



**New Mexico kids
are counting on us.**

Amber Wallin
NM KIDS COUNT Conference
June 27th, 2016

KIDS COUNT



ECONOMIC
WELL-BEING



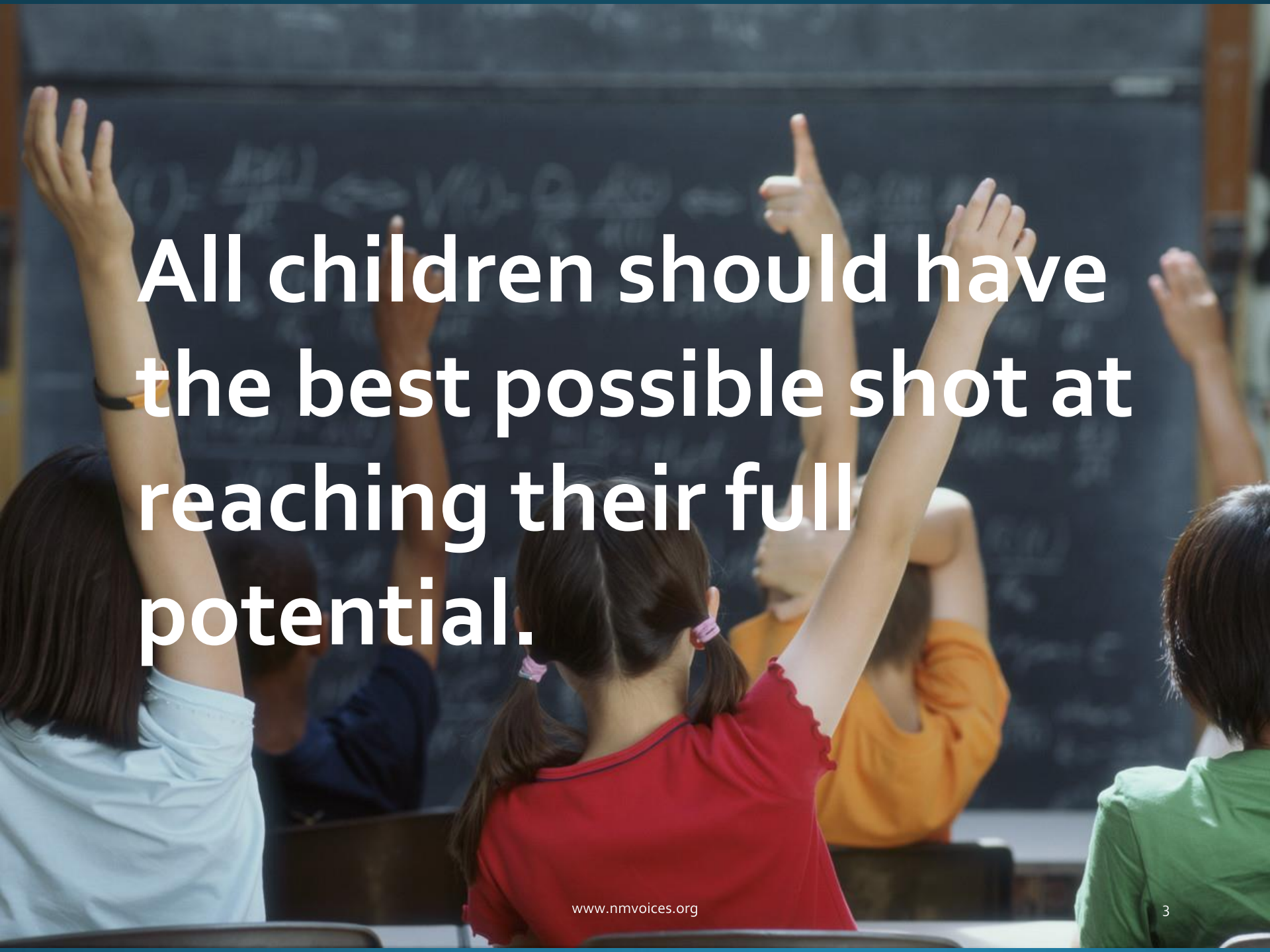
EDUCATION



HEALTH



FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY

A photograph of a classroom scene from behind several children. They are all raising their hands, indicating they want to answer a question or participate. The children are wearing various colored shirts: light blue, red, orange, and green. In the background, a chalkboard is visible with some faint, illegible writing on it. The text "All children should have the best possible shot at reaching their full potential." is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

All children should have
the best possible shot at
reaching their full
potential.



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

DOMAIN RANK

48



EDUCATION

DOMAIN RANK

50



HEALTH

DOMAIN RANK

44



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

DOMAIN RANK

49



low reading &
math scores

food insecurity

poverty

child abuse

low access to
early education
& care



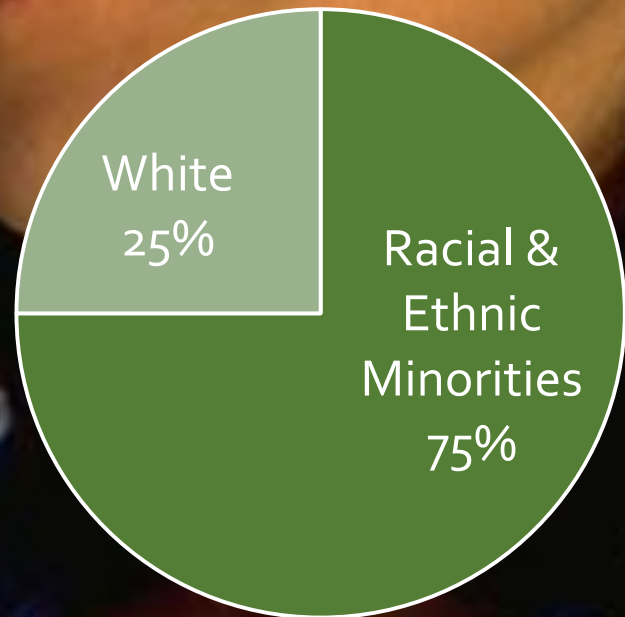
**Disparities exist in
nearly every
indicator.**


New Mexico is ahead of the demographic trend.

United States, 2030




New Mexico, 2014




A young boy with dark hair and a sad expression is sitting at a wooden table. He is wearing a blue and white striped shirt. His right hand is resting on his chin, and his left arm is crossed on the table. In front of him is a large white plate. The background shows a white wooden chair and a shelf with various items, including a blue and white checkered cloth, a white plate, and some yellow food items.

**Nobody likes to
hear the bad news.**

A low-angle, close-up photograph of four children of diverse ethnicities (two Black, one Hispanic, and one white) smiling and huddled together against a clear, light blue sky. The children are wearing casual clothing: a blue shirt, a black hoodie, a grey shirt, and a red and purple long-sleeved shirt. The text "But there's good news too." is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif font across the upper half of the image.

But there's good
news too.

Policy matters.

A young boy with dark skin, wearing a light blue school shirt and a dark sweater, is focused on writing in a notebook with a yellow pencil. The background is slightly blurred, showing another student in the background.

better
reading &
math scores

lower rates of
food insecurity

better health outcomes

lower remedial
education
costs

higher grad
rates

A high-angle photograph of four diverse children sitting around a wooden table. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. On the table are several sheets of lined paper, many colorful markers, and some completed drawings. The children are wearing casual clothing. The background shows wooden chairs.

**33,000 more New Mexico
kids have health insurance.**

**5,000 more New Mexico
kids have access to pre-K.**

We need a plan of action.

N.M. hits bottom in child well-being

■ State ranks 50th in 2013 National Kids Count survey

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By ELAINE TASSY
Journal Staff Writer

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

sucked in, coming in last in a national survey ranking childhood well-being. The 2013 National Kids Count Data Book: State Trends in Child Well-being, compiled by the Annie E. Casey Foundation from federal government statistics, was released today. It delves into four areas that affect kids' lives: economic well-being, education and community

New Mexico came in 50th overall for the first time since the survey began in 1990. Regularly ranking near last, it dropped from its previous 49th place ranking, flipping positions with last year's loser, Mississippi.

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

and community categories, it was 49th to Mississippi's 50th; in education, it was 49th to Nevada's 50th; and in health, it was 49th to Montana's 50th.

Coming in last is a simple question of arithmetic and not a highly significant change, according to the report's author.

See N.M. on F

The kids aren't alright

National numbers not much better

How are your children doing? Your grandchildren? According to statistics, if they are living in New Mexico, there's a good chance they're not doing too well.

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. How did New Mexico rank?

A lot 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. The Casey Foundation reviewed four categories that have a long-term impact on children: economic well-being, education, family and community.

Bottom of the ranks



A GROUP OF CHILDREN smile in their classroom at Jardin de los Niños on Monday where they are cared for at the facility because they are either near homeless or poor families are unable to care for them at home. The children are at least one year old, according to Casa Verde, child welfare coordinator. The 2013 Kids Count report, released today, ranks the state last in all four indicators of child well-being, including economic well-being, education and health.

NM last in nation for child well-being

Troubling statistics continue state trend

By Lindsey Anderson
LANDERSON@CSN-NEWS.COM

NEW MEXICO — No more good for Mississippi. The state's ranking is dead last in the 2013 Kids Count report, tallying the state's performance in four indicators of child well-being, including economic well-being, education and health.

New Mexico's drop to 50th is largely due to improvements Mississippi made in half of the indicators, especially the number of children attending preschool and children in families where the head of house lacks a high school diploma. Mississippi is now 49th.

New Mexico has never ranked above 40th since the

data was first compiled in 1990. Louisiana, Arizona and Nevada were also in the bottom five, while New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Minnesota and New Jersey were in the top five.

New Mexico saw significant increases of children in poverty, children whose parents lack secure employment and children living in households with a high housing cost burden — three of the four indicators of economic well-being — from the mid-2000s to 2011, according to the report.

"Child poverty is very bleak," said Shirley Jaquez, director of Jardin de los Niños, which serves homeless and near homeless children in the Mesilla Valley. "When you start out with child poverty already being very high, when a recession hits, there's no way to go but down."

"We see people lined up here at the soup kitchen, and the



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION ranks the 50 states using 16 specific indicators to determine a child's well-being, including economic security, education and health.

lines are getting longer and longer," Jaquez said. Children in poverty, especially homeless children or those at risk of homelessness, are especially at risk of neglect and abuse, she said.

Kids Count is a "wake-up call" for legislators to improve the lives of New Mexico's children, she said. Unstable employment forces families to choose between food, shelter and health care

for their children, Jaquez said. "For children what that means they're not going to get the health care they need when they need it," she said. "They're

See CHILD, Page 2A

“We as a nation look pretty dismal as well based on these numbers.”
“It requires a sincere, emotional action. Brains and vision than I.



A
Campaign
for a Better
New Mexico
2016 Draft


Updated June 2016



Policy
recommendations

Data and research

Legislative action

A photograph of a family of four in a kitchen. On the left is a young woman with dark hair, wearing a blue shirt and a necklace with a pearl pendant. Behind her is an older man with grey hair and a mustache, wearing a light green shirt. In the center is a young girl with dark hair, wearing a black top with a decorative collar. On the right is an older woman with grey hair, wearing a white shirt. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows wooden kitchen cabinets.

**We're all in this
together.**