NEW MEXICO'S CHILDREN 2015

New Mexico's Children At a Glance¹

State Population²......2,085,287 Population, Children Under 18³.....508,084 State Poverty Rate⁴......21.9% Poverty Rate, Children Under 18⁵.....31.2% Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17⁶.....29.9% Poverty Rate, Children Under 5⁷......33.7%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2013, New Mexico had 31,704 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 18,128 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2013, 6,530 children were victims of abuse or neglect in New Mexico, a rate of 12.9 per 1,000 children, representing a 9.9% increase from 2012. Of these children, 93.0% were neglected, 12.6% were physically abused, and 2.9% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has increased 32.9% in comparison to the number of victims in 2009.¹⁰
- In 2013, 7 children in New Mexico died as a result of abuse or neglect.¹¹
- In 2013, 2,077 children in New Mexico lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,992 children in 2009. In 2012, 868 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 126 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 4.3% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2009.¹³
- Of New Mexico children in out-of-home care in 2013, 31.0% were white, 2.9% black, 59.7% Hispanic, 4.5% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.0% Asian or Pacific Islander and 1.3% of more than one race or ethnicity.¹⁴

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,638 children exiting out-of-home care in New Mexico in 2012, 69% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁵
- In 2013, 310 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in New Mexico, a 10.1% decrease from 345 in 2012.¹⁶
- Of the 2,077 children in out-of-home care in 2013, 880 or 42.4% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2013, approximately 30,125 New Mexico grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2012, 364 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in New Mexico decreased from 75,727 in 2013 to 66,125 in 2014, a decrease of 12.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2014 was 28,052, a 12.1% decrease from 2013.²⁰
- From 2012-2013, for every 100 New Mexico families living in poverty, only 26 received TANF benefits.²¹
- In 2013, \$188,825,087 was spent in New Mexico on TANF assistance, including 28% on basic assistance, 0% on child care, 0% on transportation, and 72% on nonassistance.²²
- In 2013, \$24,542,737 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)



in New Mexico, serving 57,553 participants.²³

- In 2013, New Mexico distributed \$114,839,125 in child support funds, a 2.4% increase from 2012.²⁴
- In 2013 in New Mexico, 169,000 children lived in households with a high housing burden, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.²⁵

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2013, New Mexico had a monthly average of 18,300 children served by subsidized child care; 19,800 children received subsidized child care in 2012 and 20,500 in 2011.²⁶
- In 2014, to be eligible for subsidized child care in New Mexico, a family of three could make no more than \$39,060, which is equivalent to 81% of the state's median income.²⁷
- As of early 2014, New Mexico had 259 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁸
- In 2013, Head Start served 7,470 New Mexico children, a 4.6% decrease from 2012.²⁹

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2014, 309,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in New Mexico—77% of the total number of enrollees in the state.³⁰
- In 2012, New Mexico had 9,582 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 0.6% decrease from 2011, when 9,635 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2013, New Mexico had 43,105 uninsured children.³²
- In 2012, 2,381 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in New Mexico.³³
- In 2011, 148 infants under age 1 died in New Mexico.³⁴
- In 2012, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in New Mexico was 24 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 83. This reflects a total rate of 47 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2013, 3,356 adults and adolescents, as well as 9 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in New Mexico.³⁶
- In 2013, an estimated 12,000 children ages 12–17 and 132,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in New Mexico.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 78 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in New Mexico.³⁸
- In 2013, 12,000 New Mexico teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.³⁹
- In 2013, 43,000 young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴⁰
- In 2013, approximately 8,000 children ages 12–17 in New Mexico needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug
 use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2013, approximately 6,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2013, 25 New Mexico children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.43 per 100,000 children.⁴³

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

• In 2013, 21 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in New Mexico, a 0.0% increase from 21 in 2012.⁴⁴



- In 2013, 4,951 children younger than 18 were arrested in New Mexico, a 47% decrease from 9,354 arrests in 2012. Of the arrests in 2013, 223 were for violent crimes.⁴⁵
- In 2013, 522 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in New Mexico.⁴⁶

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE⁴⁷

- 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. In Children's Rights 2009, A Long Road Home report, similar challenges to the child welfare caseworkers were identified, in addition to no standard training or consistent background requirements, need for meaningful supervision, and lack of private workspace, technology and other resources.⁴⁸
- 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.⁴⁹
- 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.⁵⁰
- The National Association of Social Workers 2012 Document to the Obama Administration called for full funding of theChild Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF), protection of the Social Security Block Grant (SSBG) from budget cuts and elimination, a variety of child maltreatment prevention services to be available through programs serving children and families (e.g., TANF, Head Start, etc.), maximization of collaboration amongst different systems (e.g., Child Welfare, Public Health, Juvenile Justice, etc.) to improve integration, culturally and linguistically appropriate delivery of services, identification and implementation of evidence-based practices, and incentivization of BSW and MSW students to join the child welfare workforce.⁵¹

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEW MEXICO'S CHILDREN

- In 2012, New Mexico spent \$98,553,891 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$62,298,712 was from federal funds, \$36,255,179 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.⁵²
- In 2012, of the \$62,298,712 in federal funds received for child welfare, 74.8% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7.7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 1.2% was from Medicaid, 14.0% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0.0% was from TANF, and 2.3% came from other federal sources.⁵³
- New Mexico received \$28,669,411 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2012, including \$5,021,727 for maintenance payments and \$23,647,684 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁵⁴



NOTES AND REFERENCES

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⁴⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2014). *Crime in the United States 2013: Table 69: Arrests by State, 2013*. Retrieved March 24, 2015 from <u>http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2013/crime-in-the-u.s.-2013/tables/table-69/table_69 arrest_by_state_2013.xls</u>. U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2013). *Crime in the United States 2012: Table 69: Arrests by States, 2012*. Retrieved March 24, 2015 from <u>http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/69: Arrests by States, 2012</u>. Retrieved March 24, 2015 from <u>http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/69: Arrests by States, 2012</u>. Retrieved March 24, 2015 from <u>http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/69tabledatadecpdf</u>. Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

⁴⁶ Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Kang, W., & Puzzanchera, C. (2013). *OJJDP's Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement: 1997-2011: Table: Type of Placement Facility by State, 2011 (Count).* Retrieved March 24, 2015 from http://ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/asp/State_Facility.asp.

⁴⁷ 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.

⁴⁸ U.S. General Accounting Office. (2003). *Child Welfare: HHS Could Play a Greater Role in Helping Child Welfare Agencies Recruit and Retain Staff.* Retrieved January 19, 2012 from www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf.

National Association of Social Workers. (2012). 2012 Document to the Obama Administration, Building on Progressive Priorities: Sustaining Our Nation's Safety Net. Retrieved March 31, 2015 from http://www.naswdc.org/advocacy/documents/nasw-2012-building_progressive_priorities.pdf⁴⁹ U.S. General Accounting Office. (2003). Child Welfare: HHS Could Play a Greater Role in Helping Child Welfare Agencies Recruit and Retain Staff.

⁴⁹ U.S. General Accounting Office. (2003). Child Welfare: HHS Could Play a Greater Role in Helping Child Welfare Agencies Recruit and Retain Staff. Retrieved January 19, 2012 from <u>www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf</u>.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Children's Rights.(2009).*The Long Road Home: A Study of Children Stranded in New York City Foster Care.* Retrieved March 31, 2015 from http://www.childrensrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/2009-11-02 long road home full report final.pdf.
 ⁵² DeVooght, K., Allen, T., & Geen, R. (2014). *Child Trends: Federal, State, and Local Spending to Address Child Abuse and Neglect in SFY 2012:*

³² DeVooght, K., Allen, T., & Geen, R. (2014). *Child Trends:Federal, State, and Local Spending to Address Child Abuse and Neglect in SFY 2012: Appendix A:SFY 2012 State-by-State Data.2008/2010 Casey Child Welfare Financing Survey and 2012 Casey Child Welfare Financing Survey.* Washington, DC. Retrieved April 2, 2015 from http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/2014-61ChildWelfareSpending-2012-2nd-revision-march.pdf. Note: Examples of direct services include child abuse/neglect investigations, foster care, community-based programs, case management, and all such services required for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Examples of administrative services include management information systems, training programs, eligibility determination processes, and all services that provide the infrastructure supports for the public agency. Current information is also needed in regards to state and local spending on child welfare programs. Particularly, in light of financing reform efforts, it would be helpful to know how state and local budgets have changed in the wake of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5) investments and the ongoing effects of the recession.

Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ DeVooght, K., Allen, T., & Geen, R. (2014). Child Trends: Federal, State, and Local Spending to Address Child Abuse and Neglect in SFY 2012: Appendix B:SFY 2012 State-by-State Data.2008/2010 Casey Child Welfare Financing Survey and 2012 Casey Child Welfare Financing Survey. Washington, DC. Retrieved April 2, 2015 from http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/2014-61ChildWelfareSpending-2012-2nd-revision-march.pdf. Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds for this state.

