The State of New Mexico's Babies

STATE OF BABIES YEARBOOK 2019

Where children are born can affect their chances for a strong start in life. Babies need good health, strong families, and positive early learning experiences to foster their healthy brain development and help them realize their full potential.

This fact sheet provides a snapshot of how infants, toddlers, and their families are faring with respect to these three developmental domains. For each domain, selected child or family indicators and policy indicators are highlighted and compared to national averages. Important demographic information is also included. A summary table of all indicators is provided on the last page, for reference.

New Mexico's Rankings

KEY (G) Getting Started (R) Reaching Forward (O) Improving Outcomes (W) Working Effectively

Overall
G R **O** W
Improving Outcomes

Good Health
G **R** O W
Reaching Forward

Strong Families
G R O W
Getting Started

Positive Early Learning Experiences
G R O **W**
Working Effectively
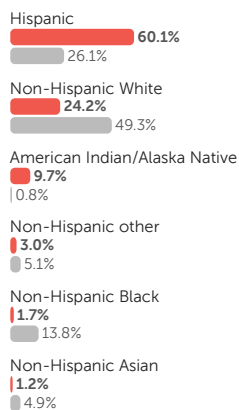
Demographics
Infants and toddlers in New Mexico

Overview

New Mexico is home to 75,820 infants and toddlers, representing 3.6 percent of the state's population. As many as 58 percent live in households with incomes less than twice the federal poverty line (in 2017, about $50,000 a year for a family of four), placing them at economic disadvantage. America's youngest children are diverse and are raised in a variety of family contexts. A broad array of policies and services are required to ensure that all of them have an equitable start in life.
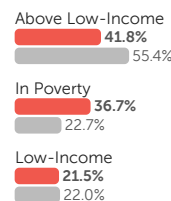
■ NEW MEXICO ■ NATIONAL AVERAGE
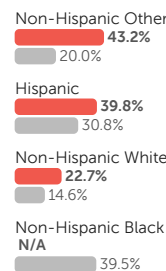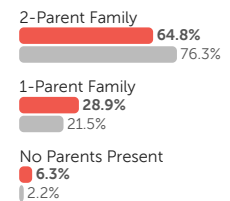
Race/ethnicity of infants and toddlers

Hispanic
60.1%
26.1%

Non-Hispanic White
24.2%
49.3%

American Indian/Alaska Native
9.7%
0.8%

Non-Hispanic other
3.0%
5.1%

Non-Hispanic Black
1.7%
13.8%

Non-Hispanic Asian
1.2%
4.9%

Working moms

Mothers in the Labor Force
55.5%
61.5%

Poverty status of infants and toddlers

Above Low-Income
41.8%
55.4%

In Poverty
36.7%
22.7%

Low-Income
21.5%
22.0%

Infants and toddlers in poverty, by race

Non-Hispanic Other
43.2%
20.0%

Hispanic
39.8%
30.8%

Non-Hispanic White
22.7%
14.6%

Non-Hispanic Black
N/A
39.5%

Family structure

2-Parent Family
64.8%
76.3%

1-Parent Family
28.9%
21.5%

No Parents Present
6.3%
2.2%

Grandparent-headed households

15.7%
9.4%

Rural/Non-metro area

Living Outside of a Metro Area
29.8%
8.7%

Good Health
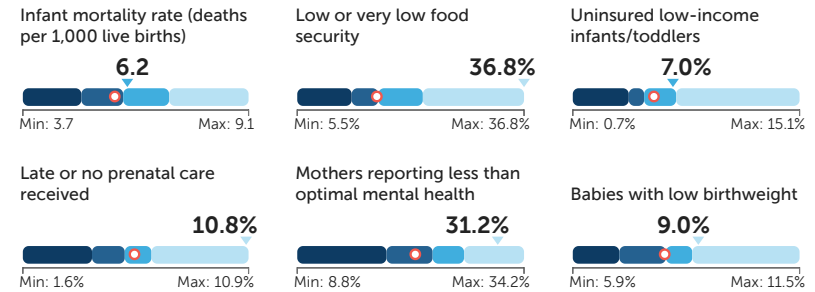## In New Mexico
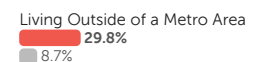
GROW

What is Good Health?

Good physical and mental health provide the foundation for babies to develop physically, cognitively, emotionally, and socially. The rate of brain growth is faster in the first 3 years than at any other stage of life, and this growth sets the stage for subsequent development. Access to good nutrition and affordable maternal, pediatric, and family health care are essential to ensure that babies receive the nourishment and care they need for a strong start in life.

New Mexico falls in the Reaching Forward (R) tier of states when it comes to the overall health of infants and toddlers. The state's low ranking in the Good Health domain primarily reflects indicators in the Getting Started (G) tier, including those for the maternal health subdomain, such as the percentage of women in New Mexico receiving late or no prenatal care. With respect to children's health, however, the state is in the Working Effectively (W) tier for the percentage of young children receiving preventive dental care.

Six Key Indicators of Good Health

KEY ← Range of all state values → ▼ New Mexico ○ National average

(G) Getting Started   (R) Reaching Forward   (O) Improving Outcomes   (W) Working Effectively

Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)
6.2
Min: 3.7   Max: 9.1

Low or very low food security
36.8%
Min: 5.5%   Max: 36.8%

Uninsured low-income infants/toddlers
7.0%
Min: 0.7%   Max: 15.1%

Late or no prenatal care received
10.8%
Min: 1.6%   Max: 10.9%

Mothers reporting less than optimal mental health
31.2%
Min: 8.8%   Max: 34.2%

Babies with low birthweight
9.0%
Min: 5.9%   Max: 11.5%

Good Health Policy in New Mexico

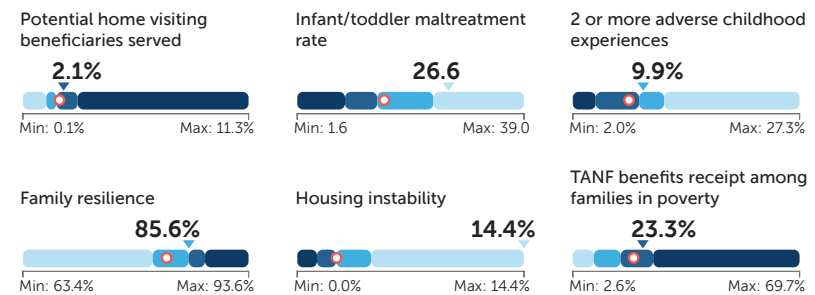|	
Medicaid expansion state	Yes ☑
State Medicaid policy for maternal depression screening in well-child visits	Recommended
Medicaid plan covers social-emotional screening for young children	Yes ☑
Medicaid plan covers IECMH services at home	Yes ☑
Medicaid plan covers IECMH services at pediatric/family medicine practices	Yes ☑
Medicaid plan covers IECMH services at ECE programs	Yes ☑

Strong Families
In New Mexico

GROW

What Defines Strong Families?

Young children develop in the context of their families, where stability and supportive relationships nurture their growth. All families of infants and toddlers benefit from support with parenting, and many—particularly those challenged by economic instability—need access to resources that help them meet their children's daily and developmental needs. Important supports include home visiting services, child welfare systems that are responsive to young children's needs, and family-friendly employer policies that provide paid sick and family leave.

New Mexico falls in the Getting Started (G) tier of states when it comes to indicators of Strong Families. The state's low ranking in this domain is primarily due to the predominance of indicators that fall in the Getting Started (G) and Reaching Forward (R) tiers. For indicators of child welfare, such as the prevalence of adverse childhood experiences among infants and toddlers, the state is primarily in the Reaching Forward (R) tier. However, New Mexico is in the Improving Outcomes (O) tier in terms of the percentage of young children who could benefit from evidence-based home visiting and are receiving those services.

Six Key Indicators of Strong Families

KEY ← Range of all state values → ▼ New Mexico ○ National average

(G) Getting Started   (R) Reaching Forward   (O) Improving Outcomes   (W) Working Effectively

Potential home visiting beneficiaries served
2.1%
Min: 0.1%   Max: 11.3%

Infant/toddler maltreatment rate
26.6
Min: 1.6   Max: 39.0

2 or more adverse childhood experiences
9.9%
Min: 2.0%   Max: 27.3%

Family resilience
85.6%
Min: 63.4%   Max: 93.6%

Housing instability
14.4%
Min: 0.0%   Max: 14.4%

TANF benefits receipt among families in poverty
23.3%
Min: 2.6%   Max: 69.7%

Strong Families Policy in New Mexico

Paid sick time that covers care for child	No ✗
Paid family leave	No ✗

Positive Early Learning Experiences
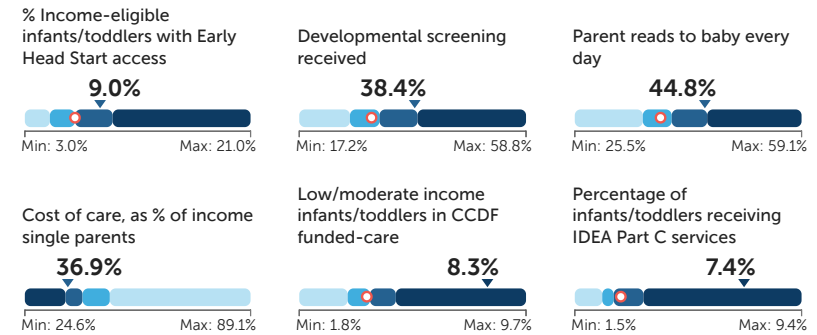**In New Mexico**

GRO**W**

What Defines Positive Early Learning Experiences?

Infants and toddlers learn through play, active exploration of their environment, and, most importantly, through interactions with the significant adults in their lives. The quality of babies' early learning experiences at home and in other care settings has a lasting impact on their preparedness for life-long learning and success. Parents who require child care while they work or attend school need access to affordable, high-quality care options that promote positive development.

New Mexico scores in the Working Effectively (W) tier of states when considering key indicators related to early care and education and early intervention for infants and toddlers. The state's high ranking in the Positive Early Learning Experiences domain primarily reflects that indicators scoring in the Working Effectively (W) and Improving Outcomes (O) tiers. New Mexico is in the Working Effectively (W) tier for the percentage of low/moderate income infants and toddlers in CCDF-funded care, and the percentage of young children receiving IDEA Part C services.

Six Key Indicators of Positive Early Learning Experiences

KEY   ← Range of all state values →   ▼ New Mexico   ◯ National average

G Getting Started   R Reaching Forward   O Improving Outcomes   W Working Effectively

% Income-eligible infants/toddlers with Early Head Start access
9.0%
Min: 3.0%   Max: 21.0%

Developmental screening received
38.4%
Min: 17.2%   Max: 58.8%

Parent reads to baby every day
44.8%
Min: 25.5%   Max: 59.1%

Cost of care, as % of income single parents
36.9%
Min: 24.6%   Max: 89.1%

Low/moderate income infants/toddlers in CCDF funded-care
8.3%
Min: 1.8%   Max: 9.7%

Percentage of infants/toddlers receiving IDEA Part C services
7.4%
Min: 1.5%   Max: 9.4%

Positive Early Learning Experiences Policy in New Mexico

Families above 200% of FPL eligible for child care subsidy   No ✗

All indicators for New Mexico

G Getting Started   R Reaching Forward   O Improving Outcomes   W Working Effectively

Good Health

W Eligibility limit (% FPL) for pregnant women in Medicaid	**255.0** *National average: 200.0*	**R** Uninsured low-income infants/toddlers	**7.0%** *National average: 5.8%*
G Low or very low food security	**36.8%** *National average: 16.5%*	**W** Infants ever breastfed	**87.7%** *National average: 83.2%*
O Infants breastfed at 6 months	**59.8%** *National average: 57.6%*	**G** Late or no prenatal care received	**10.8%** *National average: 6.2%*
G Mothers reporting less than optimal mental health	**31.2%** *National average: 22.0%*	**G** Preventive medical care received	**87.9%** *National average: 90.7%*
W Preventive dental care received	**50.9%** *National average: 30.0%*	**G** Babies with low birthweight	**9.0%** *National average: 8.2%*
R Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	**6.2** *National average: 5.9*	**R** Received recommended vaccines	**68.5%** *National average: 70.7%*

Strong Families

G	Housing instability	**14.4%**	G	Crowded housing
	National average: 2.5%			*National average: 15.6%*

G	Housing instability	**14.4%**	G	Crowded housing	**16.7%**
	National average: 2.5%				*National average: 15.6%*
O	TANF benefits receipt among families in poverty	**23.3%**	G	Infant/toddler maltreatment rate	**26.6**
	National average: 20.6%				*National average: 16.0*
R	Unsafe neighborhoods	**6.7%**	R	Family resilience	**85.6%**
	National average: 6.3%				*National average: 82.6%*
R	1 adverse childhood experience	**23.9%**	R	2 or more adverse childhood experiences	**9.9%**
	National average: 21.9%				*National average: 8.3%*
R	Infants/toddlers exiting foster care to permanency	**97.8%**	O	Potential home visiting beneficiaries served	**2.1%**
	National average: 98.4%				*National average: 1.9%*

Positive Early Learning Experiences

O	Parent reads to baby every day	**44.8%**	O	Parent sings to baby every day	**61.1%**
	National average: 38.2%				*National average: 56.4%*
O	% Income-eligible infants/toddlers with Early Head Start access	**9.0%**	O	Cost of care, as % of income married families	**11.3%**
	National average: 7.0%				*National average: N/A*
O	Cost of care, as % of income single parents	**36.9%**	W	Low/moderate income infants/toddlers in CCDF funded-care	**8.3%**
	National average: N/A				*National average: 4.2%*
O	Developmental screening received	**38.4%**	O	Infants/toddlers with developmental delay	**0.3%**
	National average: 30.4%				*National average: 1.1%*
W	Percentage of infants/toddlers receiving IDEA Part C services	**7.4%**			
	National average: 3.1%				

ZERO TO THREE
Early connections last a lifetime

Child TRENDS

think babies