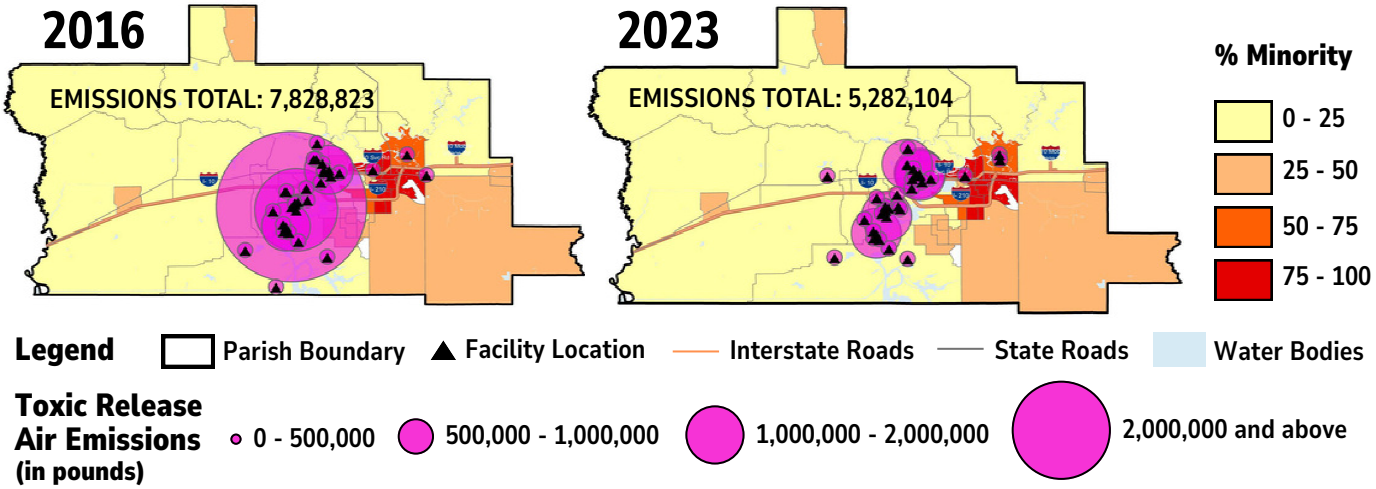
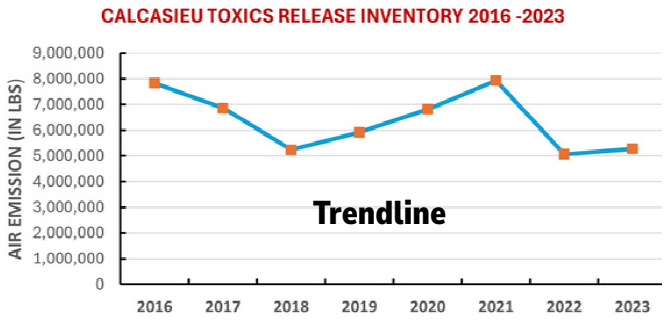
PARISH PROFILE ❯ CALCASIEU

Environmental Conditions and Community Health Where You Live

Calcasieu Parish is a major industrial hub in Southwest Louisiana, with a high concentration of petrochemical, refining, and liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities. As additional industrial development is proposed, understanding existing environmental and community health conditions is critical to evaluating whether further expansion can be responsibly permitted.

CALCASIEU PARISH TOXIC RELEASE INVENTORY





Parish Data

Total Population: 216,785
Percent Minority (year 2020): 35.2%*
Percent Poverty (year 2020): 16. 7%*
Number of Releasing facilities: 31
Total Emissions (last 8 years): 50,944,792

*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.

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 Calcasieu Parish are higher than both state and national averages, indicating elevated exposure.



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.

Calcasieu Parish has RMP proximity levels that are THREE TIMES HIGHER than the state average and FOUR TIMES HIGHER than the national average.

Toxic Releases to Air (TRI)

Toxic air releases are chemicals reported by industrial facilities under the federal Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). Data reflects reported emissions, not individual exposure levels.

Calcasieu Parish has toxic release to air levels SIX TIMES HIGHER than that of the state average and 20 TIMES HIGHER than the national average.



Air Toxic Cancer Risk

Air toxic cancer risk reflects long-term exposure to hazardous air pollutants associated with industrial activity.

Cancer risk levels in Calcasieu Parish are FIVE TIMES HIGHER than state and national benchmarks, raising concerns when considered alongside decades of industrial emissions.

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Measured air pollution indicators show that Calcasieu Parish already faces elevated environmental risk compared to state and national benchmarks.

WHAT WE'RE SEEING

Calcasieu Parish has experienced decades of industrial activity alongside continued expansion, resulting in sustained air pollution and high facility concentration. Elevated toxic air releases, cancer risk indicators, and proximity to hazardous facilities reflect long-term exposure affecting nearby communities. Taken together, these conditions underscore the need for caution when evaluating further industrial development or expansion in the parish.

Cancer and Long-Term Health Patterns

Cancer incidence data for Calcasieu Parish shows high cancer case counts, reinforcing concerns when considered alongside extensive industrial activity and air toxic releases.

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.

The data shows that the average cancer incident for the Parish is five times higher than expected based on population size.

5X

These health patterns do not appear in isolation. They exist alongside long-term industrial activity and repeated air toxic releases.

Facility Concentration and Cumulative Exposure



Calcasieu Parish has one of the highest concentrations of industrial facilities in Louisiana, with many 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.

The data shows that reported toxic air releases in the Parish are 20 times higher than the national average, based on population size.

20X

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 protections, monitoring, or enforcement actions at existing facilities

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

Calcasieu Parish already carries a substantial industrial and pollution burden that must be considered before approving additional facilities or expansions.

Taking action 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 parish-level handout draws from reported emissions and environmental monitoring data related to petrochemical, refining, and LNG operations, including:

- air toxics such as benzene and ethylene dichloride
- 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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