

ISSUE BRIEF

September 2006

POVERTY, INCOME & EMPLOYMENT IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY



*Analysis of Census Bureau's 2005 American Community Survey**

POVERTY AT A GLANCE...

- 55,096 families (309,618 individuals) live below the federal poverty threshold in San Diego County.
- San Diego's aggregate income deficit (the amount of money that would lift all families out of poverty) is \$431,032,500.

INCOME AT A GLANCE...

- Income distribution continues to shift as San Diego's working class (under \$50K annually) to 44.41% while the middle class (\$50K – \$75K) has now shrunk to less than one-fifth (18.90%) of the households in San Diego County. The upper class (over \$75K) has grown to 36.69%.
- More than 1 in every 5 (22.85%) San Diego full-time year-round workers earned less than \$25,000 annually, representing 204,624 full-time workers in 2005.

EMPLOYMENT AT A GLANCE...

- The #1 lowest wage occupation is the Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations which employs 65,940 San Diegans at a median wage of \$19,697 annually.
- The #1 lowest wage industry is the Accommodation & Food Service Industry which employees 92,594 San Diegans at a median wage of \$21,242 annually.
- There are 895,685 full-time year-round workers in San Diego County with median annual earnings of \$42,131.

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The Center on Policy Initiatives is a San Diego-based multi-issue think tank and policy action center established in 1997. CPI promotes effective and accountable government, shared economic prosperity, and public policies that create economic security for workers, families and communities.

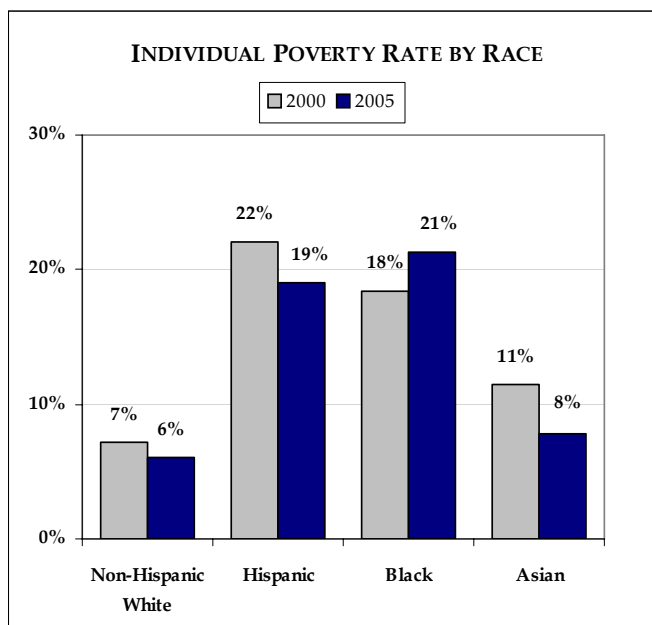
* Source: Data in this brief have been compiled from U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2005. Comparisons with 2000 use Census 2000 Summary File 3.

POVERTY IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

There are **309,618 people in the County below the federal poverty level**. Out of the total number of people living in poverty, 118,335 are children below 18 years. Of those that are over 18 years, 92,269 have worked either full-time or part-time. **These working poor represent 48% of adults living in poverty.**

INDIVIDUAL POVERTY

Poverty rate for all individuals in 2005 was 11%. However, the rate differs by race. While poverty rates since 2000 declined for Non-Hispanic Whites, Asians and Hispanics, it increased by nearly 3% among Blacks.



FAMILIES IN POVERTY BY PRESENCE OF CHILDREN		
Married Couples with children under 18 years	16,487	30%
Married Couples without children	6,606	12%
Single Dads with children under 18 years	3,361	6%
Single Moms with children under 18 years	24,397	44%
Single adults without children	4,245	8%
FAMILIES IN POVERTY	55,096	100%

FAMILIES IN POVERTY

There are over 55,000 families living in poverty, 44% (24,397) of which consist of single mothers with children under 18 years. Married couples with children account for 30% (16,487) of families in poverty.

AGGREGATE INCOME

Aggregate income deficit refers to the total amount of money that would lift all families out of poverty. It is defined as the group (e.g., type of family) sum total of differences between the appropriate poverty threshold and total family income or total personal income. **For 2005, the aggregate income deficit for San Diego County was \$421,032,500.**

POVERTY RATES VARY BY CITY

The American Community Survey reports data for the City of San Diego since 2004. However, for the cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Escondido and Vista this is the first time that the economic profiles will become available on an annual basis.

POVERTY RATES BY CITY IN THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO	
Carlsbad city	4.0%
Chula Vista city	9.1%
Escondido city	9.5%
Oceanside city	6.3%
San Diego city	13.5%
Vista city	14.8%

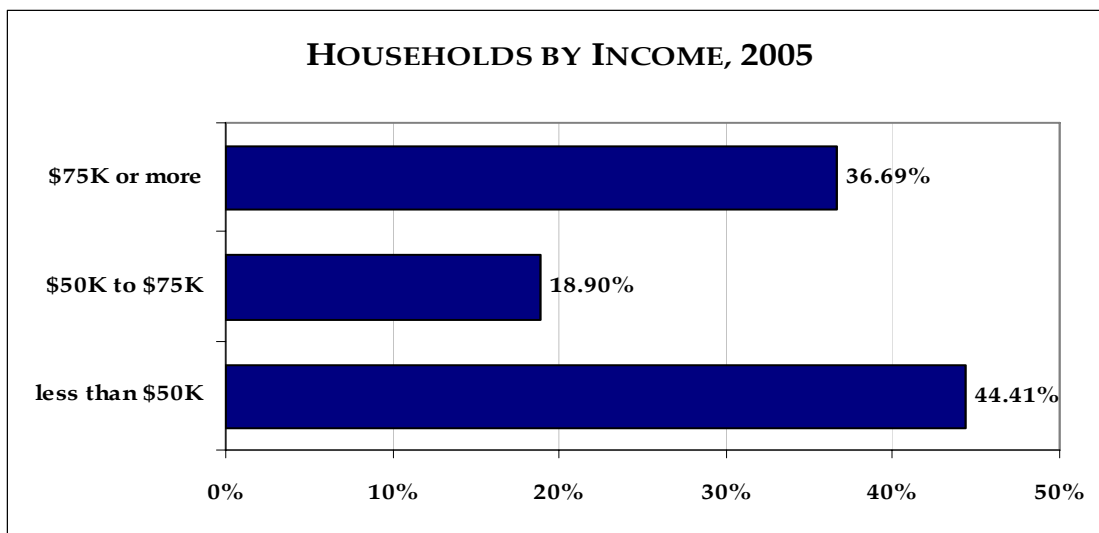
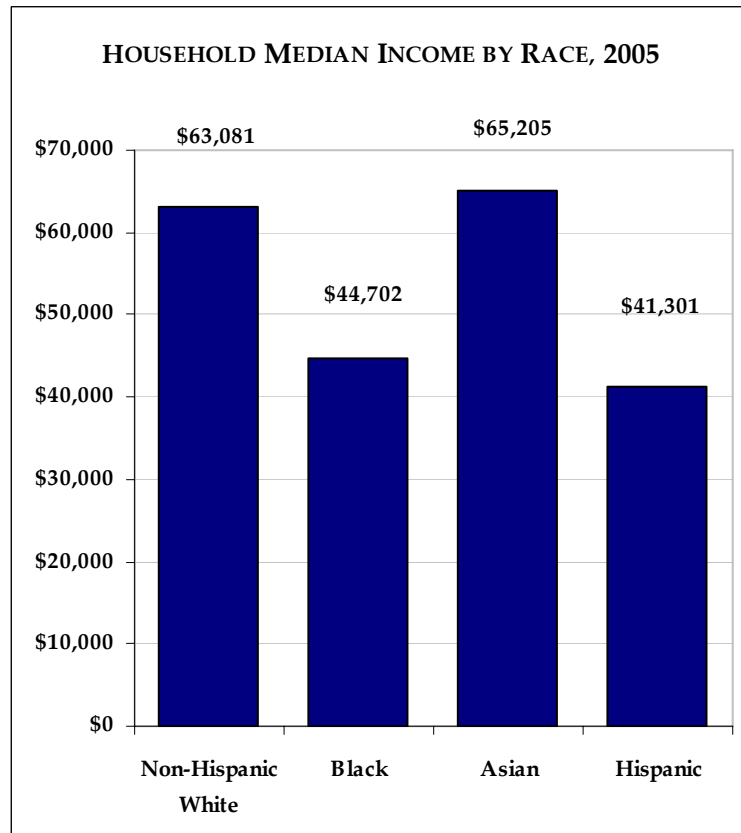
INCOME IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

MEDIAN INCOME

The median income for all households in San Diego County in 2005 was \$56,335. The median income varies by over \$12,000 depending on race.

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

The middle class is shrinking and an hourglass economy is growing more distinct. A shift in income distribution is swelling the size of San Diego's working class (under \$50K annually) to 44.41% while the middle class (\$50K – \$75K) has now shrunk to less than one-fifth (18.90%) of the households in San Diego County. The upper class (over \$75K) has grown to 36.69%.



EMPLOYMENT IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

San Diego County has a labor force of 1,305,125 workers. The median annual earnings of San Diegans in 2005 was \$33,880. There are 895,685 workers who work full-time year-round. These full-time workers earn median annual earnings of \$42,131. **Almost 23% of these full-time year-round workers do not make \$25,000.**

Listed below are the five lowest paying occupations, ranked by the median wage for full-time year-round work. **Food preparation and serving related occupations are the lowest, with a worker typically getting \$19,697 for full-time year-round work.** About 73% of all low-wage occupations are in the private, for-profit sector.

FULL-TIME WORKERS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY	
Workers in San Diego County	895,685
Workers earning less than \$25,000	204,624
Percentage of full-time workers not making \$25,000	22.85%

RANK	TOP 5 LOWEST WAGE OCCUPATIONS	WORKERS			MEDIAN WAGE
		2000	2005	CHANGE	
1	Food preparation and serving related occupations	62,077	65,940	6.22%	\$19,697
2	Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	48,741	57,917	18.83%	\$21,453
3	Personal care and service occupations	42,838	49,386	15.29%	\$22,158
4	Material moving workers	18,516	18,270	-1.33%	\$24,644
5	Healthcare support occupations	20,910	20,128	-3.74%	\$27,489
	All Occupations	1,241,258	1,305,125	5.15%	\$42,131

The lowest paying industry is Accommodation and Food Service, which employs over 92,000 workers and pays a median wage of \$21,242 for full-time year-round work. Median wages have fallen in this industry by almost one thousand dollars since last year.

RANK	TOP FIVE LOWEST PAYING INDUSTRIES	WORKERS			MEDIAN WAGE
		2000	2005	CHANGE	
1	Accommodation and food services	87,447	92,594	5.89%	\$21,242
2	Admin and support and waste management services	56,162	61,623	9.72%	\$28,271
3	Other services (Repair & Maintenance)	64,229	65,112	1.37%	\$29,222
4	Arts, entertainment, and recreation	31,344	37,924	20.99%	\$32,567
5	Retail trade	139,743	144,900	3.69%	\$33,755
	All Industries	1,241,258	1,305,125	5.15%	\$42,131