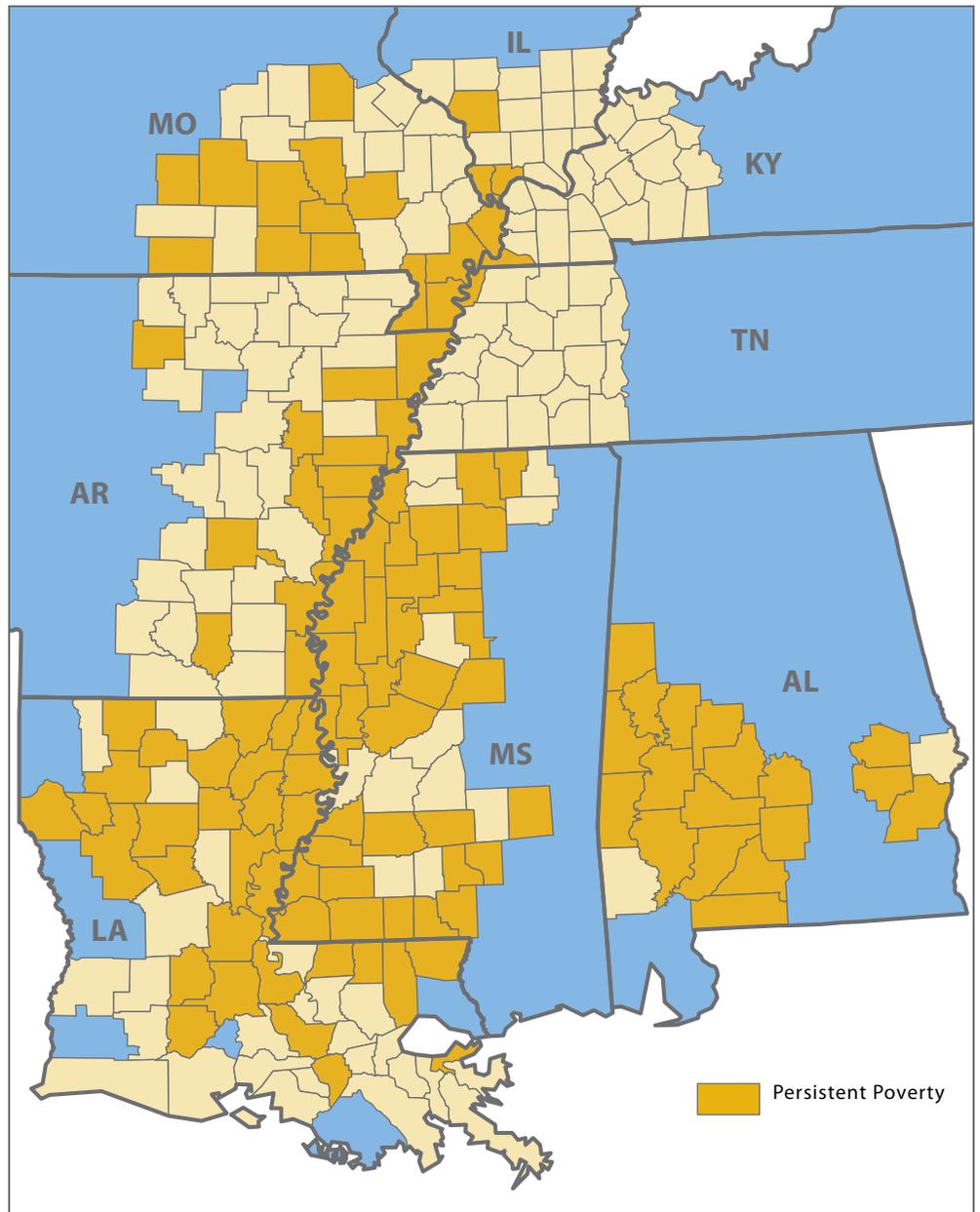


# Persistent Poverty

## Delta Region by Counties/ Parishes: 1970-2000

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

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





*Health*

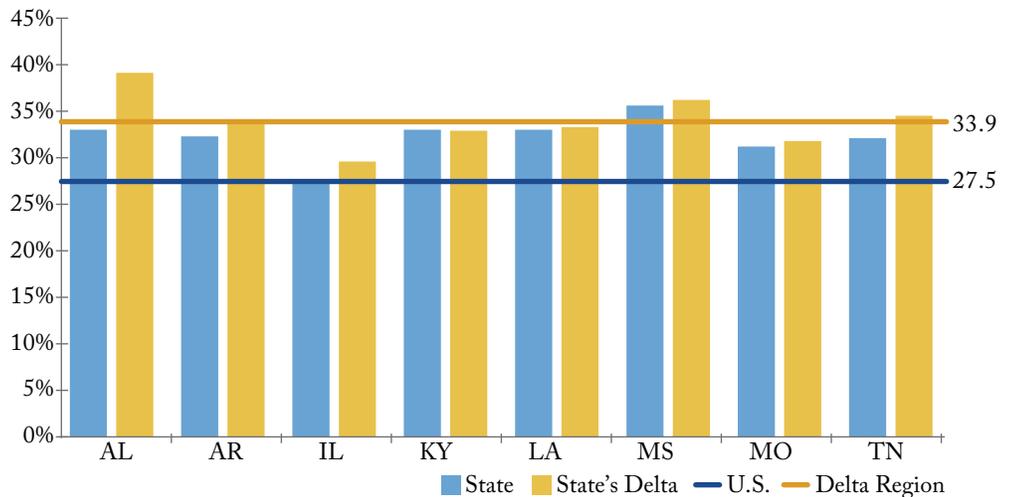
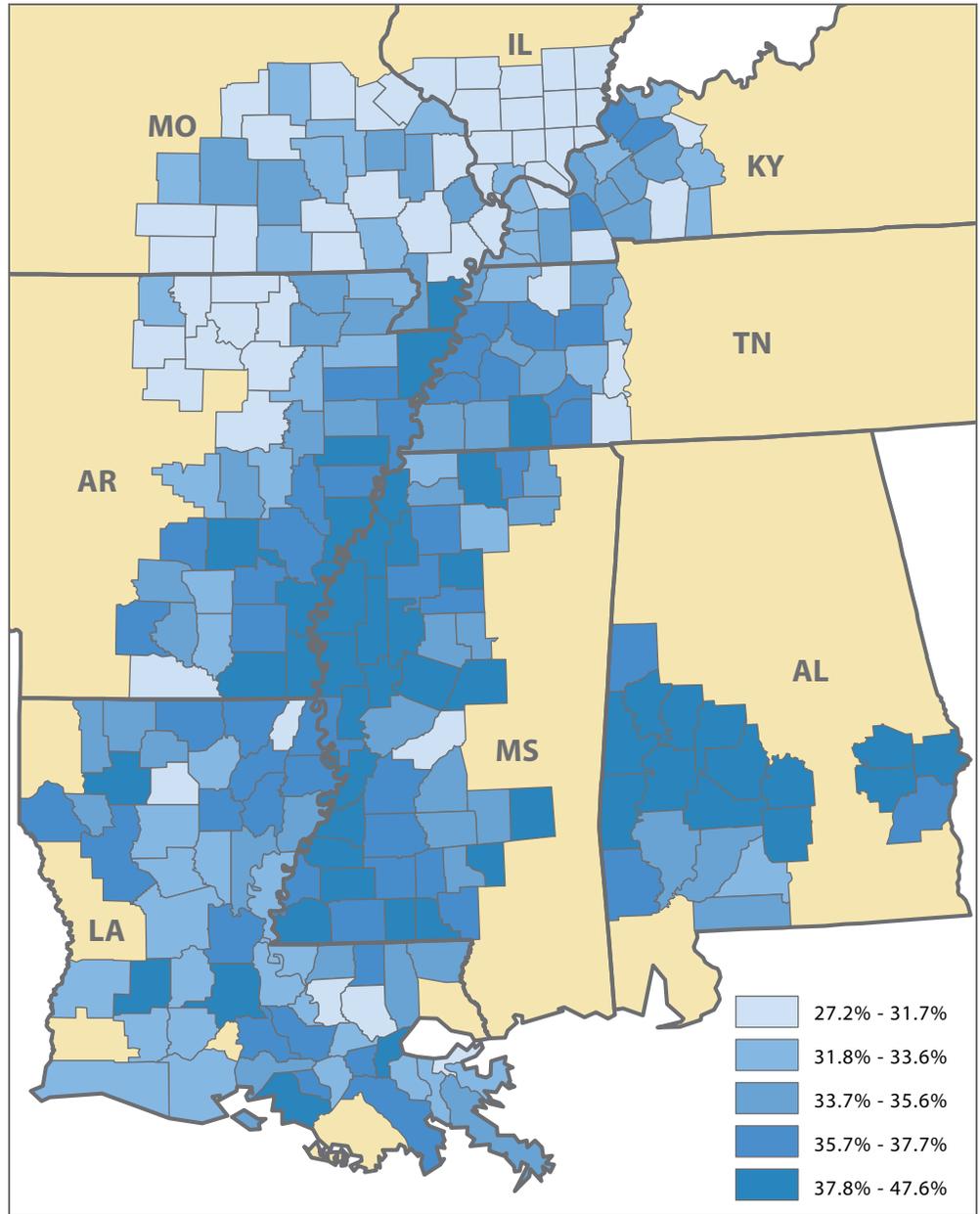
# Adults\* Who are Obese

## 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



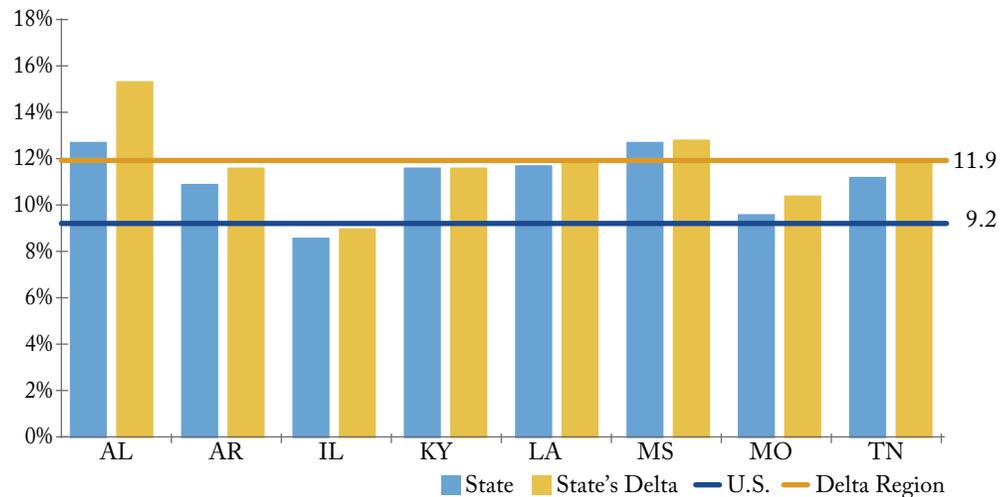
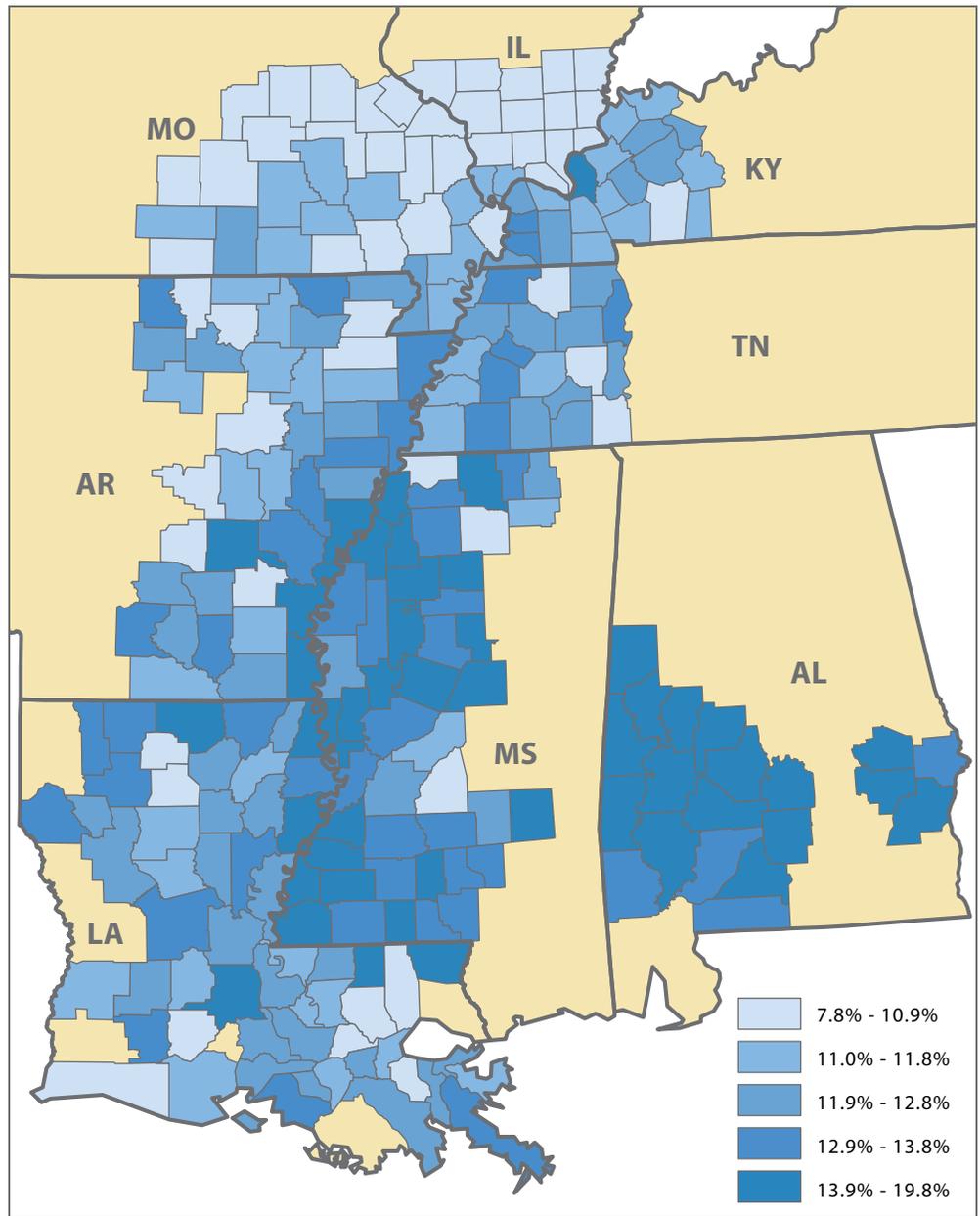
# Adults\* with Diagnosed Diabetes

## 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



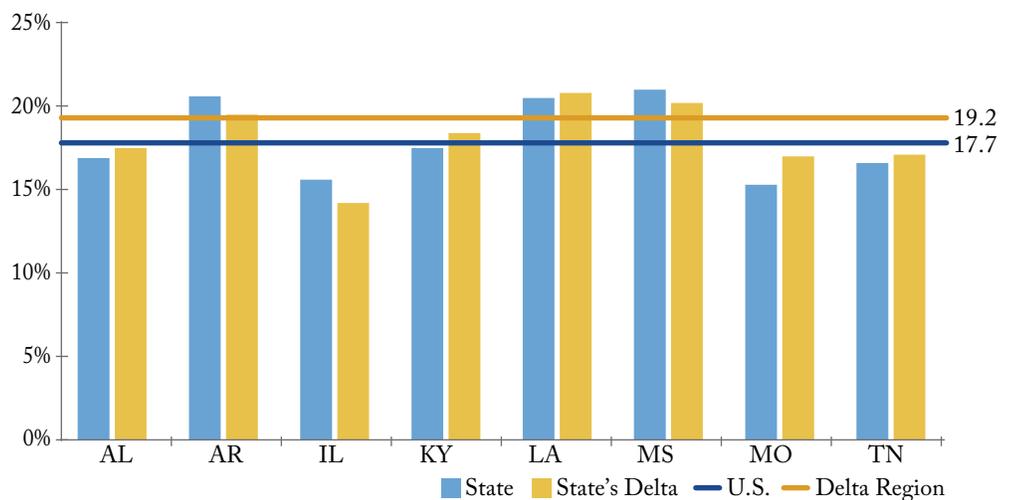
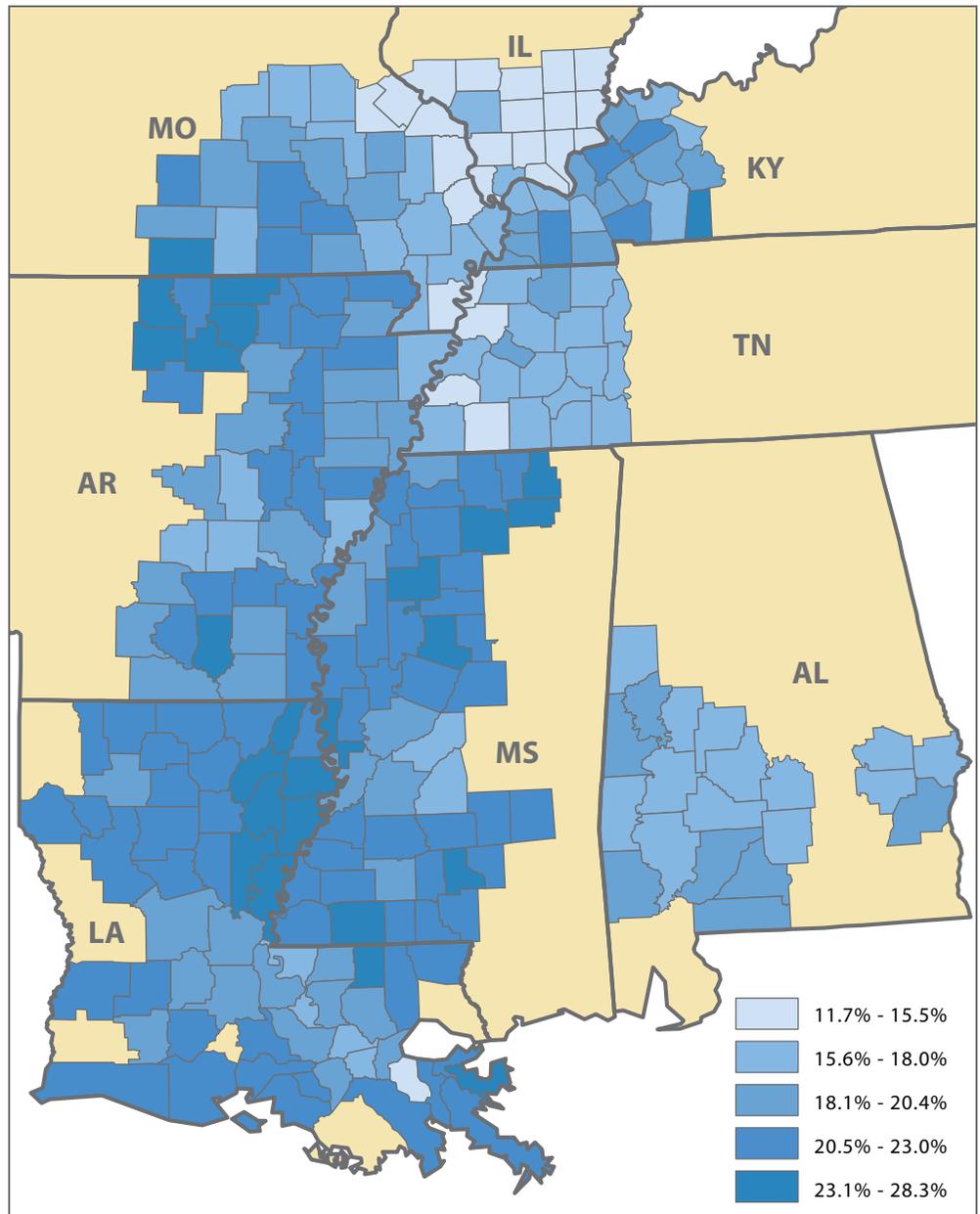
# Population Under 65 Years of Age Without Health Insurance\*

Delta Region by Counties/  
Parishes: 2010

\*all income levels

REGION	PERCENT
United States	17.7%
<b>Delta Region</b>	<b>19.2%</b>
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





*Economics*

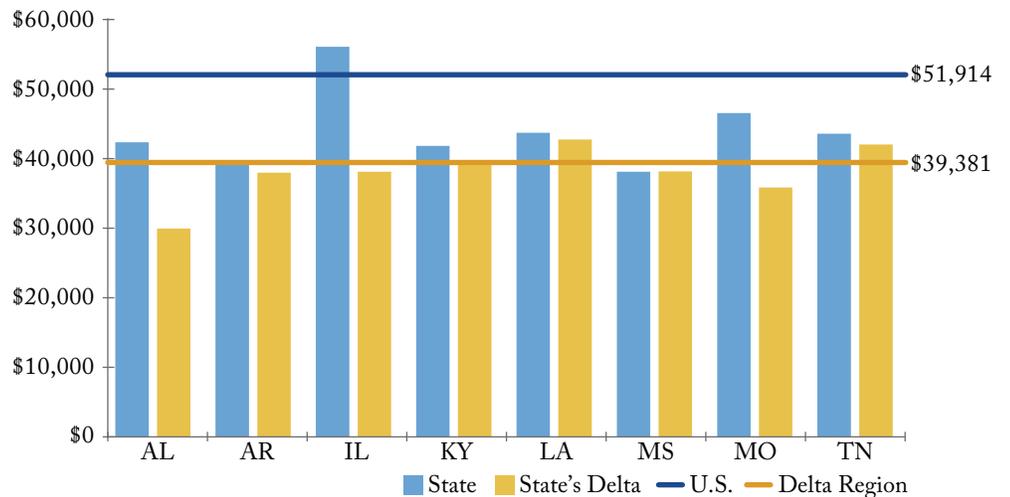
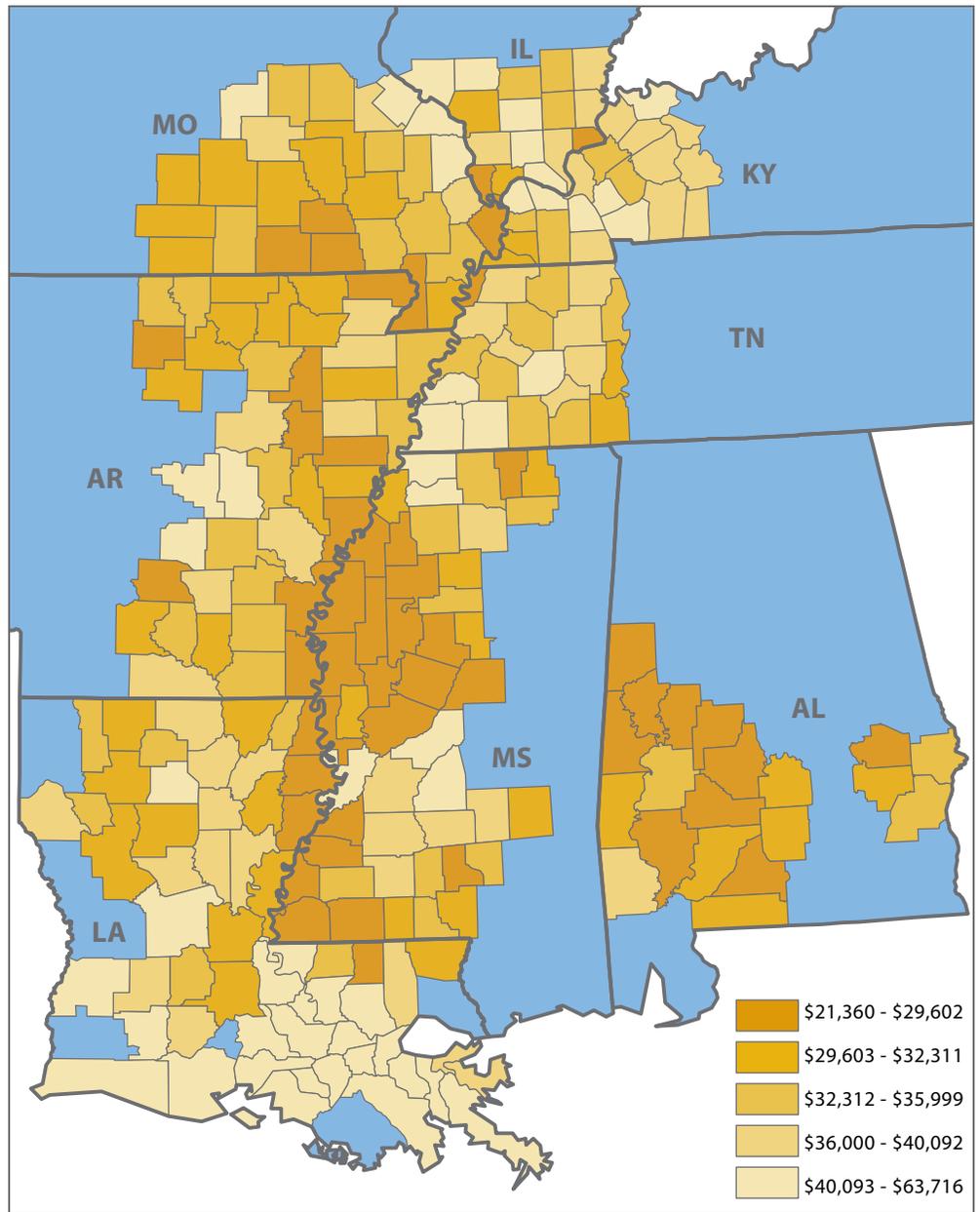
# Median Household

## Income

### Delta Region by Counties/ Parishes: 2006-2010

REGION	INCOME
United States	\$51,914
<b>Delta Region</b>	<b>\$ 39,381</b>
Alabama	\$29,773
Arkansas	\$37,745
Illinois	\$37,875
Kentucky	\$38,912
Louisiana	\$42,487
Mississippi	\$37,925
Missouri	\$35,620
Tennessee	\$41,764

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



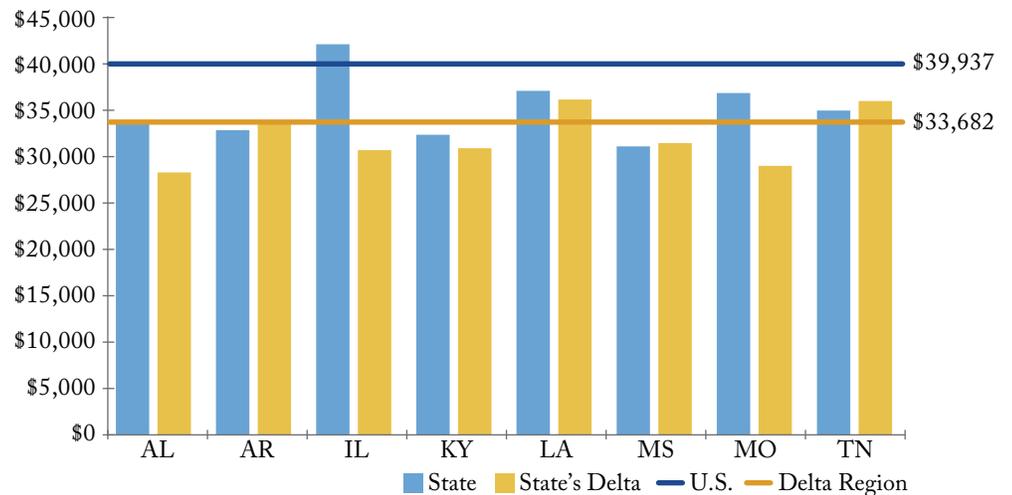
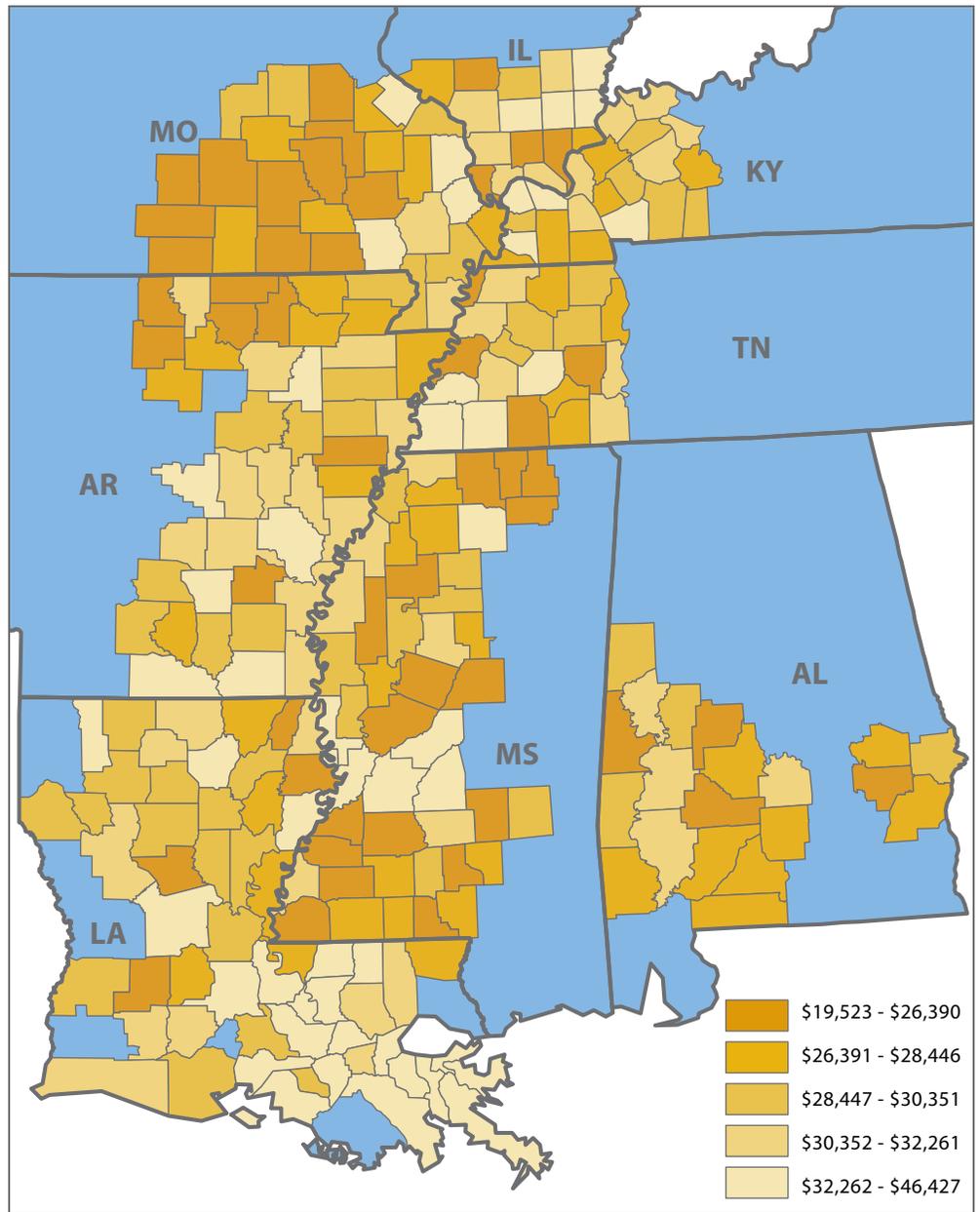
# Per Capita Personal Income

## Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2010

REGION	INCOME
United States	\$39,937
<b>Delta Region</b>	<b>\$33,682</b>
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

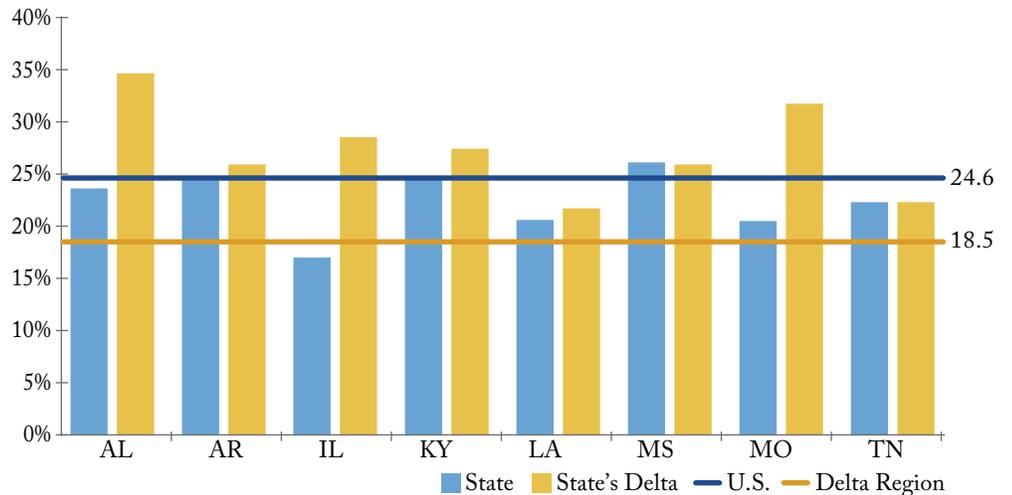
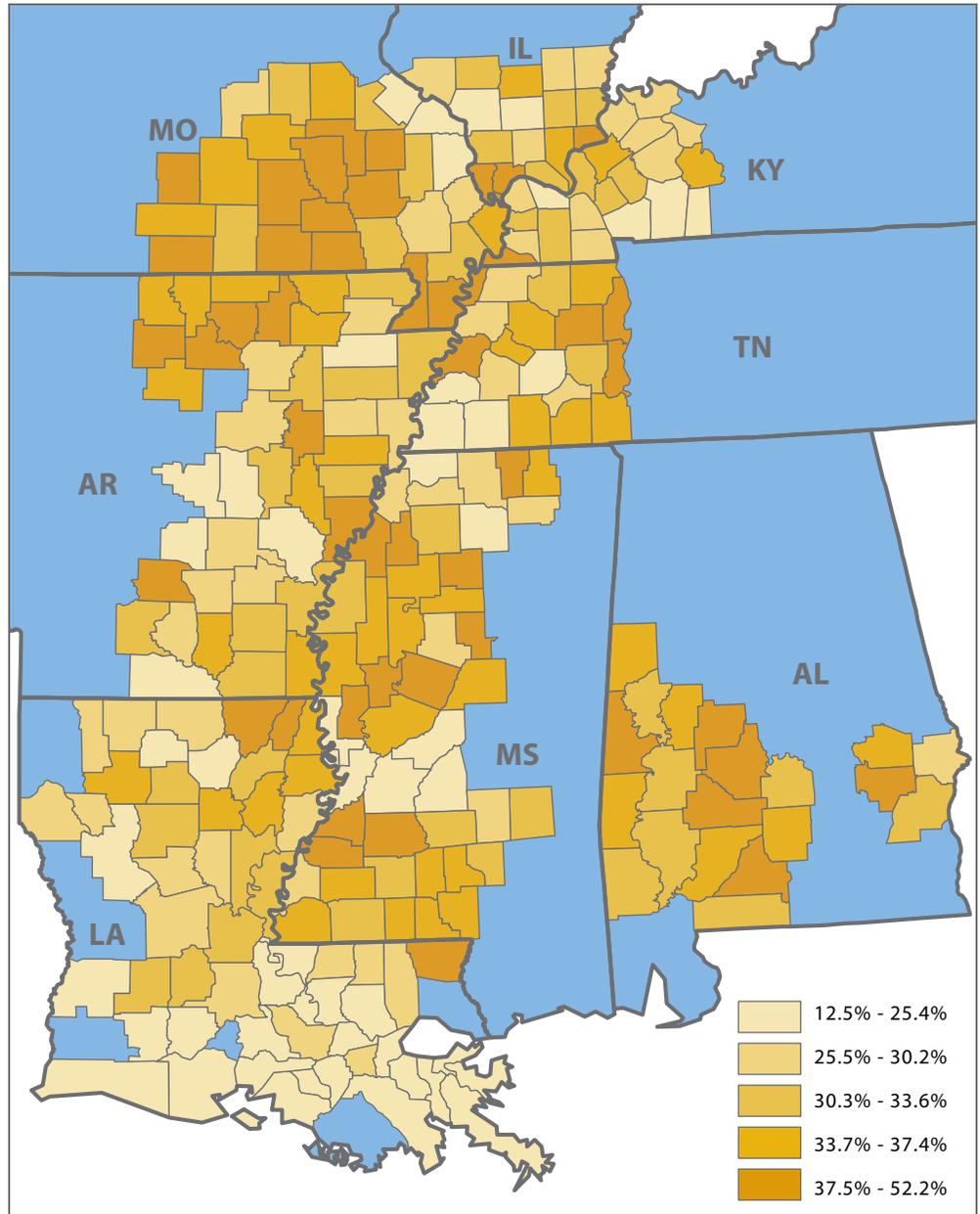


# Transfer Receipts as a Percent of Total Personal Income

## Delta Region by Counties/ Parishes: 2010

REGION	PERCENT
United States	18.5%
<b>Delta Region</b>	<b>24.6%</b>
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

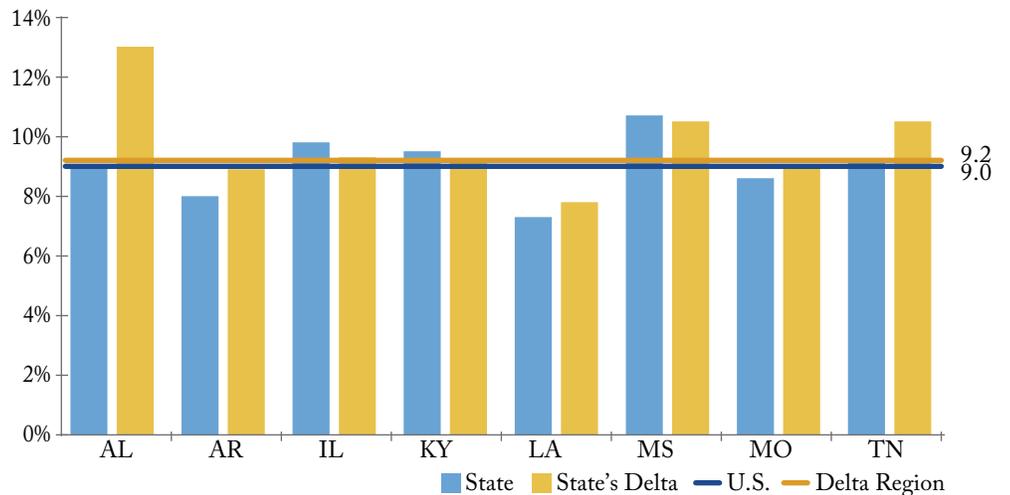
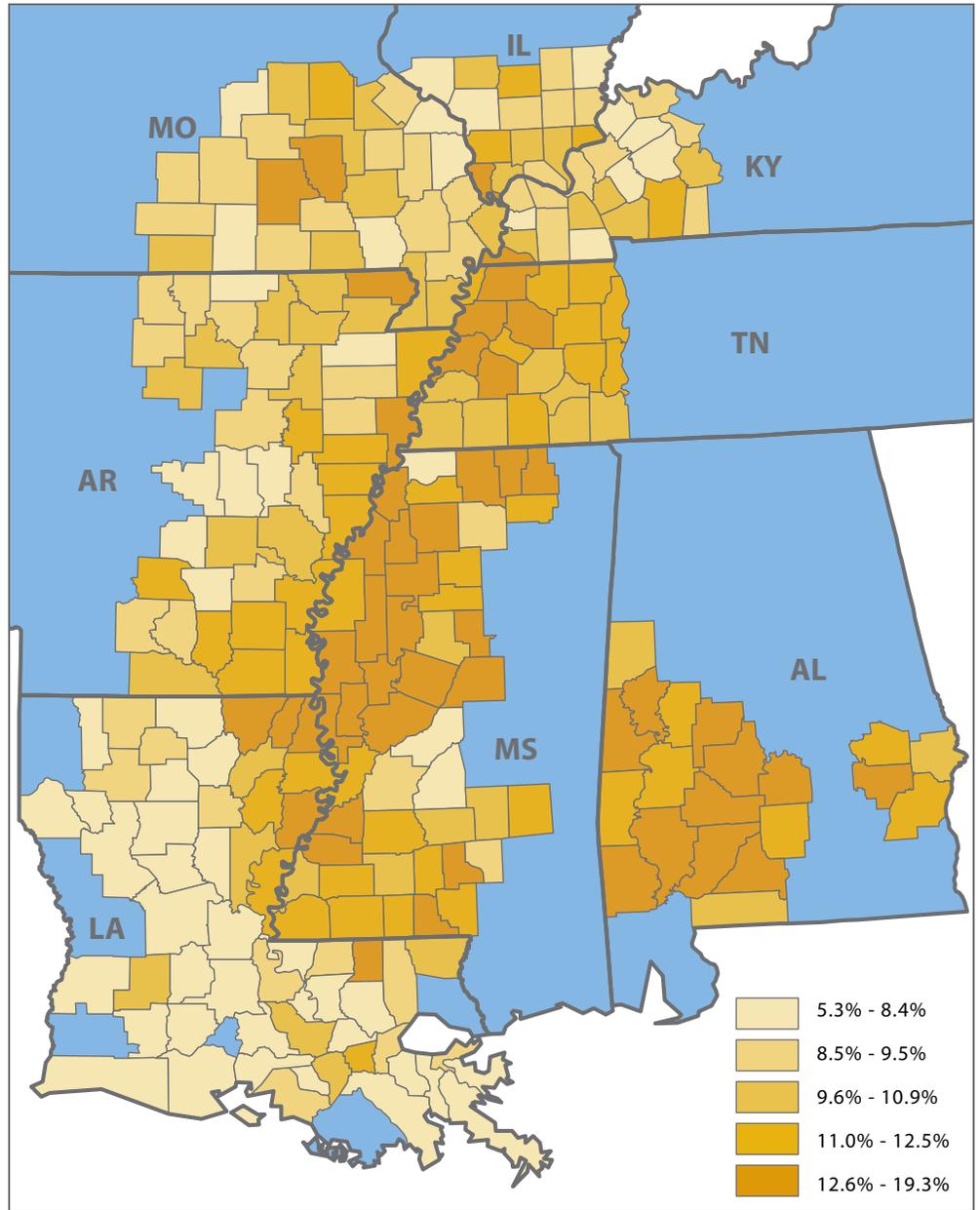


# Unemployment Rate

## Delta Region by Counties/ Parishes: 2011

REGION	PERCENT
United States	9.0%
<b>Delta Region</b>	<b>9.2%</b>
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

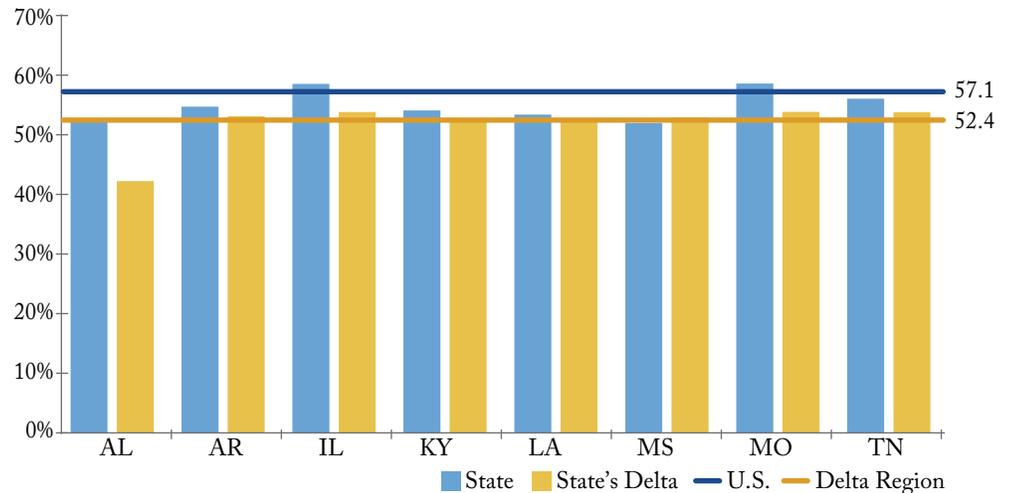
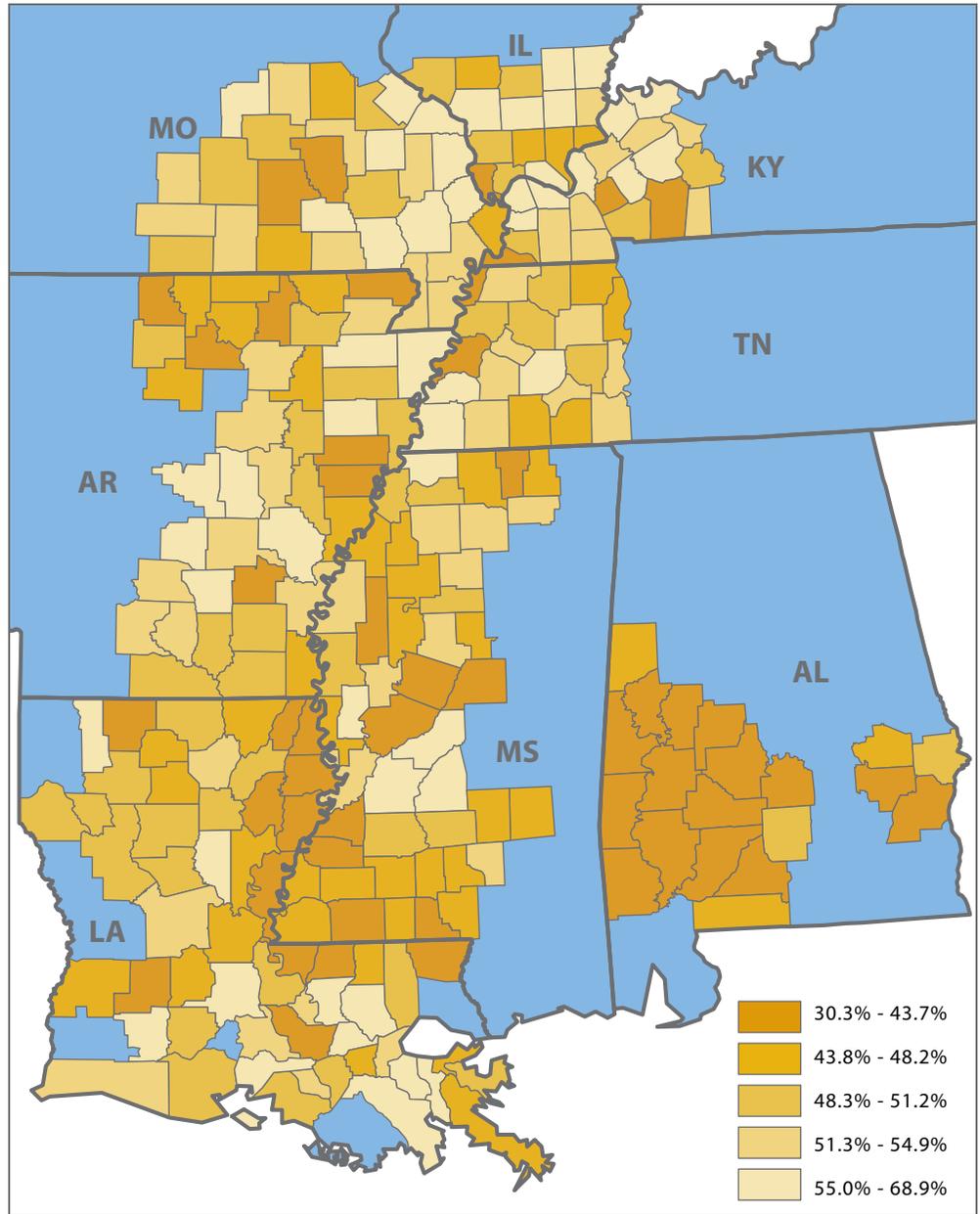


# Employment/ Population Ratio

## Delta Region by Counties/ Parishes: 2011

REGION	PERCENT
United States	57.1%
<b>Delta Region</b>	<b>52.4%</b>
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



# *Housing*

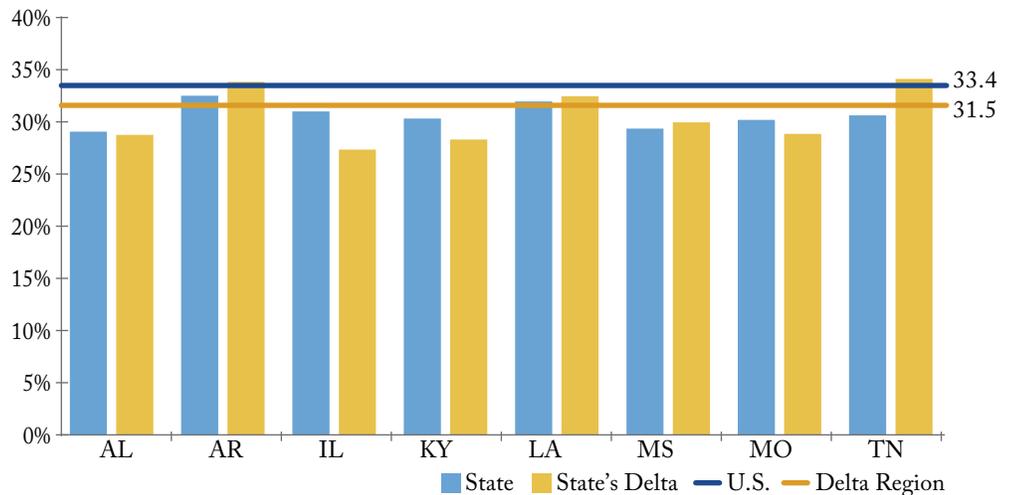
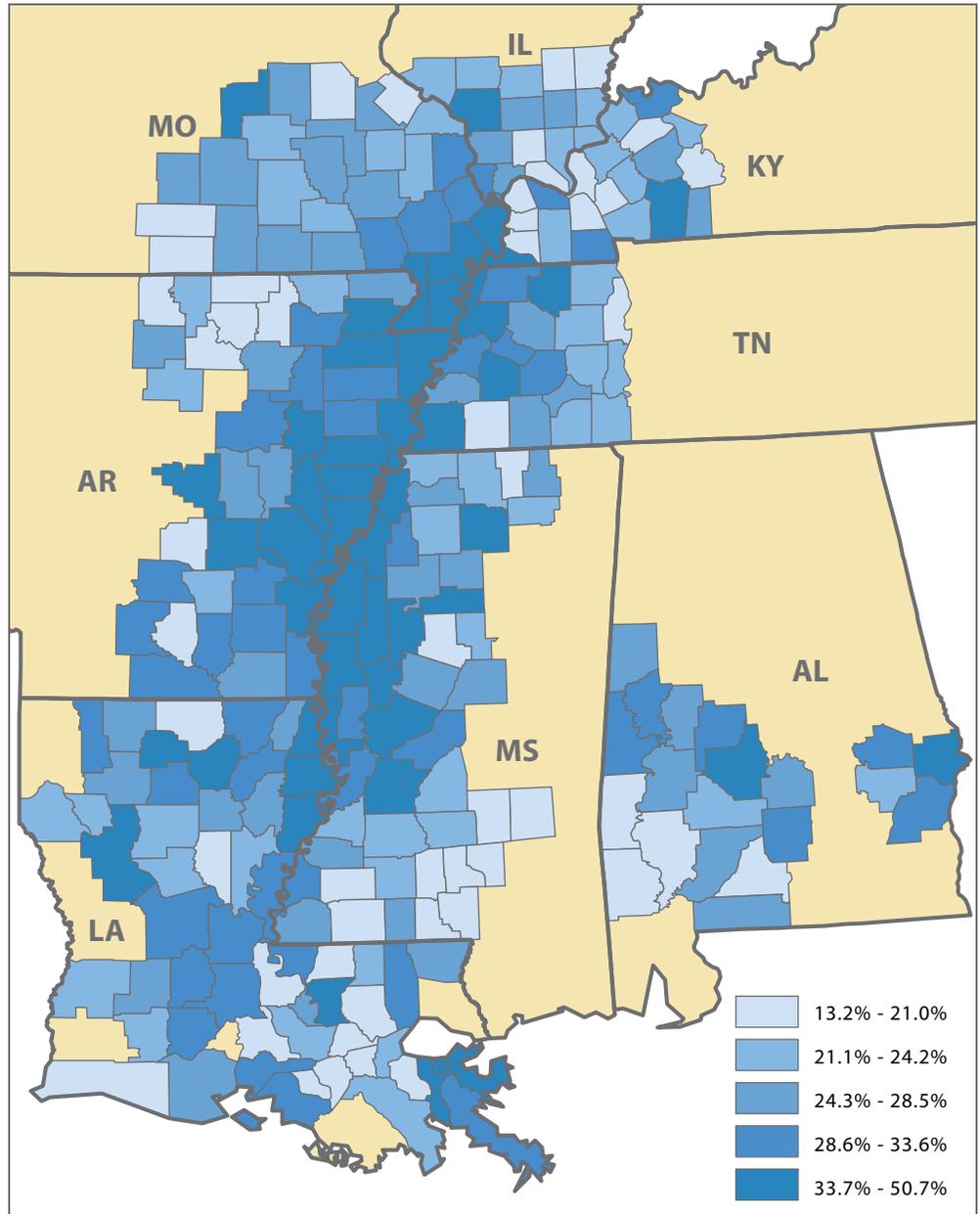


# Renter Occupied Housing Units

## 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



# 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.*





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