



Senator Sharon Weston Broome
Chairwoman

P.O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
Telephone (225) 342-0752

December 30, 2012

The Honorable Bobby Jindal
Governor, State of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9004

RE: Annual Report – Louisiana Commission on Marriage and Family

Dear Governor Jindal:

The Louisiana Commission on Marriage and Family was reestablished by Executive Order BJ 2008-50 whose aim is to research, identify, and provide strategies to strengthen the families of Louisiana. Enclosed is a copy of the commission's annual report as required by the above mentioned executive order. The report provides a brief history of the commission, its current membership, and goals/plans of action by the commission's sub-committees for 2012.

If you would like further information, please contact me at (225) 342-0752.

Sincerely,

Sharon Weston Broome
State Senator, District 15
Chairwoman, Louisiana Commission on Marriage and Family

Enclosure

LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
FAMILY ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2012

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The objective of the Family Issues subcommittee is to advise the Commission and ultimately the Governor on the means to improve the well being of the people of Louisiana in the areas of fatherhood,

fragile families and the promotion of healthy families. In 2012, the subcommittee focused on the promotion of healthy families. During 2012, the subcommittee provided data and statistics that could be used by communities to address specific needs of families. The subcommittee attempted to focus local implementations on measurable objectives identified in Healthy People 2020 measurable outcomes. The subcommittee believes that basing local goals and objectives on national standards is a strategy that could help move the state forward in reaching positive outcomes. The vision of Healthy People 2020 is a society in which all people live long, healthy lives.

Healthy People 2020 strives to:

- Identify critical research, evaluation, and data collection needs
- Identify nationwide health improvement priorities
- Provide measurable objectives and goals that are applicable at the national, state, and local levels.
- Engage multiple sectors to take actions to strengthen policies and improve practices that are driven by the best available evidence and knowledge.

The following summary looks at specific goal categories identified by the subcommittee and their association with specific Healthy People 2020 objectives.

A. GOAL CATEGORY: HealthCare Issues

Goal Statement I: To review and analyze data pertaining to access to quality health care.

Objective A: To provide nationally recommended targets that lead to measurable implementation strategies.

Recommendation: Consider implementation strategies that measure the following Healthy People 2020 objective.

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES (AHS-1.1): Increase the proportion of persons with medical insurance.

Target: 100%

Baseline: 83.2% of persons had medical insurance in 2008.

Target setting method: Total coverage.

Bayou Health (<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/subhome/6/n/70>)

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES (AHS-3): Increase the proportion of persons with a usual primary care provider.

Target: 83.9%

Baseline: 76.3% of persons had a usual primary care provider in 2007.

Target setting method: 10 % improvement
Bayou Health (<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/subhome/6/n/70>)

B. GOAL CATEGORY: **Behavioral Health Issues**

Goal Statement II: To collect, review and analyze reports pertaining to suicide affect on the homes of single and divorced parents.

Objective A: Share collected research and analysis at least once a quarter pertaining to at least one of the following issues: self destructive behavior and **suicide among children and adolescents**; treatment programs/facilities; **depression in children**.

Recommendation: Consider implementation strategies that measure the following Healthy People 2020 objectives.

MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL DISORDERS (MHMD-4.1): Reduce the proportion of persons 12 to 17 years who experience major depressive episodes (MDE).

Target: 7.4%

Baseline: 8.3% of adolescents aged 12 to 17 years experienced a major depressive episode in 2008.

Target setting method: 10 % improvement

- According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, of Louisiana's approximately 4.4 million residents, close to 183,000 adults live with serious mental illness and about 49,000 children live with serious mental health conditions. www.nami.org
- Suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth and young adults aged 15-24.
- During the 2006-2007 school year, approximately 72 percent of Louisiana students aged 14 and older living with serious mental health conditions who receive special education services dropped out of high school. . www.nami.org
- In 2006, 1,200 children were incarcerated in Louisiana's juvenile justice system. Nationally, approximately 70 percent of youth in juvenile justice systems experience mental health disorders, with 20 % experiencing a severe mental health condition. . www.nami.org

ADOLESCENT HEALTH (AH-3.1): Increase the proportion of adolescents who have an adult in their lives with whom they can talk about serious problems.

- Target: 83.3 %

- Baseline: 75.7 % of adolescents aged 12 to 17 years had an adult in their lives with whom they could talk about serious problems, as reported in 2008.
- Target setting method: 10 % improvement

C. . GOAL CATEGORY: Social Health Issues

Goal Statement II: To collect, review and analyze reports pertaining to maltreatment of children in single and divorce parent homes. (Subcommittee will define maltreatment in the context of this analysis)

Objective A: Share collected research and analysis at least once a quarter pertaining to at least one of the following issues: child maltreatment facilities; **number of physical assaults in LA**; children in state custody or juvenile facilities (with a parent who is or has been incarcerated)

Recommendation: Consider implementation strategies that measure the following Healthy People 2020 objectives:

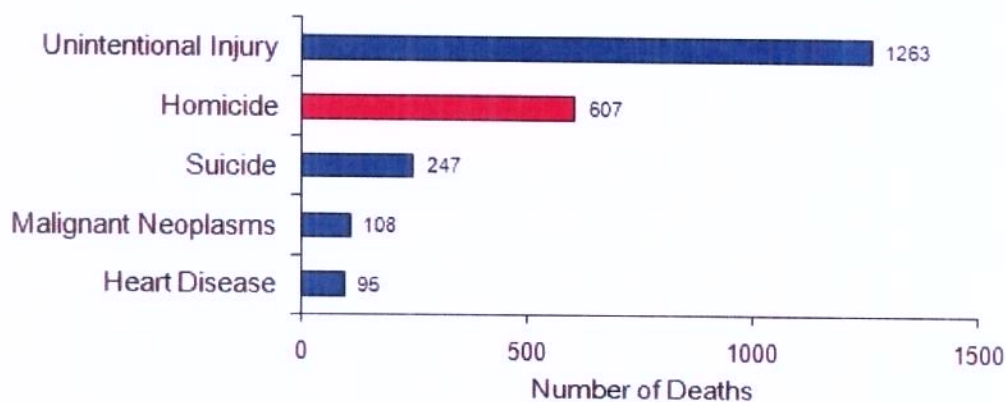
INJURY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION (IVP-1.1): Reduce fatal injuries.

Target: 53.3 deaths per 100,000 population.

Baseline: 59.2 deaths per 100,000 population were caused by injuries in 2007 (age adjusted to the year 2000 standard population).

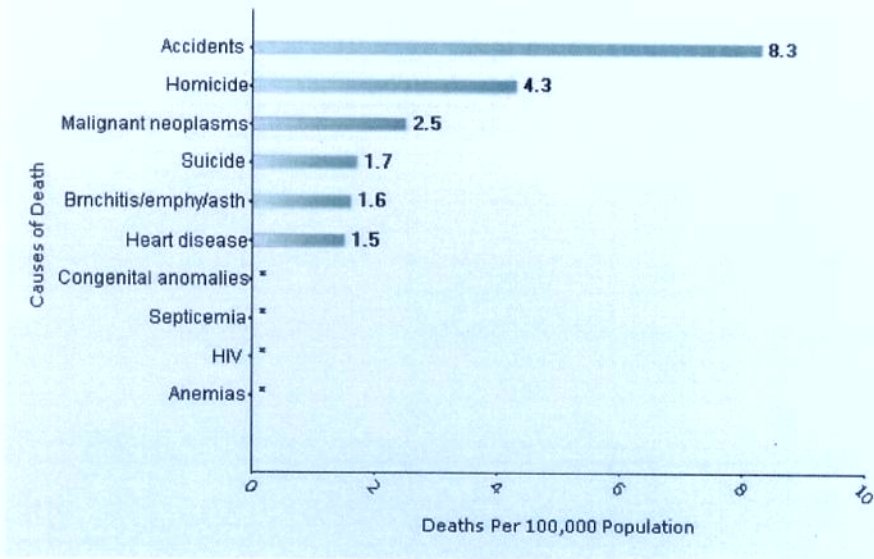
Target setting method: 10 % improvement

**Five Leading Causes of Deaths Among Persons
Ages 10-24 Years, Louisiana, 2005-2007**



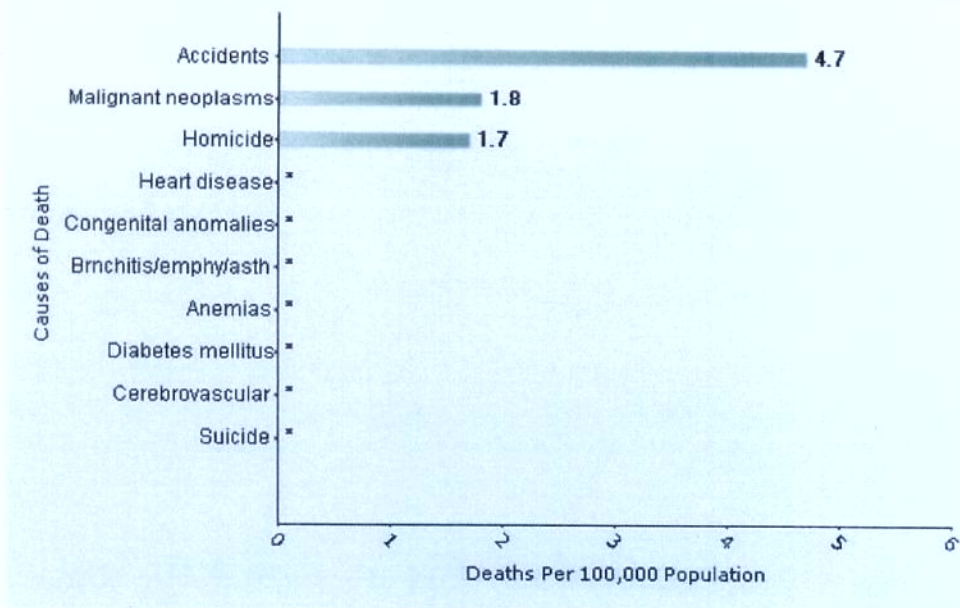
www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/stats_at-a_glance

Black, non-Hispanic, 10-14 years, Male



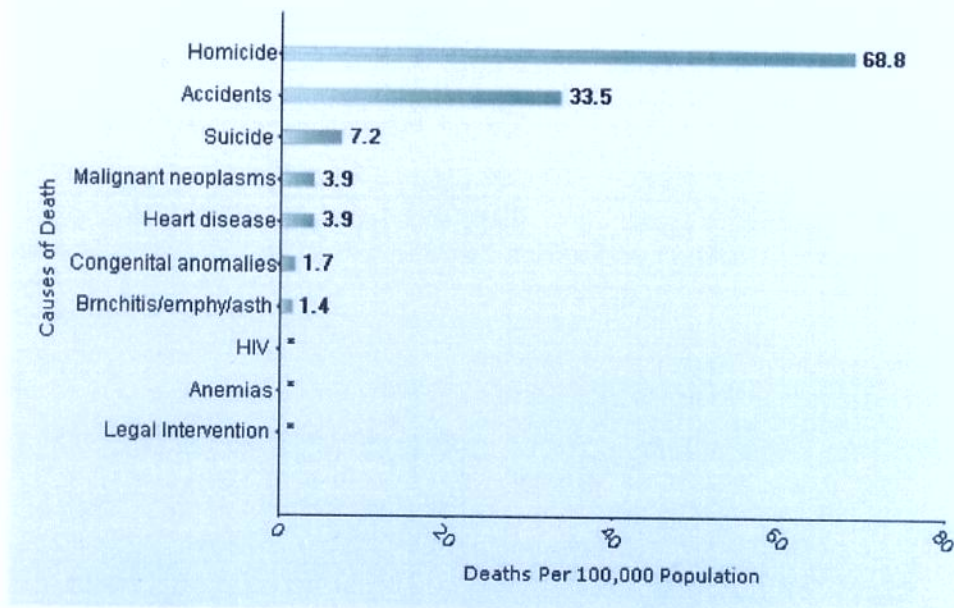
www.healthypeople.gov/2020

Black, non-Hispanic, 10-14 years, Female



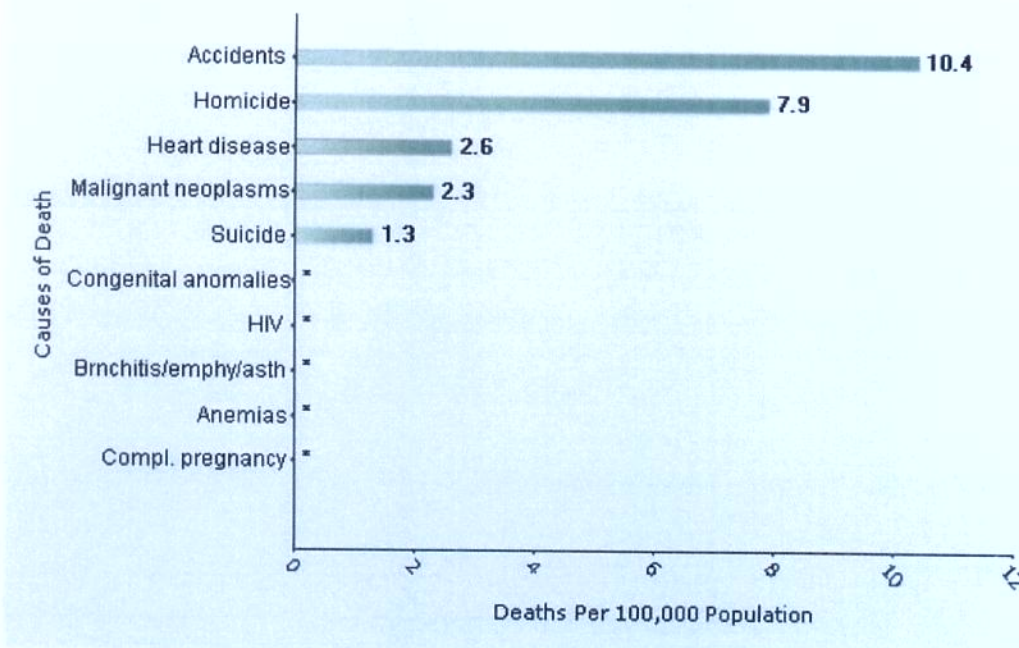
www.healthypeople.gov/2020

Black, non-Hispanic, 15-19 years, Male



www.healthypeople.gov/2020

Black, non-Hispanic, 15-19 years, Female



www.healthypeople.gov/2020

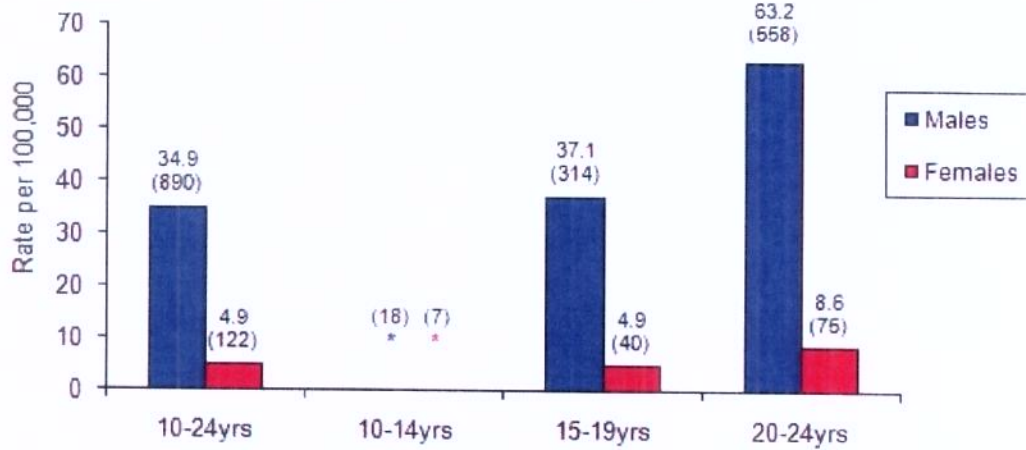
INJURY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION (IVP- 29): Reduce Homicides.

Target: 5.5 homicides per 100,000 population

Baseline: 6.1 homicides per 100,000 population occurred in 2007 (age adjusted to the year 2000 standard population).

Target setting method: 10 % improvement

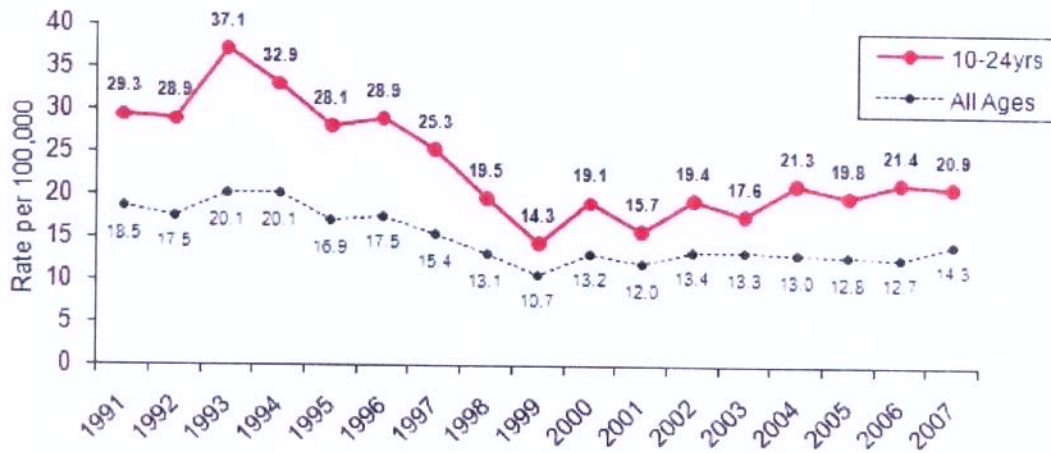
**Homicide Rates Among Persons Ages 10-24 Years,
by Age and Sex, Louisiana, 2003-2007**



*Age-specific rates and number of deaths (in parentheses) are provided above each bar. Rates are not presented where the number of deaths are fewer than 20 because they are statistically unreliable.

www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/stats_at-a_glance

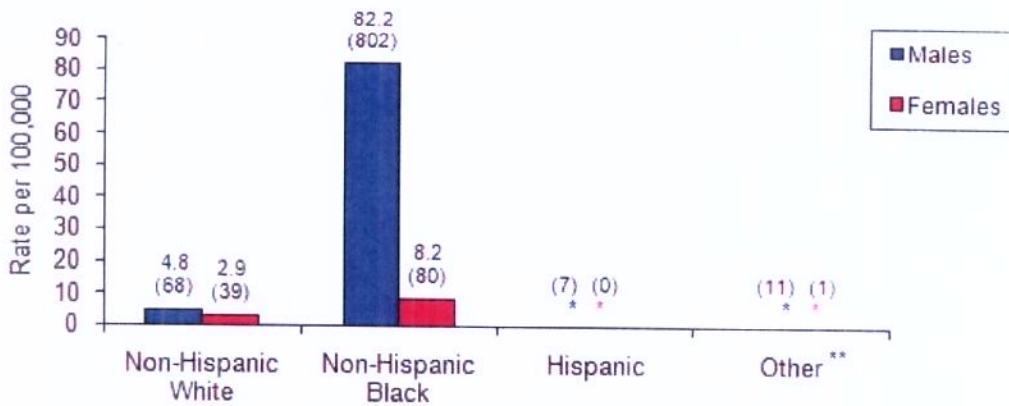
Trends in Homicide Rates,* Louisiana



* Rates for All Ages are age-adjusted to the standard 2000 population; the rates for 10-24 yrs age group are age-specific.

www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/stats_at-a_glance

Homicide Rates for Persons Ages 10-24 Years by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, Louisiana, 2003-2007



* Race-specific rates and number of deaths (in parentheses) are provided above each bar. Rates are not presented where the number of deaths were fewer than 20 because they are statistically unreliable.

** Other includes Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaskan Native and Non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander

www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/stats_at-a_glance



LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

PRE/POST MARRIAGE EDUCATION INITIATIVES SUBCOMMITTEE

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

The primary objective of the Pre/Post Marriage Education Initiatives Subcommittee (“Subcommittee”) of the Louisiana Commission on Marriage and Family (“Commission”) is to advise the Commission and ultimately the Governor on ideas, best practices, and means to encourage stable marriages and to increase understanding among Louisiana residents of the benefits and virtues of the same. These efforts of the Subcommittee help to fulfill, in part, the specific duties assigned to the Commission by Executive Order BJ 08-50, Section 2, which includes the following relevant provisions:

- C. Propose and analyze initiatives, programs, policies, and/or incentives that encourage and support the institution of marriage;
- D. Propose and analyze programs, policies, curriculums, and/or initiatives, especially those that may be funded with Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (“TANF”) funds, which encourage the formation of two-parent families, prevent and/or reduce the incidence of single-parent births, strengthen existing marriages that are in jeopardy, encourage postponing child-bearing until after both parents have attained a postsecondary education and/or post-secondary technical/job training; promote responsible fatherhood, and/or motivate fathers to be continuously involved in and supportive of their children and/or families;
- E. Propose and analyze programs, policies, curriculums, and/or community-based partnerships that may be utilized and/or developed to strengthen families and teach marriage skills, anger/conflict management skills, money management skills, parenting skills, and/or about the differences in communication styles and emotional needs between men and women in marriage; and
- F. Analyze the policy considerations and issues involved in encouraging and/or requiring counseling and/or mediation prior to divorce and providing such counseling and/or mediation with public funds.

The Subcommittee believes that failed marriages, increasing cohabitation rates, and the breakdown of the family are root causes of countless societal ills, and that marriage education endeavors are an important component of improving the state’s outcomes and enhancing the quality of life for all Louisiana citizens. As stated in Executive Order BJ 08-50, “due to divorce

and single-parent births, twenty-three million children in the United States are disadvantaged from growing up in a household without both their parents, including forty-nine percent (49%) of the children born in the state of Louisiana and sixty-eight percent (68%) born in the Parish of Orleans to single parents in 2004.” The 2010 U.S. Census and other current data reveal more alarming statistics with regard to the stability of the institutions of marriage and family in America and in our state.

Nationally, roughly fifty percent (54%) of marriages now end in divorce, and America’s divorce rate is the *highest* in the civilized world. By way of comparison, our divorce rate is twice the rate of France and Germany, and three times that of Japan. For the first time, the percentage of adults who are married has fallen below half of all U.S. households. The 2010 Census reports only forty-eight percent (48%) of U.S. adults are married today, versus seventy-eight percent (78%) in 1950. The marriage rate in America has plunged fifty percent (50%) since 1970, and one million American children have suffered from divorce every year since 1972. Only one third of American children now grow up in a stable, two parent, married household. The 2010 Census confirms that Louisiana’s divorce rate is approximately fifty percent (50%).

Meanwhile, cohabitation has increased nationwide from 430,000 persons in 1960 to 7.5 million in 2010. In Louisiana, fifty-eight percent (58%) of couples living together are not married. That figure represents the *highest* rate of cohabitation in the country.

In 2012, the Subcommittee continued its goals from 2011 and its primary efforts to researching and identifying potential solutions to these crises. It is our objective in 2013 to continue efforts in offering and implementing solutions to the issues identified above.