Enhancing Child Well-Being in New Mexico

A Guide to Improving KIDS COUNT Outcomes and Rankings

A KIDS COUNT Special Report

by Amber Wallin, MPA

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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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domains</th>
<th>Indicators of child well-being</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Children at or below the</td>
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<td>Children whose parents</td>
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<td>(15-19) death rates (per</td>
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<td>Teens who abuse alcohol</td>
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<td>or drugs</td>
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<td><strong>Family and Community</strong></td>
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<td>parent families</td>
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<td>Children in families where</td>
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<td>school diploma</td>
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<td>poverty areas</td>
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<td>Teen (15-19) birth rate</td>
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<td>(per 1,000)</td>
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</table>

### Source:
KIDS COUNT Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2015 and 2016
NEW MEXICO VOICES FOR CHILDREN
**Economic Well-Being**
**INDICATOR: Children Living in Poverty**

**2016 indicator ranking**

- **50th**
- **30%**

Number of children in poverty

**146,000**

**Trends in child poverty**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NM</th>
<th>US</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to **49th**

- It would take a **1% drop** in child poverty
- Which means **690 fewer children in poverty**

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

- It would take an **11% drop** in child poverty
- Which means **15,500 fewer children in poverty**

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

- It would take a **55% drop** 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.

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*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*
**WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to the 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 the 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

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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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
**WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up
1+ rankings to

It would take a

in children in this situation

Which means

fewer children in this situation

To move up
5+ rankings to

It would take a

in children in this situation

Which means

fewer children in this situation

To move up to the top ranking

It would take a

in children in this situation

Which means

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

**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: Teens Not in School and Not Working*

2016 indicator ranking

Percent of teens not in school and not working

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 5% drop 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 17% drop in teens not in school and not working

Which means 1,700 fewer disconnected teens

To move up to the top ranking
It would take a 50% drop 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
**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
**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, 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).

**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, 2007-2014*
INDICATOR: 4th Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Reading

2016 indicator ranking
50th

Percent of 4th graders scoring below proficient in reading
77%

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 4% drop
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 8% drop
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 35% drop
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
**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
INDICATOR: 8\textsuperscript{th} Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Math*

2016 indicator ranking: 47\textsuperscript{th}
Percent of 8\textsuperscript{th} graders scoring below proficient in math: 79\%
Number of 8\textsuperscript{th} graders scoring below proficient in math: 18,900

Trends in 8\textsuperscript{th} graders scoring below proficient in math

WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to 46\textsuperscript{th}:
- It would take a 1\% drop in 8\textsuperscript{th} graders in this situation.
- Which means 240 fewer 8\textsuperscript{th} graders in this situation.

To move up 5+ rankings to 41\textsuperscript{st}:
- It would take a 6\% drop in 8\textsuperscript{th} graders in this situation.
- Which means 1,200 fewer 8\textsuperscript{th} graders in this situation.

To move up to the top ranking:
- It would take a 38\% drop in 8\textsuperscript{th} graders in this situation.
- Which means 7,100 fewer 8\textsuperscript{th} 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.

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*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: K\textsuperscript{IDS} 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
WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to 46th
It would take a 4% drop in students in this situation
Which means 280 fewer students in this situation

To move up 5+ rankings to 42nd
It would take a 14% drop in students in this situation
Which means 1,100 fewer students in this situation

To move up to the top ranking
It would take a 74% drop in students in this situation
Which means 5,900 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.
**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. Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), 2007-2013; NM PED Enrollment by Grade, 2010.
**INDICATOR: Low-Birthweight Babies**

2016 indicator ranking

**38th**

Percent of low-birthweight babies

8.8%

Number of low-birthweight babies

2,280

Trends in low-birthweight babies

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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</table>

**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 prenatal 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.

**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: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Vital Statistics Reports, 2008-2014
**INDICATOR: Children without Health Insurance**

**WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>Improvements Required</th>
<th>Number of Children Without Insurance</th>
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<tr>
<td>30th</td>
<td>1+ rankings</td>
<td>4,500</td>
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<td>17th</td>
<td>5+ rankings</td>
<td>9,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>10+ rankings</td>
<td>24,400</td>
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</table>

**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).

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

INDICATOR: Child and Teen Deaths*

2016 indicator ranking

40th

Child and teen death rate

31

deaths per 100,000 children and teens

Number of child and teen deaths

165

Trends in child and teen death rate

To move up 1+ rankings to 38th

It would take a 5% drop 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 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 in child and teen deaths

Which means 80 fewer child and teen deaths

WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

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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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: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, Multiple Causes of Death Public Use Files for 2008-2014
**INDICATOR: Teen Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

2016 indicator ranking

5th

Percent of teens abusing alcohol and drugs

5%

Number of teens abusing alcohol and drugs

9,000

Trends in teen alcohol and drug abuse

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 IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

• 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.
**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: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2006 to 2014
**INDICATOR: Children in Single-Parent Families**

2016 indicator ranking

46th

Percent of children in single-parent families

41%

Number of children in single-parent families

193,000

Trends in children in single-parent families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NM</th>
<th>US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>44th</td>
<td>40th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>41st</td>
<td>39th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>40th</td>
<td>38th</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>39th</td>
<td>37th</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>38th</td>
<td>36th</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>37th</td>
<td>35th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>36th</td>
<td>34th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

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
WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to 46th

It would take a 3% drop 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 19% drop 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 75% drop 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.

**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
**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. This 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. This means 46,000 fewer children in this situation.
- To move up to the top ranking, it would take a 93% drop in children living in high-poverty areas. This 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.

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

**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.*
**INDICATOR: Teen Birth Rate**

2016 indicator ranking

- **46th**

Teen birth rate

- **38** births per 1,000 female teens

Number of teen births

- **2,540**

**Trends in teen birth rates**

- NM
- US

**WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to **45th**

- It would take a **1% drop** in teen births

Which means **25 fewer teen births**

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

- It would take a **14% drop** in teen births

Which means **360 fewer teen births**

To move up to the top ranking

- It would take a **70% drop** in teen births

Which means **1,800 fewer teen births**

**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.

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

**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: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Vital Statistics birth data, 2008-2014*