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Census Income and Poverty Data

Data on income, poverty, and health insurance from the Current Population Survey (CPS), released by the Census Bureau on August 29, 2006, indicates that household income increased for the first time since 1999, reaching $46,326 in 2005. Relative to 2004, income rose 1.1 percent despite the fact that earnings for individuals, both men and women, continue to decline. There was also little measured change in household income inequality between 2004 and 2005. As the report points out, however, although the individual annual differences in income inequality have not been statistically significant for a decade, inequality has grown significantly when measured over the entire period.

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Homeless Headlines

CPS Overstates Employment, Underestimates Poverty

In a report released August 24, the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) finds that by undercounting the number of unemployed individuals, the Current Population Survey (CPS) overestimated the national employment rate by 1.7% in 2005. In The Impact of Undercounting in the Current Population Survey, John Schmitt and Dean Baker argue that, as a result, the survey may underestimate those living in poverty and those without health insurance by 600,000 and 350,000, respectively.

The study is based on a comparison of data from the 2000 Census and the results of the CPS in the spring of the same year. The decennial census covered a higher percentage of the total population (99% vs. 92%) and reported an employment rate 1.3% lower than the CPS figure for the same time period, implying that the CPS misses a significant number of unemployed adults. Additionally, the survey’s coverage rate has been declining since 1986 and is not consistent across gender or racial groups. As a result, CEPR argues that estimates of employment based on the CPS have become more inflated over time, increasing from an overstatement of 1.1% in 1986 to 1.7% in 2005. For African American males – the demographic group least represented in the survey – employment may be overstated by as much as 3.5%.

While this study can not definitively make the case that the CPS is increasingly underestimating unemployment and other problems, this analysis will be interesting to anyone who wants to understand the origins and the implications of often-cited government statistics. The full study is available at www.cepr.net/publications/cps_declining_coverage_2006_08.pdf.

For further information, contact the National Low Income Housing Coalition at the address in Headlines Directory.

HOME Performance Report

The HOME Program has introduced Dashboard Reports, new quarterly reports intended to provide a quick overview of a jurisdiction’s use of HOME dollars. Using charts and graphs, Dashboard Reports show:

- Cumulative HOME dollars received and percentage disbursed, committed, and uncommitted.
- Cumulative number of units completed and percentage of rental, homeowner rehab, and homebuyer units.
- Net number of units completed in the most recent quarter, with percentage of rental, homeowner rehab, and homebuyer units.
- Cumulative number and the last quarter’s net new number of tenant-based rental assistance units.
- Race and ethnicity percentages among rental, homeowner rehab, and homebuyer projects.
- Average total development cost per unit for rental, homeowner rehab, and homebuyer projects.

Dashboard Reports are available at www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/affordablehousing/reports/, along with HOME “Open Activities Reports” and “Snapshot Reports.”

For further information, contact the National Low Income Housing Coalition at the address in Headlines Directory.

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The past two articles began discussion regarding the work necessary to effect system change by moving from case to cause through collaboration. The prior articles covered the initial steps of this process, which included:

1. Diagnose the problem.
2. Determine what it would take to fix the problem.

Now you are ready to implement the solution, manage and evaluate the plan, and decide when the collaboration has finished its current work.

1. **Implement the solution.** You and your partners have created a plan that addresses the problem, clearly identifies each person’s role, utilizes existing resources and addresses any gaps. Also, the funding for the project is in place and the plan has specific action steps, with time frames for completion in place. Now you are ready for implementation.

During implementation, when multiple agencies are involved, ensure any joint agreements established have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorizing authority. Also write down the policies and procedures expected of the participating organizations. Identify a central point of leadership, and this lead agency will be responsible for monitoring and coordinating the project. During this process, the planning team needs to establish a regular reporting and

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meeting system that permits ongoing assessment of project activities, along with the ability to adjust the plan in response to identified issues. Cross-training of staff from collaborative agencies is also helpful during this process.

2. Manage and evaluate the plan. Any action plan that has been developed must include time frames for activity completion. During the implementation process, regular reporting of progress towards meeting the established target needs to occur. If a time frame or target is missed, this is not the time to beat your selves up. Rather, ensure the evaluation process is one that encourages reflection, provides the opportunity to adjust and tailor time frames and methods, evaluates both the results and process used to generate the results, builds on the strengths and weaknesses identified, and appreciates any failures. It is important the evaluation process is truly a learning experience, and this can best be accomplished when these principles are incorporated.

3. Keeping the collaboration alive. People or organizations sometimes recognize that they are no longer the most appropriate partner, and new partners are needed. Since the new partners were not part of the collective history, it is important to provide new members with the vision and background of the group, as well as a mentor who can encourage and coach the new member. Ask the new partner what s/he can contribute to the collaboration. Also take the time to share what is occurring with the community through public forums and constantly encourage diverse interests to become engaged with the change occurring.

4. Ending the collaboration. Often this is difficult, but if the groundwork was accomplished, and the community engaged in the process, there may come a time when it is necessary to let the collaboration project stand alone. Changing needs, relationships, or organizational leadership are various reasons for the cessation of the collaboration. Regardless of the reason, it is good to take the time to formally end the relationship, and review what was learned, openly acknowledge any mistakes and celebrate the successes. Take the time to understand that through the collaborative process, regardless of the outcomes, agencies have had a chance to develop relationships through sharing a mutual of ideas.

The DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization focused on advocacy and planning in DuPage County, Illinois and designer and trainer of Making the Connection: A Guide to Accessing Public Benefits. The DuPage Federation is affiliated with Northern Illinois University, Regional Development Institute.

Questions can be directed to knelson@dupagefederation.org or cking@dupagefederation.org

Census
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The proportion of the overall U. S. population living in poverty was unchanged at 12.6 percent, ending four straight years of increases, but the level reported for non-Hispanic whites (8.3 percent) was significantly lower than in 2004, while the poverty rate for Asians (11.1 percent) was significantly higher.

The CPS is a monthly survey that produces the official estimates employment, income, poverty, and health insurance coverage for the U. S. It is based on roughly 600,000 responses per year and is suited for year-over-year comparisons of national and state income and poverty levels, although state estimates should be based on two- or three-year averages due to their smaller sample sizes. A summary of the national findings can be found in Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2005, available at www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/p60-231.pdf. Detailed state tables are available at www.census.gov/cps/.

On the same day, the Census Bureau rolled out additional 2005 American Community Survey (ACS) data providing estimates of poverty, income, and employment for all geographic areas with a population of at least 65,000. Because 2005 represents the first year of the survey’s full implementation, the estimates are not ideal for comparing with previous years, but the sample size of three million households allows users to compare current levels of poverty and income for more than 7,000 geographic areas. ACS data are available at www.census.gov/acs/www/.

Additional information on housing characteristics is scheduled for release on October 3.

The Census Bureau is careful to point out that the surveys produce slightly different estimates of poverty (12.6 percent in CPS, 13.3 percent in ACS) and income because they cover marginally different time frames and are based on different questionnaires and sample sizes.

For further information, contact the National Low Income Housing coalition at the address in Headlines Directory.
TIP
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In June, 2003 Chief Judge Kathryn Zenoff and the 17th Judicial Circuit Court convened a Community Wide Mental Health Task Force, which was a collaborative effort of over 70 community agencies and individuals with an interest in helping persons with mental illness who come in contact with the criminal justice system. The Task Force developed many initiatives: the Therapeutic Intervention Program, and Mental Health Protocol, which has been written to articulate the various agency policies and responses to persons with mental illness; and a Community Mental Health Coordinating Council, the successor body to the Task Force. The Coordinating Council meets quarterly to continue the work and the collaborative efforts of the Task Force.

The Task Force also endorsed the Crisis Intervention Training (C.I.T.) which initially took place in March 2004 for officers in the Rockford Police Department and Winnebago County Sheriff’s Department to provide them with special skills to identify persons with mental illness in crisis who are not a danger to the public and may be diverted from the criminal justice system directly into community mental health services and treatment. To date, over 52 officers from both agencies have received this specialized training, and it will continue to be scheduled regularly due to the reported high satisfaction of the officers. The City of Rockford Deputy Police Chief Greg Lindmark was instrumental in bringing CIT to Rockford and Winnebago County, and also conducted a study on CIT in 2006, and the results showed that 98% of the officers surveyed reported that CIT training enabled them to do their jobs more effectively and 68% reported that CIT training helped them to avoid an arrest of a person with mental illness.

The Therapeutic Intervention Program, like other specialized problem-solving courts offers innovative alternatives to traditional court proceedings and provides the potential for substantial savings to Winnebago County by stopping the revolving door of crime and mental illness. Chief Judge Zenoff commented, “One additional important benefit of this new mental health court (TIP) to our community is increased public safety through addressing offenders’ underlying mental health issues which have been a primary factor in their criminal behavior.” This program has a Team model, which consists of a Judge, Program Coordinator, Assistant State’s Attorney, Public Defender, two Adult Probation Officers, two Assertive Case Managers, Nurse, Clinical Assessor, and the clinical supervisor of the mental health workers.

Over the past 18 months the court has been in operation, we have seen a significant reduction in the amount of both jail days and hospitalization days of the participants. We currently have 40 participants in the court, and 5 who have been accepted and are waiting for a court date to enter.

Funding for the mental health court was made possible by generous appropriations from the Winnebago County Board. In addition, our local state legislators, Senator Dave Syverson and Representative Dave Winters, worked hard to introduce and pass legislation which permits counties to assess a $10 fee on criminal convictions to help defray the costs of mental health courts.

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Private Resources

by Pamela M. Salela, Coordinator, Central Illinois Nonprofit Resource Center
telephone: 217-206-6633 - email: psale2@uis.edu - url: library.uis.edu/findinfo/grants/index.html

The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
203 N. Wabash Ave., Ste. 1800
Chicago, IL 60601-2417
Telephone: (312) 641-5772
FAX: (312) 641-5736
E-mail: driehausfoundation@ameritech.net
URL: www.driehausfoundation.org

Contact: Sunny Fischer, Exec. Dir.
Geographic Focus: Illinois (predominantly Chicago)

Purpose and Activities include a focus on helping the economically disadvantaged. Program Areas include Economic Opportunity “The program will focus on people who are working yet remain in poverty. The foundation will seek grants intended to keep people in their jobs and homes. The foundation will continue to look for other opportunities with new and current recipients to strengthen the lives of twenty-five percent of the workforce who are the working poor.”

Fields of Interest include housing/shelter development. Types of Support: Capital campaigns; Emergency funds; General/operating support; Grants to individuals; Matching/challenge support; Program development; Publication; Seed money. Application Procedure: See website for full details.

Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation
435 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 770
Chicago, IL 60611
Telephone: (312) 222-3512
FAX: (312) 222-3523
E-mail: rmmtf@tribune.com
URL: www.rmmtf.org

Contact: David L. Grange, Pres. and CEO.
Geographic Focus: National

Type of Grantmaker: Public charity
Fields of Interest: Community development; Economically disadvantaged; Homeless; Homeless, human services; Housing/shelter, development; Human services as well as other areas.

Types of Support: Building/renovation; Conferences/seminars; Continuing support; Curriculum development; Employee matching gifts; General/operating support; Matching/challenge support; Program development; Program evaluation; Program-related investments/loans; Research; Seed money; Technical assistance.

Limitations: No grants to individuals, or for endowment funds, or scholarships. Application Procedure: See website for full details.

Southern Illinois Community Foundation
P.O. Box 3392
Carbondale, IL 62902
Telephone: 618-453-4775
Fax (618) 453-4776
URL: www.sicf.org
Email: info@sicf.org

Contact: Maggie Flanagan
Geographic Focus: Southernmost 16 counties of Illinois

Areas of Interest: Affordable Housing; Homeless Centers, Services; Women’s Centers, Services; Children and Youth Services; Education Advocacy; Family Violence Shelters and Services; as well as other community support

Types of Support: Program, Project Support; Challenge Grant; Computer System, Software, Equipment; Conference, Seminar, Workshop; technical assistance

Primary Beneficiaries: Children and Youth; Crime, Abuse Victims; Poor, Economically Disadvantaged, Indigent

Limitations: No funding to individuals or political organizations

Application Information: Prefer initial contact through letter of inquiry or telephone call. No unsolicited proposals will be accepted.

DuPage Community Foundation
2100 Manchester Road
Building A, Suite 503
Wheaton, IL 60187-4579
Telephone: (630) 665-5556
Fax (630) 665-9571
URL: www.dcfdn.org
Email: bheydorn@dcfdn.org

Contact: Bonnie Heydorn
Geographic Focus: DuPage County

Areas of Interest: Housing, Shelter; Fair Housing; Affordable Housing; Temporary Housing, Shelters; Food Distribution, Food Banks; Human Services; Multipurpose Human Service Organizations; Children and Youth Services; Family Services (Counseling and Support); Family Violence Shelters and Services; Emergency Services (Food, Clothing, Money, Transportation, etc.); Senior Centers,
Private Resources (Continued from page 6)

Services; Disabled Persons’ Services; Immigrant, Ethnic Service Centers, Services; Homeless Centers, Services; Civil Rights, Social Action, Advocacy; Arts/Culture/Humanities; Education; Environment/Animal-Related; Health Care - General and Rehabilitative; Women’s Health Issues; Mental Health Treatment; Employment, Jobs Types of Support: General, Operating Support; Construction, Renovation; Equipment, Furnishings, Materials; Computer System, Software, Equipment; Program, Project Support; Conference, Seminar, Workshop; Publication; Seed Money, Start up Funds; Technical Assistance Limitations: No funding for: Capital, Endowment Campaign; Individuals; Agencies funded primarily through tax support; Religious Organizations; Scholarships/Loans Application Procedure: See guidelines available on website.


TIP (Continued from page 5)

Our TIP court continues to grow and expand as there are high numbers of referrals. We are currently working on issues such as homelessness and treatment for co-occurring disorders, as these are two significant problem areas we face. Our TIP Team is continuously undergoing training in different areas of mental health such as: supported employment, motivational interviewing, psychiatric medication and medication compliance, trauma, and understanding personality disorders, to enable us to understand and better assist the persons in our court.

Financial Success for Nonprofits

Workshops:

Workshop topics for the series include:

- New Concepts in Cash Management
  Dates: St. Louis, September 13 • St. Peters, September 27

- Funding Alternatives for Capital Projects and Operations
  Dates: St. Louis, October 11 • St. Peters, October 25

- Engaging Federal, State, and Local Funding
  Dates: St. Louis, November 8 • St. Peters, November 15

- Investments for Today and Beyond
  Dates: St. Louis, January 10 • St. Peters, January 24

- Generating a Return with Your Marketing Dollar
  Dates: St. Louis, February 14 • St. Peters, February 28

- Board/Staff Fiscal Responsibilities
  Dates: St. Louis, March 14 • St. Peters, March 28

There is no cost for attending. All workshops take place from 8:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Locations:

St. Louis, Missouri

Nonprofit Services Consortium
1415 Olive Street, Training Room A
St. Louis, MO 63103

St. Peters, Missouri

Non-Profit Development Center
425 Spencer Road
St. Peters, MO 63376

Sponsors:

Sponsored by: UMB Bank, Social Venture Partners, Lutheran Foundation, Incarnate Word Foundation

Registration and Information

To reserve your spot, contact Heather Frein at: Phone: 314.612.8627
Fax: 314.612.8223 E-mail: heather.frein@umb.com

For questions about the seminars, contact John Brightman at 314.612.8005

For more information on the TIP Court, please contact the Program Coordinator Marci Raiber at (815) 319-4805.