

Natchitoches 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”

Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance

	Natchitoches	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
ECONOMICS, 2000				
% All persons in poverty	26.5%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	33.2%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	9.9%	7.3%	5.8%	--
EDUCATION 2002-2003				
School Expenditure per Student	\$6,805	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	91.9%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	8.6%	7.0%	--	--
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	18.8	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care w ithin first 3 months	83.9%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	79.4%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth w eight	10.8%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	18.8%	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)	0.0	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	742.1	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	440.1	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	292.6	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	206.1	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	71.2	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	**	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	**	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Low er Respiratory	61.1	37.8	43.3	--
COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	6.6	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	0.9	2.1	1.5	0.8
HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004				
	Region 7	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	22.0%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI>30 (adults 20+)	27.7%	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+)	82.7%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	68.3%	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}

Natchitoches, established March 31, 1807, was one of the original 12 counties in the state. It comprised, at the time, the enormous geographical area of nine full parishes and parts of three others. The Parish was settled by the French, and parts of it by the Spanish as early as 1717. Natchitoches, the principal city, is the oldest settlement in the Louisiana Purchase. It was originally laid out on the Red River Channel, which brought trade to the tiny city for 100 years. About 1825, the river changed its course and retreated about five miles east of town. The picturesque Cane River now divides the historical part of the parish. Interesting homes and landmarks are open during an annual historical pilgrimage. The restoration of the parish courthouse has been a recent addition to the rich heritage of the area.



Natchitoches is proud of its heritage. Unique architecture, including the largest assortment of Creole architecture in the Mississippi Valley, scenic beauty, the 33-mile long Cane River Lake meandering through the center of the city, a Historic Landmark District. Landmarks Melrose Plantation and Kate Chopin Home, Magnolia and Beau Fort Plantations and an abundance of bed & breakfast establishments capture the imagination of its historic past. Trolley and boat rides, a National Fish Hatchery and Aquarium, Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, National Center for Historic Preservation, museums, art galleries, theaters, and Fort St. Jean Baptiste are among the many attractions.

Parish Seat³Natchitoches

Major Cities (population over 5,000)

- Natchitoches

Parish Population⁴

2000.....	39,080
2003 (estimate)	39,002
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	57.9%
African-American	38.4%
Some other race.....	3.7%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race).....	1.4%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years	7.1%
5-14	14.1%
15-17	4.8%
18-19	6.9%
20-24	11.0%
25-64	44.0%
65 & over	12.1%

Geography and Statistics⁵

Average elevation	130ft.
Land area in square miles	1255
Water area in square miles	43

Climate

Average temperatures

Annual.....	68°
January	54°
July.....	82°
Annual average rainfall.....	54 inches

Labor Force (2001)⁶

Natchitoches Parish

Civilian.....	17,759
Employed	16,665
Unemployed.....	1,094
Unemployment.....	6.2%

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, Alexandria
- 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>.