

## 2 Population and Demographics

### Introduction

The population and demographic characteristics of Plaquemines Parish are highly influenced by the Parish's natural characteristics, traditions, and industries, as well as its proximity to the greater New Orleans area. The water-centric geography of the Parish restricts the inhabitable and livable areas within its boundaries, yet promotes a unique lifestyle and the specialized industries that thrive in this environment. These industries and the natural environment drive population growth and decline.

Major hurricanes, including Katrina, Rita and Gustav, have been an important contributor to recent shifts in demographic characteristics over the past five to six years. The most notable trends are that residents either (1) left Plaquemines Parish or (2) moved in higher percentages from the southern end of the Parish to the northern end of the Parish, most commonly Belle Chasse. A common misconception is that the 2005 hurricanes caused the second of these shifts, when in fact, Census data indicates that people were already shifting from the southern end of the Parish to northern portions years before. The hurricanes just reinforced this on-going trend. The Plaquemines Parish Internal Population Shift Map (see page 7) shows internal population shifts within Plaquemines Parish between 1990 to 2000 and 2000 to 2008. The Deepwater Horizon Disaster of 2010 is likely to have notable impacts on the demographic patterns of the Parish, but those impacts are yet to be determined.

It should be noted that the data provided in this section represents the best available. At the time of this report, the count for Census 2010 was just coming to an end.<sup>1</sup> Pre and post-Katrina data are provided where possible to demonstrate significant shifts in the Parish's population of the last several years. Three-year average estimates for the 2006-2008 American Community Survey are provided where telling, but in many cases Census 2000 and 2006 Louisiana Health and Population Survey data is the most accurate data available. Comparisons to other adjacent parishes are also provided where appropriate to show how Plaquemines Parish compares to its neighbors. Civilian and military employees that are based at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Belle Chasse are included in population figures if they reside in Plaquemines Parish and consider the Parish their usual residence (where they eat and sleep most of the time). For a list of data collected and analyzed in preparing this report see the "List of Sources" at the end of this section.

### 2.1 Total Population: Historic Data, Estimates, and Projections

#### Historic Population

Plaquemines Parish experienced sustained growth from the 1930s through the 1980s, with the population increasing 171 percent. In the 1960s, Plaquemines Parish surpassed the 20,000

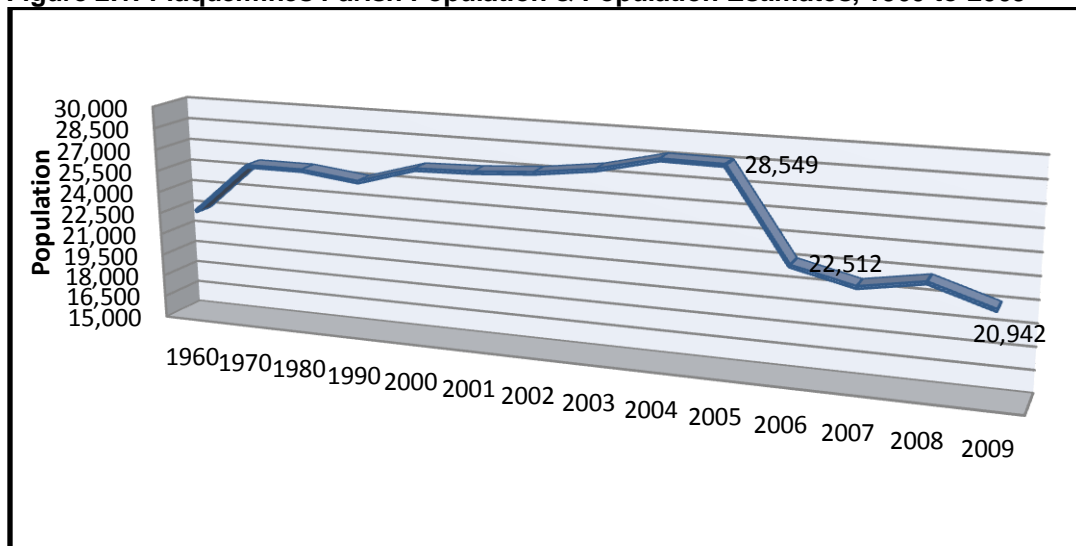
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<sup>1</sup> Population estimates used in this section of the Comprehensive Plan have been re-evaluated relative to the data released in the 2010 Census and the estimates used herein are comparable to 2010 Census numbers. Plaquemines Parish 2010 Census total population is 23,042.

population mark and has remained above 20,000 people since that time (with the exception of the period immediately following Hurricane Katrina). Although a slight dip in population occurred in the 1990s, the population increased again in 2000 to 26,757, and was estimated at 28,565 on July 1, 2005.<sup>2</sup> **Figure 2.1** shows the population trend in Plaquemines Parish since 1960. Population counts for Plaquemines Parish include those families and individuals that are a part of the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Belle Chasse and consider Plaquemines Parish their usual residence (where they eat and sleep most of the time).

In 2000, Plaquemines Parish had a population density of 31.7 people per square mile, which is very low compared to the U.S. population density of 79.6 people per square mile and the State of Louisiana population density of 102.6 people per square mile. The parish’s low population density is reflective of the Parish’s large size (largest parish in Louisiana) but does not reflect the estimate that only 5 percent of Plaquemines Parish total area was inhabitable in 2000 (see Section 11 Land Use) as much of the Parish is covered in marshland. If this uninhabitable land was taken into account, the population density of Plaquemines Parish would be much higher.

**Figure 2.1: Plaquemines Parish Population & Population Estimates, 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.

**Population Estimates**

**Table 2.1** shows a range of population estimates for 2000 to 2009. The range in these estimates indicates the difficulty in pinpointing the actual population count in between censuses, particularly for areas affected by a natural disaster as significant as Hurricane Katrina. The U.S. Census estimates that the Plaquemines Parish population was 20,942 in 2009. The

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 Population Estimate, 1 July 2005. Accessed March 28, 2010.

estimated population of Plaquemines Parish in August 2010 is 22,440.<sup>3</sup> This estimate is based on the population projections produced by the Louisiana State University State of Louisiana.

**Table 2.1: Population Estimates for Plaquemines Parish, 2001 to 2009**

	Estimate 1	Estimate 2	Estimate 3	Combined
Census 2000	26,737	26,757	26,757	26,737
2001	26,852			26,852
2002	27,119			27,119
2003	27,644			27,644
2004	28,602			28,602
2005	28,549			28,549
2006	21,293	20,348	22,512	22,512
2007	21,353	21,539		21,539
2008	21,138	22,251		22,251
2009	20,942			20,942

Source: Estimate 1: U.S Census Bureau. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties of Louisiana: July 1, 2001 to July 1, 2009. Estimate 2: State of Louisiana Office of the State Treasurer; Estimate 3: 2006 Louisiana Health and Population Survey.

**Sub-area Population Estimates**

Developing sub-area population estimates for Plaquemines Parish is a difficult task. There are various factors to consider (average household size, seasonal workers, etc.), and the issue of estimating population between Censuses as discussed on the previous page is exacerbated. **Table 2.2** shows sub-area population estimates based on water customer data provided by Plaquemines Parish. **Map 2.1** on the following page shows a simplified version of the water service area map, and **Figure 2.2** shows a simplified representation of the estimated sub area population distribution by percent of population. The sub-areas are confined to the water service area districts. The methodology has an underlying assumption that the 2009 population residing within a water service district is in equal proportion to the number of water customers in that district in early 2010.

**Table 2.2: Plaquemines Parish Sub-Area Population Estimates by Water Service District, 2009**

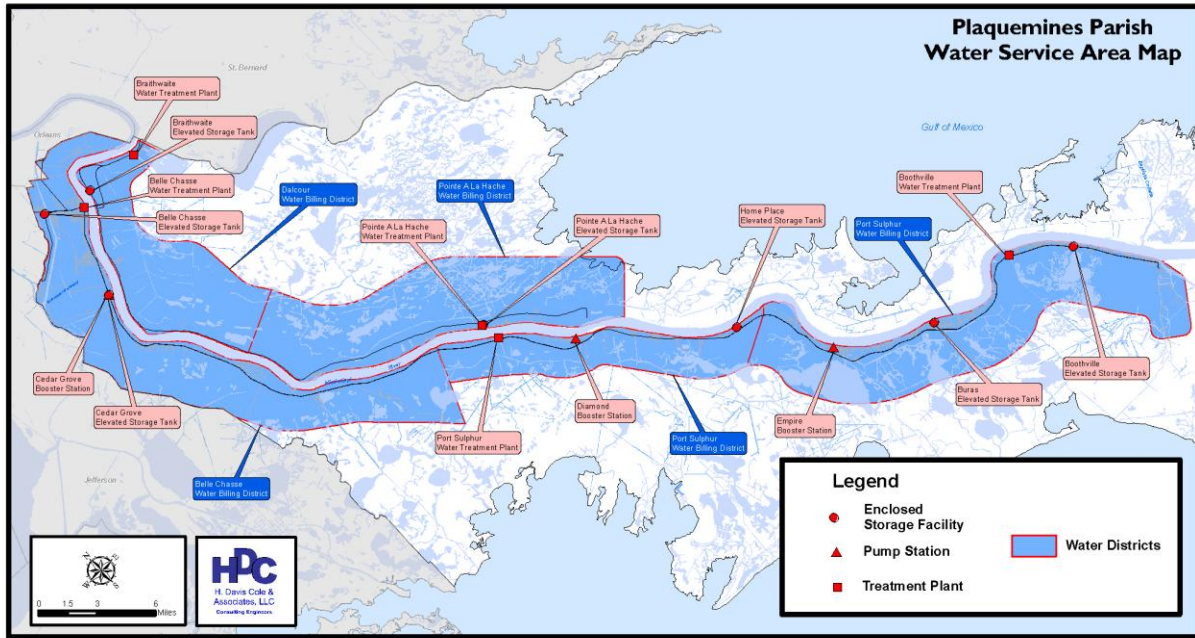
Water District	Water Connections	% of Total	Population Estimates*
District 1 (Belle Chasse)	5,827	60.18%	12,604
District 2 (Port Sulphur)	987	10.19%	2,135
District 3 (Buras)	2,044	21.11%	4,421
District 4 (Dalcour)	576	5.95%	1,246
District 5 (Point a la Hache)	248	2.56%	536
Total	9,682	100.00%	20,942

Source: Plaquemines Parish Government Residential Water Connections Data. April 8, 2010.

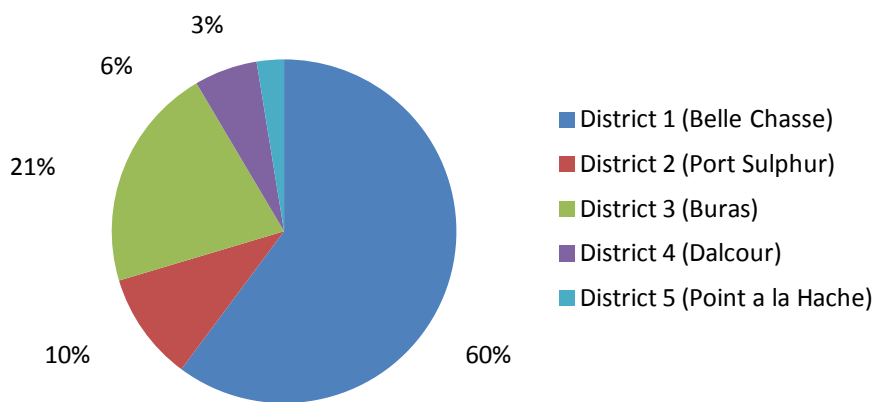
\*Assumption that the average household size is constant across water districts

*These estimates represent an initial effort to establish base sub-area population estimates. It is anticipated that these estimates and sub-area boundaries will be adjusted in the Community Agenda to reflect additional intelligence and data obtained as the planning process continues. The sub-areas will also be adjusted to better align with service areas that must be taken into account when laying out the Parish’s future needs related to community resources such as schools, parks and recreation facilities, and facilities.*

**Map 2.1: Plaquemines Parish Water Service Districts, 2009**



**Figure 2.2: Plaquemines Parish Sub-Area Population Distribution by Water Service District, 2009**



Source: Plaquemines Parish Government Residential Water Connections Data. April 8, 2010.

**Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Population**

In 2010, the NAS JRB population, including military, civilian, and family members was 7,690, slightly more than one third of the Plaquemines Parish population.<sup>4</sup> The future base population is estimated at 8,180. The NAS JRB is in the process of building 60, two-bedroom apartments, which will provide additional opportunities for individuals and families to live on base and within Plaquemines Parish. In addition, the New Orleans Navy Housing (NONH) initiative recently added 525 new townhouses to its existing housing stock of 416 townhouses located at the NAS JRB site and the Naval Support Activity in New Orleans. As of summer 2010, the total number of everyday users in 2010 is estimated at 9,540.

**Seasonal Population**

In 2000, 37 percent of vacant housing units in Plaquemines Parish were vacant due to seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. See **Table 2.3**. When applying the average household size of the Plaquemines population, there are an estimated 1,566 seasonal, recreational, or occasional residents in the Parish. It is likely that this estimate is high, considering much of the seasonal travel to the Parish is related to the recreational fishing industry and many of these part-time residents do not travel with their families. In 2000, a notably higher percentage of Plaquemines Parish housing units were vacant due to part-time residents in comparison to adjacent parishes. It is likely that these vacancy statuses have changed since the 2005 hurricanes.

**Table 2.3: Housing Vacancy Status & Estimated Seasonal Population  
 Plaquemines and Adjacent Parishes, 2000**

	<b>Plaquemines</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Jefferson</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Orleans</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>St. Bernard</b>	<b>%</b>
Total:	1,460		11,673		26,840		1,667	
For rent	185	12.7%	4,956	42.5%	8,648	32.2%	386	23.2%
For sale only	96	6.6%	1,332	11.4%	2,016	7.5%	211	12.7%
Rented or sold, not occupied	191	13.1%	866	7.4%	3,031	11.3%	238	14.3%
For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	542	37.1%	1,936	16.6%	2,406	9.0%	366	22.0%
For migrant workers	8	0.5%	15	0.1%	25	0.1%	1	0.1%
Other vacant	438	30.0%	2,568	22.0%	10,714	39.9%	465	27.9%
<b>Avg. HH Size</b>	2.89		2.56		2.48		2.64	
<b>Estimated Seasonal Residents</b>	1,566		4,956		5,967		966	

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census; Seasonal Resident Calculation, JJG.

<sup>4</sup> If the population number provided by the NAS JRB includes usual and part time residents, it may not be consistent with population estimates provided by the U.S. Census, which includes only those people that consider the Plaquemines Parish their usual residence..

***Impacts of 2005 Hurricanes***

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita caused significant drops in population immediately prior to and after the storms in August and September 2005. Much of the drop in population occurred as a result of damaged and in many cases completely destroyed homes and unsafe living conditions. Residents of Plaquemines Parish relocated to other areas of the Parish, left the Parish temporarily, or left the Parish for the foreseeable future. Plaquemines has seen slight gains in population since the initial drop-off following the storm but has not yet returned to pre-storm population levels. In addition, Hurricane Gustav exacerbated the population rebuilding from Katrina and Rita when it hit in 2008 as seen in the population dip between 2008 and 2009. Some cohorts of the population are still resettling from these storms, particularly due to housing needs as discussed in **Section 11.3**.



*represents back of map*



### ***Influence of Damaged Housing Stock and Road Home Program on Parish Population***

The Road Home Program provides compensation for Louisiana homeowners that experienced damage to their home due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It is the biggest housing recovery program in United States history. The program provides funding for rebuilding, relocating, and other associated losses to facilitate the movement of homeowners back into their homes or improved living arrangements that are either better positioned to weather future storms or in a completely different location altogether (inside or outside the State of Louisiana). To be eligible for the program, the applicants must have owned and lived in their homes as their primary residence at the time of Hurricanes Katrina or Rita.

According to the most recent data,<sup>5</sup> 3,271 Plaquemines Parish homeowners have applied for the Road Home program, and 3,111 applicants have received funding from the program. Of successful applicants, 7 percent opted to sell their home but stay in Louisiana; 0.6 percent opted to sell their home but move out of Louisiana; and 92 percent opted to keep their home. Altogether, eight percent of affected property owners that were accepted into the program decided to leave or invest in areas outside of Plaquemines Parish.

The 2000 Census calculated that there were 9,021 occupied housing units and 7,117 owner occupied housing units in Plaquemines Parish. Assuming that these numbers remained relatively constant up until the 2005 storms, it can be estimated that approximately 46 percent of Plaquemines Parish homeowners applied for assistance through the Road Home Program.

### **Population Projections**

Moving forward, multiple factors will influence the population growth of Plaquemines Parish:

- Increases in employment opportunities
- Ability to retain existing residents
- Environmental influences and push/pull factors (for example, potential storms, job opportunities in neighboring parishes, impacts of Deepwater Horizon Disaster, etc.)

*The Plaquemines Parish 2008 Land Use and Transportation Study* projected an ambitious growth trend. The Study projected the Parish's population to reach 29,700 in 2009. This figure exceeds the 2009 population estimate for Plaquemines Parish of 20,942 by nearly 9,000 people. With this in mind, the State of Louisiana's 2010 to 2030 projections are the most plausible projections that exist at this time.

### ***State of Louisiana 2010-2030 Projections***

The State of Louisiana commissioned Louisiana State University to produce a series of population projections for Louisiana and each of its parishes for 2010 to 2030. These projections are based on 2005 population estimates from the U.S. Census and adjusted to

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<sup>5</sup> State of Louisiana, Office of Community Development. 15 June 2010. *The Homeowner Assistance Program Week 207 Situation & Pipeline Report*.

account for the impacts of 2005 storms (using 2007 population estimates). The projections produced by LSU provide a low, medium, and high projection for each parish and encourage nearly all parishes to accept the medium projection moving forward. These projections anticipate that between 2010 and 2020, Plaquemines Parish will be among the top five fastest growing parishes in the State, along with Livingston, St. Tammany, Ascension, and St. John the Baptist Parishes. The assumptions in the data also project that the Louisiana population, as a whole, will reach pre 2005 storm levels between 2015 and 2020.

**Table 2.4** shows the projected population for Plaquemines Parish, as anticipated by the State. Based on the State’s guidance, it is projected that the most likely population for Plaquemines Parish in 2030 is around 29,000 people, nearly a 30 percent increase in population between 2010 and 2030. Note: These figures do not take into account the impact that the Deepwater Horizon Disaster will have on the Plaquemines Parish and overall Louisiana population, which will likely be difficult to project in the near future.

**Table 2.4: Population Projections for Plaquemines Parish, 2010-2030**

	Medium	Low	High
2005	28,970	28,970	28,970
2010	22,440	21,240	23,560
2015	24,090	22,300	25,760
2020	25,770	23,380	28,410
2025	27,460	24,250	31,170
2030	29,130	24,970	34,050
Percent Increase 2010-2020	29.8%	17.6%	44.5%

Source: State of Louisiana, Office of Administration. Louisiana Population Projections prepared by LSU.

## 2.2 Age

As indicated in **Table 2.5**, the age distribution of the Plaquemines Parish population is well-balanced. An estimated 30 percent of the population is under age 20. There has been a slight drop-off in the residents between the ages of 20 to 34, suggesting that there is an increasing out migration of residents that recently completed high-school age. Because Plaquemines Parish also receives an inflow of new military personnel annually, many of whom likely fall into the 20-34 age category, the decline in this age group suggests that there is an even higher out migration of Plaquemines Parish natives. The 20 to 34 age cohort is often influenced by educational and job opportunities. With this in mind, Plaquemines should further consider what specific influences may be shaping the migration decisions of this cohort of the population.

There has been some rise in residents 65 years old or older, which is consistent with state and national trends. Moving forward, Plaquemines Parish, along with most communities in the United States, will need to consider the specific needs of the growing aging population when developing polices and programs and regulating land use and another aspects of the built environment.

**Table 2.5: Age Distribution of Plaquemines Parish Population**

	2000	2006*	2008*
Under 5 Years Age	7.4%	5.3%	7.3%
5 to 9 years	8.2%	6.1%	6.8%
10 to 14 years	8.4%	8.0%	7.7%
15 to 19 years	8.2%	9.4%	8.5%
20 to 24 years	6.2%	5.4%	5.6%
25 to 34 years	13.6%	7.8%	11.7%
35 to 44 years	16.9%	17.0%	14.2%
45 to 54 years	12.7%	10.7%	15.7%
55 to 64 years	8.6%	13.5%	10.9%
65 to 74 years	6.1%	11.6%	6.9%
75 to 84 years	2.9%	3.8%	3.5%
85 years and over	0.8%	0.9%	1.1%
Not Indicated	N/A	0.7%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; 2006 Louisiana Health and Population Survey; U.S. Census: 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-year Estimates.

### 2.3 Households & Group Quarters Population

The average household size of Plaquemines Parish households was 2.89 in 2000. This figure is notably higher than adjacent parishes, which ranged from an average household size of 2.48 to 2.64. In 2006 there were an estimated 7,900 households in Plaquemines Parish, with over 50 percent of those being one person or two person households. Changes to the average household size will influence type and size of housing desired by future Plaquemines Parish residents.

**Table 2.6: Average Household Size in 2000, Plaquemines and Adjacent Parishes**

	Plaquemines Parish	Jefferson Parish	Orleans Parish	St. Bernard Parish
Average household size	2.89	2.56	2.48	2.64

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: Census 2000 SF1, Table 17.

**Table 2.7: Total Households in Plaquemines Parish by Household Size, 2006**

# of Individuals per HH	2006 Estimate	% of Total Households
1 person	1,523	19.2%
2 people	2,632	33.2%
3 people	1,533	19.4%
4 people	1,096	13.8%
5 people	850	10.7%
6 people	128	1.6%
7 people	62	0.8%
8 people	59	0.7%
9 people	35	0.4%
Total	7,918	100.0%

Source: 2006 Louisiana Health and Population Survey.

### Group Quarters Population

The group quarters population reflects those individuals not considered part of a household, living in either institutional or non-institutional settings, including nursing homes, correctional institutes, college dormitories, etc. Plaquemines Parish has a small group quarters population, accounting for less than 3 percent of the total population in 2000 (**Table 2.8**). Orleans Parish had just under 4 percent, while St. Bernard Parish and Jefferson Parish each had a group quarters population around 1 percent.

The majority of the group quarters’ population is institutionalized, in either correctional facilities or other institutions. According to the 2000 Census, only 20 people were residing in military quarters. Based on information from the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, which is located in Belle Chasse, it is possible that this data is under reported; however, it is an increasing habit of the U.S. Military to provide more complete housing units for its base residents, which are more attune to typical housing arrangements (apartments, town houses, etc.) than group quarters.

The Louisiana Health and Population Survey saw a decline in the group quarters population, counting a total of 506 people living in group quarters in 2006. This shift is likely a consequence of Hurricane Katrina.

**Table 2.8: 2000 Group Quarters Population for Plaquemines Parish and Neighboring Parishes**

	Plaquemines Parish	% Total Pop	Jefferson Parish	% Total Pop	Orleans Parish	% Total Pop	St. Bernard Parish	% Total Pop
Total Population	26,757		455,466		484,674		67,229	
Total Group Quarters:	728	2.7%	4,357	1.0%	17,641	3.6%	788	1.2%
Institutionalized population:	646	2.4%	3,040	0.7%	9,772	2.0%	727	1.1%
Correctional institutions	311	1.2%	691	0.2%	6,160	1.3%	296	0.4%
Nursing homes	76	0.3%	1,907	0.4%	2,976	0.6%	431	0.6%
Other institutions	259	1.0%	442	0.1%	636	0.1%	0	0.0%
Noninstitutionalized population:	82	0.3%	1,317	0.3%	7,869	1.6%	61	0.1%
College dormitories (includes college quarters off campus)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4,731	1.0%	0	0.0%
Military quarters	20	0.1%	39	0.0%	255	0.1%	0	0.0%
Other noninstitutional group quarters	62	0.2%	1,278	0.3%	2,883	0.6%	61	0.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000.

## 2.4 Race and Hispanic Origin

The largest minority population in Plaquemines is the Black/African American community, representing 18 percent of the population in 2006. This figure represents a 6 percent drop in the African American population residing in the Parish since 2000. This decline can be attributed, in part, to Hurricane Katrina.

The 2006 Louisiana Health and Population Survey counted 5 percent of the population as Latino. This represents a 3.7 percent increase in Hispanic population since 2000. While the overall population decreased, the Latino population increased significantly. This shift represents increasing diversity in the Parish.

**Table 2.9: Population of Plaquemines Parish by Race, 2000 & 2006**

	2000	%	2006*	%
Total	26,563		22,006	
White only	18,668	70.3%	16,393	74.5%
Black only	6,258	23.6%	3,933	17.9%
Asian only	700	2.6%	164	0.7%
American Indian, Alaska Native only	553	2.1%	232	1.1%
Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander only	4	0.0%	0	0.0%
Multiracial	380	1.4%	283	1.3%
Other race or no race selected	N/A		1,001	4.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; 2006 Louisiana Health and Population Survey  
 \*Estimate

**Table 2.10: Hispanic or Latino Population Plaquemines Parish 2000 & 2006**

	2000	%	2006*	%	% Change
Not Indicated	N/A		965	4.4%	
Latino	433	1.6%	1,165	5.3%	3.7%
Not Latino	26,324	98.4%	19,876	90.3%	-8.1%
Total	26,757	100.0%	22,006	100.0%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; 2006 Louisiana Health and Population Survey  
 \*Estimate

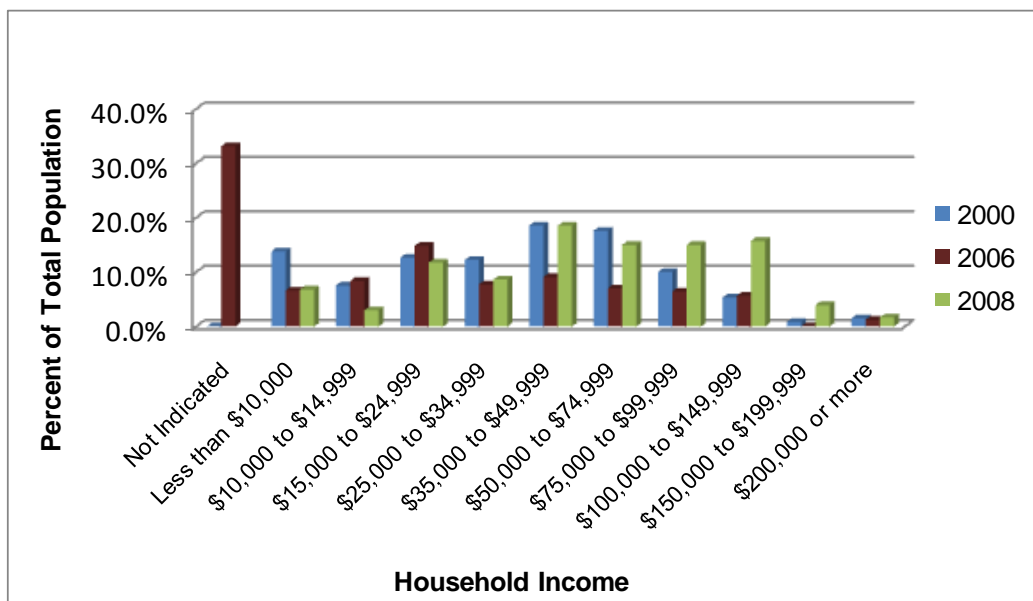
## 2.5 Income and Poverty

### Household Income

Data collected in 2006 indicated that Parish households generally saw a decline in income in the year following Hurricane Katrina. The American Community Survey indicates that between 2006-2008 household incomes generally returned to income levels held prior to the storm. The average median household income for 2006-2008 was \$50,899. As shown in **Figure 2.3**, a jump in higher household incomes occurred after 2006 and is a likely sign of economic recovery occurring in the Plaquemines Parish.

Plaquemines Parish households have a slightly higher household income than adjoining parishes based on averages calculated by the American Community Survey (**Table 2.11**).

**Figure 2.3: Plaquemines Parish Household Income Distribution, 2000, 2006 & 2008**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; 2006 Louisiana Health and Population Survey; U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2006-2008 Estimates.

\*2006 & 2008 Estimates

**Table 2.11: Median Household Income, Plaquemines and Adjacent Parish, 2006-2008 Average**

	Plaquemines	Margin of Error	Jefferson	Margin of Error	Orleans	Margin of Error	St. Bernard	Margin of Error
Median HH Income	50,889	+/-6,217	48,227	+/-1,246	39,398	+/-1,390	40,342	+/-4,575

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey.

**Poverty**

Various federal anti-poverty programs, such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Medicaid, are available to those between 125 and 185 percent of the poverty level. According to 2006 poverty levels for the Plaquemines Parish, between 14 and 34 percent of the Parish population would be eligible for these programs. See **Table 2.12** for poverty levels of Parish residents. The 2008 small area income and poverty estimates from the U.S. Census indicate that 15.1 percent of Plaquemines Parish residents are living in poverty, compared to 12.9 percent in Jefferson Parish, 20.3 percent in St. Bernard Parish, and 22.9 percent in Orleans Parish.

**Table 2.12: Plaquemines Household Poverty Level 2006**

	2006*	% of Total
Not Indicated	2,623	33.1%
Below 50% poverty level	209	2.6%
50%-100% poverty level	852	10.8%
100%-200% poverty level	1,529	19.3%
Above 200% poverty level	2,704	34.2%
Total	7,917	100.0%

Source: 2006 Louisiana Health and Population Survey. \*Estimate

## 2.6 Education

The majority of Plaquemines Parish residents has a high school diploma or has earned their GED. Data collected in both 2000 and 2006 indicate that over 30 percent of the population has some college education or degree. The data shows that since 2000 those residents with a college education increased. In 2006, 13 percent held a bachelor’s degree and 6 percent had completed some or all of a graduate or professional program. Compared to adjacent parishes in 2006, Plaquemines Parish has a low rate of residents with partial or completed graduate or professional degrees. Plaquemines also has a lower percentage of residents with Bachelors degrees (12.7 percent) compared to Jefferson and Orleans Parishes (14.5 percent and 17.5 percent, respectively).

**Table 2.13: Highest Degree or Level of Education Completed for Plaquemines Parish 2000 & Plaquemines and Adjacent Parishes 2006**

Highest Degree or Level Completed	2000%	2006%			
	Plaquemines	Plaquemines	Jefferson	Orleans	St. Bernard
Not Indicated		6.4%	2.9%	5.8%	3.9%
Less than high school	31.3%	17.1%	14.6%	13.8%	15.7%
High school graduate/GED	34.2%	35.3%	34.0%	21.1%	47.3%
Some college or associates	23.7%	19.1%	20.1%	21.2%	19.7%
Bachelors degree	8.5%	12.7%	14.5%	17.5%	8.4%
Some or completed graduate/professional	2.3%	5.8%	11.7%	19.0%	4.3%
Refused		1.2%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
Don't know		2.5%	2.1%	1.3%	0.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; 2006 Louisiana Health and Population Survey.

### Enrollment Levels for School Age Children

School enrollment within the Parish neared 6,000 for the 2004-2005 school years (**Table 2.14**). A significant drop in the Parish’s school enrollment occurred after Katrina. As of October 2009, enrollment figures had inched back up to 78 percent of pre-enrollment figures. This difference in enrollment parallels the out migration of full-time residents to other communities. October 2009 figures showed a 5 percent jump in school enrollment from the previous year. If this trend continues, enrollment will continue to inch back to pre-storm levels.

Included in the numbers below is Belle Chasse Academy enrollment. Belle Chasse Academy is the only civilian charter school located on a military base in the United States. The school opened in September 2002 to 600 students. Its annual enrollment has routinely eclipsed 900 students since its opening. The school serves military and Department of Defense dependent children in the greater New Orleans. The opening of this school can explain the notable jump in enrollment figures during the 2002-2003 and 2004-2005 school years.

**Table 2.14: School Enrollment Data for Plaquemines Parish 2000 to 2010**

School Year	Plaquemines	Annual % Increase
2000-2001	4,989	
2001-2002	4,933	-1.1%
2002-2003	5,475	11.0%
2003-2004	5,823	6.4%
2004-2005	5,952	2.2%
2005-2006*	3,667	-38.4%
2006-2007**	4,393	19.8%
2007-2008	4,484	2.1%
2008-2009	4,486	0.0%
2009-2010***	4,698	4.7%

Source: Louisiana Department of Education. LEA and School-Level: Public Student Counts and Percentages, Multi-Stats by LEA 2000-2009. \*Average based on Jan-may 2006. \*\*Average based on October and February enrollment figures. \*\*\*October enrollment figure only.  
 The Plaquemines schools include Belle Chasse Academy.

## 2.7 Further Data Needs

The 2010 detailed Census counts for localities will be released throughout 2011, with redistricting information due to states and local communities no later than March 2011 and release of all other data anticipated by December 2011. This data will provide a much clearer snapshot of the conditions of the Plaquemines Parish population, economy, and housing stock along with multiple other characteristics. Due to the timing of the Deepwater Horizon Disaster, its impacts will not be included in the new Census data unless the U.S. Census Bureau makes adjustments to account for the unusual circumstances. At the time of this analysis, it was uncertain when conditions would stabilize such that accurate analysis of the impacts of the Disaster on the population would be possible.

As discussed in **Section 2.1**, it is anticipated that the sub-area population estimates and associated sub-areas will be adjusted as better data and is obtained and the project moves forward. These adjustments will play an important role in projecting various Parish service, facility, and programmatic needs to be outlined in the Community Agenda.

In the future, it will be valuable for Plaquemines Parish, in coordination with its partners, to better track and/or maintain detailed records of the following:



- Detailed residential property owners data (address, data of purchase, etc. – often recorded in the tax assessor’s office)
- Historic utility user records, including geographic area to track population distribution
- Anticipated residency decisions of graduating high school seniors
- Number of camps erected and being utilized as part-time or permanent housing units

## List of Sources

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