

# Seven Disturbing Facts About COVID-19 in Louisiana

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**Virus Raging.** Statewide Louisiana is [second](#) only to New York in deaths per 100,000 people with [582 reported](#) as of April 7. Six parishes (counties) in the New Orleans area are in the [top ten in deaths](#) of all the counties in the nation: St. John the Baptist, Orleans, St. Charles, Jefferson, St. James and Plaquemines, according to the [Wall Street Journal](#).

**Race.** Louisiana is [32 percent African American](#). Yet [70 percent](#) of COVID 19 deaths in Louisiana are of African Americans. "These differences are produced by policy, not physiology," Dillard Professor Amy Lesen told the [Advocate](#). "They're based on race and class bias in the health care system, access to health care and preventative care." Similar disproportionate impacts have been observed in Chicago and Milwaukee. This shows the pandemic is following [patterns of entrenched inequalities in economic and medical opportunities](#).

**Nursing Homes.** There are [436 nursing homes](#) in the state. Fifteen days ago, there were [3 nursing homes](#) with more than one person infected. Inside those homes [363 patients](#) have been identified as carrying COVID 19, [one hundred more than last week](#). More than [103 people have died in these homes and more than 70 homes](#) have at least one person with the virus. There are now [47 nursing homes](#) with more than 1 person infected.

**Prisons.** A federal prison in Oakdale, Louisiana, the [first inmate died](#) March 29, by now [five inmates have died and 22 others tested positive](#) for the virus.

State prisons reported their first [positive on March 28](#), now [28 prisoners](#) have been reported positive. Additionally, [26 staff have tested positive](#). All family visits [have been cancelled](#) for weeks as have [pardon and parole hearings](#). The New Orleans jail reports [15 inmates positive](#) for the virus.

**Immigrants.** ICE holds [8,000 immigrants in jail in Louisiana](#). The first ICE case outside of Oakdale has been reported in [Pine Prairie Louisiana](#). Immigrant women in ICE jails in Louisiana protesting inadequate coronavirus protections were [pepper sprayed](#). The women were being held in [a housing area with 80 other women](#) where the bunks are less than a meter apart. Women in other ICE jails made a [video shared with The Intercept](#) trying to alert the world to their plight.

**Unemployment.** Louisiana usually gets about 1,500 applications for unemployment a week. Two weeks ago they received [over 70,000](#). The max benefit for Louisiana workers is [\\$247 a week, lowest in the nation](#). [No one in Louisiana](#) has received a federal check for the additional \$600 promised.