

Economic Impacts of Healthcare: Kemper County, Mississippi

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Economic Impacts of Healthcare – Kemper County

Executive Summary

The healthcare sector includes hospitals, doctors and dentists offices, nursing and protective care facilities, and home health care and other allied health services. The impact of healthcare in Kemper County includes \$6.7 million of industry sales in the healthcare sector and \$1.4 million of industry sales in all other sectors of the local economy, including business organizations in the services sectors, finance, insurance, real estate, as well as wholesale and retail trade sectors. The total impact on industry sales was estimated at \$8.1 million. A more accurate measure of economic impacts is the total contribution of the healthcare sector to value-added components of the economy: rent, profits, interest, and wages. The total impact of healthcare to value-added contributions in the economy was estimated at \$5.3 million annually.

Statewide, average per-capita spending for healthcare is \$4,028, yet in Kemper County spending for healthcare was estimated at \$1,207 per-capita. Discharge data from local hospitals suggests that a majority of residents seek healthcare outside the county. It is outside the scope of this report to address this issue specifically, yet the lack of an acute care hospital has obvious implications on access and utilization of healthcare. It is likely that increased consumption of local healthcare can have a positive impact on Kemper County's economy. This is possible because of the linkages that the healthcare sector has with other businesses in the local economy, including the service sector, finance, insurance, real estate, and trade sectors. The data suggests that for every additional dollar spent on healthcare in Kemper County, an additional 21 cents is generated in the form of inter-industry sales in other sectors. Community leaders who capitalize on this multiplier effect should find a responsive economy and positive growth in the long term.

Introduction

Named after several brothers from Virginia, Kemper County was established in 1833 by the Mississippi legislature. The area's heritage is steeped in native culture; the first inhabitants included numerous bands of Indians from the Alabama, Chickasaw, Choctaw and Muscogee tribes. Nanih Waiya, a geographic landmark in the northwest corner of the county, is venerated by the Choctaw tribe today and has a central role in their mythology.

DeKalb is the county seat and most populous place in Kemper County with 972 residents. The only other incorporated place in the county is Scooba (population 632). Kemper County School District had an enrollment of 1,411 students in 2000. East Mississippi Junior College is also located in the county. Special districts include: Kemper County Soil Conservation District, and the Shamrock Creek Watershed District.

The total ad valorem assessment for Kemper County was \$40 million in 2000. An average county millage of 94.11 results in estimated levies of about \$500,000 annually. Gross retail sales in the county were \$36 million in 2001, with 58.3% in the City of DeKalb. Prominent manufacturing firms include Southern Circuits & Components, Prime Line Catfish, Alply, Inc., Dixie Electric, and Pharma Pac, LLC. Combined, these manufacturers employ nearly 400 workers.

Three demographics that affect spending on healthcare are: (1) population; (2) age distribution; and (3) personal income. Population is a major factor because it is proportional to levels of spending. The age distribution of the population is an important factor because the elderly consume, on average, almost three times that of the rest of the adult population, and six times that of children. Personal income influences healthcare among local residents, and reflects the cost of producing healthcare services such as wages and salaries of healthcare workers. Healthcare insurance is also an important factor, because uninsured persons spend considerably less on healthcare than those who are fully insured.

Kemper County population in 2000 was 10,420 and included 1,910 school-aged children and 1,580 persons aged 65 years or older (Table 1).

Population growth in Kemper County has been flat since 1990, and is expected to be less than 2% through 2010. In 2000, the unemployment rate was 10.5% or 470 persons out of 4,480 in the civilian labor force. Labor force expansion was only 4% from 1990 to 2000.

Table 1. Selected Demographics and Income Data for Kemper County.

	1990	2000	2010
Total Population:	10,330	10,420	10,570
School-aged Children:	2,290	1,910	1,860
Elderly Persons:	1,620	1,580	1,640
Civilian Labor Force:	4,300	4,480	4,544
Employment:	3,860	4,010	4,068
Unemployment:	440	470	477
Total Personal Income: (\$ million)	125.12	164.2	183.29
Regular Income: (\$ million)	77.52	95.12	102.11
Dividends, Interest and Rent: (\$ million)	18.76	26.4	28.33
Transfer Payments: (\$ million)	28.84	42.68	52.85

Source: State and County QuickFacts, Woods & Poole Economics, County and City Databook 2000. Regular income is defined as wages, salaries, proprietor's income and other labor income less social contributions and residence adjustments. Estimates for 2010 based on Woods & Poole and historical fractions.

Total personal income includes regular income in the form of wages, salaries, proprietary and property incomes, as well as dividends, interest and rents, and governmental transfer payments. In Kemper County, total personal income was \$164 million in 2000, up almost 31% from 1990. Total personal income is expected to increase by about 12% through 2010. Transfer payments made up 26% of total personal income in 2000.

Another factor that influences healthcare spending is healthcare insurance. Uninsured persons spend considerably less on healthcare than those who are fully insured. In 2002 16.7% of Mississippi's population were without health insurance, compared to 15.2% of the U.S. population (United Health Foundation). Mississippi ranked 38th in the nation. The proportion of Mississippi's uninsured exceeds that of Alabama (12.7%) and Tennessee (10.8%).

Healthcare in Kemper County

There are seven counties in Mississippi that have no hospital. Kemper County is among that list. The primary sources of healthcare in the county are: Kemper County Health Department, Kemper Family Medical Clinic, Scooba Family Medical Clinic, and the Kemper Community Hospital Nursing Facility in Dekalb. In 2002, Kemper County had 3 primary care physicians and one dentist (MSDH County Health Profile, 2003).

Although there exists no hospital in Kemper County, there is no reason to believe that its residents require no hospital services. For this report, it was estimated that 1,200 residents of Kemper County were discharged from hospitals across the state in 2003. Hospital discharge studies indicate that most (83.4%) of the residents were discharged from hospitals in Meridian, specifically Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center, Riley Memorial Hospital, and Rush Foundation Hospital. Neshoba County General Hospital (Philadelphia) in Neshoba County discharged 8.1% of the Kemper patients seeking hospital care, and the balance were discharged from Macon, Lexington, and Jackson. The

data is indicative of where Kemper County residents go for their hospital care, and suggests where they make other healthcare purchases.

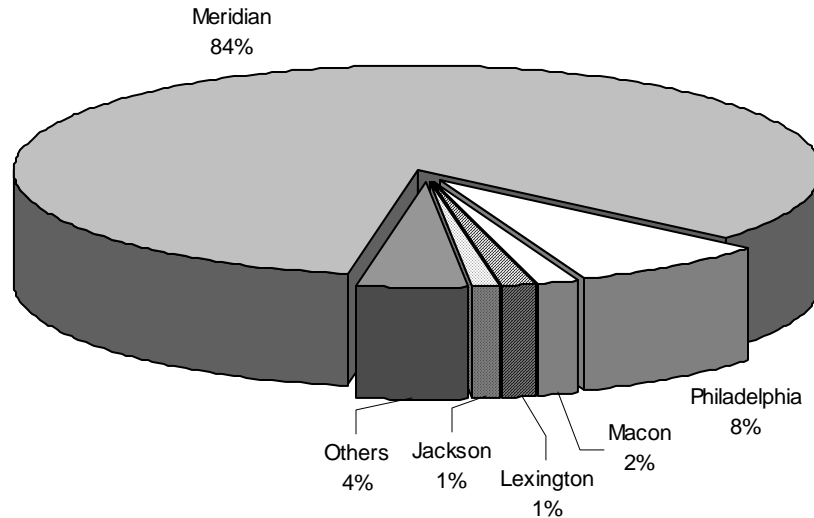


Figure 1. Percentage of Kemper County Patients Discharged by Location of Hospital

Local Healthcare Spending

The demand for local healthcare depends upon a diverse set of factors. In Kemper County this may include the size as well as the type of healthcare businesses located within the community. Quality of care is an issue, because the lack of a particular type of service can motivate people to seek care outside the community. The manner in which healthcare is utilized can also have a measurable impact on local health provision, and can ultimately affect the entire economy.

Local healthcare spending is indicative of the level of demand for healthcare. It includes out-of-pocket payments, private health insurance, federal, state and local payments, Medicare and Medicaid. To estimate local healthcare spending in Kemper County, per-capita local spending is multiplied times the local population. Per-capita spending for healthcare is based on average statewide per-capita spending and the fraction of local purchases for particular goods and services.

For example, average per-capita spending for hospital services in Mississippi was \$1,798 (Table 3). Since there exists no hospital in Kemper County, the local percentage of spending in that sector is zero. Local spending for the Physician and Dental sectors was estimated based on the number of primary care physicians and dentists. Local spending

for medical supplies and drugs was based on trade area capture analysis (see Technical Appendix).

Table 3. Estimated Local Healthcare Spending in Kemper County, 2000.

Category	State Spending Per-Capita (\$)	Percent Local	Local Spending Per-Capita	2000 Population	Total Spending (\$)
Hospitals	1,798	0.00%	-	10,420	-
Physicians	1,019	57.58%	587	10,420	6,112,651
Home Health Care	130	100.00%	130	10,420	1,352,655
Nursing Homes	294	100.00%	294	10,420	3,067,629
Dental	143	19.79%	28	10,420	293,981
Medical Durables	42	25.99%	11	10,420	113,000
Drugs & Non-durables	515	25.99%	134	10,420	1,393,665
Other	88	25.99%	23	10,420	238,555
TOTAL	4,028	-	1,207		12,572,136

Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Mississippi Hospital Association, U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts.

Total spending for personal healthcare in Kemper County was estimated at \$12.5 million, and includes \$6.1 million for physicians and other professionals, and \$1.3 million for home healthcare. These estimates are consistent with healthcare spending trends in the nation and in Mississippi.

The reader is advised to use caution with this information. Spending estimates are based on state per-capita values – it may be unrealistic to expect rural counties to have the same level of spending (even after accounting for local percentages). The actual amount of spending will probably be lower, as it likely depends on local demographic patterns (*e.g.*, income distributions), as well as the characteristics and availability of local healthcare. *Potential spending*, a term used in previous studies (Berry *et al.*, 2001), is an alternative and perhaps more appropriately used.

Even so, the totals in each category provide some insight with regard to expansion or contraction of local healthcare sectors. The local percentages in particular are revealing, because they specifically identify where healthcare dollars are leaking out of the local economy. Increasing the percentage of local purchases for some sectors will necessarily improve the economy as well as quality-of-life issues related to healthcare.

Economic Impacts

The healthcare system in Kemper County is an important part of the local economy. This section quantifies local healthcare in terms of industrial output (often referred to as industry sales), jobs, labor income, and contributions to value added components of the economy. Value added impacts represent the sum of returns to land, labor, management, and capital; that is, rent, wages, profit, and interest, respectively.

One reason why healthcare is important is that it is a definite and integral part of the economy. As a consequence, changes in the healthcare sector affect other sectors; this

sort of consequence is referred to as an “indirect effect”. For example, consider the impact of the healthcare sector on employment: hospitals provide jobs to healthcare professionals (this is a direct effect on employment) – an expansion of existing facilities places increased demands on healthcare suppliers, who consequently find it necessary to create new jobs - this is an indirect effect. Another form of an indirect effect is the change in the number of local retail and services jobs related to healthcare employee spending, as well as spending made by employees of healthcare suppliers. Income, industrial output, and contributions to value added are considered in a similar fashion (Table 4). The total economic impact of healthcare is then calculated as the sum of direct plus indirect impacts over all of the industry sectors in the county.

Estimation of economic impacts was made possible through input-output analysis, which was first modeled by Polish-born Wassily Leontief, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 1973. The reader is referred to the appendix for more information about input-output analysis, and the complex mathematical software used to create the models from which the estimates in this report were obtained.

Table 4. Healthcare Related Economic Impacts

	Direct	Indirect
Output or Sales	Healthcare revenue	Healthcare supplier revenue, local retail and service revenue related to healthcare employee spending
Employment	Jobs in the healthcare sector	Health care supplier jobs and other jobs in retail and service sectors related to employee spending
Income	Healthcare employee income. (Income is a component of value added – see below)	Income paid to healthcare supplier employees and income received by employees in retail and service sectors related to healthcare employee spending.
Value Added	Returns to land, labor, management and capital in the healthcare sector	Returns to healthcare supplier's land, labor, management and capital

The healthcare sector in Kemper County directly contributed \$6.7 million to the local economy in 2000 (Table 5). This is a direct effect, and does not take into account the interactions with the rest of the economy. This direct economic activity supported 148 jobs in the healthcare sector and contributed \$4.5 million to value added components of the economy, including \$3.9 million of labor income.

Table 5. Local Contributions of Healthcare to the Kemper County Economy

	Output¹	Jobs	Income¹	Value Added¹
Doctors and Dentists	3.502	55	2.175	2.649
Nursing and Protective Care	1.748	60	0.918	0.958
Hospitals	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Other Medical and Health Services	1.074	25	0.624	0.620
Pharmacies	0.361	8	0.197	0.265
Total	6.685	148	3.914	4.492

¹Output, income, and value added in \$ million.

As previously explained, economic activity is generated by the healthcare sector in the form of direct effects – these percolate through the community’s economy as supporting sectors meet the demand for products and services required for efficient provision of healthcare services (*i.e.*, indirect effects). Additionally, income received by healthcare professionals, when spent locally, also generates sales, an induced effect which is combined with indirect effects in this report.

The total impact of the healthcare sector on the Kemper County economy was estimated at \$5.3 million of contributions to value added components, which included the \$4.5 million of direct effects plus \$0.8 million of indirect impacts (Table 6). The 148 jobs that are closely linked to healthcare were augmented by an additional 21 jobs in other sectors, and resulted in \$4.3 million of labor income. The total impact on industry sales (output) was estimated at \$8.1 million, which included \$6.7 million of direct and \$1.4 million of indirect impacts.

Table 6. Summary of Economic Impacts of Healthcare on Kemper County

	Direct	Indirect	Total
Industry Sales (<i>output</i>)	6.7	1.4	8.1
Jobs	148	21	169
Labor Income	3.9	0.4	4.3
Economic Impact (<i>total value added</i>)	4.5	0.8	5.3

Output, income and value added in \$ million.

Distribution of Indirect Impacts

Indirect effects reflect the level of interaction between the healthcare sector and other sectors of the economy. A higher level of interaction usually results in a greater degree of indirect impacts, and thus higher total impacts on the local economy for any given direct impact (total = direct + indirect). The healthcare sector generates indirect effects because the businesses and social services in the health sector purchase goods and services from others. The organizations that provide these goods and services must also purchase inputs (materials and labor) to efficiently meet their objectives. Consequently, additional relationships are created *ad infinitum*.

An analysis of indirect effects reveals the level of interaction that the healthcare sector has with other sectors in the economy. The source of most of the indirect effects that arise from the healthcare sector comes from: (1) Services; (2) Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (FIRE); and (3) Wholesale and Retail Trade. Together these three major sectors make up 72% of indirect effects related to healthcare (Figure 2), a level of interdependence that results in \$1.4 million of indirect industry sales annually.

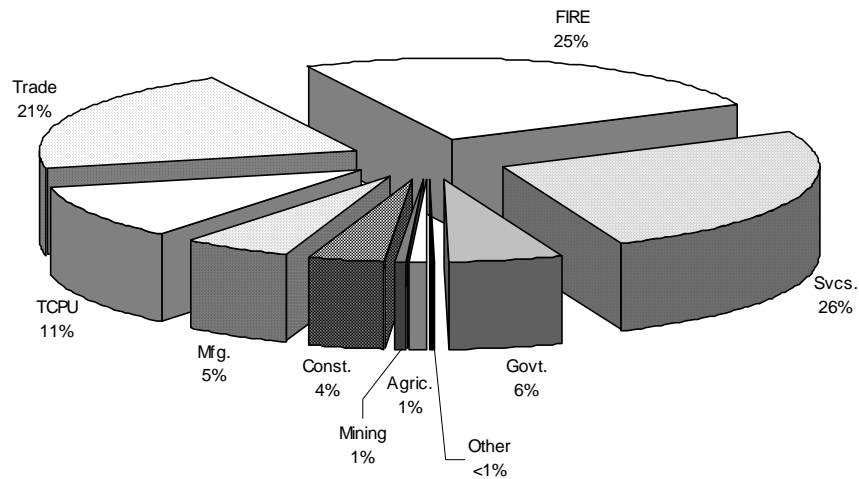


Figure 2. Distribution of Health Sector-Related Indirect Effects

Summary

The healthcare sector consists of hospitals, physicians, dentists, nursing homes, home healthcare agencies, pharmacies, and other professionals; it represents a substantial and important part of a rural community, in terms of both jobs and income. Sixty-five of Mississippi's 82 counties were classified as non-metropolitan in the 2000 Census. Statewide, non-metropolitan healthcare provides more than 81,000 jobs and \$2.5 billion of income. What makes these statistics remarkable is that more than 10% of the rural counties in Mississippi have no hospital, historically one of the largest segments of the healthcare sector.

Federal transfer payments represent an enormous part of healthcare spending. In 2002, nearly \$2 billion was injected into the State's economy in the form of Medicaid payments. This level of dependence upon the federal government for local assistance will likely continue, and is an indicator of the magnitude of individuals and families with limited income, and without adequate health insurance.

In the past decade, healthcare costs have risen faster than the cost of living in Mississippi. In real terms, the health component of gross state product grew statewide by an average of almost 10% per year from 1990 through 2001. Some segments of the healthcare sector exhibited even greater growth. For example, real home healthcare spending grew by an average of 16% annually, and personal spending for hospital services, the largest segment, grew by more than 12.4% annually in real terms.

Healthcare is an important part of Kemper County. It represented \$8.1 million of economic activity in 2000, of which 17% was attributable to indirect purchasing made by suppliers to the healthcare sector, as well as local spending by healthcare professionals. Local healthcare supported 148 jobs directly, and another 21 jobs in supplier sectors, particularly trade, finance, real estate, and insurance, which together accounted for almost half of the indirect impacts – an indication of a great deal of interaction and industrial interdependence. The total impact on labor income was \$4.3 million, part of the \$5.3 million of total value added to the economy because of healthcare.

Kemper County had an estimated 1,200 residents who were discharged from hospitals in 2003. This represented 100% of residents who sought hospital care; Kemper residents were discharged from hospitals in nearby counties, particularly Lauderdale County. Spending for local healthcare was estimated in this report at \$12.6 million, yet the level of gross output in the healthcare sector was only \$6.7 million. This discrepancy clearly indicates that expansion of local healthcare is warranted. The lack of a hospital and adequate healthcare to meet the needs of residents leads people to seek healthcare outside the county. Worse, it is entirely possible that residents with limited transportation resources are simply foregoing healthcare. Healthcare planning is essential to develop the strongest healthcare sector that efficiently and effectively meets local needs. It is hoped that the information in this report will stimulate further community interest in local healthcare.

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Appendix 1. Input-Output Analysis

Public policy makers, elected officials, and decision makers at the local level frequently assess the priority of potential and ongoing projects. These projects often take the form of either a new industry locating in an area, or the expansion of an existing industry. In either case there is often an expectation that a new project will expand the labor market through increased demand for employment and local services. As new jobs are added, total income increases and local unemployment decreases. Demographic aspects of the economy, such as population and commuting patterns also change. New businesses are created to support expansion and provide locally available inputs to production. Increased income stimulates the growth of retail and service sectors. These changes to the economic and fiscal landscape of a local area, or region have implications on further economic development, as well as on tax policy, and the provision of public services, such as education and public safety.

Input-output analysis was developed in the 1930's by Wasily Leontief, who won the Nobel Prize in 1973 for his contributions to economics. Since then it has become one of the best-known, and most widely used techniques for assessing regional economic impacts. It excels at analyzing the economic relationships or linkages among major sectors of the economy. Input-output analysis is based on the fact that an initial change (increase or decrease in sales) in one sector of the economy can affect other sectors of the economy.

The initial change is often referred to as an impact, or a direct effect. The direct effect is measured in terms of sales to final demand, and it is the economic variable that drives an input-output model. The initial impact requires increased production by secondary industries, the suppliers of goods and services to the primary industry. Increased production by secondary industries is referred to collectively as indirect effects. Additionally, induced effects arise as a result of spending of the new income by households. Through careful examination of the relationships among industries themselves and between industries and households one can estimate the total effect, which is the sum of the direct, indirect, and induced effects.

One widely used input-output model is Implan, a commercial software produced by the Minnesota Implan Group, Inc. at Stillwater, Minnesota. Its popularity is due to its geographic and model formulation flexibility, and the extensive economic information that it provides. The Implan system, developed originally for use by the U.S. Forest Service, has been in use since 1979 and is capable of developing input-output models for any county, state, or group of counties or states in the United States.

Technical Appendix 1

Estimating Direct Impacts for Hospital Sectors in Mississippi

The objective was to develop a consistent framework for estimating direct impacts of hospital sectors in each county. State-level data on expenditures, jobs and income were combined with hospital employment data to estimate gross output for each hospital. The level of output is dependent on the statewide output:job ratio, resulting in proportional and consistent estimations. Gross output of each hospital was then assigned to each county in which it was located.

However, one of the hospitals in the region, Alliance-Laird Hospital (ALH), is located in Union, a small town on the border of Neshoba and Newton counties. Therefore, it was not entirely clear to which county ALH's economic impacts should be assigned. Though the hospital itself is located entirely in Newton County, it seemed unreasonable to assign all of the direct effects there - surely the economic benefits of the hospital spill over into Neshoba County as well. The only question was by how much.

Initially, the use of hospital discharge data was considered. In 2003, ALH discharged 36.21% of its patients to Neshoba County, 45.51% to Newton County, and 18.28% elsewhere. However, the trouble with this approach is that it assumes that patients, upon being discharged, are somehow taking the economic benefit of the hospital home with them. In fact, it is irrelevant where the patients are discharged (to test this, consider the following: in the extreme case of 100% non-local discharges, then by implication all of the economic impact leaks out of the local economy).

Economic impacts based on changes to final demand are place-based. The magnitude of the economic importance of a hospital depends a great deal on where its inputs are purchased (this forms the basis of input-output analysis). Increased non-local purchasing will result in smaller multipliers, thus lowering total impacts on the local economy - the reverse is also true: higher proportional local spending results in less leakage, and higher multipliers and total impacts.

Labor, and other variable-cost related inputs, make up a substantial portion of inputs required for operations. Data were not available on whether these purchases were made in Newton or Neshoba. Even so, the spatial nature of these data suggests that population is a suitable proxy variable. Therefore, the direct impacts were apportioned to Neshoba and Newton based on the distribution of the population of Union, Mississippi, where 24% of the population resides in Neshoba County, and 76% reside in Newton County. The level of ALH gross output was apportioned to the two counties in the same proportions.

Statewide hospital expenditures: \$4,170 million
 Number of hospital jobs: 51,585
 Labor income: \$1,969 million

Output per job = \$80,837.45
 Income per job = \$38,170.01

	Full-time	Part-time	FTE	Exp/Job	Output
H.C. Watkins	82	43	103.5	\$80,837.45	\$8,366,676.36
Neshoba Co. General	195	77	233.5	\$80,837.45	\$18,875,545.22
Newton Regional	105	51	130.5	\$80,837.45	\$10,549,287.58
Alliance Laird	138	98	187	\$80,837.45	\$15,116,603.66

County Allocations	Output (\$M)	Jobs	Income (\$M)
Clarke	\$8.367	104	\$3.951
Kemper	\$0.000	0	\$0.000
Neshoba	\$22.504	278	\$10.626
Newton	\$22.038	273	\$10.406

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Statewide expenditures are from *The Economic Contributions of Hospitals. In: Trendwatch Chartbook 2004. Trends Affecting Hospitals and Health Systems, September 2004.* Local hospital employment data from American Hospital Association via *Directory of America's Hospitals*, U.S. News & World Report website. Population apportionment data is from the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

TrendWatch Chartbook 2004

www.hospitalconnect.com/ahapolicyforum/trendwatch/chartbook2004.html

Directory of America's Hospitals

www.usnews.com/usnews/health/hospitals/hosp_home.htm

Mississippi Department of Transportation

www.gomdot.com/maps/county_maps.asp

Technical Appendix 2 Estimating County-Level Spending for Healthcare

Local healthcare spending is indicative of the level of demand for healthcare. It includes out-of-pocket payments, private health insurance, federal, state and local payments, Medicare and Medicaid. Estimates of county-level spending for healthcare are based on statewide per-capita spending for healthcare, a local spending percentage (LSP), and the local population. The LSP represents the proportion of statewide per-capita spending spent locally, that is, local purchases for healthcare goods and services.

The LSP for healthcare spending categories in each county is based on several factors, depending on the category:

Hospitals. The LSP for hospitals is based on hospital discharge data. That is, 2002-2003 Aggregate Patient Origin Study – Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH).

Physicians. Data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HRSA) indicates that in 2000 the average number of primary care physicians per 100,000 population was 50, or 2,000 persons per physician (State Health Workforce Profiles. Highlights. Mississippi). Absolute local coverage (ALC) was calculated by multiplying the number of physicians (from the Mississippi Department of Health County Health Profiles) in the county by 2000. The LSP for physicians was then calculated as ALC divided by the population. For example, data from MSDH indicates that Kemper County has three primary care physicians. $3 * 2000 = 6000$ people covered at the state rate of coverage. The population in Kemper County in the same year (i.e., 2000) was 10,420: $6000/10,420 = 57.6\%$

Dentists. The methodology for estimating local spending in the dental sector was the same as that used for Physicians.

Drugs, Medical Durables and Non-Durables. The LSP for medical durables, drugs, and non-durables, and other items was estimated based on trade area capture (TAC) of drug stores in the retail sector for each county. LSP was calculated as TAC divided by population with an upper bound of 100%. For example, the trade area capture for Kemper County drug store sales was calculated to be 2707.62. Therefore the LSP was estimated as $2707.62 / 10420 = 26\%$

County	Population	Trade Area Capture	TAC %	Local TAC %
Clarke	17,970	12,746.65	70.93	70.93
Kemper	10,420	2,707.62	25.99	25.99
Neshoba	28,710	26,629.57	92.75	92.75
Newton	21,880	34,394.86	157.20	100.00

Home Healthcare. All spending for this category was assumed to be local (100%).

Nursing Homes. All spending for this category was assumed to be local (100%).

Data Sources

State Health Workforce Profiles and Highlights: bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/reports/profiles

County Health Profiles: www.health.ms.gov/county

Patient Origin Studies: www.msdh.state.ms.us/msdhsite/index.cfm/15,312,111,html

Demographic data such as population: U.S. Census Bureau , www.census.gov

Technical Appendix 3 Estimating Health-Related Productivity Losses

Data obtained from the survey was combined with secondary employment and wage data from the Mississippi Employment Security Commission to estimate productivity losses in each county. This analysis concentrates on lost income from wages due to poor health as reported in the survey.

The first step in the analysis was to cross-tabulate survey respondents who were employed for wages with the total number of days lost due to poor health. Lost working days were calculated using a probabilistic approach: 21.57 working days per 30 days total results in 71.9% of the 30 day reporting period in the survey. The average number of working days lost per year by each working respondent was then calculated by multiplying the number of working days lost in the past thirty days times 12, then divided by the number of working respondents. The result is the average number of working days lost per employed person in a year.

	Employed for wages	Reported Days Lost	Calculated Working Days Lost	Annual Working Days Lost
Clarke	169	149	107.131	7.607
Kemper	224	212	152.428	8.166
Neshoba	215	193	138.767	7.745
Newton	192	186	133.734	8.358

Kemper County, with a figure of 8.166, had the highest number of annual working days lost per employed person.

The average number of working days lost per employed person in a year was then multiplied by county employment to calculate the total number of lost days annually in each county. Total days lost was annualized by dividing it by the number of working days in a year (260.58). Neshoba County had the highest level of lost productivity with 445 employee-years annually (Total Years Lost).

	Annual Working Days Lost	County Employment in 2000	Total Days Lost	Total Years Lost	Wage Rate in 2000 (\$)	Annual Lost Income in \$ million
Clarke	7.607	8350	63,518	243	21,277	5.180
Kemper	8.166	4010	32,745	126	19,611	2.461
Neshoba	7.745	15000	116,177	445	22,960	10.224
Newton	8.358	7960	66,533	255	21,240	5.417

Lost income was calculated by multiplying the wage rate by Total Years Lost. The data indicates that Neshoba loses an estimated \$10.2 million of wage income each year due to poor health. The total for the region was \$23.3 million, or approximately \$19.4 million of lost disposable income annually due to poor health.



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