

Child Well-Being: A Call to Action



# A Policy Agenda for a Better New Mexico 2014

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New Mexico Voices for Children

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Presented By:













Child Well-Being: A Call to Action

# NM lowest in child well-being

By Susan Montoya Bryan The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE - It wasn't so long ago that David Hutchinson spent a month sleeping under a bridge while his wife and young daughter spent their nights at a domestic violence shelter.

But this wasn't a case of domestic violence. The couple simply had no choice. There were just no shelters in Phoenix

data was first compiled in 1990. Louisiana, Arizona and

Nevada were also in the box-Nevada were ano in the out-tom five, while New Hamp-

shire, Vermont, Massache

were in the top five.

Troubling statistics continue state trend

LAS CRUCES - No Thank God for Mississippi."

ing the spot held by Mississip-

s Mexico is dead last in New Medico is dead ass in the 2013 Kids Count report, tak-

Kisk Count released annual, by the nonprofit Annie E. a high housing out monecolods with Case; Foundation of child direct of the four indicators of child excelled including economic well-being including economic well-being including economic well-being the mid-2000s to 20th accord.

indicators, especially the num-homeless children in the Mesil-ched and children in families out with child power you start whose the board or basics back, below very blish, when a rece-

30 percent of state's kids living in poverty

More than 30 percent of chil-

dren in the state were living

in poverty in 2011 and nearly

two-fifths had parents who

lacked secure employment,

according to this year's Kids

Nevada is ranked No. 48,

The family is one of many in it comes to child well-being. the U.S. that have been trying to raise children in the face of joblessness and homelessness. An annual survey released Monday by the Annie E. Casey Foundation shows the number of children living in poverty increased to 23 percent in 2011, after the recession.

NM last in nation for child well-being followed by Arizona. Missis-

Count survey.

and math proficiency for some students increased, putting the state at No. 49.

Overall, the report shows there have been gains in education and health nationally, but since 2005, there have been serious setbacks when i to the economic well-be. children.

"There's little doubt ti things are getting worse, Kim Posich, executive dire tor of the New Mexico Ce. on Law and Poverty. "Aside from the fact the New Mexico economy has been so slow to turn around, the systems that generally serve people who are the working poor and suddenly lose their jobs or face greater hardship, all those system









Alless on processors of child such designs and such designs are setting lower and setting lower are setting l



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## **New Mexico is Dead Last**

In June 2013, New Mexico fell to 50th in the nation

for child well-being.

# The kids aren't alright National numbers not much better

not doing too well.

How are your canaren doing: 10ur grandemidren:

According to statistics, if they are living in New Mexico, there's a good chance they're

The Annie E. Casey Foundation gleaned hundreds of government numbers to create the 2013 National Kids Count Data Book: State Trends in Child Well-Being.

Dead lass.

A lot of people are up in arms about this. And it seems disproportionate to the number A tot of people are up in arms about this. And it seems disproportionate to the number of people who were up in arms when we were No. 49 most of the last 23 years of the report. data, calculated by the Annie E, Casey Foundation's report, ar people who were up in arms when we were two. 49 most of the mst 23 years of the report. The Casey Foundation reviewed four categories they believe have a long-term impact to create your own ma on children: economic well-being, education, health, family and community. Within those categories, there

are sub-categories, reviewed below. The cumulative numbers aggregate to put New Mexico at the bottom. New Mexico need not take the brunt of this information. We as a nation look pretty dismal as well based

N.M. hits bottom in child well-being There are plenty of people talking about our children, and touting efforts to address the problems, particularly those rooted in education. Among those are Gov. Susana Martinez, state Rep. Mary Helen Garcia, the Children's Reading Foundation of Doña Ana County and The Bridge of Southern New Mexico.

However, our rankings to day are a result of decisions made - or not made - 25 years ago. Anything we do today will take years to have an impact on these prob-

today will take years to have an impact on these proo-lems. These are also problems that involve all of us. Addressing them requires a sincere, tems. These are also problems that involve an or us. Futureship them requestion. Concerted effort by our society as a whole, not just governmental action. Augusted enore by our society as a whose, not just governmental action.

By doing what, you ask? That will take people with far more brains and vision than I.

pretty dismal as well based on these numbers.

nation look

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State ranks 50th in 2013 National Kids Count survey

BY ELAINE TASSY

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After circling the drain for more than two decades. New Mexico finally got





survey ranking childhood well-being.
The 2013 National Kids Count Data
Book State Trends in Child Well-being,
compiled by the Annie E. Casel's fastisties,
tion from federal government, such such countries and such countries are such as feet kids long term. For own repeased tooks, it do not grow areas that affect kids long term. for nomics, education, health, and family in and community life.



New Mexico wasn't at the very bottom

New Mexico wasn't at the very cotton of the barrel in any of the four catego-ries, but it was next to last in all of them. In the economic well-being, and family





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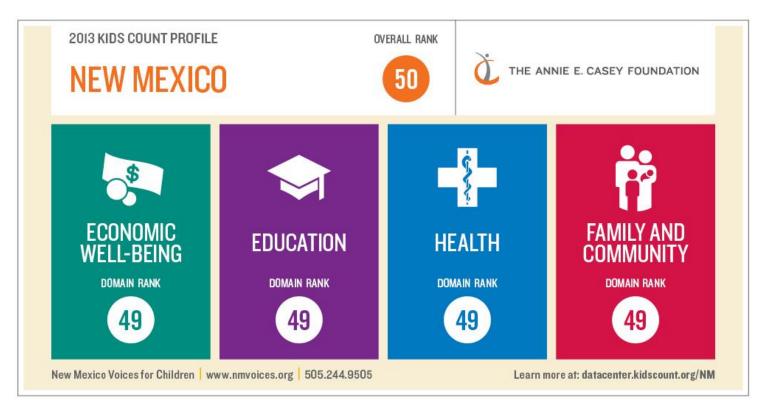






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# KIDS COUNT ranking is based on 4 domains



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- Children in poverty (31%)
- Children whose parents lack secure employment (37%)
- Children in households with a high housing cost burden (36%)
- Teens not in school and not working (11%)













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- Children not attending preschool (62%)
- Fourth graders not proficient in reading (79%)
- Eighth graders not proficient in math (76%)
- High school students not graduating on time (33%)













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- Low birth-weight babies (8.7%)
- Children without health insurance (9%)
- Child and teen death rate (36 per 100,000)
- Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs (9%)













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- Children in single-parent families (43%)
- Children in families where household head lacks diploma (22%)
- Children living in high-poverty areas (21%)
- Teen birth rate (53 per 1,000)





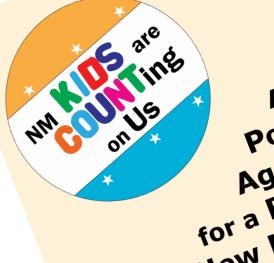








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Policy
Policy
Agenda
Agenda
Better
For a Better
Mexico
New 2014

#### 2014 update includes:

- Overarching policies that address more than one domain/indicator.
  - Legislative action (or inaction) on recommendations.
  - New policy recommendations.

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Updated June 2014







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#### **Overarching Policy Solutions: All Domains**

- Ensure that enough tax revenue is collected that the state budget can fund programs that improve and support the well-being of New Mexico's children, families, and communities.
- Enact economic development initiatives that create high-wage jobs, increase revenue, and invest in our workforce.













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#### **Overarching Policy Solutions: All Domains**

- Take a two-generational approach to improving family economic security.
- Mandate a tax expenditure budget (TEB) and require accountability measures for tax breaks

 Enact economic development initiatives that create high-way jobs, increase revenue, and invest in our work force.















#### **Legislative Action 2014: Economic Well-Being**

Raise statewide minimum wage, index to inflation, raise tipped wage.

Policy Progress
No change

Increase the Working Families Tax Credit.

Policy Progress
No change

Expand access to high school equivalency programs and ABE.

Policy Progress
Improved













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#### **Legislative Action 2014: Education**

 Restore K-12 funding to pre-recession, per-student, inflation-adjusted levels.

Policy Progress
Slight improvement

Increase spending on NM Pre-K.

Policy Progress
Slight improvement

Support early care and learning from land grant permanent fund.

Policy Progress
No change















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#### **Legislative Action 2014: Health**

Expand and adequately fund school-based health centers.

#### **Policy Progress**

Very slight improvement



Restore outreach and enrollment programs for Medicaid for kids.

#### **Policy Progress**

No change



Expand outreach to pregnant women to enroll them in Medicaid.

#### **Policy Progress**

No change





















#### **Legislative Action 2014: Family and Community**

 Expand evidence-based and age-appropriate sex education and programs; defund abstinence-only programs.

Policy Progress
No change

Restore eligibility for child care assistance to twice the poverty level.

Policy Progress
No change

Expand funding for mentorship programs.

Policy Progress
Slight improvement













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#### **New Policy Solutions 2015: Overarching**

 Ensure that enough tax revenue is collected that the state budget can fund programs that improve and support the well-being of New Mexico's children, families, and communities.

Mandate a tax expenditure budget.

















#### **New Policy Solutions 2015: Economic Well-Being**

- Take a two-generational approach to improving family economic security.
- Enact a rate cap of 36% ARP (including fees) on all predatory lending products.
- Ensure access to benefits for grandparents raising grandchildren and other kinship caregivers.

















#### **New Policy Solutions 2015: Education**

- Increase funding for early childhood care and learning to incentive and adequately compensate for quality.
- Revisit zero-tolerance policies in order to keep more students in school.
- Expand programs that increase school attendance.











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#### **New Policy Solutions 2015: Health**

- Require and fund screening for adverse childhood experiences.
- Adequately fund evidence-based child abuse prevention programs and strengthen CYFD's role in child abuse prevention.
- Create a citizen oversight or review board for all CYFD child abuse cases that result in death.

















#### **New Policy Solutions 2015: Family and Community**

- Maintain current Medicaid eligibility for family planning services.
- Increase funding for evidence-based programs that prevent or delay second births by teen mothers.
- Reduce class sizes for children living in high-poverty areas.













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4 domains

16 indicators

70+ policy recommendations











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#### So what's next?

July 22, 2014

#### New national KIDS COUNT Data Book is released

- New Mexico's ranking can't get worse
- Could get better
- Could stay the same











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Regardless, we must keep our expectations high.

Our children deserve the opportunity to be successful.

# This is our *call to action*!





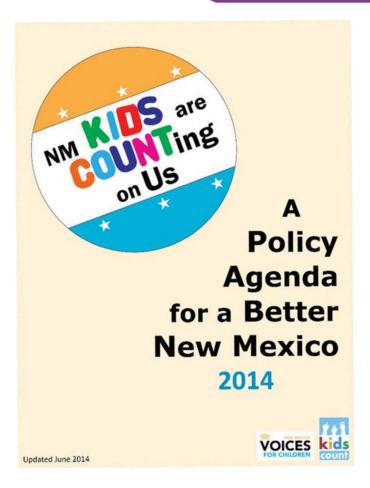








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