

Indicators of Health Status in Alabama



MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT MORTALITY

Jointly produced to assist those seeking to improve health care in rural Alabama

by

The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health,
Alabama Department of Public Health

and

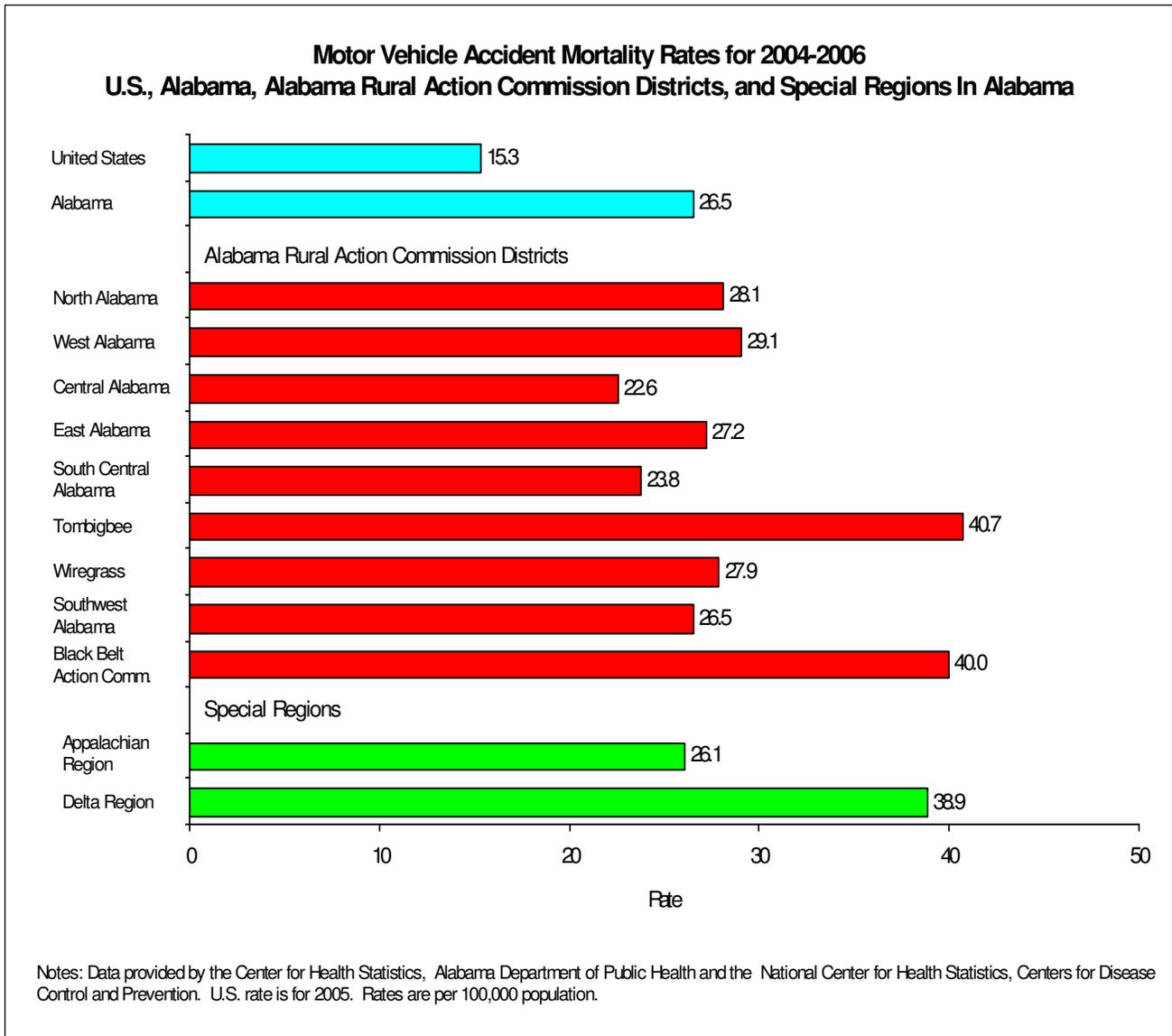
The Alabama Rural Health Association

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This and other reports in this series can be referenced on-line by visiting the “Reports” section of the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health Web site at <http://adph.org/ruralhealth/> or the “Rural/Urban Comparisons” section of the Alabama Rural Health Association Web site at www.arhaonline.org

July 2008

Indicators of Health Status in Alabama: **MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT MORTALITY**



-  Alabama currently has the 3rd highest motor vehicle accident mortality rate among all 50 states.
-  Motor vehicle accidents is the leading cause of death among Hispanics/Latinos in Alabama, accounting for 21.4 percent of all deaths to members of Alabama's Hispanic/Latino population.
-  Motor vehicle accidents is the leading cause of death among all Alabamians aged 1 through 39 years. Motor vehicle accidents account for 46.2 percent of all deaths to Alabamians aged 15-19 years and 57.4 percent of all deaths to females in that young age group.
-  The 40 Alabama counties with the highest motor vehicle accident mortality rates are all rural counties.

Individuals at risk of death from motor vehicle accidents usually:

- are over age 65 or under age 40.
- are of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.
- are consuming alcohol while operating a vehicle or ride with a driver who is consuming alcohol.
- have underlying medical conditions which make accidents more hazardous.
- may be on sedative prescription medications which increase the chance of motor vehicle accidents.
- have medical conditions which predispose to an accident.
- operate vehicles that they are not adequately trained to operate.
- ride with those who operate vehicles that they are not adequately trained to operate.
- are operating a vehicle that may not be in safe operating condition.

Individuals at risk for motor vehicle accidents should:

- use available safety devices such as seat belts, harnesses, and child restraints.
- operate vehicles that have safety devices installed and operational.
- make certain that your vehicle is always in safe operating condition.
- complete a qualified driver education course and practice safe driving.
- review medications with physician to reduce or eliminate those which are sedating and substitute non-sedating medications when possible.
- ask a physician to determine if a condition is present which could contribute to the occurrence of a motor vehicle accident and take appropriate corrective measures which may include ceasing to drive an automobile.
- avoid driving or riding with a driver who is consuming alcohol or have a sober designated driver.

What Is Considered to be Rural In This Publication?

There are several differing definitions for “rural” with most definitions being specific to programs or initiatives. “Rural” is not a concrete term. Opinions on what is considered as rural tend to change between geographical areas and over time. For additional information on what areas are considered as being “rural” for the various federal programs, visit the Rural Assistance Center at <http://maps.rupri.org/circ/racrural/amirural.asp> where an address can be entered to determine rural status for each program.

This publication considers entire counties as being “rural” or “urban” since most data of interest for studies is available at the county level, but not at sub-county levels. Counties are assigned a score using four major indicators of rurality in this definition. These are population per square mile, the size and number of cities in a county, percentage of total employment comprised by employment in public education, and per capita agricultural sales. For additional information on the determination of which counties are considered “rural,” please visit the “What Is Rural?” section at the Alabama Rural Health Association’s Web site, www.arhaonline.org.

This publication also presents information on the eight regions established through the Alabama Rural Action Commission, the Black Belt Action Commission, Alabama’s Appalachian Region counties, Alabama’s Delta Region counties, Alabama’s “rural” counties, and Alabama’s “urban” counties. In addition, “rural” counties are further classified and presented as being “highly” or “moderately” rural according to their score. “Rural” counties are also classified and presented as being in “rural south” or “rural north” Alabama because of great demographic and health status variation in these portions of the state.

Counties in the Various Regions or Classifications Used in This Report:

North Alabama Action Commission includes Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, and Winston.

West Alabama Action Commission includes Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa.

Central Alabama Action Commission includes Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby, and Walker.

East Alabama Action Commission includes Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, Talladega, and Tallapoosa.

South Central Alabama Action Commission includes Autauga, Bullock, Butler, Crenshaw, Elmore, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, Pike, and Russell.

Tombigbee Action Commission includes Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Sumter, Washington, and Wilcox.

Wiregrass Action Commission includes Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Dale, Geneva, Henry, and Houston.

Southwest Alabama Action Commission includes Baldwin, Escambia, and Mobile.

Black Belt Action Commission includes Bullock, Choctaw, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, and Wilcox counties.

Rural Counties include Autauga, Baldwin, Barbour, Bibb, Blount, Bullock, Butler, Chambers, Cherokee, Chilton, Choctaw, Clarke, Clay, Cleburne, Coffee, Colbert, Conecuh, Coosa, Covington, Crenshaw, Cullman, Dale, Dallas, DeKalb, Elmore, Escambia, Fayette, Franklin, Geneva, Greene, Hale, Henry, Jackson, Lamar, Lawrence, Limestone, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, Perry, Pickens, Pike, Randolph, Russell, St. Clair, Sumter, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Walker, Washington, Wilcox, and Winston.

Highly Rural Counties include Barbour, Bibb, Blount, Bullock, Butler, Cherokee, Choctaw, Clarke, Clay, Cleburne, Coffee, Conecuh, Coosa, Covington, Crenshaw, Cullman, Dallas, DeKalb, Escambia, Fayette, Franklin, Geneva, Greene, Hale, Henry, Jackson, Lamar, Lawrence, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, Perry, Pickens, Pike, Randolph, Sumter, Washington, Wilcox, and Winston.

Moderately Rural Counties include Autauga, Baldwin, Chambers, Chilton, Colbert, Dale, Elmore, Limestone, Russell, St. Clair, Talladega, Tallapoosa and Walker.

Rural North Counties include Bibb, Blount, Chambers, Cherokee, Chilton, Clay, Cleburne, Colbert, Coosa, Cullman, DeKalb, Elmore, Fayette, Franklin, Hale, Jackson, Lamar, Lawrence, Limestone, Macon, Marion, Marshall, Pickens, Randolph, St. Clair, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Walker, and Winston.

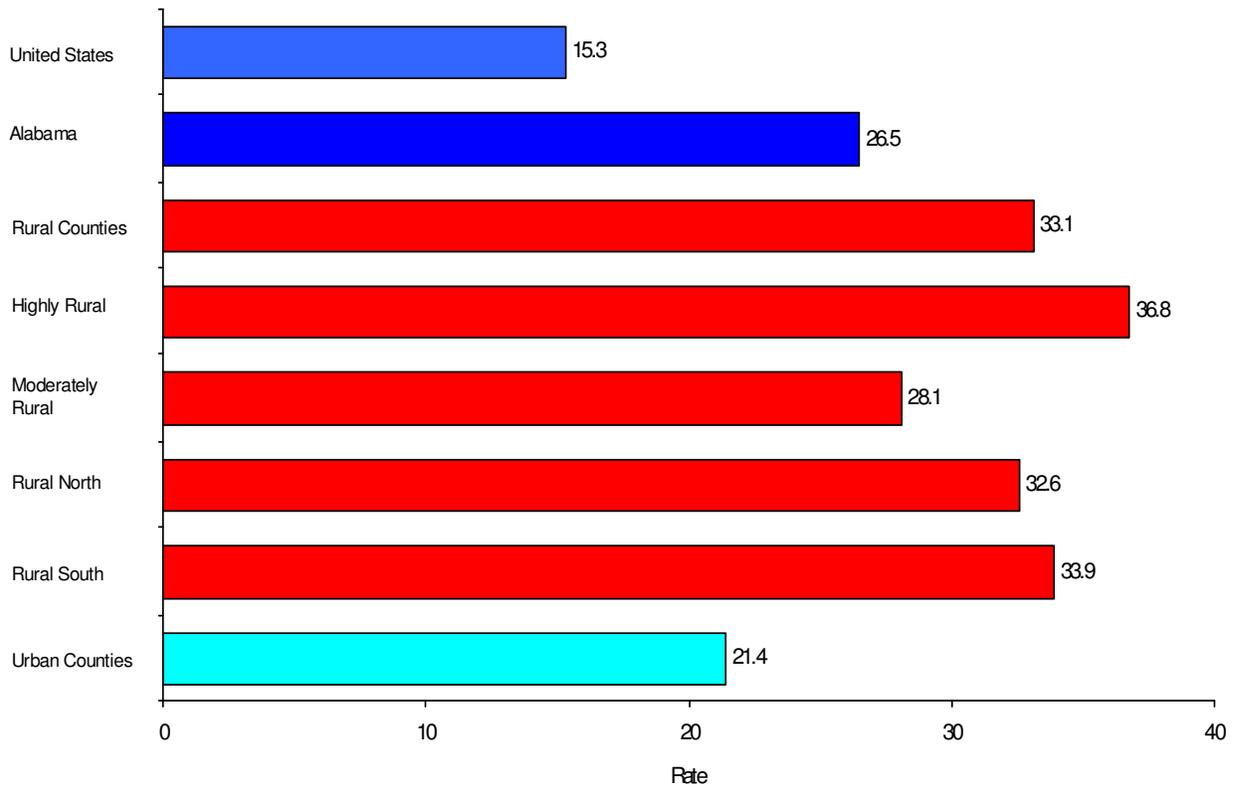
Rural South Counties include Autauga, Baldwin, Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Choctaw, Clarke, Coffee, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Dallas, Escambia, Geneva, Greene, Henry, Lowndes, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Pike, Russell, Sumter, Washington, and Wilcox.

Urban Counties include Calhoun, Etowah, Houston, Jefferson, Lauderdale, Lee, Madison, Mobile, Montgomery, Morgan, Shelby, and Tuscaloosa.

Appalachian Region includes Bibb, Blount, Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Chilton, Clay, Cleburne, Colbert, Coosa, Cullman, DeKalb, Elmore, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Hale, Jackson, Jefferson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Macon, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, Pickens, Randolph, St. Clair, Shelby, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa, Walker, and Winston counties.

Delta Region includes Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Escambia, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Pickens, Russell, Sumter, Washington, and Wilcox counties.

**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. and Selected Alabama Areas, 2004-2006**

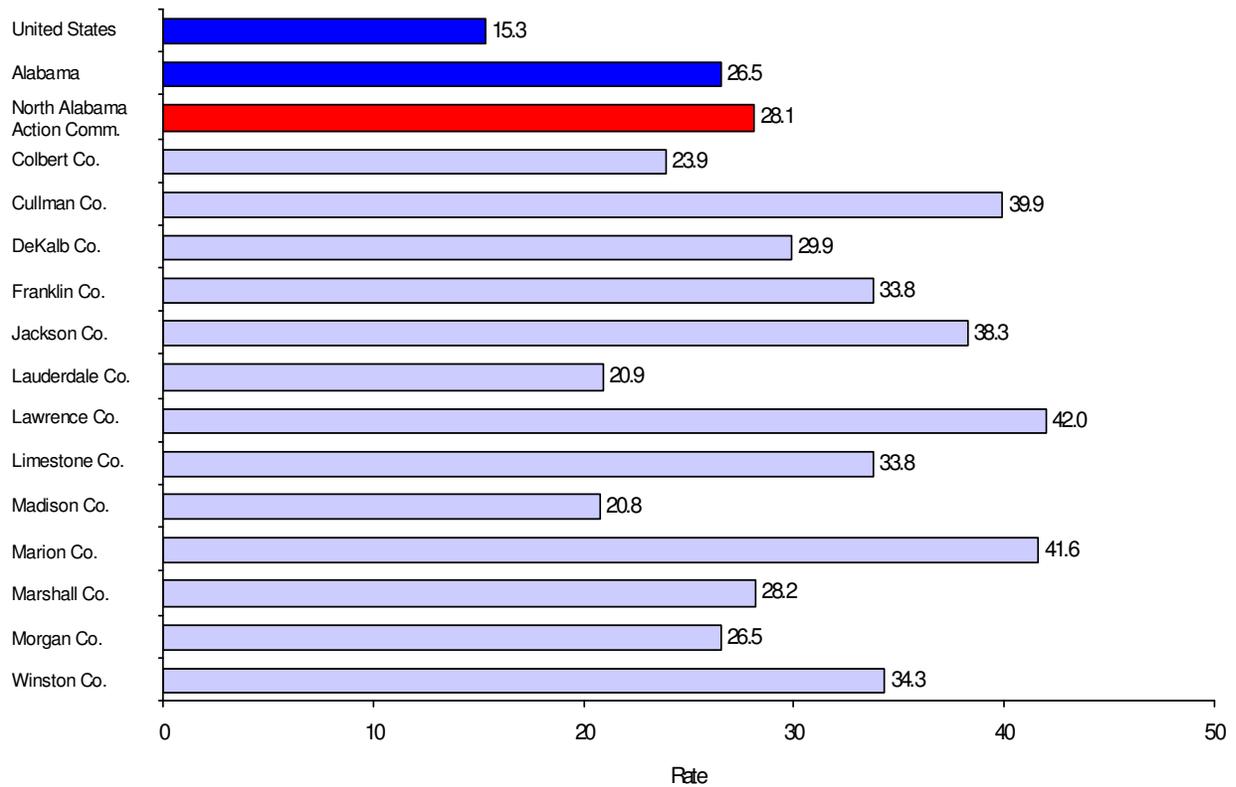


Notes: Data provided by the Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health and the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. rate is for 2005. Rates are per 100,000 population.

**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
U.S. and Selected Alabama Areas, 2004 – 2006**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
United States (2005)	Not Applicable	45,343	15.3
Alabama	Not Applicable	3,613	26.5
Rural Alabama Counties	Not Applicable	1,974	33.1
Highly Rural Alabama Counties	Not Applicable	1,261	36.8
Moderately Rural Alabama Counties	Not Applicable	713	28.1
Rural North Alabama Counties	Not Applicable	1,169	32.6
Rural South Alabama Counties	Not Applicable	805	33.9
Urban Alabama Counties	Not Applicable	1,639	21.4

**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the North Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2004-2006**

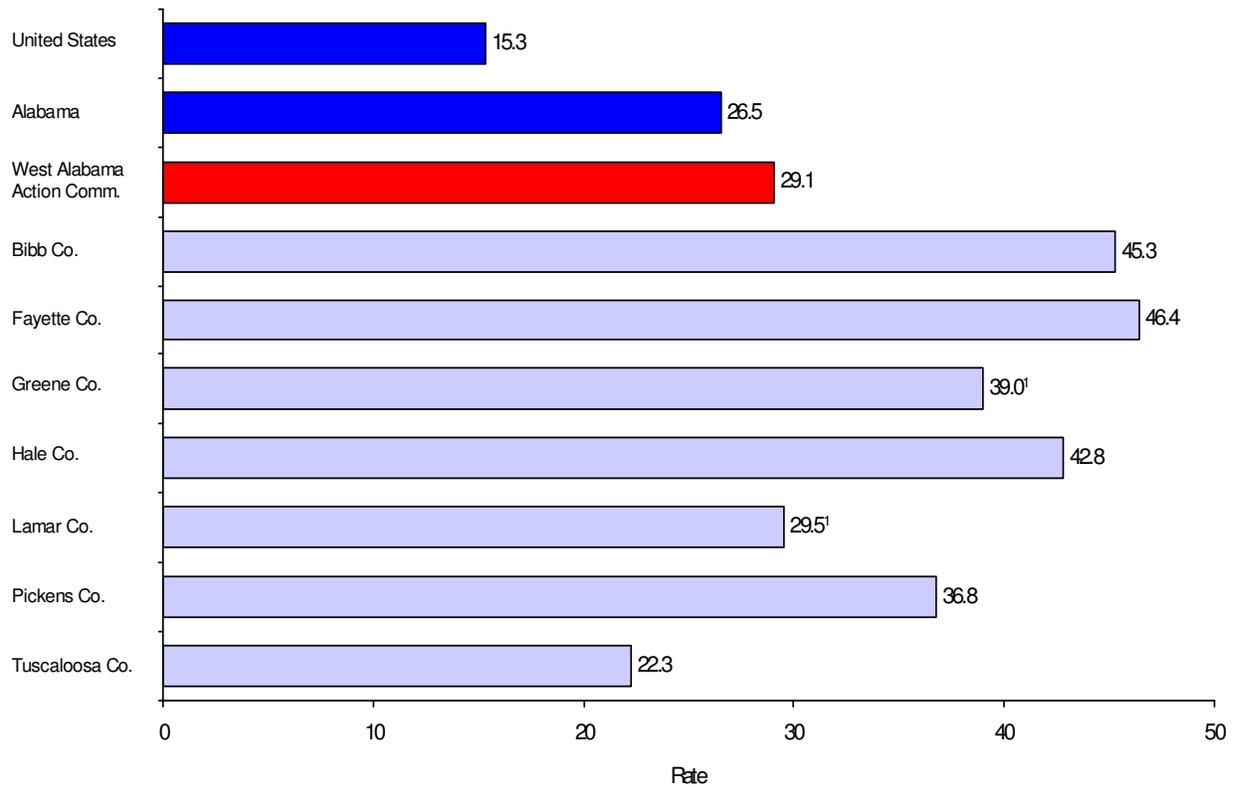


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**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
North Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2004 – 2006**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
North Alabama Action Commission	Not Applicable	866	28.1
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	534	33.7
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	332	22.1
Colbert County	Yes	39	23.9
Cullman County	Yes	95	39.9
DeKalb County	Yes	60	29.9
Franklin County	Yes	31	33.8
Jackson County	Yes	61	38.3
Lauderdale County	No	55	20.9
Lawrence County	Yes	43	42.0
Limestone County	Yes	71	33.8
Madison County	No	187	20.8
Marion County	Yes	37	41.6
Marshall County	Yes	72	28.2
Morgan County	No	90	26.5
Winston County	Yes	25	34.3

**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the West Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2004-2006**



Notes: Data provided by the Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health and the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. rate is for 2005. Rates are per 100,000 population.

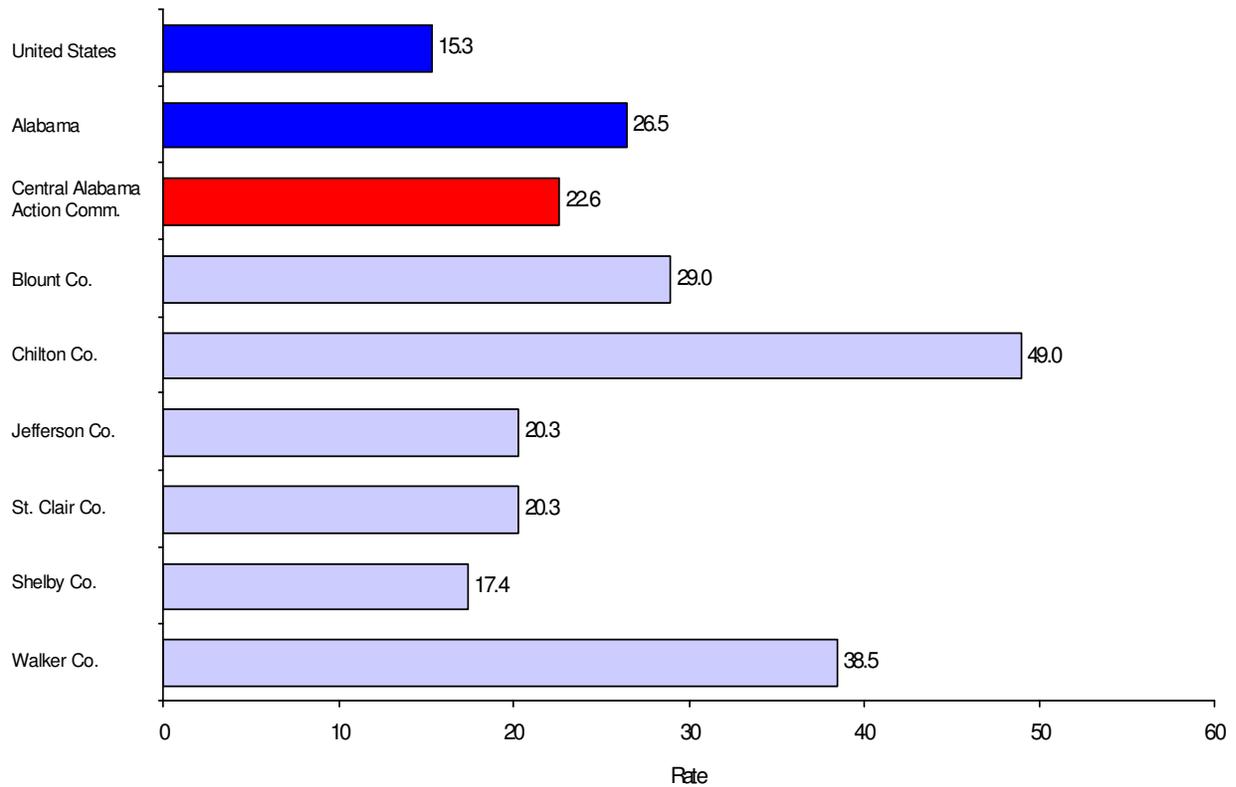
¹ Caution should be used in interpreting this rate due to the small number of deaths from this cause.

**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
West Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2004 – 2006**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
West Alabama Action Commission	Not Applicable	238	29.1
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	123	40.5
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	115	22.3
Bibb County	Yes	29	45.3
Fayette County	Yes	25	46.4
Greene County	Yes	11	39.0 ¹
Hale County	Yes	23	42.8
Lamar County	Yes	13	29.5 ¹
Pickens County	Yes	22	36.8
Tuscaloosa County	No	115	22.3

¹ Caution should be used in interpreting this rate due to the small number of deaths from this cause.

**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the Central Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2004-2006**

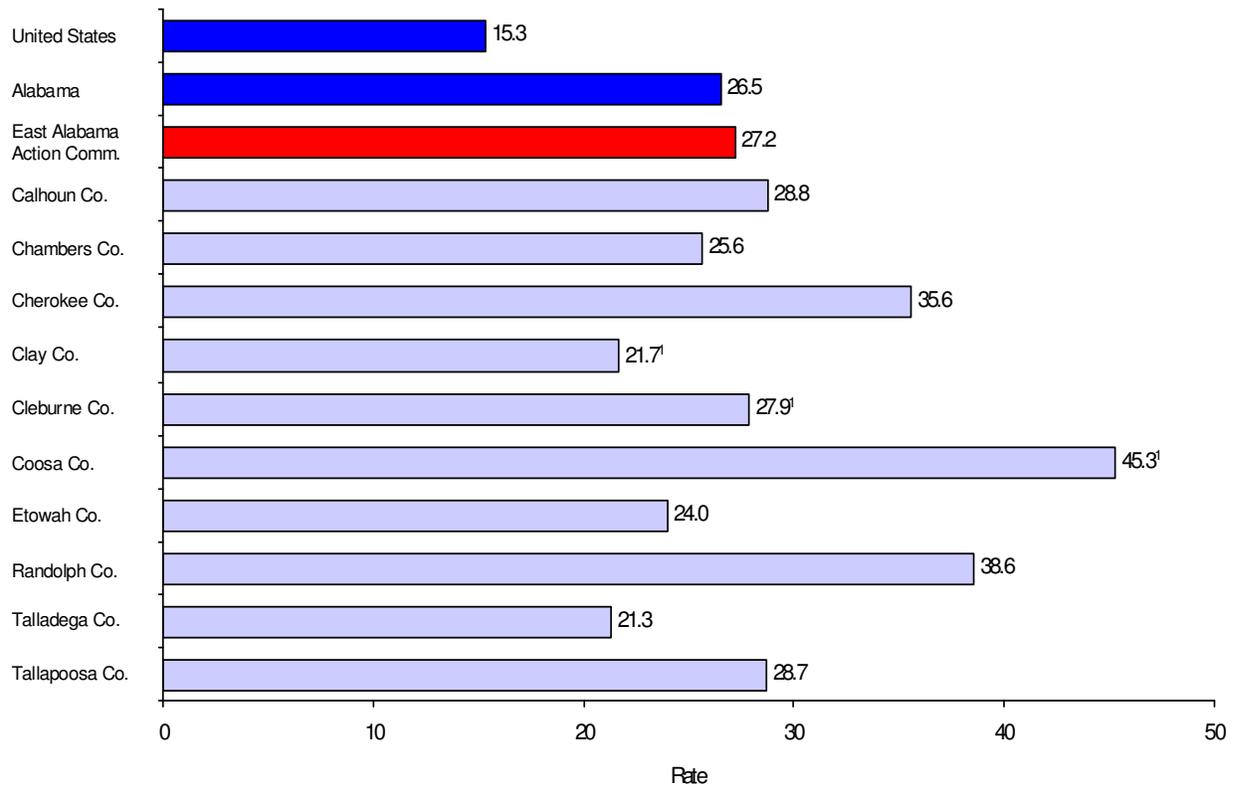


Notes: Data provided by the Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health and the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. rate is for 2005. Rates are per 100,000 population.

**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
Central Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2004 – 2006**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
Central Alabama Action Commission	Not Applicable	724	22.6
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	233	32.6
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	491	19.7
Blount County	Yes	48	29.0
Chilton County	Yes	61	49.0
Jefferson County	No	402	20.3
St. Clair County	Yes	44	20.3
Shelby County	No	89	17.4
Walker County	Yes	80	38.5

**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the East Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2004-2006**



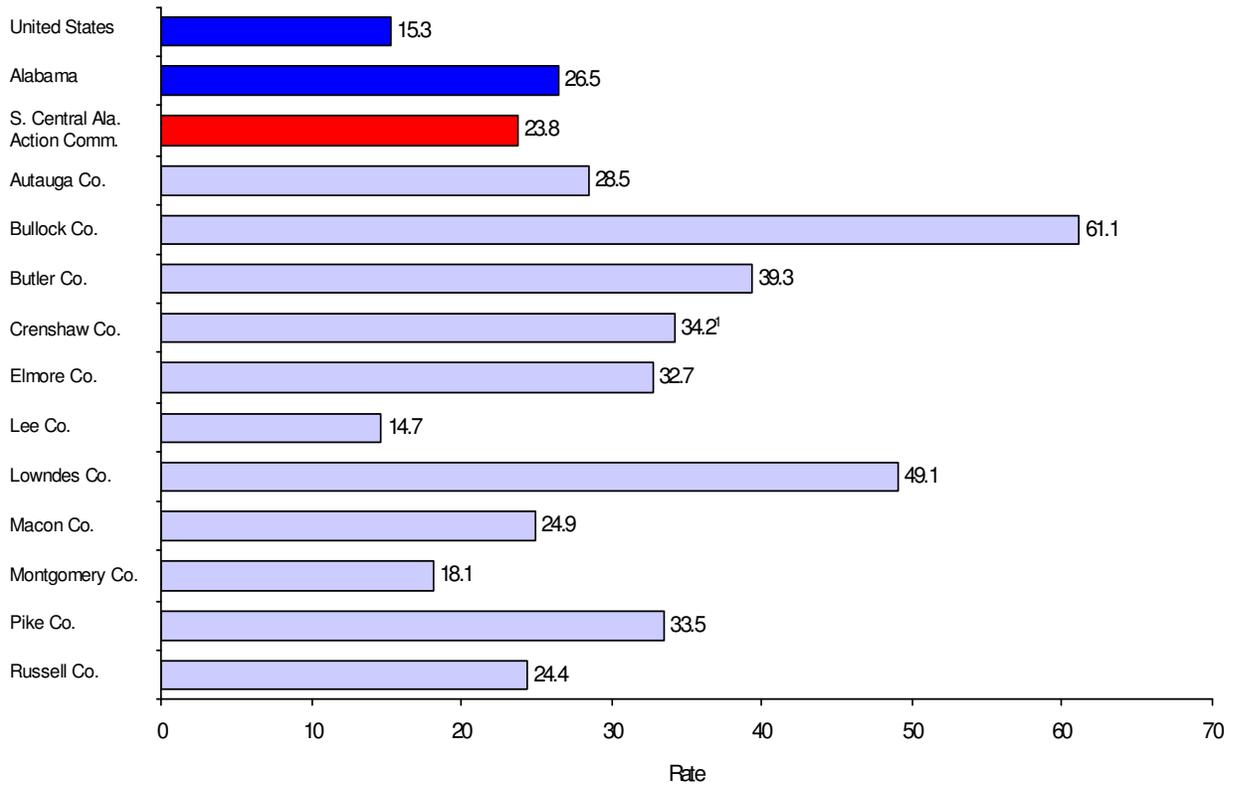
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**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
East Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2004 – 2006**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
East Alabama Action Commission	Not Applicable	372	27.2
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	201	27.7
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	171	26.5
Calhoun County	No	97	28.8
Chambers County	Yes	27	25.6
Cherokee County	Yes	26	35.6
Clay County	Yes	9	21.7 ¹
Cleburne County	Yes	12	27.9 ¹
Coosa County	Yes	15	45.3 ¹
Etowah County	No	74	24.0
Randolph County	Yes	26	38.6
Talladega County	Yes	51	21.3
Tallapoosa County	Yes	35	28.7

**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the South Central Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2004-2006**



Notes: Data provided by the Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health and the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. rate is for 2005. Rates are per 100,000 population.

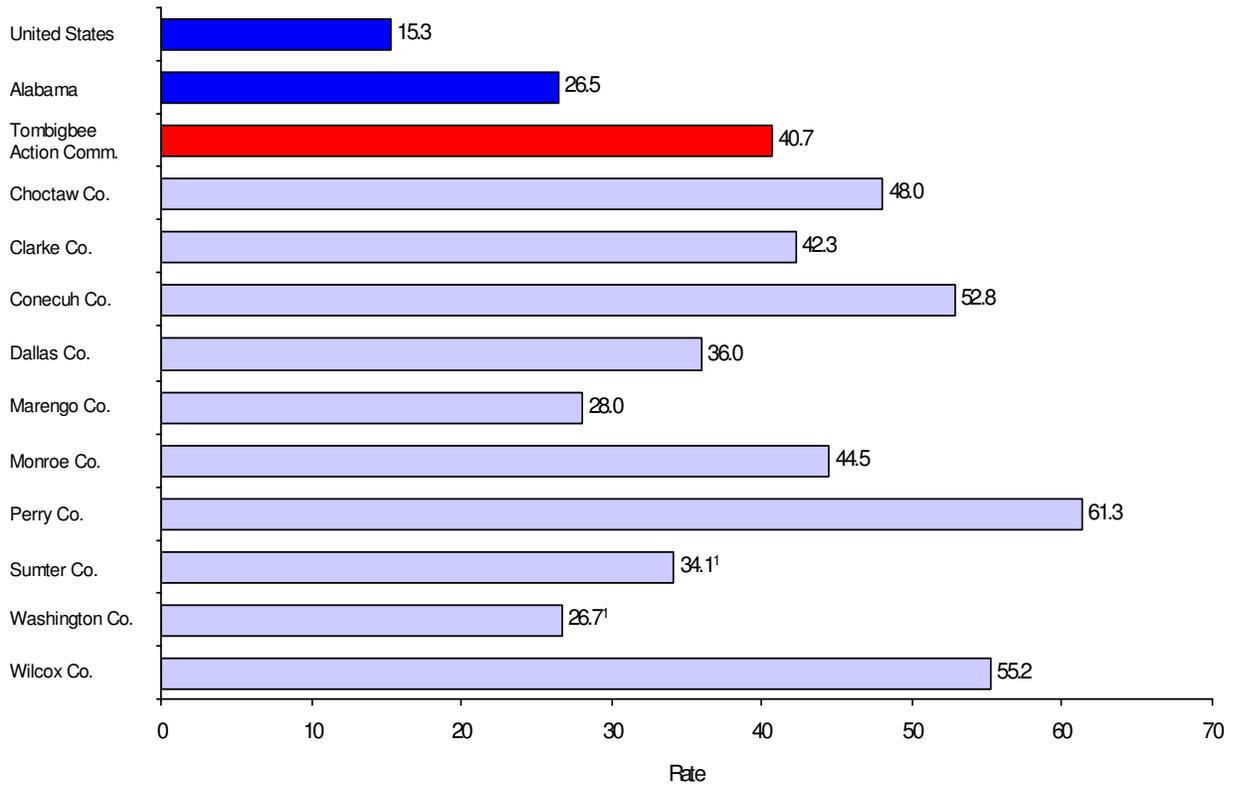
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**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
South Central Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2004 – 2006**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
South Central Alabama Action Commission	Not Applicable	449	23.8
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	273	32.4
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	176	16.8
Autauga County	Yes	41	28.5
Bullock County	Yes	20	61.1
Butler County	Yes	24	39.3
Crenshaw County	Yes	14	34.2 ¹
Elmore County	Yes	72	32.7
Lee County	No	55	14.7
Lowndes County	Yes	19	49.1
Macon County	Yes	17	24.9
Montgomery County	No	121	18.1
Pike County	Yes	30	33.5
Russell County	Yes	36	24.4

**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the Tombigbee Action Commission Counties, 2004-2006**



Notes: Data provided by the Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health and the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. rate is for 2005. Rates are per 100,000 population.

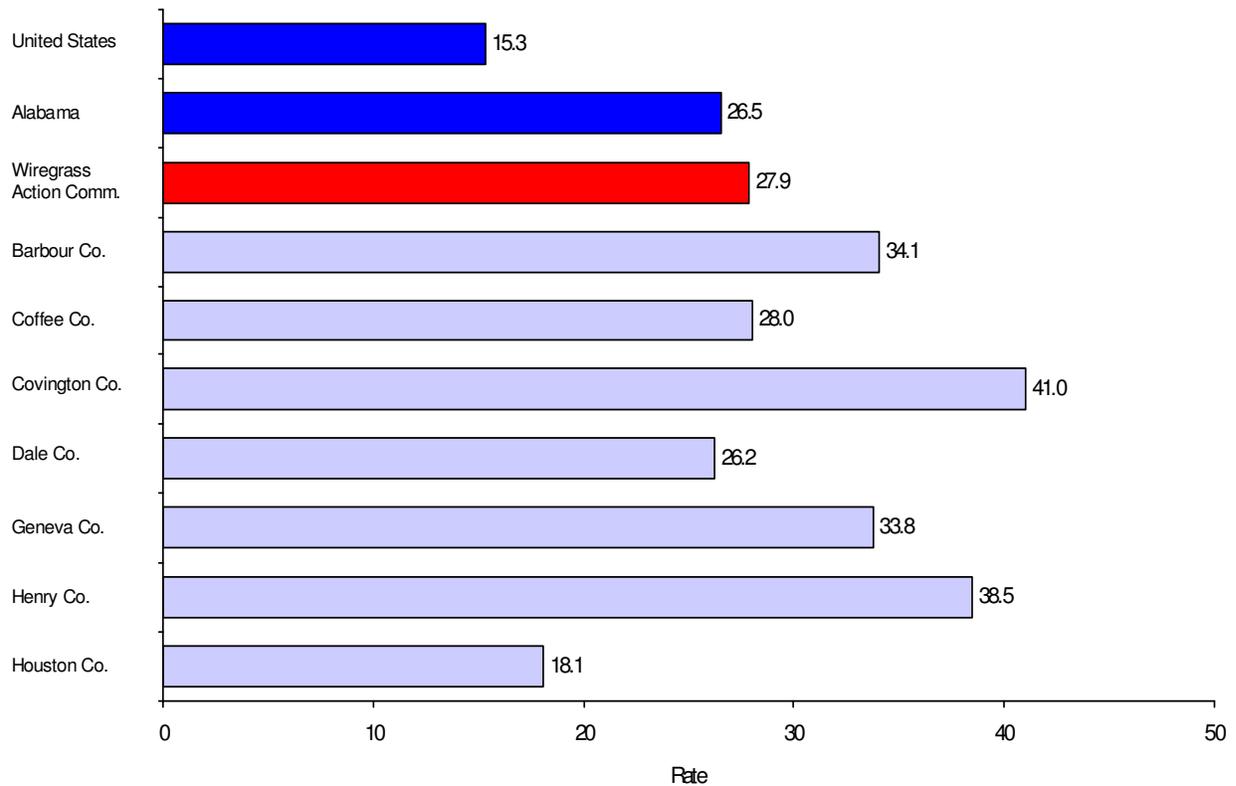
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**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
Tombigbee Action Commission Counties, 2004 – 2006**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
Tombigbee Action Commission	Not Applicable	241	40.7
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	241	40.7
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	No Urban Counties in District	
Choctaw County	Yes	21	48.0
Clarke County	Yes	34	42.3
Conecuh County	Yes	21	52.8
Dallas County	Yes	47	36.0
Marengo County	Yes	18	28.0
Monroe County	Yes	31	44.5
Perry County	Yes	20	61.3
Sumter County	Yes	14	34.1 ¹
Washington County	Yes	14	26.7 ¹
Wilcox County	Yes	21	55.2

**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the Wiregrass Action Commission Counties, 2004-2006**



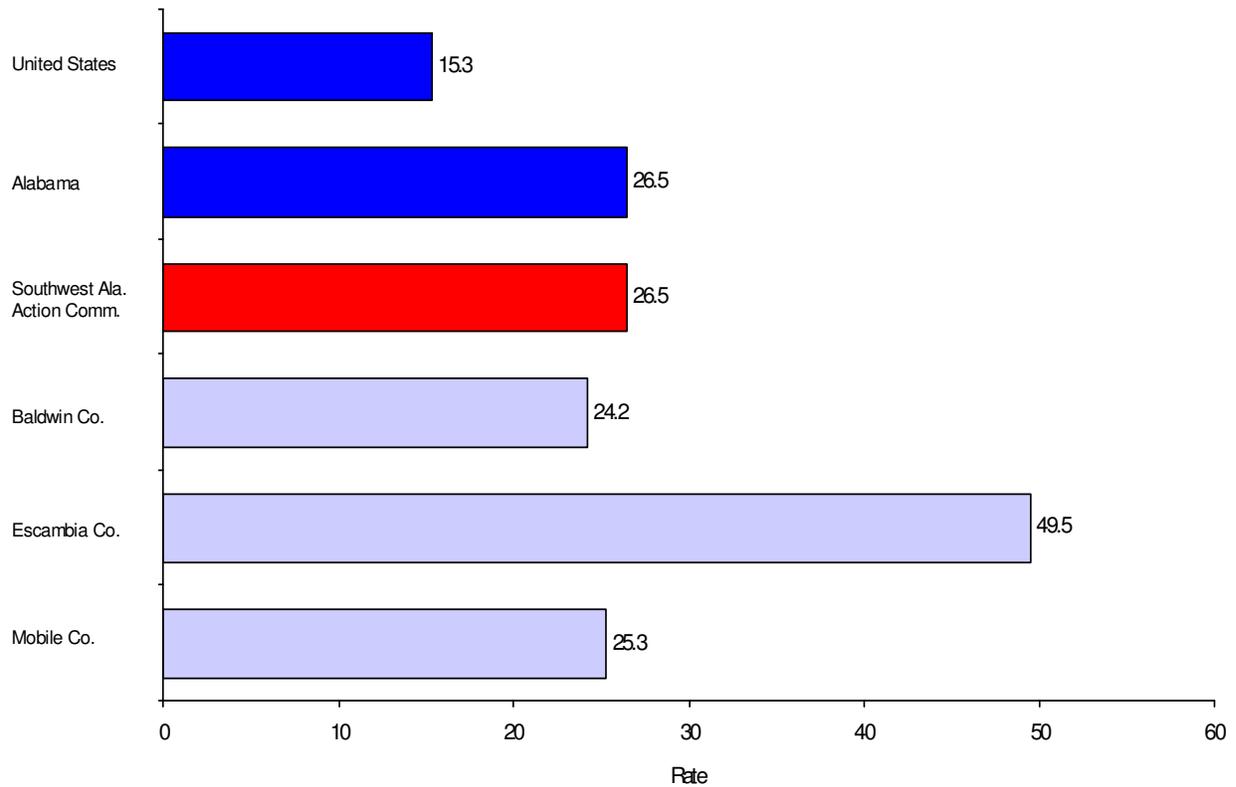
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**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
Wiregrass Action Commission Counties, 2004 – 2006**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
Wiregrass Action Commission	Not Applicable	246	27.9
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	195	32.4
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	51	18.1
Barbour County	Yes	29	34.1
Coffee County	Yes	38	28.0
Covington County	Yes	45	41.0
Dale County	Yes	38	26.2
Geneva County	Yes	26	33.8
Henry County	Yes	19	38.5
Houston County	No	51	18.1

**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the Southwest Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2004-2006**

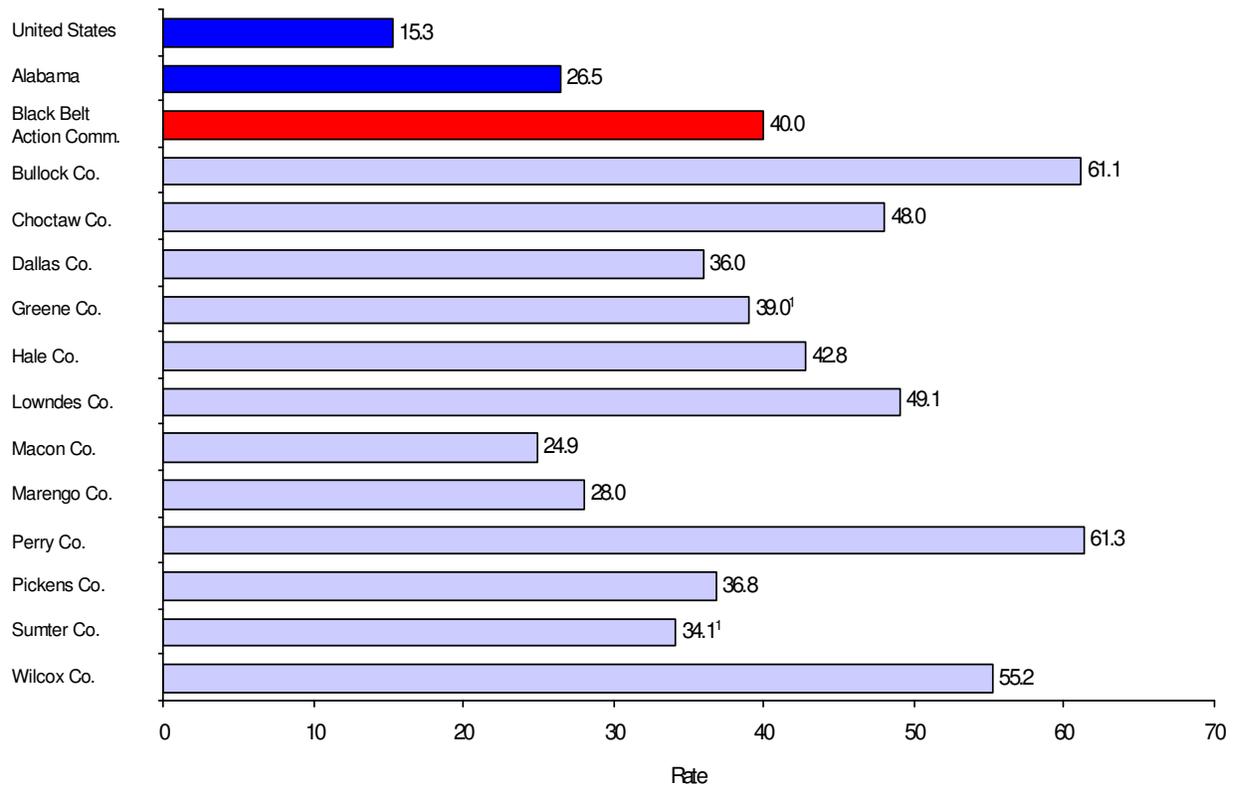


Notes: Data provided by the Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health and the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. rate is for 2005. Rates are per 100,000 population.

**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
Southwest Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2004 – 2006**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
Southwest Alabama Action Commission	Not Applicable	477	26.5
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	174	29.0
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	303	25.3
Baldwin County	Yes	118	24.2
Escambia County	Yes	56	49.5
Mobile County	No	303	25.3

**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the Black Belt Action Commission Counties, 2004-2006**



Notes: Data provided by the Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health and the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. rate is for 2005. Rates are per 100,000 population.

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**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
Black Belt Action Commission Counties, 2004 – 2006**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
Black Belt Action Commission	Not Applicable	253	40.0
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	253	40.0
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	No Urban Counties in District	
Bullock County	Yes	20	61.1
Choctaw County	Yes	21	48.0
Dallas County	Yes	47	36.0
Greene County	Yes	11	39.0 ¹
Hale County	Yes	23	42.8
Lowndes County	Yes	19	49.1
Macon County	Yes	17	24.9
Marengo County	Yes	18	28.0
Perry County	Yes	20	61.3
Pickens County	Yes	22	36.8
Sumter County	Yes	14	34.1 ¹
Wilcox County	Yes	21	55.2

¹ Caution should be used in interpreting this rate due to the small number of deaths from this cause.

**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
Alabama's Appalachian Region Counties, 2004 – 2006**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
Alabama's Appalachian Region	Not Applicable	2,278	26.1
Region's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	1,169	32.6
Region's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	1,109	21.5
Bibb County	Yes	29	45.3
Blount County	Yes	48	29.0
Calhoun County	No	97	28.8
Chambers County	Yes	27	25.6
Cherokee County	Yes	26	35.6
Chilton County	Yes	61	49.0
Clay County	Yes	9	21.7 ¹
Cleburne County	Yes	12	27.9 ¹
Colbert County	Yes	39	23.9
Coosa County	Yes	15	45.3 ¹
Cullman County	Yes	95	39.9
DeKalb County	Yes	60	29.9
Elmore County	Yes	72	32.7
Etowah County	No	74	24.0
Fayette County	Yes	25	46.4
Franklin County	Yes	31	33.8
Hale County	Yes	23	42.8
Jackson County	Yes	61	38.3
Jefferson County	No	402	20.3
Lamar County	Yes	13	29.5 ¹
Lauderdale County	No	55	20.9
Lawrence County	Yes	43	42.0
Limestone County	Yes	71	33.8
Macon County	Yes	17	24.9
Madison County	No	187	20.8
Marion County	Yes	37	41.6
Marshall County	Yes	72	28.2
Morgan County	No	90	26.5
Pickens County	Yes	22	36.8
Randolph County	Yes	26	38.6
St. Clair County	Yes	44	20.3
Shelby County	No	89	17.4
Talladega County	Yes	51	21.3
Tallapoosa County	Yes	35	28.7
Tuscaloosa County	No	115	22.3
Walker County	Yes	80	38.5
Winston County	Yes	25	34.3

¹ Caution should be used in interpreting this rate due to the small number of deaths from this cause.

For additional information on the Appalachian Region, visit the Appalachian Regional Commission's Web site at <http://www.arc.gov/index.jsp>; the Appalachian Regional Commission – Alabama Programs Office Web site at <http://www.adeca.alabama.gov/default.aspx>; or contact Bonnie Durham, Alabama Program Manager at (256) 845-3472.

**Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
Alabama's Delta Region Counties, 2004 – 2006**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
Alabama's Delta Region	Not Applicable	498	38.9
Region's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	498	38.9
Region's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	No Urban Counties in Region	
Barbour County	Yes	29	34.1
Bullock County	Yes	20	61.1
Butler County	Yes	24	39.3
Choctaw County	Yes	21	48.0
Clarke County	Yes	34	42.3
Conecuh County	Yes	21	52.8
Dallas County	Yes	47	36.0
Escambia County	Yes	56	49.5
Greene County	Yes	11	39.0 ¹
Hale County	Yes	23	42.8
Lowndes County	Yes	19	49.1
Macon County	Yes	17	24.9
Marengo County	Yes	18	28.0
Monroe County	Yes	31	44.5
Perry County	Yes	20	61.3
Pickens County	Yes	22	36.8
Russell County	Yes	36	24.4
Sumter County	Yes	14	34.1 ¹
Washington County	Yes	14	26.7 ¹
Wilcox County	Yes	21	55.2

¹ Caution should be used in interpreting this rate due to the small number of deaths from this cause.

For additional information on the Delta Region, visit the Delta Regional Authority's Web site at <http://www.dra.gov/> or contact one of the Delta Regional Authority – Local Development District Offices as follows:

Alabama – Tombigbee Regional Commission, (334) 682-4234 (Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Sumter, Washington, and Wilcox counties)

Lee – Russell Council of Governments, (334) 749-5264 (Russell County)

South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, (251) 433-6541 (Escambia County)

South Central Alabama Development Commission (334) 244-6903 (Bullock, Butler, Lowndes, and Macon counties)

Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, (334) 794-4093 (Barbour County)

West Alabama Regional Commission, (205) 333-2990 (Greene, Hale, and Pickens counties)

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For additional information please contact the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health Development at (334) 206-5396 or the Alabama Rural Health Association at (334) 281-3866.