

Children's Defense Fund

Children in New Mexico



November 2008

500,276 children live in New Mexico:

- 6,136 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 9,875 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 12,939 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 53,118 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 149,551 are White, non-Hispanic
- 268,657 are Hispanic

In New Mexico:

- A child is born into poverty every 1 hour.
- A child is abused or neglected every 1 hour.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 2 days.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 12 days.

New Mexico Ranks:*

- 17th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
- 32nd among states in per pupil expenditures.
Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
- 33rd among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; 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)	123,808 (25.5%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	54,113 (11.1%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	33,531
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)	95,000 (17.9%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	16,525
CHIP eligibility: 235 percent of federal poverty (\$51,818 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	298,392
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	58.4%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	33.3%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	24.0%

Child Hunger in New Mexico

Number of children who receive food stamps	121,240
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	69%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	214,380
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	39,236
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	64,417

Early Childhood Development in New Mexico

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	58.4%
Number of children served by Head Start	7,279
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	21,600
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$5,382
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	16.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	34.8%

Education in New Mexico

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$7,834
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	76%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	76%

Child Welfare in New Mexico

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	5,926
Number of children in foster care	2,357
Number of children adopted from foster care	338
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	24,271

Youth at Risk in New Mexico

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	8.1%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	67.3%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	11.6%
Number of juvenile arrests	8,466
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	471
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	4.7:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 11 homicides; 12 suicides; 2 accidents; and 0 undetermined	25

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available as of November 2008.

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

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