



Metropolitan Social Services Planning & Coordination

Winter 2011 Newsletter

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2010 Census Data Release

Every ten years, the U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, as required by Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution. National and state population totals from the 2010 Census were released on December 21, 2010. The U.S. resident population includes the total number of people in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The resident population for the 50 states and the District of Columbia on April 1, 2010 was 308,745,538, an increase of 9.7% over the 2000 Census.

Tennessee's population for 2010 was 6,346,105. Tennessee's density rank is 21, with 153.9 people per square mile. The apportionment data collected by the decennial census determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives based on the population figures. Tennessee will continue to have 9 members in the U. S. House of Representatives.

In 2011, states will begin the "redistricting" process to use the population data to geographically defining state legislative districts. This is so that state officials can realign congressional and state legislative districts in their states by taking into account population shifts since the last census to and assuring equal representation for their constituents.

Most households participated by mail, with others counted by census workers walking neighborhoods. Davidson County's mail participation rate was 73%, compared to Tennessee's rate of 76% and the national rate of 74%.

Additional data products will be released with additional state, county and local counts, will be released starting in February 2011. The data product planned release dates are available online at:

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/glance/>

To show a more comprehensive definition of poverty, the Census Bureau is developing a supplemental poverty measure to consider the impact of federal policies on those in or near poverty. These estimates will be available in September and they do not replace the official poverty measure. However, the information will demonstrate that poverty is more complex than a single income measurement. Additional information is available at:

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/povmeas/methodology/supplemental/research.html>

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The first Semi-Annual Progress Report from the seven Implementation Teams of the Poverty Reduction Initiative will be issued in February 2011.

P.R.N. – Poverty Reduction Nashville

On December 9, 2010, Metropolitan Social Services hosted **P.R.N. – Poverty Reduction Nashville**, at the Scarritt-Bennett Center. At that event, Metro Social Services released the Executive Highlights from the 2010 Community Needs Evaluation Update that provides demographic and socioeconomic data about Davidson County and describes social/human service needs for Child Care, Food, Health, Housing, Neighborhood Development, Workforce & Economic Opportunity and Home & Community Based Services.

MSS Board of Commissioners Chairman Howard Gentry welcomed the participants and discussed the progression from the development of Nashville's Poverty Plan to the implementation initiative. Mayor Karl Dean addressed the group and encouraged the community to remain involved in working to improve the quality of life for Davidson County residents in need.

The program included a Panel Discussion about the Value and Uses of Data and Evidence-Based Decisions, with Dan Cornfield, Professor of Sociology, Vanderbilt University; Oscar Miller, Interim Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Tennessee State University; and Dr. Frank Boehm (Board Member, Metropolitan Social Services; Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee on Planning & Coordination).

Mayor Karl Dean spoke at the P.R.N.-Poverty Reduction Nashville event. He is shown with Planning & Coordination staff members Dinah Gregory, Abdelghani Barre and Julius Witherspoon.



Another panel included organizational stakeholder representatives: Nashville Poverty Council – Charlie Strobel (Founding Director, Room in the Inn); Foundation/Philanthropic Community – Art Rebrovick (Board Chairman, Dan and Margaret Maddox Charitable Trust); Service Providers – Raquel Hatter (President/CEO, Family & Children's Service); and Professional Social Workers – Joyce Hillman (Community Coordinator, Metropolitan Social Services; Board Chair of Tennessee Chapter-National Association of Social Workers, representing Middle Tennessee).

Implementation Team Highlights were presented by team members: Workforce – Paul Haynes, Nashville Career Advancement Center; Economic Opportunity – Jessica LeVeen Farr, Federal Reserve Bank; Neighborhood Development – Mike Hodge, Neighborhoods Resource Center and Stephanie McCullough, Civic Design Center; Housing – Kay Bowers, New Level Community Development Corporation; Health – Barbara Clinton, Vanderbilt Center for Health Services; Food – Teresa Thomas, Metropolitan Nashville Dept. of Public Health; and Child Care – Melba Marcrum, McNeilly Center for Children.

The 2010 Community Needs Evaluation Update is available online.

Documents include the Full Report and the Executive Highlights, with separate sections of the Full Report for each issue area.

<http://www.nashville.gov/sservices/planningcoordination/2010cne.asp>

Social Security Benefits Lift Many Seniors Out of Poverty

The 1935 Social Security Act created a social insurance program designed to pay retired workers age 65 and over a continuing income after retirement, and these benefits continue to be the safety net for low income seniors. The availability of income from Social Security benefits is a critical concern for low income elderly persons. A large number of low income seniors rely on Social Security income to pay for food, medicine, utility, housing and other necessities.

According to the U. S. Census Bureau's 2008 American Community Survey, without Social Security benefits, 19.8 million more people in the country would live in poverty. Social Security benefits have a dramatic effect on the poverty rate for seniors in Tennessee. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that 90% of people aged 65 and over receive some of their income from Social Security.

In 2008 an AARP study found that the availability of Social Security benefits means that 11.6% of Tennessee seniors live in poverty, while without these benefits 49.3% of those over 65 would live in poverty. In analyzing 2006 Census data, AARP also found that Social Security benefits account for 50% or more of total income for nearly two-thirds of Tennesseans age 65 or older. One-third of older Tennesseans rely on Social Security as their only source of income. The

average yearly Social Security benefit for a Tennessee retiree in 2006 was \$11,097 or about \$992 a month.

In 2005 the Economic Policy Institute examined retirement income and Social Security benefits and reported that for the typical person approaching retirement, the value of expected future Social Security retirement benefits represents the largest single source of income.

For many Social Security benefits are a crucial part of retirement planning. For the average retiree, the Social Security Administration estimates that about 40% of their income will come from Social Security payments. More than 96% of American workers contribute to the Social Security system and they expect to receive benefits during their retirement years. The ongoing debate regarding Social Security will continue to be one of interest, especially to low-income persons. As the population of the United States ages due to the baby boomers, the issue will remain important.

<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3260>

http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/econ/ss_facts_08_tn.pdf

http://epi.3cdn.net/2fe16f3c5c5cd1b06a_8am6iiz79.pdf

<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=531>

Effect of the Great Recession on Employment Sectors with Predominantly Male/Female Workers

During the past three years, many statements about the state of the economy pointed to a bleak, confusing, and uncertain future due to the prolonged Great Recession. Even though official government numbers indicate that the Great Recession ended in 2009, there are still high unemployment numbers with many in the workforce still looking for work and struggling to secure jobs.

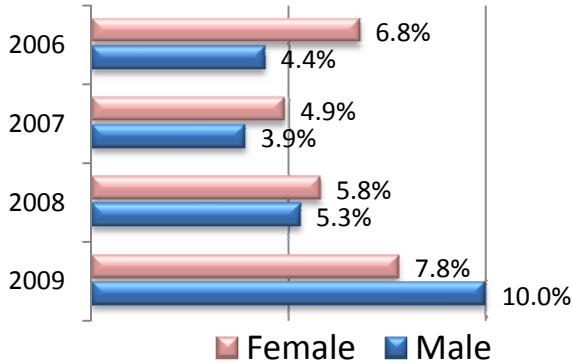
It is clear that the impact on some industry sectors has been disproportionate and severe. This resulted in subsequent job losses being higher in the sectors that traditionally employed males and people with low-level skills. This is not to suggest that women are more educated or possess more skills than men, but a statistical analysis indicates that there is a significant concentration of men in these shrinking sectors when it comes to jobs.

A recent study by the Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness, *Leveraging the Labor Force for Economic Growth*, assessed the current and future Nashville Economic Market. The full document provides data on many

workforce factors and is available from the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce web site. It indicates that future growth is expected in the Education and Health Services sectors, while Manufacturing and Construction jobs would continue to decline and show slow recovery.

Chart 1: Unemployment Rate, Females-Males

Davidson County, 2006-2008

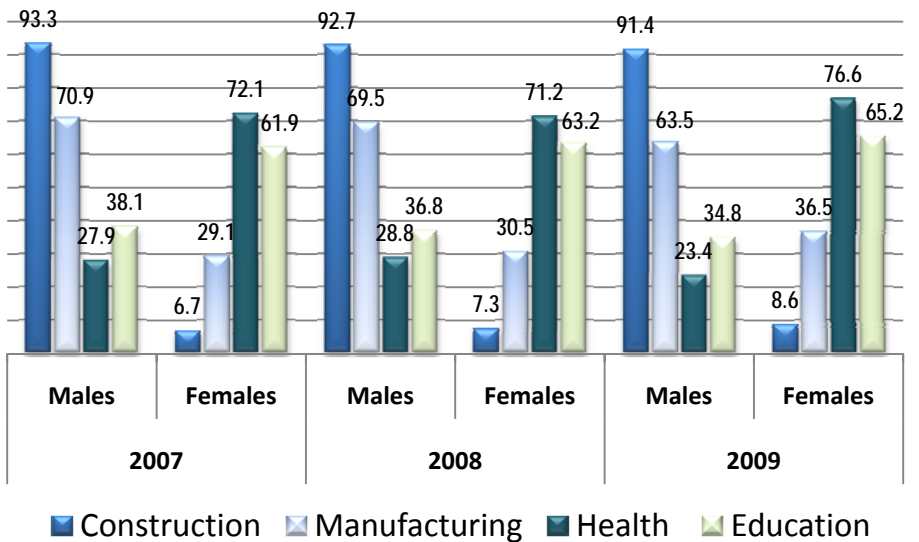


According to the 2009 American Community Survey data for Davidson County, Chart 1 shows that the unemployment rate for men was 10.0%, compared to 7.8% for females. This proportion is the reverse of 2007 when the recession began, when unemployment was lower for men (3.9%) than for women (4.9%).

Chart 2 shows the employment by industry and gender in Davidson County, indicating that the workforce was dominated by men in certain sectors and females in others. In 2009, the Manufacturing sector males accounted for 63.5% of employment with 36.5% for females, and Construction employment was 91.4% males and 8.6% females.

Chart 2: Employment Percentage by Industry and Gender

Davidson County, 2007-2009



However, in the Education and Health services sectors women consisted of 65.2% and 76.6% respectively.

Chart 3 shows the number of people employed in the Nashville market (including Franklin and Murfreesboro) in Education & Health Services, Manufacturing and Natural Resources, Mining & Construction.

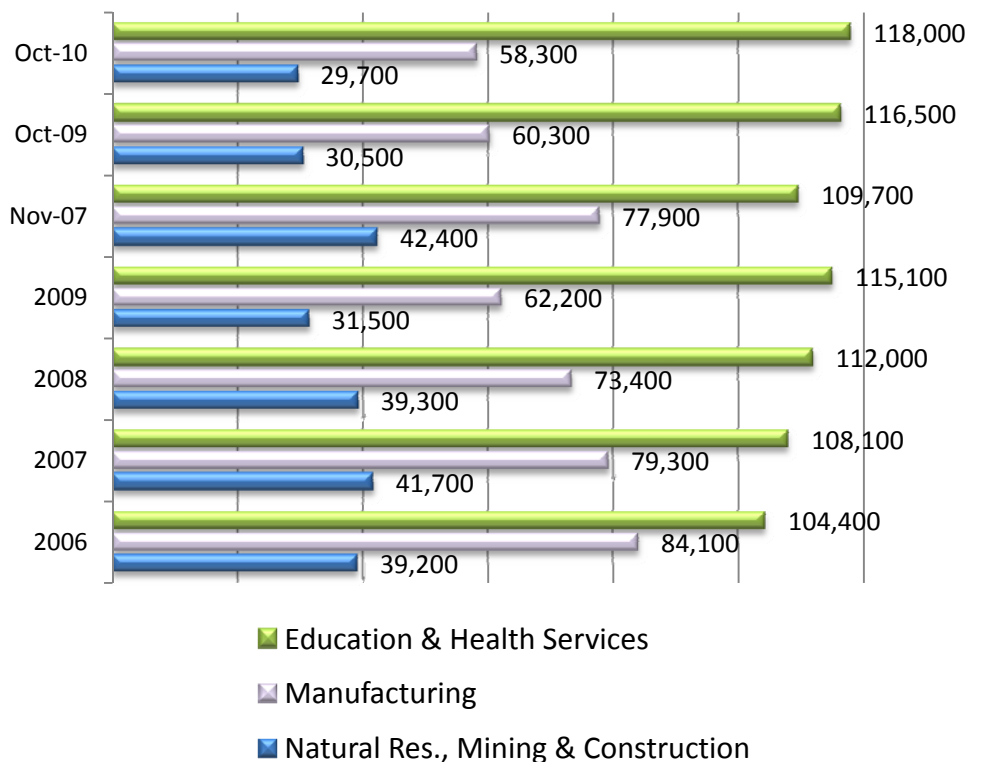
According to the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development data, in 2006 Davidson County had 84,100 jobs in manufacturing. However by October 2010 the number declined to 58,300 by, a decrease of 25,800 jobs.

During that same time, Education & Health Services grew from 104,400 in 2006 to 118,000, an increase of 13,600 jobs.

There are numerous factors which affect the number of jobs in each industry. For example, in manufacturing automation technology is frequently being updated to increase productivity. The technology has allowed businesses to cut labor costs and remain competitive so the businesses can weather the uncertainties of the market. This has delayed the recovery by delaying the rehiring of the workers who remain unemployed in the longest recorded

recession. Two factors that simultaneously impacted workers in manufacturing were the slowing economy and infusion of technology in the mode of production that reduced the need for low-skilled workers.

Chart 3: Number Employed-Industry Sectors
Selected Dates 2006-October 2010



This recession has severely impacted banks and other lenders that provided mortgage, other loans, and made investments that were tied to the housing industry. When many people lost their jobs, they also lost their capacity to make monthly mortgage payments, and lenders started foreclosure processes in order to reclaim these properties. Similarly, when people with sub-prime loans noticed a sharp increase in their monthly installments, nationwide many properties with significantly decreased values inundated the real estate market.

The housing crises led to rising foreclosures and lenders struggling to recoup their investments. The unprecedented numbers of foreclosures remains a threat to a stable housing sector as well as to the construction industry (continuing the higher unemployment rates for the primarily male workforce).

This job losses and rising mortgage payments increased the need for assistance to help low-income families pay housing related costs. While the unmet need has increased, there is often less available funding to provide this assistance during recent years. The economic downturn has negatively impacted the funding resources for these programs because government agencies have experienced budget cuts while private donations to nonprofit organizations have also dwindled as a result of financial meltdowns of philanthropic assets.

The recession can demonstrate to policy makers the importance of an educated and trained workforce. With the opportunity to gain skills needed in today's workforce, workers would be able to gain employment in the sectors that have high growth and high demand.

Fiscal Challenges of U.S. Cities

After three years of budget reductions, many cities face the great challenges in deciding what to cut next. This is being discussed across the United States by cities that struggle to maintain current operations, while expanding and improving public infrastructure.

According to the National League of Cities (NLC), the municipal sector will likely face a fiscal shortfall of between \$56 billion and \$83 billion from 2010 to 2012. In December 2009, the president of NLC estimated that economic conditions of the nation's cities would improve in 2012 or 2013.

Weakness in the housing market and poor retail sales reportedly are the primary causes of the economic decline, according to NLC's Center for Research and Innovations. The Congressional Budget Office reported that the decline in property taxes has been the primary cause of fiscal stress in local governments.

An NLC survey of city finance officers on *City Fiscal Conditions* found that:

- 79% had to lay off workers
- 69% had to delay or cancel capital infrastructure projects
- 34% had to make public safety cuts (as a last resort).

The NLC also reported that local governments across the country are strategically assessing the needs of their communities and employing creative solutions to stimulate business growth and development, create and maintain jobs, address housing concerns while leveraging public and private resources.

In tracking the economic recession and recovery in America's 100 largest metropolitan areas (which includes Metropolitan Nashville), the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings reported that the economic recovery varies by city. The overall performance of Metropolitan Nashville was rated as in the category of the second- strongest performing metro areas in the United States. (Metropolitan areas are classified into groups of 20 based on their average ranking across unemployment and employment rate, total value of goods and service produced within the city, housing prices, and real estate owned).

The wealth of the nation depends on economic development and the quality of life of its cities. NCL explains that as cities recover, the nation's overall economy will recover.

<http://www.nlc.org/Recovery/>

<http://americacityandcounty.com/admin/finance/recession-effects-continue-201011/>

<http://www.brookings.edu/economics.aspx>



Flood Recovery Update

During the May 2010 flood, the Cumberland River crested in Nashville at 51.86 feet, 12 feet above flood stage. On May 3rd, 2010, 115 Metro roads were closed to traffic.

Flood damage was experienced by 10,940 properties across 36 Davidson County Zip Codes, with most located outside the 100-year floodplain.

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An estimated 2,773 businesses across the city sustained flood damage (40% were retail, 10% warehouse and storage, 8% office properties, 6% assorted commercial use, and the remainder were associated with self-employed and residential settings). At least 14,499 employees work at Davidson County firms with flood-related damages. Businesses in Davidson County with flood damage account for at least \$3.6 billion in annual revenue.

Nashville's response to the flood was rapid and effective, saving lives and mitigating damage whenever possible. National organizations such as the American Red Cross, FEMA and others directed resources to the Middle Tennessee area. The efforts of Nashvillians to their neighbors were overwhelming as individuals and organizations worked to do whatever was needed. Hands On Nashville coordinated a tremendous number of volunteers who worked together to help fellow Nashvillians. United Way of Metropolitan Nashville opened Restore the Dream Centers to help persons who experienced need

as a result of the flood. The Community Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee received millions of dollars used in helping those affected by the flood. We Are Home and other programs were developed to promote housing for flood survivors.

After the immediate response, long term recovery efforts continue, including the creation of a Long-Term Flood Recovery group. Numerous fund raising events were held to generate revenue to help flood survivors. Input from residents has been included through community meetings about long-term recovery, flood recovery design workshops, and an oral history project to document the events related to the flood. FEMA, the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and the Metropolitan Government have joined together to begin purchasing homes through the voluntary Hazard Mitigation Home Buyout program.

Additional information is available at:
<http://www.nashvillerecovery.com/>

Free mental health sessions are available for Davidson County flood survivors, including assessments, intervention, referrals and action plans. Sessions are conducted in English and Spanish and are provided with funding from the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

For additional information or to make an appointment, please call the Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee at 615-269-5355.



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