

DeSoto Parish



“Over the years, it has become clear that individual health is closely linked to community health—the health of the community and environment in which individuals live, work, and play. Likewise, community health is profoundly affected by the collective beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of everyone who lives in the community”

Healthy People 2010

Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance

	DeSoto	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
ECONOMICS, 2000				
% All persons in poverty	25.1%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	34.1%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	8.1%	7.3%	5.8%	--
EDUCATION 2002-2003				
School Expenditure per Student	\$8,045	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	94.1%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	6.5%	7.0%	--	--
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	18.0	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care within first 3 months	79.3%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	69.6%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	13.0%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	22.2%	15.5%	10.6%	--
% Children fully immunized by 2 years old	--	69.8%	78.5%	90.0%
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2003 (new cases - rate per 100,000 population)				
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	--	4.1	2.5	0.2
Early Syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent)	NA	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	686.4	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	388.3	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	11.6*	5.8	5.1	1.0
STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)				
Heart	299.5	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	272.3	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	124.5	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	85.6	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	**	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Lower Respiratory	**	37.8	43.3	--
COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	15.8	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	2.7	2.1	1.5	0.8
HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004				
	Region 7	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	22.0%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI > 30 (adults 20+)	27.7%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram within 2 years (women 40+)	70.8%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear within 3 years (women 18+)	82.7%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	68.3%	68.6%	67.9%	90.0%

Data Sources:

Economics: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data, 2000

Education: Louisiana Department of Education District-reported data submitted to the Student Information System (SIS) end-of-year (EOY) report and Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP) System. Office of Management and Finance, Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources. District Composite Report 2003-2004.

Mothers and Children: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005

Infectious Diseases: DHH/OPH, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. 2004 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Disease in the United State, 2003". NA= Rate not available, # of cases is less than 5

Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (**Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

Community Safety: Child Abuse--Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Motor Vehicle Deaths--EM S/Injury Research & Prevention Program

Healthy Behaviors: DHH/OPH, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

History^{1, 2}

DeSoto, which includes land from both Caddo and Natchitoches parishes, became a parish on April 1, 1843. The name honors Hernando DeSoto, the Spanish explorer who discovered the Mississippi River in 1541. The first colonists were subjects of France and Spain, who later became citizens of the Republic of Texas. On the Sabine River, the Waterloo community seems to have existed since Louisiana became a state in 1812. The site probably shifted somewhat when Dr. Logan established the ferry crossing called Logan Port, which changed to Logansport in 1848.



Mansfield serves as the seat of government and the industrial, business, and medical center for the area. DeSoto Parish is located on the mouth of the Sabine River and at the beginning of the Toledo Bend Lake. The Louisiana Blueberry Festival is held the fourth weekend in June on the courthouse square in downtown Mansfield. River City Fest is held the first weekend in May in downtown Logansport. Duel on the Border is held in Logansport on the Toledo Bend Reservoir, in which drag boats race down the river at speeds up to 200 mph. In addition to festivals, visitors enjoy the Mansfield State Commemorative Area; the historic Rock Chapel, built in 1891; and the original Log Courthouse built in 1843. It is the only surviving courthouse of its kind in the state.

Parish Seat³ Mansfield

Major Cities (population over 5,000)

- Mansfield

Parish Population⁴

2000.....	25,494
2003 (estimate)	25,990
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	56.0%
African-American	42.2%
Some other race.....	1.9%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race)	1.6%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years	7.0%
5-14	16.2%
15-17	5.2%
18-19	2.7%
20-24	5.6%
25-64	49.3%
65 & over	14.1%

Geography and Statistics⁵

Average elevation	330ft.
Land area in square miles	877
Water area in square miles	17.3

Climate

Average temperatures

Annual	64°
January	56°
July	92°
Annual average rainfall	50 inches

Labor Force (2001)⁶

DeSoto Parish

Civilian.....	10,633
Employed	9,687
Unemployed.....	946
Unemployment.....	8.9%

Louisiana

Civilian.....	2,055,000
Employed	1,956,500
Unemployed.....	98,500
Unemployment Rate	4.8%

Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)

- Bossier Parish Community College
- Centenary College
- Louisiana State University, Shreveport
- Southern University, Shreveport

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
2. Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information
<<http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism/>>.
3. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
4. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <<http://www.census.gov>>.
5. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <<http://www.census.gov>>.
6. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary
<http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls>.