

# Morehouse 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”*

## Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance

	Morehouse	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
<b>ECONOMICS, 2000</b>				
% All persons in poverty	26.8%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	36.3%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	11.1%	7.3%	5.8%	--
<b>EDUCATION 2002-2003</b>				
School Expenditure per Student	\$6,885	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	93.8%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	10.9%	7.0%	--	--
<b>MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002</b>				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	19.8	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care w ithin first 3 months	82.2%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	75.1%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth w eight	11.5%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	17.1%	15.5%	10.6%	--
% Children fully immunized by 2 years old	--	69.8%	78.5%	90.0%
<b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2003 (new cases - rate per 100,000 population)</b>				
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	--	4.1	2.5	0.2
Early Syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent)	NA	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	548.0	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	364.3	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	6.1*	5.8	5.1	1.0
<b>STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)</b>				
Heart	399.8	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	236.0	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	**	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	**	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	95.0	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Low er Respiratory	**	37.8	43.3	--
<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003</b>				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	6.9	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	1.8	2.1	1.5	0.8
<b>HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004</b>				
	<b>Region 8</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>HP 2010</b>
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	25.7%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI>30 (adults 20+)	28.7%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram w ithin 2 years (women 40+)	72.5%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear w ithin 3 years (women 18+)	80.4%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	61.5%	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

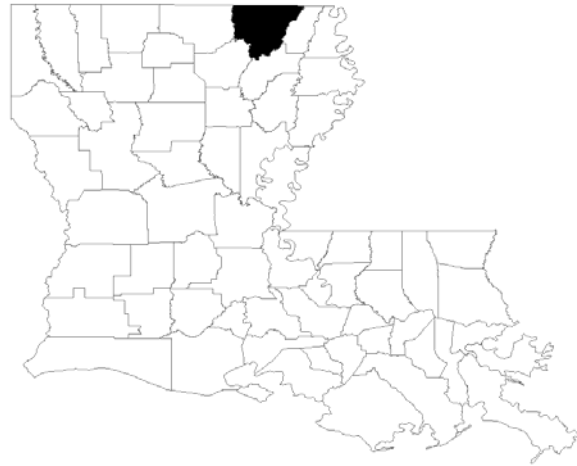
Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (\*\*Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

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<sup>1, 2</sup>**

Morehouse lies mostly in the Mississippi River delta land, amply irrigated by numerous streams and bayous. It was originally a part of the Ouachita Territory, which extended from the Mississippi River to the Red River, encompassing a large part of northeast Louisiana. The first settlers arrived in 1796 under the colonization program of the Spanish governor, Baron De Carondelet. Baron De Carondelet granted 12 leagues square to the Dutch nobleman Baron De Bastrop, with the provision that he bring 500 settlers to the area. Abraham Morehouse was one of these early settlers. The parish was formally organized on March 25, 1844, and the parish and principal city named after the two founding fathers. In the 1890s the railroad arrived, bringing many more settlers and causing a more rapid movement of the economy.



There are eight local parks and one state park in Morehouse Parish. There are several festivals each year, including the Farm Festival in January, and the Bonita Alligator Festival in June. Morehouse Parish boasts a museum, an energetic little theatre troupe, and a unique tourist center with Spanish land grants on view. The Snyder Museum has both permanent and traveling exhibits. Among the more interesting objects in its permanent collection are antique farming implements and cotton memorabilia. For visitors who might want to experience what an early theatre might have been like, the Rose Theatre offers a peek. The building, constructed in 1927, has some particularly interesting architectural features, including rare cast-cement emblems.

**Parish Seat<sup>3</sup>** ..... Bastrop

**Major Cities** (population over 5,000)

- Bastrop

**Parish Population<sup>4</sup>**

2000.....	31,021
2003 (estimate) .....	30,671
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	55.8%
African-American .....	43.4%
Some other race.....	0.9%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race) .....	0.7%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years .....	7.0%
5-14 .....	15.5%
15-17 .....	5.0%
18-19 .....	3.2%
20-24 .....	6.4%
25-64 .....	47.9%
65 & over .....	15.1%

**Geography and Statistics<sup>5</sup>**

Average elevation .....	120ft.
Land area in square miles .....	794
Water area in square miles .....	11

**Climate**

Average temperatures	
Annual.....	65°
January .....	54°
July.....	93°
Annual average rainfall.....	54.4 inches

**Labor Force (2001)<sup>6</sup>**

Morehouse Parish	
Civilian.....	11,651
Employed .....	10,153
Unemployed.....	1,498
Unemployment.....	12.9%
Louisiana	
Civilian.....	2,055,000
Employed .....	1,956,500
Unemployed.....	98,500
Unemployment Rate .....	4.8%

**Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)**

- Grambling State University
- Louisiana Tech University
- University of Louisiana at Monroe

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
2. Louisiana Office of Culture Recreation and Tourism, 1998. keywords: regional information, <<http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism/>>.
3. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
4. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <<http://www.census.gov>>.
5. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <<http://www.census.gov>>.
6. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary <[http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF\\_Parishes\\_2000-Present.xls](http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls)>.