New Mexico’s Children at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Population</th>
<th>Poverty Rate, Children Under 18</th>
<th>Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17</th>
<th>Poverty Rate, Children Under 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,085,572</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
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<td>500,078</td>
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<td>219,000</td>
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CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2014, New Mexico had 36,774 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 20,834 reports were referred for investigation.\(^8\)

- In 2014, there were 7,606 victims of abuse or neglect in New Mexico, a rate of 15.2 per 1,000 children, increasing 16.5% from 2013. Of these children, 82.4% were neglected, 13.4% were physically abused, and 3.3% were sexually abused.\(^9\)

- The number of child victims has increased 39.8% in comparison to the number of victims in 2010.\(^10\)

- In 2014, there were 7 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in New Mexico.\(^11\)

- 2,366 children in New Mexico lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2014, compared with 1,869 children in 2010. Of the children living apart from their families in 2013, there were 928 aged 5 or younger, and 150 were 16 or older.\(^12\)

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 26.6% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2010.\(^13\)

- In 2013, of children in out-of-home care in New Mexico, 24% were white, 4% were black, 61% were Hispanic, 8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, less than 1% were Asian or Pacific Islander and between 3-4% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.\(^14\)

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,669 children exiting out-of-home care in 2013 in New Mexico, 72% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.\(^15\)

- 315 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in New Mexico in 2014, increasing 1.6% from 310 in 2013.\(^16\)

- Of the 2,366 children in out-of-home care in 2014, there were 990 or 41.8% waiting to be adopted.\(^17\)

- In 2014, approximately 25,620 grandparents in New Mexico had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.\(^18\)
• 456 of the children in out-of-home care in 2013 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 36,143 in 2014 to 31,667 in 2015, a 12.4% change. 12,105 families received TANF in 2015, decreasing 8% from 2014.20

• From 2013 to 2014, for every 100 of families living in poverty in New Mexico, 22 received TANF benefits.21

• $186,703,641 was spent in 2014 on TANF assistance in New Mexico, including 25% on basic assistance, 4% on child care, 0% on transportation, and 71% on nonassistance.22

• $26,277,234 was spent in 2014 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in New Mexico, serving 58,376 participants.23

• In 2014, New Mexico distributed $118,649,455 in child support funds, increasing 3.3% from 2013.24

• 169,000 children in New Mexico lived in households with a high housing burden in 2013, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.25

• In 2014, the unemployment rate in New Mexico was 6.5%.26

• 12.3% of households in New Mexico were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, meaning that the family experienced difficulty providing enough food due to lack of resources at some point during the year.27

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

• In 2014, New Mexico had a monthly average of 16,600 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 18,300 children received subsidized child care per month in 2013 and 19,800 were recipients in 2012.28

• In 2014, to be eligible for subsidized child care in New Mexico, a family of three could make no more than $39,580 at application, which is equivalent to 81% of the state’s median income.29

• As of early 2015, New Mexico had 126 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.30

• In 2014, Head Start served 7,672 children in New Mexico, increasing 2.70% from 2013.31

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

• 384,924 children in New Mexico were enrolled in Medicaid in 2014, increasing 1.2% from 2013.32

• In 2014, New Mexico had 16,037 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, increasing 71.2% from 2013, when 9,368 children were enrolled.33
In 2014, New Mexico had 36,402 uninsured children.\(^{34}\)

2,282 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in New Mexico in 2014.\(^{35}\)

144 infants under age 1 died in New Mexico in 2013.\(^{36}\)

In 2014, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in New Mexico was 19 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 66 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 37.8 births for girls ages 15 to 19.\(^ {37}\)

Cumulative through 2014, there were 3,411 adults and adolescents and 9 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in New Mexico.\(^ {38}\)

In 2014, an estimated 9,000 children ages 12 to 17 and 141,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in New Mexico.\(^ {39}\)

In 2014, approximately 4,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.\(^ {40}\)

In 2014, approximately 6,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.\(^ {41}\)

**VULNERABLE YOUTH**

50 children in New Mexico aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2013.\(^ {42}\)

70% of high school students in New Mexico graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.\(^ {43}\)

10,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in New Mexico were not enrolled in school and not working in 2014.\(^ {44}\)

43,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2013.\(^ {45}\)

31.2% of young adults in New Mexico ages 25 to 34 had an associate’s degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.\(^ {46}\)

In 2014, there were less than 10 reports of children in New Mexico aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 18 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.\(^ {47}\)

**JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION**

19 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in New Mexico in 2014, compared to 21 in 2013.\(^ {48}\)

5,254 children younger than 18 were arrested in New Mexico in 2014. Violent crimes were the reason for 252 of the arrests in 2014.\(^ {49}\)
• 402 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in New Mexico in 2013.\textsuperscript{50}

**CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE**\textsuperscript{51}

• 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.\textsuperscript{52}

• According to a 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.\textsuperscript{53}

• Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.\textsuperscript{54} Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.\textsuperscript{55}

• Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.\textsuperscript{56}

• According to the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II baseline report, 75% of caseworkers earned a salary between $30,000 and $49,999.\textsuperscript{57}

• The majority of caseworkers hold a bachelor’s degree (52.3%) or a bachelor of social work degree (21.9%). Only 25% of caseworkers hold a master’s degree.\textsuperscript{58}

• A workload model in Colorado found that approximately 574 additional caseworkers were needed in their state to adequately provide child welfare services, due to estimated time requirements for meaningful services. This number represents a 49% increase that is needed on top of hours already spent on case related tasks.\textsuperscript{59}

**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.\textsuperscript{60}

• 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% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 2.3% came from other federal sources.\textsuperscript{61}

• 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.\textsuperscript{62}

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\textsuperscript{1} “At A Glance” statistics are from 2014.

Ibid.


5 Ibid.

6 Ibid

7 Ibid.


Note: The percentage difference is a CWLA calculation. Overlap in the percentages of types of abuse is possible as a child may have experienced more than one type of abuse.


Note: The five and younger number is a CWLA calculation.


Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.


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.


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