



Children in Louisiana

1,177,555 children live in Louisiana

A child in Louisiana is born into poverty every 29 minutes
A child in Louisiana is abused or neglected every 48 minutes
A child in Louisiana dies before his or her first birthday every 14 hours
A child or teen in Louisiana is killed by gunfire every 3 days

Louisiana Rankings*

Louisiana ranks 28th among states in the percent of babies born to mothers who received early prenatal care.

Louisiana ranks 40th among states in per pupil expenditures.

Louisiana ranks 48th among states in infant mortality.

Louisiana ranks 49th among states in the percent of children who are poor.

Louisiana ranks 49th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

[*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children.]

Child Poverty in Louisiana

Number of poor children	318,945
Percent of children who are poor	27.5%
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	56,431
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$240

Child Hunger in Louisiana

Number of children who receive food stamps	315,290
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	73%
Number of children in School Lunch Program	632,139
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children)	129,200

Early Childhood Development in Louisiana

Percent of children under age six with all parents in the labor force	66.6%
Number of children served by Head Start	22,096
Number of children served by the Child Care and Development Block Grant	38,700
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$4,160

Child Welfare in Louisiana

Number of children who were victims of abuse and neglect	10,971
Number of children in foster care	4,829
Number of children adopted from foster care	487
Number of grandparents raising their grandchildren	67,511

Education in Louisiana

Amount spent per pupil in public school	\$5,804
Percent of fourth graders reading below grade level	80%
Percent of fourth graders below grade level in math	79%
Average class size in public elementary schools	18.8
Average class size in public secondary schools	22.6

Child Health in Louisiana

Number of children without health insurance	172,000
Percent of children without health insurance	13.7%
Percent of two-year-olds who are not fully immunized	33.2%

Youth At Risk in Louisiana

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and are not high school graduates	11.7%
High school completion rate	82.1%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds who are unemployed	21.2%
Number of juveniles arrested	35,560
Number of children and teens in juvenile or adult correctional facilities	3,028
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 62 homicides; 27 suicides; 6 accidents; and 0 undetermined	95

GET INVOLVED: CDF and our partners in Louisiana offer a variety of projects, which individuals, organizations and congregations can initiate at the local level to improve the lives of children. CDF provides training and/or ongoing technical assistance for many of these projects.

The Dodd-Miller comprehensive **Act to Leave No Child Behind** (S. 448/H.R. 936) will help provide all children a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start*, and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information on how the Act to Leave No Child Behind will help children in your state, and how your Representatives and Senators vote for children, please visit www.cdfactioncouncil.org.

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available.

For more information on the state of America's children contact:

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