



Michigan League FOR Human Services

Aug. 28, 2007

Fact Sheet: A Snapshot of Michigan Poverty, Income and Health Insurance, 2006

On Aug. 28, 2007 the Census Bureau released 2006 data regarding poverty, income, and health insurance coverage in the United States. Overall poverty is determined using the Current Population Survey while all other measures are determined using data from the American Community Survey¹

Poverty:

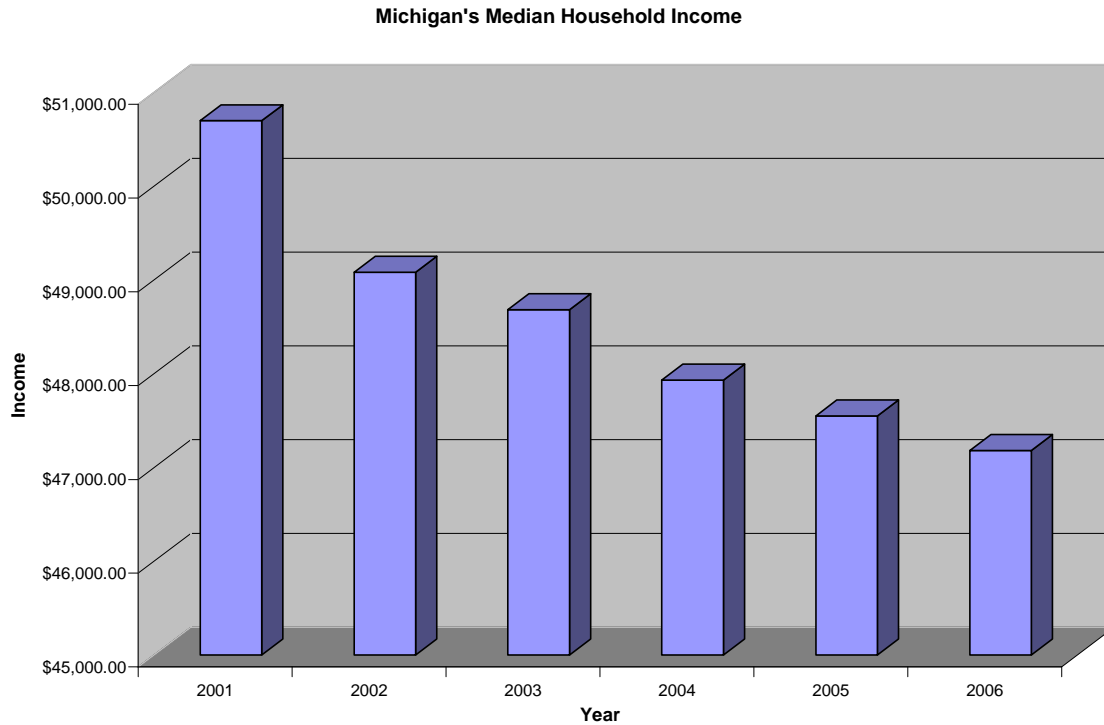
- According to the Current Population Survey:
 - The United States poverty rate in 2006 was 12.3 percent representing approximately 36.5 million people;
 - The poverty rate in Michigan for 2006 was 13.3 percent, representing 1.3 million people (out of a total state population of approximately 9.95 million people);
 - Michigan's 2005-2006 two-year average poverty rate increased 3 percentage points compared to the 2000-2001 two-year average. This increase is one of the highest in the nation with only five other states having higher two-year average increases over the same period.

- According to the American Community Survey:
 - Michigan ranked 20th in 2006, out of 50 states and the District of Columbia in terms of the percentage of people living in poverty;
 - Michigan's family poverty rate for 2006 was 9.6 percent (248,142 families). This is a minor drop from 2005. Of more significance, however, is the increase from 2001 when 206,366 families were living in poverty, or 7.9 percent of all families in Michigan;
 - The child poverty rate for 2006 was 17.8 percent, representing 430,545 children. Again, as with family poverty, the change from 2005 is not significant but the increase is significant from 2001, when the child poverty rate was 14.2 percent, representing 339,308 children.

¹ The American Community Survey 2006 includes individuals residing in Group Quarters which were not included in previous years. Group Quarters are defined by the Census as all people not living in households such as institutions (nursing homes, correctional facilities and mental hospitals) and non-institutional facilities (college dormitories, military barracks, group homes, shelters and missions). In addition, weighting methodologies were modified to ensure that estimates were consistent across multiple measures. A more detailed explanation may be found at: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/compACS.htm>

Income:

- Michigan's median household income in 2006 was \$47,182. Michigan's median household income has steadily declined since 2001 when the median income was \$50,698 (all numbers adjusted for 2006 inflation):



Health Insurance:

- According to the Current Population Survey's 2006 data:
 - In 2006 there were just over 1 million uninsured people living in Michigan, or 10.5 percent of state's population;
 - Of this, approximately 116,000 were children under the age of 18, and approximately 8,000 individuals aged 65 and over.