

ALABAMA

- According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 5,480 people self-identified as social workers in Alabama; Alabama ranked 37th in social workers per capita.
- There are 1,202 NASW members in Alabama.
- In 2006, 4,519,603 people lived in Alabama.
- 16.2% of the population live at or below the federal poverty level, compared to 12.6% nationally.
- 13.2% of the population is over the age of 65, compared with 12.4% nationally.
- 25.3% of the population is under the age of 18, compared with 25.7% nationally.
- The total population of Alabama is projected to grow 15% between 2000 and 2020. The population over 65 is projected to grow 58% between 2000 and 2020.
- 422,000 veterans live in Alabama; Alabama is ranked 22nd in the nation.
- In 2006, 601,789 people were enrolled in Medicaid; this is 15% of the non-elderly population, compared to 13% nationally.
- According to the Rural Policy Research Institute, many areas of the state are medically underserved.
- In 1999, Alabama had one of the highest death rates due to heart disease and firearms.
- In 2000, Alabama ranked 11th in the number of hospital beds per 100,000.
- In 2007, the unemployment rate was 3.5%, compared to 4.6% nationally
- Social Work Education Programs in Alabama are: Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, Auburn University, Jacksonville State University, Miles College, Oakwood College, Talladega College, Troy State University, Tuskegee University, University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa and Birmingham), University of Montevallo, University of North Alabama, and University of South Alabama College of Arts and Science

THERE ARE 4,922 LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS IN ALABAMA

License	Education Required	Experience Required
Private Independent Practice	Doctorate or Master's Degree in Social Work	2 years post
Licensed Certified Social Worker	Doctorate or Master's Degree in Social Work	2 years post
Licensed Graduate Social Worker	Doctorate or Master's Degree in Social Work	N/A
Licensed Bachelor Social Worker	Bachelor's Degree in Social Work	N/A

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Social Work Survey Data*

- The majority of respondents in Alabama were between 45 and 54 years old (39%). Nearly one-quarter were younger than 35 years old.
- The majority (83%) of respondents in Alabama were white.
- The majority of respondents in Alabama held a master's degree as their highest social work degree (60%). However, nearly 40 percent held a bachelor's degree as their highest social work degree.
- Respondents were asked to identify their primary practice setting for employment. The three most frequently cited categories were social service agency (21%), hospital/medical centers (19%) and health clinic/outpatient facility (8%).
- The majority of Alabama's respondents (55%) earned between \$20,000 and \$39,000 annually for full-time social work. About one-third earned between \$40,000 and \$59,000 annually.
- Half of the respondents in Alabama had five to 19 years of experience. Seventeen percent were new to the field, with less than five years of experience.
- Nearly two-thirds of Alabama respondents were employed in the private sector (65%) in either a private, non-profit (34%) or private for-profit setting (31%).
- The majority of respondents in Alabama were employed in a metropolitan area (87%).
- The majority (32%) of respondents identified Health as their primary practice area, followed by Child Welfare/Family (17%), and Mental Health (15%).

**This information is based on the results of the 2004 NASW National Survey of Licensed Social Workers. <http://workforce.socialworkers.org>*