New Website for Census Data

Let’s say, for the sake of illustration, that you have wanted to open a nail salon in Alabama’s Butler County and need to know how many teen-aged and adult women live in Greenville and the immediate area.

In the past, you might have gone to the county seat or the local library and started pawing through census records, become discouraged, and given up on the idea. Now, however, thanks to the Alabama State Data Center at The University of Alabama’s business school, that information, plus much more, is available with only a few clicks of the computer mouse. A new website, called Alabama FactFinder, at http://census.cba.ua.edu is now available to the Internet surfing public.

The need for the public to have access to census information about Alabama is very important. In the past, it was sometimes difficult for average Alabamians to get census statistics because they had to go to libraries and other places at a time of day when someone would be there to help find and retrieve the information. But with the advent of the Internet, a lot of things are more convenient. The point of Alabama FactFinder is to make the state’s census information available in such a way that people who have not had a lot of special training in obtaining and using statistical information can find it and use it.

The website offers easy navigation and access to census 2000 information by state, county, place, and census tract. The site provides population characteristics, household characteristics, housing characteristics, social characteristics, income information, poverty status, employment characteristics and detailed housing information. This is a tool that aims at the general public—not statistical specialists. Government officials, people doing research on business opportunities, students and teachers, people seeking grants, the media, and anyone else seeking detailed socioeconomic characteristics about areas of Alabama will find this resource simple to use and full of pertinent tables.
Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

July 26 is the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. On this day in 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed the law guaranteeing equal opportunity for people with disabilities in public accommodations, commercial facilities, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications.

In Alabama in 2000 there were 945,705 people age five and over in the civilian noninstitutionalized population with at least one disability. This is a ratio of just under one in four of the total population of people in that age group, or 23 percent. Disability status was not determined for children under the age of five.

The 2000 census tabulated several kinds of disabilities: sensory, physical, mental, self-care, go-outside-the-home, and employment disabilities. A person can have one or more of these kinds of disabilities. About 50 percent of disabled Alabamians have more than one kind of disability.

Employment status by disability status was determined only for the 16-to-64-year-old population. Go-outside-the-home disability status was determined only for the 16-year-old-and-over population.

Boys and men are more likely to be disabled than girls and women of the same ages, until we reach the most senior years. For example, Alabama has 28,697 disabled 5-to-15-year-old boys, but 16,812 disabled girls. Twenty-four percent of men in the state between the ages of 21 and 64 are disabled, but only 22 percent of women in the same age group. After age 65, women begin to outnumber men. Yet, up until age 75, surviving older women continue to be less likely to be disabled than the men in that age group. Forty percent of 65-to-74-year-old men are disabled; 38 percent of women in that age are. After age 75, the percent of women with disabilities tops the percent of men.

Adults with disabilities are much less likely than their non-disabled cohorts to have completed their education. In the 18-to-34 age group, Alabamians with a disability are more likely not to have finished high school and not to have finished college than the non-disabled population of the same age.

In Alabama 190,624 people have a sensory disability involving sight or hearing. About 2.5 percent of these (4,872) are children aged 5 to 15. The largest number and percent (23,680; 12.4 percent) are over 75 years old.

Alabama ranks fifth in the nation for the percent of its residents who have disabilities, regardless of type. West Virginia ranks number one. (West Virginia also has the highest median age of any state.) The Mountaineer State is closely followed by Kentucky, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama. Counties in the coal mining areas of Kentucky, West Virginia, and Virginia have very high disability rates.

Counts in Alabama with the highest disability rates among working age people are, with the exception of Coosa and Walker Counties, in the Black Belt. In Lowndes County, 37 percent of people aged 21 to 64 have a disability of some kind. Not all these people are prevented from working by their disability. Forty-four percent of
Lowndes Countians with disabilities are working. Other counties with more than 30 percent of the adult 21-to-64 age population having a disability are Coosa (34 percent), Wilcox, (34 percent), Hale (33 percent), Macon (32 percent), Marengo (32 percent), Greene (31 percent), Dallas (31 percent), Bullock (31 percent), Perry (30 percent), and Walker (30 percent).

These data are from Summary File 3 of the 2000 Census of Population. There is additional information by city or town, by age, race, and sex, and by income and poverty status about persons with disabilities. The data are not tabulated by particular kind of disabling condition (blindness, cerebral palsy, Alzheimer’s, etc.) nor are there any data for children under the age of five.

For more information: Go to Alabama FactFinder at http://census.cba.ua.edu. Look under Social Characteristics for summary data. Or you can order the Alabama State Data Center’s Demographic Profiles from Census 2000 CD. This CD has many cross-tabulations of disability data for every county, city, and tract in the state. See order form on page 4.

---

Educational Attainment in 2002

New 2002 data from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) shows that Madison County, Alabama ranks among the top large U.S. counties for educational attainment. Nearly 39 percent of Madison County’s adults over the age of 25 have a college education. This ranks Madison County 39th among all counties in the United States with 250,000 population or more.

The American Community Survey data are based on responses from a sample of households across the nation. After it is fully implemented, the ACS will provide current demographic, housing, social, and economic information about America’s communities every year. As time goes on, we will have information for smaller and smaller areas, giving us more frequent information about Alabama’s small and medium-sized places.

Two other large Alabama counties, Jefferson and Mobile, have a national ranking from the current ACS results. In Jefferson County in 2002, 27 percent of adults had a bachelor’s degree or more. The percentage was smaller in Mobile County–18.7 percent.

The State of Alabama ranks 44th among 51 states, including the District of Columbia, for educational attainment of its adults. On average, 20 percent of all Alabama adults have finished college. Washington, D.C. ranked number one–42.5 percent of adults there have at least one college degree. The national average is that 25.9 percent of adults in the country have at least a bachelor’s degree.

“College seniors in this country should feel confident of their economic future,” Census Bureau Director Louis Kincannon said. “College graduates may expect to earn, on average, nearly $2.1 million in their lifetimes. That is nearly twice as much as those who have only high school diplomas.”
**Purchase the New Demographic Profiles from Census 2000**

The Alabama State Data Center has compiled detailed demographic profiles for all counties, cities, and towns in Alabama, as well as all census tracts in the state. The profiles are available on CD-ROM only. The CD-ROM contains data from Census 2000 Summary Files 1 and 3, with easy-to-install software and user-friendly access.

The data sets are conveniently organized by geography and topic such as the following: income, poverty, age, race, gender, educational attainment, household characteristics, housing, occupation, and disability.

The Demographic Profiles CD is a valuable resource for grant writers, academic researchers, planners, marketing professionals, legal researchers, and government officials.

Cost of the CD-ROM is $25.

**To order:** Make check or money order payable to The University of Alabama and send completed form to: Alabama State Data Center, Box 870221, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0221

Name: __________________________

Address: _______________________

City: __________________________

State: ______________ Zip Code: __________

Email: _________________________

*We also accept selected charge cards. Please check the appropriate box:*

- ☐ Visa
- ☐ Master Card
- ☐ Discover

Name as it appears on the card: __________________________

Card No.: _______________________

Expiration date: ________________

**ASDC News** is a quarterly publication of the Alabama State Data Center, Center for Business and Economic Research, Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration, The University of Alabama. All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor. Permission to copy all or part of this newsletter is granted. Acknowledgment of source would be appreciated.