

LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN AT RISK

PUBLIC AFFAIRS RESEARCH COUNCIL OF LA., INC.

Children at risk are those with a number of characteristics that might lessen their chances of succeeding in school and living a healthy, productive life. Although it is difficult to pinpoint who they are, by one definition about 60% of Louisiana's school-age children can be considered at risk. In 1989, the Public Affairs Research Council (PAR) first published a profile of children at risk. As a follow-up, this report provides:

- Data on educational achievement in Louisiana;
- Recommendations for breaking the cycle of failure and illiteracy in the state, particularly with respect to at-risk students; and
- An updated profile of children at risk in Louisiana.

Since PAR's 1989 report on children at risk, there has been little, if any, improvement in the plight of these children. Even in the areas that have shown improvement, the state still tends to be worse off than the nation as a whole. Past trends and future projections indicate that it is likely that the number and proportion of at-risk students in Louisiana will continue to grow.

At-Risk Factors

Factors that studies show increase a child's chances of being at risk of failure in school include:

- Poverty;
- Single-parent families;
- Health problems; and
- Parents with less than a high school education.

If a child is born to teenage parents or becomes a teenage parent, he or she is also more likely to be at risk. Although race, in itself, is not an at-risk factor, African-Americans are often over-represented in other at-risk categories. Therefore, race is often included in profiles of at-risk students.

By some of these measures, Louisiana has improved in recent years (poverty, education of the adult population and teen pregnancies). However, things have gotten worse according to other indicators (births to unwed mothers and percentage of low birth weight babies).

Louisiana's
Children at Risk

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN LOUISIANA

Overall Louisiana continues to rank at or near the bottom on most measures of educational attainment:

■ On the latest National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) test in mathematics, only 8% of Louisiana's public school fourth-graders and 10% of its eighth-graders scored at or above the proficient level in 1992. Among the 41 states that participated in the testing program, Louisiana fourth-graders and eighth-graders ranked second to last, trailed only by Mississippi. Fifty-nine percent of Louisiana fourth-graders and 58% of its eighth-graders performed below the basic level. (The NAEP test groups students into four performance categories: below basic, basic, proficient and advanced.)

■ Only 15% of the state's public school fourth-graders scored at or above the proficient level on the 1994 NAEP reading assessment (the most recently administered) ranking Louisiana last among the 39 states that participated; 60% of Louisiana's fourth-graders performed below even the basic level on that test.

■ There is a considerable gap between the achievement level of white and minority students in Louisiana. For example, on the fourth grade NAEP test in 1994, only 4% of African-American students and 6% of Hispanic students scored at the proficient level compared to 25% of white students. There was no improvement in the

percentage of minority students scoring at the proficient level between 1992 and 1994; in fact, there was a slight decrease.

■ The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) said that a comparison of student results on state-developed tests and on the national NAEP tests suggests that Louisiana and a number of other states have low standards. It is difficult to make a direct comparison because the state tests and national tests are given at different grade levels and in different years. However, to provide a ballpark comparison, the SREB reviewed the performance of seventh-graders on the state's math test in 1994-95 and the performance of the state's eighth-graders on the NAEP test in 1992, and found that 80% of Louisiana seventh-graders met the state proficiency standard, while only 10% of the state's eighth-graders met the national standard. Likewise in reading, 88% of Louisiana third-graders met the state's proficiency standard in 1994-95, but only 15% of Louisiana's fourth-graders met the NAEP proficiency standard in 1994. (Louisiana is now in the process of revising its standards.)

■ Only about six out of 10 Louisiana high school freshmen earn a high school diploma four years later according to the American Legislative Exchange Council, which ranked Louisiana's 58% graduation rate 48th among the states in 1995. It should be noted that this graduation rate data does not take into consideration students who may have earned a GED or transferred out of the school system.

■ Almost half (49%) of Louisiana's public high school

students who were first-time freshmen in Louisiana colleges and universities in the fall 1995 had to take at least one remedial course.

■ In 1995, the average score of Louisiana students on the ACT test ranked Louisiana 26th out of the 27 states that primarily give the ACT. Only Mississippi's average score was lower.

About The Data In This Report

The data on which this study is based was compiled from a number of sources. In all cases, the most recent data available was used. Sometimes this was information from as recently as 1995. In other instances, 1990 data was the most recent available. In reading the study, it is essential to be aware that data sources and years vary.

The study also includes references to Aid To Families With Dependent Children (AFDC). A recent federal law eliminated this program and replaced it with Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF). The study includes data from AFDC, because implementation of TANF has just begun.

TIME FOR SOLUTIONS, NOT EXCUSES

The high percentage of at-risk students in Louisiana has often been given as a reason for the state's dismal educational results. However, the state can no longer afford to use this as an excuse. Louisiana must break the cycle of failure and illiteracy that has directly or indirectly led to low wages, high unemployment, under-developed human potential, lower tax revenues, higher crime rates, a less-informed citizenry, and barriers to economic development.

Essential ingredients to tackling this problem are:

- High expectations of all students;
- Educators who truly believe all children can learn and who are given the flexibility to creatively seek ways to reach and teach even the hardest to educate students;
- Parental and community involvement and support;
- Staff training; and
- Student and school accountability.

A recent report by The Education Trust, a national organization created to support K-12 reform efforts, said, "We need to mount a two-pronged effort: we must raise academic achievement for all students, while accelerating the performance of schools serving our neediest children so we can close the achievement gap forever." The report noted that

"... too many students, particularly those who come from poor and minority families, are consigned to an academic diet of low expectations and the most rudimentary skills." The Education Trust's research has found that in the areas where minorities were more successful they were held to high standards and had challenging curriculums, adequate resources and trained teachers.

There have been many programs implemented over the years in Louisiana to address the needs of at-risk students in the public education system, from early childhood education to alternative programs for school dropouts. However, the approach has been scattershot. There is no comprehensive listing and evaluation of all programs currently in operation. Nor is data available showing exactly how much money from state, federal and local sources is available for teaching at-risk students or how and where it is being spent.

At least \$363 million was provided for at-risk students from three sources in 1994-95, including:

- \$173.4 million from the Federal Title I Program;
- \$170.7 million from a special weight in the state's Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) funding formula that gives local districts 15% more money for each at-risk student (defined as those eligible for free and reduced lunch, which includes about 60% of Louisiana students); and
- \$19.3 million also from a special weight in the MFP that gives local districts 10% additional for each student in need of remediation based on the results of the state assessment tests.

All these funds are in addition to those provided for the general education of all students, to which at-risk students are also entitled. Although some funds, such as the weighted amount in the MFP, are specifically allocated based on the number of at-risk students or the number needing remediation, the funds do not have to be spent on those identified students.

Recommendations

■ **The most important thing Louisiana can do to break the cycle of failure is focus on the elementary level and target its resources to guarantee that every child will learn to read by the end of the third grade.** This should not be too much to expect of an education system that taxpayers support to the tune of \$3.5 billion annually. A child cannot learn history, science, math and other subjects if he or she cannot read.

■ There should be consequences for schools whose students consistently fail to meet this standard. Taxpayers should not continue to subsidize institutions that are failing in their mission. Serious consideration should be given to the list of possible consequences identified by the Louisiana LEARN Commission (a state-level group of public officials, educators and citizens). The commission's "Comprehensive Plan to Improve Education" (July 25, 1996) said "corrective actions might include: changes in personnel; reallocation of funds; closure or reconstitution of schools; offering students options at other public and state approved nonpublic

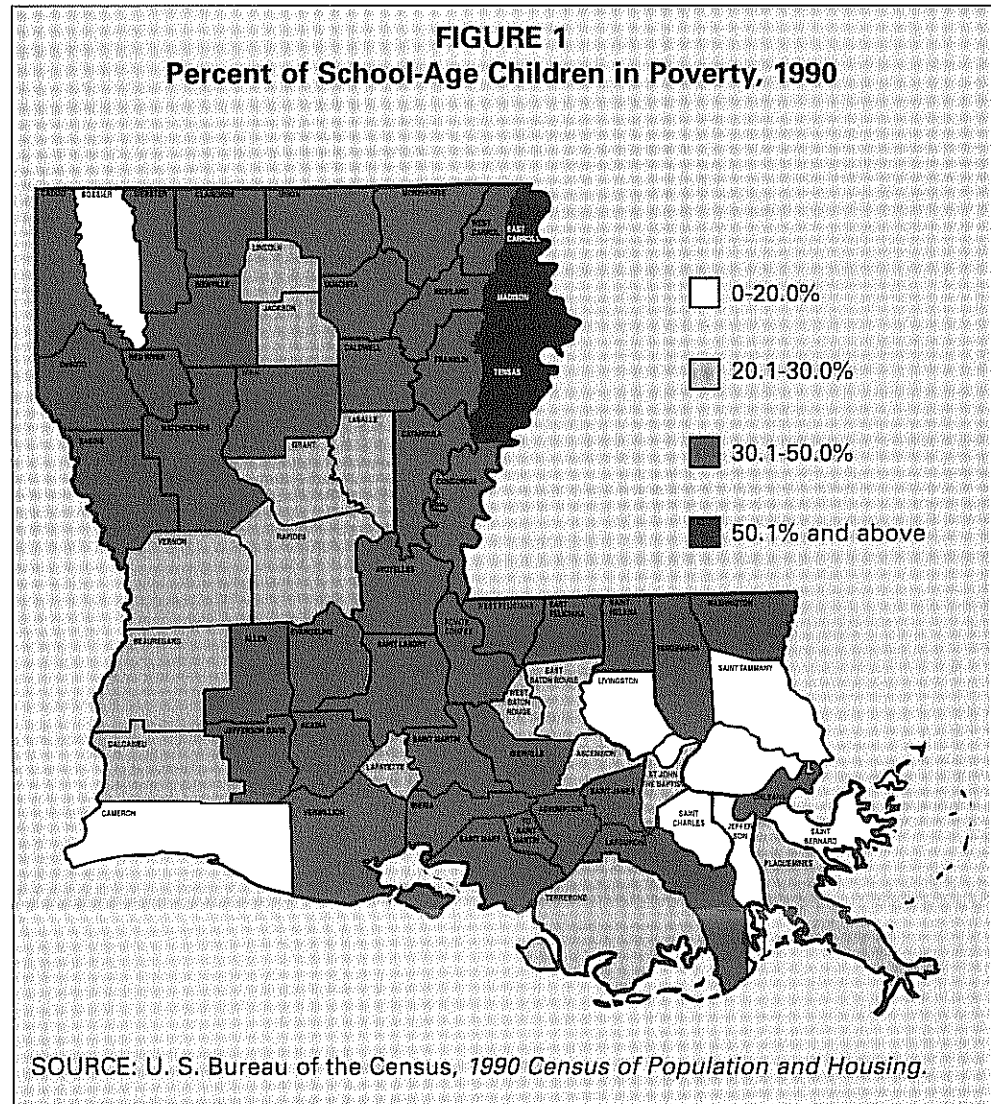
schools through opportunity grants (e.g. state funds that follow a student to another public or a private school); etc.”

■ The state and local school districts should find creative ways to help individual schools meet the in-service training needs the schools' faculty and administration identify as critical to student success. Consideration should also be given to providing pay incentives, particularly in elementary schools with high concentrations of at-risk students, to attract teachers who have a demonstrated ability to teach those students.

In its 1989 study, “Addressing Needs of At-Risk Children,” PAR made a number of recommendations that have not been adequately addressed and are still valid today:

■ The State Department of Education should act as a clearinghouse for information and a source of technical assistance on the development, implementation and evaluation of effective programs for at-risk students. All existing preschool, dropout prevention and any other special programs or strategies currently operating in the state designed to enhance the school success of at-risk children should be identified by the State Department of Education, along with evaluations of success. In addition, the department should annually compile a list of all funds available from state, federal and local sources to meet the needs of at-risk students.

■ Preschool programs for all at-risk four-year-olds (determined through formal and informal assessment) who are not now



being served should be provided in every local school district for one year before the children enter kindergarten. The programs should be financed jointly by the state and local school systems and be coordinated with, but not supplant, funding already available from state, federal and local sources.

The State Department of Education estimates that there were 70,493 four-year-olds in Louisiana in 1995-96. The department projects about 40,216 of these four-year-olds could be considered at risk using the criteria in the state's MFP funding formula (i.e., eligibility for free and

reduced lunch). In 1995-96, about 23,000 four-year-olds were participating in preschool programs in Louisiana funded through 8(g) or the federal Starting Points, Title I, Even Start and Head Start programs. Most of these children could be considered at-risk students, although the 1,920 students participating in 8(g)-funded programs did not have to meet strict income guidelines.

Thus, approximately 17,000 at-risk four-year-olds are not being served, and the State Department of Education estimates that the annual cost of doing so would be approximately \$42.5 million (or \$2,500 per student).

■ Greater flexibility should be allowed in order for schools to develop different strategies to meet the special needs of varying student populations. This will require reassessment of state mandates and local school board policies and practices that prevent or discourage decision making at the school level.

■ More teacher aides should be employed at the lower elementary grades.

■ A functional statewide definition of children and youth at risk of school failure should be developed and adopted. It should encompass those economically disadvantaged and/or educationally deficient.

■ In-service training courses and teacher education programs should prepare teachers to identify and effectively work with at-risk students.

■ The statewide student tracking system should link school attendance, discipline and achievement data to other at-risk factors to provide an early warning system so an at-risk student can receive appropriate intervention as early as possible. This should not be a system for labeling children but for serving children.

■ The services of civic, social, health and other organizations and agencies should be systematically sought to supplement those provided through the public education system to help at-risk students be successful in school.

TABLE 2
Trends in Births to Unwed Mothers
and Births to Teenage Mothers in Louisiana

Year	Births to Unwed Mothers		Births to Teenagers	
	Number	Percent of Total Births	Number	Percent of Total Births
1975	13,763	20.3	16,653	24.6
1985	23,233	28.5	14,080	17.3
1992	28,328	40.2	12,736	18.1
1993	29,126	42.0	12,937	18.7
1994	28,893	42.6	12,986	19.2
1995	27,828	42.4	12,548	19.1

Percent Change

Year	Births to Unwed Mothers	Births to Teenagers
1975-95	102.2	-24.7
1985-95	19.8	-10.9

Source: Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics of Louisiana*, Annual Series; PAR calculations.

PROFILE OF AT-RISK CHILDREN IN LOUISIANA

Poverty

Studies have shown that poverty is the primary factor that places children at risk of failing in school. A significant proportion of Louisiana's children fall in this category. In 1990 (the most recent year for which data is available), about 30% of Louisiana's school-age children statewide lived in poverty. In 16 parishes, more than 40% of children lived in poverty. (See Table 1 and Figure 1.)

In the last three years Louisiana has made progress, relative to other states, in reducing the percentage of individuals living below the poverty threshold (\$12,158 for a family of three in 1995).

However, the state's nearly 20% poverty rate still exceeds the national rate of 14%. Additionally, the state's per capita income, although rising, continues to be among the lowest in the nation.

Compared to other states, Louisiana had the third highest percentage of residents who received Aid To Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in 1993. However, the number of AFDC recipients in the state has been declining since 1990. AFDC is a joint federal and state cash assistance program for poor families with children. About three-fourths of Louisiana's AFDC recipients are children. SSI is a federal cash assistance program for the blind, disabled or elderly. Nearly 10% of Louisiana's population received assistance from one of these programs.

Single-Parent Families

Single-parent families and poverty are often closely linked. Nationwide, single-parent families (especially those headed by women) are more likely to be poor.

Nearly one-third of Louisiana's families with children 18 or younger were headed by a single parent in 1990. (See Table 1.) The parishes with a larger percentage of single-parent families tended also to have a larger percentage of poor families. According to a 1995 report by the state Department of Social Services, 96% of children who received AFDC lived in female-headed households.

Births to unwed mothers in Louisiana have more than doubled in number and as a percentage of total births since 1975. (See Table 2.) In 1995, births to unwed mothers represented 42% of the total births in the state. If the increases in births to unwed mothers continue, single-parent families will represent an increasing share of Louisiana's families.

Race and School Enrollment

Although race, in itself, is not an at-risk factor, data about it is included because minorities (especially African-Americans) are often over-represented in other at-risk categories. The percentage of Louisiana's public school students who are African-American has increased from 41% in 1975 to 46% in 1995. At the same time, the percentage of students who are white has decreased from 60% to 52%. (See Table 3.) (However,

School Year	White Enrollment		Nonwhite Enrollment				Total
	Number	Percent	African American		Other		
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1974-75	513,717	59.5	348,961	40.5	n/a	n/a	862,678
1984-85	444,905	55.5	337,203	42.1	19,587	2.4	801,695
1985-86	444,464	55.3	339,340	42.2	20,041	2.5	803,845
1986-87	443,104	55.1	341,378	42.4	20,163	2.5	804,645
1987-88	431,624	54.6	338,655	42.9	19,648	2.5	789,927
1988-89	427,832	54.2	342,166	43.3	19,965	2.5	789,963
1989-90	424,398	53.6	346,590	43.8	20,509	2.6	791,497
1990-91	421,896	53.0	352,918	44.4	20,795	2.6	795,609
1991-92	409,526	52.9	344,112	44.5	20,231	2.6	773,869
1992-93	405,755	52.6	344,196	44.6	21,198	2.7	771,149
1993-94	400,741	52.0	348,780	45.2	21,851	2.8	771,372
1994-95	399,702	51.6	352,567	45.5	21,777	2.8	774,046

Year	White		Nonwhite		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1975	40,750	60.1	27,042	39.9	67,792
1985	48,498	59.6	32,903	40.4	81,401
1995	37,348	57.0	28,226	43.0	65,574

1975-95	-8.3	4.4	-3.3
1985-95	-23.0	-14.2	-19.4

* Births per 1,000 population.
SOURCE: Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics of Louisiana, Annual Series*; PAR calculations.

prior to 1981, the state did not maintain exact enrollment figures on nonblack minority students. Therefore, some of the decrease in white enrollment may be attributable to more accurate data collection on other minorities.) Trends in Louisiana births indicate that nonwhites will continue to represent an increasing share of the student popu-

lation. (See Table 4.) Table 1 lists the percentage of nonwhite student enrollment in public and private schools by public school district.

Since 1975, the percentage of the state's K-12 students who were enrolled in public schools has remained fairly constant at between 85 and 87%. (See Table 5.)

Parents' Education

Various studies have indicated that children whose parents did not finish high school are more likely to drop out of school. Although Louisiana's adult population (25 or older) was more educated in 1995 than it was in 1980, it was still less educated than the adult population nationwide.

In 1995, almost 82% of the adults nationwide had graduated from high school. Twenty-three percent had earned at least a bachelor's degree. In Louisiana, about 76% of adults had graduated from high school, and 20% had earned a bachelor's degree or higher. In 1980, fewer than 60% of Louisiana's adults were high school graduates. Only 14% had earned bachelor's degrees.

Adult educational attainment varied considerably by parish (according to 1990 census data, the most recent available). (See Table 1). More than 80% of East Baton Rouge Parish's adults had earned at least a GED or regular high school diploma. However, fewer than half of Evangeline or East Carroll parishes' adults did.

In 1992, Louisiana had a larger share of children born to mothers with less than a high school education than did the U.S. overall. About 27% of births in Louisiana were to such mothers, compared to 23% nationally. (See Table 6.)

Health

Good health has been linked to academic success. Studies have shown that prenatal care and birth weight affect a child's health. In 1995, about 27% of births in

TABLE 5
Trend in Louisiana Public and Nonpublic K-12 Enrollment*
1975-1995

School Year	Public		Nonpublic		Total
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	
1974-75	862,678	84.7	155,693	15.3	1,018,371
1984-85	801,695	84.8	144,104	15.2	945,799
1985-86	803,845	85.2	140,165	14.8	944,010
1986-87	804,645	85.7	134,336	14.3	938,981
1987-88	789,927	86.9	119,400	13.1	909,327
1988-89	789,963	87.0	117,580	13.0	907,543
1989-90	791,497	87.0	118,384	13.0	909,881
1990-91	788,266	86.8	120,370	13.2	908,636
1991-92	766,178	86.8	116,904	13.2	883,082
1992-93	762,208	86.6	117,946	13.4	880,154
1993-94	762,113	86.1	123,004	13.9	885,117
1994-95	763,494	85.9	125,350	14.1	888,844

Percent Change

1975-95	-11.5	-19.5	-12.7
1985-95	-4.8	-13.0	-6.0

* Includes Grades K-12 and Special Education but not Pre-K.

SOURCE: Louisiana Department of Education, *Annual Financial and Statistical Report*; PAR calculations.

TABLE 6
Years of School Completed By Mothers of Newborns
1992

Years of School Completed By Mother	Percent of Total Births	
	Louisiana	U.S.
0 to 8	5.3	6.4
9 to 11	22.1	16.8
12	42.7	36.1
13 to 15	16.3	20.5
16 or more	13.5	18.6
Not Stated	0.1	1.6

SOURCE: U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1992*; PAR calculations.

Louisiana were to women who did not receive adequate prenatal care. (Adequate prenatal care is care that begins in the first trimester of pregnancy and includes at least eight more visits at scheduled intervals.) The percentage of women who received adequate prenatal care varied by parish, from a low of about 49% in Lincoln to a high of about 89% in Cameron. (See Table 1.) Low birth weight has been shown to

adversely affect a child's health. Newborns who weigh less than five pounds, eight ounces often suffer from developmental delays or handicaps later in life. The percentage of low birth weight babies in Louisiana increased from 9% in 1985 to 10% in 1995. Again, the statistics varied dramatically among the parishes. Red River had the highest percentage (14.7) while Caldwell had the lowest (4.2). (See Table 1.)



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P A R

Teenage Pregnancy

Teen pregnancies place both the teenage parents and their children at risk. Teenage parents are often unable to finish high school or to provide early learning experiences for their children.

Since 1975 in Louisiana, the number of births to teenage

mothers has decreased by almost 25%. Such births have also represented a decreasing share of total births, dropping from 25% in 1975 to 19% in 1995. (See Table 2.) Despite the decreases, Louisiana still had a larger percentage of births to teenagers compared to the 13% in the nation overall. In about half of Louisiana's parishes, births to teenage mothers

represented 20% or more of total births. (See Table 1.)

Conclusion

While addressing the needs of at risk students at all levels of the education system is important, the state's priority should be at the elementary level where there is the greatest hope for breaking the cycle of failure.

Partial funding for the publication of this report was provided by:

**Badger Oil Corp., Paul Hilliard, President
and
Shell Offshore Inc.**

Parish	Percent of School-Age Children in Poverty 1990 a		Percent of Families with Children Age 18 and Under Headed by Single Parents in 1990 b				Percentage Of Nonwhite Student Enrollment* By Public School District, 1994-95 c		
	Percent	Parish Rank	Single Male Families	Single Female Families	Single Parent Families	Parish Rank by % of Single Parent Families	% Public School Students	% Nonpublic School Students	% All Students
Acadia	36.8	19	4.5	22.7	27.2	35	28.8	3.0	24.9
Allen	35.9	22	4.2	21.3	25.5	41	25.4	0.0	25.4
Ascension	21.6	46	4.7	19.9	24.6	45	32.0	6.8	30.2
Assumption	38.4	20	5.5	19.7	25.1	43	46.0	15.1	44.3
Avoyelles	42.3	10	3.6	24.8	28.4	31	40.0	12.2	36.2
Beauregard	22.6	44	3.9	15.7	19.6	55	18.9	0.0	18.9
Bienville	39.9	15	4.7	28.2	32.9	17	57.1	0.0	57.1
Bossier	19.8	49	4.2	21.7	25.9	40	31.9	11.9	31.4
Caddo	32.5	29	4.6	33.8	38.4	5	61.5	15.8	58.5
Calcasieu	21.9	45	4.1	22.3	26.3	38	30.8	20.2	29.9
Caldwell	38.1	18	5.9	21.1	27.0	37	23.8	0.0	23.8
Cameron	18.6	55	4.8	11.1	15.9	57	6.4	0.0	6.4
Catahoula	42.6	9	6.1	21.8	27.9	33	36.4	0.0	36.4
Claborne	36.1	21	5.2	28.8	33.9	15	63.3	0.0	54.2
Concordia	40.1	14	5.8	31.3	37.2	6	51.6	0.0	48.3
DeSoto	35.8	23	5.0	30.4	35.4	10	56.0	2.8	54.3
East Baton Rouge	23.8	42	4.4	27.4	31.9	21	60.3	11.3	45.2
East Carroll	69.7	1	4.4	48.5	53.0	2	90.1	10.1	79.8
East Feliciana	30.8	34	4.7	29.2	33.9	15	71.7	0.0	61.9
Evangeline	38.8	17	5.4	23.0	28.3	32	38.6	0.0	34.6
Franklin	43.5	6	5.2	27.1	32.3	20	46.0	2.0	44.0
Grant	29.2	39	4.3	19.8	24.1	46	17.0	0.0	17.0
Iberia	34.1	26	4.6	24.0	28.6	30	41.7	10.4	38.4
Iberville	35.5	24	6.0	29.8	35.8	9	71.7	2.9	62.4
Jackson	29.7	37	4.1	23.0	27.1	36	37.4	0.0	37.4
Jefferson	20.0	48	4.9	22.9	27.8	34	50.4	10.4	37.5
Jefferson Davis	32.5	29	4.3	19.6	24.0	47	26.2	13.5	25.7
Lafayette	23.8	42	4.5	22.4	27.0	37	34.2	13.3	30.3
LaFourche	30.3	35	4.3	17.9	22.3	52	25.7	3.1	22.6
LaSalle	23.4	43	4.2	15.8	20.0	54	13.0	0.0	13.0
Lincoln	26.1	41	3.6	26.7	30.3	25	43.1	3.5	38.9
Livingston	16.9	54	4.3	14.0	18.3	56	10.0	3.9	10.0
Madison	58.1	2	6.1	43.4	49.6	3	81.4	2.5	72.7
Morehouse	42.0	12	4.9	31.7	36.6	7	64.8	0.6	57.7
Natchitoches	44.2	5	4.1	32.0	36.1	8	55.3	6.7	53.3
Orleans	45.1	4	5.6	48.2	53.8	1	93.8	45.0	83.0
Ouachita	32.6	28	4.0	30.4	34.4	13	24.0	9.0	22.3
City of Monroe							87.2	0.0	87.2
Plaquemines	28.0	40	6.4	17.4	23.8	48	37.9	28.5	37.0
Pointe Coupee	36.5	20	5.3	24.9	30.3	25	66.0	4.6	48.6
Rapides	29.5	38	4.1	25.8	29.9	27	42.8	4.8	40.5
Red River	40.1	14	5.2	28.8	34.0	14	57.0	0.4	50.8
Richland	42.9	7	5.1	29.5	34.6	12	53.8	1.6	49.3
Sabine	34.7	25	4.0	22.2	26.2	39	44.1	0.0	44.1
St. Bernard	19.3	50	4.4	19.0	23.3	49	15.1	3.1	11.8
St. Charles	18.8	51	4.2	18.9	23.1	50	34.7	12.8	33.2
St. Helena	42.7	8	5.4	26.1	31.5	22	86.4	0.0	86.4
St. James	31.5	33	4.2	24.9	29.1	29	70.1	4.4	64.8
St. John	23.8	42	4.3	21.1	25.4	42	65.1	11.6	48.0
St. Landry	42.1	11	4.4	26.7	31.1	24	53.8	8.8	48.7
St. Martin	32.4	30	5.4	21.8	27.1	36	47.1	17.6	43.8
St. Mary	33.4	27	5.6	24.6	30.2	26	50.3	11.9	46.6
St. Tammany	17.3	53	4.0	16.1	20.1	53	16.2	5.1	14.6
Tangipahoa	40.1	14	4.7	28.3	33.0	16	46.1	1.9	40.8
Tensas	56.9	3	6.6	37.0	43.6	4	82.7	0.9	72.2
Terrebonne	29.7	37	4.6	18.7	23.3	49	33.6	6.2	30.5
Union	30.1	36	3.5	21.4	24.8	44	40.9	0.0	40.9
Vermilion	32.1	31	4.6	20.3	24.8	44	23.2	5.2	21.8
Vernon	20.6	47	3.3	12.0	15.4	58	29.7	0.0	29.7
Washington	41.1	13	4.2	28.2	32.4	18	41.5	1.5	36.9
City of Bogalusa							46.0	0.0	46.0
Webster	31.7	32	4.5	27.8	32.3	19	43.1	0.0	41.6
West Baton Rouge	26.1	41	5.1	26.0	31.2	23	48.4	4.0	42.8
West Carroll	32.6	28	5.0	17.6	22.6	51	21.8	0.0	21.8
West Feliciana	39.1	16	6.0	28.8	34.8	11	46.1	0.0	46.1
Winn	33.4	27	5.0	24.4	29.4	28	38.2	0.0	38.2
State	30.4		4.6	26.7	31.3		48.4	16.2	43.7

a United States Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing,
b Louisiana Factbook, University of New Orleans, College of Business Administ
c Louisiana Department of Education, 146th Annual Financial and Statistical Re
d Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, Center
e Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, Center

TABLE 1

Percent of Births, By Parish

Educational Level of Louisiana's Adult Population, 1990 (Age 25 or Older) a		Percent of Mothers Who Received Adequate Prenatal Care, 1995 d		Low Birth Weight Babies As A Percent of Total Births, 1995 d		Percent of Births To Teenage Mothers, 1995 e		Parish
% High School Graduate or Higher	% Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	
54.6	8.4	50.3	58	10.7	14	21.2	25	Acadia
57.1	6.7	63.3	47	10.4	17	22.1	22	Allen
68.5	9.3	79.5	9	9.0	24	15.7	48	Ascension
50.4	6.7	75.5	20	10.9	12	19.6	31	Assumption
50.5	7.4	64.4	46	10.5	16	20.5	27	Avoyelles
70.6	13.0	60.7	53	7.2	39	17.5	42	Beauregard
62.6	9.3	61.5	52	12.4	3	19.1	34	Bienville
78.9	15.5	79.5	9	8.3	30	15.8	47	Bossier
73.4	18.2	71.0	31	10.8	13	20.2	29	Caddo
70.3	14.7	80.0	7	8.9	25	19.3	32	Calcasieu
57.1	9.3	80.7	6	4.2	43	21.8	23	Caldwell
61.1	7.9	88.6	1	8.8	26	14.9	50	Cameron
53.9	8.7	74.3	24	4.6	42	24.8	11	Catahoula
60.9	10.1	67.4	39	11.3	10	18.6	38	Claborne
56.9	9.1	72.7	28	10.6	15	33.0	1	Concordia
64.0	9.5	68.8	34	10.0	18	24.4	13	DeSoto
80.5	27.5	78.3	12	10.8	13	14.8	51	East Baton Rouge
49.1	10.3	55.9	56	8.6	27	28.5	6	East Carroll
58.2	8.9	67.7	37	9.7	20	16.9	44	East Feliciana
48.2	8.3	62.7	49	11.8	6	23.8	14	Evangeliste
53.7	10.3	74.6	22	9.1	23	25.1	9	Franklin
62.8	9.6	77.0	14	6.0	41	22.5	19	Grant
59.3	9.0	66.9	40	9.9	19	25.0	10	Iberia
59.0	8.9	75.4	21	9.4	21	18.7	37	Iberville
63.9	9.2	57.8	54	8.5	28	22.2	21	Jackson
76.0	18.8	81.6	5	8.8	26	15.8	47	Jefferson
59.9	8.0	62.6	50	8.2	31	21.8	23	Jefferson Davis
73.3	22.5	72.5	30	9.0	24	14.9	50	Lafayette
56.2	10.0	83.4	4	7.2	39	18.8	36	LaFourche
61.0	7.9	65.7	43	7.8	35	19.2	33	LaSalle
74.5	26.2	48.6	60	10.8	13	18.0	40	Lincoln
66.7	8.7	79.8	8	8.5	28	17.6	41	Livingston
53.3	9.2	56.8	55	10.5	16	28.4	7	Madison
57.8	10.5	50.0	59	8.1	32	31.0	3	Morehouse
65.0	16.4	73.7	26	8.4	29	24.5	12	Natchitoches
68.1	22.4	65.8	42	12.1	5	22.3	20	Orleans
71.6	18.9	78.3	12	8.9	25	20.4	28	Ouachita
58.0	7.5	74.0	25	7.7	36	17.2	43	City of Monroe
58.6	9.7	76.5	17	11.7	7	19.7	30	Plaquemines
69.0	14.6	70.3	32	8.5	28	21.4	24	Pointe Coupee
57.4	8.7	74.5	23	14.7	1	18.9	35	Red River
52.0	10.7	68.5	35	12.7	2	29.9	5	Richland
61.9	8.3	72.9	27	7.4	38	25.1	9	Sabine
67.2	7.3	86.7	3	7.6	37	15.6	49	St. Bernard
74.0	14.8	80.0	7	9.3	22	13.4	52	St. Charles
57.6	7.7	68.4	36	8.5	28	22.9	16	St. Helena
61.1	8.1	65.5	45	10.6	15	18.6	38	St. James
71.5	11.4	62.9	48	11.6	8	17.2	43	St. John
55.3	9.7	62.0	51	11.1	11	19.7	30	St. Landry
63.7	6.7	70.2	33	10.7	14	18.3	39	St. Martin
58.1	8.3	76.9	15	8.0	33	22.9	16	St. Mary
76.9	23.1	87.4	2	6.9	40	13.1	53	St. Tammany
60.7	12.9	78.8	11	11.4	9	22.8	17	Tangipahoa
58.1	11.7	67.6	38	7.4	38	31.5	2	Tensas
59.6	9.4	75.9	18	8.9	25	18.6	38	Terrebonne
64.3	11.0	66.1	41	9.4	21	22.7	18	Union
58.3	8.8	77.1	13	7.9	34	19.2	33	Vermilion
76.9	10.3	76.8	16	8.4	29	16.2	46	Vernon
61.5	8.6	65.6	44	11.3	10	30.3	4	Washington
63.9	10.0	72.6	29	10.5	16	23.0	15	City of Bogalusa
66.0	9.9	79.3	10	8.0	33	16.3	45	Webster
52.0	8.7	64.4	46	8.6	27	20.9	26	West Baton Rouge
57.2	7.8	75.8	19	7.6	37	16.3	45	West Carroll
58.0	9.0	51.4	57	12.3	4	25.5	8	West Feliciana
68.3	16.1	73.5		9.7		19.1		Winn
						12.8		State
								U. S. Average

SOURCES

Summary Social, Economic and Housing Characteristics.
 tion, Division of Business and Economic Research, March 1993; PAR calculations.
 t; PAR calculations.
 r Health Statistics, Preliminary 1995 Vital Statistics of Louisiana.
 r Health Statistics, Louisiana's Health at a Glance, September 1996 Wallchart.