



Facts About Families Ascension 2005

Our population

- Total population in 2004 was 87,164
- High growth rate of 13.8% from 2000-2004
- 8.2% under age 5
- 30.1% under age 18
- 7.7% age 65 or older
- Median age is 32
- 50.8% female
- 49.2% male
- 77.4% white
- 20.3% Black or African American
- 2.5% Hispanic or Latino
- 0.3% Asian.
- 5.8% speak a language other than English at home

Where do we live?

- 75.4% live in urban areas
- 24.6% live in rural areas
- 82.3% own their own home compared with 67.5% statewide

What does it mean?

Most people don't live in rural areas. Thus, rural poverty and related issues may be more hidden from public view.

Our environment

- Tropical Storm Isidore and Hurricane Lili caused \$330 million in insured losses in Louisiana and 137,000 insurance claims.
- 30% of FEMA's top repetitive loss properties targeted for flood mitigation are in Louisiana.
- The average repair cost to homes infested by Formosan termites is \$11,000.
- Homeowners' insurance in Louisiana averages \$840/year, the second highest rate in the nation. The percent paid for natural hazards recovery is increasing and stood at 80% in 2003.

Our health

- Cardiovascular death rate is 207.3 compared to 248.4 statewide.
- Cancer death rate is 169.4 compared to 209.7 statewide.
- Stroke death rate is 39.2 compared to 57.4 statewide.
- 7% of Louisiana adults have been diagnosed with diabetes.
- Louisiana ranks 7th in number of diabetes cases but first in deaths from diabetes. Nationally the death rate was 18.5 per 100,000. In Louisiana, the rate was 32.5 per 100,000.
- Louisiana ranks 8th highest in the nation in obesity.
- 2003 estimated health expenditures related to obesity in Louisiana were \$1.373 billion.
- More than 60% of Medicaid population in Louisiana were obese.

What does it mean?

Our leading causes of death are affected by behaviors that could be modified. Healthier eating habits, regular exercise, weight control and not smoking are all behaviors an individual can control. Health issues affect the whole state since so many resources are consumed treating preventable diseases.

Our education

- 79.6% high school graduates compared to 80.4% nationally and 74.8% statewide.
- 14.5% B.S. degree or higher compared to 18.7% statewide or almost 25% nationally.
- 20.4% of adults have less than a high school education compared to 25.2% statewide.

What does it mean?

Our education level is improving, but we're still trying to catch up. Education levels may affect poverty rates, disease rates and other quality of life issues.



Our children

- 10.3% of births are to teens compared to 15.6% statewide.
- 8.3% of births are low birth weight babies. compared to 10.5% statewide and 7.8% in U.S.
- Infant death rate is 6.7% compared to 10.2% statewide and 7% in U.S.
- 1,867 grandparents live in homes with 1 or more grandchildren under age 18.
- 1,032 grandparents are responsible for grandchild.
- 22.8% of families are headed by a single parent compared to 30% statewide.
- 16.5% of children under 18 live in poverty compared to 26.6% statewide and 17.6% in the U.S.
- 173 children in valid abuse and neglect cases.
- 50 children in custody.
- There are 53 licensed child care facilities.

What does it mean?

The statewide birth rate for teen-age women has been dropping as has the number of low birth weight babies, but the Louisiana numbers still rank near the top when compared to other states as do the number of births to unmarried women. All of these factors affect the likelihood that a newborn child will live in poverty.

Our resources

- Median household income was \$46,214, which is 137.8% of the state median household income.
- Poverty rate is 10.4% compared to a state rate of 18.1%.
- 10.7% of families are below the poverty line compared to 9.2% in the U.S.
- Louisiana high school seniors scored only 46% in a nationwide survey of basic financial knowledge.
- 29,201 Louisiana families filed for bankruptcy in 2004.
- More Louisianans filed for bankruptcy in 2003 (29,573) than earned a college degree (25,300) or obtained a divorce (14,767).
- The average credit score in the U.S. is 676 out of a possible 830. Louisiana's average score is 661, the fourth lowest in the nation.

A closer look

This information is a snapshot of your community compiled from a variety of sources. Communities are constantly changing, so the data may not always reflect the most recent or rapid changes. If something surprises you, ask yourself the following questions.

- ✓ When was the data collected? Some agencies update only every five years, others annually. Some do estimates or make projections between their normal sampling times.
- ✓ What was the population surveyed? For example, information based on households will be different from information on families. Health data on births may be based on all births or just on all live births.
- ✓ Has something happened recently that wasn't captured in the previous data collection period? An event such as a major employer opening or closing a facility may affect populations in a relatively brief time frame.
- ✓ Large institutions such as prisons or specialized communities such as retirement centers will affect local data, too. If data appears surprising to you, check to see if any special resident populations in the parish are affecting it.

Contact:

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2005 HHS Poverty Guidelines

| Persons in Family Unit | 48 Contiguous States and D.C | Alaska . | Hawaii |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------|----------|
| 1 | \$ 9,570 | \$11,950 | \$11,010 |
| 2 | 12,830 | 16,030 | 14,760 |
| 3 | 16,090 | 20,110 | 18,510 |
| 4 | 19,350 | 24,190 | 22,260 |
| 5 | 22,610 | 28,270 | 26,010 |
| 6 | 25,870 | 32,350 | 29,760 |
| 7 | 29,130 | 36,430 | 33,510 |
| 8 | 32,390 | 40,510 | 37,260 |

For each additional person, add 3,260 4,080 3,750

SOURCE: *Federal Register*, Vol. 70, No. 33, February 18, 2005, pp. 8373-8375.

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Facts About Families 2005 Reference List

General Population

Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates for states, counties and school districts

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/>

U.S. Census Quick Facts

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/>

American Factfinder

<http://factfinder.census.gov/>

Louisiana Fact Book 2005 edition

www.cabl.org

Federal MapStats

<http://www.fedstats.gov/qf/states/22000.html>

Bureau of Labor Current Population Statistics

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.nr0.htm>

Points of Light Foundation

<http://www.pointsoflight.org/about/mediacenter/releases/2004/09-13.cfm>

Children

Agenda for Children Kids Count Data Book

<http://agendaforchildren.org/kcdata/>

Kids Count Census Data Online

<http://www.aecf.org>

National Center for Children in Poverty

<http://www.nccp.org>

SchoolMatters, A service of Standard & Poor's

<http://www.schoolmatters.com>

Investing in the Child Care Industry, 2005

http://www.dss.state.la.us/Documents/OFS/Investing_In_The_Chi1.pdf

Child Care Facilities

http://www.dss.state.la.us/departments/os/child_care_facilities_by_parish.html

Health

Louisiana Dept. of Health & Hospitals

<http://www.oph.dhh.louisiana.gov/chronicdisease/behavioralrisk/docs/stateofheart02.pdf>

Office of Public Health – obesity & diabetes reports

<http://www.oph.dhh.louisiana.gov/nutrition/obesity/reports.html>

<http://www.oph.dhh.louisiana.gov/chronicdisease/diabetes/index.html>

Resources

U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services

<http://aspc.hhs.gov/poverty/05poverty.shtml>

American Bankruptcy Institute

<http://www.abiworld.org/>

Economic Research Service, USDA

www.ers.usda.gov/statefacts

Parish profiles

<http://www.led.state.la.us/overview/profile.aspx>