



**LOUISIANA DISASTER  
RECOVERY FOUNDATION**  
*Louisiana's Fund for Louisiana's People*

## **Media Advisory**

**New Report Provides Parish-by-Parish Snapshot of Life in Louisiana**  
*State-Specific Report by American Human Development Project*  
*Focuses on Race and Income Disparities in State*

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**WHAT:** The Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation, the Foundation for the Mid-South, the American Human Development Project and Oxfam America will release “A Portrait of Louisiana: the Louisiana Human Development Report 2009,” just the second state-specific report by the American Human Development Project. The report provides a state-wide, parish-by-parish assessment of such indicators as lifespan, earnings, incidence of diabetes, high school completion, crime, birth weight, and more, and will help policymakers, business and non-profit leaders, the media and people around the state understand Louisiana’s current circumstances within a clear comparative and statistical framework.

**WHO:**

- **Flozell Daniels, Jr.** President and CEO Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation
- **Rhonda Jackson**, Gulf Coast Program Manager, Oxfam America
- **Sarah Burd-Sharps**, report co-author and co-director of the American Human Development Project

**WHEN:** Thursday, September 17, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**WHERE:** Gallier Hall, 545 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana

**WHY:** “A Portrait of Louisiana” is the second state-specific report produced by the authors of “The Measure of America: American Human Development Report 2008-2009” since its release last summer. It applies the American Human Development Index – a single measure of well-being for all Americans based on indicators in three key areas: health, education and income – to life in Louisiana. Using U.S. government statistics on longevity, educational attainment and enrollment, and earnings, the American Human Development Report revealed where America is today and set a benchmark against which we will be able to assess where we are tomorrow. In countries around the world where similar studies have been done, Human Development Index findings have proven that strategic investments in health, education and employment boost people’s well-being as well as national prosperity. The report will provide a much-needed tool for government, philanthropy and advocates seeking to create data-driven solutions for Louisiana’s most pressing problems.

**NOTE:** Go to [www.measureofamerica.org](http://www.measureofamerica.org) for the full report text, fact sheets, maps and other background information.