



# NEW MEXICO CHILDREN'S CABINET



**2025** SESSION REPORT



Library Center



Essential Skills

- 1. 21st Century Learning skills (communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, citizenship)
- 2. 21st Century Learning competencies
- 3. 21st Century Learning standards
- 4. 21st Century Learning resources

SPARKLE BOY

HELPING

GRACE BYERS  
I Am Enough

GRACE BYERS  
I Believe I Can

A World of Families

We Can Do It!

Goldilocks and the Three Bears  
Pichitos de Oro y los tres osos

FINDING Kindness

Lakeshore

Delicious!

¡Sabrosa!

# Letter from the Governor

Dear Friends,

New Mexico's future rests on the shoulders of our children, and I'm proud to share the incredible progress we're making through our Children's Cabinet. Every New Mexican child – from birth through college – deserves world-class opportunities, and we're delivering on that promise.

This comprehensive report card shows exactly how we're moving the needle on childhood wellbeing through strategic investments and evidence-based programs. You'll see real numbers and real results – from expanded early childhood education to strengthened K-12 programs to improved college access.

I've always said that when we invest in our kids, we invest in our future. The data in this report proves that our bold approach is working. But we're not done yet. With continued support from New Mexicans like you, we'll keep building the strongest cradle-to-career system in the nation.

Together, we're creating the bright future our children deserve.

Sincerely,



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor, State of New Mexico

For additional data please visit the Children's Cabinet Online Data Dashboard at <https://www.childrencabinet.nm.gov/>



# EXECUTIVE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

New Mexican families expect a focus on public safety, education, early childhood, and housing this Legislative Session, to address serious issues affecting our communities and to better support our families and children.

## Public Safety Package

Our Gun Safety Package includes the following legislation:

- **SB 279 GO SAFE** — Regulate the sale, possession, and transfer of semi-automatic gas operated semi-auto assault weapons and large-capacity magazines, to curb gun violence.
- **HB 012 Extreme Risk Firearm Protection Order Changes** — Amends the “Red Flag Law”, allowing officers to file a petition to remove firearms from those that are a danger to themselves and others.
- **HB 038 Possession of Weapon Conversion Device** — Creates a criminal penalty for possession and transfer of devices which turn semi auto weapons into automatic weapons; also known as “Glock Switches”.
- **HB 039 Juvenile Record in Firearm Background Checks** — Creates a mechanism for juvenile records related to firearms convictions to remain unsealed and reported to the federal NIX background check process.
- **SB 253 Felons-in-Possession of Guns** — Criminal enhancement to increase the amount of mandatory time spent incarcerated for these charges.
- **SB 032 Unlawful Possession of a Gun** — Creates the crime of unlawful possession of a stolen firearm.
- **SB 035 Shooting At/From Car Crimes** — Provides that shooting at a motor vehicle and shooting from a motor vehicle are separate crimes.

Our broader Public Safety Package includes:

- **HB 004 Court Competency** — Requires civil commitment evaluations for those that have been found incompetent to stand trial twice in the previous 12 months, to help prevent mentally incapacitated individuals from harming members of the public or themselves.
- **HB 086 Human Trafficking Changes** — Criminal penalty enhancement which expands the scope of prohibited conduct.
- **SB 095 Fentanyl Dealing Resulting in Death** — Criminal penalty enhancement for when a person is convicted for trafficking fentanyl which results in death.
- **SB 025 Penalties for 1 KG Fentanyl** — Provides a sentence enhancement of three years when the fentanyl level is one kilogram or more.
- **SB 148 Anti-Hazing** — Enacts the Anti-Hazing Act, creating the crime of hazing, and of failing to report hazing.

## Education & Early Childhood

- **HB 071 Early Childhood Ed & Care Fund Transfers** — Increases the ECTF distribution to \$500M at a minimum, to best support early childhood programs and services to New Mexico’s children.
- **SJR 006 Early Childhood Trust Fund CA** — Amends the NM Constitution to add the language of the Early Childhood Education and Care Fund, protecting the trust fund.
- **SB 038 Special Education Act** — Codifies the Office of Special Education within PED, to best support our special education students.
- **SB 242 Science of Reading** — Builds scientifically-based reading instruction, also known as the Science of Reading, in educator preparation programs.
- **SB 163 Tribal Regalia at School Events**
- **HB 167 Free High School Equivalency Tests for NM Residents**

## Healthcare & Child Well-Being

- **Reproductive Healthcare** — Updates to various laws to address identifiability and other concerns related to reproductive healthcare data.
- **HB 212 PFAS Ban** — Prohibits the use of PFAS in products for sale, offered for sale, or distributed for sale in NM.
- **SB 042 CARA: Failure to Comply with Plan of Care** — Amends the Children’s Code to require CYFD to conduct a family assessment for any family that does not comply with a plan of care.
- **SB 361 Independent Program Audit** — Requires an independent programmatic review and audit of CYFD services and families.
- **SB 363 Child Protection Authority at RLD**
- **SB 335 Foster Families & Guardians Tax Credit**

## Housing & Homelessness

- **SB 205 Office of Housing** — To coordinate housing efforts statewide and provide technical assistance to local and tribal governments on housing efforts.
- **Affordable Housing Tax Credit Changes**

# CHILDREN'S CABINET BUDGET PRIORITIES

## Education & Early Childhood

From the beginning, this administration has been dedicated to creating a cradle-to-career education system that prioritizes students and families while addressing systemic barriers with meaningful and lasting solutions. This includes our nation-leading early childhood care and development through our comprehensive and innovative programs and services. We aim to build on this legacy with a robust funding package.

- **\$197.7M for ECECD programs and services.**
- **\$103.1M for a 3% compensation increase** for all K-12 educational personnel.
- **\$96.5M to serve an additional 5,100 children** in the childcare program.
- **\$50.7M in recurring funding for Universal School Meals**, to support the growth in meal participation and meal rates.
- **\$45.2M to add 2,700 prekindergarten slots**, specifically for early pre-kindergarteners.
- **\$30M for a second year** of our successful summer reading intervention program.
- **18M from GRO over 3 years for targeted attendance improvement interventions**, to continue reducing chronic absenteeism.
- **\$14M in recurring funding to continue training elementary educators in the science of reading.**
- **\$5M to expand structured literacy professional development.**
- **\$5.2M to support 2,000 families** through expanded home visiting providers, transition home visiting providers to Medicaid-reimbursable models, and increase provider rates.
- **\$3M for Adult Education**, to improve teacher pay, recruit new teachers, and increase enrollment statewide.

## Health Care, Behavioral Health, & Child Well-Being

The Governor's budget continues the work of establishing the New Mexico Health Care Authority, to better serve children and families across our state. The budget also focuses on well-being programs and initiatives across several executive agencies.

- **\$100M for behavioral health expansion initiatives**, to continue supporting essential behavioral health programs.
- **\$64.2m (mostly transfers of existing funds) for the new Family Services Division at CYFD**, to connect families with community resources and to provide direct services.
- **\$50M for the Rural Healthcare Delivery Fund.**
- **\$30M per year for 3 years for Medicaid expansions.**
- **\$10M for continued support to food banks.**
- **\$9M for the 988 program crisis and access line.**

- **\$3.6M in recurring funding for additional CYFD caseworkers and investigators**, to improve response times and ongoing support to children and their families.

## Healthy Environment & Infrastructure

New Mexico's communities require a broad range of infrastructure investments to thrive. For FY26, this administration proposes the most significant investments in infrastructure, transportation, broadband, and clean energy initiatives in decades.

- **\$75M for the Strategic Water Supply initiative**, for sustainable resource management and support our transition to renewable energy.
- **\$70M for a new Accelerate ConnectNM Program**, supporting faster satellite connectivity for New Mexicans while our work on fiber connection continues.
- **\$50M to clean up contaminated groundwater.**
- **\$15M to fund rural water infrastructure projects.**

## Housing and Homelessness

Despite record investments in housing, housing affordability remains one of the most pressing issues in our state. The executive budget recommendation addresses critical areas of housing affordability and reduce siloed approaches to the problems facing families.

- **\$50M for a new down payment assistance program**, to build 1,000 affordable homes for first-time buyers priced out of homeownership.
- **\$50M to address homelessness and housing insecurity.**
- **\$2M for the New Mexico Office of Housing** to implement strategic initiatives to bring down the cost of housing and create more housing opportunities.
- **\$1M for student, family, and community engagement strategies** for students in foster care and students experiencing homelessness.
- **\$1M for student, family, and community engagement strategies** for students in foster care and students experiencing homelessness.

## Public Safety

New Mexicans expect the state to take action on public safety. The Governor's budget recommendation invests significant resources to build communities where everyone can feel safe.

- **\$100M for a Disaster Loan Recovery Fund**, to better leverage federal funding in disaster areas.
- **\$4.5M to the Second District Attorney's Office** to lead the efforts of the Organized Crime Commission.
- **\$1M for the Governor's Summer Challenge for at-risk youth.**

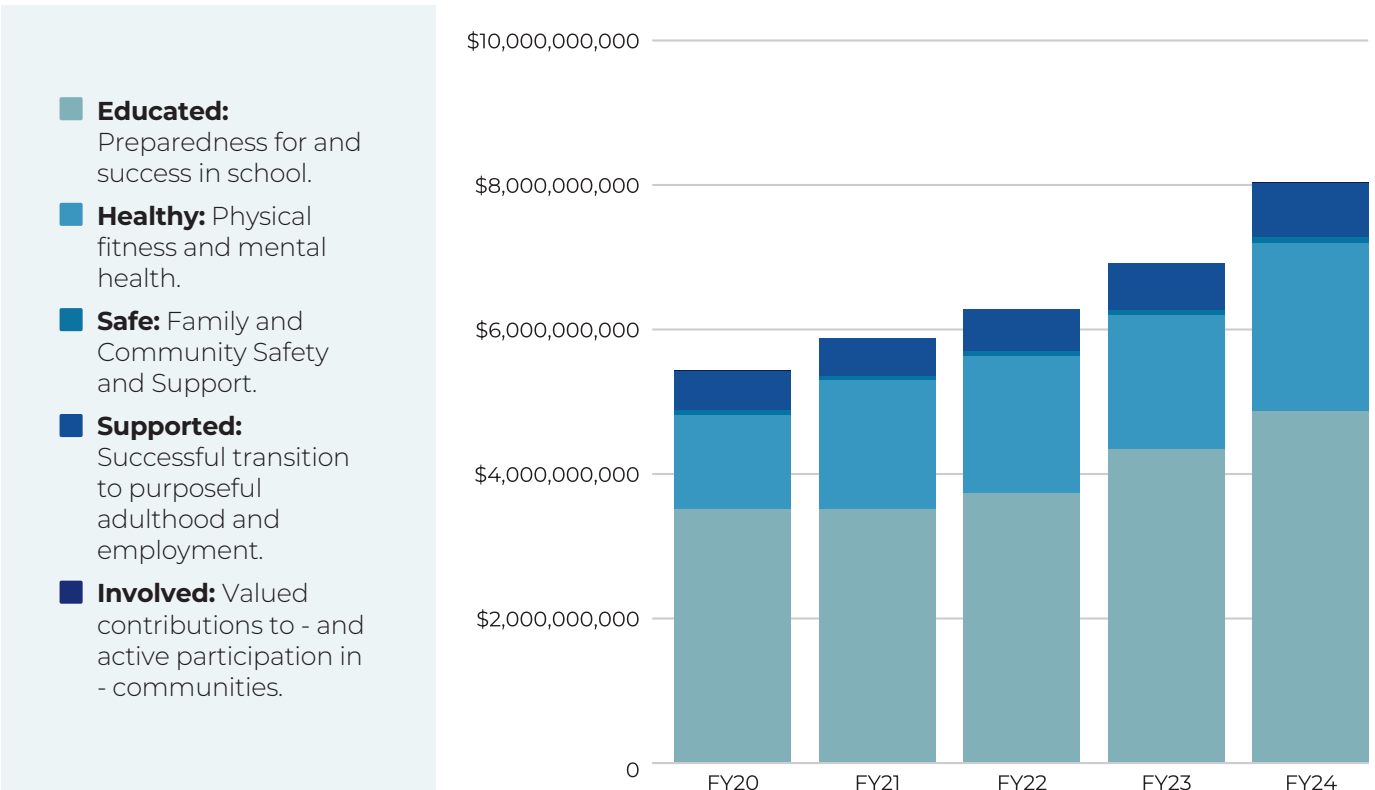


# Children’s Cabinet Outcomes

## Overall Spending by Outcome At-a-Glance

Primary Outcome	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
Educated	\$3,506,326,097.81	\$3,504,101,353.91	\$3,732,039,726.36	\$4,337,385,392.90	\$4,860,121,129.10
Healthy	\$1,314,542,825.83	\$1,785,471,742.52	\$1,896,050,911.65	\$1,863,828,026.05	\$2,337,706,672.89
Safe	\$67,729,936.00	\$69,053,109.00	\$67,494,394.00	\$67,301,082.17	\$81,988,946.10
Supported	\$534,930,354.01	\$516,328,358.86	\$581,976,721.27	\$639,525,498.73	\$737,002,031.85
Involved	\$10,585,956.00	\$8,439,661.6	\$11,292,355.00	\$12,262,898.45	\$17,448,070.46
Grand Total	\$5,434,115,169.65	\$5,883,394,225.89	\$6,288,854,108.28	\$6,920,302,898.30	\$8,034,266,750.40

## Overall Spending by Outcome At-a-Glance



# Educated

*Preparedness for and success in school.*

**NM PreK:** In FY24, New Mexico implemented the largest ever expansion of New Mexico PreK to reach over 17,000 children and furthering the Governor’s mission of creating a comprehensive educational system from cradle to career. Decades of research have found that access to quality PreK services helps children enter kindergarten with the core academic and social-emotional skills they need to thrive, especially for low-income children and dual language learners.

**Literacy Initiatives:** The Science of Reading is being implemented at all levels of learning. Structured Literacy (Science of Reading) investments have totaled \$60.4 million since 2019, funding the training of 10,998 teachers in Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS), the establishment of 8 model schools, and additional technical support provided to 66 schools. HED is collaborating with ECECD and PED to embed the Science of Reading and structured literacy into higher education curricula, and all 1,067 New Mexico PreK teachers are supported through training and coaching in literacy practices, resulting in a significant increase in observed literacy practices since the implementation of LETRS-EC.

In Summer 2024, the Governor enacted the Free Summer Reading Program to empower 10,000



Scan to view the Food Initiative Dashboard

students from incoming kindergarteners to outgoing eighth graders with focused reading instruction in small groups with trained literacy instructors. In this free program, students received focused instruction to catch up in important reading skills and gain the confidence they need to be successful in all school subjects.

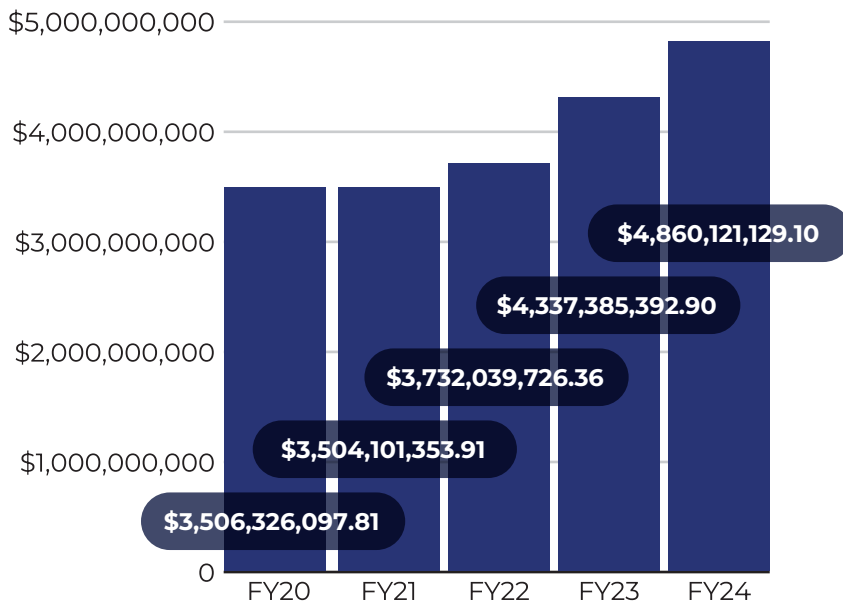
The Governor has also announced a \$30m Literacy Institute focused on improving literacy skills across the board.

**Chronic Absenteeism:** Public Education Department is addressing chronic absenteeism by launching a media campaign to improve attendance, providing statewide interventions for those students with the highest absentee rates, and is making grants to districts to implement innovative practices to increase attendance. Students experiencing housing insecurity face the highest rates of chronic absenteeism.

**Higher Ed Enrollment:** New Mexico leads the nation in college access and affordability and has been cited by the federal government and expert third-party organizations as a gold standard for tuition-free college programs. While college enrollment is trending downward nationwide and in neighboring states across most categories, college enrollment in New Mexico has grown each of the last three years. From 2021 to 2024, New Mexico has seen a 23.5% increase in first-time, full-time, degree seeking enrollment headcounts.



## Total Spending Trend by Educated Outcome

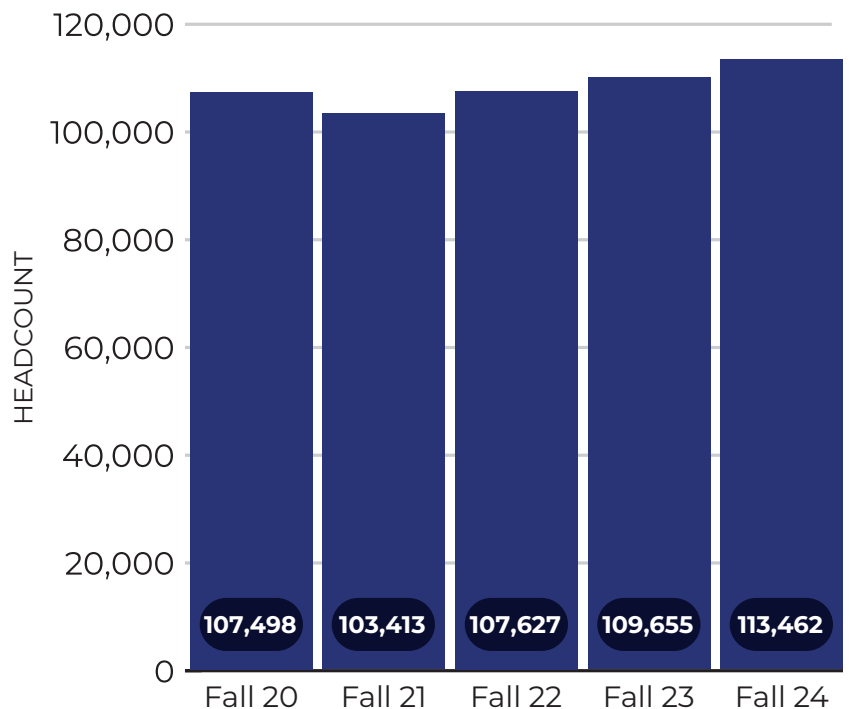


Total state, federal, and other spending devoted to providing educated outcomes for New Mexico's children and youth. In FY2024, more than \$4,860 million was spent; this spending includes funds spent within the SEG.

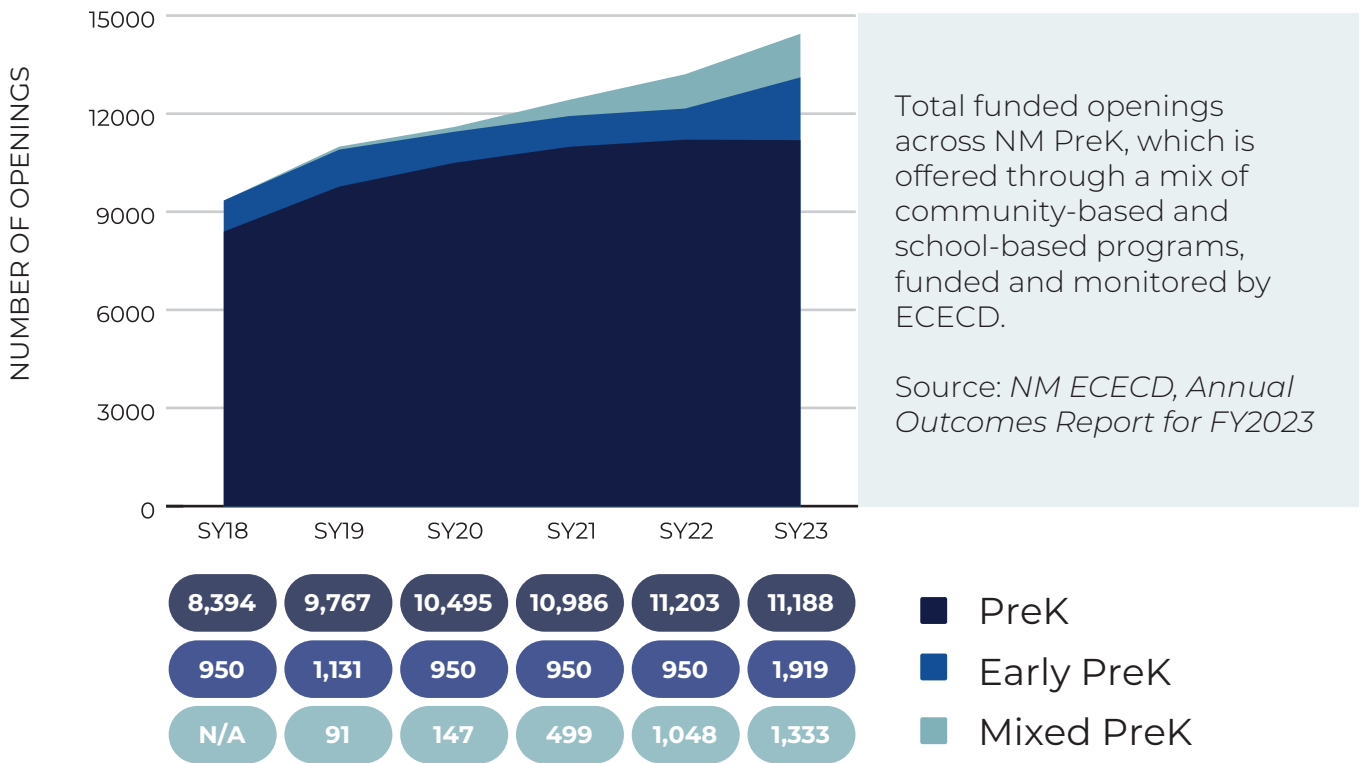
## Total Higher Education Headcount Enrollment

Total headcount of all enrolled students approximately 21 days after the first day of classes. 2020 and 2021 enrollments reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on higher education enrollment

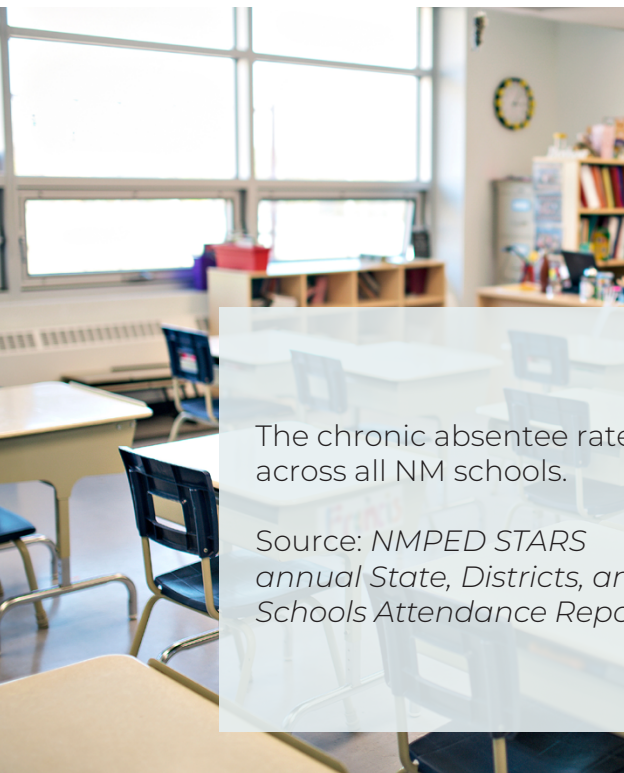
Source: *NM Postsecondary Census Enrollment Trends Fall 2020-2024*, [hed.nm.gov](http://hed.nm.gov)



## NM PreK Funded Openings

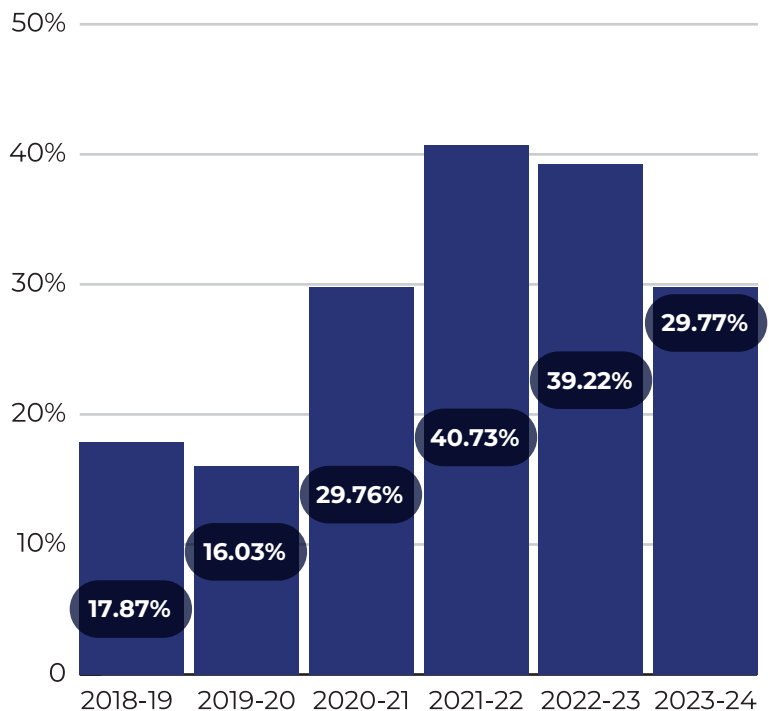


## Chronic Absenteeism



The chronic absentee rate across all NM schools.

Source: NMPED STARS annual State, Districts, and Schools Attendance Report



# Healthy

*Physical fitness and mental health.*



**Safe Sleep:** New Mexico holds an interagency safe sleep collaborative to improve education and awareness about safe sleep for infants. Participants work to reduce risk for sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUID); the recommendations that infants sleep alone without any soft objects with them, are put to sleep on their backs, are put to sleep in a crib, bassinet, or pack and play, and that the infant sleeps in the same room as their caregiver without bed sharing are considered the best ways to lower the risk of SUID, in addition to the proper use of a sleep sack or wearable blanket to reduce the risk of airway obstruction. See NMDOH's Safe Sleep website for more info:

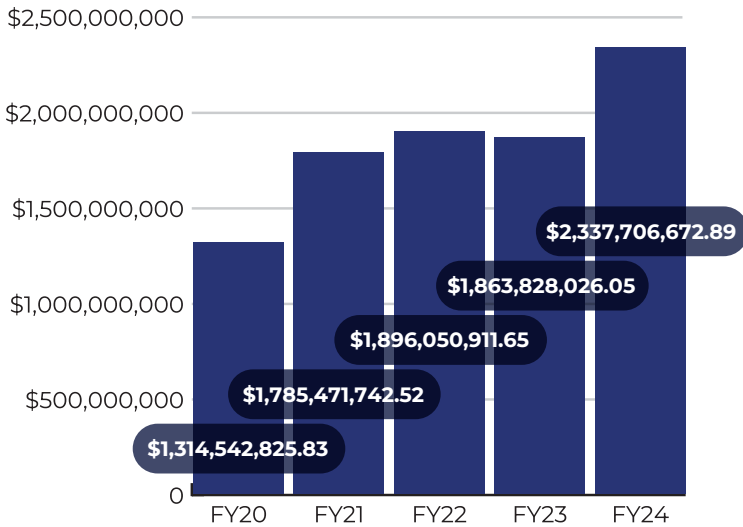


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**Medicaid:** NM Medicaid extended continuous health insurance coverage to children from birth to age six, benefiting 92,842 children. Starting January 1, 2024, this expansion eliminates the need for annual Medicaid renewals for this age group, ensuring uninterrupted access to essential health care services.

**Home Visiting:** Home visiting has been one of New Mexico's leading research-based strategies for improving the well-being of the state's youngest children for more than a decade. Home visiting in New Mexico offers a broad spectrum of program options so expectant parents and families with young children can receive support tailored to their needs and goals. In FY24, 7,773 children in 6,966 families received New Mexico home visiting services.

## Total Spending Trend by Healthy Outcome

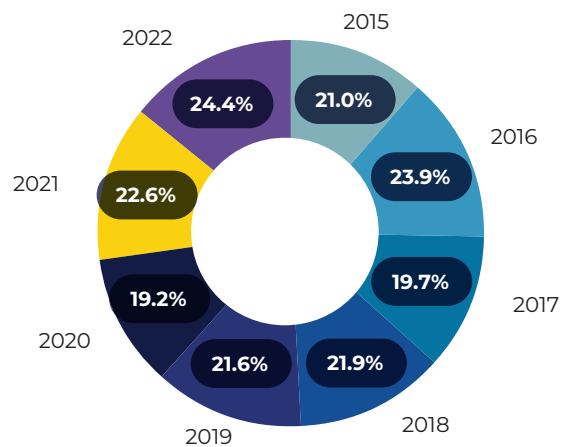


Total state, federal, and other spending devoted to providing healthy outcomes for New Mexico's children and youth. In FY2024, more than \$2,337 million was spent, the majority for Centennial Care.

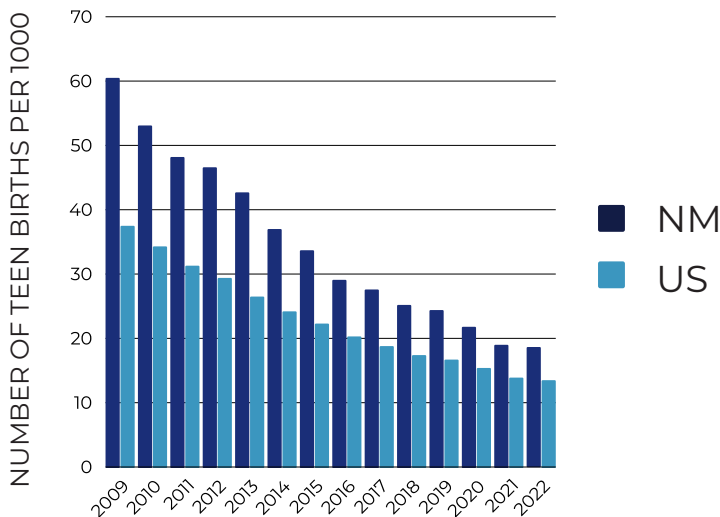
## Percentage of NM Mothers With All 4 Healthy Birth Indicators

The percentage of new mothers who had all characteristics of a healthy birth composite Indicator (i.e. Had enough food to eat during pregnancy, reported no cigarette smoking during pregnancy, were a healthy weight before pregnancy, had an intended pregnancy).

Source: NM Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 2015-2022 births

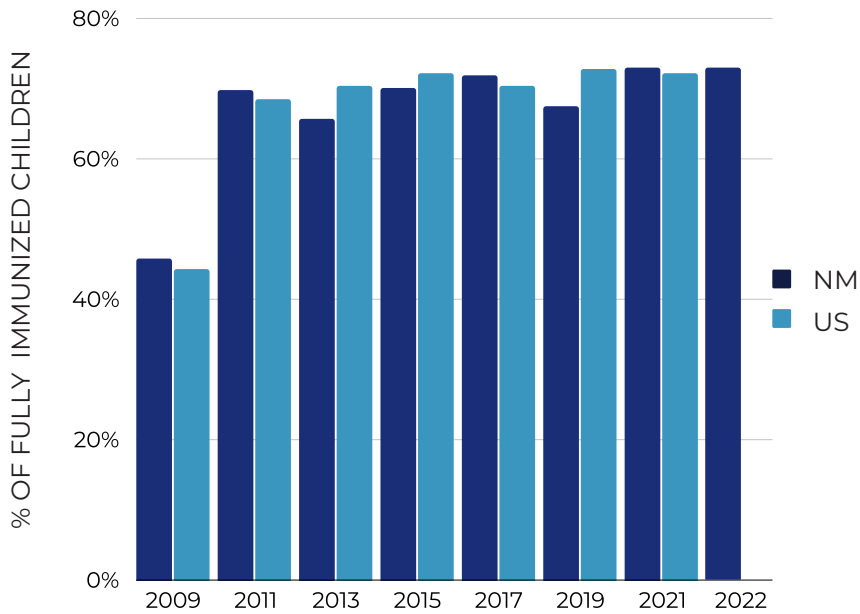


## Teen Birth Rates, NM & US



New Mexico teen birth rates continue to decline at a rate higher than the national average.

## Childhood Immunizations, NM & US



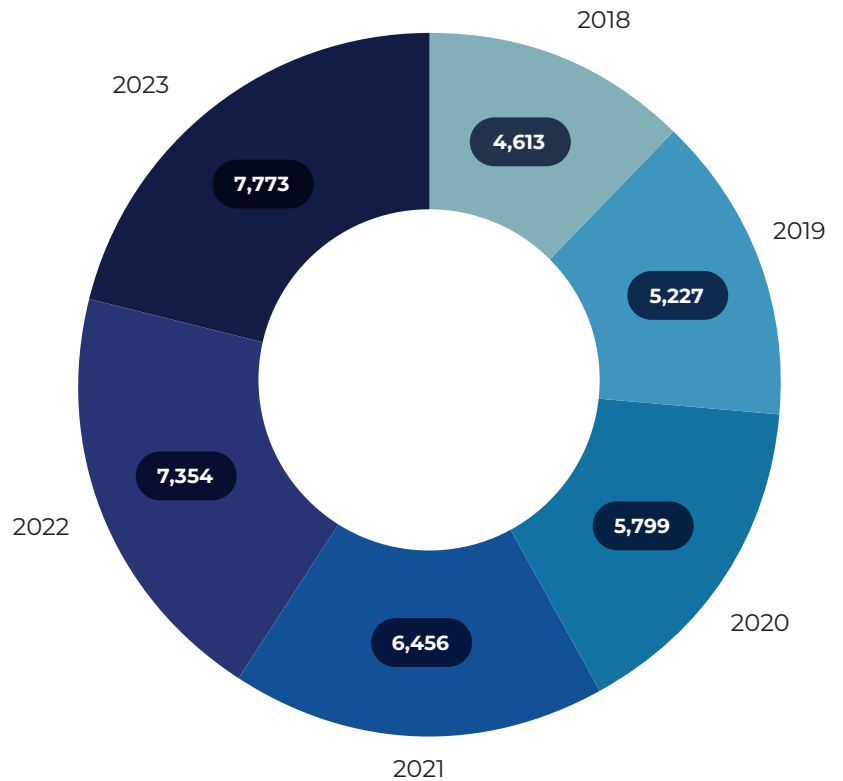
The prevalence of fully immunized children has increased significantly in NM and in the U.S. since 2009 when the coverage was under 50%. This graph presents the percentage of children 19-35 months of age who are up to date on vaccinations 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 (DTP, Polio, MMR, Flu, Hepatitis B, Varicella, Pneumococcal).

Source: NM IBIS, National Immunization Survey

## Children Served by Home Visiting Services

The number of children served by NM Home Visiting services, FY2018-23.

Source: NM ECECD Annual Outcomes Report for FY2023



# Safe

*Family and community safety and support.*

**Child Safety:** As part of the 2020-2024 Child and Family Service Plan, New Mexico has worked across the state's child welfare system to support the prevention of child and youth maltreatment and work toward better outcomes for children and families. CYFD continues to work with key stakeholders in creating an equitable child welfare system, with a diverse group of individuals to better understand the impact of system involvement to improve services and outcomes statewide.

Executive Order 2023-020 issued by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham focuses on systemic improvements to CYFD's organizational structure, policies and procedures, requiring immediate changes in how the department operates and sets out a long-term vision for how the department will strengthen its practices. This EO increases transparency,

empowers staff, fosters collaboration, and enhances constituent services..

See CYFD's Together We Thrive for more information/ outcomes on this transformation.



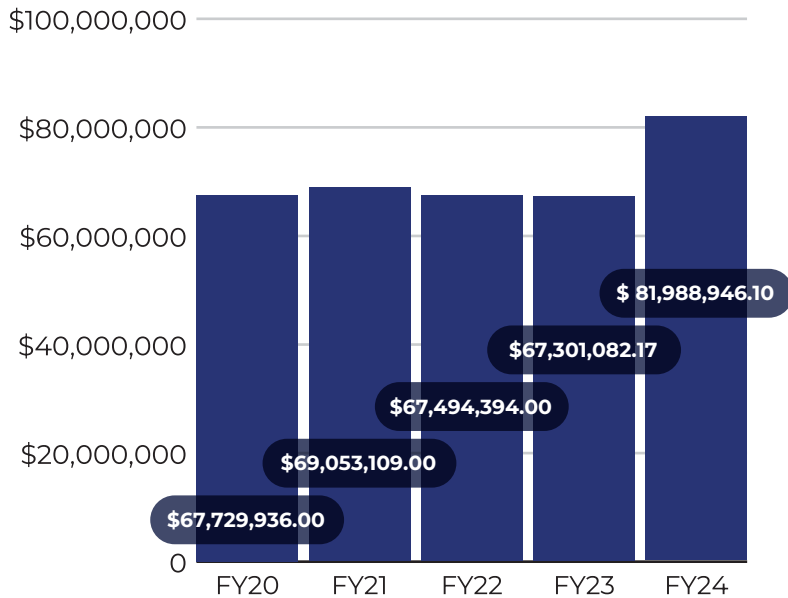
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**Child Maltreatment:** New Mexico families are the foundation of our communities. Investing in our families means investing in the prevention of child abuse and neglect. This results in higher educational outcomes for children, safer communities, and healthier children and adults. New Mexico is joining a national trend to shift the child welfare system from a reactive system that responds after harm has occurred to a family and child well-being system that supports families as a strategy to prevent child maltreatment. As a component of that shift, New

Mexico is utilizing Family Resource Centers, which are community-based, culturally sensitive, family-focused hubs of support and resources that provide services based on the needs and interests of families within their community.

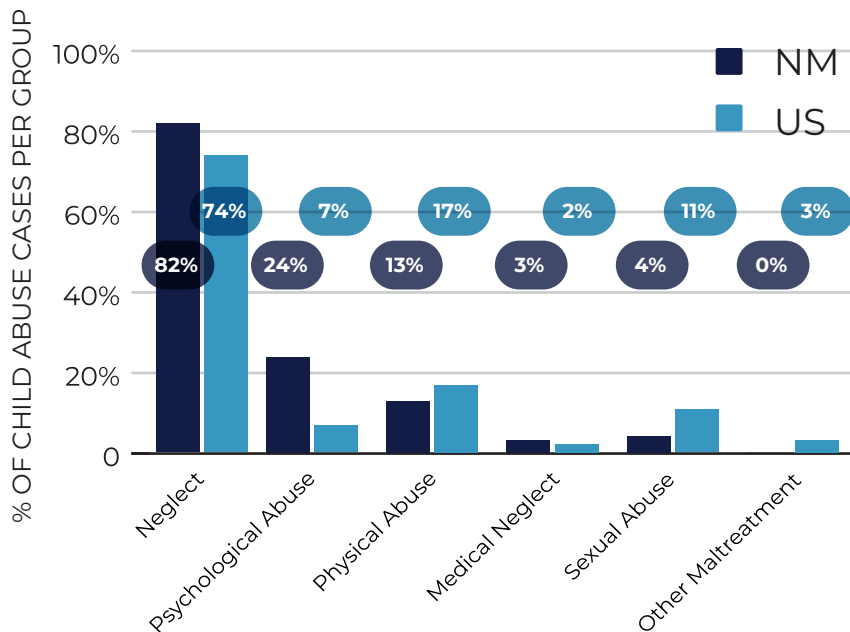
**Domestic Violence:** 1.26% of NM women who had a live birth in 2022 reported they were physically abused by an intimate partner during their pregnancy. Women who are abused during pregnancy may be more likely to delay entry to prenatal care or other health services. Emotional and physical abuse in the perinatal period are associated to maternal depression, substance abuse, smoking during pregnancy, anemia, insufficient gestational weight gain, and unhealthy eating patterns. Intimate partner violence during pregnancy is also associated with a reduction in birth weight.

## Total Spending Trend by Safe Outcome



Total state, federal, and other spending devoted to providing safe outcomes for New Mexico's children and youth. In FY2024, more than \$81 million was spent.

## Percentage of Child Abuse Cases by Maltreatment Type, NM & US



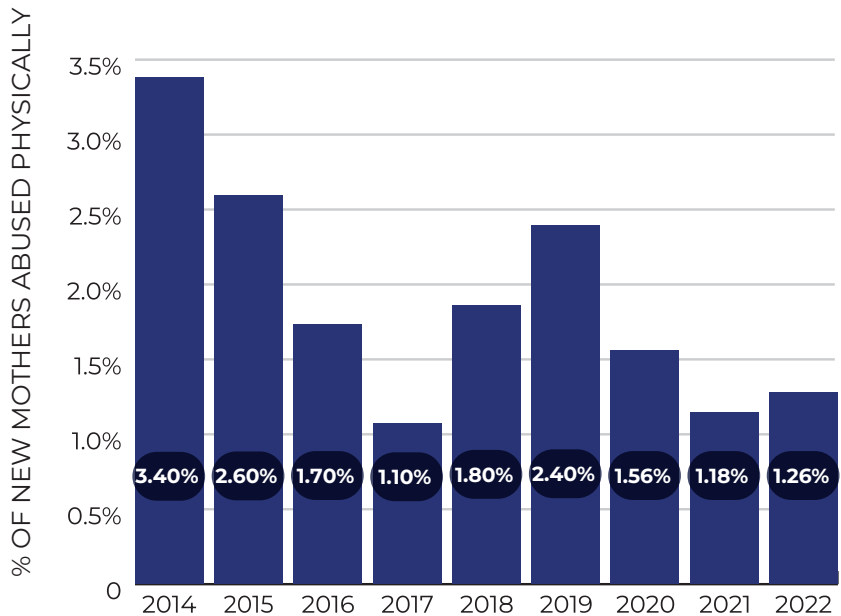
The percentage of child abuse cases by maltreatment type, NM and US, in 2022. Total may exceed 100% as children who experienced more than one type of maltreatment are counted in each applicable category.

Source: *ChildTrends.org* – *Child Maltreatment – New Mexico – Dataset #279, NCANDS Child File FY2022; Dataset #280, NCANDS Agency File FY 2022*

## New Mothers in NM Who Were Physically Abused by a Husband, Boyfriend, or Partner during Pregnancy

The percentage of new mothers who were physically abused (pushed, hit, slapped, kicked, choked or physically hurt in any other way) by a husband, boyfriend or partner during pregnancy, from 2014-2022.

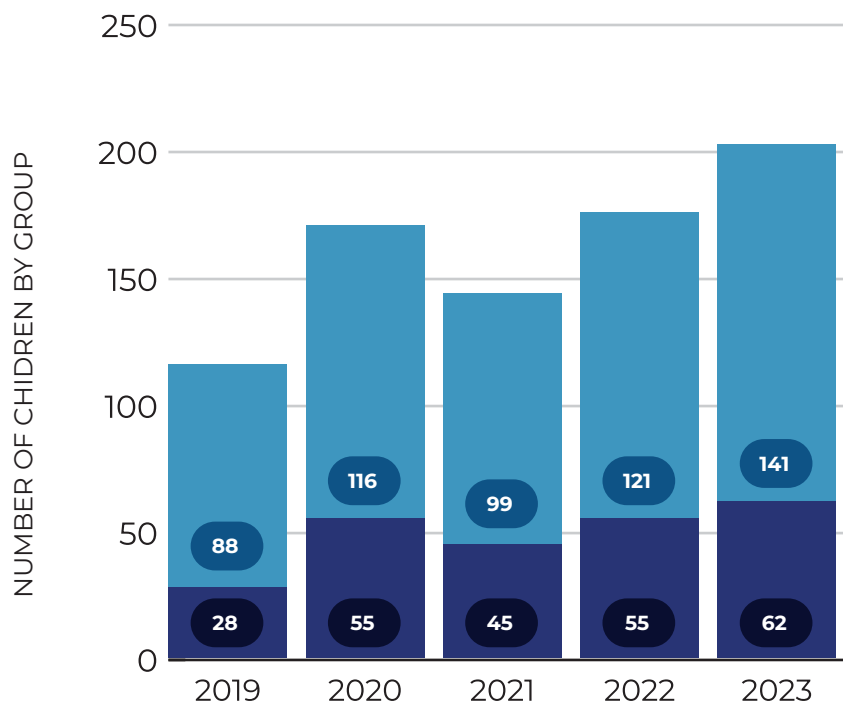
Source: NM Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System



## Child Firearm Injury Emergency Department Visits by Age Group and Year

The number of firearm injury emergency department visits for children, 2019-2023.

Source: ESSENCE. Data current as of December 2024; accessed at <https://www.governor.state.nm.us/gun-violence-dashboard/>



Scan to view the Gun Violence Dashboard

1-13 Year Olds  
14-17 Year Olds



# Supported

*Successful transition to purposeful adulthood and employment.*

**Tax Credits & Rebates:** In 2023, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed into law an expansion of a new state Child Tax Credit (CTC) available to New Mexicans who file a state Personal Income Tax return. In addition to any federal Child Tax Credit a family may be eligible for, New Mexican families raising kids can also claim this state-level refundable credit up to \$600 per qualifying dependent, depending on income. More than \$131m has been distributed to families for Tax Year 2023 under this Child Tax Credit, further supporting families and showcasing New Mexico's investments to tackle systemic poverty.

From these policies & investments, NM's child poverty rate improved dramatically in the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM).

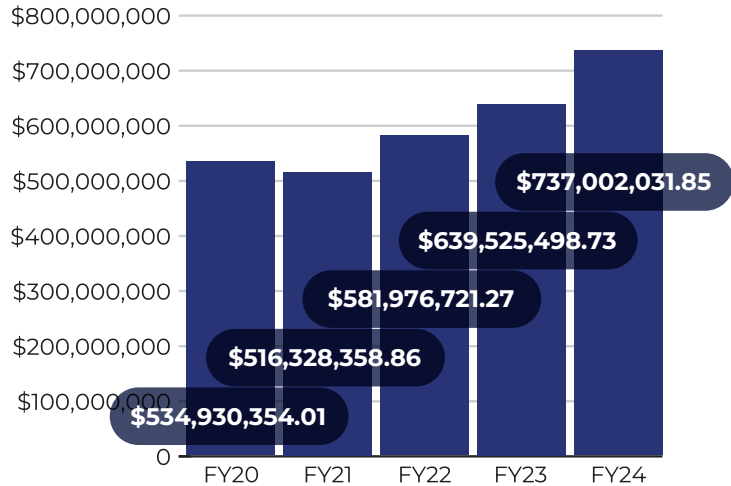
**Housing:** New Mexico has made unprecedented housing investments in recent years to grow affordable housing options and meet the growing number of unhoused community members. In the last year, \$15m was awarded to nine housing initiatives creating 200 units of housing across the state. Another \$20m has also been awarded to 11 projects through the Casa Connections program to add more than 415 housing, transitional living, and shelter units across the state, all of which are connected to wrap-around services to support families. In 2024, we are launching a new Office of Housing to focus on creating a stronger strategic response to housing shortages impacting people across the income spectrum. We will also be investing another \$20m in innovative projects addressing homelessness.

**Family Services at CYFD:** Family Services Division brings together prevention programs that have historically been spread across multiple divisions within CYFD. These programs all focus on prevention & intervention, however, have been overshadowed by the demanding nature within the other divisions, such as Protective Services and Juvenile Justice. The prevention programs within Family Services focus on prevention and early intervention strategies that reduce risk factors and promote being proactive with families rather than reactive. Programs within the Family Services Division work toward supporting family stability and well being, with the goal of supporting families before a crisis strikes or before a situation creates an unsafe environment for children. The division is designed and supported to provide programming that strengthens protective factors within families.

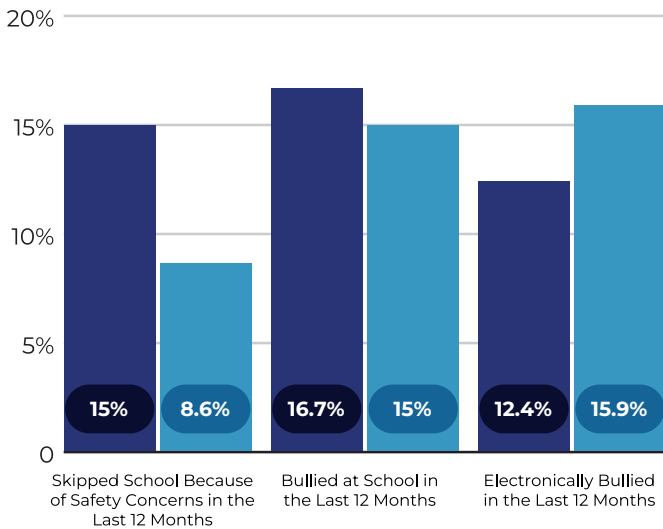
**GRADs Program:** NM GRADs (Graduation, Reality, And Dual-role Skills) is a statewide program for expectant and parenting teens located in 25 sites around the state. About 84% of teen parents enrolled in the program graduate. Schools that have implemented the GRADs program have reported higher graduation rates among teen parents compared to those who do not have access to such support. The program's success in keeping young parents engaged in their education has led to improved graduation statistics in districts where it is active.

## Total Spending Trend by Supported Outcome

Total state, federal, and other spending devoted to providing supported outcomes for New Mexico's children and youth. In FY2024, more than \$737 million was spent.



## Bullied in the Last 12 Months

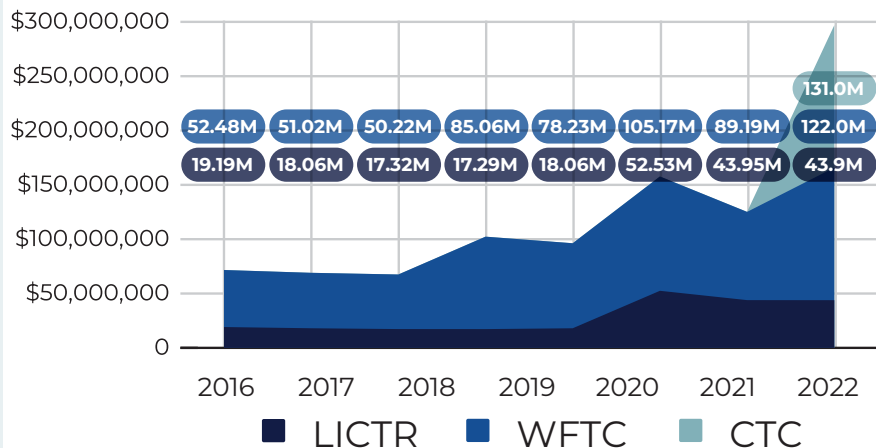


The prevalence of school bullying in 2023. \*Note: US rates are from 2022 data.

## NM Personal Income Tax Credits & Rebates

The amount of the Low-Income Comprehensive Tax Rebate (LICTR), the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC), and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) claimed by NM families over the past tax years.

Source: NM TRD, Tax Analysis, Research and Statistics Office 1. Tax Years 2016-2023, NM Personal Income Tax (PIT) Return data



# Involved

*Valued contributions to - and active participation in - communities.*



**Volunteerism:** NMDWS AmeriCorps provides opportunities for adult individuals with a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate to make an intensive commitment to a service project for a minimum of two years. 521 AmeriCorps members (not including AmeriCorps Senior Program members) participated in programs across New Mexico in 2023-24, across 74 service locations.

**Indigenous Youth Council:** The IYC was formed in 2021 following two listening sessions that the IAD held with tribal youth from across the state. IAD recently welcomed the third cohort of youth representatives. IAD provides this space to come together to share mutual experiences, collaborate on shared initiatives, and build community.

For the first time, IYC participated in this year's United National Indian Tribal Youth Inc. Conference, providing an opportunity for New Mexico youth to demonstrate their spiritual, mental, physical, and social development, as well as showcase their strong, unified, and self-reliant Native American youth leadership.

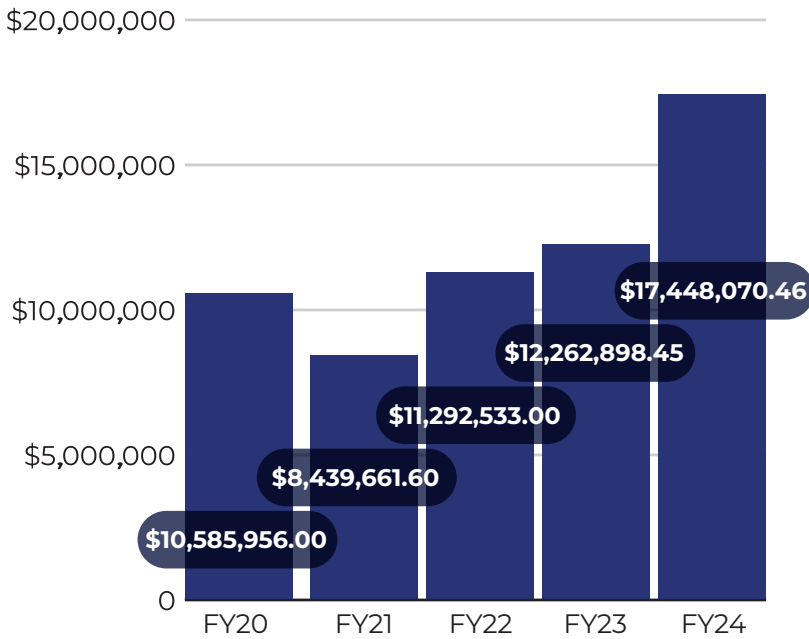
**MLK Youth Leadership:** The 2024 Academic Conference focused on empowering and

educating high school and college students on developing leadership skills they could utilize in their post-secondary education and beyond. Over 100 youth attended from across New Mexico. The students participated in educational workshops that focused on concepts such as college readiness, community advocacy, financial literacy, and of course leadership strategies.

**Career and Technical Education (CTE):** New Mexico CTE concentrators (students who take two or more courses in an identified CTE program of study) had a 95.77% graduation rate in 2023, and this incredible rate held high across at-risk subgroups. Increased funding for CTE has allowed NM to triple its investment directly into CTE classrooms, nearly quadruple the number of Innovation Zone sites, and includes BIE and tribally controlled schools that have access to CTE opportunities for the first time.

**Innovation Zones Initiative:** Innovation Zones implement coordinated strategies to reduce gaps in graduation and attendance rates, and increase work-based learning. In School Year 2023-24, 2,449 Innovation Zone students participated in internships, a 324% increase from SY 2022-23.

## Total Spending Trend by Involved Outcome



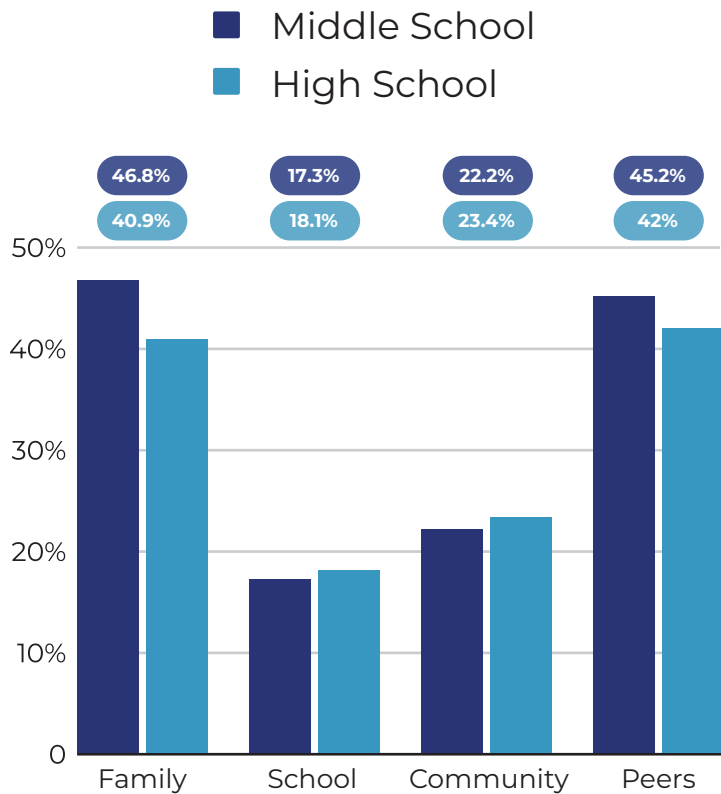
State, federal, and other spending devoted to providing involved outcomes for New Mexico's children and youth. In FY2024, more than \$17 million was spent, with the majority supporting the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

## Youth Self-Reported Caring & Supporting Relationships Within Groups



The percentage of youth who have caring and supportive relationships at home, school, community and with peers, 2023.

Source: 2023 NM Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS)







**SCAN FOR  
MORE INFORMATION**

