Turning Data into Action

Doña Ana County Workshop
May 23, 2018

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New Mexico Voices for Children
Introductions

• Name
• Organization
• In a few words, what’s the most important child well-being issue in your community?

www.nmvoices.org
NM Voices for Children

Our mission is to champion public policies that improve the well-being of New Mexico’s children, families, and communities in the areas of health, education, and economics through credible research and effective advocacy.
Agenda

1. Data overview
   • What do the data say about Doña Ana County and New Mexico?

2. Policy priorities
   • How can improving policy improve outcomes?

3. Legislative advocacy
   • How can we advocate for issues that are important to our communities?
Data Overview
Because all children, regardless of where they live, how much money their parents make, or the color of their skin should have the best possible shot at reaching their full potential.
Reports

A Health Impact Assessment Food Tax in New Mexico
An analysis of the taxation of grocery products and its impacts on the health of the state's children in communities
November 2015
Updated January 2016

2017 New Mexico Kids Count Data Book

At the Crossroads
Kids Count in New Mexico

New Mexico Voices for Children

www.nmvoices.org
Factsheets

2017 Legislative Session Summary

New Mexico Voices for Children analyzed and supported or opposed more than 225 pieces of legislation during the regular session.

- Legislation marked with this logo is recommended by our NM KIDS count on D's policy campaign.

**Tax Fairness & Budget Adequacy**

- The $51 billion budget kept funding essentially flat for K-12, Medicaid, and early childhood care and education (HB 2).
- Legislation to raise $535 in new revenue, including an internet tax, truck tax, motor vehicle expires tax, health care provider fee, and a 2-year freeze of the corporate income tax cut (HB 350) – passed but was VETOED.
- Legislation to repeal dozens of post-2003 tax breaks starting in 2019 and 2021 (HB 191) – passed but was VETOED.
- Legislation to increase the value of the Working Families Tax Credit (HB 511) – failed.
- Several attempts to tax food, including a last-minute attempt to create a new 4% tax on all food – successfully defeated.

**Economic Security and Prosperity**

- HB 56 to increase the state minimum wage – passed.
- $59 picked up in 2016 months with a 5-month training wage at $5 (HB 196) – VETOED.
- SB 32 – with a presumption on local scheduling laws (HB 442) – VETOED.
- Several other proposals and amendments – successfully defeated.
- Family caregiver leave act (HB 58) – passed but was VETOED.
- Business tax cut (SB 78) – passed but was VETOED.

**About this county**

- Bernalillo County: 265,033 (2017)
- New Mexico: 2,539,973 (2017)

**Population**

- Children at or below the poverty level: 26.8%
- Families with children in which no parent is working: 23.5%
- Households meeting with a high housing cost: 33.5%
- Teens (16-19) not in school and not working: 20.5%

**Demographics**

- Bernalillo County: 265,033 (2017)
- New Mexico: 2,539,973 (2017)

**Education**

- 54.7% of students are on free or reduced lunch (2016-17)
- 9.8% are in bilingual programs (2016-17)
- 8.2% of children (3-4) not in school (2016-17)

**Health**

- 11.6% of children (3-4) had no health insurance (2016-17)
- 19.9% of teens (16-19) not in school and not working (2016-17)
- 12.2% of those aged 15-19 lived in poverty (2016-17)

**Economic Well-Being**

- 25% of children in Bernalillo County are in poverty (2017)
- 24% of children in New Mexico are in poverty (2017)

**San Juan County KIDS COUNT Profile**

- **Domains**
  - KIDS COUNT Indicators of child well-being
  - Education
  - Economic Well-Being
  - Health
  - Prevention

- **Prevention**
  - Children & youth: 4%
  - Adults: 4%

- **Education**
  - 4th grade meeting or exceeding expectations in reading: 77%
  - 4th grade meeting or exceeding expectations in math: 60%

- **Economic Well-Being**
  - Children at or below the poverty level: 24%
  - Families with children in which no parent is working: 13%

- **Health**
  - Teenage pregnancy rates: 11.6%
  - Teenage smoking rates: 8.2%

- **Remediation**
  - Bernalillo County: $456,650 invested
  - New Mexico: $5,700,000 invested

Visit www.nmvvoices.org for more data and reports.

*Images and data are sourced from the 2017 New Mexico KIDS COUNT Data Book.

**Contact Information**

- New Mexico Voices for Children
- 505-246-3923
- www.nmvvoices.org
Quiz

Q: What percentage of children in Doña Ana County live in poverty?

A: 39 percent

New Mexico: 27 percent
Quiz

Q: Which Doña Ana County school district has the highest rate of 4th graders meeting or exceeding English/Language Arts standards?

A: Gadsden, at 30 percent

New Mexico: 26 percent
Quiz

Q: What is the rate of children without health insurance in Doña Ana County?

A: 5 percent

New Mexico: 5.1 percent
Quiz

Q: What percentage of Doña Ana County children live in families where the household head lacks high school diploma?

A: 21 percent

New Mexico: 15 percent
Social Determinants of Health

Health Outcomes:
- cancer
- diabetes
- asthma
- depression

Health Choices:
- diet
- exercise
- drinking
- smoking

Social, economic & environmental factors:
- education
- child care
- healthy food
- housing
- health care
- work environment
- wages & benefits
- transportation
- air & water quality
- A.C.E.S.
Two Pathways
We are ranked 49th in child well-being

And some indicators are particularly alarming

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Rank</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Well-Being</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family and Community</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Most NM kids are in low-income households or living in poverty

New Mexico’s Children by Income Group

- Above 200% of FPL: 46%
- Poverty (100% FPL): 17%
- Low-income (200% FPL): 24%
- Deep poverty (50% FPL): 13%

*The federal poverty level in 2016 was $24,600 for a family of four.*

Source: US Census, American Community Survey data, 2016
Income levels impact education

Fourth Graders Who Scored Below Proficient in Reading by Family Income

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2013
Too many NM kids don’t have enough to eat

25% of New Mexico’s Children are Food Insecure

That’s the 2nd Highest Rate in the U.S.

Source: Map the Meal Gap, Feeding America, 2017
Most NM children experience trauma

Percentage of Children Who Have Experienced at Least Two Traumas, Compared to the National Average

Source: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, National Survey of Children’s Health
Disparities exist in most indicators

- Poverty
- Health insurance
- Early childhood education and care
- Hunger
NM is ahead of the demographic trend

Child Population by Race and Ethnicity

United States, 2030

- White: 45%
- Racial & Ethnic Minorities: 55%

New Mexico, 2016

- White: 25%
- Racial & Ethnic Minorities: 75%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey
Nobody likes to hear the bad news, but there’s good news too: policy matters

- better reading & math scores
- lower rates of food insecurity
- better health outcomes
- higher grad rates
- lower remedial education costs
Benefits of Medicaid

• Covers 850,000 New Mexicans (including 325,000 children) with high-quality health insurance
• Over $5 billion in federal funds flow through NM's economy because of federal match
• Supports 50,000 jobs in health care sector
• Provides key payment source for NM providers
• Few premiums or co-pays

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Benefits of Medicaid expansion

• Uninsured rate in NM cut in half
• 187,000 additional New Mexicans now eligible
• Billions in additional federal funds and thousands of additional jobs created
• State costs increased by only 5% while coverage increased by 80%
Tell Us Your Stories

• How have you seen these statistics in your own work and communities?

• What are some challenges/barriers to accessing Medicaid and healthcare in general?
Progress IS possible

And we’re making some important gains

- 31,000 more NM kids have health insurance
- 4,100 more NM kids have access to pre-K
- 3,800 more NM families receive home visiting
- Big improvements in teen drug use and birth rates

Most indicators are improving

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey; NM Legislative Finance Committee, Post Session Review, 2017
Policy Priorities
How we got here

• 14% cut in per-pupil K-12 spending from 2008-2018.
• 35% cut in per-pupil higher education spending, leading to steep tuition increases.
• Cuts to special education funding, resulting in an even greater loss of federal dollars for special ed.
• Enrollment in child care assistance has dropped by 27% since 2010.
• Cut U.I. benefits, including the increment for children of unemployed workers.
• Underfunding of the Medicaid program by hundreds of millions in recent years.
• Tax cuts made our tax system even more regressive AND we have hundreds of millions of dollars less AND the tax cuts failed to create jobs.
State General Fund Budget = $6.3 billion

- Medicaid
- Other health and human services
- K-12 education
- Early education/care
- Higher education
- Public safety, courts
- All other
Our tax system asks the most of those who can afford it least

Those in NM with the Lowest Incomes Pay the Highest Rates in State and Local Taxes

Improve our tax system

Child poverty is a longstanding pervasive issue and we need a set of targeted initiatives to end child poverty

- NM’s tax system is grossly unfair to working families.
- 75% of families pay more than double what the richest families pay in state and local taxes as a share of their incomes.
- Our tax policy has been driven by a false promise to create jobs, but it has come at the expense of our kids and families.

www.nmvoices.org
The Earned Income Tax Credit and NM’s Working Families Tax Credit

- EITC injects $500 million into NM economy.
- NM’s Working Families Tax Credit returns $50 million to working families.
- 97% goes to working families with kids.
- Without these two credits, 40,000 more NM families would be in poverty.
- If tax reform is debated, lawmakers should consider increasing the WFTC to at least 15% of the EITC.

“The best anti-poverty, the best pro-family, the best job creation measure to come out of Congress.”
- Ronald Reagan on the EITC
Raise new revenue to avoid more harmful budget cuts

- Reverse the big corporate income tax cut.
- Enact combined reporting of all corporate taxes.
- Repeal the capital gains exemption.
- Enact a new PIT increase or surtax on high incomes.
- Enact a new health care provider assessment fee.
- Raise tobacco and alcohol taxes.
- Repeal ineffective or wasteful tax breaks.
- Tax all internet sales.

www.nmvoices.org
Big impact/no cost initiatives

No cost to the general fund

• Increase the minimum wage.
• Enact paid sick leave & expand family medical leave.
• End predatory lending practices like payday, car title, rent-to-own, and tax refund lending by capping interest rates at 36%.
• Invest a fraction of the Land Grant Permanent Fund in early care and education.

www.nmvoices.org
Early care and education

• Current funding is serving only a fraction of our eligible children.
• Eligibility for child care assistance is below 2001 levels (child care costs more than tuition at UNM).
• Enrollment in child care assistance is 27% lower than it was in 2010.
• NM needs a strong commitment to ECE and a stable and robust source of funding.
Fully fund early childhood care and learning programs

Invest 1% of $18 billion LGPF

- To fund home visiting, child care assistance, NM pre-K, and workforce development.
- A dedicated, adequate, stable funding source.
- Does not raise taxes.
- LGPF will continue to grow.
- ECE provides better ROI than the stock market.

www.nmvoices.org
Fully fund child abuse prevention

- Prioritize early childhood care and education.
- Add ACEs screening to EPSDT.
- Reduce child protective services vacancy rate.
- Ensure adequate compensation and ongoing, extensive training for caseworkers.
- Restore and increase behavioral health services for families.
### Who is still uninsured?

Remaining uninsured in New Mexico (2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid Eligible Adults</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid Eligible Children</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APTC Eligible</td>
<td>31,000</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ineligible Income</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ineligible Employer Offer</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ineligible Citizenship</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Medicaid buy-in is a viable option to help many uninsured access affordable health care insurance.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation
If Medicaid buy-in was an option

- Medicaid-ineligible consumers could use premium tax credits to buy into Medicaid.
- Medicaid buy-in plans could be cheaper than what's available on the exchange.
- Would get more coverage for less.
- Medicaid buy-in plans could be offered to non-citizens and to employers.
How can you support the campaign?

If you support this initiative, contact Health Action NM how you would like to support the campaign!

Colin Baillio  
Health Action NM  
(505) 331-8818  
Colin@HealthActionNM.org
Medicaid and SNAP policy recommendations

• Fully fund Medicaid
• Maximize enrollment in all federally funded health and nutrition programs.
• Simplify enrollment and recertification.
• Implement express-lane eligibility.
• Expand outreach efforts especially to women of child-bearing age to assure healthy births.
• Do not institute Medicaid work requirements
Priorities Activity

• *Tell us what your budget priorities would be*

• *What are your policy recommendations?*
  • *What works? What doesn’t work?*
NM Voices Children’s Agenda

New Mexico Kids at the Crossroads

A Children’s Agenda for Making KIDS COUNT with Candidates

2018

NEW MEXICO VOICES FOR CHILDREN
Legislative Advocacy
New Mexico’s Legislature

• Meets for a 60-day session on odd-numbered years to do *all* business.
• Meets for a 30-day session on even-numbered years for budget issues only, plus whatever the Governor wants.
• Meets between regular sessions for interim committee hearings to hear reports on past actions and to prepare for the next session.
Representation

- Senators represent about 50,000 people (or about 27,500 who vote).
- Representatives represent about 30,000 people (or about 16,500 who vote).
Why Advocate?

- Your credibility, knowledge, caring.
- Constituents/Voters matter to elected officials.
- Elected officials need and want your expertise.
- You have a vote and a voice, children don’t.
- Policymakers do listen.
- The squeaky wheel gets the oil.
- When you advocate for change, you change.
How?

- Personal or group visits
- Personal letters
- Phone calls
- Emails
- Letters to the editor and op-ed pieces
- Editorial board meetings
- Press conferences, press releases
- Radio talk shows
- Testimony at committee hearings
Who?

- Your own elected officials (and candidates!)
- Committee members
- Committee chairs
- Legislative leadership
- Legislative staff and analysts
- Department officials and analysts
- General public (through the media)
When?

• During a campaign to influence the agenda.
• After the campaign to influence priorities.
• Before a legislative session… because they have time to listen.
• During a legislative session.
• After a legislative session… to thank them or express your disappointment with their votes.
Do’s

• Be *united* and well *organized*.
• Make an appointment.
• Be quick with gratitude, but slow to criticize.
• Be courteous and respectful.
• Use *both* data and personal stories.
• Be concise and to the point.
• Make it *simple*.
• Ask for what you want.
• Report back.
Don’ts

• Be late.
• Be argumentative, arrogant, condescending or threatening.
• Exaggerate.
• Overwhelm them with too much data.
• Take more time than you were offered.
• *Never* burn bridges. Leave the door open for further discussion, on this or other issues.
For Info on Bills and Legislators

www.nmlegis.gov

- To find a legislator, click on Legislators
- To find a bill, click on Legislation
- To find the schedule of committee hearings and the agenda for the Senate and House, click on What’s Happening
- To watch committees or floor sessions, click on Webcast
Legislative and Executive Contact

- Governor: 505-476-2200
  www.gov.state.nm.us
- Legislature (Capitol switchboard): 505-986-4300
  www.nmlegis.gov

Tracking Legislation

- NM Legislature: www.nmlegis.gov
- New Mexico Voices for Children: www.nmvoices.org
Congressional Contact Info

- Sen. Martin Heinrich 202-224-5521
  www.heinrich.senate.gov
- Sen. Tom Udall 202-224-6621
  www.tomudall.senate.gov
- Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham 202-225-6316
  www.lujangrisham.house.gov
  www.house.gov/lujan
  www.house.gov/pearce
Advocacy Sharing

Share examples of advocacy you have been involved in

• What were your goals?
• Who did you partner with?
• What were the challenges?
• What were you able to accomplish?
• What did you learn from the experience?
Thank you!

NM Voices’ advocacy work is not to help kids beat the odds, but rather to change the odds.

for more information:
New Mexico Voices for Children

www.nmvoices.org
www.datacenter.kidscount.org

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