

Center for American Progress



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Statement of John D. Podesta on Today's U.S. Census Numbers

Washington, D.C. - Today's economic numbers expose the Administration's record of neglect that existed long before Hurricane Katrina, and has hurt tens of millions of Americans in every part of the country.

The Bush Administration's bungled response to Hurricane Katrina and the persistent poverty exposed in the storm's aftermath were not aberrations, nor did they occur by accident. They are the inevitable effects of five years of Bush economic policy which has exacerbated the growing disparity between the wealthiest Americans and those who live paycheck to paycheck.

It is morally unacceptable for 47 million Americans to live without health insurance, and 37 million Americans to live in poverty in the wealthiest country on the face of the earth. It is time for a change in direction.