

Louisiana's Children

Child Maltreatment

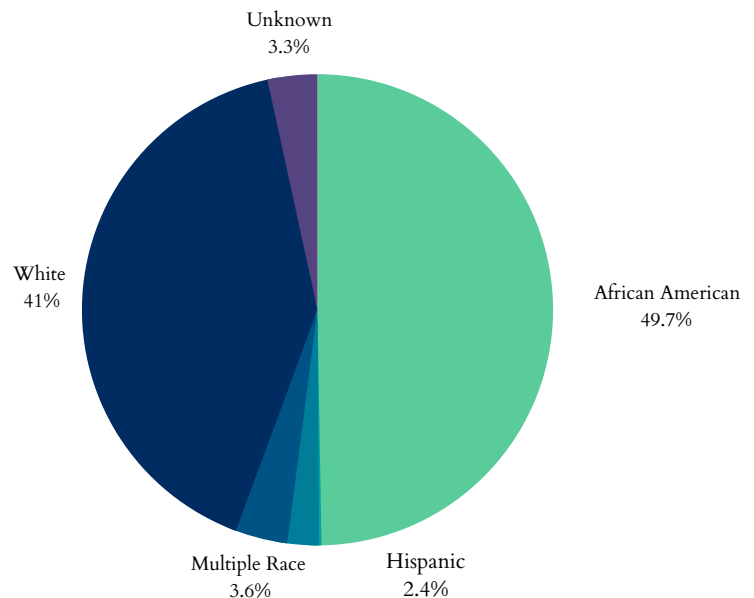
In 2021, Louisiana had 46,059 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 15,188 were screened in for response by CPS.

There were 6,422 child victims of abuse or neglect in Louisiana in 2021, at a rate of 5.9 children per 1,000. This translates to a 38% decrease since 2017.

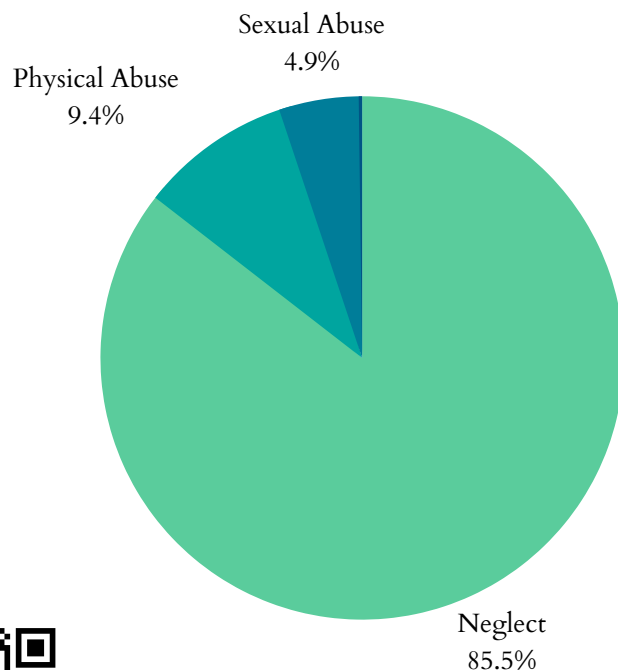
Of the 6,422 children, 5,168 were first-time victims.

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 2,476 of the 6,422 cases.

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2021



Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2021



- Louisiana did not report on if child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child.
- 51% of Louisiana's child victims in 2020 were female while 49% were male.

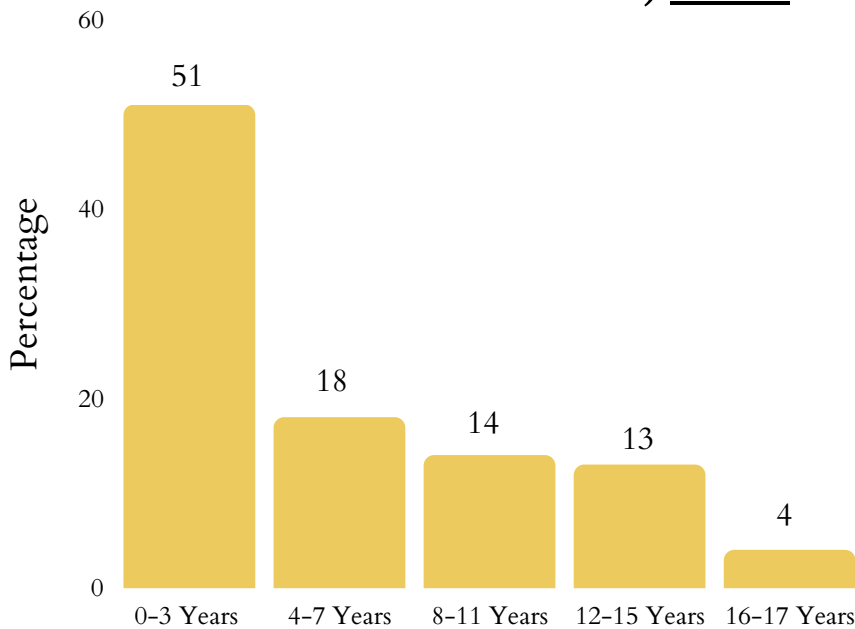
Plans for Safe Care

- In 2021, Louisiana reported 2,132 infants screened with prenatal substance abuse exposure.
- Louisiana reported 1,101 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.



Louisiana's Children

Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2020



Child fatalities have increased from 18 in 2020 to 23 in 2021.

Louisiana reported 4 total child victims of sex trafficking.

3,524 victims received postresponse services while 1,014 non-victims received post-response services as well.

FAMILY FIRST IMPLEMENTATION

- Louisiana does not have a plan by the administration.
- A plan was submitted, but has not yet been approved.

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 5,852 total children were served by the foster care system in Louisiana in FY 2021.
- 3,301 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2021.
- 2,358 children entered care during the 2021 FY while 2,551 exited during the same year.
- 602 of Louisiana's children were adopted while 1,041 were waiting to be adopted.

There was a 6.8% decrease in the number of children in care between 2021 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also decreased by 19.63% from 2020.

152 children in Louisiana aged out and exited foster care in 2020. This number remains stable and represents no change from the total in 2019.

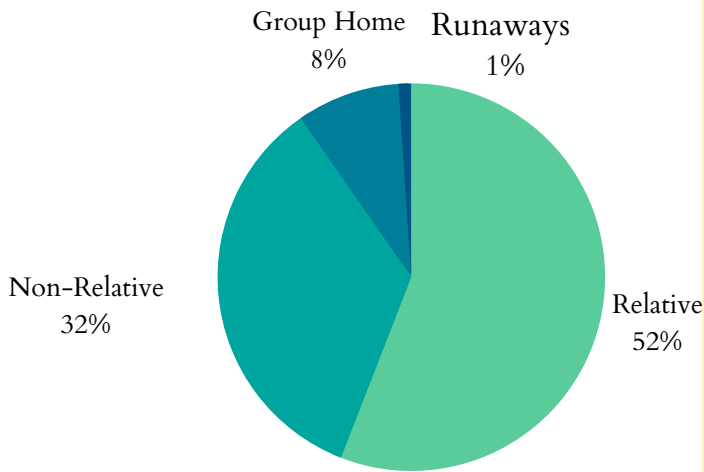
- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average length of 17.5 months in care.
- The average length of stay in Louisiana for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 30.4 months.
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 7.5 years old.
- The average age of adopted children was 5.6 years old.

0%

The change since 2019 in children aging out of foster care.

Louisiana's Children

Where are Children in Foster Care Staying? 2020



Data from 2020 shows that 1,817 children in foster care within Louisiana were living with non-relatives while 1,133 stayed with a relative.

290 children were staying in group homes or insitutions while 25 children were classified as runaways.

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

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

Child Poverty

Louisiana had 378,000 children in 2021 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 35% of all children.

30% of Louisiana's children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

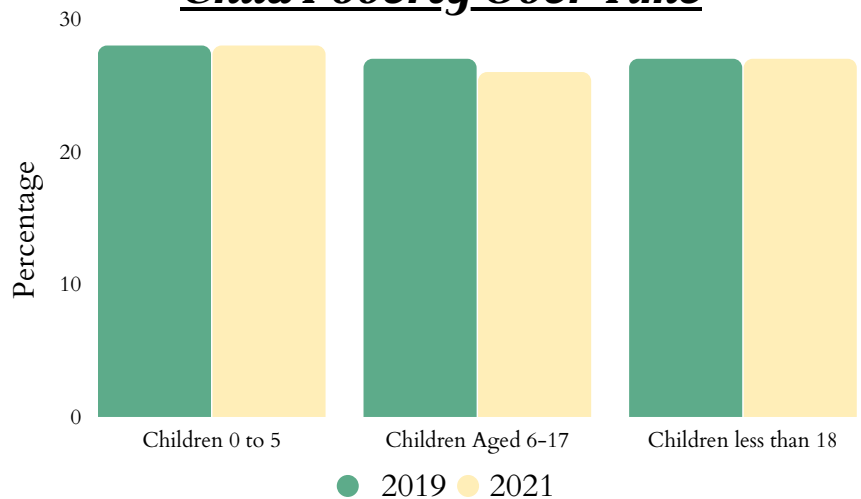
The average number of TANF recipients declined from 7,822 in 2021 to 7,810 in 2022. This represents a 0.15% decrease.

Louisiana spent \$31,496,750 on WIC in 2022, serving 84,355 people. This represents a 4.59% decrease in total participants and a 6.13% increase in spending.

640,540 people in Louisiana were food insecure in 2020, including 236,010 children who struggled with hunger.

44.9% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Louisiana in 2019 had children.

Child Poverty Over Time



Louisiana's Children

Health

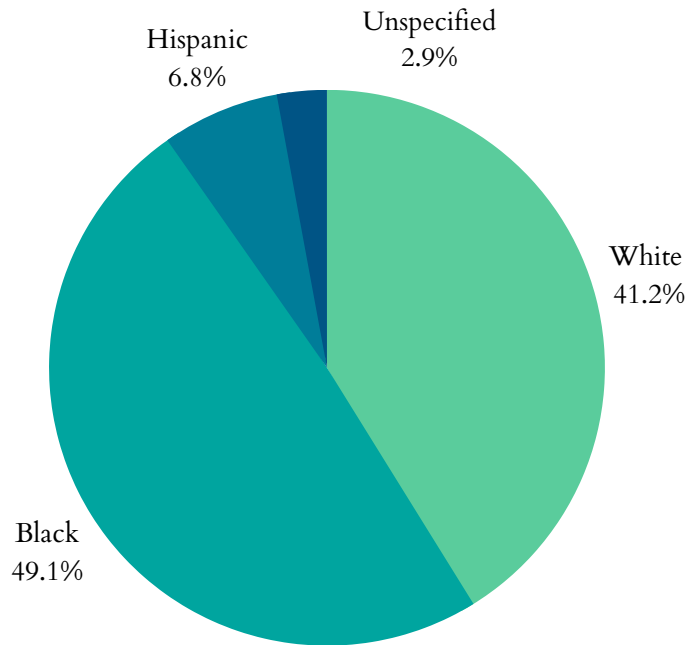
Louisiana had 6,245 low birth-weight babies born in 2020, which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 10.9% of infants born in Louisiana in 2020.

Louisiana had 7,386 of preterm births in 2020, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 10.62% of all White babies were born prematurely while 16.83% of Black babies arrived prematurely in 2020. The total premature birth rate was 12.89%.

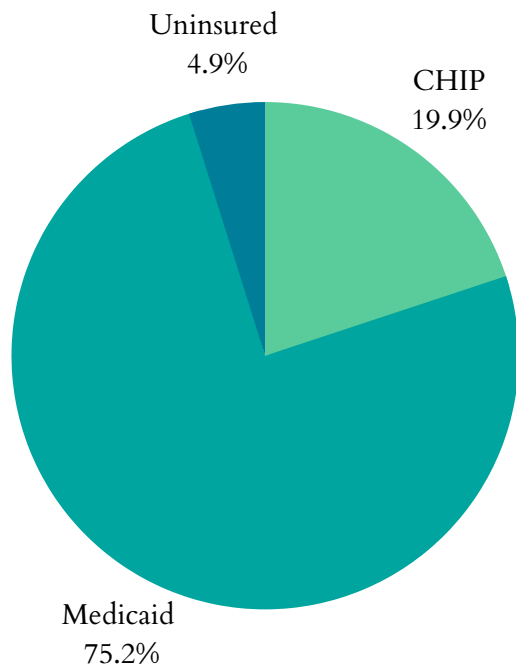
There were 3,676 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Louisiana in 2020, representing a rate of 26 in every 1,000 teen girls.

430 infants under 1 died in Louisiana in 2020, representing an infant mortality rate of 7.5 per 1,000.

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2020



Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2019



45,000 of Louisiana's children had no health insurance in 2021. This represents a 10% decrease from 2019.

Louisiana is a Medicaid expansion state as of July 2016.

695,689 children in Louisiana were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents a 0.25% decrease from 2019.

176,621 children in Louisiana were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents a 4.30% decrease from 2019.

Louisiana's Children

Juvenile Justice

- There were 12,267 total arrests for children under 18 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.
- 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.

9.1%

The decrease since 2017 of children living in juvenile correction facilities.

Teens & Youth

- 26,000 (11%) of Louisiana's youth, ages 16-19, were not in school nor working in 2021.
- In 2020, there were 10 reports of children in Louisiana aged 10-14 committing suicide and 128 reports of suicide among children and young adults aged 15-24.
- 150 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Louisiana in 2020.

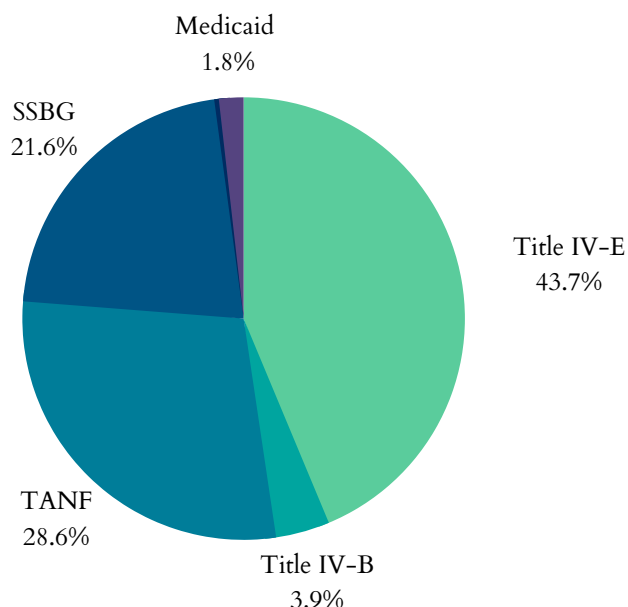
Funding for Child Welfare Services

- 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.

The significant funding sectors of the \$161,268,928 in federal funding received in Louisiana in 2018:

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

Federal Funding Sources, 2018



Louisiana's Children

LOUISIANA FACT SHEET

<https://www.cwla.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Louisianas-Children.pdf>



NATIONAL AND STATE FACT SHEETS

<https://www.cwla.org/our-work/advocacy/national-and-state-fact-sheets/>



CWLA

www.cwla.org/

