

Children's Defense Fund

Children in New Mexico

January 2012



516,526 children live in New Mexico:
138,667 are White, non-Hispanic
10,937 are Black
296,606 are Hispanic
5,989 are Asian
59,863 are American Indian/Alaska Native
27,653 are two or more races

In New Mexico:

A child is abused or neglected every 2 hours.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 2 days.

New Mexico Ranks:*

25th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi
14th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is New Hampshire; worst is the District of Columbia
32nd among states in per pupil expenditures.
The District of Columbia is best; Utah is the worst state

[*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)	153,558 (30.0%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	66,342 (13.0%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	51,268
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$447

Child Health in New Mexico

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	72,062 (14.0%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	9,654
CHIP eligibility: 235 percent of federal poverty (\$54,168 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	372,989
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	62.0%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	85.3%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	44.6%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	34.6%

Child Hunger in New Mexico

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	174,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	66%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	225,951
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	35,014
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	64,281

Early Childhood Development in New Mexico

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	59.3%
Number of children served by Head Start	10,567
Average monthly 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	\$6,600
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	15.1%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	37.4%

Education in New Mexico

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$9,648
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	79.4%
unable to do math at grade level	70.5%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	77.9%
unable to do math at grade level	76.2%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	12,023

Child Welfare in New Mexico

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	5,440
Number of children in foster care	1,869
Number of children adopted from foster care	420
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	25,586

Youth at Risk in New Mexico

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	9.9%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	64.8%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	28.7%
Number of juvenile arrests	11,787
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	409
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	4.30
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides	15
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in suicides	10

**This fact sheet contains the most recent data as of January 26, 2012.
For data sources and methodological notes, please visit: www.childrensdefense.org/cits.**

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

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