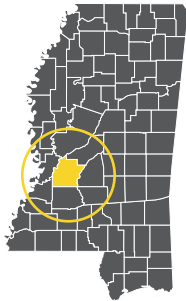


A POOR PEOPLE'S PANDEMIC REPORT:

MAPPING THE INTERSECTIONS OF POVERTY, RACE AND COVID-19

County Snapshot



Hinds County, Mississippi



PHOTO: DANYELLE HOLMES

Olivia Womack grew up in Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi, and is a college student at the University of Mississippi, studying political science. Hinds County is among the poorest third of counties in the US, with 44% of its population living under 200% of the poverty line (OPM) and an uninsured rate more than twice the uninsured rate of the wealthiest counties in

the country. During the pandemic, its COVID-19 death rate was 320 per 100,000. Olivia lost more than 20 members of their family, including her grandmother, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Before the pandemic, [nearly half](#) of the people in Mississippi were poor or low-income, or a total of 1.3 million of its residents, and over 300,000 people were uninsured.

Mississippi has not expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act and healthcare continues to be a contentious issue. Bills around postpartum Medicaid expansion and children's epilepsy medication have passed one chamber of the State Congress only to be vetoed in the other. The current challenge to *Roe v. Wade* emanated from a Mississippi law that would make abortion illegal after 15 weeks of pregnancy. Danyelle Holmes, who is an organizer with the Poor People's Campaign and also from Hinds County, called out these contradictions saying, "People will fight like hell for the unborn, but people who are living are dying."