Improving Child Well-Being in New Mexico

Family and Community

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

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