2019

new mexico kids count data book

TENDING OUR GARDEN

NEW MEXICO
VOICES
FOR CHILDREN

our vision for the next generation

All children and their families are economically secure.

All children and their families have a high-quality cradle-to-career system of care and education.

All children and their families have quality health care and supportive health programs.

All children and their families are free from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or country of origin.

All children and their families live in safe and supportive communities.

All children and their families' interests and needs are adequately represented in all levels of government through effective civic participation and protection of voters' rights.

All children and their families' needs are a high priority in local, state, and federal budgets and benefit from a tax system that is fair, transparent, and that generates sufficient revenues.

contents

tending our most important flower garden: child well-being

WHEN WE PLANT A FLOWER GARDEN, WE ARE CAREFUL TO INCLUDE ALL THE INGREDIENTS IT NEEDS IN ORDER TO THRIVE: good soil, fertilizer, water, sunlight, and more. For the best results, we tend it regularly, remove weeds, and guard against pests.

Children are not flowers in gardens, of course, but like flowers they need certain ingredients in order to grow and reach their unique potential. Parents provide the most important of these ingredients – love, nurturing, and meeting basic needs like food and shelter – within the micro-garden that is the family. But families need tending too. Families, and the communities in which they live, need access to opportunities that come by way of the public support systems we all depend upon – our education and health care systems, infrastructure, and public safety services, to name just a few.

There is still much work to do if we are to ensure that every New Mexican has access to the resources we all need to reach our own potential.

In this respect, we can think of our state and local governments as master gardeners. They plan the garden, determining where the flower beds are built, and ensure that they have everything they need for success. But what if some of the flower beds have low-quality soil, were built where they don't receive enough sunshine, and are neglected? The flowers in those beds will have to struggle and only the strongest seeds will survive – even while the less strong seeds in the beds with the high-quality soil and other resources are able to thrive.

As the flowers reseed themselves year after year, these disparities become ingrained. So much so, we forget that by providing better conditions for some seeds as compared to others, the gardeners set up some flowers for success and others for failure. Instead, we begin to blame the flowers in the low-quality soil for their inability to provide the highest-quality blooms. Meanwhile, we praise the flowers in the high-quality soil for their much better blooms, while forgetting all of the advantages they received. Eventually, even the flowers in the low-quality soil begin to believe that the other flowers are inherently better.

This parable* is a very simplified explanation of systemic bias and racism – a system or structure that has been set in place to advantage one group and disadvantage others. We see this in which children have access to high-quality schools, how we prioritize basic infrastructure, who has access to low-cost loans, how drug laws are enforced, even where we dispose of hazardous waste. For hundreds of years, this nation has built systemically biased and racist structures that advantaged whites and those

*With credit due to Dr. Camara Jones and her excellent TEDxEmory talk, "Telling Stories: Allegories on 'race' and racism," April 2014, via YouTube.

earning higher incomes while disadvantaging those earning lower- and middle-incomes and communities of color. It should come as no surprise, then, that New Mexico – the state with high poverty rates and the second largest share of children of color, and where disparities by race and ethnicity are seen across the board – does not rank well against the rest of the nation.

The good news is that there are solutions, and several of the policies passed during the 2019 legislative session will provide better opportunities for New Mexico's children, working families, and communities of color. Among them are:

- The Working Families Tax Credit, which helps hard-working low-income families meet their basic needs, was increased. The increase will put another $36 million into the hands of working families – most of whom (68 percent) are people of color.

- The state minimum wage was increased. Nearly three-quarters (70 percent) of the workers who will benefit are people of color. In addition, employers must now pay domestic workers –

the vast majority of whom are women and people of color – the state minimum wage, whereas before, employers could legally pay domestic workers less than the minimum wage.

- The College Affordability Fund, which helps low-income students afford the cost of college, received an injection of $25 million and the award amounts were increased by 50 percent.

- Our nation's criminal justice system is demonstrably racist, so changes made in New Mexico will disproportionately benefit people of color. Two changes will reduce some of the barriers to finding employment for those who have served time. They are the so-called "ban the box" legislation, which will help people get to the interview stage of the employment process, and the expungement of arrests and certain criminal charges from public records.

While these are just a few of the highlights from the very productive 2019 legislative session, there is still much work to do if we are to ensure that every New Mexican has access to the resources we all need to reach our own potential.

new mexico's
KIDS COUNT story

KIDS COUNT is a nationwide effort to track the status and well-being of children in each state and across the nation in four areas – economic well-being, education, health, and family and community – measuring four indicators in each of these domains, for a total of 16 tracked indicators that you'll find data on in this publication. KIDS COUNT is driven by research showing that the consequences of what kids experience in childhood are carried with them for the rest of their lives. Children's chances of being healthy, doing well in school, and growing up to be productive and thriving members of society can be influenced by their experiences in the early years.

At its heart though, KIDS COUNT tells a story, albeit an incomplete story. It tells a story of child well-being that's set against a backdrop of the opportunities we've made available to our kids. What these data

The children and families in our state posess an extraordinary resilience, rooted in New Mexico's unique cultural diversity, centuries-old traditions, and enduring sense of community.

alone cannot tell us is why things are the way they are – how we got here and how we can improve things – so in the following pages, we've included that context where we can. The data also paint a picture of child well-being from a deficit perspective – ignoring the extraordinary resilience that is possessed by our children, families, and state. That story can be found among New Mexico's unique cultural diversity, centuries-old traditions, and our enduring sense of community.

In addition, the data tell us where we have been rather than where we *are or where we are going*. Because collecting and compiling data takes time, we are always looking at how well we were doing a year or two ago. We won't have hard numbers on the beneficial impact of the policies we just listed for at least a couple of years. When those data are available, we need to remember what we did to drive improvement, as well as consider the other variables that impacted the outcomes measured by the data.

When all is said and done, KIDS COUNT is a snapshot – an accurate, if incomplete, picture of one point in time. For policymakers and advocates alike, it is an invaluable tool meant to make us take stock of how we are tending the flower garden that is the promise of our future – New Mexico's children. ◼

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

children living in poverty

DEFINITION

The percentage of children (ages 0 to 17) living at or below the federal poverty level (FPL). The FPL for a family of three was $20,780 in 2018 (the year these data were collected).

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

New Mexico's future economic success and the quality of our future workforce is determined, in large part, by what sorts of opportunities our children have today. Children who live in poverty – such as the 124,000 children in New Mexico – have access to fewer of the resources that all children need to help them thrive, succeed, and achieve their full potential. Evidence suggests being born into and growing up in poverty and low-socioeconomic status can have long-lasting and powerful effects on children. Childhood poverty is linked to a variety of health, cognitive, and emotional risk factors for children, and children in poverty are more likely to be food insecure, to suffer from adverse childhood experiences like abuse and homelessness, and to live in poverty as adults.

TRENDS

Children Living in Poverty by Year (2008–2018)

■ New Mexico
■ United States
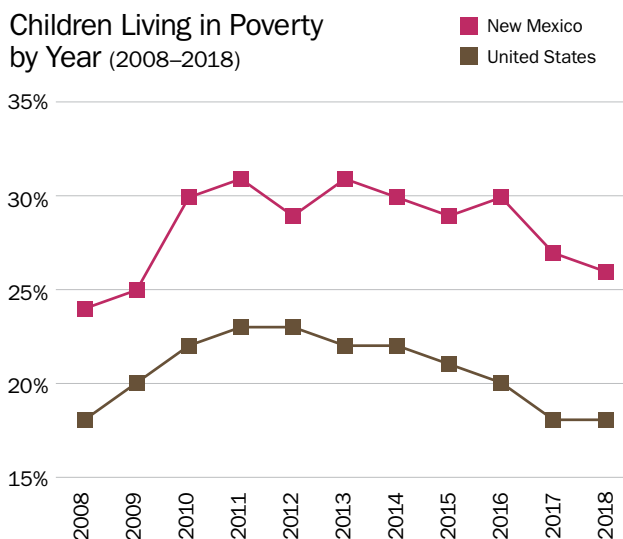
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys from 2008–2018, Table S1701.

RACE & ETHNICITY

Children Living in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity (2018)

Hispanic 30%
Non-Hispanic White 14%
Native American 41%
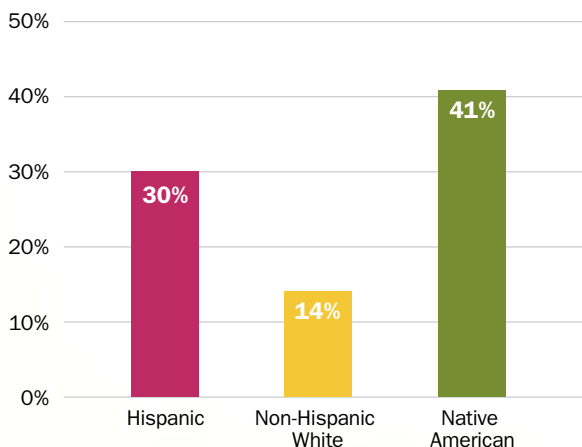
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018, Table C17001.
NOTE: Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.
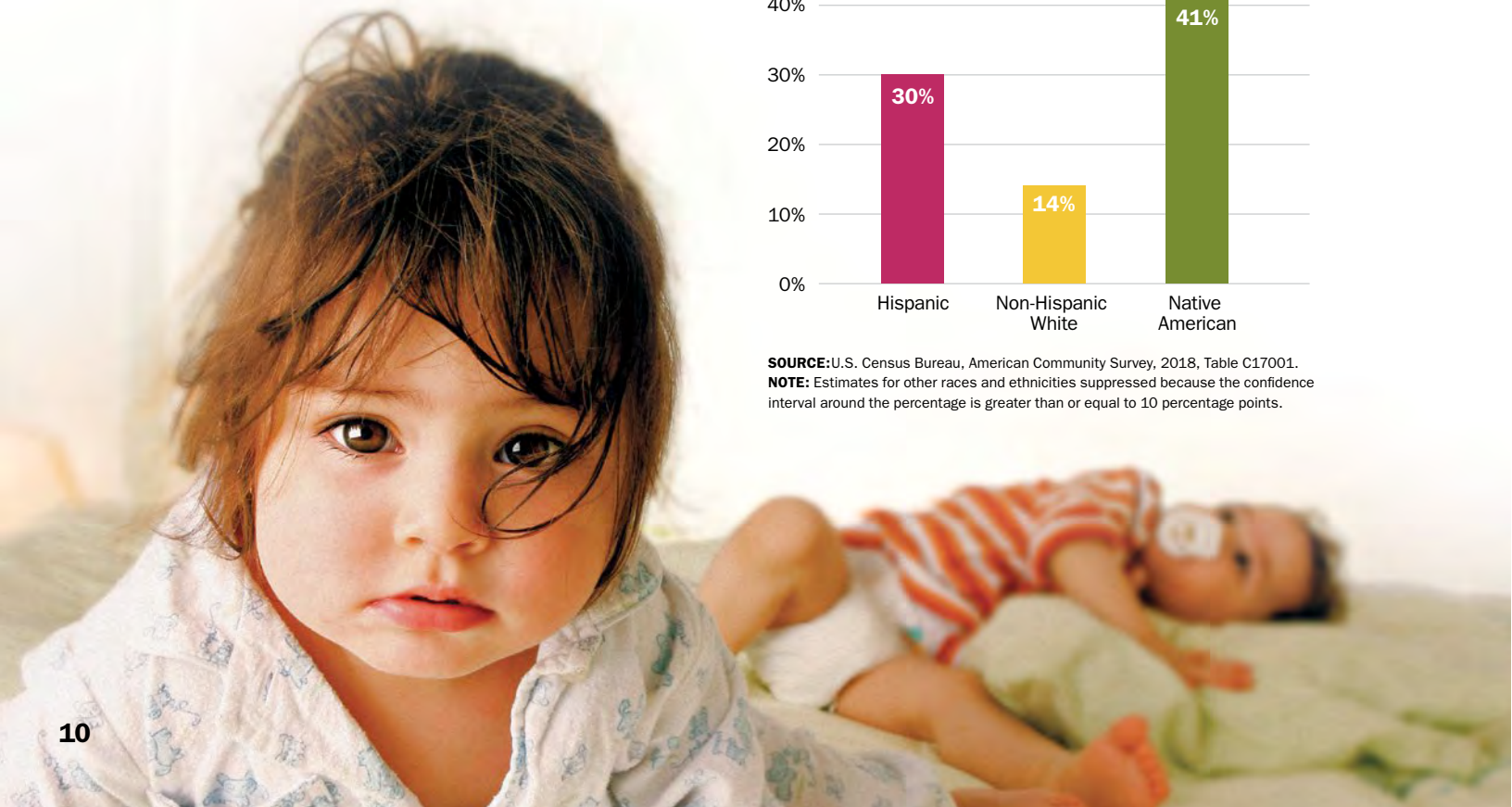
TRACKING CHANGE: IMPROVED The rate and number of children living in poverty decreased from 2017 to 2018, which is good news for our state. However, with 26 percent of our children living at or below the federal poverty level (FPL), New Mexico still ranks poorly at 49th in the nation in child poverty. Rates are particularly high among young children, ages 0–5 (28 percent), Hispanic children (30 percent), and Native American children (41 percent). New Mexico's child poverty rate has improved this year, but over the long-term nearly 5,000 more kids live in poverty now than did in 2008. While most other states have recovered from the recession, New Mexico's economy has not yet fully rebounded, which means fewer families have the opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty. In addition to a slow economic recovery, income inequality has worsened over time, and the state has seen few policy improvements to address this issue.

RANKINGS

Children Living in Poverty by County (2017)

County	Percent
Los Alamos County	4%
United States	18%
Sandoval County	19%
Santa Fe County	19%
Bernalillo County	19%
Lea County	21%
Eddy County	22%
Harding County	24%
Valencia County	25%
Chaves County	25%
New Mexico	26%
Union County	27%
Colfax County	29%
Curry County	29%
San Juan County	29%
Guadalupe County	29%
Otero County	29%
Grant County	31%
Lincoln County	31%
Taos County	32%
Roosevelt County	32%
Rio Arriba County	33%
DeBaca County	34%
Mora County	34%
Hidalgo County	36%
Torrance County	36%
Cibola County	37%
San Miguel County	37%
Doña Ana County	38%
Quay County	38%
Luna County	40%
Socorro County	40%
Sierra County	43%
Catron County	45%
McKinley County	46%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2017.

POLICY SOLUTIONS

To Decrease Child Poverty:

- Support two-generation approaches and ensure better coordination between programs providing health, education, housing, and food services for both parents and children.
- Maintain income eligibility for child care assistance at 200 percent of FPL or higher and provide continuous eligibility through at least 300 percent of FPL so parents can accept pay raises without suddenly losing benefits through what's called the "cliff effect"; eliminate copays for families under 100 percent FPL and, for families between 101 and 300 percent FPL, scale copays to their incomes so they do not put an undue burden on families earning low incomes.
- Raise or eliminate the state's tipped wage.
- Increase refundable tax credits like the WFTC (Working Families Tax Credit) and LICTR (Low-Income Comprehensive Tax Rebate), and enact a more progressive income tax system so low-income families do not bear a disproportionate responsibility for funding our state.
- Expand the WFTC to include families who are currently excluded from the credit, such as taxpayers filing with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).
- Implement a new state Child Tax Credit and increase the WFTC for families with young children in order to reduce child poverty.
- Enact policies such as "heat and eat" to expand SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) eligibility and benefits.
- Increase the amount of cash assistance that families on TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) receive; and remove harmful full-family sanctions and time limits.
- Enact tougher restrictions on predatory loans (payday, car title loans, tax refund loans, rent-to-own, etc.), which can trap families struggling to get by in an endless cycle of increasing debt.
- Ensure that all workers can earn at least one week of paid sick leave per year.
- Enact and enforce tougher policies to prevent wage theft.
- Support and promote the availability of resources and assistance for grandparents helping to raise their grandchildren, including access to financial resources, legal services, food and housing assistance, medical care, and transportation.
- Fund navigators to ensure that kinship foster care families have access to the public benefits for which they are eligible.
- Provide funding for savings accounts for New Mexico children with the objective of beginning the process and practice of saving money to be used to help defray the costs of the child's higher education.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

parents without secure employment

DEFINITION

The percentage of children (ages 0 to 17) living in families where no parent has full-time and year-round employment.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

More than a third of New Mexico's children live in families where no parent has secure employment, with Hispanic and Native American children most likely to be in such precarious financial situations. Parents who lack secure employment may be working part time or seasonally. Given that New Mexico has one of the highest rates of long-term unemployment – or residents who are persistent in looking for work – there may simply not be enough jobs available. Other parents may not have the education or skills that match the jobs that are available. These parents are more likely to live in poverty and less likely to have access to jobs that pay a living wage or provide benefits such as health insurance and sick leave, which hurts both them and their families.

TRENDS

Children Living in Families Where No Parent Had Secure Employment by Year (2008–2017)
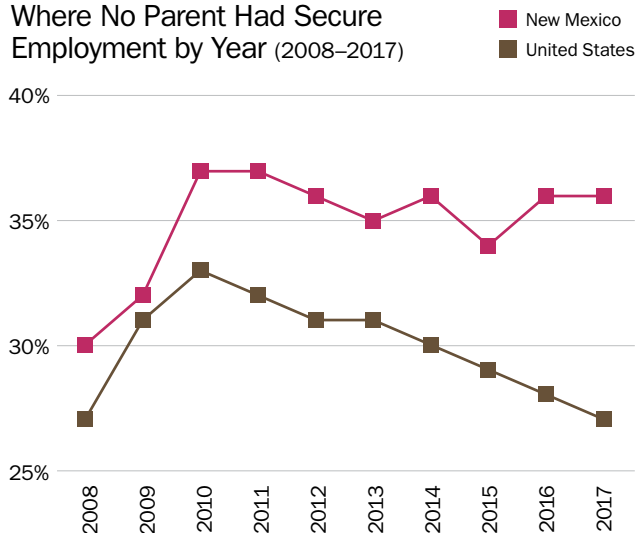
■ New Mexico
■ United States

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys, 2008–2017.

TRACKING CHANGE: SAME The percentage of children living in families where no parent has secure employment stayed the same from 2016 to 2017 at 36 percent. This is unlike the national trend of year-over-year improvement, thus ranking us 49th. This indicator has worsened over the long-term, however, with a 6 percentage point increase since 2008 in the number of kids living in families where no parent has secure employment.

RACE & ETHNICITY

Children Living in Families Where No Parent Had Secure Employment by Race and Ethnicity (2017)

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
Hispanic	36%
Non-Hispanic White	24%
Native American	54%

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017. **NOTE:** Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.
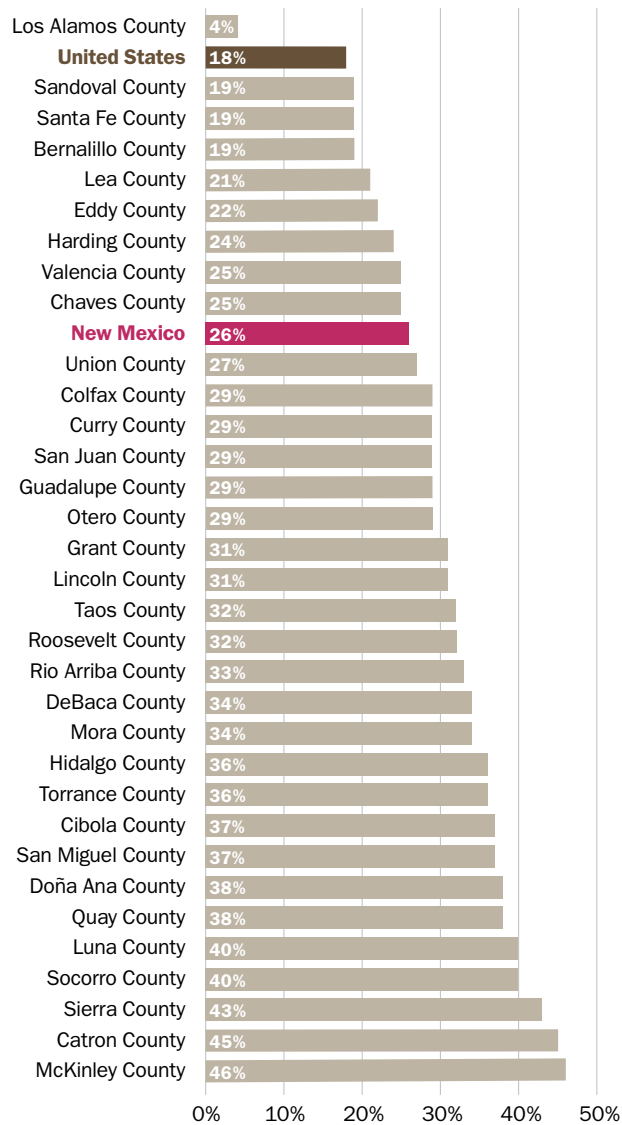
POLICY SOLUTIONS

To Improve Employment Security for Parents:

- Maintain income eligibility for child care assistance at 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) or higher and provide continuous eligibility through at least 300 percent of FPL so parents can accept pay raises without suddenly losing benefits through what's called the "cliff effect"; eliminate copays for families under 100 percent of FPL and, for families between 101 and 300 percent FPL, scale copays to their incomes so they do not put an undue burden on families earning low incomes.

- Reverse cuts to Unemployment Insurance benefits for child dependents of unemployed workers to help families during tough times or job transitions. Before the recession, those receiving unemployment benefits received a small additional benefit for each dependent child, but this support was cut in 2011.

- Enact narrow, targeted economic development initiatives and require accountability for tax breaks to businesses so that tax benefits are only received if quality jobs are created. Tax breaks that do not clearly create jobs should be repealed so the state can invest more money in effective economic and workforce development strategies.

- Expand access to adult basic education (ABE), job training, and career pathways programs.

RANKINGS

Families with Children in Which No Parent is Working by County (2013–2017)

County	Percentage
De Baca County	0%
Harding County	5%
Los Alamos County	7%
United States	9%
Eddy County	9%
Santa Fe County	9%
Bernalillo County	10%
Lea County	11%
Roosevelt County	11%
Valencia County	11%
Sandoval County	11%
Otero County	11%
Colfax County	12%
New Mexico	12%
Lincoln County	13%
Doña Ana County	13%
Hidalgo County	13%
Chaves County	14%
San Juan County	14%
Grant County	14%
Luna County	15%
Curry County	16%
Catron County	17%
Union County	18%
Torrance County	19%
Sierra County	19%
Taos County	19%
Guadalupe County	19%
Cibola County	22%
Socorro County	23%
Rio Arriba County	23%
McKinley County	24%
San Miguel County	26%
Quay County	28%
Mora County	32%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017, Table B23007.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

high housing cost burdens

DEFINITION

The percentage of children (ages 0 to 17) living in families that spend 30 percent or more of their income on housing.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

Twenty-eight percent of New Mexico kids live in households that have a high housing cost burden. The rate is even higher among Hispanic children (32 percent). High housing cost burdens can push families into substandard housing, and mean that many – especially low-income families – have little to spend on food, health care, utilities, and child care. Substandard housing units are also more likely to be hazardous, in unsafe areas, or pose health risks (such as having radon, mold, or asbestos) for the families living in them. In contrast, children whose families own a home do better in school, and families feel more invested in their neighborhoods.

TRENDS

Children in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden by Year (2008–2017)
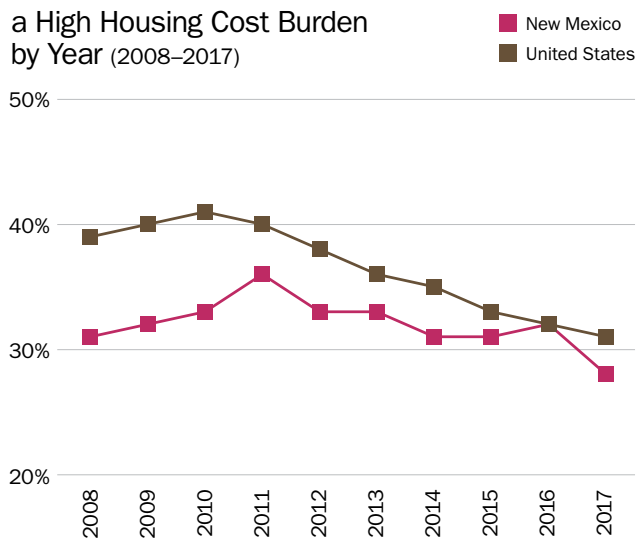
■ New Mexico
■ United States

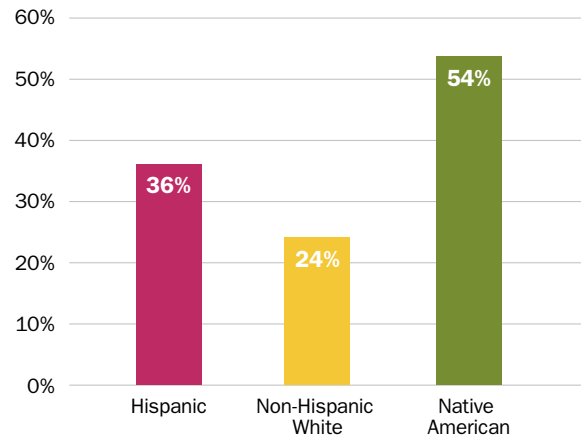**SOURCE:** Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys, 2008–2017.

TRACKING CHANGE: IMPROVED The number and rate of children in families burdened by high housing costs decreased substantially, with 19,000 fewer children in this situation from 2016 to 2017, dropping the share from 32 percent of children to 28 percent over that time frame. This is the most substantial drop in the number of children in this situation in recent years, after seeing the number peak in 2011. New Mexico's nation-wide rank also improved from 37th to 27th in this indicator from 2016 to 2017.

RACE & ETHNICITY

Children in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden by Race and Ethnicity (2017)

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
Hispanic	32%
Non-Hispanic White	21%
Native American	20%

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017. **NOTE:** Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.
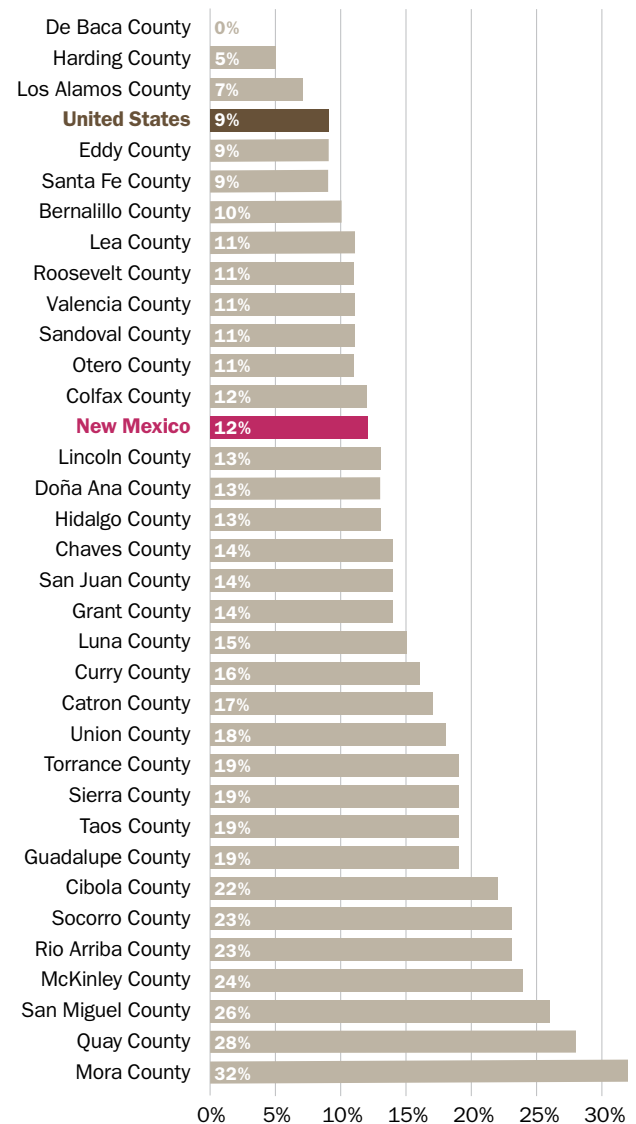
POLICY SOLUTIONS

To Address High Housing Cost Burdens:

- Increase funding for the Housing Trust Fund to expand affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families, providing more children with stable, safe homes.
- Save the Home Loan Protection Act from being repealed or weakened in order to protect more families from predatory lending practices that can lead to home foreclosure.
- Enact a rate cap of 36 percent APR (including fees) on all lending products so that families are not caught in cycles of increasing debt and can save for home purchases.
- Increase funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).
- Increase funding for Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), which can help parents save money for buying a home.

RANKINGS

Households Renting with High Housing Cost Burdens by County (2013–2017)

County	Percentage
Union County	17%
Guadalupe County	22%
Hidalgo County	25%
Los Alamos County	25%
De Baca County	27%
Lea County	29%
Harding County	30%
Eddy County	30%
Catron County	32%
McKinley County	33%
Lincoln County	36%
Quay County	37%
San Juan County	38%
Cibola County	39%
Sierra County	40%
San Miguel County	40%
Chaves County	40%
Luna County	40%
Otero County	41%
Grant County	42%
Rio Arriba County	42%
Socorro County	43%
Santa Fe County	43%
Curry County	44%
New Mexico	**45%**
Mora County	46%
Sandoval County	47%
United States	**47%**
Doña Ana County	47%
Taos County	47%
Torrance County	48%
Colfax County	48%
Valencia County	49%
Bernalillo County	49%
Roosevelt County	53%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017, Table B25070.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

disconnected youth

DEFINITION

The percentage of teens (ages 16 to 19) who are neither in school nor working – often referred to as "disconnected youth."

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

Twelve percent of New Mexico's teens are considered disconnected. Youth whose families earn low wages and youth of color are more likely to face the kinds of barriers that lead to being disconnected. In school, students of color are more often punished – and are punished more harshly – for exhibiting the same behaviors as white students. This leads to higher dropout rates. And youth of color are less likely than are white youth to be interviewed and hired for jobs. Disconnected teens are at risk for poor health and economic outcomes as adults, they have less access to a comprehensive health care (including mental health services), and are more likely to miss out on the social and emotional supports that can increase their chances of economic success and overall well-being.

TRENDS

Teens Not Attending School and Not Working by Year (2008–2018)

■ New Mexico
■ United States
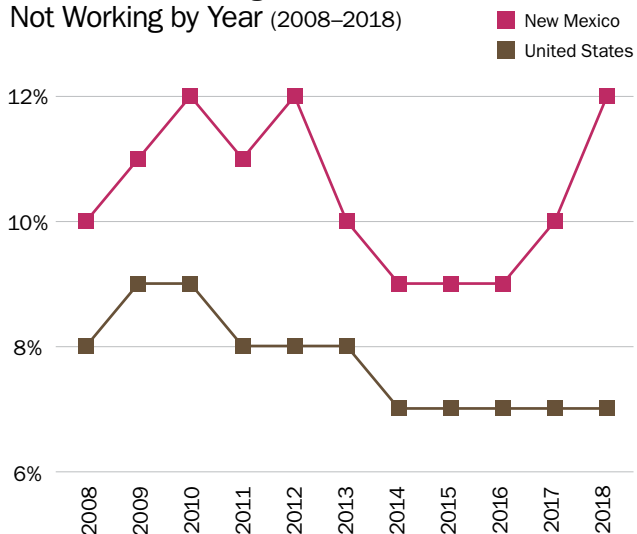
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys, 2008–2018, Table B14005.

TRACKING CHANGE: WORSENED The percentage of New Mexico teens in this situation worsened from 2017 to 2018, rising from 10 percent to 12 percent. New Mexico now ranks 49th among the states in this indicator, up from 48th the previous year. Overall, our rate of teens not in school and not working had been relatively flat for a number of years, but has increased over the past two years. This indication of an upwards trend is concerning.

RACE & ETHNICITY

Teens Not Attending School and Not Working by Race and Ethnicity (2017)
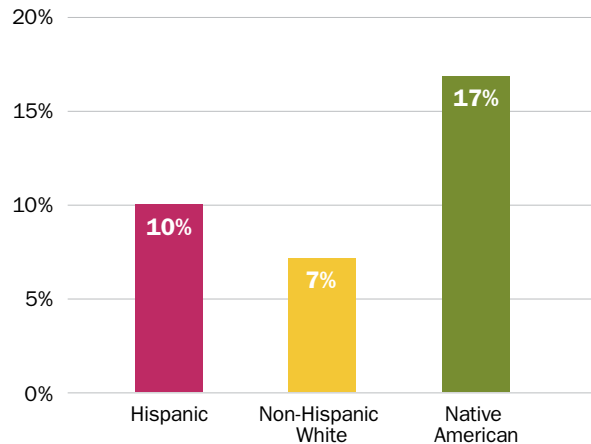
Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
Hispanic	10%
Non-Hispanic White	7%
Native American	17%

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017. **NOTE:** Estimates 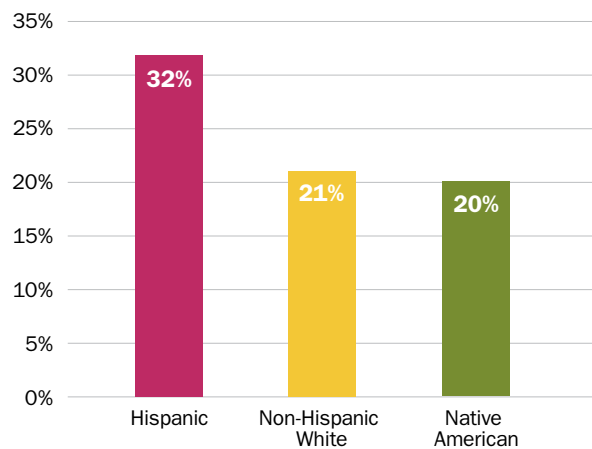for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.
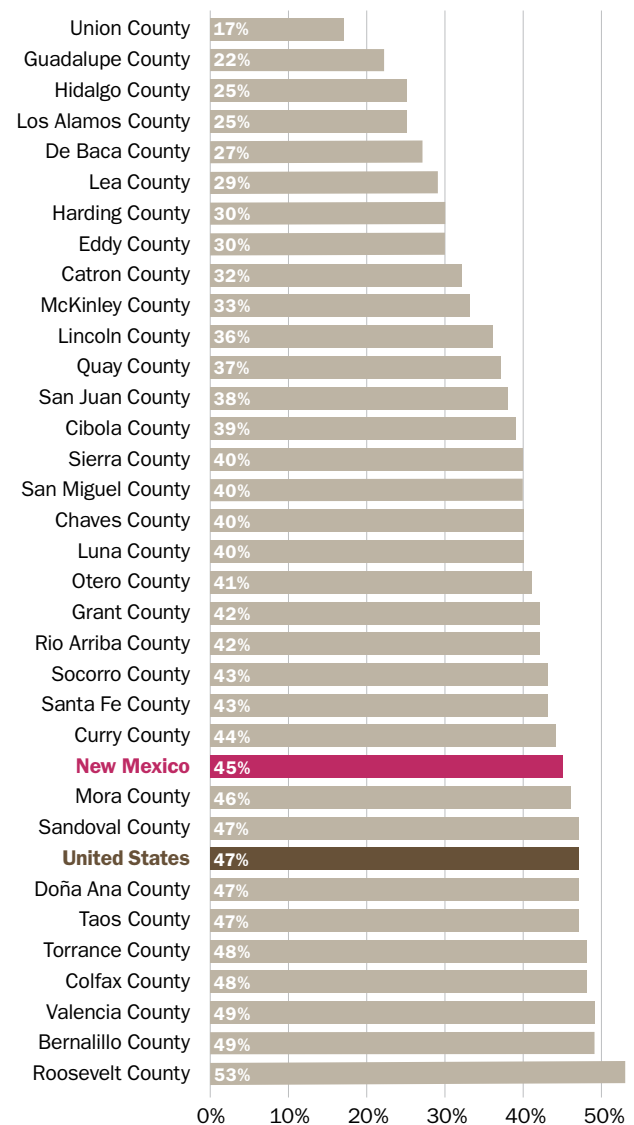
POLICY SOLUTIONS

To Engage Disconnected Youth:

- Enact initiatives to lower the cost of college for those students for whom tuition and other costs put college credentials out of their reach. These should include making the lottery scholarship need-based, expanding the College Affordability Fund, and enacting a new Opportunity Scholarship.

- Develop a state youth employment strategy using a career pathways approach – that includes business, nonprofits, government, school districts, and colleges – to help identify and provide support for disconnected youth, link funding to accountability and meaningful outcomes, and create incentives. Such a model should focus on workers whose skills do not match those needed for good-paying jobs to boost their employability and opportunities for knowledge acquisition through higher education.

- Revisit zero-tolerance policies and penalties in order to keep more students in school.

- Support high school dropout recovery programs.

- Provide support for vulnerable students (foster children, those experiencing homelessness, who are incarcerated, need special education, are English language learners, etc.) who are at risk for dropping out.

- Support policies that prioritize kinship care for foster children.

- Support juvenile justice reforms that keep young offenders in community programs as an alternative to incarceration/detention.

RANKINGS

Teens Not Attending School and Not Working by County (2013–2017)

County	Percentage
Harding County	0%
Los Alamos County	0%
Guadalupe County	1%
San Miguel County	3%
Quay County	3%
Lincoln County	5%
Bernalillo County	7%
Santa Fe County	7%
United States	7%
Chaves County	8%
Torrance County	8%
Cibola County	9%
Roosevelt County	9%
Doña Ana County	9%
Otero County	9%
Valencia County	9%
San Juan County	9%
New Mexico	9%
Sandoval County	10%
Colfax County	10%
Grant County	11%
Catron County	11%
Curry County	11%
Eddy County	12%
Lea County	12%
Union County	14%
De Baca County	15%
Taos County	17%
McKinley County	18%
Luna County	19%
Mora County	20%
Rio Arriba County	20%
Sierra County	20%
Hidalgo County	21%
Socorro County	24%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017, Table B14005.

EDUCATION
young children not in school

DEFINITION

The percentage of young children (ages 3 and 4) who did not attend some form of care that included educational experiences (including nursery school, pre-school, pre-K, Head Start, and kindergarten).

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

Children's chances of being healthy, doing well in school, and growing up to be productive and contributing members of society are tied to their experiences in the earliest years. Children learn more quickly during their early years, and the first five years of a child's life are particularly important because that is when 90 percent of the brain's neurological foundation is built. Research shows that safe, secure, nurturing, and non-stressful environments during the first five years are essential to the positive development and healthy growth that will set children up for success later in life. High-quality early childhood programs like home visiting, child care assistance for 4- or 5-STAR programs, and pre-K lead to improved child well-being and are linked to significant long-term improvements for children and savings for states. Yet, 56 percent of New Mexico's 3- and 4-year-olds did not attend some form of school program in 2018, with rates even higher among Hispanic children.

TRENDS

Young Children Not In School by Year (2007–2018)
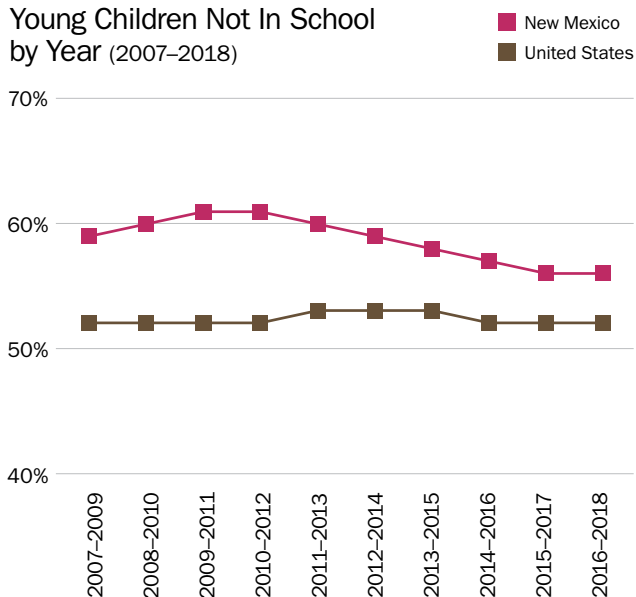
■ New Mexico
■ United States

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, pooled estimates from 2007 to 2018.

RACE & ETHNICITY

Young Children Not In School by Race and Ethnicity (2013–2017)
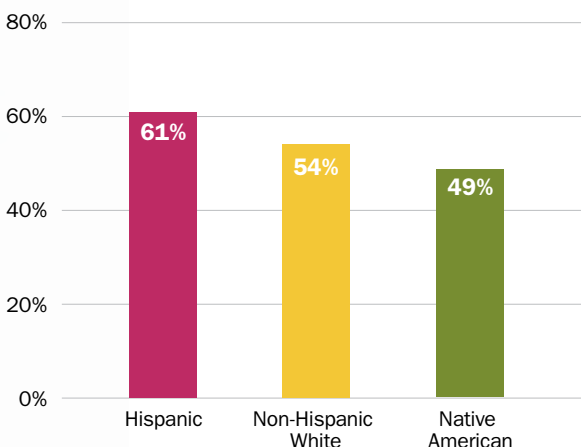
Hispanic **61%**	Non-Hispanic White **54%**	Native American **49%**

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017. **NOTE:** Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.
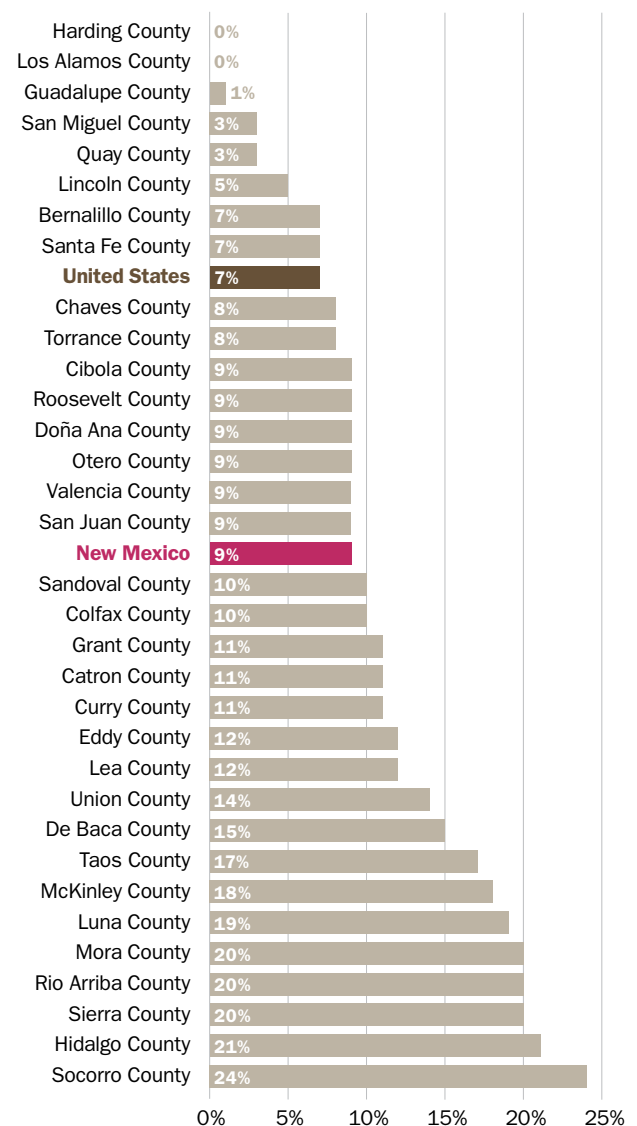
TRACKING CHANGE: SAME The percentage of young children not in school stayed the same between 2017 and 2018 at 56 percent. But because other states improved, we are now ranked 30th in the nation on this measure, down from 29th. New Mexico's rate of young children not enrolled in school has not changed much over the long term, and is actually only slightly better than it was in 2009. Continuing the planned rollout of the NM Pre-K program would mean that more children are able to attend preschool each year, but significant enrollment cuts in the child care assistance program over the last several years have meant that fewer families have been able to afford child care in a setting that is education-oriented. Research and public opinion clearly support the need for expanded early childhood programs, and while policymakers have made improvements and increases in some areas, these improvements are not sufficient to adequately address the great, pressing needs in this policy area.

RANKINGS

Young Children Not In School by County (2013–2017)

County	Percent
De Baca County	12%
Taos County	28%
Quay County	35%
Cibola County	42%
Rio Arriba County	43%
Los Alamos County	43%
Curry County	47%
Socorro County	48%
Santa Fe County	49%
Union County	50%
McKinley County	51%
Grant County	52%
United States	**52%**
Guadalupe County	55%
Sandoval County	55%
San Juan County	56%
Eddy County	57%
Bernalillo County	57%
New Mexico	**58%**
Colfax County	60%
Torrance County	61%
Valencia County	61%
Chaves County	62%
Otero County	62%
Doña Ana County	64%
Hidalgo County	65%
Lincoln County	68%
Lea County	72%
Sierra County	73%
San Miguel County	73%
Roosevelt County	73%
Catron County	75%
Luna County	77%
Mora County	82%
Harding County	88%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017, Table B14003.

POLICY SOLUTIONS

To Increase Preschool Enrollment:

- Increase funding for early care and learning services through the state General Fund by passing a constitutional amendment to support these programs with a small percentage of the state's $18 billion Land Grant Permanent School Fund, and by creating an Early Childhood Permanent Fund.

- Increase funding for high-quality 3-and 4-year old pre-K so it is available to all and available as a full-day program.

- Maintain income eligibility for child care assistance at 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) or higher and provide continuous eligibility through at least 300 percent of the FPL so parents can accept pay raises without suddenly losing benefits through what's called the "cliff effect"; eliminate copays for families under 100 percent FPL and, for families between 101 and 300 percent FPL, scale copays to their incomes so they do not put an undue burden on families earning low incomes.

- Increase funding for high-quality home visiting so that all families who want services have access to them.

- Expand a current pilot program that funds home visiting through Medicaid in order to access federal matching funds and expand the program.

- Increase training, technical assistance, and retention incentives for early learning providers, including expansion of the current wage supplement pilot program to incentivize and adequately compensate for quality and to reduce turnover.

- Increase funding for the Family Infant Toddler (FIT) program, which helps families whose young children have special needs.

EDUCATION

reading and math proficiency

DEFINITION

The percentage of fourth graders who scored below proficient in reading and the percentage of eighth graders who scored below proficient in math as measured and defined by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Note: These proficiencies are different from those reported on pages 46 through 48, which come from the Transition Assessment in Math and English Arts (TAMELA).

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

Reading proficiency is a crucial element of scholastic success, but in New Mexico, 76 percent of our children are not proficient in reading by the fourth grade. Children need to be able to read proficiently by fourth grade in order to be able to use their reading skills to learn other school subjects. Children having trouble with reading proficiency will fall further and further behind as reading-based curricula move increasingly out of their reach. In fact, kids who are not reading at grade level by this critical point are more likely to drop out of school and less likely to go to college. As has been the case in the past, boys, children of color, and low-income children have proficiency rates that are below the state average in fourth grade reading.

The 79 percent of New Mexico eighth graders who are behind in math also face risks: they lack the required skills to do well in high school and college math courses. As more and more jobs in today's increasingly high-tech work environment depend on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills, students not proficient in math are at a real disadvantage. Girls, children of color, and low-income children are even more at risk of falling behind because they have lower proficiency rates than the state average on this indicator.

POLICY SOLUTIONS

To Improve Reading and Math Proficiency Levels:

- Expand high-quality early childhood care and learning services to help prepare children for school and increase the likelihood they will reach grade-level benchmarks.
- Increase K-12 per-pupil funding to help schools decrease overcrowding in classrooms, provide resources for learning needs, and mitigate the problems associated with poverty.
- Expand funding for K-5 Plus so more low-income students have the additional quality instructional time they need to bring them up to grade level.
- Expand K-5 Plus to a K-8 Plus program because children in low-income families still need extra support beyond fifth grade.
- Expand quality before- and after-school, mentorship, and tutoring programs to provide added academic assistance to low-income and low-performing students, or those whose parents may not be able to help them with their homework.
- Increase the availability of reading coaches and support evidence-based reading initiatives.
- Provide math coaches and professional development for math teachers.
- Reduce class sizes for children in high-poverty areas.
- Further increase compensation for teachers, principals, and student support staff.
- Revisit zero-tolerance policies and penalties in order to keep more students in school.
- Increase funding to greatly expand the number of community schools.
- Increase the at-risk factor in New Mexico's state equalization guarantee education funding formula.

TRACKING CHANGE: MIXED New Mexico ranks 50th in the nation once again in fourth grade reading proficiency and 49th in eighth grade math proficiency. The state had been making progress in reading proficiency, but this marks the first year since 2009 that the rate of students reading below proficiency has increased. Rates among Native American and Hispanic students in New Mexico both worsened by one percentage point from 2017 to 2019, while the rate for non-Hispanic white students stayed the same. When it comes to eighth grade math proficiency, the percentage of students who are below proficient improved slightly from 80 percent in 2017 to 79 percent in 2019, although it has largely hovered around 80 percent the past several years.

TRENDS

Fourth Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Reading by Year (2007–2019)

- New Mexico
- United States
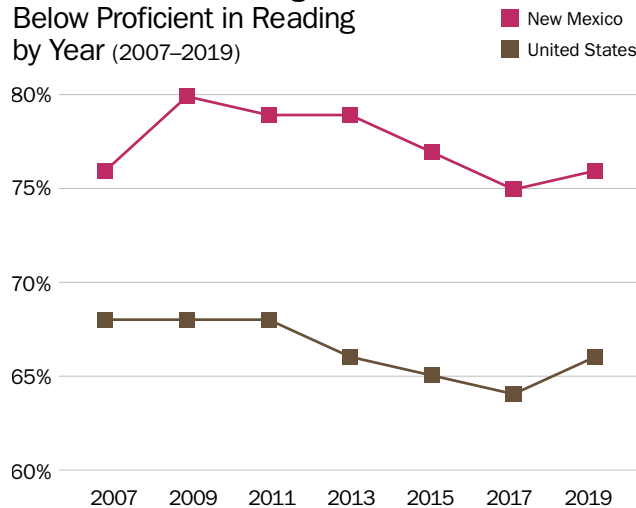
Eighth Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Math by Year (2007–2019)
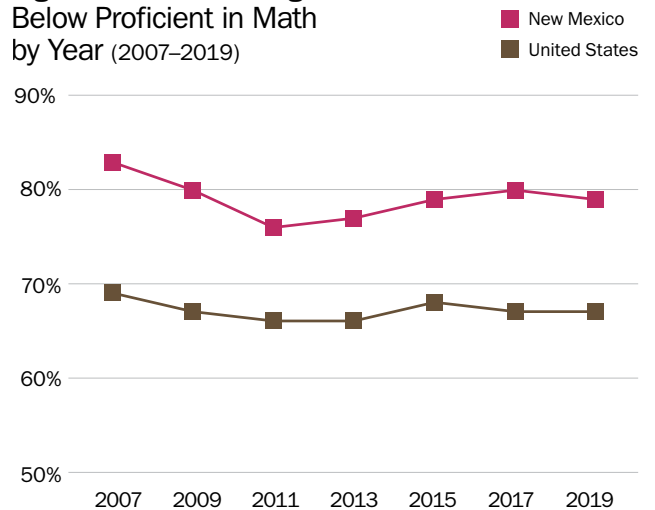
- New Mexico
- United States

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

RACE & ETHNICITY

Fourth Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Reading by Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Income (2019)

Hispanic 81% | Non-Hispanic White 59% | Native American 89% | Male 79% | Female 74% | Low-Income 83%
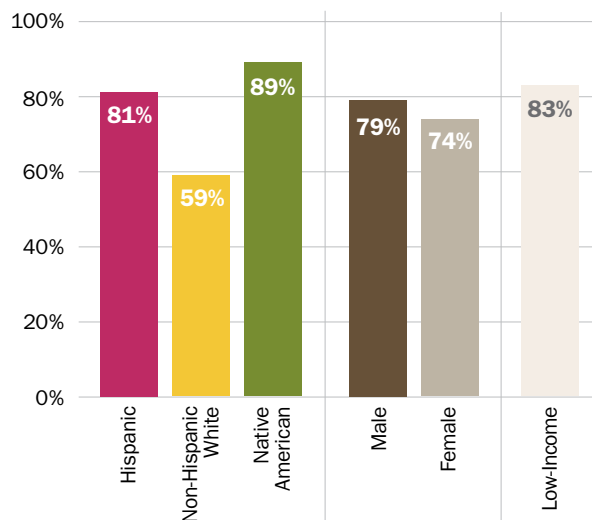
Eighth Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Math by Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Income (2019)
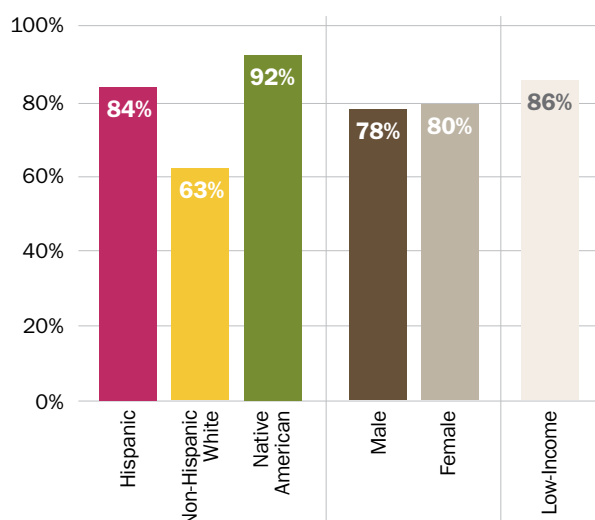
Hispanic 84% | Non-Hispanic White 63% | Native American 92% | Male 78% | Female 80% | Low-Income 86%

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2019. **NOTE:** Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points. "Low-income" students in this measure are those who are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches.

EDUCATION
high school graduation

DEFINITION

High school students not graduating on time refers to the percentage of a freshmen class not graduating in four years' time. This is not the same as the dropout rate.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

Twenty-nine percent of New Mexico high-schoolers do not graduate on time. This rate is significantly worse than the national average of 15 percent. Graduation rates are best among Asian American high-schoolers in New Mexico, but worst among Native Americans, students from low-income homes, and students with disabilities. New Mexico is ranked 50th once again among the states on this indicator, which is concerning because students who don't graduate on time are more likely to drop out altogether, less likely to go on to college, and more likely to be either unemployed or employed in low-paying jobs.

TRENDS

High School Students Not Graduating on Time by Year (2007–2017)

■ New Mexico
■ United States
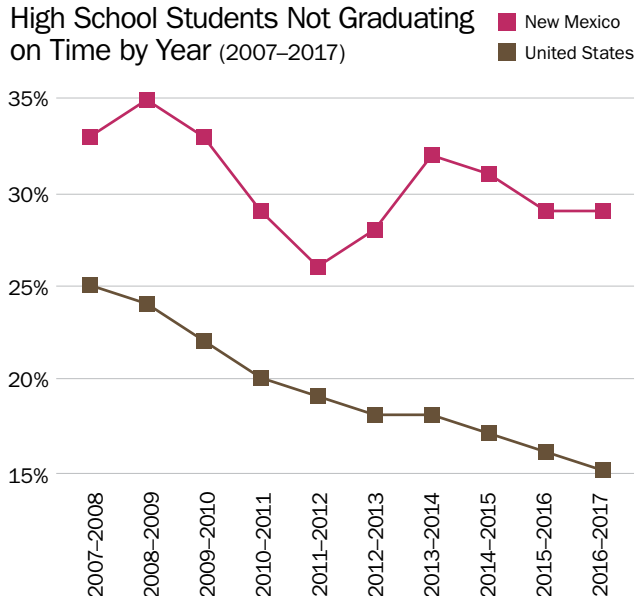
SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD).

TRACKING CHANGE: SAME Despite a nationwide trend of gradual improvement, the percentage of New Mexico students not graduating on time stayed the same from the school year ending in 2016 to the one ending in 2017. Though New Mexico continues to rank very poorly on this measure, the state has made improvements in this indicator over the long term, going from 33 percent of students not graduating on time in 2008 to 29 percent not graduating on time in 2017. The biggest improvements in this indicator over that time period were seen among Native American and Hispanic students.

RACE & ETHNICITY

High School Graduation Rates by Race, Ethnicity, and Other Factors (2018)

SOURCE: NM Public Education Department, 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates, 2018. **NOTE:** "Low-income" students in this measure are those who are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches.

Chart: High School Graduation Rates by Race, Ethnicity, and Other Factors (2018):
- All Students: 74%
- Hispanic: 73%
- Non-Hispanic White: 79%
- Native American: 66%
- Black or African American: 69%
- Asian or Pacific Islander: 86%
- Male: 71%
- Female: 77%
- Low-Income: 69%
- Students with Disabilities: 66%
- English Language Learners: 71%
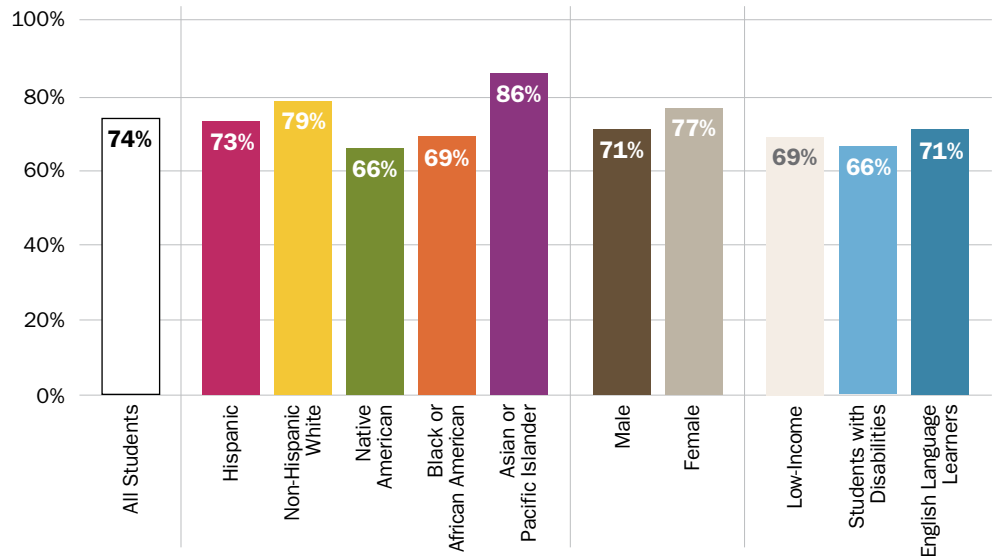
POLICY SOLUTIONS

To Improve On-Time Graduation Rates:

• Provide more school counselors.

• Identify students in ninth grade who require additional learning time and provide free summer school, after-school, and online learning opportunities.

• Provide relevant learning opportunities through service learning and dual credit parity to better prepare students for career or college.

• Provide professional development for teachers on the use of technology.

• Support dropout recovery programs.

• Provide support for vulnerable students (those experiencing homelessness, who are incarcerated, need special education, are English language learners, etc.) who are at risk for dropping out.

• Increase funding for evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs.

• Ensure support for and expand the number of community schools, which provide students with services shown to increase academic performance – school-based health centers, quality before- and after-school programming, service learning, and classes for parents.

• Reduce class sizes for students in high-poverty areas.

• Raise compensation for teachers, principals, and other student support staff.

• Revisit zero-tolerance policies and penalties in order to keep more students in school.

• Increase the at-risk factor in New Mexico's state equalization guarantee education funding formula.

• Ensure adequate transportation so that students have safe and timely transportation options to and from school.

HEALTH

low-birthweight babies

DEFINITION

The percentage of babies born weighing 5.5 pounds or less.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

In 2017, 9.5 percent of New Mexico babies were born at a low birthweight, ranking us 44th in the nation on this indicator. Rates of low-birthweight babies in New Mexico are the highest among African Americans (12.6 percent) and Asians or Pacific Islanders (11.8 percent). Babies born at a low birthweight are at a greater risk for developmental delays, disabilities, chronic health conditions, and early death. The risk factors for having a low-birthweight baby include: living in poverty; giving birth at a young age; using drugs and alcohol during pregnancy; receiving late or no prenatal care; and/or not having enough to eat during pregnancy.

TRENDS

Low-Birthweight Babies by Year (2008–2017)

■ New Mexico
■ United States
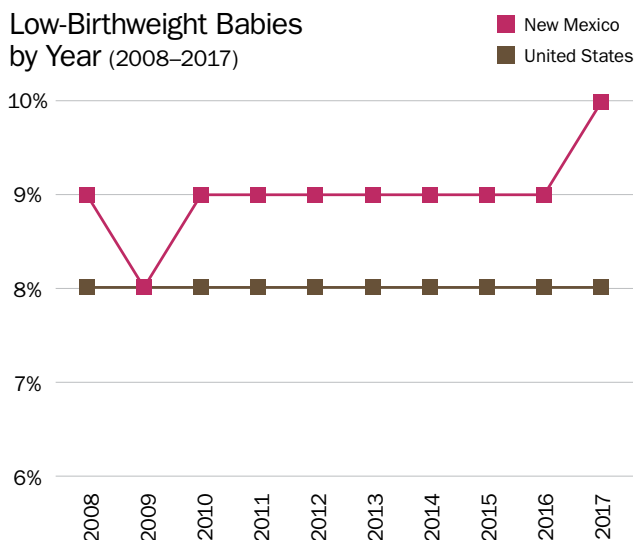
SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Vital Statistics Reports, 2008-2017.

TRACKING CHANGE: MIXED New Mexico's rate of low-birthweight babies in 2017 has increased to its highest point since 2008. This worsening trend is mirrored nationally as well, despite improved access to health insurance via the Affordable Care Act. Rates in New Mexico have worsened for Hispanics but have improved for non-Hispanic whites, Native Americans, African Americans, and Asians or Pacific Islanders.

RACE & ETHNICITY

Low-Birthweight Babies by Race and Ethnicity (2018)
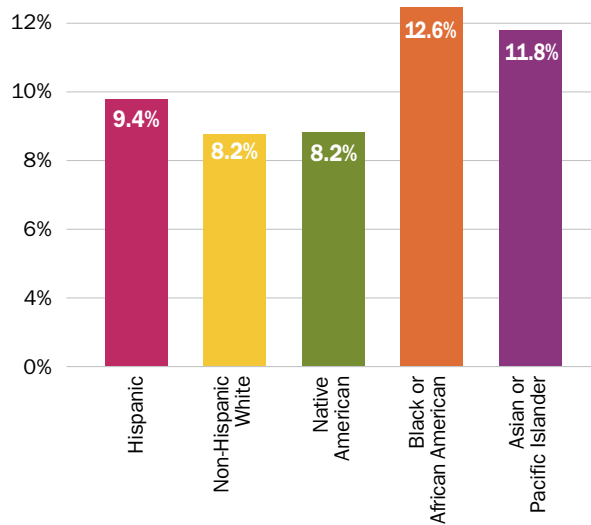
Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
Hispanic	9.4%
Non-Hispanic White	8.2%
Native American	8.2%
Black or African American	12.6%
Asian or Pacific Islander	11.8%

SOURCE: New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS). Retrieved October, 2019 from http://ibis.health.state.nm.us.

POLICY SOLUTIONS

To Increase the Share of Babies Born at a Healthy Birthweight:

- Expand outreach to pregnant women to enroll them in Medicaid early in their pregnancy so more prospective mothers get full-term pre-natal care that can help prevent low birthweight.
- Provide adequate funding for programs for new parents, including universal, voluntary home visiting programs that begin prenatally, so more women can be served during their pregnancy.
- Expand and fully fund health and nutrition programs for pregnant teens.
- Support the creation of and funding for more county and tribal health councils.
- Fund home visiting services under a Medicaid waiver to maximize federal funding.
- Automatically exempt single-parent pregnant women from TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) work requirements, especially in the last trimester.
- Protect SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) from eligibility changes that would decrease the number of pregnant women receiving these benefits.

RANKINGS

Low-Birthweight Babies by County (2018)

County	Percentage
De Baca County	0%
Harding County	0%
Los Alamos County	6%
Chaves County	6.8%
McKinley County	7.0%
Doña Ana County	7.5%
Otero County	7.5%
Socorro County	7.5%
San Juan County	7.9%
United States	8.2%
Lea County	8.6%
Sierra County	8.7%
New Mexico	9.1%
Eddy County	9.1%
Lincoln County	9.1%
Quay County	9.1%
Sandoval County	9.1%
Roosevelt County	9.2%
Valencia County	9.2%
Taos County	9.3%
Curry County	9.4%
Luna County	9.4%
Cibola County	9.6%
Bernalillo County	9.9%
Grant County	10.3%
San Miguel County	10.3%
Santa Fe County	10.5%
Guadalupe County	11.4%
Torrance County	11.7%
Hidalgo County	11.8%
Rio Arriba County	12.4%
Colfax County	18.6%

SOURCE: New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS). Retrieved October, 2019 from http://ibis.health.state.nm.us.
NOTE: The count or rate for some counties for certain indicators are suppressed by the NM Dept. of Health because the observed number of events is very small and not appropriate for publication. For survey queries, percentages calculated from fewer than 50 survey responses are suppressed. For this measure, low-birthweight rates for Catron, Mora, and Union counties are suppressed.

HEALTH

children without health insurance

DEFINITION

The percentage of children (ages 0 to 18) who do not have health insurance coverage, including Medicaid. Please note that this state-level indicator relies on Census data that, prior to 2017, counted all children under the age of 17. However, from 2017 on, the Census is counting all children under the age of 18.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

New Mexico children face some major challenges, but ensuring that they have health insurance and access to preventive care options can help address a number of these other issues that can threaten children's health and well-being. The 5 percent of New Mexico children without health insurance are less likely to get well-baby and well-child visits, less likely to receive immunizations, and more likely to deal with untreated developmental delays and chronic conditions that can hinder healthy growth and learning. Native American children in New Mexico, with uninsured rates around 9 percent, are at the greatest risk of being uninsured.

TRENDS

Children without Health Insurance by Year (2008–2018)

■ New Mexico
■ United States
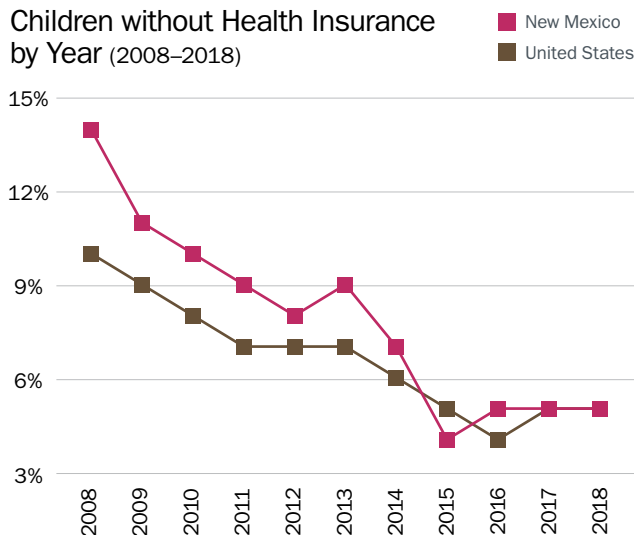
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey from 2008 to 2018, Table C27001. **NOTE:** Data for years prior to 2017 are for children ages 0 to 17; data for 2017 and beyond are for children ages 0 to 18.

TRACKING CHANGE: SAME The percentage of children without health insurance — at 5 percent — remained unchanged from 2017 to 2018. However, from 2008 to 2018, the percentage improved from 14 percent to 5 percent, which helps with our current ranking of 24th nationwide in this indicator. Thanks to the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, New Mexico has seen some of the biggest improvements over time in the nation in the percentage of the child population without health insurance. Notably, the biggest improvements over time in this measure have been among Native American and Hispanic children.

RACE & ETHNICITY

Children without Health Insurance by Race and Ethnicity (2018)

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
Hispanic	5%
Non-Hispanic White	3%
Native American	9%
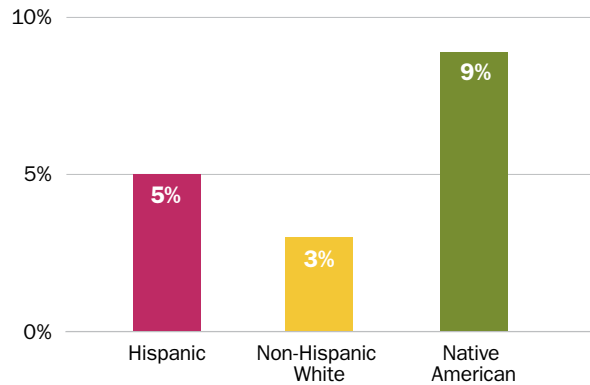
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey, Table C27001.
NOTE: Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.

POLICY SOLUTIONS

To Lower the Rate of Children without Health Insurance:

• Implement aggressive outreach and enrollment programs to help cover those children who are eligible but still not enrolled.

• Consider utilizing personal income tax records to identify eligible but unenrolled children.

• Integrate the health insurance marketplace with Medicaid so there is "no wrong door" for enrollment to help low- and middle-income parents who are getting coverage for themselves and/or their children.

• Simplify the Medicaid enrollment and recertification process for children, and enact express-lane enrollment, which would help the state identify eligible children using information from other programs like Head Start and SNAP (food stamps).

• Support the adoption of a Basic Health Plan or Medicaid Buy-in Plan that would greatly improve access to affordable health care for those who don't meet the income requirements for Medicaid.

• Ensure a timely and culturally responsive implementation of dental therapy to improve access to dental care for more children, particularly those in rural areas in New Mexico.

RANKINGS

Children without Health Insurance by County (2017)

County	Percentage
Los Alamos County	2.3%
Bernalillo County	4.2%
Curry County	4.3%
Grant County	4.4%
Guadalupe County	4.5%
Quay County	4.9%
Eddy County	5.0%
United States	**5.0%**
Valencia County	5.1%
Sierra County	5.2%
Doña Ana County	5.3%
Otero County	5.3%
San Miguel County	5.3%
Sandoval County	5.3%
New Mexico	**5.4%**
Cibola County	5.4%
Colfax County	5.4%
Luna County	5.5%
Rio Arriba County	5.7%
Lea County	5.9%
Socorro County	5.9%
Hidalgo County	6.0%
Chaves County	6.2%
Taos County	6.4%
Torrance County	6.4%
McKinley County	6.6%
Roosevelt County	6.8%
San Juan County	7.3%
Santa Fe County	7.3%
Mora County	7.6%
Lincoln County	8.2%
De Baca County	9.0%
Catron County	9.2%
Union County	9.4%
Harding County	9.7%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2017.

HEALTH
child and teen death rates

DEFINITION

The number of deaths of children (ages 1 to 14) and teens (ages 15 to 19) for every 100,000 children and teens in that age range in the population. See page 55 for infant (ages 0 to 1) mortality rates.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

New Mexico's child and teen death rate is 32 deaths per 100,000 children and teens. This is significantly worse than the U.S. average rate of 26 per 100,000, and ranks New Mexico 40th among the states on this measure. Rates among Native American children in New Mexico (at 42 per 100,000) are significantly higher than the state and national averages. Most youth deaths are preventable and caused by accidents, homicide, or suicide. Ensuring that New Mexico children and teens live in safe, supportive homes and communities, have access to safe public spaces and to a full range of physical and mental health care services, and do not have unauthorized access to firearms, can help improve rates in this area.

POLICY SOLUTIONS

To Lower Child and Teen Death Rates:

- Support and expand quality home visiting, child care and pre-K programs proven to lower child abuse and neglect rates in order to help improve social and physical outcomes for infants and young children.

- Expand funding for suicide prevention programs to provide youth with supportive adults, strategies to cope with difficult situations, and a sense of hope.

- Enact stronger gun safety laws to limit unauthorized child access to guns in order to lower the number of accidental gun deaths.

- Adequately fund evidence-based child abuse prevention programs and strengthen the role of prevention at the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD).

- Increase compensation for child protective services staff to draw more qualified staff and reduce caseloads.

- Empower a citizen oversight or review board for all CYFD child abuse cases that result in death.

- Expand funding for the Outdoor Equity Fund so that more youth can access the outdoors and the associated benefits for mental and physical health.

TRENDS

Child and Teen Death Rates by Year (2008–2017)
Rate per 100,000
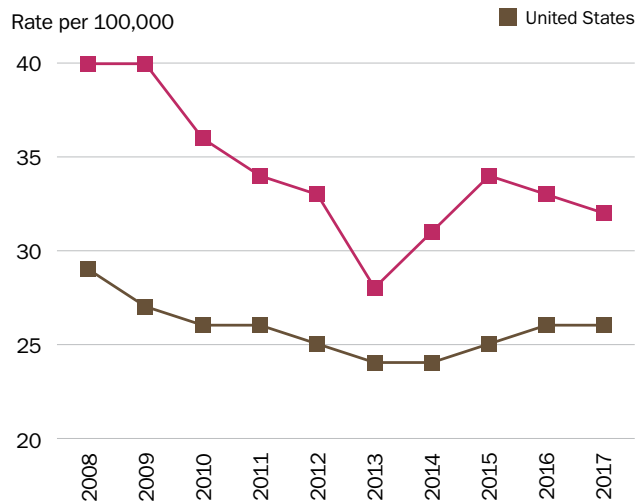
■ New Mexico
■ United States

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Multiple Causes of Death Public Use Files for 2008–2017.

RACE & ETHNICITY

Child and Teen Death Rates by Race and Ethnicity (2017)
Rate per 100,000
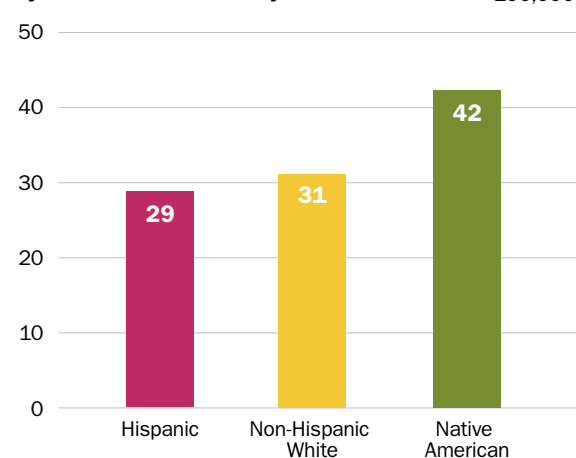
Hispanic	Non-Hispanic White	Native American
29	31	42

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Multiple Causes of Death Public Use Files for 2017. **NOTE:** Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.
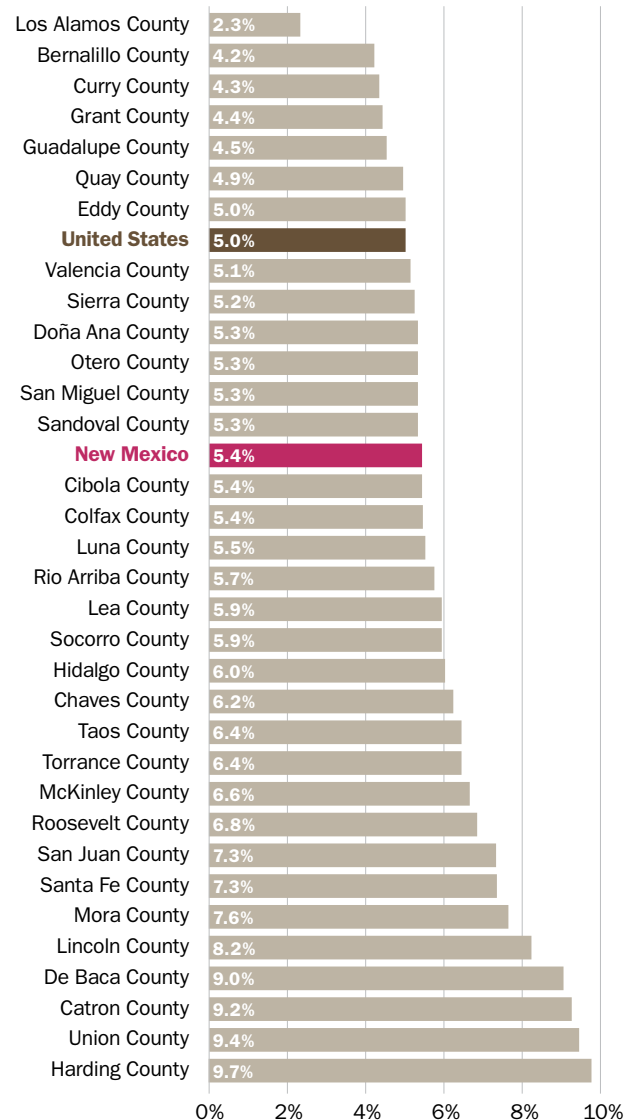
TRACKING CHANGE: IMPROVED In 2017, New Mexico's child and teen death rate decreased, continuing the downward trend seen from 2015 to 2016 when the rate went from 34 to 33 deaths per 100,000. From 2008 to 2017, New Mexico's child and teen death rate also decreased, from 40 to 32 deaths per 100,000, following a national overall trend of gradual improvement on this indicator. Rates have decreased among Hispanics and Native Americans but have increased among non-Hispanic whites.

RANKINGS

Child (Ages 0–14) Death Rates by County (2018)
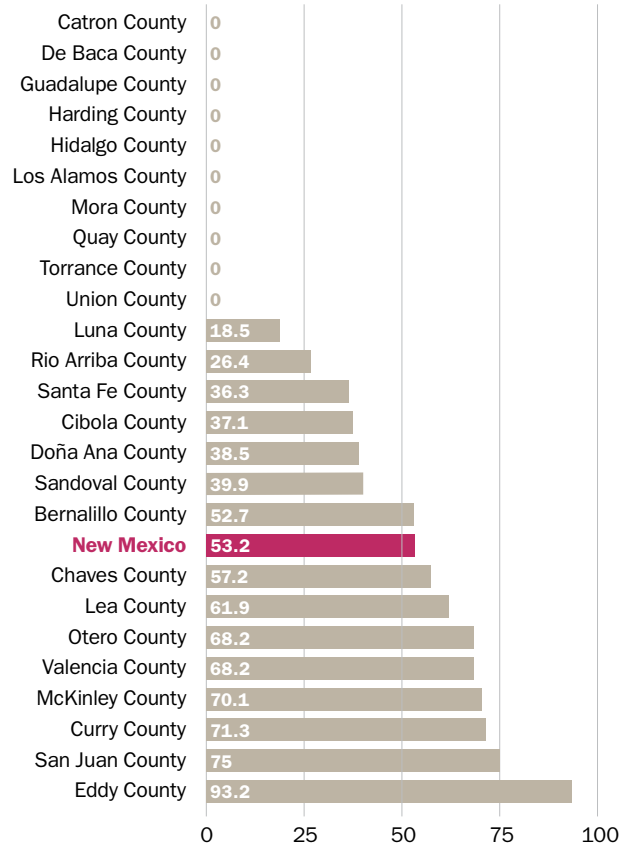
Rate per 100,000

County	Rate
Catron County	0
De Baca County	0
Guadalupe County	0
Harding County	0
Hidalgo County	0
Los Alamos County	0
Mora County	0
Quay County	0
Torrance County	0
Union County	0
Luna County	18.5
Rio Arriba County	26.4
Santa Fe County	36.3
Cibola County	37.1
Doña Ana County	38.5
Sandoval County	39.9
Bernalillo County	52.7
New Mexico	**53.2**
Chaves County	57.2
Lea County	61.9
Otero County	68.2
Valencia County	68.2
McKinley County	70.1
Curry County	71.3
San Juan County	75
Eddy County	93.2

SOURCE: New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS). Retrieved October, 2019 from http://ibis.health.state.nm.us.
NOTE: The rate for certain counties is suppressed by the NM Dept. of Health because the observed number of events is very small and not appropriate for publication. For survey queries, rates calculated from fewer than 50 survey responses are suppressed. For this measure, child death rates for Colfax, Grant, Lincoln, Roosevelt, San Miguel, Sierra, Socorro, and Taos counties are suppressed.

Teen (Ages 15–19) Death Rates by County (2018)

Rate per 100,000

County	Rate
Catron County	0
Cibola County	0
Colfax County	0
De Baca County	0
Grant County	0
Guadalupe County	0
Harding County	0
Lincoln County	0
Mora County	0
Quay County	0
Santa Fe County	0
Sierra County	0
Taos County	0
Union County	0
Valencia County	19.6
Eddy County	24.9
San Juan County	33.2
Doña Ana County	46.3
San Miguel County	48.7
Roosevelt County	58.9
Curry County	60
Luna County	61.3
Sandoval County	62.4
New Mexico	**65.9**
Otero County	74.4
Socorro County	77.5
Los Alamos County	83.6
McKinley County	92.7
Bernalillo County	95.7
Chaves County	96.3
Torrance County	98.9
Rio Arriba County	119
Lea County	129.7
Hidalgo County	386.8

SOURCE: New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS), custom data request received November, 2019. **NOTE:** Due to very small population sizes in many New Mexico counties, death rates per 100,000 of an age cohort can vary widely from year to year.

teen alcohol and drug abuse

DEFINITION

Alcohol and Drug Abuse: Teens (ages 12 to 17) who reported dependence on or abuse of illicit drugs or alcohol in the past year. Illicit drug use includes the misuse of prescription psychotherapeutics or the use of marijuana, cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or methamphetamine. Misuse of prescription psychotherapeutics is defined as use in any way not directed by a doctor, including use without a prescription of one's own; use in greater amounts, more often, or longer than told; or use in any other way not directed by a doctor.

Binge Drinking: Boys (ages 12 to 17) who had five or more drinks on at least one occasion in the last 30 days; girls (ages 12 to 17) who had four or more drinks on at least one occasion in the last 30 days.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

Approximately 10,000, or 6 percent, of New Mexico teens (ages 12 to 17) abused drugs or alcohol during 2016-2017. This is a decrease in 2,000 teens since 2015-2016, which reflected the national trend of decreasing rates among most other states. Our state is now ranked 46th in the nation in this indicator, an improvement from 48th last year. Regarding binge drinking, Hispanic and African American teens are most likely to have engaged in this behavior in New Mexico. Teen alcohol and drug abuse and binge drinking are associated with increased risks in a number of other areas. Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs are more likely to be convicted of a crime, drive under the influence, do poorly in school, drop out of school, or become teen parents. Alcohol and drug abuse can also lead to mental and physical health problems, the effects of which may carry over into adulthood.

TRENDS

Teens Who Abuse Alcohol or Drugs by Year (2005–2017)

■ New Mexico
■ United States
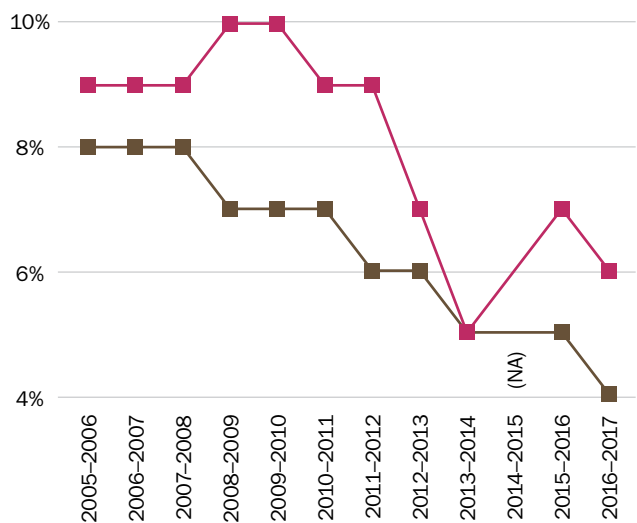
SOURCE: National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2005-06 to 2016-2017, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

TRACKING CHANGE: MIXED The rate of teens abusing alcohol and drugs has improved slightly over the last year, and more significantly over time, from 10 percent in 2008-2009 to 6 percent in 2016-2017. This means that 7,000 fewer New Mexico teens are abusing alcohol and drugs than were in 2008-2009. The percent of teens who engaged in binge drinking did not change in the most recent measure, staying at 11 percent in 2017-2018. During this time period, teen binge drinking among Hispanics, African Americans, and Asians or Pacific Islanders increased, whereas the rates for non-Hispanic whites decreased.

RACE & ETHNICITY

Teens Binge Drinking by Race and Ethnicity (2017)

All Students	11%
Hispanic	13%
Non-Hispanic White	11%
Native American	7%
Black or African American	12%
Asian or Pacific Islander	9%
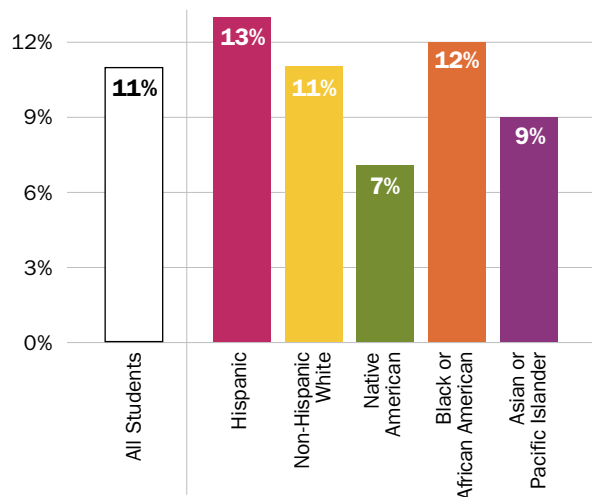
SOURCE: New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), 2017; dataset updated June, 2019.

POLICY SOLUTIONS

To Reduce Teen Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Binge Drinking:

- Greatly expand behavioral health programs for children, youth and families.
- Expand funding and support for school-based health centers so students have access to health services they might not otherwise get, including confidential and developmentally appropriate behavioral health services, in a safe, accessible place.
- Support the creation of and funding for more county and tribal health councils in order to better reach young people who are attempting to self-medicate an untreated mental health problem with alcohol and drugs.
- Fund drug and alcohol rehabilitation services for youth, especially at an early intervention stage – as opposed to incarcerating youth for alcohol-related offenses – to help prevent further problems and reduce high rates of recidivism.
- Support treatment instead of incarceration for nonviolent drug and alcohol offenses.
- Expand funding for the Outdoor Equity Fund so that more youth can access the outdoors and the associated benefits for mental and physical health.

RANKINGS

Teens Binge Drinking by County (2017)

County	%
McKinley County	3.7%
Catron County	5.7%
Hidalgo County	7.1%
Roosevelt County	7.2%
Quay County	8.4%
Los Alamos County	8.7%
Curry County	9.1%
Bernalillo County	9.6%
Colfax County	10.2%
San Juan County	10.3%
Sandoval County	10.9%
Mora County	11.0%
Valencia County	11.1%
Guadalupe County	11.2%
New Mexico	**11.5%**
Santa Fe County	11.5%
Chaves County	12.1%
Sierra County	12.6%
Doña Ana County	13.2%
Eddy County	13.3%
San Miguel County	13.4%
United States	**14.0%**
Torrance County	14.5%
Otero County	14.6%
Cibola County	14.7%
Socorro County	15.0%
Taos County	15.0%
Union County	15.1%
Lea County	18.4%
Rio Arriba County	19.3%
Grant County	20.3%
Lincoln County	20.4%
Luna County	20.5%

SOURCE: New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), 2017; dataset updated June, 2019. **NOTE:** De Baca and Harding counties are not listed because no data were available.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY
children in single-parent families

DEFINITION

The percentage of children living with an unmarried parent. Note, parents who are cohabiting but remain unmarried are counted as 'single parents.'

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

Forty-one percent of New Mexico children live with a parent or parents who are unmarried. New Mexico's rate is much higher than the national average of 35 percent, and we are ranked 47th among the states on this measure. Families in which only one parent is present tend to have lower incomes and less access to employer-sponsored benefits like health insurance and paid sick leave than do two-parent households. Single parents may have to work two jobs or overtime hours just to provide basic necessities for their families, and may have trouble affording enriching experiences for their children like high-quality child care, which costs more than attending college in New Mexico. Single mothers may have the added disadvantage of earning less than their male counterparts in similar occupations. Although children can be better off without a problem parent in the household, children in single-parent families often have less access to emotional supports and economic resources than do children in two-parent families. Children of color are more likely to live in single-parent households than are their non-Hispanic white peers, with 48 percent of the state's Hispanic children living in single-parent families, compared to 30 percent of non-Hispanic white children.

TRENDS

Children in Single-Parent Families by Year (2008–2018)

■ New Mexico
■ United States
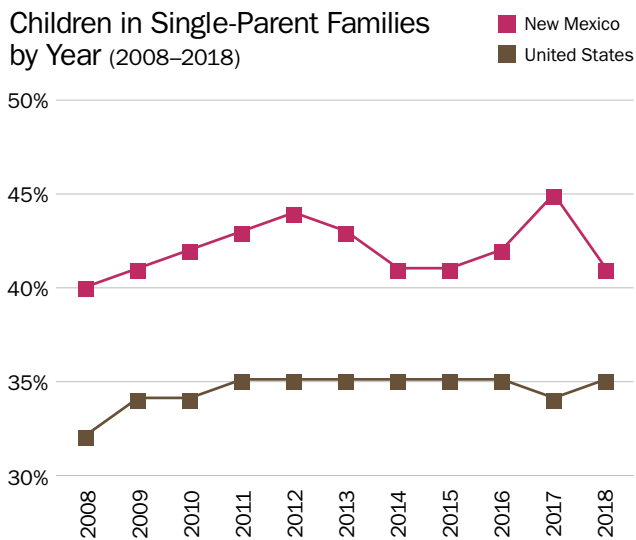
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008 through 2018, Table C23008.

RACE & ETHNICITY

Children in Single-Parent Families by Race and Ethnicity (2017)
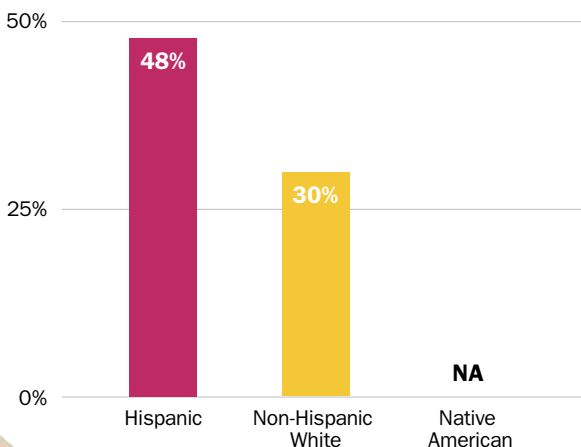
Hispanic	Non-Hispanic White	Native American
48%	30%	NA

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Supplementary Survey data from 2017. NOTE: Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.

TRACKING CHANGE: IMPROVED The rate of children living in single-parent families improved from 45 percent in 2017 to 41 percent in 2018, but the overall rate is still slightly worse than the 40 percent rate that New Mexico saw in 2008. Our high rate of children living in single-parent families is particularly problematic in New Mexico because so many of our children already live in poverty, are food insecure, and face many educational and health challenges. Two-generational approaches, which create opportunities simultaneously for both parents and children – and in doing so address both groups' needs – are crucial for improving indicators like this one.

RANKINGS

Children in Single-Parent Families by County (2013–2017)

County	%
Los Alamos County	17%
Lincoln County	19%
Hidalgo County	27%
Lea County	28%
Sandoval County	28%
United States	**31%**
Valencia County	33%
De Baca County	34%
Roosevelt County	35%
Otero County	35%
Catron County	35%
Torrance County	35%
Doña Ana County	36%
Eddy County	37%
New Mexico	**37%**
Chaves County	38%
Curry County	38%
Bernalillo County	38%
San Juan County	38%
Union County	38%
Harding County	39%
Luna County	39%
Santa Fe County	40%
Mora County	40%
Grant County	41%
Taos County	45%
McKinley County	47%
Socorro County	49%
Guadalupe County	49%
Sierra County	51%
Colfax County	51%
Quay County	52%
San Miguel County	53%
Rio Arriba County	55%
Cibola County	57%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017, Table B09002.

POLICY SOLUTIONS

To Support Children in Single-Parent Families:

• Expand funding for home visiting programs, especially for teen parents. Home visiting provides parents with early emotional support, parenting skills, developmentally appropriate activities, and aid in accessing community economic, health, and educational resources.

• Maintain income eligibility for child care assistance at 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) or higher and provide continuous eligibility through at least 300 percent of the FPL so parents can accept pay raises without suddenly losing benefits through what's called the "cliff effect"; eliminate copays for families under 100 percent FPL and, for families between 101 and 300 percent FPL, scale copays to their incomes so they do not put an undue burden on families earning low incomes.

• Expand funding for mentorship and other pregnancy prevention programs for teens. Mentorship programs can help young women delay child bearing until they are older by fostering self-confidence and helping them work toward a future career.

• Support career pathways approaches that better align adult education with post-secondary education opportunities and industry needs while providing a clearer ladder to economic self-sufficiency.

• Maintain current Medicaid eligibility for family planning services.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY

parents without a high school diploma

DEFINITION

The percentage of children (ages 0 to 17) who live in families where the head of household lacked a high school diploma.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

In 2017, 16 percent of New Mexico children – or 77,000 kids – lived in families where the head of the household lacked a high school diploma. These numbers rank New Mexico 46th in the nation on this indicator. Rates are high among children of color, with 20 percent of the state's Hispanic children and 19 percent of Native American children living in families in which the household head lacked a diploma – compared with 4 percent of non-Hispanic white children. Parents with higher levels of education are more likely to be employed, to have higher incomes, to have access to a full range of employer health and leave benefits (that also benefit their families), and to be able to afford high-quality child care and other enriching opportunities for their children. Research shows that because of these and other factors, the education level of a parent – especially the education level of a mother – is a strong predictor of how far a child will go in school. Two-generational approaches, which create opportunities simultaneously for both parents and children – and in doing so address both groups' needs – are crucial for improving this indicator.

TRENDS

Children in Families where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma by Year (2008–2017)
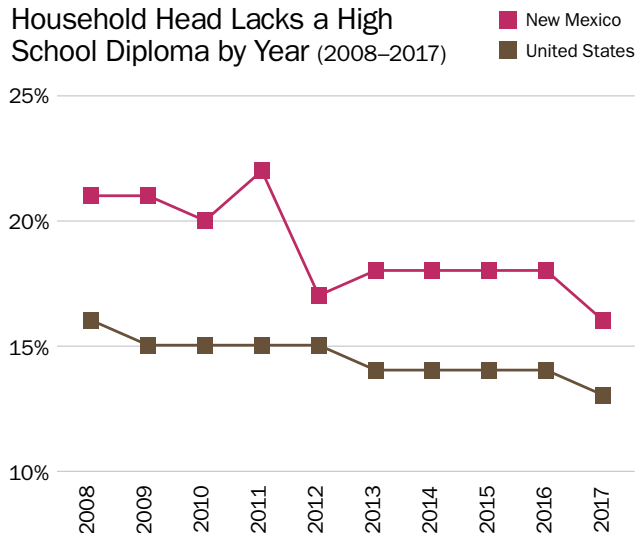
■ New Mexico
■ United States

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2017.

TRACKING CHANGE: IMPROVED The rate of children whose parents lack a high school diploma has been improving in New Mexico and nationwide since 2008. In fact, from 2008 to 2017, the rate of children living in families headed by a parent without a high school diploma improved from 21 percent to 16 percent. In New Mexico, the biggest improvements in this indicator since 2008 have been among Hispanic and Native American children.

RACE & ETHNICITY

Children in Families where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma by Race and Ethnicity (2017)
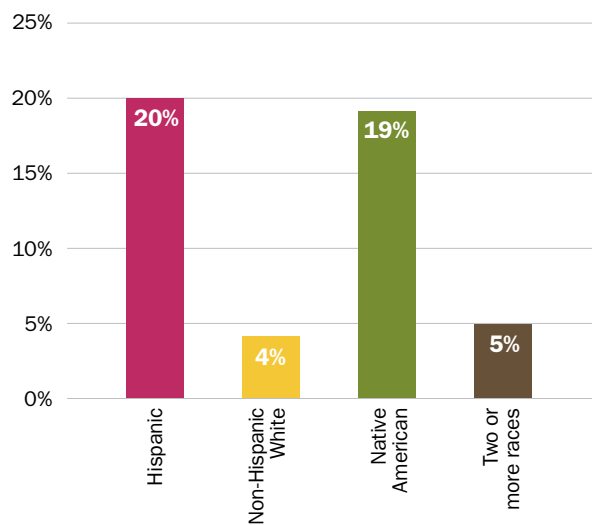
Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
Hispanic	20%
Non-Hispanic White	4%
Native American	19%
Two or more races	5%

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017. **NOTE:** Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.

POLICY SOLUTIONS

To Increase the Number of Parents Earning a High School Diploma:

- Expand access to high school equivalency programs, adult basic education, post-secondary education, and job training through a career pathways approach.

- Provide need-based financial assistance for low-income and low-skilled adults seeking entry into these programs. Need-based financial aid is vital for returning students because they do not qualify for the lottery scholarship and may have a family to support while they advance their education.

- Expand funding and access for English as a second language (ESL) classes to help parents increase their level of education. Children whose parents do not speak English fluently can be at a disadvantage when seeking assistance with their schoolwork and having their parent advocate on their behalf.

RANKINGS

Families where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma by County (2013–2017)

County	Percentage
Los Alamos County	1%
Catron County	4%
Mora County	6%
Harding County	7%
Lincoln County	8%
Sandoval County	8%
Taos County	10%
Torrance County	10%
Grant County	11%
Bernalillo County	11%
Colfax County	11%
Santa Fe County	11%
United States	11%
De Baca County	11%
Socorro County	11%
Otero County	11%
Guadalupe County	12%
Quay County	12%
San Miguel County	12%
Rio Arriba County	12%
Cibola County	13%
New Mexico	14%
Eddy County	14%
San Juan County	14%
Sierra County	15%
Valencia County	16%
Curry County	17%
Union County	17%
Hidalgo County	19%
Chaves County	20%
Doña Ana County	20%
Roosevelt County	21%
McKinley County	23%
Lea County	25%
Luna County	36%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017, Table B17018.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY
high-poverty areas

DEFINITION

The percentage of children living in areas (Census tracts) where at least 30 percent of the population lives at or below the federal poverty level.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

Twenty-four percent of New Mexico children live in high-poverty areas. New Mexico's rate is much higher than the national average of 12 percent, and ranks our state 49th in the nation on this indicator. Regardless of their own family's income, children who grow up in neighborhoods where poverty rates are high are more likely to be exposed to drugs and be victims of violent crime. They are less likely to have access to fresh and healthy food, adequate high-quality housing, and community resources like great schools and safe places to play. Studies show that children in high-poverty areas are more likely to start school behind and will need more individual attention. All of these factors can negatively impact their health and development. Native American children in New Mexico are most likely to live in high-poverty areas (at 50 percent), followed by Hispanic children (at 25 percent). Non-Hispanic white children in New Mexico are least likely to live in high-poverty areas (9 percent).

TRENDS

Children Living in High-Poverty Areas by Year (2006–2017)

■ New Mexico
■ United States
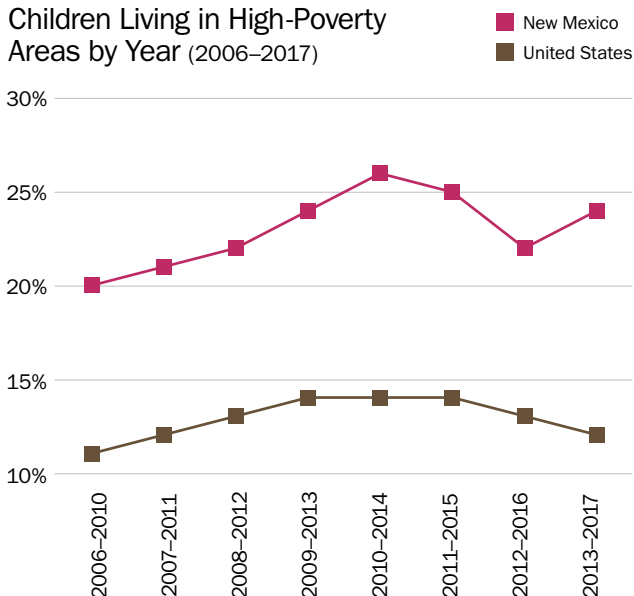
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year summary files released from 2006 to 2017.

RACE & ETHNICITY

Children Living in High-Poverty Areas by Race and Ethnicity (2013–2017)
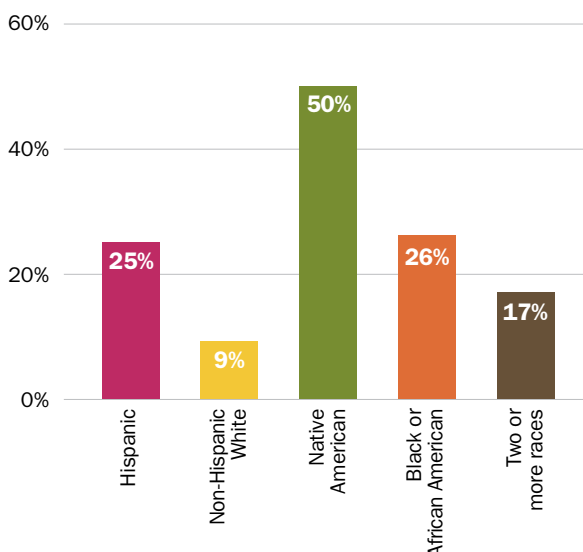
Hispanic	25%
Non-Hispanic White	9%
Native American	50%
Black or African American	26%
Two or more races	17%

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017. NOTE: Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.
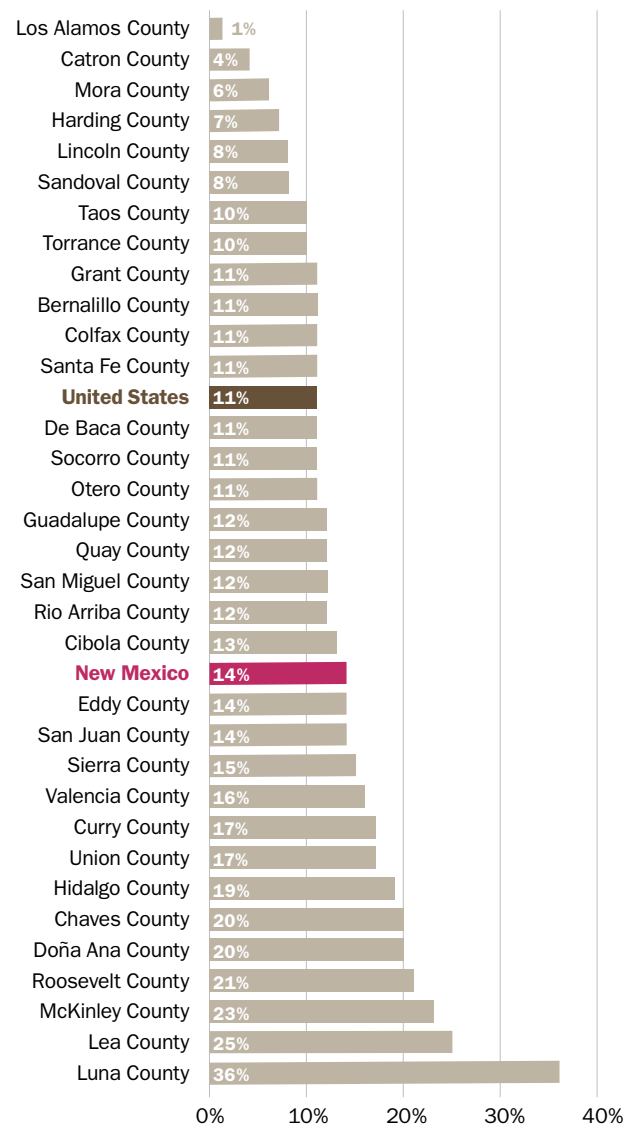
TRACKING CHANGE: WORSENED Despite a nationwide improvement in this indicator, New Mexico worsened from 2016 to 2017 in the percentage of children living in high-poverty areas, increasing from 22 to 24 percent, a difference of approximately 6,000 more children. Moreover, longer-term trends are not encouraging, with 18,000 more New Mexico children living in high-poverty areas in 2017 than did in 2010. Rates increased among Native American and Hispanic children in New Mexico over this time span.

POLICY SOLUTIONS

To Address High-Poverty Areas:

- Increase access to affordable housing in safe areas with prospects of work for low-income families, especially families of color. One way to do this is to create or expand incentives for developers to build mixed-income housing developments.

- Promote community change efforts that integrate physical revitalization with human capital development. Combining investment in early childhood care and education programs for children with workforce development and asset-building activities for parents can benefit lower-income families.

- Increase funding for Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), which help parents and children save money for buying a home or paying for college. Children in families who own a home do better in school, and families feel more invested in their neighborhoods.

- When possible, target additional school funding towards schools in high-poverty areas.

- Reduce class sizes for children in high-poverty areas and expand community schools to all high-poverty areas.

- Enact targeted economic development initiatives to communities that need them most and require accountability for tax breaks to corporations so that tax benefits are only received if corporations create quality jobs with decent wages and benefits for New Mexico residents. Tax breaks that do not create jobs should be repealed so the state can invest more money in support services for our children.

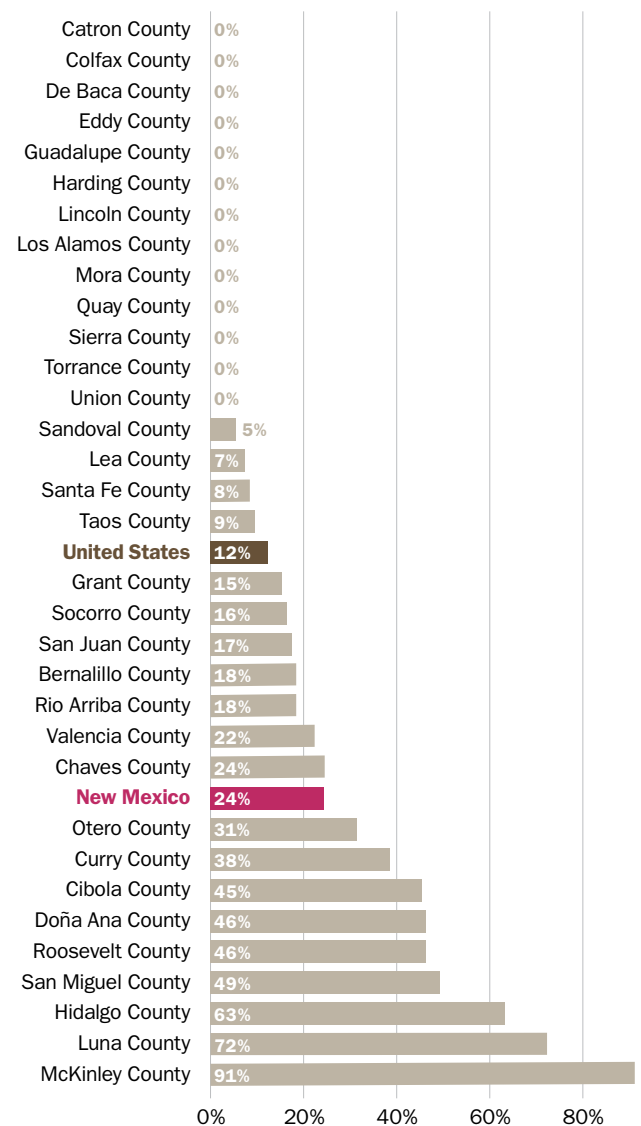- Target federal WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funds to support education and job training programs that help parents increase their educational attainment and workforce skills that create pathways out of poverty.

- Provide funding for savings accounts for New Mexico children with the objective of beginning the process and practice of saving money to be used to help defray the costs of the child's higher education.

RANKINGS

Children Living in High-Poverty Areas by County (2013–2017)

County	Percent
Catron County	0%
Colfax County	0%
De Baca County	0%
Eddy County	0%
Guadalupe County	0%
Harding County	0%
Lincoln County	0%
Los Alamos County	0%
Mora County	0%
Quay County	0%
Sierra County	0%
Torrance County	0%
Union County	0%
Sandoval County	5%
Lea County	7%
Santa Fe County	8%
Taos County	9%
United States	**12%**
Grant County	15%
Socorro County	16%
San Juan County	17%
Bernalillo County	18%
Rio Arriba County	18%
Valencia County	22%
Chaves County	24%
New Mexico	**24%**
Otero County	31%
Curry County	38%
Cibola County	45%
Doña Ana County	46%
Roosevelt County	46%
San Miguel County	49%
Hidalgo County	63%
Luna County	72%
McKinley County	91%

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017, custom data request received October, 2019.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY
teen birth rate

DEFINITION
The number of births to teens (ages 15 to 19) for every 1,000 females in that age range in the population.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES
In New Mexico, the teen birth rate was 28 per 1,000 female teens in 2017 – higher than the U.S. average of 19 per 1,000 female teens, ranking New Mexico 44th among the states on this measure. Teen births are associated with negative impacts for both mothers and children. Teen mothers are less likely to graduate high school, to receive adequate prenatal care, and to be economically secure. Babies born to teen mothers are more likely to be born at a low birthweight, be malnourished, face developmental delays, do poorly in school, become teen parents themselves, and live in poverty. Far from being an isolated issue, teen births affect the well-being of mothers, children, and society as a whole. Teen birth rates are lower among New Mexico's non-Hispanic white and African American populations.

POLICY SOLUTIONS

To Lower the Teen Birth Rate:

- Increase funding for teen pregnancy prevention, and support programs to help at-risk young women avoid pregnancy and see alternative opportunities for their future. Parenting support programs such as home visiting also help young mothers delay second pregnancies, improve their parenting, get a high school diploma, and access community supports.

- Expand funding and support for school-based health centers. Students reaching sexual maturity need access to health professionals to help them make informed decisions.

- Expand evidence-based, age-appropriate sex education to help youth avoid pregnancy and defund abstinence-only programs.

- Fund service learning programs that provide students with civic engagement and work-related experience and have been linked to decreases in teen pregnancy rates.

- Support the creation of and funding for county and tribal health councils in order to better integrate health care with social, emotional, behavioral, and cognitive development for teens.

TRACKING CHANGE: IMPROVED Following a national trend, the teen birth rate in New Mexico has improved significantly over time, dropping from 61 per 1,000 female teens in 2008 to 28 per 1,000 in 2017, its lowest point in nearly a decade. This represents an improvement of 54 percent, and it moved New Mexico from 49th to 44th among the states on this indicator. Teen birth rates have improved across all races and ethnicities, but have improved most dramatically among Hispanics and Native Americans in New Mexico, with the rate of Hispanic teen births dropping from 85 per 1,000 in 2008 to 29 per 1,000 in 2018, and the rate of Native American teen births dropping from 72 per 1,000 in 2008 to 27 per 1,000 in 2018.

TRENDS

Teen Birth Rate by Year (2008–2017)

■ New Mexico
■ United States

Rate per 1,000
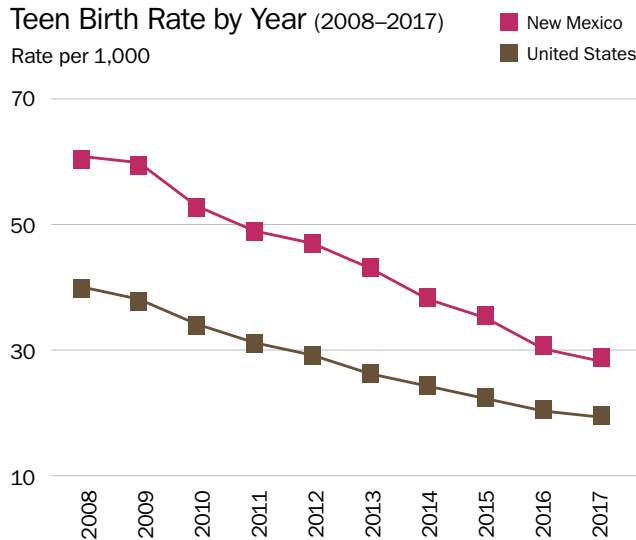
SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics VitalStats birth data from 2008 through 2017.

RACE & ETHNICITY

Teen Birth Rate by Race and Ethnicity (2018)
Rate per 1,000

SOURCE: New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS). Retrieved October, 2019 from http://ibis.health.state.nm.us. **NOTE:** Data for other races and ethnicities suppressed due to small numbers of cases.
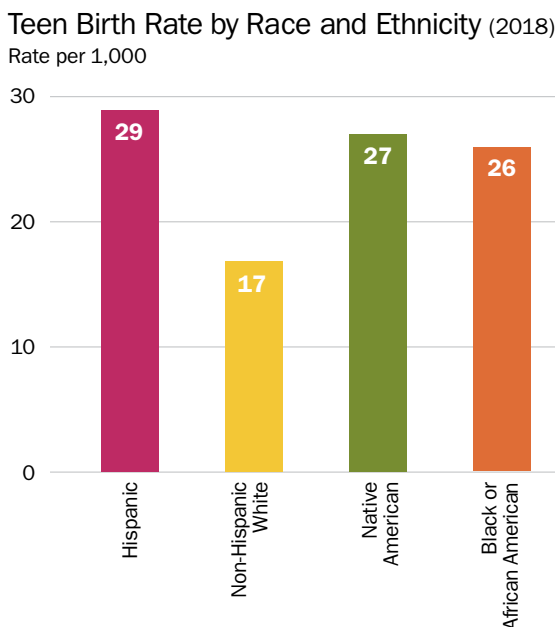
RANKINGS

Teen Birth Rate by County (2018)

Rate per 1,000

County	Rate per 1,000
Catron County	0
Harding County	0
Sandoval County	12.6
Taos County	17.6
McKinley County	18.2
Santa Fe County	18.2
United States	18.8
Bernalillo County	18.8
Colfax County	19
San Miguel County	23
Valencia County	23.2
Grant County	23.4
New Mexico	25.2
Rio Arriba County	26
Doña Ana County	27.4
Quay County	27.5
Torrance County	27.5
San Juan County	27.7
Roosevelt County	28.1
Cibola County	29
Socorro County	30
Lincoln County	30.8
Eddy County	34.3
Chaves County	40
Otero County	42.1
Curry County	49.3
Lea County	53.1
Luna County	66
Sierra County	67.1

SOURCE: New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS). Retrieved October, 2019 from http://ibis.health.state. nm.us. Source for US data is CDC, 2016–2017. **NOTE:** The rate for certain counties is suppressed by the New Mexico Department of Health because the observed number of events is very small and not appropriate for publication. For survey queries, rates calculated from fewer than 50 survey responses are suppressed. For this measure, teen birth rates for De Baca, Guadalupe, Hidalgo, Los Alamos, Mora, and Union counties are suppressed.

As the flowers reseed themselves year after year, disparities become ingrained. We forget that by providing better conditions for some seeds as compared to others, the gardeners set up some flowers for success and others for failure.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING
food insecurity

DEFINITION

Food insecurity is defined as not having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. Rates of participation in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is used as a proxy for measuring food insecurity. Since SNAP is "supplemental" it does not provide all of the food a family needs over the course of the month.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

New Mexico's high rate of households receiving SNAP reflects our state's major challenges around food insecurity. New Mexico has a higher hunger rate, food insecurity rate, and SNAP usage rate than the national average. There was no change in the percentage of households receiving SNAP benefits in New Mexico from 2017 to 2018, although rates improved from 32 percent to 27 percent among Native Americans in that time frame.

Households Receiving SNAP Assistance by Race and Ethnicity (2018)

· · · New Mexico (All races)
· · · United States
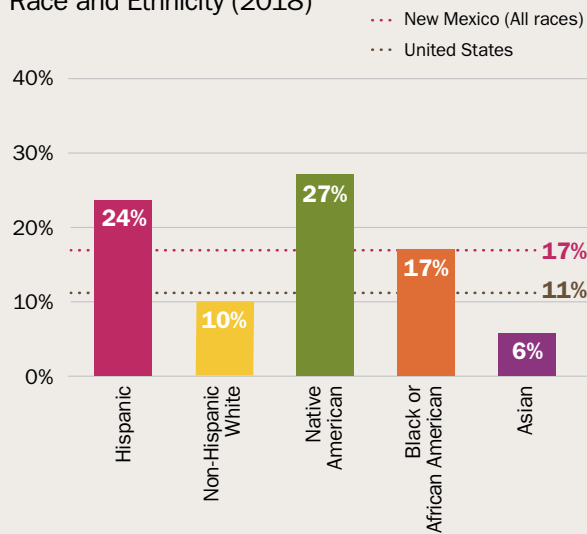
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018, Tables B22003, B22005B, B22005C, B22005D, B22005H, and B22005I.

Households Receiving SNAP Assistance by County (2013–2017)

Location	Percentage
United States	13%
New Mexico	17%
Bernalillo County	15%
Catron County	6%
Chaves County	21%
Cibola County	29%
Colfax County	21%
Curry County	18%
De Baca County	15%
Doña Ana County	23%
Eddy County	15%
Grant County	20%
Guadalupe County	20%
Harding County	4%
Hidalgo County	22%
Lea County	14%
Lincoln County	15%
Los Alamos County	2%
Luna County	29%
McKinley County	26%
Mora County	25%
Otero County	17%
Quay County	16%
Rio Arriba County	16%
Roosevelt County	21%
San Juan County	17%
San Miguel County	27%
Sandoval County	11%
Santa Fe County	10%
Sierra County	24%
Socorro County	17%
Taos County	19%
Torrance County	22%
Union County	14%
Valencia County	22%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017, Table DP03.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING
income and poverty

DEFINITION

Poverty is defined as living at or below the federal poverty level (FPL), which was $20,780 for a family of three in 2018. The FPL is generally far below what a family actually needs in order to live at a bare minimum level (i.e., have sufficient food, a safe place to live, transportation, and health care).

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

Nearly one in five New Mexicans lives at or below the federal poverty level. Although this rate decreased slightly from 2017 to 2018, it is still much higher than the national average. The rates of poverty among most populations of color – such as Hispanics, Native Americans, and African Americans – are considerably higher than poverty rates for non-Hispanic whites.

Population (All Ages) Living in Poverty by Year (2008–2018)

■ New Mexico
■ United States
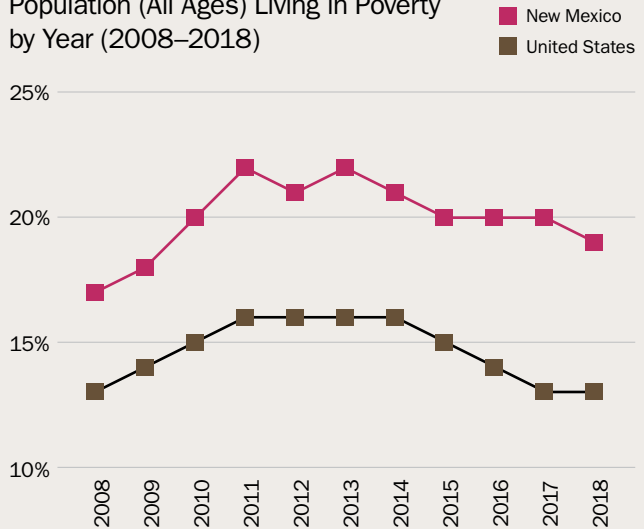
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys from 2008 to 2018, Table S1701.

Population (All Ages) Living in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity (2018)

···· New Mexico
···· United States

Hispanic: 23%
Non-Hispanic White: 12%
Native American: 34%
Black or African American: 27%
Asian: 12%
Two or more races: 19%

New Mexico: 20%
United States: 13%
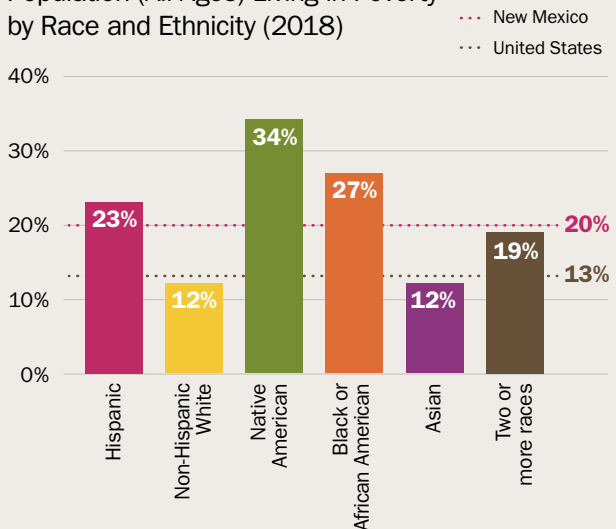
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018, Tables S1701.

Median income divides the income distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the households falling below the median income and one-half above the median.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

The median household income in New Mexico is about 19 percent lower than the national average. However, median household income fluctuates widely by county, with five counties – Eddy, Lea, Santa Fe, Sandoval and, most notably, Los Alamos – having higher median incomes than the national

average. These differences are related in large part to the kinds of industries and employers there.

Tribal areas in New Mexico generally fare worse in traditional measures of economic well-being than does the state as a whole. Median household income in all but five of the 22 tribal areas is lower than the state average, and all tribal areas have lower median incomes than the U.S. average. The tribal areas with median incomes that are higher than the state average generally have lower poverty rates, though not in the cases of Jemez and San Felipe Pueblos.

Median Household Income and Percent of Population (All Ages) Living in Poverty by County (2013–2017)

Location	Median Income	Poverty Rate
United States	$57,652	15%
New Mexico	$46,718	21%
Bernalillo County	$50,386	18%
Catron County	$42,047	22%
Chaves County	$42,177	21%
Cibola County	$36,089	29%
Colfax County	$33,042	24%
Curry County	$41,941	23%
De Baca County	$31,439	23%
Doña Ana County	$39,114	28%
Eddy County	$60,703	15%
Grant County	$40,470	22%
Guadalupe County	$26,060	13%
Harding County	$35,096	20%
Hidalgo County	$31,829	26%
Lea County	$59,285	16%
Lincoln County	$42,145	15%
Los Alamos County	$110,190	5%
Luna County	$27,602	32%
McKinley County	$30,336	38%
Mora County	$26,644	20%
Otero County	$43,533	21%
Quay County	$26,663	22%
Rio Arriba County	$33,422	26%
Roosevelt County	$35,928	28%
San Juan County	$49,686	21%
San Miguel County	$29,168	31%
Sandoval County	$60,345	15%
Santa Fe County	$57,945	14%
Sierra County	$29,690	21%
Socorro County	$34,008	27%
Taos County	$35,314	21%
Torrance County	$35,543	27%
Union County	$38,240	14%
Valencia County	$43,428	22%

Median Household Income and Percent of Population Living in Poverty by Tribal Area (2013–2017)

Location	Median Income	Poverty Rate All Ages	Children
United States (All Races)	$57,652	15%	20%
New Mexico (All Races)	$46,718	21%	29%
Acoma Pueblo	$39,868	23%	28%
Cochiti Pueblo	$48,929	16%	25%
Isleta Pueblo	$36,000	28%	37%
Jemez Pueblo	$42,250	24%	31%
Jicarilla Apache	$34,875	30%	36%
Laguna Pueblo	$33,542	28%	46%
Mescalero Apache	$33,702	32%	40%
Nambe Pueblo	$44,479	19%	31%
Navajo	$26,642	40%	51%
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	$32,389	28%	31%
Picuris Pueblo	$29,079	27%	35%
Pojoaque Pueblo	$50,887	16%	22%
Sandia Pueblo	$38,786	27%	36%
San Felipe Pueblo	$53,400	26%	27%
San Ildefonso Pueblo	$49,868	14%	14%
Santa Ana Pueblo	$49,688	18%	22%
Santa Clara Pueblo	$34,779	26%	34%
Santo Domingo Pueblo	$34,531	32%	35%
Taos Pueblo	$31,967	25%	38%
Tesuque Pueblo	$36,917	27%	30%
Zia Pueblo	$41,136	27%	26%
Zuni Pueblo	$33,956	40%	48%

SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017, Table B19013 (median income) and Tables S1701 and B17001 (poverty). **NOTE:** Only data for tribal residents living on New Mexico reservation land are included, and data include off-reservation lands held in trusts.

◄ **SOURCES:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017, Table B19013 (median income) and Table S1701 (poverty).

EDUCATION

enrollment

DEFINITION

Students qualify for free meals if their families live at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level ($27,014 for a family of three in the 2017-2018 school year) and reduced-price meals if their families live at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level ($38,443 for a family of three).

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

Students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals are in families that are considered low-income, and they make up a large portion of the students in New Mexico. In fact, New Mexico has the third highest rate (63 percent) in the nation of public school students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Many of these children are considered "food insecure," meaning they do not always get enough nutritious food. For some of these kids, the meals they receive at school may be their only regular meals.

Total Enrollment (2018–2019) and Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals (2017-2018) by Public School District

Location	Total Student Enrollment (2018–2019)	Percent Eligible for Reduced-Price or Free Meals (2017–2018)
New Mexico	335,829	75%
Alamogordo Public Schools	6,398	59%
Albuquerque Public Schools	90,633	69%
Animas Public Schools	177	56%
Artesia Public Schools	3,887	49%
Aztec Municipal Schools	3,006	75%
Belen Consolidated Schools	3,916	100%
Bernalillo Public Schools	2,988	100%
Bloomfield Municipal Schools	2,763	100%
Capitan Municipal Schools	504	62%
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	8,041	59%
Carrizozo Municipal Schools	144	90%
Central Consolidated Schools	5,901	99%
Chama Valley Independent Schools	404	100%
Cimarron Public Schools	429	56%

Location	Total Student Enrollment (2018–2019)	Percent Eligible for Reduced-Price or Free Meals (2017–2018)
Clayton Public Schools	477	65%
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools	387	52%
Clovis Municipal Schools	8,211	80%
Cobre Consolidated Schools	1,255	100%
Corona Municipal Schools	63	100%
Cuba Independent Schools	548	97%
Deming Public Schools	5,434	100%
Des Moines Municipal Schools	90	40%
Dexter Consolidated Schools	930	83%
Dora Consolidated Schools	258	59%
Dulce Independent Schools	690	100%
Elida Municipal Schools	160	63%
Española Municipal Schools	3,567	100%
Estancia Municipal Schools	582	100%
Eunice Municipal Schools	901	70%
Farmington Municipal Schools	11,807	78%
Floyd Municipal Schools	233	76%
Fort Sumner Municipal Schools	320	68%
Gadsden Independent Schools	13,620	100%
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	11,457	100%
Grady Municipal Schools	165	100%
Grants-Cibola County Schools	3,592	100%
Hagerman Municipal Schools	458	99%
Hatch Valley Municipal Schools	1,291	100%
Hobbs Municipal Schools	10,299	64%
Hondo Valley Public Schools	142	100%
House Municipal Schools	63	60%
Jal Public Schools	540	48%
Jemez Mountain Public Schools	197	98%
Jemez Valley Public Schools	369	90%
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	93	77%
Las Cruces Public Schools	24,857	75%
Las Vegas City Public Schools	1,513	87%
Logan Municipal Schools	363	45%
Lordsburg Municipal Schools	514	100%
Los Alamos Public Schools	3,754	13%
Los Lunas Public Schools	8,622	68%
Loving Municipal Schools	607	100%
Lovington Public Schools	3,749	70%
Magdalena Municipal Schools	350	99%

Location	Total Student Enrollment (2018–2019)	Percent Eligible for Reduced-Price or Free Meals (2017–2018)
Maxwell Municipal Schools	130	100%
Melrose Public Schools	279	48%
Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools	244	100%
Mora Independent Schools	407	99%
Moriarty Municipal Schools	2,421	72%
Mosquero Municipal Schools	36	54%
Mountainair Public Schools	221	100%
Pecos Independent Schools	612	100%
Peñasco Independent Schools	368	99%
Pojoaque Valley Public Schools	1,967	62%
Portales Municipal Schools	2,752	67%
Quemado Independent Schools	159	77%
Questa Independent Schools	345	99%
Raton Public Schools	934	100%
Reserve Independent Schools	147	98%
Rio Rancho Public Schools	17,564	42%
Roswell Independent Schools	10,534	91%
Roy Municipal Schools	47	98%
Ruidoso Municipal Schools	2,066	92%
San Jon Municipal Schools	145	64%
Santa Fe Public Schools	13,286	76%
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	655	100%
Silver City Consolidated Schools	2,486	85%
Socorro Consolidated Schools	1,662	100%
Springer Municipal Schools	128	99%
Taos Municipal Schools	2,752	81%
Tatum Municipal Schools	342	46%
Texico Municipal Schools	572	48%
Truth or Consequences Schools	1,311	100%
Tucumcari Public Schools	962	100%
Tularosa Municipal Schools	839	99%
Vaughn Municipal Schools	73	100%
Wagon Mound Public Schools	69	100%
West Las Vegas Public Schools	1,549	99%
Zuni Public Schools	1,345	100%

EDUCATION

reading and math proficiency
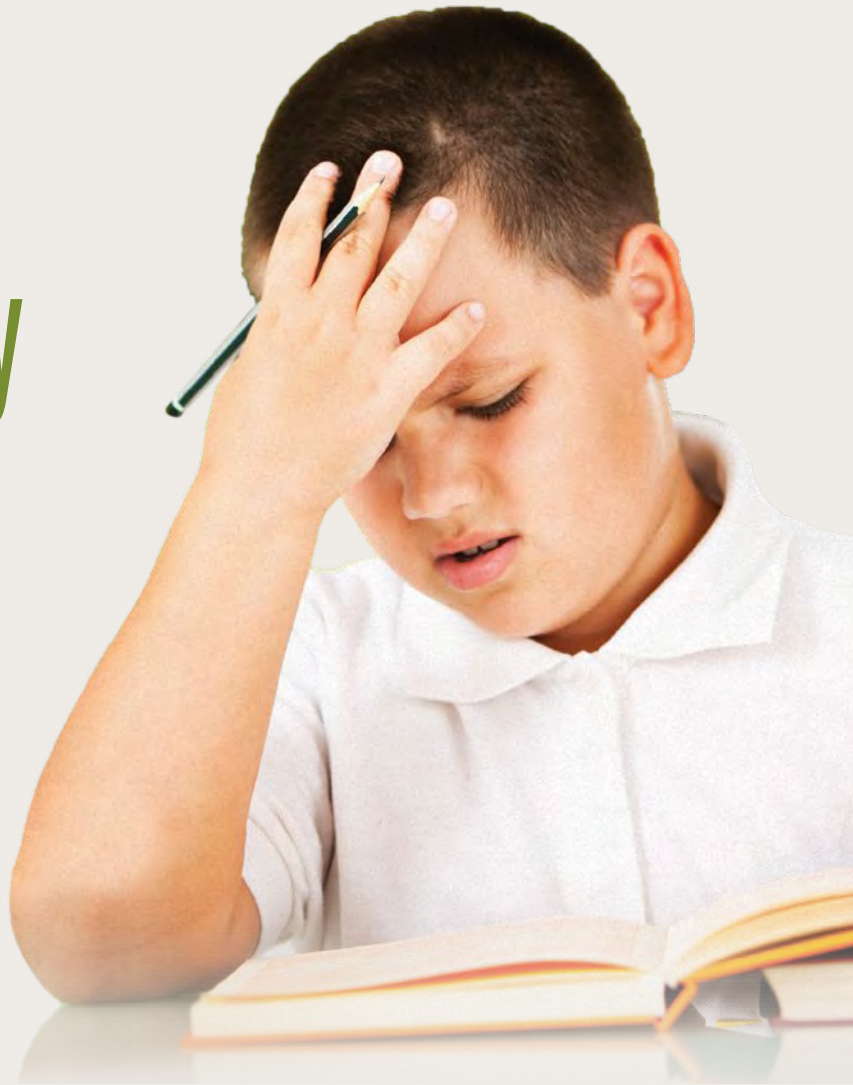
DEFINITION

All students who score at Level 4 ("met expectations") and Level 5 ("exceeded expectations") are considered proficient.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

Thirty-one percent of New Mexico fourth graders met or exceeded expectations in English Language Arts in the 2018-2019 school year, and about 12 percent of New Mexico eighth graders met or exceeded expectations in math. The results published here from the spring of 2019 are the first year of results from New Mexico's Transition Assessment in Math and English Arts (TAMELA) tests. These results should not be compared with results from assessments used in past years, including results from the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment or the Skills Based Assessment (SBA) previously used by PED to measure proficiencies.

Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations in English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessments by Grade and Public School District (2018-2019)

	4th Grade English Language Arts		8th Grade Mathematics	
Location	Level 4 (met expectations)	Level 5 (exceeded expectations)	Level 4 (met expectations)	Level 5 (exceeded expectations)
New Mexico	26%	5%	12%	≤ 1%
Alamogordo Public Schools	30%	6%	18%	≤ 1%
Albuquerque Public Schools	23%	4%	8%	≤ 1%
Animas Public Schools	30%-39%	^	30%-39%	^
Artesia Public Schools	32%	6%	13%	≤ 2%
Aztec Municipal Schools	17%	≤ 2%	10%-14%	≤ 2%
Belen Consolidated Schools	25%	4%	13%	≤ 2%
Bernalillo Public Schools	14%	≤ 2%	5%-9%	≤ 2%
Bloomfield Municipal Schools	20%-24%	3%-4%	7%	≤ 2%
Capitan Municipal Schools	45%-49%	6%-9%	≤ 10%	≤ 10%
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	29%	4%	6%	≤ 1%
Carrizozo Municipal Schools	21%-29%	^	NA	NA

	4th Grade English Language Arts		8th Grade Mathematics	
Location	Level 4 (met expectations)	Level 5 (exceeded expectations)	Level 4 (met expectations)	Level 5 (exceeded expectations)
Central Consolidated Schools	25%	3%	4%	≤ 1%
Chama Valley Independent Schools	≤ 10%	≤ 10%	≤ 20%	^
Cimarron Public Schools	30%-39%	≤ 10%	11%-19%	≤ 10%
Clayton Public Schools	40%-49%	11%-19%	40%-49%	≤ 10%
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools	40%-49%	≤ 10%	≤ 20%	^
Clovis Municipal Schools	24%	4%	19%	≤ 1%
Cobre Consolidated Schools	25%-29%	≤ 5%	20%-24%	≤ 5%
Corona Municipal Schools	70%-79%	^	NA	NA
Cuba Independent Schools	≤ 10%	≤ 10%	≤ 10%	≤ 10%
Deming Public Schools	18%	2%	14%	≤ 1%
Des Moines Municipal Schools	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dexter Consolidated Schools	30%-34%	≤ 5%	25%-29%	≤ 5%
Dora Consolidated Schools	40%-49%	≤ 10%	30%-39%	^
Dulce Independent Schools	10%-14%	≤ 5%	≤ 10%	≤ 10%
Elida Municipal Schools	30%-39%	^	21%-29%	^
Española Municipal Schools	18%	≤ 2%	6%	≤ 2%
Estancia Municipal Schools	25%-29%	≤ 5%	10%-14%	≤ 5%
Eunice Municipal Schools	15%-19%	≤ 5%	≤ 10%	≤ 10%
Farmington Municipal Schools	32%	9%	11%	≤ 1%
Floyd Municipal Schools	30%-39%	^	≤ 20%	^
Fort Sumner Municipal Schools	30%-39%	11%-19%	40%-49%	^
Gadsden Independent Schools	28%	7%	17%	≤ 1%
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	20%	2%	11%	≤ 1%
Grady Municipal Schools	70%-79%	^	≤ 20%	^
Grants-Cibola County Schools	23%	≤ 2%	10%	≤ 2%
Hagerman Municipal Schools	11%-19%	≤ 10%	11%-19%	≤ 10%
Hatch Valley Municipal Schools	10%-14%	≤ 5%	10%-14%	≤ 5%
Hobbs Municipal Schools	35%	5%	5%	≤ 1%
Hondo Valley Public Schools	≤ 20%	^	NA	NA
House Municipal Schools	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jal Public Schools	6%-9%	≤ 5%	≤ 10%	≤ 10%
Jemez Mountain Public Schools	≤ 20%	^	21%-29%	^
Jemez Valley Public Schools	11%-19%	≤ 10%	≤ 10%	≤ 10%
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	NA	NA	NA	NA
Las Cruces Public Schools	26%	4%	11%	≤ 1%
Las Vegas City Public Schools	25%-29%	≤ 5%	6%-9%	≤ 5%
Logan Municipal Schools	30%-39%	11%-19%	21%-29%	^
Lordsburg Municipal Schools	30%-34%	6%-9%	≤ 20%	^
Los Alamos Public Schools	42%	16%	15%-19%	≤ 2%
Los Lunas Public Schools	26%	5%	16%	≤ 1%

Location	4th Grade English Language Arts		8th Grade Mathematics	
	Level 4 (met expectations)	Level 5 (exceeded expectations)	Level 4 (met expectations)	Level 5 (exceeded expectations)
Loving Municipal Schools	20%-29%	≤ 10%	20%-29%	≤ 10%
Lovington Public Schools	30%	8%	19%	≤ 2%
Magdalena Municipal Schools	20%-29%	≤ 10%	≤ 10%	≤ 10%
Maxwell Municipal Schools	50%-59%	^	21%-29%	^
Melrose Public Schools	70%-79%	^	40%-49%	^
Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools	30%-39%	^	≤ 20%	^
Mora Independent Schools	11%-19%	≤ 10%	≤ 10%	≤ 10%
Moriarty Municipal Schools	25%-29%	5%-9%	10%-14%	≤ 2%
Mosquero Municipal Schools	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mountainair Public Schools	≤ 20%	^	≤ 20%	^
Pecos Independent Schools	20%-29%	≤ 10%	6%-9%	≤ 5%
Peñasco Independent Schools	≤ 10%	≤ 10%	≤ 10%	≤ 10%
Pojoaque Valley Public Schools	25%-29%	3%-4%	3%-4%	≤ 2%
Portales Municipal Schools	34%	10%	10%-14%	≤ 2%
Quemado Independent Schools	NA	NA	≤ 20%	NA
Questa Independent Schools	11%-19%	≤ 10%	≤ 10%	≤ 10%
Raton Public Schools	20%-24%	≤ 5%	10%-14%	≤ 5%
Reserve Independent Schools	NA	NA	NA	NA
Rio Rancho Public Schools	30%	7%	30%	≤ 1%
Roswell Independent Schools	26%	7%	9%	≤ 1%
Roy Municipal Schools	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ruidoso Municipal Schools	25%-29%	5%-9%	≤ 10%	≤ 10%
San Jon Municipal Schools	30%-39%	^	NA	NA
Santa Fe Public Schools	24%	6%	5%	≤ 1%
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	30%-34%	≤ 5%	15%-19%	≤ 5%
Silver City Consolidated Schools	29%	7%	3%-4%	≤ 2%
Socorro Consolidated Schools	25%-29%	≤ 2%	≤ 2%	≤ 2%
Springer Municipal Schools	NA	NA	NA	NA
Taos Municipal Schools	20%-24%	5%-9%	20%-24%	≤ 2%
Tatum Municipal Schools	20%-29%	≤ 10%	30%-39%	≤ 10%
Texico Municipal Schools	40%-49%	≤ 10%	40%-49%	≤ 10%
Truth or Consequences Schools	25%-29%	≤ 2%	35%-39%	≤ 2%
Tucumcari Public Schools	15%-19%	≤ 5%	15%-19%	≤ 5%
Tularosa Municipal Schools	35%-39%	10%-14%	6%-9%	≤ 5%
Vaughn Municipal Schools	NA	NA	NA	NA
Wagon Mound Public Schools	NA	NA	NA	NA
West Las Vegas Public Schools	25%-29%	≤ 2%	5%-9%	≤ 2%
Zuni Public Schools	6%-9%	≤ 5%	≤ 5%	≤ 5%

SOURCE: New Mexico Public Education Department, "Achievement Data", TAMELA Proficiencies 2019. Retrieved October, 2019 from https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/accountability/achievement-data/. **NOTE:** Information is not shown for groups with fewer than 10 students. Percentages may be reported in ranges for smaller school districts. Cells marked with ^ indicate that the data from these cells were combined with a neighboring cell.

attendance

Habitual Truancy (2017–2018) and Dropout Rates (2016–2017) by Public School District

Location	Percent of Students Habitually Truant (2017–2018)	Student Dropout Rate (2016–2017)
New Mexico	NA	4%
Alamogordo Public Schools	9%	2%
Albuquerque Public Schools	18%	5%
Animas Public Schools	0%	1%
Artesia Public Schools	24%	3%
Aztec Municipal Schools	16%	3%
Belen Consolidated Schools	26%	4%
Bernalillo Public Schools	21%	5%
Bloomfield Municipal Schools	13%	5%
Capitan Municipal Schools	8%	0%
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	14%	4%
Carrizozo Municipal Schools	6%	0%
Central Consolidated Schools	23%	4%

DEFINITION

Habitually truant means a student who has accumulated the equivalent of ten or more unexcused absences within a school year. **Dropout** refers to a student who was enrolled during the previous school year, but is not enrolled at the beginning of the current school year, and does not meet any exclusionary conditions (such as having transferred). Dropout rates are not related to cohort on-time graduation rates; and dropout rates and non-graduate rates are not equivalent and do not represent the same measure. In other words, if you subtract the rate of non-graduates from those who graduate on time, you do not get the same rate as the dropout rate. In addition, unlike on-time graduation rates, dropout rates are calculated each year.

Location	Percent of Students Habitually Truant (2017–2018)	Student Dropout Rate (2016–2017)
Chama Valley Independent Schools	8%	0%
Cimarron Public Schools	5%	1%
Clayton Public Schools	7%	0%
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools	16%	0%
Clovis Municipal Schools	12%	3%
Cobre Consolidated Schools	8%	1%
Corona Municipal Schools	0%	0%
Cuba Independent Schools	32%	1%
Deming Public Schools	27%	5%
Des Moines Municipal Schools	53%	0%
Dexter Consolidated Schools	11%	2%
Dora Consolidated Schools	1%	0%
Dulce Independent Schools	38%	0%
Elida Municipal Schools	13%	1%
Española Municipal Schools	47%	5%
Estancia Municipal Schools	20%	2%
Eunice Municipal Schools	19%	2%
Farmington Municipal Schools	12%	3%
Floyd Municipal Schools	12%	0%
Fort Sumner Municipal Schools	6%	1%
Gadsden Independent Schools	10%	1%
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	31%	5%
Grady Municipal Schools	6%	0%
Grants-Cibola County Schools	19%	0%
Hagerman Municipal Schools	6%	2%
Hatch Valley Municipal Schools	30%	3%
Hobbs Municipal Schools	10%	1%
Hondo Valley Public Schools	10%	1%
House Municipal Schools	14%	11%
Jal Public Schools	10%	2%
Jemez Mountain Public Schools	23%	2%
Jemez Valley Public Schools	11%	2%
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	31%	4%
Las Cruces Public Schools	26%	1%
Las Vegas City Public Schools	23%	1%
Logan Municipal Schools	2%	9%
Lordsburg Municipal Schools	11%	1%
Los Alamos Public Schools	16%	0%
Los Lunas Public Schools	16%	2%
Loving Municipal Schools	0%	1%

Location	Percent of Students Habitually Truant (2017–2018)	Student Dropout Rate (2016–2017)
Lovington Public Schools	12%	3%
Magdalena Municipal Schools	20%	3%
Maxwell Municipal Schools	0%	0%
Melrose Public Schools	1%	0%
Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools	32%	3%
Mora Independent Schools	14%	3%
Moriarty Municipal Schools	12%	2%
Mosquero Municipal Schools	22%	0%
Mountainair Public Schools	44%	3%
Pecos Independent Schools	8%	2%
Peñasco Independent Schools	6%	2%
Pojoaque Valley Public Schools	4%	2%
Portales Municipal Schools	4%	4%
Quemado Independent Schools	13%	0%
Questa Independent Schools	7%	1%
Raton Public Schools	11%	2%
Reserve Independent Schools	16%	1%
Rio Rancho Public Schools	2%	1%
Roswell Independent Schools	15%	4%
Roy Municipal Schools	21%	0%
Ruidoso Municipal Schools	30%	2%
San Jon Municipal Schools	2%	0%
Santa Fe Public Schools	26%	5%
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	15%	1%
Silver City Consolidated Schools	18%	3%
Socorro Consolidated Schools	12%	7%
Springer Municipal Schools	32%	0%
Taos Municipal Schools	20%	2%
Tatum Municipal Schools	1%	1%
Texico Municipal Schools	6%	0%
Truth or Consequences Schools	10%	2%
Tucumcari Public Schools	13%	1%
Tularosa Municipal Schools	60%	5%
Vaughn Municipal Schools	6%	0%
Wagon Mound Public Schools	13%	5%
West Las Vegas Public Schools	30%	6%
Zuni Public Schools	25%	4%

SOURCE: New Mexico Public Education Department, "Habitual Truant Students by District and School Type, 2017-2018" and "2016-2017 Dropout Final Rates," custom data request received November, 2018. Source for truancy definition: Title 6 Primary and Secondary Education, Chapter 10 Public School Administration--Procedural Requirements, Part 8 Compulsory School Attendance.

graduation rates

DEFINITION

A student is considered economically disadvantaged if they qualify for free or reduced-priced meals.

READ THIS TABLE AS:

"While 74 percent of all high school students graduate in four years, just 69 percent of students who are economically disadvantaged graduate in four years."

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

Nearly three-quarters (74 percent) of New Mexico high school students graduate in four years, with graduation rates lower among students who are economically disadvantaged and English language learners. When comparing the school year ending in 2017 with the one ending in 2018, the overall graduation rate improved for all students, economically disadvantaged students, and English language learners.

High School Graduation Rates by Select Status and Public School District (2017-2018)

	Percent of Students Who Graduate in Four Years		
Location	All Students	Economically Disadvantaged Students	English Language Learners
New Mexico	74%	69%	71%
Alamogordo Public Schools	81%	75%	67%
Albuquerque Public Schools	70%	62%	68%
Animas Public Schools	99%	NA	NA
Artesia Public Schools	76%	58%	97%
Aztec Municipal Schools	77%	69%	81%
Belen Consolidated Schools	71%	72%	72%
Bernalillo Public Schools	63%	64%	68%
Bloomfield Municipal Schools	75%	76%	73%
Capitan Municipal Schools	85%	87%	NA
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	70%	60%	74%
Carrizozo Municipal Schools	83%	NA	NA
Central Consolidated Schools	64%	64%	63%
Chama Valley Independent Schools	93%	93%	NA

Location	Percent of Students Who Graduate in Four Years		
	All Students	Economically Disadvantaged Students	English Language Learners
Cimarron Public Schools	81%	72%	NA
Clayton Public Schools	74%	66%	NA
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools	92%	85%	NA
Clovis Municipal Schools	83%	76%	85%
Cobre Consolidated Schools	88%	89%	87%
Corona Municipal Schools	NA	NA	NA
Cuba Independent Schools	70%	73%	74%
Deming Public Schools	71%	72%	73%
Des Moines Municipal Schools	NA	NA	NA
Dexter Consolidated Schools	83%	76%	70%
Dora Consolidated Schools	90%	97%	NA
Dulce Independent Schools	78%	78%	76%
Elida Municipal Schools	93%	NA	NA
Española Municipal Schools	71%	73%	73%
Estancia Municipal Schools	83%	84%	NA
Eunice Municipal Schools	82%	80%	73%
Farmington Municipal Schools	75%	65%	67%
Floyd Municipal Schools	88%	91%	NA
Fort Sumner Municipal Schools	97%	95%	NA
Gadsden Independent Schools	82%	82%	82%
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	73%	75%	71%
Grady Municipal Schools	99%	NA	NA
Grants-Cibola County Schools	62%	64%	53%
Hagerman Municipal Schools	82%	85%	NA
Hatch Valley Municipal Schools	77%	76%	79%
Hobbs Municipal Schools	89%	85%	85%
Hondo Valley Public Schools	96%	96%	NA
House Municipal Schools	74%	NA	NA
Jal Public Schools	97%	99%	100%
Jemez Mountain Public Schools	97%	97%	NA
Jemez Valley Public Schools	75%	75%	81%
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	NA	NA	NA
Las Cruces Public Schools	86%	79%	85%
Las Vegas City Public Schools	75%	67%	54%
Logan Municipal Schools	69%	NA	NA
Lordsburg Municipal Schools	57%	57%	NA
Los Alamos Public Schools	89%	62%	89%
Los Lunas Public Schools	74%	71%	69%
Loving Municipal Schools	87%	87%	90%

Location	Percent of Students Who Graduate in Four Years		
	All Students	Economically Disadvantaged Students	English Language Learners
Lovington Public Schools	83%	84%	84%
Magdalena Municipal Schools	80%	82%	73%
Maxwell Municipal Schools	NA	NA	NA
Melrose Public Schools	100%	NA	NA
Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools	67%	69%	69%
Mora Independent Schools	90%	90%	NA
Moriarty Municipal Schools	74%	73%	69%
Mosquero Municipal Schools	NA	NA	NA
Mountainair Public Schools	81%	81%	NA
Pecos Independent Schools	86%	92%	99%
Peñasco Independent Schools	70%	70%	71%
Pojoaque Valley Public Schools	83%	81%	84%
Portales Municipal Schools	65%	55%	80%
Quemado Independent Schools	79%	70%	NA
Questa Independent Schools	77%	80%	NA
Raton Public Schools	68%	69%	NA
Reserve Independent Schools	94%	100%	NA
Rio Rancho Public Schools	85%	75%	80%
Roswell Independent Schools	69%	56%	66%
Roy Municipal Schools	NA	NA	NA
Ruidoso Municipal Schools	83%	83%	98%
San Jon Municipal Schools	90%	NA	NA
Santa Fe Public Schools	73%	71%	62%
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	89%	92%	92%
Silver City Consolidated Schools	79%	68%	85%
Socorro Consolidated Schools	72%	75%	NA
Springer Municipal Schools	100%	100%	NA
Taos Municipal Schools	72%	67%	59%
Tatum Municipal Schools	81%	72%	72%
Texico Municipal Schools	93%	86%	NA
Truth or Consequences Schools	82%	83%	99%
Tucumcari Public Schools	84%	84%	NA
Tularosa Municipal Schools	69%	69%	NA
Vaughn Municipal Schools	NA	NA	NA
Wagon Mound Public Schools	NA	NA	NA
West Las Vegas Public Schools	73%	74%	78%
Zuni Public Schools	73%	73%	74%

prenatal care

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

Hispanic and Native American women in New Mexico are the least likely to receive prenatal care during pregnancy. Non-Hispanic white mothers in New Mexico are the most likely to receive prenatal care early on in pregnancy. Babies born to mothers who do not receive prenatal care or to those who receive prenatal care only late in pregnancy are more likely to be born at a low birthweight, to have complications during birth, and to die during or immediately following birth than those born to mothers who received comprehensive prenatal care.

Women Receiving No Prenatal Care by Race and Ethnicity (2018)

⋯ New Mexico

- Hispanic: 4.7%
- Non-Hispanic White: 2.9%
- Native American: 5.9%
- Black or African American: 4.1%
- Asian or Pacific Islander: 2.8%
- New Mexico: 4.3%

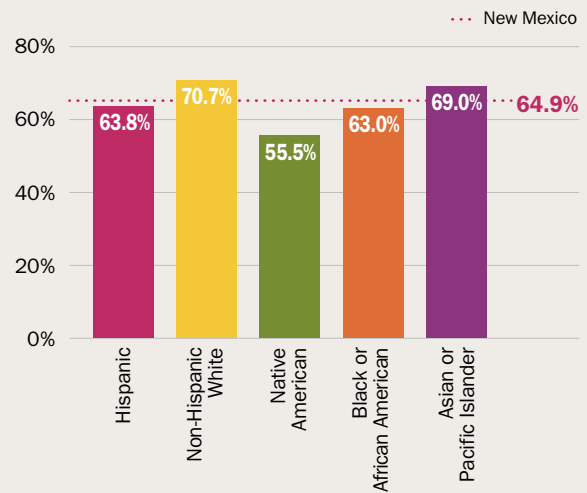**SOURCE:** New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS). Retrieved September, 2019 from http://ibis.health.state.nm.us.

Women Receiving Prenatal Care in the First Trimester by Race and Ethnicity (2018)

⋯ New Mexico

- Hispanic: 63.8%
- Non-Hispanic White: 70.7%
- Native American: 55.5%
- Black or African American: 63.0%
- Asian or Pacific Islander: 69.0%
- New Mexico: 64.9%

SOURCE: New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS). Retrieved September, 2019 from http://ibis.health.state.nm.us.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

The rates of women receiving no prenatal care while pregnant worsened from 2017 to 2018. Rates remained higher among teen mothers and among mothers with less than a high school diploma than among the general population of mothers, but rates worsened for all groups except mothers with less than a high school diploma from 2017 to 2018.

Births to Women Receiving No Prenatal Care by Selected Status and County (2018)

Location	Number of Live Births to Women Who Received No Prenatal Care	Percent Who Received No Prenatal Care: of All Live Births	of All Teen Mothers (Ages 15-19)	of All Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma
New Mexico	992	4.3%	5.3%	7.6%
Bernalillo County	333	4.7%	5.5%	8.2%
Catron County	**	**	0.0%	**
Chaves County	38	4.8%	6.3%	7.2%
Cibola County	22	7.3%	20.8%	12.3%
Colfax County	**	**	0.0%	**
Curry County	18	2.1%	**	3.0%
De Baca County	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Doña Ana County	104	4.0%	6.3%	9.1%
Eddy County	25	3.1%	**	6.8%
Grant County	11	4.7%	**	**
Guadalupe County	**	**	0.0%	**
Harding County	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hidalgo County	4	7.8%	0.0%	**
Lea County	75	6.6%	2.9%	11.7%
Lincoln County	**	**	**	**
Los Alamos County	**	**	0.0%	0.0%
Luna County	10	3.0%	0.0%	4.5%
McKinley County	38	4.5%	8.2%	8.6%
Mora County	**	**	0.0%	0.0%
Otero County	25	2.8%	4.9%	9.2%
Quay County	4	4.0%	0.0%	**
Rio Arriba County	10	2.5%	**	6.2%
Roosevelt County	12	4.4%	**	10.4%
San Juan County	42	2.9%	4.8%	4.6%
San Miguel County	13	5.4%	**	**
Sandoval County	49	3.5%	**	2.5%
Santa Fe County	49	4.1%	**	2.0%
Sierra County	4	3.8%	**	**
Socorro County	11	6.3%	0.0%	14.9%
Taos County	15	5.8%	**	**
Torrance County	13	8.0%	0.0%	11.8%
Union County	4	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Valencia County	51	6.4%	13.6%	11.9%

infant mortality

DEFINITION

The infant mortality rate is the number of infants who die within the first year of life for each 1,000 live births.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

Infant mortality rates decreased from 2017 to 2018, dropping from 5.9 per 1,000 births in 2017 to 5.7 per 1,000 births in 2018, which translates to 8 fewer infant deaths.

Infant (Ages 0–1) Mortality Numbers and Rates by County (2018)

Location	Number of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths per 1,000 Births)
New Mexico	132	5.7
Bernalillo County	41	5.8
Catron County	0	0
Chaves County	7	8.8
Cibola County	0	0
Colfax County	**	**
Curry County	5	5.9
De Baca County	0	0
Doña Ana County	10	3.9
Eddy County	9	11.2
Grant County	**	**
Guadalupe County	0	0
Harding County	0	0
Hidalgo County	0	0
Lea County	9	8
Lincoln County	**	**
Los Alamos County	0	0
Luna County	**	**
McKinley County	6	7.1
Mora County	0	0
Otero County	5	5.7
Quay County	0	0
Rio Arriba County	0	0
Roosevelt County	0	0
San Juan County	7	4.8
San Miguel County	**	**
Sandoval County	6	4.3
Santa Fe County	5	4.2
Sierra County	**	**
Socorro County	**	**
Taos County	**	**
Torrance County	0	0
Union County	0	0
Valencia County	8	10

SOURCE: New Mexico Department of Health, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, New Mexico Death Certificate Database. Retrieved from the NM DOH Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS), September, 2019 from http://ibis.health.state.nm.us. **NOTE**: Low birth counts may result in rates and percentages that are not indicative of the normal rate for that county and that may fluctuate widely over time due to random variation or chance. The rate for certain counties is suppressed by the NM Dept. of Health because the observed number of events is very small and not appropriate for publication, and for survey queries, rates calculated from fewer than 50 survey responses are suppressed. For this measure, suppressed rates for counties are designated by the ** symbol.

HEALTH
child health insurance

DEFINITION

The percentage of all children younger than 19 years who do not have health insurance, including Medicaid and CHIP. The low-income threshold used in this table is 200 percent of the federal poverty level, which was $40,840 for a family of three in 2017.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

The rates of children without health insurance increased slightly in all income levels and in low-income families from 2016 to 2017.

Children without health insurance are less likely to get well-child visits, less likely to receive immunizations, and more likely to deal with untreated developmental delays and chronic conditions that can hinder healthy growth and learning. Low-income children – who are the majority of children in New Mexico – are less likely to have access to health insurance.

Medicaid – the public health insurance program jointly funded by the state and federal governments – is the single largest provider of health insurance to children in New Mexico, covering nearly 60 percent of the under 21 population in 2017.

Children (Younger than 19 years) without Health Insurance by Income Level and County (2017)

Location	All Income Levels	Low Income
New Mexico	5.4%	6.3%
Bernalillo County	4.2%	5.4%
Catron County	9.2%	11.6%
Chaves County	6.2%	7.2%
Cibola County	5.4%	5.1%
Colfax County	5.4%	6.8%
Curry County	4.3%	5.1%
De Baca County	9.0%	10.0%
Doña Ana County	5.3%	6.3%
Eddy County	5.0%	6.8%
Grant County	4.4%	5.3%
Guadalupe County	4.5%	4.5%
Harding County	9.7%	13.3%
Hidalgo County	6.0%	7.2%
Lea County	5.9%	6.9%
Lincoln County	8.2%	10.0%
Los Alamos County	2.3%	12.0%
Luna County	5.5%	5.8%
McKinley County	6.6%	4.5%
Mora County	7.6%	9.2%
Otero County	5.3%	6.1%
Quay County	4.9%	5.0%
Rio Arriba County	5.7%	6.2%
Roosevelt County	6.8%	8.2%
San Juan County	7.3%	7.1%
San Miguel County	5.3%	6.1%
Sandoval County	5.3%	7.3%
Santa Fe County	7.3%	9.9%
Sierra County	5.2%	5.7%
Socorro County	5.9%	5.9%
Taos County	6.4%	7.2%
Torrance County	6.4%	7.0%
Union County	9.4%	12.1%
Valencia County	5.1%	5.6%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2017.

Children and Youth (Younger than 21 Years) Enrolled in Medicaid by County (September 2019)

Location	All Youth Enrolled	Native American Youth Enrolled
New Mexico	315,624	51,310
Bernalillo County	85,311	8,093
Catron County	195	16
Chaves County	12,061	60
Cibola County	5,302	3,250
Colfax County	1,845	30
Curry County	9,264	83
De Baca County	178	4
Doña Ana County	41,666	351
Eddy County	8,420	77
Grant County	3,755	79
Guadalupe County	806	6
Harding County	20	1
Hidalgo County	646	5
Lea County	12,932	111
Lincoln County	2,796	175
Los Alamos County	221	13
Luna County	6,069	48
McKinley County	16,369	14,672
Mora County	335	11
Otero County	7,797	1,355
Quay County	1,452	18
Rio Arriba County	7,730	1,321
Roosevelt County	2,068	32
San Juan County	22,359	13,088
San Miguel County	4,036	97
Sandoval County	18,231	5,001
Santa Fe County	16,866	1,194
Sierra County	2,513	29
Socorro County	2,849	782
Taos County	4,584	420
Torrance County	3,849	103
Union County	116	8
Valencia County	12,604	734
Unknown	379	43

SOURCE: New Mexico Human Services Department, Medicaid Eligibility Reports, September: "All Children under 21 by County" and "Native Americans by County"; columns titled "Children including CHIP and not in another category." Retrieved October, 2019 from http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/LookingForInformation/medicaid-eligibility.aspx.

HEALTH
child abuse

DEFINITION

A child abuse allegation is substantiated when it is determined that the victim(s) is under the age of 18, a parent or caretaker has been identified as the perpetrator and/or identified as failing to protect the victim(s), and credible evidence exists to support the conclusion by the investigation worker that the child has been abused and/or neglected as defined by the New Mexico Children's Code.

READ THIS TABLE AS:

"In fiscal year 2019 (from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019), for every 1,000 children under the age of 18 in New Mexico, approximately 21.5 were abused or neglected." **The percentages should be read as:** "In fiscal year 2019, of all substantiated allegations of child abuse, 22 percent were for physical abuse, 2 percent were for sexual abuse, and 76 percent were for physical neglect."

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

The rate of substantiated child abuse worsened from 15 children per 1,000 in FY 2018 to 21.5 per 1,000 in FY 2019. Child abuse is one of what experts call "adverse childhood experiences" – or ACEs. Multiple or sustained ACEs, particularly in young children, can negatively impact brain development, the results of which can be carried throughout their lives.

SOURCE: New Mexico Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD) Protective Services Division, information request received November, 2019.

Substantiated Child Abuse by Type of Abuse and County (FY 2019)

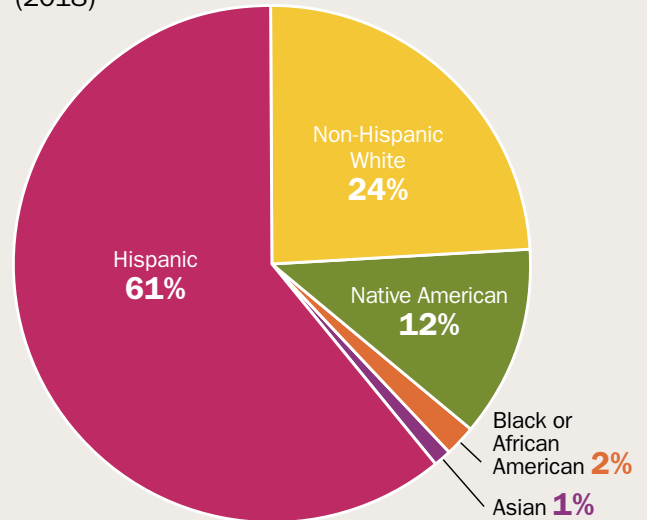| Location	Substantiated Child Abuse Victim Rate (per 1,000 Children)	Percent of Substantiated Abuse that is:		
		Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Physical Neglect
New Mexico	21.5	22%	2%	76%
Bernalillo County	12.0	21%	3%	76%
Catron County	0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Chaves County	17.4	16%	1%	83%
Cibola County	15.5	22%	2%	76%
Colfax County	23.8	32%	0%	68%
Curry County	12.1	20%	2%	78%
De Baca County	24.9	6%	0%	94%
Doña Ana County	12.3	23%	3%	74%
Eddy County	10.5	16%	4%	80%
Grant County	21.2	16%	0%	84%
Guadalupe County	23.2	36%	0%	64%
Harding County	38.8	100%	0%	0%
Hidalgo County	17.2	32%	2%	66%
Lea County	10.6	19%	3%	78%
Lincoln County	23.8	23%	2%	75%
Los Alamos County	5.2	33%	3%	63%
Luna County	21.4	19%	3%	77%
McKinley County	9.8	24%	1%	75%
Mora County	15.7	27%	0%	73%
Otero County	14.3	34%	3%	63%
Quay County	24.6	14%	1%	85%
Rio Arriba County	21.3	21%	1%	78%
Roosevelt County	7.5	35%	2%	63%
San Juan County	12.5	23%	1%	76%
San Miguel County	21.8	30%	0%	70%
Sandoval County	5.9	22%	1%	77%
Santa Fe County	10.3	21%	1%	78%
Sierra County	24.0	24%	2%	74%
Socorro County	28.3	16%	1%	82%
Taos County	27.6	15%	1%	84%
Torrance County	19.9	23%	2%	76%
Union County	24.2	33%	0%	67%
Valencia County	14.0	32%	2%	66%

population

DEFINITION

The U.S. Census considers Hispanic an ethnicity rather than a race. Although people who identify as Hispanic may also identify as a race, all of the children in this data set who identify as a race are considered non-Hispanic.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

New Mexico is ahead of the nation in having a child population where children of color are in the majority. Approximately three quarters of children in New Mexico are kids of color, with Hispanic children making up the largest group. Because children of color generally tend to face more barriers to good health and well-being, it is critical that policies are implemented that focus on racial and ethnic equity and that promote opportunities for children of color.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, American Community Survey, Table B01001, 2018.

Child (Ages 0–17) Population by Race and Ethnicity (2018)

Non-Hispanic White **24%**

Hispanic **61%**

Native American **12%**

Black or African American **2%**

Asian **1%**

Population by Age Group and County (2013–2017)

Location	Total Population (All Ages)	Children (Ages 0–17)	Children (Ages 0–4)
United States	321,004,407	73,601,279	19,853,515
New Mexico	2,084,828	497,727	131,062
Bernalillo County	674,855	152,933	40,559
Catron County	3,547	523	131
Chaves County	65,454	17,697	4,603
Cibola County	27,049	6,519	1,903
Colfax County	12,522	2,344	621
Curry County	50,283	13,501	4,187
De Baca County	2,016	486	74
Doña Ana County	213,849	54,276	14,749
Eddy County	56,793	14,952	4,122
Grant County	28,382	5,955	1,677
Guadalupe County	4,426	824	208
Harding County	546	101	24
Hidalgo County	4,446	1,024	288
Lea County	69,505	20,931	5,617
Lincoln County	19,497	3,601	930
Los Alamos County	18,031	4,160	974
Luna County	24,319	6,431	1,796
McKinley County	72,849	21,593	5,892
Mora County	4,605	841	239
Otero County	65,130	15,452	4,466
Quay County	8,447	1,869	517
Rio Arriba County	39,455	9,441	2,683
Roosevelt County	19,313	4,751	1,400
San Juan County	128,221	35,257	9,260
San Miguel County	28,203	5,686	1,391
Sandoval County	138,815	33,677	7,839
Santa Fe County	147,514	28,314	6,904
Sierra County	11,254	1,823	504
Socorro County	17,098	3,986	517
Taos County	32,809	6,169	1,478
Torrance County	15,534	3,249	755
Union County	4,216	862	266
Valencia County	75,845	18,499	4,488

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017, Table DP05.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY
types of families

DEFINITION

The term **households** include all people who live in a housing unit, while the term **families** refers to households in which at least some members are related to each other (see methodology section for more detailed definitions). The numbers in these rows do not add up to 100 percent because there are other types of household structures besides families with children, including families and households without children and households where no one is related.

READ THIS TABLE AS:

"Of all the households in New Mexico, 16 percent are married-couple families with their own children younger than 18 years."

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

While a large share of New Mexico's children (41 percent) live in families where the parents are not married, married-couple families still make up the largest share (16 percent) of households with children. Neither the state- nor national-level data on types of families with children changed from the 2012–2016 data.

Families by Householder Type and County (2013–2017)

| Location | Total Households | Percent of Households that are: | | |
| | | Married-Couple Families | Single-Male Householder Families | Single-Female Householder Families |
		with Own Children Younger than 18 years		
United States	118,825,921	19%	2%	7%
New Mexico	770,435	16%	3%	8%
Bernalillo County	263,551	16%	3%	8%
Catron County	1,433	5%	2%	3%
Chaves County	23,343	19%	4%	10%
Cibola County	9,068	13%	7%	10%
Colfax County	5,591	9%	4%	7%
Curry County	18,470	22%	4%	10%
De Baca County	666	17%	1%	6%
Doña Ana County	76,740	19%	2%	9%
Eddy County	21,273	20%	5%	7%
Grant County	11,879	12%	3%	8%
Guadalupe County	1,253	5%	2%	9%
Harding County	203	5%	3%	3%
Hidalgo County	1,761	17%	0%	6%
Lea County	22,029	26%	5%	7%
Lincoln County	7,902	13%	1%	3%
Los Alamos County	7,525	22%	2%	4%
Luna County	9,088	14%	2%	6%
McKinley County	19,764	14%	3%	10%
Mora County	1,513	9%	1%	3%
Otero County	23,657	17%	1%	7%
Quay County	3,085	6%	2%	7%
Rio Arriba County	12,852	9%	3%	7%
Roosevelt County	7,125	18%	3%	7%
San Juan County	41,999	18%	4%	8%
San Miguel County	11,041	8%	5%	8%
Sandoval County	49,265	20%	3%	7%
Santa Fe County	61,651	13%	3%	7%
Sierra County	5,400	8%	3%	5%
Socorro County	4,698	7%	1%	7%
Taos County	12,603	9%	3%	7%
Torrance County	5,598	12%	2%	5%
Union County	1,424	12%	2%	7%
Valencia County	26,985	18%	2%	7%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017, Table DP02

DEFINITION

Data for the tribal areas include all households located on tribal lands, including pueblos, reservations, and off-reservation lands held in trusts. These households may include people who do not identify as Native American. Data do not include Native American households that are located in non-tribal areas such as cities or on reservation land that extends to other states (such as the portions of the Navajo Nation in Arizona and Utah). Data for the U.S. and New Mexico include people of all races in the nation or state.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

Married-couple families with children make up a smaller share of households in tribal areas than they do in the state as a whole, with only one group – Sandia Pueblo – having a share equal to the state average.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017, Tables DP02 and B11016.

Families by Householder Type and Tribal Area (2013–2017)

| Location | Total Households | Percent of Households that are: | | |
| | | Married-Couple Families | Single-Male Householder Families | Single-Female Householder Families |
		with Own Children Younger than Age 18		
United States (All Races)	118,825,921	19%	2%	7%
New Mexico (All Races)	770,435	16%	3%	8%
Acoma Pueblo	742	9%	7%	8%
Cochiti Pueblo	630	10%	4%	7%
Isleta Pueblo	1,320	8%	7%	9%
Jemez Pueblo	459	5%	6%	7%
Jicarilla Apache	783	10%	3%	16%
Laguna Pueblo	1,138	6%	3%	12%
Mescalero Apache	957	13%	4%	15%
Nambe Pueblo	666	11%	4%	7%
Navajo	45,972	12%	3%	11%
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	1,862	11%	3%	6%
Picuris Pueblo	796	8%	2%	8%
Pojoaque Pueblo	1,426	14%	5%	8%
Sandia Pueblo	1,780	16%	3%	9%
San Felipe Pueblo	852	14%	3%	5%
San Ildefonso Pueblo	714	13%	6%	8%
Santa Ana Pueblo	181	10%	3%	9%
Santa Clara Pueblo	4,255	9%	2%	8%
Santo Domingo Pueblo	601	8%	5%	9%
Taos Pueblo	2,010	8%	3%	7%
Tesuque Pueblo	329	14%	3%	6%
Zia Pueblo	218	13%	4%	10%
Zuni Pueblo	1,906	14%	2%	7%

FAMILY & COMMUNITY
adult education

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES

New Mexico lags the nation in the educational levels of its adults and no significant change is shown in this data as compared to the 2012-2016 data. Not surprisingly, Los Alamos is the outlier with 40 percent of their adults having a graduate or professional degree, thanks to the presence of the national lab there. Research shows that the education level of a parent – especially the education of a mother – is a strong predictor of how well a child will do in school and whether they will complete high school and go to college. Higher levels of education means parents are likely to have lower levels of unemployment, earn higher wages, and have more benefits such as health insurance and paid leave. Clearly, one way to improve school and life outcomes for children is to ensure that their parents have the resources to gain more education themselves.

Adults (Ages 25 and Older) by Educational Attainment Level and County (2013–2017)

Location	No High School Diploma	High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	Some College, but No Degree	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
United States	13%	27%	21%	8%	19%	12%
New Mexico	15%	26%	24%	8%	15%	12%
Bernalillo County	12%	23%	24%	8%	18%	15%
Catron County	5%	39%	22%	9%	17%	9%
Chaves County	22%	27%	23%	9%	13%	7%
Cibola County	19%	33%	26%	10%	9%	4%
Colfax County	11%	33%	27%	8%	13%	8%
Curry County	17%	27%	27%	10%	13%	7%
De Baca County	13%	36%	37%	4%	6%	5%
Doña Ana County	21%	22%	22%	8%	16%	11%
Eddy County	15%	37%	23%	9%	10%	6%
Grant County	13%	26%	26%	9%	15%	12%
Guadalupe County	22%	39%	20%	6%	8%	5%
Harding County	10%	35%	24%	7%	20%	4%
Hidalgo County	21%	33%	23%	8%	9%	5%
Lea County	27%	31%	22%	7%	8%	5%
Lincoln County	9%	29%	24%	9%	20%	10%
Los Alamos County	2%	10%	13%	10%	25%	40%
Luna County	33%	31%	16%	6%	9%	6%
McKinley County	25%	35%	22%	7%	6%	5%
Mora County	11%	38%	31%	8%	7%	6%
Otero County	16%	29%	27%	10%	10%	8%
Quay County	16%	40%	21%	8%	8%	7%
Rio Arriba County	15%	33%	26%	8%	12%	7%
Roosevelt County	21%	27%	22%	6%	14%	11%
San Juan County	16%	32%	27%	11%	8%	6%
San Miguel County	20%	28%	25%	8%	10%	9%
Sandoval County	10%	25%	26%	9%	18%	13%
Santa Fe County	11%	22%	19%	6%	21%	20%
Sierra County	16%	31%	24%	9%	13%	6%
Socorro County	23%	34%	18%	5%	12%	8%
Taos County	13%	27%	26%	8%	16%	12%
Torrance County	16%	33%	24%	10%	12%	6%
Union County	22%	40%	17%	6%	10%	6%
Valencia County	18%	33%	24%	8%	11%	6%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017, Table DP02.

DEFINITION

Data for the tribal areas include all adults (ages 25 and older) who live on tribal lands, including pueblos, reservations, and off-reservation lands held in trusts. Data may include people who do not identify as Native American. Data do not include Native Americans living in non-tribal areas such as cities or on reservation land that extends to other states (such as the portions of the Navajo Nation in Arizona and Utah). Data for the U.S. and New Mexico include people of all races in the nation or state.

Adults (Ages 25 and Older) by Educational Attainment Level and Tribal Area (2013–2017)

| Location	No High School Diploma	High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	Some College, but No Degree	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
United States (All Races)	13%	27%	21%	8%	19%	12%
New Mexico (All Races)	15%	26%	24%	8%	15%	12%
Acoma Pueblo	11%	42%	28%	10%	7%	3%
Cochiti Pueblo	9%	31%	26%	12%	14%	9%
Isleta Pueblo	14%	39%	29%	10%	7%	2%
Jemez Pueblo	13%	35%	36%	6%	6%	5%
Jicarilla Apache	12%	42%	24%	9%	7%	6%
Laguna Pueblo	11%	39%	29%	11%	8%	2%
Mescalero Apache	22%	33%	30%	5%	6%	3%
Nambe Pueblo	11%	29%	25%	6%	17%	12%
Navajo	27%	35%	22%	8%	5%	3%
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	20%	36%	27%	7%	7%	3%
Picuris Pueblo	17%	35%	26%	8%	9%	5%
Pojoaque Pueblo	13%	29%	27%	7%	14%	10%
Sandia Pueblo	20%	38%	23%	7%	8%	4%
San Felipe Pueblo	25%	37%	19%	6%	8%	4%
San Ildefonso Pueblo	11%	32%	26%	7%	14%	10%
Santa Ana Pueblo	6%	39%	35%	11%	6%	3%
Santa Clara Pueblo	16%	30%	24%	8%	13%	9%
Santo Domingo Pueblo	21%	40%	24%	9%	4%	2%
Taos Pueblo	12%	26%	29%	7%	17%	9%
Tesuque Pueblo	18%	32%	25%	5%	13%	8%
Zia Pueblo	15%	37%	33%	9%	5%	1%
Zuni Pueblo	26%	40%	22%	7%	4%	2%

methodology

DATA SOURCES

At this time, the New Mexico KIDS COUNT program does not design or implement primary research in the state. Instead, the program uses and analyzes secondary data and study findings provided by credible research and data collection institutions both in the state and the nation, such as the U.S. Census Bureau. The New Mexico KIDS COUNT staff make every effort to confirm that the data gathered and used are the most reliable possible. However, we rely on the data collection and analysis skills of those institutions providing this information. More information on data sources can be found in the "Major Data Sources" section of this publication.

DATA CONDITIONS

Some tables in this report do not provide data for all New Mexico counties or school districts. In order to provide the most up-to-date information possible we make every effort to utilize the most recent U.S. Census Bureau data sets (generally the American Community Survey, or ACS). Given this, however, a certain trade-off takes place, as data are not always available in certain time frames for certain geographic areas, like counties with smaller population sizes. For example, one-year estimates such as the 2018 ACS were released earlier in 2019 and provide the most current data available, but are only published for geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or more. ACS five-year estimates (such as for 2013-2017) provide data for areas with fewer than 20,000 people (as well as for all larger areas), because in five years a large enough sample has been accumulated to provide accurate estimates for those areas. However, five-year estimates are released later in the year than one-year estimates. For these reasons, the New Mexico KIDS COUNT Data Book often includes state-level estimates that are more current than county-level estimates. In this year's book, most national and state-level data reported are from the 2018 one-year ACS, while most county and tribal data reported are from the 2013-2017 five-year ACS (the most recent five-year data set available at the time of this writing).

The data presented in the different tables and graphs in this report may not be comparable to each other. This is due to several factors. These data come from a variety of sources that may use different sample sizes in their research and data collection methods. Data may also be derived from surveys or questionnaires that apply different definitions to key, measurable terms – such as "family" versus "household" (see definitions on the next page). In addition, statistics – such as percentages or rates – may be calculated for certain populations based on different universes (the total number of units – e.g., individuals, households, businesses – in the population of interest). The universe generally serves as the denominator when a percentage or rate is calculated. A percentage is a measure calculated by taking the number of items in a group possessing a certain quality of interest and dividing by the total number of items in that group, and then multiplying by 100. A rate is the number of items, events or individuals in a group out of a number – generally 1,000 or 100,000 – that fall into a certain category. Rates are determined by dividing the number of items possessing a certain quality of interest (like teens ages 15-19 giving birth) by the total number of items in the group (all teen females ages 15-19), and then multiplying the answer by 1,000. A rate is stated as the number "per 1,000" or "per 100,000."
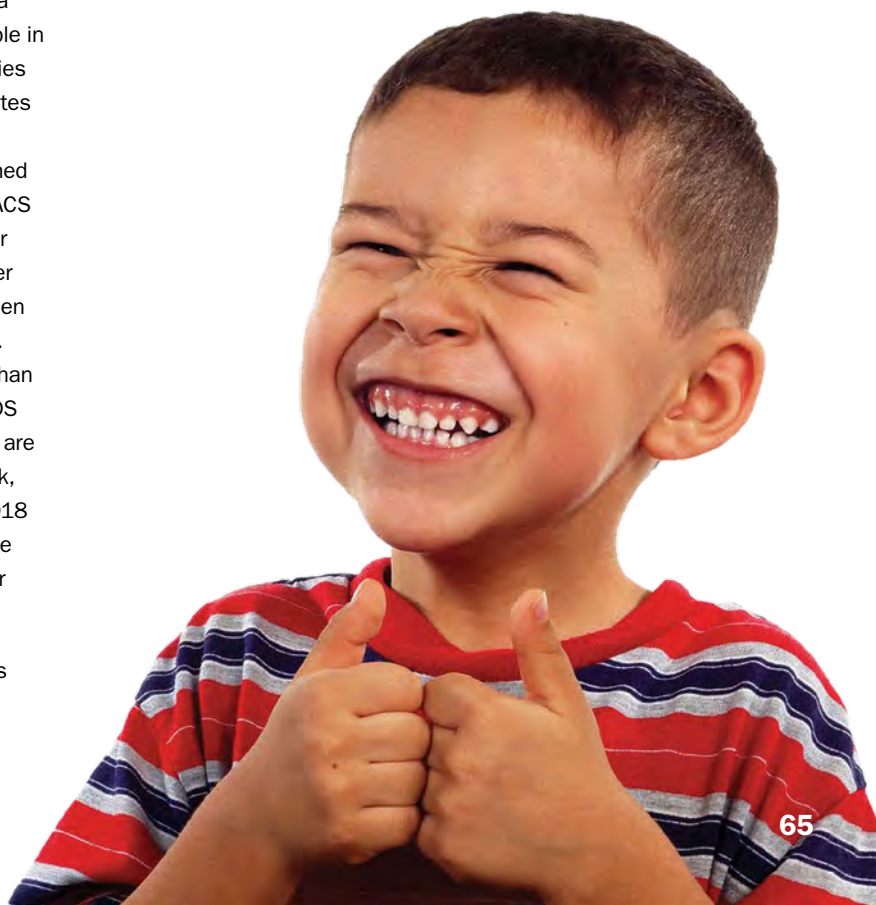
KEY U.S. CENSUS DEFINITIONS TO HELP IN UNDERSTANDING CERTAIN TABLES & GRAPHS

HOUSEHOLD AND HOUSEHOLDER

A **household** includes all the people who occupy or live in a housing unit (apartment, house, mobile home, etc.) as their usual place of residence. A **householder** is the person in whose name the home is owned, mortgaged or rented. Households are classified by the gender of the householder and the presence of relatives, such as: married-couple family; male householder, no wife present; female householder, no husband present with own children; same-sex couple households; and the like.

FAMILY

A **family** includes a householder and people living in the same household who are related to that householder by birth, marriage or adoption and regarded as members of his or her family. A family household *may have people not related to the householder, but they are not included as part of the householder's family in Census tabulations.*

- So, though the number of families equals the number of family households, *family households* may include more members than do families.
- Families are classified as "Married-Couple Family," "Single-Parent Family," "Stepfamily," or "Subfamily."

INCOME

Total income is the sum of the amounts reported separately for: wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips; self-employment income from one's own non-farm or farm businesses, including proprietorships and partnerships; interest, dividends, net rental income, royalty income, or income from estates and trusts; Social Security or Railroad Retirement income; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); any public assistance or welfare payments from the state or local welfare office; retirement, survivor, or disability pensions; and any other sources of income received regularly, such as Veterans' (VA) payments, unemployment compensation, child support, or alimony.

- **Household Income**, which is a summed number, includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not.
- **Family Income** includes the summed incomes of all members 15 years old and over related to the householder; this summed income is treated as a single amount.

Median income divides households or families evenly in the middle with half of all households or families earning more than the median income and half of all households or families earning less than the median income. The U.S. Census Bureau considers the median income to be lower than the average income, and thus, a more accurate representation.

POVERTY LEVEL

Poverty level can be difficult to interpret. The Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds known as the federal poverty guidelines, which vary by family size and composition, in order to determine who is poor. If total income for a family or individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold or the federal poverty level (FPL), then the family or individual is classified as being "below the poverty level." However, the poverty level is generally far below what a family actually needs in order to live at a bare minimum level (i.e., have sufficient food, a safe place to live, transportation, and health care). Most of the poverty levels used in 2019 New Mexico KIDS COUNT Data Book are for 2018. In 2018 the FPL was $12,140 for one person or $25,100 for a family of four. However, a family of four at double (200 percent) the federal poverty level ($50,200 in 2018) is considered to be "low-income," with just enough to cover basic family living expenses. For more information about the federal poverty guidelines, see the website for the U.S. Department of Health and Social Services.

RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

The U.S. Census uses six race categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race. The term origin is used to indicate a person's (or the person's parents) heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth. In addition, the Census uses two ethnic categories: Hispanic and Non-Hispanic. Hispanic (or Latino) refers to a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. People who identify their origin as Spanish or Hispanic may be of any race.

major data sources

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

The majority of the data in the 2019 New Mexico KIDS COUNT Data Book come from the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS provides annual data on demographic, social, housing, and economic indicators. The ACS samples nearly 3 million addresses each year, resulting in approximately 2 million final interviews. After a broad nationwide data collection test conducted between 2000 and 2004, full implementation of the survey began in 2005, with the exception of group quarters (such as correctional facilities, college dorms, and nursing homes), which were first included in the 2006 ACS. Certain changes were made to the ACS questionnaire on health insurance coverage, disabilities connected to military service, and marital history at the beginning of 2008. Each year, the ACS releases data for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 residents or more, and collects a sample over a five-year period to produce estimates for smaller geographic areas. In the late summer of 2019, one-year estimates for 2018 were released. The five-year estimates for 2018 are released in December of 2019. American Community Survey data can be found on the U.S. Census website.

CENSUS 2010, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

The federal government implements a national census every decade; the official 2010 Census results (known as "Census 2010") were released in 2011. Census data are collected from the entire population rather than a sample that is representative of the entire population (such as with the American Community Survey). Census data serve as the basis for redrawing federal congressional districts and state legislative districts under Public Law 94-171. Data from the U.S. Census can be accessed from the same website as that of the American Community Survey or from its own website.

SMALL AREA HEALTH INSURANCE ESTIMATES, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

The Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) program provides health insurance estimates for all states and counties. At the county level, data are available on health insurance coverage by age, sex, and income.

SMALL AREA INCOME AND POVERTY ESTIMATES, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

The Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau with support from other federal agencies, provides select income and poverty data for states, counties, and school districts. Data are used for the administration of federal programs and allocation of federal funds to localities.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Results from mathematics and reading assessments are based on representative samples of approximately 279,000 fourth-graders and 273,000 eighth-graders across the nation. Results are reported for public school students in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Department of Defense schools. Results from NAEP allow for comparison across states and between different racial, ethnic, gender, and income groups within states. While states may change how they measure reading and math proficiency, NAEP allows for a consistent measure across time periods, so that progress in a state can be tracked over time.

DATA COLLECTION BUREAU, NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Data Collection Bureau at the state Public Education Department (PED) gathers data from public school districts throughout New Mexico. The data collected include the percentage of students receiving free and reduced-price lunches, student enrollment figures, student-to-teacher ratios, high school graduation rates, and more.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION, NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Medicaid – also called New Mexico Centennial Care – is administered by the Medical Assistance Division of the state Human Services Department (HSD). Medicaid enrollment numbers are reported for children under age 21 (including Native American children) by county. Medicaid eligibility reports can be found on the NM HSD website.

BUREAU OF VITAL RECORDS AND HEALTH STATISTICS, NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The New Mexico Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics tabulates vital records data to analyze the health status of New Mexicans. The two major data systems are the files for births and deaths. The birth file contains data on demographic characteristics of newborns and their parents. Data on mothers' pregnancy history and medical risk factors are included. The death file contains demographic data on decedents, which are provided by funeral directors, and the causes of death, which are provided by physicians or medical investigators. These data can be accessed on the state Department of Health's Indicator-Based Information System (NM-IBIS) website.

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND RESPONSE DIVISION, NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

New Mexico's Indicator-Based Information System (NM-IBIS) is maintained by the Epidemiology and Response Division. This public health database provides up-to-date statistics from a variety of state health department divisions, including data on birth, death, and disease incidence. There is a health status indicator report section, as well as a direct query section where users can define their specific data requests and get responses in tabular and graph formats. Data is, in general, now available in table, chart, and geo-mapped formats.

RESEARCH, ASSESSMENT, AND DATA BUREAU OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION, NEW MEXICO CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

The Protective Services Division (PSD) is the state agency designated to administer child welfare services in New Mexico. PSD strives to enhance the safety and well-being of children and the permanency of families in New Mexico by receiving, investigating, and taking action on reports of children in need of protection from abuse and/or neglect by their parent, guardian or custodian. The Research, Assessment, and Data Bureau collects and reports PSD data. The "360 Yearly Annual Report" is published annually on a state fiscal-year basis (July to June), and contains annual child abuse and neglect data by state and county. PSD publications, including the "360 Yearly" report, can be found on the CYFD website.

OFFICE OF SCHOOL AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH, NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Office of School and Adolescent Health (OSAH) works to improve student and adolescent health through integrated school-based or school-linked health services. OSAH also engages in adolescent health promotion and disease prevention activities directly and through collaboration with public and private agencies across New Mexico. OSAH oversees and provides data from the biannual high school and middle school Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), which is published every two years and covers risk behaviors and resiliency factors.

ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

The Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) has funded the KIDS COUNT initiative since 1990 and publishes an annual data book highlighting the well-being of children across the country. The Foundation also provides expert data analysis and supports custom data requests from its state-level KIDS COUNT organizations through the Population Reference Bureau. Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, and National Center for Health Statistics, and other national data sites, the Foundation also provides information at its online data center for each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, as well as by topic, such as immigration, poverty, education, employment, and income. The KIDS COUNT Data Center provides mapping, trend and bar charting, and other services relevant to the data presented. It can be found on the AECF website.

other data sources

NEW MEXICO COMMUNITY DATA COLLABORATIVE

The New Mexico Community Data Collaborative (NMCDC) is a geo-mapping data site that is connected to and intended to be integrated with the NM-IBIS system. Made up of a network of public health analysts and advocates from a dozen or more state agencies and non-government agencies, the NMCDC operates an interactive website at ArcGIS Online where users share extensive data sets from multiple sources in the state. It is meant to share neighborhood-level data with local organizations that promote community assessment, child health, and participatory decision-making in the state. NMCDC maps contain aggregated data for more than one thousand indicators organized by sub-county areas such as census tract, zip code, school districts, and other administrative boundaries. In addition, users will find site-specific information for public schools, licensed facilities, and other public services.

ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE

The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that produces reports about conditions facing low- and middle-income families in the areas of education, the economy, living standards, and the labor market, publishing the highly respected annual report *The State of Working America.*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides poverty guidelines that are a simplified version of the federal poverty thresholds and are used for determining eligibility for various federal programs. The poverty thresholds are issued by the U.S. Census Bureau to calculate poverty population statistics (e.g., the percentage or number of people living in poverty in a particular area).

MUCH MORE NEW MEXICO DATA ARE AVAILABLE AT THE

KIDS COUNT Data Center

- **SEARCH BY LOCATION, TOPIC OR KEYWORD**

- **CREATE CUSTOM MAPS, TABLES AND GRAPHS**

- **COMPARE STATES, COUNTIES, CITIES, TRIBAL AREAS, SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS**

datacenter.kidscount.org

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