

## WHO LIVES IN NEW ORLEANS AND THE METRO AREA NOW?

Based on 2009 U.S. Census Bureau Data

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This brief examines 2009 demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau and identifies significant changes since 2000 in parishes across the metro area. Included are data on race and ethnicity, poverty, income, homeownership, educational attainment, children, access to vehicles and the foreign born population.

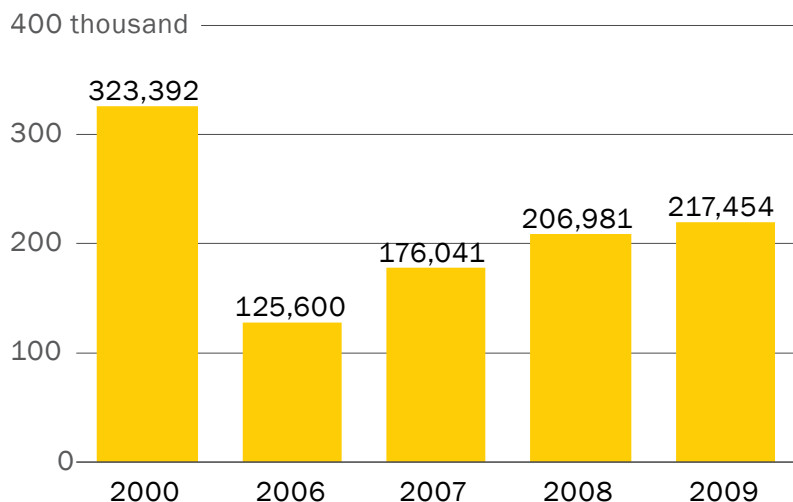
### Changes in Race/Ethnicity since 2000

(see Appendix 1 for complete statistics by parish and metro area)

According to the Census Bureau's 2009 population estimates, there are 106,000 fewer African Americans living in New Orleans compared to 2000. However, the number has grown steadily since 2006 and continues to trend back to the pre-Katrina baseline.

#### African American population

pre- and post-Katrina in Orleans Parish

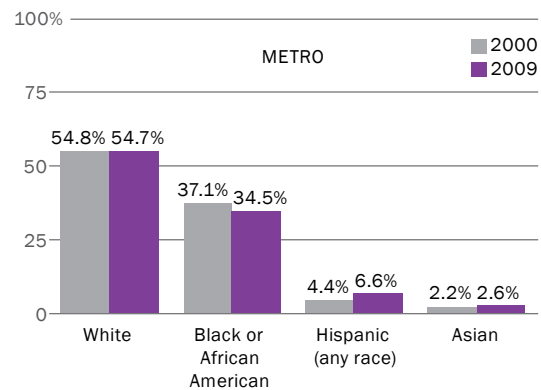
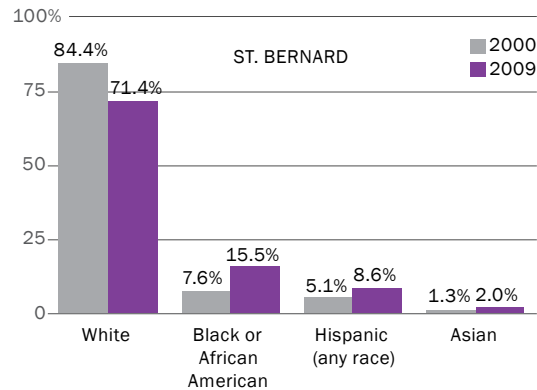
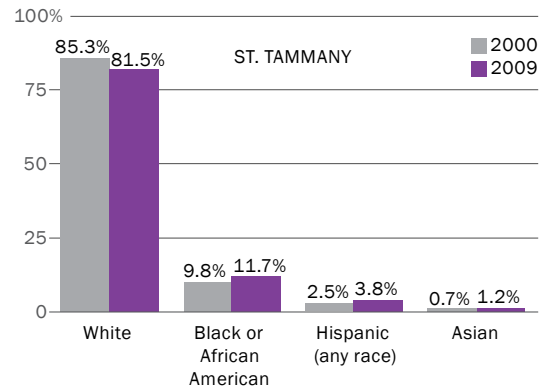
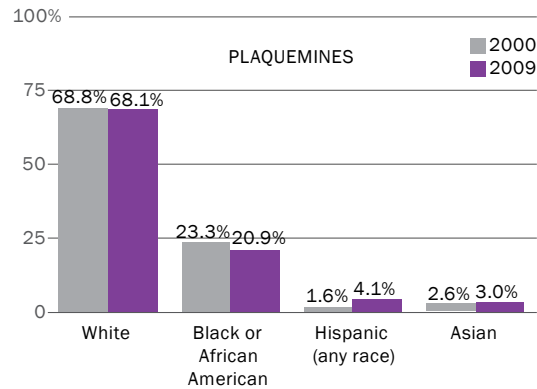
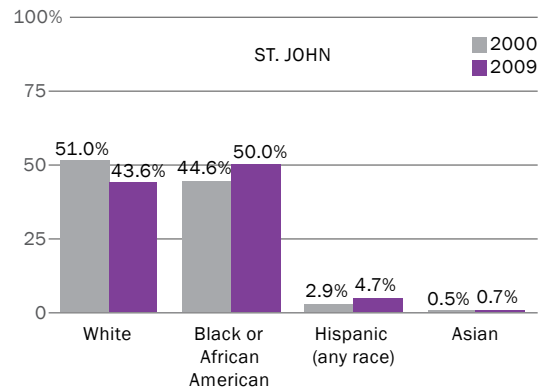
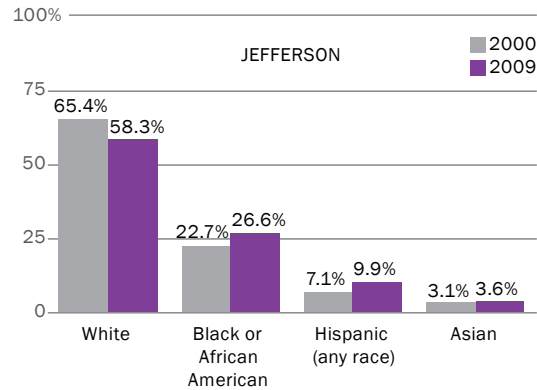
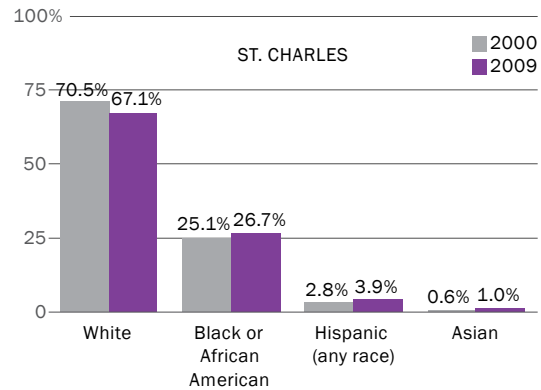
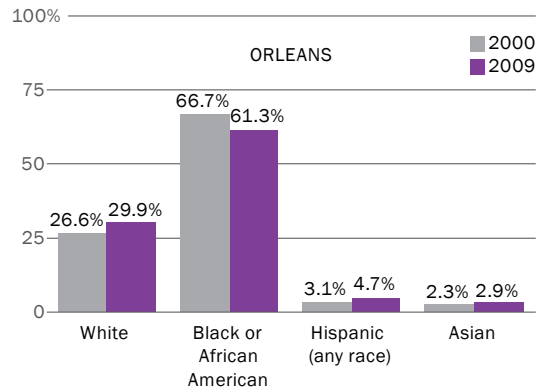


Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and Population Estimates 2009.

The share of the city's 2009 population that is African American – while lower than in 2000 when it was 66.7 percent – continues to represent the majority at 61.3 percent. The share of Hispanics in the city increased from 3.1 percent in 2000 to 4.7 percent in 2009, and Asians increased from 2.3 percent to 2.9 percent. Meanwhile, Hispanic, Asian, and African American populations increased as a share of the total population in Jefferson, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany parishes. In fact, the number and share of Hispanics has increased in all seven parishes in the metro area.

## Race/ethnicity

by parish and for the whole metro

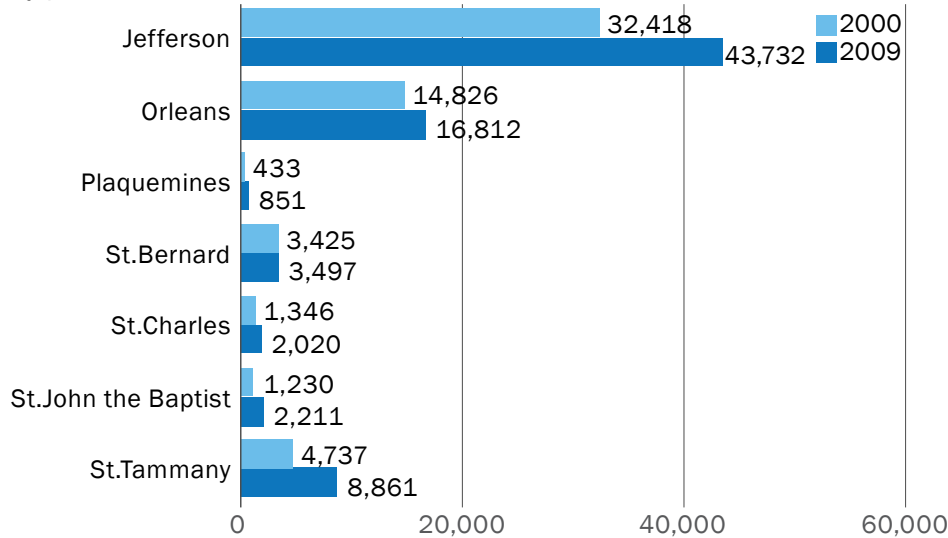


Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and Population Estimates 2009.

Between 2000 and 2009, the number of Hispanics in Jefferson Parish increased by 11,300, reaching nearly 10 percent of the total population. Orleans Parish and St. Tammany Parish gained more than 1,900 and 4,100 Hispanics, respectively, such that, by 2009, the Hispanic share of the population in Orleans was 4.7 percent, and in St. Tammany it was 3.8 percent.

### Hispanic population

by parish

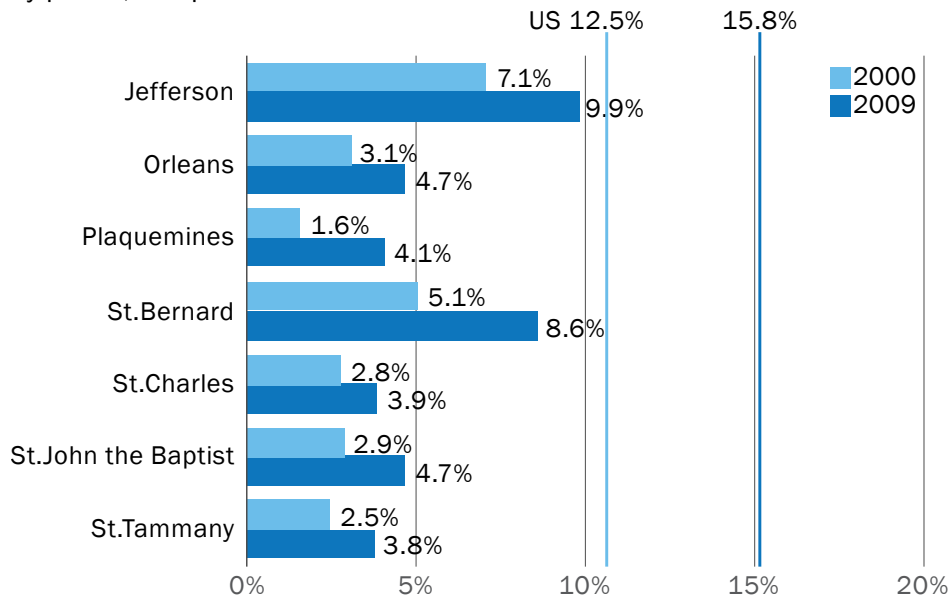


Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and Population Estimates 2009.

Today there are nearly 78,000 Hispanics in the metro area representing 6.6 percent of the metro area population, up from 58,400 representing 4.4 percent of the metro population in 2000. Despite these recent gains, the Hispanic share of the population in metro area parishes is far below the average for the United States, which has grown from 12.5 percent to 15.8 percent of the total population over these nine years.

### Hispanic share of the population

by parish, compared to United States



Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and Population Estimates 2009.

## Other Demographic Changes

(see Appendix 2 for complete statistics for Jefferson, Orleans, St. Tammany and metro area)

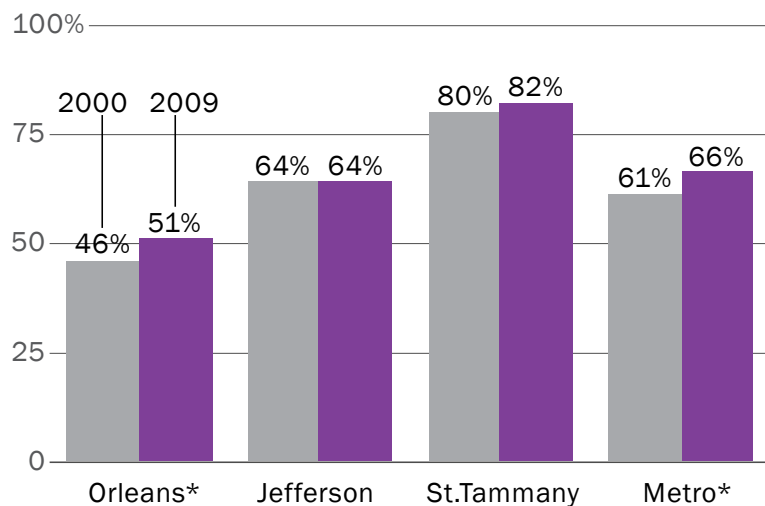
Statistical analyses of the Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2009 demographic profile for the New Orleans metro area as compared with Census 2000 indicate that the region is less poor with fewer adults lacking a high school diploma, fewer households with children, more single-person households, 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 2009 data for the New Orleans metro area is broken out for the three largest parishes of Orleans, Jefferson and St. Tammany, allowing us to drill-down into the metro area trends.

Not surprisingly, many of these metro area trends were driven by significant changes in Orleans Parish, where, for example, the homeownership rate increased from 46 to 51 percent – largely a reflection of the steeper obstacles renters faced in returning to New Orleans after Katrina. In contrast, the 2009 homeownership rates in St. Tammany and Jefferson parishes are not significantly different from 2000. Although after Katrina, Jefferson initially experienced a disproportionate return of homeowners, and St. Tammany experienced an influx of renters, both these parishes have returned to their pre-Katrina homeownership rates.

### Homeownership rate

in the three most populous parishes and the metro

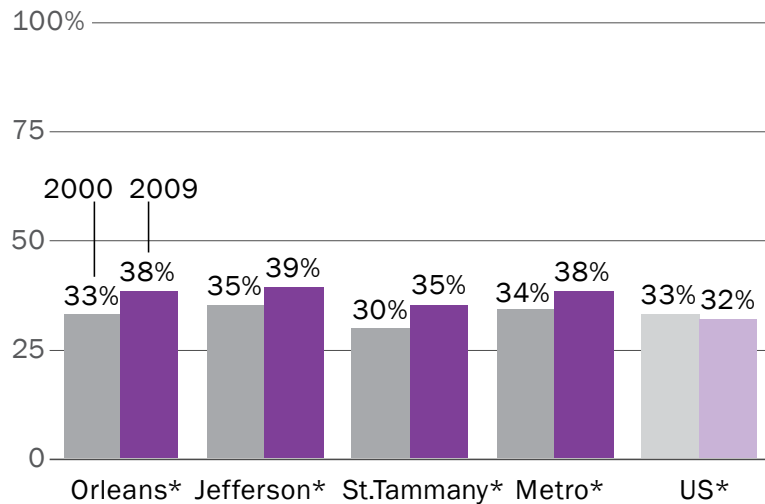


\*Difference between 2000 and 2009 significant at 95% confidence interval

Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2009.

The proportion of metro area homeowners without a mortgage has increased from 34 to 38 percent, reflecting increases in all three of the largest parishes. This change may be the effect of homeowners using insurance and Road Home dollars to pay off mortgages. Meanwhile, the proportion of homeowners in the United States without a mortgage declined from 33 to 32 percent between 2000 and 2009.

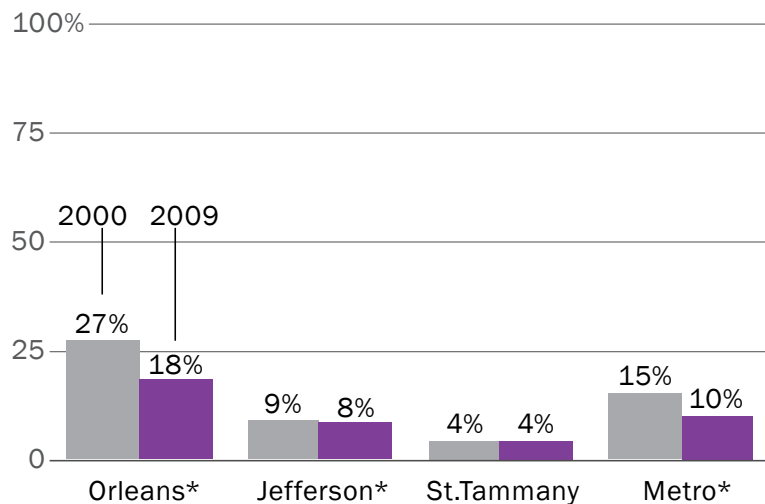
**Homeowners without a mortgage**  
in the three most populous parishes, the metro, and the United States



\*Difference between 2000 and 2009 significant at 95% confidence interval  
Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2009.

Post-Katrina, fewer households do not have access to a vehicle. This change is most pronounced in Orleans where 18 percent of households do not have a vehicle, down from 27 percent in 2000. Nonetheless, at 18 percent, thousands of households in New Orleans are reliant on public transportation, and need assistance in the case of evacuation.

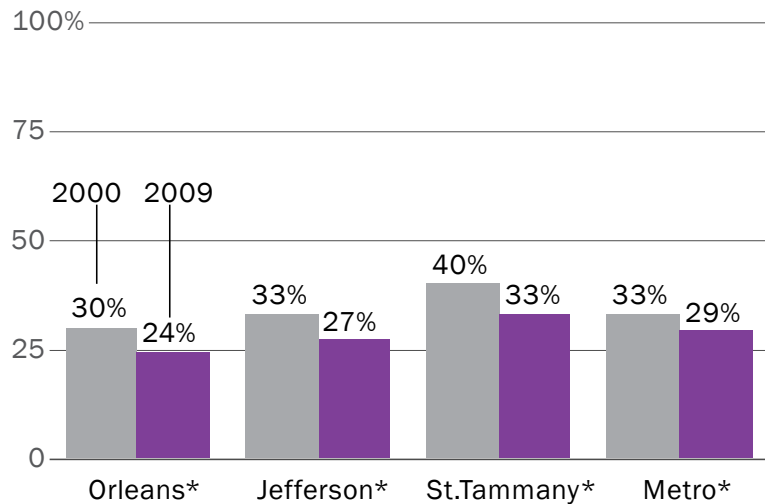
**Households without access to a vehicle**  
in the three most populous parishes and the metro



\*Difference between 2000 and 2009 significant at 95% confidence interval  
Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2009.

Fewer families with children live in the New Orleans metro, declining from 33 percent of all households in 2000 to 29 percent in 2009. The proportion of households with children is smaller in all three of the largest parishes. By 2009, 33 percent of St. Tammany households down from 40 percent in 2000, and 27 percent of Jefferson households down from 33 percent in 2000, and 24 percent of Orleans households down from 30 percent in 2000 included children.

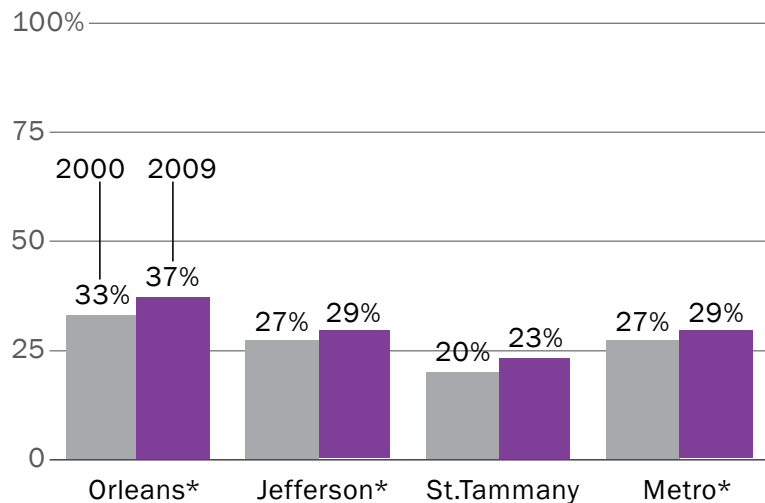
**Households with own children under 18**  
in the three most populous parishes and the metro



\*Difference between 2000 and 2009 significant at 95% confidence interval  
Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2009.

A larger share of households in the New Orleans metro area are individuals living alone compared to 2000. This trend is driven by changes in single person households in the two largest parishes. In New Orleans, 37 percent of households are individuals living alone, up from 33 percent in 2000, and in Jefferson, 29 percent of all households are individuals living alone, up from 27 percent.

**One-person households**  
in the three most populous parishes and the metro

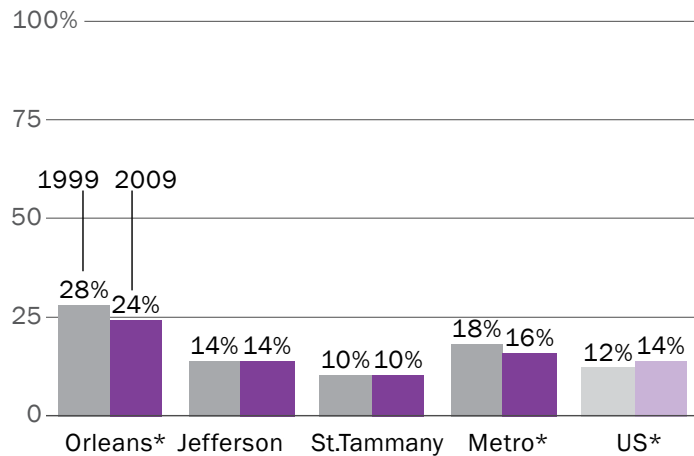


\*Difference between 2000 and 2009 significant at 95% confidence interval  
Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2009.

Across the metro area, the poverty rate fell from 18 percent in 1999 to 16 percent in 2009. This decline was driven almost entirely by the city of New Orleans where the poverty rate dropped from 28 percent to 24 percent, reflecting the inability of many poorer residents to return. While poverty rates dropped in Orleans Parish, poverty rates held steady in Jefferson Parish at 14 percent and in St. Tammany Parish at 10 percent. Meanwhile, the poverty rate in the United States increased from 12 percent to 14 percent between 1999 and 2009.

### Poverty rate

in the three most populous parishes, the metro, and the United States



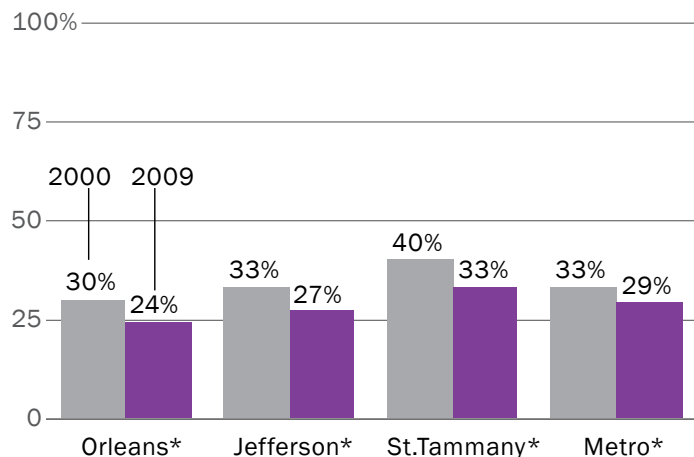
\*Difference between 1999 and 2009 significant at 95% confidence interval

Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2009.

Like the overall poverty rate, the child poverty rate has also declined in the metro area and can largely be attributed to changes in the city of New Orleans. Child poverty rates fell from 26 percent to 23 percent in the metro, and from 41 percent to 35 percent in the city. The steep decline in child poverty reflects the challenges poor families face in returning to New Orleans after Katrina. Meanwhile, the child poverty rate in the United States increased from 17 percent to 20 percent between 1999 and 2009.

### Children in poverty

less than 18 years old



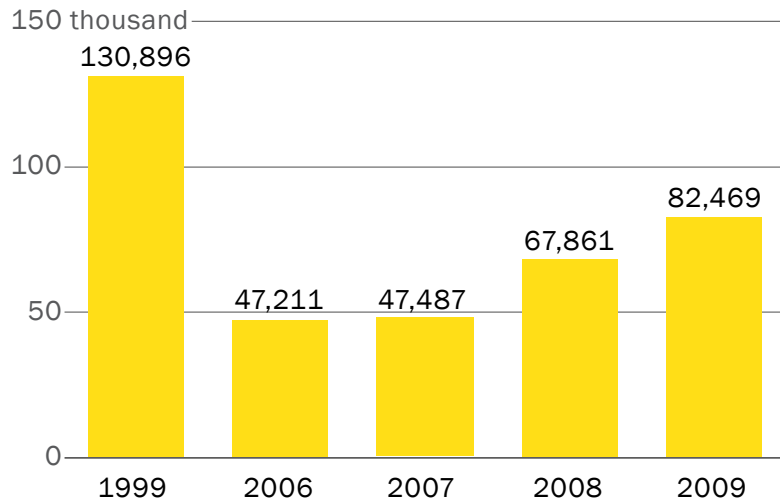
\*Difference between 1999 and 2009 significant at 95% confidence interval

Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2009.

Although poverty rates in the city are lower than in 1999, the number of individuals in poverty has grown since 2006.

### Number of people in poverty

for whom poverty is determined, Orleans Parish

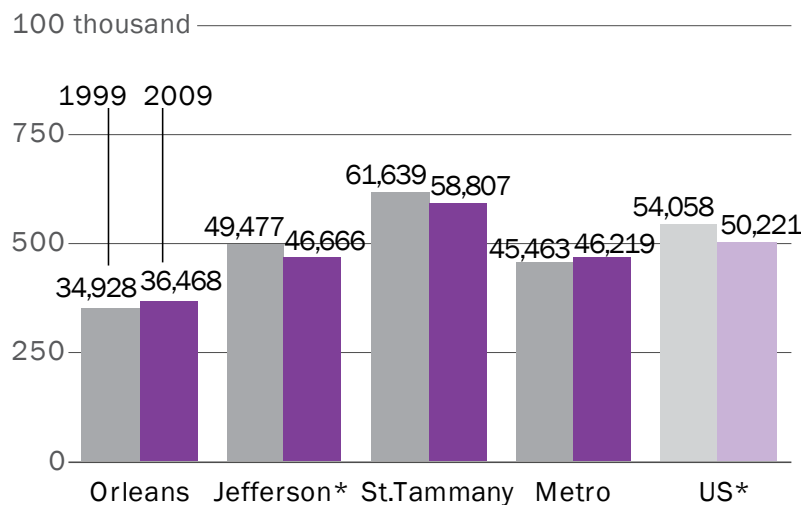


Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates 2009.

Despite post-Katrina increases in household incomes in Orleans Parish, the Great Recession has pushed incomes down again such that median household incomes in the city, at \$36,468, are statistically unchanged from 1999. Median household incomes in Jefferson Parish are down 6 percent compared to 1999, falling from \$49,477 to \$46,666. Meanwhile, nationwide, the Great Recession has pushed incomes down 7 percent, from \$54,058 to \$50,221.

### Median household income

in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars



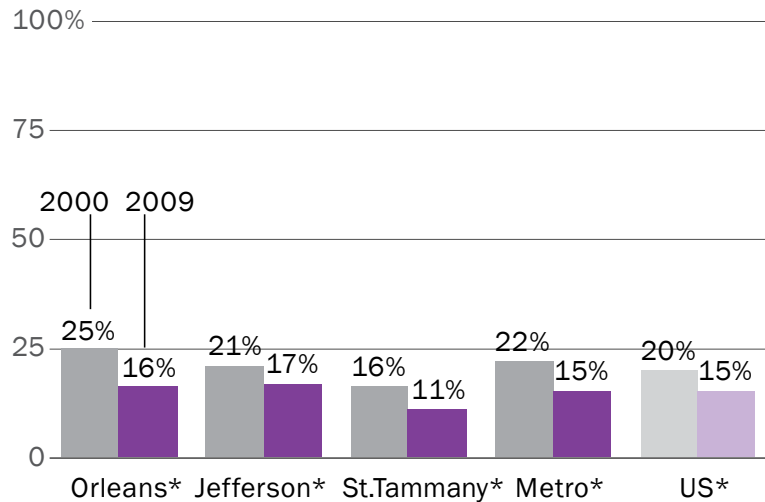
\*Difference between 1999 and 2009 significant at 95% confidence interval

Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2009.

The proportion of metro area adults 25 years and older with less than a high school education declined across all three of the largest parishes, falling from 22 percent in 2000 to 15 percent in 2009 for the metro area. In the city of New Orleans the share of adults with less than a high school degree is now roughly on par with the U.S. at 16 percent, down from 25 percent in 2000.

### Less than a high school degree

in adults 25 years and older



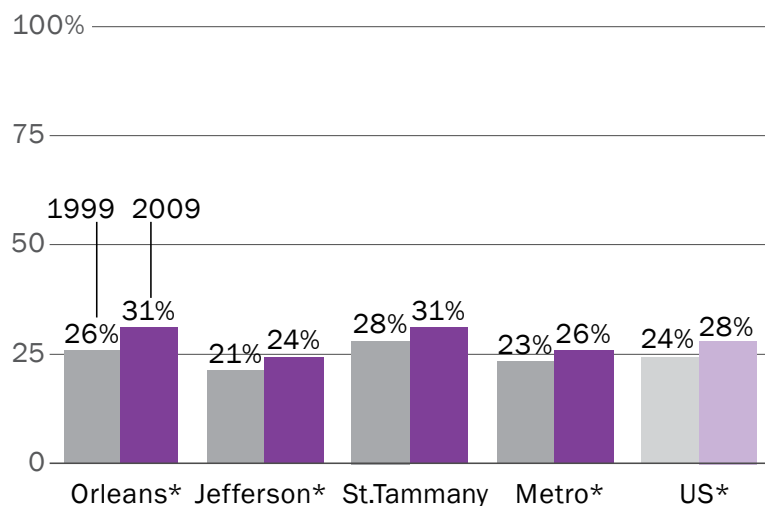
\*Difference between 2000 and 2009 significant at 95% confidence interval

Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2009.

By 2009 the share of adults 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree in the New Orleans metro had increased to 26 percent, up from 23 percent in 2000. In Orleans Parish, 31 percent of adults 25+ have a college degree, which is higher than the US average of 28 percent.

### Bachelor's degree or higher

in adults 25 years and older



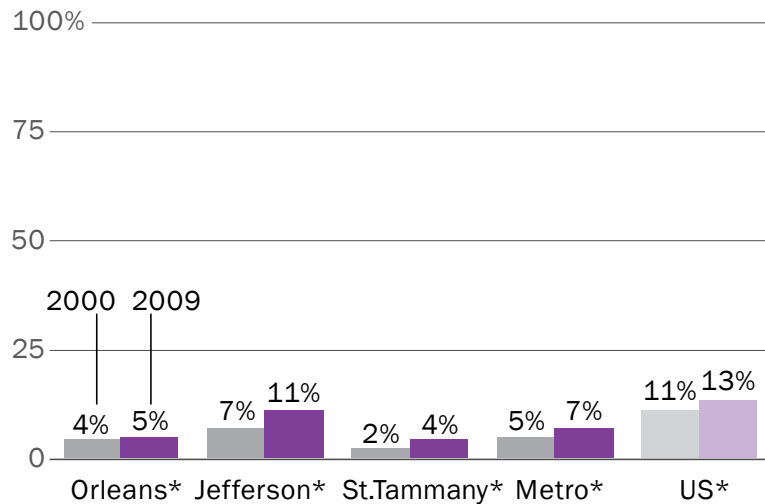
\*Difference between 2000 and 2009 significant at 95% confidence interval

Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2009.

Across the metro area, the foreign-born share of the population increased from 5 percent in 2000 to 7 percent in 2009. The largest percentage point increase was in Jefferson Parish where the foreign-born population grew from 7 percent to 11 percent. In Orleans and St. Tammany, the foreign-born share of the population increased by about one percentage point to 5 percent and 4 percent, respectively. Still these shares are well below the U.S. average, which grew to 13 percent by 2009.

### Population born in another country

in the three most populous parishes, the metro, and the United States



\*Difference between 2000 and 2009 significant at 95% confidence interval

Source: GNOCDC analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2009.

## Methodology

### Population Estimates

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

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

The comparisons of Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF3) sample data and 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/handbooks/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.”