









NEW MEXICO VOICES FOR CHILDREN

NEW MEXICO

KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK

PROGRESS UNDER PRESSURE

ACHIEVING NEW MEXICO'S FAMILY-FOCUSED AGENDA AMID NATIONAL SETBACKS 2025

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

INTRODUCTORY ESSAY

PROGRESS UNDER PRESSURE: ACHIEVING NEW MEXICO'S FAMILY-FOCUSED AGENDA AMID NATIONAL SETBACKS

TABLES, GRAPHS, AND CHARTS

DEMOGRAPHICS

6 Population

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

9 Poverty
12 Employment
14 Income
16 High Housing Costs
18 Food Insecurity

EDUCATION

20 Enrollment
25 Reading Proficiency
26 Math Proficiency
27 Reading + Math Proficiency
29 Attendance
32 High School Graduation

HEALTH

37 Prenatal Care
39 Low Birthweight
41 Breastfeeding
42 Health Insurance
46 Environmental Health
48 Child Abuse
50 Death Rates

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

54 Types of Families
60 Adult Education
65 High-Poverty Areas
67 Environmental Health
69 Teen Birth Rates

METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES

72 Methodology
75 Major Data Sources
77 Other Data Sources



PROGRESS UNDER PRESSURE:

ACHIEVING NEW MEXICO'S FAMILY-FOCUSED AGENDA AMID NATIONAL SETBACKS

In 2024, years of power building, collaboration, advocacy, and bold leadership in New Mexico began to pay off. Families, children, and communities in our state are now feeling the impact of a family-focused agenda in their lives, and their stories are proof that when we put children first, policy can transform lives. By expanding state tax credits for working families, enacting paid sick leave, and securing permanent funding for early childhood programs, we've made considerable progress in fighting poverty in New Mexico.

The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), which considers not just family income, but also the cost of basic necessities and the support provided by government programs, shows how much these policies are making a difference. New Mexico's SPM child poverty rate is just 10.3%, lower than the national average of 13.1%. Our state also has the greatest child poverty rate reduction after taking into account our income support programs and policies—a 19 percentage point decrease from our Official Poverty Measure child poverty rate.



Despite these improvements, many barriers remain that keep our youngest New Mexicans from thriving and reaching their unique potential. These generational challenges demand multi-faceted solutions, and require us to measure them in a way that reflects the full scope of what our children and families need.

We know that lasting policy progress can be fragile, and in 2025, that reality became painfully clear across the entire nation. On July 4th, 2025, President Trump signed the budget reconciliation bill (the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, or the OBBBA), which, along with his proposed budget, prioritizes massive tax breaks for corporations and the ultra-wealthy while making devastating cuts to the programs and services that have helped children and families access public education, stay healthy, and make ends meet for generations.

For New Mexico, the stakes are high and the impact is immediate. The OBBBA strips lifelines like Medicaid from around 98,000 New Mexicans, and some or all SNAP benefits from 68,000 families. It expands a cruel and costly carceral system instead of reforming our immigration system for the 64,000 New Mexico immigrants who are our friends, neighbors, colleagues, and contributors to our state economy and tax base. It rewards the ultra-rich while ignoring the needs of those working hardest to make ends meet.

The OBBBA is only one part of the broader attack on the federal infrastructure that large-scale policy efforts to improve child well-being have depended on for decades. The U.S. Census, an indispensable tool for allocating public resources and guiding both state and federal policy, faces threats to its funding, independence, and accuracy. The same is true for many other long-standing federal data sources that inform data-driven child and family policy efforts nationwide.

"FOR NEW MEXICO, THE STAKES ARE HIGH AND THE IMPACT IS IMMEDIATE."



"WHILE PROGRESS MADE THROUGH STRONG TAX CREDITS, GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, AND VISIONARY POLICIES LIKE UNIVERSAL CHILD CARE GIVE US CAUSE TO CELEBRATE, THERE IS STILL MUCH WORK TO BE DONE."

In the face of a federal policy agenda that actively hurts the health and opportunity of working families and vulnerable children, advocates and legislative champions are pushing back. In October 2025, the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature convened a special session to address the most immediate impacts of the OBBBA. Lawmakers took the first steps to protect SNAP benefits for older adults and immigrants at risk of losing access, provided support for New Mexico food banks to meet some of the increasing need, and ensured that people purchasing health insurance through the BeWell Exchange will not be forced to pay dramatically higher insurance premiums. This work is only the beginning though, as the most harmful provisions of the OBBBA are set to take effect in the coming years.

In spite of these unanticipated pressures from the federal government, New Mexico continues to prove that big, bold action on behalf of child well-being and family economic security is still possible. The state reached a historic milestone by announcing it will be the first in the nation to offer free child care to all families regardless of income, saving families an average of $12,000 per year per child. New Mexico was also one of the first states to adopt universal free school meals, and our legislature has taken steps to stabilize our budget by creating trust funds that will help the state weather financial downturns without the deep cuts and austerity measures of the past.

Looking forward, New Mexico must work to ensure that our strong family- and child-centered state policies are well implemented while we remain vigilant and take proactive action to address federal policy changes that threaten the progress we have made. And while progress made through strong tax credits, government programs, and visionary policies like universal child care give us cause to celebrate, there is still much work to be done, especially in the areas of housing, health care, and K–12 education. It is as important as ever for advocates, communities, and policymakers on the state and local level to measure and understand child well-being, particularly the impact of diminished federal programs.

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 2023–2024 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 + CHARTS

DEMOGRAPHICS

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

EDUCATION

HEALTH

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY



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 when available 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.

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 of the child population in the United States, a much higher share of children in New Mexico are children of color—about 75%—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 curricula 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 (2024)

	MALE				FEMALE					
RACE AND ETHNICITY	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	TOTAL 0-17	PERCENTAGE
All Children	55,773	59,547	70,733	44,761	47,583	53,063	69,830	42,547	443,837	100%
Hispanic	35,473	36,391	42,941	28,473	28,924	33,728	41,024	25,188	272,142	61%
Non-Hispanic White	11,534	13,493	15,296	9,070	10,490	10,770	17,086	11,078	98,817	22%
Native American	4,754	6,208	9,045	4,177	4,765	5,828	7,434	5,276	47,487	11%
Black	1,709	2,305	2,433	1,412	445	678	1,584	532	11,098	3%
Asian	970	1,322	1,171	914	964	828	399	136	6,704	2%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pl	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Some Other Race	8,094	7,649	9,847	7,736	6,326	7,054	11,952	7,918	66,576	15%
Two or More Races	18,883	18,510	21,952	15,117	15,536	17,352	22,949	12,525	142,824	32%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table B01001 B-I, 2024 **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.

Child Population—BY RACE, ETHNICITY, AND COUNTY (2019-2023)

LOCATION	HISPANIC	NON-HISPANIC WHITE	NATIVE AMERICAN	BLACK	ASIAN	SOME OTHER RACE	TWO OR MORE RACES	TOTAL CHILDREN
United States	**26%**	**48%**	**1%**	**14%**	**5%**	**8%**	**16%**	**73,645,238**
New Mexico	**60%**	**23%**	**11%**	**2%**	**2%**	**13%**	**27%**	**466,617**
Bernalillo County	62%	23%	6%	3%	3%	12%	30%	139,325
Catron County	7%	90%	0%	0%	0%	3%	3%	352
Chaves County	71%	25%	0%	1%	1%	15%	20%	16,131
Cibola County	37%	12%	50%	0%	0%	2%	14%	6,310
Colfax County	60%	31%	3%	1%	0%	7%	28%	2,193
Curry County	57%	32%	2%	4%	1%	22%	19%	12,798
De Baca County	69%	25%	0%	0%	0%	56%	19%	382
Doña Ana County	81%	15%	1%	1%	1%	24%	30%	52,131
Eddy County	61%	36%	2%	1%	0%	6%	26%	15,920
Grant County	66%	32%	1%	0%	0%	7%	25%	5,022
Guadalupe County	84%	8%	7%	0%	0%	29%	17%	938
Harding County	47%	53%	0%	0%	0%	18%	26%	173
Hidalgo County	68%	30%	0%	0%	0%	4%	29%	880
Lea County	72%	22%	0%	4%	2%	9%	39%	21,818
Lincoln County	52%	45%	1%	0%	1%	4%	33%	3,436
Los Alamos County	23%	64%	1%	1%	3%	6%	14%	4,151
Luna County	81%	15%	1%	1%	2%	8%	43%	6,583
McKinley County	18%	4%	74%	1%	2%	7%	11%	19,619
Mora County	95%	5%	0%	0%	0%	19%	53%	575
Otero County	52%	31%	8%	3%	1%	11%	25%	15,097
Quay County	60%	36%	2%	3%	0%	11%	38%	1,781
Rio Arriba County	75%	6%	18%	1%	0%	29%	29%	9,080
Roosevelt County	54%	35%	1%	0%	1%	6%	21%	4,833
San Juan County	29%	26%	41%	1%	1%	9%	13%	30,750
San Miguel County	85%	8%	0%	0%	0%	14%	32%	4,559
Sandoval County	49%	28%	15%	2%	2%	8%	27%	33,612
Santa Fe County	69%	22%	5%	2%	1%	15%	28%	25,576
Sierra County	48%	46%	4%	0%	0%	3%	22%	1,791
Socorro County	61%	18%	17%	0%	2%	2%	31%	3,530
Taos County	69%	22%	8%	0%	0%	16%	23%	5,536
Torrance County	55%	39%	1%	4%	3%	14%	13%	3,158
Union County	45%	44%	0%	1%	0%	6%	37%	876
Valencia County	72%	20%	5%	1%	1%	8%	33%	17,701

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table B01001 B-I, 2019–2023

Population—BY AGE GROUP AND COUNTY (2019-2023)

LOCATION	ALL AGES	CHILDREN AGES 0-4	CHILDREN AGES 0-17
United States	332,387,540	18,939,899	73,645,238
New Mexico	2,114,768	112,949	466,617
Bernalillo County	674,357	33,888	139,325
Catron County	3,685	17	352
Chaves County	64,446	3,903	16,131
Cibola County	27,059	1,557	6,310
Colfax County	12,336	493	2,193
Curry County	47,932	3,745	12,798
De Baca County	1,580	162	382
Doña Ana County	221,665	12,931	52,131
Eddy County	61,114	4,278	15,920
Grant County	27,856	1,178	5,022
Guadalupe County	4,379	148	938
Harding County	748	20	173
Hidalgo County	4,097	230	880
Lea County	73,154	5,882	21,818
Lincoln County	20,227	823	3,436
Los Alamos County	19,374	874	4,151
Luna County	25,420	1,921	6,583
McKinley County	71,172	4,211	19,619
Mora County	4,176	109	575
Otero County	68,235	4,155	15,097
Quay County	8,616	303	1,781
Rio Arriba County	40,165	2,011	9,080
Roosevelt County	19,002	1,172	4,833
San Juan County	121,178	7,019	30,750
San Miguel County	27,036	1,141	4,559
Sandoval County	151,538	7,375	33,612
Santa Fe County	155,175	5,877	25,576
Sierra County	11,511	420	1,791
Socorro County	16,308	790	3,530
Taos County	34,516	1,024	5,536
Torrance County	15,290	722	3,158
Union County	4,039	273	876
Valencia County	77,382	4,297	17,701

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table DP05, 2019–2023

A POLICY SOLUTION TO SUPPORT OUR DEMOGRAPHICS

The Legislative Finance Committee should include a racial, ethnic, 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.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

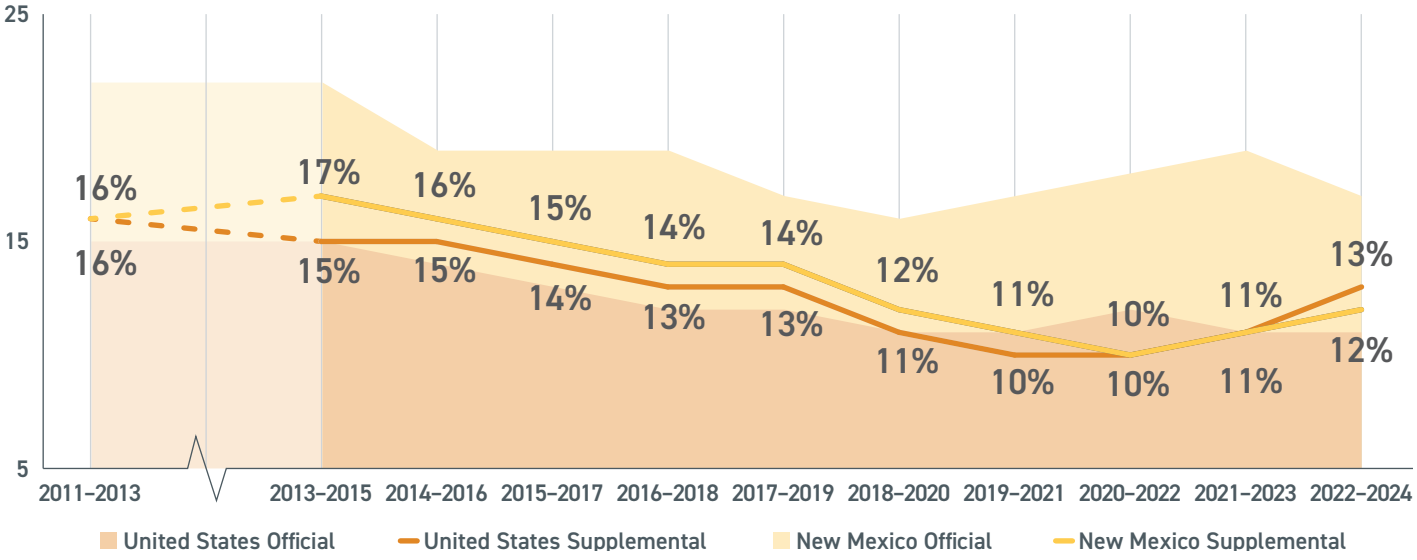
POVERTY

ABOUT THIS INDICATOR: ***Poverty*** is defined as those living at or below the federal poverty level (FPL), which is based on the Official Poverty Measure (OPM), which only accounts for money income. The FPL for a family of three was $25,820 in 2024. 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. Another poverty indicator, the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), measures the impact of additional resources like non-cash government benefits and tax credits, some costs of living, and adjusts for regional differences.

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 are determined, in large part, by what sorts of opportunities our children have today.

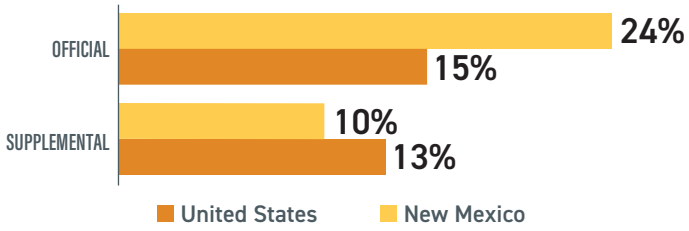
HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: When looking at the OPM, 17.2% of the New Mexico population from 2022–2024 lived in poverty, compared to just 11.1% nationally. For children, this rate was even worse, with 24.2% of New Mexico kids in poverty compared to just 14.8% nationally. The OPM solely measures money income, so this measure of poverty tells us how many families are not able to earn enough wages to rise above the poverty threshold. However, the SPM tells us that critical anti-poverty programs like non-cash government assistance, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and tax credits, like the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), deeply impact the lived experience of poverty for many New Mexico families. Looking at the SPM, 12.4% of New Mexico's total population lived in poverty from 2022–2024, compared to 12.7% nationally, bringing the state's poverty rate in line with the U.S. as a whole. Even more significantly, when critical programs and tax credits are measured, only 10.3% of New Mexico kids lived in poverty compared to 13.1% of all kids in the U.S. The three-year poverty rates measured by the SPM got slightly worse for 2022–2024 compared to 2021–2023, as the final year of data including COVID-19 relief programs are no longer included in the average. This demonstrates that poverty is a policy choice, and highlights the role states can play in alleviating its devastating impact. By supplementing resources for children and families, governments can help lift them out of poverty while also addressing issues like stagnant wages and racial and gender wage gaps.

Population (All Ages) Living in Poverty—BY YEAR, OFFICIAL POVERTY MEASURE, AND SUPPLEMENTAL POVERTY MEASURE (2011-2024)



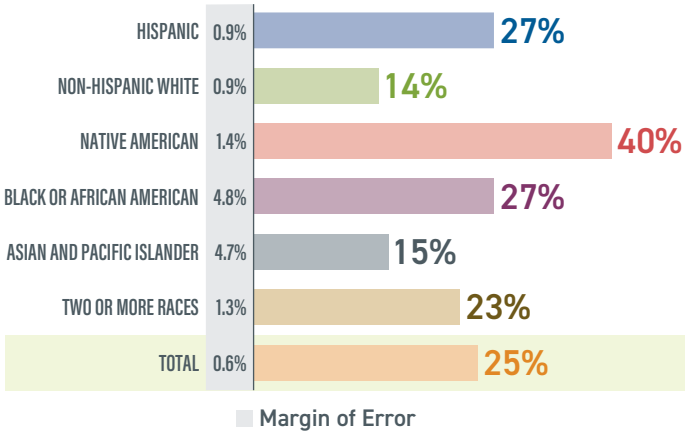
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement **Note:** Data for 2012–14 are unavailable.

Children Living in Poverty—BY OFFICIAL POVERTY MEASURE AND SUPPLEMENTAL POVERTY MEASURE (2022-2024)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement

Children Living in Poverty (Official Poverty Measure)—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2019-2023)



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019–2023 **Note:** Higher margins of error indicate less statistical reliability due to small sample sizes.



Population Living in Poverty (Official Poverty Measure)—BY AGE GROUP AND COUNTY (2019-2023)

LOCATION	CHILDREN	ALL AGES
United States	16%	12%
New Mexico	25%	18%
Bernalillo County	21%	16%
Catron County	37%	21%
Chaves County	30%	22%
Cibola County	41%	28%
Colfax County	29%	17%
Curry County	25%	21%
De Baca County	26%	21%
Doña Ana County	29%	22%
Eddy County	13%	12%
Grant County	27%	20%
Guadalupe County	26%	23%
Harding County	24%	19%
Hidalgo County	34%	21%
Lea County	23%	19%
Lincoln County	28%	16%
Los Alamos County	3%	3%
Luna County	40%	26%
McKinley County	47%	36%
Mora County	25%	19%
Otero County	29%	20%
Quay County	33%	25%
Rio Arriba County	29%	20%
Roosevelt County	40%	22%
San Juan County	30%	23%
San Miguel County	25%	22%
Sandoval County	12%	10%
Santa Fe County	19%	13%
Sierra County	37%	25%
Socorro County	37%	29%
Taos County	16%	14%
Torrance County	22%	20%
Union County	28%	19%
Valencia County	26%	18%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table S1701, 2019–2023

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

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO DECREASE POVERTY

- Support two-generation approaches and ensure better coordination between programs providing health, education, housing, and food services for both parents/caregivers and children.
- Ensure that universal child care has stable and reliable funding, and that its implementation prioritizes access for those families with the lowest incomes and families living in tribal and rural areas.
- Ensure sufficient funding for expansions of home visiting, child care, and pre-K programs by avoiding the supplanting of the general fund appropriations with distributions from the Early Childhood Trust Fund and the distribution from the state's Land Grant Permanent School Fund.
- Raise revenue and diversify revenue streams to ensure stable, adequate funding for all programs and services that support improved family economic well-being now and in the future.
- Continue improving progressivity in the state income tax system so corporations and higher-income earners pay their fair share for funding the programs and services that benefit us all collectively.
- Increase the state Child Tax Credit (CTC) for children younger than six, who are facing the highest rates of poverty; ensure every family that is eligible for the CTC receives the credit; and make the CTC permanent.
- Increase the state CTC for mixed-status families whose U.S. citizen children are no longer eligible for the federal CTC.
- Revise New Mexico's Working Families Tax Credit so it is no longer a percentage of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit but an independent state tax credit, and increase income eligibility, with the largest increases made for the lowest-income families and low-income adults without children.
- 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.

Population Living in Poverty (Official Poverty Measure)—BY AGE GROUP AND TRIBAL AREA (2019–2023)

LOCATION	CHILDREN	ALL AGES
United States	**16%**	**12%**
New Mexico	**25%**	**18%**
Acoma Pueblo	28%	19%
Cochiti Pueblo	9%	10%
Isleta Pueblo	28%	14%
Jemez Pueblo	25%	20%
Jicarilla Apache	20%	13%
Laguna Pueblo	50%	38%
Mescalero Apache	39%	30%
Nambe Pueblo	15%	18%
Navajo	52%	39%
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	26%	19%
Picuris Pueblo	17%	14%
Pojoaque Pueblo	19%	11%
Sandia Pueblo	33%	26%
San Felipe Pueblo	11%	16%
San Ildefonso Pueblo	33%	19%
Santa Ana Pueblo	11%	6%
Santa Clara Pueblo	26%	20%
Santo Domingo Pueblo	26%	20%
Taos Pueblo	29%	25%
Tesuque Pueblo	23%	16%
Zia Pueblo	5%	8%
Zuni Pueblo	37%	32%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table S1701, 2019–2023

- Support policies that prioritize kinship care for foster children; increase 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.
- Repeal and replace the state's Anti-Donation Clause to allow New Mexico to invest in its people, ensuring all families can access state-funded resources and community services.

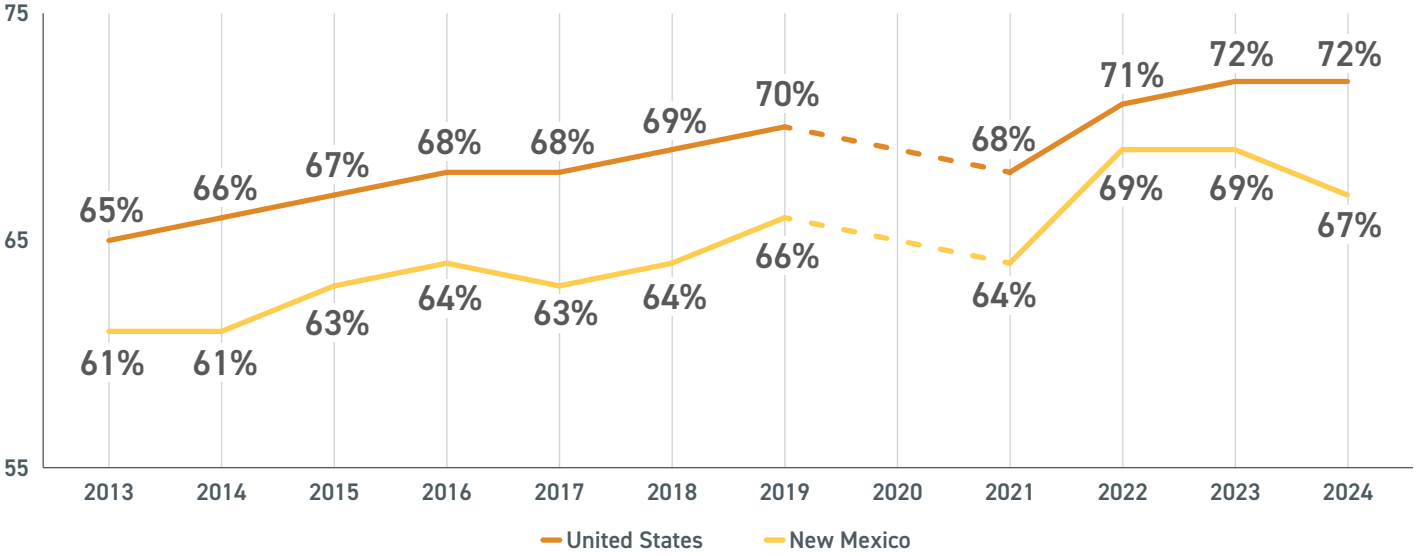
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

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, 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. When parents have secure employment, they are less likely to live in poverty and more likely to have jobs that pay a living wage or provide benefits such as health insurance and paid family leave, which helps both them and their families. One of these graphics measures the share of children whose parents lack secure employment, while the other two graphics—Families with Children in which All Parents Had Secure Employment by Year and by County—measure the share of all families where children are present, and all parents are employed.

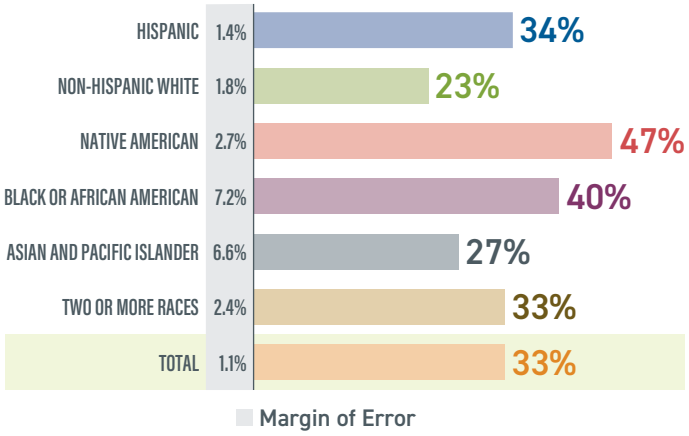
HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: The rate of New Mexico families with children in which all parents had secure employment has lagged when compared to the rest of the nation to varying degrees over the last decade. Given that New Mexico has one of lowest workforce participation rates and one of the highest rates 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. Despite a lower overall rate of workforce participation in the state, adults who are enrolled in income support programs are more likely to be working than the general population.

Families With Children in Which All Parents Had Secure Employment—BY YEAR (2013-2024)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys, 2013–2024 **Note:** Due to data collection issues related to COVID-19, no comparable data are available for 2020.

Children Living in Families Where No Parent Had Secure Employment—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2019-2023)



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample, 2019–2023 **Note:** Higher margins of error indicate less statistical reliability due to small sample sizes.

Percent of NM Adults Working While Enrolled in Income Support Programs—(SEPT. 2023)

PROGRAM	PERCENT WORKING
TANF	74%
SNAP	62%
LIHEAP	72%
Medicaid	64%
Childcare Assistance	97%
General Population	**57%**

Source: HSD, KFF, and LFC analysis of ECECD data, September 2023



Families with Children in Which All Parents Had Secure Employment—BY COUNTY (2019-2023)

LOCATION	PERCENT
United States	**70%**
New Mexico	**66%**
Bernalillo County	72%
Catron County	24%
Chaves County	66%
Cibola County	38%
Colfax County	71%
Curry County	57%
De Baca County	88%
Doña Ana County	63%
Eddy County	59%
Grant County	65%
Guadalupe County	78%
Harding County	67%
Hidalgo County	54%
Lea County	61%
Lincoln County	73%
Los Alamos County	66%
Luna County	56%
McKinley County	59%
Mora County	79%
Otero County	62%
Quay County	75%
Rio Arriba County	69%
Roosevelt County	63%
San Juan County	58%
San Miguel County	71%
Sandoval County	68%
Santa Fe County	73%
Sierra County	51%
Socorro County	67%
Taos County	72%
Torrance County	68%
Union County	64%
Valencia County	61%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table B23007, 2019–2023

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

INCOME

Median Household Income—BY COUNTY (2019-2023)

LOCATION	MEDIAN INCOME
United States	$78,538
New Mexico	$62,125
Bernalillo County	$66,514
Catron County	$46,439
Chaves County	$52,029
Cibola County	$51,765
Colfax County	$52,690
Curry County	$56,259
De Baca County	$40,804
Doña Ana County	$55,663
Eddy County	$79,605
Grant County	$45,921
Guadalupe County	$40,149
Harding County	$41,250
Hidalgo County	$49,076
Lea County	$68,750
Lincoln County	$51,643
Los Alamos County	$143,188
Luna County	$37,917
McKinley County	$44,496
Mora County	$50,178
Otero County	$52,717
Quay County	$43,698
Rio Arriba County	$53,901
Roosevelt County	$52,445
San Juan County	$53,020
San Miguel County	$47,400
Sandoval County	$84,053
Santa Fe County	$74,689
Sierra County	$37,840
Socorro County	$47,556
Taos County	$58,908
Torrance County	$46,250
Union County	$45,319
Valencia County	$58,333

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table B19013, 2019–2023

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.

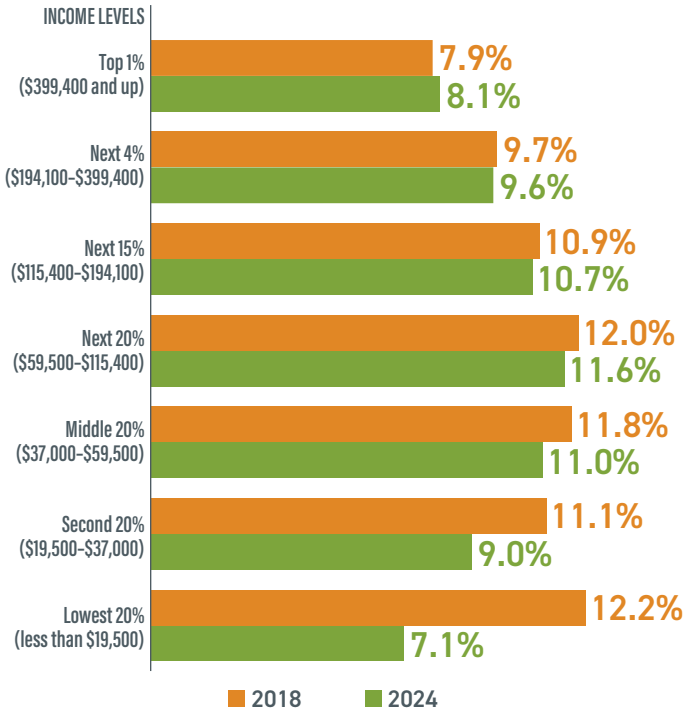
HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: The median household income in New Mexico is 21% lower than the national average. However, median household income fluctuates widely by county, and only Eddy, Los Alamos, and Sandoval Counties have a higher median income than the national average. All of the Tribal areas, except Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, and Santa Ana 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 based in the area. Income inequality has worsened over time, and the Legislature has enacted few policies to address this issue.

Median Household Income—BY TRIBAL AREA (2019-2023)

LOCATION	MEDIAN INCOME
United States	$78,538
New Mexico	$62,125
Acoma Pueblo	$48,828
Cochiti Pueblo	$53,125
Isleta Pueblo	$57,955
Jemez Pueblo	$59,023
Jicarilla Apache	$45,313
Laguna Pueblo	$48,344
Mescalero Apache	$39,185
Nambe Pueblo	$45,658
Navajo	$31,907
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	$53,269
Picuris Pueblo	$45,272
Pojoaque Pueblo	$70,038
Sandia Pueblo	$49,175
San Felipe Pueblo	$62,000
San Ildefonso Pueblo	$62,750
Santa Ana Pueblo	$72,188
Santa Clara Pueblo	$51,716
Santo Domingo Pueblo	$61,458
Taos Pueblo	$53,750
Tesuque Pueblo	$59,375
Zia Pueblo	$56,250
Zuni Pueblo	$46,179

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table B19013, 2019–2023

Share of Income Paid in State and Local Taxes by Income Group—(2018 AND 2024)



Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Jan. 2024 **Note:** Data includes permanent law passed in New Mexico through April 2023.

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

- 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 the New Mexico Workforce Training Economic Support Pilot Program to increase monetary stipend amounts and expand priority fields, industries, and programs eligible to receive funds.
- 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 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 continuing full funding of the Lottery and Opportunity Scholarships and the creation of need-based, flexible financial aid or cash assistance to cover additional costs of attendance beyond tuition.
- Enact narrow, targeted economic development initiatives and require accountability for tax breaks to businesses so that tax benefits are only received if quality, high-paying, and dignified 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 workers such as undocumented immigrants, independent contractors in low-wage industries, and displaced oil and gas workers transitioning away from fossil fuels.
- Work with youth, 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 opportunity youth, create incentives, and link its funding to accountability and meaningful outcomes.
- Create a program that provides direct cash assistance to children and families impacted by the detention of one or more parents or financial providers.
- Create an Office of New Americans Division within the NM Workforce Solutions Department that is charged with supporting educational, workforce training, and legal initiatives that improve the integration of new Americans into the state economy.

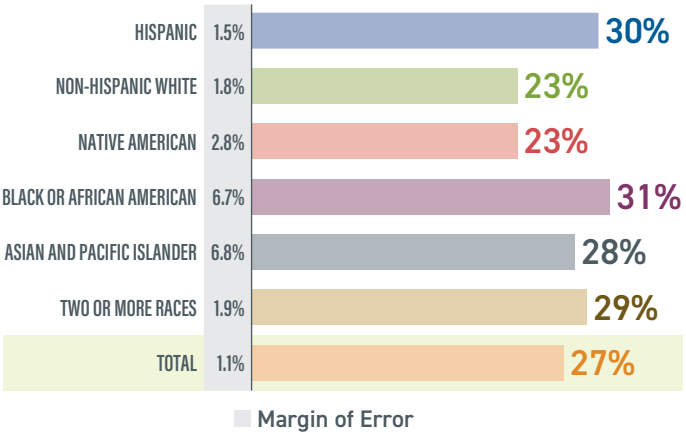
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

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 basic necessities such as food, health care, utilities, transportation, and child care. 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 (like exposure to radon, mold, or asbestos) to families living there. 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.

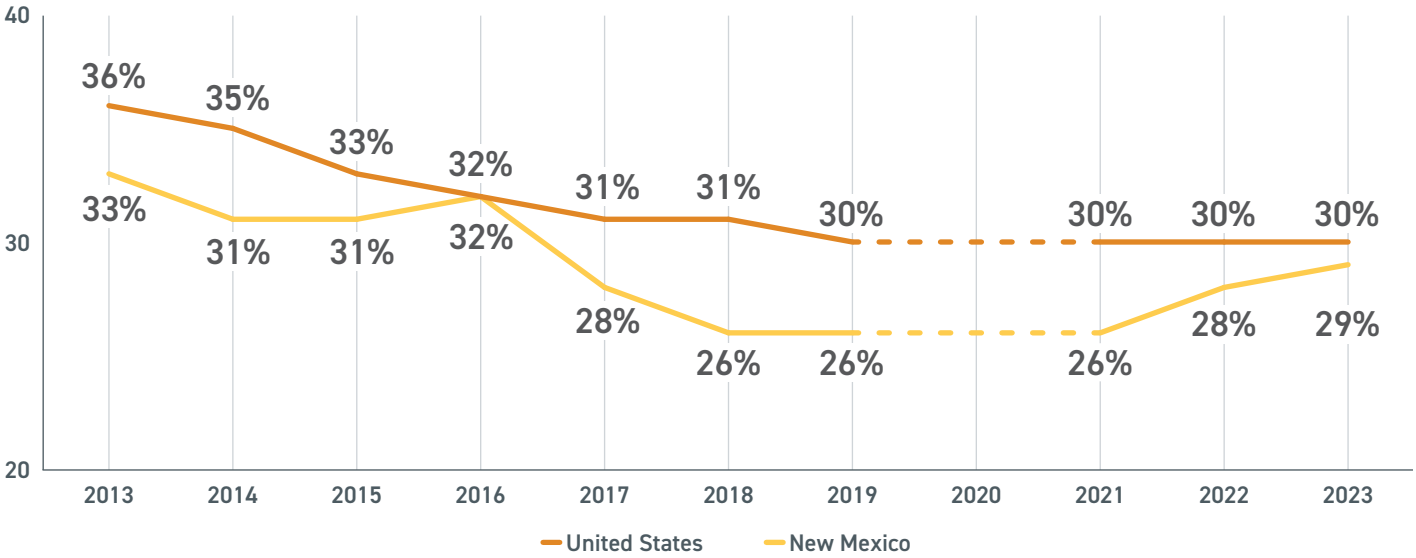
HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: New Mexico has consistently had a lower rate of children in families burdened by high housing costs compared to the nation, and this trend continues.

Children in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2019-2023)



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample, 2019–2023 **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 (2013-2023)



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys, 2013–2023 **Note:** Due to data collection issues related to COVID-19, no comparable data are available for 2020.

Households Renting With High Housing Cost Burdens—BY COUNTY (2019–2023)

LOCATION	PERCENT
United States	47%
New Mexico	44%
Bernalillo County	48%
Catron County	20%
Chaves County	39%
Cibola County	39%
Colfax County	34%
Curry County	46%
De Baca County	30%
Doña Ana County	48%
Eddy County	22%
Grant County	44%
Guadalupe County	20%
Harding County	13%
Hidalgo County	51%
Lea County	38%
Lincoln County	43%
Los Alamos County	23%
Luna County	45%
McKinley County	33%
Mora County	21%
Otero County	40%
Quay County	31%
Rio Arriba County	27%
Roosevelt County	40%
San Juan County	40%
San Miguel County	46%
Sandoval County	44%
Santa Fe County	44%
Sierra County	39%
Socorro County	48%
Taos County	47%
Torrance County	33%
Union County	16%
Valencia County	46%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table B25070, 2019–2023

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

- 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 and awareness 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.
- Advocate for zoning changes that allow higher-density and mixed-use development to improve access to affordable housing.
- Pass laws limiting the ability of non-residential owners to buy housing in New Mexico.
- Strengthen investments to repair and build homes in rural communities and on tribal lands.



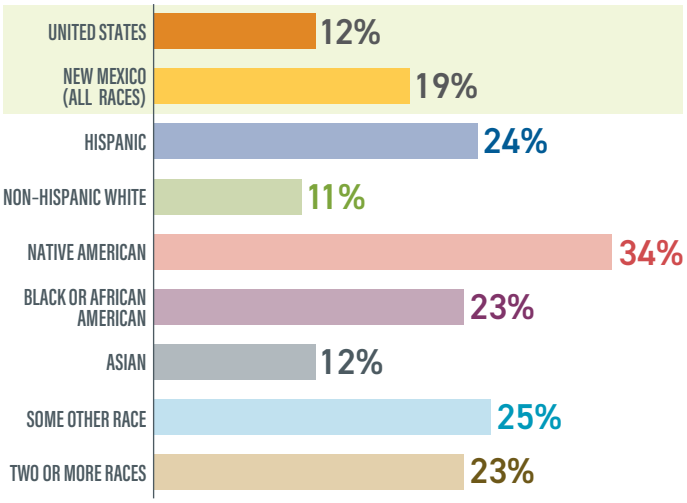
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

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: New Mexico's rates of child food insecurity and households receiving SNAP have increased slightly in the past year, and both are higher than the national average, reflecting our state's major challenges around hunger. As families continued to face economic difficulties related to continuing inflation, New Mexico saw a slight increase in the percentage of households receiving SNAP benefits from 2023 to 2024. The change in rates varied across all races and ethnicities, with decreased rates for Hispanic and Native American households, and households racially identifying as some other race or two or more races. Asian and Black households saw an increase, and non-Hispanic white households remained the same.

Households Receiving SNAP Assistance—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2024)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Tables S2201 (US, NM), B22005 B-D, F-I 2024

Households Receiving SNAP Benefits—BY COUNTY (2019-2023)

LOCATION	PERCENT
United States	12%
New Mexico	19%
Bernalillo County	17%
Catron County	16%
Chaves County	24%
Cibola County	24%
Colfax County	24%
Curry County	22%
De Baca County	24%
Doña Ana County	24%
Eddy County	13%
Grant County	20%
Guadalupe County	33%
Harding County	5%
Hidalgo County	20%
Lea County	18%
Lincoln County	12%
Los Alamos County	3%
Luna County	26%
McKinley County	38%
Mora County	21%
Otero County	22%
Quay County	28%
Rio Arriba County	19%
Roosevelt County	21%
San Juan County	23%
San Miguel County	31%
Sandoval County	13%
Santa Fe County	11%
Sierra County	16%
Socorro County	21%
Taos County	15%
Torrance County	24%
Union County	19%
Valencia County	22%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table DP03, 2019-2023

Children Who are Food Insecure—BY COUNTY (2023)

LOCATION	PERCENT
United States	19%
New Mexico	23%
Bernalillo County	20%
Catron County	38%
Chaves County	24%
Cibola County	33%
Colfax County	27%
Curry County	23%
De Baca County	20%
Doña Ana County	22%
Eddy County	17%
Grant County	25%
Guadalupe County	23%
Harding County	22%
Hidalgo County	23%
Lea County	20%
Lincoln County	25%
Los Alamos County	10%
Luna County	32%
McKinley County	34%
Mora County	23%
Otero County	27%
Quay County	29%
Rio Arriba County	22%
Roosevelt County	28%
San Juan County	27%
San Miguel County	23%
Sandoval County	16%
Santa Fe County	18%
Sierra County	33%
Socorro County	28%
Taos County	20%
Torrance County	24%
Union County	26%
Valencia County	23%

Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, Interactive Data, 2025

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO DECREASE FOOD INSECURITY

- Ensure sufficient state funding to support 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, particularly if federal funds for the program are dramatically cut.
- Increase investments for state SNAP supplements and expand eligibility to ensure people who lose benefits due to federal changes are still able to afford food.
- Provide sufficient funding to connect SNAP participants subject to work requirements with opportunities that satisfy the requirements and support with reporting their hours. Research shows work requirements do not lead to more hours worked by SNAP participants, but they do lead to significant loss of benefits, often related to challenges finding stable work hours or burdensome and confusing reporting processes.
- Provide adequate funding for state and local programs to address food systems, sustainable farming, and hunger.
- Ensure full and recurring funding for 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.
- Expand SNAP eligibility to provide a minimum benefit for all members of a family unit, regardless of immigration status.



EDUCATION

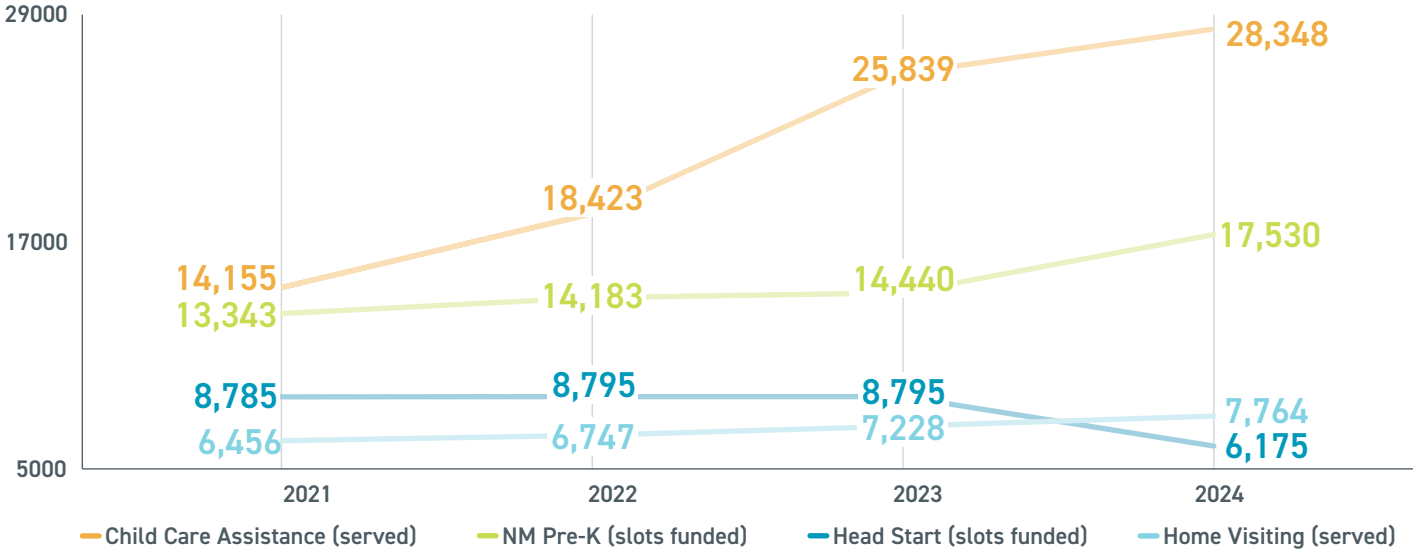
ENROLLMENT

ABOUT THIS INDICATOR: These graphics measure the number of children served or slots funded in four key early childhood services in New Mexico and by county: Home Visiting, Child Care Assistance, NM Pre-K, and Head Start. Children's opportunity to be healthy, do well in school, and grow up to be productive and contributing members of society are tied to their experiences in the earliest years. Children learn more quickly in their early years and studies tell us that 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 for healthy growth and positive development; factors that contribute to children's success later in life. High-quality pre-K and child care, such as 4- or 5-STAR programs, and home visiting programs lead to improved child well-being and are linked to significant long-term improvements for children and savings for states. Additional indicators are included to measure the number of child care and pre-K providers by type in the state, the percentage of child care providers with 4- or 5-STAR quality ratings, and the rate of families receiving Child Care Assistance by income level and age group.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: Since 2021, New Mexico has steadily increased the number of children served or the number of child care and education slots funded in most early childhood programs. Children served through home visiting has increased by 1,308 children, and the state is continuing to raise awareness of the program and is improving implementation to increase program usage. The state is also continuing its planned rollout of the NM Pre-K program and is working to increase enrollment.

Child Care Assistance (CCA) eligibility remained at 400% of the federal poverty level (or FPL; $99,440 for a family of three) with no copays in 2024, although the state recently launched Universal Child Care in late 2025, which is not reflected in this data. Even prior to the expansion to universal access, CCA eligibility up to 400% FPL created the opportunity for a significant number of additional families to afford child care in a setting that is education-oriented, doubling the number of children receiving CCA in 2024 compared to 2021. More than half (68%) of families with children 5 and younger and 75% of families with children ages 6–12 receiving CCA in New Mexico have incomes of 200% of the FPL or less. The percentage of available high-quality child care reached a new high of 54% of licensed providers with a 4- or 5-STAR rating in 2024.

Children Served or Slots Funded—BY EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES AND YEAR (2021-2024)



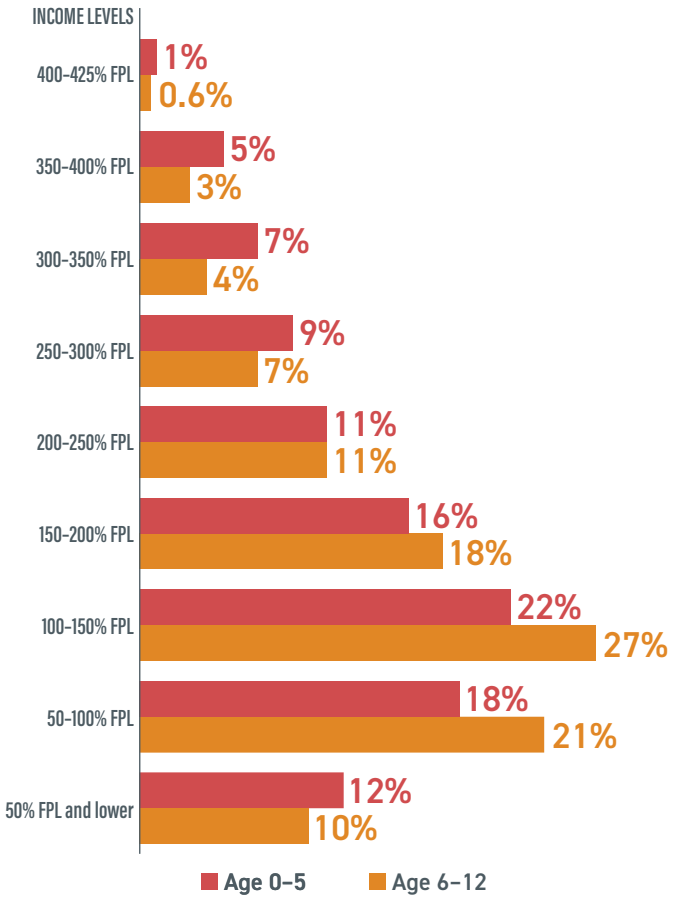
Source: Annual Outcomes Report, NM Early Childhood Education and Care Department, Fiscal Years 2021–2024 **Note:** NM Pre-K and Head Start only report the number of slots funded, not the actual number enrolled or served in these programs.

Children Served or Slots Funded by Early Childhood Services—BY COUNTY (2024)

LOCATION	HOME VISITING	CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE	NM PRE-K
New Mexico	**7,764**	**28,348**	**17,530**
Bernalillo County	1,083	11,688	4,932
Catron County	0	0	20
Chaves County	335	1,305	548
Cibola County	141	217	95
Colfax County	87	24	40
Curry County	323	888	417
De Baca County	5	0	23
Doña Ana County	1,818	5,501	2,686
Eddy County	50	363	298
Grant County	177	186	321
Guadalupe County	34	47	44
Harding County	-	-	22
Hidalgo County	78	11	35
Lea County	480	994	467
Lincoln County	178	136	278
Los Alamos County	155	41	155
Luna County	495	211	433
McKinley County	313	145	681
Mora County	16	5	81
Otero County	74	727	406
Quay County	82	37	30
Rio Arriba County	118	230	294
Roosevelt County	118	230	149
San Juan County	153	1,573	1,370
San Miguel County	91	463	96
Sandoval County	83	1,204	1,037
Santa Fe County	451	706	1,050
Sierra County	266	76	104
Socorro County	166	78	106
Taos County	181	138	203
Torrance County	3	112	265
Union County	10	-	36
Valencia County	199	1,029	808

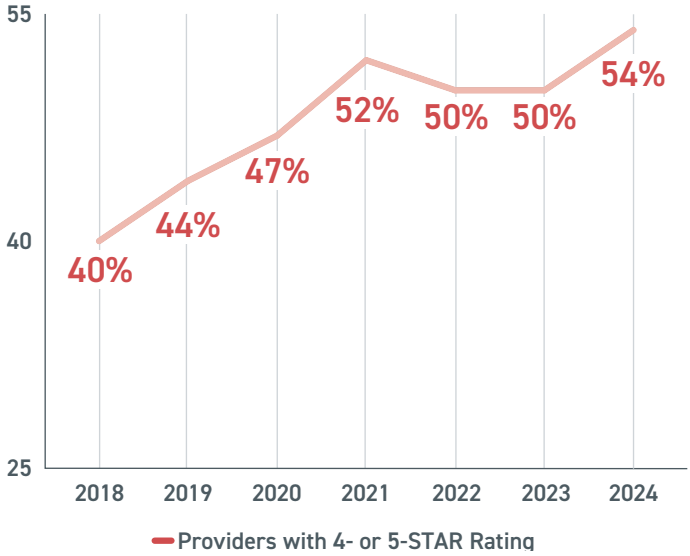
Source: Annual Outcomes Report, NM Early Childhood Education and Care Department, Fiscal Year 2024 **Note:** NM Pre-K only reports the number of slots funded, not the actual number enrolled or served in these programs. - indicates no data are available.

Families Receiving Child Care Assistance—BY INCOME AND CHILD AGE GROUP (2024)



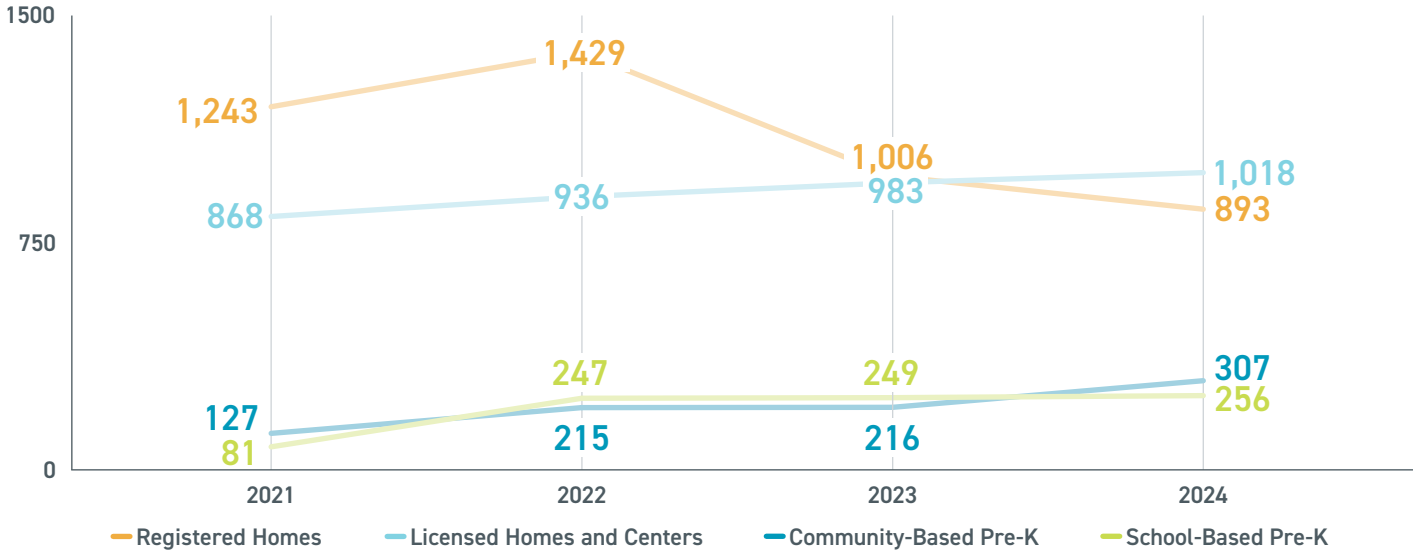
Source: Annual Outcomes Report, NM Early Childhood Education and Care Department, Fiscal Year 2024

Licensed Child Care Providers with a 4- or 5-STAR Rating—BY YEAR (2018–2024)



Source: Annual Outcomes Report, NM Early Childhood Education and Care Department, Fiscal Years 2018–2024

Number of Child Care and Pre-K Providers—BY TYPE AND YEAR (2021–2024)



Source: Annual Outcomes Report, NM Early Childhood Education and Care Department, Fiscal Years 2021–2024. **Note:** For the 2021 count of school-based pre-K providers, the number reflects districts and charter schools with school-based pre-K, but not the count of individual schools. Subsequent years report the number of individual schools, accounting for the large increase between 2021 and 2022.

EDUCATION

ENROLLMENT

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; $33,566 for a family of three in the 2024–2025 school year) and ***reduced-price meals*** if their families live at or below 185% of the FPL ($47,767 for a family of three). Many of these children are considered "food insecure," meaning they lack regular access to enough, safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development. For some of these kids, the food they receive at school may be their only regular meal.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: Students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals are in families that are considered low-income, and New Mexico has one of the highest rates (77%) in the nation of public school students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals. In the 2022–2023 school year, New Mexico implemented universal school meals so all children receive free breakfast and lunch while at school. This allows the state to leverage federal meal reimbursements for the high number of students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals while funding all remaining student meal costs to make sure no student is hungry.

Total Enrollment and Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals– BY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (2024-2025)

LOCATION	TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT	PERCENT OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS
New Mexico	**306,219**	**77%**
Alamogordo Public Schools	5,162	75%
Albuquerque Public Schools	74,819	76%
Animas Public Schools	163	70%
Artesia Public Schools	3,717	65%
Aztec Municipal Schools	2,379	76%
Belen Consolidated Schools	3,463	89%
Bernalillo Public Schools	2,749	92%
Bloomfield Municipal Schools	2,354	98%
Capitan Municipal Schools	435	69%
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	7,466	62%
Carrizozo Municipal Schools	150	95%
Central Consolidated Schools	4,470	97%
Chama Valley Independent Schools	276	74%
Cimarron Public Schools	336	61%
Clayton Public Schools	384	83%
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools	421	46%
Clovis Municipal Schools	7,329	74%
Cobre Consolidated Schools	940	94%
Corona Municipal Schools	105	39%
Cuba Independent Schools	710	100%
Deming Public Schools	5,051	97%
Des Moines Municipal Schools	133	44%
Dexter Consolidated Schools	766	80%
Dora Consolidated Schools	219	64%
Dulce Independent Schools	590	99%
Elida Municipal Schools	147	45%
Española Municipal Schools	2,706	96%
Estancia Municipal Schools	579	94%
Eunice Municipal Schools	754	63%
Farmington Municipal Schools	10,657	82%
Floyd Municipal Schools	221	87%
Fort Sumner Municipal Schools	275	83%
Gadsden Independent Schools	11,701	96%
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	13,147	98%
Grady Municipal Schools	177	55%
Grants-Cibola County Schools	3,159	96%
Hagerman Municipal Schools	405	83%
Hatch Valley Municipal Schools	1,119	98%
Hobbs Municipal Schools	10,123	75%
Hondo Valley Public Schools	118	89%
House Municipal Schools	67	56%
Jal Public Schools	577	51%
Jemez Mountain Public Schools	175	82%
Jemez Valley Public Schools	296	93%
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	177	73%
Las Cruces Public Schools	22,755	85%
Las Vegas City Public Schools	1,099	78%

TABLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ▶

Total Enrollment and Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals—
BY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (2024-2025)

TABLE CONTINUED

LOCATION	TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT	PERCENT OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS
Logan Municipal Schools	313	60%
Lordsburg Municipal Schools	405	85%
Los Alamos Public Schools	3,643	12%
Los Lunas Public Schools	8,160	79%
Loving Municipal Schools	726	61%
Lovington Public Schools	3,399	70%
Magdalena Municipal Schools	292	95%
Maxwell Municipal Schools	86	75%
Melrose Public Schools	271	44%
Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools	260	77%
Mora Independent Schools	377	89%
Moriarty Municipal Schools	2,334	78%
Mosquero Municipal Schools	89	65%
Mountainair Public Schools	185	88%
Pecos Independent Schools	433	83%
Peñasco Independent Schools	273	85%
Pojoaque Valley Public Schools	1,513	72%
Portales Municipal Schools	2,498	86%
Quemado Independent Schools	172	80%
Questa Independent Schools	318	85%
Raton Public Schools	817	90%
Reserve Independent Schools	94	86%
Rio Rancho Public Schools	16,535	57%
Roswell Independent Schools	9,147	86%
Roy Municipal Schools	74	26%
Ruidoso Municipal Schools	1,774	86%
San Jon Municipal Schools	118	76%
Santa Fe Public Schools	11,275	72%
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	566	89%
Silver City Consolidated Schools	2,132	72%
Socorro Consolidated Schools	1,311	83%
Springer Municipal Schools	122	77%
Taos Municipal Schools	2,179	94%
Tatum Municipal Schools	303	50%
Texico Municipal Schools	553	47%
Truth or Consequences Schools	1,239	94%
Tucumcari Public Schools	901	100%
Tularosa Municipal Schools	978	92%
Vaughn Municipal Schools	68	75%
Wagon Mound Public Schools	63	100%
West Las Vegas Public Schools	1,593	98%
Zuni Public Schools	1,207	99%

Source: NM Public Education Department, STARS Enrollment Data, retrieved October 2025, and "Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility Report," school year 2024–25, retrieved October 2025.

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 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.
- Ensure equitable funding and implementation of Universal Child Care that includes a wage and career ladder to help recruit and retain a well-paid, stable workforce, and provisions to make sure those most in need have access to the care for which they are eligible.
- 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.

EDUCATION

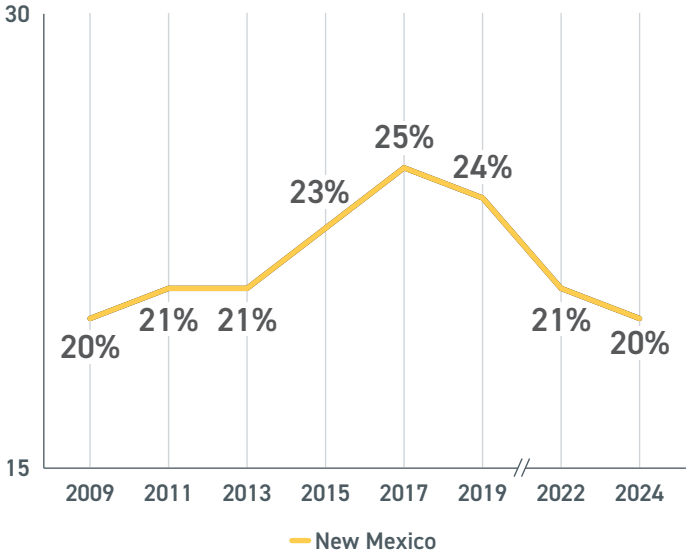
READING PROFICIENCY

ABOUT THIS INDICATOR: This graphic measures the percentage of fourth graders who scored at or above 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. The bar chart reflects students who scored proficient and above on the MSSA, and these data are disaggregated by available races and ethnicities, genders, and other identifiers. ***Low-income*** students in the bar chart are defined as students who are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches.

Research shows that 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.

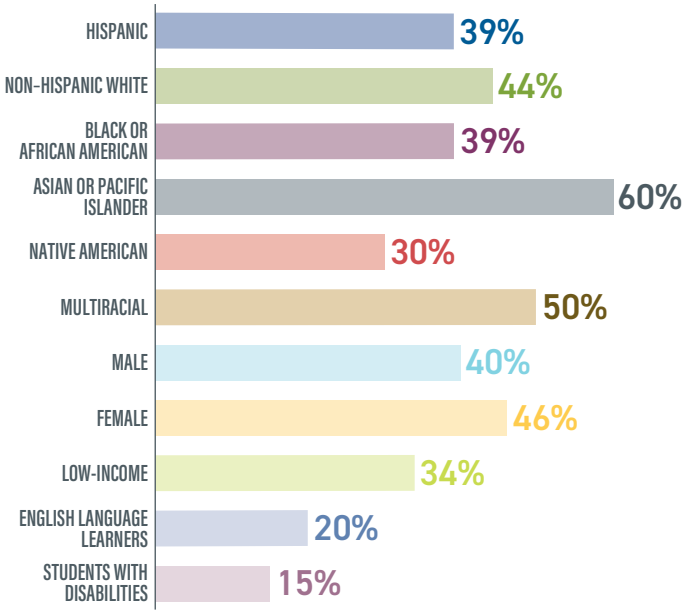
HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: Only 20% of New Mexico fourth-graders scored at or above proficient on the NAEP exam. Ultimately, the pandemic erased most of the progress New Mexico had made since 2009 to ensure more children were proficient in reading. According to the state standardized test, MSSA, 43% of New Mexico students in grades 3–8 and grade 11 scored proficient and above in reading, an improvement over reading scores last year. Reading proficiency is a crucial element of scholastic success, but as has been the case in the past, boys, children who are Black, Native American, or Hispanic, English language learners, students with disabilities, and children from families earning low incomes have proficiency rates that are below the state average.

Fourth Graders Scoring At or Above Proficient in Reading—BY YEAR (2009-2024)



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009–2024

Students Scoring Proficient and Above in Reading—BY RACE, ETHNICITY, GENDER, AND INCOME (2024-2025)



Source: NM Public Education Department, "NM Vistas Report for New Mexico - Reading Proficiency," by Entity and Student Group, school year 2024–25, retrieved December 2025

EDUCATION

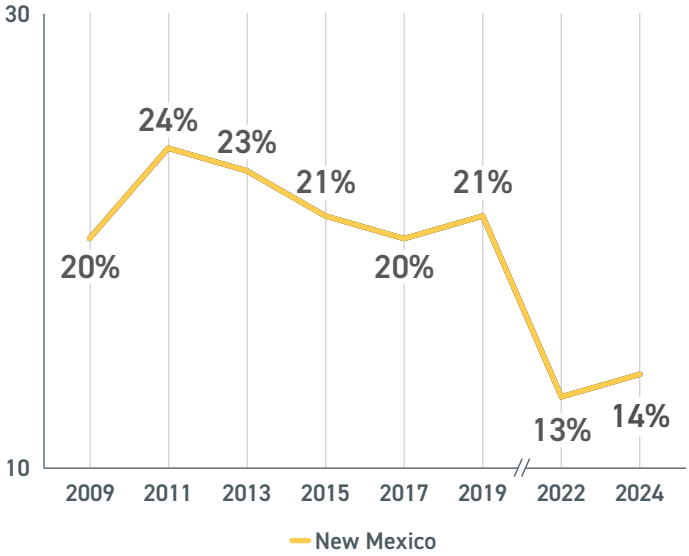
MATH PROFICIENCY

ABOUT THIS INDICATOR: This graphic measures the percentage of eighth graders who scored at or above 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. The bar chart reflects students who scored proficient and above on the MSSA, and these data are disaggregated by available races and ethnicities, genders, and other identifiers. ***Low-income*** students in the bar chart are defined as 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.

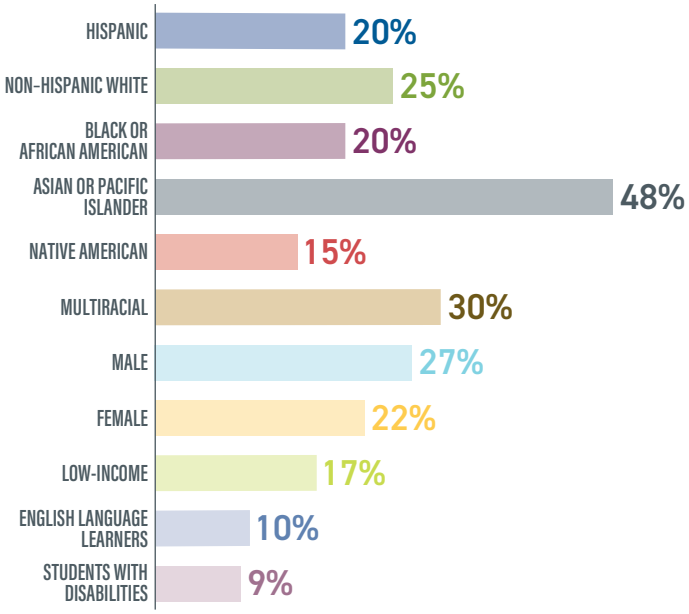
HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: Due to the dramatic impact of the pandemic, math proficiency scores nationwide dropped at an alarming rate. Now, only 14% of New Mexico eighth graders are proficient in math, increasing the likelihood that many will struggle in high school and college math courses. According to state MSSA scores, 25% of New Mexico students are proficient and above in math, but as is the case for reading proficiency, even fewer students who are Hispanic, Black, or Native American, girls, English language learners, students with disabilities, and children from families earning low incomes are proficient in math—once again highlighting the results of an education system that does not serve all of our students well.

Eighth Graders Scoring At or Above Proficient in Math—BY YEAR (2009-2024)



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009–2024

Students Scoring Proficient and Above in Math—BY RACE, ETHNICITY, GENDER, AND INCOME (2024-2025)



Source: NM Public Education Department, "NM Vistas Report for New Mexico - Math Proficiency," by Entity and Student Group, school year 2024–25, retrieved December 2025

EDUCATION

READING + MATH PROFICIENCY

ABOUT THIS INDICATOR: The data published here from the spring of 2025 are the fourth year of results from New Mexico's Measures for Student Success and Achievement (MSSA) tests for grades third through eighth. These rates also included SAT scores for eleventh grade students and scores from alternative assessments. 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 Language Arts (TAMELA) tests, or the NAEP scores.

Students Proficient and Above in Reading and Mathematics Assessments—BY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (2024-2025)

LOCATION	READING	MATHEMATICS
New Mexico	43%	25%
Alamogordo Public Schools	47%	31%
Albuquerque Public Schools	43%	25%
Animas Public Schools	40%	≤ 10%
Artesia Public Schools	51%	33%
Aztec Municipal Schools	39%	19%
Belen Consolidated Schools	42%	25%
Bernalillo Public Schools	33%	14%
Bloomfield Municipal Schools	41%	20%
Capitan Municipal Schools	51%	29%
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	43%	25%
Carrizozo Municipal Schools	41%	23%
Central Consolidated Schools	29%	15%
Chama Valley Independent Schools	20%	6%
Cimarron Public Schools	50%	28%
Clayton Public Schools	49%	27%
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools	67%	42%
Clovis Municipal Schools	42%	27%
Cobre Consolidated Schools	44%	20%
Corona Municipal Schools	56%	47%
Cuba Independent Schools	19%	6%
Deming Public Schools	33%	19%
Des Moines Municipal Schools	76%	74%
Dexter Consolidated Schools	35%	16%
Dora Consolidated Schools	67%	50%
Dulce Independent Schools	18%	4%
Elida Municipal Schools	57%	38%
Española Municipal Schools	29%	11%
Estancia Municipal Schools	33%	29%
Eunice Municipal Schools	35%	14%
Farmington Municipal Schools	40%	23%
Floyd Municipal Schools	53%	30%
Fort Sumner Municipal Schools	57%	30%
Gadsden Independent Schools	39%	25%
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	31%	18%
Grady Municipal Schools	62%	44%
Grants-Cibola County Schools	38%	17%
Hagerman Municipal Schools	39%	22%
Hatch Valley Municipal Schools	43%	15%
Hobbs Municipal Schools	40%	23%
Hondo Valley Public Schools	33%	21%
House Municipal Schools	42%	*
Jal Public Schools	41%	19%
Jemez Mountain Public Schools	20%	≤ 10%
Jemez Valley Public Schools	27%	6%
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	38%	18%
Las Cruces Public Schools	44%	23%
Las Vegas City Public Schools	39%	16%
Logan Municipal Schools	62%	31%
Lordsburg Municipal Schools	40%	8%
Los Alamos Public Schools	73%	59%
Los Lunas Public Schools	42%	24%
Loving Municipal Schools	44%	23%
Lovington Public Schools	37%	18%
Magdalena Municipal Schools	36%	17%
Maxwell Municipal Schools	59%	25%
Melrose Public Schools	69%	32%
Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools	36%	17%

TABLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ▶

Students Proficient and Above in Reading and Mathematics Assessments—BY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (2024-2025)

TABLE CONTINUED

LOCATION	READING	MATHEMATICS
Mora Independent Schools	29%	8%
Moriarty Municipal Schools	45%	27%
Mosquero Municipal Schools	56%	28%
Mountainair Public Schools	34%	20%
Pecos Independent Schools	30%	11%
Peñasco Independent Schools	41%	13%
Pojoaque Valley Public Schools	36%	13%
Portales Municipal Schools	45%	25%
Quemado Independent Schools	60%	30%
Questa Independent Schools	28%	5%
Raton Public Schools	40%	25%
Reserve Independent Schools	48%	32%
Rio Rancho Public Schools	54%	34%
Roswell Independent Schools	42%	22%
Roy Municipal Schools	75%	63%
Ruidoso Municipal Schools	43%	29%
San Jon Municipal Schools	66%	42%
Santa Fe Public Schools	41%	22%
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	49%	24%
Silver City Consolidated Schools	49%	28%
Socorro Consolidated Schools	43%	22%
Springer Municipal Schools	35%	13%
Taos Municipal Schools	45%	22%
Tatum Municipal Schools	50%	37%
Texico Municipal Schools	74%	67%
Truth or Consequences Schools	36%	19%
Tucumcari Public Schools	46%	14%
Tularosa Municipal Schools	46%	16%
Vaughn Municipal Schools	41%	25%
Wagon Mound Public Schools	21%	≤ 20%
West Las Vegas Public Schools	33%	10%
Zuni Public Schools	33%	13%

Source: NM Public Education Department, "NM Vistas Report - Proficiencies" by District, school year 2024–25, retrieved December 2025 **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) and SAT (grade 11). Other tests may be included. * indicates rates are masked for subgroups with fewer than 10 student records.

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE PROFICIENCIES

- Create a uniform statewide approach to provide teachers and leaders with the biliteracy knowledge and skills needed to adequately serve multilingual students, including English language learners, to strengthen students' reading in both English and their home language while complementing the state's literacy initiative.
- Provide math coaches to students and professional development in math instruction for all elementary and math teachers.
- Ensure smaller class sizes.
- Ensure K–12 per-pupil funding is sufficient and targeted 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.
- Increase funding for programs to serve Native American students. This could be done by including Native American students in the state equalization guarantee (SEG) education funding formula, creating a new Tribal Education Trust Fund, and increasing distributions to the Indian Education Fund.
- Expand quality mentorship and tutoring programs offered at times determined to be most effective for each community 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; continue to fund pay for student teachers; and increase funding for educator and principal residencies to improve recruitment and retention of a highly effective and diverse education workforce.
- Increase funding and support alignment so teacher educator preparation programs recruit diverse candidates and teach trauma-informed approaches, social-emotional learning, and other tools to support students, while providing culturally and linguistically relevant training to future educators.

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, the dropout rate is determined by taking the number of students who disenrolled during a given school year divided by the total number of students enrolled. If a student transfers schools, completes a high school equivalency, or does not graduate on time, they are not included in the dropout rate. In addition, unlike on-time graduation rates, which are calculated by cohort, dropout rates are calculated each year.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: After ballooning during and after the pandemic, New Mexico saw progress in reducing the rates of chronically absent students, dropping to 30% in the 2023–2024 school year from 39% in the 2022–2023 school year. However, the rate rose again in the 2024–2025 school year to 33%, indicating that chronic absenteeism is still a significant problem for many districts and too many students continue to remain disengaged.

Chronic Absentee (2024-2025) and Dropout (2023-2024) Rates—BY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

LOCATION	PERCENT OF STUDENTS CHRONICALLY ABSENT	STUDENT DROPOUT RATE
New Mexico	**33%**	**≤ 3%**
Alamogordo Public Schools	35%	≤ 1%
Albuquerque Public Schools	34%	≤ 1%
Animas Public Schools	49%	≤ 5%
Artesia Public Schools	33%	≤ 1%
Aztec Municipal Schools	39%	≤ 1%
Belen Consolidated Schools	43%	≤ 1%
Bernalillo Public Schools	52%	≤ 1%
Bloomfield Municipal Schools	41%	≤ 1%
Capitan Municipal Schools	12%	≤ 2%
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	28%	≤ 1%
Carrizozo Municipal Schools	32%	≤ 5%
Central Consolidated Schools	46%	≤ 1%
Chama Valley Independent Schools	11%	≤ 2%
Cimarron Public Schools	26%	≤ 2%
Clayton Public Schools	40%	≤ 2%
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools	12%	≤ 2%
Clovis Municipal Schools	35%	≤ 1%
Cobre Consolidated Schools	41%	≤ 1%
Corona Municipal Schools	17%	≤ 10%
Cuba Independent Schools	55%	≤ 1%
Deming Public Schools	34%	≤ 1%
Des Moines Municipal Schools	10%	≤ 5%
Dexter Consolidated Schools	23%	≤ 1%
Dora Consolidated Schools	10%	≤ 5%
Dulce Independent Schools	58%	≤ 2%
Elida Municipal Schools	2%	≤ 5%
Española Municipal Schools	45%	≤ 1%
Estancia Municipal Schools	16%	≤ 2%
Eunice Municipal Schools	27%	≤ 1%
Farmington Municipal Schools	32%	≤ 1%
Floyd Municipal Schools	32%	≤ 5%
Fort Sumner Municipal Schools	22%	≤ 2%
Gadsden Independent Schools	36%	≤ 1%
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	54%	≤ 1%
Grady Municipal Schools	1%	≤ 5%
Grants-Cibola County Schools	48%	≤ 1%
Hagerman Municipal Schools	9%	≤ 2%
Hatch Valley Municipal Schools	19%	≤ 1%
Hobbs Municipal Schools	25%	≤ 1%
Hondo Valley Public Schools	23%	≤ 5%
House Municipal Schools	19%	≤ 10%
Jal Public Schools	23%	≤ 2%
Jemez Mountain Public Schools	27%	≤ 5%
Jemez Valley Public Schools	20%	≤ 2%
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	16%	≤ 5%
Las Cruces Public Schools	32%	≤ 1%

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Chronic Absentee (2024-2025) and Dropout (2023-2024) Rates—BY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

TABLE CONTINUED

LOCATION	PERCENT OF STUDENTS CHRONICALLY ABSENT	STUDENT DROPOUT RATE
Las Vegas City Public Schools	38%	≤ 1%
Logan Municipal Schools	5%	≤ 2%
Lordsburg Municipal Schools	37%	≤ 2%
Los Alamos Public Schools	16%	≤ 1%
Los Lunas Public Schools	38%	≤ 1%
Loving Municipal Schools	42%	≤ 1%
Lovington Public Schools	32%	≤ 1%
Magdalena Municipal Schools	45%	≤ 2%
Maxwell Municipal Schools	25%	≤ 5%
Melrose Public Schools	5%	≤ 2%
Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools	43%	≤ 2%
Mora Independent Schools	46%	≤ 2%
Moriarty Municipal Schools	38%	≤ 1%
Mosquero Municipal Schools	15%	≤ 5%
Mountainair Public Schools	26%	≤ 2%
Pecos Independent Schools	48%	≤ 2%
Peñasco Independent Schools	18%	≤ 2%
Pojoaque Valley Public Schools	47%	≤ 1%
Portales Municipal Schools	12%	≤ 1%
Quemado Independent Schools	53%	≤ 5%
Questa Independent Schools	29%	≤ 2%
Raton Public Schools	30%	≤ 1%
Reserve Independent Schools	30%	≤ 5%
Rio Rancho Public Schools	12%	≤ 1%
Roswell Independent Schools	28%	≤ 1%
Roy Municipal Schools	19%	≤ 10%
Ruidoso Municipal Schools	40%	≤ 1%
San Jon Municipal Schools	3%	≤ 5%
Santa Fe Public Schools	35%	≤ 1%
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	24%	≤ 2%
Silver City Consolidated Schools	35%	≤ 1%
Socorro Consolidated Schools	42%	≤ 1%
Springer Municipal Schools	22%	≤ 5%
Taos Municipal Schools	45%	≤ 1%
Tatum Municipal Schools	31%	≤ 2%
Texico Municipal Schools	19%	≤ 2%
Truth or Consequences Schools	50%	≤ 1%
Tucumcari Public Schools	42%	≤ 1%
Tularosa Municipal Schools	30%	≤ 1%
Vaughn Municipal Schools	20%	≤ 20%
Wagon Mound Public Schools	37%	≤ 10%
West Las Vegas Public Schools	45%	≤ 1%
Zuni Public Schools	28%	≤ 1%

Source: NM Public Education Department, "Annual State, Districts and Schools Attendance Report" dashboard, retrieved December 2025; and "2023–2024 Dropout Rates," custom data request received November 2025; source for chronically absent definition: Title 6 Primary and Secondary Education, Chapter 10 Public School Administration-Procedural Requirements, Part 8 Compulsory School Attendance

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE

- Eliminate zero-tolerance policies and penalties and create policies that promote accountability, safety, and healing while keeping 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.
- Support student mental health by scaling up programs like teen mental health first aid and peer counseling internships. These programs both provide additional mental health support to students and engage students in a career pathway opportunity for mental and behavioral health.
- Establish sustainable funding for paid internships through public-private partnerships to increase attendance and engagement in high school and expand career readiness, while paying students for their work.
- Ensure adequate and reliable transportation so students have safe and timely ways to get to and from school.
- Fund alternative accountability practices like transformative justice and support implementation with adequate training and resources.
- Require that families be notified when immigration enforcement comes on school campuses, and formally establish that student information and classrooms are protected from ICE and require a judicial warrant or court order to be accessed.
- Ensure that our LGBTQ+ students and faculty in our schools feel welcome and are fully supported.
- Ensure that schools and districts have and fully implement inclusive anti-bullying policies and procedures that promote safety and accountability without perpetuating the criminalization of young people.



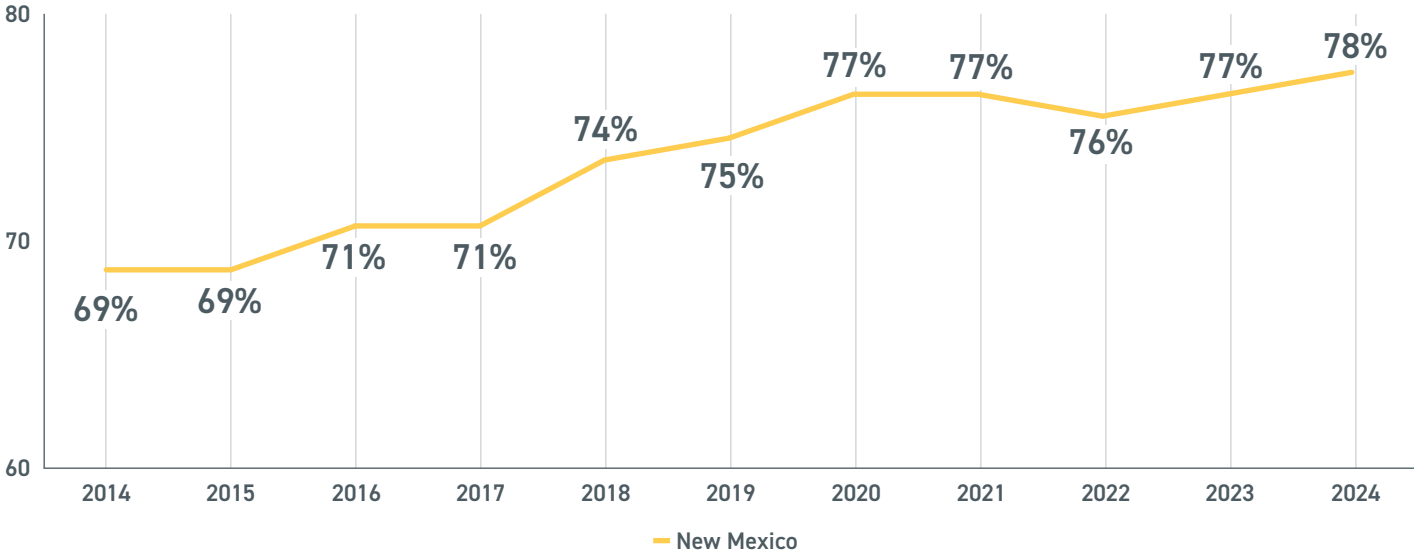
EDUCATION

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

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.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: 78% of New Mexico's high schoolers graduate in four years. The state saw improvement from the low of 69% in 2015 until 2020. Since then, high school graduation rates have plateaued for several years, with the 2024 rate representing a modest increase and an all-time high. When students don't graduate from high school, they are much more likely to have lower lifetime earnings than students who finish high school, and significantly lower earnings than students who go on to complete any postsecondary education.

High School 4-Year Graduation Rates—BY YEAR (2014-2024)



Source: NM Public Education Department, 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates, 2014–2024

EDUCATION

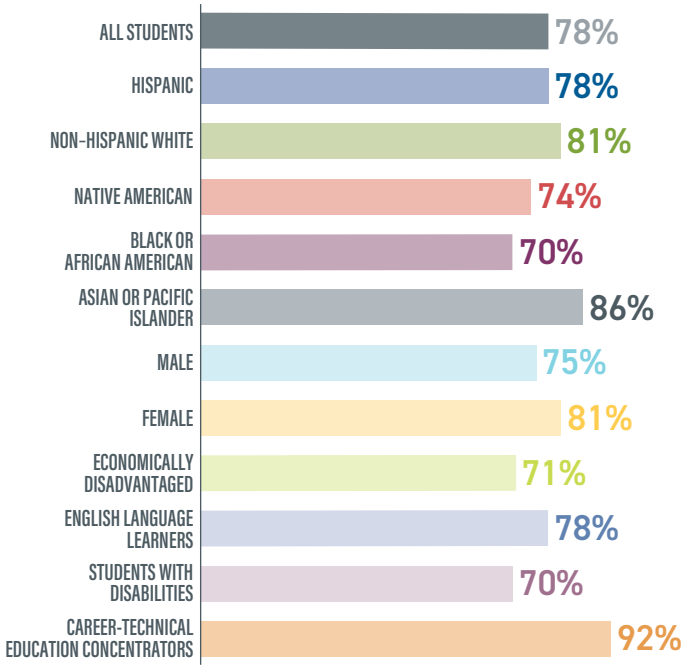
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

ABOUT THIS INDICATOR: 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 the primary language. A student is considered a ***Career-Technical Education (CTE) concentrator*** if they have completed two courses from the same CTE program (e.g. construction or health careers). ***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 (78%) 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 male, Native American, and Black. Graduation rates in New Mexico are higher than average among non-Hispanic white and Asian high schoolers, and girls graduate on time at a much higher rate than do boys. Notably, CTE concentrators also graduate at significantly higher rates than all other students. When comparing the school year ending in 2023 with the one ending in 2024, the overall graduation rate worsened slightly for students who are Native American and Asian. Hispanic, non-Hispanic white, and Black students, as well as English language learners, economically disadvantaged learners, and students with disabilities saw slight increases, which contributed to a graduation rate that was one percentage point higher than the previous year for all students.

HOW TO READ THESE GRAPHICS: "While 78% of all New Mexico high school students graduate in four years, just 71% of students who are economically disadvantaged graduate in four years."

High School Graduation Rates—BY RACE, ETHNICITY, AND OTHER FACTORS (2024)



Source: NM Public Education Department, 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates, 2024

High School Graduation Rates—BY SELECT STATUS AND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (2023-2024)

LOCATION	PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE IN FOUR YEARS			
	ALL STUDENTS	ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
New Mexico	**78%**	**71%**	**78%**	**70%**
Alamogordo Public Schools	80%	67%	83%	73%
Albuquerque Public Schools	74%	64%	72%	63%
Animas Public Schools	*	*	*	*
Artesia Public Schools	83%	68%	*	66%
Aztec Municipal Schools	70%	61%	*	80%
Belen Consolidated Schools	66%	58%	70%	69%
Bernalillo Public Schools	78%	72%	79%	80%
Bloomfield Municipal Schools	84%	86%	66%	76%
Capitan Municipal Schools	88%	*	*	*
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	75%	66%	79%	58%
Carrizozo Municipal Schools	*	*	*	*
Central Consolidated Schools	78%	78%	77%	69%
Chama Valley Independent Schools	90%	*	*	*
Cimarron Public Schools	87%	*	*	*
Clayton Public Schools	90%	*	*	*
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools	97%	*	*	*
Clovis Municipal Schools	76%	63%	70%	61%
Cobre Consolidated Schools	84%	77%	*	*
Corona Municipal Schools	*	*	*	*
Cuba Independent Schools	86%	83%	92%	*
Deming Public Schools	77%	77%	78%	74%
Des Moines Municipal Schools	*	*	*	*
Dexter Consolidated Schools	91%	86%	86%	*
Dora Consolidated Schools	*	*	*	*
Dulce Independent Schools	93%	*	*	*
Elida Municipal Schools	*	*	*	*
Española Municipal Schools	70%	66%	71%	58%
Estancia Municipal Schools	79%	81%	*	*
Eunice Municipal Schools	74%	65%	*	*
Farmington Municipal Schools	86%	79%	86%	82%
Floyd Municipal Schools	*	*	*	*
Fort Sumner Municipal Schools	92%	*	*	*
Gadsden Independent Schools	88%	86%	88%	82%
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	74%	72%	78%	69%
Grady Municipal Schools	*	*	*	*
Grants-Cibola County Schools	71%	69%	68%	70%
Hagerman Municipal Schools	79%	*	*	*
Hatch Valley Municipal Schools	90%	95%	88%	*

TABLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ▶

High School Graduation Rates—BY SELECT STATUS AND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (2023-2024)

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	86%	78%	91%	84%
Hondo Valley Public Schools	*	*	*	*
House Municipal Schools	*	*	*	*
Jal Public Schools	87%	*	*	*
Jemez Mountain Public Schools	*	*	*	*
Jemez Valley Public Schools	85%	*	*	*
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	*	*	*	*
Las Cruces Public Schools	82%	74%	77%	75%
Las Vegas City Public Schools	69%	62%	76%	*
Logan Municipal Schools	73%	*	*	*
Lordsburg Municipal Schools	83%	*	*	*
Los Alamos Public Schools	94%	87%	*	79%
Los Lunas Public Schools	69%	61%	64%	54%
Loving Municipal Schools	86%	82%	*	*
Lovington Public Schools	88%	91%	82%	96%
Magdalena Municipal Schools	86%	*	*	*
Maxwell Municipal Schools	*	*	*	*
Melrose Public Schools	92%	*	*	*
Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools	84%	*	*	*
Mora Independent Schools	87%	87%	*	*
Moriarty Municipal Schools	77%	65%	*	53%
Mosquero Municipal Schools	*	*	*	*
Mountainair Public Schools	*	*	*	*
Pecos Independent Schools	89%	*	*	*
Peñasco Independent Schools	84%	*	*	*
Pojoaque Valley Public Schools	84%	77%	85%	84%
Portales Municipal Schools	72%	76%	72%	76%
Quemado Independent Schools	*	*	*	*
Questa Independent Schools	70%	*	*	*
Raton Public Schools	88%	84%	*	*
Reserve Independent Schools	*	*	*	*
Rio Rancho Public Schools	86%	76%	74%	76%
Roswell Independent Schools	75%	65%	84%	59%
Roy Municipal Schools	*	*	*	*
Ruidoso Municipal Schools	89%	82%	85%	86%
San Jon Municipal Schools	*	*	*	*
Santa Fe Public Schools	83%	74%	84%	81%

TABLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ▶

High School Graduation Rates—BY SELECT STATUS AND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (2023-2024)

TABLE CONTINUED

LOCATION	PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE IN FOUR YEARS			
	ALL STUDENTS	ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	94%	92%	*	*
Silver City Consolidated Schools	77%	70%	*	64%
Socorro Consolidated Schools	71%	63%	*	66%
Springer Municipal Schools	*	*	*	*
Taos Municipal Schools	71%	68%	80%	60%
Tatum Municipal Schools	86%	*	*	*
Texico Municipal Schools	92%	*	*	*
Truth or Consequences Schools	88%	*	*	*
Tucumcari Public Schools	65%	53%	*	*
Tularosa Municipal Schools	92%	92%	*	*
Vaughn Municipal Schools	*	*	*	*
Wagon Mound Public Schools	*	*	*	*
West Las Vegas Public Schools	62%	49%	*	*
Zuni Public Schools	75%	74%	73%	*

Source: NM Public Education Department, Graduation Data, "Cohort of 2024 4-Year Graduation Rates," retrieved October, 2025 from https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/accountability/graduation/

*Indicates rates are masked for subgroups with fewer than 10 student records.

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

- 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 and effectively implement the recently updated state graduation requirements that allow schools to better meet unique community goals.
- Continue to fund and expand Career Technical Education (CTE) opportunities at schools statewide. Students with CTE concentration have higher graduation rates than the average.
- 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.

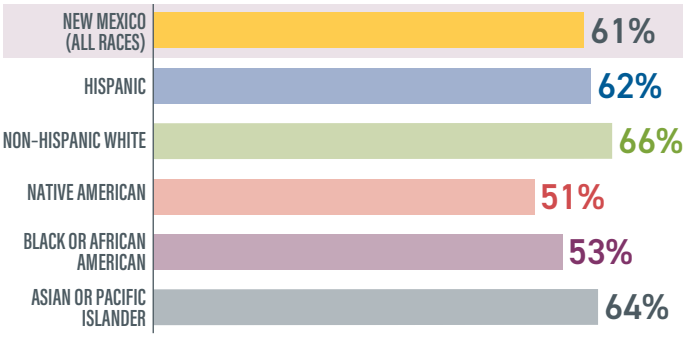
HEALTH

PRENATAL CARE

ABOUT THIS INDICATOR: ***Prenatal care*** is defined as health care that a pregnant person receives from an obstetrician or a midwife, including dietary and lifestyle advice, ensuring healthy weight gain, and examination for problems such as edema, gestational diabetes, and preeclampsia. Prenatal care can also provide social support for pregnant people, empowering them to advocate for themselves in the birth process and providing parents with education and resources to support their postpartum needs. Babies born to parents 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 parents who received comprehensive prenatal care.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: The rates of pregnant people receiving prenatal care beginning in the first trimester stayed the same between 2022 and 2023, at 61%. Rates worsened slightly for Native American and Black pregnant people, remaining highest for white pregnant people at 66%, and they remained lower among teen parents (48%) and parents with less than a high school diploma (47%) than among the general population of parents who have just given birth. Racial disparities in prenatal care likely exist in part due to issues of access—whether there are language or physical barriers—and as a result of bias, interpersonal racism, and structural racism embedded in medical systems that deter pregnant people of color from seeking care. Similarly, teen parents and those with less education may also face significant issues of access to care such as a lack of affordability.

Women Receiving Prenatal Care in the First Trimester—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2023)



Source: New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); retrieved October 2025 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, 48% of them received prenatal care during the first trimester for that birth."

Births To Women Receiving Prenatal Care In The First Trimester—BY SELECTED STATUS AND COUNTY (2023)

LOCATION	NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS TO WOMEN WHO RECEIVED PRENATAL CARE	PERCENT WHO RECEIVED PRENATAL CARE		
		OF ALL LIVE BIRTHS	OF ALL TEEN MOTHERS (AGES 15-19)	OF ALL MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA‡
New Mexico	**20,643**	**61%**	**48%**	**47%**
Bernalillo County	6155	70%	51%	54%
Catron County	28	57%	**	**
Chaves County	702	54%	43%	36%
Cibola County	265	53%	41%	30%
Colfax County	85	59%	80%	53%
Curry County	765	44%	41%	26%
De Baca County	10	50%	0%	NA
Doña Ana County	2,472	54%	45%	36%
Eddy County	823	47%	41%	55%
Grant County	252	76%	59%	58%
Guadalupe County	42	64%	86%	**
Harding County	**	**	0%	0%
Hidalgo County	42	69%	**	57%
Lea County	1,084	55%	42%	41%
Lincoln County	138	64%	63%	69%
Los Alamos County	179	63%	**	**
Luna County	382	59%	58%	54%
McKinley County	683	44%	30%	31%
Mora County	32	41%	NA	**
Otero County	752	65%	63%	53%
Quay County	76	54%	**	55%
Rio Arriba County	408	60%	57%	57%
Roosevelt County	230	49%	33%	16%
San Juan County	984	55%	46%	57%
San Miguel County	198	61%	53%	22%
Sandoval County	1,256	72%	53%	60%
Santa Fe County	1,082	70%	51%	50%
Sierra County	89	44%	67%	43%
Socorro County	137	59%	67%	60%
Taos County	248	50%	44%	57%
Torrance County	142	68%	40%	41%
Union County	40	65%	**	56%
Valencia County	861	65%	52%	58%

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), December 2025 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. Counties where there were no live births for a specific category are listed as NA. ‡ indicates that data in this column are from 2022.

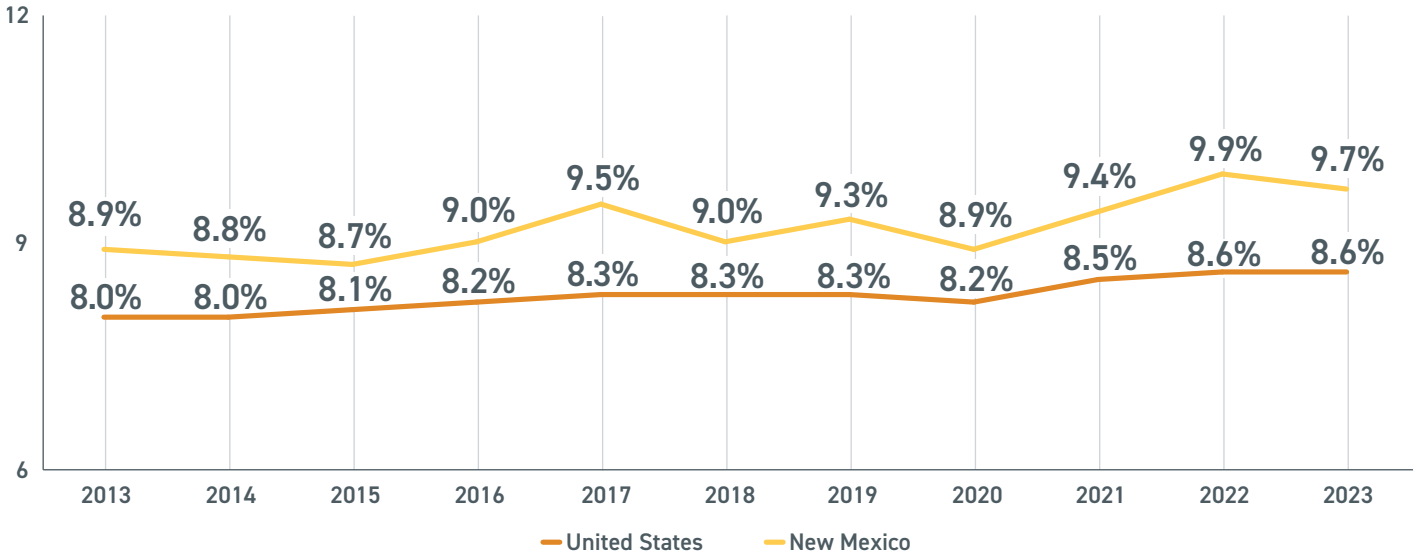
HEALTH

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT

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 birth weights even in pregnancies where the pregnant person is receiving care, 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.

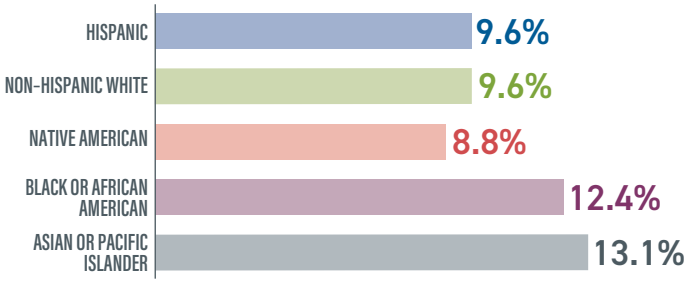
HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: In 2023, the rate of babies who were born at a low birthweight decreased slightly, from 9.9% to 9.7% while the national rate remained the same. Rates of low birthweight babies in New Mexico are highest among Asian or Pacific Islander babies (13.1%). Rates in New Mexico improved for Hispanic babies but have worsened for white, Native American, and Black or African American babies.

Babies Born at a Low Birthweight—BY YEAR (2013-2023)



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Vital Statistics Reports, 2013–2023

Babies Born at a Low Birthweight—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2023)



Source: New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); retrieved October 2025 from http://ibis.health.state.nm.us



Babies Born at a Low Birthweight—BY COUNTY (2023)

LOCATION	PERCENT
United States	8.6%
New Mexico	9.7%
Bernalillo County	10.4%
Catron County	**
Chaves County	8.0%
Cibola County	8.3%
Colfax County	17.6%
Curry County	8.6%
De Baca County	**
Doña Ana County	8.8%
Eddy County	6.6%
Grant County	13.1%
Guadalupe County	**
Harding County	0.0%
Hidalgo County	9.5%
Lea County	8.2%
Lincoln County	8.0%
Los Alamos County	6.1%
Luna County	7.6%
McKinley County	9.7%
Mora County	**
Otero County	7.6%
Quay County	19.7%
Rio Arriba County	14.5%
Roosevelt County	8.7%
San Juan County	9.1%
San Miguel County	9.1%
Sandoval County	9.8%
Santa Fe County	10.8%
Sierra County	6.7%
Socorro County	13.1%
Taos County	13.7%
Torrance County	16.2%
Union County	10.0%
Valencia County	10.5%

Source: New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); retrieved October 2025 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.

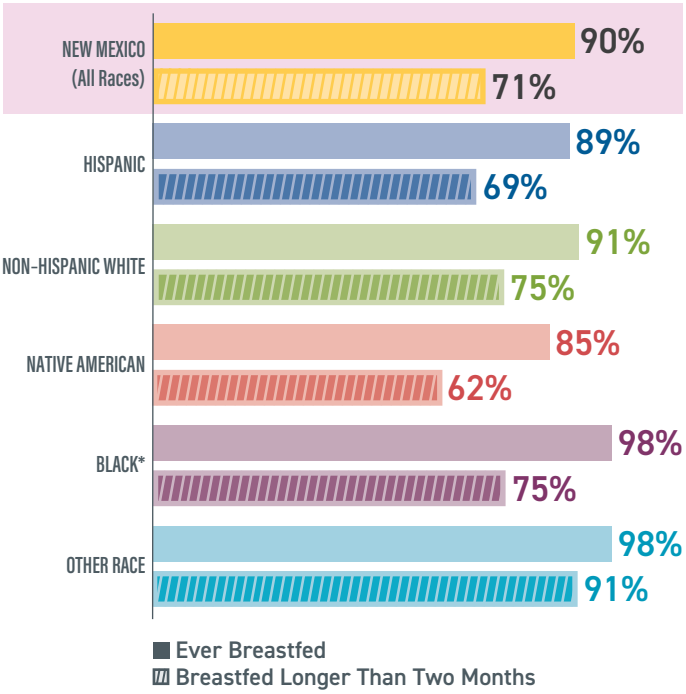
HEALTH

BREASTFEEDING

ABOUT THIS INDICATOR: Breastfeeding has health benefits for both mothers 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 parents 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: In 2023, 90% of birthing parents breastfed at some point, and 71% breastfed for a period longer than two months. When comparing by race and ethnicity, parents identifying as Black or as some other race both had the highest rate of ever breastfeeding at 98%, with those identifying as some other race having the highest rate of breastfeeding for longer than two months, at 91%.

Women Who Ever Breastfed and Who Breastfed Longer than Two Months—RACE AND ETHNICITY (2023)



Source: New Mexico Department of Health, Pregnancy Risk Assessment and Monitoring System (PRAMS); custom data request received November 2025
Note: A * denotes a small sample size subject to wide range of variation. Estimates may be less reliable.

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE PRENATAL CARE, BIRTHWEIGHT, AND BREASTFEEDING

- Expand outreach to pregnant people 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 people in the postnatal period 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.
- Advocate for full federal funding of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and protect the program from additional 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.

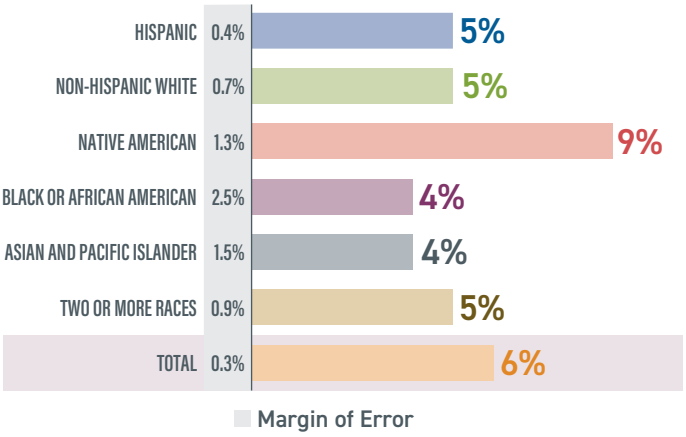
HEALTH

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 experience developmental delays that are left untreated and chronic conditions that can hinder healthy growth and learning.

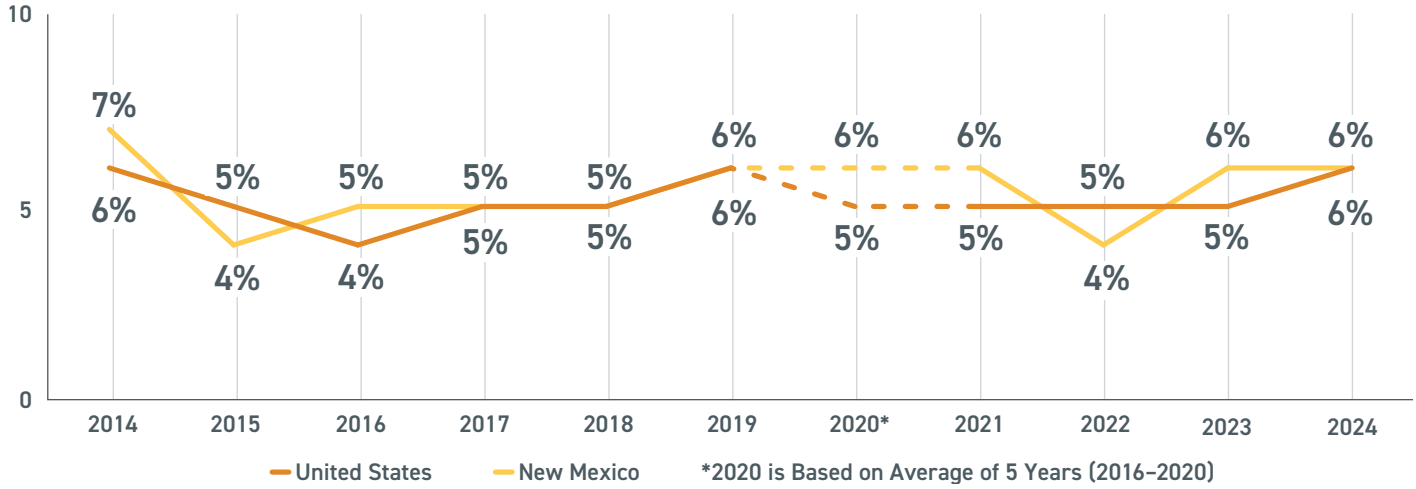
HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: New Mexico children face some significant challenges that can threaten their health and well-being, but having health insurance can help address a number of them. Fortunately, New Mexico continues to have a low rate of children without health insurance, at 6% in 2024. This represents no change after a slight increase in uninsured children after the pandemic-era Medicaid waivers expired in 2023, which led to the unenrollment of large numbers of children who likely were still eligible. Fortunately, New Mexico recently received a waiver allowing continuous enrollment in Medicaid for children up to 6 years old, which is likely to help keep our rates of uninsured kids low until the waiver expires at the end of 2029, unless federal policy changes eliminate it sooner. 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 just 6% of children without insurance from 14%. Native American children in New Mexico still have much greater difficulty accessing health insurance, with uninsured rates around 9%. Notably, other than for Native American children, most racial disparities are fairly small for children without health insurance, only ranging from 4% to 5% of children when disaggregated by all other race and ethnicities.

Children without Health Insurance—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2019-2023)



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019–2023 **Note:** Higher margins of error indicate less statistical reliability due to small sample sizes.

Children without Health Insurance—BY YEAR (2014-2024)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey from 2014–2024, 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.

HEALTH

HEALTH INSURANCE

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 $49,720 for a family of three in 2023. As health insurance is often tied to certain types of employment, parents who earn low incomes are less likely to have access to health insurance, particularly high-quality health insurance, for themselves or their families. Additionally, families working in informal economies, many of whom are undocumented immigrants, often lack access to health insurance through private employers and fear enrolling in public programs due to the implication it could have on their legal status.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: The rates of children without health insurance increased for all income levels and for families earning low incomes from 2022 to 2023. This rise in uninsured children is largely attributable to the end of the pandemic-era policy of continuous Medicaid coverage.

Children and Youth (Younger than 19 Years) without Health Insurance—BY INCOME LEVEL AND COUNTY (2023)

LOCATION	ALL INCOME LEVELS	LOW INCOME
New Mexico	**6.2%**	**6.9%**
Bernalillo County	5.2%	6.0%
Catron County	6.3%	8.7%
Chaves County	8.0%	9.1%
Cibola County	4.6%	3.7%
Colfax County	6.8%	7.8%
Curry County	7.9%	9.3%
De Baca County	12.1%	12.3%
Doña Ana County	6.4%	7.5%
Eddy County	7.2%	8.7%
Grant County	6.7%	8.5%
Guadalupe County	9.5%	10.5%
Harding County	10.5%	14.0%
Hidalgo County	8.9%	10.4%
Lea County	9.3%	10.6%
Lincoln County	7.5%	7.6%
Los Alamos County	1.7%	8.2%
Luna County	7.2%	7.5%
McKinley County	5.4%	3.6%
Mora County	7.7%	11.4%
Otero County	6.6%	7.3%
Quay County	7.2%	7.4%
Rio Arriba County	5.6%	5.4%
Roosevelt County	8.4%	10.6%
San Juan County	6.3%	4.6%
San Miguel County	7.0%	7.5%
Sandoval County	4.2%	4.9%
Santa Fe County	7.8%	9.3%
Sierra County	6.3%	7.0%
Socorro County	6.9%	7.4%
Taos County	6.2%	6.8%
Torrance County	7.3%	7.7%
Union County	14.0%	17.0%
Valencia County	5.7%	2.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2023

HEALTH

HEALTH INSURANCE

ABOUT THIS INDICATOR: ***Medicaid*** is the public health insurance program jointly funded by the state and federal governments that is provided to low-income families based on income and assets. This indicator measures the share of children and youth ages 0 to 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: Medicaid, known in New Mexico as Turquoise Care, is the single largest provider of health insurance to children in New Mexico, covering 57% of the population younger than 21 in 2024. As a result of the pandemic-era policies ending, New Mexico saw a decrease in the number of kids enrolling in Medicaid, but with the recent passage of continuous coverage for children 6 and under, the state may see more children accessing health care coverage at least up until the end of 2029 if federal policies don't eliminate this option sooner.

Children and Youth (Younger than 21 Years) Enrolled in Medicaid—BY COUNTY (JULY 2025)

LOCATION	NUMBER ENROLLED	
	ALL YOUTH	NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH
New Mexico	**298,751**	**47,969**
Bernalillo County	76,474	7,636
Catron County	69	7
Chaves County	11,634	100
Cibola County	5,044	3,062
Colfax County	1,817	51
Curry County	10,891	115
De Baca County	54	0
Doña Ana County	40,253	406
Eddy County	9,796	124
Grant County	3,631	79
Guadalupe County	785	9
Harding County	1	0
Hidalgo County	363	2
Lea County	14,230	96
Lincoln County	2,569	237
Los Alamos County	91	6
Luna County	6,218	57
McKinley County	14,544	12,963
Mora County	123	4
Otero County	7,350	1,284
Quay County	1,401	17
Rio Arriba County	6,831	1,398
Roosevelt County	544	3
San Juan County	21,111	12,096
San Miguel County	3,843	115
Sandoval County	17,523	4,821
Santa Fe County	13,189	763
Sierra County	2,971	42
Socorro County	2,552	724
Taos County	3,993	425
Torrance County	4,296	145
Union County	57	3
Valencia County	12,750	827

Source: New Mexico Health Care Authority, 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 December 2025 from http://www.hca.state.nm.us/LookingForInformation/medicaid-eligibility.aspx

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE HEALTH INSURANCE RATES

- Increase efforts to inform Medicaid enrollees of their Medicaid coverage status to make sure more eligible people can retain their health insurance.
- 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, border, and frontier areas.
- Implement aggressive efforts to inform Medicaid enrollees of upcoming work and reporting requirements, and fund state initiatives to connect people to opportunities that satisfy the requirements. Although work requirements do not increase hours worked, research shows they do lead to loss of access to benefits.
- 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.



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: On average, 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.

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

LOCATION	PERCENT
New Mexico	12%
Bernalillo County	12%
Catron County	**
Chaves County	15%
Cibola County	11%
Colfax County	9%
Curry County	15%
De Baca County	12%
Doña Ana County	13%
Eddy County	18%
Grant County	9%
Guadalupe County	17%
Harding County	*
Hidalgo County	12%
Lea County	11%
Lincoln County	9%
Los Alamos County	12%
Luna County	8%
McKinley County	7%
Mora County	14%
Otero County	13%
Quay County	18%
Rio Arriba County	11%
Roosevelt County	12%
San Juan County	10%
San Miguel County	14%
Sandoval County	13%
Santa Fe County	7%
Sierra County	*
Socorro County	11%
Taos County	12%
Torrance County	12%
Union County	16%
Valencia County	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.

HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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 states money.

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Protect families and children from the effects of extreme weather and other aspects of climate change by creating a state Public Health and Climate Program within the Department of Health.
- Convert from diesel school buses to electric 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.

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

LOCATION	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES	COST PER BENEFICIARIES
United States	**93,650,220**	**$546**
New Mexico	**953,719**	**$391**
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

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. Other ACEs include domestic violence, untreated mental illness in the family, parental substance abuse, or having an incarcerated parent or family member. Multiple or sustained ACEs, particularly in young children, can negatively impact brain development and can be carried throughout their lives.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: The rate of substantiated child abuse remained virtually flat in FY 2024, at 13.5 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 high, despite improving. 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.



HOW TO READ THIS TABLE: "In fiscal year 2024 (from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024), for every 1,000 children under the age of 18 in New Mexico, approximately 13.5 were abused or neglected." The percentages should be read as: "In fiscal year 2024, of all substantiated allegations of child abuse, 28% were for physical abuse, 2% were for sexual abuse, and 70% were for physical neglect."

Substantiated Child Abuse Rates (per 1,000)—BY TYPE OF ABUSE AND COUNTY (FY 2024)

LOCATION	SUBSTANTIATED CHILD ABUSE VICTIM RATE (PER 1,000 CHILDREN)	PERCENT OF SUBSTANTIATED ABUSE THAT IS		
		PHYSICAL ABUSE	SEXUAL ABUSE	PHYSICAL NEGLECT
New Mexico	**13.5**	**28%**	**2%**	**70%**
Bernalillo County	15.1	26%	2%	72%
Catron County	11.4	46%	8%	46%
Chaves County	20.7	16%	2%	83%
Cibola County	15.2	23%	2%	75%
Colfax County	9.4	5%	10%	85%
Curry County	11.8	29%	2%	69%
De Baca County	16.5	29%	14%	57%
Doña Ana County	16.3	31%	2%	66%
Eddy County	18.4	27%	3%	71%
Grant County	10.7	19%	0%	82%
Guadalupe County	18.9	41%	0%	59%
Harding County	11.9	0%	100%	0%
Hidalgo County	12.9	27%	0%	73%
Lea County	11.2	27%	2%	71%
Lincoln County	2.8	31%	0%	69%
Los Alamos County	2.5	21%	14%	64%
Luna County	15.3	22%	2%	76%
McKinley County	7.4	31%	1%	68%
Mora County	20.9	20%	0%	80%
Otero County	5.7	37%	4%	59%
Quay County	22.8	35%	3%	62%
Rio Arriba County	14.7	30%	1%	69%
Roosevelt County	9.6	46%	7%	48%
San Juan County	16.5	31%	1%	68%
San Miguel County	26.4	45%	2%	53%
Sandoval County	7.5	38%	2%	60%
Santa Fe County	7.4	24%	2%	75%
Sierra County	8.1	41%	0%	59%
Socorro County	10.1	32%	3%	66%
Taos County	18.8	25%	0%	75%
Torrance County	20.1	17%	6%	77%
Union County	6.3	17%	0%	83%
Valencia County	12.3	22%	1%	77%

Source: New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD) Protective Services Division; information request received November 2025

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO DECREASE CHILD ABUSE

- 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.
- Improve family economic security since research shows that alleviating poverty and economic stress in a household is correlated with lower rates of child maltreatment.

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 from 5.9 per 1,000 births in 2022 to 4.6 per 1,000 births in 2023.



Infant (Ages 0-1) Mortality Numbers and Rates (per 1,000)—BY COUNTY (2023)

LOCATION	NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS	INFANT MORTALITY RATE (DEATHS PER 1,000 BIRTHS)
New Mexico	95	4.6
Bernalillo County	31	5.0
Catron County	**	**
Chaves County	**	**
Cibola County	**	**
Colfax County	**	**
Curry County	**	**
De Baca County	0	0
Doña Ana County	7	2.8
Eddy County	4	4.9
Grant County	**	**
Guadalupe County	0	0
Harding County	0	0
Hidalgo County	0	0
Lea County	6	5.5
Lincoln County	**	**
Los Alamos County	0	0
Luna County	**	**
McKinley County	**	**
Mora County	0	0
Otero County	**	**
Quay County	0	0
Rio Arriba County	**	**
Roosevelt County	0	0
San Juan County	6	6.1
San Miguel County	0	0
Sandoval County	8	6.4
Santa Fe County	**	**
Sierra County	0	0
Socorro County	**	**
Taos County	**	**
Torrance County	0	0
Union County	0	0
Valencia County	7	8.1

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 2025 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.

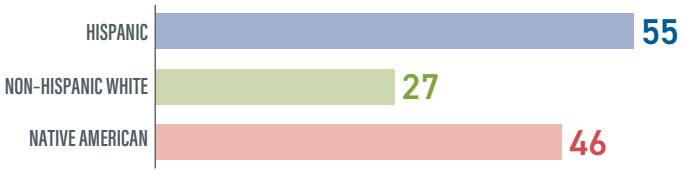
HEALTH

DEATH RATES

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.

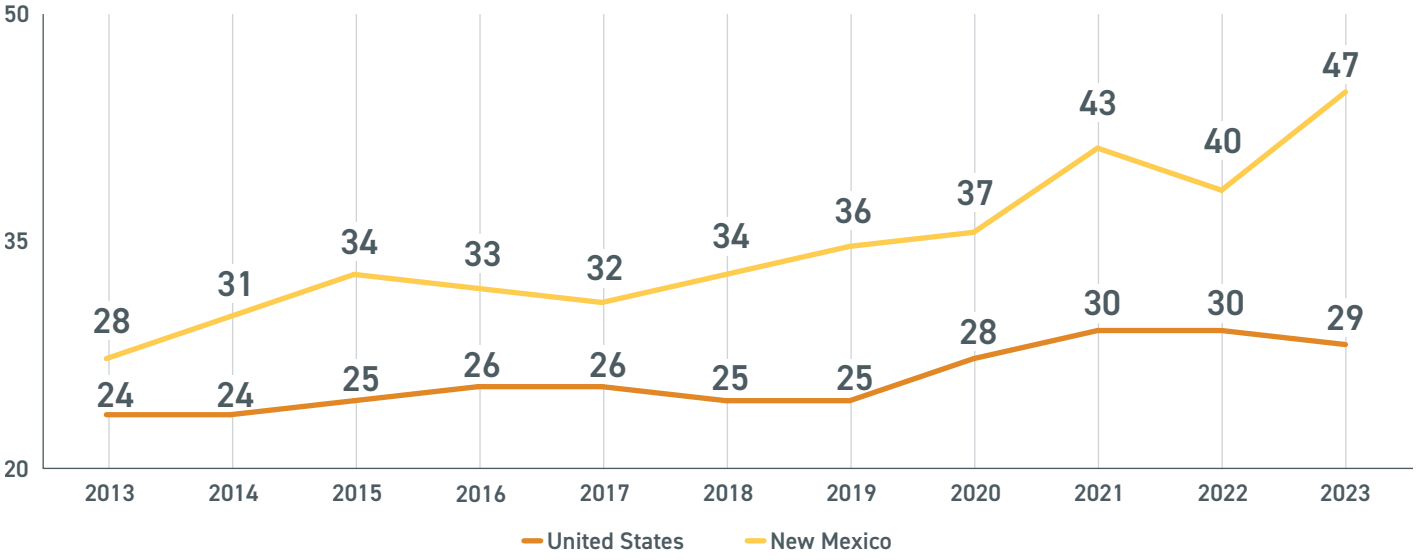
HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: New Mexico's child and teen death rate in 2023 was 47 deaths per 100,000 children and teens. This is significantly worse than the U.S. average rate of 29 per 100,000, and is an increase from New Mexico's rate in 2022. Rates among Hispanic and Native American children in New Mexico (at 55 per 100,000 and 46 per 100,000, respectively) are also higher than the national average, with the death rate for Hispanic children and teens well above the rate for New Mexico overall. New Mexico's child and teen death rate in 2023 marks a high for the decade, while the national rate appears to be decreasing from its decade high rate over the last two years. Rates have decreased among non-Hispanic whites, increased among Hispanics, and remained nearly the same for Native Americans.

Child and Teen Death Rates (per 100,000)—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2023)



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 2023 **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 (2013-2023)



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 2013–2023

Child (Ages 0-14) Death Rates (per 100,000)— BY COUNTY (2023)

LOCATION	DEATHS (PER 100,000 CHILDREN)
New Mexico	47.8
Bernalillo County	51.3
Catron County	**
Chaves County	56.0
Cibola County	**
Colfax County	**
Curry County	46.4
De Baca County	0
Doña Ana County	42.9
Eddy County	44.3
Grant County	**
Guadalupe County	**
Harding County	0
Hidalgo County	0
Lea County	58.5
Lincoln County	**
Los Alamos County	0
Luna County	37.0
McKinley County	53.4
Mora County	0
Otero County	74.2
Quay County	0
Rio Arriba County	42.3
Roosevelt County	0
San Juan County	47.2
San Miguel County	0
Sandoval County	37.4
Santa Fe County	10.4
Sierra County	0
Socorro County	**
Taos County	**
Torrance County	0
Union County	0
Valencia County	82.5

Source: New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); retrieved October 2025 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 (2023)

LOCATION	DEATHS (PER 100,000 TEENS)
New Mexico	105.1
Bernalillo County	129.2
Catron County	0
Chaves County	34.5
Cibola County	0
Colfax County	0
Curry County	90.6
De Baca County	0
Doña Ana County	47.3
Eddy County	69.9
Grant County	0
Guadalupe County	0
Harding County	0
Hidalgo County	0
Lea County	111.4
Lincoln County	0
Los Alamos County	174.3
Luna County	0
McKinley County	146.0
Mora County	0
Otero County	93.1
Quay County	409.1
Rio Arriba County	194.2
Roosevelt County	59.1
San Juan County	130.8
San Miguel County	119.9
Sandoval County	59.1
Santa Fe County	95.2
Sierra County	0
Socorro County	425.8
Taos County	165.4
Torrance County	101.1
Union County	0
Valencia County	133.2

Source: New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS), custom data request received November 2024 **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.

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO DECREASE DEATH RATES

- Expand funding for suicide prevention programs to provide youth with supportive adults and strategies to cope with difficult situations.
- Enact stronger gun safety laws that limit access to guns in an effort to reduce the number of gun-related child deaths.
- Continue to fund and support implementation of more behavioral and mental health programs for young people.
- Support LGBTQ+ policies, such as more inclusive state curricular standards and access to physical, mental, and behavioral health care, and oppose laws that make LGBTQ+ youth feel unwelcome and unsafe in their communities to support the health, safety, and representation of LGBTQ+ youth while also reducing the risk of suicide.
- Ensure that anti-bullying policies are upheld as a way to reduce suicide rates among youth.



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 household 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. Additionally, 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 parent in the household who is experiencing untreated mental illness, addiction, or is abusive, children in single-parent families often have less access to emotional supports and economic resources than do children in two-parent families.

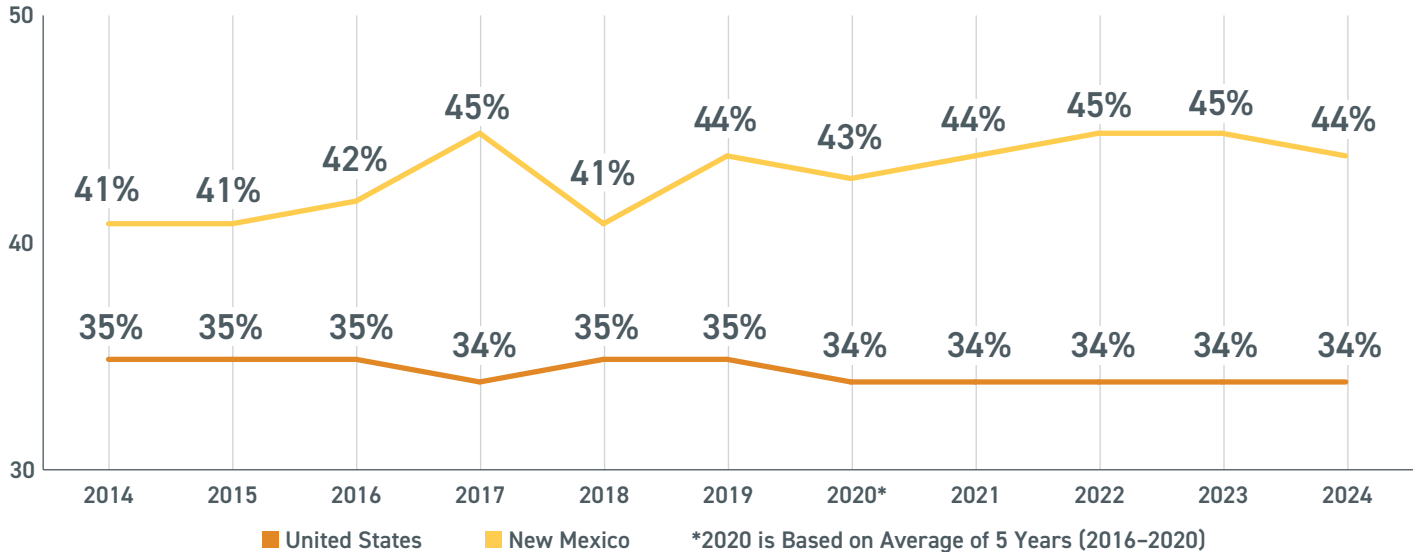
HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: In 2024 44% of children in New Mexico were living in single-parent families, much higher than the national average of 34%. Our high rate of children living in single-parent families is likely part of the reason so many of our children live in poverty, are food insecure, and face 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 increase the likelihood for 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.

Children of color are more likely to live in single-parent families than are their white and Asian counterparts. This is partly because centuries of systemic discrimination—such as dispossession of land, incarceration rates, and family separations due to immigration status—have pushed a higher share of people of color into poverty.

Policies that seek to increase the number of children of color living in two-parent families must begin by dismantling the race- and ethnicity-based barriers that their parents and communities face; barriers to high-quality and culturally appropriate education, jobs that pay prosperity-level 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.

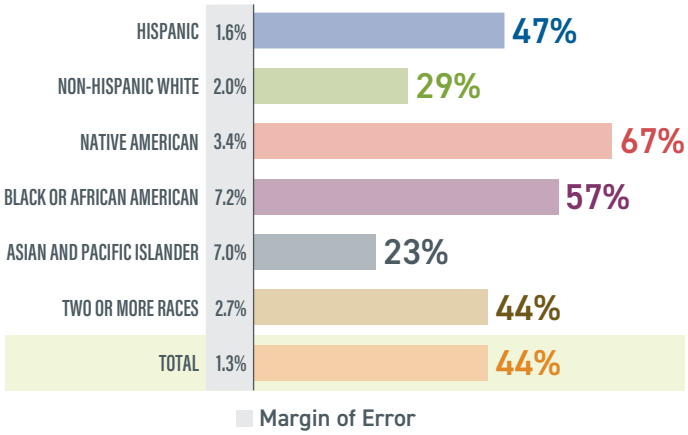


Children in Single-Parent Families—BY YEAR (2014-2024)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014–2024, 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 (2019-2023)



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample, 2019–2023 **Note:** Higher margins of error indicate less statistical reliability due to small sample sizes.

ABOUT THIS INDICATOR: The term ***households*** includes 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. The household measure captures children in foster care, while the family measure only includes children related through birth, marriage, or adoption. 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. 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: Married-couple families still make up the largest share (14%) of households with children. However, New Mexico does have slightly higher rates of single-male householders, cohabitating couples, and grandparents responsible for grandchildren, and lower rates of married couple families, than the U.S. as a whole. Neither the state-nor national-level rates on types of families with children have changed significantly from the 2015–2019 data.



HOW TO READ THIS TABLE: "Of all the households in New Mexico, 14% are married-couple families with their own children younger than 18 years."

Types of Families—BY HOUSEHOLDER AND COUNTY (2019-2023)

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	**127,482,865**	**18%**	**1%**	**5%**	**2%**	**2%**
New Mexico	**825,021**	**14%**	**2%**	**5%**	**3%**	**3%**
Bernalillo County	283,609	13%	2%	5%	3%	2%
Catron County	1,645	7%	0%	3%	0%	0%
Chaves County	23,605	17%	1%	6%	4%	3%
Cibola County	8,353	9%	4%	4%	4%	2%
Colfax County	5,413	11%	2%	5%	4%	2%
Curry County	18,471	19%	2%	6%	2%	5%
De Baca County	727	7%	1%	1%	18%	4%
Doña Ana County	83,530	14%	2%	6%	4%	2%
Eddy County	23,245	21%	2%	5%	3%	2%
Grant County	11,069	9%	0%	2%	1%	2%
Guadalupe County	1,451	11%	1%	6%	3%	5%
Harding County	282	12%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Hidalgo County	1,501	14%	1%	6%	4%	5%
Lea County	24,568	22%	2%	5%	3%	4%
Lincoln County	9,376	9%	2%	4%	2%	2%
Los Alamos County	8,211	21%	1%	3%	1%	1%
Luna County	9,082	15%	1%	9%	4%	1%
McKinley County	21,088	10%	2%	9%	6%	7%
Mora County	1,991	2%	1%	15%	0%	0%
Otero County	24,285	16%	1%	6%	4%	3%
Quay County	4,102	9%	0%	7%	1%	5%
Rio Arriba County	14,980	9%	2%	7%	3%	3%
Roosevelt County	7,211	18%	1%	6%	5%	2%
San Juan County	41,053	15%	2%	6%	4%	3%
San Miguel County	11,924	7%	3%	5%	4%	4%
Sandoval County	55,741	18%	2%	5%	3%	3%
Santa Fe County	69,348	12%	1%	4%	2%	2%
Sierra County	5,419	5%	1%	3%	3%	1%
Socorro County	5,222	10%	1%	4%	3%	8%
Taos County	14,459	6%	1%	5%	1%	3%
Torrance County	5,774	14%	0%	2%	6%	4%
Union County	1,504	9%	4%	2%	5%	4%
Valencia County	26,782	16%	1%	6%	4%	4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019–2023, Table DP02

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

TYPES OF FAMILIES

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: 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, and many tribal areas have higher rates of households with cohabitating couples and where grandparents are responsible for their grandchildren.

Types of Families—BY HOUSEHOLDER AND TRIBAL AREA (2019–2023)

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)	**127,482,865**	**18%**	**1%**	**5%**	**2%**	**2%**
New Mexico (All Races)	**825,021**	**14%**	**2%**	**5%**	**3%**	**3%**
Acoma Pueblo	767	2%	1%	1%	11%	16%
Cochiti Pueblo	645	3%	2%	2%	3%	5%
Isleta Pueblo	1,510	7%	1%	6%	2%	6%
Jemez Pueblo	557	18%	2%	9%	0%	12%
Jicarilla Apache	1,126	7%	3%	5%	1%	3%
Laguna Pueblo	1,010	19%	4%	6%	4%	0%
Mescalero Apache	915	12%	3%	5%	5%	12%
Nambe Pueblo	904	9%	0%	4%	1%	1%
Navajo	19,503	8%	1%	8%	5%	8%
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	2,086	7%	1%	4%	5%	7%
Picuris Pueblo	733	7%	3%	7%	3%	2%
Pojoaque Pueblo	1,564	9%	3%	5%	5%	5%
Sandia Pueblo	1,897	10%	1%	8%	5%	5%
San Felipe Pueblo	956	7%	2%	6%	0%	5%
San Ildefonso Pueblo	833	18%	1%	9%	4%	10%
Santa Ana Pueblo	223	16%	1%	3%	0%	14%
Santa Clara Pueblo	4,542	10%	2%	7%	4%	3%
Santo Domingo Pueblo	636	12%	2%	8%	1%	18%
Taos Pueblo	1,974	4%	2%	3%	1%	4%
Tesuque Pueblo	359	11%	0%	4%	4%	22%
Zia Pueblo	186	9%	3%	2%	12%	20%
Zuni Pueblo	1,843	7%	3%	10%	5%	8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019–2023, Table DP02

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

- Expand funding and remove barriers to access and completion of 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.
- Ensure that universal child care has stable and reliable funding, and that the implementation of universal child care prioritizes access for those lowest income families and families in tribal and rural areas.
- 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.
- Support legislation prohibiting state, county, and local public bodies from using public funds or land in contracts with private entities for the sole purpose of detaining individuals, children, or families for federal civil immigration violations.
- Establish a comprehensive statewide process to support immigrant survivors of qualifying crimes in accessing certifications for their U-visa applications.



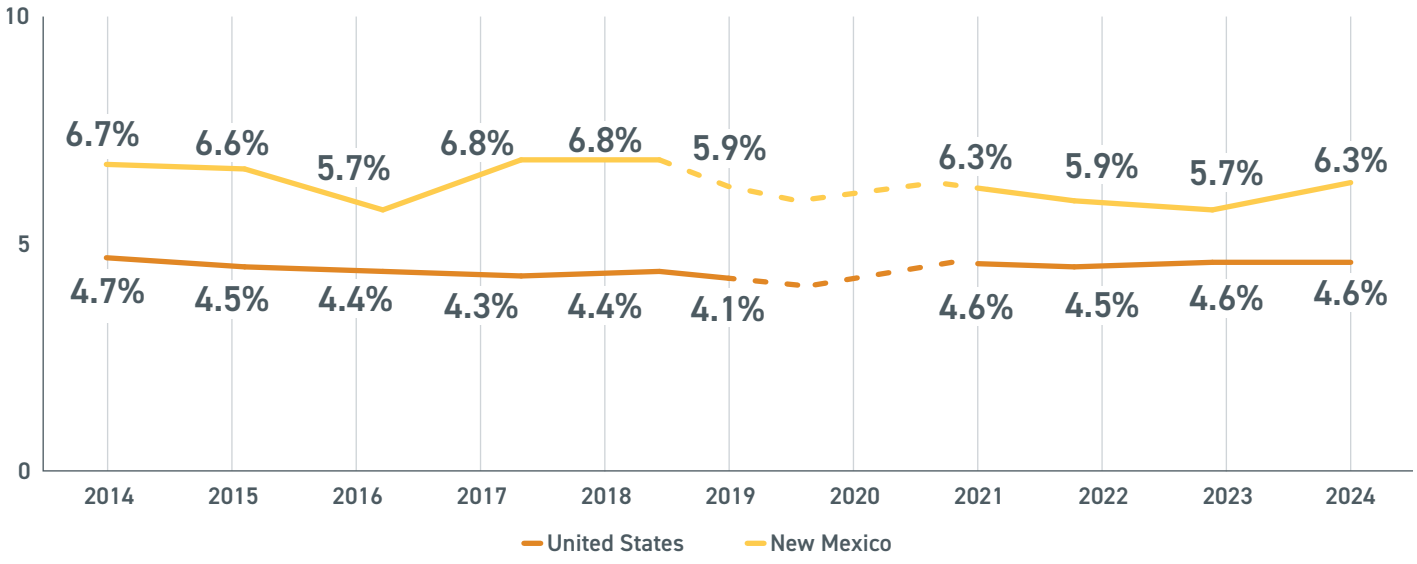
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

ADULT EDUCATION

ABOUT THIS INDICATOR: Although increased education is correlated with lower rates of poverty according to the Official Poverty Measure, many adults ages 25 and older still experience poverty even when they hold a bachelor's degree or higher. This often points to low wages and a lack of economic opportunities that don't provide the expected return on investment for completing higher education. Poverty rates for adults with higher levels of education can mean challenges in breaking free of generational poverty, delays in homeownership, and delays in starting families of their own. However, the rates of poverty for adults still decline significantly with higher levels of education.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: Historically, New Mexico has seen higher rates of poverty for adults with a bachelor's degree or higher than the rest of the nation. In 2024, 6.3% of adults with a four-year degree or higher levels of education lived in poverty when only accounting for wages and salaries, compared to a rate of 4.6% nationally. This represents a worsening rate of poverty for adults with bachelor's degrees or higher in New Mexico. Since this poverty rate is primarily determined by earned income, New Mexicans with this level of education are likely not finding job opportunities that pay high enough wages and may struggle to find employment in their areas of expertise.

Poverty Rate of Adults (Ages 25 and Older) with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher—BY YEAR (2014-2024)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014–2024, Table S1701 **Note:** Due to data collection issues related to COVID-19, no comparable data are available for 2020.

HOW TO READ THIS TABLE: "Of all the adults 25 and older in New Mexico, 31% of those who lacked a high school diploma lived in poverty in 2019–2023."

Poverty Rate of Adults (Ages 25 and Older)—BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT LEVEL AND COUNTY (2019-2023)

LOCATION	NO HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE (INCLUDES EQUIVALENCY)	SOME COLLEGE, ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE	BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER
	PERCENT BELOW POVERTY LEVEL			
United States	**24%**	**14%**	**10%**	**4%**
New Mexico	**31%**	**19%**	**15%**	**6%**
Bernalillo County	29%	18%	15%	6%
Catron County	49%	19%	19%	9%
Chaves County	36%	21%	15%	7%
Cibola County	39%	27%	19%	8%
Colfax County	28%	11%	17%	6%
Curry County	31%	24%	13%	7%
De Baca County	49%	14%	12%	32%
Doña Ana County	36%	18%	18%	6%
Eddy County	24%	13%	12%	3%
Grant County	22%	19%	20%	11%
Guadalupe County	38%	17%	18%	13%
Harding County	63%	22%	17%	2%
Hidalgo County	19%	11%	20%	8%
Lea County	25%	19%	16%	3%
Lincoln County	17%	15%	16%	6%
Los Alamos County	27%	2%	5%	1%
Luna County	30%	21%	19%	10%
McKinley County	46%	34%	27%	7%
Mora County	15%	29%	19%	7%
Otero County	44%	21%	14%	4%
Quay County	36%	25%	17%	12%
Rio Arriba County	29%	20%	14%	12%
Roosevelt County	39%	13%	14%	7%
San Juan County	35%	24%	17%	8%
San Miguel County	34%	24%	16%	9%
Sandoval County	24%	13%	9%	4%
Santa Fe County	24%	15%	12%	6%
Sierra County	31%	27%	23%	8%
Socorro County	44%	31%	23%	2%
Taos County	25%	16%	14%	11%
Torrance County	29%	24%	14%	9%
Union County	46%	23%	9%	7%
Valencia County	28%	18%	15%	7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019–2023, Table S1701

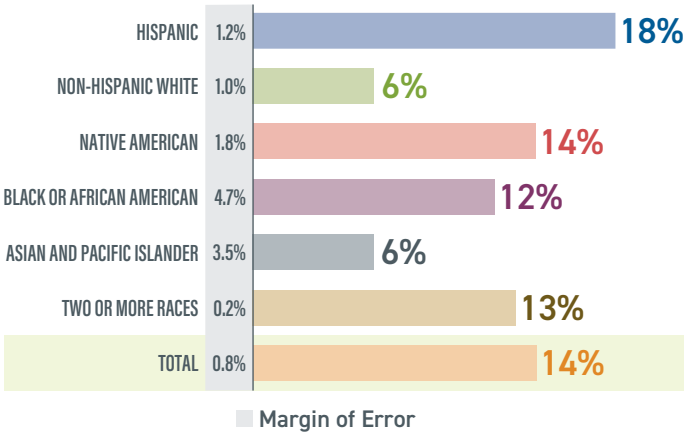
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

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, adults (including those with and without children) are the unit being measured, while children are the unit measured in the third.

HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: In 2019–2023, 14% of New Mexico children—or 64,000 kids—lived in families where the head of the household lacked a high school diploma. There are still disparities by race and ethnicity, with only 6% of children who are white or Asian living in this type of household, while 18% of children who are Hispanic were in families where the head of the household lacked a high school diploma. Hispanic children are the only group with a rate higher than that of the state overall. This may be correlated with failures of the K–12 education system to educate bilingual and recently arrived immigrant learners. The high overall rate of children in these families also points to an education system that has consistently failed to engage students with culturally and linguistically appropriate, high-quality education that keeps students engaged through graduation. While the state should do more to increase the graduation rates of all children, New Mexico can also improve opportunities for adults to complete high school equivalency programs later in life.

Children in Families where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma—BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2019–2023)



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample, 2019–2023 **Note:** Higher margins of error indicate less statistical reliability due to small sample sizes.

ABOUT THIS INDICATOR: The table on the following page measures 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, with slightly higher rates of adults with no high school diploma and lower rates of adults with bachelor's degrees. No significant change is shown in this data as compared to the 2016–2020 data. Not surprisingly, Los Alamos County is the outlier with 43% 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, 12% 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, 17% have earned a bachelor's degree, and the final 14% have earned a graduate (master's or doctorate) or professional degree."

Adults (Ages 25 and Older)—BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT LEVEL AND COUNTY (2019-2023)

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
United States	**11%**	**26%**	**19%**	**9%**	**21%**	**14%**
New Mexico	**12%**	**26%**	**23%**	**9%**	**17%**	**14%**
Bernalillo County	10%	22%	21%	9%	20%	17%
Catron County	2%	36%	31%	10%	12%	9%
Chaves County	19%	28%	26%	9%	11%	7%
Cibola County	15%	32%	26%	8%	11%	8%
Colfax County	10%	33%	23%	11%	13%	11%
Curry County	18%	27%	25%	10%	13%	9%
De Baca County	12%	24%	46%	9%	5%	4%
Doña Ana County	17%	23%	20%	9%	18%	14%
Eddy County	16%	27%	27%	10%	13%	7%
Grant County	10%	27%	24%	10%	16%	12%
Guadalupe County	17%	42%	18%	7%	11%	4%
Harding County	11%	37%	13%	9%	18%	13%
Hidalgo County	15%	38%	21%	8%	13%	5%
Lea County	24%	33%	20%	8%	8%	7%
Lincoln County	8%	27%	25%	10%	18%	11%
Los Alamos County	2%	10%	15%	5%	25%	43%
Luna County	24%	35%	21%	5%	10%	5%
McKinley County	19%	37%	24%	7%	7%	5%
Mora County	6%	37%	23%	8%	10%	16%
Otero County	13%	29%	27%	10%	14%	7%
Quay County	12%	36%	24%	7%	12%	8%
Rio Arriba County	14%	34%	26%	8%	11%	8%
Roosevelt County	14%	29%	28%	8%	13%	9%
San Juan County	14%	30%	27%	13%	10%	7%
San Miguel County	14%	26%	26%	8%	15%	12%
Sandoval County	7%	25%	24%	11%	20%	14%
Santa Fe County	9%	20%	20%	7%	22%	22%
Sierra County	10%	35%	26%	12%	10%	7%
Socorro County	15%	39%	18%	7%	11%	10%
Taos County	7%	27%	21%	8%	20%	17%
Torrance County	14%	33%	30%	9%	9%	6%
Union County	11%	42%	23%	6%	11%	7%
Valencia County	14%	31%	24%	10%	12%	9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019–2023 Table DP02

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE ADULT EDUCATION

- 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.
- Invest in workforce development and job creation across the state so all New Mexicans, including those in rural and economically disinvested communities, have access to dignified, high-wage employment opportunities and safe working conditions.
- Expand the New Mexico Workforce Training Economic Support Pilot Program to increase monetary stipend amounts and expand priority fields, industries, and programs eligible to receive funds.



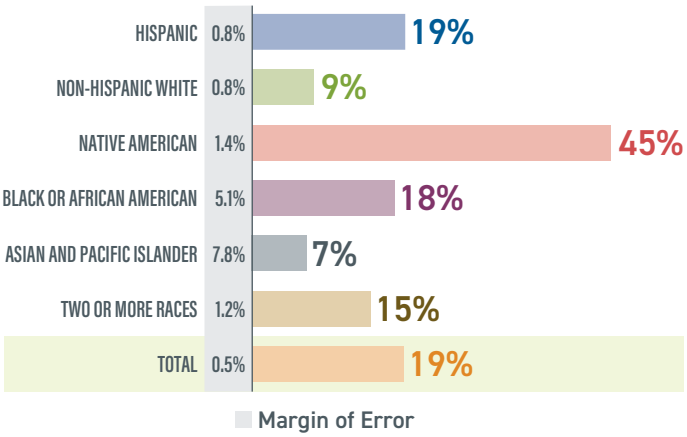
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

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. Because of historical dispossession of land and lack of investment in education and economic development, Census tracts located within the bounds of Native American reservations and Tribal lands are often more likely to be high-poverty areas. 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.

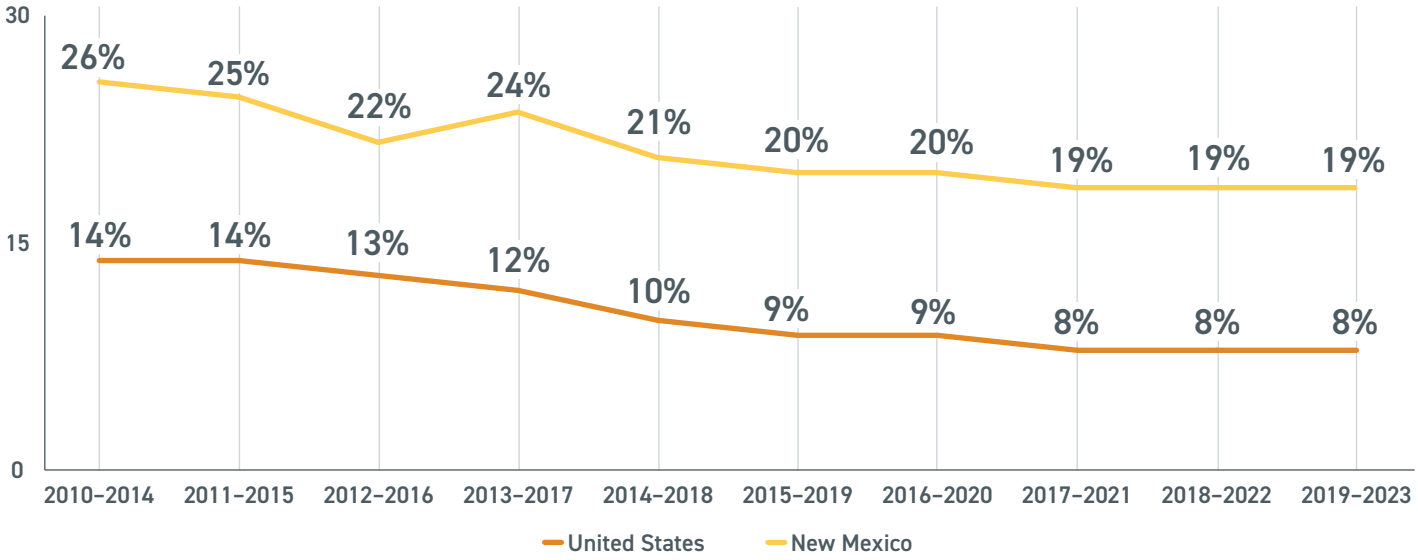
HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: New Mexico's rate of children living in high-poverty areas—19%—is much higher than the national average of 8%. This rate has stayed relatively stagnant in New Mexico over the last several years. However, longer-term trends have improved, with 46,000 fewer New Mexico children living in high-poverty areas from 2019–2023 than did from 2010–2014. 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 (2019-2023)



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019–2023 **Note:** Higher margins of error indicate less statistical reliability due to small sample sizes.

Children Living in High-Poverty Areas—BY YEAR (2010-2023)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year summary files released from 2010 to 2023

Children Living in High-Poverty Areas—BY COUNTY (2019–2023)

LOCATION	PERCENT
United States	8%
New Mexico	19%
Bernalillo County	10%
Catron County	62%
Chaves County	39%
Cibola County	41%
Colfax County	0%
Curry County	26%
De Baca County	0%
Doña Ana County	32%
Eddy County	0%
Grant County	0%
Guadalupe County	0%
Harding County	0%
Hidalgo County	0%
Lea County	12%
Lincoln County	20%
Los Alamos County	0%
Luna County	38%
McKinley County	74%
Mora County	0%
Otero County	24%
Quay County	22%
Rio Arriba County	0%
Roosevelt County	0%
San Juan County	30%
San Miguel County	26%
Sandoval County	3%
Santa Fe County	6%
Sierra County	61%
Socorro County	75%
Taos County	0%
Torrance County	20%
Union County	0%
Valencia County	22%

Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019–2023; custom data request received October 2025

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO DECREASE HIGH-POVERTY AREAS

- 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.
- 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, dignified 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 access higher-paying, dignified jobs.
- Expand eligibility and funding for the General Assistance Program to include able-bodied, undocumented residents, and others 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.
- Pass Baby Bonds legislation that provides seed funding for investment accounts to children at birth, particularly those from low-income families, to ensure every child in New Mexico has the financial foundation to pursue wealth-building opportunities later in life.

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

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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.

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Put greenhouse gas reduction goals in statute to make state commitments legally binding.
- Strengthen environmental protections in all Bureau of Land Management resource management plans.
- Promote and utilize the Community Benefit Fund to jumpstart environmental projects around our state.
- Set emissions targets and create a clear roadmap for achieving them, focusing on enforcement of violations.
- Eliminate legal loopholes to limit pollution from oil and gas facilities.

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
New Mexico	**5**	**10**	**81%**
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

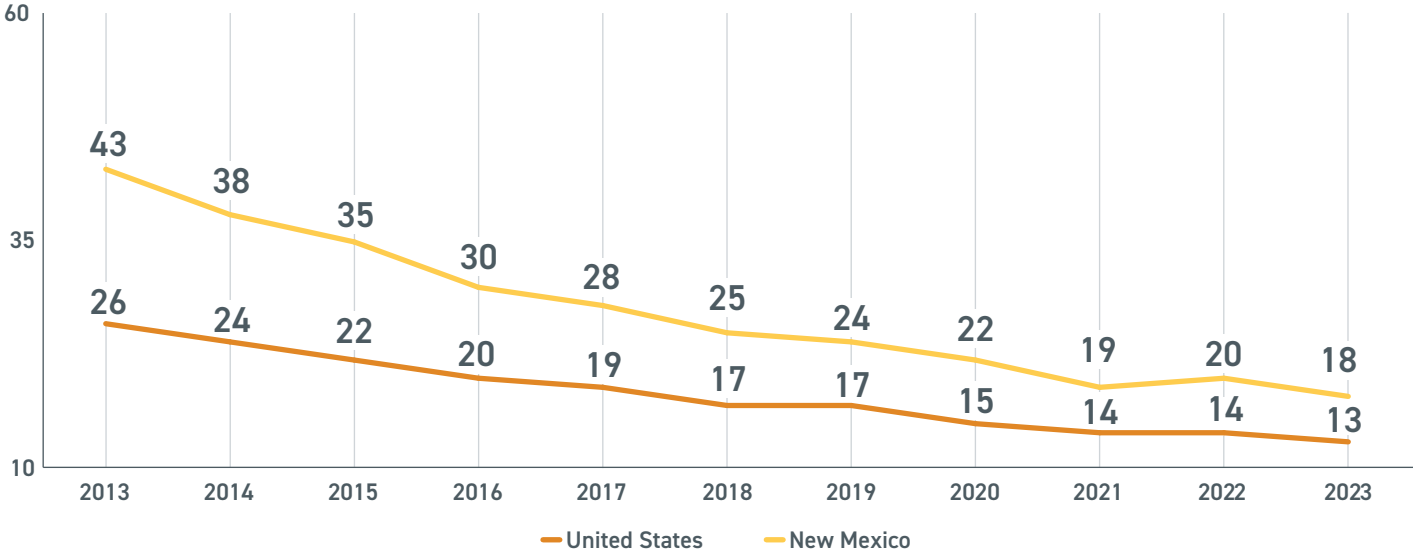
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

TEEN BIRTH RATES

ABOUT THIS INDICATOR: The ***teen birth rate*** is the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 in a given year. Pregnancy can be the result of a lack of understanding about consent as well as limited knowledge of and access to contraception. 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, experience malnourishment, experience developmental delays, struggle academically, become teen parents themselves, and experience poverty.

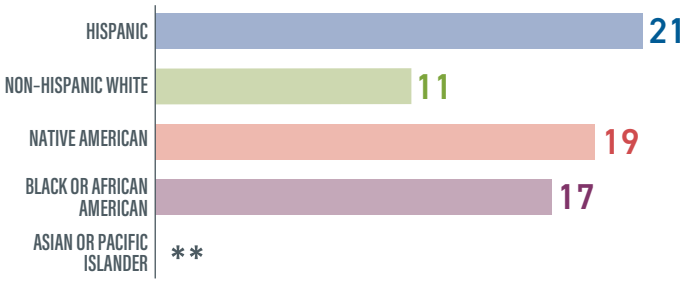
HOW NEW MEXICO FARES: Following a national trend, the teen birth rate in New Mexico has improved significantly over time, dropping from 43 per 1,000 female teens in 2013 to 18 per 1,000 in 2023. This represents an all-time low and an improvement of 60% between 2013 and 2023. Moreover, teen birth rates 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 50 per 1,000 in 2013 to 21 per 1,000 in 2023, and the rate of Native American teen births dropping from 51 per 1,000 in 2010 to 19 per 1,000 in 2023.

Teen (Ages 15-19) Birth Rate (per 1,000)—BY YEAR (2013-2023)



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics VitalStats birth data from 2013 through 2023

Teen (Ages 15-19) Birth Rate (per 1,000)— BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (2023)



Source: New Mexico Department of Public Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); retrieved October 2025 **Note:** ** Indicates the estimate has been suppressed by the New Mexico Department of Health because the number of events and population size are small and not appropriate for publication, or it could be used to calculate the number in a cell that has been suppressed.

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO LOWER TEEN BIRTH RATES

- Increase funding for teen pregnancy prevention and support programs to help at-risk young people avoid pregnancy and see alternative opportunities for their future. Parenting support programs such as home visiting also help young parents 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.

Teen (Ages 15-19) Birth Rate (per 1,000)— BY COUNTY (2023)

LOCATION	RATE (PER 1,000)
United States	13.1
New Mexico	17.7
Bernalillo County	11.9
Catron County	**
Chaves County	23.5
Cibola County	28.1
Colfax County	16.3
Curry County	39.9
De Baca County	0
Doña Ana County	16.8
Eddy County	36.3
Grant County	22.5
Guadalupe County	56.0
Harding County	0
Hidalgo County	**
Lea County	30.0
Lincoln County	16.4
Los Alamos County	**
Luna County	50.9
McKinley County	19.1
Mora County	**
Otero County	25.1
Quay County	23.8
Rio Arriba County	23.6
Roosevelt County	22.2
San Juan County	17.5
San Miguel County	20.7
Sandoval County	8.0
Santa Fe County	10.9
Sierra County	23.3
Socorro County	10.1
Taos County	19.0
Torrance County	19.3
Union County	36.3
Valencia County	19.5

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022–2023 (U.S. data); New Mexico Department of Health, Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS); retrieved October 2025 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.

METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES

METHODOLOGY

DATA SOURCES



METHODOLOGY

ABOUT THE DATA

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 makes 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 2024 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 2019–2023) 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 2024 one-year ACS, while most county and tribal data reported are from the 2019–2023 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 does not include foster children, who are identified as household members only. 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 primarily uses a set of income thresholds based on the official poverty measure (OPM) 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). To address this shortcoming in the traditional poverty calculations, an alternative threshold is set and poverty is determined using the supplemental poverty measure (SPM), which calculates if total income plus non-cash government benefits and refundable tax credits, minus common expenses, like child care and taxes paid, allows a family to rise above the poverty threshold. Most of the poverty levels used in the 2025 New Mexico KIDS COUNT Data Book are for 2024 and are derived from the OPM, which is still used to determine eligibility for program benefits like SNAP and Medicaid. In 2024 the FPL was $15,060 for one person or $31,200 for a family of four. However, a family of four at double (200%) the federal poverty level ($62,400 in 2024) 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.



METHODOLOGY

MAJOR DATA SOURCES

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

The majority of the data in the 2025 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 2025, one-year estimates for 2024 were released. The five-year estimates for 2023 were released in January of 2026. American Community Survey data can be found on the U.S. Census website.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY, ANNUAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPLEMENT, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

The Annual Social and Economic Supplement of the Current Population Survey (CPS) provides yearly, official national estimates of poverty levels and rates and of widely used measures of income. The CPS surveys approximately 75,000 households and contains detailed questions covering social and economic characteristics of each person in the surveyed household. The CPS provides measures of poverty according to the official poverty measure (OPM), which only accounts for household money income, and the supplemental poverty measure (SPM), which includes the impact of non-cash government programs and tax credits. Because the survey reaches a small number of households, data are only available at the state level using a three-year average, and they are not available for any smaller geographies. Data from the CPS included in the 2025 New Mexico KIDS COUNT Data Book are three-year average data for both the national and state level to allow for comparisons. CPS poverty data should not be used in comparisons with ACS poverty data.

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 are directly from state government agencies, and compressor and processor data are 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.

WHO PAYS?, INSTITUTE ON TAXATION AND ECONOMIC POLICY

Who Pays? is an analysis of tax systems in all 50 states and the District of Columbia conducted by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. The report assesses the progressivity and regressivity of state tax systems by measuring effective state and local tax rates paid by all income groups. State profiles are provided to help lawmakers and the public understand how current tax policies affect taxpayers at all income levels.

ANNUAL OUTCOMES REPORT, NEW MEXICO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE DEPARTMENT

The Annual Outcomes Report is produced by the state Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) each year. The data collected include the funded slots for NM Pre-K and Head Start, the number of children receiving Child Care Assistance, the quality ratings of child care providers, the number of children and families served through Home Visiting, and more.

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 HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

Medicaid—also called New Mexico Turquoise 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 HCA 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, AND 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

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

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NEW MEXICO

KIDS COUNT

NEW MEXICO

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