NEW MEXICO’S CHILDREN 2017

New Mexico’s Children at a Glance¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Population²</th>
<th>2,085,109</th>
<th>Poverty Rate, Children Under 18³</th>
<th>28.6%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population, Children Under 18⁴</td>
<td>499,416</td>
<td>Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17⁵</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Poverty Rate⁶</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
<td>Poverty Rate, Children Under 5⁷</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2015, New Mexico had 40,855 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 21,798 reports were referred for investigation.⁸

- In 2015, there were 8,701 victims of abuse or neglect in New Mexico, a rate of 17.5 per 1,000 children, an increase 14.4% from 2014. Of these children, 82.2% were neglected, 13.4% were physically abused, and 2.7% were sexually abused.⁹

- The number of child victims has increased 55.3% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.¹⁰

- In 2015, there were 14 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in New Mexico¹¹

- 2,471 children in New Mexico lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 1,859 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 1,015 aged 5 or younger, and 148 were 16 or older.¹²

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 32.9% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2011.¹³

- In 2015, of children in out-of-home care in New Mexico, 24% were white, 4% were black, 60% were Hispanic, 9% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, <.5% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 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 1,808 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in New Mexico, 71% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵

- 295 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in New Mexico in 2015, a decrease of 6.3% from 315 in 2014.¹⁶

- Of the 2,471 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 1,134 or 45.9% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
• In 2015, approximately 23,723 grandparents in New Mexico had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.18

• 494 of the children in out-of-home care in 2014 were living with relatives while in care.19

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

• The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in New Mexico decreased from 31,120 in 2015 to 29,364 in 2016, a 6% change. There was a 11,586 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 3.7% from 2015.20

• In New Mexico in 2015, 267,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.21

• $205,383,006 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in New Mexico, including 22.4% on basic assistance, 2.6% on child care, 0.3% on transportation, and 0.0% on nonassistance.22

• $24,522,480 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in New Mexico, serving 55,234 participants.23

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

• 156,000 children in New Mexico lived in households with a high housing burden in 2014, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.25

• In December of 2016, the unemployment rate in New Mexico was 6.6.26

• 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 2015, New Mexico had a monthly average of 16,400 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 16,600 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 18,300 were recipients in 2013.28

• In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in New Mexico, a family of three could make no more than $40,180 at application, which is equivalent to 79% of the state’s median income.29

• As of early 2016, New Mexico had 1,085 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.30

• In 2015, Head Start served 7,851 children in New Mexico, an increase of 2.3% from 2014.31

• Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in New Mexico made 4,430 home visits to 672 parents and children in 331 families, as well as enrolled 334 new parents and children to the program.
HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 398,864 children in New Mexico were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, an increase of 3.5% from 2014.32
- In 2015, New Mexico had 17,195 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, an increase of 6.7% from 2014, when 16,037 children were enrolled.33
- In 2015, New Mexico had 22,418 uninsured children.34
- 2,244 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in New Mexico in 2015.35
- 131 infants under age 1 died in New Mexico in 2015.36
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in New Mexico was 17.1 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 61.4 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 35 births for girls ages 15 to 19.37
- Cumulative through 2015, there were 3,431 adults and adolescents and 9 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in New Mexico.38
- In 2015, an estimated 2,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 70,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year 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
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in New Mexico reached $192,777,015.

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 75 children in New Mexico aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.42
- 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 2015.44
- 39,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.45
- 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 2015, there were less than 10 reports of children in New Mexico aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 26 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.47
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 32 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in New Mexico in 2015, compared to 19 in 2014.\textsuperscript{48}
- 5,179 children younger than 18 were arrested in New Mexico in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 242 of the arrests in 2015.\textsuperscript{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}

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2014, New Mexico’s sum of expenditures for services totaled $10,422,479. The most utilized service in New Mexico was Adoption Services totaling $3,820,032.\textsuperscript{60}

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEW MEXICO’S CHILDREN

- In 2014, New Mexico spent $92,089,784 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $58,613,784 was from federal funds and $33,476,000 was from state and local funds.\textsuperscript{61}
• In 2014, of the $58,613,784 in federal funds received for child welfare, 64.5% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 6.9% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 1.7% was from Medicaid, 20.9% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 6.1% came from other federal sources.62

• New Mexico received $18,321,785 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including $5,745,137 for maintenance payments and $12,576,648 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.63

1 “At A Glance” statistics are from 2014.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid
7 Ibid.
13 Ibid.
14 Ibid.
15 Ibid.
16 Ibid.
17 Ibid.
The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds for this state.


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.


Ibid.


Ibid.


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.

Ibid.

Ibid.