

NEW MEXICO

# KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK

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CHOOSING EQUITY IN ALL POLICIES 2023



NM VOICES FOR CHILDREN  
CHILDREN'S CHARTER:

OUR VISION  
FOR THE NEXT  
GENERATION

1

All children and their families are economically secure.

2

All children and their families have a high-quality cradle-to-career system of care and education.

3

All children and their families have quality health care and supportive health programs.

4

All children and their families are free from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or country of origin.

5

All children and their families live in safe and supportive communities.

6

All children and their families' interests and needs are adequately represented in all levels of government through effective civic participation and protection of voters' rights.

7

All children and their families' needs are a high priority in local, state, and federal budgets and benefit from a tax system that is fair, transparent, and that generates sufficient revenues.

# NEW MEXICO VOICES FOR CHILDREN

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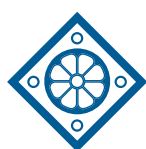
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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## INTRODUCTORY ESSAY

CHOOSING EQUITY IN ALL POLICIES

## TABLES, GRAPHS AND CHARTS



### DEMOGRAPHICS

- 05 Population
- 08 Policy Solutions



### ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

- 10 Poverty
- 13 Employment
- 15 Income
- 16 High Housing Costs
- 18 Food Insecurity
- 20 Disconnected Youth
- 22 Policy Solutions



### EDUCATION

- 26 Enrollment
- 30 Reading and Math Proficiency
- 34 Attendance
- 36 High School Graduation
- 41 Policy Solutions



### HEALTH

- 44 Pregnancy, Birth, and Breastfeeding
- 49 Health Insurance
- 52 Environmental Health
- 54 Weight
- 56 Drug and Alcohol Use
- 58 Child Abuse
- 60 Death Rates
- 63 Policy Solutions



### FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

- 67 Types of Families
- 73 Adult Education
- 78 High-Poverty Areas
- 80 Environment Health
- 82 Teen Birth Rates
- 84 Policy Solutions

## METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES

- 87 Methodology
- 89 Major Data Sources
- 91 Other Data Sources



# CHOOSING EQUITY IN ALL POLICIES



**New Mexico has the great fortune to be made up of many diverse and deeply rooted communities.**

Our languages, cultures, and traditions connect us to our history and our land. While every community in New Mexico has the knowledge and wisdom they need to succeed, policymakers throughout history have often chosen not to acknowledge or celebrate the unique assets that make our state special. Too often, policies have been designed to deny opportunities to—and in some cases to erase—members of tribes, nations, and pueblos, immigrant communities, people of color, and working families who are low-income. These exclusionary policies have resulted in significant inequity in our nation and in New Mexico, with disparate outcomes in education, health, and economic security arising along racial and ethnic lines. And some of the harshest effects of inequitable policy choices prevent far too many New Mexico kids from thriving.

## New Mexico can choose to address the myriad racial disparities that exist in our communities by making equity a fundamental consideration in all policies moving forward.

Equity should be at the heart of every policy considered, whether for education, health, the environment, housing, workers' rights, or taxes. Choosing to center equity improves outcomes and conditions for everyone.

Recently, we saw a striking example of how policy choices impact equity. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress expanded the federal Child Tax Credit (CTC), which resulted in the largest decrease in child poverty on record. Not only did child poverty dramatically decline, but the gaps between the poverty rates for children of color and those for white children also narrowed. Not surprisingly, the year after the pandemic-era CTC expired, the gaps in poverty by race and ethnicity widened again and the nation saw the largest *increase* in child poverty on record. By allowing the federal CTC expansions to expire, Congress effectively chose to push millions of children nationwide back into poverty.

Clearly, poverty is a policy choice. The good news is that New Mexico's leaders are making many policy choices that we know will decrease poverty rates and improve outcomes for our kids and families. Over the past several years, policymakers created a state-level Child Tax Credit, expanded and increased the Working Families Tax Credit, established paid sick leave, created the Opportunity Scholarship to provide every New Mexican with a tuition-free college education, increased the minimum wage, raised eligibility for child care assistance to 400% of the federal poverty level, and eliminated copays for child care, making child care free for the majority of families. Together, all of these policies allow families to keep more of their hard-earned money in their pockets to cover the basic needs of their children. And each of these policies improves equity.

Right now, New Mexico has the vision and the resources to center equity in our policy choices and to provide programs and resources to alleviate poverty and address many other challenges facing our health and education systems. For the past few years,

New Mexico has seen record revenue surpluses that have provided us with new opportunities and new money to support a variety of policies that increase equity, including:

- ▶ Education from the earliest years through higher education;
- ▶ An increase in our new state-level Child Tax Credit; and
- ▶ Free school meals for every student.

A significant portion of that new revenue has come from an oil and gas boom, but history has shown us that a boom always comes before a bust, and that puts our kids and families at the mercy of the boom-and-bust revenue cycle. While the state has made important strides in managing that volatility through various investments and rainy day funds, if we want to continue to center equity in our policy choices and to invest in things like housing affordability, behavioral health, education, and other policies that support family economic well-being now and far into the future, we have to further stabilize and diversify our revenues away from the oil and gas industry. This begins with increasing taxes for large, profitable corporations, eliminating expensive loopholes in our tax code, repealing the capital gains tax deduction that overwhelmingly benefits the state's wealthiest, and increasing the personal income tax for the highest income-earners. By strategically modifying our state tax code, we can simultaneously improve equity in our state while alleviating the budget pressures New Mexico will inevitably face due to oil and gas volatility and the industry's eventual decline. And as we become less reliant on oil and gas, we can focus on a just transition to clean energy sources that will also help to address the inequities our communities face due to climate change.

Breaking New Mexico's over-reliance on the oil and gas industry would also come with added environmental health benefits for our children. In many cases, industries that produce dangerous pollutants are placed in communities that are low-income and predominantly made up of people of color. Too many children attend schools near active and polluting oil and gas wells and many more have environmentally induced asthma. And we all are experiencing heat waves and climate disasters that continue to worsen with every year that our policymakers don't choose energy policies that focus on equity and the health of our children and communities. This year, we've included several environmental indicators in this publication to highlight the price our communities pay as a result of pollution and climate change.

## NEW MEXICO'S KIDS COUNT STORY

KIDS COUNT is a nationwide effort to track the status and well-being of children in each state and across the nation by measuring indicators in four areas—economic well-being, education, health, and family and community—for which you'll find data in this publication. You'll also find policy recommendations in each area for improving outcomes. KIDS COUNT is driven by research showing that children's chances of being healthy, doing well in school, and growing up to be productive and thriving members of society can be influenced by their experiences in the early years.

At its heart, KIDS COUNT tells a story of child well-being that's set against a backdrop of the opportunities we've made available to our kids. And while the data included in this publication are important and useful, they don't tell the whole story. We often don't see the lived experiences of all communities accurately reflected in these numbers. Many of us have been taught that data are objective, and that the numbers we see reflected in statistics are unequivocally true. But choices are made throughout the data collection process that not only prevent them from reflecting our strengths, but that also limit, erase, and devalue the lived experiences of many groups including the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants, tribal communities, and many communities of color, particularly Black and Asian communities here in New Mexico.

The data also paint a picture of child well-being from a deficit perspective—a perspective that sadly ignores the extraordinary resilience, unmeasured strengths, and many successes of our

children, families, and state in the face of deeply embedded systemic challenges. That story can be found among New Mexico's unique cultural and linguistic diversity, centuries-old traditions, and our enduring sense of community.

The data also tell us where we have been rather than where we are now or where we are going. When all is said and done, KIDS COUNT is a snapshot—an accurate, if incomplete, picture of one point in time. For policymakers and advocates alike, it is an invaluable tool meant to make us take stock of how well we are protecting and nurturing our greatest asset—New Mexico's children.



### A NOTE ABOUT DATA:

Wherever possible, data are disaggregated to help provide a clearer understanding of disparities by race and ethnicity. In the past, New Mexico Voices for Children has reported data sets from organizations that suppress data for some races because the data are derived from small sample sizes, meaning the estimates are less accurate. We recognize this as problematic given our country's long history of cultural erasure and New Mexico's tricultural myth that typically implies only Hispanic, white, and Native American communities make up our population in the state and that these racial and ethnic groups have most often lived in relative harmony with one another throughout history. In response, we are including 2021 data disaggregated by all available races and ethnicities when possible. These data will include a note regarding high margins of error for smaller demographic groups so readers are aware that some estimates may be less reliable than others while still providing insight into how smaller communities of color are faring in the state. Some rural and tribal areas in New Mexico are also undercounted in U.S. Census data and can be underrepresented in other sources. As a result, the statistics throughout this report tell an even more limited story, and in some cases, the numbers don't reflect people's lived experiences. New Mexico Voices for Children is committed to continuing to engage with the communities represented in these data to better understand the stories, voices, and people behind the numbers. We are also committed to engaging with the communities left out of this data and advocating for better, more accurate, and inclusive data.



TABLES, GRAPHS AND CHARTS

# DEMOGRAPHICS



# DEMOGRAPHICS

## NEW MEXICO'S POPULATION

**ABOUT ALL INDICATORS:** Unless otherwise noted, the term **child** refers to the age group from birth through 17 years.

The U.S. Census considers **Hispanic** an ethnicity rather than a race. People who identify as Hispanic may also identify as one or more races so the numbers in the charts by race and ethnicity may not add up to 100%. Data are not always available for all races or may be withheld by the data collection agency due to a small sample size. We have chosen to show the margins of error for some data sets so that we may include data for smaller sample sizes. On graphics where data are disaggregated by race and ethnicity, the data for the U.S. and New Mexico include people of all races in the nation or state.

In the tables where the **counties are ranked**, two or more counties may share the same rank because they have the same percentage of individuals, families or households in the indicator that is being measured. The lower the ranking number, the better the county is faring in that indicator.

For **tribal areas**, only data for individuals living on reservation lands in New Mexico are included, and data include off-reservation lands held in trusts. Data do not include Native American

households that are located in non-tribal areas such as cities or on reservation land that extends to other states (such as the portions of the Navajo Nation in Arizona and Utah). The vast majority of individuals living in most tribal areas are Native Americans, but some may be a different race entirely, or two or more races with Native American being one of those races.

For more definitions, please see the Data Definitions section in the back of this data book.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** While children of color are now the majority population in the United States, a much higher share of children in New Mexico are children of color—about 77%—than in the nation as a whole. Because children and parents of color generally tend to face more barriers to good health and well-being, it is critical that policies are implemented that focus on racial and ethnic equity and that promote opportunities for families of color. In addition, school curriculum must be more racially and culturally relevant to our diverse student body and children must see people like themselves and their communities represented in a positive light.

### Child Population—BY GENDER, AGE GROUP, RACE AND ETHNICITY (2022)

RACE AND ETHNICITY	MALE				FEMALE				TOTAL 0-17	PERCENTAGE
	0 to 4 Years	5 to 9 Years	10 to 14 Years	15 to 17 Years	0 to 4 Years	5 to 9 Years	10 to 14 Years	15 to 17 Years		
All Children	50,507	62,860	73,691	42,625	54,487	60,492	67,493	43,320	455,475	100%
Hispanic	31,957	37,617	47,330	25,851	34,545	37,697	41,751	25,357	282,105	62%
Non-Hispanic White	11,337	16,344	14,088	9,751	12,275	14,281	14,612	8,872	101,560	22%
Native American	3,730	6,342	7,316	5,330	6,111	6,554	7,393	6,113	48,889	11%
Black	641	1,365	2,524	321	1,143	1,152	1,728	867	9,741	2%
Asian	1,155	928	1,305	387	682	790	1,005	886	7,138	2%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pl	63	27	13	2	55	0	37	109	306	0.10%
Some Other Race	8,638	10,292	12,617	7,662	7,378	8,374	10,997	8,013	73,971	16%
Two or More Races	17,494	16,833	23,014	11,446	17,255	20,306	19,529	12,856	138,733	30%

**Source:** U.S. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table B01001 B-1, 2022 **Note:** Because children who are Hispanic may also be counted as another race (except as Non-Hispanic White), numbers and percentages by columns will not match the amounts in the All Children row."



## Population—BY AGE GROUP AND COUNTY (2017-2021)

LOCATION	ALL AGES	CHILDREN AGES 0-4	CHILDREN AGES 0-17
United States	329,725,481	19,423,121	74,234,075
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>2,109,366</b>	<b>120,716</b>	<b>485,326</b>
Bernalillo County	674,919	36,442	146,182
Catron County	3,581	40	463
Chaves County	65,014	4,236	17,043
Cibola County	27,284	1,710	6,389
Colfax County	12,406	553	2,281
Curry County	48,716	3,915	12,943
De Baca County	1,873	320	725
Doña Ana County	218,157	13,532	53,483
Eddy County	61,096	4,475	16,366
Grant County	28,178	1,414	5,548
Guadalupe County	4,465	158	850
Harding County	533	16	69
Hidalgo County	4,214	271	928
Lea County	72,743	5,729	22,111
Lincoln County	20,084	845	3,511
Los Alamos County	19,169	867	4,237
Luna County	25,282	1,950	6,826
McKinley County	72,946	5,008	20,926
Mora County	4,232	73	487
Otero County	67,298	4,432	15,592
Quay County	8,675	364	1,975
Rio Arriba County	40,347	2,351	9,354
Roosevelt County	19,223	1,281	4,691
San Juan County	122,912	7,783	32,497
San Miguel County	27,357	1,191	4,975
Sandoval County	147,327	7,716	34,084
Santa Fe County	153,632	6,261	27,329
Sierra County	11,512	504	1,833
Socorro County	16,605	846	3,751
Taos County	34,322	1,374	6,009
Torrance County	15,150	741	3,223
Union County	4,122	259	850
Valencia County	75,992	4,059	17,795

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table DP05, 2017-2021



## Child Population—BY RACE, ETHNICITY AND COUNTY (2017–2021)

LOCATION	HISPANIC	NON-HISPANIC WHITE	NATIVE AMERICAN	BLACK	ASIAN	SOME OTHER RACE	TWO OR MORE RACES	TOTAL CHILDREN
<b>United States</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>74,234,075</b>
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>485,326</b>
Bernalillo County	64%	23%	5%	3%	2%	10%	20%	146,182
Catron County	25%	75%	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	463
Chaves County	71%	25%	1%	1%	1%	11%	12%	17,043
Cibola County	43%	11%	50%	1%	0%	2%	5%	6,389
Colfax County	65%	30%	2%	1%	0%	4%	6%	2,281
Curry County	56%	34%	0%	3%	1%	21%	16%	12,943
De Baca County	70%	24%	0%	4%	0%	42%	12%	725
Doña Ana County	82%	15%	1%	2%	1%	14%	17%	53,483
Eddy County	60%	35%	2%	1%	1%	8%	12%	16,366
Grant County	67%	30%	0%	0%	1%	5%	17%	5,548
Guadalupe County	90%	2%	12%	0%	0%	3%	11%	850
Harding County	20%	80%	0%	0%	0%	20%	0%	69
Hidalgo County	70%	29%	0%	1%	0%	2%	19%	928
Lea County	72%	22%	1%	4%	1%	6%	20%	22,111
Lincoln County	54%	44%	0%	0%	0%	1%	23%	3,511
Los Alamos County	24%	65%	1%	1%	4%	2%	10%	4,237
Luna County	81%	14%	0%	2%	3%	3%	25%	6,826
McKinley County	20%	4%	74%	0%	2%	3%	13%	20,926
Mora County	97%	3%	0%	0%	0%	15%	44%	487
Otero County	52%	31%	8%	3%	0%	7%	21%	15,592
Quay County	58%	32%	4%	4%	2%	5%	19%	1,975
Rio Arriba County	77%	5%	18%	0%	0%	27%	15%	9,354
Roosevelt County	56%	38%	0%	2%	0%	13%	13%	4,691
San Juan County	31%	26%	41%	1%	1%	7%	10%	32,497
San Miguel County	84%	9%	0%	1%	2%	21%	15%	4,975
Sandoval County	50%	28%	15%	2%	2%	7%	17%	34,084
Santa Fe County	72%	21%	4%	2%	1%	12%	14%	27,329
Sierra County	52%	43%	7%	0%	1%	2%	9%	1,833
Socorro County	60%	19%	14%	0%	2%	1%	23%	3,751
Taos County	74%	18%	8%	0%	0%	12%	18%	6,009
Torrance County	56%	37%	0%	5%	3%	14%	9%	3,223
Union County	46%	46%	0%	0%	0%	3%	28%	850
Valencia County	72%	20%	4%	1%	2%	8%	23%	17,795

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table B01001 B-1, 2017-2021





## DEMOGRAPHICS **POLICY SOLUTION**

### **A POLICY SOLUTION TO SUPPORT OUR DEMOGRAPHICS**

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The Legislative Finance Committee should include a racial and gender equity impact statement on all fiscal impact reports (FIRs) so that the equity impacts of all proposed appropriations, tax, criminal justice penalties, and other policy changes are better understood before they are enacted.

TABLES, GRAPHS AND CHARTS

# ECONOMIC WELL-BEING





# ECONOMIC WELL-BEING POVERTY

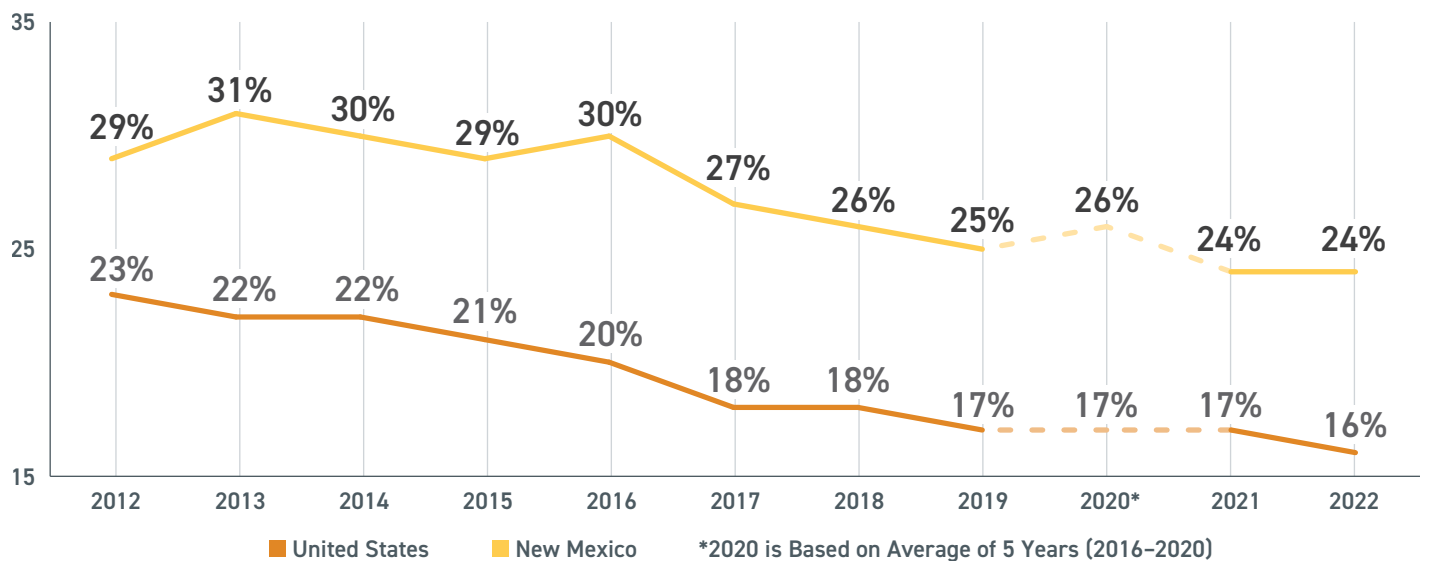
**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** Poverty is defined as those living at or below the federal poverty level (FPL). The FPL for a family of three was \$23,030 in 2022 (the most recent year these data were collected). The FPL is generally far below what a family actually needs in order to live at a bare minimum level (e.g., have sufficient food, a safe place to live, transportation, child care, and health care) and it does not take into account regional differences in the cost of living.

Children who live in poverty have access to fewer of the resources that all children need to help them thrive, succeed, and achieve their full potential. Since many public policies have been specifically designed to limit opportunity for people of color, children in these communities often face poverty at disproportionate rates. Evidence suggests being born into and growing up in poverty can have long-lasting and powerful negative impacts. Childhood poverty is linked to a variety of health, cognitive, and emotional risk factors for children, and children in poverty are more likely to be food insecure, to suffer

from adverse childhood experiences like homelessness, and to live in poverty as adults. Therefore, New Mexico's future economic success and the quality of our future workforce is determined, in large part, by what sorts of opportunities our children have today.

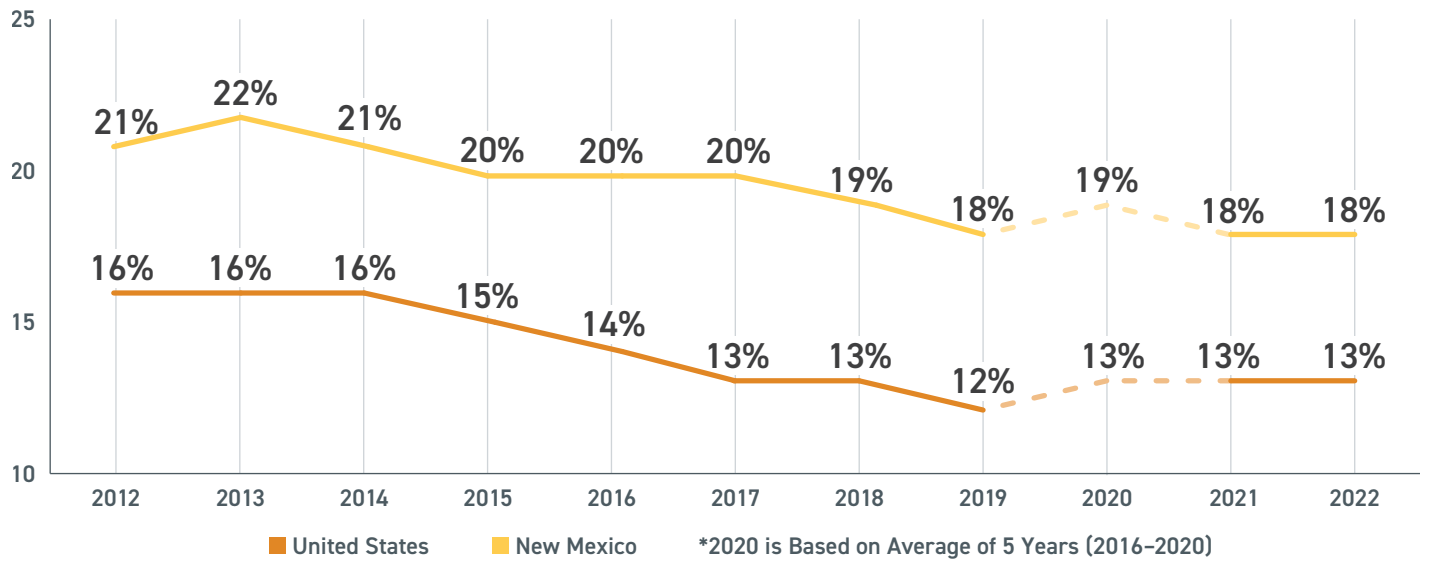
**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** The rate and number of New Mexico children living in poverty stayed the same from 2021 to 2022. However, with 105,030 or 24% of our children living at or below the FPL, New Mexico still ranks near the bottom in the nation in child poverty. At the onset of the pandemic, a greater share of New Mexico families was vulnerable to falling into poverty than the share who had the resources or opportunities to prevent themselves from dropping below the poverty line. Without the many good economic policies that were enacted just prior to and during the pandemic to put resources into the hands of working families, the state would have almost certainly seen a dramatic increase in poverty rates.

## Children Living in Poverty—BY YEAR (2012-2022)



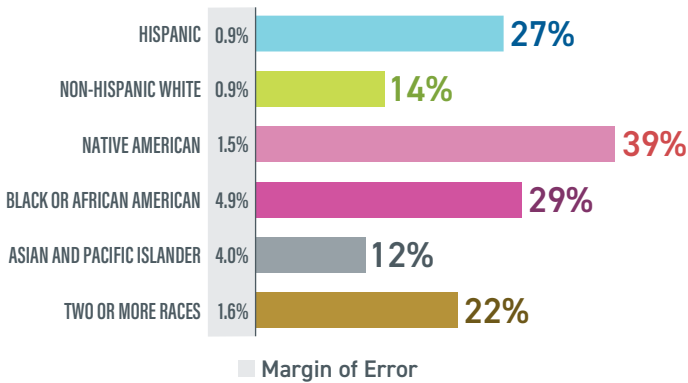
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys from 2012-2022, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Table S1701 Note: The data for 2016-2020 are not comparable with data for other years as they are based on an average over 5 years. No comparable single year data are available for 2020 due to pandemic-related data collection challenges.

## Population (All Ages) Living in Poverty—BY YEAR (2012–2022)



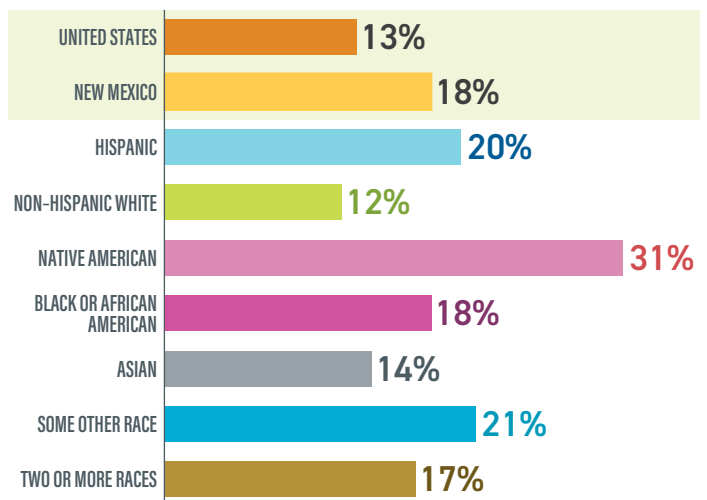
**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys from 2012–2022, 2016–2020 American Community Survey, Table S1701 **Note:** The data for 2016–2020 are not comparable with data for other years as they are based on an average over 5 years. No comparable single year data are available for 2020 due to pandemic-related data collection challenges.

## Children Living in Poverty—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2017–2021)



**Source:** Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017–2021 **Note:** Higher margins of error indicate less statistical reliability due to small sample sizes.

## Population (All Ages) Living in Poverty—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2022)



**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, table S1701, 2022

## Population Living in Poverty—BY AGE GROUP AND COUNTY (2017-2021)

LOCATION	CHILDREN	ALL AGES
<b>United States</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>18%</b>
Bernalillo County	21%	16%
Catron County	30%	22%
Chaves County	29%	21%
Cibola County	33%	28%
Colfax County	35%	20%
Curry County	28%	20%
De Baca County	10%	18%
Doña Ana County	31%	23%
Eddy County	19%	15%
Grant County	35%	22%
Guadalupe County	21%	19%
Harding County	32%	15%
Hidalgo County	35%	22%
Lea County	18%	17%
Lincoln County	18%	13%
Los Alamos County	3%	4%
Luna County	37%	26%
McKinley County	44%	34%
Mora County	30%	20%
Otero County	23%	19%
Quay County	51%	26%
Rio Arriba County	29%	22%
Roosevelt County	36%	23%
San Juan County	30%	24%
San Miguel County	34%	25%
Sandoval County	11%	10%
Santa Fe County	18%	12%
Sierra County	43%	25%
Socorro County	43%	32%
Taos County	18%	15%
Torrance County	30%	24%
Union County	27%	18%
Valencia County	21%	17%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table S1701, 2017-2021

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** Because of systemic racism, land theft, and the attempted erasure of Native cultures and languages, many tribal areas have higher poverty rates than the state average.

## Population Living in Poverty—BY AGE GROUP AND TRIBAL AREA (2017-2021)

LOCATION	CHILDREN	ALL AGES
<b>United States</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>18%</b>
Acoma Pueblo	29%	22%
Cochiti Pueblo	22%	15%
Isleta Pueblo	31%	18%
Jemez Pueblo	28%	20%
Jicarilla Apache	38%	21%
Laguna Pueblo	30%	26%
Mescalero Apache	30%	26%
Nambe Pueblo	16%	17%
Navajo	49%	39%
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	27%	21%
Picuris Pueblo	28%	19%
Pojoaque Pueblo	22%	14%
Sandia Pueblo	36%	26%
San Felipe Pueblo	18%	23%
San Ildefonso Pueblo	40%	21%
Santa Ana Pueblo	12%	18%
Santa Clara Pueblo	30%	22%
Santo Domingo Pueblo	25%	20%
Taos Pueblo	24%	25%
Tesuque Pueblo	20%	17%
Zia Pueblo	13%	14%
Zuni Pueblo	36%	30%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table S1701, 2017-2021

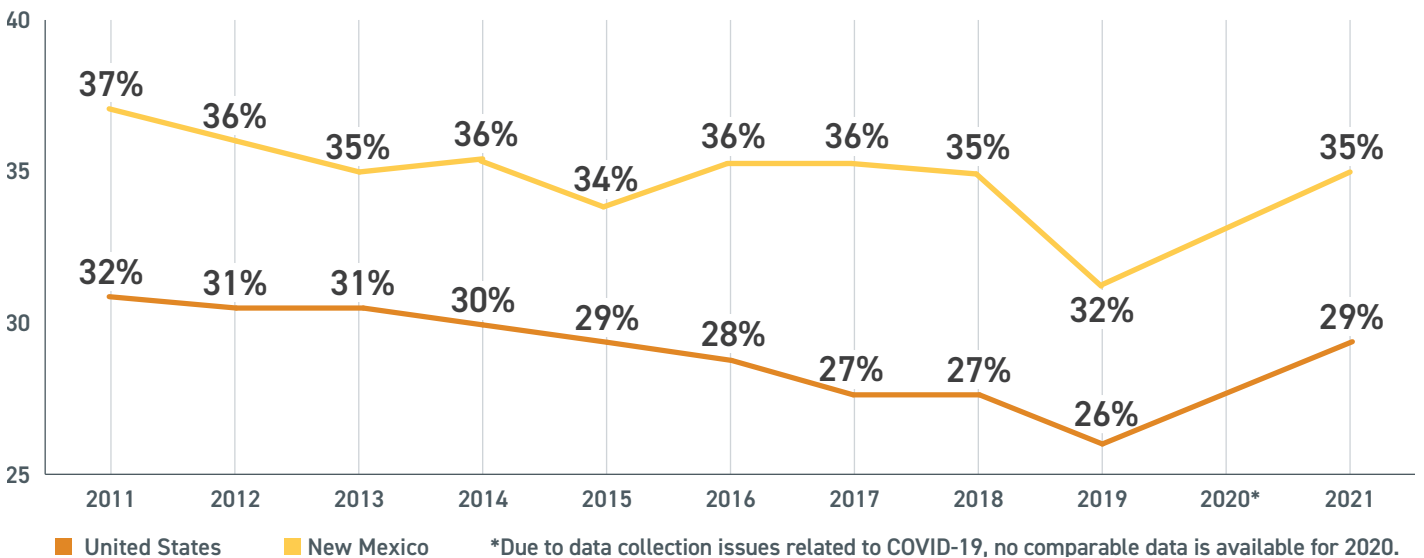
# ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

## EMPLOYMENT

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** Secure employment is defined as work that is full-time and year-round. Parents who lack secure employment may be working part time or seasonally or may be unemployed. The lack of secure employment can be due to many factors including the lack of jobs or a poor economy. Parents may also lack full-time, year-round employment because they are students, are caring for a family member who needs constant assistance, or have a chronic or untreated physical or mental health condition themselves, among other reasons. Parents lacking secure employment are more likely to live in poverty and less likely to have jobs that pay a living wage or provide benefits such as health insurance and paid family leave, which hurts both them and their families. While two of these graphics measure the shares of children on the indicator of parents without secure employment, the third graphic—Families with Children in which No Parent is Working—measures the share of all families where children are present, and the indicator is parents not working.

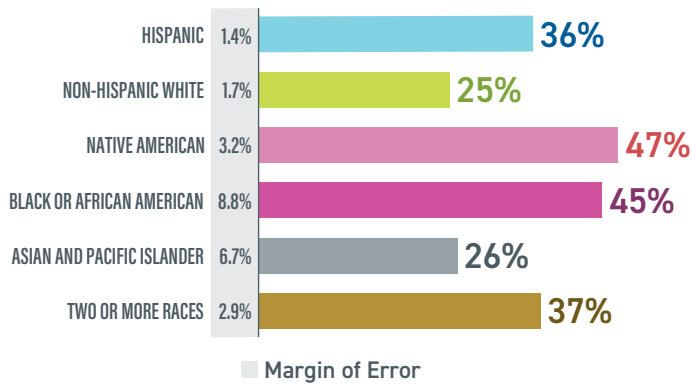
**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** While New Mexico worsened in this indicator from 2019 to 2021, we remained 47th in the 2023 rankings. Given that New Mexico has one of the highest rates of long-term unemployment—or residents who are persistent in looking for work over a long period of time—there may simply not be enough jobs available that pay a living wage and provide the benefits that working families need. Another likely factor is that many workers may not have the education and training to fill available jobs.

### Children Living in Families Where No Parent Had Secure Employment—BY YEAR (2011–2021)



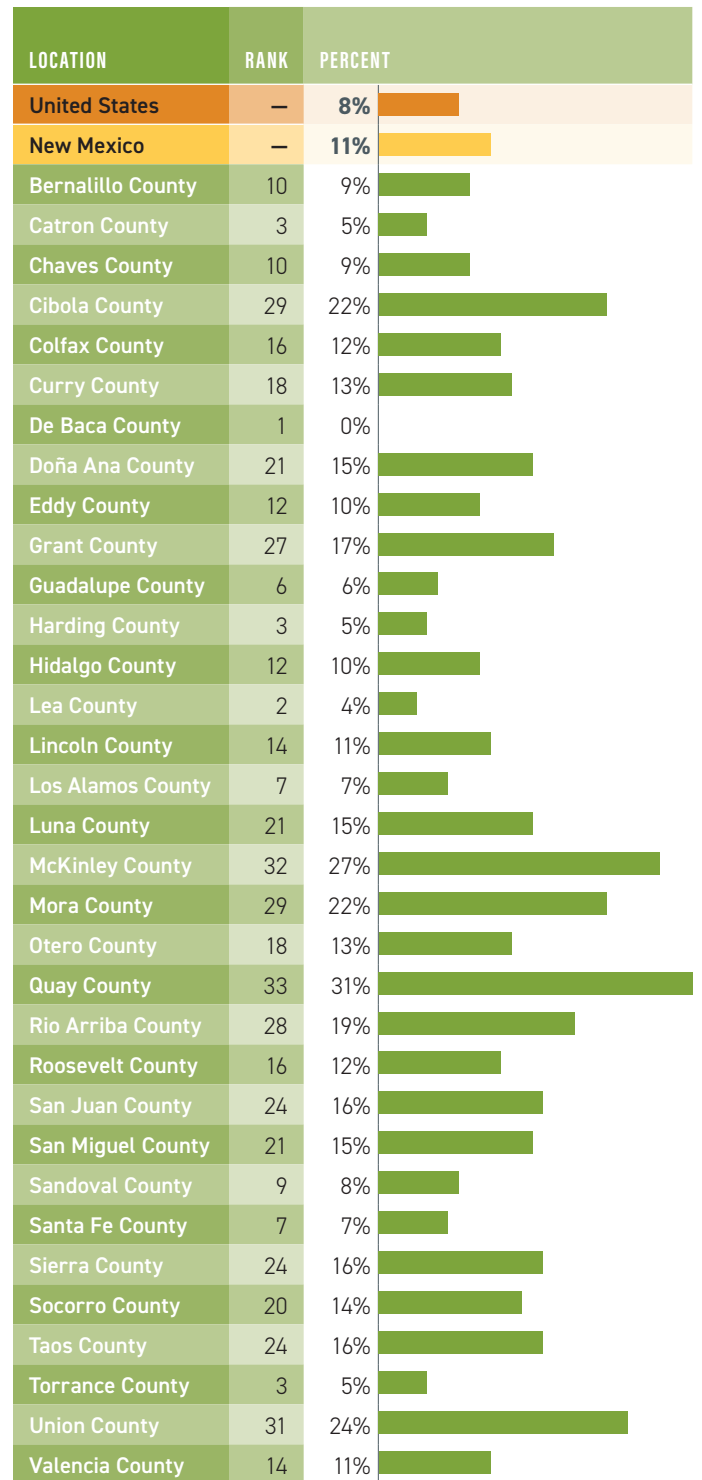
Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys, 2001–2021

## Children Living in Families Where No Parent Had Secure Employment—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2017–2021)



**Source:** Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017–2021 **Note:** Higher margins of error indicate less statistical reliability due to small sample sizes.

## Families with Children in Which No Parent Is Working—BY COUNTY (2017–2021)



**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table: B23007, 2017–2021



# ECONOMIC WELL-BEING INCOME

## Median Household Income—BY COUNTY (2017–2021)

LOCATION	RANK	MEDIAN INCOME
United States	—	\$69,021
New Mexico	—	\$54,020
Bernalillo County	6	\$56,920
Catron County	24	\$37,623
Chaves County	11	\$47,620
Cibola County	13	\$47,300
Colfax County	21	\$39,483
Curry County	8	\$51,199
De Baca County	33	\$32,750
Doña Ana County	15	\$47,151
Eddy County	3	\$67,759
Grant County	22	\$39,429
Guadalupe County	30	\$35,409
Harding County	29	\$35,900
Hidalgo County	18	\$46,097
Lea County	5	\$62,319
Lincoln County	14	\$47,247
Los Alamos County	1	\$123,677
Luna County	31	\$33,914
McKinley County	20	\$40,262
Mora County	25	\$37,549
Otero County	17	\$46,949
Quay County	32	\$33,067
Rio Arriba County	16	\$46,994
Roosevelt County	10	\$47,897
San Juan County	12	\$47,485
San Miguel County	27	\$36,492
Sandoval County	2	\$68,947
Santa Fe County	4	\$64,423
Sierra County	28	\$35,939
Socorro County	23	\$38,242
Taos County	9	\$49,481
Torrance County	19	\$44,819
Union County	26	\$37,443
Valencia County	7	\$53,752

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table B19013, 2017–2021

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** Median income divides the income distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the households falling below the median income and one-half being above the median. This is generally considered more accurate than an average of all incomes because those rates can be skewed by relatively few outliers.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** The median household income in New Mexico is 22% lower than the national average. However, median household income fluctuates widely by county, and only Los Alamos County has a higher median income than the national average. All of the tribal areas, except Acoma and Pojoaque Pueblos, have lower median incomes than the state as a whole. These differences are related in large part to the kinds of industries and employers there. Income inequality has worsened over time, and the Legislature has enacted few policies to address this issue.

## Median Household Income—BY TRIBAL AREA (2017–2021)

LOCATION	MEDIAN INCOME
United States	\$69,021
New Mexico	\$54,020
Acoma Pueblo	\$56,063
Cochiti Pueblo	\$44,732
Isleta Pueblo	\$51,964
Jemez Pueblo	\$49,700
Jicarilla Apache	\$46,595
Laguna Pueblo	\$39,079
Mescalero Apache	\$34,963
Nambe Pueblo	\$35,714
Navajo	\$29,094
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	\$42,314
Picuris Pueblo	\$37,222
Pojoaque Pueblo	\$57,277
Sandia Pueblo	\$39,364
San Felipe Pueblo	\$42,500
San Ildefonso Pueblo	\$52,424
Santa Ana Pueblo	\$53,997
Santa Clara Pueblo	\$45,313
Santo Domingo Pueblo	\$38,836
Taos Pueblo	\$40,883
Tesuque Pueblo	\$50,625
Zia Pueblo	\$48,125
Zuni Pueblo	\$45,731

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table B19013, 2017–2021

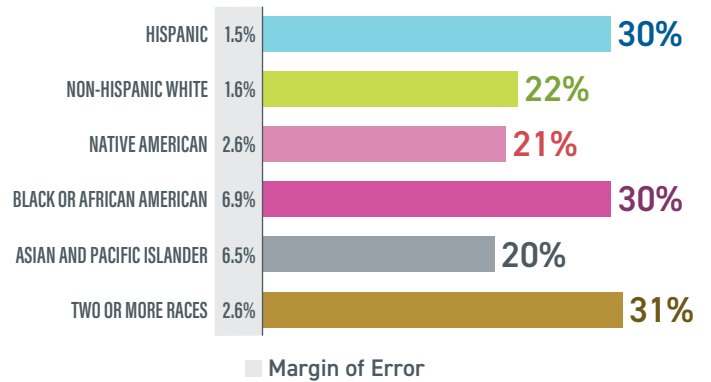
# ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

## HIGH HOUSING COSTS

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** A high housing cost burden is defined as a family or household having to spend 30% or more of their income on housing. This decreases the money available for purchasing food, health care, utilities, transportation, child care, and other necessities. A high housing cost burden can push families into substandard housing, which is more likely to be hazardous, in unsafe areas, or pose health risks (by having problems like radon, mold, or asbestos) for the families living in them. Substandard housing also tends to be in areas that lack public infrastructure such as parks and other green spaces, as well as grocery stores. While two of these graphics measure the shares of children living in these situations, the third graphic—Households Renting with a High Housing Cost Burden—measures the share of all households that are renting, whether children are present or not.

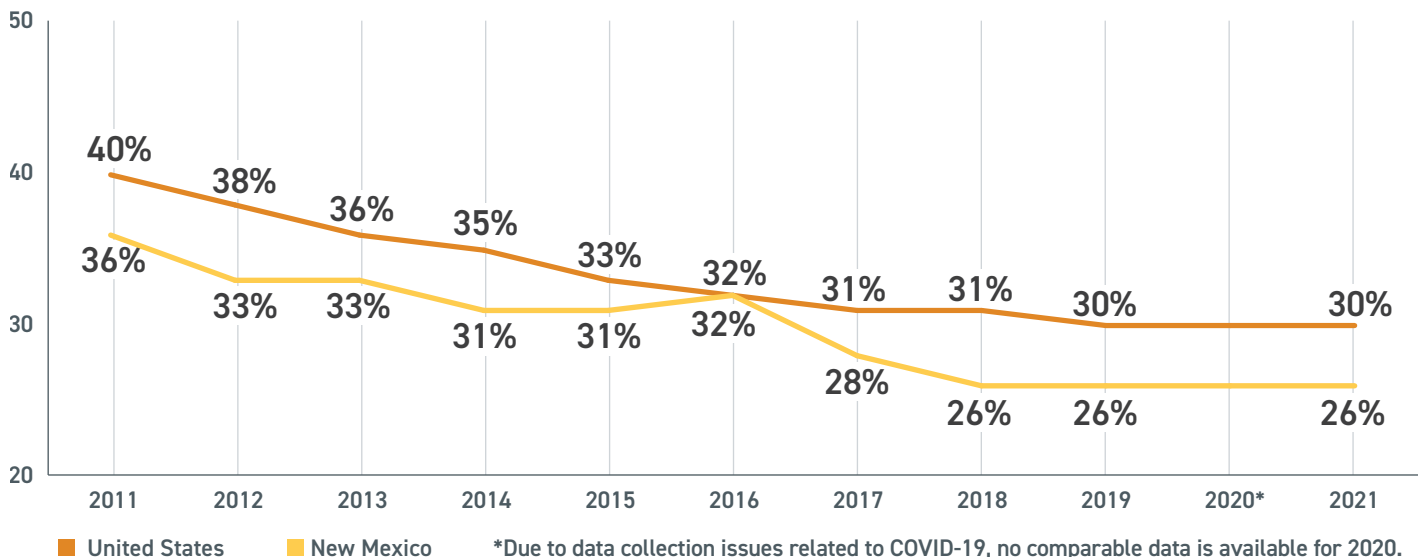
**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** New Mexico has consistently had a lower rate of children in families burdened by high housing costs compared to the nation, and this trend continues. In the 2023 national Data Book, New Mexico ranked 26th.

### Children in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2017–2021)



**Source:** Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample, 2017–2021 **Note:** Higher margins of error indicate less statistical reliability due to small sample sizes.

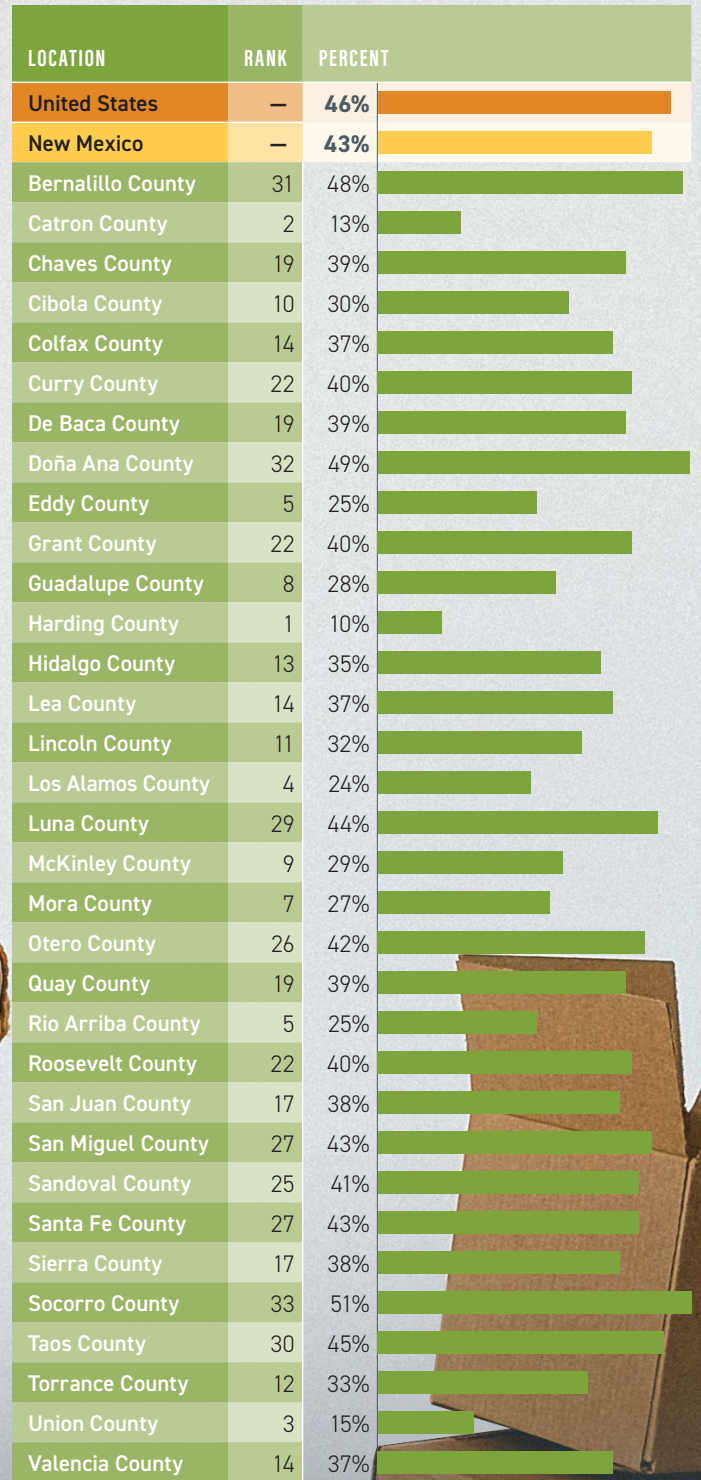
### Children in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden—BY YEAR (2011–2021)



**Source:** Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys, 2011–2021



## Households Renting with High Housing Cost Burdens—BY COUNTY (2017-2021)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table B25070, 2017-2021

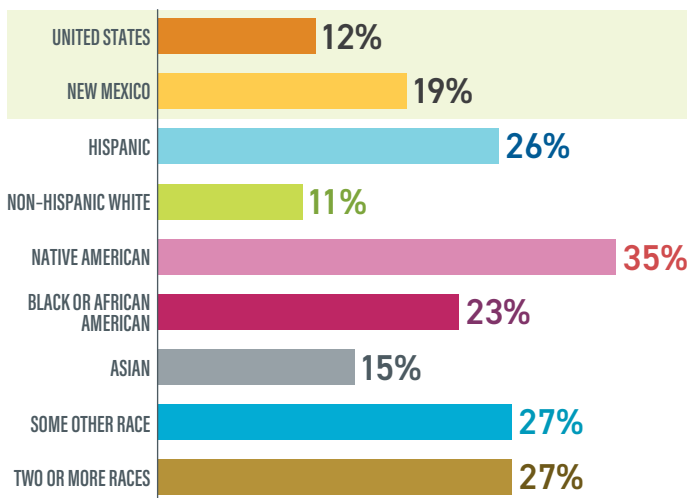


# ECONOMIC WELL-BEING FOOD INSECURITY

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** Food insecurity is defined as an economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. Rates of participation in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) represent the share of households receiving public benefits to mitigate food insecurity. SNAP usage is often considered a proxy for food insecurity. Because SNAP is “supplemental” it does not provide all the food a family needs over the course of the month so families receiving SNAP benefits may still be food insecure. Families experiencing food insecurity may rely on low-cost foods, which are generally highly processed and lacking in sufficient nutrients for growing children. Food insecurity leads to a number of health problems, including obesity and diabetes.

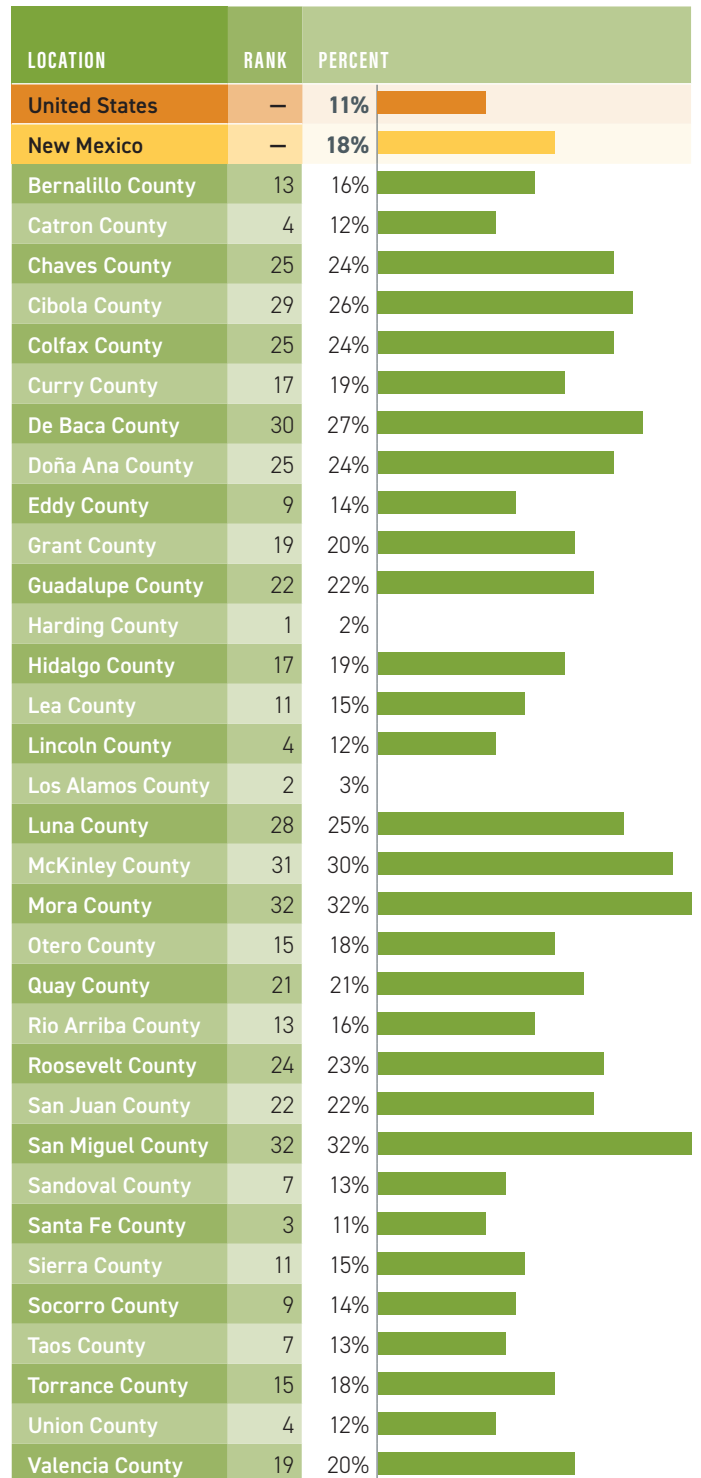
**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** Although New Mexico’s rates of child food insecurity and households receiving SNAP have improved, both are higher than the national average and reflect our state’s major challenges around hunger. Although families continued to face economic difficulties in the wake of COVID-19, New Mexico saw a decrease in the percentage of households receiving SNAP benefits from 2021 to 2022 as pandemic-era benefits and rules expired. The rates decreased for all races and ethnicities except Asian households and households of some other race, which saw a slight increase, and Hispanic households and households of two or more races, which remained the same.

## Households Receiving SNAP Assistance—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2022)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Tables S2201 (US, NM), B22005 B-D, F-I, 2022

## Households Receiving SNAP Assistance—BY COUNTY (2017–2021)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table DP03, 2017–2021



## Child Food Insecurity—BY COUNTY (2021)

LOCATION	RANK	PERCENT
United States	—	13%
New Mexico	—	19%
Bernalillo County	6	17%
Catron County	28	26%
Chaves County	16	21%
Cibola County	28	26%
Colfax County	23	24%
Curry County	13	20%
De Baca County	2	12%
Doña Ana County	13	20%
Eddy County	4	16%
Grant County	23	24%
Guadalupe County	7	18%
Harding County	16	21%
Hidalgo County	16	21%
Lea County	7	18%
Lincoln County	9	19%
Los Alamos County	1	5%
Luna County	32	30%
McKinley County	30	27%
Mora County	26	25%
Otero County	16	21%
Quay County	32	30%
Rio Arriba County	9	19%
Roosevelt County	22	23%
San Juan County	21	22%
San Miguel County	26	25%
Sandoval County	3	13%
Santa Fe County	4	16%
Sierra County	31	29%
Socorro County	23	24%
Taos County	9	19%
Torrance County	16	21%
Union County	13	20%
Valencia County	9	19%

Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, Interactive Data, 2023

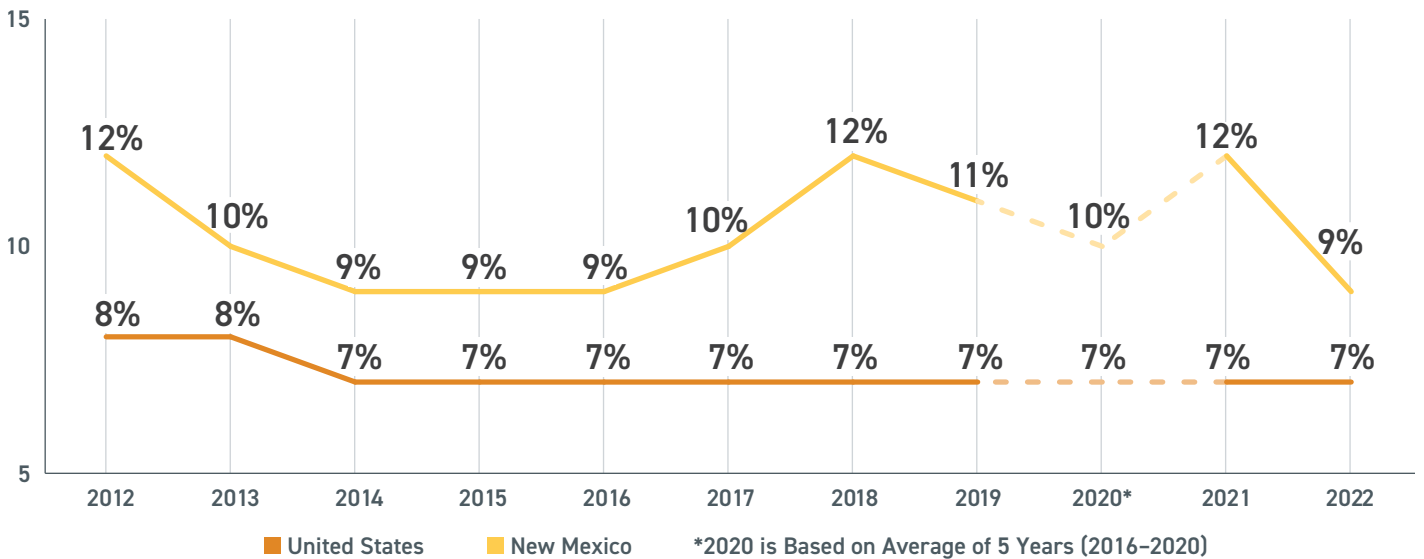


# ECONOMIC WELL-BEING DISCONNECTED YOUTH

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** The term **disconnected youth** refers to teens (ages 16 to 19) who are neither in school nor working. Such teens are at a higher risk for poor health and economic outcomes as adults, have less access to comprehensive health care (including mental health services), and are more likely to miss out on the social and emotional supports that can increase their chances of economic success and improve overall well-being. Teens may be disconnected due to a lack of job prospects, the inability to pay for post-secondary education, or because they are caring for a family member who needs constant assistance, among other reasons.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** New Mexico's rank remained 49th among the states in this indicator comparing 2019 to 2021. However, the most recent data published after these rankings were released indicate a decrease in the state's rate of teens not attending school and not working, which may reflect improving re-engagement among young people post-pandemic.

## Teens Not Attending School and Not Working—BY YEAR (2012-2022)



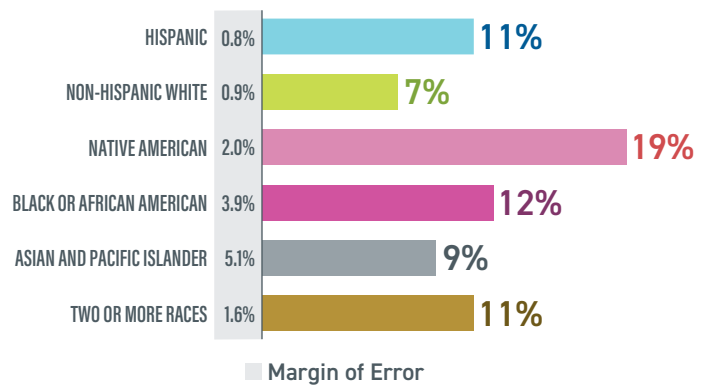
**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys, 2011-2021, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, table B14005 **Note:** The data for 2016-2020 are not comparable with data for other years as they are based on an average over 5 years. No comparable single year data are available for 2020 due to pandemic-related data collection challenges.

## Teens Not Attending School and Not Working— BY COUNTY (2017-2021)

LOCATION	RANK	PERCENT
United States	—	7%
New Mexico	—	11%
Bernalillo County	9	8%
Catron County	31	26%
Chaves County	9	8%
Cibola County	18	11%
Colfax County	6	4%
Curry County	24	15%
De Baca County	1	0%
Doña Ana County	14	10%
Eddy County	9	8%
Grant County	20	13%
Guadalupe County	1	0%
Harding County	1	0%
Hidalgo County	33	32%
Lea County	19	12%
Lincoln County	20	13%
Los Alamos County	1	0%
Luna County	28	21%
McKinley County	30	23%
Mora County	32	27%
Otero County	14	10%
Quay County	9	8%
Rio Arriba County	13	9%
Roosevelt County	7	5%
San Juan County	20	13%
San Miguel County	8	7%
Sandoval County	14	10%
Santa Fe County	14	10%
Sierra County	29	22%
Socorro County	24	15%
Taos County	27	20%
Torrance County	24	15%
Union County	1	0%
Valencia County	23	14%

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** Across the nation, youth of color are more likely to face the kinds of barriers that lead to being disconnected. This is particularly concerning in a state with such a high share of youth of color. In school, students of color are exposed to little culturally relevant material, are less frequently referred to gifted/talented, honors, or advanced placement courses, and are more often punished – and are punished more harshly – for exhibiting the same behaviors as white students. These factors contribute to higher dropout rates. And youth of color are less likely than are white youth to be interviewed and hired for jobs.

## Teens Not Attending School and Not Working— BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2017-2021)



**Source:** Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample, 2016–2020 **Note:** Higher margins of error indicate less statistical reliability due to small sample sizes.

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table B14005, 2017–2021





## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING POLICY SOLUTIONS

### A POLICY SOLUTION TO DECREASE POVERTY

- ▶ Support two-generation approaches and ensure better coordination between programs providing health, education, housing, and food services for both parents and children.
- ▶ Maintain income eligibility for child care assistance at 400% of FPL or higher; provide continuous eligibility so parents can accept pay raises without losing benefits that are worth more than the pay increase; permanently eliminate copays for families earning less than 400% FPL.
- ▶ Ensure sufficient funding for rapid expansions of home visiting, child care, and pre-K programs by avoiding the supplanting of the general fund with distributions from the Early Childhood Trust Fund and the new distribution from the state's Land Grant Permanent School Fund.
- ▶ Ensure stable, adequate funding for all programs and services that support improved family economic well-being now and in the future by raising revenue and diversifying revenue streams.
- ▶ Enact a more progressive income tax system so corporations and higher-income earners bear greater responsibility for funding our state.
- ▶ Increase the new state Child Tax Credit for children younger than six, who are facing the highest rates of poverty, and make it permanent.
- ▶ Expand the state's General Assistance Program (GAP) to provide economic relief to our lowest income families.
- ▶ Increase the amount of cash assistance that families on TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) receive, and remove harmful full-family sanctions and time limits.
- ▶ Support policies that prioritize kinship care for foster children; support and promote the availability of resources and assistance for grandparents helping to raise their grandchildren, including access to financial resources, legal services, food and housing assistance, medical care, and transportation; and fund navigators to assist kinship foster care families in accessing the public benefits for which they are eligible.
- ▶ Modernize the state's Anti-Donation Clause to ensure all families can access state-funded resources and community services.

## POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT & INCOME

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- ▶ Reverse cuts that were made to unemployment insurance (UI) benefits for child dependents to help families during tough times or job transitions. Prior to 2011, those receiving UI benefits received a small additional benefit for each dependent child.
- ▶ Expand access to adult basic education and job training programs; expand career pathways programs with a focus on workers whose skills do not match those needed for good-paying jobs in order to boost their employability; and continue to fully fund the Opportunity Scholarship and expand eligibility so adults who already have a degree or certificate can re-skill to obtain higher paying jobs.
- ▶ Enact narrow, targeted economic development initiatives and require accountability for tax breaks to businesses so that tax benefits are only received if quality jobs are created. Tax breaks that do not clearly create jobs should be repealed so the state can invest more money in effective economic and workforce development strategies.
- ▶ Increase wages and provide a career ladder for child care workers and increase opportunities for professional development.
- ▶ Increase the state's minimum wage and significantly raise or eliminate the state's tipped minimum wage.
- ▶ Ensure that all workers have access to paid family and medical leave, so they don't lose income to care for a newborn or a sick family member.
- ▶ Enact and enforce tougher policies to prevent wage theft.
- ▶ Extend unemployment benefits to excluded essential workers such as undocumented immigrants, independent contractors in low-wage industries, and displaced oil and gas workers transitioning away from fossil fuels.

## POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE HOUSING COSTS

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- ▶ Enact a statewide Real Estate Transfer Tax to provide greater funding for affordable housing and supportive programs.
- ▶ Increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).
- ▶ Increase funding for Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), which can help parents save money for buying a home.
- ▶ Expand tenant protections to give tenants more time to access financial and legal resources and stay stably housed.
- ▶ Invest in a statewide rental assistance program to help individuals at risk of homelessness.
- ▶ Ban source-of-income discrimination statewide to protect tenants who use federal vouchers or other forms of financial housing assistance.
- ▶ Expand eligibility and funding for New Mexico's Linkages program, which provides rental assistance and permanent supportive housing services to individuals with serious mental illnesses.
- ▶ Defend against a weakening or repeal of the Home Loan Protection Act in order to protect more families from predatory lending practices that can lead to home foreclosure.

## POLICY SOLUTIONS TO DECREASE FOOD INSECURITY

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- ▶ Increase funding for New Mexico's Double Up Food Bucks program, which allows families to double their SNAP EBT dollars at New Mexico farmers' markets, grocery stores, and farm stands.
- ▶ Provide adequate funding for state and local programs to address food systems, sustainable farming, and hunger.
- ▶ Continue to fund universal school meals so every student has access to free breakfast and lunch at school, improving each student's ability to focus and opportunity to succeed.
- ▶ Raise SNAP eligibility to 200% FPL and ensure implementation is supported.
- ▶ Expand SNAP eligibility to provide a minimum benefit for all members of a family unit, including those who do not qualify due to immigration status.

## POLICY SOLUTIONS TO HELP DISCONNECTED YOUTH

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- ▶ Revisit zero-tolerance policies and penalties in order to keep more students in school.
- ▶ Provide support for vulnerable students (those who are: in the foster care system, experiencing homelessness, incarcerated, in need of special education, English language learners, etc.) who are at risk of dropping out.
- ▶ Support high school dropout recovery programs.
- ▶ Increase funding for evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs.
- ▶ Ensure that our LGBTQ+ students and faculty in our schools feel welcome and are fully supported.
- ▶ Ensure that schools and districts have inclusive anti-bullying policies and procedures and that they are being fully implemented.
- ▶ Support juvenile justice reforms that keep young offenders in community programs as an alternative to incarceration or detention.
- ▶ Significantly increase salaries for child protective services case workers to increase staff and reduce case loads at CYFD.
- ▶ Enact initiatives to lower the cost of college for those students for whom tuition and other costs put college credentials out of reach. These should include full funding of the Lottery and Opportunity Scholarships and the creation of need-based, flexible financial aid to cover additional costs of attendance beyond tuition.
- ▶ Work with businesses, nonprofits, government, school districts, and colleges to develop a state youth employment strategy using a career pathways approach to help identify and provide support for disconnected youth, create incentives, and link its funding to accountability and meaningful outcomes.



TABLES, GRAPHS AND CHARTS

# EDUCATION

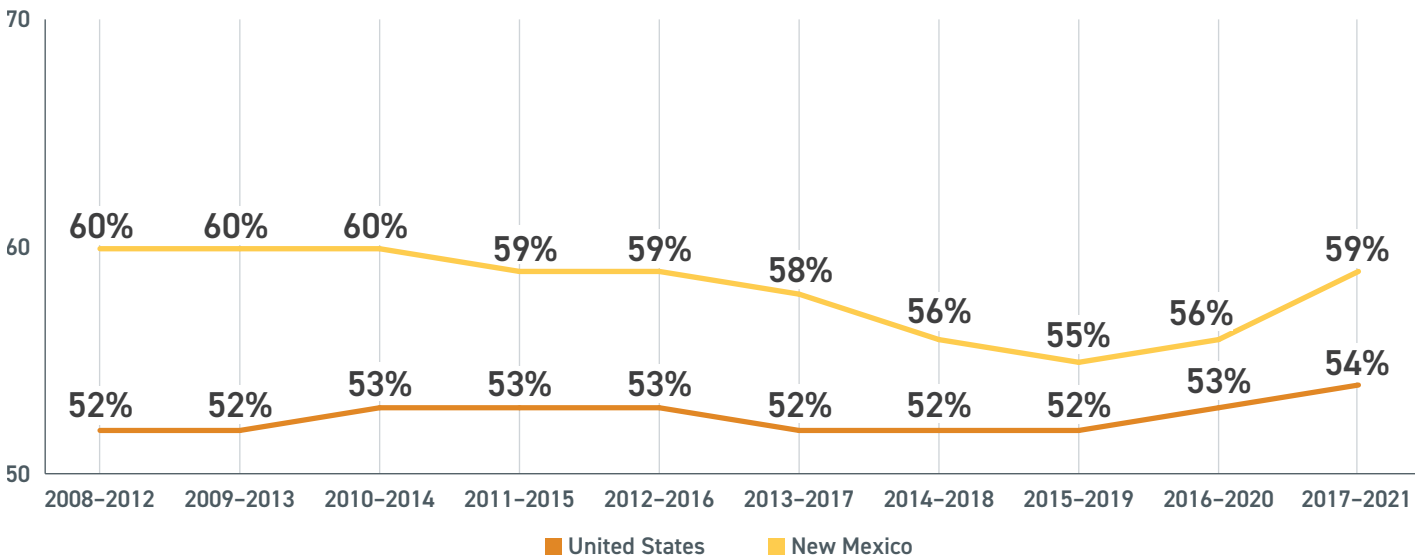


# EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** In these graphics, **not in school** measures the percentage of young children (ages 3 and 4) who did not attend some form of child care that included educational experiences (including nursery school, preschool, Head Start, and pre-kindergarten). Children's chances of being healthy, doing well in school, and growing up to be productive and contributing members of society are tied to their experiences in the earliest years. Children learn more quickly during their early years, and the first five years of a child's life are particularly important because that is when 90% of the brain's neurological foundation is built. Research shows that safe, secure, nurturing, and non-stressful environments during the first five years are essential to the positive development and healthy growth that will set children up for success later in life. High-quality pre-K and child care, such as 4- or 5-STAR programs, lead to improved child well-being and are linked to significant long-term improvements for children and savings for states.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** Between 2020 and 2021, the number of young children not enrolled in school increased slightly, causing New Mexico's 2023 ranking to worsen from 27th to 38th. Even with a slightly worse rank, the rate of young children not enrolled in school in New Mexico has not changed much over the long term and is actually slightly better than it was in 2012. To address this, the state is continuing its planned rollout of the NM Pre-K program, and has maintained Child Care Assistance eligibility of 400% of the federal poverty level (or FPL; \$92,120 for a family of three) with no copays. This has allowed many more families to afford child care in a setting that is education-oriented.

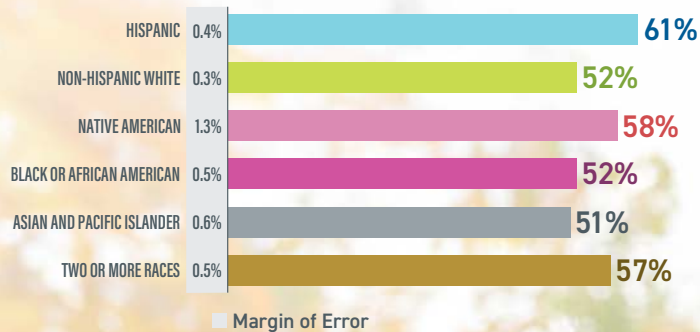
## Young Children Not in School—BY YEAR (2008-2021)



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2021



## Young Children Not in School—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2017-2021)



**Source:** Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017–2021 **Note:** Higher margins of error indicate less statistical reliability due to small sample sizes.

## Young Children Not in School—BY COUNTY (2017-2021)

LOCATION	RANK	PERCENT
United States	—	54%
New Mexico	—	59%
Bernalillo County	15	60%
Catron County	5	35%
Chaves County	3	34%
Cibola County	8	40%
Colfax County	23	65%
Curry County	11	52%
De Baca County	6	36%
Doña Ana County	17	62%
Eddy County	14	59%
Grant County	7	37%
Guadalupe County	33	100%
Harding County	29	75%
Hidalgo County	16	61%
Lea County	28	71%
Lincoln County	9	46%
Los Alamos County	23	65%
Luna County	23	65%
McKinley County	21	64%
Mora County	1	23%
Otero County	26	68%
Quay County	31	90%
Rio Arriba County	2	33%
Roosevelt County	13	58%
San Juan County	17	62%
San Miguel County	12	53%
Sandoval County	17	62%
Santa Fe County	10	49%
Sierra County	30	87%
Socorro County	27	70%
Taos County	3	34%
Torrance County	17	62%
Union County	31	90%
Valencia County	21	64%

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table B14003, 2017-2021



**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** K-12 **enrollment** is the total number of students enrolled in all grades from kindergarten through high school, in public and charter schools. Students qualify for **free meals** if their families live at or below 130% of the federal poverty level (or FPL; \$29,939 for a family of three in the 2022-2023 school year) and **reduced-price meals** if their families live at or below 185% of the FPL (\$42,606 for a family of three). Many of these children are considered “food insecure,” meaning they do not always get enough nutritious food. For some of these kids, the food they receive at school may be their only regular meals.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** Students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals are in families that are considered low-income, and they make up a large portion of the students in New Mexico. In fact, New Mexico has one of the highest rates (68%) in the nation of public school students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals.



## Total Enrollment and Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals—BY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (2022-2023)

LOCATION	TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT	PERCENT OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>316,660</b>	<b>68%</b>
Alamogordo Public Schools	5,589	67%
Albuquerque Public Schools	80,364	64%
Animas Public Schools	146	57%
Artesia Public Schools	3,729	56%
Aztec Municipal Schools	2,563	64%
Belen Consolidated Schools	3,602	74%
Bernalillo Public Schools	2,803	83%
Bloomfield Municipal Schools	2,584	85%
Capitan Municipal Schools	473	50%
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	7,130	46%
Carrizozo Municipal Schools	163	79%
Central Consolidated Schools	5,041	91%
Chama Valley Independent Schools	363	54%
Cimarron Public Schools	401	56%
Clayton Public Schools	395	72%
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools	383	47%
Clovis Municipal Schools	7,664	71%
Cobre Consolidated Schools	1,023	86%
Corona Municipal Schools	70	33%
Cuba Independent Schools	746	100%
Deming Public Schools	5,366	86%
Des Moines Municipal Schools	120	44%
Dexter Consolidated Schools	812	65%
Dora Consolidated Schools	219	41%
Dulce Independent Schools	532	86%
Elida Municipal Schools	178	64%
Española Municipal Schools	3,062	86%
Estancia Municipal Schools	539	79%
Eunice Municipal Schools	726	68%
Farmington Municipal Schools	11,228	69%
Floyd Municipal Schools	228	89%
Fort Sumner Municipal Schools	273	66%
Gadsden Independent Schools	12,566	90%
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	12,347	90%
Grady Municipal Schools	174	43%
Grants-Cibola County Schools	3,314	79%
Hagerman Municipal Schools	368	56%
Hatch Valley Municipal Schools	1,167	89%

TABLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►



## Total Enrollment and Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals— BY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (2022-2023)

TABLE CONTINUED

LOCATION	TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT	PERCENT OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS
Hobbs Municipal Schools	10,038	62%
Hondo Valley Public Schools	127	85%
House Municipal Schools	53	53%
Jal Public Schools	527	52%
Jemez Mountain Public Schools	171	70%
Jemez Valley Public Schools	359	70%
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	136	66%
Las Cruces Public Schools	23,759	76%
Las Vegas City Public Schools	1,202	72%
Logan Municipal Schools	317	47%
Lordsburg Municipal Schools	429	87%
Los Alamos Public Schools	3,727	NA
Los Lunas Public Schools	8,239	67%
Loving Municipal Schools	647	55%
Lovington Public Schools	3,400	52%
Magdalena Municipal Schools	285	75%
Maxwell Municipal Schools	106	55%
Melrose Public Schools	295	37%
Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools	246	66%
Mora Independent Schools	433	82%
Moriarty Municipal Schools	2,331	66%
Mosquero Municipal Schools	88	48%
Mountainair Public Schools	210	74%
Pecos Independent Schools	511	67%
Peñasco Independent Schools	284	69%
Pojoaque Valley Public Schools	1,630	61%
Portales Municipal Schools	2,610	74%
Quemado Independent Schools	171	58%
Questa Independent Schools	326	70%
Raton Public Schools	844	74%
Reserve Independent Schools	105	61%
Rio Rancho Public Schools	17,329	29%
Roswell Independent Schools	9,745	74%
Roy Municipal Schools	77	55%
Ruidoso Municipal Schools	1,820	69%
San Jon Municipal Schools	125	63%
Santa Fe Public Schools	11,826	58%
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	603	74%
Silver City Consolidated Schools	2,285	65%
Socorro Consolidated Schools	1,450	70%
Springer Municipal Schools	111	64%
Taos Municipal Schools	2,267	76%
Tatum Municipal Schools	298	48%
Texico Municipal Schools	551	39%
Truth or Consequences Schools	1,287	85%
Tucumcari Public Schools	907	91%
Tularosa Municipal Schools	907	79%
Vaughn Municipal Schools	46	78%
Wagon Mound Public Schools	83	80%
West Las Vegas Public Schools	1,565	91%
Zuni Public Schools	1,280	93%

**Source:** New Mexico Public Education Department, STARS Enrollment Data, retrieved October 2023, and "Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility Report" SY22-23, retrieved October 2023

# EDUCATION

## READING AND MATH PROFICIENCY

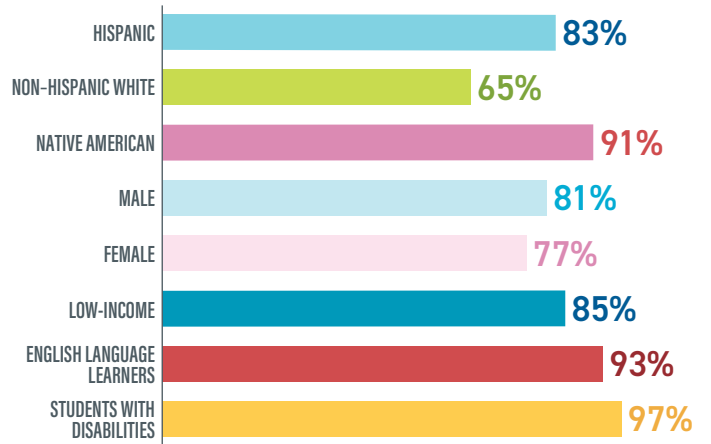
**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** These graphics measure the percentage of fourth graders who scored below proficient in reading as measured and defined by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). These proficiencies are different from those of the New Mexico Measures of Student Success and Achievement (MSSA) series and other standardized tests. **Low-income** students in the bar chart are those students who are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches.

Children need to be able to read proficiently by fourth grade in order to be able to use their reading skills to learn other school subjects. In fact, kids who are not reading at grade level by this critical point are more likely to drop out of school and less likely to go to college.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** New Mexico ranked 50th in the nation in fourth grade reading proficiency in 2022. The state had seen modest progress in this indicator, but there was a slight increase in the rate of students reading below proficiency in 2019 followed by the significant impact of COVID-19 on reading proficiency nationally. Ultimately, the pandemic erased most of the progress New Mexico had made since 2009 to ensure more children were proficient in reading. Reading proficiency is a crucial element of scholastic success, but in New Mexico, 79% of our children are

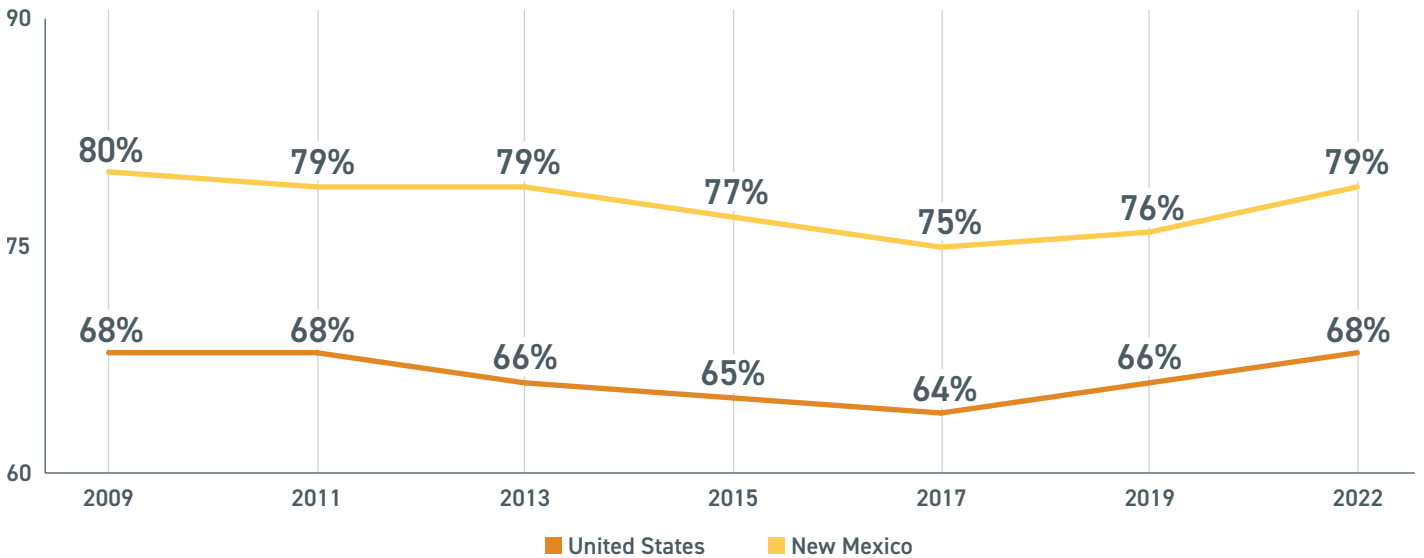
not proficient in reading by the fourth grade. As has been the case in the past, boys, children of color, English language learners, students with disabilities, and children from families earning low incomes have proficiency rates that are below the state average in fourth grade reading.

### Fourth Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Reading—BY RACE, ETHNICITY, AND OTHER FACTORS (2022)



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2022

### Fourth Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Reading—BY YEAR (2009-2022)



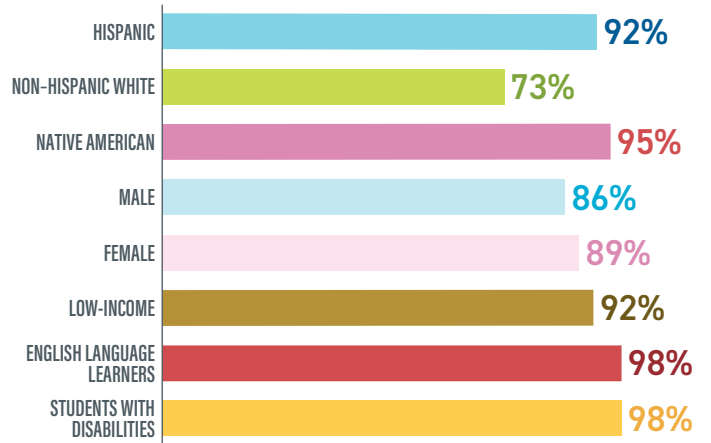
Source: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2022

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** These graphics measure the percentage of eighth graders who scored below proficient in math as measured and defined by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). These proficiencies are different from those of the New Mexico Measures of Student Success and Achievement (MSSA) series and other standardized tests. **Low-income** students in the bar chart are those students who are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches.

Math proficiency by the eighth grade is necessary for students to do well in high school math courses and attend college. As more and more jobs in today's increasingly high-tech work environment depend on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills, students not proficient in math are at a real disadvantage.

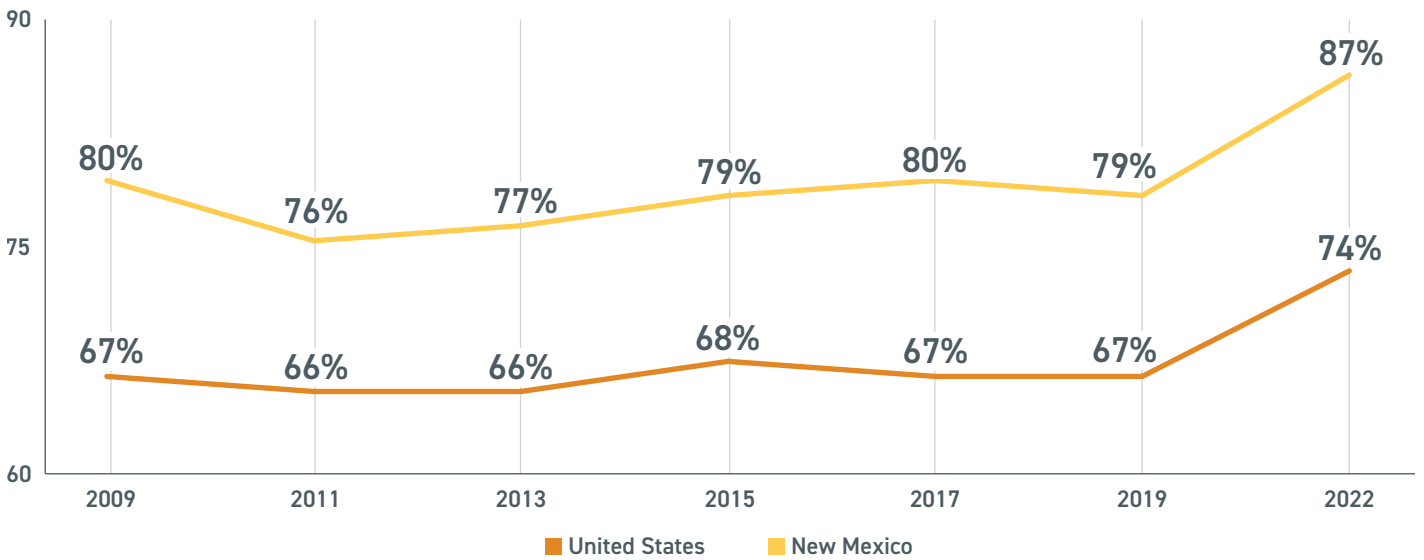
**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** New Mexico ranked 50th in eighth grade math proficiency in 2022. Due to the dramatic impact of the pandemic, math proficiency scores nationwide dropped at an alarming rate. Now, 87% of New Mexico eighth graders who are behind in math are likely to struggle in high school and college math courses. As is the case for reading proficiency, even fewer students of color, English language learners, students with disabilities, and children from families earning low incomes are proficient in math by eighth grade—once again highlighting the results of an education system that does not serve all our students well.

## Eighth Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Math—BY RACE, ETHNICITY AND OTHER FACTORS (2022)



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2022

## Eighth Graders Scoring Below Proficient in Math—BY YEAR (2009-2022)

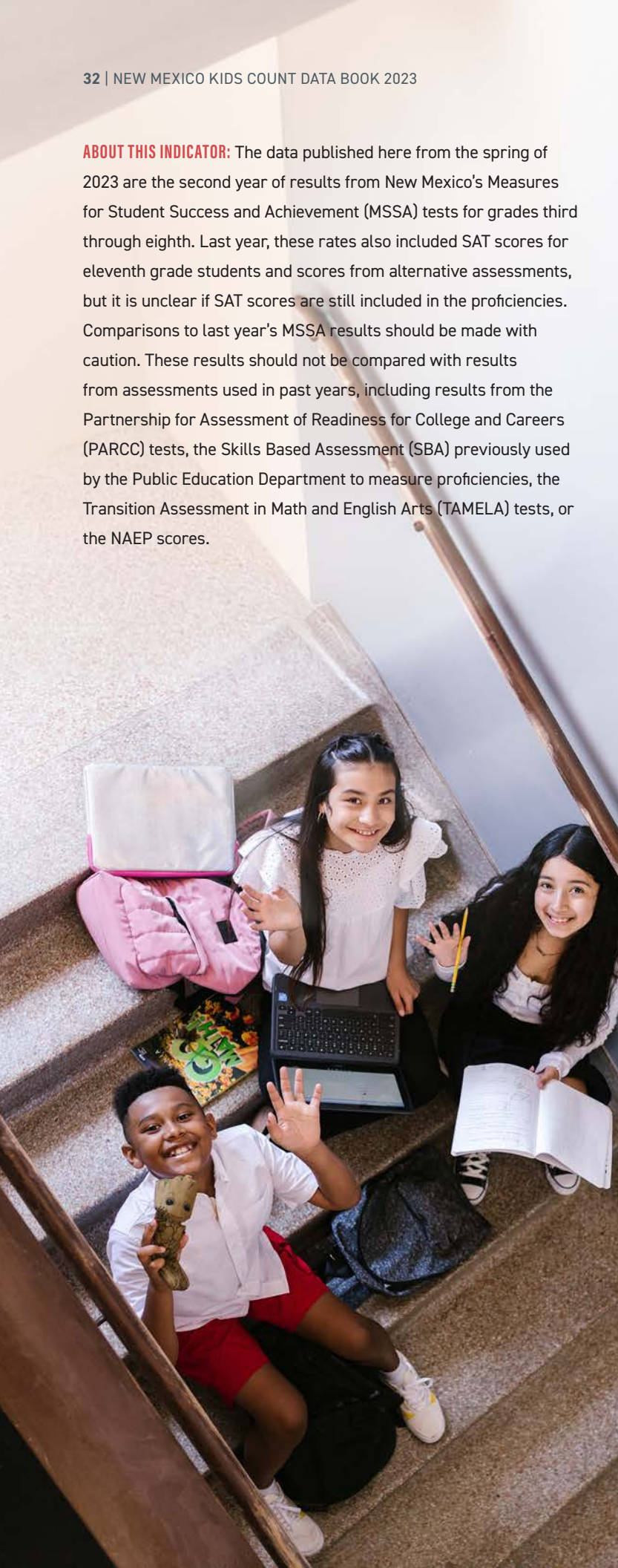


Source: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2022

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** The data published here from the spring of 2023 are the second year of results from New Mexico's Measures for Student Success and Achievement (MSSA) tests for grades third through eighth. Last year, these rates also included SAT scores for eleventh grade students and scores from alternative assessments, but it is unclear if SAT scores are still included in the proficiencies. Comparisons to last year's MSSA results should be made with caution. These results should not be compared with results from assessments used in past years, including results from the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests, the Skills Based Assessment (SBA) previously used by the Public Education Department to measure proficiencies, the Transition Assessment in Math and English Arts (TAMELA) tests, or the NAEP scores.

## Students Proficient and Above in English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessments—BY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (2022–2023)

LOCATION	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	MATHEMATICS
<b>New Mexico</b>	38%	24%
Alamogordo Public Schools	44%	27%
Albuquerque Public Schools	37%	24%
Animas Public Schools	29%	29%
Artesia Public Schools	44%	32%
Aztec Municipal Schools	42%	19%
Belen Consolidated Schools	37%	31%
Bernalillo Public Schools	25%	14%
Bloomfield Municipal Schools	26%	20%
Capitan Municipal Schools	47%	23%
Cartsbad Municipal Schools	37%	29%
Carrizozo Municipal Schools	37%	45%
Central Consolidated Schools	20%	13%
Chama Valley Independent Schools	20%	10%
Cimarron Public Schools	43%	25%
Clayton Public Schools	47%	33%
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools	56%	37%
Clovis Municipal Schools	32%	26%
Cobre Consolidated Schools	36%	18%
Corona Municipal Schools	63%	53%
Cuba Independent Schools	13%	4%
Deming Public Schools	30%	23%
Des Moines Municipal Schools	77%	49%
Dexter Consolidated Schools	33%	24%
Dora Consolidated Schools	51%	44%
Dulce Independent Schools	12%	10%
Elida Municipal Schools	40%	33%
Española Municipal Schools	26%	14%
Estancia Municipal Schools	32%	32%
Eunice Municipal Schools	29%	17%
Farmington Municipal Schools	36%	26%
Floyd Municipal Schools	45%	29%
Fort Sumner Municipal Schools	45%	35%
Gadsden Independent Schools	34%	27%
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	25%	19%
Grady Municipal Schools	51%	53%
Grants-Cibola County Schools	33%	23%
Hagerman Municipal Schools	35%	29%





## Students Proficient and Above in English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessments— BY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (2022-2023)

TABLE CONTINUED

LOCATION	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	MATHEMATICS
Hatch Valley Municipal Schools	24%	11%
Hobbs Municipal Schools	35%	28%
Hondo Valley Public Schools	30%	23%
House Municipal Schools	NA	NA
Jal Public Schools	24%	14%
Jemez Mountain Public Schools	28%	14%
Jemez Valley Public Schools	19%	8%
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	33%	13%
Las Cruces Public Schools	38%	24%
Las Vegas City Public Schools	32%	15%
Logan Municipal Schools	45%	49%
Lordsburg Municipal Schools	29%	9%
Los Alamos Public Schools	72%	63%
Los Lunas Public Schools	35%	25%
Loving Municipal Schools	43%	24%
Lovington Public Schools	32%	22%
Magdalena Municipal Schools	33%	18%
Maxwell Municipal Schools	68%	39%
Melrose Public Schools	62%	34%
Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools	38%	21%
Mora Independent Schools	28%	22%
Moriarty Municipal Schools	44%	27%
Mosquero Municipal Schools	30%	26%
Mountainair Public Schools	33%	19%
Pecos Independent Schools	30%	13%
Peñasco Independent Schools	35%	14%
Pojoaque Valley Public Schools	33%	12%
Portales Municipal Schools	31%	26%
Quemado Independent Schools	51%	29%
Questa Independent Schools	28%	9%
Raton Public Schools	33%	23%
Reserve Independent Schools	60%	37%
Rio Rancho Public Schools	50%	33%
Roswell Independent Schools	38%	24%
Roy Municipal Schools	61%	54%
Ruidoso Municipal Schools	29%	20%
San Jon Municipal Schools	41%	20%
Santa Fe Public Schools	39%	25%
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	40%	24%
Silver City Consolidated Schools	39%	30%
Socorro Consolidated Schools	37%	22%
Springer Municipal Schools	26%	19%
Taos Municipal Schools	45%	30%
Tatum Municipal Schools	47%	31%
Texico Municipal Schools	60%	54%
Truth or Consequences Schools	32%	17%
Tucumcari Public Schools	42%	19%
Tularosa Municipal Schools	26%	13%
Vaughn Municipal Schools	30%	38%
Wagon Mound Public Schools	30%	22%
West Las Vegas Public Schools	25%	13%
Zuni Public Schools	22%	12%

**Source:** New Mexico Public Education Department, "Achievement Data," Proficiencies ELA and Math Attenuated Proficiency, School Year 2022-2023, retrieved November, 2023 from <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/accountability/achievement-data/> **Notes:** These proficiencies reflect new tests adopted by New Mexico 2020, and they are not comparable to any year prior to SY 2020-21. These outcomes reflect: NM-MSSA (grades 3-8). Other tests may be included.

# EDUCATION ATTENDANCE

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** **Chronically absent** is defined as a student who has missed 10% or more of classes or school days within a school year for any reason. **Dropout** refers to a student who was enrolled during the previous school year but is not enrolled at the beginning of the current school year and does not meet any exclusionary conditions (such as having transferred). Dropout rates are not related to cohort on-time graduation rates; and dropout rates and non-graduate rates are not equivalent and do not represent the same measure. In other words, if you subtract the rate of non-graduates from those who graduate on time, you do not get the dropout rate. In addition, unlike on-time graduation rates, dropout rates are calculated each year.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** Student rates of chronic absenteeism remained high and stayed relatively flat, dropping slightly from 40% in the 2021–2022 school year to 39% in 2022–2023. High rates of chronically absent students may continue to reflect the tremendous traumas and economic challenges families have faced as a result of COVID-19.



## Chronic Absentee and Preliminary Dropout Rates— BY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (2022–2023)

LOCATION	PERCENT OF STUDENTS CHRONICALLY ABSENT	STUDENT DROPOUT RATE
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>7%</b>
Alamogordo Public Schools	42%	13%
Albuquerque Public Schools	38%	5%
Animas Public Schools	52%	≤ 5%
Artesia Public Schools	38%	10%
Aztec Municipal Schools	41%	9%
Belen Consolidated Schools	43%	11%
Bernalillo Public Schools	78%	6%
Bloomfield Municipal Schools	34%	7%
Capitan Municipal Schools	15%	2%
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	48%	8%
Carrizozo Municipal Schools	29%	≤ 5%
Central Consolidated Schools	37%	7%
Chama Valley Independent Schools	12%	2%
Cimarron Public Schools	11%	6%
Clayton Public Schools	32%	14%
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools	21%	23%
Clovis Municipal Schools	37%	11%
Cobre Consolidated Schools	23%	5%
Corona Municipal Schools	20%	≤ 10%
Cuba Independent Schools	73%	4%
Deming Public Schools	63%	6%
Des Moines Municipal Schools	13%	≤ 10%
Dexter Consolidated Schools	14%	3%
Dora Consolidated Schools	23%	≤ 5%
Dulce Independent Schools	28%	31%
Elida Municipal Schools	14%	≤ 5%
Española Municipal Schools	68%	6%
Estancia Municipal Schools	24%	22%
Eunice Municipal Schools	25%	21%
Farmington Municipal Schools	35%	6%
Floyd Municipal Schools	38%	7%
Fort Sumner Municipal Schools	34%	≤ 2%
Gadsden Independent Schools	37%	8%
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	64%	7%
Grady Municipal Schools	20%	≤ 5%
Grants-Cibola County Schools	32%	9%
Hagerman Municipal Schools	41%	4%
Hatch Valley Municipal Schools	28%	19%

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## Chronic Absentee and Preliminary Dropout Rates—BY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (2022-2023)

TABLE CONTINUED

LOCATION	PERCENT OF STUDENTS CHRONICALLY ABSENT	STUDENT DROPOUT RATE
Hobbs Municipal Schools	36%	7%
Hondo Valley Public Schools	17%	12%
House Municipal Schools	32%	≤ 10%
Jal Public Schools	40%	6%
Jemez Mountain Public Schools	20%	≤ 5%
Jemez Valley Public Schools	24%	4%
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	37%	≤ 5%
Las Cruces Public Schools	35%	6%
Las Vegas City Public Schools	24%	7%
Logan Municipal Schools	11%	9%
Lordsburg Municipal Schools	38%	10%
Los Alamos Public Schools	19%	2%
Los Lunas Public Schools	37%	7%
Loving Municipal Schools	10%	8%
Lovington Public Schools	15%	6%
Magdalena Municipal Schools	49%	14%
Maxwell Municipal Schools	32%	15%
Melrose Public Schools	20%	5%
Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools	27%	4%
Mora Independent Schools	32%	3%
Moriarty Municipal Schools	44%	5%
Mosquero Municipal Schools	5%	13%
Mountainair Public Schools	36%	3%
Pecos Independent Schools	45%	15%
Peñasco Independent Schools	32%	8%
Pojoaque Valley Public Schools	57%	4%
Portales Municipal Schools	34%	16%
Quemado Independent Schools	43%	23%
Questa Independent Schools	22%	10%
Raton Public Schools	40%	6%
Reserve Independent Schools	33%	16%
Rio Rancho Public Schools	36%	5%
Roswell Independent Schools	44%	9%
Roy Municipal Schools	12%	≤ 10%
Ruidoso Municipal Schools	45%	4%
San Jon Municipal Schools	16%	≤ 10%
Santa Fe Public Schools	51%	6%
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	35%	12%
Silver City Consolidated Schools	42%	5%
Socorro Consolidated Schools	53%	20%
Springer Municipal Schools	18%	8%
Taos Municipal Schools	43%	7%
Tatum Municipal Schools	30%	3%
Texico Municipal Schools	18%	4%
Truth or Consequences Schools	51%	7%
Tucumcari Public Schools	45%	18%
Tularosa Municipal Schools	34%	5%
Vaughn Municipal Schools	20%	27%
Wagon Mound Public Schools	11%	≤ 10%
West Las Vegas Public Schools	21%	4%
Zuni Public Schools	38%	4%

**Source:** New Mexico Public Education Department, "Annual State, Districts and Schools Attendance Report" dashboard, retrieved October 2023; and "2022-2023 Dropout Rates (Preliminary Unofficial)," custom data request received November 2023; source for chronically absent definition: Title 6 Primary and Secondary Education, Chapter 10 Public School Administration—Procedural Requirements, Part 8 Compulsory School Attendance

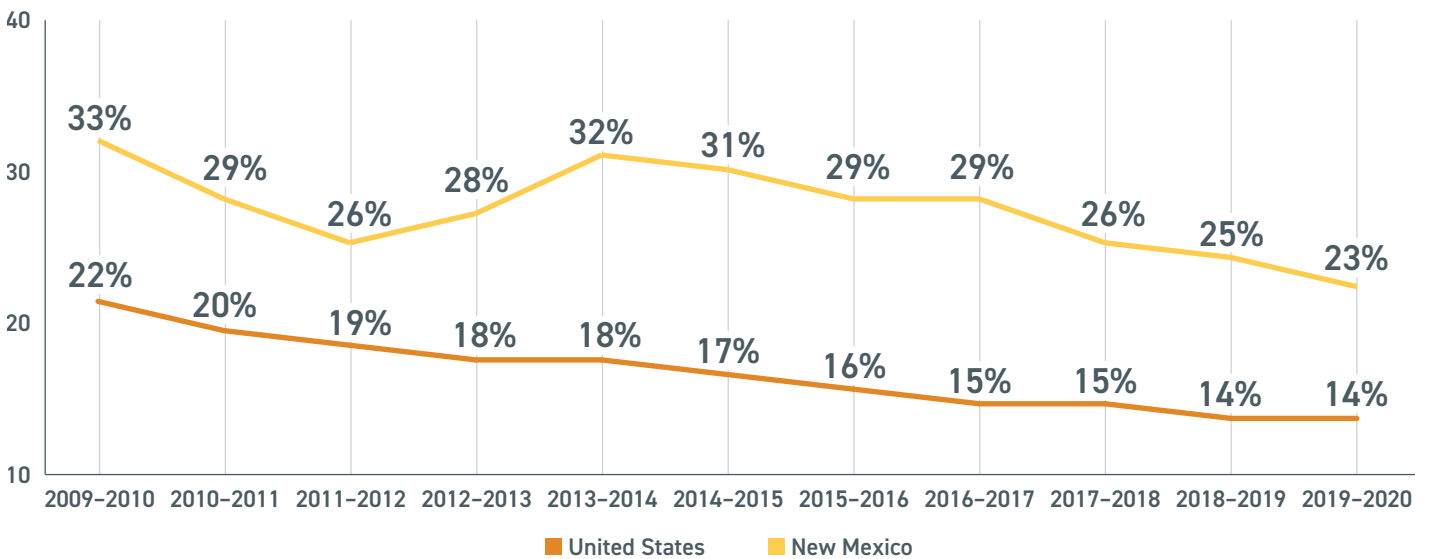
# EDUCATION

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** **Not graduating on time** refers to the percentage of the members of a freshmen class who have not graduated after four years' time. These students may, however, go on to graduate after taking summer school or may earn an equivalent diploma (such as the GED), but their numbers will not be included in the graduation rate as that measures only students graduating within four years.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** 23% of New Mexico's high schoolers do not graduate on time. This rate is significantly worse than the national average of 14%, although New Mexico continues to make slow progress while the national rate remains flat. After seven years in a row at 50th, New Mexico's progress resulted in an improved rank of 49th among the states on this indicator. Though New Mexico continues to rank very poorly on this measure, the state has made improvements over the long term—from 33% of students not graduating on time in 2010 to 23% not graduating on time in 2020. The biggest improvements in this indicator over that time period were seen among Native American and Hispanic students.

### High School Students Not Graduating on Time—BY YEAR (2009-2020)



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD)

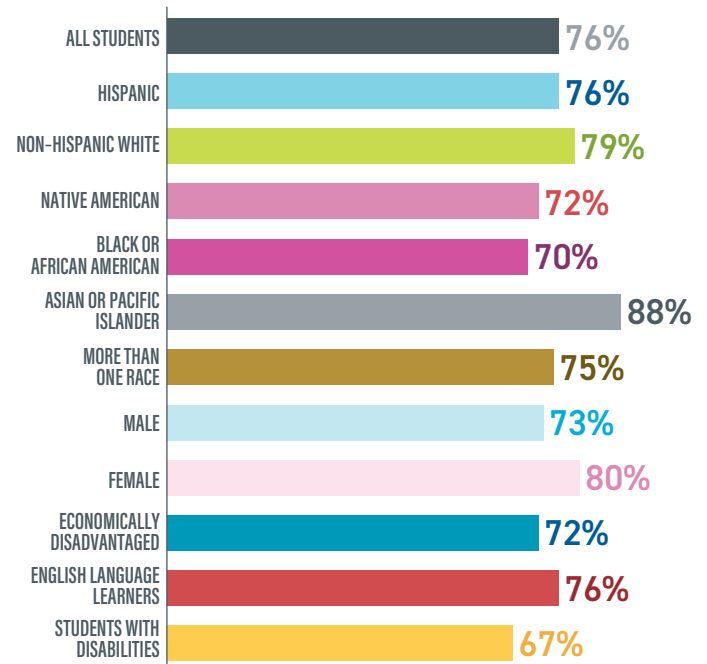


**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** The **graduation rate** is the percentage of students who graduate in four years, so this measure does not include students who may graduate after a session of summer school or who earn an equivalent diploma. A student is considered **economically disadvantaged** if they qualify for free or reduced-priced meals. **English language learners** are students who are not proficient in English and generally come from a household where English is not spoken. **Students with disabilities** are those who need special education and related services because they: have been evaluated as having an intellectual disability, a specific learning disability, a serious emotional disturbance, or autism; are deaf or hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired; have a speech or language impairment, an orthopedic impairment, a traumatic brain injury, another health impairment, or multiple disabilities. Students with disabilities can face the greatest barriers to graduating on time but their needs have received the least legislative action.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** Just over three-quarters (76%) of New Mexico's high school students graduate in four years, with graduation rates lower among students who are economically disadvantaged and have disabilities, as well as students who are Native American and Black. Graduation rates in New Mexico are best among Asian high schoolers, and girls graduate on time at a much higher rate than do boys. When comparing the school year ending in 2021 with the one ending in 2022, the overall graduation rate improved slightly for English language learners. Non-Hispanic white, Black, and Asian students, as well as economically disadvantaged students and students with disabilities saw slight declines, which all contributed to a graduation rate that was one percentage point lower than the previous year.

**HOW TO READ THESE GRAPHICS:** “While 76% of all New Mexico high school students graduate in four years, just 72% of students who are economically disadvantaged graduate in four years.”

## High School Graduation Rates—BY RACE, ETHNICITY, AND OTHER FACTORS (2022)



Source: NM Public Education Department, 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates, 2022

## High School Graduation Rates—BY SELECT STATUS AND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (2021-2022)

LOCATION	PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE IN FOUR YEARS			
	ALL STUDENTS	ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>67%</b>
Alamogordo Public Schools	84%	88%	≥ 90%	79%
Albuquerque Public Schools	69%	63%	66%	62%
Animas Public Schools	≥ 80%	*	*	*
Artesia Public Schools	79%	70%	*	77%
Aztec Municipal Schools	67%	56%	*	51%
Belen Consolidated Schools	62%	62%	52%	41%
Bernalillo Public Schools	81%	81%	86%	79%
Bloomfield Municipal Schools	81%	81%	*	74%
Capitan Municipal Schools	*	*	N/A	*
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	78%	72%	73%	68%
Carrizozo Municipal Schools	79%	79%	N/A	*
Central Consolidated Schools	72%	72%	68%	66%
Chama Valley Independent Schools	*	*	*	*
Cimarron Public Schools	69%	68%	*	*
Clayton Public Schools	87%	77%	*	*
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools	≥ 90%	≥ 80%	*	*
Clovis Municipal Schools	84%	73%	81%	68%
Cobre Consolidated Schools	92%	92%	≥ 80%	*
Corona Municipal Schools	*	*	N/A	*
Cuba Independent Schools	91%	91%	≥ 90%	*
Deming Public Schools	81%	81%	81%	82%
Des Moines Municipal Schools	*	*	N/A	N/A
Dexter Consolidated Schools	86%	86%	≥ 90%	*
Dora Consolidated Schools	≥ 80%	*	N/A	*
Dulce Independent Schools	51%	52%	*	*
Elida Municipal Schools	*	*	N/A	*
Española Municipal Schools	76%	76%	82%	48%
Estancia Municipal Schools	94%	94%	≥ 80%	*
Eunice Municipal Schools	83%	85%	≥ 80%	*
Farmington Municipal Schools	82%	68%	82%	74%
Floyd Municipal Schools	≥ 80%	*	*	*
Fort Sumner Municipal Schools	78%	78%	*	*
Gadsden Independent Schools	87%	87%	87%	81%
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	75%	75%	76%	69%
Grady Municipal Schools	≥ 80%	≥ 80%	N/A	*
Grants-Cibola County Schools	74%	74%	67%	63%
Hagerman Municipal Schools	89%	89%	≥ 80%	*
Hatch Valley Municipal Schools	86%	86%	86%	*

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## High School Graduation Rates—BY SELECT STATUS AND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (2021-2022)

TABLE CONTINUED

LOCATION	PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE IN FOUR YEARS			
	ALL STUDENTS	ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Hobbs Municipal Schools	88%	89%	89%	86%
Hondo Valley Public Schools	*	*	*	*
House Municipal Schools	*	*	N/A	N/A
Jal Public Schools	80%	≥ 80%	*	*
Jemez Mountain Public Schools	≥ 80%	≥ 80%	*	*
Jemez Valley Public Schools	69%	69%	*	*
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	*	*	*	*
Las Cruces Public Schools	81%	72%	79%	71%
Las Vegas City Public Schools	78%	79%	81%	61%
Logan Municipal Schools	73%	*	N/A	*
Lordsburg Municipal Schools	84%	83%	*	*
Los Alamos Public Schools	96%	≥ 90%	≥ 90%	83%
Los Lunas Public Schools	71%	65%	70%	57%
Loving Municipal Schools	84%	85%	≥ 80%	*
Lovington Public Schools	86%	87%	89%	86%
Magdalena Municipal Schools	90%	89%	*	*
Maxwell Municipal Schools	≥ 80%	≥ 80%	N/A	*
Melrose Public Schools	≥ 80%	*	N/A	*
Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools	73%	75%	*	*
Mora Independent Schools	57%	57%	*	*
Moriarty Municipal Schools	79%	69%	≥ 90%	45%
Mosquero Municipal Schools	*	*	N/A	*
Mountainair Public Schools	79%	79%	N/A	*
Pecos Independent Schools	80%	78%	*	*
Peñasco Independent Schools	≥ 90%	≥ 90%	≥ 80%	*
Pojoaque Valley Public Schools	84%	78%	82%	*
Portales Municipal Schools	82%	75%	90%	72%
Quemado Independent Schools	*	*	N/A	N/A
Questa Independent Schools	79%	79%	*	*
Raton Public Schools	77%	79%	*	*
Reserve Independent Schools	*	*	N/A	*
Rio Rancho Public Schools	87%	74%	88%	75%
Roswell Independent Schools	69%	60%	68%	53%
Roy Municipal Schools	*	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ruidoso Municipal Schools	84%	85%	87%	82%
San Jon Municipal Schools	*	*	N/A	N/A
Santa Fe Public Schools	82%	79%	82%	76%
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	≥ 95%	≥ 95%	*	*

TABLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►

## High School Graduation Rates—BY SELECT STATUS AND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (2021-2022)

TABLE CONTINUED

LOCATION	PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE IN FOUR YEARS			
	ALL STUDENTS	ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Silver City Consolidated Schools	84%	86%	*	87%
Socorro Consolidated Schools	82%	82%	*	72%
Springer Municipal Schools	79%	77%	*	*
Taos Municipal Schools	67%	67%	60%	61%
Tatum Municipal Schools	≥ 90%	≥ 80%	*	*
Texico Municipal Schools	≥ 90%	≥ 80%	*	*
Truth or Consequences Schools	80%	80%	72%	76%
Tucumcari Public Schools	71%	72%	*	*
Tularosa Municipal Schools	67%	67%	*	*
Vaughn Municipal Schools	*	*	*	*
Wagon Mound Public Schools	*	*	N/A	*
West Las Vegas Public Schools	67%	67%	53%	*
Zuni Public Schools	83%	83%	85%	73%

**Source:** New Mexico Public Education Department, Graduation Data, "Cohort of 2022 4-Year Graduation Rates," retrieved October, 2023 from <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/accountability/graduation/>

\* Indicates rates are masked for subgroups with fewer than 6 student records. N/A indicates the data are unavailable.







## EDUCATION POLICY SOLUTIONS

### POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE ENROLLMENT

- ▶ High-quality child care is a vital part of the cradle-to-career educational continuum and, as such, the state should increase funding for and expand access to home visiting, child care assistance, and pre-K programs, including by using the new distribution from the state's Land Grant Permanent School Fund, continuing to use the Early Childhood Trust Fund for its original purpose of supporting early childhood education and care, and exploring new sources of General Fund revenue.
- ▶ Increase funding for high-quality 3- and 4-year-old pre-K so it is available to all and available as a full-day program.
- ▶ Increase training, technical assistance, and retention incentives for early learning providers, including expansion of the current wage supplement pilot program to incentivize and adequately compensate for quality and to reduce turnover.
- ▶ Increase funding for the Family Infant Toddler (FIT) program, which helps families whose young children have special needs.
- ▶ Fund and implement a wage and career ladder for child care providers that ties higher wages to increased levels of professional attainment, credentialing, and experience.

## POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE PROFICIENCIES

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- ▶ Increase the availability of reading coaches and support reading initiatives based on the science of reading and ensure support for dual language learners.
- ▶ Provide math coaches to students and professional development in math instruction for all elementary and math teachers.
- ▶ Ensure smaller class sizes.
- ▶ Increase K–12 per-pupil funding to provide resources for learning needs, mitigate the problems associated with poverty, and help schools decrease overcrowding in classrooms—particularly for students in high-poverty areas. This could be done by increasing or restructuring the at-risk factor in New Mexico’s state equalization guarantee (SEG) education funding formula or by increasing funding for the Family Income Index pilot and making it permanent.
- ▶ Increase funding for programs to serve Native American students. This could be done by including Native American students in the SEG education funding formula, creating a new Tribal Education Trust Fund, and increasing distributions to the Indian Education Fund.
- ▶ Expand quality before- and after-school mentorship and tutoring programs to provide added academic assistance to those students who are not performing well, or whose parents may not be able to help them with their homework.
- ▶ Further increase compensation for teachers, principals, and support staff, and increase postsecondary scholarships for educator training programs; increase funding for educator residencies; and provide residencies for principals to improve recruitment and retention of a highly effective and diverse education workforce.

## POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE

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- ▶ Revise zero-tolerance policies and penalties in order to keep more students in school.
- ▶ Eliminate suspensions and expulsions for students in early education through second grade.
- ▶ Ensure funding support for and expand the number of community schools, which provide students with services—including school-based health centers, quality before- and after-school programming, service learning, and classes for parents—that are shown to improve academic performance.
- ▶ Ensure adequate transportation so students have safe and timely ways to get to and from school.
- ▶ Fund alternative discipline practices like restorative justice and support implementation with adequate training and resources.
- ▶ Ensure that our LGBTQ+ students and faculty in our schools feel welcome and are fully supported.
- ▶ Ensure that schools and districts have inclusive anti-bullying policies and procedures and that they are being fully implemented.

## POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

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- ▶ Ensure adequate funding for the development of culturally responsive curricula.
- ▶ Provide more school academic counselors, behavioral health counselors, nurses, social workers, and psychologists and ensure that more schools have access to these professionals.
- ▶ Identify students in ninth grade who require additional learning time and provide free summer school, after-school, and online learning opportunities.
- ▶ Support districts to create graduate profiles that allow schools to better meet unique community goals.
- ▶ Provide relevant learning opportunities through service learning, capstone projects, and dual credit parity to better prepare students for career or college.
- ▶ Provide and pay for professional development for teachers on the use of technology.

TABLES, GRAPHS AND CHARTS

# HEALTH



HEALTH

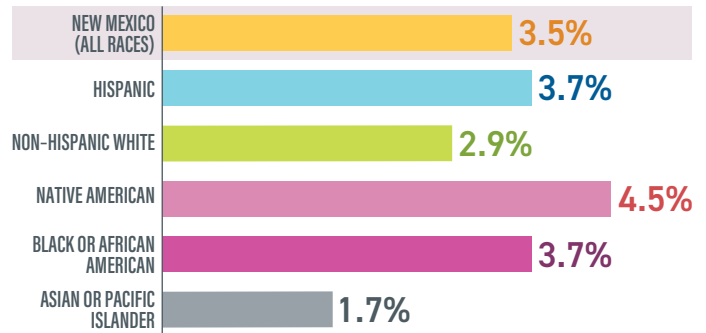
# PREGNANCY, BIRTH, AND BREASTFEEDING

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** Prenatal care is defined as health care that a pregnant woman receives from an obstetrician or a midwife, including dietary and lifestyle advice, ensuring proper weight gain, and examination for problems such as edema and preeclampsia. Babies born to mothers who do not receive prenatal care or to those who receive prenatal care only late in pregnancy are more likely to be born at a low birthweight, to have complications during birth, and to die during or immediately following birth than are those born to mothers who received comprehensive prenatal care.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** The rates of women receiving no prenatal care while pregnant worsened slightly from 2020 to 2021. Rates worsened for all races and ethnicities, and they remained higher among teen mothers and mothers with less than a high school diploma than among the general population of mothers. Racial disparities in prenatal care likely exist in part due to issues of access—whether there are language barriers or physical barriers—and as a result of structural racism embedded in medical systems that deter pregnant people of color from seeking care.

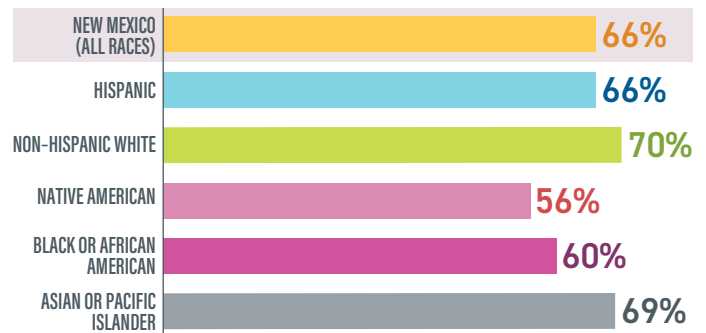


## Women Receiving No Prenatal Care—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2021)



Source: New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); retrieved November 2022 from <http://ibis.health.state.nm.us>

## Women Receiving Prenatal Care in the First Trimester—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2021)



Source: New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); retrieved November 2022 from <http://ibis.health.state.nm.us>



**HOW TO READ THIS TABLE:** “Of all mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 who had a live birth, 4.2% of them received no prenatal care for that birth.”

## Births to Women Receiving No Prenatal Care—BY SELECTED STATUS AND COUNTY (2021)

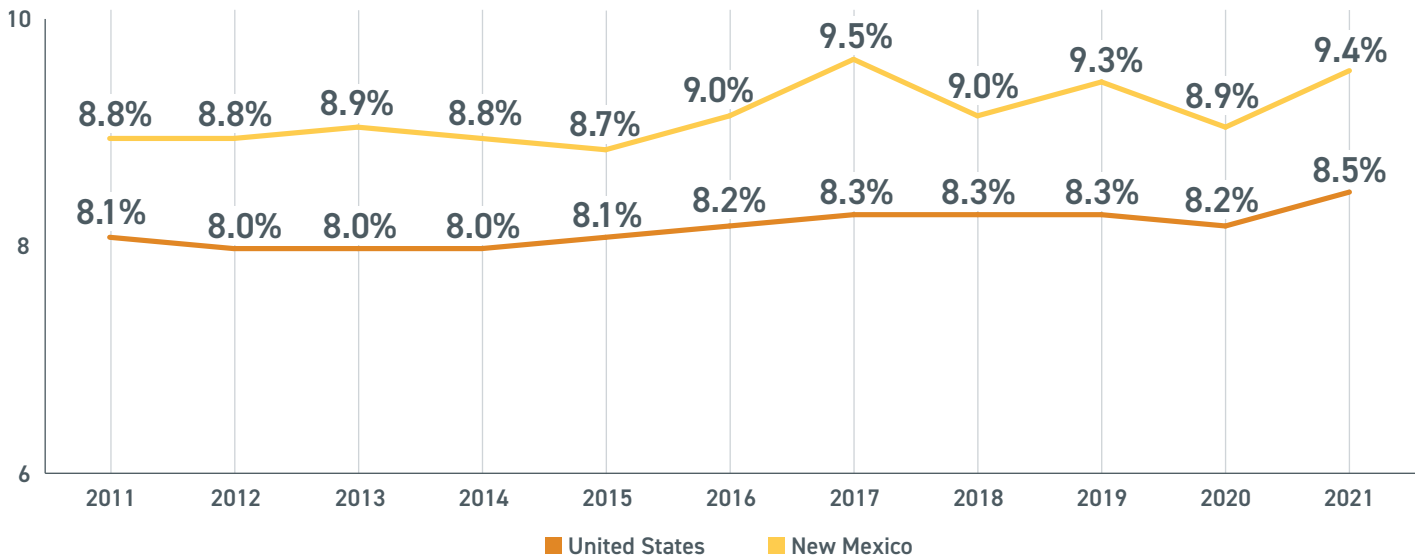
LOCATION	NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS TO WOMEN WHO RECEIVED NO PRENATAL CARE	PERCENT WHO RECEIVED NO PRENATAL CARE		
		OF ALL LIVE BIRTHS	OF ALL TEEN MOTHERS (AGES 15-19)	OF ALL MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>
Bernalillo County	208	3.2%	3.8%	4.7%
Catron County	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Chaves County	32	4.2%	5.2%	10.8%
Cibola County	12	5.2%	**	8.5%
Colfax County	**	**	0.0%	**
Curry County	16	2.0%	0.0%	5.6%
De Baca County	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Doña Ana County	112	4.3%	6.9%	7.9%
Eddy County	17	2.2%	0.0%	4.3%
Grant County	4	1.8%	0.0%	**
Guadalupe County	**	**	**	0.0%
Harding County	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hidalgo County	**	**	0.0%	0.0%
Lea County	33	3.2%	**	10.4%
Lincoln County	4	2.1%	0.0%	**
Los Alamos County	6	3.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Luna County	23	6.9%	**	17.4%
McKinley County	30	4.0%	**	9.6%
Mora County	**	**	0.0%	0.0%
Otero County	24	3.3%	**	7.8%
Quay County	**	**	0.0%	0.0%
Rio Arriba County	35	8.7%	**	17.2%
Roosevelt County	4	1.7%	0.0%	**
San Juan County	35	2.7%	5.3%	5.7%
San Miguel County	11	4.9%	**	16.0%
Sandoval County	43	3.3%	**	5.1%
Santa Fe County	37	3.3%	**	5.5%
Sierra County	**	**	0.0%	0.0%
Socorro County	9	5.9%	0.0%	13.2%
Taos County	21	8.7%	**	18.2%
Torrance County	6	3.9%	0.0%	**
Union County	**	**	0.0%	0.0%
Valencia County	26	3.1%	**	6.7%

**Source:** New Mexico Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics; retrieved from the NM DOH Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS), November 2022 from <http://ibis.health.state.nm.us> **Note:** Low birth counts may result in rates and percentages that are not indicative of the normal rate for that county and that may fluctuate widely over time due to random variation or chance. The rate for certain counties is suppressed by the NM Dept. of Health because the observed number of events is very small and not appropriate for publication, and for survey queries, rates calculated from fewer than 50 survey responses are suppressed. For this measure, suppressed rates for counties are designated by the \*\* symbol.

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** A **low birthweight** is defined as weighing 5.5 pounds or less at birth. Babies born at a low birthweight are at a greater risk for developmental delays, disabilities, chronic health conditions, and early death. While there are a number of medical factors that contribute to low birthweights, common non-medical risk factors include: living in poverty; giving birth at a young age; using drugs and alcohol during pregnancy; receiving late or no prenatal care; and not having enough to eat during pregnancy. The data include multiple births and preterm births, both medical factors that increase the likelihood of a low birthweight. Preterm births are often the result of a multiple pregnancy, obesity, high blood pressure, maternal age, and birth spacing of less than 18 months. Prenatal care can address some of these risk factors and support people who are pregnant in carrying their babies to full term.

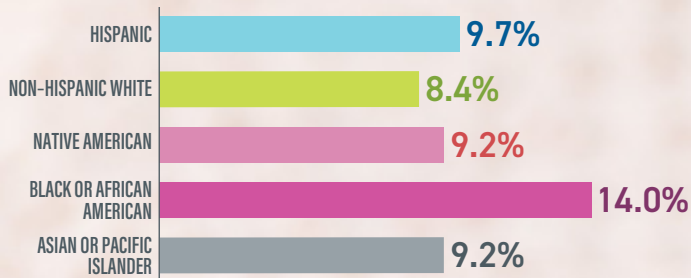
**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** In 2021, the rate of babies who were born at a low birthweight increased slightly, causing our rank to worsen, dropping from 36th to 39th in the nation on this indicator. The national rate saw a slight increase as well, despite improved access to health insurance via the Affordable Care Act. Rates of low birthweight babies in New Mexico are highest among Black or African American babies (14%), although this is an improvement over 2019. Rates in New Mexico also improved for Asian or Pacific Islander babies but have worsened for Hispanic, white, and Native American babies.

### Babies Born at a Low Birthweight—BY YEAR (2011–2021)



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Vital Statistics Reports, 2011-2021

## Babies Born at a Low Birthweight—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2021)



Source: New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); retrieved November 2022 from <http://ibis.health.state.nm.us>

## Babies Born at a Low Birthweight—BY COUNTY (2021)

LOCATION	RANK	PERCENT
United States	—	8.3%
New Mexico	—	9.4%
Bernalillo County	12	9.2%
Catron County	N/A	**
Chaves County	15	10.2%
Cibola County	19	11.8%
Colfax County	26	14.0%
Curry County	7	8.1%
De Baca County	N/A	**
Doña Ana County	10	8.9%
Eddy County	4	7.5%
Grant County	16	10.4%
Guadalupe County	N/A	**
Harding County	1	0.0%
Hidalgo County	20	11.9%
Lea County	6	8.0%
Lincoln County	25	13.9%
Los Alamos County	3	6.7%
Luna County	5	7.8%
McKinley County	12	9.2%
Mora County	N/A	**
Otero County	8	8.6%
Quay County	NA	**
Rio Arriba County	21	12.7%
Roosevelt County	2	6.4%
San Juan County	9	8.7%
San Miguel County	22	12.9%
Sandoval County	14	10.0%
Santa Fe County	18	11.4%
Sierra County	N/A	**
Socorro County	23	13.2%
Taos County	11	9.1%
Torrance County	24	13.5%
Union County	N/A	**
Valencia County	17	10.8%

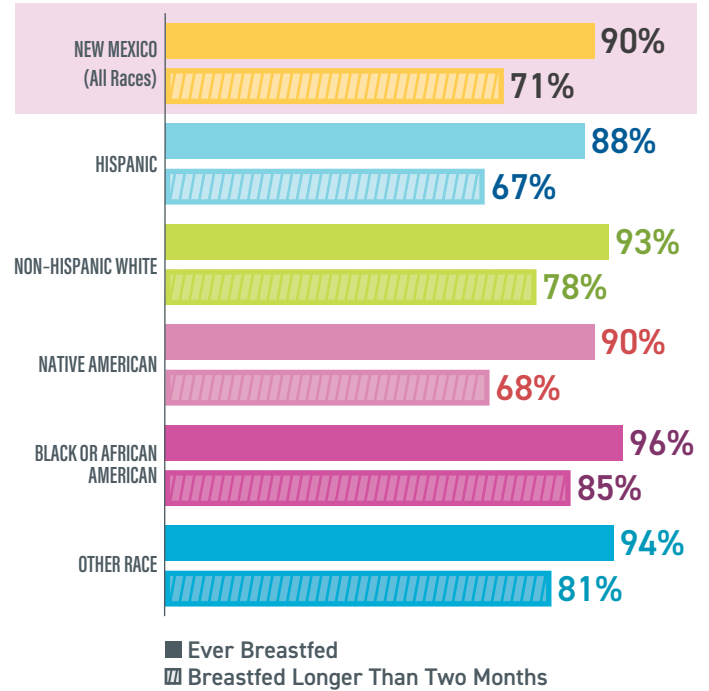
Source: New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); retrieved November 2022 from <http://ibis.health.state.nm.us>  
 Note: The count or rate for some counties for certain indicators are suppressed by the NM Dept. of Health because the observed number of events is very small and not appropriate for publication. For survey queries, percentages calculated from fewer than 50 survey responses are suppressed. For this measure, suppressed rates for counties are designated by the \*\* symbol.



**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** Breastfeeding has health benefits for both mother and babies. For the parent, breastfeeding can reduce risk of breast or ovarian cancer, high blood pressure, and type two diabetes. Babies receive antibodies from their parent when breastfed, and breastfed babies tend to have fewer ear infections and stomach bugs. Breastfeeding also protects babies against some short- and long-term illnesses, including asthma, obesity, type one diabetes, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Breastfeeding for at least two months significantly reduces the risk of SIDS, and it is recommended that babies continue to breastfeed for at least six months to increase health benefits.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** 90% of birthing parents breastfeed at some point, and 71% breastfeed for a period longer than two months. When comparing by race and ethnicity, Black parents have the highest rate of ever breastfeeding at 96%, as well as the highest rate of breastfeeding for longer than two months, at 85%.

## Women Who Ever Breastfed and Who Breastfed Longer than Two Months—RACE AND ETHNICITY (2020–2021)



Source: New Mexico Department of Health, Pregnancy Risk Assessment and Monitoring System (PRAMS); custom data request received December 2023





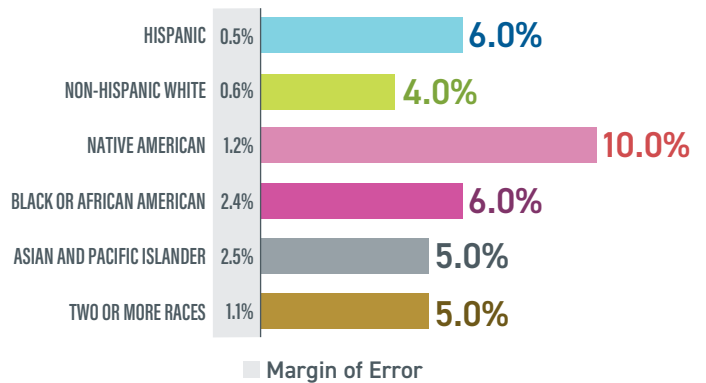
# HEALTH HEALTH INSURANCE

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** Health insurance includes coverage provided by both private insurers and public insurers such as Medicaid. This indicator measures the share of all children ages 0 to 18 who do not have health insurance. Children without health insurance are less likely to get well-baby and well-child visits, less likely to receive immunizations, and more likely to deal with untreated developmental delays and chronic conditions that can hinder healthy growth and learning.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** New Mexico children face some significant challenges that can threaten their health and well-being, but having health insurance can help address a number of them. Fortunately, New Mexico continues to have a low rate of children without health insurance, at 6% in 2021. This ranks us 33rd in the nation on this indicator. Thanks to the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, New Mexico has seen some of the biggest improvements over time in the nation—dropping to 6% from 14%. More recent data collected in 2022 show that New Mexico has further decreased the number of uninsured children, with only 4% of kids lacking coverage. It’s highly likely that this decrease was the result of pandemic-era policies that provided continuous Medicaid coverage, and now that the Medicaid unwinding is leading to very high levels of disenrollment, the rate of uninsured children may increase

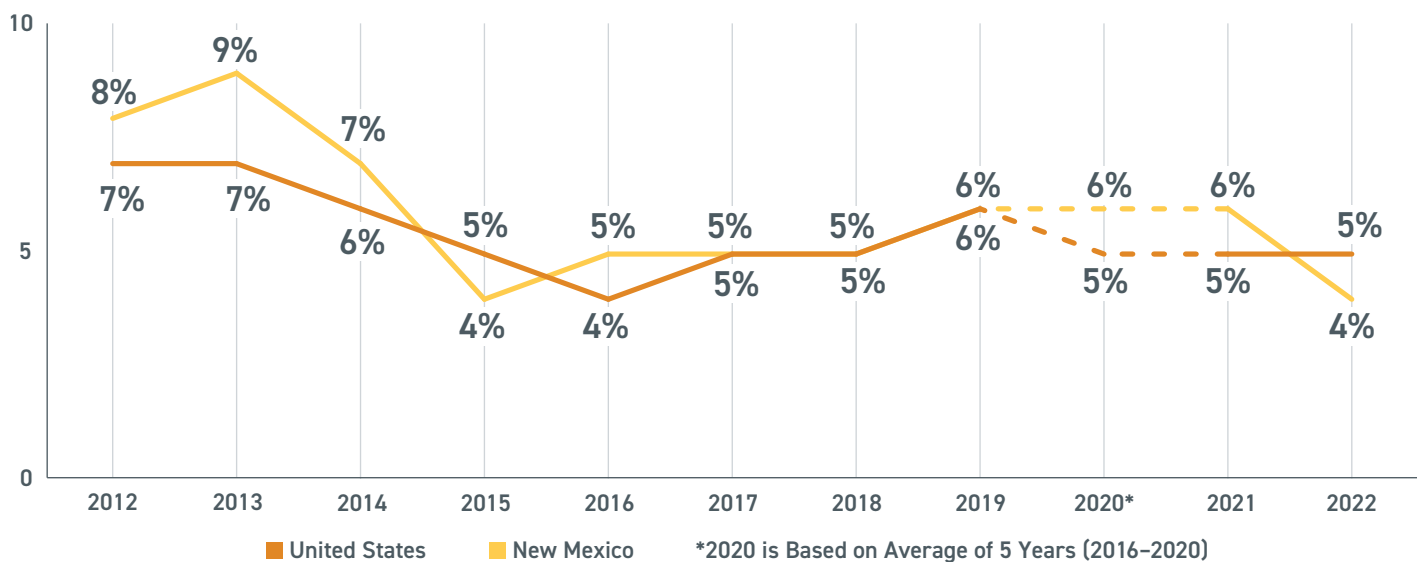
in 2023 data. Notably, most racial disparities are fairly small for children without health insurance, ranging from 4% to 5.2% of children when disaggregated by race and ethnicities other than Native American. However, Native American children in New Mexico still have much greater difficulty accessing health insurance, with uninsured rates around 12%.

## Children without Health Insurance—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2017-2021)



**Source:** Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021 **Note:** Higher margins of error indicate less statistical reliability due to small sample sizes.

## Children without Health Insurance—BY YEAR (2012-2022)



**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey from 2012-2022, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Table C27001 **Note:** The data for 2016-2020 are not comparable with data for other years as they are based on an average over 5 years. No comparable single year data are available for 2020 due to pandemic-related data collection challenges.

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** This indicator measures the share of all children ages 0 to 19 who do not have health insurance, including Medicaid. The low-income threshold used in this table is 200% of the federal poverty level, which was \$43,920 for a family of three in 2021. As health insurance is tied to certain types of employment, parents who earn low incomes are less likely to have access to health insurance for themselves or their families.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** The rates of children without health insurance appeared to increase in all income levels and in low-income families from 2020 to 2021. However, data collection challenges in 2020 impacted survey response levels, so caution should be used in comparing the 2020 data to other years. The 2021 rates show a slight increase in children without health insurance compared to 2019, possibly capturing some of the increase that was not captured in the 2020 survey.

## Children and Youth (Younger than 19 Years) without Health Insurance—BY INCOME LEVEL AND COUNTY (2021)

LOCATION	ALL INCOME LEVELS	LOW INCOME
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
Bernalillo County	6.8%	8.4%
Catron County	6.4%	7.1%
Chaves County	8.3%	9.3%
Cibola County	5.1%	3.9%
Colfax County	6.7%	7.9%
Curry County	7.9%	9.7%
De Baca County	11.1%	10.3%
Doña Ana County	6.4%	7.5%
Eddy County	8.3%	11.5%
Grant County	5.9%	7.3%
Guadalupe County	3.5%	3.7%
Harding County	8.6%	14.0%
Hidalgo County	10.0%	12.1%
Lea County	10.8%	13.5%
Lincoln County	8.0%	9.0%
Los Alamos County	2.4%	16.5%
Luna County	6.9%	7.3%
McKinley County	6.3%	3.9%
Mora County	5.5%	6.8%
Otero County	5.8%	6.4%
Quay County	6.4%	5.9%
Rio Arriba County	6.8%	7.2%
Roosevelt County	8.8%	11.0%
San Juan County	7.4%	5.7%
San Miguel County	5.2%	5.4%
Sandoval County	5.2%	6.9%
Santa Fe County	7.5%	9.7%
Sierra County	5.2%	5.3%
Socorro County	6.3%	6.4%
Taos County	6.0%	6.6%
Torrance County	7.0%	7.7%
Union County	8.9%	9.5%
Valencia County	5.8%	6.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2021



**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** Medicaid is the public health insurance program jointly funded by the state and federal governments. This indicator measures the share of children and youth ages 0 to 20 who are enrolled in Medicaid.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** Medicaid, known in New Mexico as Centennial Care, is the single largest provider of health insurance to children in New Mexico, covering 61% of the population younger than 21 in 2022. As a result of the pandemic-era policies ending, New Mexico is beginning to see a decreasing number of kids enrolling in Medicaid, even though many of those children may have been procedurally unenrolled while still being eligible.

## Children and Youth (Younger than 21 Years) Enrolled in Medicaid—BY COUNTY (JULY 2023)

LOCATION	NUMBER ENROLLED	
	ALL YOUTH	NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>332,732</b>	<b>55,452</b>
Bernalillo County	87,584	9,175
Catron County	127	14
Chaves County	12,800	83
Cibola County	5,467	3,484
Colfax County	1,979	41
Curry County	11,376	124
De Baca County	101	1
Doña Ana County	44,028	527
Eddy County	9,986	133
Grant County	3,808	108
Guadalupe County	854	4
Harding County	13	0
Hidalgo County	662	4
Lea County	15,244	126
Lincoln County	2,938	246
Los Alamos County	138	6
Luna County	6,712	85
McKinley County	16,358	14,914
Mora County	186	1
Otero County	8,007	1,475
Quay County	1,477	35
Rio Arriba County	7,839	1,556
Roosevelt County	841	19
San Juan County	23,602	13,790
San Miguel County	4,169	127
Sandoval County	19,376	5,524
Santa Fe County	18,165	1,498
Sierra County	3,021	24
Socorro County	2,836	768
Taos County	4,542	475
Torrance County	4,411	170
Union County	78	4
Valencia County	13,694	842
Unknown	313	69

**Source:** New Mexico Human Services Department, Medicaid Eligibility Reports, July: "All Children under 21 by County" and "Native Americans by County"; columns titled "Children including CHIP and not in another category"; retrieved October 2023 from <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/LookingForInformation/medicaid-eligibility.aspx>

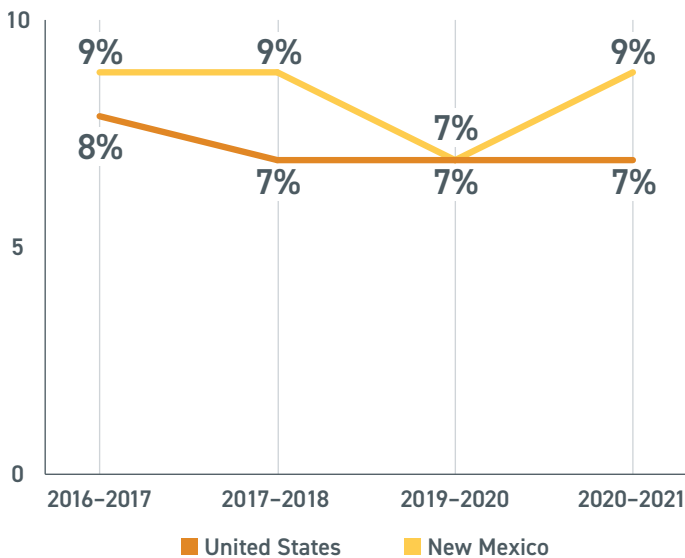


# HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** Children are more susceptible to environmental contaminants than adults because their bodies and immune systems are still developing, and this can lead to environmental health concerns such as asthma. Often, neighborhoods in low-income communities and neighborhoods with high rates of people of color face increased exposure to air pollutants due to their proximity to busy highways, oil and gas facilities, and other industrial centers, which contributes to higher incidences of childhood asthma.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** 9% of children in New Mexico have asthma problems compared to 7% nationally. However, 12% of teens in the state report having ever been diagnosed with asthma, a rate that varies by county, with many counties that are home to facilities and industries with high levels of environmental pollutants also having a higher prevalence of asthma.

## Children with Asthma Problems—BY YEAR (2016–2021)



**Source:** Child Trends analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, National Survey of Children's Health, 2020–2021 **Note:** Data for 2018–2019 are unavailable.

## Youth (Ages 12–17) with Asthma—BY COUNTY (2021)

LOCATION	RANK	PERCENT
New Mexico	—	12%
Bernalillo County	13	12%
Catron County	N/A	**
Chaves County	25	15%
Cibola County	8	11%
Colfax County	4	9%
Curry County	25	15%
De Baca County	13	12%
Doña Ana County	20	13%
Eddy County	29	18%
Grant County	4	9%
Guadalupe County	28	17%
Harding County	N/A	*
Hidalgo County	13	12%
Lea County	8	11%
Lincoln County	4	9%
Los Alamos County	13	12%
Luna County	3	8%
McKinley County	1	7%
Mora County	23	14%
Otero County	20	13%
Quay County	29	18%
Rio Arriba County	8	11%
Roosevelt County	13	12%
San Juan County	7	10%
San Miguel County	23	14%
Sandoval County	20	13%
Santa Fe County	1	7%
Sierra County	N/A	*
Socorro County	8	11%
Taos County	13	12%
Torrance County	13	12%
Union County	27	16%
Valencia County	8	11%

**Source:** New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), 2021; custom data request received November 2023 **Note:** A reliable rate cannot be generated for some counties. \*\* indicates too few respondents to generate a reliable rate and \* indicates the county did not participate or had too few respondents to generate a reliable rate.



**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** Extreme heat is the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the United States, an issue that worsens as temperatures continue to climb due to climate change. Many people in New Mexico are vulnerable to extreme heat, which can cause heat exhaustion and heat stroke, heart attacks, and exacerbation of other cardiovascular diseases. Increases in heat-related illnesses also further burdens the health care system, leading to higher costs.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** New Mexico spends \$391 more per Medicaid beneficiary due to heat-related health problems, with some counties spending thousands of dollars more. Increasing temperatures are not only causing health problems but are costing money.



## Heat-Related Excess Spending Per Medicaid Beneficiary—(ALL AGES, 2020)

LOCATION	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES	COST PER BENEFICIARIES
<b>United States</b>	<b>93,650,220</b>	<b>\$546</b>
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>953,719</b>	<b>\$391</b>
Bernalillo County	260,453	<=\$0
Catron County	1,108	\$164
Chaves County	33,263	<=\$0
Cibola County	14,785	\$2,027
Colfax County	6,178	\$1,918
Curry County	26,198	\$10,030
De Baca County	879	N/A
Doña Ana County	119,082	\$180
Eddy County	23,918	\$439
Grant County	12,672	<=\$0
Guadalupe County	2,682	N/A
Harding County	87	<=\$0
Hidalgo County	2,168	N/A
Lea County	34,649	\$132
Lincoln County	8,569	<=\$0
Los Alamos County	794	N/A
Luna County	17,859	\$41
McKinley County	47,910	<=\$0
Mora County	1,352	<=\$0
Otero County	24,201	<=\$0
Quay County	4,591	<=\$0
Rio Arriba County	22,865	\$2,264
Roosevelt County	4,531	\$1,889
San Juan County	63,766	N/A
San Miguel County	14,700	\$98
Sandoval County	52,420	<=\$0
Santa Fe County	68,432	\$3,641
Sierra County	9,092	\$7,797
Socorro County	8,979	\$1,406
Taos County	16,322	<=\$0
Torrance County	12,402	<=\$0
Union County	831	\$1,487
Valencia County	35,981	N/A

**Source:** ClimaWATCH Heat Vulnerability Assessments, Excess Health Care Use & Spending due to Heat, 2020; retrieved October 2023. **Note:** For San Juan County, data are unavailable because no heat waves were recorded. For all other counties with N/A, cost data are unavailable.

# HEALTH WEIGHT

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** This indicator measures the share of youth ages 10 to 17 who are considered **overweight** (being between the 85th and 95th Body Mass Index, or BMI, percentile) or **obese** (at or above the 95th BMI percentile). Height and weight are used to determine the BMI, which is age- and gender-specific. Being overweight or obese is often correlated to food insecurity and can negatively impact a child's overall health, ultimately leading to lifelong health challenges. Food insecurity is connected to child obesity and tracking this indicator will help us see more clearly where our kids are facing barriers to opportunity and equity. National data on this indicator have only been collected since 2016-2017.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** More than one-third (36%) of New Mexico teens were overweight or obese in 2020-2021, slightly worse than in 2019-2020 and the national rate of 33%. New Mexico ranks 39th in the nation, reflecting a drop from our ranking of 36th last year. Although race and ethnicity data for this indicator are limited, 36% of Hispanic teens, 25% of white non-Hispanic teens, and 35% of teens who are not Hispanic and are some other race are overweight or obese.

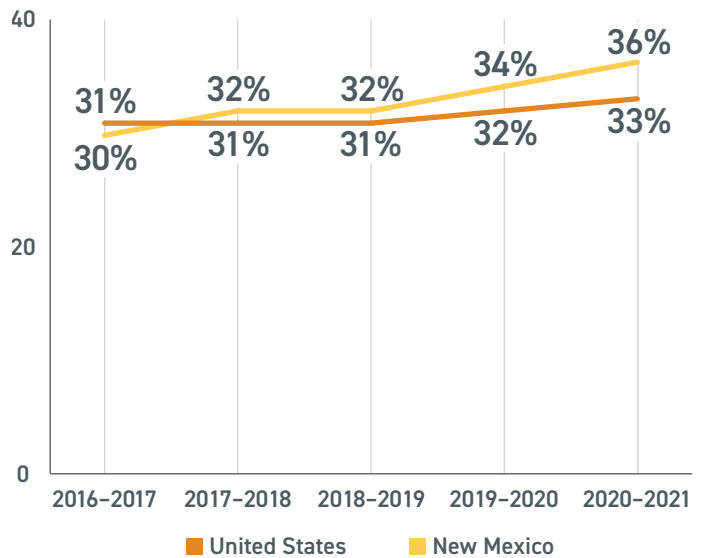


## Youth (Ages 10-17) Who Are Overweight or Obese—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2022)



**Source:** 2022 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) data query. Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB); retrieved October 2023

## Youth (Ages 10-17) Who Are Overweight or Obese—BY YEAR (2016-2021)



**Source:** Child Trends analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, National Survey of Children's Health, 2020-2021

## Youth (Ages 12–17) Who Are Overweight or Obese—BY COUNTY (2021)

LOCATION	RANK	PERCENT	
New Mexico	—	38%	
Bernalillo County	14	36%	
Catron County	N/A	**	
Chaves County	23	42%	
Cibola County	29	47%	
Colfax County	3	28%	
Curry County	14	36%	
De Baca County	23	42%	
Doña Ana County	17	39%	
Eddy County	17	39%	
Grant County	6	32%	
Guadalupe County	27	44%	
Harding County	N/A	*	
Hidalgo County	22	41%	
Lea County	17	39%	
Lincoln County	8	33%	
Los Alamos County	1	15%	
Luna County	23	42%	
McKinley County	30	51%	
Mora County	4	30%	
Otero County	2	27%	
Quay County	16	38%	
Rio Arriba County	11	35%	
Roosevelt County	17	39%	
San Juan County	26	43%	
San Miguel County	11	35%	
Sandoval County	5	31%	
Santa Fe County	10	34%	
Sierra County	N/A	*	
Socorro County	21	40%	
Taos County	6	32%	
Torrance County	11	35%	
Union County	28	46%	
Valencia County	8	33%	

Source: New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), 2021; custom data request received November 2023 **Note:** A reliable rate cannot be generated for some counties. \*\* indicates too few respondents to generate a reliable rate and \* indicates the county did not participate or had too few respondents to generate a reliable rate.





# HEALTH

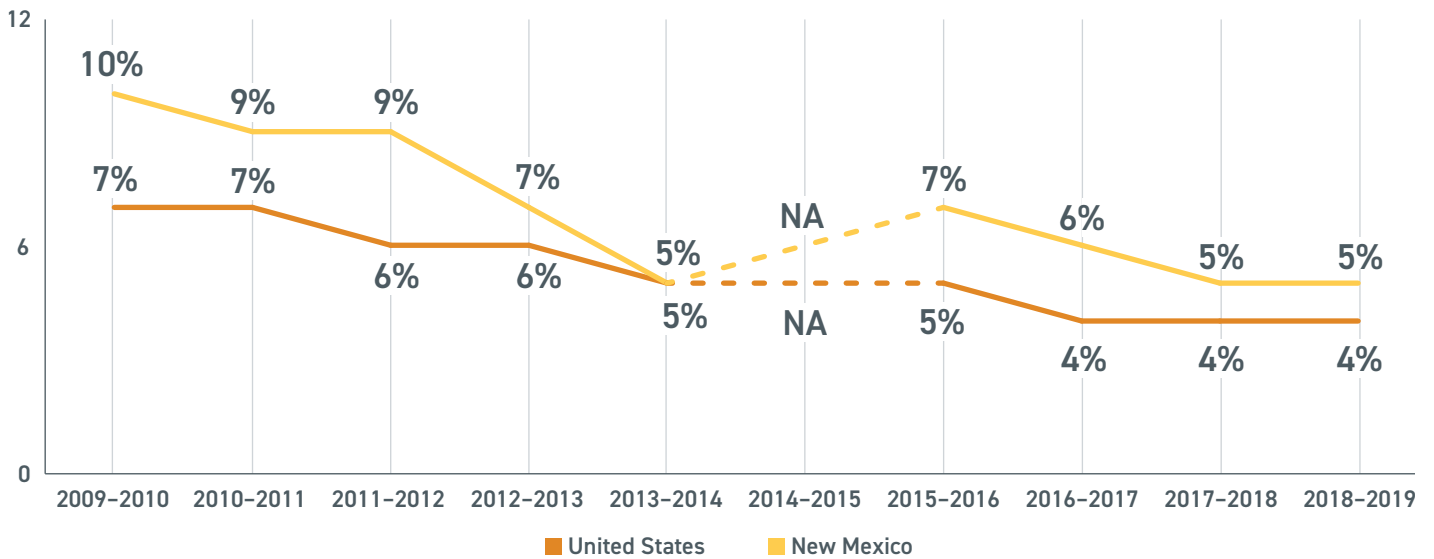
## DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** This indicator measures the share of teens ages 12 to 17 who reported **dependence on or abuse of illicit drugs or alcohol** in the past year. Illicit drug use includes the misuse of prescription psychotherapeutics or the use of marijuana, cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or methamphetamines. Misuse of prescription psychotherapeutics is defined as use in any way not directed by a doctor, including use without a prescription of one's own and use in greater amounts,

more often, or longer than told. Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs are more likely to be convicted of a crime, drive under the influence, do poorly in school, drop out of school, or become teen parents. Alcohol and drug abuse can also lead to mental and physical health problems, the effects of which may carry over into adulthood.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** The rate of teens abusing alcohol and drugs has remained the same after improving significantly over time, from 10% in 2009–2010 to 5% in 2018–2019.

Youth (Ages 12-17) Who Abuse Alcohol or Drugs—BY YEAR (2009-2019)



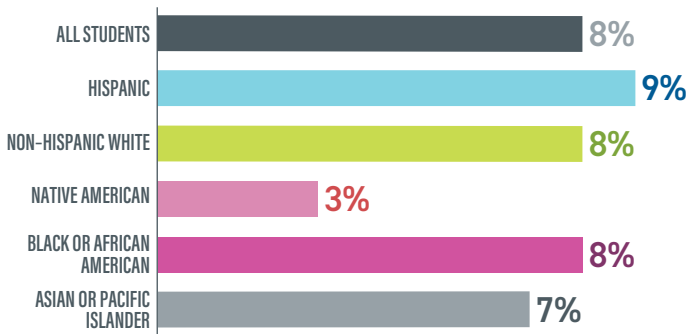
**Source:** National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2009-10 to 2018-19, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration **Note:** Data are unavailable in 2014-2015 due to a survey redesign, and data from 2015 to present may not be comparable to data prior to 2015.



**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** Teen binge drinking, for youth ages 12 to 17, is defined as having had five or more drinks on at least one occasion in the last 30 days for boys and four or more drinks on at least one occasion in the last 30 days for girls.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** The percent of teens who engaged in binge drinking decreased in the most recent measure to 8% in 2021 compared to 11% in 2019. During this time period, teen binge drinking among all races and ethnicities decreased.

### Youth (Ages 12-17) Binge Drinking—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2021)



Source: New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), 2021, custom data request received December 2022

### Youth (Ages 12-17) Binge Drinking—BY COUNTY (2021)

LOCATION	RANK	PERCENT
New Mexico	—	7.6%
Bernalillo County	4	5.6%
Catron County	23	12.4%
Chaves County	23	12.4%
Cibola County	5	5.9%
Colfax County	9	7.2%
Curry County	6	6.6%
De Baca County	7	7.1%
Doña Ana County	12	8.0%
Eddy County	28	14.3%
Grant County	31	17.5%
Guadalupe County	16	8.9%
Harding County	N/A	NA
Hidalgo County	25	12.7%
Lea County	25	12.7%
Lincoln County	27	13.1%
Los Alamos County	18	10.5%
Luna County	29	15.2%
McKinley County	1	2.8%
Mora County	20	11.5%
Otero County	2	4.1%
Quay County	7	7.1%
Rio Arriba County	14	8.7%
Roosevelt County	19	11.4%
San Juan County	3	5.0%
San Miguel County	14	8.7%
Sandoval County	13	8.3%
Santa Fe County	9	7.2%
Sierra County	N/A	NA
Socorro County	16	8.9%
Taos County	30	15.9%
Torrance County	22	12.0%
Union County	21	11.8%
Valencia County	11	7.3%

Source: New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), 2021, custom data request received December 2022

## HEALTH

# CHILD ABUSE

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** **Child abuse** can take the form of physical or sexual abuse or physical neglect and the rate is the number of children who are abused for every 1,000 children in the population. An allegation is considered **substantiated** when it is determined that the victim(s) is under the age of 18, a parent(s) or caretaker(s) has been identified as the perpetrator and/or identified as failing to protect the victim(s), and credible evidence exists to support the conclusion by the investigating worker that the child has been abused and/or neglected as defined by the New Mexico Children's Code. Child abuse is one of what experts call adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs. Multiple or sustained ACEs, particularly in young children, can negatively impact brain development, the results of which can be carried throughout their lives.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** The rate of substantiated child abuse increased slightly in FY 2023, at 13.2 children per 1,000. The continuation of the low rate after higher rates in previous years is likely related in part to a drop in child abuse reports as rates of chronically absent students remain historically high. Children who are chronically absent from school likely have less interaction with other adults, especially teachers, making it harder for youth to report abuse or for adults outside the home to notice the signs.



**READ THIS TABLE AS:** “In fiscal year 2023 (from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023), for every 1,000 children under the age of 18 in New Mexico, approximately 13.2 were abused or neglected.” The percentages should be read as: “In fiscal year 2023, of all substantiated allegations of child abuse, 30% were for physical abuse, 2% were for sexual abuse, and 68% were for physical neglect.”

## Substantiated Child Abuse Rates (per 1,000)—BY TYPE OF ABUSE AND COUNTY (FY 2023)

LOCATION	SUBSTANTIATED CHILD ABUSE VICTIM RATE (PER 1,000 CHILDREN)	PERCENT OF SUBSTANTIATED ABUSE THAT IS		
		PHYSICAL ABUSE	SEXUAL ABUSE	PHYSICAL NEGLECT
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>68%</b>
Bernalillo County	13.3	30%	2%	69%
Catron County	0.0	0%	0%	0%
Chaves County	22.1	24%	1%	75%
Cibola County	10.2	23%	0%	77%
Colfax County	22.3	21%	0%	79%
Curry County	10.8	26%	3%	71%
De Baca County	26.5	29%	0%	71%
Doña Ana County	18.2	34%	3%	64%
Eddy County	16.2	19%	3%	78%
Grant County	17.3	31%	4%	65%
Guadalupe County	24.1	59%	0%	41%
Harding County	23.8	0%	0%	100%
Hidalgo County	9.1	10%	0%	90%
Lea County	12.3	30%	2%	68%
Lincoln County	14.0	47%	4%	49%
Los Alamos County	3.5	48%	0%	52%
Luna County	7.6	35%	0%	65%
McKinley County	7.2	27%	0%	73%
Mora County	20.5	8%	0%	92%
Otero County	9.7	39%	4%	57%
Quay County	33.8	22%	3%	75%
Rio Arriba County	10.4	32%	0%	68%
Roosevelt County	10.7	37%	2%	61%
San Juan County	12.1	32%	0%	68%
San Miguel County	29.6	39%	2%	59%
Sandoval County	10.7	37%	2%	62%
Santa Fe County	7.2	27%	1%	72%
Sierra County	15.5	62%	0%	38%
Socorro County	14.3	30%	0%	70%
Taos County	14.3	27%	0%	73%
Torrance County	27.3	30%	5%	64%
Union County	7.4	29%	0%	71%
Valencia County	9.7	19%	2%	79%

Source: New Mexico Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD) Protective Services Division; information request received December 2023

# HEALTH

## DEATH RATES

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** The **infant mortality rate** is the number of infants ages 0 to 1 who die within the first year of life for each 1,000 live births.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** Infant mortality rates declined slightly from 5.3 per 1,000 births in 2020 to 4.8 per 1,000 births in 2021.

### Infant (Ages 0-1) Mortality Numbers and Rates (per 1,000)—BY COUNTY (2021)

LOCATION	NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS	INFANT MORTALITY RATE (DEATHS PER 1,000 BIRTHS)
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Bernalillo County	25	3.9
Catron County	0	0
Chaves County	5	6.6
Cibola County	0	0
Colfax County	**	**
Curry County	5	6.2
De Baca County	0	0
Doña Ana County	17	6.6
Eddy County	**	**
Grant County	**	**
Guadalupe County	**	**
Harding County	0	0
Hidalgo County	0	0
Lea County	**	**
Lincoln County	**	**
Los Alamos County	**	**
Luna County	**	**
McKinley County	**	**
Mora County	0	0
Otero County	4	5.5
Quay County	0	0
Rio Arriba County	**	**
Roosevelt County	0	0
San Juan County	9	7
San Miguel County	**	**
Sandoval County	4	3.1
Santa Fe County	**	**
Sierra County	**	**
Socorro County	0	0
Taos County	**	**
Torrance County	**	**
Union County	0	0
Valencia County	6	7.1

**Source:** New Mexico Department of Health, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, New Mexico Death Certificate Database; retrieved from the NM DOH Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS), October 2023 from <http://ibis.health.state.nm.us> **Note:** Low birth counts may result in rates and percentages that are not indicative of the normal rate for that county and that may fluctuate widely over time due to random variation or chance. The rate for certain counties is suppressed by the NM Dept. of Health because the observed number of events is very small and not appropriate for publication, and for survey queries, rates calculated from fewer than 50 survey responses are suppressed. For this measure, suppressed rates for counties are designated by the \*\* symbol.





**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** The **child and teen death rates** are the number of deaths of children ages 1 to 14 and teens ages 15 to 19 for every 100,000 children and teens in those age ranges in the population. Most youth deaths are preventable and caused by accidents, homicide or suicide. In 2020, guns became the leading cause of death for children and teens nationwide. Ensuring that children and teens live in safe, supportive homes and communities, have access to safe public spaces and to a full range of physical and mental health care services, and do not have unauthorized access to firearms, can help improve rates in this area.

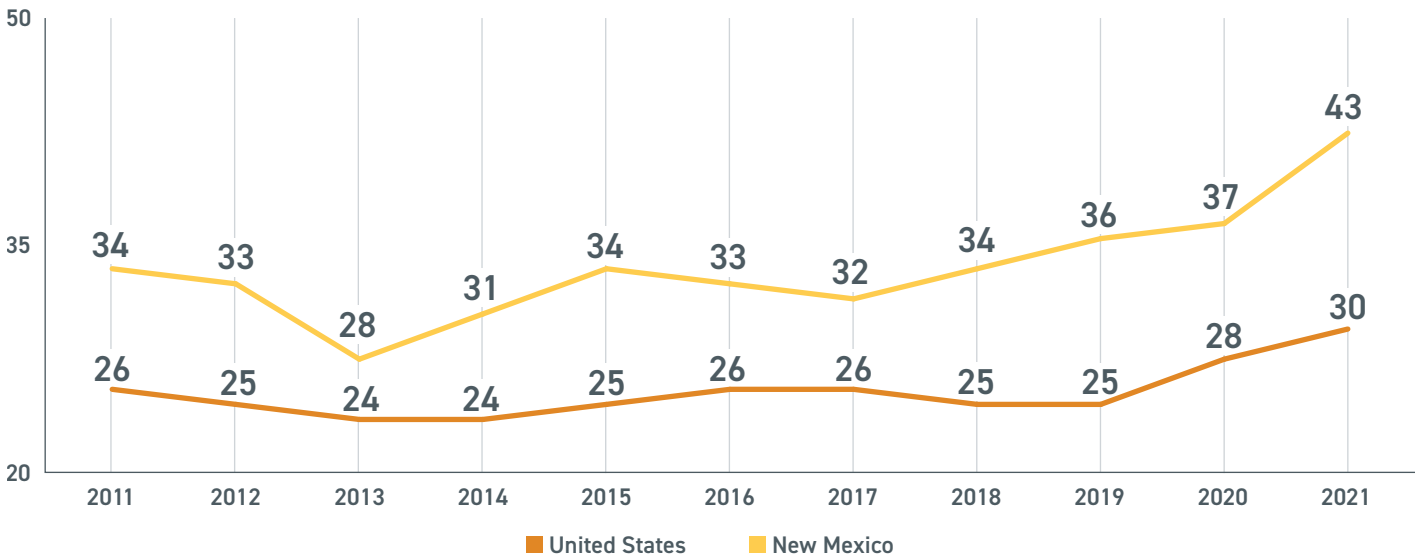
**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** New Mexico's child and teen death rate is 43 deaths per 100,000 children and teens. This is significantly worse than the U.S. average rate of 30 per 100,000 and ranks New Mexico 45th among the states on this measure. Rates among Hispanic, Native American, and white children in New Mexico (at 42 per 100,000, 47 per 100,000, and 40 per 100,000, respectively) are significantly higher than the national average. New Mexico's rate has increased for each of the past four years, while the national rate increased for the last two years after a prior decade with little change. Rates have increased among non-Hispanic whites, Hispanics, and Native Americans.

## Child and Teen Death Rates (per 100,000)—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2021)



**Source:** Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Multiple Causes of Death Microdata Files for 2021 **Note:** Estimates for other races and ethnicities suppressed because the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.

## Child and Teen Death Rates (per 100,000)—BY YEAR (2011-2021)



**Source:** Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Multiple Causes of Death Microdata Files for 2011-2021

## Child (Ages 0-14) Death Rates (per 100,000)— BY COUNTY (2021)

LOCATION	RANK	DEATHS (PER 100,000 CHILDREN)
<b>New Mexico</b>	—	<b>49.8</b>
Bernalillo County	13	39.8
Catron County	1	0
Chaves County	20	59.6
Cibola County	9	19.2
Colfax County	N/A	**
Curry County	22	71.8
De Baca County	1	0
Doña Ana County	19	59.4
Eddy County	15	50.8
Grant County	N/A	**
Guadalupe County	N/A	**
Harding County	1	0
Hidalgo County	1	0
Lea County	12	38.6
Lincoln County	N/A	**
Los Alamos County	N/A	**
Luna County	16	53.3
McKinley County	10	30.7
Mora County	1	0
Otero County	14	46.1
Quay County	1	0
Rio Arriba County	17	53.5
Roosevelt County	1	0
San Juan County	23	76.6
San Miguel County	N/A	**
Sandoval County	21	66.2
Santa Fe County	11	33.3
Sierra County	N/A	**
Socorro County	N/A	**
Taos County	N/A	**
Torrance County	N/A	**
Union County	1	0
Valencia County	18	55.3

**Source:** New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); retrieved November 2022 from <http://ibis.health.state.nm.us>  
**Note:** The rate for certain counties is suppressed by the NM Dept. of Health because the observed number of events is very small and not appropriate for publication. For survey queries, rates calculated from fewer than 50 survey responses are suppressed. For this measure, suppressed rates for counties are designated by the \*\* symbol.

## Teen (Ages 15-19) Death Rates (per 100,000)— BY COUNTY (2021)

LOCATION	RANK	DEATHS (PER 100,000 TEENS)
<b>New Mexico</b>	—	<b>90.5</b>
Bernalillo County	23	101
Catron County	1	0
Chaves County	17	57.5
Cibola County	29	175.6
Colfax County	1	0
Curry County	27	125.2
De Baca County	1	0
Doña Ana County	14	55.5
Eddy County	21	92
Grant County	28	126.6
Guadalupe County	32	365
Harding County	1	0
Hidalgo County	1	0
Lea County	13	51.6
Lincoln County	31	273.5
Los Alamos County	19	79
Luna County	33	405.9
McKinley County	15	55.8
Mora County	1	0
Otero County	22	97.7
Quay County	1	0
Rio Arriba County	18	77.3
Roosevelt County	1	0
San Juan County	26	118.9
San Miguel County	1	0
Sandoval County	12	28.9
Santa Fe County	25	105.9
Sierra County	1	0
Socorro County	20	89.8
Taos County	30	272.8
Torrance County	24	101.3
Union County	1	0
Valencia County	16	57.3

**Source:** New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS), custom data request received November 2022 **Note:** Due to very small population sizes in many New Mexico counties, death rates per 100,000 of an age cohort can vary widely from year to year.



## HEALTH POLICY SOLUTIONS

### POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE PRENATAL CARE, BIRTHWEIGHT, AND BREASTFEEDING

- ▶ Expand outreach to pregnant women to enroll them in Medicaid and WIC early in their pregnancy so more of them get full-term prenatal care and nutrition assistance and education that can improve outcomes and help prevent low birthweight.
- ▶ Expand outreach to women who have newborns to ensure they are enrolled in WIC and receive education and support for breastfeeding.
- ▶ Advocate for full federal funding of the WIC program.
- ▶ Pass paid family and medical leave to provide new parents with time to bond with children and establish breastfeeding.
- ▶ Expand and fully fund health and nutrition programs for pregnant teens.
- ▶ Automatically exempt single pregnant people from TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) work requirements, especially in the last trimester.
- ▶ Protect SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) from eligibility changes that would decrease the number of pregnant people receiving these benefits.
- ▶ Provide adequate funding for programs for new parents, including universal, voluntary home visiting programs that begin prenatally, so more women can be served during their pregnancy. Home visiting programs can support breastfeeding initiation and continuation and are shown to improve outcomes for the whole family.
- ▶ Expand a program that funds home visiting through Medicaid in order to access federal matching funds.
- ▶ Support the creation of and funding for more county and tribal health councils.

## POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE HEALTH INSURANCE RATES

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- ▶ Increase efforts to assist all Medicaid-eligible individuals to retain their Medicaid coverage during the unwinding of the public health emergency.
- ▶ Implement aggressive outreach and enrollment programs to help cover those children who are eligible but still not enrolled, particularly in hard-to-reach rural, tribal, and frontier areas.
- ▶ Integrate the health insurance marketplace with Medicaid so there is “no wrong door” for enrollment to help low- and middle-income parents who are getting coverage for themselves.
- ▶ Simplify the Medicaid enrollment and recertification process for children, and enact express-lane enrollment, which would help the state identify eligible children using information from other programs like Head Start and SNAP or from tax returns.
- ▶ Adopt and fully fund the Medicaid Forward Plan that would greatly improve access to affordable health care for those who don’t meet the income requirements for Medicaid or the insurance Exchange, regardless of immigration status.
- ▶ Ensure a timely and culturally responsive implementation of dental therapy to improve access to dental care for more children, particularly those in rural New Mexico.

## POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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- ▶ Protect families and children from the effects of extreme weather and other aspects of climate change by creating a state Public Health and Climate Resiliency program within the Department of Health.
- ▶ Convert from diesel school buses to EV to protect student, staff, and faculty health.
- ▶ Update New Mexico's Oil and Gas Justice and Reform Act to protect the environment, public health, and frontline communities.
- ▶ Fully fund state agencies so they can enforce laws that protect residents' health.
- ▶ Enact bonding reform to cover the costs to clean up and restore natural habitats around orphan well sites, which are inactive, unplugged oil and gas wells that leak toxic chemicals into the air.

## POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE WEIGHT

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- ▶ Because food insecurity is often a cause of obesity, continue funding Healthy School Meals for All so all children and teens in low-income communities have access to enough nutritious food without needing to prove eligibility.
- ▶ Expand funding for the Outdoor Equity Fund so more youth can access the outdoors and the associated benefits for mental and physical health.



## POLICY SOLUTIONS TO DECREASE DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

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- ▶ Greatly expand behavioral and mental health programs for children, youth and families.
- ▶ Expand funding and support for community schools and school-based health centers so students have access to health care they might not otherwise get—including confidential and developmentally appropriate mental health services—in a safe, accessible place.
- ▶ Support the creation of and funding for more county and tribal health councils in order to better reach young people who are attempting to self-medicate an untreated mental health problem with alcohol and drugs.
- ▶ Fund drug and alcohol rehabilitation services for youth, especially at an early intervention stage—as opposed to incarcerating youth for alcohol-related offenses—to help prevent further problems and reduce high rates of recidivism.
- ▶ Support treatment instead of incarceration for nonviolent drug and alcohol offenses.
- ▶ Ban the sale of flavored electronic cigarettes.
- ▶ Increase taxes on tobacco, e-cigarette products, and alcohol to curb usage.

## POLICY SOLUTIONS TO DECREASE CHILD ABUSE

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- ▶ Adequately fund evidence-based child abuse prevention programs and strengthen the role of prevention at CYFD.
- ▶ Increase funding to raise wages for child protective services staff to draw more qualified staff and reduce caseloads.
- ▶ Support and expand quality home visiting, early intervention, child care, and pre-K programs proven to lower child abuse and neglect rates in order to help improve social and physical outcomes for infants and young children. (The lack of consistent, safe child care is a risk factor for child abuse. Read more about the child care assistance program in Policy Solutions for Poverty.)
- ▶ As child neglect is frequently the product of a parent's untreated substance abuse or mental illness, New Mexico should strengthen its substance abuse and mental health care system so access to treatment for problems such as drug and alcohol addiction are more readily available.

## POLICY SOLUTIONS TO DECREASE DEATH RATES

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- ▶ Expand funding for suicide prevention programs to provide youth with supportive adults and strategies to cope with difficult situations.
- ▶ Enact stronger gun safety laws to limit child access to guns in order to lower the number of child gun deaths.
- ▶ Enact a waiting period for the purchase of all firearms.
- ▶ Empower a citizen oversight or review board for all child abuse cases handled by the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) that result in death.

TABLES, GRAPHS AND CHARTS

# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

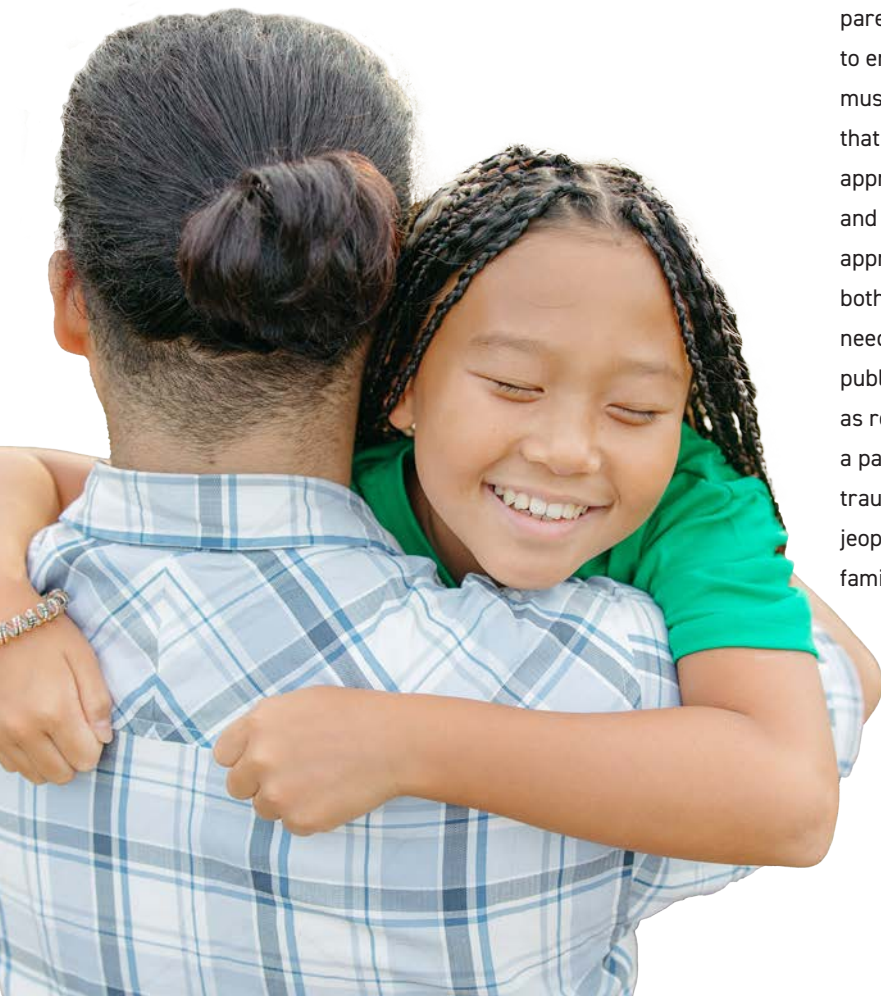


## FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

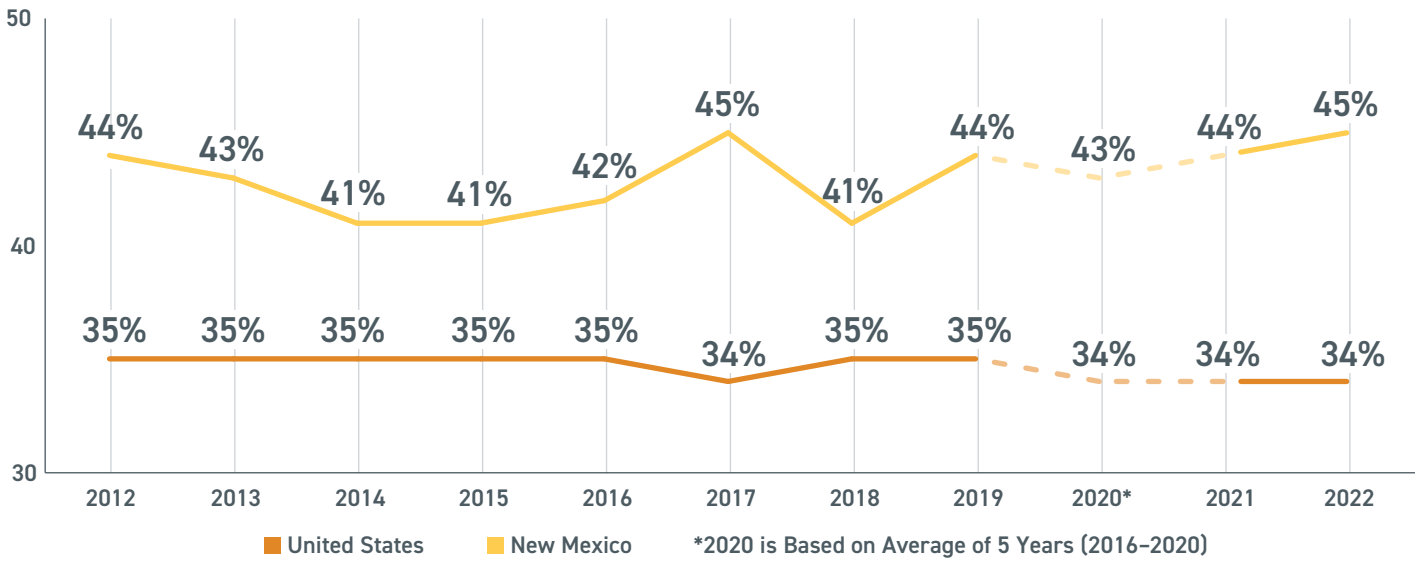
# TYPES OF FAMILIES

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** A **single-parent family** is defined as a family headed by an unmarried parent or parents. As parents who are cohabitating but remain unmarried are counted as “single” parents, this can include families where more than one parental figure is present. Families in which only one parent is present tend to have lower incomes and less access to employer-sponsored benefits like health insurance than do two-parent households. Single parents may have to work two jobs or overtime hours just to provide basic necessities for their families and may have trouble affording enriching experiences for their children like high-quality child care. Single mothers may have the added disadvantage of earning less than their male counterparts in similar occupations. Although children can be better off without a problem parent in the household, children in single-parent families often have less access to emotional supports and economic resources than do children in two-parent families.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** In 2022 45% of children in New Mexico were living in single-parent families, much higher than the national average of 34%. Our ranking is based on 2021 data and we remain 48th among the states on this measure. Our high rate of children living in single-parent families is likely part of the reason so many of our children live in poverty, are food insecure, and face educational and health challenges. That single-parent families and poverty are linked is well understood, but what receives far less attention is the question of which situation is the cause and which the effect. Essentially, not only can being a single parent lead to a life of poverty, but the converse—that financial instability within a relationship can lead to its dissolution—is also true. However, public policies that seek to increase marriage rates among families earning low incomes rarely take this fact into consideration and too frequently fail to take a holistic approach to ensuring all families can thrive, no matter their structure. Partly because centuries of systemic discrimination have forced a higher share of people of color into poverty, children of color are more likely to live in single-parent families than are their white and Asian counterparts. Work to ensure that more children of color live in two-parent families must begin by dismantling the race- and ethnicity-based barriers that their parents face; barriers to high-quality and culturally appropriate education, jobs that pay family-sustaining wages, and safe housing. Public programs that use a two-generational approach—meaning they create opportunities simultaneously for both parents and children and in doing so address both groups’ needs—are crucial for improving indicators like this one. Some public programs, such as TANF, have unproductive policies, such as requiring mothers to name their child’s father regardless of a pattern of abuse. These policies may not only put children in traumatic and sometimes dangerous situations, but they can also jeopardize financial assistance and exacerbate a single-parent family’s poverty.

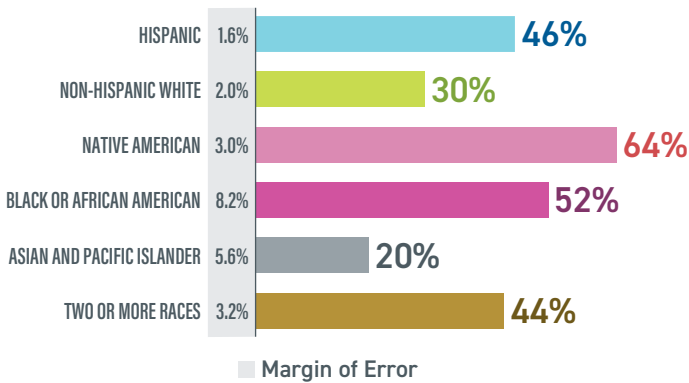


## Children in Single-Parent Families—BY YEAR (2012–2022)



**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012–2022, 2016–2020 American Community Survey, Table C23008 **Note:** The data for 2016–2020 are not comparable with data for other years as they are based on an average over 5 years. No comparable single year data are available for 2020 due to pandemic-related data collection challenges.

## Children in Single-Parent Families—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2017–2021)



**Source:** Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample, 2017–2021 **Note:** Higher margins of error indicate less statistical reliability due to small sample sizes.



## Children in Single-Parent Families—BY COUNTY (2017–2021)

LOCATION	RANK	PERCENT
United States	—	30%
New Mexico	—	39%
Bernalillo County	20	40%
Catron County	4	30%
Chaves County	24	46%
Cibola County	27	51%
Colfax County	16	37%
Curry County	22	43%
De Baca County	31	55%
Doña Ana County	19	38%
Eddy County	13	35%
Grant County	7	33%
Guadalupe County	5	32%
Harding County	1	4%
Hidalgo County	11	34%
Lea County	13	35%
Lincoln County	16	37%
Los Alamos County	2	16%
Luna County	11	34%
McKinley County	28	52%
Mora County	33	74%
Otero County	7	33%
Quay County	25	49%
Rio Arriba County	30	54%
Roosevelt County	15	36%
San Juan County	21	41%
San Miguel County	32	59%
Sandoval County	3	28%
Santa Fe County	16	37%
Sierra County	25	49%
Socorro County	7	33%
Taos County	23	45%
Torrance County	7	33%
Union County	28	52%
Valencia County	5	32%



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017–2021, table B09002



**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** The term **households** include all people who live in a housing unit, while the term **families** refers to households in which at least some members are related to each other. Households in which **grandparents are responsible for grandchildren** are defined as households in which the grandparents are both living with their grandchildren and are financially responsible for them even if the children's parents are also present in the household. Children may live with and be the financial responsibility of their grandparents for a number of reasons. Parents may be unable to work or find a job or they may be unable to live with their children due to external circumstances such as incarceration. Being financially responsible for a grandchild can put an economic strain on grandparents, especially if they are living on a fixed income.

Also, children of grandparents who have not been made their legal guardians may be unable to receive benefits such as SNAP or Medicaid for which the children would otherwise qualify. This table does not include other types of household structures besides families with children, including families and households without children and households where no one is related.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** While a large share of New Mexico's children (39%) live in families where the parents are not married, married-couple families still make up the largest share (15%) of households with children. Neither the state- nor national-level rates on types of families with children has changed significantly from the 2014–2018 data.



HOW TO READ THIS TABLE: "Of all the households in New Mexico, 15% are married-couple families with their own children younger than 18 years."

## Types of Families—BY HOUSEHOLDER AND COUNTY (2017-2021)

LOCATION	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH OWN CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 18 YEARS THAT ARE				
		MARRIED-COUPLE FAMILIES	SINGLE-MALE HOUSEHOLDER FAMILIES	SINGLE-FEMALE HOUSEHOLDER FAMILIES	COHABITATING COUPLE HOUSEHOLDER FAMILIES	GRANDPARENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANDCHILDREN
<b>United States</b>	<b>124,010,992</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>797,596</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Bernalillo County	277,653	14%	2%	6%	3%	2%
Catron County	1,523	8%	0%	3%	0%	2%
Chaves County	23,244	17%	2%	8%	4%	3%
Cibola County	7,934	9%	2%	5%	3%	6%
Colfax County	5,638	12%	2%	3%	3%	2%
Curry County	18,285	18%	2%	7%	3%	4%
De Baca County	580	10%	1%	2%	15%	4%
Doña Ana County	79,933	17%	2%	6%	4%	2%
Eddy County	22,315	21%	2%	5%	3%	3%
Grant County	11,144	9%	0%	5%	1%	2%
Guadalupe County	1,146	8%	1%	3%	1%	5%
Harding County	202	9%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Hidalgo County	1,573	14%	1%	4%	2%	3%
Lea County	23,851	24%	2%	7%	4%	4%
Lincoln County	8,723	13%	2%	4%	1%	2%
Los Alamos County	8,029	21%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Luna County	9,047	18%	1%	6%	3%	3%
McKinley County	20,769	12%	2%	8%	4%	8%
Mora County	2,129	2%	0%	8%	1%	4%
Otero County	23,590	17%	1%	5%	2%	4%
Quay County	3,359	7%	0%	8%	2%	1%
Rio Arriba County	13,293	9%	3%	7%	3%	4%
Roosevelt County	6,895	18%	0%	6%	3%	2%
San Juan County	40,639	16%	2%	6%	5%	4%
San Miguel County	11,451	7%	2%	7%	5%	4%
Sandoval County	53,567	18%	1%	5%	3%	3%
Santa Fe County	65,856	12%	1%	5%	2%	3%
Sierra County	5,321	7%	0%	4%	2%	2%
Socorro County	4,834	14%	1%	3%	2%	10%
Taos County	12,840	6%	1%	3%	2%	4%
Torrance County	5,406	13%	1%	2%	7%	4%
Union County	1,277	9%	6%	2%	5%	1%
Valencia County	25,550	16%	1%	4%	3%	6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021, Table DP02

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** As married-couple families with children make up a smaller share of households in most tribal areas than they do in the state as a whole, many tribal areas have higher rates of households where grandparents are responsible for their grandchildren.

## Types of Families—BY HOUSEHOLDER AND TRIBAL AREA (2017–2021)

LOCATION	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH OWN CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 18 YEARS THAT ARE				
		MARRIED-COUPLE FAMILIES	SINGLE-MALE HOUSEHOLDER FAMILIES	SINGLE-FEMALE HOUSEHOLDER FAMILIES	COHABITATING COUPLE HOUSEHOLDER FAMILIES	GRANDPARENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANDCHILDREN
United States (All Races)	124,010,992	19%	1%	5%	2%	2%
New Mexico (All Races)	797,596	15%	2%	6%	3%	3%
Acoma Pueblo	705	7%	2%	1%	7%	19%
Cochiti Pueblo	607	6%	1%	5%	3%	4%
Isleta Pueblo	1,327	10%	2%	4%	4%	11%
Jemez Pueblo	502	13%	2%	7%	1%	14%
Jicarilla Apache	737	2%	4%	12%	4%	9%
Laguna Pueblo	944	10%	2%	9%	2%	4%
Mescalero Apache	1,041	10%	2%	10%	3%	14%
Nambe Pueblo	846	10%	1%	6%	1%	3%
Navajo	18,728	10%	1%	7%	5%	9%
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	1,833	9%	2%	7%	4%	8%
Picuris Pueblo	722	5%	3%	8%	2%	3%
Pojoaque Pueblo	1,515	11%	2%	4%	4%	6%
Sandia Pueblo	2,102	11%	1%	6%	3%	4%
San Felipe Pueblo	998	11%	2%	5%	1%	15%
San Ildefonso Pueblo	874	19%	3%	8%	4%	6%
Santa Ana Pueblo	247	11%	1%	2%	0%	12%
Santa Clara Pueblo	4,242	10%	1%	7%	4%	3%
Santo Domingo Pueblo	581	13%	5%	7%	1%	14%
Taos Pueblo	1,854	5%	2%	2%	1%	8%
Tesuque Pueblo	324	15%	1%	5%	3%	30%
Zia Pueblo	198	11%	3%	6%	12%	19%
Zuni Pueblo	1,804	11%	3%	7%	5%	14%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017–2021, Table DP02

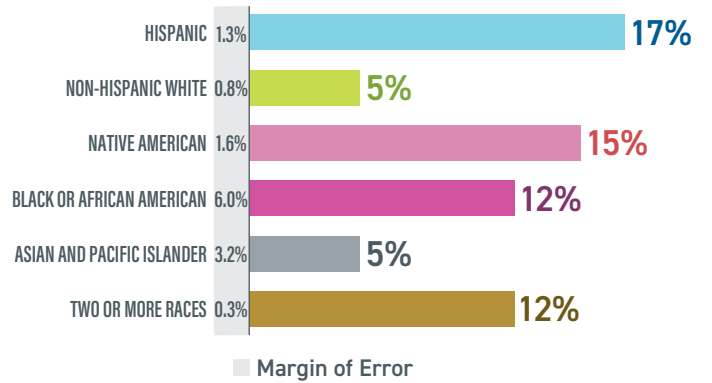


# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ADULT EDUCATION

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** The **household head** is the person in whose name the home is rented or mortgaged. Research shows that the education level of a parent—especially that of the mother—is a strong predictor of how well a child will do in school and whether they will complete high school and go to college. Clearly, one way to improve school and life outcomes for children is to ensure that their parents have the resources to gain more education themselves. Please note that the universe—the group that is being measured—differs between data sets. In two of them, children are the unit being measured, while families are the unit measured in the third.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** In 2021, 12% of New Mexico children—or 59,000 kids—lived in families where the head of the household lacked a high school diploma. Currently, New Mexico ranks 43rd in the nation on this indicator. This rate has been improving in New Mexico and nationwide since 2009, when 21% of New Mexico children lived in families headed by a parent without a high school diploma. While the rates are highest among Hispanic and Native American children, the biggest improvements in this indicator since 2009 have been in these groups.

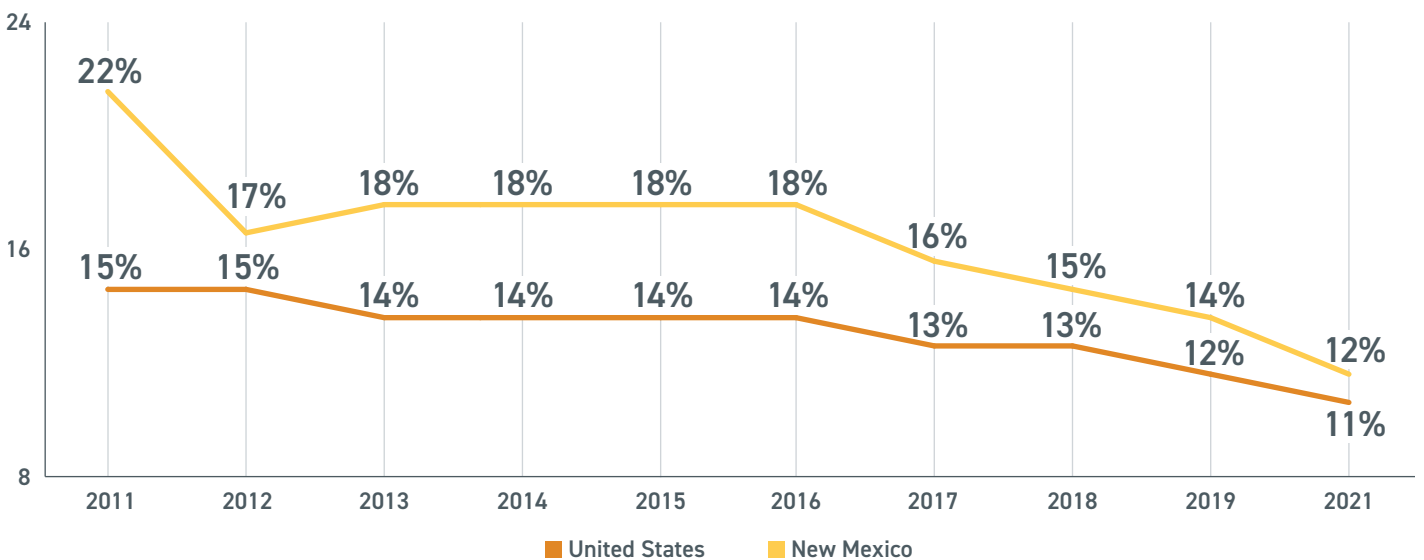
## Children in Families where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2017–2021)



**Source:** Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample, 2017–2021 **Note:** Higher margins of error indicate less statistical reliability due to small sample sizes.

**HOW TO READ THIS CHART:** Of all the children in New Mexico, 12% lived in families where the head of the household lacked a high school diploma in 2021."

## Children in Families where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma—BY YEAR (2011–2021)



**Source:** Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011–2021. **Note:** Due to data collection issues related to COVID-19, no comparable data is available for 2020.

**HOW TO READ THIS TABLE:** “Of all the families in New Mexico, the head of the household lacked a high school diploma in 12% of them in 2017–2021.”

## Families where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma—BY COUNTY (2017–2021)

LOCATION	RANK	PERCENT
United States	—	9%
New Mexico	—	12%
Bernalillo County	9	9%
Catron County	4	6%
Chaves County	28	18%
Cibola County	12	10%
Colfax County	3	4%
Curry County	30	19%
De Baca County	2	3%
Doña Ana County	28	18%
Eddy County	20	13%
Grant County	14	11%
Guadalupe County	27	15%
Harding County	14	11%
Hidalgo County	24	14%
Lea County	32	21%
Lincoln County	7	8%
Los Alamos County	1	1%
Luna County	33	25%
McKinley County	31	20%
Mora County	7	8%
Otero County	9	9%
Quay County	14	11%
Rio Arriba County	24	14%
Roosevelt County	14	11%
San Juan County	20	13%
San Miguel County	20	13%
Sandoval County	4	6%
Santa Fe County	12	10%
Sierra County	9	9%
Socorro County	14	11%
Taos County	6	7%
Torrance County	14	11%
Union County	24	14%
Valencia County	20	13%



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017–2021, Table B17018

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** The following tables measure the percentage of all adults, ages 25 and older, in each of the categories of educational level, which range from lacking a high school diploma to having a graduate degree. Adults with higher levels of education are more likely to be employed, to have higher incomes, to have access to a full range of employer health and leave benefits (that also benefit their families), and to be able to afford high-quality child care and other enriching opportunities for their children.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** New Mexico lags slightly behind the nation in the educational levels of its adults and no significant change is shown in this data as compared to the 2016–2020 data. Not surprisingly, Los Alamos County is the outlier with 44% of its adults having a graduate or professional degree, thanks to the presence of the national lab there.



**HOW TO READ THIS TABLE:** "Of all the adults, ages 25 and older, in New Mexico, 13% lack a high school diploma, 26% have a high school diploma or equivalency, 23% have some college credits, but have not earned a degree, 9% have earned an associate's degree, 16% have earned a bachelor's degree, and the final 13% have earned a graduate (master's or doctorate) or professional degree."

## Adults (Ages 25 and Older)—BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT LEVEL AND COUNTY (2017–2021)

LOCATION	NO HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE (INCLUDES EQUIVALENCY)	SOME COLLEGE, BUT NO DEGREE	ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE	BACHELOR'S DEGREE	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE
<b>United States</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>13%</b>
Bernalillo County	10%	22%	23%	9%	20%	17%
Catron County	5%	42%	28%	8%	11%	6%
Chaves County	20%	27%	27%	9%	11%	6%
Cibola County	18%	32%	24%	10%	10%	5%
Colfax County	10%	32%	27%	10%	13%	9%
Curry County	19%	24%	26%	9%	14%	7%
De Baca County	19%	27%	37%	6%	6%	4%
Doña Ana County	19%	22%	21%	8%	18%	13%
Eddy County	17%	31%	25%	10%	10%	7%
Grant County	13%	27%	25%	8%	16%	10%
Guadalupe County	16%	50%	18%	8%	6%	3%
Harding County	13%	29%	17%	16%	12%	13%
Hidalgo County	17%	38%	19%	8%	12%	6%
Lea County	24%	33%	21%	8%	8%	7%
Lincoln County	10%	30%	27%	8%	14%	10%
Los Alamos County	2%	10%	14%	6%	25%	44%
Luna County	29%	36%	18%	5%	8%	5%
McKinley County	21%	36%	23%	8%	7%	6%
Mora County	8%	39%	30%	6%	6%	12%
Otero County	14%	29%	28%	10%	13%	7%
Quay County	16%	40%	20%	8%	10%	6%
Rio Arriba County	14%	35%	26%	8%	10%	8%
Roosevelt County	17%	31%	24%	6%	15%	7%
San Juan County	14%	30%	28%	13%	9%	6%
San Miguel County	15%	25%	27%	9%	13%	11%
Sandoval County	9%	25%	25%	11%	19%	12%
Santa Fe County	10%	22%	20%	8%	20%	21%
Sierra County	10%	36%	24%	10%	12%	8%
Socorro County	16%	41%	18%	7%	8%	11%
Taos County	8%	27%	24%	9%	18%	14%
Torrance County	13%	38%	28%	6%	10%	6%
Union County	16%	44%	19%	5%	10%	7%
Valencia County	15%	32%	25%	9%	11%	9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017–2021, Table DP02



## Adults (Ages 25 and Older)—BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT LEVEL AND TRIBAL AREA (2017–2021)

LOCATION	NO HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE (INCLUDES EQUIVALENCY)	SOME COLLEGE, BUT NO DEGREE	ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE	BACHELOR'S DEGREE	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE
<b>United States (All Races)</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>New Mexico (All Races)</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>13%</b>
Acoma Pueblo	11%	35%	28%	16%	8%	3%
Cochiti Pueblo	5%	34%	30%	7%	14%	11%
Isleta Pueblo	11%	33%	28%	14%	8%	6%
Jemez Pueblo	14%	45%	22%	9%	8%	3%
Jicarilla Apache	11%	40%	29%	10%	10%	1%
Laguna Pueblo	10%	40%	28%	15%	7%	1%
Mescalero Apache	20%	35%	23%	7%	13%	2%
Nambe Pueblo	11%	41%	23%	5%	12%	9%
Navajo	25%	37%	24%	7%	4%	2%
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	11%	38%	27%	9%	9%	6%
Picuris Pueblo	14%	40%	21%	12%	9%	4%
Pojoaque Pueblo	10%	30%	24%	7%	17%	11%
Sandia Pueblo	25%	37%	20%	7%	8%	4%
San Felipe Pueblo	23%	38%	23%	5%	9%	3%
San Ildefonso Pueblo	4%	31%	35%	10%	13%	8%
Santa Ana Pueblo	13%	33%	30%	15%	5%	3%
Santa Clara Pueblo	15%	32%	23%	8%	13%	9%
Santo Domingo Pueblo	16%	58%	15%	6%	4%	1%
Taos Pueblo	9%	33%	26%	6%	13%	13%
Tesuque Pueblo	18%	23%	36%	4%	11%	8%
Zia Pueblo	17%	39%	30%	9%	5%	0%
Zuni Pueblo	24%	35%	29%	7%	4%	2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017–2021, Table DP02

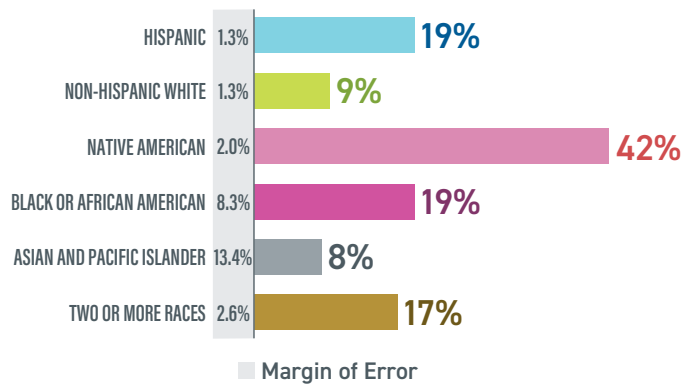
# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HIGH-POVERTY AREAS

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** A **high-poverty area** is defined as a Census tract where at least 30% of the population lives at or below the federal poverty level. This indicator measures all children living in such areas, including those whose families earn incomes higher than the poverty level. Regardless of their own family's income, children who grow up in neighborhoods where poverty rates are high are more likely to be exposed to drugs and be victims of violent crime. They are less likely to have access to fresh and healthy food, adequate high-quality housing, and community resources like great schools and safe places to play. Studies show that children in high-poverty areas are more likely to start school behind and will need more individual attention. All of these factors can negatively impact their health and development.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** New Mexico's rate of children living in high-poverty areas—19%—is much higher than the national average of 8%, which ranks our state 48th in the nation on this indicator. New Mexico saw a very slight improvement from 2020 to 2021.

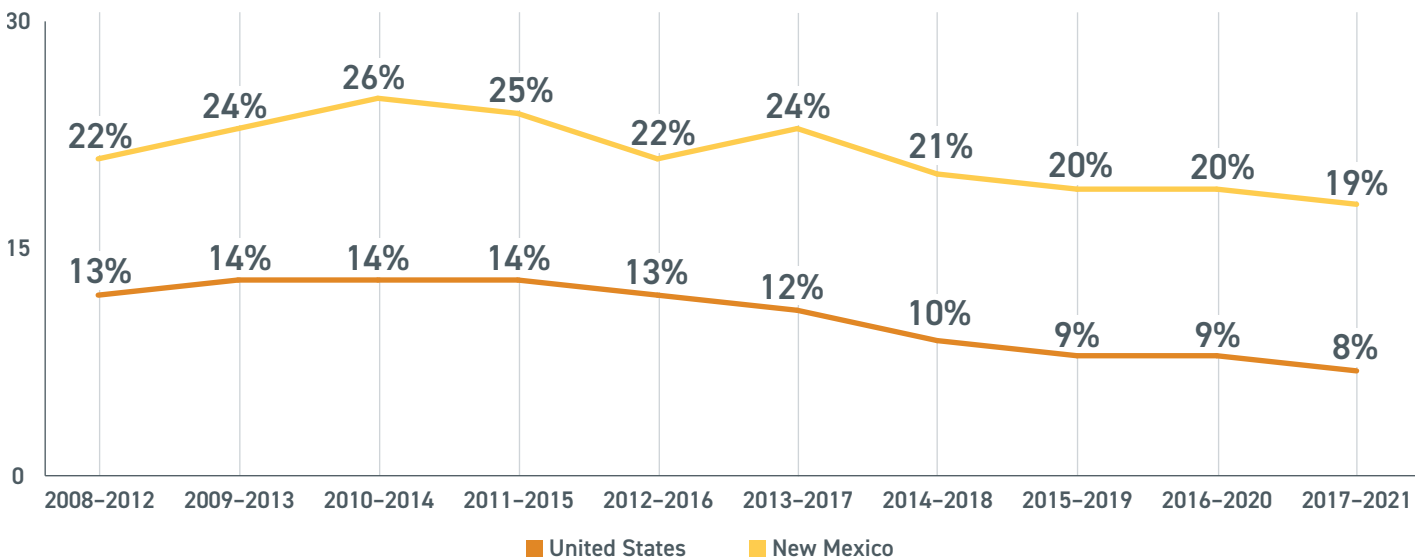
However, longer-term trends have improved, with 20,000 fewer New Mexico children living in high-poverty areas in 2021 than did in 2012. Native American children are most likely to live in high-poverty areas, followed by Hispanic and Black children. Non-Hispanic white and Asian children are least likely to live in high-poverty areas.

## Children Living in High-Poverty Areas—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2017-2021)



**Source:** Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021 **Note:** Higher margins of error indicate less statistical reliability due to small sample sizes.

## Children Living in High-Poverty Areas—BY YEAR (2008-2021)



**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year summary files released from 2008 to 2021

## Children Living in High-Poverty Areas—BY COUNTY (2017–2021)

LOCATION	RANK	PERCENT
United States	—	8%
New Mexico	—	19%
Bernalillo County	19	13%
Catron County	1	0%
Chaves County	25	30%
Cibola County	29	42%
Colfax County	1	0%
Curry County	26	32%
De Baca County	1	0%
Doña Ana County	28	35%
Eddy County	17	8%
Grant County	1	0%
Guadalupe County	1	0%
Harding County	1	0%
Hidalgo County	1	0%
Lea County	1	0%
Lincoln County	1	0%
Los Alamos County	1	0%
Luna County	30	43%
McKinley County	33	59%
Mora County	1	0%
Otero County	22	23%
Quay County	1	0%
Rio Arriba County	20	18%
Roosevelt County	23	27%
San Juan County	27	33%
San Miguel County	24	29%
Sandoval County	16	3%
Santa Fe County	15	1%
Sierra County	31	44%
Socorro County	32	49%
Taos County	1	0%
Torrance County	21	22%
Union County	1	0%
Valencia County	18	11%



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017–2021; custom data request received October 2023

# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** Schools and daycares near active oil and gas wells expose students to harmful pollutants that are correlated with asthma and other health conditions that lead to additional health care costs for families.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** 119 schools and daycares in New Mexico are within a half mile of active oil and gas wells, with the majority located in San Juan County. Nearly 28,000 children statewide are exposed to toxic pollutants because of the proximity of their school to active wells. Fortunately, the effects of poor air quality are not permanent, and for most children, lung function growth and asthmatic symptoms are reduced when they are exposed to cleaner air.

## Schools, Daycares and Students within 1/2 Mile of Active Oil and Gas Wells—BY COUNTY (2017–2018)

LOCATION	SCHOOLS AND DAYCARES	STUDENTS
United States	12,445	3,185,097
New Mexico	119	27,975
Bernalillo County	0	0
Catron County	0	0
Chaves County	0	0
Cibola County	0	0
Colfax County	0	0
Curry County	0	0
De Baca County	0	0
Doña Ana County	0	0
Eddy County	7	1,745
Grant County	0	0
Guadalupe County	0	0
Harding County	0	0
Hidalgo County	0	0
Lea County	30	5,273
Lincoln County	0	0
Los Alamos County	0	0
Luna County	0	0
McKinley County	0	0
Mora County	0	0
Otero County	0	0
Quay County	0	0
Rio Arriba County	1	56
Roosevelt County	0	0
San Juan County	81	22,845
San Miguel County	0	0
Sandoval County	0	0
Santa Fe County	0	0
Sierra County	0	0
Socorro County	0	0
Taos County	0	0
Torrance County	0	0
Union County	0	0
Valencia County	0	0

**Source:** Oil & Gas Threat Map, school and enrollment data from the Department of Education via the US Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data, 2017–2018; retrieved October 2023





**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** Extreme heat poses great risks for our children and communities. **The annual number of days with maximum temperatures above the 95th percentile** has increased rapidly for most counties in New Mexico, with children and seniors disproportionately impacted by rising temperatures as their bodies may struggle to regulate internal temperature.

**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** Between 2015 and 2019, New Mexico saw an 81% increase in the number of days with a maximum temperature above the 95th percentile. Almost half (14) of our counties saw percent increases over 100%, with Taos County experiencing the greatest increase in extremely hot days, jumping from two in 2015 to 24 in 2019. Only eight counties saw no change or fewer days with very high temperatures.

## Annual Number of Days with Daily Maximum Temperature Above 95th Percentile—BY COUNTY (2015 AND 2019)

LOCATION	NUMBER OF DAYS, 2015	NUMBER OF DAYS, 2019	% CHANGE
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>81%</b>
Bernalillo County	8	9	13%
Catron County	10	4	-60%
Chaves County	3	13	333%
Cibola County	7	8	14%
Colfax County	3	20	567%
Curry County	5	11	120%
De Baca County	3	11	267%
Doña Ana County	6	6	0%
Eddy County	3	15	400%
Grant County	9	6	-33%
Guadalupe County	5	4	-20%
Harding County	3	7	133%
Hidalgo County	7	8	14%
Lea County	7	12	71%
Lincoln County	5	11	120%
Los Alamos County	6	14	133%
Luna County	6	6	0%
McKinley County	8	8	0%
Mora County	2	12	500%
Otero County	6	9	50%
Quay County	4	12	200%
Rio Arriba County	6	16	167%
Roosevelt County	3	11	267%
San Juan County	5	6	20%
San Miguel County	4	6	50%
Sandoval County	7	10	43%
Santa Fe County	5	8	60%
Sierra County	7	7	0%
Socorro County	8	7	-13%
Taos County	2	24	1,100%
Torrance County	5	8	60%
Union County	3	6	100%
Valencia County	7	8	14%

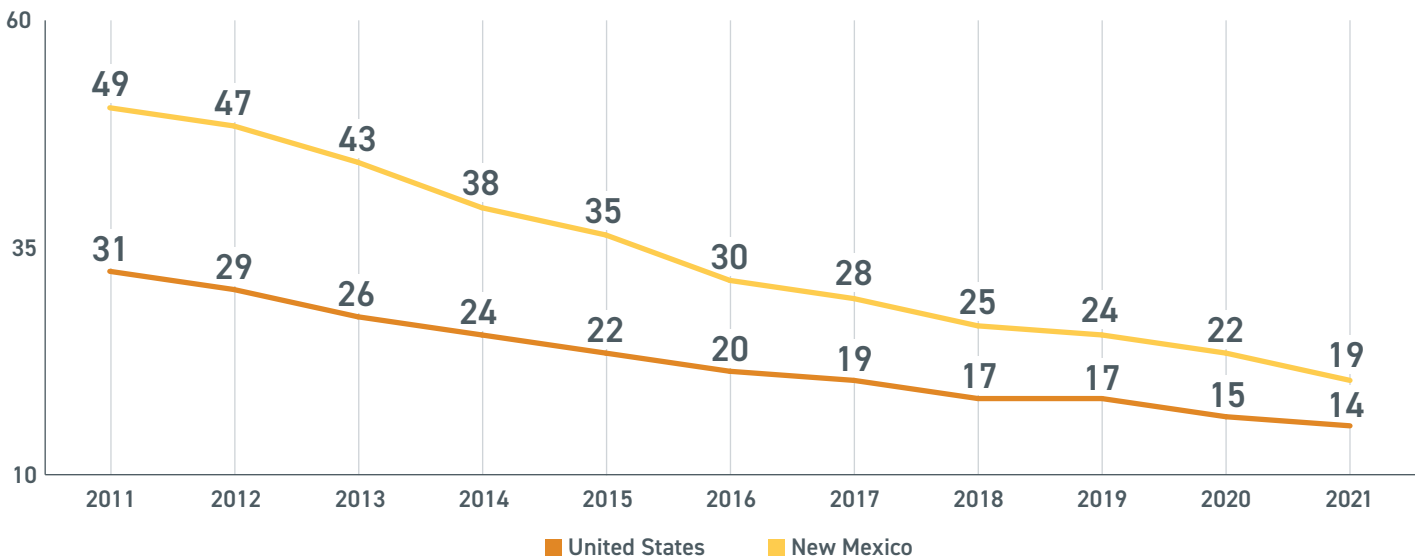
**Source:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Heat and Health Tracker, Heat Exposure Data, 2015 and 2019, retrieved October 2023

# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TEEN BIRTH RATES

**ABOUT THIS INDICATOR:** The **teen birth rate** is the number of births to teens, ages 15 to 19, for every 1,000 females in that age range in the population. Teens may become pregnant due to issues around full understanding of consent and as a result of limited knowledge of and access to contraceptives. Teen births are often associated with negative impacts for both mothers and children. Teen mothers may be less likely to graduate high school, to receive adequate prenatal care, and to be economically secure. Babies born to teen mothers are more likely to be born at a low birthweight, be malnourished, face developmental delays, do poorly in school, become teen parents themselves, and live in poverty. While many socio-economic factors, including generational poverty and systemic inequities, also contribute to negative outcomes for young parents and their children, teen births affect the well-being of parents, children, and society as a whole.

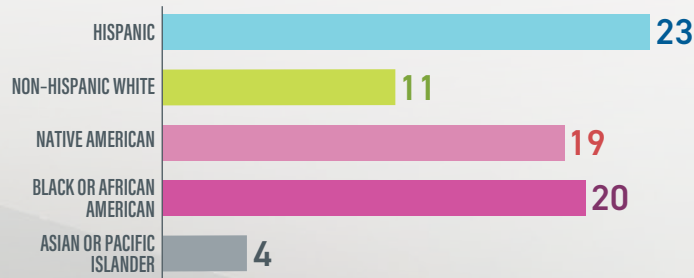
**HOW NEW MEXICO FARES:** Following a national trend, the teen birth rate in New Mexico has improved significantly over time, dropping from 53 per 1,000 female teens in 2010 to 19 per 1,000 in 2021—its lowest point in a decade. This represents an improvement of 64%, although New Mexico keeps its rank of 41st among the states on this indicator. Moreover, teen birth rates have declined across all races and ethnicities, improving most dramatically among Hispanic and Native American teens, with the rate of Hispanic teen births dropping from 64 per 1,000 in 2010 to 23 per 1,000 in 2021, and the rate of Native American teen births dropping from 61 per 1,000 in 2010 to 19 per 1,000 in 2021.

**Teen (Ages 15-19) Birth Rate (per 1,000)—BY YEAR (2011-2021)**



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics VitalStats birth data from 2011 through 2021

## Teen (Ages 15-19) Birth Rate (per 1,000)— BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2021)



Source: New Mexico Department of Public Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS), retrieved December 2022

## Teen (Ages 15-19) Birth Rate (per 1,000)— BY COUNTY (2021)

LOCATION	RANK	RATE (PER 1,000)
United States	—	14.4
New Mexico	—	19.2
Bernalillo County	6	13.8
Catron County	N/A	**
Chaves County	21	31.9
Cibola County	9	15.2
Colfax County	20	31.1
Curry County	26	40.9
De Baca County	N/A	**
Doña Ana County	17	25.6
Eddy County	19	30.3
Grant County	11	17.0
Guadalupe County	N/A	**
Harding County	1	0
Hidalgo County	1	0
Lea County	23	34.5
Lincoln County	12	17.4
Los Alamos County	N/A	**
Luna County	26	40.9
McKinley County	8	14.6
Mora County	1	0
Otero County	18	26.5
Quay County	N/A	**
Rio Arriba County	16	21.1
Roosevelt County	24	36.5
San Juan County	15	20.6
San Miguel County	13	18.5
Sandoval County	4	6.9
Santa Fe County	6	13.8
Sierra County	25	40.3
Socorro County	22	32.7
Taos County	14	19.9
Torrance County	5	8.3
Union County	N/A	**
Valencia County	10	15.5

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020–2021 (U.S. data); New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS), retrieved December 2022 from <http://ibis.health.state.nm.us>  
 Note: The rate for certain counties is suppressed by the NM Dept. of Health because the observed number of events is very small and not appropriate for publication. For survey queries, rates calculated from fewer than 50 survey responses are suppressed. For this measure, suppressed rates for counties are designated by the \*\* symbol.



## TYPES OF FAMILIES POLICY SOLUTIONS

### POLICY SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

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- ▶ Expand funding for home visiting programs, especially for teen parents. Home visiting provides parents with early emotional support, parenting skills, and developmentally appropriate activities, as well as aids in accessing economic, health, and educational resources.
- ▶ Maintain income eligibility for child care assistance at 400% the federal poverty level (FPL) and provide continuous eligibility so parents can accept pay raises without suddenly losing benefits that are worth more than the pay increase; permanently eliminate copays for families earning less than 400% FPL.
- ▶ Invest in broadband infrastructure so that families and communities can better access health, well-being, family support, and education services.
- ▶ Support policies that prioritize kinship care for foster children; support and promote the availability of resources and assistance for grandparents helping to raise their grandchildren, including access to financial resources, legal services, food and housing assistance, medical care, and transportation; and fund navigators to assist kinship foster care families in accessing the public benefits for which they are eligible.

### POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE ADULT EDUCATION

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- ▶ Support career pathways approaches that better align adult education with post-secondary education opportunities and industry needs while providing a clearer ladder to economic self-sufficiency.
- ▶ Expand access to high school equivalency programs, adult basic education, post-secondary education, and job training through a career pathways approach.
- ▶ Provide need-based financial assistance to these programs for adults lacking skills and earning low incomes who don't qualify for many forms of financial aid and may have a family to support while they advance their education.
- ▶ Expand funding and access for English as a second language (ESL) classes to help parents increase their level of education.



## POLICY SOLUTIONS TO DECREASE HIGH-POVERTY AREAS

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- ▶ Increase access to affordable housing in safe areas with prospects of work for families earning low incomes, especially families of color, including through the creation or expansion of incentives for developers to build mixed-income housing developments.
- ▶ Promote community change efforts that integrate physical revitalization with human capital development. Combining investment in early childhood care and education programs for children with workforce development and asset-building activities for parents can benefit families earning low incomes.
- ▶ Increase funding for Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) and Child Development Accounts (CDAs), which help parents and children save money for buying a home or paying for college.
- ▶ Target additional school funding towards schools in high-poverty areas.
- ▶ Incentivize teaching, expand community schools, and reduce class sizes in schools in high-poverty areas.
- ▶ Enact targeted economic development initiatives to communities that need them most and require accountability for tax breaks to corporations so that tax benefits are only received if corporations create quality jobs with decent wages and benefits for New Mexico residents. Tax breaks that do not create jobs should be repealed so the state can invest more money in support services for our children.
- ▶ Target federal WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funds to support education and job training programs that help parents increase their educational attainment and workforce skills to create pathways out of poverty.
- ▶ Expand eligibility and funding for the General Assistance program to include able-bodied, undocumented residents, and other who do not qualify for federal relief.
- ▶ Create cash-assistance programs to assist families and workers during moments of economic hardship, including workers transitioning from a declining industry and families struggling with housing and food security.

## POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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- ▶ Put greenhouse gas reduction goals in statute to make state commitments legally binding.
- ▶ Increase royalty rates for oil and gas leases on state trust lands to reduce oil and gas development.
- ▶ Eliminate legal loopholes to limit pollution from oil and gas facilities.

## POLICY SOLUTIONS TO LOWER TEEN BIRTH RATES

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- ▶ Increase funding for teen pregnancy prevention and support programs to help at-risk young women avoid pregnancy and see alternative opportunities for their future. Parenting support programs such as home visiting also help young mothers delay second pregnancies, improve their parenting skills, get a high school diploma, and access community supports.
- ▶ Expand funding and support for school-based health centers. Students reaching sexual maturity need access to physical and behavioral health professionals to help them make informed decisions.
- ▶ Expand evidence-based, age-appropriate comprehensive sex education that includes discussions of consent and defund abstinence-only programs.
- ▶ Fund service-learning programs that provide students with civic engagement and work-related experience and have been linked to decreases in teen pregnancy rates.
- ▶ Support the creation of and funding for county and tribal health councils in order to better integrate health care with social, emotional, behavioral, and cognitive development for teens.

# METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES



# METHODOLOGY

## ABOUT THE DATA

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At this time, the New Mexico KIDS COUNT program does not design or implement primary research in the state. Instead, the program uses and analyzes secondary data and study findings provided by credible research and data collection institutions both in the state and the nation, such as the U.S. Census Bureau. The New Mexico KIDS COUNT staff make every effort to confirm that the data gathered and used are the most reliable and recent possible. However, we rely on the data collection and analysis skills of those institutions providing this information. More information on data sources can be found in the “Major Data Sources” section of this publication.

### DATA CONDITIONS

Some tables in this report do not provide data for all New Mexico counties or school districts. In order to provide the most up-to-date information possible we make every effort to utilize the most recent U.S. Census Bureau data sets (generally the American Community Survey, or ACS). Given this, however, a certain trade-off takes place, as data are not always available in certain time frames for certain geographic areas, like counties with smaller population sizes. Due to COVID-19 data collection challenges, ACS one-year estimates for 2020 are not available. On some indicators based on ACS one-year estimates, the long-term trends include data from 2016–2020 to represent the gap between 2019 and 2021 data; however, these five-year estimates should not be compared to the one-year data in the trendlines. Wherever this is the case, the graph will include a note to clarify. In some cases, we have used one-year estimates from the 2022 ACS, which provide the most current data available, but are only published for geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or more and are typically not available for all races and ethnicities. ACS five-year estimates (such as for 2017–2021) are still comparable to other five-year estimates and provide data for areas with fewer than 20,000 people (as well as for all larger areas) and for most races and ethnicities, because

over five years a large enough sample has been accumulated to provide accurate estimates for those areas. However, five-year estimates are released later in the year than one-year estimates. For these reasons, the New Mexico KIDS COUNT Data Book often includes state-level estimates that are more current than county-level estimates. In this year’s book, we have provided any national and state-level data available from the 2022 one-year ACS, while most county and tribal data reported are from the 2017–2021 five-year ACS (the most recent five-year data set available at the time of this writing).

The data presented in the different tables and graphs in this report may not be comparable to each other. This is due to several factors. These data come from a variety of sources that may use different sample sizes in their research and data collection methods. Data may also be derived from surveys or questionnaires that apply different definitions to key, measurable terms—such as “family” versus “household” (see below). In addition, statistics—such as percentages or rates—may be calculated for certain populations based on different universes (the total number of units—e.g., individuals, households, businesses—in the population of interest). The universe generally serves as the denominator when a percentage or rate is calculated. A percentage is a measure calculated by taking the number of items in a group possessing a certain quality of interest and dividing by the total number of items in that group, and then multiplying by 100. A rate is the number of items, events or individuals in a group out of a number—generally 1,000 or 100,000—that fall into a certain category. Rates are determined by dividing the number of items, events or individuals possessing a certain quality of interest (like teens ages 15–19 giving birth) by the total number in the group (all teen females ages 15–19), and then multiplying the answer by 1,000. A rate is stated as the number “per 1,000” or “per 100,000.”



## METHODOLOGY

# DATA DEFINITIONS

### KEY U.S. CENSUS DEFINITIONS TO HELP IN UNDERSTANDING CERTAIN TABLES AND GRAPHS

A **household** includes all the people who occupy or live in a housing unit (apartment, house, mobile home, etc.) as their usual place of residence. A **householder** is the person in whose name the home is owned, mortgaged or rented. Households are classified by the gender of the householder and the presence of relatives, such as: married-couple family; male householder, no wife present; female householder, no husband present with own children; same-sex couple households; and the like.

A **family** includes a householder and people living in the same household who are related to that householder by birth, marriage or adoption and are regarded as members of his or her family. A **family household** may have people not related to the householder, but they are not included as part of the householder's family in Census tabulations.

- ▶ So, though the number of families equals the number of family households, *family households* may include more members than do families.
- ▶ Families are classified as "Married-couple family," "Single-parent family," "Stepfamily," or "Subfamily." A single-parent family is defined as a family headed by an unmarried parent or parents. As parents who are cohabitating but remain unmarried are counted as "single" parents, this can include families where more than one parental figure is present.

**Total income** is the sum of the amounts reported separately for: wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips; self-employment income from one's own non-farm or farm businesses, including proprietorships and partnerships; interest, dividends, net rental income, royalty income, or income from estates and trusts; Social Security or Railroad Retirement income; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); any public assistance or welfare payments from the state or local welfare office; retirement, survivor, or disability pensions; and any other sources of income received regularly, such as Veterans' (VA) payments, unemployment compensation, child support, or alimony.

▶ **Household income**, which is a summed number, includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and older in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not.

▶ **Family income** includes the summed incomes of all members 15 years old and older who are related to the householder; this summed income is treated as a single amount.

**Median income** divides households or families evenly in the middle with half of all households and families earning more than the median income and half of all households and families earning less than the median income. The U.S. Census Bureau considers the median income to be lower than the average income, and thus, a more accurate representation.

**Poverty levels** can be difficult to interpret. The Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds known as the federal poverty guidelines (also known as the federal poverty level or FPL), which vary by family size and composition in order to determine who is poor. If total income for a family or individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold or the FPL, then the family or individual is classified as being "below the poverty level." However, the poverty level is generally far below what a family actually needs in order to live at a bare minimum level (i.e., have sufficient food, a safe place to live, transportation, and health care). Most of the poverty levels used in 2023 New Mexico KIDS COUNT Data Book are for 2022. In 2022 the FPL was \$13,590 for one person or \$27,750 for a family of four. However, a family of four at double (200%) the federal poverty level (\$55,500 in 2022) is considered to be "low income," with just enough to cover basic family living expenses. For more information about the federal poverty guidelines, see <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>.

**Race and ethnicity:** The U.S. Census uses six race categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race. The term origin is used to indicate a person's (or the person's parents) heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth. In addition, the Census uses two ethnic categories: Hispanic and Non-Hispanic. Hispanic (or Latino) refers to a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. People who identify their origin as Spanish or Hispanic may be of any race. In 2020 the ACS made changes in the race question design, processing, and coding, meaning any comparisons to race estimates in data from 2019 or earlier should be made with caution.



## DATA SOURCES

# MAJOR DATA SOURCES

### AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

The majority of the data in the 2023 New Mexico KIDS COUNT Data Book come from the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS provides annual data on demographic, social, housing, and economic indicators. The ACS samples nearly 3 million addresses each year, resulting in approximately 2 million final interviews. After a broad nationwide data collection test conducted between 2000 and 2004, full implementation of the survey began in 2005, with the exception of group quarters (such as correctional facilities, college dorms, and nursing homes), which were first included in the 2006 ACS. Certain changes were made to the ACS questionnaire on health insurance coverage, disabilities connected to military service, and marital history at the beginning of 2008. Changes were made to the design, processing, and coding of the race and ethnicity question in 2020. Each year, the ACS releases data for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 residents or more, and collects a sample over a five-year period to produce estimates for smaller geographic areas. In the late summer of 2023, one-year estimates for 2022 were released. The five-year estimates for 2021 were released in December of 2022. American Community Survey data can be found on the U.S. Census website.

### CENSUS 2020, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

The federal government implements a national census every decade; the official 2020 Census results (known as “Census 2020”) were released in 2021. Census data are collected from the entire population rather than a sample that is representative of the entire population (such as with the American Community Survey). Census data serve as the basis for redrawing federal congressional districts and state legislative districts under Public Law 94-171. Data from the U.S. Census can be accessed from the same website as that of the American Community Survey or from its own website.

### SMALL AREA HEALTH INSURANCE ESTIMATES, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

The Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) program provides health insurance estimates for all states and counties. At the county level, data are available on health insurance coverage by age, sex, and income.

### NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America’s students know and can do in various subject areas. Results from mathematics and reading assessments are based on representative samples of approximately 224,400 fourth-graders and 222,300 eighth-graders across the nation. Results are reported for public school students in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Department of Defense schools. Results from NAEP allow for comparison across states and between different racial, ethnic, gender, and income groups within states. While states may change how they measure reading and math proficiency, NAEP allows for a consistent measure across time periods, so that progress in a state can be tracked over time.

### NATIONAL SURVEY OF CHILDREN’S HEALTH, MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BUREAU, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) provides data on multiple aspects of children’s lives, including physical and mental health, access to and quality of health care, and the child’s family, neighborhood, school, and social context. The NSCH includes information for approximately 50,000 children younger than 18 for the nation and with representative samples from each state and the District of Columbia. State and national data can be refined to assess differences by race and ethnicity and other demographic and health status characteristics.

### CLIMAWATCH HEAT VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

Climate and Weather Analytics, Trends, and Community Health (ClimaWATCH) is a dashboard tool created by Mathematica that helps officials conduct heat vulnerability assessments by exploring how heatwaves have impacted health and magnified inequity across the country. The dashboard tool analyzes data from various sources, including the PRISM Climate Group, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s social vulnerability index, and Medicaid data.

### **OIL AND GAS THREAT MAP**

The Oil and Gas Threat Map utilizes oil and gas production facility data, Census demographic data, and school location/enrollment data to display and calculate the potential impacts of oil and gas production. Oil and gas well data is directly from state government agencies, and compressor and processor data is from Oak Ridge National Laboratory, which undercounts these facilities. However, compressors and processors are often co-located with wells, so many of the missing facilities are still encompassed within the threat radius. Population statistics are from the 2020 Census, and information on schools and enrollment within the half mile threat radius is from the Department of Education via the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data.

### **HEAT AND HEALTH TRACKER, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

The Heat and Health Tracker monitors the number of emergency medical visits related to heat illnesses per 100,000 total visits and maps them by zip code. The Heat and Health Tracker uses data from the National Syndromic Surveillance Program, which takes in information from electronic health records shared by participating medical facilities—about 75% of the nation's emergency departments report to the program. It then compares current temperatures with historical temperatures and uses the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's social vulnerability index to determine communities that are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses.

### **DATA COLLECTION BUREAU, NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

The Data Collection Bureau at the state Public Education Department (PED) gathers data from public school districts throughout New Mexico. The data collected include the percentage of students receiving free and reduced-price lunches, student enrollment figures, student-to-teacher ratios, high school graduation rates, and more.

### **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION, NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Medicaid—also called New Mexico Centennial Care—is administered by the Medical Assistance Division of the state Human Services Department (HSD). Medicaid enrollment numbers are reported for children under age 21 (including Native American children) by county. Medicaid eligibility reports can be found on the NM HSD website.

### **BUREAU OF VITAL RECORDS AND HEALTH STATISTICS, NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

The New Mexico Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics tabulates vital records data to analyze the health status of New Mexicans. The two major data systems are the files for births and deaths. The birth file contains data on demographic characteristics of newborns and their parents. Data on mothers' pregnancy history and medical risk factors are included. The death file contains demographic data on decedents, which are provided by funeral directors, and the causes of death, which are provided by physicians or medical investigators. These data can be accessed on the state Department of Health's Indicator-Based Information System (NM-IBIS) website.

### **EPIDEMIOLOGY AND RESPONSE DIVISION, NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

New Mexico's Indicator-Based Information System (NM-IBIS) is maintained by the Epidemiology and Response Division. This public health database provides up-to-date statistics from a variety of state health department divisions, including data on birth, death, and disease incidence. There is a health status indicator report section, as well as a direct query section where users can define their specific data requests and get responses in tabular and graph formats. Data are, in general, now available in table, chart, and geo-mapped formats.

### **PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (PRAMS), FAMILY HEALTH BUREAU, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

PRAMS is a surveillance system supported through a cooperative agreement with the New Mexico Department of Health Maternal Child Health Epidemiology Program and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. PRAMS is designed to identify groups of women and infants at high risk for health problems, to monitor changes in health status, and to measure progress towards goals in improving the health of mothers and infants.

### RESEARCH, ASSESSMENT, AND DATA BUREAU OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION, NEW MEXICO CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

The Protective Services Division (PSD) is the state agency designated to administer child welfare services in New Mexico under the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD). PSD strives to enhance the safety and well-being of children and the permanency of families in New Mexico by receiving, investigating, and taking action on reports of children in need of protection from abuse and/or neglect by their parent, guardian or custodian. The Research, Assessment, and Data Bureau collects and reports PSD data. The “360 Yearly Annual Report” is published annually on a state fiscal year basis (July-June) and contains annual child abuse and neglect data by state and county. PSD publications, including the “360 Yearly” report can be found on the NM CYFD website.

### OFFICE OF SCHOOL AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH, NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Office of School and Adolescent Health (OSAH) works to improve student and adolescent health through integrated school-based or school-linked health services. OSAH also engages in adolescent health promotion and disease prevention activities directly and through collaboration with public and private agencies across New Mexico. The office oversees and provides data from the biannual high school and middle school Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), which is published every two years and covers risk behaviors and resiliency factors.

### ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

The Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) has funded the KIDS COUNT initiative since 1990 and publishes an annual data book highlighting the well-being of children across the country. The Foundation also provides expert data analysis and supports custom data requests from its state-level KIDS COUNT organizations through the Population Reference Bureau. Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics, and other national data sites, the Foundation also provides information at its online data center for each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, in indicators such as immigration, poverty, education, employment, and income. The KIDS COUNT Data Center provides mapping, trend and bar charting, and other services relevant to the data presented. It can be found on the AECF website.

## DATA SOURCES

# OTHER DATA SOURCES

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The **New Mexico Community Data Collaborative (NMCDC)** is a geo-mapping data site that is connected to and intended to be integrated with the NM-IBIS system. Made up of a network of public health analysts and advocates from a dozen or more state agencies and non-government agencies, the NMCDC operates an interactive website at ArcGIS Online where users share extensive data sets from multiple sources in the state. It is meant to share neighborhood-level data with local organizations that promote community assessment, child health, and participatory decision-making in the state. NMCDC maps contain aggregated data for more than one thousand indicators organized by sub-county areas such as census tract, zip code, school districts, and other administrative boundaries. In addition, users will find site-specific information for public schools, licensed facilities, and other public services.

The **Economic Policy Institute (EPI)** is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that produces reports about conditions facing low- and middle-income families in the areas of education, the economy, living standards, and the labor market, publishing the highly respected annual report *The State of Working America*.

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** provides poverty guidelines that are a simplified version of the federal poverty thresholds and are used for determining eligibility for various federal programs. The poverty thresholds are issued by the U.S. Census Bureau to calculate poverty population statistics (e.g., the percentage or number of people living in poverty in a particular area).



# KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER

YOUR SOURCE FOR MORE  
NEW MEXICO DATA

➔ [DATACENTER/KIDSCOUNT.ORG](https://datacenter.kidscount.org)

## SEARCH

by Location, Topic or Keyword

## CREATE

Custom Maps, Tables and Graphs

## COMPARE

States, Counties, Cities, Tribal Areas,  
School Districts and Congressional  
Districts



NEW MEXICO

# KIDS COUNT

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NEW MEXICO

# VOICES FOR CHILDREN

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