KIDS COUNT in New Mexico

Every child deserves equal access to the tools and opportunities essential for long-term success: economic security, quality education, access to health supports, and a supportive family and community. The future of the Land of Enchantment is also dependent upon the foundation of these four pillars. Investing now in New Mexico’s children means an investment in the future of the entire state, region, and nation.

Each year, the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s KIDS COUNT program provides child well-being rankings for the 50 states. Indicators within four primary domains of well-being—economic, education, health, and family and community—are tracked and evaluated by the Casey Foundation and by New Mexico Voices for Children, the KIDS COUNT anchor in our state, to understand and tell the child well-being story in New Mexico. Over time, the results show us where we are, where we have been improving, and where we can do better. Sadly, New Mexico has not ranked well in comparison to most of the nation. We fell to 49th for overall child well-being—ahead of just Mississippi—in 2012 and, except for 2013 (when we fell to 50th), our national ranking has not budged since.

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- Compare states, counties, cities, tribal areas, school districts and congressional districts
**New Mexico KIDS COUNT Profile**

**National Rank (2017): 49<sup>th</sup>**  
Unchanged since 2016 (49<sup>th</sup>)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domains</th>
<th>Indicators of child well-being</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Well-Being</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| National Rank: 48<sup>th</sup> | Children at or below the poverty level   
- 29% (141,000 children (2015))  
  - Improved since 2014 (30%)  
  - Worse than US average (21%)  
|                       | Children whose parents lack secure employment  
- 34% (170,000 children (2015))  
  - Improved since 2014 (36%)  
  - Worse than US average (29%)  
|                       | Children living in households with a high housing cost burden  
- 31% (153,000 children (2015))  
|                       | Teens (16-19) not in school and not working  
- 9% (10,000 teens (2015))  
  - Unchanged since 2014 (31%)  
  - Better than US average (33%)  |  
| Education             |                                                                                               |
| National Rank: 50<sup>th</sup>* | Young children not in school  
- 58% (32,000 children (2013-15))  
  - Improved since 2012-14 (59%)  
  - Worse than US average (53%)  |
|                       | Fourth graders not proficient in reading  
- 77% (2015)  
  - Improved since 2013 (79%)  
  - Worse than US average (65%)  |
|                       | Eighth graders not proficient in math  
- 79% (2015)  
  - Worsened since 2013 (77%)  
  - Worse than US average (68%)  |
|                       | High school students not graduating on time  
- 31% (2014-15)  
  - Improved since 2013-14 (32%)*  |
| Health                |                                                                                               |
| National Rank: 37<sup>th</sup> | Low-birthweight babies  
- 8.7% (2,244 babies (2015))  
  - Improved since 2014 (8.8%)  
  - Worse than US average (8.1%) |
|                       | Children without health insurance  
- 4% (22,000 children (2015))  
  - Improved since 2014 (7%)  
  - Better than US average (5%)  |
|                       | Child (1-14) and teen (15-19) death rates (per 100,000)  
- 34  
  - Worsened since 2014 (31)  
  - Worse than US average (25)  |
|                       | Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs  
- 5% (9,000 teens (2013-14))  
  - Improved since 2012-13 (7%)  
  - Same as US average (5%)  |
| Family and Community  |                                                                                               |
| National Rank: 49<sup>th</sup> | Children in single-parent families  
- 41% (191,000 children (2015))  
  - Unchanged since 2014 (41%)  
  - Worse than US average (35%) |
|                       | Children in families where household head lacks high school diploma  
- 18% (89,000 children (2015))  
  - Unchanged since 2014 (18%)  
  - Worse than US average (14%)  |
|                       | Children living in high-poverty areas  
- 25% (128,000 children (2011-15))  
  - Improved since 2010-14 (26%)  
  - Worse than US average (14%)  |
|                       | Teen (15-19) birth rate (per 1,000)  
- 35  
  - Improved since 2014 (38)  
  - Worse than US average (22) |

*Due to a slight change in the methodology for reporting data for the indicator "High school students not graduating on time," comparisons cannot be made between previous years and this year’s overall rank, education rank, and “High school students not graduating on time” data.

Source: KIDS COUNT Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2016 and 2017

NEW MEXICO VOICES FOR CHILDREN

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KIDS COUNT Profile: Doña Ana County

Demographic Information: Doña Ana County, in the south-central region of the state, is one of three New Mexico counties with an international border. Perhaps not surprisingly, 16.7 percent of the residents are foreign-born, far more than the state average of 9.7 percent.1 Just over half (51 percent) of Doña Ana County residents over the age of 5 speak a language other than English at home, while the state average is closer to a third (35.4 percent).2 Las Cruces—the county’s largest city and the state’s second-largest city—is part of a tri-city area that includes El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, in the Mexican state of Chihuahua, making the county something of a cultural crossroads. Doña Ana County is the second largest county within New Mexico, having a population of 213,825. There are 63,318 children in the county, accounting for 11.3 percent of the total child population of the state. The county has a notably higher percentage of Hispanic children than does the rest of the state, with 79.35 percent of children ages 0 to 19 identified as Hispanic, followed by Non-Hispanic White (16.6 percent), two or more races (3.4 percent), Black (1.6 percent), Native American (0.9 percent), and Asian/Pacific Islander (0.7 percent). Three school districts—Las Cruces Public Schools, Hatch Valley Municipal Schools, and Gadsden Independent Schools—operate within the county, with a total enrollment of 39,931 students.3

Economic Well-Being: Doña Ana County fares slightly better than the state in two of the four KIDS COUNT indicators while facing worse outcomes in child poverty and housing cost burdens. The county has a 39 percent child poverty rate, substantially higher than the state rate of 27 percent. Forty-nine percent of all renting households in the county have a high housing cost burden, meaning they spend 30 percent or more of their total income on housing. This is worse than the state average of 46 percent. Twelve percent of families with children do not have any parent working, which is slightly better than the state at 13 percent. Lastly, 8 percent of teens are disconnected, meaning they are not in school or working. This is better than the New Mexico average of 10 percent.

Education: The KIDS COUNT domain where Doña Ana County excels is education, with Gadsden Independent Schools outperforming the state in proficiencies and graduation rates. Gadsden leads the county in fourth grade reading proficiency, with 30 percent of students meeting or exceeding expectations in English Language Arts, followed by Las Cruces Public Schools (27 percent) and Hatch Valley Municipal Schools (22 percent). The New Mexico fourth grade reading proficiency rate is 26 percent. Outcomes for eighth grade math proficiency follow similar trends, with Gadsden leading with 30 percent of students meeting or exceeding expectations, followed by Hatch Valley (29 percent), and Las Cruces (18 percent). The state has a 21 percent rate of eighth grade math proficiency. Graduation rates are higher than the state average in all three districts, with Gadsden (86 percent), Las Cruces (80 percent), and Hatch Valley (74 percent) outperforming the state’s 71 percent graduation rate. Unfortunately, the county lags the state in the one early education indicator, with 65 percent of 3-and-4 year olds not enrolled in school; this is worse than the state average of 59 percent.

Health: Children in Doña Ana County tend to fare nearly the same as the average New Mexican child across the four KIDS COUNT health indicators, with the exception of child death rates. Babies are born at a low birthrate of 5.5 pounds or less at a rate of 7.5 percent, better than the state rate of 9 percent. Five percent of the county’s children lack health insurance, which is slightly better than the state at 5.1 percent. The child death rate for ages 0 to 14 is 75.3 deaths per 100,000, higher than the state child death rate of 57.8 deaths per 100,000. The teen death rate for ages 15 to 19 is 51.5 deaths per 100,000 within the county, significantly lower than the state rate of 64.2 deaths per 100,000. Teens in Doña Ana County engaged in binge drinking at a rate of 15 percent, slightly worse than the state at 14.6 percent.

Family and Community: The family and community indicators for Doña Ana County are a mixed bag. The county’s rate of children in single-parent families—38 percent—is equal to the state average, and the teen birth rate—at 31.4 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19—is just slightly higher than the state’s rate of 29.4 births per 1,000 females. However, when it comes to children living in a household headed by a person without a high school diploma, the county—at 21 percent—does worse than the state’s rate of 15 percent. A much larger share of children in the county reside in high-poverty areas—where 30 percent or more of the residents live in poverty—with the rate being 42 percent compared to the state rate of 25 percent.

In conclusion, analysis of the data for Doña Ana County and the state of New Mexico suggests that the county shines in some areas while facing challenges in many others. The resiliency and strengths of the county’s children, families, and teachers is evident in the fact that the county outperforms the state in many education indicators. However, the county lags significantly behind the rest of the state in some economic indicators. Combined with the high percentage of Hispanic children, these figures underscore the importance of supporting racial and ethnic minority students and their families. The county’s position along the Mexican border, and its close ties to El Paso and Juárez, give it a unique cultural complexion that is among its many strengths. The state must build upon these strengths if we are to improve outcomes for all of New Mexico’s children.

3. New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED), School Fact Sheets: http://www.wped.state.nm.us/it/schoolfactssheets.html
Doña Ana County KIDS COUNT Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domains</th>
<th>KIDS COUNT Indicators of child well-being</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic Well-Being</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children at or below the poverty level</td>
<td>2015&lt;br&gt;39%&lt;br&gt;New Mexico: 27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families with children in which no parent is working</td>
<td>2011-2015&lt;br&gt;12%&lt;br&gt;New Mexico: 13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households renting with a high housing cost burden</td>
<td>2011-2015&lt;br&gt;49%&lt;br&gt;New Mexico: 46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teens (16-19) not in school and not working</td>
<td>2011-2015&lt;br&gt;8%&lt;br&gt;New Mexico: 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young children (3-4) not in school</td>
<td>2011-2015&lt;br&gt;65%&lt;br&gt;New Mexico: 59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th graders meeting or exceeding expectations in English language arts</td>
<td>2016-2017&lt;br&gt;Gadsden: 30%&lt;br&gt;Hatch: 22%&lt;br&gt;Las Cruces: 27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th graders meeting or exceeding expectations in math</td>
<td>2016-2017&lt;br&gt;Gadsden: 30%&lt;br&gt;Hatch: 29%&lt;br&gt;Las Cruces: 18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduation rates</td>
<td>2015-2016&lt;br&gt;Gadsden: 86%&lt;br&gt;Hatch: 74%&lt;br&gt;Las Cruces: 80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-birthweight babies</td>
<td>2016&lt;br&gt;7.5%&lt;br&gt;New Mexico: 9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children (0-18) without health insurance</td>
<td>2015&lt;br&gt;5%&lt;br&gt;New Mexico: 5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child (0-14) and teen (15-19) death rates (per 100,000)</td>
<td>2016&lt;br&gt;Child: 75.3&lt;br&gt;Teen: 51.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen binge drinking</td>
<td>2015&lt;br&gt;15%&lt;br&gt;New Mexico: 14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family and Community</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children in single-parent families</td>
<td>2011-2015&lt;br&gt;38%&lt;br&gt;New Mexico: 38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children in families where household head lacks high school diploma</td>
<td>2011-2015&lt;br&gt;21%&lt;br&gt;New Mexico: 15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children living in high-poverty areas</td>
<td>2011-2015&lt;br&gt;42%&lt;br&gt;New Mexico: 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen (15-19) birth rate (per 1,000)</td>
<td>2016&lt;br&gt;31.4&lt;br&gt;New Mexico: 29.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above data are identical to data presented in the 2017 New Mexico Kids Count Data Book. Note: Unless otherwise noted, “children” refers to ages 0-17.

Sources: Children in poverty: U.S. Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates; Families with no working parent: American Community Survey (ACS), Table B23007; Households with high housing cost burden: ACS Table B25070; Teens not in school/working: ACS Table B14005; Young children not in school: ACS Table B14003; English Language Arts and Math proficiencies: NM Public Education Department (PED), “PARCC Proficiency Results 2017”; High school graduation rates: NM PED, “Webfiles cohort of 2016 4-Year Graduation Rates”; Low-birthweight babies: NM Department of Health (DOH), Indicators-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); Children without health insurance: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates; Child and teen death rates: NM DOH IBIS; Teen binge drinking: NM Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey; Children in single-parent families: ACS Table B09002; Children in families where household head lacks HS diploma: ACS Table B17018; Children living in high-poverty areas: Population Reference Bureau analysis of ACS data; Teen birth rate: NM DOH IBIS

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## Doña Ana County KIDS COUNT Profile

### Population demographics

#### Total population (all ages) 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage of state total population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doña Ana County</td>
<td>213,825</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>2,082,669</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Child population (ages 0-19) 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage of state child population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doña Ana County</td>
<td>63,318</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>559,130</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total population (all ages) by race and ethnicity* 2016

- **Doña Ana County**
  - Hispanic: 67.2%
  - White: 28.5%
  - Native American: 0.7%
  - Asian/Pacific Islander: 0.9%
  - Black: 1.5%
  - Two or more races: 1.3%
  - Some other race: 0.1%

- **New Mexico**
  - Hispanic: 79.3%
  - White: 16.6%
  - Native American: 3.4%
  - Asian/Pacific Islander: 6.1%
  - Black: 1.6%
  - Two or more races: 5.6%
  - Some other race: 11.6%

The U.S. Census considers Hispanic an ethnicity rather than a race. Since people who identify as Hispanic may also identify as a race, the sum of all numbers may be greater than 100% due to overlap. Where that overlap is significant, the "two or more races" and/or the "some other race" categories are shown separately.

### Child population (ages 0-19) by race and ethnicity* 2016

- **Doña Ana County**
  - Hispanic: 61.8%
  - White: 25.1%
  - Native American: 11.6%
  - Asian/Pacific Islander: 1.2%
  - Black: 2.2%
  - Two or more races: 11.2%
  - Some other race: 5.6%

- **New Mexico**
  - Hispanic: 59.3%
  - White: 25.1%
  - Native American: 11.6%
  - Asian/Pacific Islander: 5.6%
  - Black: 11.6%
  - Two or more races: 11.2%
  - Some other race: 5.6%

### Households receiving SNAP benefits 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doña Ana County</td>
<td>15,837</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>126,654</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Families with children where no parent is in workforce** 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doña Ana County</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>25,906</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Rate of substantiated child abuse 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Rate (per 1,000 children)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doña Ana County</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Median household income 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent of state median income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doña Ana County</td>
<td>$38,636</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>$45,674</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All data shown for Whites, Native Americans, Blacks, and Asian/Pacific Islanders are for people who did not also identify as Hispanic.

**The workforce includes those who are either working or unemployed but actively seeking work.

Sources: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2012-2016: Total population by race & ethnicity: Table DP05; Child population by race & ethnicity: Tables B01001B, B01001C, B01001D, B01001E, B01001F, B01001G, B01001H, B010011; Families with children where no parent is in workforce: B23007; Households receiving SNAP benefits: DP03; Rate of substantiated child abuse: NM Children, Youth and Families Protected Services Division, Information request received Nov. 2017; Total and child population: B01001; Median household income: B19013

April 2018

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- Spirit of Hope Awards
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