



President Billy Nungesser

PURPOSE STATEMENT: *Shifts in the characteristics of the Plaquemines Parish population influence the livelihood of the parish. These shifts ultimately impact schools, water and sewer service, location of private businesses, and more. Having a thorough understanding of the characteristics and associated needs of the resident population will help Parish leadership make decisions that improve the quality of life.*

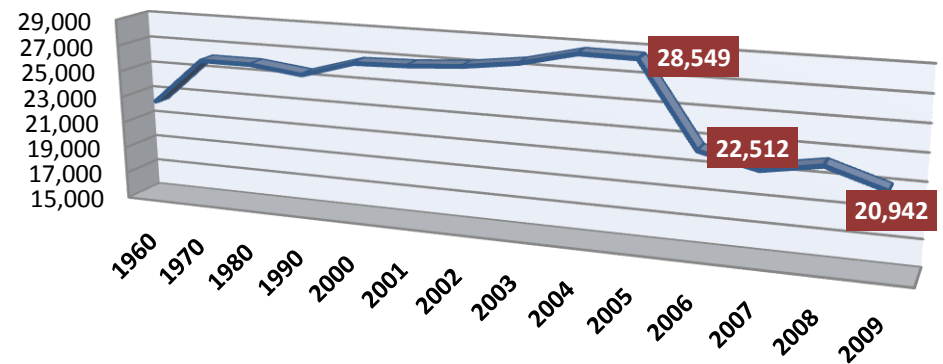
EXISTING CONDITIONS

- The population of Plaquemines Parish is estimated to have reached an all-time high of 28,565 in July 2005, a few months prior to Hurricane Katrina. Plaquemines Parish population was estimated at 20,942 in July 2009 by the U.S. Census Bureau – continuing a downward trend in the parish’s population.
- In 2008, 12 percent of the population was either at or above the retirement age of 65. 30 percent of the Plaquemines Parish population is 19 years old or younger and another 30 percent is between 35 and 54 years old.
- Between 2000 and 2006, the percentage of Plaquemines residents with a Bachelor’s degree or higher increased from 10.8 percent to 18.5 percent.
- Between 1990 and 2000 the Plaquemines Parish population began shifting from lower portions of the parish to more northern locations, and that trend has continued.
- The American Community Survey reports that an estimated 68 percent of occupied housing units in the Parish are owner-occupied and another 32 percent are renter-occupied. The New Orleans metropolitan area has the same estimated ratio of owner to renter occupied housing from 2006-2008.

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KNOWING OUR POPULATION

Plaquemines Parish Population 1960 to 2009



Source: (1960-2000) U.S. Census Counts; (2001-2005; 2009) Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Louisiana Counties: July 2000 to July 1, 2009; (2006) 2006 Louisiana Health and Population Survey; (2007-2008) State of Louisiana Office of the State Treasurer.

(below) Community facilities support the diverse population of Plaquemines Parish.



- The average household size (AHS) was 2.89 people in 2000. This figure is notably larger than Jefferson, Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes – with AHS of 2.56, 2.48, and 2.64 respectively.
- School enrollment within Plaquemines Parish approached 4,700 in fall 2009, representing 79 percent of pre-Katrina enrollment levels. Roughly 850 of these students were enrolled at Belle Chasse Academy, with the remainder enrolled in the Plaquemines Parish School System.



(above) School bus drops off students after school.

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

- The estimated average median household income (AMHI) for 2006-2008 was \$50,899 in Plaquemines. This compares to an AMHI of \$39,398 in Orleans Parish, \$48,227 in Jefferson Parish, \$40,342 in St. Bernard Parish, and \$48,014 for the New Orleans metropolitan area.
- Various federal anti-poverty programs, such as WIC and Medicaid, are available to those between 125 and 185 percent of the poverty level. According to 2006 poverty levels for the Parish, between 14 and 34 percent of the Parish would be eligible for these programs.

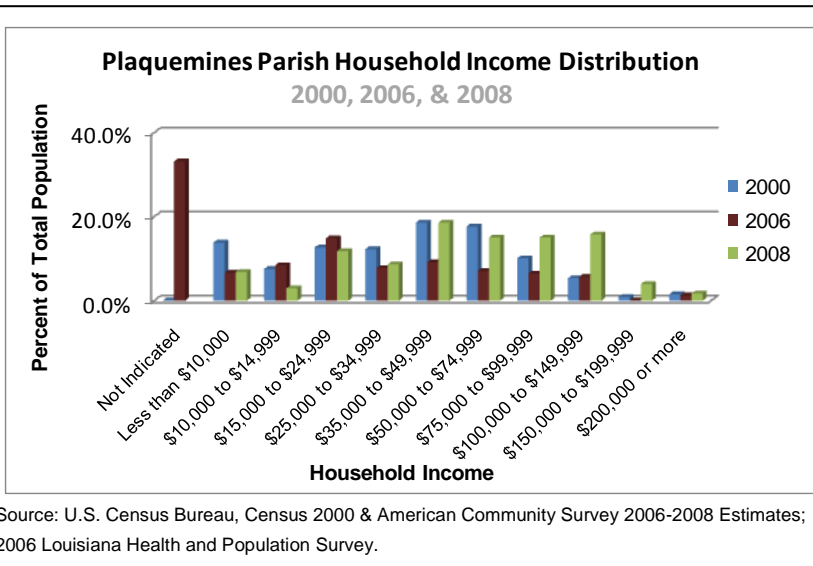
How do population characteristics influence future growth in Plaquemines Parish, and how do related decisions impact fellow community members and me?

Big Ideas

- Excellent schools will help retain and attract families to Plaquemines Parish.
- Community resources and facilities should be located in areas protected from major storms.

Big Decisions & Questions

- Are services and facilities distributed appropriately to serve the population?
- What will the 2010 Census tell us about our community? How will this influence service provision?
- How do we reduce poverty in our population?
- How do we improve quality of life for existing residents? How is quality of life defined by our different communities?
- How will the population be impacted by subsidence, rising sea levels, and other environmental uncertainties?
- As our population ages in line with the country, what new or expanded services are needed? Is Plaquemines Parish an accommodating location for the aging population?



Related Big Issues

- ❖ Economic development decisions will influence population growth.
- ❖ Providing safe living environments for the population should be protected by smart land use decisions and adequate storm protection. *See Coastal Restoration and Land Use Focus Sheets.*
- ❖ Provision of safe and affordable housing for full-time and part-time residents is important to offering a high quality of life. *See Land Use Focus Sheet.*

DRAFT FOCUS SHEET

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