



CULTURAL INDICATORS

FOR ALABAMA & THE U.S.

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Cultural Indicators 2014 for Alabama and the U.S.

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Executive Summary

The Alabama Policy Institute is pleased to present *Cultural Indicators 2014 for Alabama and the United States*. This study tracks various Alabama-specific and national measures of societal well-being dating back to 1960, as statistics are available. Chapters are devoted to vital statistics; crime; education; family; health; poverty and welfare; and business and government. Some highlights of the study include:



Vital Statistics

- Since 1960, Alabama's population has increased 47% to 4.8 million in 2013, making it the 23rd largest state in the Union. During the same time, the population of the entire United States increased 76%.
- In 2012, one of every ten births in Alabama was a low-weight birth. Alabama has the third highest percentage of low-weight births in the nation.
- In 2011, Alabama had the tenth highest percentage of births to teenage mothers.
- Alabama's 2012 death rate was 26% higher than the national average. Heart disease and cancer are the two primary causes of death in both Alabama and the rest of the nation.
- Since 1960, infant mortality rates in Alabama have fallen 72%, but the state still has the third highest rate in the nation.



Crime

- Over the past 52 years, Alabama's crime rate has increased 208%. The state's crime rate has averaged about 7% above the national average since 1999.
- After peaking in 1991, Alabama's overall crime rate has fallen 30%. During the same time, the state's violent crime rate decreased 49%.
- Since 2010, Alabama's violent crime rate has averaged 10% above the national average.
- One of every 148 Alabamians was in a state or federal prison in 2012, giving the state the third highest incarceration rate in the nation.
- Since 1991, the inflation-adjusted cost per inmate in Alabama has increased by 24%.



Education

- Since 1960, the percentage of Alabamians age 25 and older with at least a high school diploma has doubled, and the percentage of adults with at least a four-year college degree has almost tripled.
- Between 1970 and 2012, the percentage of blacks with at least a high school diploma has increased from 22% to 80%.
- Despite these gain, Alabama ranks 46th in the nation in the percentage of adults age 25 and older with at least a high school diploma or its equivalent and 45th for adults holding at least a bachelor's degree.
- ACT scores in Alabama have been flat since 1990.

- Alabama's national test scores for both math and reading have ranked near the bottom for more than ten years.
- From 1960 to 2014, inflation-adjusted, per-student spending on public education in Alabama has increased 182%, compared to 147% for the nation as a whole.



Family

- In 2012, Alabama had the seventh highest marriage rate and the ninth highest divorce rate in the nation. Both rates have been above the national average for more than 50 years.
- Over the past 44 years, about 23,500 couples have divorced in Alabama each year, splitting the homes of about 19,100 children annually.
- Since 1960, the percentage of births to unwed mothers in Alabama has increased from 11% to 43% in 2012.
- For every 6.4 births in Alabama in 2011, there was one abortion.



Health

- Since 1970, the number of Medicaid recipients in Alabama has increased from 324,000 to almost 931,000.
- From 1966 to 2012, enrollment in Medicare has risen from nine percent of the state's population to almost 19%.
- Alabama has the third highest rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea in the nation, and the 12th highest rate of HIV infection.



Poverty and Welfare

- In 2012, the typical Alabama household earned about \$10,000 less than the national average.
- Compared to households led by a single female, married-couple families are one-fourth as likely to be in poverty.
- In 2013, about one of every five Alabamians received some support from food stamps.
- The total cost of payments for Supplemental Security Income in Alabama in 2013 was \$1.1 billion.
- During the 2013 school year, almost 91 million free and reduced-cost meals were served to Alabama students.



Business and Government

- Since 1975, the number of state and local government employees has increased by 67% and 77%, respectively.
- About one of every 17 Alabamians is either a state or local government employee.
- Since 1992, Alabama's inflation-adjusted total state and local expenditures have increased 78%.

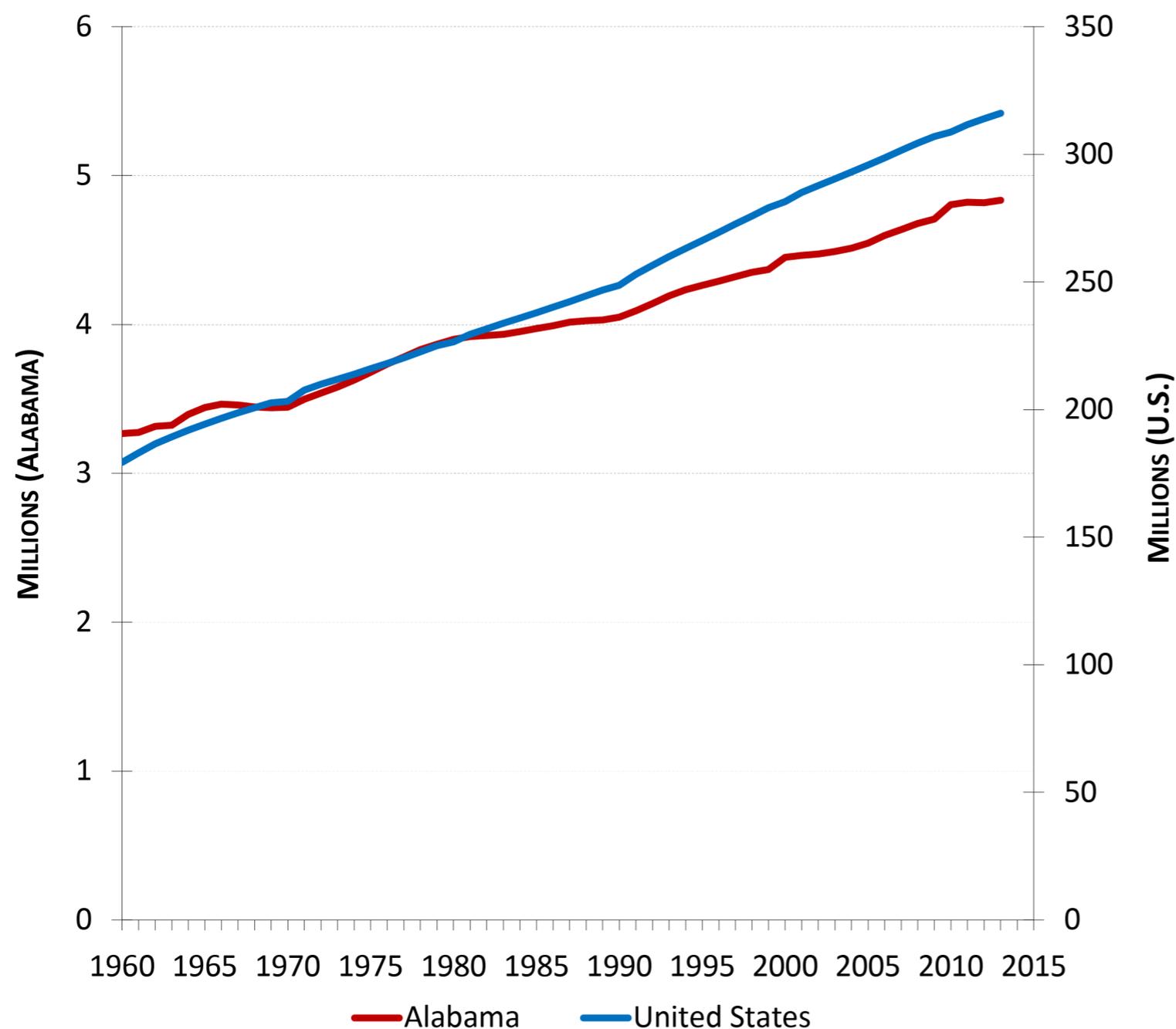


Chapter 1

VITAL STATISTICS



Population



From 1960 to 2013, Alabama's population increased 47%, from 3,267,000 to 4,833,722¹ making it the 23rd largest state in the Union.²

At the same time, the population of the entire United States increased 76%, from 179.3 million to 316 million.³

In 2012, the largest age group in Alabama was 50-59 years old (14% of the population), followed by those 20-29 years old (13.8%), the 10-19 age group (13.2%) and those between 40-49 years of age (13.1%).⁴

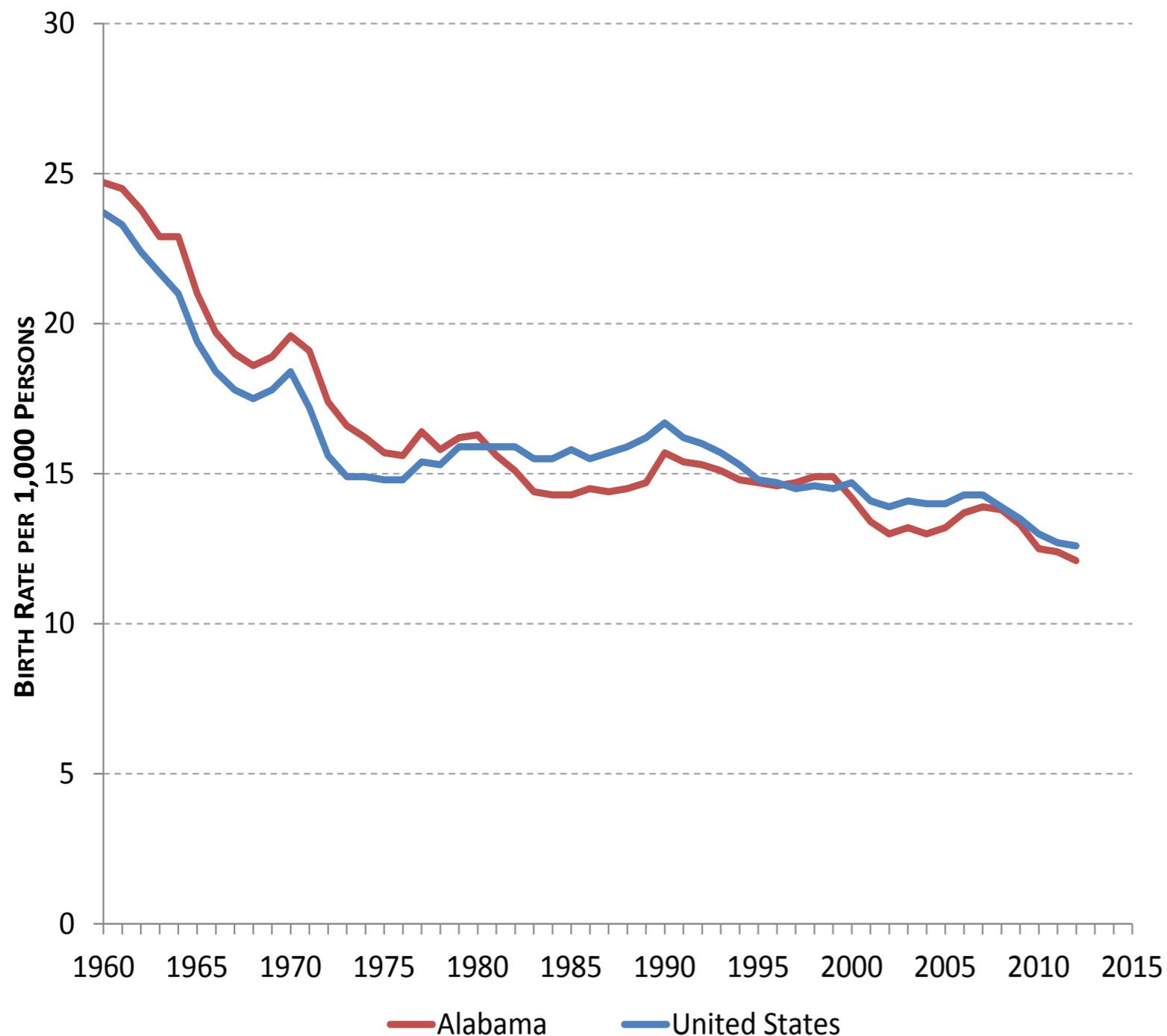
In 2013, Alabama's population composition was about 69% white (3.2 million), 28% black (1.3 million), and 2% Asian (74,000). Hispanics of any race comprised 4% (193,000) of the states' population.⁵

After accounting for births and deaths, approximately one-third of the population growth in Alabama from 2010 to 2013 was the result of international migration.⁶

As of 2010, Alabama's population density of 94 persons per square mile is 8% greater than the national average (87.4 persons per square mile).⁷



Birth Rates



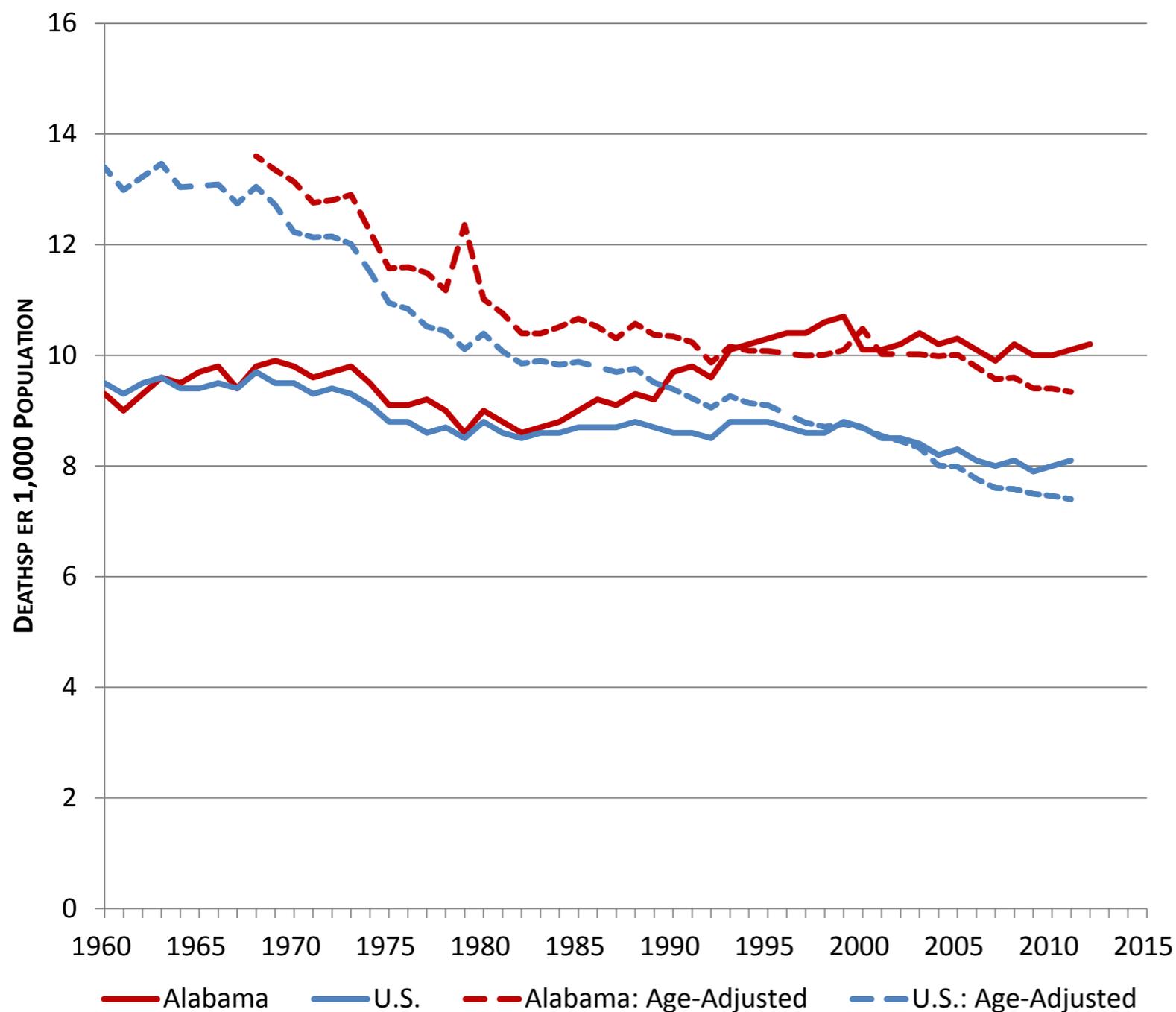
Since 1960, Alabama's birth rate has fallen from 24.7 per 1,000 persons in 1960 to 12.1 per 1,000 in 2012, a drop of 51%. Nationally, the birth rate fell from 23.7 per 1,000 persons in 1960 to 12.6 in 2012, a decline of 46%.⁸

In 2012, there were 58,381 live births in Alabama. Sixty-six percent of these were to white mothers (38,637), while 34% (19,744) were to blacks and other races. The resident birth rate for whites was 11.5 births per 1,000 population and 13.6 births per 1,000 population for blacks and other races.⁹

In 2012, approximately 10% of all births in Alabama were low-weight births (birth weights of less than 2,500 grams / 5 pounds, 8 ounces), up slightly from 9.7% in 2000. In 2012, Alabama had the third highest ranking in low-weight births in the nation.¹⁰



Death Rates



In 2012, there were 49,212 deaths in Alabama, for an average death rate of 10.2 persons per 100,000 population. Since 1960, Alabama's death rate has increased 10%. From 1960 to 2011, the national death rate has fallen 15%, from 9.5 to 8.1 persons per 1,000 population.¹¹

Heart disease is the primary cause of death in both Alabama and the nation as a whole.

In 2011—the most recent year in which detailed information is available—Alabama's death rate from heart disease was 3.2 per 1,000 population, about 28% higher than the national average (2.5).

The second leading cause of death in Alabama and the United States is cancer. In 2011, Alabama's death rate from cancer was 2.1 per 1,000 population, which was 10% higher than the national average (1.9).



Age-adjusting a rate is a way to make fairer comparisons between groups with different age distributions. For example, a county having a higher percentage of elderly people may have a higher rate of death or hospitalization than a county with a younger population, merely because the elderly are more likely to die or be hospitalized. The same distortion can happen when comparisons are made between races, genders, or time periods. Age adjustment can make the different groups more comparable.¹²

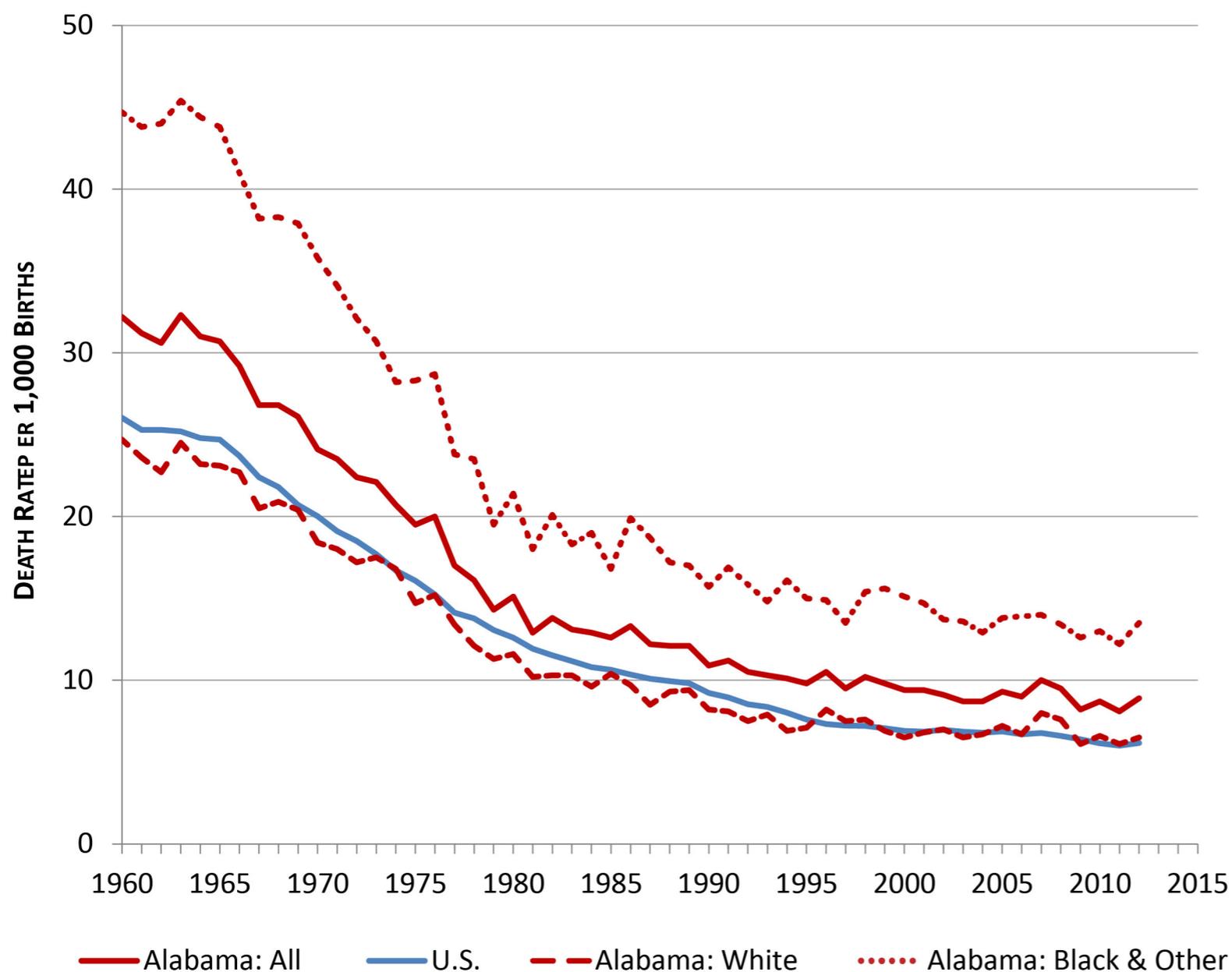
When the death rates for Alabama and the nation as a whole are age-adjusted, Alabama's death rate in 2011 dropped to 9.3 per 1,000 population, while the national rate dropped to 7.4.¹³

In 2011, the death rate for whites in Alabama was 26% higher than that of blacks (10.9 versus 8.7, respectively). However, when age-adjusted death rates are compared, blacks died at a higher rate (10.3) than whites (9.1).¹⁴





Infant Mortality



Since 1960, infant mortality rates in Alabama have fallen 72%. In 1960, 32 of every 1,000 babies born in Alabama died within the first year of their life. By 2012, that number had dropped to only 8.9 of every 1,000 babies.

Despite this progress, Alabama's infant mortality rate remains above the national average. For 2011, Alabama (8.9 deaths per 1,000 live births) had the third highest infant mortality rate in the nation. Compared to neighboring states, Alabama had higher mortality than all of them, except Mississippi (9.38).¹⁵



The infant death rate in Alabama in 2012 for blacks and other races (13.5 per 1,000 live births) is more than double that of whites (6.5). Even though there were almost twice as many births to white women in Alabama (38,637) than to non-white women (19,744), there were slightly more infant deaths among black and other non-white women (253) than whites (266).¹⁶

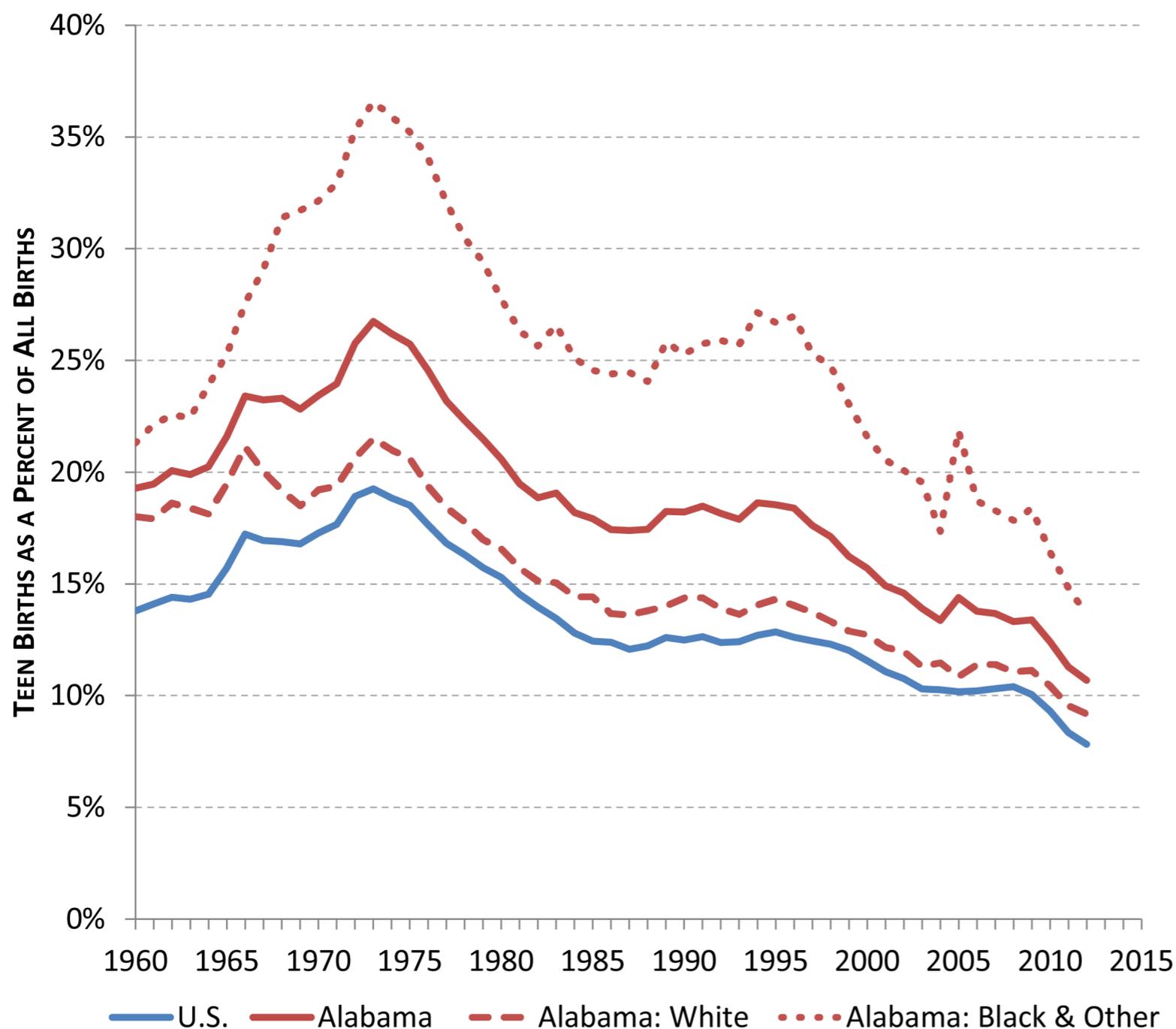
In 2012, the top four leading causes of infant deaths in Alabama were: perinatal period conditions (241); congenital malformations (97); Sudden Infant Death Syndrome or SIDS (39), and accidents (25).

These causes accounted for about 77% of 519 infant deaths.¹⁷ Sixty-four percent of these deaths occurred within the first 27 days after birth, and 33% occurred within the first 24 hours after birth.¹⁸





Teen Births



In 2012, 6,236 children were born to teenage mothers in Alabama. Since 1960, more than 631,000 children in Alabama have been born into similar households.¹⁹

In 2011—the most recent year state comparisons are available—Alabama ranked tenth among the states regarding the birth rates of teenage mothers.²⁰

In 2012, about 10.7% of all births in Alabama were to teenage mothers, compared to about 7.8% nationwide.²¹

In 1960, only about 24% of teenage mothers in Alabama were unmarried, compared with 83% in 2012. Among whites, the percentage of births to unmarried teens has increased sixteen-fold from 4.6% in 1960 to 74% in 2012. The percentage of births to non-white, teenage, unmarried women has risen from 50% in 1960 to 96% in 2012.²²

Among Alabama teenagers, pregnancy rates in 2012 were highest among 18- and 19-year-olds, with one in ten becoming pregnant in 2012.²³ Within this group, 71% gave birth, 16% had a fetal loss, and 13% opted for an abortion.²⁴

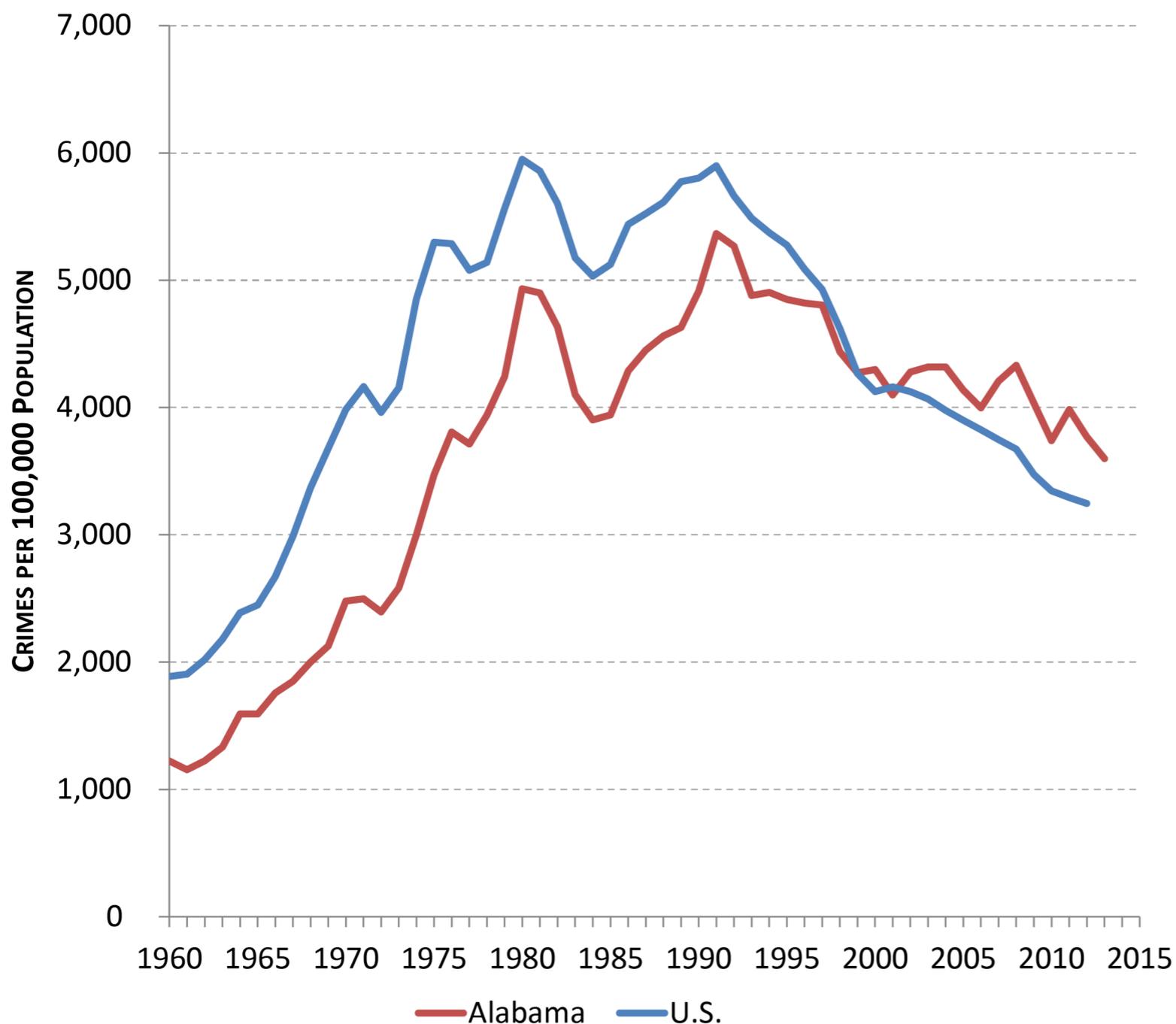


Chapter 2

CRIME



Crime Rates



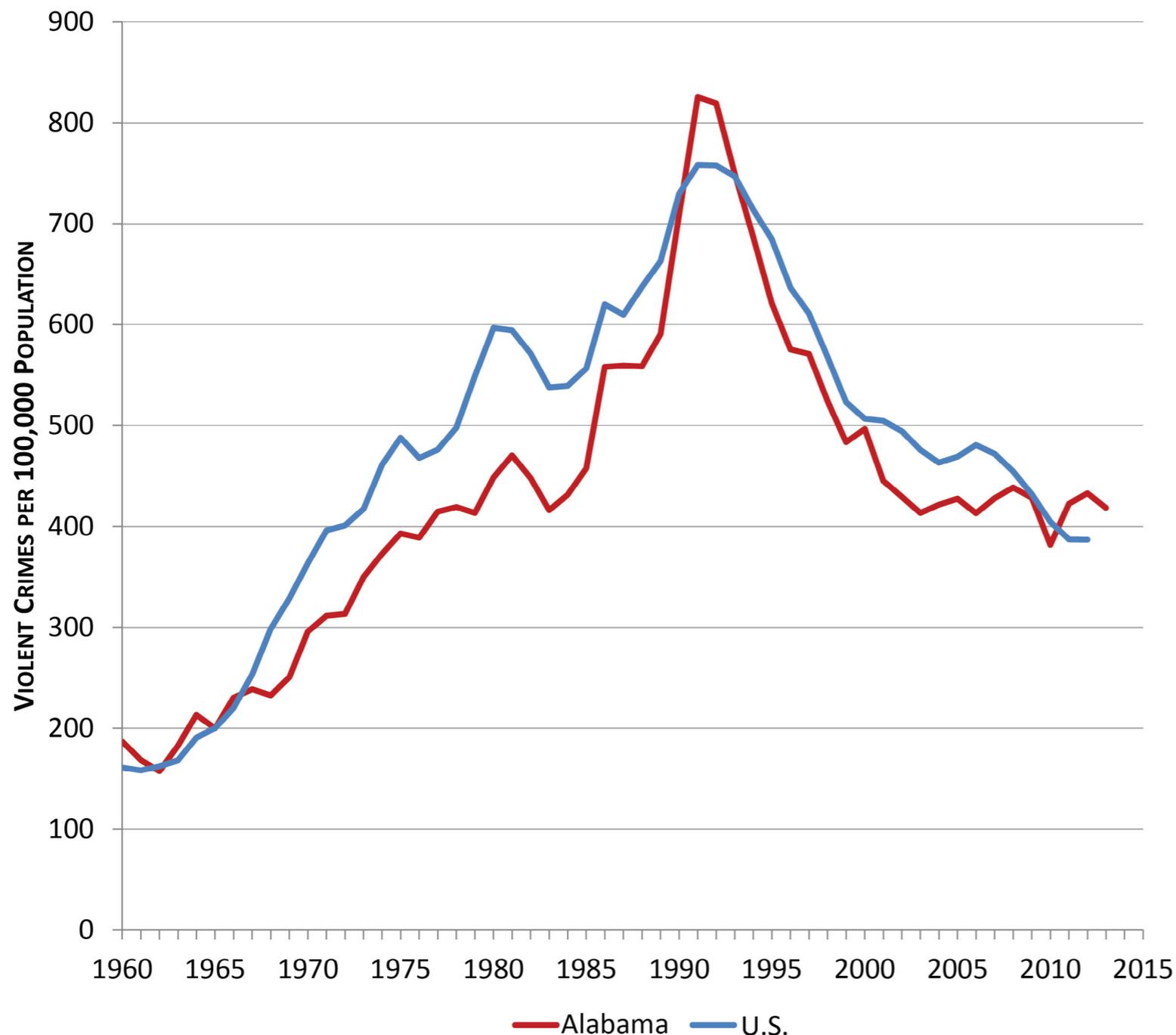
Since 1960, Alabama's crime rate, which takes into account population changes, increased 208%, from 1,222 crimes per 100,000 residents to 3,598 in 2012. In 2012, Alabama reported 173,916 Type I crimes—murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.²⁵ This is down from the 1991 peak of 209,800 crimes, but about 38% more than in 1975 (125,488).²⁶

From 1960 to 1999, Alabama's crime rate remained below the national average. Since 1999, the state's crime rate has averaged about 7% above the national average.²⁷

In 2012, there were almost 10.2 million crimes reported in the United States. This is down from the 1991 peak, when there were almost 14.9 million crimes. In 2012, Alabama's share of all crimes in the United States (1.7%) was slightly higher than its representative population (1.5%).²⁸



Violent Crime



There were 20,222 violent crimes—murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—reported in Alabama in 2012. This is down 49% from the peak of 33,888 in 1992, but it is 124% higher than in 1960.²⁹

In 2013, Alabama's violent crime rate was 432.7 crimes per 100,000 population, down 3% from 2012. Between 1994 and 2010, Alabama's violent crime rate was, on average, about 8% lower than national average. Since then, it has averaged 10% above the national average.³⁰

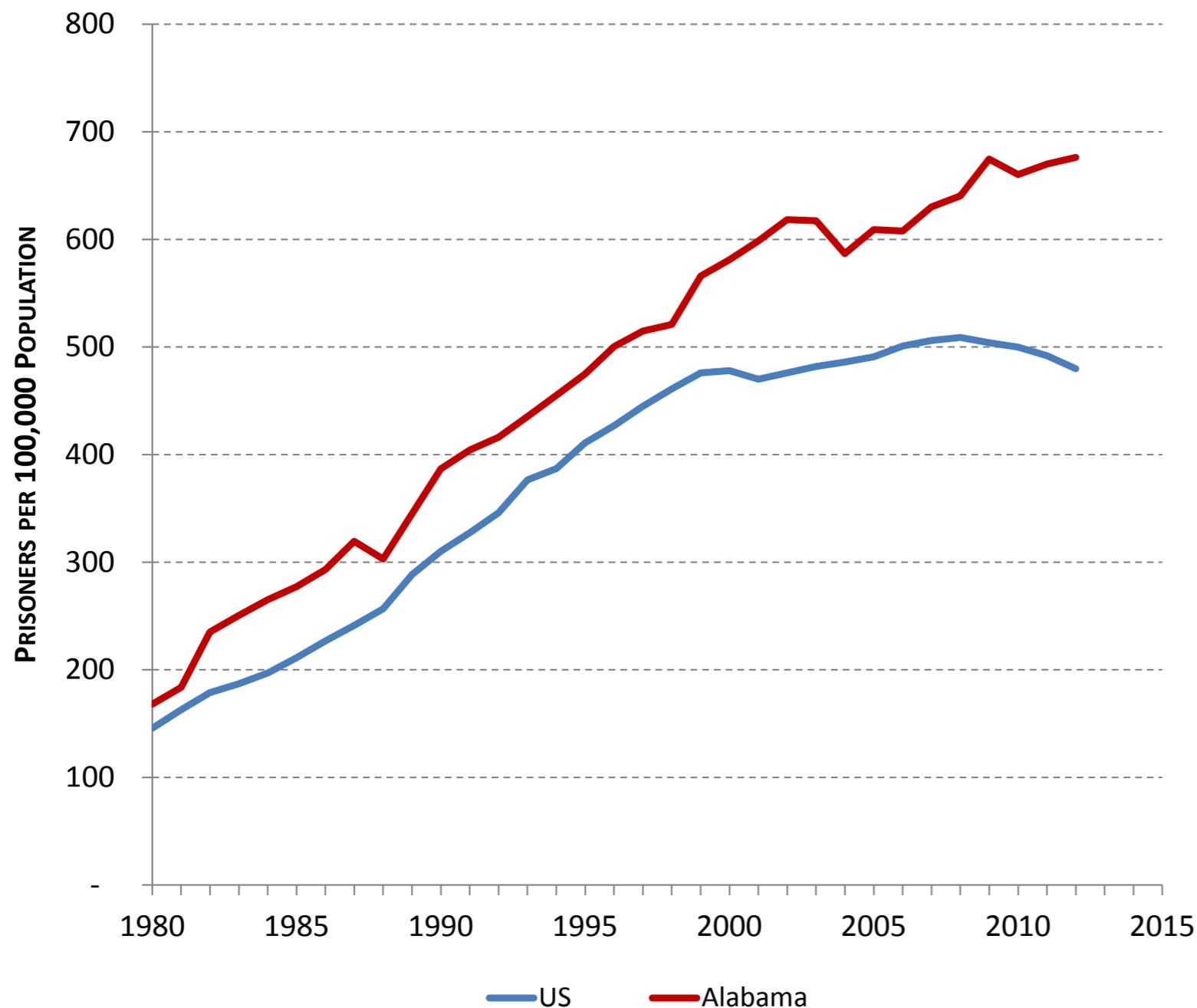
In 2012, about 12% of all the crimes committed in Alabama were of a violent nature, the same as the nation as a whole.

Compared to neighboring states, the percentage of violent crimes in Alabama was higher than Georgia (10%) and Mississippi (8%), but lower than Florida (13%) and Tennessee (16%).³¹

Since 1960, the national violent crime rate jumped 371% to its peak in 1992, before descending 49% to its 2012 level of 386.9 violent crimes per 100,000 population.³²



Prison Population



In 2012, one of every 148 persons (0.7%) of Alabama's population was in a state or federal prison serving a sentence of at least one year, compared to one in every 200 (0.5%) of the national population.

Alabama's incarceration rate—the number of sentenced prisoners per 100,000 populations—is the third highest in the nation.³³

Of the 31,437 prisoners in Alabama as of December 31, 2012, 92% (28,915) were male. Since 2000, the number of female prisoners has increased from 1,783 from to 2,522.³⁴ One percent of all prisoners were under the age of 18.³⁵

Since 1980, the sentenced adult prison populations of Alabama and the nation as a whole both increased by 380%. In 1980, Alabama had 6,543 inmates; at the end of fiscal year 2012 it had 32,574. Nationwide, the number of prisoners increased from 316,000 to 1.57 million.³⁶



According to the Alabama Department of Corrections, of the sentenced prisoners in 2012, 23% were incarcerated for drug offenses, 21% for burglary or theft, and 14% each for murder and robbery.³⁷

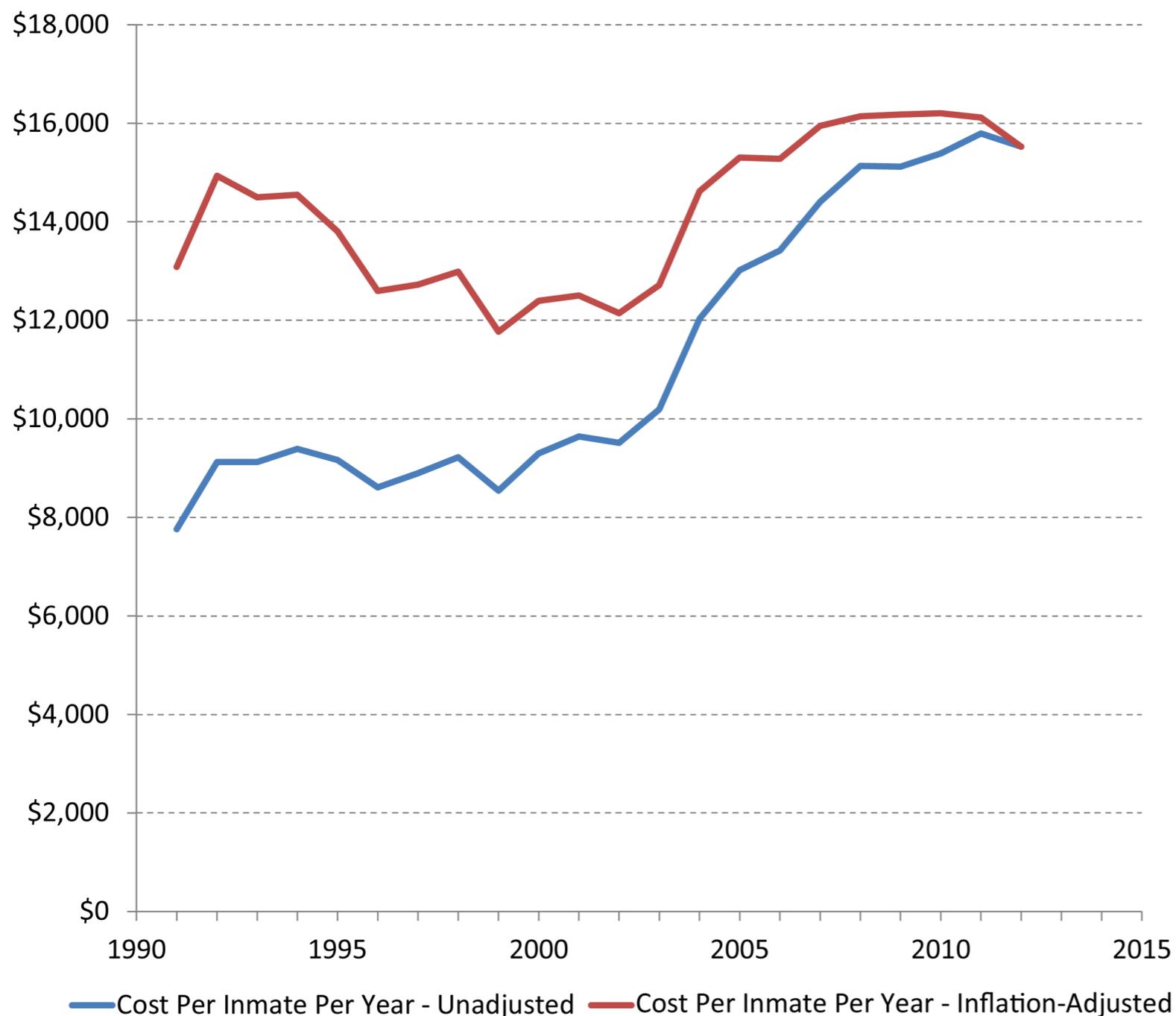
The percentage of inmates serving time for violent offenses in Alabama's correctional system has increased from 39% (10,182 prisoners) in 2000 to 47% (15,212) in 2012.³⁸

In 2012, 28% of the inmates in Alabama's prisons (9,124) were held under the Habitual Offender Act. This percentage has remained relatively flat since 1991.³⁹





Cost of Imprisonment



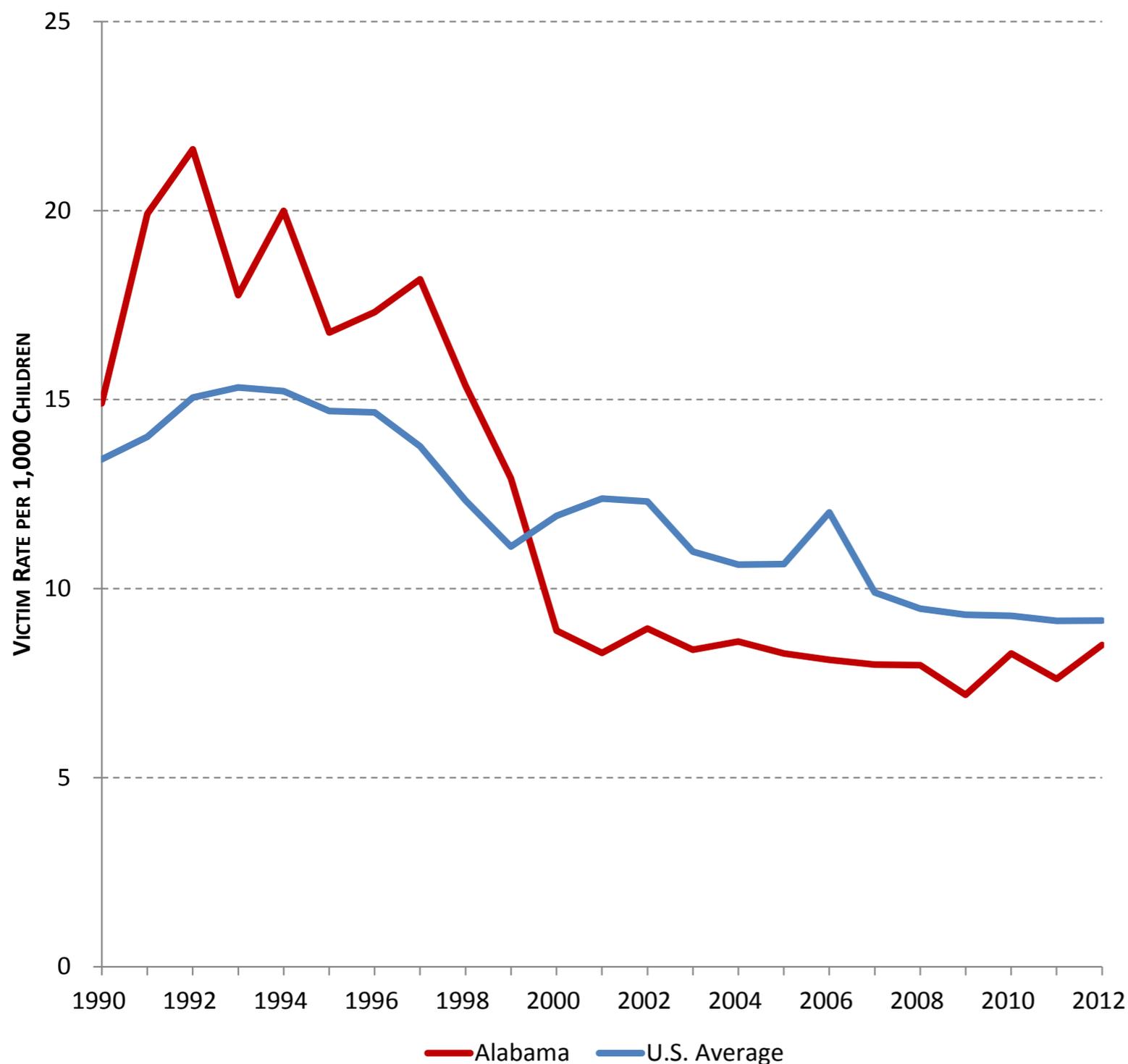
In 2012, Alabama taxpayers spent an inflation-adjusted \$15,527 for each of the inmates in the state's prison system. This is about 4% less than the \$16,117 spent per inmate in 2011. Since 1991, Alabama's cost per inmate has risen 19% after rising and falling several times.⁴⁰

In fiscal 2012, expenditures for corrections totaled \$437.3 million, down \$7.5 million from 2011. Of this amount, 54% (\$238 million) was for personnel costs and employee benefits, 27% (\$118 million) was for medical and professional services, 8% (\$33 million) was for supplies and operating expenses, and 4% (\$16 million) was for utilities and communications. Only 3% (\$13 million) was spent on repairs, maintenance, or capital outlays.⁴¹

For fiscal year 2014, corrections expenditures constitute \$425 million, or 24% of the entire General Fund budget. Only Medicaid (\$615 million) has a larger share of the budget.⁴²



Child Abuse



Since 1990, the rate of substantiated cases of child abuse in Alabama has declined by 43% and by 32% nationally.⁴³

In 2012, there were 20,599 reports of child abuse in Alabama involving 30,400 children.

Not every report of child abuse or neglect is authentic; each report must be investigated to determine whether enough evidence exists to conclude that maltreatment occurred.⁴⁴

Of the child abuse cases reported in 2012, 9,573 were identified as actual victims—about one in three. Specifically, about one in every 37 children in Alabama was the subject of a child abuse investigation, but only one in 117 was actually substantiated as a victim.⁴⁵ By comparison, about one in every 19 children nationwide was the subject of an investigation, and one in every 109 was actually substantiated as a victim.⁴⁶

In 2012, 59% of Alabama child abuse victims were white, 29% were black, and 4% were Hispanic.⁴⁷ By comparison, Alabama's total youth population in 2012 (1,124,000) was 59% white, 30% black, and 4% Hispanic.⁴⁸

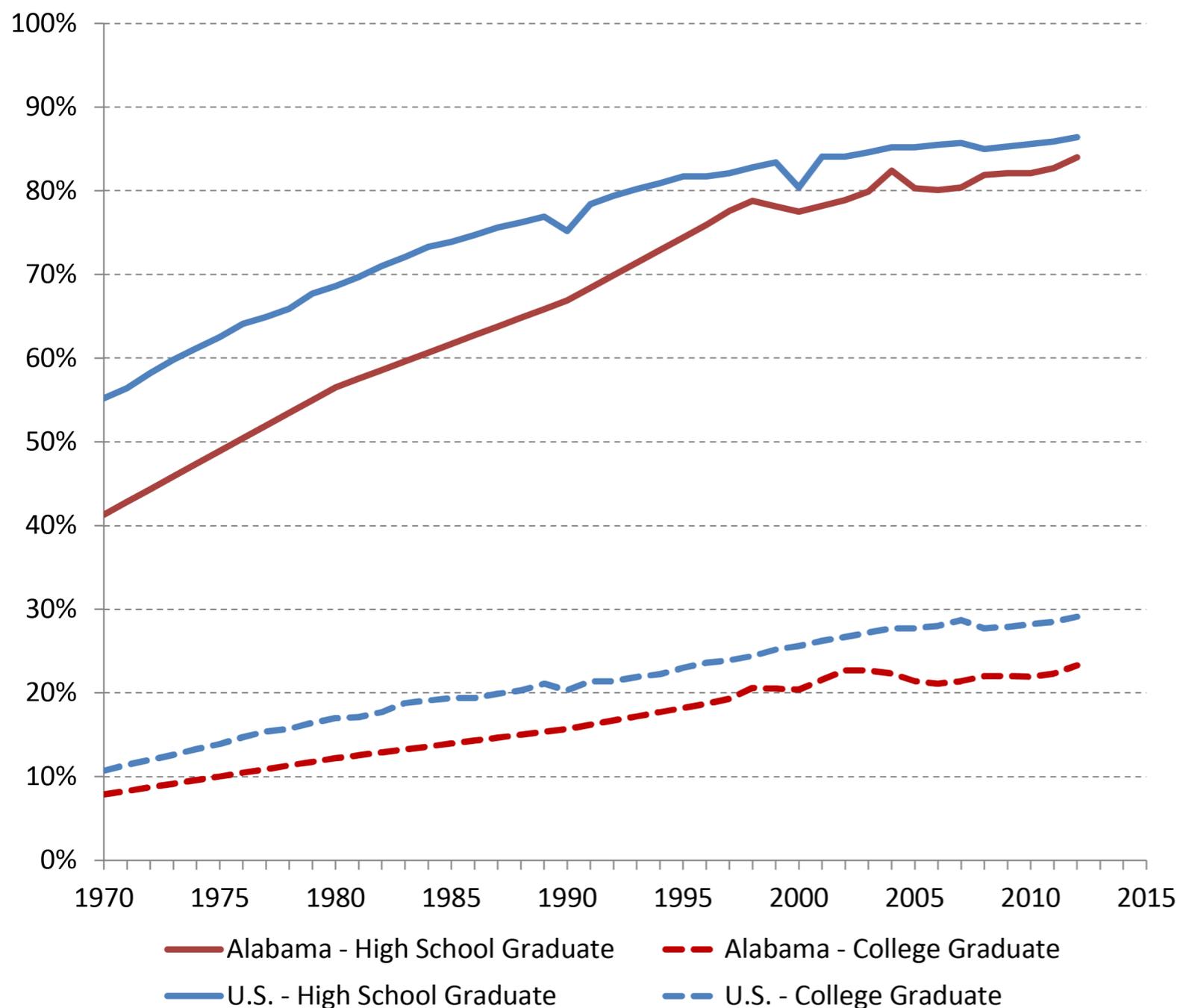
A photograph of a classroom filled with rows of red chairs and white desks. The chairs are arranged in a grid pattern, and the desks are attached to the sides of the chairs. In the foreground, a teal-colored chair is visible, standing out from the rest of the red chairs. The background shows more rows of chairs and desks, extending towards the back of the room. The lighting is bright, and the overall atmosphere is clean and organized.

Chapter 3

Education



Academic Achievement



Since 1970, the percentage of Alabama residents age 25 and older with a high school diploma has doubled (103% gain), while the percentage of adults with at least a four-year college degree has almost tripled (196%). By comparison, the percentage of adults nationwide with at least a high school diploma or a college degree has risen 56% and 172%, respectively.⁴⁹

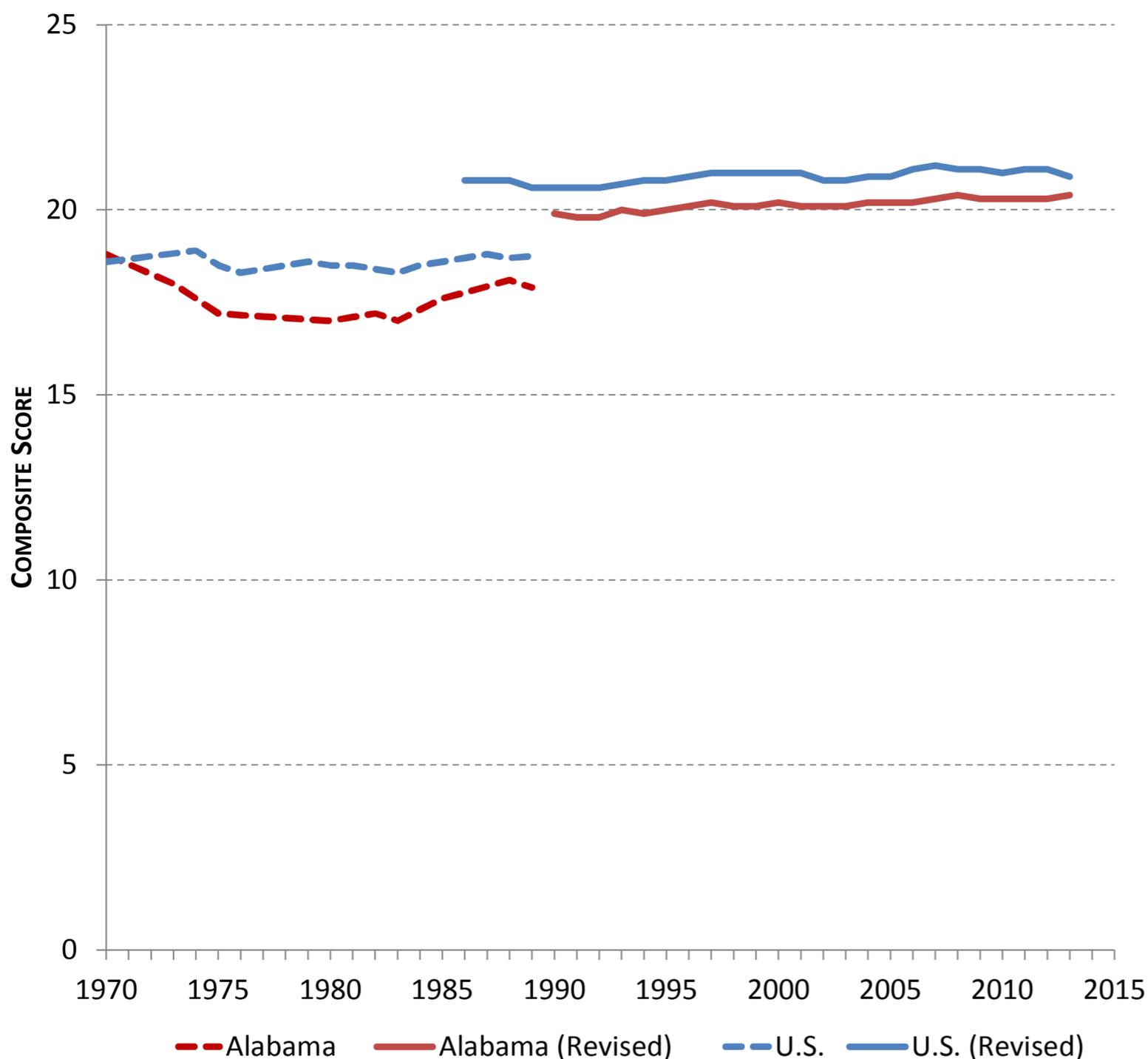
In Alabama, academic gains have been greatest among blacks. Between 1970 and 2012, the percentage of blacks with at least a high school diploma increased from 22% to 80%, a gain of 263%. By comparison, the percentage of whites with at least a high school diploma rose by 83%, from 47% to 86%.⁵⁰

In 2012, Alabama ranked 46th in the nation in the percentage of adults age 25 and older with at least a high school diploma or its equivalent⁵¹ and 45th for adults holding at least a bachelor's degree.⁵²

The more diplomas an adult holds, the greater their earning potential. According to data collected in 2012 by the U.S. Census Bureau, possessing a high school diploma raises personal income for Alabama residents by almost \$7,000 (\$25,485) and a bachelor's degree by almost \$26,500 (\$45,124).⁵³



ACT Scores



In 2013, 79% (38,122) of all graduating high school seniors in Alabama took the ACT. Of these, the average composite score was 20.4, the 36th highest in the nation.⁵⁴ Of the 26 states in which most students took the ACT in 2013, Alabama was in 15th place.⁵⁵

Seventy-nine percent (30,233) of Alabama high school students taking the ACT in 2013 were core course completers—that is, they had taken at least four years of English and three years of math (algebra and higher), social sciences, and natural sciences. Of these, their composite average was 21, compared to a national average of 21.7 for core course completers and 18.2 for Alabama students who were not core course completers.⁵⁶

Since 1990, Alabama students' scores on the Enhanced ACT have been stagnant, with students typically scoring about 0.8 of a point below the national average.⁵⁷



Male test takers in Alabama in 2013 had higher average composite (20.6), math (20.0), and science (20.7) scores than females (20.3, 19.1, and 19.7, respectively). In the categories of English and reading, females scored better (20.7 and 21.0) than males (20.3 and 20.9).⁵⁸

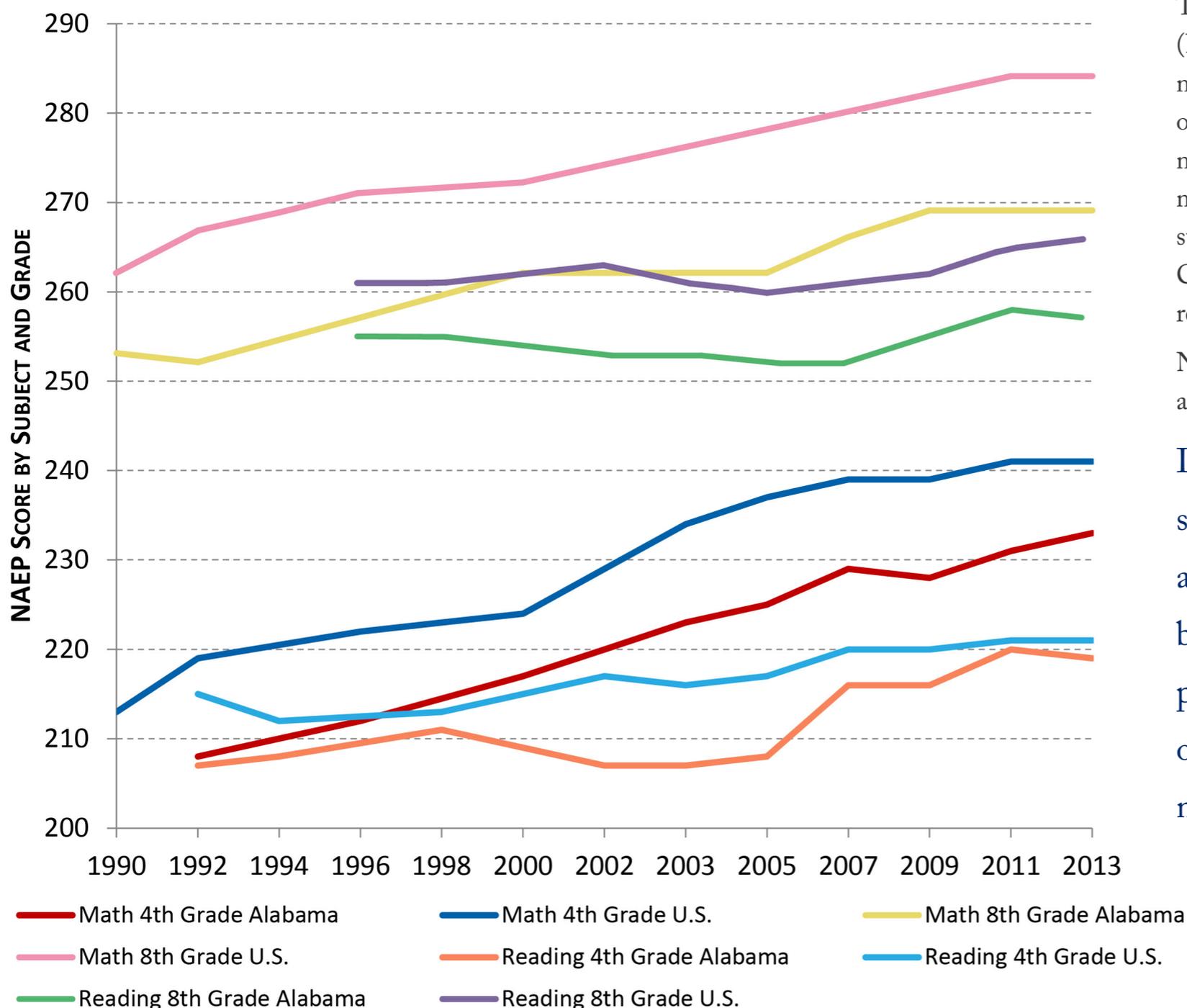
Ethnicity is a significant predictor of ACT scores in Alabama.

For reading, Asian students had the highest average score (23.5), followed by whites (22.4) and native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders (21.2). By comparison, blacks scored lowest (17.5), followed by Hispanics (20.1) and Native Americans (20.6). A similar relationship was found for math: Asians scored highest (25.0), followed by whites (21.9) and native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders (20.1). Again, blacks' scores were the lowest (17.2), followed by Native Americans (18.2) and Hispanics (18.3).⁵⁹





NAEP Scores



The National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) was mandated by Congress in 1969 to monitor the knowledge, skills, and performance of the nation's school children. One form of monitoring has been national, standardized tests in mathematics, science, reading, geography, and other subjects. In 2013, every state and the District of Columbia participated in the mathematics and reading exams.⁶⁰

NAEP uses a scale of 0 to 500 for its mathematics and reading tests.

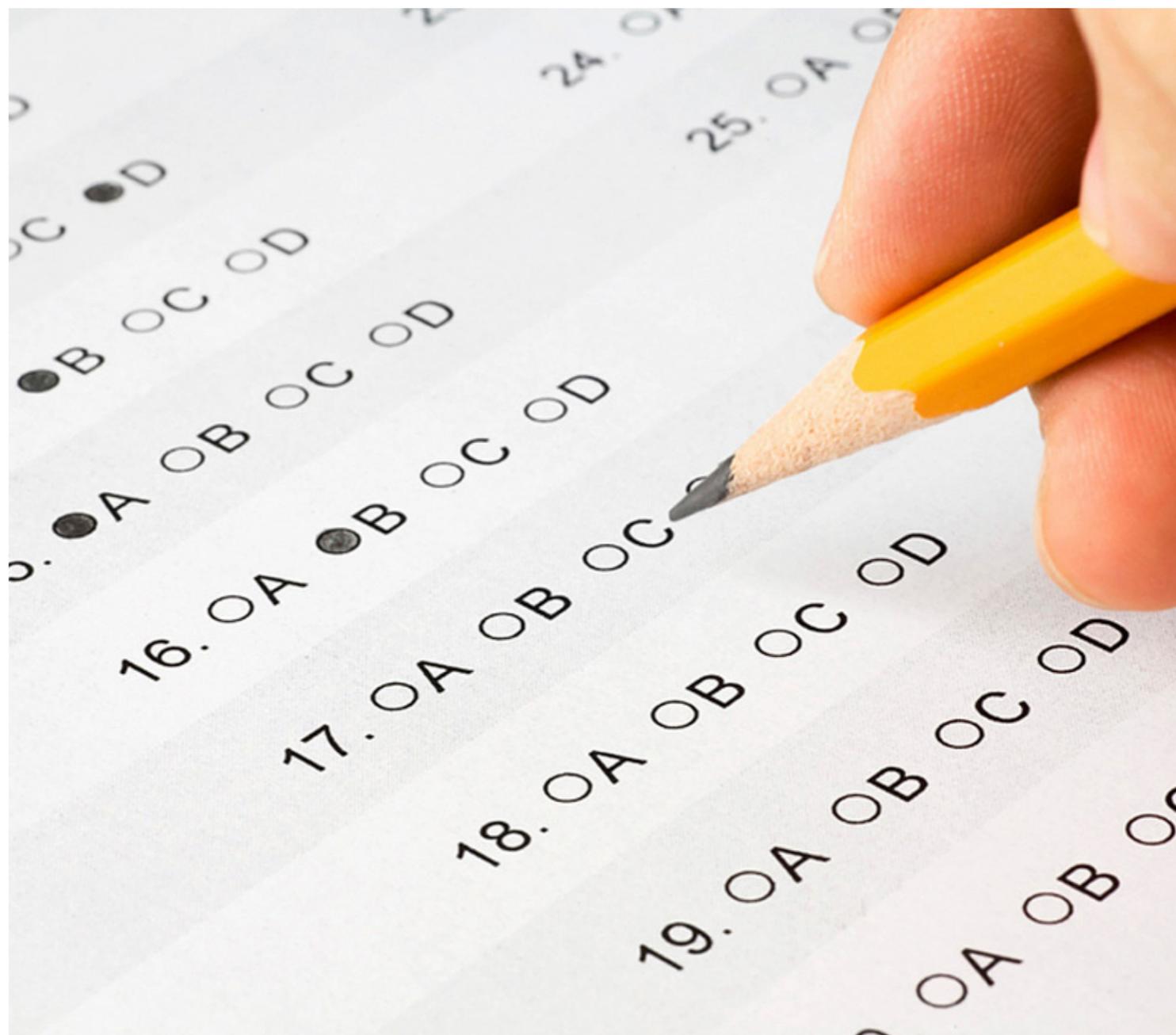
In 2013, Alabama's 4th grade math students ranked 46th in the nation with an average score of 233, eight points below the national average.⁶¹ Twenty-nine percent of Alabama's 4th graders scored at or above proficiency, 13 points below the national average.⁶²



In the same year, Alabama's 8th grade math students ranked 50th in the nation with an average NAEP score of 269, with 19% at or above proficiency. By comparison, the national average was 284, with 34% at or above proficiency.⁶³

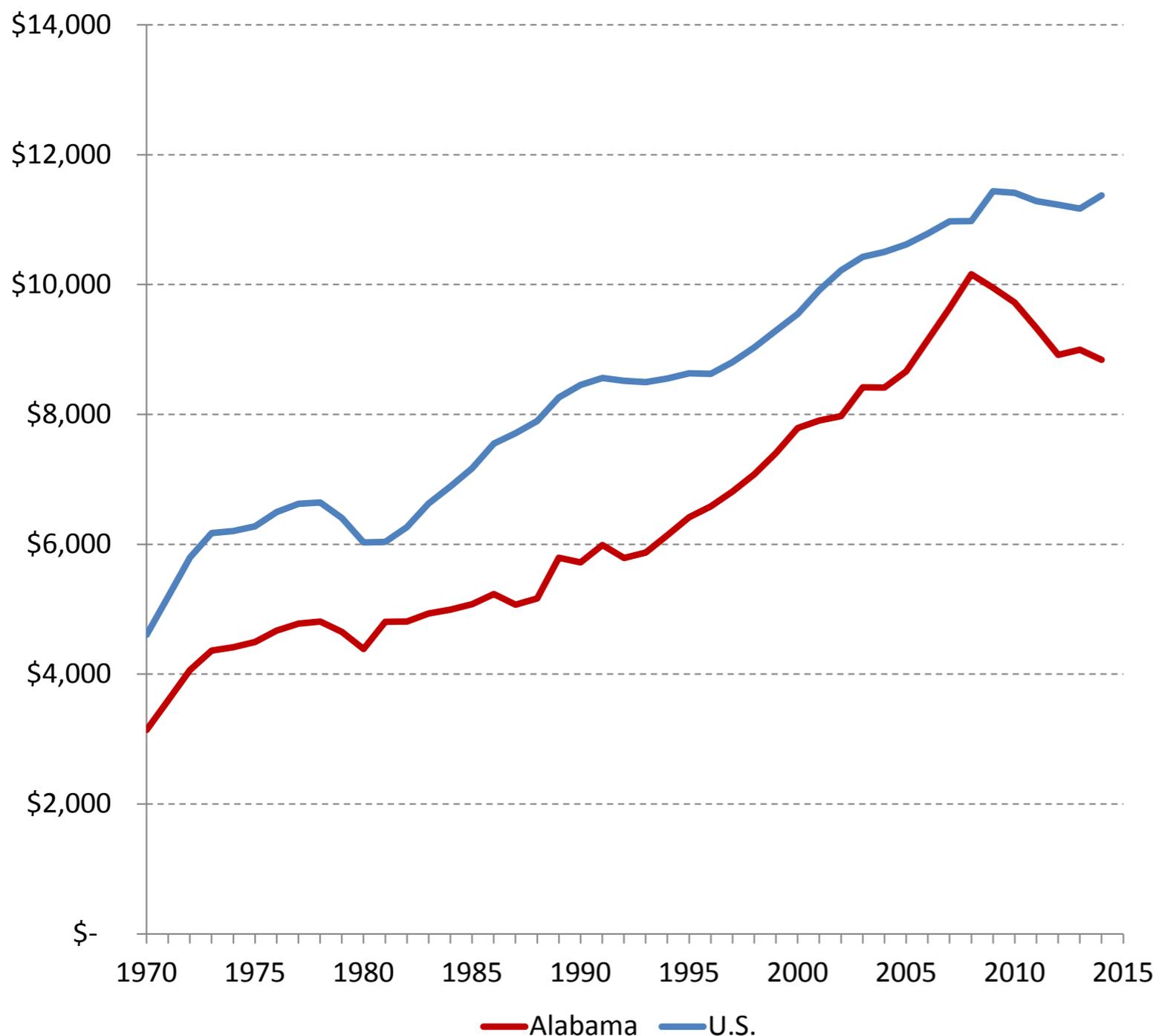
In 2013, Alabama's 4th grade students ranked 35th in the nation in reading with an average score of 219, two points lower than the national average. Thirty percent of Alabama's students scored at or above proficiency, compared to 34% of students nationwide.⁶⁴

During the same year, Alabama's 8th grade students ranked 47th in the nation in reading with an average score of 257, nine points below the national average. Twenty-five percent of Alabama's students scored at or above proficiency, compared to 35% of students nationwide.⁶⁵





K-12 Spending Per Pupil



In the 2013-14 school year, public schools in Alabama spent an average of \$8,841 per student. This is a 2% decrease from the inflation-adjusted amount spent in 2012-2013 (\$8,998). By comparison, national spending per student increased 2% from \$11,170 to \$11,373.⁶⁶

Despite occasional proration and income shortfalls, Alabama's public elementary and secondary schools have received a large increase in revenue in the past 50 years.

Since 1970, inflation-adjusted spending per student in Alabama has increased 182%, compared to 147% for the nation as a whole.⁶⁷

In the 1969-70 school year, Alabama's per-student outlays for K-12 public education (\$3,139 in inflation-adjusted dollars) were 31% less than the national average (\$4,605). By the 2013-14 school year, this gap had narrowed to 22%.⁶⁸

In the 2010-11 school year, 37.8% of funding for all public education in Alabama came from state and local government expenditures. By comparison, the national average was 33.3%.⁶⁹

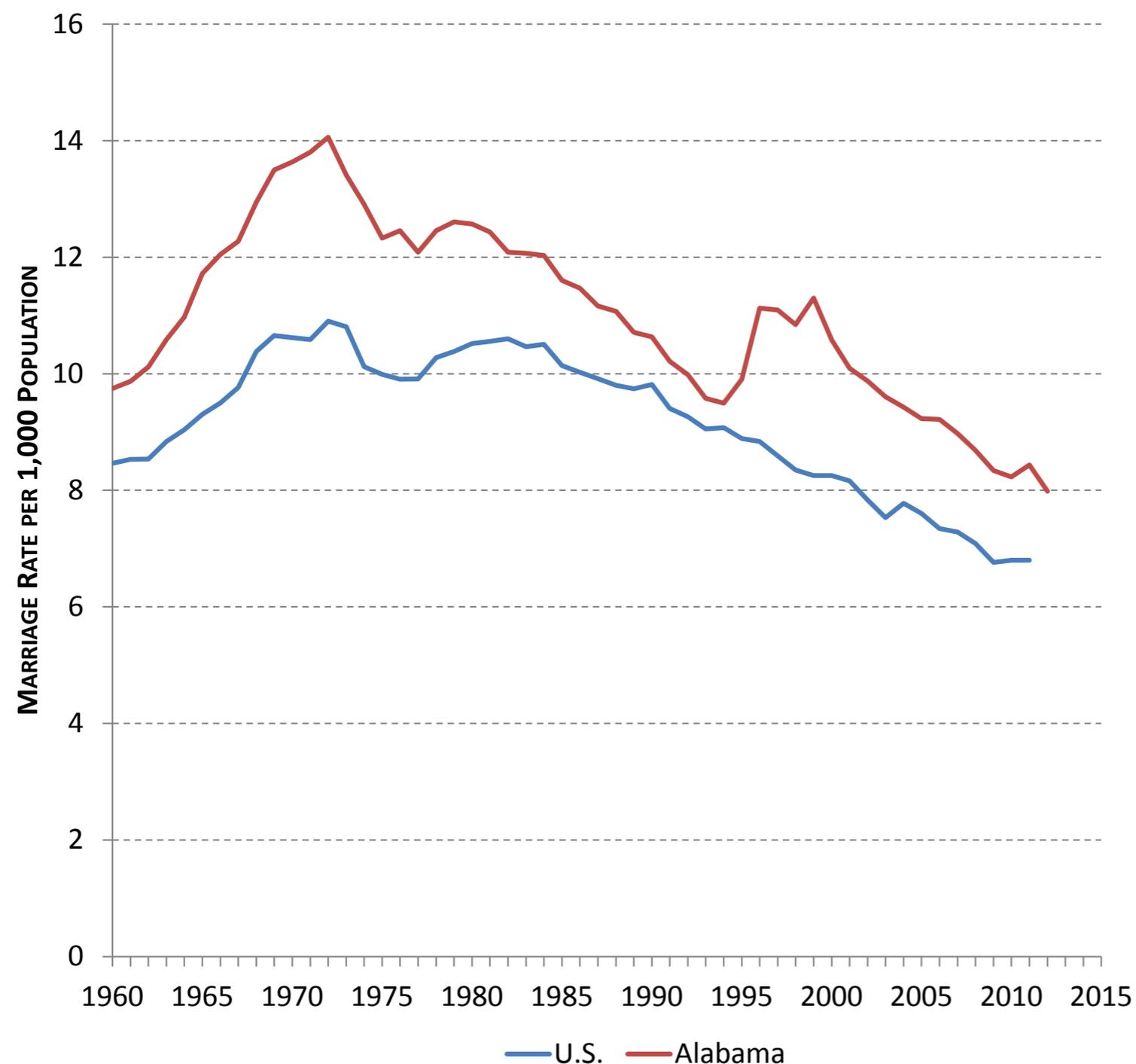


Chapter 4

Family



Marriage



In 1960, married couples made up about 75% of all households in the United States. By 2010, that number had fallen to 49.7%.⁷⁰

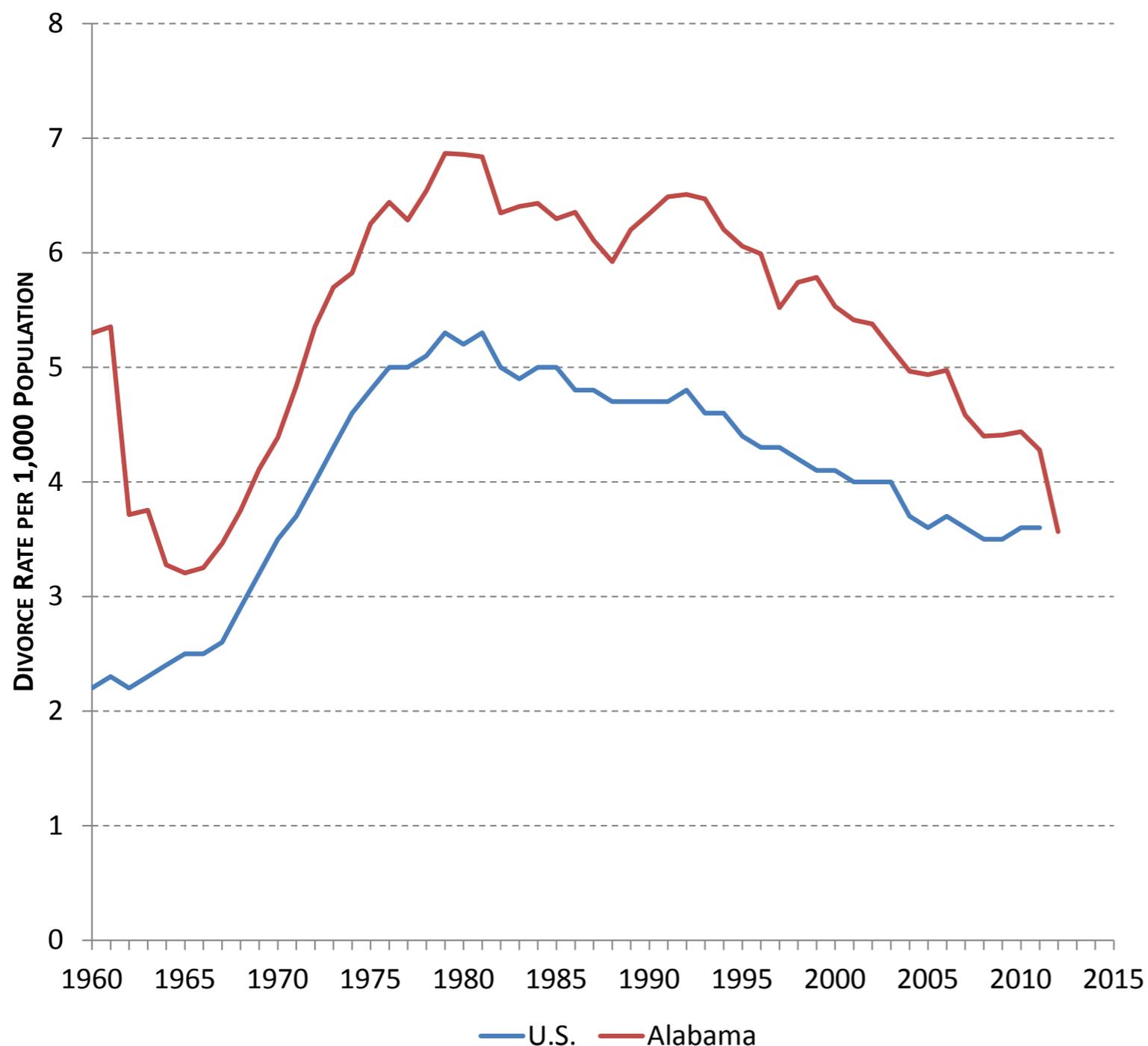
In 2012, there were 38,489 marriages in Alabama, a 5% decline from 40,523 marriages in 2011. This translates to a marriage rate of 8.0 marriages per 1,000 population.⁷¹

Between 1960 and 2012, Alabama's highest marriage rate of 14.1 marriages per 1,000 population was achieved in 1972. Since then, the state's marriage rate has fallen by 43%.⁷²

In 2009—the most recent year for which national figures are available—Alabama's marriage rate was 23% higher than the national average of 6.8 marriages per 1,000 population. Alabama's marriage was the 7th highest in the nation,⁷³ and the state's marriage rate has been above the national average since before 1960.



Divorce



In 2012, Alabama had 17,193 divorces, for a divorce rate of 3.6 per 1,000 population. This is down about 16% from 2011, when there were 20,550 divorces in the state.⁷⁴

In 2011—the most recent year national figures are available—the state’s divorce rate (4.3 in 2011) was 19% above the national average of 3.6. Alabama’s divorce rate has been above the national average for more than 50 years.⁷⁵

In 2009—the most recent year comparable state figures are available—Alabama had the ninth highest divorce rate in the nation.

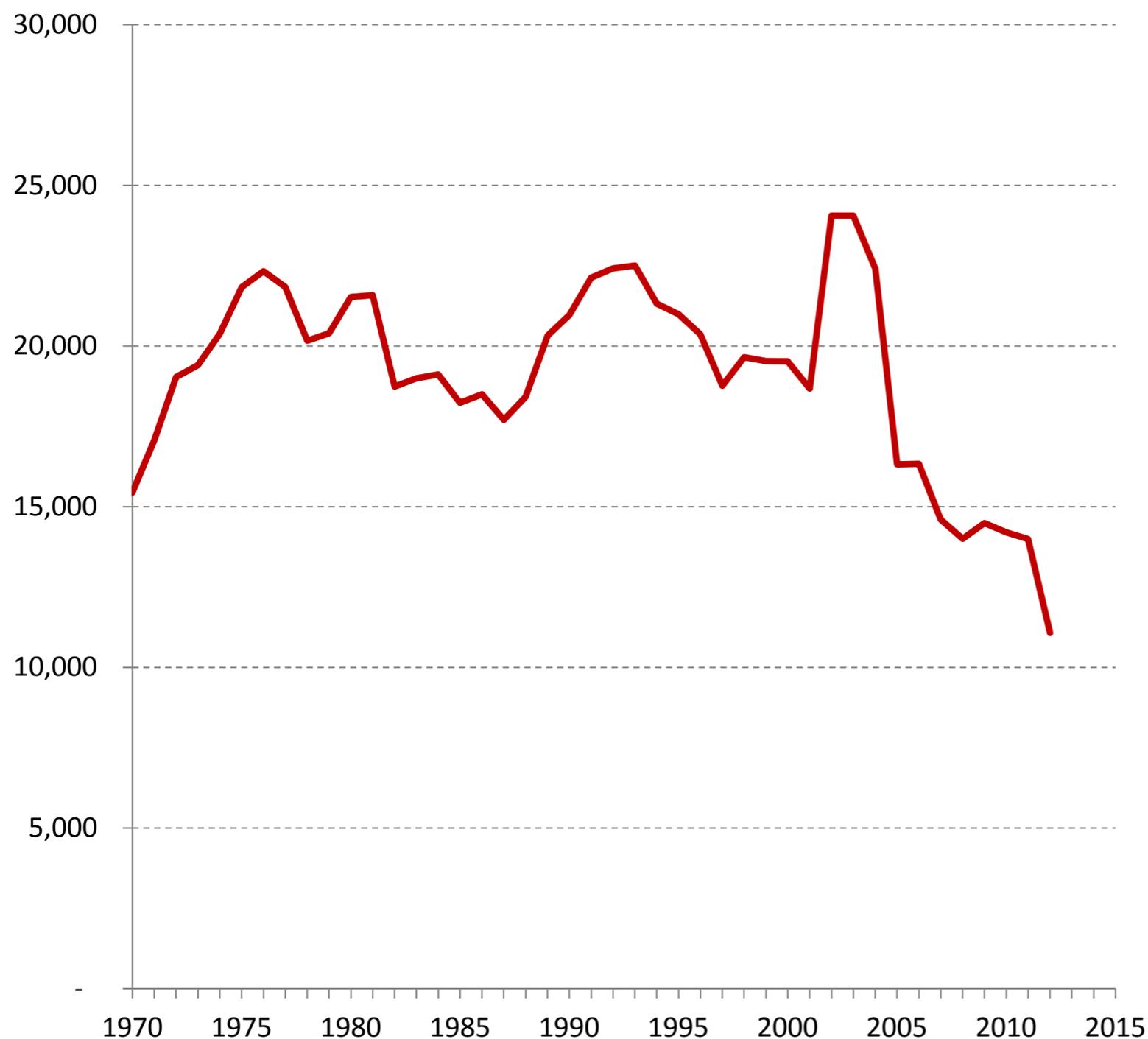
Alabama’s divorce rate was also higher than at least three neighboring states that reported divorce rates: Florida (4.3); Mississippi (4.1); and Tennessee (4.1) (Georgia does not publish its annual divorce rates).⁷⁶

Between 1960 and 1966, Alabama’s divorce rate fell from 5.3 per 1,000 population to a low of 3.2 in 1966 before rising to a record high of 6.9 in both 1979 and 1980.⁷⁷

In 2012, the median length of marriage before divorce in Alabama was between five and nine years. Ninety-eight percent of these divorces were on the grounds of either “incompatibility” or “irretrievable breakdown” also known as “no-fault divorce.”⁷⁸



Children Affected by Divorce



Perhaps the greatest tragedy of divorce is its effect on the children involved.

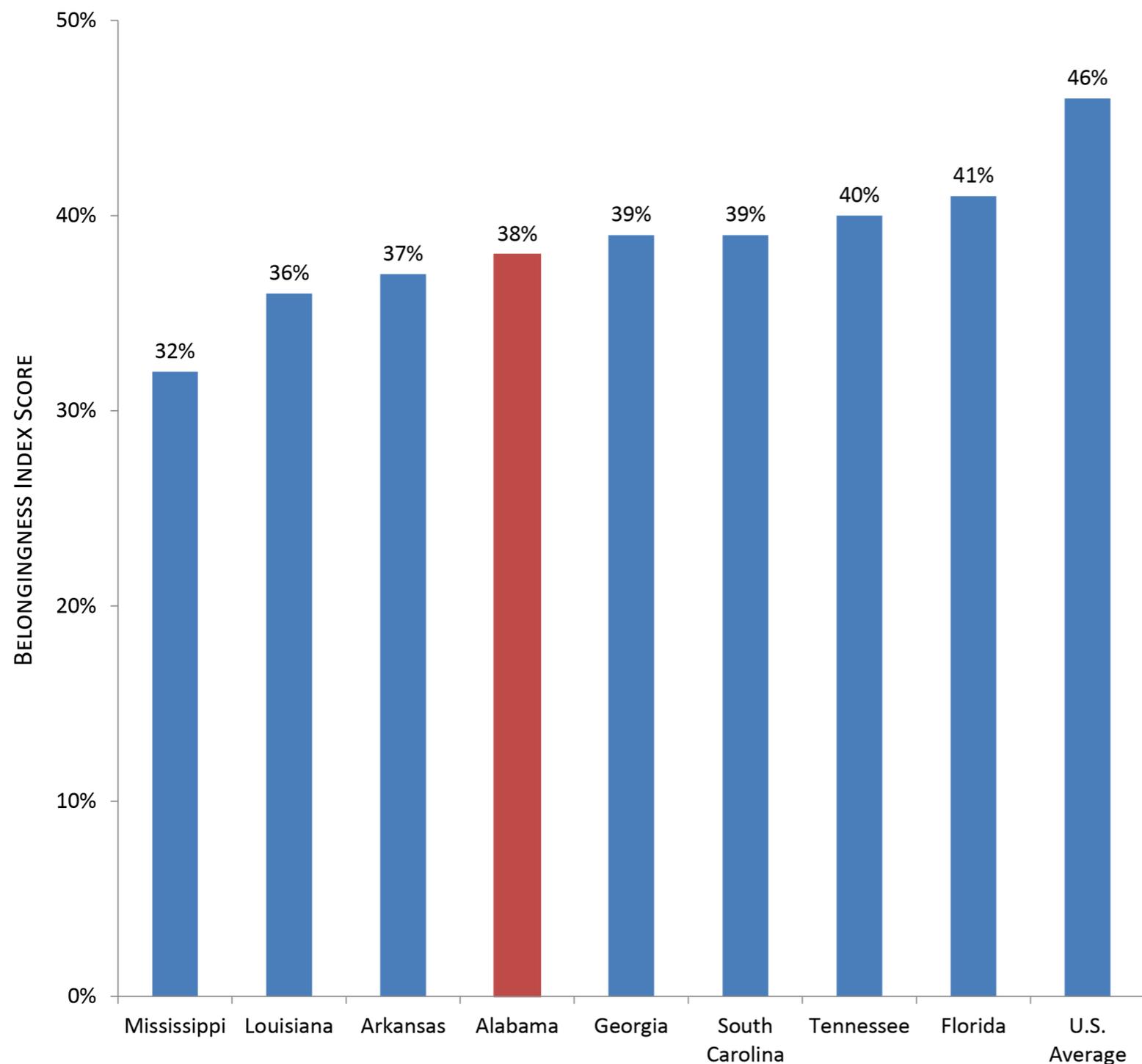
For the past 44 years, about 23,500 couples have divorced in Alabama each year, splitting the homes of about 19,100 children annually.⁷⁹

Even if none of these divorces involved a subsequent divorce (or more than one) for one of the parents, almost 825,000 children in Alabama have been directly affected by divorce since 1970.⁸⁰

The number of children affected by divorce in Alabama closely mirrors the state's divorce rate. During the initial surge in divorces following the legalization of no-fault divorce in Alabama in 1971, the number of children affected grew at a rate of about 400 per year until reaching a historic peak in the late 1970s. Since then, it has fallen by about 160 per year.



Index of Belonging & Rejection



In February 2014, Patrick Fagan of the Family Research Council published the fourth annual Index of Family Belonging and Rejection to measure the social health of American children. “Belonging” was defined as the percentage of children ages 15-17 who had grown up “with both their birth mother and their biological father legally married to one another since before or around the time of the teenager’s birth,” and “rejection” as the percentage of children in households where at least one of their biological parents was no longer in the home.

Of the 13.1 million teens in the United States at the time of the study (2008-2011), more than 7 million—54%—had spent their childhood without at least one of their biological parents in an intact family.⁸¹

Despite having a reputation for strong families, the southeastern United States—including Alabama—fared poorly: its score of 38% means that 62% of teens in Alabama (119,000 of 192,000) had not grown up with both biological parents.⁸²



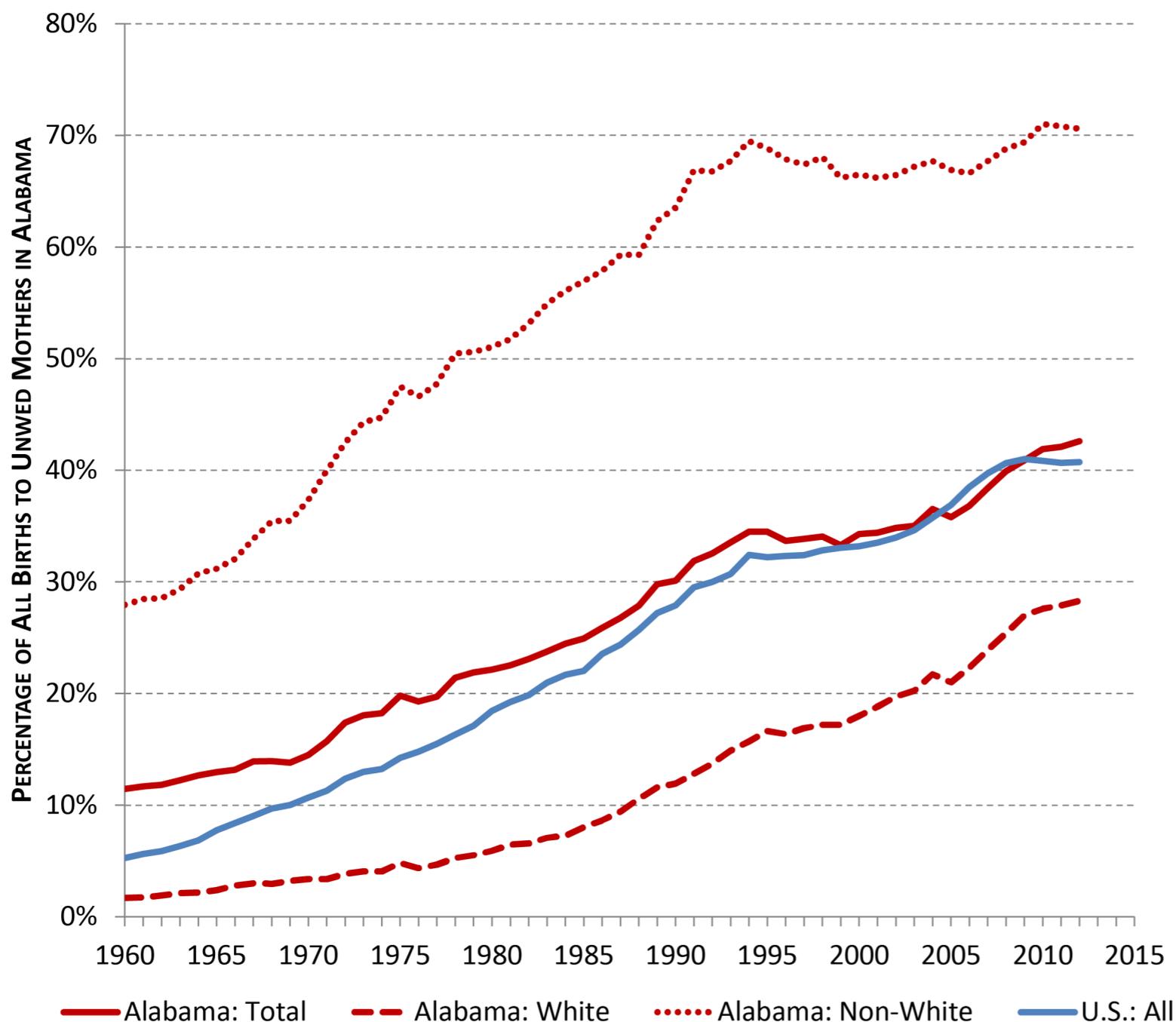
Nevertheless, three other southern states and the District of Columbia (17%) scored the same or lower than Alabama.⁸³

The most recent version of the Index also includes race-specific measures of belonging. Intact biological families among whites were less common in Alabama (48%) than the nation as a whole (54%), while the state's Hispanic population was better off (49%) than the national average (41%). The percentage of intact biological families in Alabama's black population was about the same as the national average (17%).⁸⁴





Births to Unwed Mothers



Since 1960, the number of births in Alabama that were out of wedlock jumped 272%, from 11% to 43% in 2012.⁸⁵ Nationwide, the percentage of out-of-wedlock births has increased 673%, from 5% to 41%.⁸⁶

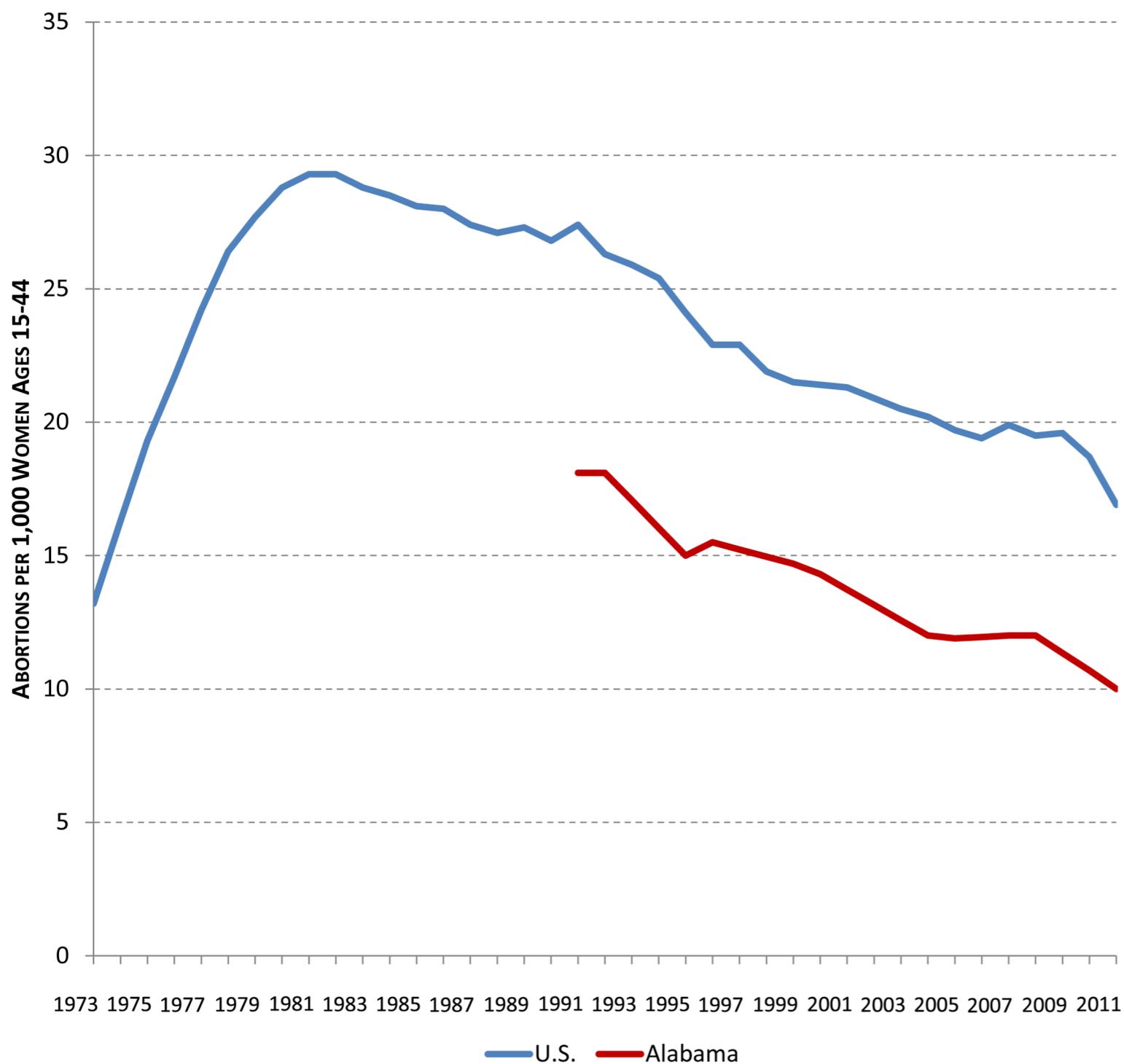
Over the past 50 years, 863,000 children in Alabama and more than 48 million children nationwide have been born to an unmarried mother.⁸⁸

In 1960, 2% of births to white mothers in Alabama were out of wedlock. That number rose to 28% in 2012, an eleven-fold increase (1,171%).⁸⁹ By comparison, the percentage of births to unwed, non-white women has leveled out after growing for more than 30 years. In 2012, 71% of all children born in Alabama to non-white mothers were born out of wedlock, compared to 28% in 1960, a 153% increase.⁹⁰

While the problem of unwed parents is usually discussed as it pertains to teenagers, adult out-of-wedlock births in Alabama are increasing at a faster rate than teens. Since 2000, the percentage of out-of-wedlock births to mothers ages 15-19 has increased from 71% of all births to 83% in 2012. By comparison, the percentages of out-of-wedlock births to mothers between the ages of 20-24 has increased from 45% in 2000 to 60% in 2012; and the percentage for women ages 25-29 increased from 12% in 2000 to 22% in 2012.⁹¹



Abortion Rates



Half of the pregnancies among American women are unintended, and about four in 10 of these are terminated by abortion. From 1973 to 2011, nearly 53 million legal abortions were performed in America. Forty-five percent of all abortions since 1973 have been for women who were not married at the time of the procedure.⁹²

According to Alabama's Department of Public Health, there were 9,076 abortions performed in the state in 2012, or about one abortion for every 6.4 births. Fourteen percent of all abortions in Alabama were performed on teenagers.⁹³

In 2011—the most recent year for which national figures are available—Alabama ranked 33rd in the nation in abortions. The state's abortion rate (10 abortions per 1,000 women ages 15-44) was lower than the rates of Florida (23.7), Georgia (16.8), and Tennessee (13.1), but higher than that of Mississippi (3.7).⁹⁴



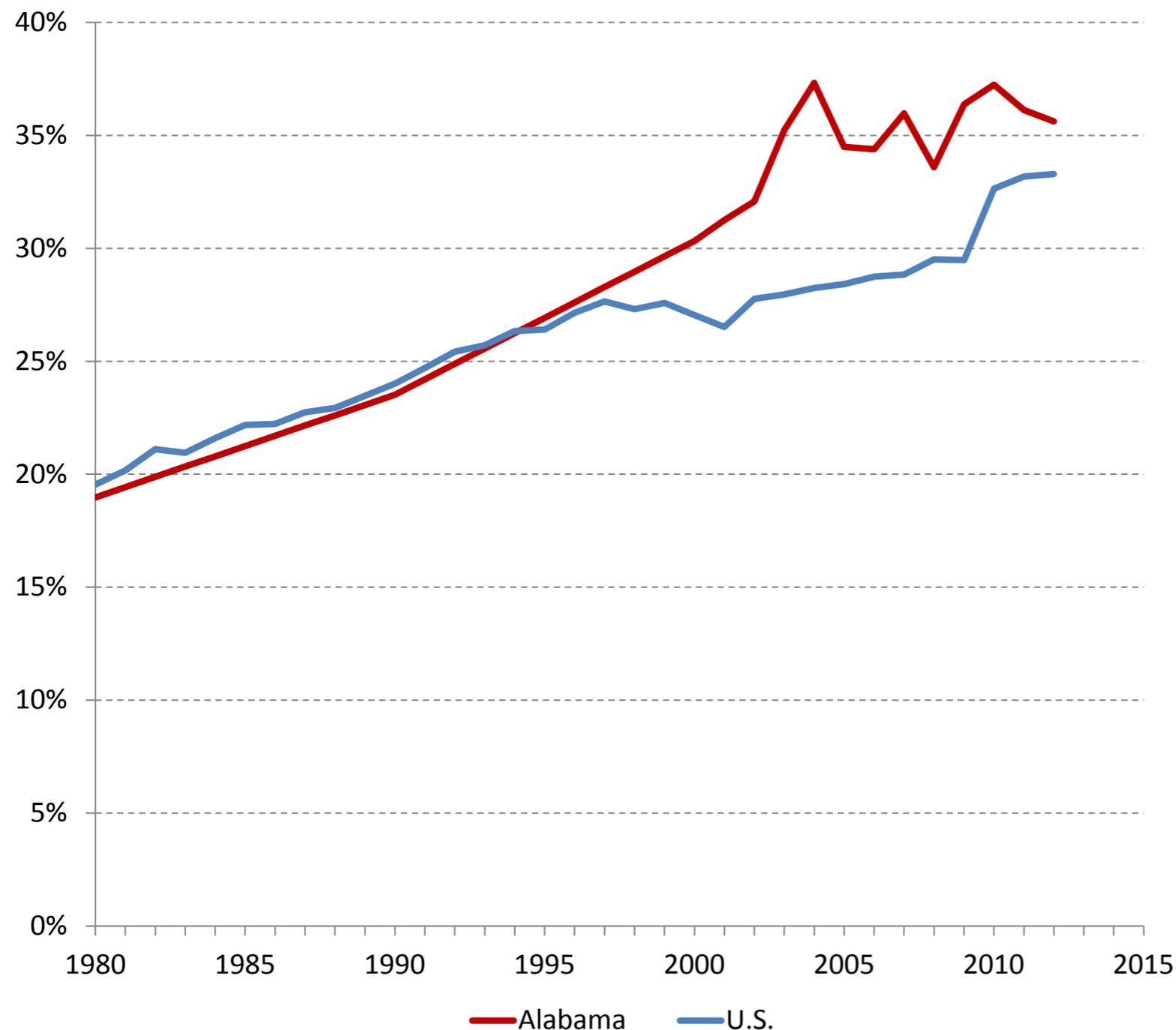
Nationally, an estimated 1.06 million abortions were performed in 2011, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a New York-based organization that gathers voluntary reports from abortion providers. The numbers of abortions performed in Alabama from 1986 to 1991 are estimates because it was not until 1992 that the state law required full reporting from the providers of abortion services.⁹⁵

More than 533,000 abortions have been performed in the state since the *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973.⁹⁶ This number is equal to almost half the population of the Birmingham-Hoover Metropolitan Statistical Area (1,140,300 in 2013).⁹⁷





Single-Parent Families



In 2012, 36% of all Alabama families with children under the age of 18 were single-parent homes, compared to about 33% nationwide.⁹⁸

Since 1980, the percentage of families headed by a single parent in Alabama and the nation as a whole has increased by 88% and 70%, respectively.⁹⁹

National data from the 1960 census shows the extent to which family composition has changed: 91% of all families with children were married couples, 8% were single-parent, female-headed households, and 1% were male-headed, single-parent households. By 2012, only 67% of American families with children were married couples, 25% were headed by a single, female parent, and 8% were single-parent, male-headed households.¹⁰⁰

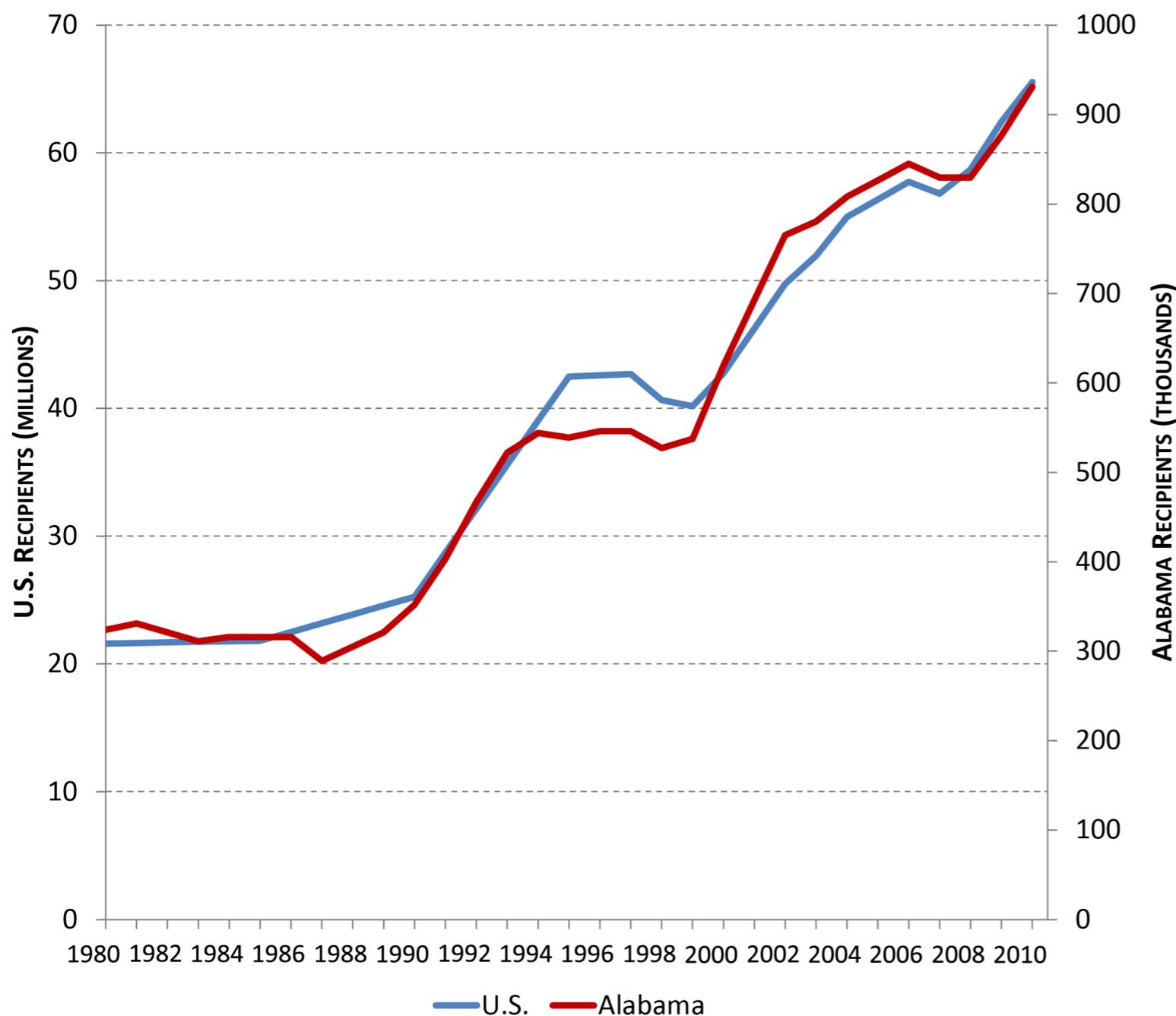


Chapter 5

Health



Medicaid



Begun in 1970, Medicaid pays for medical care and nursing home care for the poor. Since 1980, inflation-adjusted Medicaid spending in Alabama has increased 481% from \$759 million to \$4.4 billion in 2010. At the same time, the number of Medicaid recipients increased 187%, from 324,000 to almost 931,000.¹⁰¹

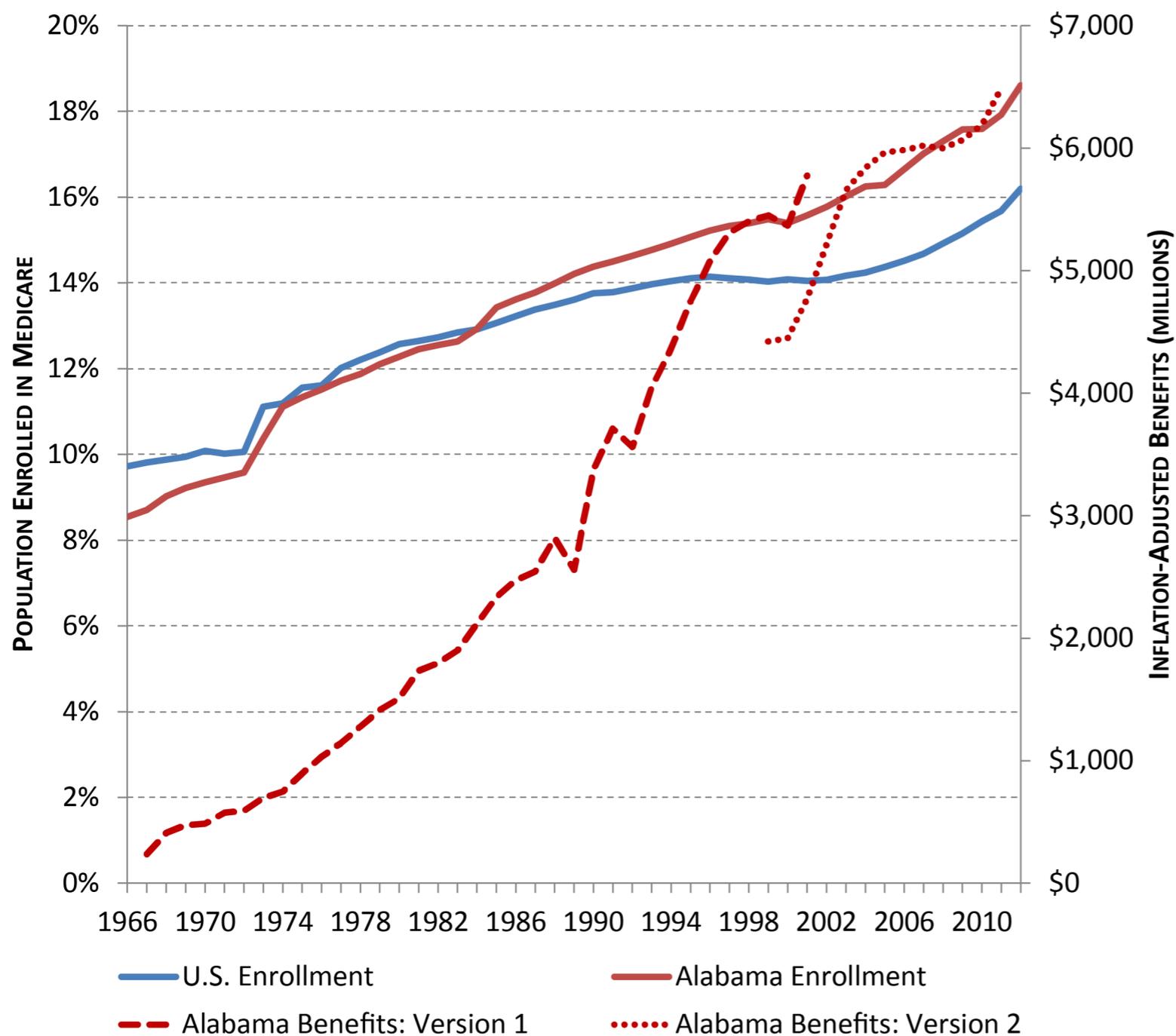
Much of the growth in Medicaid has been in the last 10 years. From 2000 to 2010, the number of recipients increased 50% in Alabama and 53% nationwide. At the same time, inflation-adjusted spending on Medicaid increased 34% in Alabama and 59% for the rest of the nation.¹⁰²

In 2010, approximately 65.5 million Americans received some level of Medicaid assistance, the total, inflation-adjusted cost of which was approximately \$369.6 billion.

Of this amount, \$49 billion was spent on nursing home care, \$38 billion was spent on inpatient hospital expenses, and \$26 billion was spent on prescription drugs.¹⁰³



Medicare



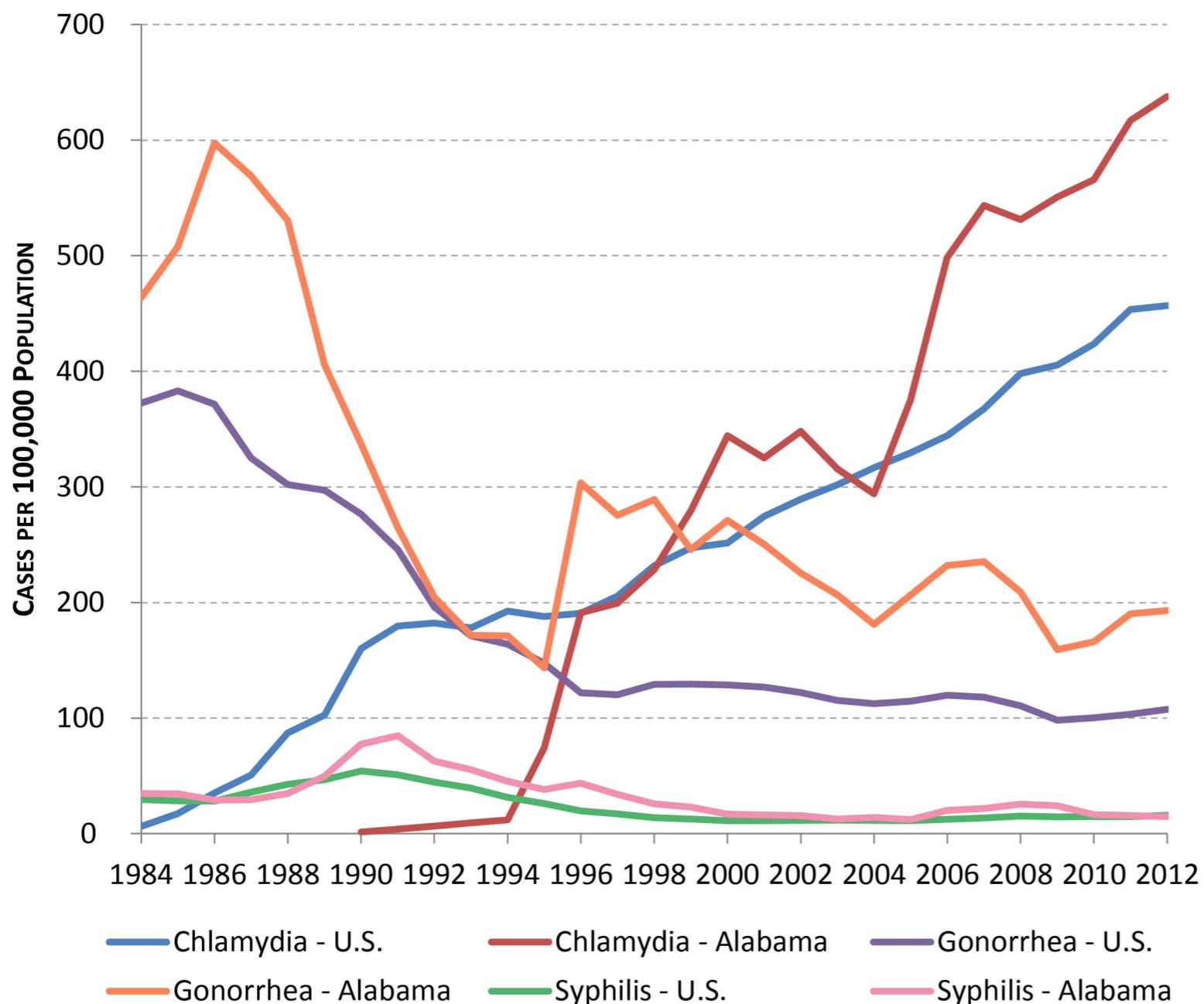
Medicare was established in 1965 as a means of establishing a health insurance program for aged persons to complement the retirement, survivors, and disability insurance benefits under Title II of the Social Security Act. When it was implemented in 1966, Medicare covered most persons aged 65 or older. Since then, it has expanded to include persons entitled to Social Security or Railroad Retirement disability cash benefits, most persons with end-stage renal disease, and those with Lou Gehrig's disease.¹⁰⁴

Since 1966, enrollment in Medicare in Alabama has risen from 9% of the state's population (285,000) to almost 19% (896,000) in 2012, an increase of 118%.¹⁰⁵ Nationally, enrollment has risen from 10% to 16%, an increase of 67%.¹⁰⁶

In 1999, the Social Security Administration changed the way in which it reported data on recipients of its medical care programs, making some comparisons between earlier and later data impossible. Nevertheless, national data show that Medicare payments have rapidly increased. Since 1967, the national amount of Medicare payments has risen from an inflation-adjusted \$30 billion in 1967 to almost \$358 billion in 2012, a more than ten-fold increase (1,085%).¹⁰⁷



Sexually Transmitted Diseases



In women, chlamydial infections, which usually have no symptoms, may result in damage to a woman's reproductive organs, including pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)—a major cause of infertility—ectopic pregnancy, and chronic pelvic pain.¹⁰⁸

Since 1990, Alabama's chlamydia infection rate has increased from almost none to 638 per 100,000 population in 2012, while the national rate has increased 185%, from 160 per 100,000 population to 457.¹⁰⁹

One of the reasons for these large increases appears to be because of improvements in screening techniques.¹¹⁰ In 2012, Alabama had the third highest rate of reported cases of chlamydia in the nation.¹¹¹

While chlamydia has become the new leader in sexually transmitted diseases in both Alabama and the United States, gonorrhea and syphilis are on the decline. As with chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis produce PID, abdominal pain, and ectopic pregnancies.¹¹²



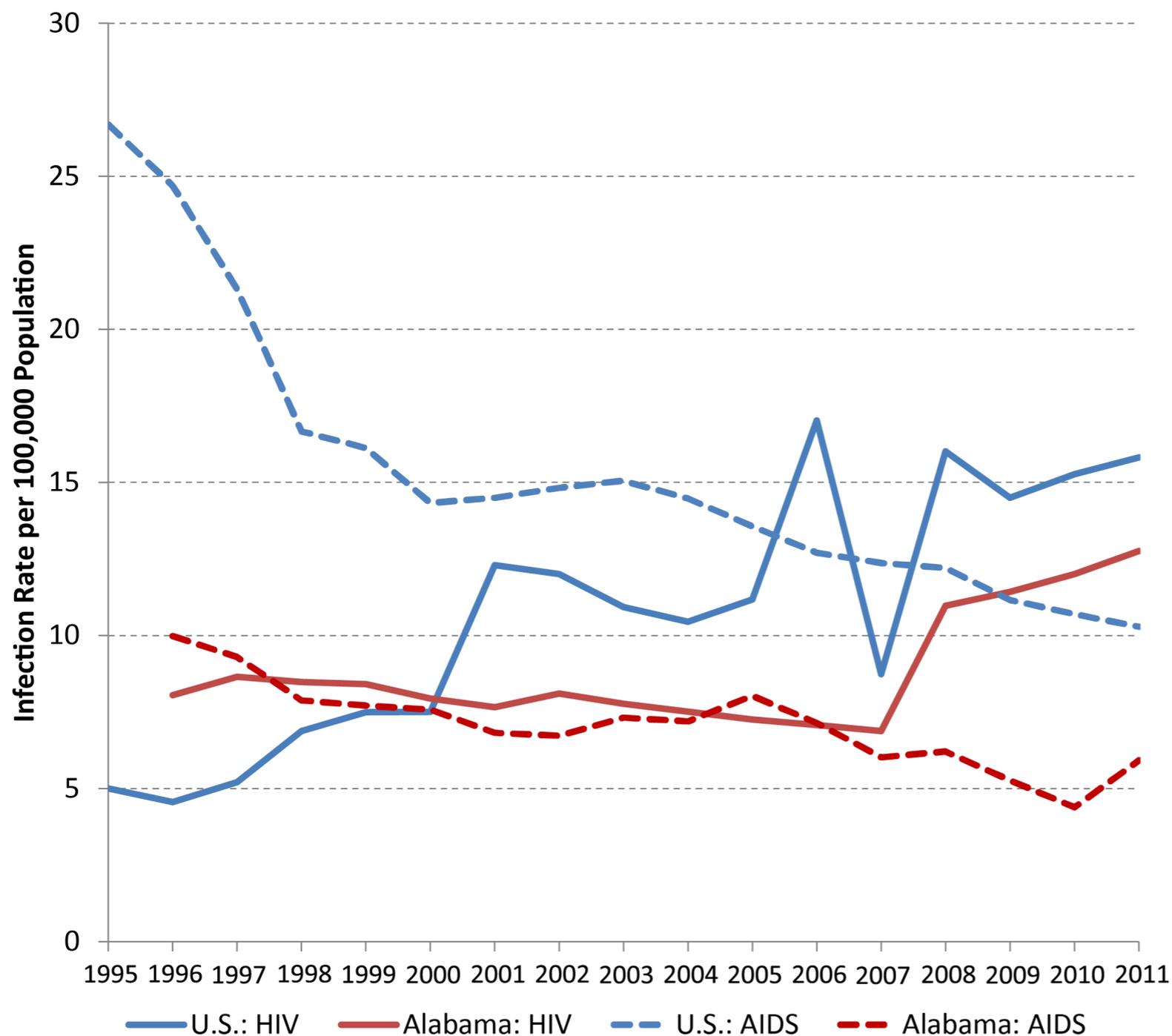
Since 1984, the gonorrhea infection rate in Alabama and the United States has decreased by 58% and 71%, respectively.¹¹³ In 2012, Alabama had the third highest rate of reported cases of gonorrhea in the nation (193 per 100,000 population).¹¹⁴

Syphilis is a bacterial infection that is particularly dangerous to unborn children. If untreated, many children of mothers with syphilis are stillborn or die shortly after birth.¹¹⁵ The reported rate of cases of syphilis has fallen by 58% in Alabama and by 46% nationwide since 1984. In 2012, Alabama had the 14th highest rate of reported cases of syphilis in the nation (14.7 per 100,000 population).¹¹⁶





HIV/AIDS



Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection (HIV) is a disease of the immune system. While the disease can be managed through antiretroviral therapy, which can help patients achieve near-normal life expectancies, there is no cure for HIV. If left untreated, about half of all persons with HIV eventually develop Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) within 10 years of infection.

In 2011, there were 49,273 diagnoses of HIV infection in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Of these, 843 were reported in Alabama.¹¹⁸

The rate of HIV infection in 2011 was 17.6 diagnoses per 100,000 population nationally and 17.6 in Alabama, giving the state the 12th highest infection rate in the nation. Since 1996, the HIV infection rate has increased 247% nationwide and only 58% in Alabama.¹¹⁹



In 2011, the most common age for new diagnoses of AIDS was 20-24 years old (36.4 per 100,000 population), followed by 25-29 year olds (35.2).¹²⁰

At the end of 2010, there were 870,096 persons living with HIV in the United States. Of these, 11,539 lived in Alabama.

Nationwide, the plurality of those living with HIV are black (43%), followed by whites (34%) and Hispanics (19%).¹²¹

Among males, most came into contact with HIV via male-to-male sexual contact (78%), injection drug use (6%), or both (4%). For females, the primary sources of contact were heterosexual contact (86%) and injection drug use (14%).¹²²

The reason for the increase in AIDS rates in 1993 is because the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revised its AIDS surveillance case definition to include adolescents and adults with low CD4 (T-cell) counts, but no manifestation of any signs of illness.¹²³



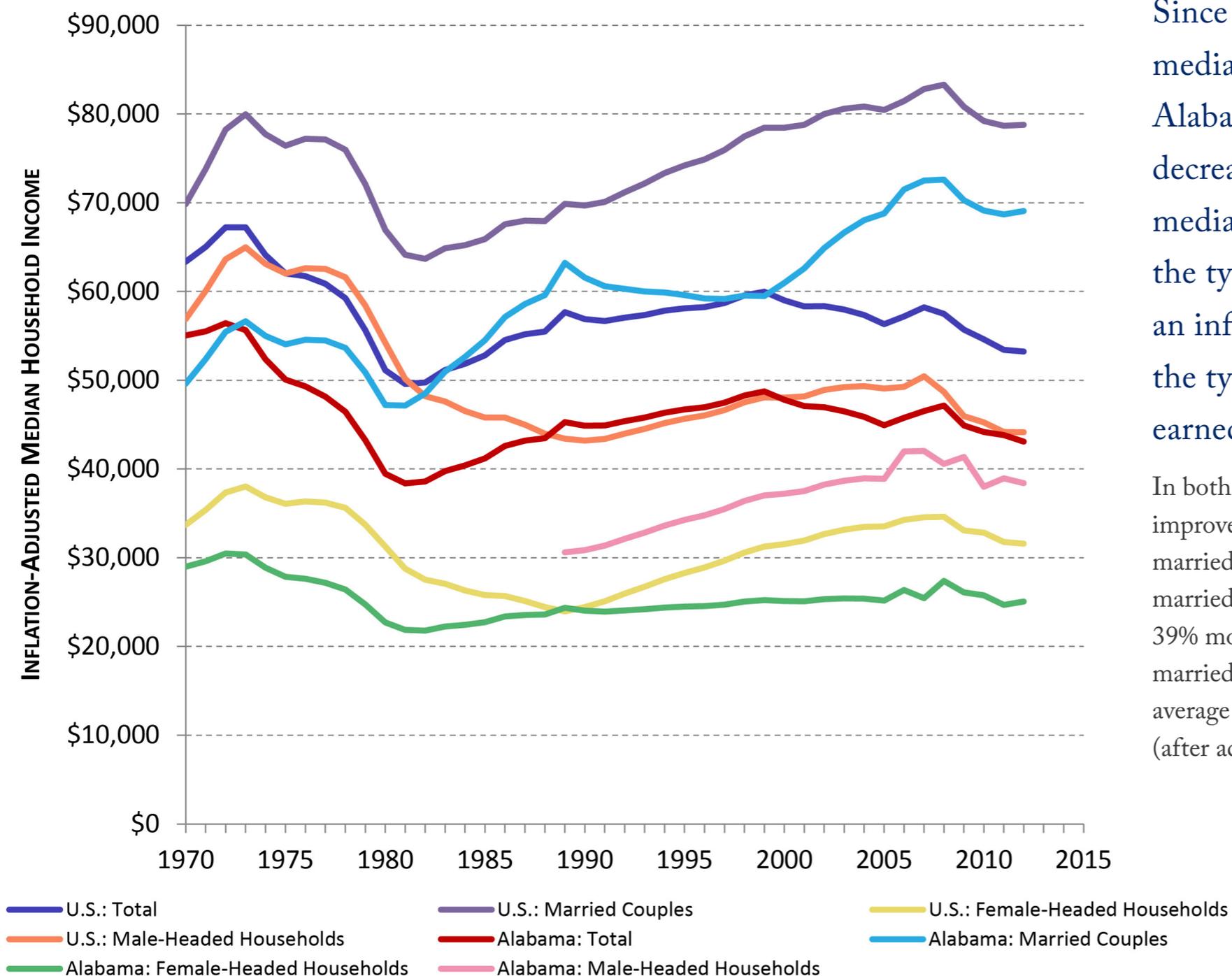


Chapter 6

Poverty & Welfare



Median Household Income



Since 1970, the inflation-adjusted, median household income for Alabama residents has actually decreased 22%, while the national median has decreased 16%. In 2012, the typical Alabama household earned an inflation-adjusted \$43,078, while the typical American household earned \$53,229.¹²⁴

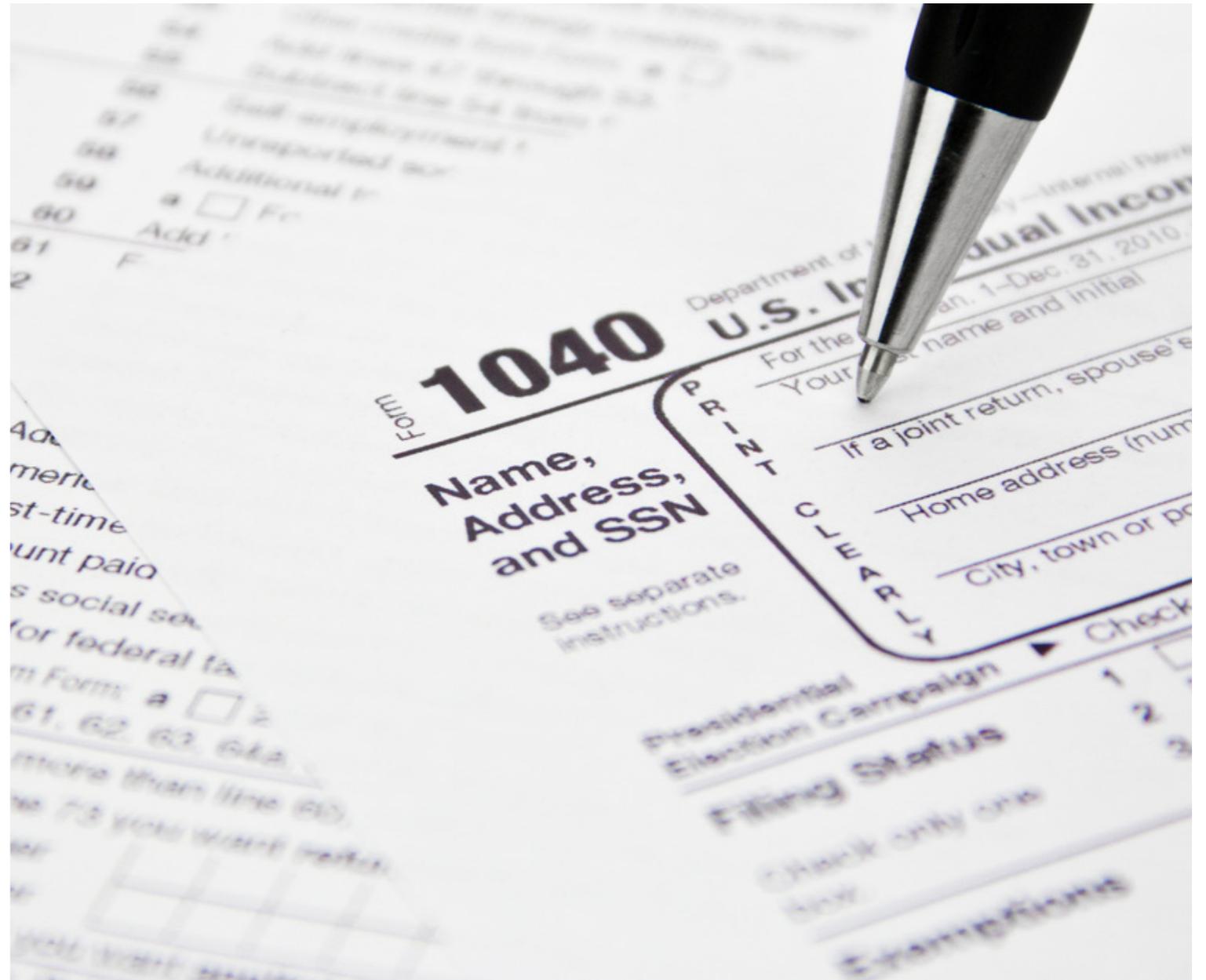
In both Alabama and the nation as a whole, improvements in earnings were greatest among married-couple families. In 2012, the average married-couple family in Alabama earned \$69,052, 39% more than in 1970. By comparison, American married-couple families nationwide earned an average of \$78,786, about 13% more than in 1970 (after adjusting for inflation).¹²⁵



In general, the gap between Alabama's median household income and that of the nation as a whole has widened since 1970, from an inflation-adjusted 15% in 1970 (\$8,314) to almost 24% (\$10,151) in 2012.

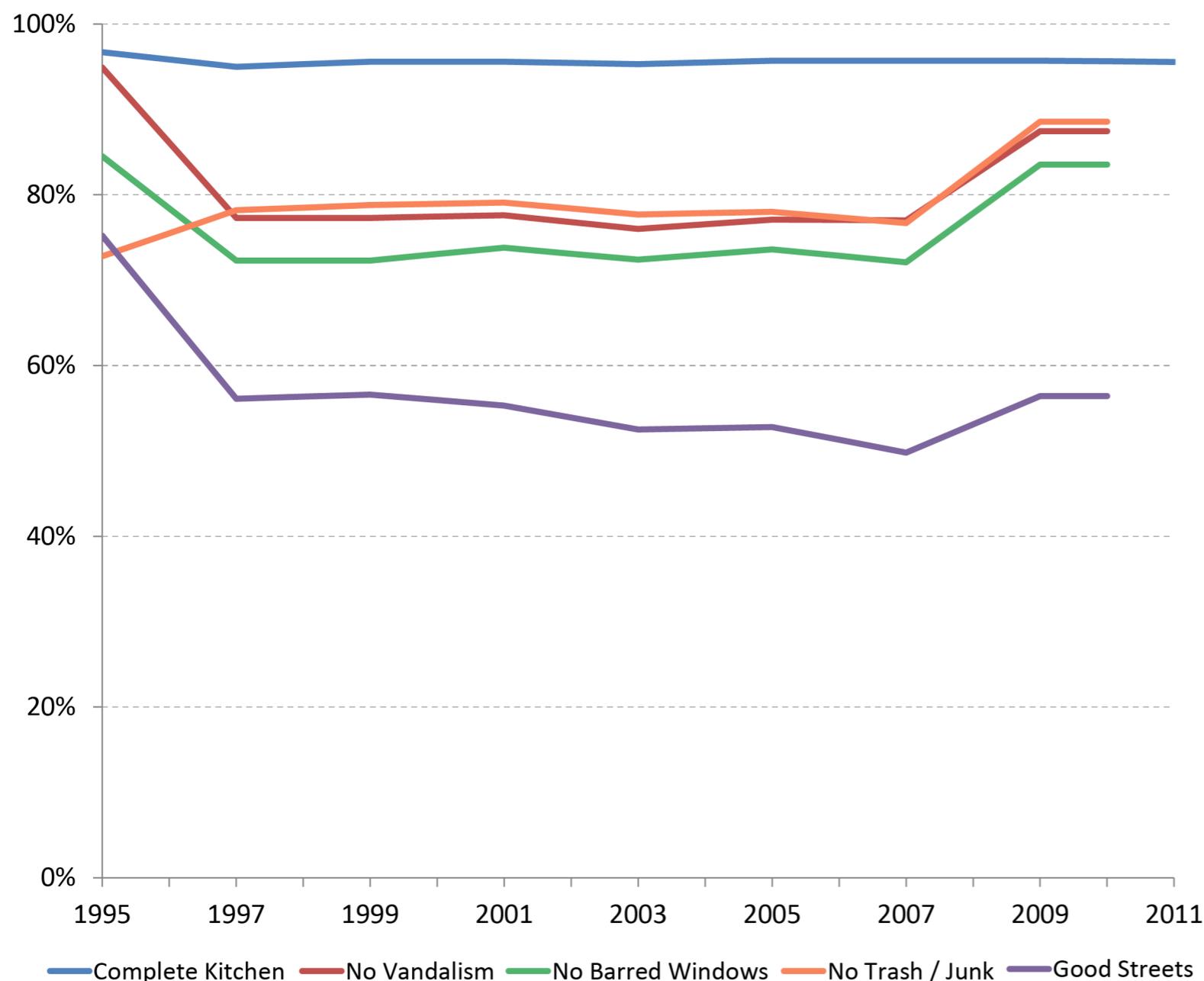
Married-couple families in Alabama, however, have narrowed the gap from 41% (a gap of \$20,222 in 1970) to 14% in 2012 (\$9,734). Male-headed households in Alabama have had similar success, reducing the gap from 42% in 1989—the first year state-specific data is available—to 15% in 2012.¹²⁶

On the other hand, female-headed households in both Alabama and the rest of the nation have become poorer over the past four decades. After adjusting for inflation, female-headed households in Alabama saw their earnings drop by 13% between 1970 and 2012, from \$28,600 to \$25,067. Nationwide, median female-headed household income fell 6%, from \$33,692 to \$31,589.¹²⁷





Adequate Housing



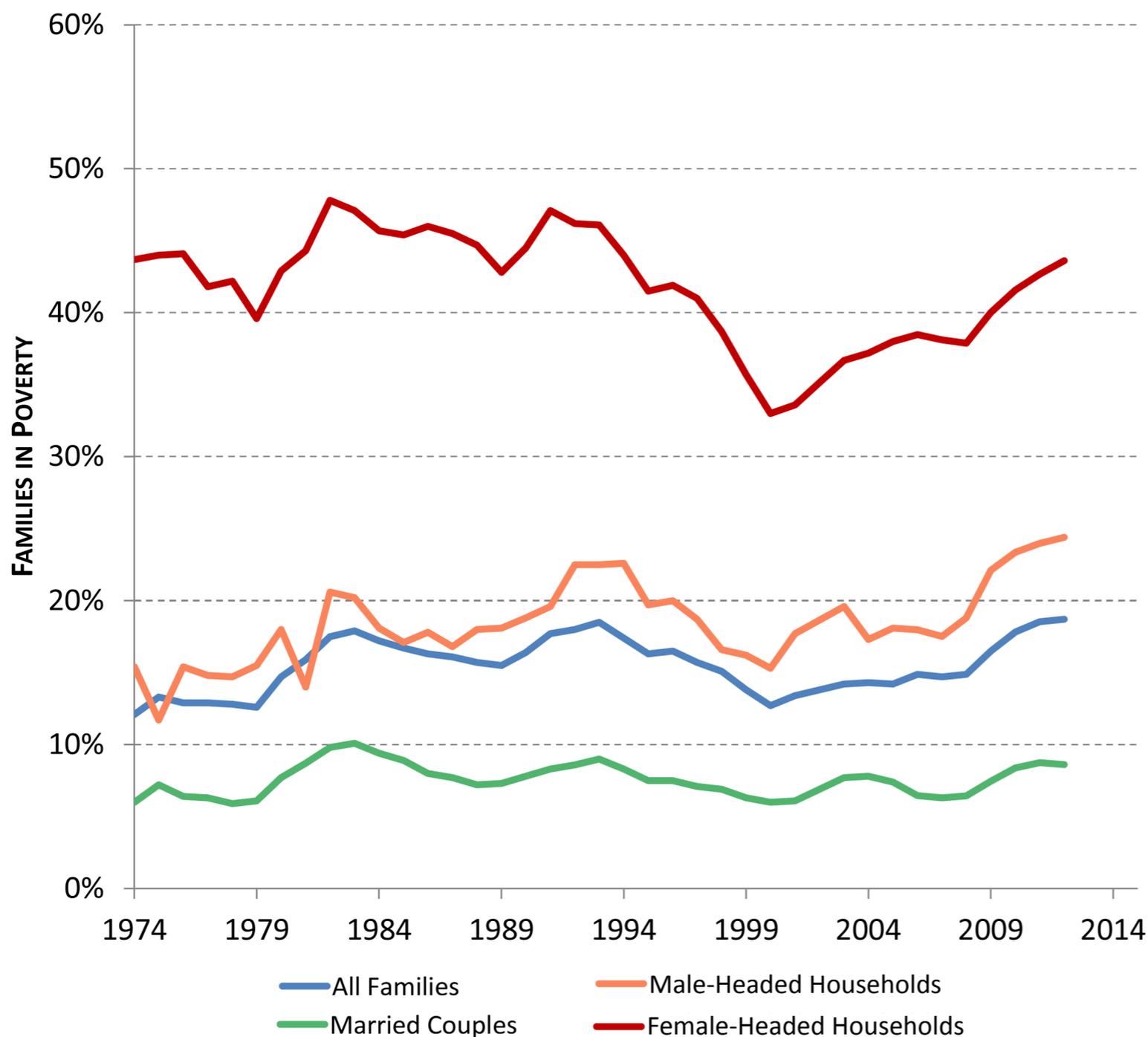
Every two years, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a survey of housing units across the country and in selected metropolitan areas.

According to the most recent national survey of housing in 2011, almost 96% of homes have a fully equipped kitchen (including a sink, refrigerator, and oven or burner), 93% have at least one working smoke detector, 42% have at least one working carbon monoxide detector, and 90% have a furnace, hot water or steam system, or built-in electric heat pump or heater.¹²⁸

Another way to measure the adequacy of housing is by rating the quality and safety of their surroundings. In 2009, more than 80% of all homes in the United States were not near vandalized buildings (87%), free of trash or junk on the streets (89%), or not near buildings with bars on their windows (83%). On the other hand, almost 40% noted that the streets near their home were in need of at least minor repairs.¹²⁹



Families in Poverty



The U.S. Census Bureau updates its estimates of poverty annually using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The Bureau's definition of poverty counts money income before taxes and does not include capital gains and non-cash benefits, such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps.¹³⁰

In 2012, about one in every 5.3 American households with children was in poverty. Since 1960, the percentage of families with children in poverty has fallen by 5% nationwide.¹³¹

Since 1974—the first year detailed figures are available for married couples and male-headed households—the percentage of all families in poverty has risen by 55%, from 12% to about 19% in 2012. For married couples, the increase was large (43%), but less severe than the national average (55%). Married couples have the lowest percentage of poverty of all household types, making their jump from an already-low 6% in 1974 to almost 9% in 2012 appear larger than it actually is.¹³²



Male-headed households had a 58% increase in poverty from 1974 to 2012. While male-headed homes tend to earn more than those headed by a female, both single-parent household types are more susceptible to the risk of going from one income to no income than in homes where there are or could be dual earners.¹³³

The percentage of households headed by a single female declined by a fraction of a point (-0.2%).

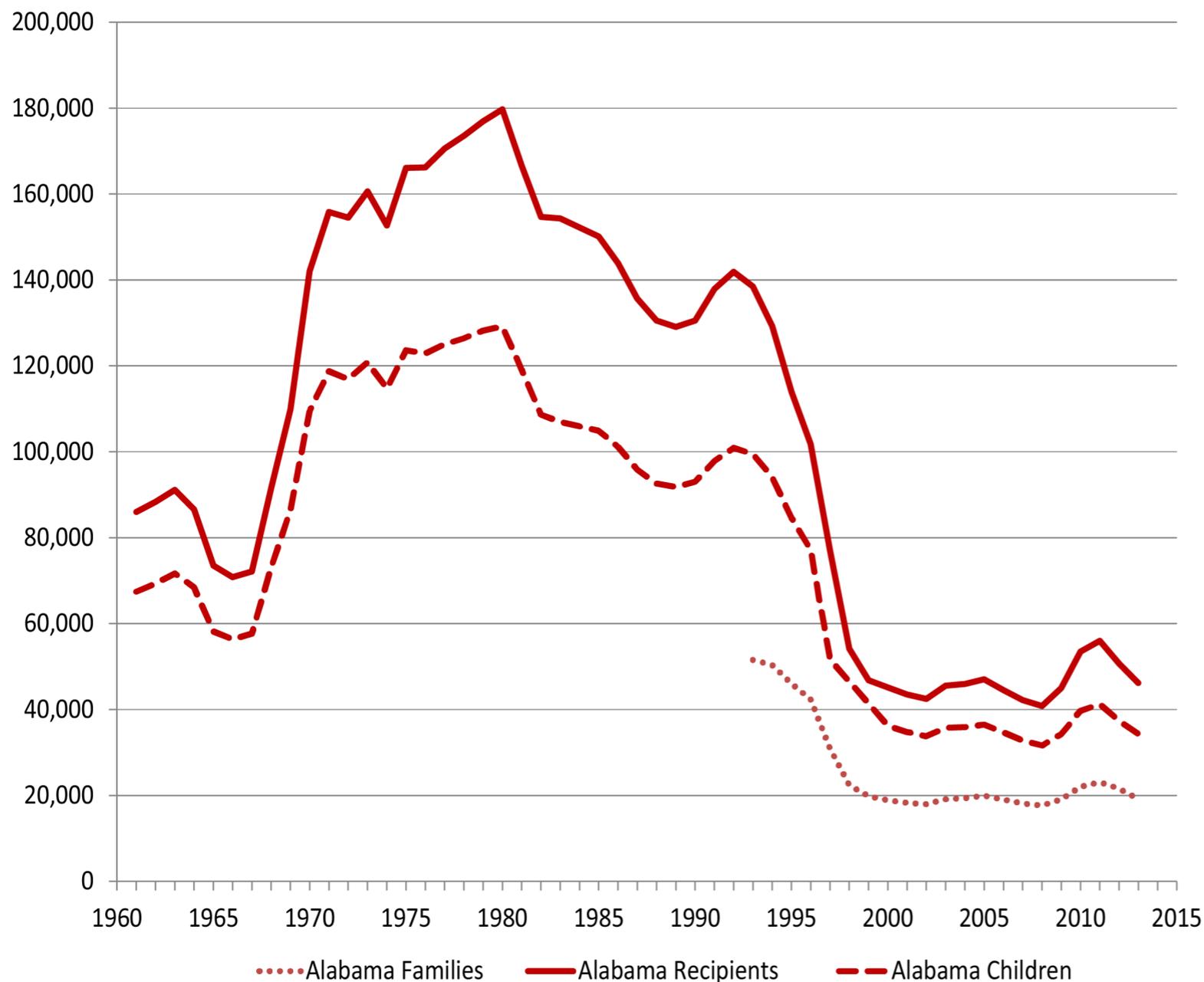
Female-headed households have traditionally been the most likely to be in poverty, with an average poverty rate of 42% since 1974.

Moreover, female-headed households had a poverty rate nine percentage points lower (33%) as recently as 2000 before returning to its steady climb.¹³⁴





AFDC/TANF Recipients



Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) was a cash assistance program primarily intended for women with children in their household. In most circumstances, if recipients married, they would lose their benefits. Created in 1935 and originally called Aid to Dependent Children, this program was originally created under the New Deal to assist widows (or wives of disabled men) and their children. It was a federal-state program, in which the Federal government generally paid about 80% of the cost for state recipients.¹³⁵

With the advent of the Welfare Reform Act in 1996, AFDC was replaced with TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families), which gives states the flexibility to structure the program as they see fit.¹³⁶

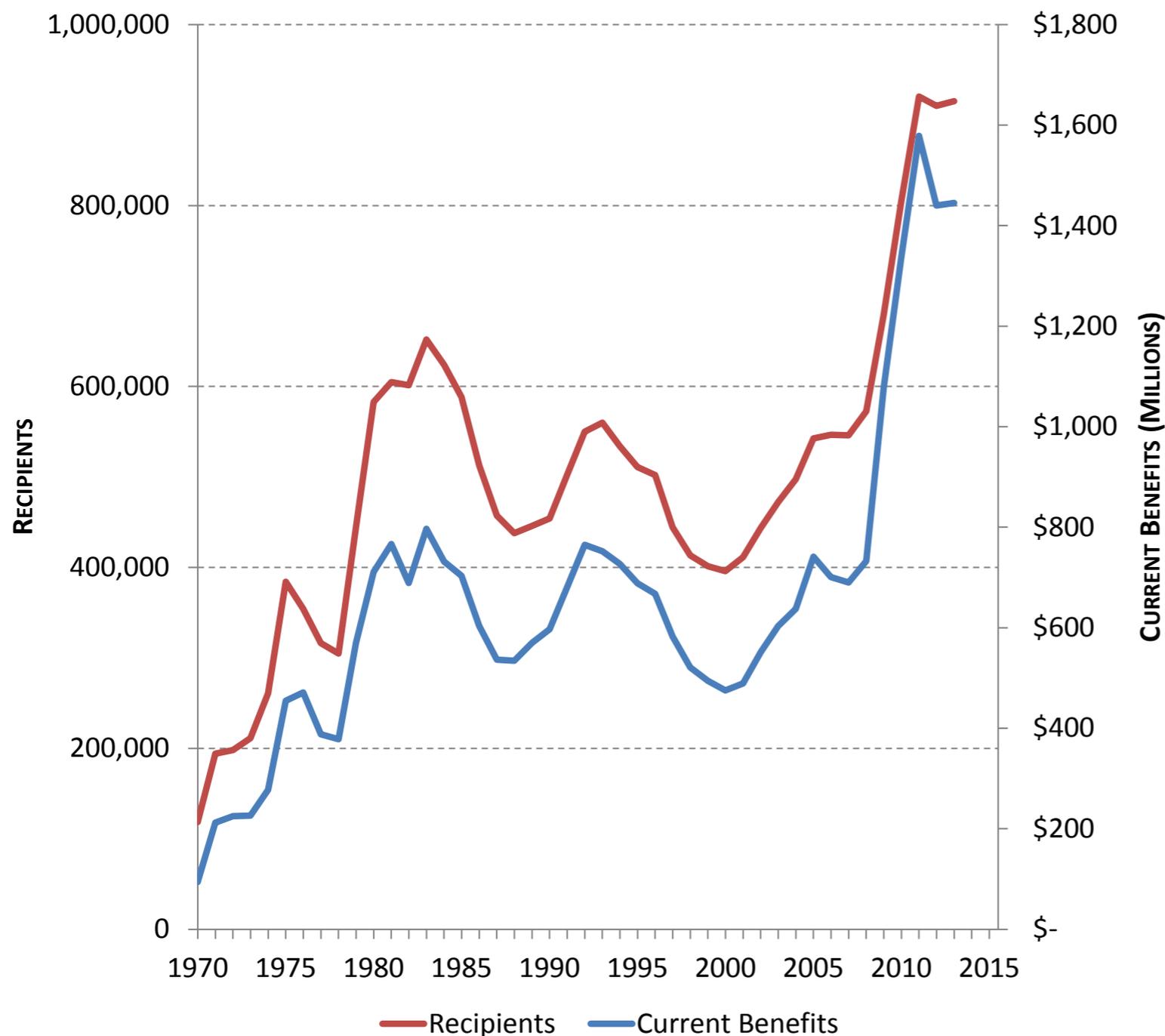
After peaking in 1980, the total number of individual recipients and children receiving benefits in Alabama dropped 74% and 73%, respectively.¹³⁷

Nationally, there were about 3.8 million TANF recipients in 2013. This is 73% lower than the 14.2 million individuals on AFDC in 1993.¹³⁸

Prior to 1993, the number of families receiving AFDC was not published on a state-to-state level. Since then, the number of families, individual recipients, and children on TANF in Alabama has dropped by 63%, 67%, and 65%, respectively.¹³⁹



Food Stamps



The current food stamp program began as a pilot program in 1961; was made a permanent program (operated at states' option) in 1964; and a mandatory program for all states in 1974.

Since 1970, the inflation-adjusted cost of the program in Alabama and the nation as a whole has increased 1,400% and 2,200%, respectively.¹⁴⁰

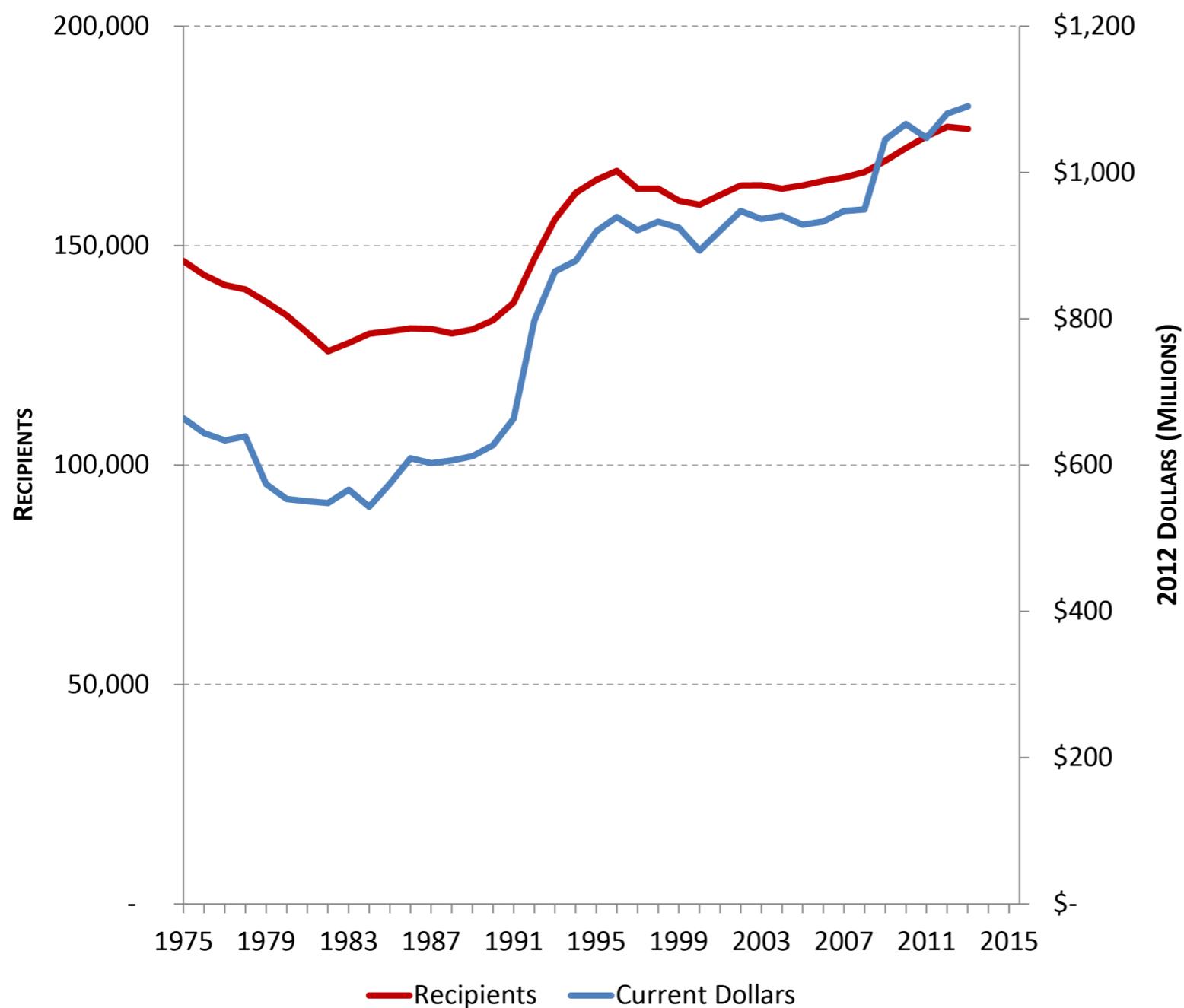
In fiscal year 2013, 47.6 million Americans received food stamps, at a cost of more than \$76 billion. Of these, 915,000 were Alabama residents, at a cost of \$1.4 billion. Since 1970, the number of program participants in Alabama has increased 674%, while national participation has increased 821%.¹⁴²

The number of food stamp recipients in Alabama decreased substantially at two points: between 1983 and 1988, and between 1993 and 2000. Since 2000, the number of participants has more than doubled, from 396,000 to 915,000 in 2013, when about one in every five Alabamians received some support from food stamps.¹⁴³

Between 2000 and 2013, the number of program participants nationwide has increased 177%, from 17.2 million in 2000 to 47.6 million in 2013.¹⁴⁴ The number of Americans on food stamps has increased during this thirteen-year period from one in 16 to about one in seven.¹⁴⁵



SSI Benefits



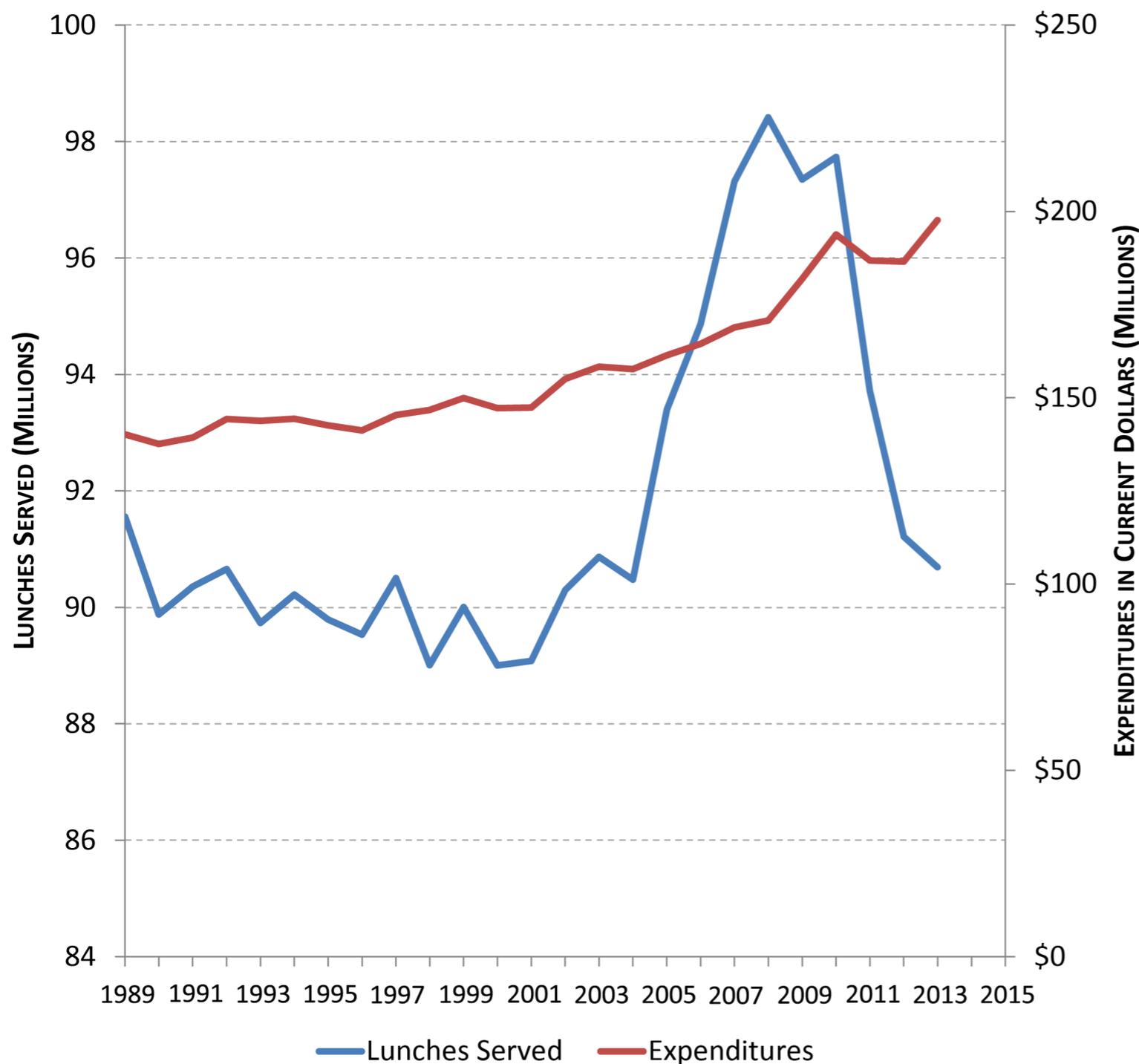
The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides payments to the aged, blind, and disabled who are poor. Prior to its implementation as a federal program in the mid-1970s, individual states operated programs to assist people in these categories.¹⁴⁶

During the last 30 years, SSI has changed from mainly serving elderly individuals to being a disability program. In 2012, the largest categories of SSI payments in Alabama were to persons claiming blindness or disability (166,172; 94%).¹⁴⁷

Since 1975, the inflation-adjusted total of SSI payments Alabama residents has increased 613%. In 2013, payments to the 176,000 recipients of SSI in Alabama totaled about \$1.1 billion.¹⁴⁸



School Lunches



The National School Lunch Program began as a Depression-era program to provide surplus agricultural commodities to schools with needy children. In 1946, it was made a permanent federal program, and in 1962, funds were authorized for free and reduced price meals.¹⁴⁹

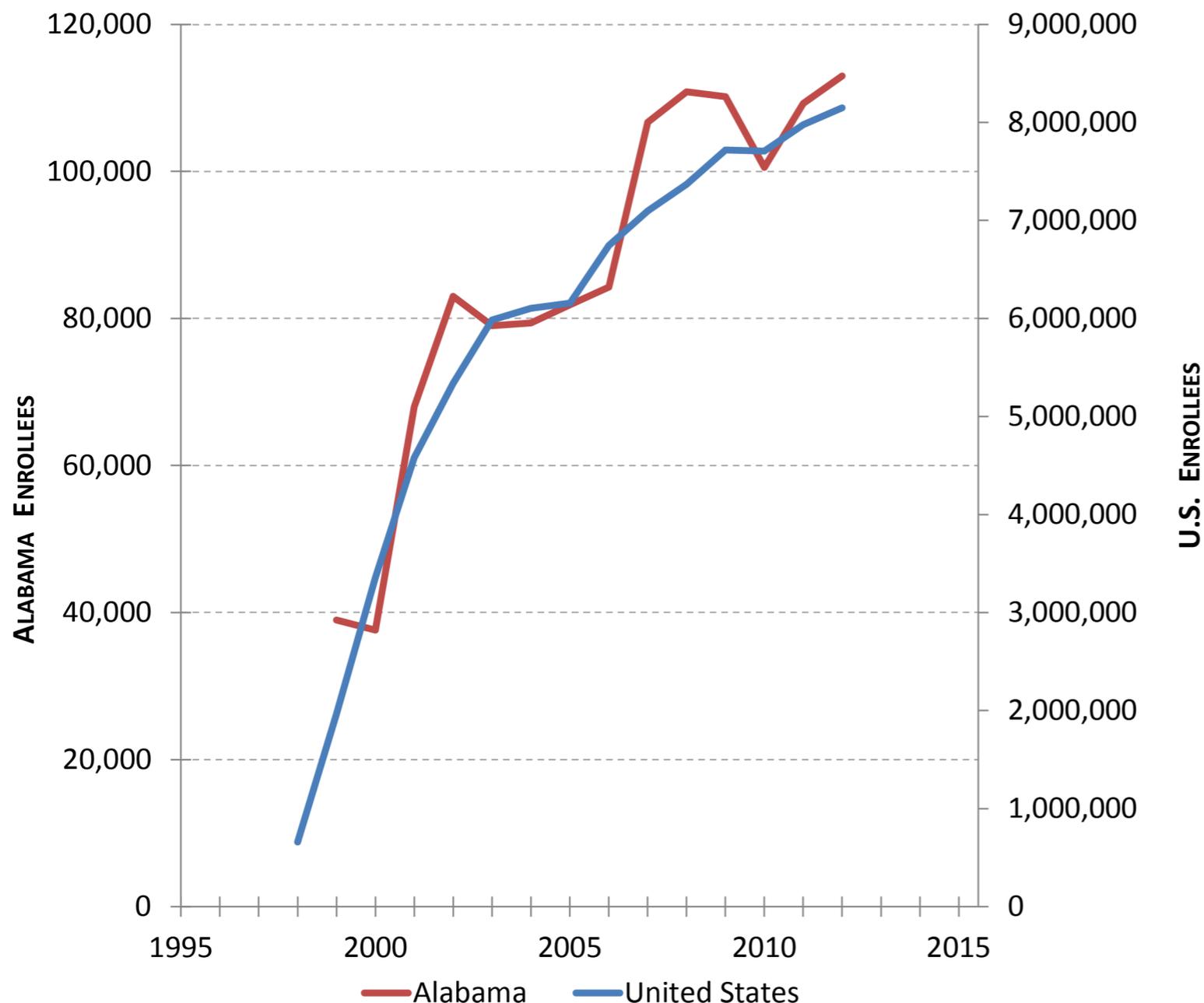
During the 2013 school year, approximately 539,000 Alabama public school students qualified for almost 91 million free and reduced-priced meals. Nationally, almost 5.1 billion meals were served during the same school year.¹⁵⁰

Since 1989, the number of meals served in Alabama has decreased by about 1%, while increasing about 27% nationally.¹⁵¹

For the 2013 school year, estimates of the total cost of the school lunch program in Alabama are \$198 million and \$11 billion nationwide. Since 1989, the total, inflation-adjusted amount spent on school lunches in Alabama and nationwide has increased 41% and 94%.¹⁵²



SCHIP Benefits



The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), also known as the Children's Health Insurance Program or (CHIP), is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide matching funds to help provide health insurance to families with children. It was created in 1997 to assist children in families with incomes that are low, but too high to qualify for Medicaid.¹⁵³

In 2012, approximately 113,000 children in Alabama were enrolled in SCHIP, compared to more than 8.1 million nationwide.¹⁵⁴ The total (inflation-adjusted) cost of SCHIP in Alabama was \$201 million, compared to \$8.6 billion for the nation as a whole.¹⁵⁵

Since 1999—the earliest year data is available for both Alabama and the nation—SCHIP enrollment in Alabama rose 158%. Nationally, enrollment rose 143%, from almost 2 million to more than 8.1 million in 2012.¹⁵⁶

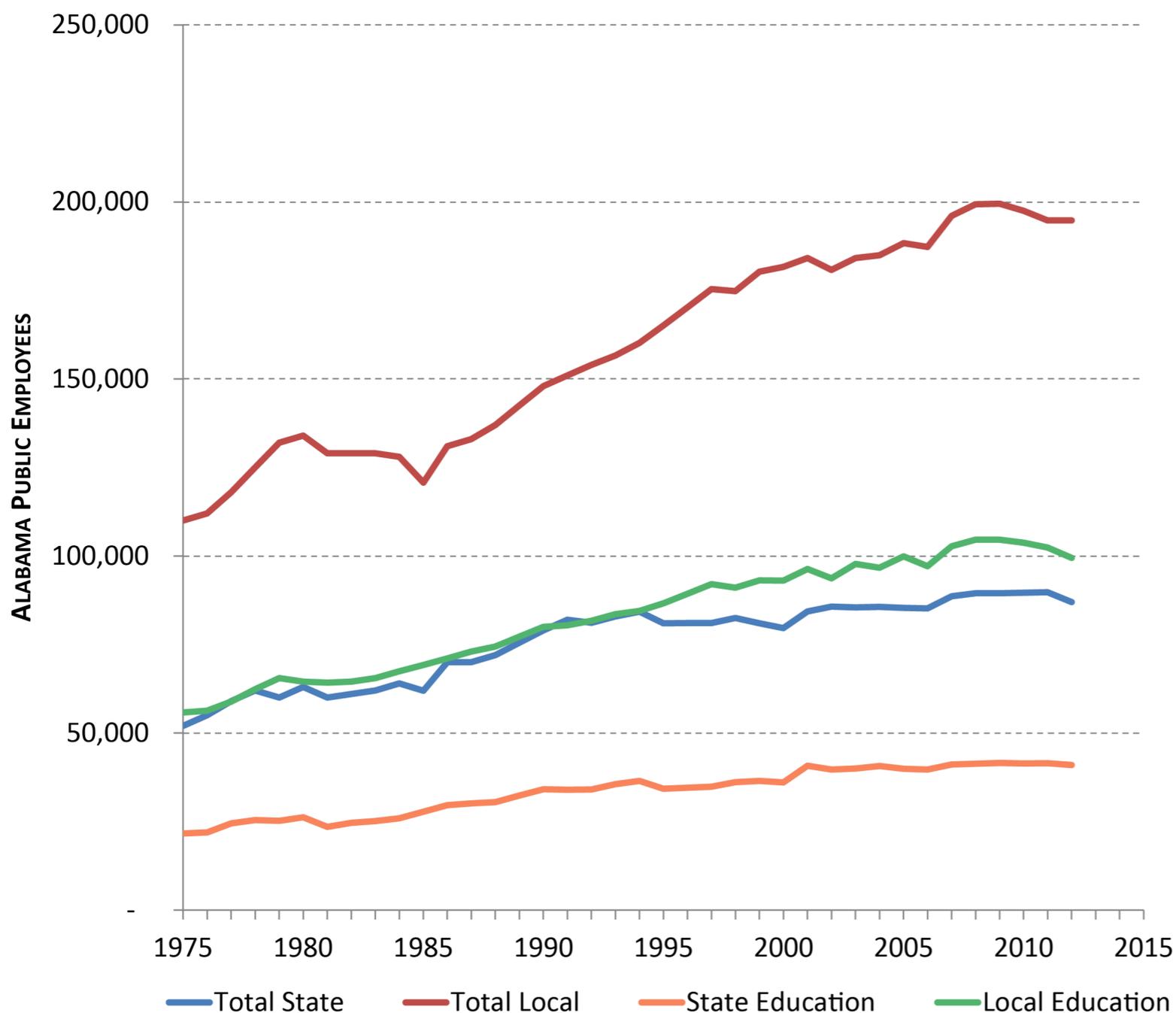


Chapter 7

Business & Government



State & Local Employees

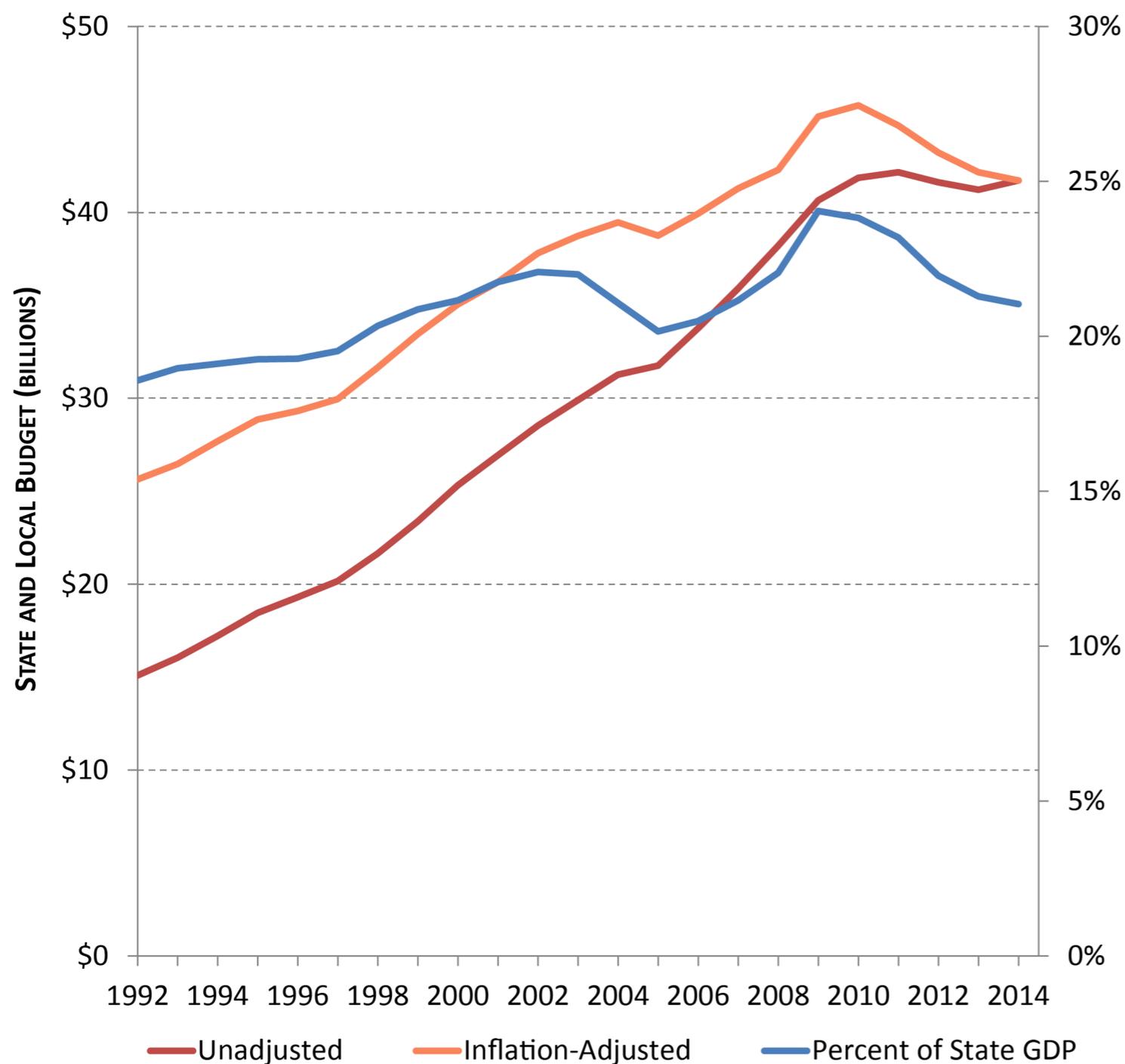


Since 1975, Alabama's population has increased by about 31%. At the same time, the number of state and local government employees has increased by 67% and 77%, respectively.¹⁵⁷

In 2012, Alabama had a total of 281,798 state and local government workers. Of these, 86,976 were state and 194,822 were local. Local government employees include teachers and other public education employees.¹⁵⁸



State Budget



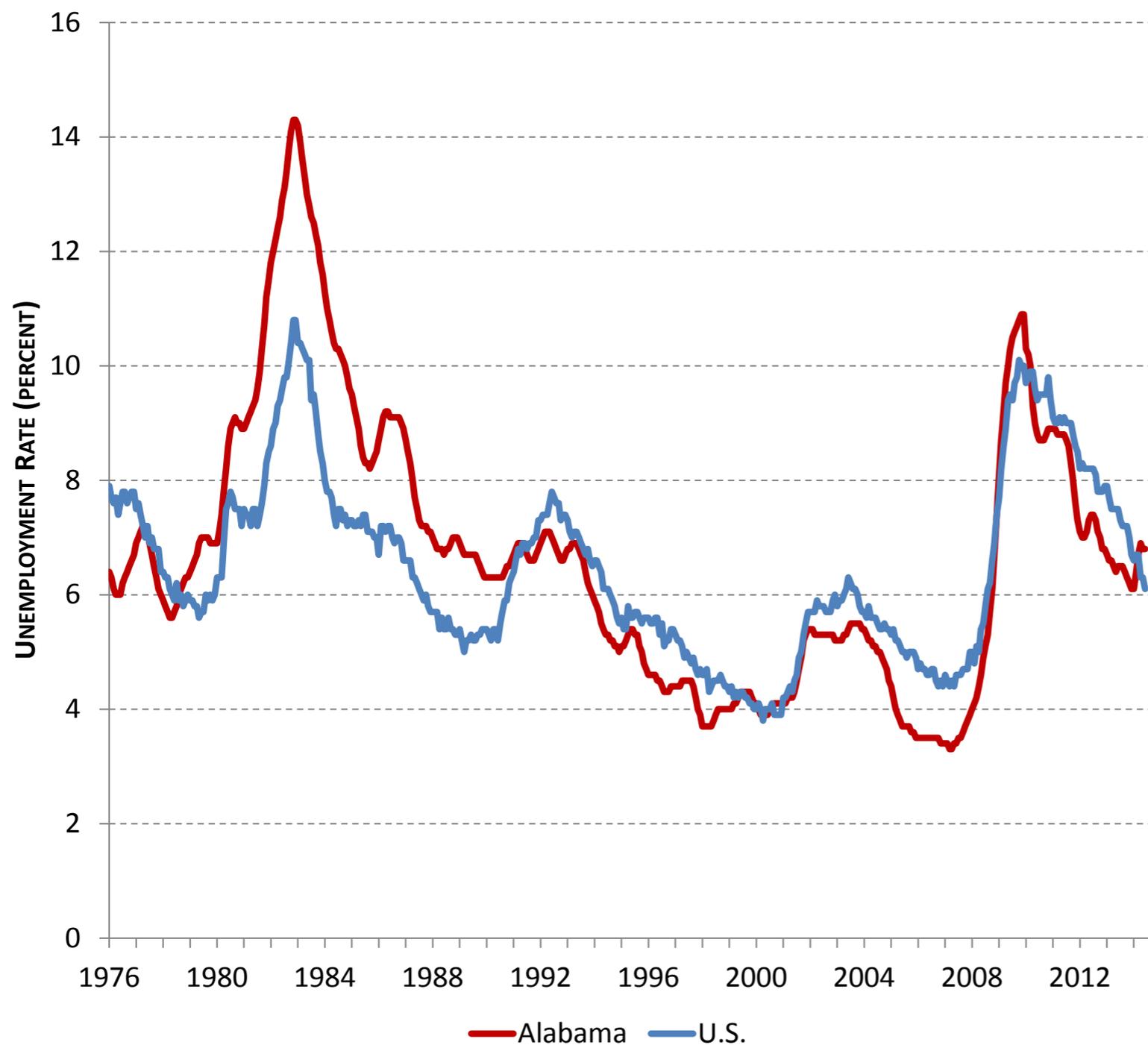
In fiscal year 2014, Alabama's combined state and local expenditures totaled \$41.7 billion, up \$26.7 since 1992 (\$20.1 billion in inflation-adjusted dollars). Since 1992, Alabama's total state and local expenditures have increased 177% (78% after adjusting for inflation).¹⁵⁹

In 1992, Alabama's combined state and local budget of \$15.1 billion equaled about 19% of the state's gross domestic product (GDP) of \$81.3 billion. By 2013, the estimated budget of \$41.7 billion was 21% of the state's GDP of \$198 billion.¹⁶⁰

In 2014, the three largest components of Alabama's state and local budgets were education (31%), health care (28%), and pensions (8%).¹⁶¹



Unemployment



Since 1976, the unemployment rates for the United States and Alabama have closely mirrored each other. As of June 2014, preliminary data showed Alabama with an unemployment rate of 6.8%, 0.7 percentage points higher than the national average of 6.1%.¹⁶²

Since April 2007—when Alabama’s employment rate was 3.3%—the rate has climbed 106% at the state level and 36% at the national level.¹⁶³

Between July 2013 and July 2014, preliminary data show that Alabama lost 12,500 total non-farm jobs, for a total of 1.99 million jobs.¹⁶⁴ The sectors with the greatest gains were mining and logging (3.4%), leisure and hospitality (2.6%), and education and health services (2.6%), while the largest loss was in government (-1.9%).¹⁶⁵

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