

Listing of the 13 Leading Health Care Concerns Identified Through the Statewide Needs Assessment With the Proposed Indicators/Measures of Each

1. Access to Care

Percent Uninsured Population Under age 65 (Census Bureau – available down to county level)

633,845 Alabamians were without health insurance in 2012.

This is 15.8 percent of the entire population under age 65.

This percentage was 15.7 percent in 2006.

Alabama had the 24th highest percent uninsured persons under age 65 among all states in 2012.

The national percentage was 15.4 in 2012.

Percent Population Experiencing a Lack of Primary Care Service and Living in Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (ADPH, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health – available down to the county level)

There are an estimated 1,764,000 Alabamians experiencing a lack of adequate primary care service in Alabama in 2014.

This accounts for approximately 36.4 percent of Alabama’s entire population.

Only five Alabama counties are not currently entirely or partially classified as Primary Care Health

Professional Shortage Areas.

2. Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Intentional Self Harm (Suicide) Mortality Rate (Center for Health Statistics – available down to the county level)

2,037 Alabamians were suicide victims during 2010-2012.

The age-adjusted mortality rate was 13.8 deaths per 100,000 standardized population.

This rate was 12.0 during 2000-2002.

Alabama had the 22nd highest rate (13.4) among all states in 2008-2010.

The national rate was 11.8 in 2008-2010.

Percent Adult Population Ever Told That They Have Depression (BRFSS – available down to the PHA level)

In 2012, 21.9 percent of adult Alabamians had ever been told that they have depression.

Alabama had the 6th highest prevalence of depression among states.

The national percentage was 18.0 in 2012.

3. Poor Pregnancy Outcomes

Infant Mortality Rate (Center for Health Statistics – available down to the county level)

1,522 Alabama infants lost their lives during 2010-2012.

The infant mortality rate was 8.6 deaths per 1,000 live births.
This rate was 9.3 during 2000-2002.
Alabama had the 2nd highest rate among all states in 2010.
The national rate was 6.1 in 2010.

Low Birth Weight Rate (Center for Health Statistics – available down to the county level)

5,866 Alabama resident babies were born of low birth weight (under 2,500 grams or 5 pounds and 8 ounces) in 2012.
This accounted for 10.1 percent of all births to residents.
This percentage was 9.9 percent in 2002.
Alabama had the 3rd highest percentage among all states in 2011.
The national percentage was 8.1 percent in 2011.

4. Nutrition and Physical Activity

Percent Adult Obesity (BRFSS and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps– available down to the county level)

In 2012, 33.0 percent of adult Alabamians were obese.
Alabama had the 5th highest percentage of obesity among states.
The national percentage was 27.6 in 2012.

Vegetable consumption less than once daily (BRFSS - available down to the PHA level)

In 2011, 24.3 percent of adult Alabamians consumed vegetables less than one time daily.
Alabama had the 20th highest percentage in the nation.
The national percentage was 22.5 in 2011.

Fruit consumption less than once daily (BRFSS – available down to PHA level)

In 2011, 43.8 percent of adult Alabamians consumed fruit less than one time daily.
Alabama had the 8th highest percentage among states.
The national percentage was 37.7 in 2011.

Participated in enough Aerobic and Muscle Strengthening exercises to meet guidelines - adults (BRFSS – available down to the PHA level)

In 2011, 15.0 percent of adult Alabamians participated in enough aerobic and muscle strengthening exercises to meet guidelines.
Alabama had the 4th lowest percentage among states.
The national percentage was 21.0 in 2011.

5. Cardiovascular Diseases

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the prevalence of hypertension among Alabama’s Medicare population is higher in all 67 counties than it is for the nation.

Heart Diseases Mortality Rate (Center for Health Statistics – available down to the county level)

35,919 Alabamians died from heart diseases during 2010-2012.
The age-adjusted mortality rate was 228.9 deaths per 100,000 standardized population.
This rate was 294.4 during 2000-2002.
Alabama had the 3rd highest rate (239.0) among all states in 2008-2010.
The national rate was 184.6 in 2008-2010.

Cerebrovascular Diseases (Stroke) Mortality Rate (Center for Health Statistics – available down to the county level)

7,759 Alabamians died from cerebrovascular diseases or stroke during 2010-2012.
The age-adjusted mortality rate was 49.8 deaths per 100,000 standardized population.
This rate was 69.8 during 2000-2002.
Alabama had the highest rate (54.4) among all states in 2008-2010.
The national rate was 40.2 in 2008-2010.

Adults who have had their blood cholesterol checked and have been told it was high (BRFSS – available down to the PHA level)

In 2011, 42.0 percent of adult Alabamians had their blood cholesterol checked and had been told it was high.
Alabama had the 2nd highest percentage among states.
The national percentage was 38.4 in 2011.

6. Sexually Transmitted Infections

Sexually transmitted cases reported (STD Division – available down to the county level)

38,624 Alabamians were diagnosed with sexually transmitted diseases (chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis) during 2013.
The infection rate was 799.05 per 100,000 population.
This rate was 540.93 during 2003.

In 2012, Alabama had the:

- 3rd highest chlamydia infection rate (637.6) among all states.
- 3rd highest gonorrhea infection rate (193.0) among all states.
- 15th highest primary and secondary syphilis infection rate (4.5) among all states.
- 14th highest early latent syphilis infection rate (4.9) among all states.
- 15th highest late and late latent syphilis infection rate (5.2) among all states.
- 14th highest congenital syphilis infection rate (6.4) among all states.

The national infection rate in 2012 was:

- 456.7 for chlamydia.
- 107.5 for gonorrhea.
- 5.0 for primary and secondary syphilis.
- 4.7 for early latent syphilis.
- 6.2 for late and late latent syphilis.
- 7.8 for congenital syphilis.

New HIV Cases (HIV/AIDS Division – available down to the county level)

661 Alabamians were newly diagnosed with HIV during 2012.
The infection rate was 13.8 per 100,000 population.
This rate fluctuated between 13.8 and 14.9 during 2008-2012.
Alabama had the 12th highest new infection rate among all states in 2011.
The national new infection rate was 15.8 in 2011.

7. Cancer

Cancer Mortality Rate (Center for Health Statistics – available down to the county level)

30,673 Alabamians died from cancer during 2010-2012.
The age-adjusted mortality rate was 187.3 deaths per 100,000 standardized population.
This rate was 212.2 during 2000-2002.
Alabama had the 7th highest rate (195.1) among all states in 2008-2010.
The national rate was 174.2 in 2008-2010.

Colorectal Cancer Incidence (Statewide Tumor Registry – available down to the county level)

24,384 Alabamians were diagnosed with colorectal cancer during the years 2002-2011.
The age-adjusted incidence rate was 48.2 per 100,000 standardized population.
This rate was 48.8 during 1996-2000.
Alabama had the 12th highest rate (47.9) among all states in 2006-2010.
The national rate was 44.7 in 2006-2010.

Female Breast Cancer Incidence (Statewide Tumor Registry – available down to the county level)

32,127 Alabama females were diagnosed with breast cancer during the years 2002-2011.
The age-adjusted incidence rate was 117.0 per 100,000 standardized population.
This rate was 116.0 during 1996-2000.
Alabama had the 36th highest rate (119.4) among all states in 2006-2010.
The national rate was 122.2 in 2006-2010.

Lung Cancer Incidence Rate (Statewide Tumor Registry – available down to the county level)

38,593 Alabamians were diagnosed with lung cancer during the years 2002-2011.
The age-adjusted incidence rate was 75.1 per 100,000 standardized population.
This rate was 73.2 during 1996-2000.
Alabama had the 10th highest rate (75.2) among all states in 2006-2010.
The national rate was 65.7 in 2006-2010.

Prostate Cancer Incidence Rate (Statewide Tumor Registry – available down to the county level)

35,480 Alabama males were diagnosed with prostate cancer during the years 2002-2011.
The age-adjusted incidence rate was 154.1 per 100,000 standardized population.

This rate was 129.0 during 1996-2000, but prostate cancer was known to be under-reported during this time.

Alabama had the 11th highest rate (158.4) among all states in 2006-2010.

The national rate was 146.6 in 2006-2010.

8. Child Abuse/Neglect

Child (age 17 and younger) Abuse and Neglect Reports Completed – (available from the Alabama Department of Human Resources down to the county level)

There were 20,599 reports completed involving 28,385 children during Fiscal Year 2012 (October 2011 through September 2012)

This rate of child abuse and neglect was 25.2 per 1,000 population aged 17 years or less.

The national rate was 28.4 during this same time period.

9. Diabetes

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the prevalence of diabetes among Alabama's Medicare population is higher in 62 of Alabama's 67 counties than it is for the nation.

Diabetes-Related Mortality (any mention of diabetes on the death certificate) (Center for Health Statistics – available down to the county level)

11,309 Alabamians died from diabetes-related causes during 2010-2012.

The age-adjusted mortality rate was 70.6 deaths per 100,000 standardized population.

This rate was 79.6 during 2000-2002.

Alabama had the 18th highest rate (76.8) among all states in 2008-2010.

The national rate was 71.6 in 2008-2010.

Percent of adults ever told by a doctor that they have diabetes (BRFSS – available down to the PHA level)

In 2012, 12.2 percent of adult Alabamians had ever been told by a doctor that they have diabetes.

Alabama had the 3rd highest percentage among states.

The national percentage was 9.7 in 2012.

10. Geriatrics

By 2025 the aging of Alabama's population will require an estimated 1,785,000 additional office visits to primary care physicians each year.

Projected percentage increase in elderly population (Census Bureau – available down to the county level)

Alabama's elderly population (age 65+) is projected to increase from 657,792 to 1,199,853

between 2010 and 2040. This is an increase of 82.4 percent.
The national elderly population (age 65+) is projected to increase from 40,267,984 to 79,719,000 between 2010 and 2040. This is an increase of 98.0 percent.

Increase the proportion of females aged 65 years and older who are up to date on a core set of clinical preventive services (BRFSS – available down to the PHA level)

In 2012, 33.3 percent of female Alabamians aged 65 years or more were up to date on a core set of clinical preventive services.
The national percentage was 30.9 in 2012.

Increase the proportion of males aged 65 years and older who are up to date on a core set of clinical preventive services (BRFSS – available down to the PHA level)

In 2012, 36.5 percent of male Alabamians aged 65 years or more were up to date on a core set of clinical preventive services.
The national percentage was 34.1 in 2012.

Adult (age 18+) Abuse and Neglect Reports Completed – (available from the Alabama Department of Human Resources down to the county level)

There were 6,145 reports completed involving 6,399 adults during Fiscal Year 2013 (October 2012 through September 2013)
This rate of adult abuse and neglect was 17.0 per 10,000 population aged 18 years or more.

11. Injury and Violence Prevention

Homicide Mortality Rate (Center for Health Statistics – available down to the county level)

1,173 Alabamians died from homicide during 2010-2012.
The age-adjusted mortality rate was 8.3 deaths per 100,000 standardized population.
This rate was 9.6 during 2000-2002.
Alabama had the 3rd highest rate (9.0) among all states in 2008-2010.
The national rate was 5.6 in 2008-2010.

Accidental Poisoning Mortality Rate (Center for Health Statistics – available down to the county level)

If the trend that has been seen during the past 10 years does not change, by 2017 accidental poisoning due to prescription drug abuse and the use of illegal drugs will replace motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of accidental mortality in Alabama.

1,481 Alabamians died from accidental poisoning during 2010-2012.
The age-adjusted mortality rate was 10.6 deaths per 100,000 standardized population.
This rate was 4.3 during 2000-2002.
Alabama had the 20th highest rate (11.6) among all states in 2008-2010.

The national rate was 10.4 in 2008-2010.

Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality Rate (Center for Health Statistics – available down to the county level)

2,661 Alabamians died from motor vehicle accidents during 2010-2012.
The age-adjusted mortality rate was 18.4 deaths per 100,000 standardized population.
This rate was 23.9 during 2000-2002.
Alabama had the 5th highest rate (20.5) among all states in 2008-2010.
The national rate was 11.9 in 2008-2010.

12. Dental Health

Ratio of Population to Dentists (Board of Dental Examiners – available down to the county level)

There are 2,138 licensed dentists actively practicing in Alabama during 2014.
This is approximately 4.4 dentists per 10,000 population.
There were approximately 4.7 dentists per 10,000 population in the nation in 2012.

Visited the dentist or dental clinic within the past year for any reason (BRFSS – available down to the PHA level)

In 2012, 58.0 percent of adult Alabamians had visited the dentist or dental clinic within the past year for any reason.
Alabama had the 5th lowest percentage among states.
The national percentage was 64.9 in 2012.

13. Tobacco Use

Adult cigarette smoking (BRFSS and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps– available down to the county level)

In 2012, 23.8 percent of adult Alabamians were cigarette smokers
Alabama had the 9th highest percentage among states.
The national percentage was 19.6 in 2012.

Adolescent cigarette smoking in the past 30 days (Youth Risk Behavior Survey – available down to the state level)

In 2011, 22.9 percent of Alabama high school students had smoked cigarettes within the past 30 days.
Alabama had the 3rd highest percentage among states.
The national percentage was 18.1 in 2012.