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2006 INCOME AND POVERTY DATA FOR SELECT LOUISIANA PARISHES AND CITIES

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Earlier today (August 28) the U.S. Census Bureau released its annual report on poverty in 2006 based on data collected from the *Current Population Survey*. In brief there was a small drop in the rate of poverty across the United States from 12.6 percent in 2005 to 12.3 percent in 2006. The number of poor persons in 2006 was estimated at 36,460,000 which is *not statistically different* than the number of poor persons reported one year earlier.

Poverty among all U.S. families remained essentially unchanged from 2005 to 2006 when 9.8 percent or an estimated 7,668,000 were classified as poor. Poverty among female-headed families (no spouse present) remained much higher at 28.3 percent which is 5.8 times higher than the rate for married-couple families.

At the same time the Bureau released other information from its *American Community Survey* that provides important income and poverty data for states and their larger political subdivisions, though the *ACS's* primary purpose is to supply accurate population estimates for Congressional re-apportionment. The *CPS* and the *ACS* are alike in that they survey households selected at random. However, the Bureau states emphatically that due to important methodological differences estimates from the two are not to be compared.

Table 1 below shows median family income and the rate of poverty from the *ACS* for select Louisiana parishes for 2006. The margin of error for family income and poverty rate are displayed to caution the reader about comparing one estimate to another. For that reason we have highlighted the upper and lower values with regard to income and poverty and their respective margins of error. Table 2 provides comparable information on the rate of poverty for the largest cities in Louisiana. However, data on median family income for these cities is not available from the 2006 *ACS*.

For informational purposes the Bureau's population estimates are provided which were made available to the public at an earlier date from sources other than the *ACS*. Due to problems with the size of the *ACS* sample and therefore the reliability of the data, small parishes and

towns are not included.

| TABLE 1. parish | Median Family Income | | Rate of Poverty | | Population |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|
| | \$ amount | \$ error +/- | percent | error +/- | |
| Ascension | 60,891 | 4,262 | 10.9 | 2.5 | 97,335 |
| Bossier | 54,679 | 4,144 | 10.0 | 2.4 | 107,270 |
| Caddo | 42,397 | 2,072 | 22.4 | 2.2 | 253,118 |
| Calcasieu | 50,151 | 4,016 | 15.6 | 2.2 | 184,524 |
| E. Baton Rouge | 56,917 | 2,670 | 20.1 | 1.6 | 429,073 |
| Iberia | 42,143 | 5,145 | 23.6 | 5.1 | 75,509 |
| Jefferson | 54,695 | 2,927 | 14.0 | 1.8 | 431,361 |
| Lafayette | 53,160 | 4,836 | 17.2 | 2.7 | 203,091 |
| Lafourche | 46,517 | 5,225 | 17.4 | 4.0 | 93,554 |
| Livingston | 48,851 | 4,052 | 14.7 | 3.7 | 114,805 |
| Orleans | 47,754 | 7,219 | 22.2 | 3.1 | 223,388 |
| Ouachita | 44,703 | 5,021 | 20.8 | 2.9 | 149,259 |
| Rapides | 44,824 | 3,011 | 20.7 | 2.9 | 130,201 |
| St. Landry | 33,800 | 7,644 | 29.2 | 4.5 | 91,528 |
| St. Tammany | 68,352 | 3,687 | 9.0 | 1.6 | 223,605 |
| Tangipahoa | 46,448 | 3,516 | 25.5 | 3.8 | 113,137 |
| Terrebonne | 51,667 | 2,657 | 17.8 | 3.0 | 109,348 |
| <i>LOUISIANA</i> | <i>48,261</i> | <i>794</i> | <i>19.0</i> | <i>0.6</i> | <i>4,287,768</i> |

TABLE 2.
City

| | | | |
|--------------|------|-----|-----------|
| Baton Rouge | 27.0 | 2.8 | 229,553 |
| Kenner | 14.9 | 5.8 | 66,592 |
| Lafayette | 17.9 | 4.2 | 114,214 |
| Lake Charles | 22.5 | 5.0 | 70,224 |
| Metairie CDP | 8.2 | 1.7 | 132,944 * |
| New Orleans | 22.2 | 3.1 | 223,388 |
| Shreveport | 23.9 | 2.7 | 200,199 |

*: 2005 data; 2006 data not available.

Edward J. O'Boyle is Senior Research Associate with Mayo Research Institute. Since completing his doctorate in economics from Saint Louis University more than 35 years ago, Dr. O'Boyle has specialized in economic research and analysis increasingly from the perspective of the human person engaged in everyday activities both as a unique individual and as a community member. In January 2004 the Association for Social Economics conferred on Dr. O'Boyle its prestigious Thomas Divine Award for lifetime contributions to social economics and the social economy. He taught economics at a state university in Louisiana for 30 years prior to his retirement in 2007.

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