



FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION MANAGEMENT REPORT 2024

Reference:
House Concurrent Resolution 74, 2003 Legislative Session

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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 are extracted from the Tracking, Information and Payment System of the department. Data are 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, 2024						
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	70	47	56	117	290
02	Baton Rouge	70	95	93	192	450
03	Covington	121	106	130	179	536
04	Thibodaux	91	81	118	181	471
05	Lafayette	145	125	147	191	608
06	Lake Charles	63	63	62	75	263
07	Alexandria	129	113	138	216	596
08	Shreveport	113	106	126	142	487
09	Monroe	88	101	109	145	443
99	Location Unknown	3	4	3	5	15
STATE TOTALS		893	841	982	1,443	4,159

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

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN DCFS CUSTODY ON JUNE 30, 2023						
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	46	49	43	99	237
02	Baton Rouge	112	114	115	166	507
03	Covington	122	110	143	205	580
04	Thibodaux	88	102	119	166	475
05	Lafayette	155	136	142	187	620
06	Lake Charles	79	58	73	89	299
07	Alexandria	127	99	104	187	517
08	Shreveport	101	101	102	104	408
09	Monroe	99	100	102	146	447
99	Location Unknown	5	2	0	2	9
STATE TOTALS		934	871	943	1,351	4,099

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 2020 - 2024						
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	50	41	44	87	222
02	Baton Rouge	75	71	81	128	355
03	Covington	126	116	137	212	591
04	Thibodaux	93	99	112	161	465
05	Lafayette	130	120	121	164	535
06	Lake Charles	66	72	74	93	305
07	Alexandria	96	93	101	157	447
08	Shreveport	91	85	100	114	390
09	Monroe	88	98	101	135	422
99	Location Unknown	3	2	1	2	7
STATE AVERAGE		817	796	872	1,254	3,739

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 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	118	63	97	159	437
02	Baton Rouge	87	62	81	143	373
03	Covington	126	72	86	125	409
04	Thibodaux	90	42	65	102	299
05	Lafayette	131	79	110	116	436
06	Lake Charles	48	30	21	35	134
07	Alexandria	95	71	116	126	408
08	Shreveport	137	89	106	139	471
09	Monroe	69	53	65	69	256
99	Location Unknown	1	4	3	6	14
STATE TOTALS		902	565	750	1,020	3,237

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

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING DCFS CUSTODY IN SFY 2023						
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	81	68	88	201	438
02	Baton Rouge	120	85	103	142	450
03	Covington	124	69	107	137	437
04	Thibodaux	83	61	94	111	349
05	Lafayette	151	99	130	154	534
06	Lake Charles	71	41	41	57	210
07	Alexandria	132	70	93	138	433
08	Shreveport	138	92	117	116	463
09	Monroe	85	49	71	83	288
99	Location Unknown	9	5	3	13	30
STATE TOTALS		994	639	847	1,152	3,632

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 2020 - 2024						
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	84	54	74	152	365
02	Baton Rouge	78	49	66	94	287
03	Covington	115	70	85	131	401
04	Thibodaux	85	48	66	87	287
05	Lafayette	131	80	96	123	430
06	Lake Charles	54	34	32	40	159
07	Alexandria	88	55	76	97	317
08	Shreveport	114	77	94	109	394
09	Monroe	76	50	57	63	246
99	Location Unknown	5	2	2	6	15
STATE TOTALS		829	521	649	902	2,901

For Tables 2a, 2b and 2c, child's age is calculated as of the date of entry into DCFS custody. Region 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 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	148	384
02	Baton Rouge	72	107	112	135	426
03	Covington	68	113	108	165	454
04	Thibodaux	45	77	72	109	303
05	Lafayette	83	107	121	136	447
06	Lake Charles	29	37	48	56	170
07	Alexandria	44	73	85	126	328
08	Shreveport	71	108	94	119	392
09	Monroe	39	65	69	87	260
99	Location Unknown	1	3	1	3	8
STATE TOTALS		531	757	800	1,084	3,172

3b. Number of Children Leaving State Custody Previous Year

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY IN SFY 2023						
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	63	54	89	180	386
02	Baton Rouge	49	59	80	110	298
03	Covington	79	98	103	153	433
04	Thibodaux	45	91	78	116	330
05	Lafayette	83	118	128	137	466
06	Lake Charles	26	55	51	76	208
07	Alexandria	48	52	72	103	275
08	Shreveport	76	84	104	118	382
09	Monroe	26	60	58	66	210
99	Location Unknown	4	3	2	9	18
STATE TOTALS		499	674	765	1,068	3,006

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

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY DURING SFY BY AGE GROUP SFY 2020 - 2024						
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	62	62	80	150	354
02	Baton Rouge	40	57	63	88	248
03	Covington	62	114	113	171	461
04	Thibodaux	38	79	81	111	308
05	Lafayette	66	97	105	137	404
06	Lake Charles	20	55	46	61	181
07	Alexandria	39	66	70	100	276
08	Shreveport	70	91	102	125	388
09	Monroe	35	64	64	84	247
99	Location Unknown	3	2	1	5	11
STATE AVERAGE		433	686	726	1,032	2,878

For Tables 3a, 3b and 3c, child's age is calculated as of the date of exit from DCFS custody. Region 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 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	9	26	13	6	54
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	0	0	0	0
STATE TOTALS		106	259	136	75	576

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

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY TO A FINALIZED ADOPTION IN SFY 2023						
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	13	13	3	40
02	Baton Rouge	2	11	6	2	21
03	Covington	38	54	40	16	148
04	Thibodaux	8	53	18	19	98
05	Lafayette	18	47	31	18	114
06	Lake Charles	12	25	21	11	69
07	Alexandria	15	24	22	13	74
08	Shreveport	7	13	12	6	38
09	Monroe	9	25	13	5	52
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
STATE TOTALS		120	265	176	93	654

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 2020 - 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	10	17	15	5	48
02	Baton Rouge	5	15	9	4	33
03	Covington	25	62	39	23	149
04	Thibodaux	5	44	30	20	99
05	Lafayette	15	37	29	19	100
06	Lake Charles	8	29	17	10	65
07	Alexandria	11	25	15	13	63
08	Shreveport	11	20	12	8	52
09	Monroe	14	29	17	11	71
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
STATE AVERAGES		104	278	183	114	680

For Tables 4a, 4b and 4c, child's age is calculated as of the date of exit from DCFS Custody. Region 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 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	41	38	51	77	207
02	Baton Rouge	45	51	70	61	227
03	Covington	38	35	63	62	198
04	Thibodaux	33	25	37	43	138
05	Lafayette	44	53	73	74	244
06	Lake Charles	14	9	22	25	70
07	Alexandria	25	35	51	47	158
08	Shreveport	33	58	53	49	193
09	Monroe	18	29	31	35	113
99	Location Unknown	1	1	1	2	5
STATE TOTALS		292	334	452	475	1,553

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 2023						
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	20	28	36	85	169
02	Baton Rouge	34	33	57	55	179
03	Covington	32	31	32	56	151
04	Thibodaux	30	31	45	44	150
05	Lafayette	51	54	70	72	247
06	Lake Charles	12	22	16	23	73
07	Alexandria	21	20	34	38	113
08	Shreveport	35	42	45	52	174
09	Monroe	8	25	26	28	87
99	Location Unknown	2	3	1	7	13
STATE TOTALS		245	289	362	460	1,356

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 2020-2024						
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	27	30	38	76	171
02	Baton Rouge	24	27	40	42	133
03	Covington	27	31	49	66	173
04	Thibodaux	26	26	39	40	132
05	Lafayette	37	44	53	61	195
06	Lake Charles	8	19	21	23	72
07	Alexandria	20	31	35	43	129
08	Shreveport	30	41	47	50	168
09	Monroe	13	25	28	31	96
99	Location Unknown	2	1	1	3	7
STATE AVERAGES		214	275	352	434	1,275

For Tables 5a, 5b and 5c, child's age is calculated as of the date of exit from DCFS custody. Region 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 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

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

NUMBER OF YOUTH EXITING FOSTER CARE DUE TO AGE IN SFY 2023		
REGION		NUMBER OF YOUTH
01	Greater New Orleans	6
02	Baton Rouge	14
03	Covington	32
04	Thibodaux	17
05	Lafayette	8
06	Lake Charles	13
07	Alexandria	21
08	Shreveport	9
09	Monroe	7
99	Location Unknown	0
STATE TOTAL		127

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 2020 - 2024		
REGION		AVERAGE NUMBER OF YOUTH
01	Greater New Orleans	12
02	Baton Rouge	16
03	Covington	31
04	Thibodaux	21
05	Lafayette	15
06	Lake Charles	14
07	Alexandria	16
08	Shreveport	13
09	Monroe	15
99	Location Unknown	0
STATE AVERAGE		153

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

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

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

NUMBER OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM PARENTAL RIGHTS WERE TERMINATED DURING SFY 2023						
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	12	3	3	1	19
02	Baton Rouge	11	13	15	8	47
03	Covington	47	31	24	14	116
04	Thibodaux	20	30	25	10	85
05	Lafayette	30	21	15	15	81
06	Lake Charles	15	10	12	6	43
07	Alexandria	15	22	14	15	66
08	Shreveport	12	4	4	2	22
09	Monroe	18	21	12	8	59
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
STATE TOTALS		180	155	124	79	538

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 2020 - 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	14	12	14	8	47
02	Baton Rouge	11	13	10	4	38
03	Covington	45	41	30	22	139
04	Thibodaux	16	34	24	19	93
05	Lafayette	28	30	24	20	103
06	Lake Charles	20	23	17	11	72
07	Alexandria	14	23	16	12	66
08	Shreveport	18	15	10	9	51
09	Monroe	20	21	13	8	62
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	1
STATE TOTALS		187	213	157	114	672

For Tables 7a, 7b and 7c, child's age is calculated as of the date the child was freed for adoption. Region 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 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

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 2023						
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	12	4	3	2	21
02	Baton Rouge	6	8	10	1	25
03	Covington	34	20	21	8	83
04	Thibodaux	15	24	18	7	64
05	Lafayette	24	16	9	7	56
06	Lake Charles	14	10	11	4	39
07	Alexandria	11	18	12	8	49
08	Shreveport	9	3	4	2	18
09	Monroe	12	14	10	6	42
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
STATE TOTALS		137	117	98	45	397

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 2020 - 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	12	10	12	4	39
02	Baton Rouge	8	10	8	2	28
03	Covington	31	29	21	15	97
04	Thibodaux	15	30	19	14	77
05	Lafayette	25	24	18	11	78
06	Lake Charles	18	22	15	10	65
07	Alexandria	13	21	13	9	57
08	Shreveport	16	13	8	6	42
09	Monroe	15	20	10	5	50
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	1
STATE AVERAGES		153	178	126	76	534

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

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

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

NUMBER OF TPR PETITIONS FILED SFY 2023		
REGION		TOTAL
01	Greater New Orleans	24
02	Baton Rouge	52
03	Covington	65
04	Thibodaux	35
05	Lafayette	69
06	Lake Charles	56
07	Alexandria	49
08	Shreveport	43
09	Monroe	27
STATE TOTALS		420

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 2020 - 2024		
REGION		5-YEAR AVERAGE
01	Greater New Orleans	29
02	Baton Rouge	43
03	Covington	82
04	Thibodaux	35
05	Lafayette	67
06	Lake Charles	58
07	Alexandria	46
08	Shreveport	41
09	Monroe	34
STATE AVERAGE		435

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, 2024 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	66	6	4	1	213	290
02	Baton Rouge	57	7	3	0	383	450
03	Covington	120	5	7	0	404	536
04	Thibodaux	98	14	0	0	359	471
05	Lafayette	177	19	0	0	412	608
06	Lake Charles	119	11	3	0	130	263
07	Alexandria	70	4	6	0	516	596
08	Shreveport	58	2	4	0	423	487
09	Monroe	85	9	6	0	343	443
99	Location Unknown	3	0	0	0	12	15
STATE TOTALS		853	77	33	1	3,195	4,159

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, 2024 and the goal as it is currently or was at the time of case closure, if the case closed between June 30, 2024 and date of extraction, July 16, 2024.

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, 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

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, 2023						
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	2	1	2	8	13
02	Baton Rouge	3	6	9	12	30
03	Covington	7	12	13	15	47
04	Thibodaux	5	7	14	25	51
05	Lafayette	5	4	5	26	40
06	Lake Charles	2	2	4	15	23
07	Alexandria	0	2	3	16	21
08	Shreveport	2	1	2	6	11
09	Monroe	0	4	3	23	30
99	Missing	0	0	0	1	1
STATE TOTALS		26	39	55	147	267

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 2020 - 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	3	3	9	15
02	Baton Rouge	1	3	3	6	13
03	Covington	11	8	12	18	49
04	Thibodaux	1	8	10	29	48
05	Lafayette	3	6	9	30	48
06	Lake Charles	3	8	8	23	41
07	Alexandria	2	3	5	18	30
08	Shreveport	4	2	5	10	21
09	Monroe	3	7	6	24	39
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	1
STATE AVERAGE		29	48	62	167	305

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. Region 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 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	4.68	8.25	6.80	5.17	5.99
02	Baton Rouge	6.63	14.47	13.47	12.61	12.29
03	Covington	8.76	17.76	14.81	16.68	15.32
04	Thibodaux	7.02	21.69	17.71	18.77	17.51
05	Lafayette	9.18	14.26	13.28	12.84	12.62
06	Lake Charles	10.07	18.24	16.81	20.61	17.22
07	Alexandria	9.00	15.62	13.62	17.10	14.78
08	Shreveport	7.23	12.77	10.18	12.73	11.13
09	Monroe	12.69	17.89	17.06	19.60	17.46
99	Location Unknown	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.33	1.13
STATE AVERAGES		7.96	15.40	13.38	14.34	13.28

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 2023						
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	4.13	8.13	7.31	5.23	5.94
02	Baton Rouge	5.47	10.39	10.28	13.26	10.61
03	Covington	12.03	17.54	15.51	16.91	15.83
04	Thibodaux	8.42	22.10	14.55	20.71	17.96
05	Lafayette	8.72	17.67	14.81	15.34	14.61
06	Lake Charles	13.19	18.35	26.02	23.04	21.30
07	Alexandria	9.02	18.63	17.58	19.74	17.09
08	Shreveport	6.72	9.57	11.21	9.12	9.31
09	Monroe	12.50	18.83	17.10	19.95	17.92
99	Location Unknown	0.00	5.67	0.00	3.67	2.78
STATE AVERAGES		8.40	16.02	14.19	14.70	13.82

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 2020-2024						
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	4.25	9.83	8.49	6.73	7.24
02	Baton Rouge	6.82	14.31	13.89	14.44	13.07
03	Covington	11.16	19.40	17.77	18.48	17.55
04	Thibodaux	7.50	21.64	18.82	21.35	19.07
05	Lafayette	8.42	16.28	15.85	16.25	14.88
06	Lake Charles	11.73	21.12	23.04	26.25	22.31
07	Alexandria	9.56	18.44	15.53	19.00	16.65
08	Shreveport	7.71	12.91	11.79	13.40	11.83
09	Monroe	12.64	20.92	21.89	24.90	21.37
99	Location Unknown	1.67	5.57	3.30	6.75	4.45
STATE AVERAGES		8.41	17.21	15.84	16.81	15.40

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 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

14b. New Foster Homes Opened Previous Year

NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER HOMES CERTIFIED BY DCFS IN SFY 2023		
REGION		NEW HOMES
01	Greater New Orleans	50
02	Baton Rouge	73
03	Covington	138
04	Thibodaux	80
05	Lafayette	146
06	Lake Charles	59
07	Alexandria	108
08	Shreveport	84
09	Monroe	89
99	Location Unknown	1
STATE TOTAL		828

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	63
02	Baton Rouge	58
03	Covington	124
04	Thibodaux	63
05	Lafayette	130
06	Lake Charles	56
07	Alexandria	89
08	Shreveport	80
09	Monroe	73
99	Location Unknown	21
STATE AVERAGE		757

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, 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

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, 2023							
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	0	0	0	0	0
02	Baton Rouge	3	8	6	6	23	4
03	Covington	0	2	8	6	16	3
04	Thibodaux	0	0	0	0	0	0
05	Lafayette	13	25	22	29	89	16
06	Lake Charles	0	0	0	1	1	0
07	Alexandria	6	10	14	16	46	8
08	Shreveport	1	1	1	2	5	2
09	Monroe	1	3	3	3	10	2
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
STATE TOTALS		24	49	54	63	190	35

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 2020-2024							
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	0	1	1	2	4	1
02	Baton Rouge	2	4	5	7	18	4
03	Covington	2	5	11	8	26	3
04	Thibodaux	1	2	6	4	12	1
05	Lafayette	6	11	11	14	42	7
06	Lake Charles	0	0	0	1	1	0
07	Alexandria	3	4	10	14	30	5
08	Shreveport	2	5	8	10	25	2
09	Monroe	1	3	6	7	16	4
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	1	1	0
STATE AVERAGES		18	34	58	66	176	27

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. Region location for children is determined by the parish location of the removal court. Region 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, 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

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, 2023						
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	0	0	5	5
02	Baton Rouge	2	0	1	12	15
03	Covington	0	0	1	24	25
04	Thibodaux	2	0	2	16	20
05	Lafayette	3	0	2	19	24
06	Lake Charles	0	0	0	16	16
07	Alexandria	0	0	1	15	16
08	Shreveport	1	0	0	15	16
09	Monroe	0	0	2	17	19
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
STATE TOTALS		8	0	9	139	156

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 2020-2024						
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	0	0	0	14	14
02	Baton Rouge	1	0	1	12	14
03	Covington	0	0	0	28	29
04	Thibodaux	1	0	1	19	22
05	Lafayette	1	0	1	19	22
06	Lake Charles	0	0	0	12	12
07	Alexandria	1	0	0	17	18
08	Shreveport	1	0	1	11	12
09	Monroe	0	0	1	14	15
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
STATE AVERAGES		6	1	7	146	159

For Tables 16a, 16b and 16c, child's age is calculated as of June 30th of each year. Region location for children is determined by the parish location of the removal court. 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 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

17b. New Foster and Adoptive Homes Opened Previous Year

NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOMES CERTIFIED BY DCFS IN SFY 2023			
REGION		FOSTER HOMES	ADOPTIVE HOMES
01	Greater New Orleans	50	43
02	Baton Rouge	73	69
03	Covington	138	136
04	Thibodaux	80	79
05	Lafayette	146	143
06	Lake Charles	59	59
07	Alexandria	108	107
08	Shreveport	84	53
09	Monroe	89	88
99	Location Unknown	1	0
STATE TOTAL		828	777

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 2020-2024			
REGION		FOSTER HOMES	ADOPTIVE HOMES
01	Greater New Orleans	63	58
02	Baton Rouge	58	56
03	Covington	124	122
04	Thibodaux	63	63
05	Lafayette	130	128
06	Lake Charles	56	56
07	Alexandria	89	88
08	Shreveport	80	41
09	Monroe	73	71
99	Location Unknown	21	20
STATE AVERAGES		757	703

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	19	292	15.37
02	Baton Rouge	22	449	20.41
03	Covington	41	541	13.20
04	Thibodaux	25	456	18.24
05	Lafayette	38	617	16.24
06	Lake Charles	15	243	16.20
07	Alexandria	27	600	22.22
08	Shreveport	30	486	16.20
09	Monroe	27	472	17.48
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0.00
State Totals/Average		244	4,156	17.03

Table 18 reflects the number of children in foster care on June 30, 2024. 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	4	37	9.25
02	Baton Rouge	3	48	16.00
03	Covington	5	68	13.60
04	Thibodaux	4	51	12.75
05	Lafayette	4	84	21.00
06	Lake Charles	3	56	18.67
07	Alexandria	3	45	15.00
08	Shreveport	4	27	6.75
09	Monroe	3	51	17.00
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0
State Totals/Average		33	467	14.15

Table 19 reflects the number of children in foster care and available for adoption on June 30, 2024. 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 2024 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	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
		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

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.

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

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 2023							
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	77	64	78	189	408
		Physical Abuse	3	4	4	9	20
		Sexual Abuse	1	0	6	3	10
Greater New Orleans Region Totals			81	68	88	201	438
02	Baton Rouge	Neglect	106	76	91	114	387
		Physical Abuse	12	5	6	11	34
		Sexual Abuse	2	4	6	17	29
Baton Rouge Region Totals			120	85	103	142	450
04	Thibodaux	FINS	0	0	0	1	1
		Neglect	81	59	90	104	334
		Physical Abuse	2	1	4	5	12
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	0	1	2
Covington Region Totals			124	69	107	137	437
04	Thibodaux	FINS	0	0	0	1	1
		Neglect	81	59	90	104	334
		Physical Abuse	2	1	4	5	12
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	0	1	2
Thibodaux Region Totals			83	61	94	111	349
05	Lafayette	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	1	0	1
		Neglect	147	96	119	142	504
		Physical Abuse	3	2	8	9	22
		Safe Haven Relinquishment	1	0	0	0	1
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	2	3	6
Lafayette Region Totals			151	99	130	154	534
06	Lake Charles	Neglect	67	40	40	47	194
		Physical Abuse	3	1	1	5	10
		Sexual Abuse	1	0	0	5	6
Lake Charles Region Totals			71	41	41	57	210

07	Alexandria	Neglect	124	66	86	138	414
		Physical Abuse	8	4	7	0	19
Alexandria Region Totals			132	70	93	138	433
08	Shreveport	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	1	1
		Neglect	129	87	104	89	409
		Physical Abuse	7	4	10	19	40
		Safe Haven Relinquishment	1	1	2	0	4
		Sexual Abuse	1	0	1	7	9
Shreveport Region Totals			138	92	117	116	463
09	Monroe	Neglect	76	37	62	67	242
		Physical Abuse	9	12	8	15	44
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	1	1	2
Monroe Region Totals			85	49	71	83	288
99	Location Unknown	Neglect	8	5	3	12	28
		Physical Abuse	1	0	0	1	2
Location Unknown Totals			9	5	3	13	30
	Statewide	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	1	1	2
		FINS	0	0	0	2	2
		Neglect	932	597	776	1028	3,333
		Physical Abuse	55	34	50	84	223
		Safe Haven Relinquishment	2	1	2	0	5
		Sexual Abuse	5	7	18	37	67
State Totals			994	639	847	1152	3,632

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 2020-2024							
	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	81	52	70	140	342
		Physical Abuse	3	2	4	8	17
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	2	5	7
Greater New Orleans Region Totals			85	54	75	152	366
02	Baton Rouge	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	1	1
		Neglect	70	44	59	72	245
		Physical Abuse	7	3	5	13	29
		Sexual Abuse	1	1	2	9	13
Baton Rouge Region Totals			78	49	66	95	288
03	Covington	FINS	0	0	0	1	1
		Neglect	110	67	79	117	373
		Physical Abuse	5	3	5	9	21
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	2	3	6
Covington Region Totals			115	70	86	131	402

04	Thibodaux	Neglect	82	46	59	78	265
		Physical Abuse	2	2	4	5	13
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	3	5	9
	Thibodaux Region Totals		85	48	66	88	288
05	Lafayette	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	0	1
		Neglect	125	77	90	109	401
		Physical Abuse	5	2	4	9	19
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	2	4	7
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	0	0	0	0	1
	Lafayette Region Totals		131	80	96	123	430
06	Lake Charles	Neglect	52	32	30	34	148
		Physical Abuse	2	3	1	3	8
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	3	3
	Lake Charles Region Totals		54	35	32	40	160
07	Alexandria	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	0	1
		Neglect	85	52	71	89	297
		Physical Abuse	4	2	4	5	15
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	1	4	5
	Alexandria Region Totals		89	55	76	98	318
08	Shreveport	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	1	1
		Neglect	103	70	83	89	345
		Physical Abuse	8	7	8	12	35
		Safe Haven Relinquishment	1	0	0	0	1
		Sexual Abuse	1	1	3	8	12
	Shreveport Region Totals		113	77	94	109	394
09	Monroe	Neglect	67	44	51	53	215
		Physical Abuse	9	7	6	8	30
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	1	1
	Monroe Region Totals		76	50	57	62	245
99	Location Unknown	Neglect	5	3	2	3	13
		Physical Abuse	0	0	0	0	1
	Location Unknown Totals		5	3	2	4	14
	Statewide	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	1	2	3
		FINS	0	0	0	1	2
		Neglect	780	486	592	785	2,643
		Physical Abuse	46	30	41	70	188
		Safe Haven Relinquishment	2	0	0	0	2
		Sexual Abuse	2	5	15	42	64
		Surrender by Parent	0	0	0	0	1
		Voluntary Placement	0	0	0	0	1
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	0	0	1	0	1
	State Totals		830	522	650	902	2,904

For Tables 20a, 20b and 20c, child's age is calculated as of date of entry into Foster Care. 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 will meet regularly discuss opportunities for collaboration with DCFS and other stakeholders to improve foster care support in the region.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 will guide families through each step of the certification process, and offer support 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.
- 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.

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 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, to include 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 DCFS website, which includes adoption related links and features, on a rotating basis, foster children available for adoption and in need of permanent placement.
- DCFS's partnership with National Adoption Association (NAA) offers national network supports for families throughout foster care to the adoption process. Specifically focuses on serving teenagers, large sibling groups and children with special needs.
- Louisiana, in partnership with AdoptUSKids is developing a statewide Speaker's Bureau. The goal is to raise public awareness and assist prospective foster parents to move from inquiry to action. The bureau will consist of foster/adoptive parents speaking to various media outlets when needed to promote and recruit for foster/adoptive parents. Our target population will be older youth and medically fragile children
- Utilization of the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Child Specific Recruitment Model. DCFS was awarded a grant through the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption for 8 recruiters. The model's child specific approach is to assist with recruitment for older youth, children with special needs and large sibling groups without identified

adoptive resources. A ninth Recruiter was awarded to Louisiana to assist with Child Specific recruitment efforts for youth enrolled in the Extended Foster Care Program, ages 18-21.

- Through a contract with Louisiana Methodist Children’s Home, DCFS receives assistance with completing child specific relative home studies, statewide.
- 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 professionals. Louisiana continues to offer this training to all adoption staff, subsidy/petition workers, adoption supervisors and managers and plans to offer this course to other Child Welfare Specialist within the agency.
- The Department of Children and Family Services in partnership with CASE, Center for Adoption Support and Education, brought **Training for Adoption Competency (TAC)** to Louisiana in 2022 and continues with our 3rd Cohort in 2024. This is a training opportunity to mental health therapists across the state. The TAC program is a national, comprehensive, evidence-informed training program for professionals in the social work, mental health and child welfare fields. TAC is a 72-hour program including 6 clinical case consultations focusing on clinical practices that address core issues in adoption. The goal is to strengthen our pre and post adoption services.

* Note: we completed our 2nd TAC class in November 2023 and started our 3rd in Feb. 2024, expecting to be completed Nov. 2024 (SFY 2024).

APPENDIX:

House Concurrent Resolution No. 74
Regular Session, 2003