

YOUTH STATUS REPORT: NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



COVENANT HOUSE INSTITUTE
MARCH 2009

Youth Status Report

This report is part of an ongoing series providing data tables and comparative analysis of key indicators of youth well-being at the national, state, and where available, city or county levels. Each report targets a city where Covenant House has a program site. The Covenant House Institute produced this report in an effort to inform advocacy and service delivery efforts, specifically with regard to the following: program development, advocacy and fundraising initiatives, legislative recommendations, and raising awareness among local, state, and federal officials.



Since 1972, **Covenant House** has been providing residential and comprehensive support services to homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth. Throughout its diverse network of 21 program sites in Canada, Latin America, and United States, Covenant House assists over 70,000 youth each year.

Covenant House Institute is the advocacy, research, and leadership development arm of Covenant House. The Institute's purpose is to advance advocacy, research, and leadership development in the social service sector working with homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth. To learn more about the Covenant House Institute, visit <http://www.covenanthouse.org>.

We are grateful for the support of Kevin M. Ryan, President and CEO of Covenant House, James M. White, Covenant House Chief Operating Officer, and Bruce J. Henry, Executive Director of Covenant House Institute. We also thank Elisabeth Lean, Advocacy Consultant for Covenant House Institute, for her work on this report.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Key Issues.....	4
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TABLES AND COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Population	5
Poverty.....	5
Education.....	6
Employment	7
Foster Care and Institutional Placement	7
Juvenile Residential Placement Facilities	8
Birth Rates	8
Substance Use	9
Alcohol Use	10
Mental Health.....	10
Health	11
Dental	11
Causes of Death.....	12

CONCLUSIONS.....	13
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DATA SOURCES	15
--------------------	----

INTRODUCTION

At the heart of Covenant House's mission is the commitment to serve and assist all homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth. In order to provide the highest quality services and advocacy for this population, Covenant House must draw upon the most current information available regarding youth well being on national, state, and local levels. Such indicators of well being include levels of poverty, educational attainment, employment, placement in foster care and juvenile justice systems, pregnancy, alcohol and substance use, and mental and physical health. Research conducted over the past decade has revealed strong associations between these indicators and youth homelessness (Toro, P. A., Dworsky, A., & Fowler, P. J. , 2007).¹

The Covenant House Institute produced this report to inform service delivery and advocacy efforts, specifically with regard to program development, fundraising initiatives, legislative recommendations, and raising awareness among local, state, and federal officials. The findings in this report can play a pivotal role in determining priorities and developing strategies.

This report focuses on the status of youth in New Orleans.² It provides a comparative analysis of 24 indicators of well-being on the national, state, and, where available, city or parish levels. While our analysis indicated many areas of need, we have highlighted the following key issues of particular concern:

Key Issues for Louisiana:

- High percentage of 18-24 year olds in poverty (24%)
- High percentage of 18-24 year olds without a H.S. diploma or GED (22%)
- High percentage of 16-19 year olds who do not have a H.S. diploma or GED and are not enrolled in school (10%)
- High percentage of 16-19 year olds who are not enrolled in school and are not working (12%)
- High birth rate: ages 18-19 year olds (91/1,000) and 20-24 year olds (131/1,000)
- High increase in the percentage of 18-24 year olds reporting mental health distress (63% increase from 2003-2007)
- High percentage of 18-24 year olds without health care coverage (38%)
- High percentage of 18-24 year olds who represent all homicides (29%) and suicides (15%)

Key Issues for New Orleans:

- High percentage of 18-24 year olds in poverty (29%)
- High percentage of 18-24 year olds without a H.S. diploma or GED (19%)
- High percentage of 16-19 year olds who do not have a H.S. diploma or GED and are not enrolled in school (11%)
- High percentage of 16-19 year olds who are not enrolled in school and are not working (12%)
- High rate of unemployment among 20-24 year olds (21.5%)

¹ Toro, P. A., Dworsky, A., & Fowler, P. J. (2007). Homeless Youth in the United States: Recent Research Findings and Intervention Approaches. *National Symposium on Homelessness Research*, 6-1-6-33.

² Data has been gathered, computed, and extrapolated from various sources. Please note, due to variations in collection times, the data sets differ in years among the indicators. However, data in this report has been provided for the 4-5 most current years in which it is available. National data is used as a baseline from which to make comparisons, where appropriate, between the national and state data sets.

TABLES AND COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

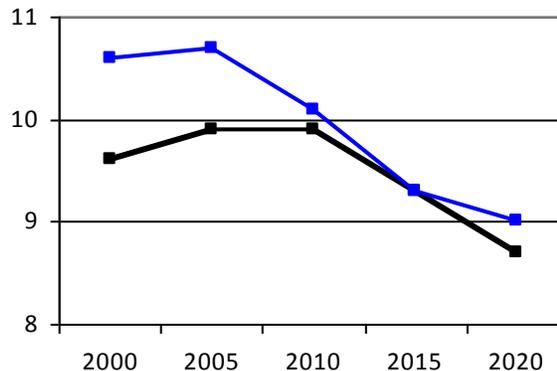
POPULATION

TABLE 1A: Population of 18-24 year olds

Year	United States	Louisiana
2000	27,140,000	473,800
2005	29,160,000	484,400
2010	30,480,000	463,800
2015	30,000,000	436,100
2020	29,340,000	423,700

(Total number based on projections)

TABLE 1B: Population of 18-24 year olds



(Percent of total population)

As shown in Table 1A, between 2000 and 2020, the population of 18-24 year olds is expected to peak in 2010 at 30.5 million and then decline to 29.3 million by 2020. In 2005, Louisiana’s population of 18-24 year olds is estimated to top out at 484,000 before decreasing to 11% less than its 2000 figure. As shown in Table 1B, by 2020, 18-24 year olds will represent less than 1 in 10 individuals both nationally and in Louisiana. If these projections are accurate, the decline in the number of 18-24 year olds could have a significant impact on the economy as well as funding for programs designed to assist the needs of this population.

POVERTY

TABLE 2A: Percent of 18-24 year olds in poverty

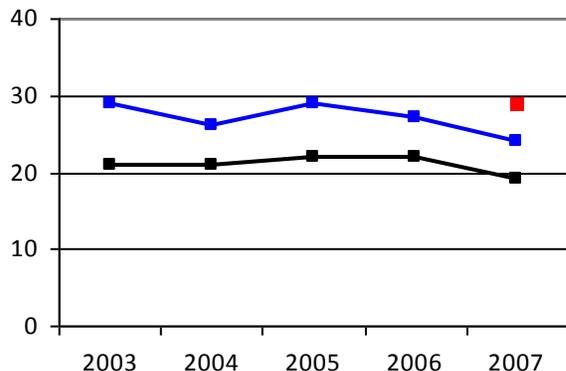
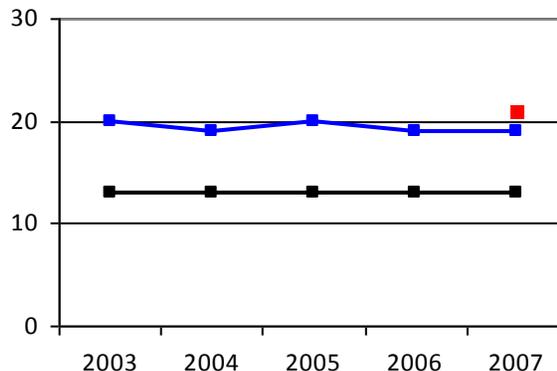


TABLE 2B: Percent of all individuals in poverty



From 2003-2007, the national percentage of 18-24 year olds in poverty peaked in 2005 and then declined to 19% in 2007 (see Table 2A). Louisiana’s rates have risen and fallen by 2-3 points between the years presented. While the state’s overall percentage has declined by 17%, it is currently 5 points higher than the national average. At 24%, Louisiana has the highest percentage of 18-24 year olds living in poverty in comparison to all jurisdictions in which Covenant House is located. In comparison, New Orleans’s percentage is the second highest among Covenant House cities at 29%. This is 21% higher than the state average. As shown in Table 2B, the percentage of all individuals experiencing poverty nationally and in Louisiana remained relatively stable from 2003-2007. However, at 19%, the state has the highest overall poverty rate among Covenant House locales. Similarly, New Orleans's poverty rate is greater than the national percentage at 21%. As a result of the continued economic downturn and loss of jobs, one can anticipate a steady rise in the percentages of individuals experiencing poverty.

EDUCATION*

TABLE 3A: Percent of 18-24 year olds without H.S. diploma or GED

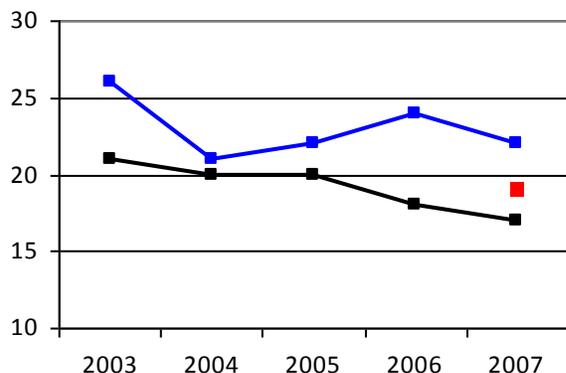
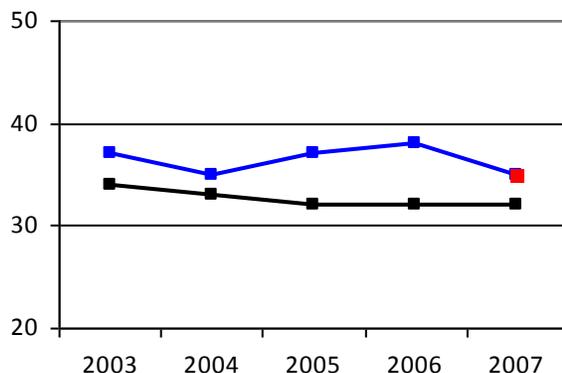


TABLE 3B: 18-24 year olds without H.S. diploma or GED



(Percent of 18-44 year olds without H.S. diploma or GED)

From 2003-2007, the percentage of 18-24 year olds who dropped out of high school declined by 19% on the national level and 15% in Louisiana (see Table 3A). At 22%, Louisiana's percentage is 5 points above the national average, and, along with Georgia, is the highest among Covenant House jurisdictions. Comparatively, New Orleans's percentage is 3 points below the state average. As shown in Table 3B, nationally, 18-24 year olds account for 32% of all individuals between 18-44 years of age who have dropped out of high school. Louisiana and New Orleans's percentages are slightly higher. The lack of a high school degree significantly affects employability, earning potential, etc. With an increasing demand for an information-based work force, individuals without at least a high school diploma are unable to compete with today's highly-skilled labor pool.

TABLE 3C: Percent of 16-19 year olds without H.S. diploma or GED

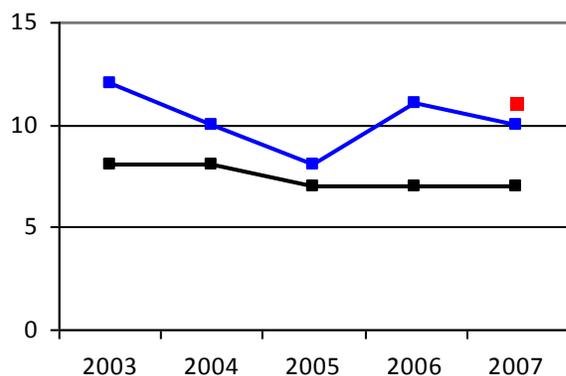
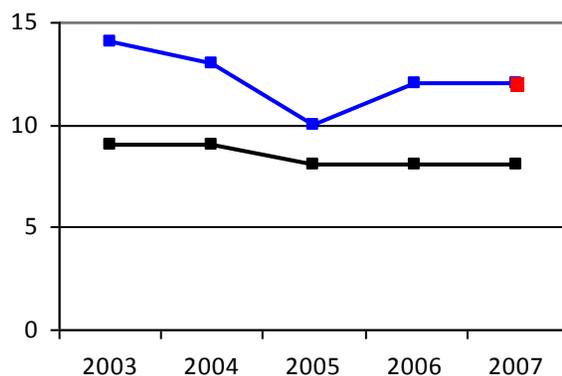


TABLE 3D: Percent of 16-19 year olds not working, not attending school



From 2003-2007, the percentage of 16-19 year old high school dropouts declined by 13% on the national level and by 17% in Louisiana (see Table 3C). At 10%, the state's percentage is 3 points above the national average, and once again, along with Georgia, is the highest among Covenant House jurisdictions. Comparatively, New Orleans's rate is 1 point higher at 11%. As shown in Table 3D, the national percentage of 16-19 year olds not working and not attending school declined during the same period. At 12%, Louisiana and New Orleans's rates are 4 points above the national average and are among the highest with regard to Covenant House jurisdictions and cities.

* Throughout this report, metropolitan statistical area (MSA) data for the city of New Orleans has been provided as this geographical entity includes the central core and surrounding suburbs. With regard to this indicator, urbanized area (UA) data was used as MSA information was not available. UAs are smaller in size- generally the city's central core (primary population and economic center).

EMPLOYMENT

TABLE 4A: Unemployment rates among 20-24 year olds

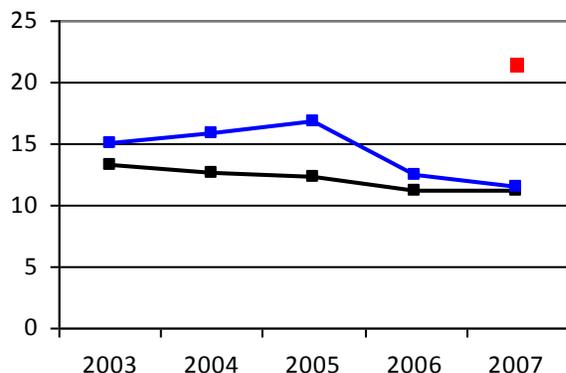
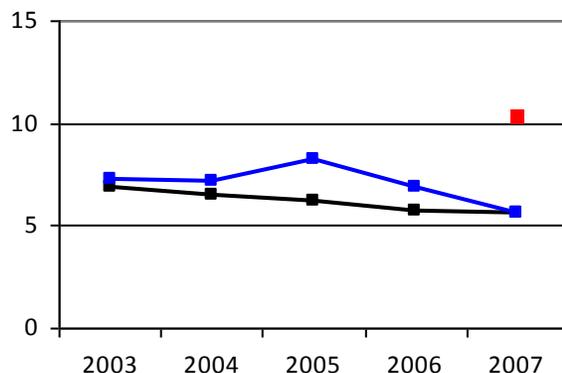


TABLE 4B: Unemployment rates among 20-64 year olds



Unemployment disproportionately affects 20-24 year olds with the national rate hovering around twice the unemployment rate for 20-64 year olds. As shown in Tables 4A and 4B, from 2003-2007, the national unemployment rates among 20-24 year olds and the full working adult population declined whereas Louisiana's rates rose from 2003-2005 before declining in the following years. Both state rates are currently in line with the national averages. However, with regard to the rates of unemployment affecting New Orleans's 20-24 year olds and 20-64 year olds, once again, these rates are among the highest found in Covenant House cities with nearly 1 in 5 youth and 1 in 10 working adults experiencing unemployment. Given the current economic recession, it is anticipated the percentage of unemployed youth and older working adults will continue to increase throughout 2009.

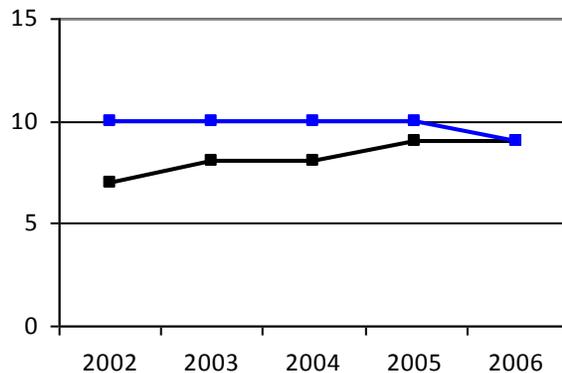
FOSTER CARE AND INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENT

TABLE 5A: Individuals emancipating from care

Year	United States	Louisiana
2002	19,604	291
2003	21,910	279
2004	22,718	265
2005	23,704	263
2006	24,871	293

(Total number)

TABLE 5B: Individuals emancipating from care



(Percent of all discharges)

From 2002-2006, the number of individuals emancipating from out-of-home care increased by 27% (see Table 5A). Overall, Louisiana's figures have remained fairly consistent. As shown in Table 5B, the percentage of individuals discharged from care due to emancipation has continued a slow, steady increase since 2002. Conversely, Louisiana's percentages have continued to hold steady; however, in 2006, the percentage declined by 1 point. At 9%, it is equal to the national average.

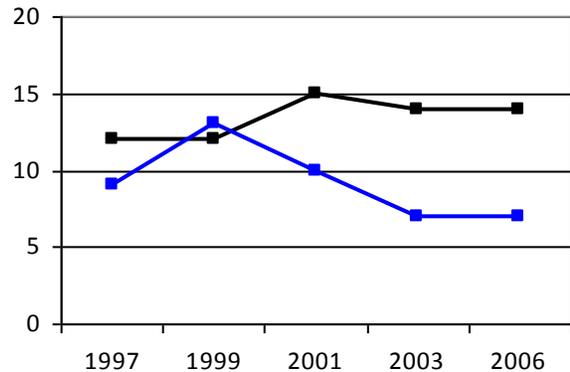
JUVENILE RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT FACILITIES

TABLE 6A: Juveniles 18+ in residential placement

Year	United States	Louisiana
1997	12,649	237
1999	13,407	351
2001	16,069	252
2003	13,841	132
2006	13,115	78

(Total number)

TABLE 6B: Juveniles 18+ in residential placement

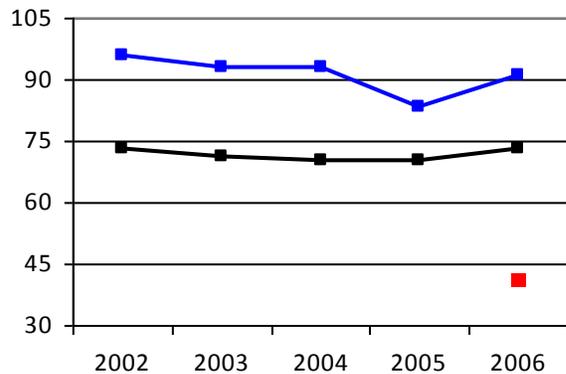


(Percent of all juveniles in placement)

While the overall number of individuals 18 years of age and older in juvenile residential placement peaked in 2001 at 16,000 and has since declined by 18%, the number of youth in these settings in Louisiana climaxed in 1999 and has since been reduced by 78% (see Table 6A). As shown in Table 6B, despite the national decrease in youth in residential facilities, their overall representation in these settings has increased since 1997 such that 1 in 7 individuals is 18 years of age or older. Conversely, Louisiana's percentage has declined from a high of 13% in 1999 to 7% in 2006. This is half the national average. Without additional information, it cannot be assumed that this reduction is attributable to an increase in trying these individuals as adults.

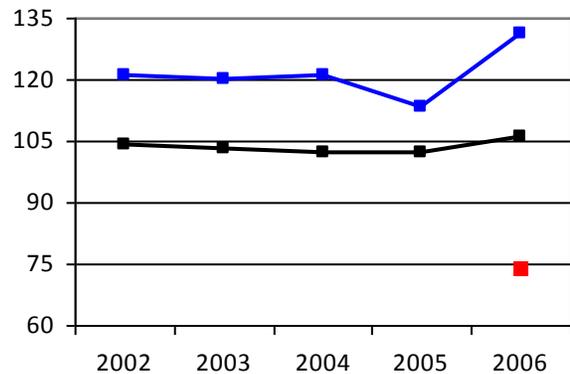
BIRTH RATES

TABLE 7A: Birth rate among 18-19 year old females



(Per 1,000 18-19 year old females)

TABLE 7B: Birth rate among 20-24 year old females



(Per 1,000 20-24 year old females)

From 2002-2005, the birth rates among 18-19 year olds and 20-24 year olds steadily declined on the national level as well as in Louisiana (see Tables 7A and 7B). However, each locale experienced an increase in both rates in 2006. In comparison to the national rates, Louisiana's are respectively 25% (among 18-19 year olds) and 24% (among 20-24 year olds), higher. Both are among the highest with regard to Covenant House jurisdictions. Conversely, Orleans Parish's rates are significantly below the state and national averages. However, caution must be used in interpreting these results as these rates are reflective not of the city of New Orleans but the parish in which it is located.

SUBSTANCE USE

TABLE 8A: Percent of 18-25 year olds who report monthly cigarette use

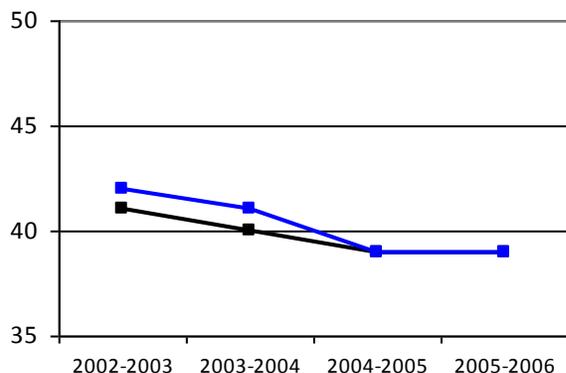


TABLE 8B: Percent of 18-25 year olds who report monthly marijuana use

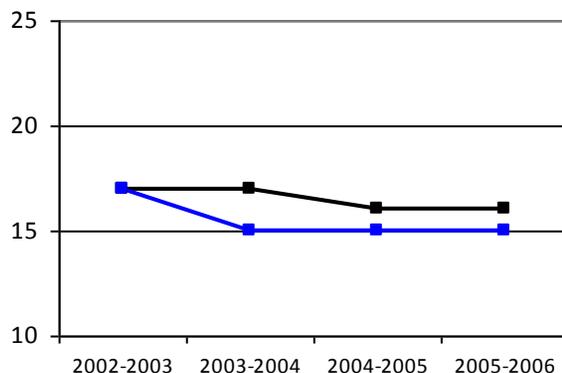
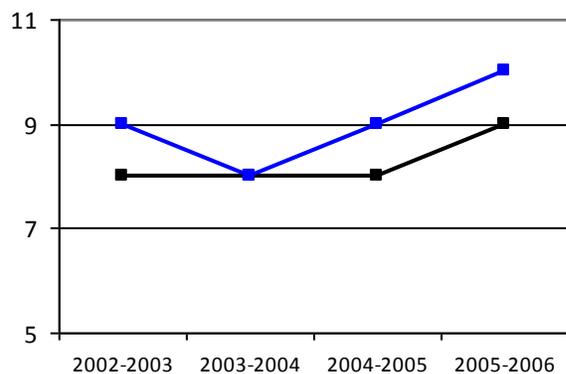


TABLE 8C: Percent of 18-25 year olds who report monthly illicit drug use (not marijuana)



Since 2002-2003, cigarette use among 18-25 year olds has declined by 5% nationally and 7% in Louisiana (see Table 8A). At 39%, the state percentage is analogous to the national average. The overall percentage of youth who report having used marijuana in the past month declined nationally and in Louisiana with the state average being 1 point below the national rate (see Table 8B). As shown in Table 8C, the percentage of 18-25 year olds who have used any illicit drug (other than marijuana) in the past month has increased nationally and in Louisiana. At 10%, the state’s rate is 2 points above the national average, and along with Florida and Michigan, is the highest among Covenant House states.

ALCOHOL USE

TABLE 9A: Percent of 18-25 year olds who report monthly alcohol use

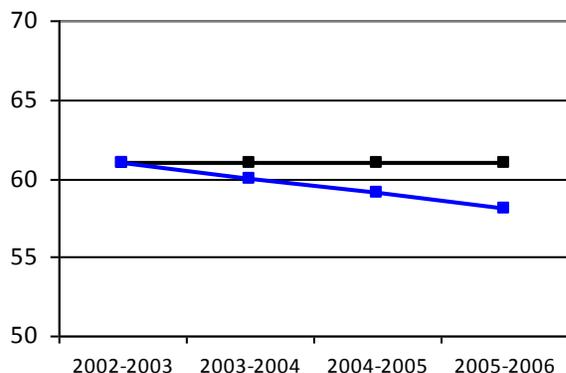
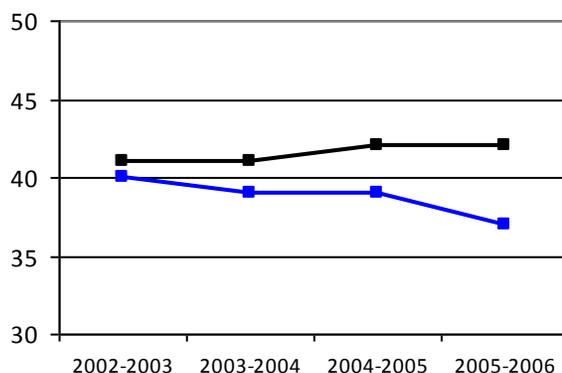


TABLE 9B: Percent of 18-25 year olds who report monthly binge alcohol use



Since 2002-2003, alcohol use among 18-25 year olds has remained stable at 61% whereas Louisiana experienced a minimal decrease (see Table 9A). At 58%, Louisiana's percentage is 3 points less than the national rate. As shown in Table 9B, binge alcohol use among 18-25 year olds increased by 2% nationally but declined by 8% in Louisiana. At 37%, the state's rate is 5 points below the national average and among the lowest with regard to jurisdictions in which Covenant House is located. Additional demographic information is needed in order to determine the makeup of this population (e.g. how much of this drinking is occurring among college/university students as well as those who are under age 21).

MENTAL HEALTH

TABLE 10A: Percent of 18-24 year olds who report frequent mental health distress

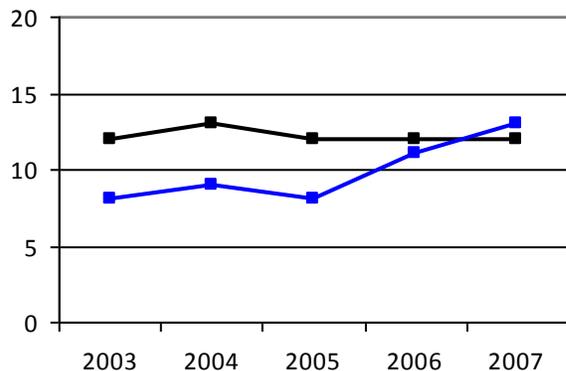
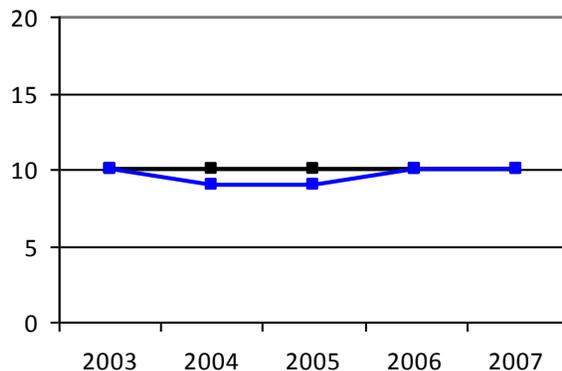


TABLE 10B: Percent of individuals 18+ who report frequent mental health distress



From 2003-2007, the percentages of 18-24 year olds and individuals 18 years of age and older reporting frequent mental health distress have remained relatively stable (see Tables 10A and 10B). With regard to mental health distress among 18-24 year olds, Louisiana's rate has increased by 63%. At 13%, it is 1 point above the national average and among the highest with regard to Covenant House locations. Caution must be exercised in interpreting these results as the data was culled from self reports. In addition, it must be taken into consideration that the percentage increased 3 points from 2005-2006 and thus might be reflecting the impact Hurricane Katrina has had on Louisiana's 18-24 year old population. The percentage of the state's 18+ population reporting mental health distress has fluctuated slightly and is analogous to the national average of 10%.

HEALTH

TABLE 11A: Percent of 18-24 year olds without health care coverage

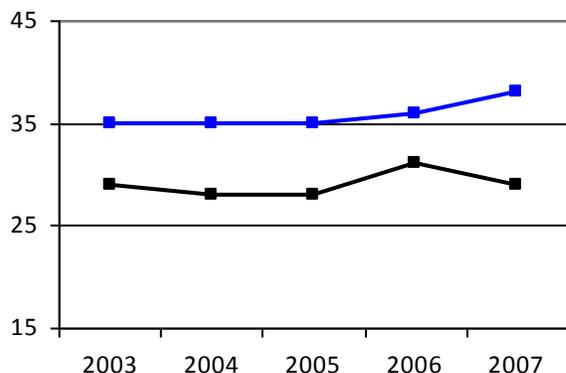
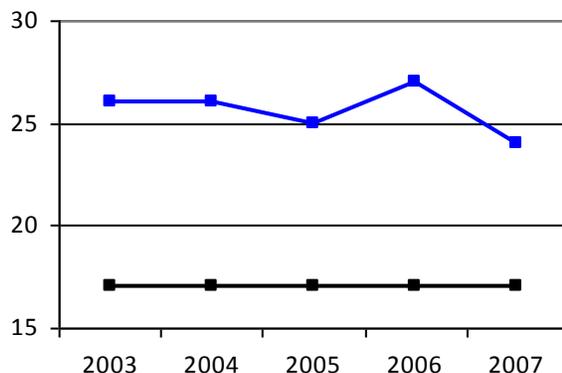


TABLE 11B: Percent of 18-64 year olds without health care coverage



18-24 year olds who lack health coverage represent the largest percentage of individuals within their age group without health insurance. While the national percentage of 18-24 year olds without health care coverage has remained relatively stable from 2003-2007, Louisiana’s rate increased by 9% (see Table 11A). At 38%, it is 9 points above the national average. As shown in Table 11B, the overall percentage of 18-64 year olds lacking health coverage held steady at 17% whereas Louisiana’s rate experienced slight fluctuations. At 24%, it is also greater than the national average. In comparison to all Covenant House jurisdictions, both of Louisiana’s rates are among the highest with approximately 2 in 5 18-24 year olds and 1 in 5 individuals between ages 18-64 lacking health insurance. Without coverage, youth have limited to no access to health care, including mental health care. Thus, they are rendered susceptible to preventable ailments, undiagnosed conditions, and overall poor health.

DENTAL

TABLE 12A: Percent of 18-24 year olds who have not seen a dentist in the past year

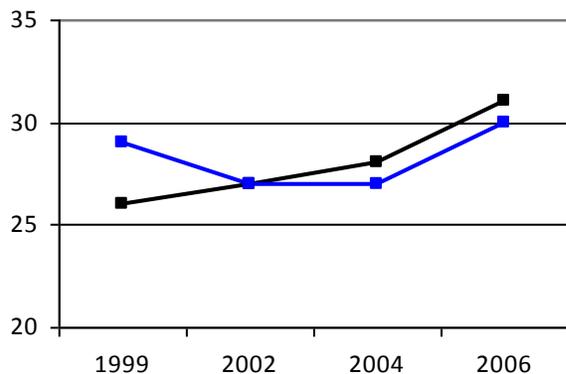
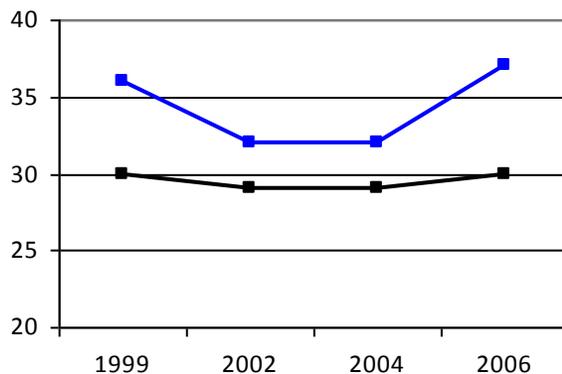


TABLE 12B: Percent of individuals 18+ who have not seen a dentist in the past year



Poor dental health can lead to a variety of health problems, including heart disease and death. From 1999-2006, the percentage of 18-24 year olds who have not see a dentist in the past year has increased 19% nationally while Louisiana’s rate declined in 2002 and 2004 before rising in 2006 (see Table 12A). At 30%, the state’s rate is 1 point below the national average. While the percentage of all individuals 18 years of age and older who have not had annual dental care remained relatively stable from 1999-2006, Louisiana’s rate followed a trend similar to that among 18-24 year olds (see Table 12B). At 37%, it is 7 points higher than the national average and the state’s percentage among 18-24 year olds. However, it remains that nearly 1 in 3 of Louisiana’s 18-24 year olds have not seen a dentist in the past year.

CAUSES OF DEATH

TABLE 13A: Deaths due to homicide among 18-24 year olds

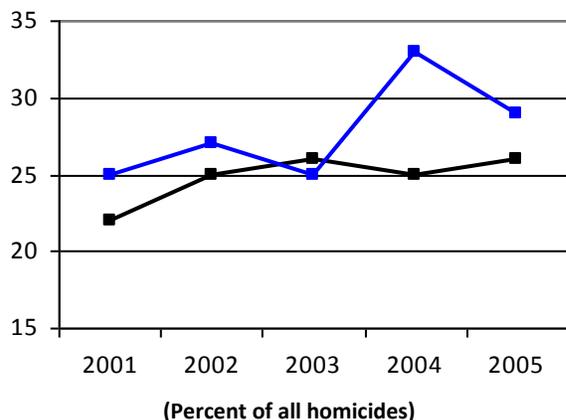


TABLE 13B: Deaths due to suicide among 18-24 year olds

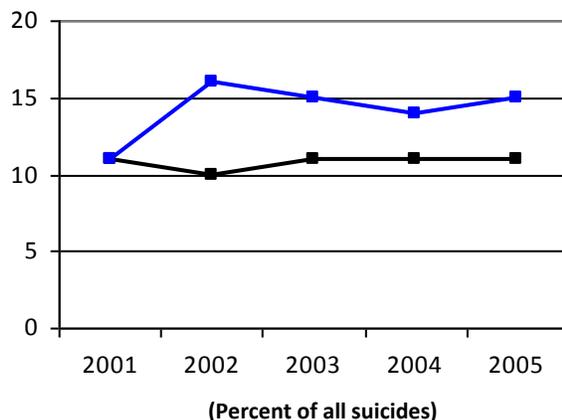
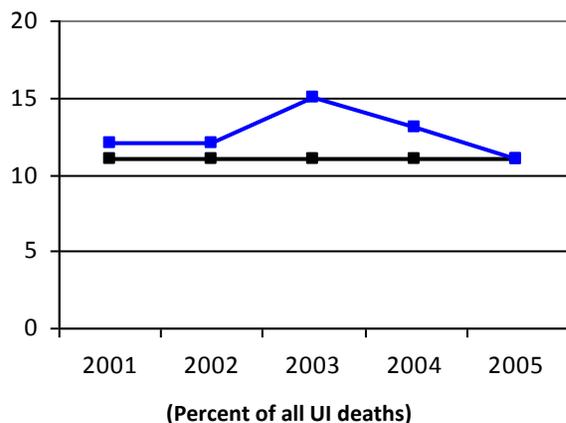


TABLE 13C: Deaths due to unintentional injury among 18-24 year olds



The three leading causes of death for 18-24 year olds are unintentional injury (vehicular accidents, suffocation, drowning, falls, fires/burns, poisoning, etc.), homicide, and suicide. From 2001-2005, the percentage of 18-24 year olds who account for all homicide victims increased by 18% nationally and 16% in Louisiana (see Table 13A). However, between 2003 and 2004, the state percentage rose by 32% with 18-24 year olds accounting for 1 in 3 homicide victims. Although the percentage declined by 4 points the following year, it remains higher than the national average. As shown in Table 13B, the percentage of 18-24 year olds who account for all suicide victims has remained relatively stable on the national level but has increased by 36% in Louisiana. At 15%, the state's percentage is the second highest among all jurisdictions in which Covenant House is located. Similar to suicide rates, the percentage of youth victims of unintentional injury has hovered at 11% (see Table 13C). While Louisiana's percentage has fluctuated throughout the years presented, it is equal to the national average of 11%.

CONCLUSIONS

Broad analysis of the indicators presented in this report reveal that youth in New Orleans are vulnerable to experiencing poverty, low educational attainment, unemployment, early parenthood, and mental health issues— all of which can contribute to youth becoming and remaining homeless. Yet, each risk factor cannot be viewed in isolation. To most effectively address the comprehensive needs of homeless and at-risk youth, a multifaceted approach must be undertaken that focuses on the following:

- **Interconnected relationship between education, employment, and poverty:** Educational attainment, employability, and poverty are all intricately intertwined. Analysis of data compiled by the National Center for Education Statistics³ clearly reveals that young adults (ages 25-34) who have less than a high school education earn significantly less per year than those who have a high school diploma or GED equivalent. As of 2006, the average annual income among full-time workers who had less than a high school education was \$22,000 compared to \$29,000 for workers who had a high school diploma or GED equivalent. African-American young adults with less than a high school education face much bleaker prospects with their annual income averaging \$18,000. This is significant as approximately 64% of New Orleans's population is African-American; thus, the need to develop, invest, and expand educational programs and employment opportunities among African-American youth is crucial.
- **Challenges of early parenthood:** Poverty, low educational attainment, and unemployment, coupled with the absence of child care resources and poor coping strategies, hinder young parents' ability to provide and care for their children. As such, children of homeless young mothers are vulnerable to experience repeated episodes of homelessness, abuse and neglect, involvement in the child welfare and juvenile and criminal justice systems, and poor health outcomes. Ample supports should be made available in order to ensure young mothers and fathers have the opportunity to thrive as parents, providers, and contributing members of society.
- **Quality of life and youth suicide:** Analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control indicates that between 2001 and 2005, the suicide rate among Louisiana's 18-24 year olds increased from 11.4/100,000 to 15.3/100,000.⁴ During the same period, the percentage of 18-24 year olds who account for all suicide-related deaths rose by 36%. Risk factors attributed to youth suicide include a family and personal history of suicide and suicide attempts, mental illness and substance use, as well as school failure, social isolation, and exposure to stressful situations, such as homelessness. Taking into consideration that one study found that 32% of runaways and 26% of youth in shelters had attempted suicide at one point in their lives⁵ and that the percentage

³ Planty, M., Hussar, W., Snyder, T., Provasnik, S., Kena, G., Dinkes, R., et. al. (2008). *The Condition of Education 2008* (NCES 2008-031). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC.

⁴ Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (n.d.). WISQARS Injury Mortality Reports, 2001-2005.

⁵ Greene, J., Ringwalt, C., Kelly, J., Iachan, R., & Cohen, Z. (1995). *Youth with Runaway, Thrownaway, and Homeless Experiences: Prevalence, Drug Use, and Other At-Risk Behaviors*. Volume I: Final Report. Research Triangle Park, NC: Research Triangle Institute.

of 18-24 year olds in Louisiana reporting mental health distress has increased by 63% in recent years, more attention should be paid to youth suicide prevention and intervention. In addition, given that 38% of the state's 18-24 year olds lack health care coverage, there is grave concern that individuals with behavioral health concerns are not being diagnosed or receiving appropriate treatment. Youth suicide prevention and intervention efforts require that local and state governments and agencies, along with youth-serving organizations, work together to develop and implement city-wide policies and programs that address the needs of at-risk youth, including providing access to mental health care services.

- **A city consumed by violence:** Based on data obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigations, New Orleans, with a 2007 homicide rate of 95/100,000, is the deadliest city in America.⁶ While the overall number of murders increased minimally from 204 in 2003 to 209 in 2007, the rise in the city's homicide rate is attributed to the substantial decrease in its overall population. Between 2003 and 2007, New Orleans's population was reduced by more than half. Hurricane Katrina devastated the area's residents. With limited resources, a rise in gangs and drugs, and the absence of a systematic approach to address these issues, New Orleans's crime rate has soared. In addition to these factors, prior delinquent behavior, poverty and exposure to violence in the community, school failure, alcohol and substance abuse, and low levels of parental involvement are among the risk factors for youth homicide. Combating youth homicide is a complex task. It requires a comprehensive approach that necessitates involvement from community members and law enforcement officials—a relationship that is often strained by suspicion and hostility. Effective communication is crucial to ensuring both groups, along with youth-serving agencies, work together to develop and implement city-wide policies and programs that address the needs of at-risk youth.

⁶ Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). (2007). Table 6: Crime in the United States by Metropolitan Statistical Area, 2007. In *Crime in the United States, 2007*. Washington, DC: Author.

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Population (2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020)

U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. (2005). Table B1: The Total Population by Selected Age Groups. In *Interim State Population Projections, 2004-2030*. Washington, DC: Author.

Note: Percent of total population has been manually calculated.

Poverty (2003-2007)

U.S. Census Bureau. (2007). Table B17001: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age. In *2007 American Community Survey*. Washington, DC: Author.

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Note: All percents have been manually calculated.

Education (2003-2007)

U.S. Census Bureau. (2007). Tables B14005: Sex by School Enrollment by Educational Attainment by Employment Status for the Population 16 to 19 Years and B15001: Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population Age 18 Years and Over. In *2007 American Community Survey*. Washington, DC: Author.

U.S. Census Bureau. (2006). Tables B14005: Sex by School Enrollment by Educational Attainment by Employment Status for the Population 16 to 19 Years and B15001: Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population Age 18 Years and Over. In *2006 American Community Survey*. Washington, DC: Author.

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Note: All percents have been manually calculated.

Employment– Census (2003-2007)

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (n.d.). *Preliminary 2007 Data on Employment Status by State and Demographic Group*. Washington, DC: Author.

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U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (n.d.). *Employment Status of the Civilian Noninstitutional Population by Sex, Race, Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity, Marital Status, and Detailed Age, 2004 Annual Averages*. Washington, DC: Author.

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Child Welfare League of America (CWLA). (2008). *Special Tabulation of the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System: 2006 Data*. Washington, DC: Author.

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Note: Percent of all discharges has been manually calculated.

Juvenile Residential Placement Facilities (1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2006)

Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., & Kang, W. (2008). *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook. Authors' analysis of the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention's Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2006*.

Note: Percent of all juveniles in residential placement has been manually calculated.

Birth Rates (2002-2006)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics (CDC, NCHS). (n.d.). *Tables: Demographic Characteristics of Mothers, 2002-2006*. In VitalStats.

CDC, NCHS. (n.d.). *Tables: States Populations, 2002-2006*. In VitalStats.

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Notes: All data has been manually calculated. While the CDC makes parish birth rate data available, it does not provide population data outside of national and state information. However, the CDC obtains this data from the Census Bureau. In order to calculate Orleans Parish's birth rates among 18-19 and 20-24 year olds, population data was obtained from the American Community Survey.

Substance and Alcohol Use (2002/2003-2005/2006)

Hughes, A., Sathe, N., & Spagnola, K. (2008). *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2005–2006 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health* (DHHS Publication No.SMA 08-4311, NSDUH Series H-33). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies (SAMHSA, OAS).

Wright, D., Sathe, N., & Spagnola, K. (2007). *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2004–2005 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health* (DHHS Publication No.SMA 07-4235, NSDUH Series H-31). Rockville, MD: SAMHSA,OAS.

Wright, D., & Sathe, N. (2006). *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2003–2004 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health* (DHHS Publication No. SMA 06-4142, NSDUH Series H-29). Rockville, MD: SAMHSA, OAS.

Wright, D., & Sathe, N. (2005). *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2002-2003 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health* (DHHS Publication No. SMA 05-3989, NSDUH Series H-26). Rockville, MD: SAMHSA, OAS.

Mental Health (2003-2007)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, 2003-2007.

Health (2003-2007)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, 2003-2007.

Dental (1999, 2002, 2004, 2006)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, 1999, 2002, 2004, and 2006.

Causes of Death (2001-2005)

Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (n.d.). WISQARS Injury Mortality Reports, 2001-2005.

Note: All percents have been manually calculated.



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