

**THE 2007 DELTA RURAL POLL:
METHODS AND CHARACTERISTICS
OF THE SAMPLE**

Alan W. Barton, Ph.D.

DELTA RURAL POLL



**THE 2007 DELTA RURAL POLL:
METHODS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE**

Alan W. Barton, Ph.D.

Faculty Associate
Center for Community and Economic Development
Delta State University

December, 2007

Research Paper No. 07-01
Center for Community and Economic Development

DELTA RURAL POLL



Barton, Alan W. *The 2007 Delta Rural Poll: Methods and Characteristics of the Sample*. Research Paper No. 07-01, Center for Community and Economic Development. Delta State University, Cleveland, MS. December, 2007.

The Delta Rural Poll is administered by the faculty associates at the Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) at Delta State University (DSU), with assistance from the DSU Division of Social Sciences. The 2007 survey was conducted by the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University under the supervision of Dr. Wolfgang Frese. The CCED faculty associates acknowledge and thank the Social Science Research Center for providing funding for the 2007 survey, and the Mid-South Delta Consortium for providing funding for the Delta Rural Poll project.

Policy and research papers produced by the Center for Community and Economic Development have been peer reviewed by colleagues at Delta State University. Any questions, suggestions, or concerns should be sent directly to the author.

All research and policy papers produced by the Center for Community and Economic Development are posted on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.deltastate.edu/cced/ruralpoll.htm>.

Contents

Executive Summary	vii
Introduction	1
Planning the 2007 Delta Rural Poll	1
Methods	3
Characteristics of the 2007 Sample	6
Conclusion	23

List of Figures

The Mississippi Delta	vi
Figure 1: Age of 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents	7
Figure 2: Distribution of 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents' Age	8
Figure 3: Gender of 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents	9
Figure 4: Race of 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents	11
Figure 5: Marital Status of 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents	13
Figure 6: Educational Achievement of 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents	15
Figure 7: Employment Status of 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents	16
Figure 8: Total 2006 Household Income Before Taxes for 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents	17
Figure 9a: Percent of 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents by County of Residence	19
Figure 9b: Percent of Total Population by County	20
Figure 10: Size of Place of Residence of 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents	21
Figure 11: Length of Time 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents Have Lived in the Same Community	21
Figure 12: Social Capital Indicators: Perceptions of Trust in Various Institutions Among 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents	22

List of Tables

Table 1: Gender by County, 2007 Delta Rural Poll and 2000 U.S. Census	10
Table 2: Race by County, 2007 Delta Rural Poll and 2000 U.S. Census	12
Table 3: Martial Status by County, 2007 Delta Rural Poll and 2000 U.S. Census	14
Table 4: Educational Attainment by County, 2007 Delta Rural Poll and 2000 U.S. Census . .	16
Table 5: Total Household Income by County, 2007 Delta Rural Poll and 2000 U.S. Census .	18
Table B1: Occupied Households with Telephone Service in 11 Mississippi Delta Counties. .	27
Table C1: Age of Respondent: Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls . .	28
Table C2: Gender of Respondent: Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls	28
Table C3: Race of Respondent: Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls .	29
Table C4: Marital Status of Respondent: Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls	29
Table C5: Educational Attainment of Respondent: Comparison of the 2003 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls	30
Table C6: Employment Status of Respondent: Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls	30
Table C7: Household Income of Respondent: Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls	31
Table C8: Percent of Respondents by County of Residence: Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls	31
Table C9: Size of Place of Respondents' Residence: Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls.	32
Table C10: Type of Place of Respondents' Residence: Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls.	32
Table C11: Length of Time Respondents Have Lived in the Same Community: Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls	33

The Mississippi Delta



THE 2007 DELTA RURAL POLL: METHODS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE

Alan W. Barton, Ph.D.
Delta State University

Executive Summary

The third Delta Rural Poll survey was conducted in January, 2007. The Delta Rural Poll is a project of the Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) at Delta State University. Researchers developed the poll to chronicle attitudes and behaviors of the population of 11 northwestern Mississippi counties. In collaboration with the CCED and with community residents, DSU researchers prepared the initial questionnaire, which was administered to a randomly selected sample of Delta residents by the Survey Research Unit at Mississippi State University's Social Science Research Center. The 2007 questionnaire collects demographic information, and asks respondents about their quality of life, their employment, and their intent to migrate. The questionnaire also asks about perceptions of early childhood and youth after-school programs in their community, health care in their area, social problems, and how much they trust members of groups and organizations in their community.

The 2007 survey generated responses from 1,005 Deltans.

The purpose of the Delta Rural Poll is to serve the people of the Delta and to provide policy-makers with data on current issues to inform state and local policy decisions. The poll also provides Delta communities with data and opportunities to engage in the process of social science research, both important components of an overall strategy of community and economic development.

THE 2007 DELTA RURAL POLL: Methods and Characteristics of the Sample

Alan W. Barton, Ph.D.

Introduction

Since 2003, the Delta Rural Poll has collected data on conditions in eleven northwestern Mississippi counties, which form the core of the region of the state known as the Delta. The data provide an on-going source of reliable information on social characteristics and attitudes of the people of the Delta. These data can be used by researchers and students to inform policy and community development initiatives by and for the area's residents. The Delta Rural Poll conducts a survey every two years, and collects qualitative data in the interim between surveys.

The first survey was conducted in October and November, 2003 (Barton, 2004), and the second was conducted in January and February of 2005 (Barton, 2005). This report describes the methods used to collect data, and presents summary results from the 2007 survey. The results shown here describe the sample that was drawn and used in the survey. Data from the 2000 U.S. Census are also presented as a means of assessing the accuracy of the Delta Rural Poll survey. More detailed analysis and results of data from the 2007 survey can be found in policy and research reports issued by the CCED and in summaries on the Delta Rural Poll website.¹

Planning the 2007 Delta Rural Poll

The Delta Rural Poll is a project of the Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) at Delta State University (DSU). Faculty associates at the CCED established the policies and procedures for the project, and collaborated to write the survey questionnaires, analyze and interpret the results, and prepare reports for the 2003 and 2005 surveys.² The survey questionnaires combine a standard set of questions on demographics and quality of life with

¹ All policy and research reports produced in conjunction with the Delta Rural Poll are available on the CCED website: <http://www.deltastate.edu/pages/536.asp>.

² Barton (2004) chronicles the history of this project.

thematic questions on topics developed for each survey. Previous themes have included health care, technology use, heritage tourism, workforce development and education.

Faculty have also overseen graduate student projects that have included information from the Delta Rural Poll, including M.S. theses in Community Development and conference papers. Some of these projects have involved collecting qualitative data to supplement findings from the surveys. While the quantitative survey is conducted every two years, qualitative data collection occurs on a more ad hoc basis, depending on the need and the interests of individual researchers.

Planning for the 2007 Delta Rural Poll survey began in the summer of 2006, with the formation of the 2007 Delta Rural Poll Faculty Coordinating Committee. The 2007 committee consisted of four CCED faculty associates: Dr. Alan Barton, Dr. John Green, Dr. Albert Nylander and Dr. Paulette Meikle-Yaw. This committee oversaw all aspects of the 2007 survey. For the 2003 and 2005 surveys, the Faculty Committee worked alone and prepared the questionnaires based on the research interests of individual faculty members; however, they also established a general principle that the Delta Rural Poll should engage local communities as much as possible. In preparing for the 2007 survey, the Faculty Committee put this principle into practice by soliciting input from various groups in the design of the questionnaire.

A meeting was held in October, 2007, at the Center for Community and Economic Development, and representatives from various groups attended the meeting. DSU faculty from the Division of Social Sciences and the Department of Social Work, staff from various programs at the CCED, and representatives of community organizations in the Delta region contributed ideas which were developed into themes for the 2007 survey. The Faculty Committee then sat down and produced the themes for the 2007 survey, which included social problems in the Delta, perceptions of early childhood and youth after-school programs, and access to health care. The social problems questions were developed in response to input from the DSU Department of Social Work, the early childhood and youth programs questions were developed to assess CCED projects, and the health questions were included in response to interest expressed by members of community organizations. Some of the health care questions also appeared on the 2003 and 2005 questionnaires, so the Delta Rural Poll is establishing a good longitudinal database on local

perceptions of the health care system. Two questions were added pertaining to smoking bans, currently a statewide health policy issue.

The Faculty Committee also added several questions on trust in local institutions, or what sociologists refer to as social capital. These questions will be included in the permanent questions asked in every survey.

Methods

The 2007 survey marked the third time the Delta Rural Poll had surveyed Delta residents. The procedures for this survey followed the previous polls. The survey was conducted by telephone with a randomly selected sample of residents of eleven Mississippi Delta counties: Bolivar, Coahoma, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica and Washington. Ten of these counties lie wholly within the Yazoo-Mississippi floodplain, and while Tallahatchie County extends into the “hills” region, most of the inhabited areas of the county are in the Delta. The Delta Rural Poll is one of the few databases that focuses exclusively on these counties, which best represent the unique characteristics of the Delta region.

While the biennial survey is the primary form of data collection, the Delta Rural Poll project also engages in qualitative data collection. Generally, qualitative data are collected to examine and better understand results from the quantitative survey. Individual faculty members and graduate students who collaborate with the Delta Rural Poll undertake qualitative studies in the interim periods between surveys. In the past, topics of qualitative data collection have included education in the Delta and heritage tourism. More information on the qualitative studies is available on the Delta Rural Poll website (<http://www.deltastate.edu/pages/536.asp>).

Development of the Questionnaire

Following the community meeting, members of the Delta Rural Poll Faculty Coordinating Committee joined together to develop the questionnaire. The committee agreed to use the basic questions on demographics (age, sex, race, income, place and length of residence), employment, intent to migrate and quality of life, which have been repeated with each iteration of the survey. The information provided by these questions give a general picture of conditions in the Delta. It

is important to include these questions for two reasons. First, over time the Delta Rural Poll will build a longitudinal database of basic information on Delta communities. Second, these questions use the same language as rural polls conducted in other states, including Iowa, Nebraska and Indiana. Through our collaborative efforts with the directors of these other projects, we can compare our results directly because we use the exact same questions.³

The topical questions on the 2007 questionnaire, developed in collaboration with DSU faculty, CCED staff and community residents, included social problems in the Delta, knowledge and attitudes about youth after-school programs and early childhood education programs, and health care. The social problems questions were written with the assistance of faculty from the DSU Social Work department. The questions asked people's attitudes about four issues in their communities: teenage pregnancy, single parents, domestic violence and illegal immigration. The questions about youth after-school programs and early childhood education programs were designed to support projects in this area being carried out by the CCED. The questions assessed respondents' knowledge of these programs in their community, their usage of the programs, and their opinions of the quality of these programs. Finally, the health care questions were developed in response to the concerns expressed by community organizations at the planning meeting in October, 2006. Various health care questions have been included on each version of the Delta Rural Poll, and this has provided a valuable database on this very important issue in Delta communities.

Once the questionnaire was completed, it was pilot tested on a small group of respondents. The purpose of the pilot test was to verify that the questions could be easily understood, and that respondents provided answers that were consistent with the intent of the question. The questionnaire was submitted to the DSU Institutional Review Board (IRB) and approved. It was then sent to the Survey Research Unit (SRU) at the Social Science Research Center (SSRC) at Mississippi State University (MSU), who conduct the telephone interviews and collect the data. The director of the SRU, Dr. Wolfgang Frese, reviewed and edited the questionnaire, and sent it to the MSU IRB for approval. The SRU then conducted the telephone interviews in January, 2007.

³ Other polls use different data collection techniques, so comparison is not straight forward; however, questions using the same wording provide the basis for comparative studies.

Data Collection

The SRU collected the data through Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI). The enumerators at the SRU are very experienced and do an excellent job of conducting the survey. In addition to the Delta Rural Poll, they have conducted other telephone surveys in the Mississippi Delta region, so they understand the issues that are unique to the area. Their ability to communicate effectively with Delta residents helps produce a high response rate, as almost all of the valid telephone numbers that are contacted result in a completed questionnaire.⁴

The CATI system allows the SRU to easily select a simple random sample of telephone numbers in the Delta region. The telephone prefixes that correspond to the 11 counties of interest are eligible for selection in each call, and the last four digits randomly generated. Once a household is contacted, the respondent is selected using a screening procedure that provides a random selection process. The interviewer asked to speak to the person in the household 18 years of age or older with either the next or the most recent birthday (whether to ask for the next or the most recent birthday was randomly selected for each call). This produced one respondent in each household to complete the interview.

Although the within household selection procedure should produce a random sample, it is commonly observed that such procedures produce samples which systematically select for specific characteristics. With each iteration of the Delta Rural Poll, a disproportionate percentage of respondents have been female, which suggests that the random selection procedure does not work completely. To account for a potential bias that might be introduced by the gender imbalance, we apply a weighting procedure, described in Appendix A.

A concern that frequently arises with telephone surveys is the potential for a bias resulting from households that lack telephones, and increasingly there is concern regarding households that only use cellular telephones. These are particular concerns in an area like the Delta, which has an unusually low rate of households with home telephones. Only about 90% of Delta houses have telephone service, and it is likely that the 10% of houses without a phone represent a systematic

⁴ Telephone surveys present unique problems. See Barton (2005), p. 4 and Barton (2004), p. 4 for a more in-depth treatment of the rationale for using a telephone survey in the Delta Rural Poll, and for issues regarding telephone surveys.

bias, such as poorer households (ERS. 2003). See Appendix B for more information on these issues.

Sampling Procedure

The Survey Research Unit dialed a total of 5,847 randomly selected numbers (SSRC, 2007). Of these, 2,717 numbers were ineligible, due to a communication problem such as a disconnected number or fax machine, or because the respondent was away or unable to participate due to a health problem; 1,945 had no response, because the number was busy, there was no answer or an answering machine, or the person responding refused to participate before a respondent could be selected; and 98 ended in callbacks that could not be completed prior to the end of data collection. A total of 1,005 interviews were completed, and 82 screened respondents refused to participate. The sampling error for the data set was less than ± 3.1 percent with a 95 percent confidence interval.

Data Analysis

The SRU delivered the results of the 2007 Delta Rural Poll to DSU researchers in early February, 2007. The weight variable was created (see Appendix A) and the data were distributed to the Delta Rural Poll Faculty Committee. Results reported here include frequency distributions and cross-tabulations of the key variables. The primary purpose is to describe the sample. All results presented here were generated using unweighted data, unless otherwise indicated.

Characteristics of the 2007 Sample

This section summarizes responses to the 2007 Delta Rural Poll on basic demographic variables such as age, gender, race, size of the nearest community and county of residence. Each variable is compared to data from the 2000 U.S. Census, which assesses the accuracy of the responses to the Delta Rural Poll. The results presented here use *unweighted* data. A more thorough comparison of both weighted and unweighted data from the 2003, 2005 and 2007 surveys is presented in Appendix C.

Respondent Characteristics

Age All respondents were screened and had to be at least 18 years old to participate in the 2007 Delta Rural Poll survey. Figure 1 shows respondent ages. Nearly one-third of respondents were between ages 45 and 59; over half were between 30 and 59 years old, and three quarters were between 30 and 74. The distribution of ages is shown in Figure 2. The distribution shows a normal curve, with respondents aged 38 to 42 slightly underrepresented, and those ages 78 to 82 slightly over represented.

The mean age for all respondents was 50.2 years, with a standard deviation of 17.8. There were 25 missing cases (2.5% of all cases), in which the respondent was either unable to provide an answer or refused to reveal his/her age.

Comparing results from the 2007 Delta Rural Poll with figures from the 2000 Census (U.S. Census Bureau, 2004a) shows that the Delta Rural Poll sample was slightly older than the general population. The 2007 Delta Rural Poll sample showed substantially lower percentages than the Census in the 18–29 age range: 10.5 percent of the Delta Rural Poll sample compared to 26.5 percent according to Census figures. The next age groups was underrepresented by the

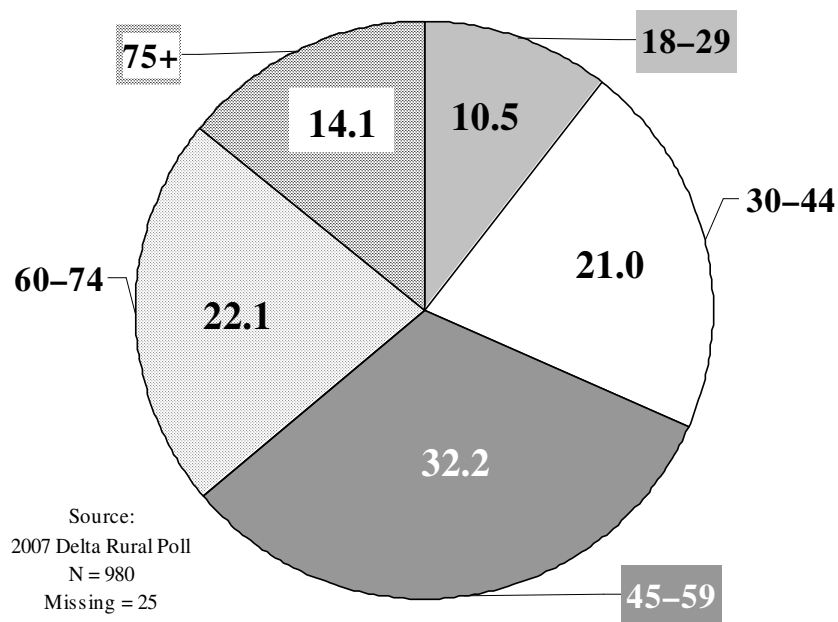


Figure 1: Age of 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents

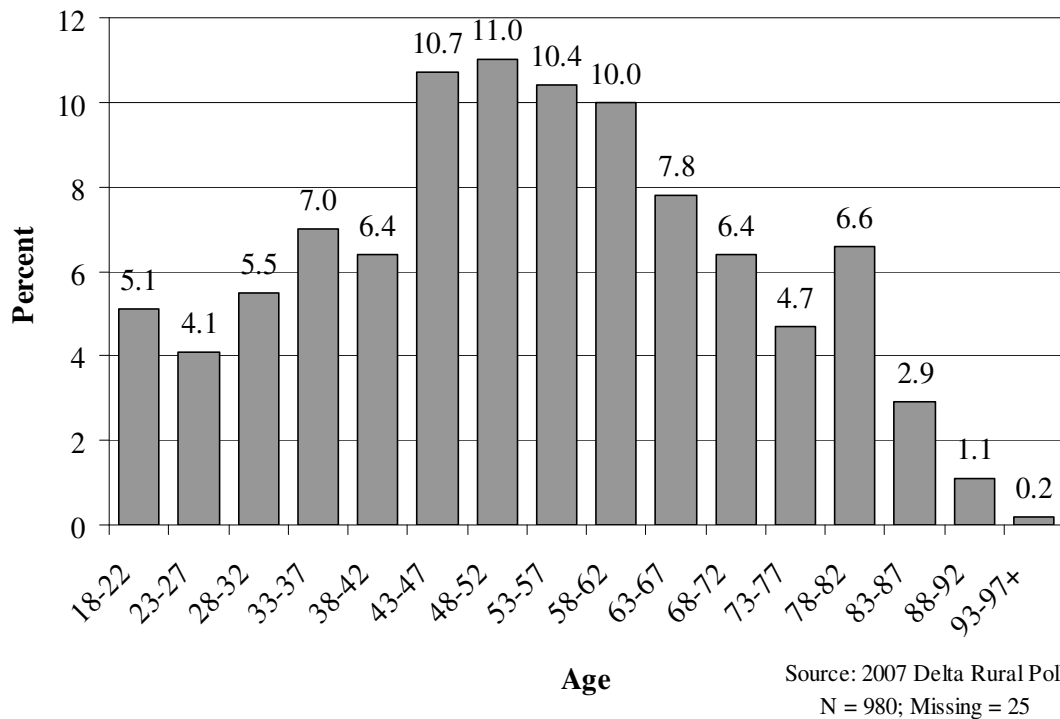


Figure 2: Distribution of 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents' Age

Delta Rural Poll as well; the Poll showed 21.0 percent of the respondents between ages 30 and 44, compared to 28.9 percent according to the Census. In the older age categories, however, the Delta Rural Poll sample showed higher percentages than the Census. Among those in the Delta Rural Poll sample, 32.2 percent fell into the 45–59 age range, higher than the 23.1 percent rate for the Census, and 22.1 percent of the Delta Rural Poll sample were in the 60–74 age category, compared to 13.3 percent of the Census. Those age 75 and over formed 14.1 percent of the Delta Rural Poll sample, compared to 8.1 percent according to the Census.

Gender Figure 3 shows the distribution of respondents by gender. Slightly over two-thirds of the respondents to the 2007 Delta Rural Poll were female. This is higher than the proportion of females in the general population in the Delta region.⁵ According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 53.6 percent of the adult population of the eleven core Delta counties is female (U.S. Census Bureau, 2004a). In addition, females outnumber males in nine of the eleven counties. Table 1 compares the proportion of females for each of the eleven counties, showing the unweighted and weighted

⁵ According to the administrator of the survey, who has conducted several similar surveys in the Delta region, a gender bias of this nature is not unusual.

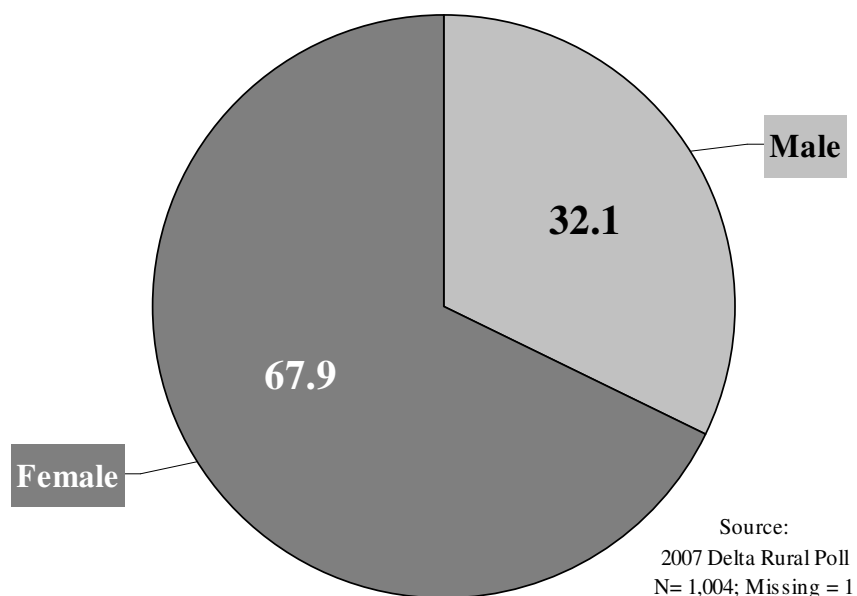


Figure 3: Gender of 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents

frequencies for the 2007 Delta Rural Poll and the percentages for adults and for the total population from the 2000 U.S. Census. Because of this discrepancy, we use a weight that takes into account the differences in gender percent between the 2000 Census and the 2007 Delta Rural Poll.

Race Over 99 percent of the 999 respondents who selected a race identified themselves as either White/Caucasian or Black/African American. Two Native Americans (0.2 percent) responded to the 2007 Delta Rural Poll, one Asian/Pacific Islander (0.1 percent) and four respondents identified themselves as “Other.” The four who chose “Other” identified themselves as follows: Chinese, American Indian and English, Haitian, and Italian. Six people (0.6 percent) did not respond to this question. Overall, 64.6 percent of respondents are black and 34.7 percent are white (See Figure 4). Table 2 shows the proportion of black and white residents in each county according to the 2007 Delta Rural Poll and the 2000 U.S. Census. For all 11 counties, 64.6 percent of respondents to the Delta Rural Poll are black, while 62.1 percent of the adult population is black according to the 2000 Census (U.S. Census Bureau, 2004a). A county-by-county comparison shows that for some counties, such as Coahoma, Leflore, Tallahatchie and Washington, the results for the Delta Rural Poll are close to the 2000 Census statistics. In other

**Table 1:
Gender by County
2007 Delta Rural Poll and 2000 U.S. Census**

County	Percent Female			
	2007 Delta Rural Poll		2000 U.S. Census	
	Unweighted	Weighted	Age 18+	Total Population
Bolivar	69.6	55.4	55.0	53.2
Coahoma	67.2	57.0	56.3	54.1
Humphreys	72.4	54.8	56.0	53.4
Issaquena	71.4	57.1	43.5	46.8
Leflore	68.5	53.1	53.3	52.0
Quitman	65.8	55.3	55.8	53.6
Sharkey	58.6	54.2	54.8	53.0
Sunflower	61.9	45.6	45.5	46.3
Tallahatchie	70.9	54.4	54.2	53.3
Tunica	61.3	52.9	53.8	52.3
Washington	70.1	55.2	55.5	53.3
Total	67.9	53.7	53.6	52.1

Source: 2007 Delta Rural Poll, U.S. Census Bureau, 2004a
Delta Rural Poll N = 1,004, Missing = 1

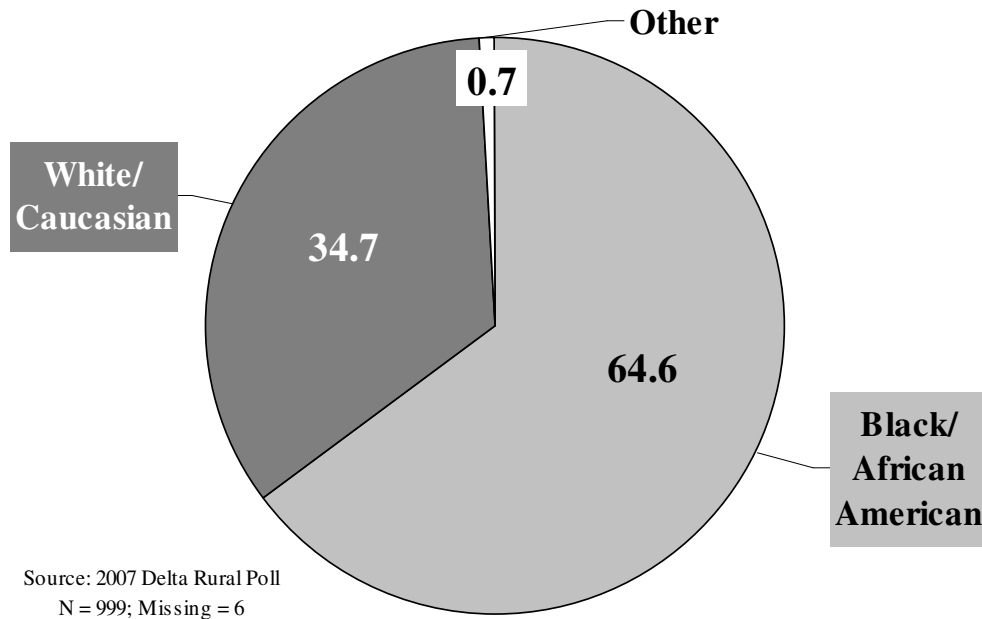


Figure 4: Race of 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents

counties, like Bolivar, Humphries, Issaquena, Sharkey and Tunica, the African American population is inflated when compared to the Census. In Quitman and Sunflower counties, the white population is over-represented vis a vis the 2000 Census.

The difference between the 2007 Delta Rural Poll sample and the 2000 U.S. Census is substantial for some counties. This is true for the three southernmost counties in the survey. For example, in Sharkey County, 82.8 percent of the Delta Rural Poll sample is African American, while the Census shows 64.3 percent of adult residents are African American. The difference in Issaquena County is also substantial. The Delta Rural Poll showed 71.4 percent of respondents were African American, while the Census figures for adults in the county were 58.5. In Humphreys County, 78.6 percent of Delta Rural Poll respondents were black, compared to 58.5 percent of adults according to the Census. These three counties are small, however. The total number of respondents to the Delta Rural Poll in Humphreys County is 42, in Sharkey County it is 24, and in tiny Issaquena County (with a 2006 population of 1,805 according to U.S. Census estimates), there were only 7 respondents. In these cases, a shift of only a small number of respondents could inflate the percentage substantially.

**Table 2:
Race by County,
2007 Delta Rural Poll and 2000 U.S. Census**

County	Percent Black			Percent White		
	2007 DRP	2000 Census, Age 18+	2000 Census, All	2007 DRP	2000 Census, Age 18+	2000 Census, All
Bolivar	68.0	59.8	65.1	32.0	38.5	33.2
Coahoma	66.1	64.3	69.2	32.2	34.2	29.3
Humphreys	78.6	67.0	71.5	21.4	31.5	27.2
Issaquena	71.4	58.5	62.8	28.6	40.6	36.3
Leflore	66.1	63.2	67.7	33.3	34.3	30.0
Quitman	55.3	63.6	68.6	44.7	35.5	30.5
Sharkey	82.8	64.3	69.3	17.2	34.4	29.4
Sunflower	60.6	66.1	69.9	39.4	32.6	28.9
Tallahatchie	53.2	54.3	59.4	46.8	44.6	39.6
Tunica	71.0	64.2	70.2	29.0	33.4	27.5
Washington	63.1	59.8	64.6	35.4	38.8	34.0
Total	64.6	62.1	66.8	34.7	36.3	31.6

Source: 2007 Delta Rural Poll, U.S. Census Bureau, 2004a

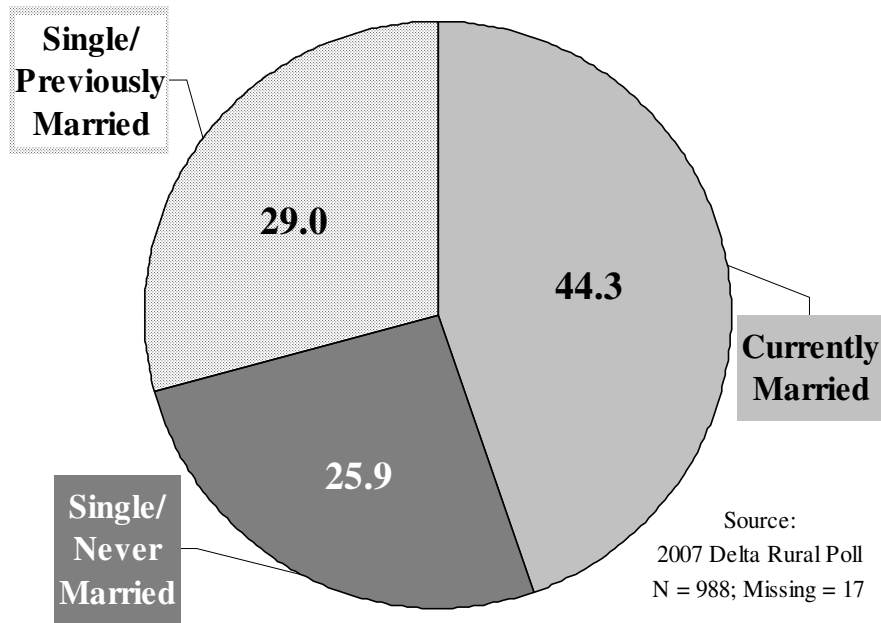


Figure 5: Marital Status of 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents

Marital Status Figure 5 shows the marital status of respondents to the Delta Rural Poll. Less than half (44.3 percent) of the respondents are currently married, while 29.0 percent are currently single but previously married, and about one-quarter (25.9 percent) of the respondents are currently single and have never been married.⁶

A comparison of Delta Rural Poll results and the 2000 U.S. Census by county is shown in Table 3. With the exception of Issaquena and Tunica counties, the Delta Rural Poll captured a higher percentage of married respondents than the county population as a whole. In several counties, including Coahoma, Quitman, Sharkey, Tallahatchie, Tunica and Washington, the results for the Rural Poll are fairly consistent with Census statistics. The Delta Rural Poll under-represents the percent single and never married in several counties, although the statistics are close in Coahoma and Quitman Counties. As with the married group, those who were previously married are over-represented in most counties in the Delta Rural Poll sample, when compared with the 2000 Census statistics.

⁶ The Census figures are for the population 15 years of age and older, while the Delta Rural Poll data are for the population 18 years of age and older. Census figures cited for “currently married” include the Census categories “Now Married, Spouse Present” and “Now Married, Spouse Absent, Other,” while Census figures for “separated” were drawn from the category “Now Married, Spouse Absent, Separated,” “Widowed” and “Divorced” (U.S. Census Bureau, 2004d).

**Table 3:
Marital Status by County
2007 Delta Rural Poll and 2000 U.S. Census**

County	Percent Married		Percent Single, Never Married		Percent Single, Previously Married	
	2007 DRP	2000 Census	2007 DRP	2000 Census	2007 DRP	2000 Census
Bolivar	48.3	38.1	22.5	40.6	29.1	21.3
Coahoma	43.1	39.8	33.0	36.2	23.9	24.0
Humphreys	45.2	36.4	21.4	41.5	33.3	22.2
Issaquena	12.5	53.2	62.5	29.8	25.0	17.0
Leflore	45.9	39.0	25.3	38.6	28.8	22.4
Quitman	41.7	40.7	33.3	34.1	25.0	25.2
Sharkey	39.1	39.0	21.7	39.4	39.1	21.5
Sunflower	54.8	37.7	18.5	41.9	26.7	20.4
Tallahatchie	48.2	44.6	26.8	33.1	25.0	22.4
Tunica	32.4	37.0	44.1	38.6	23.5	24.4
Washington	48.9	42.9	23.6	34.7	27.5	22.4
Total	47.0	40.0	25.5	37.7	27.5	22.3

Source: 2007 Delta Rural Poll, U.S. Census Bureau, 2004d

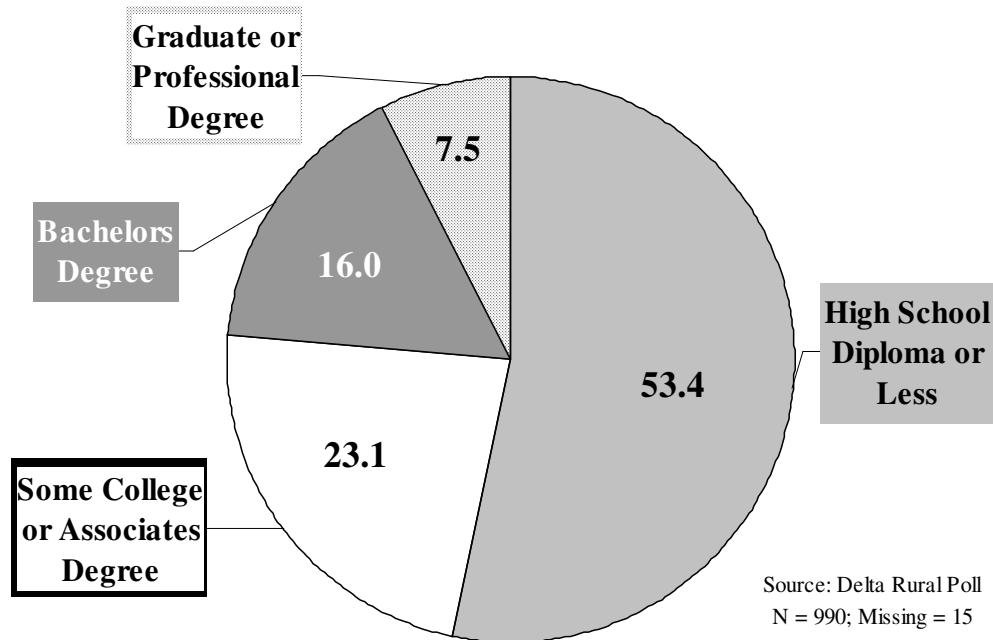


Figure 6: Educational Achievement of 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents

Respondent's Education, Employment and Income

Education Over half (53.4 percent) of the respondents to the 2007 Delta Rural Poll has a high school diploma or less (See Figure 6). Nearly one-quarter (23.1 percent) has an associates degree or some college, and 16.0 percent has a bachelors degree. Fewer than one in thirteen respondents to the survey (7.5 percent) have a graduate or professional degree, such as a masters or a doctorate.

The Census calculates educational attainment for the population age 25 and over. Using the Delta Rural Poll respondents age 25 and over as a basis of comparison (N = 918) shows that 53.6 percent of Delta Rural Poll respondents aged 25 and over have a high school diploma or less, 22.3 percent have an associates degree or some college, 16.4 percent have a bachelors degree and 7.8 percent have a graduate or professional degree.

Table 4 breaks down education by county, for the 2007 Delta Rural Poll and the 2000 U.S. Census. The Delta Rural Poll data are displayed for all respondents (unweighted), and for the respondents age 25 and over (both weighted and unweighted). Census data are for the

**Table 4:
Educational Attainment by County, 2007 Delta Rural Poll and 2000 U.S. Census**

	High School Graduates [†]				Bachelors Degree [‡]			
	2007 Delta Rural Poll			2000 U.S. Census, Age 25+	2007 Delta Rural Poll			2000 U.S. Census, Age 25+
	All	Age 25+			All	Age 25+		
	Unweighted	Unweighted	Weighted		Unweighted	Unweighted	Weighted	
Bolivar	75.2	72.8	75.7	65.3	21.6	22.0	20.8	18.8
Coahoma	77.5	76.6	76.9	62.2	26.7	27.9	28.8	16.2
Humphreys	69.0	66.7	62.2	53.7	10.3	11.1	13.5	11.6
Issaquena	57.1	57.1	57.1	58.8	14.3	14.3	14.3	7.1
Leflore	71.5	74.2	73.4	61.9	26.1	27.1	29.0	15.9
Quitman	68.4	67.6	67.6	55.1	13.2	11.8	11.8	10.6
Sharkey	62.1	59.3	65.2	60.6	31.0	33.3	39.1	12.6
Sunflower	72.8	74.0	73.0	59.3	26.2	27.1	26.2	12.0
Tallahatchie	67.1	66.7	65.4	54.4	12.6	12.5	11.5	10.9
Tunica	64.5	68.0	71.4	60.5	19.4	20.0	21.4	9.1
Washington	71.2	70.0	71.0	66.5	26.1	26.7	27.6	16.4
Total, 11 Counties	71.6	71.4	72.0	62.1	23.5	24.2	24.5	14.9
Mississippi Statewide	N/A	N/A	N/A	72.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.9
National	N/A	N/A	N/A	80.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	24.4

Source: 2007 Delta Rural Poll, U.S. Census Bureau, 2004a, 2004d

Delta Rural Poll N = 990, Missing = 15 for "All", N = 911 for "Age 25+;" U.S. Census N = 150,379 for all 11 counties

[†]Includes High School Graduates and Higher [‡]Includes College Graduates and Higher

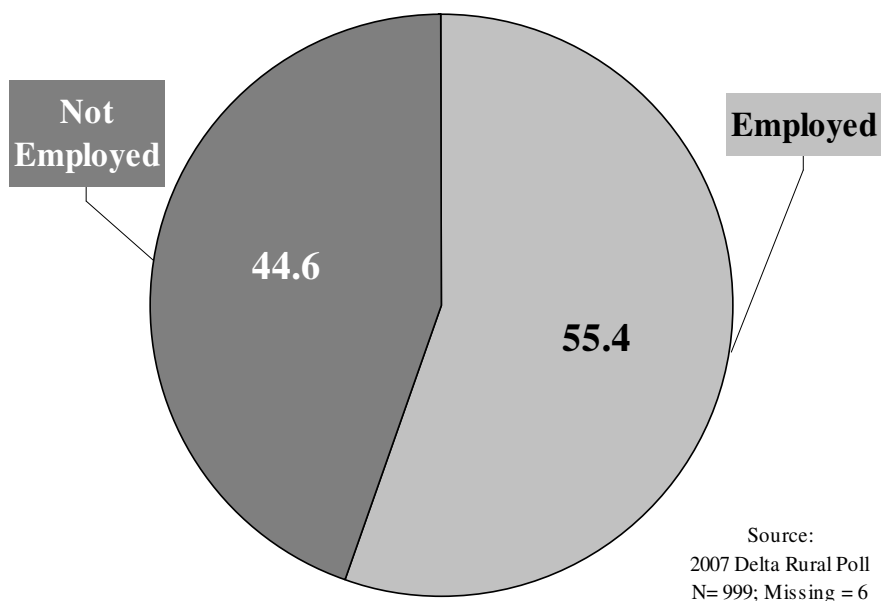


Figure 7: Employment Status of 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents

population age 25 and over. Comparing the Census data with the unweighted Delta Rural Poll sample age 25 and over shows that the respondents to the Delta Rural Poll are slightly better educated than the general population. At both the high school and college levels, in most counties, a higher percentage of Delta Rural Poll respondents have degrees than Census respondents.

Employment Figure 7 shows the percentage of Delta Rural Poll respondents who were employed and not employed during 2006. To qualify as employed, the respondent had to have a full-time, part-time or seasonal job at some time during 2006. A little over half (55.4%) of the respondents said they had been employed, while 44.6 percent were not employed during the year. The employment rate for respondents to the Delta Rural Poll was higher than for the general population as represented by the 2000 Census. According to Census results, 46.5 percent of the population of the 11 core Delta counties was employed (U.S. Census, 2004d).⁷ In response to a follow-up question, 14.8% of the respondents said they own a business or farm (or both) in the Delta.⁸

⁷ The Census Bureau calculates employment figures based on the population 16 years old and over, while the Delta Rural Poll sample were age 18 and over.

⁸ For this question, N = 935, Missing = 70.

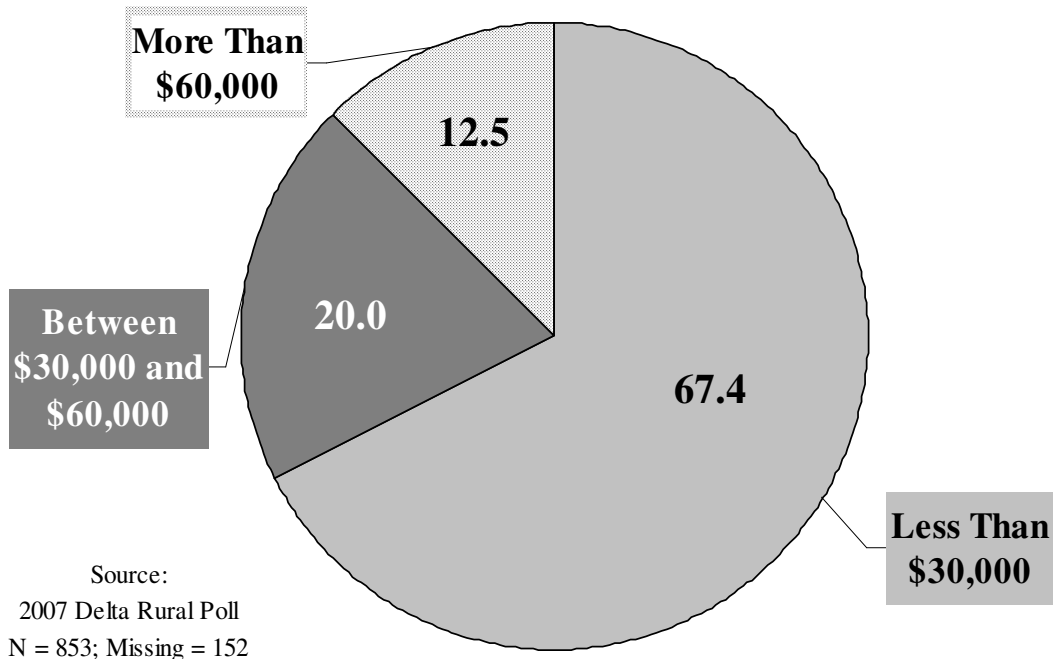


Figure 8: Total 2006 Household Income Before Taxes for 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents

Income The Delta Rural Poll measures total annual household income before taxes, for the year prior to the survey. Figure 8 summarizes responses for 2006, and shows that one in eight respondents (12.5 percent) earned more than \$60,000, one in five (20.0 percent) made between \$30,000 and \$60,000, and two-thirds (67.4 percent) made less than \$30,000. Because of the sensitive nature of this information, this question always has a high number of refusals, and in 2007 there were 152 respondents who did not answer this question.

Table 6 compares 2007 Delta Rural Poll data on total household income with data from the 2000 Census. The Census data for income come from the long form, filled out by every sixth household. This totaled 87,950 households for the 11 counties. The Census data also show income for 1999. Table 6 uses a different grouping of income categories, in order to match available Census data.

The results for all respondents show that the Delta Rural Poll data are very close to the data from the 2000 Census. According to the Delta Rural Poll, 23.3 percent of households had annual incomes below \$10,000, compared to 23.7 percent for the Census. The Delta Rural Poll shows 58.7 percent of households earned between \$10,000 and \$49,000 annually, compared to 55.0

**Table 5:
Total Household Income by County,
2007 Delta Rural Poll and 2000 U.S. Census***

County	Households with Annual Incomes Below \$10,000		Households with Annual Incomes \$10,000 to \$49,999		Households with Annual Incomes Over \$50,000	
	2007 DRP [†]	2000 Census [‡]	2007 DRP	2000 Census	2007 DRP	2000 Census
Bolivar	26.2	24.0	52.3	54.7	21.5	21.3
Coahoma	17.8	25.6	60.4	52.7	21.8	21.7
Humphreys	19.2	25.6	69.2	56.9	11.5	17.5
Issaquena	16.7	26.9	83.3	54.0	0.0	19.1
Leflore	25.5	25.6	57.9	54.0	16.6	20.4
Quitman	35.5	26.2	61.3	57.5	3.2	16.3
Sharkey	16.7	23.3	66.7	56.5	16.7	20.2
Sunflower	18.7	20.1	56.0	57.0	25.3	22.9
Tallahatchie	23.8	25.4	63.5	57.9	12.7	16.7
Tunica	18.5	22.8	74.1	55.0	7.4	22.2
Washington	25.0	21.8	56.5	54.7	18.5	23.5
Total	23.3	23.7	58.7	55.0	17.9	21.3

Source: 2007 Delta Rural Poll, U.S. Census Bureau, 2004a

Delta Rural Poll N = 853, Missing = 152; Census N = 87,950 households

[†]Delta Rural Poll income figures are for 2006; [‡]Census income figures are for 1999

*Census figures for income come from long forms, a 1 in 6 sample

percent in the Census. And 17.9 percent of Delta Rural Poll respondents reported an annual income over \$50,000, compared to 21.3 percent for the Census. Assessing the data for individual counties, there is more variation. For some counties, like Bolivar, Leflore and Sunflower, the Delta Rural Poll data match the Census data very closely. For other counties, such as Issaquena and Tunica, the Delta Rural Poll data vary substantially from Census numbers. For most counties, however, the correspondence is fairly close at all three income levels between the Delta Rural Poll and the U.S. Census.

Residence

County of Residence The distribution of Delta Rural Poll respondents by county is shown in Figure 9a. The telephone prefixes are assigned by county so it was possible to accurately categorize each respondent. To contextualize Delta Rural Poll data, the distribution of the population by county as measured by the 2000 U.S. Census is shown in Figure 9b. The total population for the 11 core Delta counties was 260,855.

The Delta Rural Poll sample aligns closely with the Census distribution for the population as a whole. According to the 2000 Census, one-quarter of the population (24.8 percent) lives in the north Delta (Tunica, Coahoma, Tallahatchie, and Quitman counties), compared to 26.9 percent according to the 2007 Delta Rural Poll. Slightly over two-thirds of the population (67.5 percent) lives in the mid-Delta counties (Washington, Bolivar, Leflore, Sunflower) according to Census figures, compared to 66.6 percent of the respondents to the Delta Rural Poll. Census statistics

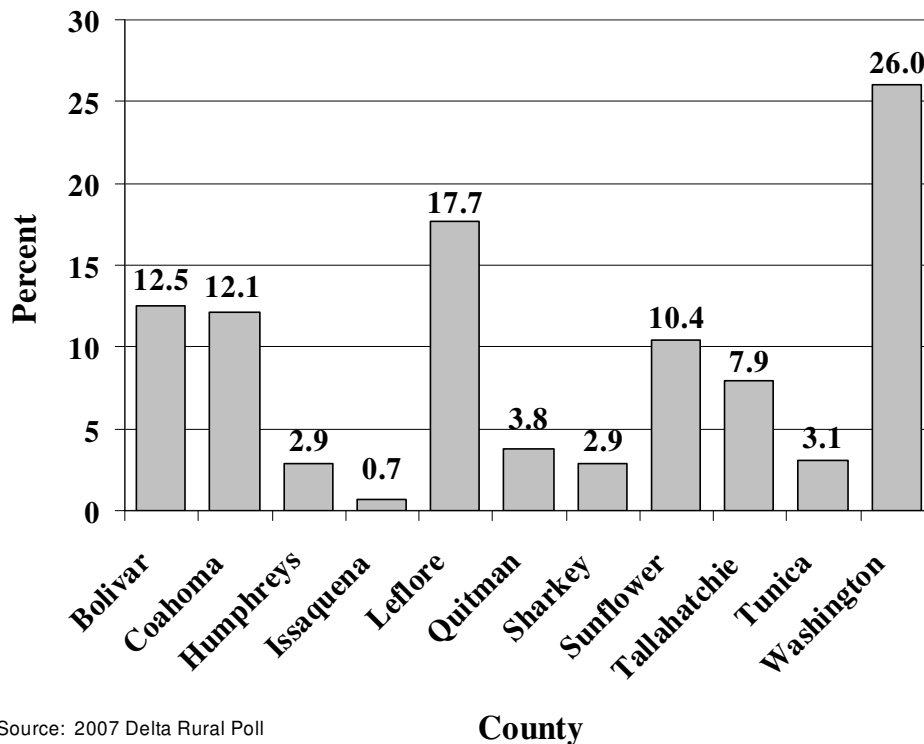


Figure 9a: Percent of 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents by County of Residence

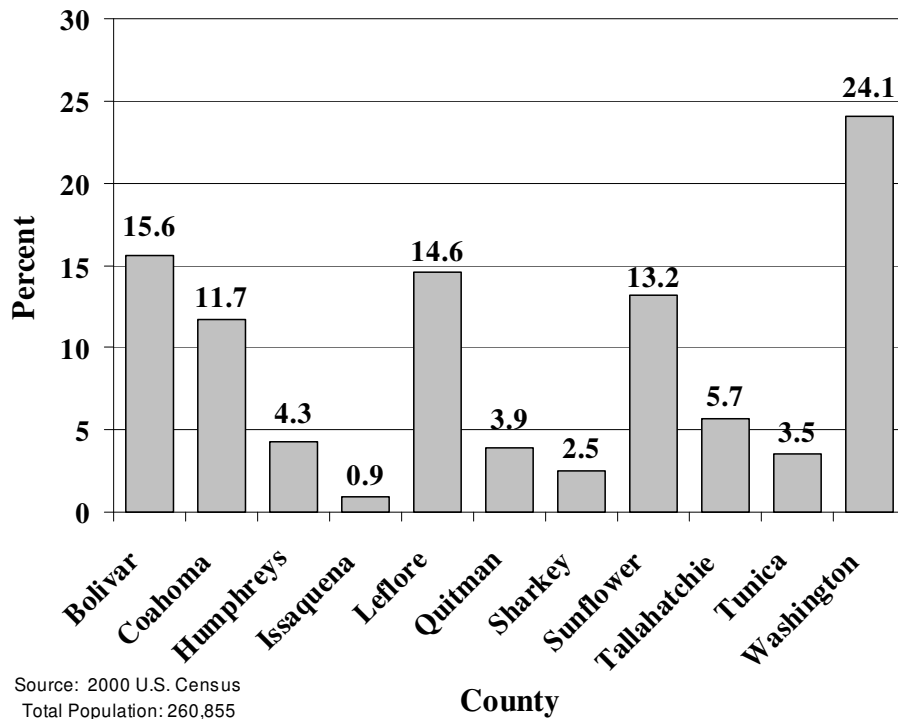


Figure 9b: Percent of Total Population by County

show only 7.7 percent of the population lives in the south Delta (Issaquena, Sharkey, and Humphreys counties); the figure from the Delta Rural Poll is 6.5 percent.

Size of Place Respondents to the 2005 Delta Rural Poll were asked the size of the nearest community, and were given a choice of several size ranges. Many respondents were unable to answer this, as 274 (27.2%) said they did not know or were unsure. Figure 10 shows the distribution of respondents by size of place of residence.⁹ Slightly more than one quarter (26.6%) of those able to provide a response said they lived in or near a community with less than 1,000 residents. Almost one-third of respondents (32.8%) live in or near a town of 1,000 to 10,000 people. About two in five (39.6%) said the nearest community had more than 10,000 residents.

⁹ Figure 9 shows the valid percent, i.e., the “Don’t Knows” are counted as missing data.

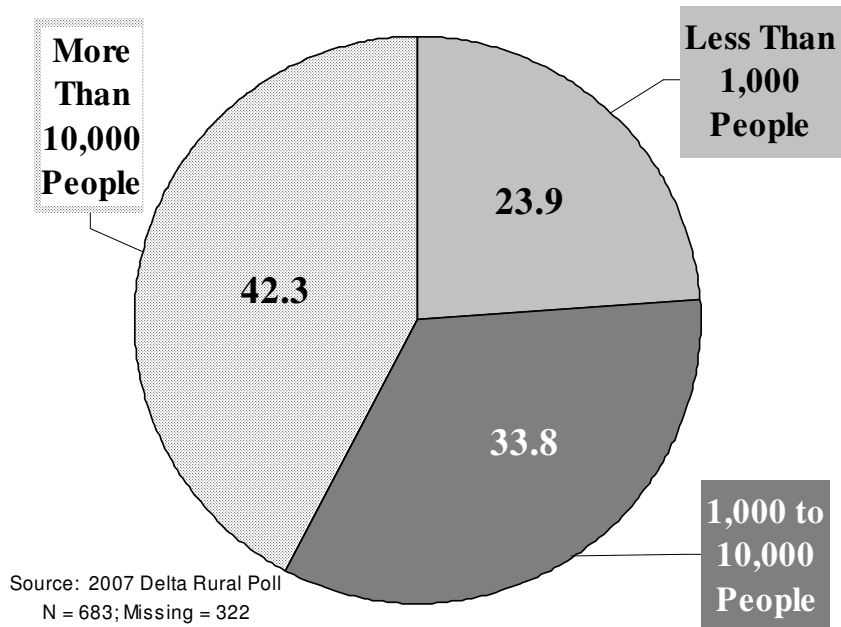


Figure 10: Size of Place of Residence of 2005 Delta Rural Poll Respondents

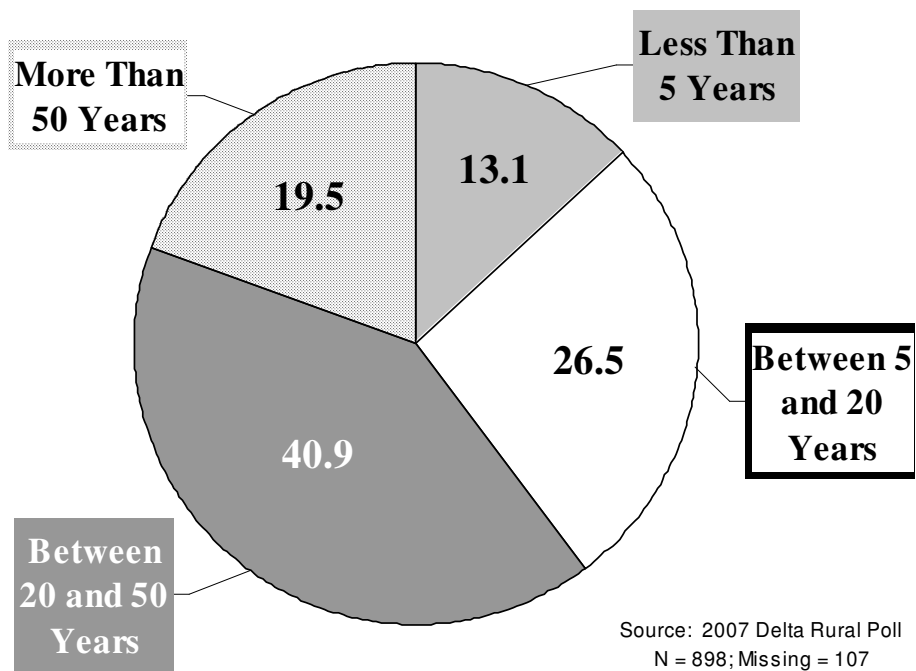
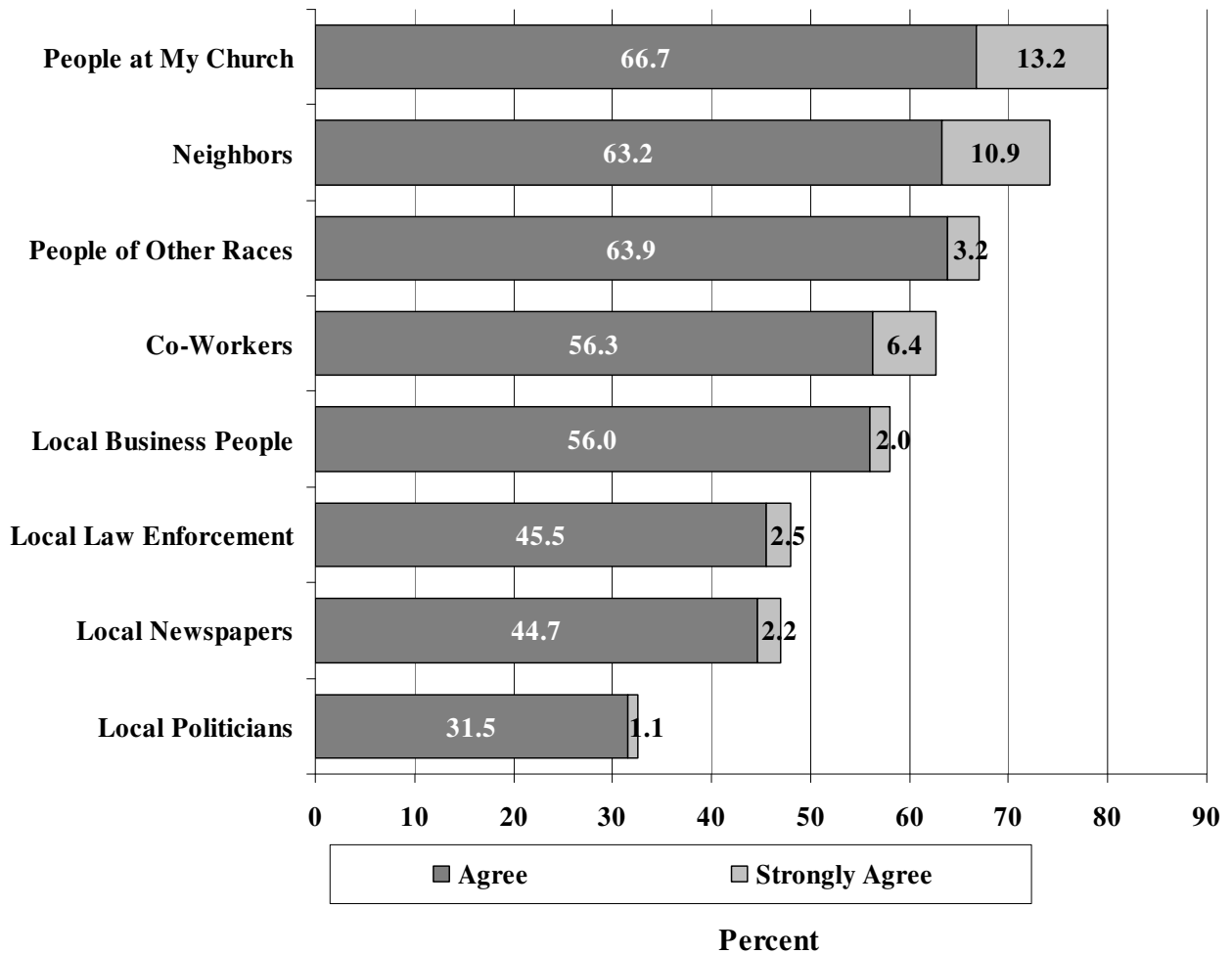


Figure 11: Length of Time 2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents Have Lived in the Same Community

Length of Residence Figure 11 shows the length of time respondents have lived in their current community of residence. Well over half of the respondents have lived in their current communities more than twenty years. Among all respondents, 19.5 percent have lived in their

I can trust...



**Figure 12: Social Capital Indicators
Perceptions of Trust in Various Institutions Among
2007 Delta Rural Poll Respondents**

community for more than 50 years, 40.9 percent have lived in their communities between 20 and 50 years, 26.5% have been in their communities between 5 and 20 years, and 13.1 percent have lived in their community for less than 5 years.

Social Capital

For the first time in 2007, the Delta Rural Poll asked a series of questions that asked about indicators of social capital. The measure used was a set of indicators of trust in various groups within the community, including newspapers, police, businesses and churches. Results are

shown in Figure 12. Religion and community showed the highest levels of trust; 79.9 percent of respondents say they trust people at their church, while 74.1 percent say they trust their neighbors. In addition, included among those who said they trust others at their church, 13.2 percent of the respondents *strongly* agreed that they could trust people at their church.

In third place, 67.1 percent of the population say they trust people of other races. This is an encouraging result given the Delta's troubled history of race relations. Business and workplace were next in degree of trust: 62.7 percent of respondents say they could trust their co-workers, and 58.0 percent say they trust local businesses. Law and the media form the bottom of the list. Only 48.0 percent of the respondents say they trust local police, 46.9 percent trust local newspapers, and 32.6 percent trust local politicians, easily the lowest level of all the groups we asked about. Interestingly, given the above results for specific groups, when asked if they can generally trust other people, only 26.9 percent agreed that they could. This is lower than for any specific group.

Conclusion

The 2007 Delta Rural Poll collected valuable data that helps us characterize the people of the Mississippi Delta. The data in this report show a brief snapshot of the Delta in 2007, and use Census data to assess the quality of the data collected by the Delta Rural Poll. The data from the survey will be used over the coming months to prepare research and policy reports and to support the programs of the Center for Community and Economic Development, as well as communities in the Delta.

The next Delta Rural Poll survey is due in 2009.

Appendix A: Weighting Procedure

The 2007 Delta Rural Poll used a two-stage sampling process to select respondents. Households were sampled using random digit dialing, using telephone prefixes for the eleven counties of interest. Within each household, a specific respondent was randomly selected through a screening process. Although this should ensure an unbiased sample, in telephone surveys like this certain variables commonly deviate substantially from expectations. For example, in the 2007 Delta Rural Poll, only 32.1 percent of the respondents were males. The 2000 U.S. Census reported that 47.8 percent of all residents of the eleven core Delta counties are male, and 46.4 percent of Delta residents age 18 and over are male. In addition, African Americans are slightly underrepresented in the Delta Rural Poll sample in most of the counties compared to the total population, and in eight of the 11 counties compared to the adult population.

Examining these data, we decided to apply a weighting procedure similar to the one used in the 2003 Delta Rural Poll to adjust for the differences in gender and race by county. The decision was made primarily to adjust for the large discrepancy in gender. We adjusted for race as well to account for the slight under-representation of African Americans in eight counties, as well as the large aberration in Issaquena County.

Weighting procedures like this are commonly used to correct for systematic biases, and biases for gender and race are common in surveys conducted in the Mississippi Delta. The weighting procedure assessed the proportion of respondents by race and gender for each county, comparing the actual results from the 2007 Delta Rural Poll to data from the 2000 United States Census. Once a weighting variable was created, it was used on most analyses, to provide a more accurate assessment of conditions in the Delta.

To assess the need for a weighting procedure, Census data on residents of the eleven counties aged 18 and older were used to calculate the proportion of white male, white female, black male, black female, other male and other female residents.¹⁰ “Other” indicates all other races as well as people reporting more than one race. The same categories were calculated using 2007 Delta Rural Poll data. As discussed above, a comparison of these data showed that the Delta Rural

¹⁰ The Census designation “one race only” was used.

Poll systematically underrepresented males and overrepresented females. Furthermore, in a majority of counties, these tendencies were stronger for black respondents than for white respondents.

The following procedure was used to calculate the weight values. Using data from the 2000 Census, the proportion of the population aged 18 and over for 66 classifications was calculated. The classifications included the six race/gender groups (white male, white female, black male, black female, other male, other female) for each of the eleven counties. The population in each classification was divided by the total population aged 18 and over (180,913) for all counties to get the correct proportion for each category.

The number of cases that *should* be in each classification in the 2007 Delta Rural Poll sample was then calculated, using the proportions from the Census data. This was done by multiplying the proportion for each classification by 998.¹¹ The *actual* number of respondents in each classification was calculated by crosstabulating the variable for the respondent's race, recoded to combine all races except white and black into an "other" response category,¹² and the variable for respondent's gender, then sorting these by the variable for the respondent's county of residence. For each category, the expected number calculated from Census data was divided by the actual number from the Delta Rural Poll. This gave the weight for each category. Weights were entered with nine decimal places for accuracy.

The weight variable is used in most analyses for research and policy reports. Generally, comparing analyses with and without the weight produces results that differ only slightly (see Appendix C). Nevertheless, we still use the weights to provide more accurate results.

¹¹ 998 represents the total number of respondents in the sample (1,005) minus 7 cases that were eliminated because the respondent either refused to give his/her race or because the interviewer was unable to identify the respondent's gender. These variables were coded with a value of "1" (no weight) in the weighting variable.

¹² For "Other" categories with no respondents, the value was recorded as "1" (no weight).

Appendix B: Households with Telephones in the Delta

The Delta Rural Poll uses a telephone survey, which has the potential of introducing a bias in the sample if particularly groups in the population do not have telephone service. The Delta Rural Poll focuses on a rural area, and rural households are more likely not to have telephones. According to the USDA, the Mississippi Delta has the lowest proportion of households with telephones in the nation (ERS, 2003). Approximately 95% of all U.S. households have telephone service, while for the 11 core Mississippi Delta counties, the rate is 90.3% (see Table B1) (ERS, 2003; US Census Bureau, 2004c). Houses without a telephone would not be contacted, and it is probably the case that the poorer homes lack telephone service. In the Delta region, however, telephone surveys still present the best available option for systematic data collection (Barton, 2004).

A related problem is the increasing use of cell phones as the primary telephone service. Nationwide, it is estimated that 8 to 12 percent of households now use cell phones as their only telephone service (Keeter, Kennedy, Clark, Tompson and Mokrzycki, 2007; Keeter and Kennedy, 2006). The prefixes for cellular telephones are not included in the population from which telephone numbers are drawn for the Delta Rural Poll, as telephone surveyors are not permitted to call cell phones. The extent to which the increase in cell phone use affects telephone surveys is currently being studied; in 2007 the journal *Public Opinion Quarterly* dedicated a whole special edition to the topic. There is some evidence that the absence of cell phones in telephone surveys has only minimal effect on the overall results, although it may affect specific issues (Keeter and Kennedy, 2006). It is known that cell phone-only users have specific characteristics that differentiate them from the general population. The Delta Rural Poll will continue to monitor this situation and will make decisions about its methods in accordance with accepted standards and practices.

**Table B1:
Occupied Households with Telephone Service in 11 Mississippi Delta Counties**

County	Total Population	Number of Occupied Housing Units	Percent of Households with Telephone Service
Bolivar	40,633	13,776	88.7
Coahoma	30,622	10,553	91.2
Humphreys	11,206	3,765	87.8
Issaquena	2,274	726	85.4
Leflore	37,947	12,956	91.2
Quitman	10,117	3,565	87.7
Sharkey	6,580	2,163	85.9
Sunflower	34,369	9,637	90.6
Tallahatchie	14,903	5,263	86.0
Tunica	9,227	3,258	89.3
Washington	62,977	22,158	93.0
Total	260,855	87,820	90.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004c.

**Appendix C:
Comparison of Results from the
2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls**

The tables in Appendix C compare results from the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Poll surveys for eleven variables. These tables show both weighted and unweighted frequencies, as a means of assessing the effect of weighting to account for gender and race by county.

**Table C1
Age of Respondents:
Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls**

Age	2003 Delta Rural Poll		2005 Delta Rural Poll		2007 Delta Rural Poll	
	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted
18 – 29	16.5	17.5	14.9	15.0	10.5	10.9
30 – 44	26.4	27.7	23.4	23.0	21.0	20.1
45 – 59	29.4	29.4	30.7	31.9	32.2	32.9
60 – 74	17.1	16.5	20.2	20.3	22.1	22.4
75+	10.7	8.9	10.8	9.7	14.1	13.7
N	796	789	984	980	980	970
Missing	13	12	25	22	25	24

**Table C2
Gender of Respondents:
Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls**

Gender	2003 Delta Rural Poll		2005 Delta Rural Poll		2007 Delta Rural Poll	
	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted
Female	71.0	53.7	67.6	55.2	67.9	53.8
Male	29.0	46.2	32.4	44.8	32.1	46.2
N	807	799	1007	1000	1004	993
Missing	2	2	2	2	1	1

Table C3
Race of Respondents:
Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls

Race	2003 Delta Rural Poll		2005 Delta Rural Poll		2007 Delta Rural Poll	
	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted
Black	60.3	62.8	61.3	62.5	64.6	62.7
White	39.9	36.6	37.5	36.4	34.7	36.6
Other	0.9	0.6	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.7
N	808	800	989	982	999	988
Missing	1	1	20	19	6	6

Table C4
Marital Status of Respondents:
Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls

Marital Status	2003 Delta Rural Poll		2005 Delta Rural Poll		2007 Delta Rural Poll	
	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted
Married/ Couple	45.3	46.1	43.4	44.2	44.3	46.0
Single/ Previously Married	28.7	25.6	29.2	27.8	29.8	27.6
Single/ Never Married	26.0	28.3	27.3	28.1	25.9	25.5
N	808	800	1006	999	988	974
Missing	1	1	3	3	17	20

Table C5
Educational Attainment of Respondents:
Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls

Educational Attainment	2003 Delta Rural Poll		2005 Delta Rural Poll		2007 Delta Rural Poll	
	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted
High School Diploma or Less	50.1	50.5	47.6	48.2	53.4	53.1
Some College/ Associates Degree	25.8	25.3	26.9	25.6	23.1	23.3
Bachelors Degree	16.5	16.2	16.8	17.3	16.0	15.3
Graduate Degree	7.6	7.9	8.7	8.9	7.5	8.3
N	805	798	997	990	990	980
Missing	4	4	12	11	15	14

Table C6
Employment Status of Respondents:
Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls

Employment Status	2003 Delta Rural Poll		2005 Delta Rural Poll		2007 Delta Rural Poll	
	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted
Employed	59.5	62.1	60.5	61.6	55.4	55.8
Not Employed	40.5	37.9	39.5	38.4	44.6	44.2
N	809	801	1008	1001	999	988
Missing	0	0	1	1	6	6

Table C7
Total Household Income of Respondents:
Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls

Income	2003 Delta Rural Poll		2005 Delta Rural Poll		2007 Delta Rural Poll	
	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted
More Than \$60,000	14.7	15.6	13.1	13.5	12.5	15.1
\$30,000 to \$60,000	21.5	21.8	26.3	27.7	20.0	20.9
Less Than \$30,000	63.8	62.5	60.7	58.8	67.4	64.0
N	679	675	765	766	853	849
Missing	130	126	244	236	152	145

Income is for the year prior to the survey.

Table C8
Percent of Respondents by County of Residence:
Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls

County	2003 Delta Rural Poll		2005 Delta Rural Poll		2007 Delta Rural Poll	
	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted
Bolivar	14.8	16.0	12.2	15.7	12.5	15.8
Coahoma	13.2	11.4	13.9	11.7	12.1	11.4
Humphreys	2.6	4.1	4.6	4.2	2.9	4.2
Issaquena	3.7	0.9	3.0	1.0	0.7	0.7
Leflore	16.2	14.7	14.1	14.6	17.7	14.8
Quitman	2.5	3.8	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.8
Sharkey	2.0	2.4	1.6	2.5	2.9	2.4
Sunflower	10.5	13.6	11.8	13.6	10.4	13.7
Tallahatchie	7.9	5.8	6.6	5.6	7.9	5.7
Tunica	2.3	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.1	3.4
Washington	24.2	23.8	24.7	23.8	26.0	24.1
N	809	801	1009	1002	1005	994
Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table C9
Size of Place of Respondents' Residence:
Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls

Size of Place of Residence	2003 Delta Rural Poll		2005 Delta Rural Poll		2007 Delta Rural Poll	
	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted
More Than 10,000	38.0	39.0	39.6	40.7	42.3	43.2
1,000 to 10,000	33.7	34.9	32.8	32.7	33.8	34.3
Less Than 1,000	28.2	26.1	27.6	26.6	23.9	22.5
N	581	576	735	742	683	702
Missing	228	225	274	260	322	292

Table C10
Type of Place of Respondents' Residence:
Comparison of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Delta Rural Polls

Place of Residence	2003 Delta Rural Poll		2005 Delta Rural Poll		2007 Delta Rural Poll	
	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted
Within City Limits	67.4	69.5	67.8	69.5	69.3	70.1
Outside City Limits, On a Farm	11.1	10.1	9.9	9.0	8.9	8.3
Outside City Limits, Not on a Farm	21.5	20.4	22.3	21.6	21.8	21.6
N	809	801	997	990	996	986
Missing	0	0	12	12	9	8

Table C11
Length of Time Respondents Have Lived in the Same Community:
Comparison of the 2003 and 2005 Delta Rural Polls

Length of Time of Residence	2003 Delta Rural Poll		2005 Delta Rural Poll		2007 Delta Rural Poll	
	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted
More Than 50 Years	16.6	15.1	14.6	14.6	19.5	19.9
Between 20 and 50 Years	43.3	43.7	43.2	42.8	40.9	40.5
Between 5 and 20 Years	27.6	28.3	26.7	27.1	26.5	26.8
Less Than 5 Years	12.6	12.9	15.5	15.5	13.1	12.7
N	802	794	993	987	898	887
Missing	7	7	16	15	107	107

References

Barton, Alan W. 2004. *The 2003 Delta Rural Poll: History, Methods and Characteristics of the Sample*. Research Paper No. 04-01, Center for Community and Economic Development. Delta State University, Cleveland, MS.

Barton, Alan W. 2005. *The 2005 Delta Rural Poll: Methods and Characteristics of the Sample*. Research Paper No. 05-01, Center for Community and Economic Development. Delta State University, Cleveland, MS.

CCED. 2004. *Delta Rural Poll Policies and Procedures*. Center for Community and Economic Development, Delta State University, Cleveland, MS.

ERS. 2003. Briefing Room: Rural telecommunications: Distribution of services. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. Retrieved 2 August 2004 from: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/telecom/distributionservices.htm>.

Keeter, Scott and Courtney Kennedy. 2006. The cell phone challenge to survey research. PEW Research Center for The People and The Press, Washington, DC.

Keeter, Scott, Courtney Kennedy, April Clark, Trevor Tompson and Mike Mokrzycki. 2007. What's missing from national landline RDD surveys? *Public Opinion Quarterly*, Vol. 71, No. 5, pp. 772–792.

SSRC. 2007. *2007 Mississippi Delta Rural Poll*. Survey Research Unit, Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS.

U.S. Census Bureau. 2004a. Mississippi Quick Facts. Retrieved 20 July 2004 from <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/28000.html>.

U.S. Census Bureau. 2004b. Poverty Thresholds. Retrieved 20 July 2004 from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/threshld.html>.

U.S. Census Bureau. 2004c. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000. Retrieved 2 August 2004 from <http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/sdc/sf3profiles>.

U.S. Census Bureau. 2004d. American Fact Finder. Retrieved 2 August 2004 from <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/>.

**Research Papers from the
Center for Community and Economic Development**

Research Paper 04-01

Barton, Alan W. *The 2003 Delta Rural Poll: History, Methods and Characteristics of the Sample*. Research Paper No. 04-01, Center for Community and Economic Development. Delta State University, Cleveland, MS. August, 2004.

Research Paper 05-01

Barton, Alan W. *The 2005 Delta Rural Poll: Methods and Characteristics of the Sample*. Research Paper No. 05-01, Center for Community and Economic Development. Delta State University, Cleveland, MS. August, 2005.

Research Paper 07-01

Barton, Alan W. *The 2007 Delta Rural Poll: Methods and Characteristics of the Sample*. Research Paper No. 07-01, Center for Community and Economic Development. Delta State University, Cleveland, MS. December, 2007.

Alan W. Barton is Assistant Professor of Sociology and Community Development in the Division of Social Sciences and Faculty Associate in the Center for Community and Economic Development at Delta State University. He has a Ph.D. in Development Sociology from Cornell University, an M.S. in Forest Management from the University of Washington, and a B.A. in Sociology and Spanish from the University of California, Berkeley.

Contact Information

Alan W. Barton
Division of Social Sciences
214 Kethley Hall
Delta State University
Cleveland, MS 38733
(662) 846-4065