

STATISTICS ON EDUCATION, HOUSING,
INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT, AND HEALTH

Part I: Education

The relationship between jobs and education is quite clear. The threat of automation on the uneducated and unskilled is clear. In an age of specialization and skill, nobody wants an illiterate. Nobody wants to take the time and money needed to help these people--nobody in the deep South where the problem is greatest. The South does not want to lose "its" cheap labor nor run the risk of really educating Negro laborers. While there are federal programs of training and assistance, these are under state and local control to a great extent--and therefore, are not at all beneficial to Negroes.

The South has the highest illiteracy rate in America. To maintain separate schools is costly; consequently, neither school is very good and, of course, the Negro schools are inferior to the bad "white" schools. Adult education does not reach the Negro and neither does realistic vocational education. The states manage to keep most federal money in white institutions. It will be necessary to set up a new institution to handle education and training for Negro adults and school dropouts--we are trying to do this now. Otherwise, these people will never be free--no matter what civil rights are put on the books.

In most southern states, approximately half of the students drop out of high school. 43.2 percent of Mississippi high school students left before graduating in 1962. They entered the labor market, most of them, and one out of four could not find a job. Of the present population in Mississippi--8,444 whites have never been to school--and 32,196 Negroes. There are 40,274 functionally illiterate whites and 119,741 functionally illiterate Negroes in the state right now.

It is little wonder that 90% of Mississippi's sharecropper force is Negro.

Table 1. SCHOOL COMPLETION IN THE SOUTH, BY STATES, 1962
NEA REPORT, January 1963

State	Percent to graduate	State	Percent to graduate
Florida	62.9	North Carolina	57.4
Texas	60.6	Tennessee	55.1
Arkansas	57.8	Alabama	55.0
Louisiana	57.8	South Carolina	54.2
Mississippi	57.8	Kentucky	52.6
Georgia	51.8	Virginia	51.8

Table 2.

YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED
BY PERSONS 25 OR OLDER, 1960
U. S. Bureau of the Census

Race	Number 25 and over	Years completed					High school	
		none	1-4	5-6	7	8	1-3	4
Nonwhite								
number	383,017	24,318	92,063	61,525	37,729	67,239	42,547	16,273
percentage		8.4	31.3	20.2	9.1	12.4	11.1	4.2
White								
number	681,959	8,444	40,274	51,865	38,450	98,287	156,554	168,058
percentage		1.2	5.9	7.6	5.6	14.4	23.0	24.6

Median grade: Nonwhite - grade 6
White - - grade 11

Table 3. ILLITERACY AND FUNCTIONAL ILLITERACY IN THE SOUTH, 1960
U. S. Census 1960 and New York Times (April 8, 1962)

<u>ILLITERACY</u>		<u>FUNCTIONAL ILLITERACY</u>	
State	Percent of population	State	Percent of population
Florida	2.6	Florida	10.8
Kentucky	3.3	Virginia	15.3
Virginia	3.4	Texas	15.7
Tennessee	3.5	Kentucky	16.2
Arkansas	3.6	Tennessee	17.3
North Carolina	4.0	Arkansas	18.0
Texas	4.1	Alabama	19.1
Alabama	4.2	North Carolina	19.3
Georgia	4.5	Georgia	20.6
Mississippi	4.9	Mississippi	22.0
South Carolina	5.5	South Carolina	23.8
Louisiana	6.3	Louisiana	24.9

Part II: Housing Conditions

Statistics revealing housing conditions for Mississippi Negroes are somewhat shocking. In 1960 there were 207,611 housing units for Mississippi Negroes. Of these, 38.1% were owner-occupied, and 61.9% were renter-occupied (significantly out of line with the national proportion of owner- and renter-occupied housing). Of the 207,611 houses, only one-third can be classed as being in sound condition; the others have been classified as either deteriorating or dilapidated. Of the homes in the rural areas, over 75% are without any piped water at all, and over 90% of these rural homes had no flush toilets, no bathtub and no shower.

Table 4. NEGRO HOUSING IN MISSISSIPPI, 1960
U. S. Bureau of the Census

	State Total	Urban	Rural
Total Housing Units	207,611	77,824	129,787
owner-occupied (#)	79,059	32,913	46,146
owner-occupied (%)	38.1	42.3	35.6
renter-occupied (#)	128,552	44,911	83,641
renter-occupied (%)	61.9	57.5	64.4
Condition			
Owner-occupied:			
sound	36,656	17,677	18,979
deteriorating	27,545	10,005	17,540
dilapidated	14,858	5,231	9,627
Renter-occupied			
sound	33,168	15,294	17,874
deteriorating	52,629	15,937	36,692
dilapidated	42,755	13,680	29,075=
Water Supply			
Hot and Cold Water, piped inside	40,870	33,181	7,689
Only cold water, piped inside	39,101	30,376	8,725
Piped water outside	27,502	10,229	17,273
No piped water	100,138	4,038	96,100
Toilet Facilities			
Flush Toilet, exclusive use	62,160	52,481	9,679
Flush Toilet, shared use	7,570	6,965	605
None	137,881	18,378	119,503
Bathing Facilities			
Bathtub or shower, exclusive use	44,991	36,333	8,658
Bathtub or shower, shared use	2,207	1,807	400
No bathtub or shower	160,413	39,684	120,729

Part III: Income and Employment

Employment problems for the Negroes in the rural South are more severe than for any group in the United States. Because of segregation . . . the southern Negro has not received adequate training and education. He is an unskilled laborer.

Two things have happened in American labor--there is a shift from the production of goods (farming, for example) to services, and there is a shift from the demand for unskilled, or blue-collar, workers to skilled. Agriculture continues a rapid decline. Within a period of six months, as many as a thousand Negro laborers have been laid off in the Delta. What has happened is very simple--the machine can do more than the man. One mechanical cotton picker can do the work of seventy men in a day's time. The plane that sprays or dusts the crop replaces hundreds of workers.] The tractor is preferred over the man and the mule--of course. It takes one man to fly the crop-duster, one man to run the tractor, one man to operate the picker . . . and this means that thousands of Negroes are underemployed, and unemployed. It means that thousands more are going to be completely unemployable . . . unless something is done. Ninety percent of the Delta's Negro laborers are unskilled and lacking in adequate education. The day is coming when nobody will want these people--not even for once-a-month days when the machine cannot go out, because soon they will get a machine that can go out--in any kind of weather.

Automation and technology--complicated problems. But the simple truth now is that either these people get help, or they will starve. No stopgap measure will suffice. Older Negroes never had the chance to learn; younger Negroes, because they have to stop school and go to work in the field, are not getting the chance either. In America last year, one out of every four young Negroes went without jobs for the whole year--this was in the North, too. So migration is not the solution. Next year a million and a half young people will enter the labor market without having finished high school, many without finishing eighth grade. MOST OF THEM WILL BE NEGRO.

The Federal government defines 'poverty' as an annual income under \$4,000. Most Negro families in the rural South earn less than \$2,000 annually.

In 1959, thirty-seven percent of all Mississippi Negroes earned less than \$1000. Fifty-one percent of these were on Delta farms, and many of the others were in Delta towns such as Cleveland and Greenwood.

In 1960 Negroes had an average annual income of \$606, only 29% of the average income of \$2,023 among whites. The difference seems particularly wide in view of the fact that a higher proportion of Negro family members are in the labor force. The data show that a higher proportion of Negro males under age 24 and women over age 24 are in the labor force than is the case among whites.

Table 7. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN,
NONINSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN MISSISSIPPI,
BY COLOR AND SEX, 1960 (% DISTRIBUTION)

Employment status and sex.	White			Nonwhite		
	urban	rural non-farm	rural farm	urban	rural non-farm	rural farm
Both sexes: Total, 14 years and over	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.
In labor force	57.6	49.3	48.9	58.1	45.7	45.1
Not in labor force	42.4	50.7	51.1	41.9	54.3	54.9
In labor force employed	96.0	94.6	96.3	91.2	92.9	95.3
unemployed	4.0	5.4	3.7	8.8	7.1	4.7
Females: Total, 14 years and over	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.
In labor force	37.7	29.1	24.1	48.9	30.5	21.5
Not in labor force	62.3	70.9	75.9	51.1	69.5	78.5
In labor force employed	95.3	95.0	95.0	92.0	91.7	90.2
unemployed	4.7	5.0	5.0	8.0	8.3	9.8
Males: Total, 14 years and over	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.
In labor force	79.3	70.0	72.7	70.0	63.0	69.2
Not in labor force	20.7	30.0	27.3	30.0	37.0	30.8
In labor force employed	96.3	94.5	96.7	94.5	93.5	96.9
unemployed	3.7	5.5	3.3	5.5	6.5	3.1

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Employment status and sex.	White			Nonwhite		
	urban	rural non-farm	rural farm	urban	rural non-farm	rural farm
Both sexes: Total, 14 years and over	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.
In labor force	57.6	49.3	48.9	58.1	45.7	45.1
Not in labor force	42.4	50.7	51.1	41.9	54.3	54.9
In labor force employed unemployed	96.0 4.0	94.6 5.4	96.3 3.7	91.2 8.8	92.9 7.1	95.3 4.7
Females: Total, 14 years and over	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.
In labor force	37.7	29.1	24.1	48.9	30.5	21.5
Not in labor force	62.3	70.9	75.9	51.1	69.5	78.5
In labor force employed unemployed	95.3 4.7	95.0 5.0	95.0 5.0	92.0 8.0	91.7 8.3	90.2 9.8
Males: Total, 14 years and over	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.
In labor force	79.3	70.0	72.7	70.0	63.0	69.2
Not in labor force	20.7	30.0	27.3	30.0	37.0	30.8
In labor force employed unemployed	96.3 3.7	94.5 5.5	96.7 3.3	94.5 5.5	93.5 6.5	96.9 3.1

Part IV: Health

Number and Proportion: 915,722 Negroes constituted, in 1960, roughly 42% of the total 2,178,000 population in Mississippi. Between 1940 and 1960, the total population remained nearly the same (per cent change: -0.2), with a more than 7% decrease in the Negro population compared with an increase of more than 6% among the non-Negro population. (See Table 8.)

Although birth rates among Negroes have been consistently higher than those among whites, mortality rates are higher, average life expectancy is lower and migration out of the state is considerably higher among Negroes than among whites.

Birth Rates: The higher birth rates among Negroes, in comparison with whites, are shown in Table 9. In 1949, the rate per 1,000 among the Negro population was 34.8, compared with 21.8 among whites. Since 1945 there has been a significant rise in the birth rate for Negroes. During the depression 30's, sharp declines in birth rates occurred among both Negroes and whites. (Table 9.)

Death Rates: Death rates among Negroes continue to be higher than the rates for whites, though the difference in the rates has consistently narrowed. (Table 10.) It is still a fact, however, that the death rate among Negroes today is not as low as it was for whites in 1913, the first year for which we have death rate data. This is largely a reflection of the continued low standard of living Mississippi Negroes exist under, in addition to a lack of access to adequate hospital care.

Infant Mortality: Infant mortality rates since 1920 for both races have generally gone downward. The rate for non-whites, however, swung upward in 1957 and continued upward until 1961 when it started downward again. It takes no statistical genius to understand what the figures reflect: In Mississippi the chances of a Negro baby dying within the first year of life are at best twice those of a white baby. Though most babies of both races do survive, Negro babies have a greater chance of starting life with a health handicap. In communities where Negroes are subject to major segregation and discrimination, the Negro baby is much more likely to be born prematurely. Premature babies may get excellent care if they are born in or near a hospital with a modern center for premature infants, but Negroes in Mississippi are largely denied this. (Table 11.)

Table 8. POPULATION OF MISSISSIPPI, BY COLOR, 1900-1960
U. S. Bureau of the Census

Year	Total	Nonwhite	
		Number	Percentage
1960	2,178,141	920,595	44.4
1950	2,178,914	990,282	45.5
1940	2,183,796	1,077,469	49.1
1930	2,009,821	1,011,744	50.5
1920	1,790,618	936,656	52.5
1910	1,797,114	1,011,003	56.2
1900	1,551,270	910,070	58.6

Table 9. ESTIMATED BIRTH RATES, BY COLOR,
SELECTED YEARS, 1920-1961
Mississippi State Board of Health

Births per 1,000 population

Year	Nonwhite	White
1961 - - - - -	34.8	21.8
1959 - - - - -	36.6	20.9
1955 - - - - -	36.6	23.2
1950 - - - - -	37.6	22.9
1940 - - - - -	27.3	20.9
1935 - - - - -	25.1	20.8
1930 - - - - -	24.0	23.2
1925 - - - - -	23.4	24.1
1920 - - - - -	22.7	26.3

Table 10. DEATH RATES, BY COLOR, SELECTED YEARS, 1920-1961
Mississippi State Board of Health

Deaths per 1,000 population

Year	Nonwhite	White
1961	11.0	8.8
1959	11.4	8.1
1955	10.2	8.7
1950	11.2	8.0
1940	12.6	8.6
1935	11.6	8.7
1930	14.8	9.0
1925	14.4	8.8
1920	15.1	9.3

Table 11. DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR, RATES FOR SELECTED YEARS,
1920-1961
Mississippi State Board of Health

Deaths per 1,000 population

Year	Nonwhite	White
1961	50.0	23.5
1960	54.4	23.5
1955	46.4	24.7
1950	42.6	28.1
1945	44.7	36.1
1940	60.9	46.4
1935	58.6	47.5
1930	84.5	51.0
1925	85.7	53.0
1920	101.1	59.9