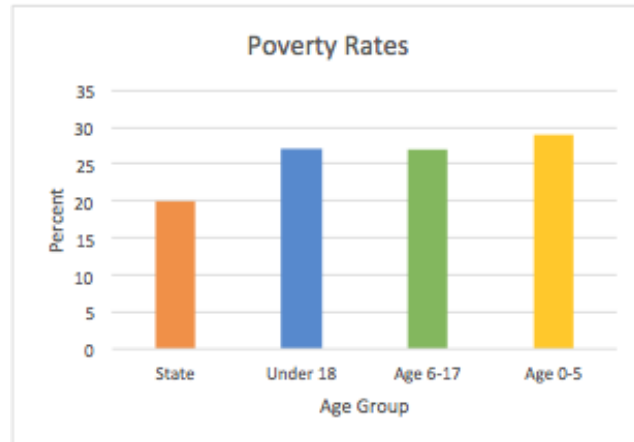


NEW MEXICO'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 2,088,000 | Population of Children Under 18: 488,090

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,824 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in New Mexico, 72% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 311 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in New Mexico in 2017, an increase of 1.6% from 306 in 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 2,657 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 1,424 or 53.6% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 25,692 grandparents in New Mexico had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 581 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2017, New Mexico had 39,166 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 21,691 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2017, there were 8,577 victims of abuse or neglect in New Mexico, a rate of 17.6 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 1.4% from 2016. Of these children, 80.2% were neglected, 12.2% were physically abused, and 2.6% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 1.4% in comparison to the number of victims in 2016.¹⁰

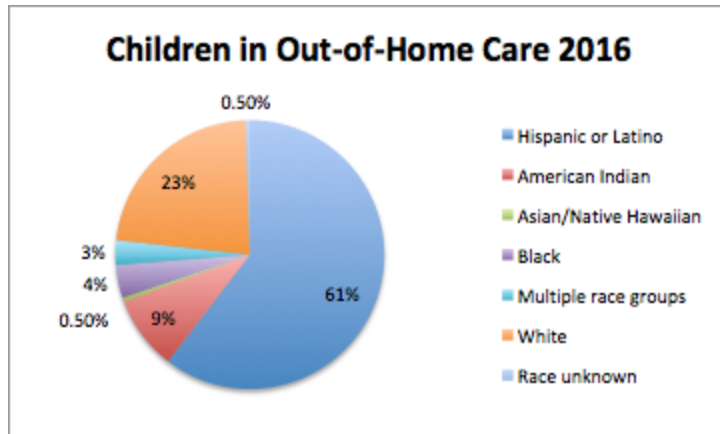


CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2016, New Mexico had a monthly average of 16,800 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 16,400 children received subsidized child care per month in 2015 and 16,600 were recipients in 2014.²⁸
- In 2018, to be eligible for subsidized child care in New Mexico, a family of three could make no more than \$40,840 at application, which is equivalent to 79% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2018, New Mexico had 2,318 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017, Head Start served 10,651 children in New Mexico, an increase of 35.7% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in New Mexico made 6,609 home visits to 1,238 participants in 547 households.⁶⁴

- In 2017, there were 16 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in New Mexico.¹¹

- 2,610 children in New Mexico lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 2,471 children in 2015.¹²



- 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 2015.¹³

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in New Mexico decreased from 29,364 in 2016 to 26,388 in 2018, a 10.1% change. There was a 10,571 monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 8.8% from 2016.²⁰
- In 2017, for every 100 poor families with children, only 21 received TANF cash assistance.²¹
- \$287,000,000 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in New Mexico, including 19% on basic assistance.²²

- \$20,946,379 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in New Mexico, serving 46,186 participants.²³
- In 2017, New Mexico distributed \$121,914,934 in child support funds, a 2.8% from 2014.²⁴
- 155,000 children in New Mexico lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, 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
- 27% of households in New Mexico were food insecure in 2016, meaning that the family experienced difficulty providing enough food due to lack of resources at some point during the year.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 419,132 children in New Mexico were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 5.1% from 2015.³²
- In 2017, New Mexico had 13,709 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 20.3% from 2015, when 17,195 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, New Mexico had 26,000 uninsured children.³⁴
- 2,227 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in New Mexico in 2016.³⁵
- 154 infants under age 1 died in New Mexico in 2016.³⁶
- In 2016, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in New Mexico was 15 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 53 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 30 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 3,494 adults and adolescents and 10 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. ⁶⁴

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 66 children in New Mexico aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 71% of high school students in New Mexico graduated on time at the end of the 2015-16 year.⁴³
- 11,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in New Mexico were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 37,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 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 2017, there were 0 reports of children in New Mexico aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 41 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 2017, compared to 32 in 2015.⁴⁸

- 4,254 children younger than 18 were arrested in New Mexico in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 248 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 363 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in New Mexico in 2015.⁵⁰

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

*Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.*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 \$49,999.⁵⁷
- 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.⁵⁸

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2016, New Mexico's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$10,305,302. The most utilized service in New Mexico was Adoptive Services totaling \$4,293,418.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEW MEXICO'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, New Mexico spent \$94,166,880 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$55,715,948 was from federal funds and \$38,450,932 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
 - In 2016, of the \$55,715,948 in federal funds received for child welfare, 42% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 1% was from Medicaid, 8% came from Social Services Block Grant, 1% was from TANF, and 2% came from other federal sources.⁶²
 - New Mexico received \$18,909,295 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$7,351,821 for maintenance payments and \$11,557,474 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training. ⁶³
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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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- 11 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2019). Child Maltreatment 2017: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2012-2016. Retrieved February 14, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2016.pdf>.
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- Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.
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- Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.
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Note: The percentages are a CWLA calculation.
- 23 USDA, Food and Nutrition Service. (2018). Program Data: WIC Program: Monthly Data – State Level Participation by Category and Program Costs: Table: WIC Program—Total Number of Participants. Retrieved February 27, 2018 from <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/pd/26wifypart.pdf>
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Note: Some states allow families, once they begin receiving assistance, to continue receiving assistance up to a higher income level than the initial limit.
- 30 Ibid.
Note: A family that is eligible for child care assistance may not necessarily receive it. States may place families on waiting lists, or freeze intake (turning away eligible families without adding them to a waiting list).
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- 41 Ibid.
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- 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.
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