

Early childhood in Nuevo Leon, Mexico

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3. Quantification of target population

There were 5.78 million people living in Nuevo Leon in 2020, out of which 355 thousand (6.14%) people are children from 0 to 3 years of age (INEGI (2020a)). Nuevo Leon ranks ninth in the states with the highest number of infants in this age group and first within the northern states.

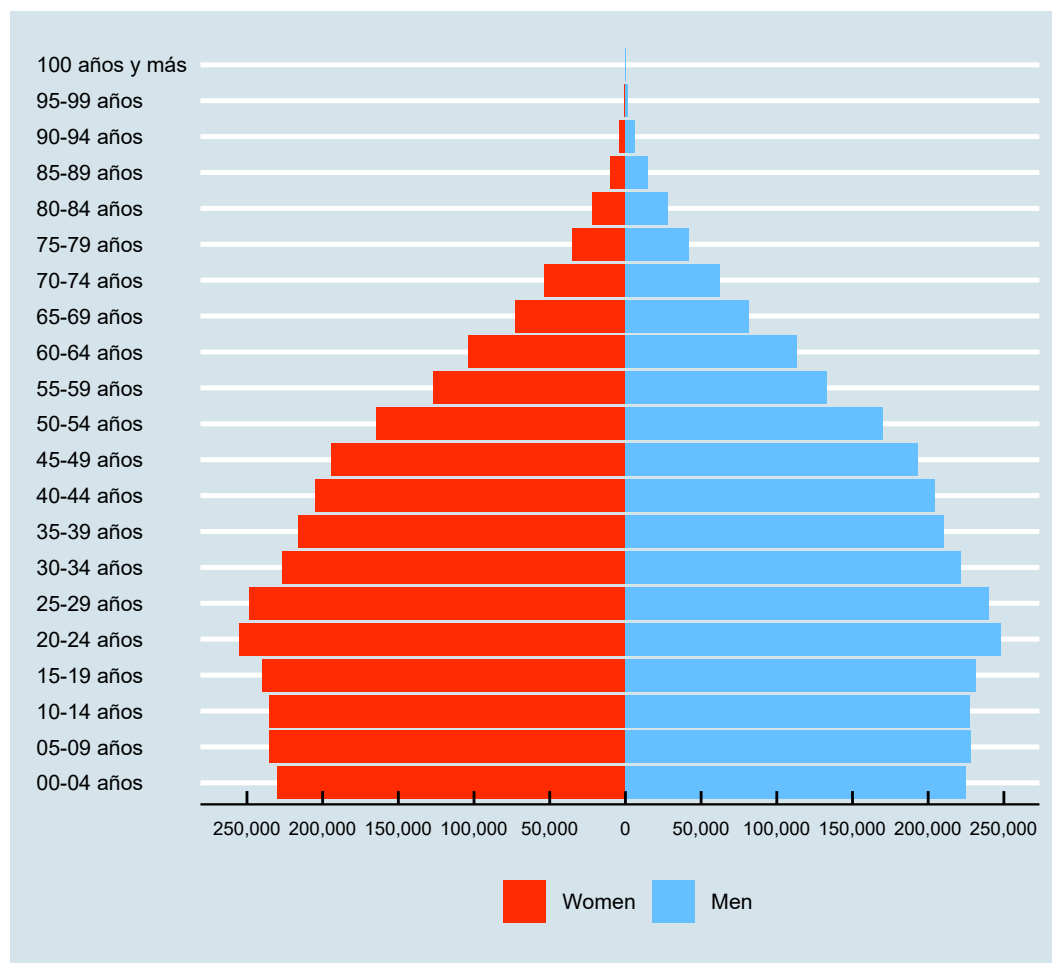


Figure 1: Population by sex and age, Nuevo Leon

According to the 2020 National Household Income and Expenditure Survey (INEGI, 2020b), Nuevo Leon has the second lowest poverty rate (24.3) among all states in Mexico. However, the poverty rate among children between 0 and 3 years of age is much higher (38.2%), ranking sixth in the states with the highest rate (Figure 2).

This is, 24 out of every 100 people live in poverty, while 38 out of 100 children do. Equivalently, out of the 355 thousand children living in Nuevo Leon, around 136 thousand live in poverty and 15 thousand in extreme poverty.

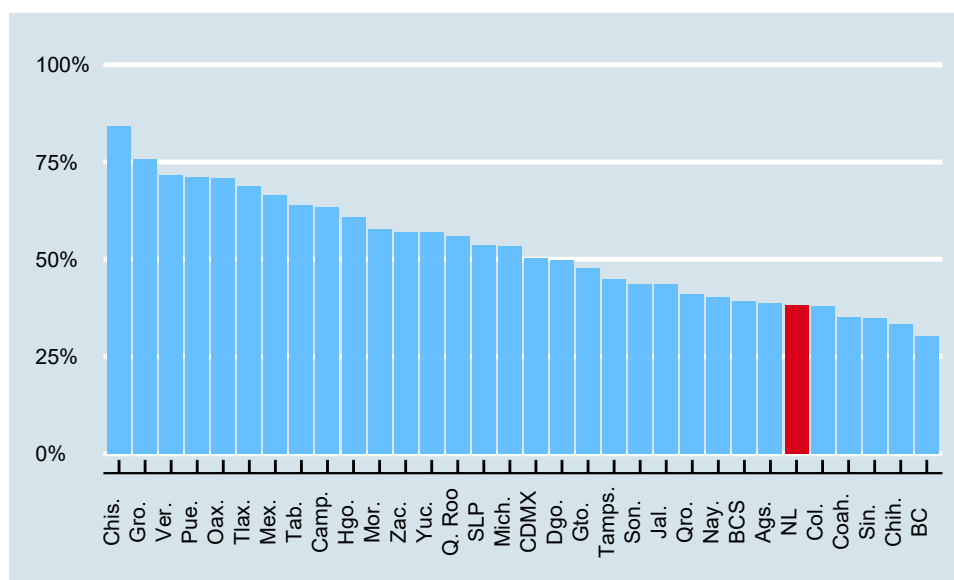


Figure 2: Children ages 0 to 3 in poverty (Poverty rate).

Moreover, most of the population and, in particular children, live in urban areas. In fact, 76.6% of the children reside in the Monterrey Metropolitan Area (Figure 3).

Also, most of the poor children (94.8%) live in urban municipalities and this fact do not change when looking at children inextreme poverty (Figure 4).

Focusing on the 136 thousand children from 0 to 3 years of age who live in poverty, 44.6% (61 thousand) are girls. By ages, 39% are children under 1 year of age, 43% are 1 year old, 46% and 48% are 2 and 3 years old, respectively (Figure 5).

There are around 2 thousand children, between 0 and 3 years old, who live in poverty and also suffer some physical or mental disability.

In terms of the households where poor infants from 0 to 3 years live, 23% (31 thousand) inhabit a female-headed household.

Furthermore, 47.1% (64) of the households, where these children live, are nuclear¹, 49.8% (68) are extended families² and 3.1% (3.1) are compounded households³.

In addition, 1.4% (2 thousand) of children from 0 to 3 years old in poverty are in homes where the household head has no education, in 29.8% (41 thousand) the head of the household has elementary education, in % (thousand) has junior high education, in 16.4% (22 thousand) and 6.7% (9 thousand) the head has high school and college or university studies, respectively.

¹These households have three or more members. These households necessarily have a household head, their spouse (or partner) and children.

²These households have two or more members. These households may contain heads, spouses, children of the head, and any other familial relative. However, they must not include any extra-familial members.

³These households have a nuclear or extended household with people who are not related to the household head.

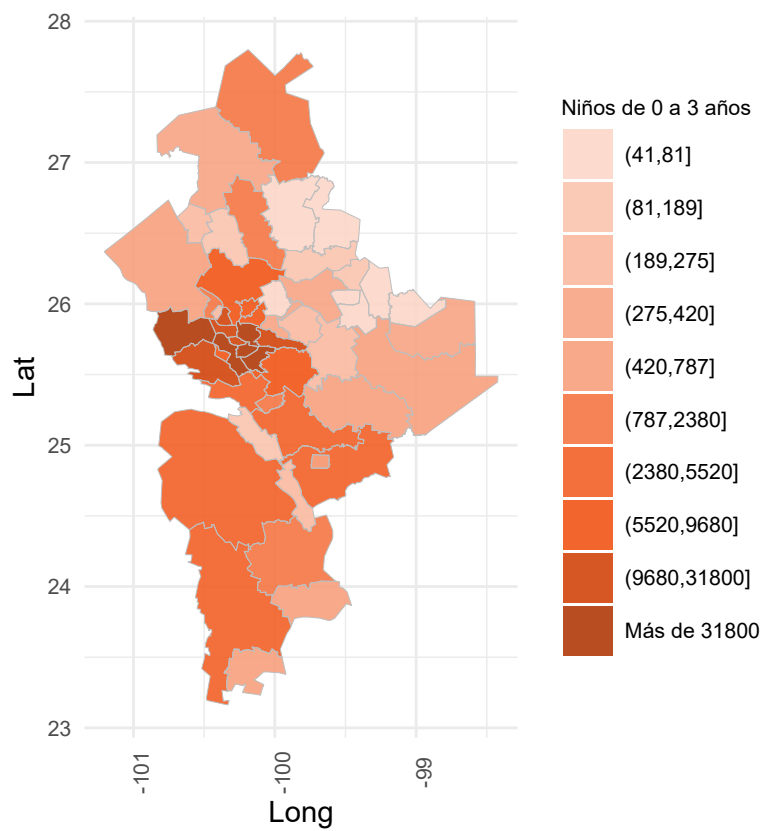


Figure 3: Children ages 0 to 3 years by municipality.

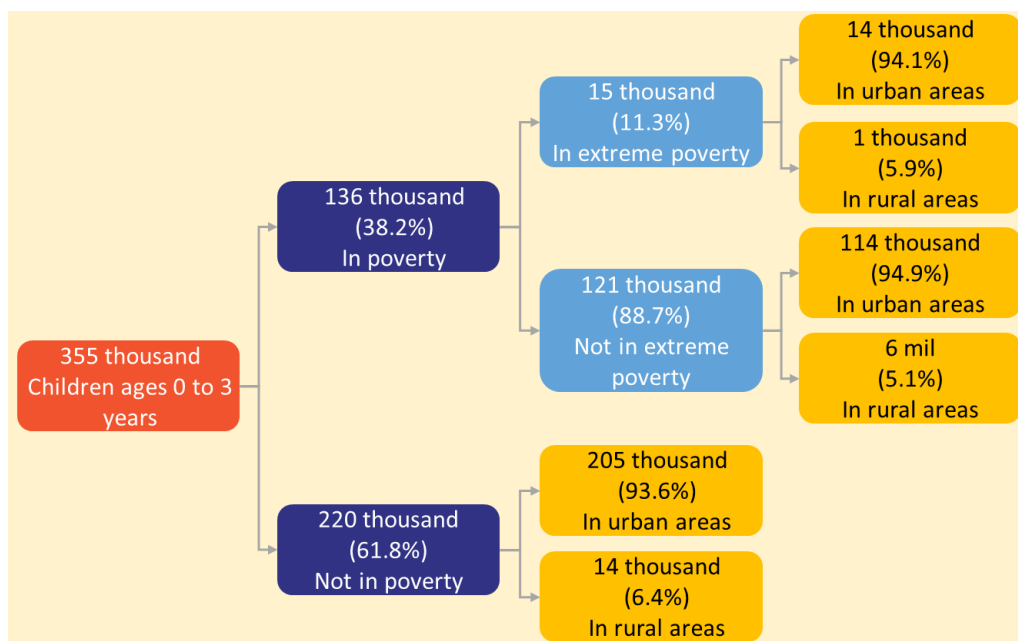


Figure 4: Distribution of children ages 0 to 3 in Nuevo Leon.

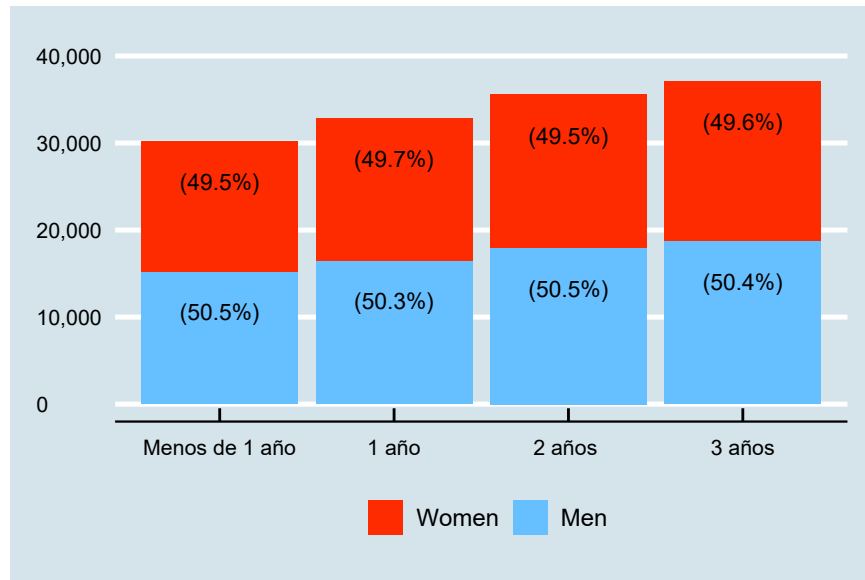


Figure 5: Distribution of children ages 0 to 3 years in poverty, by age and sex

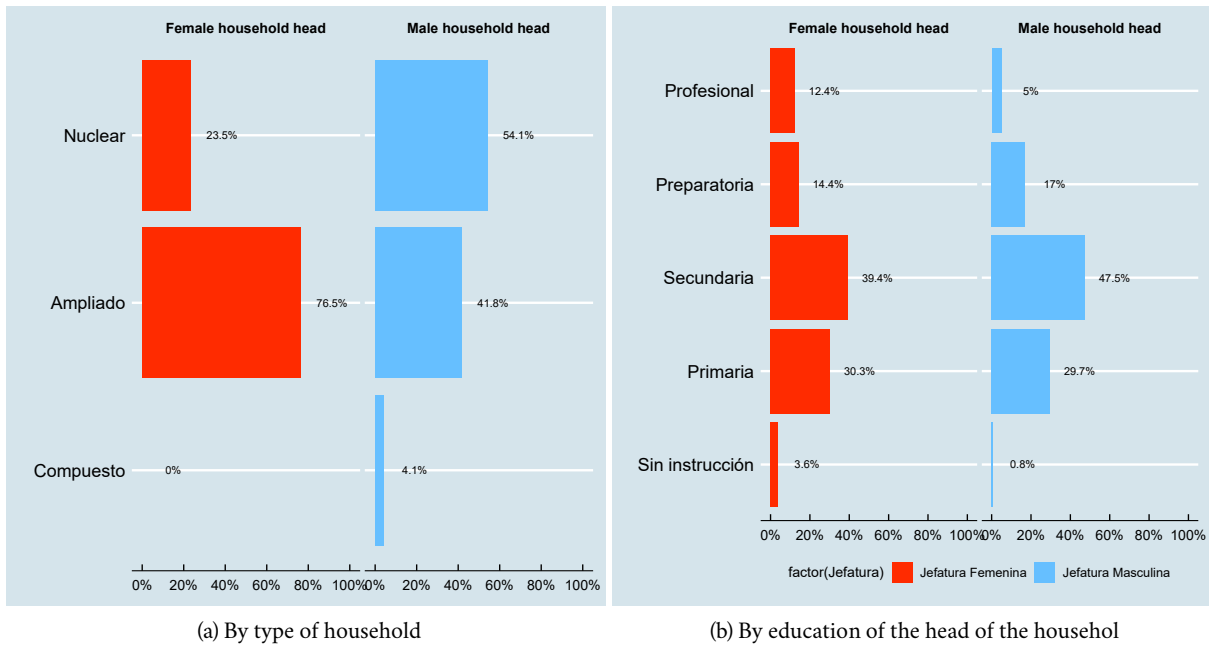


Figure 6: Children ages 0 to 3 years in Nuevo Leon

Participation of women in the labor market

In Nuevo Leon, the participation rate of women in the labor market is 38.8%, below the national rate (‘41.29%), the world rate or that of countries such as Chile or Spain.

International evidence suggests that women suffer a penalty when they become mothers, as they can decide to exit the workforce. Literature for Mexico have shown that women are more penalized for maternity than men, and this penalty affects women with low income more severely (Campos-Vazquez et al., 2021). Not only that, but also women who work in the informal sector, are 20 more likely to leave their job (Aguilar-Gomez et al., 2019).

The maternity penalty not only affects women who stop working, for those who choose to continue working, their wages see a reduction. Campos-Vazquez (Campos-Vazquez et al., 2021) shows that a year prior to child-birth, employment in the formal sector is 77 for men and 70 for women. In the quarter of giving birth, the formal employment rate is 80 for men and drops further for women to 62. Six years after having a first child, the employment rate for fathers is 84, but mothers’ employment never recovers and remains at 62.

In 2020, there were 280 thousand mothers of children from 0 to 3 years, out of those, 106 thousand (37.8%) reported to have a job or being actively looking for one (INEGI, 2020b).

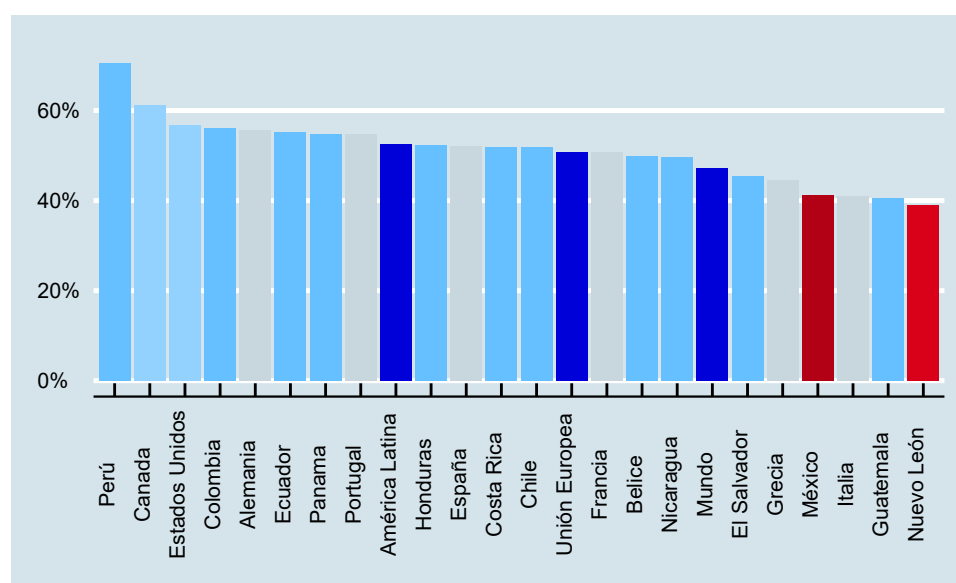


Figure 7: Labor force participation rate, female

For young mothers, ages 25 or younger, there is a 28 reduction in their employment rate and a 21 reduction in their salary, compared to men (Campos-Vazquez et al., 2021). In Nuevo León, there are almost 109 thousand (38.7%) mothers of children from 0 to 3 years old, who are 25 years old or younger.

Single mothers also see an 8 reduction in their employment, compared to men, and a 10 penalty in their salary. However, for women who have a partner, the situation is worse. The penalty in employment, for mothers who are married or have a partner, is 40 and the penalty in their salary is also 40, compared to men (Campos-Vazquez et al., 2021). According to (INEGI, 2020b), there are almost 143 thousand (51%) mothers of children from 0 to 3 years old who are married and 90 thousand more (32%) who live in common law.

Poor women face even greater penalties. The penalty in employment is 30 and the penalty in salary is 40 with

respect to fathers (Campos-Vazquez et al., 2021). In 2020, there were about 108 thousand (38.4%) mothers from 0 to 3 years old who were also poor in Nuevo Leon (INEGI, 2020b).

At all income levels, if the mother has a partner, the penalty is much higher. Thus, mothers living in poverty who are also married or have a partner registered with social security are the ones with the highest penalties (Campos-Vazquez et al., 2021). In Nuevo Leon, there were a little more than 33 thousand women (11.9%), mothers of children from 0 to 3 years old, who are poor and married, and 49 thousand (17.4%) more who reported living in free union.

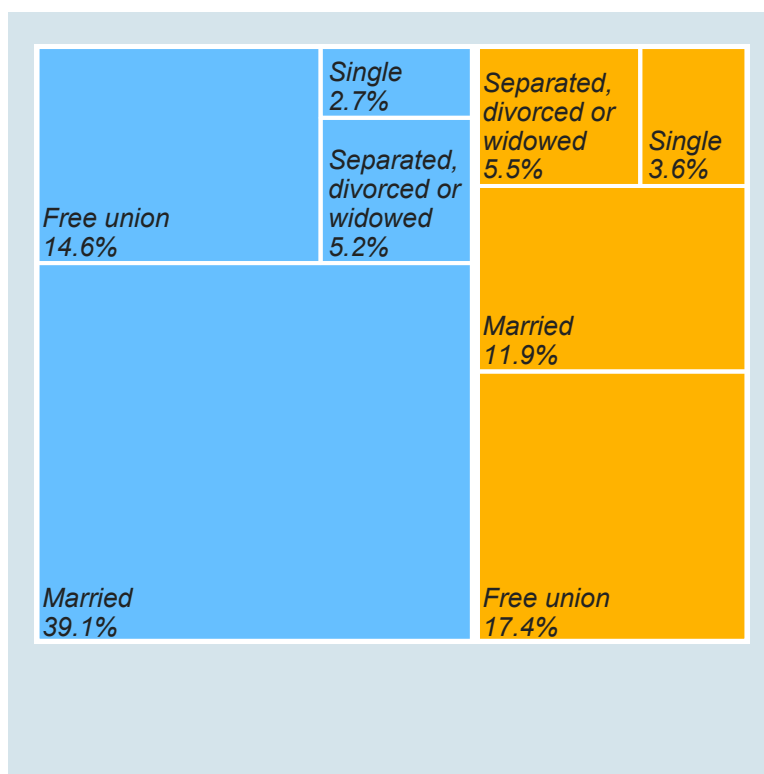


Figure 8: Mothers of children ages 0 to 3 years

References

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