

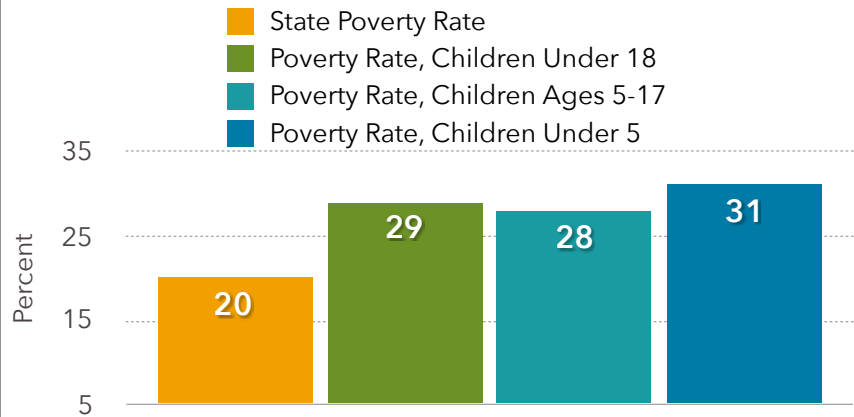
# LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 4,645,670 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,096,646

## ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the **3,715** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Louisiana, 57% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- **727** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Louisiana in 2016, an increase of 9.8% from **662** in 2015.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the **4,461** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **1,297** or 29.07% waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2016, approximately **56,876** grandparents in Louisiana had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- **1,712** of the children in out-of-home care in 2015 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>19</sup>

## Poverty Rates



## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2016, Louisiana had 46,606 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 23,796 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2016, there were 11,289 victims of abuse or neglect in Louisiana, a rate of 10.1 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 10.6% from 2015. Of these children, 85.8% were neglected, 15.0% were physically abused, and 5.3% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has decreased 10.6% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.<sup>10</sup>

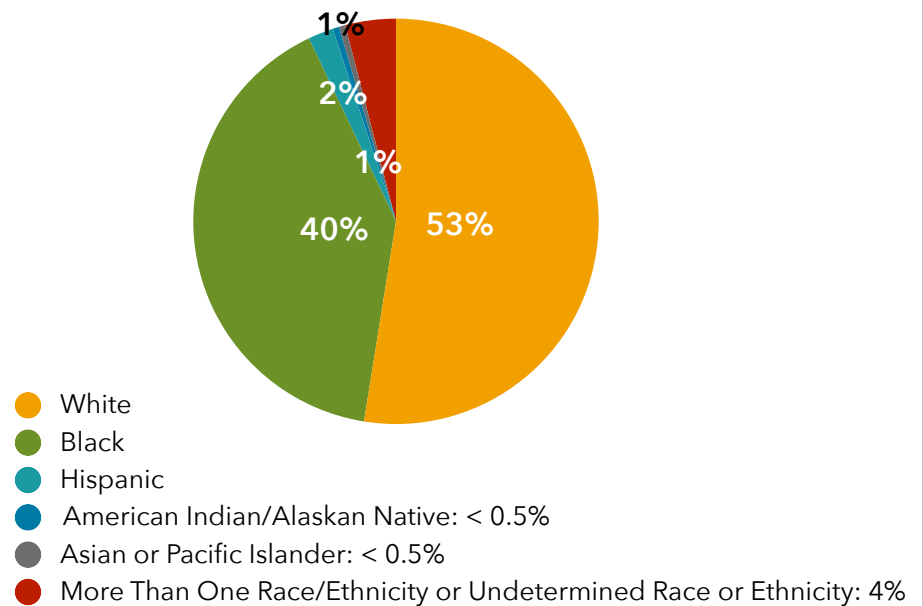


### CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, Louisiana had a monthly average of 18,400 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 19,100 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 24,000 were recipients in 2013.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Louisiana, a family of three could make no more than \$31,860 at application, which is equivalent to 53% of the state’s median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2016, Louisiana had no children on it’s waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2016, Head Start served 21,287 children in Louisiana, a decrease of 2.2% from 2015.<sup>31</sup>
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Louisiana made 20,950 home visits to 3,431 parents and children in 1,965 families, as well as enrolled 1,857 new parents and children to the program.<sup>64</sup>

- In 2016, there were 41 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Louisiana.<sup>11</sup>
- 4,461 children in Louisiana lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 4,545 children in 2015.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 1% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2015.<sup>13</sup>

Children in Out-of-Home Care 2015



### CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Louisiana increased from 11,859 in 2015 to 13,359 in 2016, a 11.2% change. There was a 5,657 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, an increase of 6.9% from 2015.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 4 received

TANF cash assistance.<sup>21</sup>

- \$215,940,029 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Louisiana, including 8.8% on basic assistance, 29.7% on child care, 0.6% on transportation, and 5.7% on non-assistance.<sup>22</sup>
- \$30,511,960 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Louisiana, serving 127,387 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- 23.4% of households in Louisiana were food insecure in 2015, meaning that the family experienced difficulty providing enough food due to lack of resources at some point during the year.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 723,171 children in Louisiana were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, an increase of 5.6% from 2015<sup>32</sup>
- In 2016, Louisiana had 161,565 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 19.1% from 2015, when 135,614 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2016, Louisiana had 53,120 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 6,720 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Louisiana in 2016.<sup>35</sup>
- 503 infants under age 1 died in Louisiana in 2016.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Louisiana was 14.9 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 65.1 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 34 births for girls ages 15 to 19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 24,870 adults and adolescents and 147 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Louisiana.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Louisiana reached \$269,901,908.<sup>39</sup>

## YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 166 children in Louisiana aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.<sup>42</sup>

- 29,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Louisiana were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.<sup>44</sup>
- 88,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2016, there were less than 10 reports of children in Louisiana aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 27 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 89 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Louisiana in 2016, compared to 92 in 2015.<sup>48</sup>
- 19,018 children younger than 18 were arrested in Louisiana in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 1,328 of the arrests in 2016.<sup>49</sup>
- 831 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Louisiana in 2015.<sup>50</sup>

## CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

*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.<sup>52</sup>*

- According to a 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.<sup>53</sup>
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.<sup>54</sup> Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.<sup>55</sup>

*Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.<sup>56</sup>*

- According to the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II baseline report, 75% of caseworkers earned a salary between \$30,000 and \$49,999.<sup>57</sup>
- The majority of caseworkers hold a bachelor's degree (52.3%) or a bachelor of social work degree (21.9%). Only 25% of caseworkers hold a master's degree.<sup>58</sup>

## SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2014, Louisiana's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$23,037,421. The most utilized service in Louisiana was Protective Services for Children totaling \$8,873,178.<sup>60</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Louisiana spent \$188,781,870 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$138,401,577 was from federal funds and \$147,350,866 was from state and local funds.<sup>61</sup>
  - In 2014, of the \$134,535,982 in federal funds received for child welfare, 29.8% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8.2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 34.4% was from Medicaid, 14.3% came from Social Services Block Grant, 11.2% was from TANF, and 2.0% came from other federal sources.<sup>62</sup>
  - Louisiana received \$39,437,110 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$9,077,345 for maintenance payments and \$30,359,765 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.<sup>63</sup>
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1 Population and Child Abuse and Neglect statistics are from 2016.

2 U.S. Census Bureau (2017). ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2016 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Retrieved February 12, 2018 from <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>.

3 Ibid.

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8 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2018). Child Maltreatment 2016: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals, 2016. Retrieved February 06, 2018 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2016.pdf>.

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2018). Child Maltreatment 2016: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-8: Maltreatment Types of Victims, 2016. Retrieved February 6, 2018 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2015.pdf>.

Note: The percentage difference is a CWLA calculation. Overlap in the percentages of types of abuse is possible as a child may have experienced more than one type of abuse.

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12 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2017). Trends in Foster Care and Adoption, AFCARS State data tables 2007 through 2016. Retrieved February 12, 2018 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/trends-in-foster-care-and-adoption>

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.
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- 18 U.S. Census Bureau. (2017). American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2016. Retrieved January 22, 2018 from [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_16\\_1YR\\_DP02&prodType=table](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_1YR_DP02&prodType=table).
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- 30 Ibid.
- Note: A family that is eligible for child care assistance may not necessarily receive it. States may place families on waiting lists, or freeze intake (turning away eligible families without adding them to a waiting list).
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Note: Examples of direct services include child abuse/neglect investigations, foster care, community-based programs, case management, and all such services required for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Examples of administrative services include management information systems, training programs, eligibility determination processes, and all services that provide the infrastructure supports for the public agency. The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds for this state.

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