

CENTRAL LOUISIANA LOCAL FOODS INITIATIVE



February, 2013

Food and Health in Central Louisiana: A Food Systems Assessment

The Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance **Central Louisiana Local Foods Initiative** is a \$1 million effort supported by a Challenge Grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation with additional funds from The Rapides Foundation.

The goal of Central Louisiana Local Foods Initiative is to improve health by **increasing access to local fruits and vegetables** and providing opportunities for local farms through increased distribution.

Using local and state data, the following report presents an overview of the regional food system and some related factors that influence the health status of the residents of Central Louisiana. This report is designed to promote a community discussion regarding access to, supply of, and the distribution of locally grown food.

Food and Health in Central Louisiana: A Food Systems Assessment

Goal of the Overview

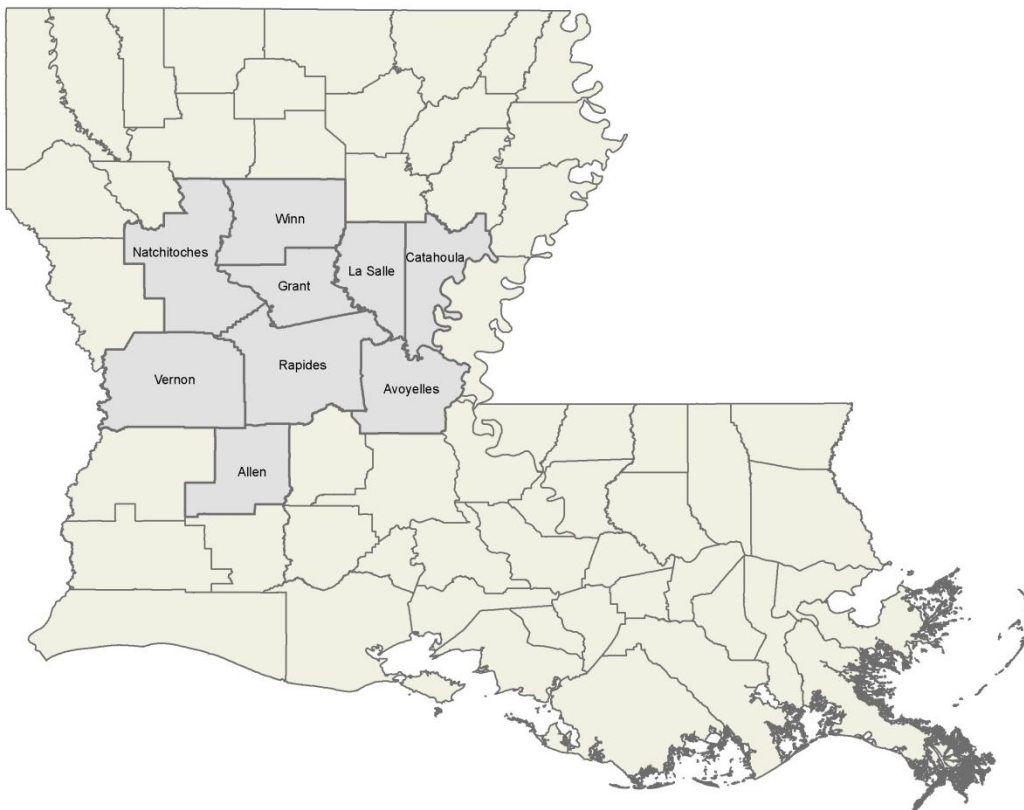
The goal of Central Louisiana Local Foods Initiative is to improve health by increasing access to local fruits and vegetables and providing opportunities for local farms through increased distribution.

According to the *Sustainable Local Food Policy Council Report – Recommendations for a Sustainable Local Food Economy*¹, the local agricultural economy in Louisiana is important to the state and contributes “over \$9 billion to Louisiana.” An opportunity exists for producers, consumers and anyone who is interested in improving Central Louisiana’s economy to begin building partnerships and identifying methods for producers to expand their local markets.

As part of the Central Louisiana Local Foods Initiative, the Food System Overview is an extensive review of existing data sources on factors related to both local food production, access to and availability of food vendors, and the health of residents. This report is designed to promote a community discussion regarding access to, supply of, and the distribution of locally grown food.

In the assessment, we defined the Central Louisiana region as the 9-parish region consisting of the following parishes: Allen Parish, Avoyelles Parish, Catahoula Parish, Grant Parish, La Salle Parish, Natchitoches Parish, Rapides Parish, Vernon Parish, and Winn Parish. The parishes included in the Central Louisiana Region are outlined in the map below.

Central Louisiana Region



¹ The *Sustainable Local Food Policy Council Report – Recommendations for a Sustainable Local Food Economy* was presented by the Louisiana Sustainable Local Food Policy Council to the Louisiana Legislature on January 12, 2012 in an effort to outline and identify opportunities to build a sustainable local food economy (http://repscottsimon.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Louisiana_Sustainable_Local_Food_Policy_Council_1-11-2012.27485806.pdf)

Methods

This assessment includes an extensive review of existing data sources on the factors that influence the food system of a community and the health of its residents. These include factors related to food production and sales, consumer demand, access to grocery stores and store availability, and nutritional status of parish residents.

Data were gathered and analyzed for each of the 9 counties in Central Louisiana, for the state of Louisiana, and the United States as a whole. When available, data were also collected and analyzed for the 10-parish Central Louisiana region. Whenever possible, parish level data were compared against data available at the regional, state, and national level for several factors. This comparison provides a brief profile of how the parish compares to its peers, the state, and the rest of the country.

The factors were chosen based on priorities identified by the Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance in collaboration with the Louisiana Public Health Institute. A variety of existing data sources were used to provide data on the selected factors which include:

- **2007 Census of Agriculture** – a five year census of farms around the country conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- **USDA Food Environment Atlas** – an online data system that maps factors related to food choices (including access to health, affordable food), health and well-being, and community characteristics in American counties.
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey** – a state based health survey that collects data on access to health care, health risk behaviors and preventative health practices of residents.
- **US Food Market Estimator** – an online tool that provides information on production supply and consumer demand of over 204 food products from the USDA Food Availability Data System.
- **Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, State Center for Vital Statistics** – a surveillance registry of health status data collected on Louisiana’s vital event certificates of events such as Live Birth and Deaths.
- **Professional Research Consultants (PRC) 2010 Community Health Assessment of the Rapides Foundation Service Area** – a systematic survey to collect information from residents of the nine-parish Rapides Foundation Service area on their health status, health behaviors, and health needs.
- **US Census 2010 & American Community Survey** – both the US Census 2010 and American Community Survey are administered by the United States Census Bureau. The US Census collects information on basic population characteristics such as age, race, and ethnicity from all residents every 10 years; the American Community Survey is an ongoing survey of randomly selected residents that provides data annually on population characteristics such as marital status, education, income, etc.

A full list of sources for each factor presented is available at the end of this document.

Organization of the Overview

The overview is organized according to six key elements that are part of the local food systems:

- Local Food Production
- Local Food Sales
- Local Food Demand
- Parish Population Characteristics
- Health
- Availability of Food in the Parish

The *Food and Health in Central Louisiana: A Food System Overview* report is meant to paint a broad picture of the food system in Central Louisiana and facilitate discussion around the production and availability of locally grown food.

Symbols

The following symbols are used throughout the figures and tables:

- * Information was not reported in the 2007 Census of Agriculture to avoid disclosing data on individual farms in the parish
- Not applicable

Local Food Production

FARMLAND AVAILABLE

The Census of Agriculture definition of a *farm* is “any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold” during the year the census was conducted. The following section outlines the number of farms and type of farms currently operating in the Central Louisiana Region to provide a snapshot of the current status of farmland available.

TOTAL NUMBER OF FARMS and ACRES

The state of Louisiana maintains roughly 1.0% of farm acres in the United States. Around 20% of farmland available in Louisiana is found in Central Louisiana.

The Central Louisiana parish with the **largest amount of farms acres** available is **Grant Parish**, followed by **Avoyelles Parish**, and **Catahoula Parish**.

The parishes with the **greatest number of farms** in the region were **Rapides Parish**, **Avoyelles Parish**, and **Natchitoches Parish**.

The parishes with the lowest amount of farms and farmland acres available in Central Louisiana are Winn and La Salle Parish.

	FARMLAND AVAILABLE	
	# Farms	# Acres
United States	2,204,792	922,095,840
Louisiana	30,106	8,109,975
Central Louisiana Region	4,448	1,601,866
Grant Parish	250	517,737
Avoyelles Parish	941	278,465
Catahoula Parish	510	231,106
Natchitoches Parish	571	221,756
Rapides Parish	977	177,300
Allen Parish	405	83,173
Vernon Parish	479	50,633
Winn Parish	150	21,395
La Salle Parish	165	20,301

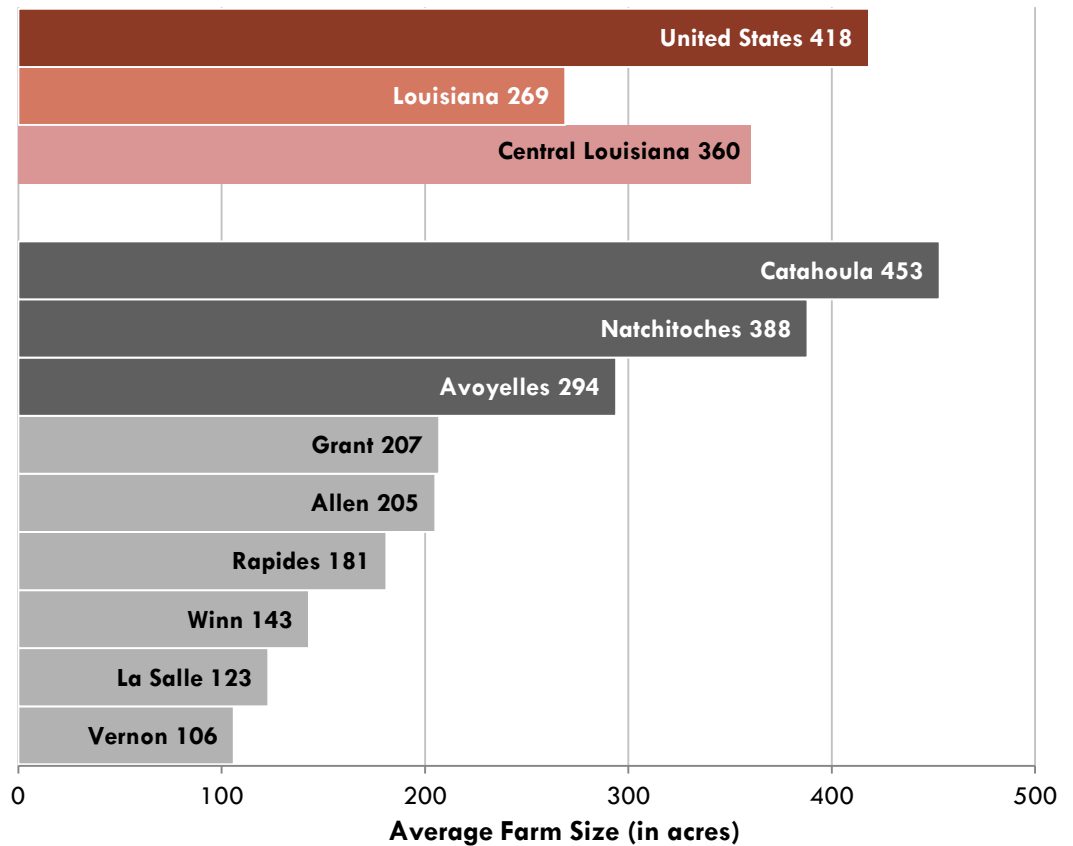
AVERAGE FARM SIZE

Farms in Louisiana are smaller on average compared to the average farm size in the country. However, farms in Central Louisiana are larger on average compared to the state and the average farm size in the region is closer to the national average.

The average farm size in **Catahoula Parish** and **Natchitoches Parish** is **larger** than the average farm size in both the state and the Central Louisiana region

The average farm in **Catahoula Parish** is **35 acres larger** than the average farm in the entire country.

The average farm in **Avoyelles Parish** is larger than the state average but smaller than the average farm in the Central Louisiana region.



The average farm size in the remaining parishes in Central Louisiana is smaller than the national, state, and regional average, and **Vernon Parish** is the smallest.

TYPES OF FARMS (in acres)

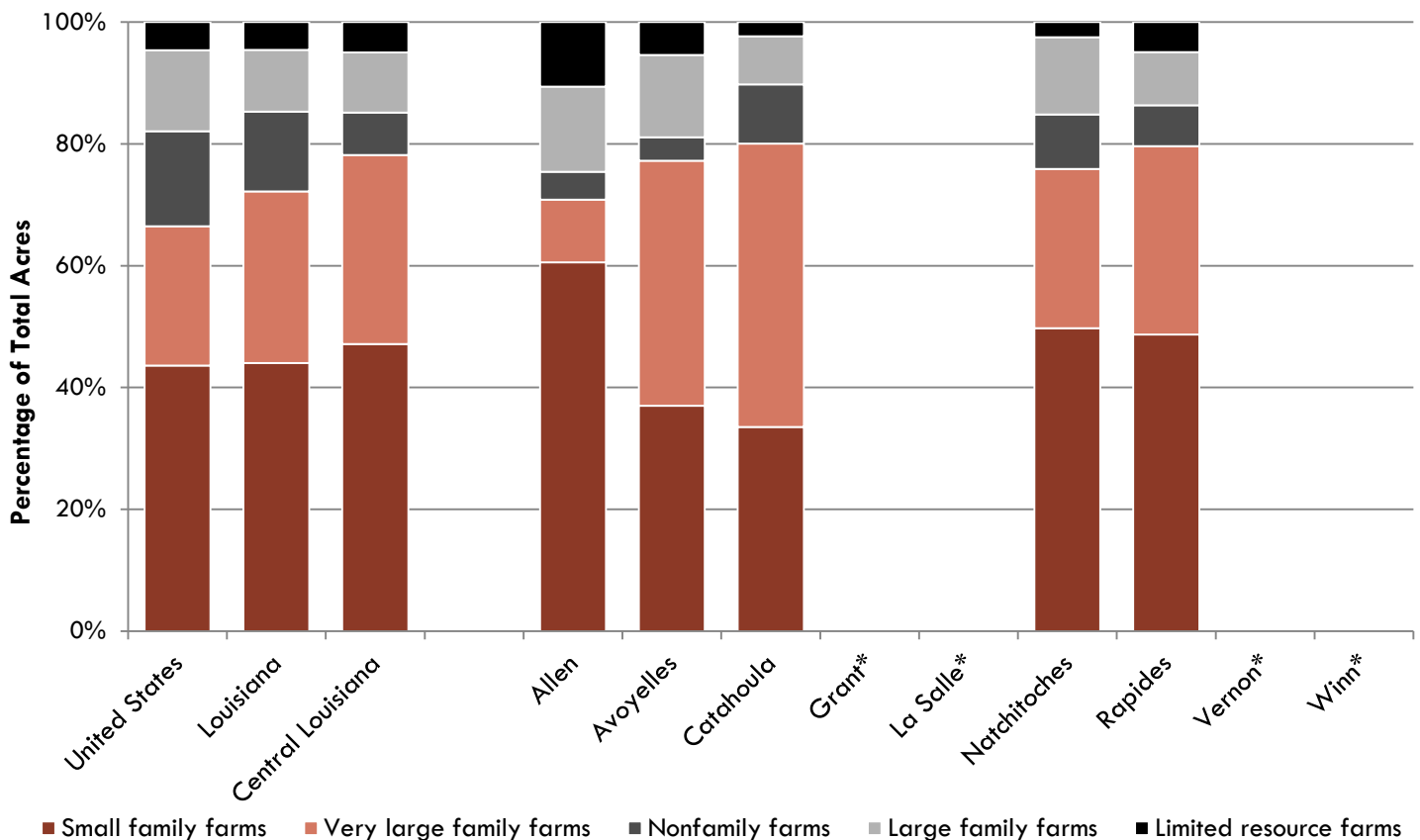
The USDA Census of Agriculture identifies farms by type of operation, which is based on who owns the farm and the market value of agricultural products sold. The following lists the definitions of farm types shown in the figures below.

- “Limited Resource Farms” refer to small family farms that have a market value of agricultural products sold of less than \$100,000 and total principal operator household income of less than \$20,000.
- “Small Family Farms” refer to farms where the market value of agricultural products sold less than \$250,000.
- “Large Family Farms” refer to farms that have a market value of agricultural products sold between \$250,000 and \$499,999.
- “Very Large Family Farms” refer to farms that have a market value of agricultural products sold of \$500,000 or more.
- “Nonfamily Farms” refer to farms that are organized as nonfamily corporations, as well as farms operated by hired managers.

Compare to Louisiana and the United States, over 90% of farm acreage is dedicated to family farms rather than to non-family farms in Central Louisiana region and its individual parishes.

In **Catahoula Parish**, **very large family farms** are the major type of farm acreage available in the parish, and Catahoula Parish, along with **Natchitoches Parish**, has the **lowest number of limited resource farm acres** in the region.

In **Allen Parish**, **small family farms** make up 60% of total farm acreage available in the parish, and Allen Parish has the **highest number of limited resource farm acres** in the region.



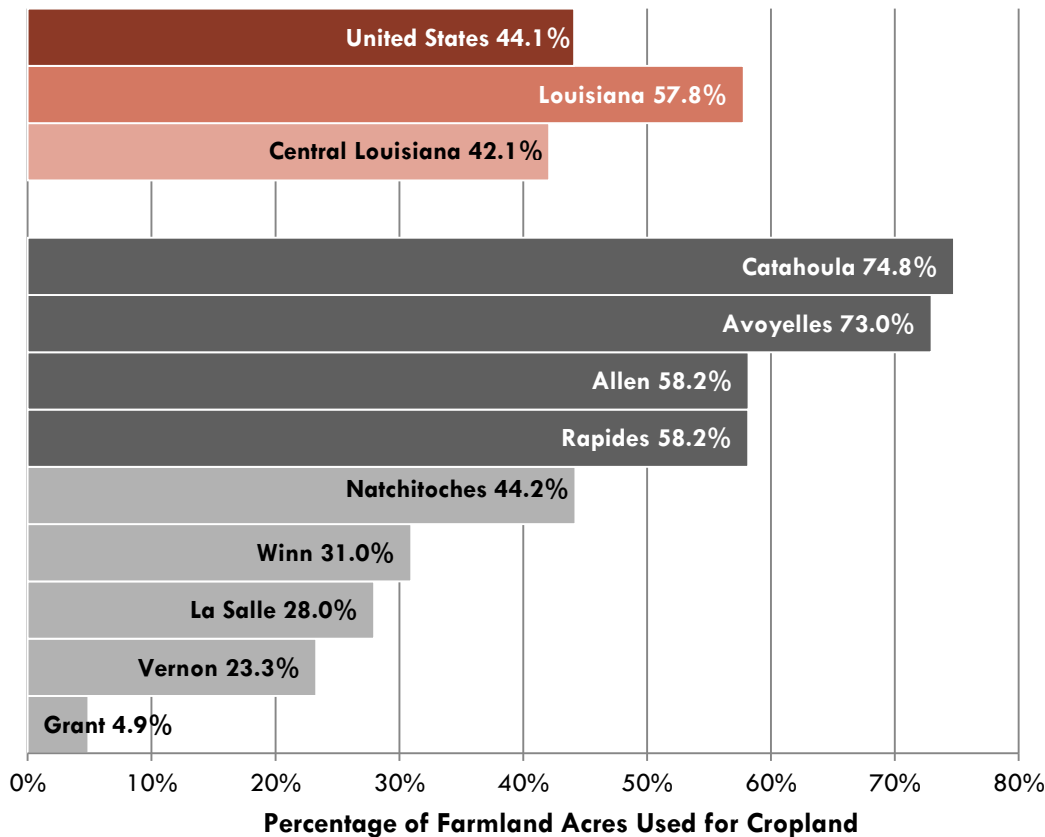
CROP PRODUCTION

The area of farmland that is available to use for harvesting crops – especially specialty crops such as vegetables, citrus and non-citrus fruits, and nuts – is an important gauge of the strength of the farm economy in the region and the availability of local nutritious food.

TOTAL CROPLAND AVAILABLE

The Census of Agriculture defines **total cropland** as all cropland that is harvested, used only for pasture or grazing, cropland where crops have failed or were abandoned, cropland in cultivated summer fallow, and idle cropland used for cover crops or soil improvement only.

Overall, less than half of the farmland in Central Louisiana is used as cropland. The rate of farmland used as cropland in the Central Louisiana region is lower than the state rate but similar to the national rate.



Over 70% of farmland in **Catahoula Parish** and **Avoyelles Parish** is used as cropland.

A little **more than half** of farmland in **Allen Parish** and **Rapides Parish** is used as cropland.

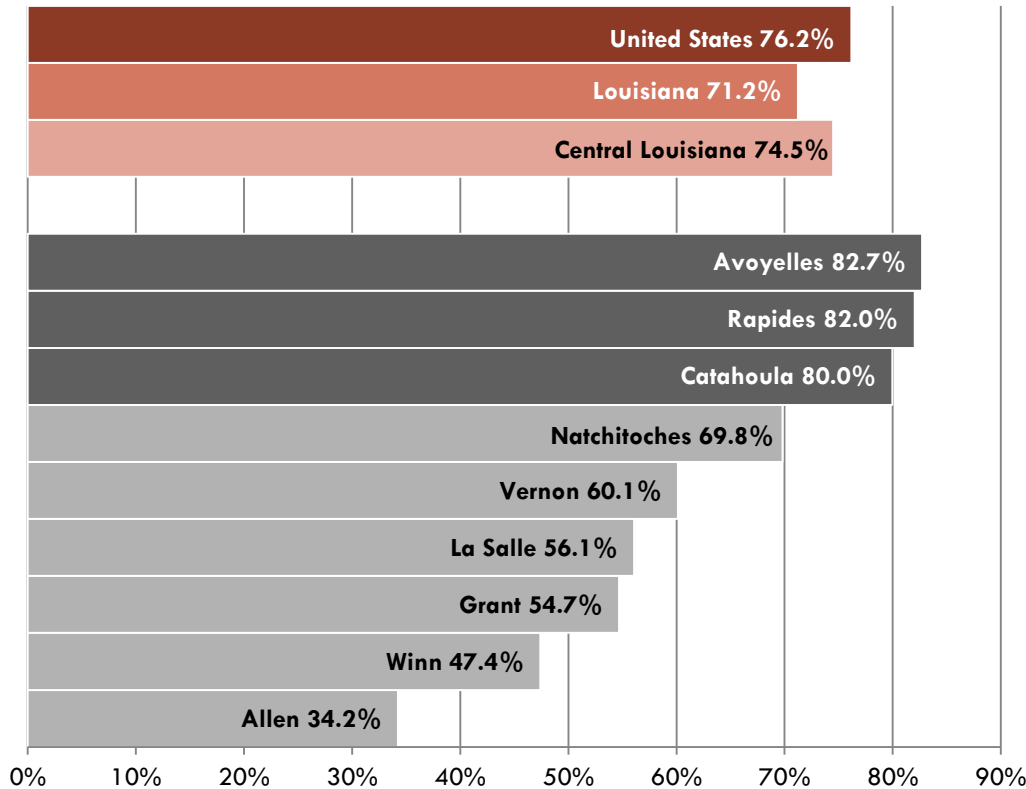
Less than half of farmland in **Natchitoches, Winn, La Salle, and Vernon Parish** is used as cropland.

Only 5% of farmland in **Grant Parish** is used as cropland.

HARVESTED CROPLAND

The Census of Agriculture defines *harvested cropland* as land from which crops were harvested and hay was cut, land used to grow short rotation woody crops, and land used to grow orchards, vineyards, citrus groves, nurseries, Christmas trees, and greenhouses.

Overall, around 75% of cropland in Central Louisiana is considered harvested cropland. This rate is only slightly higher than the rate for the state of Louisiana and is slightly lower than the national rate.



Percentage of Cropland (in acres) Used to Harvest Crops

Around **80%** of total cropland in **Avoyelles Parish** and **Catahoula Parish** is considered harvested cropland. Because around 74% of farmland in these parishes is used for cropland, the **majority of parish farmland** is used for harvesting crops.

Over **80%** of cropland in **Rapides Parish** is used to harvest crops, indicating that the majority of the total cropland in the area is used for harvesting.

Between **55-70%** of cropland in **Natchitoches, Vernon, and La Salle Parish** is used to harvest crops. Since less than 50% of farmland in these parishes is used for cropland, these parishes harvest crops at a lower rate compared to other parishes in the region.

Although 58% of farmland in **Allen Parish** is used as cropland, **only 34%** of the total cropland in the parish is used for harvesting suggesting that this parish also harvests crops at a lower rate.

In Winn Parish, less than 50% of cropland is used for harvesting. Given that only 31% of farmland in the parish is used for cropland, this parish harvests crops at a lower rate as well.

Even though only 5% of farmland in **Grant Parish** is used as cropland, **over 55%** of that cropland is devoted to harvesting.

SPECIALTY CROPS HARVESTED

The USDA defines specialty crops as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops. The following section provides information on factors related to vegetable, citrus and non-citrus fruits, berries and tree nuts.

VEGETABLES

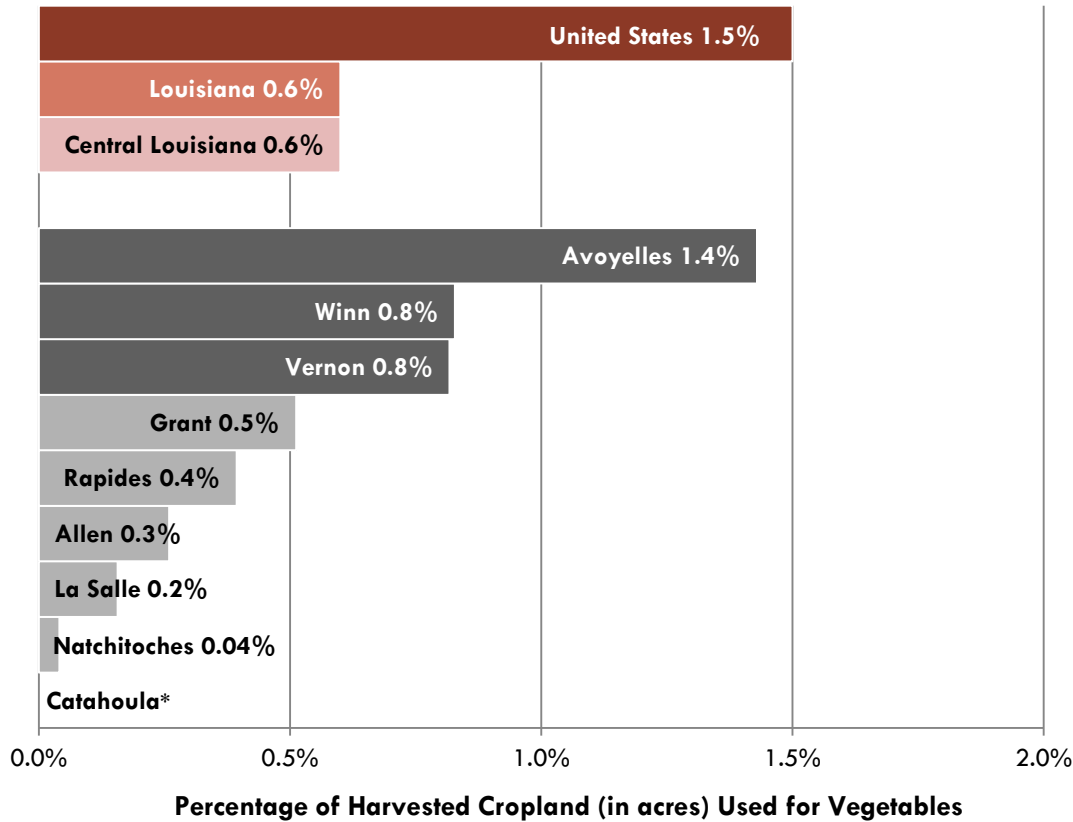
The Census of Agriculture collects information on the total number of farms and acres of vegetables, potatoes, and melons (vegetables) harvested for sale. This information is further broken into farms/acres of vegetables harvested for fresh market sale and farms/acres of vegetables harvested for processing.

The state of Louisiana harvests less than 1% of all vegetable acres nation-wide. Around 16% of vegetable acres in Louisiana are harvested in Central Louisiana. Approximately 36% of vegetable acres harvested for processing are harvested in the Central Louisiana; while, 10% of vegetable acres harvested for fresh market are harvested in the region.

Nearly **81%** of all vegetable acres harvested in Central Louisiana are harvested in **Avoyelles Parish**.

	TOTAL	FRESH MARKET	PROCESSING
	# Farms (Acres)	# Farms (Acres)	# Farms (Acres)
United States	69,172 (4,682,588)	62,495 (2,623,427)	11,468 (2,059,160)
Louisiana	759 (18,912)	709 (15,315)	142 (3,597)
Central Louisiana Region	118 (2,966)	103 (1,528)	40 (1,283)
Avoyelles Parish	38 (2,402)	29 (1,176)	23 (1,226)
Rapides Parish	25 (333)	21 (277)	7 (56)
Grant Parish	6 (71)	5 (*)	1 (*)
Vernon Parish	16 (58)	15 (*)	1 (*)
Allen Parish	12 (43)	12 (43)	1 (*)
Natchitoches Parish	8 (28)	8 (27)	6 (1)
Winn Parish	8 (26)	8 (*)	1 (*)
La Salle Parish	3 (5)	3 (5)	0 (0)
Catahoula Parish	2 (*)	2 (*)	0 (0)

% Vegetable Acres Harvested



Less than **1%** of harvested cropland in **Louisiana** and **Central Louisiana** is used to harvest vegetables.

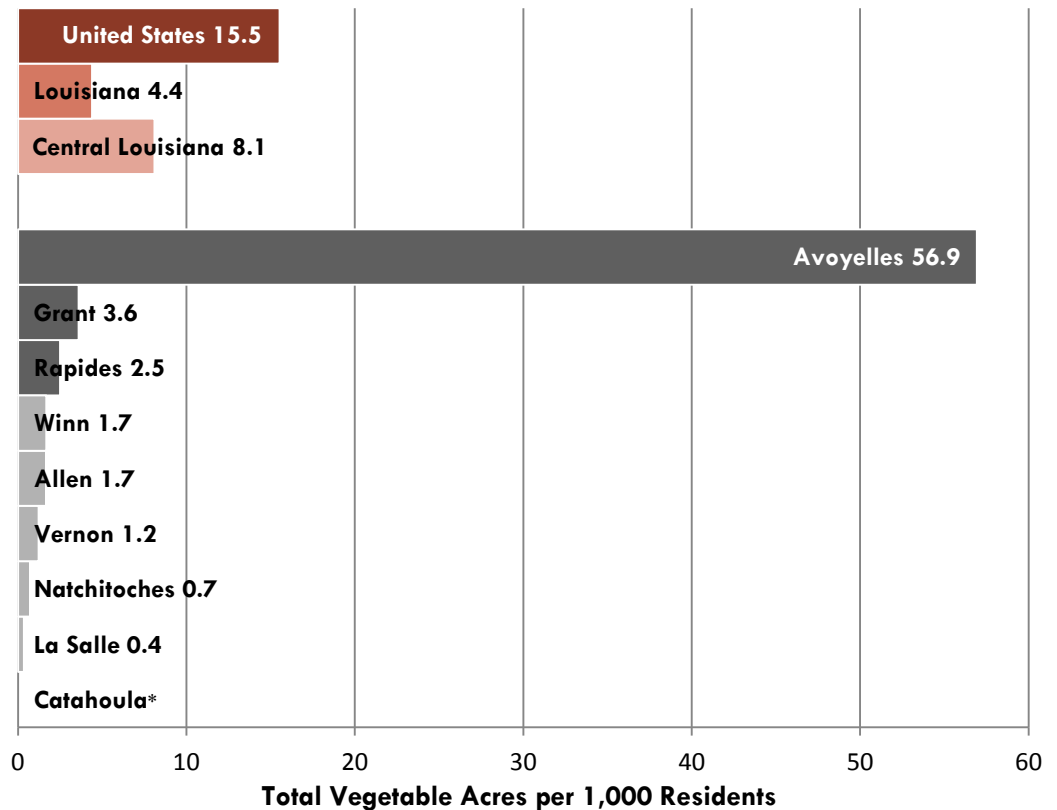
The percentage of harvested cropland used to harvest vegetables is **higher** in **Avoyelles Parish, Winn Parish, and Vernon Parish** compared to the state and region.

In **Natchitoches Parish**, less than **0.1%** of harvested cropland is used to harvest vegetables.

Total Vegetable Acres per Population

The number of total vegetable acres per 1,000 residents is **higher** in **Central Louisiana** compared to the state.

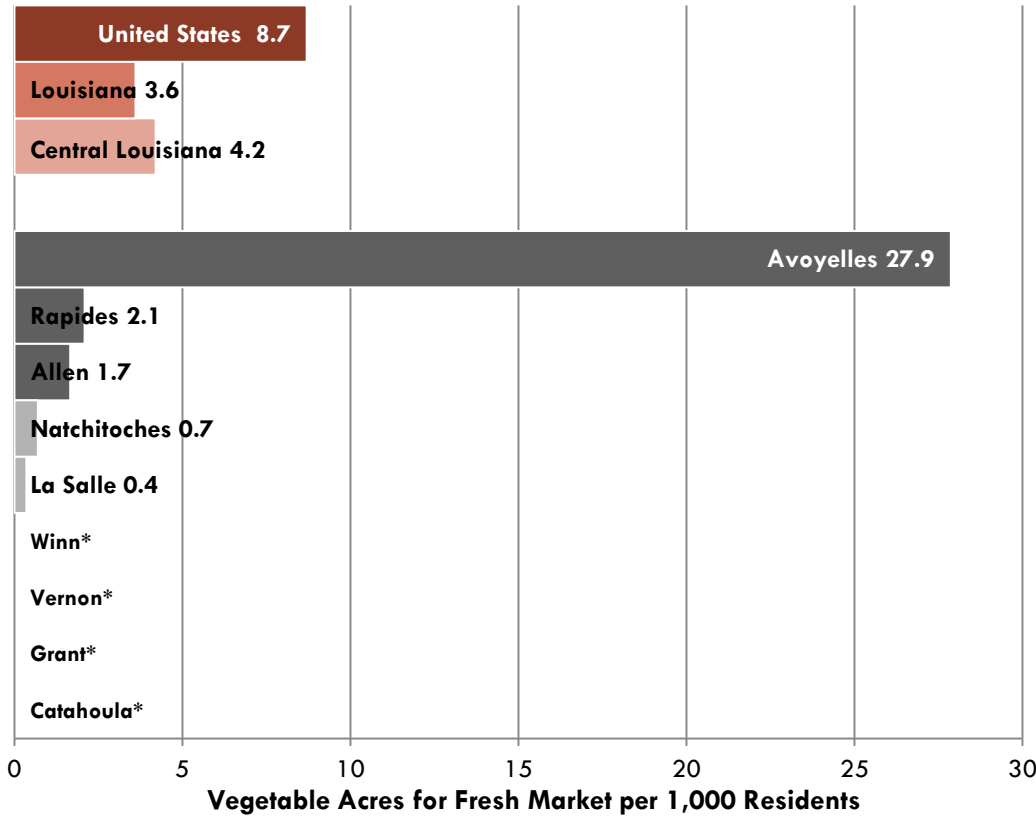
In **Avoyelles Parish**, the total number of vegetable acres per 1,000 residents is **7 times higher** than the regional rate and **13 times higher** than the state rate.



Vegetable Acres for Fresh Market per Population

The number of total vegetable acres harvested for fresh market per 1,000 residents is **slightly higher** in **Central Louisiana** compared to the state.

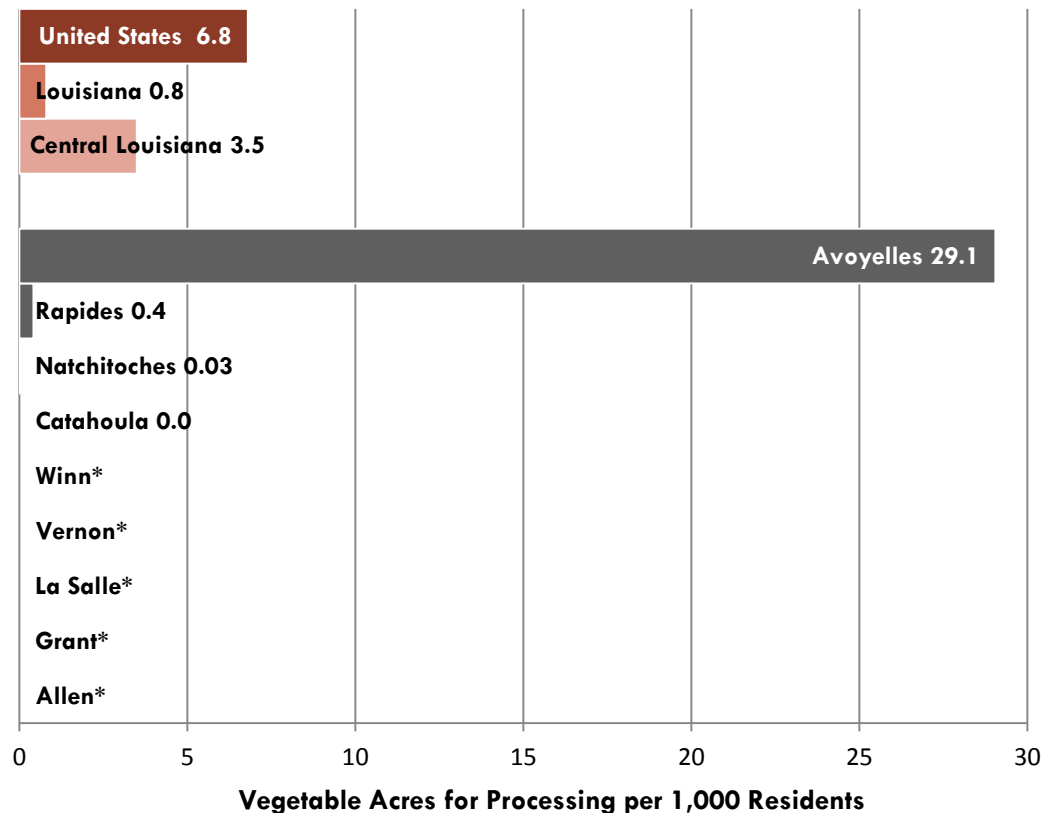
In **Avoyelles Parish**, the number of vegetable acres harvested for fresh market per 1,000 residents is nearly **7 times higher** than the regional rate and almost **8 times higher** than the state.



Vegetable Acres for Processing per Population

The number of total vegetable acres harvested for processing per 1,000 residents is **higher** in **Central Louisiana** compared to the state.

In **Avoyelles Parish**, the number of vegetable acres harvested for processing per 1,000 residents is **8 times higher** than the regional rate and **36 times higher** than the state rate.



FRUIT TREES & ORCHARDS

The state of Louisiana harvests less than 0.03% of all non-citrus fruit tree acres nation-wide and less than 0.1% of all citrus fruit tree acres nation-wide. Because the total number of acres of land on which both non-citrus and citrus fruit trees are grown in Louisiana is so small, the number of acres of land used to grow fruit tree was not reported for nearly all of the parishes in Central Louisiana.

Overall, **22** farms in **Central Louisiana** grow non-citrus fruit trees, and **7** farms grow citrus fruit trees.

No fruit trees are grown in **Winn Parish** and **Catahoula Parish**.

	NON-CITRUS	CITRUS
	# Farms (Acres)	# Farms (Acres)
United States	72,757 (2,176,511)	15,658 (1,005,806)
Louisiana	212 (624)	210 (936)
Central Louisiana Region	22 (*)	7 (*)
Vernon Parish	7 (*)	2 (*)
Rapides Parish	6 (*)	2 (*)
Grant Parish	4 (*)	0 (0)
Natchitoches Parish	2 (*)	2 (*)
La Salle Parish	1 (*)	1 (*)
Avoyelles Parish	1 (*)	0 (0)
Allen Parish	1 (*)	0 (0)
Winn Parish	0 (0)	0 (0)
Catahoula Parish	0 (0)	0 (0)

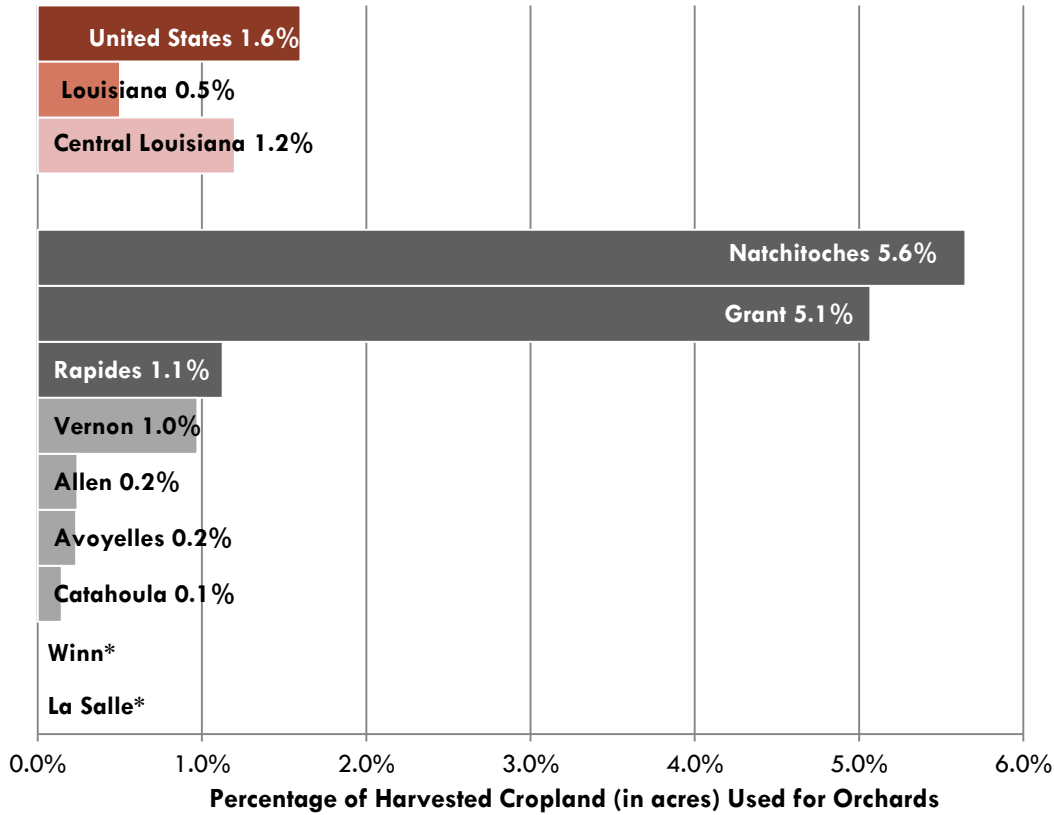
Given the limited data available on fruit trees acreage, this report present information on orchard acreage to provide an overview of how much land is used for crops grown in orchards, which include fruit trees, citrus groves, vineyards, and nut trees. Although this information over-represents the amount of acres on which fruit trees are grown, it does provides an estimate of how much of land throughout the region and its parishes is dedicated to growing fruit trees and related crops.

% Orchard Acres Harvested

Around **1%** of harvested cropland in **Central Louisiana** is used to harvest orchard crops.

Around **5-6%** of total cropland in **Natchitoches Parish** and **Grant Parish** is used for orchard production.

The remaining parishes with reported data use **≤ 1%** of harvested cropland for orchards.

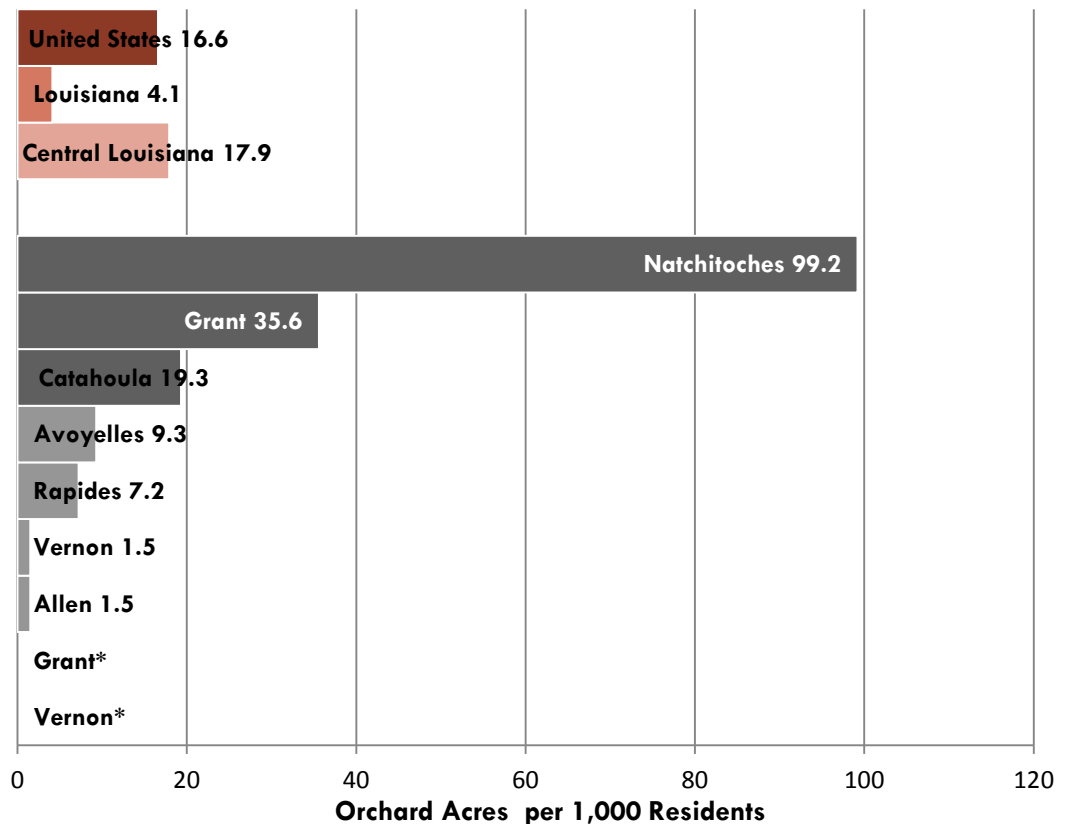


Total Orchard Acres per Population

The number of total orchard acres per 1,000 residents is **higher** in **Central Louisiana** compared to the state and national rate.

In **Natchitoches Parish**, the total number of orchard acres per 1,000 residents is **5.5 times higher** than the regional rate and **24 times higher** than the state.

Orchard acres per 1,000 residents in **Grant Parish** and **Catahoula Parish** are **higher** than the region, state and country.



BERRIES

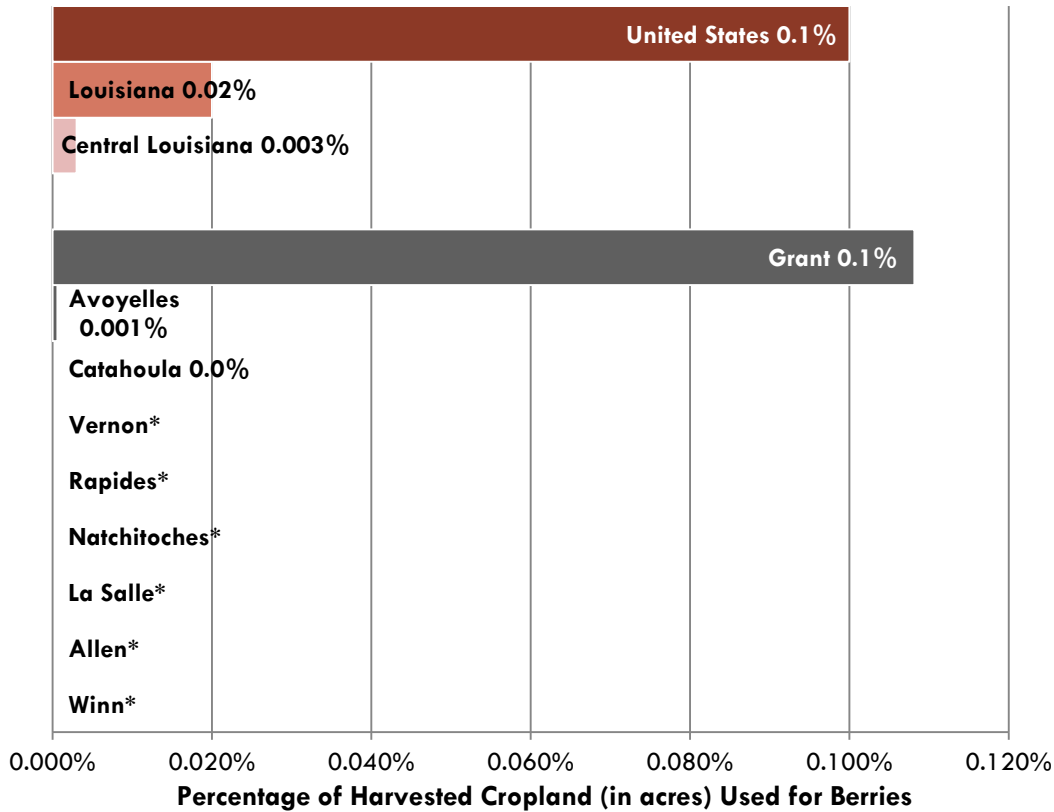
The state of Louisiana harvests around 0.3% of berry acres nation-wide. Because the total number of acres of land on which berries are grown in Louisiana is also small, the number of acres of land used to grow berries was not reported for almost all of the parishes in Central Louisiana.

Overall, **22** farms in **Central Louisiana** grow berries, and **14** of these farms are in found throughout **Grant Parish, Avoyelles Parish, and Vernon Parish.**

No berries are grown in **Catahoula Parish.**

	BERRIES
	# Farms* (Acres)
United States	34,532 (261,740)
Louisiana	237 (835)
Central Louisiana Region	22 (16)†
Grant Parish	4 (15)
Avoyelles Parish	6 (1)
Vernon Parish	4 (*)
Natchitoches Parish	3 (*)
Winn Parish	2 (*)
Rapides Parish	1 (*)
Allen Parish	1 (*)
La Salle Parish	1 (*)
Catahoula Parish	0 (0)

† The number of acres of land used for berry production in Central Louisiana is calculated based on the reported number of acres by parish. Therefore, this number underestimates the total acres of land in the region for berries.



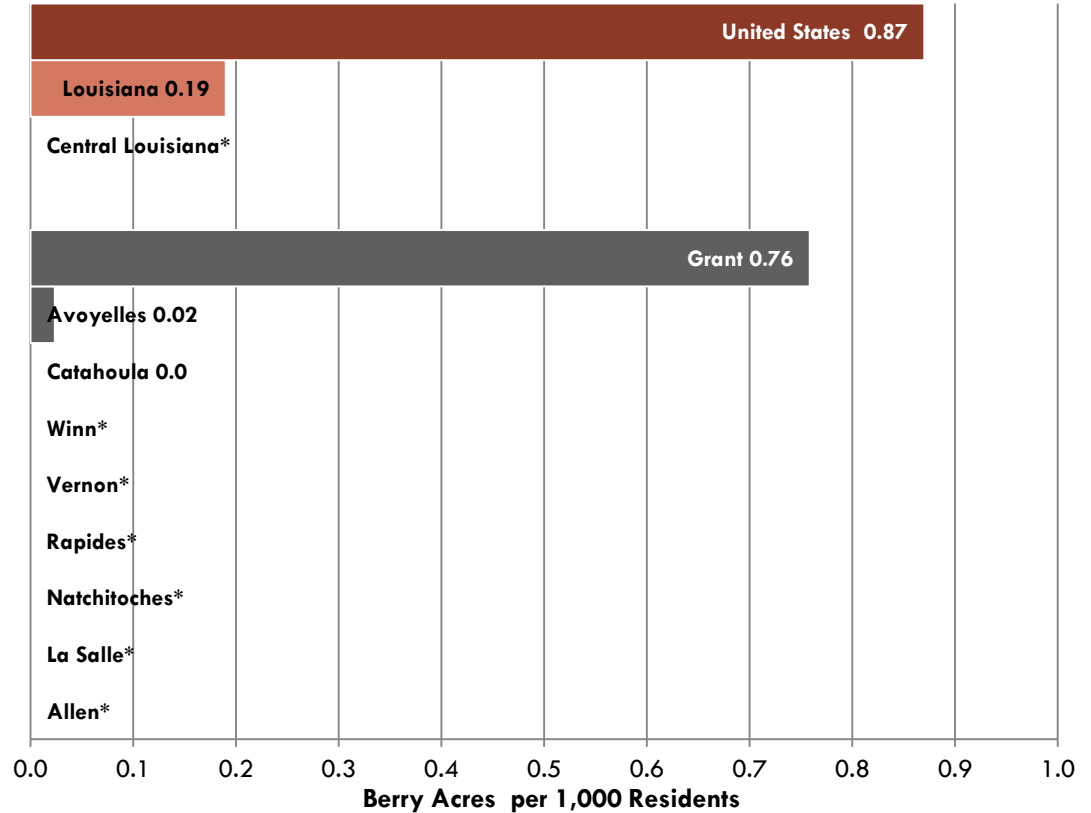
Less than **0.1%** of harvested cropland in **Central Louisiana** and **Louisiana** is used to harvest berries.

Similar to the country, around **0.1%** of total cropland in **Grant Parish** is used for berry production.

Total Berry Acres per Population

The number of total berry acres per 1,000 residents is **4.5 times lower** in **Louisiana** compared to the country.

In **Grant Parish**, the total number of berry acres per 1,000 residents is similar to the national rate and **4 times higher** than the state.



TREE NUTS

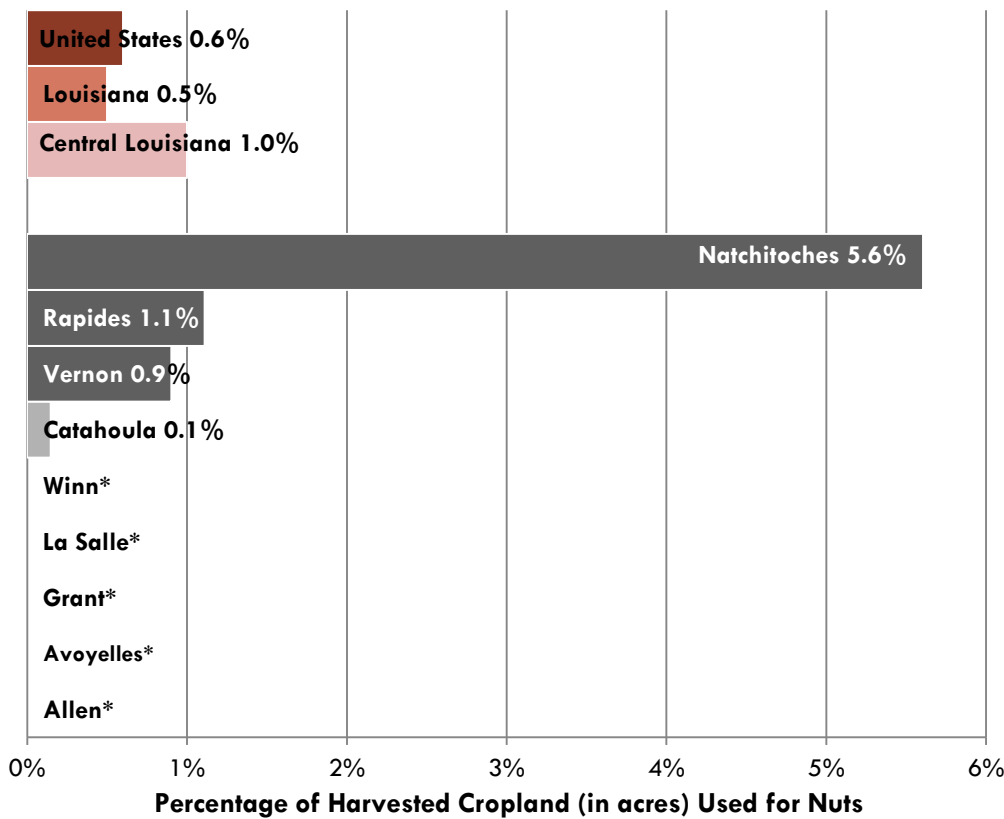
The state of Louisiana harvests less than 1% of tree nut acres nation-wide. Because the total number of acres of land on which tree nuts are grown in Louisiana is also small, the number of acres of land used to grow tree nuts was not reported for almost all of the parishes in Central Louisiana.

Over **75%** of reported acres available to grow tree nuts in Central Louisiana are found in **Natchitoches Parish**.

Tree nuts are grown in **every parish** in **Central Louisiana**.

	TREE NUTS
	# Farms* (Acres)
United States	39,480 (1,857,179)
Louisiana	783 (16,641)
Central Louisiana Region	161 (5,040)†
Natchitoches Parish	42 (3,836)
Rapides Parish	45 (938)
Catahoula Parish	7 (202)
Vernon Parish	7 (64)
Avoyelles Parish	34 (*)
Grant Parish	19 (*)
Allen Parish	4 (*)
La Salle Parish	2 (*)
Winn Parish	1 (*)

† The number of acres of land used for tree nut production in Central Louisiana is calculated based on the reported number of acres by parish. Therefore, this number underestimates the total acres of land in the region for tree nuts.



% Tree Nut Acres Harvested

Compared to the state and the country, **more harvested cropland** in **Central Louisiana** is used to harvest tree nuts.

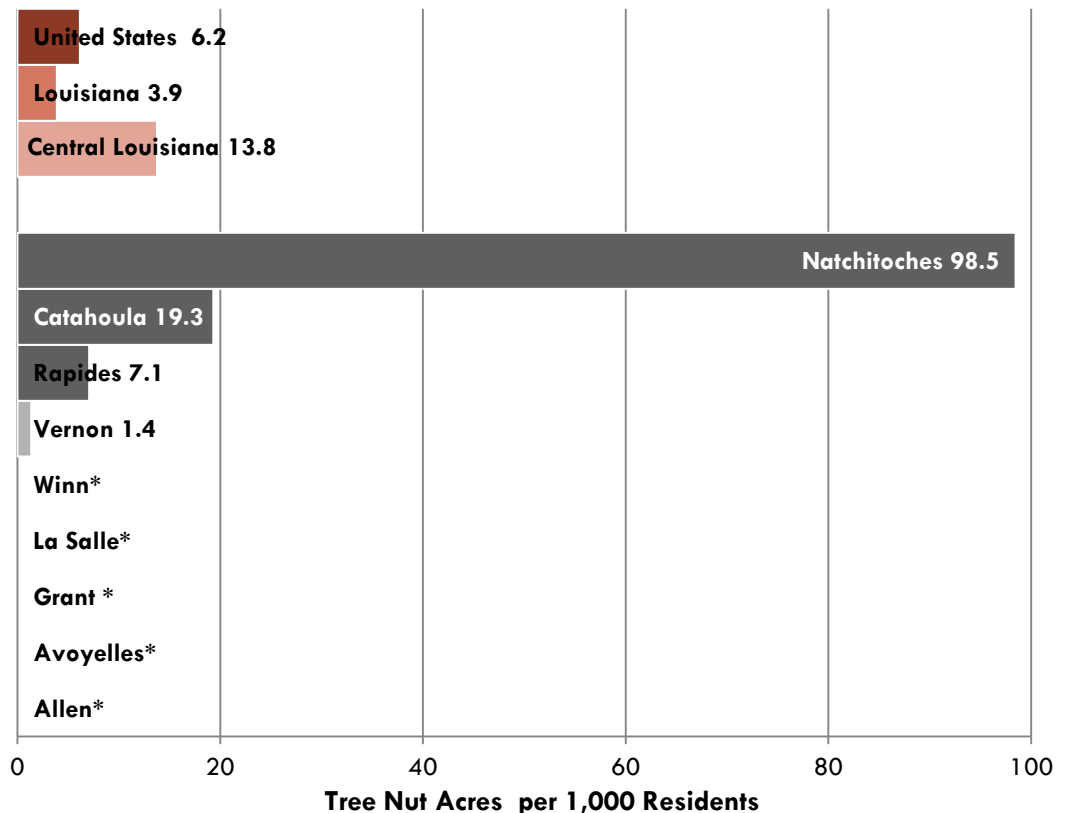
Around **6%** of harvested cropland in **Natchitoches Parish** is used to grow tree nuts.

The remaining parishes with reported data utilize **≤ 1%** of harvested cropland for tree nuts.

Total Tree Nut Acres per Population

The number of total tree nut acres per 1,000 residents is **3.5 times higher** in **Central Louisiana** compared to the state and **2 times higher** than the national rate.

In **Natchitoches Parish**, the total number of tree nut acres per 1,000 residents is **7 times higher** than the region and **25 times higher** than the state.



SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are only 3 USDA inspected and certified slaughterhouses in Louisiana and 19 slaughterhouses certified and inspected and certified by the State of Louisiana Department of Agriculture. Only 15 small slaughterhouses are located in Louisiana for the slaughter of small game and poultry and other livestock.

In Central Louisiana, **1 of the 3** USDA certified slaughterhouses is located in **Natchitoches Parish**, and **1 of the 15** small slaughterhouses is located in **Catahoula Parish**.

1 of the 19 state certified slaughterhouses is located in Central Louisiana in **Avoyelles Parish**.

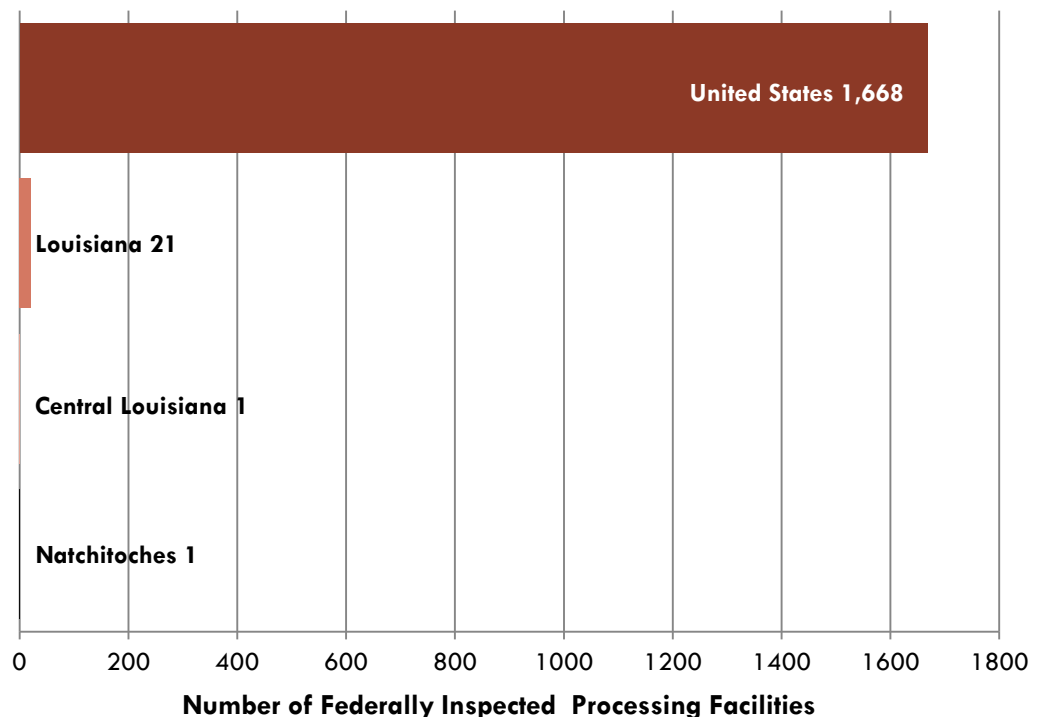
	SLAUGHTERHOUSES		
	# USDA Certified	# State Certified	# Small Slaughterhouses
United States	424	-	1,892
Louisiana	3	19	15
Central Louisiana Region	1	1	1
Natchitoches Parish	1	0	0
Avoyelles Parish	0	1	0
Catahoula Parish	0	0	1

PROCESSING FACILITIES

Food processing facilities are any establishment that processes, packs, or holds food for human consumption.

In **Louisiana**, there are **21** USDA inspected food processing facilities.

In the Central Louisiana, there is **1** federally inspected facility in **Natchitoches Parish**.



Local Food Demand

ANNUAL CONSUMER DEMAND

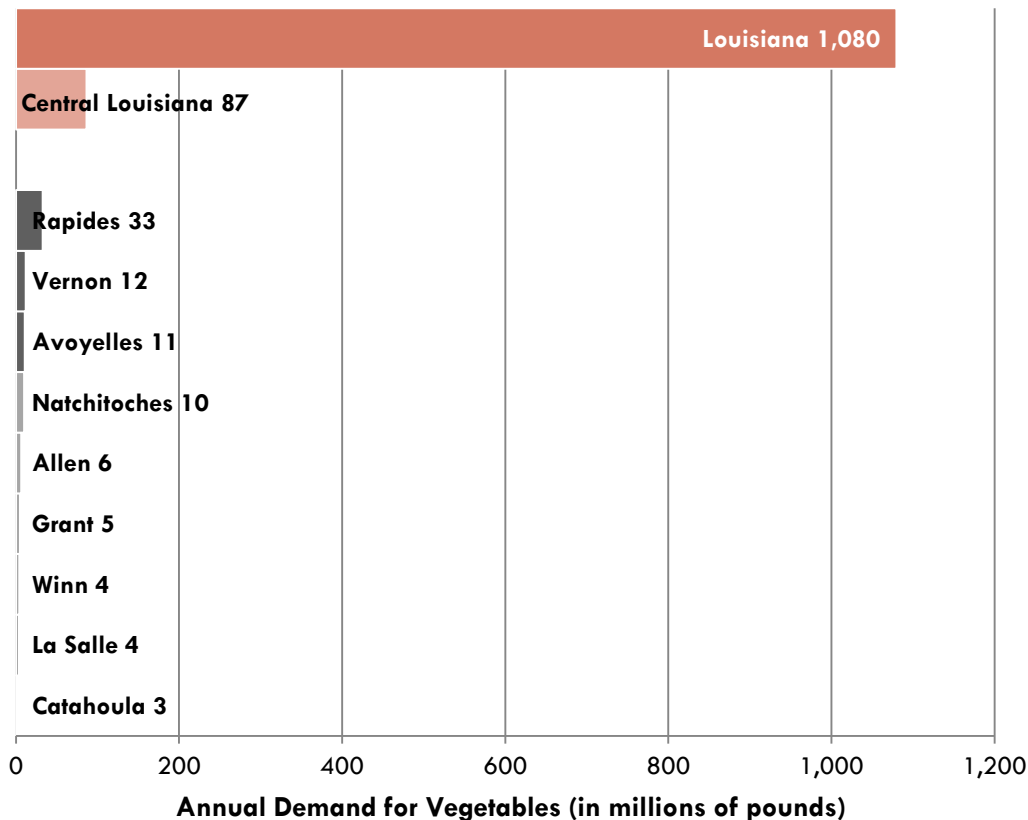
The US Food Market Estimator uses information from the USDA to calculate the amount of food received by consumers annually in pounds. These calculations provide national, state, and local estimates of consumer demand for large food groups, such as dairy, grains, fruits, vegetables, and meats and nuts.

DEMAND for VEGETABLES

The demand for vegetables in **Central Louisiana** makes up **8%** of the total demand in the state.

Approximately **38%** of annual demand for vegetables in the region is from **Rapides Parish**, followed by roughly **12%** of the demand from **Vernon, Avoyelles, and Natchitoches Parishes**.

Demand in the remaining parish is comparatively low.

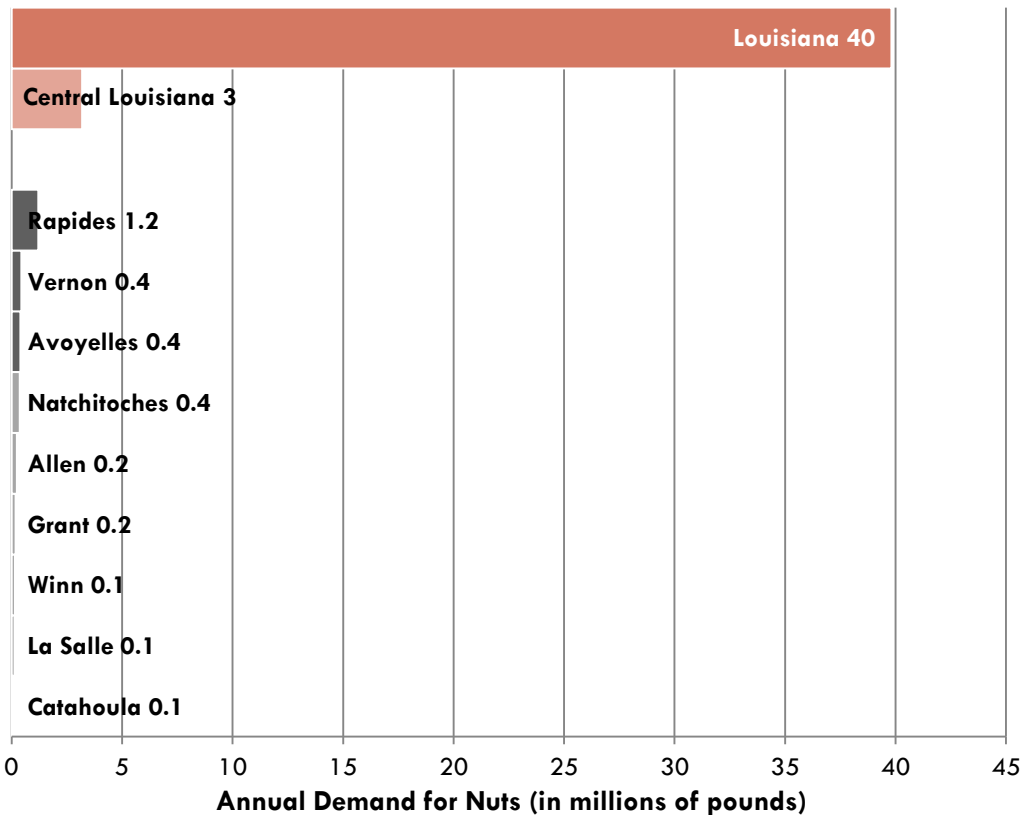
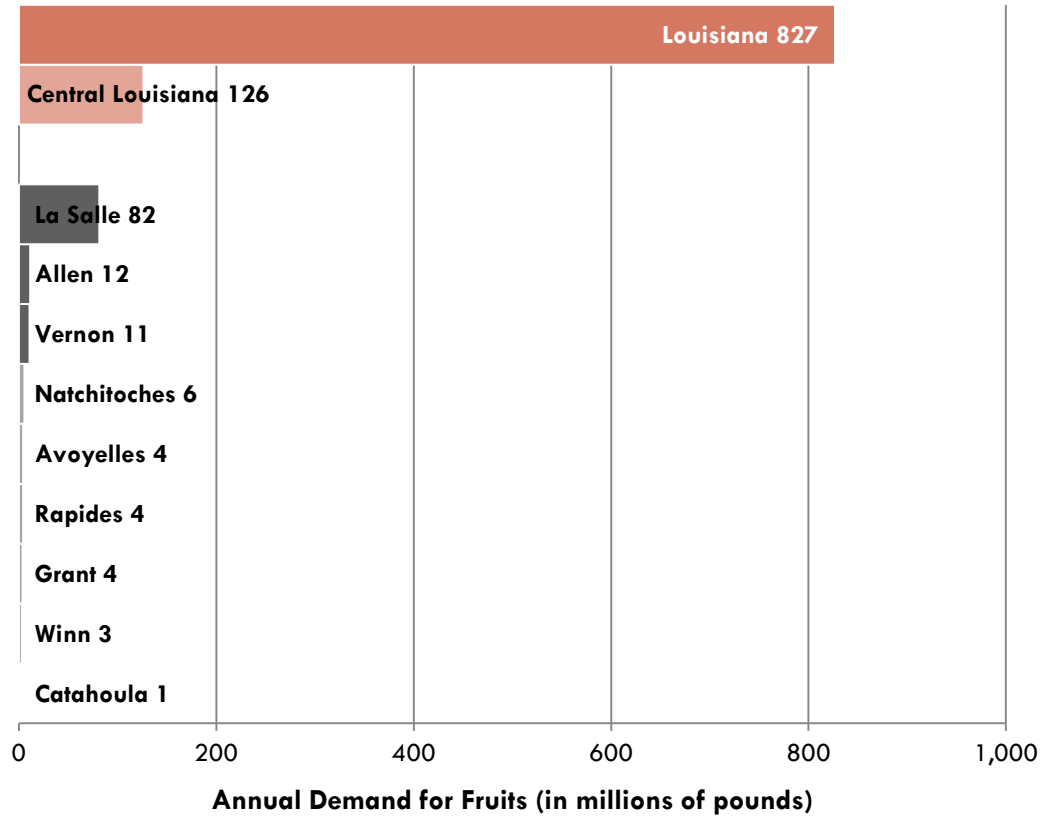


DEMAND for FRUITS

The demand for fruits in **Central Louisiana** makes up **15%** of the total demand in the state.

Around **65%** of annual demand for fruits in the region is from **La Salle Parish**, followed by roughly **9%** from **Allen Parish** and **Vernon Parish**.

Demand in the other parishes is lower, particularly in **Avoyelles** and **Rapides Parishes** where annual demand for vegetables was higher than demand for fruits.



DEMAND for TREE NUTS

The demand for tree nuts in **Central Louisiana** makes up around **8%** of the total demand in the state.

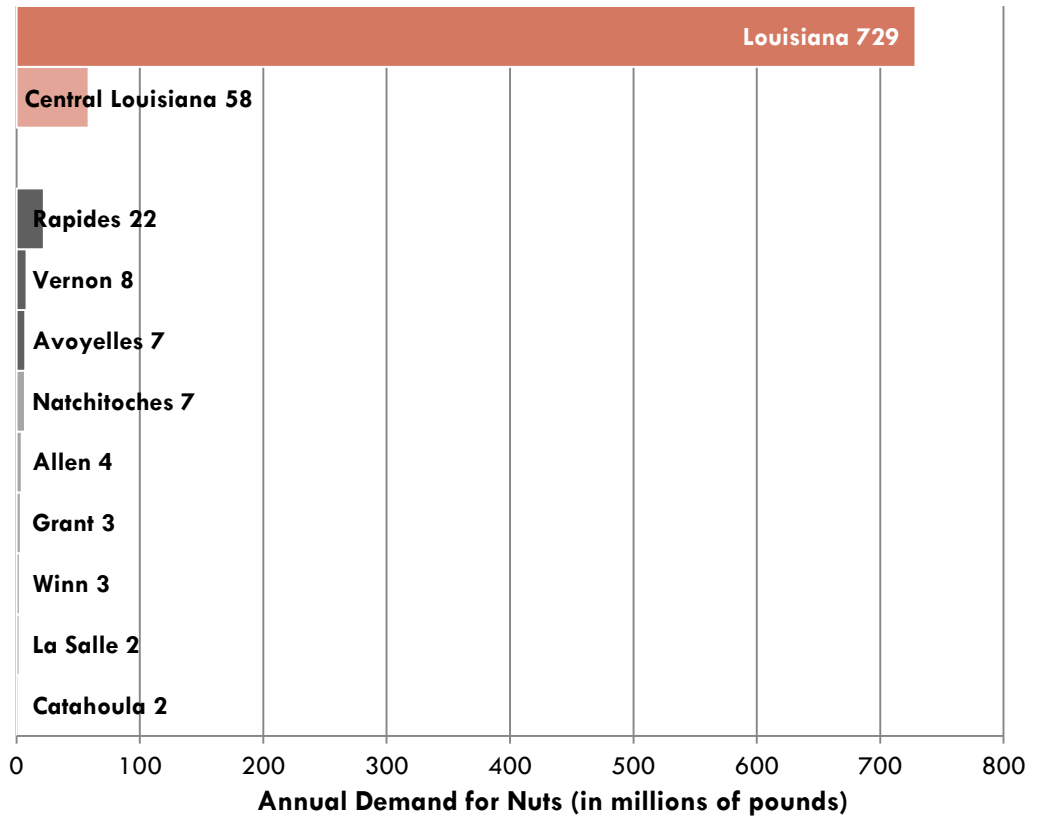
40% of annual demand for tree nuts in the region is from **Rapides Parish**, followed by roughly **13%** from **Vernon Parish**, **Avoyelles Parish**, and **Natchitoches Parish**.

DEMAND for GRAINS

The demand for grains in **Central Louisiana** makes up **8%** of the total demand in the state.

Around **38%** of annual demand for grains in the region is from **Rapides Parish**, followed by roughly **14%** from **Vernon Parish** and **12%** from **Avoyelles Parish** and **Natchitoches Parish**.

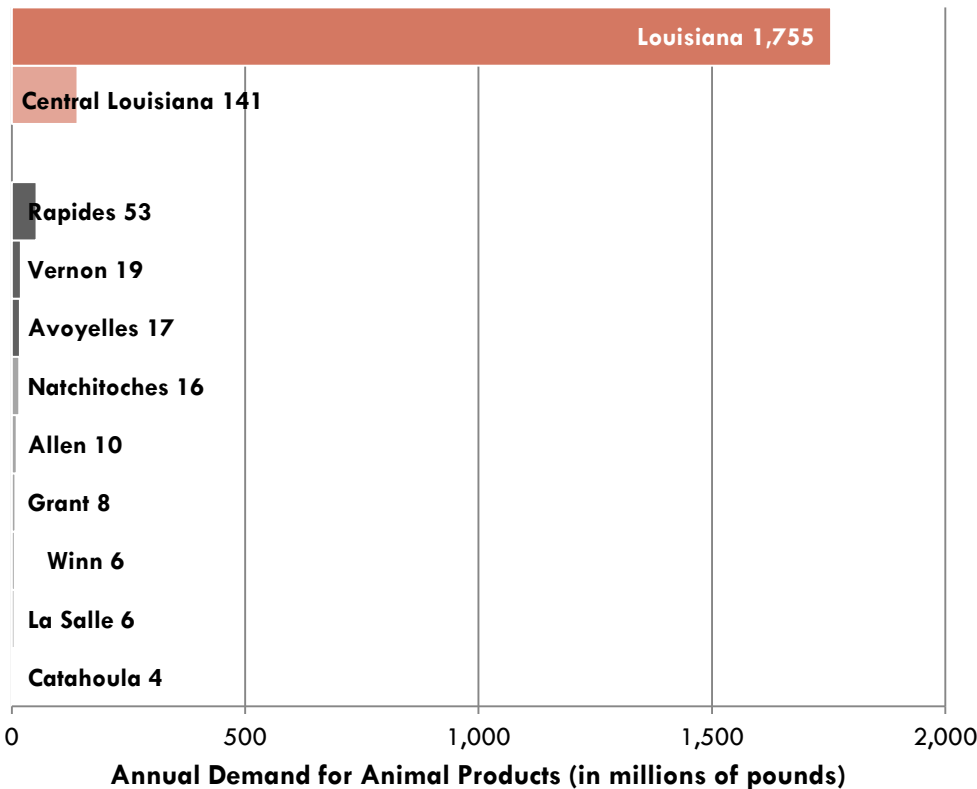
Demand in the other parishes is lower.



DEMAND for ANIMAL PRODUCTS

The demand for animal products – which include meat, poultry and dairy – in **Central Louisiana** makes up around **8%** of the total demand in the state.

Approximately **38%** of annual demand for animal products in the region is from **Rapides Parish**, followed by roughly **12%** from **Vernon, Avoyelles, and Natchitoches Parish**.



Local Food Sales

FARM SALES

The 2007 Census of Agriculture calculates information on the total value of agricultural products sold from a farm. This information provides an estimate on the total value of all food produced in region, prior to taxes and any production related expenses.

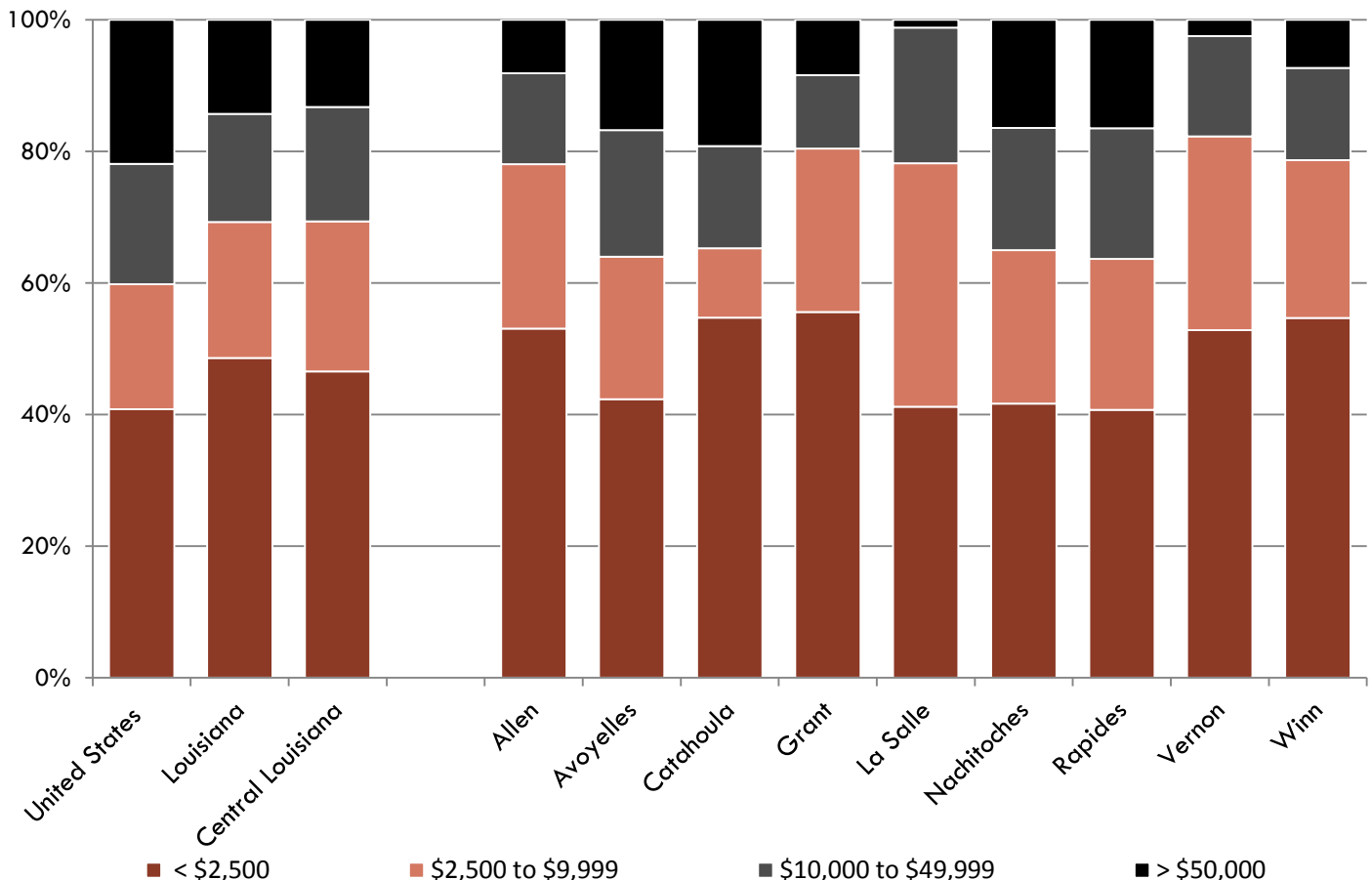
FARMS BY VALUE OF SALES

Similar to the state, approximately 70% of farms in Central Louisiana produce less than \$10,000 of agricultural products a year. This dollar amount reflects only the absolute value of goods produced and does not account for taxes or production related expenses such as equipment costs. Compared to all farms in the country, fewer farms in the state and region produced over \$10,000 of agricultural products a year.

There were more farms in **Avoyelles, Catahoula, Natchitoches, and Rapides Parishes** that produced **more than \$50,000** of agricultural products compared to the region.

Over **50%** of farms in **Allen, Catahoula, Grant, Vernon, and Winn Parishes** produce **less than \$2,500** agricultural products.

Over **75%** of farms in **La Salle Parish** produce **less than \$10,000** of agricultural products.



DIRECT FARM SALES TO CONSUMERS

Agricultural products produced and sold to consumers include any products sold to individuals directly from roadside stands, farmers' markets, etc. The number of farms that sell agricultural product directly to final consumers – and the value of direct farm sales to consumers – provides an estimate of both the local food supply and consumer demand for local foods.

Approximately 14% of farms that sell agricultural products to final consumers in the state of Louisiana are located in Central Louisiana.

25% of farms with direct sales to consumers in Central Louisiana are in **Rapides Parish**; the parish grossed \$287,000 in direct sales of products or 32% of all direct sales in the region.

Only **9%** of farms with direct sales to consumers in Central Louisiana are in **Natchitoches Parish**; however, the area grossed \$351,000 in direct sales of agricultural products, which represents 40% of all sales to consumers in the region.

With the exception of **Vernon** and **Grant Parish**, the remaining parishes with data available sold less than \$50,000 of agricultural products directly to consumers

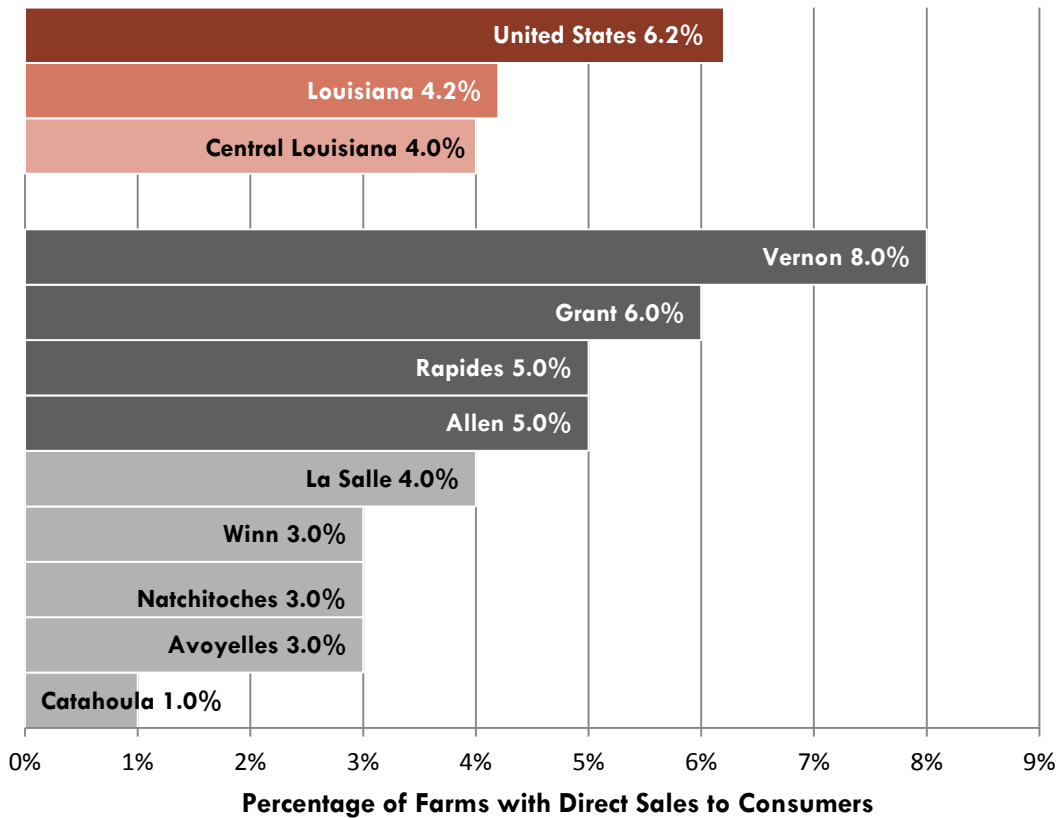
NUMBER OF FARMS WITH DIRECT SALES TO CONSUMERS

	Farms with Direct Sales	
	# Farms	\$ of Sales
United States	136,806	\$1,149,866,000
Louisiana	1,276	\$7,430,000
Central Louisiana Region	179	\$887,000
Rapides Parish	45	\$287,000
Avoyelles Parish	30	*
Vernon Parish	36	\$100,000
Allen Parish	22	\$43,000
Natchitoches Parish	17	\$351,000
Grant Parish	14	\$72,000
La Salle Parish	6	\$6,000
Catahoula Parish	5	\$21,000
Winn Parish	4	\$7,000

% FARMS with DIRECT CONSUMER SALES

Compared to the country, a **smaller percentage** of all farms in **Louisiana** and **Central Louisiana** directly sell agricultural products to consumers.

Less than 10% of farms in all of the parishes within Central Louisiana sell products directly to consumers.

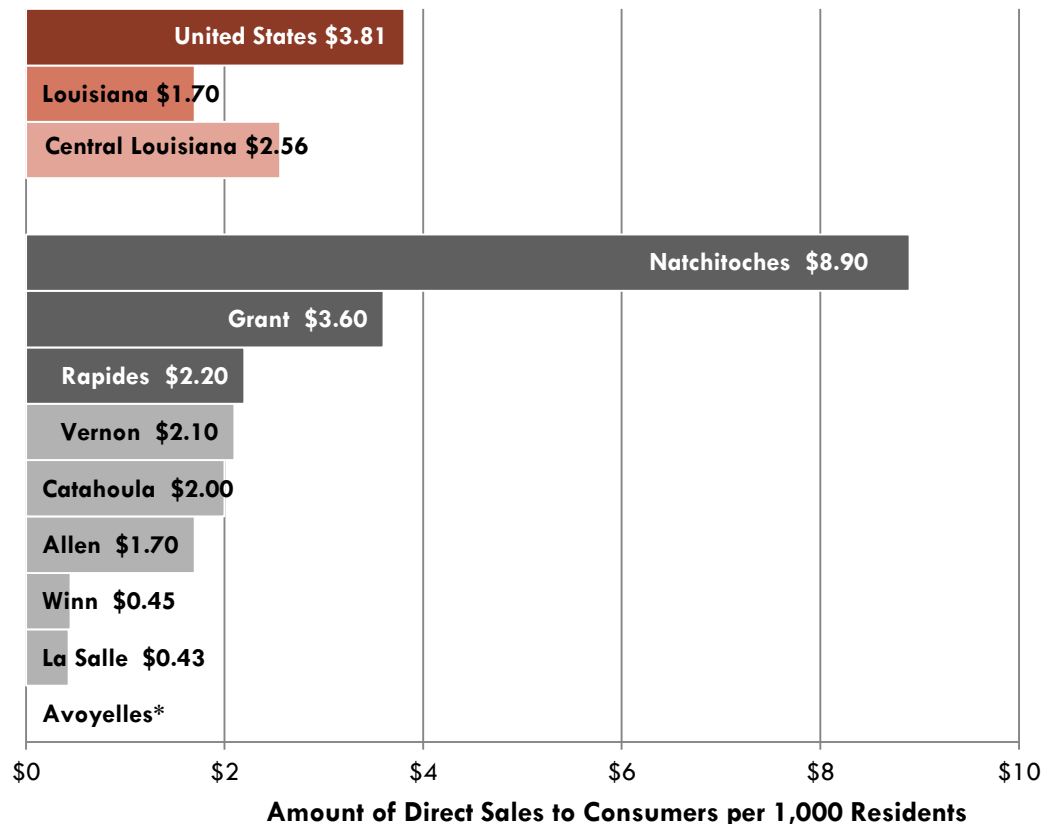


\$ SPENT PER RESIDENT - DIRECT FARM SALES

The amount of direct farm sales per 1,000 residents in **Central Louisiana** is **higher** than the state.

The amount of sales per 1,000 residents in **Natchitoches Parish** is **3.5 times higher** than the regional amount per 1,000 residents.

In **Grant Parish**, the amount of direct sales per 1,000 residents is **higher** than the state.

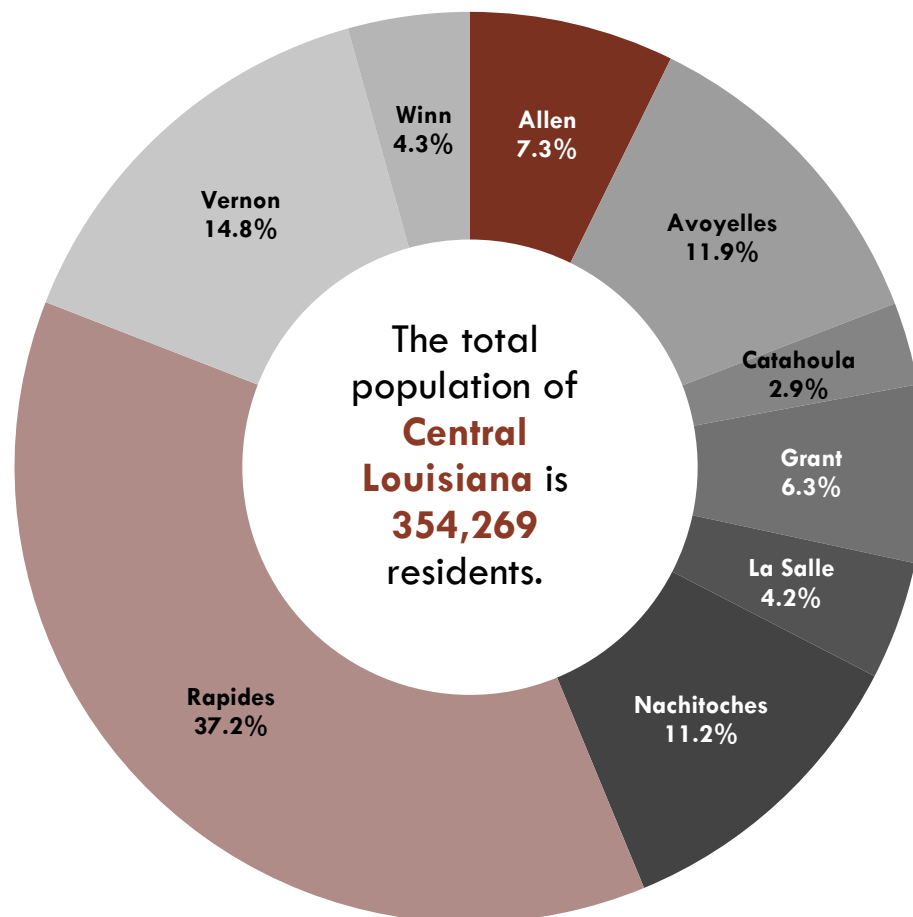


Population Characteristics

The following is an overview of how many individuals live in Central Louisiana and its parishes, as well as the economic and employment status of residents. This information provides a narrative of who lives in the region to contextualize the food production, demand, and sales data presented in the previous section.

TOTAL POPULATION

Central Louisiana makes up around 8% of the total population in the state of Louisiana. The **most populated** parish in the area is **Rapides Parish**, followed by Vernon Parish and Natchitoches Parish. The **least populated** parish in Central Louisiana is **Catahoula Parish**.

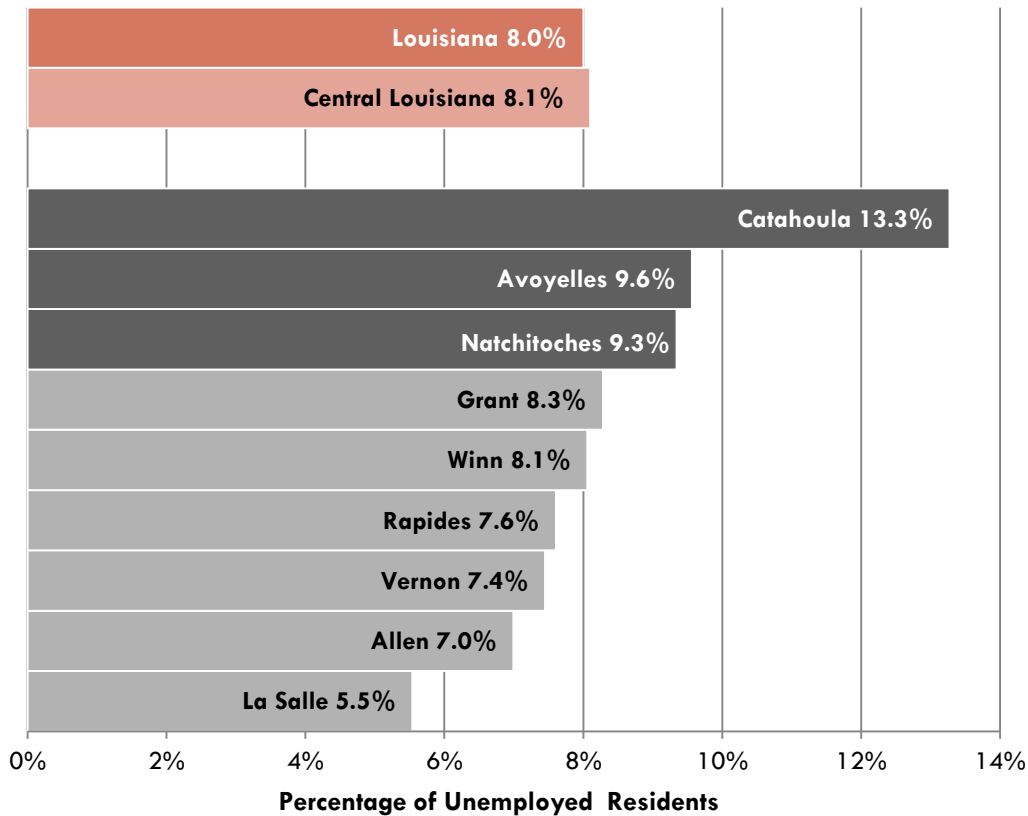


EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Among residents 16 years or older in the labor force, the rate of unemployment in **Central Louisiana** is **similar** to the state.

Unemployment in **Catahoula Parish** is **substantially higher** compared to the regional rate.

Unemployment in **La Salle Parish** is **substantially lower** than the regional rate.

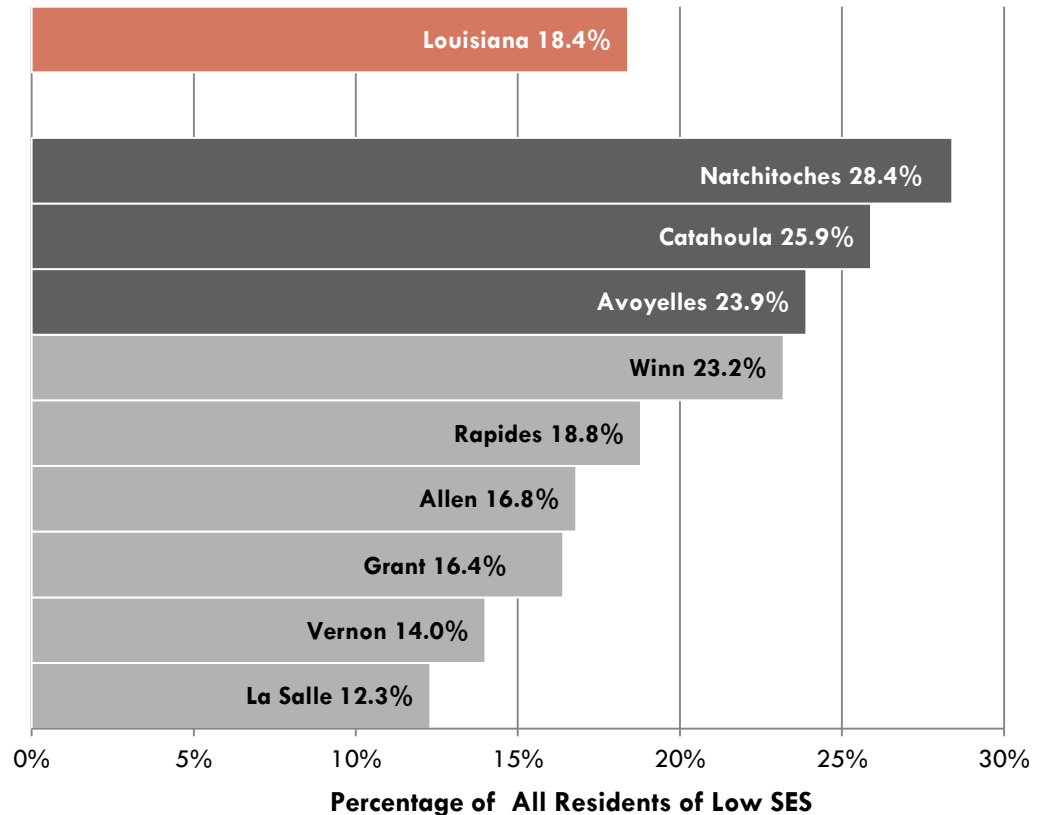


LOW SES² among ALL RESIDENTS

Over 25% of residents in **Natchitoches Parish** and **Catahoula Parish** are considered low SES.

Approximately **23%** of residents in **Avoyelles Parish** and **Winn Parish** are considered low SES.

The percentage of residents considered low SES in the remaining parishes is similar to or lower than the state.

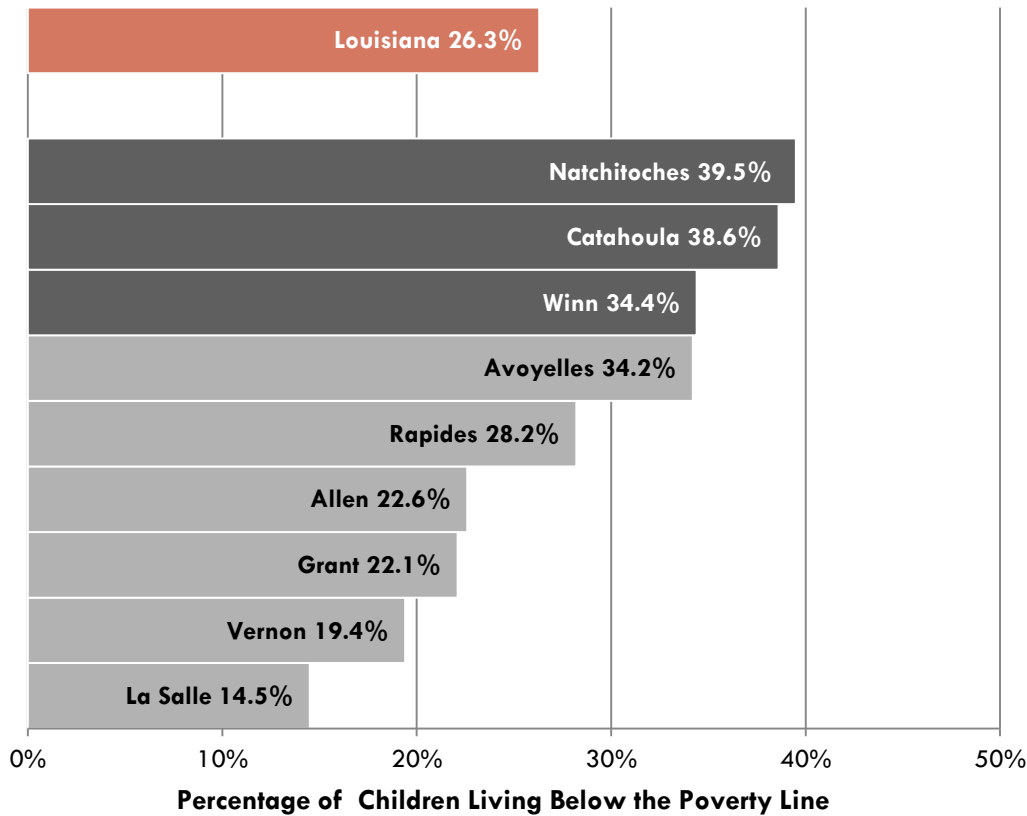


² Low socioeconomic status (Low SES) is calculated by US Census Bureau based on household income and size. If the household is below a money income threshold they are considered low SES.

CHILDREN in LOW SES HOUSEHOLDS

A higher percentage of children less than 18 years old, living in **Natchitoches Parish, Catahoula Parish, Avoyelles Parish, Winn Parish** and **Rapides Parish** live in low SES households compared to the state.

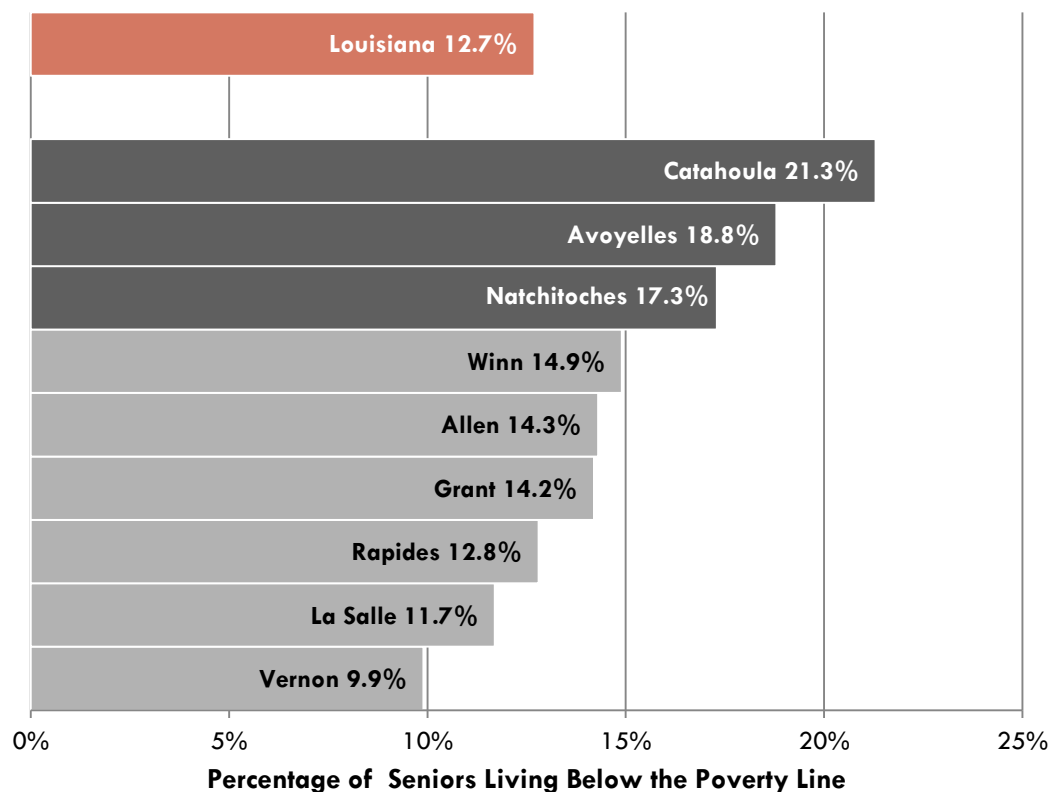
The percentage of children living in low SES household in the remaining parishes is lower than the state.



LOW SES SENIORS

Compared to the state, a higher percentage of seniors, or residents 65 years or older are considered low SES in the majority of **Central Louisiana** parishes.

The percentage of low SES seniors in **La Salle** and **Vernon Parishes** is lower than the state.



Health

NUTRITIONAL STATUS

A healthy diet is one of the key components of maintaining health and reducing the risk of chronic conditions such as obesity. The ability to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for consumption is essential to maintaining a healthy diet.

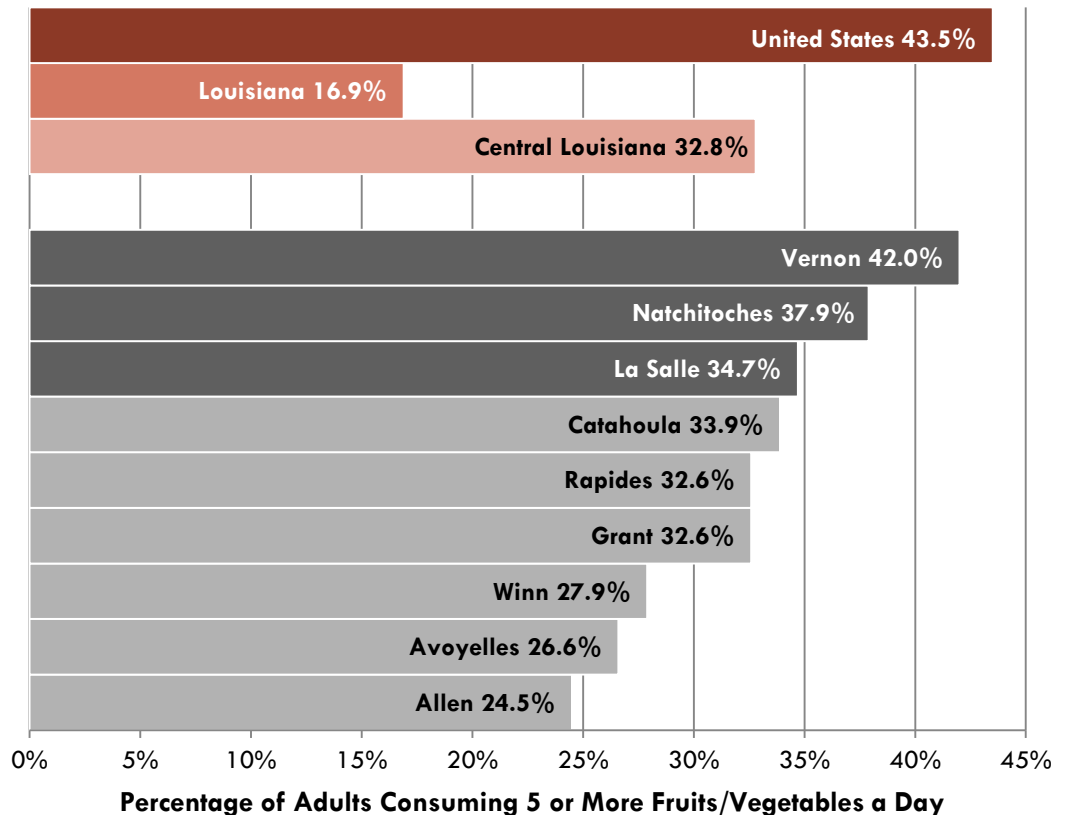
FOOD CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

Much of the data presented in this section is derived from the 2010 PRC Community Health Assessment of the Rapides Foundation Service Area, which includes the same 9 parishes contained within the Central Louisiana region.

Fruits and Vegetables - Adults

A **higher percentage** of adult residents in the **Central Louisiana** region consume at least 5 fruits or vegetables compared to the state.

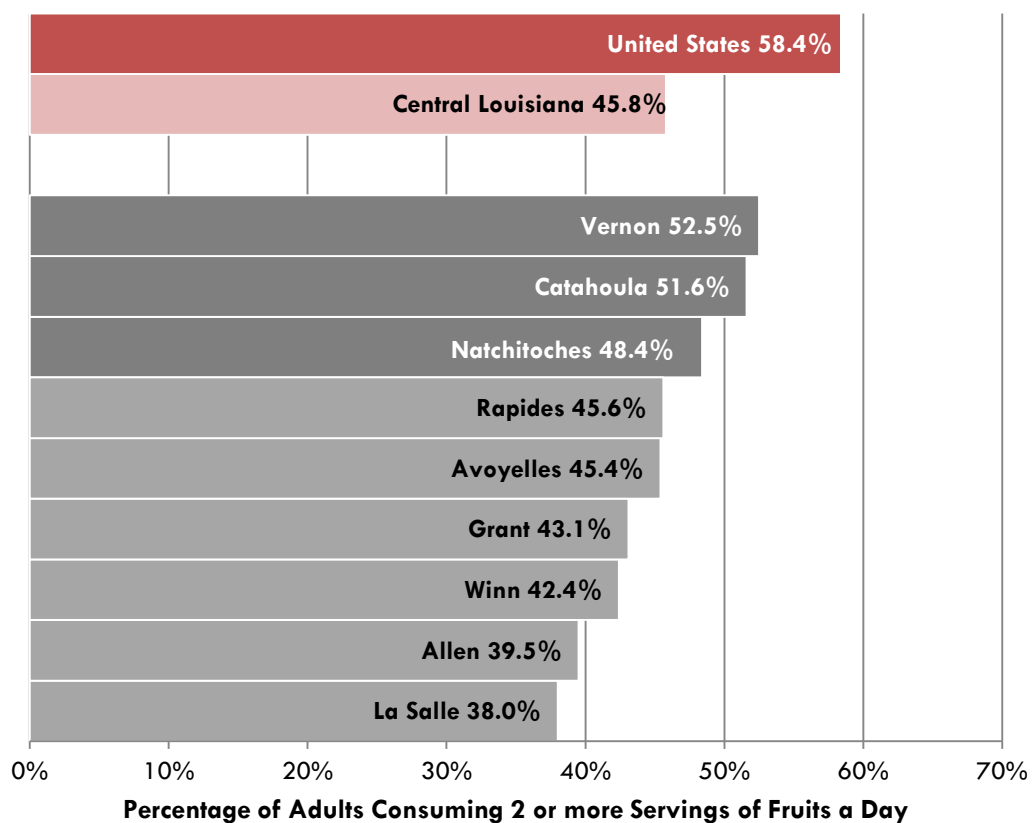
Compared to the region, a higher percentage of adult residents in **La Salle, Natchitoches, Vernon, and Catahoula Parishes** consume 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables daily.



Fruits/Fruit Juices - Adults

A **lower percentage** of adult residents in the **Central Louisiana** region consume at least 2 servings of fruit or fruit juice daily compared to the entire country.

Compared to the region, a higher percentage of adult residents in **Vernon**, **Catahoula** and **Natchitoches** Parishes consume 2 or more servings of fruit daily.



Fruit and Vegetable Consumption – Children

According to the 2010 PRC Community Health Assessment, **52%** of children ages 2 to 17 years old in Central Louisiana consume at least 5 fruits or vegetables a day.

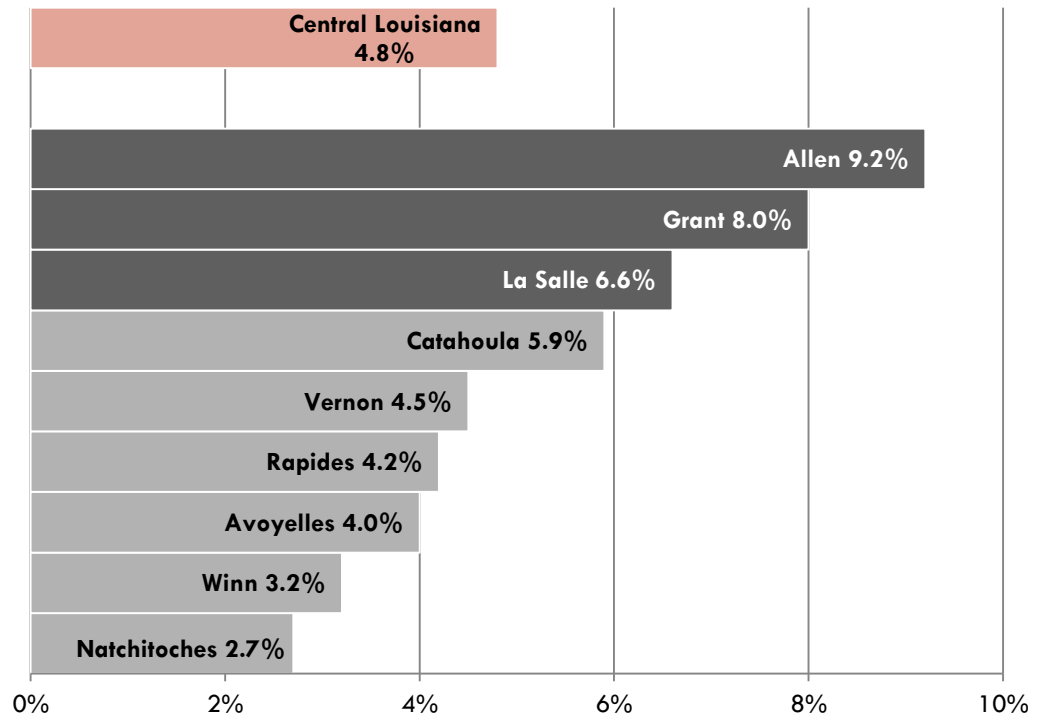
This number is **slightly lower** among children in **Rapides Parish (51%)**, and it is **slightly higher** among children living in the **other 8 parishes (53%)** within Central Louisiana.

DIFFICULTY PURCHASING FRESH PRODUCE

In **Central Louisiana**, **5%** of residents find it very difficult to purchase fresh produce in the region.

Close to **10%** of residents in **Allen Parish** find it very difficult to purchase fruits and vegetables.

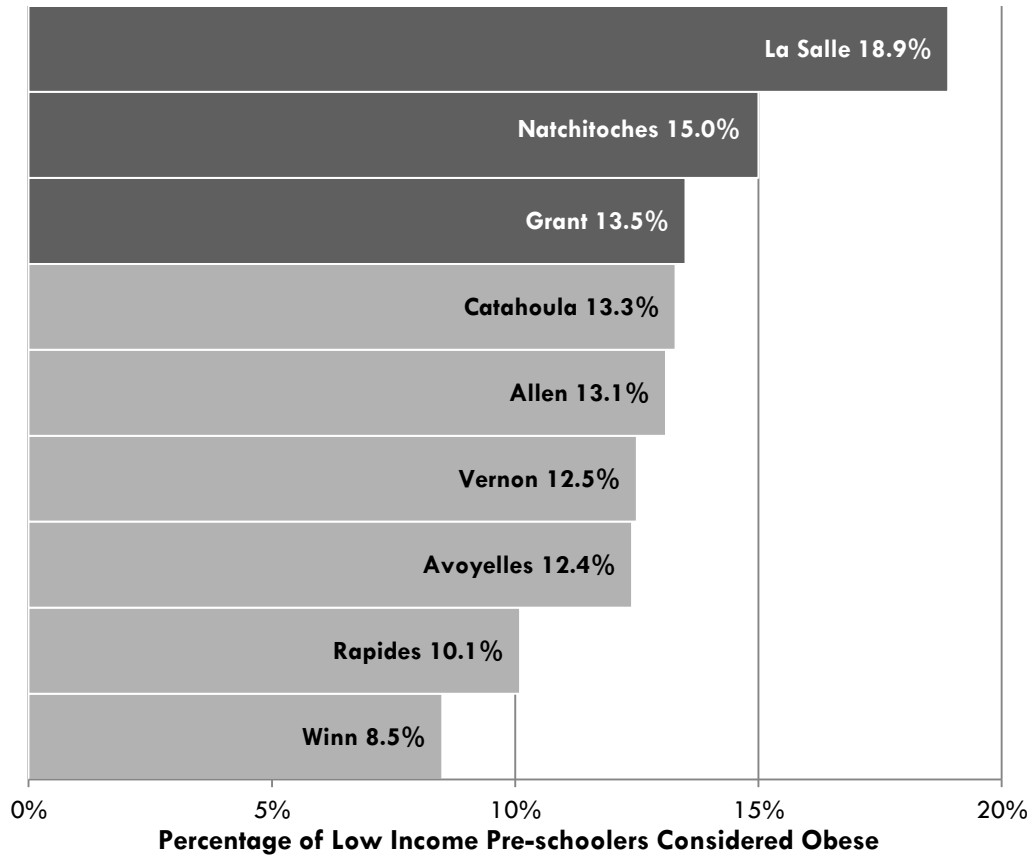
More residents in **Grant, La Salle, and Catahoula Parishes** found it very difficult to purchase fresh produce compared to the region.



Percentage of Residents who Find Purchasing Fresh Produce "Very Difficult"

HEALTH RISK BEHAVIORS

Risk behaviors such as obesity and diabetes contribute to chronic illnesses and the leading causes of death among adults in the United States of America. Both diabetes and obesity are linked to the maintenance of a healthy diet.



CHILDHOOD OBESITY – PRESCHOOLERS ONLY

With the exception of Winn Parish, **over 10%** of preschoolers ages 2 to 4 in the **Central Louisiana parishes** are considered obese.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY – 6 to 17 YEAR OLDS

According to the 2010 PRC Community Health Assessment, **22.8%** of children ages 6 to 17 years old in Central Louisiana are obese, which is lower than the nation rate of 26%.

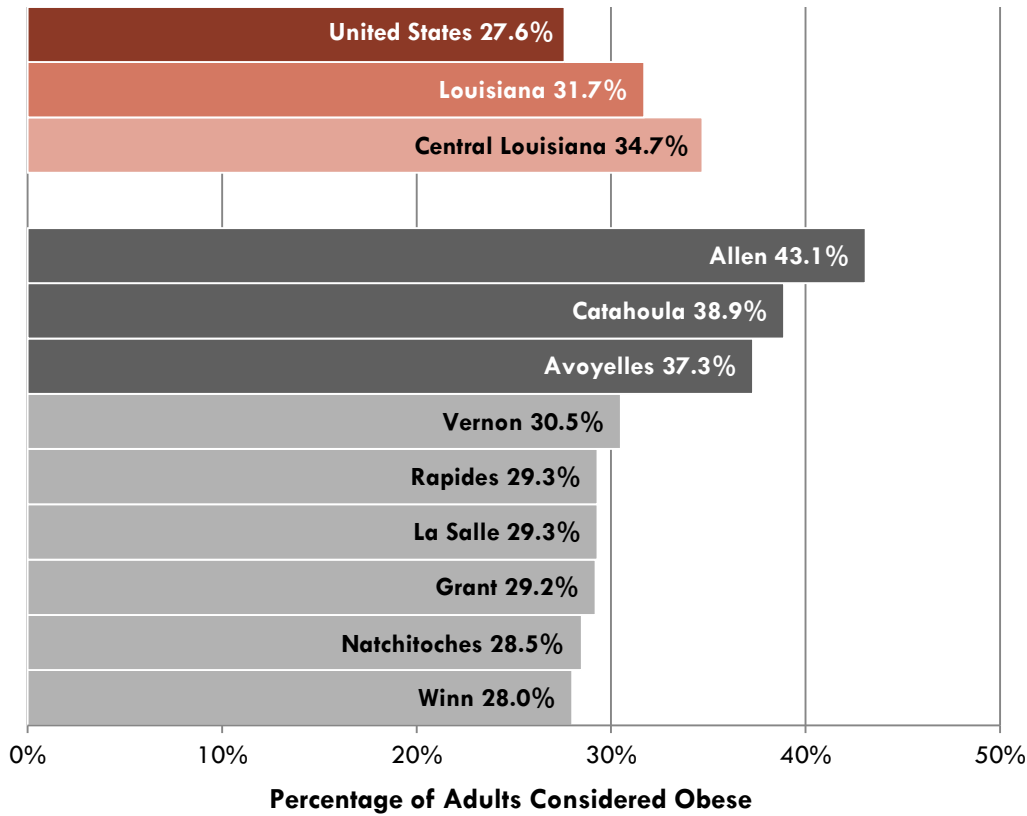
The percentage of obese children is **slightly higher** in **Rapides Parish (23.3%)**, and it is only **slightly lower** among children living in the **other 8 parishes (22.6%)** within the Central Louisiana region.

ADULT OBESITY

Compared to the country, a **higher percentage** of adults in **Louisiana and Central Louisiana** are obese.

Almost 35% of residents in each parish in the Central Louisiana region are obese.

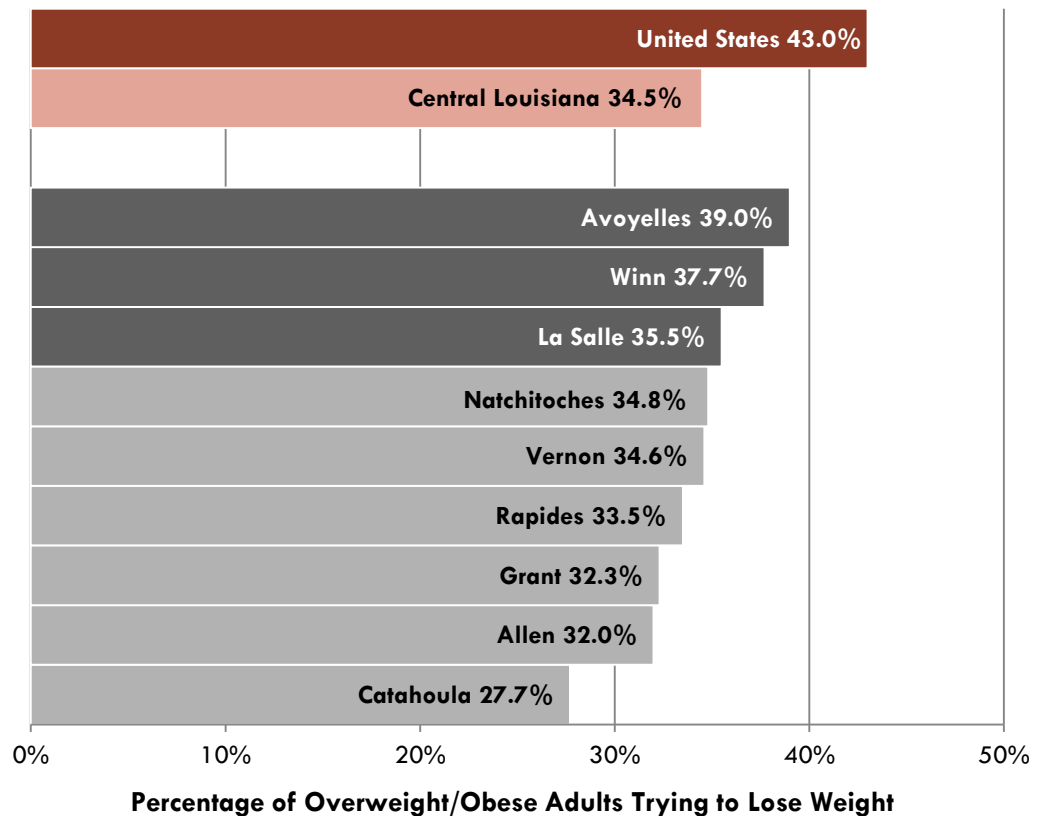
Over 35% of adults in **Allen Parish, Catahoula Parish, and Avoyelles Parish** are obese.



WEIGHT LOSS BEHAVIOR

The percentage of overweight/obese adults trying to lose weight through diet and exercise is **lower** in **Central Louisiana** compared to the country.

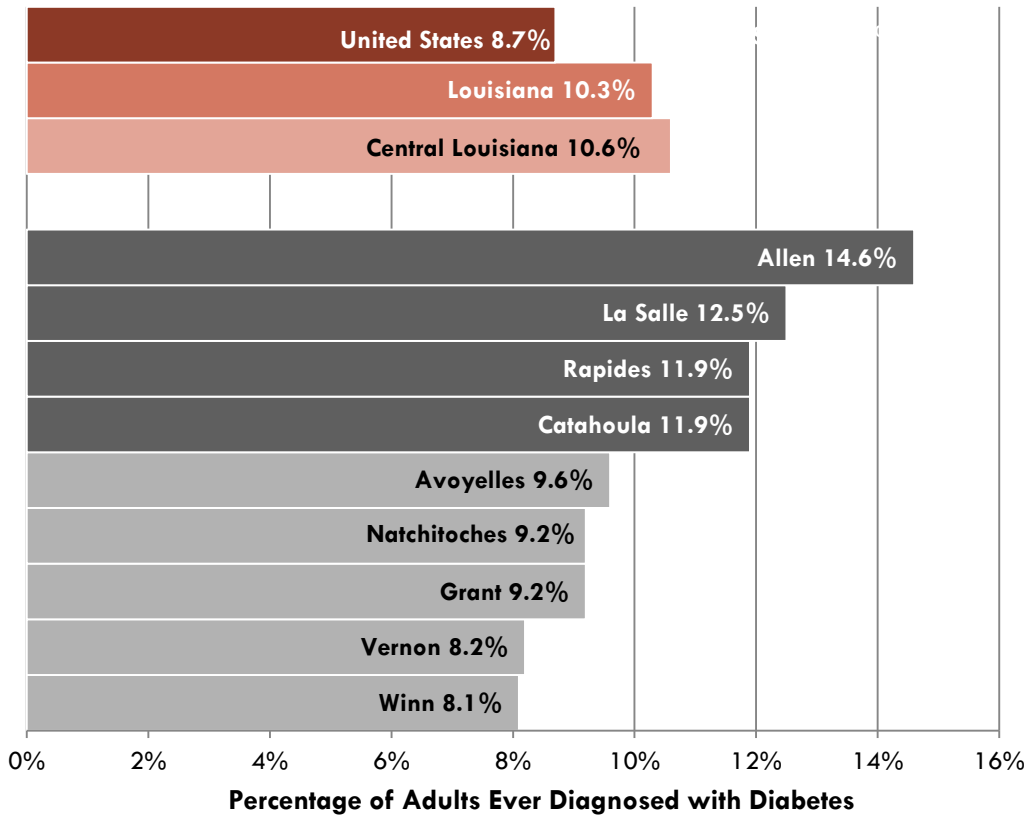
Compared to the region, a **higher percentage** of overweight/obese adults are trying to lose weight in **Avoyelles, Winn, La Salle, Natchitoches, and Vernon Parishes**.



DIABETES

Compared to the country, a **higher percentage** of adults in **Louisiana** and **Central Louisiana** have been diagnosed with diabetes.

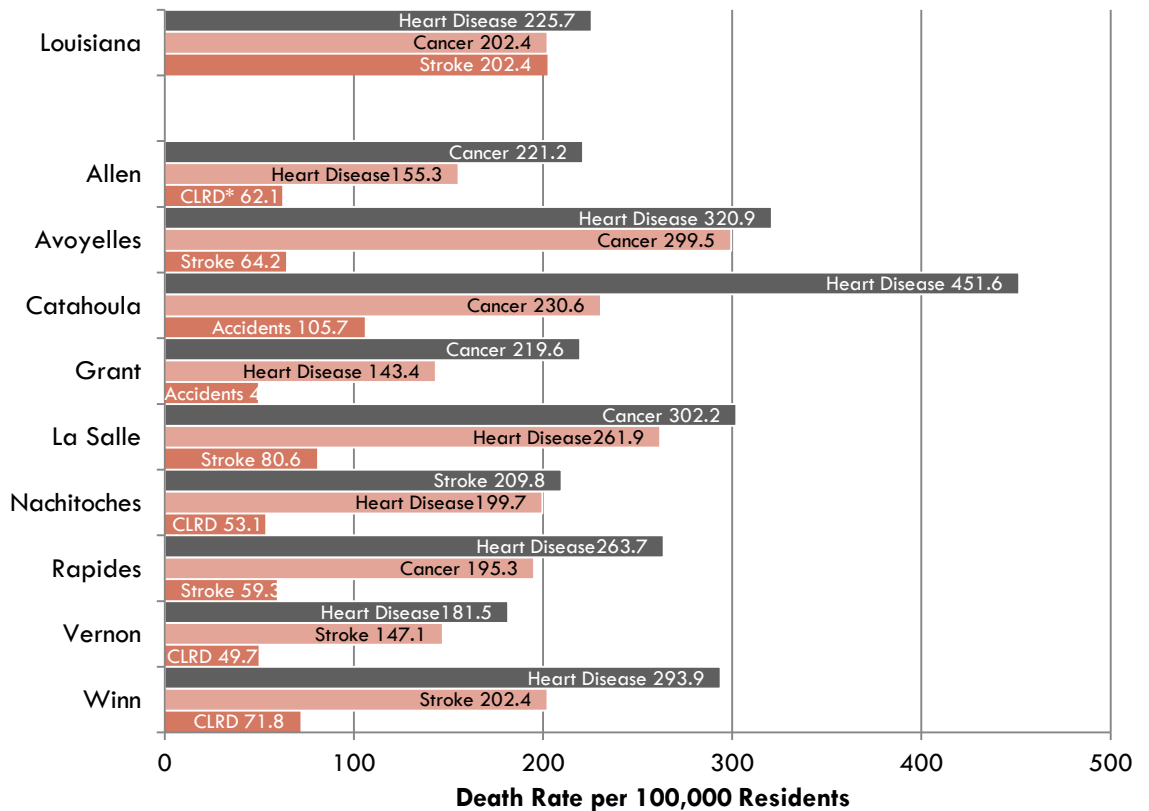
Compared to the region, a **higher percentage** of adult residents in **Allen Parish, La Salle Parish, Rapides Parish, and Catahoula Parish** have been diagnosed with diabetes.



LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

The top 2 leading causes of death in the state of **Louisiana** and within each parish of the **Central Louisiana** region are **Heart Disease** and **Cancer**.

The death rate from Heart Disease is **comparatively higher** in **Avoyelles Parish**.



*CLRD refers to "Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases."

Availability of Food

ACCESS TO GROCERY STORES

The availability of grocery stores in an area has been linked to both the consumption of healthy food and overall health outcomes, particularly for the low-income, the very young, and the very old.

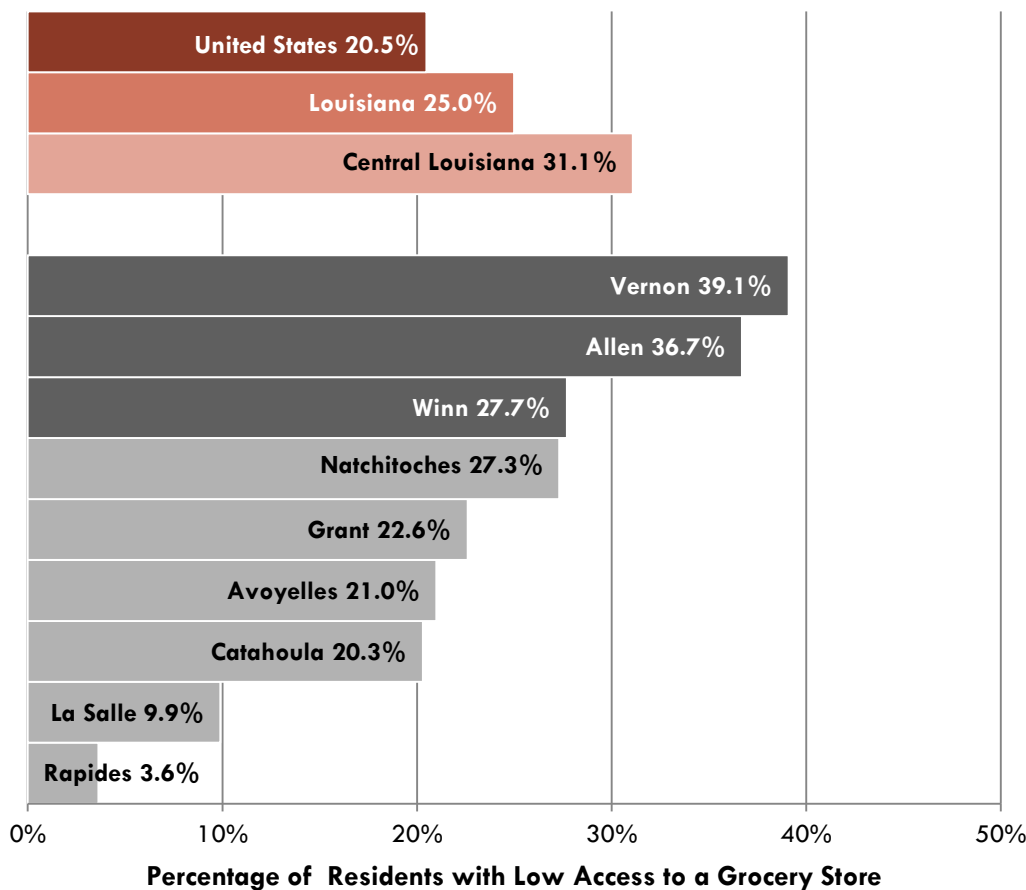
In rural and non-rural areas, living close to a grocery store is defined differently. In rural areas, limited access is defined as living 10 or more miles away from the nearest grocery store; in non-rural areas it is defined as living 1 or more miles away from the nearest grocery store.

LOW ACCESS among ALL RESIDENTS

Compared to the state, a **higher percentage** of adults **Central Louisiana** have low access to a grocery store.

Compared to the region, a **larger percentage** of residents in **Vernon Parish** and **Allen Parish** have low access.

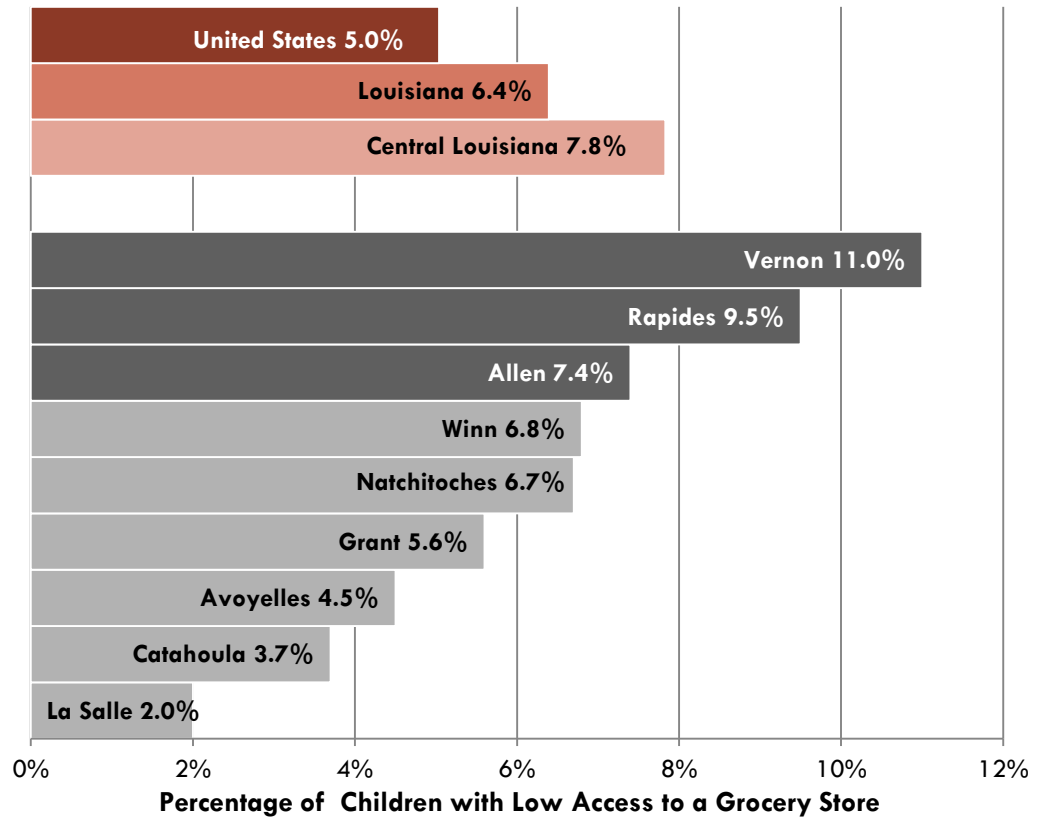
Less than 10% of residents in **La Salle Parish** and **Rapides Parish** have low access to a grocery store.



LOW ACCESS among CHILDREN

Compared to the state, a **higher percentage** of children in **Central Louisiana** have low access to a grocery store.

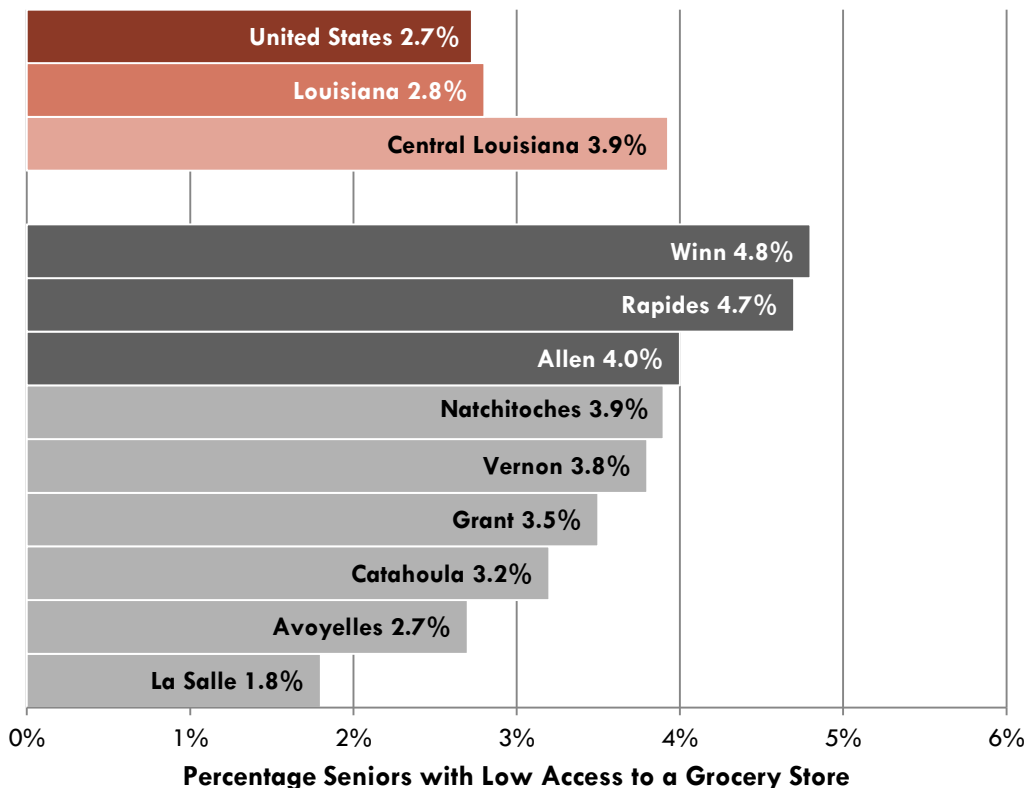
Compared to the region, a **larger percentage** of children in **Vernon Parish** and **Rapides Parish** have low access to a grocery store.



LOW ACCESS among SENIORS

Compared to the state and country, a **higher percentage** of seniors in **Central Louisiana** have low access to a grocery store.

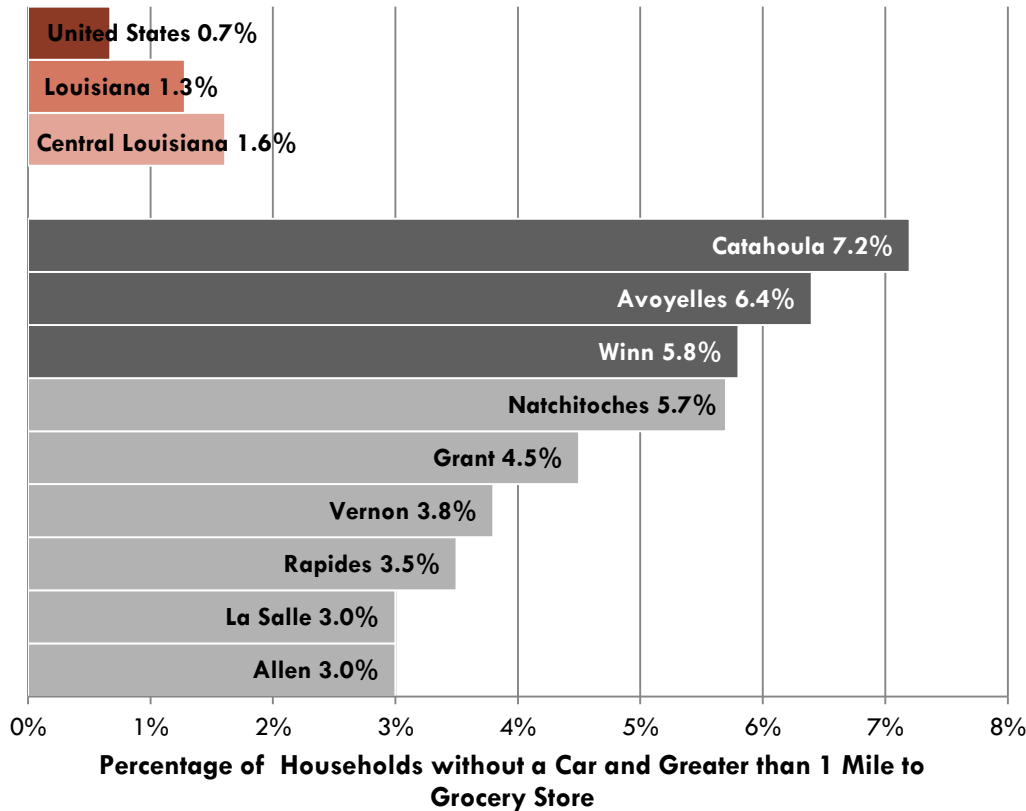
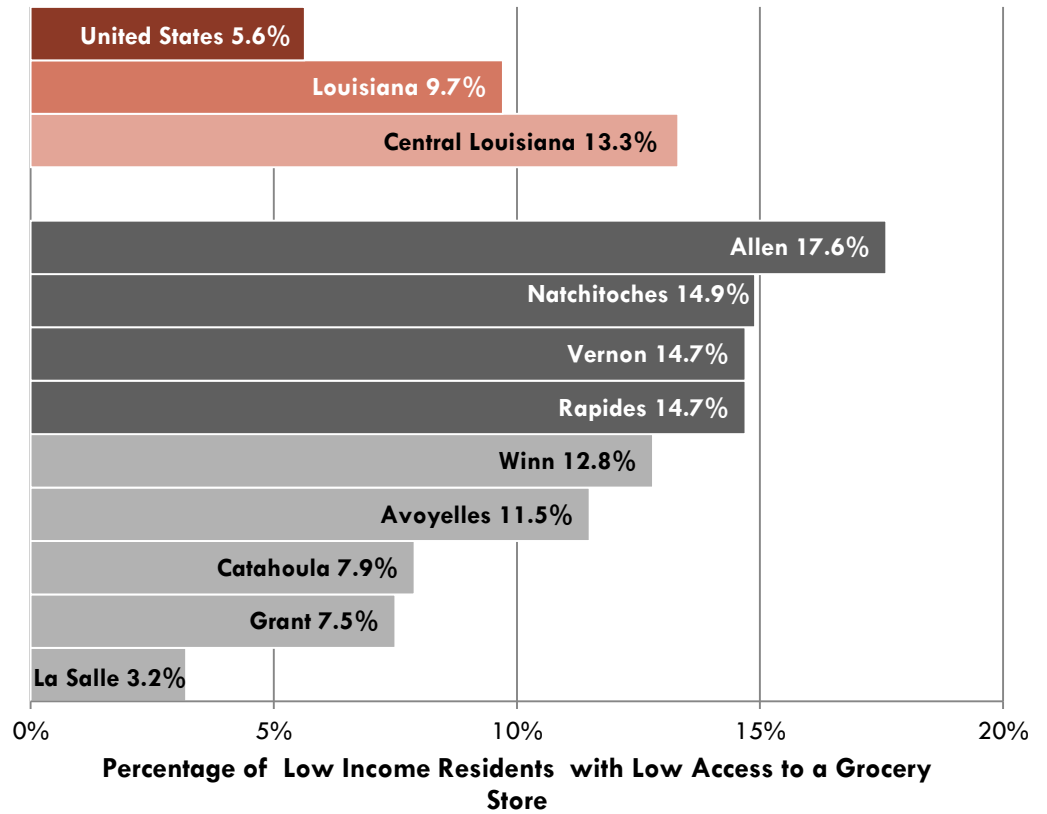
Compared to the region, a **larger percentage** of seniors in **Winn Parish** and **Rapides Parish** have low access to a grocery store.



LOW ACCESS among LOW INCOME RESIDENTS

Compared to the state, a **higher percentage** of low income residents in **Central Louisiana** have low access to a grocery store.

Compared to the region, a **larger percentage** of low income residents in **Allen, Natchitoches, Vernon, and Rapides Parishes** have low access to a grocery store.



HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO CAR & LOW ACCESS

Compared to the region, over **3%** of residents in **each parish** in Central Louisiana have low access to a grocery store and no car.

Over **5%** of residents in **Catahoula Parish, Avoyelles Parish, Winn Parish, and Natchitoches Parish** has low access and are without a car.

STORE AVAILABILITY

A thriving food market that serves the needs and consumption demands of its residents should include a variety of store outlets, such as large and small grocery stores, specialty stores that sell meat or bread, farmer’s markets, and stores that accept food assistance vouchers for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women, Infant, and Children (WIC). Additionally, the number of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms in the region – where residents support a farm at the start of the growing season and are then provided with a share in the production throughout the season – provides a snapshot into the both the availability of local food and the demand for local food.

NUMBER of STORES

Similar to the state and country, there are more convenience stores in Central Louisiana than grocery stores, specialty stores, farmers’ markets and CSA farms combined. A large proportion of stores in the region accept SNAP benefits for the purchase of food.

In **Rapides Parishes** there are nearly **6 times as many** convenience stores than grocery stores; however, there are **7 CSA farms** operating indicating a supply and demand for local foods.

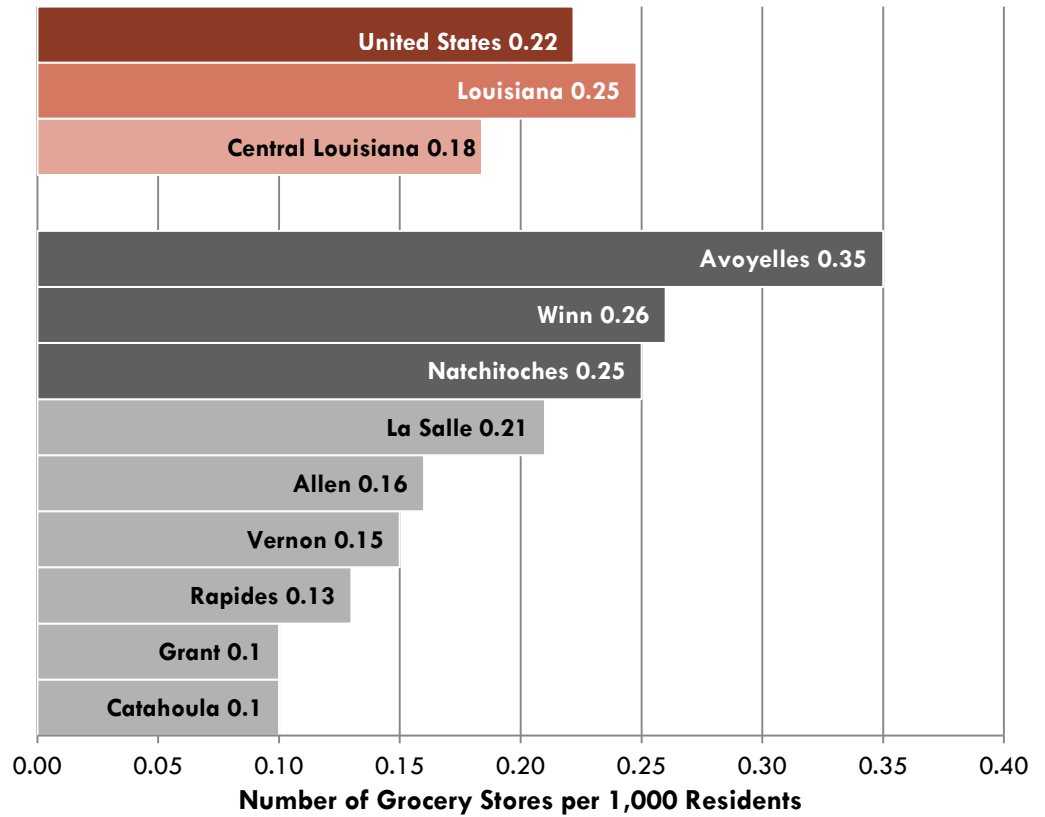
There are **less than 3** grocery stores in **Catahoula, Grant, and La Salle Parishes**, and **zero** farmers; markets or CSA farms.

	# of STORES or FOOD VENDORS						
	Grocery Stores	Specialty Stores	Farmers’ Markets	CSA Farms	SNAP- Authorized	WIC- Authorized	Convenience Stores
United States	68,123	23,952	7,837	12,549	255,533	49,101	120,604
Louisiana	1,114	314	62	111	4,817	716	2,511
Central Louisiana	64	17	8	15	429	53	247
Allen	4	1	1	0	34	4	10
Avoyelles	15	7	3	5	76	8	32
Catahoula	1	1	0	0	11	2	7
Grant Parish	2	0	0	0	19	2	11
La Salle	3	0	0	0	18	3	15
Natchitoches	10	1	1	2	40	6	30
Rapides	18	5	0	7	177	21	101
Vernon	7	2	2	0	36	4	32
Winn	4	0	1	1	18	3	9

GROCERY STORES per POPULATION

The number of grocery stores per 1,000 residents is **1.4 times lower** in **Central Louisiana** compared to the state.

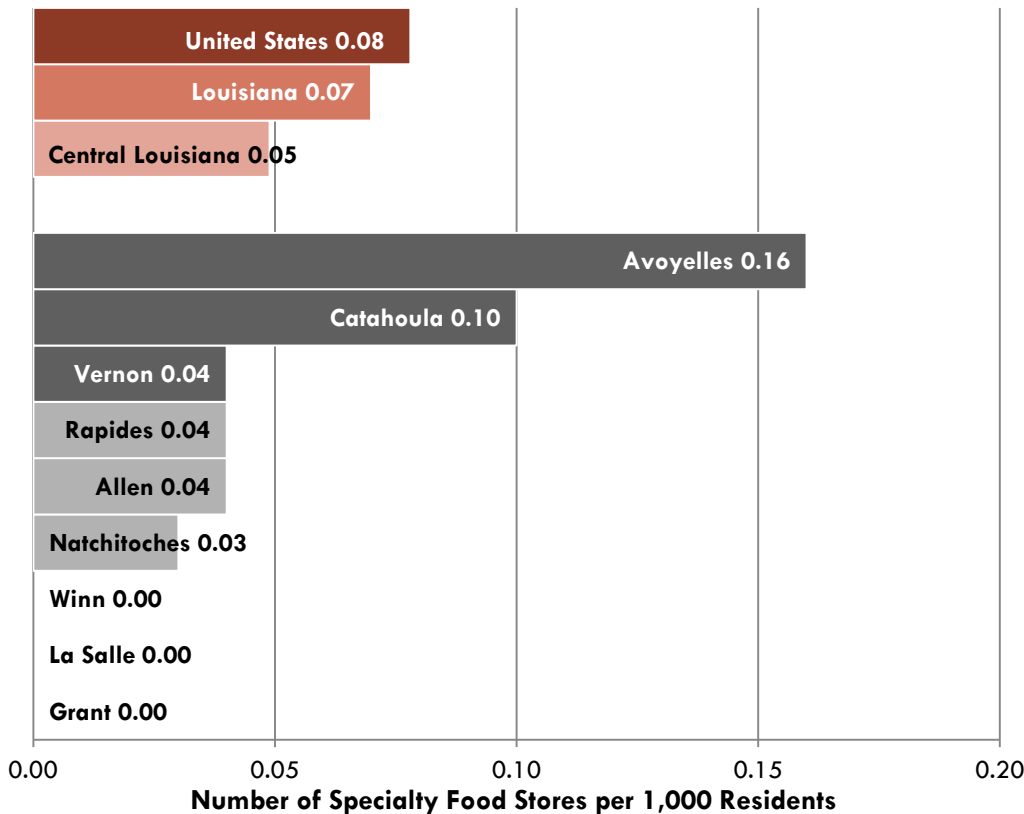
In **Avoyelles Parish**, the number of grocery stores per 1,000 residents is almost **2 times higher** than the region.



SPECIALTY STORES per POPULATION

The number of specialty stores, such as meat markets per 1,000 residents is **lower** in **Central Louisiana** compared to the state.

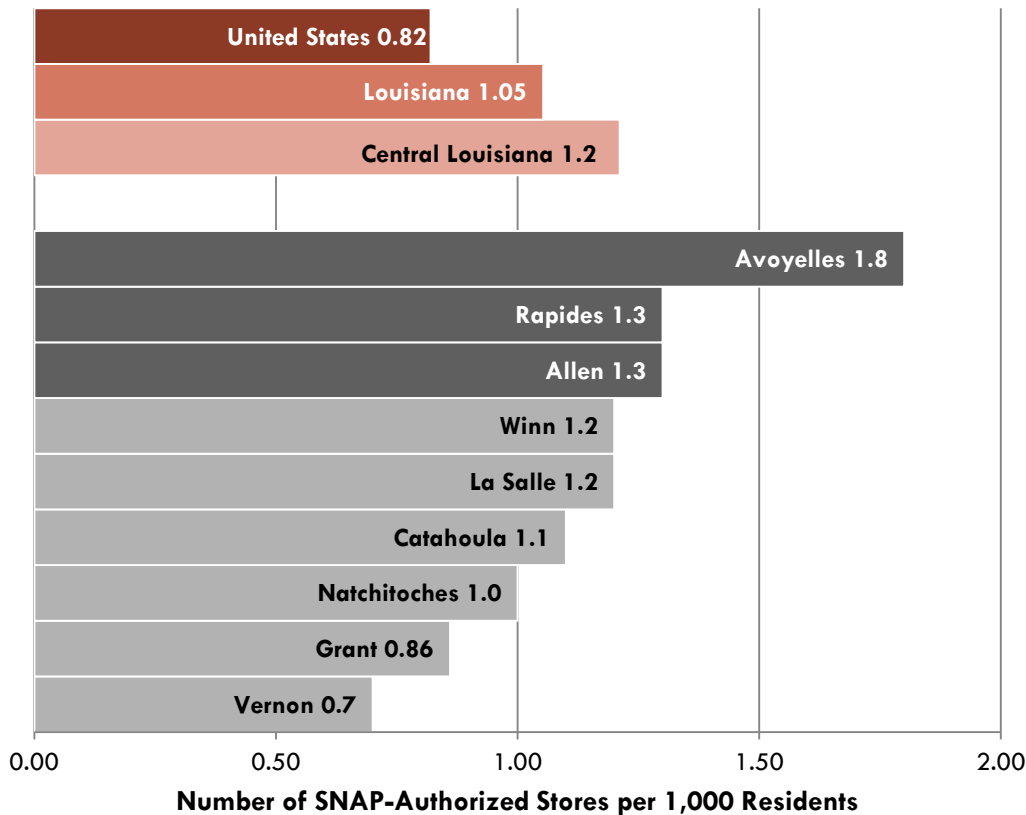
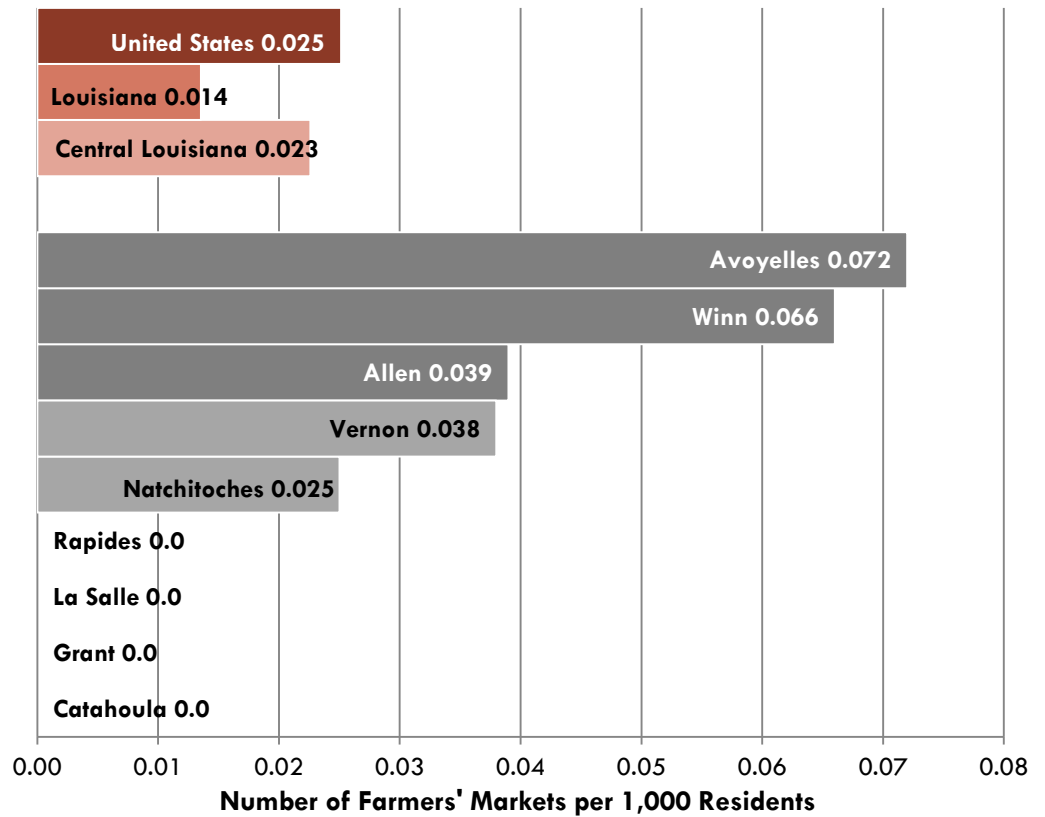
In **Avoyelles Parish** and **Catahoula Parish**, the number of specialty stores per 1,000 residents is almost **higher** than the region.



FARMER'S MARKETS per POPULATION

The number of farmers' markets per 1,000 residents in **Central Louisiana** is **higher** compared to the state, and is roughly **3 times higher** in **Avoyelles Parish** and **Winn Parish**.

There are **zero** farmers' markets in **Rapides, La Salle, Grant, and Catahoula Parishes**.



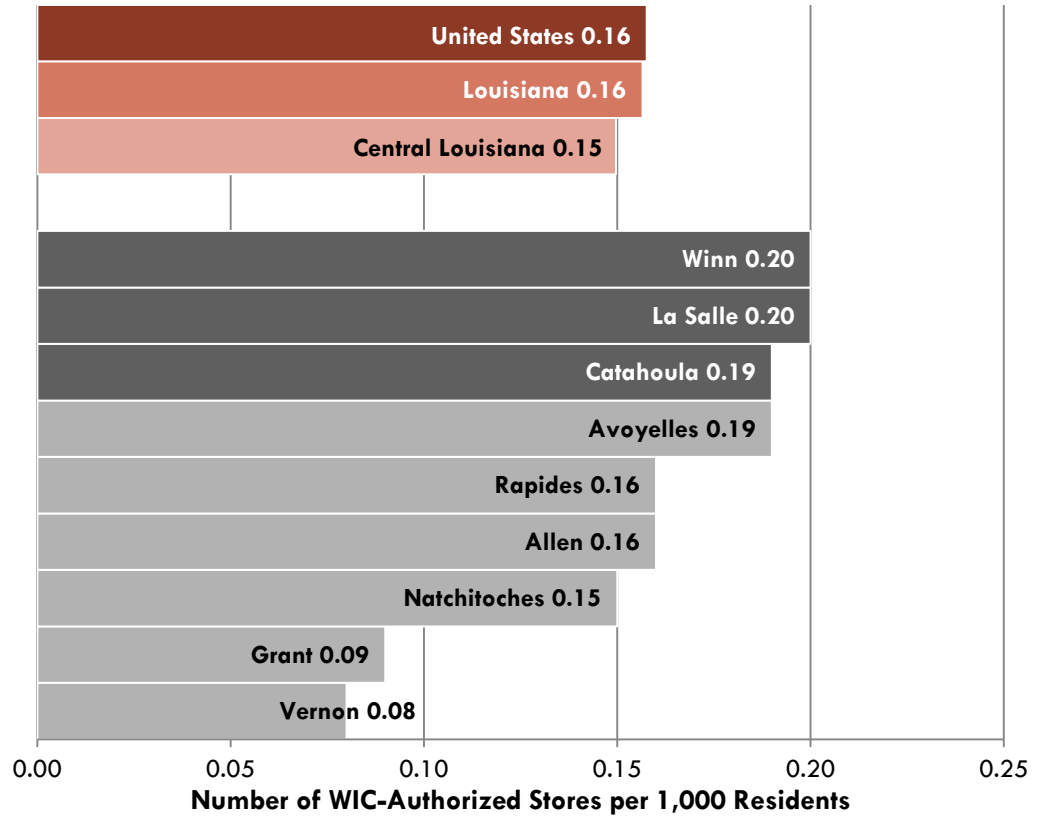
SNAP-AUTHORIZED STORES per POPULATION

The number of stores that accept SNAP benefits per 1,000 residents is **higher** in **Central Louisiana** compared to the state and country, particularly in **Avoyelles Parish**.

WIC-AUTHORIZED STORES per POPULATION

The number of stores that accept WIC benefits per 1,000 residents in **Central Louisiana** is **similar** to the state.

There are roughly **2 times fewer** WIC-authorized stores per 1,000 residents in **Vernon Parish** and **Grant Parish** compared to the region.

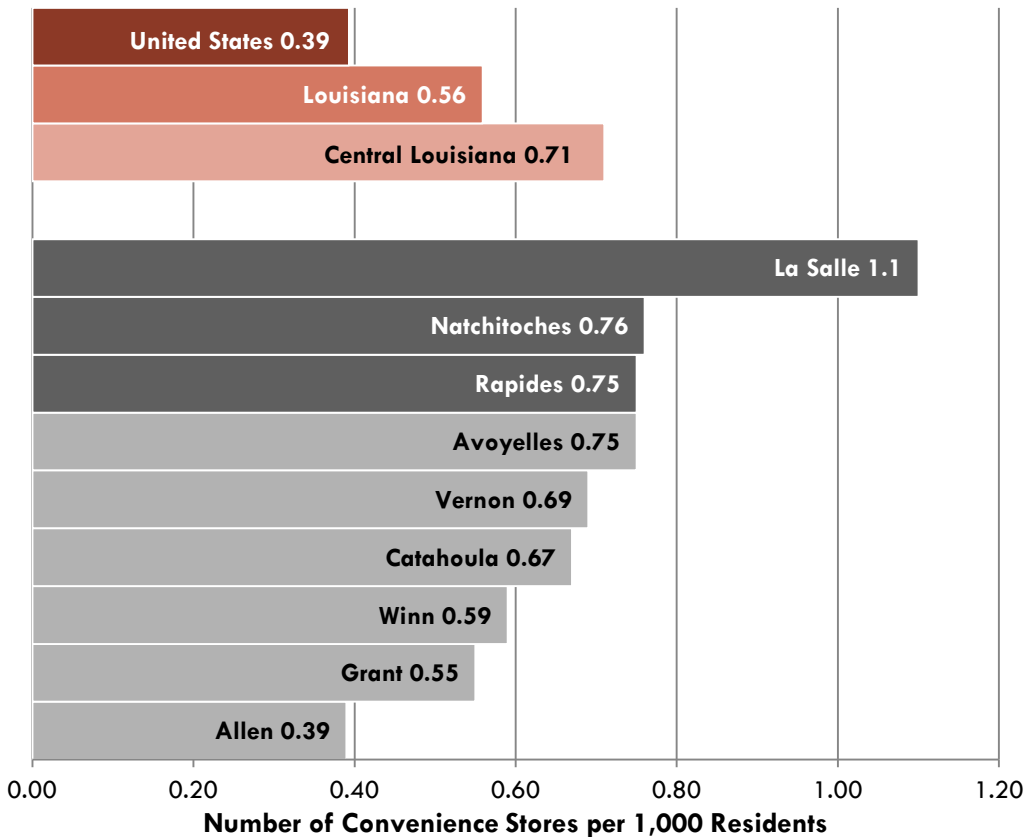


CONVENIENCE STORES per POPULATION

The number of convenience stores per 1,000 residents is **higher** in **Central Louisiana** compared to the state.

In **La Salle Parish** the number of convenience stores per 1,000 residents is **1.5 times higher** compared to the region.

There are nearly **2 times fewer** convenience stores per 1,000 residents in **Allen Parish** compared to the region.



Regional Summary

Central Louisiana

Local Food Production

Around 20% of farmland available in Louisiana is found in Central Louisiana. The largest amount of farms acres available in the region is in Grant Parish, followed by Avoyelles Parish, and Catahoula Parish. The parishes with the smallest amount of farms and farmland acres available in Central Louisiana are Winn Parish and La Salle Parish.

Compared to the entire state of Louisiana, over 90% of farm acreage in Central Louisiana is occupied by family farms rather than corporate farms.

Less than 50% of the farmland in Central Louisiana is used as cropland and around 75% of that cropland is harvested.

Less than 2% of all harvested cropland in Central Louisiana is used to harvest specialty crops which include vegetables, fruit trees, berries, and tree nuts. The remainder of harvested cropland in the region is likely used for growing grains, hay, and other woody crops.

Approximately 16% of vegetable acres harvested in Louisiana are harvested in Central Louisiana, where 36% of vegetable acres harvested for processing in the state are harvested in the region and 10% of vegetable acres harvested for fresh market in the state are harvested in the region. This indicates that growing vegetables for processing purposes is a larger practice in the region than growing vegetables to sell at markets or roadside stands.

Local Food Demand

The demand for vegetables, tree nuts, grains, and animal products from residents in the Central Louisiana region makes up 8% of the state-wide demand for each of these food categories, respectively. Interestingly, the demand for fruits in Central Louisiana makes up 15% of the total demand for fruits from the state. This suggests that fruits are purchased more frequently among residents in the region than the others mentioned previously.

Local Food Sales

Approximately 70% of farms in Central Louisiana produce less than \$10,000 of agricultural products a year. This dollar amount reflects only the absolute value of goods produced and does not account for taxes or production related expenses such as equipment costs.

Among all farms in Louisiana that sell agriculture products directly to consumers, 14% are located in Central Louisiana. The overall dollar amount spent of agricultural products directly sold to consumers per capita is higher in the region (\$2.56) compared to the state (\$1.70). This suggests that farms in Central Louisiana that sell goods directly to consumers earn higher sales compared to the entire state.

Health

A higher percentage of adult residents in the Central Louisiana region consume at least 5 fruits or vegetables a day compared to the state. However, only 33% of residents do consume 5 servings of produce daily. Overall, 52% of children ages 2 to 17 years old in Central Louisiana consume at least 5 fruits or vegetables a day.

With the exception of Winn Parish, over 10% of preschoolers age 2 to 4 in the Central Louisiana parishes are considered obese, and 22.8% of children ages 6 to 17 years old in Central Louisiana are obese, which is lower than the nation rate of 26%. Among adults, 34.7% of adults in the region are obese and close to 11% have ever been diagnosed with diabetes.

Given that a healthy diet is one of the key components of maintaining health and reducing the risk of chronic conditions such as obesity, increasing both access to and consumption of fruits and vegetables among residents in Central Louisiana could contribute to lowering the rate of chronic diseases over time in the area.

Availability of Food

Compared to the state a higher percentage of residents in Central Louisiana have low access to a grocery store, especially among vulnerable groups like children, seniors, and low income residents. In fact, there are more convenience stores in the region than grocery stores, specialty stores, farmers' markets and CSA farms combined suggesting a limited number of vendors of fresh foods in the area. Interestingly, the number of farmers' markets per 1,000 residents in Central Louisiana is higher compared to the state, but it remains less than 0.03 farmers' markets per 1,000 residents.

Limited access to healthy foods is an issue within Central Louisiana; however, considering the limited number of farmers' markets or CSA farms in the overall region there may be an opportunity for existing farms to pursue new opportunities in underserved parishes. This could be particularly advantageous given the fact that farmers who sell products directly to farms earn higher sales per capita compared to the rest of the state. Less than 2% of all harvested cropland in Central Louisiana is used to harvest specialty crops which include vegetables, fruit trees, berries, and tree nuts. The remainder of harvested cropland in the region is likely used for growing grains, hay, and other woody crops.

Parish Summary

The following outlines key findings from the assessment for each parish within the Central Louisiana Region.

Allen Parish

There are 83,173 acres of farmland in Allen Parish, and 20% of this farmland is harvested cropland. Less than 1% of all harvested cropland in Allen Parish reported is used to harvest specialty crops which include vegetables, fruit trees, berries, and tree nuts.

Small family farms occupy 60% of total farm acreage available in the parish, and Allen Parish has the highest number of limited resource farm acres in the region. Twenty-two farms in the parish sold \$43,000 of agricultural products directly to consumers.

Close to 10% of residents in Allen Parish find it very difficult to purchase fruits and vegetables, which is the highest percentage in the region. Compared to the region, a larger percentage of residents in Allen Parish have low access to grocery stores, particularly low income residents.

Avoyelles Parish

There are 278,465 acres of farmland in Avoyelles Parish, and 60% of this farmland is harvested cropland. Less than 2% of all harvested cropland in Avoyelles Parish reported is used to harvest

specialty crops which include vegetables, fruit trees, berries, and tree nuts. Yet, nearly 81% of all vegetable acres harvested in Central Louisiana are harvested in Avoyelles Parish.

Family farms occupy 90% of total farm acreage available in the parish, and more farms in Avoyelles Parish produce more than \$50,000 worth of agricultural products compared to the region.

Catahoula Parish

There are 231,106 acres of farmland in Catahoula Parish, and 60% of this farmland is harvested cropland. Even so, less than 0.2% of all harvested cropland in Catahoula Parish reported is used to harvest specialty crops which include vegetables, fruit trees, berries, and tree nuts.

Family farms occupy 88% of total farm acreage available in the parish. There were more farms in Catahoula Parish that produced more than \$50,000 of agricultural products (19%) compared to the region (13%); however, over 50% of farms in the parish produce less than \$2,500 agricultural products. Five farms in the parish sold \$21,000 of agricultural products directly to consumers.

There are less than 3 grocery stores in Catahoula Parish and no farmers' markets or CSA farms.

Grant Parish

There are 517,737 acres of farmland in Grant Parish, which comprises 32% of all farmland in Central Louisiana. However, only 3% of this farmland is harvested cropland and 6% of all harvested cropland in Grant Parish reported is used to harvest specialty crops which include vegetables, fruit trees, berries, and tree nuts.

Over 50% of farms in Grant Parish produce less than \$2,500 agricultural products. Fourteen farms in the parish sold \$72,000 of agricultural products directly to consumers.

There are less than 3 grocery stores in Grant Parish and no farmers' markets or CSA farms.

La Salle Parish

There are 20,301 acres of farmland in La Salle Parish, and 16% of this farmland is harvested cropland. Less than 1% of all harvested cropland in Grant Parish reported is used to harvest specialty crops which include vegetables, fruit trees, berries, and tree nuts.

Over 75% of farms in La Salle Parish produce less than \$10,000 agricultural products. Six farms in the parish sold \$6,000 of agricultural products directly to consumers.

Around 65% of annual demand for fruits in the region is from La Salle Parish. There are less than 3 grocery stores in La Salle Parish and no farmers' markets or CSA farms.

Natchitoches Parish

There are 221,756 acres of farmland in Natchitoches Parish, and 31% of this farmland is harvested cropland. Approximately 6% of all harvested cropland in Natchitoches Parish reported is used to harvest specialty crops which include vegetables, fruit trees, berries, and tree nuts. In fact, over 75% of reported acres available to grow tree nuts in Central Louisiana are found in Natchitoches Parish.

Family farms occupy 89% of total farm acreage available in the parish. There were more farms in Natchitoches Parish that produced more than \$50,000 of agricultural products (17%) compared to the region (13%). Seventeen farms in the parish sold \$351,000 of agricultural products directly to consumers.

Compared to the region, a larger percentage of low income residents in Natchitoches Parish have low access to a grocery store.

Rapides Parish

There are 177,300 acres of farmland in Rapides Parish, and 48% of this farmland is harvested cropland. Even so, less than 2% of all harvested cropland in Rapides Parish reported is used to harvest specialty crops which include vegetables, fruit trees, berries, and tree nuts.

Family farms occupy 88% of total farm acreage available in the parish. There were more farms in Rapides Parish that produced more than \$50,000 of agricultural products (17%) compared to the region (13%). Forty-five farms in the parish sold \$287,000 of agricultural products directly to consumers.

Compared to the region, a larger percentage of residents in Rapides Parish have low access to grocery stores, particularly children, seniors and low income residents.

In Rapides Parishes there are almost 6 times more convenience stores than grocery stores; however, there are 7 CSA farms operating indicating a supply and demand for local foods.

Vernon Parish

There are 50,633 acres of farmland in Vernon Parish, and 14% of this farmland is harvested cropland. Less than 2% of all harvested cropland in Rapides Parish reported is used to harvest specialty crops which include vegetables, fruit trees, berries, and tree nuts.

Over 50% of farms in Vernon Parish produce less than \$2,500 agricultural products. Thirty-six farms in the parish sold \$100,000 of agricultural products directly to consumers.

Compared to the region, a larger percentage of residents in Vernon Parish have low access to grocery stores, particularly children and low income residents.

Winn Parish

There are 21,395 acres of farmland in Winn Parish, and 15% of this farmland is harvested cropland. Less than 1% of all harvested cropland in Winn Parish reported is used to harvest specialty crops which include vegetables, fruit trees, berries, and tree nuts.

Over 50% of farms in Winn Parish produce less than \$2,500 agricultural products. Four farms in the parish sold \$7,000 of agricultural products directly to consumers.

Compared to the region, a larger percentage of senior residents in Winn Parish have low access to grocery stores.

Sources

Domain	Measure	Source	Year	
Local Food Production				
Farmland Available	Total Number of Farms and Acres	United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Census of Agriculture	2007	
	Average Farm Size	USDA Census of Agriculture	2007	
	Type of Farms	USDA Census of Agriculture	2007	
Crop Production	Total Cropland Available	USDA Census of Agriculture	2007	
	Harvested Cropland	USDA Census of Agriculture	2007	
	Specialty Crops Harvested	USDA Census of Agriculture	2007	
	Slaughterhouses		USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service	2012
			Louisiana Department of Agriculture	2012
			USDA Census of Agriculture	2007
Processing Facilities		USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service	2012	
Local Food Demand				
Annual Consumer Demand	Demand for Vegetables	Iowa State University U.S Food Market Estimator	2007	
	Demand for Fruits	Iowa State University U.S Food Market Estimator	2007	
	Demand for Nuts	Iowa State University U.S Food Market Estimator	2007	
	Demand for Grains	Iowa State University U.S Food Market Estimator	2007	
	Demand for Animal Products	Iowa State University U.S Food Market Estimator	2007	
Local Food Sales				

Domain	Measure	Source	Year
Farm Sales	Farms by Value of Sales	USDA Census of Agriculture	2007
Direct Farm Sales to Consumers	Number of Farms with Direct Sales to Consumers	USDA Food Environment Atlas	2007
	% of Farms with Direct Consumer Sales	USDA Food Environment Atlas	2007
	\$ Spent per Residents – Direct Farm Sales	USDA Food Environment Atlas	2007
Population Characteristics			
	Total Population	US Census	2010
	Employment Status	American Community Survey	2007-2011
	Low SES among All Residents	American Community Survey	2007-2011
	Children in Low SES Households	American Community Survey	2007-2011
	Low SES Seniors	American Community Survey	2007-2011
Health			
Nutritional Status	Fruits and Vegetables - Adults	Professional Research Consultants (PRC) Community Health Assessment of the Rapides Foundation Service Area	2010
	Fruit/Fruit Juices – Adults	PRC Community Health Assessment of the Rapides Foundation Service Area	2010
	Fruits and Vegetables – Children	PRC Community Health Assessment of the Rapides Foundation Service Area	2010
	Difficulty Purchasing Fresh Produce	PRC Community Health Assessment of the Rapides Foundation Service Area	2010
Health Risk Behaviors	Childhood Obesity – Preschoolers Only	USDA Food Environment Atlas	2009-2011
	Childhood Obesity – 6 to 17 Year Olds	PRC Community Health Assessment of the Rapides Foundation Service Area	2010
	Adult Obesity	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey	2006-2010

Domain	Measure	Source	Year
	Weight Loss Behavior	PRC Community Health Assessment of the Rapides Foundation Service Area	2010
	Diabetes	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey	2006-2010
	Leading Causes of Death	Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health, and Vital Statistics Department	2010
Availability of Food			
Access to Grocery Stores	Low Access among All Residents	USDA Food Environment Atlas	2010
	Low Access among Children	USDA Food Environment Atlas	2010
	Low Access among Seniors	USDA Food Environment Atlas	2010
	Low Access among Low Income Residents	USDA Food Environment Atlas	2010
	Households with No Car and Low Access	USDA Food Environment Atlas	2010
Store Availability	Number of Stores	USDA Food Environment Atlas	2009, 2011, 2012
	Grocery Stores per Population	USDA Food Environment Atlas	2009
	Specialty Stores per Population	USDA Food Environment Atlas	2009
	Farmers' Markets per Population	USDA Food Environment Atlas	2012
	SNAP-Authorized Stores per Population	USDA Food Environment Atlas	2011
	WIC-Authorized Stores per Population	USDA Food Environment Atlas	2011
	Convenience Stores per Population	USDA Food Environment Atlas	2009