

The background of the slide is a spiral-bound notebook with a light brown, textured cover and a silver metal spiral binding on the left side. The text is centered on the notebook page.

CHILD POVERTY IN NEW MEXICO

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New Mexico Voices for Children
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New Mexico

- Ranks 46th in child well-being
 - 49th in teen violent death
 - 47th in teen birth rate
 - 48th in single parenthood
 - 50th in child poverty

This is Because...

- 1 in 5 New Mexico adults
- 1 in 4 New Mexico children
- 1 in 3 New Mexico babies and toddlers

...Lives in poverty

What is Poverty?

- Not enough money to afford the basics
 - Food, clothing, shelter, medicine
 - Child care, transportation, health care...

Family size	Income	Hourly wage
1	\$8,980	\$4.30
2	\$12,120	\$5.80
3	\$15,260	\$7.30
4	\$18,400	\$8.80

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Myths About Poverty in New Mexico

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a brown cover and silver spiral binding on the left side. The notebook is open to a white page with a light gray border.

Myth: Poverty is a lifestyle
"choice"

Reality: even though New Mexico's poverty is not confined to urban "slums," 72% of poor children live in or near an metropolitan area...

- Their parents are poor even though they live near employment

Myth: Poverty is a lifestyle "choice"


Reality:

- 46% of poor children live with both parents
 - In 1/3 of these families *both parents work*
- 10% of poor children live with their grandparents

Myth: Many poor families own valuable property

Reality: 22% of poor children live in houses that their parents own outright. However:

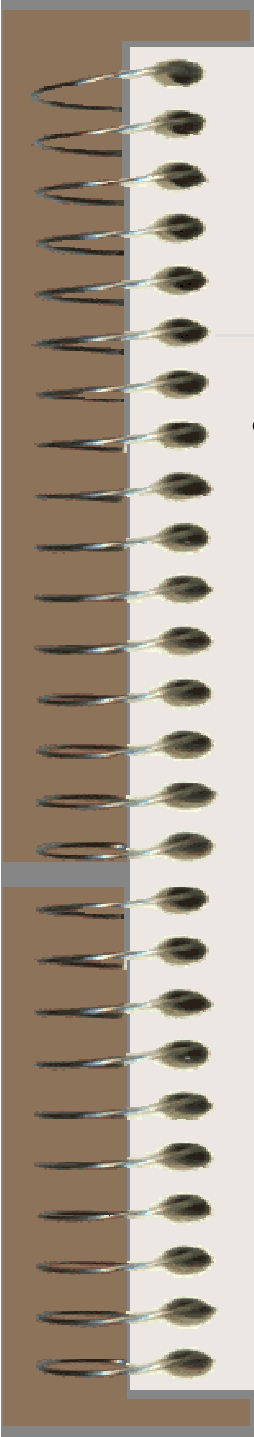
- 1/3 of these houses are worth less than \$10,000
- 1/3 have no phone
- 1/5 don't have a kitchen
- 1/5 don't have indoor plumbing



Myth: Many poor families
own valuable property

Reality: Census data indicate that
there are no poor families living in
million dollar houses... Not even in
Santa Fe.

In fact, less than 3% of New
Mexico's poor own houses worth over
\$150,000

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Myth: Many poor families own valuable property

- 47% of poor families rent
 - On average, poor families spend 43% of their income on rent

Myth: The Poverty Standard Reflects the Cost of Living


Reality:

- The poverty standard was set in the 1960s and hasn't been adjusted since.
 - Poverty = groceries X 3
- Family budgets have changed a lot
 - Child care
 - Transportation
 - Housing

Myth: Poor People Don't Work

Reality:

- 64% of poor children in New Mexico have parents who work.
- 25% of poor children have parents who work full-time, year-round.
- Almost one-third of poor parents who don't work have a disabled child or are disabled themselves.



Myth: The rural poor can
grow their own food

Reality: one half of one percent of
New Mexico's poor children live on
farms.

Myth: Only poor families are struggling

Reality: Low income families often cannot meet expenses and are not eligible for many supports such as Head Start and Food Stamps.

- Quality child care is unaffordable for *most* low income families
- 10% of low income families have no phone

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What Causes Poverty?

Poverty is a Cycle

Poverty is self-perpetuating because it denies children access to:

- Adequate nutrition
- Timely healthcare
- Early childhood education
- Positive role models

Breaking the Cycle

- Invest in children, especially young children.
 - Medicaid
 - Child care subsidies
- Invest in families
 - Fair, sustainable tax policy
 - Food stamps
- Invest in jobs
 - Good jobs for parents is the best remedy for child poverty