

Children's Defense Fund

Children in New Mexico



January 2011

510,238 children live in New Mexico:
 9,274 are Asian/Pacific Islander
 17,011 are two or more races
 21,657 are Black
 61,935 are American Indian/Alaska Native
 282,203 are Hispanic
 143,387 are White, non-Hispanic

In New Mexico:

A child is abused or neglected every 2 hours.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 2 days.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 10 days.

New Mexico Ranks:*

13th among states in its infant mortality rate.
 Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia
 32nd among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 36th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi
 [*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in New Mexico

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	128,111 (25.3%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	52,005 (10.3%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	49,108
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$389

Child Health in New Mexico

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	84,000 (15.5%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	16,159**
CHIP eligibility: 235 percent of federal poverty (\$51,818 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	312,302**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	81.1%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	61.7%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	37.1%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	31.8%

*States may have a different name for CHIP

**The number of enrolled children throughout the year rather than on a given day

Child Hunger in New Mexico

Number of children who receive food stamps	123,018
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	67%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	159,009
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	46,512
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	67,900

Early Childhood Development in New Mexico

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	61.7%
Number of children served by Head Start	10,431
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	22,500
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$5,931
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	13.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	37.7%

Education in New Mexico

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$32,885
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$8,354
Percent of public school fourth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	80%
unable to do math at grade level	74%
Percent of public school eighth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	78%
unable to do math at grade level	80%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	10,984

Child Welfare in New Mexico

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	5,368
Number of children in foster care	2,009
Number of children adopted from foster care	437
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	25,209

Youth at Risk in New Mexico

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	9.1%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	66.8%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	20.0%
Number of juvenile arrests	9,666
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	378
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.9
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 36 14 homicides; 16 suicides; 3 accidents; and 3 undetermined	

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available as of January 2011. For data sources, please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits

For more information on the state of America's children contact:

**Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 628-8787
1 (800) 233-1200
www.childrensdefense.org**