

Lafayette Parish



“Over the years, it has become clear that individual health is closely linked to community health—the health of the community and environment in which individuals live, work, and play. Likewise, community health is profoundly affected by the collective beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of everyone who lives in the community”

Healthy People 2010

Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance

	Lafayette	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
ECONOMICS, 2000				
% All persons in poverty	15.7%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	18.6%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	5.5%	7.3%	5.8%	--
EDUCATION 2002-2003				
School Expenditure per Student	\$6,675	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	94.2%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	7.1%	7.0%	--	--
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	9.5	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care w ithin first 3 months	94.2%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	91.4%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	8.8%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	11.8%	15.5%	10.6%	--
% Children fully immunized by 2 years old	--	69.8%	78.5%	90.0%
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2003 (new cases - rate per 100,000 population)				
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	--	4.1	2.5	0.2
Early Syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent)	NA	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	358.5	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	170.0	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	7.2*	5.8	5.1	1.0
STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)				
Heart	164.1	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	177.6	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	46.9	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	44.8	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	44.8	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Lower Respiratory	24.5	37.8	43.3	--
COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	6.7	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	2.3	2.1	1.5	0.8
HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004				
	Region 6	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	28.2%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI>30 (adults 20+)	27.1%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram w ithin 2 years (women 40+)	69.0%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear w ithin 3 years (women 18+)	86.5%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	67.5%	68.6%	67.9%	90.0%

Data Sources:

Economics: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data, 2000

Education: Louisiana Department of Education District-reported data submitted to the Student Information System (SIS) end-of-year (EOY) report and Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP) System. Office of Management and Finance, Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources. District Composite Report 2003-2004.

Mothers and Children: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005

Infectious Diseases: DHH/OPH, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. 2004 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Disease in the United State, 2003". NA= Rate not available, # of cases is less than 5

Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (**Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

Community Safety: Child Abuse--Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Motor Vehicle Deaths--EM S/Injury Research & Prevention Program

Healthy Behaviors: DHH/OPH, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

History^{1, 2}

Lafayette Parish, one of the smallest in square mile area in the state, was created on January 17, 1823. The earliest settlers to come into this rich agricultural region were Andrew Martin and the Mouton family. Salvator and Anne Mouton were exiled from Nova Scotia. The story is told that Anne and her children, fearing English persecution, fled into the forest and subsisted for 10 days on roots and berries before escaping to a better life, in south central Louisiana. This is one of the many accounts that reveal the rich heritage of the Acadians.



Lafayette Parish offers authentic Cajun and Creole cuisine, original Zydeco and Cajun music, scenic swamplands, and many activities and sights characteristic of its cultural uniqueness. Tour swamplands, plantations and folk life attractions like Acadian Village and Vermillionville. For an orientation to the life ways of the Acadians, visit the Acadian Cultural Center. Experience Lafayette’s culture and history at the Alexandre Mouton House, University Art Museum, Lafayette Natural History Museum and Children’s Museum of Acadiana. Celebrate year round with Mardi Gras, Festival International de Louisiane, Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival, “Le Cajun” Music Awards Festival, Zydeco Festival, Festivals Acadiens, and “A Cajun Christmas.”

Parish Seat³ Lafayette

Major Cities (population over 5,000)

- Lafayette
- Scott
- Carencro
- Broussard

Parish Population⁴

2000.....	14,282
2003 (estimate)	19,429
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	86.1%
African-American	12.2%
Some other race.....	1.7%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race).....	23.2%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years	6.1%
5-14	14.0%
15-17	5.9%
18-19	3.1%
20-24	6.4%
25-64	49.7%
65 & over	14.8%

Geography and Statistics⁵

Average elevation	41 ft.
Land area in square miles	270
Water area in square miles	0.5

Climate

Average temperatures

Annual.....	68°
January	60°
July	90°
Annual average rainfall.....	58.6 inches

Labor Force (2001)⁶

Lafayette Parish

Civilian.....	101,140
Employed	97,262
Unemployed.....	3,878
Unemployment.....	3.8%

Louisiana

Civilian.....	2,055,000
Employed	1,956,500
Unemployed.....	98,500
Unemployment Rate	4.8%

Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)

- Louisiana State University and A&M College, Eunice
- McNeese State University, Lake Charles
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
2. Louisiana Office of Culture Recreation and Tourism, 1998. keywords: regional information, <<http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism/>>.
3. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
4. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <<http://www.census.gov>>.
5. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <<http://www.census.gov>>.
6. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary <http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls>.