



NEWS RELEASE

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POVERTY CONTINUES TO PLAGUE TEXAS

Austin, TX— Today the U.S. Census released its latest numbers which find that for another year, Texas ranks towards the bottom in overall poverty, child poverty, elderly poverty, uninsured Texans, and the percent of people who receive cash assistance. **For detailed information on poverty by ethnicity, age, and region of Texas, or to schedule an interview, please call 512-320-0222, X112 or e-mail kluever@cppp.org.**

“Even with job growth and high rates of employment, Texas is plagued by poverty,” said Eva Deluna Castro, Senior Budget Analyst at the Center for Public Policy Priorities in Austin. “Texas continues to be a low-wage, low-benefits state, and our high poverty rates and lack of health insurance reflect that.”

Poverty Still High in Texas

The American Community Survey shows Texas with the 5th highest poverty rate among the states: one out of six Texans is poor. Texas has the 5th highest rate of child poverty (one in four kids lives in poverty) and the 8th highest rate of elderly living in poverty (one of eight Texans age 65 and older). Additional Census data released today confirm that poverty rates for different racial/ethnic groups and for Texas major cities and counties have shown little or no improvement.

No Progress Made in Health Care Coverage

Texas continues to have the highest percentage of people without health insurance in the nation. One in five kids (19% or 1.2 million) is uninsured. Almost one in three working-age adults (30% or 4.2 million) goes without health insurance.

Cash Assistance Low

Even though Texas has one of the highest rates of poverty in the nation, it ranks in the bottom 10 in providing cash assistance to needy households. Fewer than 2% of Texas households received cash welfare in 2005. Those Texas households destitute enough to qualify received an average of only \$2,029 for the entire year, compared to \$3,047 for the U.S. average.

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