



Facts About Children in Foster Care in New Mexico

Total Population: 2,455 children were in the foster care system in New Mexico on December 31, 2007ⁱ. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ Average Age: 8.9 years

5%	< 1 year	20%	11-15 years
35%	1-5 years	9%	16-17 years
25%	6-10 years	7%	≥18 years

Gender:ⁱ Male: 48.7% Female: 51.3%

Race and Ethnicity:	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> ⁱ	<u>In out-of-home care</u>	<u>In state child population</u> ⁱⁱ
	Black	7%	2%
	White	79%	57%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native	10%	13%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	0%	1%
	Some other race/two or more races	-	21%
	Unknown	3%	-
	Hispanic	58%	51%

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on December 31, 2007 was 20.3 months.ⁱ

Reunified: 63.7% of the young people leaving the system in CY 2007 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.ⁱ

Foster Homes: In 2007, there were a total of 705 licensed non-relative foster homes in New Mexico.ⁱ On December 31, 2007, 27.6% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.ⁱ

Adoption: Of children with state agency involvement adopted in CY 2007, 74.2% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 25.8% were adopted by relatives.ⁱ

To find out how to become a foster parent in New Mexico, please call 1-800-432-2075 or visit <http://www.cyfd.org/>

To learn about foster parenting, please call the National Foster Parent Association at 1-800-557-5238 or visit www.nfpainc.org

ⁱ New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department

ⁱⁱ U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000. *American FactFinder*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>