

Legislative Finance Committee

New Mexico's Children

Risk Factors Impacting on Health and Social Development

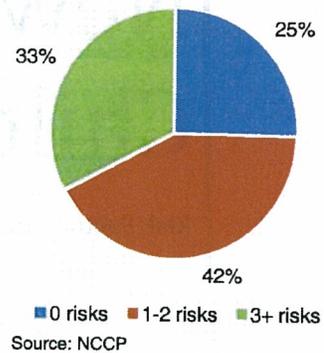
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HOW DO NEW MEXICO'S CHILDREN FARE?

Background. “A vital and productive society with a prosperous and sustainable future is built on a foundation of healthy child development. Health in the earliest years, actually beginning with the future mother’s health before she becomes pregnant, lays the groundwork for a lifetime of well-being” is the lead-in statement for Harvard University’s publication addressing issues in the development of a healthy population. Research has demonstrated that early child health and social development interventions, prenatally and for the first five years of a child’s life, promotes brain development and maturation and results in positive life-long health and social outcomes.

The New Mexico Early Childhood Profile, compiled by the National Center for Children in Poverty, identifies policy, economic, and social conditions which impact the health of children. Young children are defined as those less than six years of age. In New Mexico, that represents approximately 177 thousand children. The profile identifies risk factors which can compromise the health and social development of children. The greater number of risk factors, the higher the probability that health and social development will be hampered. Risk factors include: single parent, living in poverty, linguistically isolated, parents with less than a high school education, and parents with no paid employment. The Center identifies 25 percent of young children in New Mexico are exposed to three or more risks which could influence their social development process.

2009 NM Risk Factors for Young Children

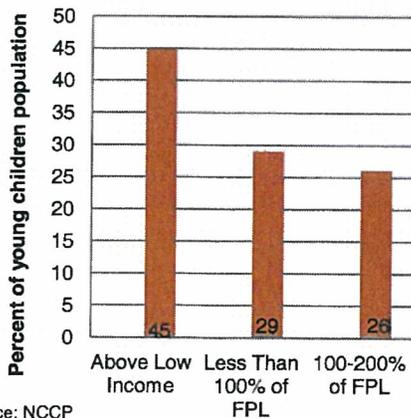


This report card compiled relevant performance measures which gauge New Mexico’s progress, comparing data with that of other states or over time.

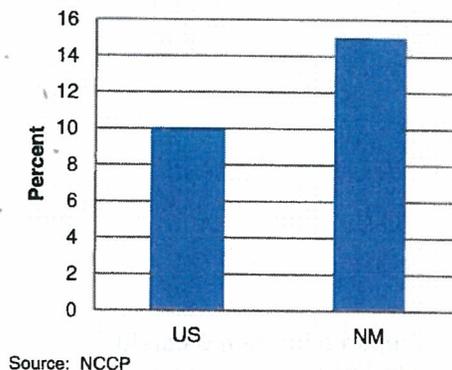
Family Economic Self Sufficiency

Income. Thirteen percent of New Mexico’s children live in extreme poverty, less than 50 percent of federal poverty level. For 2012, the Federal Register identifies a family of four with a gross yearly income less than \$12 thousand as living in extreme poverty. In 2009, thirty-one percent of children in New Mexico were living with families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment.

NM Young Children by Income



2009 Young Children Lacking Health Insurance



Health Insurance. Families without health insurance are less likely to participate in preventive screenings and assessments, including adherence to recommended schedules for prenatal and well-child visits.

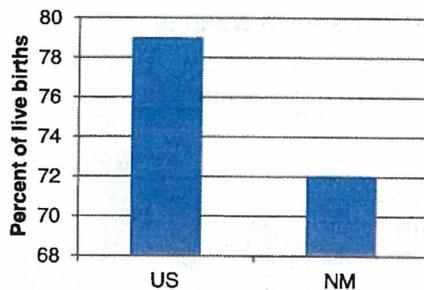
Maternal Health

Prenatal Care. Certain vulnerable populations—including young women, poor women, women with lower education levels, and women in certain racial and ethnic groups, are less likely to receive adequate prenatal care. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2010, have established a compliance goal for first trimester prenatal care at 90 percent of all pregnant women.

Teen Pregnancy. Pregnancy and birth are significant contributors to high school dropout rates among girls. Only 50 percent of teen mothers receive a high school diploma by 22 years of age compared to approximately 90 percent of women who had not given birth during adolescence. The children of teenage mothers are more likely to have lower school achievement and drop out of high school, have more health problems, be incarcerated at some time during adolescence, give birth as a teenager, and face unemployment as a young adult.

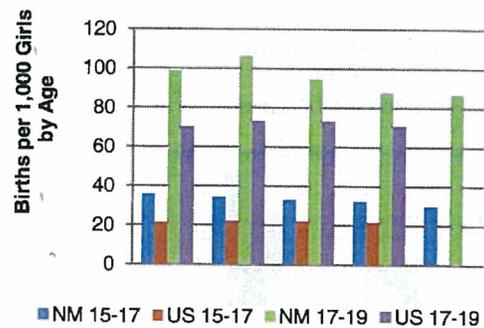
Nutrition. Poor nutrition during pregnancy can result in infant mortality, birth defects, pre-term births, and maternal complications, such as pre-eclampsia. Pre-eclampsia affect the placenta and can harm the mother's kidneys, liver, and brain. The US Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides supplemental foods, nutritional education, and health and social services referrals for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and post-delivery women, infants, and children. In FY11, the New Mexico WIC Program served 62 thousand women and families.

2007 Prenatal Care in First Trimester



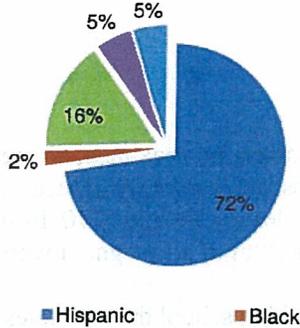
Source: NM DOH

2010 Teen Pregnancy



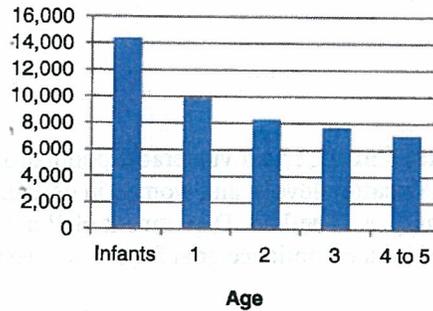
Source: NM DOH

WIC Program Participation by Ethnicity



Source: WIC

Participation in WIC by Age (as of September 30, 2011)



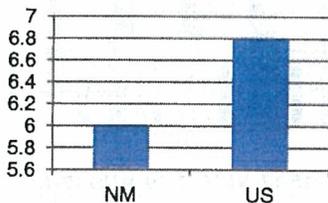
Source: WIC

Child Health

Infant Mortality. From 2005-2007, infant mortality in New Mexico ranked 14th in the nation, with 1st representing the best state for children. Although a rate was not reported in 2010, the number of deaths in New Mexico was 155. The leading causes of those deaths were prenatal conditions, congenital malformations and unintentional injuries.

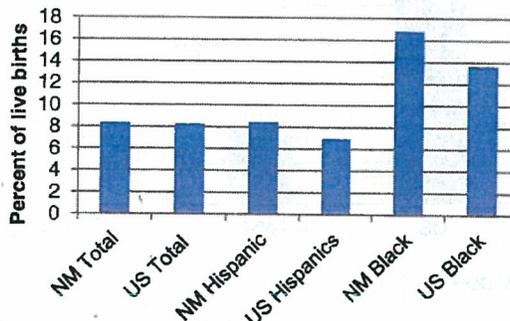
Low Birth Weight. Low birth weight is a major determinant of mortality, morbidity, and disability in infancy and can have long-term consequences on health outcomes in adult life.

2005-2007 Infant Mortality
(deaths per 1000 births)



Source: DOH

2008-2010 Low Birth Weights

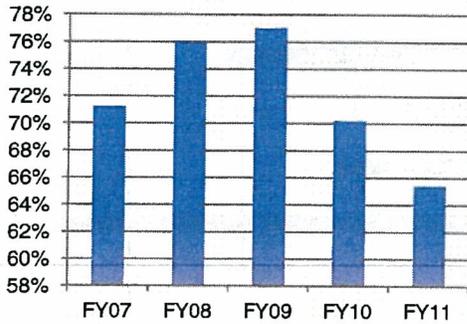


Source: DOH

Immunizations. Immunizations provide one of the most cost-effective interventions by which to contain the spread of infectious diseases and prevention of serious illness and deaths in children. A portion of the recent drop in the percent of children being immunized can be attributed to the number of parents requesting exemptions.

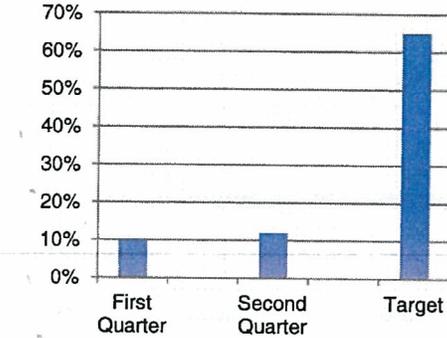
Well-Baby Visits. The NM Medicaid program recommends infants receive well-baby visits at ages one, two, four, six, nine, and 12 months and young children receive visits at ages 15, 18, 24, and 36 months. The well-baby visit measure is new in FY12.

Percent of NM Preschoolers Fully Immunized



Source: DOH

Percent of Infants Receiving 6 or More Well-Baby Visits in First Fifteen Months FY12



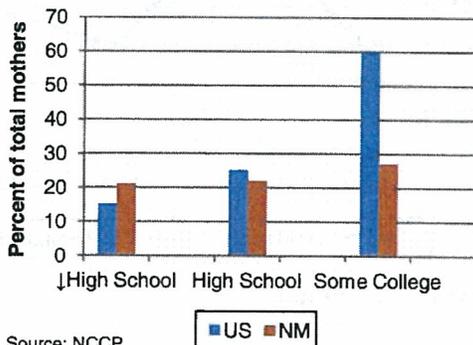
Source: HSD

School Readiness and Attainment

Education of Mother. Teen mothers are disproportionately represented in the group with less than a high school education. Research cited by the Foundation for Child Development links higher parental educational attainment to stronger educational outcomes for children and can provide greater financial resources to the family.

Pre-K and Childcare. A high percentage of New Mexico students show up to kindergarten far behind expectations and are at-risk of academic failure. In 2008, PreK students scored in the 23rd percentile nationally for receptive vocabulary, a key indicator of school success. New Mexico PreK, promoting school readiness, is a voluntary program funded by the state of New Mexico. The Public Education and the Children, Youth, and Families Departments both administer Pre-K programs. Enrollment is not based upon income eligibility determination. Childcare programs are ranked using the Stars Quality Rating System. The level of program quality is indicated by one, two, three, four, or five stars with five being the highest ranking.

2009 Educational Level of Mothers with Young Children



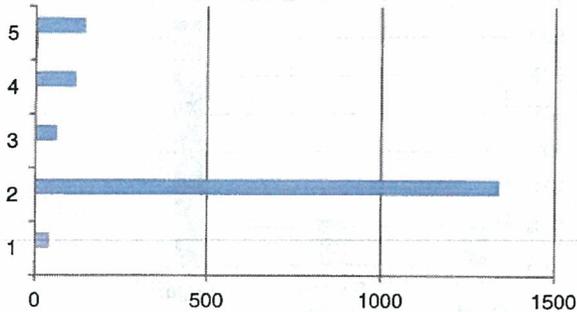
Source: NCCP

Percent of PreK Students Showing Measurable Progress on the Preschool Readiness Kindergarten Tool, FY11

	CYFD	PED
Physical Development, Health and Well-Being	94.8%	96.0%
Domains	90.1%	92.3%
Numeracy	90.3%	92.2%
Aesthetic Creativity	86.5%	89.1%
Scientific Conceptual Understandings	84.8%	86.7%
Self, Family and Community	89.4%	90.3%
Approaches to Learning	91.0%	93.4%

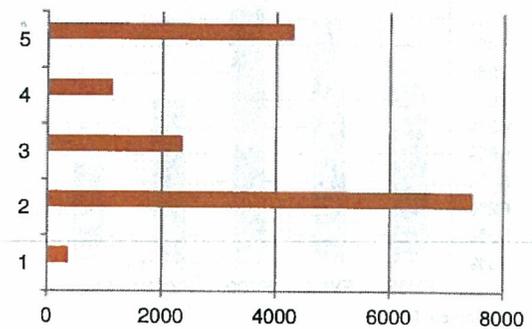
Source: UNM

Number of Children in Licensed Homes
(by Star Level in February 2012)



Source: CYFD

Number of Children in Licensed Daycare Centers
(by Star level in February 2012)

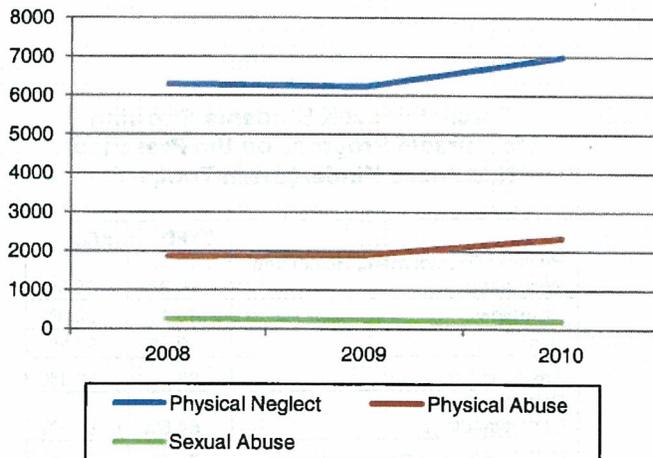


Source: CYFD

Child Maltreatment

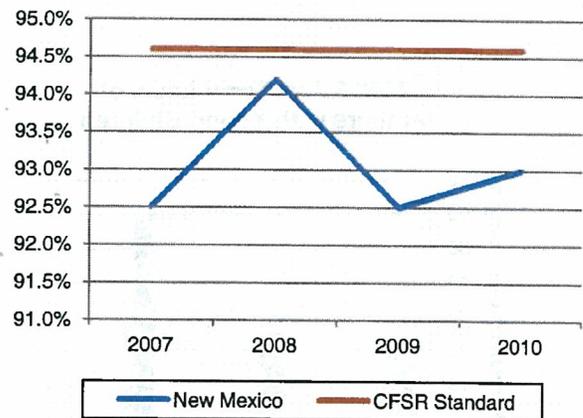
Child Abuse and Neglect. In 2010, over 6 thousand children were the victims of abuse or neglect in New Mexico. As a result of the maltreatment, nineteen of those children died. Studies have shown in addition to any physical health issues, child victims may suffer life-long psychological consequences including: post-traumatic stress disorders, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and suicide attempts. According to the National Institute of Justice, abused or neglected children are eleven times more likely to be arrested for criminal behavior as juveniles. As of 2010, seven percent of children in out-of-home placements experienced a reoccurrence of maltreatment within six months of an abuse incident.

2010 Substantiated Allegations



Source: CYFD

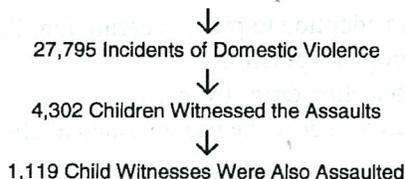
No Recurrence of Maltreatment within Six Months



Source: PSD Fact Book

Domestic Violence. Recent research indicates that children who witness domestic violence show more anxiety, low self esteem, depression, anger and temperament problems than children who do not witness violence in the home. The trauma they experience can show up in emotional, behavioral, social and physical disturbances that effect their development and can continue into adulthood. Witnesses of domestic violence have a greater propensity to become abusers.

2008 Domestic Violence Statistics



Source: National Network to End Domestic Violence

Juvenile Justice

Delinquency. Based upon 2010 data reported by New Mexico law enforcement agencies to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 110,709 arrests were made in the state. Of those, 11 percent were arrests of individuals 18 years or younger. The following table shows arrest by selected types of crime for the younger population.

2010 NM Arrests for Individuals 18 Years or Younger	
Violent Crimes	484
Aggravated Assaults	404
Other Assaults	1,722
Larceny/Thefts	2,502
Drug Abuse Violations	1,628
Liquor Laws	857
Vandalism	398

Source: FBI

Governance and Coordination

New Mexico Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC). In 2011, the legislature passed the Early Childhood Care and Education Act, which established the membership and the role of the council. It is the council's responsibility to lead the development of a high-quality, aligned, comprehensive system of early childhood development and care, that ensures statewide coordination and collaboration among the wide range of early childhood programs and services within the state, including childcare, Early Head Start, Head Start, Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act programs for preschool, infants and families and pre-kindergarten programs and services. The Council consists of fifteen members and includes the Secretary of Public Education or the Secretary's designee, the Secretary of Children, Youth and Families or the Secretary's Designee and the Director of the Head Start State Collaboration Office of the Department as ex officio members. The remaining members include members of the New Mexico Business Roundtable, a representative from DOH, early care and education providers, Head Start providers, representatives of higher education institutions and local educational agencies.

New Mexico Children's Cabinet. The Cabinet is comprised of thirteen individuals including: the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and secretaries from the departments of Indian Affairs, Finance and Administration, Children, Youth and Families, Public Safety, Higher Education, Cultural Affairs, Human Services, Health, Corrections, and Public Education. According to Governor Martinez's Children's Cabinet website, the Children's Cabinet will focus on the following objectives:

- Reducing the state's infant mortality rate
- Confronting childhood obesity
- Improving reading readiness
- Encouraging out-of-system adoption to provide caring families for kids in need
- Curbing the high school dropout epidemic
- Stopping the abuse of prescription drugs by teens
- Educating our students well to reduce the use of remedial classes in college

Data Systems Project. The state's grant application for the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge articulated the need for a data system to consolidate all CYFD's early learning programs. The CYFD early learning consolidated data system would be aligned and interoperable with the P-20 Education data warehouse system. The data system would also align with early learning data systems located in other state department and external entities, such as the PED, Department of Health, and University of New Mexico Continuing Education and Community Services. A consolidated data system is necessary to generate information that is timely, relevant, accessible, and easy for early learning programs and educators to use for continuous improvement of instruction, practices, services, decision making, and policies. The initial 2011 Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant application estimated the cost of this data system at \$9.5 million.