



KEY FINDINGS: Litter Cost Study

Louisiana spends an estimated \$91.4 million each year on litter prevention, education, remediation and enforcement. This is a 65% expenditure increase since the 2010 KLB study.

\$91,409,573 PER YEAR

Direct Costs of Litter in Louisiana

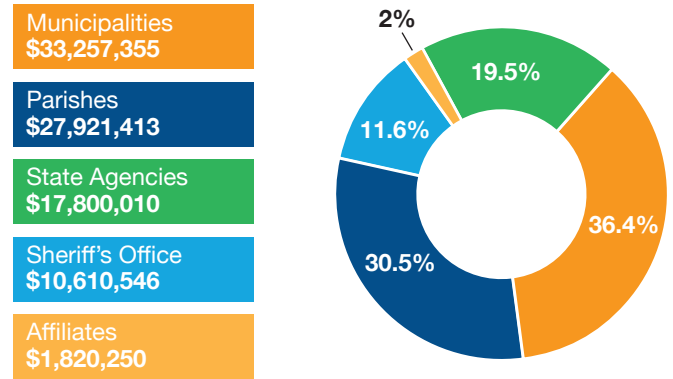
Most entities do not have a budget line item for litter and illegal dumping expenditures, making it challenging to account for all costs associated with all departments.

Local jurisdictions combined bear over 80% of the costs of addressing litter.

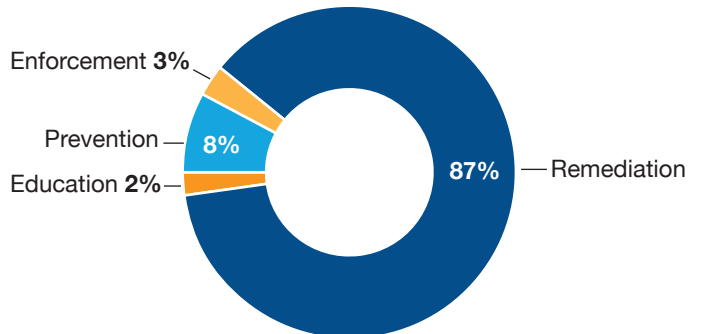
Expenditure overwhelmingly focuses on remediation or cleanup versus prevention. **Local jurisdictions spend seven times more to remove litter and trash than on preventing it from being generated.**

Prevention and education account for only 10% of the estimated overall cost, but research shows that increased funding in these areas could lead to a reduction in littering behavior.

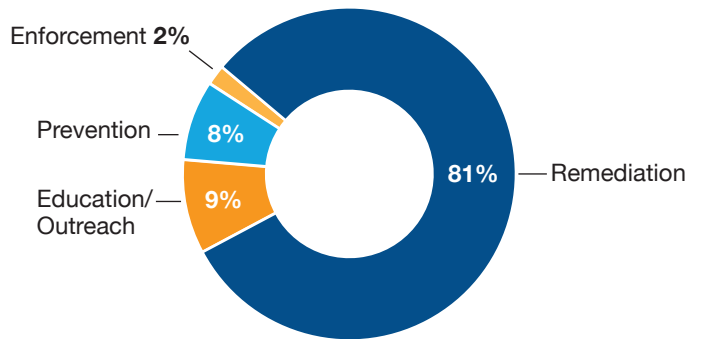
Litter Costs Expenditures by Jurisdictions



Local Government Cost by Category



State Agency Cost by Category



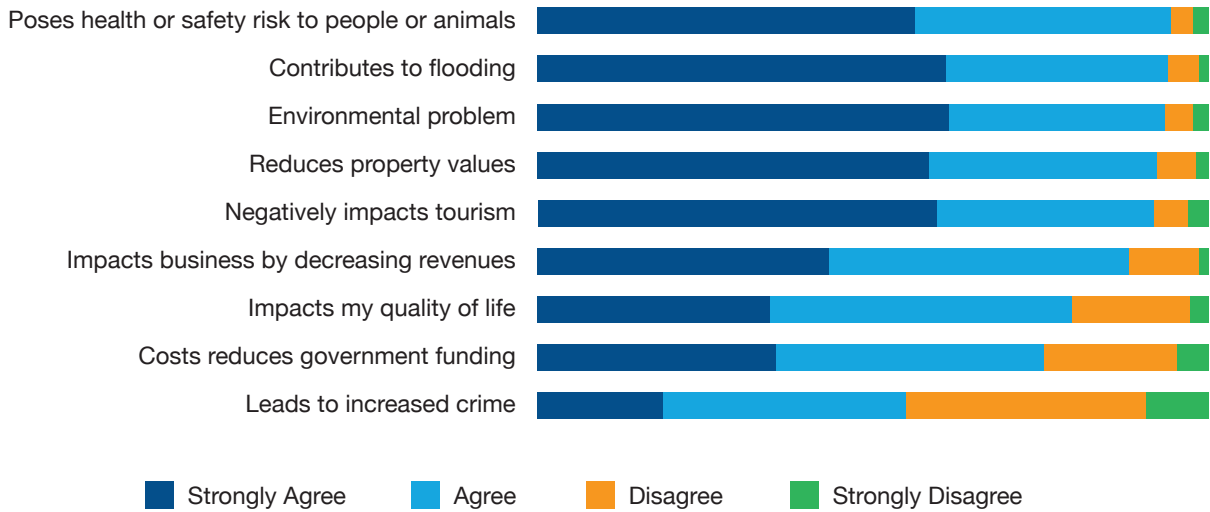
One of the recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on Litter Abatement and Beautification was to conduct comprehensive litter research to better understand and address the problem. Thanks to funding from the Louisiana State Legislature and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Keep Louisiana Beautiful oversaw the state's first litter research in over a decade. The research consists of three parts—the Roadway Litter Survey, the Public Attitude Survey, and the Litter Cost Study. Scan the QR code to read all reports.





Indirect Costs of Litter

Beyond the tangible expenses linked to litter remediation, enforcement, and cleanup lie the indirect costs. Respondents overwhelmingly agree that litter poses a threat to our environment, economy, and general quality of life.



Hidden Costs of Litter

Most entities do not have a budget line item for litter and illegal dumping expenditures, making it challenging to account for all the costs associated. Litter and illegal dumping removal costs may be hidden by incorporating them within employee expenses or projects.

It is recommended that local government jurisdictions adopt a consistent expenditure tracking and reporting system to better account for and understand the obvious and hidden costs of litter.

The study was conducted by a Project Team led by Carson Consulting. The team consisted of Tetra Tech BAS, Steve Stein, and numerous individuals with an extensive history of conducting national, state, and local research studies. The Litter Cost Study estimates what litter costs Louisiana taxpayers by measuring local government and state agency expenditures on litter cleanup, abatement, and enforcement. While efforts were made to obtain cost data from a statistically representative sample of local and state agencies, entities, and jurisdictions, the costs presented in this report should be viewed as estimates.

