

# CHILDREN SERVED BY THE KINSHIP CARE PROGRAM

**DEFINITION:** Average number of children served by the Kinship Care program in a state fiscal year (July 1-June 30).

## SIGNIFICANCE

Children who are unable to live with their parents tend to experience better outcomes if they live with a relative than if they live in a non-relative foster home or a group home.<sup>1</sup> For example, compared to children who live in group homes or in non-relative foster care, children who live with relatives are less likely to experience behavioral problems and far less likely to report having tried to run away from home.<sup>2</sup>

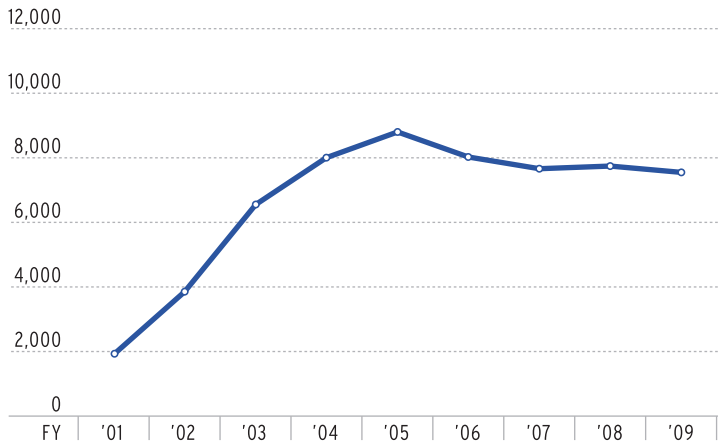
The Kinship Care Subsidy Program supports low-income relatives caring for a related child in their home by providing monthly cash benefits (\$280 a month per child). Relatives who may apply for Kinship Care include siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, step-parents, step-siblings, first cousins, nephews, nieces, and their legal spouses. In order to qualify for the program, the child must live with the relative full-time and the child's parents cannot live in the same home as the child. In addition to other requirements, the relative and the child must meet the program's income guidelines. In 2009, this meant that the child's earnings must be less than \$280 a month and the household income must be less than 150% of the federal poverty level (about \$33,075 for a family of four).<sup>3</sup>

The Kinship Care Subsidy Program is administered by the Louisiana Department of Social Services and is funded by the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant. Participation in the program, which began in 2000, nearly quadrupled between FY 2001 and FY 2009, rising from 1,925 children to 7,551 children. Participation statewide peaked in FY 2005, when 8,800 children were served by the Kinship Care program. Much of the decline in program participation between FY 2005 and FY 2009 is attributable to post-Katrina declines in participation in Orleans Parish. During FY 2005, an average of 1,668 children in Orleans Parish benefitted from the Kinship Care program, accounting for 19% of all children served by the program statewide. In FY 2009, only 667 children in Orleans Parish were served by Kinship Care—1,001 fewer than in FY 2005.<sup>4</sup>

## DATA SOURCE

Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, Quality Assurance Division

**CHILDREN SERVED BY THE KINSHIP CARE PROGRAM IN LOUISIANA** Fiscal years 2001-2009



<sup>1</sup> Tiffany Conway and Rutledge Q. Hutson, "Is Kinship Care Good for Kids?" Center for Law and Social Policy, 2007, retrieved from [www.clasp.org](http://www.clasp.org) on 6/1/2009.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Louisiana Department of Social Services, "Kinship Care Subsidy Program," Louisiana Department of Social Services, retrieved from [www.dss.state.la.us](http://www.dss.state.la.us) on 6/1/2009.

<sup>4</sup> Data provided by the Louisiana Department of Social Services by special request

# CHILDREN SERVED BY KINSHIP CARE PROGRAM AVERAGE MONTHLY NUMBER

	FY 2001	FY 2009	CHANGE FROM FYs 2001-2009
	No.	No.	No.
<b>LOUISIANA</b>	<b>1,925</b>	<b>7,551</b>	<b>5,626</b>
Acadia	17	120	103
Allen	22	54	32
Ascension	16	105	89
Assumption	8	53	45
Avoyelles	38	123	85
Beauregard	27	53	26
Bienville	<5	22	n.a.
Bossier	26	94	68
Caddo	86	485	399
Calcasieu	64	278	214
Caldwell	13	24	11
Cameron	<5	<5	n.a.
Catahoula	6	16	10
Claiborne	9	49	40
Concordia	15	85	70
De Soto	11	34	23
East Baton Rouge	120	651	531
East Carroll	<5	38	n.a.
East Feliciana	18	30	12
Evangeline	76	135	59
Franklin	11	34	23
Grant	9	50	41
Iberia	38	132	94
Iberville	18	59	41
Jackson	<5	33	n.a.
Jefferson	114	356	242
Jefferson Davis	15	64	49
La Salle	11	11	0
Lafayette	42	187	145
Lafourche	27	71	44
Lincoln	<5	73	n.a.
Livingston	29	157	128
Madison	<5	113	n.a.
Morehouse	<5	99	n.a.
Natchitoches	27	145	118
Orleans	266	667	401
Ouachita	40	383	343
Plaquemines	21	19	-2
Pointe Coupee	<5	35	n.a.
Rapides	124	377	253
Red River	12	32	20
Richland	<5	66	n.a.
Sabine	11	42	31
St. Bernard	25	30	5
St. Charles	11	53	42
St. Helena	<5	18	n.a.
St. James	<5	25	n.a.
St. John the Baptist	19	63	44
St. Landry	130	254	124
St. Martin	27	77	50
St. Mary	24	77	53
St. Tammany	27	177	150
Tangipahoa	102	445	343
Tensas	<5	20	n.a.
Terrebonne	21	99	78
Union	<5	42	n.a.
Vermilion	19	93	74
Vernon	9	30	21
Washington	43	182	139
Webster	13	119	106
West Baton Rouge	6	21	15
West Carroll	0	28	28
West Feliciana	<5	<5	n.a.
Winn	12	41	29

\*n.a. The change between 2001 and 2009 was not calculated for any parish in which an average of fewer than 5 children participated in the program in either FY 2001 or FY 2009.