

## A SNAPSHOT OF DUPAGE COUNTY POVERTY: NEWLY RELEASED 2005 CENSUS DATA

Every Illinoisan has a human right to healthcare, an adequate livelihood, and freedom from the constraints of poverty. However, newly released data from the U.S. Census Bureau, contained in the *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2005* report and the American Community Survey, indicate a very different reality for millions in our state – half a million Illinois children live in poverty, over one and a half million Illinoisans do not have health insurance, and hundreds of thousands struggle in extreme poverty, with incomes well under \$10,000 a year.

These problems are not limited to specific areas of the state; people are finding it difficult to make ends meet in cities, suburbs, small towns, and rural areas alike. The realities of state and national budget deficits, along with shifting priorities in recent years, have perpetuated the hardship faced by many in the state. These unmet needs require new attention and investments to turn the tide of opportunity for hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans.

Please see <http://www.heartlandalliance.org/creatingchange/factsheets.html> for fact sheets on the United States, Illinois, select Illinois counties, and other Midwest states, as well as other reports on poverty in Illinois.

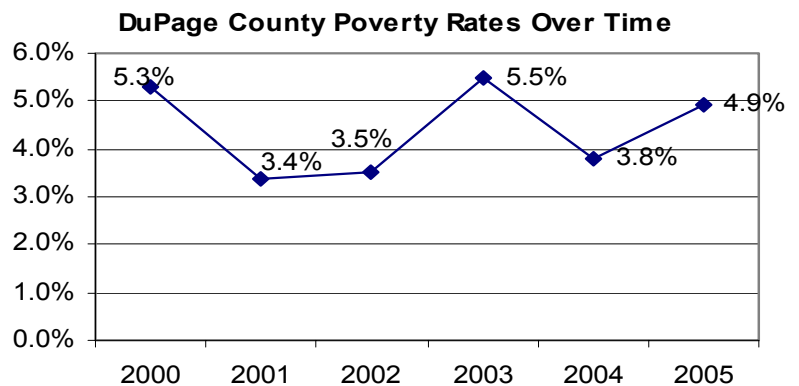
### DuPage County poverty and child poverty increased in 2005

The DuPage County **poverty rate** increased from 3.8 percent in 2004 to 4.9 percent in 2005. The actual number of people living in poverty also increased from 34,599 in 2004 to 44,921 individuals in 2005. The Naperville poverty rate was 2.5 percent in 2005, with 3,650 people in Naperville living in poverty. **Naperville** was found to be one of the top ten least poor *smaller areas* (sized 65,000 to 249,999 people) in the nation.<sup>1</sup>

Overall **child poverty** in DuPage County increased between 2004 and 2005. While 2.9 percent, or 6,958, of DuPage County children lived in poverty in 2004, 5.5 percent, or 13,143, children lived in poverty in 2005. Children under the age of 5 had the highest poverty rate of any age group at 8.1 percent in DuPage County in 2005.

As poverty increased, more DuPage County residents became recipients of **Food Stamp benefits**. The rate of DuPage County households receiving Food Stamps increased from 2.1 percent in 2004 to 2.4 percent in 2005.

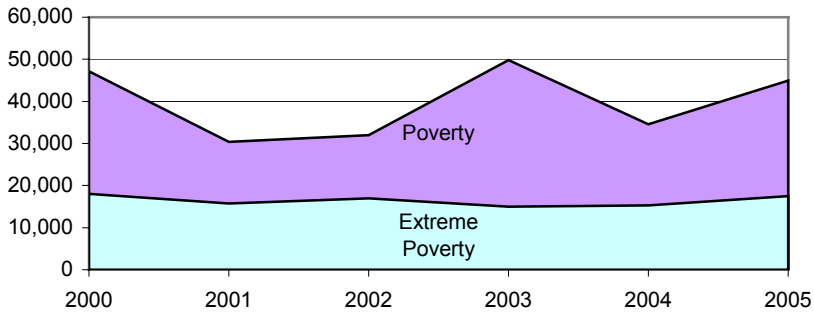
DuPage County **median household income** decreased in 2005. It was \$70,560, lower than the 2004 median household income of \$72,552 and significantly lower than the 2000 median income of \$76,344, when adjusted for inflation. Additionally, **unemployment rates** in DuPage County rose from 3.3 percent in 2000 to 4.7 percent in 2005.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Webster, Jr., B.H., & Bishaw, A. (2006, August). *Income, earnings and poverty data from the 2005 American Community Survey*. (ACS-02). Washington DC: U.S. Census Bureau.

## Thousands of DuPage County residents lived in extreme poverty in 2005

Number of DuPage County Residents in Poverty and in Extreme Poverty Over Time



Far too many DuPage County residents live in extreme poverty, meaning they live at or below 50 percent of the federal poverty threshold. **Extreme poverty rates** for DuPage County increased from 1.7 percent in 2004 to 1.9 percent in 2005. This represents 17,519 people trying to make ends meet on an annual income that falls far short of meeting the cost of basic needs – less than \$8,045 for a family of three in 2005.

## 2005 Profile of DuPage County Residents

Percent White non-Hispanic	Percent Black	Percent Asian	Percent Hispanic	Percent foreign-born	Percent of population over 25 that are not high school graduates
73.4%	4.0%	9.9%	11.5%	18.5%	8.6%

## Illinois Poverty Summit Overview

Each year state policy makers, elected officials, business leaders, community groups, religious organizations – and many concerned citizens and organizations – work at multiple levels to reduce poverty in Illinois. The Illinois Poverty Summit (IPS) facilitates an uncommon dialogue among a broad and diverse group of these leaders to develop a focused and collaborative approach to addressing poverty issues and a targeted action agenda. IPS is coordinated by the Mid-America Institute on Poverty, the research and policy arm of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights. Founded in 1888, Heartland Alliance has been a long-standing service provider for indigent and low-income populations as well as an experienced research center on poverty related needs in Illinois.

### For Data Questions, Policy Suggestions, and Media Inquiries, Contact:

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<sup>2</sup> Illinois Department of Employment Security, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. (n.d.). *Annual average data*. Retrieved August 15, 2006, from <http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/laus/lausmenu.htm>

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey data sets 2000-2005, special calculations conducted by the Mid-America Institute on Poverty of Heartland Alliance.