



# **FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION MANAGEMENT REPORT**

February 26, 2024

Reference: House Concurrent Resolution 74

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES  
David N. Matlock, Secretary

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## **INTRODUCTION**

At the direction of the Louisiana Legislature through House Concurrent Resolution 74 passed in the 2003 Regular Session, 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 2023 and compares the results to a five-year running average. Data is provided at the state and regional level and by age group, where appropriate and available. This information is provided to the Governor, each Louisiana state legislator, and to the major daily newspapers and network television stations in the following cities: New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Alexandria, Shreveport and Monroe.

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.

1a. **Number of Children in State Custody as of Year End<sup>1</sup>**

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN DCFS CUSTODY ON JUNE 30, 2023</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0 - 1</b>	<b>Young Children Ages 2 - 4</b>	<b>Older Children Ages 5 - 9</b>	<b>Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 – 17</b>	<b>Totals</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	46	49	43	98	236
02	Baton Rouge	108	111	117	170	506
03	Covington	122	109	142	207	580
04	Thibodaux	88	103	119	163	473
05	Lafayette	155	136	142	187	620
06	Lake Charles	79	56	75	90	300
07	Alexandria	126	97	104	187	514
08	Shreveport	101	101	102	103	407
09	Monroe	99	101	103	144	447
99	Location Unknown	6	3	1	7	17
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>930</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>4,100</b>

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

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN DCFS CUSTODY ON JUNE 30, 2022</b>						
<b>REGION</b>		<b>INFANTS AGES 0-1</b>	<b>YOUNG CHILDREN AGES 2-4</b>	<b>OLDER CHILDREN AGES 5-9</b>	<b>PRE- TEENS/ TEENS AGES 10-17</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	43	34	33	73	183
02	Baton Rouge	89	52	92	123	356
03	Covington	141	104	135	197	577
04	Thibodaux	99	106	103	144	452
05	Lafayette	143	127	134	148	552
06	Lake Charles	61	63	76	98	298
07	Alexandria	76	65	88	126	355
08	Shreveport	79	70	83	94	326
09	Monroe	84	95	81	109	369
99	Location Unknown	3	1	1	2	7
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>818</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>1,114</b>	<b>3,475</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 End<sup>2</sup>

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN DCFS CUSTODY ON LAST DAY OF SFY BY AGE GROUP SFY 2019 - 2023						
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	45	43	42	80	211
02	Baton Rouge	69	61	76	110	316
03	Covington	132	132	156	230	649
04	Thibodaux	93	110	118	164	485
05	Lafayette	116	119	115	159	509
06	Lake Charles	68	76	80	104	327
07	Alexandria	83	89	94	139	405
08	Shreveport	86	83	100	113	383
09	Monroe	88	97	100	138	424
99	Location Unknown	2	1	1	4	8
<b>STATE AVERAGE</b>		<b>783</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>3,717</b>

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.

<sup>2</sup> 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**

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING DCFS CUSTODY IN SFY 2023</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0 - 1</b>	<b>Young Children Ages 2 - 4</b>	<b>Older Children Ages 5 - 9</b>	<b>Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 – 17</b>	<b>Total</b>
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
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>994</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>3,632</b>

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

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING DCFS CUSTODY IN SFY 2022</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0 - 1</b>	<b>Young Children Ages 2 - 4</b>	<b>Older Children Ages 5 - 9</b>	<b>Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 – 17</b>	<b>Total</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	80	45	63	143	331
02	Baton Rouge	80	37	71	76	264
03	Covington	101	68	73	129	371
04	Thibodaux	92	47	59	68	266
05	Lafayette	163	87	112	135	497
06	Lake Charles	58	39	37	46	180
07	Alexandria	72	40	47	82	241
08	Shreveport	108	76	74	106	364
09	Monroe	74	56	47	56	233
99	Location Unknown	9	3	1	3	16
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>837</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>2,763</b>

**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 2019 - 2023						
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	79	53	66	145	343
02	Baton Rouge	73	42	59	84	258
03	Covington	120	77	98	143	437
04	Thibodaux	83	56	73	92	304
05	Lafayette	123	81	92	124	419
06	Lake Charles	58	37	36	43	174
07	Alexandria	82	50	64	89	284
08	Shreveport	110	76	103	107	396
09	Monroe	75	46	52	59	233
99	Location Unknown	6	2	3	6	18
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>808</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>2,866</b>

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**

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY IN SFY 2023</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0 - 1</b>	<b>Young Children Ages 2 - 4</b>	<b>Older Children Ages 5 - 9</b>	<b>Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 – 17</b>	<b>Total</b>
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
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>499</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>3,006</b>

3b. **Number of Children Leaving State Custody Previous Year**

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY IN SFY 2022</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0 - 1</b>	<b>Young Children Ages 2 - 4</b>	<b>Older Children Ages 5 - 9</b>	<b>Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 – 17</b>	<b>Total</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	56	60	79	146	341
02	Baton Rouge	27	46	27	42	142
03	Covington	41	93	77	162	373
04	Thibodaux	35	65	59	84	243
05	Lafayette	75	89	92	152	408
06	Lake Charles	19	69	38	52	178
07	Alexandria	33	69	64	90	256
08	Shreveport	71	85	77	134	367
09	Monroe	32	67	71	76	246
99	Location Unknown	6	3	0	1	10
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>395</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>2,564</b>

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

<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY DURING SFY BY AGE GROUP SFY 2019 - 2023</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0 - 1</b>	<b>Young Children Ages 2 - 4</b>	<b>Older Children Ages 5 - 9</b>	<b>Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 – 17</b>	<b>Average of All Ages</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	59	60	73	146	338
02	Baton Rouge	35	43	49	80	206
03	Covington	62	122	127	185	496
04	Thibodaux	36	85	89	113	323
05	Lafayette	60	97	112	144	413
06	Lake Charles	22	60	51	68	201
07	Alexandria	40	67	69	99	275
08	Shreveport	72	101	117	130	420
09	Monroe	34	67	67	84	252
99	Location Unknown	5	2	2	5	14
<b>STATE AVERAGE</b>		<b>425</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>2,938</b>

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**

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY TO A FINALIZED ADOPTION IN SFY 2023</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0 - 1</b>	<b>Young Children Ages 2 - 4</b>	<b>Older Children Ages 5 - 9</b>	<b>Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 – 17</b>	<b>Total</b>
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
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>654</b>

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

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY TO A FINALIZED ADOPTION IN SFY 2022</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0 - 1</b>	<b>Young Children Ages 2 - 4</b>	<b>Older Children Ages 5 - 9</b>	<b>Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 – 17</b>	<b>Total</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	10	11	15	5	41
02	Baton Rouge	5	16	6	3	30
03	Covington	18	56	34	24	132
04	Thibodaux	6	39	24	12	81
05	Lafayette	20	34	29	24	107
06	Lake Charles	9	45	13	7	74
07	Alexandria	14	34	21	14	83
08	Shreveport	11	18	5	10	44
09	Monroe	12	24	13	9	58
99	Location Unknown	0	1	0	0	1
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>105</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>651</b>

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

<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY TO A FINALIZED ADOPTION BY REGION BY AGE GROUP FOR SFY 2019 - 2023</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0 - 1</b>	<b>Young Children Ages 2 - 4</b>	<b>Older Children Ages 5 - 9</b>	<b>Pre-Teens/ Teens Ages 10 – 17</b>	<b>Total</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	10	18	15	5	48
02	Baton Rouge	4	12	9	4	30
03	Covington	25	68	48	26	167
04	Thibodaux	6	46	34	23	109
05	Lafayette	12	39	31	22	104
06	Lake Charles	10	33	20	12	74
07	Alexandria	12	25	17	14	68
08	Shreveport	12	20	14	10	57
09	Monroe	14	34	21	15	84
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
<b>STATE AVERAGES</b>		<b>105</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>740</b>

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**

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY TO REUNIFICATION WITH FAMILY IN SFY 2023</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre- Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Total</b>
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
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>245</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>1,356</b>

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

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY TO REUNIFICATION WITH FAMILY IN SFY 2022</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre- Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Total</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	22	30	35	66	153
02	Baton Rouge	14	14	12	17	57
03	Covington	15	20	32	60	127
04	Thibodaux	21	20	30	32	103
05	Lafayette	35	31	37	69	172
06	Lake Charles	4	20	22	21	67
07	Alexandria	13	32	29	46	120
08	Shreveport	28	39	38	57	162
09	Monroe	13	26	26	24	89
99	Location Unknown	6	2	0	1	9
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>171</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>1,059</b>

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

<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING DCFS CUSTODY TO REUNIFICATION WITH FAMILY BY REGION BY AGE GROUP FOR SFY 2019-2023</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Total</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	25	30	35	76	166
02	Baton Rouge	21	20	30	40	111
03	Covington	26	33	51	71	181
04	Thibodaux	23	31	44	42	140
05	Lafayette	35	42	56	60	194
06	Lake Charles	10	22	23	23	78
07	Alexandria	21	32	34	46	133
08	Shreveport	32	48	53	53	186
09	Monroe	12	23	30	32	97
99	Location Unknown	3	2	1	3	9
<b>STATE AVERAGES</b>		<b>209</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>1,296</b>

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**

<b>NUMBER OF YOUTH EXITING FOSTER CARE DUE TO AGE IN SFY 2023</b>		
<b>REGION</b>		<b>NUMBER OF YOUTH</b>
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
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>		<b>127</b>

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

<b>NUMBER OF YOUTH EXITING FOSTER CARE DUE TO AGE IN SFY 2022</b>		
<b>REGION</b>		<b>NUMBER OF YOUTH</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	18
02	Baton Rouge	7
03	Covington	40
04	Thibodaux	22
05	Lafayette	13
06	Lake Charles	9
07	Alexandria	11
08	Shreveport	7
09	Monroe	13
99	Location Unknown	0
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>		<b>140</b>

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

<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE DUE TO AGE FOR SFY 2019 - 2023</b>		
<b>REGION</b>		<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF YOUTH</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	13
02	Baton Rouge	13
03	Covington	30
04	Thibodaux	18
05	Lafayette	17
06	Lake Charles	17
07	Alexandria	12
08	Shreveport	14
09	Monroe	18
99	Location Unknown	0
<b>STATE AVERAGE</b>		<b>153</b>

For Tables 6a, 6b and 6c, child's age is calculated as of the date of exit from DCFS custody when the child reaches the age of 18 while in foster care. Region location is determined by the parish location of the removal court. Youth exiting foster care on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday may be entering the Extended Foster Care program, exiting to independence, attending JobCorp, attending a college or university, returning to their birth family, or linking to a permanent connection.

**7a. Number of Cases in Which Parental Rights Were Terminated<sup>3</sup>**

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
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>180</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>538</b>

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

NUMBER OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM PARENTAL RIGHTS WERE TERMINATED DURING SFY 2022						
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	13	10	13	9	45
02	Baton Rouge	4	8	4	2	18
03	Covington	49	37	33	20	139
04	Thibodaux	15	39	16	17	87
05	Lafayette	33	30	25	23	111
06	Lake Charles	21	29	13	4	67
07	Alexandria	15	24	21	8	68
08	Shreveport	13	11	8	7	39
09	Monroe	16	19	11	6	52
99	Location Unknown	0	0	1	1	2
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>179</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>628</b>

<sup>3</sup> 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. There are a number of cases where the rights of multiple parties are addressed (legal, biological and putative parents).

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

<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM PARENTAL RIGHTS WERE TERMINATED DURING SFY FOR SFY 2019 - 2023</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Total</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	17	14	12	6	49
02	Baton Rouge	8	9	9	4	30
03	Covington	48	49	36	23	155
04	Thibodaux	18	37	31	21	106
05	Lafayette	24	28	23	22	98
06	Lake Charles	20	21	18	12	72
07	Alexandria	14	24	17	13	69
08	Shreveport	18	14	14	11	57
09	Monroe	20	26	19	15	80
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	1
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>187</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>717</b>

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 Action<sup>4</sup>**

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A COURT ORDERED TPR IN SFY 2023</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Total</b>
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
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>137</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>397</b>

<sup>4</sup> 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**

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A COURT ORDERED TPR IN SFY 2022</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Total</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	10	7	12	2	31
02	Baton Rouge	3	7	3	1	14
03	Covington	30	27	15	15	87
04	Thibodaux	13	32	12	13	70
05	Lafayette	28	25	20	12	85
06	Lake Charles	14	25	13	6	58
07	Alexandria	9	21	16	4	50
08	Shreveport	9	8	4	3	24
09	Monroe	13	16	8	2	39
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>129</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>458</b>

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

<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A COURT ORDERED TPR FOR SFY 2019 - 2023</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Total</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	14	11	11	4	41
02	Baton Rouge	5	7	6	1	19
03	Covington	33	36	27	15	111
04	Thibodaux	14	31	22	15	81
05	Lafayette	22	24	19	15	80
06	Lake Charles	19	20	16	10	66
07	Alexandria	11	21	13	9	54
08	Shreveport	16	12	12	7	47
09	Monroe	16	22	16	11	65
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	1
<b>STATE AVERAGES</b>		<b>151</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>564</b>

For Tables 8a, 8b and 8c, 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.

9a. **Number of Cases in Which DCFS Sought Termination of Rights by Court Action<sup>5</sup>**

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
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>420</b>

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

NUMBER OF TPR PETITIONS FILED SFY 2022		
REGION		TOTAL
01	Greater New Orleans	32
02	Baton Rouge	35
03	Covington	87
04	Thibodaux	52
05	Lafayette	63
06	Lake Charles	49
07	Alexandria	55
08	Shreveport	19
09	Monroe	37
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>429</b>

<sup>5</sup> 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**

<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF TPR PETITIONS FILED FOR SFY 2019 - 2023</b>		
<b>REGION</b>		<b>5-YEAR AVERAGE</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	29
02	Baton Rouge	43
03	Covington	85
04	Thibodaux	37
05	Lafayette	63
06	Lake Charles	61
07	Alexandria	52
08	Shreveport	43
09	Monroe	42
<b>STATE AVERAGE</b>		<b>454</b>

**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**

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE ON JUNE 30, 2023 BY GOAL</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Adoption</b>	<b>Alternative Permanent Living Arrangement</b>	<b>Guardianship</b>	<b>Return to Home of Birth Family</b>	<b>Total All Goals</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	50	7	0	179	236
02	Baton Rouge	60	5	7	440	512
03	Covington	120	10	7	443	580
04	Thibodaux	110	12	0	351	473
05	Lafayette	166	11	5	438	620
06	Lake Charles	114	12	10	164	300
07	Alexandria	88	9	13	404	514
08	Shreveport	42	12	3	350	407
09	Monroe	122	9	7	308	446
99	Location Unknown	2	1	0	16	19
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>874</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>3,093</b>	<b>4,107</b>

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, 2023 and the goal as it is currently or was at the time of case closure, if the case closed between June 30, 2023 and date of extraction, July 21, 2023.

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

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR PLACEMENT AND NOT IN AN ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT ON JUNE 30, 2023</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Total</b>
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
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>267</b>

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

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR PLACEMENT AND NOT IN AN ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT ON JUNE 30, 2022</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Total</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	1	5	3	6	15
02	Baton Rouge	0	2	1	3	6
03	Covington	18	8	15	17	58
04	Thibodaux	1	9	7	34	51
05	Lafayette	3	10	10	29	52
06	Lake Charles	3	5	6	24	38
07	Alexandria	2	5	8	13	28
08	Shreveport	3	1	5	10	19
09	Monroe	2	6	4	21	33
99	Missing	0	0	1	0	1
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>301</b>

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

<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION AND NOT IN AN ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT BY REGION BY AGE GROUP ON LAST DAY OF SFY 2019 - 2023</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Total</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	1	4	4	9	18
02	Baton Rouge	1	2	2	6	11
03	Covington	12	12	13	20	58
04	Thibodaux	2	10	14	32	58
05	Lafayette	2	6	9	31	49
06	Lake Charles	3	7	8	26	44
07	Alexandria	2	4	5	18	29
08	Shreveport	3	4	7	11	25
09	Monroe	4	9	9	29	51
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	1
<b>STATE AVERAGE</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>345</b>

For Tables 12a, 12b and 12c, child's age is calculated as of the last day of the SFY (June 30<sup>th</sup>). 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**

<b>AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN MONTHS FOR CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE DURING SFY 2023</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Total</b>
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
<b>STATE AVERAGES</b>		<b>8.40</b>	<b>16.02</b>	<b>14.19</b>	<b>14.70</b>	<b>13.82</b>

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

<b>AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN MONTHS FOR CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE DURING SFY 2022</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Total</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	4.25	7.68	8.25	6.47	6.73
02	Baton Rouge	8.33	17.22	13.93	14.17	14.00
03	Covington	11.56	19.96	20.75	20.81	19.57
04	Thibodaux	6.91	25.23	23.36	18.89	19.95
05	Lafayette	8.59	14.78	14.29	15.71	13.88
06	Lake Charles	10.95	24.71	24.95	22.54	22.66
07	Alexandria	12.06	20.30	15.73	19.58	17.84
08	Shreveport	7.13	11.11	10.90	13.41	11.13
09	Monroe	11.75	21.58	22.96	26.14	22.11
99	Location Unknown	0.67	7.33	0.00	9.00	3.50
<b>STATE AVERAGES</b>		<b>8.39</b>	<b>17.93</b>	<b>16.68</b>	<b>16.63</b>	<b>15.70</b>

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

<b>AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN MONTHS FOR CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE SFY 2019-2023</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre- Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Total</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	4.20	9.77	8.46	7.29	7.44
02	Baton Rouge	6.73	14.93	14.61	15.24	13.60
03	Covington	11.49	19.32	18.01	18.92	17.85
04	Thibodaux	7.67	21.20	19.34	22.15	19.53
05	Lafayette	7.83	16.83	16.45	16.93	15.44
06	Lake Charles	11.77	21.39	23.02	27.16	22.67
07	Alexandria	9.77	18.44	16.38	18.91	16.82
08	Shreveport	7.70	12.79	11.68	13.31	11.78
09	Monroe	12.50	22.24	22.78	25.79	22.28
99	Location Unknown	1.31	6.06	3.43	8.41	5.27
<b>STATE AVERAGES</b>		<b>8.41</b>	<b>17.50</b>	<b>16.37</b>	<b>17.42</b>	<b>15.87</b>

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 Opened<sup>6</sup>

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
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>		<b>828</b>

14b. New Foster Homes Opened Previous Year

NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER HOMES CERTIFIED BY DCFS IN SFY 2022		
REGION		NEW HOMES
01	Greater New Orleans	61
02	Baton Rouge	51
03	Covington	125
04	Thibodaux	33
05	Lafayette	129
06	Lake Charles	74
07	Alexandria	77
08	Shreveport	79
09	Monroe	86
99	Location Unknown	0
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>		<b>715</b>

<sup>6</sup> The number of new certified foster homes is not reflective of the interest in becoming a foster parent.

**14c. Five Year Average of New Foster Homes Opened**

<b>AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER HOMES CERTIFIED BY DCFS SFY 2019-2023</b>		
<b>REGION</b>		<b>5 YR AVG</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	68
02	Baton Rouge	56
03	Covington	128
04	Thibodaux	90
05	Lafayette	124
06	Lake Charles	58
07	Alexandria	88
08	Shreveport	86
09	Monroe	87
99	Location Unknown	2
<b>STATE AVERAGE</b>		<b>787</b>

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 Custody<sup>7</sup>**

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
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>35</b>

**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, 2022							
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	5	5	1
02	Baton Rouge	6	2	11	14	33	6
03	Covington	2	6	10	15	33	6
04	Thibodaux	1	2	1	2	6	1
05	Lafayette	2	5	9	6	22	4
06	Lake Charles	0	1	4	0	5	1
07	Alexandria	3	3	4	8	18	4
08	Shreveport	0	0	0	0	0	0
09	Monroe	2	7	9	10	28	5
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>28</b>

<sup>7</sup> Policy allows for foster families to care for up to six (6) children in their home at a given time. The number of dependent allowed in the foster home includes foster children, dependent children, dependent adults, and children for whom respite is provided with the exception of a sibling group, who may remain together.

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

<b>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 2019-2023</b>							
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Number of Homes</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	0	0	0	0	1	0
02	Baton Rouge	2	3	5	7	17	4
03	Covington	2	5	11	8	26	4
04	Thibodaux	1	1	5	3	11	1
05	Lafayette	4	8	8	13	34	6
06	Lake Charles	0	0	0	0	0	0
07	Alexandria	1	3	7	11	22	4
08	Shreveport	1	4	8	8	20	3
09	Monroe	1	3	5	6	16	3
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	1	1	0
<b>STATE AVERAGES</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>26</b>

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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 Institutions<sup>8</sup>**

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN CONGREGATE CARE SETTINGS ON JUNE 30, 2023</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Total</b>
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

<sup>8</sup> Louisiana has one of the lowest percentages of youth placed in a congregate care setting. Children under the age of 5 years old are placed in congregate care setting only when medically necessary or until a therapeutic foster home is available to meet their needs.

<b>STATE TOTALS</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>156</b>
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**16b. Number of Children Housed in Hospitals or Institutions Previous Year**

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN CONGREGATE CARE SETTINGS ON JUNE 30, 2022</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Total</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	0	0	0	14	14
02	Baton Rouge	1	0	1	12	14
03	Covington	0	1	1	24	26
04	Thibodaux	1	0	1	16	18
05	Lafayette	1	2	1	13	17
06	Lake Charles	0	0	0	6	6
07	Alexandria	0	0	0	12	12
08	Shreveport	2	0	1	9	12
09	Monroe	0	0	0	10	10
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>129</b>

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

<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PLACED IN CONGREGATE CARE SETTINGS ON JUNE 30TH OF SFY 2019-2023</b>						
<b>Region</b>		<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Average All Ages</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	1	0	0	15	16
02	Baton Rouge	0	0	1	10	11
03	Covington	0	0	1	32	33
04	Thibodaux	1	0	1	26	28
05	Lafayette	2	0	1	20	23
06	Lake Charles	0	1	0	14	15
07	Alexandria	0	0	0	17	18
08	Shreveport	1	0	1	10	12
09	Monroe	0	0	2	13	15
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0	1	1
<b>STATE AVERAGES</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>172</b>

For Tables 16a, 16b and 16c, child's age is calculated as of June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Region location for children is determined by the parish location of the removal court. Placement setting is based on June 30<sup>th</sup> 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 Opened<sup>9</sup>**

<b>NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOMES CERTIFIED BY DCFS IN SFY 2023</b>			
<b>REGION</b>		<b>FOSTER HOMES</b>	<b>ADOPTIVE HOMES</b>
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
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>		<b>828</b>	<b>777</b>

**17b. New Foster and Adoptive Homes Opened Previous Year**

<b>NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOMES CERTIFIED BY DCFS IN SFY 2022</b>			
<b>REGION</b>		<b>FOSTER HOMES</b>	<b>ADOPTIVE HOMES</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	61	60
02	Baton Rouge	51	50
03	Covington	125	124
04	Thibodaux	33	33
05	Lafayette	129	126
06	Lake Charles	74	74
07	Alexandria	77	75
08	Shreveport	79	52
09	Monroe	86	81
99	Location Unknown	0	0
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>		<b>715</b>	<b>675</b>

<sup>9</sup> 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

<b>AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOMES CERTIFIED BY DCFS SFY 2019-2023</b>			
<b>REGION</b>		<b>FOSTER HOMES</b>	<b>ADOPTIVE HOMES</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	68	64
02	Baton Rouge	56	55
03	Covington	128	127
04	Thibodaux	90	89
05	Lafayette	124	122
06	Lake Charles	58	58
07	Alexandria	88	86
08	Shreveport	86	48
09	Monroe	87	83
99	Location Unknown	2	1
<b>STATE AVERAGES</b>		<b>787</b>	<b>733</b>

**18. Average Number of Cases (Children) Assigned to Each Foster Care Case Manager<sup>10</sup>**

Average Number of Cases Assigned to Foster Care Workers				
Region		Foster Care Staff	Foster Care Cases	Average Caseload
01	Greater New Orleans	18	262	14.56
02	Baton Rouge	28	508	18.14
03	Covington	43	597	13.88
04	Thibodaux	27	440	16.30
05	Lafayette	39	616	15.79
06	Lake Charles	19	276	14.53
07	Alexandria	29	515	17.76
08	Shreveport	28	433	15.46
09	Monroe	27	452	16.74
99	Location Unknown	0	1	0.00
<b>State Totals/Average</b>		<b>258</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>15.89</b>

Table 18 reflects the number of children in foster care on June 30, 2023. Each case represents one child. The location is organized by the assigned case worker's region.

Average caseload numbers do not accurately reflect caseload standards. For the first six months, new workers have a lower caseload than veteran workers, which lowers the average. Because of this caseload standard for new child welfare specialist, averages do not consider workers carrying less than 8 cases. These workers were removed 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. This number also does not include cases that are being monitored by the State of Louisiana for another state through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC).

<sup>10</sup> 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 (Children) Assigned to Each Adoption Case Manager<sup>11</sup>

Average Number of Cases Assigned to Adoption Workers				
Region		Adoption Staff	Adoption Cases	Average Caseload
01	Greater New Orleans	3	34	11.33
02	Baton Rouge	3	45	15.00
03	Covington	7	76	10.86
04	Thibodaux	3	51	17.00
05	Lafayette	5	42	8.40
06	Lake Charles	3	25	8.33
07	Alexandria	3	34	11.33
08	Shreveport	3	22	7.33
09	Monroe	3	46	15.33
99	Location Unknown	0	0	0
<b>State Totals/Average</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>11.36</b>

Table 19 reflects the number of children in foster care that were available for adoption on June 30, 2023. The location is organized by assigned worker's region. For the first six months, new workers have a lower caseload than veteran workers, which lowers the average. Because of this caseload standard for new workers, the averages does not include workers carrying less than 5 cases to better reflect the average of a full caseload.

<sup>11</sup> 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 Care<sup>12</sup>**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE BY PRIMARY ENTRY REASON FOR SFY 2023 <sup>13</sup>							
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
<b>Greater New Orleans Region Totals</b>			<b>81</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>438</b>
02	Baton Rouge	Neglect	106	76	91	114	387
		Physical Abuse	12	5	6	11	34
		Sexual Abuse	2	4	6	17	29
<b>Baton Rouge Region Totals</b>			<b>120</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>450</b>
03	Covington	FINS	0	0	0	1	1
		Neglect	117	67	103	126	413
		Physical Abuse	7	1	2	10	20
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	2	0	3
<b>Covington Region Totals</b>			<b>124</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>437</b>
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
<b>Thibodaux Region Totals</b>			<b>83</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>349</b>
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
<b>Lafayette Region Totals</b>			<b>151</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>534</b>
06	Lake Charles	Neglect	67	40	40	47	194
		Physical Abuse	3	1	1	5	10
		Sexual Abuse	1	0	0	5	6
<b>Lake Charles Region Totals</b>			<b>71</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>210</b>
07	Alexandria	Neglect	124	66	86	138	414
		Physical Abuse	8	4	7	0	19
<b>Alexandria Region Totals</b>			<b>132</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>433</b>
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

<sup>12</sup> These charts provide the primary reason a child enters foster care. Some children experienced 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 for each type of abuse or neglect. For example: Neglect may include, food inadequate, shelter inadequate, and lack of adequate supervision.

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

<b>Shreveport Region Totals</b>			<b>138</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>463</b>
09	Monroe	Neglect	76	37	62	67	242
		Physical Abuse	9	12	8	15	44
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	1	1	2
<b>Monroe Region Totals</b>			<b>85</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>288</b>
99	Location Unknown	Neglect	8	5	3	12	28
		Physical Abuse	1	0	0	1	2
<b>Location Unknown Totals</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>30</b>
	<b>Statewide</b>	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
<b>State Totals</b>			<b>994</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>1152</b>	<b>3,632</b>

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

<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE BY PRIMARY ENTRY REASON FOR SFY 2022</b>							
<b>Region</b>		<b>Primary Foster Care Entry Reason</b>	<b>Infants Age 0-1</b>	<b>Young Children Age 2-4</b>	<b>Older Children Age 5-9</b>	<b>Pre-Teen/Teen Age 10-17</b>	<b>Total</b>
01	Greater New Orleans	Neglect	76	41	57	119	293
		Physical Abuse	4	4	5	13	26
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	1	11	12
<b>Greater New Orleans Region Totals</b>			<b>80</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>331</b>
02	Baton Rouge	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	1	1
		Neglect	71	32	58	53	214
		Physical Abuse	9	4	10	14	37
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	3	8	12
<b>Baton Rouge Region Totals</b>			<b>80</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>264</b>
03	Covington	FINS	0	0	0	1	1
		Neglect	96	67	68	123	354
		Physical Abuse	4	1	4	3	12
		Safe Haven Relinquishment	1	0	0	0	1
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	1	2	3
<b>Covington Region Totals</b>			<b>101</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>371</b>
04	Thibodaux	Neglect	93	45	53	57	248
		Physical Abuse	0	1	1	4	6
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	5	7	13
<b>Thibodaux Region Totals</b>			<b>93</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>267</b>
05	Lafayette	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	1	2	3
		Neglect	158	85	107	120	470
		Physical Abuse	5	2	4	11	22
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	2	2

<b>Lafayette Region Totals</b>			<b>163</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>497</b>
06	Lake Charles	Neglect	56	34	35	39	164
		Physical Abuse	2	5	2	1	10
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	6	6
<b>Lake Charles Region Totals</b>			<b>58</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>180</b>
07	Alexandria	Neglect	70	38	45	77	230
		Physical Abuse	2	0	2	2	6
		Sexual Abuse	0	2	0	3	5
<b>Alexandria Region Totals</b>			<b>72</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>241</b>
08	Shreveport	Neglect	101	74	59	84	318
		Physical Abuse	6	2	9	11	28
		Safe Haven Relinquishment	1	0	0	0	1
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	6	11	17
<b>Shreveport Region Totals</b>			<b>108</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>364</b>
09	Monroe	Neglect	61	47	41	50	199
		Sexual Abuse	13	9	6	6	34
<b>Monroe Region Totals</b>			<b>74</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>233</b>
99	Location Unknown	Neglect	9	3	1	3	16
<b>Location Unknown Totals</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>
	<b>Statewide</b>	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	1	3	4
		FINS	0	0	0	1	1
		Neglect	791	466	524	725	2,506
		Physical Abuse	45	28	43	65	181
		Safe Haven Relinquishment	2	0	0	0	2
		Sexual Abuse	0	4	16	50	70
<b>State Totals</b>			<b>838</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>2,764</b>

**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 2019-2023							
	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	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	1	1
		Neglect	75	50	61	131	317
		Physical Abuse	3	3	4	9	19
		Safe Haven Relinquishment	0	0	0	0	0
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	2	4	6
		Surrender by Parent	0	0	0	0	0
		<b>Greater New Orleans Region Totals</b>		<b>79</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>145</b>
02	Baton Rouge	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	0	0
		FINS	0	0	0	1	1
		Neglect	64	37	51	65	217
		Physical Abuse	7	4	7	9	27
		Safe Haven Relinquishment	0	0	0	0	0
		Sexual Abuse	1	1	2	8	11
		Surrender by Parent	0	0	0	0	0
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Baton Rouge Region Totals</b>		<b>72</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>257</b>
03	Covington	FINS	0	0	0	2	3
		Neglect	114	73	88	126	401
		Physical Abuse	4	3	7	8	23
		Safe Haven Relinquishment	1	0	0	0	1
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	3	6	10
		Surrender by Parent	0	0	0	0	0
		<b>Covington Region Totals</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>143</b>
04	Thibodaux	FINS	0	0	0	0	0
		Neglect	81	53	67	81	281
		Physical Abuse	2	2	4	6	14
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	3	5	9
		Surrendered by Parent	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Thibodaux Region Totals</b>		<b>83</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>305</b>
05	Lafayette	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	1	1
		Neglect	117	78	87	110	392
		Physical Abuse	4	1	3	8	16
		Safe Haven Relinquishment	1	0	0	0	1
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	1	5	7
		Surrendered by Parent	0	0	0	0	0
		Voluntary Placement	0	0	0	0	1
	Voluntary Placement/Adoption	0	0	0	0	1	
	<b>Lafayette Region Totals</b>		<b>123</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>419</b>

06	Lake Charles	Neglect	56	34	34	37	161
		Physical Abuse	2	2	1	3	8
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	3	4
		Surrender by Parent	0	0	0	0	0
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Lake Charles Region Totals</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>174</b>
07	Alexandria	Neglect	78	47	60	83	269
		Physical Abuse	4	1	3	3	11
		Safe Haven Relinquishment	0	0	0	0	0
		Sexual Abuse	0	1	0	2	3
	<b>Alexandria Region Totals</b>		<b>83</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>284</b>
08	Shreveport	Emotional Maltreatment	0	0	0	1	1
		Neglect	99	68	87	84	337
		Physical Abuse	8	7	12	15	42
		Safe Haven Relinquishment	1	0	0	0	2
		Sexual Abuse	1	1	5	8	14
		Surrender by Parent	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Shreveport Region Totals</b>		<b>109</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>396</b>
09	Monroe	Neglect	66	39	47	52	204
		Physical Abuse	9	7	5	7	28
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	1	1
	<b>Monroe Region Totals</b>		<b>75</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>233</b>
99	Location Unknown	Neglect	6	3	2	6	17
		Physical Abuse	0	0	0	0	1
		Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0
		Voluntary Placement	1	0	0	0	1
	<b>Location Unknown Totals</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>
	Statewide	Emotional Maltreatment	1	0	0	2	3
		FINS	0	0	0	4	5
		Neglect	757	483	583	774	2,597
		Physical Abuse	44	32	46	68	190
		Safe Haven Relinquishment	3	0	0	0	4
		Sexual Abuse	2	6	16	42	66
		Surrender by Parent	0	0	0	1	2
		Voluntary Placement	1	0	0	0	1
		Voluntary Placement/Adoption	0	0	1	0	1
	<b>State Totals</b>		<b>809</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>2,868</b>

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 and 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

- DCFS Management Team and Staff develop partnerships with faith-based and private community partners statewide to assist with recruiting prospective foster/adoptive families.
- Utilization of an agency collaboration with AdoptUSKids (a service of the Children’s Bureau and the National Adoption Association) 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 Facebook, 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.
- Develop and implement regional recruitment plans annually to address overall agency placement needs at the local level.
- 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 Heart Gallery through a partnership with Healing Place Church (Empower 225) 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 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. The NAA 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 (WWK) Child Specific Recruitment Model, DCFS was awarded a grant through the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to employee eight (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 (EFC) Program for young adults age 18 through 20 years old.

- 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**) was 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 Specialists 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 2nd Cohort in 2023. This is a training opportunity for 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.

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