




Seizing the Moment for Kids and Families

NM Voices for Children
KIDS COUNT Conference
October 21, 2021

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A silhouette of a person holding a child against a sunset sky. The person is standing on a dark horizon line, and the child is being held up. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue.

**Pandemic and
recession impacts
shine light on
our past and
provide a unique
moment to
reshape our future.**

A landscape photograph showing a wide, grassy field in the foreground, dotted with small shrubs and patches of dry earth. In the middle ground, there are rolling hills and a line of trees. The background features a range of dark, forested mountains under a bright blue sky filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The text "What is your story?" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

What is your story?

A photograph of four diverse children sitting outdoors on the ground, surrounded by trees and foliage. They are all smiling and playing with bubbles. The child on the far left is a young boy with short brown hair, wearing a blue denim jacket over a dark t-shirt. The child next to him is a girl with long blonde hair, wearing a white t-shirt. The child in the center is a boy with dark hair, wearing a plaid shirt. The child on the far right is a girl with curly dark hair, wearing a striped shirt and denim overalls. She is reaching out with her hand towards the camera, holding a bubble. Several other bubbles are floating in the air around them. The text "KIDS COUNT tells a story of opportunity." is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

**KIDS COUNT tells a
story of opportunity.**

2021 KIDS COUNT rankings



ECONOMIC
WELL-BEING

DOMAIN RANK

48



EDUCATION

DOMAIN RANK

50



HEALTH

DOMAIN RANK

37



FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY

DOMAIN RANK

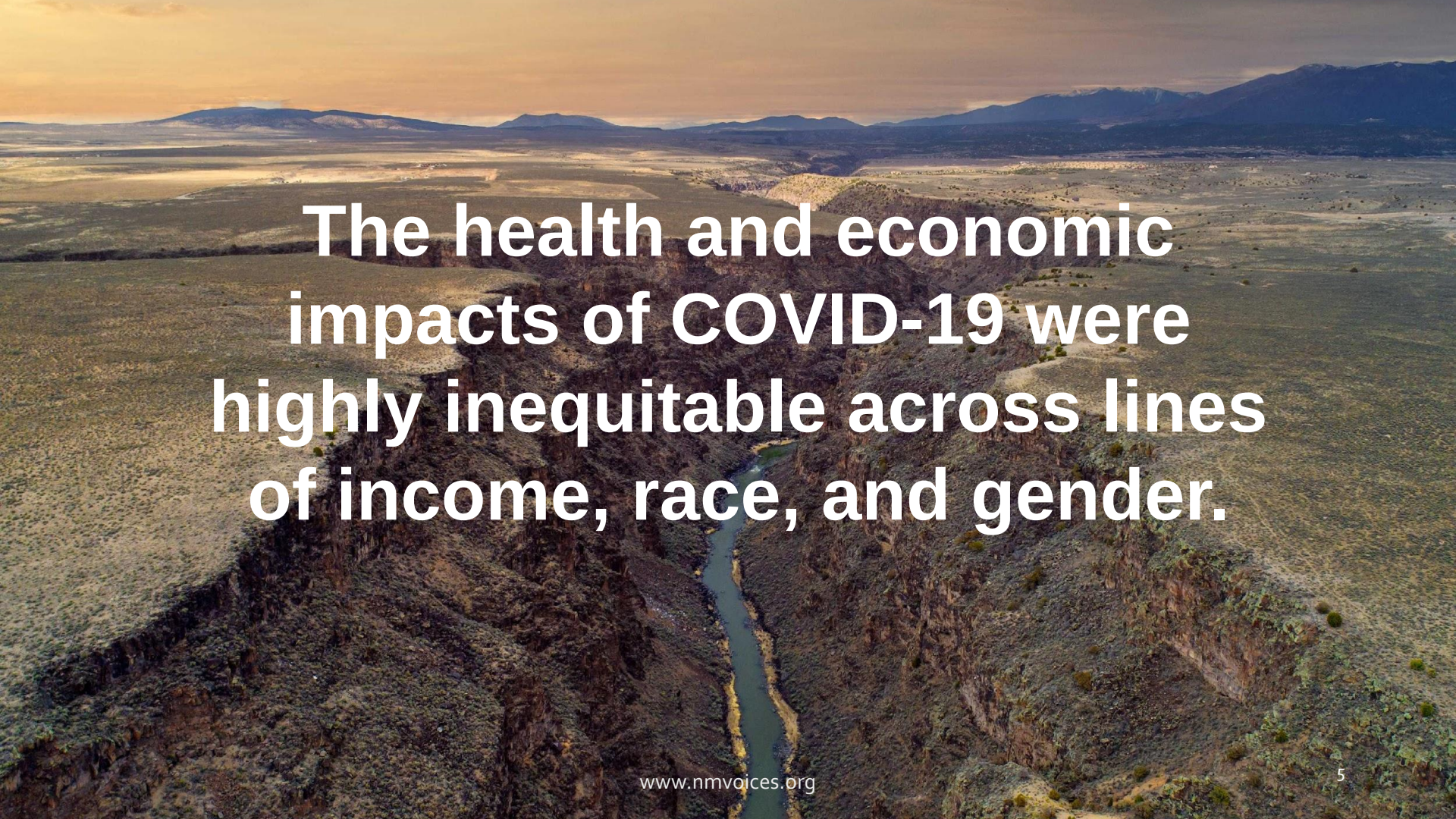
48

49th overall *using pre-pandemic data*

Pandemic impacts on family well-being

- 21% of NM parents unsure how to pay rent
- 38% of NM parents had difficulty paying for basic household expenses
- 31% of NM households with children were not eating enough
- 40% of NM parents with children under 5 with child care disruptions in the past month because of COVID-19

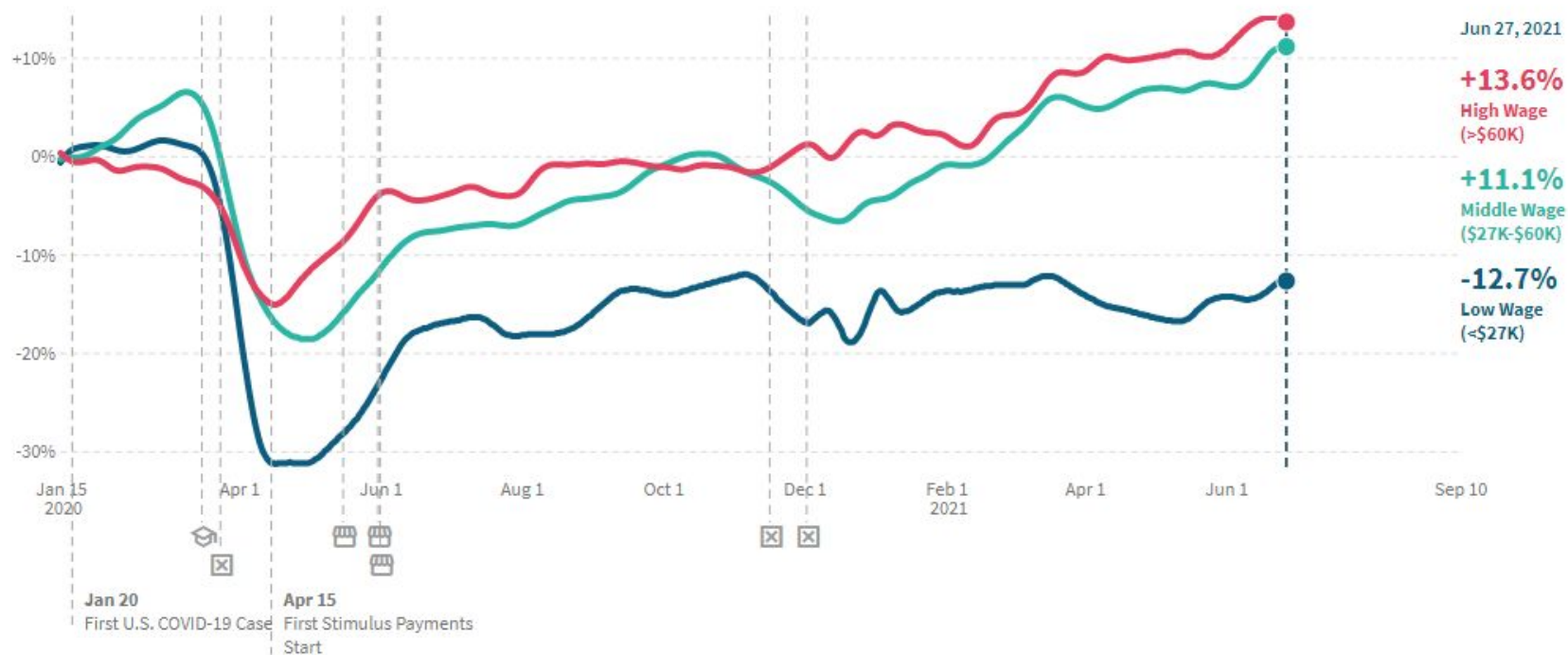
As of September 2021

An aerial photograph of a deep, rugged canyon. A river flows through the bottom of the canyon, winding its way towards the horizon. The canyon walls are steep and rocky, with some sparse vegetation. In the background, a vast, flat landscape stretches out under a sky with soft, warm light, suggesting sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is one of natural beauty and isolation.

**The health and economic
impacts of COVID-19 were
highly inequitable across lines
of income, race, and gender.**

Low-wage workers hardest hit by COVID-19

Percent change in employment: In [New Mexico](#), as of June 27, 2021, employment rates among workers in the bottom wage quartile decreased by **12.7%** compared to January 2020 (not seasonally adjusted)



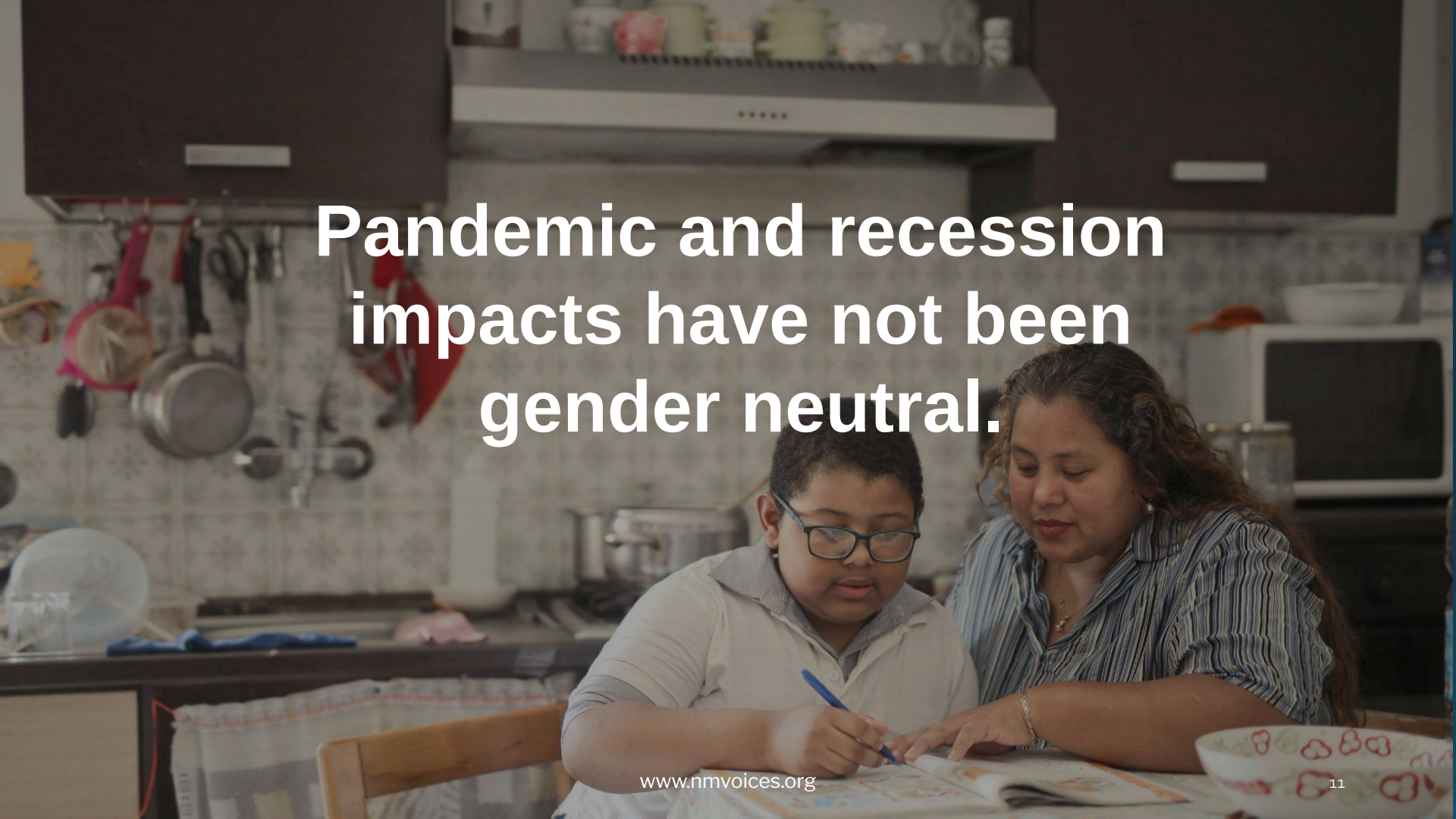
data source: **Earnin, Intuit, Kronos, Paychex**

**Pandemic and recession
impacts have not been
race neutral.**



COVID-19 disproportionately harmed people of color

- Hispanic workers saw steepest employment losses and have the most ground to make up to reach pre-pandemic employment
- Native Americans make up 11% of NM population, but last year made up 30% of COVID cases
- Low-income residents of mostly *non-white* communities died of the coronavirus at *9 times the rate* of low-income residents of largely white areas



**Pandemic and recession
impacts have not been
gender neutral.**

COVID-19 has caused gender inequities to grow, especially among parents

- **Women = 47% of NM workers; 64% of frontline workers**
- **More mothers than fathers have lost wages, decreased work hours, and exited the labor force**
- **Mothers with young children have reduced their work hours 4 to 5 times more than fathers**
- **Men gained 220,000 jobs in September, but women lost 26,000 jobs**

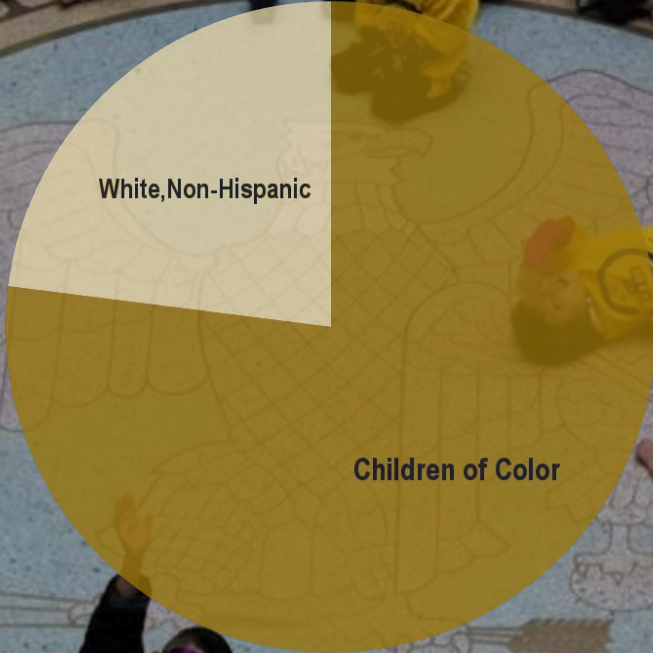
Inequities persist for BIPOC women

- Women's labor force participation rate lowest since 1988
- Even higher unemployment rates for Black women, Hispanic women, and other demographic groups
- Asian women faced the worst change in unemployment during the recession
- The gender wage gap has increased especially for Hispanic, Native American, and Black women
- Immigration restrictions and language barriers make for higher hurdles for immigrant and refugee families

A photograph of a woman with long dark hair and a young girl with curly hair, both smiling and looking at each other. The woman is wearing a purple shirt, and the girl is wearing a blue denim dress. They are outdoors with a blurred background of trees and foliage. The text "But there's good news too." is overlaid in white.

But there's good news too.

77% of NM kids are children of color.



White, Non-Hispanic

Children of Color

Data show many bright spots

- Over time, women's educational and economic opportunities have grown
- Black, Asian, and Hispanic women have high rates of labor force participation
- Black, Hispanic, and Native American women most likely to lead their households
- 42% of our Native American children are bilingual
- Enrollment in high-quality early care and ed programs up
- Teen births down



**Data doesn't
tell the
whole story.**



**Policy matters, and
progress is possible.**

Policy improvements for families

- Paid sick leave
- Income tax cut for 70% of NM families with children
- Tax relief for working parents
- Food security investments
- Relief for immigrant families left out of federal relief
- Most family-friendly child care assistance program
- (ARPA) Federal Child Tax Credit expansions
- (ARPA) Major federal investments in child care, education, health, and housing systems relief

A full-page background image showing the silhouettes of a family—a man, a woman, and a child—walking away from the viewer across a grassy field. They are positioned in the center of the frame, walking towards a bright sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dramatic, streaked clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. The overall mood is hopeful and forward-looking.

Moving forward

Prioritize women, children, and families of color in public policy

- Extend postpartum medicaid coverage
- Robustly support child care assistance, pre-k, and home visiting programs
- Provide robust safety net supports
- Combat food insecurity
- Fully fund and support classrooms and the programs that matter most for children of color
- Diversify and stabilize revenue

A full-page background image showing the silhouettes of a family—a man, a woman, and a young child—walking away from the viewer across a grassy field. They are walking towards a bright sunset or sunrise, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and long, soft shadows. The sky is filled with wispy clouds, and the overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

**“We will not march back to what
was, but move to what shall be.”**

Amanda Gorman, National Youth Poet Laureate, 2021