Results from the Secondary Data Analysis Research Team for the Study on Persistent Poverty in the South

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The maps herein depict the United States and the seven state\(^1\) Phase I study area on the following variables:

- Poverty
- Persistent Poverty
- Education levels
- Health Conditions
- Child Poverty
- Elder Poverty
- Housing Conditions
- Unemployment
- Per Capita Income

These conditions were examined with U.S. Census data and National Center Health Statistics compiled in the Area Resource File. County mapping and quartile methodologies developed in *The Southern Black Belt: A National Perspective* by Wimberley and Morris (1997) were used to define and describe the Phase I study area. Specifically, for each variable of interest, U.S. counties were ranked from highest to lowest and spit into four equal groups or quartiles. There are 3,141 counties in the nation and each quartile contains roughly 785 counties. When the Phase I proposed region was defined, the persistence of poverty in counties from the seven states was assessed by examining the quartiles generated from 1980, 1990, and 2000 poverty data.

\(^1\)The seven states are Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.
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11 States

Legend

- Red: Appalachian Regional Commission Counties
- Yellow: Mississippi Delta Region Counties
- Orange: Appalachian Regional Commission & Mississippi Delta Region Counties
- Green: Southwest Border Counties

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U.S. Counties Highest in Percent Poor: 2000

Percent in Poverty by County
- Top Quartile (786 Counties)
- Next Quartile (785 Counties)
- Lower Half (1570 Counties)

Source: 2000 U.S. Census, DP-3

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Persistent Poverty


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Counties were included in the region if:

- They are not part of an existing federal initiative.
- They were in the top two quartiles of poverty during 2000 AND during 1980 and/or 1990.
- They are connected to the contiguous set of persistent poverty counties most typical of the historic Black Belt.

The following additional criteria were developed for metro counties based on U.S. Census Bureau categories of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's):

- All persistently poor contiguous counties from MSA's in categories D (50,000 to 99,999) and C (100,000 to 249,999) were included in the region.
- Only persistent poverty contiguous counties from category B (250,000 to 999,999) that were not identified as central counties OR had populations under 50,000 were included in the region.
- All counties from category A (1,000,000 +) were excluded from the region.
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Counts Ranked by Percent
Not Completing High School: 2000

Educational Attainment: 2000
% Not Completing High School

- Top Quartile
- Next Quartile
- Lower Half


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Phase I Proposed Regional Map: Counties Highest in Percent Not Completing High School

Educational Attainment: 2000 % Not Completing High School

- Top Quartile (173 counties)
- Next Quartile (57 counties)
- Lower Half (12 counties)

Source: 2000 U.S. Census, DP2 data.
U.S. Counties Highest in Low Birth Weight Births: 1996-98

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Area Resource File: February 2001

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Phase I Proposed Regional Map:
Counties Highest in Low Birth Weight Births

Counties Highest in Low Birth Weight Births: 1996-98

- Top Quartile (179 counties)
- Next Quartile (43 counties)
- Lower Half (20 counties)

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Area Resource File: February 2001

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Phase I Proposed Regional Map: Counties Ranked by Child Poverty

Child Poverty
Related persons under age 18 living in poverty

Top Quartile (169 Counties)
Next Quartile (67 Counties)
Lower Half (6 Counties)

Source: 2000 U.S. Census, DP2 data.

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U.S. Counties Ranked by Elder Poverty

Elder poverty
Persons 65+ of age living in poverty

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Source: 2000 U.S. Census, DP2 data.
Phase I Proposed Regional Map: Counties Ranked by Elder Poverty

Elder Poverty
Persons 65 and older living in poverty

- Top Quartile (201 Counties)
- Next Quartile (35 Counties)
- Lower Half (6 Counties)

Source: 2000 U.S. Census, DP2 data.
Counties Ranked by Percent Mobile Homes: 2000

- Top Quartile (786 Counties)
- Next Quartile (785 Counties)
- Lower Half (1570 Counties)

Sources:
- Study on Persistent Poverty in the South
  University of Georgia
  Douglas C. Bachtel
  07/12/02

Source: 2000 U.S. Census, DP-4 data.
Phase I Proposed Regional Map:
Counties Ranked by
Percent Mobile Homes
2000

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Source: 2000 U.S. Census, DP4 data.
Counts Ranked by Per Capita Income: 2000

* The top quartile(s) represent(s) low per capita income. Because higher levels of per capita income are desirable, counties were ranked from lowest to highest on this variable rather than from highest to lowest.

Source: 2000 U.S. Census, DP-3 data.
Phase I Proposed Regional Map: Counties Ranked by Per Capita Income: 2000

- Top Quartile (148 Counties)
- Next Quartile (60 Counties)
- Lower Half (34 Counties)

* The top quartile(s) represent(s) low per capita income. Because higher levels of per capita income are desirable, counties were ranked from lowest to highest on this variable rather than from highest to lowest.

Source: 2000 U.S. Census, DP-3 data.

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U.S. Counties Ranked by Unemployment Rates: 2000

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Source: 2000 U.S. Census, DP-3 data.
Percent Unemployed

Top quartile (110 Counties)
Next Quartile (82 Counties)
Lower Half (50 Counties)

Source: 2000 U.S. Census, DP3 data.