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, 2007. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:
- 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:
- Male: 48.7%
- Female: 51.3%

Race and Ethnicity:

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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1 New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department