

## Children in Out-of-Home Placements

### DEFINITION

This indicator reports the rate of New Hampshire children under 18 in out-of-home placements. Out-of-home placements include foster care and other residential placements including group homes and intensive treatment facilities.

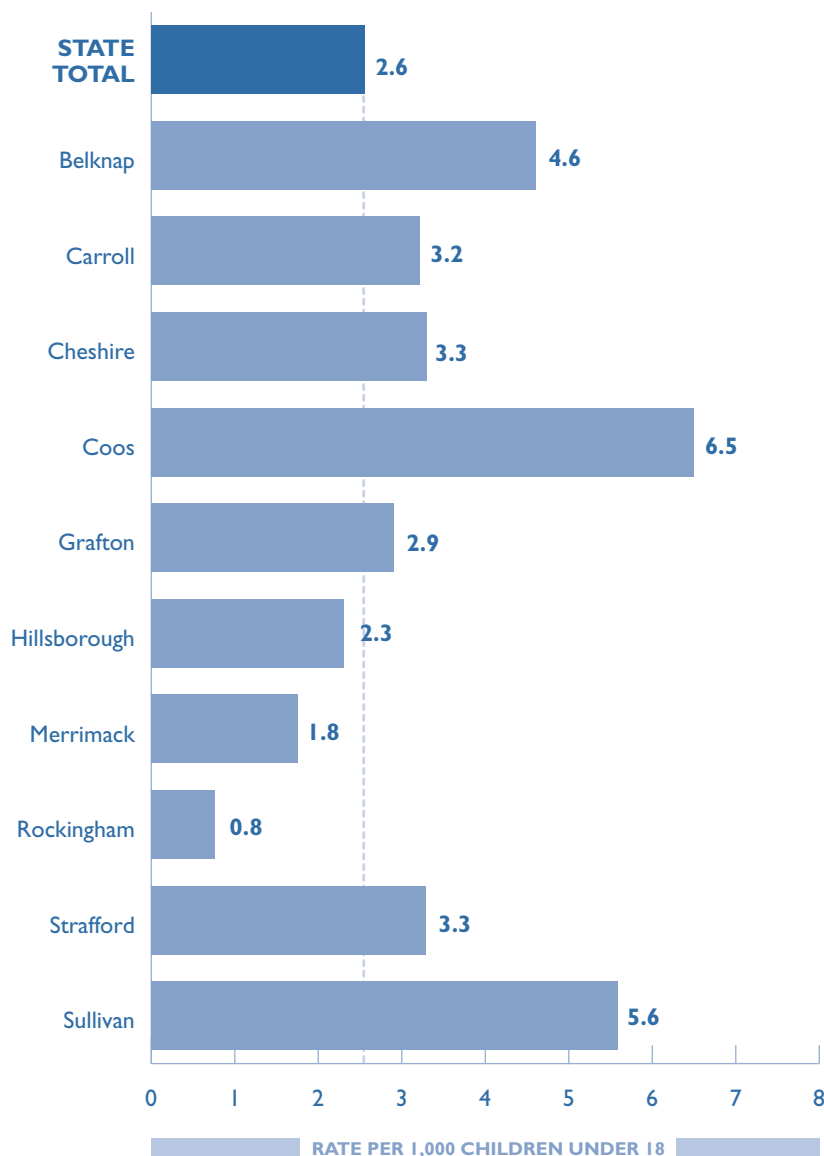
### CONTEXT

When the New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) investigates a report of child abuse or neglect and determines that a child's safety is at risk, DCYF staff will request that the court system order the removal of the endangered child or children from their home (NH DHHS 2010a). If a child cannot be placed with relatives, DCYF seeks to place the child in the least restrictive out-of-home placement. The majority of children in out-of-home placements resulting from abuse and neglect are placed in foster homes. In this state most children are reunited with their families in time. When reunification is impossible, children may be adopted by relatives, their foster family or other New Hampshire families who wish to welcome a child or children into their home (NH DHHS 2010b).

New Hampshire children in out of home placement are at higher risk for disease and more likely to be disabled, become injured and have health and mental problems than other children. An estimated 80 to 90 percent of children in out-of-home placements in New Hampshire have a mental health disorder. Research has linked higher risk for health problems in children in foster care to both maltreatment in the child's original home and removal from that home (NH DHHS 2009).

The State becomes the responsible party for providing health care to children in out-of-home placements. New Hampshire children in foster care or other residential placements receive medical care through the state's Foster Care Health Program and through Medicaid. Children in foster or residential placements are more likely to receive medical and dental care and are more likely to be treated with prescription drugs and psychotropic drugs in particular. In 2007, average monthly Medicaid payments for New Hampshire children in out-of-home placements were three to six times higher than average Medicaid payment for low-income children who were not in foster care or other residential placements (NH DHHS 2009).

**Children in Out-of-Home Placements**  
By County, 2009-2010



## NEW HAMPSHIRE FINDINGS

In 2007, New Hampshire had the second lowest rate of children in out-of-home placement in the country at 5.6 children per 1,000. Nationally, only Utah had a lower rate. The average rate for the Northeast Region in 2007 was 10.4 per 1,000 (Mattingly et. al.).

Recent research shows higher out-of-home placement rates in remote rural areas compared to metropolitan counties or counties that border metropolitan areas both in New Hampshire and across the country. In 2007, New Hampshire had 4.9 children in out-of-home placement per 1,000 children in metropolitan areas of the state, including Hillsborough, Rockingham and Stafford counties, and 9.2 percent in remote rural areas of the state (Mattingly et.al. 2010).

**From 2009 to 2010, New Hampshire's out-of-home placements dropped from 5.6 per 1,000 children in 2007 to 2.6 per 1,000 New Hampshire children. Coos County in the North Country had the highest rate of out-of-home placements with a rate of 6.5 per 1,000. Less than one child per 1,000 was in out-of-home placement in Rockingham County. The three counties with out-of-home placement rates below the state average were Rockingham, Merrimack and Hillsborough counties, the state's most populous counties (DCYF 2010). (see chart on previous page)**

## SOURCE OF DATA FOR ILLUSTRATION/METHODOLOGY

Division of Children, Youth and Families. (DCYF) 2010. *Out of Home Placements, State Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010*. New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

## REFERENCES

Mattingly, Marybeth, Melissa Wells and Michael Dineen. 2010. *Out-of-Home Care by State and Place: Higher Placement Rates for Children in Some Remote Rural Places*. Carsey Institute, Fact Sheet No.19. [www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/FS\\_Mattingly\\_Out-of-Home.pdf](http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/FS_Mattingly_Out-of-Home.pdf)

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