The Alabama Black Belt, a 17-county region stretching from the state’s western border with Mississippi to its eastern border with Georgia in south central Alabama, is known for its dark and rich soils. The region is more unflatteringly known for little or no economic opportunities, high levels of unemployment and low levels of educational achievement among other things. Such economic and social conditions have been irrefutably linked to higher rates of smoking and use of other tobacco products as well as a dearth of facilities to treat any and all forms of cancer.

Visit [http://arcg.is/25J1umt](http://arcg.is/25J1umt) to find online, interactive maps where you can explore cancer outcome data, tobacco and other drug use statistics, cancer screening statistics, and demographic information in relation to cancer care services. You will also find links to data sources and state surveys. These maps were created using ESRI online and ArcMap Desktop 10.3.

There are NO comprehensive cancer services located within the Black Belt.

Montgomery, the state capital, second largest city in the state, and largest city in the Black Belt, is the region’s only major concentration of facilities offering cancer services.

All services that provide cancer related services are located in closer proximity in predominately black neighborhoods where as such centers in predominately white neighborhoods are more spread out.

The Black Belt’s median household income (at the block group level) ranges from $3,542 to $69,070.

**TOP FIVE TOBACCO-RELATED FACTS FOR THE STATE OF ALABAMA**

1. 44.6% of high school students have used cigarettes at some point.
2. 20.7% high school students have used smokeless tobacco at some point (e.g. snuff, snus, chewing tobacco).
3. 41.1% of adults have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime.
4. 24.3% of adults have used smokeless tobacco at some point.
5. 6.8% of adults have used waterpipe or hookah at some point.

**FACT SHEET: GEOGRAPHY-RELATED PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION**

This region includes 17 counties: Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Choctaw, Crenshaw, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Montgomery, Perry, Pike, Russell, Sumter, and Wilcox.

**EXPLORATION OF CANCER POINT SERVICES IN ALABAMA BLACK BELT REGION**

Visit [http://arcg.is/25J1umt](http://arcg.is/25J1umt) to find online, interactive maps where you can explore cancer outcome data, tobacco and other drug use statistics, cancer screening statistics, and demographic information in relation to cancer care services. You will also find links to data sources and state surveys. These maps were created using ESRI online and ArcMap Desktop 10.3.

**TOP FIVE CANCER FACTS FOR SELECTED COUNTIES**

1. There are NO comprehensive cancer services located within the Black Belt.
2. The majority of the population within the Alabama Black Belt counties are insured under Medicaid (over 90% in each census block group).
3. Montgomery, the state capital, second largest city in the state, and largest city in the Black Belt, is the region’s only major concentration of facilities offering cancer services.
4. All services that provide cancer related services are located in closer proximity in predominately black neighborhoods where as such centers in predominately white neighborhoods are more spread out.
5. The Black Belt’s median household income (at the block group level) ranges from $3,542 to $69,070.

**State Population (2015): 4,858,979**

Alabama Black Belt Population (2015) | 20,906

State, percentage of health uninsured: 14.2%
Black Belt, percentage of health uninsured: 18.7%

State Median Household Income: $43,511
Black Belt Median Household Income: $36,290

State Per Capita Income: $23,936
Black Belt Per Capita Income: $19,965

State Median Monthly Home Costs (Mortgage): $1,159
Black Belt Median Monthly Home Costs (Mortgage): $988

State Median Monthly Home Costs (Rent): $715
Black Belt Median Monthly Home Costs (Rent): $586

State Poverty Rate: 19.3%
Black Belt Poverty Rate: 47.6%

State High School Graduation Rate: 83.7%
Black Belt High School Graduation Rate: 36.2%

State Bachelor’s Degree or Higher Rate: 23.1%
Black Belt Bachelor’s Degree or Higher Rate: 16.5%

State Mean (Average) Travel Time to Work: 24 mins
Black Belt Mean (Average) Travel Time to Work: 25 mins

*Demographic information was collected through census.gov factFinder, QuickFacts, DataUSA, and Social Explorer (2010 through 2014 ACS 5-year estimates, block group level). The smallest level of spatial information made available to the public through the U.S. Census Bureau.

*Comprehensive services conduct laboratory research, clinical trials, outreach and education, and treatment. Non-comprehensive services may offer screening, diagnoses, and general patient care.

*Cancer statistics from 2008-2012, 2009-2013 statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov. “Screening” includes questions regarding “ever had a colorectal endoscopy (sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy) ages 50-75.” Model statistic is based on BRFSS and the National Health Interview. Some data is not available “because of state legislation and regulations which prohibit the release of county level data to outside entities.”