

Enhancing Child Well-Being in New Mexico

A Guide to Improving KIDS COUNT Outcomes and Rankings



A KIDS COUNT Special Report

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Introduction and Background

New Mexico Voices for Children is pleased to share an exciting new KIDS COUNT analysis. Though New Mexico ranks poorly as compared to other states in the national KIDS COUNT rankings, there are many areas where New Mexico has made progress through policy improvements. For example, 30,000 more NM kids have health care access due to the expansion of the Affordable Care Act in New Mexico; 5,000 more NM kids have access to pre-K and 3,000 more to state-funded home visiting services than they did in 2010. Teen birth rates and teen drug and alcohol abuse rates are also showing significant improvement. There is a long way yet to go, but there are many areas where we're making progress, and these areas show that we have the power to make positive changes for our kids and that we can do it through policy.

With that in mind, and with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, we researched the potential for positive change in each of the 16 indicators of the KIDS COUNT index with the intent of improving opportunities for New Mexico's children. We looked at how far away we were from other states on each measure. We identified areas where NM has the greatest opportunities for improvement, where positive change was most attainable and accessible, where we were closest to improving not just our indicator rankings, but more importantly, our outcomes, and how we could do it. Because each KIDS COUNT indicator is closely linked to long-term family and childhood well-being and opportunity, improving outcomes in even one indicator will benefit vulnerable children and increase their probability for success.

Summary Findings

Through the project, the following indicators were identified as the areas where New Mexico has the greatest potential to not only to directly improve outcomes through policy improvements, but also where New Mexico is close to overtaking other states in rankings.

- Young children not in school
- Low-birthweight babies
- Child and teen deaths
- Teens not in school and not working
- 8th graders below proficient in math
- 4th graders below proficient in reading

In some of these areas, just a 2 percent change could improve New Mexico's rankings in that indicator area by five or more spots. In the following pages, you will find current and historical data on each of the 16 KIDS COUNT indicators as

well as analyses of what it would take to improve outcomes and rankings in each indicator. We also include high-leverage and realistic policy recommendations on how to get there.

All children should have access to the opportunities and resources they need to reach their full potential. By investing in New Mexico kids and families, we can make our communities, our economy, and our state stronger. Using data to guide investments in New Mexico kids is the smartest course of action to guarantee our state's future success.

A Note on KIDS COUNT Rankings

The Annie E. Casey Foundation has been ranking the 50 states on overall child well-being for more than two decades. To determine the rankings, the KIDS COUNT program looks at 16 indicators, which are organized under four domains (economic well-being, education, health, and family and community). Each of the indicators—as well as the domains—are ranked. These rankings are then used to determine the states' overall rankings. However, it's important to note that while states cannot tie on the overall rankings, they can tie on the indicator rankings.

For example, New Mexico's overall rank for 2016 is 49th. This means that 48 states ranked higher than New Mexico and one ranked worse. Not so with the indicator rankings. For example, New Mexico ranked 5th for the indicator *teens who abuse alcohol and drugs* in 2016—but so did 29 other states, which all had the same percentage of teens abusing alcohol and drugs. In all, four states tied for 1st on that indicator, 30 states (including New Mexico) tied for 5th, and 16 states tied for 35th.

Because states can tie on indicator rankings, a small change in outcomes can mean a much larger jump in terms of ranking. In other words, a small improvement in the percentage of teens who abuse alcohol and drugs could have meant New Mexico was ranked anywhere from 1st to 4th, depending on how many other states did just as well.

In addition, New Mexico's ranking in any given year is the result of more than just how well New Mexico did on that particular indicator that year. It also depends on how well the other 49 states fared. Ranking improvement estimates in this report are based on point-in-time data reported in 2016; changes in other states' outcomes can also influence New Mexico's future rankings.

New Mexico KIDS COUNT Profile

Overall Rank (2016): 49th Unchanged since 2015 (49th)

Domains	Indicators of child well-being			
 <p>Economic Well-Being Domain Rank: 48th</p>	<p>Children at or below the poverty level</p>  <p>146,000 children (2014)</p> <p>Improved since 2013 (31%) Worse than US average (22%)</p>	<p>Children whose parents lack secure employment</p>  <p>182,000 children (2014)</p> <p>Worsened since 2013 (35%) Worse than US average (30%)</p>	<p>Children living in households with a high housing cost burden</p>  <p>156,000 children (2014)</p> <p>Improved since 2013 (33%) Better than US average (35%)</p>	<p>Teens (16-19) not in school and not working</p>  <p>10,000 teens (2014)</p> <p>Improved since 2013 (10%) Worse than US average (7%)</p>
 <p>Education Domain Rank: 50th</p>	<p>Young children not in school</p>  <p>34,000 children (2012-14)</p> <p>Improved since 11-13 (60%) Worse than US average (53%)</p>	<p>Fourth graders not proficient in reading</p>  <p>(2015)</p> <p>Improved since 2013 (79%) Worse than US average (65%)</p>	<p>Eighth graders not proficient in math</p>  <p>(2015)</p> <p>Worsened since 2013 (77%) Worse than US average (68%)</p>	<p>High school students not graduating on time</p>  <p>(2012-13)</p> <p>Worsened since 11-12 (26%) Worse than US average (18%)</p>
 <p>Health Domain Rank: 44th</p>	<p>Low-birthweight babies</p>  <p>2,282 babies (2014)</p> <p>Improved since 2013 (8.9%) Worse than US average (8%)</p>	<p>Children without health insurance</p>  <p>36,000 children (2014)</p> <p>Improved since 2013 (9%) Worse than US average (6%)</p>	<p>Child (1-14) and teen (15-19) death rates (per 100,000)</p>  <p>165 deaths (2014)</p> <p>Worsened since 2013 (28) Worse than US average (24)</p>	<p>Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs</p>  <p>9,000 teens (2013-14)</p> <p>Improved since 12-13 (7%) Same as US average (5%)</p>
 <p>Family and Community Domain Rank: 48th</p>	<p>Children in single-parent families</p>  <p>193,000 children (2014)</p> <p>Improved since 2013 (43%) Worse than US average (35%)</p>	<p>Children in families where household head lacks high school diploma</p>  <p>89,000 children (2014)</p> <p>Unchanged since 2013 (18%) Worse than US average (14%)</p>	<p>Children living in high-poverty areas</p>  <p>135,000 children (2010-14)</p> <p>Worsened since 09-13 (24%) Worse than US average (14%)</p>	<p>Teen (15-19) birth rate (per 1,000)</p>  <p>2,543 births (2014)</p> <p>Improved since 2013 (43) Worse than US average (24)</p>

Source: KIDS COUNT Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2015 and 2016
NEW MEXICO VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Get more KIDS COUNT data at datacenter.kidscount.org/data#NM



Economic Well-Being

INDICATOR: Children Living in Poverty*

2016 indicator ranking



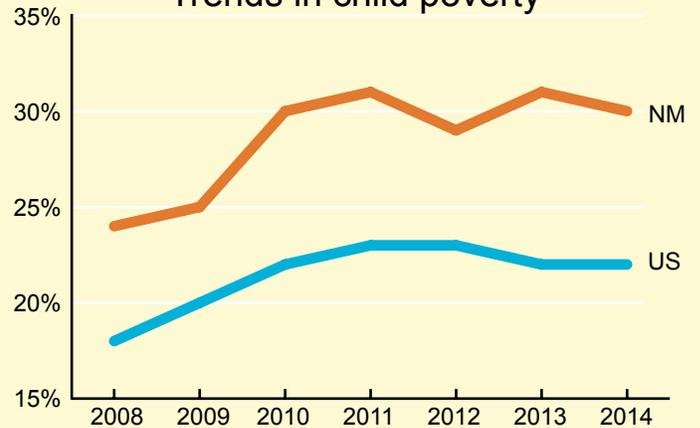
Number of children in poverty

146,000

Percent of children in poverty



Trends in child poverty



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to



It would take a



in child poverty



Which means

690

fewer children in poverty

To move up 5+ rankings to



It would take an



in child poverty



Which means

15,500

fewer children in poverty

To move up to the top ranking



It would take a



in child poverty



Which means

79,800

fewer children in poverty

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Restore eligibility for child care assistance to pre-recession levels (200% of federal poverty level).
- Raise the state's minimum wage and index it to rise with inflation, raise the tipped wage to 60% of the minimum wage, and enact policies to prevent wage theft.
- Increase refundable tax credits like the Working Families Tax Credit and the Low Income Comprehensive Tax Rebate, and enact a more progressive income tax system.
- Enact tougher restrictions on predatory loans (payday, car title loans, etc).
- Support and promote the availability of resources and assistance for kinship foster care families and grandparents helping to raise their grandchildren.

*Children living in families with incomes below \$23,850 for a family of two adults and two children, 2014

**Ranking improvement estimates are based on point-in-time data reported in 2016; changes in other states' outcomes can also influence New Mexico's future rankings. Sources: Rankings from: *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2016 (because states can tie in indicator rankings it may take more than 1 or 5 rankings in order to move up); Data from: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2014



Economic Well-Being

INDICATOR: Children in Families without Secure Employment*

2016 indicator ranking

Percent of children in families without secure employment

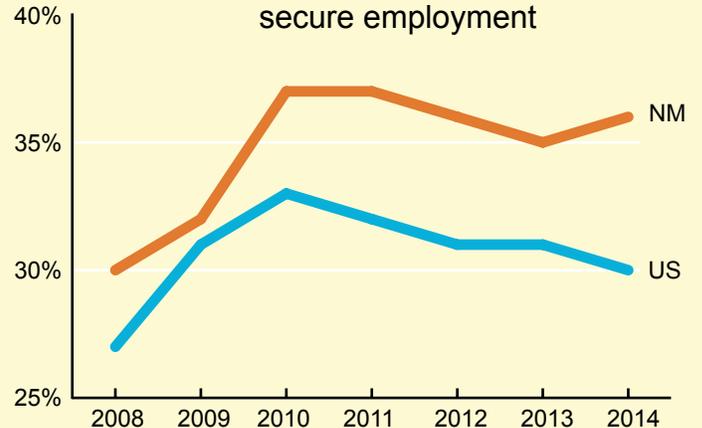
48th



Number of children in families without secure employment

182,000

Trends in children in families without secure employment



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to **47th**

It would take a **3% drop** in children in this situation

Which means **5,300** fewer children in this situation

To move up 5+ rankings to **41st**

It would take a **8% drop** in children in this situation

Which means **15,300** fewer children in this situation

To move up to the top ranking **1st**

It would take a **44% drop** in children in this situation

Which means **83,300** fewer children in this situation

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Restore eligibility levels for child care assistance to pre-recession levels (200% of FPL).
- Expand access to high school equivalency, adult basic education, English as a second language, job training, and career pathways programs.
- Target WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funds to support bridge and career pathways programs that help low-skill parents earn high school equivalency diplomas and industry-recognized credentials in in-demand occupations. For parents with significant barriers to employment, use funds for on-the-job training, paid internships, and subsidized or transitional employment.

*Children (ages 0-17) living in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment, 2014

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Economic Well-Being

INDICATOR: Children Living in Households with High Housing Cost Burdens*

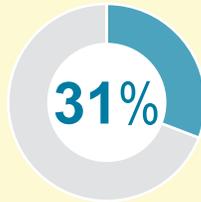
2016 indicator ranking

20th

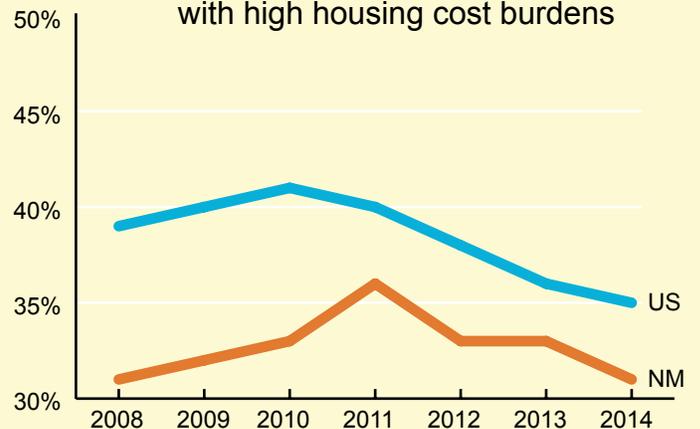
Number of children living in households with high housing cost burdens

156,000

Percent of children living in households with high housing cost burdens



Trends in children living in households with high housing cost burdens



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to

19th

It would take a

2%
drop



in children in this situation

Which means

3,600

fewer children in this situation

To move up 5+ rankings to

12th

It would take a

9%
drop



in children in this situation

Which means

13,600

fewer children in this situation

To move up to the top ranking

1st

It would take a

44%
drop



in children in this situation

Which means

68,600

fewer children in this situation

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Increase funding for the Housing Trust Fund so more quality housing for low- and moderate-income families can be built providing more children with stable, safe homes.
- Save the Home Loan Protection Act from repeal or reduction to protect more families from predatory lending practices that can lead to home foreclosure.
- Enact a rate cap of 36% APR (including fees) on all lending products.
- Increase funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).
- Increase funding for Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), which help parents save money for buying a home.

*Children (ages 0-17) in households that spend more than 30% of their income on housing, 2014

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Economic Well-Being

INDICATOR: Teens Not in School and Not Working*

2016 indicator ranking

Percent of teens not in school and not working

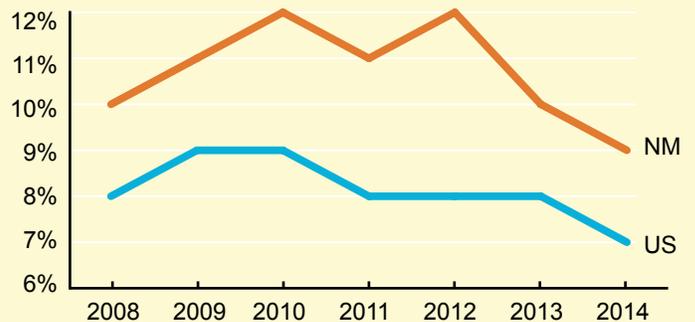
40th



Number of teens not in school and not working

10,000

Trends in teens not in school and not working

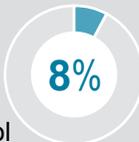


WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to

32nd

It would take a



in teens not in school and not working

Which means

530

fewer disconnected teens

To move up 5+ rankings to

20th

It would take a



in teens not in school and not working

Which means

1,700

fewer disconnected teens

To move up to the top ranking

1st

It would take a



in teens not in school and not working

Which means

5,100

fewer disconnected teens

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Enact initiatives to lower the cost of college.
- Develop a state youth employment strategy using a career pathways approach to help identify and provide support for disconnected youth.
- Provide support for vulnerable students who are at risk for dropping out.
- Implement systems to identify and address chronic absenteeism.
- Fund alternative high schools, evidence-based drop-out prevention and recovery programs.
- Expand access to education-oriented youth employment and career exploration programs.
- Target WIOA funds for out-of-school youth.

*Teens (ages 16 to 19) not attending school and not working, 2014

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Education

INDICATOR: Young Children Not in School*

2016 indicator ranking

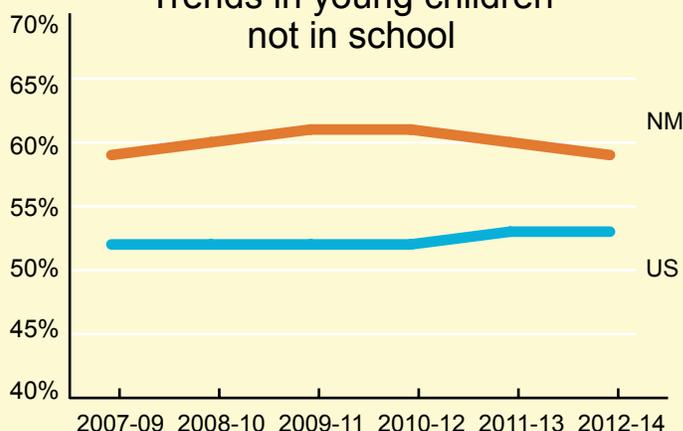
Percent of young children not in school



Number of young children not in school

34,000

Trends in young children not in school



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to

33rd

It would take a

2%
drop



in young children not in school

Which means

540

fewer young children not in school

To move up 5+ rankings to

29th

It would take a

3%
drop



in young children not in school

Which means

1,100

fewer young children not in school

To move up to the top ranking

1st

It would take a

42%
drop



in young children not in school

Which means

14,400

fewer young children not in school

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Increase spending on high-quality pre-K so it is available to all 4-year-olds, is available as a full-day program, and is available for more 3-year-olds.
- Restore eligibility for child care assistance to 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Increase funding for child care to incentivize and adequately compensate for quality.
- Increase spending on high-quality home visiting in order to support families while also educating parents on the value of early learning.
- Promote coordination between Head Start, PED, and CYFD on early childhood programs.

*Young children (ages 3 and 4) attending a school or class of institution providing educational experiences (which can include nursery school, preschool, pre-K, Head Start, and kindergarten).

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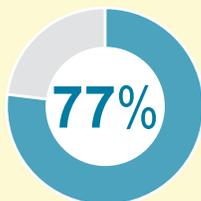


Education

INDICATOR: 4th Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Reading*

2016 indicator ranking

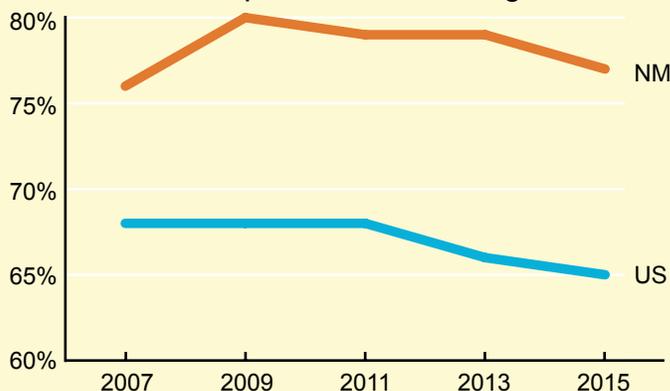
Percent of 4th graders scoring below proficient in reading



Number of 4th graders scoring below proficient in reading

19,400

Trends in 4th graders scoring below proficient in reading



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to

49th

It would take a



4th graders in this situation

Which means

750

fewer 4th graders in this situation

To move up 5+ rankings to

43rd

It would take a



4th graders in this situation

Which means

1,500

fewer 4th graders in this situation

To move up to the top ranking

1st

It would take a



4th graders in this situation

Which means

6,800

fewer 4th graders in this situation

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Expand high-quality early childhood care and education services to prepare children for school.
- Expand funding for K-3 Plus.
- Expand K-3 Plus to a K-8 Plus program.
- Expand quality before- and after-school, mentorship, and tutoring programs to provide added academic assistance to low-income and low-performing students, or those whose parents may not be able to help them with their homework.
- Increase the availability of reading coaches and support evidence-based reading initiatives.
- Implement systems to identify and address chronic absenteeism.

*Fourth graders scoring below proficient in reading on the National Assessment of Education Progress

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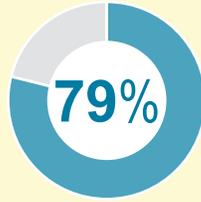


Education

INDICATOR: 8th Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Math *

2016 indicator ranking

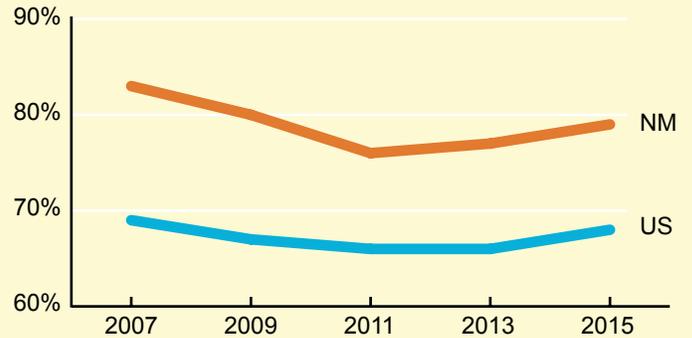
Percent of 8th graders scoring below proficient in math



Number of 8th graders scoring below proficient in math

18,900

Trends in 8th graders scoring below proficient in math



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES **

To move up 1+ rankings to **46th**

It would take a **1% drop** in 8th graders in this situation

Which means **240** fewer 8th graders in this situation

To move up 5+ rankings to **41st**

It would take a **6% drop** in 8th graders in this situation

Which means **1,200** fewer 8th graders in this situation

To move up to the top ranking **1st**

It would take a **38% drop** in 8th graders in this situation

Which means **7,100** fewer 8th graders in this situation

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Expand high-quality early childhood care and education services to prepare children for school.
- Expand funding for K-3 Plus.
- Expand K-3 Plus to a K-8 Plus program.
- Expand quality before- and after-school, mentorship, and tutoring programs to provide added academic assistance to low-income and low-performing students, or those whose parents may not be able to help them with their homework.
- Provide math coaches and professional development for math teachers.
- Implement systems to identify and address chronic absenteeism.

*Eighth graders scoring below proficient in math on the National Assessment of Education Progress

**Ranking improvement estimates are based on point-in-time data reported in 2016; changes in other states' outcomes can also influence New Mexico's future rankings. Sources: Rankings from: *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2016 (because states can tie in indicator rankings it may take more than 1 or 5 rankings in order to move up); Data from: National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP, 2007-2015; NM PED Enrollment by Grade, 2015



Education

INDICATOR: High School Students Not Graduating on Time*

2016 indicator ranking

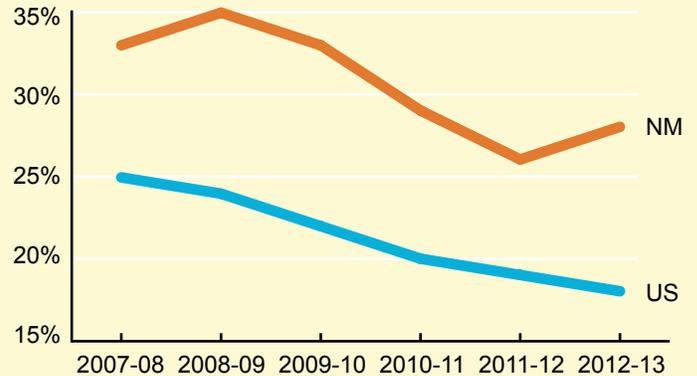
Percent of high school students not graduating on time



Number of high school students not graduating on time



Trends in high school students not graduating on time



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to

46th

It would take a



in students in this situation

Which means



fewer students in this situation

To move up 5+ rankings to

42nd

It would take a



in students in this situation

Which means



fewer students in this situation

To move up to the top ranking

1st

It would take a



in students in this situation

Which means



fewer students in this situation

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Identify students who require additional learning time and provide free summer school, after-school, and online learning opportunities.
- Provide relevant learning opportunities through service learning, technical education, internships, and dual credit programs to better prepare students for career or college.
- Support dropout prevention and recovery programs, evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs, and community schools, and provide more school counselors.
- Provide support for vulnerable students who are at risk for dropping out.
- Reduce zero-tolerance policies and penalties in order to keep more students in school.
- Implement systems to identify and address chronic absenteeism.

*Members of a freshman class not graduating in four years; this measure not the same as the percentage of students who drop out.

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Health

INDICATOR: Low-Birthweight Babies*

2016 indicator ranking



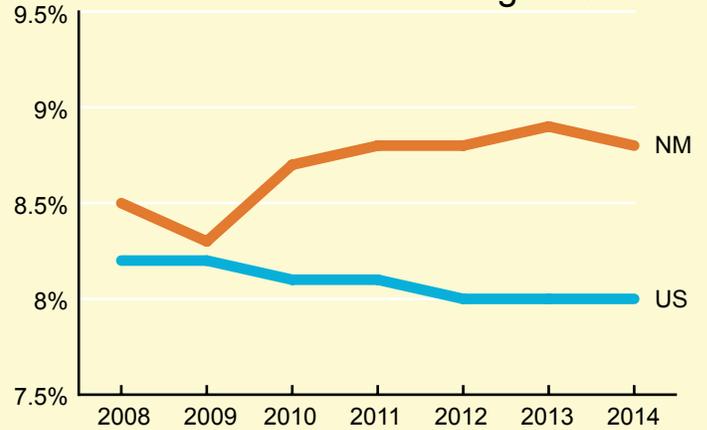
Number of low-birthweight babies

2,280

Percent of low-birthweight babies



Trends in low-birthweight babies



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to

37th

It would take a

0.6%
drop



in low-birthweight babies

Which means

15

fewer low-birthweight babies

To move up 5+ rankings to

31st

It would take a

5%
drop



in low-birthweight babies

Which means

120

fewer low-birthweight babies

To move up to the top ranking

1st

It would take a

32%
drop



in low-birthweight babies

Which means

740

fewer low-birthweight babies

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Expand outreach to pregnant women to enroll them in Medicaid early in their pregnancy so more prospective mothers get full-term pre-natal care that can help prevent low birthweight.
- Provide adequate funding for more programs for new parents, including home visiting programs that begin prenatally, so more women can be served during their pregnancy.
- Expand and fully fund health and nutrition programs for pregnant teens.
- Support the creation and funding for county and tribal health councils.
- Fund home visiting under a Medicaid waiver to draw down federal funding.

*Babies born weighing less than 5.5 pounds.

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Health

INDICATOR: Children without Health Insurance*

2016 indicator ranking



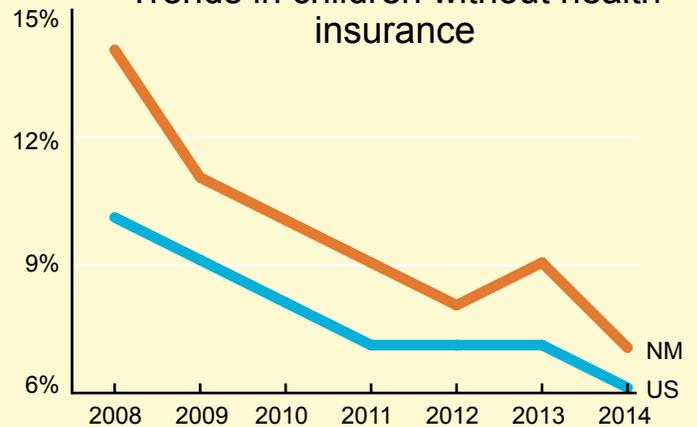
Number of children without health insurance

36,400

Percent of children without health insurance



Trends in children without health insurance



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to

30th

It would take a **12%** drop



in children without health insurance

Which means

4,500

fewer children without insurance

To move up 5+ rankings to

17th

It would take a **26%** drop



in children without health insurance

Which means

9,500

fewer children without insurance

To move up to the top ranking

1st

It would take a **67%** drop



in children without health insurance

Which means

24,400

fewer children without insurance

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Restore outreach and enrollment programs for Medicaid for children to help cover those children who are eligible for Medicaid but still not enrolled.
- Integrate the health insurance marketplace with Medicaid so there is “no wrong door” for enrollment to help low-income parents who are getting coverage for themselves to enroll their Medicaid-eligible children at the same time.
- Simplify the Medicaid enrollment and recertification process for children, and enact express-lane enrollment, which would help the state identify eligible children using information from other programs like Head Start and SNAP (food stamps).

*Percent of children (ages 0-17) without health insurance.

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Health

INDICATOR: Child and Teen Deaths*

2016 indicator ranking

40th

Number of child and teen deaths

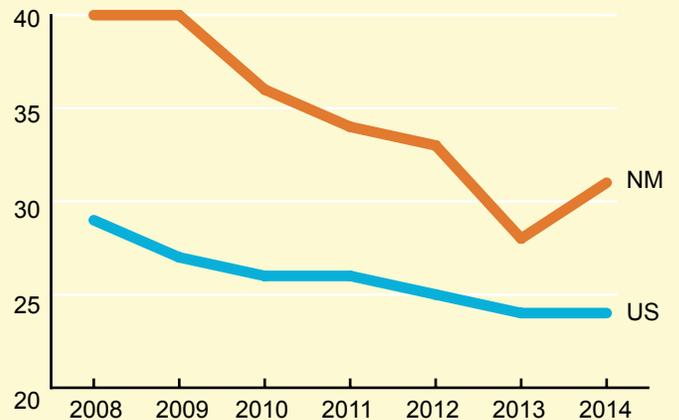
165

Child and teen death rate

31

deaths per 100,000 children and teens

Trends in child and teen death rate



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to

38th

It would take a

5%
drop

29

deaths per 100,000 children and teens

in child and teen deaths

Which means

10

fewer child and teen deaths

To move up 5+ rankings to

35th

It would take a

9%
drop

28

deaths per 100,000 children and teens

in child and teen deaths

Which means

15

fewer child and teen deaths

To move up to the top ranking

1st

It would take a

50%
drop

15

deaths per 100,000 children and teens

in child and teen deaths

Which means

80

fewer child and teen deaths

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Support and expand quality home visiting for families identified as high risk for child abuse and neglect.
- Expand funding for suicide prevention programs for youth.
- Enact stronger gun safety laws to limit unauthorized child access to guns.
- Adequately fund evidence-based child abuse prevention programs and strengthen the Children, Youth and Families Department's role in prevention.
- Increase funding for child protective services in order to increase staff and reduce caseloads.
- Create a citizen oversight or review board for all CYFD child abuse cases that result in death.
- Screen for adverse childhood experiences during EPSDT.

*Child and teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 to 19)

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Health

INDICATOR: Teen Alcohol and Drug Abuse*

2016 indicator ranking



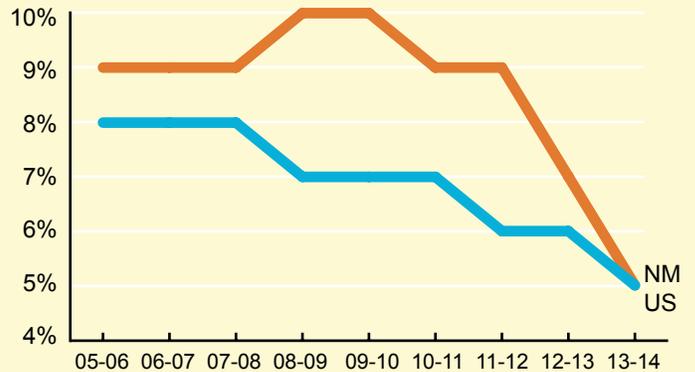
Number of teens abusing alcohol and drugs

9,000

Percent of teens abusing alcohol and drugs



Trends in teen alcohol and drug abuse



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up to the top ranking



It would take a

12%
drop



in teens abusing alcohol and drugs



Which means

1,100

fewer teens abusing alcohol and drugs

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Expand mental health programs for children, youth and families.
- Expand funding and support for school-based health centers so students have access to physical and mental health services they might not otherwise get in a safe, accessible place.
- Support the creation of and funding for county and tribal health councils in order to better reach youth who are self-medicating an untreated mental health problem with alcohol or drugs.
- Fund drug and alcohol rehabilitation services for youth, especially at an early intervention stage—as opposed to incarcerating youth for alcohol-related offenses—to help prevent further problems and reduce high rates of recidivism.

*Teens (ages 12 to 17) who reported abusing alcohol or drugs in the past year.

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Family and Community

INDICATOR: Children in Single-Parent Families*

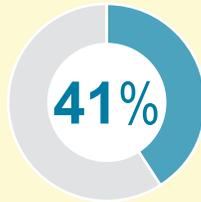
2016 indicator ranking



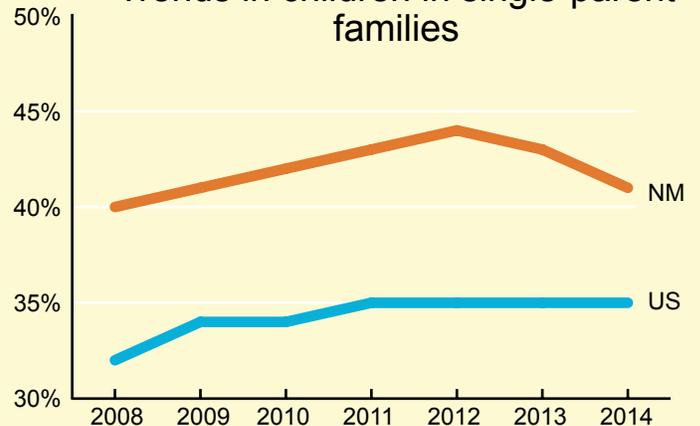
Number of children in single-parent families

193,000

Percent of children in single-parent families



Trends in children in single-parent families



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to

44th

It would take a

2%
drop



in children in single-parent families

Which means

3,700

fewer children in this situation

To move up 5+ rankings to

40th

It would take a

4%
drop



in children in single-parent families

Which means

8,400

fewer children in this situation

To move up to the top ranking

1st

It would take a

53%
drop



in children in single-parent families

Which means

102,000

fewer children in this situation

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Expand funding for home visiting programs, especially for teen parents.
- Restore eligibility for child care assistance to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, so greater numbers of low-income families headed by single parents can afford child care.
- Expand funding for mentorship and other pregnancy prevention programs for teens.
- Support career pathways approaches that better align adult education with post-secondary education opportunities and industry needs and that provide a clear ladder to economic self-sufficiency.
- Maintain current Medicaid eligibility for family planning services.

*Children (ages 0-17) in single-parent families

**Ranking improvement estimates are based on point-in-time data reported in 2016; changes in other states' outcomes can also influence New Mexico's future rankings. Sources: Rankings from: *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2016 (because states can tie in indicator rankings it may take more than 1 or 5 rankings in order to move up); Data from: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2014



Family and Community

INDICATOR: Children in Families where Household Head Lacks High School Diploma*

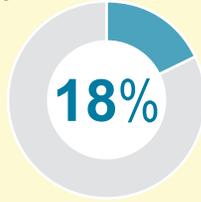
2016 indicator ranking



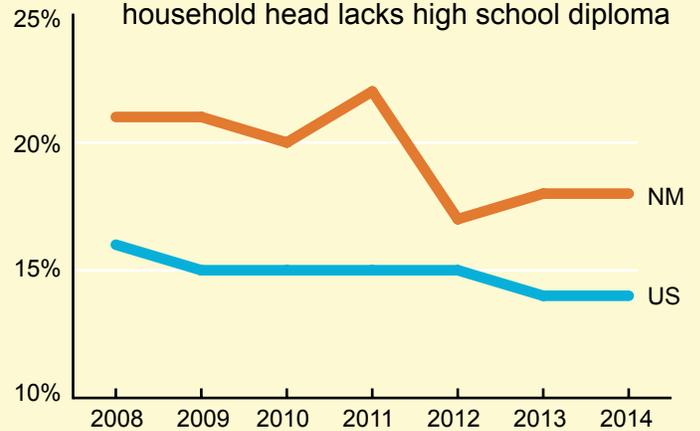
Number of children in families where household head lacks high school diploma

89,300

Percent of children in families where household head lacks high school diploma



Trends in children in families where household head lacks high school diploma



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to

46th

It would take a



in children in this situation

Which means

2,300

fewer children in this situation

To move up 5+ rankings to

39th

It would take a



in children in this situation

Which means

17,300

fewer children in this situation

To move up to the top ranking

1st

It would take a



in children in this situation

Which means

67,300

fewer children in this situation

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Expand access to high school equivalency programs, adult basic education, post-secondary education, and job training through a career pathways approach.
- Provide need-based financial assistance these programs for low-income and low-skilled adults.
- Expand funding and access for English as a second language classes.
- Fund alternative high schools and evidence-based drop-out prevention and recovery programs that combine education, job training, and youth development.
- Expand access to education-oriented youth employment and career exploration programs including paid summer jobs and internships, on-the-job training, career technical education, etc.

*Children (ages 0-17) in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma.

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Family and Community

INDICATOR: Children Living in High-Poverty Areas*

2016 indicator ranking



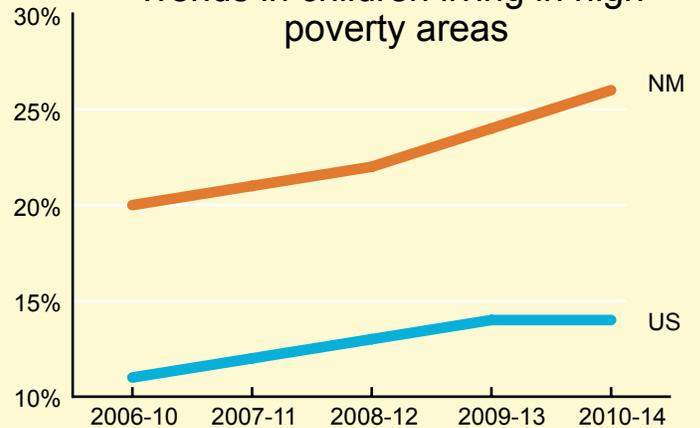
Number of children living in high-poverty areas

135,000

Percent of children living in high-poverty areas



Trends in children living in high-poverty areas



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to **48th**

It would take a **8% drop**

in children living in high-poverty areas

Which means **10,200**

fewer children in this situation

To move up 5+ rankings to **40th**

It would take a **34% drop**

in children living in high-poverty areas

Which means **46,000**

fewer children in this situation

To move up to the top ranking **1st**

It would take a **93% drop**

in children living in high-poverty areas

Which means **127,700**

fewer children in this situation

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Increase access to affordable housing in safe areas with jobs for low-income families and families of color by expanding incentives for developers to build mixed-income housing developments.
- Promote community change efforts that integrate revitalization with human capital development.
- Increase funding for Individual Development Accounts to help parents save for buying a home.
- Target strategic economic development strategies that create good jobs in high-poverty areas.
- Target WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funds to support education and job training programs for parents.
- Help low-income workers by increasing the Working Families Tax Credit and the minimum wage.

*Children (ages 0-17) living in high-poverty areas, which are defined as census tracts with poverty rates equal to or greater than 30%

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Family and Community

INDICATOR: Teen Birth Rate*

2016 indicator ranking



Number of teen births

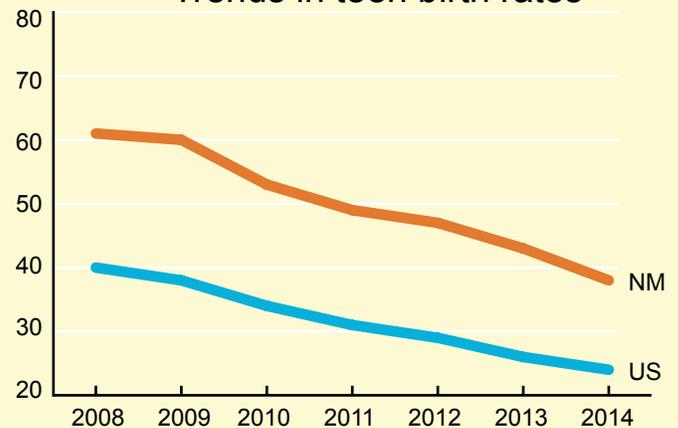
2,540

Teen birth rate

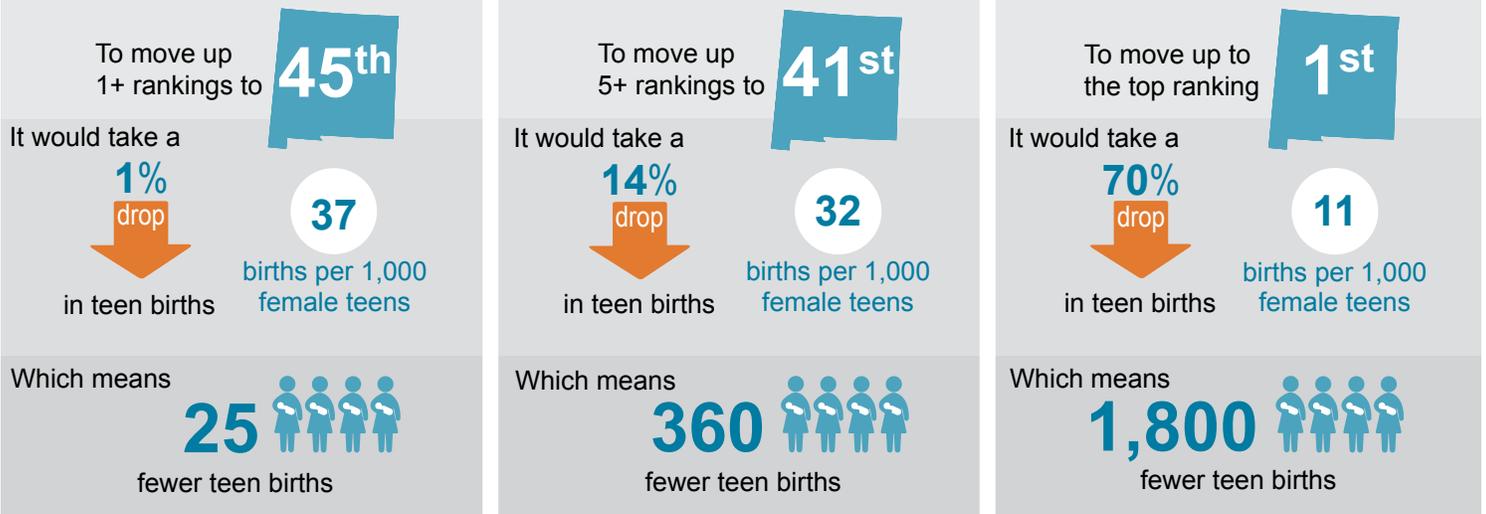
38

births per 1,000 female teens

Trends in teen birth rates



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**



WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Increase funding and support for teen pregnancy prevention programs to help at-risk young women avoid pregnancy, and see alternative opportunities for their future.
- Expand funding and support for school-based health centers and county and tribal health councils in order to ensure teen access to health professionals and better integrate health care with social, emotional, behavioral and cognitive development for teens.
- Expand evidence-based, age-appropriate sex education and defund abstinence-only programs.
- Increase teen participation in extra-curricular activities including sports, after-school and summer learning programs, as well as community service and work experience opportunities.

*Teen births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19

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