

Who lives in New Orleans and the Metro Area now?

Based on 2008 U.S. Census Bureau Data

Allison Plyer and Elaine Ortiz, Greater New Orleans Community Data Center

Released: October 2, 2009

Summary

This brief examines 2008 demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau for Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany parishes, and the overall metro area, and identifies significant changes since 2000. Included are data on race and ethnicity, poverty, homeownership, educational attainment, children, access to vehicles and the foreign born population.

Analysis of Demographic Changes

According to the Census Bureau's 2008 population estimates, the proportion of the New Orleans population that is African American fell from 66.7 percent in 2000 to 60.7 percent in 2008. The proportion of the city's population that is Asian increased from 2.3 percent in 2000 to 2.9 percent in 2008 and the proportion that is Hispanic (of any race) increased from 3.1 percent to 4.5 percent. Meanwhile, the percent of Hispanic, Asian, and African American populations increased in five parishes (Jefferson, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany). For all seven parishes in the metro area, Hispanics now represent a larger share of the population. Fully 6.3 percent of the metro area is Hispanic up from 4.4 percent in 2000 (see Fig. 1 below, and App. A, Table 1 for more details).

Figure 1: Population by race/ethnicity, part 1

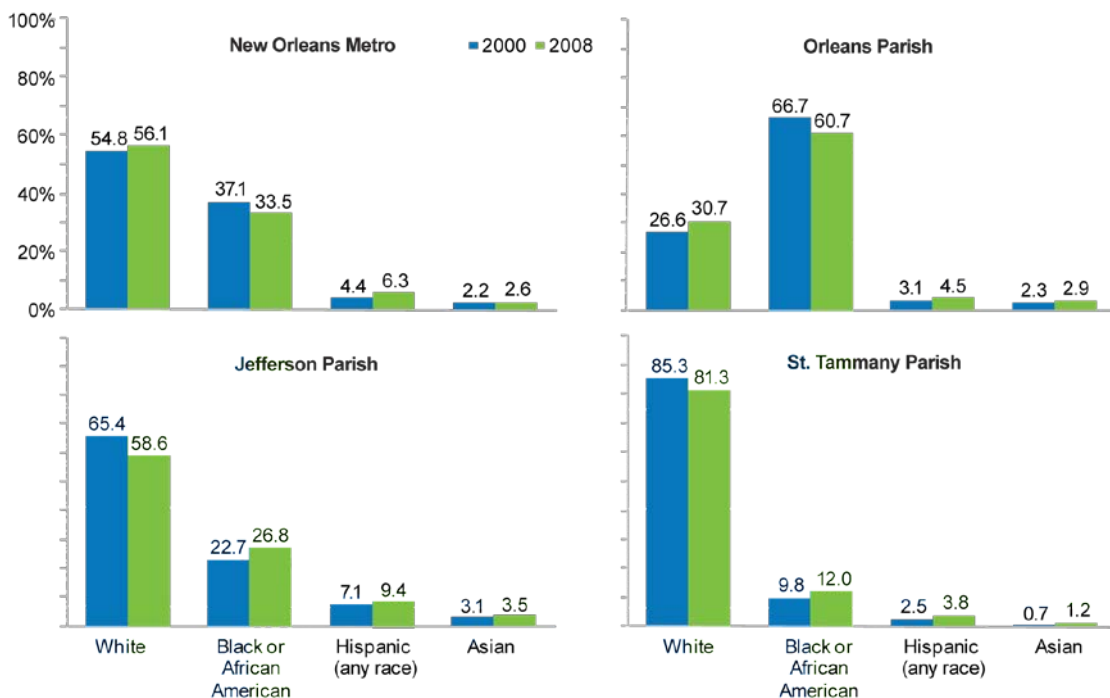
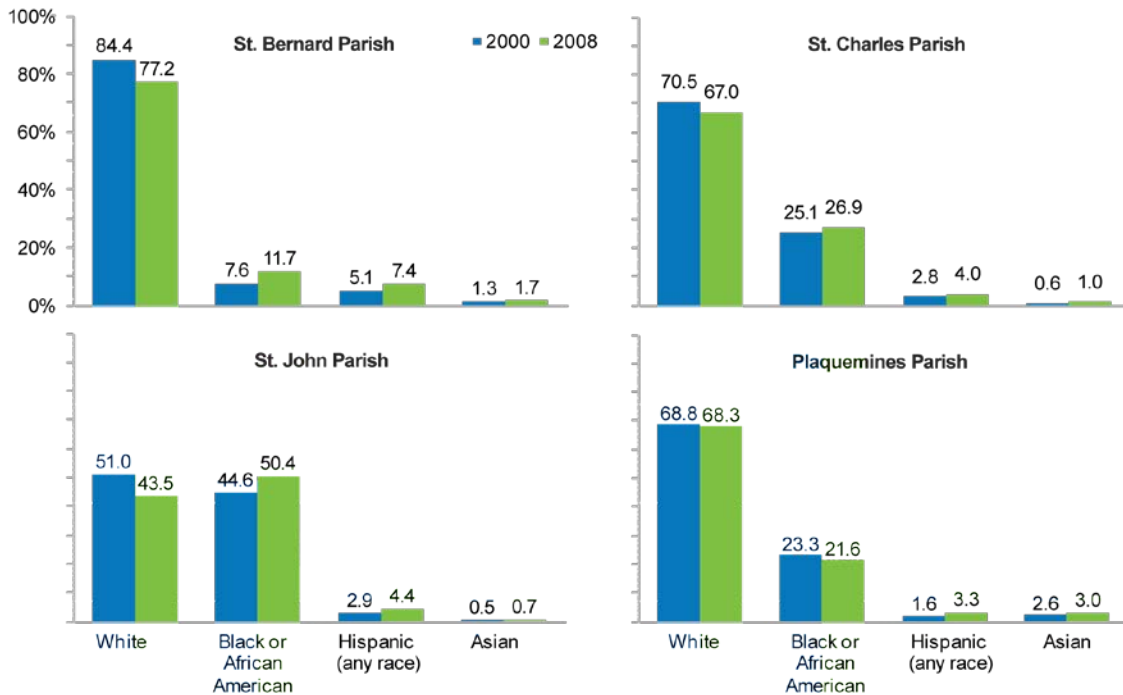


Figure 1: Population by race/ethnicity, part 2



Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and Population Estimates 2008.

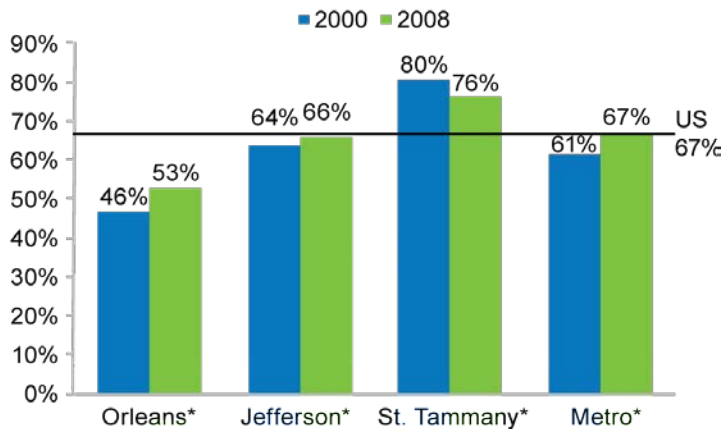
Statistical analyses of the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey 2008 demographic profile for the New Orleans metro area as compared with Census 2000 indicate that the region is less poor with fewer adults lacking a high school diploma, fewer households with children, more one or two-person households, fewer households lacking vehicles, a larger share of the population that is foreign-born, a higher homeownership rate, and more homeowners without mortgages.

American Community Survey 2008 data for the New Orleans metro area is also available for the three largest parishes of Orleans, Jefferson and St. Tammany, allowing us to drill-down into the metro area trends (see App. A, Table 2 for complete statistics by parish and metro area).

Homeownership

Not surprisingly, many of the metro area trends were driven by significant changes in Orleans Parish, where, for example, the homeownership rate increased from 46 to 53 percent reflecting the steeper obstacles renters faced returning to New Orleans after Katrina. In contrast, St. Tammany has gained renters since 2000 resulting in a lower homeownership rate. Nonetheless, the 76 percent homeownership rate in St. Tammany is well above the metro area and national averages.

Figure 2: Homeownership rate

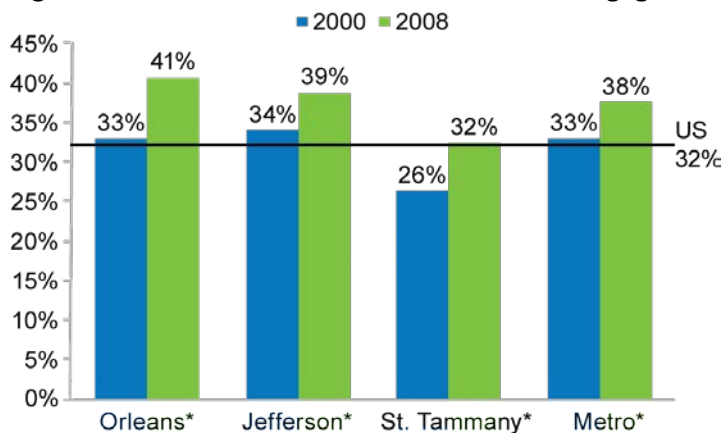


*Difference significant at 95% confidence interval

Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2008.

The proportion of metro area homeowners without a mortgage has increased from 33 to 38 percent. This significant change may be the effect of homeowners using insurance and Road Home dollars to pay off mortgages. This trend is most pronounced in Orleans where 41 percent of all homeowners have no mortgage. In Jefferson, 39 percent of homeowners don't have mortgages, while St. Tammany matches the national average with 32 percent.

Figure 3: Percent of homeowners without a mortgage



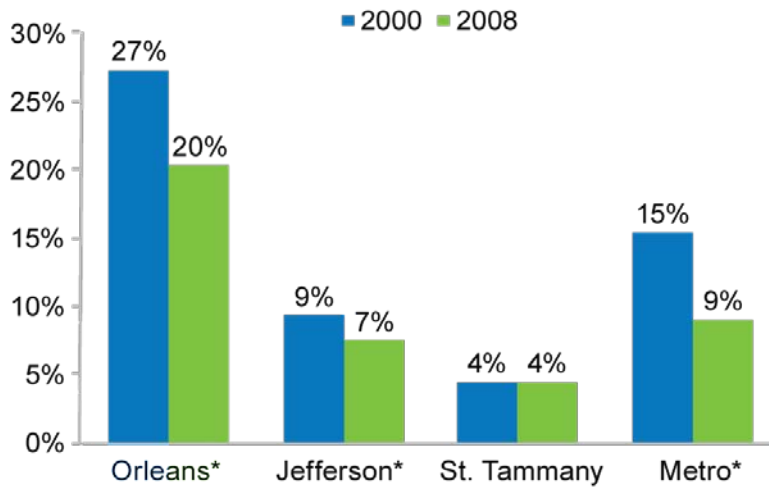
*Difference significant at 95% confidence interval

Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2008.

Access to a Vehicle

Post-Katrina, fewer households do not have access to a vehicle. This change is most pronounced in Orleans where 20 percent of households don't have a vehicle, down from 27 percent in 2000. Nonetheless, at 20 percent, thousands of households in New Orleans are reliant on public transportation, and need assistance in the case of evacuation.

Figure 4: Percent of households without access to a vehicle



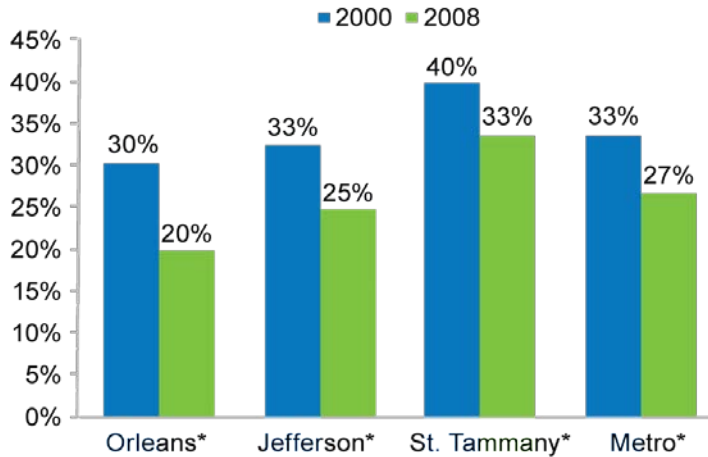
*Difference significant at 95% confidence interval

Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2008.

Families with Children and Single-person Households

Fewer families with children live in the New Orleans metro, declining from 33 percent of all households in 2000 to 27 percent in 2008. The decline in families with children was significant in all three of the largest parishes. By 2008, 33 percent of St. Tammany households, 25 percent of Jefferson households and only 20 percent of Orleans households had children.

Figure 5: Percent of households with own children under 18

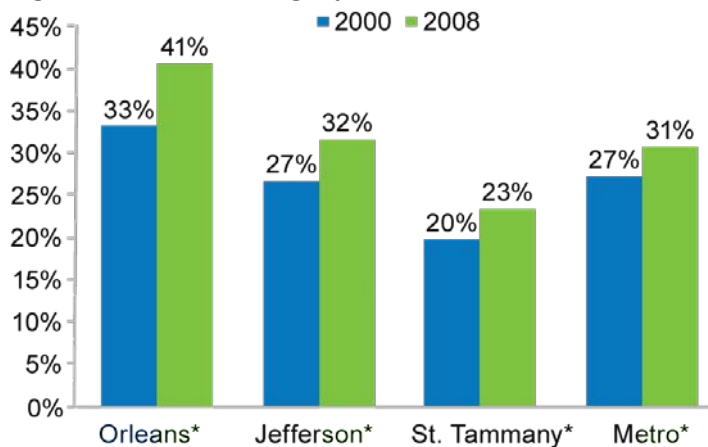


*Difference significant at 95% confidence interval

Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2008.

A growing share of households in the New Orleans metro area are individuals living alone. This trend is driven largely by growth in single-person households within the city of New Orleans. In 2008, 41 percent of New Orleans households are individuals living alone up from 33 percent in 2000. In Jefferson, 32 percent of all households are individuals living alone while in St. Tammany 23 percent are single-person households.

Figure 6: Percent of single-person households



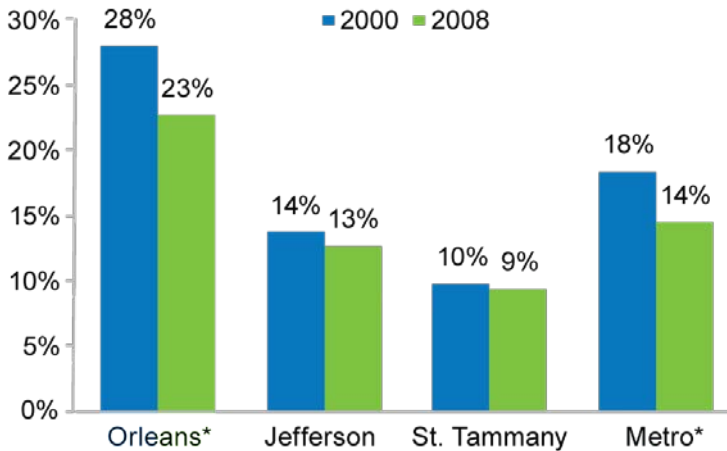
*Difference significant at 95% confidence interval

Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2008.

Poverty and Educational Attainment

Across the metro area, the poverty rate fell from 18 percent to 14 percent. This decline was driven almost entirely by changes in the city of New Orleans, where the poverty rate dropped from 28 percent to 23 percent in 2008, reflecting the inability of many poorer residents to return after Katrina.

Figure 7: Percent of population in poverty, 2000-2008

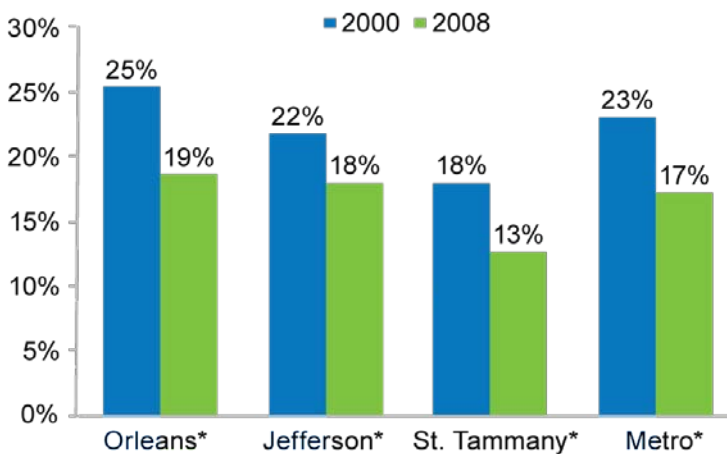


*Difference significant at 95% confidence interval

Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2008.

The proportion of metro area adults with less than a high school education fell significantly from 23 percent in 2000 to 17 percent in 2008. In Jefferson and Orleans, the proportion of adults with less than a high school education has fallen to less than 20 percent.

Figure 8: Percent of population 18 years and older receiving less than a high school degree, 2000-2008



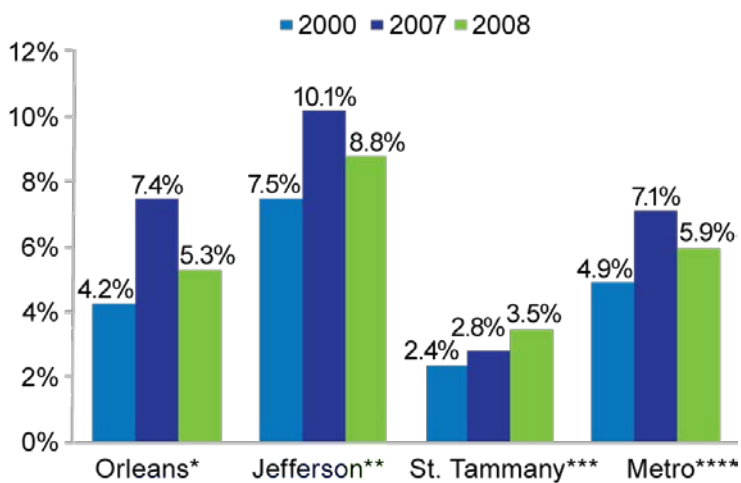
*Difference significant at 95% confidence interval

Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2008.

Foreign-born Population

The foreign-born population of the metro area grew from 4.9 percent in 2000 to 7.1 percent in 2007, but fell to 5.9 percent in 2008. This influx and outflow was most evident in Jefferson and Orleans parishes. In Jefferson, the foreign-born population grew from 7.5 percent in 2000 to 10.1 percent in 2007 before falling to 8.8 percent in 2008. And in Orleans, the foreign-born population grew from 4.2 percent in 2000 to 7.4 percent in 2007 before falling to 5.3 percent in 2008. In Orleans Parish, the 2008 share of the foreign-born population (5.3 percent) is not statistically different from 2000. In St. Tammany, the share of foreign-born population continues to grow and reached 3.5 percent by 2008 up from 2.4 percent in 2000.

Figure 9: Percent of population that was born in another country, 2000, 2007, 2008



*Orleans: The increase in the foreign-born population between 2000 and 2007 is significant at 95% confidence level, as is the decrease between 2007 and 2008. The increase between 2000 and 2008 is not significant.

**Jefferson: The increase in the foreign-born population between 2000 and 2007 is significant at 95% confidence level, as is the increase between 2000 and 2008. The decrease between 2007 and 2008 was not significant.

***St. Tammany: The increase in the foreign-born population between 2000 and 2008 is significant at 95% confidence level. The change between 2000 and 2007 as well as between 2007 and 2008 is not significant.

****Metro: The increase in the foreign-born population between 2000 and 2007 is significant, as is the decrease between 2007 and 2008 at the 95% confidence level. The change between 2000 and 2008 is also significant.

Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2007 and 2008.

Table 1: Population and Race-Ethnicity: Census 2000 SF1 and 2008 Population Estimates, part 1

	Orleans Parish			Jefferson Parish			St. Tammany Parish		
	2000	2008	Diff	2000	2008	Diff	2000	2008	Diff
Total Population	484,674	311,853	-172,821	455,466	436,181	-19,285	191,268	228,456	37,188
Race & Ethnic Diversity									
White	26.6%	30.7%	4.1%	65.4%	58.6%	-6.8%	85.3%	81.3%	-3.9%
Black or African American	66.7%	60.7%	-6.0%	22.7%	26.8%	4.1%	9.8%	12.0%	2.1%
Hispanic (Any Race)	3.1%	4.5%	1.5%	7.1%	9.4%	2.3%	2.5%	3.8%	1.3%
Asian	2.3%	2.9%	0.6%	3.1%	3.5%	0.5%	0.7%	1.2%	0.5%
Other	1.4%	1.2%	-0.1%	1.7%	1.7%	0.0%	1.7%	1.7%	0.0%
Age									
Under 5 years	6.9%	6.2%	-0.7%	6.6%	6.5%	-0.2%	7.1%	6.8%	-0.3%
5 to 9	7.7%	5.3%	-2.3%	7.0%	6.6%	-0.4%	7.9%	7.2%	-0.7%
10 to 14	7.6%	5.2%	-2.3%	7.2%	6.5%	-0.6%	8.4%	7.3%	-1.1%
15 to 19	7.9%	7.9%	0.0%	7.1%	6.8%	-0.3%	7.7%	7.0%	-0.6%
20 to 34	22.6%	20.5%	-2.1%	20.7%	17.9%	-2.9%	16.7%	19.9%	3.1%
35 to 49	21.9%	20.8%	-1.1%	23.6%	21.5%	-2.1%	26.2%	20.6%	-5.7%
50 to 64	13.8%	21.7%	7.9%	15.9%	20.7%	4.8%	15.9%	19.6%	3.6%
65 to 74	6.0%	6.3%	0.3%	6.6%	7.3%	0.7%	5.7%	6.5%	0.8%
75 to 84	4.2%	4.0%	-0.2%	4.2%	4.6%	0.5%	3.3%	3.9%	0.6%
85 plus	1.5%	2.0%	0.5%	1.2%	1.7%	0.6%	1.0%	1.3%	0.3%
Gender									
Male	46.9%	46.6%	-0.2%	48.0%	48.0%	-0.1%	49.0%	49.0%	0.0%
Female	53.1%	53.4%	0.2%	52.0%	52.0%	0.1%	51.0%	51.0%	0.0%

Continued on next page...

Sources: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2008.

Notes: All 2008 estimates are to be considered as of July 1, 2008. Jefferson and Orleans parishes have indicated their intent to challenge these July 1, 2008 estimates. New Orleans Metro data based on most recent definition from the Census Bureau (Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John, and St. Tammany).

Table 1: Population and Race-Ethnicity, part 2

	St. Bernard Parish			St. Charles Parish			St. John the Baptist Parish		
	2000	2008	Diff	2000	2008	Diff	2000	2008	Diff
Total Population	67,229	37,722	-29,507	48,072	51,547	3,475	43,044	46,994	3,950
Race & Ethnic Diversity									
White	84.4%	77.2%	-7.1%	70.5%	67.0%	-3.6%	51.0%	43.5%	-7.5%
Black or African American	7.6%	11.7%	4.1%	25.1%	26.9%	1.9%	44.6%	50.4%	5.8%
Hispanic (Any Race)	5.1%	7.4%	2.3%	2.8%	4.0%	1.2%	2.9%	4.4%	1.6%
Asian	1.3%	1.7%	0.4%	0.6%	1.0%	0.4%	0.5%	0.7%	0.2%
Other	1.7%	1.9%	0.3%	1.1%	1.2%	0.1%	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%
Age									
Under 5 years	6.3%	6.8%	0.5%	7.3%	6.7%	-0.6%	8.0%	7.6%	-0.4%
5 to 9	6.9%	4.8%	-2.1%	8.3%	7.0%	-1.4%	8.6%	7.7%	-0.9%
10 to 14	7.4%	4.6%	-2.8%	9.1%	7.6%	-1.5%	9.0%	8.1%	-0.9%
15 to 19	7.5%	7.5%	0.1%	8.5%	7.6%	-0.8%	8.9%	8.2%	-0.7%
20 to 34	19.4%	23.4%	4.0%	18.2%	19.2%	1.0%	19.8%	20.3%	0.5%
35 to 49	23.5%	19.8%	-3.7%	26.4%	22.7%	-3.7%	24.3%	21.5%	-2.8%
50 to 64	15.2%	24.2%	9.0%	13.3%	19.4%	6.2%	13.6%	18.1%	4.5%
65 to 74	7.9%	4.9%	-3.0%	5.4%	5.3%	-0.1%	4.5%	5.3%	0.8%
75 to 84	4.8%	3.1%	-1.6%	2.7%	3.4%	0.6%	2.5%	2.5%	0.0%
85 plus	1.2%	0.8%	-0.4%	0.8%	1.1%	0.3%	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%
Gender									
Male	48.3%	48.0%	-0.3%	48.8%	48.9%	0.1%	48.5%	48.5%	0.0%
Female	51.7%	52.0%	0.3%	51.2%	51.1%	-0.1%	51.5%	51.5%	0.0%

Continued on next page...

Sources: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2008.

Notes: All 2008 estimates are to be considered as of July 1, 2008. Jefferson and Orleans parishes have indicated their intent to challenge these July 1, 2008 estimates. New Orleans Metro data based on most recent definition from the Census Bureau (Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John, and St. Tammany).

Table 1: Population and Race-Ethnicity, part 3

	Plaquemines Parish			New Orleans Metro		
	2000	2008	Diff	2000	2008	Diff
Total Population	26,757	21,276	-5,481	1,316,510	1,134,029	182,481
Race & Ethnic Diversity						
White	68.8%	68.3%	-0.5%	54.8%	56.1%	1.3%
Black or African American	23.3%	21.6%	-1.7%	37.1%	33.5%	-3.6%
Hispanic (Any Race)	1.6%	3.3%	1.7%	4.4%	6.3%	1.9%
Asian	2.6%	3.0%	0.4%	2.2%	2.6%	0.4%
Other	3.7%	3.8%	0.1%	1.6%	1.6%	0.0%
Age						
Under 5 years	7.4%	6.4%	-1.0%	6.9%	6.5%	-0.3%
5 to 9	8.2%	6.9%	-1.3%	7.5%	6.4%	-1.1%
10 to 14	8.4%	7.9%	-0.5%	7.7%	6.4%	-1.3%
15 to 19	8.2%	8.2%	0.0%	7.6%	7.3%	-0.3%
20 to 34	19.9%	17.6%	-2.2%	20.6%	19.3%	-1.3%
35 to 49	23.8%	22.5%	-1.3%	23.5%	21.1%	-2.3%
50 to 64	14.4%	19.4%	4.9%	14.9%	20.7%	5.8%
65 to 74	6.1%	6.5%	0.5%	6.2%	6.6%	0.4%
75 to 84	2.9%	3.7%	0.8%	3.9%	4.1%	0.2%
85 plus	0.8%	0.9%	0.1%	1.2%	1.6%	0.4%
Gender						
Male	49.8%	50.4%	0.5%	47.8%	47.9%	0.1%
Female	50.2%	49.6%	-0.5%	52.2%	52.1%	-0.1%

Sources: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2008.

Notes: All 2008 estimates are to be considered as of July 1, 2008. Jefferson and Orleans parishes have indicated their intent to challenge these July 1, 2008 estimates. New Orleans Metro data based on most recent definition from the Census Bureau (Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John, and St. Tammany).

Table 2: Select Characteristics: Census 2000 SF3 and 2008 ACS, part 1

	Orleans Parish			Jefferson Parish		
	Census 2000	ACS 2008	Diff	Census 2000	ACS 2008	Diff
Level of schooling (population 18+)						
Less than HS	25%	19%	-7% *	22%	18%	-4% *
High school diploma or GED	24%	30%	6% *	30%	33%	3% *
Some college or Associate's degree	28%	29%	1%	29%	30%	1%
Bachelor's degree to higher	23%	23%	-1%	20%	20%	0%
Households by type						
Family households	60%	54%	-7% *	68%	63%	-5% *
With own children under 18 years	30%	20%	-10% *	33%	25%	-8% *
Married-couple families	32%	32%	0%	49%	43%	-6% *
With own children under 18 years	14%	11%	-3% *	22%	15%	-7% *
Female household, no husband present	24%	18%	-6% *	15%	15%	0%
With own children under 18 years	14%	8%	-6% *	8%	8%	-1%
Nonfamily households	40%	46%	7% *	32%	37%	5% *
Householder living alone	33%	41%	7% *	27%	32%	5% *
Householder 65 or older and living alone	9%	11%	1%	8%	10%	2% *
<i>Note: Each indicator is a percent of total households. Percentages will not add up to 100.0%</i>						
People in poverty						
People below poverty level	28%	23%	-5% *	14%	13%	-1%
Homeownership						
Homeownership rate	46%	53%	6% *	64%	66%	2% *
Mortgage status of homeowners						
With a mortgage	67%	59%	-8% *	66%	61%	-5% *
Without a mortgage	33%	41%	8% *	34%	39%	5% *
Vehicles available						
No vehicle available	27%	20%	-7% *	9%	7%	-2% *
1 or more vehicles available	73%	80%	7% *	91%	93%	2%
Immigration status						
Total foreign-born	4.2%	5.3%	1.0%	7.5%	8.8%	1.3% *
Recent immigrant	20%	31%	11% *	17%	22%	5%
Not recent immigrant	80%	69%	-11% *	83%	78%	-5% *
<i>Note: Total foreign-born is a percent of the total population. Recent and Not recent immigrants are a percent of the Total foreign-born population.</i>						
Household Size						
1-person household	33%	41%	7% *	27%	32%	5% *
2-person household	28%	29%	2%	31%	33%	2%
3-person household	16%	14%	-2% *	18%	17%	-2%
4-person household	12%	9%	-3% *	14%	12%	-3% *
5+ person household	11%	8%	-3% *	10%	8%	-3% *

Continued on next page...

Sources: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2008.

*Significant at 95% confidence interval.

Table 2: Select Characteristics, part 2

	St. Tammany Parish			New Orleans Metro		
	Census 2000	ACS 2008	Diff	Census 2000	ACS 2008	Diff
Level of schooling (population 18+)						
Less than HS	18%	13%	-5% *	23%	17%	-6% *
High school diploma or GED	27%	27%	0%	28%	31%	3% *
Some college or Associate's degree	30%	34%	4% *	28%	30%	2% *
Bachelor's degree to higher	26%	26%	1%	21%	21%	0%
Households by type						
Family households	76%	71%	-5% *	68%	64%	-4% *
With own children under 18 years	40%	33%	-7% *	33%	27%	-7% *
Married-couple families	62%	56%	-6% *	45%	45%	-1%
With own children under 18 years	31%	24%	-7% *	21%	17%	-4% *
Female household, no husband present	10%	11%	1%	18%	15%	-3% *
With own children under 18 years	6%	6%	0%	10%	8%	-3% *
Nonfamily households	24%	29%	5% *	32%	36%	4% *
Householder living alone	20%	23%	4% *	27%	31%	3% *
Householder 65 or older and living alone	7%	7%	1%	9%	9%	1%
<i>Note: Each indicator is a percent of total households. Percentages will not add up to 100.0%</i>						
People in poverty						
People below poverty level	10%	9%	0%	18%	14%	-4% *
Homeownership						
Homeownership rate	80%	76%	-4% *	61%	67%	6% *
Mortgage status of homeowners						
With a mortgage	74%	68%	-6% *	67%	62%	-5% *
Without a mortgage	26%	32%	6% *	33%	38%	5% *
Vehicles available						
No vehicle available	4%	4%	-1%	15%	9%	-6% *
1 or more vehicles available	96%	96%	1%	85%	91%	6% *
Immigration status						
Total foreign-born	2.4%	3.5%	1.1% *	4.9%	5.9%	1.0% *
Recent immigrant	17%	26%	8% *	17%	24%	7% *
Not recent immigrant	83%	74%	-8% *	83%	76%	-7% *
<i>Note: Total foreign-born is a percent of the total population. Recent and Not recent immigrants are a percent of the Total foreign-born population.</i>						
Household Size						
1-person household	20%	23%	4% *	27%	31%	3% *
2-person household	32%	36%	3%	30%	32%	3% *
3-person household	19%	17%	-2%	18%	16%	-2% *
4-person household	17%	15%	-2%	14%	12%	-2% *
5+ person household	11%	9%	-3% *	11%	8%	-3% *

Sources: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2008.

*Significant at 95% confidence interval.

Methodology

The Census Bureau publishes annual population estimates through its Population Estimates Program (PEP). All 2008 population estimates are to be considered as of July 1, 2008.

Jefferson and Orleans parishes have indicated their intent to challenge these July 1, 2008 estimates.

Statistical significance test for comparing Census 2000 SF3 and 2008 American Community Survey data

The comparisons of percent estimates from Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF3) sample data and 2008 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year estimates were performed using a statistical test of significance. All significance tests were at the 95% confidence level.

The significance tests require both estimates and their standard errors. We calculated standard errors for the ACS estimates using formulas in Appendix 3 of “What General Data Users Need to Know” available at: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACSGeneralHandbook.pdf>.

We calculated standard errors for Census 2000 SF3 data using formulas from Chapter 8 of the Technical Documentation available at: <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf>.

The test for significance was calculated using formulas in Appendix 4 of “What General Data Users Need to Know.”