

# Louisiana earns a D+ for its civil forfeiture laws:

- Low bar to forfeit: Prosecutors must prove by preponderance of the evidence that property is connected to a crime.
- Poor protections for the innocent: Third-party owners must prove their own innocence to recover seized property.
- Large profit incentive: 80% of forfeiture proceeds go to law enforcement (60% to the seizing agencies and 20% to the prosecuting district attorneys' offices; the remaining 20% goes to the criminal court fund).

## Recent Reforms

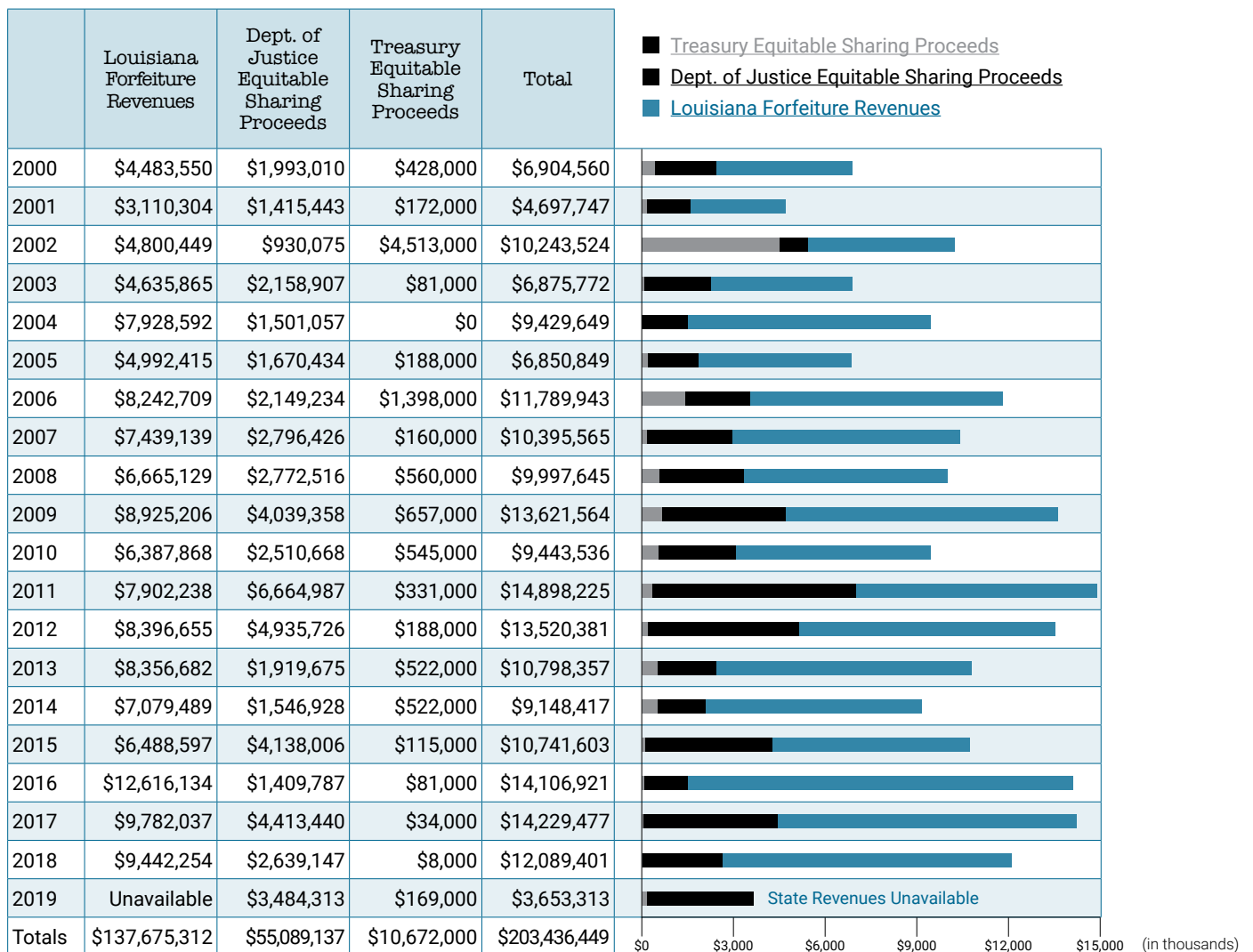
- None.

## State and Federal Forfeiture Revenues, 2000–2019

Between 2000 and 2018, Louisiana law enforcement agencies forfeited more than \$137 million under state law. Between 2000 and 2019, they generated an additional \$66 million from federal equitable sharing, for a total of at least \$203 million in forfeiture revenue. Louisiana ranks 21st for its participation in the Department of Justice's equitable sharing program. The state does not prevent state and local agencies from using equitable sharing to circumvent state forfeiture law.

**At least \$203 million  
in state and federal  
forfeiture revenue**

2000–2019



All revenue figures include both civil and criminal forfeitures. Revenues are not adjusted for inflation.

# Louisiana's Forfeiture Transparency and Accountability Report Card

Tracking Seized Property	<b>F</b>	Accessibility of Forfeiture Records	<b>D</b>
Accounting for Forfeiture Fund Spending	<b>F</b>	Penalties for Failure to File a Report	<b>F</b>
Statewide Forfeiture Reports	<b>B</b>	Financial Audits of Forfeiture Accounts	<b>D</b>

For full transparency and accountability grades, visit [www.ij.org/TransparencyReportCards](http://www.ij.org/TransparencyReportCards).

## Forfeitures Under Louisiana Law: Key Facts

### Median Value

**UNKNOWN**

Louisiana does not report property-level data necessary to calculate median forfeiture value.

### Property Types

**UNKNOWN**

Louisiana does not report the types of property forfeited.

### Civil vs. Criminal

**UNKNOWN**

Louisiana does not report whether forfeitures are processed under civil or criminal forfeiture law.

### Expenditures

**UNKNOWN**

Louisiana does not report how forfeiture funds are spent.

### Data Notes

Forfeiture proceeds reports were obtained via public records requests to the Louisiana Attorney General and Governor. The calendar-year figures represent cash and property sold. Equitable sharing data are from DOJ's and Treasury's annual forfeiture reports. Due to differences in reporting and accounting practices, state figures may not match aggregate numbers produced by the state or cover the same 12-month period as the federal data.