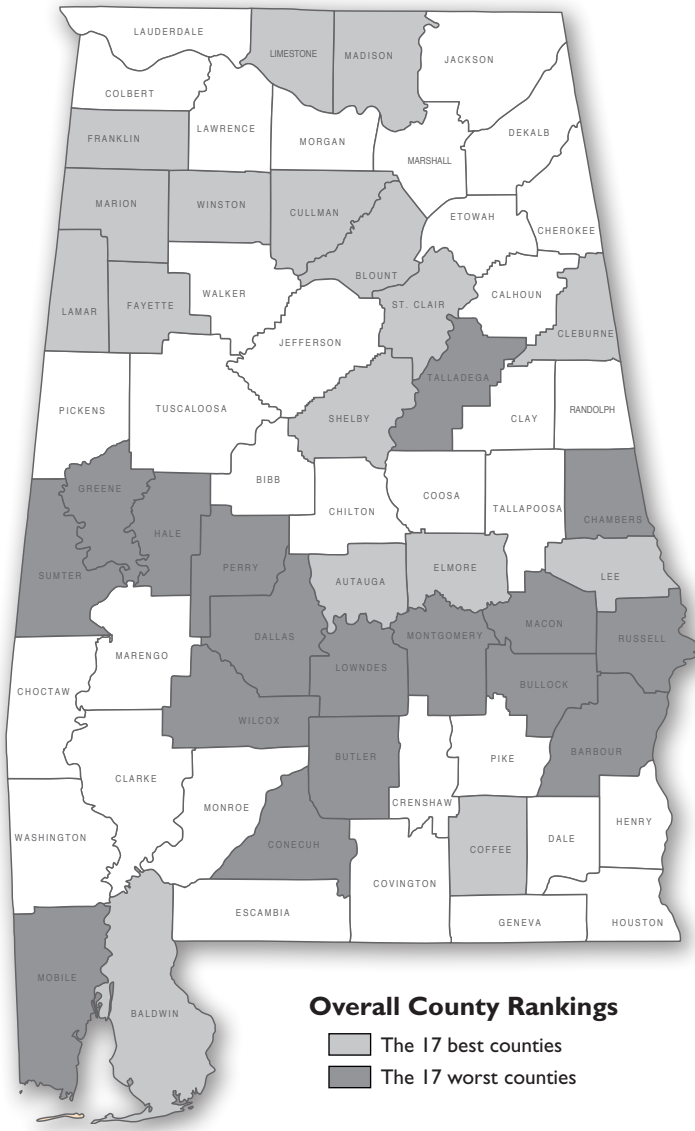


Overall County Rankings



COUNTY	RANK
Autauga	15
Baldwin	6
Barbour	59
Bibb	40
Blount	2
Bullock	65
Butler	53
Calhoun	29
Chambers	55
Cherokee	23
Chilton	26
Choctaw	47
Clarke	50
Clay	37
Cleburne	3
Coffee	12
Colbert	31
Conecuh	58
Coosa	43
Covington	36
Crenshaw	33
Cullman	7
Dale	24
Dallas	66
DeKalb	22
Elmore	11
Escambia	46
Etowah	35
Fayette	13
Franklin	16
Geneva	32
Greene	64
Hale	56
Henry	34
Houston	30
Jackson	27
Jefferson	38
Lamar	17
Lauderdale	28
Lawrence	25
Lee	8
Limestone	5
Lowndes	67
Macon	61
Madison	9
Marengo	42
Marion	14
Marshall	18
Mobile	51
Monroe	48
Montgomery	57
Morgan	19
Perry	63
Pickens	45
Pike	49
Randolph	41
Russell	54
St. Clair	4
Shelby	1
Sumter	60
Talladega	52
Tallapoosa	44
Tuscaloosa	39
Walker	21
Washington	20
Wilcox	62
Winston	10

Overall county rankings are based on a scale containing five indicators of child well-being: low weight births, births to unmarried teens, children in single-parent families, children in poverty and the high school graduation rate. These five indicators were selected from a larger pool of data based on the degree of interrelationship among the variables and other factors. Together, they are considered to be the strongest indicators available for measuring child well-being based on data reported in the *2009 Kids Count Data Book*. In developing the ranking scale, the individual indicators were standardized in order to produce a common “metric” or “basis for measurement” across all five items. Individual scores for each county for each variable were then summed in order to produce an overall scale score, with counties subsequently ranked from “1” (best performance) to “67” (worst performance) based on their total scale score. All measures were given the same weight in calculating the overall score. Thus, no judgment was made regarding the relative importance of each of the individual indicators. The scale used this year for the overall ranking of counties varies slightly from that used last year. Prior to the *2002 Data Book*, furthermore, a variety of different scales were utilized, none of which compare directly with the scale used this year. For that reason, comparisons between this year’s rank for a given county with those from previous years, especially prior to 2002, should be made with caution.