Parish Health Profiles

A Tool For Community Health Planning

Lafayette Parish

Kathleen B. Blanco
Governor
State of Louisiana

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PUBLIC HEALTH IN AMERICA

Promoting Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Public Health

- *Prevents epidemics and the spread of disease;*
- *Protects against environmental hazards;*
- *Prevents injuries;*
- *Promotes and encourages healthy behaviors;*
- *Responds to disasters and assists communities in recovery; and*
- *Assures the quality and accessibility of health services.*

Essential Public Health Services

- *Monitor health status to identify community problems;*
- *Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community;*
- *Inform, educate and empower people about health issues;*
- *Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems;*
- *Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts;*
- *Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety;*
- *Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable;*
- *Assure an expert public health and personal health care workforce;*
- *Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services; and*
- *Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.*

Essential Public Health Services Workgroup of the Core Public Health Functions Steering Committee, American Public Health Association

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A TOOL FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH PLANNING

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LAFAYETTE PARISH

2005 Parish Health Profiles

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  - Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities
  - Office of Mental Health
  - Bureau of Health Economics
  - Bureau of Media and Communications
  - Bureau of Policy, Research and Program Development
  - Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health
  - Bureau of Health Services Financing
- Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
- Louisiana Department of Social Services
- Louisiana Department of Economic Development
- Louisiana Department of Education
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- Office of the Governor, Elderly Affairs Council
- Louisiana Interagency Council for the Homeless
- Louisiana State Library

In addition, we would like to thank the communities and community representatives who allowed their stories to be used in the **"Taking Care - Taking Control"** boxes. These contributors are inspiring examples of the work being done in communities all over the state every day.

Finally, special thanks to you, all the readers who will provide the input and the mechanisms to make the profiles work as a community tool for action. Your experiences, comments and feedback will make future editions of the Profiles more useful and effective. Please share your stories and evaluations with us.

Thank you!

Values, Vision, and Mission

Values

- The Office of Public Health aspires to promote health for the people of Louisiana by providing leadership, being innovative, and focusing on disease prevention.
- We honor diversity and respect all people as individuals.
- We are dedicated to serving people and communities in a caring, compassionate manner.
- We are committed to excellence and continuous improvement.
- Through education, teamwork, and collaboration, we strive to improve the health of individuals and communities.
- We strive for high ethical standards and integrity in all that we do, pledging to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

Vision

We see a future where all the people of Louisiana are born healthy and have the opportunity to grow, develop, and live in an environment that is nurturing, supportive, safe, and that promotes the physical, mental, and social health of individuals, families, communities, and the state.

Mission

Our commitment is to enhance the quality of life in Louisiana by providing the information necessary for individuals to assume responsibility for their own health by assuring the availability of basic health care services for those in need. Our mission relies on our ability to capitalize on the diversity of our population and our employees to develop healthy and happy communities. The mission of the Office of Public Health is to:

- Promote health through education that emphasizes the importance of individual responsibility for health and wellness,
- Enforce regulations that protect the environment and investigate health hazards in the community,
- Collect and distribute information vital to informed decision-making on matters related to individual, community, and environmental health,
- Provide leadership for the prevention and control of disease, injury, and disability in the state, and
- Assure universal access to essential health services.

The Office seeks to provide a work environment where teamwork is valued, and where employees are encouraged to make collaborative decisions and work to the best of their abilities.

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
GOVERNOR

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

Frederick P. Cerise, M.D., M.P.H.
SECRETARY

October 31, 2005

Dear Fellow Louisianians:

Immediately upon taking office, Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco established health care reform as the key priority of her administration, challenging individuals and communities to come together and identify ways to address their local needs with regard to health care issues, recognizing and acknowledging that it will take a combination of solutions statewide to improve delivery of health care in Louisiana.

It was with this mission in mind that staff from the Department of Health and Hospitals' Office of Public Health began drafting this 4th edition of the ***Louisiana Parish Health Profiles,*** which we are proud to be able to present at this time. We have, for many years, provided this vital community health information as a tool for local health planning to numerous individuals and organizations statewide. However, shortly before this publication went to print, the importance of our agency's role in protecting and improving the public's health and the essential need to have solid and timely information about our citizens, communities and health infrastructures became even more evident. On August 29 and September 24, 2005, hurricanes Katrina and Rita, respectively, slammed into Southeast and Southwest Louisiana and the surrounding Gulf Coast region, thereby drastically shifting our population demographics and health care resources.

While much has changed in Louisiana since these health profiles were being developed, our overall priorities in best meeting the health care needs of our citizens has not changed. The commitment to provide each of you with the kind of information that you need to make smart choices—and decisions about your health and the health of your community—remains a steadfast priority. As Louisiana moves into its rebuilding process, the data contained in the ***Louisiana Parish Health Profiles*** and its continued update will provide guidance in state and local health planning activities.

These Profiles will provide necessary baseline data on a parish, region and state level and will become especially helpful in hurricane-impacted areas. In addition, as we move forward in overall health systems development and health care reform, our hope is that you gain a greater understanding of the importance of having reliable information and benchmarks as priorities are set for responding to local and statewide needs.

Please use these documents and the examples put forth in them as you work to ensure healthy communities and improve Louisiana's health status. We hope that they will enrich and renew your efforts to make Louisiana a healthier place to live.

Sincerely,

Sharon G. Howard, MSW
Assistant Secretary, Office of Public Health

Frederick P. Cerise, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

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"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"

2005 Parish Health Profiles – Public Domain

The Profiles are a work-in-progress. These documents are public information written for the benefit of the public. Our request to you, the reader, is to complete and return the evaluation form, included at the end of this document. Let us know what you found useful for your work in communities. Your input will help us improve the next issue.

Please feel free to copy and distribute all or parts of this book as needed.

Thank you.