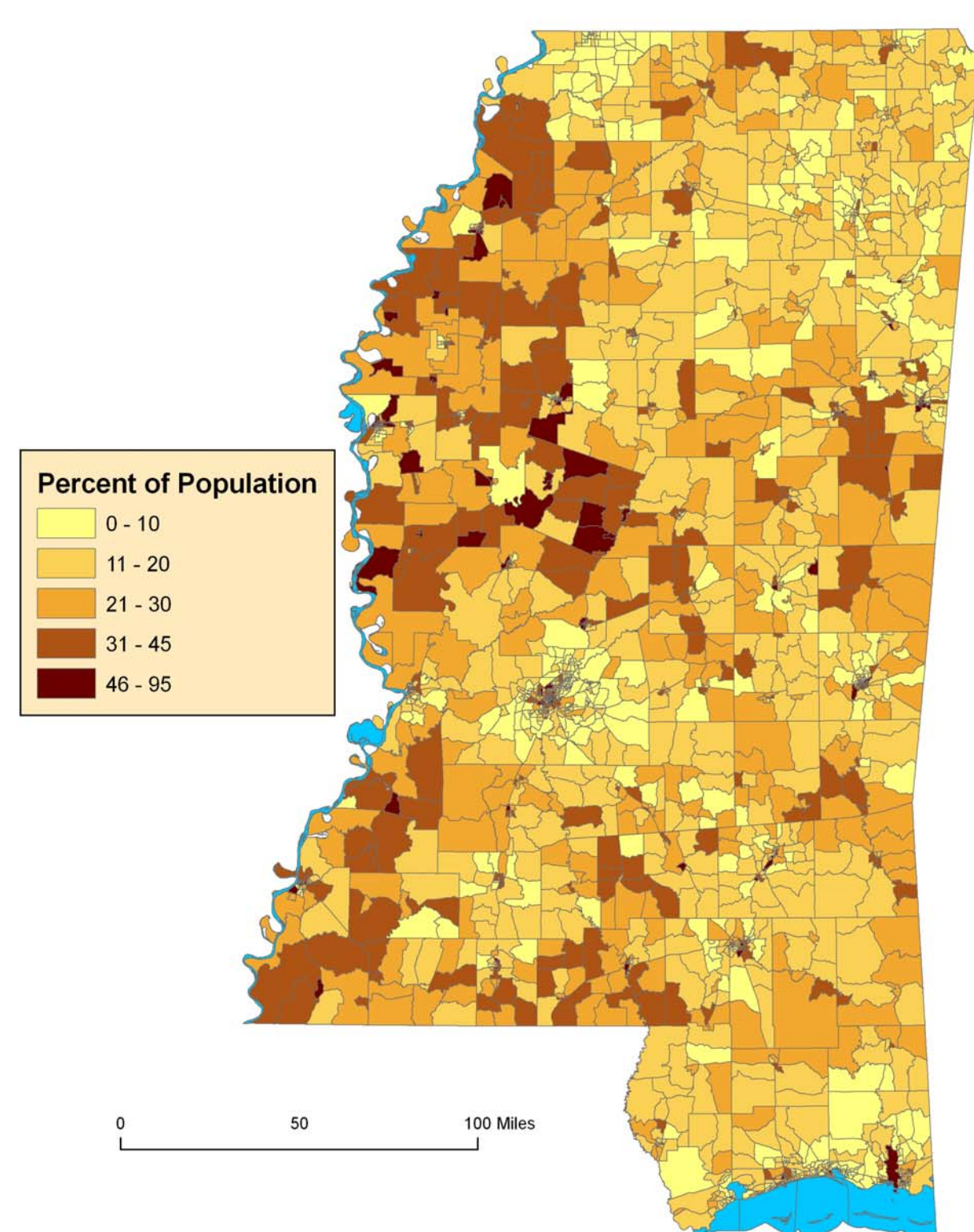


# A Socio-Economic Analysis of Mississippi School Districts

## Creating The Index:

A number of socio-economic factors have been shown to affect student performance in schools. The percentage of the population living in poverty, the percentage of the population who attended high school, and the percentage of households that are single-parent households were combined to create an index with scores ranging from 3 to 15.

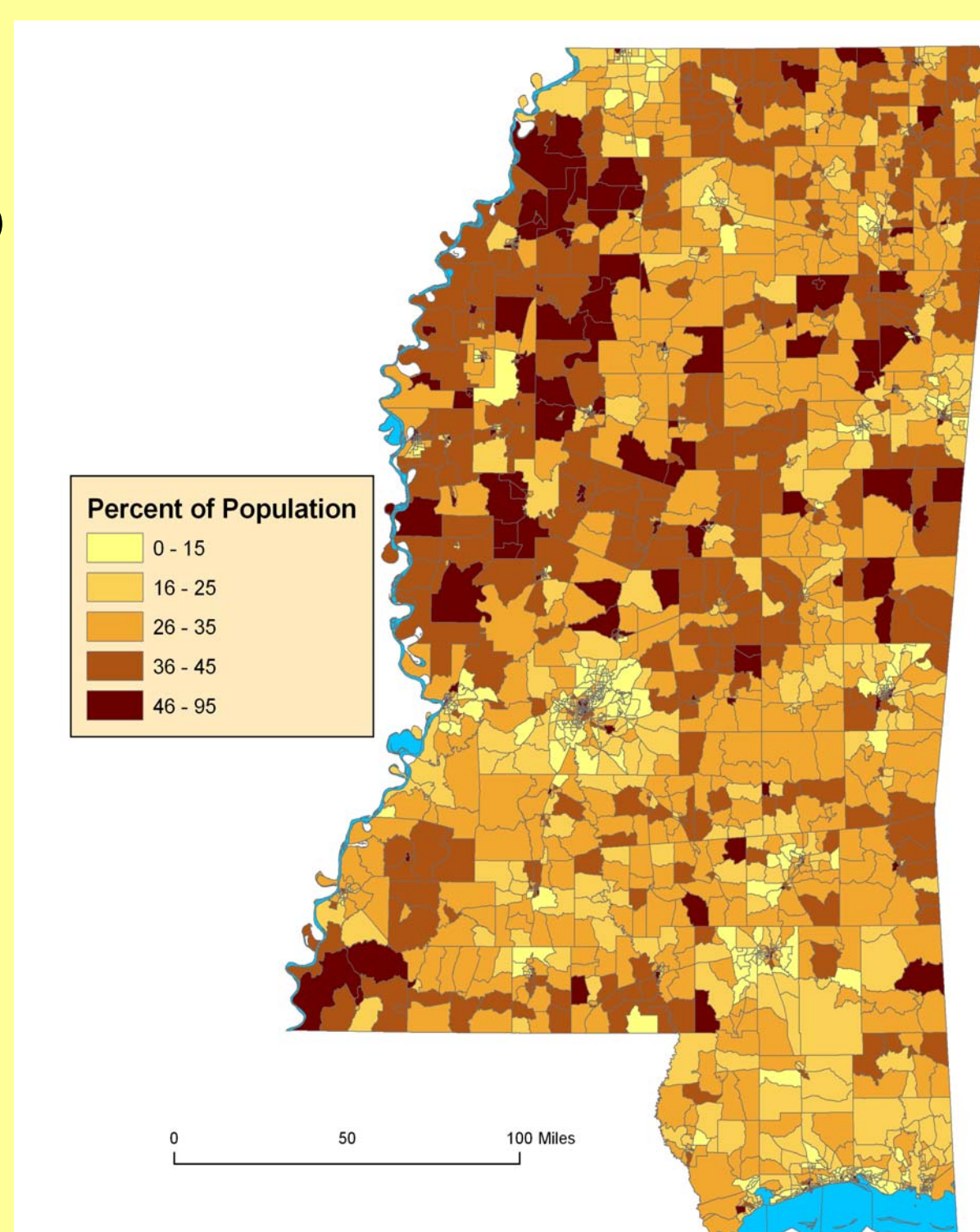
## Population Living in Poverty:



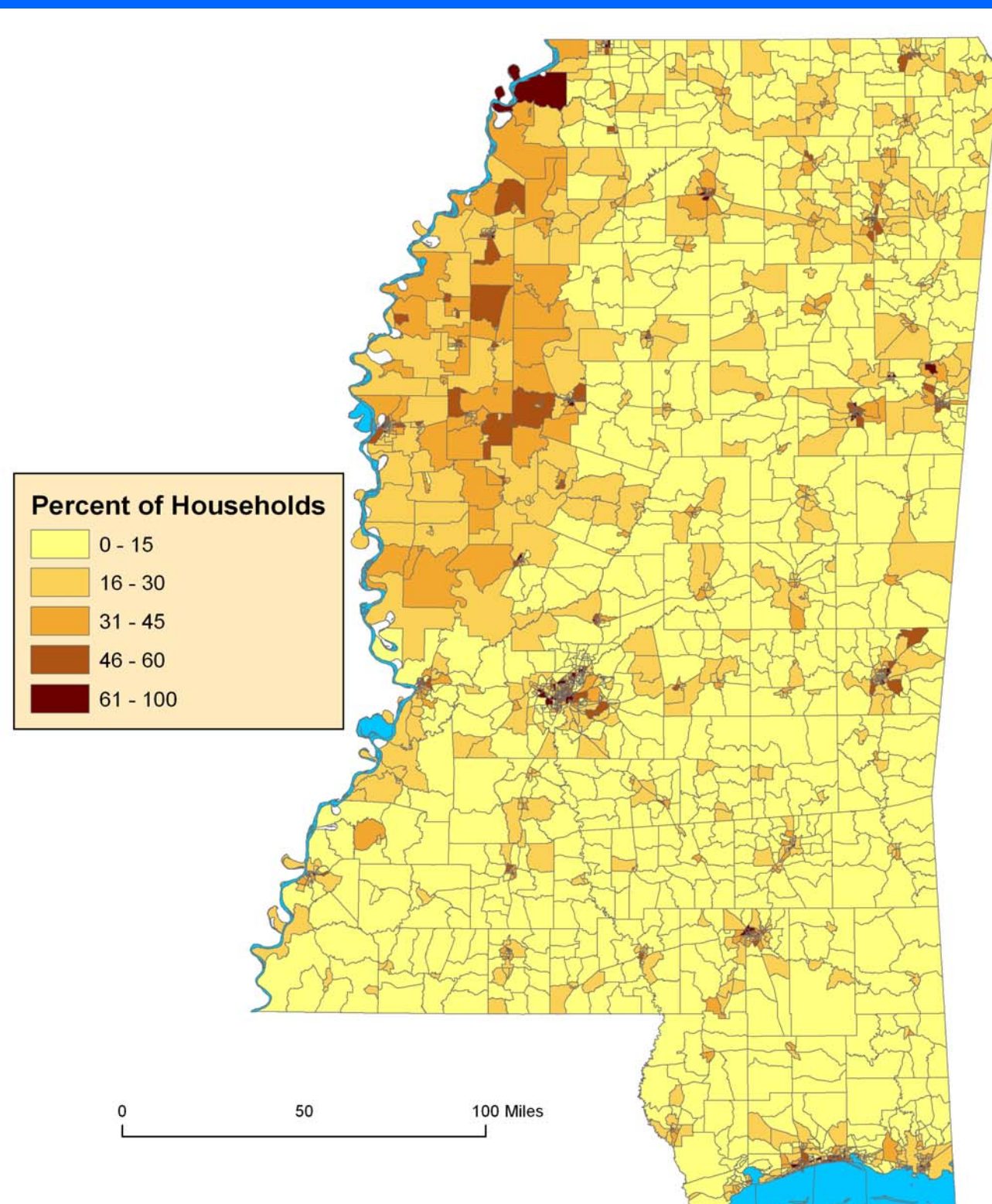
Percentages were calculated as the percentage of the total population living in poverty, based on their reported income in 1999. The suburbs had the lowest rates of poverty while rural areas in the northwestern part of the state had most of the highest.

## Population That Did Not Attend High School:

The percentage of the population 25 years and older who never attended high school is high throughout the state. These populations are likely older and tend to live in rural areas, overwhelmingly in the north. These rates tend to be very low in the cities.

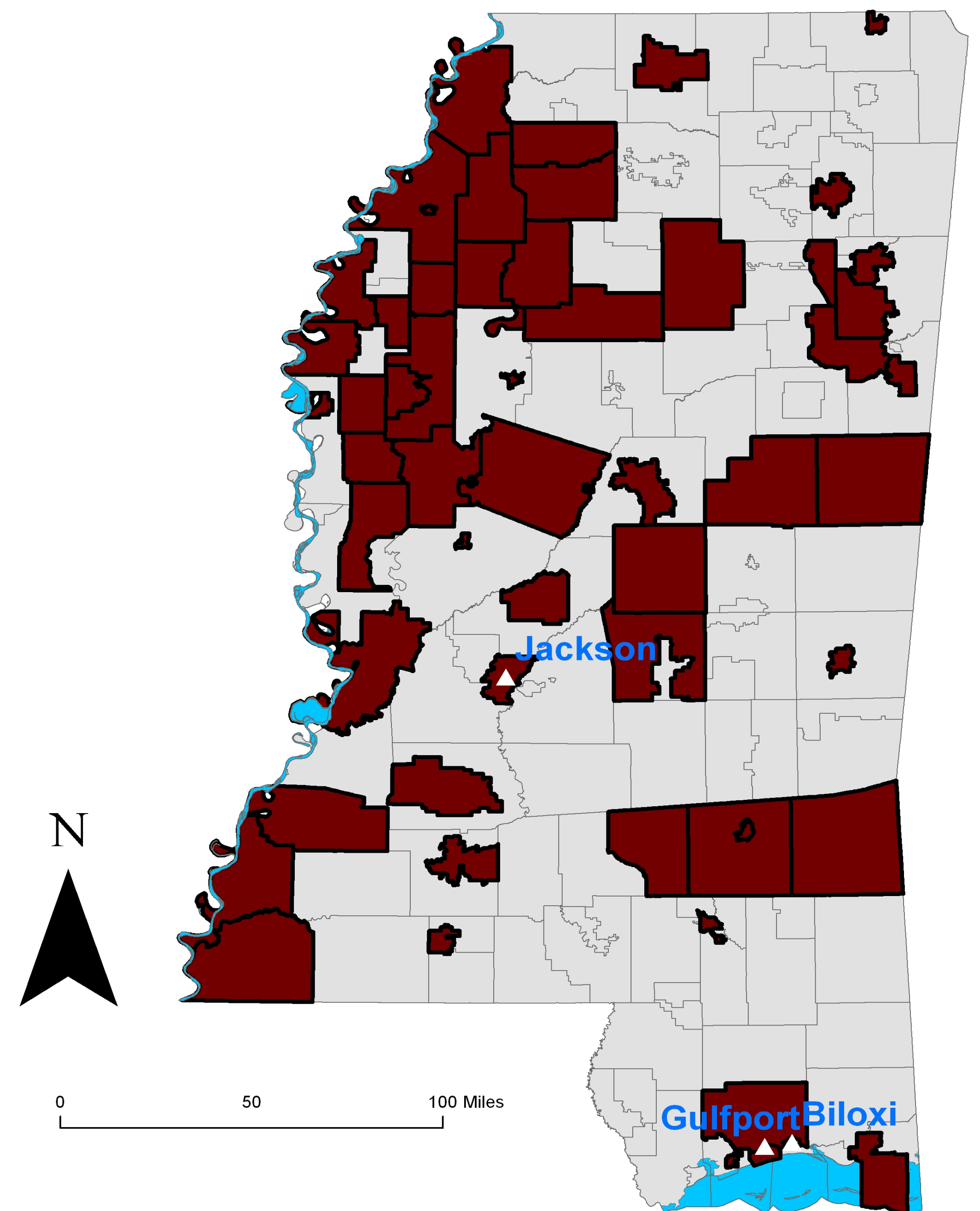


## Single Parent Households:



Single-parent households include male- or female-headed households as a percentage of total households. These households are focused in the cities, particularly in Jackson. In other places, areas of the highest concentration are not collocated.

## At-Risk School Districts:



Of the 170 total public school districts, 55 were found to be at-risk, meaning that they received a score of 13 or higher on the created index. Of the 11 cities in the state with populations over 25,000, 10 were in at-risk school districts. However, 45 other school districts, mostly in rural areas, were also deemed to be at-risk.

## Conclusions:

On the whole, Mississippi has one of the poorest and least educated populations in the country. Compared to other states it would be difficult to determine which school districts would require the greatest amount of assistance. Although policy-makers have a tendency to focus funding and special programs on the inner-city, these maps indicate that the same socio-economic factors affect urban and rural areas fairly equally..

Cartographer: Stacy Filocco  
UEP Introduction to GIS  
May 6, 2009

Mississippi Transverse Mercator NAD 1983  
Data Source: United States Census Bureau