

NATURAL POPULATION DECREASE DIFFERENTIALS IN MISSISSIPPI:

An Indicator of Rural Development¹

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Introduction

The subject of natural decrease of population has received no direct investigation in the South. This phenomenon involves the excess of deaths over births in a county in a year.

Natural population decrease has been examined on a national basis by Dorn (1939) and Beale (1969). The incidences of natural decrease found by Dorn in the years 1935 and 1936 were related to low current fertility levels in these areas. Beale studied the period 1950 to 1966 and found a total of 324 counties affected. However, in this case natural decrease stemmed from the distortion of county age structure. These distortions were the result of high rates of age-selective net out-migration. Where counties of moderate fertility had experienced a prolonged or severe net out-movement of successive cohorts of young adults, the age-structure had often become so altered that there were not enough births to couples of childbearing age to offset the deaths that occurred to less depleted older cohorts.

Beale noted a number of factors which were associated with the incidence of natural decrease. These counties were concentrated mainly in agricultural or mining regions. These populations were "older," had a smaller proportion of women in the childbearing ages, a history of population decline, a predominantly rural population and a loss of employment in agriculture.

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Beale found an unusual pattern in the Southern counties of the United States. A number of counties were characterized by a natural increase of population in the total population while the white population experienced a natural decrease of population. Beale noted that different fertility patterns and age-specific migration rates between white and nonwhite populations had produced increasingly divergent age distributions and ratios of births to deaths in these Southern counties.

More recently, Chang (1974) examined differences between Iowa counties with natural increase and those with a natural decrease of population for the period 1965 to 1970. In this study, Chang found the same factors to be associated with the incidence of natural decrease as had Beale. In addition, natural decrease counties had lower unemployment rates, a higher percentage of families below a \$5000 annual income, and spent more on highways and public welfare and less on education.

These three studies have demonstrated natural decrease of population as an indicator of a demographic as well as a social problem for a county. The problem has not been treated in a systematic sense. However, there is still a need for further investigation in this area. As pointed out by Beale, the South's population offers an area open to examination.

Natural population decrease is conceptualized as an "imbalanced" state. An imbalance in a county's vital processes reflects other conditions in the demographic, economic and social spheres of that community. Bogue's theory of demographic regu-

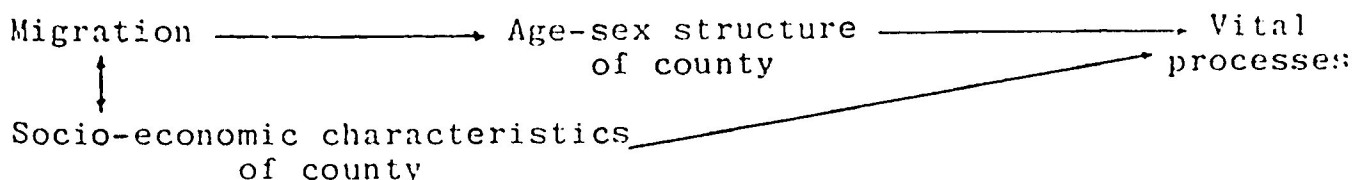
ation holds that:

Every society tends to keep its vital processes in a state of balance such that population will replenish losses from death and grow to an extent deemed desirable by collective norms. These norms are flexible and readjust rather promptly to changes in the ability of the economy to support population... (Bogue, 1969:51)

In this analysis of natural population decrease, it is hypothesized that migration acts through the age-sex structure of county populations to alter the vital processes. Migration is basically a response by persons to economic, social and demographic forces in the environment. In turn, migration may indirectly affect social and economic characteristics of counties. Forces influencing a community's birthrate are primarily social and economic in origin.

Natural decrease has been found to stem from a large net out-migration of young adult cohorts from a population. These are the age groups most responsible for the maintenance of reproduction. An age structure so altered may have a greater concentration of people in older age groups. A county's mortality rate may be distorted by such a pattern as this in the age structure.

The interrelationship of variables may be diagrammed as such:



Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the incidence of natural decrease of population in Mississippi counties. Specifically, this paper attempts to test the composite hypothesis that natural decrease in Mississippi is a white phenomenon and is related to an imbalance in the socio-economic and demographic indicators in the affected counties. In order to test the hypothesis, natural decrease counties will be identified in the period 1950 to 1970. Demographic and socio-economic variables associated with this phenomenon will be analyzed. Since natural decrease may occur in only the white population, data will be classified by race whenever possible.

Data and Analysis

Data used in this study are obtained from U. S. population censuses, U. S. Vital Statistics and county net migration estimates from: Net Migration of the Population by Age, Sex and Color, 1950-60, and ...1960-70 by Bowles, Tarver and Lee.

Hypotheses

The hypotheses to be tested in this study are: 1) natural decrease occurs in the white population of counties; counties experiencing natural decrease: 2) are grouped geographically; 3) are smaller and more rural; 4) have "older" populations; 5) have higher mortality rates, 6) have lower fertility levels; 7) have larger rates of net out-migration, 8) have a smaller proportion of women in the childbearing ages; and 9) have a lower proportion of the adult population employed and unemployed, and a lower

average of median number of school years completed by the population over 25 years of age.

Results

Hypothesis 1. White population. Inspection of Table 1 indi-

(Table 1 about here)

icates that natural decrease occurred in the white populations in 47 (out of 82) counties in the period 1950 to 1970. These counties make up the "natural decrease county group." Table 1 presents a list of counties affected with natural decrease and their occurrence in each year of the period under study.

2. Geographic proximity. Figure 1 shows that the counties

(Figure 1 about here)

experiencing natural population decrease are located in two areas of Mississippi - the southwest corner and across the north central section of the State. These areas have been characterized by a large proportion of the labor force being in forest and small scale farming industries (Bogue and Beale, 1961).

3. Population size and type of residence. Table 2 indicates

(Table 2 about here)

that population size of natural decrease counties is substantially smaller than natural increase counties in all three census years. Moreover, the average population size of counties experiencing natural decrease is declining while that of the State is increasing.

The natural decrease county group exhibits a much higher degree of rurality than other counties. The rural-urban differential between the two county groups has remained large through the period studied; natural decrease counties were generally 25, 32,

and 30 percent more rural than natural increase counties in 1950, 1960 and 1970, respectively.

4. Three indexes of aging were used to examine the age structures of Mississippi Counties. These are the index of aging, the aged and the youth dependency ratios.

It is clear from Table 3 that there has been a trend in the
(Table 3 about here)

State toward aging between 1950 and 1970. The white population of the natural decrease county group exhibited a higher index of aging in each year than the natural increase group. Moreover, the gap between the two is widening.

The white population of the natural decrease group also has a lower youth dependency ratio in 1960 and 1970; and a higher proportion in the older age groups in each census year than in the natural increase group.

The nonwhite population of the State generally shows a slower trend toward aging than that for whites. Nonwhites in natural decrease counties exhibit a higher youth dependency ratio as well as a higher aged dependency ratio than natural increase counties. However, the index of aging in natural decrease counties is not substantially higher than in natural decrease counties. This is due to the interaction of several factors. Natural decrease counties are more rural and nonwhite fertility is generally higher than for whites. This would inflate the 0-14 years age group.

5. Mortality. The crude death rate is used as the measure of mortality. The data in Table 4 shows that a marked difference
(Table 4 about here)

has existed between the white population of the natural decrease and increase county group since 1960, and between the nonwhite population of the natural decrease and increase county group in 1970. The mortality rates are generally consistent with the index of aging ratios - those population groups with higher death rates also had a higher proportion of their population in older age groups

6. Fertility. In this study, three fertility measures were used to analyze fertility differentials; namely, the child-woman ratio, the general fertility rate and the crude birth rate.

(Table 5 about here)

With one exception, the white population of natural decrease counties exhibited lower child-woman ratios, general fertility rates and crude birth rates than natural increase counties in all three census years. The child-woman ratio is higher for whites in natural decrease counties in 1950 only. However, the first incidences of natural decrease did not occur until 1957.

The nonwhite population in the natural decrease county group experienced higher child-woman ratios than nonwhites in natural increase counties. This may stem from the rurality of these counties and higher levels of fertility among nonwhites. The general fertility rate fluctuated widely between the two county groups in the three census years studied: it was lower in the natural decrease group in 1950, higher in 1960 and almost equal in 1970. Like whites, nonwhites exhibit a declining birth rate. However, there is little difference in the nonwhite population between each county group.

7. Net migration. Unfortunately, county net migration

estimates classified by age, race and sex were not available for each county during the period 1950 to 1960 (Bowles and Tarver, 1965). Accordingly, migration analysis was limited to total net migration rates for this period. Natural increase counties averaged a net out-migration rate of -16.32 percent for the period 1950 to 1960 while the natural decrease county group averaged -27.44 percent.

As shown in Table 6, from 1960 to 1970 the natural decrease
(Table 6 about here)

county group (including both races) had a larger rate of net out-migration; white natural increase counties averaged a total net in-migration. The nonwhite population had a lower ("lower" connotes a negative direction) rate of net migration in all age groups in the natural decrease county group (as compared to the natural increase group). The white population of natural decrease counties had lower net migration rates than in natural increase counties in all age categories except 0-9 years and 35-39 years of age.

The 20-29 year age groups show a substantial net out-migration in all categories for the period 1960 to 1970. There were significant differences between the natural increase and decrease county groups in the ages 20-29 years and still marked differences through 39 years of age. Rates of net out-migration for the white population in the natural decrease counties were 32 percent less for the 20-24 year age group and 23 percent less for the 25-29 year age group than in natural increase counties. This differential was so substantial to effect a decline in fertility in natural decrease

Differences in migration rates between natural increase and decrease counties were not as marked for nonwhites as for whites. Nonwhites have a more consistent pattern of net migration. That is, large rates of net out-migration were not concentrated in only a few age groups; they were distributed more evenly throughout the older age groups. Their age structures were less distorted through this process.

8. Proportion of women, 15-44 years. It goes without saying that the proportion of women in the childbearing ages in a given population is not per se an indicator of the level of fertility of that population. Rather, it indicates "potential" or the proportion of women "available" for reproduction. For the State as a whole, 11.4 percent of the population was made up of women in the childbearing ages in 1950, 18.4 percent in 1960, and 19.3 percent in 1970. As shown in Table 7, there were significant differences

(Table 7 about here)

between the white population in natural increase and decrease county groups with regard to the proportion of these women. Whites in the natural decrease county groups consistently averaged a lower percentage in each year: .14, 1.6 and 1.9 in 1950, 1960 and 1970 respectively. The gap in this variable is widening. Nonwhites had a consistently lower proportion of women 15-44 years of age in the natural decrease county group in each year. The difference though was minimal.

9. Socio-economic characteristics. In regard to employment, the percentages in Table 8 indicate the prevalence of differences

(Table 8 about here)

between county groups for whites and nonwhites. The white

population in natural increase counties recorded an increasing proportion of employment whereas that of the natural decrease group scored a decrease in the proportion of its employment since 1960. Nonwhites in the natural decrease and increase groups experienced lower employment than whites in 1970, and a lower rate in 1960 in the natural increase county group.

Nonwhites have a higher proportion of the adult population unemployed than whites in both county groups through the 20 year period. They also have an increasing proportion of unemployed, with a slight decline in 1970 for the natural increase county group.

For whites in both county groups, unemployment rose between 1950 and 1960, then fell to approximately the same level in 1970. Rates were higher in the natural decrease county group than in the natural increase group. This differs from Chang's findings in Iowa in which natural decrease counties had lower unemployment. Rather, it tends to support the inverse relationship usually found between net migration and unemployment (El Attar, 1974; Anderson, 1965).

Data on the average median number of school years completed for those 25 years of age and older indicated a rising educational level for the State as a whole. However, the natural decrease county group had a consistently lower average than the natural increase county group. This indicates a lower "educational pool" in natural decrease counties; in this sense, out-migration seems to be selective of the better educated.

Summary and Conclusions

Each of the hypotheses in this study was supported with three exceptions: 1) Age structure, specifically the youth dependency ratio. The expected relationship, that of a lower youth dependency ratio in natural decrease counties was found only in 1970. There is probably a time lag in the development of this pattern. This point is related to the second exception to our stated hypotheses. 2) Fertility, specifically the child-woman ratio. Nonwhites in natural decrease counties experienced higher child-woman ratios than in natural increase counties - they were not lower as expected. This is indicative of the higher fertility of rural nonwhites. Whites exhibited lower child-woman ratios in natural decrease counties (except in 1950) than in natural increase counties, but the differential between these two groups had declined by 1970. Natural decrease counties have been shown to be much more rural than other counties, and fertility patterns usually associated with rurality (higher fertility) have generally been followed by the nonwhite population. However, the white population in natural decrease counties have experienced a fertility decline to the extent that their younger age cohorts had been depleted through the fifties. (Remember the first incidence of natural decrease occurred in 1957). This was exhibited in the 1960 child-woman ratio. During the sixties, whites in natural decrease counties gained more in younger age groups (0-14 years) than did natural increase counties; this reduced the differential in the child-woman ratio somewhat (as shown in the 1970 child-woman ratio for this group). 3) Socio-economic characteristics, specifically employment.

Differences in employment were not as significant as expected. However, there was a declining trend in the proportion of adult employed in natural decrease counties. This indicates that the differential may grow.

TABLE 1.

COUNTIES AFFECTED BY NATURAL DECREASE OF POPULATION, 1950-1970

| | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Amite | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | X | |
| Attala | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Benton | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | X | | |
| Carroll | | | | | | | | X | | | X | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| Choctaw | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | X | X |
| Claiborne | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | X | | X | | | | |
| Clarke | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | |
| Copiah | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | X | |
| Franklin | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | X | X | X | X |
| Holmes | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | X | X | X | X | X |
| Issaquena | | | | | | | | | X | | X | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Jefferson | | | | | | | | X | X | | | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Kemper | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X |
| Leake | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | X | | | |
| Marshall | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Montgomery | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | X | | |
| Newton | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Noxubee | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | X | | | |
| Stone | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Sunflower | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Tallahatchie | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | X | X |
| Tunica | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| Walthall | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | |
| Webster | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | X | | |
| Wilkinson | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | X | |
| Winston | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | X | | | | |
| Yalobusha | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| # | | | | | | | | 2 | 3 | | 3 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 14 | 14 | 3 | 10 |

TABLE 2. AVERAGE POPULATION SIZE OF COUNTY GROUPS
AND POPULATION OF COUNTY GROUPS BY TYPE OF
RESIDENCE, 1950, 1960 AND 1970.

| County Group and Type of Residence | Year | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 |
| Natural Increase | 15,113 | 15,832 | 16,612 |
| Urban | | | |
| Number | 562,096 | 767,197 | 912,102 |
| Percentage | 33.81 | 44.05 | 49.91 |
| Rural | | | |
| Number | 1,100,368 | 982,099 | 922,752 |
| Percentage | 66.19 | 55.95 | 50.09 |
| Natural Decrease | 9,564 | 8,085 | 7,214 |
| Urban | | | |
| Number | 45,066 | 53,608 | 74,540 |
| Percentage | 8.73 | 12.28 | 19.13 |
| Rural | | | |
| Number | 471,384 | 375,237 | 307,518 |
| Percentage | 91.27 | 87.72 | 80.87 |

Sources: U. S. Bureau of the Census. U. S. Census of Population 1960. Number of Inhabitants, Table 6. Washington, D.C.: USGPO, 1963. U.S. Census Of Population: 1970. Number of Inhabitants, Table 9. Washington, D.C.: USGPO, 1971.

TABLE 3.

MEASURES OF AGING FOR COUNTY GROUPS BY
RACE, 1950, 1960 AND 1970

| Measure, County Group and Race | Year | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 |
| <u>Index of Aging</u> | | | |
| Natural Increase | | | |
| White | 23.45 | 27.89 | 35.59 |
| Nonwhite | 17.87 | 18.86 | 24.23 |
| Natural Decrease | | | |
| White | 27.97 | 44.01 | 58.23 |
| Nonwhite | 15.88 | 18.34 | 26.32 |
| <u>Youth Dependency Ratio</u> | | | |
| Natural Increase | | | |
| White | 47.24 | 51.14 | 43.93 |
| Nonwhite | 67.83 | 86.41 | 75.53 |
| Natural Decrease | | | |
| White | 51.11 | 47.68 | 39.68 |
| Nonwhite | 78.07 | 93.22 | 79.33 |
| <u>Aged Dependency Ratio</u> | | | |
| Natural Increase | | | |
| White | 11.08 | 14.26 | 15.63 |
| Nonwhite | 12.12 | 16.30 | 18.30 |
| Natural Decrease | | | |
| White | 14.29 | 20.98 | 23.11 |
| Nonwhite | 12.40 | 17.09 | 20.88 |

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census. U. S. Census of Population: 1950. General Population Characteristics, Table 41. Washington, D.C.: U.S.G.P.O., 1952. U. S. Census of Population: 1960. General Population Characteristics, Table 27. Washington, D.C.: U.S.G.P.O., 1961. U. S. Census of Population: 1970. General Population Characteristics, Table 35. Washington, D.C.: U.S.G.P.O., 1971.

TABLE 4. MORTALITY RATES FOR COUNTY GROUPS
BY COLOR, 1950, 1960 AND 1970

| County Group | Year | | |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 |
| Natural Increase | | | |
| White | .077 | .089 | .098 |
| Nonwhite | .103 | .109 | .113 |
| Natural Decrease | | | |
| White | .089 | .111 | .127 |
| Nonwhite | .108 | .108 | .124 |

Sources: U. S. Public Health Service. U. S. Vital Statistics. 1950-70. Volume 2. "Mortality." Rockville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. U. S. Bureau of the Census. U. S. Census of Population: 1950. General Population Characteristics, Table 41. Washington, D.C.: U.S.G.P.O., 1952. U. S. Census of Population: 1960. General Population Characteristics, Table 27. Washington, D.C.: U.S.G.P.O., 1961. U. S. Census of Population: 1970. General Population Characteristics Table 35. Washington, D.C.: U.S.G.P.O., 1971.

TABLE 5. MEASURES OF FERTILITY FOR COUNTY GROUPS
BY RACE, 1950, 1960 AND 1970.

| Measure, County Group and Race | Year | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|
| | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 |
| <u>Child-Woman Ratio</u> | | | |
| Natural Increase | | | |
| White | 523 | 526 | 397 |
| Nonwhite | 692 | 879 | 622 |
| Natural Decrease | | | |
| White | 525 | 484 | 371 |
| Nonwhite | 763 | 919 | 650 |
| <u>General Fertility Rate</u> | | | |
| Natural Increase | | | |
| White | 103 | 102 | 86 |
| Nonwhite | 181 | 184 | 144 |
| Natural Decrease | | | |
| White | 102 | 93 | 83 |
| Nonwhite | 169 | 192 | 143 |
| <u>Crude Birth Rate</u> | | | |
| Natural Increase | | | |
| White | 22.7 | 20.0 | 17.5 |
| Nonwhite | 36.1 | 32.7 | 27.1 |
| Natural Decrease | | | |
| White | 21.2 | 16.7 | 15.5 |
| Nonwhite | 36.6 | 32.6 | 26.0 |

Sources: U. S. Public Health Service. U. S. Vital Statistics. 1950-1970, Volume 1. "Natality." Rockville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. U. S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Census of Population: 1950. General Population Characteristics, Table 41, Washington, D.C.: USGPO, 1952. U.S. Census of Population: 1960. General Population Characteristics. Table 27, Washington, D.C.: USGPO, 1960. U.S. Census of Population: 1970. General Population Characteristics, Table 35, Washington, D.C.: USGPO, 1971.

TABLE 6. AVERAGE NET MIGRATION RATES FOR MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES, 1960-1970, BY AGE AND RACE

| Age Groups | County Groups | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| | Mississippi | | Natural Increase | |
| | White | Nonwhite | White | Nonwhite |
| 0-4 | 2.66 | - 7.00 | 1.45 | - 6.88 |
| 5-9 | 6.05 | -19.82 | 5.79 | -18.53 |
| 10-14 | 7.26 | -20.49 | 7.58 | -18.57 |
| 15-19 | 2.51 | -24.42 | 4.28 | -21.99 |
| 20-24 | -18.79 | -51.82 | - 8.24 | -48.03 |
| 25-29 | -18.20 | -57.60 | -10.59 | -53.62 |
| 30-34 | 13.47 | -38.00 | 15.99 | -34.07 |
| 35-39 | 11.46 | -21.52 | 11.03 | -19.39 |
| 40-44 | 7.99 | -12.66 | 8.49 | -10.68 |
| 45-49 | 5.06 | -10.19 | 5.88 | - 8.87 |
| 50-54 | 3.57 | - 7.09 | 3.81 | - 6.04 |
| 55-59 | 3.55 | - 7.57 | 4.34 | - 6.86 |
| 60-64 | 5.58 | - 1.23 | 6.14 | 0.55 |
| 65-69 | 6.20 | 2.95 | 6.80 | 4.00 |
| 70-74 | 3.66 | - 0.45 | 3.82 | 0.02 |
| 75+ | - 2.81 | -10.81 | - 1.05 | -10.76 |
| All ages | - 0.23 | -24.02 | 1.66 | -21.68 |
| | | | - 4.08 | -28.79 |

Source: Bowles, Gladys K., and Everett S. Lee. Net Migration of the Population, 1960-70 by Age, Sex and Color. Washington, D.C.: U.S.G.P.O., 1975. Vol. 1, part 4. Preliminary report.

TABLE 7. PROPORTION OF POPULATION MADE UP BY WOMEN
IN CHILDBEARING AGES, BY COUNTY GROUP
AND RACE, 1950, 1960 AND 1970.

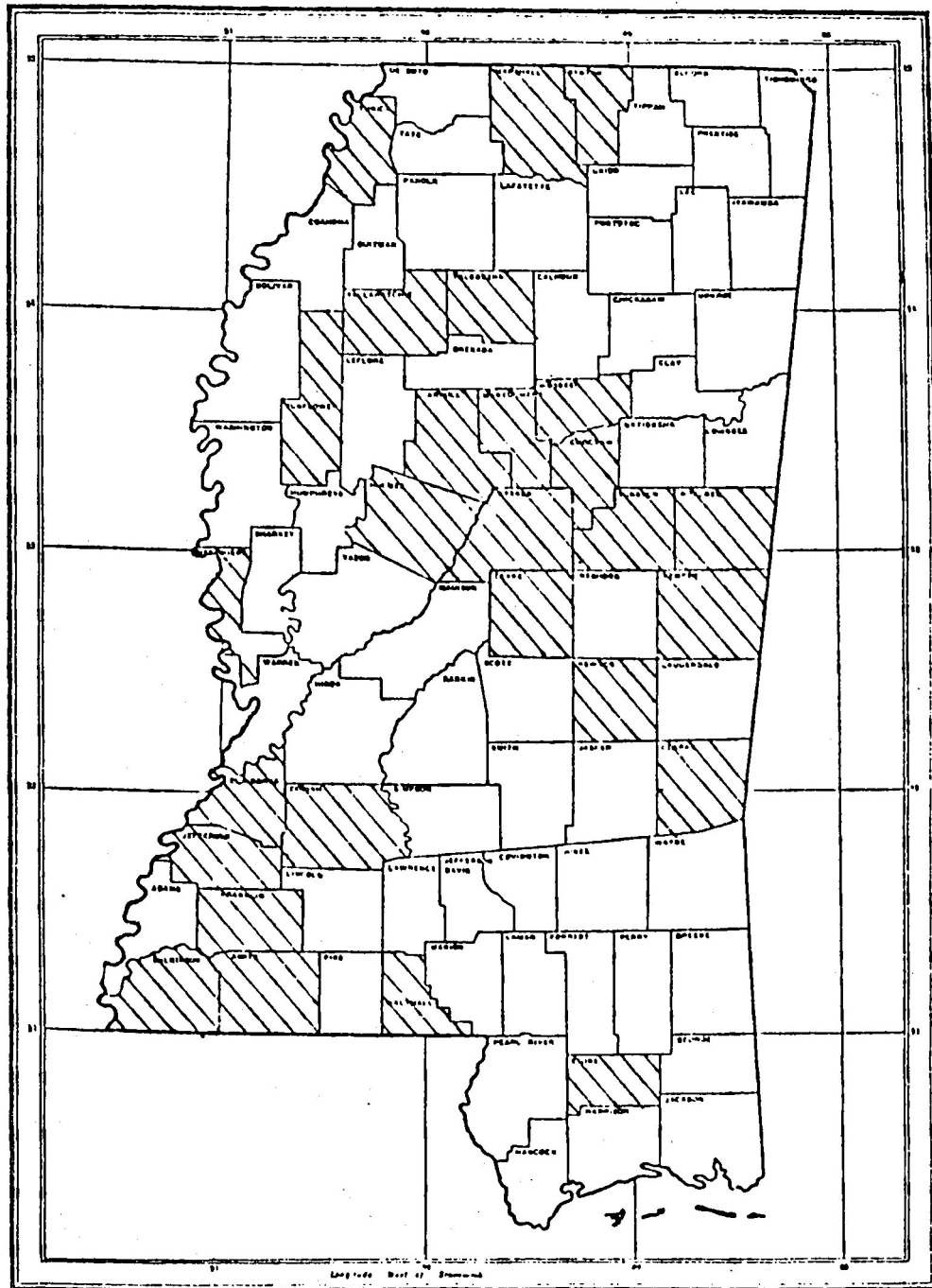
| County Group and Race | YEAR | | |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|
| | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 |
| Natural Increase | | | |
| White | .221 | .196 | .205 |
| Nonwhite | .215 | .178 | .189 |
| Natural Decrease | | | |
| White | .207 | .180 | .186 |
| Nonwhite | .202 | .171 | .183 |

Sources: U. S. Bureau of the Census. U. S. Census of Population: 1950. Characteristics of the Population, Table 41. Washington, D.C.: U.S.G.P.O., 1952. U. S. Census of Population: 1960. Characteristics of the Population, Table 27. Washington, D.C.: U.S.G.P.O., 1961. U. S. Census of Population: 1970. Characteristics of the Population, Table 27. Washington, D.C.: U.S.G.P.O., 1971. U. S. Census of Population: 1970. Characteristics of the Population, Table 35. Washington, D.C.: U.S.G.P.O., 1971.

TABLE 8. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF COUNTY GROUPS, 1950, 1960 AND 1970.

| Measure, County Group and Race | Year | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 |
| <u>Percentage Employed</u> | | | |
| Natural Increase | | | |
| White | 38.70 | 47.10 | 52.30 |
| Nonwhite | 50.10 | 49.90 | 45.00 |
| Natural Decrease | | | |
| White | 36.40 | 55.00 | 50.00 |
| Nonwhite | 50.80 | 37.10 | 37.80 |
| <u>Percentage Unemployed</u> | | | |
| Natural Increase | | | |
| White | 1.12 | 2.15 | 1.83 |
| Nonwhite | 2.94 | 4.03 | 4.00 |
| Natural Decrease | | | |
| White | 0.71 | 2.86 | 1.88 |
| Nonwhite | 1.00 | 2.32 | 4.42 |
| <u>Median Years of School</u> | | | |
| Natural Increase | 8.15 | 8.85 | 10.31 |
| Natural Decrease | 6.99 | 8.10 | 9.26 |

FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF NATURAL DECREASE COUNTIES IN MISSISSIPPI, 1950 TO 1970



FOOTNOTES

¹The research on which this paper is based is part of
MAFES Population Project No. 4004.

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