



SNAPSHOT

Oct. 9, 2026

Louisiana Children and Family Trends

Where Louisiana ranks nationally in child mortality and single parent homes

Louisiana ranks in the bottom third of the nation for its high rates of child mortality and single-parent households. While child mortality is improving, the number of children living with a single parent is increasing.

[The State of the Nation Project's](#) annual State of the States Report 2026 uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to evaluate all 50 states and the District of Columbia on children and family indicators. The report ranks the states by annual progress on each rating.

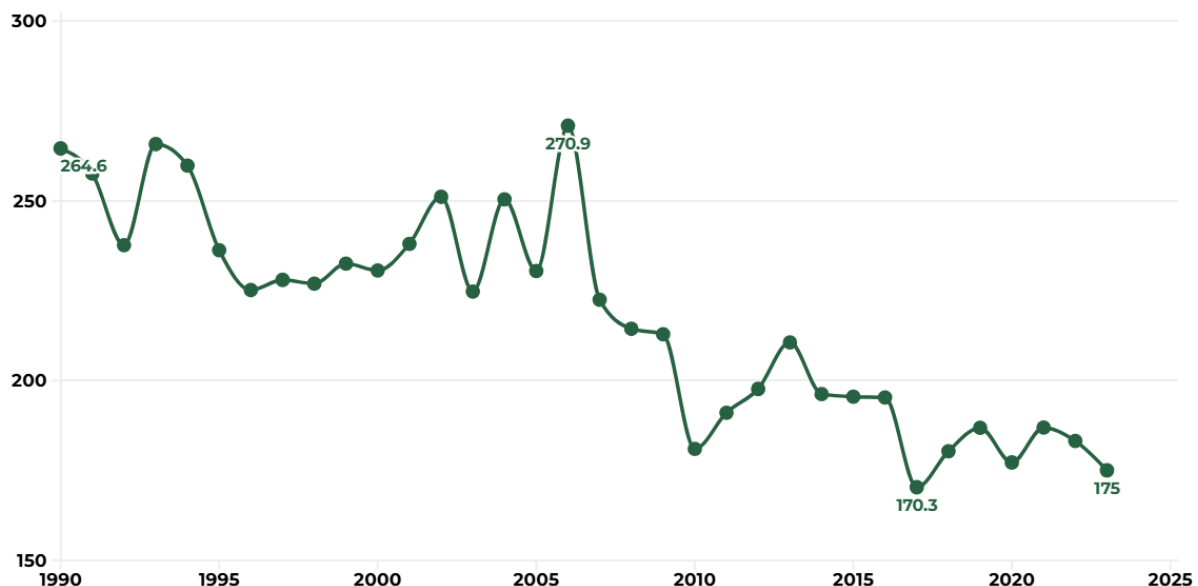
Child Mortality

Louisiana's child mortality rate has been on a steady decline since the 1990s, much like the rest of the United States. But Louisiana still measures poorly compared to other states.

Calculated using data from the CDC, Louisiana ranks 47 out of 51 with 175 deaths of children under age 5 for every 100,000 residents as of 2023.

Louisiana Child Mortality Rate, 1990 – 2023

Per 100,000 children under age five



Source: [State of the States, using data from the CDC](#)

Louisiana ranked higher than only three Southern states: Alabama, Arkansas and Mississippi. Mississippi is ranked last in the country with a child mortality rate of 206 as of 2023, according to the report.

Several Southern states outrank Louisiana, including North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia and Texas. The Lone Star State outranks all Southern states, with a child mortality rate of 136.6 in 2023.

Child Mortality Rate Among Southern States, 1990 – 2023

Per 100,000 children under age five

State	2020	2021	2022	2023
Texas	124.3	131.5	172.5	136.6
Florida	131.4	146.1	145.2	143.0
North Carolina	152.9	163.9	167.8	160.6
Georgia	145.9	154.1	167.9	166.1
Tennessee	145.4	156.9	158.9	168.8
South Carolina	147.8	180.9	162.9	171.8
Louisiana	177.2	186.9	183.2	175.0
Alabama	174.1	192.2	169.1	182.9
Arkansas	174.7	207.5	183.2	194.5
Mississippi	197.6	230.9	223.6	206.0

Source: [State of the States, using data from the CDC](#)

While Louisiana's rate is improving, it's not improving as quickly as other states.

The national child mortality rate has been cut by almost half since 1990, something the report attributes to a decrease in vehicular accidents over time. The report also notes the decrease is likely due to the widespread use of seatbelts and car seats in the last few decades.

While the nation's child mortality rate is declining at a steady pace, it is not declining as fast as other countries, leaving the United States in the middle of the pack with 57% of 116 countries outperforming it.

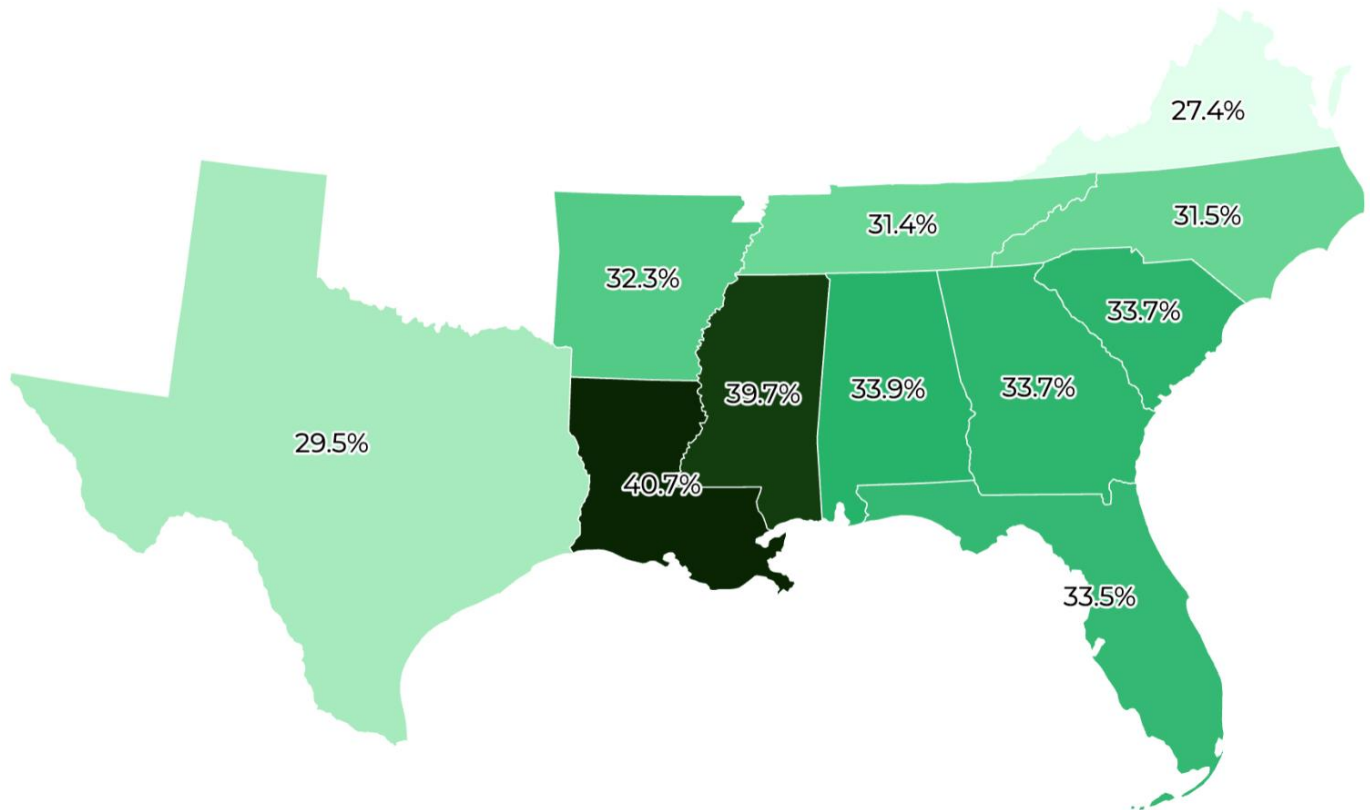
Children Living with a Single Parent

In 2023, 41% of Louisiana children lived with a single parent, making Louisiana the state with the highest percentage of single-parent households in the country, according to the report. Only the District of Colombia ranked below Louisiana with 44% of its children living with one parent.

The report does not consider grandparents or unmarried partners as parents in this data. Only when a partner marries a single parent is the family considered a two-parent household.

Children Living with Single Parents Among Southern States, 2010-2023

27.4 40.7



Source: [State of the States report, using data from the U.S. Census Bureau](#)

Louisiana has a higher percentage of children living with single parents than all its neighboring Southern states. Mississippi comes the closest to Louisiana with nearly 40% of children living with one parent. In 2023, Louisiana was the only Southern state where this trend was worsening.

The national average of children living with a single parent has hovered between 25% and 28% for the last 35 years. Not only is Louisiana above this average, but the state trend has been worsening slightly each year since 2020.

According to the [Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis](#), using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, single-parent households are three to six times more likely to live in poverty than married-couple households. One explanation for this is the ability of two-parent households to combine income and share childcare duties. The data also shows that single female parents are two times more likely to be impoverished than single male parents.