

Calcasieu 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

	Calcasieu	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
ECONOMICS, 2000				
% All persons in poverty	15.4%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	20.3%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	6.9%	7.3%	5.8%	--
EDUCATION 2002-2003				
School Expenditure per Student	\$6,482	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	93.4%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	4.5%	7.0%	--	--
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	11.4	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care w ithin first 3 months	90.5%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	88.3%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	9.6%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	15.8%	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)	3.8	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	338.8	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	180.3	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	5.4*	5.8	5.1	1.0
STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)				
Heart	280.9	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	208.8	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	50.4	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	42.3	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	24.4	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Lower Respiratory	30.9	37.8	43.3	--
COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	17.8	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 5	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	26.4%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI>30 (adults 20+)	25.7%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram w ithin 2 years (women 40+)	70.8%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear w ithin 3 years (women 18+)	86.2%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	72.5%	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

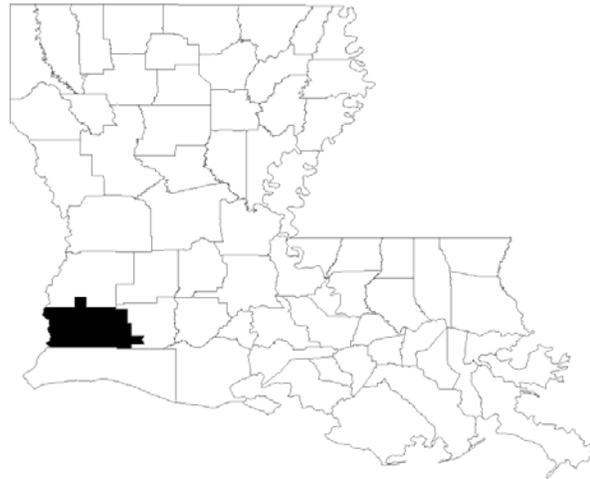
Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (**Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

Community Safety: Child Abuse--Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Motor Vehicle Deaths--EM S/Injury Research & Prevention Program

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

History^{1, 2}

Organized as a parish on March 24, 1840, “Calcasieu,” which means crying eagle,” is said to have been the name of an Attakapas chief. As he went into battle, he gave a peculiar cry like an eagle. One of the first pioneers to arrive in the area was Charles Sallier, originally from the province of Savoie, France. He married the daughter of Barthelemy LeBleu, who had arrived in 1772 from Bordeaux, France. The community became known as Charley’s Lake. Those who settled between 1780 and 1819 acquired their property from the Indians or homesteaded what was then known as the Rio Hondo lands.



During the Civil War, the Sabine River became an important hideout for blockade runners. Strong Confederate earthworks were built along the Sabine. A large sulphur deposit was discovered in the late 1860s near the present city of Sulphur. One of the world’s largest sulphur industries was established at the site and became significant when techniques for deep well drilling became known. With the advent of the deepwater port, Calcasieu Parish has been destined for growth and development.

Parish Seat³ Lake Charles

Major Cities (population over 5,000)

- Lake Charles
- Sulphur
- Moss Bluff⁴
- Prien
- Westlake

Parish Population⁵

2000.....	183,577
2003 (estimate)	183,889
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	73.6%
African-American	24.0%
Some other race.....	2.4%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race)	1.3%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years	7.2%
5-14	15.2%
15-17	5.0%
18-19	3.2%
20-24	7.0%
25-64	50.5%
65 & over	11.9%

Geography and Statistics⁶

Average elevation	20ft.
Land area in square miles	1071
Water area in square miles	23.2

Climate

Average temperatures

Annual.....	68°
January	59°
July.....	90°
Annual average rainfall.....	55 inches

Labor Force (2001)⁷

Calcasieu Parish

Civilian.....	89,379
Employed	84,636
Unemployed.....	4,743
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 State University and A&M College, Eunice
- McNeese State University, Lake Charles
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette

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.htm>>.
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 Moss Bluff and Prien in Calcasieu 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>.