



2006 Census Poverty & Income Data

August 28, 2007

SUMMARY

- Overall poverty rate drops from 12.6% to 12.3%; black poverty rate drops to 24.3%
- Median household income increases slightly between 2005 and 2006 for most groups, but is still lower than it was in 2000

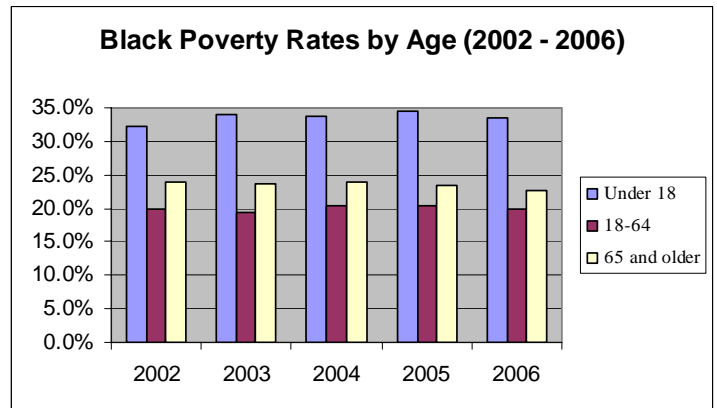
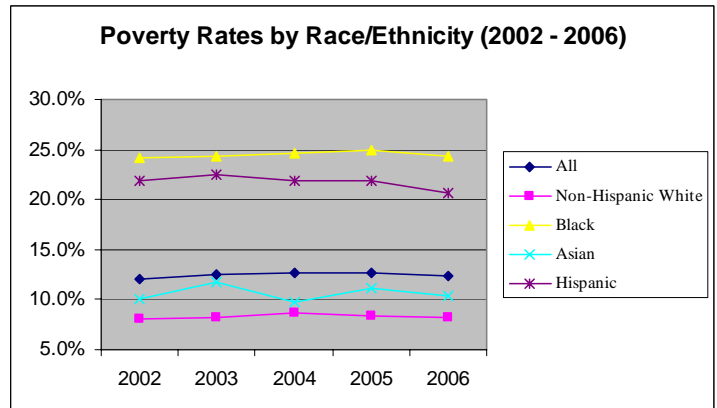
On August 28, 2007 the Census Bureau released new statistics on income and poverty for 2006. For the nation as a whole, the numbers show the first substantial decline in the poverty rate since 2000, declining from 12.6% to 12.3%. The rate for both all blacks and black children (those under 18) declined as well, but are higher than for other groups. The median household income increased for the nation by 0.7% to \$48,201 and for blacks it increased by 0.3% to \$31,969, but both figures are below the inflation-adjusted figures in 2000. The median income of Blacks remains at 61% of that of non-Hispanic whites and the lowest of any group.

Poverty Rate Declines, But Still Higher for Blacks

Although the overall poverty rate declined to 12.3% in 2006, that rate is still higher than in 2000 when it was 11.3%. The poverty rate declined for all racial and ethnic groups in 2006, but Latinos had the biggest drop (-1.2%), followed by Asians (-0.8%) and then blacks (-0.6%). Blacks continue to have the highest poverty rate at 24.3%. Blacks also have the highest rate of people living in severe poverty (less than half the current poverty threshold): 10.9% of Blacks were in severe poverty, compared with 7.7% of Latinos, 5.1% of Asians and 3.5% of non-Hispanic Whites.

The poverty rate for children (under 18) also dropped in 2006, from 17.6% to 17.4%. At more

than 3 times the non-Hispanic White rate of 10%, blacks continue to have the highest percentage of children in poverty of any group (33.4%). This figure is a 1.1 percentage point improvement from last year, the second biggest improvement of any group after Latinos. The elderly (65 years and older) continue to have the lowest overall poverty rate at 9.4%, yet this rate is also higher for Blacks (22.7%) than for any other group.



Median Income Increases, But Still Below Pre-Recession Levels

Median household income increased for all groups except non-Hispanic Whites in 2006, but for all groups the inflation-adjusted median income was still less than it was in 2000. For blacks this year's median household income was 8% lower than 2000. In 2006, Asians had the biggest annual increase in median income (+1.8%), followed by Latinos (+1.7%), Blacks (+0.3%) and then non-Hispanic Whites (-0.05%). When you look specifically at different income groups, Blacks continue to have far higher percentages of people at the lowest incomes (less than \$15,000 a year) than non-Hispanic Whites or the nation as a whole, and far fewer in the top range (more than \$100,000).

