Improving Child Well-Being in New Mexico

Health

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

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

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.
**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
Baby in diaper icon by OCHA from www.flaticon.com