



ASSUMPTION



PARISH

“ ...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health. National Academy Press. p. 12



Assumption Parish

History¹

Created from one of the original 12 counties, Assumption Parish was named for the Assumption Catholic church at Plattenville, the oldest Catholic church in the state. The original church was erected in 1793. The present boundaries were created in 1807 from a portion of Lafourche Parish. As in the case in most South Louisiana parishes, the early settlers were French. The earliest permanent settlements were made by Spanish and exiled Acadians along the historic Bayou Lafourche. Napoleonville is and has always been the parish seat. The present courthouse, in continuous use, was built in 1895. The town was officially incorporated on March 11, 1878, and named by a soldier who served under Napoleon Bonaparte.



Culture and Recreation³

The natural lakes and bayous such as Lake Verret, Bayou Lafourche, Belle River and Pierre Part offer great fishing and camping as well as other outdoor recreation. Year-round festivals offer the flavor of the South with delicious food and arts and crafts. The Madewood Arts Festival and Antebellum Christmas, held on the grounds of Madewood Plantation, are two of many. In addition to Madewood, there are several other historical structures to view, for the roots of Assumption Parish are buried deep in the past. St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, with its unusual frescoes, Christ Episcopal Church, with its beautiful stain-glass windows, and St. Philomena Catholic Church and Cemetery are all works of art as well as centers of religious worship. The present, too, makes itself known, with tours available to Supreme Sugars Refinery and three raw sugar mills in Belle Rose, Paincourtville, and Napoleonville.

Parish Seat¹ Napoleonville¹

Major Cities (over 5,000 population)²

None

Parish Population²

1990 22,753

**Assumption Parish
Tourist Commission**
c/o B&B Ace Hardware
P.O. Box 85
Paincourtville, LA
70391
504-369-6551

**Regional Office of
Public Health**
Frederick Duplechin,
Regional Administrator
Region III Office
206 E. Third St.
Thibodaux, LA 70301
504-447-0916
504-447-0920 fax



1997 (estimate)	22,866
Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates) ⁶	
White	65%
African American	35%
Other	1%
Male	49%
Female	51%
Population age 0-4	8%
Population age 65 & over	11%

Geography and Statistics²

Average elevation	15 ft.
Land area in square miles	338.7
Water area in square miles ⁴	25.9

Climate²

Average temperatures	
Annual	69°
January	56°
July	82°
Annual average rainfall	82.6 in.

Labor Force (1995)¹

Civilian	9,330
Employed	8,530
Unemployed	800
Unemployment	8.6%

Agriculture¹

Sugarcane/sugarcane refining, corn, vegetable farming and beef cattle.

Colleges/Universities²

(within one hour commute)

Baton Rouge
Louisiana State University; Southern University
Thibodaux
Nicholl's State University

Public Libraries⁵ 3

Educational Attainment (1990)⁷

Less than 5th grade	10.0%
High school graduate or higher	50.4%
Some college or higher	18.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher	6.7%

Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees²

Private Employers	
Supreme Sugar Company (Refined sugar)	130
Savoie Industries, Inc. (Raw sugar)	75
Dow Chemical (Propane gas)	60
Public Employers	
Assumption Parish School Board (Education)	595
Assumption General Hospital (Medical)	100

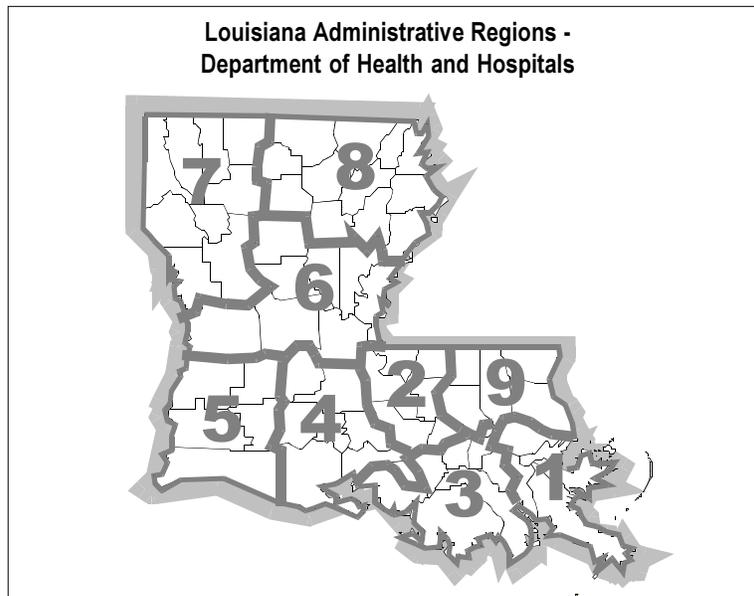
Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995) ⁷	22.0%
Children under age 18 in poverty ⁷	31.5%
Per capita income (1996) ⁸	\$15,819



References

- ¹ Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
- ² Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lled.state.la.us>
- ³ Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- ⁴ Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- ⁵ State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- ⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>
- ⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>
- ⁸ U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>.



Region 1

Jefferson
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard

Region 2

Ascension
East Baton Rouge
East Feliciana
Iberville
Pointe Coupee
West Baton Rouge
West Feliciana

Region 3

Assumption
Lafourche
St. Charles
St. James
St. John
St. Mary
Terrebonne

Region 4

Acadia
Evangeline
Iberia
Lafayette
St. Landry
St. Martin
Vermilion

Region 5

Allen
Beauregard
Calcasieu
Cameron
Jefferson Davis

Region 6

Avoyelles
Catahoula
Concordia
Grant
LaSalle
Rapides
Vernon
Winn

Region 7

Bienville
Bossier
Caddo
Claiborne
DeSoto
Natchitoches
Red River
Sabine
Webster

Region 8

Caldwell
East Carroll
Franklin
Jackson
Lincoln
Madison
Morehouse
Ouachita
Richland
Tensas
Union
West Carroll

Region 9

Livingston
St. Helena
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washingtton