Making KIDS COUNT in New Mexico

A systems-based framework for improving child well-being through policy

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KIDS COUNT

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

EDUCATION

HEALTH

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
KIDS COUNT tells a story of opportunity.
What is your story?
Why I’m here
Why we’re all here

Photo by: Rebecca Glenn, OLÉ
All children should have the best possible opportunities to reach their full potential.
poverty

food insecurity

low reading & math scores

teen births

low access to early education & care
### Adverse childhood experiences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverse childhood experience (ACE)</th>
<th>NM</th>
<th>US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family often had difficulty affording basics like housing or food</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental divorce or separation</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental death</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental incarceration</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence at home</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witnessing or being a victim of neighborhood violence</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with someone who was mentally ill, depressed or suicidal</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with someone who misused alcohol or drugs</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2016-2017 National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH)
# ACEs add up.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevalence of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)</th>
<th>NM</th>
<th>US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children who have experienced 0 ACEs</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children who have experienced 1 ACE</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children who have experienced 2 ACEs</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children who have experienced 3 or more ACEs</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2016-2017 National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH)
Disparities exist in nearly every indicator.
It’s not the people, it’s the challenges that they face.
NM’s families face big challenges

67% of Jobs in NM Pay Low Wages

Our tax system is upside down.

NM Has Some of the Highest Rates of Poverty in the U.S. Among:

• the employed
• people who work full-time, year-round
• people with a bachelor’s degree or higher

2nd Worst Rate of Working Families That are Low-income

42%

Sources: U.S. Census American Community Survey data, 2015-2017; BLS data from 2014 and 2015
NM’s systems are inadequate

• Enrollment in child care assistance down by 20% since 2010
• 5% of NM kids 0-3 receive state-funded home visiting
• Only 7% of mental health care providers speak Spanish
• Only 5 out of 1,000 kids in the child protective system receive preventive services
  • Compared to 43 out of 1,000 in the US
• Chronically understaffed agencies
• 14% cut in per-pupil K-12 spending from 2008-2018*
• Cut U.I. benefits for unemployed workers with kids
• Underfunded Medicaid
• Dismantled behavioral health system
• Over a billion dollars drained from various targeted funds

*inflation-adjusted
Nobody likes to hear the bad news.
But there is good news too.

Kids are resilient. Communities are strong.
And there’s more good news.

Policy matters.
higher grad rates
better health outcomes
lower rates of food insecurity
better reading & math scores
lower remedial education costs
Policies can prevent ACEs

- Home visiting programs for pregnant women and families with newborns
- Parent coaching programs
- Domestic violence prevention programs
- Social support programs for parents
- Teen pregnancy prevention programs
- Treatment for mental illness and substance abuse
- High quality affordable child care
- Income supports for low-income families
Policies can interrupt ACEs

- Access to robust health services including mental health and substance abuse services
- Increasing capacity of health care providers to assess ACEs
- Ensuring resources for referrals
- Holding HMOs accountable for sufficient provider networks
- Fully staffing for critical positions
- Investing in evidence-based prevention programming and trauma interventions
The best medicine is a healthy budget.
We are at a crossroads.
“The greatest truth must be the recognition that in every child is the potential for greatness.”

-Robert F. Kennedy
We’re all in this together.
Thank you!

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