

# 2016 State Autism Profiles LOUISIANA

## DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000, 1,266 or 01.29% of children ages 3-21 who received special education services in Louisiana have autism. In 2014-2015, 4,690 or 5.92% of children with disabilities ages 3-21 who received special education services have autism.

**Table 1-1: IDEA Part B - Children with Autism in Louisiana for 2000-2001 and 2014-2015**  
(Child Count by Age Group)

	2000-2001	2014-2015
Age 3-5	121	493
Age 6-21	1,145	4,197
Age 3-21	1,266	4,690

Source: Reported by the State of Louisiana in accordance with Section 618 of IDEA to U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs

**Table 1-2: IDEA Part B - Children with Disabilities in Louisiana for 2000-2001 and 2014-2015**  
(Child Count by Age Group)

	2000-2001	2014-2015
Age 3-5	9,957	9,709
Age 6-11	41,872	34,608
Age 12-17	40,984	30,426
Age 18-21	5,125	4,502
Age 6-21	87,981	69,536
Age 3-21	97,938	79,245

Source: Reported by the State of Louisiana in accordance with Section 618 of IDEA to U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs

## STATE TASK FORCE

Louisiana has no active Autism Task Force at this time.

## STATE INSURANCE COVERAGE

On July 1, 2008, Governor Bobby Jindal signed H.B. 958 into law a mandate requiring health insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders in individuals under the age of 17. Covered services include habilitative or rehabilitative care; pharmacy; psychiatric and psychological care, and therapeutic care, including applied behavior analysis (ABA). Individual and group plans of fifty employees or less are exempted. Benefits are subject to a maximum of \$36,000 per year and a lifetime benefit of \$140,000.

[La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22:1050](#) (2008 La. Acts, P.A. 648; H.B. 958 of 2008)  
<http://law.justia.com/codes/louisiana/2011/rs/title22/rs22-1050>

On June 28, 2012, Gov. Bobby Jindal signed H.B. 771 to expand Louisiana's autism insurance reform law. The cap was raised to 21 years of age, and the \$144,000 cap on lifetime benefits was removed. Also, families paying expensive insurance premiums can start continuing coverage for the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism spectrum disorder for children ages 16-20, beginning in 2013

[2012 La. Acts, P.A. 208](#) (2012 House Bill 771)  
<https://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=805656>

## ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS

Autism services including applied behavior analysis (ABA) are part of the Essential Health Benefits package offered by the state. Louisiana has categorized ABA under "rehabilitative and habilitative services." The exchange is being run by the federal government.  
(Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana; GroupCare PPO)

# 2016 State Autism Profiles

## LOUISIANA

### MEDICAID

Louisiana Medicaid covers Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) services for persons who are up to 21 years of age; determined by a qualified health care professional to meet the medical necessity and other requirements in regulations, diagnosed by a qualified health care professional with a condition for which ABA-based therapy services are recognized as therapeutically appropriate, including autism spectrum disorder; have a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation by a qualified health care professional; and have a prescription for ABA-based therapy services ordered by a qualified health care professional.

February 2014 Emergency Rule (Louisiana Register, Volume 40, Number 2).

<http://www.doa.la.gov/osr/reg/1402/1402.pdf>

#### ***Louisiana Home and Community-Based Services Waiver: LA New Opportunities Waiver***

Implemented on July 1, 2011 this waiver helps people ages 3 and above with developmental disabilities, including autism, who meet the ICF/MR level of care to remain living at home and in their community. Services provided include: center-based respite, day habilitation, employment related training, supported employment, supported living, skilled nursing, specialized medical equipment and supplies, community integration and development, environmental accessibility adaptations, individual and family support, one-time transitional, PERS, professional services, and substitute family care. This waiver was scheduled to expire on June 30, 2016, but continues to be offered.

<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/283>

#### ***Louisiana Home and Community-Based Services Waiver: LA Children's Choice CC Waiver***

This waiver, implemented on July 1, 2014, provides center-based respite care, support coordination, specialized medical equipment and supplies, environmental accessibility adaptations, family support service family training, and housing stabilization for individuals up to age 18 with autism, intellectual disability, and developmental disabilities. This waiver expires on June 30, 2019.

<http://dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/218>

#### ***Louisiana Home and Community-Based Services Waiver: LA Supports Waiver***

This waiver, implemented on July 1, 2014, provides day habilitation, habilitation, prevocational services, respite, support coordination, supported employment, housing stabilization service and transition, and PERS for individuals 18 and older with autism, intellectual disability, and developmental disabilities. This waiver expires on June 30, 2019.

<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/1828>

#### ***Louisiana Home and Community-Based Services Waiver: LA Residential Options Waiver***

This waiver, implemented on April 1, 2013, provides day habilitation, prevocational, respite care-out of home, shared living services, support coordination, supported employment assistive technology/specialized medical equipment, dental, community living, companions care, environmental accessibility adaptations, host home, nursing, one-time transitional services, PERS, professional services, transportation-community access for individuals ages 0 and up with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism. This waiver expires March 31, 2018.

<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/1875>

<http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Waivers/Waivers.html>

[http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-topics/waivers/waivers\\_faceted.html](http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-topics/waivers/waivers_faceted.html)

### EDUCATION

H.B. 670 was introduced for the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals to manage services for individuals with autism and to establish a center of excellence for autism spectrum disorder within the Louisiana Office for Citizens with Disabilities and operated by the Louisiana Department of Education

## **2016 State Autism Profiles LOUISIANA**

and related agencies, such as Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. The center will support services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and provide training to educators of individuals with autism. Services include early diagnosis and intervention, and education. The legislation was signed by Gov. Bobby Jindal on June 12, 2008.

[http://www.lawserver.com/law/state/louisiana/la-laws/louisiana\\_revised\\_statutes\\_46-1301](http://www.lawserver.com/law/state/louisiana/la-laws/louisiana_revised_statutes_46-1301)

### ***Louisiana Behavioral Analyst Board***

Act 351 of the 2013 Legislative Session created the Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board within the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Behavior Analyst Practice Act. Act 351 provides for the licensure, certification and registration of individuals practicing ABA in the state of Louisiana.

<http://www.lababoard.org/>

### **STATE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR**

The Louisiana State Legislature meets in regular session annually on the last Monday in March in even-numbered years and on the last Monday in April in odd-numbered years. The 2016 session convened on March 14, 2016 and is adjourn on June 6, 2016. The 2017 session is expected to convene on April 24, 2017 and adjourn in June of that year.

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/>

### ***Sponsors of Autism Legislation***

Rep. Franklin J. Foil (R-Baton Rouge) District 70