

St. Mary 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

	St. Mary	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
ECONOMICS, 2000				
% All persons in poverty	23.6%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	31.5%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	8.6%	7.3%	5.8%	--
EDUCATION 2002-2003				
School Expenditure per Student	\$6,875	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	93.6%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	5.8%	7.0%	--	--
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	10.1	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care within first 3 months	73.9%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	69.1%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	10.6%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	20.4%	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)	NA	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	362.6	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	183.2	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	10.1*	5.8	5.1	1.0
STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)				
Heart	239.7	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	214.9	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	57.1	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	66.6	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	39.9	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Lower Respiratory	41.8	37.8	43.3	--
COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	7.3	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	2.9	2.1	1.5	0.8
HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004				
	Region 3	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	27.8%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI>30 (adults 20+)	31.4%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram within 2 years (women 40+)	75.7%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear within 3 years (women 18+)	85.1%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	73.9%	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}

St. Mary Parish encompasses part of what was originally Attakapas County. The first settlers arrived at the turn of the 19th century, to find wilderness inhabited by Attakapas Indians. The alluvial soil and numerous natural resources overshadowed the hardships, however, and the settlers remained. The parish was officially organized in 1811. Berwick, on the west bank of the Atchafalaya River, was laid out as a townsite in 1797 by Thomas Berwick.



The present boundaries of the parish date from 1868. In 1865 the French Acadians had come into the area to farm. Most settled along Bayous Teche and Boeuf. Soon afterward pioneers came from France and Spain, as well as Revolutionary War families from the eastern seaboard of the United States. This beautiful section of the state has had phenomenal population and industrial growth. It is known today as having the largest cypress mill in the world, the only known lighted seaplane landing strip in the nation, and the largest commercial helicopter base in the world. It is the biggest producer of carbon black, and its largest city, Morgan City, claims to be “the Shrimp Capital of the World.” St. Mary Parish has a wealth of attractions, recreational activities including fishing and camping, restaurants and accommodations including campgrounds and one state park to satisfy your “wanderlust.”

Parish Seat³ Franklin

Major Cities (population over 5,000)

- Morgan City
- Franklin
- Patterson

Parish Population⁴

2000.....	53,500
2003 (estimate)	52,357
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	62.8%
African-American	31.8%
Some other race.....	5.4%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race)	2.2%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years	7.4%
5-14	16.9%
15-17	5.4%
18-19	2.9%
20-24	5.9%
25-64	50.6%
65 & over	11.0%

Geography and Statistics⁵

Average elevation	5ft.
Land area in square miles	613
Water area in square miles	506

Climate

Average temperatures	
Annual	69°
January	61°
July	90°
Annual average rainfall.....	65 inches

Labor Force (2001)⁶

St. Mary Parish	
Civilian.....	23102
Employed	20827
Unemployed.....	2275
Unemployment.....	9.8%
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
- Southern University and A&M College
- Nicholls State University
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette

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. 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>.