2025 Mississippi State Agency AI Inventory

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BACKGROUND, PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

In August 2024, the State of Mississippi established the Artificial Intelligence & Modernization (AIM) group to better understand emerging trends in artificial intelligence (AI) and to position the state for responsible adoption of these technologies. The AIM group was formed during a time of accelerating national activity. States across the country were issuing AI policies, evaluating risks, drafting legislation, and creating frameworks to govern the use of AI systems. Mississippi recognized that a similar effort would be necessary to ensure statewide alignment, innovation, safety, and accountability.

From the outset, the AIM group focused on research and structured collaboration. One of its earliest tasks was to study the actions of other states focusing on: Texas, Maryland, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Oregon, Oklahoma, Alabama, North Carolina, and Arkansas. Many of these states had already begun developing inventories, governance structures, guidelines, and/or statewide AI principles. The AIM group reviewed legislation, regulation, executive directives, and policy from these states to understand best practices and identify common challenges.

Throughout late summer and fall of 2024, the AIM group worked closely with the Office of Governor Tate Reeves on the research and insights gathered from other states and industry experts. This collaboration centered on determining what type of statewide framework would best support Mississippi's needs, how agencies could be involved, and what foundational steps would ensure transparency and responsible adoption as AI tools became more common in government operations. By December 2024, the Governor's Office had prepared a refined draft of what would become Executive Order No. 1584. Governor Reeves formally issued the Executive Order on January 8, 2025, establishing Mississippi's first formal statewide policy framework for artificial intelligence.

Executive Order No. 1584 directs the State to take a coordinated approach to the adoption and oversight of AI. A central component of the order is the requirement for a comprehensive statewide AI inventory, establishing a baseline of AI technologies that agencies are planning, piloting, acquiring, developing, or currently using. The order also outlines the principles that should guide the State's broader approach to AI, including fairness, privacy, transparency, security, innovation, and accountability. These principles mirror the themes observed during the AIM group's nationwide review and align with common values reflected in other states' early AI governance efforts.

Following the issuance of the Executive Order, the AIM group engaged directly with external experts, industry leaders, and peer state leadership to learn from work on AI governance and the collection of statewide AI inventories that had been done previously. These conversations helped clarify the types of information an AI inventory should collect, the distinctions among AI systems, and the potential policy implications associated with different AI use cases. Insights gained through this outreach and research directly shaped Mississippi's early discussions on the AI inventory.

On April 15, 2025, an initial inventory request was sent to all Mississippi state agencies. Each agency was asked to provide information using a standardized AI inventory spreadsheet or, if no AI systems were in use or under consideration, to submit a letter from the agency head affirming an AI nonuse status. Agencies were asked to respond by June 1, 2025.

Once the initial deadline passed, the AIM group compiled a list of non-reporting agencies. This list helped guide follow-up efforts beginning in September 2025 to ensure full participation across the enterprise. The goal was to obtain final reporting from all agencies by October 17, 2025.

With submissions collected, the AIM group began the process of reviewing, validating, and analyzing the statewide AI data in late October 2025. The analysis phase included identifying common use cases, assessing risk categories, examining procurement patterns, and determining themes or trends that could affect future purchase and policy recommendations.

The inventory initiative demonstrates that Mississippi's AI governance efforts are rooted in careful study, intergovernmental collaboration, balancing innovation with risk awareness, and a commitment to responsible adoption. Mississippi's approach has positioned itself to both harness the benefits of artificial intelligence and address its challenges with clarity and foresight.

METHODOLOGY AND DATA SOURCES

The Mississippi AI Inventory was developed using a structured data collection process administered to 98 state entities, including agencies, boards, and commissions using a standardized self-report format. Respondents completed a standardized inventory form that captured detailed information at the solution or use-case level, including agency and point-of-contact details, solution name and vendor, the functional category of AI used (such as generative, analytical, or conversational), project status and deployment environment, data sensitivity classifications, the degree of human involvement in decision-making, and whether relevant policies and procedures were in place. The scope of the inventory included all AI tools, services, and features currently in use, piloted, under development, or in active planning during the 2025 reporting period. The final inventory dataset contained 243 records representing individual AI solutions, configurations, or use cases reported by 44 distinct state agencies with at least one AI implementation or pilot.

For clarity, several key definitions guide this report. The term "artificial intelligence" has the meaning set forth in 15 U.S.C. § 9401(3): a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations, or decisions influencing real or virtual environments. Artificial intelligence systems use machine and human-based inputs to perceive real and virtual environments; abstract such perceptions into models through analysis in an automated manner; and use model inference to formulate options for information or action. The term "generative AI" refers to AI that is capable of and used to produce new content, including, audio, code, images, text, and video, according to the data inputs and machine learning model it is trained on. An AI project or use case refers to any distinct system, tool, or configuration in which AI meaningfully contributes to analytics, automation, decision support, or user interaction. Functional categories reflect how agencies classified their AI tools and may include Generative AI, Analytical AI, Conversational or Natural Language AI, Automation AI, Predictive AI, Computer Vision, and other capabilities. Human involvement describes the level of human oversight embedded in each use case, ranging from full human decision-making to AI-automated decisions with minimal human interaction. Policies and Procedures (P&P) refer to any agency-established AI-specific or AI-relevant standards, policies, or operating procedures that govern the use of a given solution.

Like any self-reported survey effort, this inventory has limitations. Some under-reporting or misclassification is possible due to variations in how agencies interpreted the form or how comprehensively they assessed their AI tools. The AI landscape is also evolving rapidly, meaning the dataset represents a snapshot of activity in 2025, specifically at the time each agency submitted during 2025, and will require ongoing updates to remain current and meaningful. Additionally, differences in project granularity, where some agencies reported multiple related configurations separately and others grouped them, may slightly affect the total number of projects. Despite these limitations, the dataset is sufficiently comprehensive to support meaningful enterprise-level conclusions and inform statewide AI strategy and governance recommendations.

HIGH-LEVEL FINDINGS

By the final deadline, ITS had a 100% response rate across the rationalized agency list for the AI Inventory. The 2025 Mississippi AI Inventory emphasized several key findings: just over half of participating agencies are already using AI; more than 230 AI projects are active or planned; a small number of core platforms, especially Microsoft and OpenAI, dominate statewide adoption; most solutions maintain a strong human-in-the-loop decision structure; and formal AI policy adoption remains limited across agencies. Building on these insights, the detailed inventory data paints a clearer picture of the state's AI landscape. The sections that follow examine these findings in greater depth and outline the strategic implications for statewide AI governance and implementation.

KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE 2025 MS AI INVENTORY

1. **AI Governance Is Emerging but Grounded in Responsible Practice**
Agencies are approaching AI with caution by emphasizing study, collaboration, and risk-aware decision-making rather than unchecked experimentation.
2. **Opportunities for Enterprise-Level Coordination**
The inventory shows clear potential for statewide alignment across platforms (e.g., Microsoft, OpenAI), risk assessments, and governance frameworks, areas that remain inconsistent today.
3. **Enterprise Architecture Can Strengthen Security and Standards**
A coordinated EA approach could standardize identity, security, logging, monitoring, and data governance across all environments and commercially procured AI systems.
4. **Confidential Data Raises the Stakes for Governance**
With 14% of AI projects involving confidential information, Mississippi needs stronger safeguards, enterprise security solutions, and formalized AI governance to protect sensitive data.
5. **Human-in-the-Loop Is the Dominant Safety Practice**
69.5% of systems rely on full human decision-making; automation is currently limited to narrow operational functions such as infrastructure or cybersecurity monitoring.
6. **Operational Use Is Outpacing Policy**
Agencies are moving faster than formal statewide AI policy development. Existing IT policies, such as the Enterprise Security Policy and Acceptable Use Policy, still provide partial guidance but are not AI-specific.
7. **Public-Facing AI Requires Strong Transparency and Bias Controls**
As agencies adopt more public-facing AI tools, the need increases for clear communication, accessibility, and mitigation of potential bias or misinformation.
8. **Statewide AI Adoption Is Reaching a Critical Inflection Point**
Momentum is accelerating. Core platforms are consolidating, creating opportunities for enterprise guardrails and shared services. Overall risk levels appear low, but governance gaps persist, especially around accountability, oversight, privacy, and data protection.

CURRENT STATE OF AI ADOPTION

The statewide inventory identifies a cumulative total of 243 AI solution projects, including active and planned. Many agencies report multiple projects spanning areas such as productivity enhancement, cybersecurity, data analytics, and citizen-facing services.

Cumulative Growth of AI Uses in State Agencies

**Top 5 Agencies Utilizing AI**
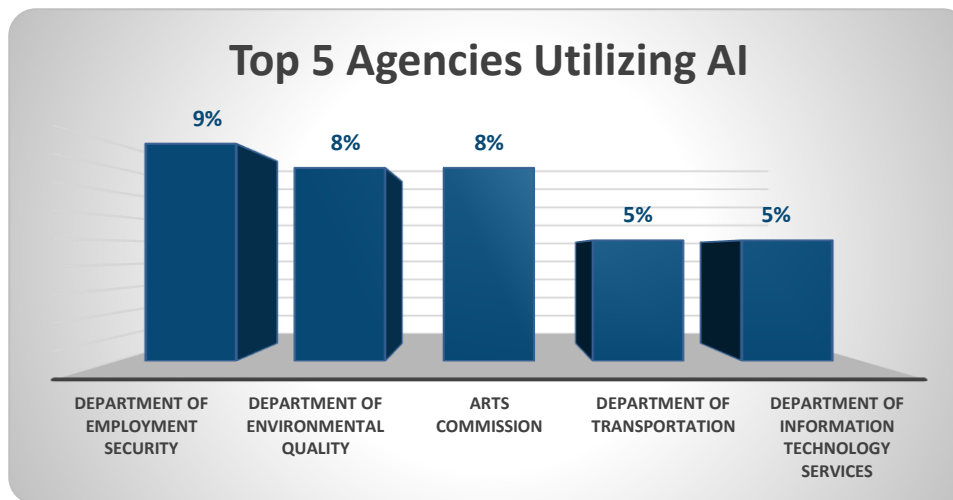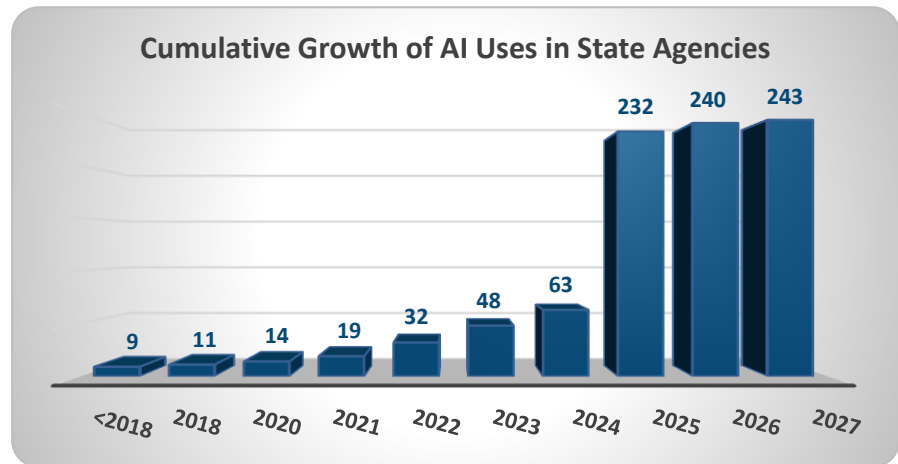
As seen by the chart on the left, approximately 35% of AI utilization among agencies is concentrated among five agencies. The Department of Employment Security reports the highest number of AI uses, accounting for 22 of the identified projects. Both the Department of Environmental Quality and the Arts Commission follow at 19 projects each, indicating strong engagement with AI-enabled capabilities. The Department of Transportation and the Department of Information Technology Services report 13 and 12 projects, respectively. Together, these agencies represent the most active adopters of AI within state government and demonstrate early leadership in integrating AI into operational and service-delivery functions.

Regarding maturity, 166 projects (70%) are already in active use. Another 32 projects (13%) are in planning, 21 projects (9%) are piloting, and smaller groups are acquiring or developing AI solutions. This distribution reflects a statewide progression from initial experimentation toward broad operational deployment, with AI increasingly embedded in routine administrative and service functions.
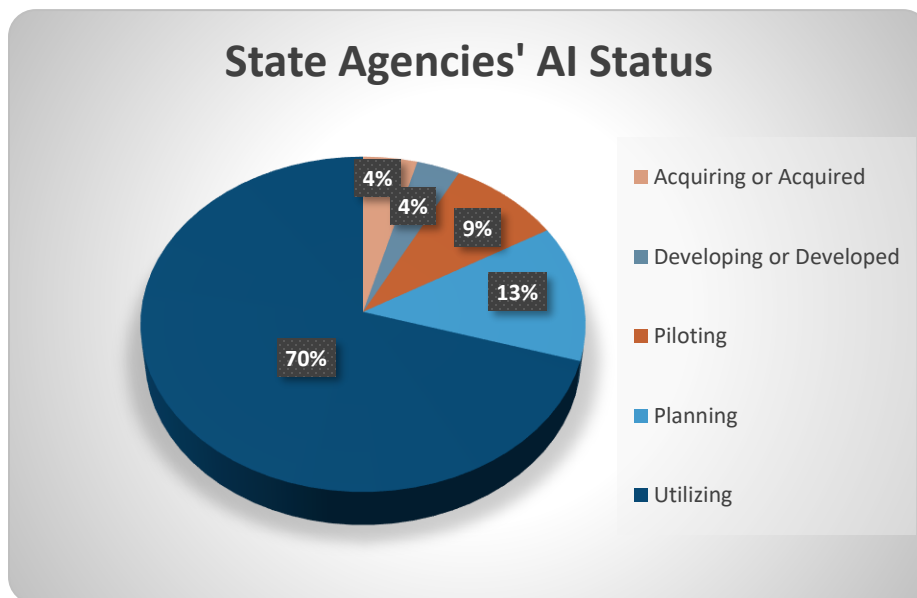
Mississippi agencies' AI ecosystem is anchored by a couple of dominant platforms that make up the majority of projects. Microsoft solutions represent approximately 36% of all adoptions. While OpenAI solutions represent approximately 20%. Adobe accounts for approximately 11% of solutions, and various open-source tools account for roughly 10%. Additional vendors, including Cisco, Google, Grammarly, Kaseya, AWS, and Proofpoint, comprise smaller but meaningful segments as seen in the chart to the right.
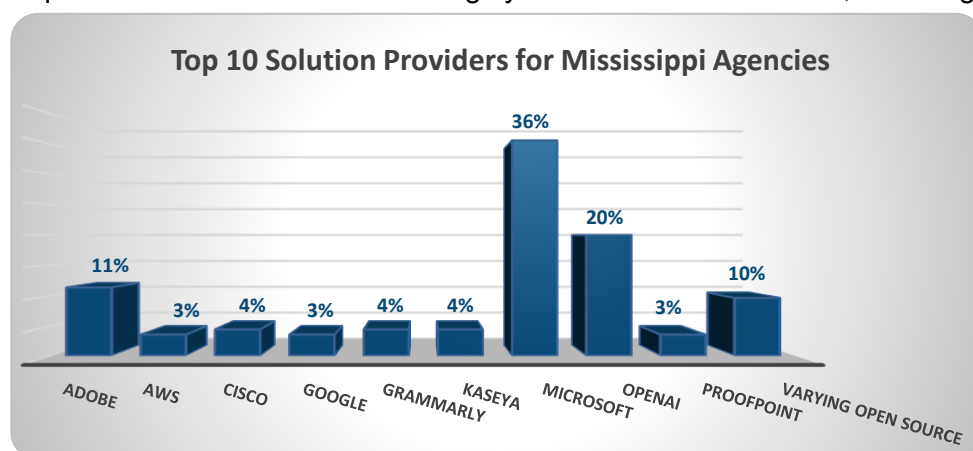
This vendor concentration suggests that statewide AI adoption is closely tied to cloud infrastructure, enterprise productivity, and cybersecurity platforms already in use across agencies. Such concentration provides opportunities for coordinated enterprise agreements, standardized risk assessments, and consistent governance across the most widely deployed technologies.
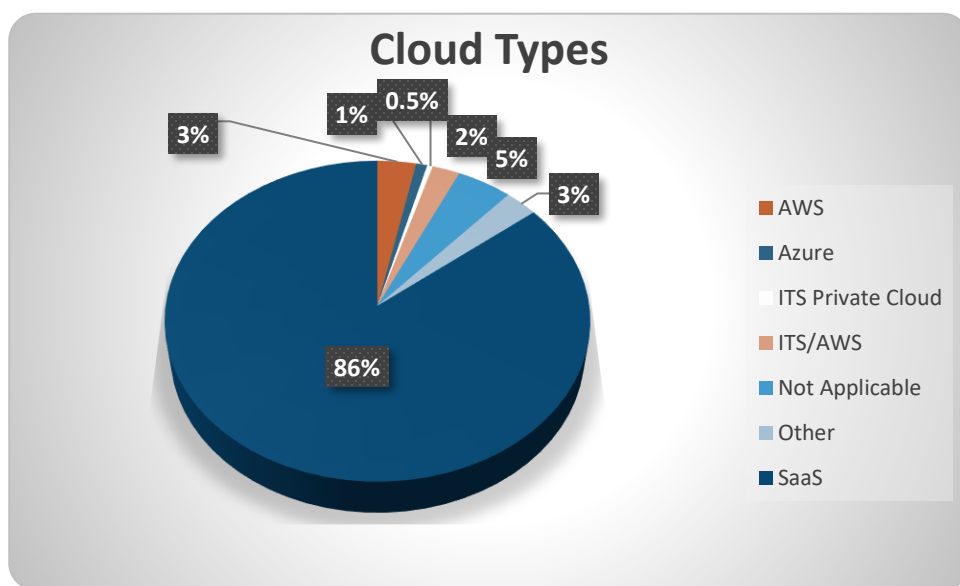
Functional categories reveal that agencies use AI for a wide range of capabilities, often combining multiple functions within a single solution. Generative AI is the most frequently

identified capability, appearing in roughly 147 categorization entries, reflecting strong statewide reliance on large language models for content generation, summarization, and knowledge retrieval. Analytical AI appears approximately 81 times and supports advanced pattern recognition, analytics, and insight generation. Conversational and natural language AI tools, such as chat interfaces and automated assistants, appear in about 58 entries, showing growing interest in chat-based support for employees and citizens. Other categories such as automation AI (42 entries), predictive AI (37 entries), and computer vision (21 entries) highlight targeted uses in workflow automation, forecasting, and document or image analysis. Smaller numbers of cognitive and autonomous/robotic AI uses (around five each) suggest early-stage exploration of more advanced AI capabilities. Because solutions can span multiple functional types, these counts reflect capability presence rather than total projects. Overall, generative AI dominates current adoption with conversational and analytical capabilities following closely.
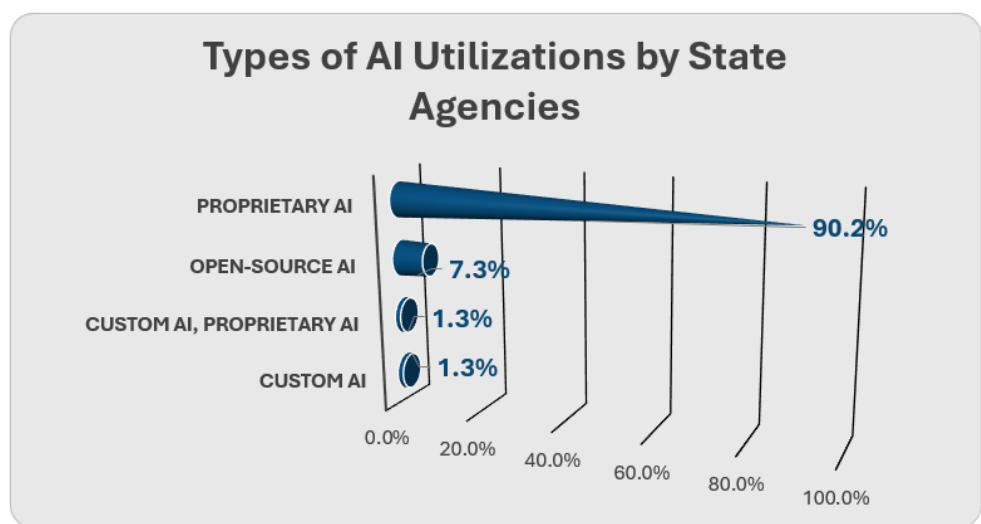
DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT AND ARCHITECTURE

Deployment environments strongly favor cloud-based infrastructure. Of the reported projects, a majority of projects (183) are deployed in cloud-only environments, making cloud the default model for AI implementation across the state. Smaller numbers operate on-premise systems (23), edge environments (11), or hybrid configurations (14). This distribution reflects both the maturity of cloud-native AI services and the practicality of using Software as a Solution (SaaS) for scalability, flexibility, and integration. Edge and on-premise deployments appear to be reserved for specialized use cases requiring low latency, restricted connectivity, or heightened data control.

The inventory also distinguishes cloud providers where specified. A large portion of projects (86%) fall under a variety of SaaS and vendor-hosted platforms rather than traditional cloud infrastructure. The major cloud providers including AWS, Azure, ITS/AWS, and ITS Private Cloud represent only a minor portion of the overall landscape, ranging from 0%-3% each, of the identified projects. This distribution shows that SaaS forms a substantial backbone for AI workloads statewide, while AWS, Azure, ITS/AWS, ITS Private Cloud and Others (5%) play complementary roles currently. The prevalence of vendor-hosted SaaS tools reinforces that Mississippi operates within a multi-cloud, multi-vendor ecosystem. Additionally, analysis of the AI utilization types demonstrates that state agencies rely overwhelmingly on proprietary AI solutions which represent 90.2% of all reported projects while open-source AI solutions account for 7.2% and custom AI solutions for

Cloud Types

- 3%
- 1%
- 0.5%
- 2%
- 5%
- 3%
- 86%

Legend:
- AWS
- Azure
- ITS Private Cloud
- ITS/AWS
- Not Applicable
- Other
- SaaS

Types of AI Utilizations by State Agencies

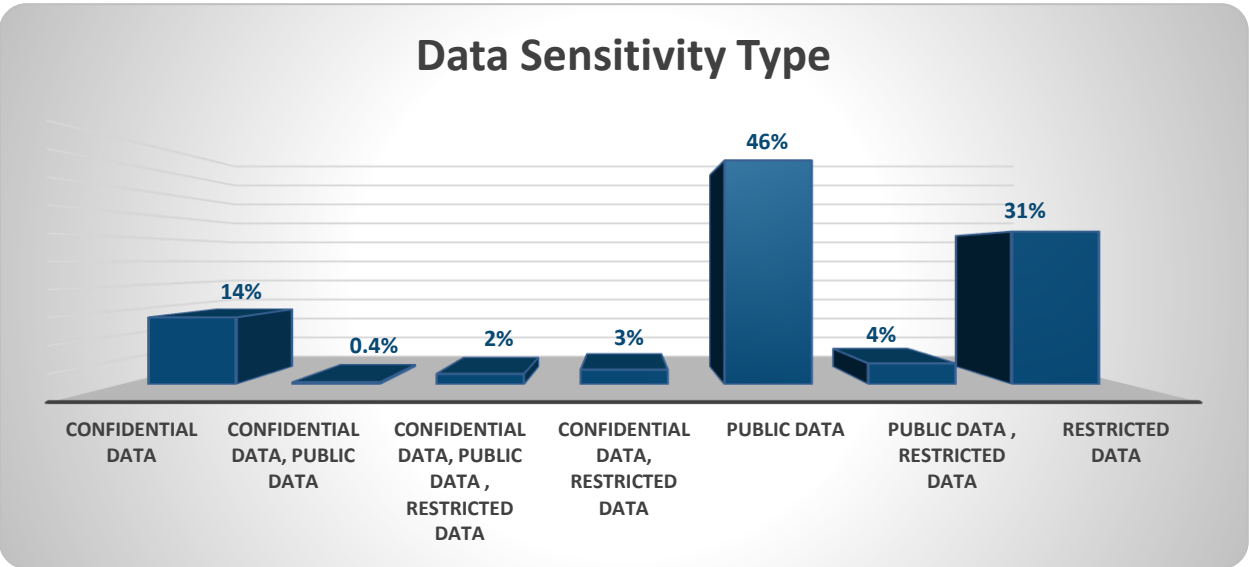|	
PROPRIETARY AI	90.2%
OPEN-SOURCE AI	7.3%
CUSTOM AI, PROPRIETARY AI	1.3%
CUSTOM AI	1.3%

0.0% 20.0% 40.0% 60.0% 80.0% 100.0%

only 1.3%. This distribution reinforces a strong reliance on vendor-provided AI capabilities and limited development of internally engineered or open-source models. As a result, enterprise architecture efforts have the potential to prioritize consistent standards for identity, security, logging, monitoring, and data governance across all environments and commercially procured AI systems.

DATA SENSITIVITY AND RISK

Projects vary widely in the types of data they handle. The largest group with 107 projects, or 46%, works exclusively with Public Data, while 73 projects involve Restricted Data and 32 involve Confidential Data. Several projects combine multiple sensitivity categories, including cases where solutions handle Restricted and Confidential Data or even all three categories. Overall, approximately 45 projects, or 14%, involve Confidential Data, underscoring the importance of robust governance, risk controls, and safeguards for AI systems handling sensitive information.

Data Sensitivity Type

| Category	Value
CONFIDENTIAL DATA	14%
CONFIDENTIAL DATA, PUBLIC DATA	0.4%
CONFIDENTIAL DATA, PUBLIC DATA, RESTRICTED DATA	2%
CONFIDENTIAL DATA, RESTRICTED DATA	3%
PUBLIC DATA	46%
PUBLIC DATA, RESTRICTED DATA	4%
RESTRICTED DATA	31%

Risk assessments submitted through the inventory indicate that most projects are considered low risk. Specifically, 198 projects, about 83%, fall into the low-risk category; 26, 11%, are classified as moderate-risk, and 13 projects, 5%, are listed as high-risk. One additional project includes a combined "Low-Risk, Moderate-Risk" designation. While the predominance of low-risk projects aligns with the heavy use of AI for internal productivity and document processing, the presence of high-risk use cases, particularly those that also involve Confidential Data, highlights the need for secure enterprise solutions and robust AI governance.
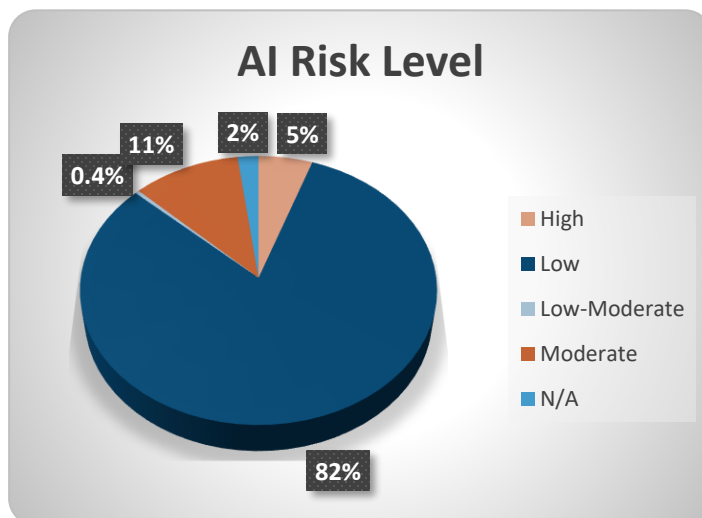
HUMAN INVOLVEMENT AND DECISION-MAKING

Human involvement levels reveal that Mississippi's AI adoption remains firmly human-centered. A total of 69.5% of AI projects rely on full human decision-making. Another 17.3% of projects involve human decisions supported by AI-automated features, while only 14 projects or 5.8% use fully automated AI decision-making. Additionally, only one project includes automated decisions with minimal human interaction, and 17 projects list human involvement as undefined.
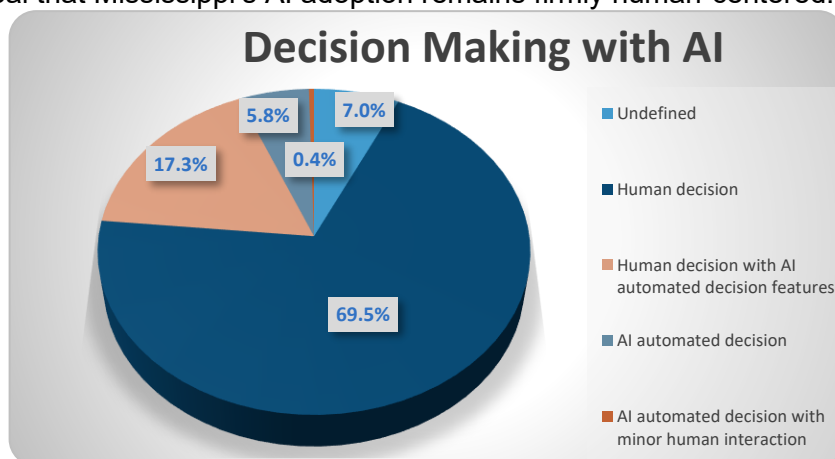
This distribution shows that, despite increasing reliance on AI tools, humans remain responsible for final decisions in most use cases. The strong human-in-the-loop orientation demonstrates agencies' emphasis on responsible AI use. AI is functioning primarily as an assistive or advisory tool rather than acting autonomously. Fully automated solutions appear to be limited to narrow operational domains such as infrastructure monitoring or cybersecurity alerts.
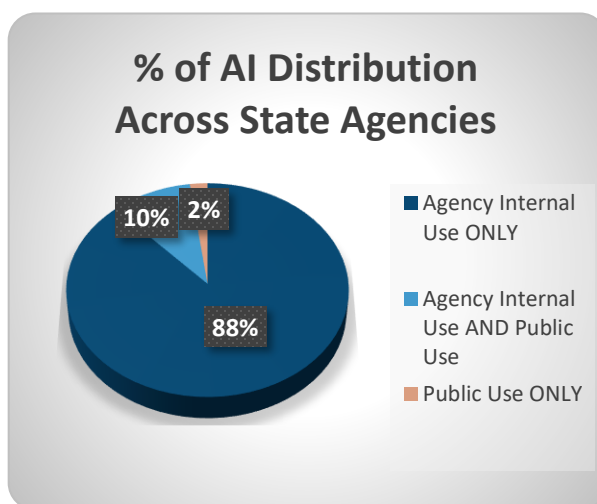
GOVERNANCE, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The inventory results reveal a significant gap in specific AI governance. At the project level, 187 reported solutions, roughly 77%, operate without any AI-specific policies or procedures, while only 56 solutions indicate that such governance exists. At the agency level, 84% report having no specific AI policy or procedure in place currently. These findings indicate that AI adoption is outpacing specific governance development, a condition best characterized as "operational

momentum ahead of policy." This exposure can be concerning for high-risk projects, systems involving Confidential Data, and eventual citizen-facing AI tools. Even though there is a lack of AI specific policies across state agencies, there are other policies in place like the Enterprise Security and Acceptable Use of IT Resources that provide guidance on responsible AI utilizing, even if not specifically addressed.

USE TYPES AND PUBLIC-FACING AI

The inventory categorizes AI applications based on intended use. The majority of projects, 207 or approximately 88%, are designated for internal agency use only, supporting tasks such as productivity, analytics, administrative workflows, and staff assistance. Another 23 projects, 10%, serve both internal and public functions, while only a total of 5 projects, or 2%, are exclusively public facing. Although relatively small in number, public-facing AI systems carry higher reputational, equity, and trust implications. As agencies mature in their AI adoption, public-facing tools are expected to expand, making transparency, accessibility, and bias mitigation increasingly important priorities.

% of AI Distribution Across State Agencies

- Agency Internal Use ONLY
- Agency Internal Use AND Public Use
- Public Use ONLY

10% 2% 88%

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Altogether, the data show that Mississippi is at a critical turning point in statewide AI adoption. Adoption momentum is accelerating, with a strong shift toward operational use and a growing number of agencies supporting multiple AI initiatives. Core platforms are consolidating around Microsoft, OpenAI, and a handful of cloud providers, creating opportunities for standardized enterprise guardrails and shared services. Although overall project risk levels appear low, specific AI governance has not kept pace, leaving potential gaps in accountability, oversight, and policy coverage. Human-in-the-loop practices currently serve as an important strength and should be formally preserved. At the same time, the presence of Confidential Data across nearly one-sixth of projects highlights an urgent need to modernize data governance and ensure strong privacy and security controls.

CONCLUSION

Mississippi's 2025 AI Inventory makes clear that AI is now firmly embedded in state government operations. More than half of responding agencies report active AI use, and over 230 projects are underway across a manageable set of enterprise platforms. These systems are predominantly low-risk, internally focused, and designed with meaningful human oversight. However, specific AI governance has not yet caught up with the rapid pace of adoption, particularly for projects involving Confidential Data or higher-stakes decision-making. By using this inventory as a foundation, Mississippi has an opportunity to further develop a robust enterprise AI strategy, forward-looking AI strategy that protects citizens, strengthens agency operations, and enables responsible innovation across government.

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