

Plaquemines 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

	Plaquemines	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
ECONOMICS, 2000				
% All persons in poverty	18.0%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	20.9%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	6.7%	7.3%	5.8%	--
EDUCATION 2002-2003				
School Expenditure per Student	\$8,088	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	95.5%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	4.6%	7.0%	--	--
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	7.8	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care within first 3 months	82.8%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	81.3%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	8.3%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	14.4%	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	276.6	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	82.2	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	11*	5.8	5.1	1.0
STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)				
Heart	204.3	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	186.1	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 Lower Respiratory	**	37.8	43.3	--
COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	1.9	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	2.7	2.1	1.5	0.8
HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004				
	Region 1	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	19.2%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI>30 (adults 20+)	26.9%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram within 2 years (women 40+)	77.0%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear within 3 years (women 18+)	86.0%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	66.1%	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--EMS/Injury Research & Prevention Program

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

History^{1, 2}

One of the original 19 parishes, Plaquemines was organized March 31, 1807. Plaquemines is a French and Mobile Indian dialect word meaning “persimmons.” The earliest inhabitants were the Tchefuncte and other tribes that Columbus later called Indians. The French explorer LaSalle proclaimed the entire Mississippi Valley the property of King Louis XIV of France (1682) where Venice is today. Several early forts bear witness to the danger of the early settlers. Today historical markers lead the visitor to many sites for a glimpse into much of the history of the Mississippi Valley. The river, railroad, and modern highways link the commerce of the parish to all areas of the world.



Plaquemines is a peninsula surrounded by the Gulf of Mexico, divided by the Mississippi River, and is the beginning and end of the Great River Road. Visitors will delight in touring both sides of this river parish. Citrus and vegetable stands abound through the parish as well as numerous marinas and fishing boats that emphasize the agricultural and fishing heritage. Historic Fort Jackson, completed in 1832, located on Highway 23, is constructed as a star-shaped pentagon with 20 feet-thick red brick walls, surrounded by a moat and now contains a museum and gift shop.

Parish Seat³ Point a la Hache

Major Cities (population over 5,000)

- Belle Chase⁴

Parish Population⁵

2000.....	26,757
2003 (estimate)	28,025
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	69.8%
African-American	23.4%
Some other race.....	6.8%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race)	1.6%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years	7.4%
5-14	16.5%
15-17	5.3%
18-19	2.9%
20-24	6.2%
25-64	51.9%
65 & over	9.8%

Geography and Statistics⁶

Average elevation	6ft.
Land area in square miles	845
Water area in square miles	1584

Climate

Average temperatures

Annual.....	70°
January.....	61°
July.....	90°
Annual average rainfall.....	62 inches

Labor Force (2001)⁷

Plaquemines Parish

Civilian.....	11,009
Employed.....	10,503
Unemployed.....	506
Unemployment.....	4.6%

Louisiana

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

Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)

- Delgado Community College
- Dillard University
- Louisiana State University Medical Center
- Loyola University
- Notre Dame Seminary School of Theology
- Our Lady of Holy Cross
- Southern University and A&M College at New Orleans
- Tulane University
- University of New Orleans
- Xavier University
- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

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. A Census Designated Place is "a densely settled concentration of population that is not within an incorporated place, but is locally identified by a name", such as Belle Chase in Plaquemines Parish.
5. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <<http://www.census.gov>>
6. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <<http://www.census.gov>>
7. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary <http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls>