

LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN

Louisiana's Children At a Glance¹

State Population ²	4,574,836	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵	28.8%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	1,119,248	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶	27.2%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	20.4%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	32.2%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, Louisiana had 43,665 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 26,255 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2011, 9,545 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Louisiana, a rate of 8.5 per 1,000 children, representing a 7.3% increase from 2010. Of these children, 81.5% were neglected, 28.1% were physically abused, and 9.4% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has increased 0.8% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.¹⁰
- Louisiana responds to lower risk, higher safety reports through alternative response services to address family issues. 11,822 reports were responded to in this way in 2011.¹¹
- In 2011, 45 children in Louisiana died as a result of abuse or neglect.¹²
- In 2011, 4,531 children in Louisiana lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 4,453 children in 2010. In 2011, 1,910 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 407 were 16 or older.¹³
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 15.0% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.¹⁴
- Of Louisiana children in out-of-home care in 2011, 47.7% were white, 46.6% black, 1.9% Hispanic, 0.3% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.2% Asian or Pacific Islander and 1.7% of more than one race or ethnicity.¹⁵

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,538 children exiting out-of-home care in Louisiana in 2011, 52.5% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁶
- In 2011, 641 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Louisiana, a 0.0% increase from 641 in 2010.¹⁷
- Of the 4,531 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 1,143 or 25.2% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁸
- In 2011, approximately 64,522 Louisiana grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁹
- Of the 4,531 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 1,087 were living with relatives while in care.²⁰
- Of all Louisiana children in kinship care in 2010, 12.5% were white, 10.5% black, 0.2% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.0% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 10.5% of more than one race or ethnicity.²¹

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Louisiana increased from 23,707 in 2010 to 23,983 in 2011, an increase of 1.2%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 10,549, a 0.4% decrease from 2010.²²
- From 2009-10, for every 100 Louisiana families living in poverty, only 9 received TANF benefits.²³

- In 2011, \$276,612,891 was spent in Louisiana on TANF assistance, including 30% on basic assistance, 0% on child care, 1% on transportation, and 69% on nonassistance.²⁴
- In 2011, 95,853,122 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Louisiana, serving 150,051 participants.²⁵
- In 2011, Louisiana distributed \$367,505,563 in child support funds, a 5.2% increase from 2010.²⁶
- In 2011 in Louisiana, 147,855 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 32% of them are families with children.²⁷

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, Louisiana had a monthly average of 42,300 children served by subsidized child care; 46,600 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 45,300 in 2008.²⁸
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Louisiana, a family of three could make no more than \$35,868, which is equivalent to 65% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2012, Louisiana had no waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2011, Head Start served 22,402 Louisiana children, a 5.0% increase from 2010.³¹

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 561,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Louisiana—56% of the total number of enrollees in the state.³²
- In 2011, Louisiana had 152,012 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 2.9% decrease from 2010, when 157,012 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2011, Louisiana had 131,000 uninsured children, representing 12% of its child population.³⁴
- In 2010, 6,700 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Louisiana.³⁵
- In 2010, 488 infants under age 1 died in Louisiana.³⁶
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Louisiana was 24 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 81. This reflects a total rate of 48 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2011, 22,104 adults and adolescents, as well as 138 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Louisiana.³⁸
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 21,000 children ages 12–17 and 280,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Louisiana.³⁹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 237 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Louisiana.⁴⁰
- In 2011, 31,000 Louisiana teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴¹
- In 2011, 102,000 young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴²
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 13,000 children ages 12–17 in Louisiana needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 12,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁴
- In 2010, 26 Louisiana children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.07 per 100,000 children.⁴⁵

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 87 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Louisiana, a 16% decrease from 103 in 2009.⁴⁶
- In 2011, 13,711 children younger than 18 were arrested in Louisiana, a 17.0% decrease from 16,582 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 1,378 were for violent crimes.⁴⁷
- In 2010, 1,035 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Louisiana.⁴⁸

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE⁴⁹

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well being for children.⁵⁰
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.⁵¹
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁵²

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN

- Out of 4,531 children in out-of-home care in Louisiana in 2011, only 1,664, or 37%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵³
- In 2010, Louisiana spent \$355,645,046 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$316,012,300 was from federal funds, \$39,632,746 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.⁵⁴
- In 2010, of the \$316,012,300 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$80,343,430 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$14,822,005 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$30,641,050 was from Medicaid, \$159,057,120 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$23,990,075 was from TANF, and \$7,158,620 came from other federal sources.⁵⁵
- Louisiana received \$42,742,858 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$25,298,891 for maintenance payments, \$21,608,959 for administration and child placement, and \$4,208,301 for training.⁵⁶
- Louisiana received \$17,953,774 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$14,607,398 for assistance payments, \$2,748,948 for administration and child placement, and \$597,428 for staff and provider training.⁵⁷

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	Office	Phone	Fax	Website	Next Election
Senate:					
Mary L. Landrieu (D) <i>Appropriations</i>	431 Dirksen	224-5824	224-9735	Landrieu.senate.gov	2014
David Vitter (R)	516 Hart	224-4623	228-5061	Vitter.senate.gov	2016
House:					
Steve Scalise (R-1 st) <i>Energy & Commerce</i>	2338 Rayburn	225-3015	226-0386	Scalise.house.gov	2014
Cedric Richmond (D-2 nd) <i>Judiciary</i>	240 Cannon	225-6636	225-1988	Richmond.house.gov	2014
Charles Boustany, Jr. (R-3 rd) <i>Ways & Means</i>	1431 Longworth	225-2031	225-5724	Boustany.house.gov	2014
John Fleming (R-4 th)	416 Cannon	225-2777	225-8039	Fleming.house.gov	2014
Rodney Alexander (R-5 th) <i>Appropriations</i>	316 Cannon	225-8490	225-5639	Alexander.house.gov	2014
Bill Cassidy (R-6 th) <i>Energy & Commerce</i>	1131 Longworth	225-3901	225-7313	Cassidy.house.gov	2014

Key Committee Jurisdictions

Senate **H.E.L.P.:** CAPTA; Child Care & Head Start; ESEA

Senate Judiciary: Juvenile Justice

Senate Finance: Child Welfare Reform; Medicaid & Mental Health; SSBG Child Welfare Services & Promoting Safe and Stable Families; TANF

House Education & the Workforce: CAPTA; Child Care & Head Start; ESEA

House Judiciary: Juvenile Justice

House Ways & Means: Child Welfare Reform, SSBG, CWS & PSSF, TANF

House Energy & Commerce: Medicaid & Mental Health

NOTES AND REFERENCES

¹ “At A Glance” statistics are from 2011.

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⁵ Ibid.

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⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2011: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals, 2011*. Retrieved January 23, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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¹³ Special tabulation of the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS) by National Data Archive for Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) and CWLA.

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¹⁶ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

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Note: The percents are a CWLA calculation.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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⁴⁹ Note: The dearth in current state-by-state workforce data makes clear the need for critical data on compensation, working conditions including safety issues, academic degrees held, education and training received, and factors contributing to turnover. To address this, CWLA is calling for Congress to authorize the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an updated study on the child welfare workforce. It would make recommendations regarding caseloads and workloads, education levels, and training requirements. In addition, the study would examine data reporting and collection and make recommendations on how states might improve these efforts.

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⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Special Children's Bureau data on state IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance.

Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support, pre-placement, and demonstration funds for this state.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional partner training funds.