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ABSTRACT

Demographic profiles of the six SouthEastern Regional Vision for Education (SERVE) states provide narrative and statistical information and identify common themes, priorities, and goals to fulfill the mission of improving education in the Southeast. Descriptions of the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina offer information on several topics: (1) the people; (2) vital statistics and health; (3) families, income, and jobs; (4) crime and prisoners; (5) education; and (6) a demographic profile comparing the individual state to the entire United States. The section on Alabama includes information on the black middle class and economic development, and the section on Florida also covers minority citizens. A summary of the six states precedes recommendations for positive change in the Southeast. Several ideas for strategies and ventures that address problems from a regional perspective to maximize the resources and experiences of all six states are listed: (1) increase the number of high school graduates and adults receiving GEDs every year; (2) increase the number of programs that enhance the opportunities for rural youth; (3) develop "two-generation" strategies so that women who receive services such as adult education or drug treatment can find adequate care for their children; (4) ensure that every eligible child is in Head Start or other effective early childhood program; (5) increase prevention strategies; (6) increase programs that make college a more realistic possibility; and (7) increase programs and policies that support working parents. An appendix provides 25 demographic comparisons of the six southeast states and the United States in areas such as population growth, education, and health. (CK)

SOUTHERN CROSSROADS: A DEMOGRAPHIC LOOK AT THE SOUTHEAST

SERVE REPORT

By Harold Hodgkinson

SERVE

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SOUTHERN CROSSROADS:

A Demographic Look at the Southeast

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Harold Hodgkinson

January 1993

SERVE
SouthEastern Regional Vision for Education

affiliated with the
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ABOUT THE SERVE LABORATORY . . .

SERVE, the SouthEastern Regional Vision for Education, is a coalition of educators, business leaders, governors, and policymakers seeking comprehensive and lasting improvement in education in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The name of the laboratory reflects a commitment to creating a shared vision of the future of education in the Southeast.

The mission of SERVE is to provide leadership, support, and research to assist state and local efforts in improving educational outcomes, especially for at-risk and rural students. Laboratory goals are to address critical issues in the region, work as a catalyst for positive change, serve as a broker of exemplary research and practice, and become an invaluable source of information for individuals working to promote systemic educational improvement.

In order to focus the work of the laboratory and maximize its impact, SERVE emphasizes one of the national goals established by the President and National Governors' Association for regional attention each year. A special three-year project, SERVEing Young Children, focuses on ensuring that all children are ready to begin school. In addition, SERVE responds to other regional needs as identified through needs assessments, collaboration with other organizations, and regular, direct contact with educators in the region.

Collaboration and networking are at the heart of SERVE's mission; the laboratory's structure is itself a model of collaboration. The laboratory has four offices in the region to better serve the needs of state and local education stakeholders. The contract management and research and development office is located at the School of Education, University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The laboratory's information office, affiliated with the Florida Department of Education, is located in Tallahassee. Field service offices are located in Atlanta, Greensboro, Tallahassee, and on the campus of Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi.

To request publications or to join the SERVE mailing list and receive announcements about laboratory publications, contact the SERVE office in Tallahassee (address below).

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PREFACE

The work of the Institute for Educational Leadership's Center for Demographic Policy has included demographic profiles of half the states in the United States; studies of native Americans; analyses of the relation of education, health care, and other social services; and studies of children at risk. The SouthEastern Regional Vision for Education (SERVE) asked the Center to develop a profile of the states in its service area (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina), with particular interest in a variety of demographic and other indicators, including education, health, jobs, ethnic diversity, and wealth.

What follows is a demographic profile of each SERVE state as well as a comprehensive look at all six states together. Education data are not the central focus. Rather, this report presents a variety of information about each state and identifies common themes, priorities, and goals that will help the SouthEastern Regional Vision for Education fulfill its mission of improving education in the Southeast.

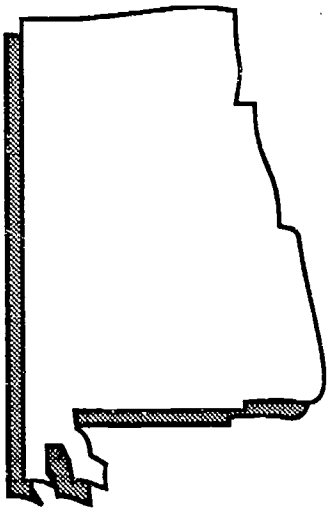
The contrasts within the SERVE area are among the greatest in the nation on many dimensions (e.g., Florida and Georgia were among the top states in population growth during the 1980s, while Mississippi was one of the lowest). Yet there are also parallels. For example, most of the member states in the SERVE area have low rates of cancer, high percentages of blacks, and low Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) payment levels. This study will explore these similarities and differences after presenting profiles of each state. The state profiles are presented in alphabetical order.

A note about citations: providing individual citations for every statistic listed in a demographic study such as this would both hinder the narrative flow of the document and greatly increase its size. For these reasons, sources are listed in the References (p. 77) and are cited in the narrative in only a few cases.

Special thanks must go to SERVE for its support of the Institute for Educational Leadership's Center for Demographic Policy. I would also like to thank the SERVE staff for their comments on the draft version. Janice Hamilton Outtz, Associate Director of the Center, assisted by Anita Obarakpor, Program Associate, was responsible for the research, editing, and production of the report. Errors of fact or interpretation, however, remain the responsibility of the author. The opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of SERVE.

Harold L. Hodgkinson
January 1993

ALABAMA



During the 1980s, Alabama made gains in areas such as higher graduation rates for black students and increased federal research and development funds. In the 1990s, the state will continue to face many challenges in improving its economy and the quality of life of its citizens.

The People

According to data from the 1990 census, Alabama's population of four million in 1990 represented only a 3.8 percent growth rate since 1980, compared to the national rate of 9.8 percent. Proportions of people under the age of 18 (26.2 percent of the population) and over age 65 (12.9 percent of the population) are about the same as national percentages. However, the percentage of minorities (26.8 percent in 1990) was two percent above the national average. In addition, only one percent of minorities in Alabama were non-black during a decade when non-black minorities in the nation increased greatly. The one percent includes 16,506 native Americans.

Among Alabama's youth, 34.2 percent were minority, meaning that there will be a slow increase of minorities in the population as these children grow up. On the other hand, Alabama's youth population is projected to increase until 2000 and decline considerably between 2000 and 2010. By 2010, 35.6 percent of Alabama's youth will be minority (the rate for the nation will be 38.2 percent) and the youth population will have declined from 1,111,000 in 2000 to 1,046,000 in 2010. This decline in young people will indicate a later decline in the size of Alabama's work force.

Alabama's population is about 32 percent rural. The rural black population in Alabama is one of the poorest groups in the nation; this is particularly true for children being raised by single mothers. The largest metropolitan area in Alabama is the Birmingham metropolitan area, which contains about one-quarter of the state's people.

Vital Statistics and Health

The birth rate in Alabama is about the same as the birth rate for the United States, but Alabama's infant mortality rate is high—12 of every 1,000 babies die, compared to the national average of 9.8 per 1,000. Data from the National Center for Health Statistics show that for Alabama's black mothers, the rate of 17 babies dying per 1,000 born is the same as the rate for blacks in the United States, while the mortality rate for white babies in Alabama is 9.3 per 1,000, one percentage point higher than the national average.

Only three states have a higher rate of teen births than Alabama, yet the percentage of mothers who receive late or no prenatal health care during pregnancy is no higher than the average for the U.S. (six percent). This is surprising since teen mothers usually receive much less care during pregnancy. The marriage rate in Alabama is well below the national average, while the divorce rate is higher.

About 32 percent of Alabama's children under the age of 18 now live with single parents, the highest rate in the nation.

There are only 5.7 AIDS cases per 100,000 population compared to 16.6 per 100,000 cases for the U.S. Cancer rates, at 175 per 100,000 persons in Alabama, are a little over the U.S. average of 171 per 100,000. A hospital room costs, on average, $225 a day in Alabama and $315 a day in the U.S. There are only 151 doctors per 100,000 people in Alabama versus an average of 210 per 100,000 in the nation. About eight percent of Alabama's citizens live in areas that are underserved for health care, a rate that varies with the size of the rural population. Nearly 20 percent of the state's citizens have no health insurance compared with 15.7 percent nationally, according to the *1991-1992 Green Index* (Hall & Kerr, 1991).

Families, Income, and Jobs

Alabama's 1.5 million households include 1.1 million family households, of which 858,000 contain a married couple and 246,000 are maintained by a single parent. (Note: households and families are not considered interchangeable in this document. Households include everyone living in a housing unit regardless of whether or not they are related. Families, on the other hand, include only those living in a housing unit that are related by blood, marriage, or adoption.) More than 400,000 households were non-family (people living alone or with non-relatives) in 1990. About 32 percent of Alabama's children under the age of 18 now live with single parents, the highest rate in the nation according to the *Kids Count Data Book* (Center for the Study of Social Policy, 1992).

At $23,357, the median household income level for Alabama in 1990 was more than $6,000 below the median for the United States. While the average annual pay for workers was only $3,000 below the average for the nation in 1990, the household incomes of families with children in Alabama are $8,000 below the U.S. median.

Poverty targets children in Alabama, 29 percent of whom were poor in 1990, compared to 19.5 percent of children nationwide. Only Louisiana and Mississippi had higher child poverty rates. Of all Alabamians, 779,000 were poor, making Alabama the sixth poorest state in the nation. Part of the explanation for the high poverty rates may be found in the smaller than average work force—both men and women in the state have a lower labor force participation rate than in the nation as a whole. The unemployment level, which includes those who are looking for work but cannot find it, was higher in Alabama in 1990 than it was in the United States.

At $114, monthly payments for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) are one-third the national average of $377, partly because of the state's low per-capita income ($14,826 in 1990). Administrative costs for AFDC are also low, at $339 per year per family, compared to the national cost per family of $595. Similar discrepancies exist in Medicaid payments. Partly because of poverty, 990 children in Alabama are in foster care each month.

An encouraging economic indicator is the amount of federal R&D (research and development) funds that go to Alabama. The state ranks a very respectable seventh.

Some 48,000 women in Alabama owned businesses in 1987 (the latest year for which data are available), compared to only 10,000 blacks. Since most jobs are created by small businesses, the need to create opportunities for more minorities and women to open businesses is clearly an area for state effort.

The Black Middle Class and Economic Development

It is important to recognize the increase in numbers of black suburbanites that took place in the United States during the 1980s. In the District of Columbia, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Miami, and Newark, a majority of black residents lived in the suburbs in 1990. Suburbs are defined broadly as areas surrounding large central cities and may include other incorporated cities and towns (O'Hare & Frey, 1992).

In Alabama, both Mobile and Birmingham are in the top 40 cities for numbers of black suburbanites (54,105 in Mobile and 57,897 in Birmingham). Of this group, however, Birmingham and Mobile are the only two cities in which numbers of black suburbanites actually declined during the 1980s. As a percentage of total suburban residents, only 19 percent of Mobile's suburbanites are black; for Birmingham, the figure is less than 10 percent. The black suburban population in Birmingham declined 12 percent between 1980 and 1990; in Mobile, the decline was 0.3 percent. Given the importance of a black middle class in a state that is 27 percent black, it would appear that the state's economic development will require increases in the size and influence of the black middle class.

An encouraging economic indicator is the amount of federal R&D (research and development) funds that go to Alabama. The state ranks a very respectable seventh. Yet, the federal R&D budget excludes defense manufacturing, which provides a large number of very well-paying manufacturing jobs. There is very little "trickle-down" from Alabama's R&D contracts (mostly in Huntsville, with a smattering in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa) to wages in the state as a whole. The state has relied on a poorly educated, low-wage work force to attract textile and other manufacturers, but many manufacturing jobs were lost to other countries in the 1980s. Some of these manufacturing companies are now returning to the U.S. as labor costs decline as a percent of total manufacturing costs, but it is doubtful that many of these jobs will end up in Alabama.

Crime and Prisoners

In 1991, Alabama was housing 15,374 prisoners at an average annual cost of $10,812 each, according to data from the Criminal Justice Institute. The U.S. average cost per prisoner was $22,502. Both Alabama's violent crime rate (591 incidents per 100,000 people) and the number of police (24.8 officers per 10,000) were below the U.S. average. Keep in mind that during the 1980s, no population group increased as rapidly as prisoners; this group rose from 400,000 to 1.1 million people in the nation's prisons and jails. While many states are building prisons as rapidly as possible (California will build 23,159 new prison beds; Texas, 37,800), Alabama is not building any new prisons, and will benefit considerably if dollars do not have to flow into the prison system but can instead be used for other urgent needs that have greater payoffs. Evidence suggests that, nationally, 73 percent of all prisoners released are back in jail within three years.

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Education

Of Alabama's 2.5 million citizens over age 25, 13 percent are illiterate. Although this is a high rate, 15 states have rates that are higher. Sixty-three percent of the adult population had completed high school as of 1990 (the U.S. average was 76.9 percent). Black high school graduation rates in Alabama have increased steadily over the years, although a deficit between blacks and whites still remains, with blacks averaging 54.2 percent and whites 65.9 percent. Even more striking is the college attainment level. Only 11.6 percent of adults in Alabama are college graduates compared to 21.1 percent for the nation. Eight percent of the black population in Alabama are college graduates compared to just over 12 percent for whites; such figures are not likely to tempt many business owners to the state.

A more effective and widespread GED program would allow many Alabama adults to get back on the education track and perhaps attend one of the state's 37 public community colleges. Alabama needs to seek increased college enrollment because it has the highest number of colleges and universities per capita, but the lowest enrollment per campus, of any southern state. Since it is almost impossible to close public college campuses, enrollment increases are the only real answer to an over-built

system. It would also make sense for Alabama's leaders to begin considering education as a seamless web, beginning with kindergarten and ending with postdoctoral studies. Parents who are themselves high school dropouts are very unlikely to produce children who will become college graduates. Parents who are college graduates generally have children who go on to college.

Summary

It would make sense for Alabama's leaders to begin considering education as a seamless web, beginning with kindergarten and ending with postdoctoral studies.

It is in Alabama's best interest to support the growth of its small and declining black middle class. Although Alabama's youth population will rise during the 1990s, the state is likely to temporize on long-term youth services because of the projected swift decline in the number of youth that will occur after 2000. In that year, the number of people over age 65 will begin a rapid increase, forcing the state to reallocate resources to meet concerns of older voters, who go to the polls far more often than do younger voters.

Some suggested strategies to address existing and anticipated problems would include specific programs to reduce rural poverty, small business "incubators" like those now operating in Birmingham, a GED program for Alabama's adults, better linkages between public schools and higher education, and good-faith efforts to fulfill the state legislature's promise that poor children who work hard and get good grades will have a college education paid for by the state.

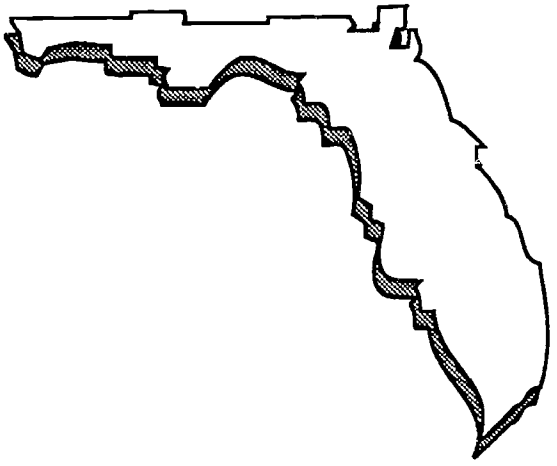
Demographic Profile: Alabama and the U.S. Compared

INDICATORS	ALABAMA	UNITED STATES
Population		
Total population, 1990	4,041,000	248,710,000
Percent change, 1980-1990	+3.8	+9.8
Percent under age 18, 1990	26.2	25.8
Percent age 65 and over, 1990	12.9	12.5
Minority population (as a % of total population), 1990	26.8	24.8
Minority youth (as a % of all youth), 1990	34.2	31.1
Percent of the population living in metro areas, 1990	67.4	77.5
Vital Statistics and Health		
Birth rate (per 1,000 population), 1990	16	16.7
Percent of births to teen mothers, 1989	11.7	8.6
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births), 1988	12.1	9.8
Number of AIDS cases (per 100,000 population), 1990	5.7	16.6
Number of cancer cases (per 100,000 population), 1990	175	171
Percent of population without health insurance, 1988	19.7	15.7
Household Type		
Percent married couple, 1990	57.0	55.1
Percent single parent, 1990	16.3	14.1
Percent non-family, 1990	26.7	29.8
Social Characteristics		
Number of persons in poverty, 1990	779,000	33,585,000
Percent of persons in poverty, 1990	19.2	13.5
Percent of children in poverty (as a % of all children), 1986-90	29.4	19.5
Average AFDC payment per family, 1990	$ 114	$ 377
Average monthly number of AFDC recipients, 1990	129,740	11,240,107
Number of Medicaid recipients, 1989	321,000	22,197,000
Percent of women in the labor force, 1990	51.2	57.5
Number of Head Start enrollees, 1991	12,463	583,471
Crime		
Total prisoners, 1991	15,374	802,428
Average annual cost per prisoner, FY 1991	$ 10,812	$ 22,502
Total violent crime rate (per 100,000 population), 1989	591	663
Number of police (per 10,000 population), 1990	24.8	28.1
Education		
*Per-pupil expenditure, 1991-92	$ 3,486	$ 4,639
Percent of high school students taking SAT, 1990	8	40
Average SAT score, 1989-90	984	900
High school graduation rate, 1990-91 (est.)	67.7	71.4
Percent over age 25 who have completed high school, 1990	63.2	76.9
Percent over age 25 who have graduated from college, 1990	11.6	21.1
Total enrollment in higher education, 1989	208,562	13,457,855
Percent minority enrollment in higher education, 1989	20.2	18.9
Income		
Per capita personal income, 1990	$ 14,826	$ 18,685
Average annual pay for workers, 1990	$ 20,468	$ 23,602

*Current expenditures for regular school term divided by total number of students registered.

Sources: See References.

FLORIDA



Florida has the largest and most ethnically diverse population of any state in the Southeast. Most "Floridians" were actually born somewhere else (many in other countries), and Florida's population is older than that of any other state due to its high number of retirees. Even so, the state's population grew at an extraordinary rate during the 1980s. More than in almost any other state, transience and transplantation are defining characteristics of Florida.

The People

State population growth is as American as apple pie. It gives a state, among other things, more seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and more dollars from the Federal Highway Trust Funds. But while the nation grew 9.8 percent between 1980 and 1990, Florida grew 32.7 percent, a rate that borders on the pathological. Georgia, the only southern state with a growth rate approaching Florida's, grew only 18.6 percent during the same time period. By further comparison, California grew 25.7 percent and Texas a mere 19.4 percent. No other large state grew at Florida's rate. (Even with its 50 percent growth rate, the total number of people in Nevada totaled just 1.2 million in 1990.) Six of the nation's 12 fastest growing metropolitan areas during the 1980s were in Florida. In addition, population growth was spread over almost the entire state.

Between 1980 and 1990, Florida's growth rate bordered on the pathological.

Also in the 1980s, Florida generated more new jobs than people arriving to take them. While growth in the number of people and jobs will continue along the "fast track," places like Naples, Ft. Myers, Ocala, Sarasota, and West Palm Beach will

grow at a much slower rate during the 1990s. For example, if Naples, which grew at seven percent a year during the 1980s, drops to three percent a year during the 1990s as predicted, the effect will be a four percent drop in net growth. A drop in net growth may cause problems for these areas. High growth places share many assumptions (e.g., the cost of services I enjoy will be paid for by me **and** the next taxpayer moving in). Therefore, "pay-as-you-go" financing may well be traumatic for Florida's government and people.

With a population just under 13 million, Florida ranked fourth in population in 1990, and also fourth in population growth. Ninety-one percent of Florida's residents live in metropolitan areas, making it the sixth most "citified" state, including the cities plus their suburbs. Florida ranks 10th in population density, with 239 residents in every square mile, although this is nothing compared to the average of over 1,000 people in every square mile of New Jersey!

Two major components of Florida's population that need to be addressed are that it is ranked 49th for the percentage of the population under age 18, and first in the percentage of people over age 65!

Two major components of Florida's population that need to be addressed are that it is ranked 49th for the percentage of the population under age 18, and first in the percentage of people over age 65! During the 1990s, this discrepancy will continue to increase, causing additional strain on Florida's resources for elderly citizens. Also, 79 percent of the state's residents moved to Florida from somewhere else, compared to Pennsylvania, for example, where almost 80 percent of the residents were born in the state.

Vital Statistics and Health

Florida had 199,481 live births in 1990, or 15.3 per 1,000 people, according to data from the National Center for Health Statistics; this is a low rate, but not the lowest among states (West Virginia had 12.6 live births per 1,000 people). Florida's minority and immigrant populations, which tend to have larger families, helped the birth rate stay near the national average of 16.7 per 1,000 people.

The infant death rate of 10.6 per 1,000 live births was nearly one point higher than the U.S. average, but the rate for blacks in Florida (17.4 per 1,000) was a little lower than the rate for blacks in the U.S. (17.7 per 1,000) as a whole. The infant death rate for whites (8.5 per 1,000) was a little higher than the infant death rate for all whites in the United States (8.2 per 1,000). (Figures for Hispanics were not available.) Since

1980, the infant death rate has decreased, but Florida is still among the seven states with the highest percentage of babies born to women who obtain little or no prenatal care. Eight percent of Florida's babies are born to women who received little or no prenatal care; the national average is six percent.

Nearly eight percent of Florida's babies were born at a birth weight under 2,500 grams (approximately 5.5 pounds) in 1989, another indication of trouble. This rate was slightly higher than the seven percent for the nation, placing Florida among the top ten states for low birthweight. Nearly ten percent of the total births in Florida were to teen mothers, compared to 8.6 percent in the U.S. The state with the highest percentage was Mississippi, where 15.8 percent of all births were to teen mothers; the lowest was Utah, with 4.7 percent.

Surprisingly, Florida, at 33.3 AIDS cases per 100,000, had the **second** highest AIDS case rate in the nation in 1990, behind New York at 45.3 per 100,000 people. The U.S. average was 16.6 per 100,000 in 1990, according to data from the National Center for Health Statistics. Part of Florida's problem is the large number of needle-using addicts, as well as women who turn to prostitution to support their drug habits.

On the other hand, Florida's cancer rate (162 per 100,000) is below the U.S. average of 171, while Florida ranks sixth in the number of hazardous waste sites. (No single demographic indicator in our data correlates precisely with cancer rates, although population density seems to work the best.)

Another surprise in the Florida data comes from the cost of a Florida hospital room—only $277 in 1990 compared to the national average of $315, placing Florida at 24th in the nation. (California ranks first with $452; Mississippi is the least expensive at $162.) Regarding residents' access to physicians, Florida has 203 doctors per 100,000 people, close to the U.S. average of 210. Doctors seem evenly dispersed throughout the state; only 5.6 percent of Floridians live in areas underserved by health services.

Twenty-two percent of the state's non-elderly population was without health insurance in 1988, according to the *1991-1992 Green Index* (Hall & Kerr, 1991). Only seven states had a higher rate. Florida's percentage is almost identical to the rate in Mississippi. Florida's large immigrant and retired populations contribute to the high rate, suggesting some real problems in Florida's health care system in the years to come.

Florida's Minority Citizens: A Special Issue

Of Florida's 12.9 million residents, 3.5 million (27.2 percent) are minorities. However, 36.2 percent of Florida's youth are minority, a figure expected to reach 53 percent by 2010. This will be the highest minority growth rate in the nation. By 2010, Florida will have to reconsider the term "minority" youth when these individuals represent more than half the youth population!

By 2010, Florida will have to reconsider the term "minority" youth when these individuals represent more than half the youth population!

Florida's minorities are about evenly divided between blacks (African American), who comprise 13.6 percent of the state's population, and Hispanics, who make up 12.2 percent of the state's population. (Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.) There are many black Hispanics in Florida, which further complicates identification. In addition, Florida's Hispanics receive far more media coverage than the state's black population, which may give the false impression that there are more Hispanics than blacks. Asians represented only 1.2 percent of Florida's total population in 1990, but are growing rapidly, as are the 1.8 percent of other ethnic groups, which include a large number of people from the Middle East and 36,000 native Americans.

Miami has one of the nation's largest black suburban populations. In 1990, 291,352 blacks lived in Miami's suburbs—the fourth highest number for any city in the nation—and 101,065 more than in 1980. By 1990, West Palm Beach had moved into the "top forty" with 71,460 suburban black residents (an increase of 20,737 since 1980), as had the Tampa-St. Petersburg area with 59,783 (up by 23,422). The difference, however, is that 22.5 percent of **all** suburbanites are black in the Miami-Hialeah area, whereas only 9.8 percent in Orlando and 4.1 percent in Tampa-St. Pete of all suburbanites are black.

Among the nation's metropolitan areas with the fastest-growing black suburban populations, Ft. Lauderdale ranks sixth, Orlando seventh, Tampa-St. Petersburg tenth, Miami twelfth, and West Palm fifteenth. While data are not available on suburban Hispanic populations, it is likely that similar gains were made during the 1980s. Because middle class suburban populations (regardless of race or ethnicity) tend to consist of stable families and taxpayers with higher rates of savings and greater aspirations for their children's education, every white retired Floridian benefits **directly** from a large minority suburban middle class.

Families, Income, and Jobs

Of Florida's 5,135,000 households, 68.4 percent are families—one of the lowest rates among states—with high numbers of single working people and single elderly. Only 54.4 percent of family households in the state contained a married couple in 1990. More than 700,000 single parents are raising children alone. About 28 percent of Florida's children are raised by single parents, a rate exceeded by only five other states. Most children in Florida today will spend some time living with a single parent before age 18.

At only 2.46 people per household, Florida has the smallest household size of any state. In addition, less than one-quarter of Florida's households have a child in the public schools; this percentage continues to decline, which means Florida schools will face substantial challenges in garnering financial support from the public.

Less than one-quarter of Florida's households have a child in the public schools; this percentage continues to decline, which means Florida schools will face substantial challenges in garnering financial support from the public.

At $26,685, Florida's median household income is $3,000 below the median for the nation. The annual pay for workers was about $2,000 below the national average in 1990, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Yet, Florida's per capita personal income of $18,586 was almost exactly the same as that for the United States. If workers are paid so poorly, what is the source of this income? A large amount of it is generated by retirement plans, annuities, stocks and bonds, and other financial resources of the wealthy and the retired. (It is reported that the income from drug traffic is also spectacular, but no reliable figures exist.) Even more than most states, Florida is characterized by a small working middle class.

Florida's poverty rate of 14.4 percent in 1990 is relatively good news; 15 other states have higher percentages of their populations living in poverty. The rate for the U.S. was 13.5 percent. In addition, in contrast to some states such as Michigan and Minnesota, Florida has avoided the virtual doubling of children in poverty during the last decade. The number of children in Florida who are poor increased from 18.5 percent to 19.9 percent during the 1980s, while nationwide this figure increased from 16.0 percent to 19.5 percent. (By comparison, 5.8 percent of New Hampshire's children are poor and 34 percent are poor in Louisiana and Mississippi.) Every month, 3,392 children are placed in foster care in Florida, compared to 41,417 in California.

Nearly 370,000 Floridians received AFDC payments in a typical month in 1990, and the average monthly payment per family was only $263, well below the U.S. average monthly payment per family of $377. At $613, yearly administrative costs per AFDC family are higher in Florida than the U.S. average of $593. (It is not clear why, with payments over $100 lower than the national average, administrative costs should be higher.) Surprisingly, the number of Medicaid recipients (876,000) is somewhat lower than might be expected with such a high percentage of elderly citizens, and the award levels ($2,184) are close to the U.S. average of $2,318.

Of Florida's 10.1 million people 16 years and older, 62.9 percent are working, which is low compared to the national percentage of 66.4 percent. However, the large retired population accounts for most of that difference. During the 1980s, Florida was able to generate more new jobs than the rate of population increase. It is expected that more jobs than people will continue to be found in Florida during the 1990s, although the growth rate of both will decline. The state ranks fourth in receipt of Department of Defense funds, which has resulted in a large number of manufacturing jobs in defense. (At the same time, Florida ranks 50th in dollars from federal grants awarded to state and local governments.) From 1980 to 1988, jobs in Florida increased 42 percent, making it first in the nation on this measure. A large number of these jobs were in the service sector. The table on the following page predicts the most rapidly growing jobs in Florida through 1995, based on current trends.

For every new job created for a computer programmer, Florida will generate 13 jobs for clerks. Star Wars and Mickey Mouse might be appropriate names for these two Florida work forces.

Fastest-Growing Jobs in Florida (Annual Growth) Through 1995

Sales clerks	43,147
Waiters/waitresses	42,792
Office clerks	37,151
Fast food workers	36,099
Guards, doorkeepers	33,602
Elementary teachers	24,757
Store managers	22,170
Nurse's aides	19,231
Kitchen helpers	18,750
Truck drivers	18,517

Source: *Employment and Training*, 1990.

For every new job created for a computer programmer, Florida will generate 13 jobs for clerks. Despite all the talk about an emerging "high-tech economy," it is likely that Florida will continue to develop two work forces: one fed by college graduates working in professional-level jobs and the other fed by high school dropouts working in service occupations.

Star Wars and Mickey Mouse might be appropriate names for these two Florida work forces. Needless to say, the tourism that is the state's largest industry creates primarily minimum-wage jobs, while "high-tech" defense jobs pay much better. Since Florida leads the nation in high school dropouts (according to the 1989 *Wall Chart* from the U.S. Department of Education), it seems that an adequate supply of low-income service workers is being provided. Orlando, Tampa, and West Palm Beach are in the top three in job growth among the 34 largest metropolitan areas in the South. These areas also rank among the top nine best retail markets in the South, but retail workers generally cannot afford to live in the Florida metropolitan areas where they work.

Florida's crime rate is very high. One effective and obvious strategy for reducing the crime rate would be to give Florida's young people an alternative to crime by helping them to complete high school and go on to college.

Crime and Prisoners

Florida's crime rate is very high. While the U.S. average rate for violent crime was 663 crimes per 100,000 people, Florida's crime rate was 1,109 in 1989, ranking a close second after New York. Florida is currently maintaining 44,387 prisoners, at an average annual cost of $22,334 each, for a total cost of close to one billion dollars. The state's return on this enormous invest-

ment appears disappointing. Public security is increased, but most prisoners who are released are back in jail within three years. Crime rates do not go down. Few prisoners learn useful trades, and fewer still complete educational programs. Given the fact that most prisoners are high school dropouts, and given that Florida leads the nation in that category, it seems very unlikely that Florida will see a reduction in its prison population any time soon. As a result, Florida is currently building 3,446 new jail/prison cells at a cost of $66.4 million. If Florida truly wants to reduce its prison rate, it will have to reduce its crime rate. One obvious effective approach would be to give Florida's young people an alternative to crime by helping them to complete high school and go on to college. The trouble with a strategy designed to increase high school completion rates is that, to be effective, it would involve early childhood and preschool programs that would take 12 or more years to prove successful. Building jails can be done in less than a single election cycle and is more likely to get sponsoring politicians re-elected.

Education

In 1990, about 1.8 million youngsters were enrolled in Florida's elementary and secondary schools. Florida spent $4,910 per pupil in the 1991-92 school year, slightly more than the national average of $4,639. About 120,000 of Florida's school-age population had limited English proficiency—a lot, but many fewer than New York's 443,000, Texas' 669,000, or California's 713,000!

Of Florida's 8.3 million people over age 25, 77.9 percent were high school graduates. This rate is a little higher than the national average, but the rate of black high school graduates in Florida (58 percent) was considerably lower than the rate for blacks in the U.S. (64.6 percent). The high school graduation rate for whites in Florida was 80.8 percent, a little over the U.S. rate for whites of 78.4 percent.

The percentage of Florida's population over age 25 who had completed college—19.8 percent—was lower than the U.S. rate of 21.1 percent in 1989. The percent of the black population in Florida over age 25 who had completed college was about half the rate for white adults—10.9 percent compared to 20.9 percent. About 16 percent of Hispanic adults had completed college as of 1989.

If minorities increase as a percentage of Florida's population as rapidly as predicted, they will need to complete high school and

college in greater numbers if they are to make the movement into the middle class. As of 1990, 24 percent of Florida's college students were minority, compared to 36 percent of Florida's youth.

Minorities own 13 percent of Florida's businesses, which is higher than the national average of 8.9 percent. Minority businesses encourage minority employees to obtain further education. The state's expanding population and need to include greater numbers of minorities in Florida's 101 institutions of higher education will increase enrollment pressures at a time when the state's revenues are tight and colleges and universities are being forced to turn qualified students away because of overcrowding.

Summary

Florida's population growth rate declined from 43 percent in the 1970s to 32 percent in the 1980s. Growth is predicted to decline further to about 21 percent in the 1990s. This will be a good thing for a state where growth rates have produced considerable chaos and unpredictability in the last two decades. It is clearly time to catch up. During the 1990s, Florida's elderly population will increase along with small increases in the school-age population. After 2000, the total youth population will level off, but the percentage of minority youth will rise very rapidly, leading to a youth population that will be a "minority majority" by 2010. It will be vital to Florida's long-term future that these young people get a good education and a reasonable shot at a good job, as they will be the majority of entry-level workers by 2015.

After 2000, the percentage of minority youth will rise considerably. It will be vital to Florida's long-term future that these young people get a good education and a reasonable shot at a good job, as they will be the majority of entry-level workers by 2015.

As growth rates subside in the coming years, state and local governments can use "pay-as-you-go" financing and may finally be able to do a little strategic planning. It will be easier to coordinate social services and to target services for specific groups. More small businesses can be started (the state has a good record for new small businesses that stay open as well as businesses owned by women and minorities). Florida clearly needs to set an agenda for creating more jobs that pay well. Tourism can no longer be the largest industry in the state. Business, computers, finance, real estate, and health services are promising areas for increased job growth and for a growing middle class.

During the 1990s, population densities will continue to climb in Florida's metropolitan areas even as growth rates decline. Legal and illegal immigration will continue. Children will continue to be born into poverty and to parents who cannot take care of them. The Panhandle will continue to look more like South Georgia than Florida. The enormous number of cars in Florida will have to be put somewhere, their pollution will have to be limited, drinking water will have to be found or created, bridges will have to be built, etc., all in an economy that is spending more on prisoners than most other states. These things will have to be paid for by the **current** population, not by the smaller wave of people moving in.

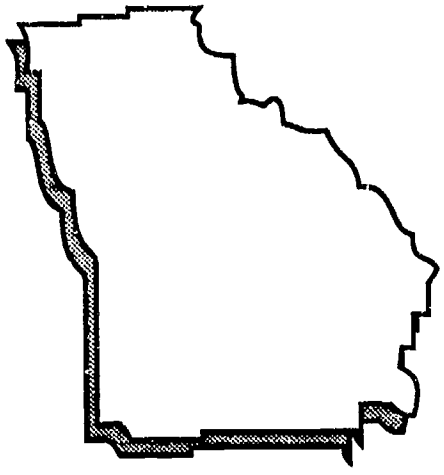
Demographic Profile: Florida and the U.S. Compared

INDICATORS	FLORIDA	UNITED STATES
Population		
Total population, 1990	12,938,000	248,710,000
Percent change, 1980-1990	+32.7	+9.8
Percent under age 18, 1990	24.2	25.8
Percent age 65 and over, 1990	18.3	12.5
Minority population (as a % of the total population), 1990	27.2	24.8
Minority youth (as a % of all youth), 1990	36.2	31.1
Percent of the population living in metro areas, 1990	90.8	77.5
Vital Statistics and Health		
Birth rate (per 1,000 population), 1990	15.3	16.7
Percent of births to teen mothers, 1989	9.6	8.6
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births), 1988	10.6	9.8
Number of AIDS cases (per 100,000 population), 1990	33.3	16.6
Number of cancer cases (per 100,000 population), 1990	162	171
Percent of the population without health insurance, 1988	22.2	15.7
Household Type		
Percent married couple, 1990	54.4	55.1
Percent single parent, 1990	14.0	14.1
Percent non-family, 1990	31.6	29.8
Social Characteristics		
Number of persons in poverty, 1990	1,896,000	33,585,000
Percent of persons in poverty, 1990	14.4	13.5
Percent of children in poverty (as a % of all children), 1986-1990	19.9	19.5
Average AFDC payment per family, 1990	$ 263	$ 377
Average monthly number of AFDC recipients, 1990	368,548	11,240,107
Number of Medicaid recipients, 1989	876,000	22,197,000
Percent of women in the labor force, 1990	55.2	57.5
Number of Head Start enrollees, 1991	19,034	583,471
Crime		
Total prisoners, 1991	44,387	802,428
Average annual cost per prisoner, FY 1991	$ 22,334	$ 22,502
Total violent crime rate (per 100,000 population), 1989	1,109	663
Number of police (per 10,000 population), 1990	33.8	28.1
Education		
*Per pupil expenditure, 1991-92	$ 4,910	$ 4,639
Percent of high school students taking SAT, 1990	44	40
Average SAT score, 1989-90	884	900
High school graduation rate, 1990-91	61.5	71.4
Percent over age 25 who have completed high school, 1990	77.9	76.9
Percent over age 25 who have graduated from college, 1990	19.8	21.1
Total enrollment in higher education, 1989	573,712	13,457,855
Percent minority enrollment in higher education, 1990	24	18.9
Income		
Per-capita personal income, 1990	$ 18,586	$ 18,685
Average annual pay for workers, 1990	$ 21,032	$ 23,602

*Current expenditures for regular school term divided by total number of students registered.

Sources: See References.

GEORGIA



The 1980s were good years for Georgia in terms of increases in the gross state product, the number of new jobs added to the work force, and the size and number of Department of Defense contracts held in the state. Much of the economic vibrancy in the state was manifested in the remarkable growth of Atlanta during the decade. Rural areas and issues in the state, however, showed little progress. While economic development was on the rise, **human** development did not improve, according to data on the number of children in poverty, high school graduation rates, crime rates, and infant deaths.

The People

According to the 1990 census, Georgia was the 11th largest state, with 6,478,000 people. But while the nation grew about ten percent between 1980 and 1990, Georgia grew 18.6 percent, almost twice the national average. Nearly three million of Georgia's 6.4 million people live in the Atlanta metropolitan area, which added 700,000 people during the 1980s and accounted for more than half of the state's growth.

Georgia's large (and poor) rural population is often overlooked. While 77 percent of the U.S. population live in metropolitan areas, only 65 percent of Georgia's residents do. For every urban "hyper-poor" child (living at 50 percent of the official poverty level) in the nation, there is one rural child who is just as poor. In Georgia, the rate of rural youth poverty is even higher.

Georgia has a young population, with 26.7 percent of its people under age 18, compared to the nation's 25.8 percent.

Georgia has a young population, with 26.7 percent of its people under age 18, compared to the nation's 25.8 percent. At the same time, young families from all over the country are moving into Georgia's cities. Because so much of the population is young, there will be more entry-level workers, more school-age children, and more marriages (and seven years later, more divorces). At the other end of the age spectrum, ten percent of Georgians are over age 65. While this figure is lower than the 12.5 percent for the nation, it will increase in the state during the 1990s.

Thirty percent of Georgia's population are minorities, compared to 24.8 percent in the nation. But 36.7 percent of Georgia's youth are minority, suggesting a gradual increase in the state's diversity in the years to come. Black citizens are by far the largest minority at 1.7 million, or 27 percent of the state's population. Asians comprise 1.2 percent of the total population and are increasing in numbers, and Hispanics (of any race) make up a small 1.7 percent. There are 13,000 native Americans living in Georgia.

Georgia's youth population will increase 17 percent from the current 1.8 million to 2.1 million by 2010, but the minority youth percentage will only increase by 1.7 percent. Thus, the percentage of Georgia's youth who are minorities will equal the U.S. average of 38 percent by the year 2010. Georgia will not be a "high minority" state because it has low numbers of Hispanic, Asian, Middle Eastern, and native American minority youth and because Georgia is one of the few states to which young white families are moving in significant numbers.

Atlanta was one of the first metropolitan areas in the U.S. to report that more than half of its black population lived in the suburbs. Currently, the Atlanta area is the ninth largest metropolitan area in the nation, with the second largest black suburban population (462,832); the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area reports 619,239 black suburban residents. Augusta, with 98,489 black suburbanites, ranks 20th for numbers of suburban blacks, but because it is a smaller metropolitan area, Augusta ranks fourth in the percentage (28 percent) of all suburbanites who are black.

The black suburban population in Atlanta grew by 94.5 percent during the 1980s, as blacks as well as whites moved to the suburbs. The number of students in Atlanta city schools

declined from 113,000 in 1967 to 66,000 in 1986; white enrollment decreased from 41 percent to seven percent; black enrollment increased from 59 to 92 percent. The average black student in the city of Atlanta attends a school that is only four percent white.

Downtown Atlanta appears wealthy, but a majority of the wealth is taken home to the suburbs to be spent. Even with the housing initiatives backed by former governor Jimmy Carter, it seems unlikely that the city of Atlanta will see a significant increase in middle-income housing and gentrification.

Atlanta was one of the first metropolitan areas in the U.S. to report that more than half of its black population lived in the suburbs. Currently, the Atlanta area is the 9th largest metropolitan area in the nation, with the 2nd largest black suburban population.

Vital Statistics and Health

Because of its young population, Georgia has the fifth highest birth rate of all the states, with 17.6 babies born per 1,000 people. Unfortunately, the infant death rate is the highest of any state in the nation; there were 12.6 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1988, compared to the U.S. rate of 9.8 per 1,000, according to data from the National Center for Health Statistics. Infant death rates are higher in Georgia than in the nation for both blacks and whites. This is partly due to the fact that Georgia had the fifth highest rate of teen pregnancies (11.4 percent of all births), a large percentage of women who receive no prenatal care during pregnancy, and the fourth highest rate of low birth-weight babies born in the country.

Communicable disease has always been a major problem for Georgia, although it is not clear why. The state ranked second in venereal disease per 100,000 people in 1987. The AIDS rate of 18.9 per 100,000 was the fourth highest in 1990 and nearly twice the rate in Mississippi. The cancer rate was 171 per 100,000, exactly the same as the rate for the U.S.

A hospital room is inexpensive in Georgia—$197 a day compared to the U.S. average of $315. However, fewer doctors are available in the state—only 167 per 100,000 people, compared to the national average of 210. Doctors are also concentrated in the metropolitan areas of the state, with 7.9 percent of Georgia citizens living in underserved, mostly rural, areas. In addition, 18.6 percent of Georgians have no health insurance, compared to 15.7 for the nation. This is a fairly high rate, but those of many other states are higher. And health insurance rates do not themselves explain the higher instance of communicable diseases in Georgia.

Families, Income, and Jobs

Of Georgia's 2.3 million households, 1.7 million or 72 percent contain families. This figure is somewhat higher than the U.S. at large, in which 70 percent of households contain families. Just over one million of the 2.3 million households contain a married couple (55.2 percent), which is equal to the U.S. average.

Over 400,000 households consist of a single parent raising one or more children. Between 1980 and 1990, the percent of children in single-parent households in Georgia rose from 23 to almost 30 percent, a much greater increase than that of the national average, which rose from 21 to 24 percent. Because the rate is highest with younger children, it is very likely that more than half of all children in Georgia will be under the care of a single parent before they reach age 18. The percentage of black children being raised by a single parent in Georgia is higher than the percentage for white children in Georgia (and in the nation). Even so, compared to other white citizens in the U.S., more of Georgia's white children are being raised by single parents.

Single persons living alone and unrelated people living together are less common in Georgia. These non-family households make up 28 percent of all households in Georgia, compared to 30 percent for the nation.

Georgia's median household income in 1990 was $27,561, more than $2,000 below the national average, but it is improving quickly. It is higher than the Carolinas, Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi. Worker pay was only about $1,500 below the U.S. average of $23,602, yet 15.8 percent of all Georgia citizens lived in poverty in 1990, compared to 13.5 percent nationally.

Despite the state's startling economic development, it appears that poverty rates have not been affected. Twenty-three percent of Georgia's children are poor, compared to 19.5 percent of the nation's. Because Georgia's good economic development news did not spread evenly throughout the state, the poverty gap has not lessened.

Nearly 300,000 Georgians receive monthly AFDC payments, averaging $263, compared to a national average of $377. The costs of administering the program are $569 per family per year, which is a little below the national average. Nearly 600,000 people receive an average payment of $2,108 from Medicaid, below the national payment average of $2,318. In 1990, the number of children placed in foster care in a typical month was 2,590, about average for a state of Georgia's size. (National data show, however, that the number of children in foster care is increasing.)

A large percentage (67.5) of the state's 4.7 million adults are in the work force. Women are more often working or looking for work in Georgia than women in the U.S. (59 percent compared to 57 percent). Seventy-six percent of the men in Georgia are working, about the same as the national figure. In addition, 88,000 Georgia women own their own businesses, a fairly high rate. The manufacturing jobs that were once a Georgia hallmark have declined in number somewhat, because many employers went overseas during the 1980s. However, Atlanta has led the way toward well-paid service jobs in health, computer, business, real estate, and other professional jobs.

Atlanta is also becoming the "Chicago of the South"—the major trade, distribution, and retail center for the region, with corporate headquarters everywhere. However, jobs in tourism have also increased in the state, and most of these pay only minimum wage. Even among black workers, there are more rich, more poor, and fewer persons in the middle income range. From Georgia Avenue in Atlanta, where poverty is rampant, the business towers of corporate America are within sight but also light years away. Some serious thinking will have to be done about this image before the 1996 summer Olympic Games come to Atlanta. But while urban poverty in Atlanta is highly visible, rural poverty in Georgia is hidden and just as serious.

Atlanta is becoming the "Chicago of the South"—the major trade, distribution, and retail center for the region, with corporate headquarters everywhere.

Crime and Prisoners

Georgia ranks eighth among the states in violent crime, with 736 crimes per 100,000 people, compared to the national average of 663 crimes per 100,000. The teen violent death rate in Georgia is 80 per 100,000 teens (69 in the U.S.). Although it is a high crime state, 28 police officers are at work for every 10,000 citizens; this is right at the U.S. average. In 1991, Georgia was housing 24,088 prisoners at a fairly high annual cost of $19,344 per prisoner. (Alabama's prisoners cost only $10,812; the U.S. average is $22,502.)

In addition, Georgia has the fourth largest prison construction program of any state, building 7,129 cells at a cost of $218 million. This amount would be enough to provide adequate preschool programs for most of Georgia's poor children. Building prisons may be necessary, but it does not reduce the crime rate. Currently, 159 of every 100,000 Georgia youth age 10 to 15 are in legal custody. This reflects a very large increase during the 1980s. More high school dropouts today are apparently roaming the streets in Georgia, unable to get jobs and likely to get into difficulty with the law.

Education

Of Georgia's 3.8 million people over age 25, 71 percent are now high school graduates. This is below the national rate of 76.9 percent, but is an improvement for the state. Some of this improvement resulted from the numbers of people moving into Georgia with higher levels of education. Only 56.7 percent of Georgia's black citizens are high school graduates, compared to 77.7 percent of Georgia's white citizens. Both black and white percentages are lower than the national averages.

Over twenty percent of Georgia's 239,000 college students are minorities.

Similarly for college graduates, 18.2 percent of all adults in Georgia have a college degree, but only 9.9 percent of blacks do, compared to 21.9 percent of whites. The rate for whites in Georgia is nearly the same as the percentage for whites in the U.S., but blacks in Georgia are behind the rate for blacks in the U.S as a whole (12 percent for the U.S.). Improvements have been made in the percentage of minorities attending higher education institutions in Georgia. Over twenty percent of the state's 239,000 college students are minorities. Black educational improvement has taken place at the high school level far more than at the college level. About 14 percent of Georgia's adults are illiterate; this is a high figure, but those of 11 states are higher. The state has made some real improvement in adult literacy levels, particularly in rural areas where reading services are scarce, but much is left to do.

About 1.5 million children attend Georgia's public schools at a per pupil cost of $4,467; this is just behind the per-pupil cost for the nation ($4,639). About 2.8 million students in the nation have limited English proficiency out of the 41 million total elementary and secondary students. Twelve thousand of these students with limited English proficiency are in Georgia, while 120,000 are in Florida.

The dropout rate in Georgia remains high. The 1989 "wall chart" from the U.S. Department of Education showed a 38 percent dropout rate in Georgia, the third highest state percentage after Florida (41 percent), and Mississippi (40 percent). The average SAT score in Georgia is 844, about 60 points below the national average. More than half of Georgia's high school graduates take the SAT, giving the scores more credibility. (The average score in Iowa, for example, is 1,088, but only five percent of Iowa's high school grads take the SAT.)

A special word needs to be said about the Atlanta Consortium, a group of black colleges and universities in Atlanta, especially Morehouse and Spelman, which are becoming as selective as Wesleyan and Amherst. As black colleges move into the "big leagues," their degrees will be accepted with more and more enthusiasm by business leaders looking for the best talent.

Summary

The 1980s were a splendid decade for Georgia's business development. Centered in, but not limited to Atlanta, the gross state product increased and new jobs and new businesses were created more rapidly than in the nation as a whole. New people came to Georgia, bringing more college degrees, management skills, and wealth. But the city of Atlanta declined in population as the metropolitan area grew rapidly and whites and blacks moved to the suburbs. When the middle class departed, mostly the poor remained. At the same time, more and more of the money made in the city of Atlanta was taken to the suburbs. The efforts to prepare for the 1996 Olympic Games will help make Atlanta's infrastructure better, but unfortunately, will not result in low and middle income housing being built in the city.

Careful strategies need to be developed whereby the state can continue its upward economic development while assuring that all Georgia's citizens fully share in the benefits.

Georgia is still not a wealthy state; recent improvements have not "trickled down" to improve the rates of poverty, crime, incarceration, high school dropouts, or single-parent families, all of which are highly correlated to youth poverty. In addition, many communicable diseases remain at very high levels. Georgia's economic health is increasing according to a wide variety of indicators, but the quality of many people's lives is not improving in a parallel way. Part of the problem is evident in the large and often neglected rural populations as well as inner-city residents. While the black and white middle class is

alive and well in Georgia, many blacks and whites are still living in poverty. Careful strategies need to be developed whereby the state can continue its upward economic development while assuring that all Georgia's citizens fully share in the benefits.

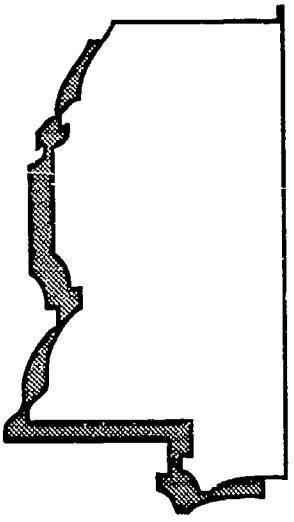
Demographic Profile: Georgia and the U.S. Compared

INDICATORS	GEORGIA	UNITED STATES
Population		
Total population, 1990	6,478,000	248,710,000
Percent change, 1980-1990	+18.6	+9.8
Percent under age 18, 1990	26.7	25.8
Percent age 65 and over, 1990	10.1	12.5
Minority population (as a % of the total population), 1990	30.0	24.8
Minority youth (as a % of all youth), 1990	36.7	31.1
Percent of the population living in metro areas, 1990	65.0	77.5
Vital Statistics and Health		
Birth rate (per 1,000 population), 1990	17.6	16.7
Percent of births to teen mothers, 1989	11.4	8.6
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births), 1988	12.6	9.8
Number of AIDS cases (per 100,000 population), 1990	18.9	16.6
Number of cancer cases (per 100,000 population), 1990	171	171
Percent of the population without health insurance, 1988	18.6	15.7
Household Type		
Percent married couple, 1990	55.2	55.1
Percent single parent, 1990	17.2	14.1
Percent non-family, 1990	27.6	29.8
Social Characteristics		
Number of persons in poverty, 1990	1,001,000	33,585,000
Percent of persons in poverty, 1990	15.8	13.5
Percent of children in poverty (as a % of all children), 1986-1990	23.0	19.5
Average AFDC payment per family, 1990	$ 263	$ 377
Average monthly number of AFDC recipients, 1990	292,951	11,240,107
Number of Medicaid recipients, 1989	582,000	22,197,000
Percent of women in the labor force, 1990	59.4	57.5
Number of Head Start enrollees, 1991	14,798	583,471
Crime		
Total prisoners, 1991	24,088	802,428
Average annual cost per prisoner, FY 1991	$ 19,344	$ 22,502
Total violent crime rate (per 100,000 population), 1989	736	663
Number of police (per 10,000 population), 1990	28.1	28.1
Education		
*Per pupil expenditure, 1991-92	$ 4,467	$ 4,639
Percent of high school students taking SAT, 1990	57	40
Average SAT score, 1989-90	844	900
High school graduation rate, 1990-91	62.1	71.4
Percent over age 25 who have completed high school, 1990	71.1	76.9
Percent over age 25 who have graduated from college, 1990	18.2	21.1
Total enrollment in higher education, 1989	239,208	13,457,855
Percent minority enrollment in higher education, 1988	20.5	18.9
Income		
Per-capita personal income, 1990	$ 16,944	$ 18,685
Average annual pay for workers, 1990	$ 22,114	$ 23,602

*Current expenditures for regular school term divided by total number of students registered.

Sources: See References.

MISSISSIPPI



Unlike in Georgia, the 1980s were not a time of splendid economic development for Mississippi. Mississippi has precious few economic resources to invest. So even though Mississippians sacrifice a greater portion of their incomes for services and development than many other states, there is simply not enough money in the state to pay for what is needed.

The People

Mississippi is our 31st largest state, with a population of 2,573,000. The state grew only slightly in population between 1980 and 1990—2.1 percent compared to 9.8 percent for the U.S. Unlike Georgia, which is 35 percent rural, Mississippi is seventy percent rural. Only Montana, Idaho, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming have a higher percentage rural population. Rural areas are low in density, making services much more expensive to provide. (Meals on Wheels, which provides food to the elderly and shut-ins, can make 20 deliveries in one stop in New Jersey, while in Mississippi it may travel twenty miles between each stop.) Urban populations and their suburbs tend to generate money, education, culture, new jobs, businesses, etc. Mississippi's large and very poor rural population brings economic and human development down.

Mississippi is seventy percent rural. Rural areas are low in density, making services much more expensive to provide.

Mississippi's population is the sixth youngest in the nation, with 29 percent of its people being under age 18, compared to 25.8 percent for the nation. Yet, people over age 65 are at the national average of 12.5 percent, suggesting a smaller than average "working-age" population compared to the U.S. as a whole.

Black citizens comprise 37 percent of the state's total population, the highest percentage of any state. The 13,000 Asians in the state make up 0.5 percent of the total population, 16,000 Hispanics make up 0.6 percent, and 12,000 members of other ethnic groups (including native Americans) make up only 0.1 percent. The total minority population is thus also 37 percent (953,000) of the state's total population. Yet, minority **youth** comprise 46.7 percent of all youth, suggesting that the state's population will become more ethnically diverse (black) in the years to come. Mississippi's youth population will grow from its current 747,000 to 791,000 in 2000, and then shrink to 749,000 by 2010. The minority percentage will increase slightly from 46.7 percent in 1990 to 49.9 percent in 2010.

While Jackson ranks 33rd in the **number** of suburban black residents (58,279), it ranks second in the **percentage** of suburbanites who are black (29.3). However, growth in numbers of black suburban residents has been slow in Jackson, up only seven percent from 1980 to 1990, an increase of just 4,179 residents. It is fair to say that the black middle class is not large in Mississippi.

Vital Statistics and Health

Mississippi's birth rate of 16.4 live births per 1,000 people is about the same as the U.S. average of 16.7. However, almost 16 percent of the babies are born to teenage mothers; this is the highest in the nation and almost double the national average of 8.6 percent. In 1988, 12 of every 1,000 babies born in Mississippi died at birth; again, the highest rate in the nation (tied with South Carolina), even though Mississippi reduced its infant death rate far more than the nation did between 1980 and 1988.

The percent of low birthweight babies in 1989 was also the highest in the nation. Oddly enough, however, only 4.1 percent of all babies born in 1988 were to women who received late or no care during pregnancy. The national average was six percent.

The high infant death rate is not unrelated to a lack of doctors, as Mississippi, with only 125 doctors per 100,000 persons, ranks 49th among states. Also, 13.1 percent of Mississippi's population is in medically underserved areas, many of which are rural. (These are also areas where the non-elderly popula-

tion often lacks any health insurance through private, public, or Medicaid coverage.) Only New Mexico, North Dakota, and Idaho have higher rates. Large numbers of Mississippians are not covered by health insurance: 22.4 percent, compared to 15.7 percent for the U.S.

The AIDS rate for Mississippi is low at 10.7 cases per 100,000; the national average is 16.6 cases per 100,000. Cancer rates are also low, at 166 per 100,000 as compared to the national average of 171 cases. Hospital rates are the lowest in the nation at $162 a day, but many hospitals in rural areas are poorly staffed.

Families, Income, and Jobs

Seventy-four percent (or 674,000) of Mississippi's 911,000 households contain families. This is above the nation's 70.2 percent. About 498,000 family households contain a married couple—54.7 percent compared to an average 55.1 percent for the nation. There are 176,000 single-parent households in the state, which accounts for the higher percentage of family households but smaller percentage of married-couple households. About 30 percent of the children in Mississippi live in a single-parent household compared to about 24 percent in the U.S. A large number of these single-parent households are in rural settings, and a disproportionate number contain black children living with their mother only.

In all four income categories—median household income, median income of families with children, average annual pay for workers, and per capita personal income—Mississippi ranks last in the nation. Even though the state experienced significant improvements in the last decade, these changes were not enough to change its ranking. Not only is the state highest in the percent of its people in poverty (25.7 percent compared to 13.5 for the nation), the percentage of children in poverty is even higher. At 34.4 percent, Mississippi has the second highest percentage of children in poverty in the nation, behind Louisiana. If children are the poorest group in a state, the state's problems are recycled when these young people become adults.

In all four income categories—median household income, median income of families with children, average annual pay for workers, and per capita personal income—Mississippi ranks last. Even though the state experienced significant improvements in the last decade, these changes were not enough to change its ranking.

Of Mississippi's 1.9 million adults, 1.2 million (62.3 percent) are in the labor force. Only Alabama and West Virginia have lower levels of participation. Both men and women are

underrepresented in the work force, producing consistently high levels of unemployment. The state's high unemployment is clearly not caused by people who are not interested in working, but results from the state's inability to generate new jobs, especially those that pay well.

Good news is found in the number of Mississippi women who own their own businesses—28,976 in all. However, only 11,122 businesses (9.9 percent) are owned by minorities. (Note: some double counting is evident here because some of these are minority women business owners.) Since new jobs are generated mostly by small businesses, incubator strategies and other ways of increasing the number and survivability of small businesses may be a source of gradual economic improvement. However, no panaceas exist for Mississippi's economic development.

The state's 171,387 people receiving AFDC in a typical month get a payment of $121. This low amount is about a third of the national average and is due to the lack of state contribution. The state's 406,000 annual Medicaid recipients receive about one-half the U.S. average ($1,168 for the state, $2,318 for the nation). Hospitals in rural areas are reimbursed about one-third less than city hospitals for performing the same procedure. Just as poor individuals experience compounded disadvantages, poor organizations, such as rural hospitals and rural schools, often have the deck stacked against them as well.

Of Mississippi's 1.5 million people over age 25, 68 percent have completed high school; this is a major improvement since 1980 and a higher percentage than in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Crime and Prisoners

Almost 8,000 people are incarcerated in Mississippi prisons, which is not a high number compared to many other states. Similarly, the violent crime rate in the state, 311 violent crimes per 100,000 people, is very low, ranking 35th. (The national average is 663 per 100,000.) Mississippi has low crime rates despite a much smaller police force than other states—only 21.6 officers per 10,000 people compared to the U.S. average of 28.1. Such low crime rates are fortunate for Mississippi, since the state has no extra resources to put into prisons. Indeed, Mississippi is one of only eight states that have not embarked on a major program of prison construction in 1992. It is odd that despite such a low level of per capita income, the usual means of venting frustration as a result of poverty—violent crime, arson, looting, suicide, and drug usage—do not seem common in Mississippi. In other states, expanded costs of crime are sucking money away from education, health care, and other social services. That will not

happen in the near future in Mississippi, and the state may be able to move up in some rankings in the next decade simply by continuing efforts at present levels.

Education

Of Mississippi's 1.5 million people over age 25, 68 percent have completed high school; this is a major improvement since 1980 and a higher percentage than in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee. However, the discrepancy in graduation rates between white and black citizens is striking; only half of all adult blacks in Mississippi are high school graduates while more than three-fourths of white adults are. (Nationally, 64.6 percent of black adults are high school graduates.) The same discrepancy is found among college graduates. However, the college enrollment rates for both blacks and whites are closer to the U.S. averages of 11.8 percent for blacks and 21.8 for whites. Nine percent of black adults in Mississippi are college graduates, compared to 18.5 percent of whites. Nearly 16 percent of the state's adult population are college graduates.

It is crucial for Mississippi's future that high school graduation become a high priority. The best long-term strategy for securing this goal is to ensure that all children eligible for Head Start-type programs become enrolled in one.

It is crucial for Mississippi's future that high school graduation (with a reasonable amount of knowledge and skill) become a high priority. While it has increased the percentage of blacks with high school degrees, the state still has far to go. For the short term, the state can easily increase the 6,000 GEDs awarded each year. The best long-term strategy for securing this goal is to ensure that all children eligible for a Head Start-type program become enrolled in one. Because Mississippi kids tend to drop out early, dropout prevention programs need to be implemented in the sixth grade at the latest.

Additionally, Mississippi might join the six other states who have implemented the "I Have A Dream" notion: any poor young person who stays in school, maintains a "B" average in college preparatory courses, and makes reasonable scores on the ACT or SAT will have his or her college tuition paid for by the state. Costs are not high for this type of program. Several states have created an escrow-type of fund that grows in value during the four years in which the first high school freshmen will become college freshmen and need the money. In Mississippi, such a program, plus early childhood and dropout prevention strategies, could significantly improve high school graduation rates in only 8 to 10 years of operation.

Higher education enrollments in the state are 29 percent black. State responses to the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark ruling (in June 1992) that Mississippi's higher education system was not yet desegregated should help to improve the schools overall. However, there is some concern that the decision will put pressure on the state to close one or more of its three historically black institutions, since the ruling also suggested that the state has too many institutions of higher education (46), and vocational and technical schools (48). In 1992, the state instituted a one percent increase in the sales tax (from six to seven percent), and the legislature mandated that the extra revenues be used for education at all levels. However, the state is in a recession, and it is not clear how many new dollars will enter the system.

Mississippi's high rate of adult illiteracy was 16 percent in 1985. The state is tied with Texas and New York for the highest rate in the U.S. However, Texas and New York have large immigrant populations that raise the illiteracy rates in those states; this is not the case in Mississippi. Although the percentages are not available, a large number of Mississippi's illiterates are likely to be rural blacks. Illiteracy has far-reaching and potentially fatal effects: the highest rates of motor vehicle deaths are in South Carolina, Mississippi, Nevada, and New Mexico, all small states with high rates of illiteracy! Accidental deaths can also result from being unable to read dosage information on medicine bottles, poison containers, etc.

Summary

Mississippi is finding that it is hard to catch up when you start at the back of the pack. High effort does not always pay off quickly; therefore, the indicators used in this profile belie the level of effort that Mississippi has put into improvements during the 1980s. To its credit, the state did not generate a vast deficit during the 1980s as did many states. The gross state product increased faster than the U.S. average between 1970 and 1986, as did SAT scores and numbers of blacks attending college, and there was a reduction in infant mortality. Yet, state rankings remain very low. What is needed in Mississippi is a coherent strategy to achieve some specific state goals (including more early childhood programs, increases in the number of GED recipients, promotion of small businesses, and improved black high school graduation rates) that will last more than one election cycle.

The greatest single inequity seems to be the lack of access to a high school diploma for a majority of the state's black citizens. Because many other states will be in comparably worse financial situations during the 1990s (California's inevitable cutbacks in higher education, for example, will be far worse than anything Mississippi could contemplate), the state may begin to look better in comparison to others. With that may come increasing per capita income, education, health, and social services. Such goals need not be a pipe-dream for Mississippi; a careful, hard-nosed focus on a small number of attainable state goals could make the difference.

Mississippi is finding that it is hard to catch up when you start at the back of the pack. High effort does not always pay off quickly. What is needed is a coherent strategy to achieve some specific state goals that will last more than one election cycle.

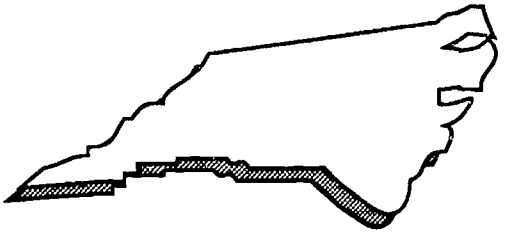
Demographic Profile: Mississippi and the U.S. Compared

INDICATORS	MISSISSIPPI	UNITED STATES
Population		
Total population, 1990	2,573,000	248,710,000
Percent change, 1980-1990	+2.1	+9.8
Percent under age 18, 1990	29.0	25.8
Percent age 65 and over, 1990	12.5	12.5
Minority population (as a % of total population), 1990	37.0	24.8
Minority youth (as a % of all youth), 1990	46.7	31.1
Percent of population living in metro areas, 1990	30.1	77.5
Vital Statistics and Health		
Birth rate (per 1,000 population), 1990	16.4	16.7
Percent of births to teen mothers, 1989	15.8	8.6
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births), 1988	12.3	9.8
Number of AIDS cases (per 100,000 population), 1990	10.7	16.6
Number of cancer cases (per 100,000 population), 1990	166	171
Percent of population without health insurance, 1988	22.4	15.7
Household Type		
Percent married couple, 1990	54.7	55.1
Percent single parent, 1990	19.3	14.1
Percent non-family, 1990	26.0	29.8
Social Characteristics		
Number of persons in poverty, 1990	684,000	33,585,000
Percent of persons in poverty, 1990	25.7	13.5
Percent of children in poverty (as a % of all children), 1986-90	34.4	19.5
Average AFDC payment per family, 1990	$ 121	$ 377
Average monthly number of AFDC recipients, 1990	171,387	11,240,107
Number of Medicaid recipients, 1989	406,000	22,197,000
Percent of women in the labor force, 1990	53.9	57.5
Number of Head Start enrollees, 1991	21,511	583,471
Crime		
Total prisoners, 1991	7,504	802,428
Average annual cost per prisoner, FY 1991	$ 11,394	$ 22,502
Total violent crime rate (per 100,000 population), 1989	311	663
Number of police (per 10,000 population), 1990	21.6	28.1
Education		
*Per pupil expenditure, 1991-92	$ 3,183	$ 4,639
Percent of high school students taking SAT, 1990	4	40
Average SAT score, 1989-90	996	900
High school graduation rate, 1990-91 (est.)	60.1	71.4
Percent over age 25 who have completed high school, 1990	67.7	76.9
Percent over age 25 who have graduated from college, 1990	15.6	21.1
Total enrollment in higher education, 1989	116,370	13,457,855
Percent minority enrollment in higher education, 1989	29	18.9
Income		
Per-capita personal income, 1990	$ 12,735	$ 18,685
Average annual pay for workers, 1990	$ 17,718	$ 23,602

*Current expenditures for regular school term divided by total number of students registered.

Sources: See References.

NORTH CAROLINA



During the 1980s, North Carolina showed good progress in economic development, particularly in its largest metropolitan areas. Job creation and diversification (from manufacturing to financial and business services and retail) was striking. However, improvements in the well-being of the population were much slower. This is especially true of rural areas, where problems of youth poverty, teen pregnancy, etc., remain large and difficult to solve. On the other hand, the state did not lose ground during the 1980s in the "quality of life" of its citizens. New North Carolina residents brought high levels of education and financial resources with them. The black middle class increased considerably. During the 1990s, new pressures will be brought on the state's fiscal resources and infrastructure which will require new leadership for the future.

North Carolina did not lose ground during the 1980s in the "quality of life" of its citizens. New residents brought high levels of education and financial resources with them.

The People

With 6.6 million residents, North Carolina is the 10th largest state. More importantly, it grew 12.7 percent during the 1980s while the nation grew only 9.8 percent. Most importantly, the growth occurred in North Carolina's cities, not in the rural areas where 43 percent of the state's people live. About 20 counties actually lost population during the 1980s. Much of the loss was due to people moving to North Carolina's largest metropolitan areas. While a 43 percent rural population is not as great as Mississippi's 70 percent, it means that almost half of North Carolina's population has not benefited from the state's mostly urban development of the last decade.

Slightly fewer people are under age 18 in North Carolina (24.2 percent) than in the nation (25.8 percent). People over age 65 constitute 12.1 percent of the state's population, which is similar to the 12.5 percent in the nation. One-fourth of the state's population are minorities (about 1.7 million persons), but North Carolina's youth are 31.9 percent minority, indicating a gradual increase in diversity in the state as time passes. North Carolina's youth population will increase from 1.6 million now to 1.7 million in 2000, and then decline to 1.6 million in 2010. The percentage of youth who are minorities will change very little by 2010.

Most of the minority population is black, but numbers of Asians (52,000 in 1990), Hispanics (77,000), and other ethnic groups (120,000, including immigrants from the Middle East and 85,000 native Americans), are increasing rapidly. Many of these new residents came to the state with young children or plan to start a family; even without a lot of additional in-migration, these groups will therefore increase in size. This will mean gradual change in the population of a state in which, traditionally, most of the residents have been living there all their lives.

Much of the black middle class in North Carolina has become suburbanized. The Charlotte-Gastonia area (now defined as a metropolitan area belonging to both North and South Carolina) has the 26th largest black suburban population in the nation with 70,984; Raleigh-Durham is 31st with 58,791; and Fayetteville is 32nd with 58,791. In the percent of suburban residents who are black, Fayetteville leads the nation with 29.4 percent, Raleigh-Durham is 14th with 16.7, Greensboro is 17th with 13.2 percent, and Charlotte is 19th with 11.1 percent. However, the rate of increase in black suburbanites in the last decade has been slower than that of other metropolitan areas in the nation. The number of black suburbanites in Greensboro increased by 12,341 between 1980 and 1990, in Fayetteville by only 6,784, in the Raleigh-Durham area by 4,815, and in Charlotte by 2,974. This suggests that the black suburban population that increased dramatically during the 1970s did not sustain this level of growth during the 1980s, even though North Carolina's suburbs grew at a rapid rate in the 1980s.

Vital Statistics and Health

Over 100,000 babies were born in North Carolina in 1990; this number represents 15.8 births per 1,000 people and ranks North Carolina 34th in birth rate (the birth rate for the U.S. is 16.7). The

state's rate of births to teenage mothers is the seventh highest in the nation, at 10.8 percent of all births. Infant mortality is also higher in North Carolina than in the U.S., both for blacks (19.5 infant deaths per 1,000 births) and whites (9.6 infant deaths per 1,000 births). The nation's black infant death rate (17.7) is also more than twice the infant death rate for whites (8.2). The problem in North Carolina is not that mothers get late or no prenatal care; in North Carolina only 5.6 percent of the mothers in the state get late or no prenatal care, compared to 6.1 percent of mothers in the U.S. More low birthweight babies are born in North Carolina (8.1 percent) than in the nation (7.0 percent). Black mothers, even those with proper nutrition and from middle class backgrounds, produce more low-birthweight infants than the national average, which is a problem deserving more research.

The AIDS case rate in North Carolina is only 9 per 100,000 people, compared to the national average of 16.6. (Generally, states with large rural populations tend to have low AIDS rates.) The cancer rate of 164 per 100,000 is also under the national average of 171. As with most southern states, the cost of a hospital room is well below the U.S. average—$215 a day in North Carolina, compared to $315 a day in the nation.

With 179 doctors available per 100,000 people in North Carolina, access to a doctor in the state is only a little below the national average of 210. Despite the large rural population, only 6.3 percent of North Carolinians are in underserved areas, suggesting that health care is fairly evenly distributed in the state. In addition, only 14.8 percent of the state's residents are without health insurance, which is lower than the nation's 15.7 percent. Several sources have indicated that the state contains 100,000 outhouses, ranking it number one in this dubious area.

Despite a large rural population, only 6.3 percent of North Carolinians are in underserved areas, suggesting that health care is fairly evenly distributed in the state.

Families, Income, and Jobs

The state's 2,517,000 households contain 1,812,000 families (72 percent of all households), which is slightly above the U.S. amount. Fifty-six percent of North Carolina's families contain a married couple, which is again just above the national percentage. Nearly 400,000 households, or about 15 percent, contain a single parent with children. This figure is above the percentage for the U.S. and is increasing rapidly. Twenty-eight percent of all households are non-family households.

In 1990, according to data from the national Center for Health Statistics, there were 52,070 marriages in the state and 34,017 divorces. This marriage rate (7.8 per 1,000 people) is low compared to 16.7 for the nation, while the divorce rate is above the national rate. Thus divorces are increasing in North Carolina faster than in the U.S. as a whole, leading to even more single-parent families, which are almost always headed by mothers. (Single-parent families have about one-third the income of households with two adults.)

Household income was $26,329 in 1990, about $3,000 below the nation's $29,943. As with most southern "right to work" states, the $20,220 average pay for workers was below the $23,602 national figure. Over 800,000 people (13 percent) are below the poverty line in North Carolina, about the same as the U.S. average. While 19.5 percent of all poor persons in the U.S. are children, only 18 percent are such in North Carolina. During the 1980s, the state did not lose ground in terms of children at risk, even though little progress was made in lowering infant mortality rates, teen pregnancy rates, and the number of children in single-parent households.

Nearly five million people are over age 18 in North Carolina, and 3.4 million (68 percent) are in the work force (66.4 percent of the total U.S. population is in the work force). The percentage of females in the work force—60.1—is high at almost three percentage points greater than the national rate of 57.5 percent. Unemployment rates are about one percentage point below the rate for the nation. In addition, a hefty 93,532 businesses in North Carolina are owned by women, compared to 24,149 owned by minorities (some of whom are female minorities). North Carolina is 41st in business failures; a very large percentage of the state's new businesses apparently have a good chance of surviving. The biggest problem has been the loss of high-paying manufacturing jobs, which have been replaced by low-paying service jobs. At the same time, however, the Raleigh-Durham area and Charlotte have created new "high end" services in health technology, business, finance, etc. The Raleigh-Durham Research Triangle is the best example of this set of new ventures.

North Carolina is 41st in business failures; a very large percentage of the state's new businesses apparently have a good chance of surviving.

Projections are that North Carolina's population will increase by 9.8 percent by 2000, while jobs will increase 14.6 percent. The major cities of Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh, and Durham all grew during the 1980s, as did their mostly suburban metropolitan areas. This is unusual, given the general trend in the nation of cities declining as suburbs expand. If the cities can remain viable sources of new jobs as well as decent housing, the state's future will be bright.

Crime and Prisoners

North Carolina ranks 20th in violent crime, with 546 crimes per 100,000 people. The state housed 18,616 prisoners in 1991 at an annual cost of $24,113 per prisoner for a total of $448 million a year. In 1987, North Carolina averaged 256 prisoners per 100,000 people, which was the highest rate in the nation. In addition, the state is now building 4,328 new prison cells at a cost of another $150 million. Despite high rates of incarceration, North Carolina had only 25.4 police officers per 10,000 people in 1990, which is lower than the U.S. average of 27 officers per 10,000 people. The large number of prisoners is something of a mystery, but it is a most expensive mystery for the state. Housing prisoners is a massive investment with no clearly demonstrable return. A better option is to increase the rate of high school graduation so that more young people have alternatives to crime for making a living.

The major cities of Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh, and Durham all grew during the 1980s. If the cities can remain viable sources for new jobs as well as decent housing, the state's future will be bright.

Education

Of North Carolina's 4.1 million people over age 25, 71.3 percent are high school graduates, compared to 76.9 percent for the nation. Nearly 60 percent of the state's black adults are high school graduates as are 74.6 percent of white adults. (Nationally, 64.6 percent of black adults are high school graduates, compared to 78.4 percent for whites.)

In higher education, 18.3 percent of the state's adults are college graduates: 9.5 percent are black and 20.5 percent are white. (Nationally, 21.1 percent of adults are college graduates; 11.8 percent are black and 21.8 percent are white.) In addition, 14 percent of North Carolina's population is illiterate, well above the percentage for the nation.

From 1980 to 1990, K-12 enrollments in the state dropped only 4 percent, while enrollments nationally dropped more than 11 percent. From 1990 to 2000, there will be a gradual increase in numbers of North Carolina youth, followed by a downturn between 2000 and 2010. The state ranked 37th in the percentage of youth graduating from high school. Only 10.1 percent of school children were in special classes for the handicapped, ranking 36th. In addition, per pupil expenditures in the 1990-91 school year in North Carolina were $4,805; this is slightly higher than the average of $4,639 for the U.S.

Moving on to higher education, 345,401 students, 20.6 percent of whom were minorities, were enrolled in 126 colleges and universities in North Carolina. Tuition has deliberately been kept low in public colleges. Higher education has been a vital force in the economic diversification of the state, although it has been focused on the excellence of the "flagship" campus in Chapel Hill. Community colleges have played a key role in educating a more diversified work force as well as in providing literacy training for adults in more than 700 sites around the state.

Summary

What has happened in North Carolina can be summed up in one sentence: North Carolina's metropolitan populations benefited from economic improvements during the 1980s, while more than 40 percent of the population living in rural areas of the state did not. In the past, being a "low wage" state attracted businesses to North Carolina ("low wage" means poorly educated). There are still many poorly educated workers in North Carolina who will become a detriment to the state's development in profitable manufacturing. Labor costs are declining as a percentage of manufacturing costs, meaning that states and nations with cheap workers will not have the built-in advantage they have had in the past. The 1980s were a decade of diversification, away from manufacturing and toward business, financial, and professional services. The Research Triangle in the state served an important symbolic role as well as a pragmatic one in this development. Partly because the state could begin to compete successfully for federal contracts, especially in R&D, during the 1980s large numbers of new people came to the state, bringing new skills, new resources, and new energy to the economic development scene.

North Carolina's metropolitan populations benefited from economic improvements during the 1980s, while most of the more than 40 percent of the population living in rural areas of the state did not.

Despite all this development in the cities, North Carolina's rural people live just about as they did in 1980. Unfortunately, the issues of the rural disadvantaged in North Carolina are not politically appealing. Few political advantages result from dealing with the problems of rural poor people who probably will not vote, are hard to organize, and certainly cannot afford to contribute to a political war chest. This may explain why, during the 1980s, the state progressed so far in economic development, yet did not make comparable progress in human development.

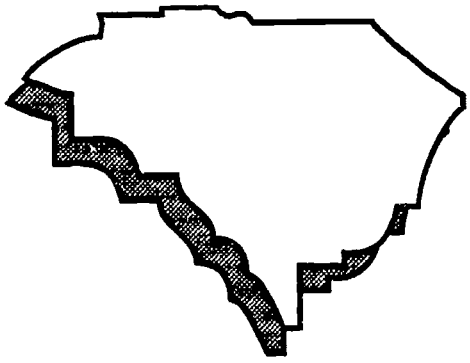
Demographic Profile: North Carolina and the U.S. Compared

INDICATORS	NORTH CAROLINA	UNITED STATES
Population		
Total population, 1990	6,629,000	248,710,000
Percent change, 1980-1990	+12.7	+9.8
Percent under age 18, 1990	24.2	25.8
Percent age 65 and over, 1990	12.1	12.5
Minority population (as a % of total population), 1990	25.1	24.8
Minority youth (as a % of all youth), 1990	31.9	31.1
Percent of population living in metro areas, 1990	56.7	77.5
Vital Statistics and Health		
Birth rates (per 1,000 population), 1990	15.8	16.7
Percent of births to teen mothers, 1989	10.8	8.6
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births), 1988	12.5	9.8
Number of AIDS cases (per 100,000 population), 1990	9.0	16.6
Number of cancer cases (per 100,000 population), 1990	164	171
Percent of population without health insurance, 1988	14.8	15.7
Household Type		
Percent married couple, 1990	56.6	55.1
Percent single parent, 1990	15.4	14.1
Percent non-family, 1990	28.0	29.8
Social Characteristics		
Number of persons in poverty, 1990	829,000	33,585,000
Percent of persons in poverty, 1990	13.0	13.5
Percent of children in poverty (as a % of all children), 1986-1990	18.0	19.5
Average AFDC payment per family, 1990	$ 238	$ 377
Average monthly number of AFDC recipients, 1990	223,035	11,240,107
Number of Medicaid recipients, 1989	487,000	22,197,000
Percent of women in the labor force, 1990	60.1	57.5
Number of Head Start enrollees, 1991	13,438	583,471
Crime		
Total prisoners, 1991	18,616	802,428
Average annual cost per prisoner, FY 1991	$ 24,113	$ 22,502
Total violent crime rate (per 100,000 population), 1989	546	663
Number of police (per 10,000 population), 1990	25.4	28.1
Education		
*Per-pupil expenditure, 1991-92	$ 4,805	$ 4,639
Percent of high school students taking SAT, 1990	55	40
Average SAT score, 1989-90	841	900
High school graduation rate, 1990-91 (est.)	68.8	71.4
Percent over age 25 who have completed high school, 1990	71.3	76.9
Percent over age 25 who have graduated from college, 1990	18.3	21.1
Total enrollment in higher education, 1989	345,401	13,457,855
Percent minority enrollment in higher education, 1989	20.6	18.9
Income		
Per-capita personal income, 1990	$ 16,203	$ 18,685
Average annual pay for workers, 1990	$ 20,220	$ 23,602

*Current expenditures for regular school term divided by total number of students registered.

Sources: See References.

SOUTH CAROLINA



Level of effort is seldom measured by results. This is particularly true for South Carolina. The level of effort used to raise SAT scores was heroic, with an actual increase of 43 points in the 1980s, yet the state still remains last in SAT rankings. One lesson to be learned is that when new opportunities are first opened up, it takes time for people just to "learn the game" and to participate. South Carolina's economy has changed less than that of either Georgia or North Carolina, even though the level of effort has been similar. South Carolina's per capita income increased 19 percent between 1982 and 1988—the 18th highest increase in the nation—yet its 1988 per capita income of $11,102 ranked only 41st in the nation. As budgets get even tighter in the 1990s, South Carolinians may succumb to a tendency to "hunker down" and reduce or ignore efforts to achieve the state's major reform goals such as those seen in the Education Improvement Act. Good things do happen in South Carolina, but they happen slowly.

The People

The state's 3.5 million people give South Carolina the 25th largest population in the United States. Its 11.7 percent growth rate during the 1980s was larger than the nation's 9.8 percent. Twenty-seven percent (a low rate) of South Carolina's residents were born in another state. Most South Carolinians were born there. In-migration has been slow; between 1980 and 1990, 96,000 people moved to South Carolina (230,000 moved to North Carolina).

Sixty percent of the state's population live in cities; this is well below the nation's 77.5 percent. Still, only forty percent of the state's population live in rural areas. (The urban percentage of a state predicts economic development pretty well.)

Twenty-six percent of South Carolina's population is under age 18, one percent higher than the nation at large, and 11 percent are over age 65—one percent lower than in the nation. However, the elderly in South Carolina will increase in numbers over the next 20 years as the number of youths declines steadily. South Carolina's youth population will increase from its present 946,000 to 968,000 by 2000 and will then decline to 931,000 by 2010. The minority percentage of youth will remain at 39 to 40 percent until 2010.

Nearly one-third of the state's citizens are minorities. Over one million (29.8 percent) of the state's people are black. Less than one percent (0.6) are Asian, nearly one percent (0.9) are Hispanic, and 8,000 are native American. Because 31 percent of South Carolina's people are minorities, but 39.8 percent of the state's youth are, a gradual increase in the minority percentage of the total population will occur as the minority young people become adults.

South Carolina has a sizable black middle class. Over 100,000 of Charleston's black residents live in the suburbs, making it the 19th largest black suburban population in the U.S. Columbia has 95,069 black suburban residents (23rd largest); Greenville has the 25th largest black suburban population with 71,005 people; and Charlotte-Gastonia has 70,984 black suburbanites. With 28 percent, Charleston ranks third in percentage of suburbanites who are black. For contrast, Tampa, Florida, suburbs are only four percent minority. Most of the black suburban growth in Charleston and Columbia was accomplished before 1980; each city added only about 18,000 black suburbanites during the last decade. Almost ten percent of all businesses in the state were black-owned in 1987.

Vital Statistics and Health

The birth rate in South Carolina of 15.9 per 1,000 people is about one baby below the U.S. average of 16.7. However, births to teenage mothers are the third highest in the nation; only Mississippi and Louisiana have higher rates. The infant death rate is one of the four highest in the nation at 12.3 deaths

per 1,000 births. The birth rate for whites is a little higher than the rate for the United States, while the rate for blacks is a trifle lower. Ten percent of all babies in the state are born to mothers who had either late or no care during pregnancy; this is the fourth highest rate in the nation. South Carolina's 9.2 percent of low birthweight babies is topped only by Mississippi's 9.4 percent.

Only 7.4 percent of the state's people are in underserved areas for health care, according to The Green Index. A rural health care delivery system seems to be reasonably effective in South Carolina.

The AIDS rate in South Carolina (10.7 cases per 100,000) is well below the 16.6 cases for the nation. The cancer rate of 169 cases per 100,000 is a little under the national rate of 171. Hospital rooms are quite cheap at $212 a day (compared to $315 for the nation), but doctors are hard to find; only 156 physicians are available per 100,000 people in South Carolina compared to 210 in the U.S.

Surprisingly, the percentage of the population without health insurance in South Carolina (15) is the same as the percentage for the U.S. and the lowest rate of the SERVE states with the exception of North Carolina. Also only 7.4 percent of the state's people are in underserved areas for health care, according to the *1991-1992 Green Index* (Hall & Kerr, 1991). A rural health care delivery system seems to be fairly effective in South Carolina.

Families, Income, and Jobs

The 1.3 million households in the state contain 928,000 families, of which 710,000 are married couples (56.4 percent of all households). Single parents make up 200,000 households, and 330,000 households contain singles and unrelated persons. About 26 percent of the state's children are in single-parent settings, compared to 24 percent for the nation. There are 1,245 South Carolina children in foster care in any given month. While there are currently about four marriages per divorce, the divorce rate is increasing rapidly in South Carolina, suggesting a future increase in numbers of children in poverty.

At $15,099, South Carolina ranked 42nd in per capita personal income in 1990. (Surprisingly, the state ranked 18th in the increase in per capita income that took place between 1982 and 1988.) More than 500,000 people (16.2 percent of the population) in South Carolina have incomes below the poverty line. This is the 11th highest poverty rate in the nation. Twenty-two percent of the state's children were poor in 1990, which is the

ninth highest ranking. Children are bearing a disproportionate share of poverty in South Carolina, as in almost all other states.

Over 100,000 families received an average of $206 in AFDC in a typical month, which is the seventh smallest payment in the nation. Nearly 300,000 people receive Medicaid payments, at an average of $2,006.

The state increased the number of non-agricultural jobs between 1980 and 1988 by 21.8 percent; this was the 14th highest rate of increase in the nation.

Of South Carolina's 2,599,000 people over age 16, 1,724,000 (or 66.3 percent) were working or looking for work. The percentage of women in the labor force is a little higher than the rate for the nation, while the percentage of men is a little lower. The unemployment rate is generally lower in South Carolina than in the rest of the nation. There is little doubt that South Carolinians want to work, and the state increased the number of non-agricultural jobs between 1980 and 1988 by 21.8 percent; this was the 14th highest rate of increase in the nation. (But per capita income, which also increased, remained very low in the state rankings.) However, since per capita income ranks so low, many of South Carolina's jobs apparently do not pay very well. While any job is better than no job at all, the state needs to create more middle-income jobs over the next decade and beyond.

Crime and Prisoners

South Carolina currently houses 17,233 prisoners at an annual cost of $17,008 each, spending $293 million a year on incarceration. The state is also in the process of building 4,496 additional beds in prisons, at a cost of $136 million. Thus, the state is spending almost half a billion dollars just on prisoner maintenance and jail construction. This is a heavy bill for a state without a lot of money. The money spent on each prisoner could support four or five college students or Head Start children for a year, for which the direct return to the state in increased taxable wealth would be far superior.

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South Carolina has a high violent crime rate of 814 per 100,000 people; this is the sixth highest rate in the nation. The violent crime problem is not a youth problem, as the rate of arrested juveniles is below the U.S. average. The number of police officers, 24.3 per 10,000 persons in South Carolina, is well below the U.S. average of 28.1.

Education

Most of South Carolina's 2,212,000 people over age 25 are not well educated. Only 69.8 percent have received a high school diploma (versus 76.9 percent for the nation). This low high school graduation rate holds true for both South Carolina blacks (59 percent, compared to 64.6 percent in the nation) and whites (72.9 versus 78.4 percent).

At the college level, only 16.6 percent of South Carolina's adults are college graduates, compared to 21.1 percent of all adults in the nation. Less than seven percent of blacks in the state are college graduates, compared to the national rate of 11.8 percent. Only 19.8 percent of the state's white adults are college graduates, compared to 21.8 percent of all whites in the U.S. Both blacks and whites graduate from college at a slower rate than in many other states.

Despite its limited assets, South Carolina allocates more than most states to support public schools. That South Carolina was able to commit such resources to education represents a serious commitment to education.

Per pupil expenditure as a percent of per capita income is a good measure of a state's efforts to improve; on this measure South Carolina emerges 17th, even though the state is 40th in actual dollars of support per pupil. This means that, despite its limited assets, South Carolina allocates more than most states to support public schools. In addition, teacher salaries have improved; South Carolina was 44th in 1983-84 and moved up to 34th in 1989-90. That South Carolina was able to commit such resources to education when it ranked eighth in the number of poor students, fifth in WIC-eligible children, and ninth in kids eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program represents a serious commitment to education.

South Carolina has 64 colleges and universities, enrolling over 145,000 undergraduates and 19,000 graduate and professional students. Such data may suggest that the state has too many higher education institutions, with far too much program duplication. In addition, courts have ruled that more needs to be done regarding desegregation in higher education. Six campuses were elevated from colleges to universities in 1992. This strategy, last seen during the late 1960s and early 1970s, is an attempt to increase a school's attractiveness for faculty and students. Collaborative activity with the state's public elementary and secondary schools represents an unfinished agenda, just as higher education's role in the Educational Improvement Act was not well-defined. The state needs to recognize that it is actually supporting a single educational

system, from kindergarten through graduate school, and reflect this view in its planning.

Summary

With very few resources, South Carolina has made considerable efforts to offer a better life for its people.

South Carolina can set many reachable goals for the year 2000. It can try to cut the dropout rate in half, increase college-going and workplace skills, increase children's readiness for first grade, and structure some careful collaboration between schools and higher education. Additional goals may include increasing the number of high school graduates and GED recipients, creating incubators for new small businesses to generate new jobs, and focusing on preventive health care to reduce infant mortality and teen pregnancy. With very few resources, South Carolina has made considerable efforts to offer a better life for its people. Its progress is more visible in education than in health care or new jobs creation, but the state is on its way.

So far the indicators have not shifted in favor of the state's large number of at-risk youth. This could be changed through such efforts as reducing the number of children living in poverty, enrolling all eligible three- to four-year-olds in Head Start or similar programs, reducing teen pregnancy and infant mortality rates, reducing the number of violent crimes, increasing the production of GEDs, increasing high school and college graduation rates, and reducing adult illiteracy.

The most difficult problems for South Carolina are located in the rural areas of the state, where both black and white citizens live shorter and more difficult lives. In addition, the ever-expanding prison population takes money away from other much-needed initiatives: health, education, and the creation of new jobs and businesses. Hopefully, people in the cities will continue to improve their income and standard of living, and this trend will be helpful to the state as a whole.

Demographic Profile: South Carolina and the U.S. Compared

INDICATORS	SOUTH CAROLINA	UNITED STATES
Population		
Total population, 1990	3,487,000	248,710,000
Population change, 1980-1990	+11.7	+9.8
Percent under age 18, 1990	26.4	25.8
Percent age 65 and over, 1990	11.4	12.5
Minority population (as a % of the total population), 1990	31.6	24.8
Minority youth (as a % of all youth), 1990	39.8	31.1
Percent of the population living in metro areas, 1990	60.6	77.5
Vital Statistics and Health		
Birth rate (per 1,000 population), 1990	15.9	16.7
Percent of births to teen mothers, 1989	12.0	8.6
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births), 1988	12.3	9.8
Number of AIDS cases (per 100,000 population), 1990	10.7	16.6
Number of cancer cases (per 100,000 population), 1990	169	171
Percent of the population without health insurance, 1988	15.3	15.7
Household Type		
Percent married couple, 1990	56.4	55.1
Percent single parent, 1990	17.4	14.1
Percent non-family, 1990	26.2	29.8
Social Characteristics		
Number of persons in poverty, 1990	548,000	33,585,000
Percent of persons in poverty, 1990	16.2	13.5
Percent of children in poverty (as a % of all children), 1986-90	22.4	19.5
Average AFDC payment per family, 1990	$ 206	$ 377
Average monthly number of AFDC recipients, 1990	110,146	11,240,107
Number of Medicaid recipients, 1989	277,000	22,197,000
Percent of women in the labor force, 1990	58.7	57.5
Number of Head Start enrollees, 1991	8,544	583,471
Crime		
Total prisoners, 1991	17,233	802,428
Average annual cost per prisoner, FY 1991	$ 17,008	$ 22,502
Total violent crime rate (per 100,000 population), 1989	814	663
Number of police (per 10,000 population), 1990	24.3	28.1
Education		
*Per-pupil expenditure, 1991-92	$ 4,177	$ 4,639
Percent of high school students taking SAT, 1990	54	40
Average SAT score, 1989-90	834	900
High school graduation rate, 1990-91 (est.)	65.0	71.4
Percent over age 25 who have completed high school, 1990	69.8	76.9
Percent over age 25 who have graduated from college, 1990	16.6	21.1
Total enrollment in higher education, 1989	145,730	13,457,855
Percent minority enrollment in higher education, 1989	21.7	18.9
Income		
Per-capita personal income, 1990	$ 15,099	$ 18,685
Average annual pay for workers, 1990	$ 19,669	$ 23,602

*Current expenditures for regular school term divided by total number of students registered.

Sources: See References.

SUMMARY OF THE SOUTHEAST

While states in the Southeast continue to share many characteristics and traditions, some spectacular differences exist as well. Most of Florida simply does not fit with the rest of the states. While the area from Jacksonville west to the panhandle is very similar to South Georgia on any demographic indicator, the Florida that begins about fifty miles south of Jacksonville has a very different population. It is older and more ethnically diverse. It is also the only sector in the SERVE states in which those persons practicing the Baptist religion do not constitute over fifty percent of churchgoers!

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The states with Atlantic Coast territory all grew in population more than the U.S. average of ten percent between 1980 and 1990: Florida (32.7 percent), Georgia (18.6 percent), North Carolina (12.7 percent), and South Carolina (11.7 percent). Alabama's population, on the other hand, grew about four percent, while Mississippi's grew just two percent (see Appendix, Figure 1). Population growth leads to job growth and allows new ideas as well as people to move in. It is difficult if not impossible to have a rising economy with little or no population growth.

The population growth throughout the SERVE states took place in the largest metropolitan areas. A number of rural counties in the area actually lost population during the 1980s as people left for the cities and suburbs. In Florida, which grew at an extraordinary level during the 1980s, 91 percent of the residents live in metropolitan areas. In Mississippi, which grew the least, only 30 percent of its residents live in metropolitan areas (Figure 2).

All of the South suffers from problems related to rural poverty, and rural areas are also the hardest to serve adequately. According to the Population Reference Bureau in Washington, D.C., the poorest group in the nation is rural black women in the South who are single parents. An incredible 78 percent of their children are in poverty (see Figures 3 and 4 for information on single-parent families). In the nation as a whole, rural populations declined during the 1980s. Since 1990, more than half of the U.S. population lives in our forty largest metropolitan areas. Poverty is a serious problem in cities as well, but in the SERVE states, rural poverty is the most critical enemy and the costliest to address per person. Among the SERVE states, Mississippi (which is seventy percent rural) has the highest percentage of persons, particularly children, in poverty (Figures 5 and 6).

Poverty rates in the SERVE states are higher than the nation in every state except North Carolina, which is even with the national rate of 13 percent. Both Florida and North Carolina are close to the national percentage of youth in poverty of 19 percent. Alabama, with 29 percent of its children poor, and Mississippi, with 34 percent of its children poor, obviously have very high percentages of child poverty that exceed the national average.

Mississippi and Florida are approaching a non-white majority youth population, and all the other SERVE states have higher percentages of minority youth than the national average.

All the SERVE states except Florida have higher percentages of minority citizens and minority youth than the United States as a whole. Florida has about equal numbers of blacks and Hispanics and is the only southeast state to contain a large non-black minority population (many of whom are immigrants). Mississippi and Florida are approaching a non-white majority youth population, and all the other SERVE states have higher percentages of minority youth than the national average. In addition, all the states will see an increase in numbers of minority adults in a few years (Figures 7 and 8).

All of the SERVE states except Florida hover at the national percentage (12.5) of people over age 65. Florida leads the nation with 18 percent of its population over age 65 (Figure 9).

Regarding health, all six states have higher rates of births to teenage mothers and infant mortality than the national average (Figures 10 and 11). In addition, most of the states in the SERVE area are far below the nation in numbers of doctors per 100,000 population (Figure 12); Florida's figure is just under

the national average. The more rural the state, the more difficult it is for many people to gain access to doctors, who generally prefer to practice in cities and suburbs. About 7 percent of residents in the Southeast are in areas underserved by health care, but 13 percent of Mississippi's population are underserved—twice the SERVE average.

Only two of the SERVE states had a lower percentage of their population without health insurance than the U.S. Mississippi and Florida led the nation with 22 percent of their population lacking health insurance in 1988 (Figure 13).

Just as access to health care is an issue for people living in rural areas, communicable diseases, especially venereal diseases and AIDS, are problems for high density urban areas like those in Florida and Georgia (Figure 14). Florida has twice the number of AIDS cases (33 per 100,000) as the nation (16 per 100,000), while Alabama has only five cases per 100,000. Florida's rate of AIDS cases is second only to that of New York. Florida's mandatory drug testing of newborns also reveals about 17,000 babies a year who test positive for cocaine at birth. While many such children will grow up healthy and of normal intelligence, many others will not. Florida will face considerable difficulties as this group of preschool youngsters moves into kindergarten. (Preschool special education resources in Florida were expected to double during the 1992-93 school year.)

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All of the SERVE states are below the national cancer rate of 171 cases per 100,000 except Alabama which has 175 cases per 100,000 (see Figure 15). Florida, which has relatively high population densities and a high number of environmental carcinogens, has a low cancer rate of 162 case per 100,000 people, comparable to the nation's rate. Differences in cancer rates cannot be explained easily. It is possible that lower access to doctors in the SERVE states may mean less frequency of detection and reporting.

Per capita personal income is also below the nation in all of the SERVE states, except (again) in Florida, which is at the U.S. average (Figure 16). While the percentage of the population in the labor force in North Carolina and Georgia is a bit above that for the U.S., fewer adults are in the labor force in Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida than in the nation at large. Population growth tends to create job growth, and, to a lesser

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More than half of the women over age 16 in the SERVE states were in the labor force in 1990. In three states (Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina), the percentage of women in the labor force was higher than the percentage (57.5) for the nation (Figure 17).

Although the data are not as conclusive as they could be, it appears that each SERVE state has some wealthy people, many poor people, and a smaller number of middle income people than the nation as a whole. Florida and Georgia, for example, offer lots of jobs through tourism, which provides minimum wage and "working poor" positions for high school dropouts and well-paying jobs for college graduates in business, computer, financial, and professional services.

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Promotion structures in full-time minimum wage jobs (of which there are 14 million in the nation and many in SERVE states) seldom provide upward mobility into the middle class. Most jobs in day-care centers and nursing homes, for example, are minimum wage and performed mostly by poorly educated people who do not get promoted. The same is true for salesclerks, waiters/waitresses, and janitors, comprising four of the largest job categories in the nation.

Except for Florida, all the SERVE states are below the national percentage of adults who have graduated from high school; they are even further behind in the percentage of adults who have graduated from college (Figures 18 and 19). High school dropouts get minimum wage jobs, which creates an economic self-fulfilling prophecy. Some leapfrog steps would help, such as increasing GED production and high school graduation rates; creating more jobs with promotional possibilities built in by starting or increasing small business incubators run by local business owners; increasing communication among high schools, community colleges, and businesses; and increasing the number of programs such as "I Have A Dream," in which states pay the college tuition of poor students who study hard, maintain a "B" average in college prep courses, and score at least the median on the SAT or ACT. Figures 20 and 21 provide information about the SERVE states' efforts to support education.

Most prisoners are high school dropouts. The SERVE states have high numbers of prisoners per 100,000 people and many dropouts. The costs of housing a prisoner for a year in four of the SERVE states are below the average costs for the U.S. (Florida is at the national average, and North Carolina spends $2,000 more per prisoner than the U.S. average.)

Three SERVE states have high violent crime rates: Florida is ranked second in the nation; South Carolina, sixth; and Georgia, eighth. Mississippi ranks surprisingly far down the list at 35th, while the violent crime rate in North Carolina ranks 20th. Four of the SERVE states are building a total of 18,000 new prison beds at a monstrous cost, while the two other SERVE states are not building any (Figure 22). Perhaps these two states (Alabama and Mississippi) are sensibly saving money for more valuable investments in prevention programs. SERVE states spend approximately four times as much money per prisoner as per student (Figure 23); in four of the SERVE states (Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina), expenditures per prisoners exceed per capita personal income (Figure 24).

Vehicular death rates are very high in the SERVE states, especially in Mississippi and South Carolina. Why should two of the most rural states in the nation have two of the highest vehicular death rates? Some of these deaths may be related to adult illiterates who cannot read highway signs, some to old cars in poor condition, and some to insufficient funds for road repair.

All the SERVE states are also near the bottom in use of public mass transit, which is not unexpected given the region's large rural population. One exception is Georgia, which ranks ninth in the nation. Florida, in which 90 percent of the population lives in metropolitan areas, ranks 31st in use of mass transit, which does not make a lot of sense. States such as Florida, California, and Arizona have very high vehicle ownership rates, giving the impression that people are not interested in using public transportation or carpools.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Addressing problems from a regional perspective can help maximize the resources and experiences of all six states.

In a number of areas, focused action by states and assistance from SERVE and other organizations can bring about positive change in the Southeast. Addressing problems from a regional perspective can help maximize the resources and experiences of all six states. Several ideas for strategies and ventures are listed below.

- Increase the number of high school graduates and adults receiving GEDs every year, in order to prepare more youth and adults for better jobs or college. A prospective employer looking at the percent of adults who do not possess a high school diploma in the SERVE states will probably take his or her business elsewhere.

- Increase the number of programs that enhance the opportunities for rural youth, particularly the children of single black mothers, for whom there are few social, health, or educational services available. This problem needs to be addressed in all of the SERVE states. These services should be encouraged to work together through such ventures as health clinics in rural schools and churches, jointly sponsored drug prevention programs and services, and pregnancy prevention programs.

- Develop "two-generation" strategies so that women who are receiving services such as adult education or drug treatment can find adequate care for their children at the same time. Given the large number of families maintained by a single mother, competent day care may be the biggest single social need of these states.

- Ensure that every eligible child is in a Head Start or other effective early childhood program. Such programs help parents as well as children (Figure 25). However, these programs are expensive, and, unless the U.S. Congress funds them fully (which is not likely), the SERVE states will probably be unable to afford them, especially given the amounts that some states are spending on new prisons. The average of $22,000 spent on maintaining each prisoner for a year would pay for the enrollment of four children in a quality preschool program.

- Increase prevention strategies, particularly for the rural population of hard-to-reach children and families. Anything that keeps families together, keeps people healthy and off drugs, keeps kids in school, keeps teenage girls from getting pregnant, and keeps people working is more effective than "band-aids" such as premature baby wards, drug detox centers, and jails.

- Increase programs that make college a more realistic possibility for students who cannot afford it at present. The "I Have A Dream" strategy, which helps poor students pay for college, would do wonders in all the SERVE states. Some of the states are considering such a strategy, and Louisiana, a state very similar to the SERVE states, is apparently doing it. A regional trust fund is one option that SERVE states might consider as a way of making the program even more cost-effective.

- Increase programs and policies that support working parents. In most of the SERVE states, nearly six of ten women are in the labor force. Child care, flexible work schedules, and family leave may help keep families out of poverty when both parents work or only one parent is raising the children.

The South has a history of regional collaboration. What is needed is more agency collaboration at the local and state level.

The South has a history of regional collaboration, with such organizations as the Southern Regional Education Board and Southern Growth Policies Board working on issues that impact the entire region. What is needed is more agency collaboration at the local and state level, particularly involving education and health care. Possibilities are excellent for increasing the quality of life in rural areas through such collaborative efforts. Some fine examples of state and local interagency collaborations already exist in the SERVE states, and more are planned. (The SERVE *Hot Topics* publication, *Interagency Collaboration: Improving the Delivery of Services to Children and Families*, is an excellent guide for anyone interested in improving collaborative efforts. The publication offers practical advice on establishing and building interagency collaborations and provides a wealth of examples of successful projects. See order form on page 79.)

During the 1980s, the SERVE states developed their economic bases so effectively that, in some cases for the first time, they approached national averages on many economic indicators.

During the 1990s, the role of SERVE in improving education and the lives of children will become vital.

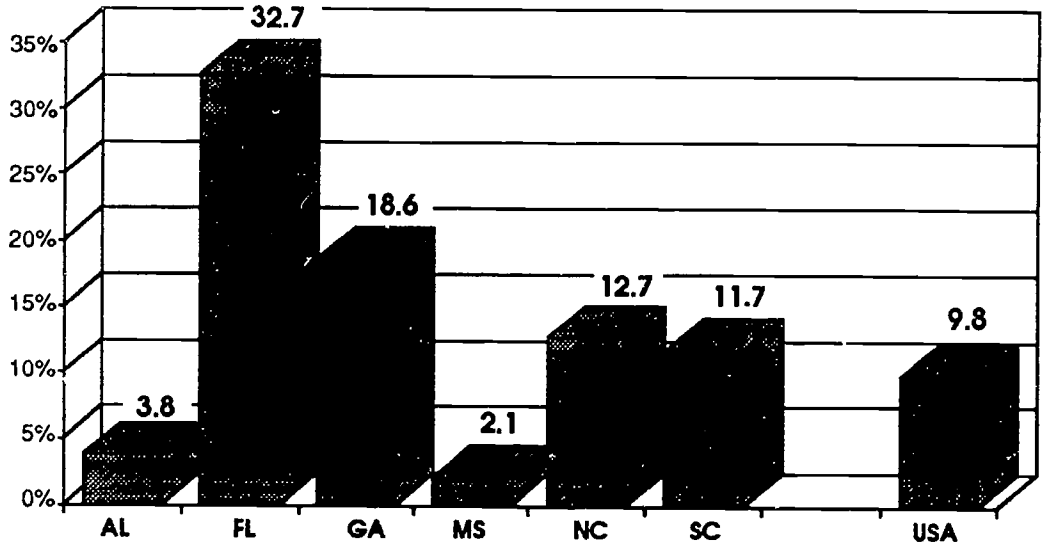
However, most indicators of the quality of life—such as access to health care, educational attainment, and middle class membership—suggest the economic improvements have not yet been passed along to the citizens, especially rural and black citizens. During the 1990s, the southeastern states will need to address this agenda, making the role of SERVE in helping improve education vital in the years to come.

Appendix

Demographic Profile:
SERVE States and the United States Compared

Figure 1

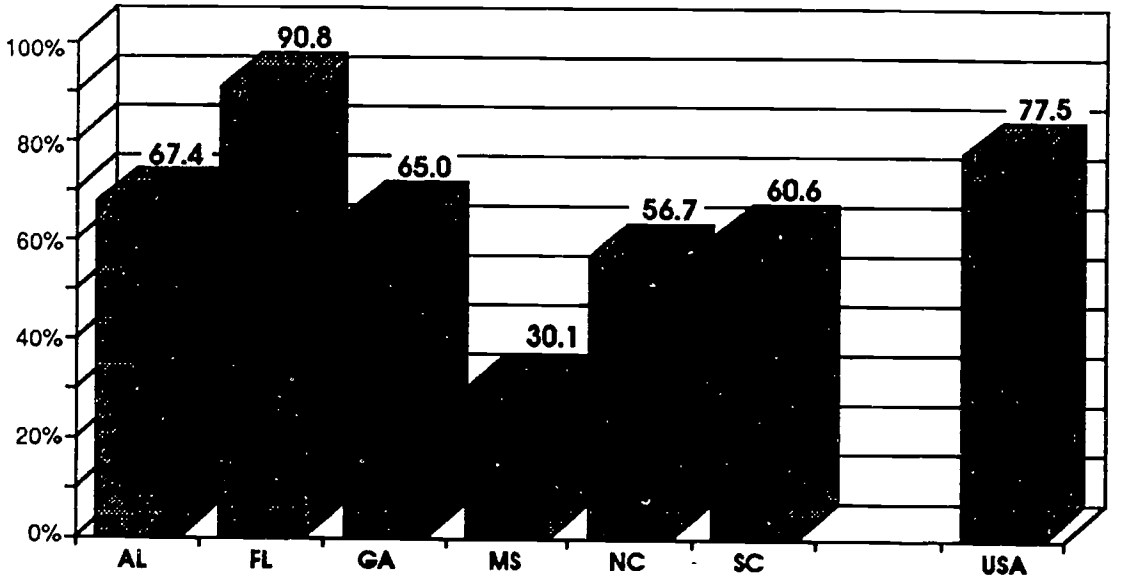
Percent Growth, 1980-1990



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1991.

Figure 2

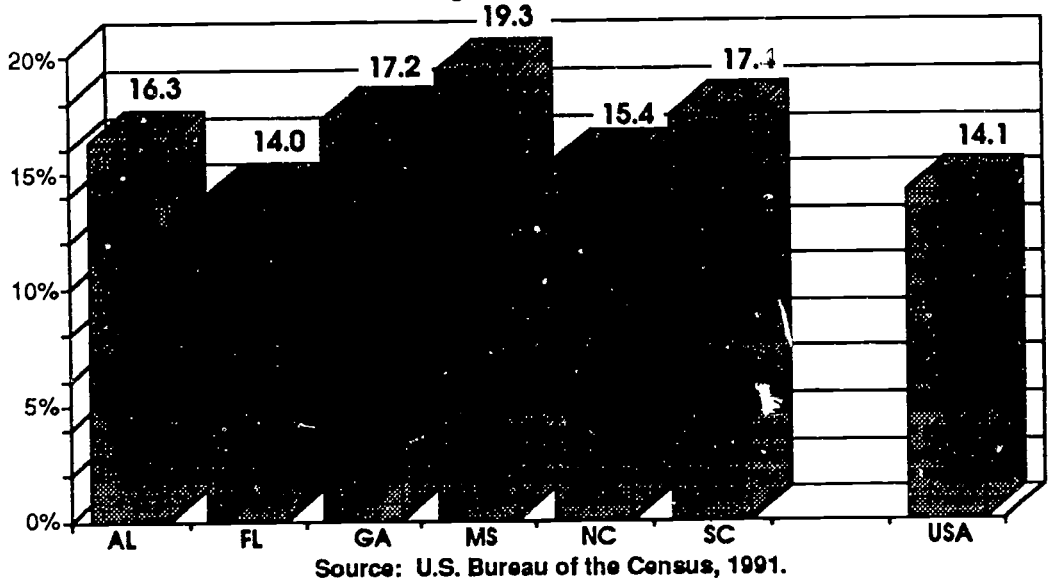
Percent of Population Living in Metropolitan Areas, 1990



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1991.

Figure 3

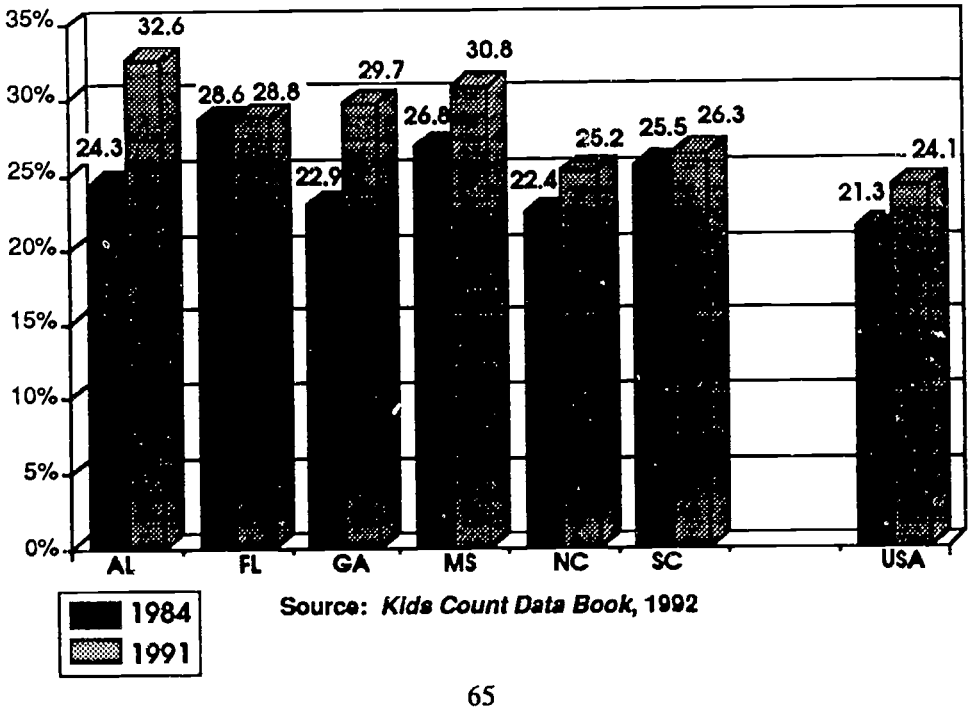
Percent of Single-Parent Families, 1990



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1991.

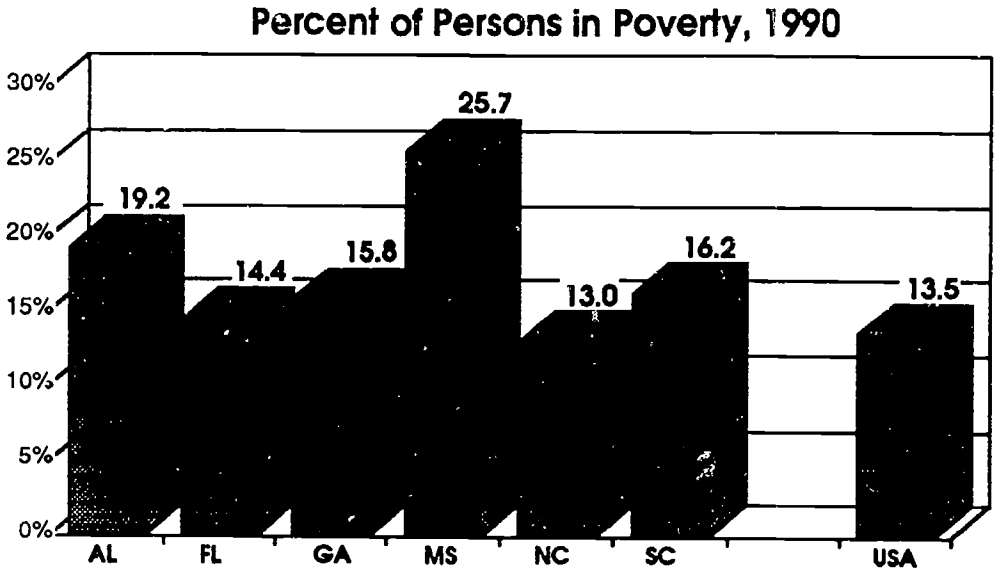
Figure 4

Percent of Children Living in Single-Parent Households in 1984 and 1991



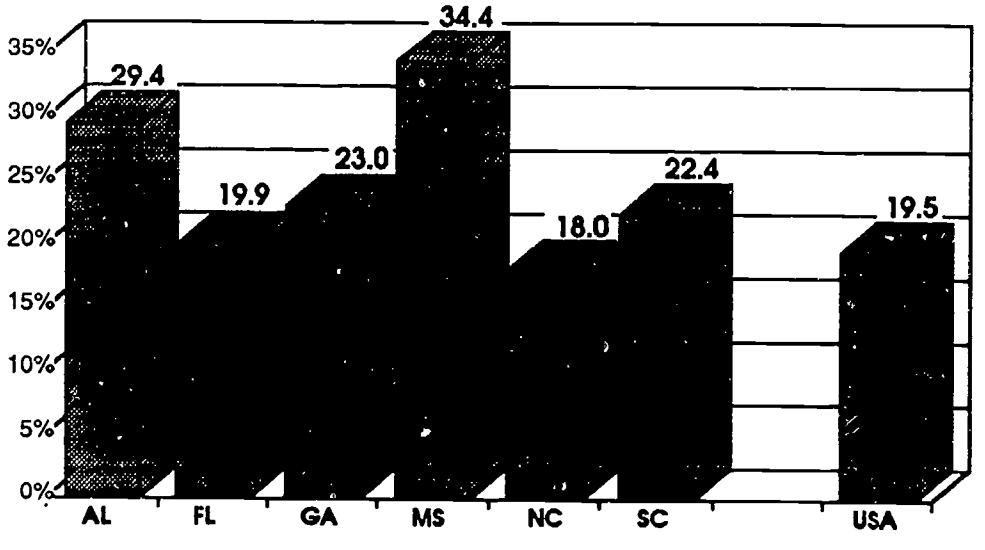
Source: *Kids Count Data Book*, 1992

Figure 5



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1991.

Figure 6

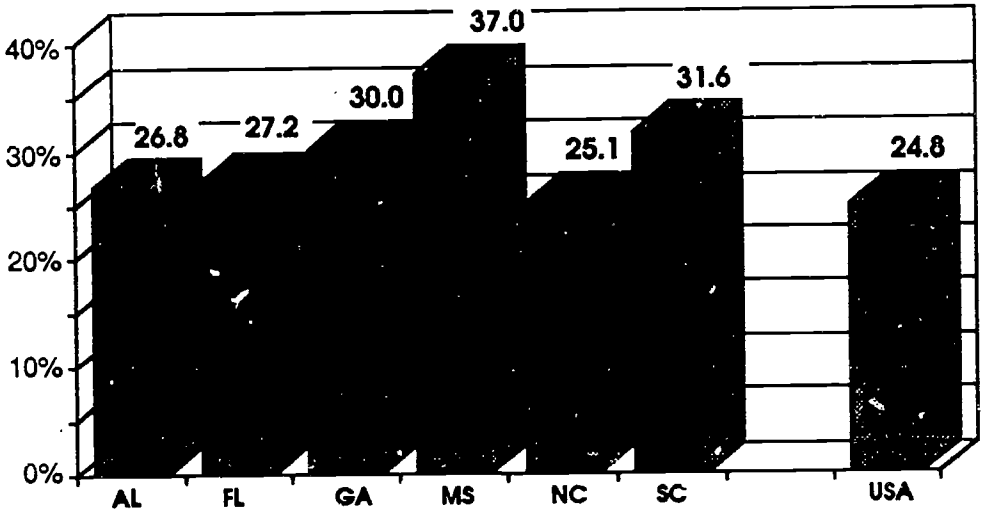


Source: *Kids* Count *Data Book*, 1992.

*Five-year average of percent of related children under age 18 who live in families with income below the poverty threshold.

Figure 7

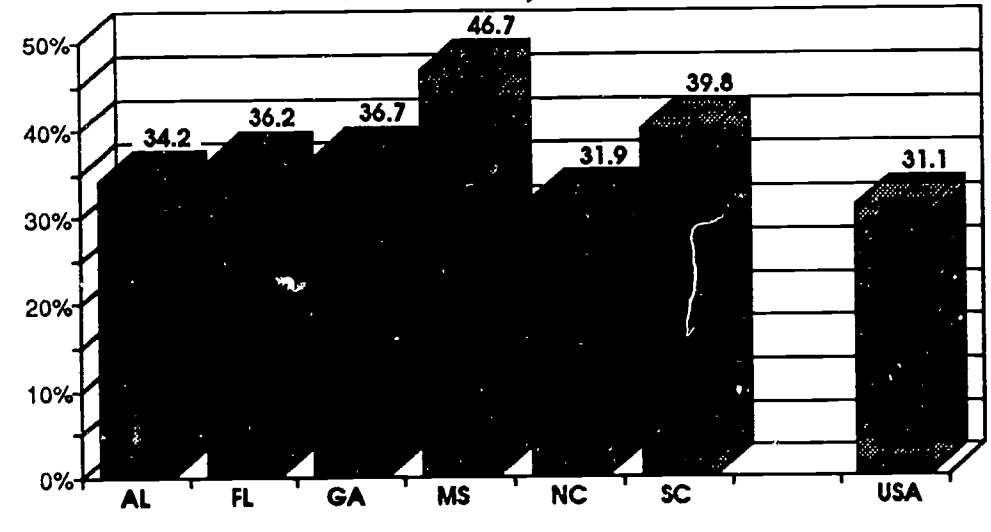
Minority Population as a Percentage of Total Population, 1990



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1991.

Figure 8

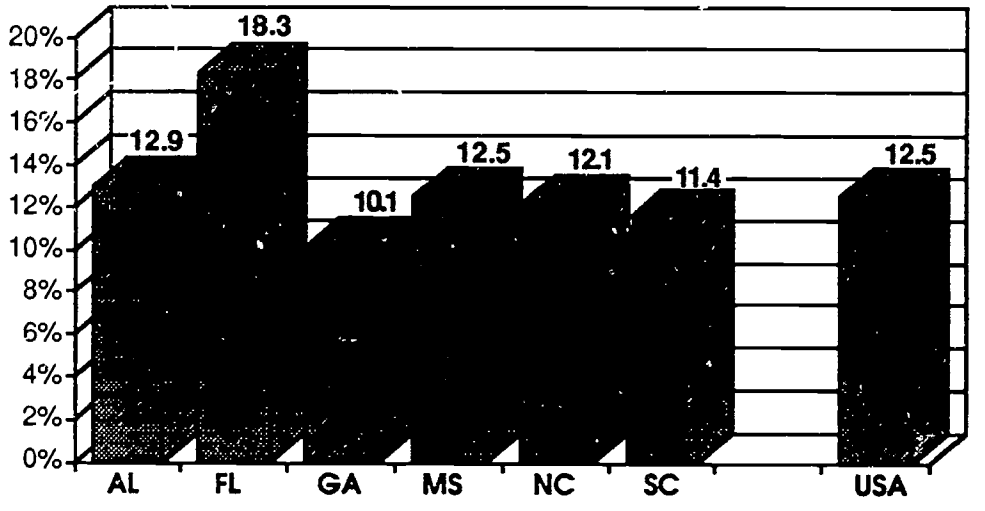
Minority Youth as a Percentage of All Youth, 1990



Source: *Kids Count Data Book*, 1992.

Figure 9

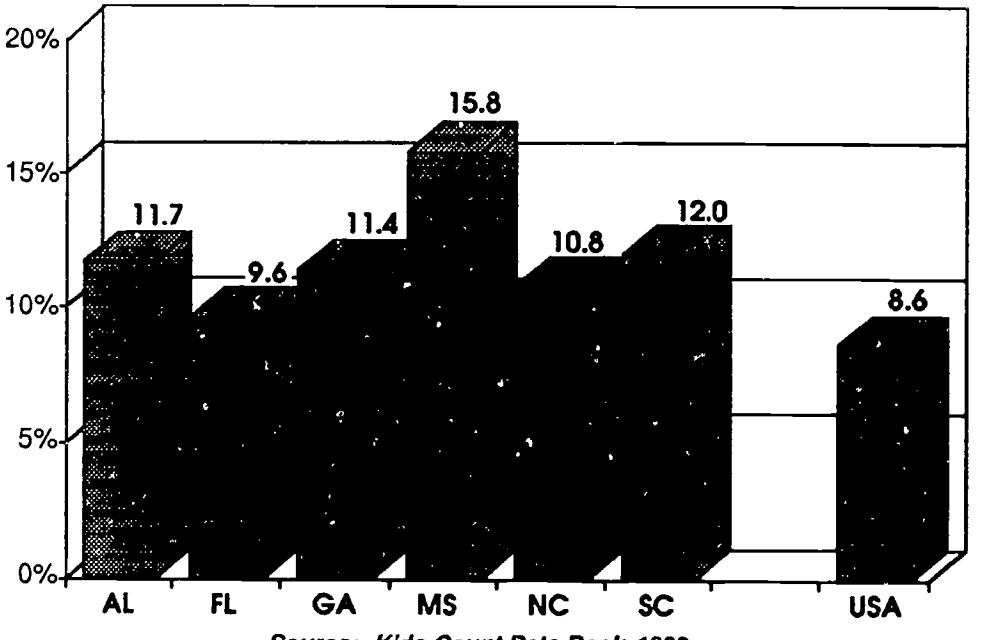
Percent of Population Age 65 and Older, 1990



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1991.

Figure 10

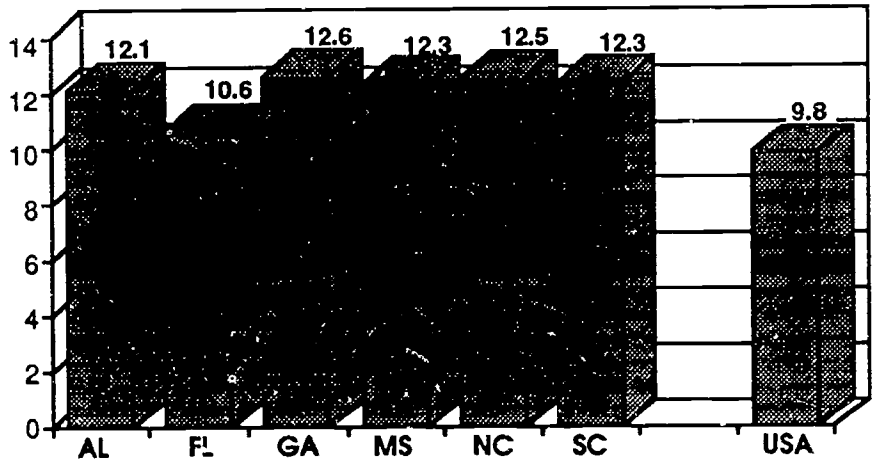
Percent of Births to Teen Mothers, 1989



Source: *Kids Count Data Book*, 1992.

Figure 11

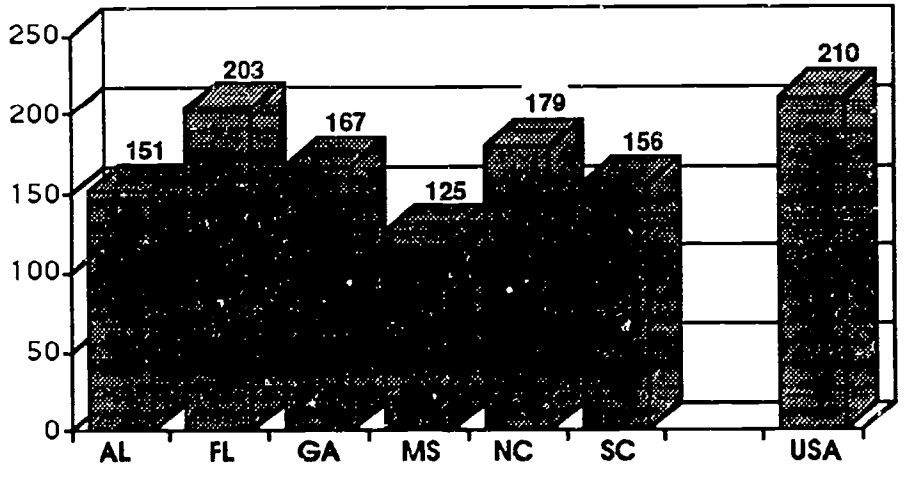
Infant Mortality Rate, 1988
(deaths per 1000 births)



Source: *Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1991*, 1992.

Figure 12

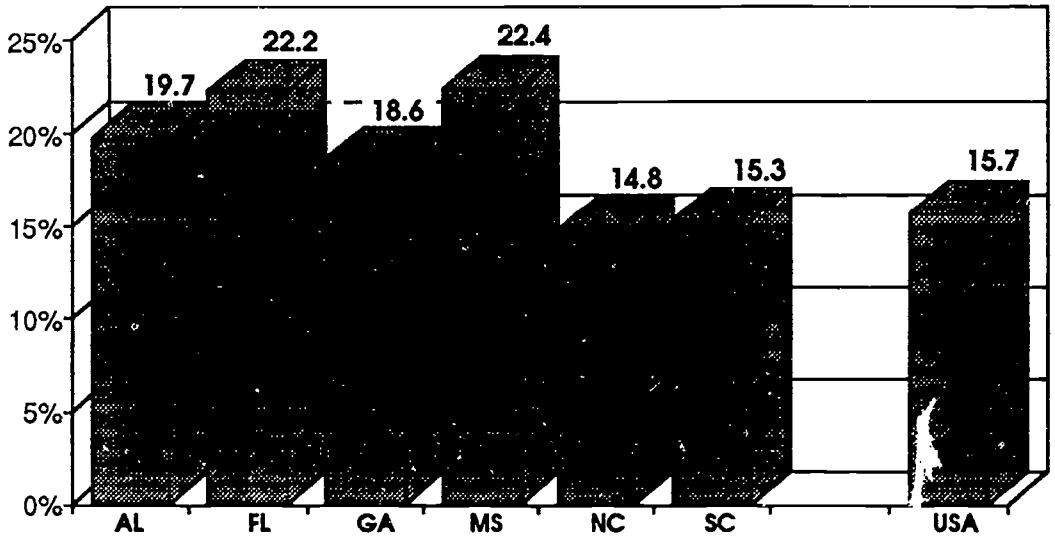
Physicians (per 100,000 population), 1988



Source: *1991-1992 Green Index*, 1991.

Figure 13

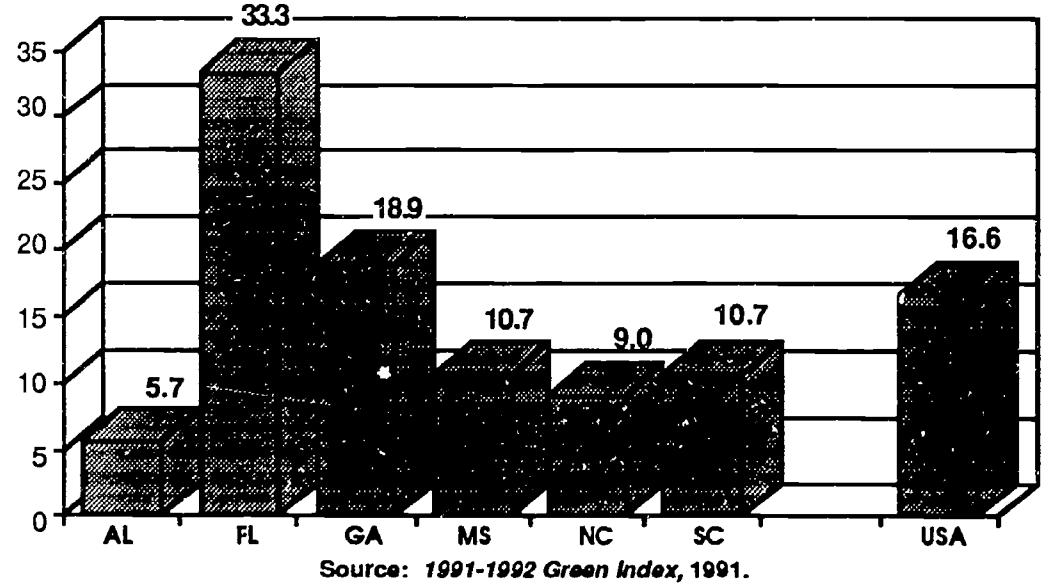
Percent of Population Without Health Insurance, 1988



Source: *1991-1992 Green Index*, 1991.

Figure 14

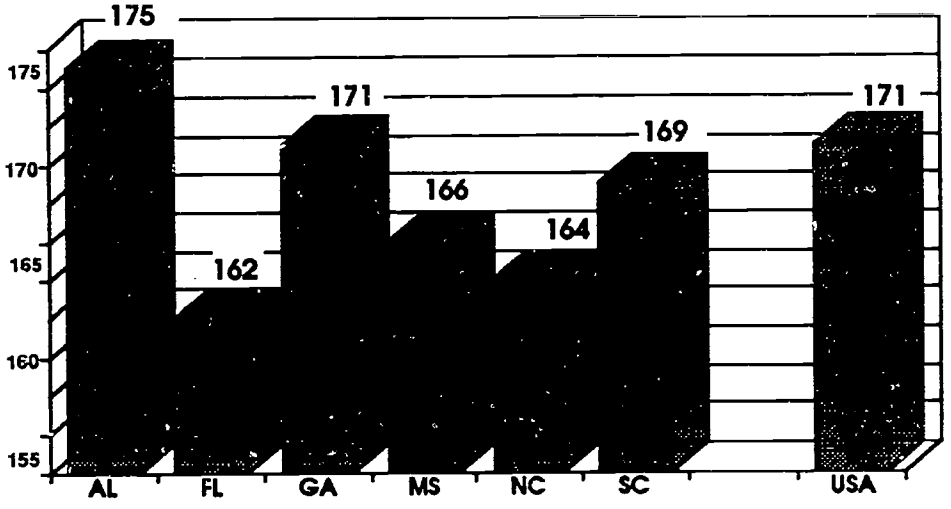
AIDS Cases (Per 100,000 population), 1990



Source: *1991-1992 Green Index*, 1991.

Figure 15

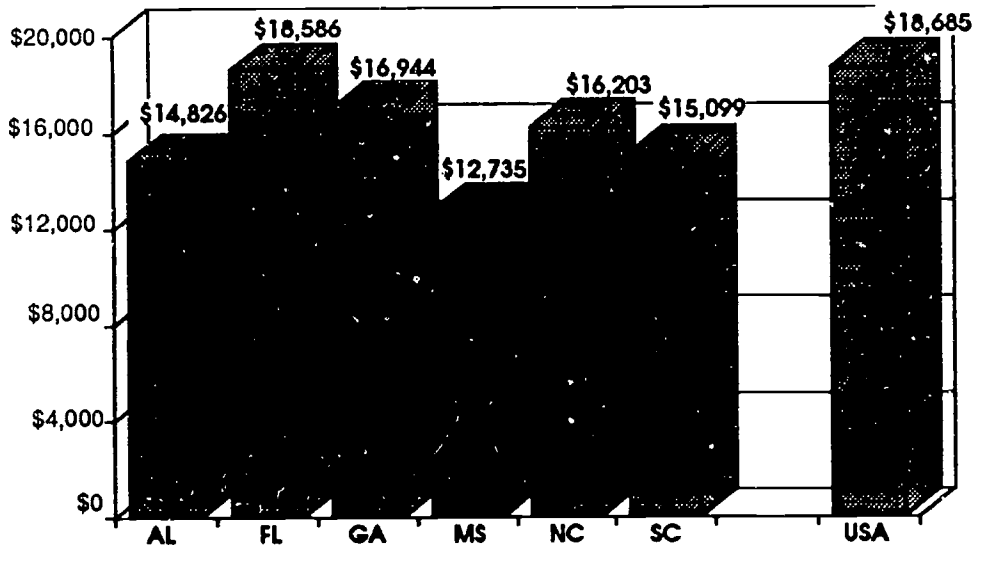
Cancer Cases
(per 100,000), 1990



Source: *1991-1992 Green Index*, 1991.

Figure 16

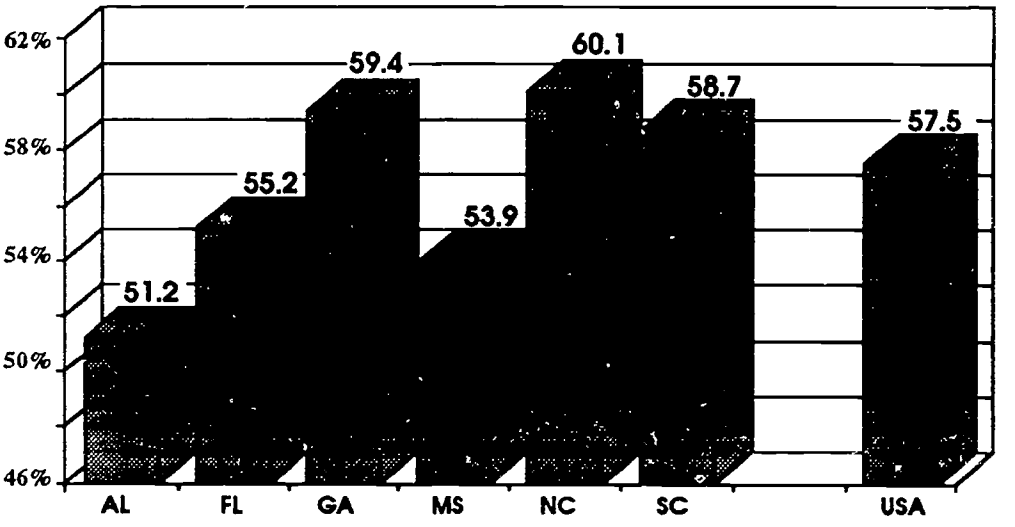
Per Capita Personal Income, 1990



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 1991.

Figure 17

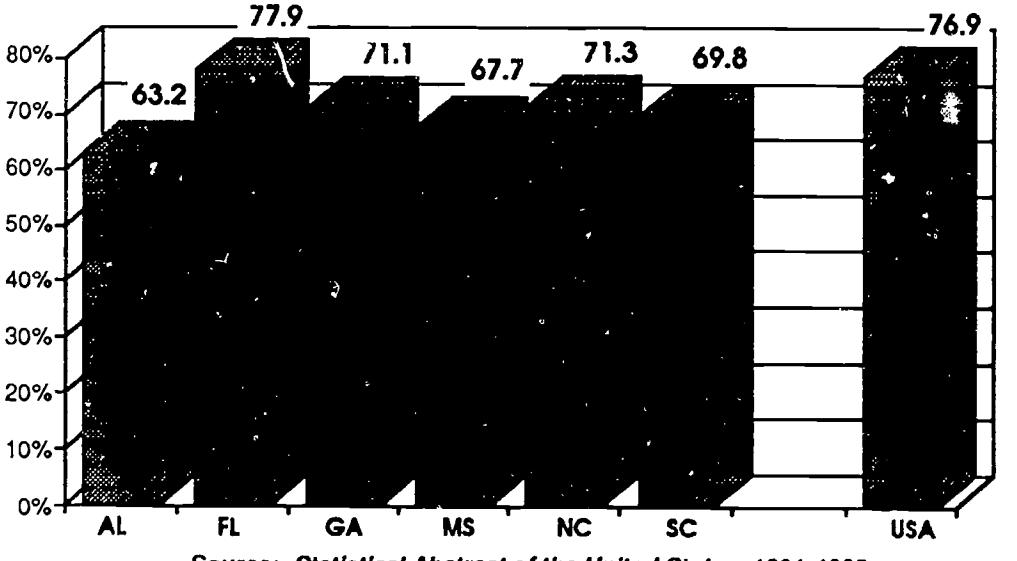
Percent of Women in the Labor Force, 1990



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1991.

Figure 18

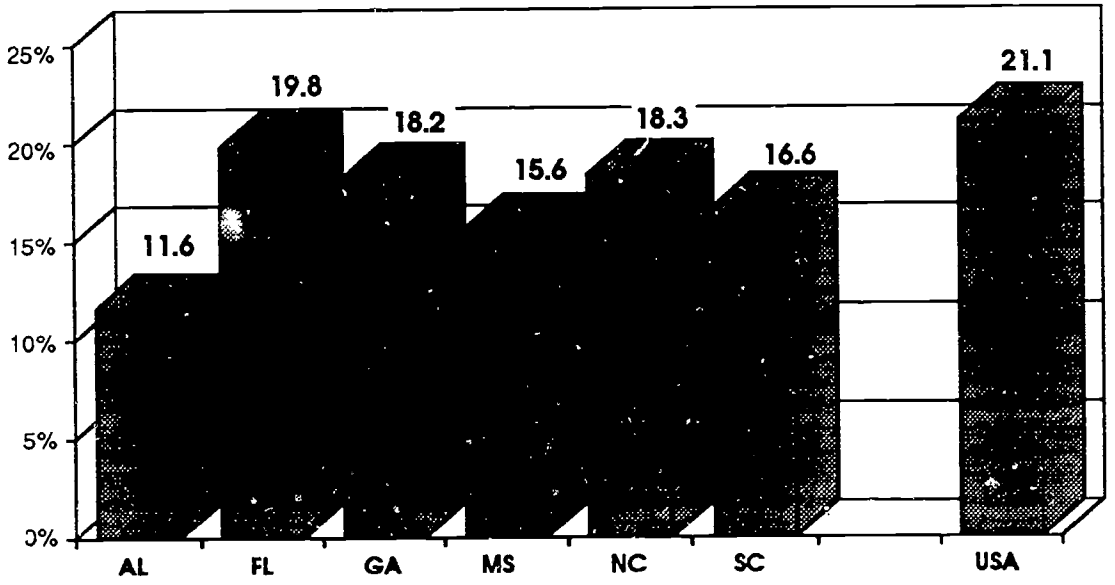
Percent of Population Over Age 25 Who Have Completed High School



Source: *Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1991*, 1992.

Figure 19

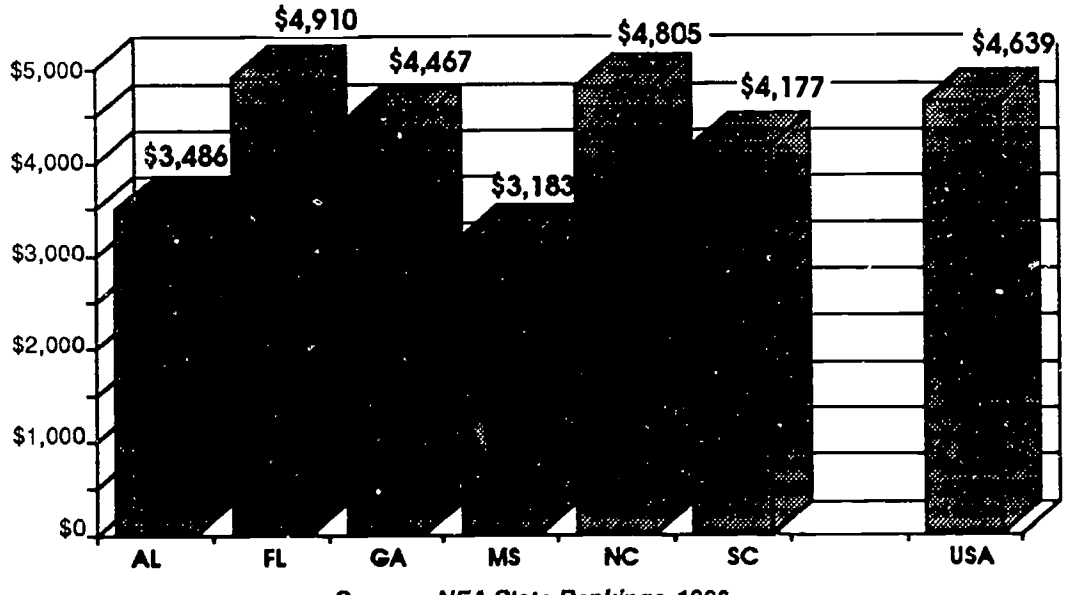
Percent of Population Over Age 25 Who Have Completed College, 1989



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1991.

Figure 20

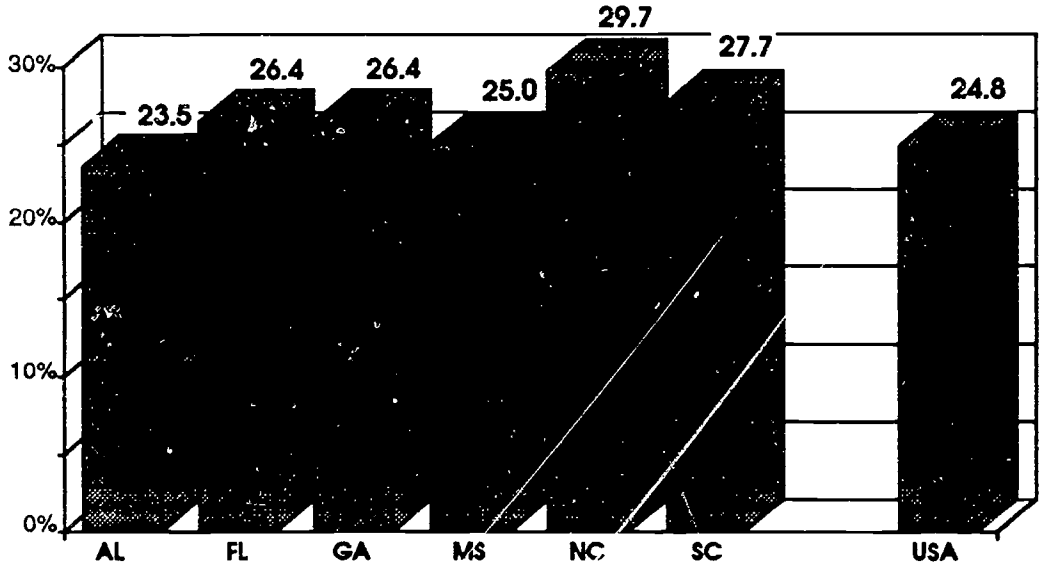
Per Pupil Expenditure, 1991-92



Source: *NEA State Rankings*, 1990.

Figure 21

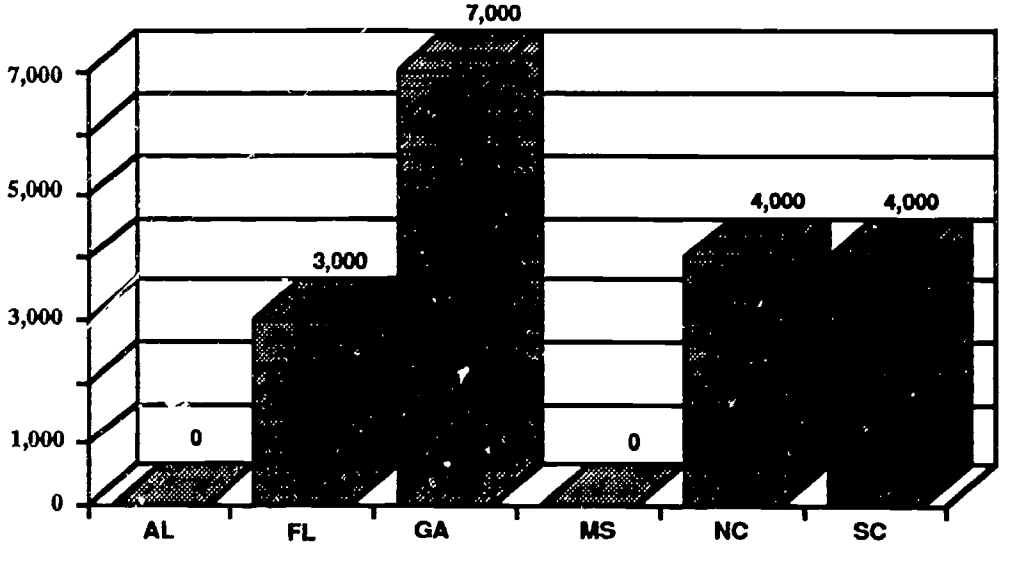
Effort to Support Education*



*Per-pupil expenditure divided by per capita income.
Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1991; NEA State Rankings, 1990.

Figure 22

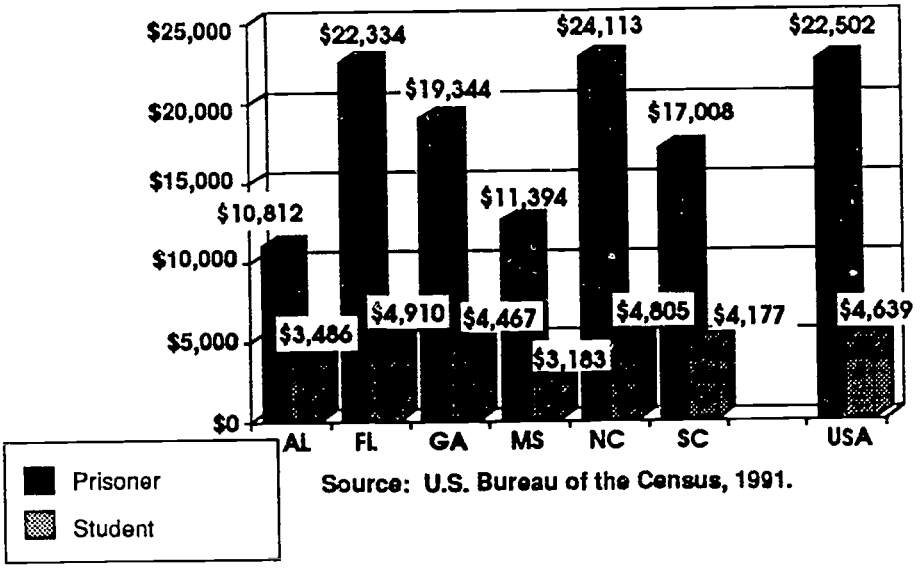
New Prison Cells Under Construction, 1991



Source: *The Corrections Yearbook*, 1991.

Figure 23

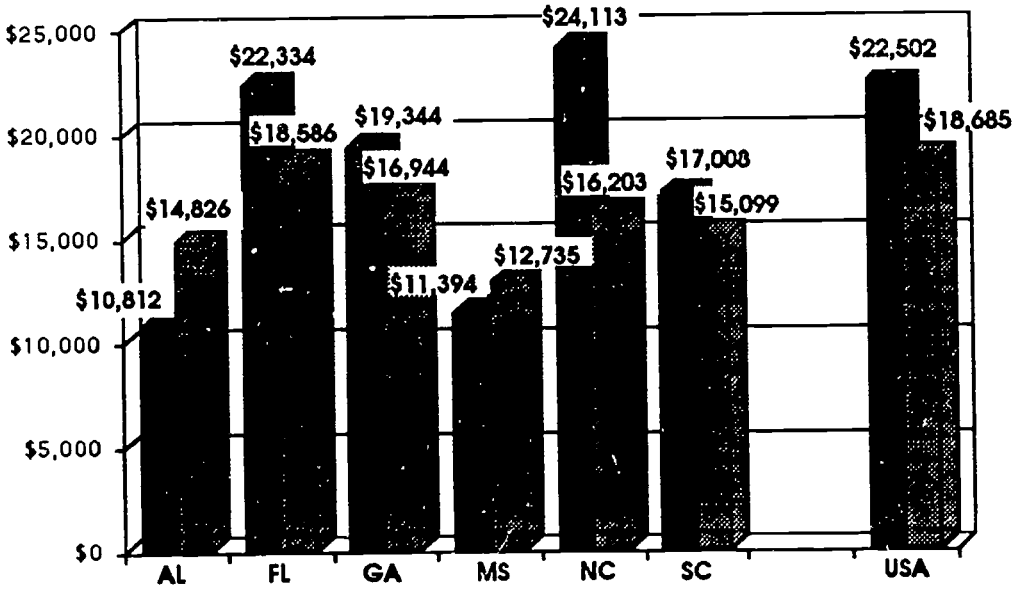
Average Annual Cost per Prisoner (91-92) vs. Student (91-92)



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1991.

Figure 24

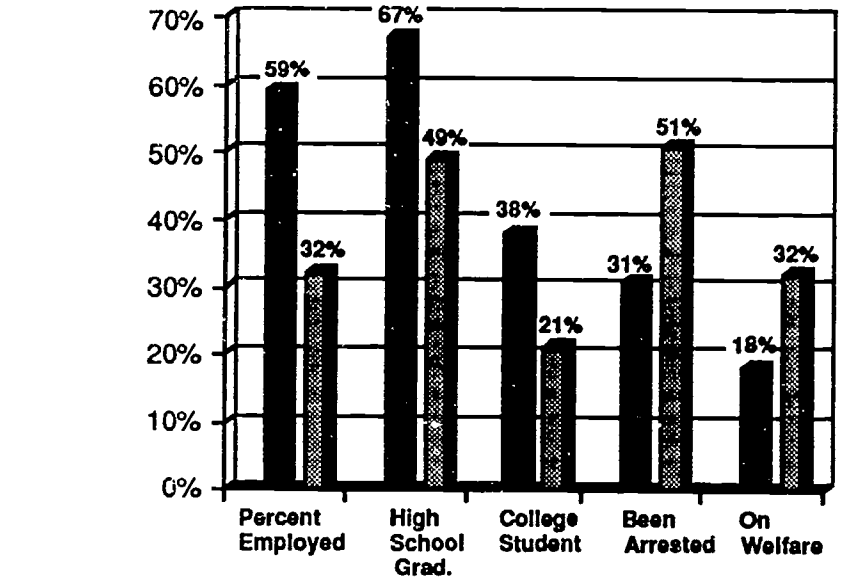
Average Annual Cost Per Prisoner, 1990-1991 vs. Per Capita Personal Income, 1990



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1991.

Figure 25

First Head Start Group at Age 21 Compared to Control Group



Source: *Young Children Grow Up*, 1990.

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