

Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters
KIDS COUNT Special Report, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2010

- 80% of 4th graders scored *below* proficient in reading (versus 68% in the US)

Race/Ethnicity

- 90% of Native-American, non-Hispanic 4th graders scored *below* proficient in reading (US = 78%)
- 87% of Black, non-Hispanic 4th graders scored *below* proficient in reading (US = 85%)
- 86% of Hispanic 4th graders scored *below* proficient in reading (US = 84%)
- 65% of white, non-Hispanic 4th graders scored *below* proficient in reading (US = 59%)
- 61% of Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic 4th graders scored *below* proficient in reading (US = 52%)

Geographic Location

- 84% of 4th graders in NM suburbs scored *below* proficient in reading (US = 64%)
- 82% of 4th graders in NM rural areas scored *below* proficient in reading (US = 67%)
- 81% of 4th graders in NM towns scored *below* proficient in reading (US = 72%)
- 76% of 4th graders in NM cities scored *below* proficient in reading (US = 74%)

Income/Poverty Markers

- 88% of NM 4th graders eligible for free/reduced-price school lunches scored *below* proficient in reading (US = 83%) versus 64% of NM 4th graders *not* eligible for free/reduced-price lunches
- 84% of NM 4th graders in schools receiving Title I funding** scored *below* proficient in reading versus 65% of 4th graders in schools that *do not* receive Title I funding

Other Factors Related to Low Proficiency in Reading

- 50% of NM children live in families with incomes *below* 200% of the poverty level*** (US = 40%)
- 46% of NM children ages 3 to 5 are *not* enrolled in nursery school, preschool or kindergarten
- 20% of NM children ages 1 to 5 had family members who read to them *fewer than* 3 days per week
- 11% of NM children ages 6-17 repeated one or more grades since starting kindergarten
- 10% of NM teens ages 16-19 are *not* in school and are *not* high school graduates

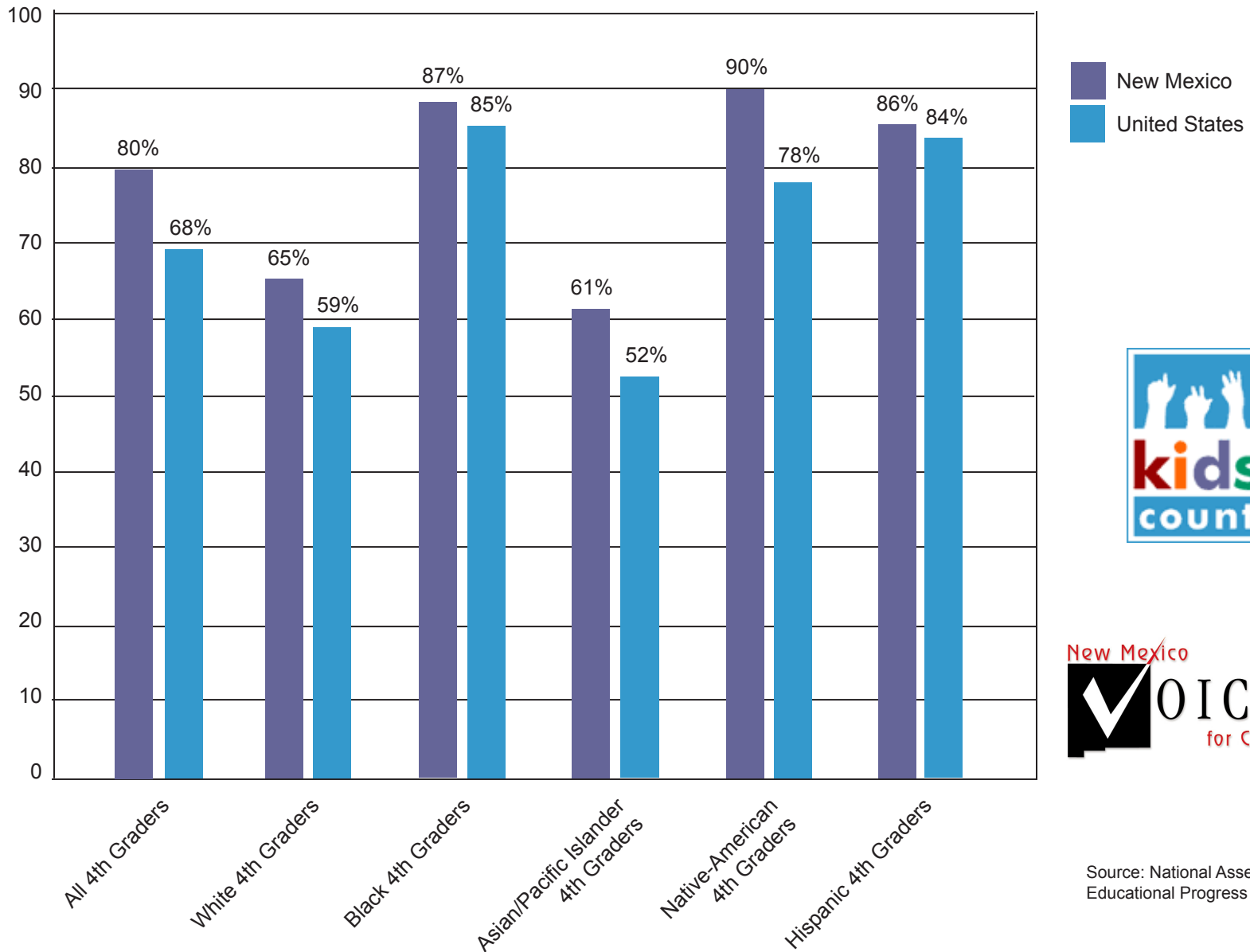
Data Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Reading Test, 2009

*NAEP scores reading on a 500-point scale. The “proficient” level (score = 238) is defined by NAEP as: students “should be able to integrate and interpret texts and apply their understanding of the text to draw conclusions and make evaluations.” At the NAEP “basic” level (score = 208) students “should be able to locate relevant information, make simple inferences, and use their understanding of the text to identify details that support a given interpretation or conclusion. Students should be able to interpret the meaning of a word as it is used in the text.”

** Title I funds to support school-wide programs in schools that have high rates of low-income children.

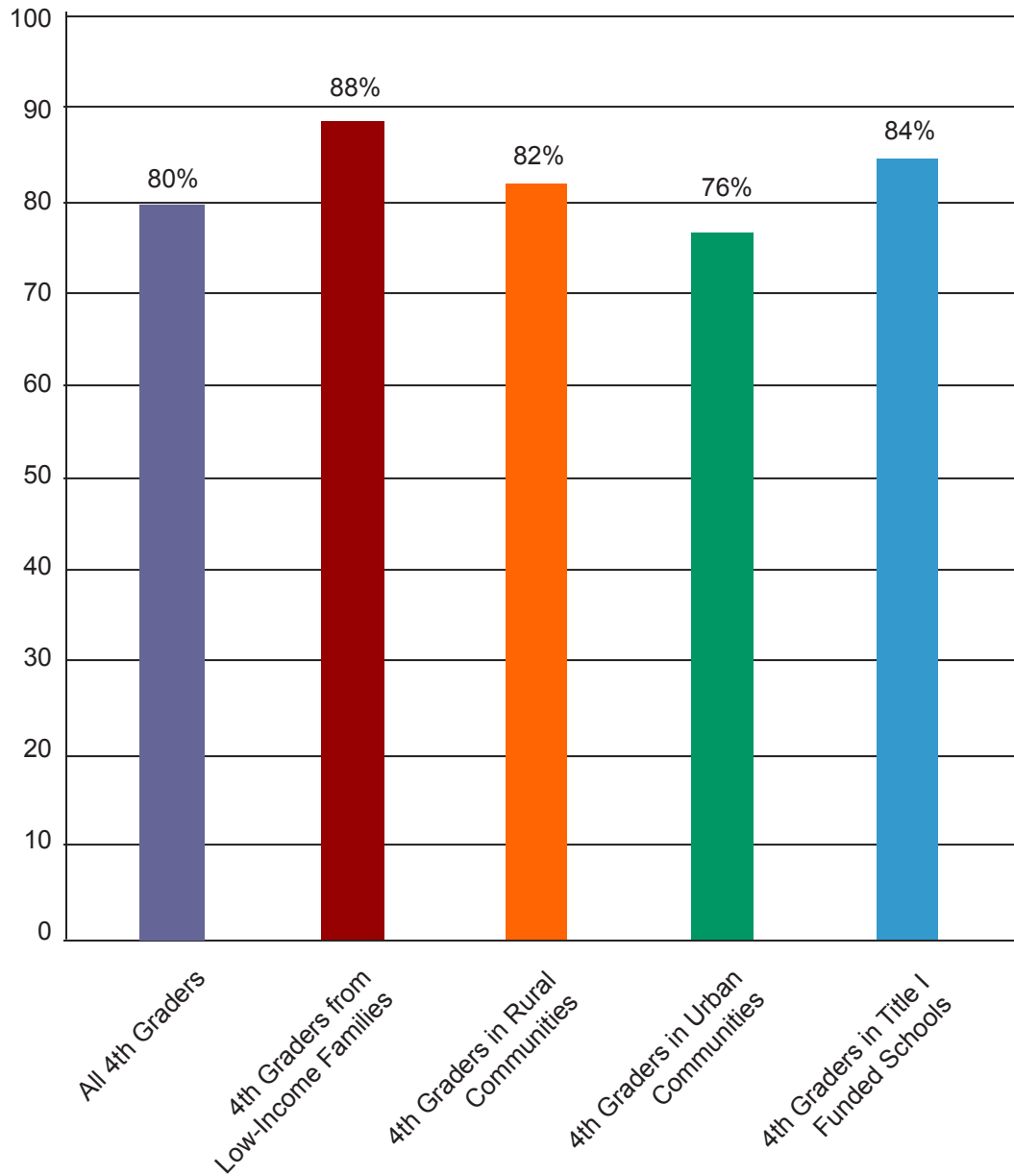
*** 200% of the poverty level for a family of four was \$44,100 a year in 2009.

Percent of Fourth-Graders Who Scored Below Proficient in Reading by Race/Ethnicity New Mexico and United States, 2009



Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NEAP)

Percent of Fourth-Graders Who Scored Below Proficient in Reading by Economic and Geographic Factors New Mexico, 2009



Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NEAP)