

## Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, **12,631** of Louisiana’s 1.1 million children were victims of abuse and neglect in 2015. How many children is that? Considering Louisiana’s average elementary class has 19 children, **the number of victims in 2015 alone could fill more than 664 classrooms**. Also in 2015, Louisiana recorded 39 fatalities attributed to child abuse and neglect, enough children to nearly fill two elementary school classrooms.

Here are some other important statistics about abuse and neglect in our state.

<b>Child abuse and neglect in Louisiana</b>	
<b>By type of maltreatment*</b>	
Neglect	10,781
Physical abuse	1,960
Sexual abuse	677
Psychological maltreatment	60
Other	38

*\*This total is larger than the number of unduplicated victims (12,631), because some children are victims of more than one type of abuse.*

<b>By age of victim</b>	
<1 year old	2,391
1 - 5 years old	3,913
6 - 12 years old	4,185
≥13 year old	2,142

<b>By sex of victim</b>	
Female	6,376
Male	6,155
Unidentified	100

- Nearly 77 percent were first-time victims. If we had prevented the 9,722 new cases of maltreatment in 2015, Louisiana would have moved from a national ranking of 38<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> based on number of victims.
- Across the country, 683,487 children suffered 794,790 substantiated instances of maltreatment in 2015. A total of 1,585 children died that year as a result.
- Nationwide, the cost of child abuse and neglect is estimated to be \$84.6 billion annually. In Louisiana, it’s \$1.2 billion.
- According to Prevent Child Abuse America, the cost savings alone from prevention could send 1 million children to college, pay the yearly salaries of 2 million teachers or eliminate hospital bills for 8 million new parents.