

NEW MEXICO'S CHILDREN 2007

New Mexico's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	1,928,384
Population, Children Under 18 ²	489,482
State Poverty Rate ³	17.9
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	26.0
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	23.8
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	30.3

All statistics are for 2005.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, New Mexico had 27,611 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 16,005 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2004, 6,150 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in New Mexico, a rate of 12.5 per 1,000 children, and representing a 1.4% decrease from 2003. Of these children, 69.4% were neglected, 29.9% were physically abused, and 5.5% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2004, eight children died as a result of abuse or neglect in New Mexico.⁹
- On September 30, 2004, 2,150 children in New Mexico lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,100 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 37.0% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 12.7% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 31.9% were white, 4.9% were black, 54.3% were Hispanic, 5.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 3.8% were children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,841 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 73.4% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2004, 265 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in New Mexico, a 17.0% increase from 220 in 2003.¹³
- Of the 2,150 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 632 or 29.4% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 25,995 New Mexico grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 2,150 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 24.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all New Mexico children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 29.7% were white, 5.6% were black, 57.5% were Hispanic, 5.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.4% were of other races.¹⁷

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

440 First Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20001-2085
After March 2007: 2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 250, Arlington VA 22202
202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in New Mexico decreased from 44,476 in March 2005 to 42,588 in March 2006, a decrease of 4.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 16,815, a 3.3% decrease from March 2005.¹⁸
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in New Mexico was at 40.1% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2004, New Mexico spent \$132,567,242 in TANF funds, including 55.3% on basic assistance, 0.4% on transportation, and 44.3% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2005, New Mexico collected and distributed \$68,447,915 in child support funds, an increase of 3.1% from 2004.²¹
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in New Mexico was \$626 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$12.04 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²²

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, New Mexico had an estimated monthly average of 23,100 children served by subsidized child care; 22,900 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 22,100 in 2003.²³
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in New Mexico, a family of three could make no more than \$24,135, which is equivalent to 63% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2006, New Mexico had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2005, Head Start served 7,451 New Mexico children, the same number as in 2004.²⁶

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 272,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in New Mexico, representing 64.2% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2001, 3,587 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in New Mexico, representing 1.3% of all children in Medicaid.²⁸
- In 2001, New Mexico spent \$35,111,947 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$9,789 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.²⁹
- New Mexico reported spending \$8,833,588.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.³⁰
- New Mexico reported spending \$74,076.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.³¹

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

440 First Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20001-2085
 After March 2007: 2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 250, Arlington VA 22202
 202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org

- In 2005, New Mexico had 24,310 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 16.9% increase from 2004, when 20,804 children were enrolled.³²
- In 2003, 2,346 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving New Mexico a ranking of 15 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2003, 160 infants younger than 1 year died in New Mexico, giving the state a ranking of 15 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in New Mexico was 38.3 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 93.5. This reflects a total rate of 60.8 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2004, 2,388 adults and adolescents, as well as eight children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in New Mexico.³⁶
- In 2004, an estimated 21,000 children age 12–17, and 103,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in New Mexico.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 41 children aged-out of out-of-home care in New Mexico.³⁸
- In 2004, 14,000 New Mexico teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2004, 12% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴⁰
- In 2004, approximately 11,000 children age 12–17 in New Mexico needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2004, approximately 14,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2003, 29 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 5.2 per 100,000 children.⁴³

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, eight children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in New Mexico, just as in 2002.⁴⁴
- In 2005, 9,696 children younger than 18 were arrested in New Mexico, a 11.8% decrease from 10,994 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 406 were for violent crimes and 285 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁵
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 606 children in juvenile correction facilities in New Mexico.⁴⁶

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

440 First Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20001-2085
 After March 2007: 2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 250, Arlington VA 22202
 202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEW MEXICO'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, New Mexico spent \$93,287,365 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.⁴⁷ Of this amount, 56% was from federal funds, and 44% was from state funds.⁴⁸
- In 2004, of the \$51,794,865 in federal funds received for child welfare, 51% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 10% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 16% was from Medicaid, 19% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 4% was from TANF.⁴⁹
- Out of 2,150 children in out-of-home care in New Mexico on September 30, 2004, only 1,410, or 65.6%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

NEW MEXICO'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well-being for children.⁵¹
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have demonstrated clearly that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.⁵²
- According to the 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 provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁵³
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in New Mexico was \$29,473; the median income for a family of four was \$45,867.⁵⁴

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Division (2005). *Table 1: Annual Estimates of the Population for the United States and States, and for Puerto Rico: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2005 (NST-EST2005-01)*. Retrieved online September 18, 2006, from www.census.gov/popest/states/NST-ann-est.html. Washington, DC: Author.
2. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, Population Reference Bureau. (2006). Special tabulations of the supplementary survey. Washington, DC: Author.
3. U.S. Bureau of the Census (2006). *Current Population Survey, 2006 Annual Social and Economic Supplement. Poverty Status by State: 2005*. Retrieved January 23, 2007, from http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032006/pov/new46_100125_01.htm. Washington, DC: Author.
4. U.S. Bureau of the Census (2006). *Current Population Survey, 2006 Annual Social and Economic Supplement. Poverty Status by State: 2005 Below 100% and 125% of Poverty—People Under 18 Years of Age*. Retrieved January 23, 2007, from http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032006/pov/new46_100125_03.htm. Washington, DC: Author.

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

440 First Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20001-2085
 After March 2007: 2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 250, Arlington VA 22202
 202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org

5. U.S. Bureau of the Census (2006). *2005 American Community Survey, Selected Economic Characteristics*. Retrieved January 23, 2007, from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_lang=en&_ts=182163419310&_ds_name=ACS_2005_EST_G00_&_program=.
6. Ibid.
7. Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF). (2006). *Child Maltreatment 2004: Reports From the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System*. Retrieved January 23, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/index.htm#can. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
8. Ibid.; Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2005). *Child Maltreatment 2003: Reports From the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System*. Retrieved January 23, 2007, at www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cm03. Washington, DC: HHS.
9. ACYF, *Child Maltreatment 2004*
10. Child Welfare League of America (CWLA). (2006). Special tabulation of the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System AFCARS). Washington, DC: Author.
11. "Other races and ethnicities" includes Asian, Pacific Islander, Hawaiian Native, unknown or unable to determine, missing data and two or more races; CWLA, Special tabulation from AFCARS, 2006.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.; CWLA. (2005). Special tabulation from AFCARS.
14. CWLA, Special tabulation from AFCARS, 2006.
15. U.S. Census Bureau. (2005). *American Community Survey, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics: 2005*. Retrieved online January 23, 2007, from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_submenuld=&_lang=en&_ts=. Washington, DC: Author.
16. CWLA, Special tabulation from AFCARS, 2006.
17. Ibid.
18. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2006, 2005). *Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Separate State Program—Maintenance of Effort Aid to Families with Dependant Children: Caseload Data*. Retrieved online, January 23, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/caseload/caseloadindex.htm. Washington, DC: HHS.
19. Calculations by CWLA, based on Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2004). *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program: Sixth Annual Report to Congress*. (Table 1:14, Average Monthly Amount of Assistance per Family and per Recipient Fiscal Year 2002). Retrieved online January 23, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/annualreport6/chapter01/0114.htm. Washington, DC: HHS; Food and Nutrition Service. (2005). *Food Stamp Program—Annual State Level Data—State Level Participation*. Food Stamp Program: Average Monthly Benefit Per Household (FY 2002). Retrieved online October 13, 2005, from [www.fns.usda.gov/pd/fsavghh\\$.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/fsavghh$.htm). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture; Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (2002). *The 2002 HHS Poverty Guidelines*. Retrieved online January 23, 2007, from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/02poverty.htm>. Washington, DC: HHS.
20. Administration for Children and Families. (2004). *TANF Financial Data*. Table F: Combined Spending of Federal and States Funds Expended in FY 2004 Through the Fourth Quarter. Retrieved online January 23, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofs/data/2004/tableF_2004.html. Washington, DC: HHS.
21. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement. (2006). *Child Support Enforcement, FY 2005 Preliminary Data*. Table 3—Total Distributed Collections, FY 2005. Retrieved online, January 23, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pubs/2006/reports/preliminary_report/index.html#summary_tables. Washington, DC: HHS; Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement. (2005). *Child Support Enforcement Program Results for FY 2004*. Table 3—Total Distributed Collections, FY 2004. Retrieved online, January 23, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pubs/2005/reports/preliminary_report/index.html#summary_tables. Washington, DC: HHS.
22. Pitcoff, W.; Pelletiere, D.; Crowley, S.; Treskon, M.; & Dolbeare, C. (2005). *Out of Reach 2005*. Retrieved online, September 27, 2006, from www.nlihc.org/or2004/data.php?state%5B%5D=_all. Washington, DC: National Low Income Housing Coalition.
23. Administration for Children and Families, Child Care Bureau. (2005). *FFY 2005 CCDF Data Tables and Charts; Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Children and Families Served*. Retrieved online, January 23, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/data/index.htm. Washington, DC: HHS; Administration for Children and Families, Child Care Bureau. (2003). *FFY 2003 CCDF Data Tables and Charts; Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Children and Families Served*. Retrieved online, January 23, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/data/index.htm. Washington, DC: HHS; Administration for Children and Families, Child Care Bureau. (2004). *FFY 2004 CCDF Data Tables and Charts; Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Children and Families Served*. Retrieved online, January 23, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/data/index.htm. Washington, DC: HHS.

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

440 First Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20001-2085
 After March 2007: 2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 250, Arlington VA 22202
 202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org

24. Schulman, K. & Blank, H. (2006). *State Child Care Assistance Policies 2006: Gaps Remain with New Challenges Ahead*. Retrieved online, January 23, 2007, from www.nwlc.org/pdf/StateChildCareAssistancePoliciesReport2006.pdf. Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center.
25. Ibid.
26. Administration for Children and Families, Head Start Bureau. (2006). *Head Start fact sheet*. Retrieved January 23, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/research/2006.htm. Washington, DC: HHS; Administration for Children and Families, Head Start Bureau. (2005). *Head Start program fact sheet*. Retrieved January 23, 2007, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/research/2005.htm. Washington, DC: HHS.
27. Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. (2006). *Medicaid enrollment by group, FFY 2002*. Retrieved January 23, 2007, from www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/kcmu032106atable1.pdf. Menlo Park, CA: Author.
28. Geen, R., Sommers, A., & Cohen, M. (2005). *Medicaid Spending on Foster Children*. Retrieved online, January 17, 2007, from www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=311221. Washington, DC: Urban Institute.
29. Ibid.
30. Urban Institute estimates based on data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2001). *Medicaid Statistical Information System, Summary File*, Baltimore: Author.
31. Ibid.
32. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2006). *FY 2005 number of children ever enrolled year—SCHIP by program type*. Retrieved January 23, 2007, from www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalSCHIPPolicy/downloads/FY2005AnnualEnrollmentReport.pdf. Baltimore: Author.
33. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2006). *Kids Count*. State Level Data Online: Comparisons by Topic: Low-birthweight babies: Number: 2003. Retrieved online, January 17, 2007, from www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/compare_results.jsp?i=50&dt=1&yr=14&s=a&dtype=&x=176&y=6. Baltimore: Author.
34. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2006). *Kids Count*. State Level Data Online: Comparisons by Topic: Infant Mortality: Number: 2003. Retrieved online, January 17, 2007, from www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/compare_results.jsp?i=70&dt=1&yr=14&s=a&dtype=&x=182&y=6. Baltimore: Author.
35. Martin, J.A.; Hamilton, B.E.; Sutton, P.D.; Ventura, S.J.; Menacker, F.; & Kirmeyer, S. (2006). Births: Final data for 2004. *National Vital Statistics Reports* 55(1). Retrieved January 23, 2007, from www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr55/nvsr55_01.pdf. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.
36. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2005). *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2004*. Vol. 16. Retrieved online January 23, 2007 from www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/2004report/pdf/2004SurveillanceReport.pdf. Atlanta: Author.
37. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Office of Applied Studies. (2006). *State estimates of substance use from the 2003–2004 national surveys on drug use and health*. Retrieved January 23, 2007, from www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k4State/toc.htm#TopOfPage. Rockville, MD: Author.
38. Children who aged out of foster care are captured by the AFCARS emancipation data element. Children who exit care to emancipation are those who reached the age of majority; AFCARS.
39. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2006). *Kids Count data book indicators: Teens who are high school dropouts: Number: 2004*. Retrieved January 23, 2007, from www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/compare.jsp. Baltimore: Author; Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2006). *Kids Count data book indicators: Teens who are high school dropouts: Number: 2000*. Retrieved January 23, 2007, from www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/compare.jsp. Baltimore: Author.
40. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2006). *Kids Count data book indicators: Teens not attending school and not working: Number: 2004*. Retrieved January 23, 2007, from www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/compare.jsp. Baltimore: Author.
41. SAMHSA, *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2003–2004 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health*.
42. Ibid.
43. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (2006). *Injury Mortality Reports, 1999–2004*. Retrieved online, January 23, 2007, from http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate10_sy.html. Atlanta: Author.
44. Ibid.
45. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2006). *Crime in the United States 2005 (Table 69)*. Retrieved January 23, 2007, from www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/arrests/index.html. Washington, DC: Author; Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2006). *Crime in the United States 2004 (Table 69)*. Retrieved January 23, 2007, from www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_04/persons_arrested/index.html. Washington, DC: Author.
46. Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., & Kang, W. (2005). *Census of juveniles in residential placement databook*. Retrieved January 23, 2007, from www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/cjrp. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

440 First Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20001-2085
 After March 2007: 2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 250, Arlington VA 22202
 202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org

47. Examples of direct services include child abuse and 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.
48. Scarcella, C.A.; Bess, R.; Zielewski, E.H.; & Geen, R. (2006). *The Cost of Protecting Vulnerable Children V: Understanding State Variation in Child Welfare Financing*. Retrieved online, January 17, 2007, from www.urban.org/publications/311314.html. Washington, DC: Urban Institute.
49. Ibid.
50. CWLA, Special tabulation from AFCARS, 2005.
51. U.S. General Accounting Office. (March 2003). *Child Welfare: HHS Could Play a Greater Role in Helping Child Welfare Agencies Recruit and Retain Staff*. Retrieved online, January 17, 2007, from www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf. Washington, DC: Author.
52. Ibid.
53. Ibid.
54. Child Welfare League of America. (2006). *State child welfare agency survey*. Washington, DC: Author; U.S. Census Bureau. (2005). *Median income for four-person families, by state*. Retrieved January 23, 2007, from www.census.gov/hhes/income/4person.html. Washington, DC: Author.

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

440 First Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20001-2085
After March 2007: 2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 250, Arlington VA 22202
202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org