

THE GENERAL CONDITION  
OF THE  
ALABAMA NEGRO

This paper is a report published by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. It is general in scope and is designed to accomplish four purposes:

1. To serve as a reference source for SNCC staff;
2. To serve as a counterpart to an earlier SNCC publication, "The General Condition of the Mississippi Negro", and to afford the possibility of comparing conditions in both states so as to clarify different approaches that may or may not be required;
3. To indicate guidelines for future, more detailed studies;
4. To expose to the eye of the general public certain shameful facts about how a large number of American citizens live in Alabama.

The statistics cited in this paper represent people, no matter how this may create difficulties in the minds of more fortunate Americans who would prefer that the statistics were merely numbers.

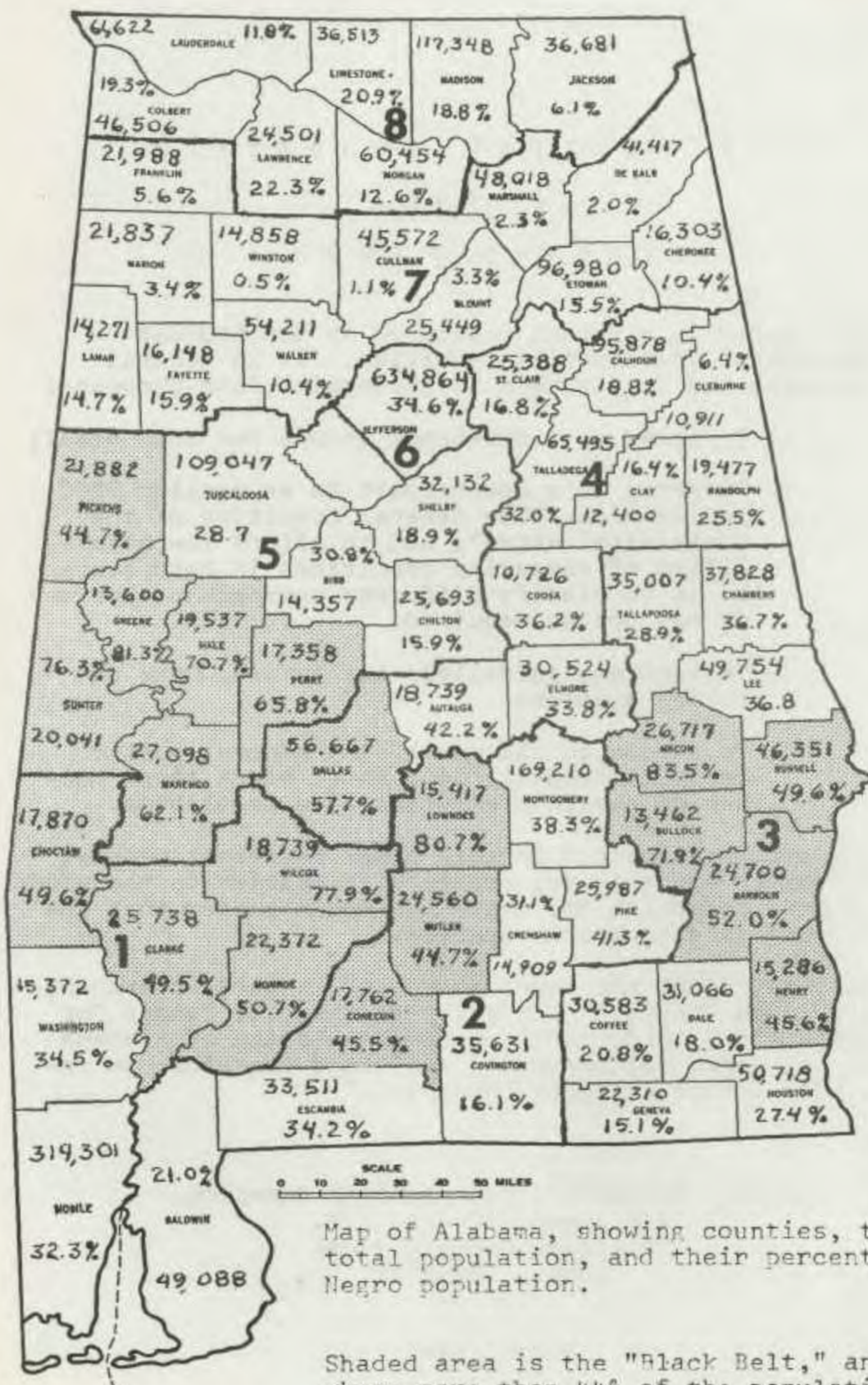
In this report the term "Nonwhite" is used interchangeably with "Negro." According to the U.S. Census For Alabama for 1960, 0.09% of the population of Alabama is non-Negro and non-white and would therefore be included in the category "Nonwhite."

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee  
8 Raymond Street, N.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30314  
phone: 688-0331

March, 1965




# ALABAMA





# CONTENTS

	page
PART 1, POPULATION .....	1
Growth in Population	
Number and Proportion	
Birth Rates	
Death Rates	
Infant Mortality	
Fetal Mortality	
Neonatal Mortality	
Maternal Mortality	
Significant Population Characteristics	
Changes in the Population	
Urban-Rural Distribution	
County Variations	
Cities of 10,000 or more	
PART 2, EMPLOYMENT .....	14
Composition of the Labor Force	
Unemployment	
Industry and Occupational Distribution	
Pattern of Unemployment	
PART 3, INCOME .....	20
Income of Persons	
Income of Families	
PART 4, EDUCATION .....	22
School Years Completed	
PART 5, HOUSING .....	23
Negro Housing Conditions and Facilities	
PART 6, VOTER REGISTRATION DATA .....	24
Denial of the Right to Vote, County Tabulation	
Justice Department Activities	
Qualifications to Register to Vote	

In all charts the following symbols apply:  Nonwhite

 White

More detailed statistics on those Alabama counties with 44% Negro population or more is available from the Atlanta SNCC office.



## PART 1, POPULATION

### Growth in the Population

Number and Proportion - In 1960, 983,131 Negroes constituted 30.1% of the total 3,266,740 population of Alabama. There has been a steady decline in the proportion of black people to whites in the state, although the rate of this decrease has slowed in recent decades. This declining proportion of Non-whites results most noticeably from the marked increase in the white population, while the nonwhite population has remained fairly constant. ( Table 1 and Chart 1 ) The state as a whole has steadily grown in total population since 1900, while the nonwhite population has, in fact, decreased from what it was in 1940.

Birth Rates - ( Table 2 and Chart 2 ) The Negro birth rate has increased considerably since the end of the depression '30's and stands at higher levels than the whites. Increased Negro birth rate would tend to imply better registration of vital statistics and/or better health facilities reducing childbirth related deaths. The latter statement requires qualification in the light of figures that follow later in this report. The white birth rate has been steady to declining. The overall Negro population is kept fairly constant by migration out of the state and higher death rates; just as the white population increases because of migration of more whites to Alabama than away from Alabama, and because of lower death rates.

Death Rates - ( Table 3 and Chart 3 ) Overall death rates in Alabama are decreasing for both whites and nonwhites. The death rates for nonwhites, however, remain consistently higher than the white death rates. The death rate for nonwhites in 1960 was higher than the death rate for whites in 1925, the first year for which we have statistics. Clearly this reflects the results of separate-but-"equal" standards of living and health facilities.

Infant Mortality - ( Table 4 and Chart 4 ) The death rate for infants under one year of age is shockingly high for nonwhites as compared to whites. It is decreasing for both racial groups, but still nearly twice as many Negro babies as white babies die before their first birthdays. The death rate for Negro babies in 1962 was at about the same level as that for white babies in the early 1940's -- only about twenty years behind whites in this matter of life.

Fetal Death Rates - ( Table 5 and Chart 5 ) The fetal death rate is a measure of the death rate of unborn children from 20 weeks old to their birth. It can thus be an indirect measure of the kind of care a pregnant woman receives and the conditions under which she lives. The fetal death rate for nonwhites has been



consistently high; since 1950 it has been at least twice as high as the white fetal death rate. There is no indication of a trend toward decreasing these death rates.

Neonatal Death Rates - ( Table 6 and Chart 6 ) This statistic measures the number of deaths of babies under 28 days old in each 1,000 live births. Premature babies must receive hospital care during this period to assure their survival. The statistic thus indicates the fate of most premature babies and is a measure of the hospital and maternity care available to Negroes in Alabama. The neonatal death rate is consistently at least 30% higher for Negro babies than white babies.

Maternal Death Rates - ( Table 7 and Chart 7 ) Since 1927 mothers of both races have increasingly survived the perils of childbirth. But in 1962 five times as many Negro mothers as white mothers died as a result of childbirth. In this same year 98.3% of the white mothers bore their children in hospitals with the assistance of a physician; only 56.5% of the Negro mothers were so fortunate.

### Significant Population Characteristics

Changes in the Population - ( Table 8 and Chart 8 ) While the total population of the state increased in the period 1950-1960, both the Negro and white population in the age group 20-34 years old decreased. A similar decrease occurred for Negroes in the group 35-44 years of age. This age span for Negroes, 20-44, represents the period of their lives in which they are most likely to find employment. The greater number evidently choose to take their chances outside of Alabama. The overall increase in white population was ten times that of the increase in Negro population.

Urban-Rural Distribution - ( Tables 9 and 10 ) Negroes and whites are distributed fairly equally between urban and rural areas of the state. The main concentration of Negroes, however, is in the southern and rural part of the state. ( see map ) Urban Alabama has grown considerably in 1950-60. Both Negroes and whites contributed to this increase, although whites mainly account for the growth of Alabama cities. At the same time, Negroes left the rural area in greater proportion than whites.

County Variations - ( Table 11 ) Counties located in the southern rural part of the state have, for the most part, lost population in the out-of-county migration. These are the counties with the highest percentage of Negroes. The counties that have made considerable gains in population are located in the northeast and north central parts of the state where there is heavy industry along the Tennessee River and The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has a large installation at Huntsville. Also the



counties on Mobile Bay have grown considerably. Each of these three growth areas are economically affluent. Otherwise, county growth reflects the general growth of the cities located therein. Counties with the largest population are Jefferson, Madison, Mobile, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa. There are 21 counties with over 40% nonwhite population. It should be noted that northern counties have very low proportions of nonwhites.

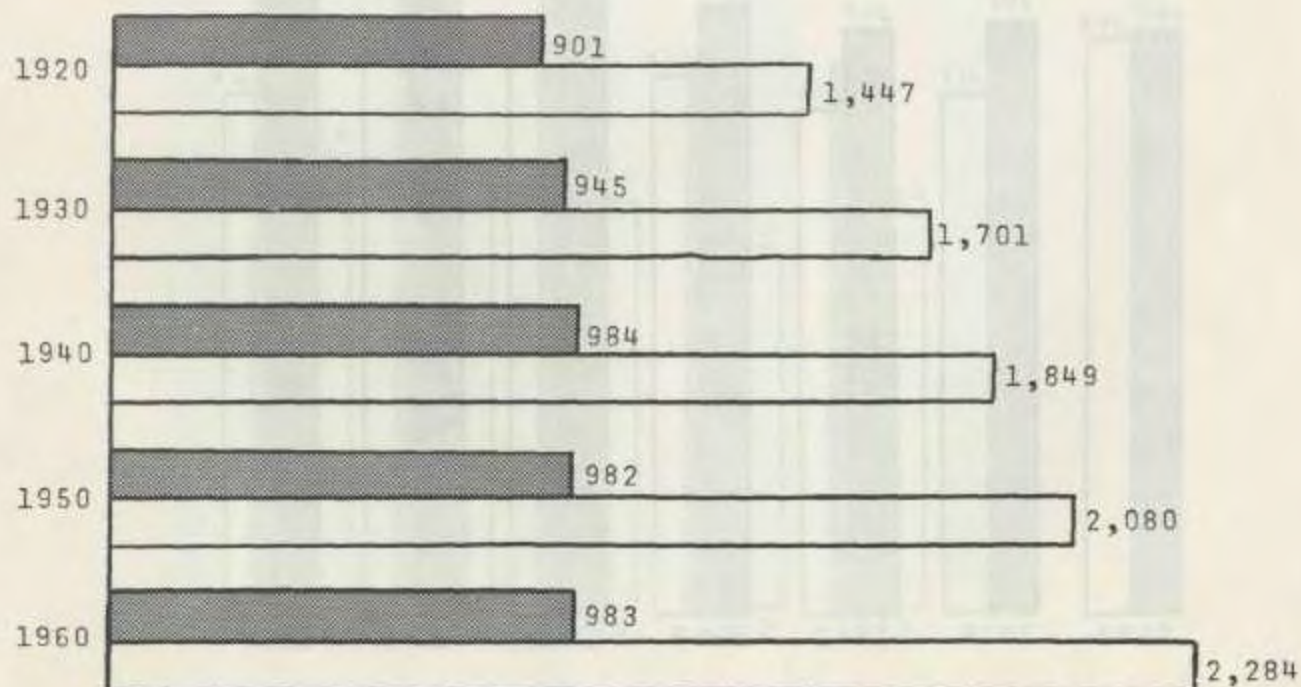
Urban Places of 10,000 or More - ( Table 12 ) There are 29 cities with a population in excess of 10,000 in Alabama. Birmingham, Mobile, and Montgomery are the largest, and they have the largest number of nonwhites. Cities with the greatest percentage of nonwhites are Bessemer, Fairfield, Selma, Prichard and Birmingham. All but eight of these 29 cities have more than 20% nonwhite population.

TABLE 1: POPULATION OF ALABAMA BY COLOR, 1900-1960

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Nonwhite</u>	<u>%Nonwhite</u>
1960	3,266,740	2,283,609	983,131	30.1
1950	3,061,743	2,079,591	982,152	32.1
1940	2,832,961	1,849,097	983,864	34.7
1930	2,646,248	1,700,844	945,404	35.7
1920	2,348,174	1,447,032	901,142	38.4
1910	2,138,093	1,228,832	909,261	42.5
1900	1,828,697	1,001,152	827,545	45.3

Source: Bureau of the Census

CHART 1: POPULATION 1920 - 1960 in thousands



**TABLE 2: BIRTH RATE BY COLOR; selected years, 1927-1960**

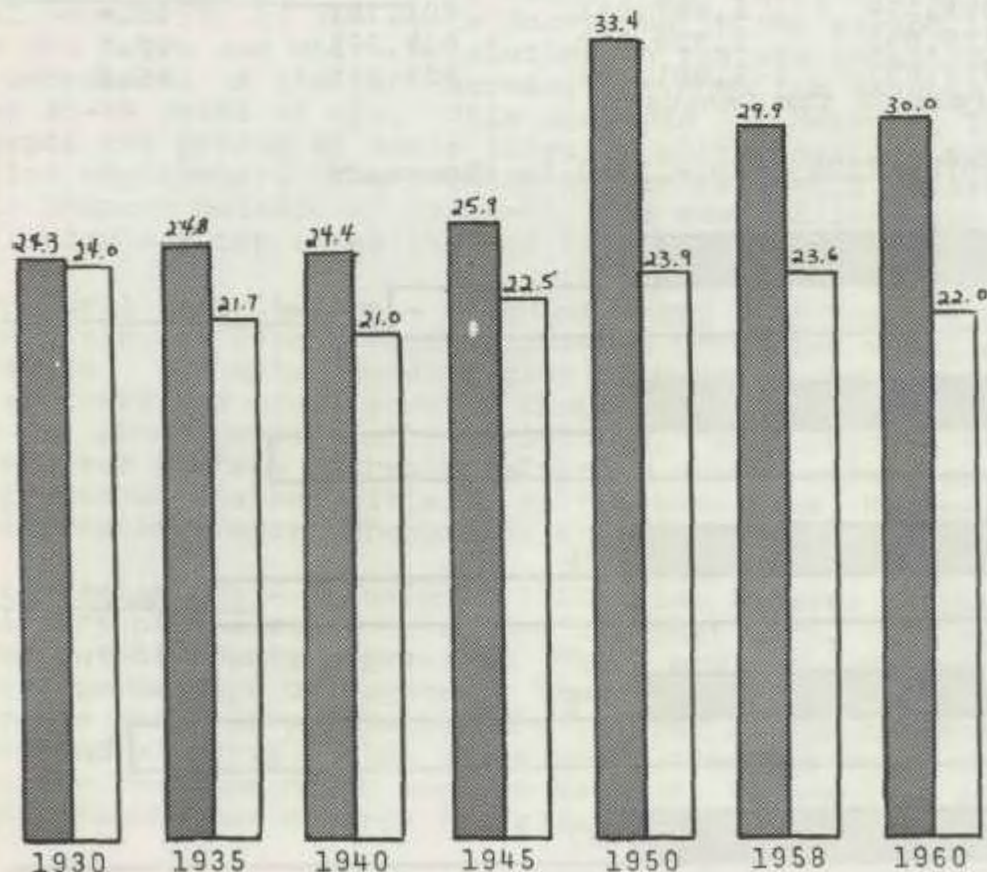
Live births per 1,000 of the population

<u>Year</u>	<u>Nonwhite</u>	<u>White</u>
1960	30.0	22.0
1958	29.9	23.6
1950	33.4	23.9
1945	25.9	22.5
1940	24.4	21.0
1935	24.8	21.7
1930	24.3	24.0
1927	25.4	27.0

Sources: Alabama Department of Health  
Vital Statistics of the U.S.

**CHART 2: BIRTH RATE; selected years**

Live birth rate per 1,000 of population in each racial group





**TABLE 3: DEATH RATE BY COLOR; selected years, 1925-1960**

Deaths per 1,000 of the population in each racial group  
Excludes stillbirths and deaths in the Armed Services

<u>Year</u>	<u>Nonwhites</u>	<u>Whites</u>
1960	11.4	8.2
1950	11.4	7.5
1940	14.0	8.5
1935	13.2	8.8
1930	15.2	9.4
1925	15.2	9.5

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census  
Alabama Department of Health

**CHART 3: DEATH RATE; selected years**

Deaths per 1,000 of the population in each racial group

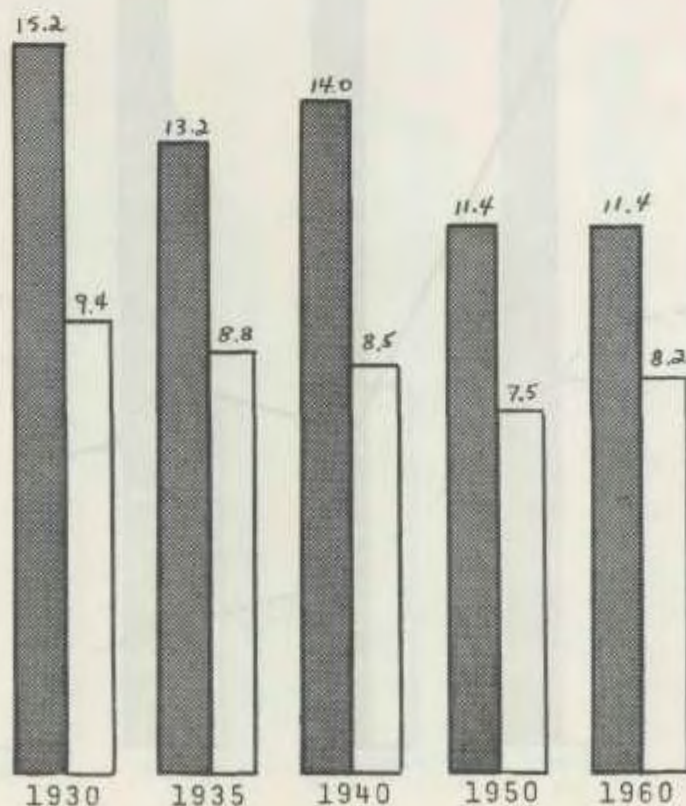




TABLE 4: INFANT MORTALITY BY COLOR; selected years, 1930-1962

Deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 live born in each racial group

<u>Year</u>	<u>Nonwhite</u>	<u>White</u>
1962	43.9	23.0
1960	45.0	24.9
1958	51.0	26.1
1950	46.3	30.6
1940	94.1	55.7
1930	105.1	60.3

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census  
Vital Statistics of the U.S.

CHART 4: INFANT MORTALITY, 1930-1960

Number of deaths per 1,000 live births

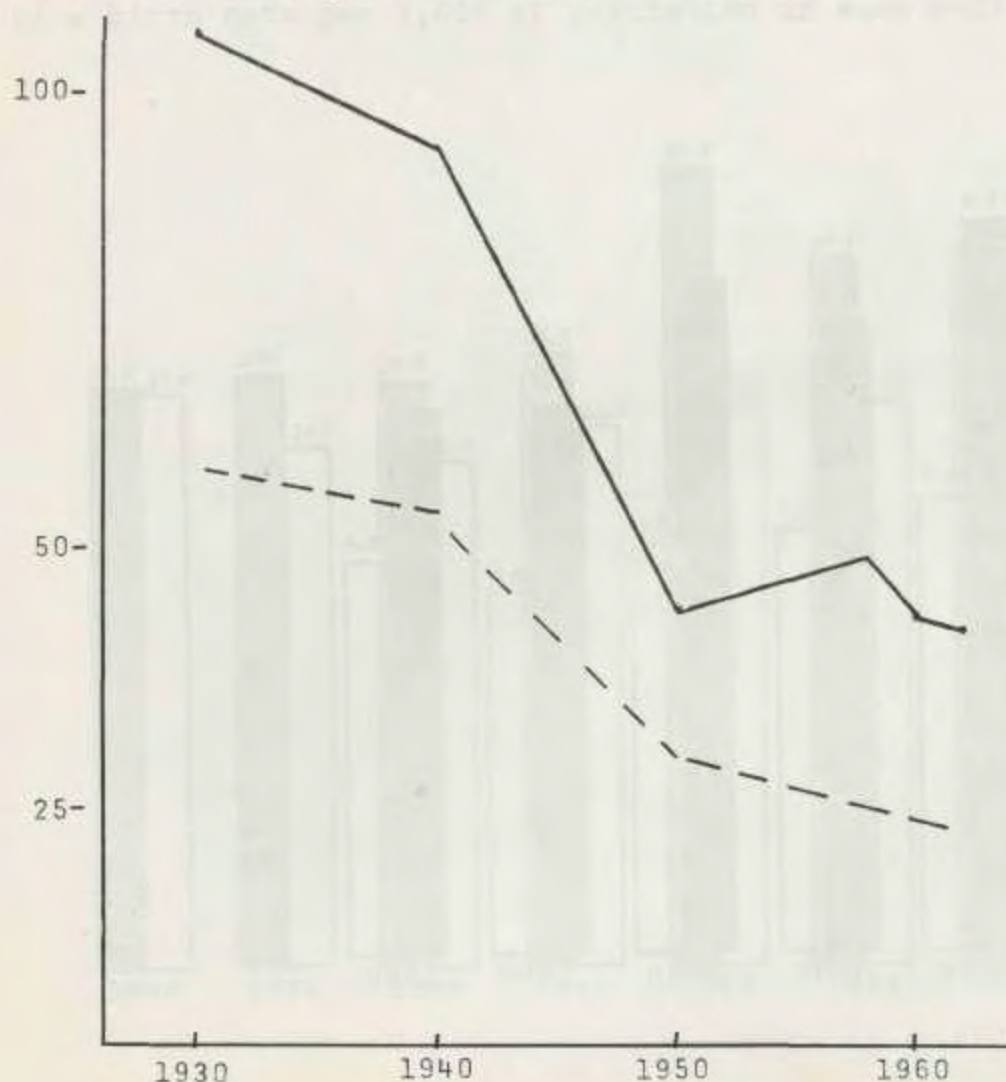




TABLE 5: FETAL DEATH RATES; selected years, 1950-1962

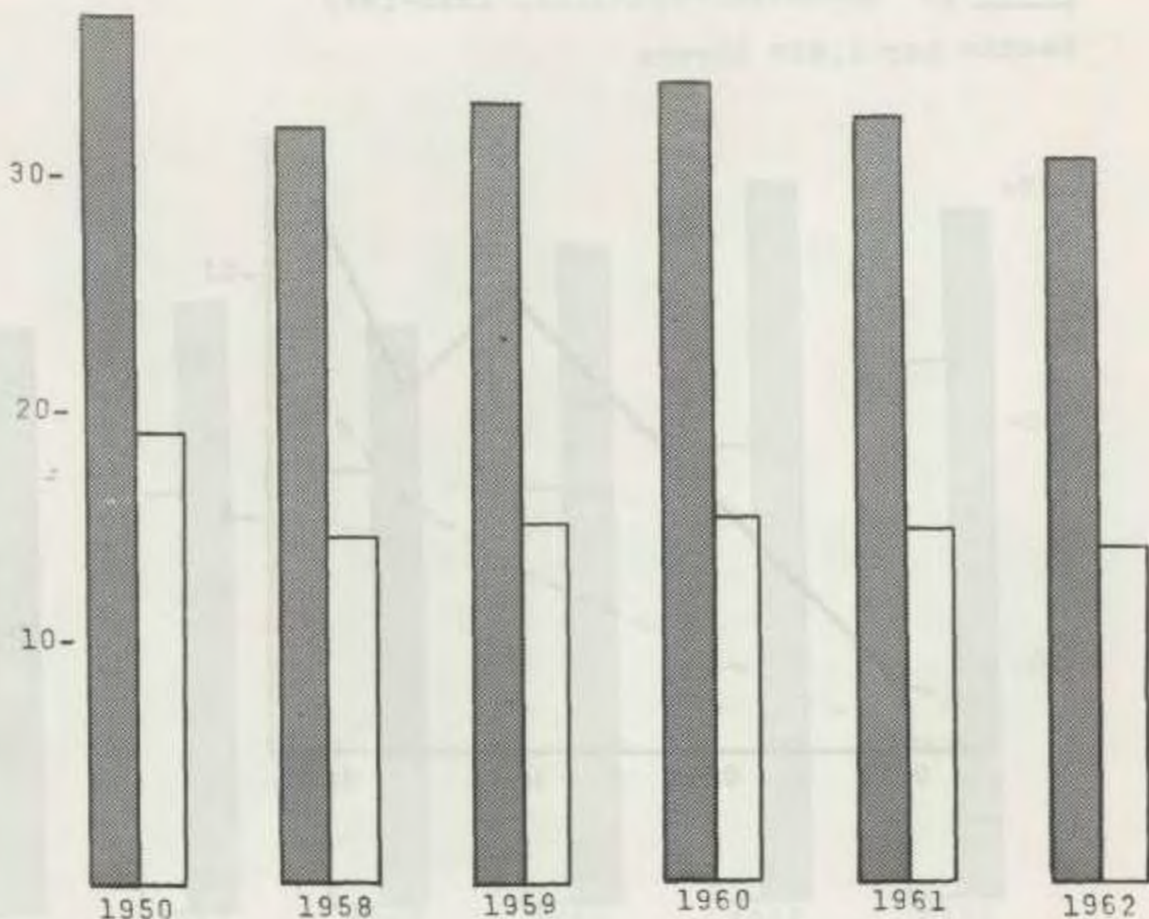
Deaths of fetuses 20 weeks old until birth per 1,000 live births in each racial group

<u>Year</u>	<u>Nonwhite</u>	<u>White</u>
1962	30.5	14.0
1961	32.0	14.8
1960	33.4	15.1
1959	32.6	15.0
1958	31.7	14.6
1950	36.3	19.0

Source: Vital Statistics of the U.S.

CHART 5: FETAL MORTALITY, 1950-1962

Deaths per 1,000 births





**TABLE 6: NEONATAL DEATH RATES; selected years, 1950-1962**

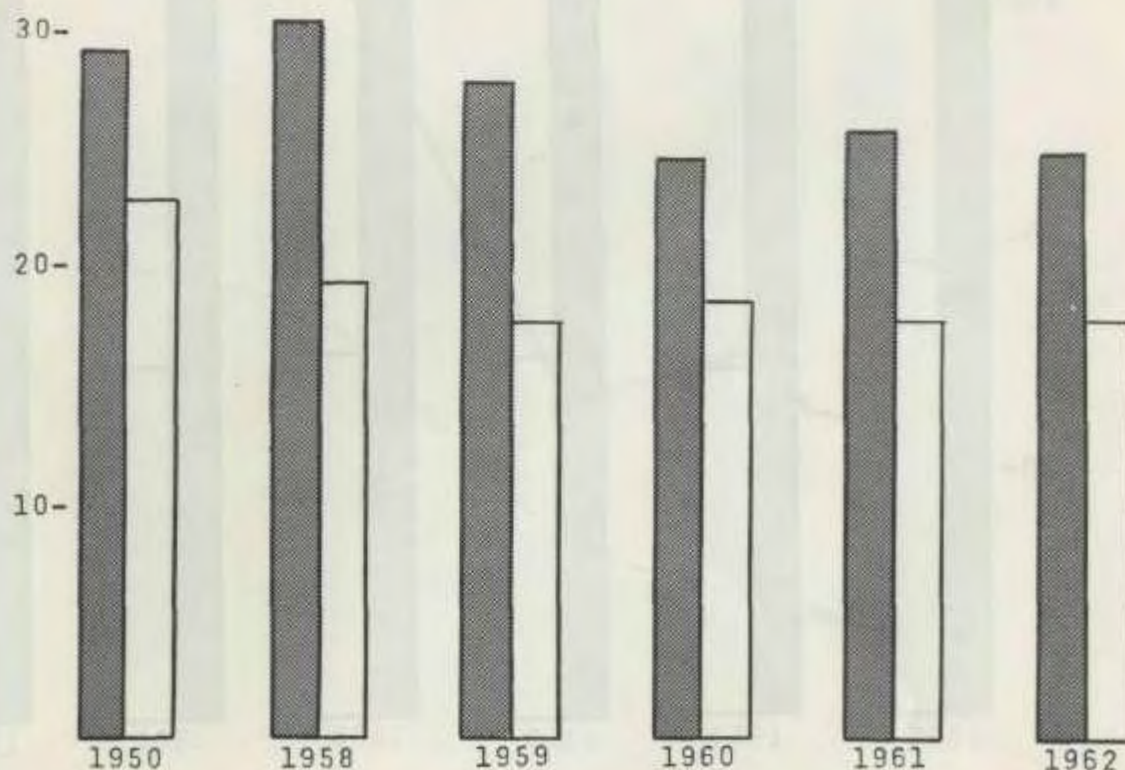
Deaths of babies under 28 days of age per 1,000 live births in each racial group

<u>Year</u>	<u>Nonwhite</u>	<u>White</u>
1962	24.7	17.9
1961	25.6	17.7
1960	24.2	18.5
1959	27.5	17.3
1958	30.1	19.1
1950	28.7	22.5

Source: Vital Statistics of the U.S.

**CHART 6: NEONATAL MORTALITY, 1950-1962**

Deaths per 1,000 births





**TABLE 7: MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES BY COLOR; selected years 1927-1962**

Deaths of mothers per 1,000 live births in each racial group

<u>Year</u>	<u>Nonwhite</u>	<u>White</u>
1960-62	1.41	.29
1960	1.42	.42
1950	2.2	...
1940	9.6	4.0
1935	7.7	5.3
1930	11.7	7.6
1927	11.2	6.2

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census  
Vital Statistics of the U.S.

**CHART 7: MATERNAL MORTALITY, 1930-1962**

Maternal mortality deaths per 1,000 live births

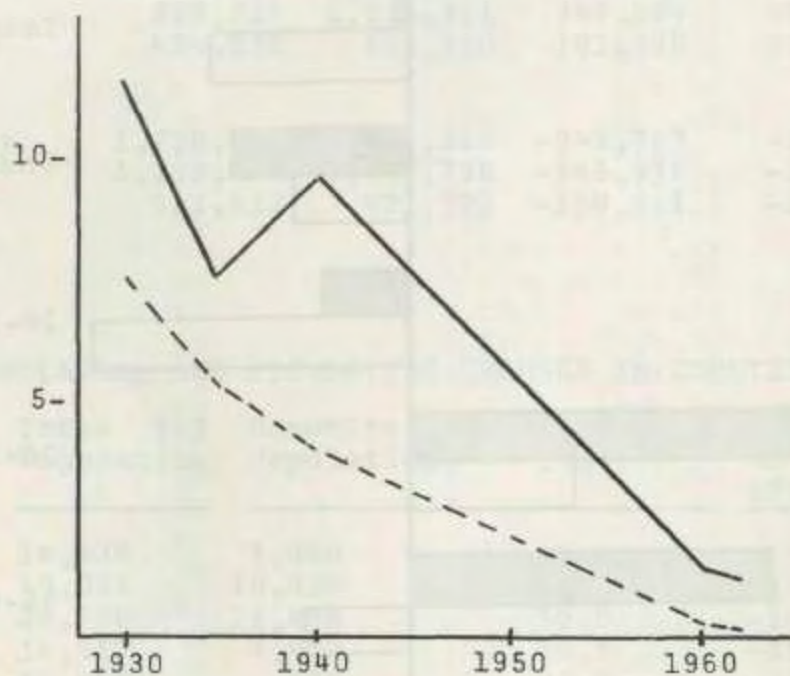


TABLE 8: % CHANGE IN POPULATION, 1950-1960

Decrease signified by a minus

Age Group	----- Negro -----		----- White -----	
	#	%	#	%
	Inc. or Dec.	Inc. or Dec.	Inc. or Dec.	Inc. or Dec.
Total all ages	1,500	0.01	209,024	10.0
Under 10 years	23,068	9.2	26,494	5.8
10-19 years	13,332	6.8	59,517	16.5
20-34 years	-43,045	-21.5	-42,651	-8.8
35-44 years	-22,723	-18.8	17,185	6.0
45-64 years	18,704	12.9	99,102	28.9
65 years	11,120	17.0	47,358	36.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

CHART 8: %CHANGE IN THE POPULATION, 1950-1960

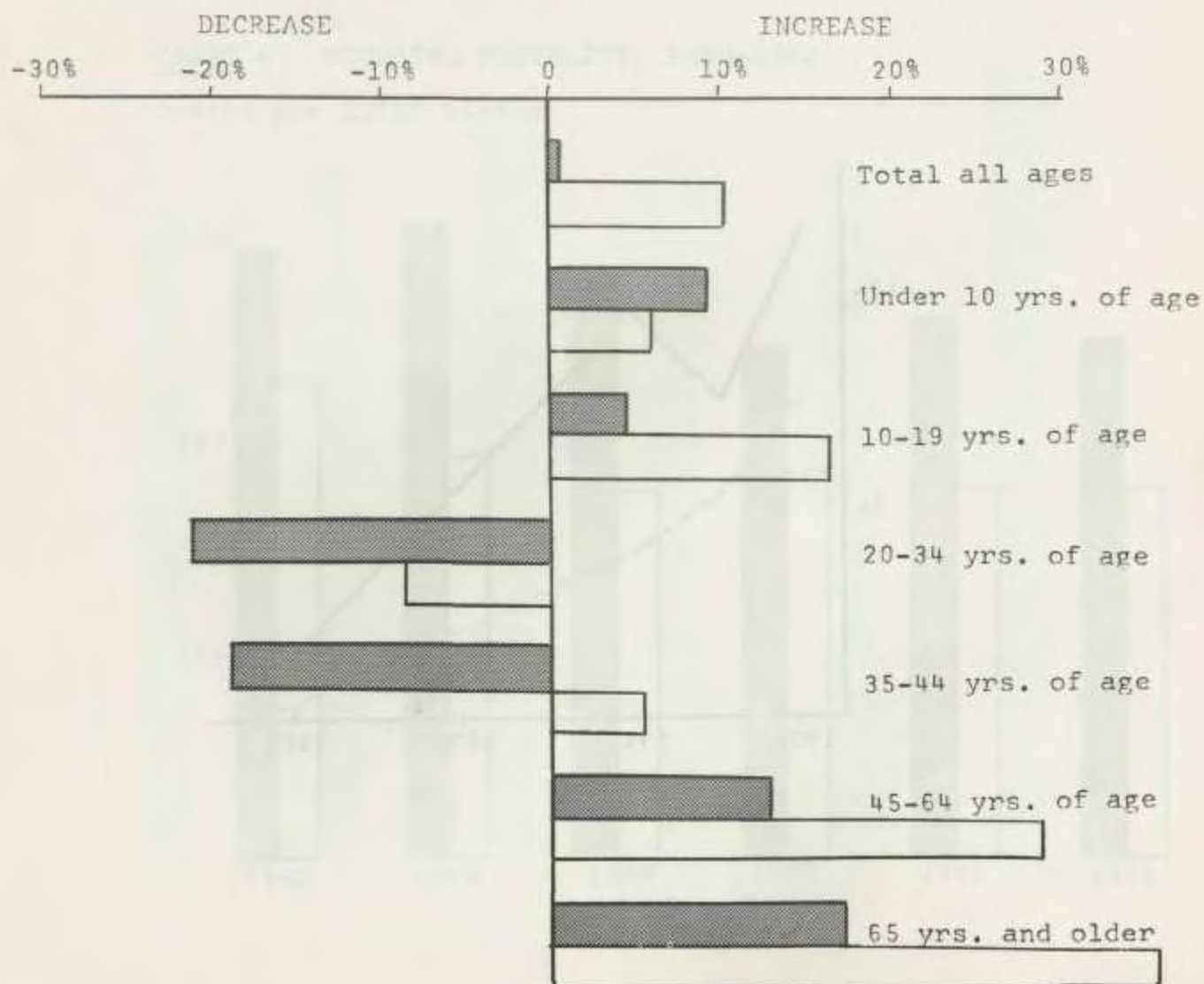




TABLE 9: POPULATION BY RACE AND URBAN OR RURAL RESIDENCE, 1960

Place of residence	Nonwhite	%Nonwhite Pop.	White	%White Pop.
The State	983,131	100.0	2,283,609	100.0
Urban	558,075	56.8	1,237,094	54.1
Rural Nonfarm	300,217	30.5	768,499	33.7
Rural Farm	124,831	12.7	278,024	12.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

TABLE 10: URBAN-RURAL MIGRATION OF THE NATIVE POPULATION BY RACE, 1950-1960

Minus signifies a decrease

Place of Residence and Race	Population 1950	Population 1960	Net Migration 1950-1960 #	%
State	3,061,743	3,266,740	204,997	6.7
White	2,079,591	2,283,609	204,018	9.8
Nonwhite	982,152	983,131	979	0.1
Urban:				
The State	1,340,937	1,791,721	450,784	33.6
White	886,717	1,235,811	349,094	39.4
Nonwhite	454,220	555,910	101,690	22.4
Rural:				
The State	1,720,806	1,475,019	-245,787	-14.3
White	1,192,874	1,047,798	-145,076	-12.2
Nonwhite	527,932	427,221	-100,711	-19.1

TABLE 11: POPULATION AND POPULATION CHANGES IN COUNTIES, 1950-60

County	Total 1960 Population	Nonwhite 1960 Population	%Nonwhite 1960	% Net Changes In Population 1950-1960
Autauga	18,739	7,900	42.2	3.0
Baldwin	49,088	10,329	21.0	19.7
Barbour	24,700	12,850	52.0	-14.5
Bibb	14,357	4,417	30.8	-20.2
Blount	25,449	836	03.3	-12.2
Bullock	13,462	9,681	71.9	-16.1
Butler	24,560	10,985	44.7	-16.0
Calhoun	95,878	18,073	18.8	20.5
Chambers	37,828	13,869	36.7	-4.3
Cherokee	16,303	1,093	10.4	-7.5
Chilton	25,693	4,078	15.9	-4.6
Choctaw	17,870	8,858	49.6	-6.7



TABLE 11 continued

County	Total 1960 Population	Nonwhite 1960 Population	%Nonwhite	% Net Changes In Population 1950-1960
Clarke	25,738	12,751	49.5	-3.1
Clay	12,400	2,028	16.4	-11.0
Cleburne	10,911	699	06.4	-8.3
Coffee	30,583	6,363	20.8	-0.4
Colbert	46,506	8,982	19.3	17.6
Conecuh	17,762	8,088	45.5	-18.4
Coosa	10,726	3,879	36.2	-8.8
Covington	35,631	5,751	16.1	-11.7
Crenshaw	14,909	4,643	31.1	-21.5
Cullman	45,572	521	01.1	-7.1
Dale	31,066	5,607	18.0	49.2
Dallas	56,667	32,715	57.7	0.7
De Kalb	41,417	821	2.0	-8.1
Elmore	30,524	10,303	33.8	-3.6
Escambia	33,511	11,459	34.2	6.6
Etowah	96,980	14,998	15.5	3.3
Fayette	16,148	2,574	15.9	-16.7
Franklin	21,988	1,232	05.6	-14.5
Geneva	22,310	3,365	15.1	-13.9
Greene	13,600	11,054	81.3	-17.5
Hale	19,537	13,811	70.7	-6.2
Henry	15,286	6,965	45.6	-18.1
Houston	50,718	13,886	27.4	9.0
Jackson	36,681	2,238	6.1	-5.9
Jefferson	634,864	219,829	34.6	13.6
Lamar	14,271	2,103	14.7	-13.2
Lauderdale	61,622	7,267	11.8	13.7
Lawrence	24,501	5,468	22.3	-9.7
Lee	49,754	18,296	36.8	10.4
Limestone	36,513	7,629	20.9	2.1
Lowndes	15,417	12,439	80.7	-14.4
Macon	26,717	22,312	83.5	-12.6
Madison	117,348	22,065	18.8	61.0
Marengo	27,098	16,834	62.1	8.1
Marion	21,837	733	03.4	-20.0
Marshall	48,018	1,124	02.3	6.5
Mobile	314,301	101,428	32.3	36.0
Monroe	22,372	11,342	50.7	-13.1
Montgomery	169,210	64,725	38.3	21.8
Morgan	60,454	7,647	12.6	14.2
Perry	17,358	11,415	65.8	-15.1
Pickens	21,882	9,784	44.7	-10.1
Pike	25,987	10,745	41.3	-15.1
Randolph	19,477	4,976	25.5	-13.5



TABLE 11 continued

County	Total 1960 Population	Nonwhite 1960 Population	%Nonwhite	% Net Changes In Population 1950-1960
Russell	46,351	22,986	49.6	14.8
St. Clair	25,388	4,272	16.8	-4.9
Shelby	32,132	6,083	18.9	5.8
Sumter	20,041	15,298	76.3	-15.1
Talladega	65,495	20,970	32.0	2.9
Tallapoosa	35,007	10,119	28.9	-0.2
Tuscaloosa	109,047	31,328	28.7	15.9
Walker	54,211	5,627	10.4	-15.0
Washington	15,372	5,306	34.5	-1.5
Wilcox	18,739	14,598	77.9	-20.2
Winston	14,858	81	00.5	-18.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census  
City and County Data Book-1962

TABLE 12 URBAN PLACES OF 10,000 OR MORE POPULATION,  
BY COLOR, AND % NONWHITE, 1960

City	Total Population	Nonwhite Population	%Nonwhite
Alexander City	13,140	3,366	25.6
Andalusia	10,263	2,299	22.4
Anniston	33,657	11,438	34.0
Auburn	16,261	3,692	22.7
Bessemer	33,054	18,992	57.5
Birmingham	340,887	135,200	39.7
Chickasaw	10,002	13	
Cullman	10,883	41	
Decatur	29,217	4,781	16.4
Dothan	31,440	8,969	28.5
Enterprise	11,410	2,846	24.9
Fairfield	15,816	8,293	52.4
Florence	31,649	4,893	15.5
Gadsden	58,088	12,306	21.2
Homewood	20,289	2,278	11.2
Huntsville	72,365	10,046	13.9
Jasper	10,799	1,948	18.0
Mobile	202,779	65,673	32.4
Montgomery	134,393	47,339	35.2
Mountain Brook	12,680	152	01.0
Opelika	15,678	5,957	38.0
Phenix City	27,630	10,189	36.9
Prichard	47,371	22,316	47.1
Selma	28,385	13,985	49.3
Sheffield	13,491	2,441	18.1



TABLE 12 continued

<u>City</u>	<u>Total Population</u>	<u>Nonwhite Population</u>	<u>%Nonwhite</u>
Sylacauga	12,857	3,586	27.9
Talladega	17,742	5,820	32.8
Troy	10,234	3,874	37.9
Tuscaloosa	63,370	18,839	29.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

## PART 2, EMPLOYMENT

Composition of the Labor Force - ( Table 13 and Chart 13 ) The proportion of whites is very similar to the proportion of non-whites in the labor force. When broken down by sex, however, differences emerge. There are, for example, a greater percentage of Negro women in the urban labor force, and the proportion of Negro males in the labor force is considerably less than for whites.

Unemployment - ( Chart 14 ) Unemployment among Negroes stands at over 40% higher than among whites. There has been more unfavorable increase in the rate of unemployment for Negroes than whites since 1950.

Industry and Occupational Distribution - Table 14 Indicates that almost twice as many Negroes as whites are employed in agriculture; while greater proportions of whites than Negroes are employed in manufacturing. Only in service industries does the proportion of Negroes employed outstrip the proportion of whites. Table 15 breaks this down by occupations. It is clear which end of the job spectrum is composed of Negroes -- the lowest.

Pattern of Unemployment - Table 16 indicates the occupations of those persons unemployed. Among the unemployed nonwhites, 53% of the males and 80% of the females were among the unskilled. About 16% of the male nonwhite and 6% of the females are in the skilled category; and about 27% male and 9% females are in the semi-skilled class. Most unemployment is among non-farm laboring and service groups. This gets as high as 47.5% for nonwhite males and 68.9% for nonwhite females. Thus, the cities of Alabama probably should be looked to for the greatest number of unemployed Negroes.



TABLE 13: % NONWHITES AND WHITES IN THE LABOR FORCE, BY SEX, 1960

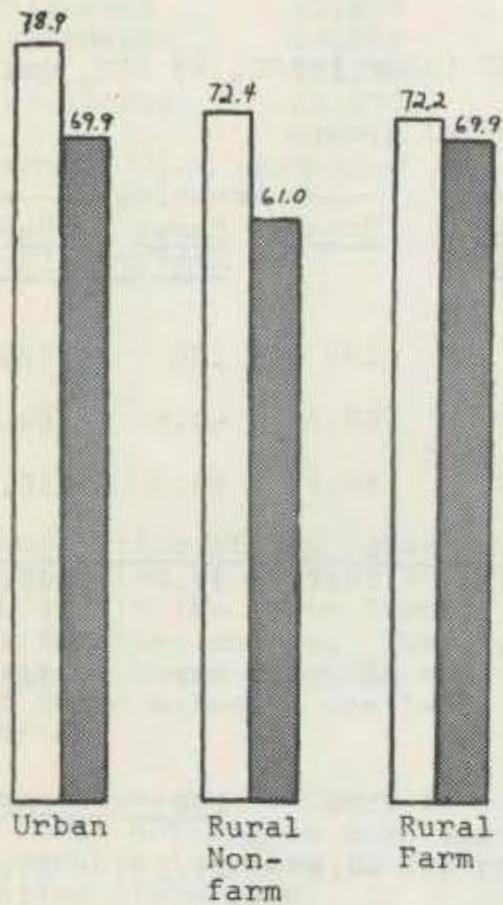
% Composition of the labor force for racial groups

Employment Status and Sex	White			Nonwhite		
	Urban	Rural Nonfarm	Rural Farm	Urban	Rural Nonfarm	Rural Farm
<b>Male:</b>						
Total 14 yrs. and over	100	100	100	100	100	100
In labor force	78.9	72.4	72.2	69.9	61.0	69.9
Not in labor force	21.1	27.6	27.8	30.1	39.0	30.1
In labor force employed	95.9	94.1	96.8	99.1	92.6	96.7
In labor force unemployed	4.1	5.9	3.2	10.9	7.4	3.3
<b>Female:</b>						
Total 14 yrs. and over	100	100	100	100	100	100
In labor force	35.0	25.3	20.7	44.2	29.5	23.3
Not in labor force	65.0	74.7	79.3	55.8	70.5	76.7
In labor force employed	95.6	94.0	94.6	92.4	92.7	91.6
In labor force unemployed	4.4	6.0	5.4	7.6	7.3	8.4



CHART 13: %NEGRO AND WHITE POPULATION IN THE LABOR FORCE

MALES



FEMALES

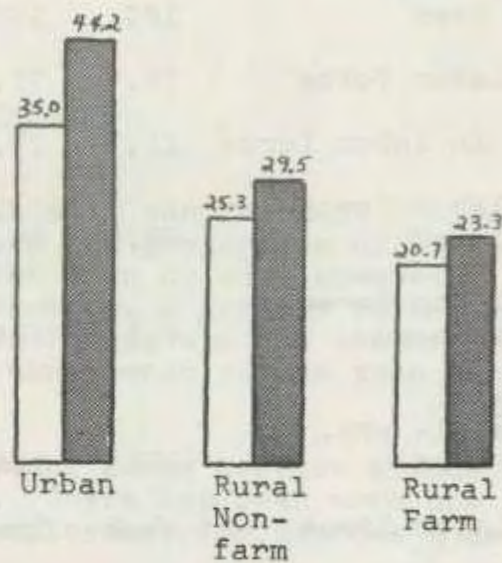
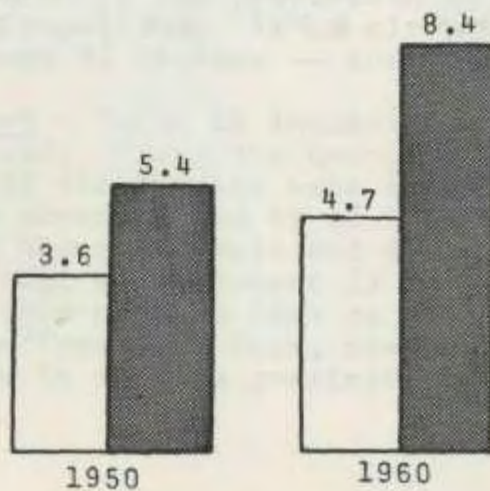
CHART 14: %NEGRO AND WHITE WORKERS IN THE LABOR FORCE UNEMPLOYED 1950-1960



TABLE 14: INDUSTRY GROUPING OF EMPLOYED PERSONS, (Percentage) 1960

Industry	----- White -----				----- Nonwhite -----			
	State	Urban	Rural NonFarm	Rural Farm	State	Urban	Rural NonFarm	Rural Farm
Agriculture	7.9	0.8	6.7	45.9	14.2	1.5	22.5	65.0
Manufacturing	29.2	27.8	35.1	20.9	19.4	19.6	23.0	10.3
Wholesale Trade	3.0	3.9	2.1	1.2	1.7	2.2	1.0	0.4
Mining	1.1	0.6	2.5	0.5	1.1	1.1	1.4	0.1
Transportation, Communications & other public utilities	4.9	5.8	4.0	2.6	3.1	3.8	2.3	1.4
Retail Trade	16.3	18.6	15.1	7.9	8.7	11.0	5.9	2.4
Service Industries	16.0	18.9	13.3	7.9	40.1	46.6	34.0	15.3
Industry not reported	2.0	2.2	1.8	1.6	2.3	2.6	1.8	1.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

TABLE 15: % EMPLOYED PERSONS IN RACIAL AND SEXUAL GROUPS AND THEIR OCCUPATIONS, 1960

Occupation	Male		Female	
	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite
Professional, technical	9.1	2.4	13.5	8.8
Farmers and farm managers	7.5	9.4	0.8	1.7
Mngr's, officials, proprietors	12.3	1.2	5.0	0.9
Clerical and kindred workers	6.4	1.8	30.9	1.7
Sales workers	7.2	0.6	10.2	0.9
Craftsmen, foremen and kindred workers	22.3	8.2	1.3	----
Operatives and kindred workers	21.3	25.3	20.8	7.0
Private household workers	----	0.6	2.5	52.6
Service workers, except private household wkrs.	3.5	10.0	10.2	19.3
Farm laborers, except unpair and foreman	2.4	10.0	0.8	2.6
Laborers, except farm & mine	5.5	25.8	0.4	0.9
Occupations not reported	2.2	2.9	3.4	2.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census





TABLE 16: MAJOR GROUP OCCUPATIONS OF THE EXPERIENCED UNEMPLOYED,  
(Percentage) 1960

Occupation Group	Male		Female	
	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite
Professional, technical	2.7	0.4	3.6	2.3
Farmers and farm managers	1.5	2.0	0.1	1.2
Mngr's, officials, proprietors	3.1	0.4	1.6	0.2
Clerical & kindred workers	4.3	1.2	21.6	1.5
Sales workers	3.9	0.5	10.9	0.6
Craftsmen, foreman & kindred workers	30.2	11.1	1.3	0.4
Operatives & kindred workers	29.2	26.5	36.1	9.0
Private household workers	0.2	0.9	3.4	46.1
Service workers, except private household	2.8	8.9	12.1	21.7
Farm laborer & foreman	3.9	5.5	2.1	10.7
Laborers, except foreman & mine	13.9	37.7	0.7	1.1
Occupation not reported	4.2	4.8	6.4	5.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

## PART 3, INCOME

Income of Persons, 1950-1960 - ( Table 17 and Chart 15 ) Median income is a figure representing an average income; half the people in a group make more than this median income figure and half in the group make less. Thus, median income tells one about a large number of people who are even worse off than expressed in this "average." The median income for nonwhite individuals is incredibly low, especially in the rural area where it is \$669 per year. In all cases, rural, urban, or statewide, Negroes make at best 30% less than whites. Income for white persons increased 63% from 1950-1960; for Negroes this was only a 41% increase.

Income of Families, 1960 - ( Table 18 ) A similar situation occurs for median income among families as among individual persons. In all areas of the state, white families earn from 40-44% more than Negro families. Thus, the usual solution that a family looks to for raising the total income for the family, namely to put members of the family to work at as young an age as possible, does not seem to bring relief to Negro families. Wages for Negroes are apparently too low for this to be a favorable way out of the dilemma.

TABLE 17: MEDIAN YEARLY INCOME FOR PERSONS, 1950-1960

<u>Race</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>1950</u>		<u>State</u>	<u>1960</u>	
		<u>Urban</u>	<u>Rural</u>		<u>Urban</u>	<u>Rural</u>
Nonwhite	\$616	\$868	\$425	\$866	\$1,032	\$669
White	\$1,455	\$2,012	\$1,013	\$2,371	\$3,008	\$1,737

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

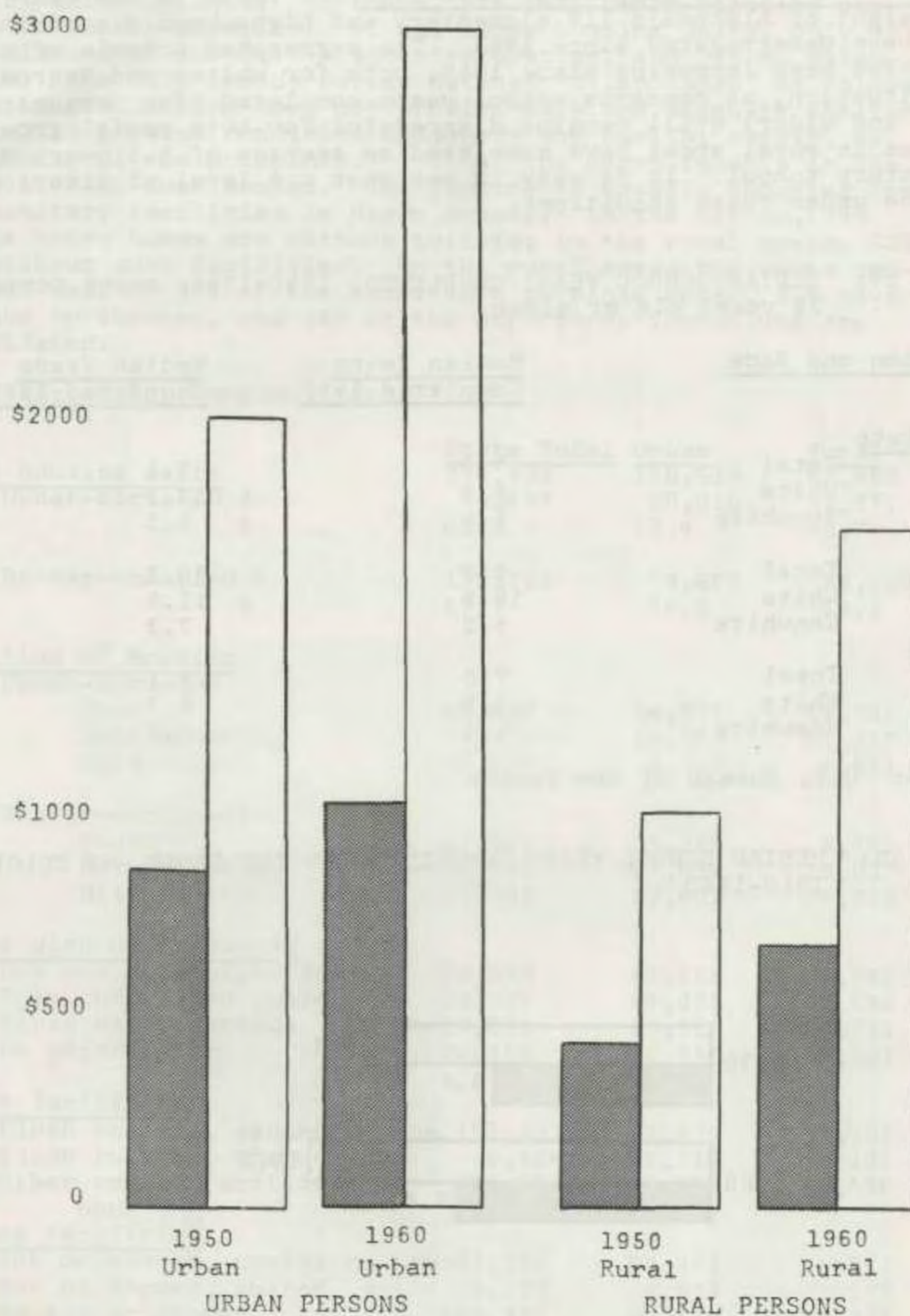
TABLE 18: MEDIAN YEARLY INCOME FOR FAMILIES, 1960

<u>Race of Families</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Urban</u>	<u>Rural NonFarm</u>	<u>Rural Farm</u>
Nonwhite	\$2,009	\$2,568	\$1,550	\$1,055
White	\$4,764	\$5,779	\$3,829	\$2,516

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census



CHART 15: MEDIAN YEARLY INCOME FOR PERSONS, 1950-1960



## PART 4, EDUCATION

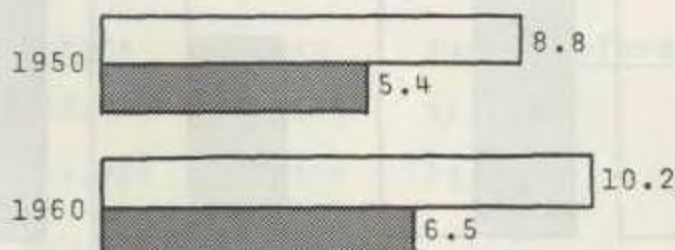
Median School Years Completed, 1950-1960 - ( Table 19 and Chart 16)  
Only eight of Alabama's 118 elementary and highschool districts have been desegregated since 1963. The segregated schools of Alabama have been improving since 1950, both for whites and Negroes. The situation, as concerns school years completed (for persons 25 years and older) still remains disgraceful for both racial groups. Negroes in rural areas have completed an average of 5.5 years of elementary school. It is easy to see what the level of literacy must be under these conditions.

TABLE 19: MEDIAN SCHOOL YEARS COMPLETED, 1950-1960, among persons 25 years old or older

<u>Location and Race</u>		<u>Median Years Completed 1950</u>	<u>Median Years Completed 1960</u>
<u>The State</u>			
	Total	7.9	9.1
	White	8.8	10.2
	Nonwhite	5.4	6.5
<u>Urban</u>			
	Total	9.0	10.3
	White	10.8	11.6
	Nonwhite	6.2	7.3
<u>Rural</u>			
	Total	7.0	8.1
	White	7.9	8.7
	Nonwhite	4.5	5.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

CHART 16: MEDIAN SCHOOL YEARS COMPLETED FOR THE STATE, BY COLOR, 1950-1960





## PART 5, HOUSING

Housing Conditions and Facilities - ( Table 20 ) Negro housing is summarized in Table 20. Alabama Negroes lived in 228,408 housing units in 1960. Of these, 42% were owner-occupied and 58% were renter-occupied. Of all these housing units, only 38% were classed as sound, 34% as deteriorating, and 28% as dilapidated. The U.S. Census Bureau defines "dilapidated" as follows: "Dilapidated housing does not provide safe and adequate shelter and in its present condition endangers the health, safety, or well-being of the occupants." 36% of the Negro tenants in the state live in such houses. The picture is equally shocking for the sanitary facilities in Negro houses. In the cities, 28% of the Negro homes are without toilets; in the rural areas, 92% are without such facilities. In the rural areas the worse conditions exist: 77% of the homes have no piped water, 92% have no tubs or showers, and 38% of the structures themselves are dilapidated.

TABLE 20: NEGRO HOUSING, 1960

	State Total	Urban	Rural
<u>Total housing units</u>	228,408	140,518	87,890
Owner-occupied #	96,687	60,916	35,771
%	42.3	43.4	40.7
Renter-occupied #	131,721	79,602	52,119
%	57.7	56.6	59.3
<u>Condition of housing</u>			
Owner-occupied:			
Sound	49,497	34,797	14,700
Deteriorating	30,332	18,072	12,260
Dilapidated	16,858	8,047	8,811
Renter-occupied:			
Sound	37,048	28,346	8,702
Deteriorating	46,681	27,654	19,027
Dilapidated	47,992	23,602	24,390
<u>Houses with water supply</u>			
Hot and cold piped inside	70,659	63,669	6,985
Only cold piped inside	53,524	47,881	5,643
Piped water outside	27,679	19,918	7,761
No piped water	76,551	9,050	67,501
<u>Toilet facilities</u>			
Flush toilets, exclusive use	101,821	94,622	7,199
Flush toilets, shared use	6,854	6,719	135
Other toilet facilities or	119,733	39,177	80,556
None			
<u>Bathing facilities</u>			
Tub or shower, exclusive use	75,323	68,371	6,952
Tub or shower, shared	2,733	2,633	100
No tub or shower	150,352	69,514	80,838

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census



# PART 6, VOTER REGISTRATION DATA

24

Denial of the Right to Vote - In Table 21 below we have underlined those Alabama counties that the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department has listed as counties "in which denials of voting rights were found." There are 37 such counties out of the state's total of 67 counties.

<u>County</u>	<u>Population of Voting Age</u>		<u>Whites Registered</u>		<u>Negroes Registered</u>		<u>Registered Negroes as a % of Total County Registration</u>
	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	
<u>Autauga</u>	6,353	3,651	4,614	72.6	125	3.4	2.6
<u>Baldwin</u>	22,236	4,527	16,340	73.5	900	19.9	5.2
<u>Barbour</u>	7,338	5,787	6,400	87.2	400	6.9	5.9
<u>Bibb</u>	5,807	1,990	5,692	98.0	200	10.1	3.4
<u>Blount</u>	14,368	378	11,609	80.8	100	26.5	0.9
<u>Bullock</u>	2,387	4,450	2,200	92.2	5	0.1	0.2
<u>Butler</u>	8,363	4,820	8,402	100.5	831	17.2	9.0
<u>Calhoun</u>	44,739	9,036	24,557	54.9	2,000	22.1	7.5
<u>Chambers</u>	15,369	6,497	12,361	80.4	400	6.2	3.1
<u>Cherokee</u>	8,537	782	7,650	89.6	350	44.8	4.4
<u>Chilton</u>	12,861	1,947	11,401	88.6	750	38.5	6.2
<u>Choctaw</u>	5,192	3,982	5,560	107.1	150	3.8	2.6
<u>Clarke</u>	7,899	5,833	8,100	102.5	400	6.9	4.7
<u>Clay</u>	6,470	926	7,229	111.7	350	37.8	4.6
<u>Cleburne</u>	5,870	385	5,518	94.0	75	19.5	1.3
<u>Coffee</u>	14,221	2,985	10,901	76.7	588	19.7	5.1
<u>Colbert</u>	21,680	4,575	17,024	78.5	1,300	28.4	7.1
<u>Conecuh</u>	5,907	3,635	3,336	56.5	300	8.3	8.3
<u>Coosa</u>	4,201	1,794	4,203	100.0	397	22.1	8.6
<u>Covington</u>	18,466	2,876	15,788	85.5	835	29.0	5.0
<u>Crenshaw</u>	6,310	2,207	6,196	98.2	493	22.3	7.4
<u>Cullman</u>	25,848	285	17,350	67.1	150	52.6	0.9



TABLE 21: continued

County	Population of Voting Age		Whites Registered		Negroes Registered		Registered Negroes as a % of Total County Registration
	White	Negro	#	%	#	%	
Dale	14,861	2,743	7,400	49.8	600	21.9	7.5
Dallas	14,400	15,115	9,195	63.9	130	0.9	1.4
DeKalb	23,878	441	19,915	83.4	85	19.3	0.4
Elmore	12,510	4,808	9,225	73.7	275	5.7	2.9
Escambia	12,779	5,685	11,000	86.1	1,000	17.6	8.3
Etowah	48,563	7,661	32,726	67.4	1,955	25.5	5.6
Fayette	8,277	1,291	8,500	102.7	450	34.9	5.0
Franklin	12,412	645	10,967	88.4	350	54.3	3.1
Geneva	11,357	1,606	7,281	64.1	14	0.9	0.2
Greene	1,649	5,001	1,731	105.0	166	3.3	8.8
Hale	3,594	5,999	3,350	93.2	150	2.5	4.3
Henry	5,165	3,168	4,631	89.7	400	12.6	8.0
Houston	22,095	6,899	12,850	58.2	675	9.8	5.0
Jackson	19,298	1,175	13,599	70.5	269	22.9	1.9
Jefferson	256,319	116,160	124,260	48.5	11,900	10.2	8.7
Lamar	7,503	1,027	9,152	122.0	600	58.4	6.2
Lauderdale	31,089	3,726	18,605	59.8	900	24.2	4.6
Lawrence	10,509	2,471	9,420	89.6	645	26.1	6.4
Lee	17,547	8,913	9,256	52.7	1,500	16.8	13.9
Limestone	16,173	3,579	9,450	58.4	650	18.2	6.4
Lowndes	1,900	5,122	2,240	117.9	0	0	0
Macon	2,818	11,866	3,310	117.5	1,000	8.4	23.2
Madison	54,516	10,666	21,650	39.7	1,350	12.7	5.9
Marengo	6,104	7,791	5,886	96.4	139	1.8	2.3
Marion	12,656	403	11,191	88.4	194	48.1	1.7
Marshall	26,997	637	19,175	71.0	50	7.8	0.3
Mobile	121,589	50,793	55,025	45.3	9,488	18.7	14.7

TABLE 21: continued

County	Population of Voting Age		Whites Registered		Negroes Registered		Registered Negroes as a % of Total County Registration
	White	Negro	#	%	#	%	
Monroe	6,631	4,894	5,800	87.5	200	4.1	3.3
Montgomery	62,911	33,056	29,000	46.1	2,995	9.1	9.4
Morgan	30,955	4,159	17,027	55.0	1,800	43.3	9.6
Perry	3,441	5,202	3,235	94.0	265	5.1	7.6
Pickens	7,336	4,373	6,266	85.4	550	12.6	8.1
Pike	9,126	5,259	7,950	87.1	200	3.8	2.5
Randolph	9,196	2,366	7,415	80.6	1,500	63.4	16.8
Russell	13,761	10,531	7,878	57.2	700	6.6	8.2
St. Clair	12,244	2,053	8,200	67.0	800	39.3	8.9
Shelby	14,771	2,889	10,650	72.1	350	12.1	3.2
Sumter	3,061	6,814	2,650	86.6	450	6.6	14.5
Talladega	25,635	9,333	17,866	69.7	2,650	28.4	12.9
Tallapoosa	15,310	4,999	13,600	88.8	700	14.0	4.9
Tuscaloosa	47,076	15,332	22,869	48.6	5,000	32.6	17.9
Walker	28,148	2,890	19,300	68.6	1,200	41.5	5.9
Washington	5,293	2,297	6,000	113.4	600	26.1	9.1
Wilcox	2,634	6,085	2,950	112.4	0	0	0
Winston	8,559	47	7,996	93.4	15	31.9	0.2



The above statistics were taken from a 1961 report of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. The Commission, in turn, took their statistics from a 1960 survey by an Alabama newspaper. Therefore, these statistics should be considered as good estimates only. Percentages over 100% indicate registration roles which have not been purged of dead persons or current non-residents.

The U.S. Justice Department has been involved in legal proceedings, ( or threatened them ) charging discrimination against Negroes, in the following counties:

Bullock	Madison
Clarke	Mobile
Dallas	Montgomery
Elmore	Perry
Hale	Sumter
Jefferson	Wilcox
Macon	

In addition, suit was filed by the Justice Dept. in January, 1965 against the state of Alabama's use of an extraordinarily difficult literacy test as a voter registration qualification.

At present, there are 1,383,000 white people of voting age in Alabama; 69%, or 935,000 of them, are registered to vote. There are 481,000 Negroes of voting age; 19%, or 93,737 of them, are registered to vote.

The Justice Department has succeeded in changing very little despite their massive activity. One of the reasons lies in the federal judges who have jurisdiction in such cases. Judge Daniel H. Thomas of Mobile hears many of the cases, especially from the heavily Negro populated southern counties which are in his jurisdiction. He has, for instance, denied that discrimination exists in Wilcox county where no Negroes are registered, saying; "There is no evidence that Negro applicants were treated substantially different from white applicants...None of the Negroes were intimidated, harrassed, or otherwise abused." Judge Thomas has also complimented the Dallas County Board of Registrars and their activities in Selma.

Governor George Wallace has also been known to step in when the bastions of segregation are threatened. One registrar in Jefferson County reported to the press recently: "I was contacted ... and told that the governor had called her ( the person who had appointed this registrar ) to his office and to fire me for registering Negroes."

To successfully register an applicant must do the following to the satisfaction of a three member Board of Registrars:

- 1) Reside in the state for one year; his county 6 months; his ward or precinct for 3 months.
- 2) Pay state poll tax due for the 2 years immediately preceeding the election in which he wishes to vote. (Poll tax is \$1.50 per year.)
- 3) Read and write any article of the U.S. Constitution.
- 4) Answer 4 questions from a list of 100 questions concerning the U.S. government, politics, constitutional law, etc. The Registrars choose which questions he must answer.
- 5) Fill out a questionnaire about his personal qualifications to register. There are 21 questions in this section.
- 6) Take an oath in support of the U.S. and Alabama, and disavowing connection with any subversive group.

Automatically disqualified are idiots, insane persons, illiterates, and persons convicted of certain crimes.

Registrars are appointed by a State Board, of which Governor Wallace is a member.