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Poverty & Demographics

	Central West	NSW
Poverty Rate	13.14%	13.4%
Single Parent Families	17.0%	15.8%
Median Household Income	\$1,434	\$1,829

Housing and Financial Stress



50%

people are living in housing stress.¹

42%

have gone without meals because they were short of money.

42%

people couldn't afford essential travel e.g. to attend work or education.

Health



21%

More than one in five people attended the ED because they could not see a GP.²

45%

people have gone without prescribed medication because of cost.

350%

The number of people who have delayed or avoided seeing a specialist due to cost has increased 350% since 2020.

Children and Young People



17.4%

children are living in poverty at a cost of \$1.89 billion.⁴

995

young offenders across the region in the last 12 months. 518 of those young people accessed a court diversion.⁶

12.5%

children are developmentally vulnerable in two or more domains.⁵

Local Challenges



37.8

pokie machines per 1000 people in Bathurst, significantly higher than the NSW average of 14.⁷

5th Highest

Lachlan LGA had the 5th highest recorded domestic violence assaults in NSW in 2024, with Lithgow and Parkes ranked 15th and 17th.⁸

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Bathurst LGA had the 6th largest total increase in people sleeping rough in 2025 compared to 2024.³

¹ Impossible Choices: Decisions NSW families shouldn't have to make. Regional Snapshot. NSW Council of Social Service. Following statistics have come from the NCOSS Cost of Living report. ² Access Denied: Australians Locked Out of Quality Healthcare Patient Experience and Socioeconomic Disadvantage in NSW. NCOSS 2024/2024. ³ NSW Street Count results. NSW Government. ⁴ Lasting Impacts of Child Poverty. NCOSS. ⁵ Australian Early Development Census 2024. Data by SA4. ⁶ Trends in youth offending in NSW 2025. NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. ⁷ Liquor and Gaming NSW. Electronic Gaming Machines by SA2. ⁸ NSW Domestic Violence Quarterly Report. March 2025. NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. ⁹ Poverty rate is defined as 15.27% of households. Single parent families is defined as 18.5% of all families. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2022. 2021 Census Quickstats.