Child Poverty in New Mexico

Implications for Racial and Ethnic Minorities

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Child poverty is pervasive

More than half of our children live in low-income families

Percentage of New Mexico children living at 200% of the poverty level (2005-2014)

Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005–2014 American Community Survey

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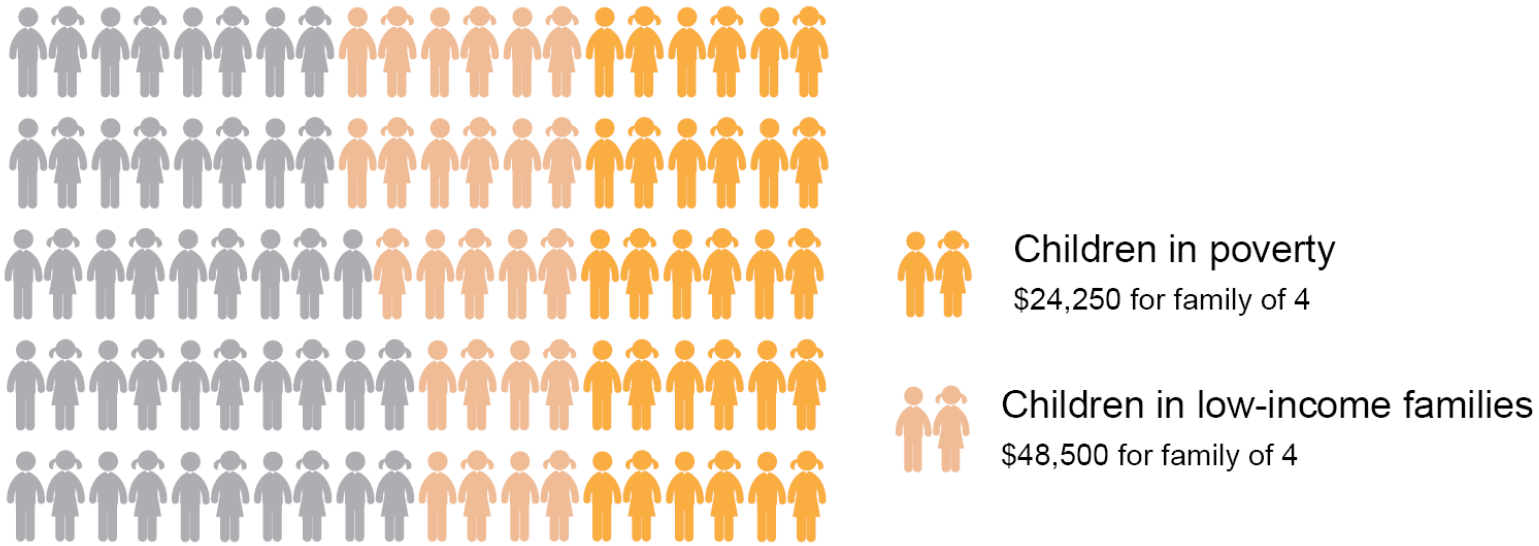
Child poverty is pervasive

One-third of our children live in poor families

Percentage of New Mexico children living at the poverty level (2005-2014)



Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005–2014 American Community Survey

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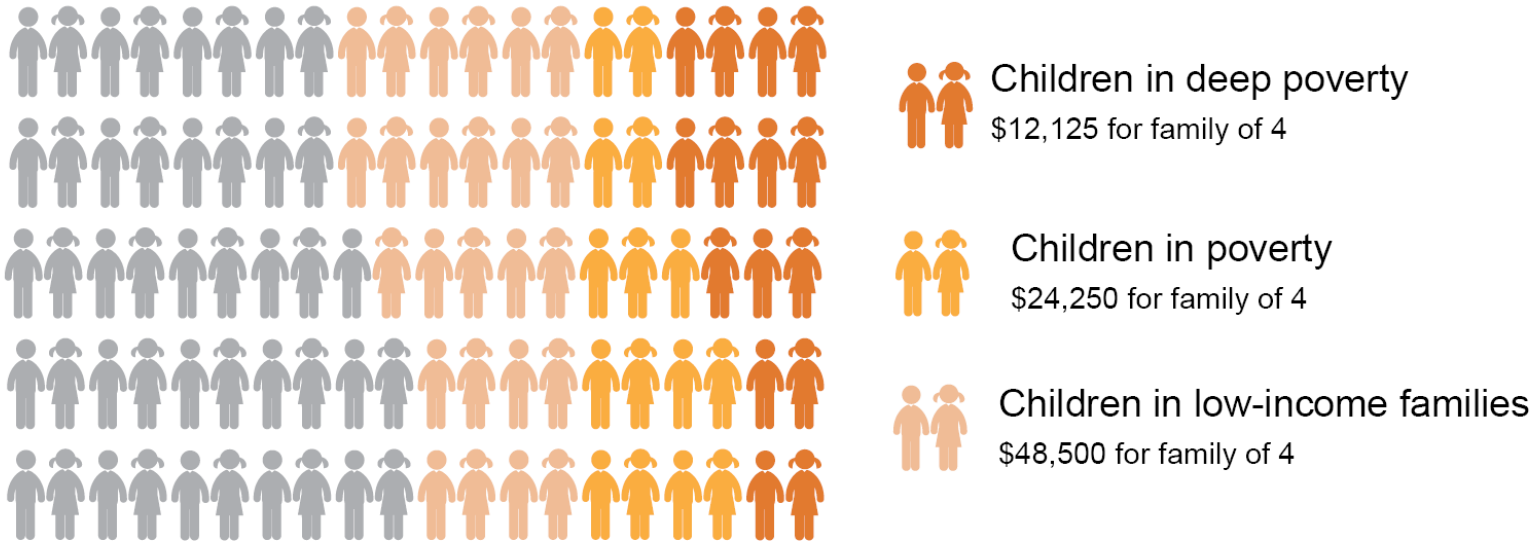
Child poverty is pervasive

Half of our poor children live in deep poverty

Percentage of New Mexico children living at or below half the poverty level (2005-2014)



Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005–2014 American Community Survey

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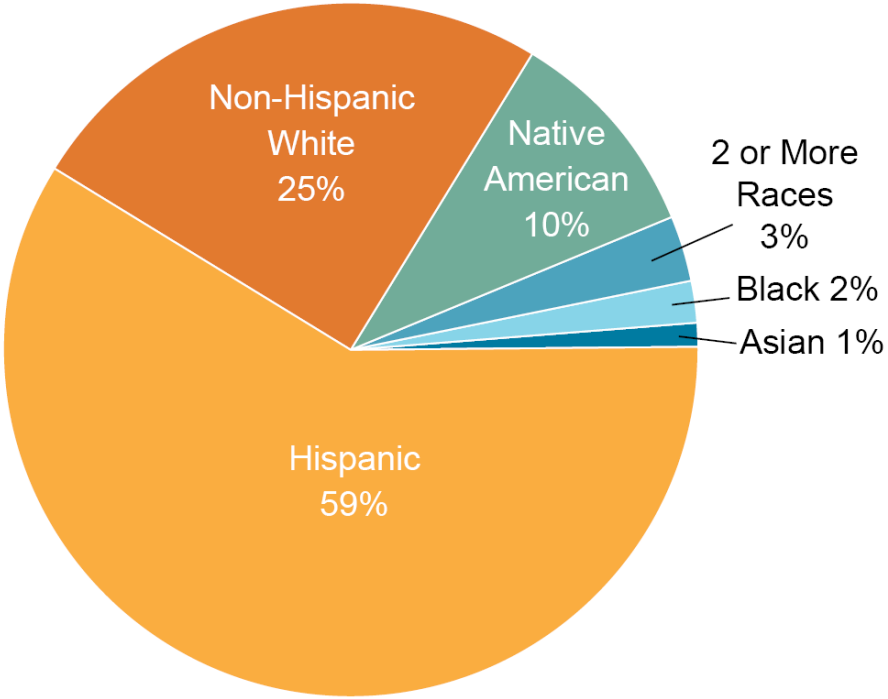
Other indicators of child well-being

- Food insecurity (27.2%) 49th in nation
- Children living in high-poverty areas (26%) 49th
- Children in single-parent families (46%) 46th
- Children whose parents lack secure employment (36%) 48th
- Children in families where household head lacks high school diploma (18%) 47th
- Teen birth rate (38 per 100,000) 46th

Our child population is diverse

New Mexico's child population is the most racially and ethnically diverse in the nation

NM child population by race and ethnicity (2014)



Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau

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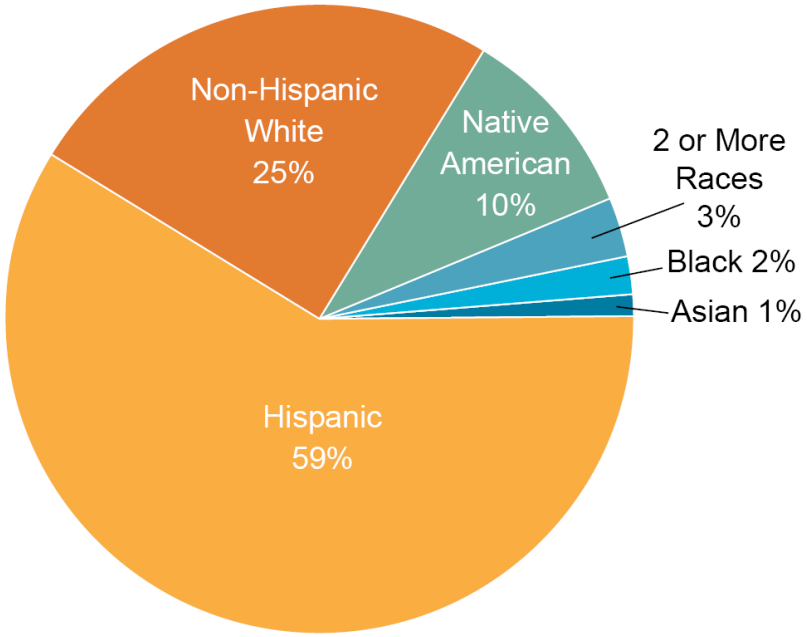
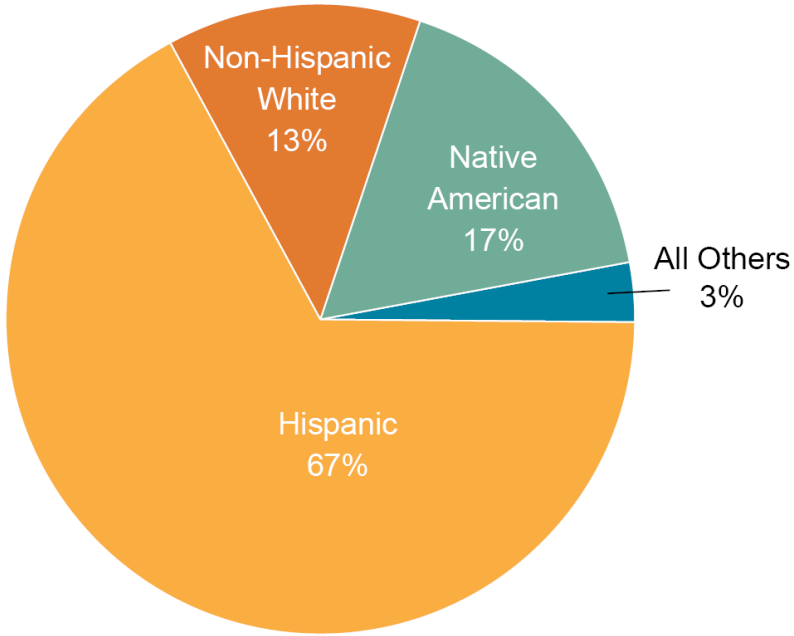
Our child poverty is disparate

New Mexico's Hispanic and Native American children are more likely to live in poverty

NM total child population by race and ethnicity



NM child population in poverty by race and ethnicity



Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, 2001 Supplementary Survey, 2002 through 2014 ACS

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Race for Results Index

0 = Worst Off

1,000 = Heading for Success

	National	New Mexico
Hispanic	404	363
White	704	636
Native	387	293
Asian	776	728
Black	345	446

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Race for Results data

Black children in the US	Black children in NM	All children in NM
Percent of babies born at a normal birth rate (2011)		
86.7%	87.5%	91.2%
Percent of 4th graders who scored at or above proficient in reading (2013)		
17.13%	24.5%	21.46%
Percent of young adults (ages 19-26) who are in school or working (2010-12)		
71.5%	78.5%	77.4%
Percent of children (ages 0-17) who live with a householder w/ at least high school diploma (2010-12)		
85.1%	92.7%	79.8%
Percent of children (ages 0-17) living in two-parent families (2010-12)		
37%	54.8%	64.2%
Percent of children (ages 0-17) living above 200% of the poverty level (2010-12)		
34.8%	42.1%	43.9%
Percent of females (ages 15-19) who delay childbearing until adulthood (2010)		
88.8%	90%	89.2%
Percent of children (ages 0-17) who live in low-poverty areas (2007-11)		
49.6%	65%	55.5%

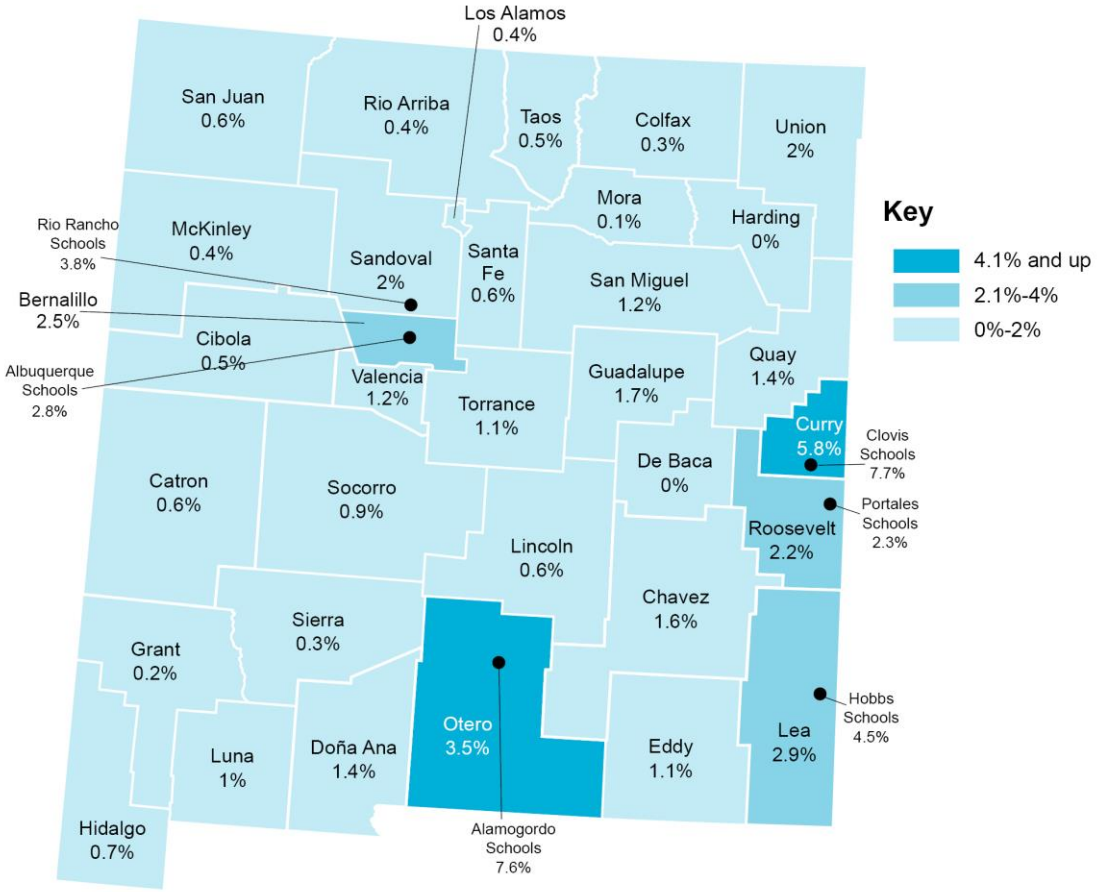
Other indicators of child well-being

Blacks in New Mexico	All races/ethnicities in New Mexico
Percent of children without health insurance (2014)	
1%	9%
Percent of children ages 0-4 in poverty	
25.3%	33.1%
Percent of children living in high-poverty areas (2009-13)	
20%	24%
Percent of families living in poverty (2014)	
15.2%	16.5%
Median family income among households with children (2013)	
$57,500	$45,500
Youth (ages 15-24) suicide rate (per 100,000) (2008-12)	
14	22

Race and place

New Mexico's Black population is most hightly concentrated in military towns

Total population by race/ethnicity and county (2013) and K-12 enrollment by race/ethnicity and district (SY 2012-2013



Sources: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, Table DP05 (total population); NM Public Education Department, Education Data Dashboard (student enrollment

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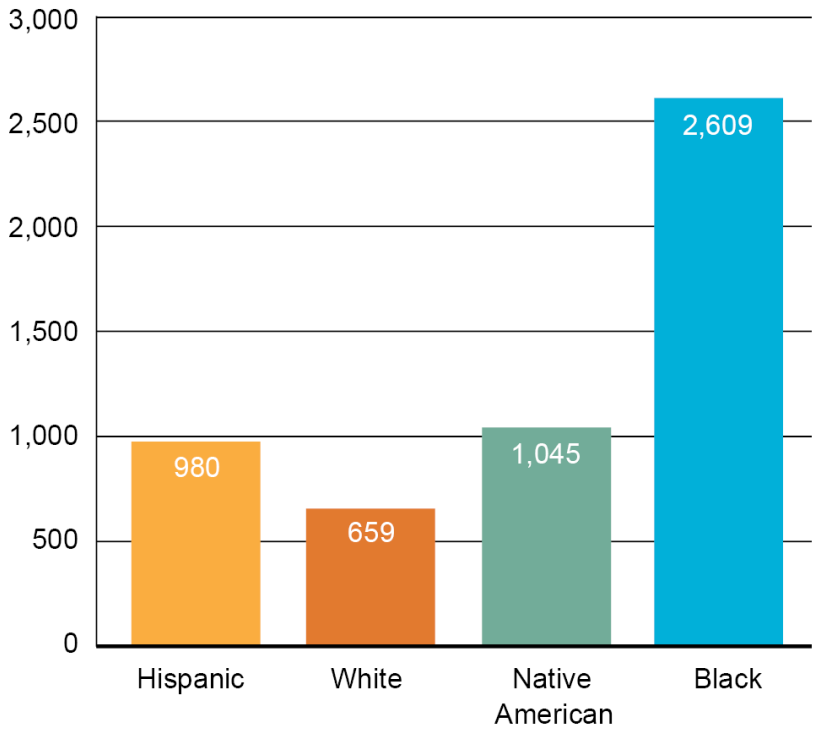
Other indicators of child well-being

Blacks in New Mexico	All races/ethnicities in New Mexico
Percent of low birth-weight babies (2014)	
13.7%	8.8%
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) (2014)	
19.2	5.4
Percent of children who have been suspended from school (2011-12)	
11%	7%
Rate of children who have been expelled from school (per 10,000) (2011-12)	
29	22
Rate of youth residing in juvenile detention, correctional or residential facilities (per 100,000) (2013)	
422	179

Adult incarceration

Blacks are greatly over-represented in New Mexico's jails and prisons

Rates of incarceration by race/ethnicity per 100,000 residents in that racial/ethnic group (2010)



Source: Calculated by the Prison Policy Initiative from U.S. Census 2010 Summary File 1. Incarcerated populations are all types of correctional facilities in a state, including federal and state prisons, local jails, halfway houses, etc.

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Policy solutions

- Increase spending on high-quality home visiting/parent coaching
- Increase funding for the Family Infant Toddler (FIT) program
- Increase funding for child care to incentivize and adequately compensate for quality

Policy solutions

- Ensure that children receive the financial and emotional supports they need during and after a parent's incarceration
- Revisit zero-tolerance policies and penalties in order to keep more students in school
- Support dropout recovery programs

Available online at: www.nmvoices.org/archives/5661