

# LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN 2004

## Louisiana's Children At a Glance

State Population (2002) <sup>1</sup> .....	4,482,646
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) <sup>2</sup> .....	1,217,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) <sup>3</sup> .....	17.5%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) <sup>4</sup> .....	26.4%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) <sup>5</sup> .....	22.6%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) <sup>6</sup> .....	29.7%

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 23,320 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Louisiana, a rate of 19.2 per 1,000 children.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2001, 11,158 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Louisiana, a rate of 9.2 per 1,000 children, representing a 5% increase from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 7.0 were neglected, 2.1 were physically abused, and 0.7 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2001, 33 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Louisiana.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2001, 5,024 children in Louisiana lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 5,406 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 23.4% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 16.4% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- On September 30, 2001, 1,859 white children, 3,061 black children, 37 Hispanic children, 10 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 90 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,184 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 56% were reunited with their families.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2001, 470 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Louisiana, a 52% increase from 310 in 1997.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 5,024 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 1,995 or 40% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- Of the 5,024 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 10% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2002, more than 67,511 Louisiana grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>16</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The number of people receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Louisiana declined from 60,367 in March 2002 to 56,157 in March 2003, a decrease of 7.0%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 22,333, a 5.3% decrease from March 2002.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in Louisiana was 56% below the federal poverty guideline.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2002, Louisiana spent \$240,183,684 in TANF funds, including 27.7% on cash assistance, 0.5% on transportation and support activities, and 71.8% on nonassistance.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2001, Louisiana collected and distributed \$233,491,509 in child support funds, an increase of 9.2% from 2000.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Louisiana was \$538 per month, or 65% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the federal minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.<sup>21</sup>

## **C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T**

- In 2001, an estimated monthly average of 38,700 of Louisiana's children received subsidized child care, a decrease from 40,300 in 2000 and 39,000 in 1999.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 60% of Louisiana's median income, or \$24,924, to be eligible for subsidized child care.<sup>23</sup>
- Despite the state budget shortfall, Louisiana has no plans to cut state funds for child care.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2002, Head Start served 22,136 Louisiana children, a 0.8% increase from 2001.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2000, 72% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in Louisiana had at least a high school degree or equivalent.<sup>26</sup>

## **H E A L T H , M E N T A L H E A L T H , A N D S U B S T A N C E A B U S E**

- In 2000, 487,094 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in Louisiana, representing 40.1% of Louisiana's total enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2002, Louisiana had 87,675 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 26.0% increase from 2001, when 69,579 children were enrolled.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2001, 222 babies in Louisiana were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 10,373—a rate of 58 births per 1,000 girls.<sup>29</sup>
- As of December 2002, 14,494 adults and adolescents, as well as 130 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Louisiana.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2002, 37 Louisiana children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.75 per 100,000 children in the population.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2001, an estimated 20,000 children ages 12–17, and 77,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.<sup>32</sup>

## **J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E A N D D E L I N Q U E N C Y P R E V E N T I O N**

- In 2001, 30 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Louisiana, a 19% decrease from 37 in 2000.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2002, 35,560 children younger than 18 were arrested in Louisiana, a 29% decrease from 50,011 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 9,132 were for violent crimes and 276 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>34</sup>
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 2,745 children in juvenile correction facilities in Louisiana.<sup>36</sup>

## **F U N D I N G C H I L D W E L F A R E S E R V I C E S F O R L O U I S I A N A ' S C H I L D R E N**

- In 2000, Louisiana spent \$204,714,290 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.<sup>36</sup> Of this amount, 58% came from federal funds, and 42% from state funds; none came from local funds.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2000, of the \$118,929,197 in federal funds received for child welfare, 53% came from the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program, 12% from the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs, 29% from the Social Services Block Grant, 2% from Supplemental Security Income, 1% from Survivors Benefits, and 4% from other federal sources.<sup>38</sup>
- Of the 5,024 children in out-of-home care in Louisiana on September 30, 2001, only 2,686, or 53.5%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>39</sup>

## LOUISIANA'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- The child welfare workforce is facing challenges in every state. A combination of high caseloads, high worker turnover, and low salaries impinges on the delivery of services to achieve safety, permanency, and child well-being.
- In 2000, the national average starting salary for child protective service workers was \$26,900; for direct service workers, \$27,500. The yearly turnover rate for these workers was 15.6% and 19.5%, respectively.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2000, a caseworker in Louisiana responsible for investigating and assessing child abuse and neglect carried an estimated caseload of 10 families. A caseworker responsible for providing in-home services carried an estimated caseload of 22 families. In-home services include parent support programs, child day care, community-based counseling, and other services to enable children to live safely in their own homes.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2000, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect in Louisiana was \$21,936.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2002, the median income in Louisiana for a family of four was \$47,363.<sup>43</sup>

Additional child welfare statistics, references, and pertinent notes are available on CWLA's National Data Analysis System at <http://ndas.cwla.org>.

---

## REFERENCES

1. U.S. Bureau of the Census. (2002, September). *State and county quickfacts*. Available online at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). Washington, DC: Author.
2. Children's Bureau. (2003). *Child maltreatment 2001*. Available online at [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cm01/outcover.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cm01/outcover.htm). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
3. U.S. Bureau of the Census. (2002). *POV46: Poverty status by state: 2002*. Available online at [http://ferret.bls.census.gov/macro/032003/pov/new46\\_100125\\_01.htm](http://ferret.bls.census.gov/macro/032003/pov/new46_100125_01.htm). Washington, DC: Author.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. U.S. Bureau of the Census. (2003). *American community survey change profile 2001–2002*. Retrieved online, January 5, 2004, from [www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Profiles/Chg/2002/0102/Tabular/040/04000US013.htm](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Profiles/Chg/2002/0102/Tabular/040/04000US013.htm). Washington, DC: Author.
7. Children's Bureau, *Child maltreatment 2001*.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Children's Bureau. (2002, August). *The AFCARS report: Interim estimates for FY 2000 as of August 2002*. Available online at [www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/afcars/report7.htm](http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/afcars/report7.htm). Washington, DC: HHS.
11. National Data Analysis System. (n.d.). Number of children in out-of-home care by race and ethnicity. Table available online at <http://ndas.cwla.org>. Washington, DC: Child Welfare League of America (CWLA).
12. Children's Bureau, *The AFCARS report*.
13. Children's Bureau. (2003, October). *Adoptions of children with public child welfare agency involvement by state FY 1995–FY 2002*. Available online at [www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/dis/adoptchild03b.htm](http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/dis/adoptchild03b.htm). Washington, DC: HHS.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. U.S. Bureau of the Census. (2002). *American factfinder*. Available online at [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?\\_lang=en](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en). Washington, DC: Author.
17. Administration for Children and Families. (2003, March). *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families: Total number of families and recipients*. Table available online at [www.acf.hhs.gov/news/stats/Mar02-Mar03.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/stats/Mar02-Mar03.htm). Washington, DC: HHS.
18. Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation. (2002). *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program: Fourth annual report to Congress*. Available online at [www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/opre/ar2001/indexar.htm](http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/opre/ar2001/indexar.htm). Washington, DC: HHS; Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (2001). *The 2001 HHS poverty guidelines*. Available online at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/01poverty.htm>. Washington, DC: HHS; Food Research and Action Center. (2000). *Federal food program fiscal year 2004 eligibility limits*. Available online at [www.frac.org/html/federal\\_food\\_programs/programs/fsp\\_limits2002.html](http://www.frac.org/html/federal_food_programs/programs/fsp_limits2002.html). Washington, DC: Author.
19. Administration for Children and Families. (2002). *TANF financial data: Table F—Combined spending of federal and states funds expended in FY 2002 through the fourth quarter*. Available online at [www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ofs/data/tableF\\_2002.html](http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ofs/data/tableF_2002.html). Washington, DC: HHS.
20. Office of Child Support Enforcement. (2002). *State box scores: FY 2001 annual statistical report*. Available online at [www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cse/pubs/2003/reports/statistical\\_report/statebox.html](http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cse/pubs/2003/reports/statistical_report/statebox.html). Washington, DC: HHS.
21. Pitcoff, W.; Crowley, S.; Schaffer, K.; & Dolbeare, C.N. (2002). *Rental housing for America's poor families: Farther out of reach than ever*. Available online at [www.nlihc.org/oor2002](http://www.nlihc.org/oor2002). Washington, DC: National Low Income Housing Coalition; Employment Standards Administration, Wage and Hour Division. (2003, July). *Minimum wage laws in the states*. Table available online at [www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/america.htm](http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/america.htm). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor.

---

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Headquarters: 440 First Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20001-2085 • 202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • [www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)

22. Child Care Bureau. (2003). *FFY 2001 CCDF Data tables and charts*. Available online at [www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ccb/research/01acf800/chldser1.htm](http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ccb/research/01acf800/chldser1.htm). Washington, DC: HHS.
23. Ibid.
24. Children's Defense Fund. (2002, September 5). *Low-income families bear the burden of state child care cutbacks*. Available online at [www.childrensdefense.org/head-resources.htm](http://www.childrensdefense.org/head-resources.htm). Washington, DC: Author.
25. Head Start Bureau. (2003). *Head Start program fact sheet*. Available online at [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/research/2003.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/research/2003.htm). Washington, DC: HHS.
26. U.S. Bureau of the Census, *American factfinder*.
27. Tang, S.S., & Yudkowsky, B.K. (2003). *Medicaid (Title XIX and Title XXI) state reports—FY 2000*. Available online at [www.aap.org/research/medic00.htm](http://www.aap.org/research/medic00.htm). Washington, DC: American Academy of Pediatrics.
28. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2003). SCHIP preliminary annual enrollment report for fiscal year 2002. Table available online at [www.cms.hhs.gov/schip/enrollment](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/schip/enrollment). Washington, DC: HHS.
29. Martin, J.A.; Hamilton, B.E.; Ventura, S J.; Menaker, F.; Park, M.M.; & Sutton, P.D. (2002). Births: Final data for 2001 (Table 10). *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 51 (2). Available online at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/nvstr/51/51-12.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/nvstr/51/51-12.htm). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.
30. National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, Divisions of HIV/AIDS Prevention. (2002, December). Table 14: AIDS cases and rates (per 100,000 population), by area of residence and age category, reported through December 2002—United States. Available online at [www.cdc.gov/hiv/stats/hasr1402/table14.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/stats/hasr1402/table14.htm). Atlanta: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
31. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (2004). *Injury mortality reports, 1999–2001*. Available online at [http://webapp.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate10\\_fy.html](http://webapp.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate10_fy.html). Atlanta: CDC.
32. Office of Applied Studies, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse. (2000). *Substance abuse and mental health statistics*. Available online at [www.drugabusestatistics.samhsa.gov](http://www.drugabusestatistics.samhsa.gov). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
33. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, *Injury mortality reports, 1999–2001*.
34. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). (2003). *Crime in the United States*. Available online at [www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius\\_02/xl/02tbl69.xls](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_02/xl/02tbl69.xls). Washington, DC: Author; FBI. (1999). *Crime in the United States*. Available online at [www.fbi.gov/ucr/Cius\\_98/98crime/98cius28.pdf](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/Cius_98/98crime/98cius28.pdf). Washington, DC: Author.
35. Adapted from Sickmund, M. (in press). *Juveniles in corrections*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
36. Examples of direct services include child abuse and 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.
37. Urban Institute. (2001). *Protecting vulnerable children: Changes in state financing of child welfare services (1998–2000)*. Table available online at [www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/900609.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/900609.pdf). Washington, DC: Author.
38. Ibid.
39. National Data Analysis System. (n.d.). Number of children in out-of-home care. Table available online at <http://ndas.cwla.org>. Washington, DC: CWLA.
40. Draais-Parillo, A. (2002). *2001 salary study*. Washington, DC: CWLA Press.
41. National Data Analysis System. (2001). *State child welfare agency survey*. Available online at <http://ndas.cwla.org/Report.asp?PageMode=0&ReportID=32>. Washington, DC: CWLA.
42. Ibid.
43. U.S. Bureau of the Census. (2003, October). *Median income for 4-person families, by state*. Available online at [www.census.gov/hhes/income/4person.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/income/4person.html). Washington, DC: Author.