

NEW MEXICO'S CHILDREN

New Mexico's Children At a Glance¹

State Population ²	2,082,224	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵	30.7%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	517,753	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶	28.6%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	21.5%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	35.8%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, New Mexico had 31,932 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 16,992 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2011, 5,601 children were victims of abuse or neglect in New Mexico, a rate of 10.8 per 1,000 children, representing a 7.4% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 85.8% were neglected, 13.5% were physically abused, and 3.7% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 7.7% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.¹⁰
- In 2011, 15 children in New Mexico died as a result of abuse or neglect.¹¹
- In 2011, 1,859 children in New Mexico lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,869 children in 2010. In 2011, 844 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 111 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 23.3% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.¹³
- Of New Mexico children in out-of-home care in 2011, 27.8% were white, 4.0% black, 56.5% Hispanic, 8.8% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.1% Asian or Pacific Islander and 2.7% of more than one race or ethnicity.¹⁴

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,778 children exiting out-of-home care in New Mexico in 2011, 68.7% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁵
- In 2011, 351 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in New Mexico, a 16.4% decrease from 420 in 2010.¹⁶
- Of the 1,859 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 774 or 41.6% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2011, approximately 26,395 New Mexico grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- Of the 1,859 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 312 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹
- Of all New Mexico children in kinship care in 2010, 3.6% were white, 0.3% black, 10.8% Hispanic, 1.7% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.1% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 0.3% of more than one race or ethnicity.²⁰

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in New Mexico increased from 52,150 in 2010 to 52,395 in 2011, an increase of 0.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 20,388, a 3.0% increase from 2010.²¹
- From 2009-10, for every 100 New Mexico families living in poverty, only 29 received TANF benefits.²²
- In 2011, \$191,736,019 was spent in New Mexico on TANF assistance, including 42% on basic assistance, 0% on child

care, 0% on transportation, and 58% on nonassistance.²³

- In 2011, 27,979,838 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in New Mexico, serving 60,944 participants.²⁴
- In 2011, New Mexico distributed \$106,437,786 in child support funds, a 7.9% increase from 2010.²⁵
- In 2011 in New Mexico, 60,138 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 29% of them are families with children.²⁶

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, New Mexico had a monthly average of 23,200 children served by subsidized child care; 22,500 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 20,400 in 2008.²⁷
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in New Mexico, a family of three could make no more than \$37,060, which is equivalent to 81% of the state's median income.²⁸
- As of early 2012, New Mexico had 6,614 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁹
- In 2011, Head Start served 7,887 New Mexico children, a 8.8% increase from 2010.³⁰

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 314,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in New Mexico—62% of the total number of enrollees in the state.³¹
- In 2011, New Mexico had 9,635 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 0.2% decrease from 2010, when 9,654 children were enrolled.³²
- In 2011, New Mexico had 51,000 uninsured children, representing 10% of its child population.³³
- In 2010, 2,427 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in New Mexico.³⁴
- In 2010, 134 infants under age 1 died in New Mexico.³⁵
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in New Mexico was 30 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 86. This reflects a total rate of 53 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁶
- Cumulative through 2011, 3,259 adults and adolescents, as well as 9 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in New Mexico.³⁷
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 16,000 children ages 12–17 and 139,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in New Mexico.³⁸

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 99 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in New Mexico.³⁹
- In 2011, 13,000 New Mexico teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2011, 43,000 young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 10,000 children ages 12–17 in New Mexico needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 8,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2010, 29 New Mexico children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 5 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 30 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in New Mexico, a 11% increase from 27 in 2009.⁴⁵
- In 2011, 11,525 children younger than 18 were arrested in New Mexico, a 2.0% decrease from 11,787 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 442 were for violent crimes.⁴⁶
- In 2010, 576 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in New Mexico.⁴⁷

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE⁴⁸

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well being for children.⁴⁹
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.⁵⁰
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁵¹

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEW MEXICO'S CHILDREN

- Out of 1,859 children in out-of-home care in New Mexico in 2011, only 799, or 43%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵²
- In 2010, New Mexico spent \$99,740,838 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$56,571,723 was from federal funds, \$43,169,115 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.⁵³
- In 2010, of the \$56,571,723 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$42,205,679 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$4,953,136 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$984,882 was from Medicaid, \$7,653,804 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$0 was from TANF, and \$774,222 came from other federal sources.⁵⁴
- New Mexico received \$22,440,341 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$4,647,370 for maintenance payments, \$11,101,241 for administration and child placement, \$1,398,404 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$3,778,420 for training.⁵⁵
- New Mexico received \$17,219,698 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$16,090,246 for assistance payments, and \$1,129,452 for administration and child placement.⁵⁶

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	Office	Phone	Fax	Website	Next Election
Senate:					
Martin Heinrich (D)	B40D Dirksen	224-5521	224-2852	Heinrich.senate.gov	2018
Tom Udall (D) <i>Appropriations</i>	110 Hart	224-6621	228-0900	Tomudall.senate.gov	2014
House:					
Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-1st)	214 Cannon	225-6316	225-4975	Lujangrisham.house.gov	2014
Steve Pearce (R-2 nd)	2432 Rayburn	225-2365	225-9599	Pearce.house.gov	2014
Ben Ray Lujan (D-3 rd) <i>Energy & Commerce</i>	2446 Rayburn	225-6190	226-1331	Lujan.house.gov	2014

Key Committee Jurisdictions

Senate **H.E.L.P.:** CAPTA; Child Care & Head Start; ESEA

Senate Judiciary: Juvenile Justice

Senate Finance: Child Welfare Reform; Medicaid & Mental Health; SSBG Child Welfare Services & Promoting Safe and Stable Families; TANF

House Education & the Workforce: CAPTA; Child Care & Head Start; ESEA

House Judiciary: Juvenile Justice

House Ways & Means: Child Welfare Reform, SSBG, CWS & PSSF, TANF

House Energy & Commerce: Medicaid & Mental Health

NOTES AND REFERENCES

¹ “At A Glance” statistics are from 2011.

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⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2011: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals, 2011*. Retrieved January 23, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

¹⁰ Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2011: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2011*. Retrieved January 25, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>.

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¹² Special tabulation of the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS) by National Data Archive for Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) and CWLA.

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¹⁴ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

¹⁵ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

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¹⁹ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

²⁰ Ibid. Note: Total percentage may not equal 100 because the race/ethnicity of some children was not reported or missing. Percentages are a CWLA calculation.

²¹ U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2012). TANF: Total Number of Recipients. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/2011-recipient-tanf>.

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Note: The percent differences are CWLA special tabulations.

²² Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2012) *TANF Weakening as a Safety Net for Poor Families: Appendix Table B1: TANF Cases to Families with Children in Poverty Ratios, 1994-95 to 2009-10*. Retrieved January 30, 2013 from <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3700>.

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Administration for Children and Families. (2012). *Fiscal Year 2010 TANF Financial Data: Table B.3: Federal TANF and State MOE Expenditures on Non-Assistance in FY 2011*. Retrieved December 21, 2011 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-financial-data-fy-2011>.

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Note: All program data can be accessed at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wicmain.htm>.

²⁵ Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement. (2012). *Preliminary Report FY 2011: State Boxscores for FY 2011*. Retrieved January 30, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/fy2011-preliminary-report-state-box-scores>.

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- Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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⁴⁸ Note: The dearth in current state-by-state workforce data makes clear the need for critical data on compensation, working conditions including safety issues, academic degrees held, education and training received, and factors contributing to turnover. To address this, CWLA is calling for Congress to authorize the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an updated study on the child welfare workforce. It would make recommendations regarding caseloads and workloads, education levels, and training requirements. In addition, the study would examine data reporting and collection and make recommendations on how states might improve these efforts.

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Note: The penetration rate is a CWLA calculation of special Children's Bureau data on state IV-E Foster Care expenditures.

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⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Special Children's Bureau data on state IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance.

Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support, pre-placement, and demonstration funds for this state.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional partner training funds.