Child Maltreatment
In 2020, New Mexico had 40,381 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 22,128 were referred for investigation.¹

There was 7,050 child victims of abuse or neglect in New Mexico in 2020, at a rate of 14.9 children per 1,000. This translates to a 1.97% decrease since 2016.²

Of the 7,050 children, 4,949 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 917 of the 7,050 cases.⁴

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2020

- African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Hispanic
- Multiple Race
- Pacific Islander
- White
- Unknown

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020
- Medical Neglect
- Neglect
- Other
- Physical Abuse
- Psychological Maltreatment
- Sexual Abuse
- Sex Trafficking
- Unknown

- 86% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. 14% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁵
- 50% of New Mexico’s child victims in 2020 were female and 49% were male.⁶

Plans of Safe Care
- In 2020, New Mexico reported 274 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁷
- New Mexico reported 4 screened-in infants with prenatal substance abuse exposure with plans of safe care.⁸
Child fatalities increased in 2020 from 11 in 2019 to 13 in 2020.\textsuperscript{xi}

New Mexico did not report the numbers for sex trafficking victims.\textsuperscript{xii}

2,476 victims received post-response services while 2,196 non-victims received post-response services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

There was an 8.85\% decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also decreased 16.36\% from 2019 to 2020.\textsuperscript{xvi}

81 children in New Mexico aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is a decrease from 98 in 2018 and represents a 17.3\% decrease.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 25.7 months in care.\textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average length of stay in New Mexico for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 38.2 months.\textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 8.2 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was 7.3 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 3,489 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- 2,120 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2020.
- 1,184 children entered care during the 2020 FY while 1,372 exited during the same year.
- 281 of New Mexico’s children were adopted while 1,040 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

17.3\% Decrease since 2018 in children aging out of foster care
Data from 2019 shows that 1,291 children in foster care within New Mexico were living with non-relatives while 556 stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart). xxii

197 children were staying in group homes while 49 children were classified as runaways. xxiii

4% of households in New Mexico in 2020 had a grandparent living with a grandchild. xxiv

The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 10.1 months. xxv

**Child Poverty**

New Mexico had 151,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 32% of all children. xxvi

26% of New Mexico’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden. xxvii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF increased from 24,778 in FY2019 to 26,589 in FY2020. This represents a 7.3% increase. xxviii

The state spent $14,409,592 on WIC in 2021, serving 35,997 people. This represents a 10.93% decrease in total participants and a 16.14% decrease in spending. xxix xxx

298,030 people in New Mexico were food insecure in 2019, including 104,080 children who struggled with hunger. xxii

41.1% of households receiving SNAP benefits in New Mexico in 2019 had children. xxxiii
Health

New Mexico had 2,126 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 9.3% of infants born in New Mexico in 2019.xxxiv

New Mexico had a total of 2,329 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.1% of all white babies were born premature while 17.18% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 10.15%.xxxv

There were 1,659 births to mothers aged 15-19 in New Mexico in 2019, representing a rate of 24 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxvi

129 infants under 1 died in New Mexico in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.6 per 1,000. xxxvii

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2019

5.7% of New Mexico’s children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents 29,000 children.xxxix

397,180 children in New Mexico were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents a 0.18% increase from 2019. xi

9,613 children in New Mexico were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents a 24.9% decrease from 2019. xli
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 2,852 total arrests for children under 18 in New Mexico in 2019.
- 219 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 265 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 438 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 270 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in New Mexico in 2019. This is a decrease from 318 kids in 2017, representing a 15.09% decline.

Teens & Youth
- 12,000 (11%) of New Mexico’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.
- 41 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in New Mexico in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- New Mexico spent $104,546,039 on child welfare services in 2018. Child welfare services are all of the direct and administrative services that state agencies provide to children and families.
- $57,491,227 were allocated from the federal government and $38,811,730 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- Title IV-E
- Title IV-B
- TANF
- Medicaid
- Social Services Block Grant
- Other Sources

The breakdown of the $57,491,227 in federal funding received in New Mexico in 2018:
- $21,377,772 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $21,830,833 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.

New Mexico’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $8,705,836.


XVI Based on Calculations from the CWLA


XX Ibid.

XXI Ibid.


XXIII Ibid.


XXV Ibid.


