Improving Child Well-Being in New Mexico

INDICATOR: Child and Teen Deaths*

2016 indicator ranking: 40th place
Child and teen death rate: 31 deaths per 100,000 children and teens
Number of child and teen deaths: 165

2008-2014 Trends in child and teen death rate:
- NM: 40 to 31 (31% drop)
- US: 38 to 31 (15% drop)
- NM: 5 fewer child and teen deaths
- US: 10 fewer child and teen deaths

WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

- To move up 1+ rankings to 38th place:
  - It would take a 5% drop in child and teen deaths (29 deaths per 100,000 children and teens)
  - Which means 10 fewer child and teen deaths

- To move up 5+ rankings to 35th place:
  - It would take a 9% drop in child and teen deaths (28 deaths per 100,000 children and teens)
  - 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 (15 deaths per 100,000 children and teens)
  - 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)
**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, Multiple Causes of Death Public Use Files for 2008-2014.