

Indicators of Health Status in Alabama



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

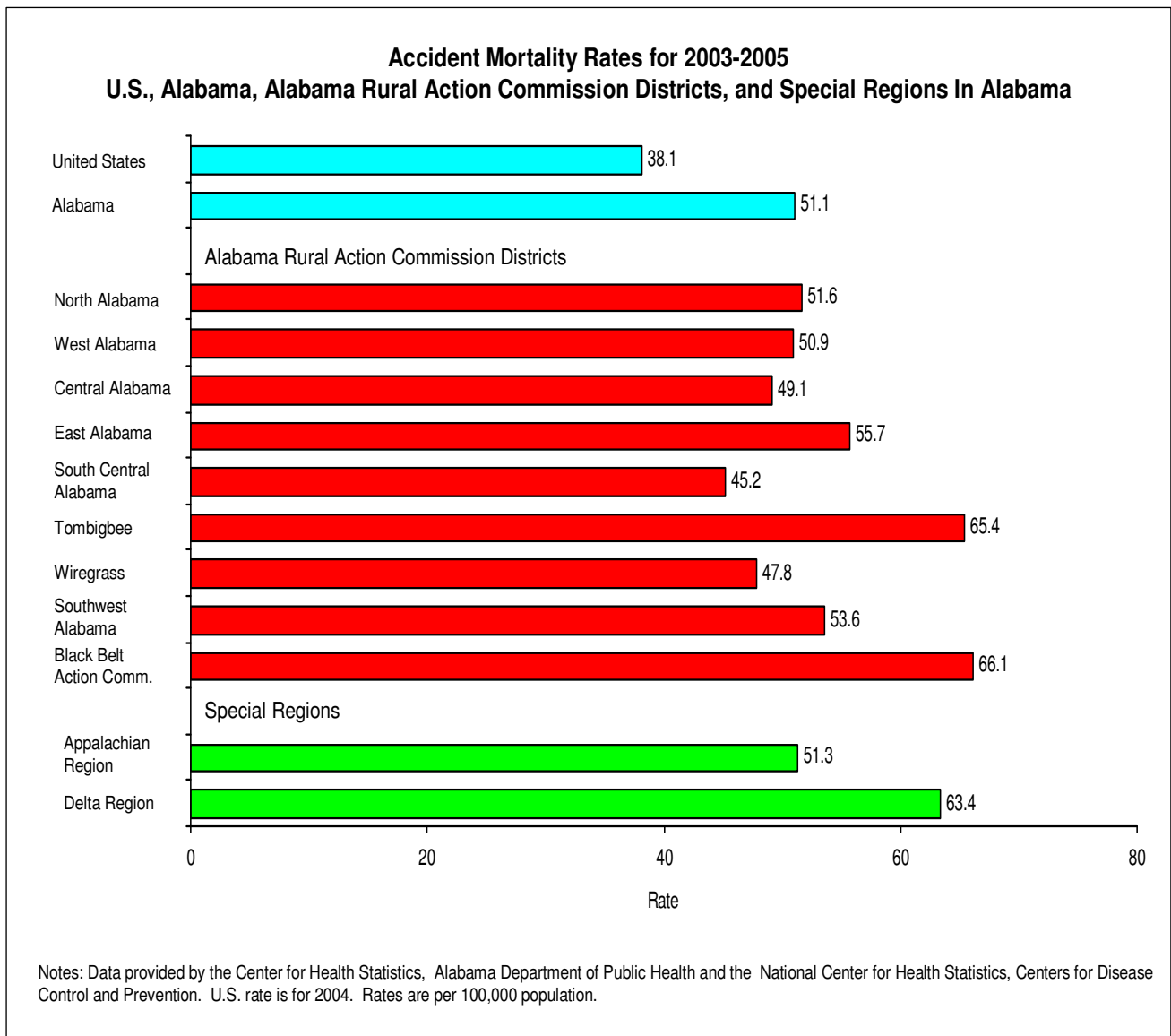
The Alabama Rural Health Association





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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

October 2007

Indicators of Health Status in Alabama: ACCIDENT MORTALITY



-  Accidents have been the fourth leading cause of death in Alabama since 1949 with very few exceptions.
-  Alabama currently has the 6th highest accident mortality rate among all 50 states, the 5th highest motor vehicle accident mortality rate among all states, and the 3rd highest fire-related accident mortality rate among all states.
-  Alabama lost 6,931 residents to accidents during 2003-2005.
-  47 of the 50 Alabama counties with the highest accident mortality rates, including the 32 highest rates, are rural counties.

Individuals at risk of death from accidents usually:

- are over age 65 or are children.
- have underlying medical conditions which make accidents more hazardous.
- may be on sedative prescription medications which increase the chance of accidents.
- have medical conditions which predispose to an accident.
- have dwellings with poor lighting or objects such as throw rugs present which make accidents more likely to happen.
- operate vehicles, machinery, or equipment that they are not adequately trained to operate.
- ride with or work around those who operate vehicles, machinery, or equipment that they are not adequately trained to operate.

Individuals at risk for accidents should:

- use available safety devices such as seat belts, harnesses, and child restraints.
- operate vehicles that have safety devices installed and operational.
- have operating smoke detectors, safe playground equipment, and other safety promoting devices where possible.
- improve lighting in residences and remove throw rugs and loose wiring across floors which could cause an accident.
- 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 accidents and take appropriate corrective measures.
- have persons present who are trained in responding to accidents, such as the Heimlich maneuver.

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.

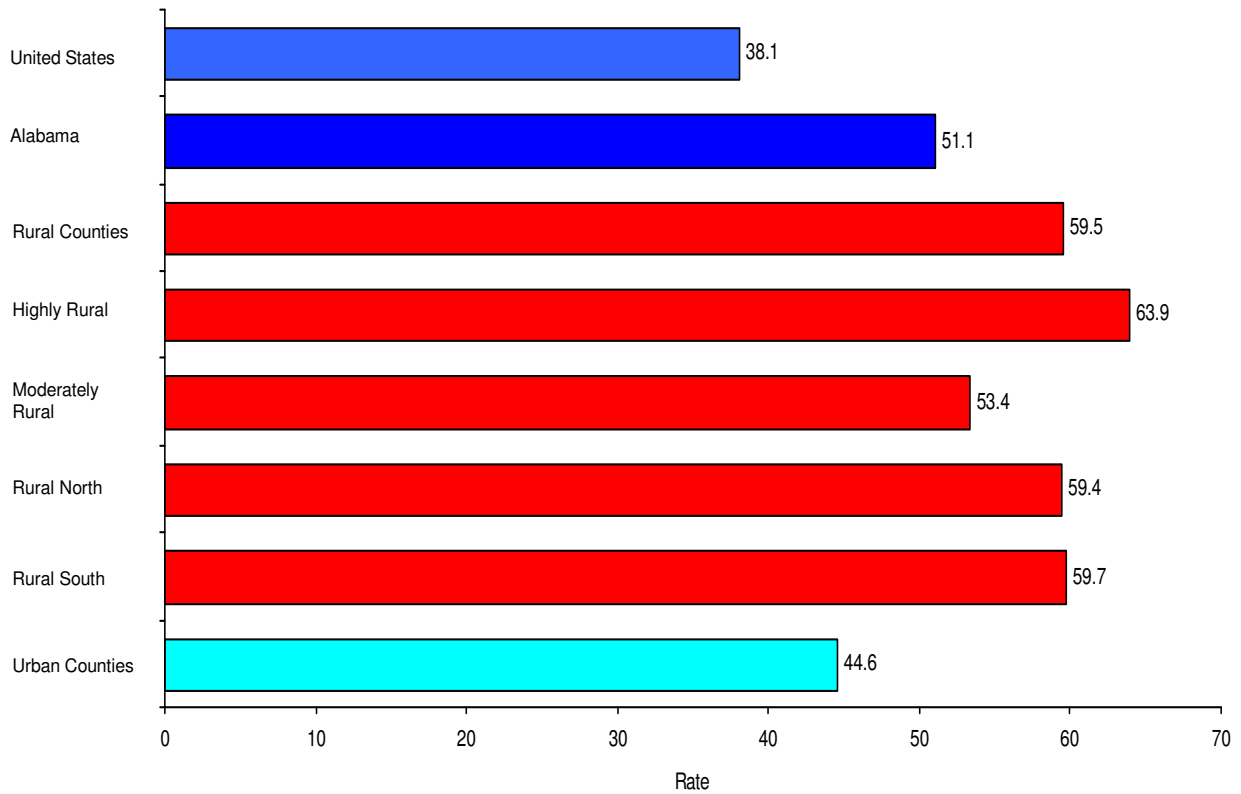
Rural South Counties include Autauga, Baldwin, Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Choctaw, Clarke, Coffee, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Dallas, Escambia, Geneva, Greene, Henry, Lowndes, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Pike, Russell, Sumter, Washington, and Wilcox.

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.

**Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. and Selected Alabama Areas, 2003-2005**

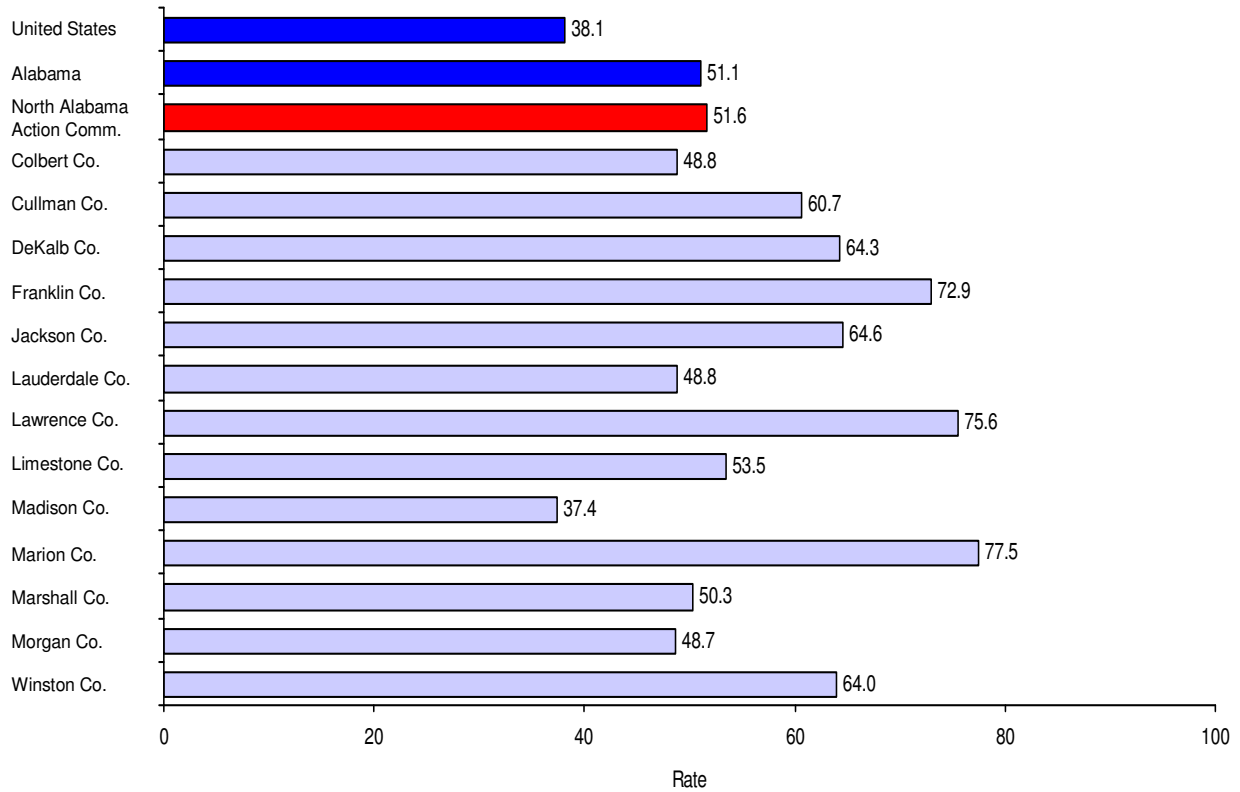


Notes: Data provided by the Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health and the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. rate is for 2004. Rates are per 100,000 population.

**Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
U.S. and Selected Alabama Areas, 2003 – 2005**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
United States	Not Applicable	112,012	38.1
Alabama	Not Applicable	6,931	51.1
Rural Alabama Counties	Not Applicable	3,546	59.5
Highly Rural Alabama Counties	Not Applicable	2,207	63.9
Moderately Rural Alabama Counties	Not Applicable	1,339	53.4
Rural North Alabama Counties	Not Applicable	2,128	59.4
Rural South Alabama Counties	Not Applicable	1,418	59.7
Urban Alabama Counties	Not Applicable	3,385	44.6

**Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the North Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2003-2005**

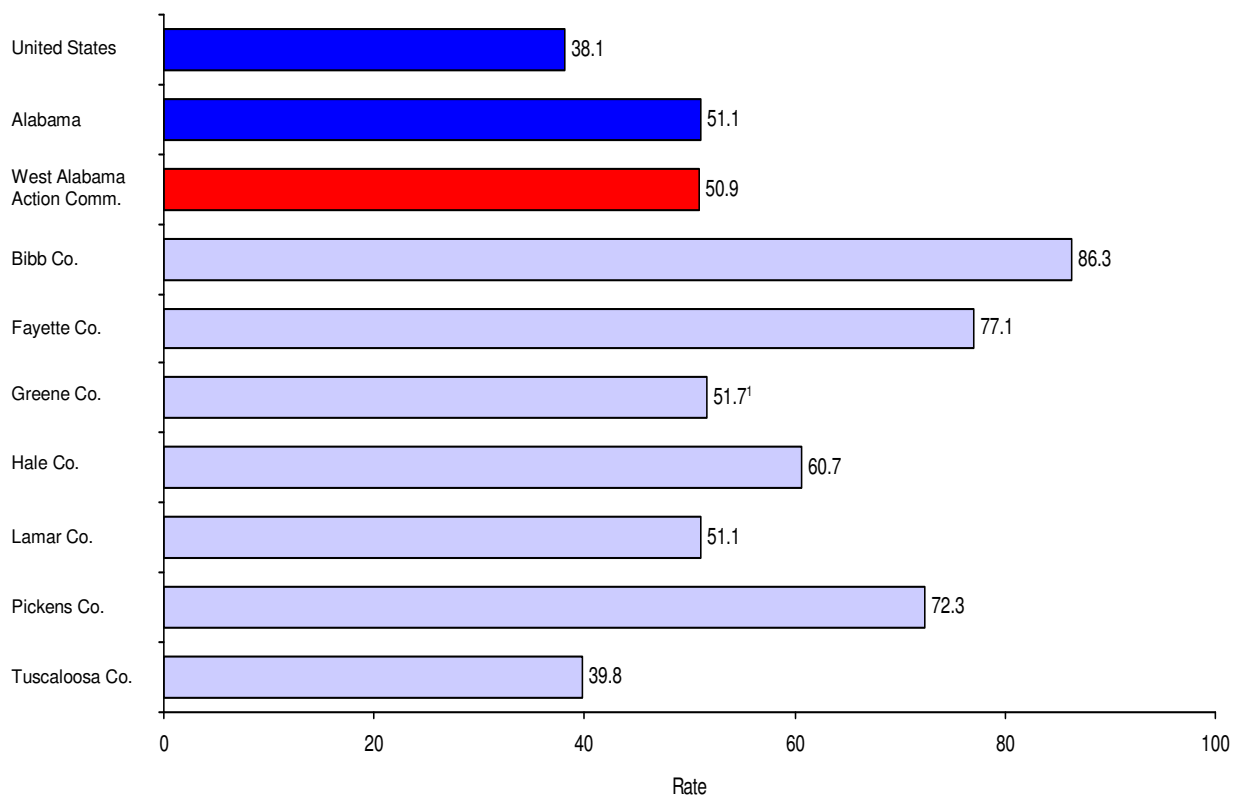


Notes: Data provided by the Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health and the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. rate is for 2004. Rates are per 100,000 population.

**Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
North Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2003 – 2005**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
North Alabama Action Commission	Not Applicable	1,580	51.6
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	958	60.5
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	622	42.0
Colbert County	Yes	80	48.8
Cullman County	Yes	144	60.7
DeKalb County	Yes	129	64.3
Franklin County	Yes	67	72.9
Jackson County	Yes	104	64.6
Lauderdale County	No	128	48.8
Lawrence County	Yes	78	75.6
Limestone County	Yes	111	53.5
Madison County	No	329	37.4
Marion County	Yes	70	77.5
Marshall County	Yes	128	50.3
Morgan County	No	165	48.7
Winston County	Yes	47	64.0

**Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the West Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2003-2005**



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 2004. Rates are per 100,000 population.

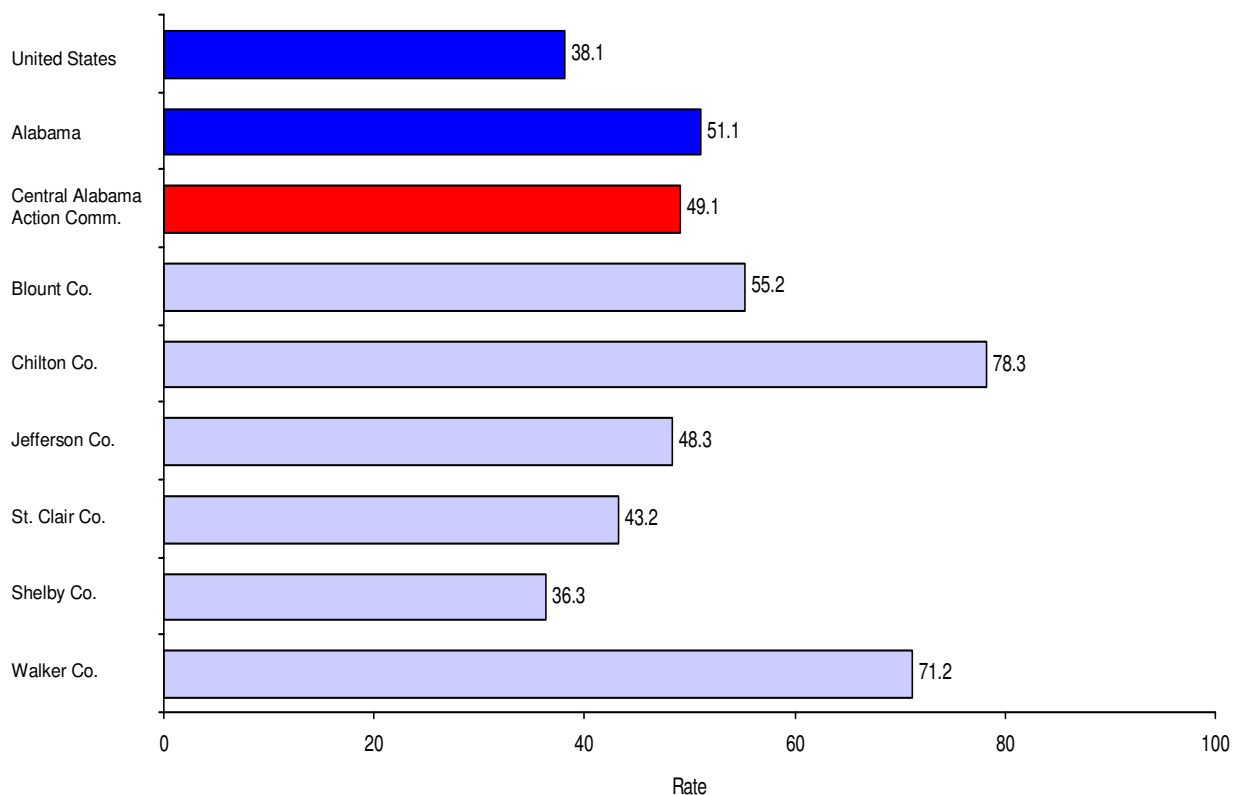
¹ Caution should be used in interpreting this rate due to the small number of deaths from this cause.

**Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
West Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2003 – 2005**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
West Alabama Action Commission	Not Applicable	411	50.9
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	212	69
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	199	39.8
Bibb County	Yes	55	86.3
Fayette County	Yes	42	77.1
Greene County	Yes	15	51.7 ¹
Hale County	Yes	33	60.7
Lamar County	Yes	23	51.1
Pickens County	Yes	44	72.3
Tuscaloosa County	No	199	39.8

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

**Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the Central Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2003-2005**

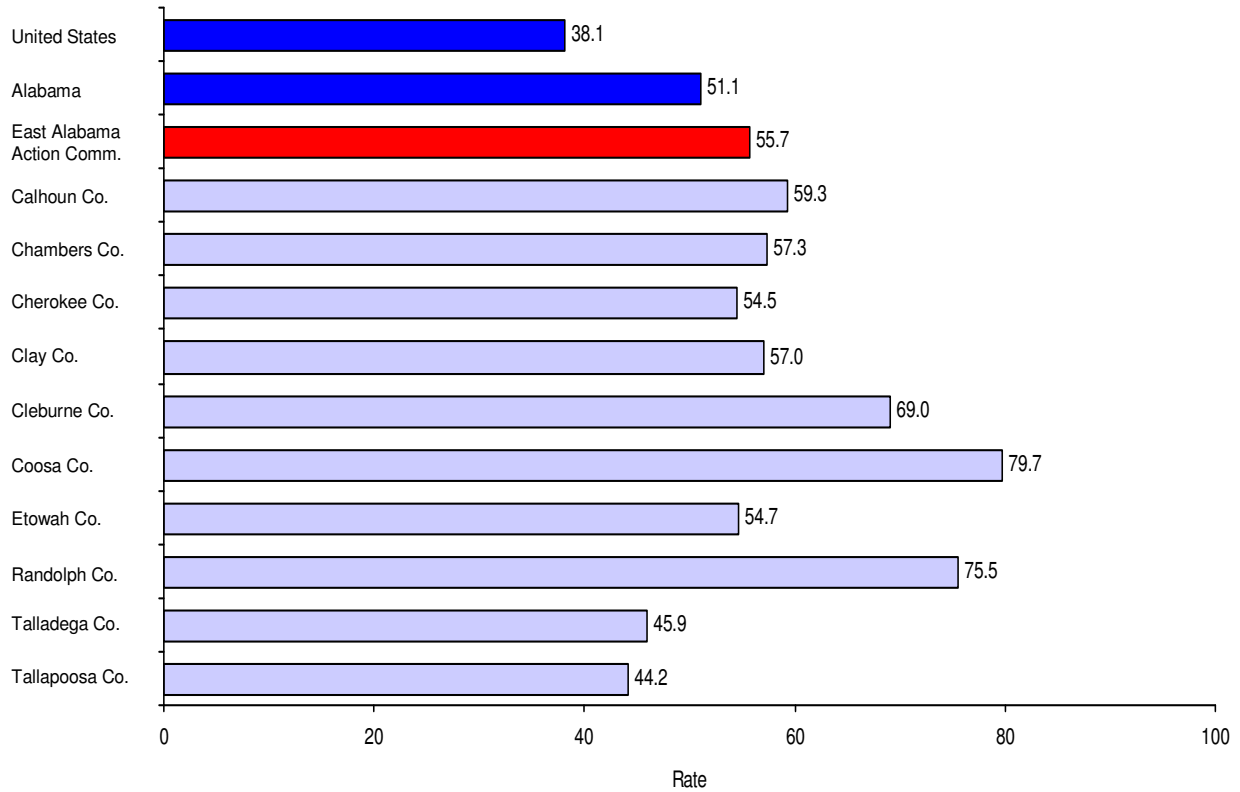


Notes: Data provided by the Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health and the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. rate is for 2004. Rates are per 100,000 population.

**Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
Central Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2003 – 2005**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
Central Alabama Action Commission	Not Applicable	1,560	49.1
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	428	60.4
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	1,132	45.9
Blount County	Yes	91	55.2
Chilton County	Yes	97	78.3
Jefferson County	No	952	48.3
St. Clair County	Yes	91	43.2
Shelby County	No	180	36.3
Walker County	Yes	149	71.2

**Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the East Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2003-2005**

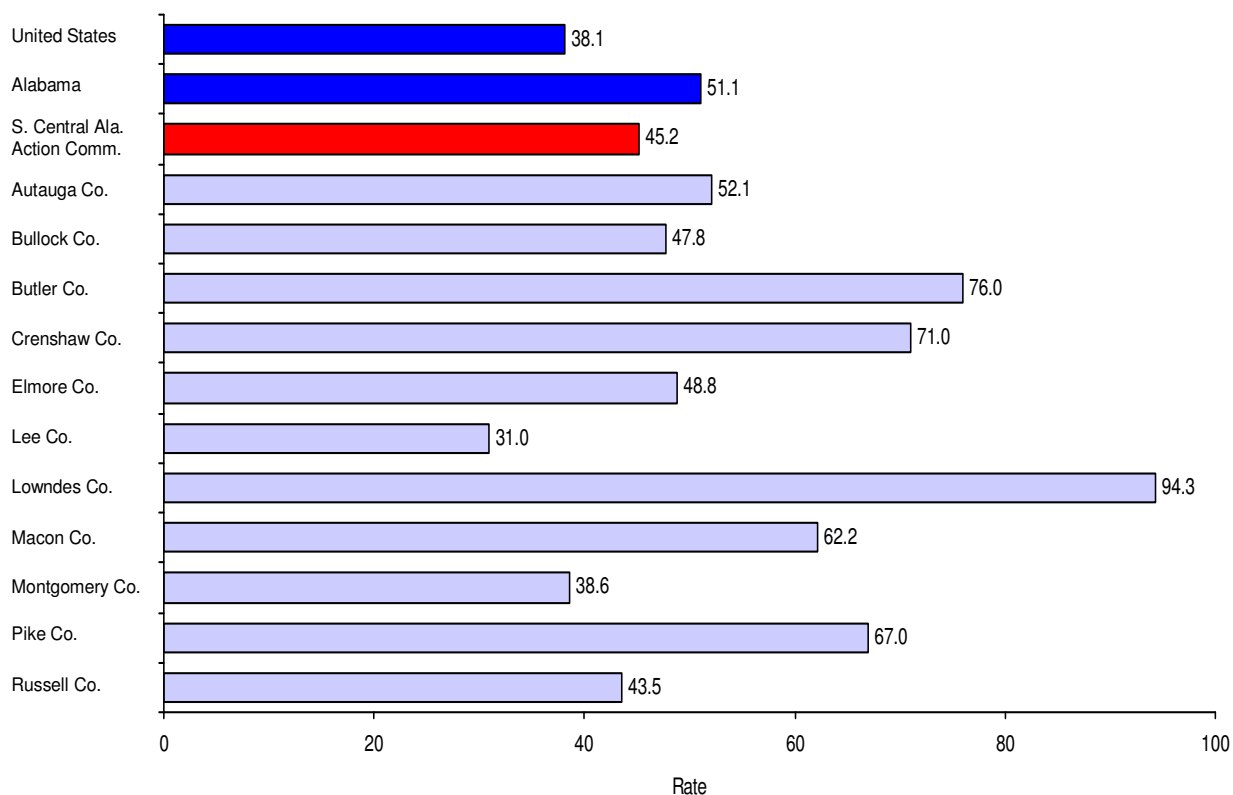


Notes: Data provided by the Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health and the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. rate is for 2004. Rates are per 100,000 population.

**Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
East Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2003 – 2005**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
East Alabama Action Commission	Not Applicable	765	55.7
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	397	54.5
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	368	57.1
Calhoun County	No	199	59.3
Chambers County	Yes	61	57.3
Cherokee County	Yes	40	54.5
Clay County	Yes	24	57.0
Cleburne County	Yes	30	69.0
Coosa County	Yes	27	79.7
Etowah County	No	169	54.7
Randolph County	Yes	51	75.5
Talladega County	Yes	110	45.9
Tallapoosa County	Yes	54	44.2

**Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the South Central Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2003-2005**

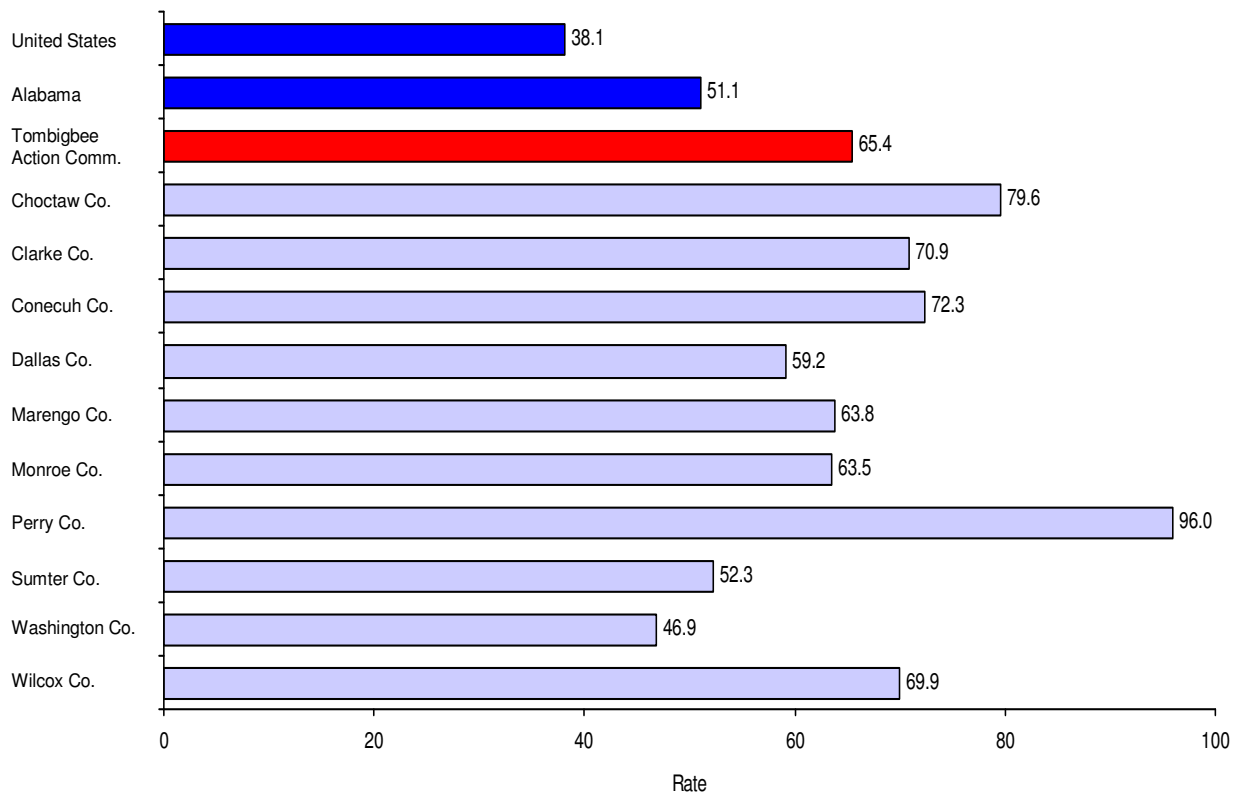


Notes: Data provided by the Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health and the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. rate is for 2004. Rates are per 100,000 population.

**Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
South Central Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2003 – 2005**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
South Central Alabama Action Commission	Not Applicable	842	45.2
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	474	56.6
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	368	35.9
Autauga County	Yes	74	52.1
Bullock County	Yes	16	47.8
Butler County	Yes	47	76.0
Crenshaw County	Yes	29	71.0
Elmore County	Yes	105	48.8
Lee County	No	112	31.0
Lowndes County	Yes	37	94.3
Macon County	Yes	43	62.2
Montgomery County	No	256	38.6
Pike County	Yes	59	67.0
Russell County	Yes	64	43.5

**Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the Tombigbee Action Commission Counties, 2003-2005**

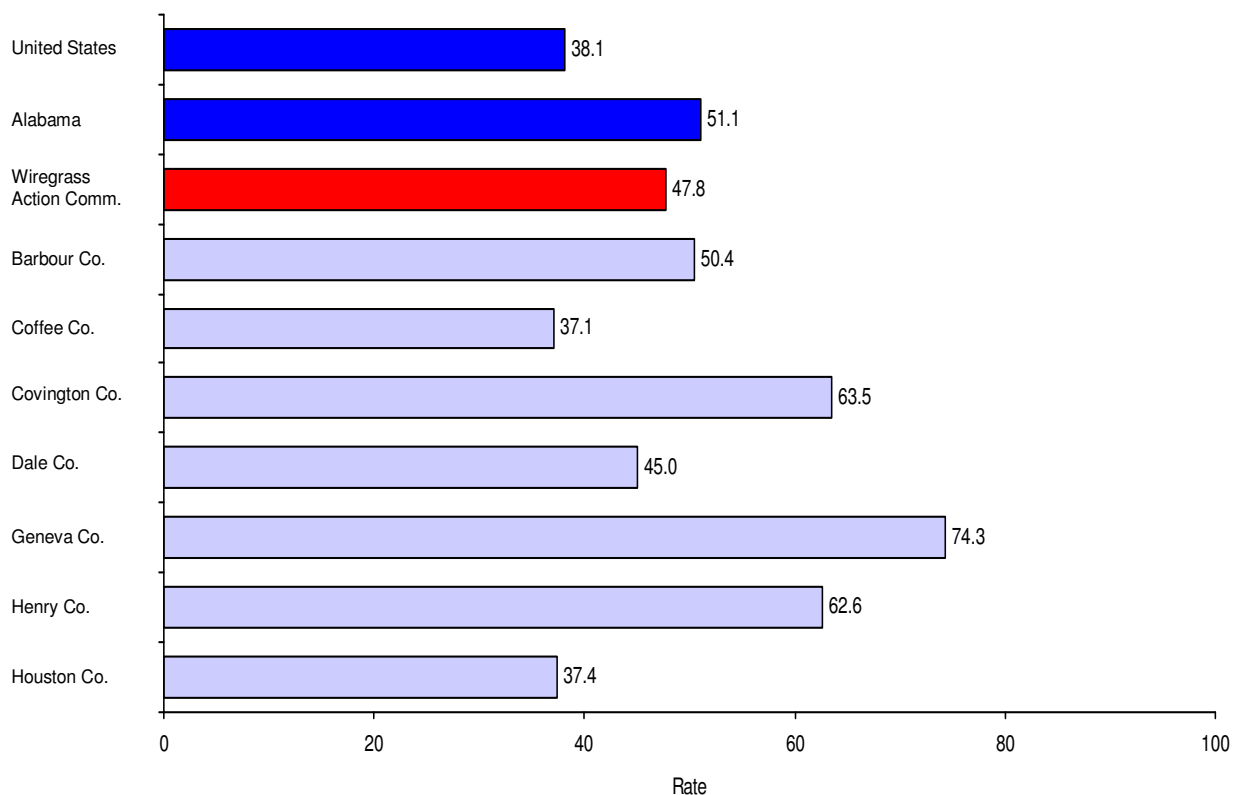


Notes: Data provided by the Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health and the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. rate is for 2004. Rates are per 100,000 population.

**Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
Tombigbee Action Commission Counties, 2003 – 2005**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
Tombigbee Action Commission	Not Applicable	396	65.4
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	396	65.4
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	No Urban Counties in District	
Choctaw County	Yes	36	79.6
Clarke County	Yes	58	70.9
Conecuh County	Yes	29	72.3
Dallas County	Yes	79	59.2
Marengo County	Yes	42	63.8
Monroe County	Yes	45	63.5
Perry County	Yes	33	96.0
Sumter County	Yes	22	52.3
Washington County	Yes	25	46.9
Wilcox County	Yes	27	69.9

**Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the Wiregrass Action Commission Counties, 2003-2005**

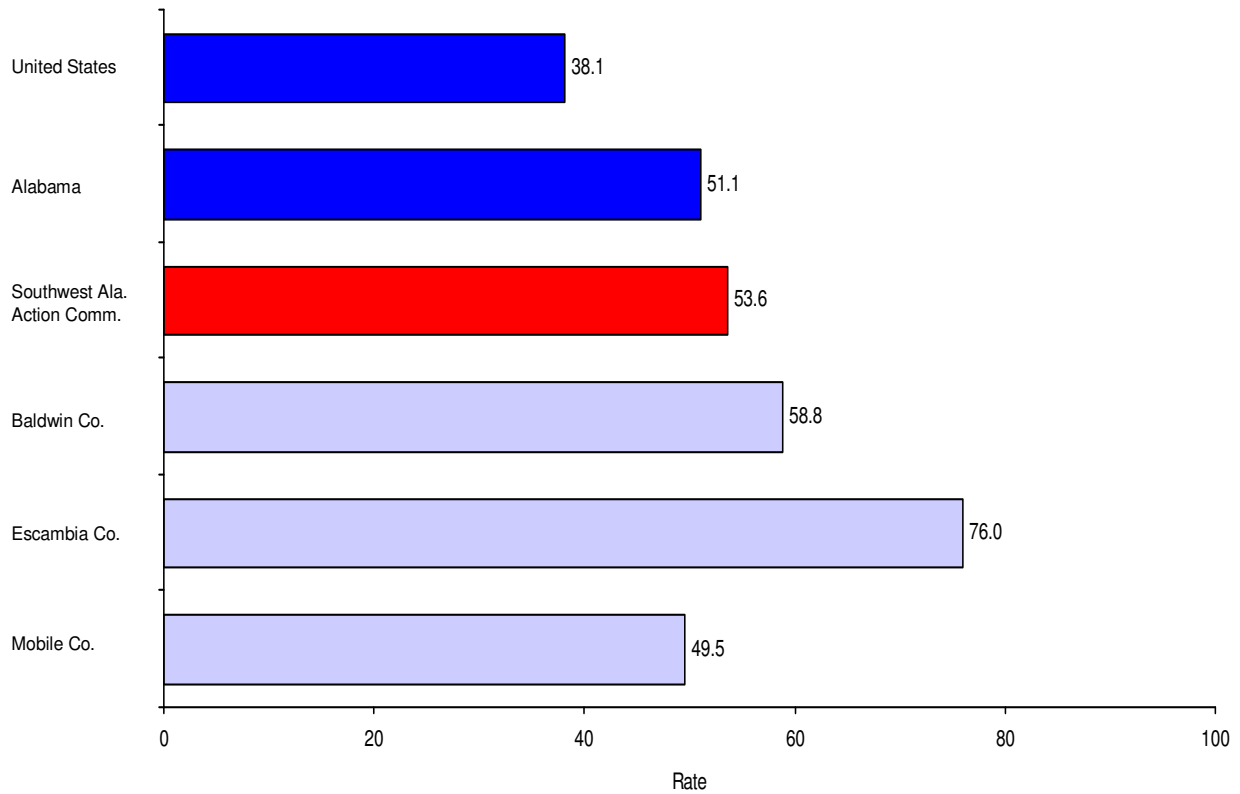


Notes: Data provided by the Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health and the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. rate is for 2004. Rates are per 100,000 population.

**Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
Wiregrass Action Commission Counties, 2003 – 2005**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
Wiregrass Action Commission	Not Applicable	421	47.8
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	317	52.5
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	104	37.4
Barbour County	Yes	43	50.4
Coffee County	Yes	50	37.1
Covington County	Yes	70	63.5
Dale County	Yes	66	45.0
Geneva County	Yes	57	74.3
Henry County	Yes	31	62.6
Houston County	No	104	37.4

**Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the Southwest Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2003-2005**

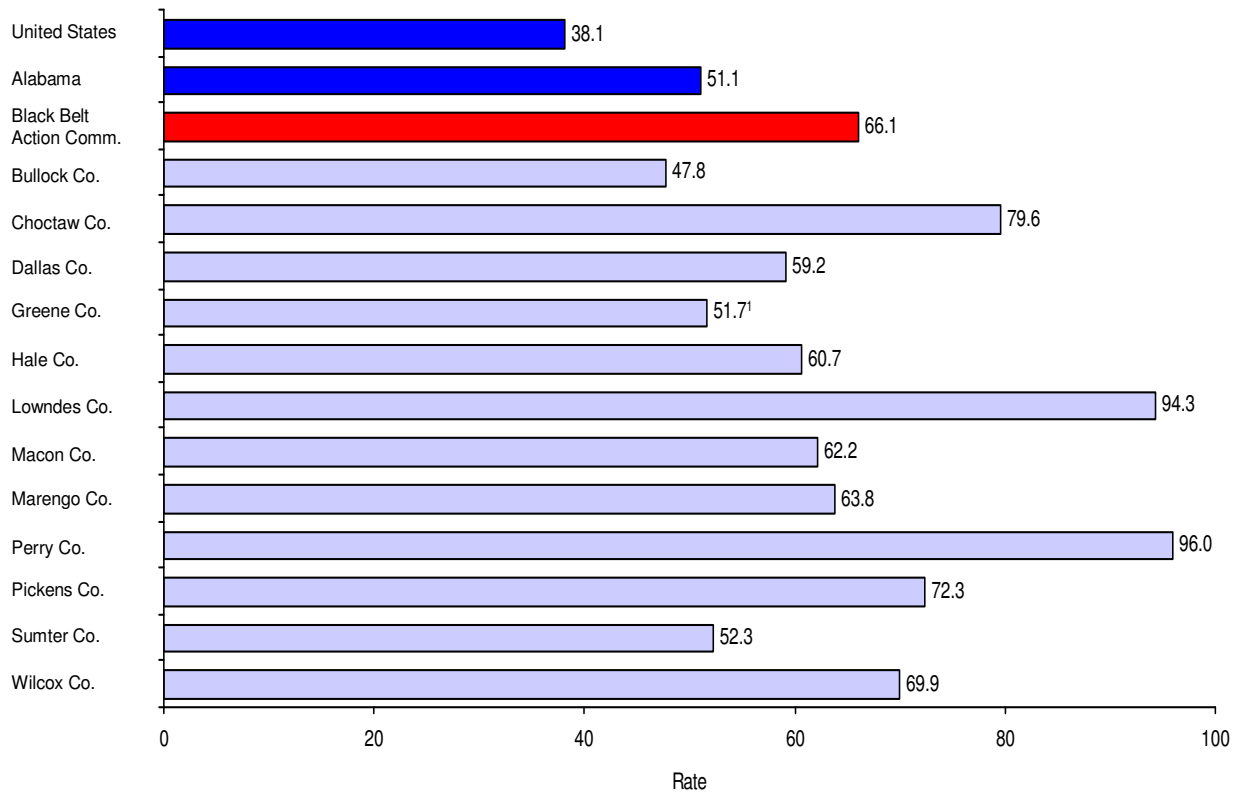


Notes: Data provided by the Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health and the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. rate is for 2004. Rates are per 100,000 population.

**Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
Southwest Alabama Action Commission Counties, 2003 – 2005**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
Southwest Alabama Action Commission	Not Applicable	956	53.6
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	364	62.2
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	592	49.5
Baldwin County	Yes	277	58.8
Escambia County	Yes	87	76.0
Mobile County	No	592	49.5

**Accident Mortality Rates
U.S. Alabama, and the Black Belt Action Commission Counties, 2003-2005**



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 2004. 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.

**Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
Black Belt Action Commission Counties, 2003 – 2005**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
Black Belt Action Commission	Not Applicable	427	66.1
District's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	427	66.1
District's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	No Urban Counties in District	
Bullock County	Yes	16	47.8
Choctaw County	Yes	36	79.6
Dallas County	Yes	79	59.2
Greene County	Yes	15	51.7 ¹
Hale County	Yes	33	60.7
Lowndes County	Yes	37	94.3
Macon County	Yes	43	62.2
Marengo County	Yes	42	63.8
Perry County	Yes	33	96.0
Pickens County	Yes	44	72.3
Sumter County	Yes	22	52.3
Wilcox County	Yes	27	69.9

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

**Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
Alabama's Appalachian Region Counties, 2003 – 2005**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
Alabama's Appalachian Region	Not Applicable	4,449	51.3
Region's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	2,128	59.4
Region's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	2,321	45.6
Bibb County	Yes	55	86.3
Blount County	Yes	91	55.2
Calhoun County	No	199	59.3
Chambers County	Yes	61	57.3
Cherokee County	Yes	40	54.5
Chilton County	Yes	97	78.3
Clay County	Yes	24	57.0
Cleburne County	Yes	30	69.0
Colbert County	Yes	80	48.8
Coosa County	Yes	27	79.7
Cullman County	Yes	144	60.7
DeKalb County	Yes	129	64.3
Elmore County	Yes	105	48.8
Etowah County	No	169	54.7
Fayette County	Yes	42	77.1
Franklin County	Yes	67	72.9
Hale County	Yes	33	60.7
Jackson County	Yes	104	64.6
Jefferson County	No	952	48.3
Lamar County	Yes	23	51.1
Lauderdale County	No	128	48.8
Lawrence County	Yes	78	75.6
Limestone County	Yes	111	53.5
Macon County	Yes	43	62.2
Madison County	No	329	37.4
Marion County	Yes	70	77.5
Marshall County	Yes	128	50.3
Morgan County	No	165	48.7
Pickens County	Yes	44	72.3
Randolph County	Yes	51	75.5
St. Clair County	Yes	91	43.2
Shelby County	No	180	36.3
Talladega County	Yes	110	45.9
Tallapoosa County	Yes	54	44.2
Tuscaloosa County	No	199	39.8
Walker County	Yes	149	71.2
Winston County	Yes	47	64.0

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.

**Accident Mortality and Mortality Rates
Alabama's Delta Region Counties, 2003 – 2005**

Area	Is County Rural?	Deaths	Rate Per 100,000
Alabama's Delta Region	Not Applicable	825	63.4
Region's Rural Counties Combined	Not Applicable	825	63.4
Region's Urban Counties Combined	Not Applicable	No Urban Counties in Region	
Barbour County	Yes	43	50.4
Bullock County	Yes	16	47.8
Butler County	Yes	47	76.0
Choctaw County	Yes	36	79.6
Clarke County	Yes	58	70.9
Conecuh County	Yes	29	72.3
Dallas County	Yes	79	59.2
Escambia County	Yes	87	76.0
Greene County	Yes	15	51.7 ¹
Hale County	Yes	33	60.7
Lowndes County	Yes	37	94.3
Macon County	Yes	43	62.2
Marengo County	Yes	42	63.8
Monroe County	Yes	45	63.5
Perry County	Yes	33	96.0
Pickens County	Yes	44	72.3
Russell County	Yes	64	43.5
Sumter County	Yes	22	52.3
Washington County	Yes	25	46.9
Wilcox County	Yes	27	69.9

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 Planning and Development Council, (205) 333-2990 (Greene, Hale, and Pickens counties)

**PERMISSION IS GRANTED TO DUPLICATE OR OTHERWISE USE ALL OR ANY PORTION OF
THIS REPORT**

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.