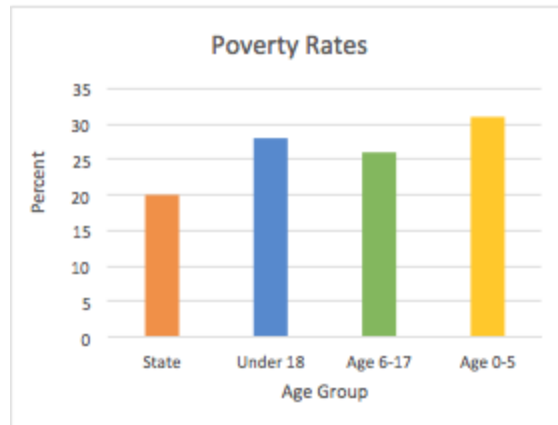


# LOUISIANA’S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 4,684,000 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,108,403

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

- Of the 3,444 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Louisiana, 53% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- 766 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Louisiana in 2017, an increase of 5.4% from 727 in 2016.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the 4,460 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 1,378 or 30.9% waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2017, approximately 57,733 grandparents in Louisiana had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- 1,609 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>19</sup>



## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2017, Louisiana had 44,793 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 19,851 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2017, there were 10,356 victims of abuse or neglect in Louisiana, a rate of 9.3 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 8.3% from 2016. Of these children, 85.9% were neglected, 15.2% were physically abused, and 5.2% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has decreased 8.3% in comparison to the number of victims in 2016.<sup>10</sup>

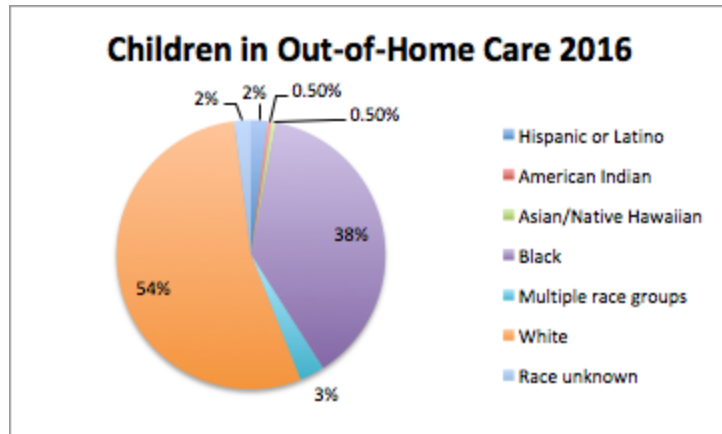


## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2016, Louisiana had a monthly average of 15,600 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 18,400 children received subsidized child care per month in 2015 and 19,100 were recipients in 2014.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2018, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Louisiana, a family of three could make no more than \$32,308 at application, which is equivalent to 52% of the state’s median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2018, Louisiana had 4,563 Waiting lists at local level children on it’s waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2017, Head Start served 21,839 children in Louisiana, an increase of 2.6% from 2015.<sup>31</sup>
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Louisiana made 22,934 home visits to 3,752 participants in 2,123 households.<sup>64</sup>

- In 2017, there were 25 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Louisiana.<sup>11</sup>

- 4,461 children in California 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>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Louisiana increased from 13,359 in 2016 to 14,153 in 2018, a 5.9% change. There was a 5,687 monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, an increase of .5% from 2016.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2017, for every 100 poor families with children, only 4 received TANF cash assistance.<sup>21</sup>
- \$212,000,000 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in Louisiana, including 9% on basic assistance.<sup>22</sup>

- \$63,146,897 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Louisiana, serving 112,362 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2017, Louisiana distributed \$400,575,903 in child support funds, a 1.7% change from 2014.<sup>24</sup>
- 343,000 children in Louisiana lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.<sup>25</sup>
- In December of 2016, the unemployment rate in Louisiana was 6.1. <sup>26</sup>
- 25% of households in Louisiana were food insecure in 2016, 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

- 708,418 children in Louisiana were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, a decrease of 2% from 2015.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2017, Louisiana had 158,298 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 2% from 2015, when 161,565 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2016, Louisiana had 34,000 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 2016, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Louisiana was 13 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 60 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 31 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, an estimated 3,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 139,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Louisiana.<sup>39</sup>

- In 2014, approximately 8,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2014, approximately 12,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Louisiana reached \$269,901,908.<sup>64</sup>

## YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 145 children in Louisiana aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.<sup>42</sup>
- 79% of high school students in Louisiana graduated on time at the end of the 2015-16 year.<sup>43</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>
- 31.4% of young adults in Louisiana ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.<sup>46</sup>
- In 2017, there were 0 reports of children in Louisiana aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 41 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 121 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Louisiana in 2017, compared to 89 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 2016, Louisiana's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$24,684,515. The most utilized service in Louisiana was Foster Care Services for Children totaling \$23,547,762.<sup>60</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Louisiana spent \$206,171,492 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$160,326,922 was from federal funds and \$45,844,570 was from state and local funds.<sup>61</sup>

- In 2016, of the \$160,326,922 in federal funds received for child welfare, 26% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 6% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 2% was from Medicaid, 20% came from Social Services Block Grant, 22% was from TANF, and 3% came from other federal sources.<sup>62</sup>
- Louisiana received \$34,745,460 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$11,286,438 for maintenance payments and \$23,459,022 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training. <sup>63</sup>

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- 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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- Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.
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- 58 Ibid.
- 59 Rosinsky, K., & Williams, S. C. (2018, December). Child Welfare Financing Survey SFY 2016. Retrieved February 05, 2019, from [https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CWFSReportSFY2016\\_ChildTrends\\_December2018.pdf](https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CWFSReportSFY2016_ChildTrends_December2018.pdf)
- 60 Rosinsky, K., & Williams, S. C. (2018, December). Child Welfare Financing Survey SFY 2016. Retrieved February 05, 2019, from [https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CWFSReportSFY2016\\_ChildTrends\\_December2018.pdf](https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CWFSReportSFY2016_ChildTrends_December2018.pdf)
- 61 Ibid.
- 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.
- 62 Ibid.
- 63 Ibid.
- 64 Health Resources & Services Administration. (2017). Home Visiting Program: State Factsheets. Retrieved March 28, 2018 online from: <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/maternal-child-health-initiatives/home-visiting/home-visiting-program-state-fact-sheets>

