

Mississippi Delta Fact Sheet

Mississippi was second in the nation for children under 18 living under the poverty level in 1999. Of the states' 82 counties, Sharkey County had the highest percentage of children under 18 living under the poverty level at 44.5%.*

In 2000, Sharkey County's percentage of children living under the poverty level increased to 50%. Adults living below the poverty level accounted for 35%.**

While only 15% of adults in the nation have less than a high school education, nearly twice as many are poorly educated in the Mississippi Delta.

Tallahatchie County 41.3% ?
 Quitman County 41.1%
 Sharkey County 37.6%
 Issaquena County 36.4%
 Washington County 30.8%
 ? (Adults w/less than a high school education)***

Twenty five (25) percent of all births are to teen mothers in the Mississippi Delta****

In most Mississippi Delta Counties, high unemployment rates and low wages continue to be the norm:

County	Unemployment Rate (Feb -2004)	Annual Average Wage Per Job*****
Quitman County	15.4%	\$19,845
Sharkey County	21.5%	\$18,759
Issaquena County	17.2%	\$18,698
Tallahatchie County	15.9%	\$18,421
Washington County	11.4%	\$23,174

*Foundation for the Mid-South

**U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.

***Southern Rural Development Center, U.S. Census, 2000

****Mississippi State Department of Health, 2004

*****Foundation for the Mid-South