

The Well-Being of Black Children in New Mexico



Black Child Wellness Summit

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Two Stories

- Like all children of color in New Mexico, Black children face barriers to success and disparate outcomes compared to White children.
- On the other hand, Black children in New Mexico fare better than Hispanic and Native American children on many indicators and they actually fare slightly better overall than Black children across the nation.

The Good News

- The poverty rate for Black children (23%) is lower than for Hispanic (35%) and Native (43%) kids. It's also lower than Black children nationally (37%).
- Black children have excellent rates of health insurance coverage (99%). They also fare better than the national average for Blacks (96%).
- Blacks in NM are more likely than other people of color to have a high school diploma (90%).

Not So Good News

- Despite having high rates of health insurance coverage, Black babies are more likely to be born at a low birth-weight (11% vs. 9% for all races).
- They have the highest infant mortality rate (13 deaths per 1,000 births) – more than double that for Hispanics (6 per 1,000), the next highest rate.
- Black youth are also more likely to die of a drug overdose (7.7 per 100,000 vs. 5.7/100,000 for all races).

More Not So Good News

- The expulsion rate for Black children (124 per 10,000 students) is double the state average (58 per 10,000).
- They are also far more likely to be suspended (7% in-school suspension; 10% out-of-school suspension vs. 4% and 6% all races).
- The rate of Black youth residing in juvenile lock-up is more than double any other race (Blacks: 472 per 100,000 youth; Hispanics: 204/100,000; Whites: 86/100,000; state average: 164/100,000).

Conclusion

- These data present an incomplete picture of Black children in New Mexico.
- These data show a mixed picture of Black child well-being.
- Clearly there are systemic problems we must address if all Black children are going to thrive.
- Much more analysis needs to be done on the root causes of both the good news and the not so good news.

2018 KIDS COUNT Conference

New Mexico Kids at the Crossroads

Monday, June 25, 2018

Embassy Suites

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Thank you!

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