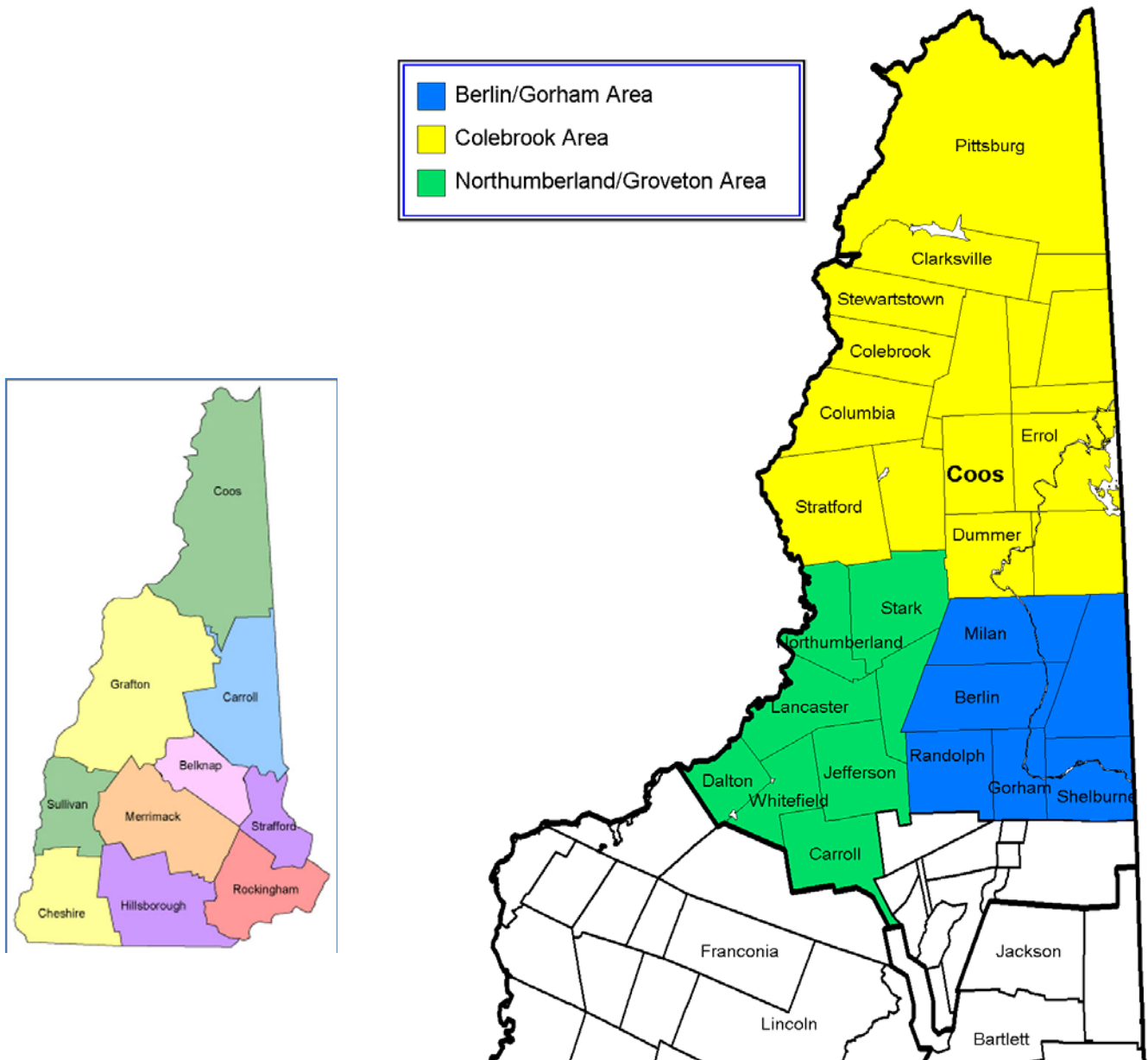


# Invest in Coos Kids:

## Current Research on Children and Families in Coos County, New Hampshire

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## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	3
Economic Indicators .....	4
Wages .....	4
Employment .....	5
Unemployment.....	6
Impact of major business closings.....	7
Poverty .....	7
Child poverty.....	8
Family Indicators .....	8
Population by age.....	8
Number of families .....	9
Number of female headed households.....	10
Births to mothers with less than 12 years education.....	10
Youth Risk & Behavior Indicators .....	11
Child maltreatment.....	11
Teenage births.....	11
Teenage suicide.....	12
Drug access and use by teenagers.....	12
Juvenile delinquency.....	13
Child care & Education Indicators.....	13
Child care .....	14
Child care weekly rates.....	14
Head start.....	15
Enrollments in kindergarten.....	16
Third grade math & reading scores.....	16
Enrollments in high school and completion.....	17
Suspensions & expulsions.....	18
Status of youth completing high school .....	18
Health Indicators (Physical & Mental) .....	19
Child obesity.....	19
Dental care.....	20
Low birth weight .....	20
Prevalence of mental health issues.....	20
Access to mental health services.....	21
Appendix: Resources for Coos County.....	22
Appendix: Resources for New Hampshire.....	23
References .....	25
Project Partners .....	26

## **Invest in Coos Kids**

Coos County is the largest, least populated and most rural county in New Hampshire. Since it was established in 1803, Coos has built its economic growth on logging, manufacturing and recreation/tourism. However, the County has experienced substantial change over the past 30 years,<sup>i</sup> including the closing of all the paper mills and several other large manufacturing businesses which contributed, in part, to significant shifts in the population. In 2009, the estimated overall population in Coos County was 33,055, just 2.5% of the total population in NH (1,316,470).<sup>ii</sup> Between 2000 and 2009, Coos County had the largest decrease in youth population (people age 19 years old and younger) of all NH counties (-17.6%).<sup>iii</sup> In addition, Coos County had the second highest proportion of population age 65 years and older (19.7%).<sup>iv</sup> Although there are clearly challenges associated with these economic and social changes, Coos County residents continue to have a strong ethic of self reliance and the County itself is rich in forest resources and natural beauty. The County is looking towards a new economic future that includes options such as bio-mass, wind power, sustainable forestry and recreation and tourism.

### **Background**

In March 2007, the Louise and Neil Tillotson Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, awarded **The Coös Family Support Project** ([www.investincooskids.org](http://www.investincooskids.org)) a grant to develop a comprehensive system for family support services in Coos County. This effort was designed to look at what is currently available for families in Coos County, what the gaps are, what systems are working and what is needed to measurably improve outcomes for children 0-6 and their families. The partners in this effort include the Family Resource Center at Gorham (lead organization), Child and Family Services, Coos County Family Health Services, Indian Stream Health Center, North Country Health Consortium, Northern Human Services and Weeks Medical Center. The Project hired the Carsey Institute to look at indicators, best practice and evaluation for this project.

The goal of the Project was, and continues to be, to support a coordinated system of sustainable services for families with children aged 0-6 in Coos County to prevent child maltreatment, promote wellness and support positive social, emotional and cognitive growth for optimal child development. In order to achieve this goal, the Coos Family Support Project asked the Carsey Institute to provide us with a comprehensive review of the recent available data describing conditions affecting families and children in Coos County.

### **About this Book**

If we want to create a more positive future for Coos County, we must first understand where we are starting from, what needs to change and how we will measure our progress. This book, *Invest in Coos Kids*, is an important step in creating a baseline of information that can be used to assess, plan and measure changes in the status of children and their families in Coos County. This document presents a summary of key data points for Coos families and children by domain, with links to the full reports. While we tried to include as much information as possible, we recognize that there may be some information we missed. Nevertheless, we hope that this book will provide a more accurate understanding of the realities affecting young children and their families in the County.

It is our hope that community leaders, planners and direct service providers will use the information collected here to create strategic and realistic initiatives for Coos children and their families that take into account both the positive and the negative forces that are in effect. There are approximately 793 families with children under the age of five in Coos County.<sup>v</sup> If organizations, funders and communities can agree to create common goals, share information and measure our progress, we have a real opportunity to improve outcomes for the children and the future of Coos County.

## Overview of Report

This data book presents data on some key indicators of the current status of the children and their families of Coos County. The data reported is from research and reports reflecting various circumstances impacting the children of Coos County ages 0-6 years. Whenever possible, we used the most recent data available.<sup>1</sup> Some of the indicators had small sample sizes (*n*). It is important to be cautious in interpreting some of the data, particularly percentage changes over time. With the smallest sample sizes, a small numerical change from year to year could result in a dramatic percentage increase or decrease. Data based on small sample sizes tend to be less reliable.

This data book includes several types of comparisons. Some indicators are presented to capture changes over time, e.g. from 2005 to 2010. A second comparison is across the ten counties of New Hampshire. Although some counties may have commonalities, there are distinctions described in comparisons across the counties. A third comparison is Coos County relative to the state of New Hampshire. Coos County has many distinctive features compared to the state as a whole, and these are highlighted in this report.

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## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

When a community has a strong economic base, residents have access to jobs that provide enough income to meet a family's basic need for housing, food, clothing, healthcare, childcare and recreation. Research consistently demonstrates that family socio-economic status has a direct impact on future outcomes for children. Ultimately, financially stable residents contribute both economically and socially to the community, thus improving the long-term growth and stability of the community as a whole.

### Wages

- In 2008, the median household income in Coos County was \$42,788, the lowest of all NH counties. The median household income for NH, overall, was \$63,235. (U.S. Census Bureau)

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics included in this book may not necessarily be updated at the time of printing, and some of the statistics were collected prior to the closing of the last paper mill in Coos County during September 2010.

- In May 2009, Coos County, combined with some towns in Grafton County (e.g. Littleton), had a mean hourly wage of \$16.85, the second lowest in the state. The statewide total mean hourly wage was \$21.36. (Kelley, Gessis & Smith, 2010)
- In 2007, the estimated livable wage<sup>2</sup> for Coos County was the lowest livable wage in NH.
  - For example, in a family consisting of two parents and two children, with both parents working, the estimated livable wage in Coos County was \$9.85 per hour worked.
  - The statewide average estimated livable wage for this same family was \$12.42. (Kenyon & Churilla, 2008)
- In 2006, the percentage of jobs in Coos County paying the estimated livable wage varied by family structure.
  - 50% of jobs in Coos County paid hourly wages consistent with a livable wage for a family consisting of two parents and two children, with both parents working.
  - 23% of jobs in Coos County paid hourly wages consistent with a livable wage for a family consisting of one parent and two children.
  - 21% of jobs in Coos County paid hourly wages consistent with a livable wage for a family consisting of two parents and two children, with one parent working. (Kenyon & Churilla, 2008)

Full reports located at:

'Many New Hampshire Jobs Do Not Pay a Livable Wage'

(Kenyon & Churilla, 2008)

University of New Hampshire Carsey Institute

<http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu>

'New Hampshire Occupational Employment & Wages – 2010'

(Kelley, Gessis & Smith, 2010)

New Hampshire Employment Security

<http://www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/>

'Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates'

U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/county.html>

## **Employment**

- Between 1990 and 2006, there was no overall change, increases or decreases, in the percentage of jobs located in the County. All other counties in NH experienced some growth in the number of jobs. (Colocousis, 2008)

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<sup>2</sup> Livable wage was defined as salary needed to pay for food, rent, utilities, basic phone service, clothing and household expenses, transportation by automobile, child care, healthcare, and a small allowance for personal expenses.

- Since the closing of the paper mills in Coos County, many jobs seem to be transitioning from manufacturing and forestry related to the paper and pulp industry to health care and social assistance (e.g. child care services) jobs.
  - During 2006, in the Colebrook Labor Market Area, 17.1% of all employment was in health care and social assistance jobs.
  - During 2006, health care and social assistance jobs comprised 15.9% of all jobs in Berlin Labor Market Area.
  - During 2006, the statewide average for health care and social assistance employment across New Hampshire for 2006 was 12.3%. (Delay & Norton, 2008)
- In 2009, the top 5 businesses employing Coos county residents include: Androscoggin Valley Hospital (409 employees), Mount Washington Hotel Carroll Hotel (350 employees), Weeks Memorial Hospital (320 employees), Balsams Corp Colebrook Resort (320 employees), and Bretton Woods Ski Area (300 employees). ('Coös County')

Full reports located at:

'State of Coos County: Local Perspectives on Community and Change'  
(Colocousis, 2008)

University of New Hampshire Carsey Institute

<http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/CarseySearch/search.php?group=author#S>

'Driving the Economy: Health Care in New Hampshire'  
(Delay & Norton, 2008)

NH center for Public Policy Studies

<http://www.nhpolicy.org>

Coös County

NH Employment Security

<http://www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/htmlprofiles/county/CoosCountyProfile.pdf>

## **Unemployment**

- Between 2006 and 2010, the average annual unemployment rate in Coos County increased from 4.3% to 7.9%.
- Between 2006 and 2010, Coos County had the highest average annual unemployment rates across all NH counties.
  - Rockingham County had the second highest employment rate between 2006 (3.9%) and 2008 (4.3%).
- Between 2006 and 2010, the average annual unemployment rate in NH increased from 3.5% to 6.1%.

Full reports located at:

Local Area Unemployment Statistics:

'2010 Local Area Unemployment Statistics Report'

'2009 Local Area Unemployment Statistics Report'

'2008 Local Area Unemployment Statistics Report'

'2008 Local Area Unemployment Statistics Report'

NH Employment Security

<http://www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/lausdataarchive.htm>

### **Impact of major business closings**

- In 2007, the Wausau Paper Corp. plant in Northumberland closed. 303 mill workers lost jobs as a result of this mill closing.
- In 2006, the Groveton Paperboard mill in Northumberland closed. 108 jobs were directly lost as a result of this mill closing.
- In 2006, the Burgess Pulp Mill in Berlin also closed, resulting in a direct loss of 257 jobs.

Full reports located at:

'Coos County Perspectives'

NH Employment Security

<http://www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/pdfzip/specialpub/CoosCounty3.pdf>

### **Poverty**

- In 2008, 13.0% of the population in Coos County lived below the poverty level.
- Coos County had the highest percentage of individuals living below the poverty level across all of NH counties, with Strafford County second highest at 10.7%. The overall State average of people living below the poverty level was 7.8%. (U.S. Census Bureau)
- In 2008, 57% of Coos County youth surveyed (n=656) reported having jobs, with 24% of these youth reporting that the money they earned from their job helped to support their family. (Stracuzzi, 2009)

Full reports located at:

'Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates"

U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/county.html>

'Youth Aspirations and Sense of Place in a Changing Rural Economy: The Coos Youth Study' (Stracuzzi, 2009)

University of New Hampshire Carsey Institute

<http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/CarseySearch/search.php?group=author#S>

## **Child Poverty: Free/ Reduced Lunch Program**

- During 2009-2010, 45% of the eligible students in Coos County (n=3969) participated (n=1770) in the free/reduced lunch program. This was nearly double the statewide average for all eligible NH students in grades 1-12 participating in the free/reduced lunch program (24%).<sup>3</sup> (NH Dept. of Education)
- Between the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years, the percentage of eligible students participating in the free/reduced lunch program in Coos County grew from 38% to 45%. The overall statewide average increased from 21% to 24%.<sup>4</sup> (NH Dept. of Education)
- In 2008, 15.2% of children in Coos County lived in poverty. Statewide, 9% of children in NH lived in poverty. (Kids Count Data Center)
- In 2007, 9.5% of children in Coos County lived in poverty. Statewide, 9% of children in NH lived in poverty. (Kids Count Data Center)

Full reports located at:

'Free/Reduced School Lunch Eligibility Rates by School'

'Free/Reduced School Lunch Eligibility Rate by District'

New Hampshire Department of Education

<http://www.education.nh.gov/data/attendance.htm> (under "Other Reports")

'Profile for Coos (County)'

Kids Count Data Center

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/stateprofile.aspx?state=NH&group=All&loc=4433&dt=1%2c3%2c2%2c4>

## **FAMILY INDICATORS**

Numbers of families in a community, age groupings, and family structure have implications for issues such as workforce availability, construction/consolidation of schools, health care services and day care needs. It is important to understand the family indicators of the region in order to identify what resources, structures, and economic supports will be needed in the future.

### **Population by age**

- In 2009, there were 1,558 children under the age of 5 years in Coos County, 4.8% of the total population in the County. (US Census Bureau)

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<sup>3</sup> Percentages calculated by dividing the number of students actually receiving free/ reduced lunch by the number of students who are eligible.

<sup>4</sup> Percentages based on dividing the total enrollment for each school district by that district's "Total" listed in the 'High School Completers: By County' report.

- In 2009, there were 7,142 youth (ages 0-19 years old) living in Coos County, 17.3% of the total population in the County. (US Census Bureau)
- In 2008, there were 1,499 children under the age of 5 years in Coos County. (Kids Count Data Center)
- In 2008, there were 6,318 youth (under 18 years old) in Coos County. (Kids Count Data Center)

Full reports located at:

'Coos County, New Hampshire ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates'  
US Census Bureau

[http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?\\_bm=y&-geo\\_id=05000US33007&-qr\\_name=ACS\\_2009\\_5YR\\_G00\\_DP5YR5&-ds\\_name=ACS\\_2009\\_5YR\\_G00&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-sse=on](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=05000US33007&-qr_name=ACS_2009_5YR_G00_DP5YR5&-ds_name=ACS_2009_5YR_G00&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-sse=on)

'Profile for Coos (County)'

Kids Count Data Center

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/stateprofile.aspx?state=NH&loc=4433>

### **Number of families**

- In 2009, there were a total of 14,322 households in Coos County.
- In 2009, there were 9,306 families living in Coos County, 65% of all households in the County. Of these families,
  - 2,312 were married-couple families with their own children (under the age of 18 years old) living in the household (24.8% of all families),
  - 3,633 were non-married families with their own children (under the age of 18 years old) living in the household (39% of all families),
  - 398 were male headed families (no wife present) with their own children (under the age of 18 years old) living in the household (4.3% of all families), and
  - 923 were female headed families (no husband present) with their own children (under the age of 18 years old) living in the household (9.9% of all families).<sup>5</sup>

Full report located at:

'Coos County, New Hampshire Selected Social Characteristics in the United States'  
US Census Bureau

[http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?\\_bm=y&-geo\\_id=05000US33007&-qr\\_name=ACS\\_2009\\_5YR\\_G00\\_DP5YR2&-ds\\_name=ACS\\_2009\\_5YR\\_G00&-lang=en&-sse=on](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=05000US33007&-qr_name=ACS_2009_5YR_G00_DP5YR2&-ds_name=ACS_2009_5YR_G00&-lang=en&-sse=on)

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<sup>5</sup> These numbers were calculated by dividing the number of families for each category of family by the total number of families in the County.

## **Female Headed Households**

- In 2009, there were approximately 1,373 female headed households in Coos County, 9.6% of all households in the County. Statewide there were 46,099, 9.2% of all household types. (US Census Bureau)
- In 2009, there were approximately 923 female headed households with children under the age of 18, 6.4% of all households in the County. Statewide there were 28,951, 5.8% of all household types. (US Census Bureau)
- In 2008, 65% of single women in Coos County with children under the age of 6 participated in the labor force. Statewide, 73.7% of single women with children under the age of 6 participated in the labor force. (Kids Count Data Center)
- In 2007, 57.5% of single women in Coos County with children under the age of 6 participated in the labor force. Statewide, 72.4% of single women with children under the age of 6 participated in the labor force. (Kids Count Data Center)

Full reports located at:

'Coos County New Hampshire Selected Social Characteristics in the United States'  
US Census Bureau  
[http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?\\_bm=y&-geo\\_id=05000US33007&-qr\\_name=ACS\\_2009\\_5YR\\_G00\\_DP5YR2&-ds\\_name=ACS\\_2009\\_5YR\\_G00\\_&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-sse=on](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=05000US33007&-qr_name=ACS_2009_5YR_G00_DP5YR2&-ds_name=ACS_2009_5YR_G00_&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-sse=on)

'Profile for Coos (County)'  
Kids Count Data Center  
<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/stateprofile.aspx?state=NH&group=All&loc=4433&dt=1%2c3%2c2%2c4>

## **Births to mothers with less than 12 yrs education**

- In 2009, there were 17 births to mothers with less than 12 years of education in Coos County.
- In 2008, there were 28 births to mothers with less than 12 years of education in Coos County. Statewide there were 1,277 births.
- In 2007, there were 41 births to mothers with less than 12 years of education in Coos County. Statewide there were 1,353 births.

Full reports located at:

'Profile for Coos (County)'  
Kids Count Data Center  
<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/stateprofile.aspx?state=NH&group=All&loc=4433&dt=1%2c3%2c2%2c4>

## **YOUTH RISK & BEHAVIOR INDICATORS**

Young people represent the future of an area, and risk-taking behavior jeopardizes the chances for a successful transition to adulthood. Indicators describing rates for crime and violence, teenage pregnancy, and youth risk behavior have implications for the overall well-being and achievement of a community and its members. These indicators also significantly influence and support a community's economic growth. In order to make progress, a community must recognize and actively address the role that these factors play in economic and community development.

### **Child maltreatment**

- In 2009, Coos County had the second highest rate of substantiated child protection reports (10.4%), second only to Carroll County (14.3%). This included 41 individual victims, out of a total population of 6,822 children ages 0-19 in Coos County (US Census Bureau).
- Substantiated reports included at least one type of child maltreatment (i.e. physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect).

Full report available from:

'Child Abuse and Neglect in New Hampshire'  
NH Children's Trust Fund

[www.nhctf.org](http://www.nhctf.org)

(No web link available for this report. Contact the agency directly for more information.)

Full report located at:

'Coos County New Hampshire Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Age, Sex,  
Race, and Hispanic Origin for Counties'

US Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/asrh/CC-EST2009-alldata.html>

### **Teenage births**

- In 2008, Coos County had the second highest teenage birth rate (31.6%), with Sullivan County the highest (41.9%).
- In 2007, Coos County had the highest teenage birth rate (38.7%). Sullivan County was second highest (30.6%).
- In 2006, Coos County had the second highest teenage birth rate (31.8%), with Sullivan County the highest (37.9%).

Full reports located at:

'Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 Women Age 15-19'  
NH Health WRQS

<http://www.nhhealthwrqs.org/library/index.cfm?StepNum=2>

## **Teenage Suicide**<sup>6</sup>

- In 2007, 15% of Coos County high school students participating in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) self-reported that they seriously considered suicide, and 7.3% self-reported they attempted suicide. The statewide average was 13.7% for youth who seriously considered suicide, and 5.5% for youth who attempted suicide. (Mills, 2010)
- In 2008, Coos County had a higher youth and young adult suicide rate (25 per 100,000) than the average rate for NH (8.6 per 100,000) and the US (7.1 per 100,000). (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

Full reports located at:

'Help in a Haystack: Youth Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services in the North Country' (Mills, 2010)

The Carsey Institute at The University of New Hampshire

<http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/TCNC/YPS.html>

'Suicide Across the Lifespan: New Hampshire's Annual Report on Suicide and Suicidality' National Alliance on Mental Illness – NH (NAMI NH), State Suicide Prevention Council (SPC) and Youth Suicide Prevention Assembly (YSPA)

<http://www.theconnectproject.org/index.php?page=nh-suicide-prevention-data-reports>

(click on: 2009 Annual Report)

## **Drug Access & Use by Teenagers (Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs)**

- In 2007, data from Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) indicates that 25.5% of high school students in Coos County self-reported drinking alcohol before age 13. Overall, in NH counties, 18.1% of high school students self-reported drinking alcohol before age 13. (Mills, 2010)
- In 2007, data from the YRBS indicate that 29.1% of Coos County high school students self-reported engaging in binge drinking and 18.3% smoked marijuana at least once in the past 30 days. The statewide average was 28.4% of high school students self-reported engaging in binge drinking and 22.9% self-reported smoking marijuana at least once in the past 30 days. (Mills, 2010)
- In 2007, 78.6% of Coos County high school students participating in the YRBS reported they think it is "easy" or "very easy" to get some alcohol, 60.6% think marijuana is "easy" or "very easy" to access, and 27.6% think it is "easy" or "very easy" to access other drugs, like LSD, cocaine, or Amphetamines. Statewide, more than half of the high school students in NH reported it is "easy" or "very easy" to get some alcohol (74%) and marijuana (65.4%), and 27.3% think it is "easy" or "very easy" to access other drugs. (Mills, 2010)

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<sup>6</sup> The National Alliance on Mental Illness – NH (NAMI NH), State Suicide Prevention Council (SPC) and Youth Suicide Prevention Assembly (YSPA) report is based on data from coroner reports, while the Youth Risk Behavior Survey data is based on self-reported information.

Full report located at:

'Help in a Haystack: Youth Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services in the North Country' (Mills, 2010)

The Carsey Institute at The University of New Hampshire

<http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/TCNC/YPS.html>

## **Juvenile Delinquency**

- Between 2006 and 2008, the number of juvenile arrests, ages 10 to 17 years old, in Coos County steadily increased.
  - In 2006, there were 42 juvenile arrests for every 10,000 juvenile residents.
  - In 2007, there were 56 juvenile arrests for every 10,000 juvenile residents.
  - In 2008, there were 66 juvenile arrests for every 10,000 juvenile residents. (Carsey Institute)
  
- Between 2006 and 2008, the number of juvenile arrests statewide varied.
  - In 2006, there were 1,611 juvenile arrests for every 100,000 youth ages 10-17.
  - In 2007, there were 1,291 juvenile arrests for every 100,000 youth ages 10-17.
  - In 2008, there were 1,447 juvenile arrests for every 100,000 youth ages 10-17.<sup>7</sup> (OJJDP)

Full reports located at:

'Juvenile Arrests per 10,000 Population Age 10-17'

Carsey Institute, University of New Hampshire

<http://trackingchange.sr.unh.edu/indicators/8/JuvenileArrestsper10000PopulationAge1017.html>

'Juvenile arrest rates by State, 2006'

'Juvenile arrest rates by State, 2007'

'Juvenile arrest rates by State, 2008'

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/qa05103.asp?qaDate=2006>

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/qa05103.asp?qaDate=2007>

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/qa05103.asp?qaDate=2008>

## **CHILD CARE & EDUCATION INDICATORS**

Access to high quality child care not only promotes optimal child development, but also can promote quality home learning environments for children. Having high quality early childhood learning environments is critical to the social and academic success of young children. Communities that are known for high quality child care and educational levels become desired locations to raise children. When a community has a well educated workforce, residents are more likely to have access to jobs that pay a living wage and new businesses are attracted by an educated workforce.

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<sup>7</sup> Statewide totals are sums of the 4 categories of juvenile crime: violent crime index, property crime index, drug abuse, and weapons.

## **Child Care**

- In 2010, there were 27 child care facilities in Coos County licensed by the NH Bureau of Child Care Licensing.<sup>8</sup> (NH Employment Security)
- These facilities, together, had the capacity to service 1,346 children and adolescents.
- Of these 27 child care facilities,
  - 4 provided residential care for adolescents.
  - 2 were afterschool programs.
  - 4 were “family based programs” (child care is in the provider's own home).
  - 4 were Head Start programs.
  - 13 were child care centers.  
(Bureau of Child Care Licensing)
- None of the family based programs in Coos County were accredited by the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC). (National Association for Family Child Care)
- Two of the child care centers in Coos County were accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). There are a total of 60 NAEYC accredited programs in NH. (National Association for the Education of Young Children)

Full reports located at:

‘Coös County’

NH Employment Security

<http://www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/htmlprofiles/county/CoosCountyProfile.pdf>

‘Child Care Search’

Bureau of Child Care Licensing, NH DHHS

<http://childcaresearch.dhhs.nh.gov/Mylicense%20Verification/Search.aspx?facility=Y>

‘Search for Accredited Providers’

National Association for Family Child Care

[http://nafcc.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=390&Itemid=422](http://nafcc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=390&Itemid=422)

‘Accredited Program Search’

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

<http://www.naeyc.org/academy/accreditation/search>

## **Child Care Weekly Rates**

- In 2009, the Berlin area had the lowest mean full-time weekly rate for child care across all NH regions for all types of child care (infants through pre-school), except ages 5 and 6.

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<sup>8</sup> Not all child care providers are required to be licensed. For example, private homes may care for up to 3 children in addition to the provider's own children without being licensed through the State of NH. See <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oos/cclu/quality.htm> for ‘Licensing Exemptions.’

- The mean rate for infant care was \$136.00 in Coos County, with the second lowest rate occurring in the Laconia area (\$166.72). The state-wide average rate for infant care was \$195.79.
- The mean full-time weekly rate for five and six year old child care was \$130.00. The state-wide average rate for was \$154.93.<sup>9</sup>
- In March 2011, 146 children in Coos County received scholarships from the state of NH to pay for their child care services. (Child Development Bureau)

Full report located at:

'Final Report of the New Hampshire Early Care and Education Market Rate Survey for 2009' (Kalinowski & Kalinowski, 2010)  
 NH Department of Health & Human Services  
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcyf/cdb/documents/marketrate2009.pdf>

More information available from:

'Child Care Scholarships'  
 Child Development Bureau - Division for Children, Youth and Families  
 129 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301  
<http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcyf/cdb/eligibility.htm>  
 (No web link available for this report. Contact the agency directly for more information.)

## **Head Start**

- In March 2008, 1400 children received Head Start services statewide. Approximately 9% of these children, or 128 children, were served in Coos County.<sup>10</sup>
- The Tri-County Community Action Program (CAP) offers Head Start services for children ages 3 to 5 years old in Coos County. Specifically:
  - 25 children were served from the Colebrook/ Pittsburg office (19.5%).
  - 17 children were served from the Groveton office (13.3%).
  - 72 children were served from the Berlin office (56.3%).
  - 14 children were served from the Whitefield office (10.9%).<sup>11</sup>
- There are no Early Head Start services offered in Coos County or through the Tri-County CAP.

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<sup>9</sup> Kindergarten became a requirement for all New Hampshire school districts in 2007 (RSA 193-E:2-a Substantive Educational Content of an Adequate Education, <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/193-E/193-E-2-a.htm>).

<sup>10</sup> These figures are calculated by adding the total numbers for each program/ office (as listed by town) across the state. Coös County totals are based on summing the total numbers for each listed Coos County town (i.e. office).

<sup>11</sup> The figures are calculated by dividing the total number of children in Coös County (n=128) by the total statewide (n=1400).

Full report located at:

'Growing and Learning in New Hampshire Head Start'  
Head Start State Collaboration Office, NH DHHS  
[http://www.nhfv.org/files/dcyf\\_headstart.pdf](http://www.nhfv.org/files/dcyf_headstart.pdf)

### **Enrollments in kindergarten**

- Between the 2005 and 2009 school years all public school districts in Coos County offered kindergarten. Attendance in kindergarten remained steady during these four years, with all districts reporting more than 90% attendance.
- Between the 2005 and 2009 school years enrollments in kindergarten within Coos County declined 11% (from 323 students enrolled in 2005 to 287 students enrolled in 2009).<sup>12</sup>
- Between the 2005 and 2009 school years overall enrollment in kindergarten across the state of NH increased 15.5% (from 10,360 students enrolled in 2005 to 11,969 students enrolled in 2009).

Full report located at:

'Kindergarten Enrollments in Public Schools'  
New Hampshire Department of Education  
<http://www.education.nh.gov/data/attendance.htm>

### **Third Grade Math & Reading Scores**

- Between 2008 and 2011, the average scaled scores on the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Coos County remained stable.
- During school year 2010-2011, the average scaled NECAP scores for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in 6 of the 11 schools districts (200 students in Berlin, Colebrook, Gorham, Milan, Northumberland, White Mountain Regional) in Coos County were 345. The statewide average scaled scores in NH were 348.
- During school year 2009-2010, the average scaled NECAP scores for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in 7 of the 11 schools districts (301 students in Berlin, Colebrook, Gorham, Milan, Northumberland, Stewartstown, White Mountain Regional) in Coos County were 345. The statewide average scaled scores in NH were 349.

Full report located at:

'NECAP Grade 3 School Results Report (Teaching Year)'  
NH Department of Education  
<http://reporting.measuredprogress.org/nhprofile/reports.aspx?view=32>  
(choose year and school district from the drop down box, then click on NECAP)

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<sup>12</sup> Numbers based on the sum total enrollment for kindergarten in each school district of Coos county listed in the 'Kindergarten Enrollments in Public Schools' report. Percentages based on dividing the difference between 2009-2010 school year enrollments and 2005-2006 school year enrollments (36) by the sum total enrollment for school year 2005-2006.

## **Enrollments in high school and completion**

- Public high school enrollments in Coos County declined 14.9% between the 2005-2006 (1753 enrolled) and 2009-2010 school years (1491 enrolled).<sup>13</sup>
- The high school completion rate increased between 2007 and 2009.
  - During the 2007-2008 school year, 84.5% of enrolled high school seniors (n=420) in Coos County public schools completed high school (n=355).
  - In 2009, 96.7% of the enrolled high school seniors (n=395) in Coos County public schools completed high school (n=382).<sup>14</sup>
- The drop-out rate for high school students in Coos County substantially decreased over the past 5 years.
  - During the 2005-2006 school year, 4.5% of Coos County students dropped out of school.
  - During the 2008-2009 school year, 2.3% of Coos County students dropped out of school.
  - These dropout rates were higher than the state wide average (1.7% in 2008-2009, and 3.2% in 2005-2006).<sup>15</sup>

Full reports located at:

'High School Enrollments in Public Schools'  
'County Enrollments by Grade'  
New Hampshire Department of Education  
<http://www.education.nh.gov/data/attendance.htm>

'Dropout Data'  
'High School Completers: Where Do They Go?'  
'High School Completers: By County'  
New Hampshire Department of Education  
<http://www.education.nh.gov/data/dropouts.htm>

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<sup>13</sup> Numbers based on the sum total enrollment for public high in each school district of Coos county listed in the 'High School Enrollments in Public Schools' report. Percentages based on dividing the difference between 2009-2010 school year enrollments and 2005-2006 school year enrollments (262) by the sum total enrollment for school year 2005-2006.

<sup>14</sup> Numbers based on (1) the total enrollment for grade 12 for Coos county listed in the 'County Enrollments by Grade' report, and (2) "Total" from the 'High School Completers: By County' report. Percentages based on dividing the total enrollment for each school district by that district's "Total" listed in the 'High School Completers: By County' report.

<sup>15</sup> Numbers based on the sum total (1) enrollment and (2) "Dropped Out," under Early Exit Non-Graduates, for each school district within each county listed in the 'Dropout Data' report. Percentages are based on then dividing the 'drop out' sum total by the enrollment sum total for each county.

## **School suspensions & expulsions**

- Out of a total enrollment of 4,338 students in grades 1-12, there were 1,501 in- and out-of-school suspensions in Coos County during 2007-2008 (34.6%). Stratford county had the second highest rate of in- and out-of-school suspensions (3612 incidents out of a total enrollment of 15,484 students), while the statewide rate was 15.4% (28,274 incidents out of a total student population of 183,897).
- The top three reasons for students receiving suspensions in Coos County were: 'other'<sup>16</sup> (907), violence against persons (267), and verbal behavior (251). These were the top three reasons for suspensions consistently across all NH counties.

Full reports located at:

'Student Discipline in New Hampshire Schools' (Wauchope, 2009)  
The Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire  
<http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu>

'County Enrollments by Grade'  
New Hampshire Department of Education  
<http://www.education.nh.gov/data/attendance.htm>

## **Status of youth completing high school**

- In 2009, 73.9% of the youth who completed high school in Coos County attended some post-secondary education. Four other counties (Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham) had rates similar or slightly higher for high school completers attending post-secondary education. The state wide average was 73.6%.<sup>17</sup>
  - 31.2% of these Coos County youth entered post-secondary educational institutions of less than four years. The state average shows that 22.6% of students completing high school entered post-secondary schools of less than four years.
  - 42.7% of these Coos County youth entered four year post-secondary educational institutions after completing high school. Statewide, 51% of youth completing high school entered four year post-secondary educational institutions.  
(New Hampshire Department of Education)
- In 2009, 14.4% of the youth in Coos County completing high school became employed. With a state wide average of 16.7%, this was the third lowest rate in NH (only Merrimack and Rockingham Counties had lower rates).

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<sup>16</sup> Undefined in original report.

<sup>17</sup> Figures compiled by adding the 2 categories of post-secondary education (4-years and less than 4 years) together.

- In 2009, 4.4% of the youth in Coos County completing high school entered the military. This was the highest rate across the state (equal to the percent of youth in Belknap County). The state wide average was 3.4%.

Full reports located at:

'High School Completers: Where Do They Go?'  
New Hampshire Department of Education  
<http://www.education.nh.gov/data/dropouts.htm>

'State & County QuickFacts'  
US Census Bureau  
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/33/33007.html>

## **HEALTH INDICATORS (PHYSICAL & MENTAL)**

A healthy community consists of residents who are born healthy, remain physically fit, have secure and stable relationships with others, and have access to services they need. It is important to understand a community's health status (both physical and mental) because it could influence the community-based programs and policies which may be needed to improve health outcomes. A healthy community also has implications for the economy. If residents are healthy there is a strong workforce available, and residents are also able to actively contribute to the community.

### **Child Obesity**

- During the 2008-2009 school year, Coos County third grade students had the second highest percentage of obesity (22.2% of 220 students), with Belknap & Merrimack counties (combined) having the highest at 23.9% of 389 students.
- During the 2008-2009 school year, Coos County had the highest percentage of overweight third grader students (19.3%) across the state, with Belknap & Merrimack counties (combined) second highest (17.8%).
- During the 2008-2009 school year, Coos County also had the highest percentage of underweight third grader students (2.6%), compared to all other NH counties. Rockingham County had the second highest percentage of underweight third grader students (1.9% of 405 students).

Full report located at:

'New Hampshire Obesity Data Book 2010'  
NH Department of Health & Human Services  
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/nhp/obesity.htm>

## **Dental Care**

- During the 2008-2009 school year, Coos County third graders had the highest percentage of tooth decay experience (64% of 217 students), untreated tooth decay (30.7%), and need for treatment (31.1%) compared to all other NH counties. Carroll & Grafton County third grade students (combined) had the second highest percentage of untreated tooth decay (17% of 393 students) and need for treatment (16.7%).
- During the 2008-2009 school year, Coos County also had the lowest percent of dental sealants among the third grade students (23.7%). Carroll & Grafton County third grade students (combined) had the second lowest percent of dental sealants (39.8% of 393 students).
- During 2008-2009, approximately 22 licensed, active general or pediatric dentists practiced in Coos County (3% of the total 757 in NH). (Tappin & Norton, 2010)

Full reports located at:

'New Hampshire 2008-09 Third Grade *Healthy Smiles – Healthy Growth Survey*'  
NH Department of Health & Human Services  
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/data/index.htm>

'Dental Services and Workforce in New Hampshire' (Tappin & Norton, 2010)  
New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies  
<http://www.nhpolicy.org>

## **Low birth weight**

- In 2008, 8% of all recorded Coos County births were low birth weight, the highest across all NH counties. The statewide average for low birth rates was 6.5%.
- In 2006, the low birth rate in Coos County was 8.1%, the second highest rate in all the NH counties (Sullivan County had the highest rate at 10.3%). The statewide average in 2006 was 6.9%

Full report located at:

'Birthweight low, less than 2500 grams (percent) by County'  
New Hampshire HealthWRQS, NH Institute for Health Policy and Practice, UNH  
<http://www.nhhealthwrqs.org/library/index.cfm?StepNum=2>

## **Prevalence of Mental Health Diagnoses**

- During 2005, 3,216 Coos County children under age 18 were enrolled in Medicaid.
- In 2005, 24.1% of these Medicaid enrolled children were diagnosed with some mental health issue/ disorder (n=784). The statewide average was 25%.

- In 2005, a substantial portion of these Medicaid enrolled children in Coos County (30.7%) were diagnosed with 'stress and adjustment issues.'

Full report located at:

'Children's Mental Health in New Hampshire' (Tappin & Norton, 2007)  
New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies  
<http://www.nhpolicy.org>

### **Access to Mental Health Services**

- In 2007, approximately 3% of the total population in Coos and Carroll Counties used community mental health services. (The Bristol Observatory, 2007)
  - Of those receiving services (n=3,023), 2.62% were children under the age of 12 years old (n=374) and 6.25% were adolescents (n=394). (The Bristol Observatory, 2007)
- New Hampshire Schools are beginning to provide mental health services to their students at a variety of ages, including screening for social-emotional problems in kindergarten. For those schools providing mental health services, many administer these services through the school district (or via community mental health services) but mostly in combination with special education services. (Norton & Tappin, 2009)

Full report available from:

'New Hampshire Community Mental Health Utilization Rates'  
The Bristol Observatory  
<http://www.thebristolobservatory.com>  
(No web link available for this report. Contact the agency directly for more information.)

Full report located at:

'Mental Health Services in New Hampshire's Schools'  
(Norton & Tappin, 2009)  
New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies  
<http://www.nhpolicy.org>

**For additional resources specific to Coos County, see the following websites:**

Education

'Adults With College Degrees in the United States, by County'  
(% of adults with bachelors degree)

US Census Bureau

[http://chronicle.com/article/Adults-With-College-Degrees-in/125995/?sid=at&utm\\_source=at&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/article/Adults-With-College-Degrees-in/125995/?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en)

Employment, Wages, and Income

'Local Area Unemployment Statistics Report'

NH Employment Security, Economic and Labor Market

(<http://www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/2009oesHTML/Counties/PAGE0031.HTM>)

'NH Community Profiles'

'Local Area Unemployment Statistics'

'County Employment Projections 2006-2016'

NH Employment Security,

<http://www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/>

'Child Care Market Rate Survey 2010'

(regional and some county by county data on child care rates)

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcyf/cdb/publications.htm>

General resources

'New Hampshire Kids Count 2010-2011'

Children's Alliance of New Hampshire

[www.childrennh.org](http://www.childrennh.org).

'2011 Coos, New Hampshire'

County Health Rankings

<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/> (click on NH, then Coos County on the map)

'Coös Resources'

<http://www.coosresources.org/categories.html>

'Profile for Coos (County)'

Kids Count Data Center

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/stateprofile.aspx?state=NH&loc=4433>

Health

Children's Health Insurance Programs in New Hampshire: *Access, Prevention, Care Management, Utilization, and Payments*, (Fiscal Years 2007- 2009) (<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/index.htm>)

see publications

## Mental Health

'Mental Health Services for New Hampshire's Young Children and their Families: Planning to Improve Access and Outcomes' (Ableman, Antal, Oldham, Printz, Braillier, Nelson, Schreiber, & Brandt, 2009)

Hampshire Association for Infant Mental Health.

<http://www.endowmentforhealth.org/resource-center/resource-center-detail.aspx?id=76>

'New Hampshire Public Mental Health Consumer Survey Project: Summary of Findings 2008' (Antal & Burbank, 2008)

Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire

<http://www.iod.unh.edu/pmhs.html#downloads>

'New Hampshire Public Mental Health Consumer Survey Project: Summary of Findings 2009' (Antal, 2009).

Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire

<http://www.iod.unh.edu/pmhs.html#downloads>

'New Hampshire's Prescription for Mental Health Care: Comprehensive, Integrated, and Coordinated Health Care' (Antal, 2009)

Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire

<http://www.iod.unh.edu/pmhs.html#downloads>

## **For some general resources about New Hampshire, see the following websites:**

### Child Poverty

'Child Poverty in Rural America: New Data Shows Increases in 41 States'

O'Hare & Savage, 2006

Carsey Institute at UNH

<http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/CarseySearch/search.php?group=author>

'Children's Health Insurance Programs in New Hampshire: *Access, Prevention, Care Management, Utilization, and Payments*, (Fiscal Years 2007- 2009)'

NH Department of Health & Human Services,

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/index.htm> (see publications)

### Domestic Violence

'The Mental Health Needs of Children Exposed to Violence in their Homes'

Stapleton, Phillips, Moynihan, Wiesen-Martin, & Beaulieu, 2009

New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

[www.nhcadv.org](http://www.nhcadv.org)

### Economy

'Road to Recovery: NH's Economy 2010'

New Hampshire Employment Security

<http://www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/>

Working Parents and Workplace Flexibility in NH

Smith, K. & Smith, M.

UNH Cooperative Extension, Carsey Institute, & New Hampshire Employment Security

<http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/CarseySearch/search.php?group=author>

#### General resources

New Hampshire Employment Security, Annual Report 2009 (see p. 7)

New Hampshire Employment Security

<http://www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/>

'NH Community Profiles'

New Hampshire Employment Security

<http://www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/>

'Immunization Program NH IMMUNIZATION DATA BRIEF, 2009'

NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services, Bureau of Disease Control and Health Statistics

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/data/index.htm>

'Oral Health in New Hampshire'

Endowment for Health

[www.endowmentforhealth.org](http://www.endowmentforhealth.org)

#### Mental Health

'Mental Health Services for NH's Children'

Tappin & Norton, 2007

NH Center for Public Policies Studies

<http://www.nhpolicy.org>

'Children's Mental Health Services in New Hampshire: *Where we are now, where we need to go, how to move forward*'

Covert, 2009

The Endowment for Health, DHHS and NAMI-NH

<http://www.endowmentforhealth.org/resource-center/topics.aspx?id=1>

#### Youth Risk Behavior

'2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Trend Analysis Report (2001-2009)'

NH Department of Education

[http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/school\\_health/hiv\\_data.htm](http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/school_health/hiv_data.htm)

## References

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<sup>i</sup> Colocousis, C.R. (2008) State of Coos County: Local Perspectives on Community and Change. Durham, NH: The Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire.

<http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/CarseySearch/search.php?group=author#S>

<sup>ii</sup> --. (2010). 2010 Census Data. Washington, DC: United States Census Bureau.

<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/> (click on New Hampshire on the interactive map)

<sup>iii</sup> --. (2009). Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

<http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/CO-EST2009-01.html> (click on New Hampshire)

<sup>iv</sup> --. (2009). Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

<http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/CO-EST2009-01.html> (click on New Hampshire)

<sup>v</sup> Figures calculated by dividing the total number of families with children under 18 in Coos County by the total number of children under the age of 18 in Coos County, the multiplying this quotient and the number of children under age 5 in Coos County. See the following the reports:

--. (2010). Coos County, New Hampshire Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2005-2009. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

[http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?\\_bm=y&-geo\\_id=05000US33007&-gr\\_name=ACS\\_2009\\_5YR\\_G00\\_DP5YR2&-ds\\_name=ACS\\_2009\\_5YR\\_G00\\_&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-sse=on](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=05000US33007&-gr_name=ACS_2009_5YR_G00_DP5YR2&-ds_name=ACS_2009_5YR_G00_&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-sse=on).

--. (2010). Coos County, New Hampshire ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2005-2009. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

[http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?\\_bm=y&-geo\\_id=05000US33007&-gr\\_name=ACS\\_2009\\_5YR\\_G00\\_DP5YR5&-ds\\_name=ACS\\_2009\\_5YR\\_G00\\_&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-sse=on](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=05000US33007&-gr_name=ACS_2009_5YR_G00_DP5YR5&-ds_name=ACS_2009_5YR_G00_&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-sse=on).

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## Coös County Family Support Project Partners

**The Family Resource Center @ Gorham**

<http://www.family-resource-center.org/>

**Child and Family Services (CFS)**

<http://www.cfsnh.org/>

**Coos County Family Health Services**

<http://www.coosfamilyhealth.org/>

**Indian Stream Health Center**

<http://www.indianstream.org/>

**North Country Health Consortium**

<http://www.nchcnh.org/>

**Northern Human Services (NHS)**

<http://www.northernhs.org/>

**Weeks Medical Center (WMC)**

<http://www.weeksmedical.org/>