

# Selected Health Status Indicators



## BLACK BELT ACTION COMMISSION

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

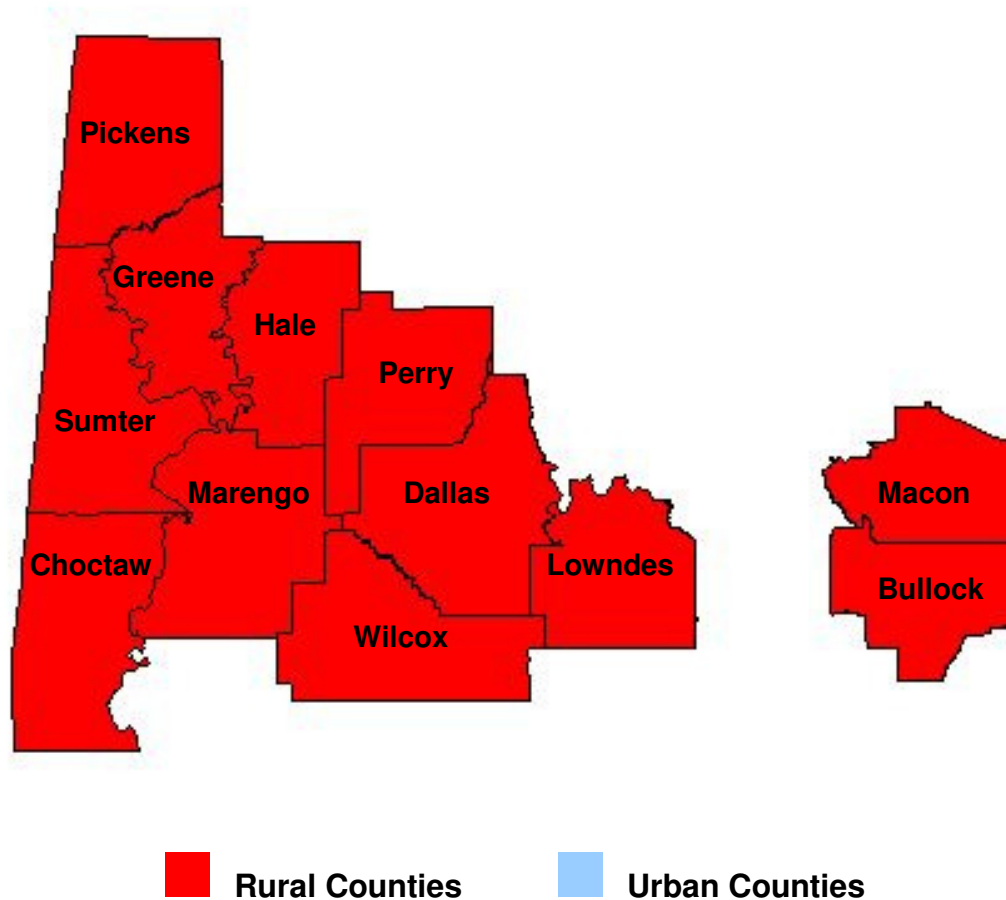
by  
The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health,  
Alabama Department of Public Health  
and  
The Alabama Rural Health Association

Special thanks to the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health and the National Rural Health Association for funding assistance in the production of this publication.

This and other reports in this series can be referenced on-line by visiting the “Reports” section of the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health Web site at <http://adph.org/ruralhealth/> or the “Rural/Urban Comparisons” section of the Alabama Rural Health Association Web site at [www.arhaonline.org](http://www.arhaonline.org)

**October 2007**

## The Black Belt Action Commission Region



This publication defines entire counties as being “rural” or “urban” since most data of interest is available at the county level, but not at sub-county levels. For this specific definition, counties are assigned a score using four major indicators of rurality. These are population per square mile, the size and number of cities in a county, percentage of total employment comprised by employment in public education, and per capita agricultural sales. For additional information on the determination of which counties are considered “rural,” please visit the “What Is Rural?” section at the Alabama Rural Health Association’s Web site, [www.arhaonline.org](http://www.arhaonline.org).

**SELECTED HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS**  
**United States, Alabama, and the Black Belt Action Commission**

Indicators	United States		Alabama		Black Belt Action Commission					
					All Counties		Rural Counties		Urban Counties	
2006 Population	Number	Pct. of Total	Number	Pct. of Total	Number	Pct. of Total	Number	Pct. of Total	Number	Pct. of Total
Total	299,398,484	100.0	4,599,030	100.0	212,148	100.0	212,148	100.0	<b>All Counties in the Black Belt Action Commission are Rural.</b>	
African American (alone)	38,342,549	12.8	1,211,583	26.3	136,251	64.2	136,251	64.2		
White (alone)	239,746,254	80.1	3,276,561	71.2	73,772	34.8	73,772	34.8		
American Indian (alone)	2,902,851	1.0	23,799	0.5	322	0.2	322	0.2		
Asian (alone)	13,159,343	4.4	41,881	0.9	615	0.3	615	0.3		
Hispanic	44,321,038	14.8	113,890	2.5	2,655	1.3	2,655	1.3		
Age 19 Years or Less	82,079,106	27.4	1,240,643	27.0	62,409	29.4	62,409	29.4		
Age 65 Years or More	37,260,352	12.4	615,597	13.4	30,753	14.5	30,753	14.5		
Age 85 Years or More	5,296,817	1.8	79,530	1.7	4,613	2.2	4,613	2.2		
Population Change	Number	Pct. Change	Number	Pct. Change	Number	Pct. Change	Number	Pct. Change	Number	Pct. Change
1910 – 2000	91,972,266 to 281,421,906	206.0	2,138,093 to 4,447,100	108.0	369,332 to 222,068	-39.9	369,332 to 222,068	-39.9		
2000 – 2025 Projected	281,421,906 to 349,695,000	24.3	4,447,100 to 5,385,997	21.1	222,068 to 220,065	-0.9	222,068 to 220,065	-0.9		
Age 65+: 2000 – 2025 Projected	34,991,753 to 63,042,500	80.2	579,907 to 999,769	72.4	31,310 to 45,155	44.2	31,310 to 45,155	44.2		
Hispanic: 1990 – 2006 Estimated	22,354,059 to 44,321,038	98.3	24,629 to 113,890	362.4	772 to 2,655	243.9	772 to 2,655	243.9		
Income Related Indicators	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure
Population Below Poverty Level – 2004	37,039,804	12.7%	727,308	16.1%	55,292	25.7%	55,292	25.7%		
Children Under 18 Below Poverty Level - 2004	13,041,492	17.8%	245,017	22.6 %	18,986	34.1%	18,986	34.1%		
Per Capita Personal Income – 2005	N.A.	\$34,471	N.A.	\$29,623	N.A.	\$22,406	N.A.	\$22,406		
Medicaid Eligible Population – 2006	N.A.	N.A.	988,677	21.1%	77,536	35.1%	77,536	35.1%		
Medicaid Eligible Children (Under 21) - 2006	N.A.	N.A.	520,256	38.9%	39,296	55.9%	39,296	55.9%		
Medicaid Births - 2006	N.A.	N.A.	30,114	49.3%	1,766	69.2%	1,766	69.2%		
Access to Health Care Indicators	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure <sup>1</sup>	Number	Measure <sup>1</sup>	Number	Measure
Primary Care Physicians – 2006 (Per 10,000 Pop.)	209,550	7.2	3,044	6.5	102	4.6	102	4.6		
Dentists – 2003 (Per 10,000 Pop.)	86,110	2.9 (2006)	1,557	3.5	38	1.7	38	1.7		
Psychiatrists – 2006 (Per 10,000 Pop.)	24,730	0.9	298	0.6	6	0.3	6	0.3		
Hospital Beds (Per 10,000 Pop.)	N.A.	N.A.	16,917	36.1	475	21.5	475	21.5		
Households With No Vehicle – 2000	10,861,067	10.3%	143,594	8.3%	13,355	15.9%	13,355	15.9%		
Uninsured Population - 2003	39,803,527	14.2% (2001)	504,539	11.2%	28,634	13.2%	28,634	13.2%		

**SELECTED HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS - continued**  
**United States, Alabama, and the Black Belt Action Commission**

Indicators	United States		Alabama		Black Belt Action Commission					
					All Counties		Rural Counties		Urban Counties	
Cause of Death Indicators	Number in 2004	Rate per 100,000 Pop.	Number in 2003 - 2005	Rate per 100,000 Pop.	Number in 2003 - 2005	Rate per 100,000 Pop. <sup>1</sup>	Number in 2003 - 2005	Rate per 100,000 Pop. <sup>1</sup>	Number in 2003 - 2005	Rate per 100,000 Pop.
All Causes	2,397,615	816.5	139,414	1,028.7	7,588	1,175.0	7,588	1,175.0	<b>All Counties in the Black Belt Action Commission are Rural.</b>	
Septicemia	33,373	11.4	2,451	18.1	175	27.1	175	27.1		
Cancer	553,888	188.6	29,389	216.9	1,523	235.8	1,523	235.8		
Colon, Rectum, and Anus	53,772	18.3	2,696	19.9	172	26.6	172	26.6		
Trachea, Bronchus, and Lung	158,091	53.8	9,286	68.5	406	62.9	406	62.9		
Breast (female)	40,954	27.5	2,072	29.4	104	30.6	104	30.6		
Cervix Uteri (female)	3,850	2.6	241	3.4	16	4.7	16	4.7		
Ovary (female)	14,716	9.9	786	11.2	32	9.4	32	9.4		
Prostate (male)	29,004	20.1	1,609	24.3	136	44.9	136	44.9		
Meninges, Brain, Other Central Nervous System	12,829	4.4	611	4.5	18	2.8	18	2.8		
Alzheimer's Disease	65,965	22.5	4,145	30.6	212	32.8	212	32.8		
Diabetes Mellitus	73,138	24.9	4,273	31.5	250	38.7	250	38.7		
Heart Diseases	675,562	230.1	38,683	285.4	2,351	364.1	2,351	364.1		
Ischemic Heart Diseases	451,326	153.7	18,789	138.6	991	153.5	991	153.5		
Heart Failure	57,120	19.5	6,606	48.7	572	88.6	572	88.6		
Cerebrovascular Diseases (Stroke)	150,074	51.1	8,934	65.9	517	80.1	517	80.1		
Pneumonia	58,564	19.9	3,111	23.0	154	23.8	154	23.8		
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	121,987	41.5	7,156	52.8	255	39.5	255	39.5		
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	27,013	9.2	1,378	10.2	45	7.0	45	7.0		
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, and Nephrosis	42,480	14.5	3,132	23.1	225	34.8	225	34.8		
Accidents	112,012	38.1	6,931	51.1	427	66.1	427	66.1		
Motor Vehicle Accidents	44,933	15.3	3,480	25.7	256	39.6	256	39.6		
Drowning and Submersion	3,308	1.1	187	1.4	12	1.9	12	1.9		
Smoke, Fire, and Flames	3,229	1.1	322	2.4	38	5.9	38	5.9		
Poisoning and Exposure to Noxious Substances	20,950	7.1	646	4.8	14	2.2	14	2.2		
Homicide	17,357	5.9	1,233	9.1	108	16.7	108	16.7		
Suicide	32,439	11.0	1,586	11.7	53	8.2	53	8.2		

**SELECTED HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS - continued**  
**United States, Alabama, and the Black Belt Action Commission**

Indicators	United States		Alabama		Black Belt Action Commission					
	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	All Counties		Rural Counties		Urban Counties	
Nativity Related Indicators	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure
Infant Mortality Rate Per 1,000 Births (2004 – 2006)	28,534	6.9	1,646	9.0	85	10.2	85	10.2	<b>All Counties in the Black Belt Action Commission are Rural.</b>	
Low Weight Births – 2006 (Percent of All Births)	331,772 (2004)	8.1 %	6,616	10.5 %	363	12.9 %	363	12.9 %		
Births to Teens (10-19) – 2006 (Percent of All Births)	422,043 (2004)	10.3 %	8,670	13.8 %	492	17.5 %	492	17.5 %		
Births With Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care – 2006 (Percent of All Births)	N.A.	N.A.	14,390	23.1 %	934	33.5 %	934	33.5 %		
Tobacco Use During Pregnancy – 2006 (Percent of All Births)	419,429	10.2%	7,394	11.8 %	206	7.3 %	206	7.3 %		
Births Occurring Outside of the Mother’s County of Residence – 2006 (Percent of All Births)	N.A.	N.A.	20,002	31.8 %	2,007	71.3 %	2,007	71.3 %		
Births to Undereducated Women – 2006	N.A.	N.A.	11,648	18.6 %	475	17.0 %	475	17.0 %		
Other Indicators	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure
Age 65+ With “Home Bound” Disability – 2000	6,795,517	19.4 %	139,401	24.0 %	8,511	27.2 %	8,511	27.2 %		
Age 25+ With Less Than High School Education - 2000	35,715,625	19.6 %	714,081	24.7 %	45,256	32.9 %	45,256	32.9 %		
Receiving Medicare Disability – 2003 (Percent of Total Population)	6,079,424	2.2 %	150,573	3.3 %	9,834	4.5 %	9,834	4.5 %		
Obese – 2003 (Percent of Total Population)	Not Comparable	Not Comparable	1,073,329	23.9 %	58,476	26.9 %	58,476	26.9 %		
Accidental Deaths Occurring Outside of a Health Care Facility: 2003-05 (Percent of All Accidental Deaths)	N.A.	N.A.	3,621	52.2 %	260	60.9 %	260	60.9 %		
Life Expectancy at Birth - 2005	N.A.	77.9 years	N.A.	74.8 years	N.A.	72.9 years	N.A.	72.9 years		
Sexually Transmitted Disease Cases Reported in 2006 (Per 10,000 Pop.)	1,349,333	45.9	33,463	73.6	2,568	120.4	2,568	120.4		
Cumulative HIV Cases as of December 31, 2006 (Per 10,000 Pop.)	Not Comparable	Not Comparable	14,737	32.4	672	31.5	672	31.5		
Families Being Counseled for Drug Issues by the Alabama Department of Mental Health During FY 2004 (Percent of All Families)	N.A.	N.A.	20,881	1.7 %	702	1.2 %	702	1.2 %		

<sup>1</sup> Rates, percentages, etc based upon fewer than 16 events may not be statistically reliable for specific analyses. Caution should be exercised in using these indicators.

**THIS PUBLICATION IS DESIGNED TO BE USED WITH THE “COUNTY SPECIFIC DATA” PUBLICATION IN IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC COUNTIES WHERE SELECTED INDICATORS MAY BE OF GREATER CONCERN.**

**FOR EXAMPLE: IT IS NOTED THAT THE MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT MORTALITY RATE FOR ALL COUNTIES IN THE BLACK BELT ACTION COMMISSION REGION COMBINED IS 39.6 DEATHS PER 100,000 PERSONS.**

**THE USER CAN REFER TO THE “MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT MORTALITY” SECTION ON PAGE 16 IN THE “COUNTY SPECIFIC DATA” PUBLICATION WHERE IT CAN BE SEEN THAT THE HIGHEST MORTALITY RATES FOR MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS IN THAT COMMISSION REGION ARE IN THE COUNTIES OF PERRY (61.1), LOWNDES (58.6), CHOCTAW (48.6), WILCOX (46.6), AND HALE (42.3).**

### **Sources of Information and Special Notes**

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

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

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

**Age 65+ Population Change 2000-2025:** Alabama State Data Center, Alabama County Population 65 and Over 2000 and Projections 2005-2025 for 2025. [http://cber.cba.ua.edu/edata/est\\_prj.html](http://cber.cba.ua.edu/edata/est_prj.html)

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

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

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

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

**Medicaid Eligible Population - 2006:** Alabama Medicaid Agency, Alabama Medicaid Statistics by County – 2006. [http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/resources/stats\\_reports.aspx?tab=5](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/resources/stats_reports.aspx?tab=5)

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

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

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

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

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

**Hospital Beds in 2007:** Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of Provider Services, Healthcare Facilities Directory – Hospital Section. October 4, 2007.  
[http://ph.state.al.us/facilitiesdirectory/\(S\(ikg10gmph4ih5550hmu4t45\)\)/Default.aspx](http://ph.state.al.us/facilitiesdirectory/(S(ikg10gmph4ih5550hmu4t45))/Default.aspx)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Births Occurring Outside Mother's County of Residence - 2006:** Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2006 Birth Statistics File.  
(This indicator was included because of the serious decline in the number of rural hospitals where obstetrics are performed and the natural relationship between women receiving adequate prenatal care and the presence of obstetrical care in the county.)

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

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

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

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

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

**Accidental Deaths Occurring Outside of a Health Care Facility - (2003-2005):** Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2003, 2004, and 2005 Mortality Statistics File.  
(This indicator was used in the place of an “emergency medical services emergency ambulance runs” data base. While there is such a data base maintained within the Alabama Department of Public Health, reporting to this data base is not complete and could produce confusing findings. The provision of adequate emergency medical service continues to be a serious issue in most rural Alabama counties.)

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

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

**Cumulative HIV Cases as of 12/31/2006:** Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, Statistics, Public Health Area (January – December 2006). <http://www.adph.org/aids/Default.asp?id=984>  
(National data for the cumulative number of HIV cases as of December 31, 2006 is not comparable due to the fact that not all states report this information to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and those that are reporting initiated this reporting at varying times.)

**Families Served by the Division of Substance Abuse Services in the Alabama Department of Mental Health - FY 2004:** Alabama Department of Mental Health, Department's Annual Report, '03-'04. p35. [http://www.mh.alabama.gov/downloads/AnnualReports/ADMH\\_AnnualReport\\_03\\_04Part3.pdf](http://www.mh.alabama.gov/downloads/AnnualReports/ADMH_AnnualReport_03_04Part3.pdf)

**PERMISSION IS GRANTED TO DUPLICATE OR OTHERWISE USE ALL OR ANY PORTION OF THIS REPORT**

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