

Rural Profile of *Arkansas 2011*



Dear Fellow Arkansans,

The Rural Profile of Arkansas - 2011 is The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture's ongoing contribution to greater understanding of the social, demographic and economic conditions in rural and urban regions of the state. This Profile, in one form or the other, has been providing information for over 20 years and has served as a valued source of data and information for elected leaders in the state as well as for local government stakeholders and public servants.

As with earlier Rural Profiles, the 2011 version takes a careful look at important trends in Arkansas' social, demographic and economic structure. In this version special attention is given to the stresses that are being exerted on households and state and local governments as a result of the slow recovery from the economic downturn of 2008.

While the focus of the Rural Profile is on "rural" Arkansas, conditions vary throughout the state. To provide insight into how circumstances differ three distinct regions – The Delta, the Coastal Plains and the Highlands – are considered. Rural and urban areas are compared.

The Profile is designed to be a tool for leaders in planning and directing policies and programs for the present and for the future. Should you have any questions on the how to use the data in this Profile, please contact the Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service agents in your county. They are a valuable resource to you and your community.

We look forward to continuing our service to the State of Arkansas by providing an analysis of some of the important issues facing Arkansans living in rural and urban regions of the state.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Cochran
Vice President for Agriculture
Division of Agriculture
University of Arkansas

RURAL PROFILE OF ARKANSAS 2011

*Social & Economic Trends
Affecting Rural Arkansas*

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Summary Highlights

Population

- While Arkansas' population grew 8.1 percent from 2000 to 2009, nearly all of the growth occurred in urban areas and some rural counties in the Highlands.
- The Delta and Coastal Plains continue to lose population, losing 9 percent and 6.6 percent, respectively, which is a combined loss of approximately 45,000 people over this nine-year period.
- Although in-migration drove population increases in the early 2000s, the in-migration rates have begun to taper off. Many rural counties experienced net outmigration, resulting in population loss.
- The population in rural areas continues to be older than in urban areas and has higher dependency ratios. The dependency ratio in rural areas is 58.5 per 100 persons compared to 50.3 per 100 for urban areas.
- Elderly people 75 years and over make up 8 percent of the rural population and 6.7 percent of the state's total population. This presents unique challenges for rural areas where health services are already strained in some counties.
- Arkansas' Hispanic population increased from 87,000 in 2000 to nearly 173,000 in 2009.
- The Hispanic population has grown to 4.4 percent in rural counties, primarily in the western half of the state. Seven rural counties had a Hispanic population of more than 10 percent in 2009.
- Although the 1990s and first half of this decade saw tremendous increases in the Hispanic populations across the state, the rapid increase seems to be slowing since 2005.

Economy

- Arkansas employment grew a modest 3.5 percent from 2000 to 2009 as compared to 5.1 percent growth in the U.S. economy during this period.
- Initial Bureau of Economic Analysis figures indicated that Arkansas employment grew by 7 percent from 2000 to 2008 as compared to 10 percent growth in the U.S.¹
- Most of the Arkansas employment growth from 2000 to 2008 occurred in the urban counties, although the rural highland counties also had a net employment gain during this period.
- Urban counties gained over 107,000 jobs while rural counties had a net loss of 850 jobs from 2000 to 2008. This was employment growth of 13 percent in the urban counties compared to a 0.1 percent loss in rural counties.
- Employment in the highland counties grew by 4 percent as compared to net jobs losses of nearly 6 percent in the coastal plain counties and 7.4 percent in the delta counties from 2000 to 2008.
- Arkansas lost nearly 44,000 manufacturing jobs from 2001 to 2008, which has greatly affected the economic base of rural areas in particular. The state lost 19 percent of its manufacturing employment over this time period compared to a 17 percent loss nationwide.
- All three rural regions had a net loss of manufacturing jobs during this eight-year period. Except in the Highlands, jobs in other sectors were not created in sufficient quantity to replace the lost manufacturing jobs.

¹These initial Bureau of Economic Analysis figures are used in this report since the 2009 and 2008 revised figures are not yet available for counties.

- Rural areas have lower earnings per job than urban areas. Rural areas as a whole had average earnings per job of only 83 percent of the average urban earnings in 2008, the same gap as in 2000.
- With employment in decline in the historically dominant industries of manufacturing and agriculture in rural areas, the structure and economic base of rural Arkansas is changing. However, these industries remain critical to rural economies. In 2008, nearly one-third of the jobs in rural areas were either in farming, forestry or manufacturing as compared to less than one-fifth in urban areas. Forty-seven percent of the jobs in urban areas are in professional and other service industries as compared to 33 percent in rural areas.

Poverty and Social and Economic Stress

- Beginning in 2005, the estimated poverty rates across the state have increased, especially in rural areas. Pockets of extreme poverty remain throughout the state, and seven counties in the Delta have a poverty rate of 25 percent or greater
- Arkansas has the second highest poverty rate (18.8 percent) in the country. Poverty in the rural Delta and Coastal Plains remains substantially higher than poverty in urban counties.
- Housing foreclosures have affected urban areas more than rural areas of the state. The statewide foreclosure rate for November 2010 was 586 housing units per foreclosure. This compares to a rate of 1,590 for rural areas and 360 for urban areas.
- Statewide nearly one in five Arkansans received food stamps in 2009. Rural areas exceeded the statewide rate, with the Coastal Plains and Delta having a rate of 27 percent and 30 percent, respectively. Urban areas had only 17 percent of the population receiving food stamps.
- In rural areas, almost one in three persons is eligible for Medicaid (31.3 percent) and that number rises to over 36 percent for the Delta.
- “Food deserts” are defined as areas where the population is 10 miles or more from a large supermarket or supercenter. Within the state, only rural counties are found to be “food deserts.” Nearly half of the Highlands counties (16 out of 35) and half of the Coastal Plains counties are food deserts. The Delta has nearly two out of three counties defined as food deserts.

Health

- Arkansas’ infant mortality and child obesity rates are higher than the national average. These are important indicators of the overall health of the population.
- In Arkansas, there are 8.3 deaths per 1,000 live births compared to the national average of 6.8 deaths, placing Arkansas’ infant mortality rate (IMR) fifth in the nation in 2006. The rural regions have a range of IMRs from a low of 7 in the Highlands to a high of 10.2 in the Delta.
- National Center for Health Statistics data for 2007-2008 shows that 68 percent of adults aged 20 and over are overweight or obese. About the same percentage of Arkansas adults are overweight or obese, as 65.7 percent have a BMI of 25 or more.
- Nearly 40 percent of Arkansas children are overweight or at risk of being overweight (have a BMI greater than the 85th percentile for their age group). In 2007 among children 10-17, Arkansas has an estimated rate of 37 percent overweight or obese compared to a national rate of 32 percent.
- Rural Arkansas averages just 78 primary care physicians per 100,000 people compared to 133 physicians per 100,000 people in urban Arkansas.
- Nearly one in five (18 percent) of adult Arkansans lack health insurance, with rural areas having higher rates (21 percent) than urban areas (15 percent).

Summary Highlights

Education

- Public school enrollment declined nearly 10 percent in the Delta and 8 percent in the Coastal Plains. The Highlands were virtually unchanged, and urban counties grew almost 9 percent. Both growing and shrinking school districts face major challenges.
- There is disparity between rural and urban enrollment rates in the free or reduced-price lunch program, with a 65 percent enrollment rate in rural areas as opposed to a 55 percent enrollment rate in urban areas. Among the rural regions, the Delta has the highest enrollment rate with nearly 77 percent of students participating in this program.
- There has been an increase in the number and percentage of students participating in the free and reduced-price lunch program. There were 36,000 more students receiving free or reduced-price lunches in 2009-2010 as compared to the 2005-2005 school year and the percentage of students increased from 53 percent to 59 percent during this period.
- In 2000, Arkansas ranked 45th nationally in the percentage of adults with high school diplomas and 49th in the percentage of people with college degrees. Just 71 percent of rural Arkansans have high school diplomas compared to nearly 80 percent of urban Arkansans. Only 12 percent of rural adults have college degrees compared to 21 percent of urban adults.

Disasters and Social Vulnerability

- Within the state, there is disparity in the level of social vulnerability between rural and urban counties. Rural counties have a social vulnerability score of 1.23 compared to 0.48 for urban counties, meaning on average rural counties are more vulnerable than urban ones
- Because of geographic isolation and limited resources, rural areas tend to be more vulnerable to the negative outcomes of natural disasters.
- Between 1999 and 2010, Arkansas had 22 federally-declared disasters. Most of these declared disasters impacted more than one county. Rural counties experienced a greater number of events resulting in qualification as a federal disaster area.

Local Government

- A high percentage of Arkansans reside in unincorporated areas (35%) and small towns (21%) placing an unusually heavy burden on local governments in rural areas with declining local tax bases.
- The ability to generate local revenue from the property tax varies greatly. Per capita property assessments ranged from \$2,500 to \$23,640 in 2009. Exacerbating this situation is a declining property tax base in 17 counties, most of which are in the Delta or Coastal Plains.
- Beginning in 2003 the sales tax has generated more local revenue for county governments than is generated by the property tax. In 2007, 42 of Arkansas's 75 counties generated more revenue from the sales tax than from the property tax.
- While the sales tax provides another option in generating local government revenue, the ability to generate revenue from the sales tax also varies greatly among counties. Per capita retail sales are substantially lower in rural areas and ranged from \$2,100 to over \$19,000 in 2007.

The Concept of “Rural” and How to Measure It

From virtually any perspective, Arkansas is a rural state. Arkansas has had a greater percentage of rural people than the country as a whole throughout the last century. Nationally, only 21 percent of the population was identified as rural in the 2000 census compared with 48 percent of Arkansans. In this case, rural refers to people living in places with less than 2,500 residents or outside an urbanized area or urban cluster. When using the county-based metropolitan/non-metropolitan definitions, 63 of Arkansas’ 75 counties were classified as non-metropolitan in the 2000 census and 51 percent of Arkansans lived in a non-

metropolitan county. This compares with only 20 percent of people living in non-metropolitan counties in the nation as a whole. The historical data in Figure 1 clearly shows that Arkansas has

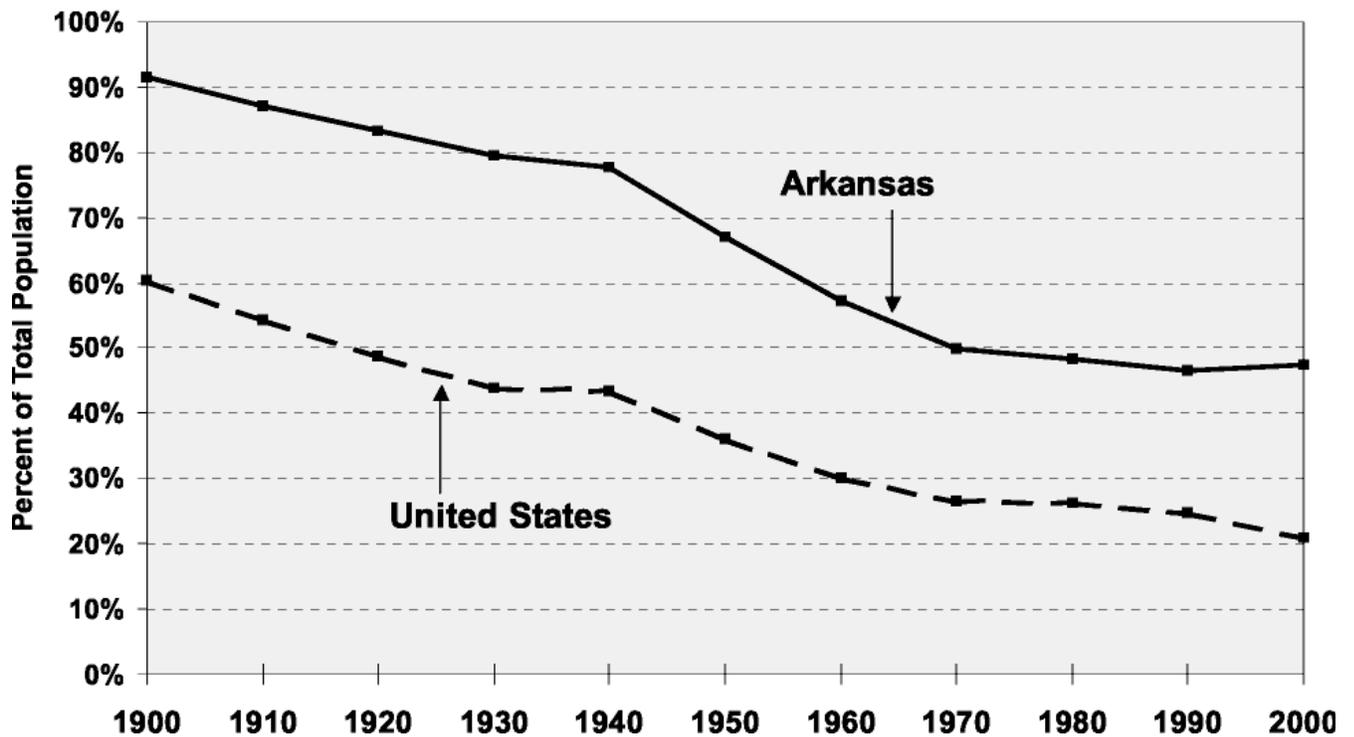
Research has indicated that the general public conjures up highly positive images when asked about their perception of rurality.

had a greater percentage of rural people than the country as a whole throughout the last century. Beginning in 1900, nearly 91 percent of Arkansans lived in rural areas compared to only about 60 percent of the United States

population. The percentage of people living in rural areas declined dramatically between 1900 and 2000 for both Arkansas and the United States.

Research has indicated that the general public conjures up highly positive images when asked about their perception of rurality. The highly positive images are of settings that are distinct from urban areas with agriculture dominating the economy, family oriented with strong religious founding and self reliance, a bucolic environment with beautiful vistas, and generally a better place to raise families in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere (Kellogg Foundation 2002). This constructed positive image of rural settings has been termed the rural mystique (Willits and Bealer 1992),

Figure 1. Rural Population, 1900-2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

What Is Rural?

the rural sentiment (Bunce 1994), and the rural idyll (van Dam, Heins and Elbersen 2002). To gauge the extent to which these constructed images mirror the reality of rural Arkansas is one of the purposes of this Profile. The *Profile of Rural Arkansas* presents a data-driven portrait of regions of Arkansas. In presenting this publication, we recognize that the idea of “rural” is not one that is easily articulated and that academicians, policymakers and regulatory agencies often use different definitions (c.f. Farmer 2008).

While acknowledging the difficulty of capturing the nuances of the concept of “rural,” the U.S. Census Bureau provides measurement guidelines that allow a standardized use of data and information about people and places outside of urban and metropolitan areas. Those guidelines are provided in Appendix A as they were developed in 2003 (see also Moon and Farmer 2008). In this profile we use the words “rural” and “non-metropolitan” and “urban” and “metropolitan” interchangeably. Populations residing in counties with large cities are classified as metropolitan, and those counties are grouped into a category termed “urban.” Additionally, we use the 1999 Census designation of non-metropolitan and metropolitan rather than the 2003 Core Based Statistical Area. Because our concern is primarily with differences and similarities across regions in the state, we believe the dichotomous approach provides a clearer picture as to the

rural and urban character of the regions.

American Community Survey Replaces Census Data

Population estimate data used in this publication are the most current available data and are the official population counts available from the Census Bureau. However, new population data will be coming out soon. Census 2010, which provides a count of the number of people in the United States, will make Arkansas totals available sometime between February and April, 2011¹. The American Community Survey (ACS) is an on-going data collection project run by the U.S. Census Bureau. This data provides details on demographic, social, economic and housing characteristics of the U.S. population. ACS data replaces the so-called “long form” data used by the Census Bureau in earlier years.

The ACS data are generated from a sample of the population rather than from the entire population. The ACS collects and releases data in three ways. Each year, ACS data comes out for cities with a population of 65,000 or more and for states and the country as a whole. The ACS releases information about cities and towns with at least 20,000 people on a rolling three-year basis. The ACS data becomes available on a rolling five-year basis for the entire country, including places with fewer than 20,000 population. The ACS data is provided with margins of

error, similar to polling data often seen on TV news programs. The margin of error information enables statisticians to calculate if actual change has taken place over time or if differences in data are due to random differences in sampling.

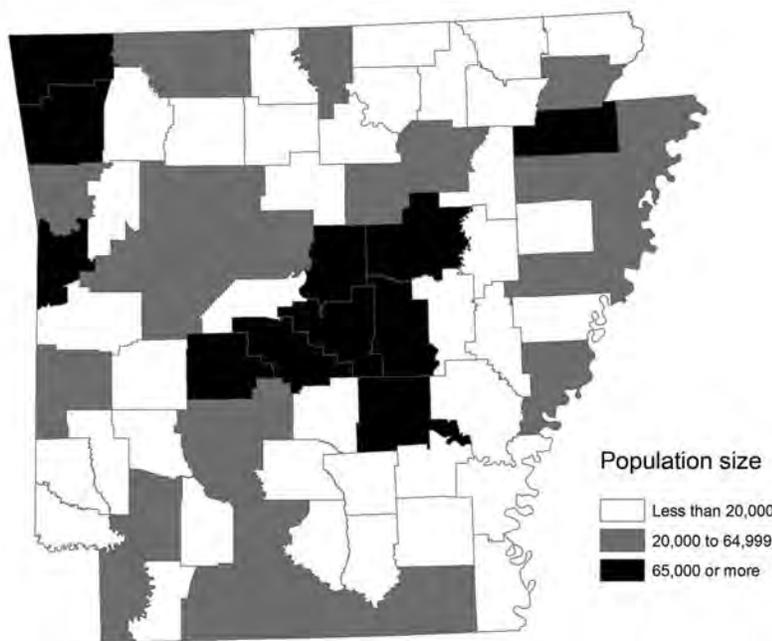
Rurality of Arkansas

The map in Figure 2 shows individual counties classed in three categories. The categories are based on the population cutoffs for the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the Census Bureau. The darkest category shows counties with a population of 65,000 or greater. The Census Bureau produced annual data for all states and cities or counties with a population of 65,000 or more. These are considered “urban” areas with sufficient population size for annual sampling. The next category is for counties with a population of at least 20,000 persons but less than 65,000. These counties fall into the three-year cycle for the ACS and are generally counties adjacent to the largest cities in the state or are micropolitan areas (large towns but not big cities). The last category could be considered “rural” or small communities. This is the category of counties with less than 20,000 persons. Just over half the state of Arkansas (38 counties) fall into this smallest population category. The map helps demonstrate just how “rural” Arkansas remains.

Because Arkansas has many communities (and half its counties) that fall below 20,000 in population, the detailed data from

¹According to information on the U.S. Census Bureau web site detailing the release dates of data products: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/glance/index.html>

Figure 2. Population Size



Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

the Census Bureau will be available for all counties and communities only in these five-year estimates. The first complete five-year estimate ACS data for Arkansas is scheduled for release in December 2010 after this publication has gone to press. This will be data compiled over the five-year period 2005-2009. Additional publications by the University of Arkansas and the Cooperative Extension Service will be made available to update the Rural Profile as soon as possible.

Regions of Arkansas

This publication focuses on issues facing rural Arkansas and on the differences between rural and urban areas and among rural regions of the state. Therefore, a classification scheme is used to delineate rural versus urban areas and different rural regions of the state. The three rural regions of Arkansas are the Coastal Plains, the Delta and the Highlands. This approach combines non-metropolitan counties that have

similar economic activity, history, physical setting, settlement patterns and culture and facilitates comparison with the metropolitan counties. A map with all the county names and the regions can be found on the back cover.

Bunce, M. 1994. *The Countryside Ideal: Anglo-American Images of Landscape*. London: Routledge.

Farmer, F. L. 2008. "The Definition of Rural" in G. Goreham (ed.). *The Encyclopedia of Rural America The Land and the People* (2nd edition). Millerton NY: Grey House Publishing.

Kellogg Foundation. 2002. *Perceptions of Rural America*. Battle Creek: Kellogg Foundation.

Moon, Z., and Frank L. Farmer. 2008. "The Measurement of Rural" in G. Goreham (ed.). *The Encyclopedia of Rural America. The Land and the People* (2nd edition). Millerton NY: Grey House Publishing.

van Dam, F., S. Heins and B. S. Elbersen (2002). "Lay discourses of the rural and stated and revealed preferences for rural living." *Journal of Rural Studies* 18 (4): 461-476.

Willits, Fern K., and Robert C. Bealer. 1992. *The Rural Mystique*. The Pennsylvania State University Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin No. 870.

Population

Population Change

From 2000 to 2009 Arkansas ranked 29th in the nation in population growth. State population grew 8 percent over the period (Figure 3), an increase of some 216,000 people, increasing the population from 2,673,386 to 2,889,450.

Population growth varied greatly across the state. Most of the growth occurred in urban areas and the Highlands. In rural regions, population increased in the Highlands, while the Coastal Plains and Delta regions suffered

Over half the state's counties lost population from 2000 to 2009. Of these 39 counties, 38 are rural counties.

substantial losses. The Delta recorded a population loss of 9 percent, roughly 30,000 people. The Coastal Plains lost nearly 15,000 people, a 7 percent decline. In contrast, the rural Highlands experienced a 6 percent gain, a

growth of some 44,000 people.

Twelve counties experienced a growth rate greater than 10 percent from 2000 to 2009 (Figure 4). Of these, seven are urban. Benton County experienced a 47 percent increase in population. The urban counties of Faulkner, Lonoke and Washington all experienced growth rates approaching 30 percent. All rural counties experiencing greater than 10 percent growth are in the Highlands, including Carroll, Garland, Madison, Pope and White.

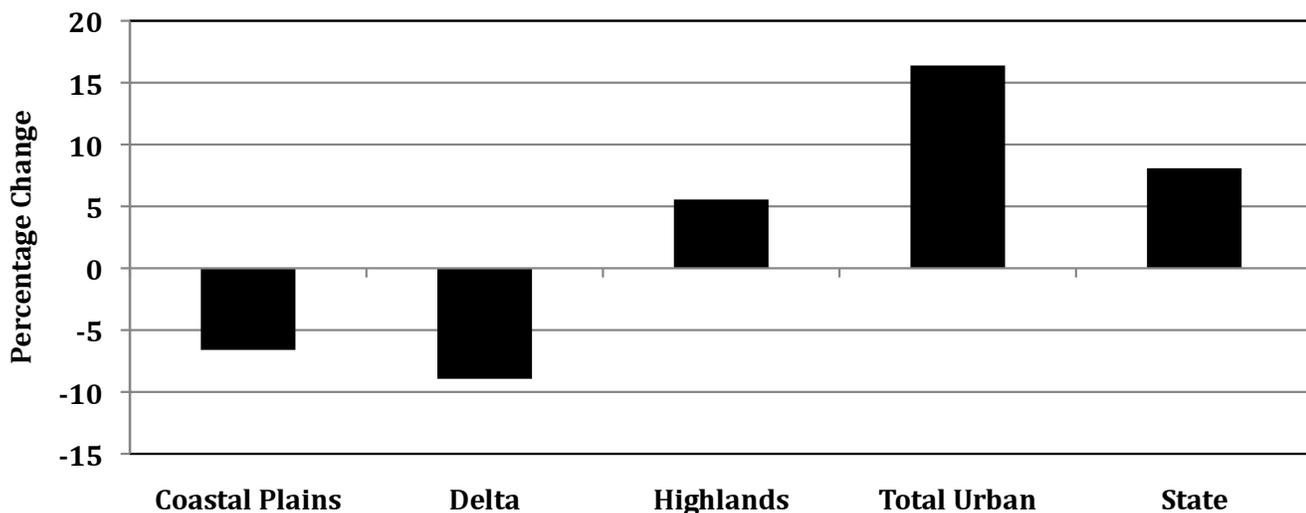
Over half the state's counties lost population from 2000 to 2009. Of these 39 counties, 38 are rural counties, primarily in the Delta and Coastal Plains. Jefferson County is the only urban county to lose population. Every county in the Coastal Plains and all but one county in the Delta lost population. Phillips and Monroe counties in the Delta lost more than 20 percent of their people, while an additional 11 rural counties, mostly in the Delta, lost more than 10 percent.

Components of Population Change

Population changes through births and deaths as well as people moving in and out. The nature of population change has altered over the last decade and varies between rural and urban regions. In urban counties, the natural increase has risen from six to seven per 1,000 population from 2000 to 2009. While there were more births than deaths in all regions, rural rates are significantly less than in urban areas (Figure 5). The Highlands had the lowest birth rate of less than one per 1,000 population with the Delta and Coastal Plains at two per 1,000 population. Regional birth rates mask clusters of counties where deaths exceed births. One-third of the state's counties had more deaths than births, with 16 of the 25 counties in the Highlands.

Population growth in the early years of the decade was driven largely by more people moving into the state than moving out;

Figure 3. Population Change, 2000-2009



Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

however, statewide net migration rates have begun to taper off (Figure 6). Rural counties have, overall, experienced net outmigration with the exception of the Highlands, which added 52 people for every 1,000 population (Figures 7 and 8). The Delta has experienced the highest net outmigration, losing 113 people for

Rural counties have, overall experienced net outmigration with the exception of the Highlands, which added 52 people for every 1,000 population.

every 1,000 population compared to the state's overall gain of 39 additional people for every 1,000 population. Urban areas have experienced nearly twice the statewide migration growth while Delta and Coastal Plains counties have experienced outmigration to the Highlands and urban areas of the state (Figure 9).

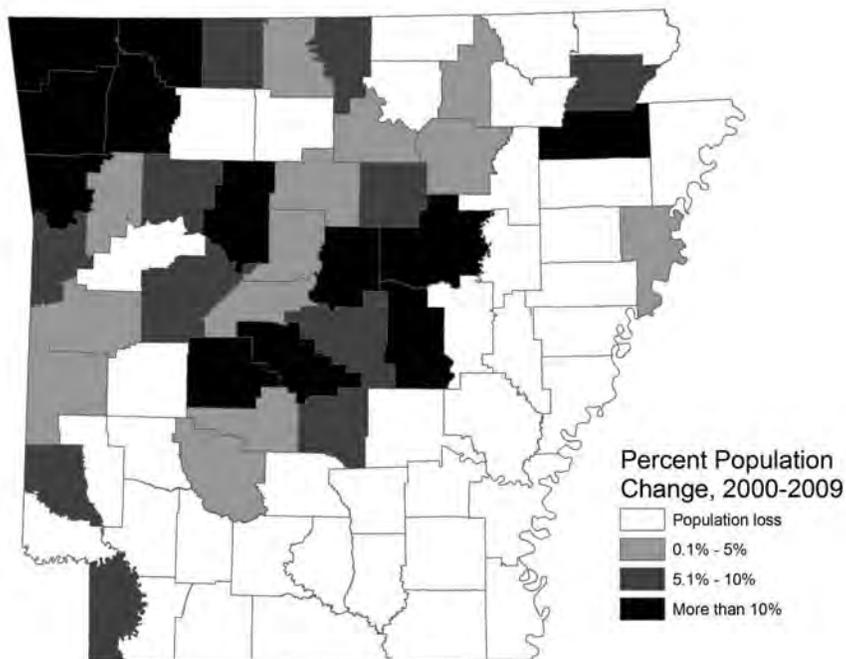
Dependence Ratio and Median Age

The dependency ratio calculates how many dependent-age people, those 14 years old and younger or 65 years old and older, per 100 working-age people ages 15 to 64. The entire state of Arkansas has 53 dependent-age

The entire state of Arkansas has 53 dependent-age people per 100 working-age people compared to 49 per 100 nationally.

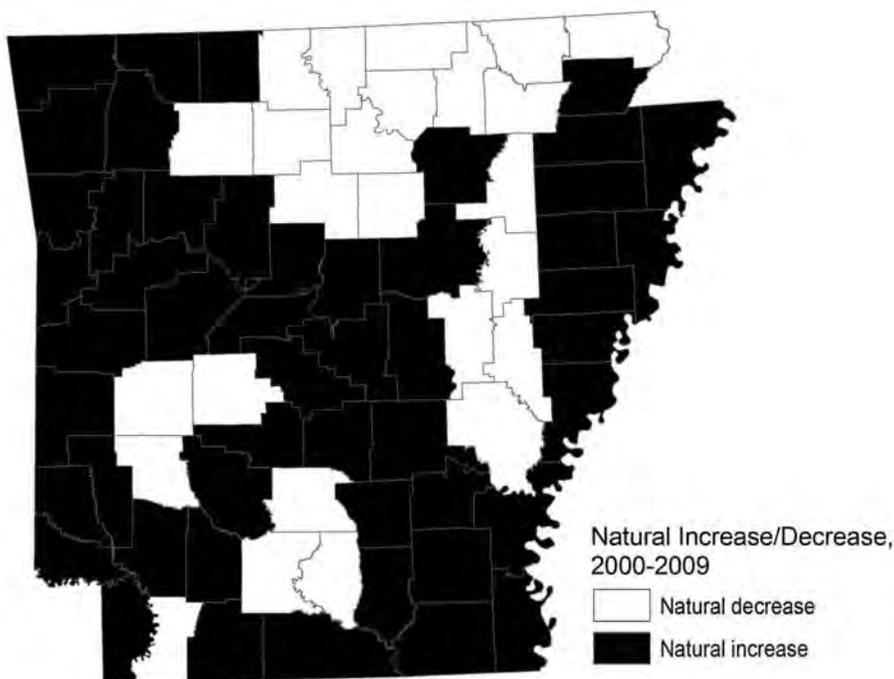
people per 100 working-age people (Figure 10) compared to 49 per 100 nationally. Rural

Figure 4. Percent Population Change, 2000-2009



Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

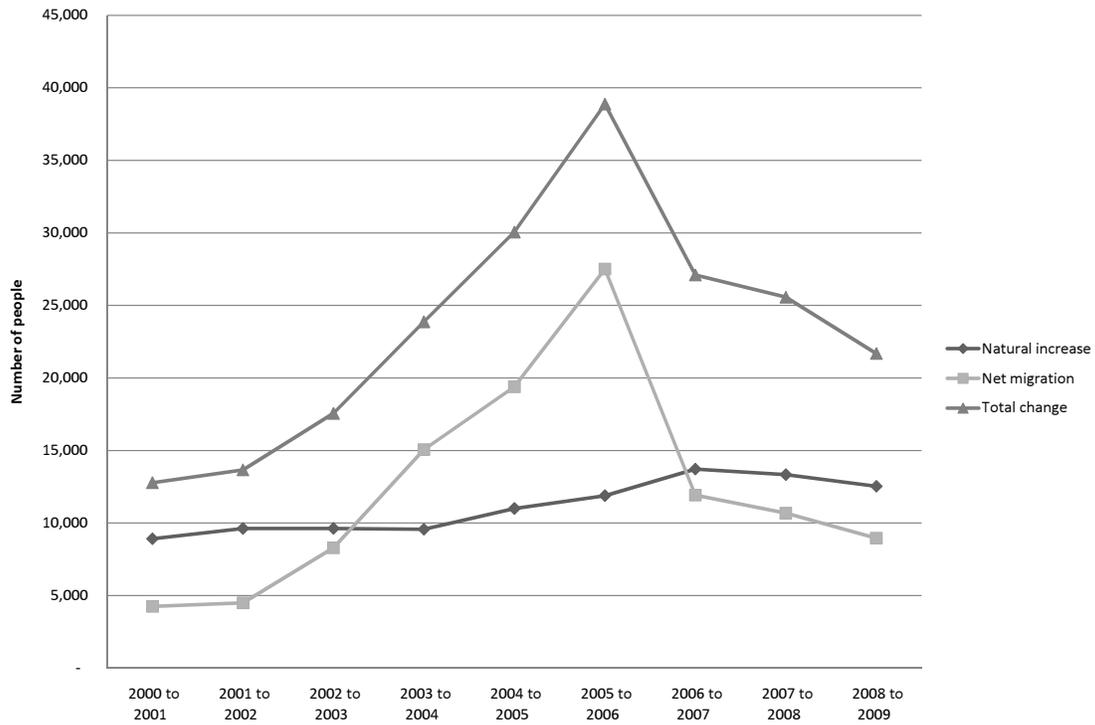
Figure 5. Natural Increase/Decrease, 2000-2009



Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

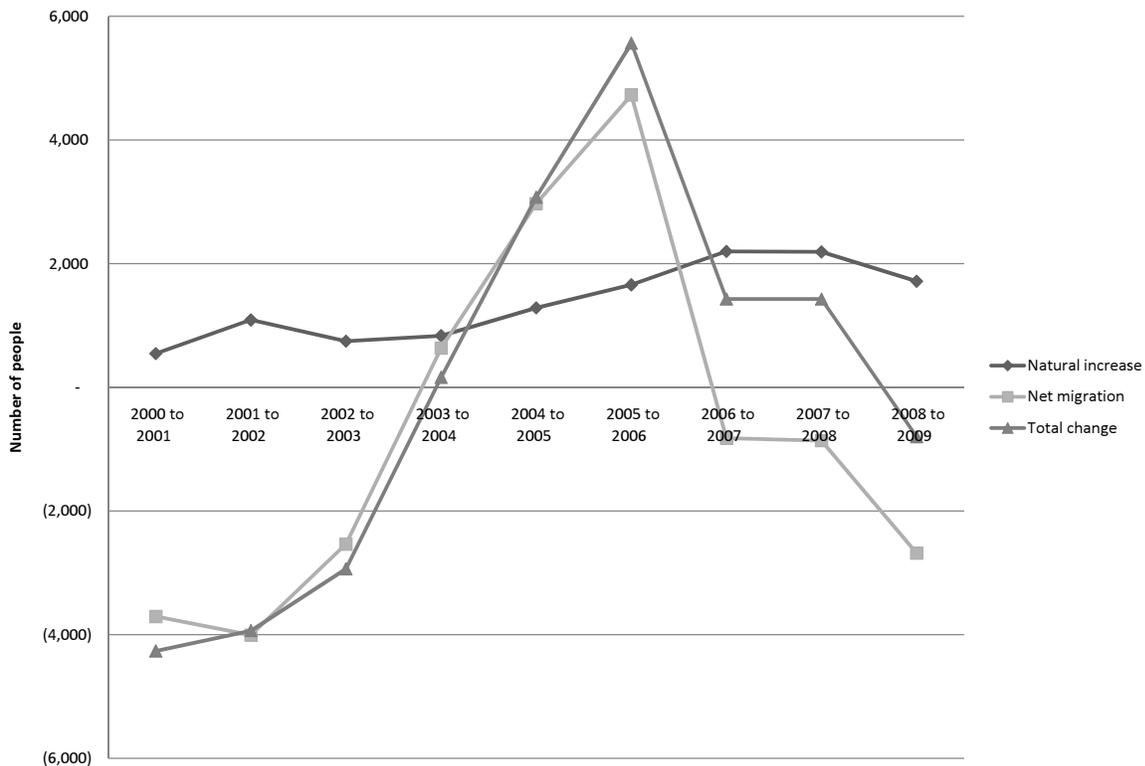
Population

Figure 6. State Total Population Components of Change, 2000 to 2009



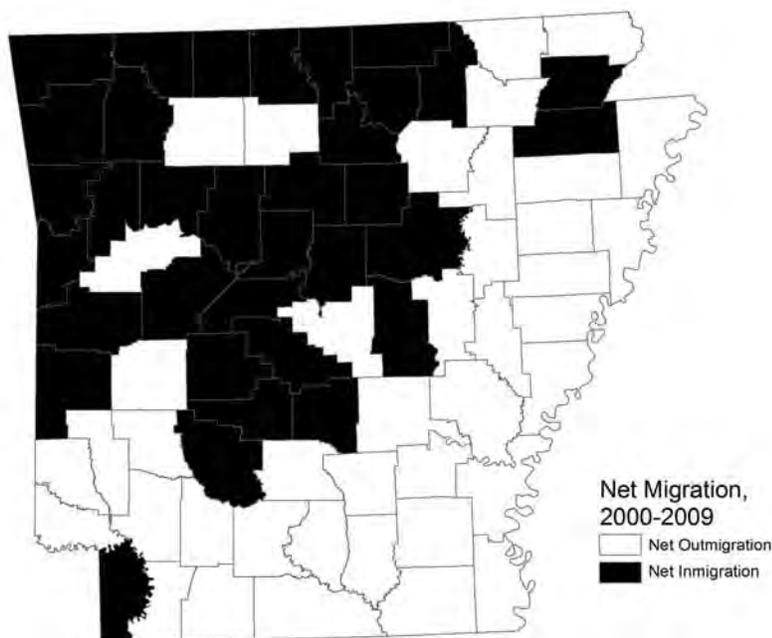
Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 7. Rural Population Components of Change, 2000-2009



Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 8. Net Migration, 2000-2009



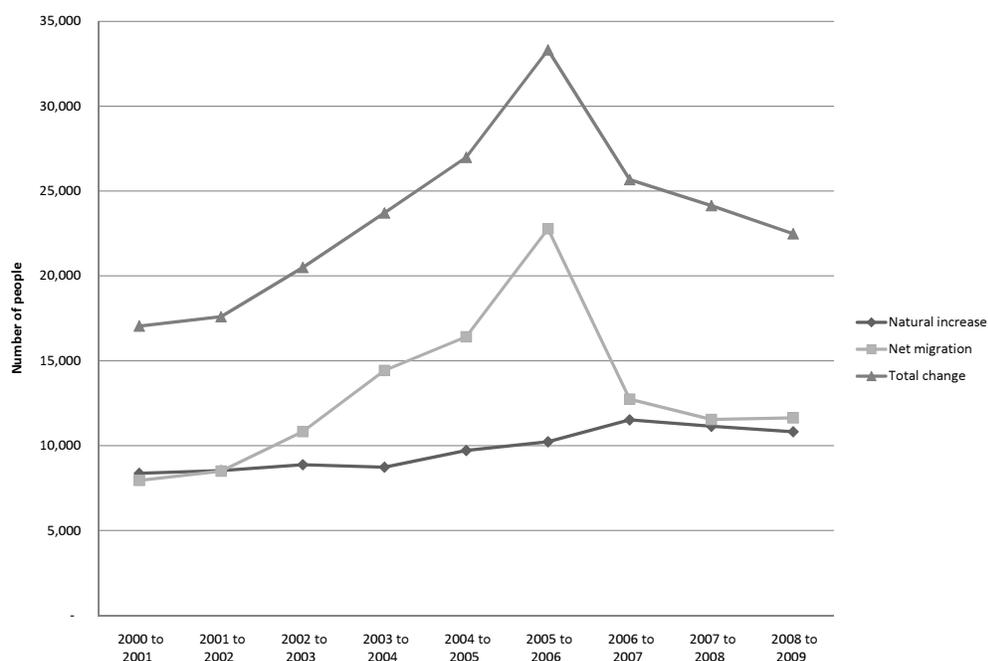
Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

counties have a higher dependency ratio than urban counties. Seventeen counties have a dependency ratio that exceeds 60 persons per 100 people; all are rural and all but three are in the Highlands. Counties range from a low dependency ratio of 40 per 100 in Lincoln County to a high of 73 per 100 in Baxter County.

Age and Gender

The familiar “bulge” created by the “baby boom” generation as well as the greater life expectancy of women mirrors national trends. Whites are slightly older as a result of both aging in place and the growth of retiree in-migration (Figure 11). Blacks also show aging in place but have a greater percentage of young adults of child-bearing age and more children. Other races, largely Asians

Figure 9. Urban Population Components of Change, 2000-2009

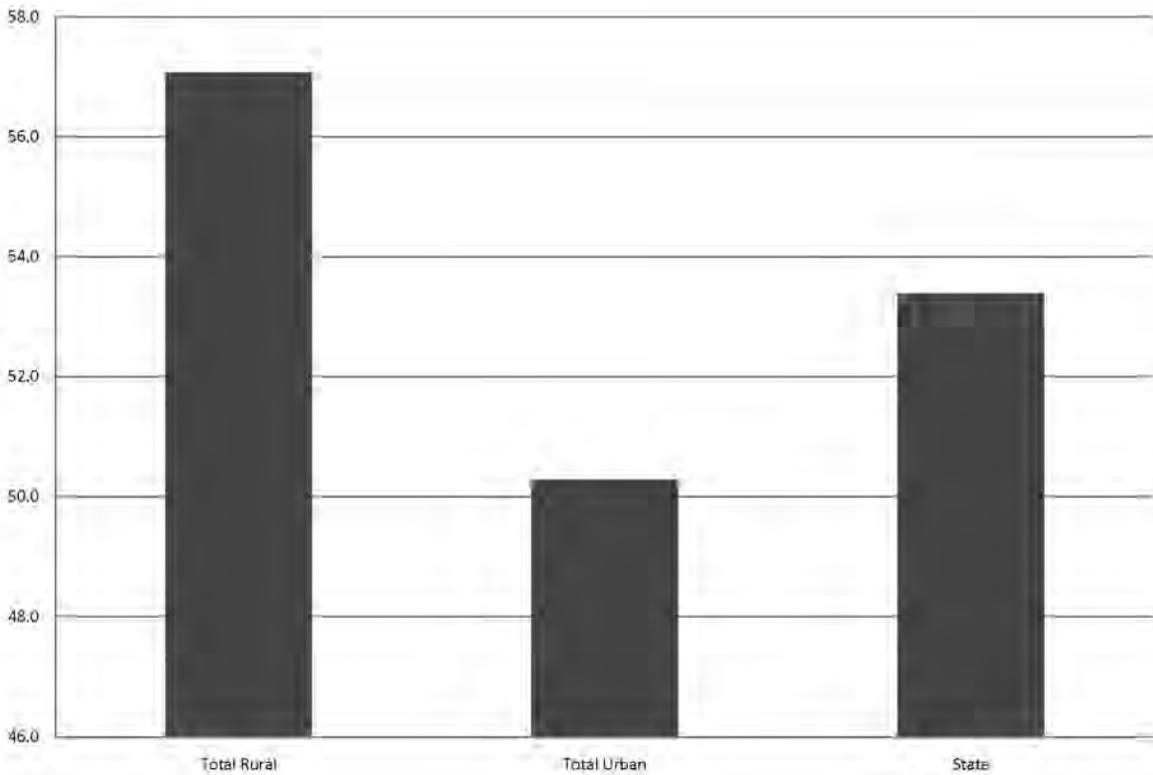


Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

and Native Americans as well as Hispanics, have relatively young populations. Hispanics mirror a typical migration population – a surplus of young, mostly male adults and a rapidly growing percentage of young children.

Rural areas have a disproportionate percentage of people in the 45-64 age range, a smaller percentage of children and an apparent outmigration of younger working-age adults (Figure 12). In contrast, urban populations are generally younger and have a larger percentage of working-age adults and children.

Figure 10. Dependency Ratio



Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

Population Age 65 and Older

Seventeen percent of the rural population was age 65 and older compared to 12 percent in urban counties in 2009. The Highlands have the highest percentage while the Delta has the smallest percent-

The five counties with the lowest percentage of individuals 65 years and older are all urban counties: Benton, Lonoke, Crittenden, Faulkner and Washington.

age of persons 65 and older (Figure 13). The percentage of individuals 75 years and older shows the same pattern.

The percentage of population age 65 and older ranges from 27 percent in Baxter County to 10 percent in Washington County. The five counties with the lowest percentage of individuals 65 years and older are urban counties: Benton, Lonoke, Crittenden, Faulkner and Washington. More than 10 percent of the people in seven counties are age 75 and over; all of these counties are in the Highlands, including Baxter, Fulton, Marion, Searcy Sharp and Van Buren.

Race and Hispanic Origin

Only seven counties in Arkansas do not have a majority white non-Hispanic population (Figure 14). Five are rural Delta

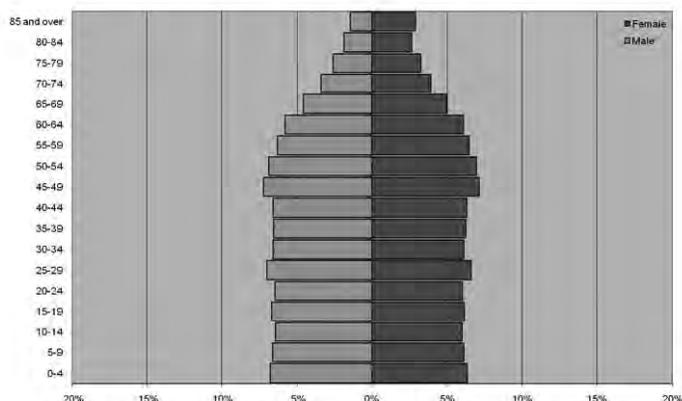
counties while Jefferson and Crittenden counties are urban. The majority of the Highlands counties have white non-Hispanic populations exceeding 90 percent.

Hispanics account for more than 10 percent of population in ten counties.

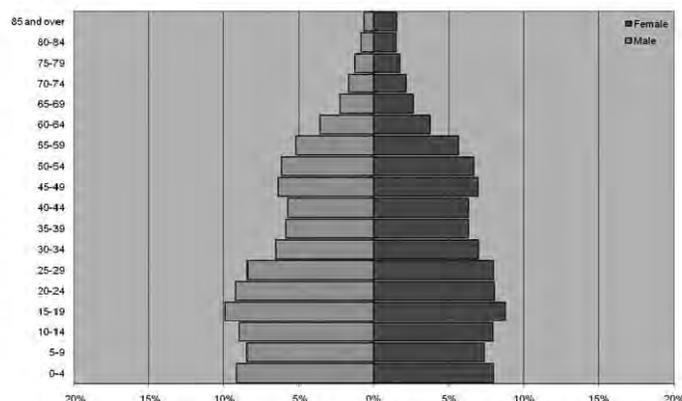
Hispanics are largely concentrated in the northwest counties of the state and along the western edge of the state (Figure 15). The Hispanic population has grown in the Delta and Coastal Plains as well. Statewide the Hispanic population has grown to 6 percent of the total population. Urban counties average 7 percent Hispanic

Figure 11. Total Population Pyramids by Race/Ethnicity, 2009

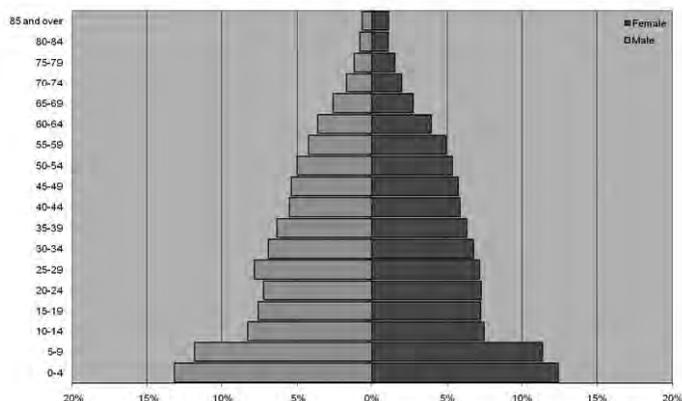
White Population, State, 2009



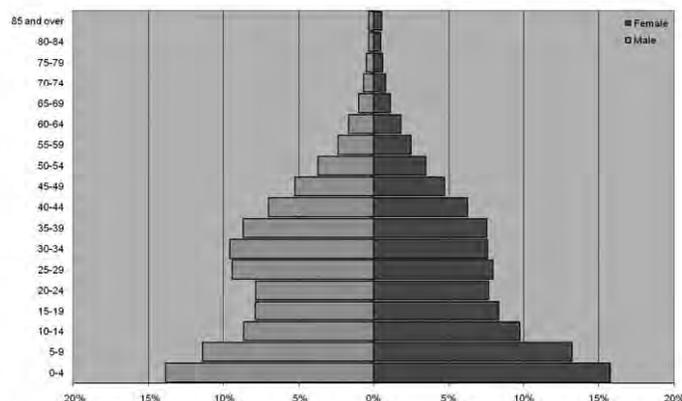
Black Population, State, 2009



Other Population, State, 2009



Hispanic Population, State, 2009



Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

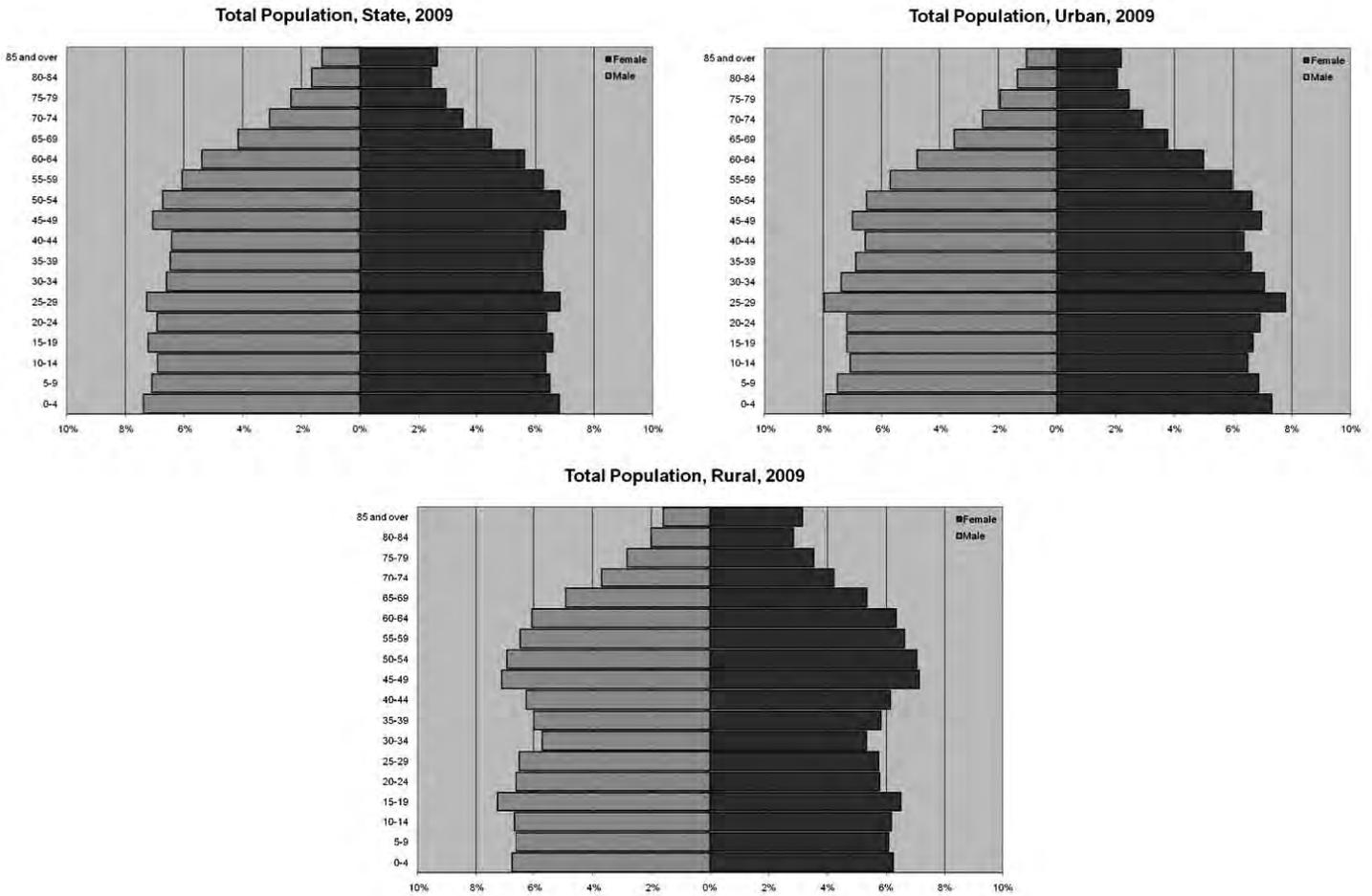
population compared to 4 percent in rural counties (Figure 16). Counties show greater variation. Nearly one-third of Sevier County's population is Hispanic compared to Fulton and Lawrence counties with 1 percent. Hispanics

account for more than 10 percent of population in ten counties. Three are urban counties – Benton, Sebastian and Washington – and all but one of the rural counties are in the western half of the state.

Benton, Crawford, Sebastian and Washington counties have the highest proportion of other races (Figure 17). Other races account for more than 5 percent of population in Scott County, more than any other rural county.

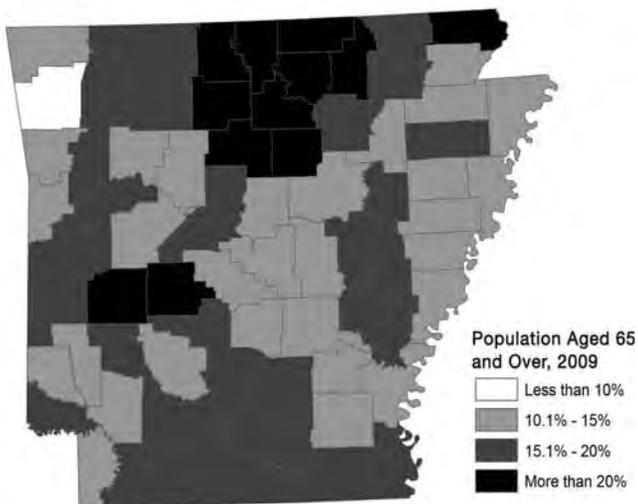
Population

Figure 12. Total Population Pyramids, 2009



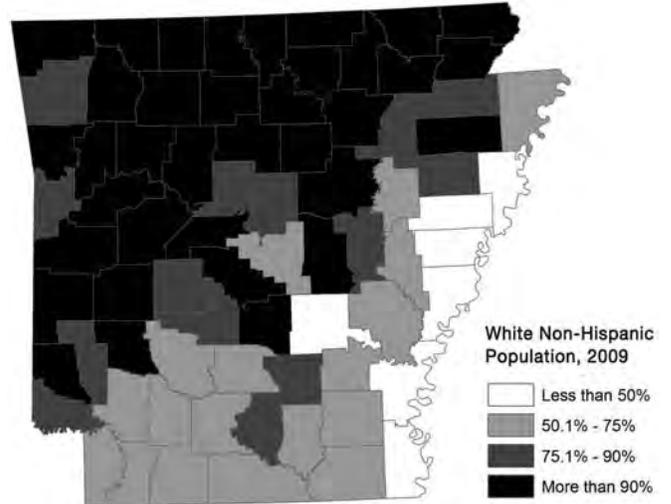
Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 13. Population Aged 65 and Over, 2009



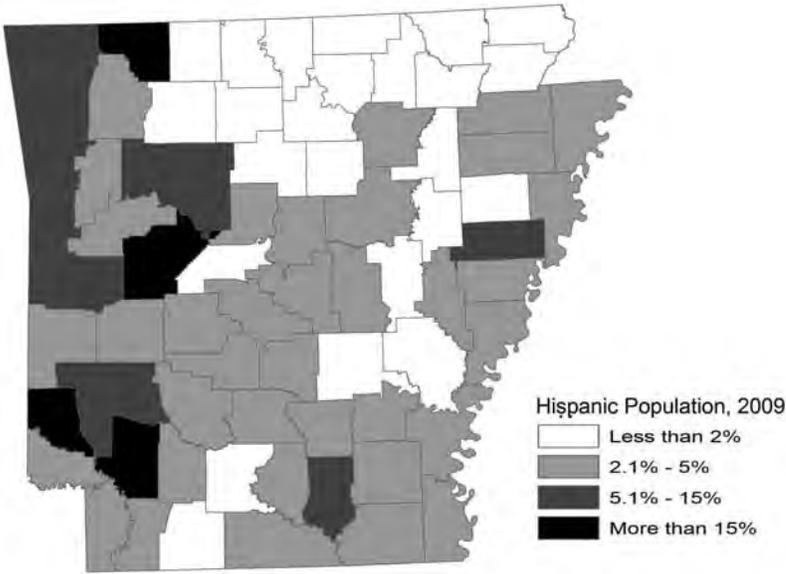
Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 14. White Non-Hispanic Population, 2009



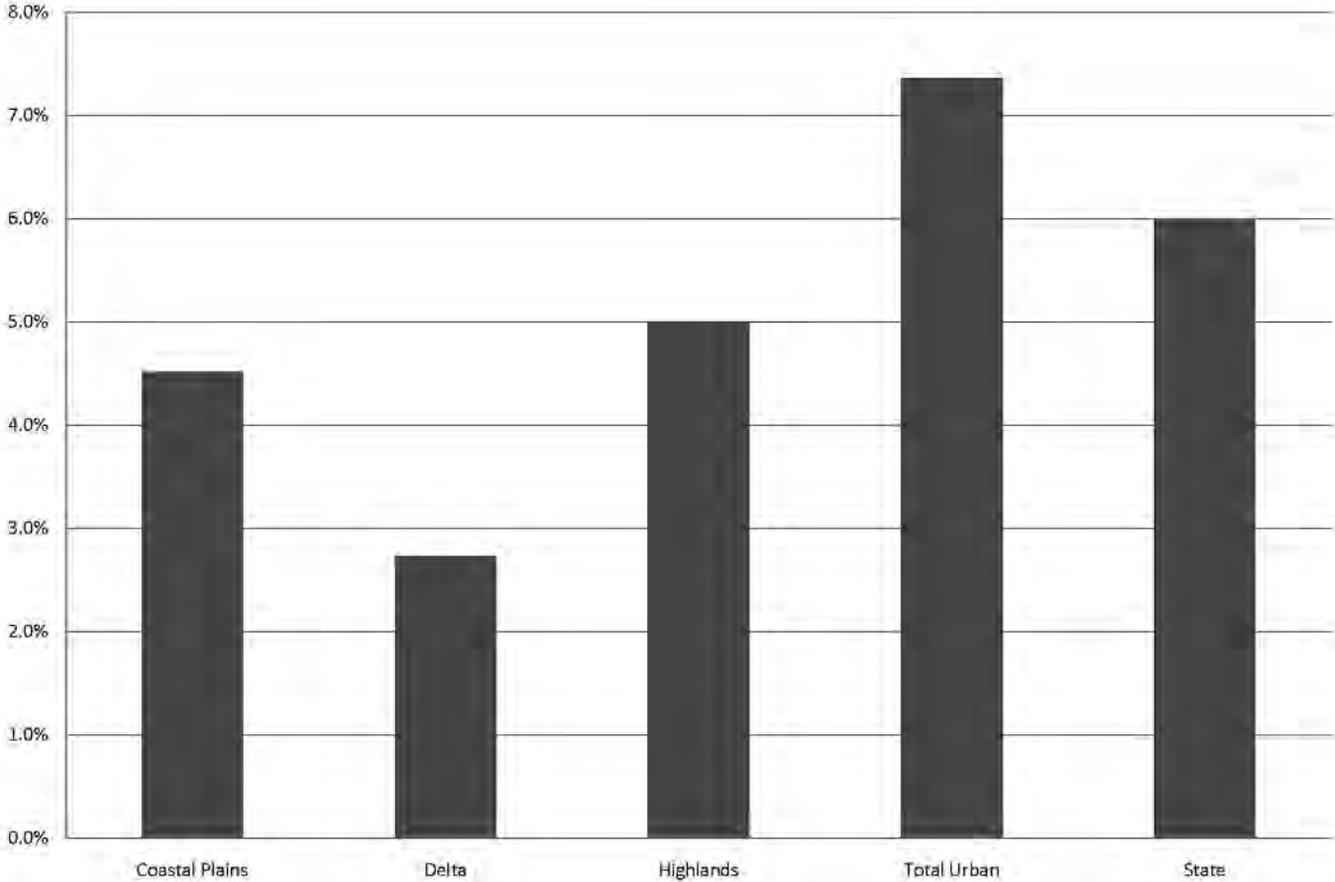
Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 15. Hispanic Population, 2009



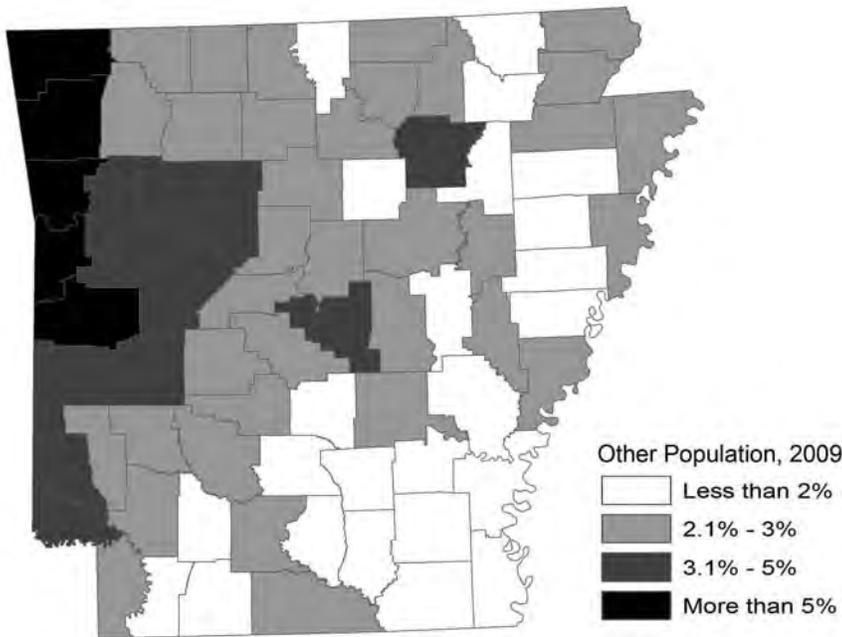
Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 16. Percent of Population of Hispanic Origin, 2009



Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 17. Other Races, 2009



Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

Employment

Employment in Arkansas grew less than 4 percent from 2000 to 2009, according to the most recently released information from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The recent release lowers the previously reported 2007 and 2008 employment numbers and shows

statewide employment declining in 2008 and 2009. However, since revised numbers have not been released for counties, we use the 2000 to 2008 employment numbers released in April 2010 in the following analysis.

Employment declined in the early part of the decade in all but the urban areas (Figure 18).

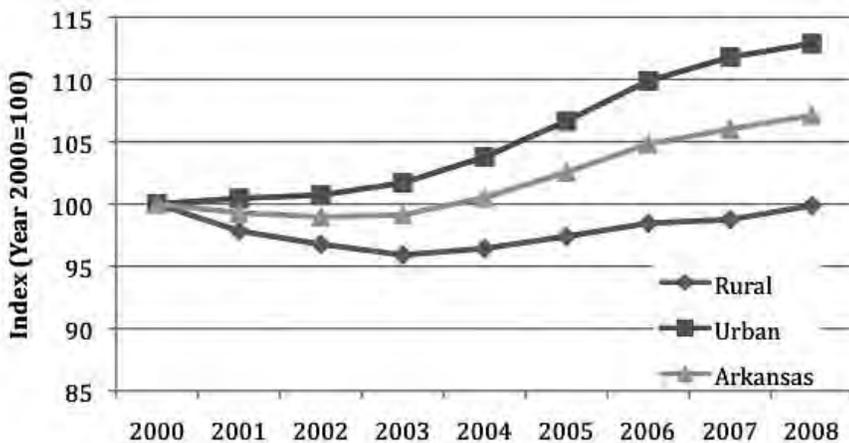
However, between 2002 and 2007, employment increased approximately 7 percent in the state due primarily to growth in the Highlands and Urban areas (Figure 19). The newly released figures indicate a decline in statewide employment of 2.3 percent between 2007 and 2009.

The statewide growth masks the employment decline experienced in the Coastal Plains and Delta during this time period. The Delta lost over 7 percent of its jobs from 2000 to 2008 and the Coastal Plains saw a decrease of just under 6 percent. Urban areas and the Highlands fared substantially better with employment increases of approximately 13 percent and 4 percent, respectively, during this period.

These regional averages mask a great deal of variation in employment gains and losses within both rural and urban regions from 2000 to 2008 (Figure 20). In rural counties of the state, Perry County experienced employment growth of almost 14 percent compared to a decline of nearly one in four jobs in Clay County. Seventeen rural counties experienced a decline in employment of 10 percent or more, while eight rural counties, all in the Highlands, experienced employment growth of 10 percent or more. However, the Highlands also had six counties that experienced employment loss of 10 percent or more. Only two counties in the Delta (Arkansas and Greene) and two counties in the Coastal Plains (Nevada and Bradley) saw employment growth during this period.

Many rural counties in the Delta and Coastal Plains and some counties in the Highlands experi-

Figure 18. Trends in Total Employment: 2000 to 2008



Source: REIS database released April 2010, Bureau of Economic Analysis

enced job losses even before the onset of the economic recession. This is in contrast to most urban areas which experienced employment growth from 2000 to 2008 but lost jobs from 2008 to 2009.

Many urban counties experienced high employment growth from 2000 to 2008. Employment grew by over 10 percent in 7 of the 12 urban counties with a high of nearly 38 percent in

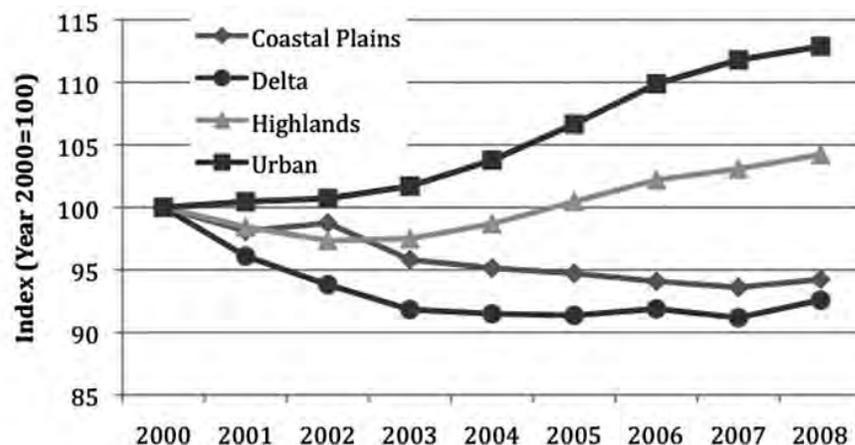
The economic recession affected employment in rural and urban areas similarly. Both lost approximately 2.5 percent of their jobs between 2008 and 2009.

Benton County. Jefferson County was the only urban area to experience an employment loss of nearly 4 percent during this period.

The economic recession affected employment in rural and urban areas similarly. Covered employment data from the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services suggests that both rural and urban areas of the state lost approximately 2.5 percent of their jobs between 2008 and 2009. However, the Delta lost 4 percent of its jobs, whereas the Coastal Plains and Highlands only lost slightly over 2 percent of their jobs.

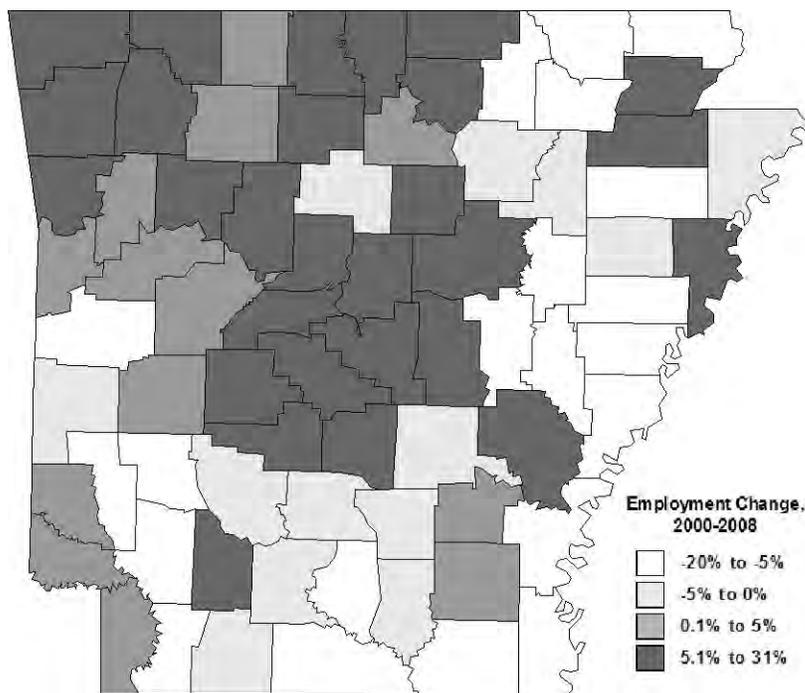
This loss of employment opportunities due to the economic recession resulted in a dramatic increase in unemployment rates. Between 2000 and 2009, rural and urban areas both saw an increase in unemployment rates of just over 3 percent; statewide the

Figure 19. Trends in Total Employment: 2000 to 2008



Source: REIS database released April 2010, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Figure 20. Employment Change, 2000-2008



Source: Computed from Regional Economic Information System (REIS) Database, April 2010, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

unemployment rate in 2000 was just over 4 percent, but by 2009 the rate had nearly doubled to 7.3 percent. In rural areas the unemployment rate went from approximately 5 percent to over 8 percent during this period. The

Delta region had the highest unemployment rate in 2000 and 2009, going from 6 percent to over 10 percent.

Of the ten counties in the state with an unemployment rate of over 10 percent in 2009, seven were in

Economy

the rural Delta. Arkansas County had the highest unemployment rate of almost 15 percent in 2009. As more people enter or return to the labor force as the economy begins to recover, the unemployment rates may head even higher if there are not enough jobs available to satisfy the demand for work.

Employment Changes by Industry

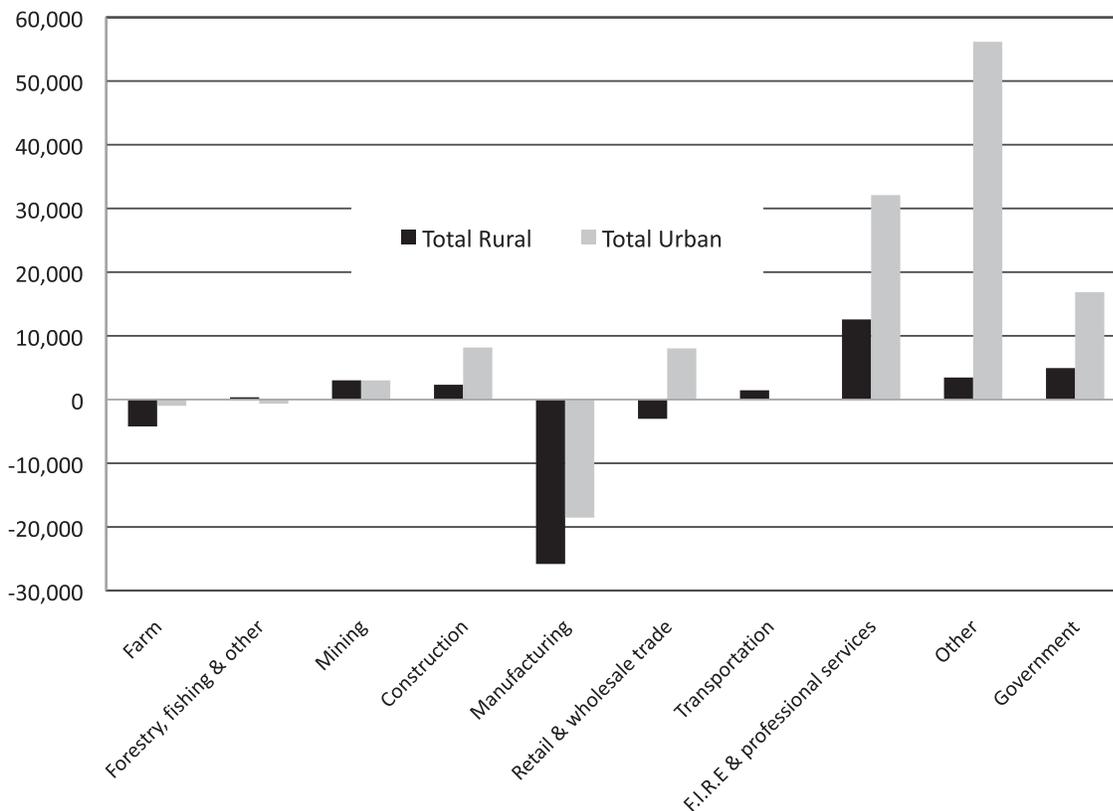
Although there has been an increase in the number of people employed in Arkansas from 2000 to 2008, both rural and urban

areas are losing farming and manufacturing jobs (Figure 21). The urban areas and the Highlands are gaining service, construction and retail trade jobs to more than offset the decline in manufacturing. However, the Delta and Coastal Plains, although gaining some service jobs, are not replacing their lost manufacturing jobs (Figure 22). The state as a whole lost over 43,000 manufacturing jobs between 2001 and 2008². While some of the lost manufacturing jobs are the result of outsourcing and may show up as gains in the service sector, many manufactur-

ing plants have downsized or moved their operations outside of the U.S. Of those lost manufacturing jobs, over 25,000 of them (58 percent) were lost from rural areas of the state. The Highlands region alone lost almost 15,000 manufacturing jobs between 2001 and 2008.

When basic or export industries downsize or leave the area, it has a broader effect that reduces employment in the supplying, wholesale and retail trade and service industries. This broader effect, combined with the dominance of increasingly capital-intensive natural resource-

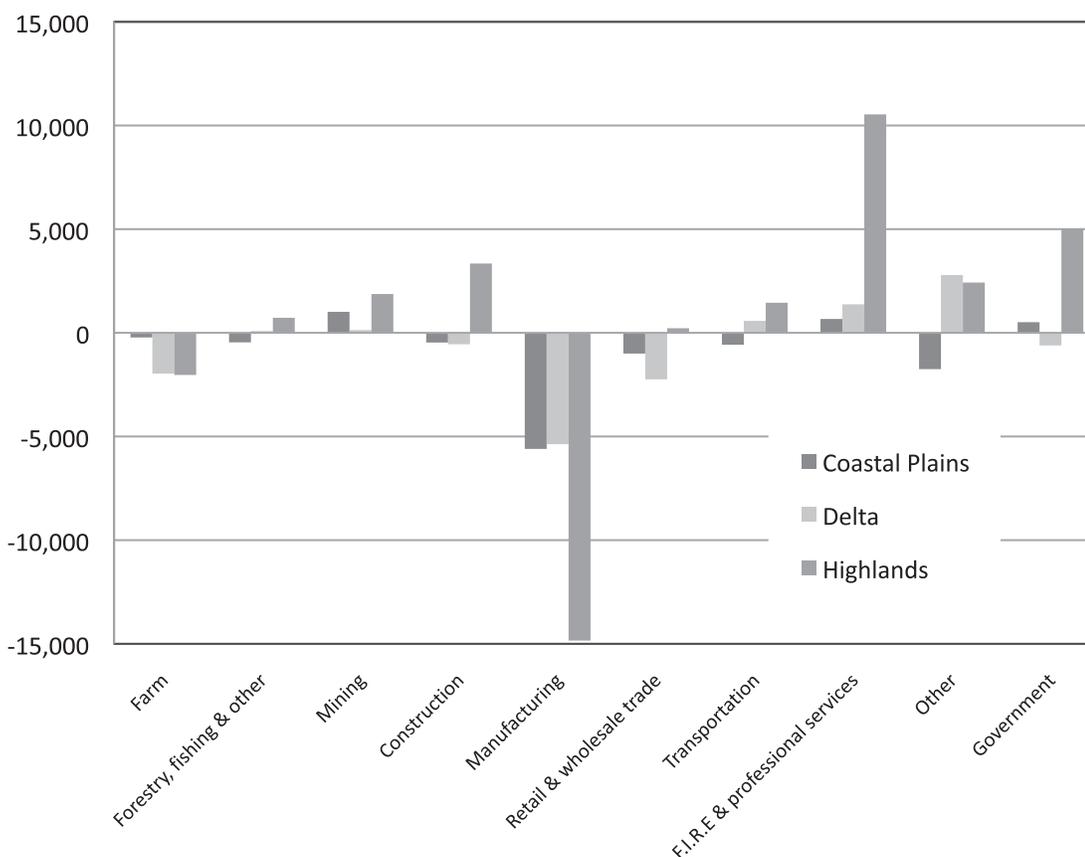
Figure 21. Arkansas Change in Employment by Industry, 2001-2008



Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

² Beginning with 2001, the Bureau of Economic Affairs changed from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) for employment by industry data. For consistency, change within industries starts from 2001 forward and uses NAICS.

Figure 22. Employment Change in Rural Regions by Industry, 2001-2008



Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

based industries, has resulted in fewer employment opportunities for people living in rural areas. The Coastal Plains region has already experienced a decline in employment in the construction, trade and transportation industries as a result of declining employment in their manufacturing industry.

Rural areas can no longer depend on recruiting manufacturing firms to provide jobs for their residents. Therefore, rural areas will need to be entrepreneurial to develop and expand industries that utilize and add value to their natural resources to stem job losses.

Employment by Major Industry Sector

Diversity in types of jobs and sources of income is vital to the success of Arkansas' economy. While the natural resources and manufacturing sectors are critical to the state's economy, it is the service sector that currently provides the largest share of employment in both urban and rural areas.

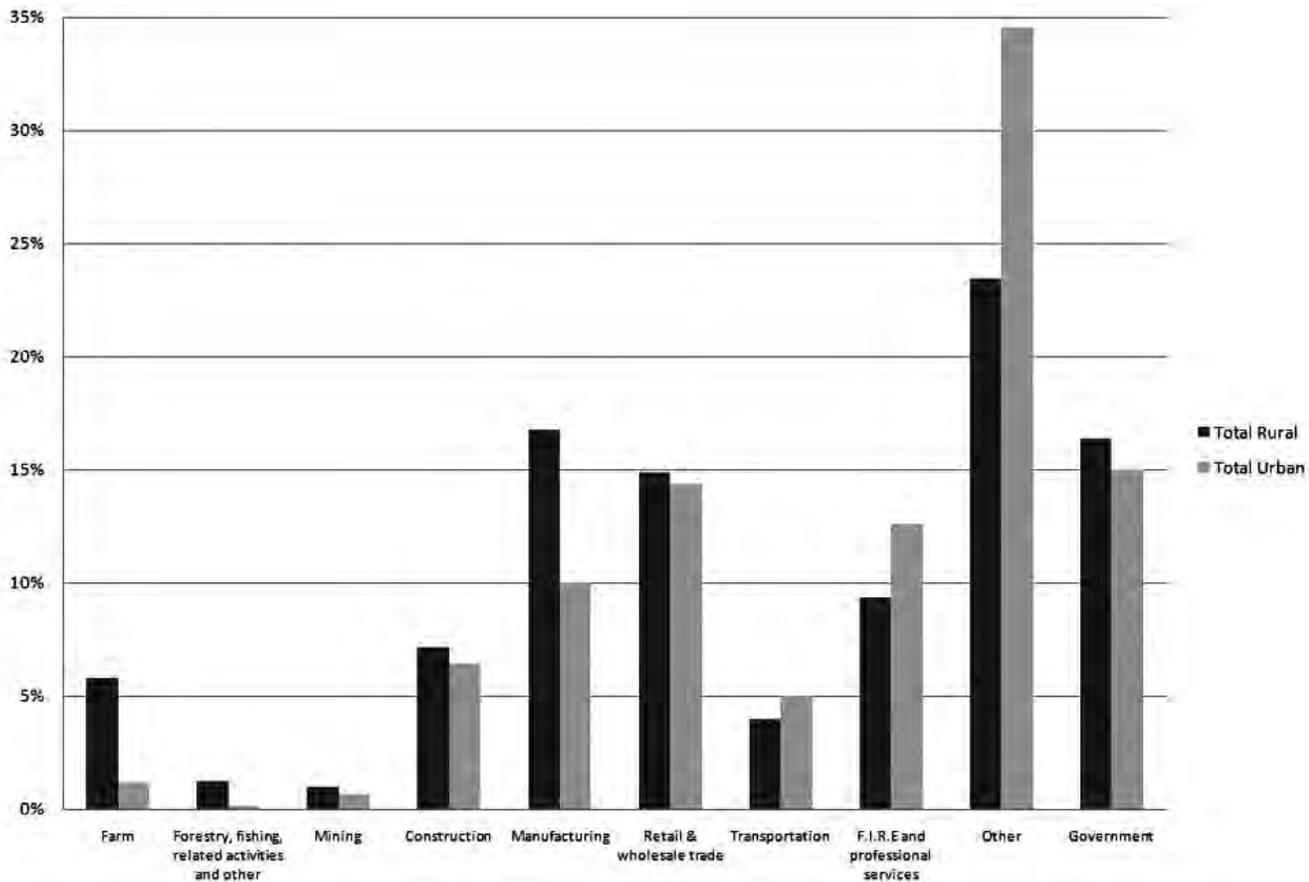
The major structural difference between rural and urban economies is that the manufacturing and natural resource sectors provide a larger share of the rural region's employment while services play a less important role in rural

areas compared to urban areas (Figure 23). In 2008, nearly one-third of the jobs in rural areas were in farming, forestry,

Forty-seven percent of the jobs in urban areas are in professional and other service industries compared with 33 percent in rural areas.

mining, construction or manufacturing, compared to just less than one-fifth in the urban areas. Forty-seven percent of the jobs in urban areas are in professional, finance, insurance and real estate (F.I.R.E.) and other service industries, compared with 33 percent in rural areas.

Figure 23. Rural and Urban Employment by Industry, 2008



Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

In 2008, rural employment was highest in the service industries (other) with 23.5 percent. Manufacturing and government jobs each provided a little more than 16 percent of total rural employment. Retail and trade jobs accounted for 15 percent of the employment followed by professional service jobs (9.4 percent), construction (7.2 percent), farming (5.8 percent), transportation (4 percent) and forestry and mining (1 percent each).

These data, which include all of rural Arkansas, mask regional variations in employment by sector. Forestry and fishing, retail and government jobs provide a

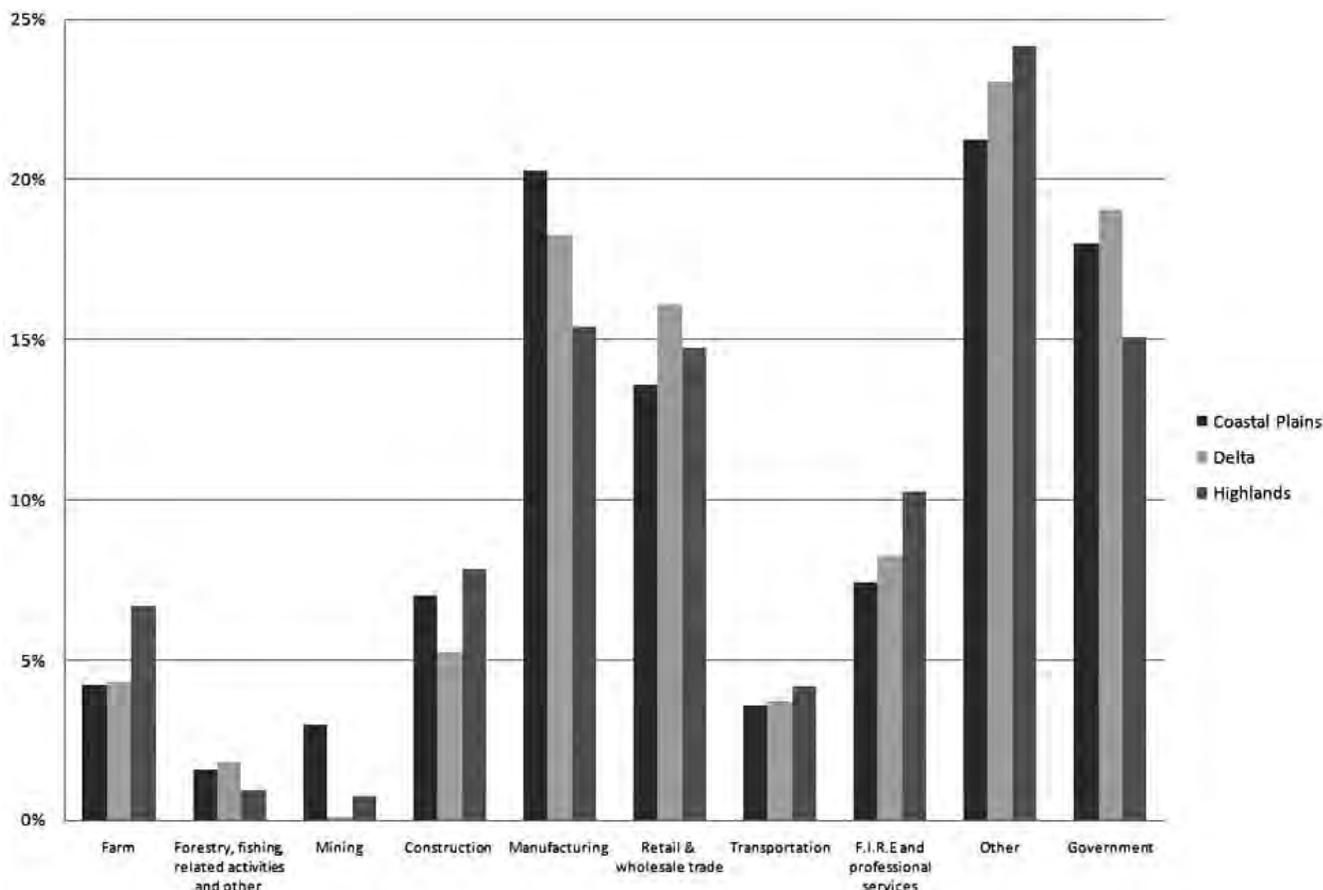
larger share of jobs in the Delta (37 percent) than in the Highlands (30 percent) or Coastal Plains (33 percent) (Figure 24). The Coastal Plains region is more dependent on manufacturing, which provides one-fifth of all the jobs as compared to only 18 percent in the Delta and 15 percent in the Highlands. The largest employment industry in the Highlands is in service (other), which provide almost one-fourth of all jobs in that region.

With employment in the historically dominant industries of manufacturing and agriculture in rural areas declining, the structure and economic base of

rural Arkansas is changing. These new realities suggest a need to identify and invest in economic enterprises that utilize local resources and diversify the economic base.

Recent investments in the natural gas industry have had significant impacts on employment for counties in the Fayetteville Shale geological region. Jobs connected to oil and natural gas are in the top 10 fastest-growing industries in the state. Industries in decline continue to be dominated by those associated with manufacturing. Additionally, the dramatic declines in new home and commercial construc-

Figure 24. Rural Regions Employment by Industry, 2008



Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

tion associated with the bursting of the real estate market bubble resulted in a loss of jobs in these sectors in parts of the state.

Earnings Per Job

The average earnings per job³ continued to increase between 2000 and 2007 with a statewide drop occurring between 2007 and 2008 (Figure 25). Although the average earnings increased statewide, there were 10 counties that actually saw a decrease in

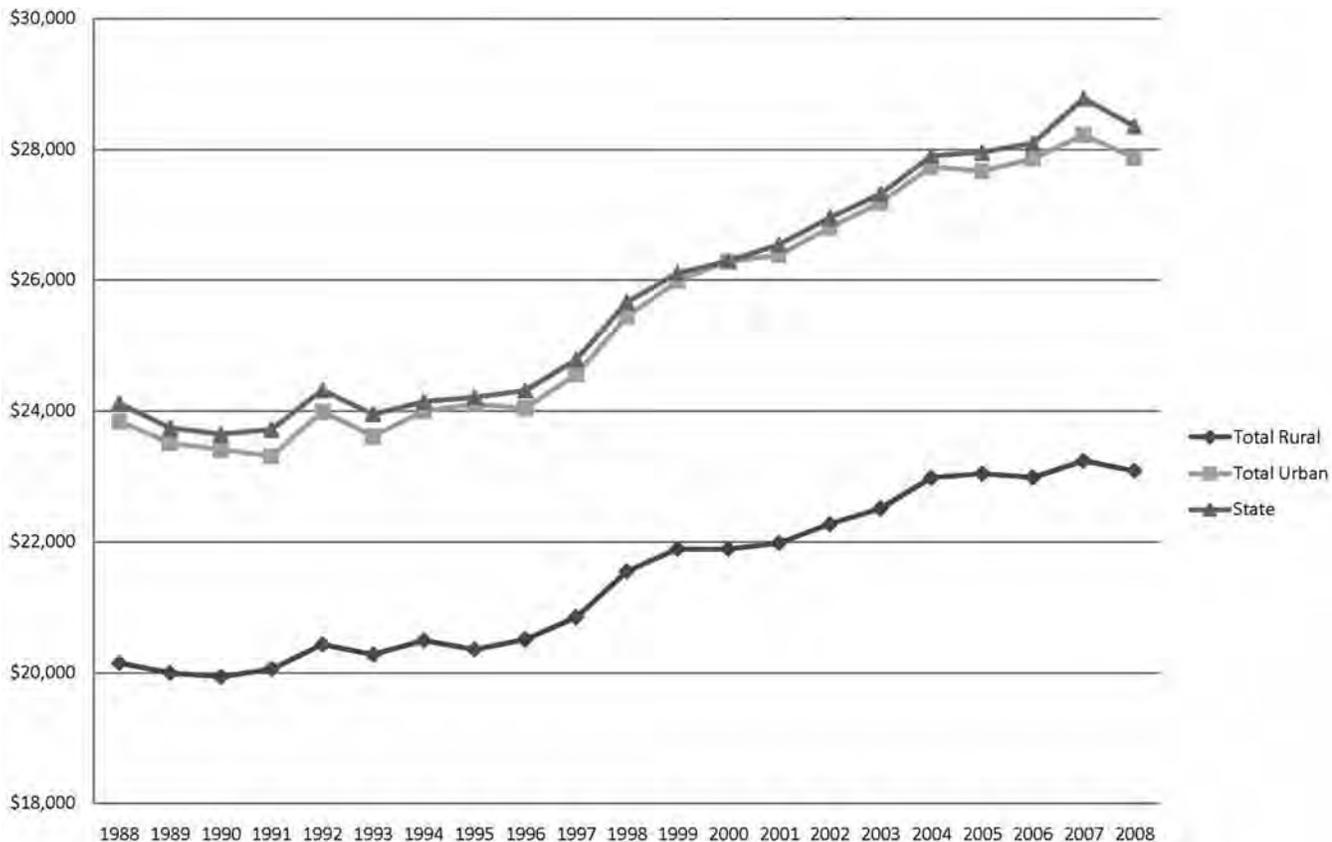
the average earnings per job. Of these 10 counties, 9 were in rural areas.

The persistent gap between rural and urban areas is dramatically evident in average earnings per job. Rural areas have significantly lower earnings per job than urban areas (Figure 26). However, the gap that was widening between the two in the early years of the decade seems to be narrowing slightly. Rural areas as a whole had an average wage per job of only \$21,892 in 2000 compared to an

urban average of \$26,282 in 2000, a 17 percent difference. The gap remained constant at 17 percent in 2008 with an average wage per job of \$28,860 for rural areas and \$34,837 for urban areas. Average earnings per job increased 5.5 percent for rural areas between 2000 and 2008, which was slightly less than the 6 percent increase for urban areas during that time period. This gap between the two narrowed due to a sharp drop in earnings for urban areas between 2007 and 2008. This decrease,

³ The Bureau of Economic Analysis employment series for states and local areas comprises estimates of the number of jobs, full-time plus part-time, by place of work. Full-time and part-time jobs are counted at equal weight. Both wages and salary and proprietors' employment are included, but the employment of unpaid family workers and volunteers are not included.

Figure 25. Average Earnings Per Job, 1988-2008
(constant 2000 dollars, including wage and salary employment and proprietors' employment)



Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

although it did occur in rural areas, was not as dramatic as it was in urban areas.

Earnings per job varied between the three rural regions of the state. The Coastal Plains had the highest average wage per job in 2008 at \$32,317. However, this region saw the slowest rate of growth (4 percent) in average earnings per job between 2000 and 2008. The Highlands had the lowest average wage per job at \$27,724 but experienced the highest rate of growth between 2000 and 2008 at 6.6 percent. The Delta had average earnings per job of \$28,752 in 2008, and its growth rate was 4.4 percent from 2000.

The differences in earnings per job were much greater among counties than between regions. Of the rural counties, Little River County had the highest average earnings per job at \$43,793 in 2008 and Searcy County had the lowest at \$22,373, a difference of more than \$20,000.

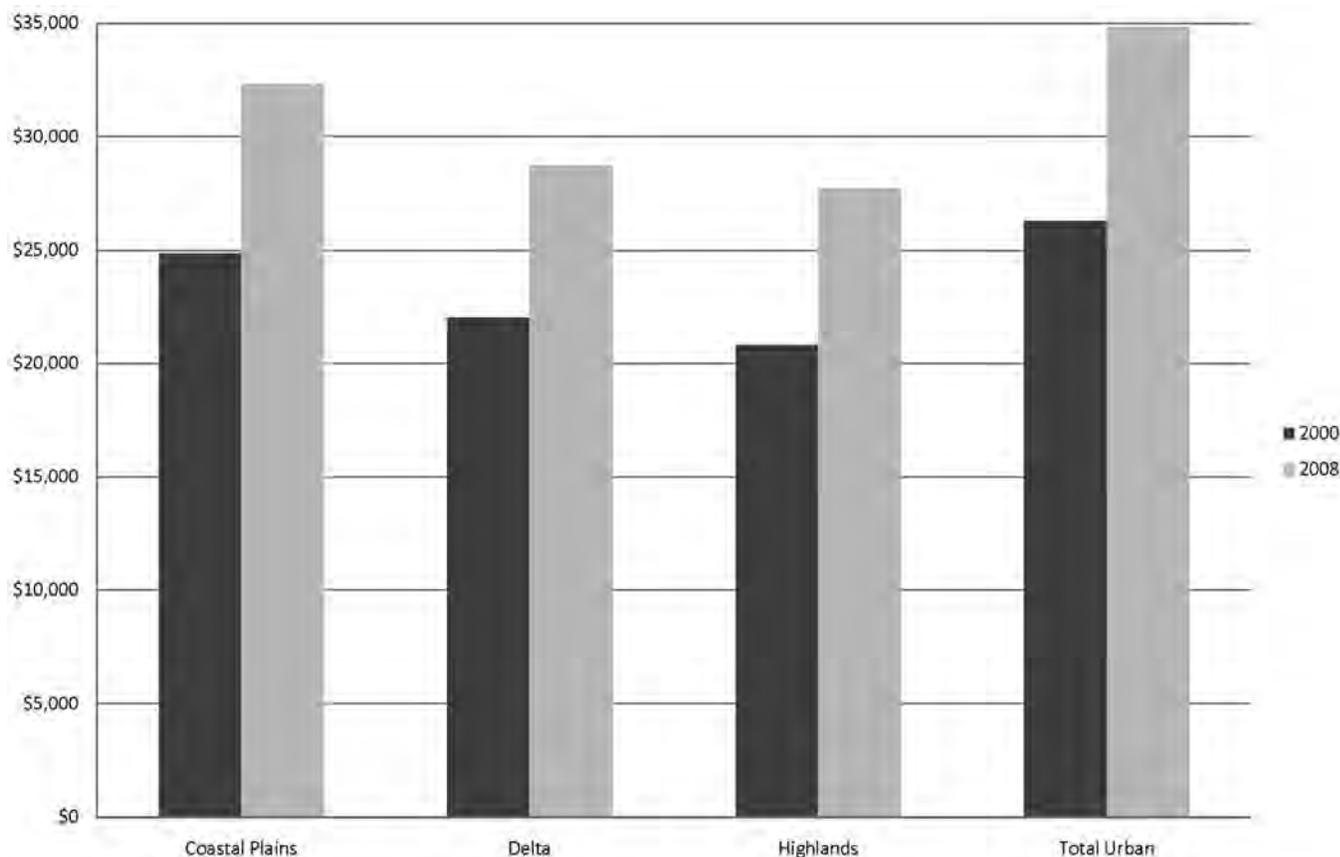
The earnings per job increased in most counties, although they declined in 10 counties. Nine of these counties were rural and were spread almost evenly between the rural regions (Figure 27). Twenty-three counties had an increase in earnings per job of greater than the state average of nearly 8 percent, 19 of which were located in rural areas.

Overall, both rural and urban regions had similar increases in the average wage per job between 2000 and 2008. Although earnings per job increased at nearly the

The persistent gap between rural and urban areas is dramatically evident in average earnings per job. Rural areas have significantly lower earnings per job than urban areas.

same rate, the disparity in earnings per job between rural and urban areas still remains great, with urban residents earning on average 20 percent more than rural residents.

Figure 26. Average Earnings Per Job, 2000 and 2008
(constant 2000 dollars, including wage and salary employment and proprietors' employment)



Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

Median Household Income

While earnings per job showed some increase in the early 2000s, median household incomes have continued to decline. Several possible explanations exist. The median household income figures are derived from samples, which if small can lead to large errors in the estimates. Alternatively, total earnings and household income could be increasing with a declining median household income if new households in the region received low incomes, if some households previously above the median

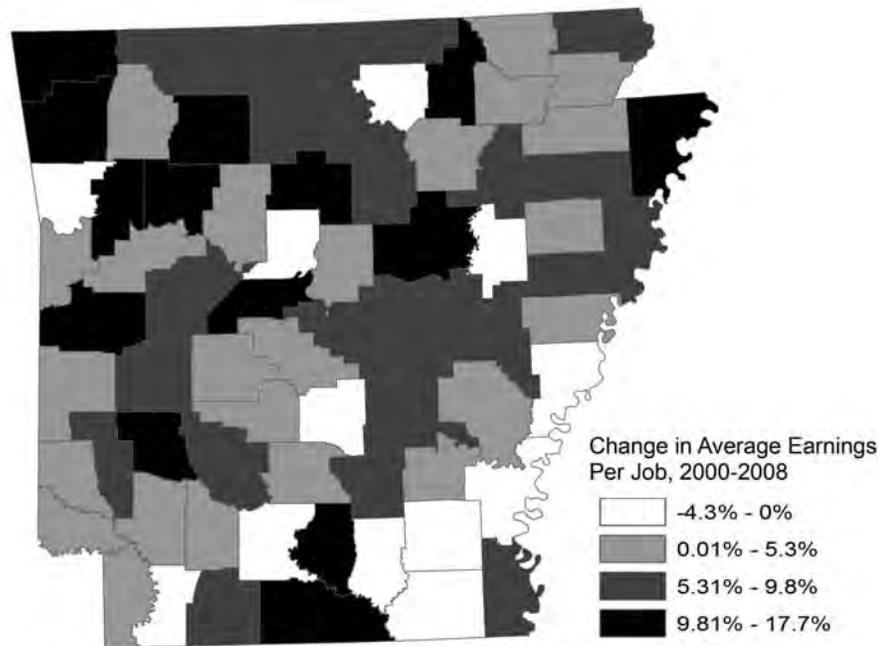
household income had declining incomes or if high income households left the region or state.

Since median household incomes are estimates, only an overview of the data will be presented without drawing conclusions. The median household income declined about 6 percent in rural and 5 percent in urban areas of the state between 2000 and 2008. The Delta experienced the largest decline in median household income over these eight years of 7.9 percent compared to 6.5 percent and 5.6 percent for the Coastal Plains and Highlands, respectively. Five

counties, all of them rural counties, showed a very slight increase in median household income. The other 70 counties had declining median household incomes ranging from no growth to a decline of nearly 15 percent in Sevier County. Ten counties, nine of them rural and four of them in the Highlands, experienced a decline of between 10 percent and 15 percent. While not definitive, this estimated decline in median household income is a trend to watch as it would indicate that a growing number of households are becoming less well-off.

Poverty and Economic Stress

Figure 27. Change in Average Earnings Per Job, 2000-2008



Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

Poverty

With a 2009 poverty rate of nearly 19 percent, Arkansas has the second highest rate in the nation. While this ranking for the state is high, many of the rural areas of Arkansas are notably higher than the overall state level. Poverty in the rural Delta and Coastal Plains, at over 20 percent, is substantially higher than poverty in urban areas (15 percent). People living in the Highlands are also more likely to be poor (17 percent) than people living in urban Arkansas (Figure 28).

In the first few years of this decade, the gap between urban and rural poverty rates closed slightly as the urban rates crept up while they slowly fell in the Delta

and Coastal Plains (Figure 29). However, beginning in 2005 the estimated poverty rates across the state have increased, especially in rural areas. Pockets of extreme poverty remain throughout the state with nine counties having a poverty rate 25 percent or greater

With a 2009 poverty rate of nearly 19 percent, Arkansas has the second highest rate in the nation.

(Figure 30). Of these, eight are rural counties, seven in the Delta and one in the Coastal Plains. Saline is the only urban county with a poverty rate greater than 25 percent. Of the 20 counties with poverty rates between 20 and 25 percent, all but three are rural

counties and seven of them are in the Highlands.

These poverty rates are based on the federal income thresholds, which are based on the size of the family and the number of related children under 18. The latest income threshold for a family of four with two children under 18 is \$21,756, a figure that is less than two-thirds of the state's estimated median household income. Other indicators of poverty or social and economic distress lend insight into how many families, particularly in rural areas, are struggling.

Social and Economic Stress

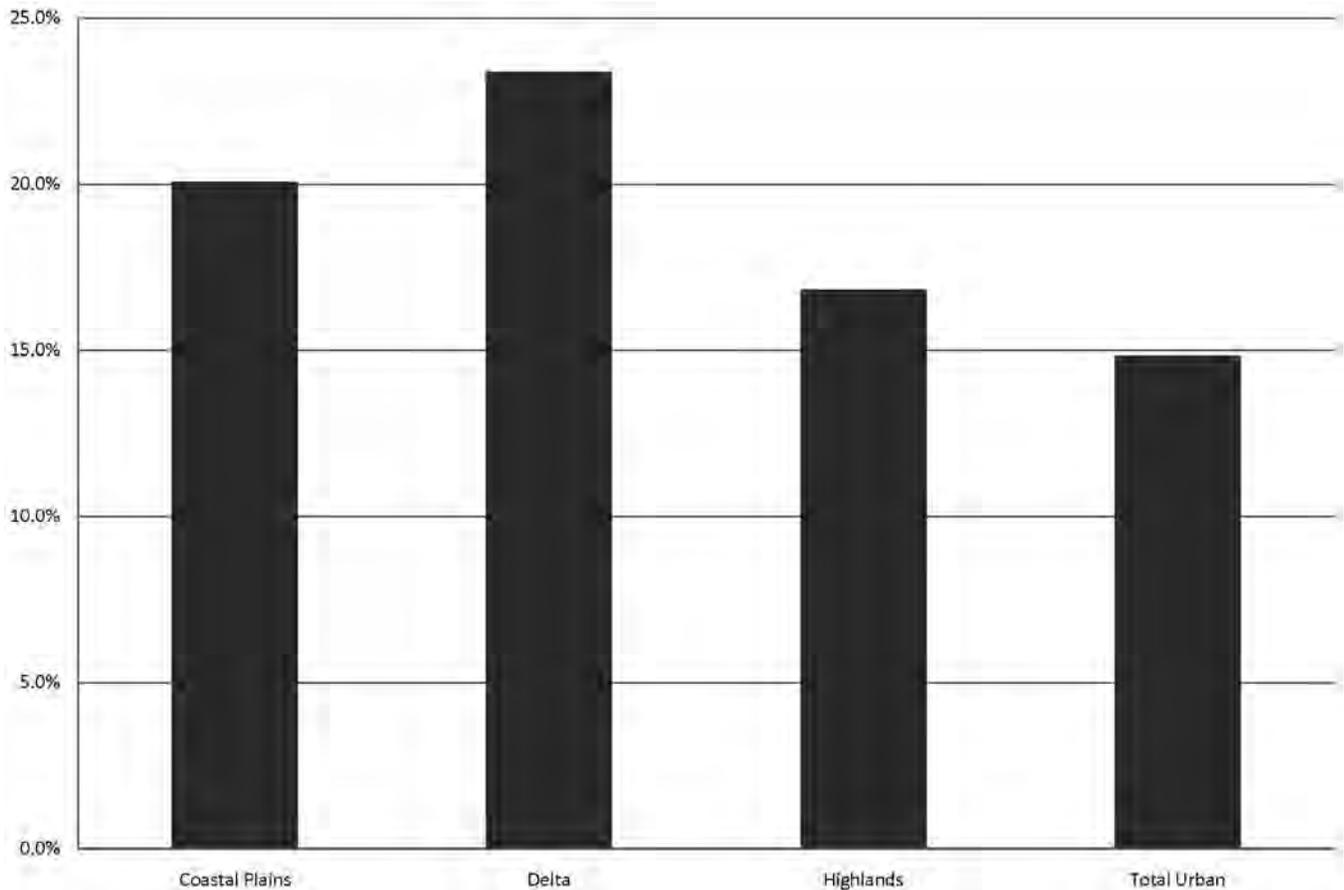
The impact of the recent economic recession with high unemployment and housing foreclosure rates has put additional stress on households. Statewide, the foreclosure rate⁴ for July 2010 was 1.7 or 586 housing units per foreclosure (Figure 31). The foreclosure rate for rural areas of the state was much lower than in urban areas.

Other indicators of social and economic stress include the number of people receiving food stamps, Medicaid eligibility and participation in ARKids First.

Statewide nearly one in five Arkansans received food stamps in 2009. Rural areas exceeded the statewide rate, while the urban rate was substantially lower. The Coastal Plains and Delta had rates of 27 percent and 30 percent, respectively, compared to the urban rate of only 17 percent of the population receiving food stamps.

⁴ Foreclosure rate is the number of foreclosures per 1,000 housing units.

Figure 28. Percent Persons in Poverty, 2009



Source: Small Area Income and Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

A larger share of children as compared to adults received food stamps in 2009. More than half of the children in the Delta received food stamps compared to 30 percent in urban areas and slightly over 34 percent statewide (Figure 32). For working age adults, the Delta again had the greatest percent receiving food stamps with one in four (25 percent) compared to 14 percent in urban areas and 17 percent statewide. Elderly adults, those over 65, receiving food stamps are also concentrated in the Delta and rural areas compared to urban areas.

Overall, 30 percent of Arkansas' population was eligible

for Medicaid in 2007. In rural areas, nearly one-third of the people are eligible for Medicaid (31 percent) as compared to 25 percent in urban areas. The Delta has the highest percent of its population Medicaid eligible at 35 percent, and in Phillips County

A larger share of children as compared to adults received food stamps in 2009. More than half the children in the Delta received food stamps.

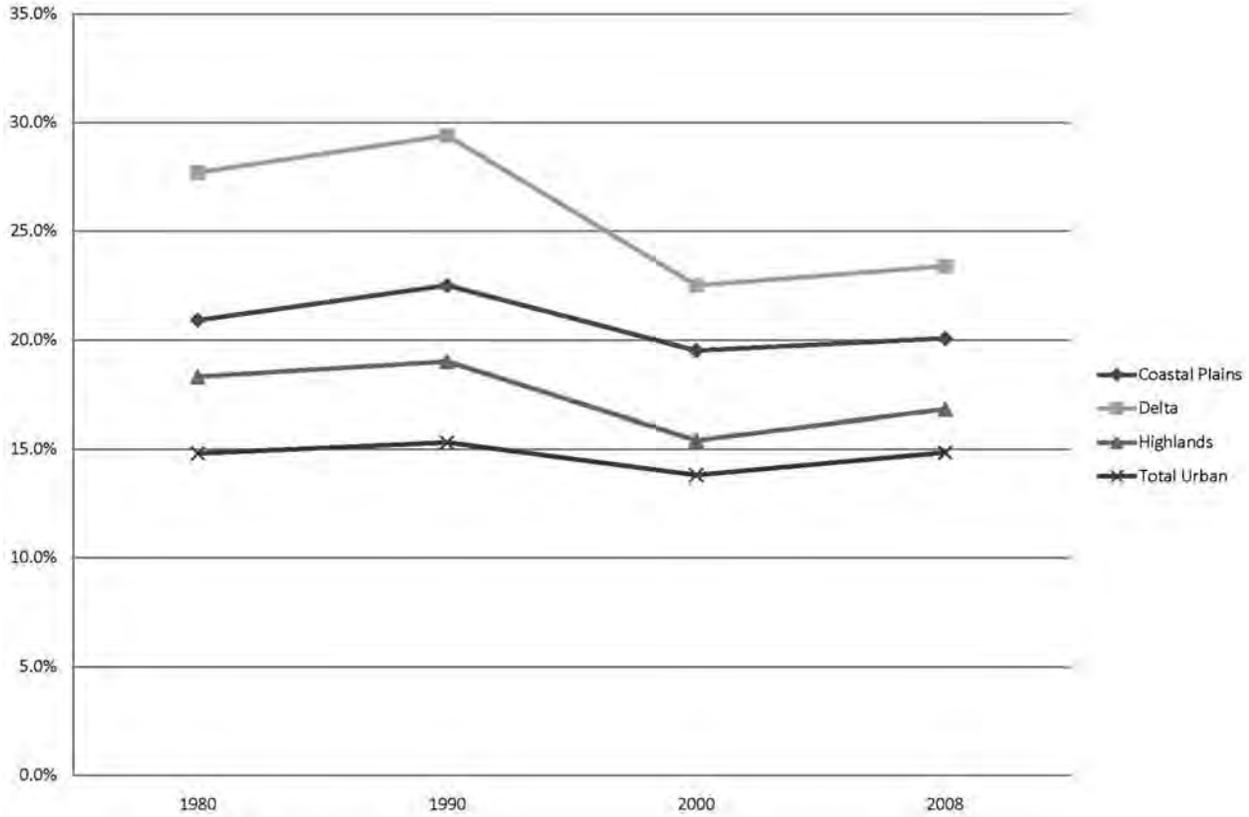
more than half the population qualifies for Medicaid (Figure 33). These numbers are for 2007, and since that time the economy has

worsened, which suggests even higher Medicaid eligible rates in 2010.

The percent of children applying for and receiving ARKids First in 2009 is small but geographically concentrated. Of the 12 counties with the highest percentages, all but one are rural counties and seven are in the Highlands (Figure 34). Once again, rural areas have a rate half again larger than that of urban areas, nearly 3 percent for urban compared to 4 percent for rural. The difference between ARKids First participation rates between rural regions is small compared to the rural-urban difference.

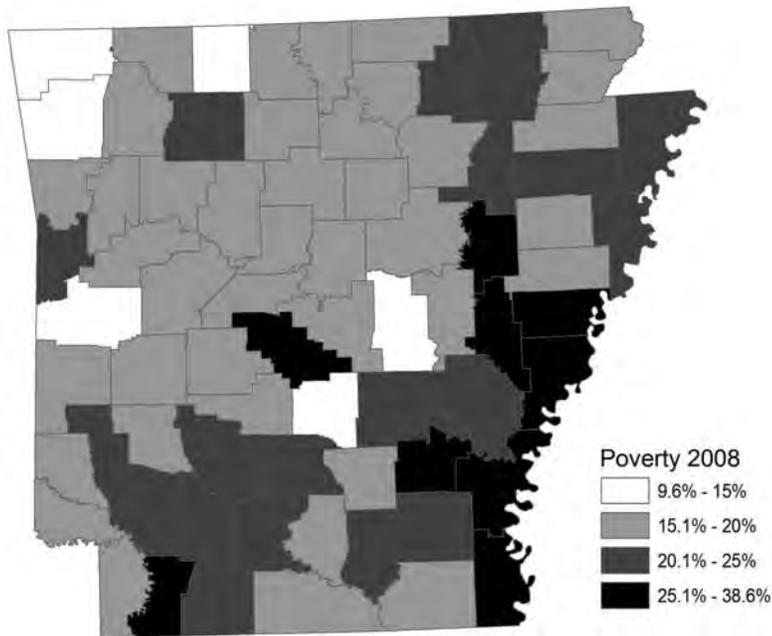
Poverty and Economic Stress

Figure 29. Change in Poverty Rates Over Time, by Regions



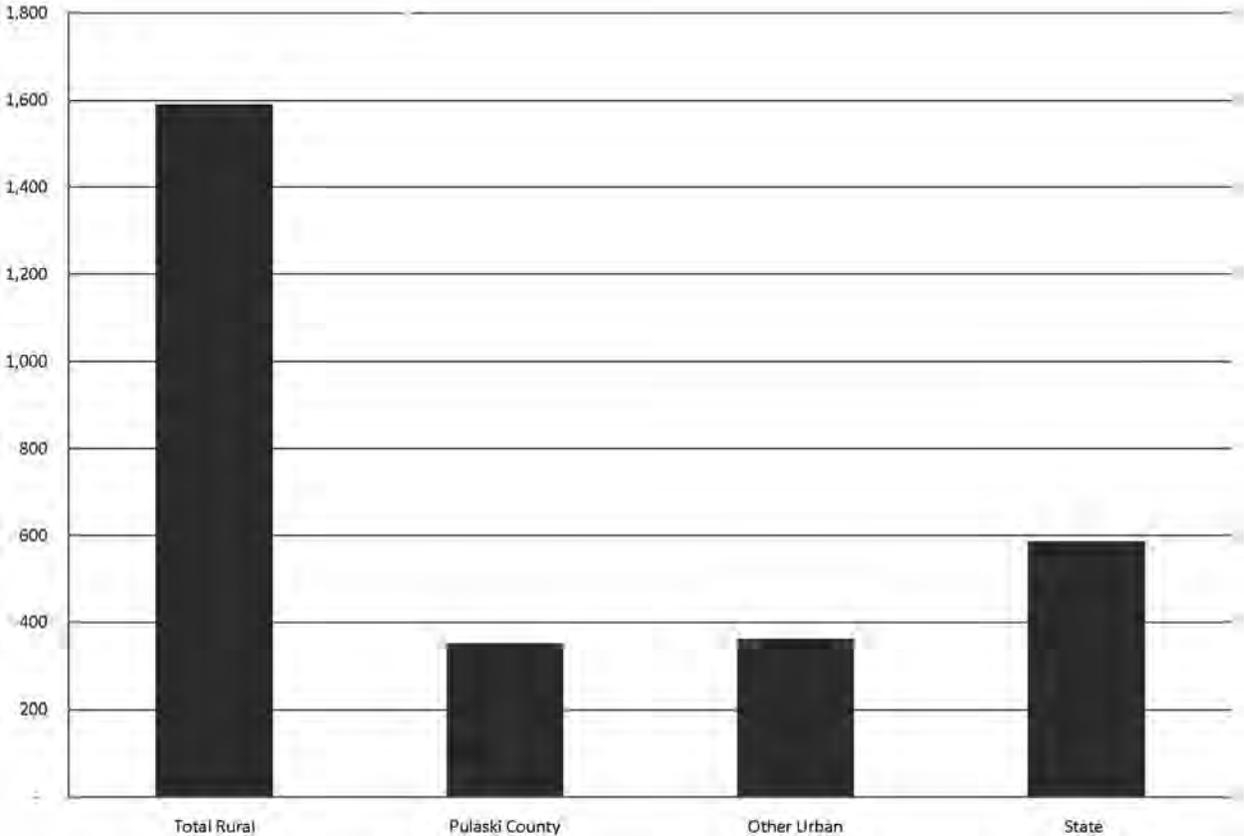
Source: Small Area Income and Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 30. Poverty, 2008



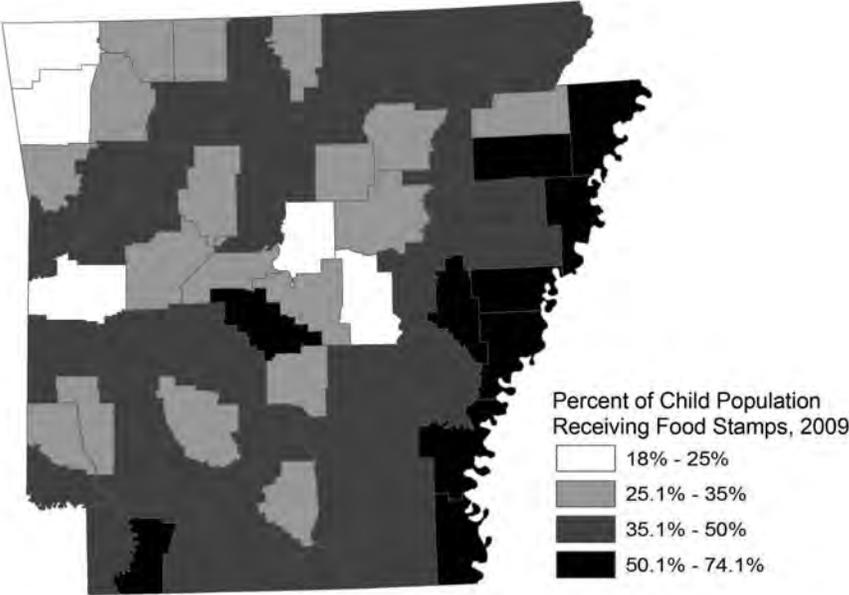
Source: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 31. Number of Housing Units Per One Foreclosure During November 2010



Source: Realty Trac, New Foreclosures in Arkansas, November 2010

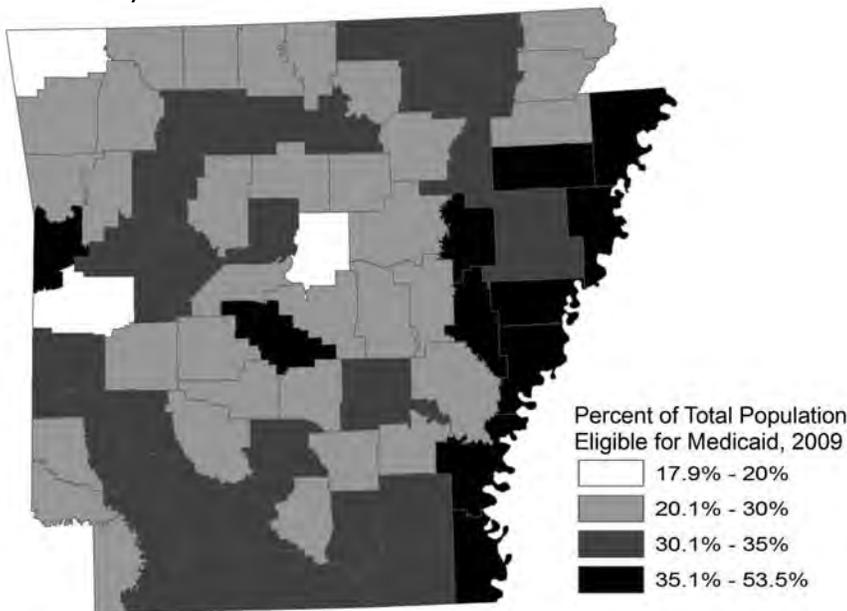
Figure 32. Percent of Child Population Receiving Food Stamps, 2009



Source: Arkansas Department of Human Services, Annual Statistical Report, 2007

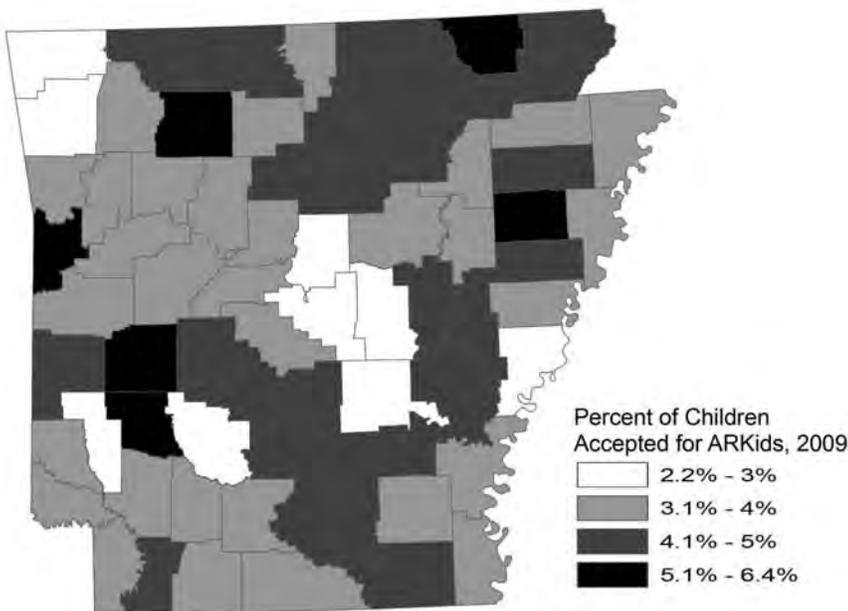
Poverty and Economic Stress

Figure 33. Percent of Total Population Eligible for Medicaid, 2009



Source: Arkansas Department of Human Services, Annual Statistical Report, 2009

Figure 34. Percent of Children Accepted for ARKids, 2009



Source: Arkansas Department of Human Services, Annual Statistical Report, 2009

Another measure of vulnerability for households is food accessibility. Rural communities in particular may have few or no supermarkets or large grocery stores. These communities may be served only by fast food restaurants or convenience stores with limited foodstuffs. Distance to grocery stores, particularly larger stores or discount chains, may be a substantial hurdle for rural residents and especially those rural populations with limited transportation options. “Food deserts” are defined as areas where the population is 10 miles or more from a large supermarket or supercenter. Counties are “food deserts” if the percentage of persons in the county more than 10 miles from a large supermarket or supercenter is greater

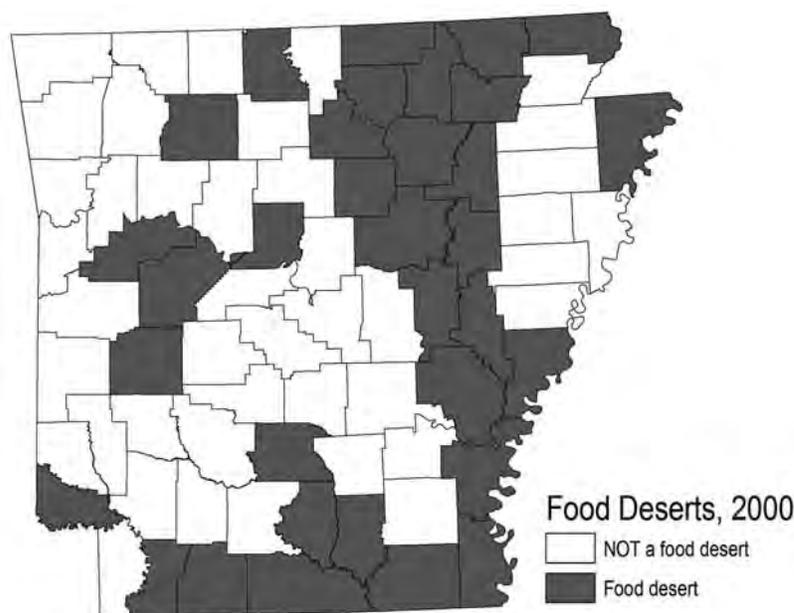
Distance to grocery stores, particularly larger stores or discount chains, may be a substantial hurdle for rural residents and especially those with limited transportation options.

than the median percentage of people in a food desert for the rest of the southern region of the United States⁵.

As shown in Figure 35, only rural counties are found to be “food deserts.” Of the rural regions, nearly half of the Highlands counties (16 out of 35) are defined as food deserts. Similarly about half of the Coastal Plains counties are food deserts, especially along the southern border of the state. The Delta has a higher proportion of counties,

⁵Blanchard, T. and T. Lyson, “Retail Concentration, Food Deserts, and Food Disadvantaged Communities in Rural America” published by the Southern Rural Development Center and available at http://srdc.msstate.edu/ridge/files/recipients/02_blanchard_final.pdf.

Figure 35. Food Deserts, 2000



Source: http://srdc.msstate.edu/ridge/files/recipients/02_blanchard_final.pdf

nearly two out of three, defined as food deserts. Food deserts highlight another disadvantage of people living in rural areas of the state. Combined with higher unemployment rates, lower household income, and inadequate transportation, food deserts make it more difficult to obtain healthy and affordable food.

Health

In general, rural residents of the state fare less well than urban residents in several health measures, including infant mortality, obesity and access to care. Infant mortality rates and obesity levels are used as broad measures of the health of Arkansans. Infant mortality rates are a widely used indicator of population health

that allows comparison across counties, states and countries. Availability of health care is measured by physicians per 100,000 people. In addition to availability of care, two other factors related to poor health outcomes are considered: lack of health insurance and lack of a regular doctor.

Infant Mortality

The five-year infant mortality rate for Arkansas for the combined years between 2001 and 2005 was 8.3 deaths per 1,000 live births. The U.S. rate for this same time period was 6.8 deaths per 1,000 live births. Nationally, in 2006, Arkansas ranked fifth highest among all the states.

While the state’s urban and rural infant mortality rates are not substantively different, more variation can be seen between rural regions and between individual counties (Figure 36). The rural regions have a range of infant mortality rates from a low of seven in the Highlands to a high of just over 10 in the Delta.

Individual counties display even more variation in the five-year average, ranging from a low of just under two infant deaths per 1,000 live births in Scott County to a high of 20 in Lee County⁶. Twenty-seven counties have rates greater than nine, 23 of which are rural counties. Nine of the 10 counties with the highest rates are rural counties.

Obesity

Obesity has been identified as a national epidemic. Despite national and state initiatives aimed at combating this epidemic, the problem continues to be widespread. An individual is considered overweight with a body mass index (BMI) of 25 to 30. Obesity is defined as a BMI of 30 or more. In 2007-2008, 68 percent of adults aged 20 or older in the United States were either overweight or obese. Mirroring the national trend, almost 66 percent of Arkansas’ adult population was either overweight or obese. Over 50 percent of the adult population in every county in the state was overweight or obese (Figure 37). The highest rate was seen in Miller County with three out of four adults with a BMI of 25 or more.

⁶Infant Mortality Rates tend to be somewhat “unstable” meaning they will sometimes have large changes between time periods. Because the number of births in some counties is relatively small in number and the infant deaths even smaller, a change of one or two deaths can sometimes result in a large change in the IMR.

Health

The lowest rate of 59 percent was seen in Boone County. Regionally, the Delta has a higher percentage of overweight and obese adults at 70 percent of the adult population.

This epidemic affects the state's children as well. Almost 40 percent of Arkansas children between the ages of two and 19 are either overweight or obese. There is not a lot of variation between the rural regions or between rural and urban regions, although urban counties have a slightly lower rate than rural counties (Figure 38). Among rural regions, the Highlands have the lowest rates of overweight or

In 2007-2008, almost 66 percent of Arkansas' adult population was either overweight or obese.

obese children at 38 percent while the Delta has the highest at 43 percent. These are both slightly higher than the urban rate of 37 percent. Among individual counties, Madison County had the lowest rate of overweight or obese children at 31 percent, while Lee had the highest at 51 percent.

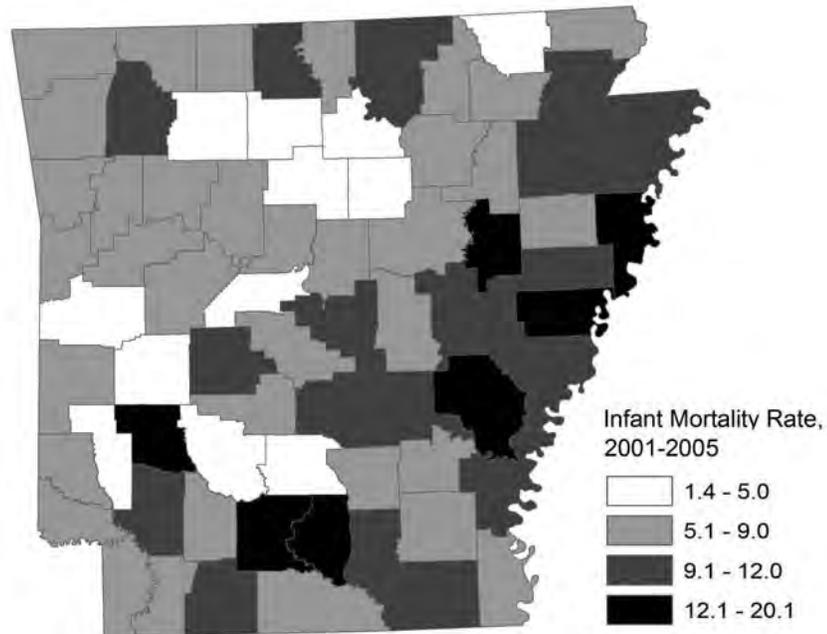
Health Care Availability and Access

Rural residents face more challenges in accessing health care services than urban residents. Rural areas had fewer health care providers per 100,000 people than urban areas in 2009. Overall, the state had 103 primary care physicians per 100,000 people. However, this average masked substantial variations in rural and urban availability (Figure 39). Rural areas had an average of 78 primary care physicians per

100,000 as compared to 133 per 100,000 for urban areas. These numbers also mask the regional variation in rural areas.

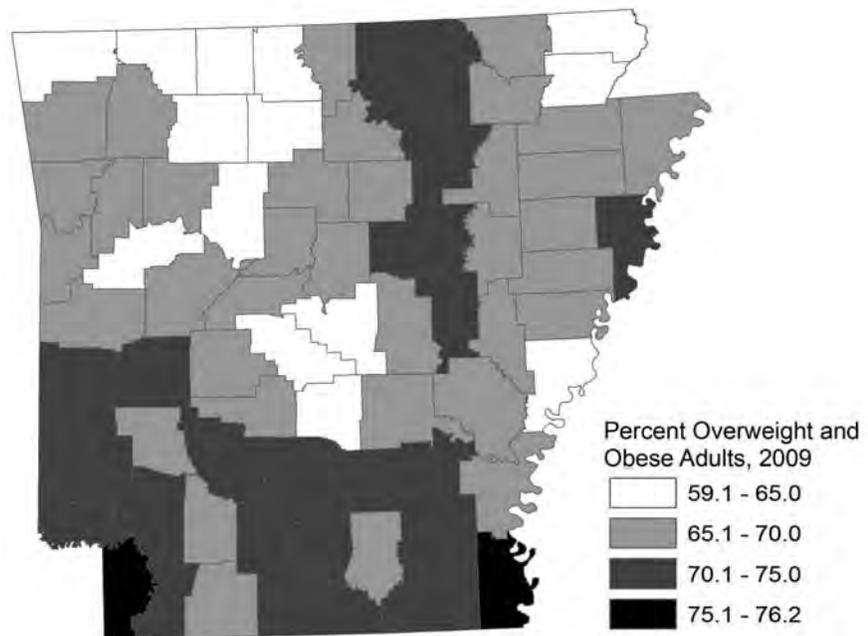
When looking at individual rural regions, the Delta had the fewest primary care physicians per 100,000 at 59, less than half

Figure 36. Infant Mortality Rate, 2001-2005



Source: Arkansas Department of Health

Figure 37. Percent Overweight and Obese Adults, 2009



Source: Arkansas Department of Health

the average for urban areas. The Coastal Plains had 70 per 100,000 and the Highlands had 87 per 100,000. Again, these numbers mask even greater variability between rural counties. Four rural counties had less than 20 primary care physicians per 100,000 including Cleveland County, which had no primary care physicians at all in 2009.

Two other indicators of health care access are health insurance coverage and having a regular doctor. Persons without health insurance coverage often do not seek medical care until a condition becomes serious or requires a visit to an emergency clinic. Persons without a regular doctor often have inconsistent medical attention and might receive conflicting treatment or prescriptions because the practitioner may not have complete or accurate patient information.

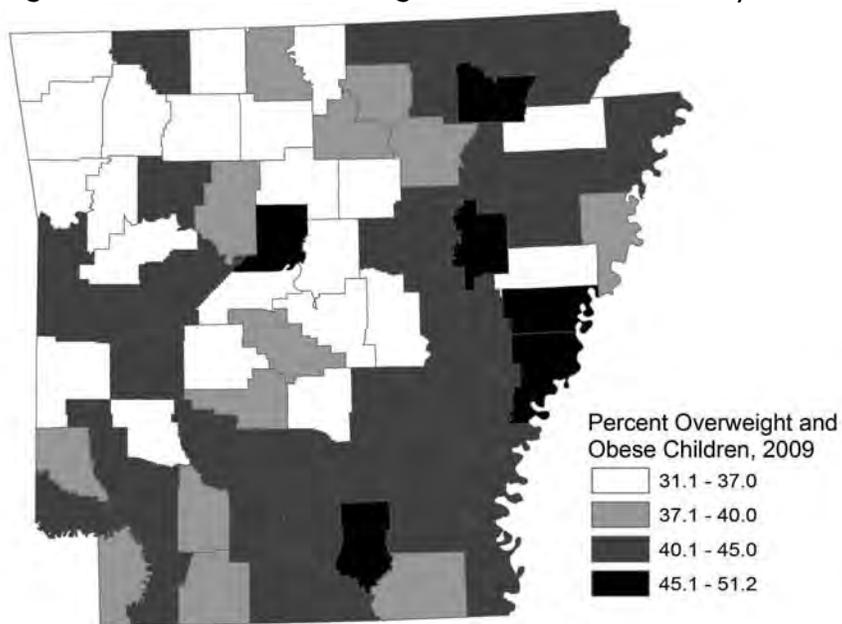
Rural areas had fewer health care providers and fewer hospital beds per 100,000 people than urban areas in 2009.

Nearly one in five adult Arkansans lacks health insurance. Rural areas have 21 percent uninsured adults compared to 15 percent in urban areas. Among the rural regions, 17 percent of adults in the Coastal Plains are uninsured compared with 20 percent in the Delta and 22 percent in the Highlands. Greater variation can be seen between individual counties (Figure 40). Six of the seven counties with the highest percentage of uninsured adults are rural counties. St. Francis had the highest rates of uninsured adults at 30 percent. However, three of the five counties with the

lowest percentages of uninsured adults were also rural. Calhoun County had the lowest rate of uninsured adults at 9 percent.

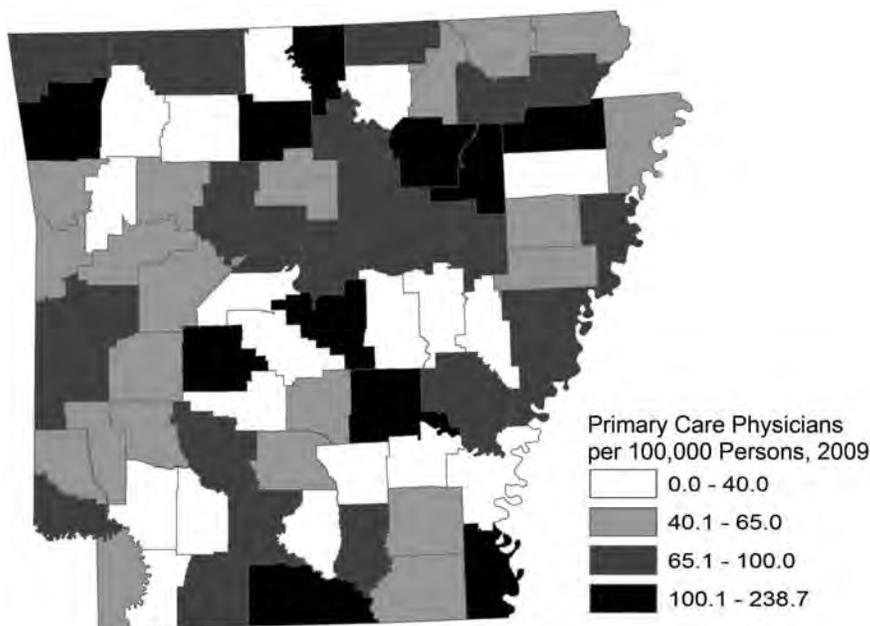
The rate of adults in Arkansas with no personal doctor is approximately 17 percent. In this measure of health care

Figure 38. Percent Overweight and Obese Children, 2009



Source: Arkansas Department of Health

Figure 39. Primary Care Physicians Per 100,000 Persons, 2009



Source: Arkansas Department of Health

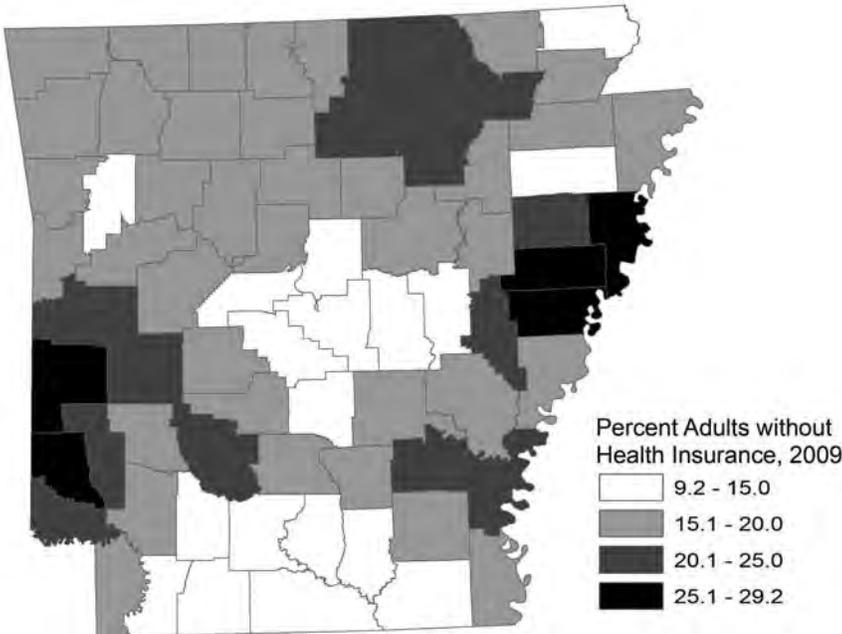
Education

availability, rural counties fare slightly better than urban counties. The rate of adults with no personal doctor in rural areas is 15 percent compared to 19 percent

in urban areas. Among the rural regions, the Coastal Plains have the lowest rate at 11 percent and the Highlands have the highest rate at 16 percent. Individual

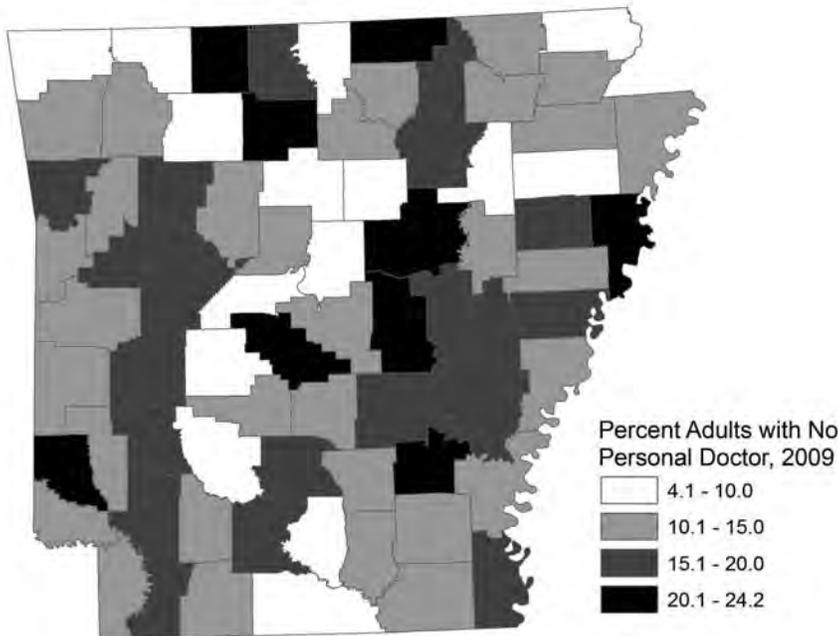
counties range from a low of 4 percent in Calhoun County to a high of 24 percent in White County (Figure 41). Ten counties, seven of which are rural, report 20 percent or more of adults do not have a regular source of health care. Six of the seven rural counties are located in the Highlands.

Figure 40. Percent Adults Without Health Insurance, 2009



Source: Arkansas Department of Health

Figure 41. Percent Adults With No Personal Doctor, 2009



Source: Arkansas Department of Health

Education in Arkansas

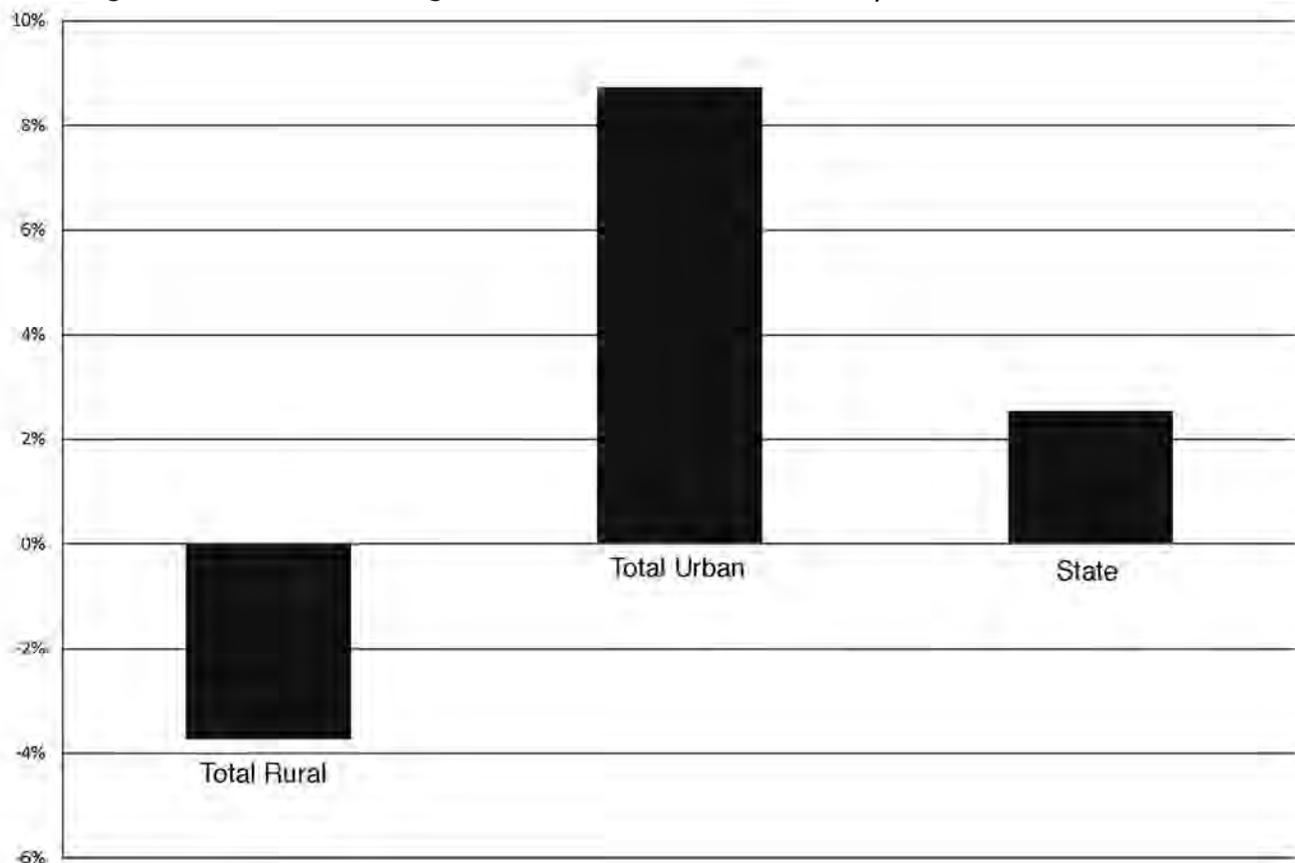
The value of a well-educated population cannot be overstated. Investing in Arkansas' people reaps benefits for individuals, communities and society as a whole. Some of these benefits include a more skilled, versatile and employable workforce, lower poverty rates and the ability to participate in the highly competitive global economy. These benefits make it important that both children and adults in Arkansas have access to a high-quality education.

Public School Enrollment, K-12

Enrollment in Arkansas public schools increased 2.5 percent between the 2004-2005 and 2009-2010 school years (Figure 42). However, the change in enrollment varied greatly between regions of the state. Rural areas of the state lost 4 percent of their public school enrollment while urban areas increased enrollment 9 percent on average (Figure 43). Although enrollment increased on average in urban areas, it decreased in Crittenden, Jefferson and Miller counties. Of the nine urban counties where public school enrollment increased, six grew over 10 percent.

Enrollment declined in all rural regions, with the Delta seeing a

Figure 42. Percent Change in Public School Enrollment, 2004-2005 to 2009-2010



Source: Arkansas Department of Education

10 percent decline in enrollment, followed by the Coastal Plains with an 8 percent decline and the Highlands with only a slight decline.

Enrollment declined in 54 counties in the state during this time period. Fifty-one of those counties are rural counties with nearly half located in the Highlands, 15 in the Delta and 12 in the Coastal Plains. Only one rural county in the Delta increased enrollment and no counties in the Coastal Plains increased enrollment. Declining enrollment trends in rural regions reflect the more general trends of outmigration from the Delta and Coastal Plains

and growing populations in Arkansas' urban areas.

As smaller school districts become economically less viable, they are being consolidated into

larger districts. Sometimes this results in rural children bused long distances to attend school in larger districts. Consolidation of

smaller, rural schools can cause further strain on rural communities as the jobs associated with the schools are either lost or transferred to larger districts.

Benefits of a well-educated population include a more skilled, versatile and employable workforce, lower poverty rates and the ability to participate in the highly competitive global economy.

Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Participation

In an effort to ensure every public school student in Arkansas has lunch, the National School Lunch Program funds meals for eligible children for free or at a reduced cost⁷. Almost 60 percent of public school children participated statewide during the 2009-2010 school year.

⁷ Children from families with incomes below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals.

Education

There was disparity between rural and urban rates of children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, with 65 percent participating in rural areas compared to 55 percent in urban areas. Among the rural regions, the Delta had an enrollment rate of nearly 77 percent, whereas the Coastal Plains and Highlands had rates that exceeded 60 percent (Figure 44).

Within regions, there was also great variation among counties. In the Delta, Greene County had the lowest participation rate of 58 percent while Lee County had 100 percent participation. The

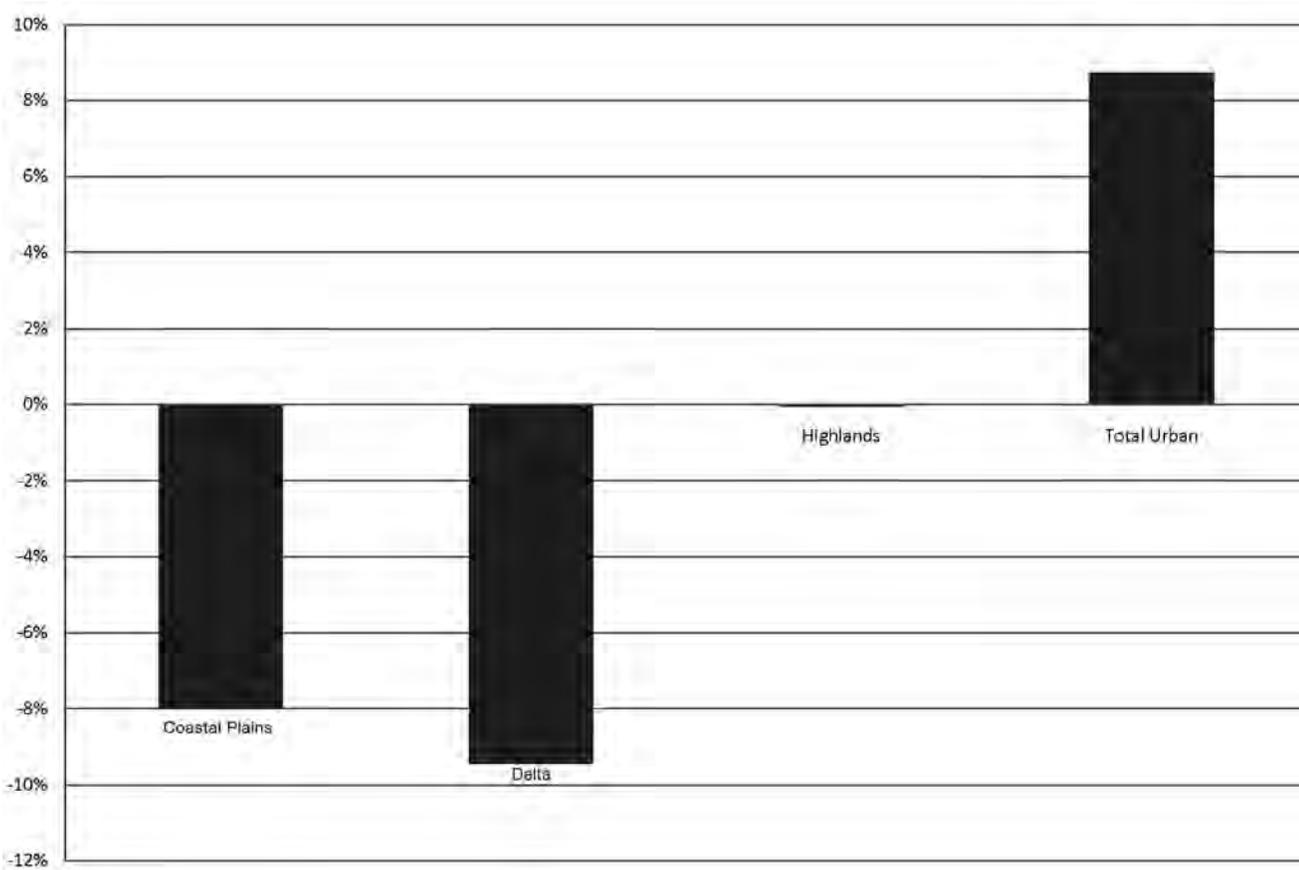
Coastal Plains ranged from 48 percent in Cleveland County to 80 percent in Lafayette County. The Highlands ranged from 46 percent in Grant County to 75 percent in Searcy County.

With the downturn in the economy and rising unemployment rates, more families are using free or reduced-price lunch program to provide for their children.

There has been an increase in the number and percentage of students participating in the free and reduced-price lunch program

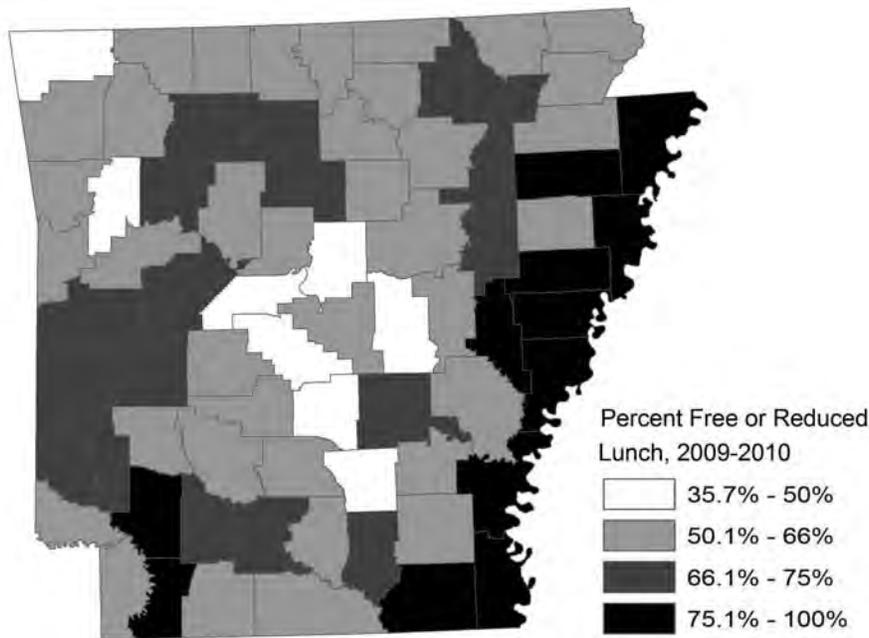
from 2004 to 2010. In the 2009-2010 school year there were nearly 36,000 more students receiving free or reduced-price lunches than in the 2004-2005 school year. The percentage of students receiving free or reduced-price lunches increased from 53 percent to 59 percent during this period. With the downturn in the economy and rising unemployment rates, more families are using this food assistance program to provide for their children.

Figure 43. Percent Change in Public School Enrollment, 2004-2005 to 2009-2010



Source: Arkansas Department of Education

Figure 44. Percent Free or Reduced Lunch, 2009-2010



Source: Arkansas Department of Education

Educational Attainment

Arkansans are less likely to have completed high school or college compared to the rest of the U.S. population. In 2000, Arkansas ranked 45th nationally in the percentage of adults age 25 and older with high school diplomas and 49th in the percentage of people with college degrees.

Rural Arkansans are less likely to have either a high school diploma or college degree than urban Arkansans. Nearly 80 percent of urban residents in the state have a high school diploma compared to 71 percent of rural residents. Only 12 percent of rural residents have college degrees compared to 21 percent of urban residents. Rural Arkansas is even further behind when compared to the rest of the nation. Nationwide 24 percent of adults have a college degree compared with only 12 percent in rural Arkansas.

Educational attainment varies among rural regions. Just 65 percent of adults over 25 years of age have a high school diploma

In 2000 Arkansas ranked 45th nationally in the percentage of adults age 25 and older with high school diplomas and 49th in the percentage of people with college degrees.

and 10 percent are college graduates in the Delta. Nearly three in four residents of the Coastal Plains and Highlands have completed a high school diploma and 13 percent have earned a college degree.

Disasters and Social Vulnerability

Arkansas experiences many natural disasters including floods and tornados as well as ice, hail and wind storms. The impacts of

these natural disasters are far-reaching and place stress on the social, economic, environmental and governmental agencies of the state. While natural disasters can and do affect everyone, the impacts are often most strongly felt by low-income, elderly and other disadvantaged populations. Assessing the level of social vulnerability to disasters at the county level focuses attention on areas that need assistance preparing for and responding to natural disasters.

It is recognized by researchers that the underlying dimensions dictating social vulnerability of a county are poverty, a disproportionately high number of children and elderly, a densely-built environment and poorly built homes, single-sector economic dependence, ethnically and racially marginalized populations, a high percentage of lower wage service jobs and a high dependence on infrastructure. Researchers have combined these measures into a Social Vulnerability Index (SoVI). Due to geographic isolation and limited resources, rural areas tend to be more vulnerable to the negative outcomes of disasters. Some of these negative outcomes include the inability to evacuate quickly and ineffective emergency response management systems which leave many rural residents to fend for themselves.

In the United States as a whole, the SoVI county scores range from a low of -9.6 (very low social vulnerability) to a high of 49.51 (very high social vulnerability) with an average vulnerability score of 1.54. Arkansas has an average vulnerability score of 1.12, which makes the state less vulnerable than the national average.

Disasters

Within the state, there is disparity in the level of social vulnerability between rural and urban counties (Figure 45). Rural counties have a social vulnerability score of 1.23 compared with 0.48 for urban counties, meaning on average rural counties are more vulnerable than urban counties. Between rural regions, the scores vary from a high of 2.94 in the Delta to 1.11 in the Coastal Plains to 0.53 in the Highlands.

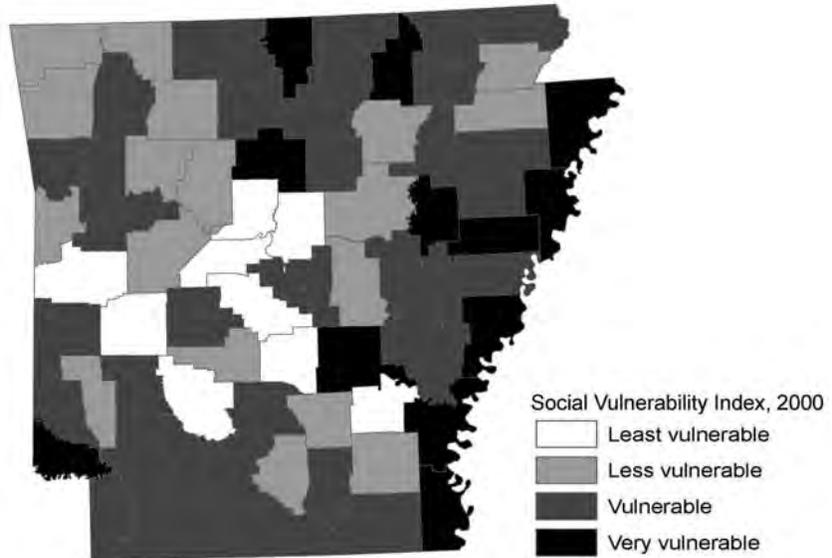
Between individual rural counties, the social vulnerability scores range from a low of -5.13 in Conway County to a high of 8.95 in Phillips County. Thirty of the 75 counties have a higher level of social vulnerability than the national average of 1.54. Of these 30 counties, 27 are rural with 12 in the Delta, 12 in the Highlands and three in the Coastal Plains. The range between urban counties spans from a low of -4.30 in Saline County to a high of 6.80 in Crittenden County.

relatively low SoVI of 0.53. The Delta, between 1999 and 2010, experienced 19 declarations with a social vulnerability score of 2.94. The Coastal Plains had the least number of declarations at 15, with an average social vulnerability score of 1.11. Urban counties

experienced 19 declarations but also have a low social vulnerability score of 0.48.

Of the 75 counties in the state, 17 had 10 or more federally-declared disasters between 1999 and 2010. Of those, 15 were rural counties and nine of those 15

Figure 45. Social Vulnerability Index, 2000



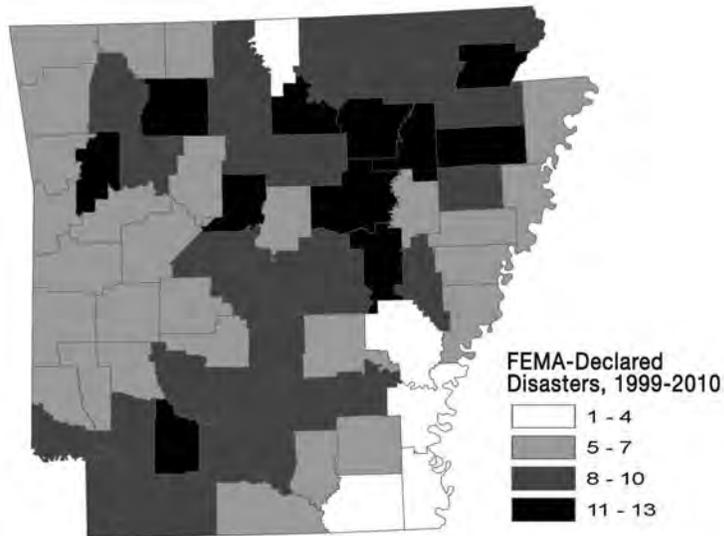
Source: Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute
Cutter, S.L., Boruff, B.J. and Shirley, W.L. (2003), Social Vulnerability to Environmental Hazards. *Social Science Quarterly*, 84:242-261.

Federally-Declared Disasters

These measures of vulnerability become important when assessing the number of natural disasters that occur throughout the state. Those areas that score higher on the SoVI may lack resources, which can compound negative outcomes when counties are faced with repeated disasters.

Between 1999 and 2010, Arkansas had 22 federally-declared disasters. Most of these declared disasters impact more than one county. Rural counties experienced a greater number of events resulting in qualification as a federal disaster area (Figure 46). Within the rural regions of the state, the Highlands saw the most declarations (22) but still had a

Figure 46. FEMA-Declared Disasters, 1999-2010



Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency

were located in the Highlands. Arkansas and Ashley counties had the least disasters in the state between 1999 and 2010 at one each. Three counties (Jackson, Poinsett and White), each with the highest number of natural disasters during this period (13), had vastly different social vulnerability scores. This suggests that Jackson County with a vulnerability score of 3.1 is less likely to escape the negative outcome of natural disasters than Poinsett and White counties with vulnerability scores of 0.6 and -1.4, respectively.

Local Government

Arkansas remains an unusually rural and small-town state, with 75 county governments, approximately 270 school districts and 500 incorporated towns and cities. Most of these towns and cities are very small. Nearly 35 percent of the population lives in the unincorporated areas and is dependent upon local governments for all basic governmental services. Another 21 percent of the population resides in the 460 towns with less than 10,000 inhabitants. The remaining 44 percent of Arkansans live in the 44 places with a population of more than 10,000. Three of four Arkansans lived in rural areas or in towns with less than 50,000 people in 2009.

The large number of persons living in unincorporated areas and in small towns places an unusually heavy burden upon local governments. By necessity, these local government offices are usually managed by people with very limited financial and institutional resources. However, this situation also provides extensive opportunities for involvement in local affairs.

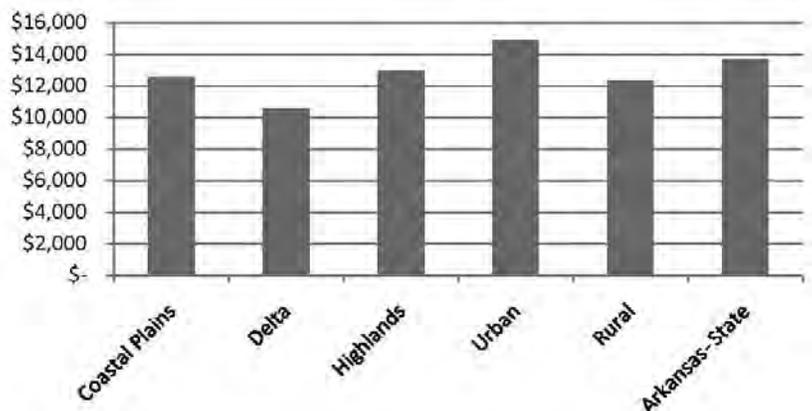
During the 1980s many local governments were put (and still are) in financial straits. Federal and state policies are transferring more of the burden of paying for public services to local governments. With the loss of manufacturing jobs and the outmigration of people, many rural areas in Arkansas have a declining tax base from which to generate revenue. Out-migration combined with the already sparse population in many rural areas leaves fewer businesses and people to share the infrastructure and service costs. Additional responsibilities that have been passed to local governments include enforcement and collection of child support payments, new regulations for disposing of solid waste and responsibility for meeting new jail standards and providing expanded incarceration facilities.

The ability to generate revenue from local sources is primarily dependent on the property and sales tax base, which are the two largest sources of local revenue for county governments. The ability to raise revenue from these sources varies greatly among counties and for many rural counties their local

tax base is becoming smaller. Using per capita assessed value of property as an indicator of the potential to raise property tax revenue, we find that differences exist among and within regions (Figure 47). The rural regions have somewhat lower per capita property assessments than the urban areas. Of the rural regions, the Highlands and the Coastal Plains have the highest assessed value per capita while the Delta has the lowest. However, the greatest variation in per capita assessed value is among counties, ranging from \$2,500 to \$23,640 in 2009, which greatly affects counties ability to generate revenue from local sources (Figure 48).

The assessed value of property increased in some counties and decreased in others from 2000 to 2009, exacerbating the difference among counties (Figure 49). The rural Delta experienced a slight decline in property assessments during this period while the Coastal Plains experienced a slight increase. In contrast, property assessments increased nearly 30 percent in the Highlands and over 45 percent in the Urban region. The difference among

Figure 47. Property Assessment Per Capita, 2009



Source: Computed using property assessments from the Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department and population figures from Bureau of Census.

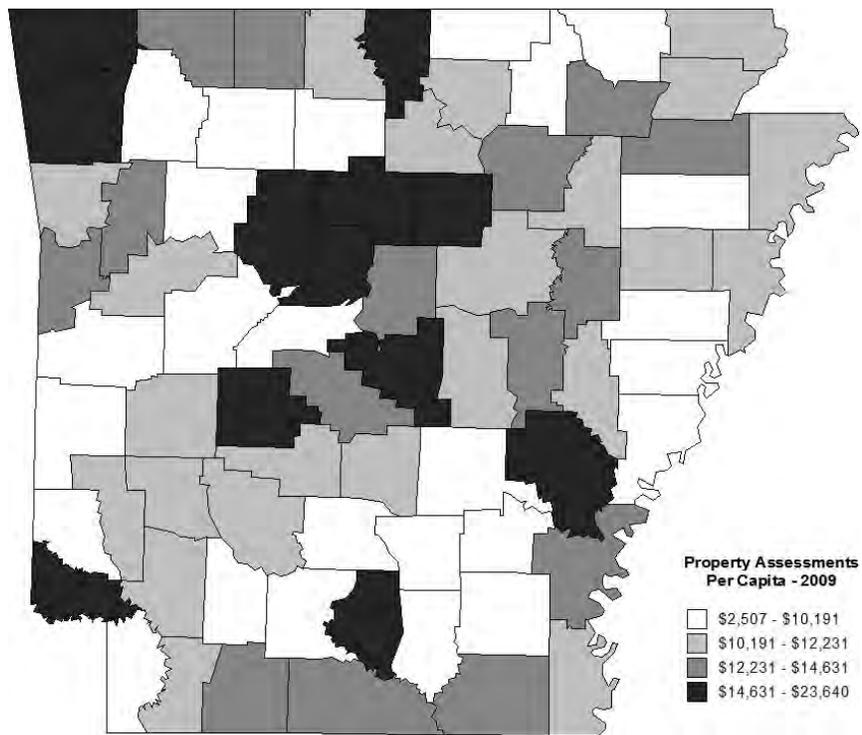
Local Government

counties is even greater, ranging from a decline of 72 percent in Lee County to an increase of 87 percent in Benton County. Seventeen counties, most of which are in the Delta and Coastal Plains, experienced a decline in their property assessments, reducing their ability to generate local revenue from the property tax.

While the potential to raise property tax revenue varies greatly among counties, Arkansas raises less per capita from property tax income than most states. In fiscal year 2008 Arkansas ranked 49th in total property tax revenue collected per capita. The trend is to raise more revenue from the sales tax. Beginning in 2001 the sales tax generated more revenue for county governments than did the property tax. In 2007 property tax revenue accounted for approximately 27 percent of local revenue generated by county governments, declining from 31 percent in 1999. In contrast the sales tax generated approximately 26 percent of local county government revenue in 1999 and increased to 29 percent by 2007.

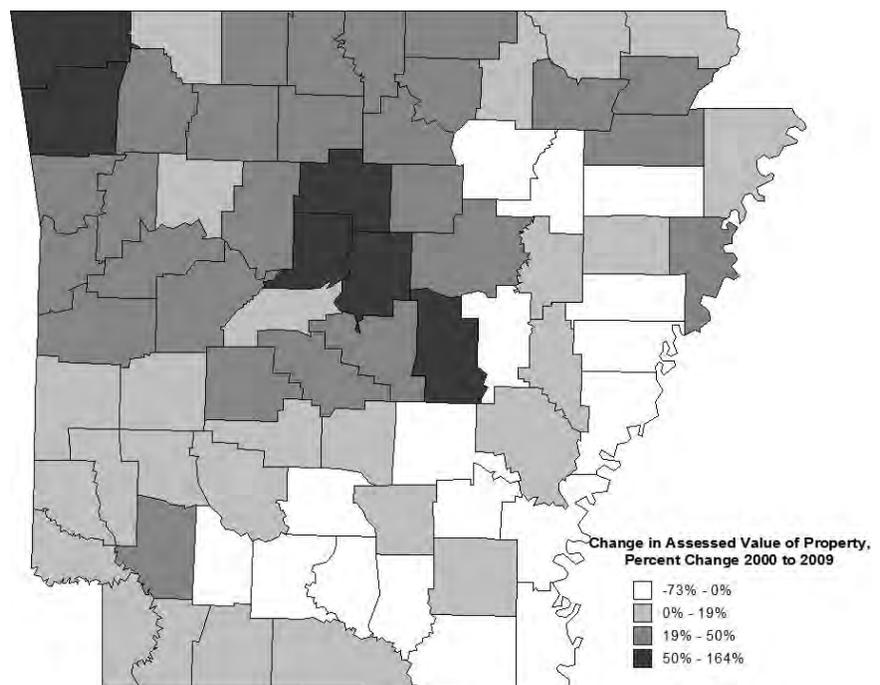
Four-two of Arkansas's 75 county governments generated more revenue from the sales tax than the property tax in 2007. Although using the sales tax base increases the ability of local governments to generate revenue, many of the same counties that are experiencing a decline in the property tax base are also experiencing a decline in their sales tax base. Because of the growing disparity in local tax base, there is a widening gap in the ability of local governments to generate revenue to pay for local services.

Figure 48. Property Assessments Per Capita, 2009



Source: Computed using property assessments from the Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department and population figures from Bureau of Census.

Figure 49. Change in Assessed Value of Property, 2000-2009



Source: Computed using property assessments from the Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department and population figures from Bureau of Census.

Appendix A. The Measurement of Metropolitan, Micropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Areas

In 2000, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revised and replaced the 1990 Metropolitan Area (MA) standards with the **Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA)** standards, effective in 2003.

Most of the criteria for the central counties of metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) were retained with the new standards, plus urban clusters can now be used for identifying MSAs. Most of the previous criteria for outlying counties – population density, total county population, percent urban and urban growth rates – were dropped with the new CBSA standards. Outlying counties are now added to a metropolitan statistical area if 25 percent or more of their workers commute

to a neighboring central county, or if 25 percent or more of the workforce in an outlying county commutes from a central county.

The OMB also added a new area classification called the “**micropolitan statistical area**” that subdivides the non-metropolitan category. Non-metropolitan counties are classified as “micropolitan” if they have an urban cluster of 10,000 to 49,999 persons. As with metropolitan areas, adjacent counties are added to the micropolitan area on the basis of 25 percent commuting ties.

In 2003, the OMB released a list of the newly defined metropolitan and micropolitan counties based on the 2000 CBSA standards. In applying the OMB’s new standards in Arkansas, eight counties

changed from non-metropolitan status to metropolitan status. Eighteen new micropolitan counties were also defined.

We do not adopt the new CBSA standards to define urban and rural in this publication. While the new categories do make sense for economic comparisons, we observe that the broad social measures included in the Rural Profile are less reflected by the new CBSA standards. Therefore, while recognizing the changing nature of the measurement of “rural,” we continue to base our rural county measures on the 1990 MA standards.

We provide the CBSA definitions here for those who may encounter them in other research or publications.

Appendix B. Table 1. Population

County Name	Population Estimates		% Population Change 2000-2009	Natural Increase/Decrease Per 1,000 Population 2000-2009	Net Migration Rate Per 1,000 Population 2000-2009	Aged 19 and Under 2009	Aged 65 and Over 2009	Aged 75 and Over 2009	Median Age 2009	Dependency Rate Per 100 Population 2009
	2000	2009								
Arkansas	20,743	18,971	-8.5	-4.3	-84.6	26.6%	16.3%	8.2%	40.7	57.2
Ashley	24,207	21,941	-9.4	16.4	-115.2	27.3%	15.1%	6.9%	39.8	54.5
Baxter	38,382	42,157	9.8	-61.1	154.6	20.1%	27.4%	12.4%	50.1	73.4
Benton	153,343	225,504	47.1	66.7	214.0	29.6%	11.7%	5.2%	34.4	53.4
Boone	33,948	36,821	8.5	10.8	73.2	25.3%	18.8%	8.6%	41.4	61.1
Bradley	12,600	11,790	-6.4	4.1	-66.7	26.1%	17.5%	8.7%	39.6	58.0
Calhoun	5,744	5,196	-9.5	-5.0	-95.7	24.4%	17.8%	8.8%	43.8	52.9
Carroll	25,361	27,938	10.2	28.4	70.1	24.5%	17.2%	7.5%	42.4	55.3
Chicot	14,117	11,823	-16.2	9.6	-199.9	26.7%	17.6%	8.3%	40.6	59.0
Clark	23,546	23,835	1.2	14.0	2.7	28.1%	14.1%	7.1%	31.1	45.4
Clay	17,609	15,585	-11.5	-30.9	-93.7	24.0%	20.4%	10.0%	43.6	61.1
Cleburne	24,046	25,600	6.5	-18.3	84.0	22.3%	22.7%	9.8%	46.1	64.5
Cleveland	8,571	8,436	-1.6	21.1	-33.7	26.3%	15.1%	6.3%	40.0	53.9
Columbia	25,607	23,854	-6.8	8.3	-77.7	27.0%	15.9%	8.0%	37.2	52.7
Conway	20,336	20,799	2.3	11.4	16.7	26.8%	15.5%	7.4%	39.8	55.4
Craighead	82,148	95,457	16.2	46.4	97.6	27.7%	12.3%	5.7%	32.9	49.2
Crawford	53,247	60,102	12.9	41.2	78.3	29.0%	12.7%	5.3%	36.9	53.0
Crittenden	50,866	53,022	4.2	69.1	-32.1	32.0%	10.5%	4.6%	33.4	53.3
Cross	19,526	18,544	-5.0	18.1	-65.7	27.9%	14.5%	6.7%	38.7	53.7
Dallas	9,210	7,991	-13.2	-23.7	-124.6	26.8%	16.3%	8.3%	41.7	57.0
Desha	15,341	13,358	-12.9	30.7	-176.3	28.6%	14.9%	7.2%	38.9	58.2
Drew	18,724	18,624	-0.5	32.1	-32.8	27.7%	13.7%	6.6%	35.2	50.2
Faulkner	86,012	109,386	27.2	59.2	154.1	29.9%	10.0%	4.5%	30.3	43.6
Franklin	17,773	18,016	1.4	12.3	7.4	26.9%	17.1%	8.4%	39.9	57.1
Fulton	11,642	11,585	-0.5	-37.4	37.6	22.5%	22.6%	10.2%	46.8	63.5
Garland	88,068	98,479	11.8	-15.5	125.2	23.2%	21.7%	9.9%	44.7	64.7
Grant	16,464	17,760	7.9	15.9	63.2	26.0%	13.5%	5.7%	39.1	48.5
Greene	37,331	40,996	9.8	33.0	62.6	27.4%	14.2%	6.5%	37.3	53.7
Hempstead	23,585	23,027	-2.4	37.2	-56.8	28.1%	13.6%	6.4%	37.2	53.9
Hot Spring	30,353	31,787	4.7	8.7	42.8	25.3%	15.5%	7.2%	39.7	51.6
Howard	14,300	14,291	-0.1	28.0	-22.7	28.5%	14.5%	7.1%	37.9	56.3
Independence	34,233	34,634	1.2	23.2	-4.8	26.6%	15.9%	7.2%	39.5	56.7
Izard	13,253	13,038	-1.6	-37.9	26.6	21.9%	21.6%	9.7%	44.8	61.0
Jackson	18,419	16,658	-9.6	-8.7	-92.4	25.6%	13.8%	6.5%	37.9	46.5
Jefferson	84,284	78,705	-6.6	33.3	-99.0	27.7%	13.5%	6.6%	36.9	50.2
Johnson	22,781	24,994	9.7	42.5	51.6	28.1%	14.2%	6.6%	36.5	55.4
Lafayette	8,555	7,504	-12.3	-5.6	-129.7	23.7%	18.3%	8.6%	43.4	54.8
Lawrence	17,774	16,882	-5.0	-1.9	-45.0	25.8%	18.7%	9.6%	40.7	59.7
Lee	12,580	10,319	-18.0	5.7	-222.7	23.9%	14.5%	6.9%	37.1	46.4
Lincoln	14,493	13,553	-6.5	12.0	-75.9	21.9%	13.2%	6.8%	36.7	40.0
Little River	13,628	12,952	-5.0	4.2	-51.9	24.7%	17.0%	7.5%	41.8	54.7
Logan	22,486	22,342	-0.6	3.0	-3.7	26.5%	17.0%	7.9%	41.0	58.0
Lonoke	52,831	66,677	26.2	48.6	164.6	29.6%	11.2%	4.8%	35.0	51.2
Madison	14,243	15,875	11.5	19.7	86.3	26.0%	17.8%	8.1%	41.9	59.1
Marion	16,140	16,594	2.8	-28.1	61.3	20.1%	24.0%	10.2%	49.5	62.6
Miller	40,441	43,522	7.6	51.1	25.2	26.3%	14.3%	7.1%	37.3	52
Mississippi	51,979	46,605	-10.3	47.3	-160.3	31.1%	12.2%	5.7%	34.5	56.4
Monroe	10,254	8,171	-20.3	-13.2	-238.8	26.0%	19.2%	9.7%	44.4	61.9
Montgomery	9,240	9,009	-2.5	-19.1	-0.6	23.4%	21.5%	9.2%	46.0	63.4

Appendix B. Table 1. Population

County Name	Population Estimates		% Population Change 2000-2009	Natural Increase/Decrease Per 1,000 Population 2000-2009	Net Migration Rate Per 1,000 Population 2000-2009	Aged 19 and Under 2009	Aged 65 and Over 2009	Aged 75 and Over 2009	Median Age 2009	Dependency Rate Per 100 Population 2009
	2000	2009								
Nevada	9,955	9,164	-7.9	15.3	-97	26.1%	16.7%	8.2%	40.8	56.2
Newton	8,608	8,191	-4.8	-3.5	-41.4	22.6%	18.9%	8.2%	45.4	53.8
Ouachita	28,790	25,432	-11.7	-7.4	-119.1	26.10%	17.20%	8.70%	42.4	57.1
Perry	10,207	10,312	1	4.7	11.3	25.90%	16.60%	7.50%	40.7	54.4
Phillips	26,445	20,921	-20.9	42.2	-305.9	32.60%	14.80%	7.10%	35.8	65.5
Pike	11,303	10,627	-6	-16.9	-40.8	24.70%	19.40%	9.20%	41.8	59.9
Poinsett	25,614	24,682	-3.6	14.7	-47	28.00%	15.00%	6.90%	38.1	55.9
Polk	20,229	20,259	0.1	5.1	2.9	26.20%	18.70%	8.30%	42.2	61.9
Pope	54,469	60,214	10.5	40.3	53.5	28.10%	14.20%	6.60%	35.4	50.8
Prairie	9,539	8,582	-10	-17.4	-88.7	22.70%	19.20%	9.20%	43.9	55.8
Pulaski	361,469	381,904	5.7	61.1	-7.5	27.30%	12.50%	6.10%	35.8	50.5
Randolph	18,195	17,952	-1.3	-0.2	-7.1	25.90%	18.10%	8.80%	41.3	58.6
St. Francis	29,329	26,255	-10.5	41.3	-153.5	28.40%	12.60%	5.80%	36.2	51.1
Saline	83,531	99,449	19.1	27.1	137.1	26.40%	12.90%	5.40%	38	48.7
Scott	10,995	11,123	1.2	14.7	2.2	27.60%	16.60%	6.90%	39.3	58.2
Searcy	8,261	7,944	-3.8	-18.8	-15.6	22.50%	21.50%	10.20%	46.1	61.7
Sebastian	115,077	123,597	7.4	55.8	19.5	28.60%	13.10%	6.30%	36.2	54.5
Sevier	15,757	16,904	7.3	79	-6.9	33.00%	12.00%	5.70%	33.2	60.6
Sharp	17,119	17,664	3.2	-35.8	71.7	23.30%	23.40%	11.00%	46.2	68.5
Stone	11,499	11,991	4.3	-15.3	60.6	21.90%	22.60%	9.50%	47.4	62.4
Union	45,629	42,782	-6.2	4.9	-65.4	27.00%	16.00%	8.40%	39.8	56.5
Van Buren	16,192	16,418	1.4	-27.3	46.4	22.90%	24.10%	12.20%	46.2	69.7
Washington	157,769	200,181	26.9	85.3	123.8	29.40%	9.90%	4.60%	31.4	47.1
White	67,162	76,338	13.7	29.8	95.5	28.00%	14.40%	6.90%	35.7	52.8
Woodruff	8,740	7,359	-15.8	-34.5	-149.6	25.10%	17.20%	8.40%	42.8	55.1
Yell	21,139	22,496	6.4	41.3	24.9	29.30%	14.60%	6.80%	36.4	59.6
Rural:										
Coastal Plains	225,595	210,702	-6.6	11.3	-77	26.7%	15.8%	7.7%	40.1	54.8
Delta	332,059	302,382	-8.9	19	-113	27.6%	14.8%	7.0%	39.2	54.7
Highlands	794,714	838,860	5.6	5.3	52.1	25.5%	18.2%	8.4%	41.7	58.5
Total Rural	1,352,368	1,351,944	-0.03	9.3	-5	26.1%	17.1%	8.0%	40.7	57.1
Urban:										
Pulaski County	361,469	381,904	5.7	61.1	-7.5	27.3%	12.5%	6.1%	35.8	50.5
Other Urban	959,549	1,155,602	20.4	57.8	106	28.9%	11.7%	5.3%	34.8	50.2
Total Urban	1,321,018	1,537,506	16.4	58.7	77.8	28.5%	11.9%	5.5%	34.9	50.3
State	2,673,386	2,889,450	8.1	35.6	39.1	27.4%	14.3%	6.7%	39.8	53.4

Source: Annual Population Estimates, Estimated Components of Population Change, and Rates of the Components of Population Change for Counties and Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009. File: 7/1/2010 County Population Estimates. Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau

Appendix B. Table 2. Population by Race and Ethnic Origin

County Name	White, 2009		Black, 2009		Other Races, 2009		Hispanic, 2009	
	Number	Pct.	Number	Pct.	Number	Pct.	Number	Pct.
Arkansas	13,909	73.3%	4,746	25.0%	316	1.7%	293	1.5%
Ashley	15,667	71.4%	5,937	27.1%	337	1.5%	1,082	4.9%
Baxter	41,073	97.4%	263	0.6%	821	1.9%	618	1.5%
Benton	206,338	91.5%	4,879	2.2%	14,287	6.3%	33,805	15.0%
Boone	35,683	96.9%	306	0.8%	832	2.3%	581	1.6%
Bradley	8,267	70.1%	3,387	28.7%	136	1.2%	1,456	12.3%
Calhoun	3,911	75.3%	1,207	23.2%	78	1.5%	158	3.0%
Carroll	26,985	96.6%	144	0.5%	809	2.9%	4,335	15.5%
Chicot	5,123	43.3%	6,485	54.9%	215	1.8%	560	4.7%
Clark	17,787	74.6%	5,355	22.5%	693	2.9%	1,057	4.4%
Clay	15,129	97.1%	108	0.7%	348	2.2%	222	1.4%
Cleburne	24,926	97.4%	274	1.1%	400	1.6%	472	1.8%
Cleveland	7,067	83.8%	1,219	14.4%	150	1.8%	202	2.4%
Columbia	14,610	61.2%	8,841	37.1%	403	1.7%	467	2.0%
Conway	17,913	86.1%	2,412	11.6%	474	2.3%	743	3.6%
Craighead	81,821	85.7%	11,412	12.0%	2,224	2.3%	3,597	3.8%
Crawford	55,725	92.7%	942	1.6%	3,435	5.7%	3,365	5.6%
Crittenden	25,838	48.7%	26,060	49.1%	1,124	2.1%	1,200	2.3%
Cross	13,973	75.4%	4,262	23.0%	309	1.7%	303	1.6%
Dallas	4,517	56.5%	3,341	41.8%	133	1.7%	242	3.0%
Desha	6,661	49.9%	6,456	48.3%	241	1.8%	592	4.4%
Drew	13,083	70.2%	5,208	28.0%	333	1.8%	534	2.9%
Faulkner	94,664	86.5%	11,740	10.7%	2,982	2.7%	3,510	3.2%
Franklin	17,222	95.6%	238	1.3%	556	3.1%	447	2.5%
Fulton	11,230	96.9%	89	0.8%	266	2.3%	128	1.1%
Garland	87,518	88.9%	8,105	8.2%	2,856	2.9%	4,092	4.2%
Grant	16,724	94.2%	763	4.3%	273	1.5%	370	2.1%
Greene	39,726	96.9%	400	1.0%	870	2.1%	765	1.9%
Hempstead	15,778	68.5%	6,676	29.0%	573	2.5%	3,491	15.2%
Hot Spring	27,517	86.6%	3,560	11.2%	710	2.2%	787	2.5%
Howard	10,944	76.6%	3,033	21.2%	314	2.2%	1,733	12.1%
Independence	32,642	94.2%	885	2.6%	1,107	3.2%	1,140	3.3%
Izard	12,513	96.0%	251	1.9%	274	2.1%	187	1.4%
Jackson	12,980	77.9%	3,375	20.3%	303	1.8%	326	2.0%
Jefferson	34,529	43.9%	42,000	53.4%	2,176	2.8%	1,321	1.7%
Johnson	23,772	95.1%	443	1.8%	779	3.1%	3,132	12.5%
Lafayette	4,673	62.3%	2,710	36.1%	121	1.6%	161	2.1%
Lawrence	16,357	96.9%	193	1.1%	332	2.0%	188	1.1%
Lee	4,373	42.4%	5,800	56.2%	146	1.4%	319	3.1%
Lincoln	9,019	66.5%	4,339	32.0%	195	1.4%	316	2.3%
Little River	9,814	75.8%	2,630	20.3%	508	3.9%	322	2.5%
Logan	21,173	94.8%	338	1.5%	831	3.7%	547	2.4%
Lonoke	60,351	90.5%	4,701	7.1%	1,625	2.4%	1,973	3.0%
Madison	15,309	96.4%	114	0.7%	452	2.8%	788	5.0%
Marion	16,110	97.1%	94	0.6%	390			

Appendix B. Table 2. Population by Race and Ethnic Origin

County Name	White, 2009		Black, 2009		Other Races, 2009		Hispanic, 2009	
	Number	Pct.	Number	Pct.	Number	Pct.	Number	Pct.
Miller	32,001	73.5%	10,248	23.5%	1,273	2.9%	968	2.2%
Mississippi	29,476	63.2%	15,989	34.3%	1,140	2.4%	1,597	3.4%
Monroe	4,878	59.7%	3,104	38.0%	189	2.3%	204	2.5%
Montgomery	8,642	95.9%	67	0.7%	300	3.3%	424	4.7%
Nevada	6,089	66.4%	2,935	32.0%	140	1.5%	325	3.5%
Newton	7,973	97.3%	35	0.4%	183	2.2%	133	1.6%
Ouachita	14,806	58.2%	10,104	39.7%	522	2.1%	352	1.4%
Perry	9,780	94.8%	282	2.7%	250	2.4%	177	1.7%
Phillips	7,626	36.5%	12,875	61.5%	420	2.0%	421	2.0%
Pike	9,923	93.4%	445	4.2%	259	2.4%	609	5.7%
Poinsett	22,366	90.6%	1,955	7.9%	361	1.5%	614	2.5%
Polk	19,313	95.3%	137	0.7%	809	4.0%	981	4.8%
Pope	56,320	93.5%	2,059	3.4%	1,835	3.0%	3,143	5.2%
Prairie	7,209	84.0%	1,243	14.5%	130	1.5%	110	1.3%
Pulaski	232,052	60.8%	132,498	34.7%	17,354	4.5%	17,710	4.6%
Randolph	17,352	96.7%	242	1.3%	358	2.0%	325	1.8%
St. Francis	12,487	47.6%	13,271	50.5%	497	1.9%	1,488	5.7%
Saline	91,928	92.4%	5,090	5.1%	2,431	2.4%	2,820	2.8%
Scott	10,349	93.0%	116	1.0%	658	5.9%	1,009	9.1%
Searcy	7,694	96.9%	47	0.6%	203	2.6%	119	1.5%
Sebastian	104,915	84.9%	8,127	6.6%	10,555	8.5%	14,732	11.9%
Sevier	15,427	91.3%	765	4.5%	712	4.2%	5,378	31.8%
Sharp	17,004	96.3%	233	1.3%	427	2.4%	245	1.4%
Stone	11,592	96.7%	70	0.6%	329	2.7%	203	1.7%
Union	27,488	64.3%	14,291	33.4%	1,003	2.3%	964	2.3%
Van Buren	15,814	96.3%	152	0.9%	452	2.8%	307	1.9%
Washington	179,549	89.7%	7,263	3.6%	13,369	6.7%	28,201	14.1%
White	71,004	93.0%	3,524	4.6%	1,810	2.4%	2,456	3.2%
Woodruff	5,086	69.1%	2,095	28.5%	178	2.4%	130	1.8%
Yell	21,260	94.5%	464	2.1%	772	3.4%	4,708	20.9%
Rural:								
Coastal Plains	141,253	67.0%	65,145	30.9%	4,304	2.0%	9,514	4.5%
Delta	210,021	69.5%	86,503	28.6%	5,858	1.9%	8,260	2.7%
Highlands	777,362	92.7%	38,839	4.6%	22,659	2.7%	42,015	5.0%
Total Rural	1,128,636	83.5%	190,487	14.1%	32,821	2.4%	59,789	4.4%
Urban:								
Pulaski County	232,052	60.8%	132,498	34.7%	17,354	4.5%	17,710	4.6%
Other Urban	967,659	83.7%	132,462	11.5%	55,481	4.8%	95,492	8.3%
Total Urban	1,199,711	78.0%	264,960	17.2%	72,835	4.7%	113,202	7.4%
State	2,328,347	80.6%	455,447	15.8%	105,656	3.7%	172,991	6.0%

Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race Alone or in Combination, and Hispanic Origin for Counties in Arkansas: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009. File: 7/1/2010 County Characteristics Resident Population Estimates File. Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau

Appendix B. Table 3. Percent Employed by Major Industry Sector, 2008

County Name	Total Employed, 2008	% Change Total Employed, 2000-2008	Farm	Forestry, Fishing, Related Activities and Other	Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Retail and Wholesale Trade	Transportation	F.I.R.E. and Professional Services	Other Service Related	Government
Arkansas	13,913	6.9%	3.1%	2.9%	0.1%	4.8%	28.7%	14.2%	5.1%	7.8%	22.2%	11.2%
Ashley	10,892	-13.9%	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	27.8%	12.1%	3.7%	8.7%	19.4%	15.0%
Baxter	22,754	10.9%	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	12.3%	15.5%	1.7%	14.3%	35.9%	9.3%
Benton	128,575	37.8%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	6.9%	10.6%	13.5%	8.7%	13.9%	36.9%	8.0%
Boone	21,086	1.4%	6.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.3%	16.8%	11.6%	10.8%	27.6%	17.0%
Bradley	5,409	1.3%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	19.2%	12.6%	2.2%	8.0%	26.4%	19.8%
Calhoun	3,547	-6.2%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%	70.1%	0.0%	5.2%	0.0%	6.9%	10.8%
Carroll	15,495	7.2%	7.5%	0.9%	0.3%	7.5%	25.1%	12.9%	1.9%	11.1%	23.3%	9.5%
Chicot	5,280	-13.9%	7.8%	4.7%	0.0%	6.3%	12.8%	16.1%	2.8%	12.2%	7.3%	29.9%
Clark	13,529	0.2%	3.4%	3.2%	0.1%	3.6%	21.4%	13.8%	3.6%	9.8%	17.1%	24.0%
Clay	6,758	-24.2%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	6.5%	12.8%	18.8%	0.0%	8.2%	22.5%	20.1%
Cleburne	13,474	12.8%	6.7%	1.3%	0.8%	13.6%	11.6%	15.6%	5.0%	12.9%	23.5%	8.9%
Cleveland	2,005	-1.0%	13.8%	12.3%	1.0%	8.7%	6.6%	2.2%	6.9%	0.0%	20.4%	28.2%
Columbia	12,974	-3.5%	2.4%	1.1%	9.2%	5.5%	22.4%	13.6%	3.1%	10.6%	14.0%	18.1%
Conway	11,544	10.8%	8.7%	1.5%	1.5%	11.7%	11.0%	12.5%	5.8%	8.2%	22.9%	16.0%
Craighead	57,308	10.7%	1.1%	0.6%	0.1%	6.5%	12.9%	16.3%	0.0%	10.8%	37.4%	14.4%
Crawford	28,608	20.5%	3.4%	0.6%	1.5%	9.3%	14.0%	12.9%	17.0%	5.9%	26.1%	9.4%
Crittenden	23,287	6.4%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	5.1%	9.8%	15.4%	10.9%	10.5%	33.1%	14.5%
Cross	8,130	-6.0%	4.2%	2.6%	0.2%	8.3%	10.7%	19.4%	6.7%	12.0%	19.4%	16.4%
Dallas	4,448	-9.9%	3.0%	9.2%	0.5%	4.3%	28.7%	13.5%	5.6%	5.7%	12.1%	17.5%
Desha	6,798	-10.1%	3.5%	4.3%	0.3%	5.0%	19.0%	17.1%	5.1%	9.8%	14.4%	21.5%
Drew	9,252	-4.4%	4.1%	5.5%	0.0%	4.0%	10.5%	17.8%	2.5%	6.7%	20.0%	29.0%
Faulkner	55,082	21.5%	2.3%	0.0%	1.7%	10.2%	8.7%	13.1%	2.5%	15.1%	31.4%	15.0%
Franklin	7,395	0.9%	12.7%	0.0%	0.0%	10.7%	18.1%	14.8%	2.7%	9.1%	8.7%	23.2%
Fulton	5,131	4.5%	22.8%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	6.6%	18.7%	0.0%	19.6%	6.5%	25.3%
Garland	54,194	13.7%	0.7%	0.5%	0.9%	8.8%	5.1%	15.6%	1.5%	14.1%	42.9%	9.8%
Grant	6,628	4.8%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	19.3%	15.2%	3.7%	13.8%	10.2%	20.2%
Greene	19,924	2.0%	3.6%	0.7%	0.1%	5.0%	27.4%	13.2%	2.1%	6.0%	31.2%	10.8%
Hempstead	11,315	-10.0%	8.8%	0.0%	0.0%	6.8%	23.5%	16.0%	0.0%	5.0%	20.0%	19.9%
Hot Spring	11,820	4.8%	5.2%	1.9%	0.8%	9.2%	12.6%	12.6%	4.5%	6.7%	28.3%	18.2%
Howard	9,664	-11.0%	6.3%	2.7%	0.2%	3.7%	48.0%	11.1%	4.1%	5.5%	7.2%	11.2%
Independence	21,435	-1.5%	5.8%	0.7%	0.4%	5.7%	23.4%	16.2%	5.1%	7.0%	21.5%	14.1%
Izard	5,702	2.2%	11.9%	0.0%	0.0%	7.6%	7.5%	12.6%	3.8%	11.0%	22.0%	23.6%
Jackson	8,505	-4.1%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	15.7%	15.1%	4.3%	9.2%	27.0%	20.3%
Jefferson	41,397	-3.6%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	6.4%	18.1%	16.8%	3.7%	10.3%	14.2%	29.4%
Johnson	12,341	8.1%	6.1%	0.0%	0.0%	6.2%	33.5%	17.2%	0.0%	9.2%	13.6%	14.3%
Lafayette	2,482	-15.1%	14.8%	4.9%	6.5%	7.6%	2.9%	13.5%	0.0%	11.2%	14.5%	24.2%
Lawrence	7,359	-11.9%	10.0%	3.0%	1.7%	8.9%	10.9%	20.9%	8.7%	7.7%	0.0%	28.1%
Lee	3,701	-8.9%	11.3%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	17.6%	11.2%	9.2%	0.0%	49.9%
Lincoln	4,640	-1.2%	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%	6.5%	10.4%	8.3%	2.6%	6.3%	18.2%	39.1%
Little River	6,535	-0.7%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	19.4%	26.8%	11.0%	6.2%	4.5%	4.4%	19.3%
Logan	9,109	-2.5%	10.3%	0.8%	2.5%	6.8%	18.0%	12.5%	2.3%	8.7%	18.1%	20.1%
Lonoke	21,732	23.4%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	7.0%	17.0%	0.0%	13.3%	31.3%	15.4%
Madison	6,853	12.1%	21.1%	0.0%	0.0%	10.2%	21.2%	10.0%	3.6%	6.8%	13.5%	13.5%
Marion	7,029	4.7%	7.3%	0.0%	0.0%	8.7%	29.5%	11.5%	3.9%	14.2%	11.5%	13.4%

Appendix B. Table 3. Percent Employed by Major Industry Sector, 2008

County Name	Total Employed, 2008	% Change Total Employed, 2000-2008	Farm	Forestry, Fishing, Related Activities and Other	Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Retail and Wholesale Trade	Transportation	F.I.R.E. and Professional Services	Other Service Related	Government
Miller	20,806	3.2%	2.8%	1.2%	0.6%	9.6%	12.2%	11.1%	9.9%	6.7%	33.0%	12.8%
Mississippi	25,081	-7.4%	1.3%	2.0%	0.0%	6.1%	28.2%	13.5%	3.3%	7.2%	22.7%	15.9%
Monroe	3,821	-12.7%	6.6%	4.4%	0.6%	4.8%	4.4%	25.4%	10.2%	9.9%	11.4%	22.3%
Montgomery	3,735	-0.1%	15.2%	0.0%	0.0%	14.2%	6.6%	13.5%	0.0%	13.6%	13.3%	23.6%
Nevada	3,644	3.2%	10.6%	2.7%	0.4%	0.0%	18.2%	9.9%	8.3%	6.0%	25.5%	18.4%
Newton	3,037	2.1%	31.8%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	7.5%	9.3%	0.0%	0.0%	20.5%	30.1%
Ouachita	10,094	-6.0%	2.2%	2.8%	2.2%	5.4%	11.0%	18.7%	5.8%	6.4%	19.6%	25.9%
Perry	3,171	13.9%	17.8%	0.0%	0.0%	16.0%	4.3%	12.4%	0.0%	8.0%	18.1%	23.4%
Phillips	9,060	-12.4%	2.9%	2.2%	0.2%	3.2%	4.5%	18.9%	4.1%	8.7%	32.3%	23.0%
Pike	4,133	-12.4%	11.4%	4.8%	2.1%	3.6%	9.7%	20.2%	5.4%	8.6%	10.1%	24.1%
Poinsett	8,552	-14.0%	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%	6.5%	11.0%	19.3%	5.7%	9.1%	23.6%	20.7%
Polk	10,361	-4.3%	9.6%	0.0%	0.0%	5.9%	14.1%	14.7%	5.5%	6.3%	29.6%	14.3%
Pope	35,403	10.2%	3.3%	2.5%	0.5%	8.7%	16.9%	13.4%	6.8%	9.2%	24.0%	14.8%
Prairie	3,112	-10.7%	18.3%	5.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.6%	7.8%	11.2%	24.5%	18.9%
Pulaski	318,973	7.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	4.8%	5.1%	14.2%	4.6%	15.0%	36.9%	18.8%
Randolph	7,802	-10.0%	9.8%	0.0%	0.0%	6.0%	10.2%	14.2%	0.0%	6.0%	34.3%	19.6%
St. Francis	10,981	-9.7%	2.8%	1.4%	0.2%	5.2%	8.9%	22.8%	0.0%	9.5%	20.6%	28.6%
Saline	30,517	25.8%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	11.3%	6.5%	17.2%	1.9%	11.4%	33.9%	16.7%
Scott	4,761	-12.4%	15.2%	0.0%	0.0%	5.5%	33.1%	14.9%	0.0%	8.4%	7.1%	15.8%
Searcy	3,884	4.4%	20.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.7%	16.6%	0.0%	7.6%	23.8%	21.7%
Sebastian	91,377	1.8%	0.9%	0.1%	3.4%	4.8%	19.5%	14.1%	2.9%	8.9%	36.6%	8.8%
Sevier	7,669	2.4%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%	32.6%	12.6%	4.0%	5.2%	13.3%	19.6%
Sharp	5,663	-17.4%	16.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.0%	5.5%	21.0%	0.0%	12.6%	13.5%	24.3%
Stone	5,576	1.5%	14.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14.0%	13.4%	23.6%	2.5%	13.4%	0.0%	19.1%
Union	26,180	-4.6%	1.2%	1.2%	5.2%	7.0%	17.3%	13.8%	3.6%	8.7%	30.6%	11.6%
Van Buren	6,140	3.1%	11.7%	1.3%	1.0%	13.4%	8.3%	18.4%	5.1%	9.4%	13.0%	18.4%
Washington	120,537	17.9%	2.2%	0.2%	0.3%	6.8%	12.5%	14.5%	4.7%	11.1%	32.8%	15.0%
White	37,227	10.6%	6.2%	0.5%	3.6%	11.0%	8.9%	16.0%	8.3%	10.1%	22.3%	13.1%
Woodruff	3,119	-19.4%	8.2%	5.1%	0.0%	5.1%	13.8%	17.1%	0.0%	5.4%	20.6%	24.8%
Yell	9,991	-0.3%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.2%	30.9%	7.8%	2.7%	6.8%	17.7%	16.8%
Rural:												
Coastal Plains	104,329	-5.8%	4.2%	1.6%	3.0%	7.0%	20.3%	13.6%	3.6%	7.4%	21.3%	18.0%
Delta	141,375	-7.4%	4.3%	1.8%	0.1%	5.3%	18.3%	16.1%	3.7%	8.3%	23.0%	19.1%
Highlands	415,543	4.2%	6.7%	0.9%	0.8%	7.8%	15.4%	14.8%	4.2%	10.2%	24.1%	15.1%
Total Rural	661,247	-0.1%	5.8%	1.2%	1.0%	7.2%	16.8%	14.9%	4.0%	9.4%	23.5%	16.4%
Urban:												
Pulaski County	318,973	7.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	4.8%	5.1%	14.2%	4.6%	15.0%	36.9%	18.8%
Other Urban	619,226	16.2%	1.7%	0.2%	0.8%	7.3%	12.6%	14.5%	5.2%	11.3%	33.3%	13.0%
Total Urban	938,199	12.9%	1.2%	0.2%	0.7%	6.5%	10.0%	14.4%	5.0%	12.6%	34.5%	15.0%
State:	1,599,446	7.1%	2.9%	0.6%	0.8%	6.7%	12.6%	14.6%	4.6%	11.4%	30.3%	15.6%

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

Appendix B: Table 4. Wage and Salary Earnings and Household Income

County Name	% Change Wage & Salary Jobs 2000-2008	Average Earnings Per Job*		% Change (Constant \$) 2000-2008	Median Household Income		% Change (Constant \$) 2000-2008
		2000 (\$)	2008 (\$)		2000 (\$)	2008 (\$)	
Arkansas	7.7%	\$24,715	\$31,751	2.8%	31,544	37,295	-5.4%
Ashley	-18.1%	\$29,847	\$35,715	-4.3%	32,937	36,079	-12.4%
Baxter	5.3%	\$22,777	\$30,360	6.6%	30,215	34,666	-8.2%
Benton	37.5%	\$31,598	\$43,793	10.9%	41,729	51,397	-1.5%
Boone	-3.1%	\$23,884	\$32,424	8.6%	31,247	35,729	-8.5%
Bradley	-0.6%	\$22,364	\$27,231	-2.6%	25,755	30,621	-4.9%
Calhoun	-6.2%	\$29,484	\$41,903	13.7%	29,539	34,908	-5.5%
Carroll	4.1%	\$19,522	\$25,982	6.5%	28,571	33,594	-5.9%
Chicot	-18.7%	\$19,724	\$26,109	5.9%	22,590	24,809	-12.1%
Clark	-3.9%	\$20,892	\$28,146	7.8%	29,388	34,327	-6.6%
Clay	-32.5%	\$18,934	\$25,978	9.8%	26,822	31,910	-4.8%
Cleburne	9.7%	\$20,840	\$28,293	8.6%	31,930	36,707	-8.0%
Cleveland	-7.4%	\$18,980	\$25,315	6.7%	33,790	39,567	-6.3%
Columbia	-6.2%	\$24,523	\$33,054	7.8%	29,039	35,162	-3.1%
Conway	5.9%	\$24,716	\$30,222	-2.2%	31,857	36,026	-9.5%
Craighead	7.9%	\$25,085	\$32,616	4.0%	34,523	39,989	-7.3%
Crawford	20.6%	\$24,847	\$30,726	-1.1%	34,181	42,112	-1.4%
Crittenden	0.9%	\$23,699	\$31,890	7.7%	30,179	35,112	-6.9%
Cross	-13.8%	\$22,430	\$28,997	3.4%	29,655	34,489	-7.0%
Dallas	-4.5%	\$22,322	\$28,627	2.6%	27,176	31,608	-7.0%
Desha	-13.8%	\$23,964	\$29,716	-0.8%	25,464	27,555	-13.4%
Drew	-8.8%	\$21,522	\$26,692	-0.8%	29,483	34,919	-5.2%
Faulkner	17.5%	\$26,926	\$35,021	4.1%	39,355	43,553	-11.5%
Franklin	2.1%	\$22,238	\$32,261	16.1%	31,050	38,192	-1.6%
Fulton	5.5%	\$17,897	\$24,173	8.1%	26,153	30,364	-7.1%
Garland	7.9%	\$23,594	\$29,864	1.3%	32,292	38,020	-5.8%
Grant	1.2%	\$22,858	\$28,531	-0.1%	38,555	45,165	-6.3%
Greene	1.3%	\$23,350	\$29,740	1.9%	31,818	37,017	-6.9%
Hempstead	-14.0%	\$22,106	\$29,106	5.3%	28,583	34,221	-4.2%
Hot Spring	0.3%	\$23,767	\$31,160	4.9%	32,069	37,619	-6.2%
Howard	-10.9%	\$21,662	\$28,725	6.1%	29,424	33,219	-9.7%
Independence	-3.9%	\$23,783	\$30,869	3.8%	32,860	36,019	-12.3%
Izard	4.6%	\$20,492	\$25,050	-2.2%	26,219	30,941	-5.6%
Jackson	-5.8%	\$22,530	\$29,806	5.8%	26,168	30,490	-6.8%
Jefferson	-6.0%	\$26,899	\$35,809	6.5%	31,358	38,018	-3.0%
Johnson	9.6%	\$20,764	\$28,855	11.2%	28,734	34,307	-4.5%
Lafayette	-22.5%	\$21,643	\$27,067	0.0%	25,404	28,265	-11.0%
Lawrence	-17.3%	\$20,058	\$26,186	4.4%	28,053	31,160	-11.1%
Lee	-17.5%	\$21,272	\$27,855	4.8%	21,654	25,178	-7.0%
Lincoln	-4.8%	\$21,913	\$27,440	0.2%	29,129	34,820	-4.4%
Little River	-0.3%	\$33,931	\$43,585	2.8%	30,243	34,996	-7.4%
Logan	-1.2%	\$21,409	\$28,073	4.9%	29,078	37,034	1.9%
Lonoke	18.6%	\$21,417	\$29,033	8.4%	40,728	49,241	-3.3%
Madison	20.0%	\$20,718	\$26,954	4.1%	29,116	33,221	-8.7%
Marion	1.1%	\$19,391	\$26,074	7.6%	27,222	32,648	-4.1%

Appendix B: Table 4. Wage and Salary Earnings and Household Income

County Name	% Change Wage & Salary Jobs 2000-2008	Average Earnings Per Job*			Median Household Income		
		2000 (\$)	2008 (\$)	% Change (Constant \$) 2000-2008	2000 (\$)	2008 (\$)	% Change (Constant \$) 2000-2008
Miller	-4.1%	\$25,518	\$33,014	3.5%	31,402	38,192	-2.7%
Mississippi	-8.8%	\$26,153	\$37,125	13.6%	28,370	34,211	-3.5%
Monroe	-20.3%	\$18,762	\$24,794	5.7%	23,713	27,044	-8.8%
Montgomery	0.1%	\$18,695	\$24,696	5.7%	28,448	34,343	-3.4%
Nevada	3.4%	\$23,388	\$29,879	2.2%	27,880	31,432	-9.8%
Newton	-3.7%	\$16,365	\$23,154	13.2%	25,526	29,273	-8.3%
Ouachita	-3.5%	\$23,781	\$28,736	-3.3%	29,344	34,370	-6.3%
Perry	18.0%	\$19,781	\$28,729	16.2%	31,585	37,595	-4.8%
Phillips	-14.0%	\$21,802	\$27,259	0.0%	22,769	26,436	-7.1%
Pike	-9.1%	\$18,980	\$26,230	10.6%	28,609	37,545	5.0%
Poinsett	-19.0%	\$21,086	\$28,040	6.4%	27,541	31,511	-8.5%
Polk	-5.8%	\$19,570	\$25,102	2.6%	26,308	30,994	-5.8%
Pope	9.7%	\$26,243	\$32,861	0.2%	33,481	40,728	-2.7%
Prairie	-18.5%	\$20,604	\$27,483	6.7%	30,590	34,703	-9.2%
Pulaski	3.7%	\$31,420	\$42,483	8.2%	38,328	45,215	-5.6%
Randolph	-14.6%	\$19,921	\$25,117	0.9%	28,314	30,508	-13.8%
St. Francis	-13.0%	\$22,779	\$30,274	6.3%	26,282	28,442	-13.4%
Saline	19.0%	\$24,464	\$30,966	1.3%	43,528	50,133	-7.9%
Scott	-13.1%	\$18,610	\$25,694	10.5%	27,204	33,458	-1.6%
Searcy	11.1%	\$16,499	\$22,373	8.5%	22,166	25,547	-7.8%
Sebastian	-2.1%	\$27,203	\$35,519	4.5%	35,003	39,573	-9.6%
Sevier	4.4%	\$21,045	\$27,008	2.7%	30,074	32,062	-14.7%
Sharp	-10.3%	\$17,608	\$24,895	13.1%	25,155	31,801	1.1%
Stone	-3.1%	\$17,821	\$24,084	8.1%	23,708	28,724	-3.1%
Union	-8.2%	\$26,872	\$39,521	17.7%	31,442	38,616	-1.7%
Van Buren	2.2%	\$19,942	\$28,746	15.3%	27,102	35,155	3.8%
Washington	15.4%	\$26,304	\$37,172	13.1%	35,612	42,691	-4.1%
White	5.3%	\$23,600	\$33,370	13.1%	32,865	39,283	-4.4%
Woodruff	-24.4%	\$22,486	\$27,660	-1.6%	23,251	26,185	-9.9%
Yell	-1.7%	\$20,001	\$27,439	9.8%	29,079	36,459	0.3%
Rural:							
Coastal Plains	-8.5%	\$24,870	\$32,317	4.0%	29,453	34,430	-6.5%
Delta	-10.5%	\$22,032	\$28,752	4.4%	26,710	30,756	-7.9%
Highlands	1.8%	\$20,808	\$27,724	6.6%	29,167	34,401	-5.6%
Total Rural	-3.0%	\$21,892	\$28,860	5.5%	28,597	33,481	-6.3%
Urban:							
Pulaski County	3.7%	\$31,420	\$42,483	8.2%	38,328	45,215	-5.6%
Other Urban	12.8%	\$25,815	\$34,142	5.8%	36,145	42,728	-5.4%
Total Urban	9.4%	\$26,282	\$34,837	6.0%	36,327	42,936	-5.4%
State:	4.2%	\$26,290	\$35,443	7.9%	29,834	34,994	-6.2%

*Data differs slightly from previous versions of the Rural Profile. Approximately every 5 years, a comprehensive revision is done, resulting in slightly different values for previous years. The data also includes employment for wages and salaries and proprietors' employment.

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce and Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Bureau of Census

Appendix B. Table 5. Poverty, Social and Economic Distress

County Name	Percent Persons Below Poverty				No. of Housing Units Per One Foreclosure, Nov. 2010	Food Stamp Recipients, 2009, Percent of Population				% of Population Eligible for Medicaid	% of Population Under 19 Approved for ARKids First Application, 2009
	1980	1990	2000	2008		% Under 19	% 20-65	% Over 65	% Total		
Arkansas	19.4%	20.4%	17.8%	20.1%	4,994	42.1%	21.8%	7.2%	24.8%	29.4%	4.9%
Ashley	20.7%	20.9%	17.5%	18.3%	NA	47.4%	25.4%	8.3%	28.8%	33.8%	4.0%
Baxter	12.0%	16.3%	11.1%	16.8%	1,797	33.3%	16.1%	2.5%	15.8%	21.1%	3.7%
Benton	11.0%	9.6%	10.1%	11.1%	196	18.0%	7.9%	2.0%	10.3%	18.1%	2.8%
Boone	17.0%	13.9%	14.8%	15.0%	909	32.5%	15.9%	3.7%	17.8%	24.0%	4.5%
Bradley	25.8%	24.9%	26.3%	24.1%	2,998	48.4%	26.5%	10.0%	29.3%	33.0%	4.7%
Calhoun	23.7%	15.6%	16.5%	16.5%	NA	29.9%	14.7%	4.7%	16.6%	24.3%	4.2%
Carroll	18.4%	15.2%	15.5%	15.6%	2,114	30.5%	12.8%	4.0%	15.7%	24.2%	4.1%
Chicot	39.7%	40.4%	28.6%	30.4%	3,108	61.1%	33.9%	16.0%	38.0%	43.2%	3.6%
Clark	16.3%	23.9%	19.1%	21.8%	1,546	30.3%	16.7%	5.1%	18.9%	25.1%	2.4%
Clay	22.3%	21.2%	17.5%	18.1%	4,380	37.9%	17.0%	3.2%	19.2%	29.6%	4.6%
Cleburne	2.0%	17.3%	13.1%	15.2%	1,064	29.7%	14.2%	3.4%	15.2%	23.4%	4.4%
Cleveland	17.3%	19.0%	15.2%	19.5%	1,351	42.5%	19.8%	7.5%	23.9%	26.0%	4.6%
Columbia	22.0%	24.4%	21.1%	20.7%	3,004	47.8%	26.6%	7.9%	29.3%	32.8%	3.3%
Conway	17.2%	16.5%	16.1%	17.1%	1,352	41.3%	21.7%	6.9%	24.7%	30.2%	3.8%
Craighead	14.3%	17.0%	15.4%	17.5%	911	34.5%	14.4%	2.3%	18.5%	27.8%	3.1%
Crawford	16.0%	16.3%	14.2%	15.6%	274	33.1%	16.1%	4.7%	19.6%	26.4%	3.6%
Crittenden	31.1%	27.1%	25.3%	20.5%	752	53.0%	25.7%	5.4%	32.3%	38.8%	3.2%
Cross	22.1%	25.4%	19.9%	18.7%	1,721	37.5%	18.5%	4.5%	21.8%	30.3%	5.1%
Dallas	17.0%	22.3%	18.9%	21.0%	NA	42.7%	24.4%	7.0%	26.5%	33.8%	4.2%
Desha	26.8%	34.0%	28.9%	29.0%	1,391	53.8%	29.3%	11.6%	33.7%	38.2%	3.4%
Drew	17.1%	24.2%	18.2%	20.4%	2,973	42.2%	25.0%	8.0%	27.4%	31.0%	3.7%
Faulkner	12.5%	13.8%	12.5%	16.2%	663	21.3%	10.8%	3.3%	13.2%	19.6%	2.6%
Franklin	17.6%	20.4%	15.2%	17.0%	1,007	35.8%	19.5%	5.6%	21.5%	27.6%	3.3%
Fulton	21.4%	26.3%	16.3%	18.7%	3,156	43.9%	21.8%	4.8%	22.9%	31.4%	4.1%
Garland	15.2%	18.0%	14.6%	16.1%	557	36.0%	17.3%	2.6%	18.4%	25.8%	4.1%
Grant	15.3%	14.9%	10.2%	11.5%	1,272	25.4%	12.5%	4.1%	14.7%	20.2%	4.3%
Greene	17.7%	17.9%	13.3%	16.6%	1,212	38.9%	19.7%	4.1%	22.7%	29.3%	4.0%
Hempstead	19.0%	22.7%	20.3%	20.6%	2,161	42.0%	20.1%	7.6%	24.5%	33.5%	3.3%
Hot Spring	16.7%	18.6%	14.0%	15.7%	1,275	35.1%	17.1%	4.1%	19.6%	27.0%	4.8%
Howard	15.7%	18.6%	15.5%	21.3%	6,631	31.7%	16.0%	6.4%	19.1%	30.6%	3.0%
Independence	15.4%	17.1%	13.0%	15.1%	3,922	34.2%	16.5%	3.9%	19.2%	28.9%	4.6%
Izard	20.8%	21.1%	17.2%	19.7%	6,996	39.6%	18.3%	3.7%	19.8%	28.4%	4.6%
Jackson	22.9%	26.6%	17.4%	24.9%	8,193	48.2%	22.1%	7.1%	26.7%	33.1%	3.3%
Jefferson	21.9%	23.9%	20.5%	20.6%	1,801	49.7%	25.9%	7.1%	29.9%	32.0%	3.0%
Johnson	17.5%	20.1%	16.4%	17.4%	1,192	35.2%	18.3%	5.3%	21.2%	32.5%	3.7%
Lafayette	31.6%	34.7%	23.2%	25.4%	4,828	56.3%	26.3%	12.5%	30.9%	34.6%	4.4%
Lawrence	22.3%	25.0%	18.4%	20.8%	1,394	41.8%	21.0%	5.6%	23.5%	34.5%	4.8%
Lee	43.8%	47.3%	29.9%	38.6%	NA	65.1%	30.7%	18.7%	37.2%	39.8%	3.6%
Lincoln	23.2%	26.2%	19.5%	29.0%	5,251	47.7%	17.7%	10.2%	23.3%	26.5%	4.4%
Little River	19.2%	19.3%	15.4%	18.4%	3,373	39.3%	17.9%	7.3%	21.4%	28.0%	3.6%
Logan	21.4%	19.3%	15.4%	16.6%	943	42.1%	22.1%	6.4%	24.7%	31.9%	3.9%
Lonoke	17.5%	14.9%	10.5%	11.7%	380	22.8%	11.0%	4.0%	13.7%	20.9%	2.2%
Madison	21.0%	20.1%	18.6%	17.0%	537	35.0%	16.9%	4.7%	19.4%	26.8%	3.2%

Appendix B. Table 5. Poverty, Social and Economic Distress

County Name	Percent Persons Below Poverty				No. of Housing Units Per One Foreclosure, Nov. 2010	Food Stamp Recipients, 2009, Percent of Population				% of Population Eligible for Medicaid	% of Population Under 19 Approved for ARKids First Application, 2009
	1980	1990	2000	2008		% Under 19	% 20-65	% Over 65	% Total		
Marion	23.3%	18.9%	15.2%	17.7%	1,283	44.8%	20.1%	4.1%	21.3%	25.6%	4.6%
Miller	19.0%	22.4%	19.3%	19.8%	3,867	41.9%	19.0%	5.6%	23.1%	29.8%	3.9%
Mississippi	25.8%	26.2%	23.0%	23.5%	1,146	52.3%	24.3%	6.5%	30.8%	39.4%	3.7%
Monroe	34.5%	35.9%	27.5%	26.0%	NA	53.7%	30.4%	14.1%	33.3%	39.1%	4.8%
Montgomery	22.5%	23.8%	17.0%	17.7%	NA	38.5%	18.4%	4.8%	20.2%	28.4%	6.4%
Nevada	21.9%	20.3%	22.8%	22.0%	3,005	45.0%	19.3%	8.7%	24.2%	33.3%	3.9%
Newton	31.6%	29.6%	20.4%	23.3%	4,542	40.4%	21.7%	10.6%	23.8%	31.3%	5.1%
Ouachita	20.7%	21.2%	19.5%	22.0%	4,589	48.3%	25.0%	6.6%	27.9%	33.3%	3.3%
Perry	16.7%	20.3%	14.0%	16.2%	NA	32.9%	18.1%	4.3%	19.6%	26.1%	3.9%
Phillips	39.4%	43.0%	32.7%	34.9%	2,204	74.1%	44.7%	16.6%	50.1%	53.4%	2.9%
Pike	18.2%	17.9%	16.8%	17.5%	2,935	37.3%	17.1%	4.3%	19.6%	30.8%	6.0%
Poinsett	22.4%	25.6%	21.2%	23.8%	2,327	51.7%	26.6%	7.6%	30.7%	39.4%	4.7%
Polk	22.7%	18.5%	18.2%	19.5%	4,875	39.5%	21.4%	5.5%	23.1%	31.0%	4.6%
Pope	15.8%	15.4%	15.2%	15.7%	1,675	27.6%	14.8%	3.6%	16.8%	26.5%	3.1%
Prairie	23.6%	22.7%	15.5%	18.1%	2,506	36.1%	16.9%	6.1%	19.2%	29.4%	4.5%
Pulaski	12.5%	14.1%	13.3%	16.5%	352	33.6%	14.9%	2.1%	18.4%	26.6%	2.4%
Randolph	19.1%	20.4%	15.3%	20.4%	8,861	37.1%	20.4%	6.3%	22.2%	32.0%	6.3%
St. Francis	23.6%	21.8%	18.2%	19.7%	3,918	40.2%	20.0%	3.9%	20.9%	31.2%	4.8%
Saline	33.4%	36.6%	27.5%	31.4%	333	62.6%	30.3%	11.5%	37.1%	42.0%	3.4%
Scott	9.3%	9.3%	7.2%	9.6%	5,189	22.4%	9.9%	2.2%	12.2%	17.8%	3.0%
Searcy	23.7%	21.9%	18.2%	19.9%	NA	48.1%	23.9%	7.2%	27.8%	33.8%	3.8%
Sebastian	30.4%	29.9%	23.8%	24.2%	522	40.0%	20.8%	7.6%	22.3%	35.2%	6.2%
Sevier	13.1%	13.1%	13.6%	17.3%	NA	32.9%	16.1%	4.0%	19.3%	26.9%	3.1%
Sharp	16.9%	18.6%	19.2%	22.3%	NA	36.5%	20.4%	6.3%	24.0%	33.7%	4.7%
Stone	3.0%	26.0%	18.9%	19.4%	6,128	39.2%	19.2%	6.3%	20.6%	31.0%	4.3%
Union	19.9%	22.0%	18.7%	19.8%	1,187	44.8%	23.1%	5.1%	26.1%	32.3%	3.2%
Van Buren	19.4%	22.2%	15.4%	18.3%	2,446	40.4%	22.4%	4.6%	22.2%	28.7%	5.0%
Washington	14.0%	14.6%	14.6%	15.0%	259	24.5%	10.7%	2.9%	14.0%	20.6%	2.9%
White	17.5%	18.7%	14.0%	16.7%	860	29.0%	14.9%	4.3%	17.3%	24.9%	3.7%
Woodruff	32.7%	34.5%	27.0%	27.1%	2,118	49.0%	28.8%	15.5%	31.6%	38.8%	3.4%
Yell	19.4%	17.1%	15.4%	17.6%	1,389	30.7%	15.4%	5.7%	18.4%	32.6%	3.7%
Rural:											
Coastal Plains	20.9%	22.5%	19.5%	20.1%	2,531	45.1%	23.3%	7.4%	26.6%	31.4%	3.6%
Delta	27.7%	29.4%	22.5%	23.4%	2,129	51.0%	25.2%	8.8%	29.9%	36.4%	3.9%
Highlands	18.3%	19.0%	15.4%	16.8%	1,328	34.5%	17.4%	4.3%	19.4%	28.9%	4.1%
Total Rural	21.6%	22.5%	17.8%	18.8%	1,590	40.1%	20.1%	5.6%	22.9%	31.3%	4.0%
Urban:											
Pulaski County	12.5%	14.1%	13.3%	16.0%	352	33.6%	14.9%	2.1%	18.4%	26.7%	2.4%
Other Urban	15.9%	15.8%	14.0%	14.4%	363	28.5%	13.3%	3.5%	16.5%	25.4%	2.9%
Total Urban	14.8%	15.3%	13.8%	14.8%	360	29.7%	13.7%	3.2%	17.0%	25.5%	2.8%
State:	18.5%	19.1%	15.8%	16.7%	586	34.3%	16.6%	4.5%	19.7%	30.3%	3.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates; Realty Trac, New Foreclosures in Arkansas, November 2010; Arkansas Department of Human Services; <http://www.arkansas.gov/dhs/AnnualStatRpts/ASR%202009.pdf>; <http://www.realtytrac.com/trendcenter/>

Appendix B. Table 6. Infant Mortality Rates, Primary Care Physicians, Health Coverage and Obesity

County	Infant Mortality, 2001-2005 Deaths Per 1,000 Live Births	Primary Care Physicians Per 100,000 Population 2009	% of Adult Population without Health Insurance Coverage*	% of Adult Population with No Personal Doctor*	% of Adult Population Overweight or Obese (BMI >=25)	Children and Adolescents Who Are				
						Under-weight	Healthy Weight	Over-weight	Obese	Overweight or Obese
Arkansas	12.3	82.8	15.3	16.9	68.9	1.5	56.6	17.3	24.6	41.9
Ashley	10.7	58.4	13.5	13.4	73.1	1.7	58.3	17.0	23.0	40.0
Baxter	6.1	131.4	19.8	4.6	67.3	1.7	61.5	17.9	19.0	36.9
Benton	6.5	77.3	17.4	9.8	64.5	2.3	64.4	16.4	16.9	33.4
Boone	8.9	98.2	20	22.6	59.1	2.4	62.4	17.1	18.1	35.2
Bradley	9.7	91.9	11.3	13.5	69.9	1.2	51.1	19.5	28.2	47.8
Calhoun	14.8	36.5	9.2	4.1	70.8	0.0	56.0	17.6	26.4	44.0
Carroll	8.1	69.7	17.5	6.7	60.9	1.8	58.1	17.1	23.0	40.1
Chicot	7.8	121.9	18.9	18.6	75.8	0.8	56.5	16.8	25.9	42.7
Clark	4.4	80.2	20.2	7.6	70.7	1.2	57.2	17.0	24.7	41.7
Clay	5.2	43.6	13.7	9.6	64.6	1.7	54.0	15.6	28.7	44.3
Cleburne	4.7	67.2	16.8	9.7	70.0	2.2	63.6	16.0	18.2	34.2
Cleveland	7.4	0.0	16.0	11.1	72.1	3.0	56.2	15.4	25.4	40.8
Columbia	11.6	90.5	13.8	12.1	70.0	1.4	60.1	17.3	21.3	38.6
Conway	8.8	67.7	17.3	10.2	66.7	1.2	53.5	18.5	26.8	45.3
Craighead	10.8	159.8	18.5	13.5	67.9	2.4	61.2	16.5	20.0	36.5
Crawford	8.2	52.5	17.3	19.2	67.2	2.2	64.9	15.3	17.7	32.9
Crittenden	14.9	67.1	26.0	23.0	70.2	1.4	58.8	17.4	22.4	39.9
Cross	8.6	53.7	22.6	18.4	67.4	2.0	56.4	16.9	24.6	41.6
Dallas	2.1	48.8	18.1	15.2	71.2	1.6	54.5	19.2	24.8	44.0
Desha	9.3	29.2	24.9	13.3	67.3	2.0	55.3	18.3	24.4	42.7
Drew	7.7	53.5	19.2	12.1	70.7	2.2	56.9	18.9	22.0	40.9
Faulkner	6.8	74.5	11.5	4.4	67.0	2.1	63.7	16.5	17.7	34.2
Franklin	6.5	33.2	14.2	10.7	67.4	2.6	60.9	16.8	19.7	36.5
Fulton	11.0	76.3	23.5	21.9	72.8	1.5	55.9	19.1	23.5	42.6
Garland	9.3	120.2	15.6	7.8	68.4	2.4	62.5	16.9	18.2	35.1
Grant	10.1	45.7	9.6	14.3	64.3	2.4	63.2	16.9	17.6	34.5
Greene	9.2	74.4	16.0	12.3	64.8	1.2	57.4	18.4	23.0	41.4
Hempstead	9.1	38.8	16.6	16.8	74.5	2.0	56.8	16.3	24.9	41.2
Hot Spring	5.1	37.7	16.5	13.9	69.2	2.0	58.3	17.6	22.2	39.7
Howard	4.6	63.8	24.0	15.0	71.2	2.4	57.2	19.0	21.4	40.4
Independence	6.4	121.7	24.1	15.4	72.0	2.3	59.1	17.6	21.0	38.6
Izard	11.6	30.7	23.7	13.4	72.5	1.8	58.5	16.8	22.9	39.7
Jackson	5.4	111.5	16.8	9.4	69.8	1.9	54.3	19.5	24.3	43.8
Jefferson	10.5	114.6	18.0	15.1	66.4	1.3	58.4	17.5	22.8	40.3
Johnson	6.1	64.6	16.2	16.7	65.6	1.4	57.7	17.6	23.2	40.9
Lafayette	6.4	13.0	12.7	18.0	73.1	2.1	57.3	19.2	21.4	40.6
Lawrence	7.3	71.1	21.0	11.2	68.4	1.6	53.2	20.0	25.2	45.2
Lee	20.1	65.4	26.6	16.5	68.9	0.0	48.8	19.7	31.6	51.2
Lincoln	6.9	21.9	22.3	23.1	71.9	2.0	54.0	17.8	26.3	44.1
Little River	6.7	69.8	20.7	14.7	73.9	0.9	57.5	20.6	21.1	41.6
Logan	6.5	48.5	17.8	17.1	64.9	1.9	63.0	15.8	19.3	35.1
Lonoke	8.3	34.6	9.9	20.1	67.1	2.1	62.8	16.7	18.4	35.1
Madison	9.0	32.2	16.6	10.7	66.9	2.5	66.4	15.6	15.5	31.1
Marion	10.8	36.1	17.4	20.0	63.5	1.4	61.4	17.5	19.7	37.2

* Estimate data

Appendix B. Table 6. Infant Mortality Rates, Primary Care Physicians, Health Coverage and Obesity

County	Infant Mortality, 2001-2005 Deaths Per 1,000 Live Births	Primary Care Physicians Per 100,000 Population 2009	% of Adult Population without Health Insurance Coverage*	% of Adult Population with No Personal Doctor*	% of Adult Population Overweight or Obese (BMI >=25)	Children and Adolescents Who Are				
						Under-weight	Healthy Weight	Over-weight	Obese	Overweight or Obese
Miller	7.8	42.0	15.9	13.3	76.2	1.5	59.1	18.0	21.5	39.4
Mississippi	10.8	47.2	17.7	10.2	69.1	2.1	56.4	17.6	23.9	41.5
Monroe	11.8	35.0	20.3	17.5	68.6	2.1	57.0	15.8	25.1	40.9
Montgomery	2.3	55.1	21.2	18.8	70.7	1.2	57.8	21.4	19.7	41.0
Nevada	7.5	21.4	12.5	13.6	68.2	2.0	58.2	20.3	19.4	39.7
Newton	2.4	12.0	18.7	9.7	61.6	1.7	61.6	17.4	19.3	36.7
Ouachita	12.0	69.2	13.8	16.4	70.2	1.6	55.9	17.9	24.7	42.6
Perry	3.3	19.3	10.3	9.2	65.2	1.8	62.2	14.9	21.1	36.1
Phillips	10.9	68.4	19.4	11.3	65.0	0.7	52.4	17.0	29.8	46.9
Pike	13.6	55.4	16.3	17.9	67.5	2.2	63.3	16.7	17.8	34.5
Poinsett	10.9	20.1	13.4	8.6	67.4	2.1	54.3	18.1	25.6	43.6
Polk	9.0	89.4	28.6	14.3	70.5	2.2	62.9	16.9	18.1	34.9
Pope	6.2	81.1	19.7	13.0	64.0	1.6	58.7	18.5	21.3	39.8
Prairie	10.3	34.0	12.8	16.1	71.0	0.0	58.4	17.3	24.3	41.6
Pulaski	9.5	238.7	13.6	14.7	64.9	2.1	61.8	17.1	19.1	36.2
Randolph	2.8	61.0	19.4	13.5	68.5	2.2	56.3	19.0	22.6	41.5
St. Francis	11.4	60.8	29.2	12.8	67.6	2.3	63.4	16.4	18.0	34.4
Saline	6.4	35.4	10.1	24.1	64.5	1.5	59.9	19.3	19.4	38.7
Scott	1.4	86.9	22.5	12.3	68.2	1.2	57.5	17.4	23.9	41.3
Searcy	2.4	170.0	18.9	22.8	62.6	2.2	62.4	16.8	18.6	35.5
Sebastian	7.3	61.1	16.8	13.1	67.0	1.2	54.2	18.6	26.1	44.7
Sevier	8.9	50.7	29.0	24.1	70.6	2.8	57.9	17.4	22.0	39.3
Sharp	6.7	56.0	25.0	19.4	73.3	1.8	57.0	19.2	22.0	41.2
Stone	3.4	67.2	23.8	10.8	68.7	1.6	61.3	16.9	20.2	37.1
Union	6.2	123.4	11.9	9.9	71.1	1.4	56.7	18.1	23.8	41.8
Van Buren	4.5	54.7	16.9	7.3	65.5	2.0	62.9	18.5	16.7	35.1
Washington	7.0	123.8	19.7	10.5	66.5	1.9	63.9	17.0	17.2	34.2
White	6.9	76.0	15.3	24.2	71.4	2.0	58.0	18.3	21.7	40.0
Woodruff	15.7	78.3	19.0	13.8	69.0	0.0	54.7	17.0	28.4	45.4
Yell	7.9	64.1	19.9	16.0	67.9	2.4	57.4	17.2	23.1	40.2
Rural:										
Coastal Plains	9.0	70.2	17.0	11.4	66.3	1.6	56.7	18.2	23.5	41.6
Delta	10.2	59.4	20.6	15.3	70.2	1.4	55.6	17.5	25.5	43.0
Highlands	7.0	87.8	22.1	15.8	67.6	1.9	59.6	17.6	20.9	38.5
Total Rural	8.2	78.5	21.1	15.0	67.9	1.7	58.0	17.7	22.6	40.2
Urban:										
Pulaski County	9.5	238.7	13.6	14.7	64.9	2.1	61.8	17.1	19.1	36.2
Other Urban	8.1	90.6	15.3	18.9	67.7	1.8	61.0	17.2	20.0	37.2
Total Urban	8.5	133.2	15.3	18.9	67.7	1.8	61.1	17.2	19.9	37.1
State	8.3	103.5	18.3	16.9	65.7	1.7	58.5	17.6	22.1	39.7

* Estimate data

Source: Arkansas Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Arkansas Department of Health, Health Professions Manpower Assessment, 2007; <http://www.achi.net/ChildObDocs/091210YearSixBMIStateReport.pdf>, Assessment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity in Arkansas, Year Six (Fall 2008-Spring 2009)

Appendix B. Table 7. Educational Attainment and Enrollment in Public Schools

County Name	% Persons Age 25+ with		Enrollment On Free or Reduced Lunch, 2009-2010			Enrolled in Public School, 2009-2010									
	H.S. Degree 2000	College Degree 2000	% Public School Total	% Kinder-garten and First Grade	% Pre-K	Total Students Enrolled	% Total Enrollment Change, 2005 to 2009-2010	% Asian Students	% Black Students	% Hispanic Students	% Native American / Alaskan Students	% Native Hawaiian / Islander Students	% White Students		
														% Asian Students	% Black Students
Arkansas	72.4%	12.2%	62.5%	67.8%	76.8%	3,260	-7.9%	0.4%	32.4%	2.0%	0.1%	0.0%	63.2%		
Ashley	72.5%	10.1%	79.5%	84.1%	92.3%	3,863	-6.4%	0.3%	31.4%	6.5%	0.0%	0.0%	61.2%		
Baxter	77.5%	12.8%	57.2%	63.0%	79.6%	5,144	0.3%	0.4%	1.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	91.6%		
Benton	80.4%	20.3%	45.6%	49.7%	82.3%	36,686	20.6%	2.9%	1.6%	21.3%	2.2%	0.2%	67.8%		
Boone	76.8%	12.7%	53.1%	59.8%	92.8%	6,202	2.1%	0.2%	0.3%	1.2%	0.6%	0.2%	95.8%		
Bradley	66.6%	11.9%	72.4%	69.7%	90.0%	1,970	-6.8%	0.0%	30.9%	19.4%	0.0%	0.0%	48.9%		
Calhoun	68.7%	7.3%	61.6%	78.1%	57.1%	606	-18.8%	0.1%	27.7%	4.1%	0.5%	1.1%	66.3%		
Carroll	71.8%	13.8%	64.5%	74.8%	90.6%	3,759	1.5%	1.0%	0.2%	21.8%	0.5%	0.1%	75.0%		
Chicot	64.2%	11.7%	99.9%	100.0%	100.0%	1,633	-24.1%	0.4%	81.1%	6.2%	0.0%	0.0%	11.7%		
Chicot	75.3%	19.8%	59.7%	66.4%	81.5%	2,710	-10.4%	0.8%	33.3%	6.9%	0.2%	0.0%	57.3%		
Clark	60.6%	7.4%	62.6%	71.6%	54.2%	2,658	-8.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.7%	0.1%	0.1%	98.1%		
Clay	74.8%	13.9%	53.4%	59.1%	74.1%	3,286	-3.6%	0.1%	1.9%	0.3%	0.8%	0.8%	95.2%		
Cleburne	73.1%	10.0%	47.8%	57.0%	0.0%	1,451	-1.2%	0.0%	16.8%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	80.2%		
Cleveland	74.1%	16.8%	63.4%	68.0%	94.9%	3,504	-10.9%	0.6%	49.5%	2.0%	0.1%	0.1%	47.5%		
Columbia	73.2%	11.5%	61.6%	70.0%	77.2%	3,214	-2.6%	0.8%	16.3%	4.8%	0.9%	0.0%	75.6%		
Conway	77.3%	20.9%	54.5%	62.1%	55.5%	15,962	11.5%	0.9%	20.3%	5.5%	0.2%	0.2%	71.3%		
Craighead	71.5%	9.7%	56.2%	63.2%	90.9%	11,305	3.0%	1.4%	1.5%	7.1%	1.7%	0.1%	82.8%		
Crawford	69.2%	12.8%	82.7%	85.8%	93.7%	10,939	-1.0%	0.7%	66.3%	1.4%	0.1%	0.1%	30.7%		
Crittenden	68.3%	9.9%	65.3%	71.0%	85.8%	3,451	-12.0%	0.3%	28.0%	1.3%	0.1%	0.3%	69.2%		
Cross	66.8%	9.6%	63.0%	78.5%	12.0%	987	-13.7%	0.1%	53.3%	2.0%	0.1%	0.0%	44.3%		
Dallas	65.0%	11.1%	77.9%	84.7%	80.4%	2,681	-15.7%	0.4%	58.3%	4.7%	0.0%	0.0%	36.3%		
Deshia	73.1%	17.3%	59.1%	66.2%	82.7%	3,060	-5.8%	0.4%	31.7%	2.6%	0.2%	0.0%	64.2%		
Faulkner	83.3%	25.2%	43.5%	49.1%	80.0%	17,116	10.7%	0.9%	14.8%	4.4%	0.5%	0.1%	78.8%		
Franklin	71.1%	11.0%	49.4%	58.4%	75.0%	3,232	-3.4%	1.8%	1.1%	1.9%	0.6%	0.5%	93.3%		
Fulton	72.2%	10.5%	60.4%	65.3%	56.3%	1,555	-1.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	95.6%		
Garland	78.3%	18.0%	57.7%	65.5%	66.7%	14,084	6.0%	1.2%	13.8%	6.34%	0.7%	0.4%	75.0%		
Grant	77.2%	11.0%	45.7%	52.1%	55.0%	4,659	-1.9%	1.5%	1.8%	2.3%	0.3%	0.0%	93.8%		
Greene	72.1%	10.9%	57.5%	63.9%	52.2%	6,933	3.5%	0.2%	1.0%	2.4%	0.1%	0.1%	94.3%		
Hempstead	69.2%	11.0%	75.8%	87.5%	94.9%	3,644	-9.6%	0.8%	36.3%	19.5%	0.3%	0.4%	42.7%		
Hot Spring	73.3%	11.2%	59.0%	65.7%	65.9%	5,275	-3.4%	0.3%	13.8%	3.8%	0.7%	0.2%	80.6%		
Howard	70.7%	11.6%	69.2%	72.8%	85.5%	2,917	-2.1%	1.0%	25.5%	12.7%	0.4%	0.4%	57.8%		
Independence	75.5%	13.7%	59.2%	64.9%	66.4%	5,724	1.3%	1.3%	3.1%	6.1%	0.2%	0.3%	86.5%		
Izard	73.3%	11.7%	63.1%	71.2%	60.0%	1,838	-0.6%	0.4%	0.7%	1.8%	0.3%	0.0%	96.0%		
Jackson	66.0%	10.3%	72.0%	76.4%	77.2%	2,226	-10.5%	0.2%	25.1%	3.4%	0.1%	0.0%	69.8%		
Jefferson	74.8%	15.7%	67.6%	75.4%	89.8%	12,611	-11.0%	0.8%	68.4%	0.9%	0.1%	0.0%	28.6%		
Johnson	67.6%	13.1%	69.6%	74.5%	0.0%	4,255	5.9%	1.4%	1.5%	16.6%	0.4%	0.3%	77.5%		
Lafayette	65.3%	9.5%	79.6%	83.7%	53.8%	1,212	-11.9%	0.1%	54.5%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	42.6%		
Lawrence	63.3%	8.5%	67.7%	75.3%	64.6%	3,060	-2.8%	0.3%	92.5%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	97.2%		
Lee	56.2%	7.3%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	1,116	-24.9%	0.2%	23.3%	4.9%	0.0%	0.0%	69.9%		
Lincoln	65.0%	7.6%	59.9%	64.7%	85.5%	1,686	-3.7%	0.0%	26.9%	4.7%	0.7%	0.5%	65.4%		
Little River	73.4%	9.9%	57.8%	67.5%	0.0%	2,104	-3.4%	0.9%	26.9%	4.7%	0.6%	0.3%	91.4%		
Logan	69.8%	9.4%	62.3%	72.7%	70.5%	3,481	0.3%	2.8%	1.1%	2.1%	0.3%	0.5%	86.5%		
Loneke	77.6%	14.6%	42.9%	51.2%	52.8%	13,241	15.1%	1.2%	7.2%	3.6%	0.3%	0.5%	86.5%		
Madison	67.8%	10.1%	57.7%	63.3%	0.0%	2,339	-6.3%	0.9%	6.7%	6.7%	1.2%	0.3%	89.9%		
Marion	76.0%	10.4%	65.9%	77.8%	79.8%	1,686	-10.4%	0.3%	0.0%	1.0%	0.4%	0.3%	97.3%		

Appendix B. Table 7. Educational Attainment and Enrollment in Public Schools

County Name	% Persons Age 25+ with			Enrollment On Free or Reduced Lunch, 2009-2010			Enrolled in Public School, 2009-2010						
	H.S. Degree 2000	College Degree 2000	% Public School Total	% Kindergarten and First Grade	% Pre-K	Total Students Enrolled to 2009-2010	% Total Enrollment Change, 2004-2005	% Asian Students	% Black Students	% Hispanic Students	% Native Alaskan Students	% Native American / Hawaiian / Pacific Islander Students	% White Students
	Miller	74.3%	12.5%	63.0%	73.0%	45.0%	6,332	-0.6%	0.2%	33.6%	1.9%	0.4%	0.3%
Mississippi	64.7%	11.3%	83.0%	87.1%	81.1%	8,785	-1.7%	0.6%	48.8%	3.6%	0.1%	0.0%	45.8%
Monroe	63.8%	8.4%	91.4%	94.5%	93.2%	1,236	-26.7%	0.4%	58.5%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%	36.5%
Montgomery	69.8%	8.8%	71.2%	76.4%	87.0%	1,085	-7.7%	1.2%	0.7%	7.3%	0.2%	0.0%	90.2%
Nevada	69.1%	10.7%	72.4%	84.5%	75.0%	1,390	-8.8%	1.1%	39.9%	3.0%	0.2%	0.2%	54.0%
Newton	70.2%	11.8%	70.5%	75.9%	84.3%	1,271	-6.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.7%	2.9%	0.3%	94.0%
Ouachita	73.5%	12.7%	69.0%	74.8%	86.7%	4,409	-14.3%	0.4%	52.0%	1.4%	0.1%	0.0%	44.5%
Perry	73.8%	11.1%	48.5%	55.3%	75.0%	1,690	-1.9%	0.1%	2.4%	1.1%	0.7%	0.0%	95.2%
Phillips	62.2%	12.4%	91.3%	95.1%	97.0%	4,146	-18.2%	0.5%	82.7%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	15.2%
Pike	68.8%	10.1%	59.6%	61.9%	82.8%	2,307	-3.1%	1.0%	3.8%	9.6%	0.6%	0.0%	83.6%
Poinsett	62.0%	6.3%	78.6%	82.4%	86.5%	4,389	-6.0%	0.2%	9.6%	2.9%	0.1%	0.1%	86.0%
Polk	72.6%	10.9%	72.9%	80.6%	63.0%	3,769	-3.3%	0.4%	0.3%	8.6%	1.7%	0.1%	87.1%
Pope	77.4%	19.0%	55.5%	62.0%	91.8%	9,743	2.3%	1.0%	4.7%	9.4%	0.6%	0.1%	83.1%
Prairie	68.2%	9.0%	65.2%	74.4%	76.5%	1,254	-6.3%	0.2%	20.8%	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%	77.5%
Pulaski	84.4%	28.1%	63.0%	66.4%	80.0%	54,508	4.5%	1.9%	56.6%	6.3%	0.2%	0.0%	34.6%
Randolph	69.2%	10.6%	62.4%	70.6%	52.1%	2,301	-3.5%	0.1%	0.9%	1.4%	0.2%	0.2%	94.4%
St. Francis	65.1%	9.6%	97.9%	97.8%	99.3%	4,339	-15.9%	0.3%	72.5%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	26.0%
Saline	82.3%	16.4%	35.7%	42.2%	65.7%	14,738	15.2%	1.1%	6.1%	4.6%	0.4%	0.1%	86.1%
Scott	65.4%	8.4%	70.3%	79.6%	92.2%	1,651	-2.2%	4.7%	0.7%	12.3%	2.4%	0.1%	78.6%
Searcy	68.0%	8.4%	74.8%	80.8%	100.0%	1,613	-8.8%	0.1%	0.1%	1.9%	1.3%	0.5%	95.5%
Sebastian	76.6%	16.6%	60.0%	66.9%	89.4%	20,149	5.7%	4.6%	8.8%	16.8%	2.7%	0.1%	61.0%
Sevier	64.6%	9.2%	70.3%	77.9%	29.7%	3,341	2.5%	0.3%	3.9%	46.4%	2.1%	0.0%	46.6%
Sharp	72.9%	10.3%	67.1%	74.7%	66.7%	3,241	-7.2%	0.3%	0.7%	1.1%	0.5%	0.0%	96.8%
Stone	68.0%	9.8%	62.2%	72.1%	91.8%	1,689	-0.7%	0.4%	0.4%	1.3%	0.3%	0.4%	96.8%
Union	74.5%	14.9%	57.5%	66.7%	71.8%	7,693	-4.4%	0.5%	41.7%	3.9%	0.1%	0.1%	52.9%
Van Buren	71.6%	11.5%	68.1%	77.4%	75.8%	2,330	-2.3%	0.6%	0.9%	2.1%	0.4%	0.5%	93.6%
Washington	79.5%	24.5%	52.6%	60.3%	86.5%	35,377	15.4%	2.3%	4.1%	24.2%	0.8%	3.7%	62.6%
White	72.9%	15.5%	53.1%	61.4%	64.3%	12,561	5.8%	0.4%	5.3%	3.9%	0.4%	0.1%	86.6%
Woodruff	60.6%	8.0%	75.0%	77.4%	90.7%	1,140	-13.5%	0.0%	34.4%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	61.4%
Yell	64.1%	10.9%	72.6%	79.3%	93.0%	4,259	2.8%	2.2%	1.5%	25.8%	0.7%	0.1%	67.5%
Rural:													
Coastal Plains	72.1%	12.8%	66.0%	73.4%	85.8%	34,906	-8.0%	0.5%	38.8%	6.0%	0.2%	0.2%	53.8%
Delta	65.4%	9.9%	76.6%	80.8%	82.2%	50,933	-9.4%	0.4%	38.6%	2.5%	0.1%	0.1%	57.4%
Highlands	73.1%	13.2%	60.1%	67.5%	74.6%	132,258	-0.1%	0.9%	5.6%	7.2%	0.7%	0.2%	83.7%
Total Rural	71.1%	12.3%	65.0%	71.5%	78.6%	218,097	-3.7%	0.7%	18.7%	5.9%	0.5%	0.2%	72.8%
Urban:													
Pulaski County	84.4%	28.1%	63.0%	66.4%	80.0%	54,508	4.5%	1.9%	56.7%	6.4%	0.3%	0.0%	34.7%
Other Urban	78.0%	18.6%	52.7%	59.1%	74.3%	194,456	10.0%	2.0%	15.3%	12.2%	1.1%	0.9%	66.1%
Total Urban	79.8%	21.3%	55.0%	60.7%	76.5%	248,964	8.7%	2.0%	24.3%	10.9%	0.9%	0.7%	59.2%
State	75.3%	16.7%	59.7%	65.6%	77.6%	467,061	2.5%	1.4%	21.7%	8.6%	0.7%	0.4%	65.6%

Source: Arkansas Department of Education and U.S. Census Bureau

Appendix B. Table 8. Disasters and Social Vulnerability

	Total Declared Emergencies/Disasters 1999-2010	SOVI, 2000*	State Ranking, Sovi, 1 Being Least Vulnerable and 75 Being Most Vulnerable	Food Desert County**
Arkansas	1	2.70	58	1
Ashley	1	1.13	38	1
Baxter	3	5.47	70	0
Benton	7	-1.53	10	0
Boone	6	1.11	36	0
Bradley	7	1.01	34	1
Calhoun	9	-0.88	17	1
Carroll	6	-1.22	13	0
Chicot	4	3.80	64	1
Clark	10	-3.24	5	0
Clay	8	1.79	50	1
Cleburne	10	1.10	35	1
Cleveland	8	-0.27	25	0
Columbia	8	0.91	32	1
Conway	12	-5.13	1	1
Craighead	10	-0.60	22	0
Crawford	6	0.78	30	0
Crittenden	7	6.80	73	0
Cross	9	1.85	51	0
Dallas	8	1.48	45	1
Desha	4	6.42	72	1
Drew	7	-1.11	15	0
Faulkner	6	-2.27	9	0
Franklin	11	1.47	44	0
Fulton	10	3.36	62	1
Garland	6	1.69	48	0
Grant	9	-3.70	3	0
Greene	12	-1.16	14	0
Hempstead	9	1.22	40	0
Hot Spring	6	-0.96	16	0
Howard	7	-1.39	11	0
Independence	11	-0.87	18	1
Izard	9	3.24	61	1
Jackson	13	3.12	60	1
Jefferson	7	4.12	66	0
Johnson	8	-0.81	19	0
Lafayette	10	1.57	46	1
Lawrence	8	3.37	63	1
Lee	5	2.28	56	0
Lincoln	9	-2.83	6	0
Little River	9	5.43	69	1
Logan	7	1.67	47	1
Lonoke	9	-0.30	24	0
Madison	9	2.07	53	0

Appendix B. Table 8. Disasters and Social Vulnerability

	Total Declared Emergencies/Disasters 1999-2010	SOVI, 2000*	State Ranking, Sovi, 1 Being Least Vulnerable and 75 Being Most Vulnerable	Food Desert County**
Marion	8	1.11	37	1
Miller	10	1.14	39	0
Mississippi	7	3.87	65	1
Monroe	9	2.22	55	1
Montgomery	6	-3.39	4	1
Nevada	11	0.48	28	0
Newton	11	-0.58	23	1
Ouachita	8	2.96	59	0
Perry	8	-2.56	7	0
Phillips	5	8.95	75	1
Pike	7	1.36	42	0
Poinsett	13	0.55	29	0
Polk	7	2.03	52	0
Pope	7	-0.65	21	0
Prairie	11	1.36	41	1
Pulaski	8	2.32	57	0
Randolph	9	1.73	49	1
St. Francis	6	6.84	74	0
Saline	9	-4.30	2	0
Scott	7	-2.30	8	0
Searcy	8	1.44	43	0
Sebastian	5	-0.23	26	0
Sevier	5	1.00	33	0
Sharp	9	6.09	71	1
Stone	11	2.13	54	1
Union	5	0.86	31	1
Van Buren	9	4.46	67	0
Washington	7	-0.22	27	0
White	13	-1.37	12	1
Woodruff	6	5.26	68	1
Yell	5	-0.75	20	1
Rural:		Average value	Average value	
Coastal Plains	15	1.11	36.17	7
Delta	19	2.94	52.38	10
Highlands	22	0.53	34.09	16
Total Rural	22	1.25	39.13	33
Urban:				
Pulaski County	8	2.32	57.00	0
Other Urban	18	0.31	29.82	0
Total Urban	19	0.48	32.08	0
State	22	1.13	38.00	33

*SOVI = Social Vulnerability Index. Social vulnerability is represented as the social, economic, demographic, and housing characteristics that influence a community's ability to respond to, cope with, recover from, and adapt to environmental hazards.

**Food deserts are defined as places where persons travel at least 10 miles to access a supermarket or supercenter food retailer. Details at http://srdc.msstate.edu/ridge/files/recipients/02_blanchar_d_final.pdf.

Source: Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute, <http://webra.cas.sc.edu>; Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security

Appendix B. Table 9. Property Tax Assessments

County	Per Capita Assessments (Current \$)	Total Property Assesments - Constant \$	
	2009	Change 2000_2009	Change 2000-2009 (%)
Arkansas	\$15,077	\$3,922,061	3.0%
Ashley	\$14,566	\$(4,872,059)	-3.2%
Baxter	\$15,297	\$71,795,733	31.4%
Benton	\$19,386	\$948,400,225	87.1%
Boone	\$13,038	\$44,204,655	24.6%
Bradley	\$9,300	\$(956,489)	-1.8%
Calhoun	\$16,361	\$(1,370,964)	-3.3%
Carroll	\$14,255	\$16,934,134	10.0%
Chicot	\$10,563	\$(1,917,289)	-3.2%
Clark	\$10,743	\$1,149,640	1.0%
Clay	\$11,205	\$1,117,228	1.4%
Cleburne	\$17,894	\$64,010,570	42.8%
Cleveland	\$9,346	\$3,460,437	10.4%
Columbia	\$13,099	\$3,165,407	2.2%
Conway	\$17,842	\$72,632,923	72.4%
Craighead	\$13,321	\$149,386,280	33.7%
Crawford	\$10,894	\$101,540,355	49.9%
Crittenden	\$12,200	\$79,583,666	35.9%
Cross	\$11,150	\$687,639	0.7%
Dallas	\$9,851	\$(6,261,748)	-14.6%
Desha	\$13,827	\$(11,536,177)	-11.8%
Drew	\$10,074	\$6,744,257	8.4%
Faulkner	\$12,961	\$255,489,364	63.0%
Franklin	\$13,267	\$23,389,346	26.6%
Fulton	\$10,191	\$11,235,892	25.7%
Garland	\$15,927	\$231,238,732	46.3%
Grant	\$10,386	\$8,269,108	10.6%
Greene	\$11,190	\$46,535,530	27.8%
Hempstead	\$10,913	\$25,792,322	28.2%
Hot Spring	\$10,634	\$24,042,865	18.0%
Howard	\$12,045	\$36,058	0.0%
Independence	\$13,436	\$(2,006,483)	-0.9%
Izard	\$10,644	\$11,466,078	21.5%
Jackson	\$10,950	\$(2,400,860)	-2.7%
Jefferson	\$10,009	\$(11,569,989)	-3.1%
Johnson	\$9,839	\$17,512,833	18.0%
Lafayette	\$12,206	\$4,556,404	11.9%
Lawrence	\$13,258	\$28,995,080	38.5%
Lee	\$2,507	\$(31,660,064)	-72.4%
Lincoln	\$7,778	\$(2,604,676)	-5.0%
Little River	\$21,634	\$7,829,903	6.4%
Logan	\$11,580	\$33,074,438	37.8%
Lonoke	\$11,918	\$143,796,744	63.5%
Madison	\$10,086	\$20,888,565	38.9%
Marion	\$11,443	\$15,259,376	20.8%

Appendix B. Table 9. Property Tax Assessments

County	Per Capita Assessments (Current \$)	Total Property Assesments - Constant \$	
	2009	Change 2000_2009	Change 2000-2009 (%)
Miller	\$9,238	\$17,782,284	10.5%
Mississippi	\$10,717	\$549,651	0.2%
Monroe	\$12,231	\$469,007	1.0%
Montgomery	\$11,512	\$6,086,794	14.4%
Nevada	\$9,482	\$(2,820,133)	-6.5%
Newton	\$9,573	\$9,488,613	35.1%
Ouachita	\$8,439	\$(8,751,007)	-8.0%
Perry	\$8,580	\$6,070,110	17.3%
Phillips	\$9,207	\$(15,265,289)	-14.5%
Pike	\$11,160	\$5,100,005	10.2%
Poinsett	\$9,494	\$(3,100,464)	-2.8%
Polk	\$9,674	\$6,758,027	8.0%
Pope	\$16,203	\$80,673,435	21.6%
Prairie	\$12,837	\$(2,676,174)	-5.0%
Pulaski	\$16,064	\$647,514,890	29.3%
Randolph	\$9,328	\$6,876,923	9.7%
Saint Francis	\$8,193	\$(11,230,750)	-10.1%
Saline	\$14,105	\$216,312,897	49.4%
Scott	\$8,779	\$8,986,484	24.6%
Searcy	\$9,292	\$7,053,158	25.8%
Sebastian	\$14,399	\$157,347,167	23.4%
Sevier	\$7,864	\$886,406	1.5%
Sharp	\$9,856	\$9,031,358	12.5%
Stone	\$10,805	\$15,907,270	35.8%
Union	\$14,631	\$41,320,595	16.5%
Van Buren	\$23,640	\$112,196,736	163.3%
Washington	\$15,925	\$632,024,966	74.0%
White	\$12,205	\$138,003,286	46.6%
Woodruff	\$13,402	\$2,932,082	6.8%
Yell	\$9,236	\$23,546,637	32.1%
Rural:			
Coastal Plains	\$12,547	74,098,675	6.4%
Delta	\$10,582	-26,178,545	-1.7%
Highlands	\$12,939	1,124,533,038	28.6%
Total Rural	\$12,351	1,172,453,168	17.7%
Urban:			
Pulaski County	\$16,064	647,514,890	29.3%
Other Urban			
Total Urban	\$14,863	3,337,608,848	45.6%
State	\$13,688	\$4,510,062,016	32.4%

Source: Computed from data provided by the Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department and Population Estimates from the Bureau of Census

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Printed by

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Printing Services, Little Rock

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Understanding Community Demographics

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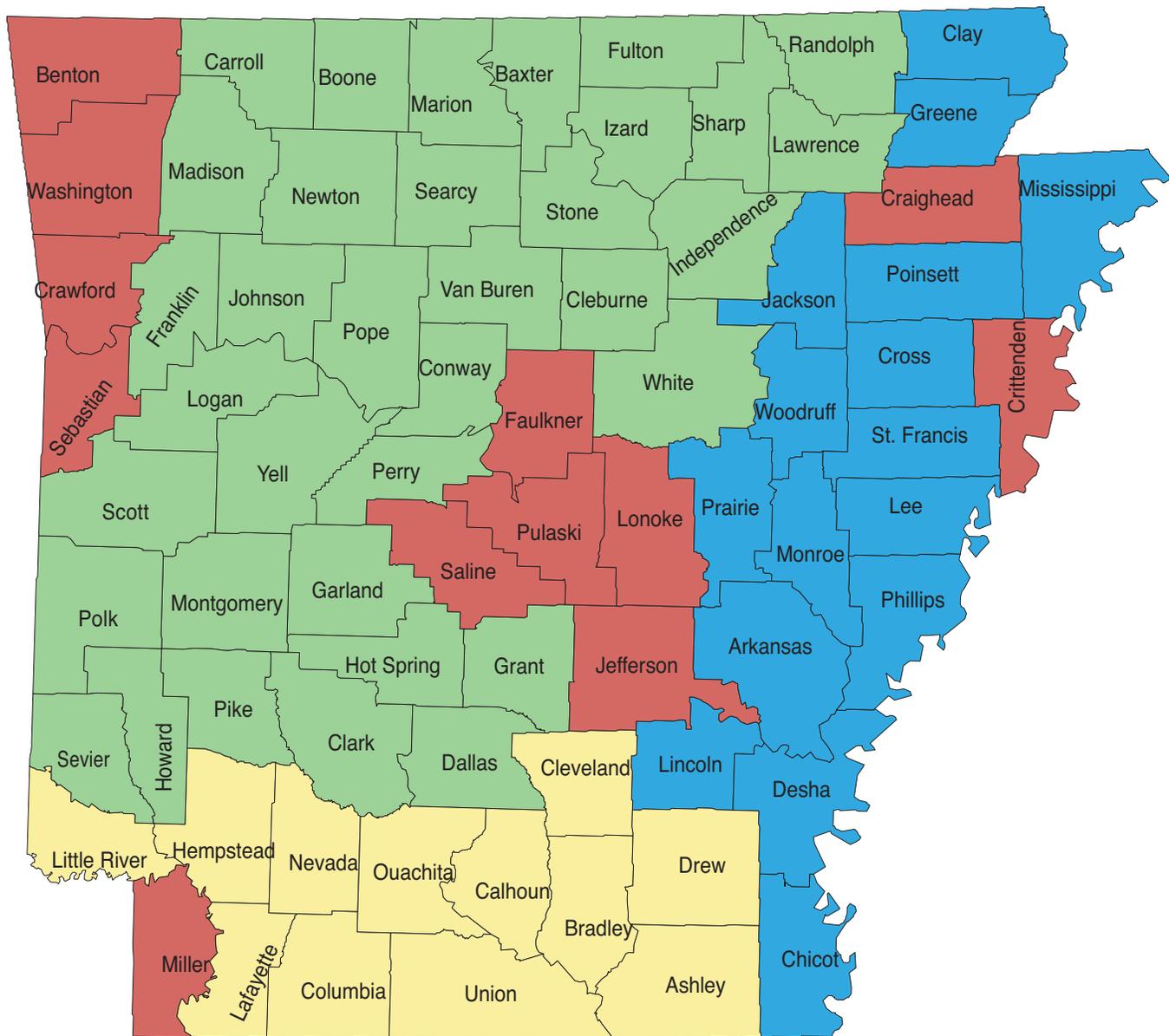
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**Additional reports, maps, tables, graphs, and presentations
that pertain to rural Arkansas can be found at:
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Arkansas Regions and Counties



University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating

Printed by University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Printing Services, Little Rock.

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