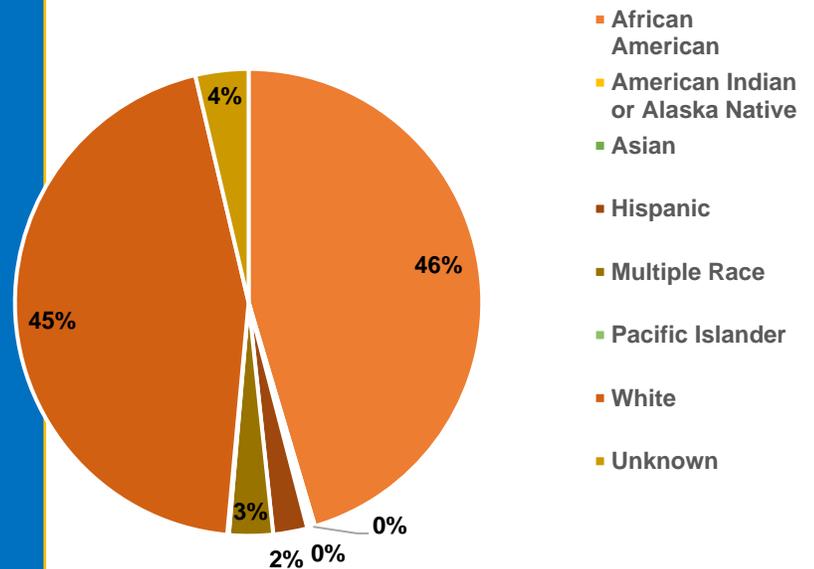# Louisiana's Children 2022

Child Maltreatment

In 2020, Louisiana had **46,310** total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, **17,232** were referred for investigation.[i]

There were **6,859** child victims of abuse or neglect in Louisiana in 2020, at a rate of **6.3** children per 1,000. This translates to a **39.2%** decrease since 2016.[ii]

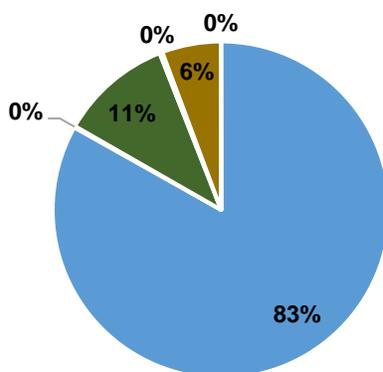Of the **6,859** children, **5,437** were first time victims.[iii]

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing **2,406** of the **6,859** cases.[iv]

Child Victims by Race or Ethinicity, 2020

- African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Hispanic
- Multiple Race
- Pacific Islander
- White
- Unknown

46%
45%
4%
3%
2% 0%
0%

v

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

0% 0%
0%
11% 6%
83%

- Medical Neglect
- Neglect
- Other
- Physical Abuse
- Psychological Maltreatment
- Sexual Abuse
- Sex Traffickign
- Unknown

- **86%** of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. **14%** were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.[vi]

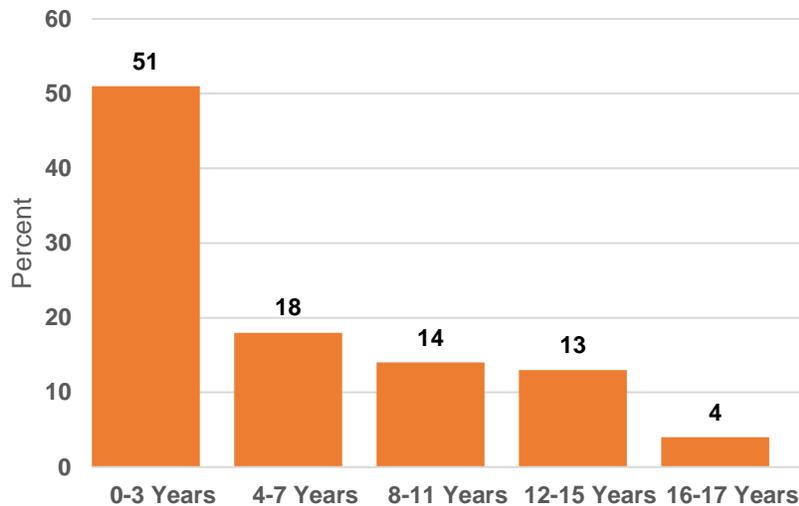- **51%** of Louisiana's child victims in 2020 were female while **49%** were male.[vii]

viii

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2020, Louisiana reported **1,956** infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.[ix]

- Louisiana reported **1,019** plans of safe care for screened-in infants.[x]

Louisiana's Children 2022

Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

- Child fatalities decreased in 2020 from **24** in 2019 to **18** in 2020.[xi]

- Louisiana reported **two** total child victims of sex trafficking.[xii]

- **3,835** victims received post-response services while **1,179** non-victims received post-response services as well.[xiii]

[xiv]

Foster Care and Adoptions

- **6,294** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- **3,542** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2020.
- **2,414** children entered care during the 2020 FY while **2,752** exited during the same year.
- **749** of Louisiana's children were adopted while **1,164** were waiting to be adopted.[xv]

There was a **9.6%** decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system decreased **16.3%** from 2019.[xvi]

152 children in Louisiana aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is an increase from **150** in 2018 and represents an **1.3%** increase.[xvii]
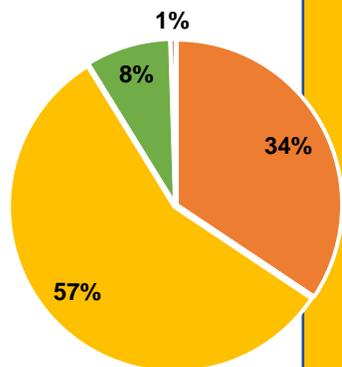
- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of **17.5** months in care. [xviii]
- The average length of stay in Louisiana for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is **30.4** months.[xix]
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was **7.5** years old.[xx]
- The average age of adopted children was **5.6** years old.[xxi]

1.3%
Increase since 2018 in children aging out of foster care

Louisiana's Children 2022

Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?

- With a Relative Foster Parent
- With a Non-Relative Foster Parent
- In a Group Home
- Unaccounted for/Runaway

Pie chart: 34%, 57%, 8%, 1%

Data from 2019 shows that **2,063** children in foster care within Louisiana were living with non-relatives while **1,248** stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart).[xxii]

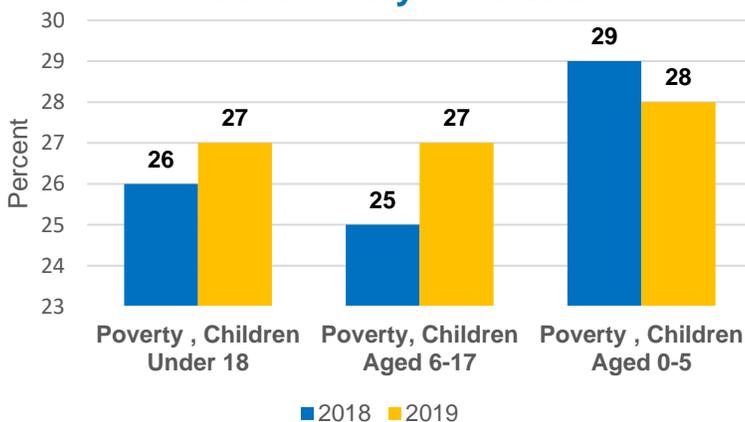**302** children were staying in group homes while **17** children were classified as runaways.[xxiii]

4% of households in Louisiana in 2020 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.[xxiv]

The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was **7.1** months.[xxv]

Child Poverty

Louisiana had **356,000** children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing **33%** of all children.[xxvi]

Child Poverty Over Time

Category	2018	2019
Poverty, Children Under 18	26	27
Poverty, Children Aged 6-17	25	27
Poverty, Children Aged 0-5	29	28

(Percent, y-axis 23–30)

■ 2018 ■ 2019

[xxvii]
29% of Louisiana's children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.[xxviii]

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from **11,888** in 2019 to **8,607** in 2020. This represents a **27.6%** decrease.[xxix]
[xxx]

The state spent **$40,363,819** on WIC in 2021, serving **88,415** people. This represents an **6.0%** decrease in total participants and a **5.3%** decrease in spending. [xxxi]

718,360 people in Louisiana were food insecure in 2019, including **249,670 children** who struggled with hunger.[xxxii]

44.9% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Louisiana in 2019 had children.[xxxiii]
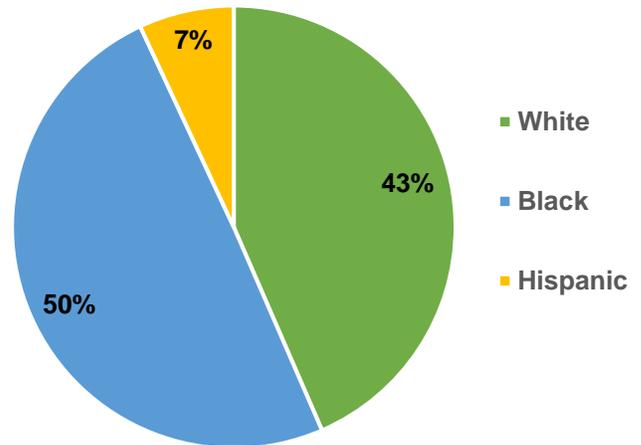
Louisiana's Children 2022

Health

Louisiana had **6,348** low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to **10.8%** of infants born in Louisiana in 2019.[xxxiv]

Louisiana had a total of **7,726** preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. **10.96%** of all white babies were born premature while **16.75%** of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was **13.12%.**[xxxv]

There were **4,007** births to mothers aged 15-19 in Louisiana in 2019, representing a rate of **28** in every 1,000 teen girls. [xxxvi]
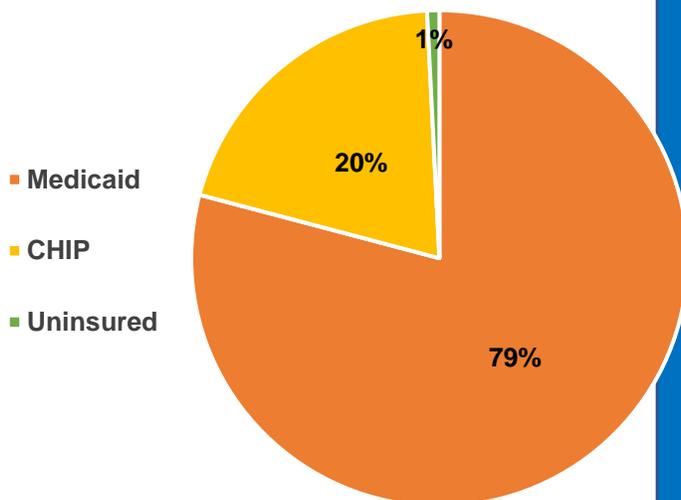
468 infants under one died in Louisiana in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of **7.9** per 1,000. [xxxvii]

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2019

- White
- Black
- Hispanic

White: 43%
Black: 50%
Hispanic: 7%

[xxxviii]

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020

- Medicaid
- CHIP
- Uninsured

Medicaid: 79%
CHIP: 20%
Uninsured: 1%

4.4% of Louisiana's children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents **7,000** children. Louisiana is a Medicaid expansion state.[xxxix]

695,689 children in Louisiana were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents **0.24%** decrease from 2019. [xl]

176,621 children in Louisiana were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents a **4.35%** decrease from 2019. [xli]

Louisiana's Children 2022

9.1%
decline since 2017 of children living in juvenile correction facilities

Juvenile Justice System

- There were **12,267** total arrests for children under 18 in Louisiana in 2019.
- **1,573** of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- **2,546** arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- **921** were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.[xlii]
- **693** children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Louisiana in 2019. This is a decrease from **762** kids in 2017, representing a **9.1%** decline.[xliii]
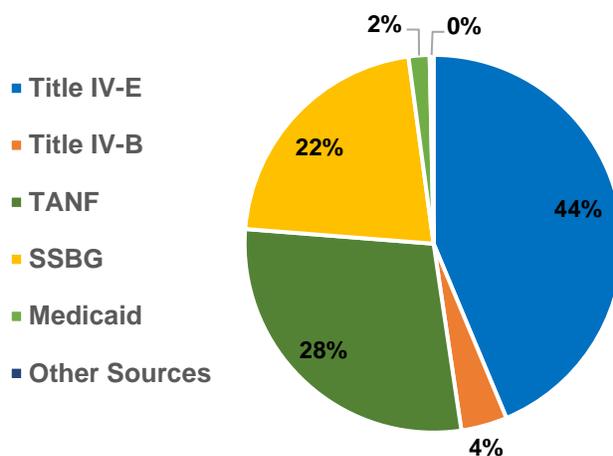
Teens & Youth

- **23,000** (9%) of Louisiana's youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.[xliv]
- In 2020, there were **10** reports of children in Louisiana aged 10-14 committing suicide, and **31** reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.[xlv]
- **150** children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Louisiana in 2020.[xlvi]

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Louisiana spent **$238,996,764** on child welfare services in 2018. Child welfare services are all of the direct and administrative services that state agencies provide to children and families.
- **$161,268,928** were allocated from the federal government and **$74,632,850** came from state and local funds.[xlvii]

Federal Funding Sources

- Title IV-E
- Title IV-B
- TANF
- SSBG
- Medicaid
- Other Sources

44%
28%
22%
2%
0%
4%

The breakdown of the **$161,268,928** in federal funding received in Louisiana in 2018: [xlviii]

- **$37,133,268** as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- **$19,950,791** as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.[xlix]
- Louisiana's sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was **$31,216,203.**[l]

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[viii] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2022). Child Maltreatment 2020. Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-8 Maltreatment Types of Victims, 2020. Retrieved February 4, 2022 from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2020.pdf

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[xi] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2022). Child Maltreatment 2020. Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 4-2 Child Fatalities, 2016-2020. Retrieved February 7, 2022 from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2020.pdf

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xviii Child Trends, (2022). State-level data for understanding child welfare in the United States, Foster Care, 2020. Retrieved March 7, 2022 from https://www.childtrends.org/publications/state-level-data-for-understanding-child-welfare-in-the-united-states

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xxxv Martin J., Hamilton B., Osterman M., and Driscoll A. (2021). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics Reports, Births: Final Data for 2019: Table 1-19. Preterm births, by race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, each state and territory, 2019, 2021. Retrieved February 7, 2022 from https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/nvsr.htm

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