2020

New Mexico KIDS COUNT Data Book

Building on Resilience

New Mexico Voices for Children
Children's Charter

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.

New Mexico Voices for Children

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Building on Resilience

There is no place quite like New Mexico. From our beautiful landscapes to our unique traditions and multicultural communities, as New Mexicans we know we live in a place with great potential. Our centuries-old history tells the story of people with extraordinary resilience. We've shown our ability to continue moving our families and communities forward through many hard times. Resiliency helps us to survive — but not always to thrive.

New Mexico needs to build on that resilience to ensure that everyone can thrive. That means making investments in our families and communities. It means enacting public policies that work for all people instead of policies that create barriers for some while lifting up others. We've seen too many policies enacted in our state that did not work for all people. Sadly, this system of failed policies is on full display as we live through the current tough times – the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic recession it has caused.

COVID-19 has highlighted the ways in which our nation has been designed to give an advantage to whites and those earning higher incomes, as well as the way our state has too often prioritized the well-being of the well-connected and corporate interests instead of our children. These systemic failures have existed throughout our history, but we have reached a critical moment where we can show our determination and resilience by reimagining our state's policies to repair the fault lines that have widened along racial lines, by gender, and by income levels since the pandemic struck.

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 data in this book reveal both the improvements made and the work still to be done. Our progress is slow, but New Mexico has been moving in the right direction to improve child well-being, particularly with changes made in the last two years.

We need to build on New Mexicans' extraordinary resilience to ensure that everyone can thrive. That means enacting public policies that work for all people instead of policies that create barriers for some while lifting up others.

During the 2020 legislative session, we saw several policies passed that will provide better opportunities for New Mexico's children, working families, and communities of color. Among them are:

The Early Childhood Education Trust Fund, which will help provide a long-term funding source to invest in New Mexico's youngest children, was created with an initial appropriation of $320 million.

The Opportunity Scholarship, which will provide tuition and fee assistance for recent high school graduates and returning adult learners enrolled as full-time students in two-year certificate and degree programs, was established with an appropriation of $17 million. Designed as a "middle-dollar" program, the Opportunity Scholarship will be applied to tuition and fees before federal financial aid, allowing low-income students to use their federal grants for other costs of attendance, including housing and food, transportation, and books.

Student copayments for reduced-price school meals were eliminated, which will further ensure that no school-aged child will go hungry during the school day.

School-based health centers received $2 million in funding to deliver a variety of health services to students at school, allowing kids to avoid health-related absences through easy access to preventive screenings and care.

These successes occurred after the state recorded record-breaking revenues, and they were reflected in a budget created just weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, many of these successes were scaled back during a special legislative session to address declining oil and gas revenues and a recession due to the public health crisis. Cuts included: a decrease of $20 million in the new Early Childhood Trust Fund; a cut of $7 million to the Opportunity Scholarship; and a $146 million cut to the Public Education Department.

Along with the state budget, COVID-19 has dramatically changed the state of child well-being in New Mexico. Most of the data in this book reflect things as they stood in 2019. Every data book reflects the past, but the gulf between the 2019 data and how children and families are doing during the pandemic is huge. To paint a clearer picture of how our kids and families are doing now, we've included new data that has been collected during the public health crisis. Additional details can be found in each section of the book, but some of the most troubling changes in child well-being include:

As many as 34% of New Mexican children were **food insecure** in 2020, compared to 24% in 2018.

51% of adults in households with children had **lost employment income** since March 2020.

By the end of the summer, nearly 30% of adults in households with children had little to no confidence in their ability to pay their next **rent or mortgage payment** on time.

Almost 40% of adults in households with children reported **feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge**, while 27% reported feeling down, depressed, or hopeless.

For many New Mexico families, resilience may be running low. Without financial help from the state and federal governments, too many of our children and their families will suffer setbacks that will take years to recover from.

It is clear that New Mexico was making progress in 2019 and at the beginning of 2020. Now as we face unprecedented and difficult times, we need to continue to remind our leaders and lawmakers that the struggle against poverty and racism is even more crucial in determining how we move forward and thrive after the COVID-19 pandemic. We have the opportunity to reframe our systems, to create more equitable policies, and to ensure we can all rise together as a stronger, more just New Mexico. This can be accomplished if we: avoid budget cuts that harm families, children, and workers; ensure all New Mexicans can meet the basic needs of their families; use tax credits to put money in the hands of New Mexicans who will spend it quickly and locally; protect existing revenues; and, if necessary, raise new revenue.

New Mexico's KIDS COUNT Story

KIDS COUNT is driven by research showing that children's chances of being healthy, doing well in school, and growing up to be productive and thriving members of society are influenced by their experiences in the early years. A program of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 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. You'll find data for these and other indicators in this publication, policy recommendations for improving outcomes and, this year, you'll also find data on the unique hardships faced by families and children as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At its heart, KIDS COUNT tells a story of child well-being that's set against a backdrop of the opportunities we've made available to our kids. Each year, the story is incomplete as the data alone cannot tell us 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.

The data also tell us where we have been rather than where we are or where we are going. It will be some time before we have solid numbers on both the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the beneficial impacts of the policies we listed earlier. Because of the dramatic changes occurring

for children and families during this public health crisis and recession, there has been a nationwide effort to gather almost real-time hardship data to guide our lawmakers. While the majority of the data in this book look at how well we were doing a year or two ago, we have included some hardship data to better indicate what's at stake if we don't move forward quickly with a policy agenda centered on racial equity and child well-being.

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 well we are protecting and nurturing our greatest asset – New Mexico's children.

A NOTE ABOUT DATA: *Whenever possible, data are disaggregated by race and ethnicity to provide a preliminary understanding of disparities. Data are not always available for all races, ethnicities, or tribes, which we recognize is problematic given our nation's long history of cultural erasure. Some rural and tribal areas in New Mexico also tend to be undercounted in U.S. Census data and can be underrepresented in other sources as well. As a result, the statistics throughout this report tell a limited story, and in many cases, the numbers don't reflect people's lived experiences. New Mexico Voices for Children is committed to continuing to engage with the communities represented in this data to better understand the stories, voices, and people behind the numbers. We are also committed to both engaging with the communities left out of this data and advocating for better, more accurate, and inclusive data.*

We have reached a critical moment, where we can show our determination and resilience by reimagining our state's policies.

Demographics

| # New Mexico's Population

Child Population by Race and Ethnicity   2019
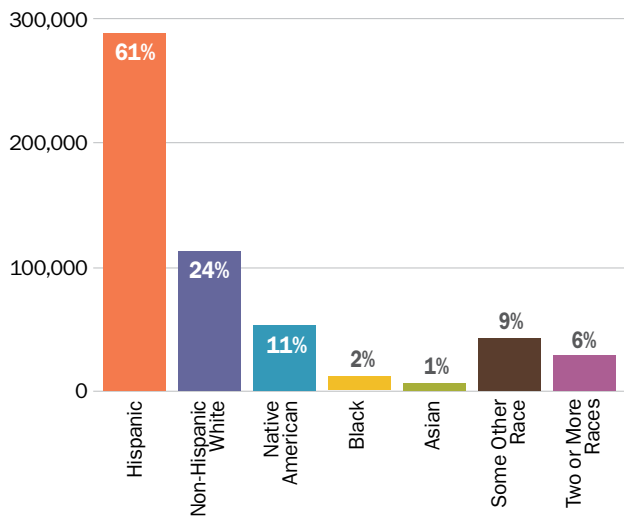
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019, Table B01001.
NOTE: The percentages total more than 100% due to overlap among some races and ethnicities.

Definition

Children (ages 0 to 17) in New Mexico by race and ethnicity. The U.S. Census considers Hispanic an ethnicity rather than a race. People who identify as Hispanic may also identify as one or more races.

How New Mexico Fares

New Mexico is ahead of the nation in having a child population where children of color are in the majority. 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.

A Policy Solution to Support Our Demographics

The state should require a racial equity impact report on all debated legislation so that the equity impacts of all policies are better understood before they are enacted.

Population by Age Group and County 2014–2018

Location	All Ages	Children (Ages 0-4)	Children (Ages 0-17)
United States	322,903,030	19,836,850	73,553,240
New Mexico	2,092,434	128,357	494,164
Bernalillo County	677,692	39,636	151,579
Catron County	3,539	64	468
Chaves County	65,459	4,477	17,581
Cibola County	26,978	1,832	6,438
Colfax County	12,353	618	2,311
Curry County	50,199	4,160	13,411
De Baca County	2,060	105	548
Doña Ana County	215,338	14,354	53,956
Eddy County	57,437	4,178	15,197
Grant County	28,061	1,646	5,874
Guadalupe County	4,382	220	774
Harding County	459	21	70
Hidalgo County	4,371	256	1,001
Lea County	70,126	5,493	21,165
Lincoln County	19,482	836	3,613
Los Alamos County	18,356	953	4,168
Luna County	24,264	1,797	6,385
McKinley County	72,849	5,698	21,366
Mora County	4,563	254	852
Otero County	65,745	4,441	15,440
Quay County	8,373	508	1,858
Rio Arriba County	39,307	2,628	9,318
Roosevelt County	19,117	1,423	4,728
San Juan County	127,455	9,028	34,703
San Miguel County	28,034	1,337	5,651
Sandoval County	140,769	7,806	33,663
Santa Fe County	148,917	6,669	28,007
Sierra County	11,135	518	1,796
Socorro County	17,000	590	3,923
Taos County	32,888	1,508	6,053
Torrance County	15,595	741	3,293
Union County	4,175	234	790
Valencia County	75,956	4,328	18,184

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018.

Economic Well-Being

| # COVID-19 Hardship Data

Average Unemployment Rate
Aug.–Oct. 2020

	50%		
	40%		
	30%		
	20%		
	10%	8.2%	9.8%
	0%	United States	New Mexico
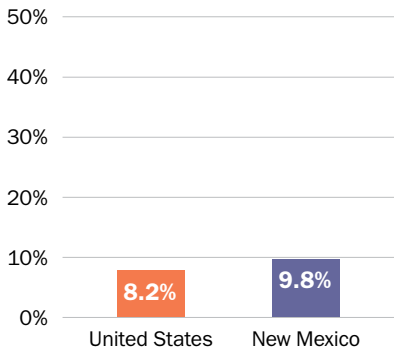
SOURCE: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2020

Definition

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics counts as unemployed those over the age of 16 who do not have a job but are available for work and have actively sought employment within the last month.

How New Mexico is Faring

The average unemployment rate over the August to October period shows that unemployment was highly elevated in the months following the official pandemic declaration. Prior to the pandemic, unemployment had hovered at around 5%.

Adults Living in Households with Children Who Lost Employment Income
Oct. 14–Nov. 9, 2020
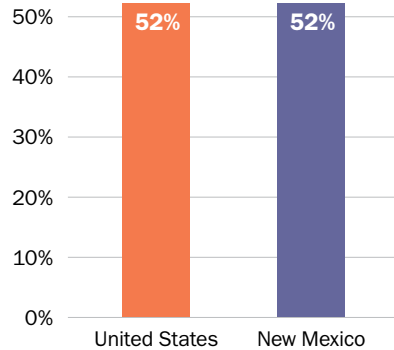
	50%	52%	52%
	40%		
	30%		
	20%		
	10%		
	0%	United States	New Mexico

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, 2020

Definition

The percentage of adults living in households with children (ages 0 to 17) who reported that they or a household member had experienced a loss of employment income since March 13, 2020 (the date the U.S. government declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency).

Adults Living in Households with Children Who Had Difficulty Paying for Usual Household Expenses in the Past Week Oct. 14–Nov. 9, 2020
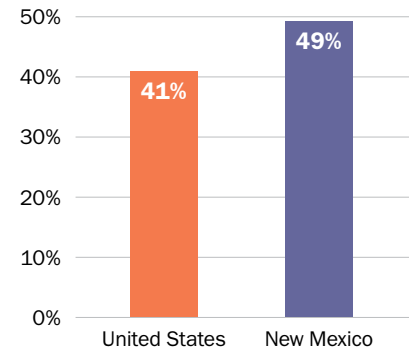
	50%		49%
	40%	41%	
	30%		
	20%		
	10%		
	0%	United States	New Mexico

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, Phase 2, 2020

Definition

The percentage of adults living in households with children (ages 0 to 17) who reported that it has been somewhat or very difficult for the household to pay for usual household expenses, including but not limited to food, rent or mortgage, car payments, medical expenses, student loans, and so on, in the past week.

MORE HARDSHIP DATA

As this publication was being readied for the printer (in November and December 2020), data were still being collected in the Household Pulse Survey. You can find the most recent data available at the KIDS COUNT Data Center (datacenter.kidscount.org).

Adults Living in Households with Children Who Have Little or No Confidence in Their Ability to Pay Their Next Rent or Mortgage Payment on Time Oct. 14–Nov. 9, 2020
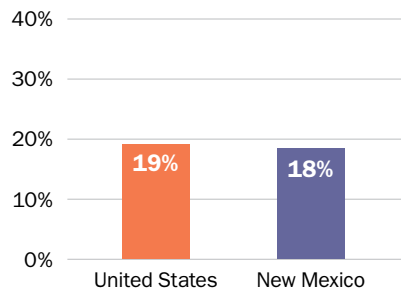
	United States	New Mexico
	19%	18%

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, 2020

Adults Living in Households with Children Who Sometimes or Often Did Not Have Enough Food to Eat in the Past Week

Oct. 14–Nov. 9, 2020
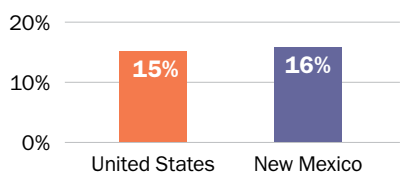
	United States	New Mexico
	15%	16%

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, 2020

Adults Reporting That Children in the Household Weren't Eating Enough Because Couldn't Afford Enough

Oct. 28–Nov. 23, 2020

	United States	New Mexico
	15%	20%
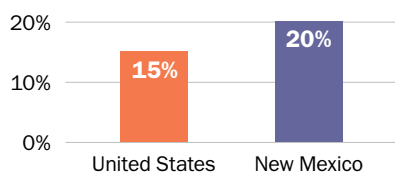
SOURCE: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, Phase 2, 2020

Increase in SNAP Participants

Feb.–Aug. 2020

	United States	New Mexico
	17%	11%
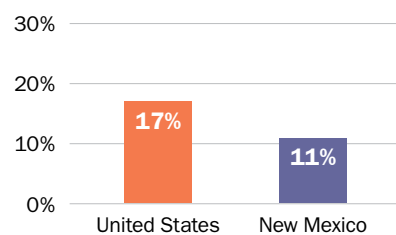
SOURCE: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities compilation of state-reported SNAP participants, 2020

How New Mexico is Faring

The percentage increase in SNAP participants through August 2020 compared to February 2020 (the last month before the economic effects of the pandemic hit) reflects an unprecedented rapid rise. New Mexico, however, saw a lower rise than did the nation as a whole.

Children Living in Poverty by Year
2008–2019
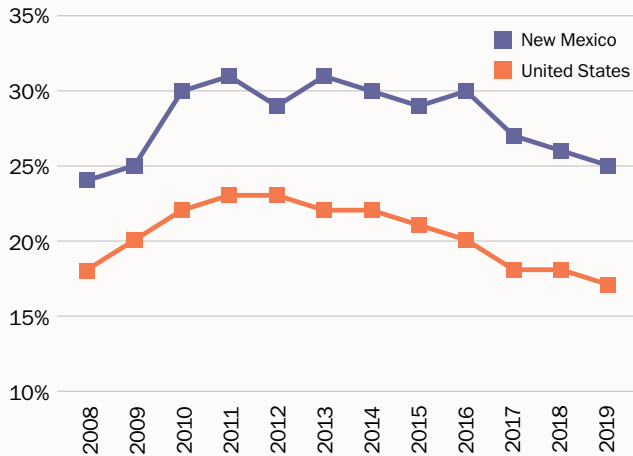
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2019, Table S1701.

Population (All Ages) Living in Poverty by Year
2008–2019
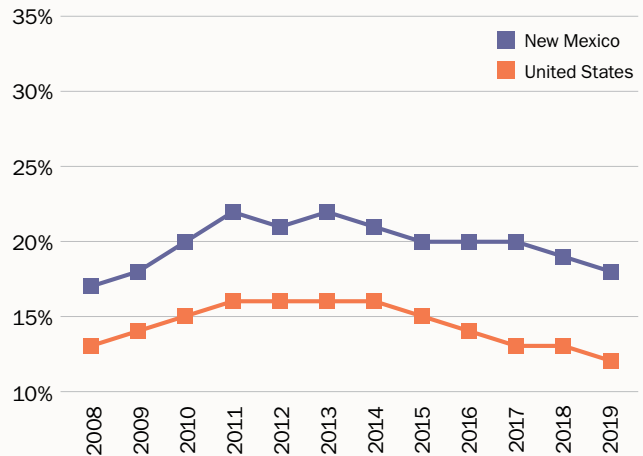
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2019, Table S1701.

Children Living in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity 2019
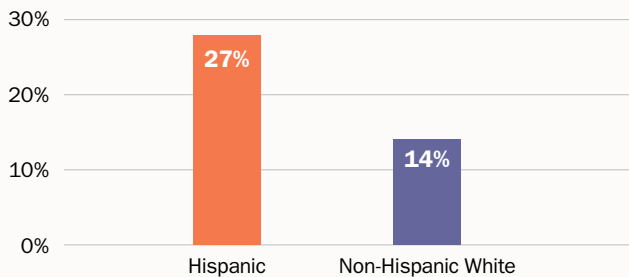
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019, Table C17001.
NOTE: Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.

Population (All Ages) Living in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity 2019
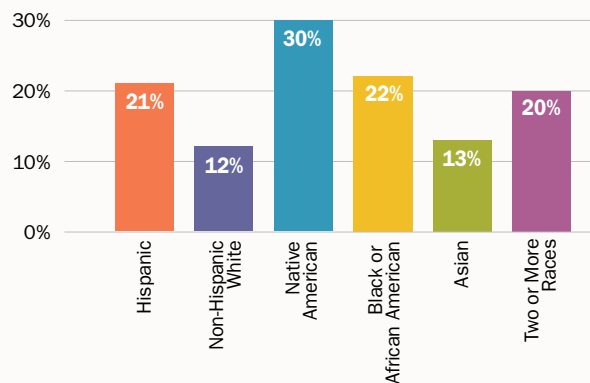
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019, Table S1701.

Definition

The share of children (ages 0 to 17) and the total population (all ages) in New Mexico who are living at or below the federal poverty level (FPL). The FPL for a family of three was $21,330 in 2019 (the year these data were collected). The FPL is generally far below what a family actually needs in order to live at a bare minimum level (e.g., have sufficient food, a safe place to live, transportation, and health care) and does not take into account regional differences in the cost of living.

Population Living in Poverty
by Age Group and County 2014–2018

Location	Poverty Rate Children	Poverty Rate All Ages
United States	20%	14%
New Mexico	28%	20%
Bernalillo County	25%	17%
Catron County	37%	23%
Chaves County	29%	21%
Cibola County	35%	27%
Colfax County	36%	24%
Curry County	31%	21%
De Baca County	14%	17%
Doña Ana County	41%	28%
Eddy County	21%	15%
Grant County	30%	22%
Guadalupe County	21%	15%
Harding County	36%	18%
Hidalgo County	41%	28%
Lea County	22%	17%
Lincoln County	25%	16%
Los Alamos County	5%	5%
Luna County	40%	30%
McKinley County	45%	36%
Mora County	21%	19%
Otero County	32%	21%
Quay County	42%	22%
Rio Arriba County	N/A	N/A
Roosevelt County	35%	26%
San Juan County	28%	21%
San Miguel County	33%	28%
Sandoval County	18%	14%
Santa Fe County	19%	13%
Sierra County	41%	25%
Socorro County	36%	29%
Taos County	25%	19%
Torrance County	35%	26%
Union County	28%	14%
Valencia County	25%	20%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Table S1701.

How New Mexico Fares

The rate and number of New Mexico children living in poverty decreased from 2018 to 2019, with the number of kids living in poverty at the lowest level since 2008. However, with 25% of our children living at or below the FPL, New Mexico still ranks poorly at 48th in the nation in child poverty. While most other states had recovered from the Great Recession by 2019, New Mexico's economy had not yet fully rebounded, which means fewer families have the opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty. 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 116,000 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 negative impacts 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.

Definition

For tribal areas, only data for tribal residents living on New Mexico reservation land are included, and data include off-reservation lands held in trusts. Data for the U.S. and New Mexico include people of all races in the nation or state.

How New Mexico Fares

Tribal areas in New Mexico generally fare worse in traditional measures of economic well-being than does the state as a whole. With the exception of Cochiti, Pojoaque, and San Ildefonso Pueblos, all tribal areas have higher poverty rates for either the whole population or for children – or both.

Population Living in Poverty by Age Group and Tribal Area 2014–2018

Location	Poverty Rate	
	Children	All Ages
United States	20%	14%
New Mexico	28%	20%
Acoma Pueblo	23%	22%
Cochiti Pueblo	27%	18%
Isleta Pueblo	36%	27%
Jemez Pueblo	29%	26%
Jicarilla Apache	33%	27%
Laguna Pueblo	36%	27%
Mescalero Apache	42%	32%
Nambe Pueblo	31%	19%
Navajo Nation	49%	39%
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	N/A	N/A
Picuris Pueblo	42%	25%
Pojoaque Pueblo	19%	13%
Sandia Pueblo	34%	24%
San Felipe Pueblo	21%	24%
San Ildefonso Pueblo	22%	14%
Santa Ana Pueblo	19%	24%
Santa Clara Pueblo	N/A	N/A
Santo Domingo Pueblo	40%	35%
Taos Pueblo	35%	25%
Tesuque Pueblo	29%	24%
Zia Pueblo	27%	28%
Zuni Pueblo	41%	35%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Table S1701.

Children Living in Families Where No Parent Had Secure Employment by Year 2008–2018
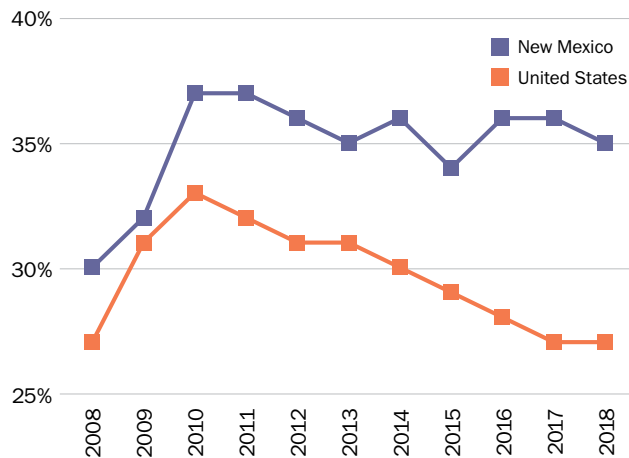
SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2018.

Children Living in Families Where No Parent Had Secure Employment by Race and Ethnicity 2018
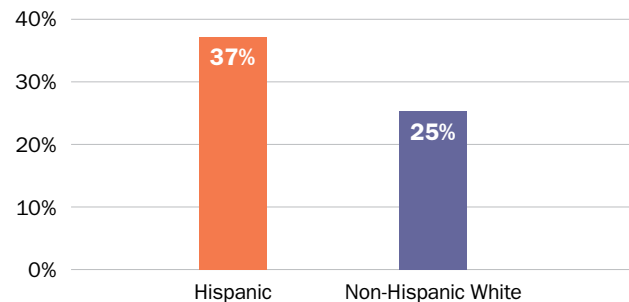
SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018. **NOTE:** Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.

Definition

Secure employment is defined as work that is full-time and year-round. Parents who lack secure employment may be working part time or seasonally or be unemployed.

How New Mexico Fares

Even though New Mexico saw a slight improvement in this indicator from 2017 to 2018, it was not enough to change our ranking, which remains 49th. This indicator has worsened over the long-term, with a 5-percentage point increase since 2008. 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 needed for 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 paid sick leave, which hurts both them and their families.

Families with Children in Which No Parent is Working by County 2014–2018

Location	Rank	Percent
United States		8%
New Mexico		12%
Bernalillo County	7	10%
Catron County	5	8%
Chaves County	10	14%
Cibola County	12	17%
Colfax County	4	7%
Curry County	8	12%
De Baca County	1	0%
Doña Ana County	10	14%
Eddy County	7	10%
Grant County	10	14%
Guadalupe County	13	18%
Harding County	3	6%
Hidalgo County	11	15%
Lea County	7	10%
Lincoln County	6	9%
Los Alamos County	2	3%
Luna County	11	15%
McKinley County	16	24%
Mora County	16	24%
Otero County	8	12%
Quay County	17	32%
Rio Arriba County	N/A	N/A
Roosevelt County	8	12%
San Juan County	9	13%
San Miguel County	14	20%
Sandoval County	7	10%
Santa Fe County	5	8%
Sierra County	16	24%
Socorro County	10	14%
Taos County	12	17%
Torrance County	10	14%
Union County	14	20%
Valencia County	7	10%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Table B23007.

Median Household Income by County 2014–2018

Location	Rank	Median Income
United States		$60,293
New Mexico		$48,059
Bernalillo County	6	$51,643
Catron County	12	$42,480
Chaves County	10	$43,197
Cibola County	18	$37,368
Colfax County	23	$33,783
Curry County	8	$46,182
De Baca County	26	$31,028
Doña Ana County	15	$39,164
Eddy County	2	$62,982
Grant County	17	$37,880
Guadalupe County	32	$24,085
Harding County	27	$30,875
Hidalgo County	21	$36,339
Lea County	3	$59,797
Lincoln County	13	$42,267
Los Alamos County	1	$115,248
Luna County	29	$27,377
McKinley County	24	$31,674
Mora County	31	$26,968
Otero County	11	$42,752
Quay County	30	$27,075
Rio Arriba County	N/A	N/A
Roosevelt County	14	$40,775
San Juan County	7	$50,582
San Miguel County	25	$31,660
Sandoval County	4	$59,420
Santa Fe County	5	$59,192
Sierra County	28	$30,451
Socorro County	22	$36,146
Taos County	20	$36,758
Torrance County	19	$37,218
Union County	16	$37,936
Valencia County	9	$45,084

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Table B19013.

Median Household Income by Tribal Area 2014–2018

Location	Median Income
United States	$60,293
New Mexico	$48,059
Acoma Pueblo	$42,813
Cochiti Pueblo	$46,000
Isleta Pueblo	$34,859
Jemez Pueblo	$37,500
Jicarilla Apache	$41,696
Laguna Pueblo	$35,219
Mescalero Apache	$33,796
Nambe Pueblo	$43,958
Navajo Nation	$27,453
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	N/A
Picuris Pueblo	$32,102
Pojoaque Pueblo	$52,500
Sandia Pueblo	$39,362
San Felipe Pueblo	$49,286
San Ildefonso Pueblo	$50,341
Santa Ana Pueblo	$42,750
Santa Clara Pueblo	N/A
Santo Domingo Pueblo	$33,233
Taos Pueblo	$32,232
Tesuque Pueblo	$37,500
Zia Pueblo	$41,607
Zuni Pueblo	$37,365

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Table B19013.

Definition

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

How New Mexico Fares

The median household income in New Mexico is about 20% lower than the national average. However, median household income fluctuates widely by county, with two counties – Eddy, 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. Income inequality has worsened over time, and the Legislature has enacted few policies to address this issue.

Definition

A high housing cost burden is defined as a family or household having to spend 30% or more of their income on housing, which decreases the money available for purchasing food, health care, utilities, transportation, child care, and other necessities. High housing cost burdens can push families into substandard housing, which are 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.

How New Mexico Fares

The number and rate of children in families burdened by high housing costs decreased, with 9,000 fewer children in this situation from 2017 to 2018. This marks the second year in a row with a large drop in the number of children in this situation. New Mexico's nation-wide rank also improved from 27th to 21st in this indicator from 2017 to 2018. This is more likely due to our housing costs rather than our income levels – as both tend to be lower than the national average.

Children in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden by Year 2008–2018
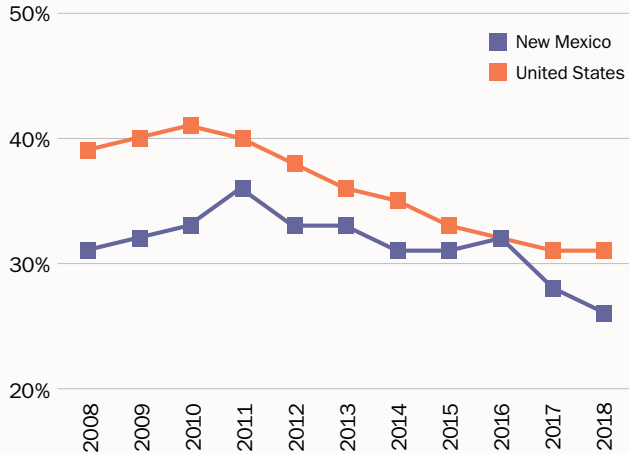
Legend:
- New Mexico
- United States

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2018.

Children in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden by Race and Ethnicity 2018

Hispanic	Non-Hispanic White	Native American
30%	23%	19%
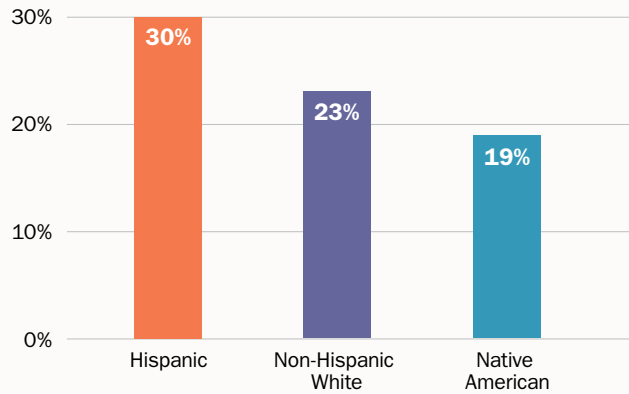
SOURCE: Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018. **NOTE:** Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.

Households Renting with High Housing Cost Burdens by County 2014–2018

Location	Rank	Percent
United States		47%
New Mexico		44%
Bernalillo County	19	49%
Catron County	8	36%
Chaves County	10	39%
Cibola County	7	32%
Colfax County	15	44%
Curry County	11	40%
De Baca County	5	30%
Doña Ana County	18	47%
Eddy County	4	28%
Grant County	15	44%
Guadalupe County	3	27%
Harding County	4	28%
Hidalgo County	4	28%
Lea County	6	31%
Lincoln County	13	42%
Los Alamos County	2	23%
Luna County	16	45%
McKinley County	5	30%
Mora County	20	55%
Otero County	12	41%
Quay County	8	36%
Rio Arriba County	N/A	N/A
Roosevelt County	16	45%
San Juan County	9	37%
San Miguel County	10	39%
Sandoval County	16	45%
Santa Fe County	14	43%
Sierra County	17	46%
Socorro County	10	39%
Taos County	17	46%
Torrance County	8	36%
Union County	1	19%
Valencia County	16	45%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Table B25070

Households Receiving SNAP Assistance by Race and Ethnicity 2019

- Hispanic: 21%
- Non-Hispanic White: 10%
- Native American: 27%
- Black or African American: 25%
- Asian: 14%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019, Tables B22003, B22005B, B22005C, B22005D, B22005H, and B22005I.

Definition

Food insecurity is defined as an economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. Rates of participation in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) represents the share of households receiving economic assistance to mitigate food insecurity. However, since SNAP is "supplemental" it does not provide all of the food a family needs over the course of the month so families receiving SNAP benefits may still be food insecure.

How New Mexico Fares

New Mexico's high rate of child food insecurity and households receiving SNAP – both of which are higher than the national average – reflects our state's major challenges around hunger. There was a small decrease in the percentage of households receiving SNAP benefits in New Mexico from 2018 to 2019, but child hunger rates remain much higher than rates of SNAP participation.

Households Receiving SNAP Assistance by County 2014–2018

Location	Rank	Percent
United States		12%
New Mexico		17%
Bernalillo County	8	15%
Catron County	3	6%
Chaves County	14	22%
Cibola County	20	30%
Colfax County	13	20%
Curry County	10	17%
De Baca County	9	16%
Doña Ana County	16	24%
Eddy County	7	14%
Grant County	12	19%
Guadalupe County	9	16%
Harding County	2	4%
Hidalgo County	17	25%
Lea County	8	15%
Lincoln County	6	13%
Los Alamos County	1	2%
Luna County	19	29%
McKinley County	18	26%
Mora County	21	31%
Otero County	9	16%
Quay County	11	18%
Rio Arriba County	N/A	N/A
Roosevelt County	13	20%
San Juan County	11	18%
San Miguel County	18	26%
Sandoval County	5	11%
Santa Fe County	4	10%
Sierra County	15	23%
Socorro County	9	16%
Taos County	10	17%
Torrance County	13	20%
Union County	7	14%
Valencia County	13	20%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Table DP03.

Child Food Insecurity by County 2018

Location	Rank	Percent
United States		15%
New Mexico		24%
Bernalillo County	4	21%
Catron County	16	35%
Chaves County	6	23%
Cibola County	14	31%
Colfax County	11	28%
Curry County	7	24%
De Baca County	3	20%
Doña Ana County	9	26%
Eddy County	2	18%
Grant County	7	24%
Guadalupe County	5	22%
Harding County	14	31%
Hidalgo County	10	27%
Lea County	2	18%
Lincoln County	6	23%
Los Alamos County	1	13%
Luna County	15	34%
McKinley County	16	35%
Mora County	7	24%
Otero County	8	25%
Quay County	13	30%
Rio Arriba County	3	20%
Roosevelt County	9	26%
San Juan County	9	26%
San Miguel County	11	28%
Sandoval County	3	20%
Santa Fe County	2	18%
Sierra County	15	34%
Socorro County	13	30%
Taos County	7	24%
Torrance County	12	29%
Union County	7	24%
Valencia County	6	23%

SOURCE: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, 2018.

Teens Not Attending School and Not Working by Year 2008–2019
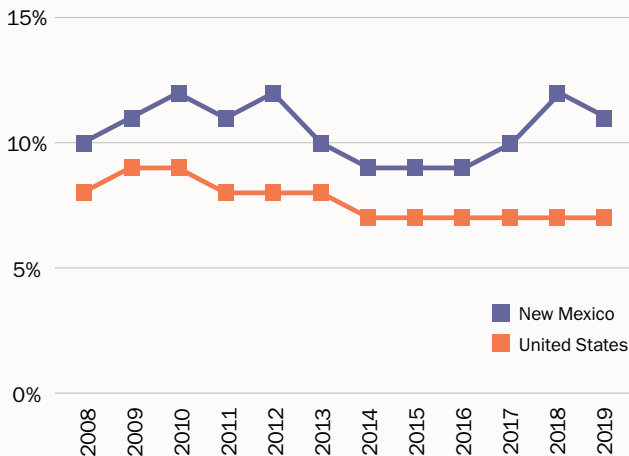
SOURCE: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys, 2008-2019, Table B14005.

Teens Not Attending School and Not Working by Race and Ethnicity 2018
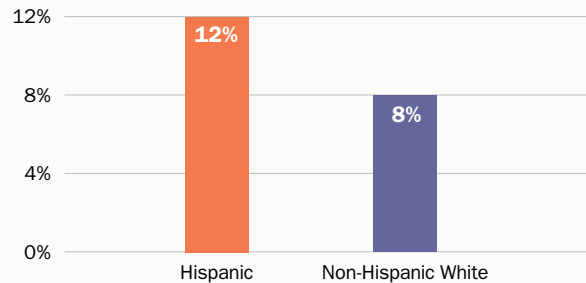
SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018. **NOTE:** Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.
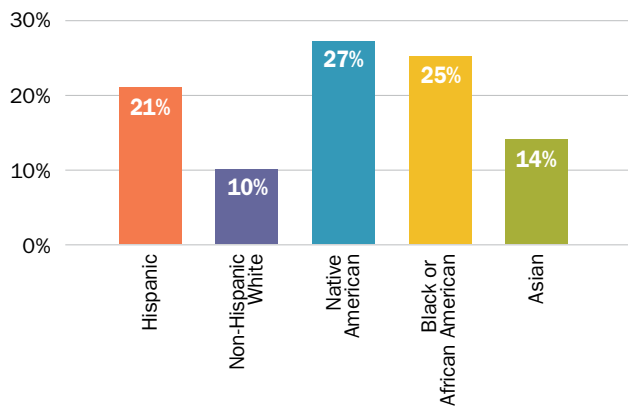
Definition

The percentage of teens (ages 16 to 19) who are neither in school nor working – often referred to as "disconnected youth." Such teens are at higher risk for poor health and economic outcomes as adults, have less access to 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.

How New Mexico Fares

Despite its small improvement, New Mexico held its rank at 49th among the states in this indicator. After what appeared to be an upward trend over the past two years, this decrease indicates we are moving back in the right direction.

How New Mexico Fares

Across the nation, youth of color are more likely to face the kinds of barriers that lead to being disconnected. This is particularly concerning in a state with such a high share of youth of color. 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.

Teens Not Attending School and Not Working by County 2014–2018

Location	Rank	Percent
United States		7%
New Mexico	49	9%
Bernalillo County	5	7%
Catron County	11	15%
Chaves County	6	8%
Cibola County	7	10%
Colfax County	4	6%
Curry County	9	12%
De Baca County	1	0%
Doña Ana County	5	7%
Eddy County	10	13%
Grant County	6	8%
Guadalupe County	1	0%
Harding County	1	0%
Hidalgo County	15	27%
Lea County	9	12%
Lincoln County	7	10%
Los Alamos County	1	0%
Luna County	13	22%
McKinley County	13	22%
Mora County	16	37%
Otero County	6	8%
Quay County	3	4%
Rio Arriba County	N/A	N/A
Roosevelt County	5	7%
San Juan County	8	11%
San Miguel County	2	3%
Sandoval County	7	10%
Santa Fe County	5	7%
Sierra County	14	26%
Socorro County	12	16%
Taos County	9	12%
Torrance County	9	12%
Union County	1	0%
Valencia County	7	10%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Table B14005.

Policy Solutions to Improve
Economic Well-Being

New Mexico is enduring unprecedented and difficult times. Without financial help from the state and federal governments, too many of our children and their families will suffer setbacks that will take years to recover from.

Poverty

Create a new COVID-19 emergency disaster relief fund within the General Assistance Program (GAP) to provide economic relief to families excluded from other forms of COVID-19 relief.

Support two-generation approaches and ensure better coordination between programs providing health, education, housing, and food services for both parents and children.

Increase income eligibility for child care assistance to 250% of FPL or higher and provide continuous eligibility through at least 300% of FPL so parents can accept pay raises without losing benefits that are worth more than the pay increase; eliminate copays for families earning less than 100% FPL and, for families between 101% and 300% FPL, scale copays to no more than 10% of family income.

Increase funding for and expansion of child care and pre-K programs, including by passing a constitutional amendment to support these programs with a small percentage of the state's Land Grant Permanent School Fund.

Increase the Low-Income Comprehensive Tax Rebate (LICTR) and enact a more progressive income tax system so low-income families do not bear a disproportionate responsibility for funding our state.

Increase the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC), with an even higher rate for families with young children, and expand it to include taxpayers filing with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) and young workers without children.

Implement a new state Child Tax Credit.

Enact a rate cap of 36% APR (including fees) on all lending products so that families are not caught in cycles of increasing debt.

Support policies that prioritize kinship care for foster children; 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; and fund navigators to assist kinship foster care families in accessing the public benefits for which they are eligible.

Ensure stable, adequate funding for all programs and services that support improved family economic well-being now and in the future by raising revenue and diversifying revenue streams.

Employment and Income

Provide funding to increase wages for child care workers and increase opportunities and funding for professional development.

Raise or eliminate the state's tipped minimum wage.

Ensure that all workers can earn at least one week of paid sick leave per year.

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.

Reverse cuts that were made to unemployment insurance (UI) benefits for child dependents to help families during tough times or job transitions. Prior to 2011, those receiving UI benefits received a small additional benefit for each dependent child.

Enact and enforce tougher policies to prevent wage theft.

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 and job training programs; expand career pathways programs with a focus on workers whose skills do not match those needed for good-paying jobs in order to boost their employability; and expand eligibility for the Opportunity Scholarship so adults who already have a degree or certificate can change career pathways or re-skill to obtain higher paying jobs.

Housing Costs

Increase funding for the Housing Trust Fund to expand affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families, providing more children with stable, safe homes.

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.

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.

Disconnected Youth

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

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 high school dropout recovery programs.

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

Eliminate a number of fines and fees from the Children's Code, specifically, court fees that are incurred when a youth goes to trial, and fines associated with possession of a banned substance.

Increase funding for evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs.

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

Expand the Opportunity Scholarship to cover tuition at four-year public colleges and universities and ensure that it is targeted to provide financial aid to those students with the most need.

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.

Food Insecurity

Increase funding for New Mexico's Double Up Food Bucks program, which allows families to double their SNAP EBT dollars at New Mexico farmers' markets, grocery stores, and farm stands.

COVID-19 Hardship Data

Student Participation in Remote Learning

Oct. 2020

SOURCE: New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee report, October 2020.
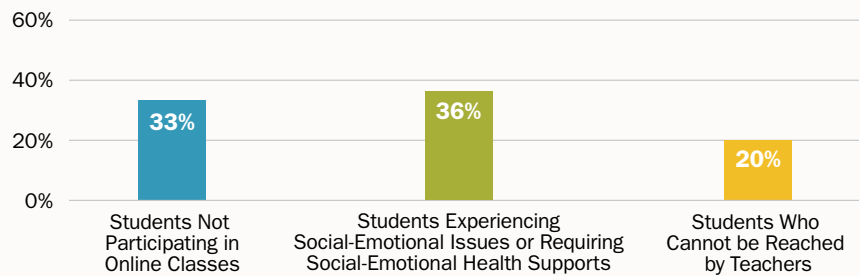
33%	36%	20%
Students Not Participating in Online Classes	Students Experiencing Social-Emotional Issues or Requiring Social-Emotional Health Supports	Students Who Cannot be Reached by Teachers

MORE HARDSHIP DATA

As this publication was being readied for the printer (in November and December 2020), data were still being collected in the Household Pulse Survey. You can find the most recent data available at the KIDS COUNT Data Center (datacenter.kidscount.org).

Households in Which a Computer or Digital Device is Usually or Always Available to Children for Educational Purposes
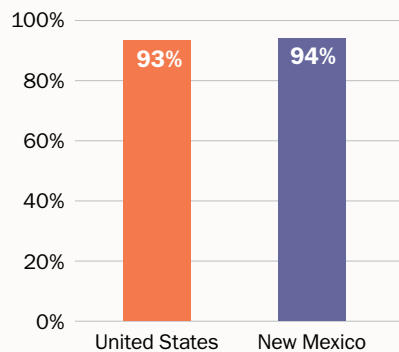
Oct. 14–Nov. 9, 2020

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of US Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, 2020.

Households in Which Internet and a Computer or Digital Device is Usually or Always Available to Children for Educational Purposes

Oct. 14–Nov. 9, 2020
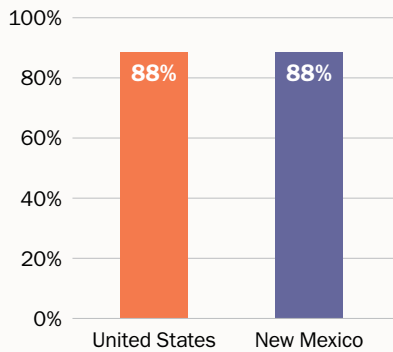
SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of US Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, 2020.

Projected Educational Time Lost

Oct. 2020
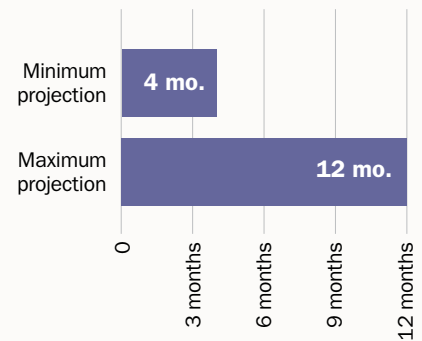
SOURCE: New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee report, October 2020.

Definition

The percentage of adults living in households with at least one child attending public, private, or home school for kindergarten through twelfth grade who reported that internet and/or a computer or digital advice is usually or always available to the children for educational purposes. The percentages shown indicate responses over the course of a four-week period, and as the survey was completed online, it may overestimate the availability of internet for New Mexico's students and families.

How New Mexico is Faring

Due to public health orders to slow the spread of COVID-19, the majority of New Mexico students remained in remote online learning for the fall 2020 semester. While only about 27% of the state has broadband coverage, about 95% of the state does have mobile wireless coverage, according to an August 2020 presentation by the Legislative Finance Committee. Even given broadband and wireless overlap, some 3% of the state still lacks any sort of internet access. These spots are largely in the western, southwestern, and southcentral areas of the state. Disparities in access to remote learning aside, it is widely agreed that remote learning is less effective than in-person learning, and projections by the Stanford University's Center for Research on Education Outcomes indicate that students may have lost as much as one year of learning just during the spring of 2020. These learning losses are very likely to widen the achievement gaps that already exist primarily for students of color, those from low-income families, and English language learners.

Young Children Not in School by Year
2007–2019
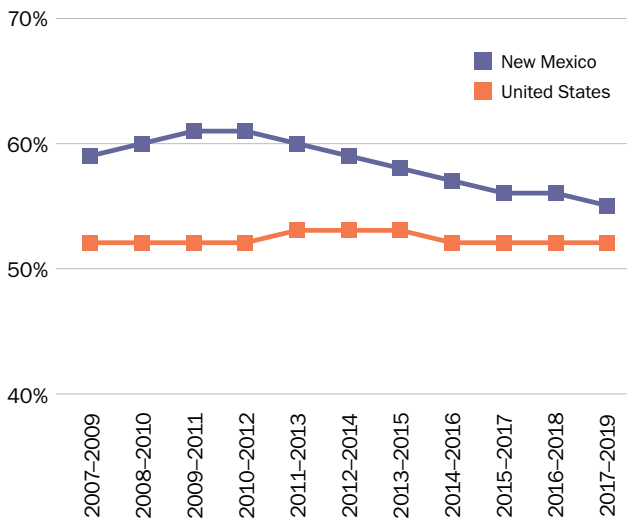
SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, pooled estimates from 2007 to 2019.

Young Children Not in School by Race and Ethnicity
2014–2018
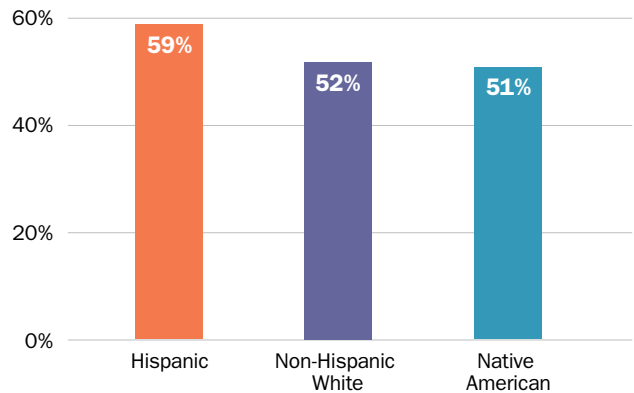
SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018.

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, preschool, Head Start, and pre-kindergarten). 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% 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.

How New Mexico Fares

Between 2018 and 2019, the number of young children not enrolled in school decreased slightly, bumping our national ranking up from 30th to 29th. However, 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. While the state is continuing its planned rollout of the NM Pre-K program, insufficient funding for the child care assistance program over the last several years has meant that fewer families have been able to afford child care in a setting that is education-oriented. Research shows that high-quality child care, such as 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. 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.

Young Children Not in School by County 2014–2018

Location	Rank	Percent
United States		52%
New Mexico		57%
Bernalillo County	14	56%
Catron County	32	86%
Chaves County	16	58%
Cibola County	5	40%
Colfax County	30	78%
Curry County	7	46%
De Baca County	1	26%
Doña Ana County	22	63%
Eddy County	11	54%
Grant County	10	51%
Guadalupe County	27	75%
Harding County	31	80%
Hidalgo County	11	52%
Lea County	24	70%
Lincoln County	14	56%
Los Alamos County	4	39%
Luna County	27	75%
McKinley County	13	55%
Mora County	29	77%
Otero County	23	66%
Quay County	6	41%
Rio Arriba County	2	28%
Roosevelt County	20	62%
San Juan County	11	54%
San Miguel County	25	73%
Sandoval County	17	59%
Santa Fe County	8	47%
Sierra County	26	74%
Socorro County	9	49%
Taos County	3	30%
Torrance County	20	62%
Union County	19	60%
Valencia County	17	59%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Table B14003.

Total K-12 Enrollment 2019–2020 and Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals 2018–2019 by Public School District

Location	Total Student Enrollment	Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals
New Mexico	331,636	73%
Alamogordo Public Schools	6,272	67%
Albuquerque Public Schools	90,421	70%
Animas Public Schools	165	65%
Artesia Public Schools	3,929	47%
Aztec Municipal Schools	2,992	78%
Belen Consolidated Schools	3,967	85%
Bernalillo Public Schools	2,861	92%
Bloomfield Municipal Schools	2,711	87%
Capitan Municipal Schools	520	70%
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	8,104	47%
Carrizozo Municipal Schools	141	64%
Central Consolidated Schools	5,818	89%
Chama Valley Independent Schools	393	76%
Cimarron Public Schools	426	60%
Clayton Public Schools	456	64%
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools	402	49%
Clovis Municipal Schools	8,142	73%
Cobre Consolidated Schools	1,140	79%
Corona Municipal Schools	64	57%
Cuba Independent Schools	548	99%
Deming Public Schools	5,405	96%
Des Moines Municipal Schools	91	39%
Dexter Consolidated Schools	904	77%
Dora Consolidated Schools	242	51%
Dulce Independent Schools	610	77%
Elida Municipal Schools	164	47%
Española Municipal Schools	3,393	89%
Estancia Municipal Schools	578	84%
Eunice Municipal Schools	874	64%
Farmington Municipal Schools	11,723	56%
Floyd Municipal Schools	223	78%
Fort Sumner Municipal Schools	300	63%
Gadsden Independent Schools	13,359	94%
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	11,321	92%

Location	Total Student Enrollment	Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals
Grants-Cibola County Schools	3,433	89%
Hagerman Municipal Schools	422	80%
Hatch Valley Municipal Schools	1,243	97%
Hobbs Municipal Schools	10,405	54%
Hondo Valley Public Schools	142	93%
House Municipal Schools	63	66%
Jal Public Schools	536	46%
Jemez Mountain Public Schools	203	82%
Jemez Valley Public Schools	356	82%
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	91	76%
Las Cruces Public Schools	24,371	76%
Las Vegas City Public Schools	1,540	74%
Logan Municipal Schools	366	35%
Lordsburg Municipal Schools	487	85%
Los Alamos Public Schools	3,722	10%
Los Lunas Public Schools	8,434	73%
Loving Municipal Schools	599	70%
Lovington Public Schools	3,625	65%
Magdalena Municipal Schools	322	82%
Maxwell Municipal Schools	137	81%
Melrose Public Schools	258	39%
Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools	243	82%
Mora Independent Schools	404	86%
Moriarty Municipal Schools	2,429	72%
Mosquero Municipal Schools	34	37%
Mountainair Public Schools	216	97%
Pecos Independent Schools	582	77%
Peñasco Independent Schools	349	84%
Pojoaque Valley Public Schools	1,947	61%
Portales Municipal Schools	2,709	60%
Quemado Independent Schools	174	74%
Questa Independent Schools	326	81%
Raton Public Schools	910	86%
Reserve Independent Schools	134	65%
Rio Rancho Public Schools	17,271	39%
Roswell Independent Schools	10,266	77%
Roy Municipal Schools	49	32%
Ruidoso Municipal Schools	2,055	83%
San Jon Municipal Schools	122	63%

Location	Total Student Enrollment	Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals
Santa Fe Public Schools	12,875	67%
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	640	81%
Silver City Consolidated Schools	2,493	78%
Socorro Consolidated Schools	1,634	80%
Springer Municipal Schools	133	75%
Taos Municipal Schools	2,705	83%
Tatum Municipal Schools	330	42%
Texico Municipal Schools	564	48%
Truth or Consequences Schools	1,283	92%
Tucumcari Public Schools	948	88%
Tularosa Municipal Schools	842	77%
Vaughn Municipal Schools	68	85%
Wagon Mound Public Schools	53	84%
West Las Vegas Public Schools	1,516	96%
Zuni Public Schools	1,260	92%

Definition

K-12 enrollment is the total number of students enrolled in all grades from kindergarten through high schools, in public and charter schools. Students qualify for **free meals** if their families live at or below 130% of the federal poverty level ($27,014 for a family of three in the 2018-2019 school year) and **reduced-price meals** if their families live at or below 185% 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 second highest rate (73%) 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.

| # 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). These proficiencies are different from those of the Transition Assessment in Math and English Arts (TAMELA) series. **Low-income** students in the race/ethnicity graphic are those who are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches.

How New Mexico Fares

New Mexico ranks 50th in the nation once again in fourth grade reading proficiency. The state had been making progress in this indicator, but this marks the first year since 2009 that the rate of students reading below proficiency has increased. Reading proficiency is a crucial element of scholastic success, but in New Mexico, 76% 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 children from families earning low incomes have proficiency rates that are below the state average in fourth grade reading.

New Mexico ranks 49th in eighth grade math proficiency. The 79% 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 children from low-income families are even more at risk of falling behind because they have lower proficiency rates than the state average on this indicator.

Fourth Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Reading by Year 2007–2019
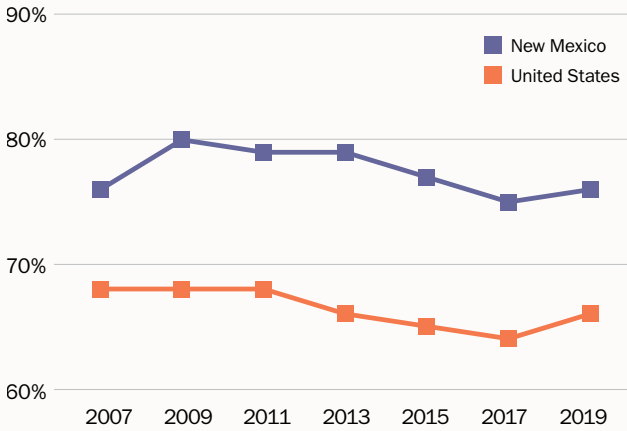
90%

| | New Mexico |
| | United States |

80%

70%

60%

2007 2009 2011 2013 2015 2017 2019

Eighth Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Math by Year 2007–2019
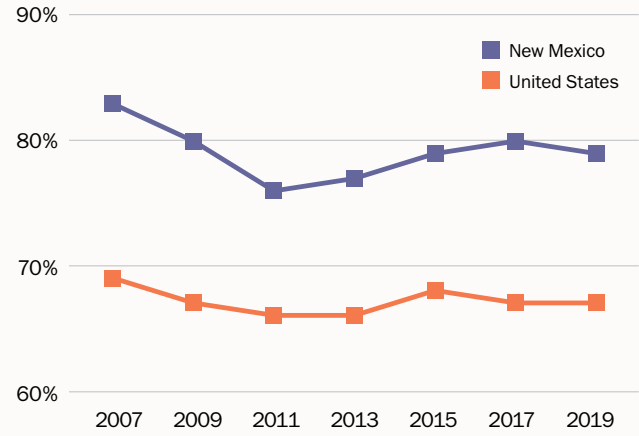
90%

| | New Mexico |
| | United States |

80%

70%

60%

2007 2009 2011 2013 2015 2017 2019

Fourth Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Reading by Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Income 2019
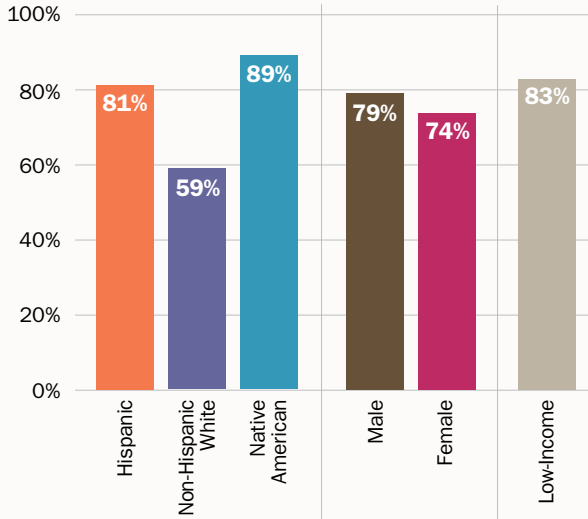
100%

80%

60%

40%

20%

0%

Hispanic	Non-Hispanic White	Native American	Male	Female	Low-Income
81%	59%	89%	79%	74%	83%

Eighth Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Math by Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Income 2019
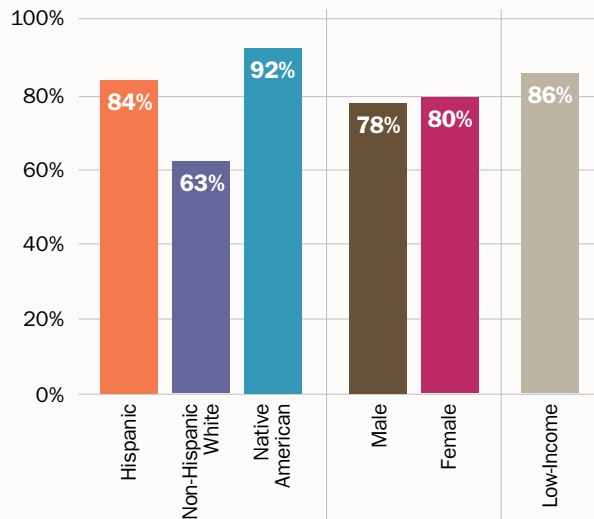
100%

80%

60%

40%

20%

0%

Hispanic	Non-Hispanic White	Native American	Male	Female	Low-Income
84%	63%	92%	78%	80%	86%

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% 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, the Skills Based Assessment (SBA) previously used by PED to measure proficiencies, or the NAEP scores. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, New Mexico students were not tested on proficiencies for the 2019-2020 school year.

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
Central Consolidated Schools	25%	3%	4%	≤ 1%
Chama Valley Independent Schools	≤ 10%	≤ 10%	≤ 20%	^
Cimarron Public Schools	30%-39%	≤ 10%	11%-19%	≤ 10%

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)
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%
Loving Municipal Schools	20%-29%	≤ 10%	20%-29%	≤ 10%
Lovington Public Schools	30%	8%	19%	≤ 2%

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)
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%

NOTES: Due to COVID-19, there is no testing data for Spring 2020. 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.

Definitions

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.

Habitual Truancy and Dropout Rates by Public School District 2018–2019

Location	Percent of Students Habitually Truant	Student Dropout Rate
New Mexico	NA	3%
Alamogordo Public Schools	11%	3%
Albuquerque Public Schools	18%	3%
Animas Public Schools	11%	0%
Artesia Public Schools	17%	3%
Aztec Municipal Schools	9%	3%
Belen Consolidated Schools	12%	3%
Bernalillo Public Schools	13%	5%
Bloomfield Municipal Schools	8%	5%
Capitan Municipal Schools	12%	3%
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	19%	4%
Carrizozo Municipal Schools	5%	5%
Central Consolidated Schools	20%	3%
Chama Valley Independent Schools	7%	1%
Cimarron Public Schools	4%	1%
Clayton Public Schools	5%	0%
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools	3%	0%
Clovis Municipal Schools	9%	3%
Cobre Consolidated Schools	6%	0%
Corona Municipal Schools	0%	9%
Cuba Independent Schools	60%	2%
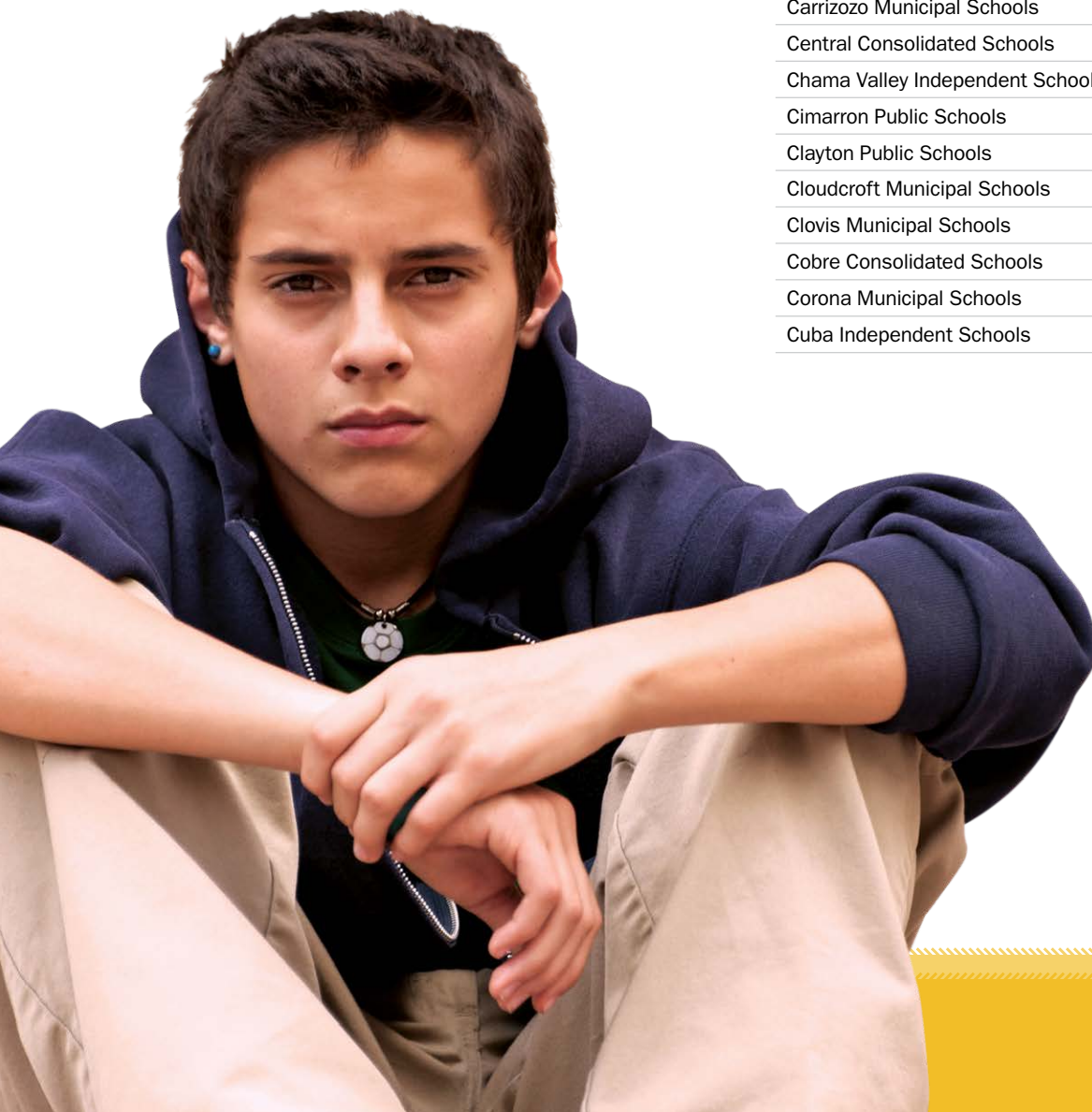
Location	Percent of Students Habitually Truant	Student Dropout Rate
Deming Public Schools	32%	4%
Des Moines Municipal Schools	2%	0%
Dexter Consolidated Schools	13%	2%
Dora Consolidated Schools	1%	1%
Dulce Independent Schools	37%	6%
Elida Municipal Schools	3%	0%
Española Municipal Schools	31%	3%
Estancia Municipal Schools	1%	2%
Eunice Municipal Schools	19%	7%
Farmington Municipal Schools	11%	3%
Floyd Municipal Schools	22%	1%
Fort Sumner Municipal Schools	1%	2%
Gadsden Independent Schools	7%	2%
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	23%	4%
Grady Municipal Schools	3%	1%
Grants-Cibola County Schools	13%	5%
Hagerman Municipal Schools	2%	2%
Hatch Valley Municipal Schools	11%	3%
Hobbs Municipal Schools	7%	2%
Hondo Valley Public Schools	5%	1%
House Municipal Schools	2%	13%
Jal Public Schools	10%	1%
Jemez Mountain Public Schools	0%	0%
Jemez Valley Public Schools	7%	2%
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	17%	4%
Las Cruces Public Schools	7%	2%
Las Vegas City Public Schools	32%	3%
Logan Municipal Schools	4%	1%
Lordsburg Municipal Schools	1%	1%
Los Alamos Public Schools	0%	1%
Los Lunas Public Schools	5%	3%
Loving Municipal Schools	12%	2%
Lovington Public Schools	8%	2%
Magdalena Municipal Schools	7%	1%
Maxwell Municipal Schools	4%	0%
Melrose Public Schools	0%	0%
Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools	4%	2%
Mora Independent Schools	3%	2%

Location	Percent of Students Habitually Truant	Student Dropout Rate
Moriarty Municipal Schools	16%	3%
Mosquero Municipal Schools	0%	0%
Mountainair Public Schools	1%	0%
Pecos Independent Schools	19%	1%
Peñasco Independent Schools	15%	2%
Pojoaque Valley Public Schools	12%	3%
Portales Municipal Schools	7%	4%
Quemado Independent Schools	9%	4%
Questa Independent Schools	8%	7%
Raton Public Schools	2%	2%
Reserve Independent Schools	0%	4%
Rio Rancho Public Schools	4%	1%
Roswell Independent Schools	14%	3%
Roy Municipal Schools	0%	0%
Ruidoso Municipal Schools	29%	2%
San Jon Municipal Schools	2%	0%
Santa Fe Public Schools	14%	2%
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	28%	1%
Silver City Consolidated Schools	5%	3%
Socorro Consolidated Schools	5%	4%
Springer Municipal Schools	3%	0%
Taos Municipal Schools	2%	4%
Tatum Municipal Schools	9%	0%
Texico Municipal Schools	1%	1%
Truth or Consequences Schools	9%	3%
Tucumcari Public Schools	15%	1%
Tularosa Municipal Schools	50%	3%
Vaughn Municipal Schools	25%	0%
Wagon Mound Public Schools	0%	5%
West Las Vegas Public Schools	20%	3%
Zuni Public Schools	1%	6%

Definitions

The **graduation rate** is the percentage of students who graduate in four years, so this measure does not include students who may graduate after a session of summer school or who have earned an equivalent diploma (such as the GED). A student is considered **economically disadvantaged** if they qualify for free or reduced-priced meals. **English language learners** are students who are not proficient in English and generally come from a household where English is not spoken.

Read this table as: "While 75% of all New Mexico high school students graduate in four years, just 70% of students who are economically disadvantaged graduate in four years."

How New Mexico Fares

Three-quarters (75%) of New Mexico high school students graduate in four years, with graduation rates lower among students who have disabilities, are economically disadvantaged, Native American, Black, and English language learners. Graduation rates in New Mexico are best among Asian high schoolers. When comparing the school year ending in 2018 with the one ending in 2019, the overall graduation rate improved for all students, economically disadvantaged students, and English language learners.

High School Graduation Rates by Race, Ethnicity, and Other Factors 2019

SOURCE: NM Public Education Department, 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates, 2019.

Category	Rate
All Students	75%
Hispanic	74%
Non-Hispanic White	78%
Native American	69%
Black or African American	67%
Asian or Pacific Islander	85%
Male	71%
Female	79%
Economically Disadvantaged	70%
Students with Disabilities	64%
English Language Learners	73%
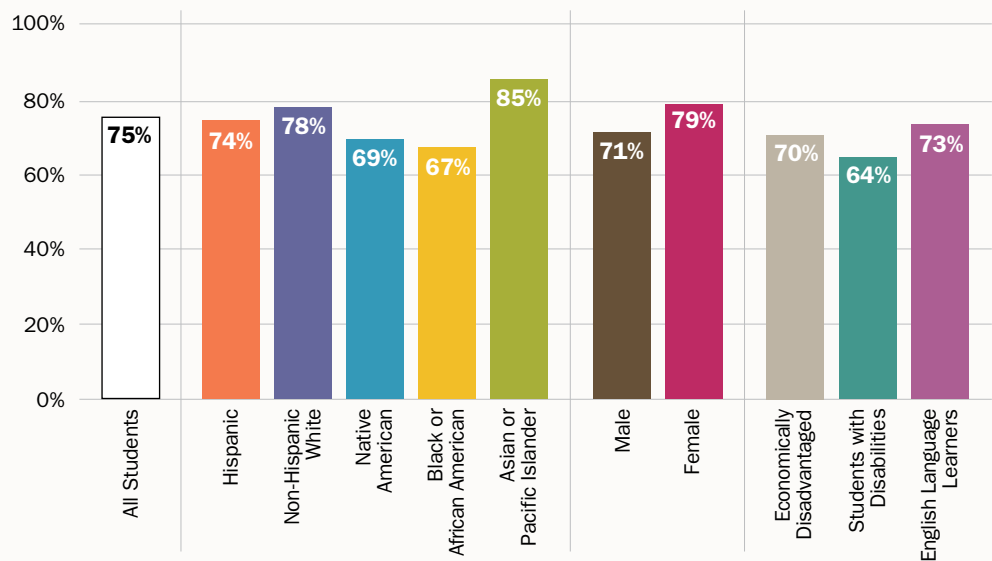
High School Students Not Graduating on Time by Year 2007–2018
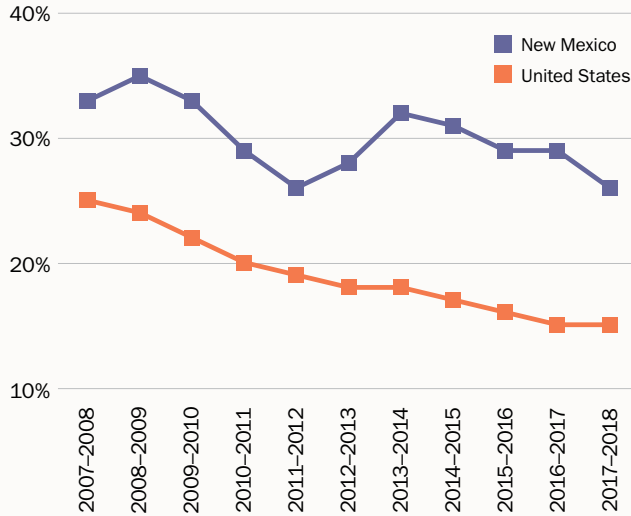
Legend: New Mexico, United States

Definition

These data measure the percentage of a freshmen class that has not graduated after four years' time. **Economically disadvantaged** students in this measure are those who are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches.

How New Mexico Fares

Twenty-six percent of New Mexican high schoolers do not graduate on time. This rate is significantly worse than the national average of 15%. For the fifth year in a row, New Mexico is ranked 50th 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. 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% of students not graduating on time in 2008 to 26% not graduating on time in 2018. The biggest improvements in this indicator over that time period were seen among Native American and Hispanic students.

High School Graduation Rates by Various Factors and Public School District 2018–2019

Location	Students Who Graduate in Four Years		
	All Students	Economically Disadvantaged Students	English Language Learners
New Mexico	75%	70%	73%
Alamogordo Public Schools	79%	70%	N/A
Albuquerque Public Schools	70%	63%	70%
Animas Public Schools	96%	100%	N/A
Artesia Public Schools	89%	80%	87%
Aztec Municipal Schools	76%	69%	77%
Belen Consolidated Schools	76%	76%	79%
Bernalillo Public Schools	60%	60%	60%
Bloomfield Municipal Schools	77%	80%	70%
Capitan Municipal Schools	76%	75%	N/A
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	77%	67%	70%
Carrizozo Municipal Schools	88%	88%	N/A
Central Consolidated Schools	72%	73%	67%
Chama Valley Independent Schools	94%	94%	N/A
Cimarron Public Schools	82%	86%	N/A
Clayton Public Schools	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools	97%	100%	N/A
Clovis Municipal Schools	80%	71%	79%
Cobre Consolidated Schools	87%	88%	88%
Corona Municipal Schools	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cuba Independent Schools	84%	84%	84%
Deming Public Schools	70%	71%	72%
Des Moines Municipal Schools	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dexter Consolidated Schools	82%	84%	74%
Dora Consolidated Schools	100%	100%	N/A
Dulce Independent Schools	70%	70%	77%
Elida Municipal Schools	100%	N/A	N/A
Española Municipal Schools	63%	65%	64%
Estancia Municipal Schools	87%	87%	N/A
Eunice Municipal Schools	86%	82%	86%
Farmington Municipal Schools	80%	75%	81%
Floyd Municipal Schools	96%	97%	N/A
Fort Sumner Municipal Schools	94%	94%	N/A

Location	Students Who Graduate in Four Years		
	All Students	Economically Disadvantaged Students	English Language Learners
Gadsden Independent Schools	84%	84%	84%
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	77%	77%	74%
Grady Municipal Schools	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grants-Cibola County Schools	67%	68%	62%
Hagerman Municipal Schools	66%	67%	N/A
Hatch Valley Municipal Schools	75%	76%	72%
Hobbs Municipal Schools	85%	78%	83%
Hondo Valley Public Schools	N/A	N/A	N/A
House Municipal Schools	N/A	N/A	N/A
Jal Public Schools	77%	72%	N/A
Jemez Mountain Public Schools	N/A	N/A	N/A
Jemez Valley Public Schools	78%	N/A	N/A
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	N/A	N/A	N/A
Las Cruces Public Schools	85%	77%	84%
Las Vegas City Public Schools	82%	70%	83%
Logan Municipal Schools	71%	N/A	N/A
Lordsburg Municipal Schools	81%	81%	N/A
Los Alamos Public Schools	91%	85%	93%
Los Lunas Public Schools	78%	73%	79%
Loving Municipal Schools	85%	87%	84%
Lovington Public Schools	75%	68%	71%
Magdalena Municipal Schools	76%	78%	N/A
Maxwell Municipal Schools	N/A	N/A	N/A
Melrose Public Schools	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools	91%	96%	88%
Mora Independent Schools	87%	87%	N/A
Moriarty Municipal Schools	77%	65%	68%
Mosquero Municipal Schools	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mountainair Public Schools	86%	88%	N/A
Pecos Independent Schools	90%	91%	89%
Peñasco Independent Schools	76%	76%	N/A
Pojoaque Valley Public Schools	77%	72%	77%
Portales Municipal Schools	76%	68%	68%
Quemado Independent Schools	64%	N/A	N/A
Questa Independent Schools	72%	73%	N/A
Raton Public Schools	79%	79%	N/A

Location	Students Who Graduate in Four Years		
	All Students	Economically Disadvantaged Students	English Language Learners
Reserve Independent Schools	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rio Rancho Public Schools	89%	80%	81%
Roswell Independent Schools	73%	61%	75%
Roy Municipal Schools	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ruidoso Municipal Schools	85%	84%	86%
San Jon Municipal Schools	N/A	N/A	N/A
Santa Fe Public Schools	78%	75%	73%
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	94%	95%	95%
Silver City Consolidated Schools	83%	70%	N/A
Socorro Consolidated Schools	65%	67%	N/A
Springer Municipal Schools	N/A	N/A	N/A
Taos Municipal Schools	72%	68%	76%
Tatum Municipal Schools	100%	N/A	N/A
Texico Municipal Schools	95%	90%	N/A
Truth or Consequences Schools	75%	76%	88%
Tucumcari Public Schools	79%	80%	N/A
Tularosa Municipal Schools	75%	76%	N/A
Vaughn Municipal Schools	100%	100%	N/A
Wagon Mound Public Schools	N/A	N/A	N/A
West Las Vegas Public Schools	69%	69%	71%
Zuni Public Schools	72%	72%	72%

SOURCE: New Mexico Public Education Department, Graduation Data, "Cohort of 2019 4-Year Graduation Rates"; retrieved September 2020 from https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/accountability/graduation/.

Policy Solutions
to Improve
Education
Outcomes

New Mexico students may have lost as much as one year of learning just during the spring of 2020. These learning losses are very likely to widen the achievement gaps that already exist primarily for students of color, those from low-income families, and English language learners.

COVID-19 Hardship Data

Consider extending the 2020-2021 school year by making Extended Learning Time Programs and K-5 Plus universal to mitigate COVID-19 learning loss.

Enrollment

High-quality child care is a vital part in the cradle-to-career educational continuum, and as such, the state should increase funding for and expand home visiting, child care assistance, and pre-K programs, including by passing a constitutional amendment to support these programs with a small percentage of the state's Land Grant Permanent School Fund, growing the state's new Early Childhood Trust Fund, and exploring new sources of General Fund revenue.

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

Attendance

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

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

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.

Reading and Math Proficiency

Increase the availability of reading coaches and support evidence-based reading initiatives.

Provide math coaches and professional development for math teachers.

Increase K-12 per-pupil funding to provide resources for learning needs, mitigate the problems associated with poverty, and help schools decrease overcrowding in classrooms – particularly for students in high-poverty areas. This could be done by increasing the at-risk factor in New Mexico's state equalization guarantee education funding formula.

Improve flexibility for implementation of 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 families earning low incomes 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.

High School Graduation

Further increase compensation for teachers, principals, and student support staff.

Ensure adequate funding for the development of culturally responsive curricula.

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

Provide more school counselors, nurses, social workers, and psychologists.

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

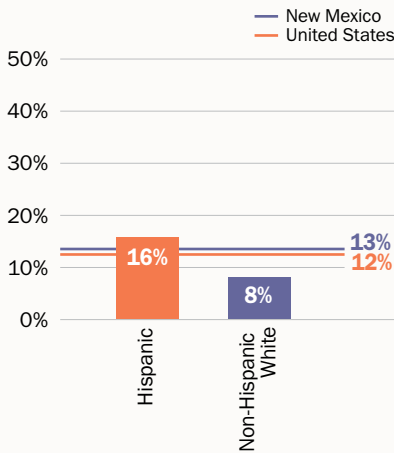Provide professional development for teachers on the use of technology.

Health

HEALTH | COVID-19 Hardship Data

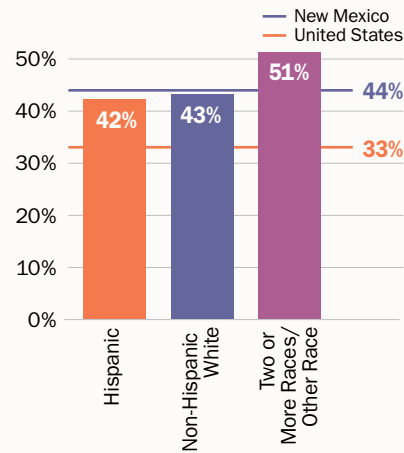### Adults Living in Households with Children Who Lack Health Insurance by Race and Ethnicity

Oct. 14–Nov. 9, 2020

Legend: New Mexico, United States

- Hispanic: 16%
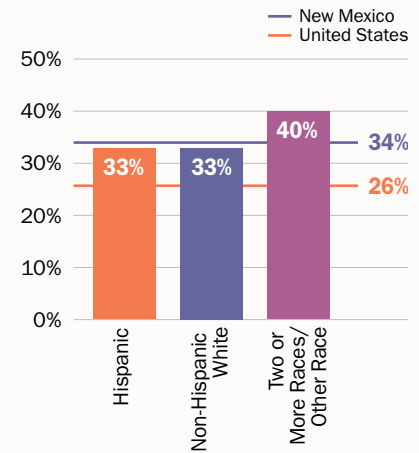- Non-Hispanic White: 8%
- New Mexico: 13%
- United States: 12%

Adults Living in Households with Children Who Delayed Getting Medical Care Because of the Pandemic by Race and Ethnicity

Oct. 14–Nov. 9, 2020

Legend: New Mexico, United States

- Hispanic: 42%
- Non-Hispanic White: 43%
- Two or More Races/Other Race: 51%
- New Mexico: 44%
- United States: 33%

Adults Living in Households with Children Who Did Not Get Needed Medical Care Because of the Pandemic by Race and Ethnicity

Oct. 14–Nov. 9, 2020

Legend: New Mexico, United States

- Hispanic: 33%
- Non-Hispanic White: 33%
- Two or More Races/Other Race: 40%
- New Mexico: 34%
- United States: 26%

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, 2020. **NOTE:** Hardship data on Asian and Black or African American adults in households with children in New Mexico are suppressed because of small sample sizes or the 90% confidence interval is greater than 30 percentage points or 1.3 times the estimate. Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians are all included in the Two or More Races/Other Race category.

Definition

The percentage of adults living in households with children (birth to age 17) who reported that they did not currently have health insurance, they delayed medical care, or they did not get medical care because of the coronavirus pandemic. Adults who only had Indian Health Service coverage were classified as uninsured.

How New Mexico is Faring

Data collected during the pandemic indicate that there has likely been an increase in the rate of children who lack health insurance in New Mexico. According to 2019 data, 6% of all New Mexico children were uninsured, with 11% of Native American children likely to be uninsured. However, from October 14 through 26, 2020, 11% of adults in households with children were uninsured, with higher rates for people of color lacking health insurance (12% to 13%) compared to whites (7%). Similar racial and ethnic breakdowns can be seen for adults in households with children who delayed or did not get medical care. This is likely correlated to unemployment rates, as families lost employer-provided insurance or became unable to afford health insurance or medical care due to financial hardships.

MORE HARDSHIP DATA

As this publication was being readied for the printer (in November and December 2020), data were still being collected in the Household Pulse Survey. You can find the most recent data available at the KIDS COUNT Data Center (datacenter.kidscount.org).

Adults Living in Households with Children Who Felt Nervous, Anxious, or on Edge in the Past Week by Race and Ethnicity
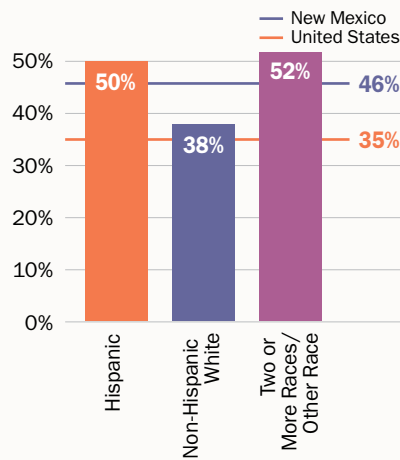
Oct. 14–Nov. 9, 2020

Legend: New Mexico · United States

Chart values:
- Hispanic: 50%
- Non-Hispanic White: 38%
- Two or More Races/Other Race: 52%
- New Mexico line: 46%
- United States line: 35%

Adults Living in Households with Children Who Felt Down, Depressed, or Hopeless in the Past Week by Race and Ethnicity

Oct. 14–Nov. 9, 2020

Legend: New Mexico · United States

Chart values:
- Hispanic: 42%
- Non-Hispanic White: 20%
- Two or More Races/Other Race: 31%
- New Mexico line: 34%
- United States line: 23%

Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect April–May 2020

Percent Declined Compared to Same Month, 2019

Legend: New Mexico

Chart values:
- April 2020: 42%
- May 2020: 33%

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, 2020.
NOTE: Hardship data on Asian and Black or African American adults in households with children in New Mexico are suppressed because of small sample sizes or the 90% confidence interv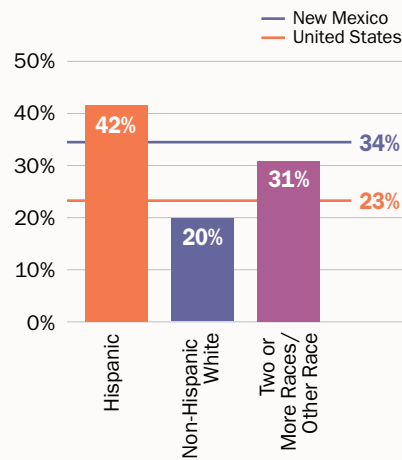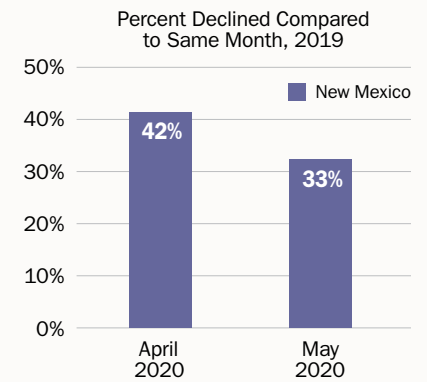al is greater than 30 percentage points or 1.3 times the estimate. Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians are all included in the Two or More Races/Other Race category.

SOURCE: "Drop in Child Abuse Reports Could Be Behind Drop in Cases," LFC Newsletter, NM Legislative Finance Committee, Aug. 2020

Definition

The percentage of adults living in households with children (birth to age 17) who reported that they felt nervous, anxious, on edge, down, depressed, or hopeless for more than half of the days or nearly every day in the past seven days.

How New Mexico is Faring

Mental health during the pandemic is worse for New Mexico than for the nation as a whole. More than one-third (35%) of adults in households with children nationwide report feeling anxious, while 23% report feeling depressed; this compares to 46% and 34% of New Mexicans, respectively. Non-Hispanic white adults in households with children are experiencing feelings of anxiety and depression at lower rates than are Hispanic adults in New Mexico. These differences are likely due to the fact that New Mexicans tend to be less economically secure than adults the nation as a whole and non-Hispanic white New Mexicans. Long-term untreated mental illness can impede a family's ability to thrive and chronic stress, in particular, can have a negative impact on a young child's brain development.

How New Mexico is Faring

With the majority of child abuse and neglect reports coming from adults who are connected to children outside of the home – often by school – the number of reported cases dropped considerably in April and May of 2020 compared to April and May of 2019. This likely means that many children who are experiencing abuse at home are not receiving the assistance they need from the state's Child Protective Services because the abuse is not being reported.

Women Receiving No Prenatal Care by Race and Ethnicity 2019
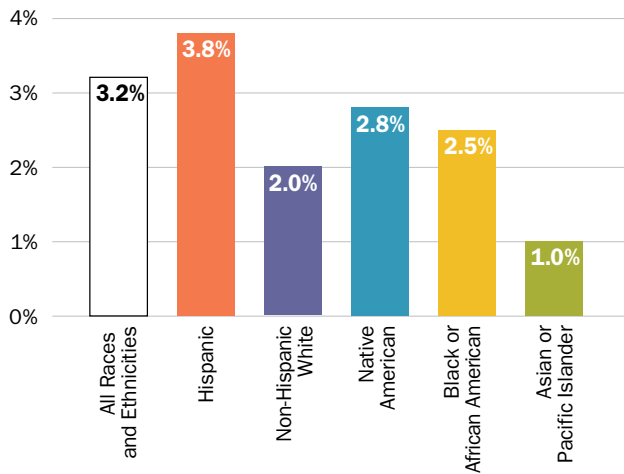
Category	Value
All Races and Ethnicities	3.2%
Hispanic	3.8%
Non-Hispanic White	2.0%
Native American	2.8%
Black or African American	2.5%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1.0%

SOURCE: NM Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); retrieved November 2020 from http://ibis.health.state.nm.us.

Women Receiving Prenatal Care in the First Trimester by Race and Ethnicity 2019
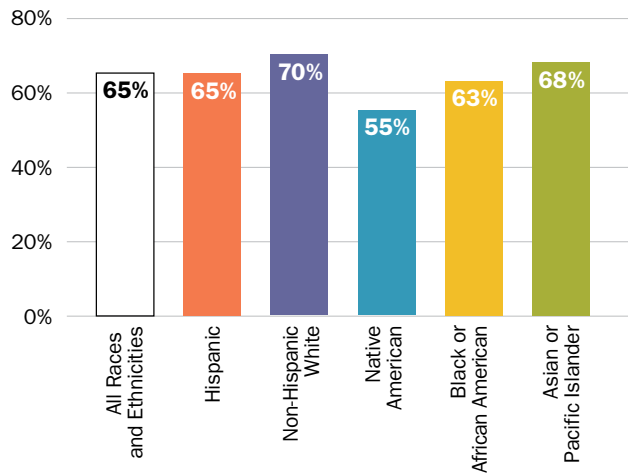
Category	Value
All Races and Ethnicities	65%
Hispanic	65%
Non-Hispanic White	70%
Native American	55%
Black or African American	63%
Asian or Pacific Islander	68%

SOURCE: NM Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); retrieved November 2020 from http://ibis.health.state.nm.us.

Definition

Prenatal care is defined as health care that a pregnant woman receives from an obstetrician or a midwife, including dietary and lifestyle advice, ensuring proper weight gain, and examination for problems such as edema and preeclampsia.

How New Mexico Fares

The rates of women receiving no prenatal care while pregnant improved from 2018 to 2019. While all rates improved, they remained higher among teen mothers and mothers with less than a high school diploma than among the general population of mothers. Hispanic and Native American women in New Mexico are the least likely to receive prenatal care during pregnancy, while non-Hispanic white mothers 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.

Births to Women Receiving No Prenatal Care by Selected Status and County 2019

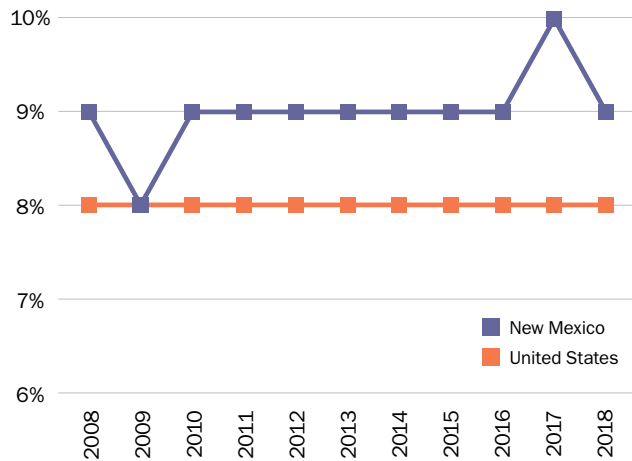| Location	Number of Live Births to Women Who Received No Prenatal Care	Percent Who Received No Prenatal Care:		
		of All Live Births	of All Teen Mothers (Ages 15-19)	of All Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma
New Mexico	725	3.2%	3.9%	6.4%
Bernalillo County	184	2.6%	2.8%	4.4%
Catron County	**	**	0.0%	**
Chaves County	28	3.4%	6.0%	5.1%
Cibola County	20	6.7%	**	10.6%
Colfax County	**	**	0.0%	0.0%
Curry County	20	2.5%	**	10.0%
De Baca County	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Doña Ana County	135	5.1%	3.8%	13.1%
Eddy County	15	1.7%	0.0%	3.7%
Grant County	4	1.7%	0.0%	**
Guadalupe County	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Harding County	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hidalgo County	**	**	0.0%	0.0%
Lea County	46	4.2%	7.6%	7.7%
Lincoln County	6	3.4%	**	**
Los Alamos County	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Luna County	26	7.0%	13.7%	15.7%
McKinley County	22	2.4%	**	3.2%
Mora County	7	16.7%	0.0%	**
Otero County	29	3.4%	0.0%	7.0%
Quay County	**	**	0.0%	**
Rio Arriba County	11	2.7%	0.0%	5.2%
Roosevelt County	7	2.9%	**	**
San Juan County	27	1.9%	4.8%	3.2%
San Miguel County	10	3.8%	**	**
Sandoval County	26	1.9%	**	3.2%
Santa Fe County	39	3.3%	**	5.5%
Sierra County	5	6.4%	0.0%	**
Socorro County	9	4.4%	**	**
Taos County	6	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Torrance County	7	4.8%	**	**
Union County	**	**	0.0%	0.0%
Valencia County	26	3.3%	**	6.7%

Read this table as:
"Of all mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 who had a live birth, 3.9% of them received no prenatal care for that birth."

Babies Born at a Low-Birthweight by Year 2008-2018

Chart legend:
- New Mexico (purple)
- United States (orange)

New Mexico values: 2008: 9%, 2009: 8%, 2010: 9%, 2011: 9%, 2012: 9%, 2013: 9%, 2014: 9%, 2015: 9%, 2016: 9%, 2017: 10%, 2018: 9%

United States: 8% across all years (2008-2018)

Babies Born at a Low Birthweight by Race and Ethnicity 2019

- Hispanic: 10%
- Non-Hispanic White: 8%
- Native American: 7%
- Black or African American: 16%
- Asian or Pacific Islander: 12%

Definition

Babies born weighing 5.5 pounds or less are considered low birthweight. These babies are at a greater risk for developmental delays, disabilities, chronic health conditions, and early death.

How New Mexico Fares

In 2018, the rate of babies who were born at a low birthweight continued to improve, ranking us 39th in the nation on this indicator. The national rate saw no change, despite improved access to health insurance via the Affordable Care Act. Rates of low-birthweight babies in New Mexico are the highest among African Americans (15.7%) and Asians or Pacific Islanders (11.6%). Rates in New Mexico have worsened for Hispanics and African Americans but have improved for non-Hispanic whites, Native Americans, and Asians or Pacific Islanders. 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.

Babies Born at a Low Birthweight by County 2019

Location	Rank	Percent
United States		8.3%
New Mexico		9.3%
Bernalillo County	17	9.9%
Catron County	NA	**
Chaves County	12	8.8%
Cibola County	21	10.8%
Colfax County	27	15.6%
Curry County	15	9.2%
De Baca County	NA	**
Doña Ana County	9	8.2%
Eddy County	8	8.0%
Grant County	19	10.3%
Guadalupe County	NA	**
Harding County	1	0.0%
Hidalgo County	NA	**
Lea County	12	8.8%
Lincoln County	14	9.0%
Los Alamos County	6	6.6%
Luna County	5	6.5%
McKinley County	10	8.3%
Mora County	NA	**
Otero County	16	9.4%
Quay County	2	5.0%
Rio Arriba County	18	10.2%
Roosevelt County	3	5.8%
San Juan County	7	6.8%
San Miguel County	26	12.5%
Sandoval County	20	10.4%
Santa Fe County	25	11.5%
Sierra County	4	6.4%
Socorro County	11	8.7%
Taos County	24	11.2%
Torrance County	22	11.0%
Union County	NA	**
Valencia County	23	11.1%

SOURCE: NM Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); retrieved November 2020 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, suppressed rates for counties are designated by the ** symbol.

Children without Health Insurance by Year 2008–2019
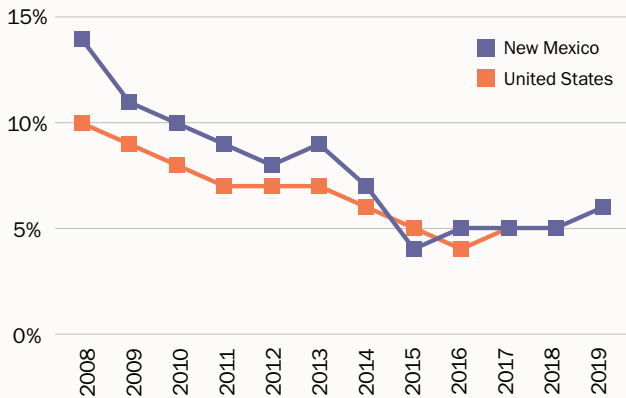
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey from 2008 to 2019, Table C27001. **NOTE:** Data for years prior to 2017 are for children ages 0 to 17; data for 2017 and beyond are for children ages 0 to 18.

Children without Health Insurance by Race and Ethnicity 2019
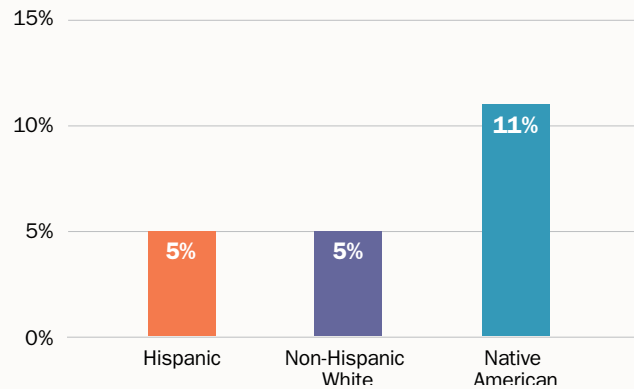
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey, Table C27001. **NOTE:** Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.

Definition

The percentage of children (ages 0 to 18) who do not have health insurance coverage, including Medicaid.

How New Mexico Fares

New Mexico children face some major challenges but ensuring that they have health insurance can help address a number of these other issues that can threaten children's health and well-being, and this is one area in which New Mexico does comparatively well. The share of children without health insurance increased from 5% to 6% from 2018 to 2019, ranking us 22nd in the nation on 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 – dropping to 6% from 14%. Notably, the biggest improvements over time in this measure have been among Native American and Hispanic children. However, Native American children in New Mexico, with uninsured rates around 11%, are at the greatest risk of being uninsured. 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.

Children without Health Insurance by Income Level and County 2018

Location	All Income Levels	Low Income
New Mexico	5.4%	6.1%
Bernalillo County	4.3%	5.0%
Catron County	6.9%	9.0%
Chaves County	6.3%	7.0%
Cibola County	5.5%	5.0%
Colfax County	5.8%	6.9%
Curry County	5.4%	6.3%
De Baca County	7.3%	7.9%
Doña Ana County	6.1%	7.0%
Eddy County	4.8%	6.3%
Grant County	4.6%	5.2%
Guadalupe County	3.9%	3.6%
Harding County	6.0%	8.0%
Hidalgo County	6.1%	7.1%
Lea County	6.5%	7.9%
Lincoln County	7.0%	8.7%
Los Alamos County	2.0%	9.5%
Luna County	5.4%	5.5%
McKinley County	6.2%	3.9%
Mora County	5.2%	6.0%
Otero County	5.4%	6.1%
Quay County	4.8%	4.7%
Rio Arriba County	5.5%	5.6%
Roosevelt County	5.9%	7.0%
San Juan County	6.3%	5.5%
San Miguel County	4.5%	4.7%
Sandoval County	5.0%	6.0%
Santa Fe County	7.4%	9.9%
Sierra County	5.8%	6.0%
Socorro County	6.5%	6.5%
Taos County	7.1%	7.8%
Torrance County	6.5%	6.9%
Union County	8.1%	9.7%
Valencia County	5.7%	6.0%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2018.

Definition

The percentage of all children (ages 0 to 19) who do not have health insurance, including Medicaid and CHIP. The low-income threshold used in this table is 200% of the federal poverty level, which was $41,560 for a family of three in 2018.

How New Mexico Fares

The rates of children without health insurance remained the same in all income levels and decreased slightly in low-income families from 2017 to 2018. 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 are less likely to have access to health insurance.

Definition

Children and youth (ages 0 to 20) who are enrolled in Medicaid, known in New Mexico as Centennial Care.

How New Mexico Fares

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% of the under 21 population in 2018.

Children and Youth (Younger than 21 Years) Enrolled in Medicaid by County Oct. 2020

Location	All Youth Enrolled	Native American Youth Enrolled
New Mexico	335,639	55,179
Bernalillo County	89,690	8,781
Catron County	166	12
Chaves County	13,035	83
Cibola County	5,630	3,518
Colfax County	1,991	43
Curry County	10,423	112
De Baca County	141	1
Doña Ana County	43,642	486
Eddy County	9,507	81
Grant County	3,980	93
Guadalupe County	846	11
Harding County	15	NA
Hidalgo County	664	4
Lea County	14,981	133
Lincoln County	2,963	215
Los Alamos County	203	9
Luna County	6,517	50
McKinley County	17,192	15,453
Mora County	271	10
Otero County	8,209	1,434
Quay County	1,485	20
Rio Arriba County	8,046	1,475
Roosevelt County	1,552	19
San Juan County	23,952	13,837
San Miguel County	4,278	123
Sandoval County	19,331	5,412
Santa Fe County	18,299	1,521
Sierra County	2,927	26
Socorro County	2,967	792
Taos County	4,753	476
Torrance County	4,304	125
Union County	120	11
Valencia County	13,184	760
Unknown	375	53

SOURCE: NM Human Services Department, Medicaid Eligibility Reports, October: "All Children under 21 by County" and "Native Americans by County"; columns titled "Children including CHIP and not in another category"; retrieved November 2020 from http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/LookingForInformation/medicaid-eligibility.aspx.

Infant Mortality Numbers and Rates by County 2019

Location	Number of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths per 1,000 Births)
New Mexico	131	5.7
Bernalillo County	36	5.1
Catron County	0	0
Chaves County	5	6.1
Cibola County	**	**
Colfax County	**	**
Curry County	8	10.1
De Baca County	0	0
Doña Ana County	3.4	9
Eddy County	5	5.8
Grant County	**	**
Guadalupe County	0	0
Harding County	0	0
Hidalgo County	0	0
Lea County	5	4.6
Lincoln County	**	**
Los Alamos County	0	0
Luna County	0	0
McKinley County	6	6.5
Mora County	**	**
Otero County	9	10.6
Quay County	**	**
Rio Arriba County	**	**
Roosevelt County	**	**
San Juan County	7	4.9
San Miguel County	4	15.2
Sandoval County	5	3.6
Santa Fe County	7	5.9
Sierra County	0	0
Socorro County	**	**
Taos County	**	**
Torrance County	**	**
Union County	0	0
Valencia County	6	7.7

Definition

The infant mortality rate is the number of infants (ages 0 to 1) who die within the first year of life for each 1,000 live births.

How New Mexico Fares

Infant mortality rates remained the same from 2018 to 2019 at 5.7 per 1,000 births.

SOURCE: NM Department of Health, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, NM Death Certificate Database; retrieved from the NM DOH Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS), November 2020 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. 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.

Child and Teen Death Rates by Year Rate per 100,000, 2008–2018

Child and Teen Death Rates by Race and Ethnicity Rate per 100,000, 2018
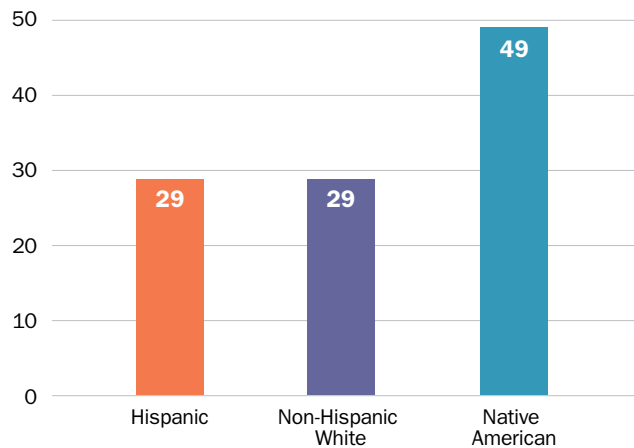
Definition

The number of deaths of children (ages 1 to 14) and teens (ages 15 to 19) for every 100,000 children and teens in those age ranges in the population. Most youth deaths are preventable and caused by accidents, homicide, or suicide.

How New Mexico Fares

New Mexico's child and teen death rate is 34 deaths per 100,000 children and teens. This is significantly worse than the U.S. average rate of 25 per 100,000 and ranks New Mexico 41st among the states on this measure. Rates among Native American children in New Mexico (at 49 per 100,000) are significantly higher than the state and national averages. Over the long term, New Mexico's child and teen death rate has decreased, from 40 in 2008 to 34 deaths per 100,000 in 2018, following a national overall trend of gradual improvement on this indicator. Rates have remained the same among Hispanics and decreased among non-Hispanic whites but have increased among Native Americans. 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.

Child (Ages 0-14) Death Rates by County 2019

Location	Rank	Rate
New Mexico		52
Bernalillo County	11	45.2
Catron County	1	0
Chaves County	16	66.4
Cibola County	22	95.5
Colfax County	NA	**
Curry County	19	80.5
De Baca County	1	0
Doña Ana County	9	31.8
Eddy County	12	46.5
Grant County	NA	**
Guadalupe County	1	0
Harding County	1	0
Hidalgo County	1	0
Lea County	14	50.3
Lincoln County	NA	**
Los Alamos County	NA	**
Luna County	8	18.7
McKinley County	18	78.6
Mora County	NA	**
Otero County	21	84.1
Quay County	NA	**
Rio Arriba County	20	80.6
Roosevelt County	NA	**
San Juan County	13	47.9
San Miguel County	23	100.9
Sandoval County	10	36.5
Santa Fe County	15	56.1
Sierra County	1	0
Socorro County	24	125.9
Taos County	NA	**
Torrance County	NA	**
Union County	1	0
Valencia County	17	75.8

SOURCE: NM Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); retrieved November 2020 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, suppressed rates for counties are designated by the ** symbol.

Teen (Ages 15-19) Death Rates by County 2019

Location	Rank	Rate
New Mexico		79.9
Bernalillo County	23	98.5
Catron County	1	0
Chaves County	16	38.8
Cibola County	1	0
Colfax County	32	321.8
Curry County	28	148.6
De Baca County	1	0
Doña Ana County	19	51.7
Eddy County	18	50.6
Grant County	30	181.2
Guadalupe County	1	0
Harding County	1	0
Hidalgo County	1	0
Lea County	26	127.9
Lincoln County	1	0
Los Alamos County	29	170.4
Luna County	1	0
McKinley County	20	55.8
Mora County	33	374.6
Otero County	17	50.3
Quay County	1	0
Rio Arriba County	22	81.3
Roosevelt County	24	115.8
San Juan County	21	77.9
San Miguel County	1	0
Sandoval County	27	145.4
Santa Fe County	15	25
Sierra County	1	0
Socorro County	1	0
Taos County	25	119.1
Torrance County	31	205
Union County	1	0
Valencia County	1	0

SOURCE: NM Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); custom data request received November 2020. **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.

Substantiated Child Abuse by Type of Abuse and County FY2020

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	24%	2%	74%
Bernalillo County	12.8	22%	2%	75%
Catron County	1.6	0%	0%	100%
Chaves County	15.5	16%	2%	82%
Cibola County	11.0	16%	0%	84%
Colfax County	23.5	37%	3%	60%
Curry County	8.9	25%	1%	73%
De Baca County	12.5	13%	13%	75%
Doña Ana County	12.8	25%	3%	72%
Eddy County	14.5	17%	4%	80%
Grant County	22.9	22%	1%	77%
Guadalupe County	16.0	36%	3%	61%
Harding County	19.4	0%	0%	100%
Hidalgo County	28.0	22%	6%	72%
Lea County	12.5	21%	2%	77%
Lincoln County	13.3	35%	2%	63%
Los Alamos County	4.3	26%	0%	74%
Luna County	13.8	26%	0%	74%
McKinley County	7.4	21%	1%	78%
Mora County	16.6	29%	0%	71%
Otero County	12.3	34%	2%	64%
Quay County	15.5	24%	0%	76%
Rio Arriba County	11.7	23%	0%	77%
Roosevelt County	8.4	34%	3%	63%
San Juan County	14.4	25%	2%	73%
San Miguel County	20.4	24%	1%	75%
Sandoval County	4.6	29%	2%	69%
Santa Fe County	10.6	29%	1%	70%
Sierra County	24.4	28%	3%	69%
Socorro County	14.8	13%	4%	82%
Taos County	20.6	21%	1%	78%
Torrance County	11.0	23%	1%	76%
Union County	11.6	57%	0%	43%
Valencia County	14.0	25%	2%	72%

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 2020 (from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020), 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 2020, of all substantiated allegations of child abuse, 24% were for physical abuse, 2% were for sexual abuse, and 74% were for physical neglect."

How New Mexico Fares

The rate of substantiated child abuse remained the same from FY 2019 to FY 2020 at 21.5 children per 1,000. 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 2020.

Children and Teens Who are Overweight or Obese by Year Rate per 100,000, 2016–2018

Legend: New Mexico, United States

Y-axis: 0, 10, 20, 30, 40
X-axis: 2016–2017, 2017–2018
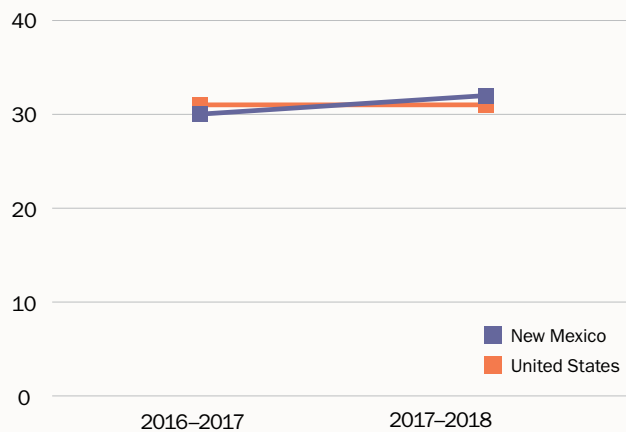
SOURCE: Child Trends analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, National Survey of Children's Health, 2016-2018.

Children and Teens Who are Overweight or Obese by Race and Ethnicity Rate per year, 2017–2018

Bar chart:
- Hispanic: 33%
- Non-Hispanic White: 24%
- Native American: 26%

SOURCE: 2018 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) data query. Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). Retrieved September 24, 2020.

Definition

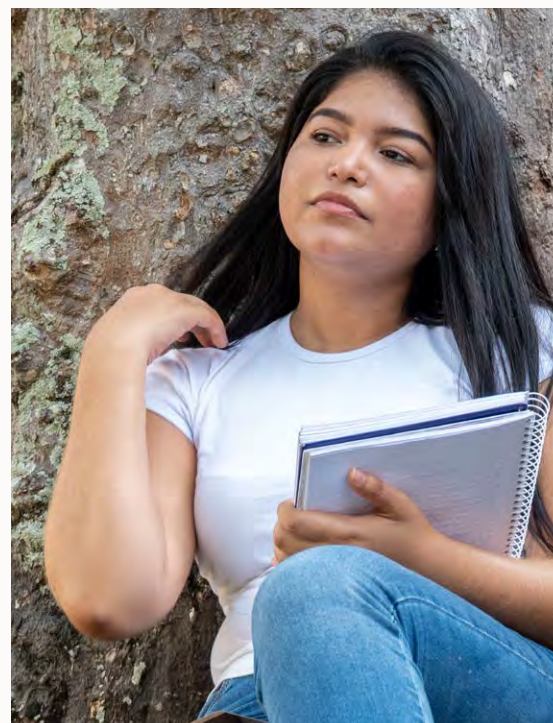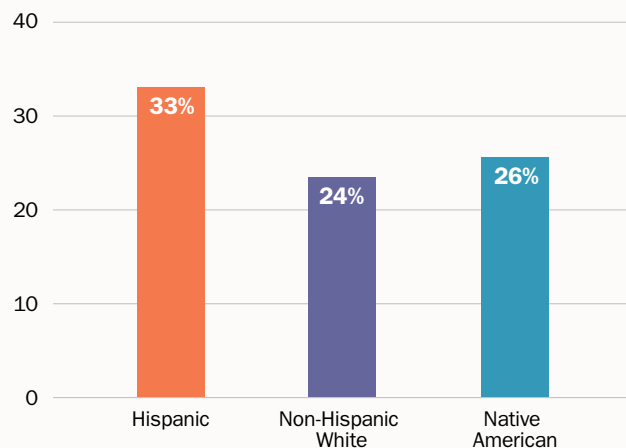The percentage of teens (ages 10 to 17) who are considered overweight (between the 85th and 95th Body Mass Index, or BMI, percentile) or obese (at or above the 95th BMI percentile). Height and weight are used to determine the BMI, which is age- and gender-specific.

How New Mexico Fares

Thirty-two percent of New Mexico teens (ages 10-17) were overweight or obese in 2017-2018. This is an increase from 2016-2017 and is worse than the national rate of 31%. New Mexico ranks 33rd in the nation and this reflects a large drop from our ranking of 23rd last year. Being overweight or obese is often correlated to food insecurity and can negatively impact a child's overall health, ultimately leading to lifelong health challenges. Child obesity is deeply interconnected with systems that don't serve every family well and tracking this indicator will help us see more clearly where our kids are facing barriers to opportunity and equity. National data has only been collected for 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, with the national trend holding steady at 31%. Although race and ethnicity data for this indicator are limited, 33% of Hispanic teens are overweight or obese while 24% of white non-Hispanic teens are overweight or obese.

Children and Teens Who are Overweight or Obese by County 2017

Location	Rank	Percent
United States		31%
New Mexico		32%
Bernalillo County	3	28%
Catron County	2	22%
Chaves County	25	39%
Cibola County	28	40%
Colfax County	14	34%
Curry County	14	34%
De Baca County	NA	**
Doña Ana County	19	35%
Eddy County	11	33%
Grant County	5	30%
Guadalupe County	25	39%
Harding County	NA	**
Hidalgo County	19	35%
Lea County	22	38%
Lincoln County	19	35%
Los Alamos County	1	17%
Luna County	25	39%
McKinley County	22	38%
Mora County	28	40%
Otero County	11	33%
Quay County	28	40%
Rio Arriba County	7	31%
Roosevelt County	28	40%
San Juan County	11	33%
San Miguel County	14	34%
Sandoval County	9	32%
Santa Fe County	5	30%
Sierra County	14	34%
Socorro County	22	38%
Taos County	4	29%
Torrance County	7	31%
Union County	14	34%
Valencia County	9	32%

SOURCE: NM Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); retrieved November 2020 from http://ibis.health.state.nm.us. **NOTE:** The rate for certain counties is suppressed by the NM 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, suppressed rates for counties are designated by the ** symbol.

Teens Who Abuse Alcohol or Drugs by Year 2005–2018
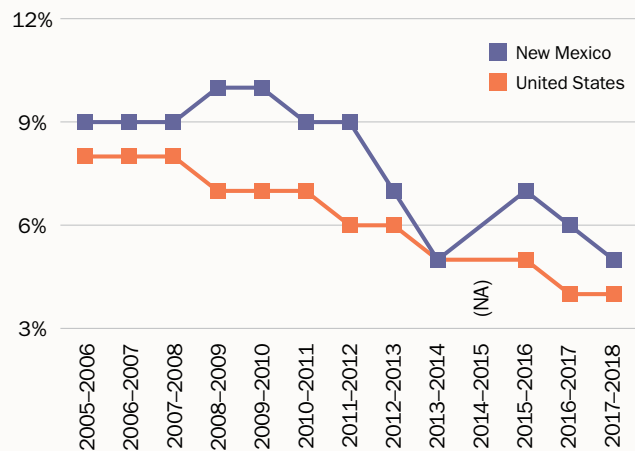
SOURCE: National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2005-06 to 2017-2018, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Definition

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.

How New Mexico Fares

The rate of teens abusing alcohol and drugs has improved slightly over the last year, and more significantly over time, from 10% in 2008-2009 to 5% in 2017-2018. This means that 8,000 fewer New Mexico teens are abusing alcohol and drugs than were in 2008-2009. Our state is now ranked 46th in the nation in this indicator, an improvement from 48th last year. 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.

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%
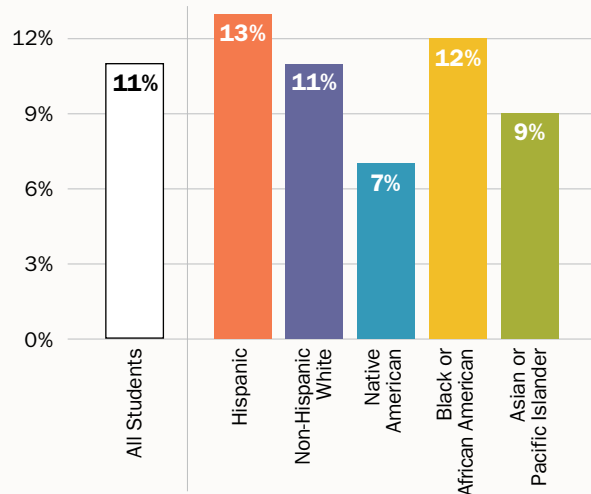
SOURCE: New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), 2017; dataset updated June 2019.

Definition

Boys (ages 12 to 17) who had five or more drinks on at least one occasion in the last 30 days and 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

The percent of teens who engaged in binge drinking increased in the most recent measure to 11% in 2017. 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. Teen binge drinking is associated with increased risks in a number of other areas.

Teens Binge Drinking by County 2017

Location	Rank	Percent
United States		14.0%
New Mexico		11.5%
Bernalillo County	8	9.6%
Catron County	2	5.7%
Chaves County	16	12.1%
Cibola County	23	14.7%
Colfax County	9	10.2%
Curry County	7	9.1%
De Baca County	NA	NA
Doña Ana County	18	13.2%
Eddy County	19	13.3%
Grant County	29	20.3%
Guadalupe County	14	11.2%
Harding County	NA	NA
Hidalgo County	3	7.1%
Lea County	27	18.4%
Lincoln County	30	20.4%
Los Alamos County	6	8.7%
Luna County	31	20.5%
McKinley County	1	3.7%
Mora County	12	11.0%
Otero County	22	14.6%
Quay County	5	8.4%
Rio Arriba County	28	19.3%
Roosevelt County	4	7.2%
San Juan County	10	10.3%
San Miguel County	20	13.4%
Sandoval County	11	10.9%
Santa Fe County	15	11.5%
Sierra County	17	12.6%
Socorro County	24	15.0%
Taos County	24	15.0%
Torrance County	21	14.5%
Union County	26	15.1%
Valencia County	13	11.1%

SOURCE: New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), 2017; dataset updated June 2019.

Policy Solutions to Improve **Health**

We need to continue to remind our leaders and lawmakers that the struggle against poverty and racism is even more crucial now in determining how we move forward and thrive after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pregnancy and Birth

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 improve outcomes and help prevent low birthweight.

Expand prenatal coverage on Medicaid from two to 12 months postpartum to ensure that new mothers and babies have the health supports they need.

Provide adequate funding for universal, voluntary home visiting programs that begin prenatally, so more women can be served during their pregnancy.

Provide adequate funding for programs for new parents, including universal, voluntary home visiting programs, which are shown to improve outcomes for the whole family.

Expand a program that funds home visiting through Medicaid in order to access federal matching funds.

Expand and fully fund health and nutrition programs for pregnant teens.

Support the creation of and funding for more county and tribal health councils.

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.

Death Rates

Expand funding for suicide prevention programs to provide youth with supportive adults and strategies to cope with difficult situations.

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

Empower a citizen oversight or review board for all child abuse cases handled by the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) that result in death.

Health Insurance

Implement aggressive outreach and enrollment programs to help cover those children who are eligible but still not enrolled, particularly in hard-to-reach rural, tribal, and frontier areas.

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 or from tax returns.

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.

Implement a state-level premium tax on health insurance companies and direct the revenue towards the creation of a Health Care Affordability Fund that could be used to make health plans more affordable for families earning low income.

Social Determinants of Health

Adequately fund evidence-based child abuse prevention programs and strengthen the role of prevention at CYFD.

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

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. (The lack of consistent, safe child care is a risk factor for child abuse. Read more about the child care assistance program in Policy Solutions for Poverty.)

As child neglect is frequently the product of a parent's untreated mental or behavioral health illness, New Mexico should strengthen its mental and behavioral health system so access to treatment for problems such as drug and alcohol addiction are more readily available.

Because food insecurity is often a cause of obesity, expand the number of schools adopting the Community Eligibility Provision for the National School Lunch Program to ensure all children and teens in low-income communities have access to enough food.

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

Greatly expand behavioral health programs for children, youth and families.

Expand funding and support for community schools and school-based health centers so students have access to health care 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.

Ban the sale of flavored electronic cigarettes.

Increase taxes on tobacco and e-cigarette products to address the vaping epidemic.
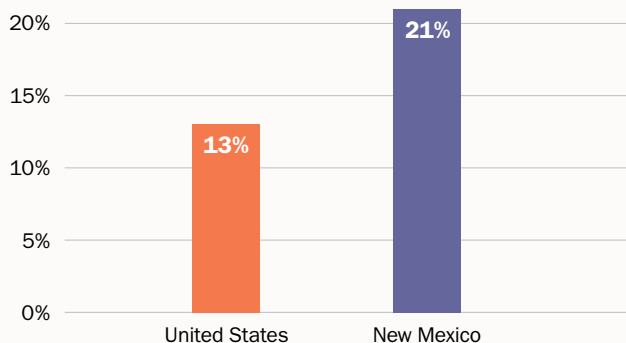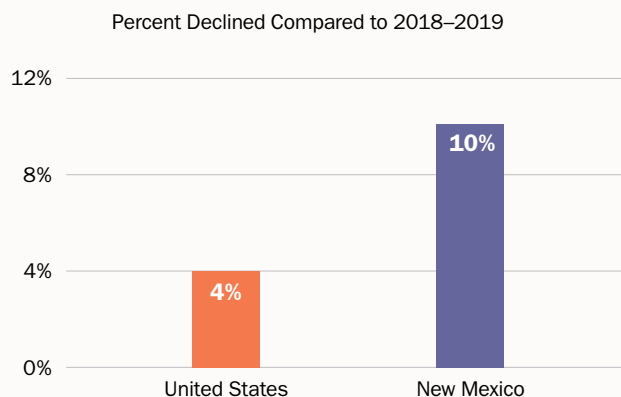
COVID-19 Hardship Data

Households without Internet 2019

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019, Table S2801.

Decline in Postsecondary Enrollment Fall of 2020

Percent Declined Compared to 2018–2019

SOURCE: National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, Stay Informed Series, Fall 2020.

Definition

The percentage of households without an internet subscription.

How New Mexico is Faring

New Mexico entered the pandemic with a significant lack of internet access in households compared to the national rate, according to 2019 data. While only 13% of households in the nation had no internet subscription, 21% of New Mexican households were without internet when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. As it led to the requirement that the majority of students, adult learners, and many of those who retained employment have home internet access in order to attend school or work remotely, this is another aspect of the pandemic had disproportionate impacts on communities. The percentage of households without an internet subscription is much higher for those earning a low income compared to those with middle or higher incomes.

Definition

The percent decrease in undergraduate enrollment for the fall 2020 semester, compared to the latest available data from 2018 and 2019, used here as pre-pandemic baselines. The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center collects postsecondary enrollment data from 76% of the institutions of higher education that report student enrollment numbers each semester.

How New Mexico is Faring

Undergraduate enrollment is down by 4.4% nationwide – more than half the decline in New Mexico, which is 9.7% according to analysis of the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center data. Of all 50 states, New Mexico had the second steepest decline in undergraduate students. Our state is already behind the national rates for educational attainment, and this decrease in enrollment during the pandemic could increase the share of adults in New Mexico without a college degree.

MORE HARDSHIP DATA

As this publication was being readied for the printer (in November and December 2020), data were still being collected in the Household Pulse Survey. You can find the most recent data available at the KIDS COUNT Data Center (datacenter.kidscount.org).

COVID-19 Rate by Poverty Level

Rate per 100,000, 2020

■ New Mexico

Poverty Rate	Rate per 100,000
<5%	223
5%-9.9%	318
10%-19.9%	464
20%-29.9%	699
30%-39.9%	964
40% or More	2,182
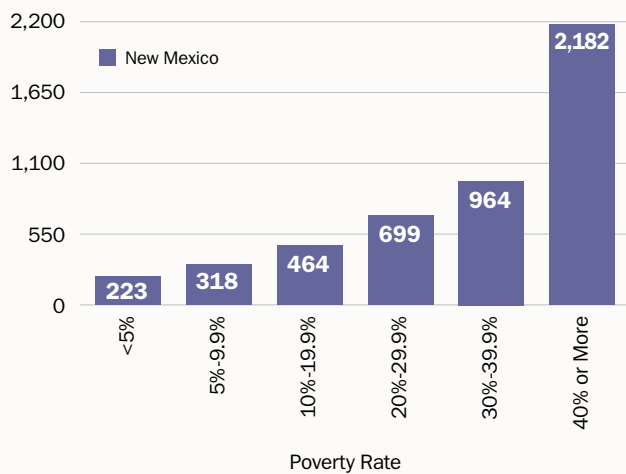
Poverty Rate

SOURCE: New Mexico Human Services Department, September 2020.

Definition

The number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people in Census tracts grouped by poverty rate.

How New Mexico Fares

As this chart shows there is a disturbing link between poverty rates and the rate of COVID-19 cases. COVID-19 has also had a disproportionate impact on people of color. Both of these links mean that New Mexico – with its high poverty rates and its majority people of color population – is particularly susceptible to COVID-19, despite the state's proactive measures to slow the spread. The link between COVID-19 and poverty has several factors. These include the fact that those earning lower incomes are less likely to have paid sick leave and employer-provided health insurance, meaning they are more likely to have untreated comorbidities. In addition, fewer low-wage jobs can be done remotely because many are in service-related industries – including jobs that are considered essential. All of these factors ensure that New Mexicans with the lowest incomes are the least able to stay safe from the pandemic.

| # Types of Families

Children in Single-Parent Families by Year 2008–2019

Legend:
- New Mexico
- United States
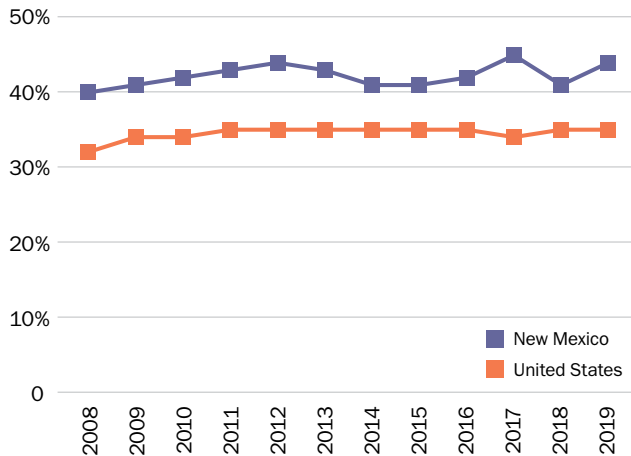
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008 through 2019, Table C23008.

Children in Single-Parent Families by Race and Ethnicity 2018
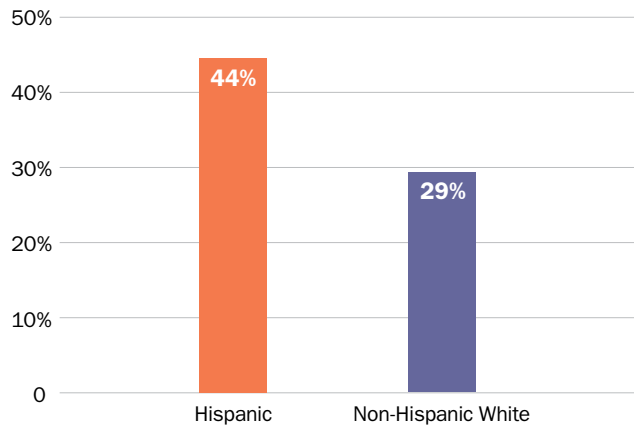
- Hispanic: 44%
- Non-Hispanic White: 29%

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Supplementary Survey data from 2018. NOTE: Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.

How New Mexico Fares

The rate of children living in single-parent families worsened from 41% in 2018 to 44% in 2019, dropping our national rank from 47th to 48th. Our high rate of children living in single-parent families is likely part of the reason so many of our children live in poverty, are food insecure, and face educational and health challenges. Public programs that use a two-generational approach – meaning they create opportunities simultaneously for both parents and children and in doing so address both groups' needs – are crucial for improving indicators like this one.

Children in Single-Parent Families by County 2014–2018

Location	Rank	Percent
United States		30%
New Mexico		37%
Bernalillo County	16	37%
Catron County	33	58%
Chaves County	20	39%
Cibola County	31	55%
Colfax County	26	47%
Curry County	16	37%
De Baca County	4	28%
Doña Ana County	11	36%
Eddy County	11	36%
Grant County	20	39%
Guadalupe County	25	45%
Harding County	5	30%
Hidalgo County	2	21%
Lea County	5	30%
Lincoln County	8	32%
Los Alamos County	1	14%
Luna County	11	36%
McKinley County	27	50%
Mora County	11	36%
Otero County	9	33%
Quay County	28	51%
Rio Arriba County	30	54%
Roosevelt County	11	36%
San Juan County	18	38%
San Miguel County	29	52%
Sandoval County	3	26%
Santa Fe County	20	39%
Sierra County	32	57%
Socorro County	18	38%
Taos County	24	43%
Torrance County	9	33%
Union County	23	41%
Valencia County	7	31%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Table B09002.

Definition

The percentage of children (ages 0 to 17) living with an unmarried parent or parents. As parents who are cohabitating but remain unmarried are counted as "single" parents, this can include families where more than one parental figure is present.

How New Mexico Fares

With 44% of New Mexico children's living with a parent or parents who are unmarried, our rate is much higher than the national average of 35%, and this ranks us 48th among the states on this measure. Children of color are more likely to live in single-parent households than are their non-Hispanic white peers, with 44% of the state's Hispanic children living in single-parent families, compared to 29% of non-Hispanic white children. 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. 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.

Families by Householder Type and County 2014–2018

| 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	119,730,128	19%	2%	7%
New Mexico	775,651	16%	3%	7%
Bernalillo County	265,657	15%	3%	7%
Catron County	1,381	5%	1%	2%
Chaves County	23,169	19%	4%	10%
Cibola County	8,939	13%	7%	9%
Colfax County	5,678	9%	4%	6%
Curry County	18,515	21%	4%	9%
De Baca County	705	17%	1%	5%
Doña Ana County	77,453	19%	2%	9%
Eddy County	21,264	20%	4%	8%
Grant County	12,003	12%	3%	7%
Guadalupe County	1,404	6%	3%	8%
Harding County	211	5%	2%	1%
Hidalgo County	1,753	20%	1%	5%
Lea County	22,114	25%	4%	8%
Lincoln County	7,815	11%	2%	3%
Los Alamos County	7,567	23%	2%	3%
Luna County	9,025	13%	1%	6%
McKinley County	20,295	14%	3%	11%
Mora County	1,535	9%	3%	2%
Otero County	23,391	17%	1%	7%
Quay County	3,060	7%	2%	8%
Rio Arriba County	12,398	9%	3%	8%
Roosevelt County	6,993	18%	2%	8%
San Juan County	43,134	17%	4%	8%
San Miguel County	11,292	9%	5%	8%
Sandoval County	50,340	19%	2%	6%
Santa Fe County	61,972	12%	2%	6%
Sierra County	5,377	7%	4%	6%
Socorro County	4,550	10%	1%	5%
Taos County	12,127	9%	3%	6%
Torrance County	5,664	15%	2%	4%
Union County	1,381	11%	2%	6%
Valencia County	27,489	17%	2%	7%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Table DP02.

Definitions

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% 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% 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 (44%) live in families where the parents are not married, married-couple families still make up the largest share (16%) of households with children. Neither the state- nor national-level data on types of families with children has changed significantly from the 2012-2016 data.

Families by Householder Type and Tribal Area 2014–2018

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)	119,730,128	19%	2%	7%
New Mexico (All Races)	775,651	16%	3%	7%
Acoma Pueblo	706	12%	5%	6%
Cochiti Pueblo	588	12%	4%	6%
Isleta Pueblo	1,327	8%	8%	8%
Jemez Pueblo	434	6%	6%	5%
Jicarilla Apache	702	9%	4%	14%
Laguna Pueblo	1,120	8%	3%	11%
Mescalero Apache	982	11%	4%	16%
Nambe Pueblo	654	9%	4%	9%
Navajo	17,785	11%	3%	10%
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	1,822	9%	4%	6%
Picuris Pueblo	751	8%	2%	8%
Pojoaque Pueblo	1,384	13%	4%	7%
Sandia Pueblo	1,867	16%	2%	7%
San Felipe Pueblo	866	14%	2%	3%
San Ildefonso Pueblo	692	11%	6%	8%
Santa Ana Pueblo	191	8%	1%	5%
Santa Clara Pueblo	4,082	9%	2%	9%
Santo Domingo Pueblo	587	10%	4%	8%
Taos Pueblo	2,000	8%	2%	7%
Tesuque Pueblo	310	11%	4%	8%
Zia Pueblo	212	13%	4%	10%
Zuni Pueblo	1,850	14%	2%	8%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Table DP02.

Definitions

Data for the tribal areas represents 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.

| Adult Education

Definition

The percentage of children (ages 0 to 17) who live in families where the head of household – the person in whose name the home is rented or mortgaged – lack a high school diploma.

How New Mexico Fares

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 2018, the rate of children living in families headed by a parent without a high school diploma improved from 21% to 15%. In New Mexico, the biggest improvements in this indicator since 2008 have been among Hispanic and Native American children.

Children in Families where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma by Year 2008–2018
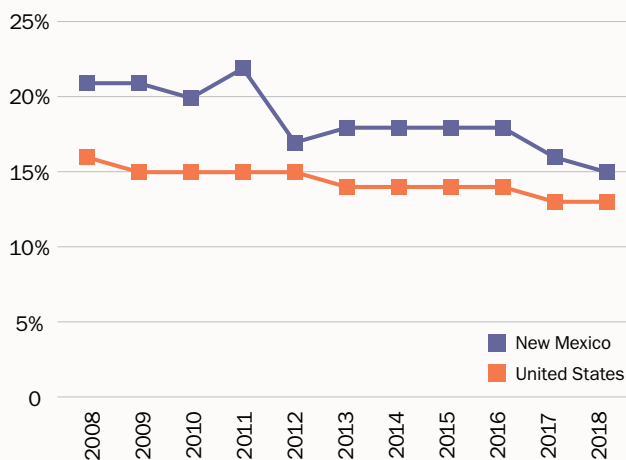
SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2018.

How New Mexico Fares

In 2018, 15% of New Mexico children – or 72,000 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 19% of the state's Hispanic children and 21% of Native American children living in families in which the household head lacked a diploma – compared with 4% of both non-Hispanic white children and children of two or more races. 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 that of the 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. 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.

Children in Families where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma by Race and Ethnicity 2018
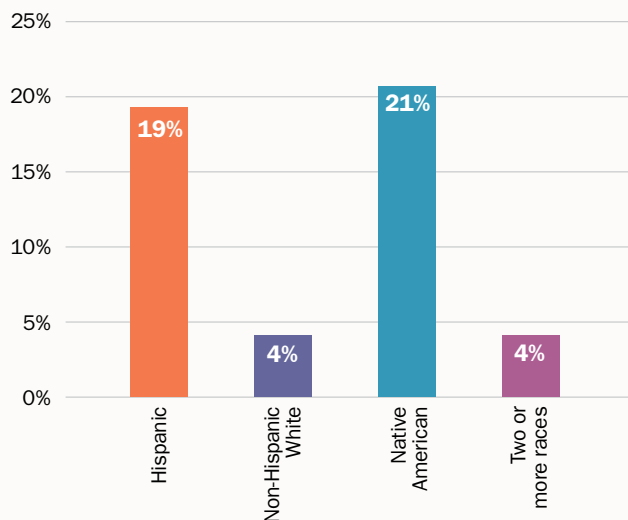
SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018. NOTE: Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.

Families where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma by County 2014–2018

Location	Rank	Percent
United States		11%
New Mexico		13%
Bernalillo County	10	10%
Catron County	2	3%
Chaves County	28	20%
Cibola County	19	13%
Colfax County	3	8%
Curry County	26	18%
De Baca County	6	9%
Doña Ana County	28	20%
Eddy County	20	14%
Grant County	10	10%
Guadalupe County	3	8%
Harding County	14	11%
Hidalgo County	23	15%
Lea County	31	24%
Lincoln County	3	8%
Los Alamos County	1	1%
Luna County	32	34%
McKinley County	30	23%
Mora County	6	9%
Otero County	17	12%
Quay County	23	15%
Rio Arriba County	N/A	N/A
Roosevelt County	27	19%
San Juan County	20	14%
San Miguel County	14	11%
Sandoval County	6	9%
Santa Fe County	14	11%
Sierra County	17	12%
Socorro County	20	14%
Taos County	10	10%
Torrance County	6	9%
Union County	10	10%
Valencia County	23	15%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Table B17018.

Adults by Educational Attainment Level and County 2014–2018

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	12%	27%	21%	8%	19%	12%
New Mexico	15%	26%	24%	8%	15%	12%
Bernalillo County	11%	23%	24%	8%	19%	15%
Catron County	6%	43%	23%	6%	14%	8%
Chaves County	22%	28%	24%	9%	12%	6%
Cibola County	17%	32%	26%	11%	9%	5%
Colfax County	11%	33%	27%	9%	12%	8%
Curry County	17%	28%	26%	10%	13%	7%
De Baca County	14%	40%	33%	4%	5%	5%
Doña Ana County	21%	23%	22%	8%	17%	11%
Eddy County	16%	37%	22%	9%	10%	6%
Grant County	13%	26%	26%	8%	16%	11%
Guadalupe County	20%	42%	21%	6%	8%	4%
Harding County	12%	33%	21%	9%	19%	6%
Hidalgo County	21%	34%	22%	9%	9%	5%
Lea County	27%	32%	21%	7%	8%	5%
Lincoln County	9%	29%	24%	9%	20%	9%
Los Alamos County	2%	10%	13%	8%	27%	39%
Luna County	31%	32%	18%	7%	8%	4%
McKinley County	25%	34%	23%	7%	6%	5%
Mora County	8%	35%	37%	9%	6%	5%
Otero County	16%	27%	27%	11%	11%	8%
Quay County	17%	40%	20%	7%	9%	7%
Rio Arriba County	14%	31%	28%	9%	13%	6%
Roosevelt County	19%	30%	21%	5%	15%	11%
San Juan County	16%	31%	28%	11%	9%	7%
San Miguel County	19%	26%	24%	9%	13%	10%
Sandoval County	10%	25%	26%	9%	18%	12%
Santa Fe County	11%	23%	19%	6%	20%	21%
Sierra County	15%	28%	27%	9%	13%	8%
Socorro County	21%	36%	17%	5%	11%	10%
Taos County	11%	26%	28%	7%	16%	12%
Torrance County	14%	37%	25%	9%	9%	6%
Union County	20%	42%	19%	6%	8%	5%
Valencia County	17%	33%	24%	9%	10%	7%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Table DP02.

Definition

While the data about adults lacking high school diplomas measures the share of children and families living in such households, the educational attainment levels measures the adults (ages 25 and older) themselves.

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 County is the outlier with 39% of its adults having a graduate or professional degree, thanks to the presence of the national lab there.

Adults by Educational Attainment Level and Tribal Area 2014–2018

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)	12%	27%	21%	8%	19%	12%
New Mexico (All Races)	15%	26%	24%	8%	15%	12%
Acoma Pueblo	10%	42%	27%	11%	6%	3%
Cochiti Pueblo	10%	29%	26%	10%	15%	10%
Isleta Pueblo	14%	39%	29%	9%	7%	3%
Jemez Pueblo	15%	40%	33%	7%	4%	2%
Jicarilla Apache	11%	39%	30%	8%	7%	4%
Laguna Pueblo	11%	37%	32%	11%	8%	3%
Mescalero Apache	23%	31%	28%	8%	8%	3%
Nambe Pueblo	11%	31%	27%	6%	15%	11%
Navajo	28%	35%	23%	8%	5%	2%
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	17%	37%	30%	7%	7%	2%
Picuris Pueblo	17%	41%	22%	8%	8%	4%
Pojoaque Pueblo	12%	30%	26%	7%	14%	11%
Sandia Pueblo	21%	39%	21%	7%	7%	4%
San Felipe Pueblo	28%	35%	19%	5%	8%	5%
San Ildefonso Pueblo	10%	30%	30%	8%	13%	10%
Santa Ana Pueblo	15%	38%	31%	8%	5%	3%
Santa Clara Pueblo	16%	30%	23%	9%	13%	9%
Santo Domingo Pueblo	20%	42%	24%	9%	4%	2%
Taos Pueblo	11%	28%	30%	6%	17%	9%
Tesuque Pueblo	19%	32%	25%	4%	12%	8%
Zia Pueblo	19%	36%	32%	7%	5%	1%
Zuni Pueblo	23%	39%	26%	6%	4%	2%

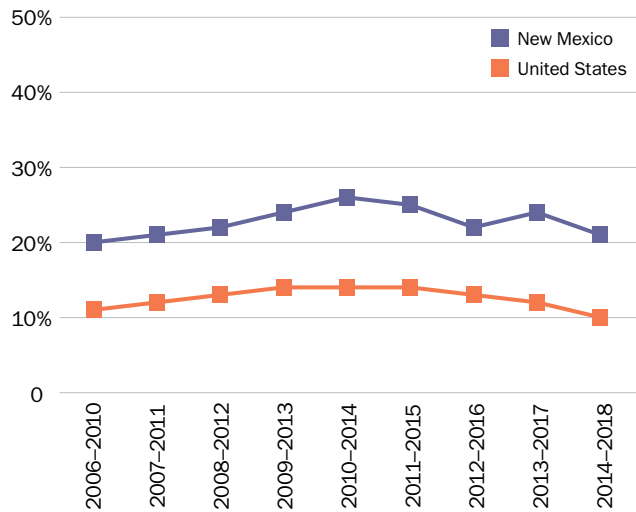**SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Table DP02.

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.

High-Poverty Areas

Children Living in High-Poverty Areas by Year 2006–2018

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year summary files released from 2006 to 2018.

Definition

The percentage of children (ages 0 to 17) living in Census tracts where at least 30% of the population lives at or below the federal poverty level. This includes children whose families earn incomes higher than the poverty level.

How New Mexico Fares

New Mexico improved from 2017 to 2018 in the percentage of children living in high-poverty areas, decreasing from 24% to 21%, a difference of approximately 13,000 children. Moreover, longer-term trends have improved, with only 5,000 more New Mexico children living in high-poverty areas in 2018 than did in 2010 – compared to 18,000 more in 2017.

Children Living in High-Poverty Areas by Race and Ethnicity 2014–2018
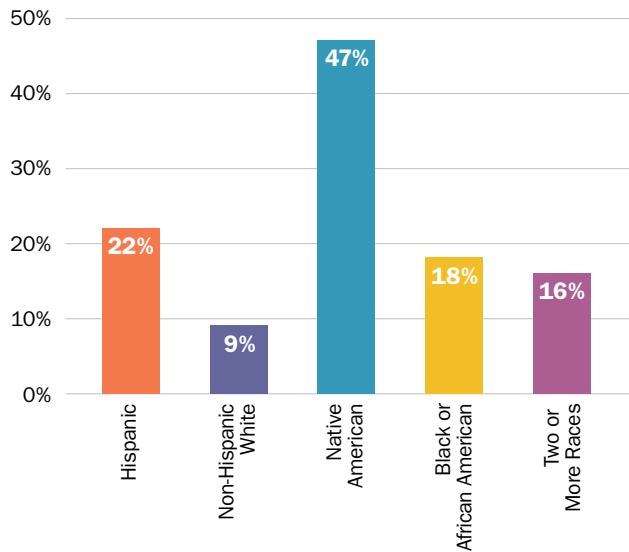
Hispanic	22%
Non-Hispanic White	9%
Native American	47%
Black or African American	18%
Two or More Races	16%

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. **NOTE:** Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.

How New Mexico Fares

New Mexico's rate of children living in high-poverty areas – 21% – is much higher than the national average of 10%, which ranks our state 49th in the nation on this indicator. Native American children are most likely to live in high-poverty areas (at 47%), followed by Hispanic children (at 22%). Non-Hispanic white children are least likely to live in high-poverty areas (9%). 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.

Children Living in High-Poverty Areas by County 2014–2018

Location	Rank	Percent
United States		10%
New Mexico		21%
Bernalillo County	17	14%
Catron County	1	0%
Chaves County	20	22%
Cibola County	24	33%
Colfax County	24	33%
Curry County	22	29%
De Baca County	1	0%
Doña Ana County	28	41%
Eddy County	1	0%
Grant County	18	17%
Guadalupe County	1	0%
Harding County	1	0%
Hidalgo County	32	59%
Lea County	14	6%
Lincoln County	1	0%
Los Alamos County	1	0%
Luna County	30	57%
McKinley County	33	84%
Mora County	1	0%
Otero County	24	33%
Quay County	1	0%
Rio Arriba County	1	0%
Roosevelt County	29	44%
San Juan County	20	22%
San Miguel County	31	58%
Sandoval County	15	7%
Santa Fe County	13	3%
Sierra County	23	32%
Socorro County	27	36%
Taos County	16	9%
Torrance County	1	0%
Union County	1	0%
Valencia County	19	18%

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018; custom data request received December 2020.
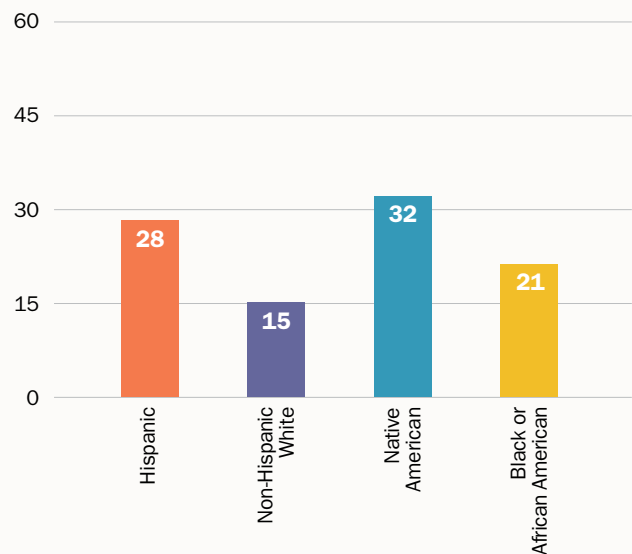
Teen Birth Rate by Year Rate per 1,000, 2008–2018
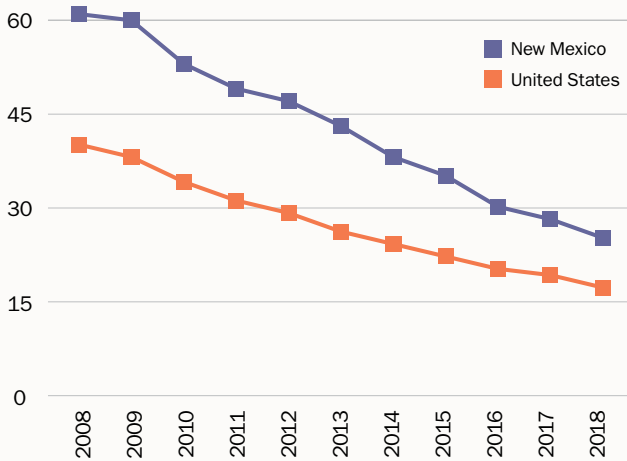
SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics VitalStats birth data from 2008 through 2018.

Teen Birth Rate by Race and Ethnicity Rate per 1,000, 2019

SOURCE: New Mexico Department of Public Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS). Retrieved December, 2020 from http://ibis.health.state.nm.us.

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

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 25 per 1,000 in 2018 – its lowest point in a decade. This represents an improvement of 59%, and it moved New Mexico from 49th to 41st among the states on this indicator. 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.

How New Mexico Fares

Teen birth rates have declined across all races and ethnicities, but have improved most dramatically among Hispanic and Native American teens, with the rate of Hispanic teen births dropping from 81 per 1,000 in 2009 to 28 per 1,000 in 2019, and the rate of Native American teen births dropping from 73 per 1,000 in 2009 to 32 per 1,000 in 2019.

Teen Birth Rate by County Rate per 1,000, 2019

Location	Rank	Rate
United States		17.4
New Mexico		24.4
Bernalillo County	8	16.7
Catron County	1	0
Chaves County	23	36.4
Cibola County	21	34.8
Colfax County	3	13.8
Curry County	26	47.5
De Baca County	N/A	**
Doña Ana County	11	23.8
Eddy County	25	46.4
Grant County	17	29.3
Guadalupe County	22	35.8
Harding County	1	0
Hidalgo County	N/A	**
Lea County	24	45.4
Lincoln County	9	20.1
Los Alamos County	N/A	**
Luna County	29	63.8
McKinley County	19	32.2
Mora County	20	32.5
Otero County	14	27.4
Quay County	28	53.3
Rio Arriba County	5	15.1
Roosevelt County	12	24.5
San Juan County	16	28.3
San Miguel County	15	28
Sandoval County	4	14.7
Santa Fe County	6	15.8
Sierra County	18	29.8
Socorro County	27	48.2
Taos County	10	22
Torrance County	7	16.6
Union County	N/A	**
Valencia County	13	27

SOURCES: New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); retrieved December 2020 from http://ibis.health.state.nm.us (New Mexico); Centers for Disease Contro, 2017-2018 (U.S.). **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, suppressed rates for counties are designated by the ** symbol.

Policy Solutions to Strengthen
Families & Communities

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the ways in which our nation has been designed to give an advantage to whites and those earning higher incomes, as well as the way our state has too often prioritized the well-being of the well-connected and corporate interests instead of our children.

Types of 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 aids in accessing community economic, health, and educational resources.

Maintain income eligibility for child care assistance at 200% the federal poverty level (FPL) or higher and provide continuous eligibility through at least 300% of the FPL so parents can accept pay raises without suddenly losing benefits that are worth more than the pay increase; eliminate copays for families earning less than 100% FPL and, for families between 101% and 300% FPL, scale copays to their incomes so payments do not put an undue burden on families earning low incomes.

Adult Education

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.

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 to these programs for adults lacking skills and earning low incomes who don't qualify for many forms of financial aid 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.

High-Poverty Areas

Increase access to affordable housing in safe areas with prospects of work for families earning low incomes, especially families of color, including through the creation or expansion of 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.

Target additional school funding towards schools in high-poverty areas.

Incentivize teaching, expand community schools, and reduce class sizes in 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 to create pathways out of poverty.

Teen Birth Rates

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 skills, 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 physical and behavioral health professionals to help them make informed decisions.

Expand evidence-based, age-appropriate comprehensive 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.

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 2019 ACS are released earlier in the year in 2020 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 2014-2018) 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 are 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 2019 one-year ACS, while most county and tribal data reported are from the 2014-2018 five-year ACS (the most recent five-year data set available at the time of this writing).

This year, the New Mexico KIDS COUNT Data Book also includes COVID-19 hardship data to reflect some of the real-time impacts the pandemic has had on children and families. Primarily, this data has come from the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey (see the "Major Data Sources" section for more information), and data were still being collected at the time of publication. The most recent data available, as well as some limited breakdowns of the data by race and ethnicity, can be found at the KIDS COUNT Data Center (datacenter.kidscount.org). COVID-19 hardship data are difficult to compare with other states and the nation, and because the hardship data are so specific, there is not robust baseline data for drawing comparisons. This data should be used primarily to account for how New Mexico is doing at a specific point in time during the pandemic.

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 below). 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 whether or not they are related. 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. Families are classified as "married-couple family," "single-parent family," "stepfamily," or "subfamily."

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.

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 at age 15 years and older in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. **Family Income** includes the summed incomes of all members at age 15 years and older 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 2020 New Mexico KIDS COUNT Data Book are for 2019. In 2019 the FPL was $12,490 for one person or $25,750 for a family of four. However, a family of four at double (200%) the federal poverty level ($51,500 in 2019) is considered "low-income," with just enough to cover basic family living expenses. For more information about the federal poverty guidelines, see https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines.

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 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.

American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

The majority of the data in the *2020 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. One-year estimates for 2019 were released in the late summer of 2020. The five-year estimates for 2019 will be released in December of 2020. American Community Survey data can be found on the U.S. Census webpage data.census.gov.

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 drawing 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.

Household Pulse Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

In response the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Bureau designed the Household Pulse Survey in collaboration with multiple federal agencies. Designed to deploy quickly and efficiently, the Household Pulse Survey is collecting data to be disseminated in near real-time to inform federal and state response to recovery planning. The online survey asks questions about how education, employment, food security, health, housing, Social Security benefits, household spending, stimulus payments, and transportation have been affected by the ongoing crisis. As the *2020 New Mexico KIDS COUNT Data Book* was going to print, data were being collected in Phase 3 of the Household Pulse Survey.

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.

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 can and do 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 – called Centennial Care in New Mexico – is administered by the Medical Assistance Division of the state Human Services Department (HSD). Medicaid enrollment numbers are reported for children younger than 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 are, in general, now available in table, chart, and geo-mapped formats.

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.

The office 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.

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 and contains annual child abuse and neglect data by state and county. PSD publications, including the "360 Yearly" report can be found on the NM CYFD website.

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.

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 1,000 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).

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