

Dorian V. Allen, Jr.



Dorian Vernon Allen Jr. was born on July 28th, 2003 in Jackson Mississippi and currently resides in Byram, Mississippi. He is the son of Roshunda Harris-Allen and Dorian Allen, Sr. He has two brothers (De'Andre Allen and Donovan Allen) and one sister (Dalis Allen). Currently, Dorian is a Junior at Terry High School in Terry, Mississippi, and he lives with both of his parents, one brother, and sister. He played baseball up until the 9th grade and ran track until the 10th grade. Currently, he plays football and soccer for his school.

Since kindergarten, Dorian has always been one of the top10 in his class. He has maintained a 4.0 grade point average during his matriculation at Terry High. During his junior year, his grade point average increased to a 4.1 due to taking dual enrollment courses at Hinds Community College. He's a member of the MS Poor People's Campaign and recently attended a conference held by Al Gore, which inspired him to compete in the Mississippi ACT-SO for the NAACP. Dorian is also a member of Mu Alpha Theta and the Beta Club at Terry High School. Dorian Allen is always working to be the best which is why he made the Mississippi Blues team for Brilla. His 4x800 relay set a 9th grade record.

Dorian not only wants better for himself, he wants better for others as well. Dorian's plans after high school and college are to work in the STEM field and help better the lives of others.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

MS State Conference NAACP

ACT-S0 Competition

Saturday, April 6, 2019

INTRODUCTION

Hurricanes, droughts, tsunamis, arctic winters, and Mississippi heat may eventually destroy us, but many do not know these events will destroy the poor first. I, Dorian Allen, was recently blessed with the opportunity to travel to Atlanta, Georgia, with the Mississippi Poor People's Campaign for a conference about climate change. After gaining a wealth of knowledge about climate control, I want to provide insight and give solutions to the African-American Communities, in the great state of Mississippi, about climate change and how it impacts us directly.

OVERVIEW

Over the past 10 years, the average temperature in the United States has risen 8 degrees Fahrenheit, and it will keep increasing due to all the pollutants we put back in the air when we don't recycle, preserve our trees, and continue to ignore climate change. There is a way to slow the progression of climate change. The Mississippi Recycling Coalition is a non-profit organization working to promote and grow recycling efforts across Mississippi. It serves as a one-stop-shop for recycling resources and helps you learn about recycling options in your area. These resources include Mississippi Recycling Directory; Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality; Keep Mississippi Beautiful; Southeastern Recycling Development Council; Association of Plastic Recyclers; Recycling Partnerships; Keep America Beautiful; Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries; U.S. Composting Council; and Glass Recycling Coalition. Mississippi follows the federal recycling laws and has additional state requirements in connection with reporting by hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities (TSDFs).

Coal and fossil fuel plants are steadily being approved to be housed in low-income places

where people are not able to afford to relocate. Grand Gulf Nuclear Plant is located in Port Gibson where the poverty rate is below 50% and the demographic make-up is 92.4% African American or Colored. Plant Morrow Coal Power Plant in Purvis Mississippi, where 21.4% live in poverty, is known for housing one of the nation's top groundwater polluters. In the state of Mississippi, 29% of African Americans live in poverty. There is a form of injustice when the government punishes people that live in poverty by putting a power plant near their homes and schools.

A plant was proposed to be built in Lucedale, Mississippi. The populace of Lucedale, MS lives largely below the poverty level. Lucedale is the 93rd most populated city in Mississippi out of 362 cities. The largest ethnic group is white (71.2%) followed by Black (25.4%) and Hispanic (2.3%). Twenty percent of Lucedale residents live in poverty. These power plants are bad for the health of all people because they release pollutants into the air and raise carbon dioxide levels. This is causing climate change not only in Mississippi but throughout the entire country.

Mississippi, as a state, does not realize the things that are going on in its own land. Climate change has been affecting Mississippi since the early 20th century. After extreme weather swept from the plains states to the Ohio River Valley in Fall 1926, levees began bursting in the Lower Mississippi Valley on March 27th and kept breaking through May. Water covered 27,000 square miles, land in seven states where approximately one million people lived, some residential areas were submerged in 30 feet of water; 13 major crevasses occurred; roughly 637,000 people became homeless, about 555,000 of whom were racial or ethnic minorities; and 250 to 1,000 or more people died. The indirect loss was more than \$1 billion. During the aftermath, thousands of plantation workers, mostly African American, had been forced to work, in deplorable conditions, shoring up levees near Greenville, Mississippi. Then as the water rose,

they were left stranded for days without food or drinking water. African Americans who gathered in relief camps were also forced to participate in relief efforts and clean up flooded areas.

In Holmes County, currently, people are facing some of the same conditions from the 1926-1927 Flood. Citizens are stranded without resources and nowhere to go. Holmes County residents have the lowest life expectancy in the United States and a poverty rate of 45%. Tchula (located in Holmes County-Mississippi Delta), according to Census data, has slightly over 2000 residents with only 59 whites and is one of the four poorest cities in America. According to the Mississippi Poor People's Campaign, each year Tchula residents face floods resulting from the rain that begins in October and November. Flooding has forced over 20 impoverished families from their homes. Even though standing water is slowly receding, it's still causing residents' water in their homes to run brown and alligators and snakes to invade their yards.

CONCLUSION

We have to make it known, we, the people of Mississippi want the world to be a better place for not only us but also for future generations. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, environmental justice is fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no population bears a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or from the execution of federal, state, and local laws; regulations; and policies. Environmental justice combines civil rights with environmental protection. It demands those who have historically

been excluded from environmental decision making, traditionally minority, low-income, and tribal communities, don't have the same access to environmental decision makers, decision-making processes, and the ability to make reasoned contributions to the decision-making process as any other individuals.

Over the past decade, temperatures have reached record-breaking numbers because of climate change. This has been caused by people and energy plants releasing toxic and harmful gases back into our atmosphere. Even though these plants are providing jobs, they are draining our planet of nonrenewable resources when we could switch over to renewable resources like solar energy. Why won't the government put coal fueled power plants in rural areas where there's no population or make it mandatory for energy plants to use solar power? The reason for the Government to punish the poor is unjustified and needs to change.

REFERENCES

1. Alex Rozier. (2019). Mississippi coal power plant one of the nation's top groundwater polluters, report finds. Mississippi Today
2. Climate Reality Leadership Corps. (2019). The Climate Reality Project
3. Encyclopedia Britannica. (Retrieved 2019). Mississippi River Flood of 1927
4. Jeff Amy. (2018). Grand Gulf nuclear power plant troubles 'happening far too often,' Mississippi officials say. Clarion-Ledger
5. Mississippi Center for Public Policy. (Retrieved 2019). Poverty Rate in Mississippi
6. Ross Adams. (2019). If disaster strikes at Mississippi nuclear station, thousands would be evacuated. 16 ABC WAPT
7. United States Department of Energy. (2019). What is Environmental Justice

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Dorian V. Allen, Jr.

Terry High School, Terry, MS 39170

Unit Name: Jackson City Branch, Unit Number 5295

What is Environmental Justice?

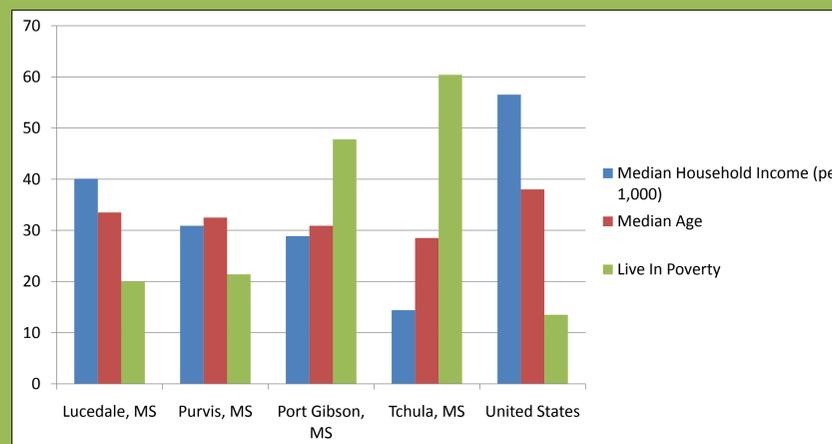
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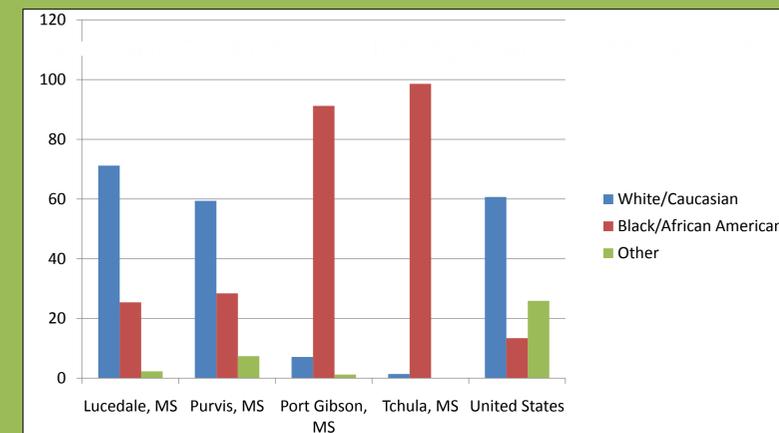
Tchula, Mississippi (Holmes County)



Median Income, Median Age, and Poverty Level



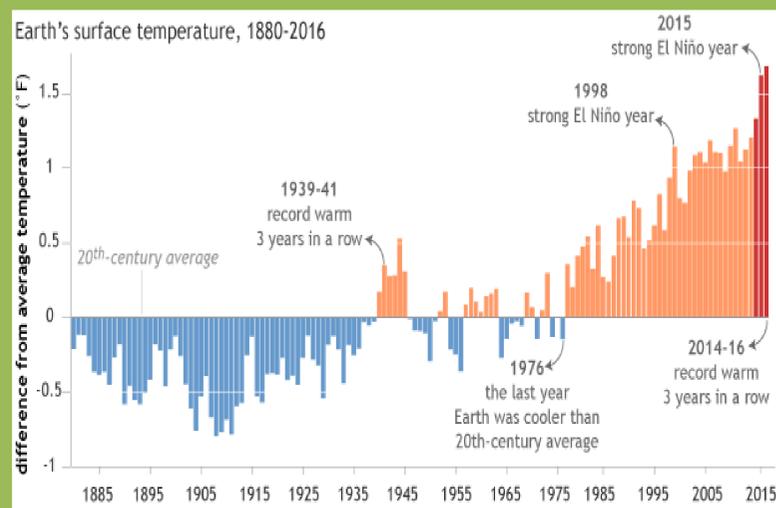
Ethnicity



The Mississippi Recycling Coalition (Resources)

- Mississippi Recycling Directory
- Southeastern Recycling Development Council
- Keep America Beautiful
- Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
- Keep Mississippi Beautiful
- Association of Plastic Recyclers
- U.S. Composting Council
- Glass Recycling Coalition
- Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
- Recycling Partners

Average Temperature



Hurricanes, droughts, tsunamis, arctic winters and the heat we know will eventually destroy us. Over the past 10 years, the average temperature in the United States has risen 8 degrees Fahrenheit, and it will keep increasing due to all the pollutants we put back in the air when we don't recycle, preserve our trees, and continue to ignore climate change.

Grand Gulf Nuclear Plant

Port Gibson, Mississippi



Plant Morrow Coal Power Plant

Purvis, Mississippi



Great Mississippi (Delta) Flood of 1927



References

- Alex Rozier. (2019). Mississippi coal power plant one of the nation's top groundwater polluters, report finds. Mississippi Today
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