

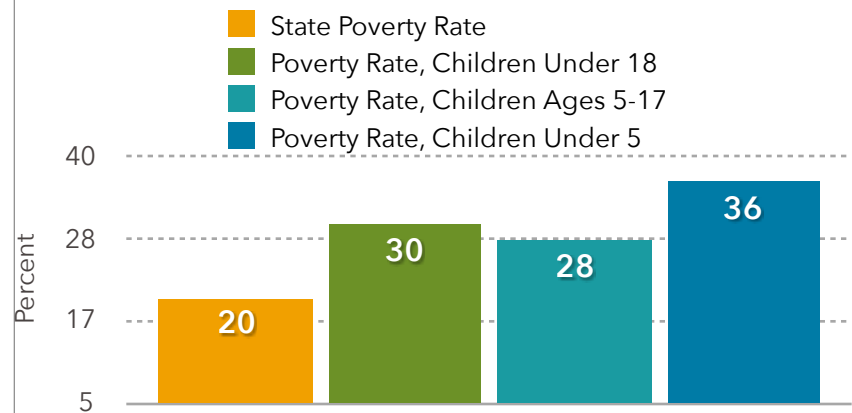
# NEW MEXICO'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 2,082,669 | Population of Children Under 18: 482,338

## ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the **1,715** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in New Mexico, 68% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- **306** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in New Mexico in 2016, an increase of 3.7% from **295** in 2015.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the **2,610** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **1,263** or 48.39% waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2016, approximately **23,481** grandparents in New Mexico had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- **464** of the children in out-of-home care in 2015 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>19</sup>

## Poverty Rates



## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2016, New Mexico had 36,963 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 18,510 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2016, there were 7,526 victims of abuse or neglect in New Mexico, a rate of 15.3 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 13.5% from 2015. Of these children, 81.4% were neglected, 12.4% were physically abused, and 2.6% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has decreased 13.5% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.<sup>10</sup>

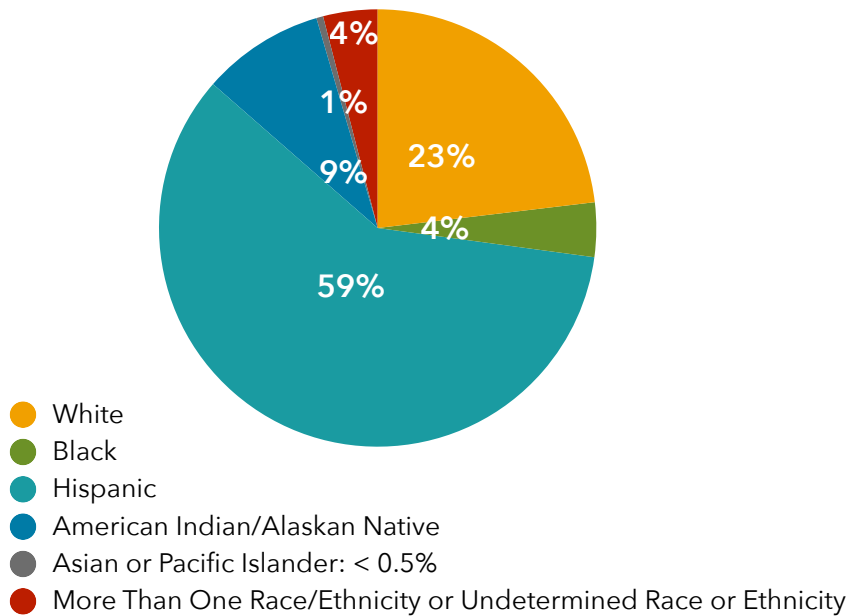


## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- 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.<sup>28</sup>
- 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.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2016, New Mexico had 1,085 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2016, Head Start served 7,512 children in New Mexico, a decrease of 4.3% from 2015.<sup>31</sup>
- 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.<sup>64</sup>

- In 2016, there were 11 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in New Mexico.<sup>11</sup>
- 2,610 children in New Mexico lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 2,471 children in 2015.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 5.6% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2015.<sup>13</sup>

Children in Out-of-Home Care  
2015



## 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.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 22

received TANF cash assistance.<sup>21</sup>

- \$253,087,972 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in New Mexico, including 14.3% on basic assistance, 6.8% on child care, and 0.2% on transportation.<sup>22</sup>
- \$16,454,493 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in New Mexico, serving 51,902 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- 25 of households in New Mexico were food insecure in 2015, meaning that the family experienced difficulty providing enough food due to lack of resources at some point during the year.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 414,277 children in New Mexico were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, an increase of 3.9% from 2015.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2016, New Mexico had 15,100 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 12.2% from 2015, when 17,195 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2016, New Mexico had 34,123 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 2,227 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in New Mexico in 2016.<sup>35</sup>
- 154 infants under age 1 died in New Mexico in 2016.<sup>36</sup>
- 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.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 3,494 adults and adolescents and 10 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in New Mexico.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in New Mexico reached \$192,777,015.<sup>39</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 75 children in New Mexico aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.<sup>42</sup>
- 11,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in New Mexico were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.<sup>44</sup>

- 37,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2016, there were less than 10 reports of children in New Mexico aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 20 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 21 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in New Mexico in 2016, compared to 32 in 2015.<sup>48</sup>
- 4,524 children younger than 18 were arrested in New Mexico in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 248 of the arrests in 2016.<sup>49</sup>
- 363 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in New Mexico in 2015.<sup>50</sup>

## CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

*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.<sup>52</sup>*

- 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.<sup>53</sup>
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.<sup>54</sup> Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.<sup>55</sup>

*Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.<sup>56</sup>*

- 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.<sup>57</sup>
- 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.<sup>58</sup>

## 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.<sup>60</sup>

## 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.<sup>61</sup>
- 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.<sup>62</sup>
- 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.<sup>63</sup>

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- 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.
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- Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.
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- 18 U.S. Census Bureau. (2017). American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2016. Retrieved January 22, 2018 from [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_16\\_1YR\\_DP02&prodType=table](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_1YR_DP02&prodType=table).
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