

U.S. Census Bureau Release of the Official and Supplemental Poverty Measures

The Census Bureau's Measure of Poverty

- The U.S. Census Bureau annually releases the Official Poverty Measure (OPM) and Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) for the U.S., all states, and the District of Columbia.
- The latest data was released September 15, 2026. It measures 2025 and a three-year period of 2023-2025.

OPM vs. SPM

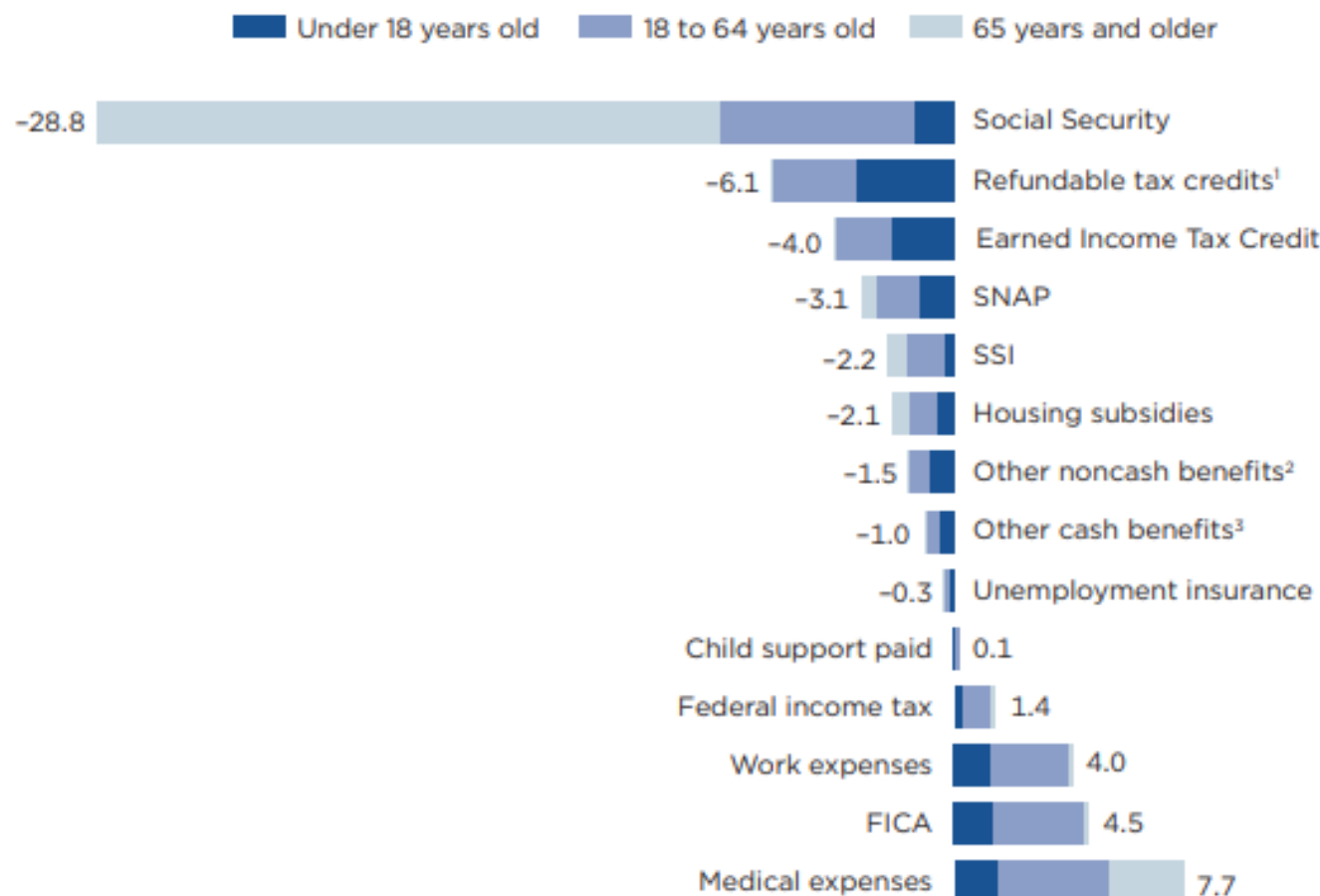
	Official Poverty Measure	Supplemental Poverty Measure
Measurement Units	Families (individuals related by birth, marriage or adoption) or unrelated individuals.	Resource units (official family definition plus any co-resident unrelated children, foster children, and unmarried partners and their relatives) or unrelated individuals (not otherwise included in the family definition).
Poverty Threshold	Three times the cost of a minimum food diet in 1963.	Based on recent expenditures of food, clothing, shelter, utilities, telephone and internet (FCSUti).
Threshold Adjustments	Vary by family size, composition and age of householder.	Vary by family size, composition and tenure, with geographic adjustments for differences in housing costs.
Updating Thresholds	Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: all items.	Most recent five-year moving average of expenditures on FCSUti, lagged by one year.
Resource Measure	Gross before-tax cash income.	Cash income, plus noncash benefits that resource units can use to meet their FCSUti needs, minus taxes (or plus tax credits), work expenses, medical expenses, and child support paid to another household.
Universe	Civilian, noninstitutionalized population, excluding unrelated individuals under age 15 for whom poverty status cannot be determined.	Official poverty universe, plus unrelated individuals under age 15.
Time Series	1959-present.	2009-present.

** From the U.S. Census Bureau*

Figure 6.

Change in Number of People in Supplemental Poverty After Including Each Element: 2025

(In millions)



¹ Refundable tax credits include the Earned Income Tax Credit and the refundable portion of the Child Tax Credit.

² Other noncash benefits include energy assistance; the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and school lunch.

³ Other cash benefits include workers compensation, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and child support received.

Note: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA). Population as of March of the following year. Refundable tax credits include the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the refundable portion of the Child Tax Credit. Margins of error and other related estimates are available in Table 6 at www.census.gov/library/publications/2026/demo/p60-290.html. Estimates in Table 6 are not mutually exclusive, so the components of refundable tax credits, other cash benefits, and other noncash benefits will not sum to the combined estimate shown in this figure. More information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar26.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2026 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC; DMS number P-7534374 and DRB approval number CBDRB-FY26-0280).

New Mexico compared to the U.S.

2023-2025 OPM

New Mexico OPM		
	Percent	Rank (out of 51)
All NM	16.0%	49
Under 18	20.9%	48
18-64	15.4%	49
Over 65	12.9%	46

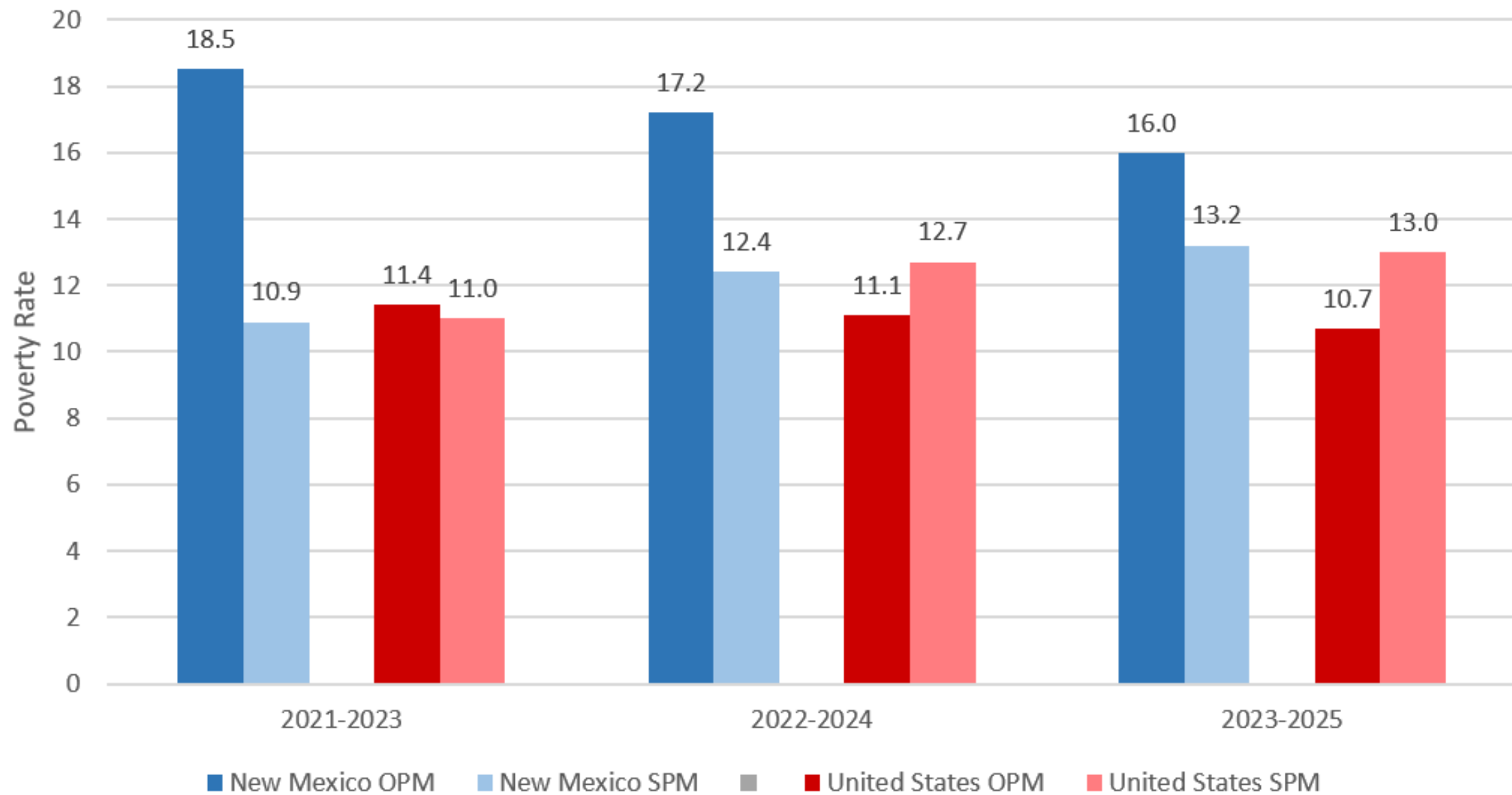
U.S. OPM	
	Percent
All US	10.7%
Under 18	14.3%
18-64	9.6%
Over 65	9.8%

2023-2025 SPM

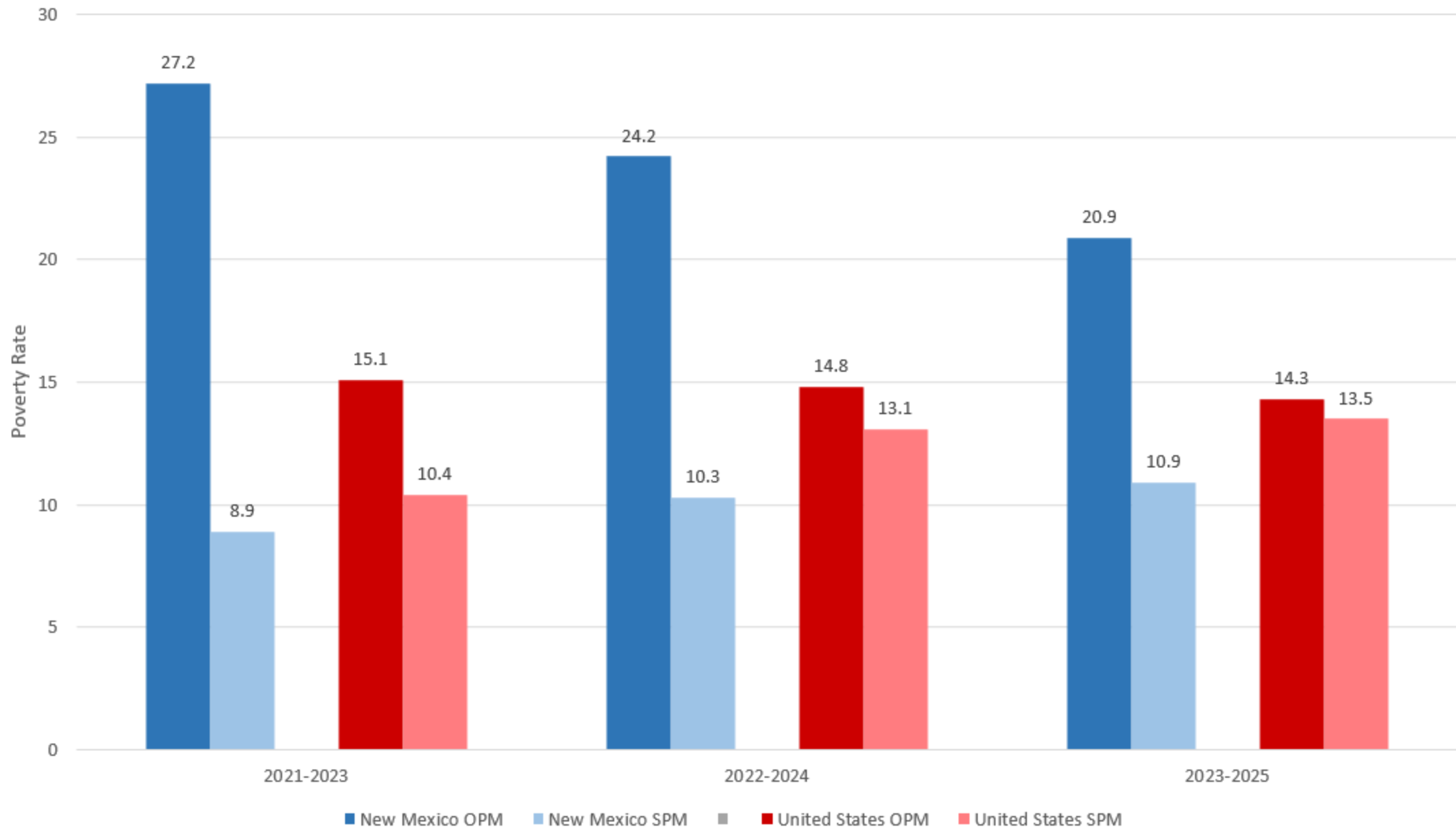
New Mexico SPM		
	Percent	Rank (out of 51)
All NM	13.2%	38
Under 18	10.9%	26
18-64	13.5%	43
Over 65	15.0%	41

U.S. SPM	
	Percent
All	13.0%
Under 18	13.5%
18-64	12.2%
Over 65	14.8%

Official Poverty Measure & Supplemental Poverty Measure

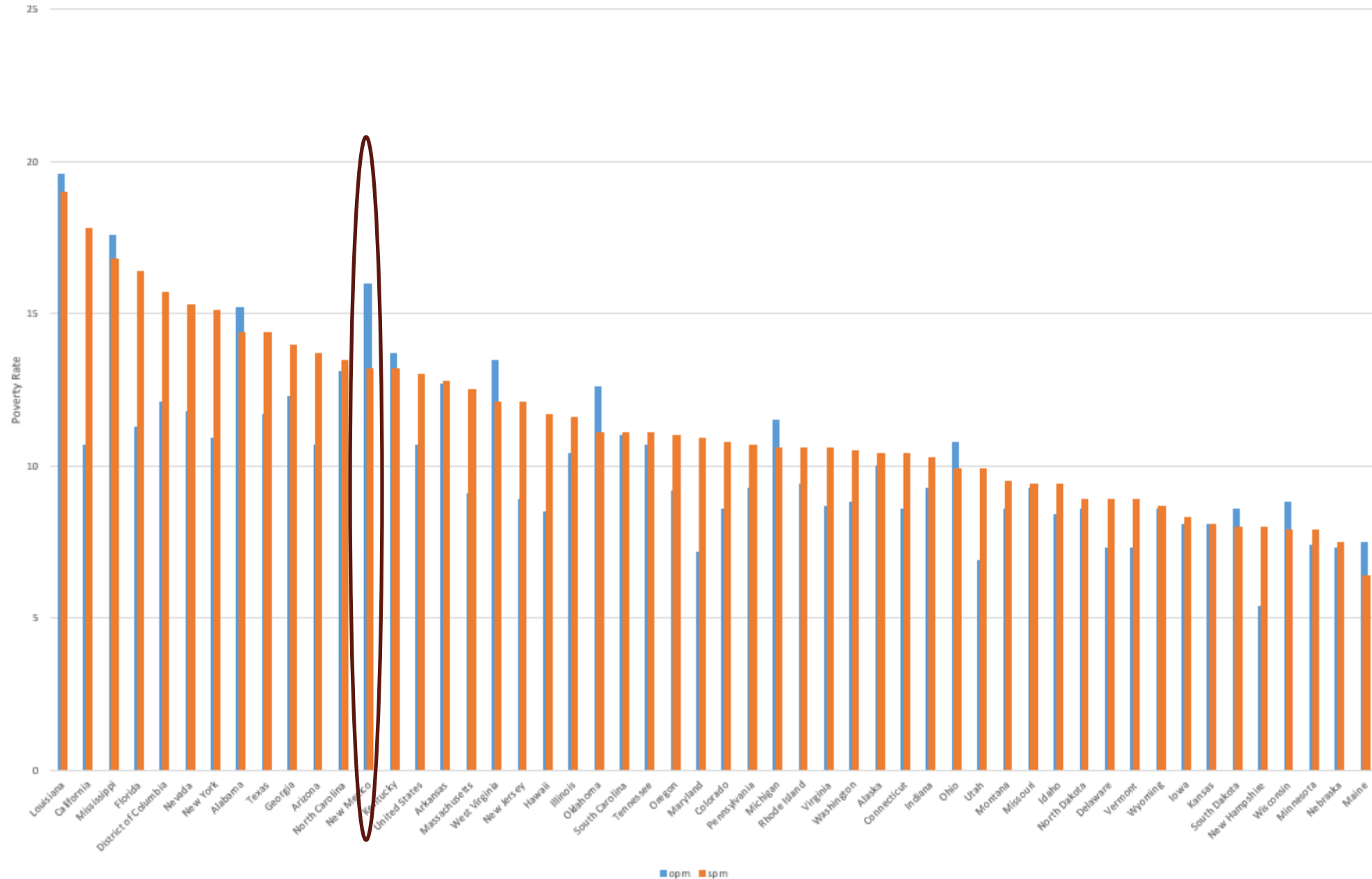


Official Poverty Measure & Supplemental Poverty Measure for Under 18

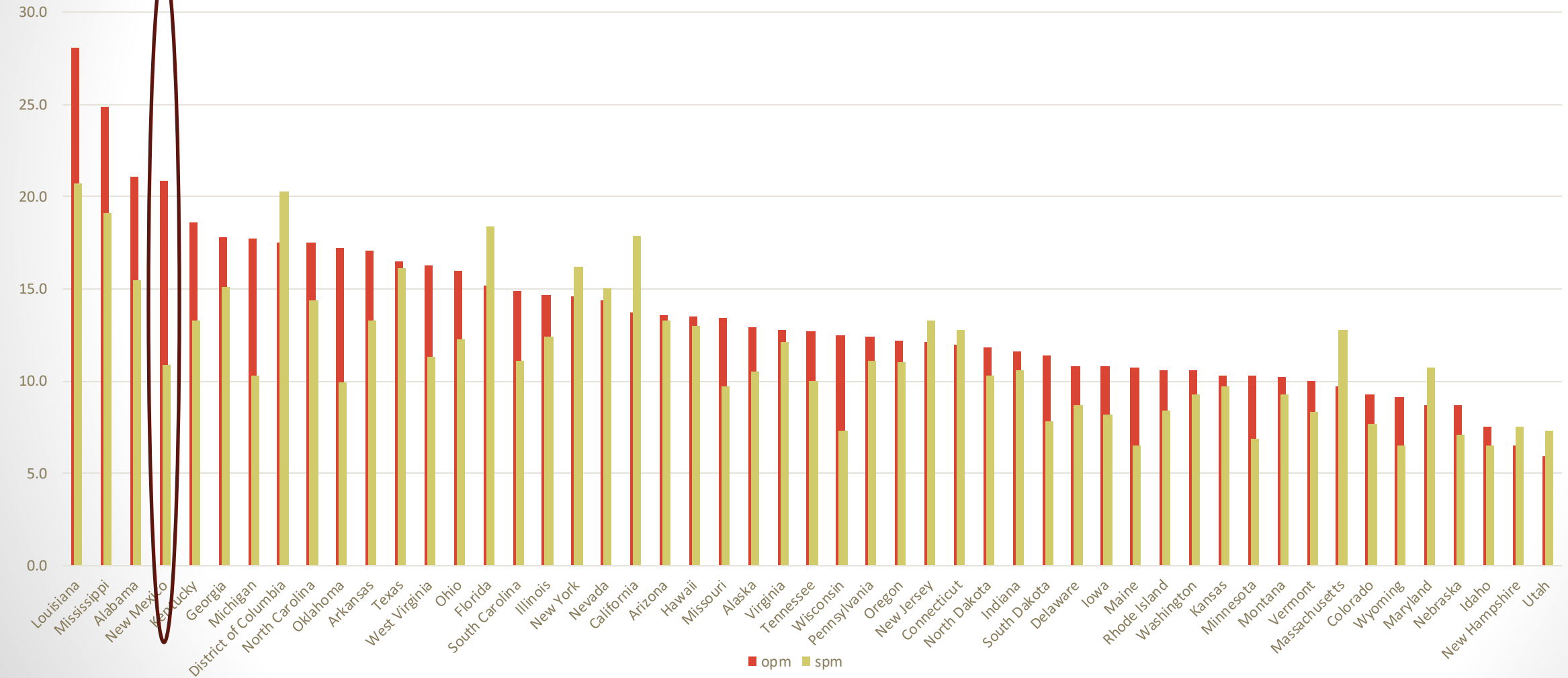


New Mexico among all the states

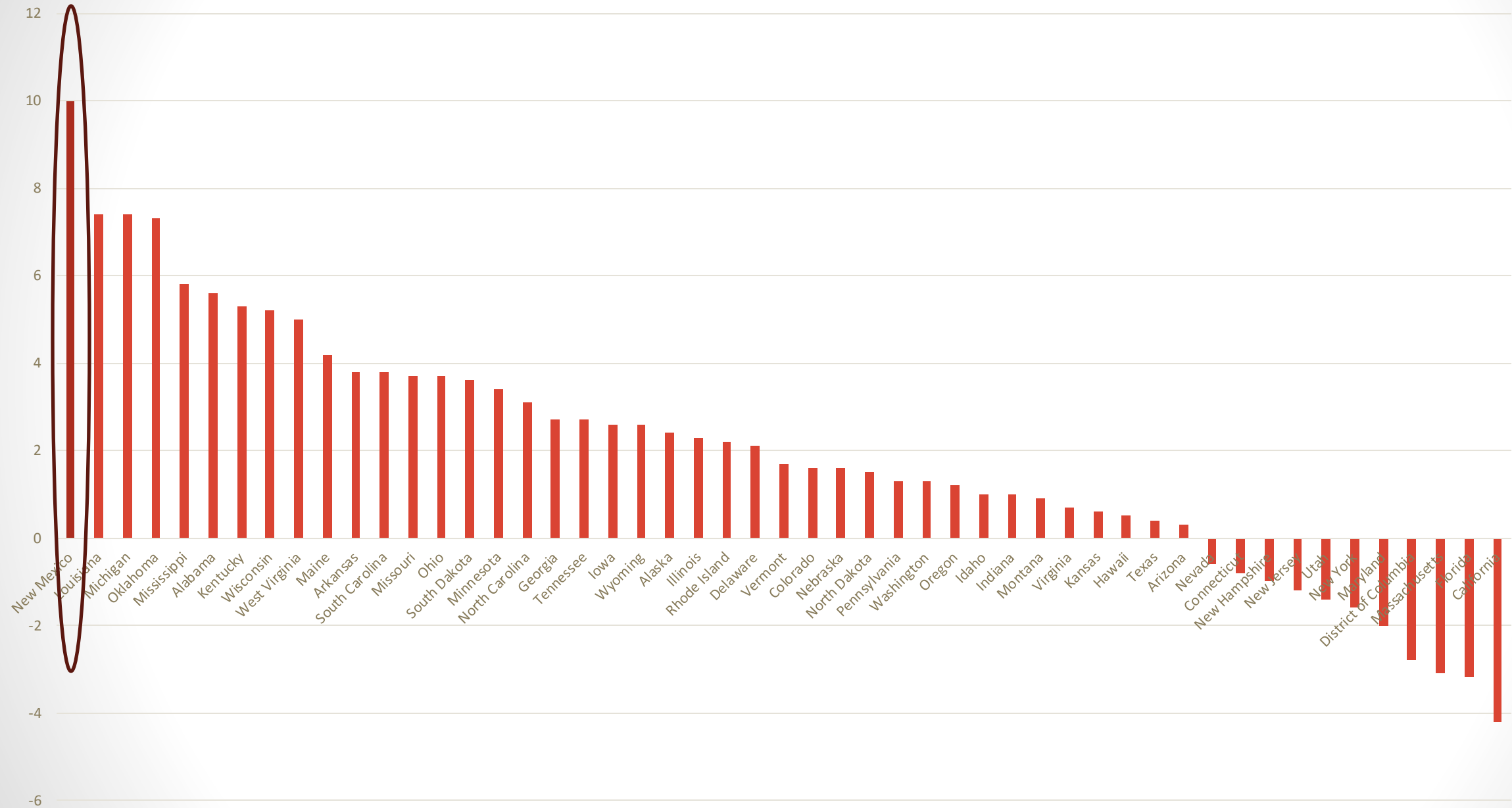
2023-2025 OPM v. SPM



Under 18: 2023-2025 OPM v. SPM



OPM less SPM for Under 18: 2023-2025



Main Takeaways

OPM

- The percentage of New Mexicans in poverty fell 17.2% to 16% in the most recent three-year study.
- New Mexico was among the top 5 states for the most poverty reduction.
- New Mexico's poverty ranking improved from 50th to 48th for children among all states and D.C.

SPM

- New Mexico continues to achieve the greatest difference of any state between its OPM and SPM.
- While New Mexico's OPM for children is the 4th highest, using the SPM New Mexico's child poverty of 10.9% rating is below the national average of 13.5%.

Questions?