



For Immediate Release  
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## **LAANE Census Analysis Reveals Grim Picture of L.A. County Healthcare**

*New Data Shows Los Angeles County Has Lowest Rates of Insurance in Nation*

*Report Reveals High Levels of Income Inequality in Los Angeles*

**Los Angeles**—As the U.S. Census Bureau releases its data from the annual American Community Survey (ACS), a new LAANE report based on that data, “Los Angeles on the Edge,” examines income, earnings and health insurance data in Los Angeles County. The 2008 statistics, which include the first ACS analysis of healthcare coverage, reveal that Los Angeles County has the lowest levels of healthcare insurance coverage in the United States, with 22% of all residents—or 2.2 million people—lacking health insurance.

The LAANE report shows that income and earnings remained stagnant for Los Angeles County families, and that almost 30% of L.A. County residents earned less than \$25,000 a year, which is well below what is needed to support a family. While data for 2009 is not available, dramatic increases in unemployment coupled with the huge rise in foreclosures and the precipitous decline of home values suggest that conditions have worsened this year for a large number of county residents.

“Los Angeles on the Edge” reveals that statistics for the city of Los Angeles are in many ways even more grim than they are at the county level. Thirty-five percent of workers in the city earn less than \$25,000 per year and twenty-six percent of all city residents lack any form of health insurance.

The Census data also show high levels of inequality, with the wealthiest 20 percent of county households accounting for over 50 percent of household income and the poorest 20 percent accounting for only 3 percent of the region’s household income. The top 5 percent of households accounted for over 25 percent of all the income in the county.

“The data reveal how precarious life is for many Los Angeles families,” said Jessica Goodheart, author of the report and research director of LAANE. “Unfortunately, the recession will drag families even further down. That’s why it is so important that we address the inequality and poor health coverage that underlie a lot of these alarming statistics.”

“Los Angeles on the Edge” is the first of two reports to be released by LAANE based on new census data. The second report, “Los Angeles on the Edge, Part II,” will be issued on Tuesday, September 29, when the second set of data on poverty from the U.S. Census American Communities Survey is released. LAANE will also be launching a “Census Resource Center” on September 29; that center will include “Voices of the Recession,” a project featuring Los Angeles residents who have been affected by the recession, podcasts with economic and healthcare experts who discuss the challenges L.A. faces and solutions to the economic crisis, and an essay by LAANE Executive Director Madeline Janis.

LAANE is an advocacy organization that has authored numerous studies on poverty, wages and economic development.

To read “Los Angeles on the Edge, Part I,” please visit [www.laane.org](http://www.laane.org).

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