

SEARCHLIGHT NEW MEXICO

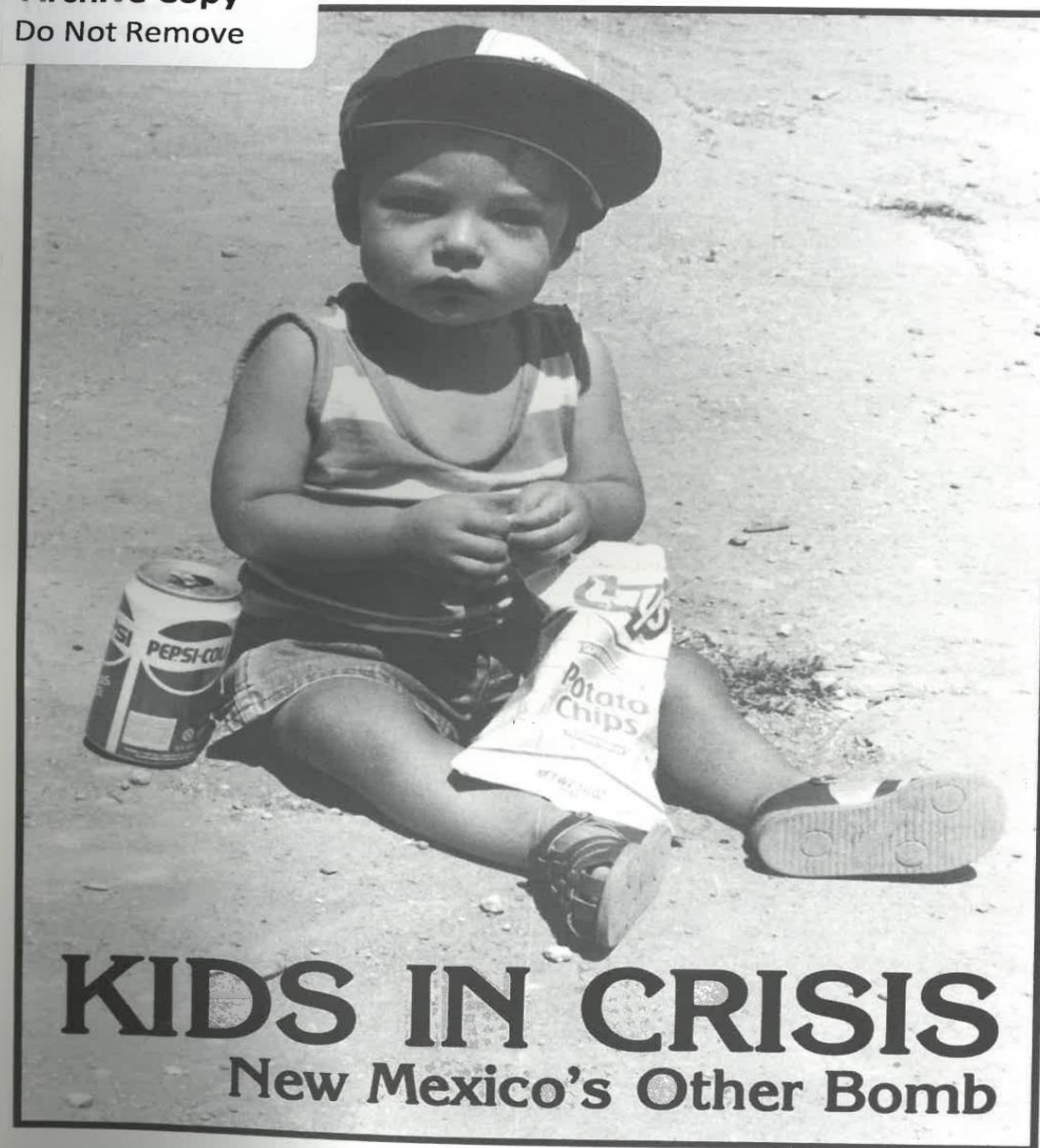


Searchlight New Mexico is a non-partisan, nonprofit news organization dedicated to investigative reporting and innovative data journalism. In a landscape of shrinking media resources, our mission is to spur reform by exposing abuses of power by government, business and other institutions through high-impact investigative journalism on topics of local, regional and national interest. We believe great reporting empowers people to demand honest, effective public policy.

The Child Well-Being Project



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The Coalition For Children
Ona Lara Porter, Editor

One in seven New Mexico Families lives below the poverty line: A 24% increase since 1980

BUT WHAT IS POOR?

--A family of four with an annual income that is less than \$10,990 is considered "poor" by Federal guidelines.

--A family of four with one person working full time at minimum wage makes only about \$7,000 a year, and, therefore, falls more than \$3,600 below the poverty line.

--Approximately 172,000 children in New Mexico are poor. 67% of them receive no cash assistance at all, either federal or state.

--92% of the poor households of New Mexico have an annual income of less than \$5,000.

--New Mexico spends only 7.75% of its State budget on social welfare programs ranking us 42nd among all of the states in the percentage spent for such programs.

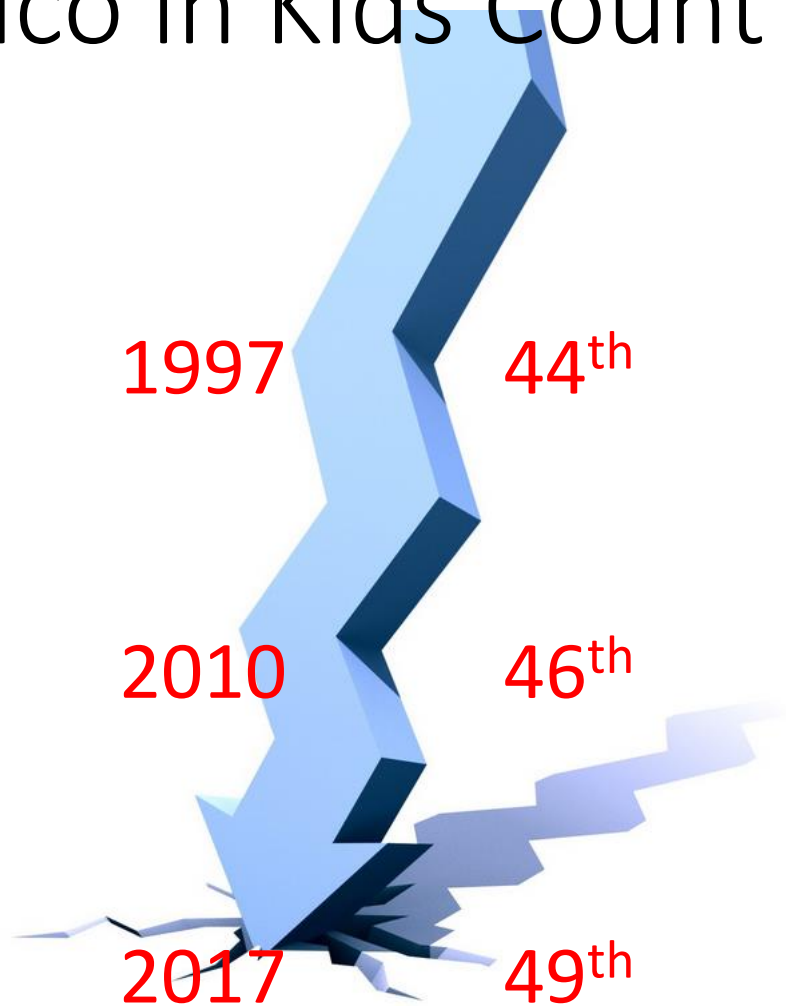
N.M. at bottom in child poverty

The top and bottom states in percentage of children in poverty:

Top 5 states		% in poverty	Bottom 5 states		% in poverty
1	Utah	13%	46	S. Carolina	27%
2	Maryland	13%	47	Alabama	28%
3	N. Hampshire	13%	47	Louisiana	28%
4	Wyoming	13%	49	Mississippi	29%
5	Minnesota	15%	50	New Mexico	30%

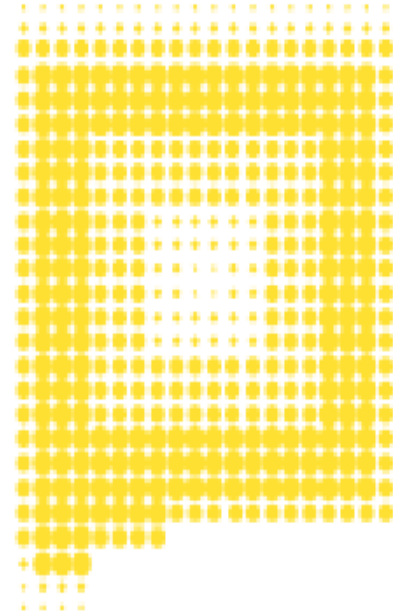
SOURCE: NATION KIDS COUNT DATA

New Mexico in Kids Count Rankings



So What can Investigative Journalism Do?

SEARCHLIGHT
NEW MEXICO



- Identify Problems
- Define Needs
- Search for Solutions, Opportunities
- Demystify
- Raise Public Awareness
- Hold Accountable

Our Funders

