

# New Mexico KIDS COUNT Update:

*Child Well-Being Before & During the  
COVID-19 Pandemic*

NM Legislative Health and Human Services Committee  
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# KIDS COUNT



**ECONOMIC  
WELL-BEING**



**EDUCATION**



**HEALTH**



**FAMILY AND  
COMMUNITY**

# KIDS COUNT tells a story of opportunity.



# 2020 KIDS COUNT rankings



**ECONOMIC WELL-BEING**  
DOMAIN RANK  
**49**



**EDUCATION**  
DOMAIN RANK  
**50**



**HEALTH**  
DOMAIN RANK  
**41**



**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY**  
DOMAIN RANK  
**48**

**50<sup>th</sup> overall *using pre-pandemic data***

# Progress is possible!

- 33,000 more insured
- 2,100 fewer teen births
- 33,000 more kids with a parent with a diploma
- 13 of 16 KIDS COUNT indicators improved



# Pandemic Impacts on Child Well-Being

11/11/2020

[www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org)

#NMKIDSCOUNT

# COVID-19 created new challenges.

- Pediatric visits and vaccinations down.
- 40% of parents feel anxious or stressed .
- 8% of parents rarely or never have internet.
- 34% of children are projected to be food insecure as a result of COVID-19.

# Distance learning has been a necessity, but is magnifying existing issues.

- Students projected to lose 4 mos-1yr + of learning.
- Socioeconomic achievement gaps widening.
- Dropout rates could increase by up to 9 percent.
- Teachers report not being able to reach 1 in 5 students.
- Teachers report that 36% of their students experiencing social-emotional issues or require social-emotional health supports .



# Pandemic Impacts on Equity

11/11/2020

[www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org)

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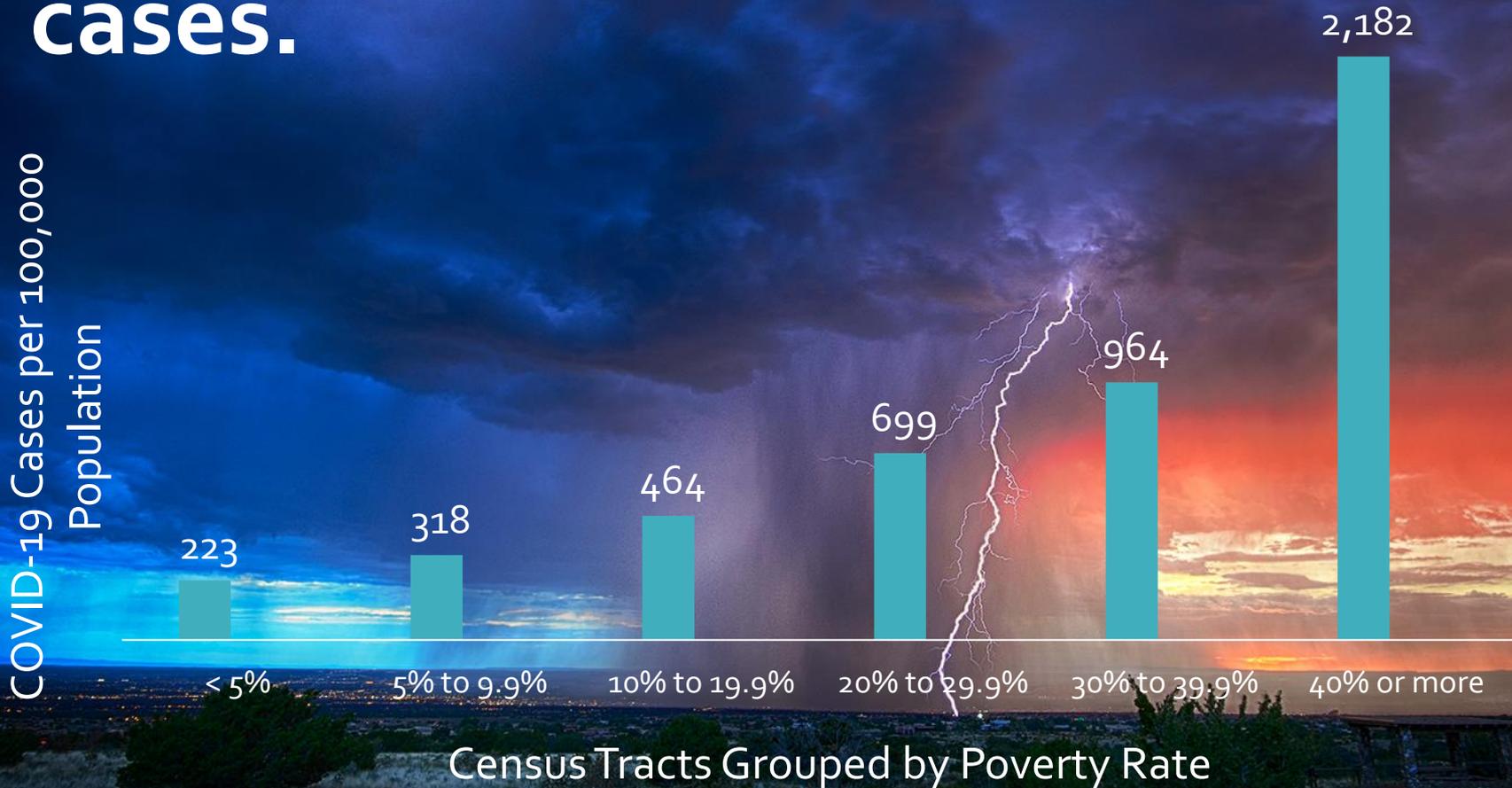


**The impacts of the  
pandemic are not income  
neutral.**

# Low-income workers harder hit by COVID-19.

- The less workers earned at their job, the more likely they were to lose jobs or income.
- Remote work strongly favors more-educated workers, with as many as 6/10 college-educated employees working from home, compared with 1/7 with only a HS diploma.
- Adults making less than \$15K are more than twice as likely to suffer serious consequences from COVID-19 than those making more than \$50K.

# Low-income communities have a higher prevalence of COVID-19 cases.



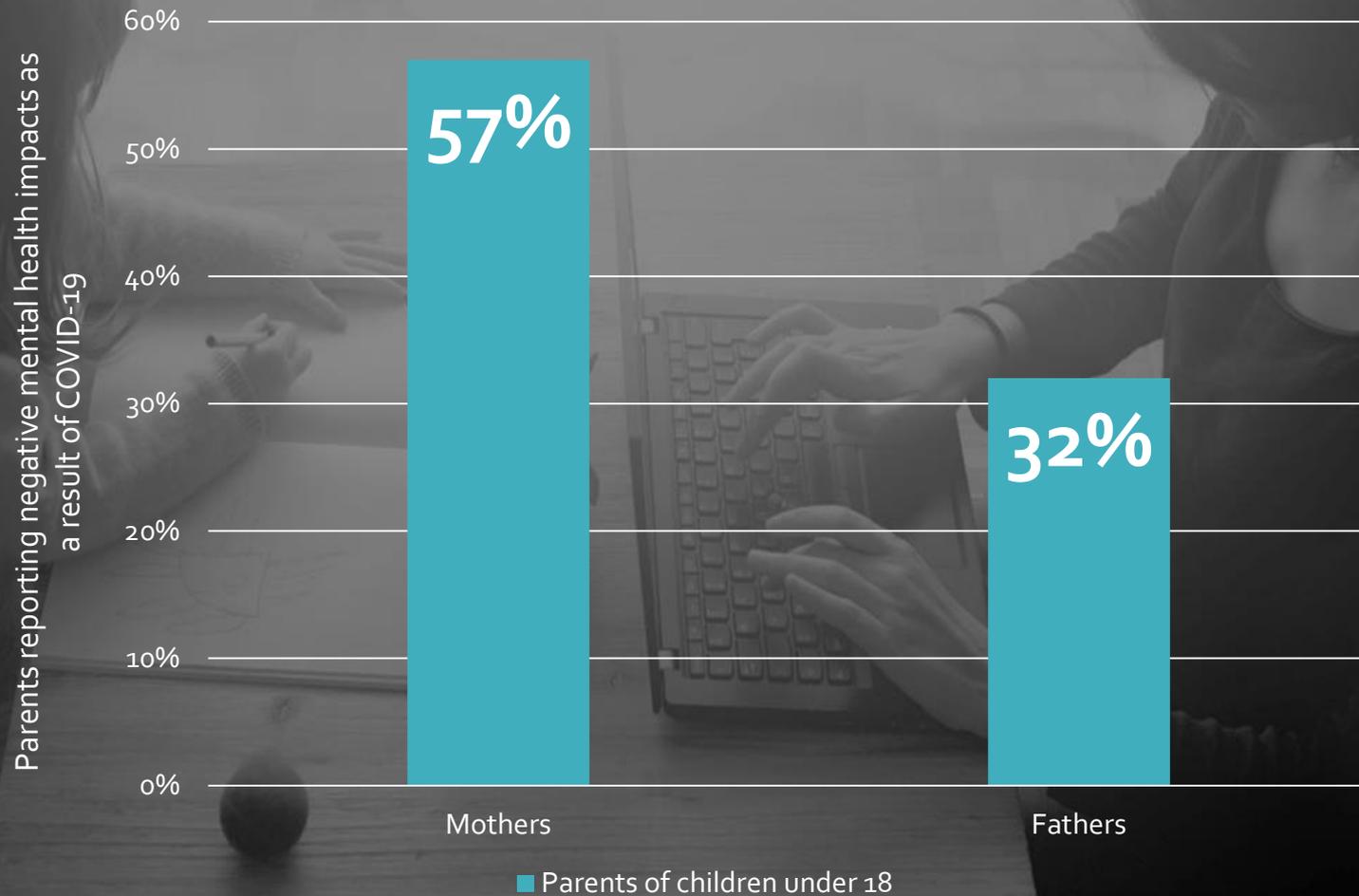


The impacts of the  
pandemic are not gender  
neutral.

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

- Women=47% of NM workers, 64% of frontline workers.
- More mothers than fathers have lost wages, decreased their work hours, and exited the labor force since the pandemic began.
- Mothers with young children have reduced their work hours 4 to 5 times more than fathers.
- The gender gap in work hours has grown by 20–50%.

# Mothers more likely than fathers to see negative mental health impacts.





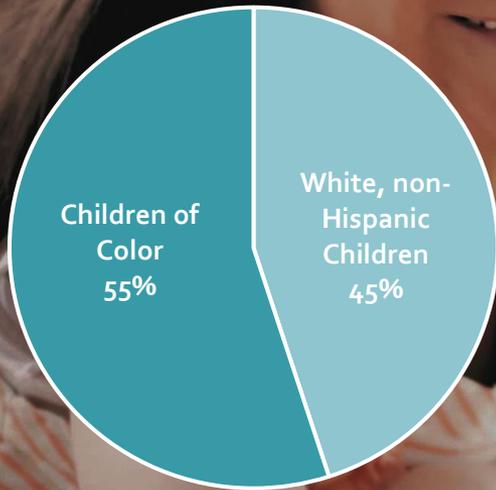
**The impacts of the  
pandemic are not race  
neutral.**

# COVID-19 has disproportionately harmed people of color.

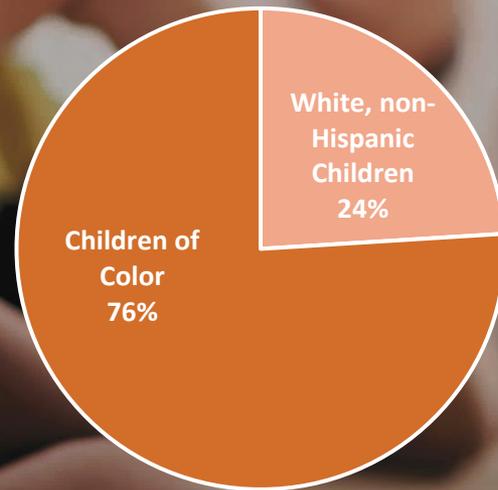
- Hispanics saw the steepest initial employment losses and still have the most ground to make up to reach pre-pandemic employment
- Native Americans make up 11% of NM population, but 30% of COVID cases.
- Low-income residents of mostly *non-white* communities died of the coronavirus at **9 time the rate**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

# New Mexico is ahead of the demographic trend.

United States, 2030



New Mexico, 2018





# Policy Solutions

11/11/2020

[www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org)

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Before the pandemic,  
NM was moving  
forward on a path to  
prosperity.



A photograph of a vast field of purple wildflowers in the foreground, leading to a sunset over a landscape with rolling hills. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and lens flare effects. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, red, and purple.

**Make sure New Mexicans can meet their basic needs, and build strong budgets for crucial programs.**

**Put money into the hands of families who will spend it quickly and locally.**

A photograph of a family of three sitting on the floor. A young girl with curly hair is on the left, high-fiving a man in the center. The man is also high-fiving a woman on the right. They are all smiling and appear to be celebrating. The background is a simple, brightly lit room with light-colored walls and curtains.

**Protect, diversify, and raise  
revenues and promote equity.**

# We're all in this together.



Photo by: Rebecca Glenn, OLÉ

[www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org)

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# Thank you!



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