

# 3 CHILDREN, ON AVERAGE, ENTER FOSTER CARE EACH DAY AND WILL STAY LONG TERM\* (THAT IS ONE EVERY 8 HOURS)

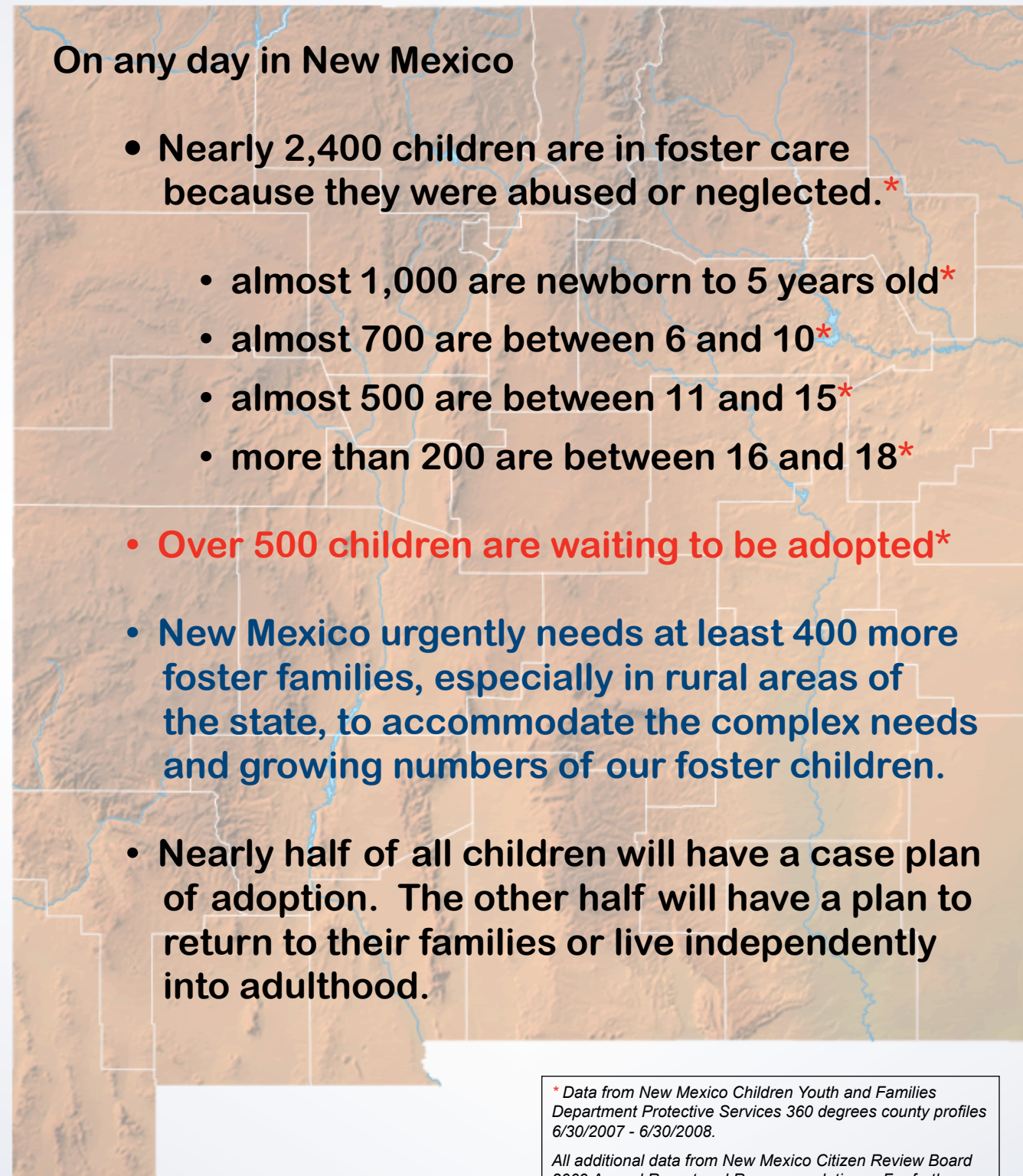


All children have needs, but trauma increases a child's needs. Children experience trauma when they are abused or neglected, when they see others suffer abuse, and even

when they are removed from their unsafe homes:

Of the 2,400 children in foster care...

- Almost 1,200 children have experienced the additional trauma of moving more than three times in foster care.
- Almost 1,000 have been in foster care 2 years or more.
- Over 1,500 need behavioral health services.
- More than 1,000 have educational and developmental problems and need educational support.
- More than 400 have physical problems that require medical attention.
- More than 300 were sexually abused.
- Nearly another 300 were born with drugs or alcohol in their system.



\* Data from New Mexico Children Youth and Families Department Protective Services 360 degrees county profiles 6/30/2007 - 6/30/2008.

All additional data from New Mexico Citizen Review Board 2009 Annual Report and Recommendations. For further information please visit [www.nmcrb.org](http://www.nmcrb.org) or [www.cyfd.org](http://www.cyfd.org)



For children to return home to healthy, strong families:

- More than 3,000 parents need substance abuse treatment.
- Almost 2,300 parents need assistance with domestic violence issues.
- More than 2,500 parents need assistance finding adequate housing.
- Almost 1,500 parents need mental and emotional healthcare.
- More than 2,500 parents need help finding a job and financial resources.

Youth have unique needs:

- More than 500 of the children in care are youth between the ages of 14 and 18. These foster youth *need* special programs that help them prepare to turn 18 and be on their own.
- Almost 200 of these youth need substance abuse treatment.
- Nearly 150 are involved with the criminal justice system.
- More than 100 have a history of running away.



## HELP ME FIND MY PLACE



### What can you do?

#### Support legislative efforts to:

- Increase and enhance the quantity of high quality and diverse foster homes for New Mexico's children and youth in foster care.
- Increase educational support and assure appropriate services to all foster children.
- Increase and enhance behavioral health services for New Mexico's children, youth and their parents.

#### In your community:

- Become a foster or adoptive parent.
- Speak with or become a CASA volunteer.
- Visit with or become a CRB board member.



For more information about this data or about the programs associated with New Mexico Child Advocacy Networks (NMCAN), visit our website at [www.nmcan.org](http://www.nmcan.org) or call us toll free at 1-866-857-2976.

# REMEMBER ME 2009: FOSTER CHILDREN IN NEW MEXICO

## FACTS SHEET



As you read this, approximately 2,400 children are in foster care in New Mexico. Unless these children can be returned safely home, our state is responsible for meeting their needs. The most pressing need the state must meet is to provide high quality, well-trained, nurturing foster parents. But there is so much more...