

Assumption 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

	Assumption	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
ECONOMICS, 2000				
% All persons in poverty	21.8%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	28.7%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	9.3%	7.3%	5.8%	--
EDUCATION 2002-2003				
School Expenditure per Student	\$7,534	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	92.6%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	8.0%	7.0%	--	--
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	14.5	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care w ithin first 3 months	79.6%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	70.1%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth w eight	10.6%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	19.6%	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)	0.0	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	504.5	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	235.2	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	4.2*	5.8	5.1	1.0
STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)				
Heart	266.7	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	194.8	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	**	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	**	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	**	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Low er Respiratory	**	37.8	43.3	--
COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	5.2	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	1.4	2.1	1.5	0.8
HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004				
	Region 3	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	27.8%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI>30 (adults 20+)	31.4%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram w ithin 2 years (women 40+)	75.7%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear w ithin 3 years (women 18+)	85.1%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	73.9%	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}

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. 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.

Parish Seat³Napoleonville

Major Cities (population over 5,000)
N/A

Parish Population⁴

2000.....	23,388
2003 (estimate)	23,269
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	67.2%
African-American	31.5%
Some other race.....	1.3%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race)	1.2%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years	7.0%
5-14	16.3%
15-17	5.2%
18-19	3.3%
20-24	6.5%
25-64	50.9%
65 & over	10.9%

Geography and Statistics⁵

Average elevation	15ft.
Land area in square miles	339
Water area in square miles	25.9

Climate

Average temperatures	
Annual	68°
January	61°
July	91°
Annual average rainfall.....	60.3 inches

Labor Force (2001)⁶

Assumption Parish	
Civilian.....	9,938
Employed	8,872
Unemployed.....	1,066
Unemployment.....	10.7%
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
- Southern University and A&M College
- Nicholls State University, Thibodaux

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>