



July 13 Update

# Snapshot

The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana

## PAR Snapshot

*2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season Above Normal  
COVID Cases Increasing Statewide*

### ***Another Active Hurricane Season Forecast***

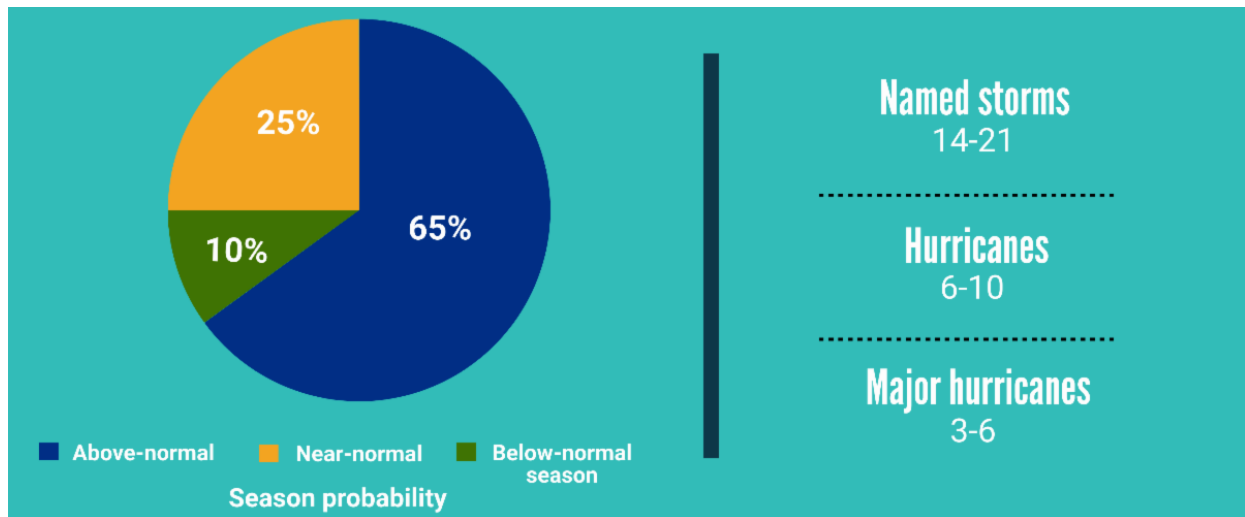
The [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) predicts an "above average" 2022 hurricane season, creating another round of worrying for Louisiana residents who are still recovering from significant damages.

The season started June 1 and will end November 30. As of July 13, there have already been four named storms, Tropical Storms Alex and Colin as well as Hurricanes Bonnie and Darby. This is the seventh consecutive year with an above-average hurricane season predicted.

Forecasters at the NOAA's Climate Prediction Center forecast a likely range of 14 to 21 named storms, six to 10 hurricanes and three to six major hurricanes.

The [Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale](#) rates hurricanes on a one to five scale based on their maximum sustained wind speed. All hurricanes that reach a wind speed of at least 111 miles per hour are considered major hurricanes.

## 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season Predictions



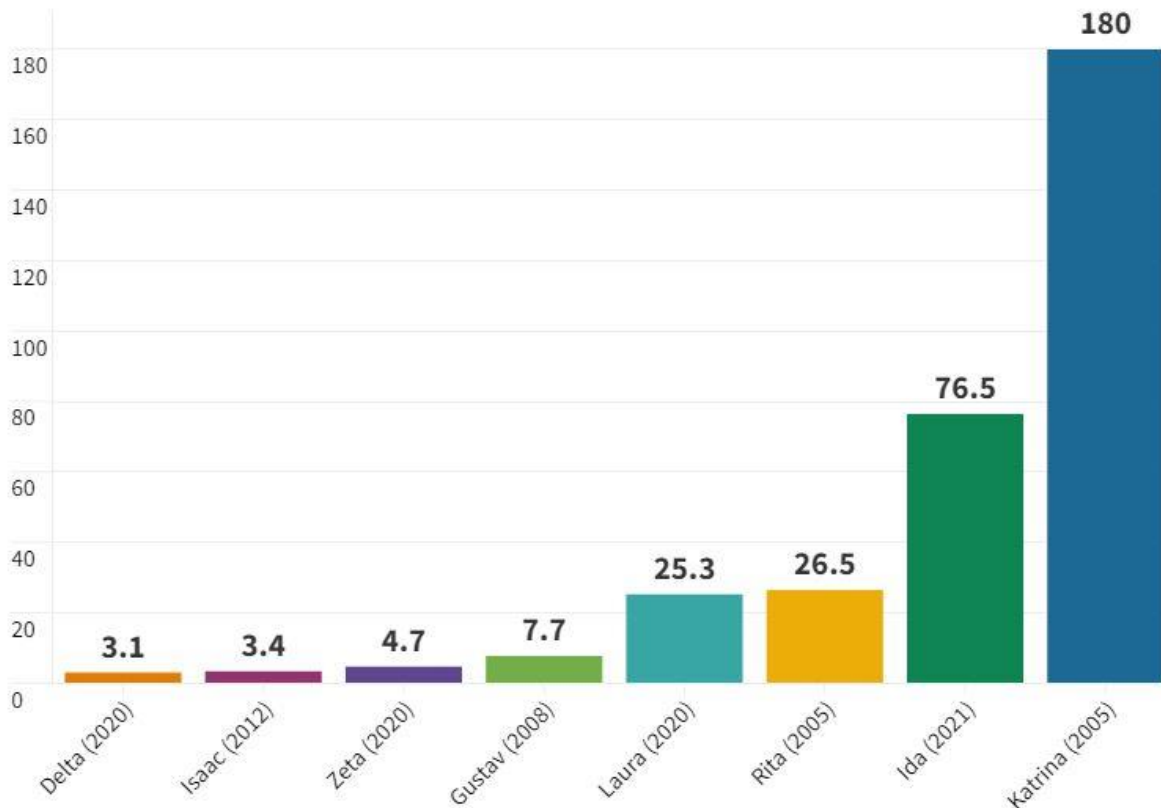
Source: NOAA, May 2022

As Louisiana braces for another turbulent season, an overview of the human and financial impact of past major hurricanes puts into perspective what residents have endured.

Hurricane Katrina is among the deadliest storms to ever strike Louisiana; the storm is blamed for more than 1,000 deaths in the state and hundreds more across the Gulf Coast. More recently, Hurricane Ida was blamed for at least 26 deaths across southeastern Louisiana, according to state health department data.

Along with the loss of life, hurricanes have cost Louisiana and the country billions of dollars in damage to infrastructure, homes, businesses and crops.

## Costliest Hurricanes to Hit Louisiana, in billions



**Source:** NOAA / National Centers for Environmental Information / National Hurricane Center

\* Cost values are based on the 2022 Consumer Price Index adjusted cost

The NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information in collaboration with the National Hurricane Center compiled a list of the costliest hurricanes to impact the United States. Of the top five storms on the list, two hurricanes made landfall in Louisiana: Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Hurricane Ida in 2021.

Hurricane Katrina ranked as the most destructive hurricane to impact the country, according to NCEI data. The Category 3 hurricane alone cost \$180 billion, when adjusted for inflation. The seven costliest storms impacting Louisiana after Katrina collectively cost the country \$147.2 billion.

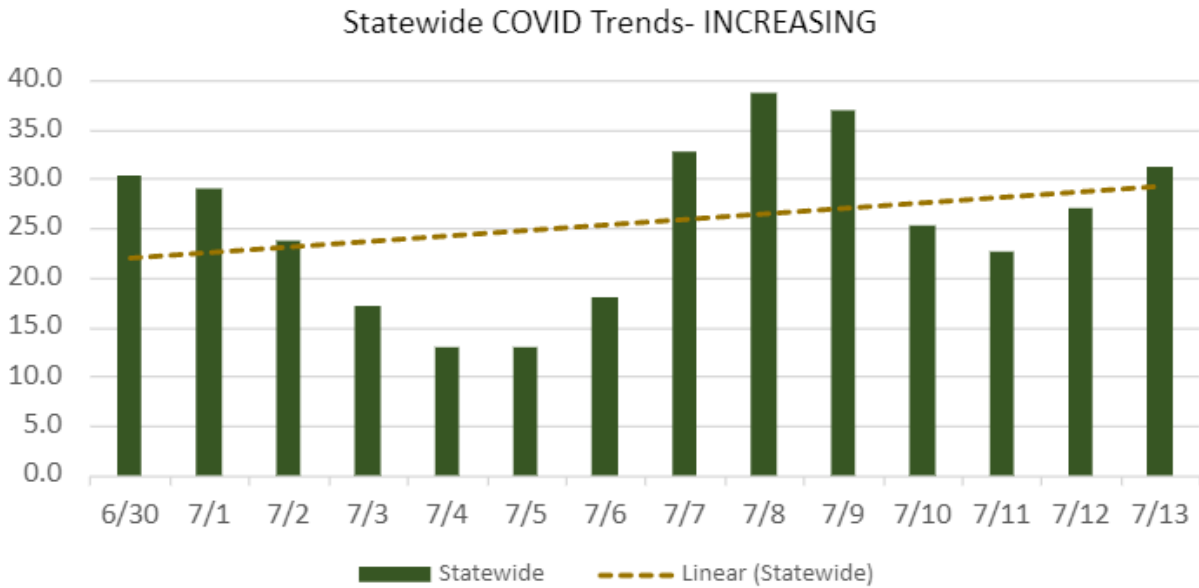
NCEI determined the estimated total costs of each hurricane by looking at insured and uninsured property losses, agricultural damage and federal assistance paid to storm victims and government agencies. The data presents expenses that would not have existed if the hurricane had not struck.

To track hurricanes and tropical storms in real time, visit the [National Hurricane Center](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/). For tips on how to prepare for hurricane season, check out [getagameplan.org](https://www.getagameplan.org/).

# COVID-19 Update

*Steady Increase in Cases  
Hospitalizations Nearing 800  
1,611 New Confirmed Cases | 10 new Confirmed Deaths*

The Louisiana Department of Health reported 1,611 confirmed cases out of 7,903 tests on July 13. The three-day positivity rate was 21.2%. There are approximately 13.98 patients in Louisiana hospitals with COVID-19 per 100,000 residents. The LDH reported 10 confirmed deaths.



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	14 Day Look-Back (3 Day Average)		
	7/11/2022	7/12/2022	7/13/2022
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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