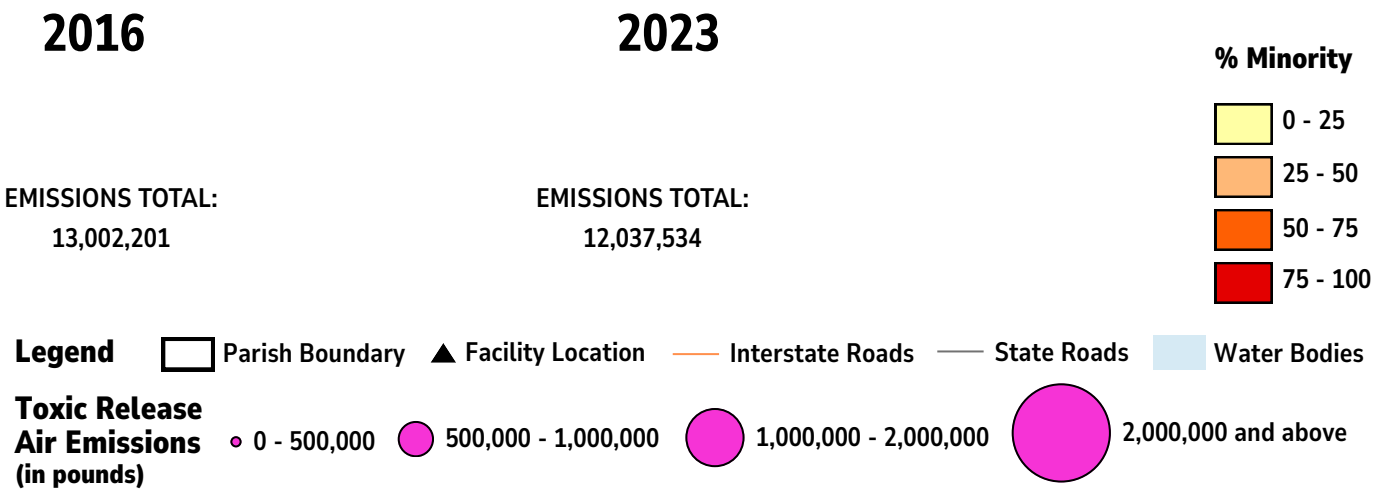
PARISH PROFILE › ASCENSION PARISH

Environmental Conditions and Community Health Where You Live

TOXIC RELEASE INVENTORY



Parish Data

Total Population: 126,500
Percent Minority (year 2020): 28%*
Percent Poverty (year 2020): 11%*
Number of Releasing facilities: 26
Total Emissions (last 8 years): 104,031,287

*Living within a 2-mile radius of the facilities

You have the right to be informed and meaningfully heard in decisions about proposed and expanding industrial facilities that affect your health and environment.

LOCATION MATTERS: Living near multiple industrial facilities can increase exposure to air pollution and hazardous chemicals over time. **In areas where pollution is already elevated, additional facilities can raise concerns about added risk and the need for precaution.**

This handout highlights key data patterns that show:

- where environmental and health concerns are already elevated
- how these conditions overlap with proposed and expanding facilities
- why residents and advocates are calling for closer scrutiny of new permits and expansions

This document was prepared and produced by the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice in partnership with Intellectual Concepts, LLC.

ASCENSION PARISH

Environmental data is used to evaluate whether new or expanded petrochemical facilities should be permitted in communities within your parish.

KEY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES OF CONCERN

These conditions reflect what has been measured in the local air and environment, and are used in permitting, regulatory review, and legal challenges related to new or expanded petrochemical facilities.



Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5)

(PM2.5) refers to tiny particles in the air that can be inhaled deep into the lungs. Long-term exposure is associated with respiratory and cardiovascular health effects.

Measured PM2.5 levels in Ascencion are higher than the state average, indicating elevated exposure.



Diesel Particulate Matter

Diesel particulate matter is pollution produced by diesel engines used in trucks, freight transport, and industrial equipment. Long-term exposure is associated with respiratory and cardiovascular health concerns.

Diesel pollution levels in Ascencion are higher than state and national averages.



Risk Management Plan (RMP) Facility Proximity

RMP facilities are industrial sites that store or use large amounts of hazardous chemicals and are required to plan for accidental releases, such as spills, fires, or explosions. Living close to these facilities matters because accidents can create sudden exposure and emergency risks.

Many Ascencion residents live nearby, increasing emergency and exposure concerns.

Toxic Releases to Air (TRI)

Toxic air releases are chemicals reported by industrial facilities under the federal Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). They show where hazardous air pollutants are present.

Facilities in Ascencion report toxic air releases far higher than state and national averages, indicating concentrated exposure near industrial sites.



Ground-Level Ozone

Ground-level ozone is a pollutant formed when emissions from vehicles and industrial sources react in sunlight. Ozone levels are measured to assess air quality and respiratory stress.

Measured ozone levels in Ascencion are higher than both state and national averages.

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Taken together, these conditions show that Ascencion is already experiencing multiple, overlapping sources of pollution and exposure.

Measured air pollution indicators show that Ascencion already faces elevated environmental exposure compared to broader benchmarks.

ASCENSION PARISH

WHAT WE'RE SEEING

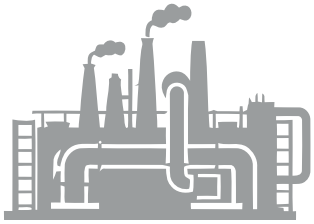
In a small parish with a limited population, industrial facilities are clustered close to residential areas, resulting in concentrated exposure over time. Air pollution indicators, facility proximity, and cancer incidence data together point to a level of risk that is significant for a parish of this size. These patterns raise concerns when considering whether additional industrial activity or emissions can be responsibly permitted in Ascencion Parish.

Cancer and Long-Term Health Patterns

Cancer incidence data shows higher cancer case counts for a parish of this size.

Cancer has many contributing factors, and no single exposure can be identified as the sole cause. However, elevated cancer rates are widely recognized as an important signal when they occur in areas with long-term industrial pollution.

Facility Concentration and Cumulative Exposure



Ascencion Parish has a high concentration of industrial facilities located close together and near residential areas.

When exposure from multiple sources occurs over time, risks accumulate rather than remain constant. Cumulative exposure is a key consideration when evaluating whether additional facilities or emissions can be responsibly permitted.

WHY THESE CONDITIONS MATTER TOGETHER

Environmental and health data like this is often used to:

- evaluate whether additional industrial facilities or emissions can be responsibly permitted
- identify areas where cumulative exposure warrants restraint or denial of new permits
- support stronger conditions, monitoring requirements, or enforcement actions at existing facilities

WHY PREVENTION MATTERS

When multiple indicators of exposure and health concern are already present, preventing additional pollution is widely recognized as a responsible public health/regulatory approach.

KEY TAKEAWAY: **Acting before harm worsens is a core principle of public health and environmental regulation.**

USING THIS INFORMATION FOR ACTION



WHY THIS INFORMATION MATTERS

Environmental and health data like this is not collected for awareness alone. It is routinely used to inform decisions about industrial permitting, facility expansions, and regulatory oversight — especially in communities already experiencing elevated pollution and health concerns.



WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE DATA

This handout draws from reported emissions and environmental monitoring data related to petrochemical and plastics production, including:

- air toxics such as benzene and vinyl chloride
- volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- pollutants associated with fine particulate matter

These categories are commonly reviewed because of their relevance to long-term health and environmental protection.



HOW THIS INFORMATION IS USED

Community members, advocates, researchers, and regulators use this to:

- **participate in public comment and permitting processes**
- **ask questions about proposed and expanding facilities**
- **evaluate whether additional pollution can be responsibly permitted**
- **advocate for stronger protections and regulatory safeguards**
- **support legal and policy strategies aimed at preventing further harm**



WHY PREVENTION IS EMPHASIZED

When multiple environmental and health concerns are already present, acting early to prevent additional pollution is widely recognized as a responsible public health and regulatory approach.

About This Project

This parish-level handout builds on DSCEJ's 2023 report, ***The More Things Change, The More They Remain the Same: Living and Dying in Cancer Alley (1990–2023)***, which documents decades of petrochemical expansion, facility clustering, and disproportionate impacts throughout the Mississippi River Chemical Corridor.

For more information, please visit toxinsharmhealth.org.

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