

PUBLICLY INSURED CHILDREN BY PROGRAM

DEFINITION: Number of children (ages 0-18) who are enrolled in either Medicaid or LaCHIP.

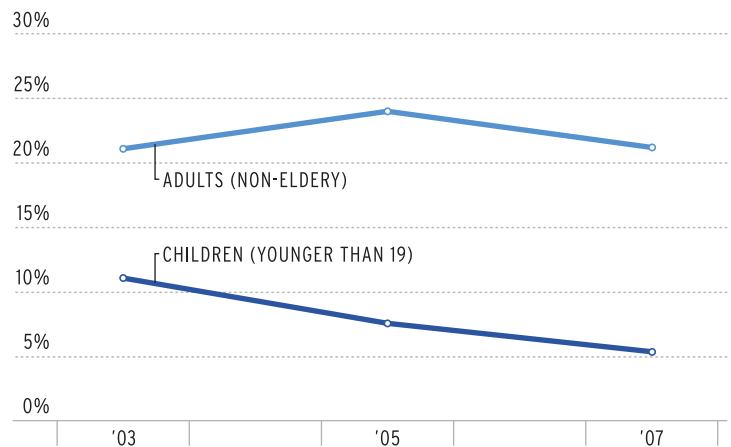
SIGNIFICANCE

Health insurance helps children get the health care they need to grow up healthy and strong. Louisiana's Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) operates several programs, including LaCHIP and Medicaid, which provide health insurance for Louisiana's low- and moderate-income children. Through LaCHIP and Medicaid, children receive coverage for physician's visits, hospitalizations, prescription coverage, vision and dental care, in addition to other services.

Uninsured children whose families earn up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) are eligible for free health insurance through either Medicaid or LaCHIP. This means that a family of four can earn up to about \$44,000 a year and still qualify for LaCHIP. Traditional Medicaid serves low-income children, while LaCHIP serves children whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but less than 200% FPL. DHH also offers the LaCHIP Affordable Plan, which serves children whose families earn too much to qualify for LaCHIP, but whose incomes are less than 250% FPL (about \$55,000 for a family of four). Unlike "traditional" LaCHIP and Medicaid, the LaCHIP Affordable Plan charges a monthly premium and copays for services.

Since the LaCHIP program began, over a decade ago, Louisiana has witnessed a dramatic decline in the percentage of children who lack health insurance. In 1997, the year that Congress created the State Child Health Insurance Program, an estimated 21% of Louisiana's children were uninsured.¹ In 2007, the Louisiana Health Insurance Survey estimated that just 5% of all Louisiana children under age 18 were uninsured, representing a 76% decline in the rate of uninsured children since 1997.² Louisiana's progress in reducing the number of children who are uninsured reflects Louisiana's success in getting (and keeping) eligible children enrolled in Medicaid and LaCHIP. Between 1999 and 2007, the number of publicly insured children in Louisiana increased by over 80%, rising from 350,000 to 633,504 children.³

PERCENTAGE OF UNINSURED CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN LOUISIANA 2003-2007



Medicaid and LaCHIP are funded through a combination of federal Medicaid and the State Child Health Insurance (SCHIP) dollars and state matching funds. In FFY 2008, Louisiana's federal match rate for Medicaid was 72%, meaning that the federal government paid for 72% of all Medicaid spending in Louisiana. The federal government provides an enhanced match rate for SCHIP, which was set at 81% for Louisiana in FFY 2008. This means that for every dollar Louisiana spent on LaCHIP in FFY 2008, the federal government spent \$4.⁴

In FFY 2006, Louisiana spent an average of \$1,003 per child enrolled in Medicaid (including both state and federal dollars), less than any other state. By comparison, the state spent an average of \$2,751 for each non-elderly adult enrolled in Medicaid and \$7,007 for each elderly Medicaid enrollee.⁵

CHART DATA SOURCE

Kirby Goidel and Dek Terrell, "Ten-Year Analysis of Louisiana's Uninsured Population," Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals, retrieved from <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov> on 7/30/2009.

DATA SOURCE

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Medicaid Office, by special request

¹ The Annie E. Casey Foundation, "Children 17 and below without health insurance," KIDS COUNT Data Center, retrieved from www.kidscount.org/datacenter on 7/30/2009.

² Kirby Goidel and Dek Terrell, "Ten-Year Analysis of Louisiana's Uninsured Population," Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals, retrieved from <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov> on 7/30/2009.

³ Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, "All Publicly Insured Children Graph," Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, retrieved from <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov> on 7/30/2009.

⁴ The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, "Louisiana Federal Matching Rate (FMAR) for CHIP" and "Louisiana: Federal Matching Rate (FMAR) for Medicaid and Multiplier," State Health Facts, retrieved from www.statehealthfacts.org on 7/30/2009.

⁵ The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, "Medicaid Payments per Enrollee, FY2006," State Health Facts, retrieved from www.statehealthfacts.org on 7/30/2009.

PUBLICLY INSURED CHILDREN BY PROGRAM

2007 TOTALS

	MEDICAID		LaCHIP	
	No.	% of total enrollment	No.	% of total enrollment
LOUISIANA	520,984	82	112,520	18
Acadia	8,337	80	2,053	20
Allen	3,334	81	758	19
Ascension	8,467	79	2,269	21
Assumption	2,846	81	666	19
Avoyelles	6,395	82	1,444	18
Beauregard	3,541	77	1,048	23
Bienville	2,043	85	359	15
Bossier	9,949	82	2,125	18
Caddo	33,771	84	6,255	16
Calcasieu	21,280	80	5,234	20
Caldwell	1,351	80	344	20
Cameron	452	77	133	23
Catahoula	1,514	84	293	16
Claiborne	2,079	84	404	16
Concordia	3,299	85	590	15
De Soto	3,231	84	628	16
East Baton Rouge	53,162	84	9,805	16
East Carroll	1,983	90	215	10
East Feliciana	2,069	77	608	23
Evangeline	5,478	83	1,150	17
Franklin	3,629	85	644	15
Grant	2,467	79	653	21
Iberia	11,205	84	2,172	16
Iberville	4,641	83	976	17
Jackson	1,704	83	342	17
Jefferson	41,897	79	11,012	21
Jefferson Davis	3,889	78	1,080	22
Lafayette	20,121	82	4,516	18
Lafourche	9,905	80	2,466	20
La Salle	1,440	79	379	21
Lincoln	4,801	84	901	16
Livingston	11,691	78	3,304	22
Madison	2,614	89	338	11
Morehouse	5,019	84	944	16
Natchitoches	5,515	86	869	14
Orleans	36,068	87	5,611	13
Ouachita	21,422	86	3,615	14
Plaquemines	2,037	81	470	19
Pointe Coupee	2,957	80	741	20
Rapides	17,832	82	3,856	18
Red River	1,399	85	239	15
Richland	3,285	84	631	16
Sabine	2,683	85	483	15
St. Bernard	3,008	81	700	19
St. Charles	4,691	79	1,257	21
St. Helena	1,543	83	312	17
St. James	2,832	83	600	17
St. John the Baptist	6,605	80	1,604	20
St. Landry	14,214	82	3,189	18
St. Martin	6,713	80	1,648	20
St. Mary	8,081	82	1,824	18
St. Tammany	16,250	78	4,667	22
Tangipahoa	17,190	82	3,668	18
Tensas	1,044	86	167	14
Terrebonne	13,398	83	2,803	17
Union	2,931	83	599	17
Vermilion	6,271	83	1,307	17
Vernon	4,427	80	1,140	20
Washington	6,893	82	1,471	18
Webster	5,130	84	995	16
West Baton Rouge	2,379	80	613	20
West Carroll	1,686	77	501	23
West Feliciana	815	72	313	28
Winn	2,081	80	519	20

LIVE BIRTHS

DEFINITION: Total number of live births, disaggregated by race.

SIGNIFICANCE

The number of babies born in Louisiana each year is an important piece of data for anticipating the state's future needs. The number of babies born in a given year will affect the number of child care centers, schools, and pediatricians a region will need in the years to come.

The number of babies born to Louisiana mothers each year declined by 2,000 between 1996 and 2006, from 65,186 to 63,186. The demographic makeup of births closely mirrors that of the child population as a whole. In 2006, 95 out of every 100 Louisiana babies were born to mothers who identified as either non-Hispanic black or non-Hispanic white. Hispanics make up the next-largest group, accounting for 3.7% of all Louisiana births in 2006.¹ Approximately 1.5% of all births in Louisiana in 2006 were to Asian women and 0.7% were to American-Indian women.²

In 2006, Louisiana had a similar proportion of births to white women as the nation as a whole, with births to white mothers accounting for 55% of all births in Louisiana and 54% of all births nationwide. Reflecting the fact that Louisiana has a relatively large proportion of African-American residents, the percentage of births to black women was much higher in Louisiana (38%) than in the United States as a whole (15%). Likewise, a much smaller proportion of Louisiana births were to Hispanic women (3.7%) than the nation as a whole (24.4%).³

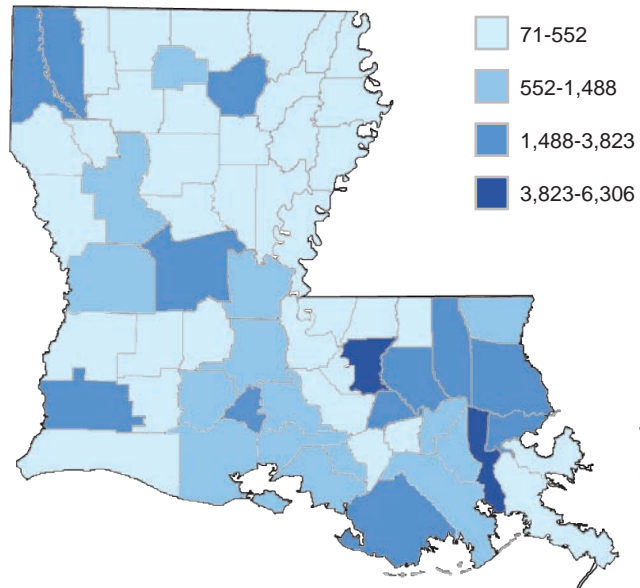
DATA SOURCE

Live births 2001-2006: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

RATE CALCULATION

$100 * (\text{number of births to black women} \div \text{total number of births})$

$100 * (\text{number of births to white women} \div \text{total number of births})$



LIVE BIRTHS
(NUMBER) — 2006

¹ National Center for Health Statistics, "Final Natality Data," retrieved from www.marchofdimes.com/peristats on 7/9/2009.

² *ibid.*

³ *ibid.*

LIVE BIRTHS BY RACE

2006	TOTAL	BLACK		WHITE	
	No.	No.	%	No.	%
LOUISIANA	63,186	24,293	38.4	36,809	58.3
Acadia	907	220	24.3	683	75.3
Allen	382	80	20.9	283	74.1
Ascension	1,715	437	25.5	1,254	73.1
Assumption	282	120	42.6	160	56.7
Avoyelles	629	231	36.7	388	61.7
Beauregard	524	61	11.6	450	85.9
Bienville	194	86	44.3	108	55.7
Bossier	1,766	457	25.9	1,255	71.1
Caddo	3,823	2,255	59.0	1,503	39.3
Calcasieu	2,874	882	30.7	1,938	67.4
Caldwell	137	27	19.7	110	80.3
Cameron	74	<5	LNE	73	98.6
Catahoula	141	41	29.1	100	70.9
Claiborne	209	116	55.5	92	44.0
Concordia	270	140	51.9	128	47.4
De Soto	400	192	48.0	205	51.3
East Baton Rouge	6,306	3,670	58.2	2,397	38.0
East Carroll	135	115	85.2	20	14.8
East Feliciana	284	138	48.6	144	50.7
Evangeline	552	182	33.0	368	66.7
Franklin	307	131	42.7	174	56.7
Grant	283	40	14.1	239	84.5
Iberia	1,208	493	40.8	688	57.0
Iberville	463	276	59.6	186	40.2
Jackson	193	64	33.2	128	66.3
Jefferson	5,666	1,913	33.8	3,129	55.2
Jefferson Davis	482	87	18.0	386	80.1
Lafayette	3,155	1,133	35.9	1,938	61.4
Lafourche	1,316	265	20.1	994	75.5
La Salle	179	26	14.5	149	83.2
Lincoln	593	277	46.7	301	50.8
Livingston	1,871	92	4.9	1,763	94.2
Madison	178	133	74.7	44	24.7
Morehouse	401	208	51.9	191	47.6
Natchitoches	620	330	53.2	280	45.2
Orleans	2,626	1,644	62.6	810	30.8
Ouachita	2,401	1,112	46.3	1,256	52.3
Plaquemines	294	67	22.8	210	71.4
Pointe Coupee	311	155	49.8	155	49.8
Rapides	2,022	787	38.9	1,192	59.0
Red River	160	86	53.8	74	46.3
Richland	308	147	47.7	158	51.3
Sabine	346	80	23.1	241	69.7
St. Bernard	200	22	11.0	173	86.5
St. Charles	719	242	33.7	449	62.4
St. Helena	114	73	64.0	41	36.0
St. James	307	181	59.0	126	41.0
St. John the Baptist	770	469	60.9	282	36.6
St. Landry	1,488	741	49.8	732	49.2
St. Martin	764	325	42.5	435	56.9
St. Mary	804	317	39.4	463	57.6
St. Tammany	3,102	397	12.8	2,610	84.1
Tangipahoa	1,937	815	42.1	1,101	56.8
Tensas	71	54	76.1	17	23.9
Terrebonne	1,752	404	23.1	1,203	68.7
Union	341	132	38.7	207	60.7
Vermilion	851	199	23.4	628	73.8
Vernon	938	165	17.6	725	77.3
Washington	723	273	37.8	446	61.7
Webster	511	193	37.8	316	61.8
West Baton Rouge	348	146	42.0	202	58.0
West Carroll	154	33	21.4	120	77.9
West Feliciana	112	46	41.1	65	58.0
Winn	193	69	35.8	123	63.7

BIRTHS TO WOMEN WHO RECEIVED ADEQUATE PRENATAL CARE

DEFINITION: Number and percentage of live births to women who received early and adequate prenatal care, disaggregated by race.

SIGNIFICANCE

Prenatal care is critical to ensuring positive birth outcomes. In addition to providing important health care services, prenatal care provides pregnant women with information about nutrition, exercise, and healthy behaviors during pregnancy. Prenatal visits are also an opportunity for health care providers to educate expectant parents about infant care, the benefits of breastfeeding, and injury and illness prevention.¹ Research shows that babies born to mothers who received late or no prenatal care are five times as likely to die as babies who are born to mothers who received adequate prenatal care.²

Teen mothers are at especially high risk for receiving late or no prenatal care. Among births to Louisiana teens ages 15-19, 3.9% were to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care.³

Louisiana has made progress in increasing the percentage of births to women who receive early and adequate prenatal care. Between 2001 and 2006, the percentage of births to women who received prenatal care rose from 79% to 85%.

RACIAL DISPARITIES

White women are more likely than black women to receive early and adequate prenatal care. The racial disparity ratio shows that a black baby was 1.9 times as likely as a white baby to be born to a mother who did not receive early and adequate prenatal care in 2006. Five parishes had racial disparity ratios of 1.1 or less, indicating a relatively low level of racial disparity. By contrast, 36 parishes had racial disparity ratios of at least 2.0, meaning that a black baby was at least twice as likely as a white baby to be born to a mother who did not receive early and adequate prenatal care.

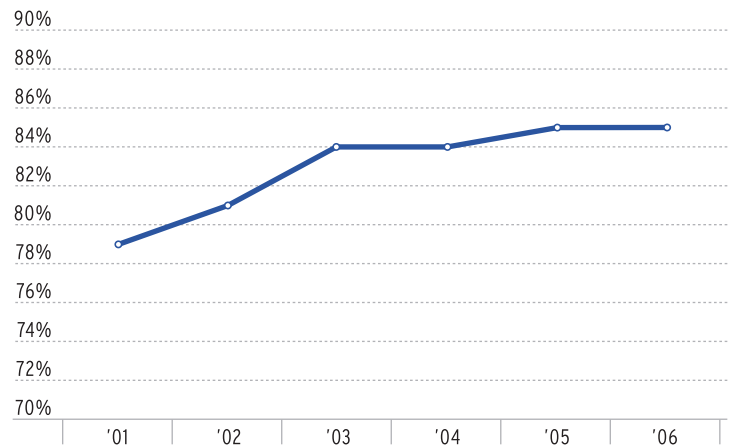
RATE CALCULATION

100 * (number of births to women who received adequate prenatal care ÷ total number of births)

100 * (number of births to black women who received adequate prenatal care ÷ total number of births to black women)

100 * (number of births to white women who received adequate prenatal care ÷ total number of births to white women)

PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS TO WOMEN WHO RECEIVED EARLY AND ADEQUATE PRENATAL CARE IN LOUISIANA 2001-2006



PERCENTAGE OF ALL BIRTHS TO MOTHERS RECEIVING LATE OR NO PRENATAL CARE BY AGE GROUP IN LOUISIANA 2006

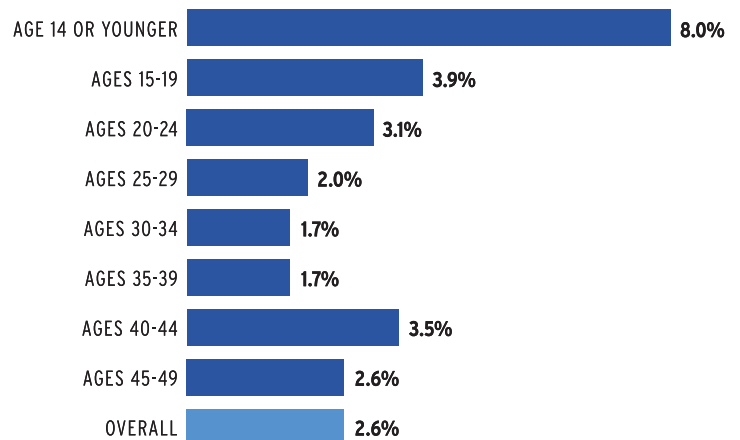


CHART DATA SOURCES

(TOP): Live births 2001-2006: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics (BOTTOM): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, VitalStats, www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm.

DATA SOURCE

Live births 2006: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

DATA NOTE

The Kotelchuck index is used to measure early and adequate prenatal care.

¹ Child Trends, "Late or No Prenatal Care," Child Trends Data Bank, 2007, retrieved from <http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org> on 6/30/2009.

² Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "A Healthy Start: Begin Before Baby's Born," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, retrieved from <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov> on 6/30/2009.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, VitalStats, "Prenatal Care," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm> on 7/30/2009.

BIRTHS TO WOMEN WHO RECEIVED ADEQUATE PRENATAL CARE (NUMBER AND PERCENT OF BIRTHS)

2006	TOTAL		BLACK		WHITE		RACIAL DISPARITY RATIO*
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
LOUISIANA	53,199	84.8	19,078	79.1	32,473	88.8	1.9
Acadia	605	66.9	128	58.2	476	69.9	1.4
Allen	349	91.8	72	90.0	260	92.5	1.3
Ascension	1,524	89.6	336	77.4	1,168	94.0	3.8
Assumption	228	81.7	85	72.0	141	88.7	2.5
Avoyelles	589	94.1	208	90.8	371	95.9	2.2
Beauregard	436	83.7	43	70.5	384	85.9	2.1
Bienville	166	86.5	73	86.9	93	86.1	0.9
Bossier	1,546	88.0	368	81.4	1,137	90.9	2.0
Caddo	3,081	80.9	1,678	74.6	1,348	90.2	2.6
Calcasieu	2,634	92.1	773	87.7	1,815	94.3	2.2
Caldwell	125	91.2	24	88.9	101	91.8	1.4
Cameron	69	93.2	<5	LNE	68	93.2	n.a.
Catahoula	130	92.2	30	73.2	100	100.0	n.a.
Claiborne	171	82.2	90	78.3	81	88.0	1.8
Concordia	227	85.0	107	77.5	119	93.7	3.6
De Soto	328	82.4	140	73.3	185	90.7	2.9
East Baton Rouge	5,457	87.6	3,039	84.0	2,226	93.6	2.5
East Carroll	97	71.9	80	69.6	17	85.0	2.0
East Feliciana	247	88.5	117	86.0	128	90.8	1.5
Evangeline	486	88.4	151	83.0	333	91.0	1.9
Franklin	256	83.4	99	75.6	155	89.1	2.2
Grant	262	93.2	35	87.5	223	94.1	2.1
Iberia	936	80.3	347	73.8	569	85.1	1.8
Iberville	376	82.1	207	75.8	169	91.8	3.0
Jackson	147	76.6	41	65.1	105	82.0	1.9
Jefferson	4,765	84.5	1,545	81.0	2,727	87.8	1.6
Jefferson Davis	339	70.5	52	59.8	281	73.0	1.5
Lafayette	2,409	76.5	783	69.2	1,559	80.7	1.6
Lafourche	1,069	81.8	199	75.4	825	83.7	1.5
La Salle	173	96.6	23	88.5	146	98.0	5.7
Lincoln	427	72.5	182	65.9	235	78.9	1.6
Livingston	1,734	93.6	77	84.6	1,645	94.2	2.7
Madison	141	80.1	102	77.3	39	90.7	2.4
Morehouse	323	81.0	156	75.4	165	86.8	1.9
Natchitoches	467	75.6	230	70.1	227	81.1	1.6
Orleans	2,112	81.0	1,269	77.8	720	89.6	2.1
Ouachita	2,162	90.3	955	86.1	1,175	93.8	2.3
Plaquemines	240	82.5	56	84.8	175	84.1	1.0
Pointe Coupee	263	85.1	123	79.9	139	90.3	2.1
Rapides	1,896	94.0	713	90.7	1,143	96.3	2.5
Red River	127	79.9	58	68.2	69	93.2	4.7
Richland	275	89.3	125	85.0	147	93.0	2.1
Sabine	287	83.7	52	66.7	215	89.6	3.2
St. Bernard	178	89.0	15	68.2	158	91.3	3.7
St. Charles	623	87.4	198	81.8	403	91.0	2.0
St. Helena	95	84.1	58	80.6	37	90.2	2.0
St. James	260	85.0	145	80.6	115	91.3	2.2
St. John the Baptist	650	84.4	380	81.0	254	90.1	1.9
St. Landry	1,178	79.8	539	73.4	627	86.1	1.9
St. Martin	551	73.1	215	66.8	334	78.0	1.5
St. Mary	667	83.6	260	83.1	390	84.6	1.1
St. Tammany	2,711	88.0	308	77.8	2,332	90.1	2.2
Tangipahoa	1,713	89.3	681	84.5	1,013	92.8	2.1
Tensas	51	71.8	37	68.5	14	82.4	1.8
Terrebonne	1,430	81.7	297	73.7	1,013	84.2	1.7
Union	273	80.3	95	72.0	176	85.4	1.9
Vermilion	696	81.9	160	80.8	515	82.0	1.1
Vernon	662	71.0	115	69.7	521	72.4	1.1
Washington	650	90.5	233	85.7	413	93.4	2.2
Webster	441	87.3	155	80.3	284	91.6	2.3
West Baton Rouge	302	87.0	114	78.6	188	93.1	3.1
West Carroll	135	88.8	24	72.7	110	93.2	4.0
West Feliciana	101	90.2	37	80.4	63	96.9	6.4
Winn	151	78.2	41	59.4	109	88.6	3.6

*The racial disparity ratio was calculated by dividing the rate of black births to mothers who DID NOT receive adequate prenatal care by the corresponding white rate. Ratios of greater than 1 indicate that black babies were more likely than white babies to have been born to mothers who did not receive early and adequate prenatal care. The greater the number, the higher the racial disparity. Conversely, the closer the ratio is to one, the smaller the racial disparity. n.a. A racial disparity ratio was not calculated for Cameron Parish because the number of babies born to black mothers who received adequate prenatal care was less than five (and thus unreportable). The racial disparity ratio was also not calculable for Catahoula Parish because 0% of births to white women were to mothers who received less-than-adequate prenatal care.

LNE [low number of events] is used because the rate or percent may be unreliable.

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES

DEFINITION: Number and percentage of infants born weighing less than 2,500 grams or 5 pounds, 8 ounces.

SIGNIFICANCE

Infants who are born at a low weight face a higher risk for a variety of negative outcomes both immediately after birth and throughout their lives. Low birthweight babies face a higher risk of infant death compared to heavier babies. Very low birthweight babies (those born weighing less than 1,500 grams or 3 pounds, 4 ounces) have a 25% chance of dying within the first year of life. Moderately low-birthweight babies (between 1,500 and 2,499 grams) have a 2% chance of dying in the first year of life—much less than that of very low birthweight babies, but about four times the risk faced by babies born weighing more than 2,499 grams.¹

Low birthweight babies are more likely to experience health problems as newborns, ranging from respiratory distress to vision loss.² School-age children who were born at a low birthweight are more likely to be placed in special education classes and to repeat a grade than their peers.³

The most common cause of low birthweight is preterm birth. Cigarette smoking is also one of the most important and well-established risk factors for low birthweight. Even after controlling for other factors, babies whose mothers smoked during pregnancy are twice as likely to be born at low birthweight.⁴

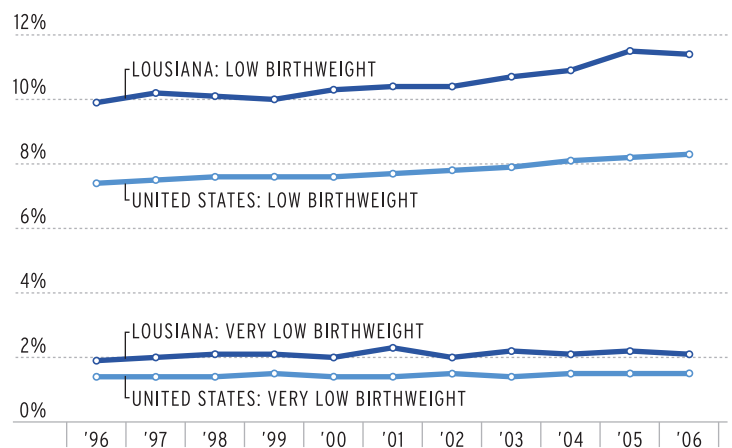
The percentage of low birthweight babies in Louisiana rose between 1990 and 2006, from 9.2% to 11.4% of all births. During the same time period, the national low birthweight rate rose from 7.0% to 8.3%. In 2006, Louisiana had the nation's second-highest rate of low birthweight babies in the country.⁵

RACIAL DISPARITIES

In Louisiana and the nation, infants born to black women are almost twice as likely as infants born to white women to be born at a low weight. The disparity is even more extreme for very low birthweight babies — 3.5% of all Louisiana babies born to black women were born at very low weights, which is 2.7 times as large as the rate for babies born to white women (1.3%).

Racial disparities cannot be explained away by differences in multiple births or economic factors

PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS AT VERY LOW AND LOW BIRTHWEIGHT TO WOMEN IN LOUISIANA 1996-2006



alone.⁶ American Indian women experience high rates of poverty similar to African Americans, but relatively low rates of low birthweight babies. Additionally, for almost every ethnicity and race, women who are immigrants have better birth outcomes than U.S.-born women.⁷

RATE CALCULATION

$100 * (\text{number of infants born weighing less than 2,500 grams} \div \text{total number of live births})$

$100 * (\text{number of black infants born weighing less than 2,500 grams} \div \text{total number of live births to black women})$

$100 * (\text{number of white infants born weighing less than 2,500 grams} \div \text{total number of live births to white women})$

CHART DATA SOURCE

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, "Low-birthweight babies (Percent) 1996-2006" and "Very Low-birthweight babies (Percent) 1996-2006," KIDS COUNT Online Data Center, retrieved from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org> on 8/1/2009.

DATA SOURCE

Live births 2004-2006: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

DATA NOTE

Three years of data were aggregated, then averaged.

¹ Child Trends, "Low and Very Low Birthweight Infants," Child Trends Data Bank, retrieved from <http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org> on 6/30/2009.

² March of Dimes, "Quick Reference Fact Sheets: Low Birthweight," March of Dimes, retrieved from www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/ on 6/30/2009.

³ Child Trends, "Low and Very Low Birthweight Infants," Child Trends Data Bank, retrieved from <http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org> on 6/30/2009.

⁴ Rima Shore, "KIDS COUNT Indicator Brief: Preventing Low Birthweight," The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2009, retrieved from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook> on 8/1/2009.

⁵ The Annie E. Casey Foundation, "Low-birthweight babies (Percent) 1996-2006" and "Very Low-birthweight babies (Percent) 1996-2006," KIDS COUNT Online Data Center, retrieved from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org> on 8/1/2009.

⁶ Rima Shore, "KIDS COUNT Indicator Brief: Preventing Low Birthweight," The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2009, retrieved from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook> on 8/1/2009.

⁷ *ibid.*

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES (NUMBER AND PERCENT OF BIRTHS)

2004-06 AVERAGE

	TOTAL		BLACK		WHITE		RACIAL DISPARITY RATIO
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
LOUISIANA	7,093	11.3	3,935	15.8	3,012	8.3	1.9
Acadia	112	12.0	43	19.5	69	9.7	2.0
Allen	39	11.2	13	18.3	24	9.1	2.0
Ascension	140	9.0	53	13.7	86	7.5	1.8
Assumption	36	13.0	20	16.4	15	10.0	1.6
Avoyelles	74	12.1	38	16.7	35	9.3	1.8
Beauregard	38	8.0	12	22.0	25	6.1	3.6
Bienville	23	12.0	14	15.1	9	9.3	1.6
Bossier	186	11.2	76	17.8	106	8.9	2.0
Caddo	530	14.3	381	18.0	144	9.4	1.9
Calcasieu	299	10.9	129	15.7	167	8.9	1.8
Caldwell	13	9.3	4	LNE	9	7.8	n.a.
Cameron	6	7.8	<2	LNE	6	LNE	n.a.
Catahoula	19	14.0	8	18.5	11	11.9	1.6
Claiborne	20	11.2	13	12.5	7	9.6	1.3
Concordia	34	15.1	22	19.4	12	10.9	1.8
De Soto	53	13.9	31	17.5	22	10.8	1.6
East Baton Rouge	711	12.1	513	15.5	182	7.7	2.0
East Carroll	21	15.6	19	17.7	2	LNE	n.a.
East Feliciana	31	11.6	19	15.6	12	8.1	1.9
Evangeline	68	12.6	31	17.1	36	10.2	1.7
Franklin	42	14.1	23	17.3	19	11.7	1.5
Grant	25	9.9	4	LNE	21	9.8	n.a.
Iberia	119	10.4	73	14.9	44	7.0	2.1
Iberville	50	10.9	31	11.7	19	10.0	1.2
Jackson	20	10.0	9	13.8	11	8.4	1.6
Jefferson	568	9.9	278	13.8	252	7.7	1.8
Jefferson Davis	43	9.3	13	14.8	29	8.0	1.9
Lafayette	294	9.8	144	14.2	143	7.5	1.9
Lafourche	115	9.6	39	16.3	74	8.1	2.0
La Salle	15	8.6	6	LNE	9	6.1	n.a.
Lincoln	57	10.1	38	14.6	18	6.2	2.4
Livingston	142	8.3	13	15.2	128	7.9	1.9
Madison	24	15.7	19	17.8	4	LNE	n.a.
Morehouse	53	13.1	35	15.4	19	10.3	1.5
Natchitoches	73	12.5	50	16.1	23	8.6	1.9
Orleans	630	13.5	541	15.6	78	7.5	2.1
Ouachita	313	13.5	197	18.4	114	9.3	2.0
Plaquemines	29	8.5	11	13.8	17	7.1	1.9
Pointe Coupee	35	11.6	25	16.8	11	6.8	2.5
Rapides	205	10.6	114	15.0	88	7.7	1.9
Red River	22	15.1	17	21.6	5	LNE	n.a.
Richland	37	12.1	23	16.4	13	8.2	2.0
Sabine	38	11.6	13	16.0	22	10.0	1.6
St. Bernard	64	11.7	13	15.2	49	11.1	n.a.
St. Charles	64	9.2	31	12.9	31	7.1	1.8
St. Helena	17	16.3	13	18.6	5	LNE	n.a.
St. James	33	10.6	24	12.9	9	7.2	1.8
St. John the Baptist	81	11.2	58	14.2	21	7.0	2.0
St. Landry	177	12.7	113	16.1	64	9.2	1.8
St. Martin	81	10.8	43	13.9	36	8.4	1.7
St. Mary	92	11.9	48	15.9	41	9.3	1.7
St. Tammany	241	8.3	54	13.6	183	7.5	1.8
Tangipahoa	204	11.8	125	17.5	78	7.8	2.2
Tensas	11	14.5	8	14.6	3	LNE	n.a.
Terrebonne	194	11.5	68	18.8	115	9.8	1.9
Union	35	10.6	19	16.3	16	7.5	2.2
Vermilion	83	10.3	30	17.5	51	8.3	2.1
Vernon	83	9.0	24	14.7	53	7.4	2.0
Washington	71	11.3	32	13.7	39	9.8	1.4
Webster	68	13.3	33	17.8	35	10.7	1.7
West Baton Rouge	43	12.9	23	17.2	20	10.2	1.7
West Carroll	18	12.4	6	LNE	11	9.8	n.a.
West Feliciana	8	7.3	5	LNE	3	LNE	n.a.
Winn	22	11.0	11	15.7	11	8.5	1.8

*The racial disparity ratio was calculated by dividing the black rate by the white rate. The resulting number shows, for example, that statewide, the percentage of low birthweight black babies was 1.9 times that of white babies. A ratio of one would mean that there was no difference between the black and white rates. Larger numbers reflect a greater racial disparity.

n.a. Racial disparity ratios were not calculated for any parish in which there were fewer than 20 low birthweight babies of either race in the 2004-2006 reporting period.

LNE [low number of events] is used because the rate or percent may be unreliable.

PRETERM BIRTHS

DEFINITION: Number of and percentage of live births with gestation age less than 37 weeks.

SIGNIFICANCE

Infants who are born preterm face an increased risk of dying in the first year of life, as well as a host of health and developmental difficulties. Complications from preterm births include respiratory distress, gastroenterological, immunologic, central nervous, hearing, and vision problems. Research also shows that, over the longer term, preterm babies are at a higher risk of experiencing developmental delays, cognitive, motor, behavioral, social-emotional, health, and growth problems.¹

Preterm birth is the single leading cause of infant mortality in the United States.² Very preterm babies (<32 weeks of gestation) face the highest risk of dying in their first year, with an infant mortality rate of 183 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2005. While late preterm infants (32-26 weeks of gestation) experience a much lower mortality rate relative to very preterm infants, the infant mortality rate for late preterm infants is three times as large as that of babies born at full term (37-41 weeks).³

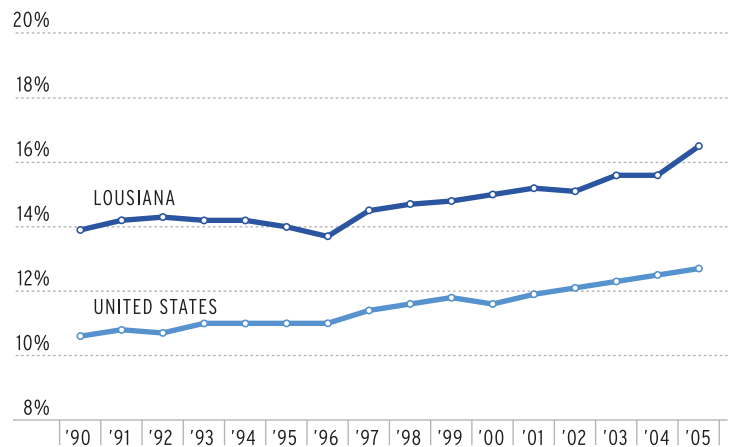
Since 1990, preterm births have been rising in both Louisiana and the nation as a whole. In 1990, 13.9% of all Louisiana births were preterm, while the same was true of 16.5% of all births in 2005. Louisiana's preterm birth rate was the third-highest in the nation in 2005. Only Alabama and Mississippi experienced higher preterm birth rates.

RACIAL DISPARITIES

A baby born to a black mother is 1.5 times as likely as a baby born to a white mother to be born preterm in Louisiana. On average, 17.3% of infants born to black mothers in Louisiana were born preterm in 2004-2006, compared to 11.2% of infants born to white women. The disparity is even greater in terms of very preterm infants. Louisiana infants born to black women are 2.6 times as likely as infants born to white women to be born very preterm. In 2004-2006, 3.9% of all births to black women were very preterm (before 32 weeks of gestation), while the same was true of 1.5% of births to white women.⁴

In terms of preterm births, three parishes—Jackson, Winn, and Iberville—had racial disparity ratios of 1.1, indicating a relatively low degree of racial disparity. These parishes were also among the five best-ranked parishes in terms of preterm births to black women, but were ranked among the middle

PERCENTAGE OF BABIES BORN PRETERM IN THE UNITED STATES AND LOUISIANA 1990-2005



parishes in terms of preterm births to white women. Both Plaquemines and Beauregard parishes had racial disparity ratios of 2 or more, indicating that a baby born to a black mother in those parishes was at least twice as likely as a baby born to a white mother to be born prematurely.

RATE CALCULATION

$100 * (\text{number of live births before 37 weeks of pregnancy between 2004-2006} \div \text{total number of live births between 2004-2006})$

$100 * (\text{number of live births to black women before 37 weeks of pregnancy between 2004-2006} \div \text{total number of live births to black women between 2004-2006})$

$100 * (\text{number of live births to white women before 37 weeks of pregnancy between 2004-2006} \div \text{total number of live births to white women between 2004-2006})$

CHART DATA SOURCE

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, "Preterm Births 1990—2005," KIDS COUNT Data Center, retrieved from www.kidscount.org/datacenter on 8/1/2009.

DATA SOURCE

Live births 2004-2006: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

DATA NOTE

Three years of data were aggregated, then averaged. Thus the numbers here reflect the average number of babies born preterm in 2004, 2005, and 2006.

¹ Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, *Preterm Birth: Causes, Consequences, Prevention*, eds. Richard E. Behrman and Adrienne Stith Butler (Washington D.C.: National Academies Press, 2007), 1.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Maternal and Infant Health Research: Preterm Birth," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2008, retrieved from www.cdc.gov/ on 7/1/2009.

³ Marian F. MacDorman, Ph.D., and T.J. Mathews, M.S., "Recent Trends in Infant Mortality in the United States," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, 2008, retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/> on 7/1/2009.

⁴ Data received from Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, Center for Preventive Health, Maternal and Child Health.

PRETERM BIRTHS (NUMBER AND PERCENT OF BIRTHS)

2004-06 AVERAGE

	TOTAL		BLACK		WHITE		RACIAL DISPARITY RATIO*
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
LOUISIANA	8,522	13.6	4,296	17.3	4,050	11.2	1.5
Acadia	131	14.1	45	20.5	86	12.1	1.7
Allen	46	13.3	14	19.4	31	11.9	1.6
Ascension	173	11.2	54	14.0	118	10.4	1.4
Assumption	41	15.0	23	19.0	18	11.9	1.6
Avoyelles	85	14.0	36	16.0	47	12.7	1.3
Beauregard	53	11.1	11	20.5	40	9.9	2.1
Bienville	27	14.0	14	15.9	12	12.3	1.3
Bossier	246	14.8	87	20.3	153	12.9	1.6
Caddo	687	18.6	457	21.6	220	14.5	1.5
Calcasieu	342	12.5	125	15.2	212	11.4	1.3
Caldwell	16	12.0	3	LNE	13	11.7	n.a.
Cameron	9	11.5	<2	LNE	8	10.8	n.a.
Catahoula	21	15.8	8	LNE	13	14.9	n.a.
Claiborne	21	11.4	14	13.5	7	LNE	n.a.
Concordia	39	17.5	23	19.9	16	14.6	1.4
De Soto	73	19.4	39	22.3	34	17.2	1.3
East Baton Rouge	775	13.2	532	16.1	223	9.4	1.7
East Carroll	24	18.4	22	20.6	3	LNE	n.a.
East Feliciana	35	13.1	18	14.6	17	11.7	1.2
Evangeline	75	13.9	31	17.3	43	12.2	1.4
Franklin	45	15.0	23	17.5	21	13.1	1.3
Grant	30	11.9	5	LNE	25	11.5	n.a.
Iberia	144	12.6	78	16.0	62	10.0	1.6
Iberville	56	12.3	34	13.0	21	11.5	1.1
Jackson	25	12.5	8	13.3	17	12.3	1.1
Jefferson	681	11.9	302	15.0	337	10.3	1.5
Jefferson Davis	43	9.3	10	11.1	32	8.7	1.3
La Salle	17	9.7	5	LNE	12	8.1	n.a.
Lafayette	373	12.4	163	16.1	200	10.5	1.5
Lafourche	162	13.5	47	19.6	112	12.3	1.6
Lincoln	72	12.8	44	16.9	27	9.2	1.9
Livingston	183	10.7	14	15.9	168	10.4	1.5
Madison	25	16.4	20	18.6	4	LNE	n.a.
Morehouse	67	16.3	42	18.8	24	13.4	1.4
Natchitoches	80	13.7	46	15.0	33	12.3	1.2
Orleans	740	15.9	621	18.0	107	10.3	1.7
Ouachita	376	16.2	217	20.3	156	12.8	1.6
Plaquemines	36	10.3	14	17.1	20	8.4	2.0
Pointe Coupee	42	13.8	26	18.0	16	10.0	1.8
Rapides	260	13.5	133	17.6	123	10.8	1.6
Red River	23	15.8	17	22.1	6	LNE	n.a.
Richland	45	14.9	29	20.1	16	10.4	1.9
Sabine	49	14.8	14	17.6	31	14.1	1.2
St. Bernard	76	13.8	13	LNE	60	13.5	n.a.
St. Charles	90	13.1	36	15.2	51	11.8	1.3
St. Helena	12	11.0	9	12.8	3	LNE	n.a.
St. James	41	13.2	27	14.8	14	10.9	1.4
St. John the Baptist	97	13.4	63	15.5	33	11.0	1.4
St. Landry	200	14.4	116	16.6	83	12.0	1.4
St. Martin	89	11.9	44	14.1	44	10.3	1.4
St. Mary	105	13.6	45	14.9	57	12.8	1.2
St. Tammany	307	10.6	62	15.5	240	9.9	1.6
Tangipahoa	227	13.2	127	17.7	99	10.0	1.8
Tensas	16	21.1	11	20.1	5	LNE	n.a.
Terrebonne	259	15.4	77	21.6	166	14.1	1.5
Union	41	12.6	20	16.6	21	10.2	1.6
Vermilion	95	11.8	29	17.0	64	10.4	1.6
Vernon	114	12.4	26	16.1	82	11.5	1.4
Washington	89	14.3	43	18.6	46	11.8	1.6
Webster	71	13.9	32	17.6	38	11.9	1.5
West Baton Rouge	46	13.7	24	17.9	22	11.0	1.6
West Carroll	17	11.9	5	LNE	12	10.4	n.a.
West Feliciana	13	11.7	6	LNE	7	11.1	n.a.
Winn	25	12.2	9	12.9	15	11.9	1.1

*The racial disparity ratio was calculated by dividing the black rate by the white rate. The resulting number shows, for example, that the percentage of black babies born preterm was 1.5 times that of the whites in the 2004-2006 reporting period. A ratio of one would mean that the percentage of black babies born preterm was the same as the percentage of white babies born preterm. Larger numbers reflect a greater racial disparity.

n.a. Racial disparity ratios were not calculated for any parish in which there were fewer than 20 preterm births of either race in the 2004-2006 reporting period.

LNE [low number of events] is used because the rate or percent may be unreliable.

BIRTHS TO TEENS (NUMBER AND TEEN BIRTH RATE)

DEFINITION: Number and rate of live births to women ages 15-19, disaggregated by race.

SIGNIFICANCE

Teen childbearing has lifelong consequences for both the teen mother and her child. Research indicates that teen mothers are less likely than their peers to finish high school and more likely to receive public assistance and live in poverty.¹ Children born to teen mothers are more likely to experience negative birth outcomes, including being born prematurely and being born at a low birthweight. They also face a higher risk of experiencing academic and behavioral problems at school.² As teens, children born to teen mothers are more likely than their peers to become a teen parent themselves and to drop out of school.³

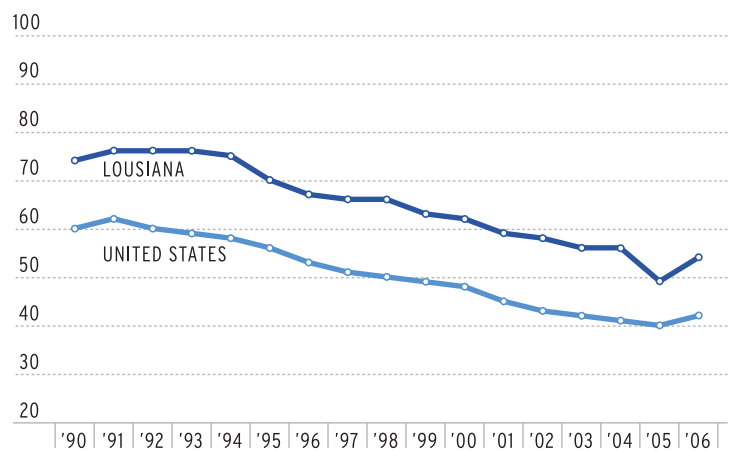
Louisiana's teen birth rate is consistently above the national average, which was 42 births for every 1,000 females ages 15-19 in 2006. In Louisiana, the majority of teen births are to older teens (those ages 18-19). Approximately seven out of every ten births to teens in Louisiana are to mothers ages 18-19; and three out of every ten are to mothers ages 15-17.⁴ Additionally, 2% of all teen births in Louisiana in 2006 were to mothers younger than 15.⁵

Louisiana's teen birth rate declined by 36% between 1991 and 2005, dropping from 76 to 49 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19. However, following the national trend, Louisiana's teen birth rate increased between 2005 and 2006, rising from 49 to 55 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19. While there is no single explanation for the recent rise in teen births, research suggests that contributing factors may include a rise in teen sexual activity since 2000, earlier puberty for girls (which is associated with earlier sexual activity), and reduced usage of contraceptives by teens.⁶ Additional factors may include increased social acceptance of teen childbearing and reduced educational and career opportunities as economic conditions decline.⁷

DISPROPORTIONALITY

Nationally, teen birth rates are lowest among Asian American and Non-Hispanic white teens,

RATE OF LIVE BIRTHS TO WOMEN AGES 15 TO 19 PER 1,000 BIRTHS IN THE UNITED STATES AND LOUISIANA 1990-2006



with rates of 17 births and 26 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 respectively in 2006. Teen birth rates are significantly higher for African American teens (65 births per 1,000 females age 15-19) and Hispanic teens (83 births per 1,000 females age 15-19).⁸ In Louisiana, the birth rate for black teens was 1.9 times that of the birth rate for white teens. Vernon Parish was the only parish in which there was no racial disparity in the teen birth rate.

DATA SOURCE

Live births 2006: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

Population: Population Estimates Program, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, County Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2007. Release Date: May 01, 2008

RATE CALCULATION

$1,000 * (\text{number of births to teens ages 15-19} \div \text{total number of females ages 15-19})$

$1,000 * (\text{number of births to black teens ages 15-19} \div \text{total number of black females ages 15-19})$

$1,000 * (\text{number of births to white teens ages 15-19} \div \text{total number of white females ages 15-19})$

¹ Emily Holcombe, B.A., Kristen Peterson, B. A., and Jennifer Manlove, Ph.D., "Ten Reasons to Still Keep the Focus on Teen Childbearing," Child Trends, 2009 retrieved from <http://www.childtrends.org> on 7/30/2009.

² *ibid.*

³ Rima Shore, Ph.D. & Barbara Shore, M.A., "KIDS COUNT Indicator Brief: Reducing the Teen Birth Rate," The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2009, retrieved from <http://www.aecf.org/> on 8/10/2009.

⁴ The Annie E. Casey Foundation, "Teen Births by Age Group—2006," KIDS COUNT Data Center, retrieved from www.kidscount.org/datacenter on 7/30/2009.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, VitalStats, "Demographic Characteristics of Mother by State/County - 2006," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm> on 7/30/2009.

⁶ Rima Shore, Ph.D. & Barbara Shore, M.A., "KIDS COUNT Indicator Brief: Reducing the Teen Birth Rate," The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2009, retrieved from <http://www.aecf.org/> on 8/10/2009.

⁷ *ibid.*

⁸ The Annie E. Casey Foundation, "Teen Births by Race—2006," KIDS COUNT Data Center, retrieved from www.kidscount.org/datacenter on 7/30/2009.

BIRTHS TO TEENS AND TEEN BIRTH RATE

NUMBER AND RATE PER 1,000
FEMALES AGES 15-19

2006 TOTALS	TOTAL		BLACK		WHITE		RACIAL DISPARITY RATIO
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	
LOUISIANA	8,769	55	4,851	78	3,742	40	1.9
Acadia	157	69	58	117	99	57	2.1
Allen	58	72	17	LNE	40	70	n.a.
Ascension	164	49	75	82	87	36	2.3
Assumption	38	45	28	101	10	LNE	n.a.
Avoyelles	116	79	52	96	63	71	1.4
Beauregard	70	60	10	LNE	58	62	n.a.
Bienville	38	74	23	84	15	LNE	n.a.
Bossier	227	59	78	68	147	56	1.2
Caddo	647	68	515	96	130	33	2.9
Calcasieu	390	62	155	81	229	54	1.5
Caldwell	22	71	8	LNE	14	LNE	n.a.
Cameron	6	LNE	<5	LNE	5	LNE	n.a.
Catahoula	25	71	13	LNE	12	LNE	n.a.
Claiborne	36	67	25	77	11	LNE	n.a.
Concordia	56	85	31	102	25	72	1.4
De Soto	67	69	40	87	26	53	1.6
East Baton Rouge	824	44	655	71	159	18	3.8
East Carroll	23	78	21	92	<5	LNE	n.a.
East Feliciana	30	45	20	59	10	LNE	n.a.
Evangeline	96	71	52	114	44	50	2.3
Franklin	63	90	34	116	29	74	1.6
Grant	41	60	7	LNE	32	60	n.a.
Iberia	206	75	113	108	90	56	1.9
Iberville	91	81	65	100	26	56	1.8
Jackson	27	51	10	LNE	17	LNE	n.a.
Jefferson	629	44	324	65	256	30	2.1
Jefferson Davis	83	75	24	100	59	69	1.4
Lafayette	354	46	222	90	130	25	3.5
Lafourche	191	53	63	90	115	42	2.1
La Salle	33	76	6	LNE	24	66	n.a.
Lincoln	84	33	53	45	27	20	2.2
Livingston	224	58	12	LNE	210	60	n.a.
Madison	35	74	26	79	8	LNE	n.a.
Morehouse	70	69	51	96	19	LNE	n.a.
Natchitoches	92	45	66	78	26	23	3.4
Orleans	359	39	322	46	25	13	3.6
Ouachita	378	61	247	89	130	39	2.3
Plaquemines	31	35	11	LNE	17	LNE	n.a.
Pointe Coupee	40	52	28	73	12	LNE	n.a.
Rapides	309	69	175	104	131	49	2.1
Red River	34	99	27	143	7	LNE	n.a.
Richland	47	70	28	97	19	LNE	n.a.
Sabine	56	65	15	LNE	37	70	n.a.
St. Bernard	32	42	6	LNE	26	40	n.a.
St. Charles	70	35	34	55	35	26	2.1
St. Helena	19	LNE	14	LNE	5	LNE	n.a.
St. James	37	43	31	66	6	LNE	n.a.
St. John the Baptist	99	50	76	67	20	24	2.8
St. Landry	264	76	174	102	89	52	2.0
St. Martin	98	55	57	81	40	38	2.1
St. Mary	136	73	67	89	67	67	1.3
St. Tammany	259	34	67	62	188	30	2.1
Tangipahoa	298	63	171	101	125	42	2.4
Tensas	18	LNE	15	LNE	<5	LNE	n.a.
Terrebonne	246	62	76	78	144	54	1.4
Union	73	94	39	144	33	66	2.2
Vermilion	130	66	45	111	83	56	2.0
Vernon	117	74	23	78	90	78	1.0
Washington	101	68	53	94	48	53	1.8
Webster	87	63	44	75	43	55	1.3
West Baton Rouge	49	60	24	72	25	52	1.4
West Carroll	20	56	5	LNE	15	LNE	n.a.
West Feliciana	15	LNE	11	LNE	<5	LNE	n.a.
Winn	34	65	13	LNE	21	62	n.a.

*The racial disparity ratio was developed by dividing the black rate by the white rate. The resulting number demonstrates the degree to which teen birth rates for black teens are higher (or lower) than for white teens. A ratio of one shows that the rates are the same for both racial categories, while ratios of greater than one reflect higher birth rates for black teens. Statewide, the black teen birth rate is 1.9 times as large as the white teen birth rate.

n.a. Racial disparity ratios were not calculated for any parish in which the number of births to teens of either race was less than 20.

LNE [low number of events] is used because the rate or percent may be unreliable.

BIRTHS TO TEENS (AGED 15-19) AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL BIRTHS

DEFINITION: Percentage of all live births to women aged 15-19, disaggregated by race.

SIGNIFICANCE

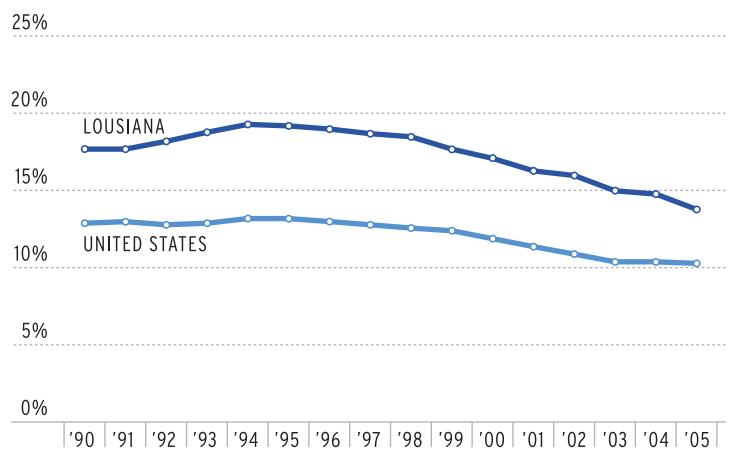
Children of teen mothers are more likely than children of older mothers to experience a number of negative outcomes throughout their lifetimes. Beginning at birth, babies born to teens are more likely to be born preterm and at low birthweight, putting them at increased risk for infant death, deafness, respiratory problems, mental retardation, cerebral palsy, as well as other difficulties.¹ Having a teen mother is also associated with higher rates of abuse and neglect, as well as worse educational outcomes for children. Researchers have also found that children of teen mothers tend to perform poorly in comparison with their peers on several different measures of school readiness, even after controlling for background characteristics. Daughters of teen mothers are three times as likely as daughters of mothers aged 20-21 to become teen mothers themselves.²

There are many reasons that children of teen parents experience such significant challenges. Their mothers are more likely to come from a less-advantaged background. Teen mothers are not only less likely to be married at the time of their child's birth, but they are also less likely to marry later in life than women who delay childbearing.³ This affects child well-being because children who live in single-parent households are significantly more likely to live in poverty than their peers who live in married-couple households. Furthermore, teen pregnancies are overwhelmingly unintended. In 2001, just 18% of all teen pregnancies were intended. Regardless of a mother's age, unintended pregnancies are associated with poor physical, educational, and mental health outcomes for the child.⁴

Further reductions in the number of teen pregnancies would have significant economic and societal benefits for Louisiana. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unintended Pregnancy estimates that teen births cost Louisiana \$165 million in 2004 alone. These costs included public health care, child welfare, incarceration, and lost tax revenues. Louisiana's success in reducing its teen birth rate between 1991 and 2004 resulted in an estimated savings of \$106 million in 2004.⁵

Following national trends, the percentage of all births to teens fell steadily in Louisiana between 1994 and 2005. In 1994, almost one out of every

PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS TO FEMALES YOUNGER THAN 20 YEARS OF AGE IN THE UNITED STATES AND LOUISIANA 1990-2005



five (19.1%) of all Louisiana babies were born to a teen mother. In 2005, just 13.7% of all Louisiana births were to teen mothers. Despite this progress, Louisiana was still ranked 47th among states on this measure in 2005, meaning that only three states had a larger percentage of births to teens. By contrast, Louisiana's ranking (38th) in terms of our teen birth rate was much better.

DISPROPORTIONALITY

In Louisiana, black children are more likely to be born to a teen mother than their white peers. In 2006, 10.2% of all births to white women in Louisiana were to a mother aged 15-19 years. By comparison, the same was true for 20% of births to black women. Two parishes — Vernon and Concordia — had very little racial disparity in terms of the percentage of births to teens. In three parishes — St. Tammany, Ascension, and St. Charles — teen births comprised less than 10% of all births to black women.

DATA SOURCE

Live births 2006: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

RATE CALCULATION

100 * (number of births to teens aged 15-19 ÷ total number of births)

100 * (number of births to black teens aged 15-19 ÷ total number of births to black women)

100 * (number of births to white teens aged 15-19 ÷ total number of births to white women)

¹ National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, "Teen Pregnancy and Overall Child Well-Being," National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, retrieved from www.thenationalcampaign.org on 7/30/2009.

² E. Terry-Humen, J. Manlove, & K. Moore, "Playing catch-up: How the children of teen mothers fare," National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 2005, retrieved from www.thenationalcampaign.org on 7/30/2009.

³ Emily Holcombe, B.A., Kristen Peterson, B.A., and Jennifer Manlove, Ph.D., "Ten Reasons to Still Keep the Focus on Teen Childbearing," Child Trends, 2009, retrieved from www.childtrends.org on 7/30/2009.

⁴ *ibid.*

⁵ National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, "By the Numbers: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing in Louisiana," National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, 2006, retrieved from <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org> on 7/30/2009.

PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS TO TEENS (AGES 15-19)

2006 TOTALS	TOTAL	BLACK	WHITE	RACIAL DISPARITY RATIO*
	% of all births	% of births	% of births	
LOUISIANA	13.9	20.0	10.2	2.0
Acadia	17.3	26.4	14.5	1.8
Allen	15.2	LNE	14.1	n.a.
Ascension	9.6	17.2	6.9	2.5
Assumption	13.5	23.3	LNE	n.a.
Avoyelles	18.4	22.5	16.2	1.4
Beauregard	13.4	LNE	12.9	n.a.
Bienville	19.6	26.7	LNE	n.a.
Bossier	12.9	17.1	11.7	1.5
Caddo	16.9	22.8	8.6	2.6
Calcasieu	13.6	17.6	11.8	1.5
Caldwell	16.1	LNE	LNE	n.a.
Cameron	LNE	LNE	LNE	n.a.
Catahoula	17.7	LNE	LNE	n.a.
Claiborne	17.2	21.6	LNE	n.a.
Concordia	20.7	22.1	19.5	1.1
De Soto	16.8	20.8	12.7	1.6
East Baton Rouge	13.1	17.8	6.6	2.7
East Carroll	17.0	18.3	LNE	n.a.
East Feliciana	10.6	14.5	LNE	n.a.
Evangeline	17.4	28.6	12.0	2.4
Franklin	20.5	26.0	16.7	1.6
Grant	14.5	LNE	13.4	n.a.
Iberia	17.1	22.9	13.1	1.8
Iberville	19.7	23.6	14.0	1.7
Jackson	14.0	LNE	LNE	n.a.
Jefferson	11.1	16.9	8.2	2.1
Jefferson Davis	17.2	27.6	15.3	1.8
Lafayette	11.2	19.6	6.7	2.9
Lafourche	14.5	23.8	11.6	2.1
La Salle	18.4	LNE	16.1	n.a.
Lincoln	14.2	19.1	9.0	2.1
Livingston	12.0	LNE	11.9	n.a.
Madison	19.7	19.5	LNE	n.a.
Morehouse	17.5	24.5	LNE	n.a.
Natchitoches	14.8	20.0	9.3	2.2
Orleans	13.7	19.6	3.1	6.3
Ouachita	15.7	22.2	10.4	2.1
Plaquemines	10.5	LNE	LNE	n.a.
Pointe Coupee	12.9	18.1	LNE	n.a.
Rapides	15.3	22.2	11.0	2.0
Red River	21.3	31.4	LNE	n.a.
Richland	15.3	19.0	LNE	n.a.
Sabine	16.2	LNE	15.4	n.a.
St. Bernard	16.0	LNE	15.0	n.a.
St. Charles	9.7	14.0	7.8	1.8
St. Helena	LNE	LNE	LNE	n.a.
St. James	12.1	17.1	LNE	n.a.
St. John the Baptist	12.9	16.2	7.1	2.3
St. Landry	17.7	23.5	12.2	1.9
St. Martin	12.8	17.5	9.2	1.9
St. Mary	16.9	21.1	14.5	1.5
St. Tammany	8.3	16.9	7.2	2.3
Tangipahoa	15.4	21.0	11.4	1.8
Tensas	LNE	LNE	LNE	n.a.
Terrebonne	14.0	18.8	12.0	1.6
Union	21.4	29.5	15.9	1.9
Vermilion	15.3	22.6	13.2	1.7
Vernon	12.5	13.9	12.4	1.1
Washington	14.0	19.4	10.8	1.8
Webster	17.0	22.8	13.6	1.7
West Baton Rouge	14.1	16.4	12.4	1.3
West Carroll	13.0	LNE	LNE	n.a.
West Feliciana	LNE	LNE	LNE	n.a.
Winn	17.6	LNE	17.1	n.a.

*The racial disparity ratio was developed by dividing the black rate by the white rate. The resulting number demonstrates the degree to which the percent of all births to teens are higher or lower for black births versus white births. A ratio of one shows that the rates are the same for both racial categories, while ratios greater than one reflect higher rates for black births. Statewide, a black baby was about twice as likely as a white baby to be born to a teen mother in 2006.

n.a. Racial disparity ratios were not calculated for any parish in which the number of births to teens of either race was less than 20.

LNE [low number of events] is used because the rate or percent may be unreliable.

INFANT MORTALITY

DEFINITION: Number and rate of deaths of children under one year of age.

SIGNIFICANCE

Infant mortality rates are often used as a measure of a community's overall health and quality of life. The United States has one of the highest infant mortality rates of any economically advanced nation. In 2006, the U.S. was ranked 28th in the world for infant mortality, just behind Poland and Slovakia.¹ In 2006, Louisiana's infant mortality rate (9.9 per 1,000 births) was the second-highest in the nation, behind only Mississippi (10.6 per 1,000 births).²

The leading causes of infant death in Louisiana are conditions originating in the perinatal period (47.5%), congenital malformations, deformations, and chromosomal abnormalities (18.6%) and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) (10.7%). Among conditions originating in the perinatal period are those that result from short gestational age (preterm births) and fetal malnutrition, which account for 39.7% of all such deaths.³

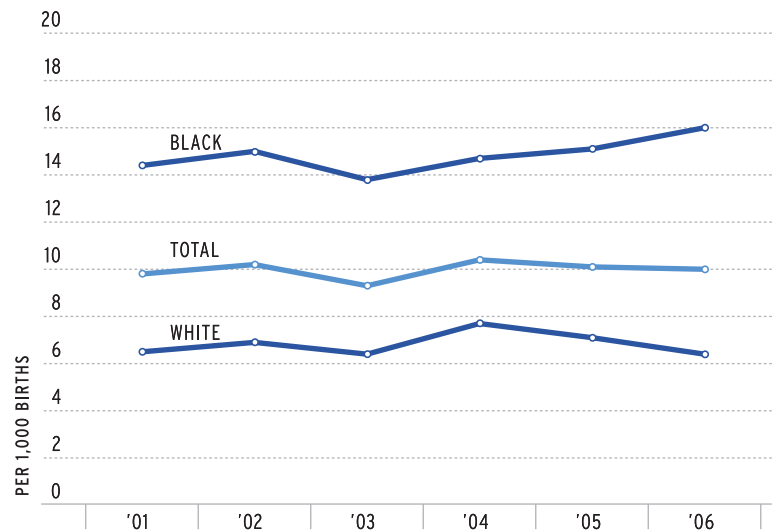
While the United States has made significant progress recently in reducing the number of babies who die due to SIDS or congenital abnormalities, we have not seen similar improvements in reducing the number of infant deaths that result from prematurity and low birthweight.⁴ The plateau in the nation's infant mortality rate between 2000 and 2005 is largely attributable to the increase in the preterm birth rate, combined with a lack of improvement in the mortality rates for preterm infants.⁵

RACIAL DISPARITIES

There are wide variations in infant mortality by race and ethnicity both in Louisiana and nationally. In 2006, the black infant mortality rate was 2.5 times as large as the white infant mortality rate in Louisiana. Since 2004, the level of racial disparity on this indicator has been increasing, as the white infant mortality rate has been decreasing and the black infant mortality rate has been increasing.

Racial disparities in infant mortality are partially attributable to racial disparities on other birth outcomes, including preterm births and

INFANT MORTALITY BY RACE IN LOUISIANA 2001-2006



low birthweight babies. Infants born to black mothers face a higher risk of being born at a low weight and being born preterm, compared to babies born to white mothers. Racial disparities tend to be even larger for very low birthweight and very preterm births, two categories that are associated with especially high mortality rates.

RATE CALCULATION

$1,000 * (\text{number of deaths of children under one year of age} \div \text{total number of children under 1 year of age})$

CHART DATA SOURCE

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, Center for Preventive Health, Maternal and Child Health, "Louisiana Maternal and Child Health Data Indicators," 2001-2006.

DATA SOURCE

Live births and deaths 2004-2006: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

DATA NOTE

Three years of data were aggregated, then averaged. Thus the numbers here reflect the average number of infants who died in 2004, 2005, and 2006.

¹ National Center for Health Statistics, *2008 with Chartbook on Trends in the Health of Americans*, (Hyattsville, MD: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, 2008).

² The Annie E. Casey Foundation, "Infant mortality (Rate per 1,000) 2006," KIDS COUNT Data Center, retrieved from www.kidscount.org/datacenter on 6/1/2009.

³ Tri Tran, Lillian Funke, Lyn Kieltyka, Joan Wightkin, "Louisiana 2001-2005 Maternal and Child Health Data Book" (New Orleans, LA: Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, Maternal and Child Health, 2009), retrieved from www.dhh.louisiana.gov on 6/1/2009.

⁴ Rima Shore, "KIDS COUNT Indicator Brief: Reducing Infant Mortality," The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2009, retrieved from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook> on 8/1/2009.

⁵ Marian F. MacDorman, Ph.D., and T.J. Mathews, M.S., "Recent Trends in Infant Mortality in the United States," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, 2008, retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/> on 7/1/2009.

INFANT MORTALITY (NUMBER AND RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS)

2001-2003 AVERAGE

2004-2006 AVERAGE

CHANGE FROM 2001-2003 TO 2004 TO 2006

	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	% change in rate
LOUISIANA	636	9.8	641	10.2	6	4.1
Acadia	10	11.3	9	10	-1	-11.6
Allen	2	LNE	4	LNE	1	n.a.
Ascension	10	7.3	13	8.2	3	12.9
Assumption	4	LNE	3	LNE	-2	n.a.
Avoyelles	4	LNE	6	LNE	3	n.a.
Beauregard	4	LNE	5	LNE	1	n.a.
Bienville	<2	LNE	2	LNE	n.a.	n.a.
Bossier	11	7.2	12	7.2	1	0.6
Caddo	47	12.9	48	13	1	0.5
Calcasieu	28	10.2	23	8.4	-5	-18.0
Caldwell	3	LNE	<2	LNE	n.a.	n.a.
Cameron	0	0.0	<2	LNE	n.a.	n.a.
Catahoula	<2	LNE	<2	LNE	n.a.	n.a.
Claiborne	3	LNE	4	LNE	1	n.a.
Concordia	3	LNE	3	LNE	0	n.a.
De Soto	4	LNE	4	LNE	0	n.a.
East Baton Rouge	58	10.0	65	11	6	10.3
East Carroll	<2	LNE	2	LNE	n.a.	n.a.
East Feliciana	2	LNE	4	LNE	1	n.a.
Evangeline	5	LNE	5	LNE	0	n.a.
Franklin	4	LNE	3	LNE	-1	n.a.
Grant	2	LNE	4	LNE	2	n.a.
Iberia	12	10.2	11	9.3	-1	-9.3
Iberville	4	LNE	3	LNE	-1	n.a.
Jackson	2	LNE	<2	LNE	n.a.	n.a.
Jefferson	54	8.6	54	9.4	1	9.1
Jefferson Davis	2	LNE	6	LNE	4	n.a.
Lafayette	27	9.4	35	11.6	8	23.9
Lafourche	10	8.6	10	8.1	-1	-5.9
La Salle	2	LNE	<2	LNE	n.a.	n.a.
Lincoln	4	LNE	7	13	3	n.a.
Livingston	14	9.4	13	7.6	-1	-18.8
Madison	2	LNE	3	LNE	1	n.a.
Morehouse	6	LNE	5	LNE	-2	n.a.
Natchitoches	7	11.4	6	LNE	-1	n.a.
Orleans	83	11.7	47	10.1	-36	-13.6
Ouachita	25	11.0	29	12.6	5	14.8
Plaquemines	3	LNE	2	LNE	-2	n.a.
Pointe Coupee	2	LNE	3	LNE	1	n.a.
Rapides	25	13.3	20	10.3	-5	-22.6
Red River	2	LNE	2	LNE	0	n.a.
Richland	5	LNE	4	LNE	-1	n.a.
Sabine	3	LNE	3	LNE	0	n.a.
St. Bernard	8	9.2	5	LNE	-3	n.a.
St. Charles	4	LNE	8	11.5	4	n.a.
St. Helena	<2	LNE	2	LNE	n.a.	n.a.
St. James	3	LNE	3	LNE	0	n.a.
St. John the Baptist	7	10.3	6	LNE	-1	n.a.
St. Landry	14	10.3	18	13.1	4	26.7
St. Martin	7	10.2	11	14.2	3	39.4
St. Mary	7	9.4	4	LNE	-3	n.a.
St. Tammany	16	5.7	24	8.3	8	44.9
Tangipahoa	12	7.7	17	10	5	30.2
Tensas	<2	LNE	<2	LNE	n.a.	n.a.
Terrebonne	16	9.7	17	10.1	1	4.5
Union	2	LNE	2	LNE	1	n.a.
Vermilion	9	11.2	6	LNE	-3	n.a.
Vernon	4	LNE	8	8.3	4	n.a.
Washington	7	10.4	4	LNE	-2	n.a.
Webster	6	LNE	7	13.7	1	n.a.
West Baton Rouge	3	LNE	7	20	4	n.a.
West Carroll	2	LNE	<2	LNE	n.a.	n.a.
West Feliciana	<2	LNE	<2	LNE	n.a.	n.a.
Winn	2	LNE	<2	LNE	n.a.	n.a.

LNE [low number of events] is used because the rate or percent may be unreliable.