

Phoenix moves to fifth-largest U.S. city

by UPI

WASHINGTON - Phoenix moved into the top five on the list of largest U.S. cities but New Orleans lost half its population, U.S. Census Bureau figures released Thursday show.

The Census Bureau issued its city population report based on data as of July 1, 2006. New York, with a population of 8.2 million, remained the most populated U.S. city followed by Los Angeles (3.8 million), Chicago (2.8 million) and Houston (2.1 million).

But Phoenix passed Philadelphia for the No. 5 spot. The Arizona city's population increased some 43,000 in the year ending July 1, 2006, and now totals 1.5 million. Philadelphia's population, which went down about 8,000, is 1.4 million. San Antonio (1.3 million), San Diego (1.2 million) and Dallas (1.2 million) are the other U.S. cities with more than 1 million people.

New Orleans' population was 452,170 on July 1, 2005 -- about two months before Hurricane Katrina hit the area -- and 223,388 last July 1, the Census Bureau said. The drop in population was 50.6 percent. No other U.S. city of at least 100,000 lost more than 1.6 percent.

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