“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”

LaFourche Parish

History
One of the largest parishes in square mile area, LaFourche was among the original 12 counties, organized on April 10, 1805. From the French word meaning fork, it is named for Bayou Lafourche, a fork of the Mississippi River. The Washa, Chawasha, and Chitimacha Indian tribes were the first inhabitants. When the Acadians saw this fertile land, they immediately settled and began farming, fishing, trapping, and cooking, all in which they still excel.

Culture and Recreation
Each parish in Louisiana has its own charm and uniqueness. LaFourche is not exception. It is considered to have the longest line village in the world — 65 miles of farms and homes fronting Bayou Lafourche, from Thibodaux to Leeville. The parish offers Cajun hospitality, plantation homes, antique shops, swamp tours, charter fishing, festivals, and Mardi Gras celebrations. In Thibodaux, visit the Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center or Laurel Valley Village, an operating 19th-century sugar plantation. See St. John’s Episcopal Church, the oldest Episcopal church west of the Mississippi. St. Joseph Catholic Cathedral, with its ornate artwork, is listed on the national Register of Historic Places. Nicholls State University features Allen J. Ellender Memorial Library with displays of the region including the Evangeline Baseball League Collection, Center for Traditional Louisiana Boat Building, and the Allen J. Ellender Archives. Travel south along LA 1 or LA 308, enjoying the bayou drive through Cajun villages on your way to the Gulf of Mexico. Port Fourchon’s public beach provides fishing, crabbing and beach combing. Sunsets are breathtaking in this birdwatcher’s paradise.

Parish Seat
Thibodaux

Major Cities (over 5,000 population)

| City               | Population 1990 | Population 1997 (estimate) |
|--------------------|----------------|--|---|
| Thibodaux          | 14,035          | 15,730                      |
| LaRose CDP*        | 5,772           | N/A                         |
| Raceland CDP*      | 5,564           | N/A                         |
LaFourche Parish Health Profile

Cut Off CDP*
1990 ...................................................................................................... 5,325
1997 (estimate) .................................................................................... N/A
*Census Designated Place

Parish Population 2
1990 ................................................................................................... 85,860
1997 (estimate) ................................................................................... 88,060
Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates) 6
White ............................................................................................. 83%
African American ............................................................................ 14%
Other ............................................................................................... 3%
Male .............................................................................................. 49%
Female ........................................................................................... 51%
Population age 0-4 ........................................................................... 8%
Population age 65 & Over .............................................................. 10%

Geography and Statistics 2
Average elevation .......................................................................... 15 ft.
Land area in square miles ......................................................... 1,084.8
Water area in square miles ....................................................... 387.5

Climate 2
Average temperatures
Annual ...................................................... 69°
January ............................................. 57°
July ...................................................... 82°
Annual average rainfall ........................................ 90.8 in.

Labor Force (1995) 1
Civilian ..................................................... 37,800
Employed .................................................. 35,900
Unemployed ............................................. 1,900
Unemployment ......................................... 5.1 %

Agriculture 1
Sugarcane, corn, potatoes, rice, cotton, fruit crops, oil and related industries, sugar refining and related industries, timber, seafood canning and boat building.

Educational Attainment (1990) 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 5th grade</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate or higher</td>
<td>56.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college or higher</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree or higher</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees 2

Private Employers
- Bollinger Machine Shop/Shipyard, Inc. (Shipbuilding) 750
- Thibodaux Regional Medical (Medical) 728
- North American Shipbuilding, Inc. (Shipbuilding) 625

Public Employers
- LaFourche Parish School Board (Education) 1,811
- Nicholls State University (Education) 728

Poverty and Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persons in poverty (1995)</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under age 18 in poverty</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita income (1996)</td>
<td>$17,512</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LaFourche Parish Health Profile

Colleges/Universities
(within one hour commute)
Nicholls State University, Thibodaux

Public Libraries

References
5. State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories http://smt.state.lib.la.us/