



May 11 Update

Snapshot

The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana

PAR Snapshot

*Media Trust Drops More Than 20% In Four Years
New COVID-19 Cases Increasing Statewide*

Fewer Louisiana Citizens Trust Local News

A recent poll shows declining trust in news sources both locally and nationally.

Fifty-one percent of respondents trust information from local news outlets, according to the 2022 Louisiana Survey conducted by the LSU Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs. By comparison, 78% of respondents four years ago said they trusted information from local news outlets.

Table 2: Trends in attitudes about local news organizations

| View | All | Democrats | Republicans |
|---|-----|-----------|-------------|
| 2018: Trust information "a lot" or "some" | 78% | 89% | 76% |
| 2022: Trust information "a lot" or "some" | 51% | 66% | 45% |
| Change | -27 | -23 | -31 |
| 2018: Deal fairly with all sides | 36% | 48% | 31% |
| 2022: Deal fairly with all sides | 26% | 43% | 18% |
| Change | -10 | -5 | -13 |
| 2018: Get the facts straight | 56% | 64% | 59% |
| 2022: Get the facts straight | 41% | 72% | 33% |
| Change | -15 | +8 | -26 |

Source: 2022 Louisiana Survey / LSU Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs

About one-third (36%) of respondents said they trust information from national news outlets, according to the poll. This is a 21% drop from 2018 where 57% of respondents comfortably relied on national news outlets.

There are significant partisan divides in how people view the news. In 2018, 78% of Democrats and 47% of Republicans said they trusted information from national news organizations. In 2022, these percentages dropped to 60% of Democrats and 18% of Republicans.

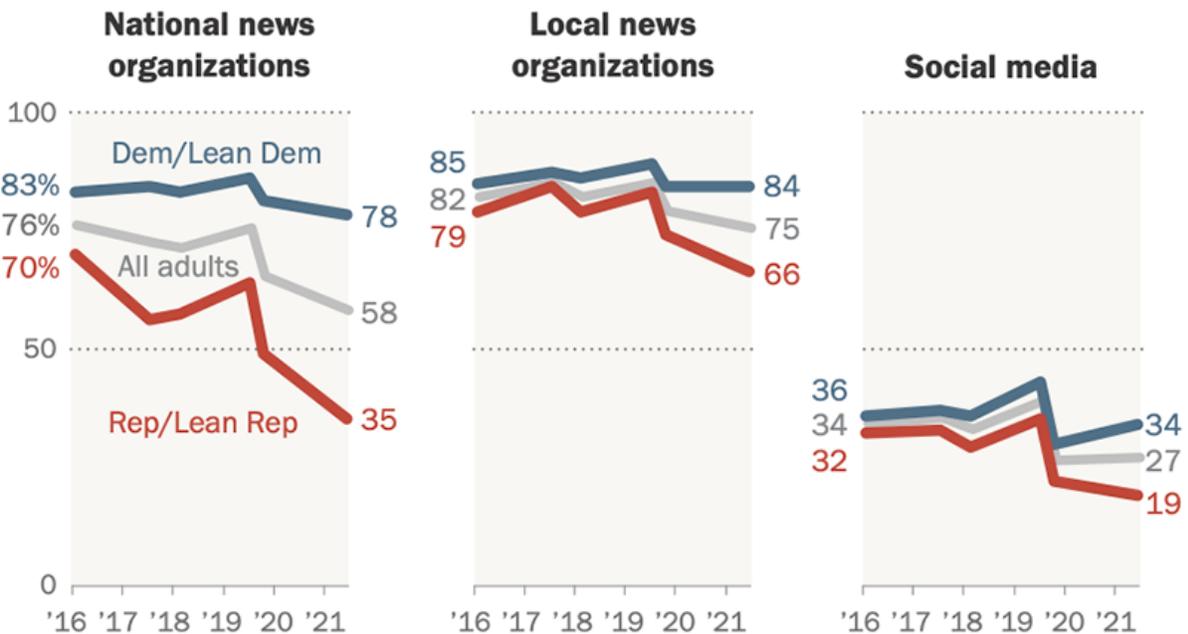
For both national and local news, Louisiana Republicans demonstrated a sharper decrease in confidence since 2018 compared to Louisiana Democrats. A similar drop was found concerning trust in national news sources.

Louisiana Residents: More Distrust in News than U.S. Adults

Louisiana residents place less confidence in national and local news than people across the country. From 2016 to 2021, U.S. adults' trust in information from national news organizations dropped by 18%. Louisiana adults' trust in national media (36%) was 22 points lower than U.S. adults (58%).

Local news also ranks more favorably in the U.S. than Louisiana. Seventy-five percent of U.S. adults have at least some trust in local news organizations, while 51% of Louisiana adults report similar sentiments.

Percent of U.S. adults who say they have a lot or some trust in the information that comes from:



Note: In 2016, trust of information from social media was only asked of and based on internet-using U.S. adults.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 14-27, 2021. For dates of other surveys, see the topline.

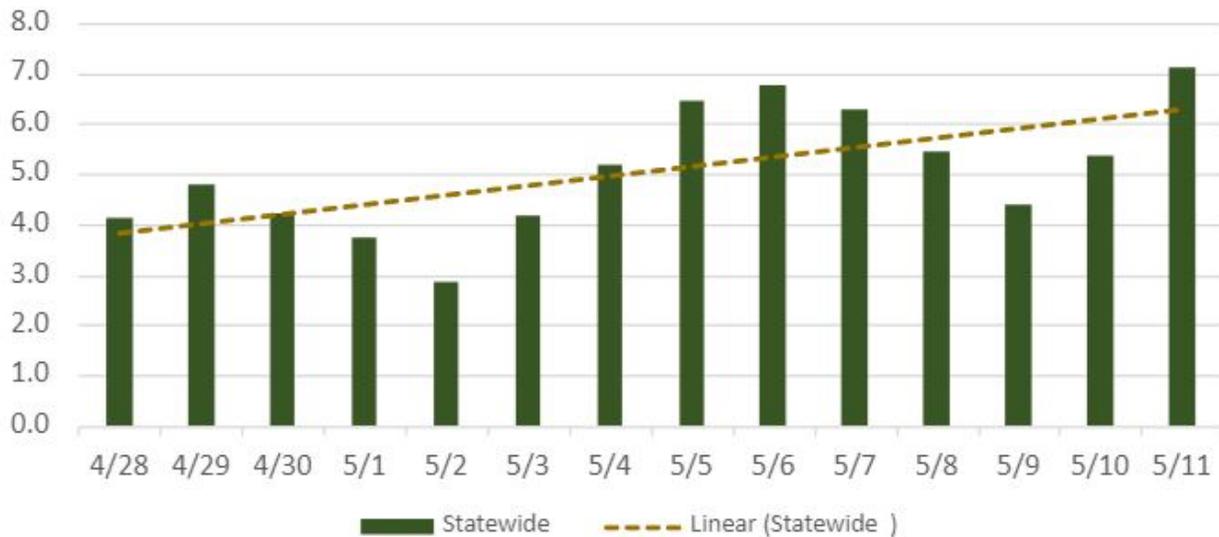
Source: Pew Research Center

COVID-19 Update

*New Cases Increasing Statewide for Two Weeks
Daily Confirmed Deaths Below Five Since April 20
442 New Confirmed Cases | 1 new Confirmed Death*

The Louisiana Department of Health reported 442 confirmed cases out of 14,490 tests on May 11. The three-day average of new cases was about 326. There are approximately 1.34 patients in Louisiana hospitals with COVID-19 per 100,000 residents. The LDH reported one confirmed death.

Statewide COVID Trends- INCREASING



Confirmed cases are increasing statewide.

The graphs in this report show the number of new cases per 100,000 residents over a 14-day period, which is a method used by the state. By calculating the cases according to population in this way, the results from region to region are easier to compare to determine the severity of the outbreak.

| Region | 5/9/2022 | 5/10/2022 | 5/11/2022 |
|--------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Orleans | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Capital | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Bayou | ▲ | — | — |
| Lafayette | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Lake Charles | — | — | — |
| Central | — | — | — |
| Shreveport | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| Monroe | — | — | ▲ |
| Northshore | ▲ | ▲ | — |
| Statewide | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |

PAR uses an average of new cases over a three-day period to smooth out irregularities that could be related to reporting inconsistencies (LDH also uses multiple-day averaging). Then, a statistically derived trendline – in the form of a straight line – is fitted to the data to gauge whether cases are increasing, decreasing or have reached a plateau, according to the CDC definition for each.

These figures are based only on known cases. Some studies indicate that the number of people who have carried COVID-19 is far greater than the number who have taken the test and shown a positive result. An unknown but potentially large number of people have been infected but are asymptomatic and have not been tested. Others have taken at-home tests, and their positive results haven't necessarily been reported to the state.

Special thanks to the Union Pacific Foundation for supporting PAR's Louisiana Recovery Project.

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