



Today's Delta

A Research Tool for the Region

SECOND EDITION
FEBRUARY 2015



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The Delta region, made up of 252 counties and parishes in eight states, is one of the most historic, culturally rich parts of the country yet daily life remains a struggle for many. The Delta Regional Authority supports job creation and improves quality of life through strategic economic development investments in the Delta region's communities, families and businesses.

Today's Delta is published by the

Delta Regional Authority

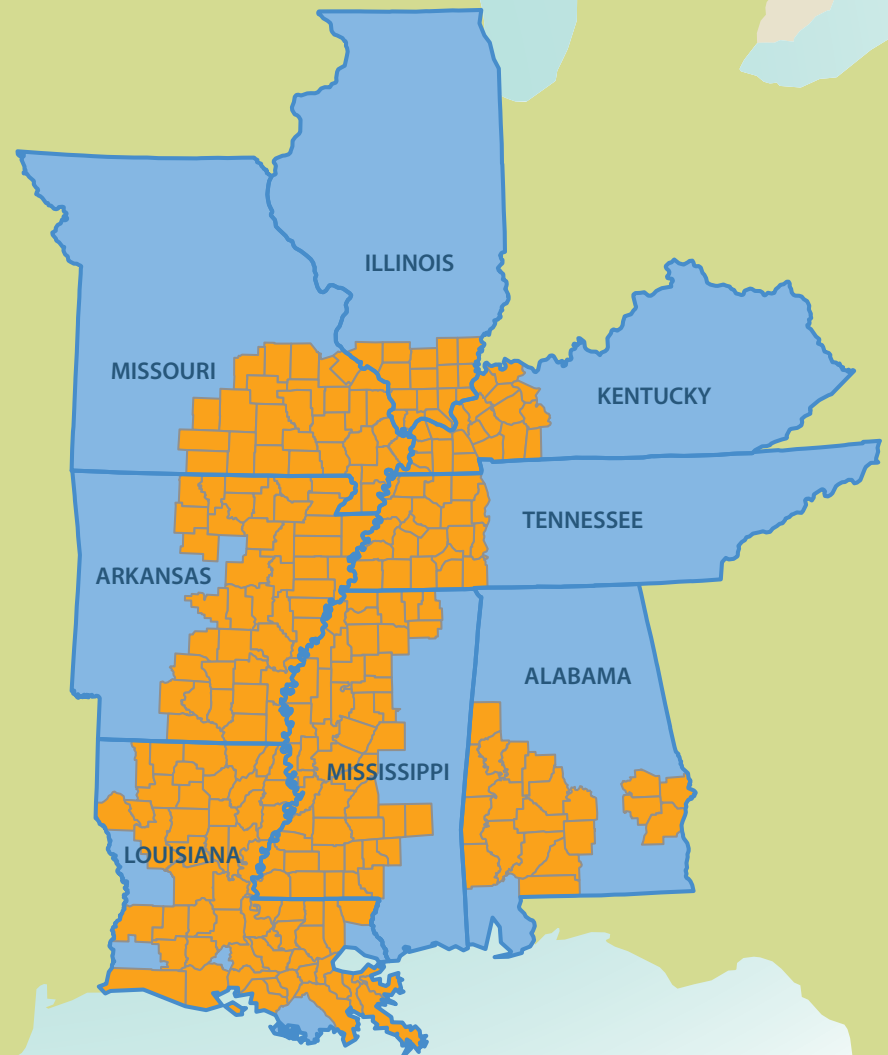
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DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL CO-CHAIRMAN

February 20, 2015

I proudly present to you *Today's Delta 2015*, a comprehensive report that provides county and state-level indicators of some of the most prominent challenges and opportunities facing Delta families and communities. *Today's Delta* is a unique resource; not only does it serve as a regional platform for data, but it provides the detailed analysis our leaders and families need to understand where our region has been, where it is now, and where it can go in the future.

As an update to the original *Today's Delta* released in September 2012, this report presents current county-by-county data across all eight DRA states on indicators of population, educational attainment, poverty, health, economics, and housing. *Today's Delta* is a comprehensive tool that allows community leaders and economic developers to access the research and data that help them be competitive in business acquisition, federal funding, and other opportunities that bring resources back to their community and region. This information has and will continue to support communities and organizations in planning, developing, and implementing economic and community development projects to address the ever-present needs of our local populations. These are projects that will help families get healthier, small businesses attract new business, and workers gain new skills.

I am excited to announce that *Today's Delta* will now incorporate an online interactive application. This new tool allows users to compare indicators by county, state, region, and national levels—creating new comparison, new insights, and, ideally, new solutions to strengthen our region. Users are now able to create their own comparisons across indicators and geographies that can be printed for future use. All of this moves the region forward in recognizing where we are so that we can decide where we want to go.

I want to send a special thanks to Jim Youngquist and his team at the UALR Institute for Economic Advancement for their extensive research and support of this project. I hope that this report and the online tool provide leaders, economic developers, students, researchers, and small businesses of the Delta alike with the resources and information necessary to create jobs, build communities, and improve lives in Delta communities.

Sincerely,

Chris Masingill

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PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

February 21, 2015

Understanding where you are allows you to determine where and how you will move next. As governors, we must continuously evaluate the state of our states and communities to inform the development of programs and policies that create economic opportunities that move our states and people forward. I am proud to join my fellow governors and Chairman Masingill to present *Today's Delta* – a tool that provides local and state leadership with data and maps that help to assess workforce, economic, education, and social service needs in our region.

This insightful tool makes available data from numerous sources to highlight regional, state, and local issues important to our communities, including educational attainment, economic distress, and health access. The *Today's Delta* report and its new online application allow us to make these critical evaluations of our communities and plan to improve the status quo.

My fellow governors of the Delta region and I look forward to using this tool in our own daily work, and we hope that community leaders, economic developers, educators, and researchers alike will utilize this snapshot to drive our region towards the top of national economic success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Bryant".

Phil Bryant
Governor
DRA State Co-Chairman

Today's Delta:

Addressing Perception and Reality

We often use the phrase “perception is reality.” Many of us whose professional and personal work is to help make the Delta region of the United States a better place to live, work, and learn know that perception does not always reflect the reality of the region. This report is the second edition of *Today's Delta*, published in cooperation with Arkansas' Institute for Economic Advancement (IEA). The purpose of this document will be to analyze and better understand the region's circumstances, to use that understanding to address areas of concern, and to work to achieve a better quality of life for the Delta's citizens.

Today's Delta provides the region's leaders with data on each of the Delta's eight states, covering demographics, educational attainment, poverty levels, health, economics, and housing. This kind of information can aid regional leaders and decision makers by presenting an accurate picture of circumstances in the Delta today—the reality, not just the perception.

The information in *Today's Delta* is presented on county, state, regional, and national levels. While there are a number of different data sets available for each state beyond the subsets contained in this report, the information provided in *Today's Delta* is unique as it is comparable, allowing an apples-to-apples analysis of each county and state.

Today's Delta includes data profiles organized by topic for each of the Delta's 252 counties and parishes. Each profile contains a map of the region and the relevant percentage totals for each topic. The profiles also include a bar chart comparing state, Delta regional, and national totals. IEA data analysts have included summary statements with each profile, giving local leaders the information they need to identify factors that are influencing the well-being of the region.

This second edition of *Today's Delta* will incorporate this data in an online easy-to-use mapping tool that will allow community leaders and Delta residents to compare and identify county, state, regional, and national realities. The tool will be available in the Spring 2016 and will serve as the living version of this report.

IEA is proud to partner with the DRA in developing a data set and informational maps that provide the people of the Delta with validated information for each parish, county, and state by means of which the leadership can enhance the future development of the Delta by addressing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

* * * * *

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock Institute for Economic Advancement has made a good faith effort to take all reasonable measures to ensure that this product is accurate, up to date, and free of error at the time of publication. No statement in this report should be construed as an official position of the Delta Regional Authority Board.

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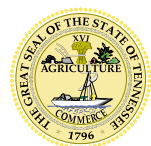
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US 82 bridge across the Mississippi River - Greenville, MS



C O N T E N T S

POPULATION TRENDS	1	FAMILIES AND POVERTY	20	HOUSING	37
• Population Density	1	• Children in Single Parent Families	21	• Percent of Renter-Occupied Housing Units	38
• Total Population	2	• Population Living in Poverty	22		
• Percent Change in Total Population	3	• Children Living in Poverty	23	DEFINITIONS AND SOURCES	39
• White Population, Percent of Total Population	4	• Elderly Living in Poverty	24		
• Percent Change in White Population	5	• Persistent Poverty	25		
• Black Population, Percent of Total Population	6				
• Percent Change in Black Population	7	HEALTH DISPARITIES	26		
• Hispanic Population, Percent of Total Population	8	• Obesity Rate	27		
• Percent Change in Hispanic Population	9	• Diabetes Rate	28		
• Population 65 Years and Over	10	• Physically Inactivity	29		
		• Population Under 65 without Health Insurance	30		
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	11				
• High School Diploma or GED	12	ECONOMICS AND EMPLOYMENT	31		
• High School Diploma or Higher	13	• Median Household Income	32		
• Associate's Degree	14	• Per Capita Personal Income	33		
• Bachelor's Degree	15	• Transfer Receipts as Percent of Total Personal Income	34		
• Bachelor's Degree or Higher	16	• Unemployment Rate	35		
• Graduate or Professional Degree	17	• Employment/Population Ratio	36		
• ACT Scores	18				

POPULATION TRENDS



King Biscuit Blues Festival – Helena-West Helena, AR | Photo Courtesy of Rob Hammons

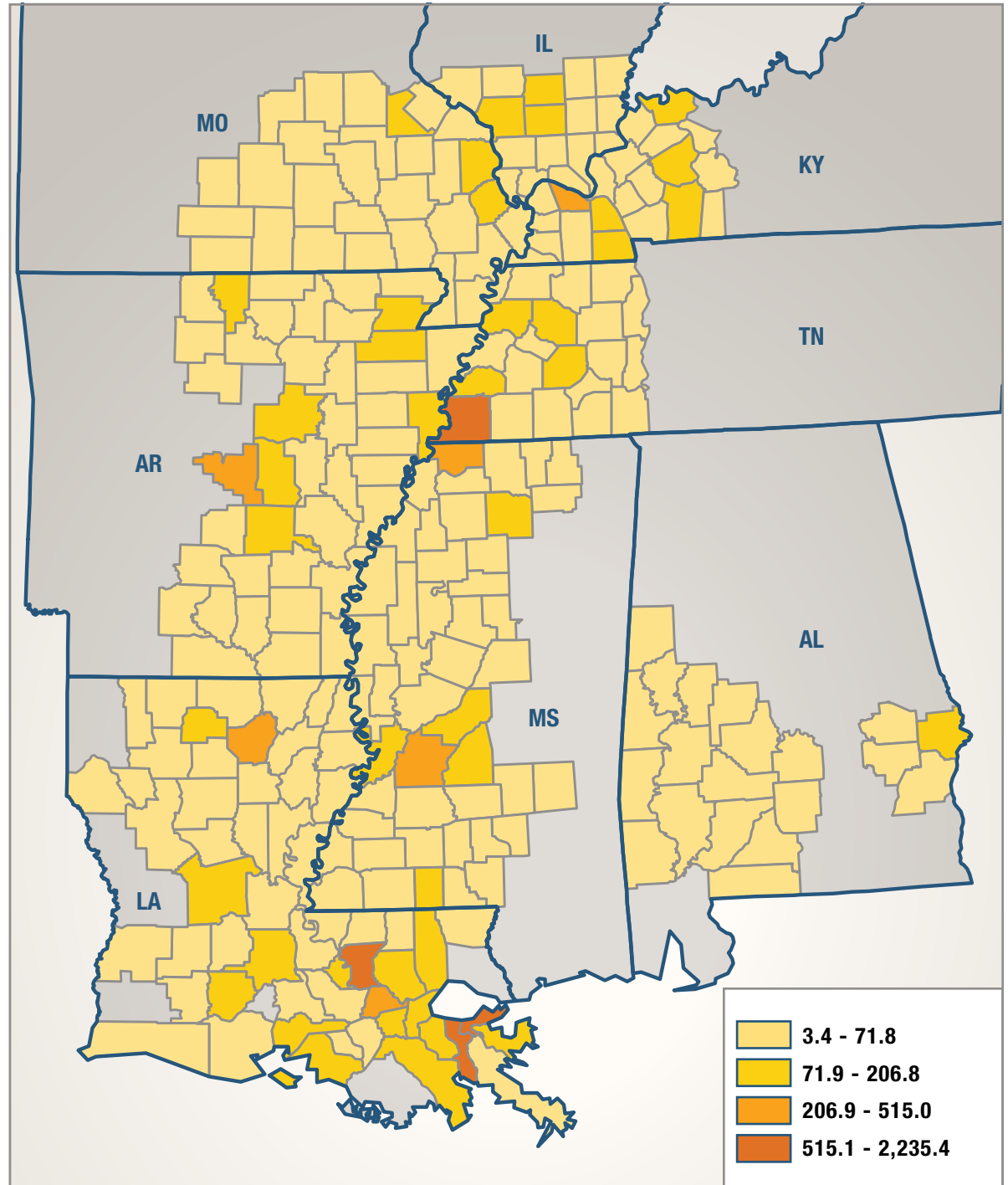
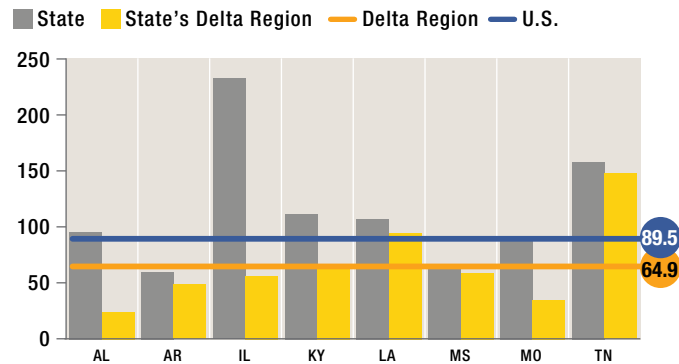
Population Density

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2013
(persons per square mile)

REGION	POPULATION DENSITY
United States	89.5
Delta Region	64.9
Alabama	24.6
Arkansas	48.9
Illinois	56.5
Kentucky	66.5
Louisiana	94.4
Mississippi	58.6
Missouri	35.3
Tennessee	147.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Vintage 2013 Estimates, Release Date: March 2014

- With 89.5 persons per square mile, the U.S. was more densely populated than the Delta region (64.9 persons per square mile).
- The Tennessee Delta region had the highest population density (147.5 persons per square mile).



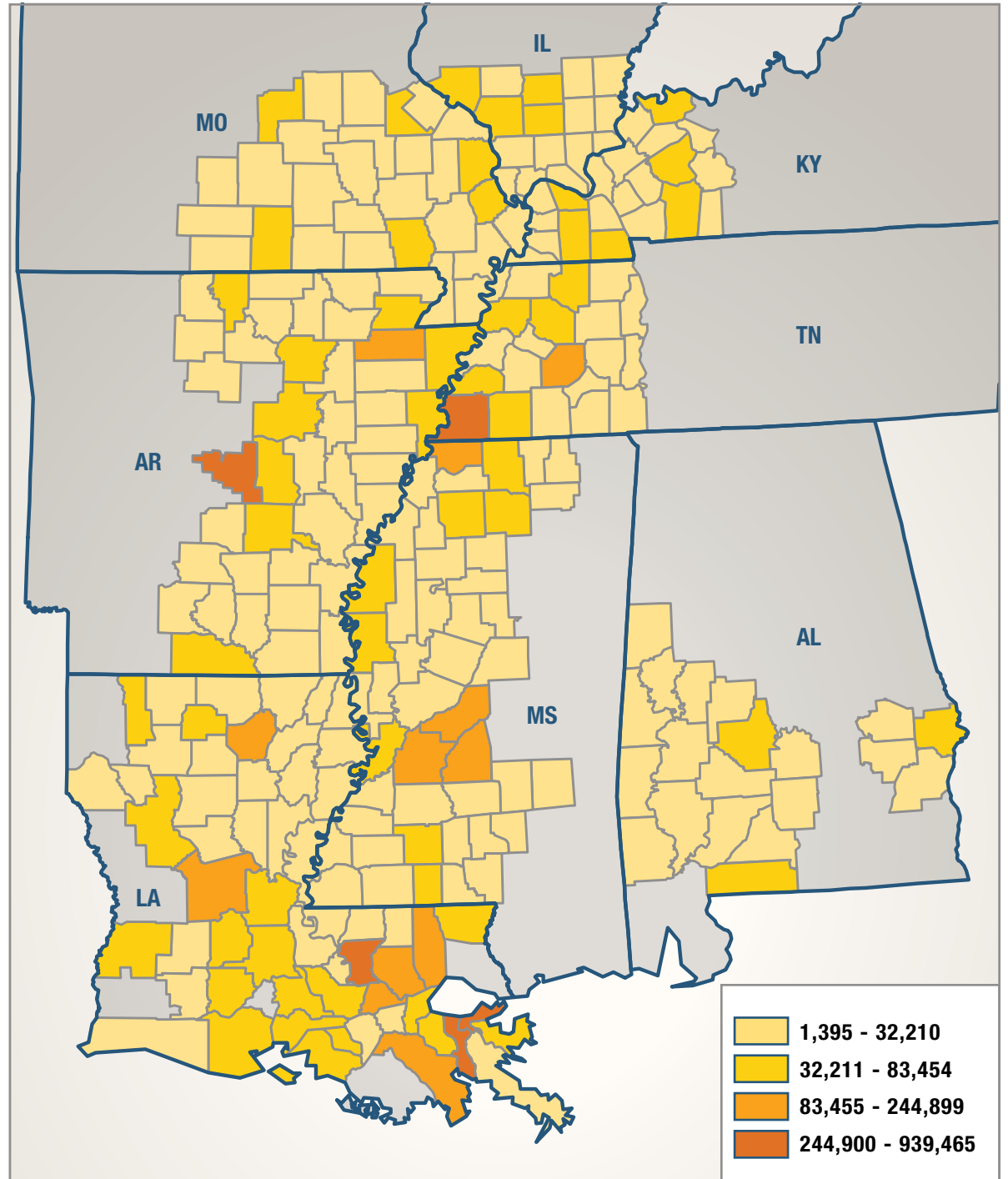
Total Population

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2013

REGION	POPULATION
United States	316,128,839
Delta Region	9,920,395
Alabama	416,962
Arkansas	1,431,110
Illinois	341,351
Kentucky	499,039
Louisiana	3,388,696
Mississippi	1,583,215
Missouri	687,433
Tennessee	1,572,589

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division,
Vintage 2013 Estimates, Release Date: March 2014

- Only 3.1 percent of the U.S. population resided in the Delta region.
- One-third of the population in the Delta region lived in Louisiana. Only eight of Louisiana's 64 parishes are not included.
- Illinois, with only 16 of its 102 counties located in the Delta, had the lowest percentage of the population (3.4%).



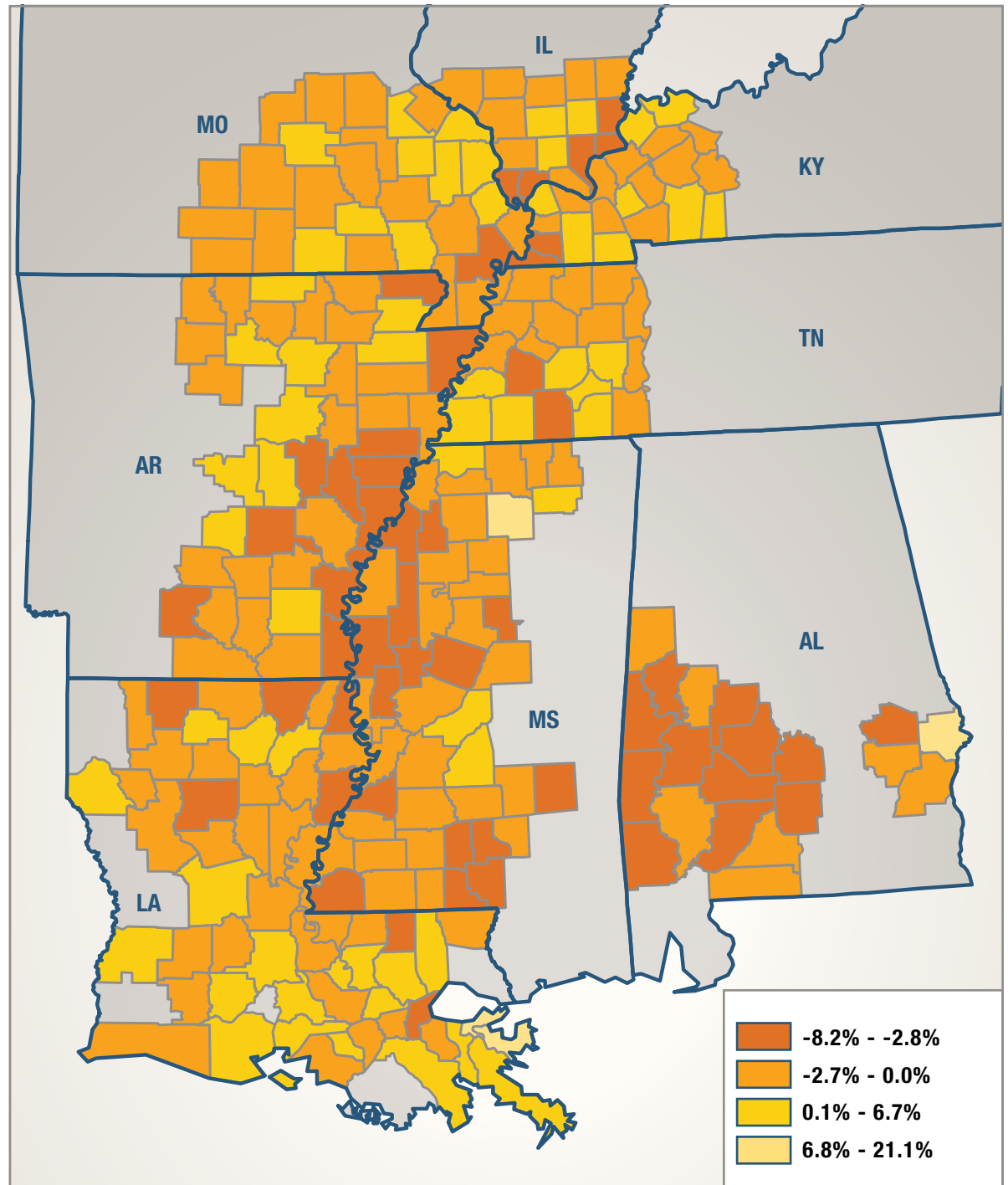
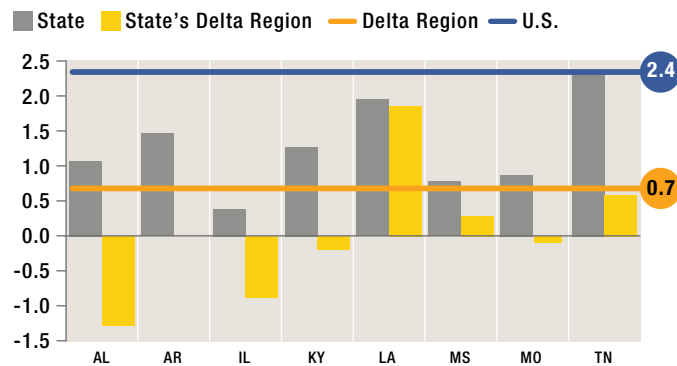
Percent Change in Total Population

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2010-2013

REGION	PERCENT CHANGE
United States	2.4%
Delta Region	0.7%
Alabama	-1.3%
Arkansas	0.0%
Illinois	-0.9%
Kentucky	-0.2%
Louisiana	1.9%
Mississippi	0.3%
Missouri	-0.1%
Tennessee	0.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Vintage 2013 Estimates, Release Date: June 2014

- While the population of the Delta region increased as a whole, half of the states lost population within their respective Delta regions.
- Russell County was Alabama's only Delta county to experience a gain in population from 2010-2013.



White Population*, Percent of Total Population

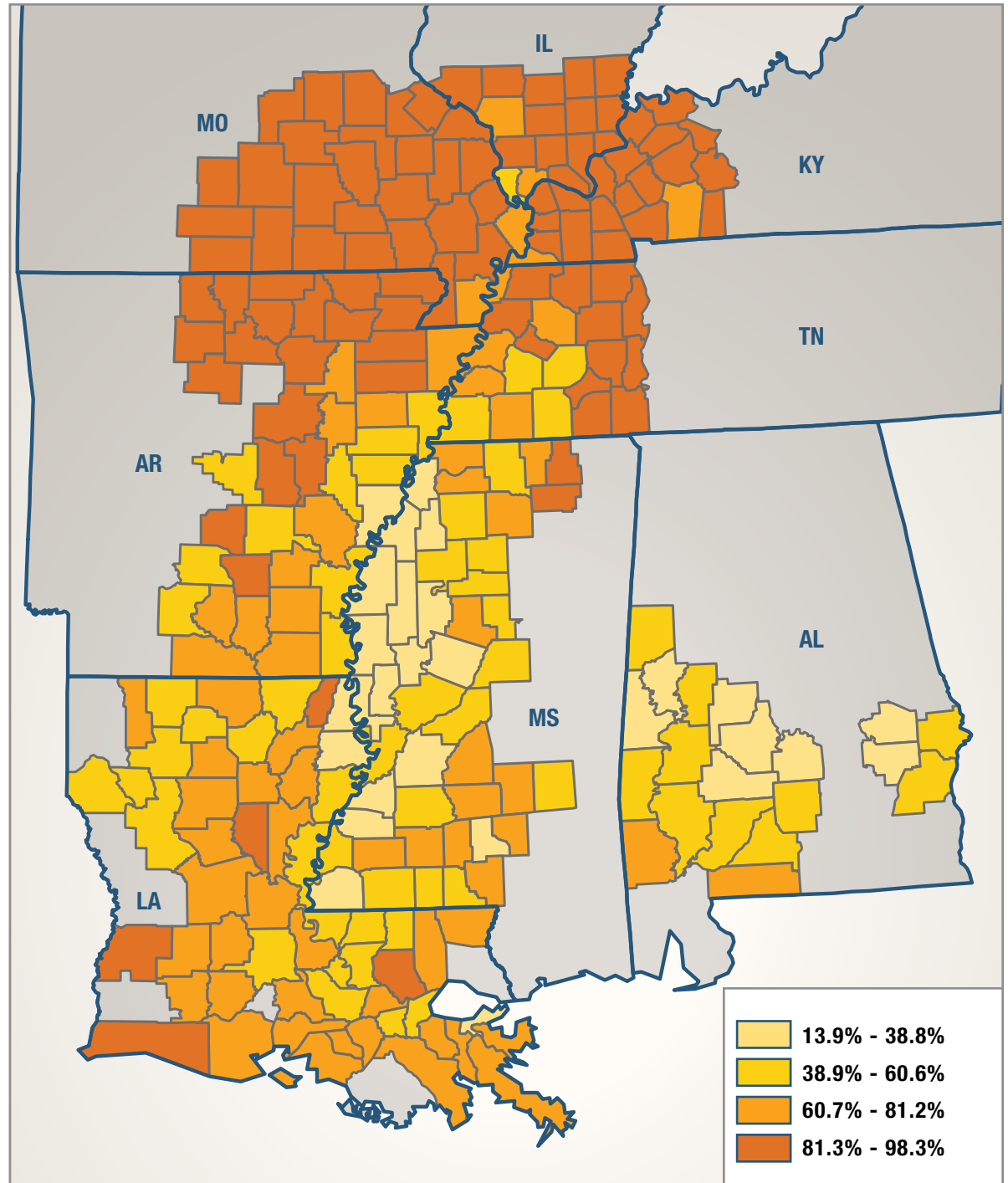
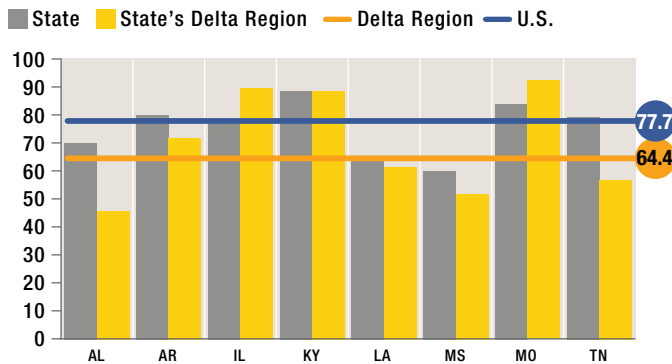
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2013

**one race only*

REGION	PERCENT
United States	77.7%
Delta Region	64.4%
Alabama	45.8%
Arkansas	71.8%
Illinois	89.4%
Kentucky	88.4%
Louisiana	61.3%
Mississippi	51.7%
Missouri	92.1%
Tennessee	56.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division,
Vintage 2013 Estimates, Release Date: June 2014

- The distribution of the White population in the Delta counties/parishes ranged from 13.9 percent to 98.3 percent.
- Missouri (92.1%) had the largest percentage of White population in the Delta region.



Percent Change in White Population*

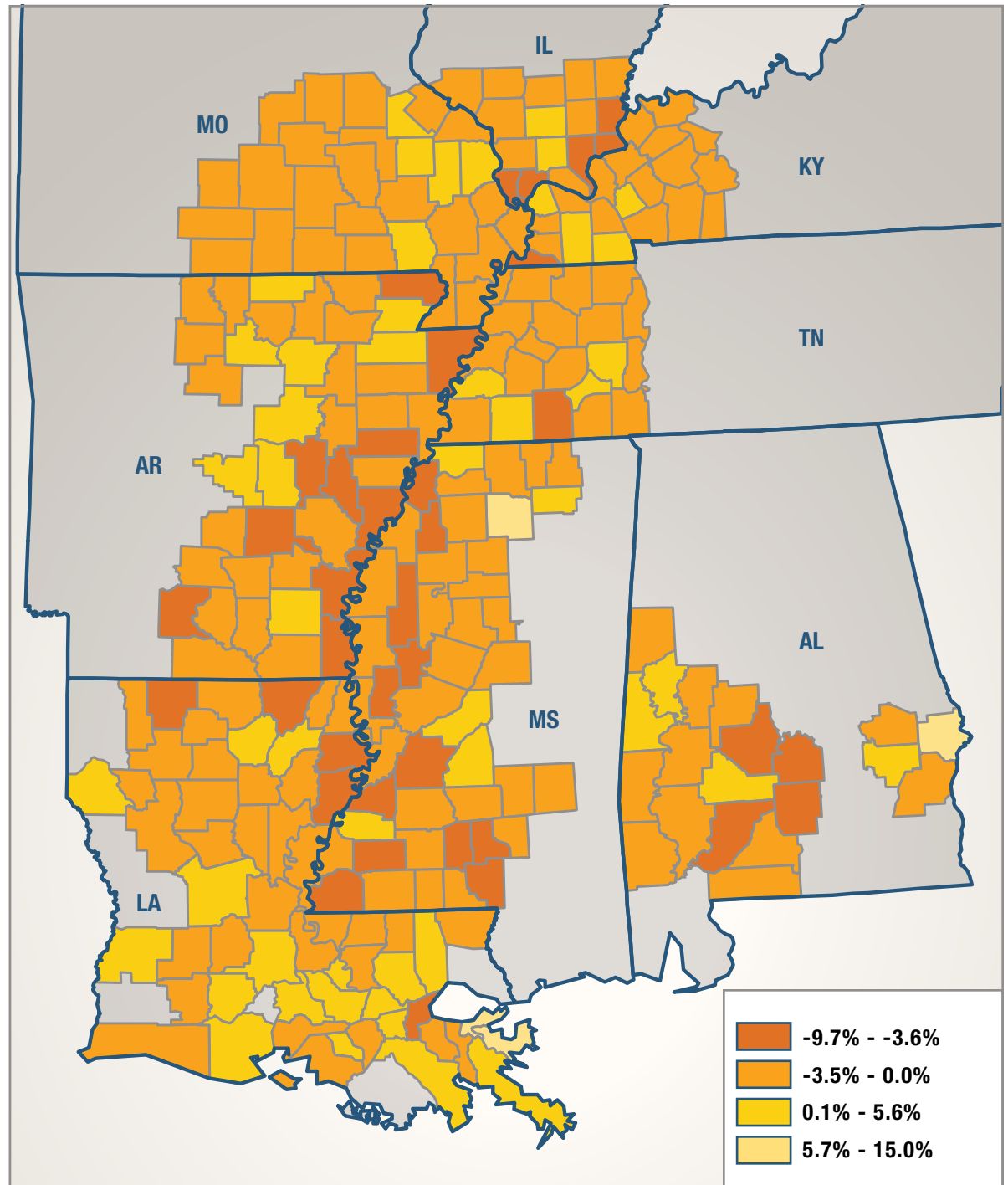
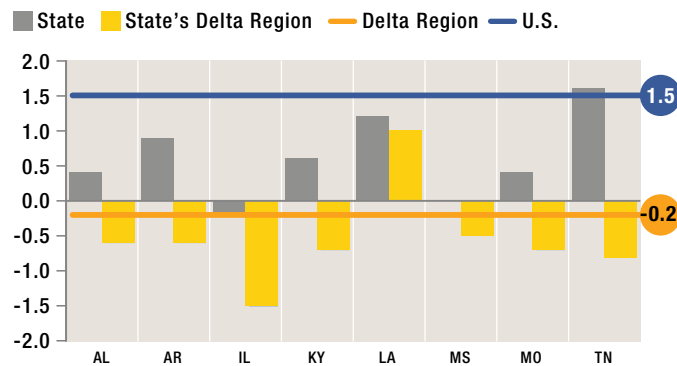
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2010-2013

*one race only

REGION	PERCENT CHANGE
United States	1.5%
Delta Region	-0.2%
Alabama	-0.6%
Arkansas	-0.6%
Illinois	-1.5%
Kentucky	-0.7%
Louisiana	1.0%
Mississippi	-0.5%
Missouri	-0.7%
Tennessee	-0.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Vintage 2013 Estimates, Release Date: June 2014

- While the U.S. gained in White population from 2010-2013, the Delta region experienced a loss.
- Louisiana had the only state's Delta to experience a growth during this period.



Black Population*, Percent of Total Population

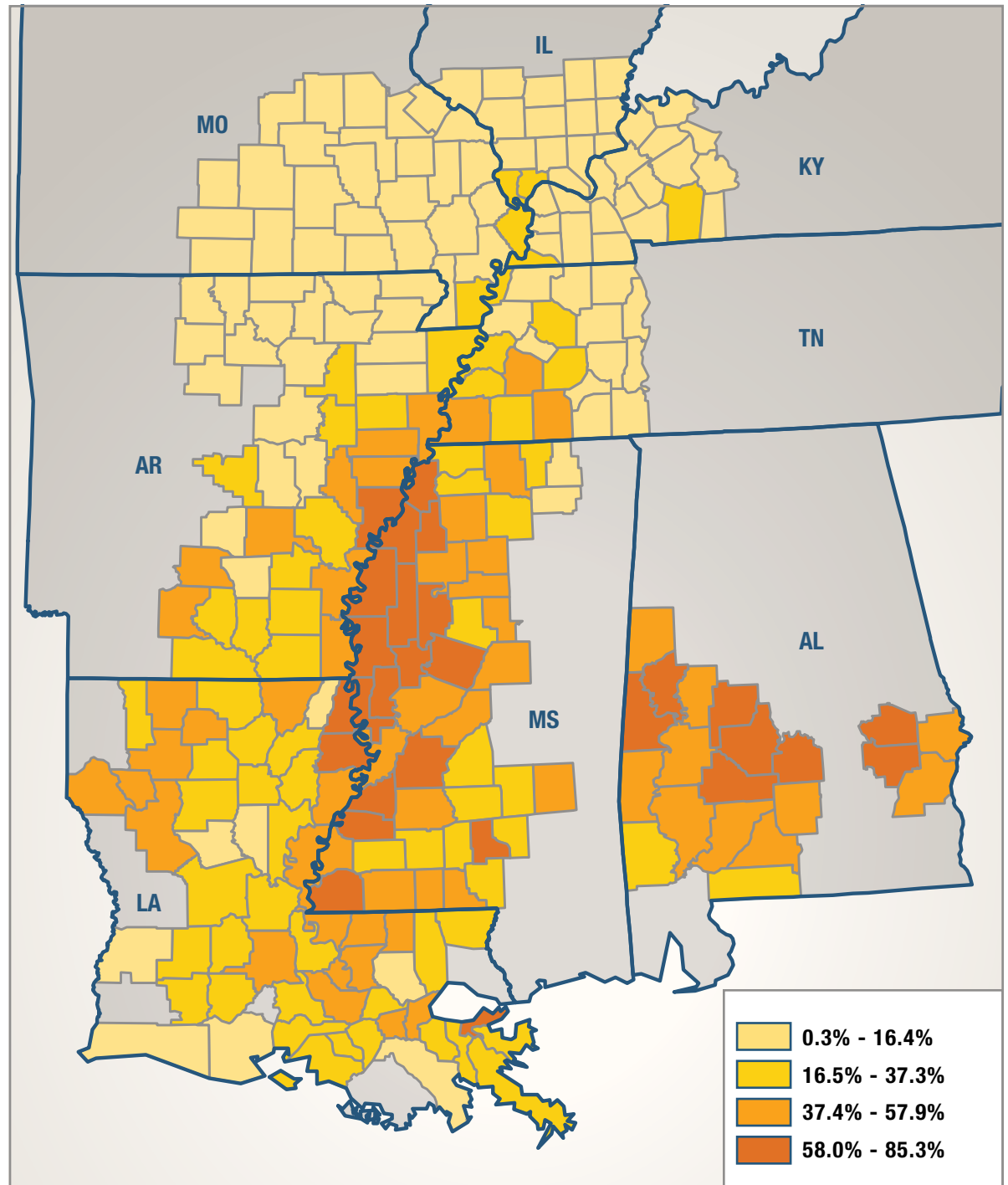
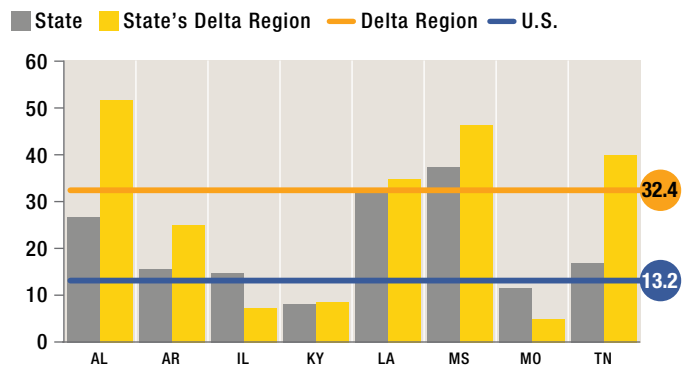
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2013

**one race only*

REGION	PERCENT
United States	13.2%
Delta Region	32.4%
Alabama	51.5%
Arkansas	25.0%
Illinois	7.4%
Kentucky	8.7%
Louisiana	34.8%
Mississippi	46.2%
Missouri	5.1%
Tennessee	39.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division,
Vintage 2013 Estimates, Release Date: June 2014

- The distribution of the Black population in the Delta counties/parishes ranged from 0.3 percent to 85.3 percent.
- Alabama had a higher percentage of Black population (51.5%) than the other Delta region states.



Percent Change in Black Population*

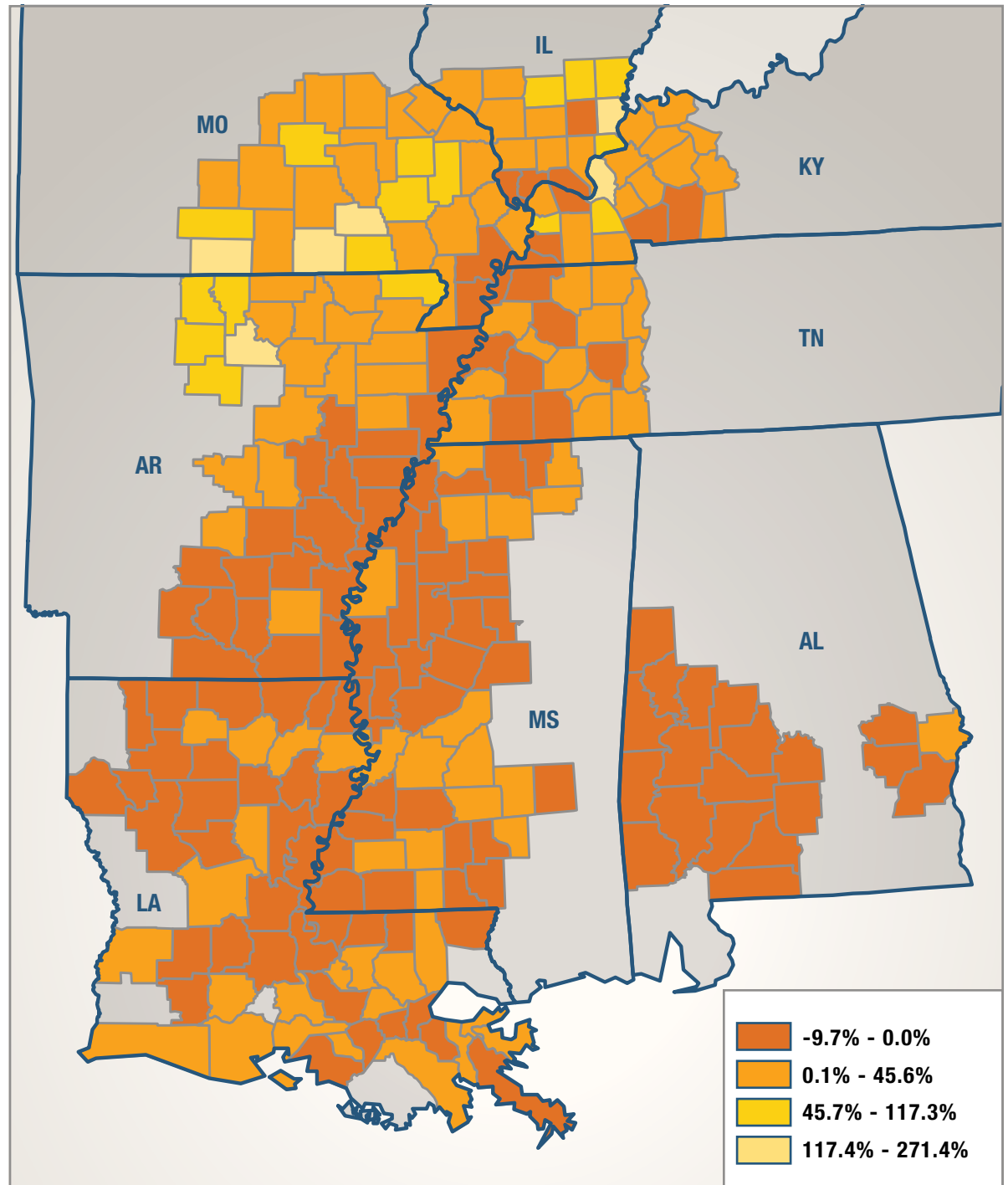
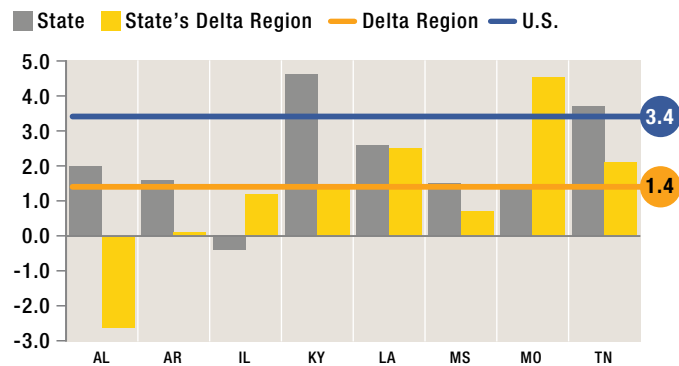
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2010-2013

*one race only

REGION	PERCENT CHANGE
United States	3.4%
Delta Region	1.4%
Alabama	-2.6%
Arkansas	0.1%
Illinois	1.2%
Kentucky	1.4%
Louisiana	2.5%
Mississippi	0.7%
Missouri	4.5%
Tennessee	2.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Vintage 2013 Estimates, Release Date: June 2014

- The growth of the U.S. Black population (3.4%) was over double that of the Delta region (1.4%).
- The Delta of Alabama was the only state to experience a loss in the Black population from 2010-2013.



Hispanic Population*, Percent of Total Population

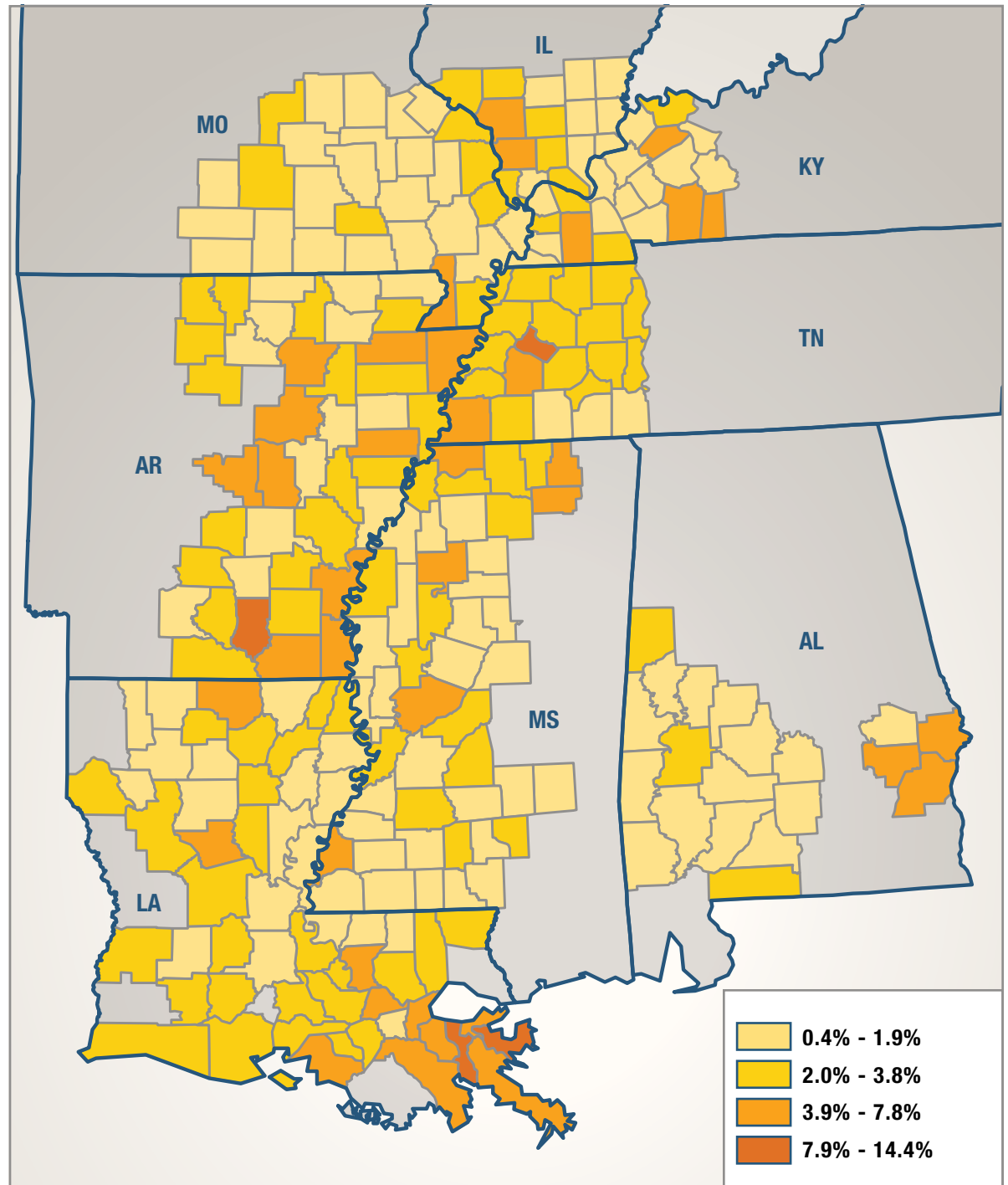
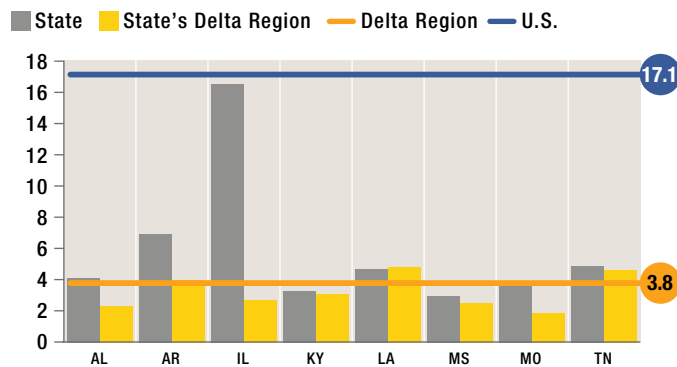
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2013

**of any race*

REGION	PERCENT TOTAL
United States	17.1%
Delta Region	3.8%
Alabama	2.3%
Arkansas	4.0%
Illinois	2.7%
Kentucky	3.1%
Louisiana	4.8%
Mississippi	2.5%
Missouri	1.9%
Tennessee	4.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division,
Vintage 2013 Estimates, Release Date: June 2014

- The distribution of the Hispanic population in the Delta counties/parishes ranged from 0.4 percent to 14.4 percent.
- The share of the Hispanic population in the U.S. (17.1%) was over four times that of the Delta region (3.8%).



Percent Change in Hispanic Population*

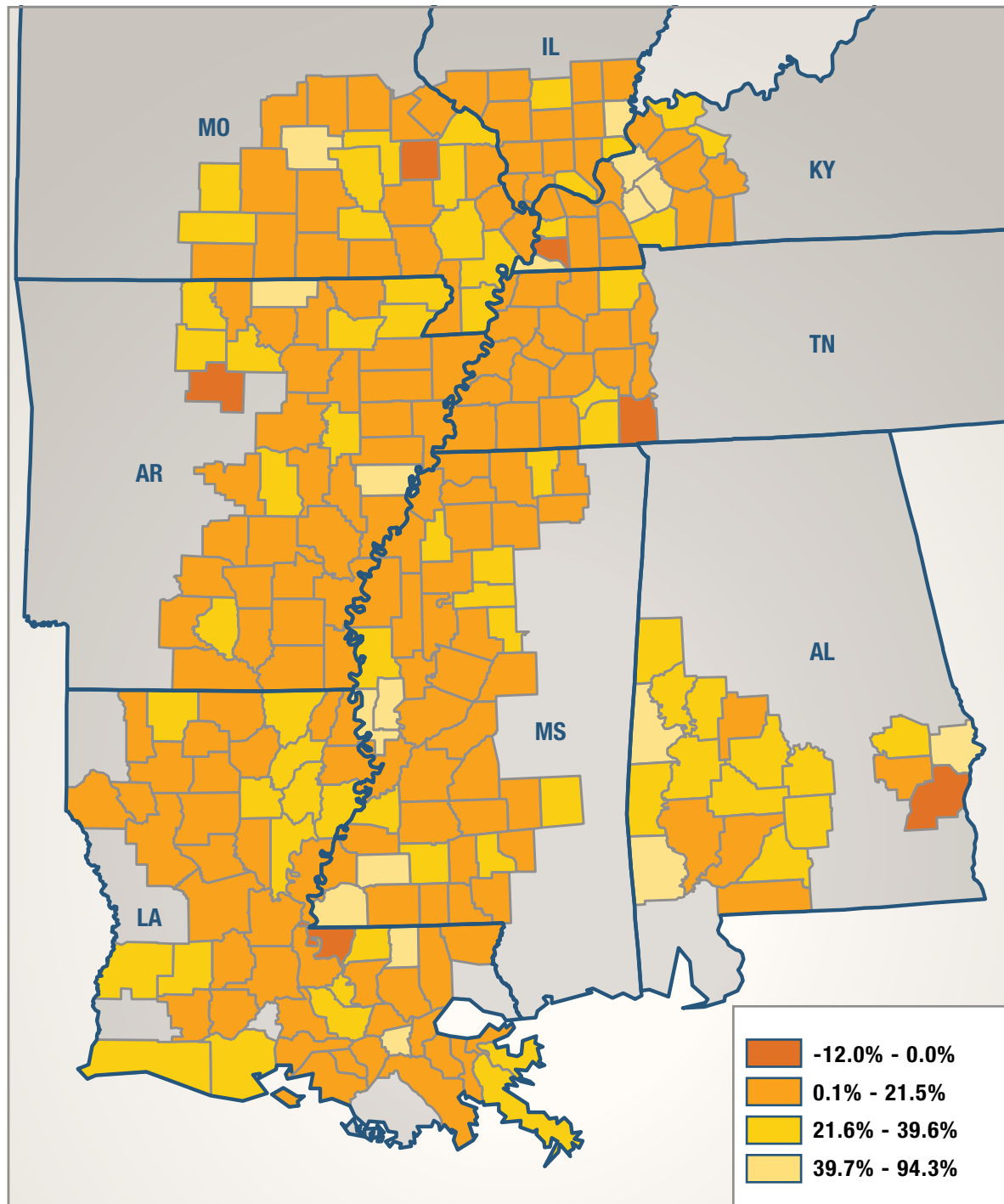
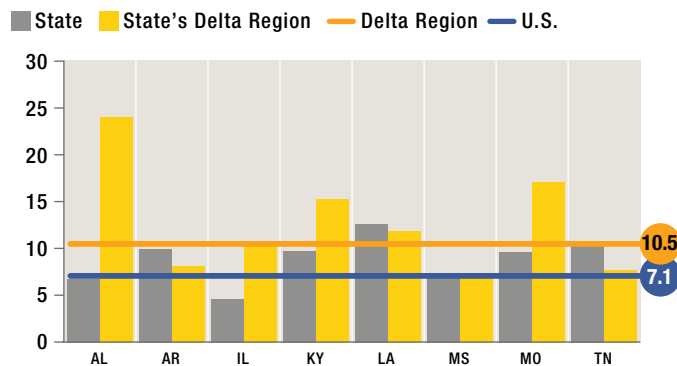
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2010-2013

*of any race

REGION	PERCENT CHANGE
United States	7.1%
Delta Region	10.5%
Alabama	24.0%
Arkansas	8.1%
Illinois	10.7%
Kentucky	15.3%
Louisiana	11.9%
Mississippi	7.0%
Missouri	17.1%
Tennessee	7.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Vintage 2013 Estimates, Release Date: June 2014

- The growth of the U.S. Hispanic population (7.1%) was less than that of the Delta region (10.5%).
- All of the Delta states experienced a gain in Hispanic population from 2010-2013.



Population 65 Years and Over

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2013

REGION	65+ POPULATION
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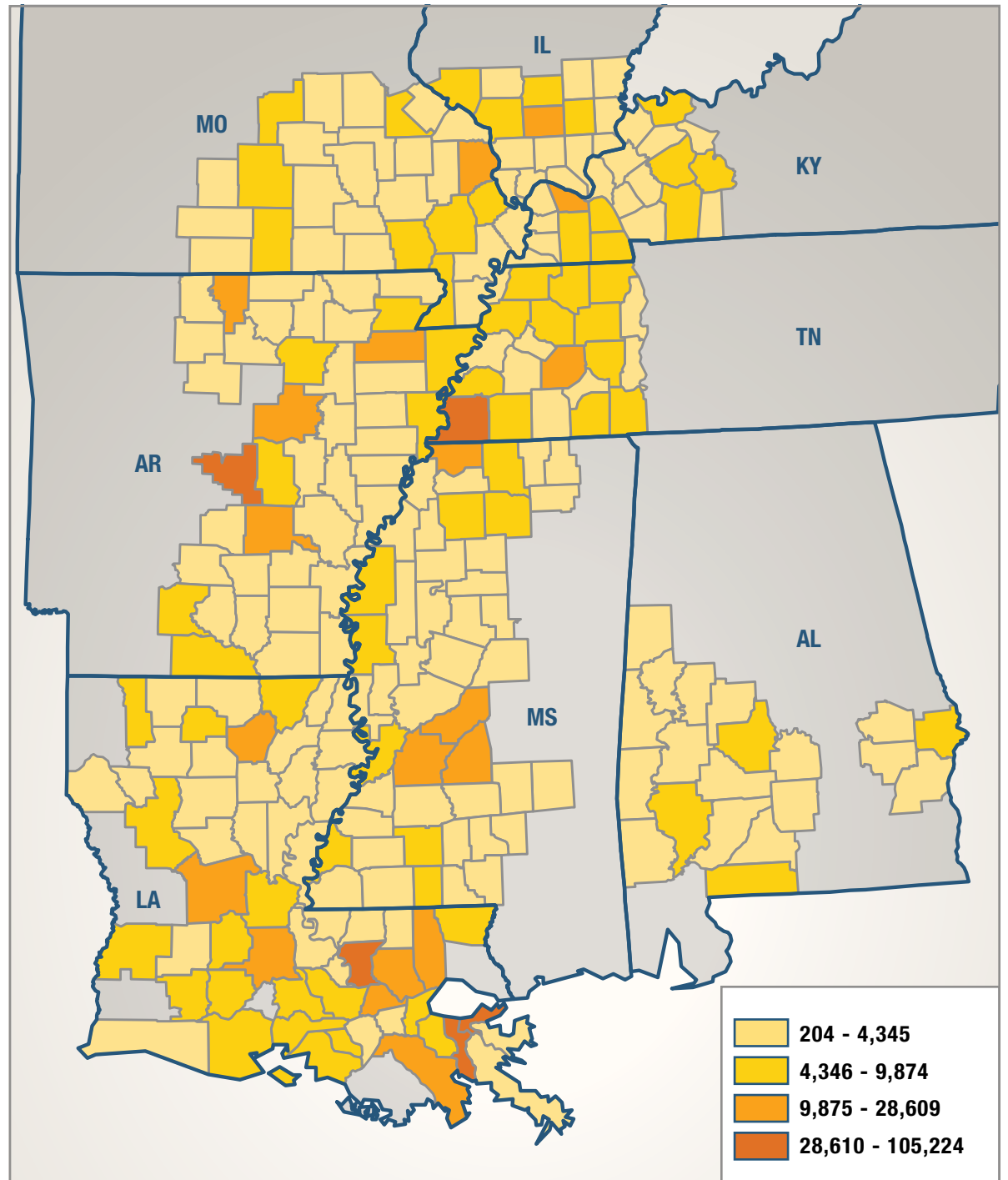
United States	44,704,074
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Delta Region	1,428,539
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Alabama	67,712
Arkansas	224,675
Illinois	59,718
Kentucky	82,473
Louisiana	451,319
Mississippi	214,036
Missouri	118,064
Tennessee	210,542

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division,
Vintage 2013 Estimates, Release Date: June 2014

- The distribution of the population 65 and over for the Delta region was 14.4 percent compared to 14.1 percent for the U.S.
- All of the state's Delta regions, except Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee, had a higher percentage of population over 65 years than both the Delta region and nation.



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



Photo courtesy of Southwest Tennessee Community College — Memphis, TN

Percent of Population 25 Years and Older with High School Diploma or GED*

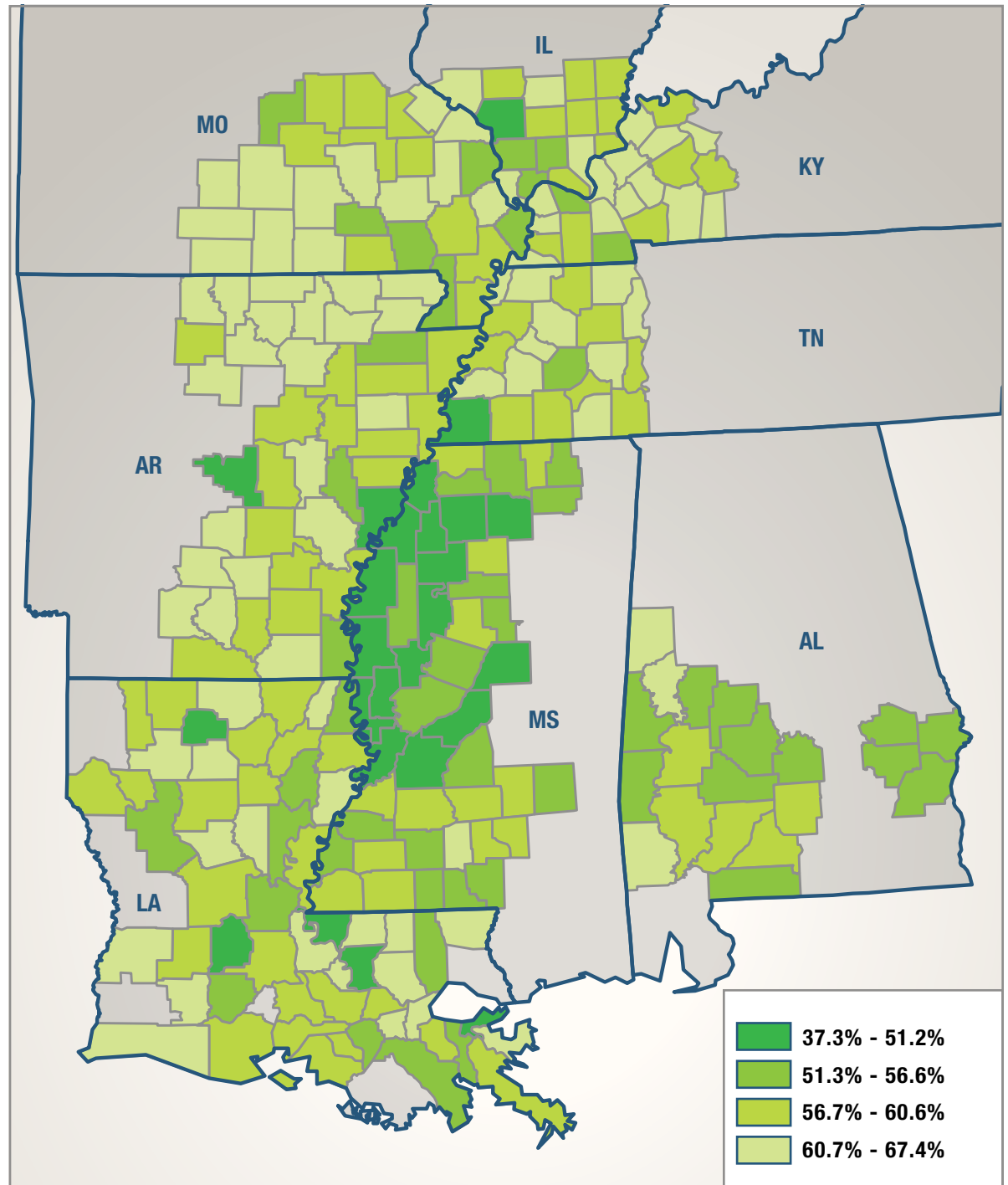
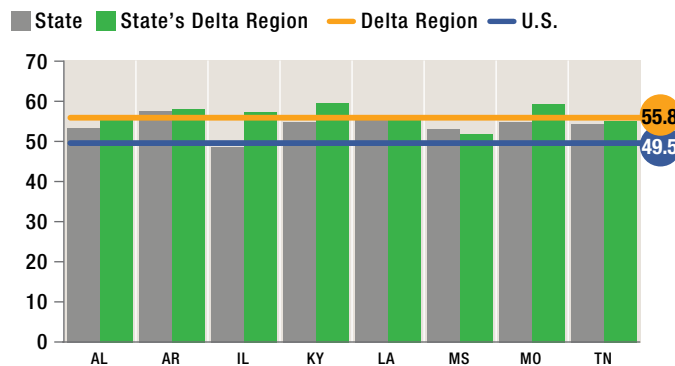
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2008-2012

*highest level of education completed

REGION	PERCENT
United States	49.5%
Delta Region	55.8%
Alabama	56.3%
Arkansas	57.9%
Illinois	57.1%
Kentucky	59.5%
Louisiana	55.7%
Mississippi	51.8%
Missouri	59.2%
Tennessee	54.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

- There were a larger percentage of adults, 25 years and over, in the Delta region than the U.S. who did not complete a higher level of education than high school, GED, or the equivalent.
- Illinois had the largest differential between its Delta region (57.1%) and the state as a whole (48.5%).



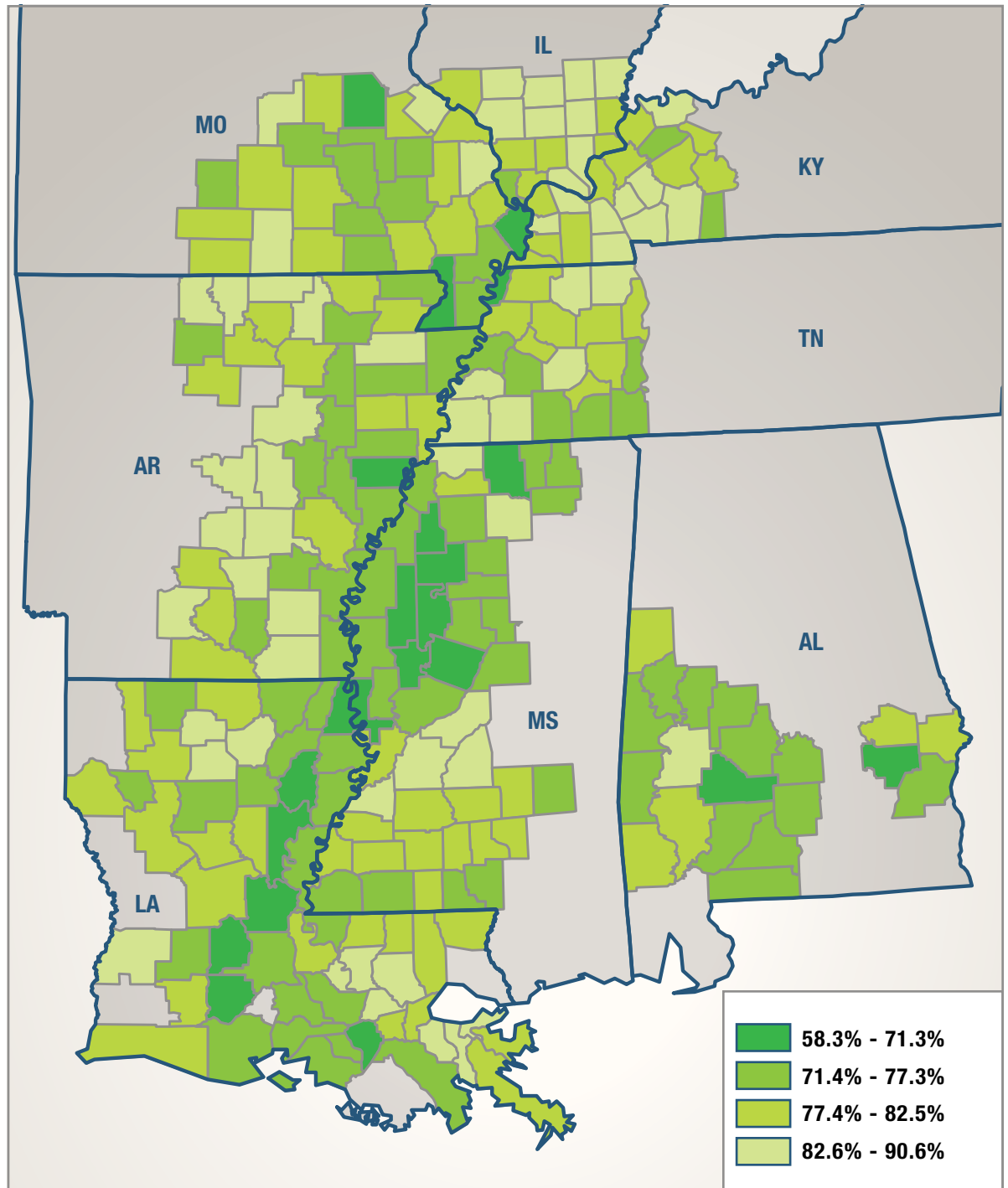
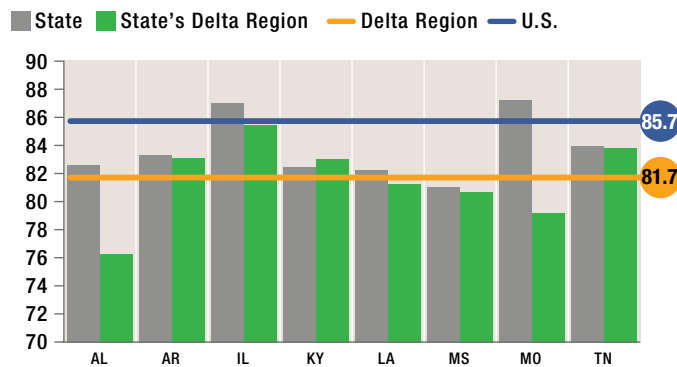
Percent of Population 25 Years and Older with a High School Diploma or Higher

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2008-2012

REGION	PERCENT
United States	85.7%
Delta Region	81.7%
Alabama	76.3%
Arkansas	83.1%
Illinois	85.4%
Kentucky	83.0%
Louisiana	81.2%
Mississippi	80.7%
Missouri	79.2%
Tennessee	83.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

- There were a larger percentage of adults, 25 years and over, in the U.S. that achieved at least a high school diploma (85.7%) than there were in the Delta (81.7%).
- Missouri had the largest differential between its Delta region (79.2%) and the state as a whole (87.2%).



Percent of Population 25 Years and Older with Associate's* Degree

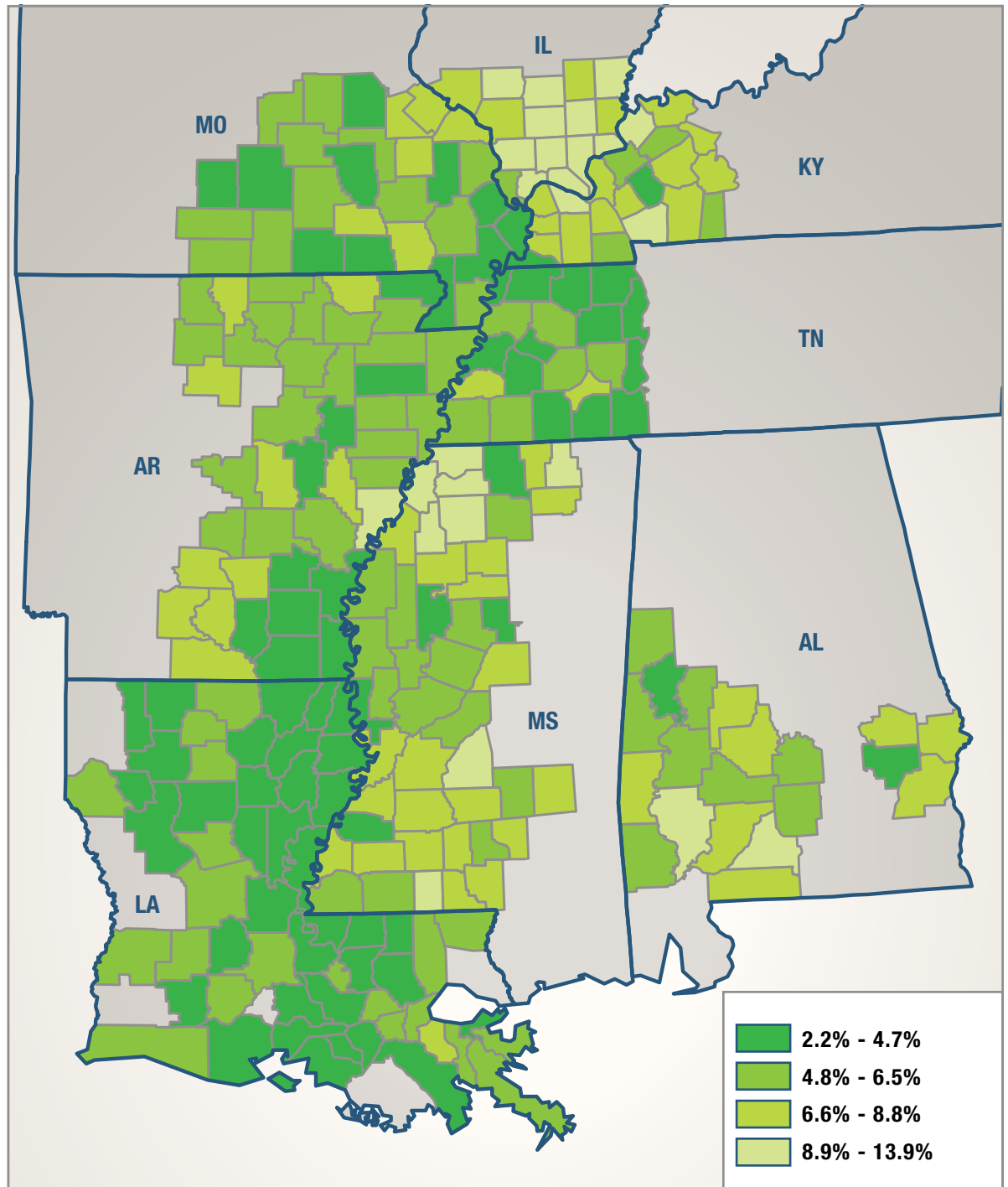
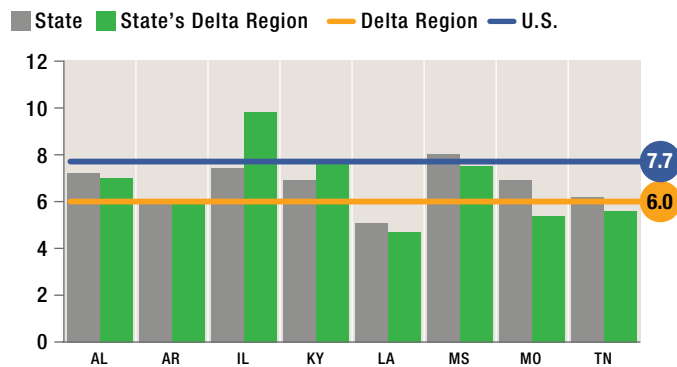
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2008-2012

*highest level of education completed

REGION	PERCENT
United States	7.7%
Delta Region	6.0%
Alabama	7.0%
Arkansas	6.0%
Illinois	9.8%
Kentucky	7.7%
Louisiana	4.7%
Mississippi	7.5%
Missouri	5.4%
Tennessee	5.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

- The percent of the population 25 years and over whose highest degree was an Associate's Degree in the Delta region was 1.7 percent lower than that of the U.S. (7.7%).
- The Delta portion of Illinois (9.8%) and Kentucky (7.7%) had a rate that was equal to or higher than the U.S.



Percent of Population 25 Years and Older with Bachelor's* Degree

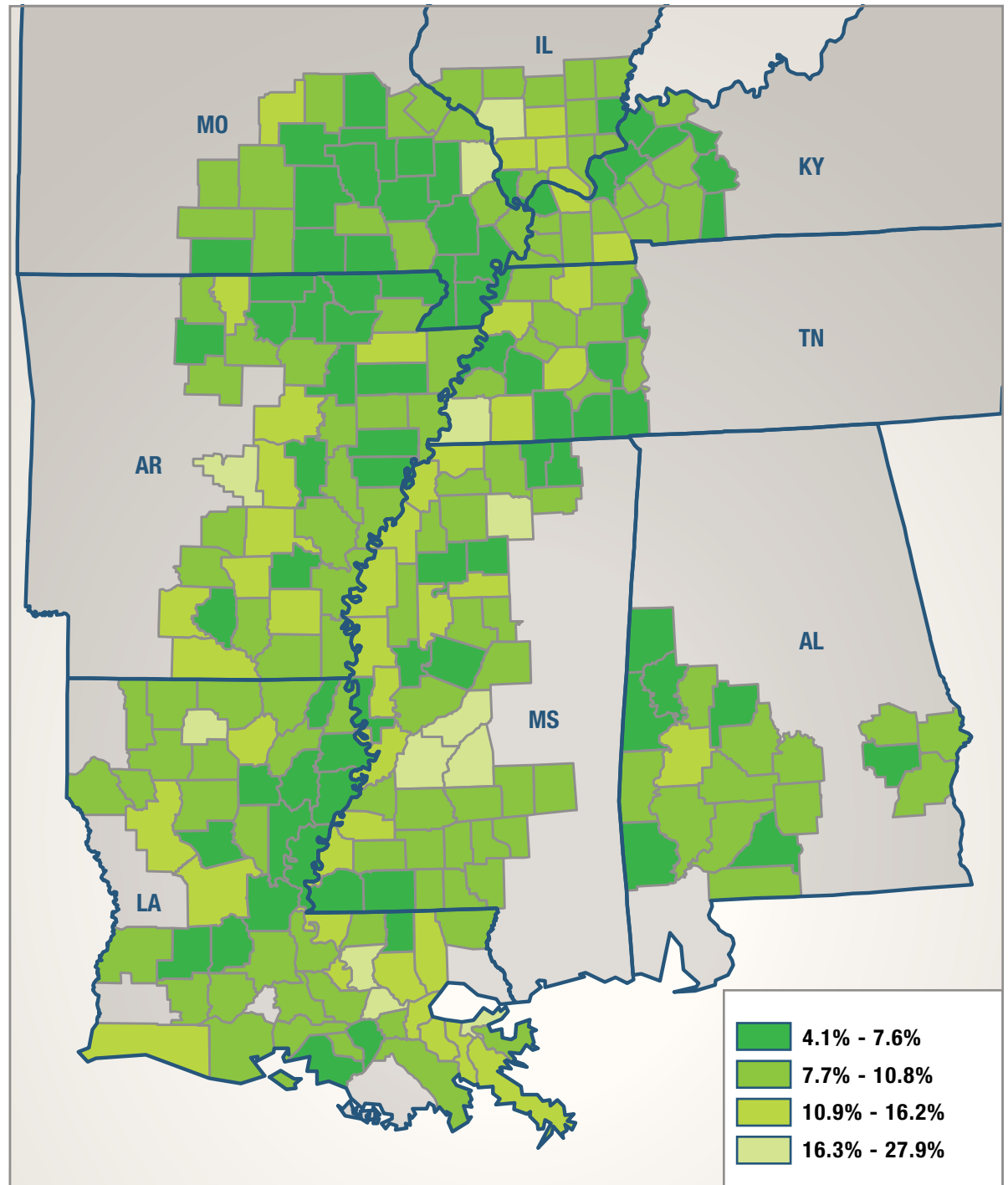
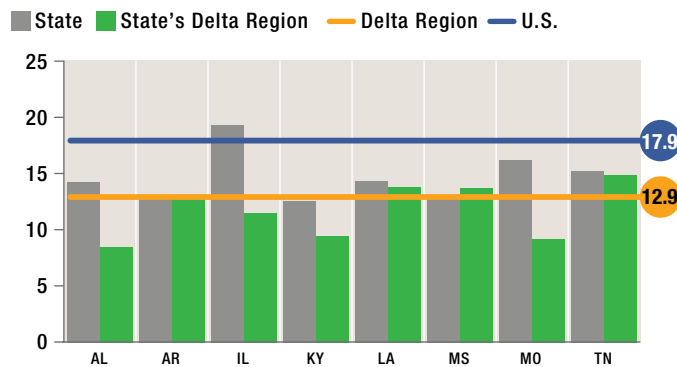
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2008-2012

*highest level of education completed

REGION	PERCENT
United States	17.9%
Delta Region	12.9%
Alabama	8.5%
Arkansas	12.7%
Illinois	11.5%
Kentucky	9.4%
Louisiana	13.8%
Mississippi	13.7%
Missouri	9.2%
Tennessee	14.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

- The percent of the Delta region population with a Bachelor's Degree was 12.9 as compared to the U.S. at 17.9 percent.
- The Delta counties within Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee exceeded the Delta region's overall rate.



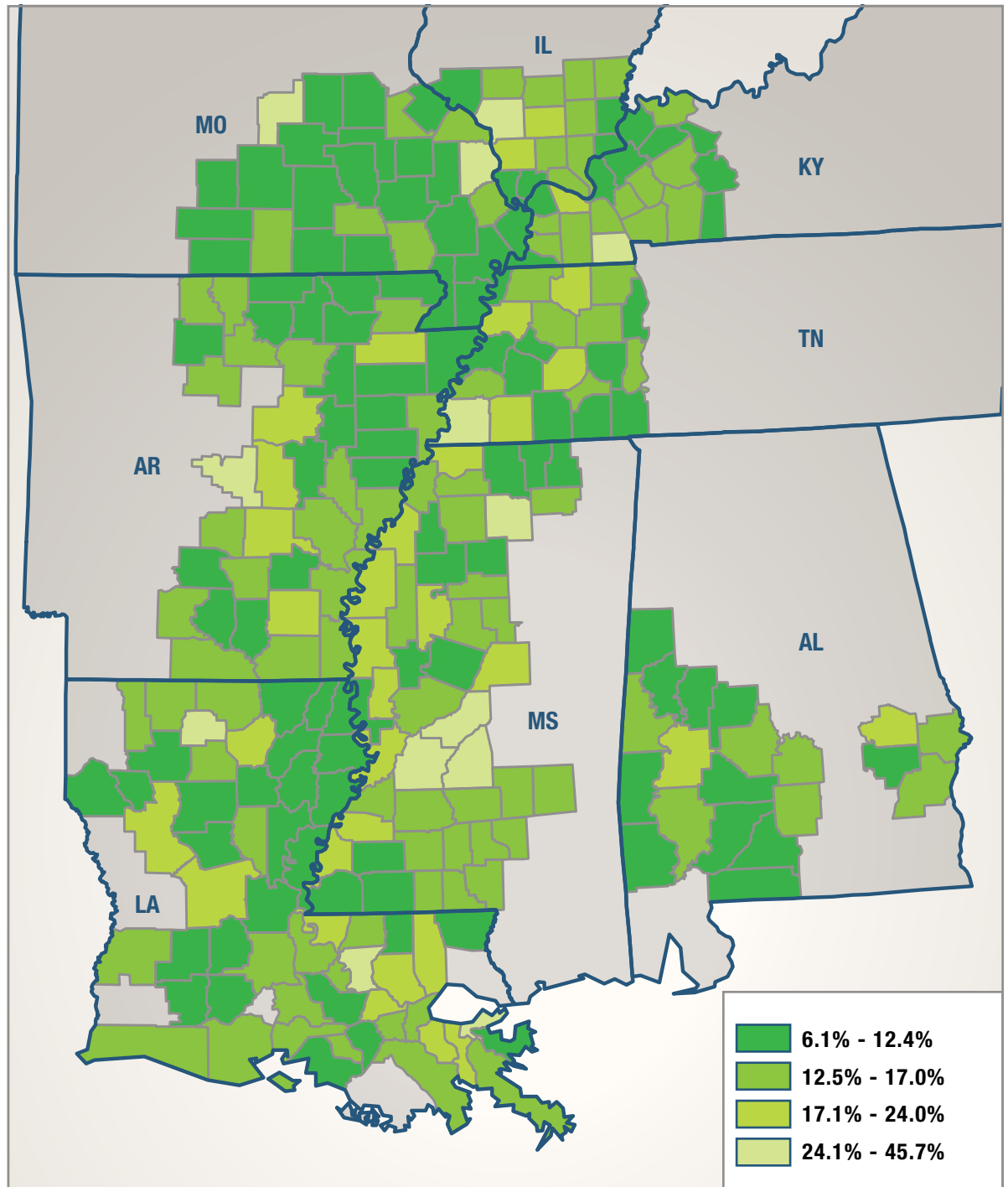
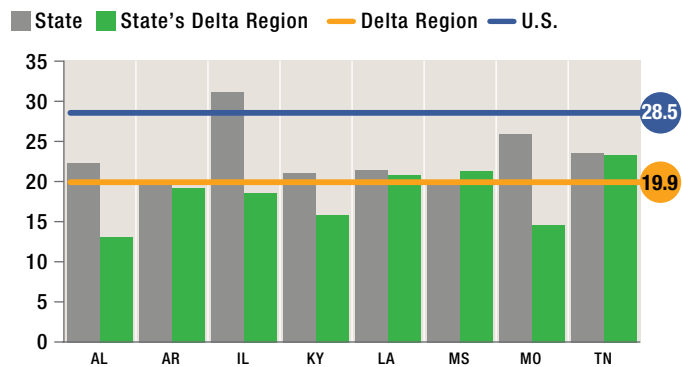
Percent of Population 25 Years and Older with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2008-2012

REGION	PERCENT
United States	28.5%
Delta Region	19.9%
Alabama	13.1%
Arkansas	19.2%
Illinois	18.5%
Kentucky	15.8%
Louisiana	20.8%
Mississippi	21.3%
Missouri	14.6%
Tennessee	23.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

- The percent of the population 25 years and over who earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher in the Delta region was 8.6 percent lower than that of the U.S. (28.5%).
- The rate for Delta counties within Alabama was less than half the U.S. rate.



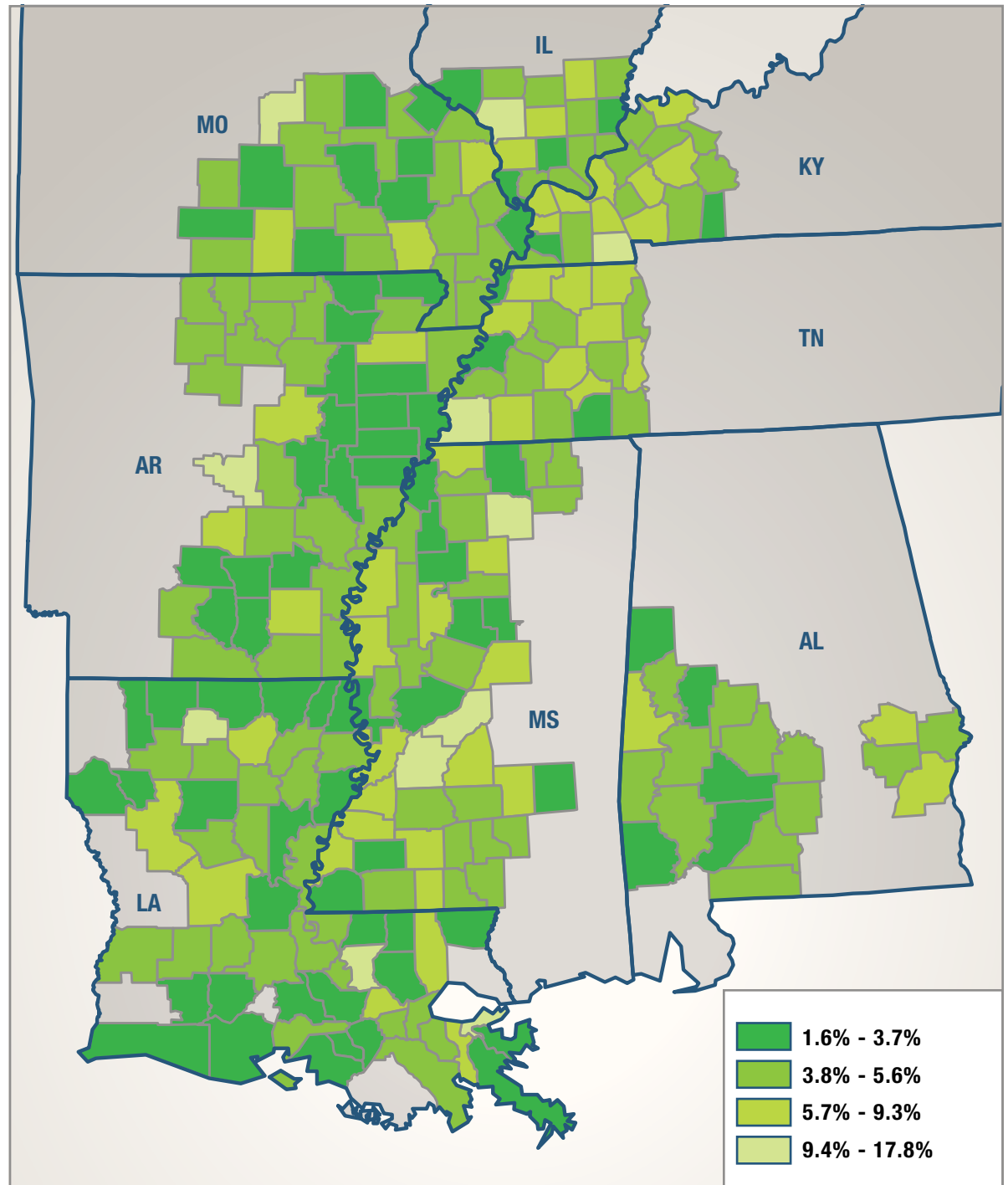
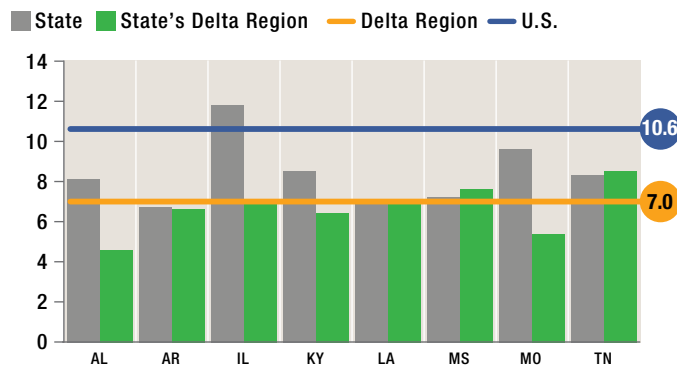
Percent of Population 25 Years and Older with Graduate or Professional Degree

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2008-2012

REGION	PERCENT
United States	10.6%
Delta Region	7.0%
Alabama	4.6%
Arkansas	6.6%
Illinois	7.1%
Kentucky	6.4%
Louisiana	7.0%
Mississippi	7.6%
Missouri	5.4%
Tennessee	8.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

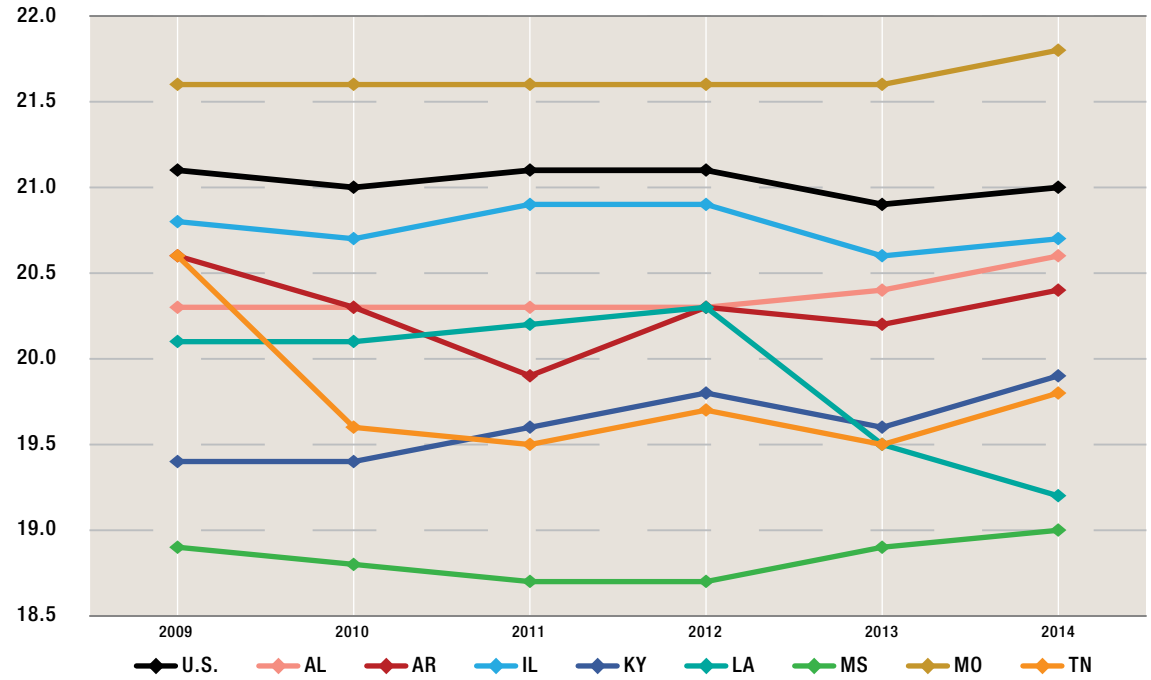
- The Delta region had 7.0 percent of its population with a graduate or professional degree in comparison to the U.S. with 10.6 percent.
- The Delta portion of Illinois (7.1%), Mississippi (7.6%), and Tennessee (8.5%) exceeded the Delta region rate.



Average Composite ACT Score

Delta Region States: 2009-2014

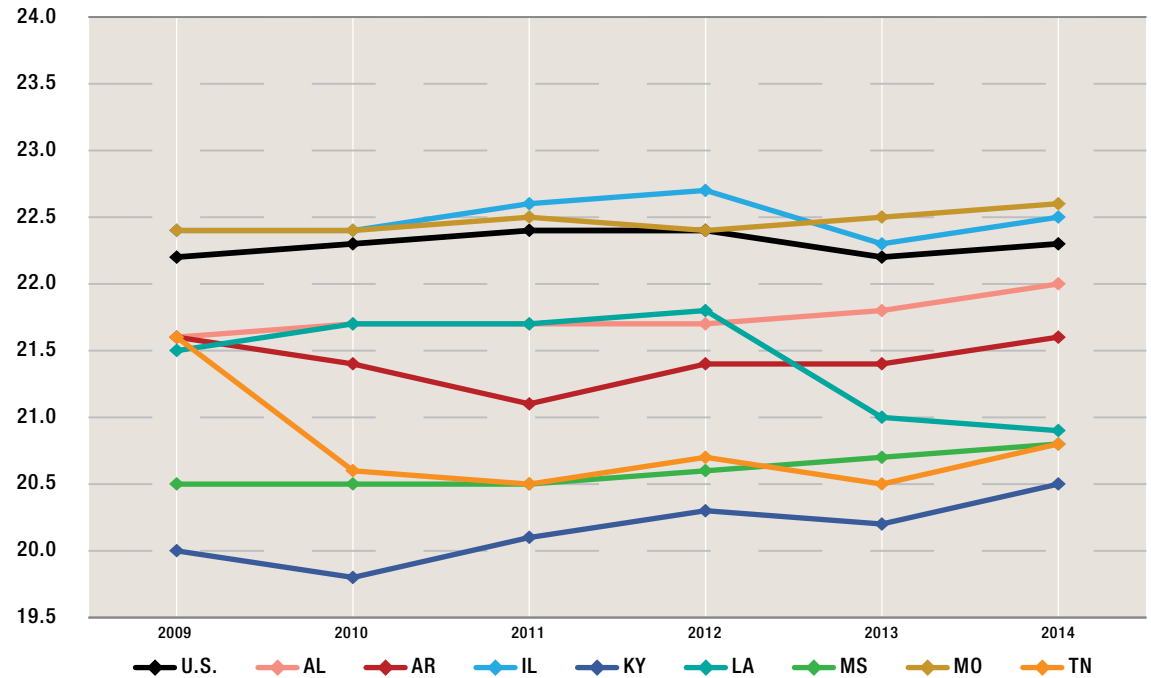
Source: ACT, <http://www.act.org/newsroom/data/>



Average Composite ACT Score of White Population

Delta Region States: 2009-2014

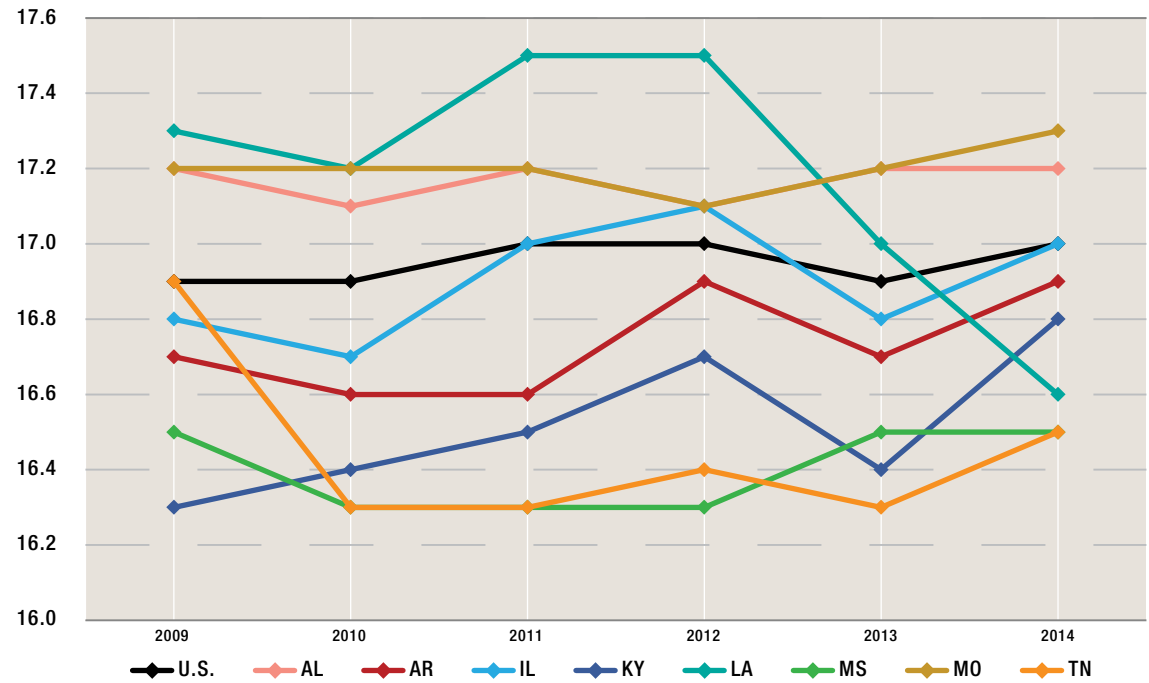
Source: ACT, <http://www.act.org/newsroom/data/>



Average Composite ACT Score of Black Population

Delta Region States: 2009-2014

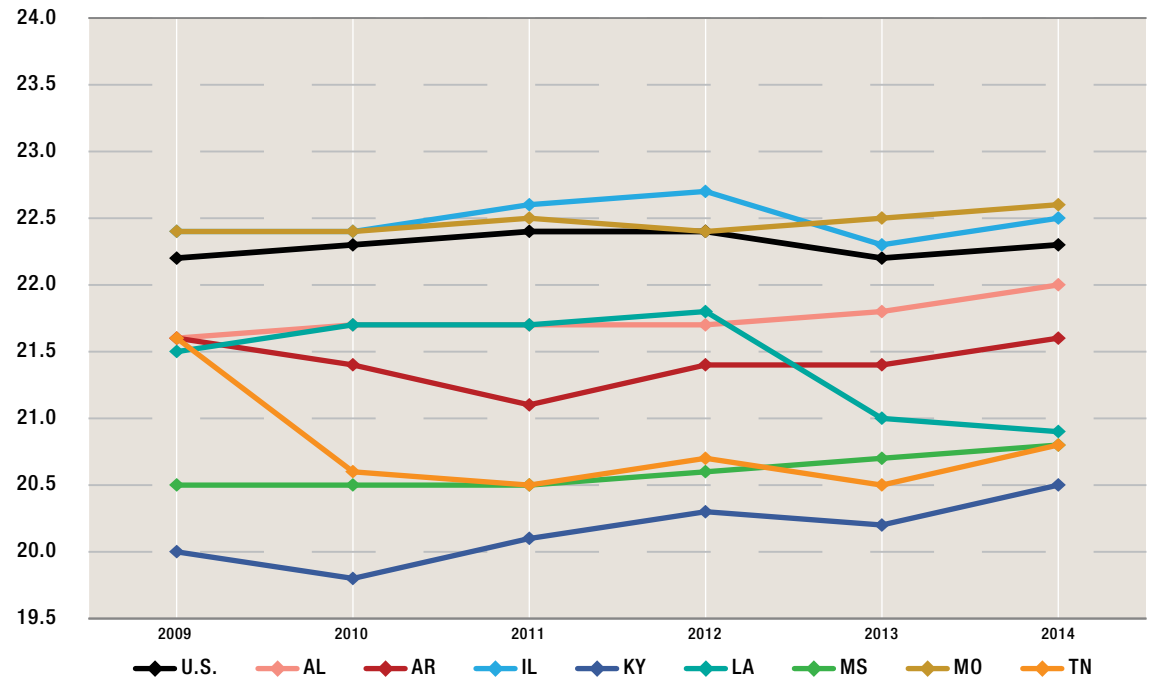
Source: ACT, <http://www.act.org/newsroom/data/>



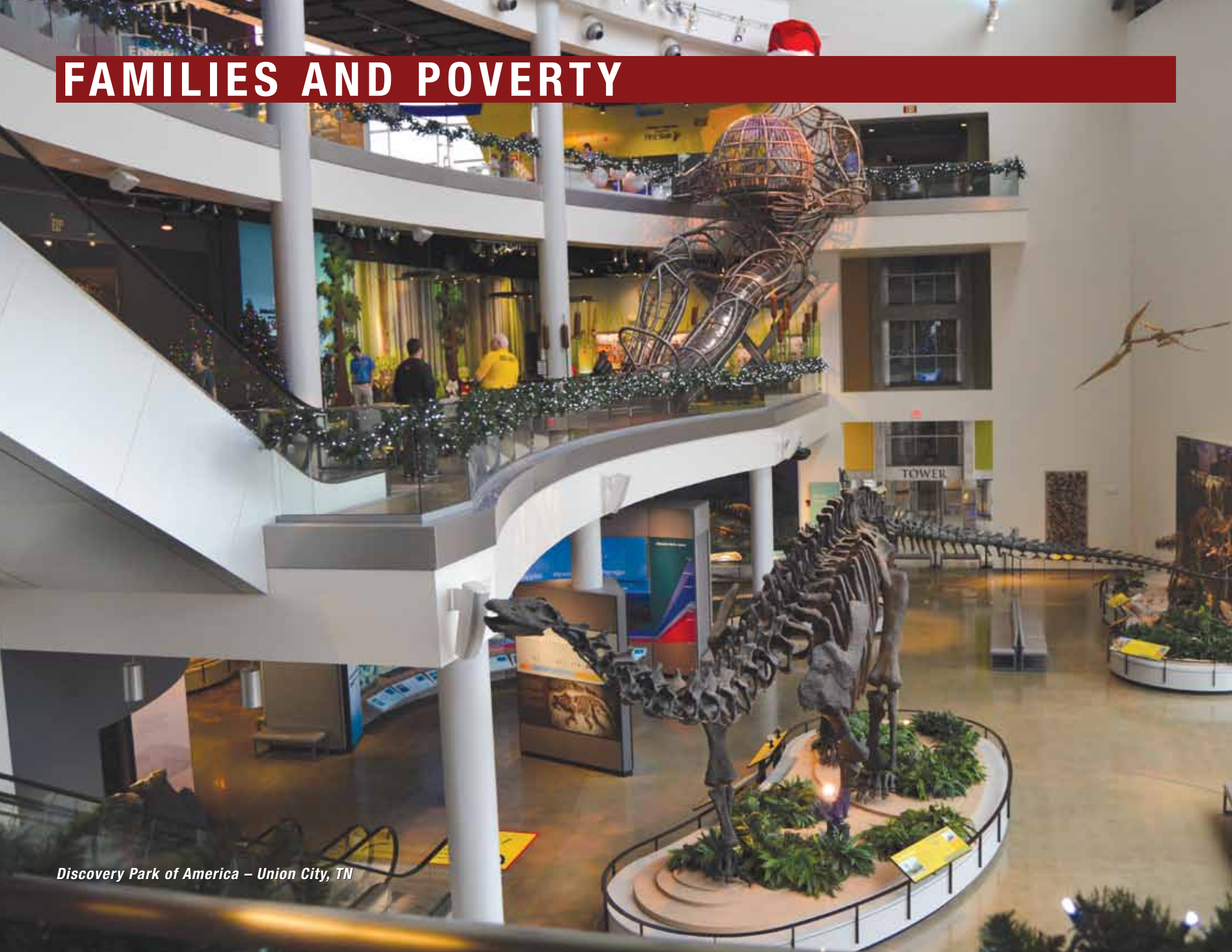
Average Composite ACT Score of Hispanic Population

Delta Region States: 2009-2014

Source: ACT, <http://www.act.org/newsroom/data/>



FAMILIES AND POVERTY



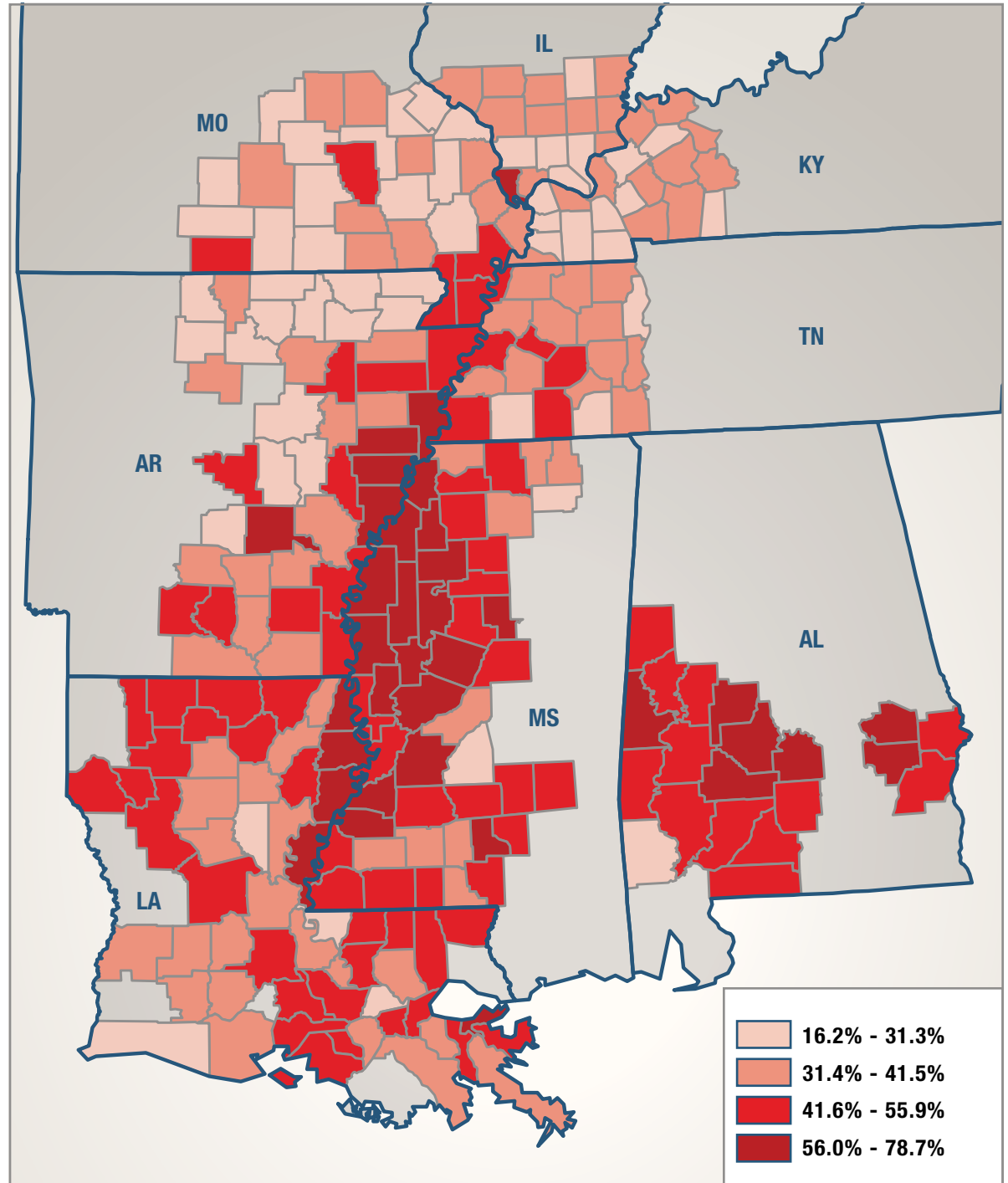
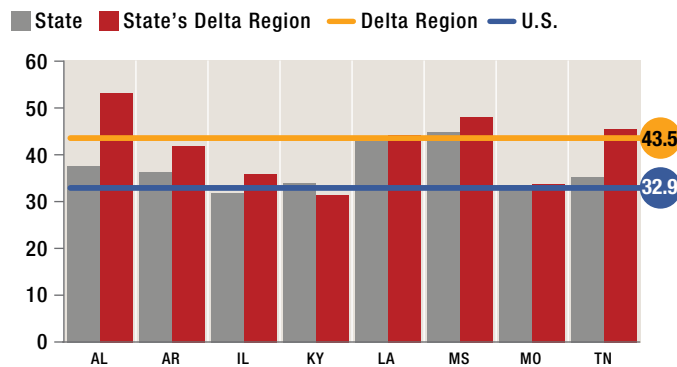
Percent of Children in Single Parent Families

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2008-2012

REGION	PERCENT
United States	32.9%
Delta Region	43.5%
Alabama	53.1%
Arkansas	41.7%
Illinois	35.9%
Kentucky	31.4%
Louisiana	44.2%
Mississippi	48.0%
Missouri	33.6%
Tennessee	45.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

- Almost one-third of children in the U.S. lived in single parent families, while 43.5 percent of children in the Delta region lived in single parent families.
- Over half of the children in family households in the Alabama Delta region lived in single parents families.



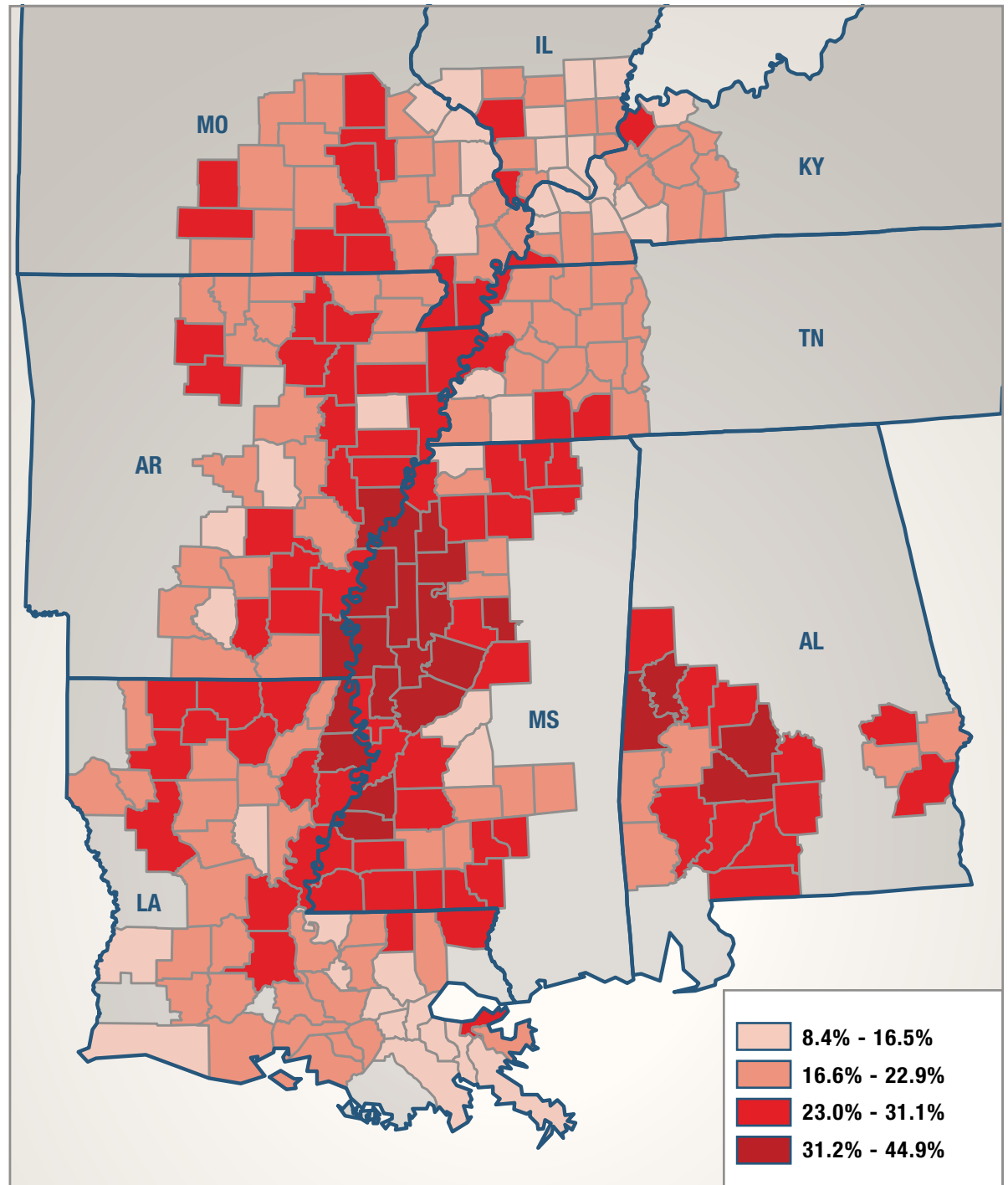
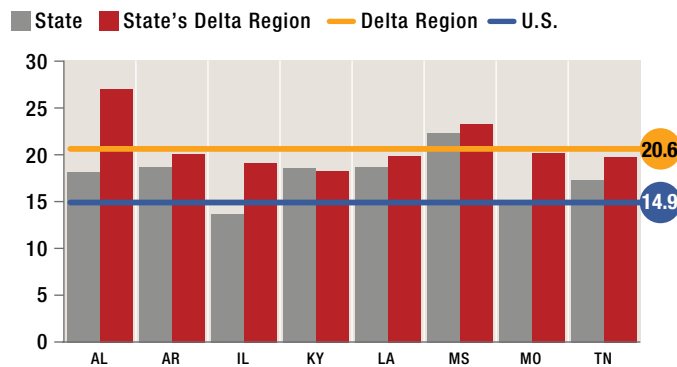
Percent of Population Living in Poverty

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2008-2012

REGION	PERCENT
United States	14.9%
Delta Region	20.6%
Alabama	26.9%
Arkansas	20.0%
Illinois	19.1%
Kentucky	18.2%
Louisiana	19.8%
Mississippi	23.2%
Missouri	20.1%
Tennessee	19.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

- Approximately 89 percent of the counties in the Delta exceeded the U.S. poverty rate (14.9%) and 54 percent of them surpassed the Delta region (20.6%).
- Kentucky's Delta counties had a lower poverty rate (18.2%) than Kentucky as a whole (18.6%).



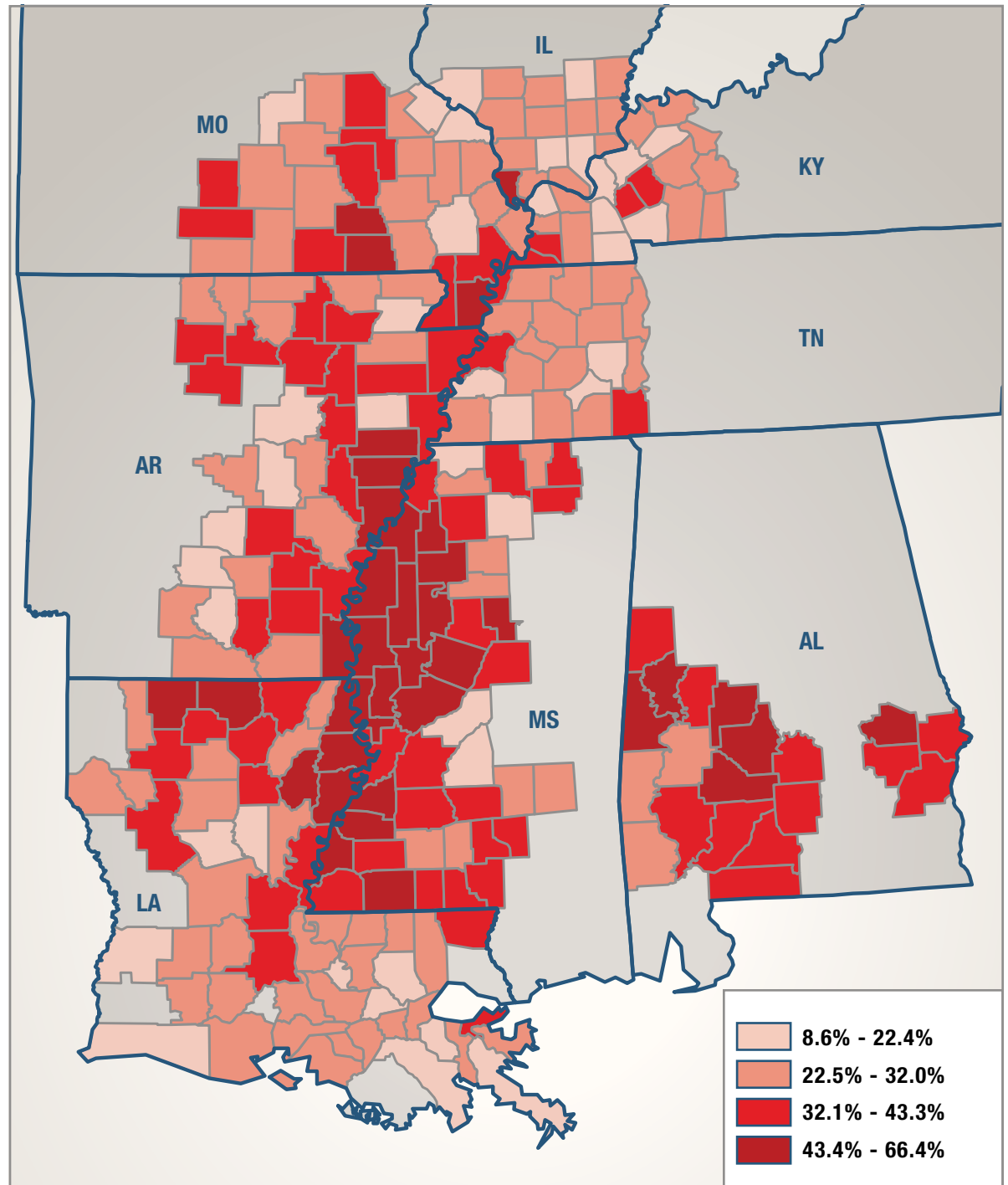
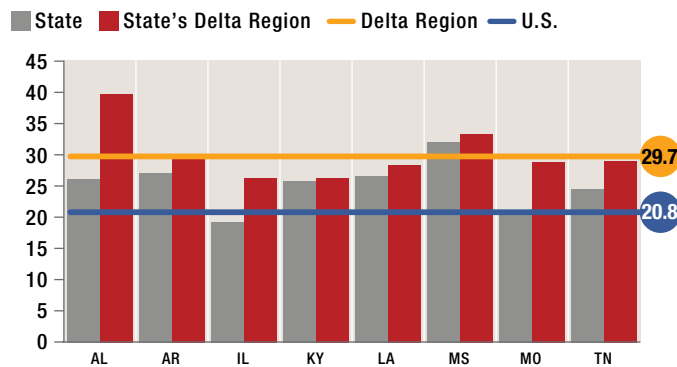
Percent of Population Under 18 Years of Age Living in Poverty

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2008-2012

REGION	PERCENT
United States	20.8%
Delta Region	29.7%
Alabama	39.7%
Arkansas	29.4%
Illinois	26.2%
Kentucky	26.2%
Louisiana	28.3%
Mississippi	33.3%
Missouri	28.7%
Tennessee	28.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

- The Delta portion of Alabama (39.7%) and Mississippi (33.3%) had the highest poverty rates for children under 18 years of age in the region.
- Alabama had the largest differential between its Delta region (39.7%) and the state as a whole (26.0%).



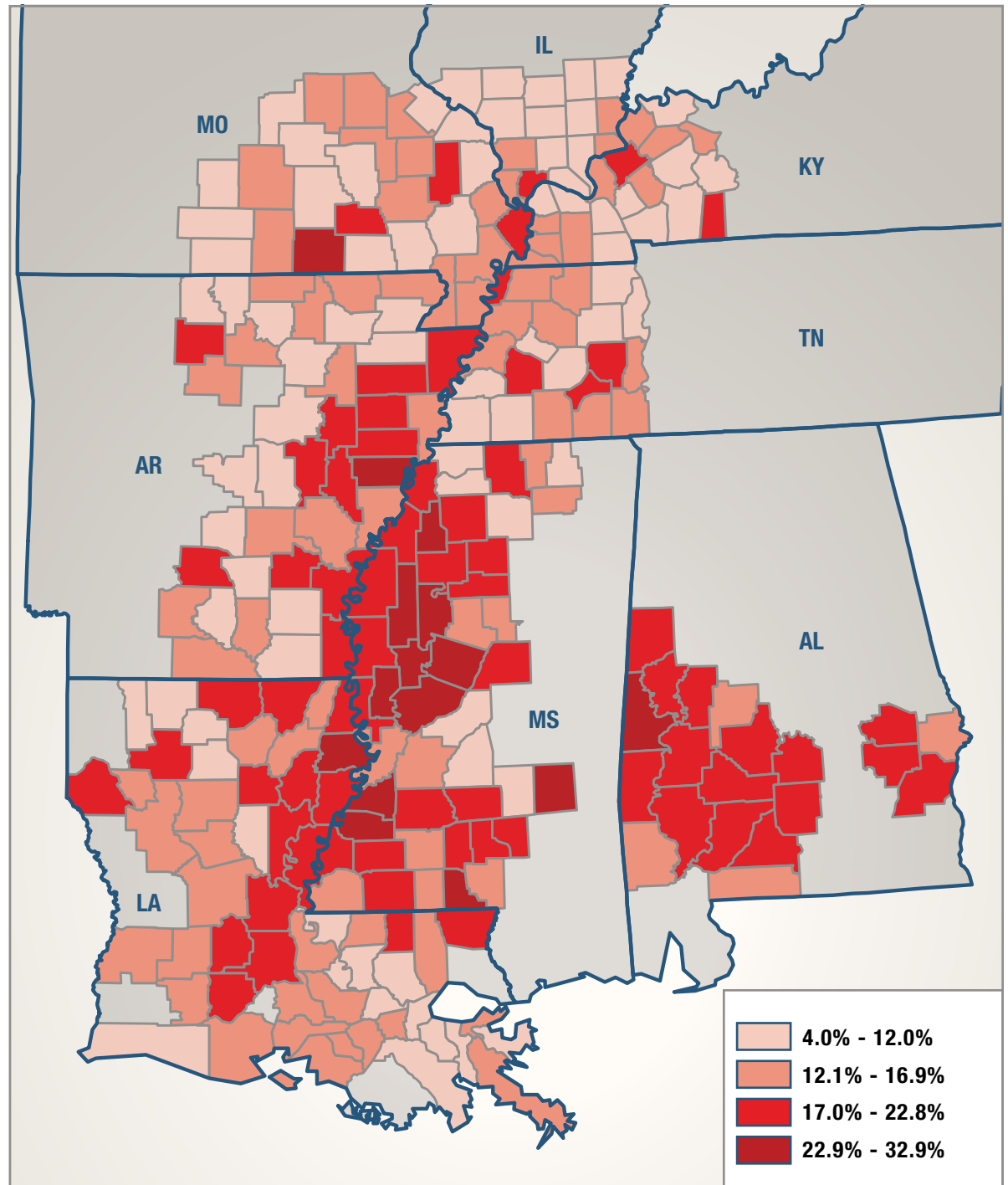
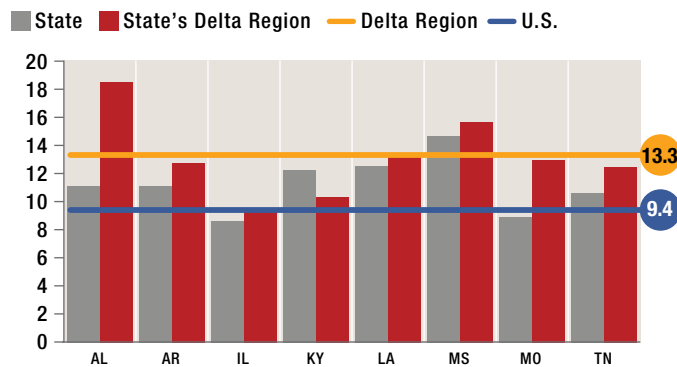
Percent of Population 65 Years and Over Living in Poverty

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2008-2012

REGION	PERCENT
United States	9.4%
Delta Region	13.3%
Alabama	18.5%
Arkansas	12.7%
Illinois	9.5%
Kentucky	10.3%
Louisiana	13.3%
Mississippi	15.6%
Missouri	12.9%
Tennessee	12.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

- Approximately 87 percent of the counties in the Delta surpassed the U.S. rate (9.4%) and 58 percent of them exceeded the Delta region (13.3%).
- The Delta region poverty rate for the population 65 years and over was 3.9 percentage points higher than that of the U.S.



Persistent Poverty

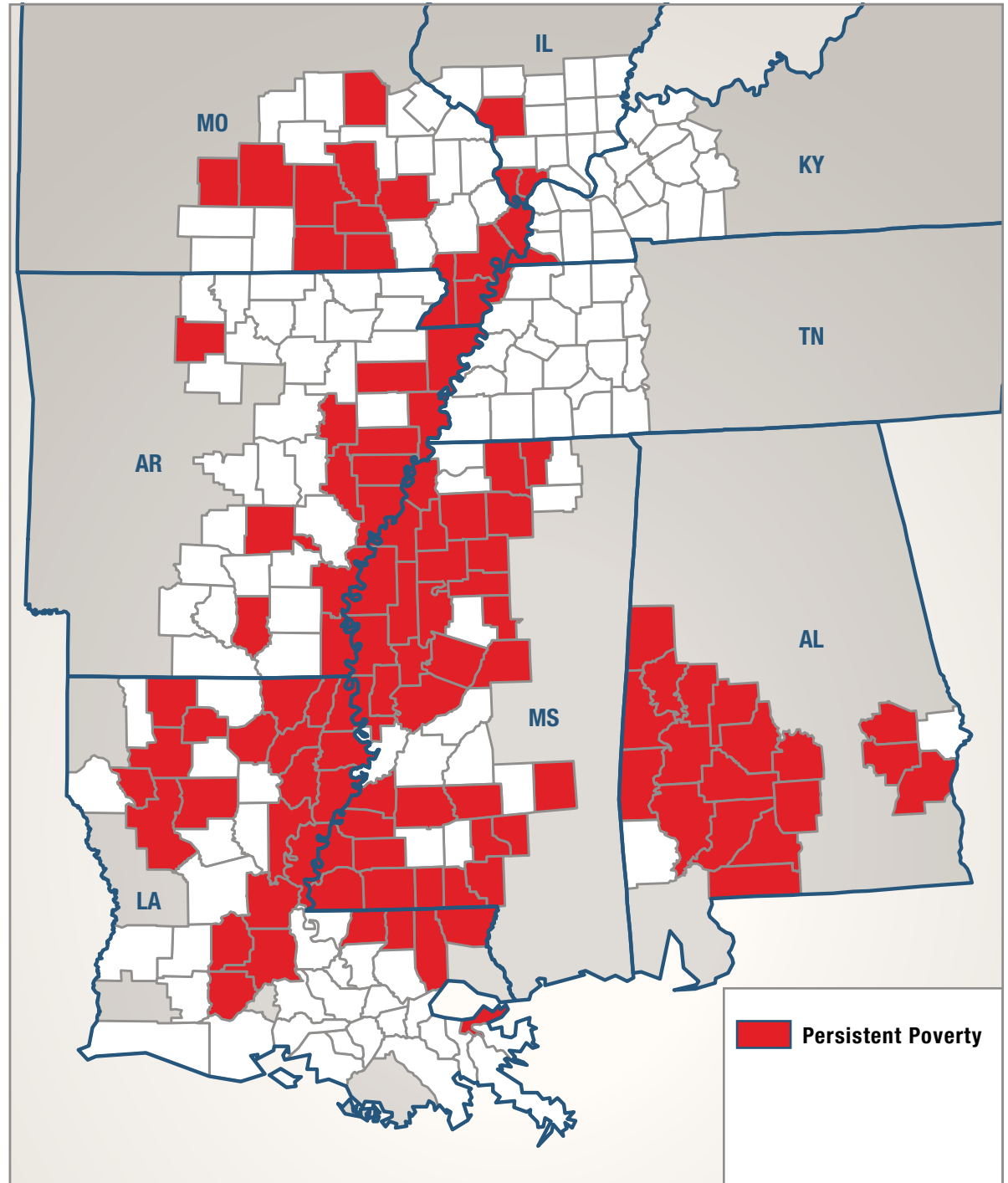
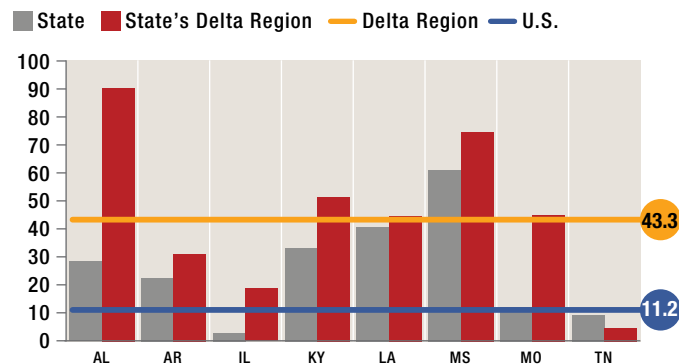
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 1980-2011

Note: A county/parish was classified as in persistent poverty if 20 percent or more of the residents were living in poverty over the last 30 years.

REGION	PERCENT
United States	11.2%
Delta Region	43.3%
Alabama	90.0%
Arkansas	31.0%
Illinois	18.8%
Kentucky	4.8%
Louisiana	44.6%
Mississippi	74.5%
Missouri	44.8%
Tennessee	4.8%

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Atlas of Rural and Small-Town America

- In the Delta region, 43.3 percent of the counties were classified as “in persistent poverty” compared to 11.2 percent nationwide.
- Approximately 55 percent of the Delta counties “in persistent poverty” are located in Mississippi and Louisiana.



HEALTH DISPARITIES



Innovative Readiness Training Medical Mission – Partnership between DRA and U.S. Department of Defense

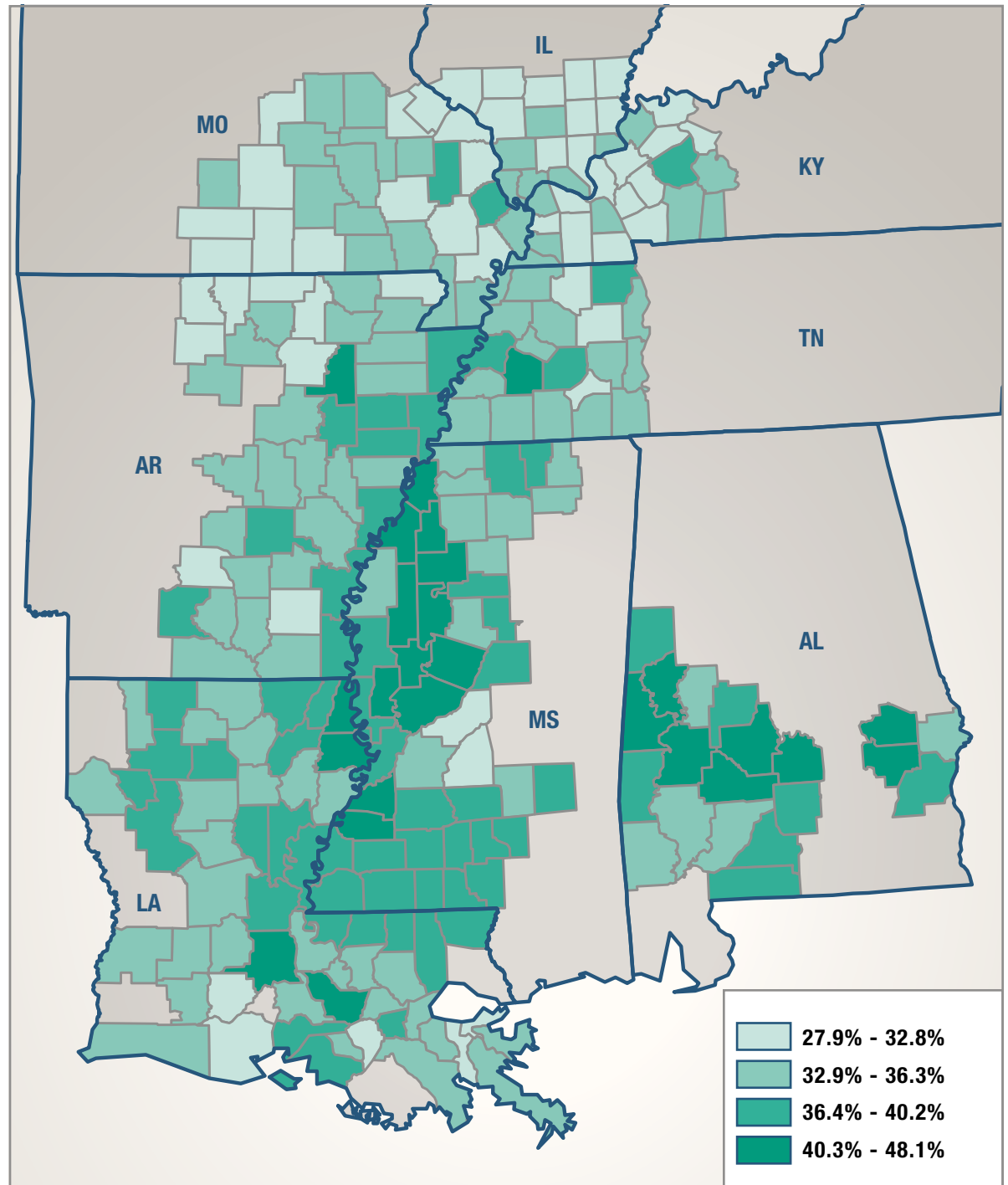
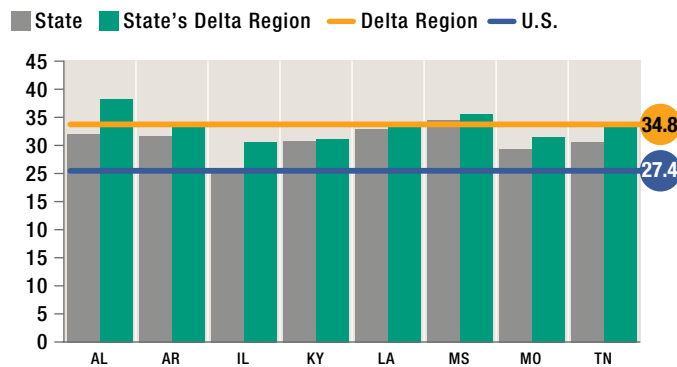
Percent of Adults 20 Years of Age and Over Who are Obese

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2011

REGION	PERCENT
United States	27.4%
Delta Region	34.8%
Alabama	38.9%
Arkansas	34.5%
Illinois	32.0%
Kentucky	32.5%
Louisiana	34.7%
Mississippi	36.5%
Missouri	32.7%
Tennessee	34.9%

Source: National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Diabetes Translation

- Over one-fourth of adults, 20 years and over, in the U.S. were obese, compared to over one-third in the Delta.
- The Delta region of each of the states had an obesity rate higher than the nation and three states' Delta region had higher rates than the overall Delta region.



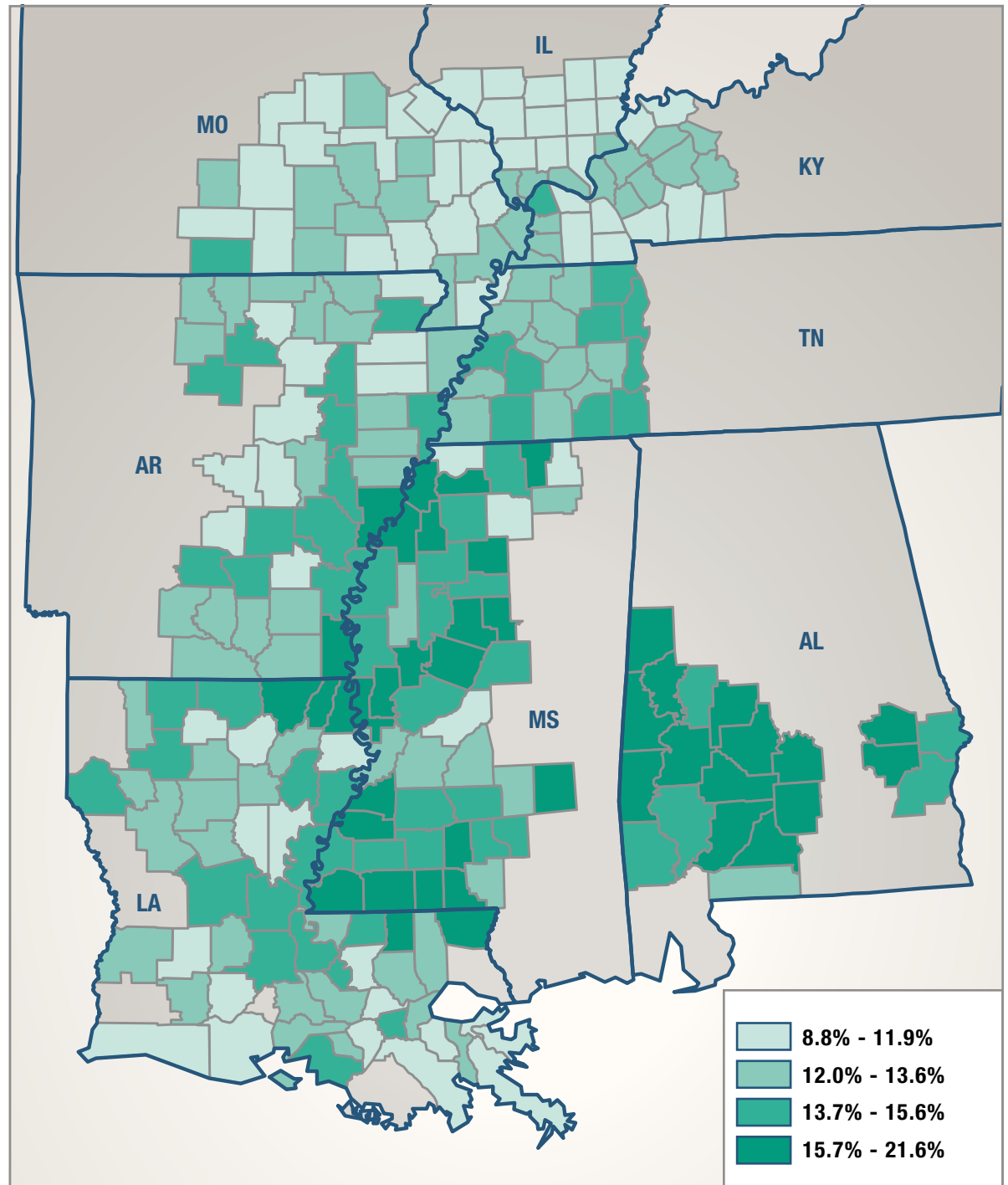
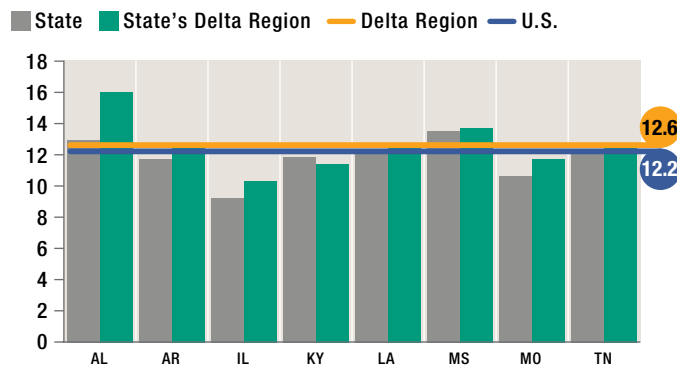
Percent of Adults 20 Years of Age and Over with Diagnosed Diabetes

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2011

REGION	PERCENT
United States	12.2%
Delta Region	12.6%
Alabama	16.0%
Arkansas	12.4%
Illinois	10.3%
Kentucky	11.4%
Louisiana	12.4%
Mississippi	13.7%
Missouri	11.7%
Tennessee	12.7%

Source: National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Diabetes Translation

- The percent of adults, 20 years and over, with diagnosed diabetes was lower than both the national (12.2%) and Delta (12.6%) rates for three states: Illinois (10.3%), Kentucky (11.4%), and Missouri (11.7%).
- Over half (59.5%) of the Delta counties exceeded the Delta region rate whereas approximately 67 percent exceeded the U.S. rate.



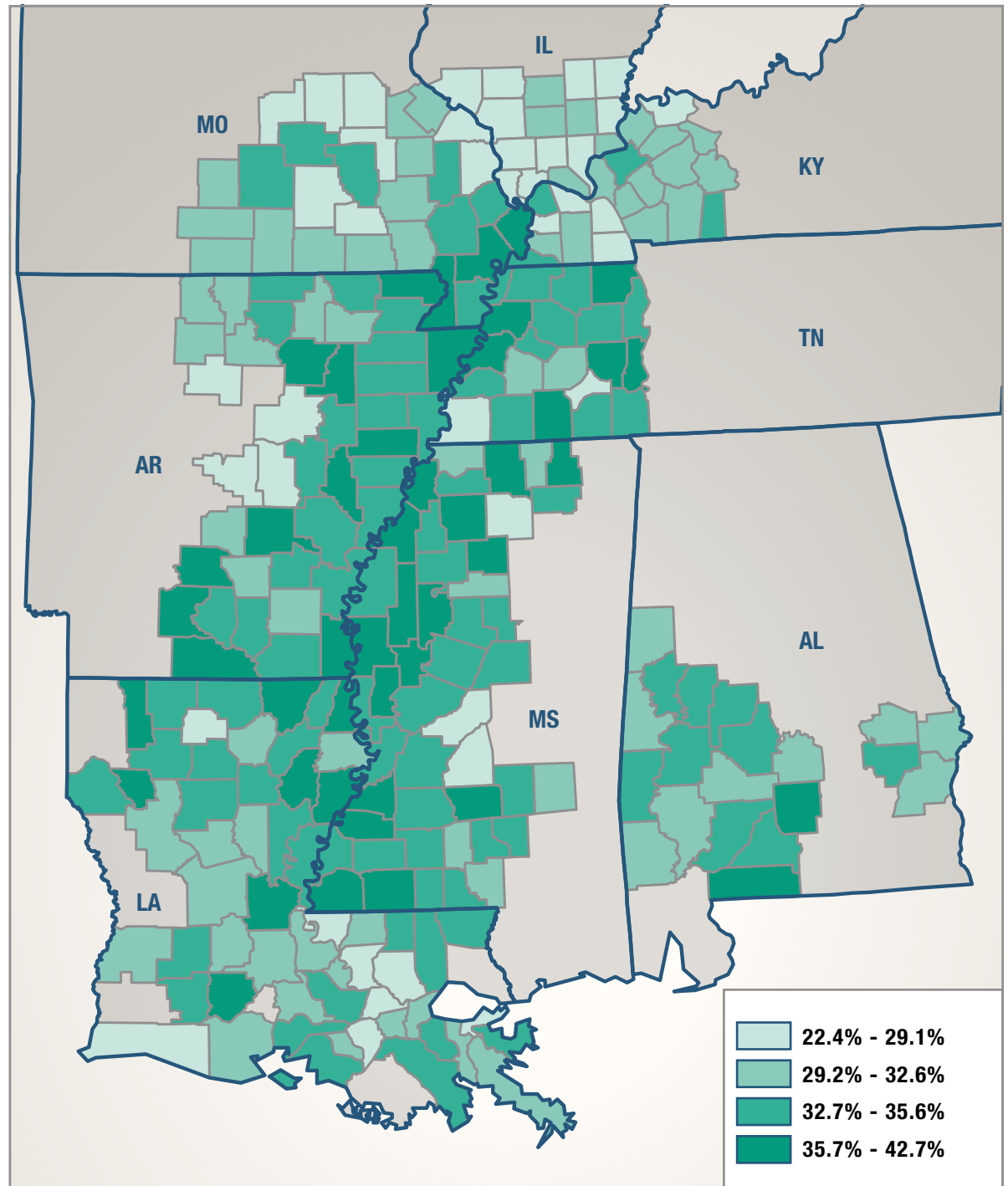
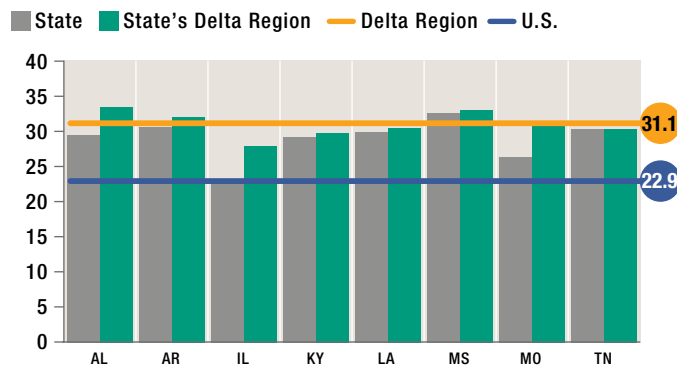
Percent of Adults 20 Years of Age and Over Who are Physically Inactive

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2011

REGION	PERCENT
United States	22.9%
Delta Region	31.1%
Alabama	33.4%
Arkansas	31.9%
Illinois	27.9%
Kentucky	29.7%
Louisiana	30.4%
Mississippi	33.0%
Missouri	31.1%
Tennessee	30.3%

Source: National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Diabetes Translation

- The Delta region of each of the states had more physical inactivity than the nation as a whole.
- The Alabama and Mississippi Delta regions had the highest amount of physical inactivity each at one-third of the population inactive.



Percent of Population Under 65 Years of Age Without Health Insurance*

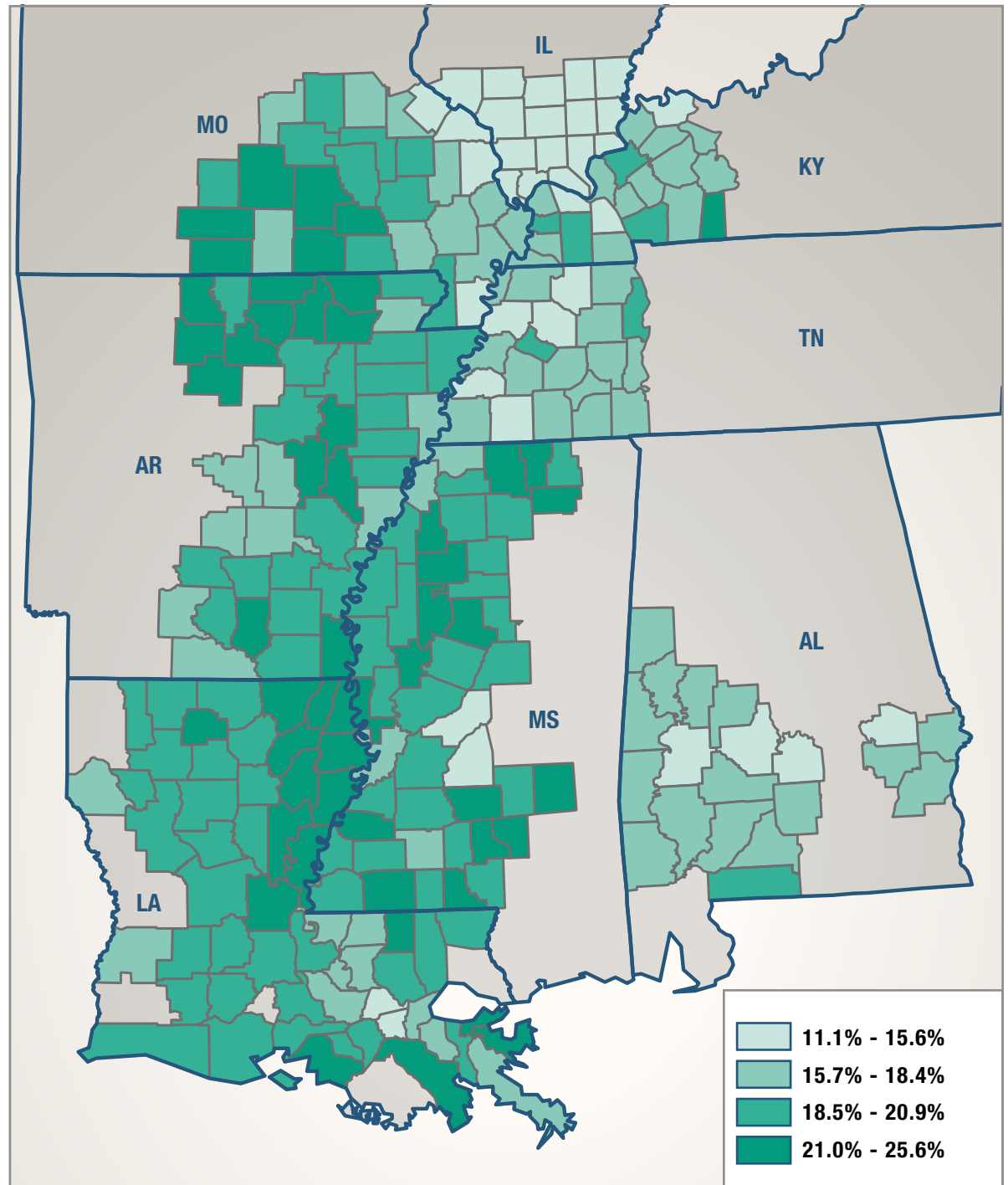
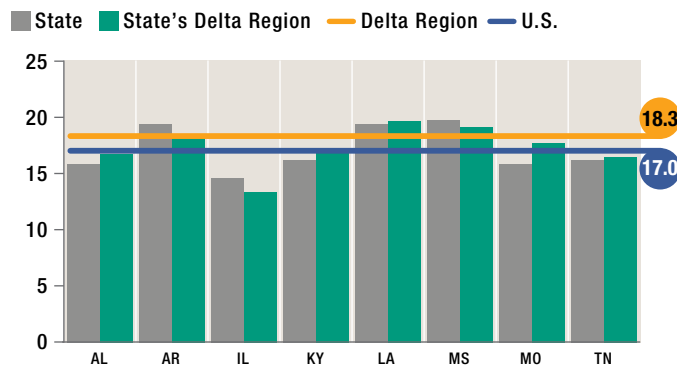
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2012

*all income levels

REGION	PERCENT
United States	17.0%
Delta Region	18.3%
Alabama	16.7%
Arkansas	18.5%
Illinois	13.3%
Kentucky	16.9%
Louisiana	19.6%
Mississippi	19.1%
Missouri	17.7%
Tennessee	16.4%

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

- The population under 65 years of age without health insurance was higher in the Delta (18.3%) than the nation (17.0%).
- The Delta regions of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi had percentages that were higher than the Delta region as a whole.



ECONOMICS AND EMPLOYMENT



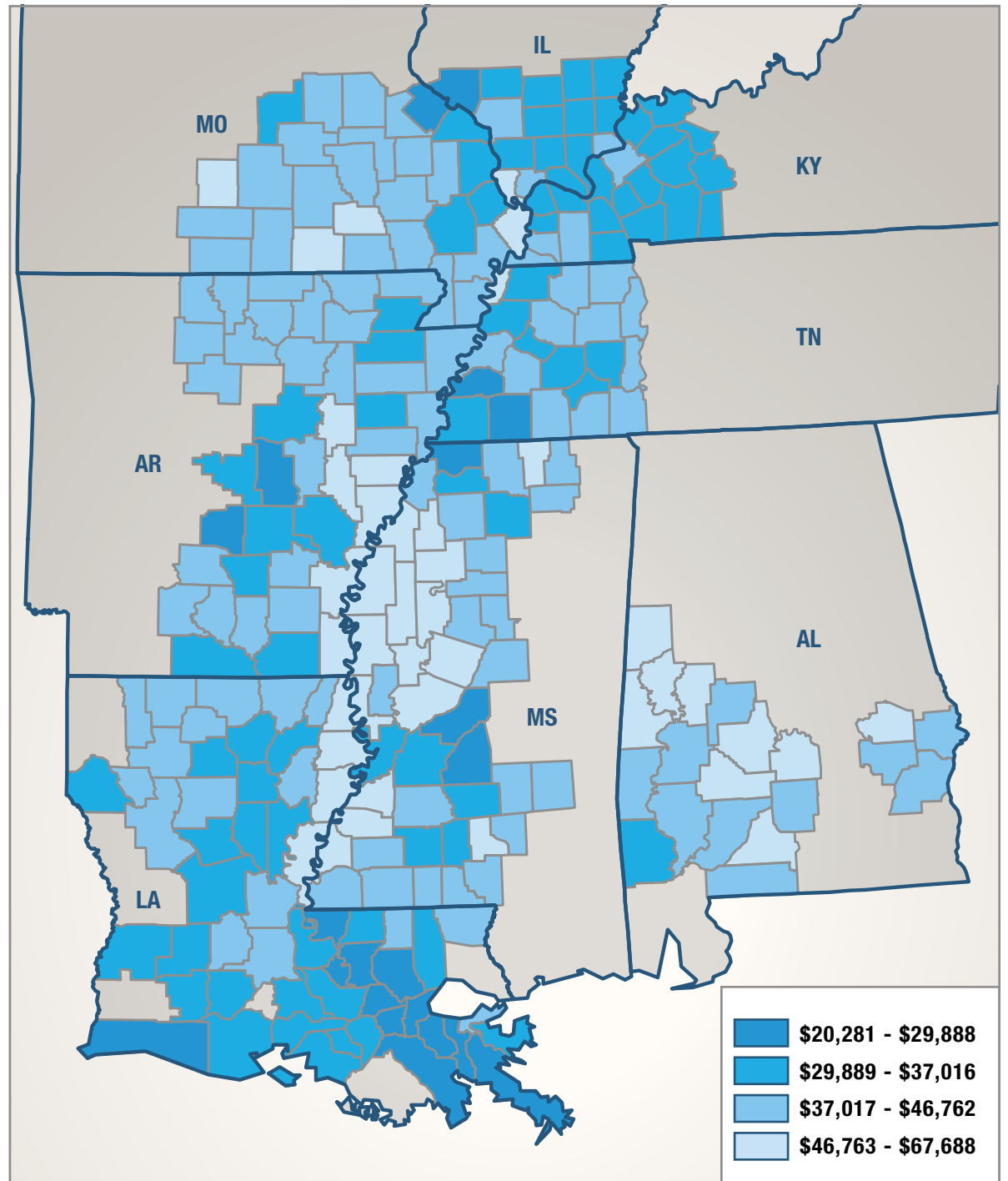
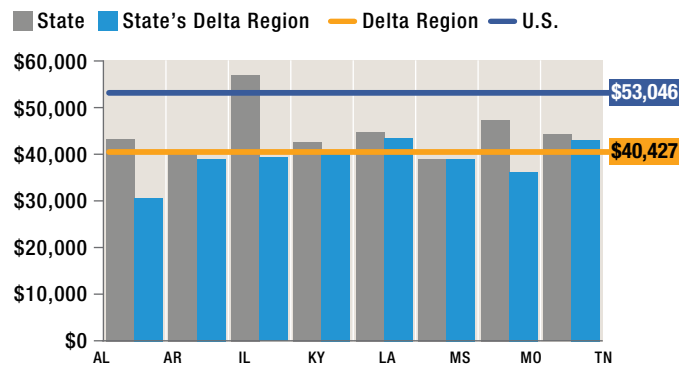
Median Household Income

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2008-2012

REGION	INCOME
United States	\$53,046
Delta Region	\$40,427
Alabama	\$30,646
Arkansas	\$38,912
Illinois	\$39,253
Kentucky	\$40,421
Louisiana	\$43,400
Mississippi	\$38,947
Missouri	\$36,183
Tennessee	\$42,987

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

- There was a \$12,619 difference between the median household income for the U.S. and the Delta.
- Louisiana and Tennessee Delta regions both had higher median household incomes than the Delta region.



Per Capita Personal Income

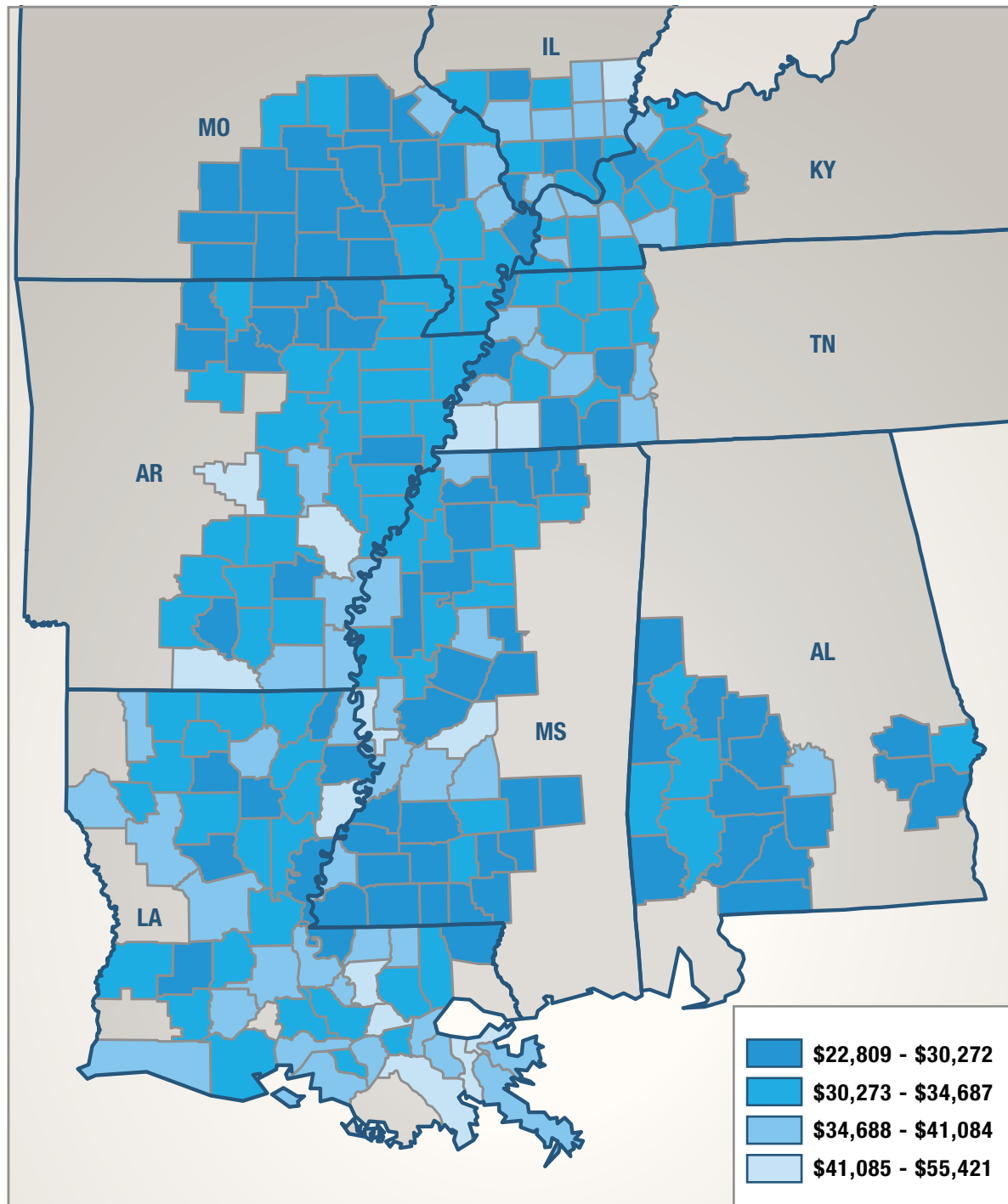
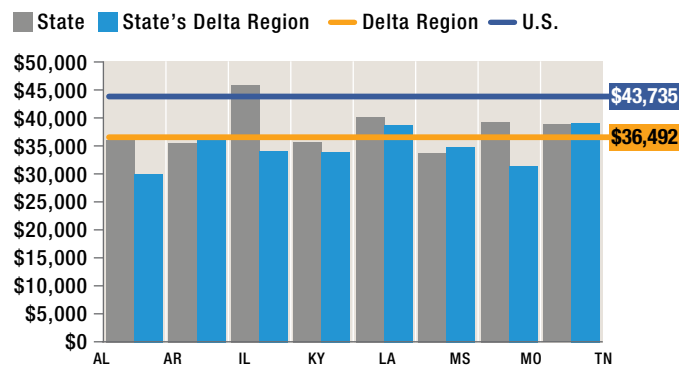
Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2012

Note: Per capita personal income was computed using Census Bureau midyear population estimates. Estimates for 2010-2012 reflect county population estimates available as of March 2013. All dollar estimates are in current dollars (not adjusted for inflation).

REGION	INCOME
United States	\$43,735
Delta Region	\$36,492
Alabama	\$29,934
Arkansas	\$36,517
Illinois	\$34,009
Kentucky	\$33,812
Louisiana	\$38,636
Mississippi	\$34,721
Missouri	\$31,356
Tennessee	\$39,037

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

- The per capita personal income for the nation was \$7,243 higher than the Delta region.
- Of the Delta region counties, 3.2 percent had a higher per capita personal income than the U.S.; however, 16.7 percent exceeded the Delta region.



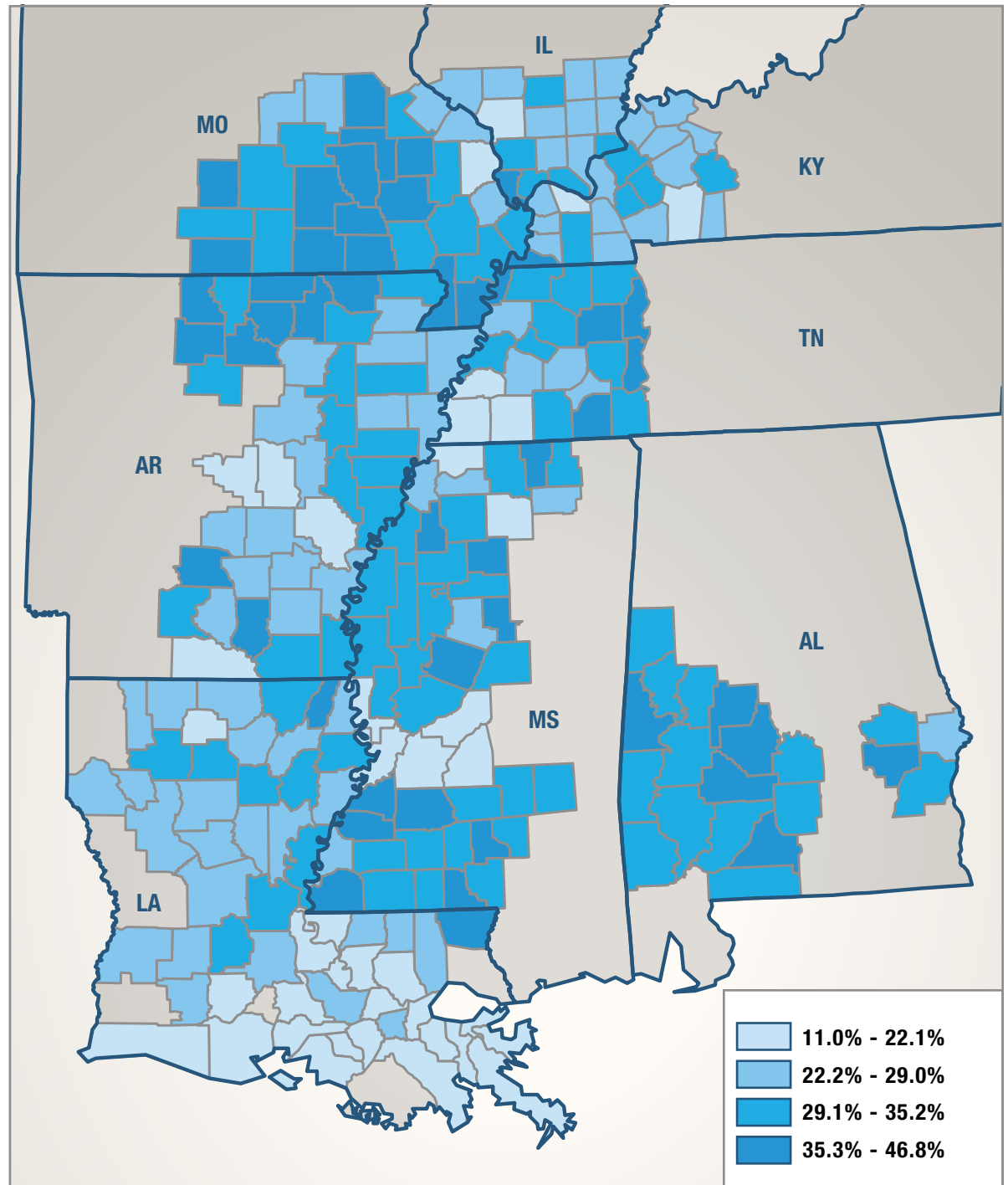
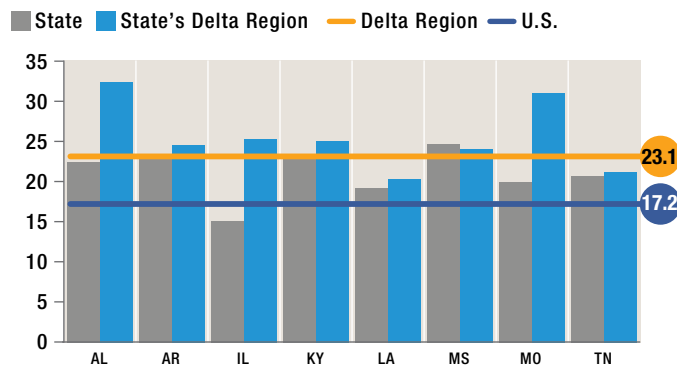
Transfer Receipts as Percent of Total Personal Income

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2012

REGION	PERCENT
United States	17.2%
Delta Region	23.1%
Alabama	32.3%
Arkansas	24.5%
Illinois	25.3%
Kentucky	25.0%
Louisiana	20.3%
Mississippi	24.0%
Missouri	31.0%
Tennessee	21.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

- Measured as a fraction of total income, transfer receipts provide an indication of an area's dependency on income support programs.
- The Delta region rate was 23.1 percent compared to the U.S. at 17.2 percent, with Louisiana's Delta having the lowest rate (20.3%).



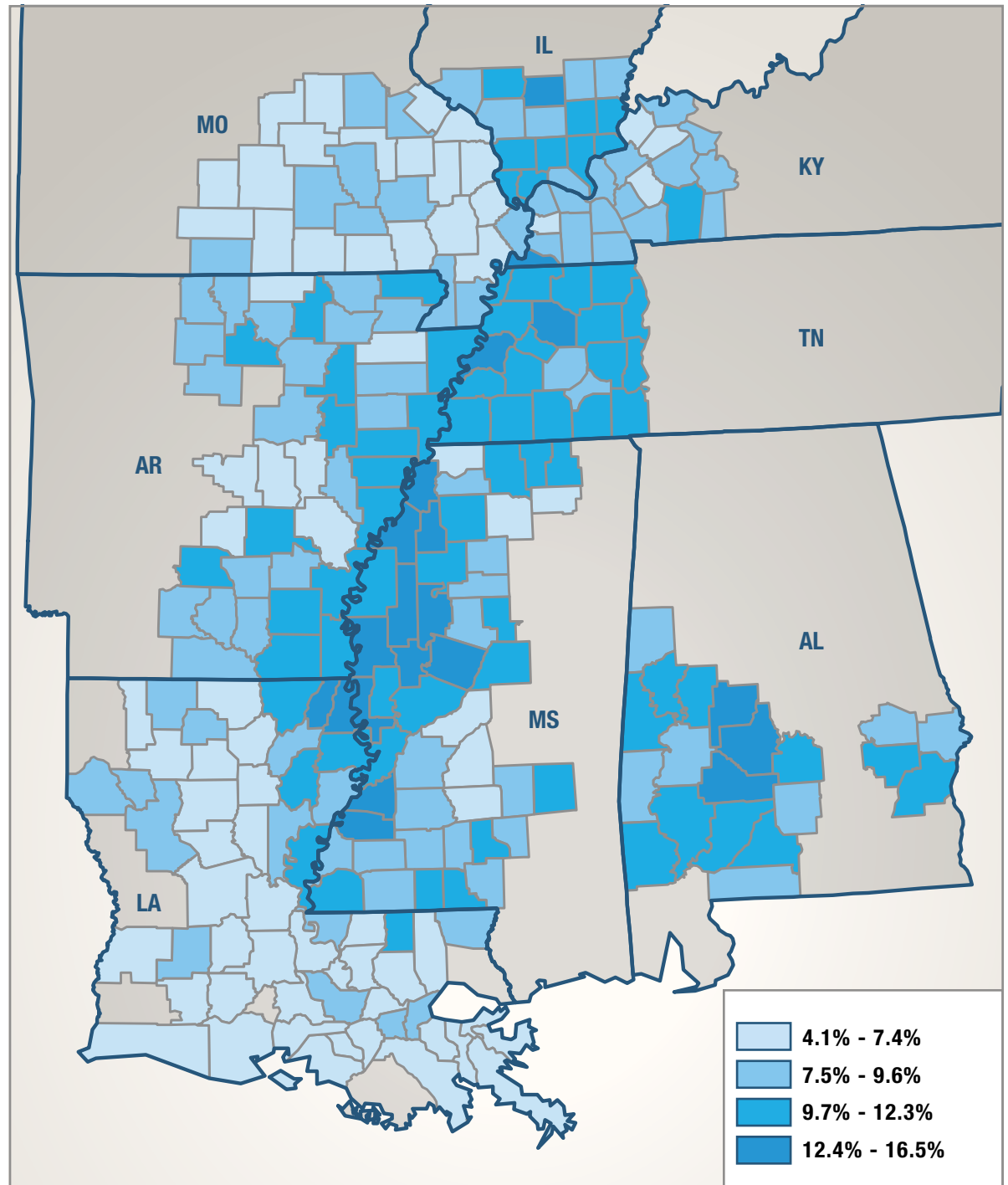
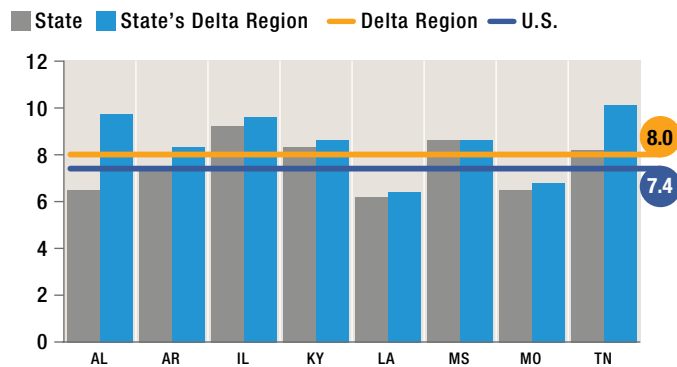
Unemployment Rate

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2013

REGION	PERCENT
United States	7.4%
Delta Region	8.0%
Alabama	9.7%
Arkansas	8.3%
Illinois	9.6%
Kentucky	8.6%
Louisiana	6.4%
Mississippi	8.6%
Missouri	6.8%
Tennessee	10.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

- The Delta region's rate (8.0) was slightly higher than the U.S. unemployment rate (7.4) in 2013.
- The Delta regions of Louisiana and Missouri had the lowest unemployment rates in the region and their rates were lower than that of the nation.



Employment/ Population Ratio

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2013

Note: Employment Population Ratio was calculated by taking the total employment divided by the total population over age 16.

REGION	PERCENT
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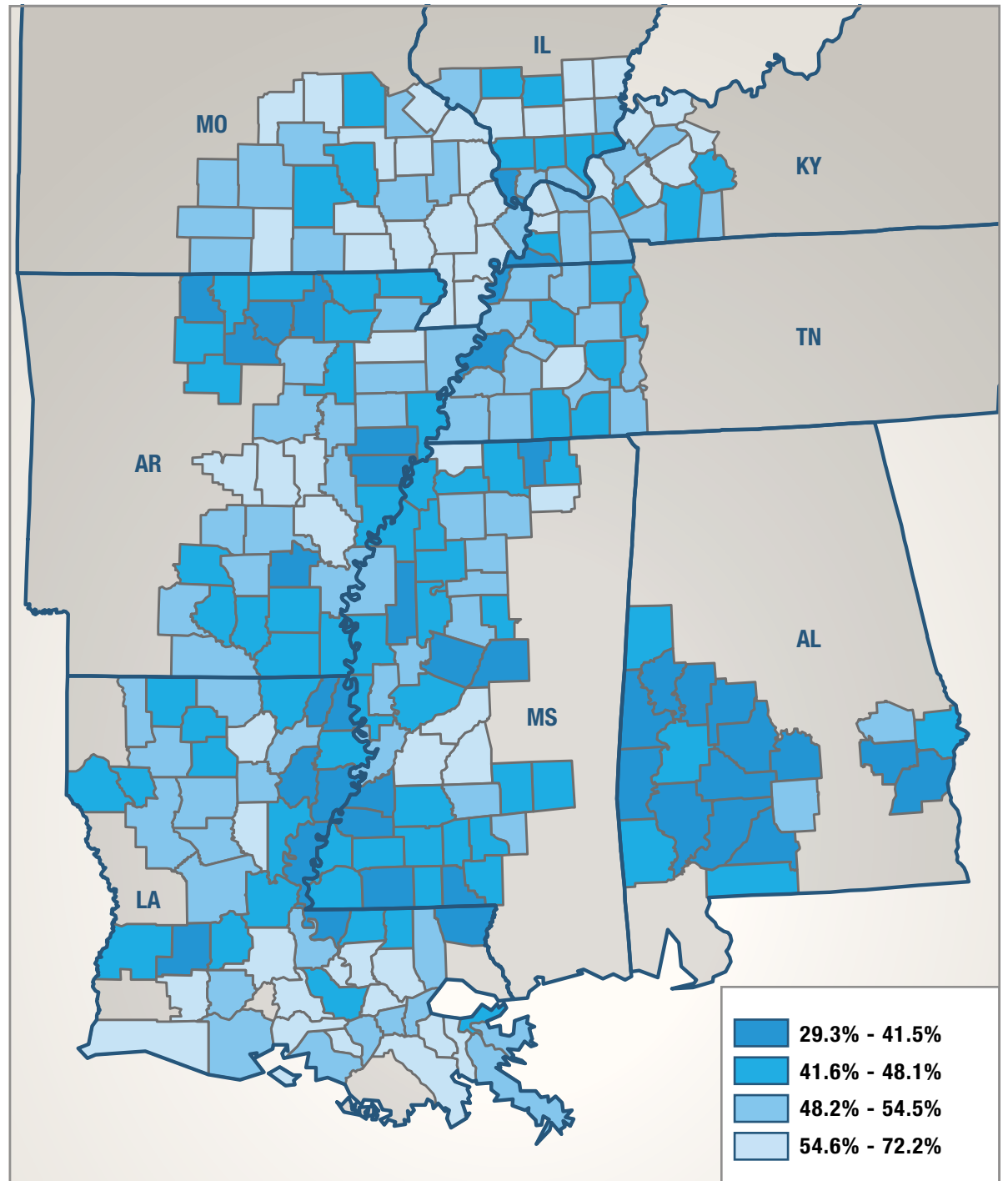
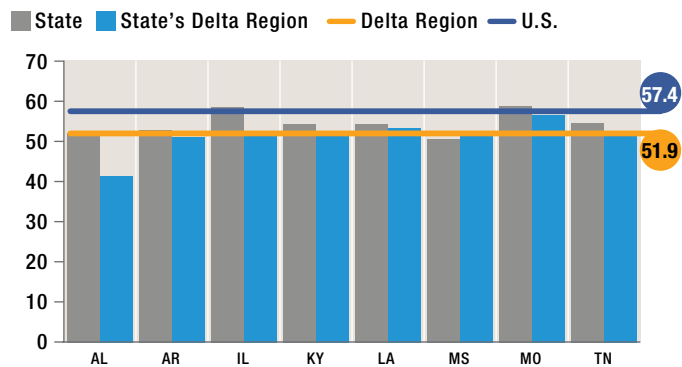
United States	57.4%
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Delta Region	51.9%
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Alabama	41.3%
Arkansas	51.0%
Illinois	51.7%
Kentucky	51.6%
Louisiana	53.2%
Mississippi	51.2%
Missouri	56.3%
Tennessee	51.8%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

- There was over a 5 percent difference between the Delta region and the nation in the percentage of total population who were employed.
- The Delta region of Alabama (41.3%) had the lowest ratio while Missouri's Delta region had the highest ratio at 56.3 percent.



HOUSING



Public residential housing along Mississippi River

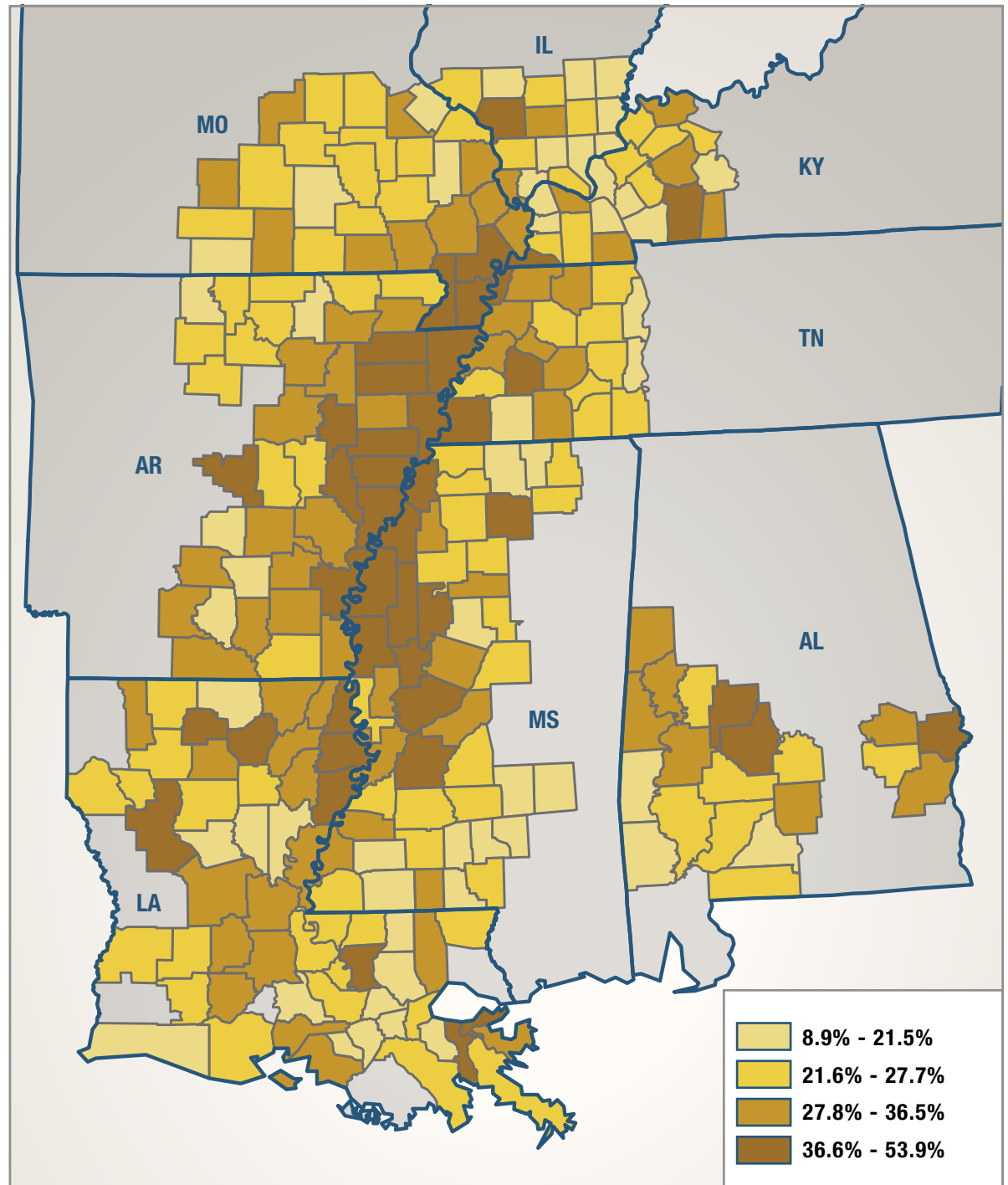
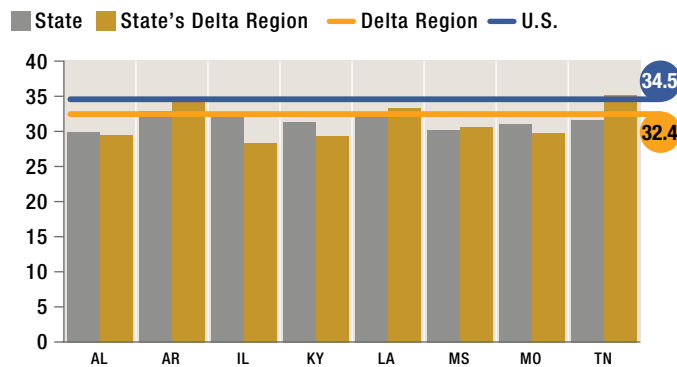
Percent of Renter-Occupied Housing Units

Delta Region by Counties/Parishes: 2008-2012

REGION	PERCENT
United States	34.5%
Delta Region	32.4%
Alabama	29.4%
Arkansas	34.2%
Illinois	28.3%
Kentucky	29.3%
Louisiana	33.2%
Mississippi	30.5%
Missouri	29.7%
Tennessee	35.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

- The percent of renter-occupied housing units in the Delta region was 32.4 percent compared to the U.S. with 34.5 percent.
- Tennessee (35.1%) had the only state's Delta region that was greater than both the Delta region and the national rate.



DEFINITIONS AND SOURCES

Population Density: Total population within a geographic entity (for example, United States, state, or county) divided by the land area of that entity measured in square miles. U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.

Population with a High School Diploma or GED: The percent of the population over 25 years of age who have only high school diploma, GED, or the equivalent. U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey.

Population with a High School Diploma or Higher: The percent of the population over 25 years of age whose highest degree was a high school diploma or its equivalent, people who attended college but did not receive a degree, and people who received an Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, Professional or Doctorate Degree. People who reported completing the 12th grade but not receiving a diploma are not included. U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey.

Population with Associate's Degree: The percent of the population over 25 years of age whose highest degree is an Associate's Degree. U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey.

Population with Bachelor's Degree: The percent of the population over 25 years of age whose highest degree is a Bachelor's Degree. U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey.

Population with Bachelor's Degree or Higher: The percent of the population over 25 years of age who received a Bachelor's, Master's, Professional, or Doctorate Degree. U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey.

Population with Graduate or Professional Degree: The percent of the population over 25 years of age whose highest degree is a Graduate or Professional Degree. U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey.

Children in Single Parent Families: The percent of children under 18 years of age in family households who live with a male/female householder with no spouse present. U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey.

Population Living in Poverty: The percent of the population living in poverty is the sum of the population below the poverty level divided by the total population in families for whom poverty status has been determined. Poverty status is determined from income data. Poverty thresholds are arranged in a two dimensional matrix based on family size and number of children in the family. The total income of the family was tested against the appropriate threshold to determine the poverty status of the family. If the family income was less than the corresponding cutoff, the family was classified as below the poverty level. U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey.

Children in Poverty: The percent of children under 18 years of age in poverty is the sum of children below the poverty level divided by the total number of children in families. U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey.

Elderly in Poverty: The percent of elderly in poverty is the sum of the population over 65 years of age below the poverty level divided by the total number of people age 65 and over. The Census Bureau uses a set of dollar value thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. Further, poverty thresholds for people living alone or with nonrelatives (unrelated individuals) and two-person families vary by age (under 65 years or 65 years and older). U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey.

Persistent Poverty: A county is classified as in persistent poverty if twenty percent or more of its residents were living in poverty over the last 30 years (measured by the 1980, 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-year estimates).

Obesity Rate: The percent of adults who reported having a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30.0 on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Diabetes Rate: The percent of adults who reported having been diagnosed with diabetes by a doctor on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Physical Inactivity: The percent of adults who reported not having participated in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise other than their regular job on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Percent Uninsured: The percent of persons without health insurance is the number of uninsured persons under 65 years of age divided by the total number of persons under 65 years of age. U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates.

Median Household Income: Median household income divides the income distribution into two equal parts, one having incomes above the median and the other having incomes below the median. U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey.

Per Capita Personal Income: The total personal income divided by the population. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Transfer Receipts Ratio: The ratio of personal current transfer receipts to total personal income. Personal current transfer receipts consists of income payments to persons for which no current services are performed and net insurance settlements. It is the sum of government social benefits and net current transfer receipts from business. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Unemployment Rate: The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed divided by the civilian labor force. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

Employment to Population Ratio: Calculated by dividing the total employed population by the total population over age 16. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.

Renter-Occupied Housing Unit: All occupied housing units which are not owner-occupied, whether they are rented or occupied without payment of rent, are classified as renter-occupied. The number of renter-occupied housing units is divided by the total number of occupied housing units. U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey.

The Delta Regional Authority is a federal-state partnership created by Congress in 2000 to help create jobs, build communities, and improve lives through strategic investments in economic development in 252 counties and parishes across eight states. Through the past thirteen project cycles, the DRA is helping to create and retain 42,000 jobs. These investments have leveraged \$2.7 billion in other public and private investment into DRA projects that are helping to train 13,000 for a 21st century workforce and provide more than 82,000 families access to clean water and sewer services.



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