**Mississippi**

**JustSouth Index State Report Card**

### DIMENSION INDICES

**Poverty**
- Mississippi ranks last in the Poverty Dimension, due to the extremely low average income for the poorest households and high rates of poor children without health insurance. State leaders should set a goal to expand Medicaid, increase the minimum wage, and stop reliance on federal welfare programs.

**Racial Disparity**
- Mississippi ranks 51 in the Racial Disparity Dimension, with an unacceptably large gap in earnings between white and minority workers in similar occupations and a share of school-aged students significantly higher than other states. Without explicitly addressing the severe racial disparities in Mississippi communities, schools, and workplaces, state and community leaders risk continued to perpetuate inequality and economic stagnation for a significant portion of the state’s population.

**Immigrant Exclusion**
- Mississippi ranks 44 out of 51 in the Immigrant Exclusion Dimension due to the high percentage of immigrants without health insurance and a large share of undocumented immigrant youth. Although only 2% of Mississippi’s population is foreign-born, the state has much to gain economically and socially from ensuring that these immigrants are able to integrate into the communities in which they settle through language acquisition, quality education, and access to health care.

### JUST SOUTH INDEX RANKING
- **50**

**2014 State Population by Race**
- Total Population: 2,994,079
- White: 57.3%
- Black or African American: 37.5%
- Hispanic or Latinx: 3.0%
- Two or more Races: 1.2%
- Asian: 1.0%
- American Indian Alaska Native: 0.6%

**Individual Indicator Scores (0 to 1 Goalpost Scoring)**
- Income of Poor Households
- Health Insurance Coverage for Poor
- Housing Affordability
- White-Minority Employment Equity
- Non-Segregation of Public Schools
- White-Minority Wage Equity
- Immigrant English Proficiency
- Immigrant Youth Outcomes
- Health Insurance Coverage for Immigrants

**Poverty Dimension**
- Average income of poorest 25% of households:
  - Mississippi: $9,891
  - National Average: $15,281
  - New Hampshire: $26,596

**Share of Poor Without Health Insurance: 35%**

**Racial Disparity Dimension**
- Nearly 25 percent of Mississippi public schools are segregated by race.
- When controlling for age, educational level, and occupation, minority workers in Mississippi earn 60 percent of what their white counterparts earn.

**Immigrant Exclusion Dimension**
- Only 55 percent of immigrants in Mississippi have public or private health insurance coverage, compared to 86 percent of the native-born population.
- 31% of immigrants in Mississippi have difficulty speaking English.