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For: Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education





Getting Ready for School • Children, Families, Schools, Communities Arkansas Map Data

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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
Human Services
Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education





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PREFACE

With the increased awareness that children need to start school healthy and ready to learn, we continue to track the School Readiness Indicators that were developed in 2003 by the Arkansas School Readiness Initiative Team. As part of a 17 state initiative, these indicators were identified in order to change policies so we may have ready children, families, schools, and communities. The National School Readiness Indicators Initiative was sponsored by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, and the Ford Foundation.

Arkansas' School Readiness Indicators are continually collected and updated. The regular tracking of these indicators enables policymakers and community leaders to identify areas most in need of intervention, track the results of investments, and monitor trends over time. This year the data are presented in thematic map format by county and school district.

These data provide reliable measures with which the state's families, legislative leaders, educators, and communities may continue to track and pursue strategies that will move us toward the goal of Getting Ready for School.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Other staff members at the Institute for Economic Advancement who contributed time, effort, and skills to this report are: Mary McFarland, David Rasmussen, Neva Wayman, Inderpreet Singh Farmahan, Eric Van Doorn, and Susan Jackson, who designed the publication.

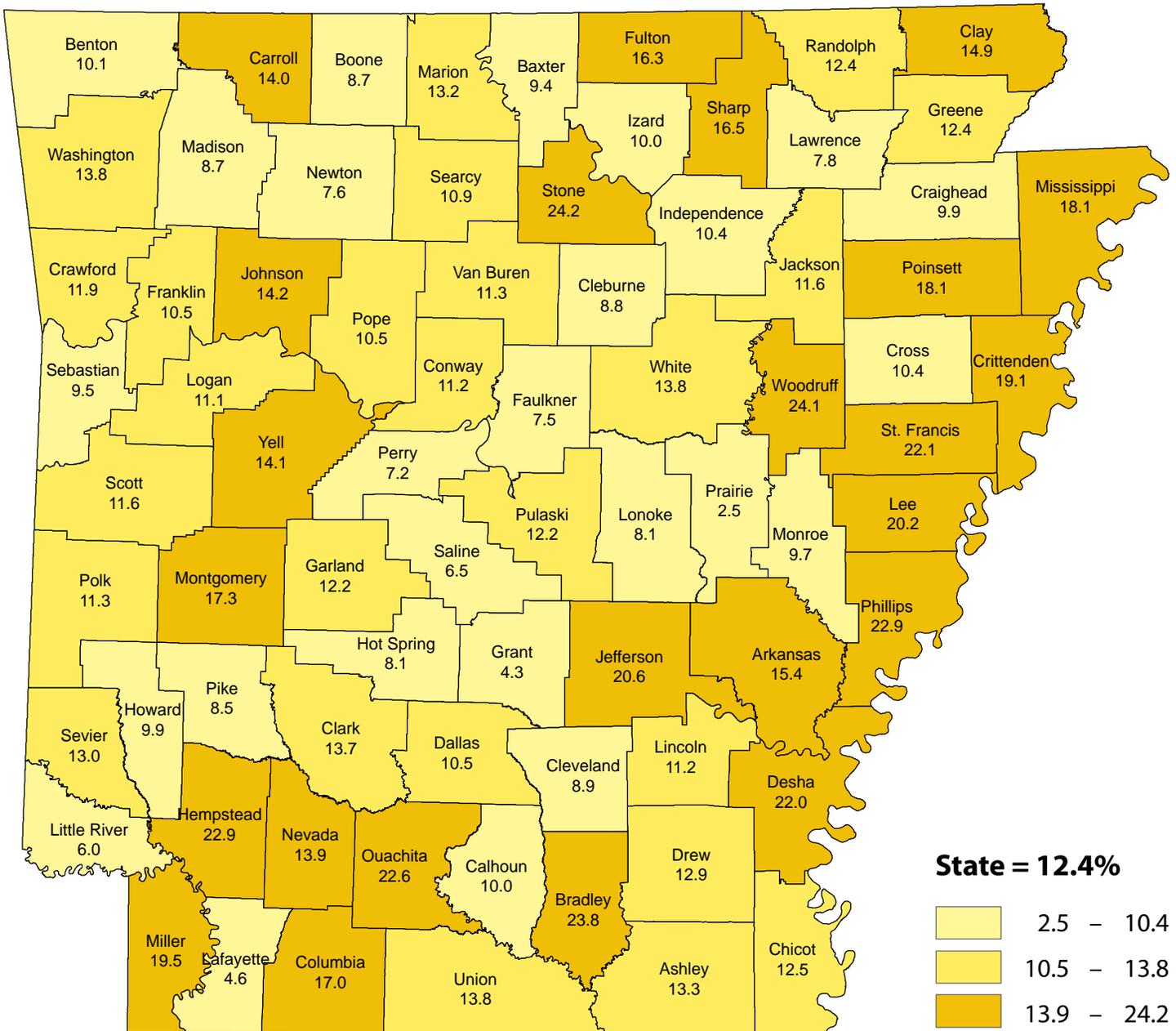
READY CHILDREN





Births to Teens, Age 10-17, by County: 2006

(rate per 1000 females age 10-17)

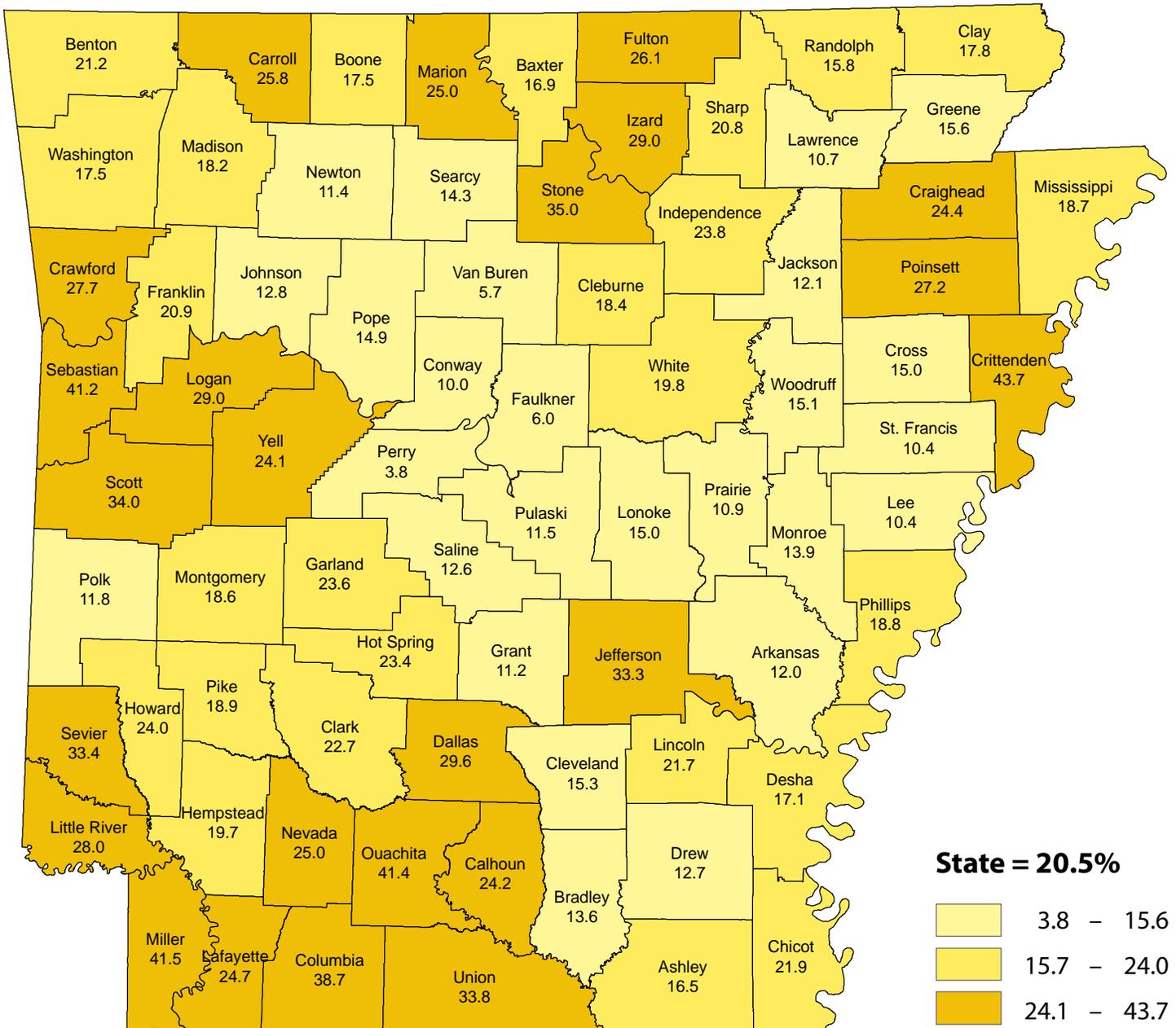


Source: Arkansas Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics.



No Prenatal Care During First Trimester, Percent of all Births, by County: 2006

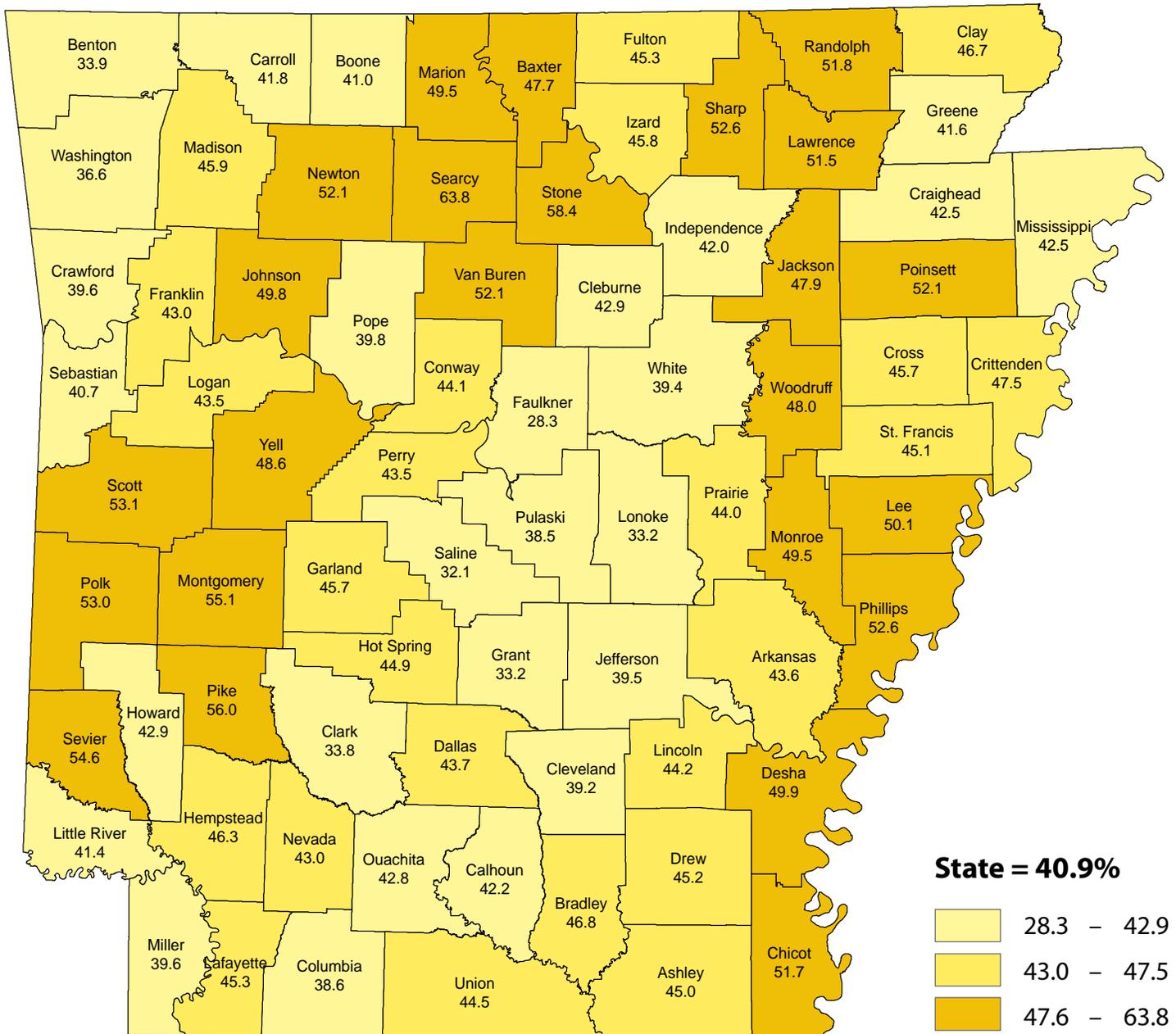
(percent of all births in which mother did not begin prenatal care during the first three months of pregnancy)



Source: Arkansas Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics.



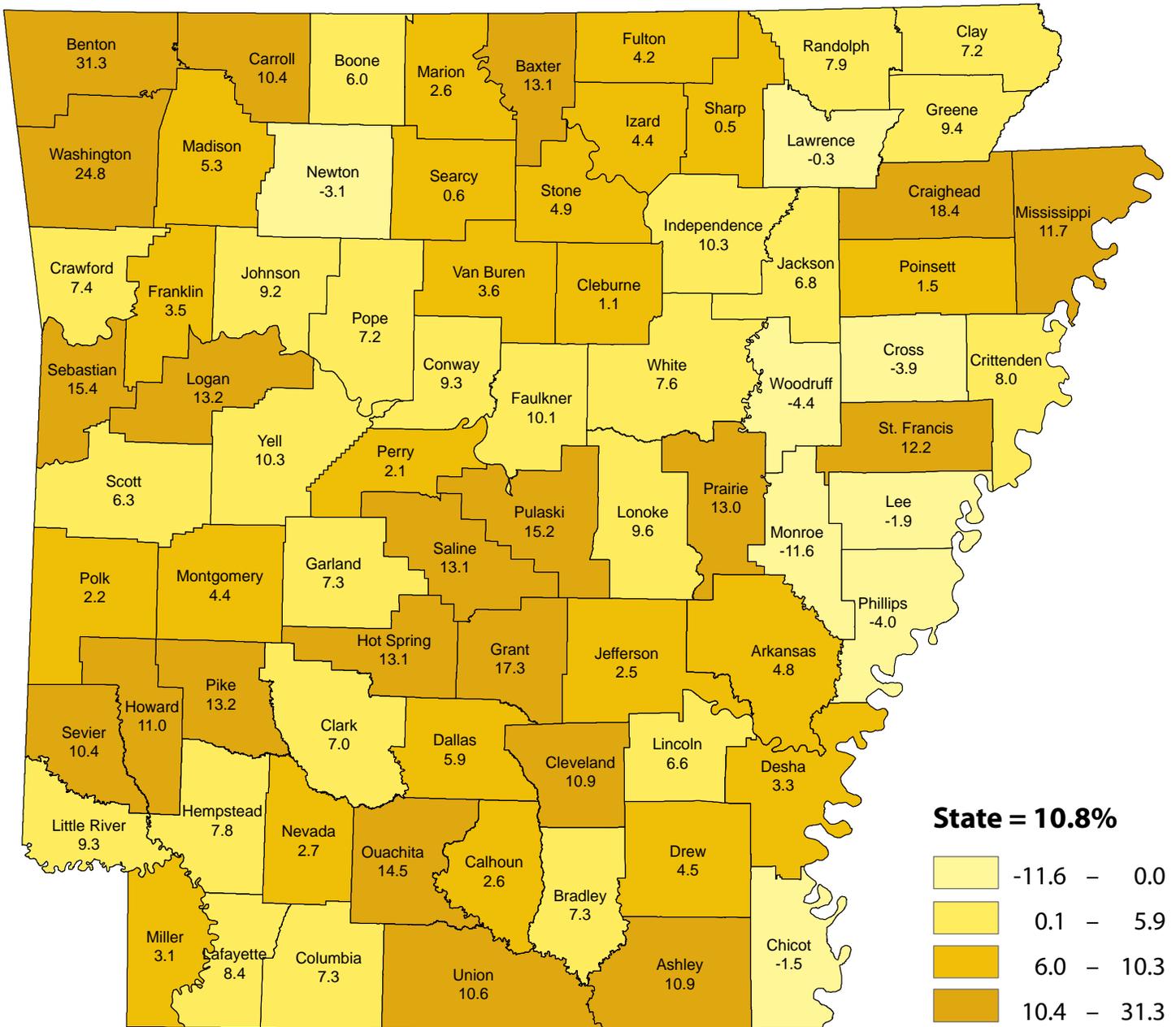
ARKids First Enrollment as a Percent of Population, Age 0-19, by County: 2006



Sources: Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of County Operations, Report IM2414, *Monthly Statistical Report on Number of Cases Eligible for Medicaid*; and Population Estimates processed by Demographic Research, Institute For Economic Advancement, UALR from U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, Vintage 2006.



ARKids First Enrollment, Percent Change, by County: 2005-2007

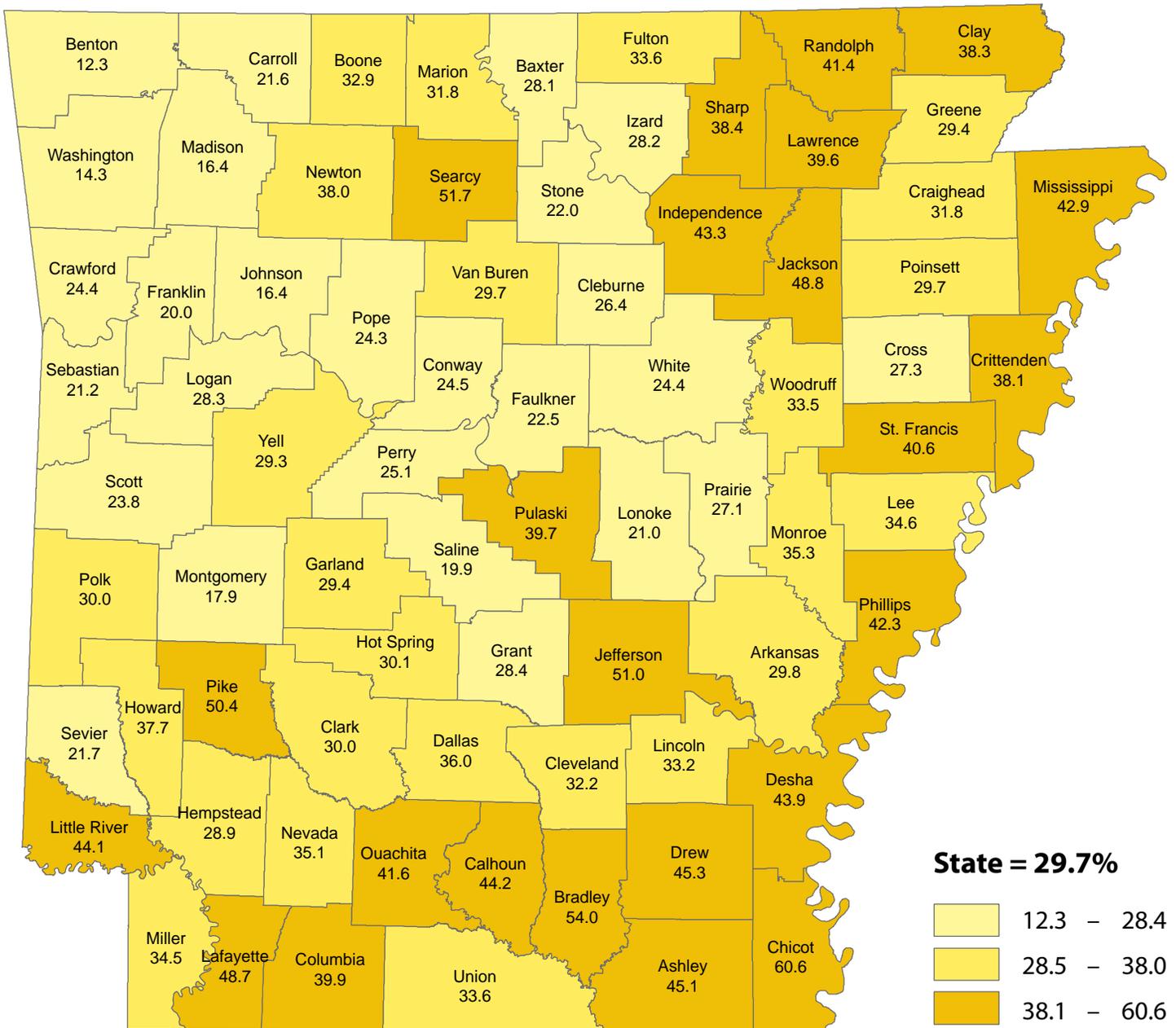


Source: Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of County Operations, Report IM2414, *Monthly Statistical Report on Number of Cases Eligible for Medicaid*.



Percent of Children, Age 0-5, Served by State and Federally Funded Programs, by County: 2006

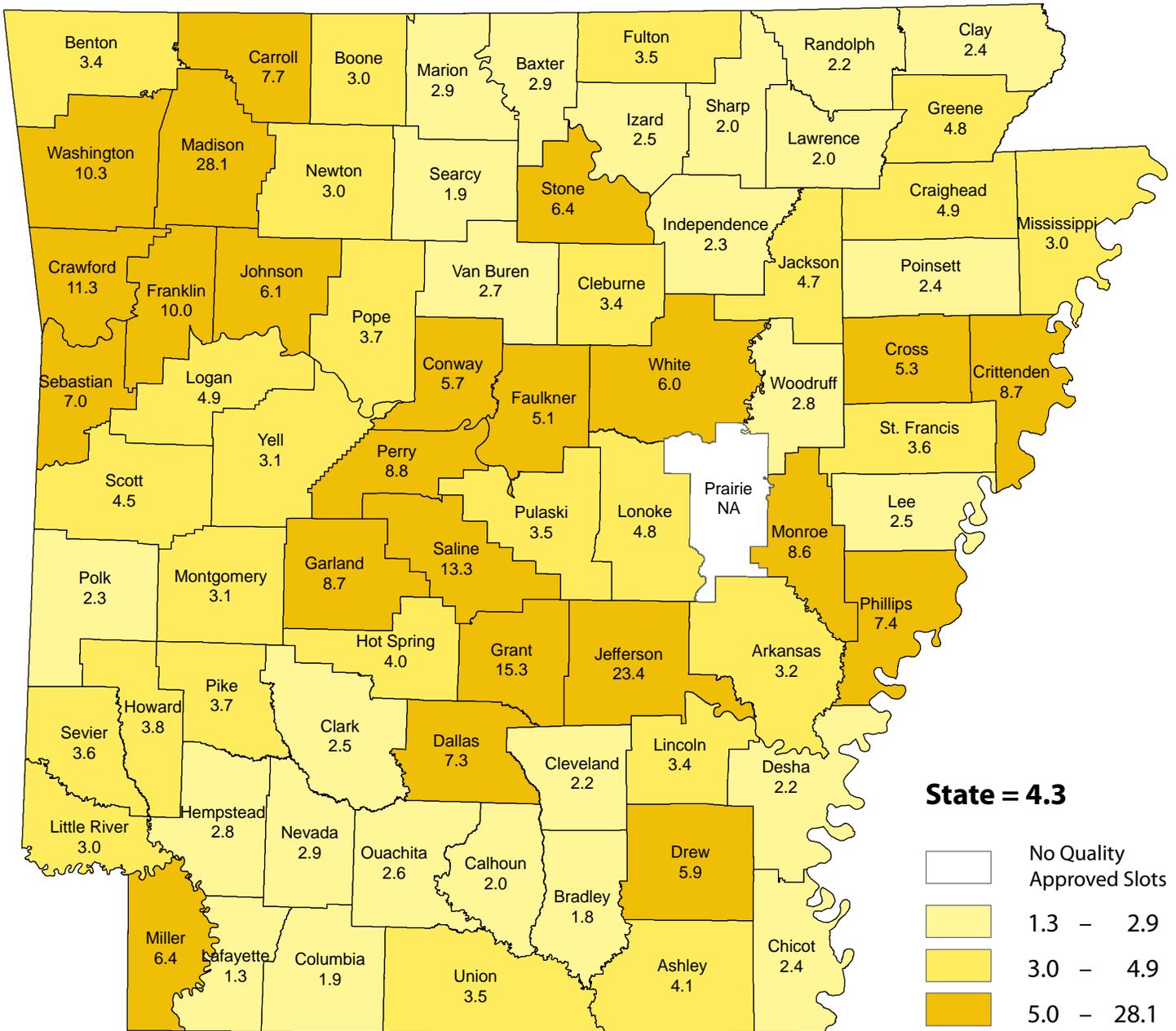
Early Special Education, Early Intervention, ABC, ABC/SS, CCDF, Head Start, Early Head Start



Sources: Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education; Arkansas Head Start Association-State Collaboration Project; Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education, IDEA Data and Research partnership with UALR College of Education; and Population Estimates processed by Demographic Research, Institute For Economic Advancement, UALR from U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, Vintage 2006.



Children, Age 3-5 Per Preschool Slot in Licensed Child Care Facilities Meeting Quality Approval Standards, by County: 2006*

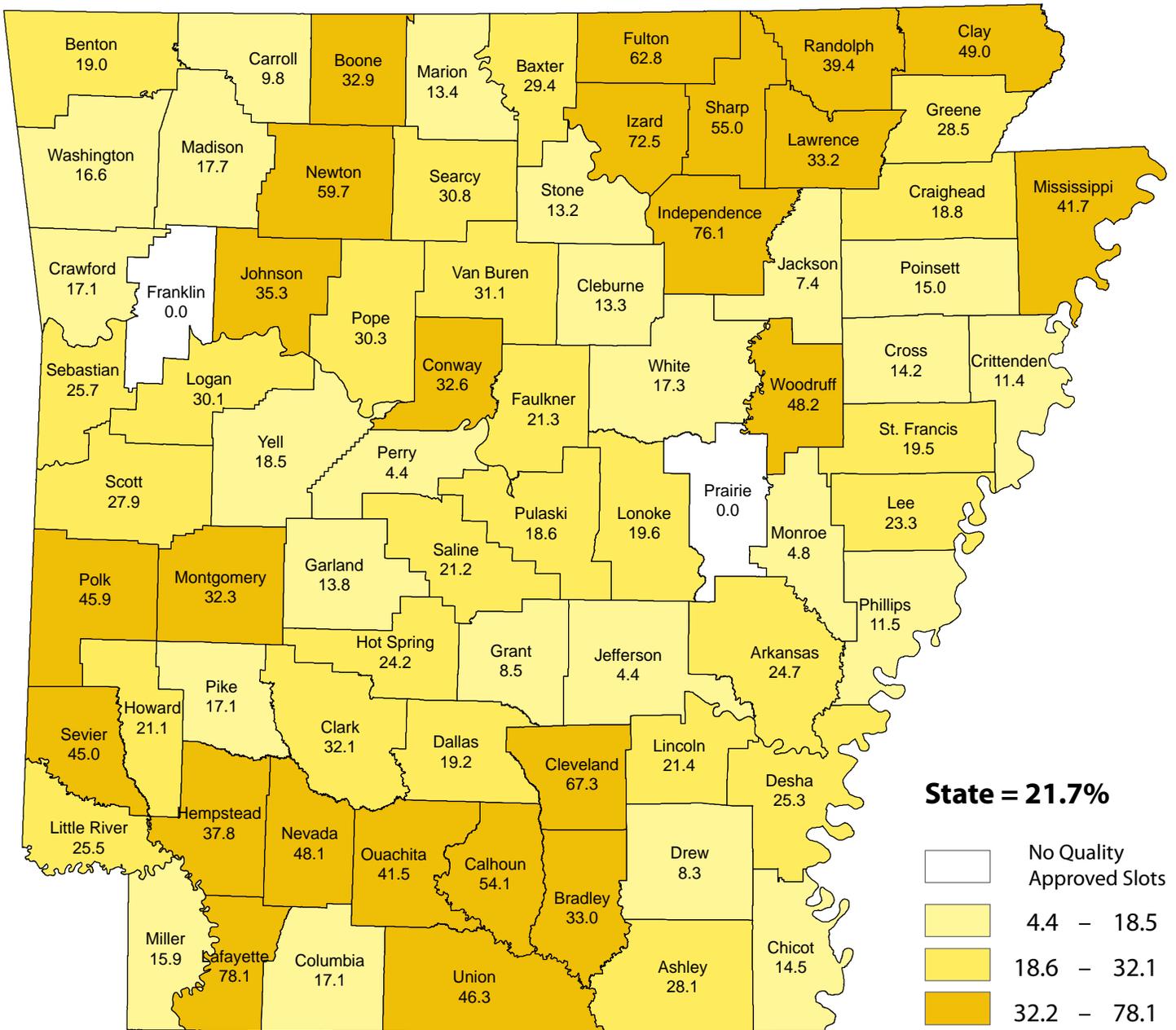


Sources: Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Licensing and Accreditation Unit; and Population Estimates processed by Demographic Research, Institute For Economic Advancement, UALR from U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, Vintage 2006.

* Population estimates not available for 2007 comparison.



Capacity of Licensed Child Care Providers, Percent Meeting Quality Approval Standards, by County: 2007



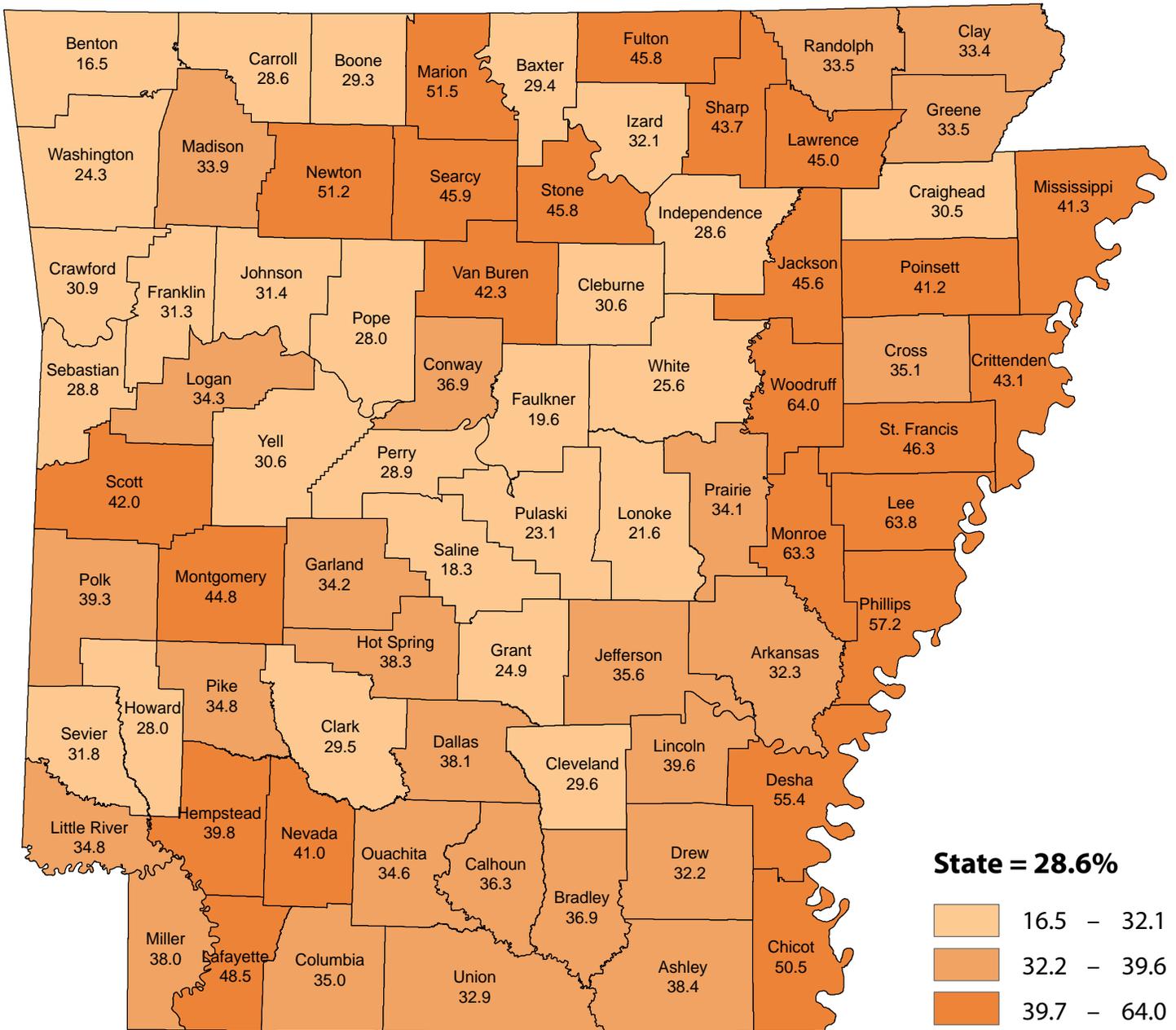
Sources: Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Licensing and Accreditation Unit.

READY FAMILIES





Percent of Children under Five Years of Age in Poverty, by County: 2005

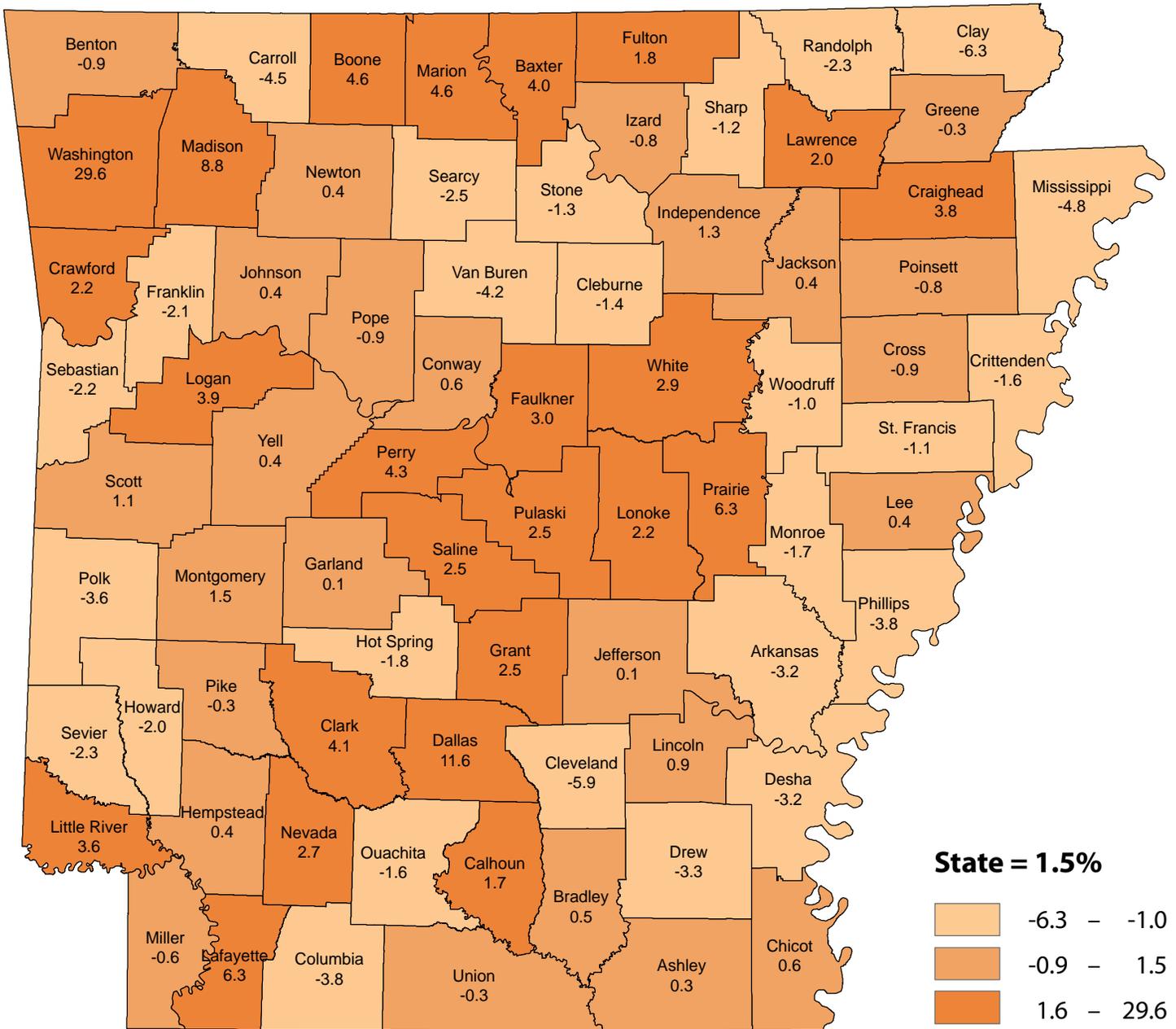


Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, released January 2008; and Population Estimates processed by Demographic Research, Institute For Economic Advancement, UALR from U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, Vintage 2006.



Percent Change in WIC, by County, 2006-2007

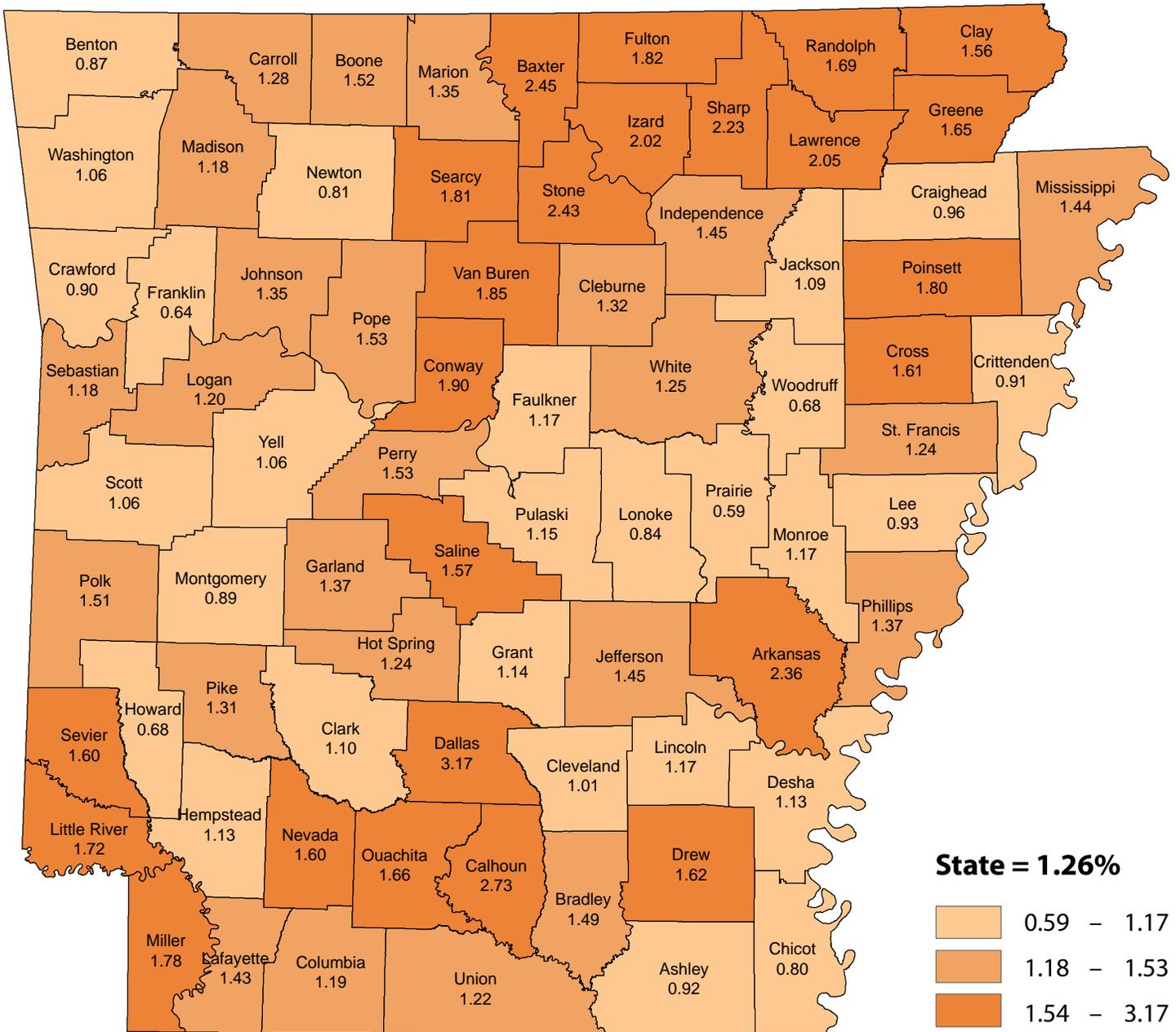
(Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)



Source: Arkansas Department of Human Services, Annual Statistical Report.



Victims of Child Maltreatment, Percent of Population Under 18 Years of Age, by County: 2006*

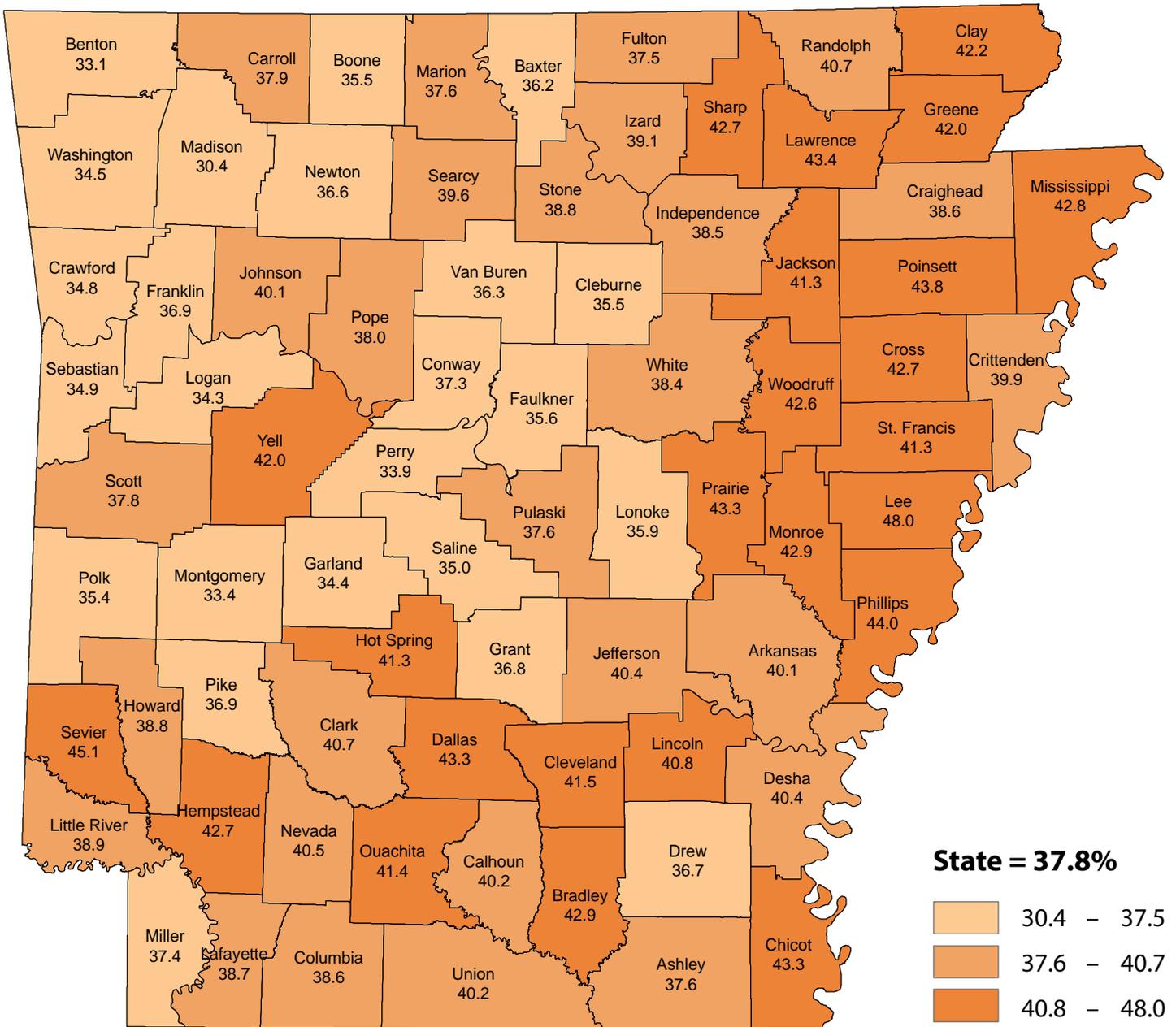


Sources: Arkansas Department of Human Services, Annual Statistical Report; and Population Estimates processed by Demographic Research, Institute For Economic Advancement, UALR from U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, Vintage 2006.

* Population estimates not available for 2007 comparison.



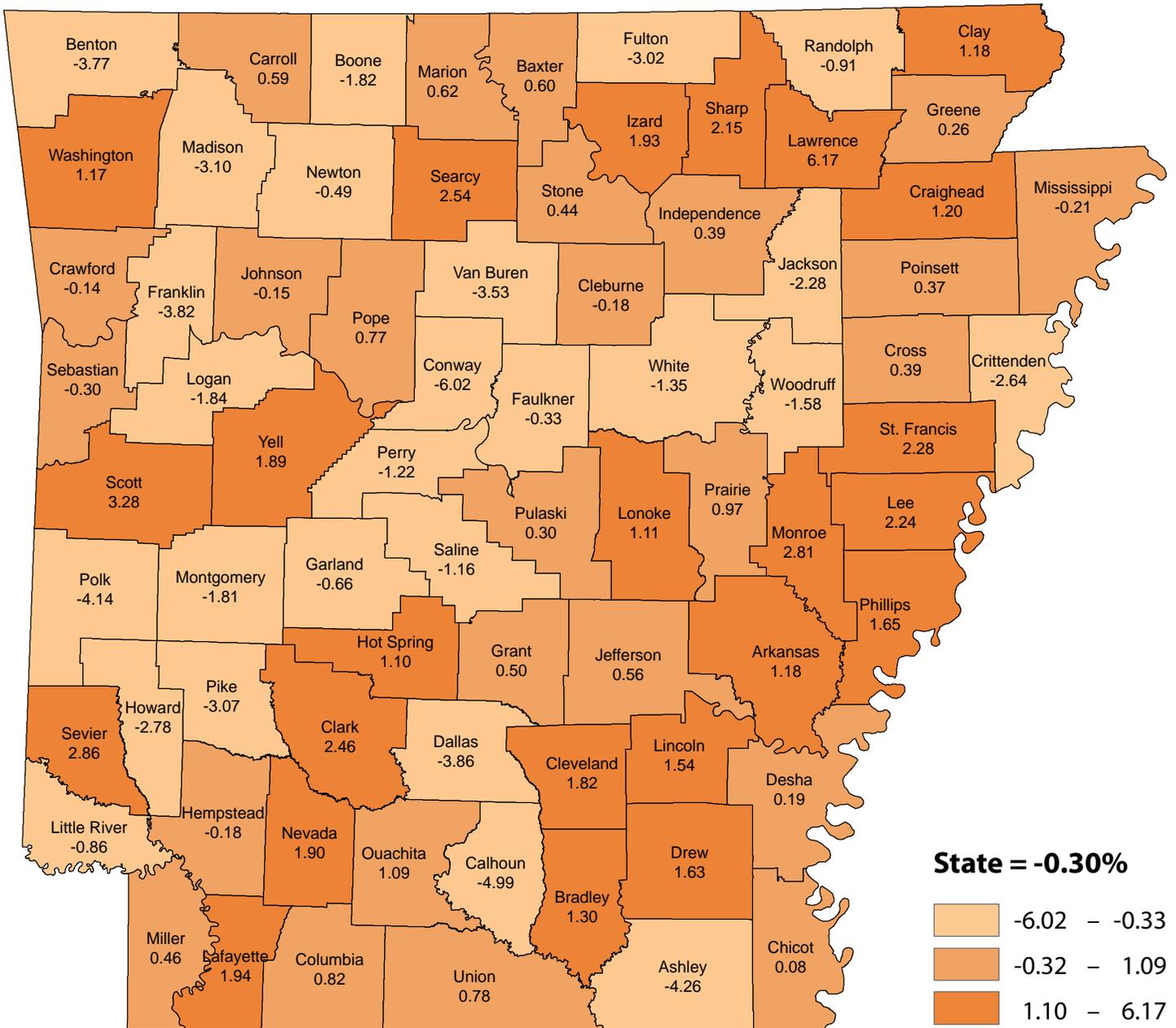
Percentage of Students Who Are Overweight or At Risk for Overweight, by County: 2006



Source: Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, *Assessment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity in Arkansas, Year Four*.



Change in Percentage of Overweight or At Risk for Overweight Students, by County: 2003-04 to 2006-07



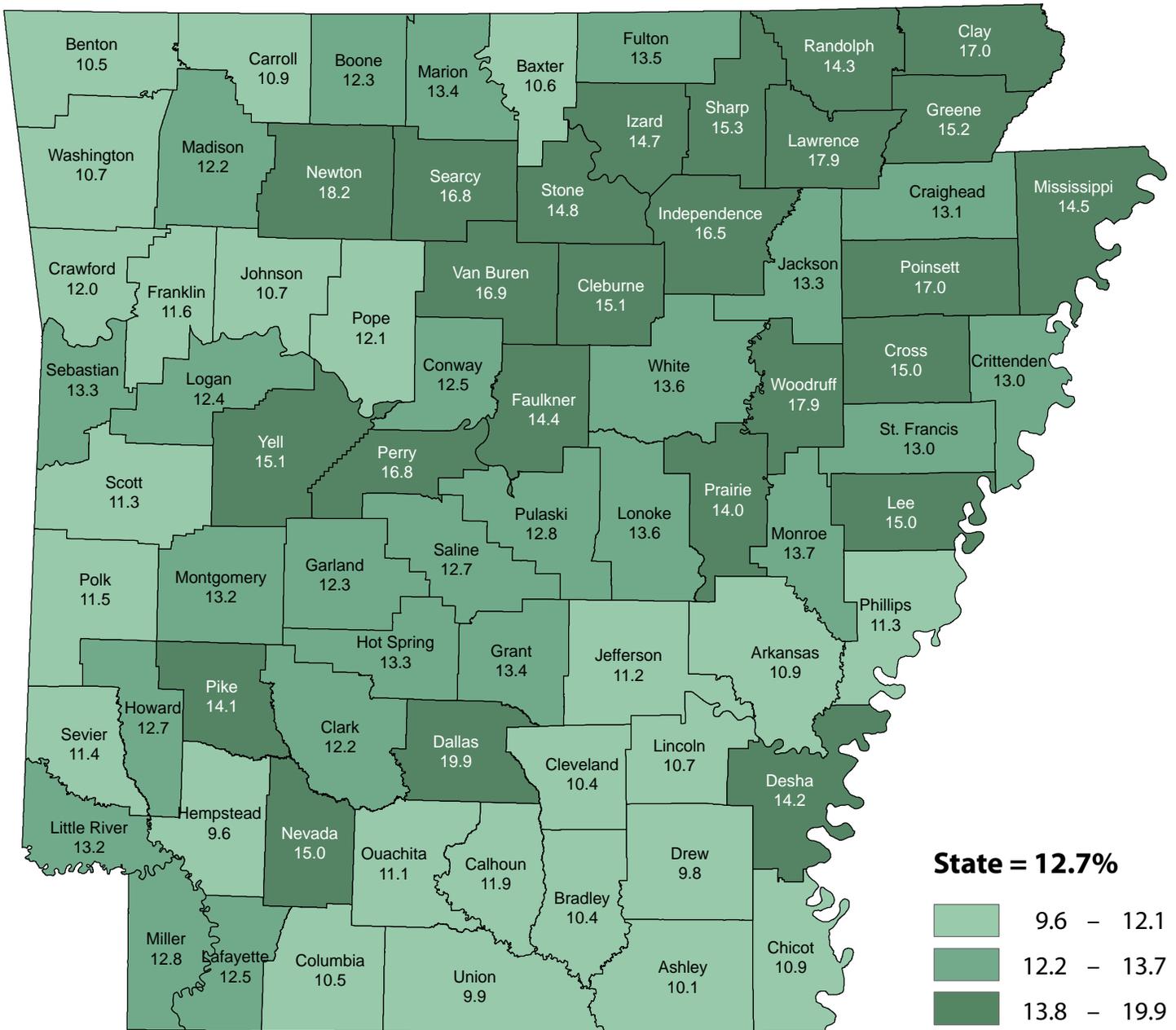
Sources: Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, *The Arkansas Assessment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity, Year One*; and *Assessment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity in Arkansas, Year Four*.

READY SCHOOLS





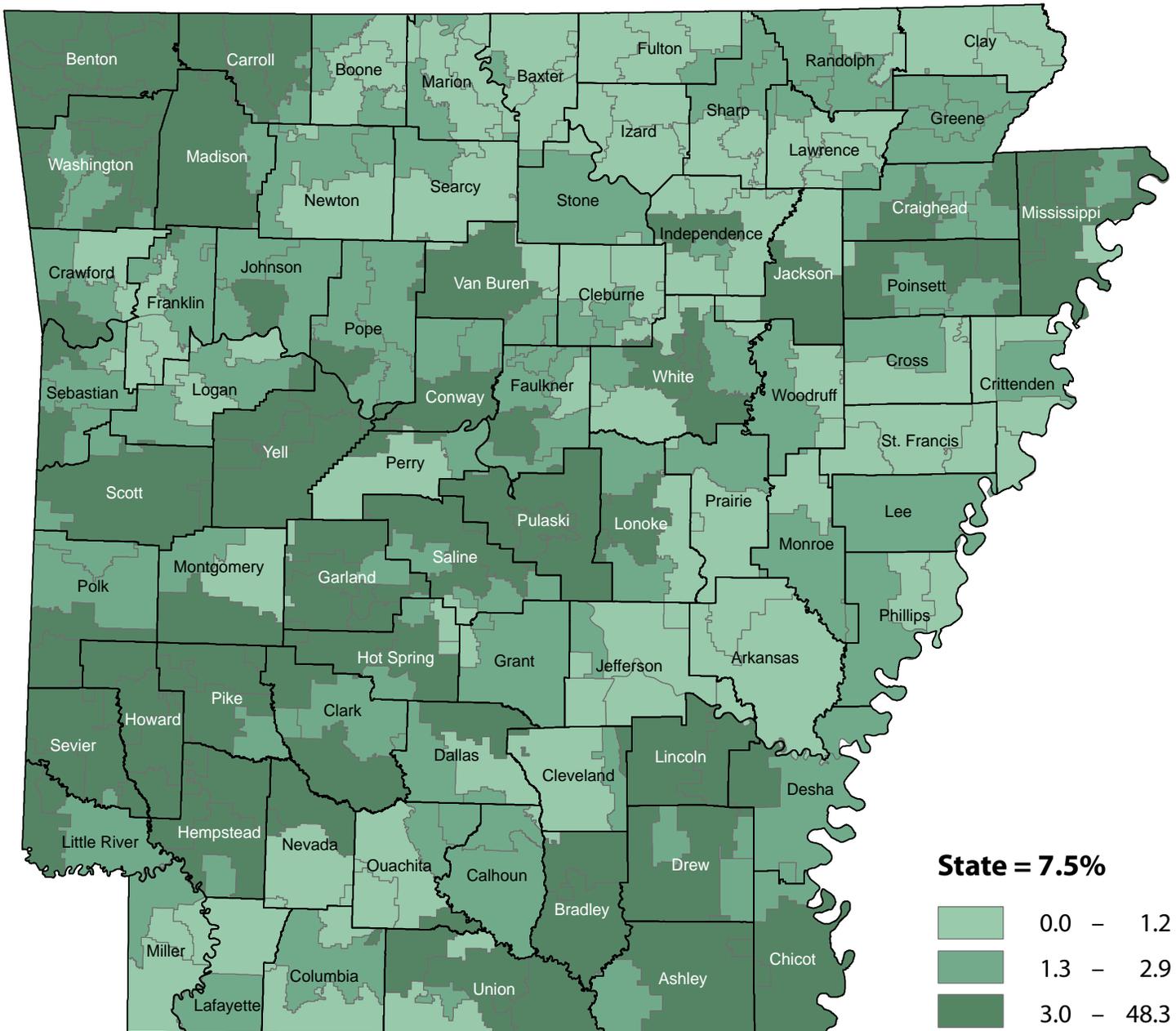
Percent of Children Receiving Special Education K-12 Provided in School Districts, by County: 2006



Source: Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education, IDEA Data and Research partnership with UALR College of Education.



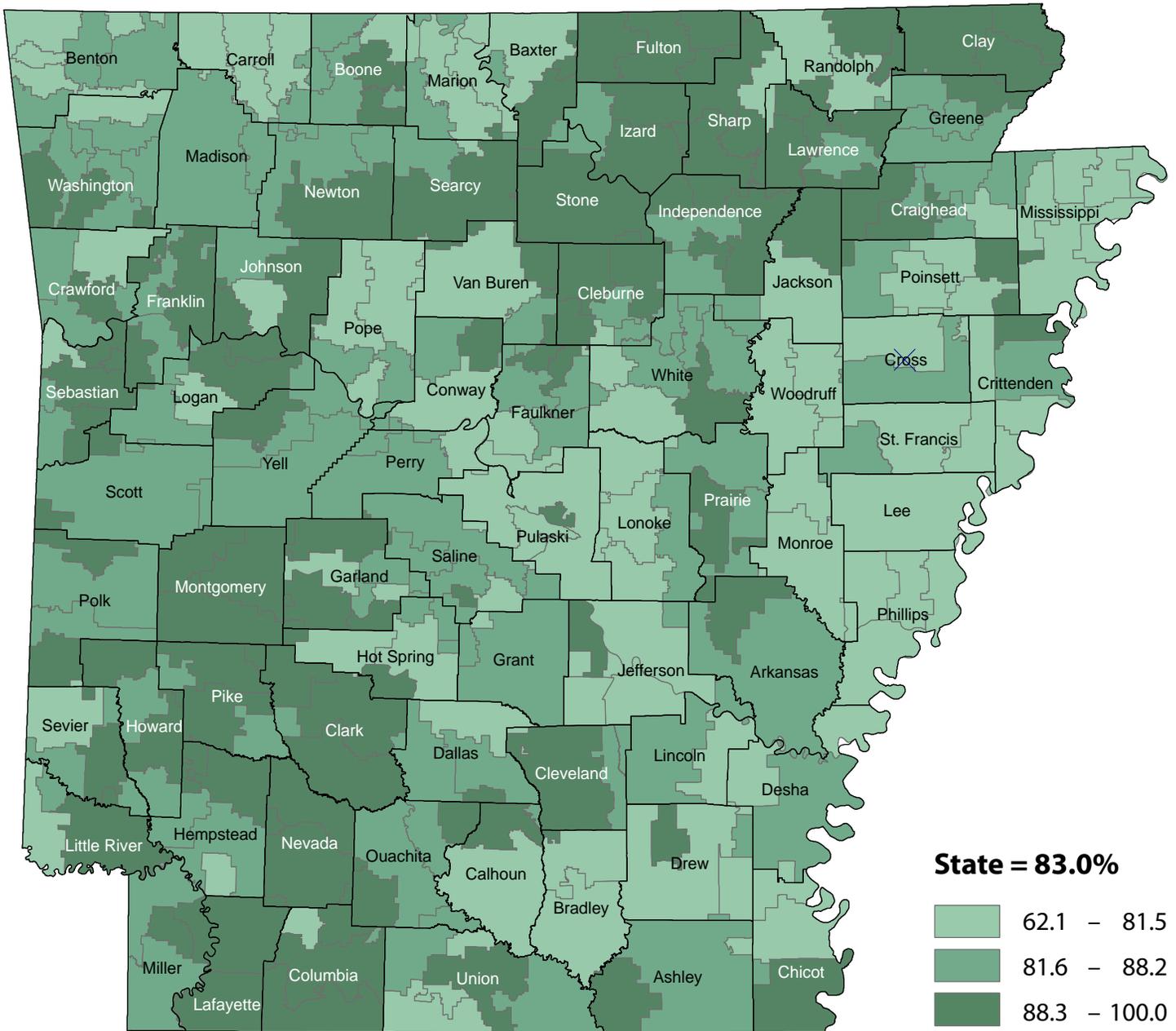
Percent Hispanic Enrollment, in School Districts: 2006-07



Source: Arkansas Department of Education, Office of Data Administration.



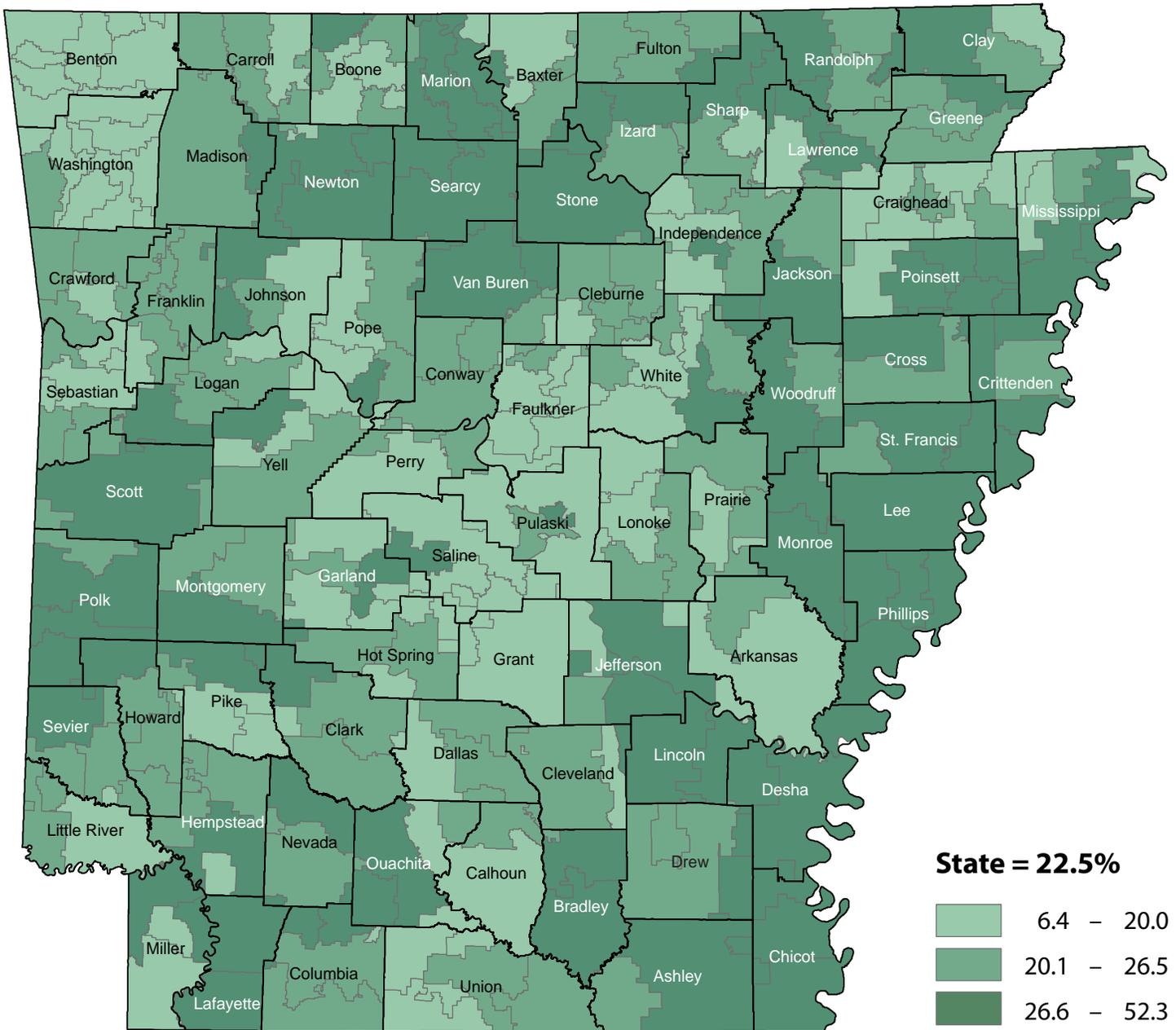
Graduation Rates, by School Districts: 2005-06



Source: Arkansas Department of Education, Office of Data Administration.



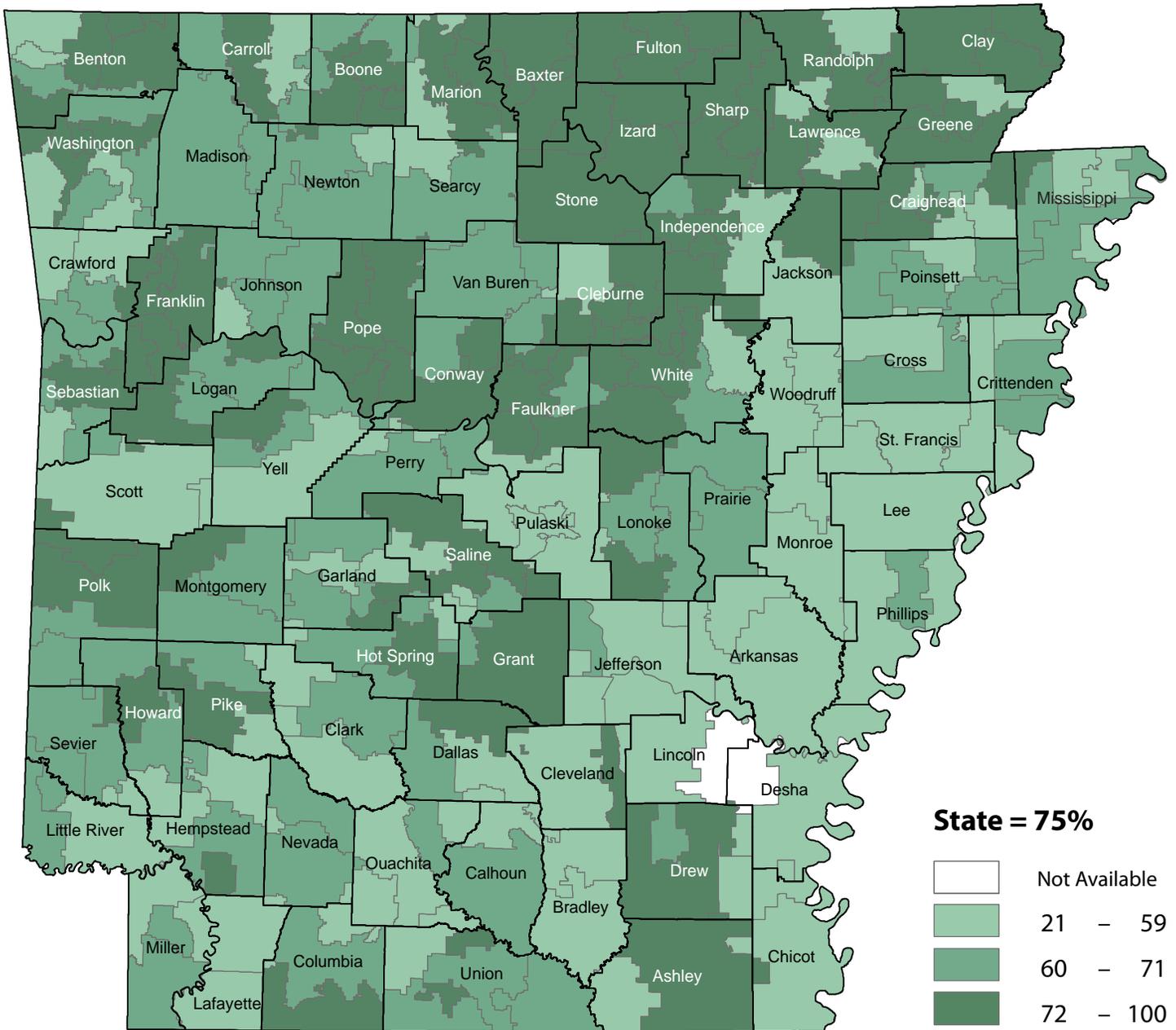
Percent of Children in Poverty, 5-17 Years of Age, by School Districts: 2005



Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, released January 2008.



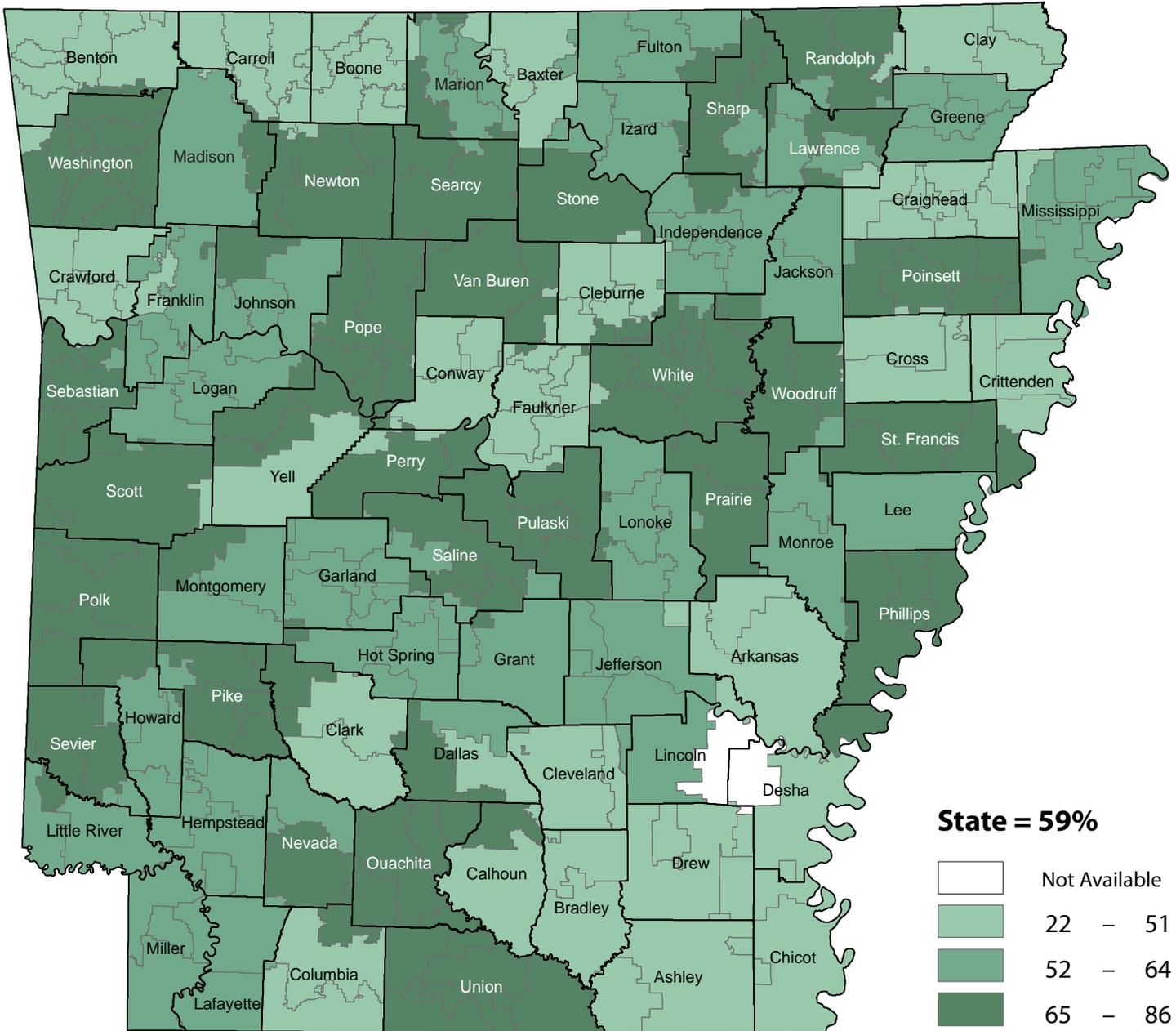
Grade 4 Math Proficiency, by School Districts: 2007



Source: Arkansas Department of Education, Office of Data Administration.



Grade 4 Literacy Proficiency, by School Districts: 2007

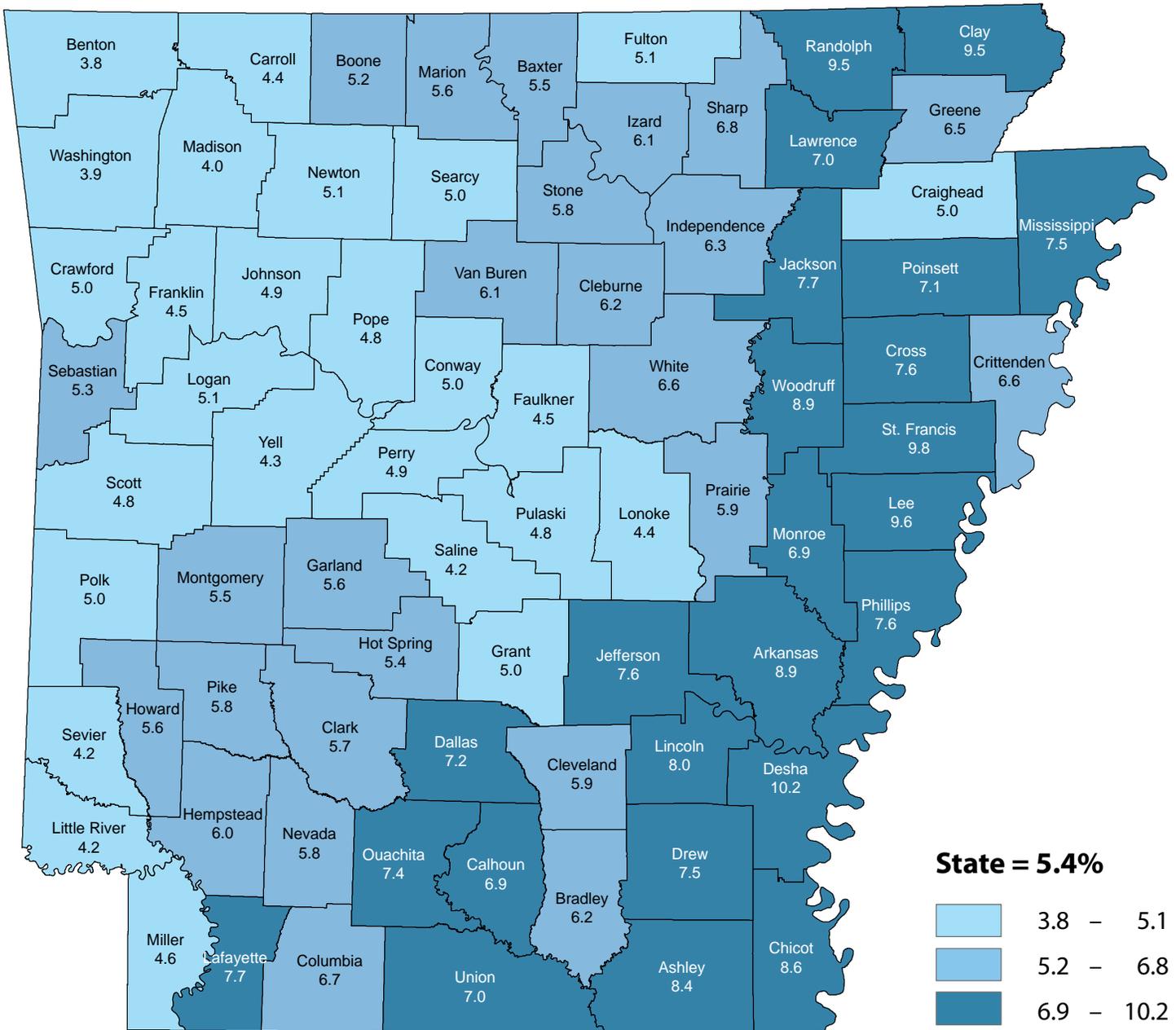


Source: Arkansas Department of Education, Office of Data Administration.





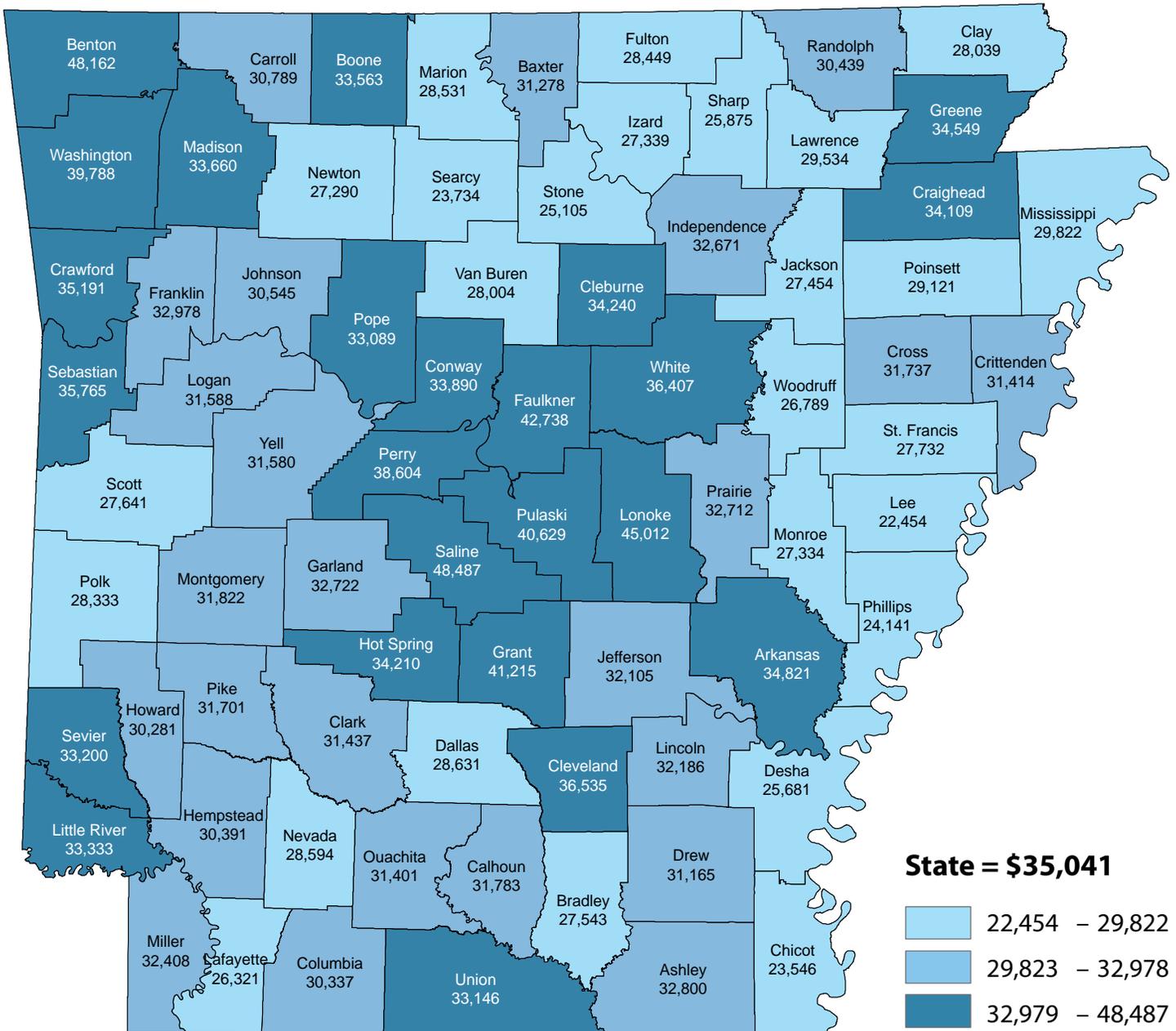
Unemployment Rate, by County: 2007



Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Labor Market Information, May 16, 2008.



Median Household Income, by County: 2005



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, released January 2008.



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DEFINITIONS

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- 2 Births to Teens:** The number of births in which the woman was less than 18 years of age.
- 3 No Prenatal Care During First Trimester:** The number of all births in which the mother did not begin prenatal care during the first three months of pregnancy.
- 4-5 ARKids First Enrollment:** The number of children enrolled in ARKids First, an insurance program provided by the state of Arkansas for children who come from working poor families without insurance. The ARKids First waiver program and SOBRA Medicaid, the largest category of children's Medicaid, were combined under the ARKids umbrella. SOBRA became ARKids A and the waiver program became ARKids B.
- 6 Children, Age 0-5, Served by State and Federally Funded Programs:** The number of children served in various early childhood programs during the program year divided by the population 0 - 5 years of age.
- Early Special Education:** Preschool child count under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- Early Intervention:** Child count, age 0-3, under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- Arkansas Better Chance Program:** The number of children served at any time during the program year in the Arkansas Better Chance Program (ABC) and Arkansas Better Chance for School Success (ABC/SS). The ABC program is intended to serve educationally deprived children, birth to 5 years of age while the ABC/SS serves children ages 3 and 4 from families up to 200% of federal poverty level.
- Child Care and Development Fund:** The number of children served at any time during the program year in the Child Care and Development Fund, which assists low-income families and those transitioning off welfare to obtain child care so that they can work or attend training or education. Eligible children are those under age 13 (or up to age 19, if disabled). The state currently serves families at 60 percent of the state median income.
- Head Start:** Each Head Start program is funded to provide services to a designated number of children and exists to provide and to promote a high quality, developmentally appropriate child development program for economically deprived children 3-5 and/or 0-3 years of age, thus reducing the potential for school failure.
- Early Head Start:** Head Start programs for age 0-3.
- 7 Children Per Preschool Quality Approved Slot:** The total number of children, age 3-5, divided by the total capacity of licensed centers meeting the state early childhood accreditation/quality approval standards.
- 8 Capacity of Licensed Child Care Providers Meeting Quality Approval Standards:** The percent of licensed capacity by type of facility that meets the state early childhood accreditation/quality approval standards.
- 10 Children Under Five Years of Age in Poverty:** The percent of children 0-4 years of age in poverty is the sum of children below the poverty level divided by the total number of all children 0-4 years of age in families. Poverty status is determined from income data. Poverty thresholds are arranged in a two dimensional matrix based on family size and number of children in the family. The total income of the family was tested against the appropriate threshold to determine the poverty status of the family. If the family income was less than the corresponding cutoff, the family was classified as below poverty level.
- 11 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):** The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children - better known as the WIC Program - serves to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care.
- 12 Victims of Child Maltreatment:** The number of children for whom an allegation of maltreatment has been founded and the percent of the population that is less than 18 years of age.
- 13 Overweight or At Risk for Overweight Students:** The number of overweight or at risk for overweight students as shown in the annual body mass index (BMI) screening of Arkansas public school students. This number is divided by the total number of students.
- 14 Overweight or At Risk for Overweight Students:** The difference in the percentage of students who are overweight or at risk for overweight from year 2003-04 to 2006-07 as shown in the annual body mass index (BMI) screening of Arkansas public school students.
- 16 Children Receiving Special Education K-12 in School Districts:** The number of students counted under the P.L. 94-142 grant for all districts combined for each school year. Students in special education placements are those who have been identified as disabled according to criteria set forth in state and federal regulations, and who are receiving special education and related services as necessary. The percent is determined by dividing the enrollment in special education by the total enrollment. Data for Arkansas School for the Blind and Arkansas School for the Deaf are included.
- 17 Hispanic Enrollment by School Districts:** The number of Hispanic students divided by the total enrollment.
- 18 Graduation Rates:** Graduation (completion) rates are the percent of students enrolled during grade 9 and completing grade 12.
- 19 Children in Poverty, 5-17 Years of Age:** The percent of children 5-17 years of age in poverty was the sum of children below the poverty level divided by the total number of all children 5-17 years of age in families.
- 20 Grade 4 Math Proficiency:** Percent of students in Grade 4 meeting or exceeding proficiency in math on the Criterion Referenced Test, Benchmark Examination, Combined Population, April 2007.
- 21 Grade 4 Literacy Proficiency:** Percent of students in Grade 4 meeting or exceeding proficiency in literacy on the Criterion Referenced Test, Benchmark Examination, Combined Population, April 2007.
- 23 Unemployment Rate:** The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed divided by the civilian labor force.
- 24 Median Household Income:** Median household income divides the income distribution into two equal parts, one having incomes above the median and the other having incomes below the median.

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