



FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION MANAGEMENT REPORT

October 6, 2025

Reference: House Concurrent Resolution 74, 2003 Legislative Session

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
Rebecca Harris, Secretary

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INTRODUCTION

At the direction of House Concurrent Resolution 74 passed by the 2003 Legislature, the Department of Children and Family Services publishes the annual Foster Care and Adoption Management Report. This report details activities in the areas of foster care and adoption in State Fiscal Year 2024 and compares the results to a five-year running average. Data are provided at the state and regional level and by age group, where appropriate and available.

The data used in this report is extracted from the Tracking, Information, and Payment System of the department. Data is derived based on the date the event occurred to allow for consistency with historical review. As a result, these numbers may vary from numbers reported into the Louisiana Performance Accountability System (LaPAS) and other data reported by the Department.

This information, along with other Child Welfare statistics, annual reports, and historical data, is available on the DCFS website: [Reports and Statistics | Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services](#).

1a. Number of Children in State Custody as of Year End¹

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN DCFS CUSTODY ON JUNE 30, 2025						
Region		Infants Age 0 - 1	Young Children Ages 2 - 4	Older Children Ages 5 - 9	Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 – 17	Totals
01	Greater New Orleans	81	61	73	110	325
02	Baton Rouge	74	90	103	193	460
03	Covington	138	99	128	208	573
04	Thibodaux	76	70	93	140	379
05	Lafayette	149	143	157	210	659
06	Lake Charles	63	66	57	79	265
07	Alexandria	112	148	160	192	612
08	Shreveport	121	119	131	169	540
09	Monroe	94	102	131	180	507
99	Location Unknown	2	1	3	3	9
STATE TOTALS		910	899	1,036	1,484	4,329

1b. Number of Children in State Custody as of Year End Previous Year

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN DCFS CUSTODY ON JUNE 30, 2024						
REGION		INFANTS AGES 0-1	YOUNG CHILDREN AGES 2-4	OLDER CHILDREN AGES 5-9	PRE- TEENS/ TEENS AGES 10-17	TOTALS
01	Greater New Orleans	71	47	57	116	291
02	Baton Rouge	71	95	93	190	449
03	Covington	120	106	130	178	534
04	Thibodaux	91	80	118	176	465
05	Lafayette	147	125	147	191	610
06	Lake Charles	63	63	62	75	263
07	Alexandria	128	114	135	215	592
08	Shreveport	113	106	126	140	485
09	Monroe	88	101	109	145	443
99	Location Unknown	2	3	1	2	8
STATE TOTALS		894	840	978	1,428	4,140

¹ Category "Location Unknown" may refer to cases where children are voluntarily placed in care by their parents or cases where the Court of jurisdiction for the case has not yet been entered.

1c. **Five Year Average of Number of Children in State Custody as of Year End²**

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN DCFS CUSTODY ON LAST DAY OF SFY BY AGE GROUP SFY 2021 – 2025 (Last 5 Years)						
Region		Infants Age 0 - 1	Young Children Ages 2 - 4	Older Children Ages 5 - 9	Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 – 17	Average of All Ages
01	Greater New Orleans	56	44	50	94	246
02	Baton Rouge	80	80	90	149	400
03	Covington	131	105	132	198	567
04	Thibodaux	88	93	105	153	440
05	Lafayette	141	128	134	177	581
06	Lake Charles	64	66	68	85	284
07	Alexandria	102	102	116	168	490
08	Shreveport	97	92	104	123	417
09	Monroe	90	97	103	139	430
99	Location Unknown	2	1	1	2	7
STATE AVERAGE		851	808	903	1288	3862

For Tables 1a, 1b, and 1c, the child's age is calculated as of the last day of the SFY. The Region location is determined by the parish location of the removal court.

² The presentation of the report suggests that there is a higher number of Pre-Teen/Teens entering custody. However, it should be noted that 8 ages are represented in that category (10-17).

2a. Number of Children Taken into State Custody

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING DCFS CUSTODY IN SFY 2025						
Region		Infants Age 0 - 1	Young Children Ages 2 - 4	Older Children Ages 5 - 9	Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 - 17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	104	73	88	133	398
02	Baton Rouge	86	51	84	115	336
03	Covington	138	69	98	139	444
04	Thibodaux	78	34	60	77	249
05	Lafayette	142	77	89	144	452
06	Lake Charles	61	28	24	47	160
07	Alexandria	117	83	92	107	399
08	Shreveport	125	82	116	141	464
09	Monroe	77	49	72	114	312
99	Location Unknown	3	1	3	2	9
STATE TOTALS		931	547	726	1,019	3,223

2b. Number of Children Taken into State Custody Previous Year

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING DCFS CUSTODY IN SFY 2024						
Region		Infants Age 0 - 1	Young Children Ages 2 - 4	Older Children Ages 5 - 9	Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 - 17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	119	63	98	161	441
02	Baton Rouge	89	62	82	143	376
03	Covington	126	72	86	125	409
04	Thibodaux	90	42	65	102	299
05	Lafayette	133	79	110	116	438
06	Lake Charles	48	30	21	35	134
07	Alexandria	95	73	117	127	412
08	Shreveport	137	89	106	139	471
09	Monroe	69	53	65	69	256
99	Location Unknown	0	2	1	3	6
STATE TOTALS		906	565	751	1,020	3,242

2c. **Five Year Average of Number of Children Taken into State Custody**

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING DCFS CUSTODY DURING SFY BY AGE GROUP SFY 2021 - 2025						
Region		Infants Age 0 - 1	Young Children Ages 2 - 4	Older Children Ages 5 - 9	Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 - 17	Average of All Ages
01	Greater New Orleans	90	60	83	155	388
02	Baton Rouge	86	53	74	106	320
03	Covington	124	68	86	127	406
04	Thibodaux	83	46	65	86	280
05	Lafayette	137	82	101	130	451
06	Lake Charles	55	33	28	42	159
07	Alexandria	96	60	84	104	344
08	Shreveport	118	78	97	117	412
09	Monroe	75	49	60	70	255
99	Location Unknown	3	2	2	3	11
STATE TOTALS		867	531	680	940	3,026

For Tables 2a, 2b and 2c, child's age is calculated as of the date of entry into DCFS custody. Regional location is determined by the parish location of the removal court.

3a. Number of Children Leaving State Custody

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY IN SFY 2025						
Region		Infants Age 0 - 1	Young Children Ages 2 - 4	Older Children Ages 5 - 9	Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 – 17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	70	65	80	151	366
02	Baton Rouge	43	76	68	139	326
03	Covington	71	86	113	133	403
04	Thibodaux	49	65	91	131	336
05	Lafayette	70	93	98	155	416
06	Lake Charles	24	46	37	51	158
07	Alexandria	54	94	86	145	379
08	Shreveport	68	99	113	130	410
09	Monroe	25	60	71	92	248
99	Location Unknown	2	4	1	1	8
STATE TOTALS		475	688	758	1128	3050

3b. Number of Children Leaving State Custody Previous Year

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY IN SFY 2024						
Region		Infants Age 0 - 1	Young Children Ages 2 - 4	Older Children Ages 5 - 9	Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 – 17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	79	67	90	151	387
02	Baton Rouge	73	107	113	137	430
03	Covington	69	113	108	164	454
04	Thibodaux	45	78	72	114	309
05	Lafayette	83	107	121	136	447
06	Lake Charles	29	37	48	56	170
07	Alexandria	45	74	89	128	336
08	Shreveport	71	108	94	121	394
09	Monroe	39	65	70	86	260
99	Location Unknown	1	2	1	5	9
STATE TOTALS		534	758	806	1,098	3,196

3c. Five Year Average of Number of Children Leaving State Custody

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY DURING SFY BY AGE GROUP SFY 2021 - 2025						
Region		Infants Age 0 - 1	Young Children Ages 2 - 4	Older Children Ages 5 - 9	Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 – 17	Average of All Ages
01	Greater New Orleans	63	62	84	155	365
02	Baton Rouge	42	63	67	101	274
03	Covington	63	103	101	160	428
04	Thibodaux	40	74	76	111	303
05	Lafayette	70	96	103	137	407
06	Lake Charles	22	52	45	60	180
07	Alexandria	42	71	75	111	300
08	Shreveport	70	91	99	123	384
09	Monroe	32	62	68	84	247
99	Location Unknown	3	3	2	3	12
STATE AVERAGE		447	677	720	1,045	2,900

For Tables 3a, 3b and 3c, child's age is calculated as of the date of exit from DCFS custody. Regional location is determined by the parish location of the removal court.

4a. Number of Children Adopted Out of State Custody

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY TO A FINALIZED ADOPTION IN SFY 2025						
Region		Infants Age 0 - 1	Young Children Ages 2 - 4	Older Children Ages 5 - 9	Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 – 17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	11	6	12	6	35
02	Baton Rouge	9	30	15	12	66
03	Covington	27	49	40	16	132
04	Thibodaux	9	31	16	17	73
05	Lafayette	21	37	28	15	101
06	Lake Charles	10	34	22	14	80
07	Alexandria	8	33	15	17	73
08	Shreveport	12	13	8	1	34
09	Monroe	3	23	10	5	41
99	Location Unknown	0	2	0	0	2
STATE TOTALS		110	258	166	103	637

4b. Number of Children Adopted Out of State Custody Previous Year

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY TO A FINALIZED ADOPTION IN SFY 2024						
Region		Infants Age 0 - 1	Young Children Ages 2 - 4	Older Children Ages 5 - 9	Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 – 17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	11	14	12	8	45
02	Baton Rouge	10	26	13	6	55
03	Covington	20	45	17	17	99
04	Thibodaux	4	43	25	14	86
05	Lafayette	22	38	22	9	91
06	Lake Charles	10	20	15	5	50
07	Alexandria	11	25	11	11	58
08	Shreveport	8	22	7	1	38
09	Monroe	11	26	14	4	55
99	Location Unknown	0	2	0	0	2
STATE TOTALS		107	259	136	75	577

4c. Five Year Average of Number of Children Adopted Out of State Custody

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY TO A FINALIZED ADOPTION BY REGION BY AGE GROUP FOR SFY 2021 - 2025						
Region		Infants Age 0 - 1	Young Children Ages 2 - 4	Older Children Ages 5 - 9	Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 – 17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	9	14	14	5	44
02	Baton Rouge	5	18	9	5	38
03	Covington	25	57	34	21	138
04	Thibodaux	6	39	24	17	87
05	Lafayette	18	36	27	16	99
06	Lake Charles	9	32	19	10	71
07	Alexandria	10	27	15	12	65
08	Shreveport	10	17	9	5	43
09	Monroe	10	25	13	6	56
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
STATE AVERAGES		102	265	164	97	641

For Tables 4a, 4b and 4c, child's age is calculated as of the date of exit from DCFS Custody. Regional location is determined by the parish location of the removal court.

5a. Number of Children Reunited with Birth Family Out of State Custody

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY TO REUNIFICATION WITH FAMILY IN SFY 2025						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre- Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	57	57	62	101	277
02	Baton Rouge	30	34	42	68	174
03	Covington	35	32	58	62	187
04	Thibodaux	35	32	61	70	198
05	Lafayette	43	48	65	90	246
06	Lake Charles	12	12	13	17	54
07	Alexandria	42	53	66	79	240
08	Shreveport	33	56	72	66	227
09	Monroe	15	22	41	40	118
99	Location Unknown	1	0	1	0	2
STATE TOTALS		303	346	481	593	1,723

5b. Number of Children Reunited with Birth Family Out of State Custody Previous Year

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY TO REUNIFICATION WITH FAMILY IN SFY 2024						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre- Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	67	53	76	119	315
02	Baton Rouge	55	66	79	81	281
03	Covington	45	44	67	87	243
04	Thibodaux	36	31	42	54	163
05	Lafayette	55	61	85	85	286
06	Lake Charles	17	10	25	29	81
07	Alexandria	26	36	59	65	186
08	Shreveport	38	63	57	61	219
09	Monroe	20	32	36	42	130
99	Location Unknown	1	2	1	5	9
STATE TOTALS		360	398	527	628	1,913

5c. Five Year Average Number of Children Reunited with Birth Family Out of State Custody

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY TO REUNIFICATION WITH FAMILY BY REGION BY AGE GROUP FOR SFY 2021-2025						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre- Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	51	47	66	117	283
02	Baton Rouge	30	37	48	60	176
03	Covington	32	33	49	76	191
04	Thibodaux	30	31	45	54	162
05	Lafayette	45	51	66	84	247
06	Lake Charles	11	16	19	24	71
07	Alexandria	27	35	47	60	170
08	Shreveport	38	51	61	63	215
09	Monroe	14	25	33	36	109
99	Location Unknown	3	2	2	2	9
STATE AVERAGES		281	328	436	576	1,633

For Tables 5a, 5b and 5c, child's age is calculated as of the date of exit from DCFS custody. Regional location is determined by the parish location of the removal court.

6a. Number of Children Leaving Foster Care Due to Age

NUMBER OF YOUTH EXITING FOSTER CARE DUE TO AGE IN SFY 2025		
REGION		NUMBER OF YOUTH
01	Greater New Orleans	25
02	Baton Rouge	36
03	Covington	34
04	Thibodaux	27
05	Lafayette	28
06	Lake Charles	11
07	Alexandria	19
08	Shreveport	13
09	Monroe	15
99	Location Unknown	1
STATE TOTAL		209

6b. Number of Children Leaving Foster Care Due to Age Previous Year

NUMBER OF YOUTH EXITING FOSTER CARE DUE TO AGE IN SFY 2024		
REGION		NUMBER OF YOUTH
01	Greater New Orleans	13
02	Baton Rouge	27
03	Covington	30
04	Thibodaux	22
05	Lafayette	19
06	Lake Charles	8
07	Alexandria	22
08	Shreveport	19
09	Monroe	21
99	Location Unknown	0
STATE TOTAL		181

6c. Five Year Average Number of Children Leaving Foster Care Due to Age

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE DUE TO AGE FOR SFY 2021 - 2025		
REGION		AVERAGE NUMBER OF YOUTH
01	Greater New Orleans	15
02	Baton Rouge	19
03	Covington	33
04	Thibodaux	21
05	Lafayette	16
06	Lake Charles	12
07	Alexandria	17
08	Shreveport	12
09	Monroe	14
99	Location Unknown	0
STATE AVERAGE		159

7a. Number of Cases in Which Parental Rights Were Terminated³

NUMBER OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM PARENTAL RIGHTS WERE TERMINATED DURING SFY 2025						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre- Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	25	17	15	15	72
02	Baton Rouge	20	12	15	10	57
03	Covington	93	13	5	12	123
04	Thibodaux	43	4	7	6	60
05	Lafayette	81	9	26	13	129
06	Lake Charles	42	5	1	2	50
07	Alexandria	15	26	25	17	83
08	Shreveport	16	9	11	5	41
09	Monroe	16	13	11	6	46
99	Location Unknown	6	0	2	0	8
STATE TOTALS		357	108	118	86	669

7b. Number of Cases in Which Parental Rights Were Terminated Previous Year

NUMBER OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM PARENTAL RIGHTS WERE TERMINATED DURING SFY 2024						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre- Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	9	8	14	11	42
02	Baton Rouge	16	24	10	6	56
03	Covington	31	30	21	16	98
04	Thibodaux	16	28	12	19	75
05	Lafayette	37	39	30	22	128
06	Lake Charles	24	21	21	11	77
07	Alexandria	18	17	14	10	59
08	Shreveport	17	22	8	5	52
09	Monroe	15	12	10	4	41
99	Location Unknown	1	1	0	0	2
STATE TOTALS		184	202	140	104	630

³ This variable is measured by the number of children made available for adoption through any combination of surrenders, terminations of parental rights, and/or death of all parents. A determination was made based on case information that the child was legally available for adoption. While this normally involved a mother and father, there are a significant number of cases with multiple fathers (legal, biological and putative).

7c. Five Year Average of Number of Children in Which Parental Rights Were Terminated

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM PARENTAL RIGHTS WERE TERMINATED DURING SFY FOR SFY 2021 - 2025						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	26	8	13	9	62
02	Baton Rouge	17	9	9	7	48
03	Covington	124	6	6	7	150
04	Thibodaux	70	5	8	15	105
05	Lafayette	103	1	9	10	129
06	Lake Charles	52	5	5	4	73
07	Alexandria	19	26	19	14	84
08	Shreveport	14	11	9	12	51
09	Monroe	17	20	14	8	64
99	Location Unknown	2	0	0	1	4
STATE TOTALS		444	91	92	87	770

For Tables 7a, 7b and 7c, child's age is calculated as of the date the child was freed for adoption. Regional location is determined by the parish location of the removal court.

8a. Number of Cases in Which Termination of Rights Was by Court Action⁴

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A COURT ORDERED TPR IN SFY 2025						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	8	6	12	4	31
02	Baton Rouge	11	13	4	5	34
03	Covington	16	17	16	10	61
04	Thibodaux	17	23	13	12	66
05	Lafayette	30	26	15	8	80
06	Lake Charles	23	20	14	10	69
07	Alexandria	18	10	10	10	50
08	Shreveport	9	17	3	2	32
09	Monroe	14	12	9	5	41
99	Location Unknown	1	0	0	0	1
STATE TOTALS		151	148	100	69	469

⁴ This variable measures the number of unduplicated children in which parental rights of at least two parents are terminated by court action.

8b. Number of Cases in Which Termination of Rights Was by Court Action Previous Year

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A COURT ORDERED TPR IN SFY 2024						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	8	6	12	4	30
02	Baton Rouge	11	13	4	5	33
03	Covington	16	17	16	10	59
04	Thibodaux	17	22	13	12	64
05	Lafayette	29	25	15	8	77
06	Lake Charles	22	20	14	10	66
07	Alexandria	18	10	10	10	48
08	Shreveport	9	17	3	2	31
09	Monroe	14	12	9	5	40
99	Location Unknown	1	0	0	0	1
STATE TOTALS		145	142	96	66	449

8c. Five Year Average of Number of Cases in Which Termination of Rights Was by Court Action

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A COURT ORDERED TPR FOR SFY 2021 - 2025						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	11	7	9	4	30
02	Baton Rouge	9	11	8	3	29
03	Covington	27	22	20	11	80
04	Thibodaux	16	26	17	11	69
05	Lafayette	26	22	14	9	71
06	Lake Charles	18	18	14	8	57
07	Alexandria	14	17	12	9	52
08	Shreveport	12	11	5	4	31
09	Monroe	14	16	10	6	44
99	Location Unknown	1	0	0	0	1
STATE AVERAGES		145	146	107	63	460

9a. Number of Cases in Which DCFS Sought Termination of Rights by Court Action⁵

NUMBER OF TPR PETITIONS FILED SFY 2025		
REGION		TOTAL
01	Greater New Orleans	40
02	Baton Rouge	50
03	Covington	78
04	Thibodaux	26
05	Lafayette	90
06	Lake Charles	49
07	Alexandria	66
08	Shreveport	43
09	Monroe	42
STATE TOTALS		484

9b. Number of Cases in Which DCFS Sought Termination of Rights by Court Action Previous Year

NUMBER OF TPR PETITIONS FILED SFY 2024		
REGION		TOTAL
01	Greater New Orleans	23
02	Baton Rouge	35
03	Covington	70
04	Thibodaux	50
05	Lafayette	88
06	Lake Charles	65
07	Alexandria	48
08	Shreveport	34
09	Monroe	39
STATE TOTALS		452

⁵ This measure is not captured in the TIPS computer system. The measure is derived from a manual count by the Bureau of General Counsel of the number of petitions filed seeking termination of parental rights. The number of petitions filed is not a count of children or families

9c. Five Year Average of Number of Cases in Which DCFS Sought Termination of Rights by Court Action

AVERAGE NUMBER OF TPR PETITIONS FILED FOR SFY 2021 - 2025		
REGION		5-YEAR AVERAGE
01	Greater New Orleans	29
02	Baton Rouge	39
03	Covington	77
04	Thibodaux	42
05	Lafayette	77
06	Lake Charles	54
07	Alexandria	53
08	Shreveport	36
09	Monroe	35
STATE AVERAGE		440

10. Number of Cases in Which the Child has been in State Custody for Longer than Seventeen Months Where DCFS has not Sought Termination of Rights by Court Action

Data is not available for this measure. The Child Welfare data system does not capture information on the decision to not seek Termination of Rights. The system can be used to determine the number of children who have been in care longer than seventeen months and who do not have a completed Termination of Rights but there are no data elements that provide the ability to distinguish between cases in which court action is in progress, court action was sought and denied, or court action was not sought at all.

11. Number of Cases in Which Adoption is Not a Part of the Plan for the Child

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE ON JUNE 30, 2025 BY GOAL							
Region		Adoption	Alternative Permanent Living Arrangement	Guardianship	Live with Other Relative	Return to Home of Birth Family	Total All Goals
01	Greater New Orleans	100	9	4	0	208	321
02	Baton Rouge	57	6	8	5	371	447
03	Covington	122	14	7	2	459	604
04	Thibodaux	133	11	0	1	211	366
05	Lafayette	214	19	0	0	436	669
06	Lake Charles	75	10	4	1	157	247
07	Alexandria	132	10	10	1	459	612
08	Shreveport	64	8	8	6	461	547
09	Monroe	126	12	14	5	359	516
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
STATE TOTALS		1023	99	55	21	3131	4329

The Child Welfare data system captures one Goal, and the field is replaced when the Goal changes without maintaining a history of Goals for the child. In addition, most children in Foster Care have a concurrent goal. The concurrent goal is not captured in the data system. Therefore, data on whether adoption is or was a goal during a point in time in the history of the case is not available. The table above illustrates the children in Foster Care on June 30, 2025, and the goal as it is currently or was at the time of case closure, if the case closed between June 30, 2025, and date of extraction, July 16, 2025.

12a. Number of Children Available for Adoption and Waiting Placement

NUMBER OF CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR PLACEMENT AND NOT IN AN ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT ON JUNE 30, 2025						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	6	10	8	8	32
02	Baton Rouge	2	4	8	11	25
03	Covington	9	6	5	16	36
04	Thibodaux	1	3	11	22	37
05	Lafayette	5	9	16	14	44
06	Lake Charles	0	4	8	8	20
07	Alexandria	3	11	12	22	48
08	Shreveport	1	2	5	10	18
09	Monroe	4	4	10	14	32
99	Missing	1	0	0	1	2
STATE TOTALS		31	52	82	125	290

12b. Number of Children Available for Adoption and Waiting Placement Previous Year

NUMBER OF CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR PLACEMENT AND NOT IN AN ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT ON JUNE 30, 2024						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	0	2	1	9	12
02	Baton Rouge	3	9	7	11	30
03	Covington	8	6	16	20	50
04	Thibodaux	0	6	5	25	36
05	Lafayette	3	6	14	30	53
06	Lake Charles	1	8	13	16	38
07	Alexandria	6	3	6	23	38
08	Shreveport	7	2	5	6	20
09	Monroe	1	7	7	16	31
99	Missing	1	1	0	1	3
STATE TOTALS		30	50	74	157	311

12c. Five Year Average of Number of Children Available for Adoption and Waiting Placement

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION AND NOT IN AN ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT BY REGION BY AGE GROUP ON LAST DAY OF SFY 2021 - 2025						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	3	5	6	8	24
02	Baton Rouge	2	5	5	8	22
03	Covington	11	12	15	19	57
04	Thibodaux	3	10	13	29	57
05	Lafayette	5	9	12	27	55
06	Lake Charles	2	6	9	18	36
07	Alexandria	4	6	7	20	39
08	Shreveport	3	1	4	9	18
09	Monroe	3	7	8	21	41
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	1
STATE AVERAGE		36	61	79	159	350

For Tables 12a, 12b and 12c, child's age is calculated as of the last day of the SFY (June 30th). Some children included in the above calculations may have an identified adoptive family, but an adoption agreement has not been completed. A placement is not considered an adoptive placement for reporting purposes until an agreement to adopt has been finalized. Regional location is determined by the parish location of the removal court.

13a. Average Number of Months in State Custody for All Children Who Left Custody during the Year

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN MONTHS FOR CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE DURING SFY 2025						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre- Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	5.79	6.64	9.31	6.40	7.04
02	Baton Rouge	9.81	17.87	18.39	19.09	16.29
03	Covington	10.83	18.52	19.55	18.62	16.88
04	Thibodaux	8.86	16.10	18.25	21.26	16.12
05	Lafayette	10.70	16.56	17.58	19.13	15.99
06	Lake Charles	11.38	18.32	24.16	21.41	18.82
07	Alexandria	8.00	13.90	16.78	17.99	14.17
08	Shreveport	10.06	13.02	11.22	14.06	12.09
09	Monroe	10.44	15.21	19.25	21.15	16.51
99	Location Unknown	9.00	.00	11.00	21.50	10.38
STATE AVERAGES		9.37	15.00	16.47	17.56	14.60

13b. Average Number of Months in State Custody for All Children Who Left Custody during the Year - Previous Year

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN MONTHS FOR CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE DURING SFY 2024						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre- Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	4.92	7.03	5.39	8.38	6.43
02	Baton Rouge	6.93	13.43	12.53	14.10	11.75
03	Covington	9.17	15.68	17.10	17.92	14.97
04	Thibodaux	7.02	17.96	18.73	21.64	16.34
05	Lafayette	9.18	13.28	12.84	14.26	12.39
06	Lake Charles	10.07	16.81	20.61	18.24	16.43
07	Alexandria	9.13	13.49	17.02	15.76	13.85
08	Shreveport	7.23	10.40	13.28	12.77	10.92
09	Monroe	12.97	16.99	19.86	17.89	16.93
99	Location Unknown	8.00	.00	5.80	.00	3.45
STATE AVERAGES		8.14	13.56	14.49	15.43	12.91

13c. Five Year Average of the Number of Months in State Custody for All Children Who Left Custody during the Year

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN MONTHS FOR CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE SFY 2021-2025						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	4.78	8.04	7.12	9.02	7.24
02	Baton Rouge	7.54	13.83	15.02	15.19	12.90
03	Covington	11.13	18.36	19.10	19.31	16.98
04	Thibodaux	7.89	18.47	20.20	21.86	17.11
05	Lafayette	9.26	15.44	16.10	16.64	14.36
06	Lake Charles	11.58	23.21	25.62	21.74	20.54
07	Alexandria	8.98	15.24	18.36	18.72	15.33
08	Shreveport	8.07	12.14	12.85	12.98	11.51
09	Monroe	12.11	19.74	22.08	20.75	18.67
99	Location Unknown	2.33	4.60	6.63	9.44	5.75
STATE AVERAGES		8.69	15.57	16.45	17.25	14.49

For Tables 13a, 13b and 13c, child's age is calculated as of the date of exit from Foster Care. Region location is determined by the parish location of the removal court.

14a. New Foster Homes Opened⁶

NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER HOMES CERTIFIED BY DCFS IN SFY 2025		
REGION		NEW HOMES
01	Greater New Orleans	127
02	Baton Rouge	94
03	Covington	163
04	Thibodaux	99
05	Lafayette	174
06	Lake Charles	71
07	Alexandria	144
08	Shreveport	141
09	Monroe	100
99	Location Unknown	9
STATE TOTAL		1,122

14b. New Foster Homes Opened Previous Year

NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER HOMES CERTIFIED BY DCFS IN SFY 2024		
REGION		NEW HOMES
01	Greater New Orleans	73
02	Baton Rouge	67
03	Covington	130
04	Thibodaux	71
05	Lafayette	170
06	Lake Charles	61
07	Alexandria	135
08	Shreveport	82
09	Monroe	73
99	Location Unknown	3
STATE TOTAL		865

⁶ The number of new certified foster homes is not reflective of the interest in becoming a foster parent. However, having fewer Home Development staff to perform recruitment and certification activities results in the lower number of newly certified homes.

14c. Five Year Average of New Foster Homes Opened

AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER HOMES CERTIFIED BY DCFS SFY 2020-2024		
REGION		5 YR AVG
01	Greater New Orleans	74
02	Baton Rouge	63
03	Covington	127
04	Thibodaux	58
05	Lafayette	139
06	Lake Charles	57
07	Alexandria	101
08	Shreveport	84
09	Monroe	84
99	Location Unknown	19
STATE AVERAGE		806

Foster Homes are included in the annual count of new foster homes if they have an initial certification completed during the SFY. Families that leave the program and return within 2 years are not required to complete all initial certification criteria and are not included in this measure.

15a. Foster Care Homes Housing More Than Four Children in State Custody⁷

NUMBER OF CHILDREN PLACED IN FOSTER HOMES WITH 5 OR MORE FOSTER CHILDREN AND NUMBER HOMES WITH 5 OR MORE FOSTER CHILDREN ON JUNE 30, 2025							
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total	Number of Homes
01	Greater New Orleans	0	5	2	4	11	2
02	Baton Rouge	1	3	11	3	18	3
03	Covington	1	1	6	3	11	2
04	Thibodaux	14	11	13	22	60	11
05	Lafayette	3	5	8	10	26	5
06	Lake Charles	4	7	12	22	45	8
07	Alexandria	5	8	16	20	49	9
08	Shreveport	5	6	8	10	29	5
09	Monroe	1	1	10	10	22	5
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
STATE TOTALS		28	40	68	84	220	40

15b. Foster Care Homes Housing More Than Four Children in State Custody Previous Year

NUMBER OF CHILDREN PLACED IN FOSTER HOMES WITH 5 OR MORE FOSTER CHILDREN AND NUMBER HOMES WITH 5 OR MORE FOSTER CHILDREN ON JUNE 30, 2024							
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total	Number of Homes
01	Greater New Orleans	1	2	5	8	16	3
02	Baton Rouge	3	6	2	5	16	3
03	Covington	1	2	1	5	9	2
04	Thibodaux	2	2	4	2	10	2
05	Lafayette	8	16	18	16	58	10
06	Lake Charles	0	0	0	3	3	0
07	Alexandria	8	5	16	18	47	9
08	Shreveport	5	6	8	10	29	5
09	Monroe	1	1	10	10	22	5
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
STATE TOTALS		29	40	64	77	210	39

⁷ Policy allows for foster families to care for up to 5 children in their home at a given time.

15c. Five Year Average of Foster Care Homes Housing More Than Four Children in State Custody

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PLACED IN FOSTER HOMES WITH MORE THAN 4 CHILDREN AND AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOMES WITH MORE THAN 4 FOSTER CHILDREN ON JUNE 30TH SFY 2021-2025							
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total	Number of Homes
01	Greater New Orleans	0	1	1	3	6	1
02	Baton Rouge	2	3	5	4	15	2
03	Covington	1	2	5	5	14	2
04	Thibodaux	0	0	1	0	3	0
05	Lafayette	7	12	13	14	48	8
06	Lake Charles	0	0	0	0	1	0
07	Alexandria	3	5	9	10	29	5
08	Shreveport	1	3	5	6	16	3
09	Monroe	1	4	8	10	25	4
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
STATE AVERAGES		15	30	47	51	157	25

For Tables 15a, 15b and 15c, child's age as well as the number of children placed in a foster home is calculated as of June 30th of each year. Regional location for children is determined by the parish location of the removal court. Regional location for foster homes is based on the region of the Home Development Unit managing them.

16a. Number of Children Housed in Hospitals or Institutions⁸

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN CONGREGATE CARE SETTINGS ON JUNE 30, 2025						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	4	2	1	52	56
02	Baton Rouge	4	2	0	46	52
03	Covington	7	0	1	41	48
04	Thibodaux	1	0	1	32	33
05	Lafayette	3	1	1	33	38
06	Lake Charles	1	0	0	22	23
07	Alexandria	2	1	0	34	37
08	Shreveport	0	0	4	19	22
09	Monroe	4	0	1	29	32
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	1	1
STATE TOTALS		26	6	9	309	342

⁸ Louisiana has one of the lowest percentages of youth placed in a congregate care setting.

16b. Number of Children Housed in Hospitals or Institutions Previous Year

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN CONGREGATE CARE SETTINGS ON JUNE 30, 2024						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	0	1	0	17	18
02	Baton Rouge	1	0	0	28	29
03	Covington	1	0	0	23	24
04	Thibodaux	1	0	4	11	16
05	Lafayette	1	0	2	24	27
06	Lake Charles	0	0	0	9	9
07	Alexandria	4	0	0	20	24
08	Shreveport	0	0	2	11	13
09	Monroe	2	0	2	18	22
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	1	1
STATE TOTALS		10	1	10	162	183

16c. Five Year Average of Number of Children Housed in Hospitals or Institutions

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PLACED IN CONGREGATE CARE SETTINGS ON JUNE 30TH OF SFY 2021-2025						
Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Average All Ages
01	Greater New Orleans	2	0	0	35	36
02	Baton Rouge	2	0	0	25	29
03	Covington	1	0	0	40	41
04	Thibodaux	2	0	1	31	33
05	Lafayette	2	1	1	28	34
06	Lake Charles	0	0	0	15	17
07	Alexandria	1	0	0	25	27
08	Shreveport	1	0	2	20	22
09	Monroe	1	0	1	21	23
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	1
STATE AVERAGES		12	1	5	240	263

For Tables 16a, 16b and 16c, child's age is calculated as of June 30th of each year. Regional location for children is determined by the parish location of the removal court. The placement setting is based on June 30th of each year. Congregate Care Settings include Residential Treatment Facilities, Group Homes, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities, Psychiatric Hospitals, Medical Hospitals, Supervised Independent Living Facilities, Detention Centers, Emergency Shelter Facilities, Job Corp, Youth Challenge programs, and Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. Some congregate care placements are short term and may represent a temporary absence from the child's foster home.

17a. New Foster and Adoptive Homes Opened⁹

NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOMES CERTIFIED BY DCFS IN SFY 2025			
REGION		FOSTER HOMES	ADOPTIVE HOMES
01	Greater New Orleans	127	111
02	Baton Rouge	94	92
03	Covington	163	162
04	Thibodaux	99	96
05	Lafayette	174	170
06	Lake Charles	71	70
07	Alexandria	144	144
08	Shreveport	144	23
09	Monroe	100	97
99	Location Unknown	9	7
STATE TOTAL		1122	927

17b. New Foster and Adoptive Homes Opened Previous Year

NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOMES CERTIFIED BY DCFS IN SFY 2024			
REGION		FOSTER HOMES	ADOPTIVE HOMES
01	Greater New Orleans	73	60
02	Baton Rouge	67	65
03	Covington	130	128
04	Thibodaux	71	69
05	Lafayette	170	166
06	Lake Charles	61	61
07	Alexandria	135	133
08	Shreveport	82	19
09	Monroe	73	71
99	Location Unknown	3	3
STATE TOTAL		865	775

⁹ Most foster homes are dually certified as adoptive homes. Dually certified homes are counted in both Foster and Adoptive Homes measures. Starting in SFY 2023 the reporting methodology was changed to pull the 5 year range each reporting year. This will result in slight fluctuations of the previous year count based on data entry.

17c. Five Year Average of New Foster and Adoptive Homes Opened

AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOMES CERTIFIED BY DCFS SFY 2021-2025			
REGION		FOSTER HOMES	ADOPTIVE HOMES
01	Greater New Orleans	71	50
02	Baton Rouge	65	58
03	Covington	126	122
04	Thibodaux	68	66
05	Lafayette	142	134
06	Lake Charles	60	58
07	Alexandria	101	94
08	Shreveport	87	20
09	Monroe	84	76
99	Location Unknown	3	2
STATE AVERAGES		807	682

18. Average Number of Cases Assigned to Each Foster Care Case Manager¹⁰

Average Number of Cases Assigned to Foster Care Workers				
Region		Foster Care Staff	Foster Care Cases	Average Caseload
01	Greater New Orleans	69	688	9.97
02	Baton Rouge	83	779	9.39
03	Covington	109	972	8.92
04	Thibodaux	91	711	7.81
05	Lafayette	97	1055	10.88
06	Lake Charles	54	422	7.81
07	Alexandria	73	991	13.58
08	Shreveport	62	943	15.21
09	Monroe	67	754	11.25
99	Location Unknown	14	17	1.21
State Totals/Average		452	7332	16.22

Table 18 reflects the number of children in foster care on June 30, 2025. Location is organized by worker region.

Average caseload numbers do not accurately reflect caseload amounts. For the first six months, new workers have a lower caseload than veteran workers, which lowers the average. Because of this caseload, averages throw out workers carrying less than 8 cases to better reflect the average of a full caseload. The caseload standard for workers that have completed basic training is 10; however, the caseload range can extend up to 25 cases.

¹⁰ The Council on Accreditation Foster Care caseload standard recommends no more than 15 children in foster care or kinship care, and no more than 8 children in treatment foster care.

19. Average Number of Cases Assigned to Each Adoption Case Manager¹¹

Average Number of Cases Assigned to Adoption Workers				
Region		Adoption Staff	Adoption Cases	Average Caseload
01	Greater New Orleans	5	48	9.60
02	Baton Rouge	4	35	8.75
03	Covington	9	60	6.67
04	Thibodaux	4	43	10.75
05	Lafayette	4	69	17.25
06	Lake Charles	5	23	4.60
07	Alexandria	7	58	8.29
08	Shreveport	4	31	7.75
09	Monroe	3	44	14.67
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0
State Totals/Average		45	411	9.13

Table 19 reflects the number of children in foster care and available for adoption on June 30, 2025. Location is organized by worker region. For the first six months, new workers have a lower caseload than veteran workers, which lowers the average. Because of this caseload, averages throw out workers carrying less than 5 cases to better reflect the average of a full caseload.

¹¹ The Council on Accreditation Adoption caseload standard recommends caseloads that should not exceed 15 children.

20a. Number of Children Entering Foster Care by Reason for Entering Foster Care¹²

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE BY PRIMARY ENTRY REASON FOR SFY 2025 ¹³							
Region		Primary Foster Care Entry Reason	Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	Neglect	100	71	84	129	384
		Physical Abuse	4	2	3	2	11
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	1	2	3
Greater New Orleans Region Totals			104	73	88	133	398
02	Baton Rouge	Emotional Maltreatment	1	0	0	0	1
		Neglect	78	47	75	102	302
		Physical Abuse	7	3	6	6	22
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	3	5	9
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	0	0	0	2	2
Baton Rouge Region Totals			86	51	84	115	336
03	Covington	Neglect	134	67	93	128	422
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	0	0	0	1	1
		Physical Abuse	4	2	3	4	13
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	2	6	8
Covington Region Totals			138	69	98	139	444
04	Thibodaux	Neglect	75	33	57	72	237
		Physical Abuse	3	1	2	4	10
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	1	1	2
Thibodaux Region Totals			78	34	60	77	249
05	Lafayette	Neglect	134	71	82	127	414
		Physical Abuse	6	5	5	11	27
		Sexual Abuse	1	1	2	5	9
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	1	0	0	1	2
Lafayette Region Totals			142	77	89	144	452
06	Lake Charles	Neglect	55	26	23	43	147
		Physical Abuse	5	2	1	0	8
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	4	4
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	1	0	0	0	1
Lake Charles Region Totals			61	28	24	47	160
07	Alexandria	Neglect	115	83	91	101	390
		Physical Abuse	2	0	1	5	8
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	1	1

¹² These charts provide the primary reason a child enters foster care. Some children experience multiple foster care entries in the reporting period. Each foster care entry and the primary reason for the entry are counted. Entry Reasons have been combined into the major child abuse and Neglect categories.

¹³ Neglect reflects the highest number of entries as this allegation includes the most factors involved in a report.

Alexandria Region Totals			117	83	92	107	399
08	Shreveport	Emotional Maltreatment	2	0	0	0	2
		Neglect	114	73	97	116	400
		Physical Abuse	6	7	12	12	37
		Sexual Abuse	1	2	7	9	19
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	2	0	0	4	6
Shreveport Region Totals			125	82	116	141	464
09	Monroe	Neglect	64	39	66	103	272
		Physical Abuse	13	10	6	8	37
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	2	2
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	0	0	0	1	1
Monroe Region Totals			77	49	72	114	312
99	Location Unknown	Neglect	3	1	3	2	9
Location Unknown Totals			3	1	3	2	9
	Statewide	Emotional Maltreatment	3	1	0	0	4
		Neglect	872	510	671	923	2976
		Physical Abuse	50	32	39	52	173
		Sexual Abuse	2	4	16	35	57
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	4	0	0	9	13
State Totals			931	547	726	1019	3223

20b. Number of Children Entering Foster Care by Reason for Entering Foster Care Previous Year

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE BY PRIMARY ENTRY REASON FOR SFY 2024¹⁴							
Region		Primary Foster Care Entry Reason	Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Total
01	Greater New Orleans	Neglect	113	62	94	148	417
		Physical Abuse	5	1	3	5	14
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	6	6
Greater New Orleans Region Totals			118	63	97	159	437
02	Baton Rouge	Emotional Maltreatment	0	1	0	3	4
		Neglect	79	57	75	102	313
		Physical Abuse	8	3	3	27	41
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	3	11	15
Baton Rouge Region Totals			87	62	81	143	373
03	Covington	Neglect	120	68	79	114	381
		Physical Abuse	6	3	3	6	18
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	4	5	10
Covington Region Totals			126	72	86	125	409
04	Thibodaux	Neglect	87	40	60	93	280
		Physical Abuse	2	2	3	3	10

¹⁴ Neglect reflects the highest number of entries as this allegation includes the most factors involved in a report.

		Sexual Abuse	1	0	2	6	9
Thibodaux Region Totals			90	42	65	102	299
05	Lafayette	Neglect	123	75	103	103	404
		Physical Abuse	8	3	4	10	25
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	3	3	7
Lafayette Region Totals			131	79	110	116	436
06	Lake Charles	Neglect	48	27	20	32	127
		Physical Abuse	0	2	1	3	6
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	0	0	1
Lake Charles Region Totals			48	30	21	35	134
07	Alexandria	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	2	1	3
		Neglect	92	68	107	106	373
		Physical Abuse	3	2	5	12	22
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	2	7	10
Alexandria Region Totals			95	71	116	126	408
08	Shreveport	Emotional Maltreatment	1	0	0	1	2
		Neglect	122	80	100	123	425
		Physical Abuse	14	8	5	11	38
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	1	4	6
Shreveport Region Totals			137	89	106	139	471
09	Monroe	Neglect	64	48	57	56	225
		Physical Abuse	5	5	8	10	28
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	3	3
Monroe Region Totals			69	53	65	69	256
99	Location Unknown	Neglect	1	4	3	6	14
Location Unknown Totals			1	4	3	6	14
	Statewide	Emotional Maltreatment	1	1	2	5	9
		Neglect	849	529	698	883	2,959
		Physical Abuse	51	29	35	87	202
		Sexual Abuse	1	6	15	45	67
State Totals			902	565	750	1,020	3,237

20c. Five Year Average of Number of Children Entering Foster Care by Reason for Entering Foster Care

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE BY PRIMARY ENTRY REASON FOR SFY 2021-2025							
	Region		Infants Age 0-1	Young Children Age 2-4	Older Children Age 5-9	Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17	Average All Ages
01	Greater New Orleans	Neglect	86	58	77	143	365
		Physical Abuse	3	2	4	7	17
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	1	5	6
	Greater New Orleans Region Totals		89	60	82	155	388
02	Baton Rouge	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	0	1
		Neglect	78	48	65	83	275

		Physical Abuse	7	3	5	12	29
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	3	8	13
	Baton Rouge Region Totals		85	52	73	103	318
03	Covington	Neglect	118	65	81	116	382
		Physical Abuse	5	2	3	6	17
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	2	3	5
	Covington Region Totals		123	67	86	125	404
04	Thibodaux	Neglect	80	44	60	78	262
		Physical Abuse	2	1	2	3	9
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	2	4	8
	Thibodaux Region Totals		82	45	64	85	279
05	Lafayette	Neglect	131	79	94	115	419
		Physical Abuse	5	2	4	8	20
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	2	5	8
	Lafayette Region Totals		136	81	100	128	447
06	Lake Charles	Neglect	52	30	27	37	148
		Physical Abuse	2	2	1	1	7
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	3	3
	Lake Charles Region Totals		54	32	28	41	158
07	Alexandria	Neglect	92	58	79	96	327
		Physical Abuse	3	1	3	4	11
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	3	4
	Alexandria Region Totals		95	59	82	103	342
08	Shreveport	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	0	1
		Neglect	108	72	86	96	364
		Physical Abuse	7	5	8	12	33
		Safe Haven Relinquishment	1	0	0	0	1
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	3	7	12
	Shreveport Region Totals		116	77	97	115	412
09	Monroe	Neglect	65	41	54	61	223
		Physical Abuse	9	7	5	7	29
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	1	1
	Monroe Region Totals		74	48	59	69	253
99	Location Unknown	Neglect	4	2	2	2	11
		Physical Abuse	0	0	0	0	0
	Location Unknown Totals		4	2	2	2	11
	Statewide	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	0	1
		Neglect	835	497	325	827	2484
		Physical Abuse	43	25	35	60	163
		Safe Haven Relinquishment	1	0	0	0	1
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	13	39	53
	State Totals		879	523	373	926	2,702

For Tables 20a, 20b and 20c, child's age is calculated as of date of entry into Foster Care. The region is determined by the parish location of the removal court. Primary Foster Care entry reasons for court ordered entries reflect the action or

inaction on the part of the parent that contributed to an unsafe environment for the child. There are four categories of abuse/Neglect associated with court ordered placement into DCFS custody. These are Emotional Maltreatment, Neglect, Physical Abuse and Sexual Abuse. Several types of abuse or Neglect fall under each of these categories. Some children enter DCFS custody by a voluntary plan made by the parent. Voluntary Foster Care entry may occur when a parent experiences a crisis, such as parental hospitalization when no one else is available to the parent to care for the child. A child may also enter DCFS custody by voluntary placement when the parent intends to surrender the child for adoption or the parents complete a surrender of the child for adoption. For Table 20c, counts and totals are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Activities to Recruit New Foster and Adoptive Homes

- Engage faith-based and private community partners, service providers, businesses, and other community members in foster/adoptive recruitment and support efforts through the development of Community Collaborative groups in each region. These groups meet monthly to discuss opportunities for collaboration with DCFS and other stakeholders to improve foster care support in the region.
- Engage Rev. Donald Hunter and other ministers, priests, and church leaders in the recruitment of foster/adoptive homes throughout the state. Community meetings are held with local ministers, and recruiters are actively attending church services to speak with their congregations to recruit caregivers.
- Collaborate with local faith-based partners to conduct foster caregiver orientation and pre-service training at their churches.
- Engage current foster/adoptive caregivers in recruitment efforts by inviting foster/adoptive caregivers to host informational meetings for prospective foster caregivers in their community and offering foster parent training hours to compensate them for their time. Foster caregivers will be trained by Recruitment/Support Consultants to lead informational meetings as well as assist with pre-service training.
- Utilization of, and agency collaboration with AdoptUSKids (a service of the Children's Bureau and the National Adoption Association) and to: photo-list children who are without an identified adoptive family; recruit families nationwide that express interest in becoming a certified foster/adoptive parent; and introduce certified adoptive families from other states to Louisiana's children who are awaiting a permanent family.
- Utilization of DCFS social media (Facebook and Instagram), DCFS intranet, television, radio appearances/interviews, in local media markets throughout the state to recruit and promote foster/adoptive parenting. The content featured on DCFS social media and internet pages includes videos of current foster caregivers highlighting the caregivers' experiences in order to enhance recruitment of new foster caregivers.
- Collaborate with local media outlets to raise community awareness of opportunities to become a foster/adoptive caregiver and support children and families through the DCFS.
- Utilization of video testimonial from community partners statewide to highlight supports developed for foster caregivers and to encourage new community partnerships that can provide ongoing support to new and existing foster caregivers.
- Display and distribution of recruitment materials to the general public at conferences, public forums, community events, etc.
- Involvement of staff and foster/adoptive parents in speaking at community meetings and church events to increase public awareness of the need for foster/adoptive families.
- Implement the Foster Caregiver Recruitment and Support Program, which will provide one dedicated DCFS Recruitment/Support Consultant per region who will serve as the regional point of contact for all prospective foster/adoptive families. Consultants guide families through each step of the certification process and offer support for post-certification.

- Agency collaboration with the National Center for Diligent Recruitment to enhance diligent recruitment efforts through the development of diligent recruitment training for staff, incorporation of data-driven targeted recruitment strategies, and consultation regarding the agency’s existing processes for inquiry, orientation, pre-service training, certification, and post-certification support to improve retention rates of foster/adoptive families.
- Agency collaboration with the National Center for Diligent Recruitment also provides the DCFS with technical assistance in the development of current and future recruitment plans and data to identify strengths and needs. This technical assistance provides access to technology such as Geographic Information System (GIS) Mapping and Market Segmentation, which allows DCFS to effectively target new foster caregivers that will support the placement of diverse populations of children and youth.
- Conduct an Annual Statewide Centralized Adoption Exchange as well as quarterly Regional Adoption Exchange meetings involving DCFS adoption and home development staff and community members. Information is shared regarding foster children awaiting adoptive placement, especially older youth and special needs children, with resource families willing to adopt our children with challenging behaviors. These exchange meetings also provide a forum for ideas and innovation in the areas of general, targeted, and child-specific recruitment.
- Utilization of a statewide Louisiana Heart Gallery through a partnership with Fostering Community and local churches. This promotes the use of professional photos, videos, and strength-based profiles of children awaiting an adoptive family.
- Pre-Service training for foster parents includes an adoption session that prepares foster parents on the journey through adoption and Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI), a therapeutic model that trains caregivers to provide effective support and treatment for at-risk children.
- Utilization of community partners to support relative/kin caregivers through the certification process. Encourage and invite certified relative caregivers to consider becoming a generally certified foster/adoptive caregiver with DCFS after the child in their care has achieved permanency.
- Assessment of foster/adoptive caregivers that were previously closed in good standing to invite them to reconsider becoming recertified as a foster/adoptive caregiver.
- Provide the foster/adoptive pre-certification classes virtually, in-person, or through a hybrid option.

Activities to Improve the Rate of Placement in Adoptive Homes

- Ongoing public/private agency and faith-based partnerships to enhance and provide ongoing support for recruitment of foster/adoptive families for DCFS children available for adoption.
- Provide interested certified adoptive families with information on available pre- and post-adoption services.
- Ongoing cooperative effort and involvement with the Louisiana Supreme Court’s Court Improvement Project. This effort is aimed at identifying and overcoming barriers within the court system that may hinder the achievement of child permanency in a timely manner, including the permanency option of foster care adoption.

- Use of purchase of service agreements with private child placing agencies within Louisiana and in other states in an effort to overcome geographic barriers and to expedite adoptive placements, services, and adoption finalizations across geographical boundaries.
- Plan, coordinate, and host Louisiana's adoption reception at the Governor's mansion to publicly honor and acknowledge those families who have adopted a foster child or children during the previous federal fiscal year. The celebration is held annually in November and in conjunction with many regionally based recruitment activities in recognition of National Adoption Awareness Month. Salient among these is the release to local media statewide of the Governor's proclamation declaring November as Adoption Awareness Month in Louisiana and local coverage of smaller regional events held statewide in celebration and promotion of foster care adoption.
- Maintain the DCFS website, which includes adoption-related links and features, on a rotating basis, and foster children available for adoption and in need of permanent placement.
- DCFS's partnership with the National Adoption Association (NAA) offers a national network of support for families throughout foster care to the adoption process. Specifically focuses on serving teenagers, large sibling groups, and children with special needs.
- Utilization of the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Child Specific Recruitment Model. DCFS was awarded a grant through the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption for 9 recruiters. The model's child-specific approach is to assist with recruitment for youth and children in foster care without an identified permanent resource.
- Through a contract with Louisiana Methodist Children's Home, DCFS receives assistance with completing child-specific relative home studies, statewide.
- Louisiana continues to offer the National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative ("NTI") established by the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services, to enhance the adoption competency skills of child welfare adoption professionals.
- The National Center for Enhanced Post Permanency Support is providing expert knowledge and technical assistance with Louisiana to assess post-permanency supports to families with children exiting foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification. The Center will not only assess but also help the Department to develop a plan to increase post-permanency supports to families. This is an 18-month process.

APPENDIX:
House Concurrent Resolution No. 74
Regular Session, 2003