



## **Mississippi Poverty, Lack of Health Insurance**

### **Both Increase**

JACKSON, Mississippi (Aug. 28, 2007) – Data released today by the U.S. Census Bureau shows that Mississippi’s poverty rate and the percentage of Mississippians without health insurance both increased last year.

“This is sobering information,” said Warren Yoder, executive director of the Public Policy Center of Mississippi. “Mississippi’s poverty rate has gotten steadily worse over the last five years, in spite of growth in the national economy. The number of Mississippians without health insurance has become a severe problem.”

A review of the data by the Public Policy Center of Mississippi showed:

- The poverty rate in Mississippi in 2005-2006 was 20.4%, using a two-year average for greater accuracy. This is the highest rate of any state in the nation. Mississippi’s poverty rate has increased 3.3 percentage points since 2000-2001. An average of 583,500 Mississippians per year lived in poverty during the most recent period.
  
- The percentage of Mississippians without health insurance reached 20.8%. 600,000 Mississippians had no health coverage at any time during 2006. This represents a 3.9 percentage point increase from 2005. 146,000 of these people were children under the age of 18, representing 18.9% of Mississippi’s children.

“These numbers emphasize the importance to Mississippi of bills being considered in Congress to extend the Food Stamp Program and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, two major sources of aid to the working poor,” said Mr. Yoder.

*All information is from the Current Population Survey*

*released by the Census Bureau on August 28, 2007.*

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