

Improving Child Well-Being in New Mexico



Economic Well-Being

INDICATOR: Children Living in Poverty*

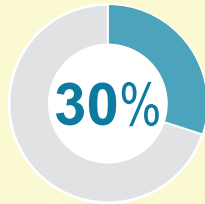
2016 indicator ranking



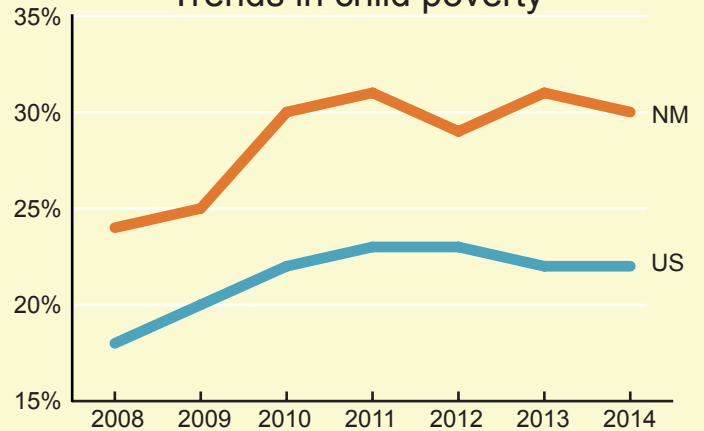
Number of children in poverty

146,000

Percent of children in poverty



Trends in child poverty



WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to

49th

It would take a



in child poverty



Which means

690

fewer children in poverty

To move up 5+ rankings to

41st

It would take an



in child poverty



Which means

15,500

fewer children in poverty

To move up to the top ranking

1st

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

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