Forrest County Health Profile
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Mississippi County Health Profile

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MSDH, Office of Health Data and Research
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Introduction

The mission of the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is to promote and protect the health of the citizens of Mississippi. The MSDH strives for excellence in government, cultural competence in the carrying out of our mission and to seek local solutions to local problems.

Mississippi has an estimated total population of 2,984,100 residents in 2017. The state is predominantly rural and divided into 82 counties, with 65 considered to be rural. The racial composition is approximately 59.3% white, 37.7% black or African American and 3.0% characterized as other.

Population health outcomes can be measured by premature death rates, or deaths of individuals before the age of 75, as these deaths may have occurred due to poor health outcomes. The state of Mississippi has the highest rate of premature death in the United States (U.S.) with 500.9 deaths per 100,000 (MS Vital Records, 2016). Many of these deaths are due to chronic conditions. The number one cause of death in Mississippi is heart disease with an adjusted mortality rate of 233.5 per 100,000 population in 2016. The second leading cause of death in Mississippi is cancer with an age-adjusted rate of 187.7 deaths per 100,000 population (2016). The most frequently diagnosed cancer is lung cancer. In 2016, the rate of obesity among adults in Mississippi was 37.3%. In Mississippi, congenital heart disease (CHD) affects approximately 1 in 64 live births (1.56%). This rate is nearly twice that of the U.S. which has a rate of CHD affecting approximately 1 in 125 live births. Mississippi has the highest rate of infant mortality in the U.S. with a total rate of 8.6 deaths per 1,000 live births (2016). There is a large racial disparity in infant mortality rates with the rate among whites at 6.8 and that for blacks at 11.4 per 1,000 live births (2016).

Historically, Mississippi has ranked poorly in a range of health indicators such as infant mortality, obesity, and teenage pregnancy. Statewide, behavioral risk factors including unhealthy eating habits and lack of physical activity have led to increased rates of chronic illnesses. As the poorest state in the nation, Mississippi faces greater challenges than many other states to prevent and combat illnesses. At the same time, there have been some significant public health successes: Mississippi is recognized as a national leader in childhood immunizations. Program development resources, such as the County Health Profiles, assist in statewide efforts to build a culture of health and improve Mississippi’s health status.

This report can be used as a resource to assist in the planning for ongoing and new health programs throughout the state of Mississippi, as well as to inform the general public of their county’s health status.

MSDH is administered at the level of public health regions. However, to be consistent with other surveillance reports, some of the indicators in the County Health Profiles are still presented by public health district.
Population Characteristics

Forrest County Population Estimates by Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>&lt;18</th>
<th>18-44</th>
<th>45-64</th>
<th>65+</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>2013</td>
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<td>29994</td>
<td>16622</td>
<td>9440</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>76330</td>
<td>20612</td>
<td>29505</td>
<td>16519</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>75944</td>
<td>20241</td>
<td>29050</td>
<td>16673</td>
<td>9980</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Population by Age, Gender and Race, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Other Races</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;18</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>1,030</td>
<td>17,703</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-44</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>1,684</td>
<td>31,949</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Other Races</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>16,618</td>
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<td>8,664</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>3,126</td>
<td>74,934</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent of Population by Gender and Race, 2010

Source: U.S. Census, 2010
Social and Economic Characteristics

Median Household Income, 2015

$35,198 (County) vs. $40,630 (State)

Percent of Population Below Poverty level, 2015

26.6% (County) vs. 22.1% (State)

Percent of Population Unemployed, 2016

5.7% (County) vs. 5.9% (State)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey
Educational Attainment of the Population Aged 25 and Older
2009-2013

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, the 2009-2013 American Community Surveys

Percent of Population Uninsured, 2014

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates
Health Outcome Indicators

Percent of Adults (18 years or older) By Self Reported Health Status, 2011-2015

- Excellent: County 49.1, MS 44.1
- Good: County 31.3, MS 32.3
- Fair/Poor: County 19.7, MS 23.6

Percent of Adults (18 years or older) Reporting Hospitalizations For Substance Use Disorders, 2011-2015

- County: 122.1 per 10,000
- State: 52.0 per 10,000

Percent of Adults (18 years or older) Reporting Depressive Disorders, 2011-2015

- County: 21.4
- State: 18.9

Source: 1. Mississippi Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
2. Mississippi Hospital Discharge Data System
## Forrest County Health Profile

### Health Outcome Indicators

#### Percent of Adults (18 years or older) Reporting

**High Cholesterol, 2011-2015**

- **Forrest County:** 39.0%
- **State:** 40.5%

#### Percent of Adults (18 years or older) Reporting

**High Blood Pressure, 2011-2015**

- **Forrest County:** 35.4%
- **State:** 41.3%

#### Percent of Adults (18 years or older) Reporting

**Obesity, 2011-2015**

- **Forrest County:** 33.9%
- **State:** 35.1%

#### Percent of Adults (18 years or older) Reporting

**Current Asthma, 2011-2015**

- **Forrest County:** 9.8%
- **State:** 7.9%

*Source: Mississippi Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*
Forrest County Health Profile

Select Chronic Conditions

Percent of Adults (18 years or older) Reporting Heart Attack, 2011-2015

Percent of Adults (18 years or older) Reporting Stroke, 2011-2015

Percent of Adults (18 years or older) Reporting Type 2 Diabetes, 2011-2015

Source: Mississippi Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
Select Chronic Conditions

Age-adjusted Heart Disease Death Rate by Race
2010-2014

Deaths per 100,000 population

White: 187.8
Black: 239.5
Overall: 201.3

Source: Mississippi Vital Statistics

Age-adjusted Stroke Death Rate by Race
2010-2014

Deaths per 100,000 population

White: 38.0
Black: 63.2
Overall: 43.6

Source: Mississippi Vital Statistics
Forrest County Health Profile

Select Chronic Conditions

Age-Adjusted Cancer Incidence and Death Rate by Year, 2010-2014

Age-Adjusted Cancer Incidence and Death Rate by Gender and Race, 2010-2014

Source: Mississippi Cancer Registry

MSDH, Office of Health Data and Research
Select Infectious Diseases

HIV, 2010-2014

Gonorrhea, 2010-2014

Chlamydia, 2010-2014

Source: Mississippi Vital Statistics
Maternal and Child Health

Percent of Infants Born to Pregnant Women Receiving Prenatal Care Beginning in the First Trimester, Forrest County & State, 2010-2014

- County: 80.2%
- State: 80.4%

Percent of Low Birth Weight Deliveries, Forrest County & State, 2010-2014

- County: 11.4%
- State: 11.7%

Percent of Preterm Births, Forrest County & State, 2010-2014

- County: 14.1%
- State: 15.3%

Source: Mississippi Vital Statistics
Forrest County Health Profile

Maternal and Child Health

Infant Mortality Rate, District VIII & State, 2011-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>9.4</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>10.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
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<td>9.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teen Pregnancy, Female aged 15 to 19, Forrest County & State, 2010-2014

- County: 36.2
- State: 46.0

1. Infant mortality rate at county level was not reliable, so the district level data was used as a close measure for this county.

Source: Mississippi Vital Records
Forrest County Health Profile

**Health Behavior Indicators**

Percent of Mississippi adults (18 years or older) reporting being current smokers, Forrest County & State, 2011-2015

- **County**: 24.0%
- **State**: 24.2%

Percent of Mississippi adults (18 years or older) reporting alcohol use in past 30 days, Forrest County & State, 2011-2015

- **County**: 41.9%
- **State**: 39.6%

Percent of Mississippi adults (18 years or older) reporting always wearing seat belts, Forrest County & State, 2011-2015

- **County**: 86.3%
- **State**: 81.2%

*Source: Mississippi Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*
Health Behaviors Indicators

Percent of adults (18 years or older) reporting received a pneumonia vaccination, Forrest County & State, 2011-2015

[Bar chart showing 60.3% for County and 66.8% for State]

Percent of adults (18 years or older) reporting received an influenza vaccination, Forrest County & State, 2011-2015

[Bar chart showing 55.7% for County and 64.0% for State]

Source: Mississippi Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
Health Behaviors Indicators

Percent of adults (18 years or older) reporting consuming at least five or more fruits daily, Forrest County & State, 2011-2015

- Forrest County: 42.4%
- State: 49.5%

Percent of adults (18 years or older) reporting consuming at least five or more vegetables daily, Forrest County & State, 2011-2015

- Forrest County: 66.1%
- State: 69.1%

Percent of adults (18 years or older) reporting doing physical activity or exercise during the past 30 days, Forrest County & State, 2011-2015

- Forrest County: 30.6%
- State: 34.8%

Source: Mississippi Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
**Data Sources**

**Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)**

The BRFSS is an ongoing, state-based, random digit-dialed telephone survey of non-institutionalized U.S. adults aged 18 years or older. The survey collects information on health risk behaviors, preventive health practices, and health care access primarily related to chronic disease and injury. The BRFSS operates in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and three U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam). Self-reported data may be subject to errors for several reasons: an individual may have difficulty remembering events that occurred a long time ago or the frequency of certain behaviors; some respondents may over-report socially desirable behaviors or under-report behaviors they perceive to be less acceptable (e.g., social desirability or recall bias); respondents may also report certain risks, behaviors and perceptions differently due to their respective cultural and linguistic backgrounds (e.g., non-response) and data might be subject to systematic error resulting from non-coverage (e.g., lower telephone coverage among populations of low socioeconomic status). Additional information on Mississippi BRFSS methods is available at: [http://msdh.ms.gov/brfss/](http://msdh.ms.gov/brfss/).

**Mississippi Vital Statistics**

The Mississippi STatistically Automated Health Resource System (MSTAHRS) allows for the retrieval of vital records and other health related data on Mississippi residents. Deaths are coded using the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10). Death rates are age-adjusted to the projected year 2000 U.S. standard population and expressed as per 100,000 population. Available at: [http://mstahrs.msdh.ms.gov/](http://mstahrs.msdh.ms.gov/)

**QuickFacts Data**


**2010 Census Data**

The Summary File 1 data tables provide the most detailed information available so far from the 2010 Census about a community's entire population, including cross-tabulations of age, sex, households, families, relationship to householder, housing units, detailed race and Hispanic or Latino origin groups, and group quarters. Available at: [https://www.census.gov/2010census/](https://www.census.gov/2010census/)
References


