

Vernon 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

	Vernon	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
ECONOMICS, 2000				
% All persons in poverty	15.3%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	19.0%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	8.5%	7.3%	5.8%	--
EDUCATION 2002-2003				
School Expenditure per Student	\$6,822	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	94.4%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	4.1%	7.0%	--	--
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	4.0	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care w ithin first 3 months	88.0%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	82.1%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	6.8%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	15.0%	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	333.1	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	112.3	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	0.0	5.8	5.1	1.0
STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)				
Heart	173.2	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	146.3	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	**	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	40.4	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)	20.7	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	1.6	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--EMS/Injury Research & Prevention Program

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

History^{1, 2}

Vernon Parish, named after George Washington’s home, Mount Vernon, was created by an act of the Louisiana Legislature on March 30, 1871, from portions of the parishes of Natchitoches, Rapides, and Sabine.



With the abundance of trees in Vernon Parish, a nature-lover can walk through the many forested areas to his/her heart’s delight. Any water-sports enthusiast can find fun at Vernon Lake, Anacoco Lake or world-famous Toledo Bend Reservoir. History buffs can browse through the museum of West Louisiana on South 3rd Street in Leesville, then stroll up the street to the Vernon Parish Courthouse. Kisatchie National Forest is teeming with serenity at Little Cypress Pond, Fullerton Lake or Kisatchie Hills Wilderness Areas.

Parish Seat³Leesville

Major Cities (population over 5,000)

- Fort Polk
- Leesville

Parish Population⁴

2000.....	52,531
2003 (estimate)	50,669
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	73.7%
African-American	17.1%
Some other race.....	9.2%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race).....	5.9%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years	9.5%
5-14	15.7%
15-17	4.0%
18-19	3.5%
20-24	11.2%
25-64	48.2%
65 & over	7.9%

Geography and Statistics⁵

Average elevation	330ft.
Land area in square miles	1323
Water area in square miles	13.1

Climate

Average temperatures

Annual.....	65°
January.....	57°
July.....	92°
Annual average rainfall.....	63.1 inches

Labor Force (2001)⁶

Vernon Parish

Civilian.....	17,535
Employed.....	16,613
Unemployed.....	922
Unemployment.....	5.3%

Louisiana

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

Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)

- Louisiana College, Pineville
- Louisiana State University and A&M College, Alexandria
- Northwestern State University, Leesville
- Northwestern State University, Natchitoches

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
2. Louisiana Office of 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>.