

CLARITAS ANNOUNCES UPDATE OF HURRICANE KATRINA-ADJUSTED POPULATION ESTIMATES

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Claritas is delighted to announce the second release of Hurricane Katrina-adjusted population estimates. This update, which covers the period October 1, 2005 thru July 1, 2006 comes five months after the initial release, and is a set of estimates for 140 affected counties.

A distinguishing feature of this update is the inclusion of estimates for areas directly impacted by the storm as well as information for areas where evacuees now live. Additionally, this update incorporates household estimates for July 1, 2006; October 1, 2005; and January 1, 2006.

Using the new estimates to continue our analysis of the population shifts subsequent to Hurricane Katrina, we have noticed the emergence of two major patterns.

Updated Population Impact: Further Analysis

With July 1, 2006 population and household estimates, we can further understand the true nature of population shifts nine months after the storm. In our original Updated Population Impact assessment, we analyzed the storm's likely impact for the immediate future. Now, we analyze population shifts in the same five identified top and bottom counties previously studied to understand whether those changes are permanent. Most of the counties that received a large inflow of population have seen a reversal of that trend as of July 1, 2006.

The opposite is true for counties that initially had the most substantial loss in population as a result of the storm. As of July 1, 2006, these counties have seen a significant increase in population, although none of them are back to their pre-Katrina population levels. This analysis gives us a glimpse of what seems to be a semi-permanent population shift.

A Slowing Trend

Nine months after Katrina, population shifts continue, but at a slower pace. The following set of tables presents the progression of population and household changes from October 1, 2005 to January 1, 2006 and to July 1, 2006.

The table below shows the top five counties with the highest population increase by percentage during those times. With the exception of Cameron Parish, which showed a measurable increase from a minor decline, all the other growth percentages dropped.

Top Five Counties Showing the Highest Percentage Population Increase Post Katrina

COUNTY	Oct 2005	Jan 2006	Jul 2006	%	%
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	Population (with Hurricane Impact)	Population (with Hurricane Impact)*	Population (with Hurricane Impact)	Change Oct to Jan	Change Jan to Jul
St. Bernard Parish, LA	2,685	7,292	14,483	171.6%	99.1%
Orleans Parish, LA	92,660	173,720	214,486	87.5%	23.5%
Plaquemines Parish, LA	11,902	18,594	19,896	56.2%	7.0%
Cameron Parish, LA	7,876	7,848	8,314	-0.4%	5.9%
Hancock County, MS	30,409	36,018	38,018	18.4%	5.6%

As for the top five counties that decreased in population, the slowing trend is also in place, but the percentages are more consistent.

Top Five Counties Showing the Highest Percentage Population Decrease Post Katrina

COUNTY	Oct 2005 Population (with Hurricane Impact)	Jan 2006 Population (with Hurricane Impact)*	Jul 2006 Population (with Hurricane Impact)	% Change Oct to Jan	% Change Jan to Jul
Lawrence County, MS	17,177	14,814	14,475	-13.8%	-2.3%
Jefferson Davis County, MS	15,175	13,995	13,694	-7.8%	-2.1%
Marion County, MS	31,165	27,205	26,634	-12.7%	-2.1%
St. Charles Parish, LA	64,667	56,986	55,792	-11.9%	-2.1%
Washington Parish, LA	55,149	48,908	47,905	-11.3%	-2.1%

For a complete listing of the updated estimates, visit the Claritas Hurricane Katrina Adjusted Population Estimates website at: <http://www.claritas.com/katrina>.

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