



June 22 Update

Snapshot

The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana

PAR Snapshot

Digital Illiteracy Rate 10%

COVID Cases Increasing

Digital Illiteracy Rate Significant

One in 10 Louisiana adults are considered digitally illiterate, meaning they are unable to find information through online platforms even as more commerce, news and entertainment require such technological skills to access.

An estimated 460,000 Louisiana adults aged 18 to 64 do not have basic computer skills, according to the [Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity](#). That's roughly equivalent to the population of two cities the size of Baton Rouge, in the latest U.S. Census data.

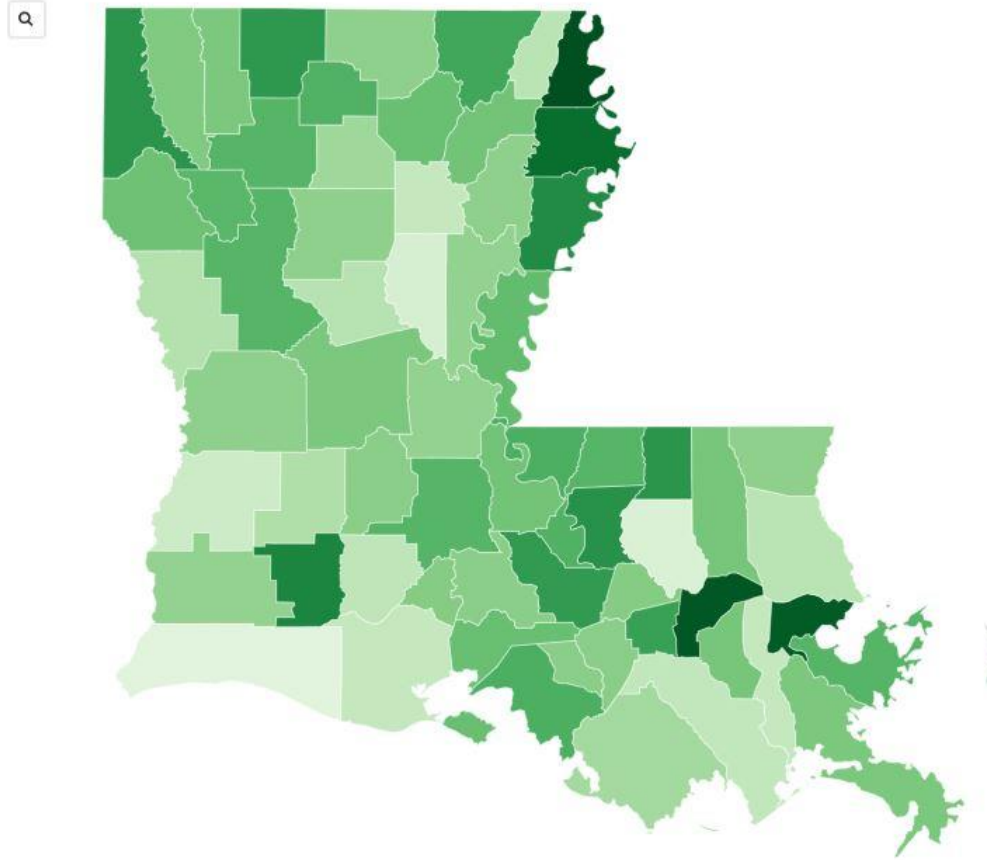
The American Library Association defines digital literacy as "the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills."

Louisiana's broadband office says digital illiteracy is among three challenges that cause the state's digital divide, along with affordability and accessibility. To learn more about this, you can read PAR's previously-released snapshot covering Louisiana's [broadband usage](#).

Despite the sizable number of people without needed technology skills, Louisiana's rate of digital illiteracy remains below the national average, according to data.

Digital Illiteracy by Parish

Digital Illiteracy Rate 12  20

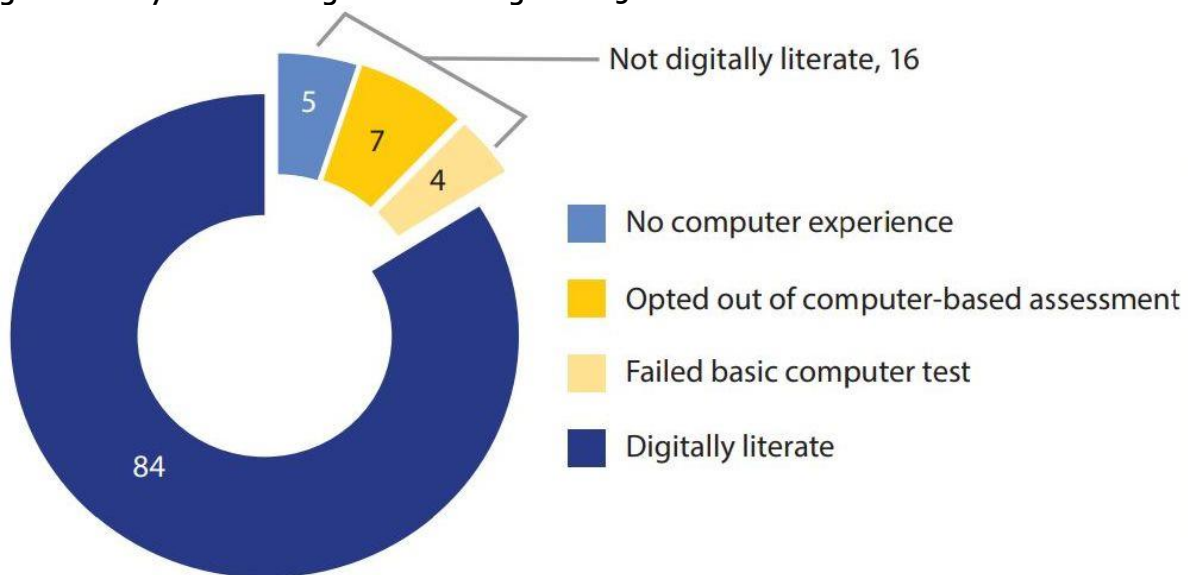


Source: The Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity / U.S. Department of Education, 2018 / Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2012

The office of broadband development used a 2012 study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to present an estimated percentage of each parish's population that lacked basic digital problem-solving skills. The darker the green color of a parish, the higher percentage of digitally illiterate residents.

The three most digitally illiterate parishes are East Carroll (19.7%), St. John the Baptist (19.5%) and Orleans (19.4%). The most digitally proficient parishes are Cameron (13%), Livingston (13.3%) and LaSalle (13.5%).

Digital Literacy Rates among U.S. Adults ages 16-65



Source: U.S. Department of Education, 2018, / Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2012 / Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), 2012

The U.S. Department of Education's [Stats in Brief](#) reports 16% of U.S. adults are not digitally literate, higher than Louisiana's estimated 10% of adults.

But the two reports used different target populations. The broadband office's internal analysis documented adults starting at age 18 while the U.S. Department of Education began its age range at 16. Both organizations used the same assessment by the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies. The program gauged individuals digital problem-solving skills by their proficiency in configuring files, using menus and embedding hyperlinks.

Increasing the rate of digital literacy will broaden the scope of resources available to Louisiana residents. Video-calling, online delivery and other digital technologies have risen to prominence following the COVID-19 pandemic. A foundational knowledge of digital problem-solving is vital to stay up to speed in the online world.

COVID-19 Update

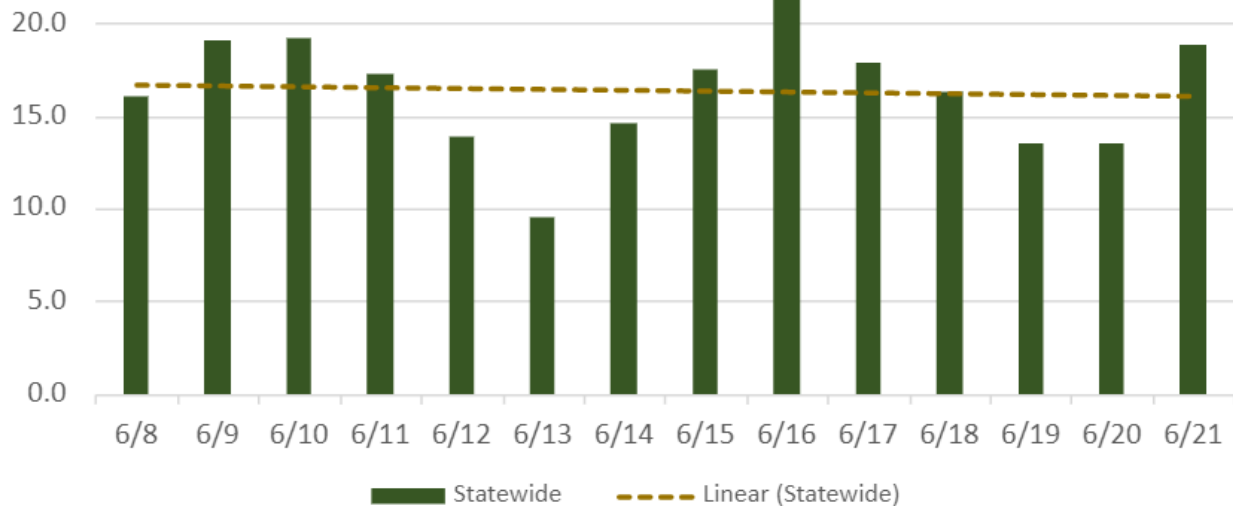
Gradual Increase in Cases

Three-Day Positivity Rate Over 13%

1,356 New Confirmed Cases | 4 new Confirmed Deaths

The Louisiana Department of Health reported 1,356 confirmed cases out of 9,554 tests on June 21. The three-day positivity rate was 13.9%. There are approximately 7.66 patients in Louisiana hospitals with COVID-19 per 100,000 residents. The LDH reported four confirmed deaths.

Statewide COVID Trends- PLATEAU



Confirmed cases show a plateau 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	14 Day Look-Back (3 Day Average)		
	6/19/2022	6/20/2022	6/21/2022
Orleans	Decreasing	Decreasing	Decreasing
Capital	Decreasing	Decreasing	Plateau
Bayou	Increasing	Plateau	Decreasing
Lafayette	Increasing	Increasing	Increasing
Lake Charles	Increasing	Increasing	Increasing
Central	Increasing	Increasing	Increasing
Shreveport	Increasing	Increasing	Increasing
Monroe	Increasing	Increasing	Increasing
Northshore	Plateau	Decreasing	Decreasing
Statewide	Increasing	Plateau	Plateau

Decreasing

Increasing

Plateau

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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