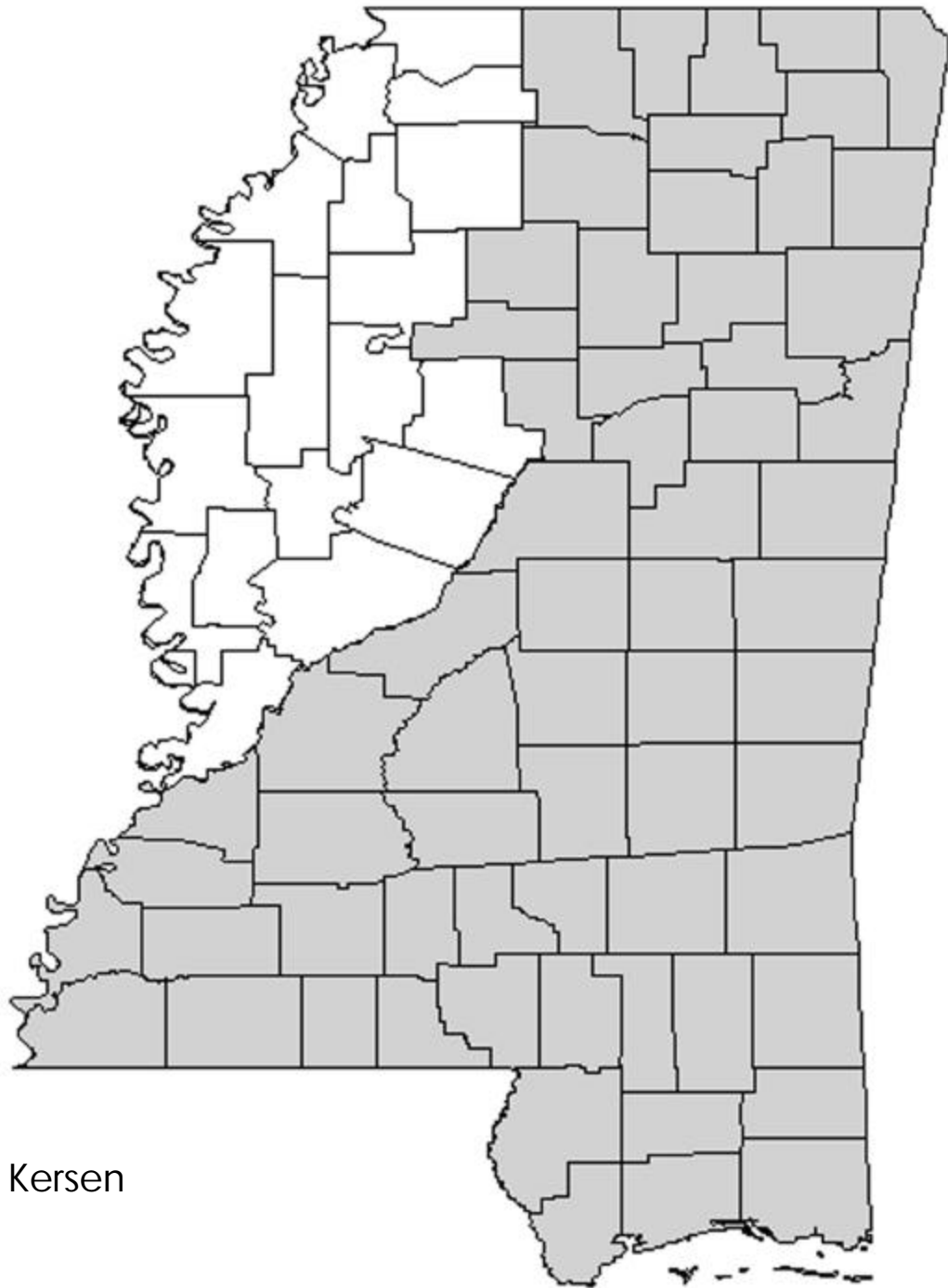


THE CHANGING DELTA, 1990 TO 2000



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FOREWORD

This report by Thomas M. Kersen, *The Changing Delta, 1990 to 2000*, is actually the third in a series of scholarly examinations of social and economic conditions in the Mississippi Delta under the auspices of the "Delta Project." The first, and by far the most comprehensive, study resulted in publication of *A Social and Economic Portrait of the Mississippi Delta* in 1992. The second study, *Social and Economic Change in the Mississippi Delta: An Update of Portrait Data*, published in 1996, focused on changes in major social and economic indicators: income, education, poverty, employment, health, and perceptions.

Tom Kersen has followed the pattern of the 1996 update, but he has accessed data sources not used in the earlier report. Consequently, the data in this report are the most current and accurate that could possibly be obtained. In the composite, the data depict a region still struggling to accelerate the rate of social and economic improvements that will provide the "average" Delta resident a standard of living at least equal to that of the "average" Mississippian. Between 1990 and 2000, conditions did improve in the Delta in practically all social and economic areas examined: income, employment, education, poverty, teenage pregnancy, and infant mortality. Kersen's analysis charts the progress in each of these areas vis-à-vis the previous decade and the current statewide conditions. All data are presented at the county level to facilitate intra-Delta comparisons as well.

The potential utility of this report extends beyond description of current social and economic conditions in the Mississippi Delta. In the hands of imaginative elected officials, policymakers, and leaders at all levels, the data presented here can serve as a blueprint for further progress. For example, the rate of positive change in counties served by the interstate highway system should provide added incentive to those striving to hasten the construction of I-69 through the heart of the northwest Delta. Overall, this report adds to our understanding of the dynamics of this region of our state and raises important questions for additional study.

Larry Doolittle, Director
Delta Project

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Changing Delta, 1990 to 2000

In the past, the Mississippi Delta has been characterized in a number of ways such as being poor, having continuous large out-migrations, and possessing lower-than-average educational attainment. However, these characterizations need to be continually monitored and updated. With that in mind, this study updated socio-demographic characteristics of the Mississippi Delta from the 1990 Census to the 2000 Census. Using a variety of sources, changes among a number of characteristics such as income, poverty, attitudes, labor force, teenage pregnancy, and infant mortality are described. The following are some of the major findings in this report:

1. During the 1990s, both the black and white populations in the Delta increased and most of this increase is due to in- or out- migration rather than an upsurge in births and declining deaths. Between 1990 and 2000, 22,982 whites moved into the Delta, while 3,412 blacks migrated out.
2. Between the periods of 1991 to 1995 and 1996 to 2000, there were steady declines in infant mortality rates in the Delta.
3. The Delta experienced an upward trend in per capita income, median household income, and weekly earnings during the 1990s. However, there was a widening gap between the Delta and the state in median household income.
4. From 1990 to 1998, the percentages of the general population and youth in poverty declined in the Delta.
5. Between the periods of 1995 to 1996 and 1998 to 1999, high-school graduation rates increased for most Delta counties. On the other hand, for a number of counties, high-school drop-out rates between 1989 to 1990 and 1998 to 1999 also increased.
6. The Delta workforce became more diversified in terms of race and gender than it had been.
7. From 1983 to 1999, the Delta experienced declining rates of teenage pregnancy for both races.

INTRODUCTION

This study is to update the socio-demographic characteristics of the Mississippi Delta from the 1990 Census to the 2000 Census. Using a variety of sources, changes among a number of characteristics will be described. Tables, graphs, and maps supplement the text portion of this report.

This study originated from the seminal work *A Social and Economic Portrait of the Mississippi Delta*, edited by Cosby, Brackin, Mason, and McCulloch (1992). The focus of this report comes from Chapter 4, "Demography of the Delta," written by John Saunders. Saunders presented data by county with summaries for both the region and the state of Mississippi. Doolittle and Davis (1996a) continued the study of the Delta with their work, *Social and Economic Change in the Mississippi Delta: An Update of Portrait Data*.

Some caveats are in order. First, the size of the population in a county can occasionally lead to extreme values; an example is Issaquena County. As one of the least-populated Delta counties, when any change in population occurs, it produces large values for the rate in question. Second, some data are based on estimates rather than actual numbers. In some cases an estimate and the actual number can differ widely. Finally, because this study was completed before the U. S. Census Bureau released detailed tables dealing with socio-demographic characteristics, some comparisons with previous studies are not possible. Other data allow only rough comparisons; for example, in previous years education was measured as the educational attainment of adults 25 years and older. In the current study, it is measured as the high-school graduation and drop-out rates.

DEMOGRAPHY OF THE DELTA

In the first part of this section, population change from 1990 to 2000 will be discussed. When population change is decomposed, it has three components: births, deaths, and migrations. By analyzing these components, we can determine the contribution of each to population change in the Delta. The last part of the section concerns how the age-sex structure of the Delta population influences the distribution of resources such as Medicaid and points to the need for policy makers to consider more carefully the age and sex distributions of their constituencies.

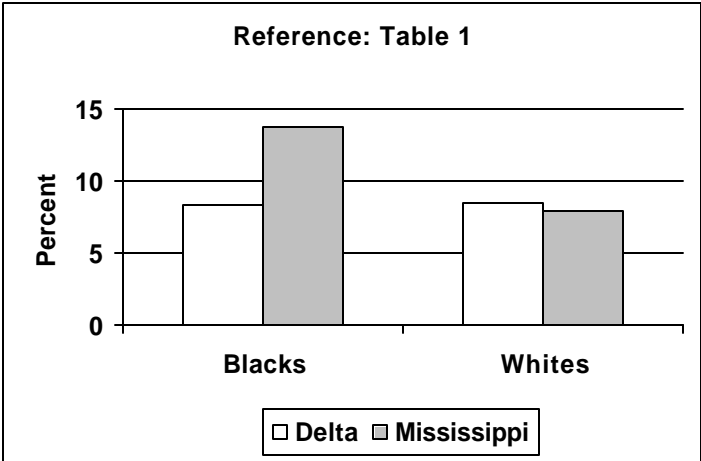
Population Change, 1990 to 2000

The decline in population that characterized the Delta for much of the 20th century reversed between 1990 and 2000, when both the black and white populations increased more than 8 percent. In Mississippi, the black population increased by 13.7 percent, while the white population increased by 7.9 percent (Figure 1).

Population totals are presented by county and by race for three periods: 1980, 1990, and 2000 (Table 1). Black numbers increased for the two most recent periods in Holmes and Panola Counties and in the state. Black losses in the remaining Delta counties between 1980 and 1990 were nearly reversed between 1990 and 2000. Only Humphreys, Sharkey, and Tallahatchie Counties had a continuous decline from the first period to the most recent one. Between 1990 and 2000, the white population increased in Tunica, Carroll, Yazoo, and the "I-55 Corridor" Counties DeSoto, Tate, and Panola (Doolittle and Davis 1996a). Carroll County probably benefited in

much the same way as the I-55 Corridor counties in that Highway 82 has four lanes through the county and intersects Interstate 55 in Winona, which is near the county line (Doolittle and Davis 1996a). The advent of casino gambling is the most likely reason for the population increase in Tunica County.¹

Figure 1. Population Change, 1990 to 2000.



Natural Increase/Decrease

In Table 2 the natural increase/decrease between 1990 and 2000 is reported for blacks and whites in each county in the Delta. This statistic is the result of subtracting the cumulative births from cumulative deaths for each county during 1990 to 2000. Natural increase or decrease is the main component in analyzing population growth and redistribution (Smith and Zopf 1970). However, we will not address natural increase/decrease directly because our focus is on net migration. By providing natural increase/decrease statistics (Table 2), readers can gauge population increase and distribution for each county, by race, and understand how the numbers were derived for net migration by race for each county.

Migration

Analyzing migration, domestic or international, can be a challenge. Two issues contribute to the weaknesses in using Census Bureau estimates of net migration by county to look at racial patterns of migration. First, in many instances births and deaths have been underestimated by the census for Delta counties. One of the primary causes for this is that the census calculates net domestic migration by estimating from a base population; 1990 in the case of Table 3. From this base, actual numbers and estimates of births, deaths, and migrations are added for each subsequent year to revise the base population. The second issue is that migration data are not available by race and county from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. To remedy some of these concerns, we computed net migration by race by subtracting the cumulative number of deaths from cumulative number of births. The result is then subtracted from the total population change between 1990 and

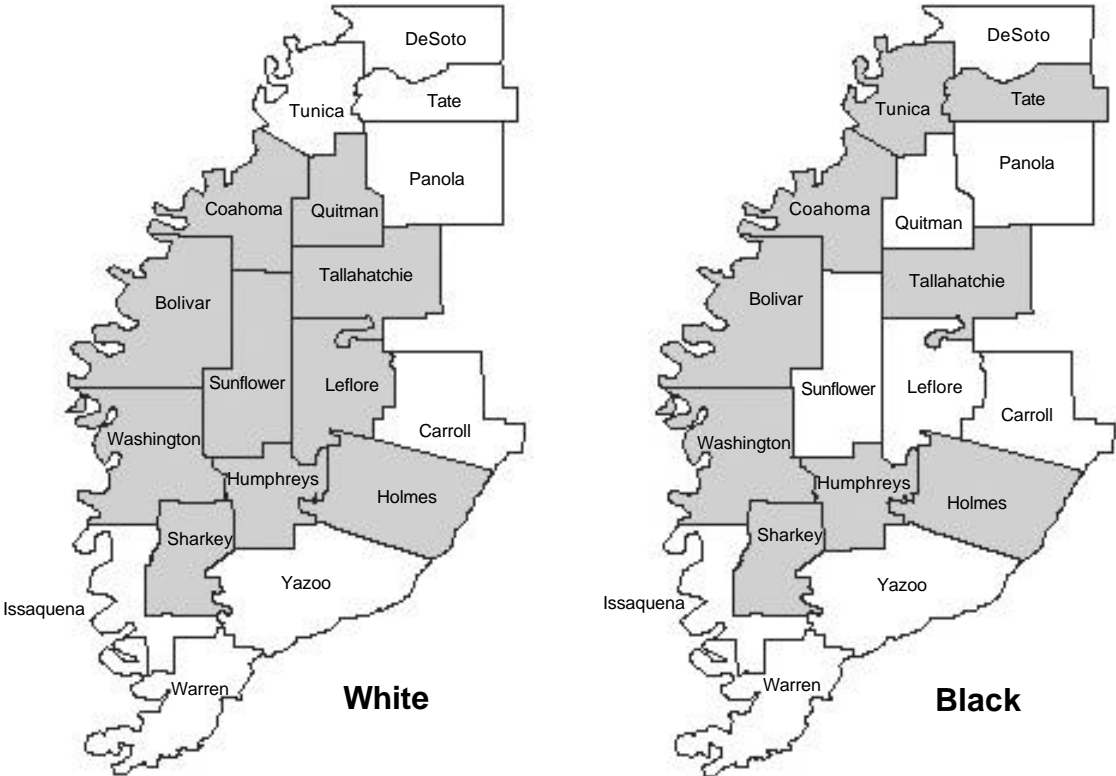
¹Counter to our analysis, Snyder (1999:4) stated, "The advent of gambling has not had any particular effect on attracting residents." However, Snyder's data were from population estimates from the U.S. Census and covered only the period from 1993 to 1997.

2000. The result of this calculation is the population change not explained by births or deaths. Reports of actual births and deaths were obtained from the Mississippi Department of Health or the Centers for Disease Control. These procedures do not differentiate between international and domestic migration; that is, the numbers indicate only the amount of movement in or out of Delta counties between 1990 and 2000.

Although our focus is on migration by race, census migration data are presented in Table 3 for comparative purposes. According to census estimates, only four Delta counties experienced net in-migration between 1990 and 1999: Carroll, DeSoto, Panola, and Tate (Table 3). In the remaining counties, net out-migration occurred. Between 1990 and 1999, 1,655 people left the Delta; however, when DeSoto County is excluded, the number of out-migrants increases dramatically to 28,506. During the same period, net migration in Mississippi was 44,639.

In 1998, Frey projected a negative net migration of blacks from Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Missouri, while projecting gains for the rest of the South. Using 2000 census data, Frey (2001) has documented a black migration back to the South, in particular to "New Sunbelt" cities such as Atlanta and Orlando. Frey wrote (2001:5), "The attraction of middle-class, post-baby boomer blacks to the South tends to steer more blacks to southern suburbs." Frey's projections of black migration out of Mississippi did not materialize. Blacks migrated into Mississippi (24,173) but migrated out of the Delta (3,412) over the last decade (Table 4 and Map 1). It should be noted however that when DeSoto County is excluded from the Delta, 12,670 whites and 6,006 blacks migrated out of the Delta.

Map 1. Net Migration in the Delta, by Race, 1990 to 2000. Reference Table 4.



Key: Gray equals out-migration, white equals in-migration.

Dependency Ratio

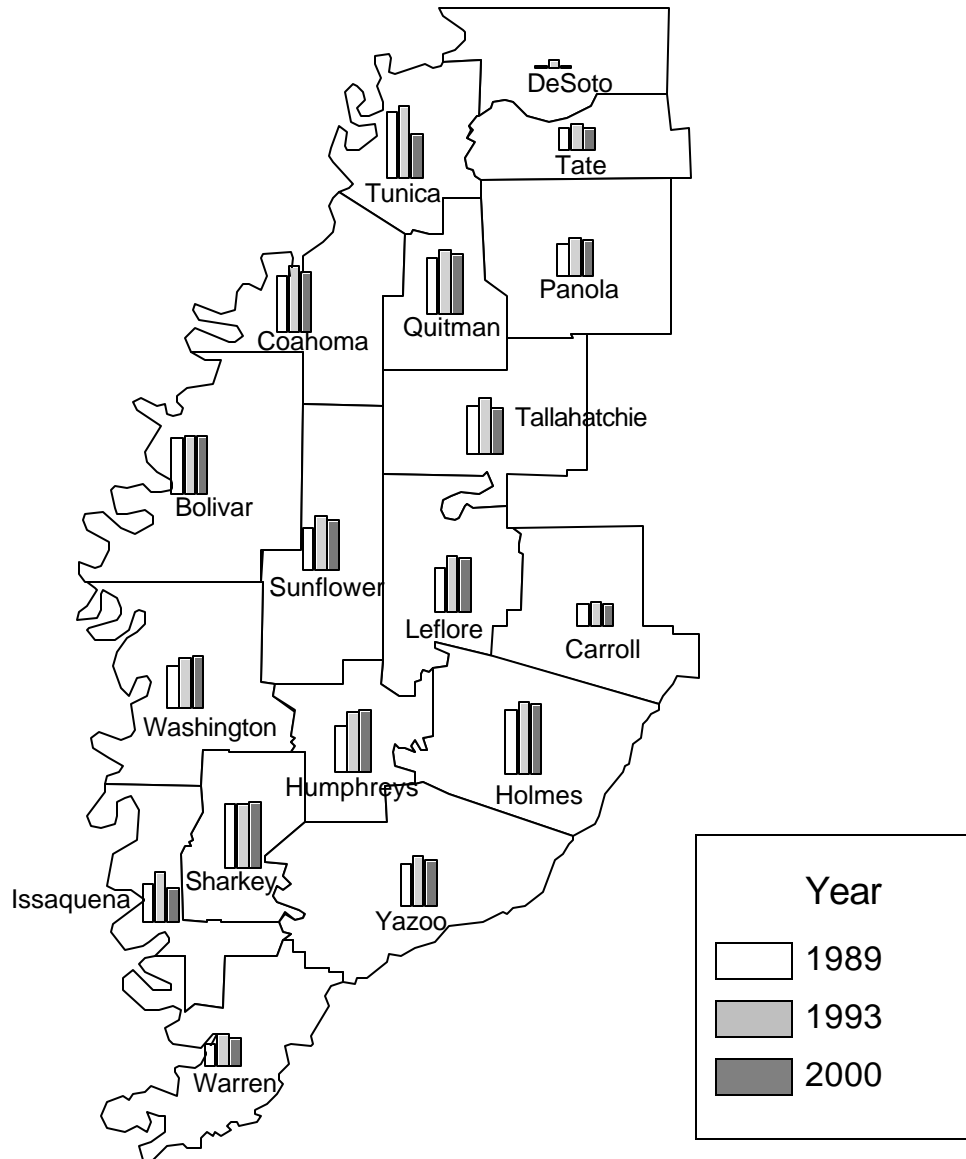
The age dependency ratio measures the relationship between the productive population and those who are too young or too old to work. The total number of children and the aged is divided by the total working-age population, producing the dependency ratio (Shryock and Siegel 1976). In the present study, children or youths are defined as 15 years of age or younger, and people who are 65 years old or older are termed elderly.

In the Delta, large differences in dependency ratios by race in the 1990s, as described by Doolittle and Davis (1996a), are still considerable in the 2000 census data (Table 5). On the other hand, dependency ratios for both races have continued to decline in the Delta and in Mississippi. Statewide, whites had an increase in their population's dependency ratio by nearly two percentage points, while whites in the Delta experienced hardly any change (.1 percentage point increase).

Medicaid Eligibility

In 1989, 25.5 percent of the Delta population were eligible for Medicaid and that percentage increased to 25.9 by 2000. Between 1989 and 2000, every county in the Delta, except DeSoto, Issaquena, Tallahatchie, Tate, and Tunica, had an increase in the percentage of its population eligible for Medicaid (Table 6 and Map 2). The largest percentages of Medicaid eligibles in 2000 were in Holmes and Sharkey Counties (43.9 and 41.5 percent, respectively). DeSoto County had the lowest percentage rate with 6.8.

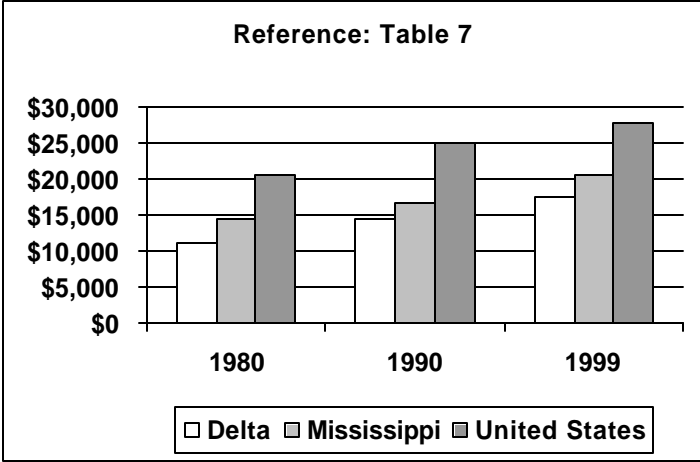
Map 2. Percent of Total Population in the Mississippi Delta Eligible for Medicaid by County, 1989, 1993, and 2000. Reference is Table 6.



INCOME IN THE DELTA

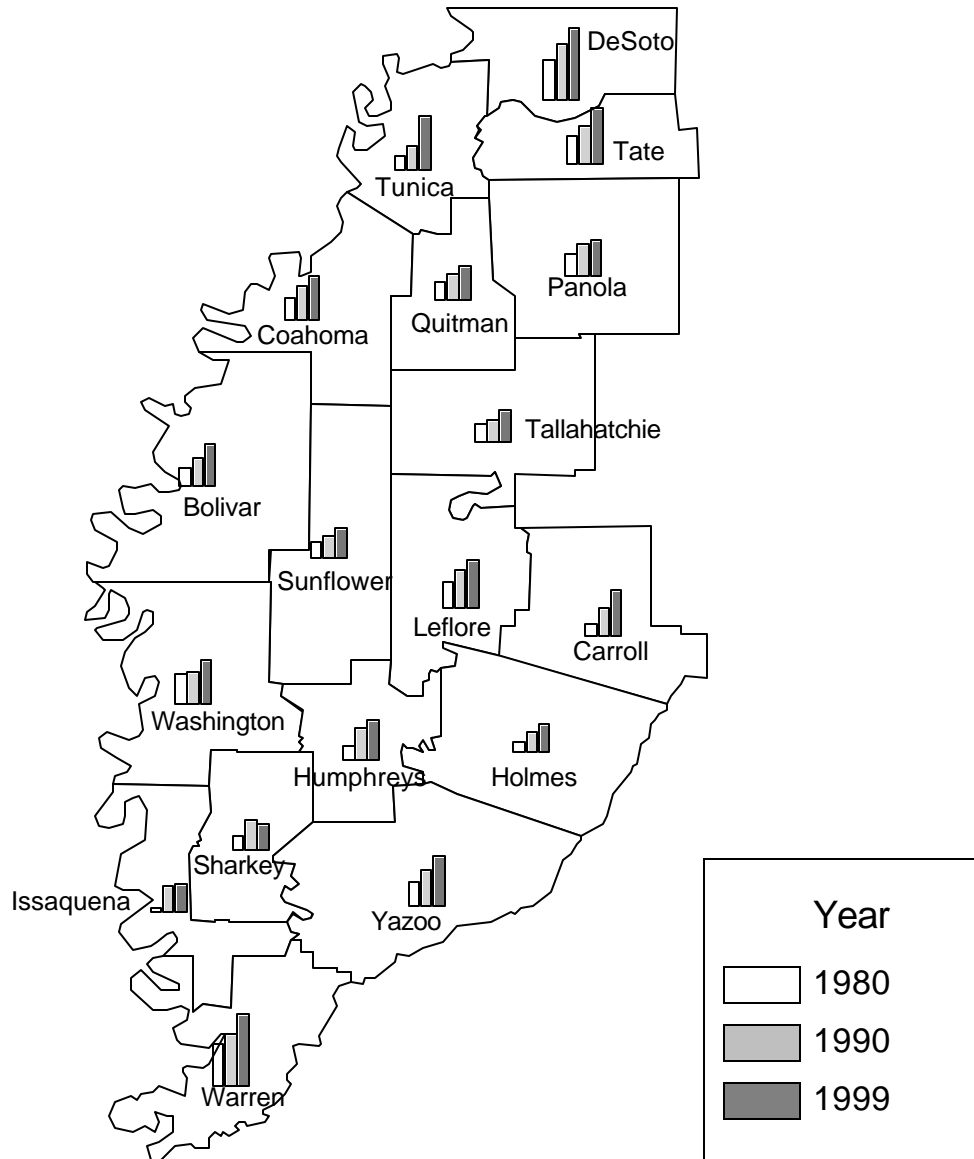
Between 1990 and 1999, the average annual income in 1999 dollars for a Delta inhabitant increased from \$14,366 to \$17,625 (Figure 2). Delta residents earned approximately 85 percent of the Mississippi per capita income, while Mississippians made 74 percent of the per capita income for the United States. The gap between the per capita income (PCI) in the Delta and in Mississippi is decreasing. In 1980, Delta per capita was about 78 percent of Mississippi's per capita income.

Figure 2. Per Capita Income (in 1999 dollars).



In Table 7, PCI was standardized to 1999 dollars to adjust for inflation and to provide more valid comparisons across time periods. The PCIs in Carroll, Coahoma, DeSoto, Leflore, Tate, Tunica, Warren, Washington, and Yazoo Counties were above the Delta's PCI of \$17,625 in 1999 (Map 3). The highest per capita incomes were in DeSoto (\$25,477) and Warren Counties (\$25,140). When the PCI for each county is compared to the state's PCI, three counties surpassed 100 percent of the state's PCI: DeSoto County, at 1.23 times higher, Warren County at 1.22 times higher, and Tate County at 1.03 times higher. Sharkey had the lowest percentage (63.2 percent) of the state's PCI.

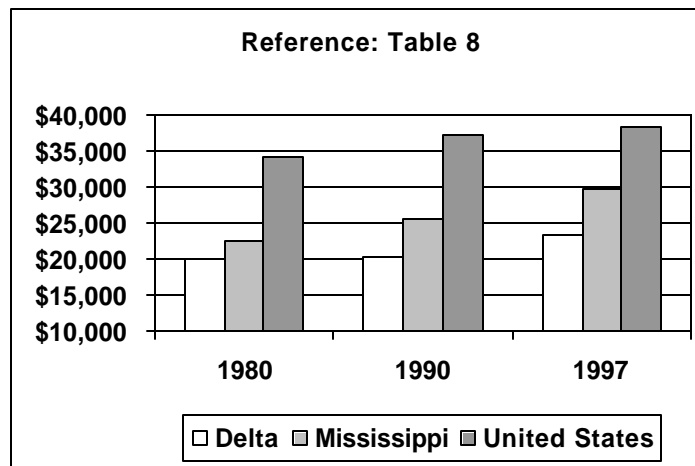
Map 3. Per Capita Income in the Mississippi Delta, by County, 1980, 1990, and 1999. Reference is Table 7.



Median Household Income

In 1997, median household income in the Delta was \$23,425, or about 79 percent of that for Mississippi (Figure 3). Since 1980, the gap between median household income in the Delta and in the state has widened. The 1997 median household income (standardized to 1999 dollars) was the highest in DeSoto (\$45,035) and Warren (\$32,655) Counties (Table 8). All Delta counties except Tunica experienced a decline from 1990 to 2000 in their median household incomes as a proportion of the median household income for the state.

Figure 3. Median Household Income (in 1999 dollars).

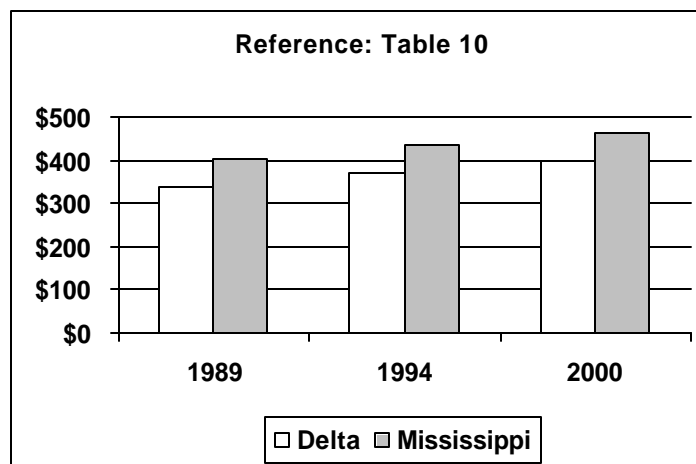


Weekly Earnings

Wages or salaries and net income from self-employment constitute "earnings" (U.S. Census 1999). In 1994 and 2000, the average weekly earnings of employees in the Delta were 86 percent of that for the state, up from 83 percent in 1989 (Table 9 and Figure 4). In 2000, DeSoto and Warren Counties had the highest average weekly earnings of \$469 and \$450, respectively. The county with the lowest average weekly earnings was Issaquena with \$321. Tunica County maintained 93 percent of the state's average weekly earnings for 1994 and 2000, probably the result of stagnating or declining wages in the service sector, even though the sector had expanded. For example, after adjusting for inflation, service-industry wages in Tunica County declined from \$449 to \$438 during the period of 1997 to 2000.²

² The data analyzed to form the basis of this statement are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2002).

Figure 4. Average Employee Weekly Earnings (in 1999 dollars).



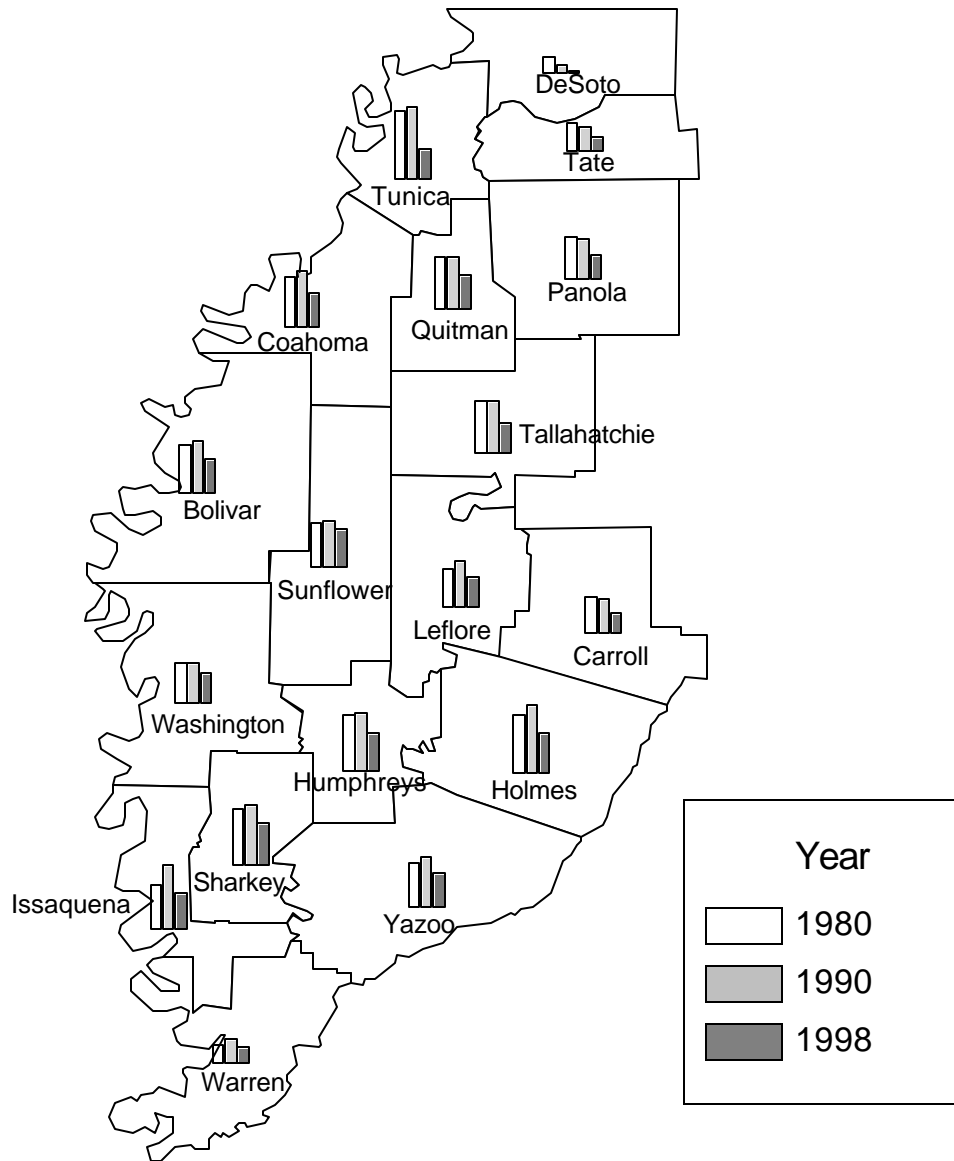
POVERTY IN THE DELTA

County-level data from the 2000 Census regarding poverty are not available for public distribution. Numbers from the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates branch of the Census Bureau are limited to the percentage of total population in poverty (Table 10 and Map 4) and the total youth population in poverty (Table 11). These estimates are derived from the March 1999 Current Population Survey.

Poverty has decreased in all counties in the Delta. However, the percentage of the Delta population in poverty for 1998 was 24.9, compared to 17.6 in the state, 13.7 in the South, and 12.7 in the United States (U.S. Census Bureau 1999). The lowest percentage in poverty was in DeSoto County (7.4). In contrast, more than 30 percent of the total population of Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Sharkey, and Sunflower Counties were in poverty.

Because the youth population (less than 18 years of age) is "...more likely to be poor than most of the other age groups..." this measure is a good indicator of how well an area incorporates its youth into the labor market (U.S. Census Bureau 1999:viii). As was the case for total population in poverty, no Delta county experienced an upsurge in the percentage of youth in poverty for the period examined. More than 31 percent of Delta youth were in poverty in 1998, compared to 23.9 percent in Mississippi. The percentage of youth in poverty was highest in Humphreys (39.4), Issaquena (39.0), and Sharkey (39.0) Counties, and lowest in DeSoto County (11.2).

Map 4. Percent of Persons Below the Poverty Level in the Mississippi Delta, by County, 1980, 1990, and 1998. Reference is Table 10.



EDUCATION

In *A Social and Economic Portrait of the Mississippi Delta* (1992) and its update (Doolittle and Davis 1996a), high-school completion was reported as high-school or college completion for those aged 25 or older. Unfortunately, similar data from the 2000 census are unavailable for inclusion in this report. Consequently, high-school completion data (Table 12) and drop-out rates (Table 13) provided by the Mississippi Department of Education are used.

The Mississippi Department of Education computes high-school graduation rates by dividing the number of graduates in a particular year by the number of 9th graders enrolled four years previously, while controlling for in- and out-migration, academic failures, and deaths (Office of Accountability and Reporting n.d. c). The drop-out rate is computed as the number of dropouts for a particular school year divided by the number of enrollees at the end of the first month of that school year. These numbers do not reflect enrollment in private institutions of education.

High-School Completion

During the 1998-1999 school year, the rate of high-school graduation in the Delta was 2.5 percentage points lower than Mississippi's rate of 74.3 percent (Table 12). The graduation rate in the Delta increased by more than 5 percentage points, from 66.4 percent to 71.8 percent, between the school years 1995-1996 and 1998-1999. However, graduation rates dropped in Sunflower, Leflore, Humphreys, Holmes, Tunica, Yazoo, and Warren Counties.

Drop-out Rate

Drop-out data should be analyzed with some caution because school districts have a difficult time counting dropouts. A student may not actually have dropped out of high school but merely moved to another school district. For the 1989-1990 and 1998-1999 school years, the Delta had the same rate of dropouts as Mississippi (2.3 percent, Table 13).

A number of Delta counties experienced decreasing drop-out rates between the school years of 1989-1990 and 1998-99. Tunica, Tate, Sunflower, Carroll, Humphreys, Holmes, and Yazoo Counties had increases for the same period. Humphreys and Tunica Counties had the largest drop-out rates in the Delta for the 1998-1999 school year (4.1 and 3.6, respectively).

PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES

For a number of years, Delta inhabitants' attitudes toward government spending have been reported (Shaffer 1992:85; Doolittle and Davis 1996a:19). Data from a 1999 unpublished Delta study allows a comparison of recent attitudes with those reported earlier (Table 14). Specifically, the 1999 study was a telephone survey of a simple random sample of 460 Delta households. In addition, results from the 2000 General Social Survey, a national sample of 2,238 white and 432 black respondents, allow comparisons between the Delta and the nation on these issues (General Social Survey n.d.).

The trend for whites and blacks in the Delta is toward favoring more spending, although the preferred level is much lower among whites. Regardless of when the questions were asked, a

higher percentage of black Delta residents supported spending on various governmental programs than did their white counterparts. Delta whites showed the strongest support in 1988 for streets and highways, in 1994 for primary and high-school education, and in 1999 for police protection. Blacks favored programs for the poor in 1988, primary and high-school education in 1994, and hospitals and health in 1999. Blacks supported programs for the poor and provisions for child daycare at twice the level of whites. Comparing 1999 Delta data with 2000 GSS national data, Delta blacks had higher levels of support for spending, with the exception of environmental programs, than blacks nationwide. Among Delta whites, programs for the poor, streets and highways, and police were supported at a greater level than among whites nationally.

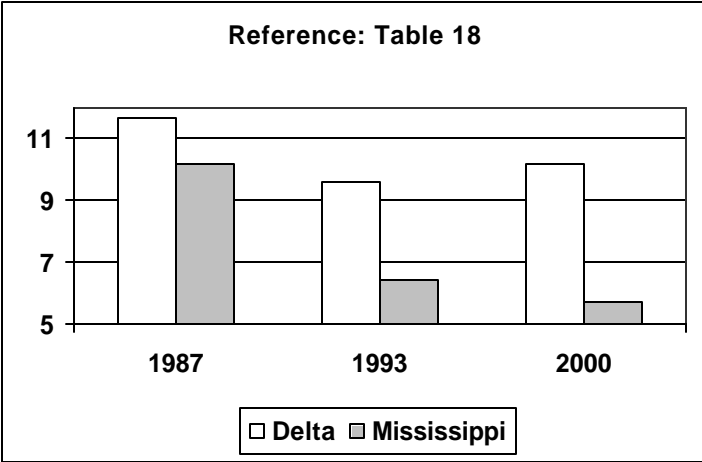
THE DELTA LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

The percentage of the Delta population participating in the labor force increased from 40.3 percent in 1987 to 44.1 percent in 2000 (Table 15). In the most recent data, the Delta's percentage of labor force participation (44.1) is less than 3 percentage points below the state's rate (46.6). The highest percentage of participation was in Warren and DeSoto Counties, while the lowest was in Issaquena, Holmes, and Sunflower Counties.

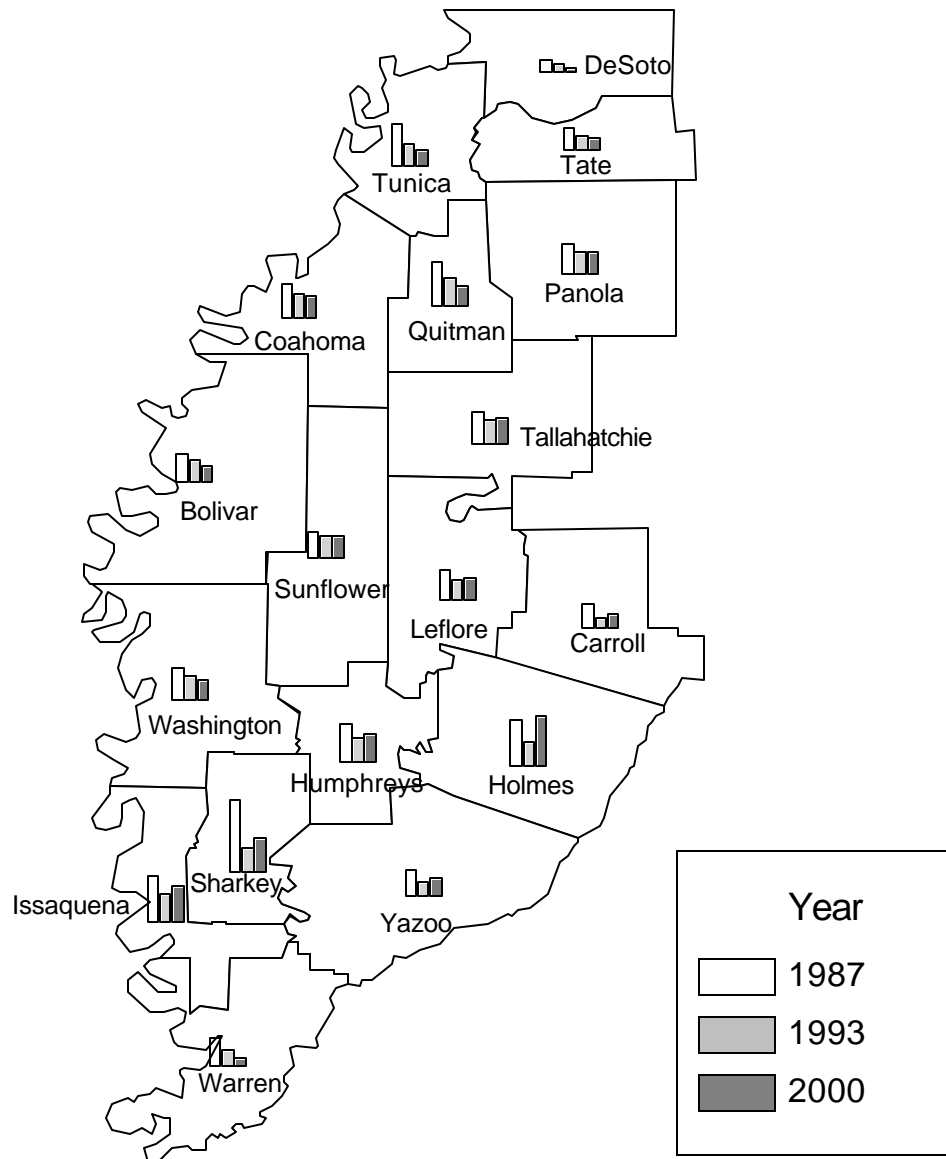
Carroll, Coahoma, DeSoto, Humphreys, Leflore, Warren, and Washington Counties experienced small increases in female participation in the labor force between 1993 and 2000 (Table 16). Delta-wide, the percentage of females in the labor force increased from 39.2 in 1993 to 40.1 in 2000. In terms of race, nonwhite participation in the labor force increased between 1993 and 2000 in Carroll, DeSoto, Tate, and Tunica Counties (Table 17). For whites, Carroll, Issaquena, Panola, Sharkey, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica, and Yazoo Counties had declining rates of labor-force participation. The highest percentages of nonwhites in the labor force were in DeSoto (45.9) and Tunica (43.3) Counties; the lowest were in Issaquena (24.5), Sunflower (26.9), and Yazoo (28.8) Counties. In 2000, the counties with the highest percentages of white participation were Warren (85.9) and Leflore (70.0), and the lowest were Issaquena (41.2) and Tate (42.8) Counties. Overall, nonwhite participation decreased in the Delta from 35.5 percent to 34.0 percent between 1993 and 2000. White participation, on the other hand, increased from 51.7 percent to 61.4 percent during the same period.

Like unemployment rates in the state, rates in the Delta have fluctuated. The rate for the Delta decreased from 11.7 percent in 1987 to 9.6 percent in 1993, then increased to 10.2 percent in 2000 (Table 18 and Figure 5). The highest unemployment rate in 2000 was in Holmes County with 21.1 percent (Table 19 and Map 5). Holmes also had the highest nonwhite (28.5 percent) and female (21.6 percent) unemployment rates (Tables 19 and 20). The lowest unemployment rates for nonwhites and females were in DeSoto County (7.0 and 3.2, respectively). In general, unemployment for women in the Delta (11.6) was higher than for men (8.8). Unemployment in the Delta for whites and nonwhites decreased slightly from 1993 to 2000.

Figure 5. Unemployment Rates in the Delta and Mississippi.



Map 5. Unemployment Rates in the Mississippi Delta, by County, 1987, 1993, and 2000.



TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Teenage pregnancy rates are defined as the number of live births plus fetal deaths and induced terminations per 1,000 females between 10 and 19 years of age (Mississippi State Department of Health 2002a). Teenage pregnancy rates in Mississippi are compiled for whites and nonwhites, not whites and blacks. Because nonwhites in the Delta are primarily black people, this categorization does not pose a problem. Regardless of race, teenage pregnancy rates in the Delta decreased over the period from 1990 to 1999 (Table 21). For all periods observed, however, rates for nonwhite teenagers are approximately two to three times higher than rates for whites. In 1999, the rate of teenage pregnancy for whites was 26.9; for nonwhites it was 65.5. However, these rates were lower than the 1990 rates of 44.8 and 69.9 percent, respectively.

Data presented in Table 22 are averaged for three time periods: 1983 to 1987, 1988 to 1994, and 1995 to 1999. These averages provide a more stable picture of trends than do the year-to-year rates. Generally, the trends for whites and nonwhites show a continuous decline from one period to the next in the rate of teenage pregnancies. The highest rate for the 1995 to 1999 period for whites was in Panola County (39.6) and the lowest was in Sharkey County (13.2). For the same period, the highest nonwhite teenage pregnancy rate was 81.6 percent in Yazoo County and the lowest was 38.9 percent in Carroll County.

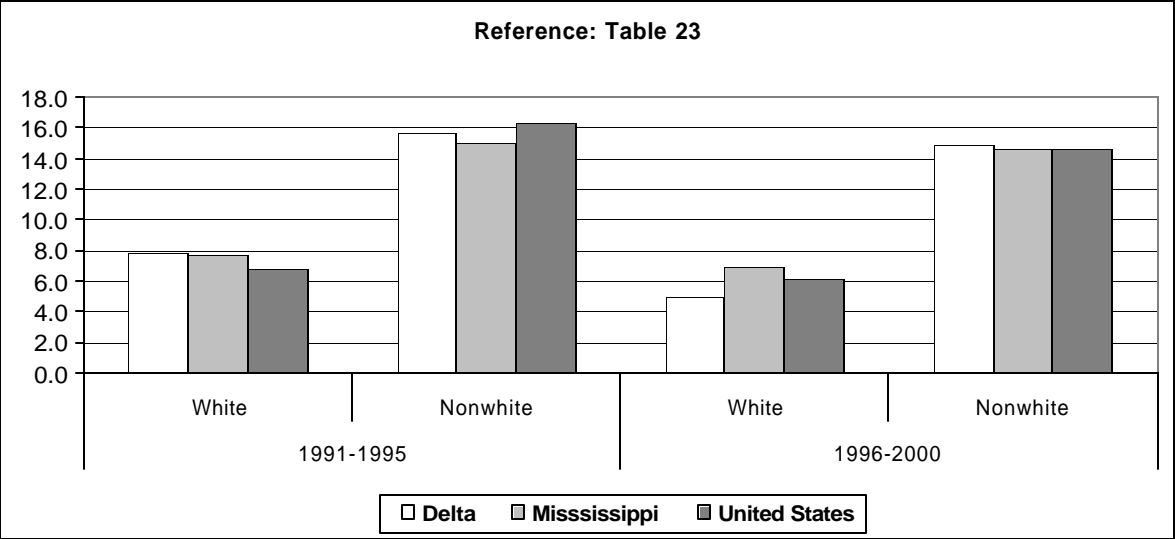
INFANT MORTALITY

The infant mortality rate is defined as the number of infant deaths (children under 1 year of age) per every 1,000 live births (Mississippi State Department of Health 1997). This rate, Saunders (1992:60) argued, "...is more sensitive to the economic and social well-being of a population...." Providing some explanation as to why infant mortality rates are "so sensitive," Weeks (1994) stated that education and income attainment at the individual and community levels influence the rate.

In the Delta, Mississippi, and the United States, there were declines in infant mortality rates from the 1991 to 1995 period to the 1996 to 2000 period for whites and nonwhites (Table 23 and Figure 6). The infant mortality rate for the white Delta population was higher than the state's white rate in 1991 to 1995, but that changed in the 1996 to 2000 period when the state had a higher rate. In comparison, the rate of infant mortality for nonwhites in the Delta decreased slightly from one period to the next but still remains higher than the nonwhite rate for the state.

Humphreys County had more than an 8-percentage-point decrease (from 13.8 to 5.2) between the periods of 1991 to 1995 and 1996 to 2000 for whites. The nonwhite population in a number of counties experienced sizable decreases in infant mortality rates: Carroll (-9.2), Coahoma (-7.2), Quitman (-6.9), and Leflore (-5.8). Conversely, Tate County had the largest increase in the nonwhite infant mortality rate, from 14.6 to 20.4 percent.

Figure 6. Infant Mortality Rates.



White infant mortality rates increased in Panola, Quitman, and Sunflower Counties. Issaquena County had the largest white infant mortality rate for both periods, but its small population distorts the rate. Interestingly, Tunica maintained a high, nonwhite-infant mortality despite progress attributed to the establishment of the gaming industry in the county. A gap between accelerated income/labor force participation and infrastructure may explain the lack of progress (Snyder 1999).

DISCUSSION

From 1990 to 2000, the Delta population increased for blacks and whites, and most of the gains were the result of migration. Despite this, natural increase among blacks was more than double that among whites. As was first reported by Doolittle and Davis (1996a), infant mortality continued to decline in the Delta during the 1990’s. The Delta population has become a more youthful-male and elderly-female population. The gap between black and white dependency ratios has narrowed, suggesting convergence for both races toward increased levels of workforce participation and decreased "dependent populations."

As was the case in the previous study, the Delta continued to experience an upward trend in per capita income, median household income, and weekly earnings during the 1990s. Contributing disproportionately to this trend, DeSoto and Warren Counties led in the various income measures. DeSoto County, part of the Memphis Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, remains the most dynamic and economically expanding area of the Delta. Still, depending on the type of income measured, the average Deltan earns 14 to 21 percent less than the average Mississippian. The gap in median household income between the Delta and the state has widened. In comparison, the gap between the Delta and Mississippi in weekly earnings has remained relatively stable over time.

Between 1990 and 1998, every county in the Delta experienced a decline in the percentage of the total population below the poverty level. Overall, there was an 8-percentage-point decrease, from 32.9 to 24.9, for the Delta. The same trends exist for youth poverty; that is, a declining percentage of youth in poverty for all counties in the Delta. From 1990 to 1998, there was a 13.3-percentage-point decrease, from 44.7 to 31.4.

Although high-school graduation rates generally had increased since 1995, in many instances, so had drop-out rates. The lack of more current data regarding educational attainment makes it difficult to gauge changes. It remains true, however, that the negative impact of low educational attainment in the Delta is not only a problem for individual Deltans but also is problematic for public and private institutions within the Delta. In two prior studies of industries in the Mississippi Delta (Doolittle and Davis 1996b; Doolittle 1999), many of the Delta industries surveyed pointed to the lack of an educated workforce as one of the largest problems they had. Doolittle and Davis (1996b:10) wrote, "One plant manager visits local high schools and community colleges to recruit students into a co-op training program for machinists, but still falls short of his need." Another company feels its "...chief impediment to future development is available labor with the basic skills to learn their processes."

Tracking attitudes over time has shown that Deltans favor government spending to a greater degree than does the national population. Nevertheless, what Deltans support in terms of governmental spending programs varies by period and race.

Overall, unemployment rates in the Delta and Mississippi have fluctuated, decreasing from 1987 to 1993 and then increasing from 1993 to 2000. The workforce is more diverse in terms of race and gender than at any other time, in the Delta and in Mississippi.

Doolittle and Davis (1996a:9) noted, "Annual teen pregnancy rates are quite erratic at all levels — county, Delta, and state." Results from this study indicate that teenage pregnancy is decreasing for both whites and nonwhites, but the rate for nonwhites still remains two to three times the rate for whites.

CONCLUSIONS

Overall, data from the 2000 census and a variety of other sources present a picture of continuing progress in the Delta. In *A Social and Economic Portrait of the Mississippi Delta* (1992), Cosby predicted that the population of the Delta would increase, as opposed to previous decades. This has occurred. Another prediction, that the number of whites would continue to decline, has not occurred. Cosby contemplated a growing reluctance by state and federal agencies to assist the Delta out of poverty and the need for Deltans to find the solution to their problems themselves. Perhaps responsibility does lie mainly with the Delta's public officials. Dan Way (1996), a reporter for the *Delta Democratic Times*, suggested, "[The] high level of extreme dissatisfaction [among Delta residents] should make the politicians acutely aware that they need to seriously re-evaluate how they are performing in office and whether they are being responsive to the needs of their constituents." Some issues such as education and teenage pregnancy seem too intractable and problematic for county, regional, state, and national leaders to take a non-interventionist stance. The Delta is improving, and now may be the best time for intervention. Perhaps the most recent federal effort, the Delta Regional Commission, will provide the needed impetus for continuing, and even accelerating, the progress.

Table 1. Changes in Mississippi Delta Population between 1980 and 2000, by County and Race

County	Race	Population			Numeric Change		Percentage Change	
		1980	1990	2000	1980-1990	1990-2000	1980-1990	1990-2000
Bolivar	Total	45,965	41,875	40,633	-4,090	-1,242	-8.9	-3.0
	White	16,986	15,166	13,507	-1,820	-1,659	-10.7	-10.9
	Black	28,567	26,430	26,458	-2,137	28	-7.5	0.1
Carroll	Total	9,776	9,237	10,769	-539	1,532	-5.5	16.6
	White	5,332	5,571	6,749	239	1,178	4.5	21.1
	Black	4,425	3,657	3,942	-768	285	-17.4	7.8
Coahoma	Total	36,918	31,665	30,622	-5,253	-1,043	-14.2	-3.3
	White	13,074	10,984	8,965	-2,090	-2,019	-16.0	-18.4
	Black	23,631	20,511	21,192	-3,120	681	-13.2	3.3
DeSoto	Total	53,930	67,910	107,199	13,980	39,289	25.9	57.9
	White	44,203	58,901	91,950	14,698	33,049	33.3	56.1
	Black	9,596	8,684	12,216	-912	3,532	-9.5	40.7
Holmes	Total	22,970	21,604	21,609	-1,366	5	-5.9	0.0
	White	6,577	5,176	4,424	-1,401	-752	-21.3	-14.5
	Black	16,339	16,386	16,997	47	611	0.3	3.7
Humphreys	Total	13,931	12,134	11,206	-1,797	-928	-12.9	-7.6
	White	4,718	3,856	3,045	-862	-811	-18.3	-21.0
	Black	9,145	8,260	8,013	-885	-247	-9.7	-3.0
Issaquena	Total	2,513	1,909	2,274	-604	365	-24.0	19.1
	White	1,107	833	826	-274	-7	-23.0	-0.8
	Black	1,397	1,076	1,427	-321	351	-24.8	32.6
Leflore	Total	41,525	37,341	37,947	-4,184	606	-10.1	1.6
	White	16,724	14,431	11,384	-2,293	-3,047	-13.7	-21.1
	Black	24,553	22,684	25,701	-1,869	3,017	-7.6	13.3
Panola	Total	28,164	29,996	34,274	1,832	4,278	6.5	14.3
	White	14,312	15,366	17,302	1,054	1,936	5.7	12.6
	Black	13,785	14,542	16,575	757	2,033	5.5	14.0
Quitman	Total	12,636	10,490	10,117	-2,146	-373	-17.0	-3.6
	White	5,530	4,249	3,083	-1,281	-1,166	-23.2	-27.4
	Black	7,074	6,134	6,942	-940	808	-13.3	13.2
Sharkey	Total	7,964	7,066	6,580	-898	-486	-11.3	-6.9
	White	2,700	2,352	1,932	-348	-420	-12.9	-17.9
	Black	5,229	4,691	4,561	-538	-130	-10.3	-2.8

Table 1. Continued

County	Race	Population			Numeric Change		Percentage Change	
		1980	1990	2000	1980-1990	1990-2000	1980-1990	1990-2000
Sunflower	Total	34,844	32,867	34,369	-1,977	1,502	-5.7	4.6
	White	13,052	11,614	9,927	-1,438	-1,687	-11.0	-14.5
	Black	21,611	21,079	24,010	-942	2,931	-2.5	13.9
Tallahatchie	Total	17,157	15,210	14,903	-1,947	-307	-11.3	-2.0
	White	7,252	6,269	5,904	-938	-365	-13.6	-5.8
	Black	9,823	8,881	8,857	-942	-24	-9.6	-0.3
Tate	Total	20,119	21,432	25,370	1,313	3,938	6.5	18.4
	White	12,339	13,975	17,211	1,636	3,236	13.3	23.2
	Black	7,735	7,418	7,870	-317	452	-4.1	6.1
Tunica	Total	9,652	8,164	9,227	-1,488	1,063	-15.4	13.0
	White	2,566	1,991	2,541	-575	550	-22.4	27.6
	Black	7,050	6,155	6,473	-895	318	-12.7	5.2
Warren	Total	51,627	47,880	49,644	-3,747	1,764	-7.3	3.7
	White	31,878	28,827	27,288	-3,051	-1,539	-9.6	-5.3
	Black	19,301	18,620	21,439	-681	2,819	-3.5	15.1
Washington	Total	72,344	67,935	62,977	-4,409	-4,958	-6.1	-7.3
	White	31,619	28,194	21,393	-3,425	-6,801	-10.8	-24.1
	Black	40,216	39,296	40,667	-920	1,371	-2.3	3.5
Yazoo	Total	27,349	25,506	28,149	-1,843	2,643	-6.7	10.4
	White	13,197	11,983	12,593	-1,214	610	-9.2	5.1
	Black	14,051	13,431	15,189	-620	1,758	-4.4	13.1
Delta	Total	509,384	490,221	537,869	-19,143	47,648	-3.6	9.7
	White	243,466	239,738	260,024	-3,728	20,286	-1.5	8.5
	Black	263,528	247,935	268,529	-15,593	20,594	-5.9	8.3
Mississippi	Total	2,520,638	2,573,216	2,844,658	52,578	271,442	2.1	10.5
	White	1,615,190	1,632,884	1,761,658	28,652	128,774	1.1	7.9
	Black	887,206	915,858	1,041,708	17,694	125,850	3.2	13.7

Percent change computed as $((t_2)/(t_1) - 1) * 100$. See Shryock & Siegel (1976: 213). Sources: For 1980 data, see Doolittle & Davis (1996a: 11, Table 1). For 1990 data, see U.S. Census Bureau. (American Factfinder, n.d. a). For 2000 data, see U.S. Census Bureau (2001a).

Table 2. Natural Increase in the Mississippi Delta, by Race, 1990 to 2000

County	White	Black	Both Races
Bolivar	2,126	2,258	4,384
Carroll	-147	141	-6
Coahoma	1,378	2,116	3,494
DeSoto	-2,603	938	-1,665
Holmes	736	1,358	2,094
Humphreys	910	701	1,611
Issaquena	-271	84	-187
Leflore	-700	2,359	1,659
Panola	-304	1,738	1,434
Quitman	-32	717	685
Sharkey	568	443	1,011
Sunflower	-934	1,984	1,050
Tallahatchie	927	903	1,830
Tate	107	560	667
Tunica	286	611	897
Warren	-7,041	1,581	-5,460
Washington	2,722	4,192	6,914
Yazoo	-424	1,322	898
Delta	-2,696	24,006	21,310
Mississippi	41,117	101,677	142,794

Natural increase was computed for blacks and whites for each county as

$$NatIncrease = \left(\sum_{1990}^{2000} births - \sum_{1990}^{2000} deaths \right)$$

SOURCE: Mortality data from U.S. Census Bureau. (American Factfinder, n.d. a). Natality data for 1995 to 1998 obtained Centers for Disease Control. (n.d. c). Natality data for 1990 to 1994 obtained from raw data provided by Haydel (2002). The data provided by Haydel are for whites and non-whites, unlike the rest of the data compiled. Natality data for 1999 obtained from Mississippi State Department of Health (2002a).

Table 3. Estimated Net Domestic Migration in the Mississippi Delta, by County and by Period

County	Net Migration		
	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-1999
Bolivar	-8,995	-8,756	-4,520
Carroll	-59	-870	580
Coahoma	-7,473	-8,666	-2,663
DeSoto	12,700	8,776	26,851
Holmes	-2,242	-3,728	-1,230
Humphreys	-2,054	-3,272	-1,658
Issaquena	-373	-842	-339
Leflore	-4,860	-7,445	-2,804
Panola	-2,125	-579	2,079
Quitman	-5,065	-3,114	-1,387
Sharkey	2,284	-1,774	-978
Sunflower	-6,445	-5,539	-3,853
Tallahatchie	-3,875	-3,487	-1,393
Tate	-300	-190	1,908
Tunica	-3,582	-2,489	-750
Warren	2,300	-7,492	-1,394
Washington	-7,390	-11,675	-8,490
Yazoo	-1,972	-3,919	-1,614
Delta (-)*	-52,226	-73,837	-28,506
Delta	-39,526	-65,061	-1,655
Mississippi	85,000	-144,096	44,639

*This is the Delta with DeSoto County excluded.

Source: For 1970-1980 and 1980-1990 data, Doolittle and Davis (1996a:13, Table 2). For 1990-1999 data, U.S. Census Bureau (2000a).

Table 4. Net Migration in the Mississippi Delta, by Race and by County, 1990 to 2000

County	White	Black	Both Races
Bolivar	-3,785	-2,230	-6,015
Carroll	1,325	144	1,469
Coahoma	-3,397	-1,435	-4,832
DeSoto	35,652	2,594	38,246
Holmes	-1,488	-747	-2,235
Humphreys	-1,721	-948	-2,669
Issaquena	264	267	531
Leflore	-2,347	658	-1,689
Panola	2,240	295	2,535
Quitman	-1,134	91	-1,043
Sharkey	-988	-573	-1561
Sunflower	-753	947	194
Tallahatchie	-1,292	-927	-2,219
Tate	3,129	-108	3,021
Tunica	264	-293	-29
Warren	5,502	1,238	6,740
Washington	-9,523	-2,821	-12,344
Yazoo	1,034	436	1,470
Delta	22,982	-3,412	19,570
Mississippi	87,657	24,173	111,830

Net migration was computed for blacks and whites for each county as

$$Popchange_{1990}^{2000} - \left(\sum_{1990}^{2000} births - \sum_{1990}^{2000} deaths \right) = NetMigration$$

SOURCE: Mortality data from Centers for Disease Control (n.d. a). Mortality data for 1999 accessed from Centers for Disease Control (n.d. b). Natality data for 1995 to 1998 obtained through Centers for Disease Control (n.d. c). Natality data for 1990 to 1994 obtained from raw data provided by Haydel (2002). The data provided by Haydel are for whites and non-whites, unlike the rest of the data compiled. Natality data for 1999 obtained from Mississippi State Department of Health (2002a).

Table 5. Dependency Ratios in the Mississippi Delta, by Race and by County, 1987, 1993, and 1999

County	Race	Dependency Ratios*		
		1987	1993	1999
Bolivar	White	52.5	52.1	47.4
	Black	91.1	79.8	64.5
Carroll	White	61.3	55.8	53.9
	Black	76.2	76.4	60.8
Coahoma	White	54.1	61.3	56.2
	Black	95.6	82.7	67.9
DeSoto	White	-	44.9	43.7
	Black	-	72.2	60.1
Holmes	White	55.8	67.4	64.1
	Black	87.1	80.3	65.8
Humphreys	White	58.4	58.1	56.1
	Black	92.5	83.8	69.6
Issaquena	White	54.4	51.2	49.3
	Black	81.9	77.0	59.5
Leflore	White	81.6	61.2	56.0
	Black	88.1	76.1	58.8
Panola	White	58.7	57.8	53.1
	Black	86.1	74.4	61.0
Quitman	White	58.6	64.4	57.7
	Black	95.3	82.1	65.2
Sharkey	White	61.6	62.4	59.9
	Black	88.1	79.9	65.1
Sunflower	White	53.6	53.7	47.7
	Black	76.7	71.3	51.8
Tallahatchie	White	60.6	62.0	58.6
	Black	92.1	78.1	63.6
Tate	White	51.3	51.0	48.1
	Black	74.1	68.1	57.0
Tunica	White	60.7	58.9	55.5
	Black	96.3	83.7	68.7
Warren	White	52.7	53.2	49.3
	Black	79.8	75.6	60.4
Washington	White	52.3	57.1	53.7
	Black	98.5	76.9	63.1
Yazoo	White	57.4	61.0	57.6
	Black	82.3	84.8	68.8
Delta	White	55.5	53.7	53.8
	Black	88.7	79.7	62.9
Mississippi	White	55.0	52.5	54.2
	Black	77.0	68.5	57.6

*The dependency ratio is the number of persons under 15 and over 64 for every 100 persons aged 15-64.
Source: For 1987 and 1993 data, Doolittle and Davis (1996a:4, Table 3). For 1999 data, U.S. Census Bureau (2000b).

Table 6. Number and Percent of Persons in the Mississippi Delta Eligible for Medicaid, by County, 1989, 1993, and 2000

County	Number Eligible			Percent of Population		
	1989	1993	2000	1989	1993	2000
Bolivar	14,918	15,256	14,438	35.2	36.4	35.5
Carroll	1,666	1,796	1,925	17.2	19.4	17.9
Coahoma	12,221	13,025	11,310	35.9	41.1	36.9
DeSoto	4,936	6,646	7,280	7.0	9.8	6.8
Holmes	9,310	9,779	9,496	41.2	45.3	43.9
Humphreys	4,011	4,566	4,366	29.9	37.6	39.0
Issaquena	594	636	552	27.0	33.3	24.3
Leflore	10,966	12,987	12,827	28.7	34.8	33.8
Panola	6,878	8,061	8,702	22.6	26.9	25.4
Quitman	3,947	4,181	3,844	36.2	39.9	38.0
Sharkey	2,853	2,799	2,730	39.6	39.6	41.5
Sunflower	9,992	11,053	10,872	28.0	33.6	31.6
Tallahatchie	5,286	5,412	4,674	31.5	35.6	31.4
Tate	3,641	3,967	3,991	16.5	18.5	15.7
Tunica	3,716	3,702	2,746	41.8	45.4	29.8
Warren	8,567	10,604	10,122	17.2	22.2	20.4
Washington	19,274	21,787	21,053	27.7	32.1	33.4
Yazoo	7,555	8,259	8,466	28.9	32.4	30.1
Delta	130,331	144,516	139,394	25.5	29.5	25.9
Mississippi	453,480	550,174	558,294	19.8	22.0	19.6

Source: For 2000 data, Mississippi Division of Medicaid (2000:64). For earlier data, refer to Doolittle and Davis (1996a:28, Table 16).

Table 7. Per Capita Income in the Mississippi Delta, by County, 1980, 1990, and 1999

County	Unstandardized		In 1999 \$		1999	Percent of MS Per Capita*		
	1980	1990	1980	1990		1980	1990	1999
Bolivar	5,593	10,898	11,308	13,891	17,219	79.0	82.8	83.2
Carroll	4,773	10,876	9,650	13,863	18,287	67.4	82.6	88.4
Coahoma	6,100	11,894	12,333	15,161	18,031	86.2	90.4	87.2
DeSoto	8,419	16,480	17,022	21,007	25,477	119.0	125.2	123.2
Holmes	4,635	9,301	9,371	11,856	13,617	65.5	70.7	65.8
Humphreys	5,088	11,747	10,287	14,974	17,054	71.9	89.2	82.4
Issaquena	3,508	10,549	7,093	13,447	13,894	49.6	80.1	67.2
Leflore	6,482	13,057	13,106	16,643	19,135	91.6	99.2	92.5
Panola	5,761	11,519	11,648	14,683	15,998	81.4	87.5	77.3
Quitman	5,431	10,378	10,981	13,229	15,305	76.8	78.8	74.0
Sharkey	4,802	11,022	9,709	14,049	13,069	67.9	83.7	63.2
Sunflower	5,464	9,836	11,047	12,538	14,593	77.2	74.7	70.5
Tallahatchie	5,322	9,470	10,760	12,071	14,287	75.2	71.9	69.1
Tate	7,079	13,049	14,313	16,633	21,369	100.0	99.1	103.3
Tunica	4,796	9,896	9,697	12,614	20,203	67.8	75.2	97.7
Warren	8,530	15,545	17,246	19,815	25,140	120.5	118.1	121.5
Washington	7,008	11,991	14,169	15,285	18,421	99.0	91.1	89.1
Yazoo	6,157	12,358	12,448	15,752	18,956	87.0	93.9	91.6
Delta**	5,529	11,271	11,178	14,366	17,625	78.1	85.6	85.2
Mississippi***	7,076	13,164	14,307	16,780	20,686	69.5	67.2	74.3
United States	10,183	19,584	20,588	24,963	27,859	-	-	-

* The percents computed were as a proportion of each county's PCI to the PCI for Mississippi for each given year.

** Arithmetic Mean value for all Delta Counties.

*** The ratios for Mississippi were computed as a proportion of the United States median income.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis (2002a). The BEA data used in this table reflect values before BEA revised them in April 2002, to be consistent with the 2000 Census.

Table 8. Median Household Income in the Mississippi Delta, by County, 1980, 1990, and 1997

County	Unstandardized			Standardized to 1999 Dollars			Percent to MS Mdn Household Income*		
	1980	1990	1997	1980	1990	1997	1980	1990	1997
Bolivar	9,128	14,020	21,110	18,455	17,871	21,912	82.3	79.7	74.0
Carroll	9,647	16,639	24,421	19,505	21,209	25,349	87.0	94.6	85.6
Coahoma	8,931	13,780	19,895	18,057	17,565	20,651	80.6	78.4	69.7
DeSoto	18,434	31,756	43,386	37,271	40,479	45,035	166.3	180.6	152.1
Holmes	7,030	9,845	15,307	14,214	12,549	15,889	63.4	56.0	53.7
Humphreys	7,913	12,696	18,014	15,999	16,183	18,699	71.4	72.2	63.1
Issaquena	9,167	13,005	19,249	18,534	16,577	19,981	82.7	74.0	67.5
Leflore	9,550	15,219	21,027	19,309	19,399	21,826	86.2	86.6	73.7
Panola	9,654	17,686	23,572	19,519	22,544	24,468	87.1	100.6	82.6
Quitman	8,157	13,730	18,118	16,492	17,501	18,807	73.6	78.1	63.5
Sharkey	8,250	13,304	17,245	16,680	16,958	17,900	74.4	75.7	60.5
Sunflower	9,622	14,431	19,878	19,454	18,395	20,633	86.8	82.1	69.7
Tallahatchie	7,900	13,593	18,628	15,973	17,327	19,336	71.3	77.3	65.3
Tate	12,109	22,207	30,911	24,483	28,307	32,086	109.2	126.3	108.4
Tunica	6,620	10,965	19,322	13,385	13,977	20,056	59.7	62.4	67.7
Warren	15,869	22,804	31,459	32,085	29,068	32,655	143.2	129.7	110.3
Washington	10,603	17,492	24,001	21,438	22,297	24,913	95.7	99.5	84.1
Yazoo	9,830	14,234	20,670	19,875	18,144	21,456	88.7	81.0	72.5
Delta**	9,912	15,967	22,567	20,040	20,353	23,425	89.4	90.8	79.1
Mississippi***	11,085	20,136	28,527	22,412	25,667	29,611	65.7	69.0	77.4
United States	33,374	35,225	37,005	34,095	37,190	38,276	-	-	-

* The Percentages were computed as a proportion of median income to that for Mississippi for each given year.

** Median value for all Delta Counties.

*** Ratios for Mississippi were computed as a proportion of the United States median income.

Source: For 1980 data, Saunders and El-Attar (1984). For 1990 data, U.S. Census bureau (n.d. b). Bureau of Economic Analysis (2002b). Numbers for the year 1997 and for the United States were obtained from U.S. Census Bureau (2000c). For U.S. numbers, refer to U.S. Census Bureau (1999:xx).

Table 9. Average Employee Weekly Earnings in the Mississippi Delta, by County, 1989, 1994, and 2000

County	Average Weekly Earnings (\$) in 1999			Percent of County to MS		
	Dollars					
	1989	1994	2000	1989	1994	2000
Bolivar	365	390	427	90.3	90.1	92.4
Carroll	297	326	349	73.5	75.3	75.5
Coahoma	359	408	423	88.9	94.2	91.6
DeSoto	423	447	469	104.7	103.2	101.5
Holmes	302	341	390	74.8	78.8	84.4
Humphreys	302	344	335	74.8	79.4	72.5
Issaquena	258	286	321	63.9	66.1	69.5
Leflore	356	390	410	88.1	90.1	88.7
Panola	360	389	415	89.1	89.8	89.8
Quitman	286	329	360	70.8	76.0	77.9
Sharkey	294	313	345	72.8	72.3	74.7
Sunflower	355	381	397	87.9	88.0	85.9
Tallahatchie	265	310	335	65.6	71.6	72.5
Tate	357	371	408	88.4	85.7	88.3
Tunica	289	404	428	71.5	93.3	92.6
Warren	403	416	450	99.8	96.1	97.4
Washington	384	413	436	95.0	95.4	94.4
Yazoo	394	414	438	97.5	95.6	94.8
Delta	336	371	396	83.2	85.7	85.7
Mississippi	404	433	462	-	-	-

Source: For 1989 and 1994 data, Doolittle and Davis (1996a:32, Table 19). For 1999 data, Mississippi Employment Security Commission (2001b).

Table 10. Total Population and Percent Below the Poverty Level in the Mississippi Delta, by County, 1980, 1990, and 1998

County	Population			Percent of Persons Below Poverty		
	1980	1990	1998	1980	1990	1998
Bolivar	45,965	41,875	40,318	39.2	41.0	28.3
Carroll	9,776	9,237	9,995	29.8	28.4	17.9
Coahoma	36,918	31,665	31,089	39.8	44.2	28.7
DeSoto	53,930	67,910	96,897	15.5	10.7	7.4
Holmes	22,970	21,604	21,522	45.8	52.1	33.0
Humphreys	13,931	12,134	11,344	44.4	45.2	32.0
Issaquena	2,513	1,909	1,629	36.5	49.2	31.3
Leflore	41,525	37,341	36,951	33.0	37.5	27.2
Panola	28,164	29,996	33,400	34.1	33.4	20.7
Quitman	12,636	10,490	9,914	41.2	41.1	28.6
Sharkey	7,964	7,066	6,650	43.7	46.8	34.4
Sunflower	34,844	32,867	34,577	36.4	37.3	32.0
Tallahatchie	17,157	15,210	14,893	43.3	41.6	27.2
Tate	20,119	21,432	23,923	24.4	21.6	14.6
Tunica	9,652	8,164	8,039	52.7	56.3	26.1
Warren	51,627	47,880	49,404	18.4	22.1	16.9
Washington	72,344	67,935	65,264	32.8	33.4	25.8
Yazoo	27,349	25,506	25,510	35.9	38.7	28.9
Delta	509,384	490,221	521,319	32.7	32.9	24.9
Mississippi	2,520,683	2,573,216	2,752,092	25.9	24.5	17.6

Source: For 1980 and 1990 data, Doolittle and Davis (1996a:33, Table 20). For 1998 data, U.S. Census Bureau (2001b).

Table 11. Total Youth Population and Percent Below the Poverty Level in the Mississippi Delta, by County, 1980, 1990, and 1998

County	Youth Population*			Percent of Youth Below Poverty		
	1980	1990	1998	1980	1990	1998
Bolivar	17,289	14,156	12,823	52.3	54.3	33.2
Carroll	3,083	2,640	2,687	35.5	37.3	27.6
Coahoma	13,357	10,819	10,235	52.6	46.1	34.5
DeSoto	19,383	19,625	26,567	19.9	13.9	11.2
Holmes	-	7,653	7,091	-	67.8	36.4
Humphreys	5,388	4,374	3,831	56.5	57.9	39.4
Issaquena	947	622	513	45.3	61.9	39.0
Leflore	14,101	12,119	11,124	45.9	52.9	33.0
Panola	9,839	9,618	10,198	43.0	44.9	26.6
Quitman	4,743	3,519	3,153	53.4	51.5	33.5
Sharkey	3,043	2,601	2,289	52.8	57.8	39.0
Sunflower	12,229	10,531	9,472	51.0	53.7	36.9
Tallahatchie	6,348	5,042	4,675	55.3	53.5	33.3
Tate	6,395	6,298	6,690	31.4	30.5	19.9
Tunica	3,907	3,100	2,876	63.8	66.2	30.2
Warren	16,786	14,294	14,059	24.3	29.2	24.1
Washington	26,429	23,294	20,942	42.6	44.5	32.6
Yazoo	9,381	8,321	7,873	49.8	52.1	35.6
Delta	172,648	158,626	157,098	46.0	44.7	31.4
Mississippi	747,371	746,761	756,500	30.4	33.3	23.9

* Population under 18 years of age.

Source: For 1980 and 1990 data, Doolittle and Davis (1996a:37, Table 24). For 1998 data, U.S. Census Bureau (2001c). For Mississippi 1990 data, U.S. Census Bureau, (American Factfinder, n.d.).

Table 12. High-School Graduation Rates for Mississippi Delta Counties, 1995 to 1996 and 1998 to 1999

County	Graduation Rates*	
	1995 to 1996	1998 to 1999
Bolivar	73.9	77.4
Carroll	57.6	79.1
Coahoma	57.4	66.1
DeSoto	72.5	77.3
Holmes	80.4	72.1
Humphreys	57.0	55.4
Issaquena**	55.8	67.9
Leflore	73.1	70.9
Panola	63.6	68.3
Quitman	58.4	74.0
Sharkey	55.8	67.9
Sunflower	76.9	65.6
Tallahatchie	61.4	85.9
Tate	75.8	80.5
Tunica	72.0	61.0
Warren	71.6	68.9
Washington	69.2	69.4
Yazoo	63.4	57.5
Delta	66.4	71.8
Mississippi	73.2	74.3

* "The graduation rate is calculated by dividing the number of graduates by the number of ninth grade students four years earlier. The ninth grade enrollment number has been adjusted to reflect the number of new students entering the system, the number moving out, the number failing, and the number of deaths. Students moving in or out of a district in the summer may not be included in the calculations. Please note, the drop-out rate is not the inverse of the graduation rate." From Office of Accountability and Reporting (n.d. c).

** Currently, Issaquena and Sharkey share one combined school district.

Source: For 1995 to 1996 data, Office of Accountability and Reporting (n.d. a). For 1998 to 1999 data, Office of Accountability and Reporting (n.d. b).

Table 13. Number of Enrollees, Dropouts, and the Drop-out Rate for Mississippi Delta Counties, 1989 to 1990 and 1998 to 1999

County	Enrollment		Dropouts		Dropout Rate*	
	1989-1990	1998-1999	1989-1990	1998-1999	1989-1990	1998-1999
Bolivar	9,644	8,866	197	106	1.9	1.2
Carroll	1,151	1,266	25	36	2.1	2.8
Coahoma	6,757	6,648	209	168	3.0	2.5
DeSoto	12,229	18,180	170	221	1.3	1.2
Holmes	4,945	4,812	62	116	1.2	2.4
Humphreys	2,472	2,475	72	101	2.7	4.1
Issaquena	2,144	1,628	42	24	1.9	1.5
Leflore	8,160	7,062	247	133	2.8	1.9
Panola	6,403	6,716	147	127	2.2	1.9
Quitman	2,233	1,722	49	28	2.1	1.6
Sharkey	2,144	1,628	42	24	1.9	1.5
Sunflower	7,067	6,439	177	168	2.4	2.6
Tallahatchie	3,315	3,092	86	72	2.4	2.3
Tate	4,548	4,675	78	90	1.6	1.9
Tunica	1,881	1,999	48	71	2.4	3.6
Warren	9,837	9,402	332	233	3.2	2.5
Washington	13,709	12,970	498	320	3.4	2.5
Yazoo	5,065	4,878	119	137	2.2	2.8
Delta	101,560	102,830	2,558	2,151	2.3	2.3
Mississippi	475,902	502,379	8,916	9,090	2.3	2.3

*Drop-out Rates computed as

$$\frac{\sum_{1998}^{1999} \text{dropouts}}{\sum_{1998}^{1999} \text{enrollment}} \times 100$$

Note: Drop-out rates are not the inverse of graduation rates.
 Source: For 1998 to 1999 data, Office of Accountability and Reporting (n.d. b). For earlier data, refer to Social Science Research Center (1992).

Table 14. Percentage of Mississippi Delta Residents Favoring More Government Spending on Specified Programs, by Race, 1988, 1994, and 1999, and Results of a National Survey, 2000

Spending Program	Total				Whites				Blacks			
	D & D ^a		DS ^b	GSS ^c	D & D ^a		DS ^b	GSS ^c	D & D ^a		DS ^b	GSS ^c
	1988	1994	1999	2000	1988	1994	1999	2000	1988	1994	1999	2000
Environmental Programs	57	57	47	63	-	51	40	63	-	70	58	66
Programs For The Poor	65	58	63	21	47	42	46	18	90	80	88	38
Public Grade And High Schools	78	87	79	72	71	77	75	72	87	97	86	79
Streets And Highways	78	70	64	36	73	68	56	36	86	71	74	36
Police Forces	61	70	70	52	-	70	70	51	-	74	71	60
Public Colleges And Universities	74	76	64	-	63	64	52	-	88	89	81	-
Health Care And Hospitals	74	76	78	73	65	57	67	73	86	95	93	81
Industrial Growth And Development	76	72	67	-	73	75	61	-	81	66	77	-
Encouraging Tourism	43	61	53	37	-	63	49	34	-	56	58	52
Child DayCare Facilities	59	67	62	-	38	50	52	-	83	84	77	-
Government Spending by Race and Period (Average)	67	69	65	-	43	62	57	-	60	78	76	-

Key: (a) Doolittle and Davis (1996a:9, Table 8); (b) Delta Study 1999; (c) National sample from the General Social Survey (n.d.). The GSS questions roughly compare to the questions asked of Delta Survey participants. For example, respondents in the GSS were asked if they thought the country was spending too little, about right, or too much on specific programs.

Table 15. Total Population, Size of Labor Force, and Percent of Population in Labor Force in the Mississippi Delta, by County, 1987, 1993, and 2000

County	Total Population			Size of Labor Force			Labor Force as Percent of Population		
	1987	1993	2000	1987	1993	2000	1987	1993	2000
Bolivar	43,500	41,520	40,633	15,390	18,140	17,400	35.4	44.0	42.8
Carroll	9,800	9,300	10,769	2,990	4,030	4,620	30.5	43.6	42.9
Coahoma	34,800	31,140	30,622	11,970	11,970	12,060	34.4	38.9	39.4
DeSoto	65,300	75,150	107,199	34,740	38,520	57,470	53.2	51.4	53.6
Holmes	22,400	21,210	21,609	7,010	7,260	7,210	31.3	34.5	33.4
Humphreys	13,500	11,860	11,206	4,780	5,360	5,110	35.4	45.5	45.6
Issaquena	2,200	1,850	2,274	780	970	690	35.5	52.8	30.3
Leflore	39,100	37,170	37,947	16,030	15,580	16,230	41.0	42.1	42.8
Panola	30,000	31,490	34,274	11,660	12,920	13,270	38.9	41.3	38.7
Quitman	11,100	9,840	10,117	3,410	4,150	3,490	30.7	42.5	34.5
Sharkey	7,200	6,950	6,580	2,880	3,360	2,550	40.0	49.0	38.8
Sunflower	36,300	33,640	34,369	14,420	12,300	11,560	39.7	36.6	33.6
Tallahatchie	16,100	14,640	14,903	5,420	5,990	5,610	33.7	41.3	37.6
Tate	21,800	21,950	25,370	9,280	10,170	10,610	42.6	46.5	41.8
Tunica	9,000	7,900	9,227	2,680	3,880	4,260	29.8	49.5	46.2
Warren	50,700	48,050	49,644	23,320	23,570	27,160	46.0	49.4	54.7
Washington	70,400	66,110	62,977	28,960	27,520	27,750	41.1	41.9	44.1
Yazoo	26,700	25,160	28,149	9,760	9,850	9,960	36.6	39.5	35.4
Delta	509,900	494,930	537,869	205,480	215,540	237,010	40.3	43.8	44.1
Mississippi	2,646,200	2,573,216	2,844,658	1,151,000	1,212,000	1,326,400	43.5	47.3	46.6

Source: For 1987 data, Doolittle and Davis (1996a:20, Table 9). Data from Doolittle and Davis (1996a:24-25, Table 13) was aggregated for 1993 data. For 2000 population data, U.S. Census Bureau (2001a). For 2000 labor data, Mississippi Employment Security Commission (2001c).

Table 16. Total Population, Size of Labor Force, and Percent of Population in Labor Force in the Mississippi Delta, by Gender and by County, 1987, 1993, and 2000

County	Gender	Population			Labor Force			Labor Force as Percent of Population		
		1987	1993	2000	1987	1993	2000	1987	1993	2000
Bolivar	Male	20,730	19,110	19,000	8,280	9,030	8,680	39.9	47.3	45.7
	Female	23,480	22,410	21,633	7,110	9,110	8,720	30.3	40.7	40.3
Carroll	Male	4,530	4,460	5,364	1,750	2,250	2,580	38.6	50.4	48.1
	Female	4,890	4,840	5,405	1,240	1,780	2,040	25.4	36.8	37.7
Coahoma	Male	16,480	14,170	14,065	6,700	6,180	6,240	40.7	43.6	44.4
	Female	18,730	16,970	16,557	5,270	5,790	5,820	28.1	34.1	35.2
DeSoto	Male	31,330	37,000	53,068	20,980	21,460	32,060	67.0	58.0	60.4
	Female	32,100	38,150	54,131	13,760	17,060	25,410	42.9	44.7	46.9
Holmes	Male	10,950	9,800	10,069	3,750	3,680	3,640	34.2	37.6	36.2
	Female	12,350	11,410	11,540	3,260	3,580	3,570	26.4	31.4	30.9
Humphreys	Male	6,550	5,530	5,228	2,630	2,770	2,660	40.2	50.1	50.9
	Female	7,290	6,330	5,978	2,150	2,590	2,450	29.5	40.9	41.0
Issaquena	Male	1,040	900	1,209	500	590	420	48.1	65.6	34.7
	Female	1,100	950	1,065	280	380	270	25.5	40.0	25.4
Leflore	Male	19,430	17,210	18,233	3,430	7,750	8,080	43.4	45.0	44.3
	Female	22,360	19,960	19,714	7,600	7,830	8,150	34.0	39.2	41.3
Panola	Male	14,440	14,920	16,408	6,760	6,890	7,060	46.8	46.2	43.0
	Female	15,450	16,570	17,866	4,900	6,030	6,210	31.7	36.4	34.8
Quitman	Male	5,250	4,580	4,691	1,960	2,120	1,790	37.3	46.3	38.2
	Female	5,680	5,260	5,426	1,450	2,030	1,700	25.5	38.6	31.3
Sharkey	Male	3,720	3,210	3,093	1,710	1,830	1,390	46.0	57.0	44.9
	Female	4,070	3,740	3,487	1,170	1,530	1,160	28.7	40.9	33.3
Sunflower	Male	18,830	16,870	18,450	8,000	6,220	5,870	42.5	36.9	31.8
	Female	18,820	16,770	15,919	6,420	6,080	5,690	34.1	36.3	35.7
Tallahatchie	Male	7,610	6,900	6,967	3,150	3,240	3,040	41.4	47.0	43.6
	Female	8,410	7,740	7,936	2,270	2,750	2,570	27.0	35.5	32.4
Tate	Male	10,540	10,570	12,272	5,330	5,500	5,750	50.6	52.0	46.9
	Female	11,240	11,380	13,098	3,950	4,670	4,860	35.1	41.0	37.1
Tunica	Male	4,300	3,690	4,399	1,680	2,010	2,220	39.1	54.5	50.5
	Female	4,710	4,210	4,828	1,000	1,870	2,040	21.2	44.4	42.3
Warren	Male	24,540	22,690	23,275	13,320	12,550	14,480	54.3	55.3	62.2
	Female	27,020	25,360	26,369	10,000	11,020	12,680	37.0	43.5	48.1
Washington	Male	33,460	30,900	29,432	15,800	14,060	14,190	47.2	45.5	48.2
	Female	37,730	35,210	33,545	13,160	13,460	13,560	34.9	38.2	40.4
Yazoo	Male	12,720	11,770	14,321	5,560	5,270	5,330	43.7	44.8	37.2
	Female	14,110	13,390	13,828	4,200	4,580	4,630	29.8	34.2	33.5
Delta	Male	246,450	234,280	259,544	116,290	113,400	125,480	47.2	48.4	48.3
	Female	269,540	260,650	278,325	89,190	102,140	111,530	33.1	39.2	40.1
Mississippi	Male	1,275,710	1,229,659	1,373,554	648,840	644,500	705,900	50.9	52.4	51.4
	Female	1,370,510	1,343,557	1,471,104	502,160	567,500	620,500	36.6	42.2	42.2

Source: For 1987 and 1993 data, Doolittle and Davis (1996a:24-25, Table 13). For 2000 population data, U.S. Census Bureau (2001a). For 2000 labor data, Mississippi Employment Security Commission (2001a).

Table 17. Total Population, Size of the Labor Force, and Percent of Population in Labor Force in the Mississippi Delta, by Race and by County, 1987, 1993, and 2000

County	Race	Population			Labor Force			Labor Force as a Percent of Population		
		1987	1993	2000	1987	1993	2000	1987	1993	2000
Bolivar	White	16,380	15,130	13,507	7,200	8,590	8,340	44.0	56.8	61.7
	Nonwhite	27,830	26,390	26,458	8,190	9,550	9,060	29.4	36.2	34.2
Carroll	White	5,150	5,600	6,749	1,830	2,860	3,260	35.5	51.1	48.3
	Nonwhite	4,270	3,700	3,942	1,160	1,170	1,360	27.2	31.6	34.5
Coahoma	White	12,510	10,820	8,965	5,500	5,660	5,800	44.0	52.3	64.7
	Nonwhite	22,700	20,320	21,192	6,470	6,310	6,260	28.5	31.1	29.5
DeSoto	White	51,890	65,140	91,950	31,310	34,670	51,860	60.3	53.2	56.4
	Nonwhite	11,540	10,010	12,216	4,430	3,850	5,610	38.4	38.5	45.9
Holmes	White	6,670	5,080	4,424	2,600	2,500	2,270	39.0	49.2	51.3
	Nonwhite	16,530	16,130	16,997	4,410	4,760	4,940	26.7	29.5	29.1
Humphreys	White	4,740	3,770	3,045	2,130	1,970	1,900	44.9	52.3	62.4
	Nonwhite	9,100	8,090	8,013	2,650	3,390	3,210	29.1	41.9	40.1
Issaquena	White	950	810	826	430	490	340	45.3	60.5	41.2
	Nonwhite	1,190	1,040	1,427	350	480	350	29.4	46.2	24.5
Leflore	White	1,681	14,450	11,384	7,990	7,660	7,970	47.5	53.0	70.0
	Nonwhite	24,980	22,720	25,701	8,040	7,920	8,260	32.2	34.9	32.1
Panola	White	15,210	16,140	17,302	6,630	7,370	7,550	43.6	45.7	43.6
	Nonwhite	14,680	15,350	16,575	5,030	5,550	5,720	34.3	36.2	34.5
Quitman	White	4,780	3,990	3,083	1,760	2,090	1,780	36.8	52.4	57.7
	Nonwhite	6,150	5,850	6,942	1,650	2,060	1,710	26.8	35.2	24.6
Sharkey	White	2,670	2,300	1,932	1,100	1,440	1,090	41.2	62.6	56.4
	Nonwhite	-	4,650	4,561	-	1,920	1,460	-	41.3	32.0
Sunflower	White	14,140	11,880	9,927	6,840	5,360	5,110	48.4	45.1	51.5
	Nonwhite	23,510	21,760	24,010	7,580	6,940	6,450	32.2	31.9	26.9
Tallahatchie	White	6,780	6,020	5,904	2,690	2,940	2,740	39.7	48.8	46.4
	Nonwhite	9,240	8,620	8,857	2,730	3,050	2,870	29.5	35.4	32.4
Tate	White	13,300	14,280	17,211	6,200	7,040	7,370	46.6	49.3	42.8
	Nonwhite	8,480	7,670	7,870	3,080	3,150	3,240	36.3	40.8	41.2
Tunica	White	2,420	1,930	2,541	960	1,320	1,460	39.7	68.4	57.5
	Nonwhite	6,590	5,970	6,473	1,720	2,560	2,800	26.1	42.9	43.3
Warren	White	31,820	28,980	21,439	15,430	15,790	18,420	48.5	54.5	85.9
	Nonwhite	19,740	19,070	27,288	7,890	7,780	8,740	40.0	40.8	32.0
Washington	White	31,000	27,550	21,393	15,100	13,670	13,840	48.7	49.6	64.7
	Nonwhite	40,190	38,540	40,667	13,860	13,850	13,910	34.5	35.9	34.2
Yazoo	White	12,980	11,790	12,593	5,570	5,520	5,580	42.9	46.8	44.3
	Nonwhite	13,850	13,370	15,189	4,190	4,330	4,380	30.3	32.4	28.8
Delta	White	250,200	245,680	254,175	121,270	127,120	155,950	48.5	51.7	61.4
	Nonwhite	265,690	249,250	274,378	85,210	88,600	93,270	32.1	35.5	34.0
Mississippi	White	1,708,770	1,688,870	1,746,099	798,440	841,800	923,900	46.7	51.6	52.9
	Nonwhite	937,450	960,120	1,033,809	352,560	370,200	402,500	37.6	39.4	38.9

Source: For 1987 and 1993 data, Doolittle and Davis (1996a:22, Table 11). For 2000 population data, U.S. Census Bureau (2001a). For 2000 labor data, Mississippi Employment Security Commission (2001a).

Table 18. Number Employed, Number Unemployed, and Unemployment Rate in the Mississippi Delta, by County, 1987, 1993, and 2000

County	Number in Labor Force			Number Unemployed			Unemployment Rate*		
	1987	1993	2000	1987	1993	2000	1987	1993	2000
Bolivar	15,390	18,140	17,400	1,920	1,788	1,420	12.5	9.7	8.2
Carroll	2,990	4,030	4,620	340	243	330	11.4	5.7	7.1
Coahoma	11,970	11,970	12,060	1,810	1,304	1,180	15.1	10.9	9.8
DeSoto	34,740	38,520	57,470	210	1,869	1,630	6.0	4.7	2.8
Holmes	7,010	7,260	7,210	1,310	755	1,520	18.7	10.6	21.1
Humphreys	4,780	5,360	5,110	740	557	600	15.5	10.5	11.7
Issaquena	780	970	690	150	113	110	19.2	12.9	15.9
Leflore	16,030	15,580	16,230	2,200	1,531	1,760	13.7	9.6	10.8
Panola	11,660	12,920	13,270	1,480	1,257	1,280	12.7	9.5	9.6
Quitman	3,410	4,150	3,490	620	455	360	18.2	11.5	10.3
Sharkey	2,880	3,360	2,550	870	390	370	30.2	12.0	14.5
Sunflower	14,420	12,300	11,560	1,770	1,390	1,270	12.3	11.4	11.0
Tallahatchie	5,420	5,990	5,610	740	618	660	13.7	10.5	11.8
Tate	9,280	10,170	10,610	880	721	620	9.5	6.9	5.8
Tunica	2,680	3,880	4,260	490	327	350	18.3	9.5	8.2
Warren	23,320	23,570	27,160	2,960	1,845	1,360	12.7	7.8	5.0
Washington	28,960	27,520	27,750	4,270	2,934	2,770	14.7	10.5	10.0
Yazoo	9,760	9,850	9,960	1,180	801	910	12.1	8.2	9.1
Delta	205,480	215,540	237,010	23,940	20,825	18,500	11.7	9.6	10.2
Mississippi	1,151,000	1,212,000	1,326,400	117,000	78,300	75,300	10.2	6.4	5.7

The unemployment rate is the number unemployed divided by the number in the labor force.

Source: For 1987 and 1993 data, Doolittle and Davis (1996a:21, Table 10). For 2000 population data, U.S. Census Bureau (2001a). For 2000 labor data, Mississippi Employment Security Commission (2001c).

Table 19. Number Employed, Number Unemployed, and Unemployment Rate in the Mississippi Delta, by Race and by County, 1987, 1993, and 2000

County	Race	Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate*		
		1987	1993	2000	1987	1993	2000	1987	1993	2000
Bolivar	White	6,190	8,370	8,170	290	220	170	4.0	2.6	2.0
	Nonwhite	6,560	8,000	7,810	1,630	1,550	1,250	19.9	16.2	13.8
Carroll	White	1,700	2,770	3,140	130	90	120	7.1	3.1	3.7
	Nonwhite	950	1,010	1,150	210	160	210	18.1	13.7	15.4
Coahoma	White	5,260	5,440	5,610	240	220	190	4.4	3.9	3.3
	Nonwhite	4,900	5,110	5,270	1,570	1,200	990	24.3	19.0	15.8
DeSoto	White	28,790	33,450	50,620	1,520	1,220	1,240	5.0	3.5	2.4
	Nonwhite	3,850	3,450	5,220	580	400	390	13.1	10.4	7.0
Holmes	White	2,440	2,440	2,160	160	60	110	6.2	2.4	4.8
	Nonwhite	3,260	3,990	3,530	1,150	770	1,410	26.1	16.2	28.5
Humphreys	White	2,070	1,880	1,820	60	90	80	2.8	4.6	4.2
	Nonwhite	1,970	2,770	2,690	680	620	520	25.7	18.3	16.2
Issaquena	White	380	450	310	50	40	30	11.6	8.2	8.8
	Nonwhite	250	370	270	100	110	80	28.6	22.9	22.9
Leflore	White	7,610	7,350	7,640	380	310	330	4.8	4.0	4.1
	Nonwhite	6,220	6,570	6,830	1,820	1,350	1,430	22.6	17.0	17.3
Panola	White	6,110	6,990	7,130	520	380	420	7.8	5.2	5.6
	Nonwhite	4,070	4,760	4,860	960	790	860	19.1	14.2	15.0
Quitman	White	1,590	6,990	1,730	170	70	50	9.7	3.3	2.8
	Nonwhite	1,200	1,650	1,400	450	410	310	27.3	19.9	18.1
Sharkey	White	970	1,370	1,040	130	70	50	11.8	4.9	4.6
	Nonwhite	-	1,500	1,140	-	420	320	-	21.9	21.9
Sunflower	White	6,560	5,140	4,930	280	220	180	4.1	4.1	3.5
	Nonwhite	6,090	5,590	5,360	1,490	1,350	1,090	19.7	19.5	16.9
Tallahatchie	White	2,450	2,780	2,580	240	160	160	8.9	5.4	5.8
	Nonwhite	2,230	2,530	2,370	500	520	500	18.3	17.0	17.4

continued

Table 19. Continued

County	Race	Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate*		
		1987	1993	2000	1987	1993	2000	1987	1993	2000
Tate	White	5,790	6,730	7,090	410	310	280	6.6	4.4	3.8
	Nonwhite	2,610	2,750	2,900	470	380	340	15.3	12.2	10.5
Tunica	White	920	1,300	1,440	40	20	20	4.2	1.5	1.4
	Nonwhite	1,270	2,200	2,470	450	340	330	26.2	13.3	11.8
Warren	White	14,150	15,150	17,910	1,280	640	510	8.3	4.1	2.8
	Nonwhite	6,210	6,680	7,890	1,680	1,100	850	21.3	14.1	9.7
Washington	White	13,880	13,270	13,440	1,220	400	400	8.1	2.9	2.9
	Nonwhite	10,810	11,390	11,540	3,050	2,460	2,370	22.0	17.8	17.0
Yazoo	White	5,320	5,290	5,340	250	230	240	4.5	4.2	4.3
	Nonwhite	3,260	3,690	3,710	930	640	670	22.2	14.8	15.3
Delta	White	112,900	122,410	142,100	7,370	4,750	4,580	6.1	3.7	3.4
	Nonwhite	66,750	73,110	76,140	18,460	14,570	31,500	21.7	16.4	16.1
Mississippi	White	743,450	809,600	892,400	54,990	32,200	31,500	6.9	3.8	3.4
	Nonwhite	290,550	325,400	358,700	62,010	44,800	43,800	17.6	12.1	10.9

*The Unemployment Rate is the number unemployed divided by the number in the labor force.
Source: For 1987 and 1993 data, Doolittle and Davis (1996a:23, Table 12). For 2000 labor data, Mississippi Employment Security Commission (2001a).

Table 20. Number Employed, Number Unemployed, and Unemployment Rate in the Mississippi Delta, by Gender and by County, 1987, 1993, and 2000

County	Gender	Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate*		
		1987	1993	2000	1987	1993	2000	1987	1993	2000
Bolivar	Male	7,340	8,260	8,060	940	770	620	11.4	8.5	7.1
	Female	6,130	8,110	7,920	980	1,000	800	13.8	11.0	9.2
Carroll	Male	1,590	2,120	2,410	160	130	170	9.1	5.8	6.6
	Female	1,060	1,660	1,880	180	120	160	14.5	6.7	7.8
Coahoma	Male	5,850	5,510	5,680	850	670	560	12.7	10.8	9.0
	Female	4,310	5,040	5,200	960	750	620	18.2	13.0	10.7
DeSoto	Male	19,910	20,640	31,240	1,070	820	820	5.1	3.8	2.6
	Female	12,760	16,260	24,600	1,030	800	810	7.5	4.7	3.2
Holmes	Male	3,090	3,270	2,890	660	410	750	17.6	11.1	20.6
	Female	2,610	3,160	2,800	650	420	770	19.9	11.7	21.6
Humphreys	Male	2,270	2,540	2,460	360	230	200	13.7	8.3	7.5
	Female	1,770	2,110	2,050	380	480	400	17.7	18.5	16.3
Issaquena	Male	400	490	350	100	100	70	20.0	16.9	16.7
	Female	230	330	230	50	50	40	17.9	13.2	14.8
Leflore	Male	7,550	7,120	7,410	880	630	670	10.4	8.1	8.3
	Female	6,280	6,800	7,060	1,320	1,030	1,090	17.4	13.2	13.4
Panola	Male	6,000	6,390	6,520	760	500	540	11.2	7.3	7.6
	Female	4,180	5,360	5,470	720	670	740	14.7	11.1	11.9
Quitman	Male	1,630	1,910	1,630	330	210	160	16.8	9.9	8.9
	Female	1,160	1,760	1,500	290	270	200	10.0	13.3	11.8
Sharkey	Male	1,170	1,560	1,190	540	270	200	31.6	14.8	14.4
	Female	840	1,310	990	330	220	170	28.2	14.4	14.7
Sunflower	Male	7,120	5,600	5,370	880	620	500	11.0	10.0	8.5
	Female	5,530	5,130	4,920	890	950	770	13.9	15.6	13.5
Tallahatchie	Male	2,730	2,920	2,730	360	320	310	11.4	9.9	10.2
	Female	1,890	2,390	2,220	380	360	350	16.7	13.1	13.6
Tate	Male	4,910	5,210	5,490	420	290	260	7.9	5.3	4.5
	Female	3,490	4,270	4,500	460	400	360	11.6	8.6	7.4
Tunica	Male	1,410	1,870	2,080	270	140	140	16.1	7.0	6.3
	Female	780	1,650	1,830	220	220	210	22.0	11.8	10.3
Warren	Male	11,850	11,690	13,810	1,470	860	670	11.0	6.9	4.6
	Female	8,510	10,140	11,990	1,490	880	690	14.9	8.0	5.4
Washington	Male	10,040	12,890	13,060	1,800	1,170	1,130	11.4	8.3	8.0
	Female	10,690	11,770	11,920	2,470	1,690	1,640	18.8	12.6	12.1
Yazoo	Male	5,110	4,900	4,940	450	370	390	8.1	7.0	7.3
	Female	3,470	4,080	4,110	730	500	520	17.4	10.9	11.2
Delta	Male	103,990	104,890	117,320	12,300	8,510	8,160	10.6	7.5	8.8
	Female	75,690	91,330	101,190	13,530	10,810	10,340	15.2	10.6	11.6
Mississippi	Male	588,350	608,700	705,900	60,490	35,800	35,000	9.3	5.6	5.0
	Female	445,650	526,300	620,500	56,510	41,200	40,300	11.3	7.3	6.5

*The Unemployment Rate is the number unemployed divided by the number in the labor force.

Source: For 1987 and 1993 data, Doolittle and Davis (1996a:26, Table 14). For 2000 labor data, Mississippi Employment Security Commission (2001a).

Table 21. Teen Pregnancy Rates in the Mississippi Delta, by Race, by County, and by Year, 1990 through 1999

County	Race	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Bolivar	White	32.0	35.3	32.8	24.6	23.0	34.3	30.5	30.5	28.9	24.3
	Nonwhite	83.7	82.0	65.8	76.0	67.1	74.7	69.3	64.0	68.5	64.6
Carroll	White	20.2	20.2	27.8	20.2	22.7	7.1	21.4	11.9	33.7	18.6
	Nonwhite	60.9	40.6	48.2	50.8	48.2	50.2	47.7	45.2	29.1	22.2
Coahoma	White	36.6	42.7	44.2	22.9	38.1	23.6	29.5	13.3	25.4	26.0
	Nonwhite	73.9	89.8	80.8	88.6	91.6	85.8	82.4	74.3	87.1	73.9
DeSoto	White	41.2	41.2	43.2	38.2	31.3	31.3	33.7	23.1	28.4	26.7
	Nonwhite	63.8	90.7	76.1	78.4	76.1	50.7	56.8	39.4	40.4	47.3
Holmes	White	22.2	33.2	22.2	33.2	24.9	30.2	23.5	6.7	8.6	14.6
	Nonwhite	74.8	74.3	71.4	71.4	70.3	77.3	68.0	63.4	64.8	65.5
Humphreys	White	62.5	58.3	50.0	25.0	25.0	22.6	13.6	22.6	34.5	35.7
	Nonwhite	61.6	88.9	74.1	63.8	60.4	41.9	59.1	49.5	71.6	80.5
Issaquena	White	62.5	46.9	15.6	31.1	31.2	18.9	18.9	18.9	20.0	-
	Nonwhite	45.4	72.7	63.6	54.8	81.8	53.1	35.4	44.2	85.1	88.9
Leflore	White	47.6	48.7	31.0	35.4	25.5	44.2	36.5	23.2	34.7	34.7
	Nonwhite	82.3	81.5	93.2	87.6	96.0	84.4	88.5	73.1	78.8	73.1
Panola	White	54.9	44.0	52.9	45.0	59.9	43.4	40.0	36.6	35.6	42.6
	Nonwhite	69.2	75.3	85.0	86.8	73.5	69.7	66.2	61.6	56.2	54.2
Quitman	White	67.9	45.3	67.9	34.0	18.9	55.6	22.2	38.9	4.3	26.9
	Nonwhite	87.9	103.9	86.6	77.2	73.2	75.4	87.5	70.9	68.3	72.2
Sharkey	White	31.8	12.7	63.7	12.7	63.7	19.5	13.0	26.0	-	7.6
	Nonwhite	70.0	83.6	63.4	68.2	75.1	91.4	65.8	60.3	67.3	69.1
Sunflower	White	39.1	45.0	47.7	31.8	36.7	36.6	32.2	27.8	26.0	19.3
	Nonwhite	93.0	91.7	87.0	78.7	77.4	75.2	76.5	69.7	75.1	79.6
Tallahatchie	White	72.5	45.2	24.2	16.9	48.3	55.9	46.6	28.0	34.3	20.8
	Nonwhite	84.3	91.7	97.2	91.3	77.4	57.1	63.1	62.1	54.2	58.1
Tate	White	29.8	50.7	33.4	30.6	26.2	42.3	49.2	32.4	22.6	27.5
	Nonwhite	64.5	80.4	57.3	45.4	59.7	61.4	78.9	60.2	46.1	52.8
Tunica	White	53.0	50.0	22.7	30.3	7.6	12.1	36.4	42.4	25.6	63.1
	Nonwhite	89.1	93.1	75.8	58.5	75.8	84.8	77.9	62.6	70.3	57.8
Warren	White	37.6	48.1	29.1	37.6	37.1	38.4	24.5	31.7	37.1	33.1
	Nonwhite	68.4	65.0	76.9	78.4	79.9	72.0	73.5	69.6	70.4	67.4
Washington	White	46.0	44.4	30.8	40.4	31.3	34.6	36.6	24.5	25.2	26.7
	Nonwhite	-	-	-	-	-	77.6	77.2	75.8	76.3	75.1
Yazoo	White	49.4	40.3	27.3	39.0	41.6	40.2	28.9	27.6	45.3	36.4
	Nonwhite	84.5	90.8	88.7	97.2	85.2	92.1	70.1	88.8	79.7	77.3
Delta	White	44.8	41.8	37.0	30.5	32.9	32.8	29.8	25.9	26.1	26.9
	Nonwhite	69.9	76.7	71.7	69.6	70.5	70.8	69.1	63.0	66.1	65.5
Mississippi	White	39.0	39.2	36.0	34.2	34.0	34.5	32.8	31.9	32.8	32.1
	Nonwhite	69.1	70.7	69.8	70.6	69.3	67.5	65.7	62.6	60.5	59.8

*Pregnancy Rate = Live Births + Fetal Deaths + Induced Terminations per 1,000 female population ages 10-19.

Source: For years 1995 through 1999, Mississippi State Department of Health (2002b). For years preceding 1995, Doolittle and Davis (1996a:29, Table 17).

Table 22. Average Teen Pregnancy Rates in the Mississippi Delta, by Race and by County, 1983 to 1987, 1988 to 1994, and 1995 to 1999

County	Race	1983-1987	1988-1994	1995-1999
Bolivar	White	40.2	31.9	29.7
	Nonwhite	81.5	79.4	68.2
Carroll	White	20.8	24.4	18.5
	Nonwhite	45.7	46.1	38.9
Coahoma	White	33.5	35.2	23.6
	Nonwhite	83.6	85.2	80.7
DeSoto	White	36.0	39.2	28.6
	Nonwhite	46.7	68.7	46.9
Holmes	White	35.0	30.3	16.7
	Nonwhite	74.4	72.2	67.8
Humphreys	White	44.1	47.4	25.8
	Nonwhite	80.3	72.2	60.5
Issaquena	White	20.8	38.1	15.3
	Nonwhite	58.9	54.5	61.3
Leflore	White	44.4	45.6	34.7
	Nonwhite	72.3	83.5	79.6
Panola	White	39.7	53.8	39.6
	Nonwhite	68.2	70.0	61.6
Quitman	White	45.4	51.0	29.6
	Nonwhite	77.0	81.9	74.9
Sharkey	White	35.8	37.5	13.2
	Nonwhite	91.4	76.3	70.8
Sunflower	White	26.5	39.0	28.4
	Nonwhite	87.4	88.7	75.2
Tallahatchie	White	26.5	42.6	37.1
	Nonwhite	86.4	89.4	58.9
Tate	White	40.4	34.5	34.8
	Nonwhite	50.2	60.9	59.9
Tunica	White	30.8	36.7	35.9
	Nonwhite	79.4	75.9	70.7
Warren	White	27.4	36.9	33.0
	Nonwhite	67.6	68.8	70.6
Washington	White	35.6	41.2	29.5
	Nonwhite	76.3	80.8	76.4
Yazoo	White	36.5	37.8	35.7
	Nonwhite	77.2	87.2	81.6
Delta	White	36.9	38.2	28.3
	Nonwhite	78.7	72.9	66.9
Mississippi	White	33.9	37.0	32.8
	Nonwhite	63.4	68.0	63.2

Source: For years 1995 through 1999, Mississippi State Department of Health (2002b). For years preceding 1995, Doolittle and Davis (1996a:29, Table 17).

Table 23. Infant Mortality Rates* in the Mississippi Delta and in Mississippi, by Race and by County, 1991 to 1995 and 1996 to 2000

County	1991-1995			1996-2000			Change in Rates 1991-1995 and 1996-2000		
	Total	White	Non-White	Total	White	Non-White	Total	White	Non-White
Bolivar	12.6	7.6	14.0	12.3	6.3	14.1	-0.3	-1.3	0.1
Carroll	13.6	8.4	18.2	5.8	3.4	9.0	-7.8	-5.0	-9.2
Coahoma	19.6	6.6	22.7	13.8	5.6	15.5	-5.8	-1.0	-7.2
DeSoto	8.2	6.6	16.6	9.9	7.4	25.1	1.7	0.8	8.5
Holmes	13.4	-	15.1	15.9	4.2	17.5	2.5	-	2.4
Humphreys	13.2	13.8	13.0	10.1	5.2	11.3	-3.1	-8.6	-1.7
Issaquena	14.2	25.0	9.9	9.2	-	12.5	-5.0	-	2.6
Leflore	16.5	8.4	19.0	12.0	7.5	13.2	-4.5	-0.9	-5.8
Panola	16.0	8.1	20.4	16.5	10.2	20.4	0.5	2.1	0.0
Quitman	12.8	4.3	15.3	8.0	6.1	8.4	-4.8	1.8	-6.9
Sharkey	7.2	17.2	5.2	3.4	-	4.2	-3.8	-	-1.0
Sunflower	11.9	1.7	14.5	14.0	5.4	16.2	2.1	3.7	1.7
Tallahatchie	12.7	3.1	15.6	11.2	-	15.9	-1.5	-	0.3
Tate	9.9	6.5	14.6	12.4	7.2	20.4	2.5	0.7	5.8
Tunica	19.7	-	22.7	19.4	-	23.3	-0.3	-	0.6
Warren	13.5	8.5	18.1	12.3	7.1	16.7	-1.2	-1.4	-1.4
Washington	11.7	4.2	14.2	12.3	7.8	13.8	0.6	3.6	-0.4
Yazoo	12.2	10.0	13.1	10.0	6.4	11.8	-2.2	-3.6	-1.3
Delta	13.3	7.8	15.7	11.6	5.0	15.0	-1.7	-0.5	-0.7
Mississippi	11.2	7.6	15.1	10.5	6.9	14.6	-0.7	-0.7	-0.5
United States**	9.6	6.8	16.4	8.5	6.1	14.6	-1.1	-0.7	-1.8

Note: Empty cells are missing data.

*Infant Mortality Rates are calculated as deaths per 1,000 live births.

**Using the year 2000 as a standard population. Data derived from Centers for Disease Control (n.d. a).

Source: For 1991 to 1995 data, Mississippi State Department of Health (1995). For 1996 to 2000 data, Mississippi State Department of Health (2000).

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