AMERICAN
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT

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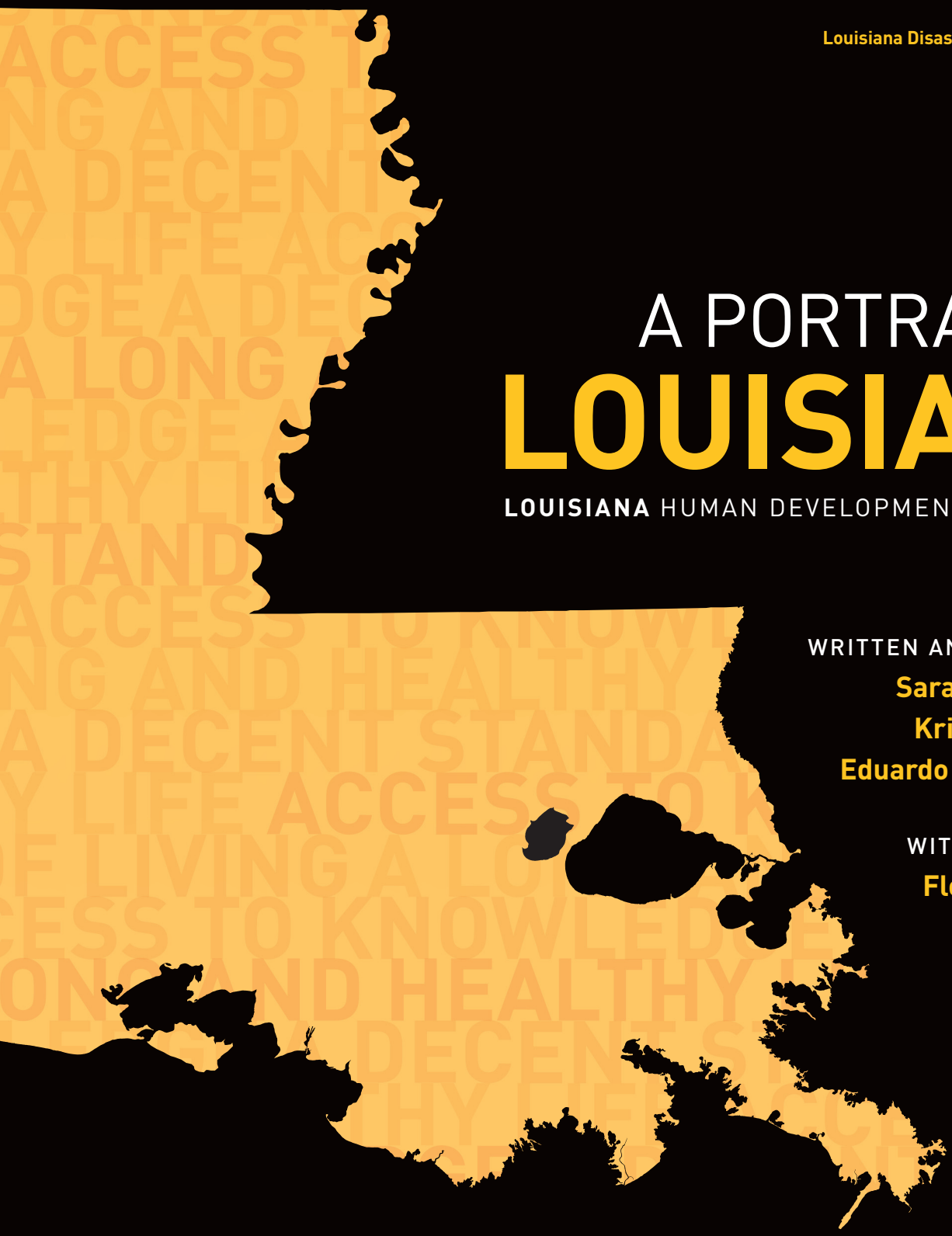

A PORTRAIT OF LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT **2009**

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WITH FOREWORD BY
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Acknowledgments

Sincere thanks to those whose efforts and contributions made this report possible: Ivye L. Allen, Michael Babwahsingh, Andrew Blejwas, Joan Borstell, Jaewon Chung, Evan Dody, Melissa Field, Davida Finger, Linetta Gilbert, Rhonda Jackson, Josh Jarrett, Bob Land, Jerry Maldonado, Alissa Neil, National Priorities Project, Ajulo Othow, Elizabeth Pastor, Ashley Shelton, Minor Sinclair, Trang Tu, Mark Vanlandingham, Garry VanPatter, Jasmine Waddell, Nancy Watts, and Landon R. Williams. Thanks to our valued colleagues at Humantific | UnderstandingLab for their gift of making sense of all the numbers and presenting information in a clear and engaging way.

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Foreword

by Flozell Daniels Jr.

The Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation (LDRF) works to transform the disasters caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita into an unprecedented opportunity for Louisiana's people. Americans and our neighbors abroad have provided financial and emotional support with the belief that their investment in Louisiana's most precious resource—its people—would be rewarded with progress and lives made better. For this, we are eternally grateful. This global sense of community, along with Louisianans' steadfast belief in an American dream that makes opportunity and self-sufficiency accessible to all citizens, has powered the state's recovery.

As this report is printed, LDRF and many others are commemorating the fourth anniversary of Katrina, honoring lives lost, celebrating accomplishments, and holding out great promise for the future. As I reflect on the loss of my home and irreplaceable family treasures, I am newly reminded of the sometimes weary, yet ultimately indomitable human spirit. This resilient spirit motivates us to create a "new" Louisiana—a Louisiana that strengthens our cultural assets, protects our natural resources, and transforms the lives of vulnerable families who live (or die) at the margins.

We have great success stories to tell—from our maturing status as the most prepared region in the country, to the burgeoning class of solution-minded innovators and social entrepreneurs, to the renaissance of civic participation that promises to stoke long-term improvements. Louisiana has below-average unemployment rates, in part due to significant stimulus and recovery dollars winding their way through the state, and has been recognized as Co-State of the Year by a business development group for its "vibrant economy." Our task is to build on these successes.

However, we must soberly assess the challenges yet before Louisiana. This report paints an often troubling picture of long-standing human disparities, some of which have been exacerbated by natural/man-allowed disaster and the global economic crisis. The report's Human Development (HD) Index is a user-friendly method of comparing the condition of communities. This analysis has great potential to guide policy-making processes and to support data-driven thinking that moves beyond the assumptions of historical parochialism.

As we continue making good of a bad situation, LDRF is proud to partner with Oxfam America and other organizations committed to fully recovering the lives of Gulf Coast citizens. Sincere thanks to the American Human Development Project for producing this first-ever Louisiana Human Development Report and to Oxfam America for supporting the work. I look forward to the continuation of our joint efforts to reimagine, renew, and rebuild a better Louisiana.

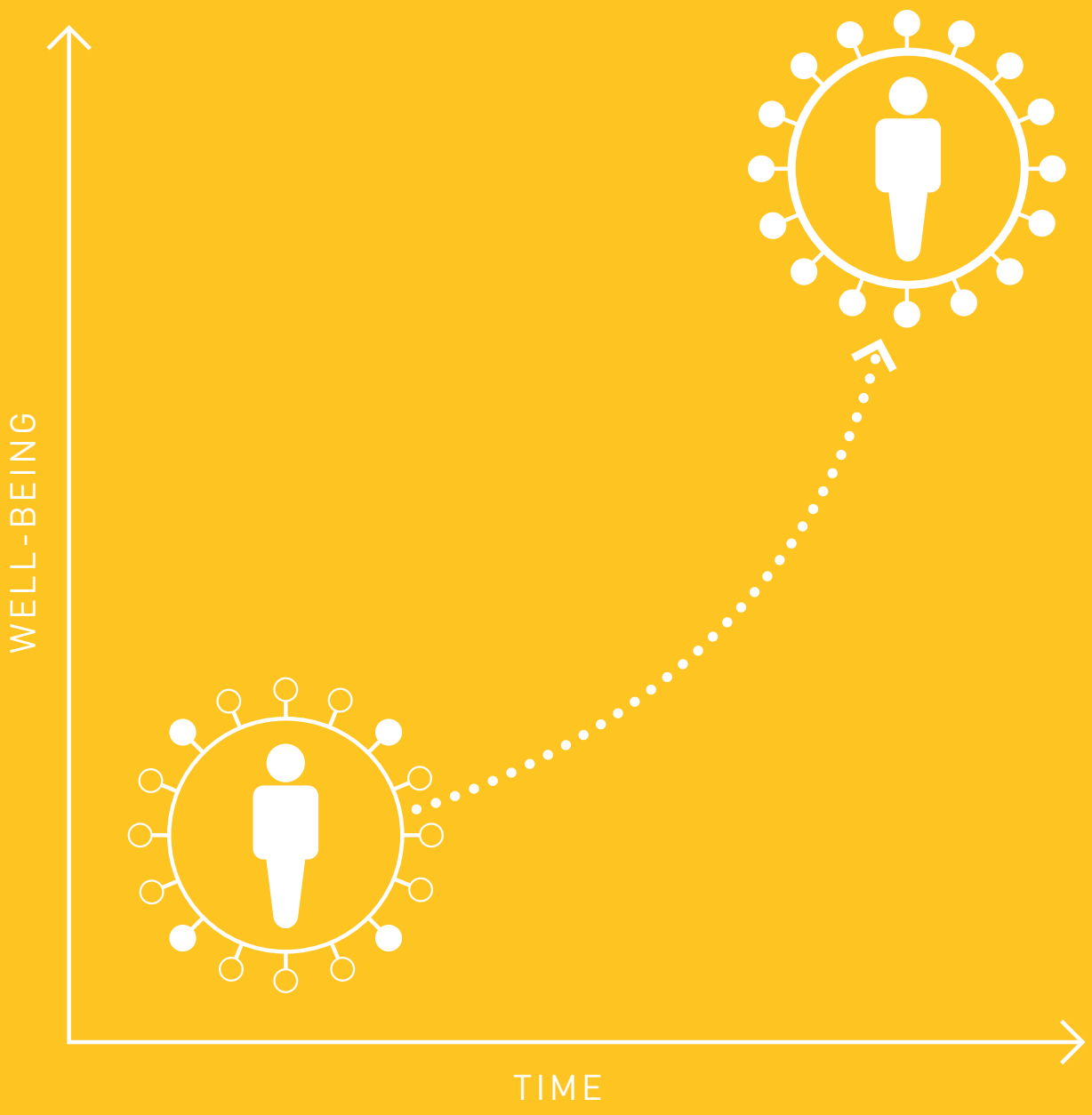
Flozell Daniels Jr.
President and CEO, Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation

Understanding Human Development

Human development is defined as **the process of enlarging people's freedoms and opportunities and improving their well-being**.

The human development model emphasizes the everyday experience of ordinary people, including the economic, social, legal, psychological, cultural, environmental, and political processes that shape the range of options available to us.

IN THIS SECTION:


WELL-BEING
TIME

Understanding Human Development

Louisiana in the First American Human Development Report

The Measure of America: American Human Development Report 2008–2009 used a well-honed international approach to assess the well-being of different population groups within the United States. It included a first-ever American Human Development (HD) Index, a numerical measure of well-being and opportunity made up of health, education, and income indicators. In the report, the American HD Index was presented disaggregated by state, by congressional district, by racial/ethnic group, and by gender, creating ranked lists for each.

Even before Hurricane Katrina, people in Louisiana lived as the average American lived **nearly two decades ago**.

Louisiana ranked poorly on the Index, which was based on pre-Katrina 2005 statistics. On the ranked list of all 50 states and Washington, DC, Louisiana was number forty-nine, followed only by West Virginia and Mississippi. The state was near the bottom in terms of life expectancy, and nearly one in five adults had not completed high school.

Louisiana faces many challenges, but the human development approach and Index provide innovative tools to help overcome them. In over 160 countries around the world, human development reports have proved to be powerful vehicles for questioning priorities, fostering accountability, pointing to successes, and shaping alternative solutions. It is the hope of the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation, the Foundation for the Mid South, Oxfam America, and the American Human Development Project that this report can stimulate dialogue and support action to reverse the trends of the past.

The American HD Index is expressed as a number from 0 to 10. In the 2008–2009 report, top-ranking Connecticut had an HD Index score of 6.37, which, if current trends continue, will be the average score of America as a whole in the year 2020. Louisiana, on the other hand, had a score of 3.85, about the same as that of the country as a whole in 1990. In other words, even before Hurricane Katrina, people in Louisiana lived as the average American lived nearly two decades ago in terms of life expectancy, educational opportunities, and income. Thus, a gap in human development of three decades—more than a generation of human progress—separated Louisiana and Connecticut.

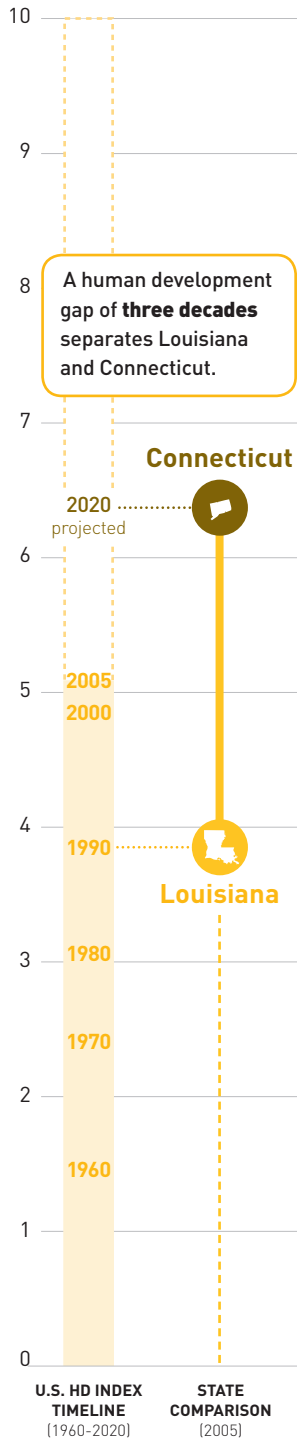
On the ranked list of the country's 436 congressional districts, the seven Louisiana districts spanned a wide range, from #289 to #426. Though all the districts were below the national average, there was nonetheless **significant variation**

in the overall level of human development within the state.

- Louisiana's 1st Congressional District, which includes the north and south shores of Lake Pontchartrain, ranked number 289, with **incomes and levels of educational attainment on par with the U.S. average**, though its performance was **below average in terms of health**.
- Louisiana's 5th District, the eastern part of the state from the Arkansas border to just northwest of Baton Rouge, near the bottom in 426th place, had human development levels similar to those found in the country as a whole circa 1983—**almost a quarter century behind the rest of the nation in terms of people's well-being**. When compared to the nation's top-ranked district (New York's 16th District), the gap was **more than half a century**.

A subsequent analysis looked at how well Americans of different racial and ethnic groups are doing from state to state. Although recent evidence suggests population shifts from immigration, official U.S. Census Bureau figures indicate that Louisiana overwhelmingly comprises whites (65.2 percent) and African Americans (32.3 percent). Nonetheless, the 2005 population of Asian Americans and Latinos was large enough to allow for some comparisons at the state level as well:

- **The gap in levels of well-being between whites and African Americans is larger** in Louisiana and three other states (Mississippi, Nebraska, and Alabama) than it is in **any other state**.
- Though whites are doing better than African Americans in Louisiana, **they are doing less well than whites in other states**. On the overall Index, whites in Louisiana rank 40th on the list of 50 states.
- In terms of African American well-being, among the 39 states with an African American population sufficiently large to be included in this analysis, **Louisiana ranks last on the overall HD index** as well as on the health index. The states with the highest HD Index scores for African Americans are Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, California, and Connecticut. An average African American in Maryland lives **four years longer**, earns **twice as much**, and is **twice as likely** to have a college degree as an African American in Louisiana.
- **Latinos in Louisiana have a slightly higher HD Index score than whites,** solely on the strength of a higher life expectancy, since they earn less and have less education. In addition to Louisiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Virginia, and Pennsylvania are the states with the smallest disparities between Latinos and whites.



- **Asian Americans have higher Index scores than whites in every U.S. state, including Louisiana.** However, compared to Asian Americans in other states, those living in Louisiana are doing less well. Out of the 29 states with a large enough Asian American population to be included in this analysis, Asian Americans in Louisiana ranked #24 overall and had lower health Index scores than Asian Americans in any other state.

There are a great many reasons to be **optimistic** about the future of Louisiana.

The pre-Katrina 2005 data told a sobering tale. The human development level of Louisiana compared with that of the rest of the country, as well as the racial disparities within the state, indicated significant and widespread vulnerabilities. These preexisting vulnerabilities writ large were everywhere in evidence when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit. This report takes an even deeper look at the human development situation in the state, this time using post-Katrina data from 2007—the latest year for which all indicators are available—focusing exclusively on Louisiana, and taking the analysis to the parish level. What the analysis reveals is a distribution of vulnerability and resilience striking in its variation and closely tied to race.

Americans were shocked by images of poverty and racial segregation in August 2005, but it is important to keep in mind that sharp disparities similar to those laid bare by Katrina are hiding in plain sight across the United States. Katrina was not the first time that extreme weather and underlying socioeconomic vulnerabilities met head-on with tragic results. In July 1995, for example, over 700 people died during a severe heat wave in Chicago; their suffering was not televised, and the rest of the nation remained largely unaware of this slow-motion disaster taking place in hundreds of un-air-conditioned Chicago apartments.[1] Disproportionately at risk during this Chicago heat wave were African Americans, the poor, the elderly, the infirm or disabled, and those who lived alone—the same groups of Americans most vulnerable during Katrina.

Across America, significant numbers of people have poor access to health care, to quality education, and to jobs that offer security and self-sufficiency. Neighborhood residential segregation by income and race is widespread and on the rise in the Northeast and the Midwest; those regions are now home to nine of the 10 most segregated cities in the country. The South is moving in the opposite direction, a fact that may surprise many Americans: it is becoming more integrated and is home to eight of the country's 10 least-segregated cities.[2] Pre-Katrina New Orleans was only slightly more segregated by race than the national average. **In short, the problems of extreme vulnerability, social exclusion, residential segregation, and human poverty that Katrina brought to light are not confined to Louisiana or to the South; they are challenges endemic to our country as a whole.**

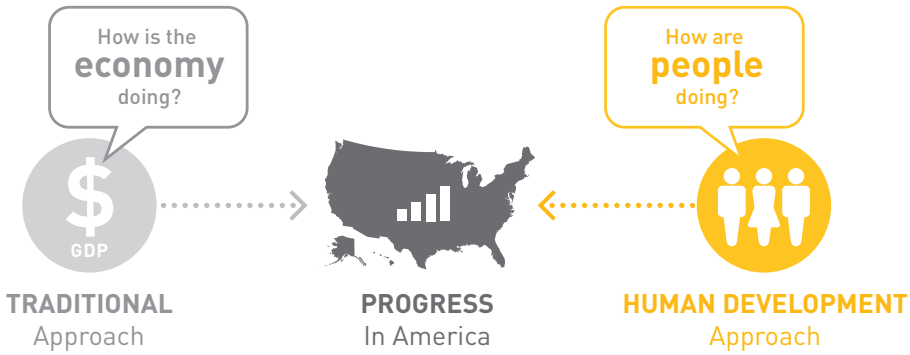
But there are a great many reasons to be optimistic about the future of Louisiana. First and foremost, most Louisianans themselves are hopeful. For instance, three in four people in Orleans Parish report feeling optimistic about the future, and a majority feel that recovery is moving in the right direction, although frustration at the slow pace of progress is widespread.[3] The second reason is

that the state has been somewhat buffered from the national economic downturn by the large-scale rebuilding effort, which has led to an influx of resources and created jobs in home building and infrastructure repair.[4] The unemployment rate in Louisiana in May 2009 was 6.6 percent, compared to the national rate of 9.4 percent. The third reason is that Louisiana has a wealth of indigenous resources that bolster resilience and tie residents to the state in profound ways: a unique cultural heritage with its own musical, linguistic, culinary, and artistic traditions; a unique physical environment with the nation's largest wetlands and unmatched biodiversity; and a population with a uniquely high proportion of lifelong residents. The Census Bureau found that about 80 percent of Louisiana's current residents had been born in state, the highest proportion of any state in the nation.[5] A significant share of this population has roots in Louisiana that are generations deep. **People so committed to a place, a cultural heritage, and a way of life can achieve great things if the resources and leadership are there to support them.**

About Human Development

Human development is about what ordinary people can do and be. It is formally defined as **the process of enlarging people's freedoms and opportunities and improving their well-being**. The human development concept is the brainchild of the late economist Mahbub ul Haq. At the World Bank in the 1970s, and later as minister of finance in Pakistan, Dr. Haq argued that **existing measures of human progress failed to account for the true purpose of development—to improve people's lives**. In particular, he believed that the commonly used measure of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was an inadequate measure of well-being.

Two Approaches to Understanding Progress in America



The human development model emphasizes the **everyday experiences of ordinary people**.

Dr. Haq often cited the example of Vietnam and Pakistan; both had the same GDP per capita, around $2,000 per year, but Vietnamese, on average, lived a full eight years longer than Pakistanis and were twice as likely to be able to read. In other words, money alone did not tell the whole story; the same income was buy-

ing two dramatically different levels of human well-being. Working with Harvard economist and Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen and other gifted economists, in 1990 Dr. Haq published the first Human Development Report, which had been commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme.

The human development model emphasizes the **everyday experiences of everyday people**, including the economic, social, legal, psychological, cultural, environmental, and political processes that define the range of options available to us. It encompasses numerous factors that shape people's opportunities and enable them to live lives of meaning, choice, and value. These factors include the capability to participate in the decisions that affect one's life, to earn a decent living, to have access to a quality education and affordable health care, to practice one's religious beliefs, to enjoy cultural liberty, to live free from fear and violence—and many more.

This approach soon gained support as a useful tool for analyzing the well-being of large populations. In addition to the global Human Development Report that comes out annually, over 500 national and regional reports have been produced in more than 160 countries in the last 15 years, with an impressive record of spurring public debate and political engagement.

The HD Index allows for a **shared frame of reference** in which to assess well-being.

The hallmark of the Human Development series is the **Human Development (HD) Index**, a measure that reflects what most people believe are the basic ingredients of human well-being: health, education, and income. Yet unlike the many existing measurements used to assess health, education, or income alone, the Index combines these factors into one easy-to-understand number. This more comprehensive measure broadens the analysis of the interlocking factors that fuel advantage and disadvantage, create opportunities, and determine life chances. Because it uses easily understood indicators that are comparable across geographic regions and over time, the Index also allows for a shared frame of reference in which to assess well-being and permits apples-to-apples comparisons from place to place as well from as year to year.

Like the global report and other national reports, the American Human Development Report 2008–2009 includes an HD Index. Human development is a broad concept, and thus the report is far-reaching; the Index, however, is a summary measure of just **three fundamental human development dimensions: life expectancy**, as a key indicator of health; **school enrollment** and **educational degree attainment**, as a measure of access to knowledge; **median personal earnings**, as a measure of material well-being.

These three sets of indicators are then combined into a single number that falls on a scale from 0 to 10, with 10 being the highest. The American Human Development Index was calculated using official 2005 government statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and underwent a robust, peer-reviewed analysis. The three components of the Index—longevity, knowledge, and income—are valued by people the world over as

building blocks of a good life. They are weighted equally in the Index. (For a more detailed explanation of the Index, see the Methodological Notes on page 82.)

This report applies the same Index to measure well-being, but uses 2007, post-Katrina data rather than 2005 data and focuses only on population groups within Louisiana.

BOX 1 Human Development Index: Louisiana

All of the data used to calculate the HD Index for Louisiana are from 2007. Due to the catastrophic effects of the 2005 hurricane season on the availability and collection of data in Louisiana, some caution is warranted in this data's use.

A Long and Healthy Life is measured using life expectancy at birth, calculated from mortality data from the State Center for Health Statistics of Louisiana's Office of Public Health and population data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Bridged-Race Population Estimates, 2007.

Access to Knowledge is measured using two indicators: school enrollment for the population age 3 and older, and educational degree attainment for the population 25 years and older. Both indicators are from the American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005–2007.

A Decent Standard of Living is measured using median earnings of all full- and part-time workers 16 years and older from the American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005–2007.

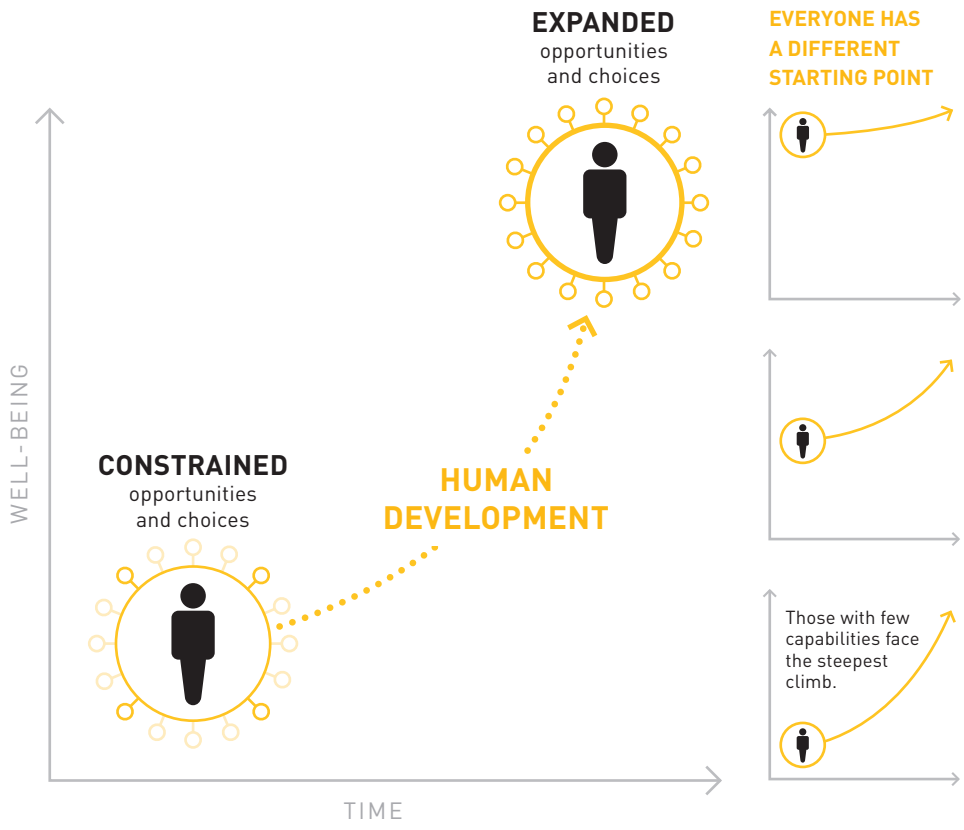
The indicator for **A Decent Standard of Living**—**median personal earnings**—is arguably problematic in that it does not account for differences in the cost of living among different locales or between urban and rural areas. The cost of living, on average, is lower in the South than in other parts of the country, though the post-Katrina spike in housing and insurance costs significantly increased the cost of living in affected areas. Nonetheless, neither the cost of living nor median earnings in Louisiana are so much lower than the national average that wages and salaries cease to be meaningful indicators of material well-being. Moreover, the existing methods for calculating cost of living have shortcomings: they are not comparable from place to place, they focus on the more affluent, and they do not adequately account for rural communities, the poor, or the elderly. **Median personal earnings, therefore, though not a perfect indicator, is a sound, defensible proxy for standard of living**.

What Is Human Development?

Human development is about the real freedom ordinary people have to decide who to be, what to do, and how to live. These diagrams illustrate the central ideas of human development and visually depict how we measure it using the Human Development Index.

CONCEPT

Human development is defined as **the process of enlarging people's freedoms and opportunities and improving their well-being.**



JOURNEY

Human development can be understood as a journey. Even before one's life begins, **parents** play a role in setting the trajectory of one's human development. Numerous factors and experiences alter the course of one's journey through life, **helping** or **hindering** one's ability to live a life of choice and value.

CAPABILITIES

Capabilities—**what people can do and what they can become**—are central to the human development concept. Many different capabilities are essential to a fulfilling life.

Our capabilities are expanded both by our own efforts and by the institutions and conditions of our society.

DIMENSIONS

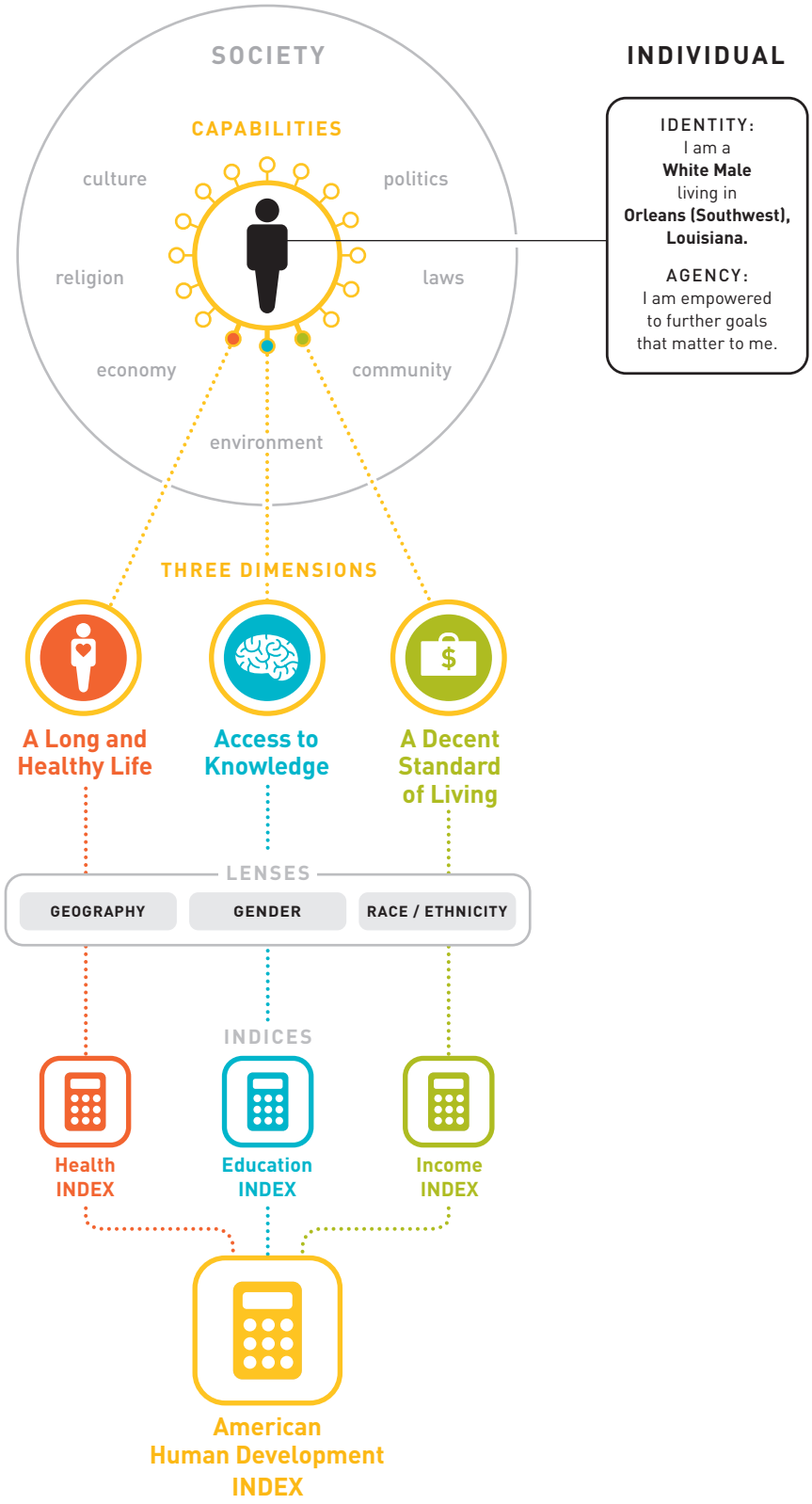
Of all the capabilities, this report focuses in-depth on just **three**, all of which are relatively easy to measure. They are considered core human development dimensions.

LENSES

The results of the Human Development Index for Louisiana reveal variations among parishes; between women and men; and among racial and ethnic groups.

INDEX

The modified Human Development Index for Louisiana measures the same three basic dimensions as the standard HD Index, but it uses **different indicators** to better reflect the local context and to maximize use of available data. The Index will serve as a **baseline** for monitoring future progress.

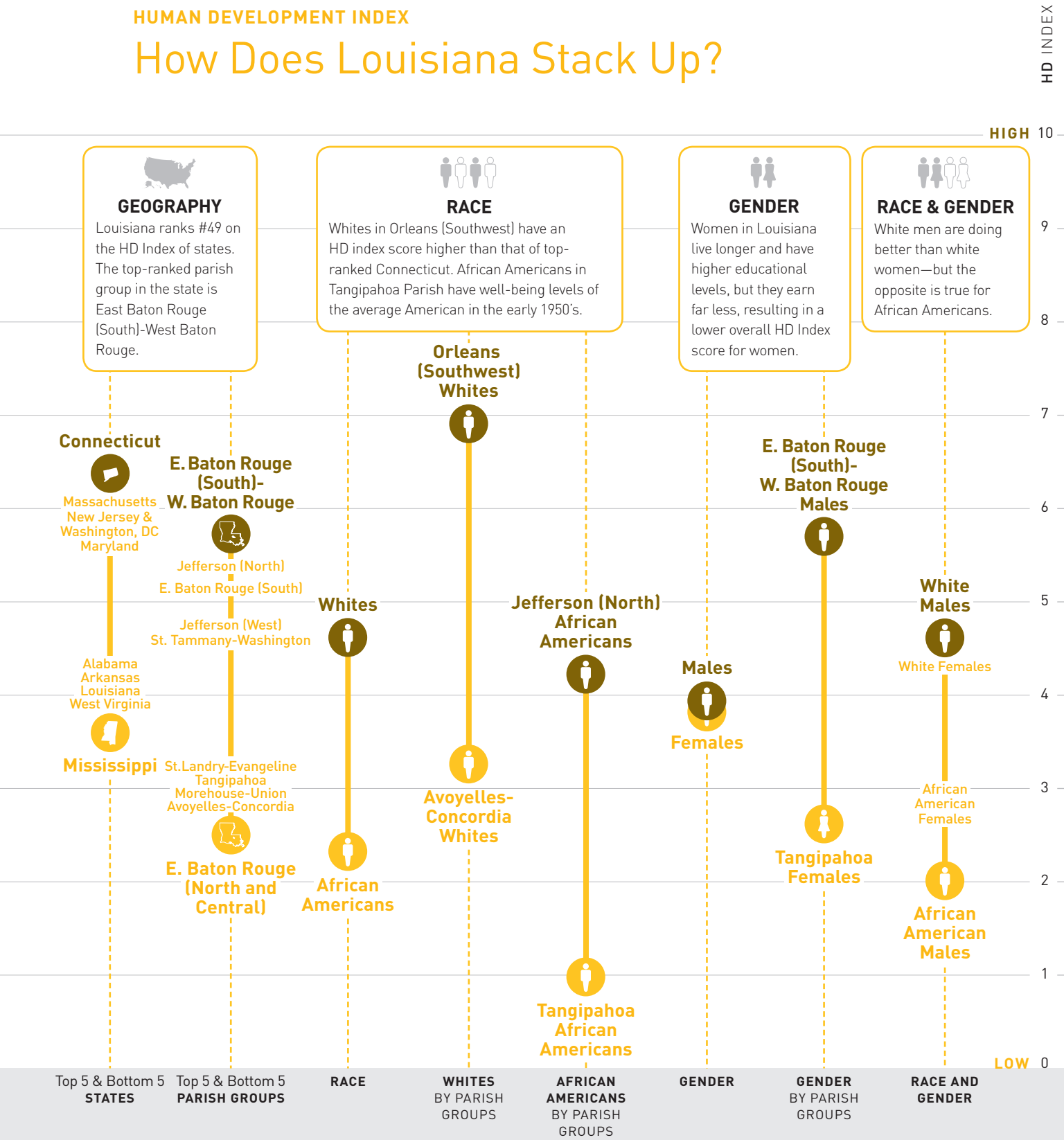


Louisiana: What the Human Development Index Reveals

IN THIS SECTION:

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

How Does Louisiana Stack Up?



Note: The Human Development Index for Louisiana uses 2007 data; for the remaining U.S. states, the Index uses 2005 data.

Louisiana: What the Human Development Index Reveals

Life span in Louisiana increased **more than two years** from 1990 to 2007.

Human Development Trends in the State since 1990

One key to understanding human development in Louisiana today is to look at progress over time. The historical trend from 1990 to 2007 reveals a mixed picture (see TABLE 1).

- **Life span increased more than two years** during this 17-year period, from 73.1 years to 75.3 years.
- **The rate at which young people are graduating from high school improved markedly since 1990**, when almost one-third of those 25 years and older did not have a high school diploma or its equivalent, to today, when that rate has gone down to one-fifth. The attainment of bachelor's and graduate or professional degrees edged up slightly.
- **Inflation-adjusted median earnings in Louisiana, defined as the wages and salaries of all full- and part-time workers over age 16, barely increased during this period.** They fell during the first half of the 2000s and then grew in the last two years. Median personal earnings in Louisiana now are $24,376—$4,264 lower than the national average of $28,640.

TABLE 1 Louisiana Human Development Index, 1990–2007

YEAR	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (%)	AT LEAST HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (%)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (%)	GRADUATE DEGREE (%)	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT SCORE	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (%)	MEDIAN EARNINGS (2007 dollars)	HEALTH INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	INCOME INDEX
2007	3.92	75.3	20.6	79.4	20.1	6.8	3.8	82.9	24,376	3.9	3.9	3.9
2005	3.85	74.0	19.5	80.5	20.6	7.1	3.9	83.7	23,467	3.3	4.1	4.1
2000	3.87	74.4	25.2	74.8	18.7	6.5	3.3	84.7	25,541	3.5	3.9	4.3
1990	3.15	73.1	31.7	68.2	16.0	5.5	2.6	80.3	23,122	3.0	2.9	3.6

See Methodological Notes for sources and full details.

Presenting the Human Development Index for Louisiana

Geography, Race, and Gender

VARIATION BY GEOGRAPHY

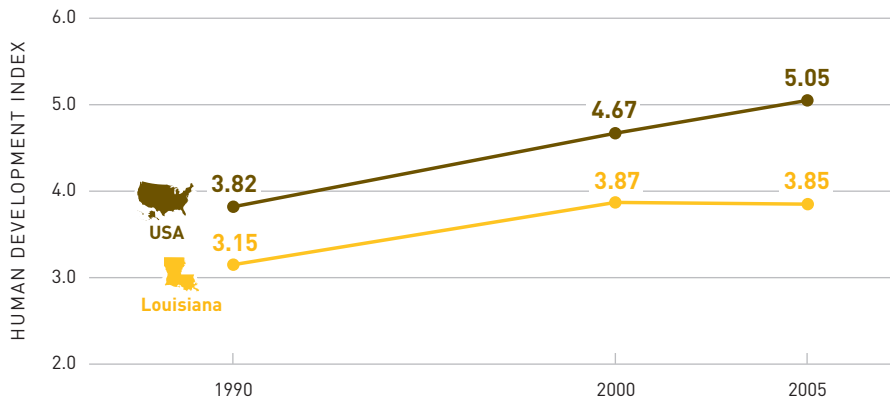
Louisiana comprises 64 parishes. The populations of most of them are too small to allow for statistically robust data collection in a number of areas. For these small parishes, the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), **the source of data for the education and income indicators for the HD Index for Louisiana, presents data by groups of adjacent parishes**. Because data comparisons are best made among population groups of similar size, larger parishes are presented either on their own or split into parts. Louisiana has a total of 36 of these parish groupings. Each one contained at least 100,000 people in 2000, but due to the large population shifts after Katrina, some of them have smaller populations today.

The five most populous parishes in the state—Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Tammany—are split into two or more groups. The remaining parishes stand alone or are combined into groupings of two to 10 adjacent parishes; each of the multiparish groupings is referred to in this report by the names of its two most populous parishes[6] (see page 93).

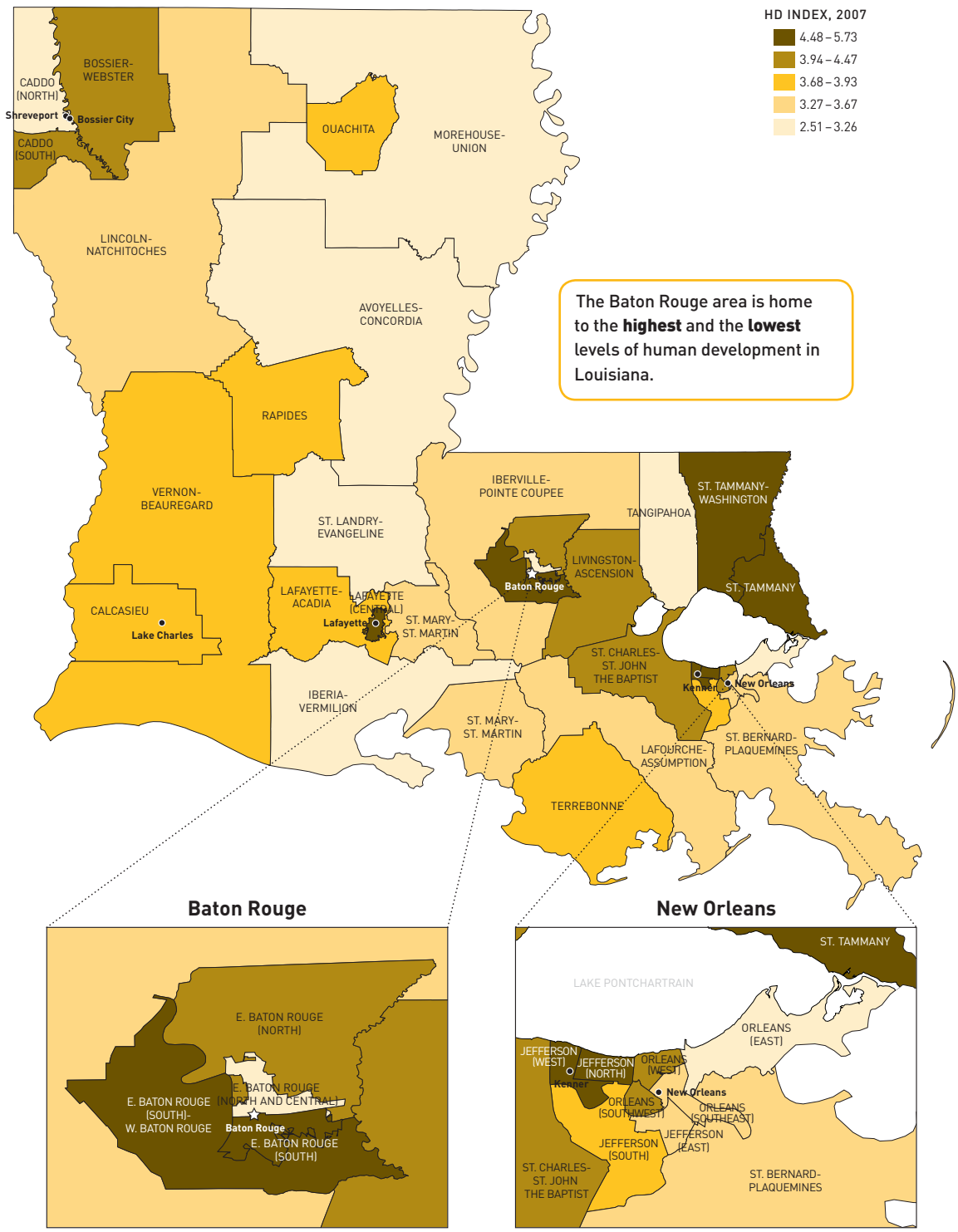
The Human Development Index for Louisiana is contained in TABLE 2. MAP 1 provides a snapshot of how people are faring in different parts of the state, with the darker colors indicating higher levels of human well-being.

The distance separating the top and bottom tracts on the overall Index is particularly striking because **both extremes are found in the Baton Rouge area**.

FIGURE 1 **American HD Index as compared with Louisiana HD Index, 1990–2005**



MAP 1 Human Development Index, Louisiana by Parish Groups, 2007



At the top of the scale are three parish groupings that have human development levels above the U.S. average of 5.05: East Baton Rouge (South)–West Baton Rouge, Jefferson (North), and East Baton Rouge (South).[7]

Three parish groupings have human development levels **above the U.S. average**.

- **East Baton Rouge (South)–West Baton Rouge** is the #1 area in the state on the HD Index (5.73). It has the highest median earnings (**$32,631**), the lowest percentage of adults without a high school diploma (**8.8 percent**), and the second-highest life expectancy (**77.3 years**). Its population is approximately 70 percent white, 23 percent African American, and 5 percent Latino.
- Next is **Jefferson (North)**, with an HD Index of 5.39. This area has the second-highest median earnings (**$31,166**) and the third-highest life expectancy (**76.8 years**) in the state. Jefferson (North) is approximately 78 percent white, 7 percent African American, 11 percent Latino, and 3 percent Asian American.
- **East Baton Rouge (South)**, with an HD Index of 5.12, has the highest educational level, with the largest percentage of adults with bachelor's degrees (**26 percent**) and graduate degrees (**nearly 20 percent**). It doesn't fare as well on income, however, with median earnings of only **$23,841**. East Baton Rouge (South) is approximately 65 percent white, 26 percent African American, 4 percent Asian American, and 2 percent Latino.

At the other end of the spectrum are Morehouse-Union, Avoyelles-Concordia, and East Baton Rouge (North and Central) parish groups.

- **Morehouse-Union** (a group of 10 northeast parishes on the Mississippi Delta) and Avoyelles-Concordia (which also includes Grant, Winn, LaSalle, and Catahoula parishes) do not rank last in any category, but are near the bottom in all of them, with an overall HD Index of 3.01 and 2.76, respectively; median earnings below **$21,500**; almost **30 percent** of adults without a high school diploma; and life expectancies **less than 74 years**. Morehouse-Union is 60 percent white, 38 percent African American, and 1 percent Latino; and Avoyelles-Concordia is 70 percent white, 28 percent African American, 1 percent American Indian, and 1 percent Latino.
- **East Baton Rouge (North and Central)**, the area with the lowest HD Index score in the state (2.51), ranks last on income (**$16,398**) and has the third-lowest life expectancy (**72.7 years**). Its population is 88 percent African American, 9 percent white, 1.5 percent Asian American, and 1 percent Latino.

TABLE 2 Louisiana Human Development Index by PARISH GROUP, 2007

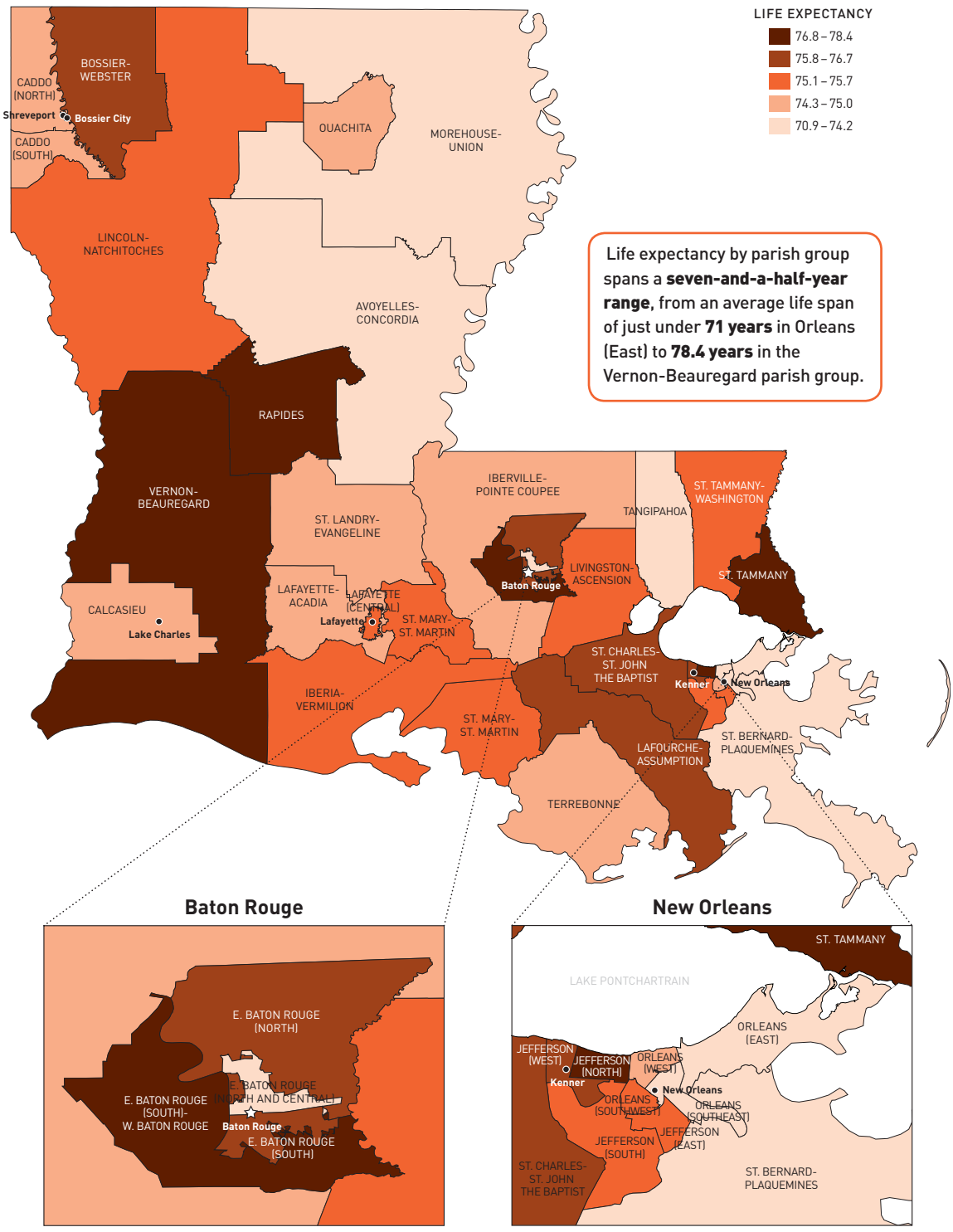
RANK	PARISH GROUP	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (%)	AT LEAST HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (%)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (%)	GRADUATE DEGREE (%)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (%)	MEDIAN EARNINGS (2007 dollars)
	Louisiana Total	3.92	75.3	20.6	79.4	20.1	6.8	82.9	24,376
1	**E. Baton Rouge (South)-W. Baton Rouge**	5.73	77.3	8.8	91.2	40.6	14.7	89.9	32,631
2	**Jefferson (North)**	5.39	76.8	12.2	87.8	33.6	11.5	91.2	31,166
3	**E. Baton Rouge (South)**	5.12	76.7	9.4	90.6	45.7	19.7	91.8	23,841
4	**Jefferson (West)**	4.71	76.1	16.9	83.1	25.2	8.4	86.9	28,749
5	**St. Tammany-Washington**	4.59	75.3	13.1	86.9	30.1	9.8	86.6	27,011
5	**St. Tammany**	4.59	76.8	16.7	83.3	23.1	7.2	81.2	29,219
7	**Lafayette (Central)**	4.54	75.7	14.4	85.6	34.2	11.0	88.1	24,556
8	**E. Baton Rouge (North)**	4.47	76.0	14.2	85.8	18.8	5.6	87.4	26,935
8	**Orleans (West)**	4.47	74.2	15.7	84.3	33.2	13.7	95.1	23,106
10	**Orleans (Southwest)**	4.42	75.0	18.5	81.5	35.4	16.5	93.8	21,816
11	**Livingston-Ascension**	4.33	75.7	16.0	84.0	16.3	4.0	80.2	29,949
12	**Caddo (South)**	4.20	74.9	16.1	83.9	24.2	8.6	87.4	24,577
12	**St. Charles-St. John the Baptist**	4.20	76.3	17.4	82.6	16.6	4.2	81.6	27,022
14	**Bossier-Webster**	3.99	76.3	17.5	82.5	18.3	5.7	78.3	25,430
15	**Ouachita**	3.93	75.0	18.6	81.4	22.5	7.0	86.6	22,837
16	**Jefferson (South)**	3.82	75.4	25.0	75.0	13.5	4.6	84.3	24,782
17	**Rapides**	3.79	76.9	18.9	81.1	18.7	6.1	79.0	22,436
17	**Vernon-Beauregard**	3.79	78.4	20.6	79.4	12.9	4.1	74.3	23,400
19	**Lafayette-Acadia**	3.77	75.0	24.0	76.0	15.5	4.3	80.8	25,753
20	**Calcasieu**	3.68	74.4	19.7	80.3	18.4	6.3	83.7	23,104
20	**Terrebonne**	3.68	75.0	28.2	71.8	13.6	4.4	78.4	26,729
22	**Jefferson (East)**	3.67	75.1	23.2	76.8	15.3	4.5	81.3	24,199
23	**Lafourche-Assumption**	3.66	76.2	31.1	68.9	12.6	4.1	75.8	26,481
24	**Lincoln-Natchitoches**	3.54	75.7	21.7	78.3	18.0	7.3	87.1	19,241
25	**St. Bernard-Plaquemines**	3.46	72.8	25.1	74.9	10.1	2.8	83.2	26,070
26	**Iberville-Pointe Coupee**	3.41	75.0	26.9	73.1	12.4	3.5	83.0	22,306
27	**Orleans (Southeast)**	3.37	72.9	21.5	78.5	25.6	9.8	84.8	20,559
28	**St. Mary-St. Martin**	3.31	75.5	30.5	69.5	10.0	2.7	80.5	22,368
29	**Caddo (North)**	3.26	74.5	20.1	79.9	20.3	7.0	81.3	19,715
30	**Iberia-Vermilion**	3.17	75.4	26.5	73.5	11.7	2.7	75.7	22,085
31	**Orleans (East)**	3.13	70.9	21.6	78.4	17.6	5.4	85.3	22,323
32	**St. Landry-Evangeline**	3.06	74.8	31.4	68.6	11.5	3.4	76.7	22,105
33	**Tangipahoa**	3.05	72.9	23.1	76.9	17.9	6.0	76.3	22,220
34	**Morehouse-Union**	3.01	73.8	28.1	71.9	11.7	3.7	79.7	21,420
35	**Avoyelles-Concordia**	2.76	73.4	29.2	70.8	10.0	3.0	78.0	20,684
36	**E. Baton Rouge (North and Central)**	2.51	72.7	26.7	73.3	14.2	4.8	85.0	16,398

The gaps between the top- and bottom-ranked areas on the overall Index as well as in health, education, and income are significant.

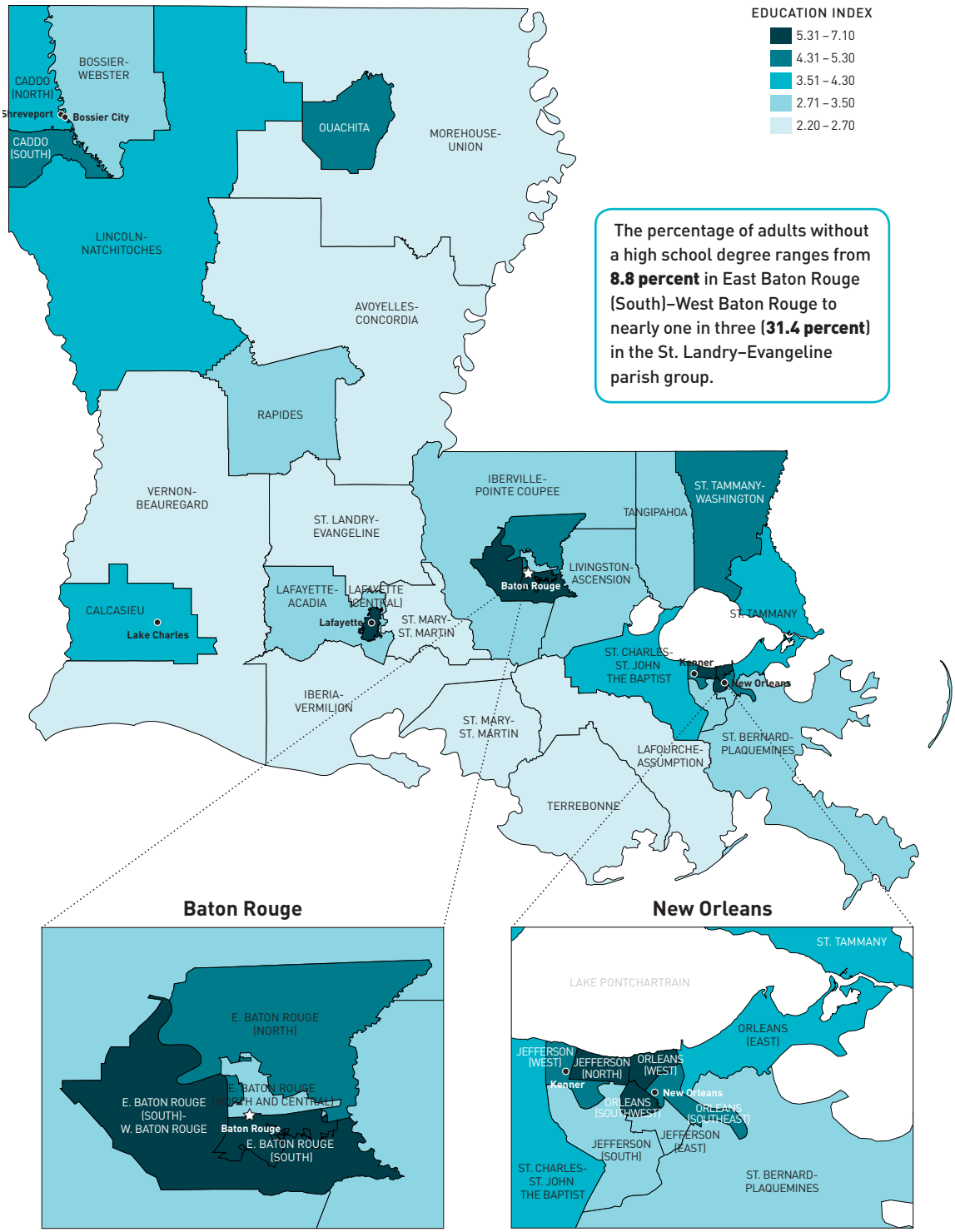
- **The distance separating the top and bottom tracts on the overall Index is particularly striking because both extremes are found in the Baton Rouge area.**[8] A resident of East Baton Rouge (South)–West Baton Rouge can expect to live, on average, nearly half a decade longer, earns twice as much, is almost three times more likely to have a bachelor's degree, and is three times less likely to have dropped out of high school than a resident of East Baton Rouge (North and Central). With an HD Index score of 2.51, Louisianans living in East Baton Rouge (North and Central) have a human development level similar to that of the average American more than three decades ago.
- Life expectancy by parish groups spans a **seven-and-a-half-year range**, from an average life span of just under 71 years in Orleans (East) to 78.4 years in the Vernon-Beauregard parish group, five mostly rural parishes on or near Texas's eastern border (see **MAP 2**).
- In education, the high school dropout rate ranges from **8.8 percent** of adults in East Baton Rouge (South)–West Baton Rouge to **nearly one in three (31.4 percent)** in the St. Landry–Evangeline parish group. And while only 10 percent of adults in the Avoyelles-Concordia parish group have a bachelor's degree, 45.7 percent do in East Baton Rouge (South) (see **MAP 3**).
- Median personal earnings span from **$16,398** in East Baton Rouge (North and Central) to **double that sum—$32,631**—in East Baton Rouge (South)–West Baton Rouge (see **MAP 4**).

Residents of East Baton Rouge (North and Central) have a human development level similar to that of the average American **more than three decades ago**.

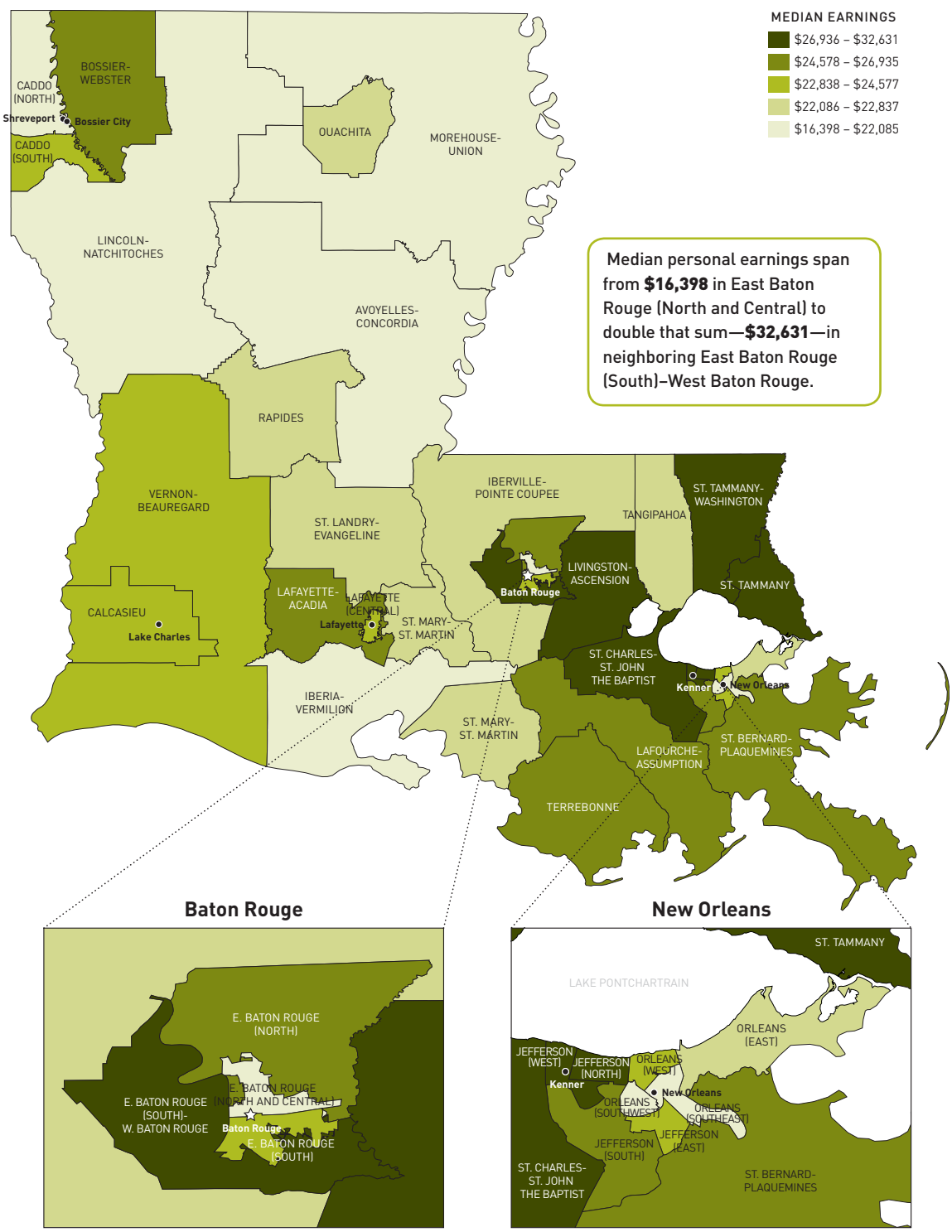
MAP 2 Life Expectancy by Parish Groups, 2007



MAP 3 Education Index by Parish Groups, 2007



MAP 4 Median Personal Earnings by Parish Groups, 2007



VARIATION BY RACE

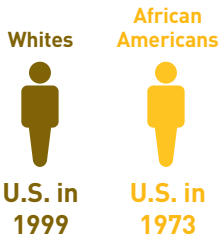
Hurricane Katrina was a disaster spurred by extreme weather, but its scale and magnitude can be traced clearly to the actions and inactions of humankind. In this sense, Katrina is not without parallel in the history of American disasters. The Dust Bowl resulted when a severe drought hit the midwestern and southern plains in 1931, causing grasses and crops to die and allowing topsoil, already badly eroded from overcropping, overgrazing, and other unsustainable practices, to take to the air in "black blizzards" of dust. This combined ecological/human disaster ultimately led to the displacement of 2.5 million people.[9] Internationally, a tragic abundance of parallels exist as well, such as the 2008 earthquake in Sichuan, China, which left 90,000 people dead or missing and led to a public outcry about the shoddy construction of schools serving the poor. An estimated 10,000 children were killed in these schools or dormitory rooms, often while nearby schools for educating children of elite families remained standing. Geologists believe that the weight of a man-made reservoir put pressure on a fault line, spurring the earthquake.

In addition to showing the hand of humankind in many "natural" disasters, evidence like this from around the world also shows that **socially excluded groups suffer the most both during the disaster and in the rebuilding**. Catastrophic events like Katrina cause great harm to rich and poor alike, but the most marginalized tend to bear the brunt of extreme events because they often live in poorly constructed housing in the most vulnerable zones; they tend to start out, on average, in worse health; and they have less education and fewer financial resources and social networks to call upon during recovery—all essential capabilities that increase options, particularly during a crisis.

Thus, it will come as no surprise that the racial inequality that existed in Louisiana before the hurricane season of 2005 persists today, and in some cases has deepened; the numbers bear this out. **But what may perhaps be surprising is the extraordinarily wide divide in the most basic areas of human existence—survival itself, high school graduation, and income adequate for a decent standard of living.**

Some in the state today are experiencing well-being at the highest levels. White Louisianans living in Orleans Southwest (including the neighborhoods of Uptown, Carrollton, Central City, and the Garden District) have an HD Index score (6.91) that bests the top-ranked U.S. state of Connecticut (6.37). At the other end of the spectrum, African Americans living in rural Tangipahoa Parish have an HD Index score of 0.98, which corresponds to the human development level of the average American in the early 1950s. Orleans Southwest whites can expect to live, on average, a full decade longer, are almost nine times less likely to have dropped out of high school and more than six times more likely to have a college degree, and earn two and a half times more than Tangipahoa African Americans (see TABLE 3).

Comparison of Human Development Levels by Race



Catastrophic events like Katrina cause great harm to **rich and poor alike**, but the **most marginalized** tend to bear the brunt of extreme events.

TABLE 3 Louisiana Human Development Index by RACE and RACE/PARISH GROUP, 2007

GROUPING	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (%)	AT LEAST HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (%)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (%)	GRADUATE DEGREE (%)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (%)	MEDIAN EARNINGS (2007 dollars)
RACE								
Whites	4.62	76.6	16.6	83.4	23.3	7.8	83.2	28,912
African Americans	2.32	72.2	29.2	70.8	11.8	3.8	82.1	17,010
RACE/PARISH GROUP								
Orleans (Southwest) whites	6.91	79.6	4.4	95.6	61.3	28.7	104.1	31,351
Tangipahoa African Americans	0.98	69.9	38.5	61.5	9.3	3.4	72.1	12,703

What about other ethnic groups?

The analysis of human development in this report focuses primarily on whites and African Americans. Though Louisiana is also home to Latinos, American Indians, Vietnamese Americans, and people of other ethnicities, insufficient data on these comparatively small populations make it impossible to calculate comparable, statistically reliable Index scores for them. As data collection, both at the state level and through the American Community Survey, continues to improve, the American Human Development Project will be able to more accurately reflect the well-being of these groups in the Index.

For whites, the top-five parish groups are located in the state's largest cities, New Orleans and Baton Rouge, with Orleans Southwest and Orleans West (including Lakeview, Gentilly, Bywater, and Mid-City) at the number-one and number-two spots, respectively. The bottom-five parish groups are Tangipahoa, St. Bernard–Plaquemines, St. Landry–Evangeline parishes, Iberia-Vermilion parishes, and the Avoyelles-Concordia parish group. A white resident of top-ranked Orleans Southwest lives almost six years longer, is more than five times more likely to have a bachelor's degree, and earns 25 percent more than a white resident in the Avoyelles-Concordia parish group.

For African Americans, the top-five parish groups are also located in or around New Orleans and Baton Rouge, with Jefferson (North) and St. Tammany, in Greater New Orleans, taking the number-one and number-two positions. St. Bernard–Plaquemines, Avoyelles-Concordia, Morehouse-Union, Lafourche-Assumption, and Tangipahoa are the bottom-five parish groups. African Americans living in top-ranked Jefferson (North) live, on average, one additional year, are almost three times more likely to have a bachelor's degree, and earn twice as much as their Tangipahoa counterparts.

There is little overlap between these two groups on our well-being scales. **Whites who are the worst off are still better off than the vast majority of African Americans.** Whites living in bottom-ranked Avoyelles-Concordia have a higher HD Index score than African Americans in all but four parish groups: Jefferson (North), St. Tammany, East Baton Rouge (North), and East Baton Rouge (South)–West Baton Rouge.

Turning to the subcomponents that make up the Index, white **life expectancy at birth** in Louisiana today is, on average, 76.6 years, as compared with 72.2 years for African Americans. A life span of 72.2 years is on par with the U.S. average in the mid-1970s and is shorter than the life expectancy in Colombia, Vietnam, and Venezuela today.[10]

Overall, whites in Louisiana can expect to outlive African Americans by more than four years. The gap is larger when considering geography and race combined. Whites in Orleans Parish outlive their African American neighbors, on average, by a full decade. African American life span in Orleans, at 69.3 years, is nearly as low as that of North Korea (67), and below that of Sri Lanka, Algeria, the Philippines, and many other developing countries in the same year, 2007.[11]

In **educational attainment** and **enrollment**, racial disparities in Louisiana are significant. The hardest hit in tough times are families headed by adults who never finished high school and young high school dropouts ages 16–24 who are looking to enter the workforce. Poorly educated workers have the least job security, scant savings, little social capital to draw upon in finding a first or new job, and basic skills too wanting to provide a robust foundation for retooling or higher education.

Nearly one in three African American adults age 25 and over in the state has not graduated from high school. The range spans from 14 percent of adults in Jefferson (North) to more than 40 percent of adults in the Lafourche-Assumption parish group. In our knowledge-based global economy, the milestone of high school graduation is central to expanding the choices and opportunities of young people and is generally the bare-bones minimum for a job that pays a living wage. College-going rates vary widely as well. **Overall, African Americans in Louisiana are less than half as likely to have completed college than their white counterparts.** The full range spans from under 10 percent for African Americans in Tangipahoa to about 60 percent for whites in Orleans Southwest.

In terms of **income**, median personal earnings for whites in Louisiana average $28,912, which is slightly above the national average. For African Americans, earnings are $17,010, comparable to U.S. median earnings in the mid-1960s. Income levels show virtually no overlap among the races in the state (see FIGURE 2). The range of median earnings for whites, by parish group, spans from $25,000 to $37,000, while for African Americans the same range is from $13,000 to $25,500. **African Americans at the bottom of the earnings scale earn less today than the average American earned in the 1950s.**

Another important way of understanding the distribution of resources is by grouping families across the state by income. A diagram of income distribution in Louisiana for whites and African Americans (see FIGURE 3) reveals a startling pattern. About 7 percent of white families have incomes below $15,000 and nearly 25 percent have incomes of $100,000 or more. The exact opposite is the case for African Americans: fewer than 7 percent have incomes of $100,000 or above, and 25 percent live below the $15,000 level. Finally, while there is a solid middle class of over half of white families earning in the range of $35,000 to $100,000 (about 51 percent), the middle class for African Americans is considerably smaller, with a total of 37 percent.[12]

FIGURE 2 Personal Earnings, Whites and African Americans, 2007

Whites earning the **least** have wages and salaries on par with those of African Americans earning the **most**.

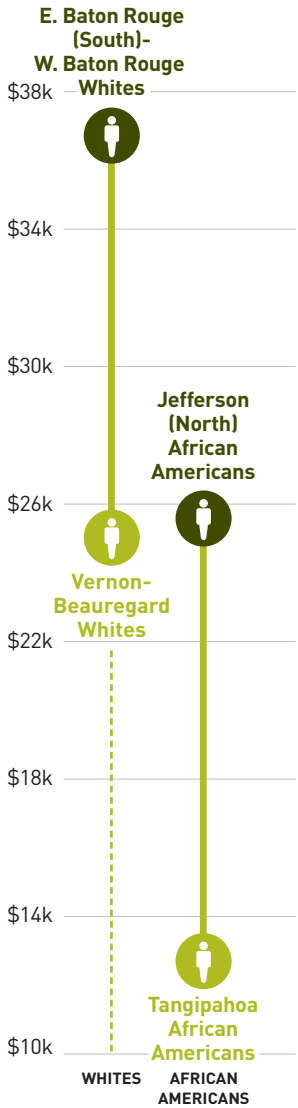
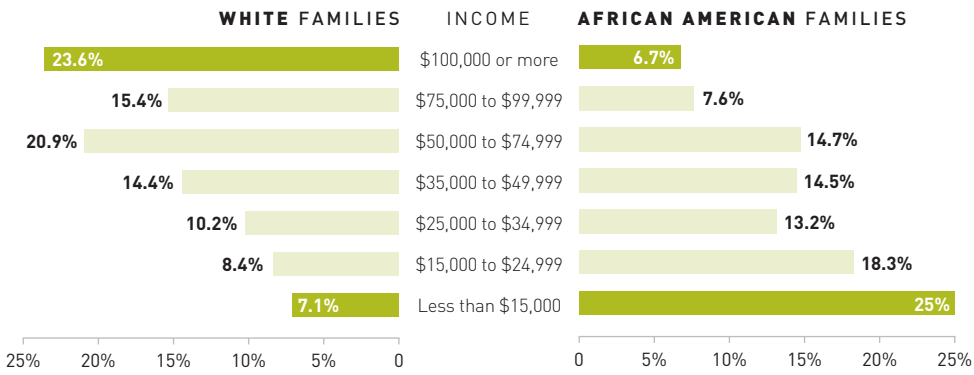


FIGURE 3 Family Income of Whites and African Americans, 2007

About 7 percent of white families have incomes below $15,000, and nearly 25 percent have incomes of $100,000 or more. The exact opposite is the case for African Americans.



	WHITE		AFRICAN AMERICAN	
FAMILY INCOME	# OF FAMILIES	%	# OF FAMILIES	%
TOTAL	732,190		311,902	
Less than $10,000	28,592	3.9	45,317	14.5
$10,000 to $14,999	23,232	3.2	32,624	10.5
$15,000 to $24,999	61,140	8.4	57,056	18.3
$25,000 to $34,999	75,018	10.2	41,030	13.2
$35,000 to $49,999	105,623	14.4	45,124	14.5
$50,000 to $74,999	153,088	20.9	45,995	14.7
$75,000 to $99,999	112,472	15.4	23,795	7.6
$100,000 to $149,999	110,796	15.1	16,038	5.1
$150,000 to $199,999	34,247	4.7	2,847	0.9
$200,000 or more	27,982	3.8	2,076	0.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

VARIATION BY GENDER

On average, women in Louisiana live longer than men and have higher educational levels. But they earn significantly less. This mirrors the situation in the United States as a whole (see TABLE 4).

TABLE 4 Louisiana Human Development Index by GENDER and GENDER/RACE, 2007

GROUPING	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (%)	AT LEAST HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (%)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (%)	GRADUATE DEGREE (%)	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (%)	MEDIAN EARNINGS (2007 dollars)
GENDER								
Males	3.94	72.1	22.0	78.0	19.8	6.9	79.5	31,756
Females	3.82	78.4	19.3	80.7	20.4	6.7	86.3	18,139
GENDER/RACE								
White Males	4.61	73.7	17.5	82.5	23.7	8.3	78.3	37,034
White Females	4.39	79.5	15.8	84.2	23.0	7.4	85.8	21,026
African American Females	2.82	76.0	26.6	73.4	14.1	4.8	86.7	14,993
African American Males	2.01	68.1	32.5	67.5	9.1	2.5	78.9	20,905

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Louisiana Office of Public Health (life expectancy), and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007 (education and income)

Earnings data are often analyzed by household, but using personal earnings allows for better understanding of gender differences in income and command over resources. While in many cases, two earners living together pool their paychecks for household use, there is extensive research supporting the view that the lower-earning spouse or partner has less power in the relationship, lower social standing, and far greater vulnerability in the case of divorce or breakup. These are all important nonincome aspects of human development.

While the survival and educational attainment gaps between males and females in Louisiana fall within the margins observed in the United States today, the wage gaps do not. Median earnings of white men in Louisiana were about $37,000 in 2007. This is on par with U.S. earnings for white men. Meanwhile, white women's earnings in Louisiana are a remarkable $16,000 less than for white men in the state, and nearly $3,000 below the national average for white women.

African American women in Louisiana have **wages and salaries** comparable to those of the **average American in the 1950s**.

Women **live longer** and have **better education scores** in 26 (out of 36) Louisiana parish groups. But they **earn less than men** in all of them.

For African Americans in Louisiana, the earnings divide between men and women is $6,000. Earnings in both groups are significantly less than the national average for African Americans, which in the same year was about $26,000 for males and $22,000 for females. Thus, earnings average about $5,000 less per person for males in Louisiana as compared with the national average for African Americans, and $7,000 less for females. African American women in Louisiana have wages and salaries comparable to those of the average American in the 1950s (see TABLE 5).

TABLE 5 Median earnings of all workers ages 16 and older, 2007

LOUISIANA POPULATION GROUP	2007 MEDIAN EARNINGS	COMPARISON WITH U.S. MEDIAN
White men	$37,034	$8,394 more than 2007 median for all American wage-earners
White women	$21,026	About the U.S. median in the mid-1970s
African American men	$20,905	About the U.S. median in the early 1970s
African American women	$14,993	About the U.S. median in the 1950s

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

These gender disparities are a critical issue for progress on human development in Louisiana for several reasons. Louisiana has one of the country's highest rates of households headed by single women, and such families make up the majority of Louisiana's poorest households. Nationwide, in 2007, one-half of female-headed households with children under 18 had incomes below the poverty level. For female-headed households with children under the age of 5, nearly three of every five families were living below the poverty level.[13] Research shows that deep poverty in early childhood is particularly damaging to long-term life prospects. **Addressing the gender earnings gap and boosting the earnings of African American women in particular would improve the well-being of families in the state as well as help to break the cycle of poverty by setting today's children on a more positive life trajectory.**

Turning to gender disparities by parish groupings, women live longer and have better education scores in 26 (out of 36) Louisiana parish groups. But they earn less than men in all of them. As a result, males have a higher HD Index score in 22 of the 36 parish groups.

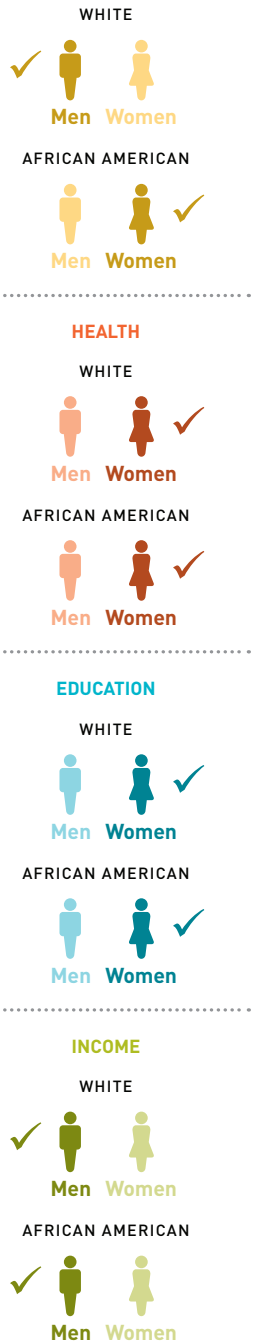
Income disparity between women and men is largest in Terrebonne, Lafourche-Assumption, St. Mary–St. Martin, Iberia-Vermilion, and Tangipahoa. In those parish groups, men earn at least twice as much as women. Orleans West, Iberville–Point Coupee (which also includes East and West Feliciana and St. Helena parishes), and Orleans East (made up of Village de l'est, Vivant, Venetian Isles, New Orleans East, and the Lower Ninth Ward) have the smallest gender gaps in income; men earn 35 percent more than women in both Orleans West and Iberville–Point Coupee parish groups, and 22 percent more in Orleans East.

When both race and gender are taken into account, white males in Louisiana have the highest level of human development, followed closely by white females. African American women come in next, and African American men hold the last spot, with a human development level comparable to that of the average American in the late 1960s. The gender gap among Louisiana African Americans is much larger than among whites: African American women have an HD Index score that is 40 percent higher than that of their male counterparts.

In terms of health, white women in Louisiana live almost six years longer than white men; for African Americans, the gender gap is larger: eight years. The health of African American men in Louisiana, as in the rest of the nation, is a cause for alarm. **African American men in Louisiana live, on average, to 68.1 years, a shorter life span than that of the average American in 1960.**

African Americans in Louisiana also show a larger gender gap in education than whites. African American women are more likely to have graduated from high school than their male counterparts (73.4 percent, as compared with 67.5 percent) and to have a bachelor's degree (14 percent versus 9 percent), while white men and women have similar high school graduation rates (around 82–84 percent) and nearly identical college graduation rates, at about one in four.

Who's Better Off in Louisiana?



Moving Beyond the Basics:

Other Critical Factors that Contribute to Human Development

IN THIS SECTION:

Moving Beyond the Basics:

Other Critical Factors that Contribute to Human Development

While the HD Index measures the basic building blocks of a life of choice and value—the ability to live a long and healthy life, to have access to knowledge, and to have a decent standard of living—human development is a holistic concept that goes beyond these three areas. Other capabilities and freedoms that many view as essential to a fulfilling life include personal and community security, religious expression, a healthy living environment and access to the natural world, cultural liberty, political participation, self-confidence, community bonds, agency, dignity, and nondiscrimination.

Any exploration of human development in Louisiana must consider these additional dimensions. For the purposes of this study, we focus on four areas where Louisiana faces considerable challenges in human progress and well-being as compared with other U.S. states: premature death from infant mortality and homicide, housing, environmental sustainability, and mental health.

Louisiana faces **significant challenges** in the areas of premature death, housing, environmental sustainability, and mental health.

Premature Death: Infant Mortality and Homicide

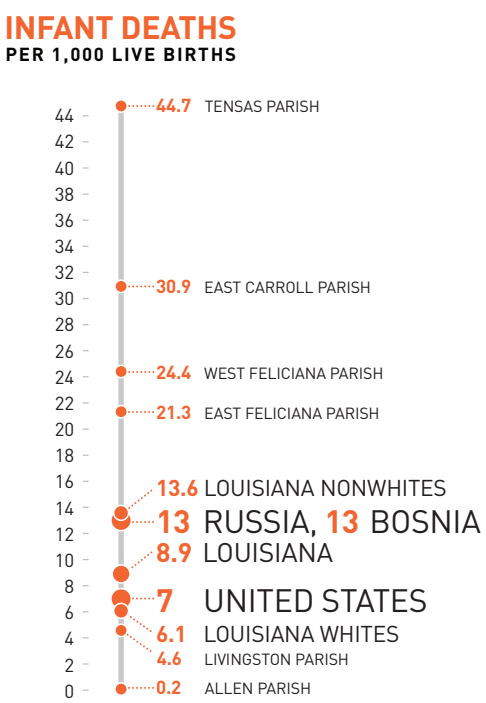
INFANT MORTALITY IN LOUISIANA

An important indicator of well-being widely used by public health experts, though not included in the HD Index, is the infant death rate. The infant death rate is a sensitive and revealing indicator of overall health, access to health care, and a state or country's spending priorities. Infant mortality rates—the number of babies per 1,000 live births who die before their first birthday—have been steadily declining the world over since 1960 due to improved health care for mothers and babies alike, better access to water and sanitation in developing countries, and, particularly in wealthier countries, technological advances in the care of premature infants. The number of babies who died before their first birthday slipped below 10 million worldwide for the first time in recorded history in 2006, a cause for celebration.

The most recent data available, from 2007, show a drop in the infant mortality rate in Louisiana, a trend that hopefully will continue. However, several states in the southeastern United States—including Louisiana—had seen a disturbing deviation from the downward global trend, with a worrisome rise in infant death rates throughout most of the early 21st century.[14]

In the U.S., an average of 7 babies out of every 1,000 live births die between birth and their first birthday. Louisiana's overall rate in 2007 was 8.9. (see **FIGURE 4**). For whites, Louisiana's infant death rates are below the U.S. average. However, the rate for nonwhites is 13.6 deaths per 1,000 live births, more than double the

FIGURE 4 Infant mortality in Comparison, 2007



Sources: UNICEF State of the World's Children 2009 (data from 2007); Louisiana Center for Health Statistics, 2007 preliminary estimates

white rate. If African American infant mortality rates were the same as those of whites in the state, nearly 200 more African American babies would have lived to celebrate their first birthday in 2007 instead of dying prematurely,[15] often of preventable causes. The infant mortality rate for African Americans in Louisiana is approximately equal to rates today in Bosnia and Russia.[16]

The picture that is presented when looking at infant death rates by parish is one of highly uneven living conditions and asymmetrical access to quality care. The rate ranges from under 5 in Allen and Livingston parishes to a tragic 44.7 in Tensas Parish. **Thus, while infant mortality rates for a number of parishes are below than the national average, four parishes—East Carroll, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, and Tensas—have rates that are more than triple the U.S. rate, and far closer to the rates of developing countries with vastly less investment in health care and a much higher disease burden.** (See pages 60-61 for infant mortality rates by parish by race.)

What steps must be taken to address the conditions that contribute to infant mortality? In the majority of cases, infant death stems from preterm birth, and preterm birth is related, in turn, to the health status, behaviors, and living conditions of the mother. The following are some critical underlying risk factors for preterm births that must be addressed in order to reduce premature death among infants in Louisiana:

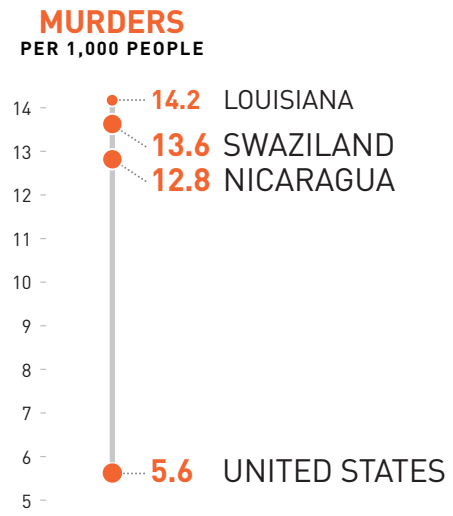
The infant mortality rate for **African Americans in Louisiana** is approximately equal to rates today in **Bosnia** and **Russia**.

- **Inadequate prenatal care:** Early and regular prenatal visits provide essential medical screening and nutritional information. Louisiana, with more than one in five residents without health insurance, has one of the highest rates of uninsurance in the nation,[17] and is below the national average in terms of early prenatal care for expectant mothers.[18] The very high rates of infant mortality among African American infants in the state suggest a need for targeted efforts at improving the health of expectant mothers in these communities and for investment in services that were eliminated after Katrina for high-risk pregnancies.
- **Teen pregnancy:** Babies of teenage mothers are more likely to be born at a low birth weight, to experience health problems and developmental

delays, and to experience abuse or neglect.[19] Moreover, infant death rates are far higher for teenage mothers than for mothers in their twenties and early thirties, and Louisiana is second only to Mississippi in teen pregnancy rates. Children born to mothers in their teens are more likely to perform poorly in school, have disciplinary and behavioral difficulties, and become teen parents themselves.

- **Unmet needs for care of chronic health conditions.** Obesity, diabetes, and hypertension among pregnant women contribute to poor pregnancy outcomes. Expectant mothers must be supported to eat a nutritious diet, get adequate exercise, cope with stress, and enjoy overall mental health. Policies must support working women to balance their work responsibilities with healthy childbearing, including employee health coverage options, time off to visit the doctor, and guidelines that limit hours on their feet.

FIGURE 5 Homicide rates in Comparison, 2007



Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "Tenth U.N. Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems," Report released December 2008 and U.S. Department of Justice.

HOMICIDE AS A HEALTH ISSUE IN LOUISIANA

While attempts to address leading causes of death in the United States, as in most affluent countries, generally focus on the management of chronic diseases like cancer, stroke, and heart disease, for Louisiana, a fourth issue comes into the mix. One of the gravest health challenges faced in the state among young people, and particularly among African American youth, is homicide. Homicide was the second-leading cause of death among Louisiana youth ages 10–35, and the principal cause of death among African Americans 15 to 24 years of age.[20]

For families, the physical and emotional scars from violent crime run deep, and the cost to communities—in reduced productivity, criminal justice infrastructure, and decreasing property values—is steep. But for Louisiana, homicide is also a health issue. The homicide rate for the United States is 5.6 murders per 100,000 people. The corresponding rate in Louisiana, at 14.2 per 100,000,[21] is more than double the national average and the highest rate of the 50 states. This puts Louisiana on a par with the murder rates of Nicaragua (12.8 per 100,000) and Swaziland (13.6 per 100,000) (see FIGURE 5).[22] As in every state, metropolitan areas have significantly higher homicide rates than suburban or rural areas. Conservative murder rate estimates for New Orleans for 2007 are 76.4 per 100,000.[23]

East Carroll, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, and Tensas have infant death rates that are **more than triple the U.S. rate**.

In each of the following areas that have a critical influence on murder rates, Louisiana stands apart.

- **Education.** The average offender in Louisiana (for any offense) enters prison with a fifth-grade education.[24] According to widely accepted research from economist Lance Lochner, a one-year increase in the average level of schooling in a community is associated with a 30 percent decrease in the murder rate.[25] Classrooms help instill values that oppose criminality and socialize students to become better citizens. Schooling helps to teach patience and provides a supervised environment that can temper negative interactions among young people, and children and adolescents who leave school early risk being influenced by a more negative set of peers. In other words, investment in better educational outcomes in Louisiana are a sure way to both increase the potential of young people to become productive, fulfilled citizens and build greater security in Louisiana's communities. Public costs for a year in prison average about $24,000; public outlays to educate a K–12 student for a year are more on the order of $9,000.

Firearms were the cause of **four out of five** of the homicides committed in 2006 in Louisiana.

- **Firearms.** Firearms were the cause of four out of five of the homicides committed in 2006 in Louisiana.[26] Regulations and laws that other states have enacted which have helped them to successfully reduce gun violence and increase child safety, such as limiting bulk purchase of handguns, requiring child safety locks on all guns, and setting a minimum purchase age of 21, are not in place in Louisiana. The state is tied with Oklahoma and Kentucky at the bottom of the Brady Scorecard in terms of common-sense gun laws.[27] Louisiana has the highest rate of gun homicides of any state in the United States.

- **Reentry after prison.** One in 26 adults, or about one person for each five or six households, is either on probation, on parole, or in prison in Louisiana. One in every 55 Louisiana residents is incarcerated, and the rate at which released inmates are repeat offenders or violate their parole is about 50 percent after five years.[28] In other words, out of the 15,000 offenders who will be released from prison in Louisiana in 2009, half will eventually find themselves incarcerated again. The current system appears to be failing to prepare prisoners for a law-abiding life of dignity and opportunity after prison. The cost to communities of this failure is high: more crime as well as the removal of large numbers of young men from the labor market, stable family life, and participation in society at all levels. Recent efforts in Louisiana to support alternatives to incarceration and to address more successfully the overwhelming hurdles released prisoners face offer promise to reduce the high rate of violent crime rate in the state.

Housing

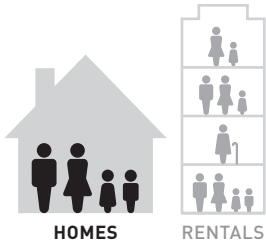
Housing is a critical human development issue. It directly affects our well-being; where we live largely determines the safety of our streets, our access to parks and playgrounds, and our exposure to a range of hazards, from lead paint to industrial toxins to flooding. Housing is also critical because residential location is a fulcrum of opportunity, determining in no small part the quality of the schools our children attend and the range of employment options open to us. Finally, housing matters because long-settled areas often are redolent with cultural and emotional significance for those who live there.

The housing crisis Louisiana is experiencing is thus a human development crisis, one that greatly curtails the choices and opportunities of people in the state and diminishes their well-being. The 2005 hurricane season left Orleans and other coastal parishes with more than 70 percent of their housing stock destroyed. Communities all over Louisiana saw housing prices spike as demand for the dwellings that remained habitable in the southern part of the state rose and as the northern part of the state coped with an influx of displaced people. Rent for a two-bedroom apartment is up nearly 50 percent compared to pre-storm levels, and the price of homes in Louisiana, bucking the national trend, continued to rise from 2008 to 2009.[29]

For Louisiana families living in poverty, the dearth of affordable housing has kept many in overcrowded apartments and trailers, or prevented their return to the state altogether. (Housing is "affordable" when it does not require more than 30 percent of household income.) Research has shown that:

- A disaster often results in a net loss of housing for low-income people, as rebuilding such housing is less profitable for investors.
- Following a disaster, housing is slower to come back in low-income neighborhoods and among multifamily rental units than it is for middle-class neighborhoods made up primarily of single-family homes.
- Government housing recovery assistance is typically directed at homeowners rather than renters.[30]

All these trends are in evidence in Louisiana. The recovery of rental housing in general—and affordable rental housing in particular—has received little attention. Though the stock of rental housing units was hardest hit, initial recovery efforts focused on homeowners. Recovery funds will replace only about one-quarter of the rental housing lost in 2005 in the New Orleans metro area. Statewide, more than 80,000 rental units were lost, and only 40 percent of affordable units will be replaced by the recovery programs put in place (the Large Rental Program and the Small Rental Repair Program).[31] In New Orleans, four of the 10 public housing developments have been torn down, to be replaced by mixed-income housing that,



Though the stock of **rental housing** units was hardest hit, initial recovery efforts focused on **homeowners**.

The 2005 hurricane season left Orleans and other coastal parishes with more than **70 percent** of their housing stock destroyed.

in aggregate, will net far fewer units affordable to the poor.

The housing crunch affecting families living in poverty also affects working- and middle-class households. With scant low-income housing, poorer families have little choice but to double up or stretch to the breaking point to meet unsustainably high rents for apartments that typically housed families with higher incomes. This new demand, coupled with already-high demand from nonpoor families displaced by the storm, both fuels rent hikes and forces working- and middle-class families into more expensive housing than they can afford—**a cascade effect that pushes vulnerability up the income ladder**.

Indeed, the high cost of housing prices out the very people needed to rebuild Louisiana's physical infrastructure—maintenance and repair workers and those in the construction trades. It also prices out the people needed to create an infrastructure of opportunity in the state—teachers, social workers, community organizers, police officers, firefighters, and nurses and other health professionals. And it prices out those needed to keep the tourism industry afloat—cashiers, cooks, salespeople, waiters and waitresses, and housekeeping and other hospitality service workers. **For these critical workers, the average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the New Orleans area, about $1,000, is simply unaffordable.**[32] Recent efforts to build workforce housing that would affordably meet the needs of these essential workers have foundered, thanks to "not in my backyard" resistance of neighboring homeowners.[33] This resistance often stems from a misperception that such housing is targeted toward the unemployed, when, in fact, the income parameters for eligibility are geared toward people with jobs.

Adding to the housing woes has been the slow-paced distribution of recovery funds from the state's Road Home Program, targeted at homeowners. Particularly hard hit were those who depended entirely on Road Home funds (i.e., those without other forms of insurance); this group was predominantly low-income and African American. Two years after the storm, only one-third of those who had applied for assistance under the program had received any funds to rebuild. The long time lag caused families to spend down savings and rack up debt to cover the cost of what became years of "temporary" housing. In addition, researchers estimate that Road Home funds, once they arrived, were typically insufficient; in Orleans Parish, eight in 10 applicants did not receive enough money to repair or replace their homes, with a typical shortfall of $35,000. Elsewhere in the state, seven in 10 fell short. Fortunately, Road Home implemented a supplementary grant program for low-income homeowners, which increased resources for rebuilding.

The good news is that more than nine out of 10 of those who received Road Home funds planned to rebuild in place, auguring well for the recovery of many neighborhoods.

Moving forward, improving the housing situation for the people of Louisiana requires that the following issues be addressed:

- **LRA recovery funds.** The more than $3 billion in recovery funds managed by the Louisiana Recovery Authority that remain must be used efficiently and effectively to address the need for affordable housing.
- **Subsidized housing.** Federally subsidized housing that was lost in 2005 needs to be reopened or replaced, with rents that people living in poverty can afford and priority given to previous tenants.
- **Workforce rentals.** Incentives should be created for the construction of workforce rental units.
- **Greater oversight.** Oversight in the use of federal funds and their compliance with nondiscrimination laws needs to be improved.
- **Homelessness.** The needs of families and individuals made homeless by the storms must be addressed in a comprehensive and sustainable way.

The **high cost of housing** prices out the people needed to rebuild the state—maintenance and repair workers, teachers, social workers, police officers, firefighters, and nurses and other health professionals.

Environmental Sustainability and Justice

Economic growth and environmental protection are sometimes cast as an either-or proposition. Few places in the country offer more damning evidence of the folly of this false choice than post-Katrina Louisiana. Decades of underregulated industrial development, poor management of water resources and the coastal environment, and underinvestment by the federal government in vital infrastructure imperiled the nation's largest expanse of wetlands and put some of the state's most vulnerable citizens directly in harm's way. Yet economic expansion has not brought promised good jobs, tax revenues, and improved standard of living for most people of Louisiana. Indeed, the people of the state keep comparatively little of the oil and gas revenue generated along its shores, and the remaking of the coastal landscape to accommodate that industry contributed greatly to the catastrophic economic losses to families and businesses following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Disaster recovery and future prosperity in Louisiana depend upon the health of its natural environment and the safety and well-being of its people. All are imperiled by the legacy of the past as well as by the risks of the future—namely the rising seas and more frequent and severe extreme weather events that climate change will bring.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, **coastal Louisiana is home to 40 percent of U.S. wetlands—and 80 percent of the country's wetlands loss**. Since 1930, 2,100 square miles of land (an area larger than either Rhode Island or Delaware) have been lost to the Gulf of Mexico. A vast, grassy floodplain made up of estuaries, swamps, bogs, coastal cypress marshes, beaches, and barrier islands that once

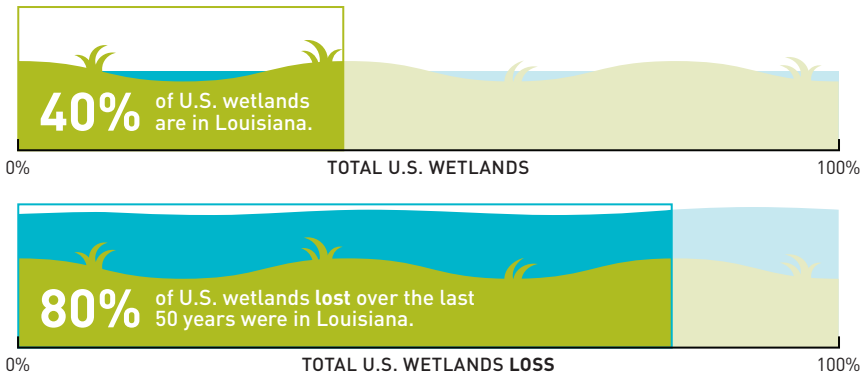
Louisiana is home to **40 percent** of U.S. wetlands.

stretched as far as the eye could see is being converted to open water at a rate estimated at 25 to 50 square miles per year. About 40 percent of the wetlands losses that had been predicted to take place between 2000 and 2050 were lost during the 2005 hurricane season alone.[34]

Why does the destruction of wetlands matter to human development? **Their loss means the loss of valuable ecosystem services upon which the people of Louisiana depend and would be hard-pressed to re-create.** Wetlands along coasts and in floodplains absorb and store excess water during storms and check the speed and blunt the force of moving water during tidal surges and floods. The roots of wetlands plants lash down sand and soil, impeding erosion. These ecosystem services protect the human population—2.4 million people live in the state's coastal region—as well as the oil and gas industries of Louisiana, the largest port complex in the world, key transportation routes, a major shipbuilding hub, and a $9.9 billion tourism industry.[35] These wetlands also store and filter drinking water and support the fisheries and wildlife that make Louisiana "the sportsman's paradise." The area is the nation's largest fur-producing area, and Louisiana's coastal areas support roughly one-fourth of the nation's fishing industry. The annual fish and shellfish harvests along Louisiana's coast combined with wildlife and boating resources bring in $6.75 billion per year.

Wetlands are formed when rivers flood their banks or empty into the sea, depositing their nutrient-rich sediments; the sediments nourish plant life and literally build up the land, making it higher than the water. When levees contain rivers and channels alter their course, wetlands are deprived of their sediments; as a result, the land simply sinks. The loss of Louisiana wetlands described above is due in large part to government efforts to spur economic development through large-scale projects designed to control floods, facilitate navigation, and

FIGURE 6 Loss of Wetlands



Source: United States Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, Mississippi Valley Division, "Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration—Final Technical Report, 2009."

drain swampland for construction and agriculture. **Because levees have been constructed all the way up the Mississippi, the river no longer carries the sediment required to rebuild the Delta.** Oil and gas companies dug some 10,000 miles of coastal channels to lay down pipe and allow for transport, and the government created navigation channels through marshes that once protected New Orleans from storm surges.

Following Hurricane Betsy in 1965, protection of the population against a 200- to 300-year flood was mandated by Congress. But the safeguards that were eventually built fell victim to budget shortfalls, poor construction, and inadequate know-how. The government invested enough money in walls and levees and created policy incentives through actions like flood insurance guarantees to create a sense of confidence and encourage investment—but not enough money to actually ensure results worthy of that confidence. By comparison, Dutch law requires flood protection infrastructure to handle 1-in-1000-year to 1-in-10,000-year events, as opposed to the 1-in-100-year standard required to meet the demands of the U.S. National Flood Insurance Program.[36]

Intensifying the risks to people—chiefly low-income people and people of color—is the country's history of environmental injustice. Abundant evidence—not just from Louisiana but also from around the world—supports the view that low-income, minority, and other marginalized or socially excluded communities disproportionately bear the costs of environmental pollution and the depletion of natural resources. No one builds incinerators or opens a landfill in Greenwich, Connecticut, in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, or in New Orleans's Garden District; these disamenities are found instead in the South Bronx, in the outskirts of Detroit, and even beneath the African American neighborhood of Press Park, which was built atop the Agricultural Street Landfill.

Disaster recovery and future prosperity in Louisiana depend upon the **health of its natural environment** and the **safety and well-being of its people**.

FIGURE 7 Cancer Alley

The Mississippi River Chemical Corridor, a **150-mile stretch** between Baton Rogue and New Orleans that is home to **more than 125 oil and chemical plants**, is best known by its vivid nickname, "Cancer Alley."

When Katrina hit, toxic hazards that had before primarily affected communities that abut industrial sites along Cancer Alley quickly became everyone's concern.

BOX 2 Does Louisiana Suffer from the "Natural Resource Curse"?

Evidence from around the world supports the view that countries whose economies are based around natural resources like oil or diamonds tend to have higher levels of poverty and score lower on the global Human Development Index of the United Nations than countries with more diversified economies that rely more heavily on people's skills. This phenomenon—known as the "paradox of plenty" or the "natural resource curse"—occurs because elites or government officials capture profits for personal gain rather than investing them in areas that build people's capabilities and enhance well-being: schools, hospitals, housing, and businesses that generate good jobs. Nigeria (oil) and Papua New Guinea (gold, silver, oil) are poster children for the natural resource curse. Despite their natural wealth, both are mired in poverty, with some of the world's worst Human Development Index scores. Poverty in Nigeria more than doubled since oil was discovered. Louisiana, with an economy heavily dependent upon mineral deposits and other natural resources like timber, and with poor health, education, and income indicators, would seem to be a state-level example of this phenomenon.

But the natural resource curse is not inevitable. Botswana (diamonds) and Norway (oil), for instance, both have bucked the trend by deliberately investing their natural resource wealth in long-term human development. Both countries have a large ownership share of the resources, regulate the industries with vigilance and transparency, and enjoy good governance, high levels of civic engagement, and low levels of corruption. The result: Norway has the world's second-highest level of well-being, and Botswana ranks second (behind South Africa) among the 47 countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

Differing explanations have been offered to account for the fact that dirty industries and toxic dumps can so often be found near poor and minority communities. Some argue that the cost of land is cheaper there, making poor areas a rational place for a sprawling plant or landfill; others say that the industries lower housing values, thus attracting poor people. But research suggests that these "rational land use" and market-related explanations cannot fully account for racial difference in terms of who ends up living in places that contain health hazards and are vulnerable to natural and industrial disasters.[37]

Televised Katrina images of the largest population exodus in America since the Dust Bowl migrations of the 1930s shocked the world—particularly those images that made clear who had been left behind. But an ongoing, slow-motion disaster had been playing out for decades along the Mississippi River Chemical Corridor, home to some 125 chemical plants and better known by its vivid nickname, "Cancer Alley," and in poor sections of New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

When Katrina hit, the worry was that toxins that had been out of sight in other people's backyards were suddenly oozing through front doors and coating playgrounds all along the Louisiana coast. Six major oil spills resulted from Katrina, and storm waters overran five Superfund sites and 466 industrial facilities housing dangerous chemicals.[38] Dangers that had before primarily affected communities that abut industrial sites and toxic dumping grounds suddenly became everyone's concern. Though some of the worst-case scenarios did not come to pass, Katrina showed that addressing environmental injustice is not just a moral imperative, but also a critical step in protecting the common good.

Significant recent steps show evidence of a welcome shift toward more integrated and comprehensive coastal and water resources management as well

as higher standards for storm protection. The state and Corps of Engineers have begun to restore the wetlands and better protect lives and property from the dangers of severe weather and rising seas. Louisiana's Comprehensive Plan for a Sustainable Coast and the mid-2009 release of the Corps' Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Report are further evidence of important progress.

Where are more efforts needed to protect the Louisiana ecosystems so vital to both the economic future of the state and the human development of its people?

- **The precautionary principle.** Greater adoption of the precautionary principle, a better-safe-than-sorry approach to managing environmental toxins that puts the onus on industry to prove safety rather than on people to prove harm, is critical to environmental management that protects both communities and ecosystems.
- **Exposure to toxins.** More focus on environmental justice in the siting of dirty industries and in mitigating their impact on communities is needed, as is greater action to address racial disparities in environmentally related health conditions like lead poisoning and asthma.
- **Building resistance.** Investing in the capacity of communities of color to decrease their vulnerability and build their resilience is perhaps the most important task that lies ahead.

Katrina showed that addressing environmental injustice is not just a **moral imperative**, but also a **critical step in protecting the common good**.

Mental Health

Prior to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Louisiana's health-care system faced enormous challenges in terms of quality of and access to care. According to the state's Secretary of Health and Hospitals, it was ranked 50th in quality of Medicare and had among the most per-capita visits to the emergency room in the nation. Over 900,000 people had no health insurance, and the state recorded some of the poorest health statistics in the country—in infant death rates, chronic disease, AIDS, and child immunization rates. Then the storms and their aftermath turned an already inadequate situation into a full-blown public health crisis.

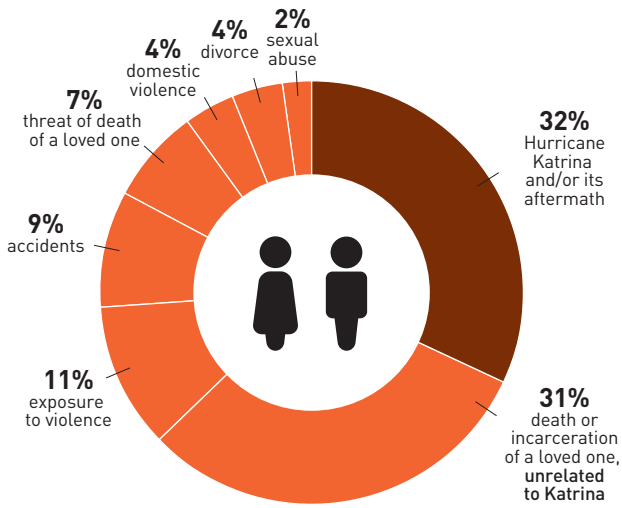
As with any disaster, the first priority is protecting physical health and survival, but mental health concerns must also eventually be addressed. Four years after Katrina and Rita, long past the initial acute emergency stage, there is still an enormous backlog of unmet needs in terms of access to mental health treatment, trained mental health professionals as well as primary care providers, and sufficient inpatient psychiatric beds and transportation to outpatient clinics. There are far too few programs for children to help them overcome the anxiety, fear, and trauma from which they continue to suffer, putting thousands of youth at risk for lowered school achievement, ill health, and ongoing symptoms of depression and behavioral disorders.

Louisiana's weak health, social, and infrastructure conditions pre-Katrina are **impeding mental health recovery today**.

Those living with mental illness before the storm faced numerous challenges: medications were interrupted, people lost or did not have insurance cards and financial records and could not resume treatment regimes, and there was a mass exodus of psychiatrists, psychologists, and other mental health practitioners. Disaster-related stress symptoms piled on top of these myriad obstacles, creating a downward spiral. Coroner reports show that a suicide rate three times that of the pre-Katrina period persisted two years after the event.[39]

The ranks of Louisianans suffering from mental illness swelled as those who had been ill prior to Katrina were joined in distress by previously well individuals who suffered trauma during and after the storm—from first responders and police, to adults and children throughout the state who survived harrowing experiences, and suffered enormous loss. Widespread psychological distress is not uncommon in the context of a catastrophic disaster. However, what has compounded an overwhelming situation is the fact that the starting point was so poor. Mental health institutions and services were underresourced, inequitable, and disorganized before the hurricane hit. Mental health spending ranked 41st in the country, with per-capita expenditures of about $60 compared with the national average of $100.[40] The critical shortage of affordable housing in the state meant that about 40 percent of the homeless were mentally ill, and weak transport systems in a state in which 39 percent of the population lives in rural areas created hurdles for accessing regular mental health care.[41] As a result, the mental health of large groups of the population was uniquely vulnerable, making it far harder to adapt to the shocks brought by Katrina.

FIGURE 8 **Children's Traumas as Reported After Hurricane Katrina**



Sixty-eight percent of children identified their worst trauma as one experienced **prior to Katrina**.

Source: Cohen, J.A., 2009.

A National Institute of Mental Health study found that when they asked children identified as needing interventions to talk about the trauma bothering them most, **68 percent of the children never even mentioned Katrina**: instead, they spoke of death or incarceration of a loved one well before the storm and of violence, accidents, divorce, and sexual abuse all unrelated to the hurricane (see **FIGURE 8**).[42] The study estimates that pre-Katrina experiences, coupled with exposure to Katrina and its consequences, have left over 40,000 children at risk of lowered school achievement, physical health problems, and depression and other mental health conditions.

Multiple studies have confirmed that the levels of posttraumatic stress disorder among Katrina and Rita survivors were far higher than for survivors of prior disasters and that the time needed to resolve these issues has been longer.[43] In short, weak pre-Katrina health, social, and infrastructure conditions in the state impede the ability of people to recover their mental health.

While the mental health situation in Louisiana continues to hamper recovery more broadly, tremendous opportunity exists today to enhance access to mental health care and to address some of the nonmedical causes of poor mental health in order to build Louisiana's health security for long-term prosperity and preparedness far into the future. Some of the critical issues to be addressed include:

- **Affordable housing.** Housing is urgently needed to overcome a major obstacle to the return of mental health professionals as well as to reduce the homelessness that results from serious mental illness.
- **Access to health insurance.** Greater insurance coverage is critical to ensuring that everyone has access to mental and physical health care.
- **Transportation.** Improved public transportation will allow low-income people, particularly those in rural areas, to reach needed services.
- **School-based programs.** Fewer than 15 percent of children with mental health disorders are receiving services, and only 13 percent of the Office of Mental Health's budget is spent on children's services.[44] Current services are woefully inadequate to meet the need of children in Louisiana.
- **Employment.** Policies and programs are needed to improve the employment rates among adults and youth with mental disorders.
- **Hospital facilities.** Reopening of hospitals that cater to low-income people who are uninsured is essential for addressing the mental health crisis in the state.

Conclusion

What will it take to boost scores on the American Human Development Index?

Progress depends on us all:
People, the Public Sector, the Business Community, Civic Groups, Philanthropy, Religious Institutions, and the Media.

IN THIS SECTION:

Conclusion

What will it take to **improve** Louisiana's ranking on the overall Human Development Index?

This analysis of the well-being of Louisianans by parish group, race, and gender found that significant human development gaps separate different parts of the state, African Americans and whites, and women and men. Though Louisiana overall is near the bottom of the U.S. ranking, some population groups in the state enjoy levels of human well-being similar to that found in top-ranked states like Connecticut and Massachusetts, whereas the opportunities of others are constrained by comparatively poor health and by levels of educational attainment and personal earnings typical of the average American 30, 40, even 50 years ago. In addition, several human development challenges—among them the affordable housing shortage, widespread and inadequately treated mental health problems, high rates of infant mortality and homicide, and continuing environmental threats—hamper progress.

For individuals, heath, education, and a decent standard of living are critical building blocks of a life of choice, value, and dignity. These basic capabilities allow people to invest in themselves and their families and to reach their full potential. But investing in people is not just good for individual Louisianans. It is also necessary for the economic growth and future competitiveness of the state in the fast-changing, knowledge-based, global marketplace. **Thus, the significant racial disparities that can be observed in the Louisiana HD Index and the earnings gap between women and men are impediments to the enhanced well-being of everyone in the state.**

As recovery continues, Louisiana can build on its unique cultural heritage, its rich natural resources, and a deeply rooted population that is committed to the state and optimistic about its future. In addition, recovery funds coupled with stimulus monies are providing unprecedented levels of resources that, if invested in building people's capabilities, can serve to expand the choices and opportunities of current and future generations of Louisianans.

What will it take to improve Louisiana's ranking on the overall Human Development Index? What will it take to close the distressingly wide gaps that separate African Americans and whites in the three fundamental areas of human development measured by the HD Index? What can be done to increase women's earnings to improve their well-being and that of their families? What can we do today that will yield better health, education, and income scores in five, 10, or 20 years' time?

Specific policy recommendations are well beyond the purview of this study. However, concerted actions in the following areas are clearly vital if Louisiana's HD scores are to improve over time.

The **premature loss** of African American men, teenage boys, and babies is a source of heartbreak for Louisiana families.

HEALTH

Improve the health of African American men. An African American baby boy born today in Louisiana can expect to live 68.1 years. This is a life span shorter than that of the average American in 1960 and on par with that of men in Azerbaijan, Egypt, and Jamaica today. African American men in Louisiana die at higher rates than white men from the leading causes of death—heart disease, cancer, and stroke—as well as from other causes like homicide, accidents, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS. The premature loss of African American men is a source of heartbreak as well as economic distress for Louisiana families and communities.

Reduce infant mortality by improving the health of African American girls and women. African American babies die in Louisiana at more than twice the rate of white babies. The death of a child is a loss like no other, and the burden of grief borne by the African American community is heavy. The majority of infant deaths are associated with low birth weight. The solution lies in reducing the risk of low birth weight by ensuring that women have access to quality medical care and that girls grow to adulthood in an environment that supports them to eat a nutritious diet, get adequate exercise, manage chronic conditions like diabetes and HIV, cope with stress, enjoy overall mental health, avoid smoking, and delay childbearing until after the teenage years.

Improve access to mental health services. Prior to the 2005 hurricane season, the mental health system in Louisiana was not able to meet the needs of many who needed its services. The traumatic events of 2005 coupled with the long-term displacement and upheaval that so many families have experienced in the interim have strained this already overburdened and underresourced mental health system to the breaking point. Children and adults in psychological distress need help to recover from traumatic events and to manage persistent and severe mental illness if they are to live lives of well-being, choice, and opportunity—and many are not getting this help.

Dramatically reduce the homicide rate. The homicide rate in Louisiana is nearly three times the national average and more like the rates in countries like Nicaragua and Swaziland than those of its peer states. The vast majority of the dead are African American teenage boys and young men killed by guns. This extraordinarily high rate of violent death constitutes a public health emergency. One proven way to address this crisis is to improve educational outcomes, ensuring that all youth get a quality education and complete high school as a minimum.

EDUCATION

Improve the quality and quantity of education in Louisiana. One in five adults in Louisiana has not completed high school, one of the highest rates in the nation, and the public schools have long been counted among the country's worst. Education is the engine of opportunity and a key determinant of income, health, and crime outcomes. Research jointly conducted by the American Human Development Project and United Way suggests that if all adults in the state had at least a high school diploma:

- About 85,000 fewer Louisianans would live in poverty.
- Median personal earnings would increase by more than $1,700 per year.
- There would be 62 fewer murders, and 10,000 fewer people would be behind bars.
- 300 fewer babies would be imperiled by low birth weight.
- 28,000 fewer adults would be obese.[45]

Unprecedented new resources and a renewed commitment to a quality education for all Louisiana's children offer reasons for optimism.

Education is the **engine of opportunity** and a key determinant of income, health, and crime outcomes.

INCOME

Ensure that families can make ends meet. White men in Louisiana earn annual wages and salaries that are roughly $8,400 higher than the U.S. median. White women, African American men, and African American women earn much less.

- The income gap between women ($18,139) and men ($31,756) in Louisiana is significantly larger than the national gender wage gap. Since most two-parent families rely on two incomes and a large share of the state's families are headed by single women, this wage gap translates into a well-being-and-opportunity gap for too many Louisianans.
- The racial earnings gap is also significant. Twenty-five percent of African American families have household incomes under $15,000 per year, compared to 7 percent of white families. At the other end of the spectrum, the proportion flips. Nearly 25 percent of white families have household incomes over $100,000 per year, compared to 7 percent of African American families.
- African American women are on the losing end of both gender and racial wage disparities; their earnings are on par with wages of the typical American worker in the 1950s.

Boosting incomes with programs that have worked well in other states, such as a state earned income tax credit, combating the gender and racial discrimination that still exists, and investing in the skills of Louisiana's girls and African American children, is vital to level the playing field.

Boosting incomes with programs that have worked well in other states is vital to level the playing field.

Federal hurricane recovery dollars directed to the state thus far amount to **roughly $44,000 per Louisiana family**.

OTHER HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Bring back housing and make it affordable. The people who are rebuilding and restaffing the physical and social infrastructure of coastal Louisiana—from roads and bridges to schools and hospitals—need an affordable place to live. So do the people who have yet to return to the state, who are doubled up with relatives, and who are still, astonishingly, living in FEMA trailers (more than 2,000 families in Louisiana). Moreover, those homeowners who have not yet been able to rebuild their homes need assistance. Rebuilding subsidized housing, replacing rental units, expanding the stock of affordable housing near where jobs are, and helping homeowners clear final hurdles to rebuilding are critical to Louisiana's recovery.

Protect people from environmental risks and hazards. Restoring wetlands; improving the integrated management of land, water resources, and coastal areas; and better protecting people and property from storms and rising seas is critical and will grow more urgent as climate change progresses. Addressing the disproportionate siting of polluting industries near low-income and minority communities as well as the environmental toxins often found in housing for the poor, such as lead paint, are critical from a human development perspective. Reducing vulnerability by building the capacity of disadvantaged communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from severe weather is also vital.

Improve data collection and establish clear indicators for success. In the face of all that remains to be done, it may seem counterintuitive to prioritize data collection. But collecting data on key indicators of human well-being and making the data available quickly and in an accessible form is key to understanding where actions are needed and assessing if the situation is improving. The state departments responsible for gathering and compiling statistics on areas vital to human development—health, housing, environment, poverty, and the like—as well as those that gather basic demographic information critical to tracking population trends are badly understaffed. Setting clear indicators to track the outcomes and performance of initiatives funded by recovery and stimulus monies is critical to ensuring that projects are on track and that funds have been properly and effectively deployed.

Promote transparency and accountability. Since 2005, the Gulf states affected by Katrina have received upward of $140 billion in federal dollars for hurricane recovery (see TABLE 6).[46] According to the Louisiana Recovery Authority, at least $60 billion of that total sum was allocated to Louisiana. The new federal stimulus bill directs another $3.3 billion to Louisiana.[47] Given that the state population is roughly 4.3 million people, this sum represents nearly $15,000 for each and every woman, man, and child in Louisiana—$44,000 for the average three-person family in the state.

These funds offer great potential not just to rebuild the physical infrastructure of Louisiana but also to construct a new infrastructure of opportunity to serve the next generation of Louisianans. Sums on this order of magnitude represent

TABLE 6 Federal Funding for Gulf States Affected by Katrina

ENACTED	BUDGET AUTHORITY
Levees, Wetlands Protection and Other Flood Control Items	$15.6 billion
Long-Term Housing and Other Infrastructure	$20.3 billion
FEMA Disaster Relief Fund	$48.1 billion
Flood Insurance Borrowing Authority	$20.8 billion
Department of Defense	$7.2 billion
Department of Transportation	$3.5 billion
Department of Health and Human Services	$2.7 billion
Department of Education	$1.9 billion
Federal Infrastructure and Other Federal Assistance (SBA loans, DOJ/DOL grants, fisheries assistance, etc.)	$7.9 billion
TOTAL ENACTED	**$128.0 billion**
Katrina and Gulf Opportunity Zone Tax Incentives & Relief	$13.8 billion
TOTAL ENACTED (with tax relief)	**$141.8 billion**

Note: All data are as of December 30, 2008, except for the Department of Defense data, which is as of September 30, 2008.

Source: U.S. Office of Management and Budget with data from the respective agencies.

Recovery funds of this magnitude represent a **unique opportunity to invest in people**, empowering them with the tools to lead self-sufficient lives of freedom, choice, and value.

a unique opportunity to invest in people, empowering them with the tools to lead self-sufficient lives of freedom, choice, and value.

But this won't happen automatically. In fact, evidence from disaster recovery around the world suggests that the rebuilding phase often results in a further concentration of power and resources in the hands of elites and greater marginalization of disadvantaged groups.

Another risk in the recovery period is corruption. Corruption thrives when temptation is strong and oversight is weak. Infrastructure projects are particularly vulnerable to corruption, given the huge sums of money changing hands, the many actors involved, the diffusion of responsibility, the complexity of the enterprise, and the unequal knowledge that different actors possess (for instance, watchdog organizations may not have the technical expertise to spot inflated costs in building plans or to assess the competence of engineering firms awarded contracts).[48] In the recovery phase, the suspension of normal safeguards and accountability mechanisms coupled with the pressure to act quickly also helps create opportunities for those entrusted with the public good to use their position for private gain.

Ensuring equitable distribution of the benefits and opportunities that emerge from reconstruction requires that the government of Louisiana provide easily accessible and easily understood reports to the general public on the use of recovery dollars. It is critical that information include the breakdown of benefits by income level, gender, race, and disability status. Reporting on the awarding of contracts as well as tracking the progress of large projects (using indicators for staying on budget and on time) should be regular and transparent as well. Equally critical is that Louisianans raise their voices to demand accountability.

PART 3

Louisiana Human Development Indicators

The following indicator tables were prepared using official U.S. and Louisiana state government data to the maximum extent possible. All data are standardized in order to ensure comparability.

A Note on Racial and Ethnic Groups

The American Community Survey, the main data source for this report, uses federal classifications on race and ethnicity from the Office of Management and Budget from 1997. The five racial categories are: American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Black or African American; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; and White. There are two ethnicity categories: Hispanic or Latino and Not Hispanic or Latino. Hispanics and Latinos may be of any race. In Louisiana, more than 97.5 percent of the population is either white or African American and 3.1 percent are Latino (of any race). Thus, white and African Americans are the principal racial categories used in this report, and ethnicity is not taken into account. For health indicators, the data source is the State Center for Health Statistics of Louisiana's Office of Public Health. The racial classification used by the Center is "white" and "nonwhite," where "white" includes Latinos. So, life expectancy at birth for African Americans is really life expectancy at birth for "nonwhites," but given the negligible number of other races in most county groups, these two categories are almost identical.

Symbols and Acronyms

... Data not available
— Not applicable

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

by Gender, Race, Gender and Race, and Parish Group

RANK	GROUPING	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (%)	AT LEAST HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (%)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (%)	GRADUATE DEGREE (%)	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT SCORE	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (%)	MEDIAN EARNINGS (2007 dollars)	HEALTH INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	INCOME INDEX
	Louisiana	**3.92**	**75.3**	**20.6**	**79.4**	**20.1**	**6.8**	**3.75**	**82.9**	**24,376**	**3.9**	**3.9**	**3.9**
	GENDER												
1	**Male**	3.94	72.1	22.0	78.0	19.8	6.9	3.65	79.5	31,756	2.6	3.5	5.8
2	**Female**	3.82	78.4	19.3	80.7	20.4	6.7	3.85	86.3	18,139	5.2	4.4	1.9
	RACE												
1	**White**	4.62	76.6	16.6	83.4	23.3	7.8	4.30	83.2	28,912	4.4	4.3	5.1
2	**African American**	2.32	72.2	29.2	70.8	11.8	3.8	2.42	82.1	17,010	2.6	3.0	1.4
	GENDER AND RACE												
1	**White Males**	4.61	73.7	17.5	82.5	23.7	8.3	4.30	78.3	37,034	3.2	3.8	6.8
2	**White Females**	4.39	79.5	15.8	84.2	23.0	7.4	4.30	85.8	21,026	5.6	4.6	2.9
3	**African American Females**	2.82	76.0	26.6	73.4	14.1	4.8	2.80	86.7	14,993	4.2	3.7	0.6
4	**African American Males**	2.01	68.1	32.5	67.5	9.1	2.5	1.90	78.9	20,905	0.9	2.3	2.9
	PARISH GROUP												
1	**E. Baton Rouge (South)-W. Baton Rouge**	5.73	77.3	8.8	91.2	40.6	14.7	6.44	89.9	32,631	4.7	6.5	6.0
2	**Jefferson (North)**	5.39	76.8	12.2	87.8	33.6	11.5	5.52	91.2	31,166	4.5	6.0	5.6
3	**E. Baton Rouge (South)**	5.12	76.7	9.4	90.6	45.7	19.7	7.08	91.8	23,841	4.4	7.1	3.8
4	**Jefferson (West)**	4.71	76.1	16.9	83.1	25.2	8.4	4.44	86.9	28,749	4.2	4.8	5.1
5	**St. Tammany-Washington**	4.59	75.3	13.1	86.9	30.1	9.8	5.12	86.6	27,011	3.9	5.3	4.7
5	**St. Tammany**	4.59	76.8	16.7	83.3	23.1	7.2	4.24	81.2	29,219	4.5	4.1	5.2
7	**Lafayette (Central)**	4.54	75.7	14.4	85.6	34.2	11.0	5.39	88.1	24,556	4.0	5.6	4.0
8	**Orleans (West)**	4.47	74.2	15.7	84.3	33.2	13.7	5.41	95.1	23,106	3.4	6.4	3.6
8	**E. Baton Rouge (North)**	4.47	76.0	14.2	85.8	18.8	5.6	4.02	87.4	26,935	4.2	4.6	4.6
10	**Orleans (Southwest)**	4.42	75.0	18.5	81.5	35.4	16.5	5.56	93.8	21,816	3.7	6.3	3.2
11	**Livingston-Ascension**	4.33	75.7	16.0	84.0	16.3	4.0	3.62	80.2	29,949	4.1	3.5	5.4
12	**Caddo (South)**	4.20	74.9	16.1	83.9	24.2	8.6	4.45	87.4	24,577	3.7	4.9	4.0
12	**St. Charles-St. John the Baptist**	4.20	76.3	17.4	82.6	16.6	4.2	3.56	81.6	27,022	4.3	3.7	4.7
14	**Bossier-Webster**	3.99	76.3	17.5	82.5	18.3	5.7	3.77	78.3	25,430	4.3	3.4	4.2
15	**Ouachita**	3.93	75.0	18.6	81.4	22.5	7.0	4.06	86.6	22,837	3.7	4.5	3.5
16	**Jefferson (South)**	3.82	75.4	25.0	75.0	13.5	4.6	2.88	84.3	24,782	3.9	3.5	4.1
17	**Rapides**	3.79	76.9	18.9	81.1	18.7	6.1	3.73	79.0	22,436	4.5	3.5	3.4
17	**Vernon-Beauregard**	3.79	78.4	20.6	79.4	12.9	4.1	3.10	74.3	23,400	5.2	2.5	3.7
19	**Lafayette-Acadia**	3.77	75.0	24.0	76.0	15.5	4.3	3.05	80.8	25,753	3.8	3.2	4.3
20	**Calcasieu**	3.68	74.4	19.7	80.3	18.4	6.3	3.67	83.7	23,104	3.5	4.0	3.6
20	**Terrebonne**	3.68	75.0	28.2	71.8	13.6	4.4	2.65	78.4	26,729	3.7	2.7	4.6
22	**Jefferson (East)**	3.67	75.1	23.2	76.8	15.3	4.5	3.11	81.3	24,199	3.8	3.3	3.9
23	**Lafourche-Assumption**	3.66	76.2	31.1	68.9	12.6	4.1	2.37	75.8	26,481	4.2	2.2	4.5
24	**Lincoln-Natchitoches**	3.54	75.7	21.7	78.3	18.0	7.3	3.58	87.1	19,241	4.0	4.3	2.3
25	**St. Bernard-Plaquemines**	3.46	72.8	25.1	74.9	10.1	2.8	2.52	83.2	26,070	2.8	3.2	4.4
26	**Iberville-Pointe Coupee**	3.41	75.0	26.9	73.1	12.4	3.5	2.60	83.0	22,306	3.7	3.2	3.3
27	**Orleans (Southeast)**	3.37	72.9	21.5	78.5	25.6	9.8	4.26	84.8	20,559	2.9	4.5	2.8
28	**St. Mary-St. Martin**	3.31	75.5	30.5	69.5	10.0	2.7	2.15	80.5	22,368	4.0	2.6	3.3
29	**Caddo (North)**	3.26	74.5	20.1	79.9	20.3	7.0	3.81	81.3	19,715	3.5	3.8	2.5
30	**Iberia-Vermilion**	3.17	75.4	26.5	73.5	11.7	2.7	2.53	75.7	22,085	3.9	2.3	3.3
31	**Orleans (East)**	3.13	70.9	21.6	78.4	17.6	5.4	3.43	85.3	22,323	2.1	4.0	3.3
32	**St. Landry-Evangeline**	3.06	74.8	31.4	68.6	11.5	3.4	2.24	76.7	22,105	3.7	2.2	3.3
33	**Tangipahoa**	3.05	72.9	23.1	76.9	17.9	6.0	3.38	76.3	22,220	2.9	3.0	3.3
34	**Morehouse-Union**	3.01	73.8	28.1	71.9	11.7	3.7	2.49	79.7	21,420	3.3	2.7	3.0
35	**Avoyelles-Concordia**	2.76	73.4	29.2	70.8	10.0	3.0	2.25	78.0	20,684	3.1	2.4	2.8
36	**E. Baton Rouge (North & Central)**	2.51	72.7	26.7	73.3	14.2	4.8	2.82	85.0	16,398	2.8	3.5	1.2

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Whites by Parish Group

RANK	PARISH GROUP	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (%)	AT LEAST HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (%)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (%)	GRADUATE DEGREE (%)	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT SCORE	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (%)	MEDIAN EARNINGS (2007 dollars)	HEALTH INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	INCOME INDEX
	WHITE												
	Louisiana Total	**4.62**	**76.6**	**16.6**	**83.4**	**23.3**	**7.8**	**4.30**	**83.2**	**28,912**	**4.4**	**4.3**	**5.1**
1	**Orleans (Southwest)**	6.91	79.6	4.4	95.6	61.3	28.7	9.04	104.1	31,351	5.7	9.4	5.7
2	**Orleans (West)**	6.89	79.6	5.3	94.7	51.3	22.9	7.92	106.1	34,653	5.7	8.6	6.4
3	**E. Baton Rouge (South)-W. Baton Rouge**	6.40	78.9	5.4	94.6	44.3	15.9	6.99	91.4	36,721	5.4	7.0	6.8
4	**Orleans (Southeast)**	6.38	79.6	9.9	90.1	42.8	18.7	6.77	97.7	32,279	5.7	7.6	5.9
5	**E. Baton Rouge (South)**	6.18	79.1	4.1	95.9	55.3	23.8	8.33	94.2	27,619	5.5	8.2	4.8
6	**Lafayette (Central)**	5.55	77.1	8.5	91.5	42.3	13.5	6.48	90.6	29,987	4.6	6.6	5.4
7	**Jefferson (North)**	5.40	76.8	11.7	88.3	33.7	11.2	5.54	89.0	32,336	4.5	5.8	5.9
8	**E. Baton Rouge (North)**	5.21	79.1	11.7	88.3	17.8	4.1	4.01	86.2	31,366	5.5	4.5	5.7
9	**St. Tammany-Washington**	5.13	75.4	11.0	89.0	33.3	10.9	5.55	90.0	30,706	3.9	5.9	5.5
10	**Caddo (South)**	5.12	76.4	11.5	88.5	29.2	10.6	5.22	89.1	30,258	4.3	5.6	5.4
11	**Jefferson (West)**	5.08	76.8	13.1	86.9	28.0	8.8	4.91	84.7	31,995	4.5	4.9	5.8
12	**St. Charles-St. John the Baptist**	5.03	78.0	13.1	86.9	18.5	4.5	3.99	82.2	33,051	5.0	4.0	6.1
13	**Ouachita**	4.77	76.9	15.4	84.6	26.6	8.2	4.63	89.2	26,630	4.5	5.2	4.6
14	**St. Tammany**	4.76	76.9	15.7	84.3	23.0	7.4	4.32	81.3	30,906	4.5	4.1	5.6
15	**Orleans (East)**	4.64	79.6	17.5	82.5	28.7	10.5	4.78	51.1	28,641	5.7	3.2	5.1
16	**Caddo (North)**	4.58	76.4	10.6	89.4	29.8	10.6	5.33	82.2	26,460	4.3	4.9	4.5
16	**Rapides**	4.58	78.1	14.6	85.4	22.4	7.2	4.33	79.9	27,340	5.0	4.0	4.7
18	**Livingston-Ascension**	4.52	75.9	14.2	85.8	16.8	3.8	3.75	81.3	31,299	4.1	3.8	5.7
19	**Iberville-Pointe Coupee**	4.51	75.9	18.1	81.9	17.9	5.0	3.66	81.5	31,329	4.1	3.7	5.7
20	**Bossier-Webster**	4.49	76.7	14.1	85.9	20.1	6.3	4.15	78.4	29,790	4.4	3.7	5.3
21	**Jefferson (East)**	4.41	76.8	21.3	78.7	16.6	4.7	3.34	83.5	28,374	4.5	3.7	5.0
22	**Lincoln-Natchitoches**	4.40	76.4	16.7	83.3	21.6	9.1	4.26	87.0	25,074	4.3	4.7	4.1
23	**Jefferson (South)**	4.29	76.8	25.9	74.1	14.3	5.1	2.90	83.0	28,266	4.5	3.4	5.0
24	**Terrebonne**	4.28	76.3	24.6	75.4	14.6	4.5	2.96	79.1	30,747	4.3	3.0	5.6
25	**E. Baton Rouge (North & Central)**	4.19	79.1	19.8	80.2	18.7	5.4	3.62	74.7	25,201	5.5	2.9	4.2
26	**Calcasieu**	4.17	75.0	16.3	83.7	20.5	6.6	4.05	82.8	26,946	3.8	4.1	4.6
27	**Lafayette-Acadia**	4.15	75.8	21.7	78.3	16.4	4.6	3.29	80.7	28,446	4.1	3.4	5.0
28	**Lafourche-Assumption**	4.06	77.3	28.9	71.1	14.4	4.7	2.68	74.5	29,165	4.7	2.3	5.2
29	**Vernon-Beauregard**	3.97	78.1	19.3	80.7	13.7	4.3	3.25	75.3	25,025	5.0	2.7	4.1
30	**St. Mary-St. Martin**	3.85	75.8	26.0	74.0	10.8	3.1	2.53	79.9	27,074	4.1	2.8	4.7
31	**Morehouse-Union**	3.80	75.2	23.2	76.8	13.9	4.6	3.02	81.4	25,588	3.8	3.3	4.3
32	**Tangipahoa**	3.79	73.9	17.9	82.1	20.8	6.8	3.98	78.0	26,649	3.3	3.5	4.6
33	**St. Bernard-Plaquemines**	3.69	72.7	23.1	76.9	11.1	3.2	2.75	84.3	27,758	2.8	3.4	4.8
34	**St. Landry-Evangeline**	3.67	75.4	26.6	73.4	13.9	4.1	2.76	76.7	26,435	3.9	2.6	4.5
35	**Iberia-Vermilion**	3.62	76.3	24.2	75.8	12.3	2.7	2.72	74.2	25,640	4.3	2.3	4.3
36	**Avoyelles-Concordia**	3.26	73.7	26.0	74.0	11.8	3.4	2.61	75.6	25,316	3.2	2.4	4.2

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

African Americans by Parish Group

RANK	PARISH GROUP	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (%)	AT LEAST HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (%)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (%)	GRADUATE DEGREE (%)	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT SCORE	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (%)	MEDIAN EARNINGS (2007 dollars)	HEALTH INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	INCOME INDEX
	AFRICAN AMERICAN												
	Louisiana Total	**2.32**	**72.2**	**29.2**	**70.8**	**11.8**	**3.8**	**2.42**	**82.1**	**17,010**	**2.6**	**3.0**	**1.4**
1	**Jefferson (North)**	4.22	71.2	14.1	85.9	24.6	4.8	4.36	104.7	25,581	2.2	6.2	4.3
2	**St. Tammany**	3.64	75.4	21.8	78.2	21.7	4.9	3.66	75.8	24,228	3.9	3.1	3.9
3	**E. Baton Rouge (North)**	3.41	71.3	17.4	82.6	20.3	7.8	4.05	89.1	21,949	2.2	4.8	3.2
4	**E. Baton Rouge (South)-W. Baton Rouge**	3.36	71.2	20.2	79.8	25.4	9.0	4.28	85.2	22,441	2.2	4.5	3.4
5	**Jefferson (West)**	3.11	71.2	28.2	71.8	12.2	3.6	2.50	92.7	21,229	2.2	4.2	3.0
6	**St. Charles-St. John the Baptist**	3.06	73.2	23.6	76.4	12.7	2.8	2.79	81.2	21,425	3.0	3.1	3.0
7	**Vernon-Beauregard**	2.95	78.1	27.9	72.1	8.1	2.5	2.18	71.1	19,031	5.0	1.6	2.2
8	**Jefferson (South)**	2.87	71.2	20.8	79.2	12.5	3.9	3.04	85.4	20,468	2.2	3.7	2.7
9	**Caddo (South)**	2.86	72.5	24.8	75.2	14.3	3.4	2.86	86.2	18,879	2.7	3.7	2.2
10	**Orleans (East)**	2.84	69.3	18.8	81.2	17.4	5.2	3.59	84.3	21,707	1.4	4.0	3.1
11	**E. Baton Rouge (South)**	2.75	71.3	22.2	77.8	19.5	8.0	3.69	82.3	19,091	2.2	3.8	2.2
12	**Jefferson (East)**	2.67	71.2	24.0	76.0	11.1	3.1	2.68	81.3	20,701	2.2	3.0	2.8
13	**Bossier-Webster**	2.58	74.8	26.9	73.1	10.8	3.3	2.48	79.7	16,686	3.7	2.7	1.3
14	**Livingston-Ascension**	2.37	74.1	28.2	71.8	11.6	3.6	2.46	75.3	17,141	3.4	2.2	1.5
15	**St. Mary-St. Martin**	2.34	74.9	40.6	59.4	7.4	1.7	1.23	81.2	16,561	3.7	2.1	1.3
16	**Lafayette (Central)**	2.33	72.2	29.8	70.2	12.9	4.4	2.50	80.9	17,220	2.6	2.9	1.5
16	**Lincoln-Natchitoches**	2.33	74.2	29.9	70.1	11.7	4.4	2.41	87.4	13,080	3.4	3.5	0.0
18	**Ouachita**	2.18	71.1	25.4	74.6	13.5	4.5	2.84	82.7	16,181	2.1	3.3	1.1
18	**Rapides**	2.18	73.4	28.5	71.5	9.2	3.1	2.26	78.3	16,002	3.1	2.4	1.0
20	**E. Baton Rouge (North & Central)**	2.17	71.3	28.1	71.9	13.1	4.5	2.63	85.5	15,607	2.2	3.5	0.9
21	**Iberville-Pointe Coupee**	2.16	73.7	38.4	61.6	5.1	1.6	1.23	83.8	15,716	3.2	2.4	0.9
21	**Calcasieu**	2.16	72.0	30.9	69.1	11.2	5.0	2.35	85.3	15,264	2.5	3.3	0.7
23	**Orleans (Southeast)**	2.13	69.3	27.3	72.7	15.3	4.6	2.84	81.8	17,881	1.4	3.2	1.8
24	**Caddo (North)**	2.06	72.5	29.5	70.5	10.4	3.4	2.29	80.1	15,574	2.7	2.7	0.8
24	**Orleans (West)**	2.06	69.3	25.7	74.3	15.4	4.3	2.94	89.9	15,081	1.4	4.2	0.6
26	**Lafayette-Acadia**	2.05	71.4	35.7	64.3	9.8	2.0	1.75	81.7	16,936	2.3	2.5	1.4
27	**Orleans (Southwest)**	1.95	69.3	32.3	67.7	9.2	3.5	2.03	84.6	17,118	1.4	3.0	1.5
28	**St. Tammany-Washington**	1.86	73.5	27.2	72.8	8.5	1.9	2.21	71.2	15,551	3.1	1.6	0.8
29	**St. Landry-Evangeline**	1.85	73.9	39.2	60.8	7.3	2.3	1.36	76.2	15,170	3.3	1.6	0.7
30	**Terrebonne**	1.78	70.5	36.6	63.4	9.1	3.7	1.75	79.6	16,473	1.9	2.2	1.2
31	**Iberia-Vermilion**	1.75	72.1	34.5	65.5	10.4	2.9	1.92	78.4	14,786	2.6	2.2	0.5
32	**St. Bernard-Plaquemines**	1.63	69.1	36.8	63.2	5.2	1.2	1.31	79.3	17,655	1.3	1.9	1.7
33	**Avoyelles-Concordia**	1.55	71.9	38.4	61.6	4.4	1.2	1.15	82.9	13,011	2.4	2.2	0.0
34	**Morehouse-Union**	1.45	71.3	37.2	62.8	7.1	1.9	1.46	77.2	14,568	2.2	1.8	0.4
35	**Lafourche-Assumption**	1.13	70.1	42.3	57.7	4.1	1.2	0.86	76.8	14,568	1.7	1.3	0.4
36	**Tangipahoa**	0.98	69.9	38.5	61.5	9.3	3.4	1.61	72.1	12,703	1.6	1.3	0.0

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Males by Parish Group

RANK	PARISH GROUP	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (%)	AT LEAST HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (%)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (%)	GRADUATE DEGREE (%)	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT SCORE	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (%)	MEDIAN EARNINGS (2007 dollars)	HEALTH INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	INCOME INDEX
	MALE												
	Louisiana Total	**3.94**	**72.1**	**22.0**	**78.0**	**19.8**	**6.9**	**3.65**	**79.5**	**31,756**	**2.6**	**3.5**	**5.8**
1	**E. Baton Rouge (South)-W. Baton Rouge**	5.70	74.2	10.0	90.0	40.3	13.9	6.28	88.5	40,452	3.4	6.2	7.5
2	**E. Baton Rouge (South)**	5.35	74.0	9.3	90.7	48.9	21.7	7.42	90.8	30,395	3.3	7.3	5.5
3	**Jefferson (North)**	5.11	72.4	12.6	87.4	35.3	13.7	5.76	86.5	37,777	2.7	5.7	7.0
4	**St. Tammany**	4.91	74.6	18.0	82.0	24.0	7.6	4.24	80.9	38,406	3.6	4.0	7.1
5	**St. Tammany-Washington**	4.73	72.0	15.1	84.9	32.3	11.2	5.23	82.5	36,822	2.5	4.9	6.8
6	**Lafayette (Central)**	4.68	72.7	14.3	85.7	35.2	12.5	5.56	84.9	32,221	2.8	5.4	5.9
7	**Jefferson (West)**	4.59	72.1	15.9	84.1	27.5	9.3	4.73	86.5	33,906	2.5	5.0	6.2
8	**Livingston-Ascension**	4.47	73.3	16.2	83.8	16.1	3.6	3.56	77.1	38,936	3.0	3.2	7.2
9	**St. Charles-St. John the Baptist**	4.38	73.5	18.3	81.7	16.3	3.6	3.44	78.2	36,854	3.1	3.2	6.8
10	**E. Baton Rouge (North)**	4.25	73.4	16.2	83.8	16.0	4.6	3.62	81.4	32,700	3.1	3.7	6.0
11	**Rapides**	4.07	74.8	20.2	79.8	18.4	6.9	3.68	76.0	30,178	3.7	3.1	5.4
12	**Bossier-Webster**	4.05	73.7	16.5	83.5	18.8	5.7	3.86	74.5	32,034	3.2	3.1	5.8
13	**Ouachita**	4.01	71.9	20.1	79.9	21.7	6.8	3.89	83.6	30,389	2.5	4.1	5.5
14	**Terrebonne**	3.97	72.1	30.4	69.6	12.9	4.4	2.45	76.1	38,360	2.5	2.3	7.1
15	**Caddo (South)**	3.93	70.8	18.0	82.0	24.5	9.6	4.41	82.1	30,475	2.0	4.3	5.5
15	**Lafayette-Acadia**	3.93	71.5	25.2	74.8	14.5	4.2	2.90	79.1	35,625	2.3	2.9	6.6
15	**Orleans (Southwest)**	3.93	68.0	20.4	79.6	36.0	17.4	5.53	88.7	29,081	0.9	5.8	5.2
18	**Vernon-Beauregard**	3.91	75.9	21.4	78.6	11.5	3.8	2.93	68.9	31,247	4.1	2.0	5.7
19	**Calcasieu**	3.89	71.1	19.0	81.0	18.5	6.9	3.76	81.7	31,712	2.1	3.8	5.8
20	**Lincoln-Natchitoches**	3.84	73.2	22.7	77.3	17.4	7.6	3.49	84.5	26,718	3.0	3.9	4.6
20	**Lafourche-Assumption**	3.84	73.5	33.1	66.9	11.9	3.9	2.19	71.0	37,063	3.1	1.6	6.8
22	**Jefferson (South)**	3.78	72.5	26.6	73.4	12.5	3.9	2.65	81.4	31,006	2.7	3.0	5.6
23	**Jefferson (East)**	3.63	72.8	24.5	75.5	14.8	3.9	2.94	76.6	29,959	2.8	2.7	5.4
24	**Orleans (West)**	3.57	67.5	17.4	82.6	31.8	10.3	4.98	87.3	27,710	0.6	5.2	4.8
25	**Iberia-Vermilion**	3.55	72.5	29.8	70.2	11.2	2.8	2.28	75.4	31,910	2.7	2.1	5.8
26	**St. Mary-St. Martin**	3.53	72.1	32.3	67.7	9.1	2.7	1.97	76.1	33,033	2.6	2.0	6.1
27	**Tangipahoa**	3.36	70.5	25.1	74.9	15.9	5.1	3.07	74.5	31,167	1.9	2.5	5.6
28	**St. Bernard-Plaquemines**	3.29	70.2	28.8	71.2	7.7	2.3	2.08	79.4	31,421	1.7	2.4	5.7
29	**Caddo (North)**	3.20	71.0	20.0	80.0	21.6	8.0	3.97	78.7	24,160	2.1	3.6	3.9
30	**St. Landry-Evangeline**	3.16	71.7	34.1	65.9	10.7	3.2	1.99	72.4	30,571	2.4	1.6	5.5
31	**Morehouse-Union**	3.07	71.4	30.4	69.6	10.6	3.4	2.24	76.0	27,432	2.3	2.2	4.8
32	**Iberville-Pointe Coupee**	3.05	72.0	30.2	69.8	9.9	2.7	2.16	76.8	26,244	2.5	2.2	4.5
33	**Avoyelles-Concordia**	2.92	69.9	32.3	67.7	9.2	2.7	1.97	75.7	29,133	1.6	2.0	5.2
34	**Orleans (Southeast)**	2.74	67.0	21.8	78.2	27.3	10.5	4.40	78.5	24,342	0.4	3.9	3.9
35	**Orleans (East)**	2.65	66.5	28.7	71.3	14.5	4.3	2.68	84.9	25,655	0.2	3.4	4.3
36	**E. Baton Rouge (North & Central)**	2.46	69.6	30.1	69.9	11.3	3.9	2.34	80.4	21,800	1.5	2.7	3.2

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Females by Parish Group

RANK	PARISH GROUP	HD INDEX	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (%)	AT LEAST HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (%)	AT LEAST BACHELOR'S DEGREE (%)	GRADUATE DEGREE (%)	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT SCORE	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (%)	MEDIAN EARNINGS (2007 dollars)	HEALTH INDEX	EDUCATION INDEX	INCOME INDEX
	FEMALE												
	Louisiana Total	**3.82**	**78.4**	**19.3**	**80.7**	**20.4**	**6.7**	**3.85**	**86.3**	**18,139**	**5.2**	**4.4**	**1.9**
1	**E. Baton Rouge (South)-W. Baton Rouge**	5.56	79.0	7.7	92.3	40.9	15.5	6.58	91.4	26,527	5.4	6.8	4.5
2	**Jefferson (North)**	5.28	78.8	11.8	88.2	32.0	9.5	5.31	95.7	24,957	5.3	6.4	4.1
3	**Orleans (West)**	5.21	79.6	14.2	85.8	34.5	16.5	5.78	102.5	20,520	5.7	7.2	2.7
4	**Orleans (Southwest)**	4.80	79.8	17.0	83.0	34.9	15.8	5.59	98.4	17,740	5.8	6.9	1.7
5	**E. Baton Rouge (South)**	4.75	79.3	9.4	90.6	42.8	18.0	6.76	92.9	17,522	5.6	7.1	1.7
6	**E. Baton Rouge (North)**	4.63	78.8	12.3	87.7	21.4	6.5	4.38	93.9	21,165	5.3	5.6	3.0
6	**Jefferson (West)**	4.63	79.1	17.7	82.3	23.1	7.5	4.19	87.3	23,616	5.4	4.7	3.7
8	**St. Tammany-Washington**	4.51	78.0	11.2	88.8	28.1	8.6	5.03	91.0	20,807	5.0	5.7	2.8
9	**Lafayette (Central)**	4.44	79.1	14.5	85.5	33.2	9.7	5.23	91.5	18,367	5.5	5.9	2.0
10	**Caddo (South)**	4.42	78.2	14.6	85.4	23.9	7.8	4.48	92.8	20,273	5.1	5.5	2.7
11	**Orleans (East)**	4.38	79.9	16.1	83.9	20.1	6.3	4.01	85.7	21,067	5.8	4.4	2.9
12	**St. Tammany**	4.25	79.8	15.5	84.5	22.2	6.8	4.24	81.5	21,011	5.7	4.1	2.9
13	**St. Charles-St. John the Baptist**	4.16	79.2	16.5	83.5	16.8	4.7	3.67	85.1	20,870	5.5	4.1	2.9
14	**Jefferson (East)**	4.14	80.7	22.0	78.0	15.8	5.1	3.26	86.2	19,333	6.1	4.0	2.3
15	**Jefferson (South)**	4.11	80.2	23.6	76.4	14.3	5.3	3.07	87.1	19,710	5.9	3.9	2.5
16	**Orleans (Southeast)**	4.08	79.5	21.2	78.8	24.1	9.2	4.14	91.1	17,152	5.6	5.1	1.5
17	**Livingston-Ascension**	3.99	78.1	15.9	84.1	16.5	4.4	3.67	83.3	21,235	5.1	3.9	3.0
18	**Iberville-Pointe Coupee**	3.95	78.4	23.3	76.7	15.1	4.4	3.08	90.2	19,487	5.2	4.3	2.4
19	**Ouachita**	3.82	77.8	17.4	82.6	23.1	7.3	4.20	89.6	17,312	4.9	5.0	1.6
20	**Bossier-Webster**	3.73	78.7	18.3	81.7	17.9	5.7	3.69	82.3	18,579	5.3	3.8	2.1
21	**Rapides**	3.70	78.8	17.8	82.2	19.1	5.3	3.77	82.0	18,199	5.3	3.8	1.9
22	**St. Bernard-Plaquemines**	3.63	75.3	21.8	78.2	12.4	3.4	2.93	87.2	21,706	3.9	3.9	3.1
23	**Caddo (North)**	3.53	78.5	20.2	79.8	19.2	6.3	3.68	83.9	16,795	5.2	4.0	1.4
23	**Vernon-Beauregard**	3.53	81.1	19.8	80.2	14.3	4.4	3.26	80.8	15,778	6.3	3.4	0.9
25	**Lafayette-Acadia**	3.50	78.2	22.8	77.2	16.4	4.3	3.19	82.5	18,162	5.1	3.5	1.9
26	**Calcasieu**	3.41	77.8	20.4	79.6	18.4	5.8	3.59	85.8	16,328	4.9	4.1	1.2
27	**Lincoln-Natchitoches**	3.22	78.0	20.8	79.2	18.5	7.1	3.66	89.8	13,716	5.0	4.6	0.0
28	**Lafourche-Assumption**	3.21	78.8	29.4	70.6	13.2	4.2	2.53	81.0	16,848	5.3	2.9	1.4
29	**Terrebonne**	3.16	78.0	26.1	73.9	14.2	4.4	2.83	80.8	16,902	5.0	3.1	1.4
30	**St. Mary-St. Martin**	3.12	79.0	28.9	71.1	10.8	2.8	2.31	85.0	15,351	5.4	3.2	0.7
31	**St. Landry-Evangeline**	2.94	77.9	29.0	71.0	12.2	3.6	2.46	81.3	15,888	5.0	2.9	1.0
32	**E. Baton Rouge (North & Central)**	2.86	76.4	24.1	75.9	16.4	5.5	3.18	89.3	13,443	4.3	4.3	0.0
33	**Iberia-Vermilion**	2.80	78.2	23.6	76.4	12.2	2.7	2.75	76.1	15,488	5.1	2.5	0.8
34	**Morehouse-Union**	2.78	76.1	26.1	73.9	12.8	4.0	2.71	83.7	15,517	4.2	3.3	0.8
35	**Avoyelles-Concordia**	2.64	77.1	26.2	73.8	10.9	3.2	2.52	80.5	14,702	4.6	2.8	0.4
36	**Tangipahoa**	2.62	75.3	21.3	78.7	19.6	6.7	3.67	78.1	15,156	3.9	3.3	0.6

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR TABLES

A Long and Healthy Life

GROUPING	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years) 2007[1]	INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births) 2007[2]	INFANT MORTALITY RATE, WHITE (per 1,000 live births) 2007[3]	INFANT MORTALITY RATE, NONWHITE (per 1,000 live births) 2007[4]	LOW BIRTH-WEIGHT BABIES (% of all births) 2007[5]	LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES, WHITE (% of all births) 2007[6]	LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES, NONWHITE (% of all births) 2007[7]	TOTAL MEDICAID ENROLLMENT (number) 2008[8]	PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (number) 2009[9]
Louisiana	**75.3**	**8.9**	**6.1**	**13.6**	**11.2**	**8.2**	**15.6**	...	**16,418**
GENDER									
Female	78.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	...	4,865
Male	72.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	...	11,553
RACE									
African American	72.2	13.6	—	—	15.6	—	—	...	10,863
White	76.6	6.1	—	—	8.2	—	—	...	4,820
PARISH									
Acadia	73.5	5.1	3.4	11.4	11.4	9.2	18.6	17,420	95
Allen	—	0.2	0.2	—	10.8	8.9	16.7	6,627	233
Ascension	76.0	9.2	8.7	11.5	9.0	7.4	13.9	17,690	156
Assumption	75.7	20.6	12.7	29.7	12.3	9.6	15.4	5,931	35
Avoyelles	74.1	8.2	9.2	6.8	11.8	9.3	15.8	14,184	194
Beauregard	74.7	5.1	6.0	—	8.1	6.7	17.7	7,170	34
Bienville	72.8	17.0	15.4	19.3	11.9	9.7	14.4	4,253	29
Bossier	77.5	9.0	4.8	22.5	11.2	8.9	18.1	19,021	175
Caddo	74.7	13.2	5.0	19.1	14.0	9.2	17.5	64,430	856
Calcasieu	74.4	10.2	7.9	16.1	10.7	8.8	15.3	41,088	553
Caldwell	74.6	—	—	—	9.1	8.6	10.8	2,912	65
Cameron	79.8	—	—	—	9.1	8.4	22.2	746	5
Catahoula	73.2	16.2	14.8	18.8	12.8	9.3	19.8	3,115	25
Claiborne	74.9	16.6	—	27.4	11.6	7.3	14.7	4,281	78
Concordia	74.8	7.4	—	15.0	15.6	11.1	19.7	6,292	36
De Soto	75.6	7.3	—	16.1	13.6	10.5	17.2	6,439	58
East Baton Rouge	75.7	10.6	2.8	16.0	12.2	7.6	15.8	99,688	3,101
East Carroll	71.9	30.9	30.1	31.1	14.7	8.0	16.3	3,647	42
East Feliciana	72.3	21.3	8.5	31.8	11.1	8.4	14.0	4,630	105
Evangeline	73.7	11.8	5.1	24.8	12.4	10.0	17.1	11,835	58
Franklin	74.1	9.8	—	23.0	12.7	10.6	15.5	7,248	21
Grant	71.1	19.2	17.0	39.4	9.8	9.7	10.6	5,145	28
Iberia	75.3	7.8	7.1	9.2	10.6	7.0	15.3	21,449	102
Iberville	75.4	8.8	11.4	7.1	11.3	9.3	12.8	9,245	272
Jackson	76.1	6.8	—	22.9	10.4	8.6	14.7	3,754	35
Jefferson	75.9	8.8	7.4	13.4	9.8	7.7	13.7	91,968	1,503
Jefferson Davis	73.9	10.6	9.4	16.7	9.6	8.2	15.3	8,121	45
Lafayette	75.9	7.9	5.4	13.2	9.7	7.4	14.3	39,091	561

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR TABLES

A Long and Healthy Life, *continued*

GROUPING	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years) 2007[1]	INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births) 2007[2]	INFANT MORTALITY RATE, WHITE (per 1,000 live births) 2007[3]	INFANT MORTALITY RATE, NONWHITE (per 1,000 live births) 2007[4]	LOW BIRTH-WEIGHT BABIES (% of all births) 2007[5]	LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES, WHITE (% of all births) 2007[6]	LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES, NONWHITE (% of all births) 2007[7]	TOTAL MEDICAID ENROLLMENT (number) 2008[8]	PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (number) 2009[9]
Lafourche	76.3	6.1	6.2	7.1	9.3	7.8	15.5	20,668	94
La Salle	74.3	9.6	5.5	47.6	9.0	6.8	25.7	3,047	14
Lincoln	76.9	10.2	13.6	7.4	10.0	6.4	14.1	9,564	50
Livingston	75.5	4.6	4.4	8.9	8.3	7.9	14.7	23,332	146
Madison	71.1	—	—	—	15.7	11.8	17.0	4,692	52
Morehouse	72.4	11.4	4.8	17.1	12.1	9.0	14.8	10,062	60
Natchitoches	76.0	5.0	—	8.9	12.1	7.8	15.9	10,651	85
Orleans	73.4	6.5	3.8	7.4	13.4	7.6	15.5	82,555	4,257
Ouachita	75.0	14.2	7.9	21.0	13.2	8.9	18.1	40,377	449
Plaquemines	74.9	8.0	8.1	9.5	8.2	6.4	14.2	4,161	32
Pointe Coupee	74.1	18.7	12.1	25.4	11.8	7.4	16.4	6,124	44
Rapides	76.9	8.3	4.9	13.9	10.8	7.7	15.5	36,201	367
Red River	73.8	—	—	—	13.6	8.0	18.8	2,723	10
Richland	73.7	10.9	9.1	13.0	12.5	8.4	16.4	6,767	34
Sabine	76.0	5.1	—	24.8	10.9	9.3	14.8	5,610	22
St. Bernard	69.1	7.0	8.8	—	11.1	10.2	15.3	7,682	100
St. Charles	77.2	8.6	6.6	9.6	9.6	7.7	13.3	9,359	81
St. Helena	76.4	10.6	—	16.7	14.0	10.6	16.1	2,983	18
St. James	75.8	7.4	3.8	9.8	11.2	6.8	14.3	5,440	54
St. John the Baptist	75.4	11.3	14.5	10.4	11.6	7.6	14.6	12,846	104
St. Landry	75.2	6.5	6.1	7.1	12.2	9.2	15.4	...	223
St. Martin	75.9	8.3	7.0	10.6	11.2	8.6	14.7	14,101	92
St. Mary	75.3	6.3	6.0	7.5	11.6	8.8	15.6	15,571	68
St. Tammany	76.9	5.0	4.6	9.1	8.3	7.6	12.9	34,770	329
Tangipahoa	72.9	6.4	6.3	6.7	11.4	8.0	16.4	35,448	235
Tensas	78.6	44.7	—	75.2	14.0	13.5	14.0	2,028	35
Terrebonne	75.0	6.1	4.8	12.9	10.9	9.2	17.5	26,828	171
Union	74.2	10.2	7.0	18.5	10.1	8.0	14.4	5,605	40
Vermilion	75.6	7.0	3.5	21.9	10.2	8.4	16.8	12,822	78
Vernon	77.6	3.3	4.2	—	8.7	7.5	13.4	8,911	40
Washington	71.4	8.3	11.0	4.2	11.3	9.4	14.5	14,299	145
Webster	73.8	17.8	19.1	16.1	12.9	9.7	18.4	10,691	43
West Baton Rouge	75.7	11.3	11.3	11.6	12.7	9.8	17.1	4,927	105
West Carroll	75.9	8.7	7.4	14.2	12.2	9.7	22.9	3,735	8
West Feliciana	78.5	24.4	29.9	17.1	9.2	8.1	10.6	1,868	146
Winn	72.4	13.9	13.5	14.8	10.8	7.5	17.2	4,321	87

1. Source: Author's calculations using death data from the Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics and population data from the CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, Bridged Race Population Estimates, 2007.

2–7. Source: Louisiana Center for Health Statistics, 2007 preliminary estimates.

8. Source: Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Medicaid Report December 2008.

9. Source: Louisiana HIV/AIDS Surveillance Quarterly Report, March 31, 2009, LA Dept. of Health and Hospitals Office of Public Health. http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/publications/pubs-264/Louisiana%20First%20Quarter%202009%20HIVAIDS%20Report.pdf.

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR TABLES

Access to Knowledge

GROUPING	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (%), 2005–2007[1]	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE (%), 2005–2007[2]	BACHELOR'S DEGREE (%), 2005–2007[3]	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (%), 2005–2007[4]	COMBINED GROSS ENROLLMENT RATIO (%), 2005–2007[5]	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT; 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS (% of age group) 2005–2007[6]	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT; 18 AND 19 YEAR OLDS (% of age group) 2005–2007[7]	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT; 20 TO 24 YEAR OLDS (% of age group) 2005–2007[8]
Louisiana	**20.6**	**58.8**	**13.8**	**6.8**	**82.9**	**50.6**	**65.9**	**37.1**
GENDER								
Female	19.3	60.3	13.7	6.7	86.3	...	...	...
Male	22.0	58.2	12.9	6.9	79.5	...	...	...
RACE								
African American	29.2	59.0	8.0	3.8	82.1	...	...	...
White	16.6	60.1	15.5	7.8	83.2	...	...	...
PARISH								
Acadia	33.2	56.6	6.8	3.2	75.5	43.2	59.3	26.6
Allen	28.4	61.9	6.6	3.1	76.3	28.7	42.6	15.6
Ascension	16.1	65.2	13.8	5.0	81.0	53.0	67.9	28.9
Assumption	33.8	57.9	5.3	2.9	77.3	25.0	79.0	15.1
Avoyelles	34.2	56.7	6.6	2.5	75.9	60.7	50.0	13.2
Beauregard	18.5	68.4	9.2	3.9	76.5	28.6	55.6	15.9
Bienville	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bossier	13.9	65.5	14.5	6.1	78.7	51.7	44.1	23.4
Caddo	18.2	59.6	14.3	7.8	84.0	48.6	66.7	32.7
Calcasieu	19.8	61.8	12.2	6.3	83.7	53.5	71.5	34.7
Caldwell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cameron	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Catahoula	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Claiborne	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Concordia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Desoto	22.4	63.9	8.7	5.0	82.7	36.4	58.0	31.6
East Baton Rouge	13.6	54.6	19.8	12.1	89.1	61.6	78.8	53.2
East Carroll	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Feliciana	21.9	65.7	9.9	2.5	90.7	74.1	86.3	37.4
Evangeline	33.1	55.9	8.0	3.1	75.2	33.9	59.6	16.7
Franklin	32.2	57.8	7.0	3.0	82.5	72.7	42.2	24.5
Grant	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iberia	25.2	61.8	9.7	3.5	77.1	44.7	53.4	22.7
Iberville	26.6	61.0	10.0	2.4	83.1	63.7	51.8	28.9
Jackson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jefferson	18.9	58.3	15.2	7.6	85.9	55.3	62.7	37.0
Jefferson Davis	24.7	63.6	8.8	2.8	77.4	30.5	60.7	17.7
Lafayette	15.9	56.4	19.3	8.4	86.4	50.3	69.9	47.5
Lafourche	30.5	55.9	9.3	4.3	75.4	30.6	46.2	30.9
Lasalle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lincoln	16.6	52.8	16.4	14.2	98.9	55.9	95.5	84.7
Livingston	16.0	69.6	11.1	3.2	79.7	43.8	66.6	29.7
Madison	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morehouse	28.1	59.5	8.8	3.6	84.2	40.1	39.6	35.2
Natchitoches	23.2	57.1	11.4	8.4	84.4	51.9	68.8	57.9
Orleans	19.5	51.6	16.9	12.0	89.3	58.6	66.7	51.1
Ouachita	18.6	58.8	15.4	7.0	86.6	54.6	72.6	43.9
Plaquemines	23.4	65.0	7.0	4.6	81.4	—	—	—
Pointe Coupee	29.7	57.5	7.3	5.5	72.0	24.2	47.0	25.4
Rapides	18.9	62.3	12.7	6.1	79.0	45.3	52.8	28.3
Red River	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Richland	27.8	60.0	7.7	4.3	72.8	32.2	50.5	6.3
Sabine	21.8	66.9	7.5	3.9	80.2	49.1	59.5	19.4
St. Bernard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Charles	15.9	65.3	14.0	4.9	84.3	51.8	81.1	43.1

GROUPING	READING PROFICIENCY (% testing proficient grades 3-12) 2007[9]	MATH PROFICIENCY (% testing proficient grades 3-12) 2007[10]	STUDENTS PER TEACHER 2007[11]	OPERATING EXPENDITURES ($ per student) 2006[12]	INSTRUCTIONAL EXPENDITURES ($ per student) 2006[13]	HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS (numbers, grades 9-12)[14]	HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS (% of students, grade 9-12)[15]
Louisiana	**61.7**	**61.2**	**14.7**	**8,486**	**4,948**	**13,541**	**6.9**
Female	67.5	61.0	—	—	—	...	...
Male	56.1	61.4	—	—	—	...	...
African American	47.5	44.2	—	—	—	...	...
White	74.0	75.6	—	—	—	...	...
Acadia	62.1	62.6	15.7	6,939	4,060	181	6.7
Allen	68.1	64.9	13.1	8,119	4,975	46	3.8
Ascension	67.1	71.2	14.7	7,508	4,779	233	4.5
Assumption	59.4	58.2	14.3	7,934	4,996	102	7.7
Avoyelles	56.8	56.5	18.0	6,185	3,696	177	9.2
Beauregard	69.0	70.1	14.8	7,608	4,396	9.0	0.5
Bienville	58.6	56.6	13.0	9,647	5,562	42	5.8
Bossier	67.7	66.4	15.6	7,575	4,444	282	5.0
Caddo	57.3	54.5	15.1	8,218	4,812	1,078	8.3
Calcasieu	66.0	65.0	14.1	8,211	4,451	346	3.7
Caldwell	67.2	63.2	14.0	8,111	4,765	6.0	1.1
Cameron	61.0	62.8	10.8	16,738	6,725	11	2.0
Catahoula	69.5	72.8	13.3	7,544	4,031	22	4.4
Claiborne	48.3	55.0	12.6	8,656	5,137	33	4.1
Concordia	58.2	54.1	14.8	7,626	4,548	77	7.3
Desoto	54.8	52.4	13.8	9,193	5,380	96	6.8
East Baton Rouge	50.4	49.1	15.3	8,493	4,941	1,369	9.8
East Carroll	43.3	35.0	13.0	9,123	4,786	20	4.2
East Feliciana	42.4	42.3	14.9	8,222	4,862	53	8.4
Evangeline	60.3	60.6	14.0	7,938	4,877	113	7.1
Franklin	46.8	42.8	16.9	7,209	4,436	99	11.0
Grant	62.0	65.7	14.9	7,069	4,091	58	5.1
Iberia	58.7	63.4	13.7	7,586	4,649	276	7.0
Iberville	51.3	46.2	14.2	8,657	4,786	123	9.0
Jackson	66.8	61.3	14.4	10,620	5,859	17	2.6
Jefferson	53.3	52.2	15.0	9,634	5,668	1,399	10.8
Jefferson Davis	73.4	70.0	15.1	8,292	4,724	23	1.3
Lafayette	65.0	68.6	14.7	7,862	5,030	635	6.8
Lafourche	58.8	62.0	13.3	7,749	4,568	244	5.2
Lasalle	69.4	69.7	15.4	7,529	4,415	31	3.9
Lincoln	63.7	63.3	13.8	7,104	4,273	136	7.3
Livingston	73.0	74.4	16.4	6,662	4,223	187	2.9
Madison	38.3	34.2	16.8	7,613	3,983	66	10.9
Morehouse	52.6	52.9	14.9	8,319	5,126	155	11.8
Natchitoches	53.2	52.1	20.8	7,581	4,636	186	9.8
Orleans	68.7	67.5	15.0	27,456	13,288	402	7.4
Ouachita	75.0	73.7	15.2	7,429	4,400	322	5.6
Plaquemines	69.7	70.2	13.2	12,475	5,842	68	5.2
Pointe Coupee	50.2	47.6	16.1	9,001	5,000	61	7.3
Rapides	66.4	62.8	14.2	7,546	4,558	379	5.5
Red River	55.1	54.3	14.1	8,902	5,170	56	10.8
Richland	49.8	53.0	15.3	7,715	4,442	68	6.8
Sabine	62.7	61.1	13.9	7,080	3,975	42	3.3
St. Bernard	—	—	—	—	—	91	6.9
St. Charles	71.1	72.6	12.5	10,122	5,938	71	2.4

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR TABLES

Access to Knowledge, *continued*

GROUPING	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL (%), 2005-2007[1]	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE (%), 2005-2007[2]	BACHELOR'S DEGREE (%), 2005-2007[3]	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (%), 2005-2007[4]	COMBINED GROSS ENROLLMENT RATIO (%), 2005-2007[5]	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT; 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS (% of age group) 2005-2007[6]	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT; 18 AND 19 YEAR OLDS (% of age group) 2005-2007[7]	SCHOOL ENROLLMENT; 20 TO 24 YEAR OLDS (% of age group) 2005-2007[8]
St. Helena	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. James	16.8	69.2	10.0	4.1	81.2	42.1	72.3	34.3
St. John The Baptist	19.4	65.6	11.6	3.5	78.6	58.8	59.7	30.3
St. Landry	30.7	57.7	8.1	3.6	77.4	47.6	63.3	28.4
St. Martin	27.6	62.6	7.1	2.7	79.9	38.0	66.6	25.3
St. Mary	33.4	56.4	7.4	2.8	81.0	57.8	74.7	15.7
St. Tammary	12.8	57.0	20.5	9.6	85.3	63.3	61.8	39.7
Tanqipahoa	23.1	59.0	11.9	6.0	76.3	31.7	55.9	38.8
Tensas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Terrebonne	28.2	58.2	9.2	4.4	78.4	43.1	66.8	26.0
Union	20.8	63.7	11.0	4.6	86.8	48.3	77.5	25.4
Vermilion	28.3	61.8	8.2	1.8	73.9	42.2	53.0	21.4
Vernon	15.6	68.5	10.1	5.9	69.3	33.5	29.1	10.5
Washington	23.6	64.5	7.9	4.1	79.0	41.0	72.1	20.5
Webster	26.2	61.1	8.1	4.7	77.2	35.6	56.4	20.2
West Baton Rouge	20.1	62.5	11.9	5.5	80.1	50.9	64.9	35.6
West Carroll	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Feliciana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Winn	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1–4. Source: Selected Social Characteristics, 2005-2007, American Community Survey 3-year estimates.

5. Source: Population of any age enrolled in school divided by population 3 to 24 years of age. American Community Survey 2007 3-year estimates.

6–8. Source: Table B14003. Sex by school enrollment by type of school by age for the population 3 years and over. 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-year estimates.

GROUPING	READING PROFICIENCY (% testing proficient grades 3-12) 2007[9]	MATH PROFICIENCY (% testing proficient grades 3-12) 2007[10]	STUDENTS PER TEACHER 2007[11]	OPERATING EXPENDITURES ($ per student) 2006[12]	INSTRUCTIONAL EXPENDITURES ($ per student) 2006[13]	HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS (numbers, grades 9-12)[14]	HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS (% of students, grade 9-12)[15]
St. Helena	28.1	31.8	17.6	7,067	3,585	45	9.8
St. James	60.6	64.0	12.6	9,634	5,430	54	4.7
St. John The Baptist	55.0	54.5	13.6	9,064	5,810	143	7.2
St. Landry	66.5	61.8	14.9	7,531	4,608	247	5.8
St. Martin	56.6	59.3	15.7	6,889	4,063	230	8.7
St. Mary	55.6	59.9	13.9	7,502	4,434	254	7.8
St. Tammary	74.2	73.9	13.6	9,127	5,621	501	4.5
Tanqipahoa	56.8	52.7	17.2	7,104	4,280	454	7.5
Tensas	49.1	45.2	13.1	10,653	5,593	18	8.2
Terrebonne	59.7	56.0	13.8	7,457	4,662	412	7.3
Union	48.1	45.2	16.8	7,262	4,092	79	7.9
Vermilion	67.8	68.2	14.0	7,798	4,364	100	3.8
Vernon	74.1	72.9	14.2	8,224	4,946	110	4.3
Washington	57.3	57.5	15.2	8,282	4,904	91	5.9
Webster	56.8	56.2	16.1	7,307	4,389	105	4.9
West Baton Rouge	58.1	54.1	14.2	7,596	4,495	79	7.0
West Carroll	67.2	68.5	14.0	7,480	4,357	49	7.2
West Feliciana	72.1	71.3	13.0	9,340	5,048	22	3.2
Winn	68.0	65.9	14.9	8,244	4,495	43	5.7

9–13. Source: School Data Direct, an online service of the State Education Data Center of the Council of Chief State School Officers. Students per teacher is the ratio of students relative to number of instructional staff. Proficiency is based on Louisiana state tests and is the minimum level required for No Child Left Behind goals.

14–15. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Office of Management and Finance, 2006-2007 Dropout Numbers and Percents by Grade Level. http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/14037.pdf.

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR TABLES

A Decent Standard of Living

GROUPING	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME ($) 2005–2007[1]	LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION (% 16 and over) 2005–2007[2]	POVERTY (% of people below federal poverty threshold) 2005–2007[3]	UNEMPLOYMENT (% 16 and over) 2005–2007[4]	FOOD STAMPS (% of population) 2009[5]
Louisiana	**40,160**	**60.3**	**19.3**	**7.9**	**15.7**
GENDER					
Female	—	55.0	21.6	8.1	—
Male	—	66.0	16.7	7.7	—
RACE					
African American	24,840	58.5	34.3	14.6	—
White	47,980	61.0	11.6	5.0	—
PARISH					
Acadia	29,974	56.9	22.7	7.0	17.4
Allen	34,038	47.8	19.0	6.3	14.8
Ascension	53,866	67.5	11.8	5.6	9.2
Assumption	37,458	52.7	23.1	7.4	17.2
Avoyelles	28,072	53.3	27.9	9.8	23.3
Beauregard	41,539	57.8	14.3	7.8	11.3
Bienville	—	—	—	—	20.7
Bossier	48,223	63.5	14.1	8.1	11.5
Caddo	34,518	59.9	23.1	9.7	17.6
Calcasieu	39,713	62.5	17.2	8.4	13.9
Caldwell	—	—	—	—	19.1
Cameron	—	—	—	—	3.3
Catahoula	—	—	—	—	20.6
Claiborne	—	—	—	—	19.9
Concordia	—	—	—	—	25.2
De Soto	35,484	56.0	24.3	7.9	17.9
East Baton Rouge	43,323	66.5	19.6	7.7	14.3
East Carroll	—	—	—	—	37.7
East Feliciana	37,629	54.0	21.0	14.0	15.1
Evangeline	30,997	49.5	28.2	6.2	21.4
Franklin	26,382	53.6	32.2	12.6	25.4
Grant	—	—	—	—	20.6
Iberia	38,862	61.4	22.3	7.4	18.2
Iberville	37,808	56.7	20.6	10.4	21.1
Jackson	—	—	—	—	16.2
Jefferson	46,498	63.4	15.0	7.5	9.5
Jefferson Davis	35,331	58.8	17.4	6.6	13.4
Lafayette	43,726	67.6	16.3	5.2	11.3
Lafourche	41,442	57.0	15.8	4.3	12.0
La Salle	—	—	—	—	13.2
Lincoln	32,669	59.6	25.8	14.6	16.8
Livingston	50,348	63.7	12.6	4.2	11.8
Madison	—	—	—	—	32.1
Morehouse	29,027	51.2	30.2	9.5	28.5
Natchitoches	27,478	55.8	30.1	10.9	23.4
Orleans	35,409	60.1	22.6	13.1	26.8
Ouachita	36,738	61.2	21.5	8.3	20.1
Plaquemines	45,099	48.3	13.3	7.6	11.5
Pointe Coupee	32,025	57.7	26.4	7.1	16.6
Rapides	36,464	60.0	20.7	7.1	16.8
Red River	—	—	—	—	22.4
Richland	36,414	56.0	22.9	14.4	23.4
Sabine	34,995	53.9	18.2	5.2	17.4
St. Bernard	—	—	—	—	26.0
St. Charles	58,120	65.1	12.5	6.8	10.6

	EMPLOYED POPULATION 16 YEARS AND OVER, 2005–2007					
GROUPING	MANAGEMENT, PROFESSIONAL, AND RELATED OCCUPATIONS (%)[6]	SERVICE OCCUPATIONS (%)[7]	SALES AND OFFICE OCCUPATIONS (%)[8]	FARMING, FISHING, AND FORESTRY CCUPATIONS (%)[9]	CONSTRUCTION, EXTRACTION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPAIR OCCUPATIONS (%)[10]	PRODUCTION, TRANSPORTATION, AND MATERIAL MOVING OCCUPATIONS (%)[11]
Louisiana	**29.8**	**17.7**	**26.1**	**0.6**	**12.6**	**13.2**
Female	34.6	22.6	37.0	0.2	1.0	4.5
Male	25.5	13.3	16.2	1.1	23.0	20.9
African American	19.5	28.7	24.5	0.6	9.5	17.1
White	33.9	13.3	27.1	0.6	13.6	11.5
Acadia	24.3	18.3	23.2	0.7	17.0	16.5
Allen	24.5	25.8	19.3	0.8	14.9	14.6
Ascension	28.6	14.4	27.5	0.3	14.1	15.2
Assumption	17.6	16.5	24.2	1.4	21.6	18.7
Avoyelles	26.2	24.7	19.8	2.3	13.0	14.0
Beauregard	23.9	21.1	19.4	1.7	18.4	15.5
Bienville	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bossier	28.4	18.9	26.4	0.4	13.5	12.5
Caddo	30.9	20.5	27.2	0.4	7.8	13.1
Calcasieu	28.5	18.9	25.1	0.4	14.8	12.3
Caldwell	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cameron	—	—	—	—	—	—
Catahoula	—	—	—	—	—	—
Claiborne	—	—	—	—	—	—
Concordia	—	—	—	—	—	—
De Soto	24.7	16.5	20.5	0.8	17.3	20.2
East Baton Rouge	36.2	18.2	26.9	0.1	8.4	10.2
East Carroll	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Feliciana	22.7	24.6	22.2	1.9	13.5	15.2
Evangeline	29.4	19.4	20.7	1.0	19.1	10.3
Franklin	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grant	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iberia	24.7	17.8	25.0	0.4	16.6	15.4
Iberville	23.2	20.6	22.7	1.2	16.2	16.1
Jackson	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jefferson	31.9	15.9	28.1	0.3	12.7	11.0
Jefferson Davis	24.9	15.4	23.5	0.6	20.4	15.2
Lafayette	34.1	17.0	27.5	0.1	11.3	10.1
Lafourche	25.4	15.1	23.8	0.9	14.8	19.9
La Salle	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lincoln	31.6	21.9	24.9	0.5	9.4	11.8
Livingston	25.2	14.7	26.8	0.2	19.8	13.3
Madison	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morehouse	23.5	20.0	25.6	1.2	9.4	20.2
Natchitoches	26.6	19.3	21.9	1.1	12.7	18.4
Orleans	35.8	21.9	22.8	0.1	9.5	9.8
Ouachita	28.7	17.7	32.3	0.1	8.6	12.7
Plaquemines	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pointe Coupee	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rapides	31.8	18.7	26.4	0.7	11.0	11.3
Red River	—	—	—	—	—	—
Richland	28.1	14.7	25.1	4.9	12.9	14.3
Sabine	23.6	14.3	23.1	5.1	17.1	16.8
St. Bernard	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Charles	32.2	12.6	27.3	0.3	13.3	14.3

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR TABLES

A Decent Standard of Living, *continued*

GROUPING	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME ($) 2005–2007[1]	LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION (% 16 and over) 2005–2007[2]	POVERTY (% of people below federal poverty threshold) 2005–2007[3]	UNEMPLOYMENT (% 16 and over) 2005–2007[4]	FOOD STAMPS (% of population) 2009[5]
St. Helena	—	—	—	—	27.1
St. James	48,254	60.9	14.3	5.5	16.8
St. John the Baptist	46,273	63.1	16.2	8.5	16.0
St. Landry	24,243	51.9	32.1	8.6	21.1
St. Martin	37,509	63.3	16.2	7.1	16.4
St. Mary	37,608	62.0	23.1	7.3	19.5
St. Tammany	58,653	62.0	10.7	4.7	7.8
Tangipahoa	34,071	55.4	23.8	9.4	21.4
Tensas	—	—	—	—	30.4
Terrebonne	44,258	59.9	17.6	5.3	13.0
Union	34,040	56.2	23.6	5.8	16.8
Vermilion	37,609	57.1	18.6	3.7	13.5
Vernon	38,495	47.3	17.5	7.1	11.2
Washington	31,532	54.1	22.5	9.5	23.9
Webster	32,436	55.7	23.6	7.3	18.7
West Baton Rouge	42,776	65.8	18.3	6.7	14.6
West Carroll	—	—	—	—	19.7
West Feliciana	—	—	—	—	7.2
Winn	—	—	—	—	19.3

1. Source: Table GCT1901. Median Household Income (In 2007 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars). 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-year estimates.

5. Source: Louisiana Department of Social Services, April 2009. http://www.dss.state.la.us/assets/docs/searchable/OFS/Statistics/Stat08-09/Food%20Stamp/fy0809_FS_Rec_Pov.pdf.

All other columns source: Selected Economic Characteristics, 2005-2007, American Community Survey 3-year estimates.

	EMPLOYED POPULATION 16 YEARS AND OVER, 2005–2007					
GROUPING	MANAGEMENT, PROFESSIONAL, AND RELATED OCCUPATIONS (%)[6]	SERVICE OCCUPATIONS (%)[7]	SALES AND OFFICE OCCUPATIONS (%)[8]	FARMING, FISHING, AND FORESTRY CCUPATIONS (%)[9]	CONSTRUCTION, EXTRACTION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPAIR OCCUPATIONS (%)[10]	PRODUCTION, TRANSPORTATION, AND MATERIAL MOVING OCCUPATIONS (%)[11]
St. Helena	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. James	18.6	19.7	21.5	0.2	15.1	24.9
St. John the Baptist	26.1	16.4	27.9	0.5	10.7	18.4
St. Landry	25.3	18.0	26.0	1.3	15.3	14.1
St. Martin	23.8	14.1	25.6	0.9	16.5	19.2
St. Mary	22.4	16.6	22.9	1.2	14.1	22.9
St. Tammany	38.0	14.9	28.7	0.2	10.2	7.9
Tangipahoa	27.0	15.7	26.1	0.5	14.7	16.0
Tensas	—	—	—	—	—	—
Terrebonne	23.1	16.5	24.7	0.9	15.2	19.6
Union	25.5	14.4	27.7	1.6	16.1	14.9
Vermilion	22.9	18.8	24.6	1.3	17.6	14.8
Vernon	27.7	19.4	23.7	1.0	16.9	11.3
Washington	25.1	17.6	25.0	1.4	15.2	15.8
Webster	24.3	17.5	20.9	0.3	18.4	18.7
West Baton Rouge	24.9	20.8	25.7	0.0	10.5	18.1
West Carroll	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Feliciana	—	—	—	—	—	—
Winn	—	—	—	—	—	—

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR TABLES

Demographics by Parish

PARISH	POPULATION 2007[1]	POPULATION UNDER 18 (%) 2007[2]	POPULATION OVER 65 (%) 2007[3]	PERCENT CHANGE IN POPULATION 2000–2007[4]	URBAN POPULATION (%) 2007[5]	WHITE ALONE; NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO (%) 2007[6]	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE; NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO (%) 2007[7]	AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE ALONE; NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO (%) 2007[8]	ASIAN ALONE; NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO (%) 2007[9]	HISPANIC OR LATINO (%) 2007[10]
Louisiana	**4,293,204**	**26.7**	**12.2**	**-4.5**	**72.6**	**62.7**	**31.9**	**0.6**	**1.5**	**3.2**
Acadia	59,958	29.3	12.5	2.0	50.9	79.2	19.2	0.2	0.3	1.1
Allen	25,524	24.5	12.3	2.5	32.2	67.9	24.7	1.9	0.7	4.8
Ascension	99,056	30.2	8.1	11.2	74.9	73.4	21.8	0.3	0.8	3.8
Assumption	22,991	25.8	12.1	0.6	54.6	65.2	32.4	0.3	0.2	1.8
Avoyelles	42,169	26.6	13.3	2.0	37.4	66.1	31.4	1.1	0.2	1.1
Beauregard	34,776	26.7	12.5	1.5	29.6	81.8	14.1	0.7	0.8	2.5
Bienville	14,907	25.4	17.6	-0.6	19.6	55.4	42.7	0.3	0.3	1.4
Bossier	108,705	28.6	11.5	3.2	72.1	71.2	22.1	0.5	1.8	4.5
Caddo	252,609	26.9	13.6	0.9	84.1	49.0	47.3	0.4	1.1	2.2
Calcasieu	184,512	27.1	12.5	0.0	77.6	71.7	25.1	0.3	0.9	2.0
Caldwell	10,307	24.1	14.3	-0.9	0.0	79.2	18.4	0.5	0.2	1.7
Cameron	7,414	22.8	11.9	-22.5	0.0	91.8	4.0	0.5	0.6	3.0
Catahoula	10,452	24.8	14.5	1.8	0.0	70.1	28.5	0.2	0.1	1.0
Claiborne	16,283	22.7	16.3	-0.2	21.9	50.5	48.2	0.2	0.1	1.0
Concordia	19,058	26.4	15.7	0.6	61.6	57.0	40.4	0.2	0.4	1.9
De Soto	26,269	27.0	13.6	1.1	26.5	56.8	40.4	0.4	0.2	2.2
East Baton Rouge	430,317	26.9	10.5	4.4	92.9	49.4	45.0	0.2	2.6	2.7
East Carroll	8,302	28.6	13.3	-1.9	63.5	29.6	68.3	0.2	0.4	1.4
East Feliciana	20,833	24.1	12.1	1.3	16.6	53.4	45.1	0.2	0.4	1.0
Evangeline	35,905	28.9	12.5	1.9	40.6	68.1	30.0	0.2	0.4	1.2
Franklin	20,060	26.8	16.3	-0.5	30.2	66.9	31.7	0.3	0.2	0.9
Grant	19,758	27.3	12.8	2.4	0.0	85.2	12.2	0.9	0.4	1.3
Iberia	74,965	28.9	12.2	1.8	67.5	62.7	32.8	0.4	2.3	1.9
Iberville	32,501	25.4	11.4	0.8	51.0	47.7	50.5	0.2	0.3	1.3
Jackson	15,139	24.9	16.7	0.5	31.7	70.6	27.8	0.3	0.3	1.0
Jefferson	423,520	25.0	13.6	-5.8	99.0	59.6	27.0	0.5	3.8	9.1
Jefferson Davis	31,177	28.3	14.1	0.8	51.4	79.7	18.2	0.5	0.3	1.3
Lafayette	204,843	27.4	10.2	3.8	88.1	69.6	26.1	0.3	1.6	2.4
Lafourche	92,713	26.0	11.9	1.4	72.4	80.9	13.9	2.3	0.9	2.1
La Salle	14,041	25.5	15.1	1.0	27.0	85.1	12.9	0.8	0.2	1.0
Lincoln	42,562	24.5	11.9	-0.4	63.4	55.8	40.8	0.2	1.4	1.8
Livingston	116,580	28.6	9.1	8.5	45.3	91.5	5.9	0.4	0.6	1.7

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR TABLES

Demographics by Parish, *continued*

PARISH	POPULATION 2007[1]	POPULATION UNDER 18 (%) 2007[2]	POPULATION OVER 65 (%) 2007[3]	PERCENT CHANGE IN POPULATION 2000–2007[4]	URBAN POPULATION (%) 2007[5]	WHITE ALONE; NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO (%) 2007[6]	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE; NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO (%) 2007[7]	AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE ALONE; NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO (%) 2007[8]	ASIAN ALONE; NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO (%) 2007[9]	HISPANIC OR LATINO (%) 2007[10]
Madison	11,858	30.5	11.7	-2.0	77.2	35.6	61.5	0.2	0.2	2.6
Morehouse	28,783	26.3	15.8	-2.2	51.8	53.7	44.8	0.2	0.3	1.0
Natchitoches	39,485	27.5	12.3	1.8	48.7	56.4	40.0	1.1	0.8	1.7
Orleans	239,124	20.6	12.7	-47.3	99.3	31.4	60.7	0.3	3.1	4.5
Ouachita	149,502	28.2	12.2	0.8	77.3	61.7	35.4	0.2	1.0	1.6
Plaquemines	21,540	27.9	11.1	-24.7	68.1	68.8	22.2	2.4	3.2	3.3
Pointe Coupee	22,392	25.6	14.7	2.6	40.3	60.0	37.9	0.3	0.4	1.4
Rapides	130,079	27.2	13.4	2.1	62.1	64.1	32.0	0.8	1.1	2.0
Red River	9,195	28.7	14.6	-0.2	27.8	56.0	42.4	0.3	0.1	1.1
Richland	20,469	26.8	14.3	0.7	36.0	60.6	37.5	0.2	0.2	1.5
Sabine	23,683	26.2	16.0	1.1	12.2	71.7	17.1	7.6	0.3	3.3
St. Bernard	19,826	19.4	8.7	-69.3	96.1	79.8	10.2	0.6	2.0	7.5
St. Charles	52,044	28.1	9.8	3.7	86.1	66.8	27.9	0.3	1.1	3.9
St. Helena	10,620	26.3	13.1	4.3	0.0	45.1	53.0	0.1	0.1	1.8
St. James	21,578	27.7	12.4	2.8	65.0	48.1	50.6	0.1	0.1	1.0
St. John the Baptist	47,684	30.7	8.5	4.6	85.2	44.1	50.5	0.2	0.8	4.3
St. Landry	91,362	28.7	13.9	3.0	55.7	55.5	42.9	0.1	0.4	1.1
St. Martin	51,651	27.9	10.7	3.2	32.7	66.0	31.5	0.3	1.0	1.1
St. Mary	51,311	27.9	13.1	0.8	82.0	61.0	33.0	1.6	1.4	3.0
St. Tammany	226,625	27.3	11.7	4.2	74.7	82.2	12.2	0.5	1.5	3.6
Tangipahoa	115,398	28.2	10.9	8.6	46.9	67.7	29.4	0.3	0.5	2.1
Tensas	5,865	24.7	14.9	-1.6	0.0	40.9	56.6	0.1	0.2	2.2
Terrebonne	108,424	28.1	10.8	2.0	75.0	72.4	19.1	5.0	1.1	2.4
Union	22,773	25.5	16.2	0.1	14.2	68.9	27.3	0.2	0.3	3.3
Vermilion	55,691	27.1	13.4	1.4	43.2	80.5	14.8	0.3	2.4	2.0
Vernon	47,380	32.7	9.9	-5.8	53.0	73.0	14.5	1.5	2.8	8.2
Washington	44,920	27.0	14.0	2.2	37.6	66.4	31.9	0.3	0.3	1.2
Webster	40,924	24.7	16.8	0.1	46.8	64.1	33.8	0.4	0.4	1.3
West Baton Rouge	22,625	27.1	10.5	5.1	60.4	60.4	37.0	0.2	0.3	2.1
West Carroll	11,553	24.0	17.1	-2.1	0.0	78.7	19.1	0.3	0.2	1.7
West Feliciana	15,113	17.2	8.5	0.4	0.0	48.7	49.7	0.3	0.2	1.2
Winn	15,521	23.3	14.4	-1.4	35.6	66.1	32.0	0.6	0.3	1.0

All columns except 5: United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Bridged-Race Population Estimates, United States July 1st resident population by state, county, age, sex, bridged-race, and Hispanic origin, on CDC WONDER on-line Database.

5. Source: MABLE/Geocorr, University of Missouri and CIESIN, http://mcdc2.missouri.edu/websas/geocorr2k.html.

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR TABLES

Demographics by Parish Group

PARISH GROUP	WHITE ALONE; NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO (%) 2005-07[1]	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE; NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO (%) 2005-07[2]	AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE ALONE; NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO (%) 2005-07[3]	ASIAN ALONE; NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO (%) 2005-07[4]	TWO OR MORE RACES; NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO (%) 2005-07[5]	HISPANIC OR LATINO (%) 2005-07[6]
Louisiana	**62.1**	**31.8**	**0.5**	**1.4**	**1.0**	**3.0**
Caddo (North)	42.3	53.3	0.3	0.7	1.2	2.0
Caddo (South)	56.7	38.9	0.3	1.3	0.5	2.2
Bossier-Webster	68.8	25.1	0.2	1.4	1.0	3.4
Lincoln-Natchitoches	57.2	38.2	1.3	0.3	1.1	1.7
Ouachita	61.7	34.7	0.1	0.9	0.9	1.6
Morehouse-Union	60.2	37.5	0.2	0.1	0.7	1.3
Avoyelles-Concordia	69.1	27.8	1.0	0.2	0.7	1.0
Rapides	64.0	31.3	0.7	1.0	0.8	2.0
Vernon-Beauregard	75.9	16.0	0.8	0.9	2.0	4.3
Calcasieu	71.4	24.2	0.3	0.7	1.4	1.8
Lafayette (Central)	64.1	30.2	0.3	1.9	0.7	2.6
Lafayette-Acadia	77.4	19.2	0.3	0.5	0.9	1.6
St. Landry-Evangeline	58.6	38.6	0.1	0.2	0.6	1.4
Iberville-Pointe Coupee	52.3	45.5	0.6	0.1	0.5	0.7
E. Baton Rouge (North)	53.7	42.3	0.0	1.3	0.5	2.0
E. Baton Rouge (South)-W. Baton Rouge	68.8	23.1	0.2	2.0	1.1	4.6
E. Baton Rouge (North and Central)	8.7	87.5	0.2	1.5	1.0	1.1
E. Baton Rouge (South)	64.7	26.4	0.2	4.2	2.1	2.4
Livingston-Ascension	83.3	12.5	0.2	0.5	0.7	2.5
Tangipahoa	67.5	29.0	0.2	0.5	0.8	2.0
Orleans (East)	5.2	85.7	0.1	5.6	1.0	2.2
Orleans (West)	37.4	54.9	0.2	1.7	0.9	4.9
Orleans (Southeast)	25.6	67.5	0.2	2.6	0.8	2.8
Orleans (Southwest)	41.3	50.1	0.1	1.8	0.8	5.6
Jefferson (North)	77.7	7.2	0.2	3.3	1.0	10.5
Jefferson (West)	62.1	22.1	0.1	2.8	1.7	11.1
Jefferson (East)	46.1	39.3	0.4	4.7	1.5	7.6
Jefferson (South)	48.0	41.0	0.6	3.7	0.7	5.6
St. Bernard-Plaquemines	77.0	16.1	0.7	1.4	0.3	4.5
St. Tammany-Washington	81.7	14.0	0.2	0.9	0.8	2.3
St. Tammany	75.9	15.7	0.5	1.3	2.1	4.0
Lafourche-Assumption	77.4	17.0	1.7	0.5	0.9	1.9
Terrebonne	72.2	18.6	4.8	1.1	0.9	2.3
St. Mary-St. Martin	63.2	31.5	1.0	1.2	1.1	2.0
St. Charles-St. John the Baptist	55.3	39.7	0.2	0.7	0.8	3.3
Iberia-Vermilion	70.2	24.6	0.1	2.3	0.8	1.9

1-6. Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-year estimates. Table C03002. Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race of Total Population.

Note: Totals may not equal 100 due to rounding.

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR TABLES

Air and Land

PARISH	TOXIC RELEASES (total pounds) 2002[1]	LEAD (% of housing units with high risk) 2000[2]	AVERAGE FARM SIZE (acres) 2007[3]
Louisiana	**120,290,949**	**2.9**	**269**
Acadia	2,523	4.6	257
Allen	1,249	3.7	205
Ascension	23,329,687	...	164
Assumption	76,898	2.7	559
Avoyelles	30	4.4	294
Beauregard	2,017,341	1.9	197
Bienville	576	4.2	210
Bossier	3,556	...	210
Caddo	1,577,672	3.0	242
Calcasieu	14,489,827	2.1	379
Caldwell	...	2.8	220
Cameron	61,948	...	638
Catahoula	...	2.8	453
Claiborne	...	4.6	203
Concordia	...	3.4	456
De Soto	9,795,836	3.6	270
East Baton Rouge	8,635,810	...	141
East Carroll	...	6.4	931
East Feliciana	...	2.3	292
Evangeline	130,388	5.2	214
Franklin	3,854	3.0	273
Grant	...	3.0	207
Iberia	144,400	3.8	336
Iberville	5,505,774	4.6	490
Jackson	1,193,255	3.8	102
Jefferson	9,561,845	...	213
Jefferson Davis	...	4.8	408
Lafayette	13,029	...	95
Lafourche	50,687	2.4	241
La Salle	32,239	3.0	123
Lincoln	308,230	2.9	164
Livingston	127,875	...	63
Madison	5,740	4.7	661
Morehouse	2,378,553	3.6	579
Natchitoches	1,649,083	4.1	388
Orleans	220,612	11.0	...
Ouachita	8,991,111	...	170
Plaquemines	605,179	...	686
Pointe Coupee	2,412,128	3.8	432
Rapides	1,525,177	3.0	181
Red River	26	3.0	412
Richland	272	3.9	336
Sabine	39,211	2.4	138
St. Bernard	1,803,930	...	712
St. Charles	12,031,080	...	...
St. Helena	3,056	2.5	144
St. James	4,605,273	2.4	676
St. John the Baptist	1,251,097	...	442
St. Landry	105,245	4.7	213
St. Martin	44,252	2.7	222
St. Mary	275,800	4.0	512
St. Tammany	6,027	...	76
Tangipahoa	389,141	2.5	104
Tensas	...	6.9	877
Terrebonne	72,992	2.0	1056
Union	959,497	2.3	158
Vermilion	18,624	4.2	246
Vernon	393,076	...	106
Washington	1,834,425	4.5	107
Webster	85,090	3.0	115
West Baton Rouge	683,837	2.0	202
West Carroll	...	2.7	183
West Feliciana	786,057	2.0	379
Winn	50,830	3.9	143

1. Source: scorecard.org of Green Media Toolshed. http://www.scorecard.org/ranking/rank-states.tcl?type=mass&category=total_env&modifier=na&how_many=100→←http://www.scorecard.org/ranking/rank-counties.tcl?how_many=100&drop_down_name=Total+environmental+releases&fips_state_code=22.

2. Source: scorecard.org of Green Media Toolshed. http://www.scorecard.org/env-releases/lead/rank-counties.tcl?how_many=50&drop_down_name=Percent+of+housing+units+with+a+high+risk+of+lead+hazards&fips_state_code=22.

3. Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2007 Census of Agriculture, Table 8. http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_2_County_Level/Louisiana/st22_2_008_008.pdf.

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR TABLES

Housing

GROUPING	RENTERS SPENDNG 30% OR MORE ON HOUSING 2005–2007 (%)[1]	OWNERS SPENDING 30% OR MORE ON HOUSING 2005–2007 (%)[2]	OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS 2005–2007 (as % of all housing)[3]	HOUSING UNITS WITH 101 OR MORE OCCUPANTS PER ROOM 2005–2007 (%)[4]	MOBILE HOMES 2005–2007 (% of all housing)[5]
Louisiana	**42.6**	**28.8**	**68.1**	**2.9**	**13.7**
GENDER					
Female	—	—	—	—	—
Male	—	—	—	—	—
RACE					
African American	50.1	34.0	50.8	5.2	10.3
White	36.3	17.9	76.0	1.9	14.5
PARISH					
Acadia	37.9	25.9	68.1	2.5	19.8
Allen	38.4	24.6	70.5	5.4	17.6
Ascension	36.9	23.4	79.2	3.8	23.9
Assumption	31.7	28.5	78.9	3.2	—
Avoyelles	41.8	35.4	67.4	5.6	13.6
Beauregard	29.2	16.3	77.0	4.1	28.1
Bienville	—	—	—	—	—
Bossier	32.7	21.0	66.5	2.5	15.0
Caddo	46.6	30.1	64.5	2.7	8.8
Calcasieu	41.4	22.9	69.5	2.6	18.6
Caldwell	—	—	—	—	—
Cameron	—	—	—	—	—
Catahoula	—	—	—	—	—
Claiborne	—	—	—	—	—
Concordia	—	—	—	—	—
De Soto	31.4	26.6	71.4	4.0	28.9
East Baton Rouge	49.2	30.0	61.7	2.4	3.1
East Carroll	—	—	—	—	—
East Feliciana	28.9	31.0	80.5	4.4	29.5
Evangeline	50.7	27.0	67.3	5.7	13.1
Franklin	42.5	32.7	69.1	...	...
Grant	—	—	—	—	—
Iberia	34.8	30.4	69.9	3.3	21.5
Iberville	31.2	32.4	72.9	3.1	21.2
Jackson	—	—	—	—	—
Jefferson	47.1	33.4	65.5	2.9	2.1
Jefferson Davis	36.8	21.6	74.7	...	18.5
Lafayette	41.2	26.0	64.9	2.4	11.5

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR TABLES

Housing, *continued*

GROUPING	RENTERS SPENDNG 30% OR MORE ON HOUSING 2005–2007 (%)[1]	OWNERS SPENDING 30% OR MORE ON HOUSING 2005–2007 (%)[2]	OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS 2005–2007 (as % of all housing)[3]	HOUSING UNITS WITH 101 OR MORE OCCUPANTS PER ROOM 2005–2007 (%)[4]	MOBILE HOMES 2005–2007 (% of all housing)[5]
Lafourche	35.0	20.8	76.1	3.7	16.4
La Salle	—	—	—	—	—
Lincoln	53.4	23.5	61.7	2.6	16.5
Livingston	31.1	23.4	82.8	3.5	30.8
Madison	—	—	—	—	—
Morehouse	48.8	38.3	74.6	3.4	18.6
Natchitoches	55.0	28.1	62.1	2.8	21.2
Orleans	48.8	43.6	50.1	2.7	2.4
Ouachita	48.3	28.6	64.0	1.7	14.1
Plaquemines	33.5	38.5	68.8	—	21.1
Pointe Coupee	39.7	23.6	76.9	—	—
Rapides	50.6	30.4	67.8	2.8	12.1
Red River	—	—	—	—	—
Richland	32.8	19.9	70.8	—	—
Sabine	35.7	16.4	78.5	2.5	39.1
St. Bernard	—	—	—	—	—
St. Charles	25.7	25.5	81.1	2.7	9.3
St. Helena	—	—	—	—	—
St. James	—	20.9	80.1	4.6	15.4
St. John the Baptist	39.4	31.6	79.4	4.0	11.0
St. Landry	40.0	32.1	69.1	3.3	19.0
St. Martin	35.6	29.6	78.3	2.5	25.1
St. Mary	36.8	25.9	71.8	3.8	21.3
St. Tammany	42.3	30.0	80.5	2.2	9.9
Tangipahoa	37.7	31.6	68.3	2.9	22.0
Tensas	—	—	—	—	—
Terrebonne	35.3	23.5	72.1	3.9	19.4
Union	44.5	26.2	78.6	...	28.4
Vermilion	33.1	24.0	75.1	3.3	19.3
Vernon	27.0	23.4	56.6	3.1	21.2
Washington	38.5	32.8	75.2	3.3	21.0
Webster	41.2	24.0	65.9	...	19.9
West Baton Rouge	32.3	27.4	70.4	5.2	22.7
West Carroll	—	—	—	—	—
West Feliciana	—	—	—	—	—
Winn	—	—	—	—	—

1. Source: Table GCT2515. Percent of Renter-Occupied Units Spending 30 Percent or More of Household Income on Rent and Utilities. 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-year estimates. Table includes only mortgaged owners except for by race, which includes all owners including non-mortgaged owners.

2. Source: Table GCT2513. Percent of Mortgaged Owners Spending 30 Percent or More of Household Income on Selected Monthly Owner Costs. 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-year estimates.

3. Source: Table GCT2512. Percent of Occupied Housing Units that are Owner-Occupied. 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-year estimates.

4. Source: Table GCT2509. Percent of Occupied Housing Units With 1.01 or More Occupants Per Room. 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-year estimates.

5. Source: Table GCT2501. Percent of Housing Units That Are Mobile Homes. 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-year estimates.

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR TABLES

Personal and Community Security

PARISH	VIOLENT CRIME (number) 2007[1]	MURDER AND NONNEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER (number) 2007[2]	RAPE (number) 2007[3]	PROPERTY CRIME (number) 2007[4]	FULL-TIME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (number) 2007[5]	JUVENILES IN CUSTODY OR UNDER SUPERVISION (number) 2007[6]
Louisiana	**31,317**	**608**	**1,393**	**174,991**	**15,133**	**4,661**
Acadia	16	0	1	406	111	66
Allen	...	...	...	...	...	69
Ascension	407	6	28	2,890	216	31
Assumption	121	0	5	400	45	25
Avoyelles	16	0	1	211	...	80
Beauregard	36	3	8	429	49	39
Bienville	...	...	...	...	45	6
Bossier	254	1	4	538	288	91
Caddo	202	3	22	993	432	196
Calcasieu	280	2	88	3,640	417	56
Caldwell	...	...	...	...	35	15
Cameron	71	1	3	187	44	16
Catahoula	...	...	...	...	16	8
Claiborne	...	...	...	...	37	7
Concordia	...	...	...	...	239	13
De Soto	...	...	...	...	...	87
East Baton Rouge	925	20	29	8,927	688	152
East Carroll	20	0	1	32	18	34
East Feliciana	...	...	...	...	19	13
Evangeline	66	1	9	440	17	65
Franklin	15	0	0	203	...	46
Grant	...	...	...	...	23	15
Iberia	...	...	...	...	...	301
Iberville	141	6	5	460	77	63
Jackson	...	...	...	...	26	9
Jefferson	2,616	44	74	15,090	900	165
Jefferson Davis	54	2	6	417	37	20
Lafayette	428	4	14	1,553	...	232
Lafourche	142	0	7	1,836	255	115
La Salle	...	...	...	...	22	12
Lincoln	39	5	3	247	40	105
Livingston	490	8	14	1,551	207	79

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR TABLES

Personal and Community Security, *continued*

PARISH	VIOLENT CRIME (number) 2007[1]	MURDER AND NONNEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER (number) 2007[2]	RAPE (number) 2007[3]	PROPERTY CRIME (number) 2007[4]	FULL-TIME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (number) 2007[5]	JUVENILES IN CUSTODY OR UNDER SUPERVISION (number) 2007[6]
Madison	61	2	3	180	...	52
Morehouse	32	1	1	438	37	79
Natchitoches	99	0	5	456	58	79
Orleans	...	...	...	...	...	179
Ouachita	...	...	...	...	358	252
Plaquemines	56	2	2	600	102	11
Pointe Coupee	74	4	0	377	36	26
Rapides	189	1	18	1,042	363	50
Red River	...	...	...	...	30	13
Richland	...	...	...	...	...	40
Sabine	...	...	...	...	71	45
St. Bernard	110	1	4	1,706	194	...
St. Charles	170	2	11	1,338	253	71
St. Helena	...	...	...	...	15	...
St. James	203	3	6	697	68	8
St. John the Baptist	194	7	9	1,731	185	7
St. Landry	164	1	8	1,127	152	147
St. Martin	80	2	15	488	114	175
St. Mary	193	2	7	1,027	165	110
St. Tammany	411	10	31	2,861	265	256
Tangipahoa	884	11	41	3,684	198	101
Tensas	...	...	...	...	31	20
Terrebonne	387	7	32	3,054	108	88
Union	...	...	...	...	31	43
Vermilion	401	1	7	218	67	114
Vernon	233	1	6	638	105	29
Washington	185	3	24	774	137	128
Webster	...	...	...	...	50	68
West Baton Rouge	93	2	5	491	122	44
West Carroll	29	0	0	279	20	23
West Feliciana	72	2	2	140	81	12
Winn	...	...	...	...	16	34

1-4. Source: US Department of Justice, FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division, 2007 Crime in the US, Tables 5 and 10. http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/offenses/violent_crime/index.html.

5. Source: US Department of Justice, FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division. http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/data/table_77.html http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/data/table_80_la.html.

6. Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center. http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/Default.aspx?state=LA.

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR TABLES

Political Participation

PARISH	TOTAL VOTES 2008 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION[1]	VOTING AGE POPULATION WHO VOTED IN 2008 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (%)[2]	TOTAL VOTES, 2004 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION[3]	VOTING AGE POPULATION WHO VOTED IN 2004 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (%)[4]
Louisiana	**1,960,761**	**59.4**	**1,943,106**	**58.6**
Acadia	26,711	61.3	25,230	60.1
Allen	9,467	48.1	9,124	47.6
Ascension	46,571	64.4	39,100	64.4
Assumption	10,960	63.0	10,735	63.0
Avoyelles	16,938	53.6	15,525	50.3
Beauregard	14,074	54.0	13,281	53.4
Bienville	7,430	65.9	7,157	63.0
Bossier	45,835	57.1	42,705	56.8
Caddo	108,660	57.5	106,595	57.5
Calcasieu	82,131	59.6	79,698	58.6
Caldwell	4,893	61.0	4,752	59.3
Cameron	3,793	66.1	4,640	64.2
Catahoula	5,225	64.8	4,954	61.7
Claiborne	6,841	53.6	6,630	53.6
Concordia	9,527	66.7	8,980	62.9
Desoto	12,257	62.2	11,336	59.6
East Baton Rouge	197,349	61.3	183,642	59.3
East Carroll	3,559	59.4	3,395	54.5
East Feliciana	9,947	61.6	9,201	58.3
Evangeline	15,976	61.5	13,979	55.6
Franklin	9,358	62.4	9,103	60.2
Grant	8,558	57.7	7,991	57.5
Iberia	33,168	60.6	32,273	61.4
Iberville	16,421	66.1	14,827	60.6
Jackson	7,736	66.2	7,647	66.3
Jefferson	181,120	54.4	191,663	56.4
Jefferson Davis	13,501	58.8	13,007	58.5
Lafayette	95,642	62.3	89,923	62.3
Lafourche	37,893	54.1	37,864	55.4
Lasalle	6,553	61.4	6,238	59.1
Lincoln	19,179	57.3	18,218	54.0
Livingston	50,892	58.3	44,253	58.7
Madison	5,300	63.0	4,673	53.6
Morehouse	13,200	61.0	12,971	58.4
Natchitoches	17,067	57.3	16,966	58.5
Orleans	147,439	59.5	197,103	57.3
Ouachita	67,244	60.9	64,444	59.6
Plaquemines	10,449	66.6	12,153	59.1
Pointe Coupee	12,435	73.1	11,271	67.8
Rapides	57,521	58.1	54,069	57.6
Red River	4,629	69.7	4,717	70.5
Richland	9,181	60.1	8,665	57.2
Sabine	9,652	54.3	9,576	54.7
St. Bernard	13,541	45.0	29,838	60.5
St. Charles	25,397	66.7	23,837	66.7
St. Helena	6,184	77.1	5,508	73.1
St. James	12,564	79.5	11,108	72.4
St. John The Baptist	21,656	64.4	19,617	61.8
St. Landry	42,493	63.1	36,760	57.8
St. Martin	24,252	63.1	22,824	63.0
St. Mary	22,903	60.8	22,694	60.8
St. Tammany	109,542	64.7	100,592	65.4
Tangipahoa	48,602	56.5	42,135	54.8
Tensas	3,040	68.9	2,963	64.7
Terrebonne	40,696	51.2	40,574	52.9
Union	10,868	63.2	10,718	62.9
Vermilion	24,833	59.5	24,552	61.4
Vernon	15,769	50.5	15,229	43.7
Washington	18,624	55.3	17,841	55.0
Webster	18,270	58.3	18,449	59.5
West Baton Rouge	11,866	70.5	10,835	67.6
West Carroll	4,987	55.8	5,033	55.7
West Feliciana	5,620	44.5	5,218	42.3
Winn	6,772	56.3	6,507	53.0

1. Source: Louisiana Secretary of State Election Results. http://www400.sos.louisiana.gov:8090/cgibin/?rqstyp=elcmp&rqsdta=1104080101714.

2. Source: Calculated using U.S. Census Bureau, Table T8-2008. Sex and Selected Age Groups, 2008 Population Estimates.

3. Source: Dave Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections. http://www.uselectionatlas.org.

4. Source: Calculated using U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Bridged-Race Population Estimates on CDC WONDER On-line Database.

LOUISIANA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR TABLES

Military Security

PARISH	ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY RECRUITS 2005[1]
Louisiana	**2716**
Acadia	49
Allen	14
Ascension	42
Assumption	5
Avoyelles	18
Beauregard	28
Bienville	15
Bossier	106
Caddo	165
Calcasieu	140
Caldwell	3
Cameron	5
Catahoula	2
Claiborne	11
Concordia	7
Desoto	14
East Baton Rouge	220
East Carroll	6
East Feliciana	11
Evangeline	22
Franklin	12
Grant	16
Iberia	39
Iberville	15
Jackson	11
Jefferson	195
Jefferson Davis	21
Lafayette	153
Lafourche	42
Lasalle	11
Lincoln	21
Livingston	76
Madison	9
Morehouse	16
Natchitoches	31
Orleans	174
Ouachita	104
Plaquemines	20
Pointe Coupee	10
Rapides	126
Red River	4
Richland	12
Sabine	11
St. Bernard	27
St. Charles	28
St. Helena	1
St. James	2
St. John The Baptist	15
St. Landry	50
St. Martin	21
St. Mary	43
St. Tammany	168
Tangipahoa	94
Tensas	4
Terrebonne	85
Union	12
Vermilion	34
Vernon	35
Washington	23
Webster	26
West Baton Rouge	8
West Carroll	14
West Feliciana	8
Winn	6

1. Source: Total Active-Duty Military Recruits—Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. National Priorities Project Database, 2005.

References

IN THIS SECTION:

Methodological Notes

The Human Development Index for Louisiana[49]

The modified American Human Development (HD) Index measures the same three basic dimensions as the standard HD Index, but it uses different data in order to better reflect the U.S. context. All data come from official U.S. government sources. The most recent year for which data are available is 2007.

In the HD Index for Louisiana:

- **A long and healthy life** is measured using life expectancy at birth, calculated from mortality data from the Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics and population data from the National Center for Health Statistics of the CDC and the U.S. Census Bureau, Bridged Race Population Estimates, Vintage 2007.
- **Access to knowledge** is measured using two indicators: school enrollment for the population age 3 and older, and educational degree attainment for the population 25 years and older (based on the percentages of the adult population that have earned a High School diploma, a Bachelor's degree, and a Graduate or Professional Degree). Both indicators are from the American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005–2007 three-year estimates.
- **Decent standard of living** is measured using median earnings from the American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005–2007 three-year estimates.

Before the HD Index itself is calculated, an index needs to be created for each of these three dimensions. To calculate these indices—the health, education, and income indices—minimum and maximum values (goalposts) are chosen for each underlying indicator. The goalposts are determined based on the range of the indicator observed on all possible groupings and also taking into account possible increases and decreases in years to come. These are then adjusted in order to achieve a balance in the final index. All three dimensions are weighted equally.

Performance in each dimension is expressed as a value between 0 and 10 by applying the following general formula:

$$\text{Dimension Index} = \frac{\text{actual value} - \text{minimum value}}{\text{maximum value} - \text{minimum value}} \times 10$$

Goalposts for Calculating the HD Index

For each of the three indices, goalposts are determined based on the range of the indicator observed on all possible groupings and also taking into account possible increases and decreases in years to come.

Indicator	Maximum value	Minimum value
Life expectancy at birth (years)	90	66
Educational attainment score	2.0	0.5
Combined gross enrollment ratio (%)	100	70
Median earnings (2007 dollars)[50]	58,391.24	13,801.57

The HD Index is obtained by the simple average of the health, education, and income indices:

$$\text{HD Index}_i = \frac{\text{Health Index}_i + \text{Education Index}_i + \text{Income Index}_i}{3}$$

Since all three components range from 0 to 10, the HD Index itself also varies from 0 to 10, with 10 representing the highest level of human development.

EXAMPLE:

Calculating the HD Index for Mississippi

1. HEALTH Index

The life expectancy at birth for Louisiana was 75.3 years in 2007. The Health Index is given by

$$\text{Health Index} = \frac{75.3 - 66}{90 - 66} \times 10 = \mathbf{3.87}$$

2. EDUCATION Index

In 2007, 79.4 percent of Louisianans 25 years and older had at least a high school diploma, 20.1 percent had at least a bachelor's degree, and 6.8 percent had a graduate or professional degree. Therefore the Educational Attainment Score is 0.794 + 0.201 + 0.068 = 1.063. The Educational Attainment Index is then

$$\text{Educational Attainment Index} = \frac{1.063 - 0.5}{2.0 - 0.5} \times 10 = \mathbf{3.75}$$

School enrollment (combined gross enrollment ratio) was 82.9 percent, so the Enrollment Index is

$$\text{Enrollment Index} = \frac{82.9 - 70}{100 - 70} \times 10 = \mathbf{4.30}$$

The Educational Attainment Index and the Enrollment Index are then combined to obtain the Education Index:

$$\text{Education Index} = \frac{2}{3}\mathbf{3.75} + \frac{1}{3}\mathbf{4.30} = \mathbf{3.94}$$

3. INCOME Index

Median personal earnings in 2007 were $24,376. The Income Index is then

$$\text{Income Index} = \frac{\log(24{,}376.00) - \log(13{,}801.57)}{\log(58{,}391.24) - \log(13{,}801.57)} \times 10 = \mathbf{3.94}$$

4. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT Index

Once these indices have been calculated, the HD Index is obtained by a simple average of the three indices:

$$\text{HD Index} = \frac{\mathbf{3.87} + \mathbf{3.94} + \mathbf{3.94}}{3} = \mathbf{3.92}$$

Data Sources

HEALTH

Death data were obtained from the Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals. Population data are the bridged-race population estimates of the July 1, 2007, population, produced by the U.S. Census Bureau in collaboration with National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

EDUCATION

Educational Attainment

American Community Survey three-year estimates, tables B15002 (Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over), B15002A, and B15002B (same, for White Alone and Black or African American Alone).

Enrollment

American Community Survey three-year estimates, tables B14003 (Sex by School Enrollment by Type of School by Age for the Population 3 Years and Over), B14003A and B14003B (same, for White Alone and Black or African American Alone); tables B01001 (Sex by Age), B01001A and B01001B (same, for White Alone and Black or African American Alone).

INCOME

American Community Survey three-year estimates, tables B20017 (Median Earnings by Sex by Work Experience for the Population 16+ Years with Earnings), B20017A and B20017B (same, for White Alone and Black or African American Alone).

Louisiana Historical Trends

The Human Development Index for Louisiana 1990, 2000, and 2005 uses different data sources, listed below.

1990 and 2000
Education and income data are from the 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses, U.S. Census Bureau. Life expectancy was calculated using data from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Compressed Mortality File on CDC WONDER On-line Database.

2005
All data from *The Measure of America: American Human Development Report 2008–2009*.

Differences between the American HD Index and the Standard HD Index

The standard HD Index was created by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and is published annually in the Human Development Report. This composite index was created to measure human development in all countries of the world, ranging from very-low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa to high-income countries in Europe, North America, and others. Thus, some of the indicators used and the goalposts chosen are not well suited to measurement of human development in an advanced industrialized economy such as the United States, since they have to accommodate a very wide range of conditions.

The American HD Index is thus a modified version of UNDP's index created by the American Human Development Project. It follows the same principles of the standard HD Index, and measures the same three basic dimensions of human development—health, knowledge, and standard of living—but it has been adapted in order to better reflect the U.S. context.

The table below lists the indicators used in the American HD Index and the standard HD Index:

	Indicator	
Dimension	**AMERICAN HD Index**	**STANDARD HD Index**
Health	Life expectancy at birth	Life expectancy at birth
Knowledge	Educational attainment Gross enrollment ratio	Adult literacy rate Gross enrollment ratio
Standard of living	Median earnings	GDP per capita

In the health dimension, the same indicator is used (life expectancy at birth), but the goalposts are changed. The standard HD Index uses goalposts of 25 years (minimum) and 85 years (maximum), to accommodate the enormous gap in life expectancy found in countries around the world. For the American HD Index, the goalposts were set at 66 years and 90 years, a range that accommodates the variations across all groupings considered in The Measure of America. Since life span in the United States is nowhere near the lower limit of 25 years set in the standard HD Index, using the standard HD Index goalposts would cluster all Health Index values around the maximum value, providing very little differentiation among states, congressional districts, and so on.

In the knowledge dimension, adult literacy rate was replaced with an educational attainment index. Adult literacy is a relevant indicator in a global context, where low-income countries still have very high illiteracy levels, but is largely irrelevant for developed nations, where most of the adult population has basic reading and writing skills and the labor market demands increasingly sophisticated skills. Functional literacy (the ability to read, write, and speak in English, and compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job and in society, achieve one's goals, and develop one's knowledge and potential) would be a good indicator, but suffers from severe data availability problems. Thus, the educational attainment index was used. It captures the overall educational level of the population, and is a good indicator of how well any given population is prepared to satisfy an increasingly demanding labor market.

The other knowledge indicator, school enrollment, which is the combined gross enrollment ratio, is the same in both the American HD Index and the standard HD Index with a slight modification. The enrollment in the American HD Index includes nursery school and prekindergarten, and the age group used in the denominator of the enrollment ratio has been adjusted to accommodate this. The goalposts were also changed, from 0 to 100 percent in the standard HD Index to 70 to 100 percent in the American HD Index, in order to reflect the ranges observed in all American HD Index groupings.

In the standard of living dimension, GDP per capita was replaced by median earnings. For relatively closed economies, such as those of countries, GDP per capita is a good indicator of the income appropriated by the local population. However, for smaller geographical areas within a country, such as states and congressional districts, which are much more open economies, substantial portions of the income generated within the community are used to remunerate production factors owned by persons who do not reside in that community (e.g., profits from a large manufacturing plant located in the community). They therefore do not adequately represent the income available to local residents.

As a result of these modifications, the American HD Index and the standard HD Index are not comparable. In order to prevent any comparison attempts, the American HD Index varies from 0 to 10 whereas the standard HD Index varies from 0 to 1.

Notes

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Conclusion

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Methodological Notes

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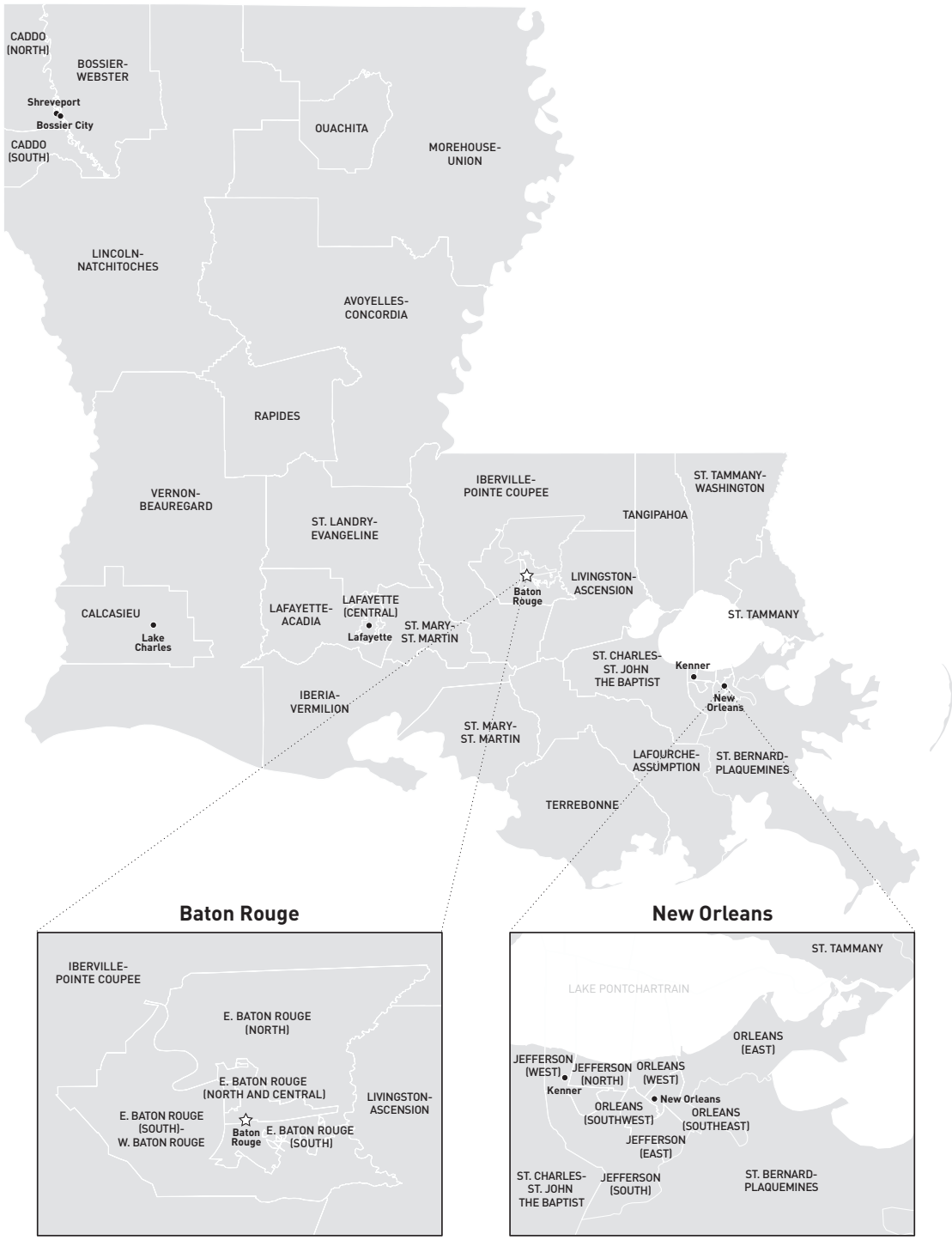
Map of Parishes

Map of Parish Groups



PARISH GROUP	PARISHES
CADDO (NORTH)	Caddo
CADDO (SOUTH)	Caddo
BOSSIER-WEBSTER	Bossier
	Webster
LINCOLN-NATCHITOCHES	Lincoln
	Natchitoches
	De Soto
	Sabine
	Claiborne
	Bienville
	Red River
OUACHITA	Ouachita
MOREHOUSE-UNION	Morehouse
	Union
	Franklin
	Richland
	Jackson
	Madison
	West Carroll
	Caldwell
	East Carroll
	Tensas
AVOYELLES-CONCORDIA	Avoyelles
	Concordia
	Grant
	Winn
	La Salle
	Catahoula
RAPIDES	Rapides
VERNON-BEAUREGARD	Vernon
	Beauregard
	Jefferson Davis
	Allen
	Cameron
CALCASIEU	Calcasieu
LAFAYETTE (CENTRAL)	Lafayette
LAFAYETTE-ACADIA	Lafayette
	Acadia
ST. LANDRY-EVANGELINE	St. Landry
	Evangeline

PARISH GROUP	PARISHES
IBERVILLE-POINTE COUPEE	Iberville
	Pointe Coupee
	East Feliciana
	West Feliciana
	St. Helena
E. BATON ROUGE (NORTH)	East Baton Rouge
E. BATON ROUGE (SOUTH)-W. BATON ROUGE	East Baton Rouge
	West Baton Rouge
E. BATON ROUGE (NORTH AND CENTRAL)	East Baton Rouge
E. BATON ROUGE (SOUTH)	East Baton Rouge
LIVINGSTON-ASCENSION	Livingston
	Ascension
TANGIPAHOA	Tangipahoa
ORLEANS (EAST)	Orleans
ORLEANS (WEST)	Orleans
ORLEANS (SOUTHEAST)	Orleans
ORLEANS (SOUTHWEST)	Orleans
JEFFERSON (NORTH)	Jefferson
JEFFERSON (WEST)	Jefferson
JEFFERSON (EAST)	Jefferson
JEFFERSON (SOUTH)	Jefferson
ST. BERNARD-PLAQUEMINES	St. Bernard
	Plaquemines
	Jefferson
ST. TAMMANY-WASHINGTON	St. Tammany
	Washington
ST. TAMMANY	St. Tammany
LAFOURCHE-ASSUMPTION	Lafourche
	Assumption
TERREBONNE	Terrebonne
ST. MARY-ST. MARTIN	St. Mary
	St. Martin
ST. CHARLES-ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST	St. Charles
	St. John the Baptist
	St. James
IBERIA-VERMILION	Iberia
	Vermilion

Key Facts about Louisiana

4,293,204
Louisiana Population in 2007.

49
Louisiana's HD Index ranking out of 50 states and Washington, D.C.

2 decades
Span of time Louisiana is behind the U.S. average in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment, and income.

68.1 years
Life expectancy of an African American baby boy born in Louisiana today.

69.7 years
Life expectancy of the average American in 1960.

14.2 per 100,000 people
Murder rate in Louisiana.

13.6 per 100,000 people
Murder rate in Swaziland, Southern Africa.

13%
Portion of the Louisiana Office of Mental Health budget spent on children's services.

1 in 5
Chance that an adult in Louisiana has not completed high school.

1 in 3
Chance that an adult in St. Landry-Evangeline parish group has not completed high school.

6.6%
2009 unemployment rate in Louisiana.

9.4%
2009 unemployment rate in the U.S.

$1,700
Estimated increase in median personal earnings per year if all Louisianans had at least a high school diploma.

195,000
Number of people employed through the restaurant industry.

$9.9 billion
Amount brought in each year by the tourism industry.

110.6 million
Pounds of crawfish harvested in Louisiana in 2007.

-250,000
Louisiana population loss the year following Hurricane Katrina.

4
State ranking of Louisiana in crude oil production (after Texas, Alaska, and California).

5
State ranking of Louisiana in natural gas production.

$44,000
Approximate amount per family of federal hurricane recovery dollars directed to Louisiana thus far.

50%
Increase in average rent price in Louisiana for a two-bedroom apartment post-Katrina.

8 out of 10
Proportion of current Louisiana residents who were born there.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, "Common Good Forecaster," Louisiana Offices of Public Health and Mental Health, U.S. Department of Justice, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Louisiana Restaurant Association, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Office of Management and Budget, U.S. Department of Energy, and Gannett Louisiana Online Network.

WHO ARE WE?

KEY FACTS ABOUT THE LOUISIANA POPULATION

Four million, two hundred ninety three thousand, two hundred four **people**

Louisiana's population in 2007 was

4,293,204

102.6 people PER SQUARE MILE

GENDER

51% Female | 49% Male

URBAN | RURAL

74% Urban | 26% Rural

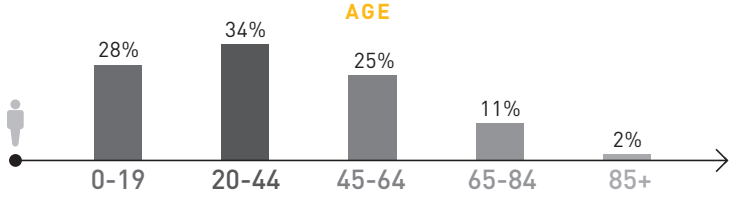
BIRTHPLACE

97% Native born | 3% Foreign born

HOME OWNERSHIP

68% Own | 32% Rent

AGE



RACE / ETHNICITY

- 65% White
- 32% African American
- 3% Hispanic origin (any race)
- 2% Asian, Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander
- 1% Other
- 1% American Indian & Alaska Native

FARMS BY TOTAL ANNUAL SALES

- 69% Under $9,999
- 16% $10,000–50,000
- 4% $50,000–99,999
- 6% $100,000–499,999
- 5% Over $500,000

TRAVEL TO WORK

- 81% Drive alone
- 11% Carpool
- 2% Walked
- 5% Other & Worked at Home
- 1% Public Transportation

EMPLOYMENT

- 22% Health Care, Social Assistance, Educational Services
- 18% Manufacturing, Construction
- 15% Trade (wholesale, retail)
- 9% Entertainment, Arts, Recreation, Accomm., Food Services
- 8% Services (professional, scientific, management, etc.)
- 6% Finance, Insurance, Real Estate
- 6% Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities
- 5% Other Services, except Public Administration
- 5% Public Administration
- 5% Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Mining
- 2% Information

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (urban/rural data), U.S. Department of Agriculture 2007 Census of Agriculture (farms by total sales), U.S. Census Bureau, www.factfinder.census.gov (all remaining data).

Percentages may not equal exactly 100 due to rounding. All data are from 2007 except urban/rural (2008) and population per square mile (based on 2000 Census).

How is **Louisiana** doing?

Some in Louisiana enjoy human development levels **well above the U.S. average**. Others experience levels of well-being typical of the country as a whole in the 1970s.

A **seven-year life span gap** separates the top and bottom parishes in Louisiana.

White adults in Louisiana today are **twice as likely to have graduated from college** as African American adults.

Median earnings are about $32,000 for men, and about $18,000 for women — **a gender earnings gap of $14,000**.

A Portrait of Louisiana uses a well-honed international approach to assess progress, opportunity, and human well-being across the state—with some surprising results.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Sarah Burd-Sharps and **Kristen Lewis** are co-directors of the American Human Development Project and co-authors of *The Measure of America: American Human Development Report 2008-2009*. They both previously worked on human development issues at both the community and macro levels in over 40 developing nations.

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ABOUT THE DESIGN

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

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SSRC

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